

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Bates

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 07:30 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of California Audubon Society dba San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. This is 15 years overdue and desperately needed - please see attached.



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Incorporated as California Audubon Society in 1913

P.O. Box 7769 • Van Nuys • CA • 91409-7769

www.sfvaudubon.org • 747-237-3720

For the conservation of wildlife, natural resources, and nature education.

June 29, 2026

Los Angeles City Council

Los Angeles Mayor

Public comment

RE: Council File 26-1100-S15

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of **California Audubon Society dba San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**, **we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, wildlife is endangered, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. Wildlife, including endangered species that rely on our parks, can not wait! These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Bates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" and last name "Bates" clearly distinguishable.

Patricia Bates
Conservation Committee co-Chair

Communication from Public

Name: Yvette Lopez-Ledesma

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 05:26 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the L.A. City Council, Tías on Trails strongly supports the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are grateful to the members of the L.A. City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in the upcoming November 2026 election. RAP provides lifeline services that maintain and enhance the quality of life of Angelenos. L.A. City parks provide essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where individuals and families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: trails, pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, liabilities, and deeper disparities in park access. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful approach forward and strongly urge placement of the Charter Amendment as proposed on the November 3, 2026 ballot. With gratitude, Yvette Lopez-Ledesma Founder, Tías on Trails & CD6 Resident



June 29, 2026

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

Dear Members of the L.A. City Council,

Tías on Trails strongly supports the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are grateful to the members of the L.A. City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in the upcoming November 2026 election.

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Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, liabilities, and deeper disparities in park access. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful approach forward and strongly urge placement of the Charter Amendment as proposed on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvette Lopez-Ledesma".

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma

Founder, Tías on Trails & CD6 Resident

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 02:08 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: June 29, 2026 Council File 26-0489 Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Prevention Institute, we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disasters, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: Pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Defering is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026, ballot. Respectfully submitted, Thank you for your time and your service to our communities. Sandra Viera Director Prevention Institute Sandra@preventioninstitute.org

June 29, 2026

Council File 26-0489

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Prevention Institute, we **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disasters, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: Pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026, ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Thank you for your time and your service to our communities.

Sandra Viera

Director

Prevention Institute

Sandra@preventioninstitute.org

Communication from Public

Name: Arturo Garcia, TNC

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 11:27 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, we are pleased to support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as outlined in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We appreciate the City Council's leadership in developing and advancing this thoughtful, fiscally responsible measure on June 17, 2026, and respectfully encourage its continued support so that voters may consider it this November. Los Angeles parks serve as essential public infrastructure—providing cooling during extreme heat, spaces for emergency response, and vital services for families, seniors, and youth. At the same time, longstanding underinvestment has led to real challenges, including limited access in many neighborhoods and strained resources across the system. Strengthening RAP's Charter allocation would help provide greater stability and allow for more consistent planning and delivery of basic services—such as safe, well-maintained parks and recreation centers, expanded access in underserved communities, and programs that support public health and climate resilience. We appreciate the Council's efforts to advance a balanced and equitable approach, and respectfully support placing this Charter Amendment before voters on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Arturo Garcia, Associate Director of Local Government Relations The Nature Conservancy

Communication from Public

Name: Shona Ganguly

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 11:36 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident and homeowner in the Shadow Hills neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, I strongly support increasing permanent funding for parks and open space in the city. Also, as a parent of three young kids, parks are critical to their physical and mental wellbeing. I support the charter reform to double the percentage to fund for LA Rec and Parks. Please vote to officially place charter funding for parks on the November ballot.

Communication from Public

Name: Raul Macias
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 11:43 AM
Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) On behalf of Anawauk Youth Sports Association and the youth we serve, we write in strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. These facilities are critical to youth sports in North East Los Angeles. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the communities we live and work in, where our youth do not have clean and safe facilities needed to thrive. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Our youth cannot wait. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Raul Macias

Anawauk Youth Sports Association

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a)

On behalf of **Anawauk Youth Sports Association and the youth we serve**, we write in **strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. These facilities are critical to youth sports in North East Los Angeles.

Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. **We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the communities we live and work in, where our youth do not have clean and safe facilities needed to thrive.**

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Our youth cannot wait. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Raul Macias

Anawauk Youth Sports Association

Communication from Public

Name: Community Support for 593(a)

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:06 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: 100+ community organizations, neighborhood leaders, park and health advocates from across Los Angeles have joined over the past months to support doubling Recreation and Parks charter minimum allocation. These include: 1st 5 LA Best Start San Fernando Valley, AADAP, ACCE, Anahuak Youth Soccer Association, Angels Gate Cultural Center, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, Audubon Center at Debs Park, Barrington Park Advisory Board, Barrington Recreation Center Advisory Board, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, Brentwood Community Council, CAT-911, Cal Poly Pomona / CHILE, Center for Biological Diversity, Central City Neighborhood Partners, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter, Clockshop, COFEM, Communities for a Better Environment, Community Coalition, Community Health Councils, Community Nature Connection, Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno, Conexión Centroamericana, Crop Swap LA, Day One, Echo Park Improvement Association, Echo Park Trash Club, El Nido Family Centers, Fairfax Park Advisory Board, Food Access Los Angeles, Friends of Elysian Park, Friends of Griffith Park, Friends of Runyon Canyon, Friends of the LA River, Green LA Coalition, Griffith Park Advisory Board, Heal the Bay, Hillside Federation, Hunger Action LA, Investing in Place, KMB Pro-People Youth, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, LA Commons, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, LA Forward Institute, LA Más, LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Latino Outdoors, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, Little Tokyo Service Center, Living Schoolyards Coalition, London Street Garden, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Los Feliz Improvement Association, MAEVE West Adams, Monarch Mami Community Conservation Project, National Parks Conservation Association, Nature for All, North East Trees, Pacoima Beautiful, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Prevention Institute, Promesa Boyle Heights, Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission, PSR-LA, Rising Communities Foundation, SALT, Saint Remy Arts and Culture, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Save Elephant Hill, Second Nature Collective, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Silver

Lake Reservoirs Conservancy, South Central LAMP, Studio-MLA, Sunday Jump, Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter, TRUST South Los Angeles, Terre Moto, Theodore Payne Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Tías on Trails, TreePeople, Trust for Public Land, Ultimate Restoration Unlimited, United Teachers Los Angeles, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute Occidental College, Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles, Valley Cultural Foundation, Verdant Venice, and Wildwoods. That letter is linked [here](#)-the number of logos make it too large to file. These connections and support for a single issue, across parts of Los Angeles, is unusual and point to the urgency of this need, and the strong love Angelenos have for our park system. This was also seen in the recently completed LA City Parks Needs Assessment. Over the last months community members from El Sereno, South Los Angeles, Sun Valley, Pacoima, Boyle Heights, Echo Park, Venice, Pico-Union, Elysian Valley, Brentwood, Los Feliz, Koreatown, North Hollywood, West LA, Van Nuys, Glassell Park, East Hollywood and across Los Angeles have shown up to City Hall repeatedly to stand in support for correcting a broken system under which LA's park funding has not kept up with other departments or the needs of Los Angeles communities. The LA City Council 14-1 vote directing the City Attorney to revise the Charter to double RAP's minimum allocation is a fiscally sound proposal that responds to Angelenos needs and directly meets the annual funding identified as necessary in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment. Approving the ballot language prepared by the City Attorney is one critical step further to letting voters decide in November. We urge continued support from the Council to place this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. This is a generational change. Let Angelenos decide.

RE: Request to Amend Charter Section 593 to Increase Charter-Required Minimum Budget Allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks

1. Introduction and request for sustainable parks funding.

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the undersigned park and open space, equity and health advocates and academic and community leaders from across Los Angeles, we urge you to:

1. Reconsider, and advance as part of your recommendations, the proposal **to double Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)'s 1937 charter allocation to 0.065% of assessed property value** in order to restore decades of budget reductions and improve the safety and cleanliness of Los Angeles City parks.
2. Consider recommending the successful Measure L model to **phase in the increased allocation gradually over a four-year period** to give RAP the ability to address urgent funding gaps, while giving our City time to thoughtfully plan over time for this funding realignment.

2. Parks Needs Assessment reveals a system on the verge of collapse.

In 2025, Los Angeles dropped from 49th to 90th in the Trust for Public Land's national ParkScore ranking. The City-commissioned Parks Needs Assessment (PNA)—approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2025 and developed with input from over 100,000 Angelenos—illustrates how and why: Between FY 2009-2023, RAP's budget grew only 35% while the City's overall budget grew 68%—meaning RAP's funding increased at half the rate of citywide growth. **Notably, RAP's "charter allocation," the source of the bulk of its budget, has been formula frozen since 1937—nearly 90 years ago.**

Historically, this dedicated Charter-required funding had been provided to pay RAP's "direct" costs, including staff and equipment, and the City paid RAP's "indirect" costs including water, electricity, security and benefits. Following the 2009 Great Recession the City changed its fiscal policy and began requiring RAP to pay a portion of its indirect costs. Today, 40% of the budget (\$145M) is diverted to the City's General Fund for these "indirect costs" from RAP's Charter allocation. **This means our parks budget is paying for significantly more than it was nearly 90 years ago, on the same percentage allocation.**

As a result, today Los Angeles invests just \$92 per capita on parks compared to peer cities' average of \$283. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008 and has never fully recovered from Great Recession cuts, even as park acreage increased. The PNA identified \$14.76 billion in one-time costs to meet the level of service of peer cities and to address over \$ 2 billion in outstanding deferred maintenance.

This disinvestment has consequences; more than 1.5 million Angelenos—one in three residents—lack a park within a 10-minute walk of home, among the lowest access rates in major U.S. cities. In communities like Pacoima and South L.A., where industrial use, extreme heat, and limited access to green space intersect, residents have up to 78% less park acreage per capita than wealthier parts of the city.

3. Parks are Critical Infrastructure in times of crisis.

We recognize the interlocking crises facing our City: a \$1 billion budget shortfall, fire recovery and reduced property tax revenues, federal funding cuts that affect services, and the ongoing social and economic harms to our communities from immigration enforcement. We live here too. We all need our City to operate with fiscal responsibility and provide services and infrastructure.

However, in times of crisis, particularly economic crisis, parks are even more essential for physical and social respite, safety and social cohesion. They are critical infrastructure that give our children safe places to play and learn, a place for our families to gather, celebrate life events and stay healthy, and our seniors' opportunities to stay active and connected. As one of the only free spaces where community members can visit without fear, they are a place of respite.

4. Measure L provides a precedent for rebuilding thoughtfully.

In 2011, during another fiscal crisis and in response to the changed City policy that likewise required the Los Angeles Libraries to pay a portion of its indirect costs in addition to its direct cost that cumulatively forced library closures, LA voters increased the Library's charter allocation by over 70% through a progressive phase-in from 2011-2014. Today, Libraries have rebuilt staff capacity, are open 6-7 days a week and provide essential services for our communities far beyond books.

Our park system can and should do the same: With adequate funding, RAP can invest in trained park rangers, emergency preparedness, climate resilience, mass care, fire prevention, youth and senior programming, and operate and maintain its facilities safely so all Angelenos have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk from home.

5. Double RAP's charter allocation through a thoughtful, phased 4-year approach.

We urge the Commission to recommend doubling RAP's Charter allocation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, phased in over four years (FY 2027-28 through FY 2030-31), eventually nearly meeting the estimated \$525-\$625 million annual operating need identified in the PNA.

This phased approach gives RAP the ability to address critical needs while giving the City Council four years to adjust budgets gradually, hopefully coinciding with an improved tax and economic outlook and replenished federal and state funding.

The Library precedent demonstrates that thoughtful, phased investments in our community infrastructure works and that voters support and value these spaces. In 2011, Measure L was approved by 63%. Today, LA's libraries thrive as essential community anchors. Parks can do the same, and voters want this: Internal polling by park advocates found 8 out of 10 voters in Los Angeles recognized and supported the need for additional funding for parks and the services they provide.

6. Conclusion and appreciation.

Your work on the Charter Reform Commission could permanently fix a funding formula frozen since 1937 that has not kept pace with an urban-wildlands park system of 500 sites across 16,000 acres serving 4 million Angelenos.

We respectfully encourage you to reconsider your action and explore the opportunity to thoughtfully increase RAP's charter allocation. As professionals—and as parents who rely on our park system for our families just as we did growing up—we know how essential it is to have free, safe, resilient public spaces that can meet the social, environmental, and economic needs of a changing Los Angeles. With a sensible and collaborative approach, we can strengthen the foundation of our parks and build a Los Angeles that truly works for everyone.

Sincerely,

Tori Kjer

Executive Director

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Amy Eriksen

Executive Director

Angels Gate Cultural Center

Kyle Tsukahira & Heng Lam Foong

Co-Directors

Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM)

Candice Dickens-Russell

Executive Director

Friends of the LA River

Rob Baird

Land Use and Built Environment Specialist

Prevention Institute

Taty Trinidad Hernández, Ed.M

Founder & Director

Lumbre Ceramics

Adrienne Mohan

Executive Director

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Pablo Cardoso

Director of Environment

Koreatown Youth and Community Center

Sarah K. Friedman

Special Program Manager

Trust for Public Land

Dilia Ortega

SoCal Program Co-Director (SELA)

Communities for a Better Environment

Karen Mack

Executive Director

LA Commons

Veronica Padilla

Executive Director

Pacoima Beautiful

Claire Latané, MLA FASLA

Professor, Landscape Architecture

Cal Poly Pomona / CHILE

Bo Savage

Deputy Director

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Allen Compton

PLA, ASLA / Founder & President

SALT

Raul Macias

President

Anahuak Youth Soccer Association

Rosa Romero

Program Director

Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College

Cassie Rauser

CEO

TreePeople

Sull Bell-Yank
Executive Director
Clockshop

Jazzari Taylor
Policy Advocate
Latino Outdoors

Andrew Celi
KMB Pro People Youth

Bruce Reznik
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Eugenia Ermacora
Chapter Director
Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

Allegra Padilla
Executive Director
Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles

Oscar Alvarez
Associate Director of Community Planning
Community Coalition

Dennis Arguelles
Southern California Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Eduardo Rodriguez
Executive Director
Central City Neighborhood Partners

Arturo Garcia
Associate Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Eddy M. Gana
Co-Director
Sunday Jump

Elva Yanez
Board President
Save Elephant Hill

Diana Z. Pinto
Executive Director
South Central LAMP

Gloria M. Villagrana-Cruz
Program Director
El Nido Family Centers

Cyndi Hubach
Board Member
Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy

Pat Bates
Conservation Committee Co-Chairperson
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Don Andres
Friends of Runyon Canyon

Helen Leung
LA Mas

Living Schoolyards Coalition

Nancy Freedman
President
Barrington Park PAB

Hayley Haefele
Barrington Recreation Center PAB

John Garside
Director of Policy and Development
Crop Swap LA

Marie S. Mawji
President
MAEVE West Adams

Nicole Elin Antoine
London Street Garden

Isabelle Duvivier
Executive Director
Verdant Venice

Vanesa Iniguez
Director of Climate Initiatives
Trust South Los Angeles

Gerry Han

President
Friends of Griffith Park

Shirley De La Cruz

Co-Organizer
Conexión Centroamericana

Joshua Ramirez

Founder and Executive Director
Saint Remy Arts and Culture

Jenny Jones

Terre Moto

Dr. Jennifer Sanchez Guevara, Ed.D.

Promesa Boyle Heights Program Director
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

Jessica Meaney

Executive Director
Investing in Place

Fairfax Park Advisory Board**Tony Tucci**

Chair and Co-Founder
CLAW

Evelyn Serrano

Director
Audubon Center Debs Park

Adam Laiben

Founder
Echo Park Trash Club

Jennifer Grissom

Executive Director
Food Access LA

David Levitus, Ph.D.

Executive Director
LA Forward Institute

Redd Martinez

CAT-911

Carolyn LoBuglio

Chairperson
Brentwood Community Council

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma

Founder
Tias on Trails

Carol Peralta

Program Director
Wildwoods

Sejal Patel

Executive Director
Rising Communities Foundation

Veronica Hahni

Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

Kim Orbe

Senior Conservation Program Manager
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

Chris Rhie

Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles

Carlos Moran

Executive Director
NE Trees

Eric Lerner

Climate Justice Director
ACCE

Maya Canonizado

Co-Founder
Second Nature Collective

Sam Joo

CEO
AADAP

Jose Luis Sanchez

Field Organizer
COFEM

Alex Crow

Griffith Park Advisory Board

Sakae Koyama and Philip Murphy
Co-Presidents
Friends of Elysian Park

Takao Suzuki
Co-Executive Director
Little Tokyo Service Center

Belén Bernal
Executive Director
Nature for All

Joellen Ammann
Valley Cultural Foundation

Zoe Cunliffe
Environmental Justice Program Coordinator
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Policy Specialist
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Val and Pam Marquez
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Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

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Helen O'Shea
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Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
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Mia Lehrer, FASLA
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Julie Van Winkle
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Debra Matlock
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Tracy Quinn
President & CEO
Heal the Bay

Amy Greenwood
Executive Director
Theodore Payne Society

Maro Kakoussian
Director of Climate and Health Programs
PSR-LA

Communication from Public

Name: Community Support

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:06 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: 100+ community organizations, neighborhood leaders, park and health advocates from across Los Angeles have joined over the past months to support doubling Recreation and Parks charter minimum allocation. These include: 1st 5 LA Best Start San Fernando Valley, AADAP, ACCE, Anahuak Youth Soccer Association, Angels Gate Cultural Center, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, Audubon Center at Debs Park, Barrington Park Advisory Board, Barrington Recreation Center Advisory Board, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, Brentwood Community Council, CAT-911, Cal Poly Pomona / CHILE, Center for Biological Diversity, Central City Neighborhood Partners, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter, Clockshop, COFEM, Communities for a Better Environment, Community Coalition, Community Health Councils, Community Nature Connection, Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno, Conexión Centroamericana, Crop Swap LA, Day One, Echo Park Improvement Association, Echo Park Trash Club, El Nido Family Centers, Fairfax Park Advisory Board, Food Access Los Angeles, Friends of Elysian Park, Friends of Griffith Park, Friends of Runyon Canyon, Friends of the LA River, Green LA Coalition, Griffith Park Advisory Board, Heal the Bay, Hillside Federation, Hunger Action LA, Investing in Place, KMB Pro-People Youth, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, LA Commons, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, LA Forward Institute, LA Más, LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Latino Outdoors, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, Little Tokyo Service Center, Living Schoolyards Coalition, London Street Garden, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Los Feliz Improvement Association, MAEVE West Adams, Monarch Mami Community Conservation Project, National Parks Conservation Association, Nature for All, North East Trees, Pacoima Beautiful, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Prevention Institute, Promesa Boyle Heights, Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission, PSR-LA, Rising Communities Foundation, SALT, Saint Remy Arts and Culture, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Save Elephant Hill, Second Nature Collective, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Silver

Lake Reservoirs Conservancy, South Central LAMP, Studio-MLA, Sunday Jump, Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter, TRUST South Los Angeles, Terre Moto, Theodore Payne Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Tías on Trails, TreePeople, Trust for Public Land, Ultimate Restoration Unlimited, United Teachers Los Angeles, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute Occidental College, Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles, Valley Cultural Foundation, Verdant Venice, and Wildwoods. That letter is linked [here](#)-the number of logos make it too large to file. These connections and support for a single issue, across parts of Los Angeles, is unusual and point to the urgency of this need, and the strong love Angelenos have for our park system. This was also seen in the recently completed LA City Parks Needs Assessment. Over the last months community members from El Sereno, South Los Angeles, Sun Valley, Pacoima, Boyle Heights, Echo Park, Venice, Pico-Union, Elysian Valley, Brentwood, Los Feliz, Koreatown, North Hollywood, West LA, Van Nuys, Glassell Park, East Hollywood and across Los Angeles have shown up to City Hall repeatedly to stand in support for correcting a broken system under which LA's park funding has not kept up with other departments or the needs of Los Angeles communities. The LA City Council 14-1 vote directing the City Attorney to revise the Charter to double RAP's minimum allocation is a fiscally sound proposal that responds to Angelenos needs and directly meets the annual funding identified as necessary in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment. Approving the ballot language prepared by the City Attorney is one critical step further to letting voters decide in November. We urge continued support from the Council to place this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. This is a generational change. Let Angelenos decide.

RE: Request to Amend Charter Section 593 to Increase Charter-Required Minimum Budget Allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks

1. Introduction and request for sustainable parks funding.

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the undersigned park and open space, equity and health advocates and academic and community leaders from across Los Angeles, we urge you to:

1. Reconsider, and advance as part of your recommendations, the proposal **to double Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)'s 1937 charter allocation to 0.065% of assessed property value** in order to restore decades of budget reductions and improve the safety and cleanliness of Los Angeles City parks.
2. Consider recommending the successful Measure L model to **phase in the increased allocation gradually over a four-year period** to give RAP the ability to address urgent funding gaps, while giving our City time to thoughtfully plan over time for this funding realignment.

2. Parks Needs Assessment reveals a system on the verge of collapse.

In 2025, Los Angeles dropped from 49th to 90th in the Trust for Public Land's national ParkScore ranking. The City-commissioned Parks Needs Assessment (PNA)—approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2025 and developed with input from over 100,000 Angelenos—illustrates how and why: Between FY 2009-2023, RAP's budget grew only 35% while the City's overall budget grew 68%—meaning RAP's funding increased at half the rate of citywide growth. **Notably, RAP's "charter allocation," the source of the bulk of its budget, has been formula frozen since 1937—nearly 90 years ago.**

Historically, this dedicated Charter-required funding had been provided to pay RAP's "direct" costs, including staff and equipment, and the City paid RAP's "indirect" costs including water, electricity, security and benefits. Following the 2009 Great Recession the City changed its fiscal policy and began requiring RAP to pay a portion of its indirect costs. Today, 40% of the budget (\$145M) is diverted to the City's General Fund for these "indirect costs" from RAP's Charter allocation. **This means our parks budget is paying for significantly more than it was nearly 90 years ago, on the same percentage allocation.**

As a result, today Los Angeles invests just \$92 per capita on parks compared to peer cities' average of \$283. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008 and has never fully recovered from Great Recession cuts, even as park acreage increased. The PNA identified \$14.76 billion in one-time costs to meet the level of service of peer cities and to address over \$ 2 billion in outstanding deferred maintenance.

This disinvestment has consequences; more than 1.5 million Angelenos—one in three residents—lack a park within a 10-minute walk of home, among the lowest access rates in major U.S. cities. In communities like Pacoima and South L.A., where industrial use, extreme heat, and limited access to green space intersect, residents have up to 78% less park acreage per capita than wealthier parts of the city.

3. Parks are Critical Infrastructure in times of crisis.

We recognize the interlocking crises facing our City: a \$1 billion budget shortfall, fire recovery and reduced property tax revenues, federal funding cuts that affect services, and the ongoing social and economic harms to our communities from immigration enforcement. We live here too. We all need our City to operate with fiscal responsibility and provide services and infrastructure.

However, in times of crisis, particularly economic crisis, parks are even more essential for physical and social respite, safety and social cohesion. They are critical infrastructure that give our children safe places to play and learn, a place for our families to gather, celebrate life events and stay healthy, and our seniors' opportunities to stay active and connected. As one of the only free spaces where community members can visit without fear, they are a place of respite.

4. Measure L provides a precedent for rebuilding thoughtfully.

In 2011, during another fiscal crisis and in response to the changed City policy that likewise required the Los Angeles Libraries to pay a portion of its indirect costs in addition to its direct cost that cumulatively forced library closures, LA voters increased the Library's charter allocation by over 70% through a progressive phase-in from 2011-2014. Today, Libraries have rebuilt staff capacity, are open 6-7 days a week and provide essential services for our communities far beyond books.

Our park system can and should do the same: With adequate funding, RAP can invest in trained park rangers, emergency preparedness, climate resilience, mass care, fire prevention, youth and senior programming, and operate and maintain its facilities safely so all Angelenos have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk from home.

5. Double RAP's charter allocation through a thoughtful, phased 4-year approach.

We urge the Commission to recommend doubling RAP's Charter allocation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, phased in over four years (FY 2027-28 through FY 2030-31), eventually nearly meeting the estimated \$525-\$625 million annual operating need identified in the PNA.

This phased approach gives RAP the ability to address critical needs while giving the City Council four years to adjust budgets gradually, hopefully coinciding with an improved tax and economic outlook and replenished federal and state funding.

The Library precedent demonstrates that thoughtful, phased investments in our community infrastructure works and that voters support and value these spaces. In 2011, Measure L was approved by 63%. Today, LA's libraries thrive as essential community anchors. Parks can do the same, and voters want this: Internal polling by park advocates found 8 out of 10 voters in Los Angeles recognized and supported the need for additional funding for parks and the services they provide.

6. Conclusion and appreciation.

Your work on the Charter Reform Commission could permanently fix a funding formula frozen since 1937 that has not kept pace with an urban-wildlands park system of 500 sites across 16,000 acres serving 4 million Angelenos.

We respectfully encourage you to reconsider your action and explore the opportunity to thoughtfully increase RAP's charter allocation. As professionals—and as parents who rely on our park system for our families just as we did growing up—we know how essential it is to have free, safe, resilient public spaces that can meet the social, environmental, and economic needs of a changing Los Angeles. With a sensible and collaborative approach, we can strengthen the foundation of our parks and build a Los Angeles that truly works for everyone.

Sincerely,

Tori Kjer

Executive Director

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Amy Eriksen

Executive Director

Angels Gate Cultural Center

Kyle Tsukahira & Heng Lam Foong

Co-Directors

Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM)

Candice Dickens-Russell

Executive Director

Friends of the LA River

Rob Baird

Land Use and Built Environment Specialist

Prevention Institute

Taty Trinidad Hernández, Ed.M

Founder & Director

Lumbre Ceramics

Adrienne Mohan

Executive Director

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Pablo Cardoso

Director of Environment

Koreatown Youth and Community Center

Sarah K. Friedman

Special Program Manager

Trust for Public Land

Dilia Ortega

SoCal Program Co-Director (SELA)

Communities for a Better Environment

Karen Mack

Executive Director

LA Commons

Veronica Padilla

Executive Director

Pacoima Beautiful

Claire Latané, MLA FASLA

Professor, Landscape Architecture

Cal Poly Pomona / CHILE

Bo Savage

Deputy Director

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Allen Compton

PLA, ASLA / Founder & President

SALT

Raul Macias

President

Anahuak Youth Soccer Association

Rosa Romero

Program Director

Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College

Cassie Rauser

CEO

TreePeople

Sull Bell-Yank
Executive Director
Clockshop

Jazzari Taylor
Policy Advocate
Latino Outdoors

Andrew Celi
KMB Pro People Youth

Bruce Reznik
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Eugenia Ermacora
Chapter Director
Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

Allegra Padilla
Executive Director
Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles

Oscar Alvarez
Associate Director of Community Planning
Community Coalition

Dennis Arguelles
Southern California Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Eduardo Rodriguez
Executive Director
Central City Neighborhood Partners

Arturo Garcia
Associate Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Eddy M. Gana
Co-Director
Sunday Jump

Elva Yanez
Board President
Save Elephant Hill

Diana Z. Pinto
Executive Director
South Central LAMP

Gloria M. Villagrana-Cruz
Program Director
El Nido Family Centers

Cyndi Hubach
Board Member
Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy

Pat Bates
Conservation Committee Co-Chairperson
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Don Andres
Friends of Runyon Canyon

Helen Leung
LA Mas

Living Schoolyards Coalition

Nancy Freedman
President
Barrington Park PAB

Hayley Haefele
Barrington Recreation Center PAB

John Garside
Director of Policy and Development
Crop Swap LA

Marie S. Mawji
President
MAEVE West Adams

Nicole Elin Antoine
London Street Garden

Isabelle Duvivier
Executive Director
Verdant Venice

Vanessa Iniguez
Director of Climate Initiatives
Trust South Los Angeles

Gerry Han*President*

Friends of Griffith Park

Shirley De La Cruz*Co-Organizer*

Conexión Centroamericana

Joshua Ramirez*Founder and Executive Director*

Saint Remy Arts and Culture

Jenny Jones

Terre Moto

Dr. Jennifer Sanchez Guevara, Ed.D.*Promesa Boyle Heights Program Director*

Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

Jessica Meaney*Executive Director*

Investing in Place

Fairfax Park Advisory Board**Tony Tucci***Chair and Co-Founder*

CLAW

Evelyn Serrano*Director*

Audubon Center Debs Park

Adam Laiben*Founder*

Echo Park Trash Club

Jennifer Grissom*Executive Director*

Food Access LA

David Levitus, Ph.D.*Executive Director*

LA Forward Institute

Redd Martinez

CAT-911

Carolyn LoBuglio*Chairperson*

Brentwood Community Council

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma*Founder*

Tias on Trails

Carol Peralta*Program Director*

Wildwoods

Sejal Patel*Executive Director*

Rising Communities Foundation

Veronica Hahni*Executive Director*

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

Kim Orbe*Senior Conservation Program Manager*

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

Chris Rhie

Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles

Carlos Moran*Executive Director*

NE Trees

Eric Lerner*Climate Justice Director*

ACCE

Maya Canonizado*Co-Founder*

Second Nature Collective

Sam Joo*CEO*

AADAP

Jose Luis Sanchez*Field Organizer*

COFEM

Alex Crow

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Tracy Quinn
President & CEO
Heal the Bay

Amy Greenwood
Executive Director
Theodore Payne Society

Maro Kakoussian
Director of Climate and Health Programs
PSR-LA

Communication from Public

Name: nancy freedman
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:18 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: /Users/nancyfreedman/Desktop/RE.docx

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Christensen
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:29 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached my letter expressing Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15, as well as my appreciation for the Council's leadership on this crucial matter at this historic juncture.



INMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
LA KRETZ HALL, SUITE 300
619 CHARLES E. YOUNG DR. EAST
BOX 951496
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1496

PHONE: 310-825-5008

FAX: 310-825-9663

<http://www.environment.ucla.edu>

For: Council File 26-0489

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

I am writing to **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. **I deeply appreciate the careful, thoughtful consideration the City Council demonstrated in developing and advancing this fiscally-sound compromise on June 17, 2026. I urge the Council to advance the measure now so that voters can decide on the measure in November.**

I teach and do research in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA where my research focuses on environmental equity and access. I've looked at the inequities in access to parks and beaches in Los Angeles from many different angles. I worked on the city's Park Needs Assessment to help ensure that it prioritizes addressing those inequities. I'm proud to say it does, in a way that is unprecedented in this country. We should all be proud of that, if we can find a way to fund that work. **You have found a way and Angelenos now and in the future will be grateful for your leadership.**

An increase in the charter allocation is the only sure path available right now to ensure that our park system does not continue in the slow death spiral that it is currently in. **And this measure is fully within the intent and history of the charter.** Parks and libraries were safeguarded from the usual budget horse-trading because they were considered essential for the well-being, life, and culture of a good city in the early 20th century, for the creation of common ground and common values. Parks were seen as important places where diverse people could mingle and get to know each other and become part of a community. **You have ensured that we won't lose sight of that and lose our way in the early 21st century.** Study after study has reinforced the value of parks for the health and well-being of residents, as well the place in cities where we are most likely to encounter people who are different from us, in a shared setting, and listen, learn, respect, and trust each other. We need those spaces more than ever in Los Angeles.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Christensen".

Jon Christensen

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
Director, Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica Hahni/Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:33 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 On behalf of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe, and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Veronica Hahni Executive Director Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative



Rebuilding Neighborhoods One Block at a Time

June 29, 2026

Council File 26-0489

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding
— Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot
Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), **we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.**

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs

Marian Bell
President
Bell Development

Courtney Torres
Vice-President
Courtney Torres Consulting

Todd McIntyre
Treasurer
WSP

Areen Ibranossian
Secretary
Chief Strategies

Joyce Perkins
Joyce Perkins Consulting
LANI Co-Founder

Emily Gabel Luddy, FASLA
Hollywood Burbank Airport
Authority

Peter E. Jackson, CSBC
JPMorgan Chase

Monique Earl
Trifiletti Consulting

Veronica Hahni
LANI Executive Director



Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and **strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.**

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Hahni

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director



LANI LoS RAP Funding Amendment

Final Audit Report

2026-06-29

Created:	2026-06-29
By:	Franci Levine-Grater (franci@lani.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAmtZlfhYLFUsoenmpaNC0AbbJb6-pAkmu

"LANI LoS RAP Funding Amendment" History

-  Document created by Franci Levine-Grater (franci@lani.org)
2026-06-29 - 6:52:50 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Veronica Hahni (veronica@lani.org) for signature
2026-06-29 - 6:52:56 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Veronica Hahni (veronica@lani.org)
2026-06-29 - 6:56:53 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Veronica Hahni (veronica@lani.org)
Signature Date: 2026-06-29 - 6:57:15 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE
-  Agreement completed.
2026-06-29 - 6:57:15 PM GMT

Communication from Public

Name: LA Living Schoolyards Coalition

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:37 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) The Los Angeles Living Schoolyards Coalition strongly supports the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the schools and communities we live, work in and serve. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services our youth want and deserve: pools and recreation centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and access to nature and green space or all. These are not luxuries but for kids across LA they have become so. We cannot afford to wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and delays in getting community school parks and living schoolyards developed so youth can have the benefits of green space. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Francesca De La Rosa Campaign

Director Living Schoolyards Campaign

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a)

The Los Angeles Living Schoolyards Coalition **strongly supports the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive.

Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the schools and communities we live, work in and serve.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services our youth want and deserve: pools and recreation centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and access to nature and green space or all. These are not luxuries but for kids across LA they have become so.

We cannot afford to wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and delays in getting community school parks and living schoolyards developed so youth can have the benefits of green space. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca De La Rosa

Campaign Director

Living Schoolyards Campaign

Communication from Public

Name: Paula Sandoval, Equipo Verde

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 12:52 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) On behalf of Equipo Verde and the South Los Angeles communities we live in, we write in strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. Equipo Verde members have advocated and worked alongside non profit partners to build the parks and green space we needed--but there is a point where that is simply not possible with the current parks funding. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. These facilities are a critical third space-outside of work and home-and are critical for mental and physical health and community connection-but they are not distributed equally in all parts of LA. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in South Los Angeles: where our communities do not have access to the green space necessary for our youth, families and seniors to connect, spend time with families and friends. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries for South Los Angeles. Our communities

cannot wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and years our youth go without the physical and mental benefits of green space. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge approval of this Charter Amendment.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Sandoval Equipo Verde Member

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a)

On behalf of **Equipo Verde and the South Los Angeles communities we live in**, we write in **strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

Equipo Verde members have advocated and worked alongside non profit partners to build the parks and green space we needed--but there is a point where that is simply not possible with the current parks funding.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. **These facilities are a critical third space-outside of work and home-and are critical for mental and physical health and community connection-but they are not distributed equally in all parts of LA.**

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Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. **These are not luxuries for South Los Angeles.**

Our communities cannot wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and years our youth go without the physical and mental benefits of green space.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge approval of this Charter Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Sandoval

Equipo Verde Member

Communication from Public

Name: Lluvia Arras

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:11 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 On behalf of Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, I strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. I know this firsthand. Parks are where I learned to swim, where I received free lunches as a kid every summer, and where I got my first job as a teen. Ascot Hills Park in El Sereno is where our community breathes, where nature thrives, and where residents who have 80% less park space than wealthier neighborhoods come to find relief and connection. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. These are not statistics to me — they are my neighbors. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to

put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Lluvia Arras Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

RE: Council File 26-0489

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, I **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. I know this firsthand. Parks are where I learned to swim, where I received free lunches as a kid every summer, and where I got my first job as a teen. Ascot Hills Park in El Sereno is where our community breathes, where nature thrives, and where residents who have 80% less park space than wealthier neighborhoods come to find relief and connection.

Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. These are not statistics to me — they are my neighbors.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Lluvia Arras

Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board