

**GRIFFITH PARK MASTER PLAN REDRAFT**  
**ADDED CHAPTER ON RECREATIONAL USER GROUPS**  
**Submitted by the Subcommittee of the Working Group, February 6, 2006**  
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**THE HUMAN DIMENSION**

Foreseeing the day when nature and open space would be an expensive commodity beyond the reach of most residents of a densely-developed metropolis, Colonel Griffith specified that Griffith Park be a free public park in perpetuity so that its “plain people” could enjoy the curative powers of “open space – rustic and available to all.” Over the years, human enjoyment of the Park has developed largely in step with its benefactor’s vision: the Park’s established user groups share with its donor an appreciation of its unique role as a respite from urban pressure and, for the most part, are compatible with its identity as an Urban Wilderness.

In planning for the future of the Park, it is important to take into account its human dimension and recognize who its human visitors are and how, when, where and why they recreate. These users are hikers/walkers, picnickers, equestrians, bicyclists, runners, and active sport participants who play golf, soccer, baseball, tennis, volleyball and basketball, people who swim for sport and fitness, visitors to its museums and major attractions, and patrons of its childrens’ camps. Once an overview is gained of the Park’s human dimension, it can be joined to an understanding of its plant and animal world to produce a plan for the Park that is compatible with its identity as an Urban Wilderness and that equitably provides for its users.

**HIKERS**

Hikers are not only the largest user group in Griffith Park – almost 25% of its visitors hike or walk - they are one of its oldest. During his brief service as a City of Los Angeles Park Commissioner in 1903, donor Colonel Griffith pioneered the first access for hikers, blazing a road from Crystal Springs to the narrow canyon at the foot of Bee Rock. It became a popular route for early Griffith Park hikers that is still used today.

Hiking is the Park’s most accessible form of recreation and, as such, fulfills the Colonel’s vision of “a park for the people.” Of all of its user groups, hikers are its most diverse. People of all ages - toddlers to senior citizens - hike. They hail from every ethnic and group and social class, irregardless of economic level since the activity involves no fee or investment in equipment or training. The reasons people hike in the Park are as diverse as the people themselves: health and fitness, reinforcement of family ties, sociability,

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personal relaxation, nature appreciation and escape from urban pressures. The State of California's 2005 survey of recreation trends bears out this form of recreation's centrality to Park enjoyment. Among all Californians, recreational walking in the outdoors ranks first, wildlife viewing third, and trail hiking fourth in popularity.

Although most Griffith Park hikers walk individually or in small groups, the Park is a focal point for organized hiking. Park Rangers lead interpretive hikes; scouting organizations, children's day camps, the Park's resident boys' and girls' camps offer hikes for kids; and established entities ranging from the Los Angeles Unified School District to the Sierra Club hold periodic nature hikes. Since the early 1960's, the Sierra Club has also sponsored year-round evening hikes in Griffith Park, attracting hundreds of hikers each week.

Most regular hikers prefer to begin their excursions in the morning or towards the onset of evening, avoiding the shadelessness, higher temperatures and somnolence of mid-day. Griffith Park's wildlife is more easily heard and seen, and the sights and smells of its plant communities better perceived at these times. For this reason, those who drive to the Park generally find parking easily near the initial road or trail head they select. All hikers do not arrive by car, however. Many who hike on a regular basis walk into the Park from access points on all sides. The extra distance that this adds to the outing is compensated for by the freedom and pleasure derived from an automobile-free experience. Other hikers arrive by public transit and choose from various stops that place them in the Park or near its boundaries in relatively close proximity to its roads and trail heads.

Beyond a tranquil and safe experience free of urban incursions, hikers make few demands. They generally bring their own water, and leave behind little trash: if trash cans are absent, the pack it in, pack it out ethic prevails. The recent installation of waste bag dispensers at several points in the Park, has encouraged dog-walkers to clean up after their pets and, increasingly, responsible owners are bringing their own bags for this purpose. A major personal safety and security issue for hikers was resolved a decade ago with the closure of the Park's interior roads. Antisocial and criminal activity facilitated by automobiles disappeared with the cars; the resultant safety and tranquility transformed the roads ideal routes for low and moderately skilled hikers. Their closure also opened them up for bicyclists and parents of infants in strollers to exercise in a traffic-free zone, and has afforded equestrians and trail runners safe passage to trail heads.

## **PICNICKERS**

In excess of a million people a year enjoy picnicking in Griffith Park. More than 9% of respondents in a recent study conducted at the Park named it as their preferred pastime. Annually more people come to Griffith Park for this use than to any other park in the

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municipal system. The Park features more than a dozen major, free developed picnic grounds, as well as four group picnic areas available by-reservation only and one accessible on a first-come basis. Additionally, there are green spaces throughout the Park that are used as settings for informal, blanket-style picnics: Park Central, Griffith Park Recreation Center, Mulholland Fountain, Vermont Canyon, Western Canyon, and Bronson Canyon, are just a few of these locales.

### **Family Picnicking**

Griffith Park offers picnickers a range of settings from intimate nooks for quiet enjoyment to areas roomy enough for a child's birthday party. In addition to providing tables, benches, and other amenities such as grills, drinking fountains and restrooms at these sites, the Park's free developed playgrounds\* and play structures are typically located at or near its picnic sites. As a group, Griffith Park picnickers are self-directed. They bring their own provisions, camp furniture and blankets, co-exist peaceably with each other, and, content with the amenities the Park provides, make few demands beyond maintenance and clean-up. Occasional infractions by this large, diverse group can include taping off areas for exclusive use, un-permitted play structures, and amplified sound.

Although the Park attracts picnickers from all backgrounds, on weekends and holidays Hispanic picnickers are typically in the majority. This cultural group's enjoyment of picnicking is borne out by a ten-year USDA Forest Service/BLM study confirming that Hispanic Californians first recreational preference is for day-long extended-family outings in a green setting involving extensive on-site meal preparation. Another state survey found that these users desire more opportunities to walk outdoors for fitness and fun. The close proximity of trails to picnic areas allows them to do this, making the Park an even more attractive destination.

### **Permit Picnicking for Groups**

The Crystal Springs group picnic area is the only area that can be reserved for group use in Griffith Park. It offers three picnic pads with tables and barbecues on shaded slabs, a volleyball court, restrooms and parking. The term "picnicking" is elastic in this context. While social celebrations and company gatherings are held at Crystal Springs, large public events such as cooking expositions and health and fitness jamborees – often requiring signing, stages, canopies, and booths – are also sited there. Paid monitoring by Park Rangers is mandated for events exceeding 300 persons or serving alcohol, and organizers are sometimes required to hire maintenance personnel for post-picnic clean-up. Because the area is adjacent to other public uses, the impact a group event will have on neighboring recreationists and the Park itself is taken into account in the awarding of permits. The fees charged for permits are determined by the number of persons (up to

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800), number and type of temporary structures, and use of electricity and department personnel.

\*Notable among them is Shane's Inspiration, one of only three universally accessible playgrounds operated by the City of Los Angeles.

### **The Issue of Displacement**

During the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the City's Park Commission made it a priority to establish formal picnic grounds in Griffith Park. Decades later, new types of recreation eclipsed picnicking in the eyes of its decision-makers and, with the exception of Fern Dell, the Park's historic grounds vanished or contracted, displaced by built facilities or taken by condemnation for public works. The shifting and loss of picnic terrain and the tendency to consider picnicking an expendable use is reflected today in proposals for new or expanded facilities that inevitably come at the expense of the Park's picnic areas. A recent example is the removal from continuous picnicking use of a large portion of the lawn north of the Griffith Park pool that has been fenced off for the exclusive use of spectators at the occasional swim meets that occur during the four months a year when the pool is open. Because picnickers have no advocacy group that speaks specifically for them it is incumbent on Park managers and the public to ensure that priority is given to the needs of this large user group to prevent their displacement.

## **EQUESTRIANS**

Equestrians are Griffith Park's original user group. Horses have flourished within its boundaries since Rancho days. Colonel Griffith prided himself on his coaching skills, and he and his son, Van, often roamed the Park's hills on horseback. In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the City pastured its police and fire horses in the Park's open meadows and photographs from the same period inevitably show riders on its trails. In the nineteen-teens, rodeos were organized at Griffith Park by the cowboys attracted to Hollywood by the nascent film industry. In the twenties and thirties, the Park emerged as a headquarters for social riding and equestrian parties hosted by the elite. This reached its peak in The Breakfast Club which, for a fifteen-year run beginning in 1924, brought together civic and corporate leaders, motion picture personalities, and visiting dignitaries for weekly rides on the Park's trails.

Although the well-heeled can be encountered today at occasional Equestrian Center competitions, the majority of Griffith Park riders are neither wealthy nor prominent. They are middle class people who make economies in their lives to support their pastime, day visitors who rent horses to connect with nature and history, and parents who introduce their children to horses at the Park's hugely popular Pony Ride concession. L.A. children are also exposed to the mysteries of horsemanship through organized camp activities at Griffith Park. Throughout the summer and during holiday periods, Griffith Park's boys'

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and girls' camps, girls and boy scout troop camps, and privately-operated children's camps from around the region conduct group rides on the Park's trails

Currently, there are more than 2,000 horses living in and around the Park, stabled in facilities and backyards on the Park's edges. In addition to its resident equine population, hundreds of other horses are transported to the Park each week for equestrian events and shows, or trail riding.

The area northeast of the Park, near its Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC), is an important hub of equine activity. Public rental stables, large commercial boarding stables, small boarding operations and backyard barns without number are located here, along with the feed and tack stores, veterinarians, equine dentists and chiropractors, farriers, horse laundries, heavy equipment vendors and trainers of every kind. A significant number of horse-owners reside here in the LAEC-adjacent equestrian condominiums and in the Rancho tract, a community of homes zoned for horsekeeping. Southeast of the Park is Atwater Village, a historic horsekeeping neighborhood that is home to a half-dozen commercial boarding stables, some of which feature riding schools and training operations. Several of the facilities are notable for their youth involvements. This is where Girl Scouts earn their horsemanship badges, horse camps for kids are held, and Taking the Reins, a non-profit organization helping at-risk girls build self-esteem is headquartered. A local organization, Preserve Atwater Rancho is working with the City on a zoning initiative to preserve the area's historic horsekeeping status. Northwest of the Park is Sunset Ranch. Established in the twenties to serve the Hollywoodland tract, its direct linkage to Griffith Park's trails was marketed as one of the neighborhood's chief selling assets. Today it is a public rental and boarding stable that has carved a unique niche for itself with its guided night-rides, a round-trip tour of the Park including a restaurant dinner.

### **Bridle Trails**

Griffith Park is criss-crossed with 55 miles of bridle trails that equestrians share with hikers, runners, deer, coyotes, racoons, skunks, hawks and owls and, occasionally, an elusive bobcat or mountain lion.

### **Martinez Arena**

Located near Travel Town in Griffith Park, Martinez Arena serves the backyard owner of modest means, providing these users with a place to school and ride their horses. Created under the aegis of Park Ranger Abe Martinez in the early sixties, it is free to the individual user. The arena is also rented to organizations for horse shows, gymkhanas, and other equestrian events for a nominal fee.

### **North Atwater Equestrian Arena**

Atwater Village backyard horse owners use the Park's North Atwater Equestrian Arena to turn out and train their horses. Critical to horsekeeping in that area, this facility serves the public in ways similar to Martinez Arena.

### **Zoo Drive Equestrian Staging Area**

This area furnishes day riders hauling mounts to Griffith Park with a safe place to park and unload their stock on a requisite unpaved surface. Located opposite the Live Steamers Railroad Museum on Zoo Drive, the spot provides easy access to the trailhead across the street and is shared with other park users.

### **Pony Rides**

For a minimal charge, Griffith Park's popular Pony Ride concession introduces children to the thrill of the trot. Located on Crystal Springs Drive, it also offers wagon rides for children and their families and is near the Park's most heavily-used picnic grounds.

### **Los Angeles Equestrian Center**

The Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC) in Griffith Park is the region's leading equine facility. Annually, it hosts the Bill Pickett Rodeo, Los Angeles National Grand Prix, Memorial Day Classic and Pacific Coast Cutting Futurity, plus numerous breed and discipline events, dressage, western, barrel races, show jumping, and driving competitions. Home to 500 horses, it offers outdoor rings, hot walkers, sun pens and other amenities for training and care. Additionally, the public can rent mounts from its Griffith Park Horse Rentals or learn to ride at its Traditional Equitation School.

LAEC also hosts riding programs for non-profits. Best known are the Ahead With Horse Therapeutic Riding Program for children at risk and the Interscholastic Equestrian League which is composed of 60 middle and high schools. Annual events that welcome the public include the Tournament of Roses Equestfest which allows children to see and touch Rose Parade horses, the CALNET Special Olympics-style riding event, and the Hollywood Charity Horse Show donating its proceeds to non-profits serving children.

## **RUNNERS**

Although hundred of runners use Griffith Park every day and often thousands on weekends, runners are among the Park's most under-recognized user groups. Their needs are small and they typically recreate at off-peak hours, particularly in the early morning.

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The flat terrain in the Park's east and north offers the most attractive routes for most runners. For routine workouts, runners commonly follow north-south Crystal Springs Road, and transition at the Zoo parking lot to the east-west portion of Zoo Drive. To add distance, many cross into Burbank via Victory Blvd, or continue along Forest Lawn Drive. When conditions allow, some runners prefer the flat dirt trail paralleling I-5 and I-134 where they are relatively safe from traffic hazards. Because loop routes are more interesting, some runners use Griffith Park Drive combined with Zoo Drive and Crystal Springs Drive. This route adds hills but can be hazardous since it exposes runners to closely passing vehicles.

For runners who enjoy mountain trails, the Park has much to offer. Runners have little environmental impact on trail beds and are generally environmentally-conscious. They recognize the hazards of straying, (encounters with poison oak and rattlesnakes), and are seldom guilty of the trail-cutting and consequent erosion seen in the Park. Mt. Hollywood Trail and Tetrick Trail are two of the most popular trail running routes.

### **Raceday Events**

While the Park is a magnet for individual runners, it periodically hosts organized events for large groups. For many decades, the Park has been the City's venue of choice for 5K and 10K road races, as well as other distances and relays. These are usually

headquartered in the Park Central area. Weekend events such as the Jimmy Stewart Relay, Run for a Green L.A., and Say No to Drugs Race, among others, promote fitness and the sport of running, benefit worthy causes, and draw positive publicity and new people to the Park.

### **Youth Running**

Griffith Park is an important resource for the Los Angeles Unified School District's team sport of cross-country running. The Park is only one of three courses used by the District's eight leagues, yet it hosts almost half of its meets. These competitions, which occur weekly in the fall, typically draw 500 athletes from twenty-two high schools to a staging area on the picnic lawn north of the Greek Theatre in Vermont Canyon. From this starting point, runners follow a looping course through the south end of the Park. After the race, athletes return to the lawn for water and refreshments provided by coaches, parents and chaperons. For the past three decades on the last Saturday in September, the Bell-Jeff Cross-Country invitational meet, an all-day event, draws more than 1000 participants from 75 schools throughout Southern California to this same staging area

## **BICYCLISTS**

Although bicyclists have always used Griffith Park's paved roads, over the past decade bicycle use has grown significantly as the Park has steadily increased and improved its bicycle lanes and routes. This has happened as a result of: 1) Specific capital improvements made in accordance with the Bicycle Element of the Department of Transportation's Master Plan which promotes the expansion and upgrading of bicycle facilities in City parks, and 2) As a consequence of a policy change undertaken for general Park safety that provided substantial new opportunities for safe and enjoyable cycling. There are now more than 26 miles of bikeways and bike routes in the Park. Approximately 23 of miles of them are auto-free. According to the most recent user study, cyclists now exceed the number of visitors who visit the Park to play golf or organized/team sports, and is roughly equivalent to equestrian use.

Capital improvements undertaken specifically for cyclists in recent years include two perimeter bikeways: the Crystal Springs Bikeway and Northern Bike Route, a striped and signed bicycle lane extending from just north of the Park's Los Feliz Blvd entrance to Travel Town, and the Los Angeles River Bikeway, a dedicated bike-only route entering the Park south of Los Feliz Blvd via the Alex Baum elevated bicycle bridge and extending the length of the Park. At various points throughout the Park, cyclists can transition from one route to another.

In the mid-1990's, the decision to permanently close Griffith Park's paved mountain roads to motorized traffic opened up a new automobile-free zone for recreationists in the Park's interior. Although hikers, not bicyclists, took the lead in advocating for the closures of Mt. Hollywood Drive and Vista del Valle Drive to all but official and emergency vehicles, bicyclists benefited at once from the change. The action multiplied significantly the number of auto-free miles at bicyclists disposal. Wide enough to reduce the chance of collisions between bicyclists and pedestrians, these scenic, winding roads allow peaceful co-existence between users, and offer cyclists interaction with nature and inspiring views.

Cyclists of all ages and skill levels enjoy Griffith Park. They range from occasional riders who rent from its concessionaire to skilled riders who arrive on (or transport) their own equipment. Choosing from available routes, cyclists enjoy relatively flat and smooth rides suitable for family outings, relatively flat and smooth rides for long distance or race training, or steep and challenging rides for personal fitness or nature enjoyment

## **ACTIVE SPORT PARTICIPANTS**

In addition to the facilities of a Regional Park described in the General Plan for the City of Los Angeles as golf courses, campgrounds, wilderness areas, exceptional scenic features and museums, Griffith Park contains facilities for active recreation usually found in Neighborhood or Community parks. It contains the municipal park system's highest number of golf course (5), driving ranges (2), tennis courts (27) and soccer fields (8/16); an adult regulation baseball field (1 of 2 citywide), two walk-up youth baseball fields, two walk-up volleyball courts, a basketball court, and the most popular municipal pool in the City. In addition to these facilities, archery, volleyball, basketball, soccer and baseball are played at Griffith Park Boy's Camp and both the boys' and girls' camps are equipped with pools. A recent survey of the Park's recreationists found that 5% of respondents engaged in field and court sports while 3% of respondents were golfers.

### **Golfers**

Griffith Park is considered the birthplace of municipal golf. The first city-owned public golf course in the nation was established in the Park in 1914. Although it was a primitive course with sand "greens," it met with success. Over the decades, more golf courses were developed in the Park and today, roughly 9% of its area is devoted to the sport. More than 200,000 rounds of golf are played annually on its five courses. These include Wilson 18-hole course, Harding 18-hole course, Roosevelt 9-hole executive course, Los Feliz 9-hole 3-par course, and Tregnan Junior Golf Academy. Wilson-Harding amenities for golfers

include a driving range, men's and women's clubhouses, a pro shop, golf lessons, cart rentals and a restaurant with bar. Cafes serving beer and wine are located at Roosevelt and Los Feliz and, in addition to its 3-hole teaching course and driving range, Tregnan Academy features a clubhouse and classroom where children can learn the principles of the game.

### **Field Sport Participants**

#### ***Soccer***

Recognizing the growing popularity of the sport, in 1992 26 acres in Griffith Park were set aside to create the Ferraro Soccer Complex, a grassy facility located near the Golden State-Ventura Freeway Interchange not far from the Autry Museum. The complex includes 7 fields, a children's playground, restrooms and parking. Private adult and youth leagues are its primary users, but high schools also play and practice there. The fields are generally reserved in advance on a fee basis by permitted groups, but when not reserved are available to the public on a walk-up basis. In addition to the Ferraro Soccer Complex,

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soccer is played at the Griffith Park Recreation Center. Its recently refurbished synthetic turf field is available by permit or on a walk-up basis for adult games or two simultaneously played youth games. Spectator bleachers are located there and restrooms, parking and a children's play area are nearby.

***Baseball***

Adjacent to the Crystal Springs Group Picnic Area in Griffith Park is Pote Field, one of only two regulation baseball fields in the municipal park system. Pote is available by permit only and is used primarily by Los Angeles City College and the Municipal Baseball Program. To a lesser extent, Pote is also used by private high schools and other groups and for motion picture filming. Its amenities include a scoreboard, bleachers, restrooms, a children's play area and parking. In Griffith Park's North Atwater area is a free walk-up field that can be used for pony league baseball, t-ball and softball. Its amenities include bleachers, restrooms, a children's play area and parking. On the Park's northwest side, at Lake Hollywood Park is a baseball area with backstop that can be used on a free, walk-up basis for baseball and softball games. There is an additional baseball field at Griffith Park Boys Camp which is reserved for the use the children there.

**Court Sport Players:**

***Tennis***

Games are played and lessons are given daily, and tournaments held six times a year at Griffith Park's 27 tennis courts. Griffith Park Recreation Center located on the Park's southeastern side features a facility with 11 lighted courts, (including a tournament court), all available to the public by paid reservation. The complex includes a Pro Shop where tennis lessons can be arranged and restrooms; parking, and a children's play area are located nearby. To the west, is the Vermont Canyon tennis facility with 12 tennis courts in a scenic setting available to the public on a paid reservation basis. Tennis lessons can be arranged and restrooms and parking are available on the site. In Griffith Park's Park Central area are four free tennis courts open to the public on a free, walk-up basis. Six times a year, Griffith Park hosts tennis tournaments which are coordinated by the City in conjunction with various tennis associations.

***Volleyball***

Griffith Park's volleyball/badminton courts in the Crystal Springs and North Atwater areas are available on a free walk-up basis to players who bring their equipment. A volleyball court is also located at Griffith Park Boys Camp for the use of its children.

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***Basketball***

Griffith Park has a free walk-up basketball court in its North Atwater area as well as a basketball court for the use of the children at Griffith Park Boys Camp.

**Swimmers**

The municipal plunge at the Griffith Park Recreation Center is the top pool in the City's park system, and is first in use in all classifications. In operation from the Saturday after LAUSD dismisses to Labor Day, it is open to children 18 and under free of charge and to adults for a nominal fee. In addition to group and individual swimming lessons, special programs offered by the facility include organized lap-swimming, aquacise, water polo, synchronized swimming, team diving, and programs for seniors and the disabled. In addition to Griffith Park's public plunge, there are also pools at Hollywoodland Girls Camp and Griffith Park Boys Camp for the use of the children there.

**CAMPERS**

Since their establishment in 1926, Griffith Park's overnight camps have offered close-in, supervised camping to the children of Los Angeles. In 2005, the Park welcomed (how many?) children and family members. Griffith Park Boys Camp serves boys ages 6-17. Week-long resident camping is available in the summer months and during winter and spring holiday periods; specially themed weekend camps are offered out of season with sessions focused on sports, nature awareness, outdoor skills, or mother/son and father/son bonding. Camp Hollywoodland offers young girls resident camping in the summer months and during spring holidays, as well as special parent/child and family getaway weekends. The facilities feature cabins, dining and assembly rooms, pools and sports areas, and are available for rental to organizations and groups when not in use.

**VISITORS TO MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS**

**Travel Town Transportation Museum & Live Steamers**

Travel Town Transportation Museum is a free, family-friendly outdoor railway museum and recreational attraction that is enjoyed by approximately 350,000 visitors year, including approximately 50,000 school children. In addition to its collection of historic

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locomotives, passenger and freight cars, Travel Town features a miniature train ride, picnicking amenities, a playground, gift shop, and special birthdayparty/meeting cars available by special arrangement. Located adjacent to Travel Town is Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a demonstration railroad in miniature, that offers the public free rides on scale model steam trains and public tours of the historic Walt Disney Barn.

### **Griffith Observatory**

Griffith Observatory provides the citizens of Los Angeles with free information on astronomy and related sciences and a chance to observe the planets through its great telescope. Approximately 20% of its 1.7 million visitors per year are tourists who arrive in groups or school children on conducted visits. Currently, the 1935 landmark building is undergoing a major renovation and expansion which will more than double its public space while maintaining its historic look and feel. Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO), the 2000-member non-profit organization established to support and promote Griffith Observatory, is playing a lead role in the facility's renovation.

### **The Greek Theatre**

The Greek Theatre, an historic 5,700-seat concert venue, is owned by the City of Los Angeles, and is currently managed, operated and promoted by Nederlander-Greek Inc. In 2005 it welcomed 262,792 visitors to 57 events, and hosted three community graduations. In addition to performances under the stars, for the enjoyment of its ticketholders. the venue operates multiple food and beverage concessions and has recently installed a number of box seats for table dining. Ticket prices vary by artist; paid stacked parking is available on site for 2,800 to 3,000 cars.

### **Symphony In The Glen**

Since 1994, some 60,000 people have attended Symphony In The Glen concerts in Griffith Park held in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks on the rolling picnic lawn at the Old Zoo. Performances are provided free of charge to make whole-family attendance possible for low-income families and, on average, young children comprise nearly a third of the audience. The professional 50-piece orchestra performs twilight concerts (6:00 – 8:00 PM) on various Sundays throughout the summer. Held on the Old Zoo picnic lawn, attendees are encouraged to bring a meal. Parking is available at nearby lots or concert-goers can shuttle in.

Requests for visitors statistics and other information have been made to the Autry National Center and the Greater Los Angeles Zoo