

REVISED MEETING AGENDA

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS FACILITY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION TASK FORCE

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
or soon thereafter as the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
adjourns its Regular Meeting noticed for 9:00 a.m.

Revised to include correct meeting location

Pan Pacific Park
7600 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Please Note Public Comment Will Be Taken In-Person Only

To listen to the meeting via Teleconference
Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87416494098>

Or Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting
Then Enter This Webinar ID: 874 1649 4098 AND PRESS #

LUIS SANCHEZ, CHAIR
MARIE LLOYD, COMMISSIONER

Staff:

Jimmy Kim, General Manager
Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager
Darryl Ford, Superintendent
City Attorney Representative

TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE, YOU MUST DIAL (669) 900-6833, AND ENTER 874 1649 4098 AND THEN PRESS # OR USE THE LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87416494098>. PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN IN PERSON ONLY. EACH SPEAKER WILL BE GRANTED A MAXIMUM OF 2 MINUTES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.

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 ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ETHICS COMMISSION AT (213) 978-1960 OR ethics.commission@lacity.org.

THIS AGENDA AND ITS REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: <https://www.laparks.org/commissioners/facility-task-force>.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. CURRENT BUSINESS
 - A. Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project
Discussion of Proposed Project
 - B. Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project (LARER)
Discussion of Proposed Project

October 5, 2023

C. Griffith Park Interpretive Signage
Discussion of Proposed Project

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments by the Public on Matters within Task Force Jurisdiction.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners adjourns its Regular Meeting noticed for 9:00 a.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Additional Information

Under the California State Ralph M. Brown Act, those wishing to make audio recordings of the Commission Task Force Meetings are allowed to bring tape recorders or camcorders in the Meeting.

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or any auxiliary aides and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For additional information, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 202-2640.

Information on Agenda items may be obtained by calling the Commission Office at (213) 202-2640. Copies of the Commission Task Force Agenda may be downloaded from the Department's website at www.laparks.org.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FACILITY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION TASK FORCE BRIEFING
(MEETING DATE)

Project Name: Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project

Requested Action: Provide input and feed back

Project Location: 325 N. Neptune Ave, Wilmington, CA 90744

Council District No.: 15

Project's Scope of Work:

The Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project (Project) is a collaborative and a partnering project between LA Sanitation and Environment and Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). The Project is funded by Measure W and provides benefits to both Departments. The Project proposes to implement a multi-benefit regional stormwater capture project that will improve downstream surface water quality while improving greening and recreational amenities at the Site. The Project will divert and capture stormwater runoff from an existing storm drain main at the Site. The diverted stormwater will be conveyed via a diversion structure, pretreatment structure, and stormwater pump station to a new subsurface detention tank located underneath the ballfields. The stormwater will then be discharged to the sanitary sewer system for further treatment and recycled. Upon completion of the underground work, the Park's improvements including but not limited to the following: new ballfields, sports field lighting, batting cages, new irrigation... The Project will also plant trees throughout the Site and improve adjacent streetscape.

Funding Source and Amount:

- Measure W Safe Clean Water Program – Regional Funding at \$12,183,000.

Community Outreach:

- 4 Community Outreach Events:
 - Briefing to Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on 4/18/23 (19 members were present)
 - Briefing to Wilmington Neighborhood Council on 4/25/23 (about 30 residents were present)
 - Briefing to Wilmington Rotary Club on 5/15/23 (7 members were present)
 - Informational kiosk at Council District 15 Open-House Event on 6/28/23 (Over 150 residents were present)
- Positive community feedback, the community is supportive of the Project.

Implementation of Trees / Shade:

- Approximately about 29 new trees are proposed

Plant and Tree Specifications

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FACILITY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION TASK FORCE BRIEFING
(MEETING DATE)

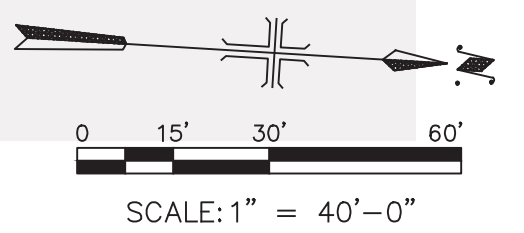
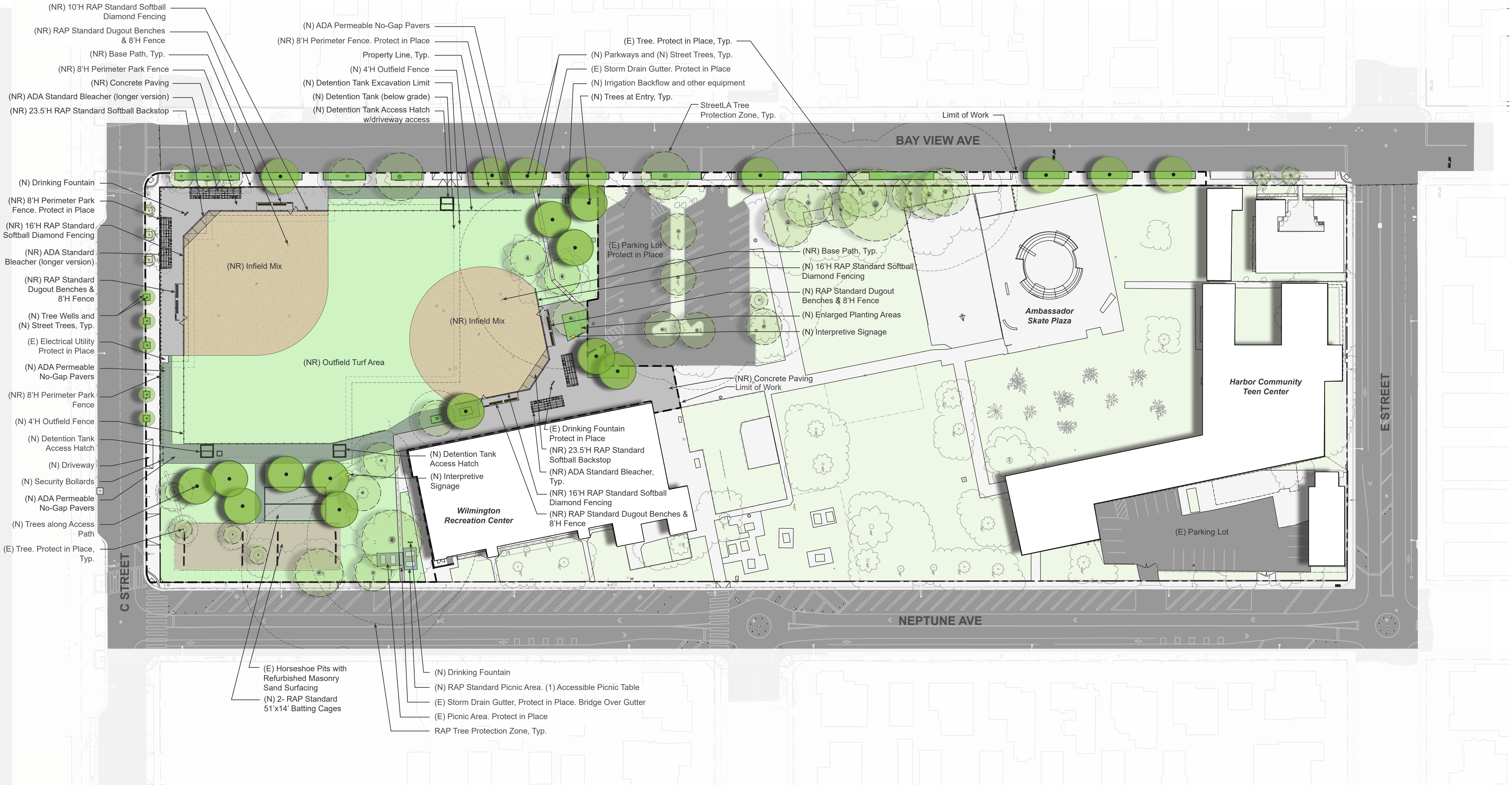
- See attached project rendering for proposed new trees. Planting palette will be developed during detailed design phase. Planting palette and tree species will be selected through coordination with RAP arborists and the community.

Additional Project Renderings or Pertinent Information

- Conceptual Landscape Site Plan.
- Enlarged Plan Softball Field Layouts

LEGEND

- (E) Existing
- (N) Construct New Addition
- (NR) Construct New Replacement



P:\8720 Wilmington_Greening_04Dwg\21\05h\105-62 Landscape Site Plan.dwg July 12, 2023 - 11:09am jproszk

REV	DATE	BY	CHK	APP	DESCRIPTION

DESIGNED BY	
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
DATE	

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING

1149 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 700, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015

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CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE SITE PLAN

TOS-62 WILMINGTON PRE-DESIGN REPORT

JOB NO.	CWR0798
DRAWING NO.	
SCALE	
SHEET NO.	SHEET 1 OF 2

City of Los Angeles Safe Clean Water Program



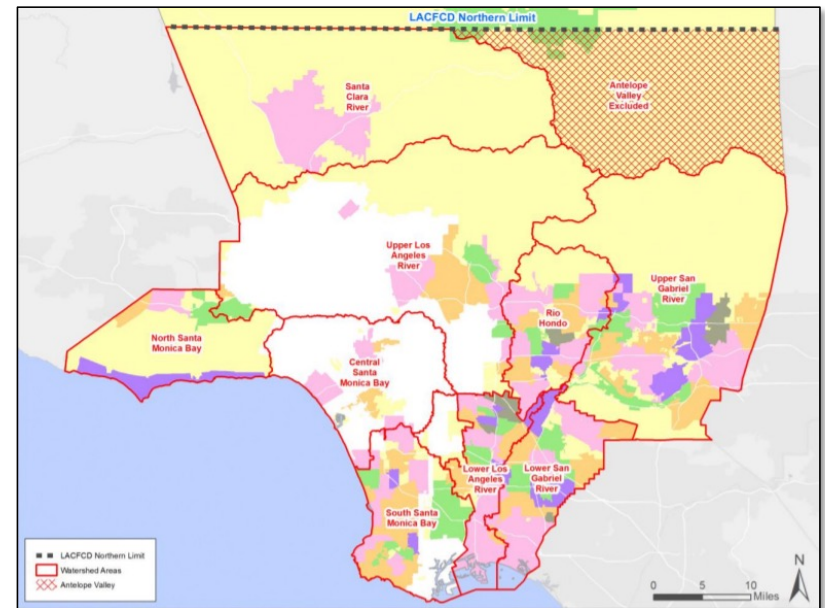
Rec & Parks Task Force Meeting
DATE

Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project



Safe Clean Water Program

- LA County voters passed Measure W in 2018 to establish the Safe Clean Water Program.
- The program generates approximately \$285 million annually for multi-benefit projects that will improve water quality and capture stormwater.
- Program includes funding for municipalities and a regional competitive grant program for LA County's nine watersheds.



Safe Clean Water Program

Water Quality Compliance

- Protect water quality
- Protect rivers, lakes, and bays
- Assist in compliance with federal, state, and local water quality mandates



Water Supply & Resilience

- Reduce LA's reliance on imported water
- Develop new water supplies



Community Investments

- Invest in disadvantaged communities
- Create more green space
- Environmental justice
- Flood protection
- Create jobs for local workforce

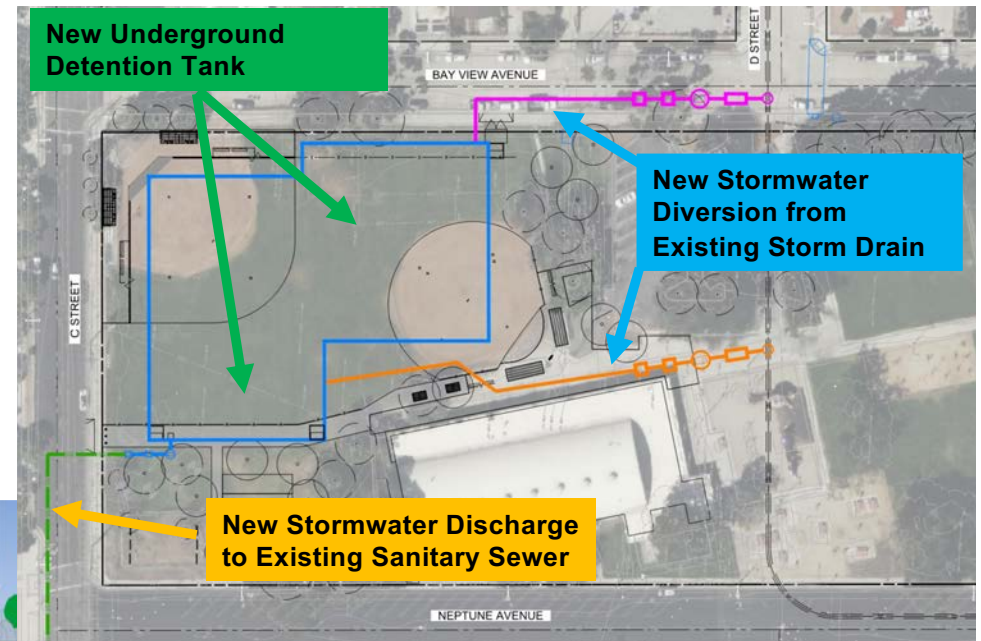
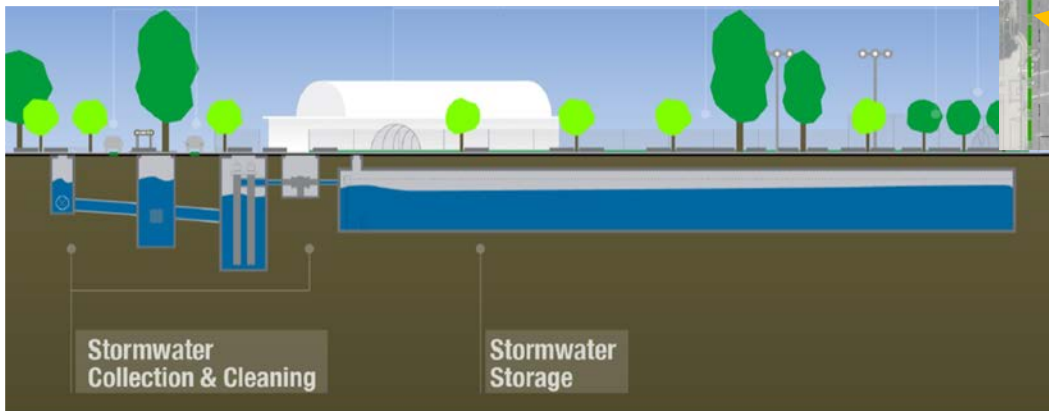


Scope of Work – Overview

The Wilmington Neighborhood Greening Project is designed to help manage & treat stormwater, manage rainwater, and provide park improvements to the Wilmington Recreation Center Park.

Project Components include:

- Installation of a stormwater collection & cleaning system
- Installation of a stormwater storage tank underneath the existing Baseball diamond
- Addition of structures to send the treated stormwater into the existing sewer system for more treatment
- Restoration and improvements at the Park and surrounding streets

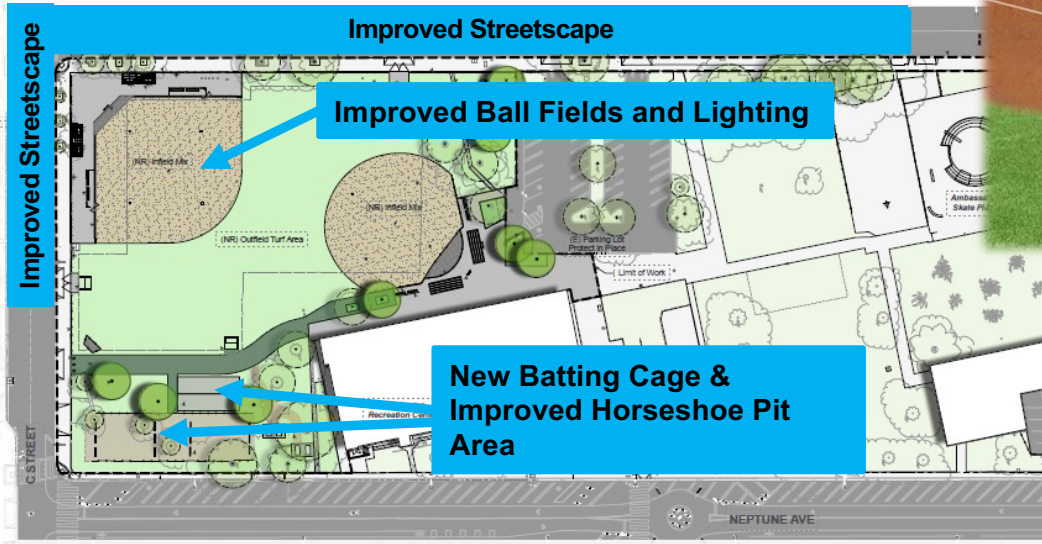


Scope of Work – Park Improvements

After our work is complete, the impacted areas of the Park will be restored, and selected improvements will be added to enhance the public's enjoyment of the space.

Key Improvements to the Park and surrounding area will include:

- Improved Ball Fields
- Improved Ball Field Lighting
- New Batting Cage
- Improved Horseshoe Pit Area
- Improved Streetscape, including educational signage and greening elements on both Bay View Avenue & C Street



Impacts to Park During Construction

This project will construct an approximately 2-million gallon stormwater storage tank (equivalent to approximately 3 Olympic-size swimming pools) beneath the existing baseball field at the Park.

During this work, the field will be out of service for safety reasons. Once construction is complete, the storage tank will be undetectable above ground, and will not interfere with operations of the baseball field.

- The construction impacting use of the Baseball field is expected to begin in Summer of 2025, with completion anticipated in Summer 2027.
- The project will keep the Rec Center building open and operational as needed.
- The parking lot may be partially impacted to accommodate construction.
- Notification will be made the community ahead of this construction.
- The project's outreach team will share all notices with RAP staff so that they may also distribute to their contacts.



Community Benefits

This multi-benefit project enhances the community with important water quality advancements and improvements to the Park and surrounding area.

- Cleaner stormwater in the area, and reduced pollutants in the watershed
- Investment in cleaner water for the future
- Park improvements that can be enjoyed by community members of all ages
- Educational signage to encourage learning about our water and environment
- Additional trees and landscaping to improve neighborhood green space



Design and Construction Schedule

	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027			
Phase	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Pre-Design	Active	Active																		
Design Development and Permitting			Active	Active	Active	Active	Active													
Bid and Award								Active	Active											
Construction										Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active		

Community Outreach and Public Engagement

LASAN's Outreach Team and Outreach Consultant Lee Andrews Group will develop a custom strategy to inform the community about construction updates:

- Identify stakeholders and challenges
- Hold stakeholder briefings & gather feedback
- Bilingual collateral materials distributed and mailed
- Provide email/social media updates
- Use on-site signage with hotline
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify community concerns, and answer any questions they have
- Pop-up event at community events to maximize engagement with local residents & businesses
- Respond to any community concerns or questions within 24 hours



COT Canvassing in the Community

Community Outreach and Public Engagement

Winter-Spring 2023



Meetings with key Stakeholders groups:

- CD15 (2/28)
- Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
- Wilmington(4/18) Neighborhood Council (4/25)
- Rotary Club of Wilmington (5/15)

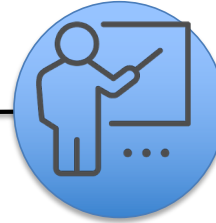
Spring - Summer 2023



1ST Community Open House Meeting (6/28, Bilingual)

- Direct outreach, canvassing to promote the event
- Distribution of Information
- Partnership with stakeholder groups and CD 15

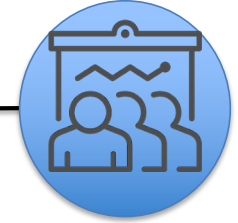
Summer – Fall 2023



Second Project Update Briefing with stakeholder groups:

- CD15
- Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
- Wilmington Neighborhood Council
- Rotary Club of Wilmington

Fall 2023



2nd Community Open House Meeting (Bilingual) & Pop-up Events

- Direct outreach, canvassing
- Distribution of Information
- Partnership with stakeholder groups

THANK YOU!

Allison Arnold & Lori Garcia

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lori.garcia@lacity.org

Alma Marquez (Español)

Phone: (562) 922-3564

E-Mail: almarquez@leeandrewsgroup.com

**LA Sanitation and Environment's Mission:
"Protect Public Health and the Environment"**

QUESTIONS?

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FACILITY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION TASK FORCE BRIEFING
October 5, 2023

- Project Name: Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project (LARER)
- Requested Action: FYI on this future project PPA and initial work
- Project Location: 11-mile stretch of the LA River (River) from Griffith Park to Downtown LA and is segmented into eight (8) project “reaches” or sections (Figure 1). The project area includes some RAP lands where construction access will be sought and future O&M addressed.
- Scope of Work: The LARER project was initiated in 2006 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the City as local sponsor, known to some as the ARBOR project or Alt 20. The project will restore 700+ acres of habitat value by establishing native plant habitats in and along the River, focusing on riparian plant communities, wetlands, native upland habitats, and improved recreation access to the River, while maintaining existing levels of flood risk management. The project is a joint effort between the USACE and the City, as the local non-federal sponsor, with an estimated cost of \$1.99 billion.

In June 2016 (C.F. 14-1158-S2), the City Council adopted the LARER Final Integrated Feasibility Report and “Recommended Plan” (or Project), which includes the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for which the City of Los Angeles (City) is the Non-federal Sponsor (Sponsor).

Since 2016, the City has worked on Pre-Engineering and Design work including includes completing baseline information including historic resources, hydrology and hydraulic modeling, topographic survey work, other land evaluations and conceptual design for elements of Reach 1 and Reach 6.

In early 2022, Congress gave the project a “construction new start” funding to proceed toward implementation, with an initial allocation of \$28 million. These funds become available to use by the USACE upon signing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) between the City and USACE.

The PPA is the general governance document for the implementation of the project and outlines the working relationship between the City and USACE regarding commitments for the project including the real estate acquisition, providing construction access to City owned lands, remediation of project used land, USACE delivered and City “In-Kind” delivered work and credit, and the expected cost share of the project. The PPA provides a structure to implement the LARER project in phases subject to future council and board actions. City and USACE staff have worked together to develop the PPA for more than a year and incorporate comments from City departments and City Attorney where feasible by the USACE.

The Project includes public and private land that the City is responsible for providing access for the construction of the project. This includes City owned property that is managed by Recreation and Parks. City lands will be retained by the City and the feasibility report considered that existing uses can remain with the addition of habitat and recreation. The project is at a feasibility level and following the signature of the PPA additional right-of-way design will take place and additional actions with City Department Staff, Boards and City Council will take place

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FACILITY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION TASK FORCE BRIEFING

October 5, 2023

for the detailed design, access, use and maintenance of City Lands along with the development of an interdepartmental MOU.

- All Funding Sources and Amounts: The City currently has \$43,000,000 for the initial portion of work at Reach 6 Taylor Yard and the USACE has \$28,000,000 for work starting with Reach 1 Phase A. Additional funding will be identified in a Funding and Financing Plan developed by the CAO and relevant departments.
- Community Outreach: The LARER Feasibility Study included coordination and participation with City departments extensive public and agency outreach and coordination. Over 40 meetings and outreach opportunities were held for development of the LARER project. Public involvement activities started with a 3-day planning charrette in December 2009 with participants from the USACE, Los Angeles County, City departments, resource and municipal agencies, and interested Non-Governmental Organizations, as well as local community members and consultants. Seven public workshops called “River Update Meetings” were held starting in 2007 to share information and solicit public input on implementation of the LARRMP as well as discuss development of the LARER IFR and EIS/EIR. Between June 2012 and February 2013, the City and USACE held eight workshops on focused topics related to the proposed LARER project. The City also periodically briefed the Board of Public Works (Board) and elected officials and their staff members over the course of the LARER project.

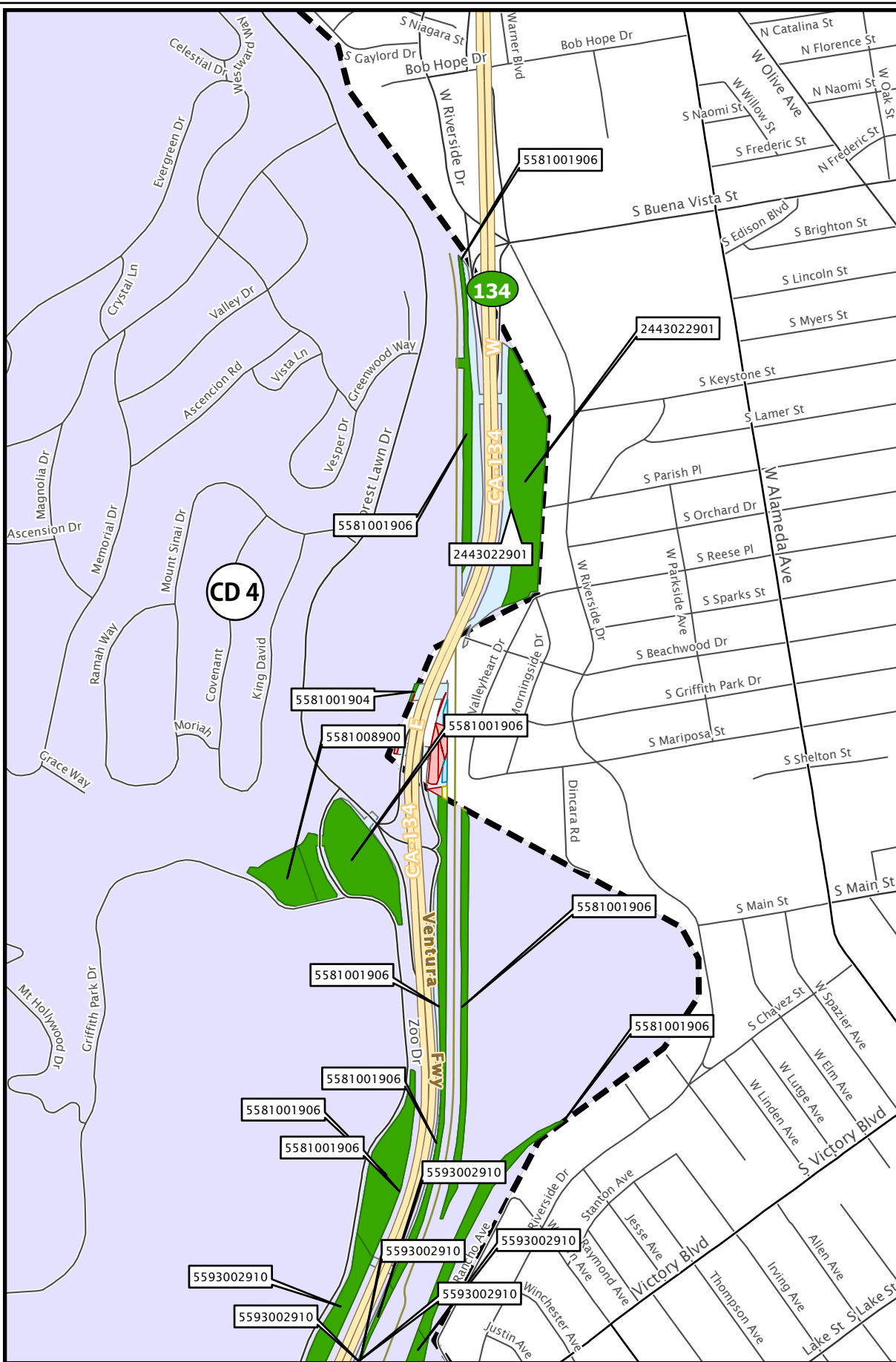
In 2013, the draft Feasibility Study was released with four alternatives with escalating scale and benefits: Alternative 10, Alternative 13, Alternative 16, and Alternative 20. During the public hearings and reviews of the LARER project there was overwhelming support (8,000 comments from the public and numerous organizations including Federal, State, and Local officials, LA and Glendale City Councils, LA County Board of Supervisors, LAUSD, LA Times Editorial Board, six state agencies, 13 local agencies, 17 key stakeholder organizations, and eight neighborhood councils) for the project to proceed with the Alternative that would deliver the largest ecosystem restoration benefit (Alternative 20) which is the plan that was selected and authorized by the City and Congress.

Additional extensive public outreach has been conducted by the City for the work at Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio in Reach 6 with the 100 Acre-Partnerships. The USACE has undertaken public outreach for the Reach 1 Phase A (Pollywog Park) efforts to date.

- Implementation of Shade: The project will include native plants and trees that can provide shade and habitat.
- Plant and Tree Specifications: The plant palette will be developed in the future stages and will include native plants and trees and those outlined in the feasibility report.

LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project

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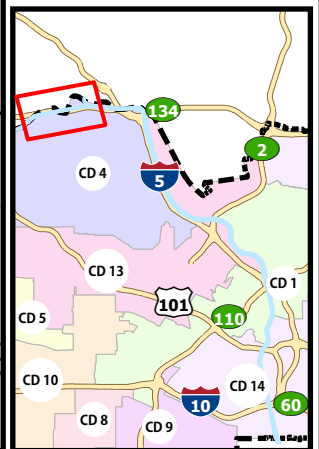
Parcel Ownership

- LA Co Flood Control District
- Other LA City
- Private
- RAP

City of Los Angeles Boundary

Council District

- 4 - Nithya Raman



Karen Bass
Mayor

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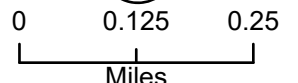
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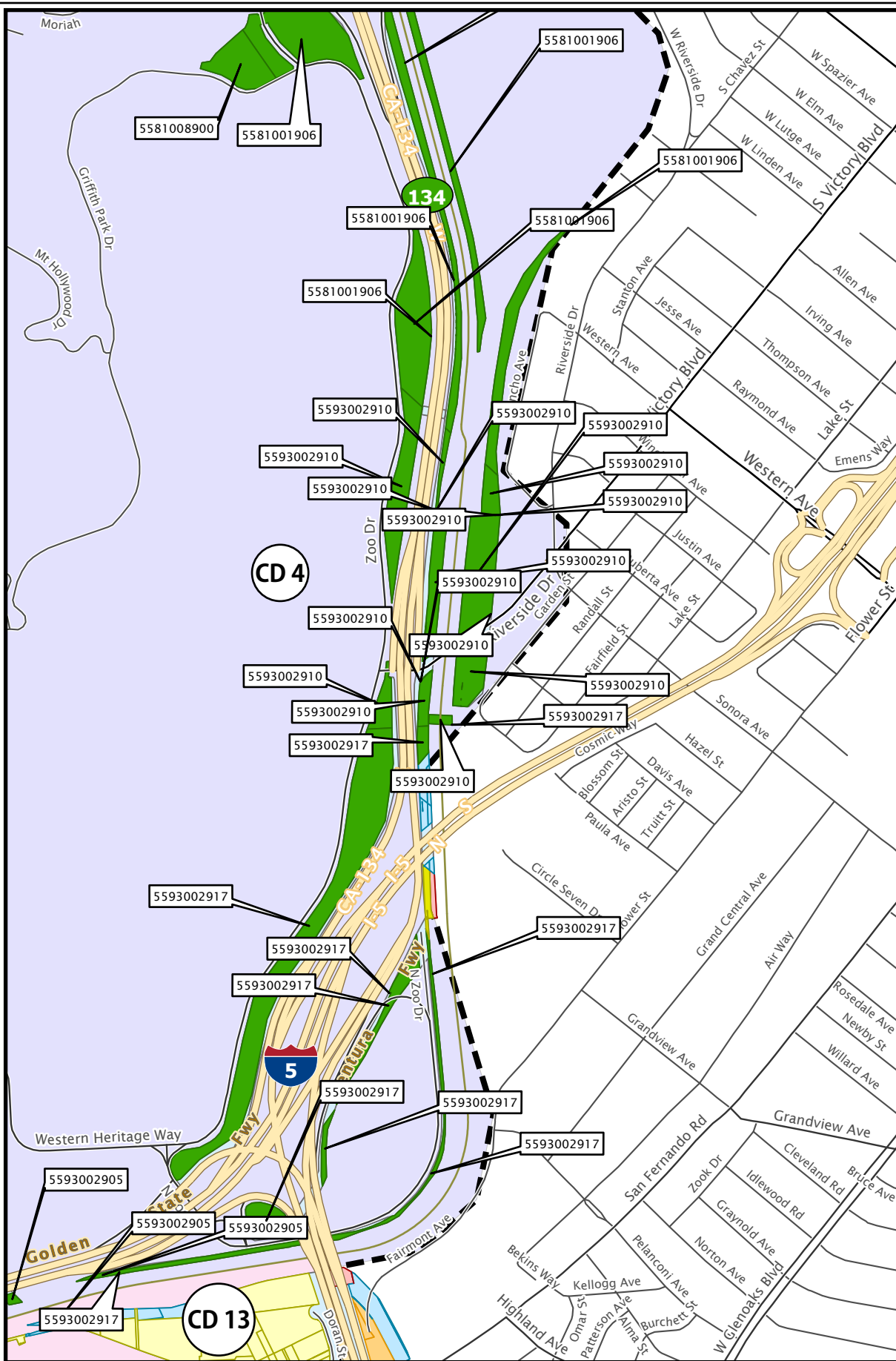
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LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project

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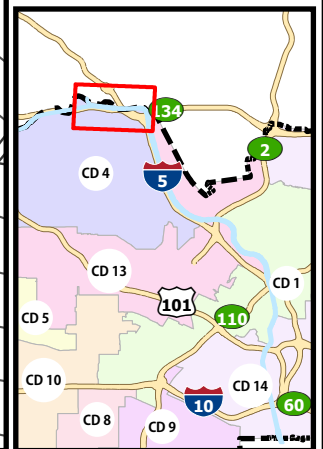
Parcel Ownership

- GSD
- Glendale City
- LA Co Flood Control Distric
- Other LA City
- Private
- RAP

City of Los Angeles Boundary

Council District

- 4 - Nithya Raman
- 13 - Hugo Soto-Martinez



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Mayor

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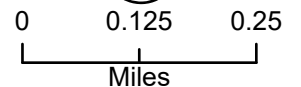


Our Rivers, Our Future

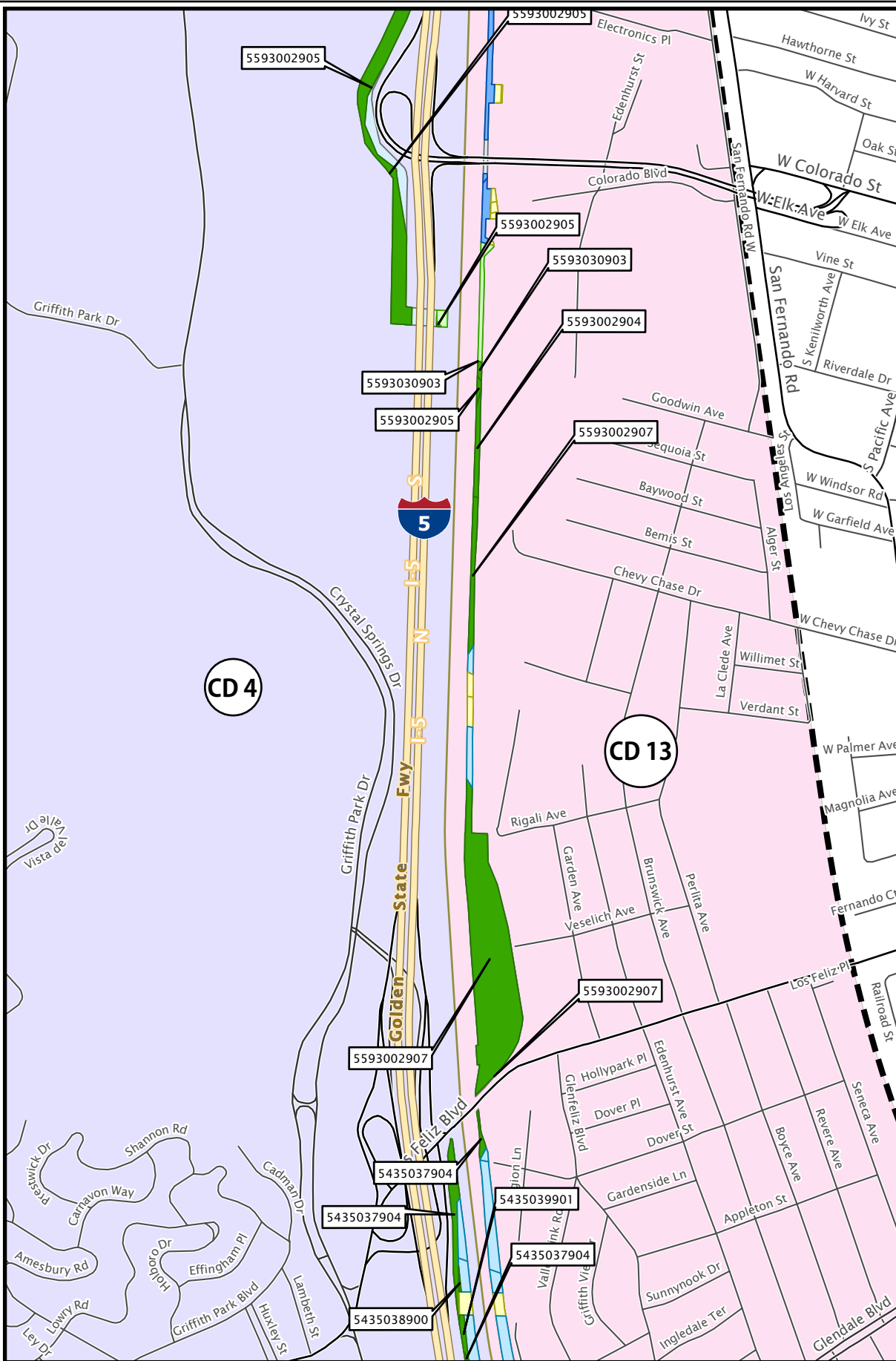
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LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project



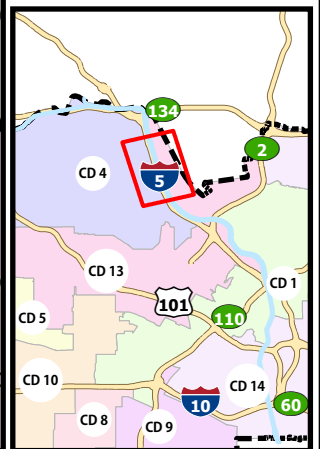
Parcel Ownership

- LA Co Flood Control District
- LADWP
- LASAN
- Private
- RAP

City of Los Angeles Boundary

Council District

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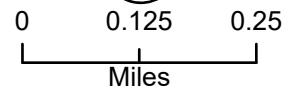
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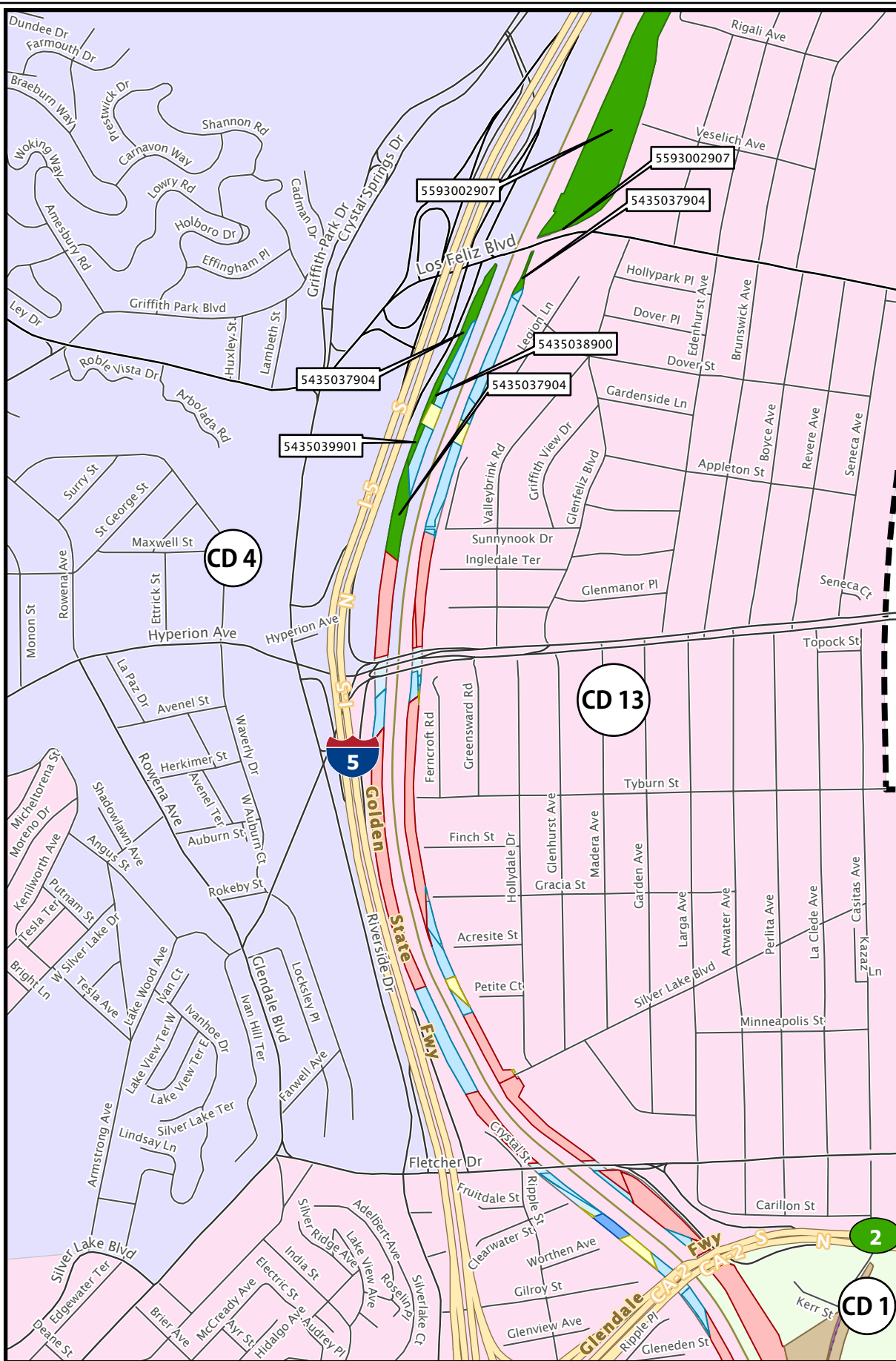
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LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project



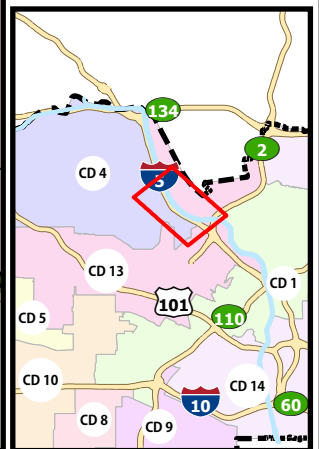
Parcel Ownership

- LA Co Flood Control District
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- Other LA City
- Private
- RAP
- Railroad
- State of California

City of Los Angeles Boundary

Council District

- 1 - Eunisses Hernandez
- 4 - Nithya Raman
- 13 - Hugo Soto-Martinez



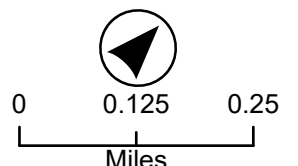
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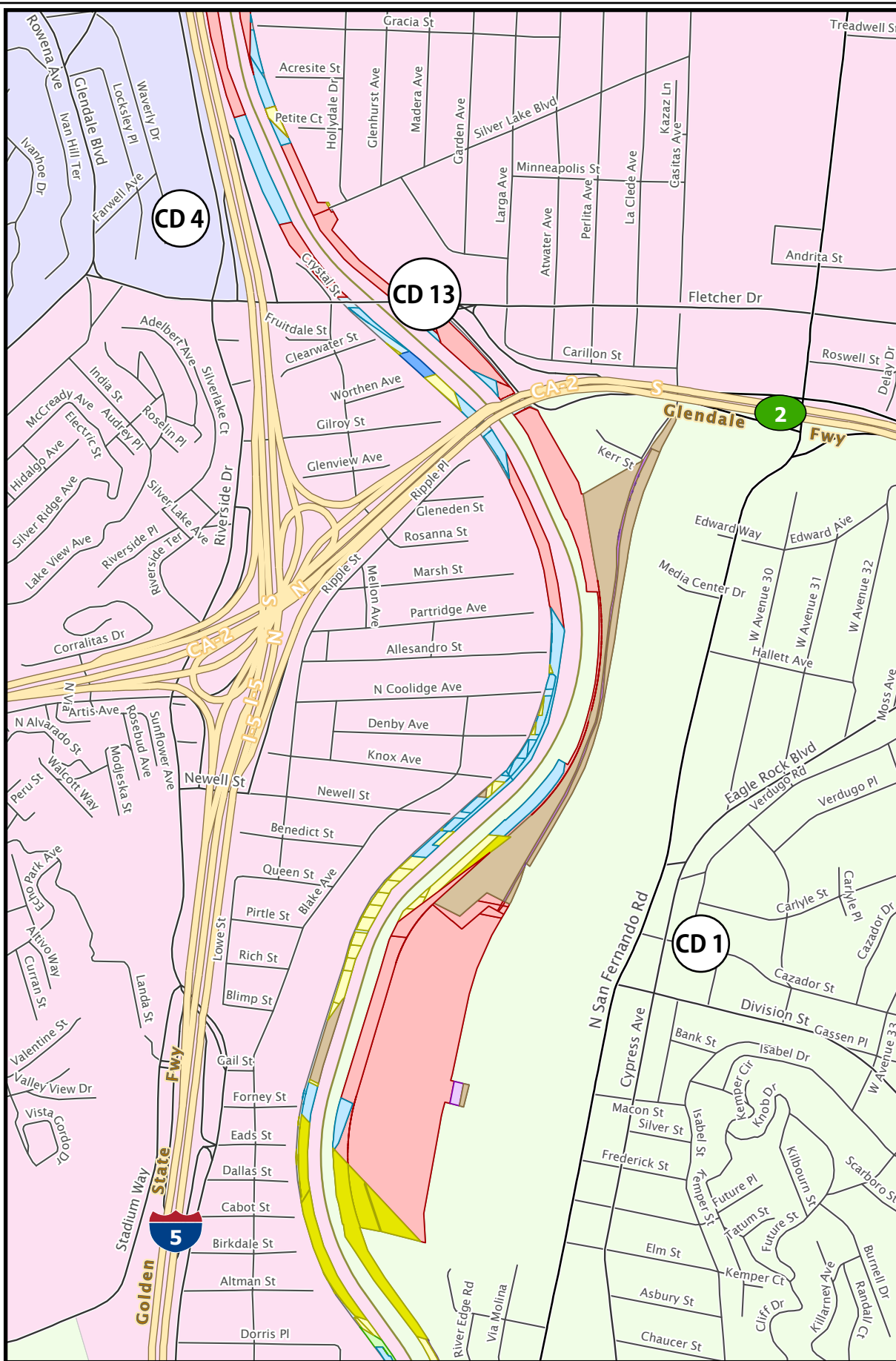


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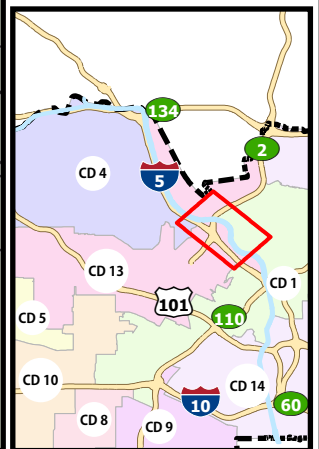
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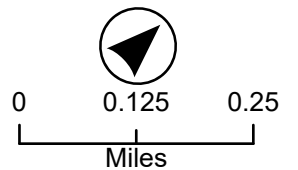
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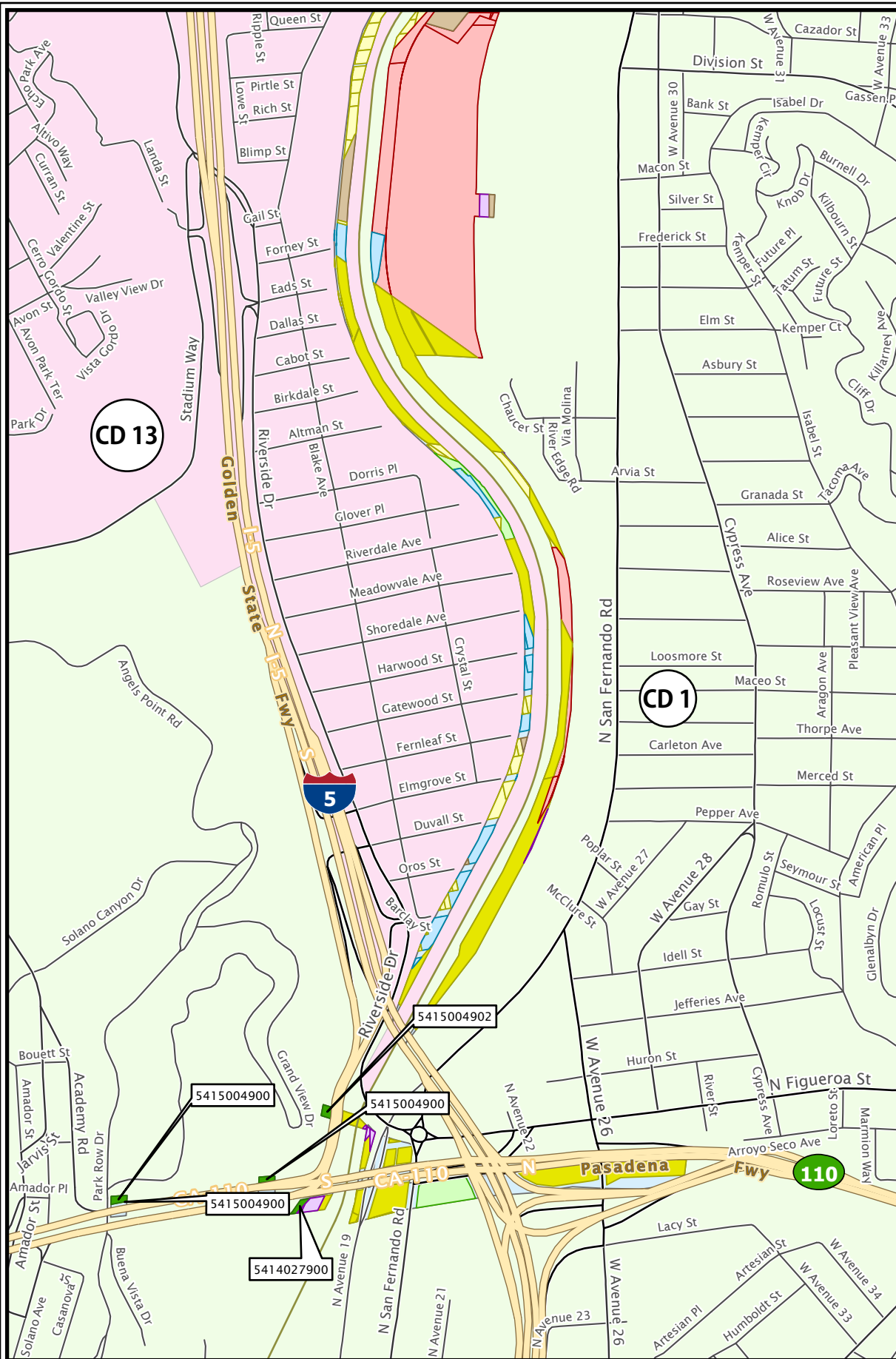
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LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project



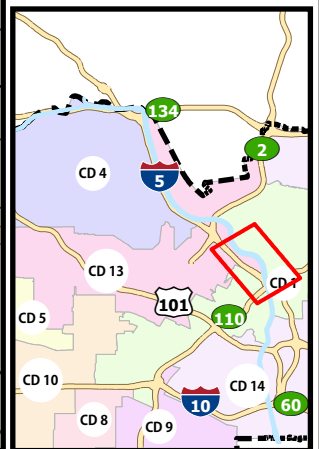
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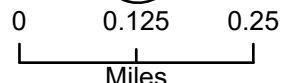
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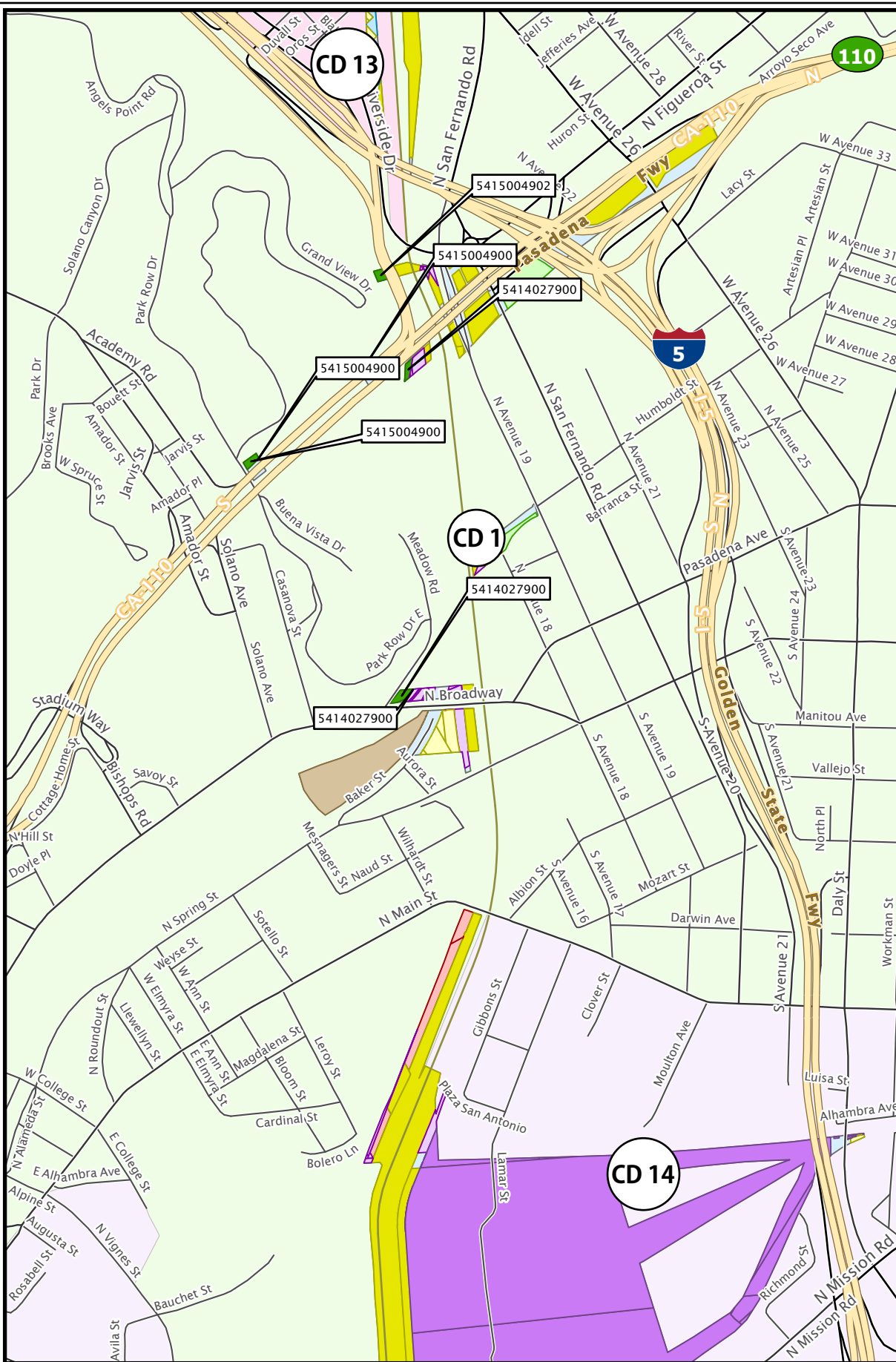
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LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project

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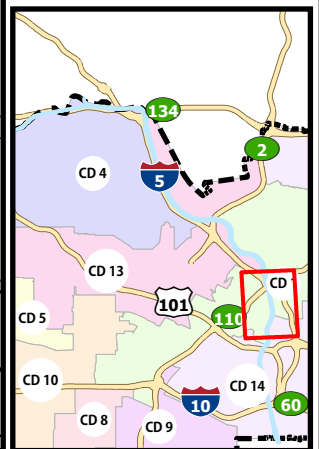
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- 13 - Hugo Soto-Martinez
- 14 - Kevin de León

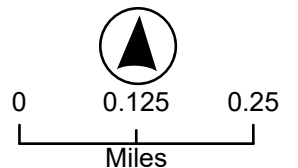


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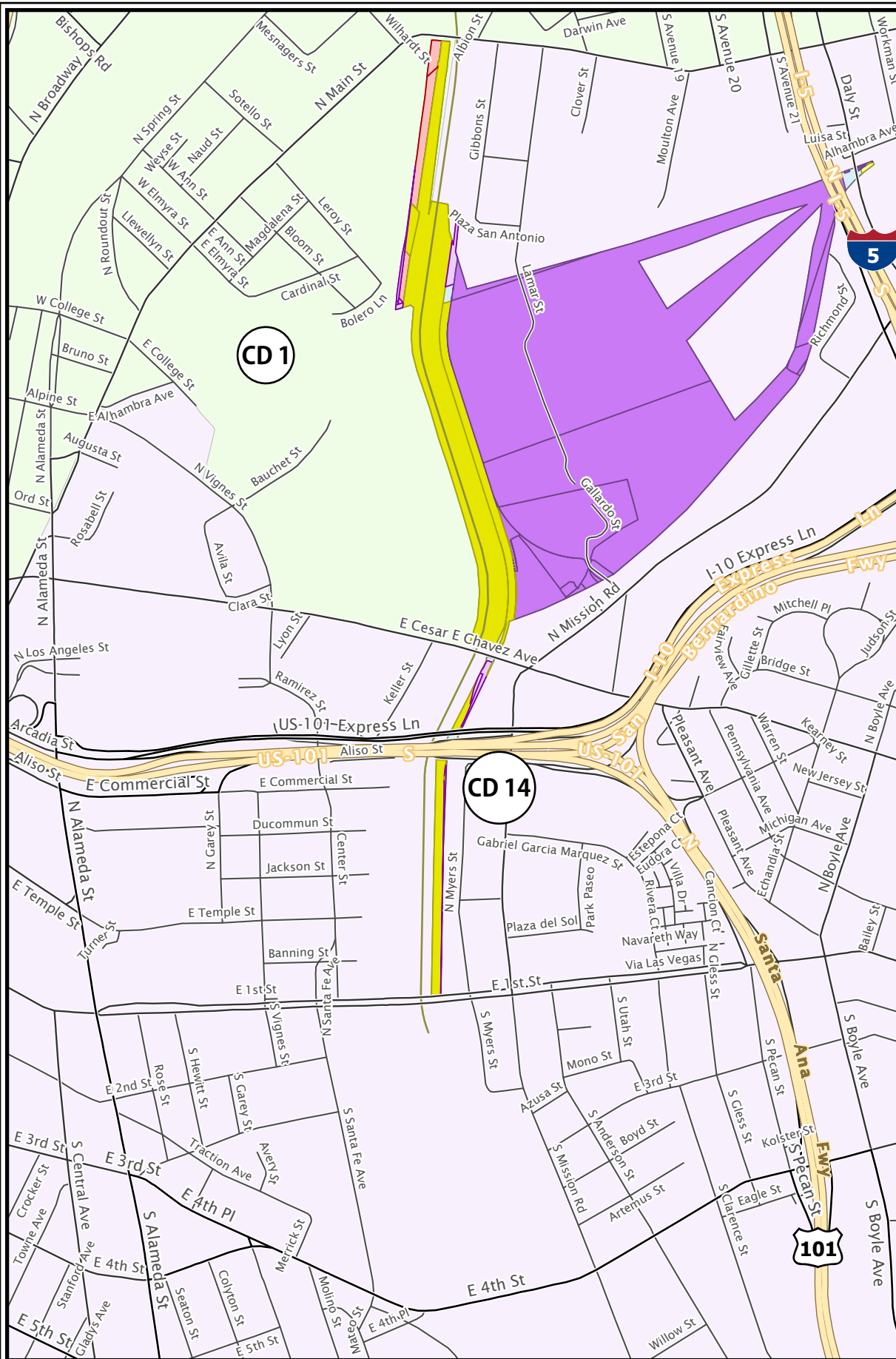
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Ted Allen, P.E.
 City Engineer



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 GIS & Mapping Division: 8/2023



LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project



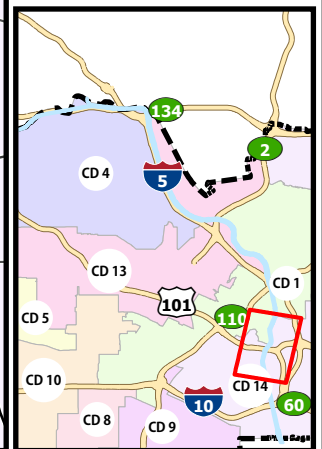
Parcel Ownership

- GSD
- Metro
- Other LA City
- Private
- Railroad

City of Los Angeles Boundary

Council District

- 1 - Eunisses Hernandez
- 14 - Kevin de León



Karen Bass
Mayor

ENGINEERING



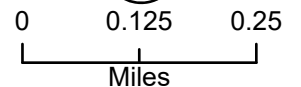
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Installation of Ten (10) Ecological Educational Signs

This report is a request to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force to accept and forward for final approval to the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners.

Council District 4

Griffith Park is known around the world as one of the gems of Los Angeles; home to the Griffith Observatory and the Greek Theatre as well as the world-famous Hollywood sign. Beyond the iconic landmarks in Griffith Park lies diverse flora and fauna that most park visitors are not aware of. The proposed educational signs are recommended to provide visitors with valuable information about the park's natural and cultural heritage, native species, geology and cultural significance as well as the importance of protecting this natural habitat. The installation of interpretive signs is essential to enhance the visitor experience, foster a deeper understanding of the park's ecological significance, and promote responsible behavior. Below is a list of signs and their proposed location, they will highlight information about the biology and ecology of each area.

- 1 – Woodland Wonder – Section 9 / Western Canyon
- 2 – Where Land Meets Water: Griffith Parks Riparian Zones – Fern Dell
- 3 – Welcome to Griffith Park – Griffith Park Visitors Center
- 4 – Bee Rock – Vista del Valle at Bee Rock
- 5 – The Varied Habitats of Griffith Park – Spring Canyon / Old Zoo
- 6 – The Park After Dark – Charlie Turner
- 7 – P22 – Griffith Park Visitors Center
- 8 – LA River – Bette Davis Park
- 9 – Griffith Park Golf Courses – Roosevelt Golf Course
- 10 – Birds of Griffith Park – Charlie Turner Overlook

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation has received a generous donation from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Foundation for ten new educational signs at significant locations throughout the park. The total donation was \$90,000 and it includes the creation, manufacturing, and installation of the ten signs.

This item was presented for public review on July 27, 2023 before the Griffith Park Advisory Board and is enthusiastically supported.

The sign installation will have no impact on trees or shade.

End of Report



Woodland Wonder

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Sign No. 96

Donated by Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust



Western gray squirrel
Sciurus griseus

What makes up a woodland habitat?

This quiet park of Griffith Park is a “woodland” and not a “forest” because the canopies of the trees are large and may touch but rarely overlap. Woodlands tend to be more open and sunlit as opposed to forests that are darker without as much sun. This canyon is home to a California sycamore - coast live oak woodland which is indicative of **riparian habitat**. There are also many wildlife species associated with this woodland such as gray foxes, also known as indicator species. The presence of these fascinating canines means that the habitat is healthy enough for them to live since they require woodland habitat.

Many plant species are also associated with woodlands in a riparian setting. A common **understory plant** of California sycamore - coast live oak woodlands is **poison oak** (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Poison oak can take many forms - a shrub, a vine, or almost tree-like but it always has leaves of three with a shiny coating. Be cautious around poison oak because it can be a skin irritant and it is found all over Griffith Park.

Gray fox is also known as an indicator species because when they are present it means that the habitat is healthy enough. They are primarily nocturnal but may forage during the day. Often called the “tree cat”, the gray fox is the only animal in the dog family that can climb trees. They climb trees to find food, sleep, or escape predators.

Other animals found in this canyon are **striped skunk**, **opossum**, **raccoon**, **coyote**, **bobcat**, **great horned owl** and the famous **mountain lion** P-22. The Department of Recreation and Park deployed camera traps in 2022 with the hiring of the first Urban Ecologist. The cameras were deployed to study wildlife use of Griffith Park Drive after the closure to vehicular traffic. Since then, the cameras have been very successful in capturing human and wildlife use of the road and the importance of having non-vehicular traffic in parts of the Park.

riparian habitats are areas immediately adjacent to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and streams

understory plants are trees or shrubs that are tolerant of shade and small enough to exist underneath the canopies of other trees or shrubs



Coyote

Mountain Lion

Mule Deer

Camera Trap Photos: Courtney McCammon · CJ Biomonitoring

Gray fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Coyote
Canis latrans

Raccoon
Procyon lotor

Poison oak
Toxicodendron pubescens



Where Land Meets Water: Griffith Park's Riparian Zones

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

What does riparian mean?

Areas immediately adjacent to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and streams - are known as **riparian**. The presence of water makes this habitat type different from an upland habitat. Riparian areas support a high abundance of plant and animal life.

Riparian areas are very different habitats from a scrub, chaparral, or desert environment. Generally, the plants and animals that can be found in riparian areas are adapted and specialized to life near or in water. Some example plants that can be found in Griffith Park include **mulefat** (*Baccharis salicifolia*), **western sycamore** (*Platanus racemosa*), and **sticky monkeyflower** (*Diplacus aurantiacus*). Various animals have been found and known to occur such as **California kingsnake** (*Lampropeltis californiae*), **western toad** (*Anaxyrus boreas*), and **alligator lizard** (*Elgaria multicarinata*).

You may find Western toads in riparian areas or in habitats near streams, marshes, creeks, and lakes to name a few. They are found in many habitats but they require still or barely moving water in order to lay their eggs. These amphibians are known to inhabit Griffith Park and breed in the springtime especially in years with higher rainfall totals. Look for them basking on rocks or logs near water in spring and summer months because during the winter they retreat to nearby habitats to crevices protecting them from the heat and cold. They may vocalize during the day and night but are primarily nocturnal during the summer months.

Griffith Park is filled with plants and wildlife but not all are native, some are non-native. Even still some are naturalized, which is an ecological phenomenon, naturalization is a process by which an exotic animal is introduced into an environment and continues to thrive and reproduce successfully.

Remember, it is illegal to dump any animals wild or domestic in any open space such as Griffith Park.

Western Sycamore
(California native)
Platanus racemosa

Philodendron
(non-native)
Philodendron selloum

California Kingsnake
(California native)
Lampropeltis californiae

Alligator Lizard
(California native)
Elgaria multicarinata

Bobcat
(California native)
Lynx rufus

Red-eared Slider
(non-native)
Trachemys scripta elegans

Western Toad
(California native)
Anaxyrus boreas

Glass Snails
(non-native)
Oxychilus draparnaudi

Red Swamp Crayfish
(non-native)
Procambarus clarkii

What is an **urban wilderness**?

An urban wilderness is a large open space in a highly populated area that maintains a high biodiversity of plant and animal life. Welcome to Griffith Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States! At over 4,310-acres, the Park is home to many cultural attractions, recreational facilities, and ecologically significant areas. It also contains intact, natural habitat that supports a wide range of native plant and animal species. Griffith Park sits in the Santa Monica Mountain range. Many people do not know that the mountain range extends west to Malibu.

Griffith Park has more than 85 trails that offer varied habitats and wildlife viewing opportunities. Spring Canyon offers a **riparian habitat** and leads to Bee Rock, the largest rock cavity habitat in the Park. Visitors can often see swallows and swifts flying high above the landscape when hiking the Bee Rock trail. Another well-traveled trail is Brush Canyon on the western side of the Park. The trail is unique in that it travels up a canyon with scrub, chaparral, and riparian habitat.

To maintain Griffith Park's vibrant biodiversity, we ask all visitors **not** to feed any wildlife, as that conditions them in a negative way. Dogs must be on leash to protect the Park's wildlife species. Visitors must stay on designated trails in order to prevent erosion and preserve the Park's natural habitat. Park roads have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Lastly, due to significant fire risk, smoking is strictly prohibited inside Griffith Park.

riparian habitat - Areas immediately adjacent to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and streams

	Stables		Freeway
	Amphitheater		Road
	Vista Point		Non-auto Road
	Picnic Area		Trail - Fire Road
	Food		Trail - Foot Path
	Drinking Water		Locked Gate
	Paved Parking		Water Tank
	Restrooms		Park Buildings
	Playground		Parkline Shuttle Stop

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Griffith Park Rules & Regulations

	No smoking anywhere in park		No unauthorized vehicles
	No bicycles on trails		No fires
	No feeding wildlife		No alcohol
	Dogs must be on leash at all times		

Stay on clearly designated trails
All plants and animals in the park are protected
Stay safe by giving horses the right-of-way

For emergencies call Park Rangers (323) 644-6661 or 911

Be prepared. Hike with plenty of water.
You are in an urban wilderness. For your safety and to protect the habitat, please stay on designated trails.

Bee Rock

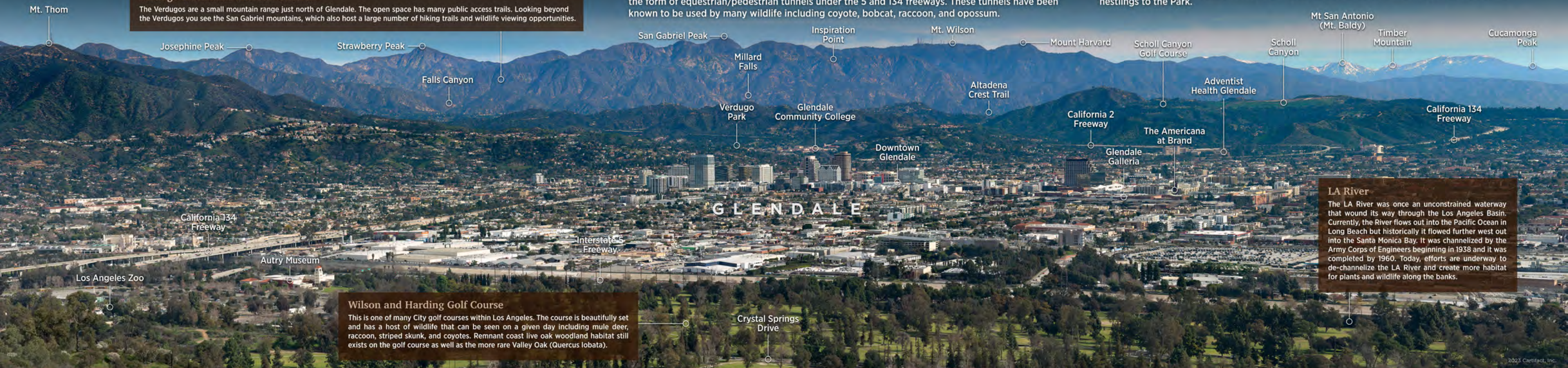
Look out beyond the rock outcrop you are standing on. What do you see?

Verdugo Mountains and San Gabriels

The Verdugos are a small mountain range just north of Glendale. The open space has many public access trails. Looking beyond the Verdugos you see the San Gabriel mountains, which also host a large number of hiking trails and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Looking out at the cityscape before you, you see a lot of development. Well, an animal sees the same thing unless we connect our large open spaces such as the San Gabriel mountains, the Verdugos, and Griffith Park. The LA River can act as a thorough-fair for many wildlife species traveling through the LA Basin as well. It is important to preserve our connectivity pathways and to encourage more wildlife crossings throughout Los Angeles. Griffith Park has some existing connectivity pathways in the form of equestrian/pedestrian tunnels under the 5 and 134 freeways. These tunnels have been known to be used by many wildlife including coyote, bobcat, raccoon, and opossum.

Every year from February 1st to July 1st, there are certain parts of the Bee Rock trail that are closed including the "catwalk". This closure began in 2020 to protect the Peregrine Falcons that have chosen Bee Rock as a nesting site since that year. Seasonal closures of nesting habitat is a common and very successful habitat maintenance activity used throughout the United States. For Griffith Park, the closure has ensured the success of the Peregrine Falcon nest and each year it brings new nestlings to the Park.



Wilson and Harding Golf Course

This is one of many City golf courses within Los Angeles. The course is beautifully set and has a host of wildlife that can be seen on a given day including mule deer, raccoon, striped skunk, and coyotes. Remnant coast live oak woodland habitat still exists on the golf course as well as the more rare Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*).

LA River

The LA River was once an unconstrained waterway that wound its way through the Los Angeles Basin. Currently, the River flows out into the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach but historically it flowed further west out into the Santa Monica Bay. It was channelized by the Army Corps of Engineers beginning in 1938 and it was completed by 1960. Today, efforts are underway to de-channelize the LA River and create more habitat for plants and wildlife along the banks.

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species. For your safety and to protect the environment, please stay on designated trails.



The Varied Habitats of Griffith Park

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Sign No. 100

Donated by Griffith J.Griffith Charitable Trust

Rock outcrops

There are not many rock outcrops within Griffith Park but one of the most iconic hikes and look out points in the Park happens to be a large rock outcrop. Bee Rock sits above Spring Canyon and offers sweeping views of Glendale and the Verdugo Mountains. However, it also serves as a home for Peregrine falcons, Red-tailed hawks, Canyon wrens and a host of plant species.

Large and small mammals likely use the rock outcrops as well for cover and to den during the day. Other rock outcrops exist in the Park on a smaller scale in Bronson Canyon and Brush Canyon. As a unique habitat type, it should be preserved as much as possible for humans, wildlife, and plants alike!

Red-tailed hawk
Buteo jamaicensis

Chaparral

This habitat type is very common throughout Griffith Park and is the dominant habitat community. Often, chaparral is characterized by large, tall shrubs such as toyon, laurel sumac, California-lilac, and scattered coast live oaks. Often, you will see this habitat type on the shadier, north-facing slopes within the Park such as in Fern Canyon or along the Bee Rock trail. The chaparral in the Park is often great cover for wildlife such as ground dwelling birds, small mammals, and snakes. It also provides a buffer from the nearby homes that surround Griffith Park.

Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia

Showy penstemon
Penstemon spectabilis

California lilac
Ceanothus concha

Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

California Poppy
Eschscholzia californica

Beavertail cactus
Opuntia basilaris

California honeysuckle
Lonicera ciliosa

Western gray squirrel
Sciurus griseus

Western fence lizard
Sceloporus occidentalis

Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus

Riparian / Stream

There are many stream and riparian systems within Griffith Park serving an essential function of carrying water and supporting a unique ecosystem. For example, Oak Canyon, Spring Canyon, Fern Dell, and Brush Canyon are all examples of streams and riparian systems that can be visited by the public. The dominant vegetation community along our streams and riparian systems is either a sycamore woodland or an oak-sycamore woodland.

These vegetation communities support a diverse wildlife community including birds, large and small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Most of the streams in Griffith Park are classified as ephemeral, which means that there is water present during, and for a short time after rainfall. Ephemeral streams can still support a healthy riparian habitat, which can be found all over the Park!



The Park After Dark

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Sign No. 101

Donated by Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust



Great horned owl

This predator thrives when hunting at night looking for small mammals in the darkness. Like other owls, they are capable of “silent flight” because of the shape and design of their wings. The large ear tufts on Great Horned owls is also a helpful tool at being a nocturnal hunter because they are structured in a way that allows them to triangulate prey based on the way the sound hits the owl’s ear openings. Great horned owls are all over Griffith Park. They take over the nests of other birds like red-tailed hawks or ravens, which are also all over the Park.

Have you ever thought about what happens in the park when humans leave and the park is left to the wildlife?

Many of the animals that call Griffith Park home are actually nocturnal. **Nocturnal** is when they are active at night. An example of a nocturnal animal would be a Great horned owl. An animal that is most active during the day is considered **diurnal**.

It is essential to have this “down time” where Griffith Park is not being visited by humans. The wildlife is given the opportunity to hunt, mate, and to avoid the heat of the day in order to conserve water and resources in the body.

Bats

Little is known about the bat community in Griffith Park. In the early 2000’s, a natural history survey was conducted in Griffith Park and some common bat species were identified including Mexican free-tailed bat, Canyon bat, Big brown bat, and Western red bat. Bats are important mammalian inhabitants of Los Angeles and provide important ecosystem services such as pest control and pollination.

Coyotes

Found throughout the United States, coyotes are mammals that are primarily nocturnal and most active at night. Coyotes have a varied diet and are often considered omnivorous consuming meat, fruits, berries and they have also been known to carrion. You can often hear the calls and yips of a pack at night when they are out in Griffith Park hunting, foraging, mating, and socializing. In turn coyotes are often predated on by cougars when they are present. Humans also cause many coyote deaths through vehicle collisions and wildlife management conflicts. It is important to remember that coyotes are wild animals - do not feed them or interact with them in any way!

P-22, The Mountain Lion of Griffith Park

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

In 2011, Friends of Griffith Park initiated a study to evaluate movement of wildlife through potential corridors that may connect the Griffith Park region to neighboring natural areas. The study was called the Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study.

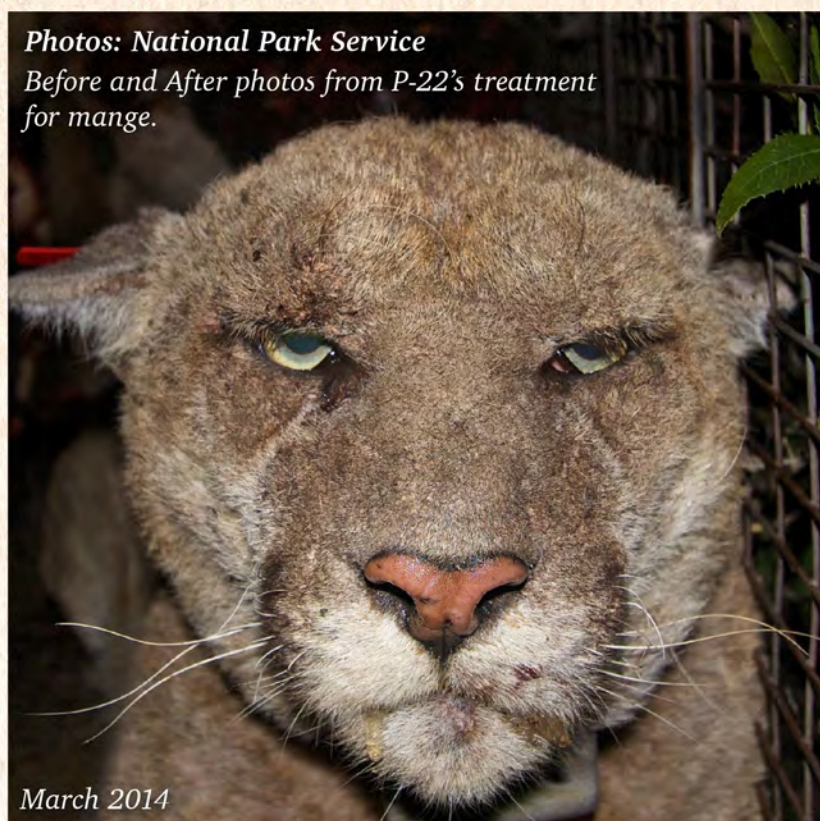
No one expected to see a mountain lion! The first image of this big cat was snapped on February 12, 2012 at 9:15pm. Everyone knew they were seeing something very special.

National Park Service biologists captured and collared the big cat as part of their study of mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains. They gave him the name P-22. The "P" stands for puma and the number means he is the 22nd cat to be studied. The mountain lion study continues today.

Genetic testing showed that P-22 was born in the western Santa Monica Mountains. This meant he made a 50 mile journey across two major Los Angeles freeways to get to Griffith Park, a remarkable achievement for a young cat that was only trying to find his own territory.

Mountain lions stay with their mothers and families for about a year before leaving home. They are solitary cats and like large areas to roam and hunt. Living in Griffith Park, P-22 had the smallest roaming territory of any known mountain lion, about 8 square miles. He lived here for more than a decade.

P-22 became a local celebrity; his image was often caught on neighborhood cameras late at night. National Geographic Magazine featured a photo of P-22 in front of the Hollywood Sign which made him a superstar. People from all over the world loved hearing stories about him. A giant cat living so close to people was a living example of co-existing with wildlife.



Photos: National Park Service
Before and After photos from P-22's treatment for mange.

March 2014

December 2015

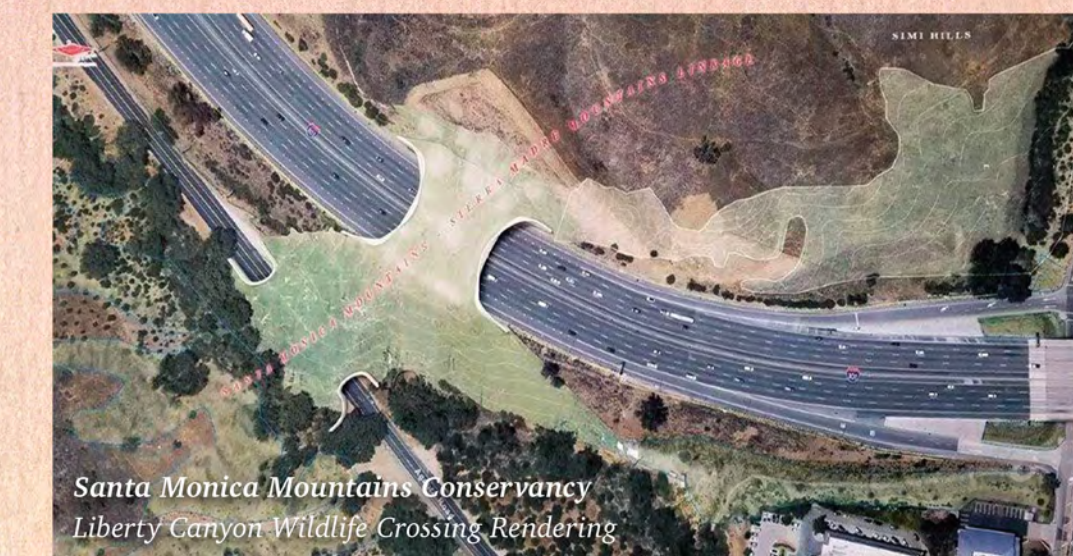
P-22 was in the limelight when biologists, as part of a routine collar swap out, discovered him horribly distressed. He was very sick. He had eaten an animal that had ingested rat poison (rodenticide). So often predators like mountain lions, coyotes and raptors are inadvertently poisoned and needlessly die from anticoagulant poisons.



Photo: National Park Service
P-22 photographed with remote camera on the evening of November 21, 2014.

The upside of P-22 being an unintentional but surviving victim of rodenticide led to a public outcry about these readily available poisons. California passed into law Assembly Bill 1788, effective January 2021. Ironically the bill restricts the use of only the most potent second generation anticoagulants, and not the first generation agents which nearly killed P-22.

P-22's story of settling in Griffith Park helped the National Wildlife Federation put a face to the plight of mountain lions that get killed trying to cross freeways. P-22 became the "spokes-cat" for a wildlife bridge across the busy 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon. This overpass will help all wild animals move safely between large open space areas, allow mountain lions to find new territories, and help enrich genetic diversity critical for maintaining healthy populations. On April 22, 2022, ground was broken for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing.

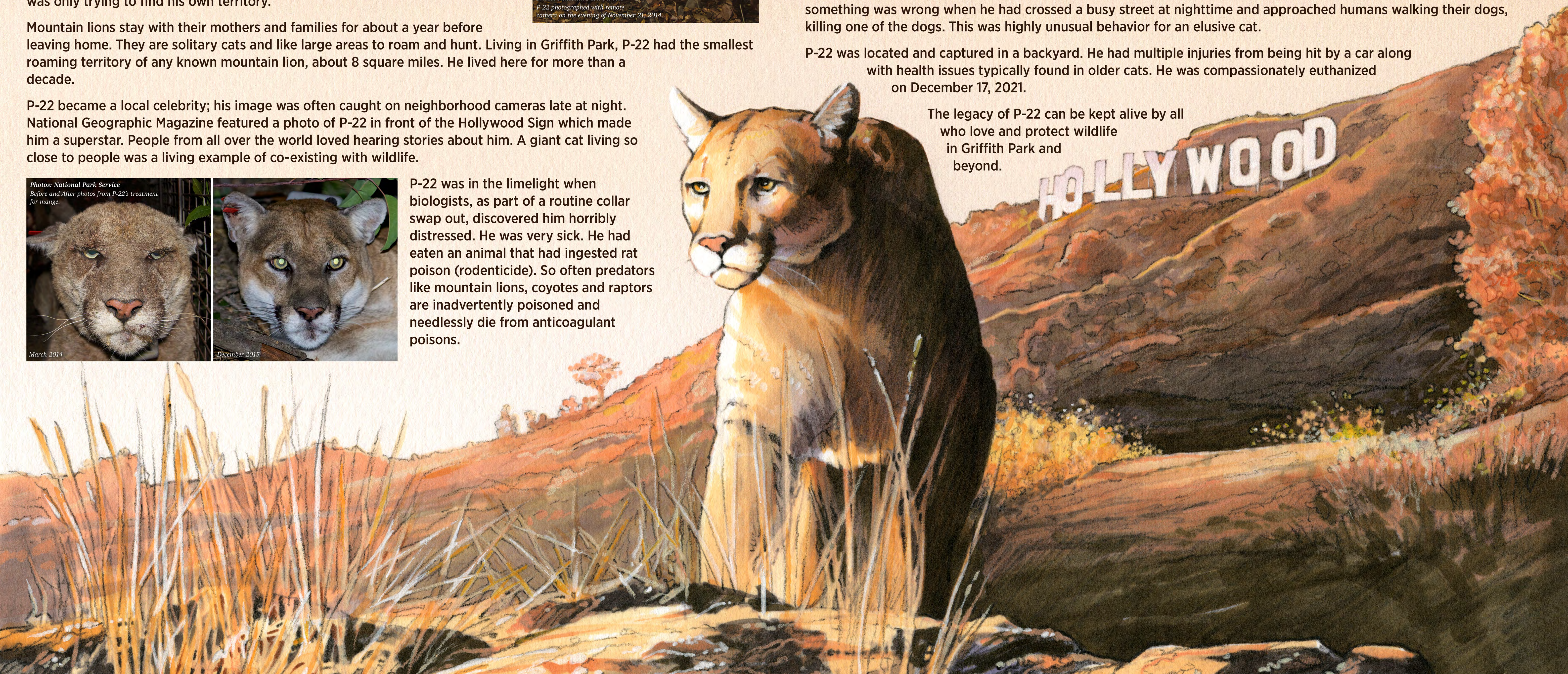


Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing Rendering

For more than a decade P-22 survived mostly undetected by human eyes in the Park's open space. Biologists knew something was wrong when he had crossed a busy street at nighttime and approached humans walking their dogs, killing one of the dogs. This was highly unusual behavior for an elusive cat.

P-22 was located and captured in a backyard. He had multiple injuries from being hit by a car along with health issues typically found in older cats. He was compassionately euthanized on December 17, 2021.

The legacy of P-22 can be kept alive by all who love and protect wildlife in Griffith Park and beyond.





LA River

Sign No. 103

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Donated by Griffith J.Griffith Charitable Trust

Did you know that part of the Los Angeles River is within Griffith Park?

Though many visitors to Griffith Park don't visit the River when they come to hike, sightsee, or bird watch; it is directly adjacent to the Park. The Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Bette Davis Park, North Atwater Park, and Los Feliz Golf Course all sit along the Los Angeles River and within Griffith Park's boundary.

Raccoon
Procyon lotor



Great blue heron
Ardea herodias



The Los Angeles River along with many other river and stream systems, act as a movement corridor for wildlife to travel from one large open space to another. In fact, in order to complete an animal's life cycle it must be able to move through the landscape. Humans have made this more and more difficult with cities and urban areas. However, rivers and streams can still serve the function as a wildlife corridor preserving an animal's ability to disperse, mate, forage, and hunt. The Los Angeles River acts as a refuge for birds as well as a hunting ground for larger predators. The River connects parts of the Los Angeles Valley that would otherwise be completely isolated from each other. The vitality and health of the Los Angeles River is key to the vitality and health of Los Angeles flora and fauna.

Great blue herons are frequent visitors of the Los Angeles River and can be seen year-round. Often you will see them stand completely still at the water's edge which is what they do when they are hunting. Great blue herons eat small insects, amphibians, fish, and even small mammals! They use their large beak to impale fish or snatch small mammals when they poke their heads out of their holes; often eating their prey whole. In addition to using the Los Angeles River as hunting grounds, Great Blue Herons also nest in the area in large trees. They create large stick nests that they defend from predators throughout the nesting season. Be sure to keep an eye out for these large, magnificent birds when visiting the LA River!



Griffith Park Golf Courses

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Sign No. 104

Donated by Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust

Mule Deer are known for their “mickey mouse” ears and their white rump with a white tail and black tip. They can be found in a variety of habitats including woodlands, grasslands, scrub, and chaparral. As herbivores, mule deer eat shrubs and grasses which are plentiful on LA City golf courses including Wilson and Harding. Our golf courses also offer a “safer” place to be as there is a general lack of predators and a near constant human presence causing predators to attack less or not at all. They can be found foraging at dawn and dusk when the temperatures are mild and then mule deers make “beds” during the day. These temporary laydown areas are no more than some flattened grass underneath large trees where they can rest and stay cool.

Coyotes are a common inhabitant of LA City golf courses and Los Angeles wide. Coyotes are incredibly adaptive animals with a keen sense of hearing, sight, and smell. They can survive in places with little shelter and can be found in scrub, grassland, urban parks, wetlands, and residential areas to name a few. Golf courses in LA City Parks provide varied habitats with shelter to raise young each year. Historically, coyotes have been mostly nocturnal but they can commonly be seen during the day as well. They have adapted to be omnivores in the truest sense. Coyotes eat just about anything – carrion, fruits, berries, rabbits, rodents, lizards, snakes, and even food out of the trash. They are not dangerous animals when viewing them on a golf course while golfing but never approach a coyote. It is illegal to feed wildlife including coyotes so never give them food or scraps.

There are twelve golf courses that the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Golf Division manages which includes 18-hole, 9-hole, and Par-3 courses. Some golf courses in Griffith Park have been open for over 100 years and have a mixture of vegetation communities both natural and ornamental. Griffith Park courses along with all other ten City golf courses, were studied as a part of a certification program. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program was initiated by the Los Angeles City Council in 2022 and it includes an investigation into the environmental stewardship and sustainability of each golf course.



Birds of Griffith Park

Griffith Park contains over 4,310 acres of open space with a wide variety of habitats and home to unique plant and animal species.

Donated by Griffith J.Griffith Charitable Trust

What birds in Griffith Park indicate a healthy ecosystem?

The following birds are also known as indicator species which means that when they are present, absent, or abundant is used as an indicator of ecosystem health.

Red-tailed hawk

A year-round resident of the Los Angeles area, Red-tailed hawks are a top predator of the sky and humans are actually their biggest threat. You can find them flying with the thermal air currents all throughout Griffith Park. They often make their nests in the largest and tallest trees within their territory. They maintain their territory year-round with their life-long partner. Look for them catching some of their favorite prey - small mammals, snakes, and sometimes large birds.



California quail

This bird is usually heard but not seen, they hide under brush and large shrubs to hide from predators and to forage for food. They have a distinct “chi-ca-go” call that is characteristic of this species. The males have strong markings compared to the females that are usually brownish-gray on the neck and face. Males also have a comma-shaped crest on the head that is not as large or distinctive on females. Listen for the males and females call back and forth to each other while you are walking in the park, you might just get lucky enough to see them!



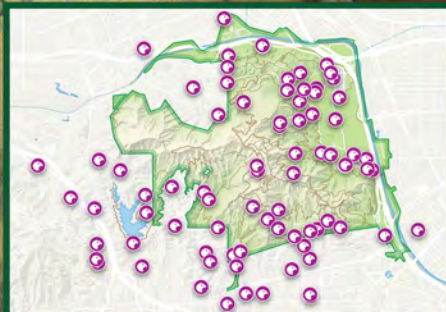
Spotted towhee

This species is a more common chaparral bird found in Griffith Park. You will often see them low in bushes or on the ground either foraging or nesting. Often, you can hear Spotted towhees noisily rustling around in the leaves underneath large shrubs or brush. A Spotted towhees diet often consists of various insects and berries. While usually inconspicuous, they still are preyed on because they nest on the ground and in low bushes. Mammals such as raccoons will find their nest and predate the eggs and larger birds such as Red-tailed hawks can attack an adult bird and predate it. They are colorful birds with, you guessed it, spots! The males have a black head while the females are generally dark brown or gray.



Acorn woodpecker

Do you see a bird with a clown-face? That’s an acorn woodpecker! These fascinating birds engage in **colony nesting** meaning that there is a dense concentration of individuals during breeding season. They have a breeding group that consists of a pair (a male and female) along with several other individuals that defend the territory and communal food stores. Acorn woodpeckers are cavity nesters and often choose a cavity in a tree (sometimes a dead tree) or a utility pole, which can also be used to store acorns in.



2022 Raptor Nest Locations

The Los Angeles Raptor Study was spearheaded by Friends of Griffith in 2017. The study first focused on Griffith Park but quickly grew to encompass a larger study area of Los Angeles. Significant findings have come out of the study every year with a deeper understanding of nesting hawks and owls in Los Angeles. The Department of Recreation and Parks has worked with the Study since 2017 to obtain the necessary permits and to actively manage LA City Parks to benefit humans and wildlife alike.



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

September 21, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing in enthusiastic support of the educational signage project undertaken by RAP's urban ecologist, Courtney McCammon. We are delighted by the concept of these signs -- bringing greater awareness of the Griffith Park wilderness to its many visitors -- and we are impressed by the contents, as these signs are beautifully illustrated and tell so many important stories of how animals, habitat and humans interact in this great urban wilderness area. We believe these signs will be a terrific addition to Griffith Park, and we are delighted that Courtney has both envisioned them and worked so hard to bring them to life.

Once again, we offer our strong support for this project, and for ongoing educational endeavors in and around Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Michelle Crames

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Stefanie Smith; Tracy James; CD4:
Jennifer Hull

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 6:30pm

Griffith Park Visitors Center, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. Los Angeles, 90027

BOARD MEMBERS

MICHELLE CRAMES - CHAIR, KAREN THORNTON - VICE-CHAIR, ALEX CROW- SECRETARY

JANE CARLSON, AARON CHUNG, JASON GREENWALD, BILLY GRIFFIN, CHRIS LAIB, ALEX PHILLIPS

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 ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ETHICS COMMISSION AT (213) 978-1960 OR ethics.commission@lacity.org.

MISSION - The Department of Recreation and Parks enhances the quality of life in Los Angeles by providing attractive, safe and well maintained parks with diverse opportunities to serve and enrich every community.

VISION - the Department of Recreation and Parks envisions an accessible, dynamic and sustainable park system for all Los Angeles residents and visitors to play, enjoy and build community.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Roll Call, board announcements

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. SPECIAL GUESTS

- Comments from other City, County, State & Federal representatives in attendance

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Members of the public who wish to comment on matters NOT listed on the agenda and are under the jurisdiction of the Board.

5. INFORMATION REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Courtney McCammon, Griffith Park Urban Ecologist - presenting new educational signs for the park. Letter of support requested for the Board of Commissioners to move forward with the process. Discussion and possible motion item.

- Quorum issue for August meeting with possible need to cancel August meeting. Opportunity to discuss holiday meetings. Discussion and possible motion item.

6. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Shakespeare
- Brush Clearance
- Road Updates
- Bronson Canyon Walkway
- GPAB attendance
- Southern California Railroad 75th

7. COMMITTEE AND AD HOC REPORTS

- Executive Committee

8. BOARD BUSINESS

- Comments from Board Members on Matters within the Board's Jurisdiction and Requests by Members to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items.

9. ADJOURNMENT Next meeting August 24, 2023

Public Comment - 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 subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Agenda is posted for public review [here](#) and at the posting location as required by law. Griffith Park Visitor Center Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90027

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