

CHAPTER TWO: INCREASING AWARENESS
Accessibility, Information, and Programming

Sylvia Patsaouras

For a space to function truly well, it must be central to the constituency it is to serve--and if not in physical distance, in visual accessibility.

William H. Whyte, *City*

Community Plans

Elysian Park Master Plan
Griffith Park Master Plan
Silverlake-Echo Park District Community Plan

Facilities and Organizations Contacted

Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
National Park Service
New York City Department of Recreation and Parks
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
The Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum

Interviews

Judith Jamison and Sallie Neubauer, Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park
Annette Jones, Marilyn White; George Stigile, and James Hathaway, Department of Recreation and Parks

Sites Visited

Echo Park Recreation Center
Griffith Park - Ranger Station and grounds
La Fayette Park Community Center
Reseda Park - Recreation Center and West Valley Senior Center
TreePeople Headquarters and William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom
Valley Senior Services and Resource Center
Will Rogers State Historic Park - Visitor Center and trail.

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major attraction to take advantage of the view at Buena Vista Point.

Point Grandview -

At the northeast section of Elysian Park, this site has a fantastic panoramic view of Burbank, Glendale, Highland Park, and East Los Angeles plus the San Gabriel Mountains.

AN APPROPRIATE MAP SHOULD ACCOMPANY THIS BROCHURE.

OTHER INTERESTS

Barlow Hospital -

Dr. Walter Jarvis Barlow, a physician who had contracted tuberculosis, established the hospital with his wife in 1902. This tuberculosis sanitarium was a non-sectarian institution for indigent patients; however, many prominent citizens of Los Angeles were also patients. People came to Southern California for health problems such as tuberculosis because of the prevailing attitude in the early 20th century of the benefits of the area's climate on health. The surrounding cottages were donated by philanthropic groups and individuals (including first families of Los Angeles: Solano, Lankershim, Torrance, Newhall, Rowan, and Van Nuys) and are now used as storage and for staff housing or are vacant. The main hospital building is used to treat patients with respiratory diseases, and the complex includes an AIDS hospice.

Dodger Stadium -

Completed in 1962, the stadium occupies the site originally cleared for a proposed but never built Chavez Ravine public housing complex. Most of the Park's southern and eastern views include the stadium and its acres of parking lots.

United States Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center -

From the 1850s until 1910 California's first Jewish Cemetery was located on Lilac Terrace opposite Stadium Way. After the cemetery was moved, the land was sold to the United States Government for use as a naval reserve. The reserve has been designated a State Historic Landmark and has the largest roof span of its time. The site is also used by the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Police Academy -

The mess hall used at the Olympic Village during the Olympic Games held in Los Angeles in 1932 was dismantled and transported to the site of the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club in Elysian Park, where the Olympic Revolver and Pistol matches had been held. The Police Department developed the structure as a clubhouse for its officers. In 1937 a scenic rock garden was built, including a pool, cascades, and a small amphitheater. This area is open to groups by reservation when not being used by the Department.

Radio Hill Tower -

Used by downtown city agencies, the 120-foot tall tower is owned by the Department of General Services. (A 180-foot tall tower has been proposed for this site.)

SCENIC VISTA POINTS

Angel's Point -

With Dodger Stadium in the forefront and City Hall and the Civic Center in the background, the sprawling city of Los Angeles is a magnificent sight.

Buena Vista Hill -

The Elysian Park Master Plan calls for developing this 58-acre site separated from the rest of the Park by the freeway into a

de Portola, who was traveling from northern Mexico to Monterey to establish missions of the Franciscan Order. Portola was accompanied by Father Junipero Serra and a group of missionaries.

Grace E. Simons Lodge -

Dedicated in 1983 in honor of the founder and first president of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park, this facility can accommodate 300 guests and replaced the old lodge which burned in 1979. The new lodge features a stage, outdoor patio, covered picnic pavilion, barbecue facilities, a public address system, and kitchen facilities, and is available for special occasions for a fee.

Picnic Grove -

The rubber trees were planted in 1900 as part of a world-wide plant introduction program of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Recreation Center -

Located in the Solano Canyon area, this site includes an outdoor basketball court, a wading pool, and shaded picnic tables. The gym is equipped for volleyball and its stage has a retractable wall which allows its use by the indoor hall and an outdoor amphitheater.

Reservoir -

Built in 1903 and rebuilt in 1943, with a capacity of 167 million gallons of water, the Elysian Park reservoir is one of the suppliers to the City of Los Angeles. The sources of water are the Owens Valley through the Department of Water and Power and twenty percent well water supplements from the Los Angeles River.

Victory Memorial Grove -

Erected in 1921 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of Southern California to honor the service in World War I "of all men and women from the families of the State Society and in memory of twenty one who made the supreme sacrifice". Small bronze tablets were placed at each tree showing the name of the person in whose honor the tree was planted, military record, and date of death. The Grove is located at the west end of Elysian Park Drive near the intersection with Elysian Park Avenue and commands a dramatic view of Los Angeles Civic Center, historic Barlow Hospital, Naval-Marine Center, and the Park's open space.

ADDITIONAL SITE(S)

Landfill -

This 40-acre landfill in Bishop Canyon was operated by the Department of Sanitation from 1966 to 1969. Now covered, the site has been proposed as a recreational field (but has problems with subsidence and gas emissions).

Park Headquarters are located at the entrance to Solano Canyon at Academy Road.

Water Tank -

The Tank, located at Buena Vista Point, has a capacity of 750,000 gallons of water with markers on the tank at each foot representing 2,300 gallons. The pump operates by automatic control according to need.

BROCHURE, CONT'D - ELYSIAN PARK PUBLIC AMENITIES

ROADS AND TRAILS - The land within Elysian Park is hilly and cut by very steep slopes and canyons; and the long, winding roads and trails offer spectacular vistas of the city to the south and towards the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Fire roads make up most of the trails system; closed to vehicular traffic, they allow visitors interested in walking, hiking, or jogging to access other sections of the Park and enjoy the lushness of the tree growth in the valleys.

PLANT COMMUNITIES - In 1886 the City Council voted two hundred dollars worth of "gum" trees (Australian Eucalyptus) as the first planting for Elysian Park. The Los Angeles Horticultural Society established the Chavez Ravine Arboretum as a botanical garden in 1893, and rare specimens of wild date palms were planted as the Avenue of the Palms in 1895. The United States Department of Agriculture introduced an experimental rubber plantation in 1900; and for the next third of a century rare trees were added, such as the Shingle Oak and the Golden-leaf Baphia. Thousands of trees, shrubs and flowers were set out in the Park and a system of irrigation pipes was laid out. Today, trees are regularly purchased and planted by members and friends of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park as loving memorials to the living and the deceased. The Los Angeles Recreation and Parks personnel maintain these trees and replace them as necessary.

WILDLIFE - There are a wide variety of birds, among which are hawks, jays, owls, quail, towhees, and sparrows; and flocks of migratory birds use the Park every year to rest. Small native animals, which generally stay in the more remote areas of the Park, include foxes, skunks, squirrels, and rabbits.

PARK FEATURES

Arboretum -

The Chavez Ravine Arboretum, Southern California's first botanical garden, was established in 1893 by the Los Angeles Horticultural Society, who planted rare trees in the upper part of the ravine. Many of these trees are today the largest of their kind and have been the parents of whole generations of trees planted throughout Southern California. Additional rare trees have been planted subsequently -- the Shingle Oak is unique in Southern California and the Golden-leaf Baphia may be the only ones in cultivation in the United States. In 1965 the Southern California Horticultural Society labeled many of the particularly notable trees, listing the common name, botanical name, family and range of trees. The Arboretum was declared a City Historical-Cultural Monument in 1967 and is currently sponsored by Los Angeles Beautiful.

Avenue of the Palms -

The double row of rare specimen Indian palms (*Phoenix sylvestris*) were planted in 1895, the only mass planting in California.

Fremont Gate -

The main entrance to the Park on North Broadway is named after General John Charles Fremont, An American explorer who headed five expeditions across the Rocky Mountains and fought the Mexican forces in California during the Mexican-American War. A large rock with a bronze plaque also commemorates the spot as the overnight camping place of Spanish explorer Gaspar

ELYSIAN PARK PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURE

As part of the effort to increase awareness of Elysian Park's historical importance, this suggested brochure was prepared for visitors' information.

HISTORICAL EVENTS: A CHRONOLOGY OF MILESTONES IN ELYSIAN PARK

- 1796** Gaspar de Portola, Father Juan Crespi, and their party camped at a river bank opposite Buena Vista Hill at the North Broadway entrance to Elysian Park and were greeted by Indian Villagers with native refreshments.
- 1786** The Pueblo of Los Angeles was established by Spanish California Governor Felipe de Neve with a Royal Grant of Pueblo lands of 4 square leagues (approximately 17,000 acres; the 575-acre Elysian Park is the only remaining undeveloped large piece of this public land grant).
- 1849** The Ord Survey, one of the first official acts of the new American administration, recorded the boundaries of the Pueblo Lands.
- 1868** The Hancock Survey referred to Elysian Park area as Rock Quarry Hills, for the building stone mined in the area.
- 1886** The Los Angeles City Mayor and Council dedicated Rock Quarry Hills as city park forever and renamed it Elysian Park. The Committee on Parks purchased the first planting of gum trees for \$200.
- 1887** A volunteer committee planted 37,000 Eucalyptus trees throughout the Park. (A main motivating force behind the planting was to sell real estate by proving bare hills and plains could grow trees!)
- 1940** Elysian Park was dedicated a bird sanctuary by the National Audubon, California Audubon, and affiliated societies. (120 species of birds have been counted informally.)
- 1965** Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park, a voluntary organization, was formed to preserve Elysian Park lands as public open space and develop the Park for the recreational enjoyment of all the people in Los Angeles.
- 1972** Elysian Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council.
- 1982** The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy included Elysian Park and El Pueblo as the eastern extremity of the Santa Monica Mountain Zone, reinforcing the Park's status as a regional park.
- 1986** Elysian Park Centennial (1886-1986) was celebrated with a series of events, including a Chinatown 10K Run, Tree Planting Ceremony, Community Art Show, and a Portola-Crespi-Porciuncula Fiesta. Mayor Tom Bradley proclaimed 1986 as Elysian Park Centennial Year.

inner city to conduct guided walks and hikes. The Conservancy has begun to schedule nature walks at Elysian Park to be conducted by docents as a result of this group's efforts to increase the community's awareness of the Park for the purpose of its preservation. More and different kinds of activities -- recreational, educational, and cultural -- will make the Park more attractive to a variety of people. As part of this study, suggested brochures for visitors were prepared describing points of interest in the Park and significant dates in the history of the Park.

CONCLUSION

In an A.I.P. Journal article, Seymour Gold states that the traditional approach of urban recreation planning has been primarily concerned with measuring and accommodating users instead of nonusers and with measuring quantity instead of quality. Gold cites statistics which indicate that a substantial number of adults prefer to walk, talk, and socialize in the outdoors if these opportunities are available. Some of the preferred activities of adults in their leisure time could be accommodated in Elysian Park - activities such as gardening, walking, reading, and conversation. Gardening could be appealing to apartment dwellers who do not have this opportunity if a community garden plot were available at the Park.⁶

Ann Kaufman in "The Vision of American Urban Parks" states that children desert the playground for the street because the street is a greater source of excitement. The idea of making play areas exciting is not largely accepted because of concern with the liability associated with adventure play areas. To attract other potential users who are now nonusers by choice -- older children and teenagers -- it is important to seek the level of quality necessary to make the Park attractive for socializing, creative play, nature study, and active sports.⁷

There is a need for creative types of playground equipment so that children will want to go to the Park and spend time there. Children can be provided with an imaginative play experience by local craftsmen. Isamu Noguchi designed multi-colored, variously shaped sculptures for Piedmont Park in Atlanta. This alternative to traditional playground equipment provides an unusual play environment in the Park. Design criteria for creative play facilities should include safety, ease of maintenance, circulation and educational value; and the play experience should include sliding, jumping, crawling, rolling, climbing, sitting, lying, and swinging. There also needs to be greater tolerance of some forms of leisure behavior often labeled "in bad taste", such as loud music and dancing if the Park population is to reflect the heterogeneous composition of the Los Angeles population.⁸

Public responsibility for the Park can be encouraged by involving local people in its maintenance, development, and operations. Programs such as the Volunteers-in-Parks and Youth Conservation Corps give residents the opportunity to get involved with the Park's development. The Urban Park Rangers Program in New York City employs and trains minority youth to be guides for schoolchildren and help with entertainment programs. Rangers also administer first aid and teach lessons in environmental science. The program helps to promote good behavior and obedience to Park rules. A Senior Conservation Corps could utilize the talents of elderly volunteers; and disabled volunteers could develop interpretive programs for the handicapped and help identify and solve access problems. Cooperative efforts with environmental education associations, community service agencies, and cultural institutions are also essential so that interpretive, recreational, and environmental awareness programs are successful.

Cultural attractions reflecting the diversity of Los Angeles will expand the Park's ability to serve a broad spectrum of visitors. However, increased use of the Park might result in feelings of invaded privacy by the traditional users and local residents. These impacts can be mitigated by consolidating active recreational development in a few activity spots and ensuring that Park visitors seeking a natural setting for hiking or solitude are provided with adequate space.

Elysian Park can play a vital role in community outdoor education through programs similar to those provided in other parts of the Santa Monica Mountains -- such as art exhibits, guided hikes, nature walks, and special classes (Animals in the Park, Birds in the Park, Plants and Wildflowers, etc.). The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is willing to train docents in the

OTHER PROGRAMS - FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

The National Urban Recreation Study Executive Report, compiled in 1978 by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service jointly with the National Park Service, listed nine primary issues in their Summary of Findings. The following excerpts from this study can be applied directly to Elysian Park:⁵

1. Many city parks and recreation facilities are underutilized because of limited activity programming, poor staffing, deteriorating conditions, or bad locations;
2. Lack of coordination among recreation providers at every level of government is a serious barrier to more efficient and responsive urban recreation programs;
3. As local dollars for parks and recreation become more scarce, localities have turned for help to the federal government.

Programs for Elysian Park could be developed cooperatively with other government agencies. The National Park Service provides environmental education programs and materials through a variety of channels in Los Angeles. Park rangers conduct guided nature walks and work with State Park staffs to interpret the Santa Monica Mountains. The rangers also develop training workshops for schoolteachers and community leaders to encourage educational use of the Mountains; and they sponsor presentations to schoolchildren about the National Park Service, careers in Conservation, and the natural history of the Santa Monica Mountains.

In the past, the staff of the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation have scheduled a variety of special events and programs. Cooperative programs have also been developed by the National Park Service with recreation departments of Los Angeles County and City including workshops for recreation leaders about the Santa Monica Mountains, cultural events and programs with music and drama activities, and programs for senior citizens and the handicapped.

sports for older children, and activities for senior citizens. City parks also provide information on community services and events. (Exhibit 2.)

Other Recommendations - If public transportation service were provided through the Park, children and senior citizens could participate in activities at the Center. Dance, art, crafts, and a number of other classes could be offered for children as well as for senior citizens. A day care program and an after school program could be made available for families in the area, and the site is very well suited for summer camp. Area teenagers could be employed as camp counselors and to help in after school activities.

To make all groups feel welcome, specially arranged environmental awareness courses and group outings are necessary to eliminate social and psychological barriers to the Park's use. The fear of unsafe conditions is a barrier to the use of all the Park's amenities. Educational programs will help alleviate the fear among visitors (of bugs, criminal activity, lack of help in case of an emergency, etc.) and make them feel more comfortable in this natural environment.

At Central Park in New York City, education and entertainment programs are the result of fundraising efforts by the Central Park Conservancy. Education includes photography and art exhibits on park-related subjects, lectures, and an information and sales desk with books, maps and a variety of other items. Programs consist of treasure hunts, crafts projects, music and magic shows, and are aimed at schoolchildren during the week and families on the weekend.

The solution to the Recreation Center's problem of underuse, and therefore understaffing and underprogramming, could be the encouragement of advocacy planning for its programs, a voluntary program leadership, and as much self-maintenance as possible. In an era of increasing budgetary demands, it is unrealistic to expect the Department of Recreation and Parks to assume complete responsibility for planning, designing, and implementing the necessary programs to utilize this Center and the Park to its full potential. The Department is planning to make the Center accessible to disabled people. It should be made accessible to everyone, but it should not be converted to a center exclusively for the physically disadvantaged unless another facility is provided as a Recreation and Information Center for the Park. (The Chapter on the Police Academy refers to adaptive uses of buildings.)

PROGRAMMING : THE RECREATION CENTER

Existing Conditions

The Elysian Park Recreation Center includes a wading pool (which is kept empty of water), a basketball court, some gymnastic equipment, a picnic area, a small indoor hall, a gymnasium, and an outdoor amphitheater. A stage with a removable wall serves both the indoor gymnasium and the outdoor amphitheater. The Center has no hours of operations posted, no programs scheduled, and only a caretaker part-time staff.

Recommendations

Community Involvement - The Silver Lake-Echo Park District Community Plan states that it is the City's policy that the desires of the local residents be considered in the planning of recreational facilities. The Plan further states that recreational facilities, programs, and procedures are to be tailored to the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of individual neighborhoods, and these programs and procedures are to be continually monitored. **Community interaction in designing programs is vital to ensure the success of these programs.** Any program has to be flexible to accommodate the different ethnic groups in the surrounding communities, and there should be public meetings to hear opinions from citizens to aid planners in guiding future development.

Orientation/Information Center - By increasing awareness of the Park in the inner city communities, the Park has the opportunity to bring to consciousness the effects of pollution on air, water, and land and to disseminate information to as many people as possible on the rich and varied cultural and environmental histories of the various park sites. **The outer room of the existing Recreation Center could be adaptively used for visitor contact by making it an orientation/information center providing publications and exhibits on the Park.** The Center could provide refreshments and a quiet place for people to sit and learn about the historical significance of the Park -- its relationship to native villages, as a campsite for the Portola expedition, and as the largest remaining undeveloped site of the original Pueblo land grant.

Additional information on the Santa Monica Mountains could also be made available to provide visitors with opportunities to better appreciate and understand conservation and wildlife. There could be demonstrations and exhibits on recycling, conservation, alternative energy technology, recreation, and other educational purposes -- similar to those at the TreePeople facility. (Exhibit 2.)

Amphitheater - **The outdoor amphitheater at the Center can also be used for interpretive programs and activities which would be designed to serve a variety of cultural groups and interests with multilingual interpretations.** These programs can provide different experiences, such as orientation, environmental awareness, skill-building and education. Festivals and events featuring the music, art, and history of different ethnic groups can also be held here, as well as outdoor musical events such as picnic operas, musical circuses, or symphonies. The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum in Topanga Canyon offers a variety of programs which can be adapted to the Recreation Center's amphitheater. Small programs could be sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Department.

Programs in Other Parks - Various parks in the Los Angeles area were visited to study the use of their recreation centers, including LaFayette, Echo, and Reseda Parks. These other facilities have a variety of programs available to their constituents: day care for young children, team

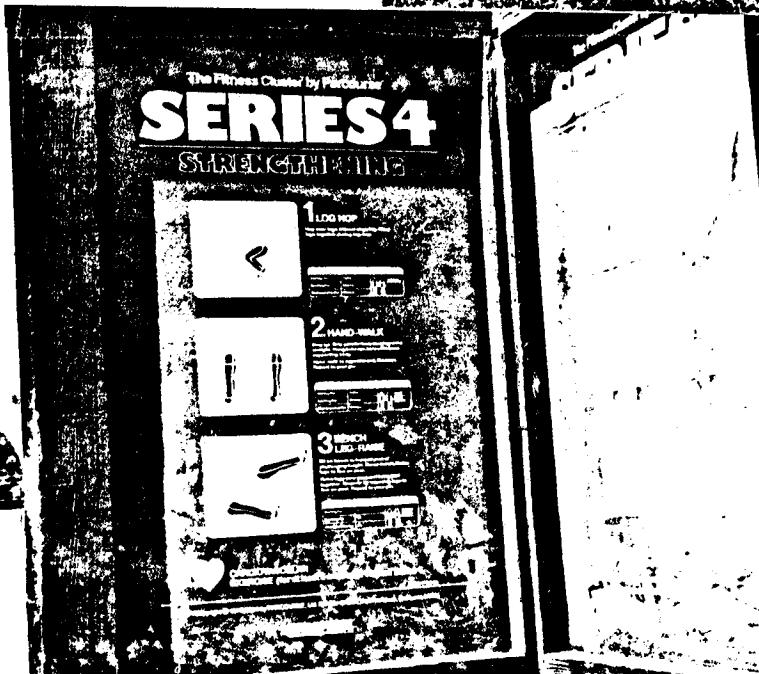
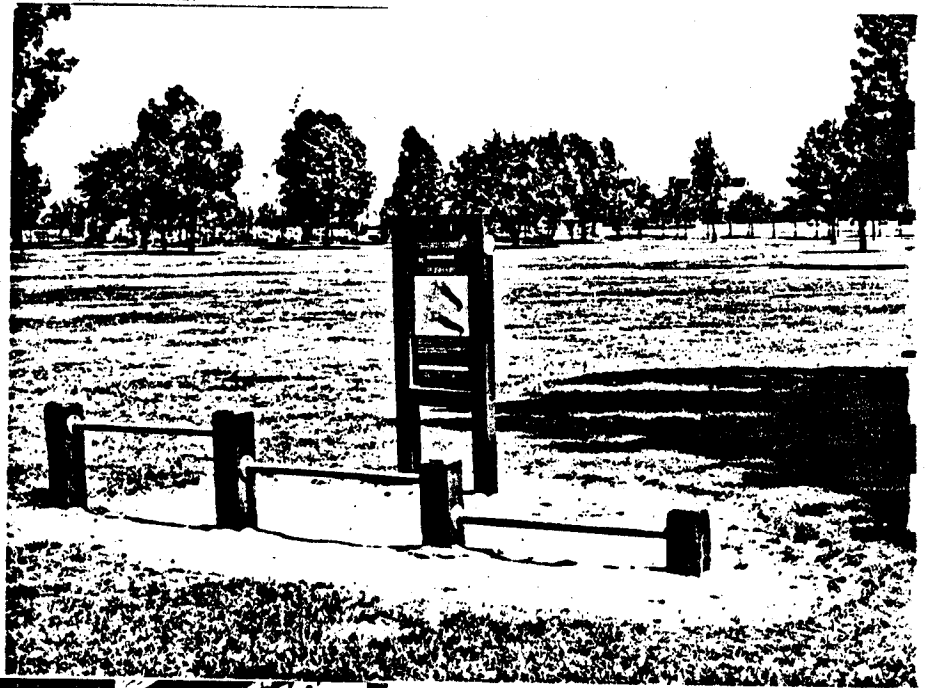


FIGURE 2
FITNESS CLUSTER
by PARCOURSE

relate its information directly by observing the natural phenomena which it describes.

The Nature Center is another interpretive service presenting information through exhibits, displays, and literature about nature-oriented activities. The nature center needs a nature area which is a representative sample of the immediate terrain and ecology. This area can have nature trails and an outdoor meeting place for talks -- a few benches to sit an average size class of about 30 people would be enough, similar to the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom at the TreePeople Headquarters in the Santa Monica Mountains. The TreePeople, an environmental problem-solving organization, teaches individuals and groups how to plant and maintain trees. Its headquarters is an environmental education center with exhibits on conservation, forestation, recycling, etc.; a similar center in Elysian Park would serve the inner city communities. The landfill site at Elysian Park could be used as a site for environmental education programs concerning waste disposal.

Sensory Interpretive Trails are specially designed trails to enhance the environmental learning programs for visitors with or without sensory impairments. These sensory trails focus on sights, smells, tastes, and tactile elements along the trail.

Physical Fitness Trails

Activity Trails would require only the placement of signs and special log formations to allow users to improve their physical fitness by certain exercises along the route. Woodley Avenue Park in the West San Fernando Valley has such a Fitness Cluster by Parcourse which can be used by joggers in the area or people who visit the Park specifically for exercising. (Figure 2.)

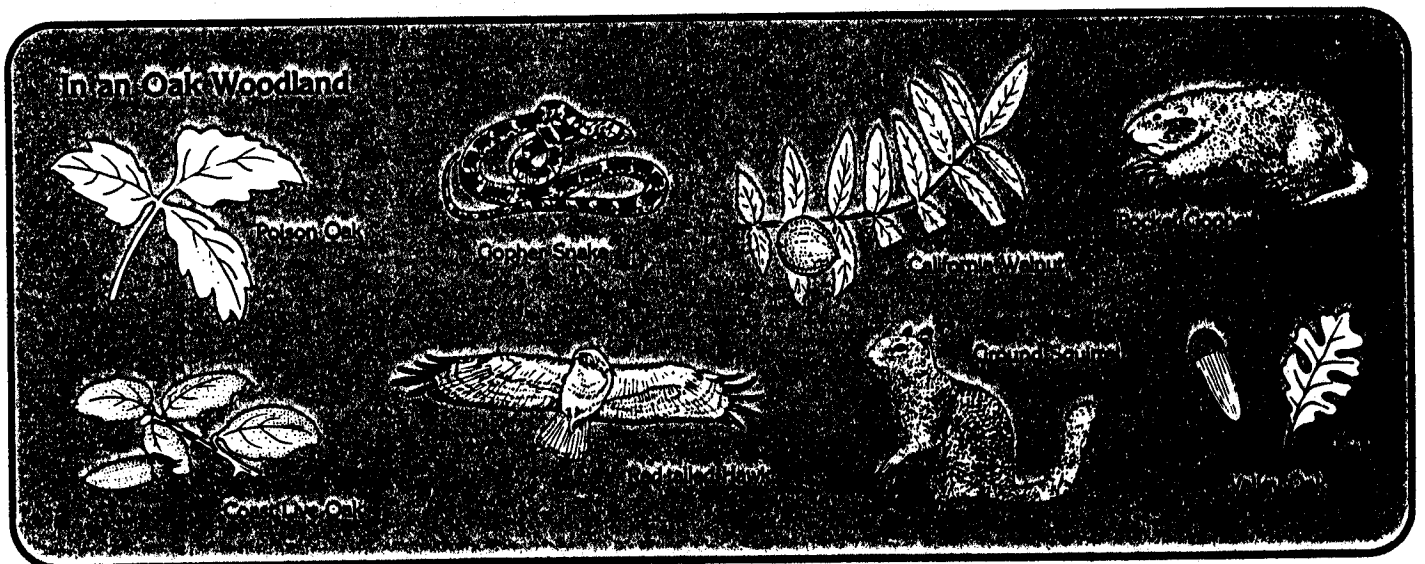
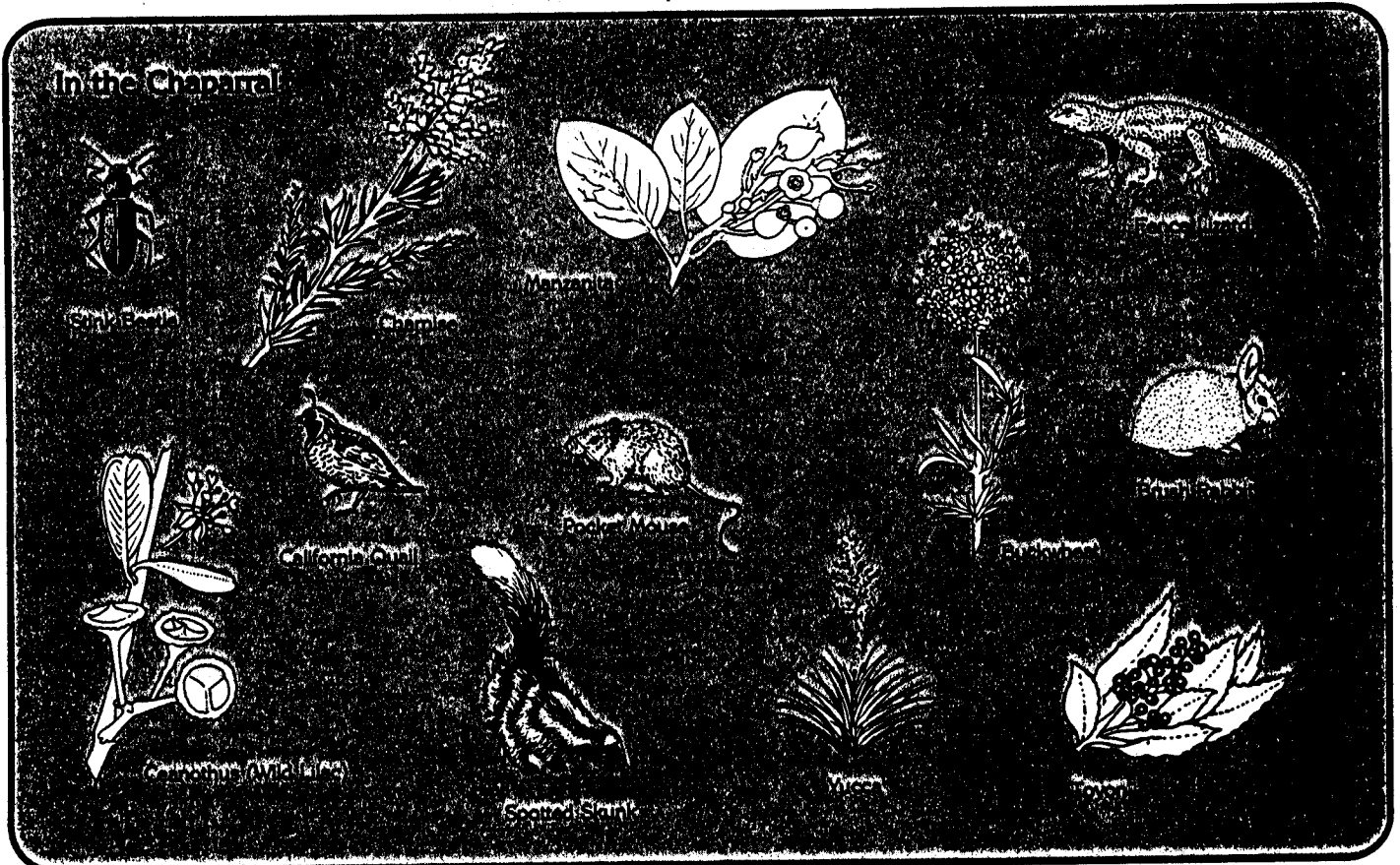
Bicycle Path - The Elysian Park Master Plan includes a proposal to connect Griffith and Elysian Parks through a green belt area; this strip could include both activity trails and a bicycle path. A bicycle rental and maintenance shop could then be accommodated in the Park.⁴

What Lives Here

From the Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, there are several different natural **communities**: chaparral, oak woodland, grassland, streamside, and seashore. Each provides for the basic needs of plants and animals that live there. Each has its own special problems of survival.

To learn about nature and life outdoors, you do not have to travel to faraway places. There are exciting natural **environments** to discover right here in the Santa Monica Mountains. Come and explore!

Look for these plants and animals:



Central Park

Map and Guide

*Fairmount
Parks*

*Haleakala
National Park*

UPCOMING EVENTS.. UPCOMING

EGG HUNT

Reseda Park will sponsor its annual Egg Hunt. There are prizes and candy for all who participate. This special event is FREE!!

EGG HUNT SCHEDULE

10:30 AM

TRACK MEET

Boys and Girls ages 7-14 are invited to run, jump and throw in the annual Valley Region Track Meet, sponsored by the L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks. Winners advance to the Jesse Owens Preliminaries. Check Reseda Park for a complete list of events in each age category. Register at Reseda Park and get Reseda Track Team T-shirt. Reseda Park offers a Track Meet which prepares Valley Region

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Reseda Recreation Center's Summer Day Camp will begin the 2nd week of July and runs through August 17th. Camp programs and activities include:

- Games & Sports - Music & Games
- Arts & Crafts - Surprise Visitors
- Swimming - Special Trips

Registration is taken on a first come, first served basis and will continue until camp is filled.

SPACE IS LIMITED.

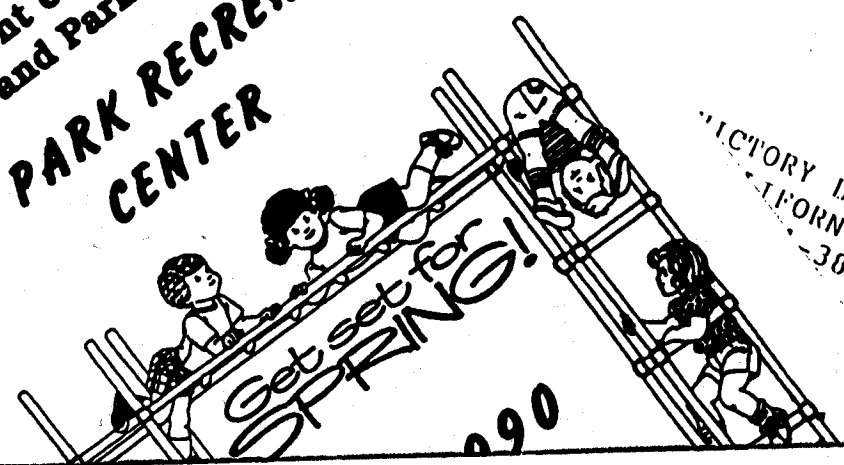
Registration begins Tuesday, May 22, 1990.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Recreation and Parks

ECHO PARK RECREATION CENTER

SUMMER FUN CAMP



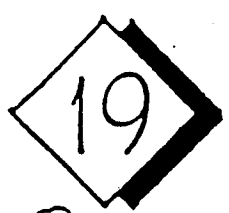
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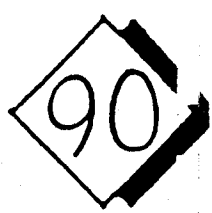
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - METROPOLITAN REGION
GRIFFITH DISTRICT

Echo Park Recreation Center
1632 Bellevue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Telephone: 250-3578, 250-8946

James E. Hadaway, General Manager
Debby Rolland, District Supervisor
Linda Brough, Sr. Recreation Director
Kelly Werling, Recreation Director
Albert Ortiz, Recreation Director
Katie O' Kelley, Recreation Director



ECHO PARK RECREATION CENTER



T-BALL/BASEBALL

EXHIBIT 3

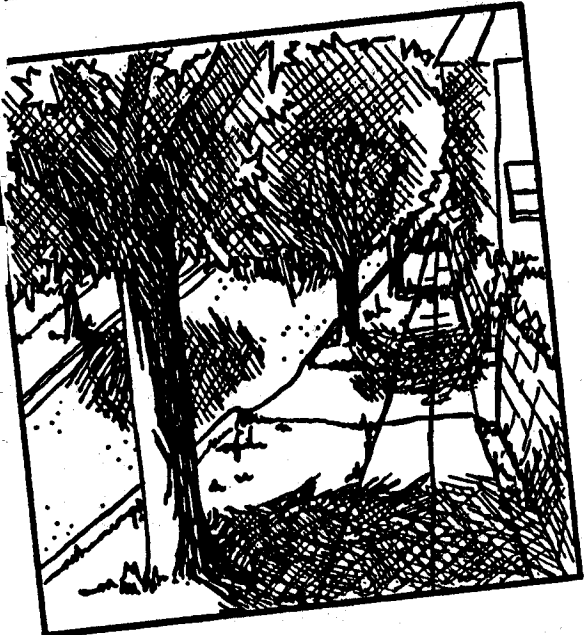
REGISTRATION



WHERE: Temescal Canyon Park, Pacific Palisades Parking across from site and at Palisades High School.

WHAT: Concert and Nature Festival for Families and Young Children. Mini Walks, Delicious Food for Sale, Nature Crafts and Activity Booths. (Be a Butterfly, Chumash Sand Painting, Face Painting, Live Insect Museum, Rocks, Fossils and Bones. etc.) Spin a Spider Web, Camping with Kids Demonstration, Strolling puppets, Animals, and Much More.

PLANTING LOCALLY...

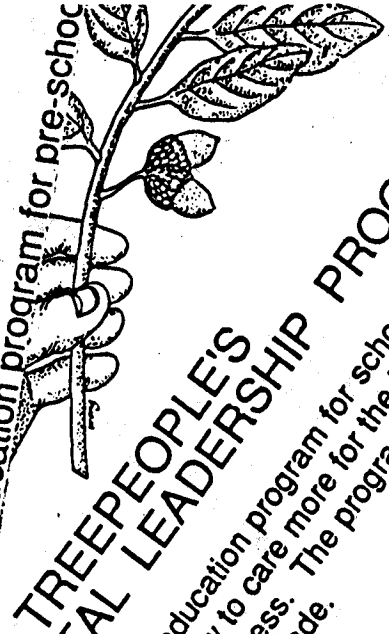


...EDUCATING GLOBALLY

TreePeople's
CITIZEN FORESTER
PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP:
A Pre-School Tour with TreePeople

TreePeople offers an exciting education program for pre-school and is designed to show students how to care more for the LA. environment through tree planting, recycling, and nature awareness. The program is geared to the age group and is conducted for students prek - 12th grade.



ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD
TREE PLANTING

TreePeople's
CITIZEN FORESTER
PROGRAM



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
for schools in the Los Angeles area
The program is geared to the age group

Santa Monica Mountains



Cheeseboro Canyon

Santa Monica Mountains

Baleen Wall Trail: (3 miles, strenuous)
Named for the rock outcrop that resembles baleen in a whale's mouth, the trail climbs gradually to the east side of the canyon. The trail follows a large water tank and enters the ridge. From the tank walk west to the top of the ridge. From the top of the ridge walk west to the top of the ridge. From the top of the ridge walk west to the top of the ridge. From the top of the ridge walk west to the top of the ridge.

CANYON TRAILS

Modello Trail: (3/4 mile, moderate)
trail meanders from the parking lot through grasslands to a long ridge on the ridge. Watch for rock formations and coyotes in this area. The trail drops to the canyon floor. A spur trail follows the west ridge for a mile, then returns to the canyon floor.

Franklin Canyon Ranch

AN ISLAND OF TRAILS

DISCOVERY TRAIL: (0.3 mile; easy)

The self-guided Discovery Trail leaves from the northwest corner of the parking lot and loops through the black walnut woodland along the canyon bottom. While on the Discovery Trail watch for a variety of wonderful plants and animals that live in this island with:

HASTAIN TRAIL: (0.5 mile; moderate)



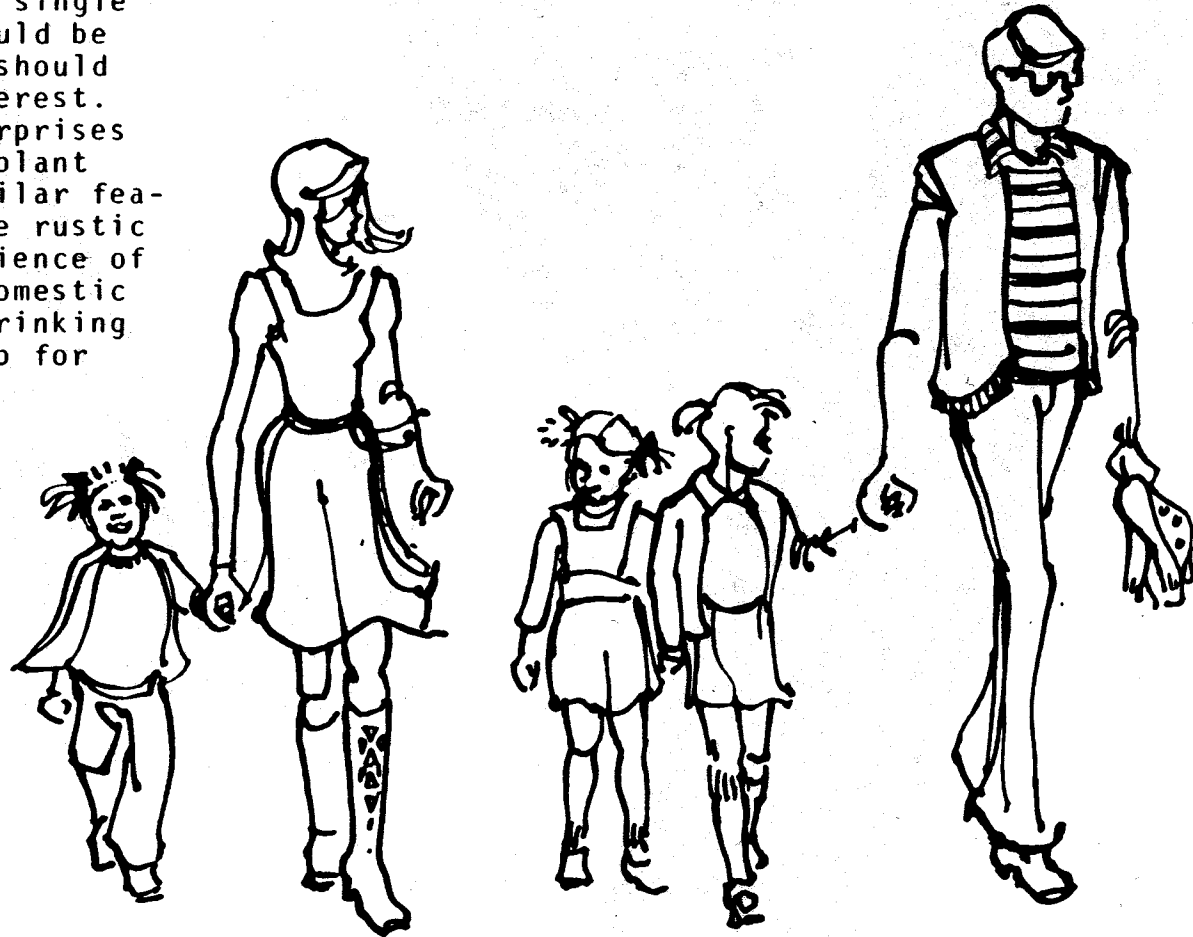
NEWS

NURSERY NATURE WALKS KIDS NATURE FESTIVAL AND CONCERT



TRAILS

There is a system of fire roads in the park now which provide a nucleus for penetration into park back country and there are numerous informal trails that have grown spontaneously over the years. The park theme demands an extensive trails system throughout the entire park. These trails should be of two kinds. Those which are wide enough for park maintenance vehicles and cross country runners and smaller trails for single file hiking. These trails should be logical in their location and should connect all main points of interest. There should be interesting surprises along the way such as unusual plant groupings, bird feeders or similar features. Rest points should have rustic benches or logs for the convenience of hikers and, where practical, domestic water should be extended for drinking fountains. See circulation map for proposed new trails.



TRAILS: RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, PHYSICAL FITNESS

Existing Conditions

Trails in Elysian Park were laid out from the late 1800s. A \$100,000 bond issue in 1895 for the Park's improvement was defeated by the voters; but the Park's main road was a favorite drive. The land within the Park is hilly and cut by very steep slopes and canyons and the long, winding roads and trails offer spectacular vistas of the city to the south and towards the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Stadium Way, the largest road, divides the Park into two major sections and is heavily used as a commuter shortcut. Running the length of the Chavez Ravine and Solano Canyon valleys are wide roads which become solid parking lots on busy days. Most of the other roads are narrow and penetrate all areas of the Park; and haphazard off-pavement parking has caused destruction of plant cover and erosion. Fire roads make up much of the trails system; closed to vehicular traffic, they allow visitors interested in walking, hiking, or jogging to access other sections of the Park and enjoy the lushness of the tree growth in the valleys.

Recommendations

In designing a system of trails to serve all potential user groups, there are three kinds of trails recommended: recreational, educational/interpretive, and physical fitness.

Recreational Trails

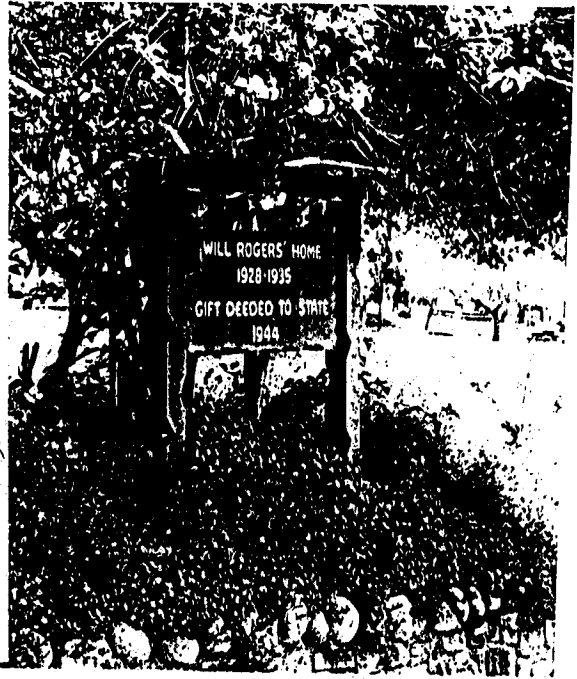
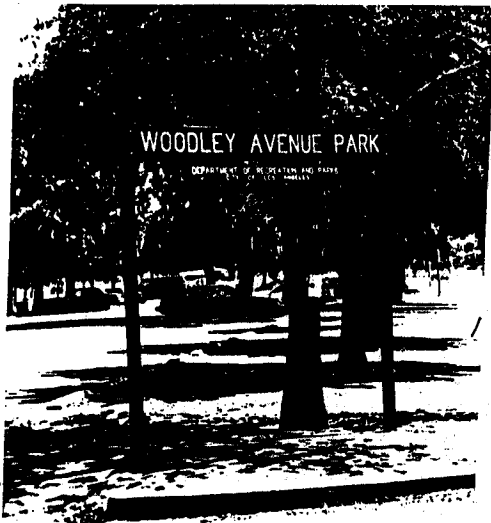
Some trails should be short and provide easy, relaxing routes to special features or scenic viewpoints. There should be some low-relief, smooth surface trails designed for use by the elderly and the handicapped to be accessible by wheelchair and include frequent resting places. Trails should be available from parking areas and from future bus stops.

Educational Interpretive Trails

Nature Trails may be used on walks guided by a ranger or docent. Guided walks are not only enjoyable but also educational; for example, a seasonal approach can be used with a series of walks related to the season--as walks in the spring to look for birds or wild flowers. When a leader is not available, a self-guided trail can be used. This trail can have signs, trailside displays, or printed leaflets with information about specific locations on the trail. Self-guided interpretive trails with trail guides or wayside exhibits can interpret important features. These trails are usually 1/2 to 3/4 mile in length. At the entrance to self-guided trails, there should be an illustration to inform people of the trail's features. Trails could be given names according to a specific feature to help identify them.

Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades allows visitors to enjoy the surroundings through a self-guided trail. In the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy sponsors nature walks and nature hikes for groups of different ages -- including nursery nature walks for families who have children from infants through kindergarten age. The idea for these nature walks is that the earlier and more frequently children experience nature, the more aware they will be of the natural world around them. (Please see Exhibit 1.)

Trailside Museums are self-explanatory exhibits which tell a story of the natural history of the immediate environment. Picture boxes can be placed along trails as well as at picnic sites, at roadside lookouts, and at scenic observation points so that people can view the picture and



Announcing a park's presence

Directories with maps and illustrations

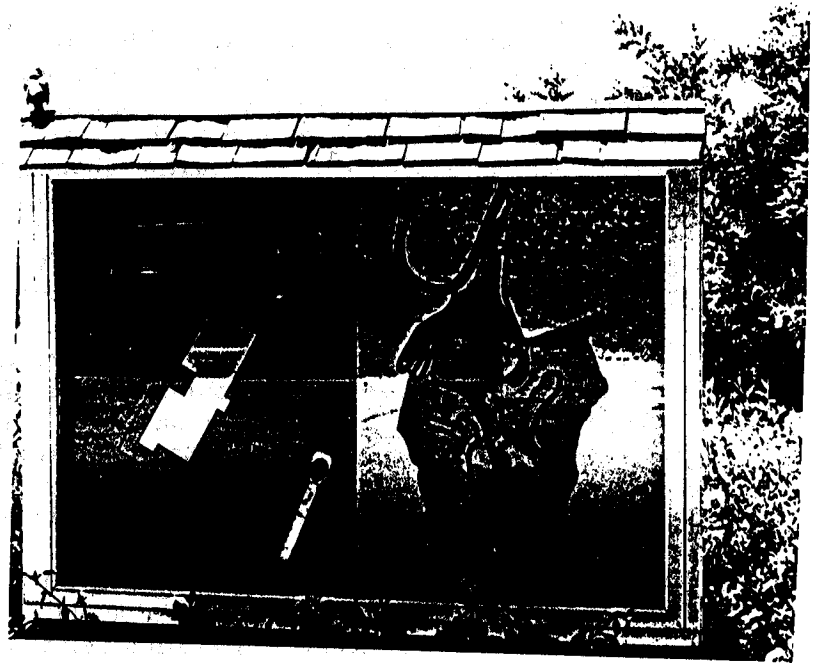
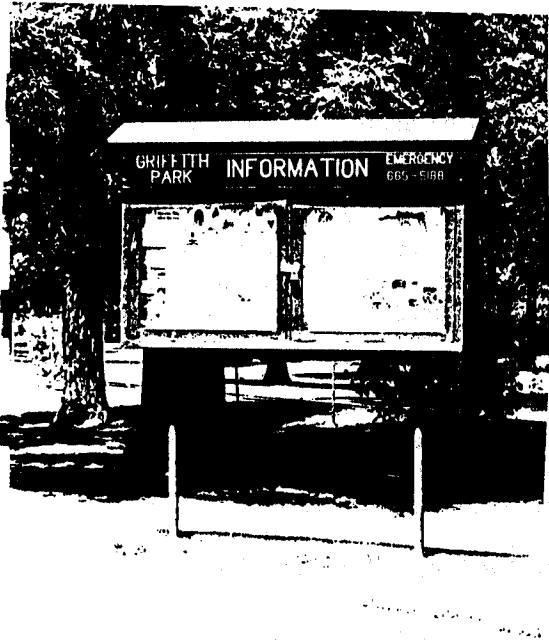


FIGURE 1

EXAMPLES OF SIGNAGE USED AT OTHER PARKS

To effectively convey sign messages, the size of the sign is not as important as its legibility. The colors chosen should reflect those of the natural surroundings; for example, a dark brown background could have a contrasting lighter brown color for the lettering. The size of the words, which ultimately determine the size of the sign, should be in scale with the viewer's location. Information directories can use small lettering to include as much general information as possible; whereas signs used to point out the direction of facilities, activities, or other areas of interest can use large lettering. (Figure 1.)

Information centers - Centers could be located at activity sites and smaller information stations offering site-specific information could be established at appropriate sites, including alongside trails. These can be augmented by brochures, wayside exhibit, and self-guided trails. Trails can be graphically marked for easy identification of Park areas and with distance to points of interest. Signage on trails could also identify plants and animals in the area. Local talent and resources can be used in designing information programs and services for the public to increase community involvement and awareness of the Park.

PARK INFORMATION AND SIGNAGE

Existing Conditions

Lack of signage at Elysian Park inhibits use; graphics and directional signs are needed so that locations and activities in the Park can be readily identified. The present signs announcing the Park's presence are few and inadequate. As previously mentioned, there are no signs on the freeways bordering the Park advertising the Park's presence, and the signs on North Broadway -- one at the Park's entrance and one at Solano, are not highly visible and do not attract attention. The sign at Broadway/Solano seems to be intended to announce only the Police Academy at Elysian Park. North Broadway, the main entrance, has signs listing limitations on use only; a visible, monumental entrance is needed with a sign welcoming visitors. A sign announcing the Park is also needed at the other main street leading to it, Sunset Boulevard at Elysian Park Avenue. The 1972 Elysian Park Master Plan suggestions on signage needed at the Park's entrances have not been implemented.¹

Recommendations

Public Art Project

The community could be involved in a public art project for the design of the main entrance and other appropriate spots selected. The public art project for MacArthur Park initiated and sponsored by Otis-Parson is an example of a successful way to foster neighborhood involvement in a project. The artists selected for the project met with local business leaders and local organizations and individuals while spending time at the park. The result is artworks with a functional component as well as works containing strong aesthetic, political, or social statements of relevance to the surrounding community. The artists' works were successful in emphasizing positive aspects of the Park's history and topography as well as of the community.²

Information Signs

In addition to signs announcing the Park, directory signs are needed. The corner at Stadium Way and Scott is an excellent spot for such a sign listing points of interest in the Park. Also on Stadium Way, at the road leading to the Grace E. Simons Lodge, is a prominent sign with information on the Lodge. Opposite this Lodge sign could be another directory, as this is a highly visible spot for visitors. The Trails section includes suggestions on other signs which could be used throughout the Park. "You are here" signs throughout the Park could be very helpful for orientation purposes to encourage visitors to use all areas of the Park.

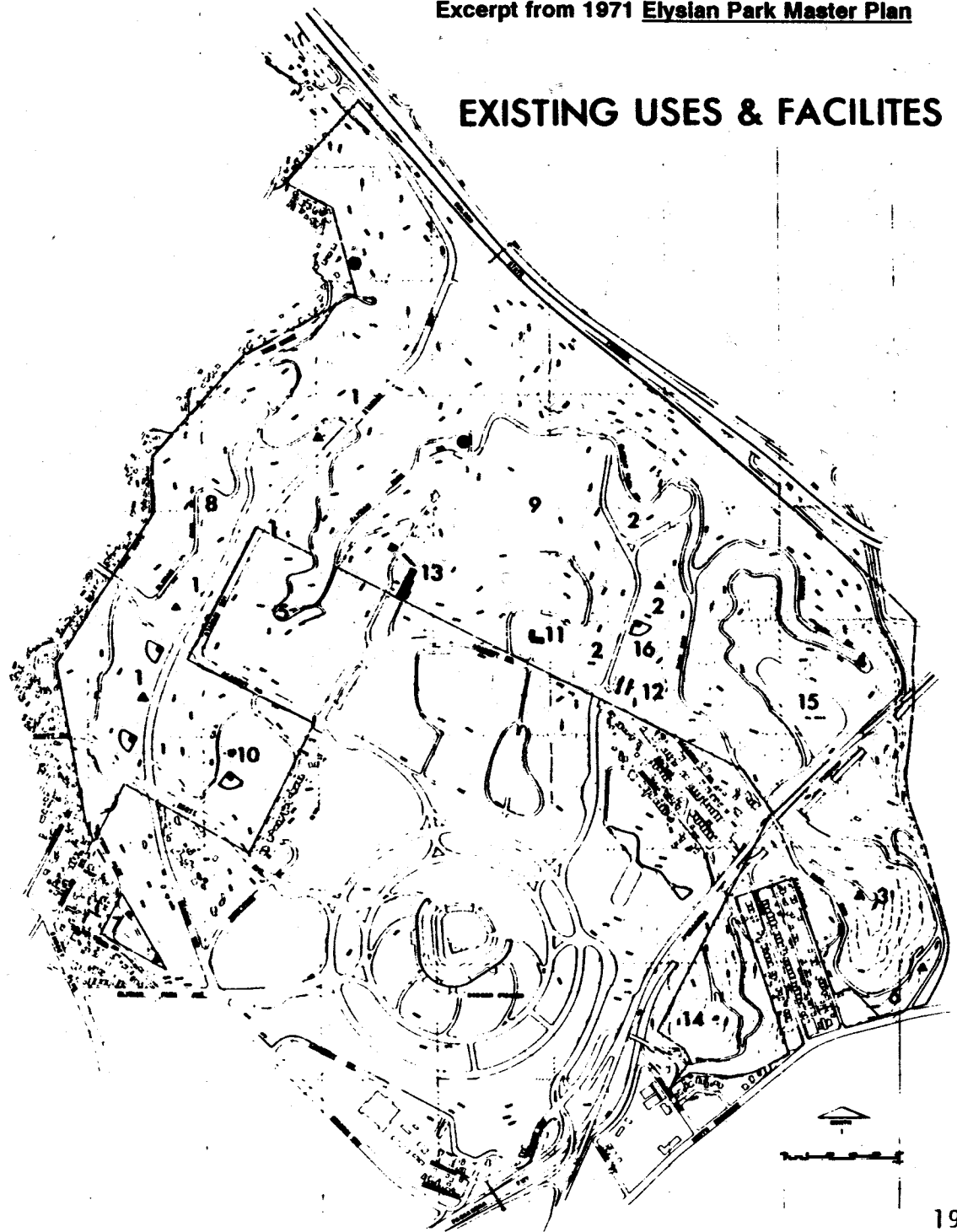
The Central Park Conservancy in New York City provides large framed maps at all major Park entrances, and these maps have a seasonal calendar of events on the reverse. The Conservancy also publishes a quarterly newsletter and provides signs within the Park which tell about restoration projects and encourage respect for new plantings.³

In selecting the most appropriate type of signage for Elysian Park, the community should be involved to make the signs not only physically attractive and compatible with the surroundings, but also psychologically and culturally acceptable to the Park's users. Signs should be simple and use bold, easily-recognized symbols and clear lettering. Signs should also be kept to a minimum to prevent confusion and sign "overload".

EXISTING USES & FACILITIES

LEGEND

- 1 Chavez Ravine
- 2 Solano Canyon
- 3 Buena Vista Point
- 4 Point Grand View
- 5 Angelo Point
- 6 Portola Trail Historical Marker
- 7 Victory Memorial Grove
- 8 Rubber Tree Grove
- 9 Bishop Canyon Land Fill
- 10 Recreation Lodge
- 11 Recreation Center & Playground
- 12 Park Headquarters
- 13 Police Academy
- 14 Police Dept. Radio Station
- 15 Dept. of Water & Power Reservoir
- 16 Tennis Courts
- ▣ Softball Diamond
- ▲ Restroom
- Water Tank




LEGEND

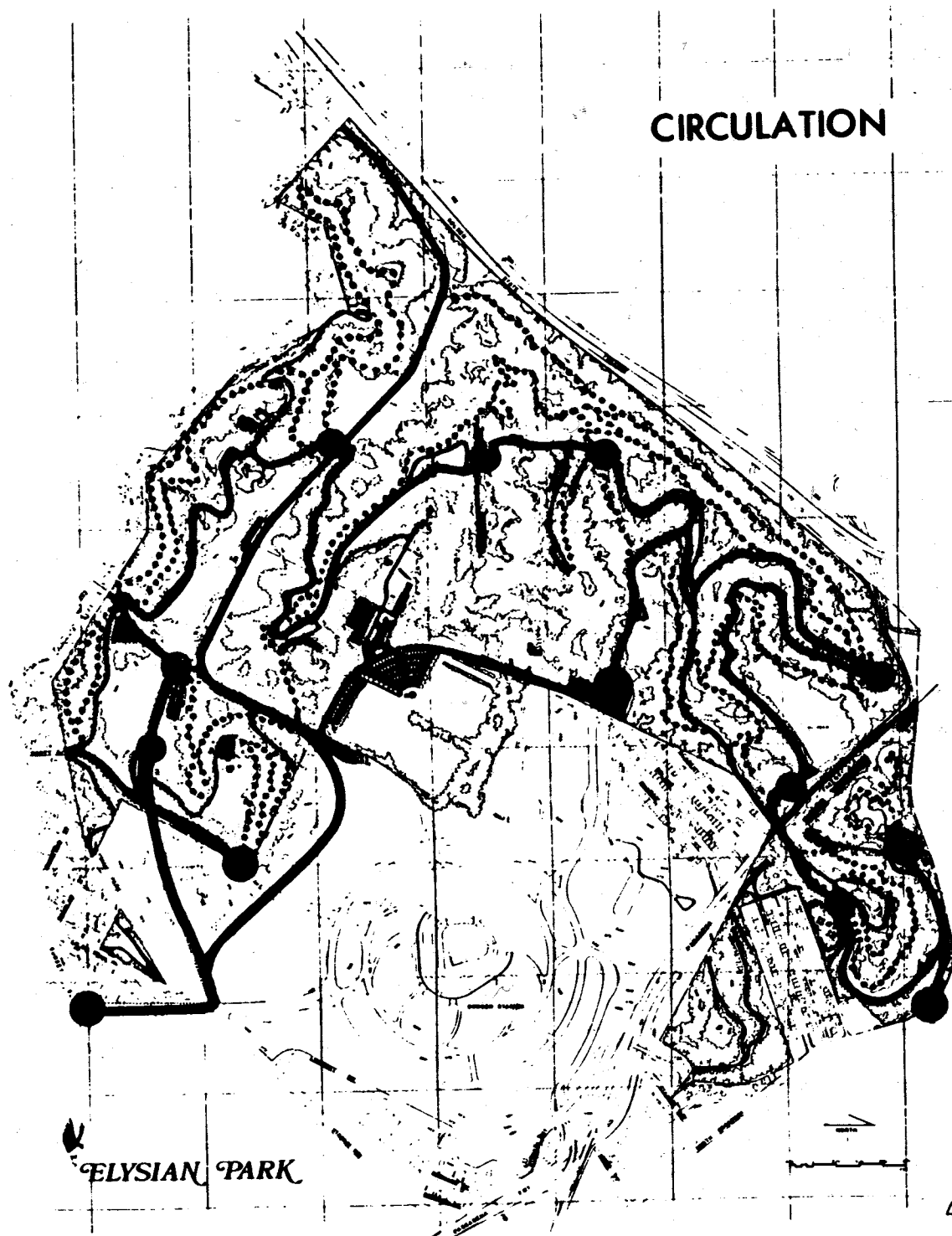
Road 

Trail 

Tram Route 

Tram Station 

CIRCULATION



routes leading to the Stadium. **The Dodgers should encourage mass transit to games; shuttle buses in Yosemite Valley have been successful in eliminating traffic congestion and have been credited with eliminating pollution in Yosemite Park.**

ACCESSIBILITY

Existing Conditions

Elysian Park is accessible from all areas of Los Angeles. It is bordered by two major freeways and is served by several major streets. The main transportation routes include the Golden State and Pasadena Freeways and two major streets: North Broadway and Sunset Boulevard. The primary means of transportation to the Park is by private automobile. Inadequate public transportation to and through the Park is a barrier to its use by people without cars and those preferring not to drive and limits the public's appreciation of many of the Park's amenities. Existing Rapid Transit District bus lines serving the edges of the Park could be extended through the Park, particularly on weekends. Bus stops inside the Park could serve as information/orientation centers for bus and Park services.

Recommendations

Access for Urban Youth

A public transit outreach program could be established to allow urban youth from throughout Los Angeles County the opportunity to experience the natural environment of the Park. To enable children from the inner city to have access to the Park on weekends, buses not in service in urban areas on those days--such as school buses--could be used for shuttle service. Children would be picked up at their local schools, local parks, or other convenient locations and taken by bus to the Park for nature-related educational activities. These field trips and educational programs can be coordinated by the Park's Recreation Director with the schools.

Access for Special Events

The Park's proximity to the central city's government district allows large numbers to visit the Park for special events with a minimum impact to the Park. **The parking structures used by government employees during the week could be used by weekend Park visitors, who would then travel the short distance to the Park via shuttle service.**

Access Within the Park

Since some of the scenic roads are not easily accessible on foot, shuttle service within the Park is also necessary for those visitors who do not come by car to the Park. Weekend shuttle service to view points would also limit auto access to ensure the scenic spots have minimum obstruction to views. The Dodger Stadium parking lots could be made available to Park visitors when not being used by the facility, with shuttles operating from that location also.

Traffic Congestion

Commuter traffic creates congestion on Stadium Way during rush hour periods; this Park road is used as a short cut by downtown office workers who live in the suburbs. To discourage the use of Park roads and thoroughfares by downtown commuter, **the speed limit in the Park could be set at twenty miles per hour.**

Another source of congestion is Dodger Stadium. On days when games are played at the Stadium, access to the Park is severely limited for up to one to two hours before a game starts. Parking for picnickers is also impacted, since some baseball fans choose not to pay the fee charged to park in the Stadium parking lot and instead leave their cars in the Park along the

PARK OPPORTUNITIES: Elysian Park should provide not only a variety of activities, but also quality experiences for the development of the visitor. Located in the midst of a major metropolitan area, the Park has a unique opportunity to offer visitors many ways to combine enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors with an understanding of natural, cultural, and environmental values.

TRAILS: The Elysian Park Master Plan recommends the development of an extensive trails system throughout the Park with two types of trails: some wide enough for maintenance vehicles and runners, with smaller ones for single file hiking. Trails were to connect all main points of interest with "surprises" along the way, such as unusual plant groupings and bird feeders. Rest points with rustic benches or logs for the convenience of hikers were also recommended, as well as extending domestic water for drinking fountains where practical.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: There are signs posted announcing the limitations on the Park's use, but there is nothing listing the amenities in the Park. Directories of points of interest are needed. Entrances to the Park are not now prominently recognized; all entrances should be more visually dignified and inviting. This section updates the Master Plan recommendations and gives examples of successful programs in other parks.

Programming and the Recreation Center

Located in the Solano Canyon area, the Recreation Center includes a gym, an outdoor basketball court, a wading pool, and shaded picnic tables. The gym is equipped for volleyball and its stage has a retractable wall which allows its use by the indoor hall and an outdoor amphitheater. The Center is underutilized and in danger of being closed because of the latest budget cuts. The Recreation Center has been underused since its constituency was moved out of the Chavez Ravine neighborhood to consolidate the area as an appropriate site for a public housing project. The idea was abandoned, and Dodger Stadium was built on the site of the former community.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: According to a City employee, the Center has suffered from a cycle of underuse, underfunding, and underprogramming. It has been assigned only part-time directors and there are no scheduled activities, with few groups using it. In devising programs for the Center, flexibility and variety in planning are important to provide a multitude of both physical and social experiences. Instead of regimenting its use, any programs adopted need to make the Center readily adaptive to changing uses according to the visitors' needs and wants. It can serve different segments of the population: tots, school-age children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens. This section suggests ways in which the Recreation Center can be used for the benefit of the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Elysian Park is an example of parks designed in the Pleasure Ground Era (1850-1900) in which the goal was to enclose space containing long vistas provided by open grounds and meadows. The parks were intended to contrast visually with the urban world rapidly surrounding them and were to provide a minimal amount of recreation -- only for passive, contemplative uses. The uses in Elysian Park today are not as much passive, as unstructured. Due to its size and topography, Elysian Park can preserve its scenic values and natural resources while providing amenities to create a community-scale identity. Greater community awareness will result in a growing constituency to help protect and enhance the Park.

Accessibility

Elysian Park, a large piece of open land in the heart of Los Angeles with magnificent views and great historical importance should be given priority in funding and programming by city officials. The site is described as a Regional Park by the Department of Recreation and Parks, as it should be because of its size; but it seems to be used as a neighborhood park -- with only a handful of people enjoying this urban forest on many weekdays. The Park ought to be utilized and enjoyed to the fullest; but for this to occur, people have to be made aware that it is there.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Elysian Park has to become more accessible physically, psychologically, and culturally. The primary barriers to access are:

- lack of transportation
- lack of information about how to get there and what to see and do
- inadequate facilities,
- uncertainty about whether or not the visitor is welcome at the Park.

This section focuses on recommendations to make the Park available to a wide variety of people.

Information System

Lack of signage is directly related to the Park's accessibility problem.

PARK ENTRANCES: Bordered and intersected by the Golden State and Pasadena Freeways respectively, the Park has no signs on either freeway advertising its proximity. There are several entrances to the Park, with only a few signs indicating the entry points. At the North Broadway entrance, a site of historical importance, the present Elysian Park sign is visible only by motorists approaching the area from the north. The Fremont Gate monument and Portola Trail commemoration plaque could be accompanied by an appropriate public art project which would make this a grand entrance to the Park.

PARK AMENITIES: Elysian Park is a rural Park in an urban environment offering splendid views of lush tree growth in the valleys, automobile drives which afford beautiful vistas, miles of hiking trails, and other scenic features. However, many urban residents do not know about the Park; and most families tend to confine themselves to the picnic and playground areas adjacent to available parking by the main roads near the Park's entrances. To make people aware of the opportunities in the Park and of its historical significance, it is necessary to contact different ethnic groups and encourage visits through multilingual information.

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MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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ENDNOTES

1. Elysian Park Master Plan, p. 37.
2. Jeffrey L. Cruikshank and Pam Korza, Going Public: A Field Guide to Developments in Art in Public Places (Amherst, Mass.: Arts Extension Service, 1988), pp 103-104.
3. Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan, (The Central Park Conservancy, 1985).
4. Elysian Park Master Plan, p. 30.
5. "National Urban Recreation Study Findings," Trends 15, Fall 1978, pp 33 - 34.
6. Seymour Gold, "Nonuse of Neighborhood Parks", American Institute of Planners Journal 38, November 1972, pp 370 - 377.
7. Ann Kaufman, "The Vision of American Urban Parks", in Dietsch and Stenecker, ed. Precis: Architecture in the Public Realm, 1981, pp 25 - 27.
8. John Beardsley, Art in Public Places, (Washington, D.C.: Partners for Livable places, 1981) pp 12, 29, 94.