

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
ZONING INFORMATION (ZI) FILE**HEALTH AND URBAN FOREST EQUITY PRIORITY AREAS
LANDSCAPE AND SITE DESIGN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION**

Council District(s): Citywide

PURPOSE

Urban forestry studies show strong links between lack of access to green spaces and poor public health outcomes, among a host of related negative consequences impacting community livelihood ranging from heat exposure and poor air quality, to food insecurity and reduced ecosystem services. Patterns of tree canopy distribution and loss highlight spatial inequities in communities' access to trees, shade canopy, and green spaces.

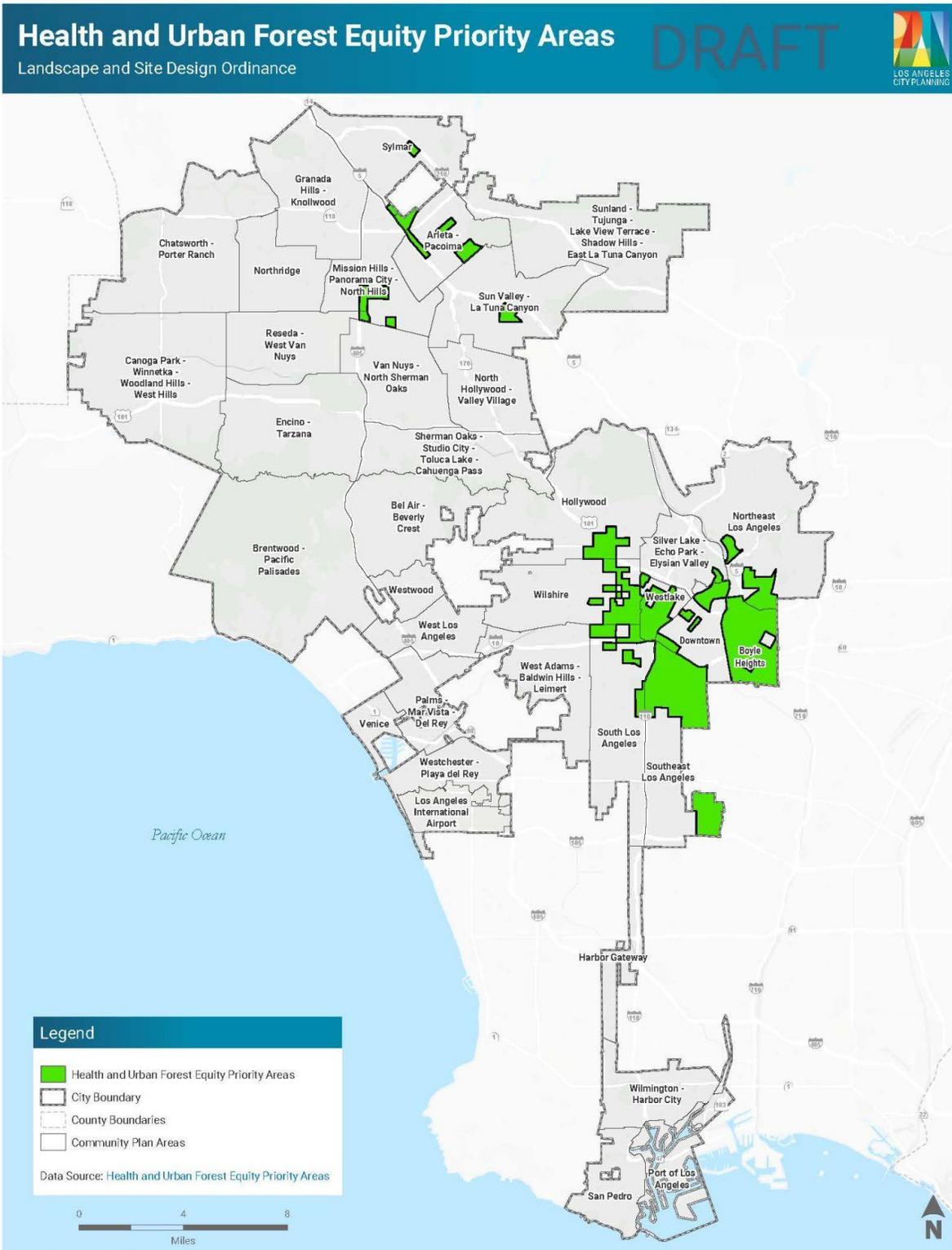
Health and Urban Forest Equity Priority Areas are identified using quantitative factors such as existing canopy cover, impervious surface cover, income, exposure to urban heat and air pollution, and select socio-demographic indicators, and qualitative assessment of community readiness and feasibility. This selection process allowed the Urban Forest Equity Collective¹ (UFEC) to narrow down sites for high need of forestry interventions to 243 census tracts² in Los Angeles. The Department of City Planning is selecting these areas to address the inequitable distribution of the urban forest through tree canopy expansion efforts and Significant Tree preservation. In conjunction with the best practices put forward by the Landscape and Site Design Ordinance³, advancing environmental justice and urban forest equity in the identified priority areas will help address climate needs and health and social factors.

INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants filing a Landscape and Site Design Ordinance administrative (ADM) application with the Department of City Planning, for a new project located on a parcel identified in the ZI area shall be required to meet two (2) additional Designing for Health Standards in the Landscape and Site Design Point System. Additionally, up to five (5) bonus points are available for projects within the ZI boundary if certain standards related to tree canopy preservation or planting and mitigation of climate impacts are selected.

Attached is a citywide map of Health and Urban Forest Equity Priority Areas in the City of Los Angeles. Department of City Planning (DCP) staff should use this citywide map in determining if a project is clearly within a priority area. Affected parcels within the ZI area will be identified in ZIMAS, however this map is to be referenced on an interim basis.

¹ UFEC is a consortium of forestry experts, Los Angeles City staff, community-based organizations, researchers, and consultants aiming to create holistic strategies to advance urban forest equity in the lowest-canopied neighborhoods. ² Tracts are selected based on physical and economic conditions, and experience high environmental exposure. They have $\leq 20\%$ canopy AND $\geq 60\%$ impervious surface cover AND median household income $\leq \$67,418$ AND they score in the upper 50th percentile (compared to other tracts under consideration based on prior criteria) for projected days over 90 degrees AND PM 2.5 AND/OR Diesel PM. See [UFEC's report \(2024\)](#) for details. ³ [Landscape and Site Design Ordinance](#)



Included Neighborhood Councils (total 54)

Arleta MacArthur Park
Arroyo Seco Mission Hills
Atwater Village NoHo
Boyle Heights North Hills East
Canoga Park Northridge East
Central Alameda Northridge South
Chatsworth Northridge West
Downtown Los Angeles Olympic Park
East Hollywood Pacoima
Echo Park Panorama City
Elysian Valley Riverside Pico Union
Empowerment Congress North Area Rampart Village
Encino Reseda
Foothill Trails District Silverlake Glassell Park South Central Greater Cypress Park Sun Valley Area
Greater Valley Glen Sylmar
Greater Wilshire Tarzana
United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Historic Cultural Heights, West Adams, & Jefferson Park Community Historic Cultural North Van Nuys
Historic Highland Park Voices of 90037
Hollywood Studio District Watts
Hollywood United Westlake North
LA-32 Westlake South
Lake Balboa Wilshire Center - Koreatown

Lincoln Heights Winnetka
Los Feliz Zapata King

Further reference: [Los Angeles Urban Forest Equity Prioritization Map](#)