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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday,
May 13, 2026 7:00PM

Conference room of the
Marvin Braude Constituents
Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd,
Van Nuys, CA 91401

(SE corner of Van Nuys Blvd. and Sylvan
St.)



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Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting.

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council does not condone disrespectful and/or harmful speech. We apologize in advance to those attending this meeting who may hear such language during any public comment. We are obligated to uphold an individual's right to free speech. However, we want to be clear that all comments made at this meeting must be in the jurisdiction of this body, directed to this body as a whole, and, if made during any time other than General Public Comments, must be specific to an agenda item.

Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

Stakeholders are asked to respect the timekeeper when you are alerted that your time has expired.

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Board Members are reminded not to cut off, interrupt, or otherwise engage with Stakeholders during their allotted time for public comment.

Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration.

Speakers shall direct their comments to the Board (not to an individual).

Stakeholders are welcome to offer comments -- both during General Public Comment and Public Comments on specific agenda items -- but the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council requests that Stakeholders do not disrupt the meeting for other Stakeholders in attendance. We ask that Stakeholders refrain from calling out or participating in behavior that would disrupt the Board Meeting of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council. Stakeholders will be given an initial warning. There may be two additional warnings before the stakeholder is asked to leave the meeting due to disruptions of the meeting.

All public comments must be made into the microphone at the lectern to facilitate the capture of a clear recording of the meeting.

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reports from LAPD and LAFD

- a. Report from LAPD Van Nuys Division <https://vnnc.org/resource/>
- b. Report from LAFD

3. Reports from other Government officials (approximately 2 min each)

- a. Council District 2 – Abkar Kalantarians abkar.kalantarians@lacity.org
(213) 951 2191
- b. Council District 4 – Taleen Keuroghlian taleen.keuroghlian@lacity.org
- c. Council District 6 – Paulina Alvarado paulina.alvarado@lacity.org (818) 778-4999
- d. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – John Darnell
john.darnell@lacity.org
- e. Mayor’s office – Genesis Discus genesis.discus@lacity.org
- f. LAUSD Board District 3, Scott Schmerelson scott.schmerelson@lausd.net
- g. Los Angeles County 3rd District (Lindsay Horvath) – Karen Dominguez
KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov
- h. Assembly District 46 (Jesse Gabriel) – Clarissa Gomez Clarissa.Gomez@asm.ca.gov
- i. Senate District 20 (Caroline Menjivar) – Star Resendez Star.Resendez@sen.ca.gov
(818) 901-5588
- j. California Congressional District 29 – Cynthia Becerra
Cynthia.Becerra@email.house.gov (818) 253-3535
- k. Other government agency representatives

4. Metro Project Updates

- a. Metro staff: Construction updates regarding the ESFV Light Rail transit project – Raymond Acevedo AcevedoRa@metro.net
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding location and responsibility for the “Heart of the Valley” sign that was originally installed by the VNNC and removed by Metro from the median on Van Nuys Blvd.
- c. Metro staff: Construction updates regarding construction in Van Nuys related to G Line Improvements – Jessica Legaspi LegaspiJ@metro.net

5. Presentation by UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs team on Heat Resilience LA, a project to help identify locations in LA County that need shade interventions. Melody Ng

Background: A team of 10 UCLA professors has earned an award for a project that will combine their expertise in engineering, urban planning, public health and environmental law to address the rapid increase in the number of extreme heat days in Los Angeles. The project, called Heat Resilient L.A., will over the next two years determine where and when people moving around the city are most vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat — a problem being caused by climate change — and assess which communities most need cooling interventions. Based on their findings, the team will design new cooling structures and work with local stakeholders to determine where they should be installed.

<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/project/heat-resilient-la/>

6. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – maximum of 2 min per stakeholder (Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.)

7. Board Officer Reports

a. President

- (1) Steps to implement Bylaws amendments approved by the Board on April 8.
- (2) Student projects to study Van Nuys: (1) Community invited to attend select presentations from USC students about innovative ideas for Van Nuys at PLUM Committee on May 27 at 6:30 pm; (2) fall/spring semesters 2026/27 CSUN Urban Planning students will study topics related to Van Nuys.
- (3) Participation in May 18 (morning) at One Generation Senior Symposium.
- (4) VCC (Volunteers Cleaning Communities) is sponsoring a clean-up on Vanowen across the Valley from Topanga on May 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Does VNNC want to register a team?
- (5) Hope to have a presentation by ICON CDC at the June 10 meeting regarding economic development services and street vendor training.
- (6) Information about City Street Light Assessment District elections for property owners. Ballots due on or before June 2.
https://lalights.lacity.org/residents/prop_218.html
- (7) City Department of Animal Services offers a monthly virtual workshop with tips about what residents should know to protect themselves and their pets from local wildlife. The next webinar is on Tuesday, May 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wildlife-webinar-0>

- (8) East Valley Animal Shelter will offer an orientation on Saturday, May 23 from noon to 2 p.m. for people who are interested in fostering "bottle baby" kittens. <https://www.laanimalservices.com/bottle-baby-foster-orientation-east-valley-21>
- (9) A printed copy of VNNC General Board Meeting agendas and linked files can be reviewed in a reference notebook that is located at the Van Nuys Branch Library.
- (10) For information on upcoming local events and activities, look under the Events list on the right side of the homepage of the vnnc.org website and on the calendar.

b. Vice President/Budget Advocate

Register for Budget Day, Saturday morning, June 27

- <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/budget-day-2026>
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/neighborhood-council-budget-day-2026-tickets-1987795675375?aff=oddtcreator>

c. Other Officer Reports

8. Consent agenda

- a. Approve minutes from March 11 meeting. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/VNNC_03112026_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf
- b. Approve minutes from April 8 meeting. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/VNNC_04082026_GBM_Draft_Minutes_Final.pdf

9. **Budget and Finance Committee items that require a roll call vote.**

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the March 2026 MER. https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/VNNC_MER_March2026.pdf

Beginning Balance	Total Spent	Remaining Balance	Outstanding	Commitments	Net Available
\$26,343.64	\$5,720.06	\$20,623.58	\$966.22	\$2,500.00	\$17,157.36

- b. Update regarding proposed funds for Neighborhood Councils in Mayor’s budget.

10. **Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee Items that require a roll call vote.**

- a. Discussion and possible action: VNNC will vote to approve a letter and attachments that identify 9 (nine) priority sites for potential park creation and improvements across Van Nuys, developed through collaboration with residents and neighborhood groups and Parks Reassessment Program for more parks and open space in the Van Nuys community. See pages 6-8 for the draft letter designing nine priority sites and page 9-15 for a brief that provides more detailed information on each site.
- b. Report on impacts for Van Nuys of SB 79 implementation ordinances being considered by the Planning Commission on Thursday, May 14. Discussion and potential action to advocate for 15 foot rear setbacks for multifamily buildings. <https://planning.lacity.gov/resources/senate-bill-sb-79>

11. Discussion and possible action to appoint Ray Mandarino as Chair of the Outreach Committee.
12. Announcements and identification of topics Board members would like to discuss at a future meeting.
13. Adjournment.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by via email at: info@vnnc.org

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte a info@vnnc.org por correo electrónico para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS – VNNC agendas are posted publicly near the front door to the conference room of the Marvin Braude Constituents Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 and also online at www.vnnc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas>

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401, at our website: <http://www.vnnc.org/> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact via email: info@vnnc.org

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on the VNNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at <https://ethics.lacity.gov/lobbying/>. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath

I pledge to represent my neighborhood with dignity, integrity, and pride.
I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own.
I will respect, value, and consider everyone's opinion.
I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it.
To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.

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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Priority List for RAP - Park Assessment Program

(Draft updated: April 3, 2026)

9 Priority Project List of Potential Sites for New and Improved Parks in Van Nuys

Program Overview.

The **Park Assessment Program** is intended to identify and advance site-specific park and recreation projects located in different areas of Van Nuys. These priority projects are envisioned as actionable, place-based investments that expand park access, enhance recreational amenities, and improve environmental conditions throughout the community.

In the 2016 *Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park & Recreation Needs Assessment*, the Study Area Profile for the Van Nuys/N Sherman Oaks community (designated Area 44) covered a geographical area that included Van Nuys as well as areas just to the west and south of Van Nuys. The conclusion was that this area “has a very high park need.”

In the 2025 *Park Needs Assessment Report* prepared for the City of LA Department of Recreation and Parks the significant park needs in Van Nuys were reflected the fact that four new “prospective” parks were recommended for our area.

Priority sites should be evaluated and selected through a combination of park-deficiency analysis, documented community input, land ownership review, and feasibility assessment, with

the goal of equitably distributing park investments and addressing gaps in open-space access. Each selected project should respond to the specific needs of its surrounding neighborhood, whether through the creation of new park space, expansion of existing facilities, or adaptive reuse of underutilized public or semi-public land.

By establishing a defined list of geographically distinct projects, the *Van Nuys Neighborhood Council* Park Assessment Program moves beyond conceptual planning toward implementable outcomes, providing a clear framework for design development, funding strategies, interdepartmental coordination, and phased implementation. This site-based approach supports near- and mid-term delivery while creating visible, community-serving improvements that strengthen neighborhood identity and quality of life throughout Van Nuys.

WHEREAS, the Van Nuys community continues to experience population growth and increased residential development, resulting in greater demand for parks, open space, and recreational amenities; and

WHEREAS, several areas within Van Nuys are identified as park-deficient, lacking adequate access to open space within a reasonable walking distance; and

WHEREAS, residents and neighborhood groups have actively advocated for increased park access and green space, including organized community efforts such as the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective, which has submitted approximately 70 letters of support for the creation of new neighborhood parks; and

WHEREAS, the identification of priority sites should remain flexible and responsive on an ongoing basis, allowing for updates based on funding availability, project readiness, land opportunities, and evolving community needs; and

WHEREAS, the identification of nine priority sites establishes a clear, actionable, and implementation-ready framework to expand park access and improve quality of life in Van Nuys;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council supports the Park Assessment Program and the identification of the following nine priority sites for park creation, expansion, and improvement:

1. 6461 Columbus Avenue Vacant Lots (Kester Ridge Area)
2. Van Nuys Civic Center – Public Realm and Open Space Enhancements
3. City-Owned Parking Lots near Van Nuys Civic Center – Mixed-Use Open Space, Affordable Housing, and Community Uses
4. Delano Park Expansion and Enhancement - Existing park for capital improvements and expansion
5. 13840 Sherman Way - Vacant Lot
6. 15321-15333 Archwood Street Vacant Lot

7. 6830 Woodman Avenue Park Improvements
8. 14842 Sylvan Street - Parking Lot next to Historical Landmark Building - Women's Club
9. Transit-Oriented Incentive Areas (SB 79)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council recommends that Council District 6, in coordination with relevant City departments, including the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of City Planning, evaluate the feasibility, acquisition, design, and implementation of the identified priority sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City be requested to assess available and projected Quimby Act park fee funds generated within Van Nuys and prioritize reinvestment of those funds within the same communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City explore multi-benefit development strategies on appropriate sites, including the integration of open space with affordable housing and opportunities for local micro-businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continued community engagement be prioritized to ensure park projects reflect neighborhood needs and priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is submitted **with attached documentation** outlining the detailed nine-priority project list, site descriptions, and supporting community input, including letters from neighborhood organizations, for reference and review by Council District 6, the Mayor's Office, and relevant City departments.

Vote Count

Yes: ____

No: ____

Abstain: ____

Adopted by the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council on: _____

Signature

President, Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

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Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Priority List Brief for Park Assessment Program

(Draft updated: April 3, 2026)

Proposed Priority Sites for Assessment

1. Columbus Avenue Vacant Lots (Kester Ridge Area)

Location:

6461 N. Columbus Avenue (two contiguous parcels)

Parcel Information:

APNs: 2235-001-021 & 2235-001-022

Total Lot Size: Approximately 14,997 sq. ft. (≈15,000 sq. ft.)

Dimensions: Approx. 250 'x 60'

Current Use: Vacant land

Potential Park Uses:

- Neighborhood dog park
- Children's play area / pocket park
- Green open space/ canopy; reintroducing native trees/ rewilding

- Gardens
- Gate and fence for security and safety on off hours.

Community Support:

This site has received documented support from the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective, including approximately **70 letters from residents** advocating for the creation of neighborhood green space. This level of engagement reflects a clear and organized community priority for park access, environmental enhancement, and local recreation amenities.

In addition to the approximately 70 letters of support from residents, the Kester Ridge Neighborhood Collective has also **submitted letters and engaged in outreach to park advocacy organizations**, including the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), expressing interest in partnership opportunities to advance park development in the neighborhood. This coordinated effort demonstrates a proactive, community-led approach to securing resources and advancing implementation of new green space.

Funding Context:

The surrounding area has experienced significant residential development, particularly along Sepulveda Boulevard, generating **Quimby Act park fees, upcoming grants or donations** are intended to mitigate increased park demand. These locally generated funds should be evaluated for reinvestment into this site and other qualifying park projects within Van Nuys. Kester Ridge Neighborhood has initiated their contact with the Neighborhood Land Trust and Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) on the interest in bringing parks to their neighborhood.

2. Van Nuys Civic Center – Public Realm and Open Space Enhancements

Location:

Van Nuys Civic Center area

Project Context:

A possible preparation for the **2028 Olympic Games**, the Civic Center represents a high-visibility opportunity to enhance public space, pedestrian comfort, and civic identity.

Potential Improvements:

- Tree replacement and urban canopy expansion
- Urban shade and heat mitigation strategies
- Benches, seating areas, and pedestrian amenities
- Kiosks and wayfinding elements
- Promote arts to the area with music, markets, installations and events.

Implementation Considerations:

- Interdepartmental coordination through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

- Alignment with Olympic readiness, accessibility, and long-term maintenance plans

3. Conversion of City-Owned Parking Lots to Open Space, Affordable Housing, and Community-Serving Uses

Potential Locations:

14401 Friar Street (Lot 601)
14521 Friar Street (Lot 609)
14532 Gilmore Street (Lot 610)
14607 Sylvan Street (Lot 620)
14517 Erwin Street (Lot 630)
14402 Gilmore Street (Lot 631)

Project Concept

Evaluate the feasibility of transforming underutilized or surplus City-owned parking lots into **mixed-use community assets** that integrate:

- Open space and pocket parks
- Affordable housing opportunities
- Micro-business and small-scale commercial incubator spaces

Rather than viewing these parcels solely as parking assets, the assessment should examine their potential to function as **multi-benefit sites** that support housing production, economic development, and public realm improvements in tandem.

Potential Program Elements

- **Ground-level open space or publicly accessible plazas**
- **Affordable housing units**, particularly near transit corridors
- **Live-work or small-format commercial spaces**
- **Micro-retail kiosks or start-up incubator spaces for local entrepreneurs**
- **Flexible community gathering areas**

Assessment Focus

- Parking utilization and operational impacts
- Zoning and density feasibility
- Compatibility with transit-oriented development policies
- Public-private partnership models
- Integration of Quimby Act funds for open space components

- Phased development strategies
- Long-term maintenance and management structures

Community and Economic Benefit

This strategy aligns housing production with neighborhood-serving open space while supporting **local economic resilience through micro-enterprise opportunities**. By leveraging City-owned land, Van Nuys can advance equitable development that addresses housing demand, supports small business formation, and improves access to green space within the same footprint.

Background

City-owned properties identified within the priority site list, including underutilized parking lots and public parcels, are currently subject to or recommended for further assessment and reporting to evaluate feasibility for park development, open space conversion, and potential multi-benefit uses by an outside consultant.

4. Delano Park Expansion and Enhancement

Location:

Delano Park, with focus on southern expansion toward the bike path.

Project Scope:

- Expansion of park boundaries southward
- Tree planting and urban shade improvements
- Enhancement of active and passive recreation areas

Potential Amenities:

- Additional basketball and racquetball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Bocce ball field and other fields in engaging the community
- Seating and gathering spaces
- Additional parking spaces

Community Benefit:

This project would increase capacity at an existing park, support active recreation for multiple age groups, and strengthen connectivity to adjacent bicycle infrastructure.

5. Sherman Way Vacant Lot

Location:

13840 W. Sherman Way

Lot Size:

Approximately 44,908.8 sq. ft.

Current Use:

Vacant land

Potential Uses:

- Neighborhood park or green space
- Passive recreation, gardens, picnic and seating areas.
- Tree canopy expansion and stormwater-friendly landscaping

Assessment Considerations:

This site offers a larger footprint suitable for flexible programming and could serve as a new open-space asset in a park-deficient area, subject to ownership verification, community support, environmental review, and funding feasibility.

6. Archwood Street Vacant Lot

Location:

15321–15333 Archwood Street

Lot Size:

Approximately 20,266 sq. ft.

Current Use:

Vacant land

Potential Uses:

- Neighborhood park or green space
- Passive recreation and seating areas
- Tree canopy expansion and stormwater-friendly landscaping

Assessment Considerations:

This site offers a larger footprint suitable for flexible programming and could serve as a new open-space asset in a park-deficient area, subject to ownership verification, environmental review, and funding feasibility.

7. Woodman Park Improvements

Location:

6830 Woodman Avenue

Current Use:

Existing park with potential underutilized areas

Potential Enhancements:

- Expanded tree canopy and shade
- Passive recreation and seating improvements
- Upgraded landscaping and stormwater features
- Programming enhancements to increase park activation

Assessment Considerations:

Focus on maximizing existing park assets through targeted improvements and environmental upgrades.

9. Sylvan Street Park Opportunity

Location:

14842 Sylvan Street

Current Use:

Parking lot next to *LA Historic Cultural Monument Van Nuys Woman's Club Building* with potential to underutilize portion of the area for park and recreation, and open space

Lot Size:

Approximately 7,499.8 sq. ft.

Potential Enhancements:

- Expanded tree canopy and shade
- Passive recreation and seating improvements
- Upgraded landscaping and stormwater features
- Programming enhancements to increase park activation

Assessment Considerations:

Focus on producing more park assets targeted at Van Nuys Transit Oriented Incentive Area and environmental upgrades next to **Van Nuys Woman's Club Building** - date built: 1917 - LA Historic Cultural Monument No. 201.

9. SB 79 Transit-Oriented Neighborhood Opportunities

Location:

Transit-oriented areas subject to increased residential density near major transit stops

Current Use:

Varies

Potential Strategy:

As additional housing is introduced near transit, identify opportunities for:

- Pocket parks and plaza spaces
- Tree canopy expansion
- Pedestrian-oriented open space improvements
- Walkability and shade enhancements

Assessment Considerations:

Coordinate park planning with transit-oriented development to ensure that increased density is balanced with accessible open space and climate-responsive public realm design.

Funding and Implementation Considerations

As part of the Park Assessment Program, the City should evaluate the amount of Quimby Act park fees collected and projected from residential development within and near Van Nuys and prioritize reinvestment of those funds within the same communities generating park demand. Leveraging Quimby funds alongside Measure A resources, state grants, and interdepartmental partnerships can accelerate implementation of the identified priority projects.

Conclusion

The identification and assessment of these nine priority sites, supported by documented community input and aligned with funding mechanisms such as Quimby fees, will allow Council District 6 and the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council to strategically advance park and recreation projects that are equitable, community-driven, and implementation-ready. This framework establishes a clear path toward expanding green space and recreational amenities while responding directly to neighborhood needs in Van Nuys.