

LOS ANGELES RIVER



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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LOS ANGELES RIVER GUIDELINES *IMPROVING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION*

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When the Los Angeles River Master Plan was adopted in June 1996, it established a framework for how the Los Angeles River could become a viable resource for recreation and open space. However, the Master Plan lacked two key components that would assist with facilitating the project implementation and it recommended that both Landscape and Signage Guidelines would have to be completed. On March 16, 2004, the Board of Supervisors adopted both these Guidelines as amendments to the Master Plan.

What's in the Guidelines?

The Sign Guidelines provide design specifications for various types of signs including informational, warning, regulatory, and directional signs. The specifications include a heron logo and river background to provide unique and consistent awareness of the Los Angeles River system. In addition, the Sign Guidelines also provide details for the installation and mounting of signs.

The Landscape Guidelines consist of three parts which include design considerations, native plant landscaping

guidelines, and the appendices. The design considerations contain the goals and design setbacks for providing consistent native landscaping along the River to sustain habitat and to ensure that flood control maintenance and access are not impacted. The native plant landscaping guidelines section contains instructions on site characterization, site preparation, and design guidelines. The appendices include a comprehensive list of recommended native plants, an outline of the permit process, specifications for landscape amenities such as fences, and a list of resources for obtaining native plants and other landscape amenities.

How do you get a copy of the Guidelines?

Copies of the Guidelines have been provided to the Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee. These are also available on the web at: http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/LA/LA_River_Plan.cfm. Additional hard copies will be made available through the Public Works' cashier's office.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Continuing Ad Hoc Efforts

The City of Los Angeles continues to move towards the revitalization of the 30 miles of River within the City through the proposed developments:

- The Bureau of Engineering completed the El Pueblo Lake Report which provides a preliminary evaluation of a proposed lake in the River through downtown Los Angeles. The report is available for review at: <http://www.lacity.org/councilcmte/lariver/comm.htm> and comments are due by June 30, 2004.
- The Los Angeles Department of Transportation finalized a sign design for the River bridges which is consistent with the Master Plan Sign Guidelines.
- The Bureau of Sanitation is in the process of completing a video, with news commentator Linda Alvarez, about the Los Angeles River.
- The Bureau of Engineering received a permit for installing Safety Mile Marker Signs along the River in the Los Feliz and Elysian Valley reaches. This permit request prompted the Master Plan Advisory Committee to make a final decision on the numbering direction for all mileage markings along the River; the Committee agreed that the mileage numbers will begin at the headwaters and increase to the ocean. This is a demonstration Project
- The Bureau of Sanitation received a permit for installing signs along catch basins that lead to the River. This is a demonstration project.

CATCH BASIN SIGN MARKING



7th ANNUAL LARMP EARTH DAY EVENT
WRIGLEY GREENBELT @ LONG BEACH

The 7th Annual Los Angeles River Master Plan Earth Day event was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at the corner of DeForest Avenue and 34th Street in Long Beach. The project, known as the Wrigley Greenbelt, has been identified in the Los Angeles River Master Plan, the Open Space Element of the City's General Plan, and the Long Beach RiverLink Study as a potential open space project. The Earth Day event was an opportunity for River advocates to demonstrate their commitment to develop the Wrigley Greenbelt with passive recreation features. The event was organized through a collaborative effort between Supervisor Don Knabe's Office, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the Office of City of Long Beach Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, and the Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine. Additional project proponents and key participants included Webster Elementary School, John Muir Academy, and the Long Beach Conservation Corps. After the event kicked off with speeches from the represented organizations, the three classes of third grade students were paired up and instructed on how to plant the approximate 12 native trees and 200



Tom Alexander (Public Works), Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga (Long Beach), and Curt Pedersen (Supervisory District 3), plant the first tree with students.

shrubs. The students were then invited to participate in an educational tour of the Los Angeles River. To conclude the event, lunch was provided with the generous support from the Long Beach Police Officers Association and Buono's Pizzeria. The Earth Day event was a great success due to the overwhelming commitment from participants as well as local residents and the Wrigley Association. Overall, the event accomplished another milestone towards further implementation of a continuous greenway.



Webster Elementary Students

EARTH DAY 2004

Rode a bike for the first time
 I helped plant this tree
 I watched a small fisher score a leaf
 Read a novel under this tree

What will YOU do?

LA River Master Plan
 7th Annual Event April 21st @ 9:30 am
 Wrigley Greenbelt at Long Beach
 At the corner of 34th St. and De Forest Av. For more information please call (626) 458-4304

Supervisor Don Knabe
 Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga
 N.M.A.R.T. (National Master Plan Association)

STUDIO CITY GREENWAY
1/2-mile project completed!

On April 22, 2004, Mayor Jim Hahn was joined by the Ad Hoc River Committee Councilmembers Ed Reyes, Tom LaBonge, and Wendy Gruel to dedicate the Los Angeles River Greenway between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue in Studio City. The 1/2-mile project features an undulating decorative fence, river rock elements, native landscaping, and boulder seating areas.



Unveiling of LA River Greenway

RIVER DEVELOPMENT
UPDATES

Dominguez Gap and DeForest Wetlands Projects: Public Works has selected a consultant for the design phase of the project. The project received a \$200,000 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, a \$400,000 grant from Coastal Conservancy, and a \$2.35 million grant from the Proposition 13 CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program for the design and construction phases of Dominguez Gap.

Elysian Valley Street Ends: Public Works is in the process of completing survey work for the proposed street end improvements along the west side of the River in Elysian Valley.

Ernie's Walk: Public Works completed construction of the 1/4-mile project between Cedros and Kester Streets in Sherman Oaks on July 12, 2004.

Los Angeles River Headwaters: Public Works is currently preparing landscape concept plans for Phase 1A: Topanga to Owensmouth Avenues and Phase 1B: Owensmouth to Mason Avenues.

Riverside Drive Bridge: The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering is in the process of researching alternatives for improving the Riverside Drive bridge with bikeway access and potentially a roundabout at the intersection of San Fernando Road and Figueroa Street.

Tujunga Wash Restoration Project: Public Works is currently working with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to design the project. Design is expected to be completed by fall 2004.

Signage Installation: On April 19, 2004, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board approved funding for Public Works to fabricate and install signage in the lower Los Angeles River.

VALLEYHEART GREENWAY



Supervisor Yaroslavsky with students from Carpenter Avenue Elementary

On Saturday, June 12, 2004, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky kicked off the grand opening ceremony of the Valleyheart Greenway project. He was accompanied by other project proponents, including Don Wolfe of Public Works, Melanie Winter of The River Project, and Tony Lucente of the Studio City Residents Association. Project

supporters and event participants also included staff and students of Carpenter Avenue Elementary School and City of Los Angeles Councilmember Wendy Gruel. The 1/4-mile long project consists of a decomposed granite path, wrought iron fencing, and native landscaping. In addition, the project also has student-designed amenities such as a snake retaining wall proposed by student Charlie Ellis and a toad gate proposed by student Michael Harris. The students played a key role in the project development since 2001 when they assisted with designing the project elements and participated in kicking off the project development as part of an Earth Day celebration. At the opening ceremony, the students returned to see some of their project designs integrated in the final project construction by Public Works.

SPRING EVENTS

15th Annual La Gran Limpieza

On April 30 and May 1, Friends of the Los Angeles River held the 15th Annual Great Los Angeles River Clean Up, *La Gran Limpieza*, event at ten locations along the River. This year's activities kicked off with an Outdoor Education Day which involved an art educational element. Graphic artist and muralist, Leo Limon, painted "cat" artwork on three concrete pylons near the Fletcher Avenue bridge and the Glendale Freeway. Leo Limon also spoke to the approximate

300 students, at the event, about public art on the Los Angeles River.

4th Annual River Ride

The 4th Annual Los Angeles River Ride, held on May 23, was kicked off by this year's River Ride Ambassador, CBS2/KCAL9 news commentator Linda Alvarez. Over 1,500 cyclists participated in either a 70, 35, 15, or 1-mile ride at the event, which was organized by the Los Angeles County Bikeway Coalition.

STATUS OF LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPONENTS
<i>COMPLETED PROJECTS</i>			
Elysian Valley Gateway Park	Community Park development at Knox Avenue by the River Rangers.	1996	SMMC
Ventura Boulevard Landscape	River landscaping on south bank at Ventura Boulevard and Kelsey Street.	1996	Richard Deblasi, community resident
Great Heron Gates Park	Development of pocket park featuring river rock walls, native landscaping, and benches adjacent to the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive.	1997	NET, FoLAR
1997 Earth Day Event	Tree planting along the River at Coldwater Canyon Avenue.	April 1997	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1A	Bikeway from Riverside Drive to Los Feliz Boulevard.	September 1997	MTA, LADOT
LA River Greenway II	Tree planting and landscaping from Los Feliz Boulevard to Barclay Street.	September 1997	NET, SMMC
Golden Shore Marine Reserve	A 5-year wetlands restoration demonstration project. The study will be completed in January 2003.	January 1998	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Dept.
1998 Earth Day Event	Tree planting at Valleyheart Drive off Whitsett Avenue.	April 1998	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
Egret Park	Development of park adjacent to River near Barclay Street.	Spring 1998	NET, MRCA
Amtrak Project	Fencing/hydroseeding Washington Boulevard to 4th Street.	1998	Amtrak
1999 Earth Day Event	River cleanup event in Elysian Valley (at NET's rattlesnake park) and a dedication of the Great Heron Gate at the Fletcher Drive access to the River.	April 1999	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles, FoLAR, USACE, others
Los Feliz Riverwalk	Installation and maintenance of walk from Sunnynook Drive footbridge to Chevy Chase Drive.	July 1999	NET
LA River Center and Gardens	Development of 6.8 acres of former Lawry's Center into an interpretive center.	March 2000	MRCA
2000 Earth Day Event	50 sycamore and cottonwood tree planting on Wrigley Greenbelt on DeForest Avenue between Spring Street and Willow Street.	April 2000	LACDPW, City of Long Beach
Stealhead park	Development of park adjacent to River and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
Oso Park	Development of park at the corner of Riverside Drive and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
LA River County Bikeway Improvements	Bike trail improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to Southern Avenue.	May 2000	LACDPW
Julia Russ Asmus Park	Development of park at Jaboneria Street and Shull Street.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
Southern Avenue Bikeway and Park	Bikeway improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to the River and development of park at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Southern Avenue.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1-D	Bikeway from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive.	August 2000	MTA, LADOT
LA River Gateway Improvements	Enhancements to access points, including landscaping and amenities to the LA County Bikeway at Gage Avenue and Florence Avenue.	November 2000	City of Bell
River Garden Park	Park depicting Los Angeles River at the River Center and Gardens.	November 2000	SMMC, MRCA
Cesar Chavez Park	Development of a multiuse park in downtown Long Beach.	November 2000	City of Long Beach

L o s A n g e l e s R i v e r M a s t e r P l a n 5

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPONENTS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
Dominguez Gap	Development of wetlands study.	February 2001	LACDPW
Water with Rocks Gates	Installation of decorative gates on the east side of the River, north of Fletcher Drive.	April 2001	NET
2001 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue in Studio City.	April 2001	LACDPW, SD3, SCRA, TRP
Los Angeles River Bikeway/Greenway Study	Study to identify a bikeway and greenway alignment that would connect the River between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon.	March 2002	NET, LACBC
South Gate Restoration Project	Study to determine restoration alternatives for the west side of the River, south of Imperial Highway.	March 2002	NET, City of South Gate
Taylor Yard Sampling	Sampling of Taylor Yard site, including preparation of groundwater/surface flow model.	March 2002	TRP
Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study	Hydrodynamic Study of Tujunga Wash for potential restoration sites.	March 2002	TRP
DeForest Study	Restoration study at DeForest Nature Center and at the 6th Street site in Long Beach.	May 2002	City of Long Beach
Baum Bicycle Bridge	Construction of bikeway bridge over River at Los Feliz Boulevard.	July 2002	LADOT, MTA
Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom	Development of River improvements with an outdoor amphitheater.	March 2003	MRCA
2003 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of north west side of the River, at Owensmouth Avenue in Canoga Park, at the Headwaters.	April 2003	LACDPW, SD3, LA Theatre Works, Army Corps, Canoga Park HS
2004 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of east side of the River, at 34th Street and DeForest Avenue in Long Beach	April 2004	LACDPW, SD4, City of Long Beach,
Studio City Greenway	Landscaping of a 1/2-mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon.	April 2004	City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
Valleyheart Greenway	Landscaping of a 1/4 mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue.	June 2004	LACDPW, SD3, TRP, SCRA
Ernie's Walk Expansion	Expansion of Ernie's Walk to include additional amenities and planting.	July 2004	LACDPW
ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS			
Ernie's Walk	Ernie LaMere landscaped and maintained a 1/4-mile section along the north side of the River in Sherman Oaks (between Kester and Cedros Avenues).	September 1992	Ernie LaMere, Community resident
Village Gardeners	The Village Gardeners landscaped and maintain both sides of the River between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon Avenues.	1999	Village Gardeners
PROJECTS IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION			
Chinatown/Cornfields State Park	Development of 32-acre site into a State Park.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Glendale's Riverwalk	Development of a Riverwalk parkway.		City of Glendale
Confluence Park	Acquisition and development of a park at the River and Arroyo Seco confluence.		SMMC
LA River Greenway (Taylor Yard to Sunnynook)	Landscaping of a greenway from Taylor Yard to Sunnynook. Design complete, project being implemented in phases.		LADOT, DWP, NET
LA River Headwaters Revitalization Phases 1A and 1B	Development of a greenway at the Headwaters in Canoga Park from Topanga to Mason Avenues.		LACDPW, SD3 Canoga Park High School
Maywood Riverfront Park	Development of a 7-acre park along the River at Slauson Avenue.		City of Maywood, TPL
Paramount's River Murals	Two murals completed in spring 1999 and spring 2000, and a third is being proposed.		City of Paramount
River Signage	Design, fabrication, and installation of signage for the River.		LACDPW, LADOT, City of LA, RMC
Taylor Yard State Park	Development of a State Park in Elysian Valley.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
Tujunga Wash Restoration	Restoration of Tujunga Wash between Vanowen Boulevard and Oxnard Boulevard.		LACDPW, MRCA, SD3