

the San José Parks Foundation (SJPF) / SPUR Parks discussion
Feb 26, 12:30 PM, 76 S 1st St.
quick notes by L. Ames, 3/1/14

MC: Jim Reber, who introduced:
Tom Gibson, city of LA
Matt Cano (SJ), and
Gia Biagi, Chicago.
each talked ~15-20 min, w/ couple questions afterwards

LA: Tom gave some statistic (~30%) of population within 1/4 mile of park, felt it should be better. (I keyed in on the 1/4 mile metric.)
He talked about building a new park at the boundary of three gangs. Gang members appreciate the park, treat it a neutral territory, and look after it.
Mentioned how city is acquiring foreclosed properties and building parks.

SJ: Matt talked about Greenprint, goal of building some number of sports fields. Made big point about using artificial turf to reduce maintenance costs.

Chicago: Independently funded and operated non-profit organization, distinct from city.
large budget
mandate to serve the people. Ran metrics citywide to determine what areas were underserved, and what programs were needed.
when decisions to be made, rules are “Children First” and “Build to Last”
dog parks: 3,500 sq.ft minimum, shouldn’t use up more than 3.5% of area of any given park.

question: what is minimum park size?

Chicago: 2 A. Smaller lots are given over to another independent organization (“Neighborhood Space” non-profit) for use as community gardens.

LA: no min. size: many are single-lots, often 50' x 100'.