



The Lower Los Angeles River at Atlantic Boulevard.



2

Vision into Action

In order to achieve the vision the stakeholders have for the river, California Assembly Bill 530 (AB 530) was signed into law in 2015. Authored by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, the legislation requires the creation of the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (Working Group) to lead the development of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (the Plan). AB 530 requires that the Plan be consistent with and enhance the County of Los Angeles's Master Plan for the entire Los Angeles River. The Plan must also include educational programs designed to help the communities along the river recognize its value, understand the importance of protecting its watershed resources, and appreciate its vitality to their communities. This Plan complies with the requirements of AB 530 by addressing the diverse needs of the river and its communities.

Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Working Group

The Working Group led the development of the Plan. Members of the Working Group were selected to represent the cities, neighborhoods, and non-profit organizations serving the river corridor.



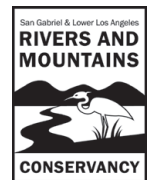
GATEWAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Heal the Bay



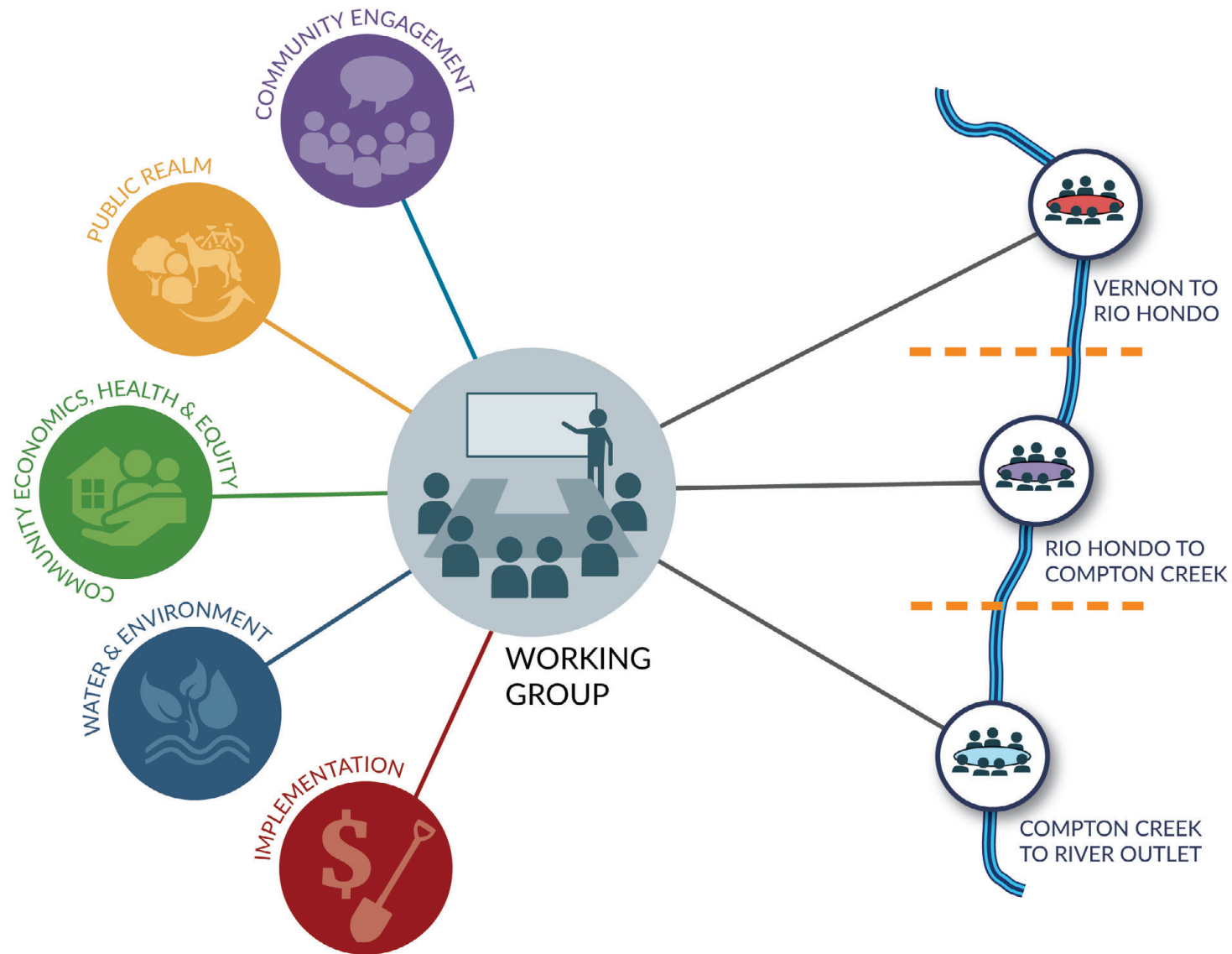
LA County
Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District
Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District
Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District



Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Anthony Rendon, AD 63



Committees



Working Group members formed committees specific to each of three segments of the river. These River Segment Committees provided insight, guidance, and information regarding communities and opportunities for revitalization along the river.

Along with the River Segment Committees, the Working Group members sat on Plan Element Committees to establish appropriate goals and objectives for the Plan as well as recommend funding and governance strategies, and develop and perform the community outreach.



16 | Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan: Volume 1 People + Place + Projects

80
meetings

The Working Group also solicited ideas and inspiration from the community through extensive outreach and input events. During the first phase, the Working Group listened to the people talk about their vision for the river. The second phase was to share how their vision was captured to be captured in the Plan through the development of specific goals and objectives.



Using this community input, the Working Group developed a set of goals and objectives that the Plan should address.

The Plan Element Committees collaborated to create three unique goals and thirteen objectives related to water and environment, public realm, and community economics, health, and equity. The Plan does not prioritize one objective over another—each is equally considered resulting in a plan with multi-benefit revitalization strategies. The process allowed the Plan Element Committees to refine the goals and objectives until these best met the vision of the Working Group and communities. The Plan Element Committees also established a set of metrics to evaluate each project opportunity to ensure each would equally advance the Plan's goals and objectives. These metrics are described in Volume 2, Chapter 1 of the Plan.



Plan Element Goals and Objectives



Community Economics, Health and Equity

To ensure that a restored Los Angeles River promotes health, equity, and brings economic and environmental benefits to all residents and local small businesses and does not contribute to gentrification and displacement. Revitalization efforts should build the resilience of residents and small businesses against gentrification and displacement, foster collective community identity and pride and increase economic mobility and opportunities for local populations. Restoration must prioritize and promote inclusivity, health and equity, and climate resilience. In short—Lower Los Angeles River revitalization must be a model of equitable redevelopment, one that ensures that healthy communities investments in

these communities benefits existing families and generations to come.

Objectives:

- Prevent gentrification and resulting residential and commercial displacement through comprehensive community-driven and informed policies and programs such as, but not limited to affordable housing, rent stabilization, Enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFDs), community land trusts, City housing policies, thoughtful-ly-planned commercial development, and additional LA River multi-use trail and bikeway access points to avoid real estate hot spots. Efforts to prevent gentrification induced displacement should be proactive and comprehensive and range from strengthening individual and community knowledge, educating stakeholders, fostering coalitions, modifying organizational policies, and influencing policy and legislation. Community-driven pilot or demonstration policies with the potential to be scaled up should be prioritized.
- Address homelessness by preventing residential displacement, supporting regional initiatives such as increasing the affordable housing stock, long-term homelessness interventions and incorporating support services for the homeless into river revitalization projects.
- Increase equitable community river access and assets through smart acquisitions of river adjacent properties to address the community and users' needs. These spaces must be safe, accessible by the community and meet the needs of a diverse range of users.
- Support existing local businesses and workforce through coordination with organizations, development of park space and housing areas along the Lower LA River and support of locally owned businesses. Environmental remediation, green space development and revitalization efforts should directly engage the community and create job opportunities while providing workforce training and provisions for worker safety.
- Promote health, equity, wellness and physical activity in communities along the lower LA River by providing access to safe and interconnected complete streets, parks and open spaces that promote an active lifestyle, and by increasing access to and promoting healthy food.
- Increase community green infrastructure in communities along the Lower LA River in order to protect and improve air and water quality, increase outdoor activity, improve mental health, and increase social cohesion by creating community gathering spaces.





Public Realm

Create diverse, vibrant public spaces along and connected to the Lower Los Angeles River resulting in safe, inviting, healthy green spaces that support diverse local communities, allowing equitable access to nature and a variety of recreational, entertainment, multi-modal transportation and socio-economic opportunities that enhances quality of life and sustains watershed health.

Objectives:

- Enhance connectivity by improving and expanding the network of connections including streets, pathways, bikeways, and multi-use trails that connect communities, cities, and public assets to the LA River Bikeway and Trail. These connections should:
 - Offer more ways to connect local communities to each other and to the River, which include bridges and crossings, and inviting gateways and street ends, and
 - Unite the upper and lower reaches of the Los Angeles River.
- Enhance and create diverse, vibrant public spaces by creating new and improving existing public spaces at and around the river that support diverse experiences, public enjoyment, health,

and local community identity. These spaces should:

- Be designed around human comfort and enjoyment,
 - Include green streets as places for people, and
 - Reflect the diverse needs and desires of local user groups and the community in design solutions.
- Improve user experience and equitable access by providing a consistent, high-quality experience along the river, in surrounding public spaces, and in the connections in between, that is welcoming, accessible, and safe for all users. This experience should:
 - Increase access to the river and other public spaces for diverse users through public transportation, river access points, bridges, and parking;
 - Strengthen real and perceived public safety with features including 911 call boxes, lighting, signage, river rangers, and by providing clarity in law enforcement jurisdiction; and
 - Enhance user comfort by providing high-quality consistent operations and maintenance of public facilities such as signage and wayfinding, fix-it stations, water fountains, restrooms picnic tables and benches, and amenities for horses.



Water and Environment

Conserve and restore natural river and watershed functions while managing flood risk, enhancing the long-term ecosystem services provided to surrounding communities, and mitigating climate changes and environmental impacts of urbanization on the LLAR, floodplains, and associated habitats.

Objectives:

- Protect life and property by managing flood risk and localized flooding issues and by prioritizing floodplain reclamation and green infrastructure when possible.
- Enhance local water capture and use by maximizing water resiliency and sustainability, including long-term regional supply augmentation and harvesting for local onsite uses.
- Improve environmental quality by restoring the recreational and ecological benefits of the LLAR for surrounding communities and protecting human health and the environment by using nature-based solutions to capture polluted runoff, remediate soil contamination, and improve air quality.
- Restore or enhance biodiverse, climate-resilient, self-sustaining ecosystems (including native species both instream and upland) throughout the river corridor, as well as enhance natural hydrological processes and floodplain reclamation necessary for long-term health of the watershed and the community.



OUTREACH

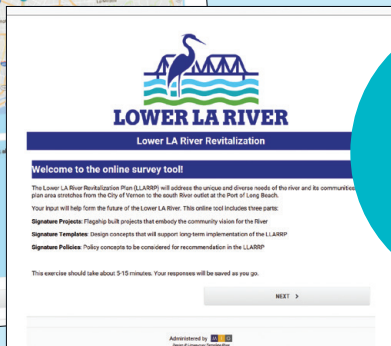
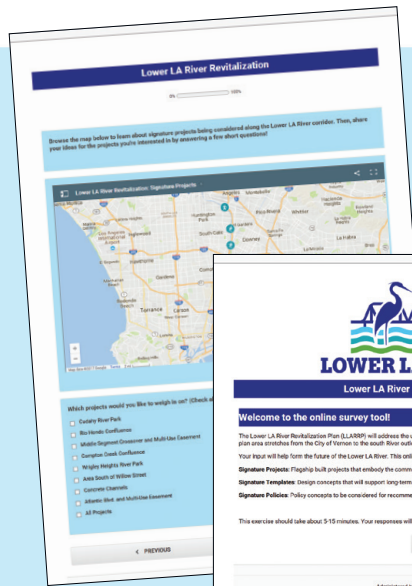


Workshops
130
participants

The avenues for community input included six river bike tours, three kickoff events, six community workshops, pop-up booths at 12 events in their neighborhoods, multiple youth outreach events including #ReclaimingTheLARiver, and two trail etiquette training sessions for multiple users (horse, bike, pedestrian). For over eight months, two different online surveys have been open for people to give input about how they use the river, how they view the river, and what their vision for the river is.

22
Public Working Group
Meetings
58
Committee
Meetings

Online
Surveys



577
responses



Pop-Up
Booths

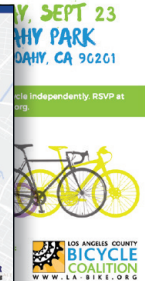
480
visitors



Bike Tours
105
participants

LOWER LA RIVER FAMILY
BIKE RIDE

Join the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition for a bike tour of the Lower LA River in Cudahy!



More information regarding public input received during the planning process can be found in Volume 2, Chapter 6.

Community Outreach Input

During the first phase of community outreach, the communities identified the following issues and opportunities along the river and LA River bike path and multi-use trail:



Issues

- Air pollution and odors
- Prevent displacement
- Transient population, homelessness
- Lack of landscaping and shade
- Access to the river
- Lack of amenities
- Security
- Safer connections for bicyclists
- River channel not designed to account for sea level rise at its outlet in Long Beach and may exacerbate potential coastal and inland flooding
- Doesn't resemble a "river" (too much concrete)



Opportunities

- Involve local youth in watershed education projects
- Conduct outreach to the transient population
- Connect the river to other community
- Dominguez Gap Wetland as a template
- Increase park space
- Convert warehouses to green space
- Provide better and consistent maintenance of river, trails, paths, and streets
- Provide better security
- Provide shade
- Create a natural-looking river



These key issues were used to inform and refine the Plan's goals, objectives and overall vision.

Working Group invited community members to provide input on the Plan through emails, social media, and flyers distributed as door-hangers to over

3500
homes

150

Youth attended weekly club meetings to receive updates on river revitalization efforts

80

People participated in the LA River Toxics Tour, led by Working Group member East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

75

Community members participated in [#ReclaimingTheLARiver](#) featuring youth art — murals, dancing, poetry, photography, and papier-mache

650

High school students educated on the history of the river, issues and opportunities

10 plans reviewed

The following documents, plans, or efforts were reviewed to identify projects and efficiencies

- Los Angeles River Master Plan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, June 1996
- Los Angeles River Index, River LA, Gehry Partners, Olin Landscape, and Geosyntec
- Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, City of Los Angeles, April 2007
- Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report, US Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, September 2015
- Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Watershed Management Area Watershed Program, Los Angeles Gateway Regional Integrated Water Management Authority, June 12, 2015
- Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Program, Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Group, June 12, 2015
- Long Beach RiverLink, City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation, February 2007
- Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan, Water Conservation Authority
- Long Beach Freeway (I-710) Corridor Study, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and California Department of Transportation
- Hollydale Park Master Plan, City of South Gate, June 2017

The Working Group took the communities' visions for the river and created a process which would systematically consider the desired goals and objectives—including environmental, recreational, economic, social and cultural—as well as the potential negative impacts when assessing revitalization proposals. The intent of this process was to clearly articulate revitalization goals, identify a suite of meaningful actions which could meet those goals, and attempt to avoid unintended consequences.

The Working Group and community identified locations for revitalization efforts within the river corridor. These locations have attributes which can be leveraged into multi-benefit projects and include publicly-owned open space areas, which could be developed into revitalization projects such as multi-use trails, community recreation areas, greenways, river-bed enhancements, or safe river crossings (Volume 2, Chapter 1).

The Working Group worked closely with the community to imagine multi-benefit projects comprised of smaller components which were supported by the stakeholders. These 'building blocks' included things such as additional lighting and signage to safe road crossings to boardwalks to engineered green stormwater infrastructure. Chapter 1, Volume 2 includes detailed fact sheets for each discrete building block.

Plan Elements and Objectives



Public Realm

- Enhance Connectivity
- Improve User Experience and Equitable Access
- Enhance and Create Diverse, Vibrant Public Spaces



Community Economics, Health, & Equity

- Prevent Local Gentrification-Induced Displacement
- Address Homelessness
- Support and Develop Local Business and Workforce
- Increase Equitable Community Access to Multi-Use Trails, Bikeways, and Assets
- Promote Wellness and Physical Activity
- Increase Community Green Infrastructure



Water & Environment

- Manage Flood Risk
- Enhance Local Water Capture and Use
- Improve Environmental Quality
- Conserve, Enhance, and Restore Habitat, Biodiversity, and Floodplain Functions

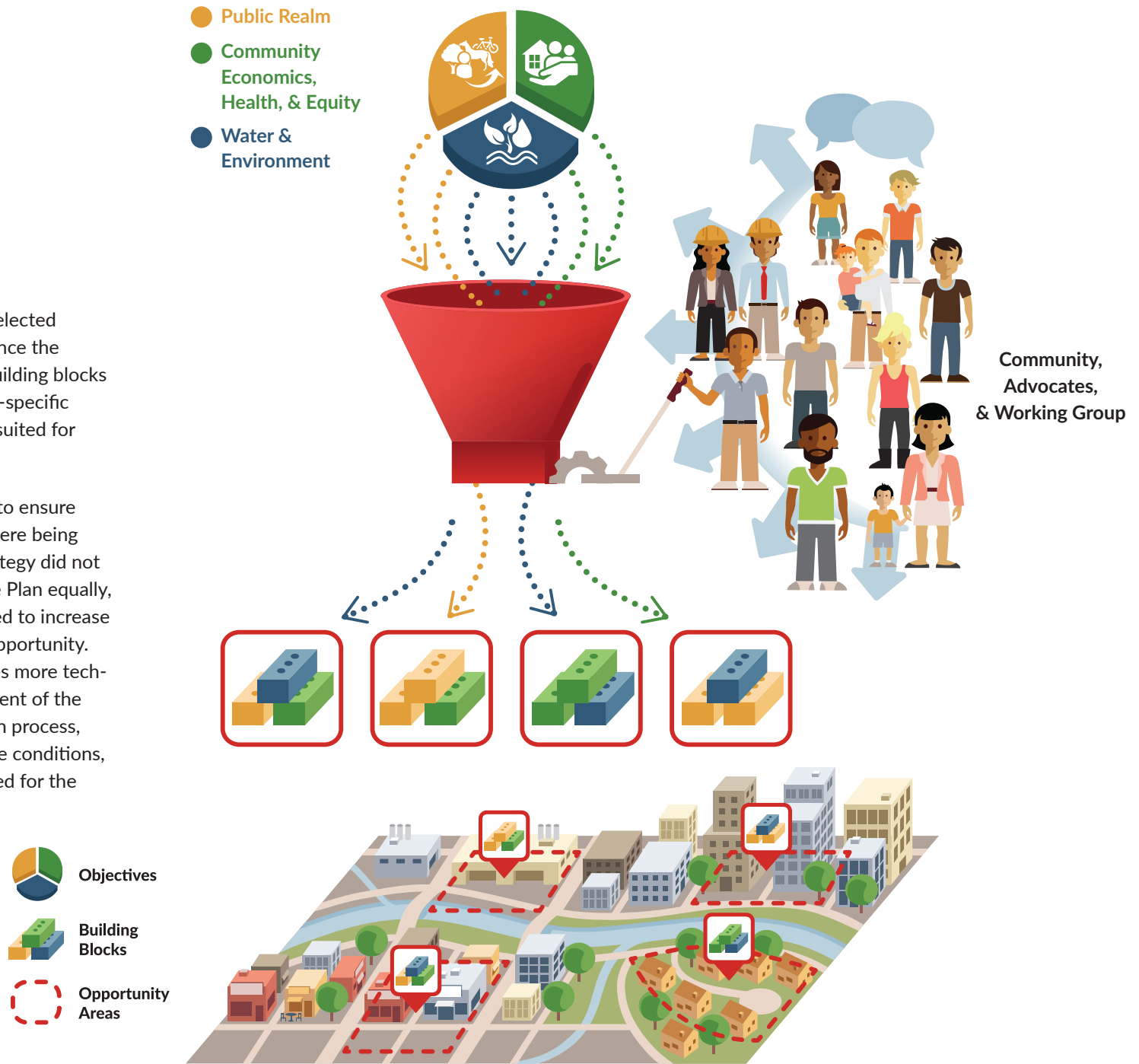


Mural on River Road in Cudahy

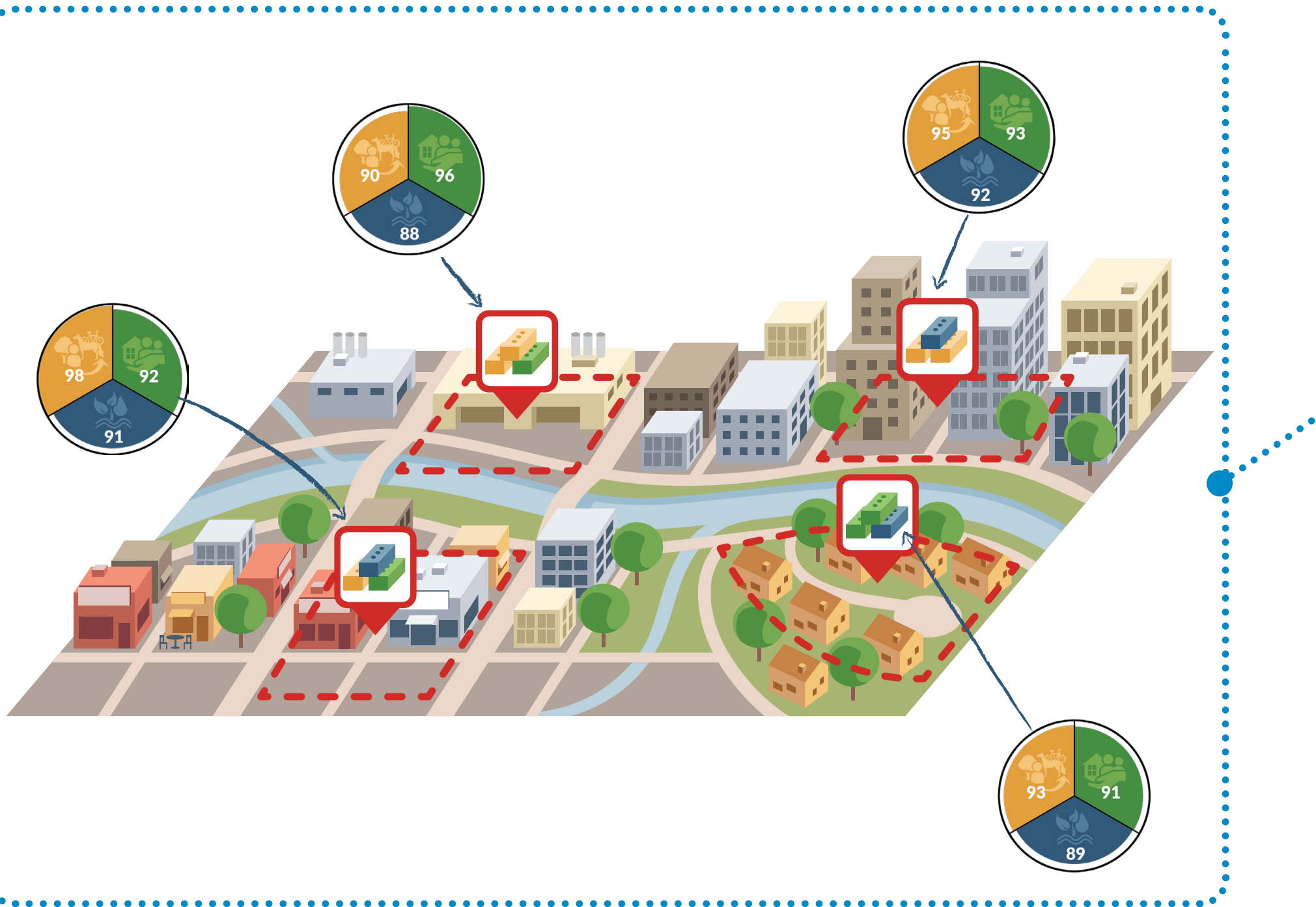
Green Stormwater Infrastructure:
Systems that use permeable materials and plants that capture, clean, and/or infiltrate rain water.

These building blocks were selected based on their ability to advance the objectives of the Plan. The building blocks were combined to create site-specific revitalization strategies best suited for each identified location.

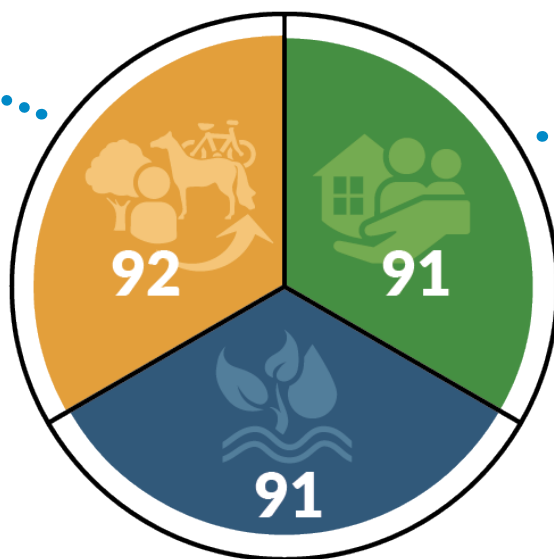
Each strategy was evaluated to ensure that the maximum benefits were being realized for each site. If a strategy did not advance the objectives of the Plan equally, building blocks could be added to increase the benefits of that project opportunity. Volume 2 of this Plan provides more technical details on the development of the framework and the evaluation process, including the metrics, baseline conditions, and building blocks established for the Plan.



Input provided by the Working Group created site-specific revitalization strategies for each opportunity area.



**Public
Realm**



**Community Economics,
Health, & Equity**

**Scores represent the
percentage of objectives met
by Plan's proposed strategies**

**Water &
Environment**

Once strategies were recommended for each of the 155 locations, the Working Group evaluated them collectively to determine how well the proposed revitalization strategies could make progress towards meeting the desired goals and objectives along the river. The Plan includes a wide array of revitalization strategies which, if implemented, will make progress towards meeting all of the Working Group's objectives. Chapter 3 provides details on the recommended revitalization strategies, and Chapters 4 and 5 provide guidance regarding implementation and adaptation of the Plan in the future.

