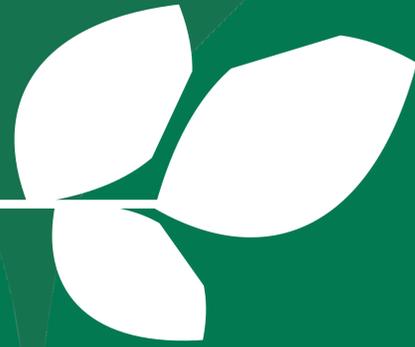


Los Angeles Parks Foundation



2020-2021
ANNUAL
REPORT



Dear Friends of the Parks,

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation is pleased to present this two-year expanded report on our progress since 2019.

This nimble organization, established in 2008 to support parks, recreation and green space in the City of Los Angeles, has raised over \$42 million and managed the implementation of hundreds of direct improvements to our 450 city parks.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Los Angeles Recreation Centers all abruptly closed to the public. At the LA Parks Foundation, however, we doubled down on supporting our parks. The LAPF Board and staff immediately pivoted to raise funds for programming and supplies that were never needed before.

When the city converted 13 Recreation Centers to emergency shelters, we provided vital supplies like a clean towel service, made possible by the Werner Family Foundation, to help control the spread of the virus among our most vulnerable populations and the city workers caring for them. We supported free daycare in parks for the children of first responders. We raised money for headphones and art supplies when 60 rec centers opened to LAUSD students needing Wi-Fi to participate in remote learning.

We also converted vans into mobile rec centers and harvested over 100,000 servings of fruit from our Franklin Canyon Orange Grove to feed hungry Angelenos.

We also completed our single largest project, the Los Angeles Clippers' \$10,000,000 restoration of every basketball court (indoor and outdoor) in a Los Angeles city park. The impact of this project cannot be overstated. The Los Angeles Clippers' donation is not only the largest philanthropic donation ever to our city parks, but also the largest donation to the City of Los Angeles period.

We launched our Los Angeles Park Forest Initiative and added micro forests to eight city parks that desperately needed more shade. LAPF is committed to planting 10 Park Forests every year until we reach 100 forests by the end of 2030. That's thousands of new trees in every community to help offset our carbon footprint, fight the heat crisis, restore our urban canopy, and provide the immeasurable benefits of trees.

We are emerging from the crisis of the past two years as a strong, healthy organization with a board and team that is resolute in its dedication to our mission.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, our funders and supporters who make this work possible.

Thank you for all that you do!



Carolyn Ramsay
Executive Director



David Nickoll
Board Chair



Our Mission

The mission of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation is to enhance, expand, preserve, and promote public parks, recreation and open space for the diverse people of Los Angeles.

Vision

The work of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation grows from the premise that access to safe, well-programmed, highly functional parks, recreation centers and open green spaces improve the quality of life for all Angelenos. Through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, donors are making a choice to directly invest in their communities, fight climate change, and enhance the social, environmental and physical health of this great city.



Board of Directors

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 Carlyle Hall / **Communications Committee Chair**
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KEY PROJECTS

Los Angeles Clippers Community Basketball Courts

The Los Angeles Clippers’ \$10 million restoration of every single basketball court - indoor and out - in a Los Angeles city park has made an extraordinary impact city-wide. Gyms are often the dominant feature of our city recreation centers. By resurfacing the ash floors to a high polish, installing new backboards, rims, baskets and ball sleeves, the Clippers and the Ballmer Group effectively transformed the park experience for most of our neighbors, particularly the children. The Clippers also donated thousands of dollars in uniforms and basketballs city-wide. The Los Angeles Parks Foundation can never thank the Clippers enough for this extraordinary gift.



Park Forest Initiative

Since launching this initiative in September 2020, we have brought the many benefits of tall trees to parks in neighborhoods with too little shade. The forests – with groupings of 12 to 30 trees (depending on the park size and need) will provide shade, improve air quality, expand wildlife habitat, and buffer noise and pollution for decades to come. Our goal is to install 12 more forests in 2022. We have committed to planting 10 Park Forests per year throughout Los Angeles until we reach 100 forests by the end of 2030. That’s thousands of new trees to help offset our carbon footprint, fight the heat crisis, grow our urban canopy, and provide the dozens of benefits of urban trees. We are grateful to the Sikand Foundation (Hollenbeck Park), Tom Safran & Assoc. (Ross Snyder Rec Center), Wells Fargo (Devonshire Arleta Park), Windward School (Mar Vista Rec Center), the Hancock Park Garden Club (Bette Davis Picnic Area), Leeor Maciborski (Lemon Grove Rec Center), Randy Paskal (Robert Burns Park), Thomas Miller (Harbor Regional Park) and the Green Oak Foundation (Griffith Park) for supporting our Park Forest Initiative.



DID YOU KNOW?

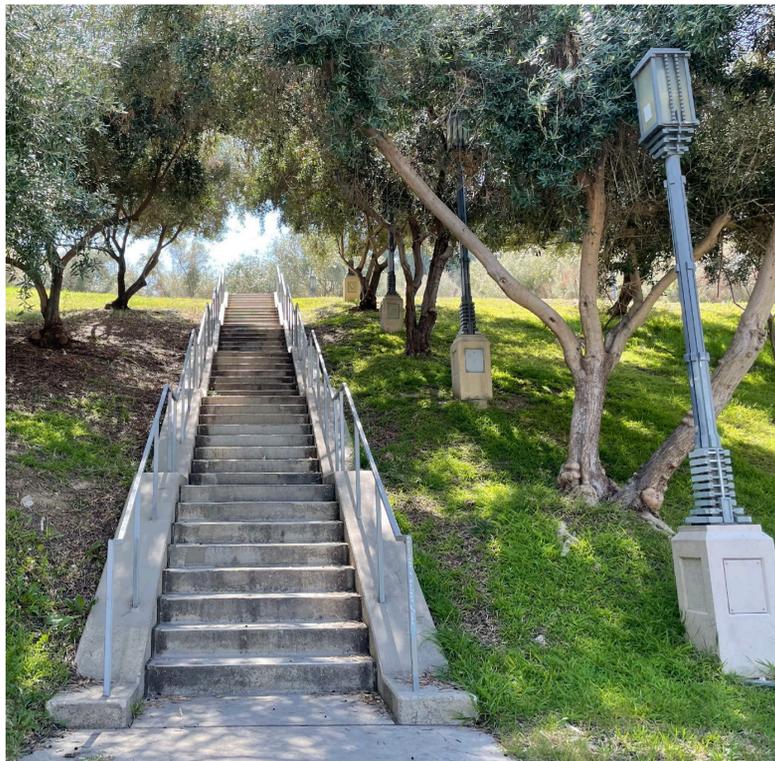
The city of Berlin, Germany donated the “forest” of tall pine trees at the beginning of the Charlie Turner Trail at the north end of the Griffith Observatory parking lot in Griffith Park. Dozens of trees were lost in the 30 years since the “Berlin Forest” was originally planted in 1990. Last year, the Green Oak Foundation funded the installation of 29 Canary Island Pines to replace trees that were lost.

LOCATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Hollenbeck | Bette Davis Miyawaki Forest |
| Lemon Grove | Mar Vista |
| Robert Burns | Griffith Park, Berlin Forest |
| Devonshire Arleta | Ross Snyder |

Park Adoptions

Our Adopt-a-Park program fosters strong connections between the donors and the parks themselves. Many Park adopters chose to plant much needed Park Forests. Others directed funds towards essential park infrastructure improvements. Through a partnership with the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, LAPF restored a hillside olive grove where trees from the 1890s still bear fruit. LAPF analyzed the soil, fixed the irrigation timing, cleared out dead branches and debris and brought the grove back to life. Other 2021 Park Adoptions include The Clifford Family Foundation supporting a new Decomposed Granite walking path at Robert Burns Park in Windsor Square, Windward School installing a Park Forest in Mar Vista, the Sikand Foundation installing a Park Forest in Hollenbeck Park, and the David Bohnett Foundation supporting the maintenance and expansion of the Franklin Canyon Orange Grove.



Tommy's Field

Through a \$1.2 million grant from the TM23 Foundation, LAPF and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks installed a new multi-purpose artificial athletic field, lighting, bleachers, landscaping and drinking fountains in memory of the late Tommy Mark, a young soccer player from the community. The opening of the beautiful new facility attracted hundreds of neighbors and friends to honor Tommy and his family.



Opening day of Tommy's Field with TM23, LA Galaxy, and LAFC at Westwood Recreation Center

Fitness Hubs

LAPF seized the opportunity of park closures to install new fitness equipment in several parks and senior centers. With support from the Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation, we opened a beautiful new fitness hub at the Watts Senior Center. With funding from Cedars Sinai, we installed fitness equipment, shade trees and picnic benches at Del Rey Park and, in partnership with the S. Mark Taper Foundation, we installed a fitness hub as well as dugouts, a batting cage and benches at Rosecrans Rec Center in South Los Angeles. Another fitness installation, funded by Wells Fargo, opened at Hollenbeck Park in Boyle Heights. The Ahmanson Foundation generously funded an installation at the Valley Place Sports Complex (currently underway). These free, outdoor installations of rugged, well-designed equipment are always free and open to the public.



Griffith Park Improvements

Through an ongoing partnership with the Griffith J. Griffith Trust, we completed several projects that restored beloved areas of LA's largest park and historic cultural monument. This work honored fallen firefighters as well as beloved park rangers and improved sites that needed upgrades due to constant use. We engaged preservation craftsman Terence Eagan to restore the unique 'faux bois' railings along the walking paths in Fern Dell. The Trust's funds also supported supplies for the Marty Tregnan Golf Academy and a memorial to the late Chief Ranger Albert Torres.



Supporting Girls' Sports

With support from Nike and the Finish Line Youth Foundation we're training women to coach girls' sports and supplying equipment for the games. Since the introduction of Girls Play LA, which we have supported for four years, girls' participation in afterschool athletics has increased in LA park rec leagues from 22 to 56 percent of all young athletes. LAMPF supplies all kinds of equipment, including skateboards and helmets for a girls' skateboarding clinic at the EXPO Center in South Los Angeles.

Mobile Recreation Program

Recreation Centers were closed to the public for more than a year during the pandemic, and we grabbed the opportunity to tackle a serious issue for many aspiring young athletes in Los Angeles: poor access to parks and open space. The LA Parks Department along with LAMPF developed the Mobile Rec Program to address this need. With funding from the Goldhirsh Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation, LAMPF purchased vans, outfitted them with sports equipment and wrapped them in attractive graphics. City Park staff now bring programming and equipment to neighborhoods of the city with limited park access and teach kids to play a wide array of sports.





Gillian Zucker, Diana Nyad, Mayor Eric Garcetti at the Rose Award

Franklin Canyon Orange Grove

The Franklin Canyon Orange Grove in West LA is one of our most exciting projects and serves as a rare remnant of LA's agricultural past. LAPF has been managing the grove for over 10 years through support from the David Bohnett Foundation and City National Bank. Together, with our partner organization Food Forward, we host volunteer events to pick and distribute the fruit to soup kitchens and homeless shelters throughout Los Angeles. During the pandemic, volunteer picks were placed on hold, but that didn't stop us! LAPF hired a contractor to pick over 100 trees. The net: over 100,000 servings of fresh fruit distributed to hungry Angelenos.

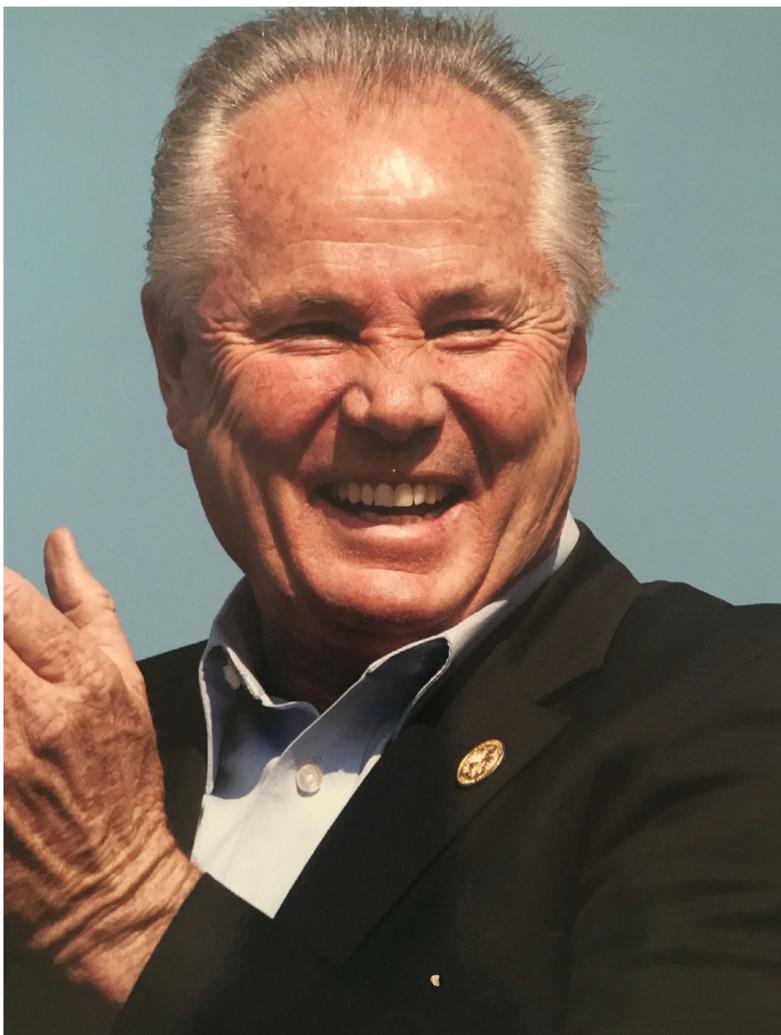
Rose Award 2021

On October 7, 2021, we hosted our annual Rose Award at the Exposition Park Rose Garden and celebrated our 2020 Rose Award Honoree Gillian Zucker (LA Clippers President of Business Operations) and our 2021 Rose Award Honoree Diana Nyad (World Champion Long-Distance Swimmer). We were joined by Mayor Eric Garcetti, General Manager Mike Shull, our board, and all our partners. It was a wonderful event!



“Remember to enjoy and love L.A.”

– Councilmember Tom LaBonge



Remembering Councilmember Tom LaBonge

When beloved Councilmember Tom LaBonge passed unexpectedly in January 2021, LAPF Founder Barry Sanders initiated a fund in his honor by making the first donation. Since then, hundreds of Angelenos have supported the fund, including the LaBonge extended family, NBCUniversal, Olivia Harrison of the Material World Foundation, and Pink's Hot Dogs. We are working with the LaBonge Family and the department on a fitting tribute to the Councilman.





EXPO Center Renovation

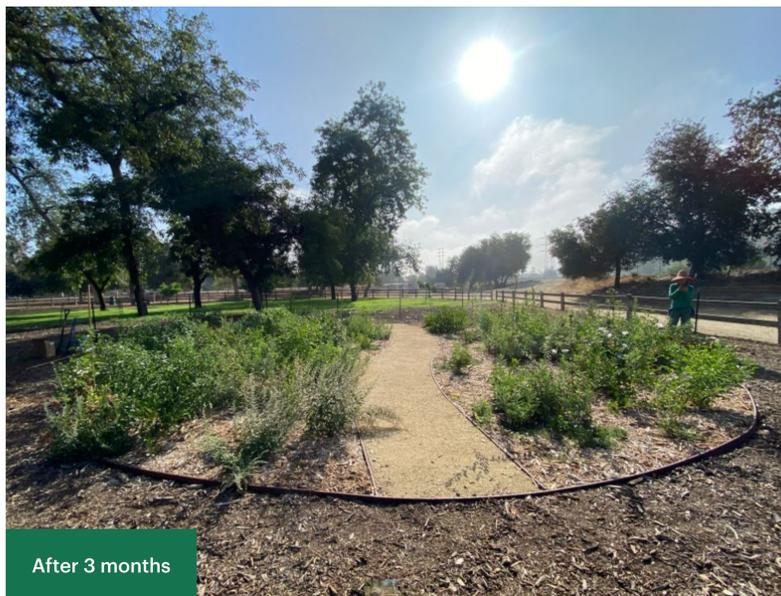
The Ahmanson Foundation stepped up to provide a face lift to the EXPO Center, the premiere swim facility in the City of Los Angeles. The beautiful façade window graphics of the historic swim stadium – now directly across from the soon-to-open Lucas Museum of Narrative Art – were deteriorating. Through a \$50,000 grant from the Ahmanson Foundation, we replaced the graphics with matching designs fabricated and installed by the original company. The historic structure shines again!

The Skatepark Project in Watts

Skateboarding is one of the most accessible and popular sports for inner-city youth. It's relatively low-cost, fun, athletic, and provides a mode of transportation. In partnership with The Skatepark Project, we are transforming an under-utilized space under the Imperial Highway in South Los Angeles into a large skatepark. Construction is underway now!



Before



After 3 months

Restoring Our Native Habitat

In partnership with the Hancock Park Garden Club, LAMP is studying the impact of native habitat restoration at our Miyawaki Forest in the Bette Davis Picnic area of Griffith Park. We grew 145 seedlings, mostly grown from seed gathered in Griffith Park, and planted them in an intensive pattern to encourage competition for sunlight and growth rates up to 10x faster than traditional plantings. This method of intensive plantings was developed in the 1970s by Japanese landscape architect Akira Miyawaki. Our "forest" takes up just 1,000 square feet and is possibly the first Miyawaki Forest in Los Angeles.

Other Projects

Other small projects include a youth fishing program sponsored by the Port of LA and the Humana Foundation's annual support for programming for older adults.



Holiday in the Parks

In 2020 and 2021, the Board of Directors to LAPF awarded \$20,000 in small holiday grants to parks, particularly in neighborhoods of greatest need, to celebrate the holidays with their communities through our annual Holiday in the Parks program. The funds were used to host events or purchase toys, food, and other items to bring holiday joy during the pandemic.

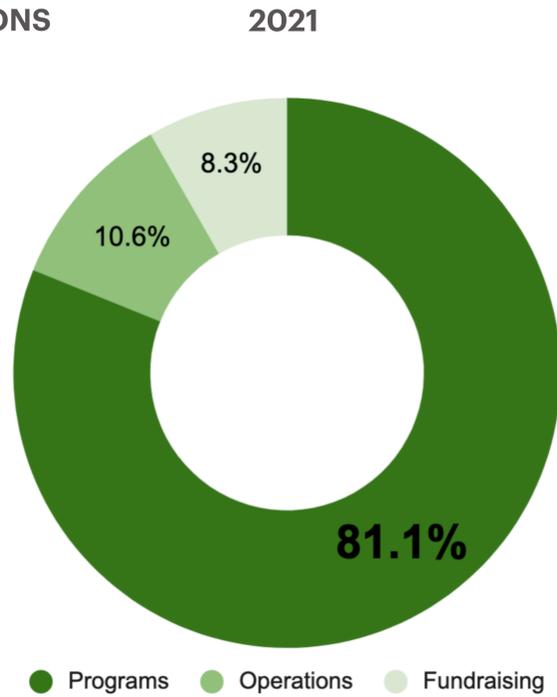
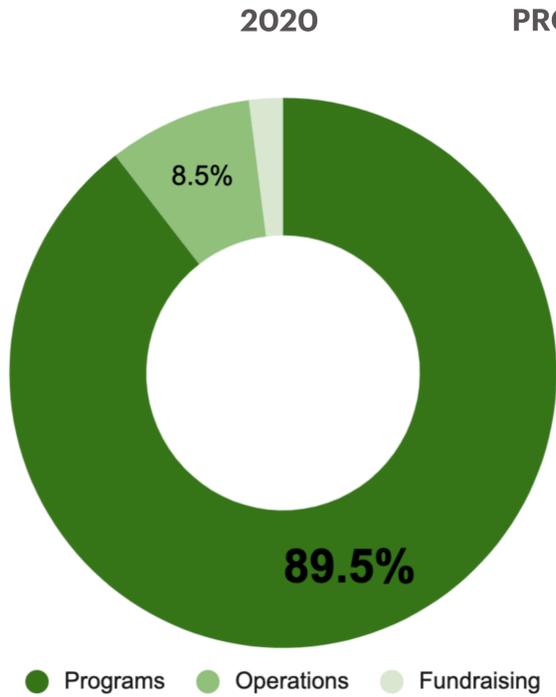


Total Raised

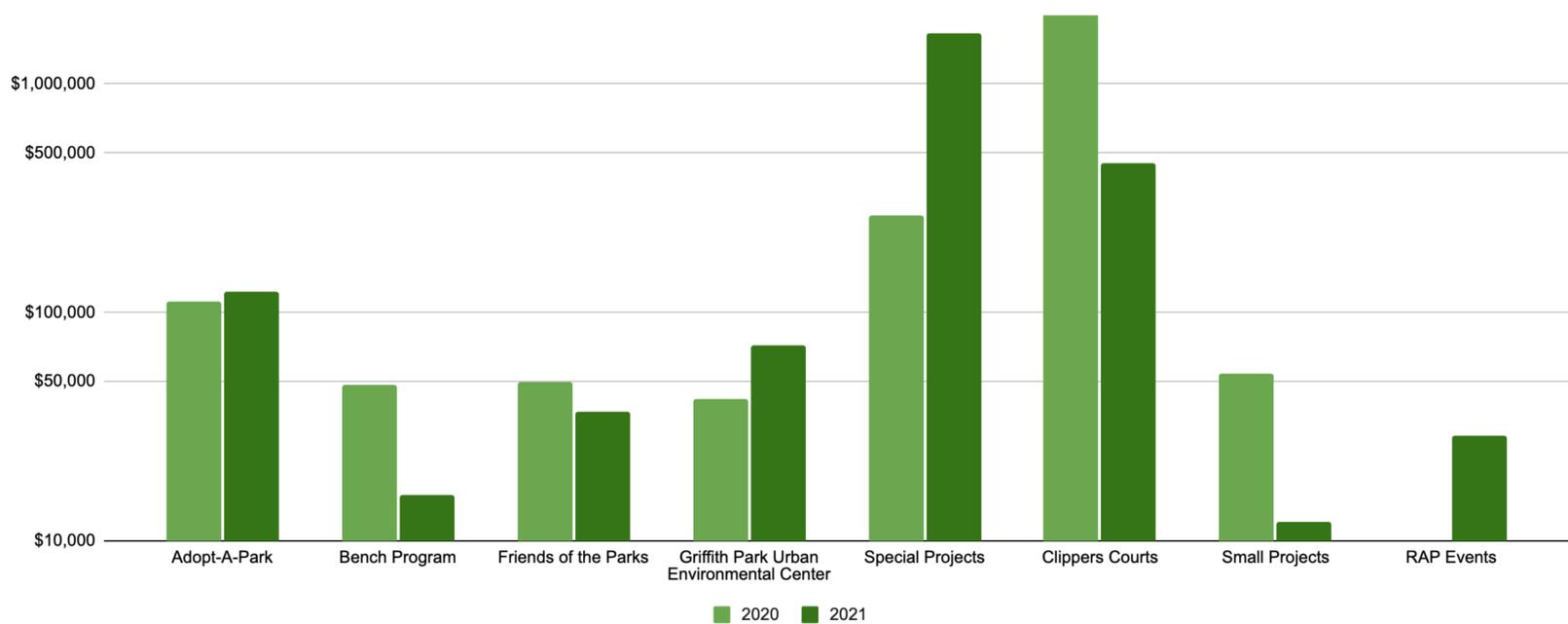
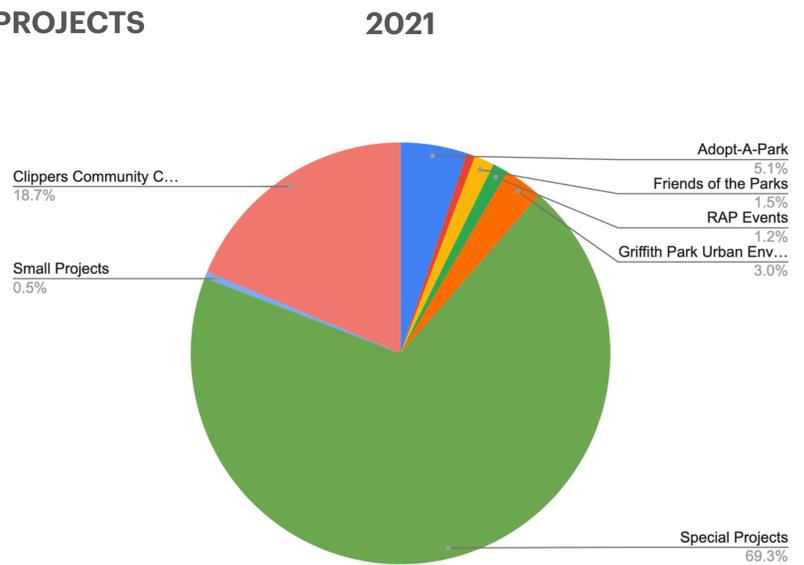
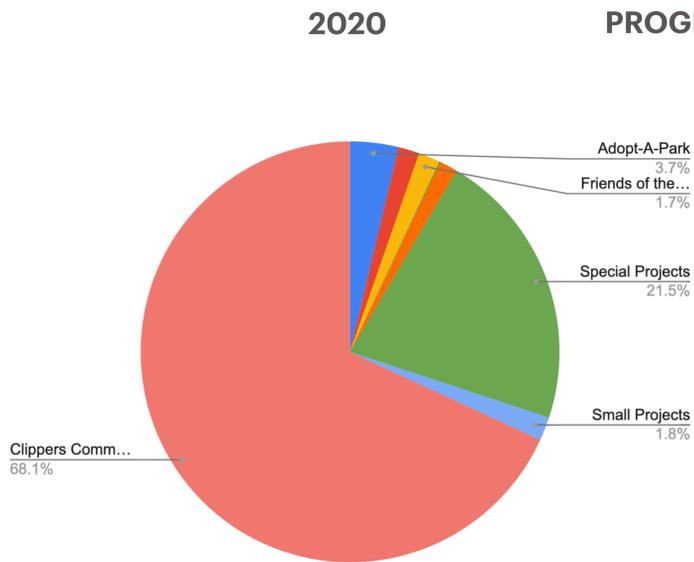
2020
\$2,460,524

2021
\$2,834,684

Total Expenditures: PROGRAM vs. OPERATIONS



Total Expenditures: PROGRAMS + PROJECTS



Thank you to our partners at the
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks



PARK PROUD LA



Staff

Carolyn Ramsay / **Executive Director**
Justin Yoshimaru / **Deputy Director**
Kobe Ochoa / **Operations Manager**
Estefany Salas / **Program & Project Manager**

Organization

Los Angeles Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.
EIN 26-2358338

2650 N. Commonwealth Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(310) 472-1990

laparksfoundation.org
info@laparksfoundation.org

Special thanks to photographers Juan Carlos Chan and Emily Malan for providing many of the images used in this report.