Appendix A: Parks After Dark Evaluation Methods

Survey Data Analyses Methods

Summer and winter 2022 PAD participant surveys were based on a convenience sampling method (Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2). PAD attendees completed the surveys in English or Spanish when participating in events or activities whenever possible. Some completed more than one survey if they attended more than one PAD event or multiple nights of PAD. The vast majority of participant surveys were completed electronically (via Survey Monkey) using DPR-provided iPads or attendees' smart phones. Where reliable internet was not available, surveys were completed on paper, entered manually into Survey Monkey, and checked by a Los Angeles DPR staff for accuracy and completeness.

Frequency tables were created to highlight the distribution of quantitatively measured responses. Participant survey results are presented by individual park and by PAD Group in Appendix B. Survey results are not reported when fewer than five attendees responded, due to lack of reliability and the inability to generalize the results.

Qualitative theming was conducted for open-ended survey questions. Responses were categorized and select illustrative quotes are provided throughout the report as they relate to PAD goals.

Exhibit 1: Summer 2022 Parks After Dark Participant Survey

Los Angeles County PARKS AFTER DARK Survey Summer 2022

Thanks for attending Parks After Dark this Summer! Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and let us know what you liked about the program and how we can improve. Your opinion matters! All responses are confidential.

Please select your preferred language:
☐ English
☐ Español

PARK NAME: _____

Please answer the following questions about your activity and your community:

1. What zip code do you live in? | | | | | | |

2. How often do you visit this park (outside of PAD)?

   ☐ Daily   ☐ Weekly   ☐ Monthly   ☐ 1-2 times a Year   ☐ First time

3. How many days per week do you currently exercise (walking, biking, gardening, jogging, playing sports)?

   ☐ None   ☐ 1 day   ☐ 2 days   ☐ 3 days   ☐ 4 days   ☐ 5 days   ☐ 6 days   ☐ 7 days

   3a. On average, about how much time do you spend doing these physical activities/exercises each day?

   ☐ 15 minutes or less   ☐ about 30 minutes   ☐ about 1 hour   ☐ more than 1 hour

4. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?

   ☐ Very safe   ☐ Somewhat safe   ☐ Somewhat unsafe   ☐ Not at all safe

5. Please tell us how STRONGLY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE with the following items:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I live in a close-knit or unified neighborhood.	☐	☐	☐	☐
If there is a crisis, I have others I can talk to.	☐	☐	☐	☐
PAD is important for my community	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please answer the following questions about your experience at PARKS AFTER DARK:

6. How did you find out about PARKS AFTER DARK? (Check all that apply)

   ☐ Live in the area/walking by   ☐ Flyer   ☐ Internet (e.g., website, Facebook, Twitter)

   ☐ Somebody told me   ☐ Attended last year   ☐ Other: _____

7. Did you attend PARKS AFTER DARK with young children or teens? (check all that apply)

   ☐ Children age 0-5   ☐ Children age 6-12   ☐ Children age 13-18   ☐ None

8. About how often do you plan to attend PARKS AFTER DARK this summer?

   ☐ Once or twice   ☐ Once a week   ☐ More than once a week   ☐ I will not attend again

9. What kinds of physical activity/ exercise did you participate in at PARKS AFTER DARK this summer? (check all that apply)

   ☐ Team sports   ☐ Walking club   ☐ Exercise class   ☐ Swimming

   ☐ Other _____   ☐ Did not participate

9a. How often do you plan to participate in these activities during PARKS AFTER DARK?

☐ Once or twice this summer ☐ Once a week ☐ More than once a week

10. How safe do you feel attending PARKS AFTER DARK?

☐ Very safe ☐ somewhat safe ☐ somewhat unsafe ☐ Not at all safe

11. What made you feel safe at PARKS AFTER DARK? (check all that apply)

☐ Deputy Sheriffs ☐ Park staff ☐ People around ☐ Positive atmosphere

☐ Nothing / did not feel safe ☐ Other _____

12. What do you think about the number of Deputy Sheriffs at PARKS AFTER DARK?

☐ Too many ☐ Just right ☐ Not enough ☐ Did not see them

13. Please tell us how **STRONGLY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE** with the following items:

At PARKS AFTER DARK...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I get to know my neighbors better.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel a sense of belonging in my community.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn about a variety of resources available to me and/or my family (i.e., health, social services).	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deputies engage positively with community members.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can participate in activities I can't otherwise afford.	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is a positive family atmosphere.	☐	☐	☐	☐
There are a variety of activities that I want to do.	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. What years did you go to PARKS AFTER DARK at this park or another park? (check all that apply)

☐ 2010 ☐ 2011 ☐ 2012 ☐ 2013 ☐ 2014

☐ 2015 ☐ 2016 ☐ 2017 ☐ 2018 ☐ 2019

15. What was your favorite PARKS AFTER DARK event or activity?

☐ Movies ☐ Concerts ☐ Sports ☐ Education ☐ Exercise class ☐ Arts & culture

☐ Swimming ☐ Jumper / games ☐ Other: _____

16. Would you participate in PARKS AFTER DARK again? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Would you recommend PARKS AFTER DARK to others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18. Additional comments or suggestions:

_____

_____

_____

Demographics

19. What is your age?

☐ 10-15 ☐ 16-25 ☐ 26-39 ☐ 40-59 ☐ 60+ ☐ Decline to answer

20. What is your race/ethnicity? (check all that apply)

☐ Black or African American ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian

☐ Hispanic / Latino / Latinx ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ White (Caucasian)

☐ Other _____ ☐ Decline to answer

21. What is the primary language you speak at home? ☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Decline to answer

☐ Other _____

22. What was your given sex at birth? ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Decline to answer

Thank you for your feedback!
For more information regarding the Parks After Dark program, please visit our website at parks.lacounty.gov/PAD.

Exhibit 2: Winter 2022 Parks After Dark Participant Survey

Los Angeles County PARKS AFTER DARK Survey 2022

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Help us improve services. All responses are confidential.

PARK NAME: **BETHUNE PARK**

TO BE COMPLETED BY RESEARCHER: Season: ___**WINTER**___   Survey: |__|__|__|__|__|

My ID: Day of the month you were born on (1-31)? |__|__| First 2 letters of the street you live on? |__|__| How many siblings do you have? |__|__|

Please answer the following questions about your activity and your community:

1. What zip code do you live in? |__|__|__|__|__|

2. How often do you visit this park (outside of PAD)?
   ☐ Daily   ☐ Weekly   ☐ Monthly   ☐ 1-2 times a Year   ☐ First Time

3. How many days per week do you currently exercise (walking, biking, gardening, jogging, playing sports)?
   ☐ None   ☐ 1 Day   ☐ 2 Days   ☐ 3 Days   ☐ 4 Days   ☐ 5 Days   ☐ 6 Days   ☐ 7 Days

   On average, about how much time do you spend doing these activities/exercises each day?
   ☐ 15 minutes or less   ☐ about 30 minutes   ☐ about 1 hour   ☐ more than 1 hour

4. How safe is your neighborhood?
   ☐ 4 - Very safe   ☐ 3 - Somewhat safe   ☐ 2 - Somewhat unsafe   ☐ 1 - Not at all safe

5. Please show how **STRONGLY YOU AGREE or DISAGREE** with the following items by checking your response:

	Strongly Agree 😊	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree ☹
I live in a close-knit or unified neighborhood.	☐	☐	☐	☐
If there is a crisis, I have others I can talk to.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please answer the following questions about your experience at PARKS AFTER DARK:

6. How did you find out about PARKS AFTER DARK? (Check all that apply)
   ☐ Live in the area/walking by   ☐ Flyer   ☐ Internet (e.g., website, Facebook, Instagram)
   ☐ Somebody told me   ☐ Attended last year   ☐ Other _____

7. Did you attend PARKS AFTER DARK with young children or teens? (Check all that apply)
   ☐ Children age 0-5   ☐ Children age 6-12   ☐ Children age 13-18   ☐ None

8. About how often do you plan to attend PARKS AFTER DARK this season?
   ☐ Once or twice   ☐ Once a week   ☐ More than once a week   ☐ I will not attend again

9. What days of the week would you most like to attend Parks After Dark?
   ☐ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday   ☐ Thursday, Friday, Saturday

10. What kinds of physical activity/exercise did you participate in PARKS AFTER DARK? (Check all that apply)
    ☐ Team sports   ☐ Walking club   ☐ Exercise class   ☐ Swimming
    ☐ Other _____   ☐ Did not participate

    <u>How often</u> do you plan to participate in these activities during PARKS AFTER DARK?
    ☐ Once or twice this season   ☐ Once a week   ☐ More than once a week

PLEASE TURN OVER – MORE QUESTIONS ⊕

11. How safe do you feel attending PARKS AFTER DARK?

☐ 4 - Very safe   ☐ 3 - Somewhat safe   ☐ 2 - Somewhat unsafe   ☐ 1 - Not at all safe

12. What made you feel safe at PARKS AFTER DARK? (check all that apply)

☐ Deputy Sheriffs   ☐ Park staff   ☐ People around   ☐ Positive atmosphere

☐ Nothing / did not feel safe   ☐ Other _____

13. Please show how **STRONGLY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE** with the following items by **checking** your response:

At PARKS AFTER DARK...	Strongly Agree ⊕	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree ⊗
I get to know my neighbors better.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel a sense of belonging in my community.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can access resources I need (i.e., health, social services).	☐	☐	☐	☐
Deputies engage positively with community members.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can participate in activities I can't otherwise afford.	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is a positive family atmosphere.	☐	☐	☐	☐
There are a variety of activities that I want to do.	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. What years did you go to PARKS AFTER DARK at this park or another park? (check all that apply)

☐ 2010   ☐ 2011   ☐ 2012   ☐ 2013   ☐ 2014   ☐ 2020 ☐ 2022

☐ 2015   ☐ 2016   ☐ 2017   ☐ 2018   ☐ 2019   ☐ 2021

15. What was your <u>favorite</u> PARKS AFTER DARK event or activity? (check one)

☐ Movies   ☐ Concerts   ☐ Sports   ☐ Education   ☐ Exercise class   ☐ Arts & culture

☐ Swimming   ☐ Jumper / games   ☐ Other _____

16. Would you participate in PARKS AFTER DARK again?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

17. Would you recommend PARKS AFTER DARK to others?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

18. What is the one most important thing PAD could improve:

_____

_____

Please describe yourself. All responses are completely confidential.

19. What is your age? (choose one)

☐ 10-15   ☐ 16-25   ☐ 26-39   ☐ 40-59   ☐ 60+   ☐ Decline to answer

20. What is your race/ethnicity? (check all that apply)

☐ Black or African American   ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native   ☐ Asian

☐ Hispanic/ Latinx   ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander   ☐ White (Caucasian)

☐ Other _____

21. What is the primary language that you speak at home?   ☐ English   ☐ Spanish   ☐ Decline to answer

☐ Other _____

22. What is your given sex at birth? (check one)   ☐ Male   ☐ Female   ☐ Decline to answer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK ⊕

Crime Data Analyses Methods

To test the impact of PAD on crime rates, comparison parks in Los Angeles County were identified for each PAD Group (Exhibit 3). Comparison parks were selected from a pool of Los Angeles County and City parks with facilities suitable for hosting PAD programming. Comparison parks were matched to PAD parks based on demographics, including race and ethnicity, household income, and crime rates in the communities living near the parks during the year prior to PAD implementation. Communities near the parks were defined as Census Tracts that were within a one-mile radius of the park. When a Census Tract was within one mile of multiple parks, it was attributed to the park with the shortest distance between the center of the park and center of the Census Tract.

Exhibit 3: PAD Comparison Parks, 2022

Match by Cohort (Year Joined PAD)	Comparison Parks
PAD Group One (2010)	Manzanita Park
	Hollenbeck Park (City of Los Angeles)
	Adolfo Medina Memorial Park
PAD Group Two (2012)	Louise Park
	Banning Park and Museum
	Two Strike County Park
PAD Group Three (2015)	Las Palmas Park
	Paramount Park (City of Paramount)
	Lugo Park
PAD Group Four (2016)	Golden Park
	Louise Park
	Lincoln Park (City of Los Angeles)
	Veterans Memorial Park
	Scott Park
	York Field
	Richie Valens Park
	Bristow Park
	Rio Vista Park (City of Pico Rivera)
	Manzanita Heights
	Adolfo Medina Memorial Park
	Maywood Riverfront Park
PAD Group Five (2017)	Clara Park Expansion
	Lakeview Park
PAD Group Six (2018)	John Zimmerman Park
	Lynwood Park
	Carriage Crest Park

Match by Cohort (Year Joined PAD)	Comparison Parks
	Gingrich Park
	Westmont Park
	Dexter Park
	Chet Holified Park
	Deputy Pierre W. Bain Park
	Joshua Hills Park
	Avenue Park

Note: One PAD park (Magic Johnson Park) that joined in 2022 (PAD Group Seven) is excluded from the analysis.

Part I and Part II daily crime rates were created by calculating the ratio of number of crimes during the summer PAD period to the total population in the associated Census Tracts using LASD/LAPD and Census population data. The PAD period was specific to the timeframe for start of the PAD program in all parks for a given year. UCLA calculated a daily crime rate during the PAD program per year to increase comparability of rates across parks and over time. This method addressed variations in park specific timelines, as: 1) PAD operation is concentrated during summer months and for a short period of time (3 days a week; 6-9 weeks) and 2) the number of days of PAD varies from year to year; therefore, using a daily rate makes crime comparable over time.

UCLA conducted additional analysis to attribute changes in crime rates over time to PAD implementation using difference-in-differences, or DD methodology. This analysis included examination of crime trends in PAD parks to similar comparison parks before and after PAD implementation using regression models. Comparison of the change between regression-based predicted rates for PAD and comparison parks is a more robust analyses method than comparing actual rates between these groups.

Note that the data presented on changes in crime rates in this report are not directly comparable to previous evaluation reports due to due to multiple methodological differences including selection of comparison parks and Census tracts.

Key Informant Survey and Interview Methods

Key informants from agencies involved with PAD administration, planning, and implementation were sent a survey by email. Contacts were identified by DPR and DPH PAD program leads; contacts from LASD were identified by the scheduling Sergeant at LASD, Parks Bureau. The open window for the survey was approximately three weeks in January 2023, but was extended until the end of February to collect additional responses. Key topics of the survey included: PAD affiliation and background, perception of PAD impact as it related to each of the six PAD goals, implementation challenges and successes, and general recommendations. The survey had 53 questions with a mixture of multiple choice, Likert scale perception ratings, and free response prompts for additional qualitative narrative. A total of 53 key informants participated in the survey, with the majority from DPR (65%).

Follow-up group interviews were conducted with select and representative key informants (n=32). A protocol was followed for each interview; and participants were also given the opportunity to provide feedback and reflect on their individual experience with PAD.

Integrated Transport and Health Impacts Model (ITHIM) Methods

PAD participant surveys were used to estimate routine (baseline) levels of physical activity and physical activity attributable to PAD. PAD program schedules provided by DPR were used to estimate the average activity time for broad categories of physical activity offered through PAD (e.g., team sport, aquatics, walking club, exercise class, etc.). ITHIM was adapted to incorporate routine and PAD physical activity levels. The activity calculation was an aggregate measure considering both the 1) length (measured by hours/week) and 2) intensity of physical activity (measured by metabolic equivalents of task, METs). The physical activity METs calculations were aggregated across all responses and quintiles (10%, 30%, 50%, 70%, and 90%) of routine and PAD physical activity METs were calculated based on gender and age. The age categories from the PAD participant survey did not perfectly match those used by ITHIM; similar age categories were combined where necessary to more closely match the model. The model's impact was standardized to the size of the PAD population using the estimated number of person activity visits at PAD.

Specific assumptions used for the model include:

- ITHIM is designed to assess the impact of physical activity levels annually, while PAD programming was only available to participants for eight weeks during the summer months. Therefore, the level of activity in the models was assumed to be for an entire year (i.e., PAD participants continue at their "PAD level" year round).
- PAD participants were assumed to engage in a given physical activity program for the total length of time the activity was scheduled
- PAD attendance data were assumed to represent unduplicated individuals
- The survey did not identify what type of physical activity the individual participated in for the baseline estimate, therefore METs for general gym exercise were used (5.5 METs).

Methods for Calculating Cost of Crime Savings

The literature cites a significant amount of uncertainty in estimating the cost of crime. UCLA estimated the cost of crime by taking the average for specific Part II crime categories based on an extensive literature review; these estimates give value to intangible social costs of crime, in addition to the costs to law enforcement. Cost estimates were inflated to 2022 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index calculator.

The cumulative Part I crime reduction, since PAD's inception, was estimated as -0.0226 per 100,000 population. The PAD population size for PAD park Census Tracts is roughly 770,841 suggesting approximately 115 Part I crimes were avoided during PAD operation from 2009-2022. The crime reduction for 2022 was estimated as -0.0122 per 100,000 population, suggesting approximately 72 Part I crimes avoided during PAD operation in 2022. The proportion of the most common Part I crimes were calculated looking at the total number of each crime type in PAD operation months from 2009-2022 in PAD assigned Census Tracts. The proportion of Part I crime type was multiplied by the estimated reduction of Part I crimes attributable to PAD to estimate the reduction by type. Cost savings were then calculated by crime type avoided.

Reliable estimates were not available for all categories of Part II crime and were therefore not included in the analysis.