The River south of Willow Street
Advocates can share information about water, environment, history of the river or the history of the people living next to the river will help them to see what role the river could play in their lives.

Project Partners can be other advocates, city or agency representatives, local organizations, neighborhood councils or homeowner associations.

Chapter 3 provides details about a few projects highlighted by the Working Group, however, there are many more project ideas included in this Plan (please see Volume 2, Chapter 2). Making these ideas a reality requires project advocates and partners to help others understand and support the project in the community. Such partnerships can be formed through the relationships fostered during the Plan development within the Working Group. These partnerships can help identify locations for the project, secure funding, and become advocates within local cities and agencies. Tools such as city general plans and capital improvement plans (CIP) can help identify locations for projects that may already have city support and funding secured.
Road Map for Advocating for a Project in Your LA River Community

1. Idea
   - Have an idea for a project that will revitalize the river? The Plan can help!
   - Review Volume 1, Chapter 2 to ensure your idea meets the goals and objectives of the plan.

2. Partners
   - Others may be interested in your idea! Partners can improve your idea by sharing it with the community and helping you incorporate their thoughts and needs.
   - Volume 1, Chapter 2 describes the many partners that participated in creating this Plan and Volume 2, Chapter 6 includes information about potential partners dedicated to revitalizing the river.

3. Goals/Objectives
   - Will your idea improve the community in an equitable way—helping to meet all of the objectives developed by the Working Group? The Working Group crafted the objectives of the Plan to try and improve the environment and quality of life for all people living and working in river communities.
   - Use the process described in Volume 2, Chapter 1 to ensure that your idea addresses all appropriate objectives for the area you’ve selected.
   - If your idea fails short, think about how your idea can be improved to maximize multiple benefits. This will increase the positive impacts of your idea and also improve your ability to find funding.

4. Lower LA River Revitalization Management Committee
   - Partner with the Management Committee to help identify where in your community and the river your idea works best, determine what permits and permissions are required.
   - The maps in Volume 2, Chapter 2 can help you find places where you can implement your idea and maybe inspire you to expand your idea to include additional benefits.
   - Volume 2, Chapter 4 includes more information on the Management Committee.

5. Fund
   - Where will the money come from for your idea? The funding will likely come from different places. Talk with your partners and look for additional local and state government advocates to learn about a variety of funding sources. Sometimes a slight change in your idea could open up a new source of funding.
   - Important: Be sure to think about funding for long term maintenance of your project now too!
   - Volume 1, Chapter 4 and Volume 2, Chapters 4 and 6 include information about partners and funding opportunities.

6. Build
   - Now it’s time for your idea to become a reality! Determine your partners’ strengths and utilize each to get your idea designed and constructed. Be open to changes during this process in order to meet the needs of the community.
   - As your idea becomes a project refer back to Step 3 to make sure it is going to provide multiple benefits.

7. Maintain
   - Congratulations! Your idea is now a beautiful pocket park! It is used by many people and supported by the community.
   - But how will you ensure that the park continues to be a wonderful community asset in the future?
   - Be sure to get commitments from partners regarding operation and maintenance of your park (or any idea) so that people can continue to enjoy it for years to come!
In Long Beach, a group of neighbors advocated for a park in their neighborhood. The site selected was known as 21st to Hill Street Park, near the LA River Bike Path and in the South Wrigley neighborhood. The neighbors organized around the existing park, discussed ways to revitalize the park with their Council Member, garnered his support for the effort, and found funding through private industry and volunteer support. The park was funded by JetBlue, organized by their partner Kaboom, and installed by hundreds of volunteers during a one-day event. The process took a few years, but now the residents have a great addition to the neighborhood. Projects of this size can be built based on the persistent advocacy of neighbors who collaborate with other organizations.

Successful Example of Community Advocacy and Partnership

21st to Hill Street Park

for projects and revitalization have been identified as part of the Plan
Coordinated Planning and Implementation

Numerous river revitalization and corridor plans, reports, and documents preceded this Plan (Volume 2, Chapter 5). These efforts were consulted for lessons learned and recommended next steps. Likewise, this Plan should be consulted during future land use, river restoration, open space, infrastructure and transportation planning efforts to ensure that the revitalization opportunities identified in this Plan are incorporated into other public and private investments along the river.

For example, many cities within the river corridor are in the process of updating their general plans, which are documents used to define how land can be used and developed. Project advocates and partners should be involved and engaged in this process to ensure projects ideas are included in the city’s future land use plans. Community and project advocates may shed light on issues and opportunities that city planners may overlook. Partnership and advocacy groups should engage during this level of the planning process to push forward their projects or ideas.

Coordinating planning efforts can leverage funding sources, maximize implementation strategies, and share information through the networks used to create these plans. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works intends to update the LA River Master Plan within a few years. This update will include all 51 miles of the river and provide uniform standards based on previous planning efforts. It is also important to ensure that projects are consistent with existing standards such as the wayfinding guidance found in the County of L.A. Trail Signage Handbook. At the watershed scale, this planning effort provides the opportunity to address systemic issues by leveraging nature-based solutions to improve the quality of the entire river.

Many cities also develop an capital improvement plan, which details the city’s budget for capital improvement projects plan such as including where the funding comes from, and where the funding goes. Project partners can secure city funds by identifying advocates within the city. Project partners may be able to secure city funds by identifying advocates within the city and incorporating revitalization benefits into existing CIP projects. Many organizations and partners seek support from neighborhood groups or city council members, who can lobby on behalf of the project within the city for funding and inclusion as a capital improvement project. City and agency board meetings are opportunities for neighborhood and community advocates to promote their project and garner support of city officials.

The LLARRP will be incorporated into the LA River Master Plan (LARMP) Update. In addition, the LARMP Update Steering Committee will include representatives from the Lower River.
Successful Example of Coordinated Planning

Compton Creek Natural Park

The Compton Creek Natural Park is an example of coordinated planning and a strong advocacy partnership between the Compton Unified School District, Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. These public interest agencies were able to combine their strengths to provide the public a large amount of parkland for recreation, education and relaxation.

Compton Creek Natural Park adds much needed park space to park-poor Compton. The Nature Park was built on 4.2 acres of the Washington Elementary School campus, and is the first large endeavor to convert the area next to highly urbanized and degraded Compton Creek into a linear public park destination, making the vision of the Compton Creek Garden Master Plan a reality.

Executed in three phases, components of the park include native plants and shade trees, interpretive signs, walking trails with fitness equipment, a multi-use amphitheater for school events and ceremonies, an underground cistern to hold rainwater for irrigation, an outdoor classroom at the creek overlook, restroom, a skate spot, community gardens, and a water play feature.

This park is an example of coordinated planning, leveraging the working group network, garnering agency support and funding, and implementing portions of the Compton Creek Garden Master Plan, making vision a reality.
The City of South Gate recently updated its general plan to include a Riverfront Enhancement Plan for both the Rio Hondo and LA River. When executed, it will address a variety of public improvements including enhancing access, and addressing the design of buildings to support the revitalization of the riverfront. As part of this project, the City of South Gate evaluated the land at the confluence to determine an appropriate use for the area that results in a regional destination or a significant visual landmark. The City of South Gate was an active and engaged member of the Working Group and the Rio Hondo Confluence is a signature concept included as part of this Plan.
Continued Advocacy and Outreach

Through advocacy, community partnerships, and Working Group coalitions, the watershed education program was developed as a resource to increase community recognition of the value of the river, reconnect the communities to the river, and explore the importance of protecting the river’s resources. This program will help build the support needed to continue to take ideas presented in this Plan and make them happen along the river.

The AB 530 requires that the Plan include the development of watershed education programs. The full watershed education programs are included in the Watershed Education Plan.
Watershed Education and Advocacy

The AB 530 requires that a watershed education program (Watershed Education Program) be developed as part of the Plan. The watershed education program seeks to increase community recognition of the value of the river, reconnect the communities to the river, and explore the importance of protecting the river’s resources. It builds off of the existing educational resources of the Working Group and other organizations that support the river and identifies gaps that need to be filled in order to strengthen engagement through watershed education. The watershed education program explores key plan element topics, such as hydrology and hydraulics, habitat, flood control, people and cultures surrounding the River, wellness and health, recreation, land use, and essentially, connecting people to the river.

Three overarching themes identified in the development of the Program were:
1. Interconnectedness of the people, the culture, the river, and the watershed
2. Nontraditional education pathways and place-based learning, engaging a wide audience
3. Multiple benefit thinking, leveraging education and connectedness

The Watershed Education Plan is designed to educate and engage the communities, while reconnecting them to one another and to the river itself.
The watershed education program cross-references the list of educational resources for the topics explored based on audience and age, and presents recommendations for next steps to further watershed, river, and community education. These resources promote continued outreach and advocacy, supply tools for greater education, and provide a platform for community members to stay involved with the Plan, the river, and the vision.

Ultimately, the watershed education program identifies way to invest in environmental and water education and highlights the personal connections between everyday activities—such as driving a car, watering a lawn, picking up pet waste—and watershed health and river quality.

### Implementation Next Steps

Once the Plan is complete, focus will shift to establishing the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG), to help guide the river revitalization efforts. As a governance structure, the IAG would be central to discussions on the prioritization, funding, and implementation of projects. The anticipated the next steps for continued revitalization include:

- Establish the IAG as the governance body that provides advice and discussion on future plans for revitalization of the Lower Los Angeles River.
- Prioritize the Plan’s 155 projects evaluation prior to implementation; adding new projects to the list as projects are implemented. Projects will be implemented based on readiness, costs and available funding, need for agency cooperation/cost sharing, and political will.
- Develop a list of action items for each prioritized projects, tying each to the responsible organizations such as cities, County, State/Federal, and/or non-governmental organizations that could act as lead organizations and/or implementation partners.
- Develop a schedule for future project and program implementation.
- Identify funding sources and programs associated with the projects and the agency and organizations that would lead funding efforts. While funding is outside of the IAG control, the IAG will be available to provide guidance and assist with the effort.
- Consider the opportunity to form a self-sustaining Management District that has authority for continued river revitalization and project implementation while seeking funding.

Revitalization does not only happen on the large, splashy, regional scale, but can also occur on the small, community, park, or neighborhood block scale. Revitalization can happen slowly, with small improvements such as a bench or shade structure, an improved park space, or a more well-lit and well-marked access point to a multi-use path. This Plan is a guide for how revitalization can be advocated for by individual residents, communities, nonprofit organizations, or government agencies. Through continued advocacy and partnerships, revitalization can go beyond the levees of the river and into the communities and neighborhoods surrounding it to improve people's lives now and in the future.
Photo Credits
All Images and figures courtesy of Tetra Tech unless otherwise noted

Volume 1

Front Cover:
Calvin Abe

Chapter 1
Page 1: Left, Calvin Abe
Page 5: Bottom three, 2018 Google Earth
Page 6: Upper left, Herman J. Schultheis Collection Los Angeles Public Library, Upper right, Los Angeles Public Library
Page 7: All images Herald-Examiner Collection, Los Angeles Public Library
Page 8: Right, Calvin Abe
Page 11: USGBC Los Angeles Chapter

Chapter 2
Page 18: East Yards Communities For Environmental Justice

Chapter 3
Page 31: Left, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Right, Northern California Land Trust
Page 54: Right, National Association of City Transportation Officials, Urban Street Design Guide, Street Design Elements

Chapter 4
Page 137: Right, Calvin Abe
Page 138: All, San Francisco Planning Division
Page 139: All images courtesy of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Page 140: Calvin Abe

Chapter 5
Page 151: All, Los Angeles Conservation Corps,
Page 153: Right, From Lot to Spot
Page 154: Top, Environment and Climate Change-Government of Canada
Bottom left and right, Council for Watershed Health
Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan

Chapter 1: The Lower Los Angeles River Story