

SMART PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR LOW DENSITY LAND

"Overview: The Framework Element recognizes the importance of existing single-family residential neighborhoods and the need to conserve them. Traditionally, they have formed the fabric that has distinguished the City from other urban areas. Even with substantial growth, the single-family dwelling is still considered to be a major objective of most income and ethnic groups. These areas also afford added opportunities to take advantage of the variety of lifestyles such as water-oriented, rural/agricultural and equestrian-keeping special use neighborhoods".

Engage in the planning process and reframe low density neighborhoods as valuable cultural/natural resources for sustainable growth; good housing choices for families; and examples of true walkability. Studies show when the walk is pleasant, people will walk further—a healthy thing. Los Angeles' hallmark, signature single family neighborhoods deserve to be nurtured.

Emphasize stability for raising children; and key support for small businesses and local schools

Refocus government on the basics: decent schools, parks, working infrastructures/services and safe streets.

Take a page from Hands Off Our Land-Great Britain—Organize, protest, petition—written and online, write letters, and testify at hearings when attempts are made to define low density use as 'privatized open space' or 'underutilized land'

Organize, organize and organize some more: watch for any attempt to change the language in LA's General Plan Framework which specifically recognizes neighborhood conservation with regard to single family homes. The section may be found on the LADCP website under the General Plan tab, Chapter 3: Land Use.

Jump on the local food movement: The drought in California's central valley will ultimately raise produce prices; prepare by growing veggies, etc. Support edibles in the parkway: Council Motion (CF 13-0478); replace front lawn; plant fruit trees. Great for emergency preparedness. How about creating an urban garden/orchard overlay zone/ordinance for neighborhoods?

Use the Low Impact Development ordinance and other greening ordinances such as solar to advantage. Homes with front, back, and side yards can help with storm water capture and percolation. Permeable pavement--break up that driveway for storm water runoff absorption. Where you don't plant edibles, plant natives. Rain barrels; rain chains; cisterns; rain gardens; planter boxes and dry wells work, too