

# The 2020 Biodiversity Report

A panoramic view of a coastal city and bay under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The foreground shows a lush green hillside with dense vegetation. In the middle ground, a city with buildings and houses is visible, extending to a sandy beach and a large body of water. The background features a long, low island or headland across the water, with a few small boats visible in the bay. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with several large, white, fluffy clouds scattered across it.

**LA Sanitation & Environment  
August 5, 2021**

# LASAN Biodiversity Program Background

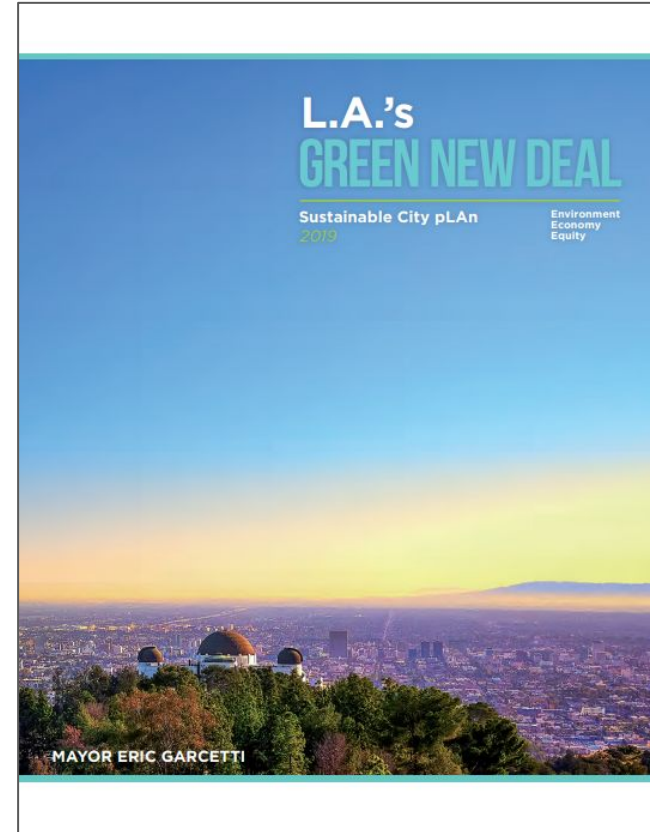
- 2017 Biodiversity Council Motion
  - Protect and enhance biodiversity
  - Ultimate objective: create a biodiversity index for the City of LA that will measure progress on biodiversity goals
- 2019 Sustainability pLAn (LA's Green New Deal)
  - Biodiversity and access to nature goals

Urban Ecosystems & Resilience

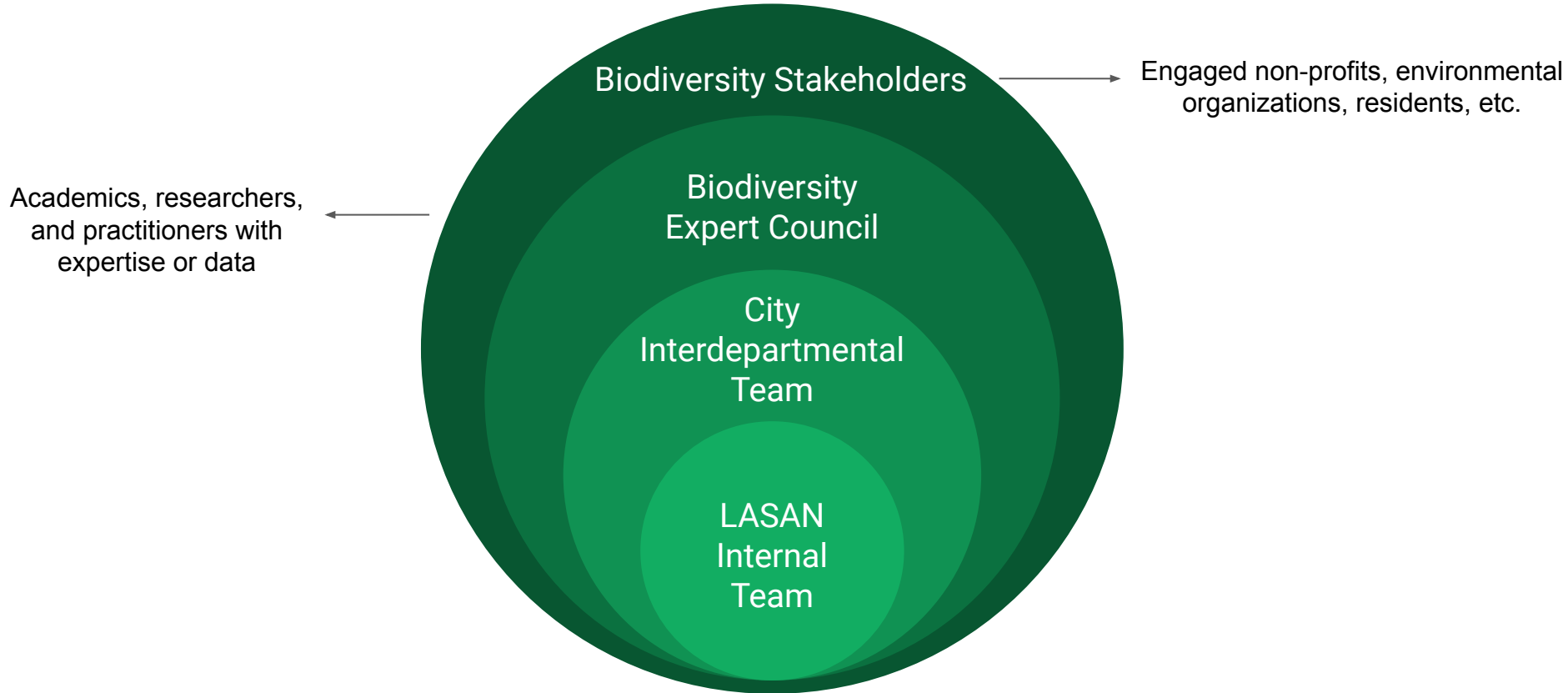
 **Target**

**Achieve and maintain 'no-net loss' of native biodiversity by 2035**

Baseline: Will be established in 2019 Biodiversity index  
Source: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation



# LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) Biodiversity Collaborations



Expert and stakeholder input = critical for success

# 2018 BIODIVERSITY REPORT

City of Los Angeles

Measurement of the Singapore Index of Cities' Biodiversity and Recommendations for a Customized Los Angeles Index



Prepared by:  
Isaac Brown Ecology Studio and  
LA Sanitation

Table 1: Singapore Index of Cities' Biodiversity score summary for Los Angeles 2016

Indicator	Numeric Result	Index Score (0 weak, 4 strong)					Total
		0	1	2	3	4	
1. Natural Areas	20.5% of City (~62,000 acres)					4	4
2. Connectivity Measures	738 ha. effective mesh			2			2
3. Native Birds in Built Areas	306 native species recorded					4	4
4. Native Vascular Plants Change	461 native species recorded	NA in year 1					
5. Native Birds Change	325 native species recorded	NA in year 1					
6. Native Butterflies/Moths Change	218 total species* recorded	NA in year 1					
7. Native Freshwater Fish/BMI Chg.	6 fish/291 BMI native spp. recorded	NA in year 1					
8. Native Reptiles/Amphibians Chg.	69 total species* recorded	NA in year 1					
9. Protected Natural Areas	12.2% of City (~36,800 acres)				3		3
10. Invasive Species	~19% invasive plant species			2			2
11. Pervious Surfaces	~62% pervious surfaces			2			2
12. Urban Forest Canopy	~19% tree canopy		1				1
13. Access to Natural Areas	3.33 ha/1000 population					4	4
14. Natural Area Educational Visits	0.09 visits/student/year	0					0
15. Biodiversity Budget	1.2% of budget (\$110M)		1				1
16. # Biodiversity Projects	117 projects/programs					4	4
17. Biodiversity Strategy/Action Plan	no Biodiversity Action Plan	0					0
18. # Biodiversity Related Institutions	>3 functions					4	4
19. Interagency Cooperation	5 agencies cooperate on bio.				3		3
20. Public Consultation Process	proposed as routine process			2			2
21. # City Biodiversity Partnerships	40+ partners					4	4
22. School Curricula	included					4	4
23. Public Outreach Events	550+ events per year					4	4
<b>Total (72 potential points in year 1)</b>						average = 2.67	<b>48</b>

\* native vs. non-native species of reptiles and butterflies/moths to be determined

# Creating a Customized Biodiversity Index

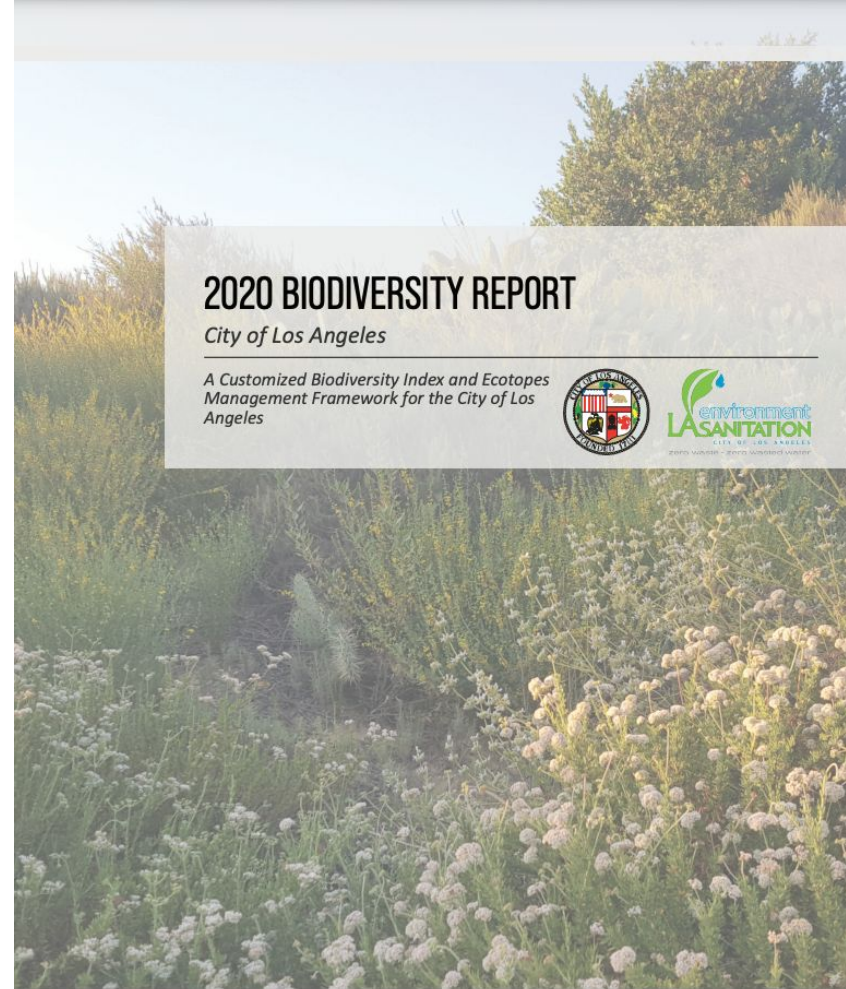
- Singapore Index = starting point
  - Retained 3 metrics
  - Modified 11 metrics
  - Incorporated 11 new metrics



# 2020 Biodiversity Report

Includes four chapters:

1. LA City Biodiversity Index
2. Ecotopes Framework
3. Habitat Quality & Preliminary Connectivity Analysis
4. Case Studies



## 2020 BIODIVERSITY REPORT

*City of Los Angeles*

*A Customized Biodiversity Index and Ecotopes  
Management Framework for the City of Los  
Angeles*



Download at

[lacitysan.org/biodiversity](http://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)

[www.lacitysan.org](http://www.lacitysan.org)

# LA City Biodiversity Index

Theme	Indicator CODE	Indicators	Metric CODE	Metrics
1. Native Species Protection & Enhancement	1.1	Habitat Quality	1.1a	1.1a: % Natural Areas
			1.1b	Habitat Quality of Urban Landscapes & Open Space
			1.1c	Habitat Quality of Streams
			1.1d	Connectivity of Natural Areas
			1.1e	Connectivity of Urban Landscapes & Open Space
			1.1f	Connectivity of Streams and Riparian Areas
	1.2	Indicator Species	1.2a	% Open Space with Charismatic Umbrella Species
			1.2b	Native Species Presence in Urban Areas
			1.2c	Species of Conservation Concern Gained or Lost
	1.3	Threats to Native Biodiversity	1.3a	Urban Edge Effects on Natural Areas
			1.3b	Presence & Spread of Invasive Plants
			1.3c	Wildfire Frequency Departure from Natural
2. Social Equity Considerations & Biodiversity	2.1	Access to Biodiversity	2.1a	Access to Natural Areas
			2.1b	Neighborhood Landscape/Tree Canopy Footprint
	2.2	Education	2.2a	School (K-12) Biodiversity Topics
			2.2b	Off-Campus Biodiversity Educational Visits
			2.2c	Campus Nature Education Gardens/Areas
	2.3	Community Action	2.3a	Community Scientist Activities and App Utilization
2.3b			# Certified Biodiversity-Friendly Areas	
3. Governance & Management of Biodiversity	3.1	Governance	3.1a	Biodiversity Vision/Action Plan
			3.1b	% Departments with Biodiversity Programs & Policies
	3.2	Management	3.2a	% Protected Natural Areas
			3.2b	Protected Natural Areas Management and Monitoring
			3.2c	Management of Invasive Species & Pests
			3.2d	Management of Threatened, Endangered, & Species of Concern

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# LA City Biodiversity Index Indicators



1. Habitat Quality



Photo: Nurit Katz

2. Indicator Species



Photo: Google

3. Threats to Native Biodiversity



DASH bus service to Griffith Park

Photo: la.curbed.com

4. Access to Biodiversity



Photo: LAUSD OOE

5. Education



6. Community Action



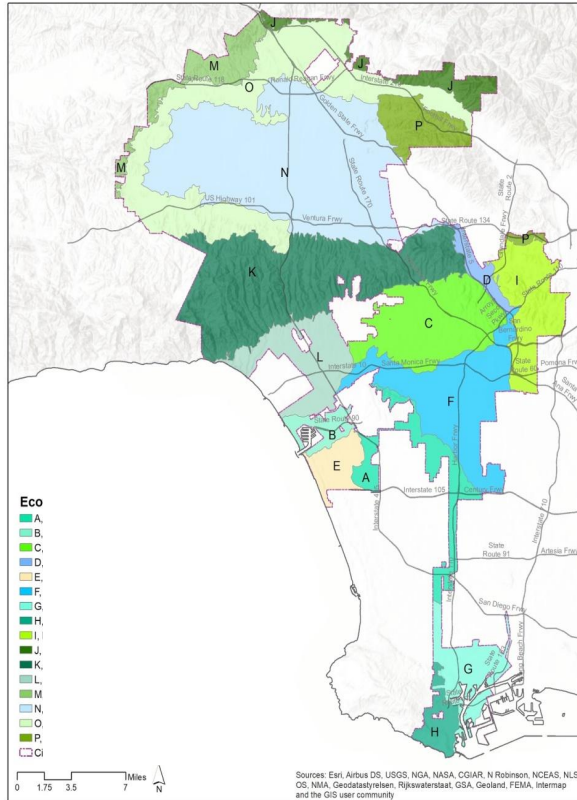
7. Governance



8. Management

# Ecotope Framework

(management units based on landform, microclimate, and vegetation)



## Ecotope Management Units

- A, Baldwin-Dominguez Hills & Terraces
- B, Ballona Creek Intertidal & Coastal Plain
- C, Elysian Hills & Terraces
- D, Elysian Valley Alluvial Plain
- E, Los Angeles Dunes & Plains
- F, Los Angeles River Lower Alluvial Plain
- G, Los Angeles River Intertidal & Coastal Plain
- H, Palos Verdes Hills & Terraces
- I, Repetto Hills & Terraces
- J, San Gabriel Mountains
- K, Santa Monica Mountains
- L, Santa Monica Terrace
- M, Santa Susana Hills
- N, San Fernando Valley Alluvial Plain
- O, San Fernando Valley Terrace
- P, Verdugo Mountains
- City of Los Angeles Boundary

# Los Angeles Certified as Community Wildlife Habitat



Photo by Sapan Patel via Unsplash

ENVIRONMENT OUTDOORS NEWS & POLITICS

## L.A. Is Now a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Here's Why It's a Big Deal

With urban nature threatened by pollution, climate change, and habitat loss, the city is making a push to preserve its beautiful biodiversity

By Liz Ohanesian - June 30, 2021



CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Department of Public Works  
Public Affairs Office

NEWS RELEASE

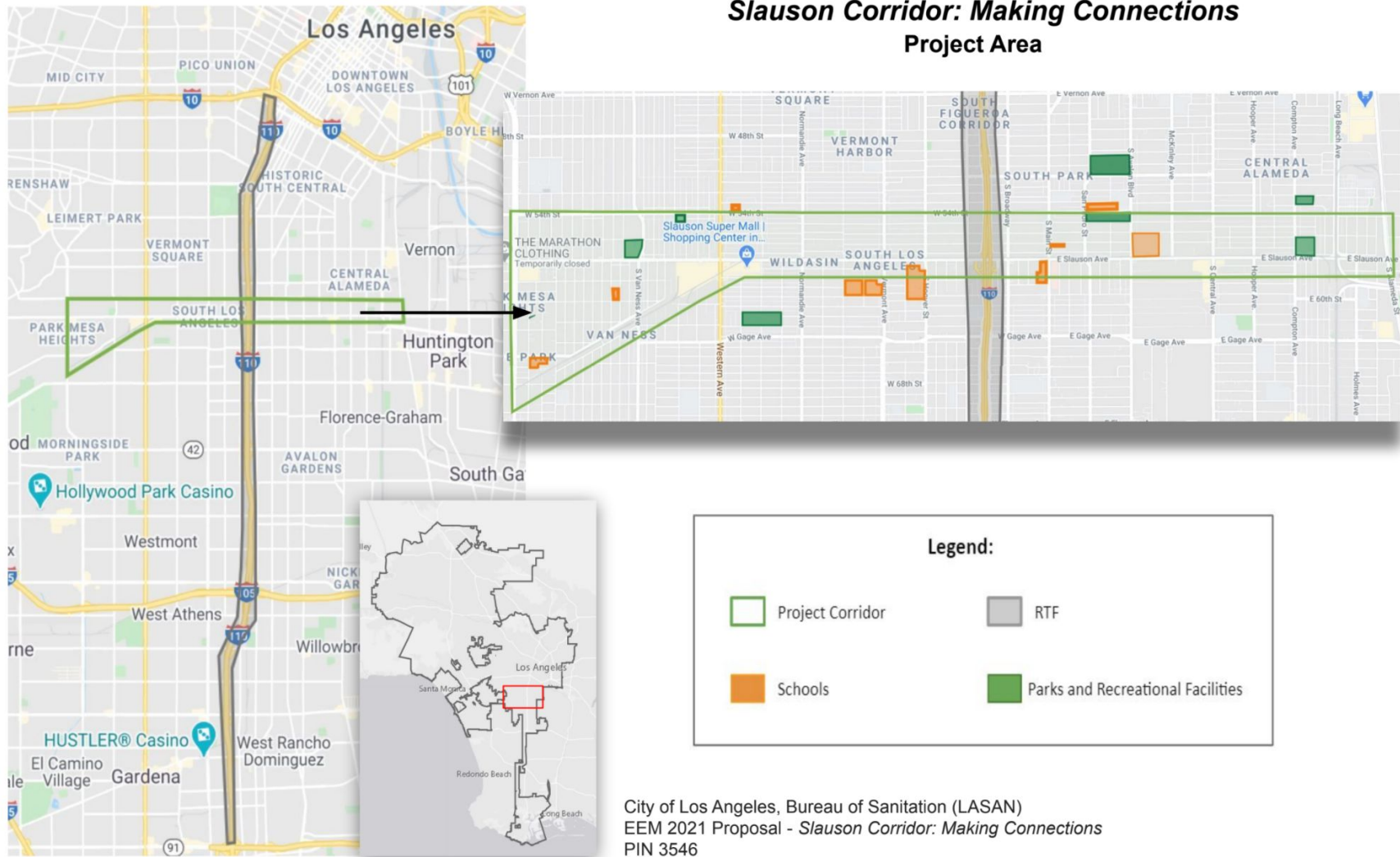
LA SANITATION  
& ENVIRONMENT

Los Angeles becomes largest City in the USA to achieve citywide certification as a biodiversity haven



ROBERT MARTINEZ / PARLIAMENT OF OWLS

# Slauson Corridor: Making Connections Project Area



# Next Steps

- Complete baseline measurement of the LA City Biodiversity Index
- Work with the Expert Council and other City departments (e.g., Bureau of Engineering, Department of Recreation and Parks, LA Public Library, and the Department of City Planning) to promote practices, programs, and projects that support biodiversity, improve connectivity, and make Los Angeles more sustainable and resilient