

Resolution: Green Space Projects in Boyle Heights
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Approved September 24, 2014

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WHEREAS, the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council (BHNC) is committed to improving the condition of the local environment and overall quality of life for our stakeholders,

WHEREAS, an important element of healthy environments are green spaces, which comprise public park space, community gardens, outdoor sports and recreation facilities, green corridors, housing amenity greenspace and gardens, natural greenspace, and similar spaces with vegetation,

WHEREAS, the Boyle Heights neighborhood suffers many serious environmental injustices, one of these being lack of access to quality green spaces,

WHEREAS, data collected by the Los Angeles Department of City Planning shows that Boyle Heights has approximately 0.9 acres of park space per 1,000 residents while the average in the City of Los Angeles is 8.9 acres per 1,000 residents,

WHEREAS, the severely inadequate amount of green spaces in Boyle Heights needs to be addressed immediately as an important step in improving the quality of community health and wellbeing,

WHEREAS, the lack of green spaces has been found to directly impact the prevalence of health concerns including, but not limited to, obesity, cardiovascular complications, weakened immune system, and depression,

WHEREAS, studies show that tree cover aids in alleviating the urban heat island effect, and vegetation in general aids in absorbing harmful gases and particulate matter in the air, the presence of which is high in Boyle Heights and poses a serious problem to the respiratory health, especially of children, the elderly, and adults with respiratory or other affected health conditions,

WHEREAS, studies show green spaces that can accommodate sports and recreational activities further benefit the local community as these programs provide opportunities for greater youth development, which contributes to increased public safety by decreasing risk of gang and crime involvement,

WHEREAS, the importance of the City and neighborhood council working with local nonprofits and local public parks is key to addressing this crisis, it is critical that the BHNC takes a firm position and action to increase accessibility to green spaces, improve existing green spaces, and encourage maintenance and utilization of green spaces;

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) is accepting concept proposals for cap-and-trade program Urban and Community Forestry Program Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Grants that could greatly assist the Boyle Heights community in resolving green space issues,

WHEREAS, North East Trees has offered to assist Boyle Heights in achieving a substantially greater amount of and improving green space by working with the community to obtain the CalFire grant funds for green project implementation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the BHNC will support the following:

- 1) Collaboration with North East Trees and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to conduct outreach within the Boyle Heights community to gather feedback regarding potential sites for green space projects; and
- 2) Encouragement of a joint effort between North East Trees, Department of Recreation and Parks and the local community to submit a green space project proposal for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Cap-and-Trade Grant Program by the deadline of November 13, 2014; and
- 3) Promotion of green space care, respect, usage, and longevity by encouraging park and recreation programs as well as other activities that create community connection to these green spaces.