

Urban Parks Access: Trends, Issues, Challenges



Nina S. Roberts, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Recreation, Parks, & Tourism
Director, Pacific Leadership Institute

Tanya Rao, M.S.
Research Assistant



CA Parks Forward, Public Meeting, 3/14/14



A Changing America!





September 2013

PARKS FORWARD:

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE GOLDEN STATE

MANUEL PASTOR, MIRABAI AUER, JARED SANCHEZ

Available online at <http://parksforward.com/meetings>



The
City
Project

BLOG

Equal Justice, Democracy, and Livability for All

[ABOUT THE CITY PROJECT](#) [OUR WORK](#) [MAP JUSTICE](#) [GREEN JUSTICE](#) [MONUMENTS](#) [VIDEOS](#) [tumblr](#) [flickr](#)
[NEWSLETTER](#) [DONATE](#) [THE CITY PROJECT **BLOG**](#)

Parks Forward, Urban Access, and Meaningful Work The City Project March 10, 2014, 10 am to 12 pm Los Angeles

Posted: March 5th, 2014

The City Project invites you to the upcoming Parks Forward Public Health and Park Access meeting on Monday, March 10, 2014, on **healthy green land use, equitable development, and planning by and for the community.**



This meeting will include discussions among Commissioners, experts, and the public on **how best to improve urban park access and provide workforce opportunities to those who are currently underrepresented in the state park workforce.**

1900

40% of the U.S.
population lived
in urban areas

**Increase in
Urbanites!**

As of 2012

80.7%

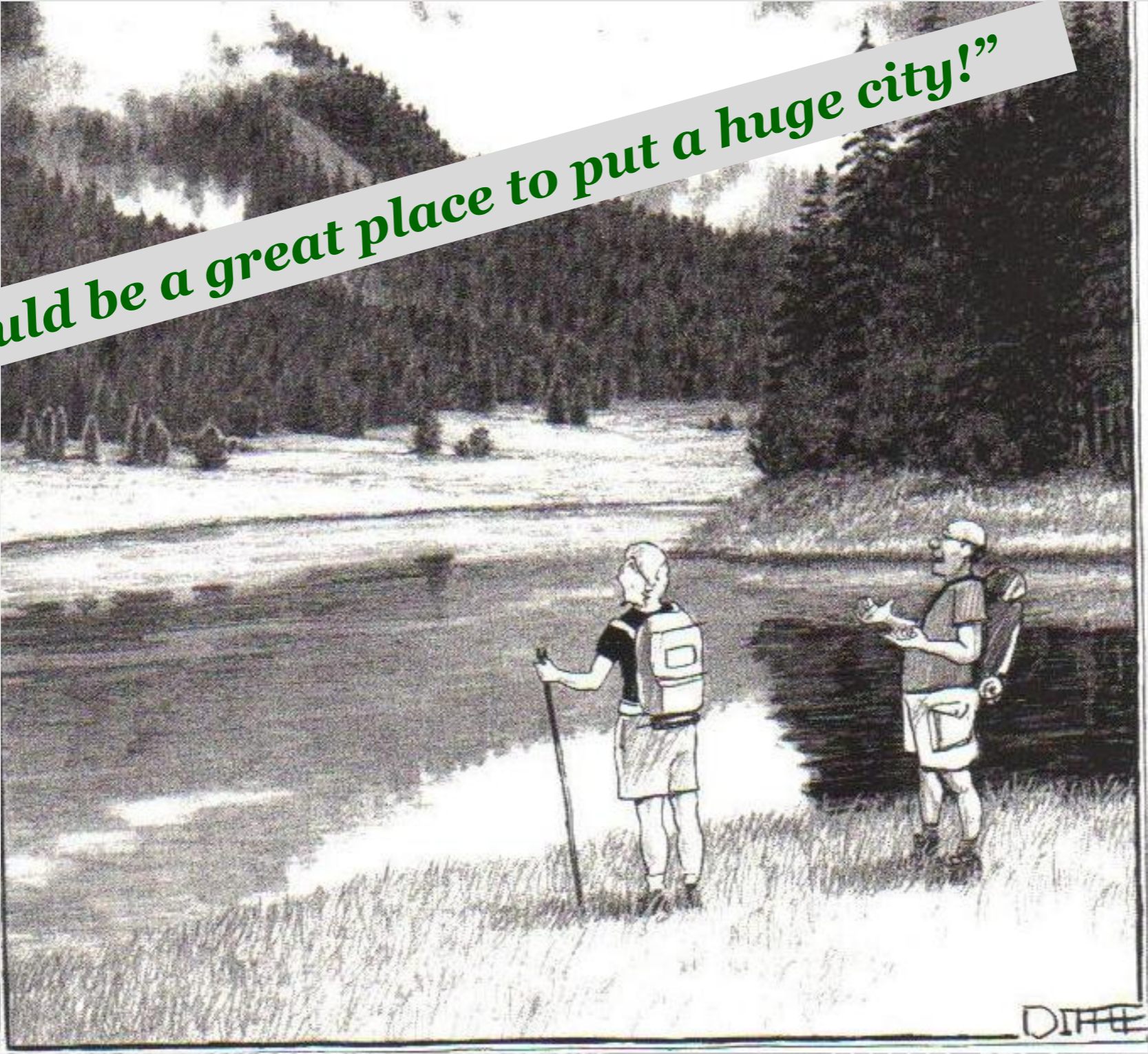
1980

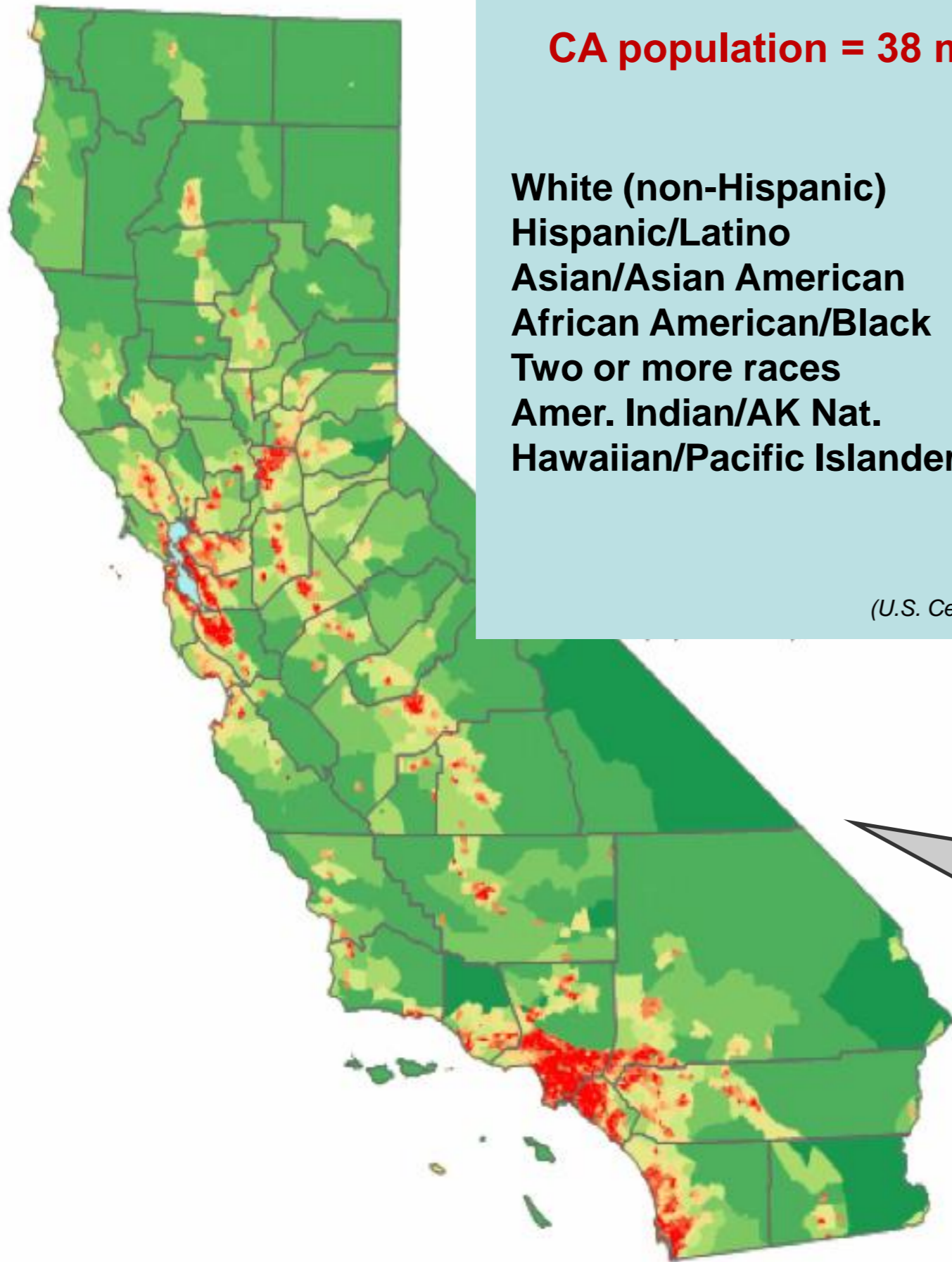
73%

2000

79%

“This would be a great place to put a huge city!”





CA population = 38 million!

	<i>Percent</i>
White (non-Hispanic)	39.4%
Hispanic/Latino	38.2
Asian/Asian American	13.9
African American/Black	6.6
Two or more races	3.6
Amer. Indian/AK Nat.	1.7
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5

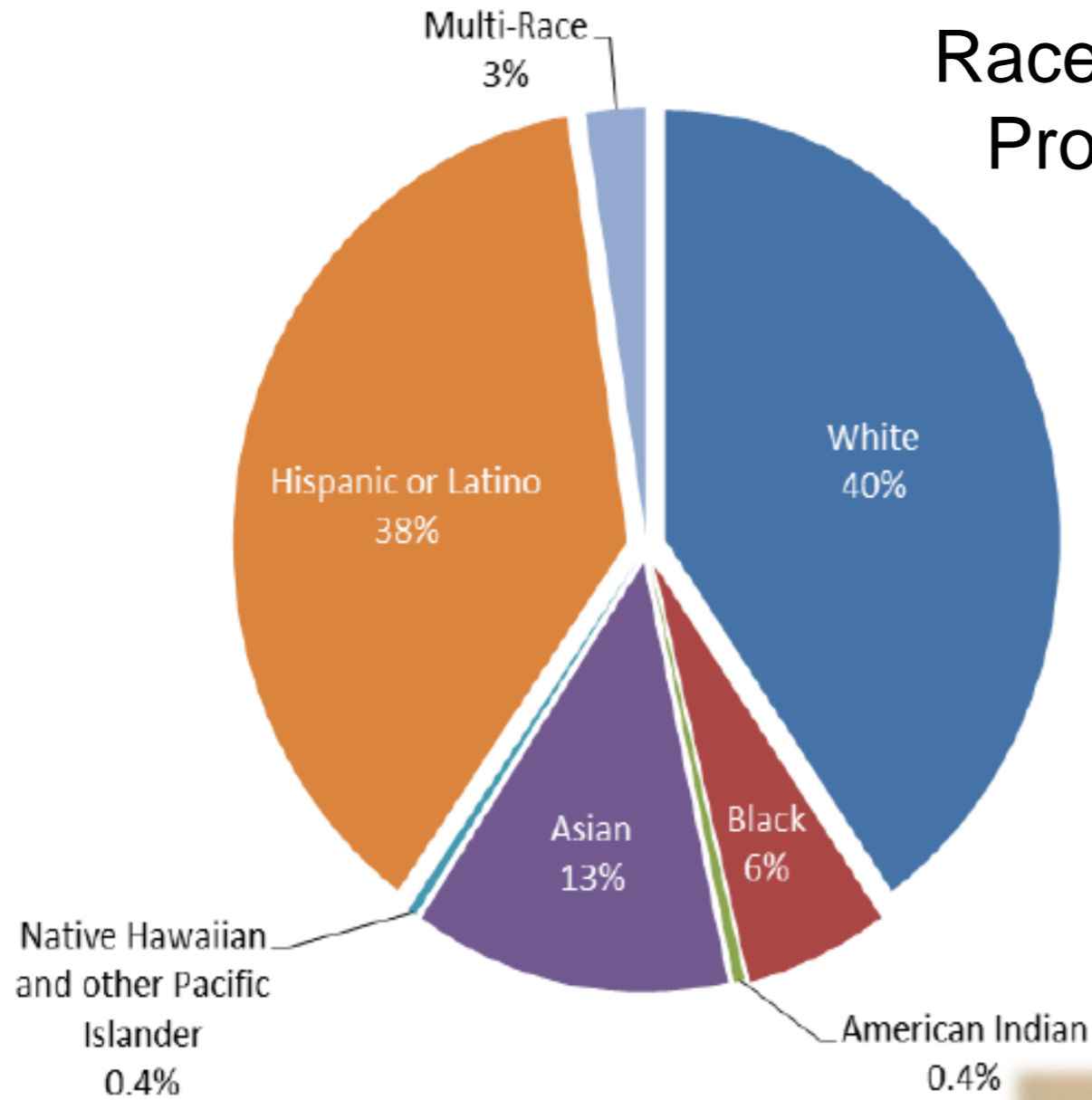
(U.S. Census Bureau, 2012)

People of color make up **60.6%** of California's population

95% of California's population live in urban areas

California Race/Ethnicity Projections

2010



2060

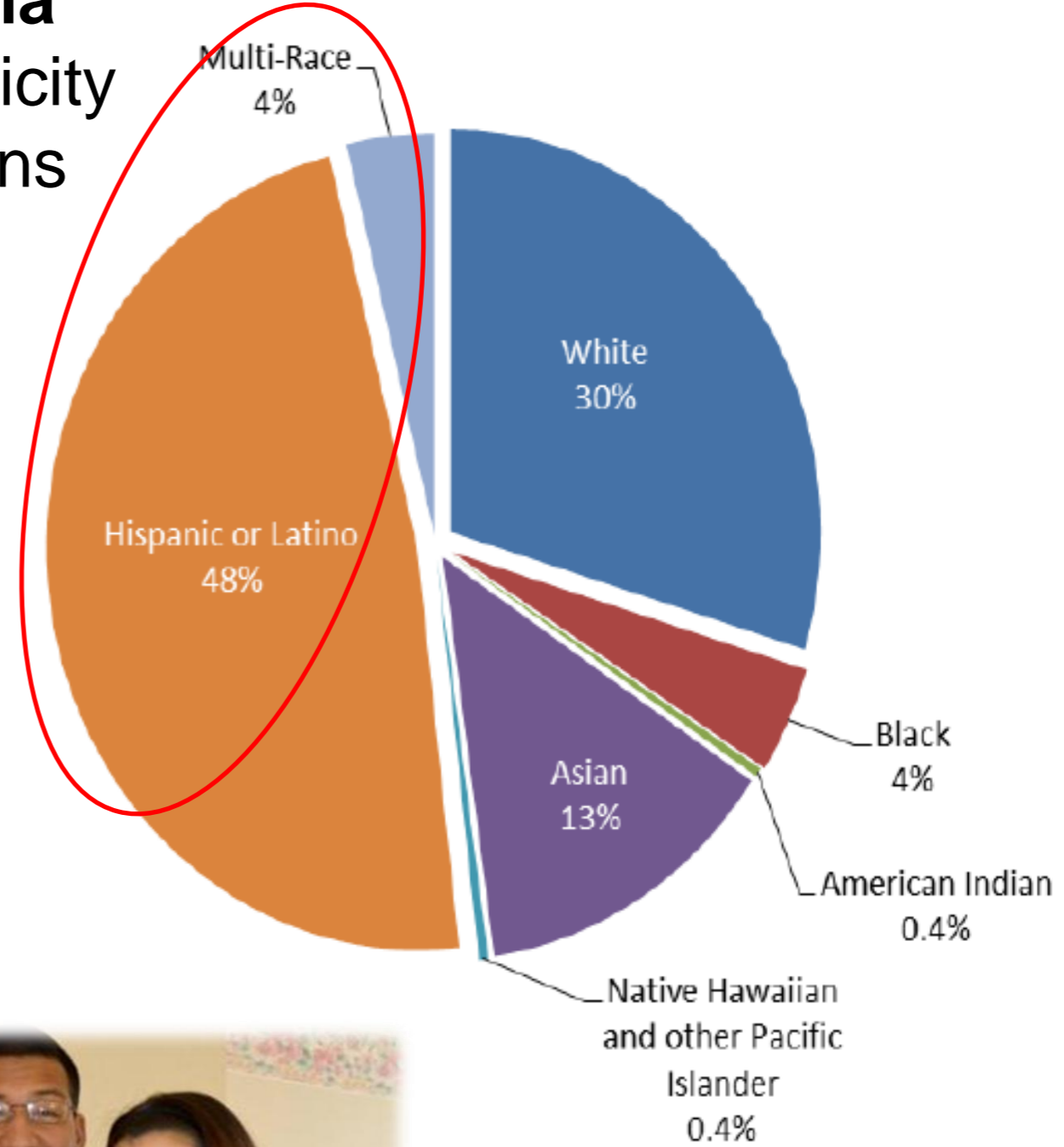


Photo: Julie Roberts

Urban Park Benefits

Promotes health:
Intellectually, emotionally,
spiritually, physically



Builds social capital and
creates a sense of place

and...

Preserves and purifies
the environment



(Photo: PCP Architects)



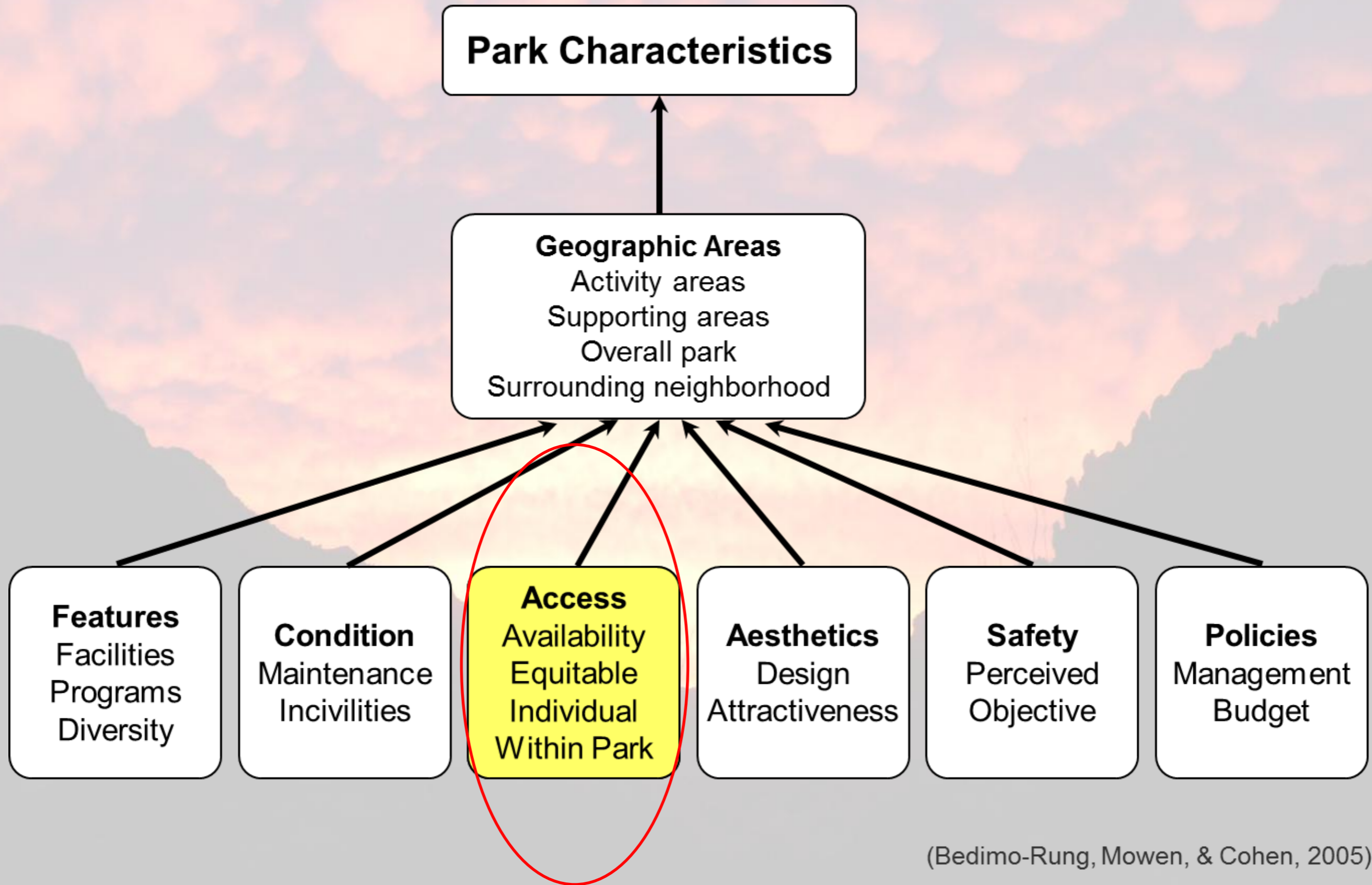
(Photo: Google Images)

Boosts local economy

Correlates of Park Use



(Bedimo-Rung, Mowen, & Cohen, 2005)



(Bedimo-Rung, Mowen, & Cohen, 2005)

Park Access

“Access is the ability of people to get to and navigate within a park”

(Bedimo-Rung et al., 2005)

- **Availability** - Amount of park space in a given city
- **Equitable Access** - Equal distribution of parks across different types of neighborhoods and/or structural barriers
- **Individual Access** - Distance people have to travel to get to a park (e.g., incl. related issues such as transit, willingness, etc.)
- **Within Park Access** - Freedom with which individuals can move around in the park (*limited research*)



(Photo: Tree People)

Park Availability

“Supply of public parks has not kept pace with the growing urban population”
(Lukaitou-Sideris, 2006)

- **Suggested:** 10 acres/1000 residents (NRPA, 2010)
- **National Average:** 15.8 acres/1000 residents (Bedimo-Rung, 2005)
- **Significant variations:**
 - ✧ Oakland - 15.2 acres/1000 residents
 - ✧ Santa Ana - 1.0 acres/1000 residents

(Trust for Public Land, 2012)



Voters across the nation approved 62 of the 87 referendums for parks and green space funding in November 2008

(Garcia, Rawson, Yellot, & Zaldana, 2009)

Arizona Watch | Arts & Entertainment | Economy | Education | Elders | Environment | Ethnic Media Headlines | Environment in the News | Gender & Sexuality | Health | Immigration | International Affairs | Latin America | Law & Justice | Media in America Now | Original NAM Content | Politics & Governance | Race | Race Relations | Religion | Science & Technology | Veterans | War & Conflict | Youth Culture | Audio | Photo Galleries | Video | All Stories

Minorities Drive California Environmental Movement



Story tools

Comments

Resize | A | A | A

Print

Share and Email

Rate this story:

👍 62% | 👎 38%



Related

Calif. Bill Cope With

Los Angeles this week, city...

Minorities Movement

SAN FRANCISCO the forefront policies in.

Report: Community

New America Media, News Report, Ngoc Nguyen, Posted: Aug 04, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO -- Ethnic Californians are at the forefront of support for environmental policies in the state, according to a new poll released last week by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).



Park Poor, Income Poor, and People of Color with California State Parks

	SAN FRANCISCO REGION	LOS ANGELES REGION
Population	7,200,883	18,422,448
Percent of State's Population	19%	49%
Acres in State Park System	316,808	155,505
Percent of acres in State Park System	22%	9%
People per Acre of Classified State Park	28.8	180.4
Approximate Acres in Region	5,123,840	22,160,000
Acres Classified as State Parks Land	249,720	102,154
Units in State Park System	101	49
Units Classified as State Park	34 ²	11 ²
Acres of State Park per Thousand Residents	43.9 ²	8.4 ²
Acres of Classified State Park per Thousand Residents	34.7 ²	5.5 ²

There are few state parks in the areas that need them most: park poor and income poor communities of color. Indeed, the San Francisco region is park rich and has more than its fair share of parks.

The Los Angeles region has 5.5 acres of Classified State Park per thousand residents compared to the San Francisco region with 34.7 acres per thousand residents.

In acreage, 22% of Classified State Parks are in the San Francisco region compared to 19% of the State's population. However, only 9% of Classified State Parks are in the Los Angeles region compared to 49% of the State's population.

The hatched red hot spots are the combined areas that are park poor (less than three acres of parks per thousand residents) and income poor (below \$47,331 median household income), and disproportionately populated by people of color.

- San Francisco Region
- Los Angeles Region
- State Parks
- Diver State Average for People of Color
State Average = 53.3%
- Park Poor and Income Poor**
- Less than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Below \$47,331 Median Household Income
- Less than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Above \$47,331 Median Household Income
- More than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Below \$47,331 Median Household Income
- More than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Above \$47,331 Median Household Income
- Zero Population

¹Indicates all types of state-owned park units in that region, including a large number of "state beaches," "state recreation areas," "state vehicular recreation areas," and "state historical parks" which are not legally required to preserve flora, fauna, and other natural features unimpaired for future generations. ²Indicates those state-owned park units that have been given the special classification of "state park," which requires protection of all native flora, fauna, and other natural features, by the State Park Commission. ³Acres of park per Thousand Residents are calculated as: (acres of park/population)*1000. Data Sources: Population estimates, State Park Land/Parks CPAD 1.4. Data, statistics, and map created by GreenInfo Network www.greeninfo.org, July 2010

Equitable Access

- **“Park Poor”** = less than 3 acres park/1000 residents
- **“Income Poor”** = \$47,959 median household income or less
- LA region has 49% CA population, but only 9% area includes State Parks
- Fresno has fastest growing minority population

Low-income and racial/ethnic minority populations

- ▶ **Less access to parks/recreational facilities**
- ▶ **Greater exposure to environmental hazards**
- ▶ **Neighborhoods may lack trail access to adjacent parks**
- ▶ **Excluded from decision making or planning**

Still Moving
Toward
Environmental
Justice

(Photo: Google Images)

Evolving Visions of Environmental Justice: An EJ Pioneer's Reflections on EO 12898 after Twenty Years

2014 FEBRUARY 11



“Persistence. Two decades of trying, learning and yet, optimistic: with so much having already been done; and even great deeds and strides needed to provide real JUSTICE of the, and from the, ENVIRONMENTAL and ENERGY situations. Appreciative yes! Grateful, of course: but equally so many MISSED OPPORTUNITIES caught up in sections of science, legislation, language, the media and realities of extremely poor and low-to INCOME areas....”

Individual Access

Distance

Closer proximity = Greater use

Transportation

Access to car, public transit, private company shuttles (etc)

Associated Costs

Gas, parking, program fees, food, entry fee (if applicable), etc.



'Access' issues specific to communities of color

(sample)



(Photo: Google Images)

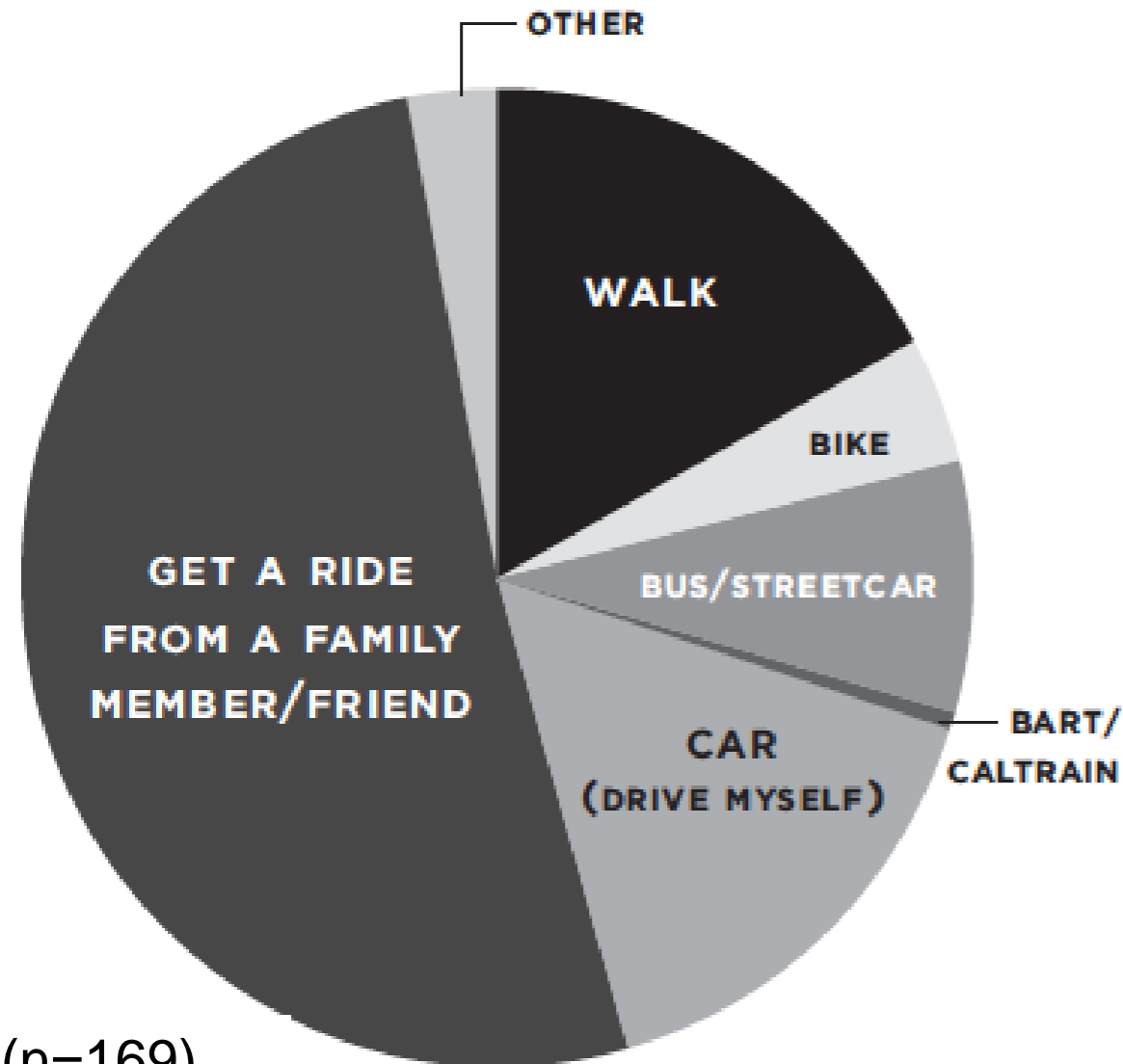


(Photo: Nina Roberts)

- **Insufficient funding - poorly maintained and/or staffed parks**
- **Often venues for gang use and/or high crime**
- **Perceived discrimination from park staff and other [traditional] users**
- **Perception of being “unwelcome”**
- **Lack of information or awareness of park programs (e.g., language, dissemination, or other barriers)**

Access Issues for Urban Youth

When you go to an open space park how do you usually get there?



- **Crime & gang-related activity**
- **Reduced school field trips**
- **Parental attitudes**
 - ✓ Cultural relationship to parks/outdoors
 - ✓ Safety concerns
 - ✓ Time availability
- **Lack of...**
 - ✓ Knowledge
 - ✓ Age-appropriate programs/activities
 - ✓ Activity partners (friends)
 - ✓ Ethnically diverse role models/mentors

“70 Is The New 60”

**Over 65 In America
First of the Boomers
(b. 1946-1964) turned
65 in 2011**

Boomers are called “Zoomers!”

Recommendations

(Sample strategies)



- ✓ Unlocking the potential of urban youth
- ✓ Educating teens about leadership thru adventure
- ✓ Creating community & developing stewards



PARK CONNECTIONS:

INCREASING ACCESS *for* BAY AREA YOUTH

Bay Area Open Space Council

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands

Stewardship Council

**Review
this
report!**





Click on the location of your choice to get directions and park information

For FamCamp information please contact the Office of Community Involvement

fam.camp@parks.ca.gov

Southern California

Lake Perris SRA

Leo Carillo State Beach

Malibu Creek State Park

Refugio State Beach

San Clemente State Beach

Central California

San Simeon State Park

FamCamp®

Program of California State Parks and the California State Parks Foundation that began in 1994. It is the largest statewide program that introduces camping to underserved areas of our communities.

The goals are:

- To introduce camping to community groups who would otherwise not have the opportunity to have an overnight outdoor recreation experience
- To strengthen human relations by teaching a new form of recreation
- To promote a safe, affordable recreation activity that involves all members of the community
- To encourage the use of State Parks by community based organizations and to help them meet their goals for the community

The FamCamp® program provides a trailer full of camping equipment and a campsite reserved at a State Park. The campground is usually located relatively close to an urban area and is available during the prime camping season. Ten of these FamCamp® trailers are located throughout California and each one accommodates up to 35 campers.

The trailer contains tents, sleeping bags, pads, stoves, lanterns, propane, and other essential items for camping. Participating groups need only bring food, personal gear, and a willingness to try out



BLM LEARNING LANDSCAPES EXPLORERS

Get Out and Join In



Teachers



Students



Explorers

Get to Know Us

Programs in Your Area

Contact Us

BLM Volunteers

Feedback Form

Site Guide

Search Our Site



Wonderful Outdoor World

Making s'mores, telling stories and gazing at stars. Does that sound like education? It does if you're on a WOW campout!

If you live in the city, are between the ages of 9 and 12, and would like to learn about the great outdoors up close, check this out. Wonderful Outdoor World, or WOW, takes urban kids on camping trips to teach them about the environment in a fun, active way.

WOW programs are sponsored in several areas: Phoenix, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; and Pasadena, California.

On May 19, 1995, the City of Los Angeles gave children the opportunity to participate in a Wonderful Outdoor World campout.

WOW "graduates" now hail from Pasadena, California for the past 20 years. It is the largest group ever to have been allowed to participate in a WOW campout.

At a WOW campout, you will learn about emergency preparedness and environmental stewardship, Leave No Trace? outdoor ethics, and stargazing.

Campers conduct a community service project and receive a WOW t-shirt and information on how they can help protect the environment. A journal outlining key environmental issues is also provided.

Check out these sites to learn more about WOW:

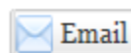
[http://www.az.blm.gov/pfo/wow.h](http://www.az.blm.gov/pfo/wow.htm)

Los Angeles Times

Southern California Voices / A FORUM COMMUNITY ISSUES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Wonderful Outdoor World : Curbside Campouts

July 15, 1995



One in every three acres of land in the United States is in a national park, forest or refuge, but many city children don't get to experience this natural bounty--it's too far, too expensive or too unfamiliar to their families. Children who aren't introduced to the natural world tend to have little involvement with it later in life.

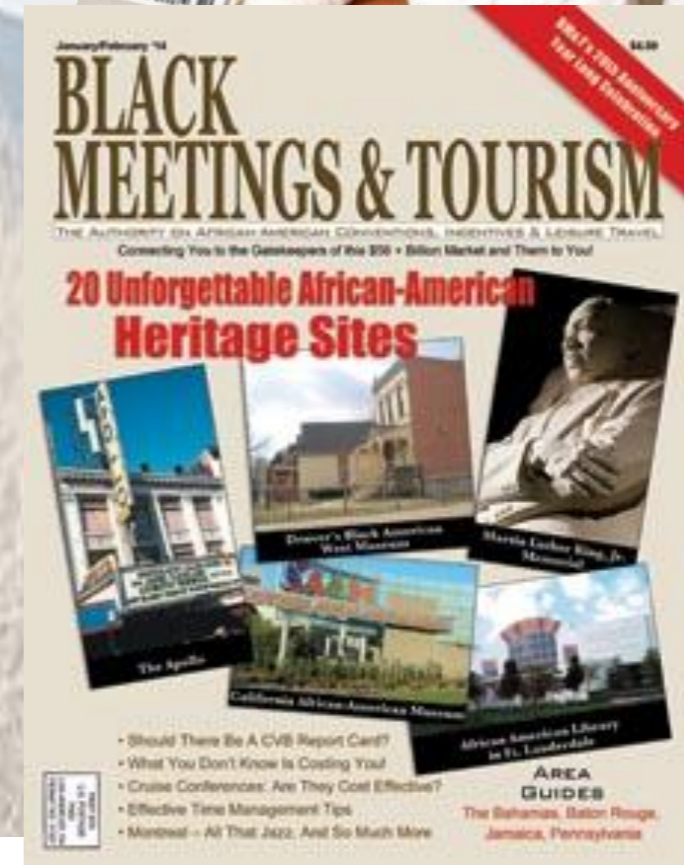


**NEW AMERICA
MEDIA**

Expanding the News Lens
Through Ethnic Media

<http://news.newamericamedia.org/news>

- Focus on local channels ~ Meet them where they are
- Latino newspapers, magazines, and T.V. (*Univision, Entravision, Telemundo, HBO Latino*)
- BlackPublicMedia.org
- Asians in America Magazine
- Check out "Ethnovision" on YouTube!





COME & VISIT
Tim McCloyn
Your
Camping World
Representative!

CAMPING WORLD
of Chicago
27599 N. Darrell Rd. • Wauconda, IL 60084
888.498.8014 x234 CWRVSales.com

Discover the Ultimate NAARVA Experience

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**NAARVA
NATIONAL
RALLY
UPDATE!
The 18th**

NAARVA Western Region

Arizona - California - Idaho - Nevada - New Mexico
Oregon - Utah - Washington

Click on the link to learn more about the American RV'ers Association country. Membership opportunities in this Organization.

Annual Meeting flavor Eight days



FEATURED ARTICLES



STEPHEN SHOBE on the rock

- FLY FISHING**
The Ennis River
- KAYAKING ITCH**
Scratching the First Sea
- THE TRAVELLING WOMACKS**
Tales From an RV Lifer
- BOTTOM TO TOP...CLIP TO CLIP**

FEATURED VIDEO



PUBLISHER'S NOTE

A few months ago, I received an email from Brandon Frazier, Public Affairs Coordinator at Student Conservation Association (SCA), who inquired about Black Outdoorsman Magazine® (BOM) featuring a story on their youth programs for the Kids' Corner section...
[Read more](#)

HEALTH UPDATES

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by certain kind of ticks. Check out our featured article on wild western ticks!
[Read more](#)

JOIN BOM

name

email

LATINO OUTDOORS

Connecting Leadership, Culture, & Communities with Nature, Conservation, and the Great Outdoors

JOSE GONZALEZ,
FOUNDER AND LEAD

HOW-TO'S

SELECTED PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS

Search ...

RECENT POSTS

- California State Parks and Latino Relevance
- Pirales Cove Adventures with Amigos
- A New Passion Is Born
- Mountaintop Escape from Black Friday Mayhem
- Event: Las Posadas at the Martinez Adobe, California



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND LATINO RELEVANCE

February 13, 2014



LATINO OUTDOORS ON TWITTER

recent articles

FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL OR WORDPRESS



NEW YORK

BOSTON

PHILADELPHIA

MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of the great outdoors, AO offers a platform for people with similar interests to gather for a socially, educationally and physically rewarding experience. Though our members are primarily of Asian descent, AO's membership is open to all.

HOSTED GENEROUSLY BY
cetus.net





[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Speaking & Consulting](#)

[Connect](#)

[Media](#)

[Contact](#)



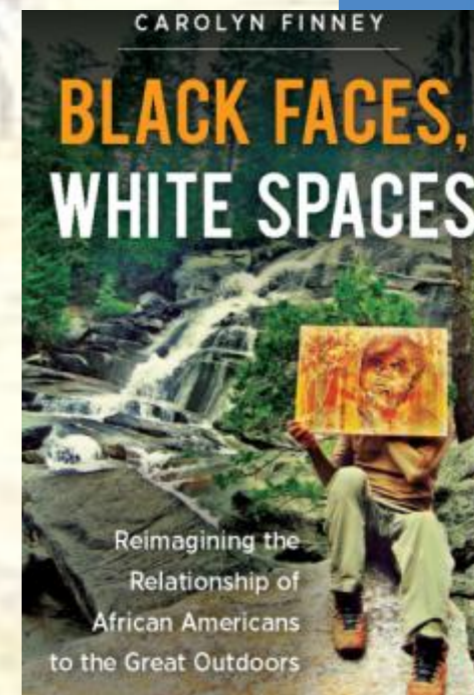
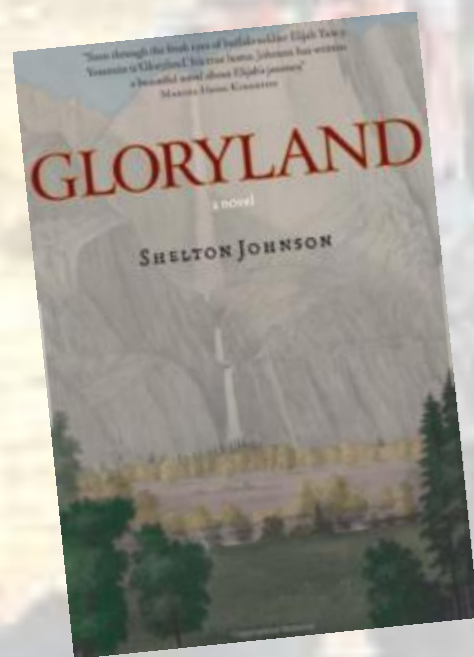
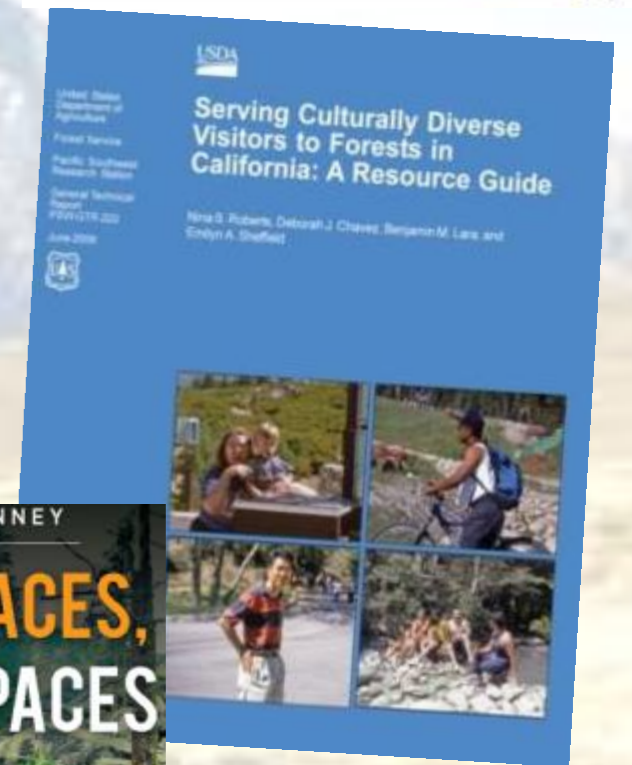
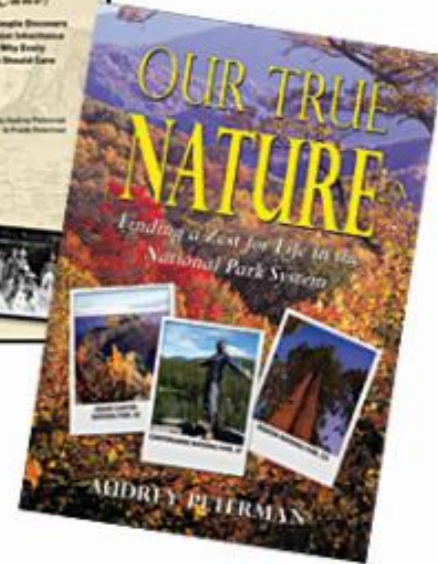
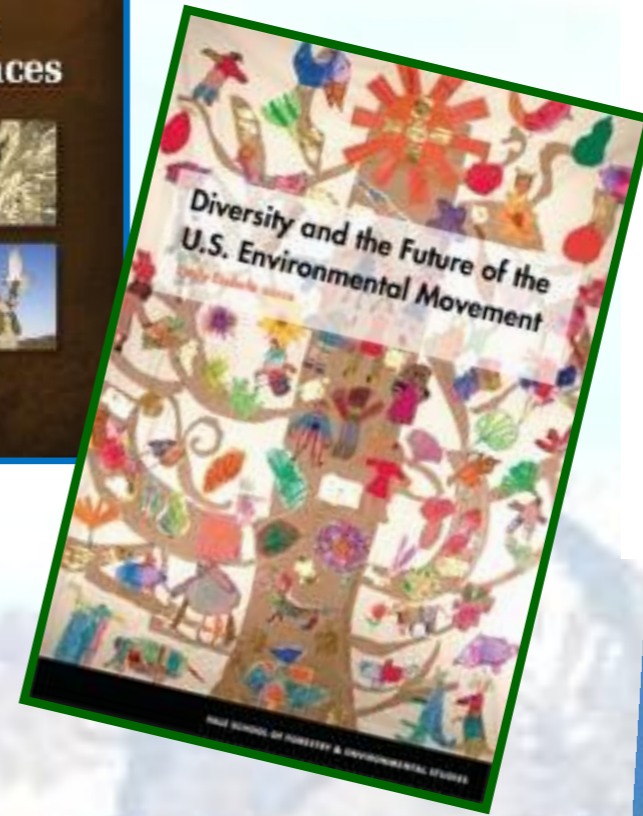
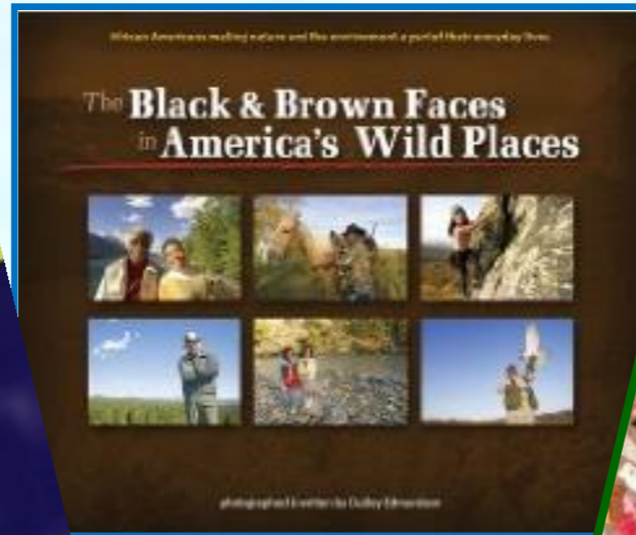
We Celebrate and Inspire
African-American Connections to
Nature



Follow Our Digital Trail



Outdoor Afros Everywhere!



- ***Design multi-use parks:*** Recreation, education, arts, music, cultural events ...
- ***Provide/ensure varied transportation options:*** Walk/bike access, public transport, existing shuttle fleet owned by partners, sufficient parking
- ***Utilize multiple languages & media outlets for messaging and engaging communities:*** Showcase diverse representation of users & staff



- Develop awareness/knowledge of local cultures
- Provide diversity & cultural sensitivity training for staff and volunteers (*competency is key!*)
- Work with schools and community groups to develop relevant curricula and programs



Implications for State Parks



Organizational Culture

- ✓ Shared decision-making
- ✓ Collaborative partnerships
- ✓ Cultural competency (staff)

*Community - Invite, Include, Involve!**

- ✓ Understand needs
- ✓ Develop trust
- ✓ Build long-term relationships

Allocation of Funds

- ✓ Park maintenance
- ✓ Program development
- ✓ Community engagement and outreach

(* Chavez, 2000)

“Park Development & Community Revitalization Act, 2008”

Statewide Park Program

The \$368 million Statewide Park Program awarded grants for the creation of new parks and recreation facilities in critically underserved communities throughout California.

- 900 applications requested \$3 billion for the available \$368 million. This clearly shows the extent of unmet community needs throughout California.
- Over 100 new parks will be created. Youth, seniors, and families determined what they wanted in these new parks through community-based planning.

[List of Grant Awards](#)

[Brief Grant Descriptions](#)

Grant Administration Guide

This guide is used to administer the grant award projects. It includes updated grant administration requirements and replaces the original January 14, 2010 guide.

Application Guide

The Application Guide provided application requirements and instructions. OGALS advised applicants to use the Project Selection Criteria and Technical Assistance beginning on page 26 as project location and concept planning guide.

Joint Powers Authority Applicants

Electronic Application Forms – The following forms required for the application packet can be completed and printed by clicking on each link below:

- [Application Form](#)
- [Authorizing Resolution](#)
- [Funding Sources Form](#)
- [Grant Scope/Cost Estimate Form](#)
- [CEQA Compliance Certification Form \(Required to be complete at time of application\)](#)
- [Land Tenure Form - \(required only if of obtaining ownership\)](#)



“What is the Community Fact Finder and why was it created?”

This web based tool combines mapping and demographic data to calculate the total population, median household income, number of people below poverty, and ratio of park acres per 1,000 residents within a half-mile radius of any project location in California.

This data is required to evaluate grant applications for the \$368,000,000 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program of 2008, an exciting new grant program prioritizing the creation of new parks in park deficient, economically disadvantaged communities.

What to do? Update the website; conduct external assessment/evaluations with communities (impacts? changes?); create press releases/widespread media coverage; spread the word on the status & community benefits! (and more!)

Increasing Social Power & Political Influence

“Communities of color have mounting influence on society and politics, including the distribution of public finances, the way cities develop and grow, and the strength and creation of environmental laws and policies”



(Photo: Google Images)

(Bonta & Jordan, 2005)



Thanks!



Dr. Nina S. Roberts
San Francisco
State University

nroberts@sfsu.edu
415.338.7576

