

Once implemented, Park 101 will provide the previously bisected local communities north and south of the Hollywood Freeway (U.S. 101) with not only new connections, but also new possibilities for merging, meeting and transforming local, diverse cultures.

Currently, Park 101 is being presented to a wide array of stakeholders, and gathering public support by engaging the community. The goal is to make Park 101 into a reality and emerge as the beginning of a new chapter in the story of Los Angeles' revitalization.



The proposed half-mile park to cap the U.S. 101 transforms the freeway “trench” into a place of gathering. The extension of the Chinatown grid towards downtown generates a series of bends that create the shape for the proposed park, accommodating an amphitheater, landscaped open spaces, a mega program of 101 swings inviting people to interact and a city forest that celebrates the diversity and global nature of Los Angeles. A massive, public underground parking area on the freeway level will serve a staging area to support the pedestrian friendly Park 101 environment and encourage use of public bus and rail transit, biking and other modes of travel.



An iconic “gateway”, consisting of two towers standing on Grand Avenue, will anchor the project on the western edge. One of the towers will be the tallest west of the Mississippi River, making a bold statement and announcing the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Los Angeles. The orientation of the main tower of the gateway is a direct response to the California weather, taking advantage of the abundant sunlight, with a double skin façade on the south side to reduce the building’s energy load and environmental footprint, while generating energy to light the park below.

Lastly, the buildings on the eastern edge of the project will be of an intimate scale respecting El Pueblo, the birthplace of Los Angeles, and maintaining the feel of the cultural and historic neighborhoods while incorporating mixed-use development to transform these into vibrant urban environments to live, work, and play.



Can Los Angeles freeways, which connect cities but also separate communities, be used to bring the two together? As part of the EDAW Intern Program, a group of college students from around the world came to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Los Angeles office in June 2008 to study this question: How can we reconnect the city's historic core north of the Hollywood Freeway (U.S. 101) with the civic, cultural and financial centers to the south? Their solution, Park 101, proposes a visionary, yet realistic, urban design solution to cap a half-mile length of this freeway with an audacious urban park in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. The proposal reconnects the city's historic core at El Pueblo, north of the freeway, with the civic, cultural, and financial districts of modern Los Angeles to the south. The project provides a unique opportunity to shape an exciting new direction for Downtown Los Angeles.

Focused on a relatively small area straddling the U.S. 101 Freeway and situated in an existing maze of roadways, Park 101 is a new initiative to remake Los Angeles into a more sustainable and livable city. Park 101 is a proposal that will catapult this extraordinary city into becoming an even more extraordinary 21st century city. Communities most benefiting from Park 101 are the densely urbanized and park-poor communities of inner Los Angeles. The proposal boldly seeks to provide these communities and the greater Los Angeles with long term benefits by stitching together the urban fabric, strengthening the transportation system and extending the possibilities for a more sustainable "place" of choice in which to live and work. The plan for Park 101 will be flexible and adaptive to meet the challenges of today and over the next century, while serving to inspire the people of Los Angeles through creating an iconic and memorable destination.

The Park 101 proposal focuses on six design principles:

- Maximize Regional Connectivity
- Develop a Pedestrian Focus
- Provide Flexibility of Open Space
- Reconnect Communities
- Be a Regenerative Tool
- Create a "Wow" Factor

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