

we all need



PNA+

# APPENDIX D

# CASE STUDIES

This project was previously called the Regional and Rural Edition (RRE) to emphasize its focus on regional and rural recreation needs and priorities. This project name was used during the data collection, and community engagement and outreach phases which occurred primarily in 2021. As this report was being completed in 2022, DPR decided to rename the project the Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) to clarify and better communicate that this project complements and offers new information not previously included in the 2016 Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), such as mapping and analyses related to population vulnerability, environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and priority areas for environmental conservation, environmental restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. (Please note that there remains some text and graphic references to the RRE in this document because that was the project name when some components of this study were completed.)

## Appendix D | Case Studies

The following is a sample of plans, projects, and programs in Los Angeles County that are enhancing environmental benefits, expanding equitable access to regional and rural recreation, addressing barriers to access, and mitigating population vulnerabilities.

- » 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard
- » 2021 Route to Parks Grantees
- » Annual Day Use Pass Program for CalWORKs Families
- » Antelope Valley On-request Microtransit Ride Service
- » Baldwin Hills Community Resilience and Access Plan
- » Beach ADA Access
- » Bruce’s Beach
- » Community Liaison Project
- » DeForest Park Environmental Education Center in Long Beach
- » Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park Master Plan
- » Every Kid Outdoors
- » Jackie Robinson Park Expansion
- » L.A. River’s Taylor Yard Bridge
- » LA River Master Plan
- » Littlerock (Primmer) Park
- » Los Angeles County Beach Bus
- » NPS Girls Outside Program – Santa Monica Mountains
- » Palmdale Regional Recreation Complex
- » Park on the Move
- » Park to Playa Trail Link
- » Programs Offered by DPR’s Natural Areas Division
- » Puente Hills Landfill Park
- » San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network
- » Santa Monica Airport Park
- » The Cube in Santa Clarita
- » The Link
- » The Los Angeles – San Gabriel Mountains Urban Shuttle System
- » The Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center
- » The W.A.T.E.R Program
- » Trails LA County Website
- » Tree Planting Funded by the Los Angeles County Oak Forest Special Fund
- » Triangle Ranch
- » Walnut Park Pocket Park
- » Wildlife Overpass at Liberty Canyon

## 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard



The 100-Acre Partnership is a collaborative development concept that evolved from community and stakeholder feedback to address the critical need for improvements at the Taylor Yard site. The City of Los Angeles, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority plan to design the area to be the largest, continuous recreational open space along the LA River. The areas of development consist of the 18-acre Taylor Yard G1 or Bowtie parcel, the 42-acre Taylor Yard G2 parcel, and the 40-acre Rio de Los Angeles State Park. The river-adjacent open space will include recreational opportunities, restored natural habitat, River access and will provide enrichment and educational opportunities for the surrounding communities.

## 2021 Route to Parks Grantees



The Route to Parks grants are dedicated to strengthening parks and enhancing park experiences. The grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that aim to expand access to outdoor spaces and connect individuals with nature. The grants are made possible by a joint agreement between California State Parks and Parks California.

The 2021 grantees for Los Angeles County include Community Nature Connection, Pukúu Cultural Community Services and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. The Community Nature Connection works with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Education and Cultural Learning Department to coordinate and implement the Terngava

Naturalist Yu'pa' Program. Pukúu Cultural Community Services provides services to Native American youth in northern Los Angeles County and San Fernando. The Bear Tracks project engages urban American Indian and Alaska Native youth in the Los Angeles area in health and wellness activities through the outdoors.

These organizations provide culturally relevant programming and workshops that educate youth in topics like ecology and the natural environment. Each program has multiple trips dedicated to exploring California State Parks where youth can partake in recreational activities such as hiking, camping and sports.

## Annual Day Use Pass Program for CalWORKs Families



The California State Parks and the California Department of Social Services have simplified the application process for the Golden Bear Pass so that families on CalWORKs can receive the free annual vehicle day-use pass for any of the state's 200+ state parks and beaches. Moving the application online removes the need for families receiving CalWORKs to compile documentation and mail the package while also reducing the administrative burden on families to verify eligibility as CDSS will be assuming that role.

The Golden Bear Pass Program, created in 1977, is being relaunched to let families receiving CalWORKs know about their eligibility for receiving the pass and the overall health benefits of spending time outdoors. The improvement is part of the Outdoor Access for All initiative by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and the California Outdoors for All initiative, which aims to expand outdoor access in underserved communities.

Image source: CA. State Parks

## Antelope Valley On-request Microtransit Ride Service



Beginning in 2020, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) piloted the Microtransit Ride Service, an on-request bus service for individuals in the rural communities of Lake Los Angeles, Pearblossom, Littlerock and Sun Village. The service connects individuals living in these rural communities with the rest of AVTA's local transit system via the AVTA Empowered Mobility App.

For users to request a ride through the app, they have to be at a designated pick up and return zone. These AVTA On-Request Microtransit Ride Service Connection Center locations are within one mile of a bus stop along Routes 50, 51, and 52. Riders can select a pickup window, track their ride as it approaches and view driver and vehicle information. Pickup times are within 20 to 30 minutes based on service demands and riders can pay for their trip through the app via credit card.

Image source: <https://www.avta.com/index.php>

## Baldwin Hills Community Resilience and Access Plan



The Baldwin Hills Community Resilience Access Plan is underway to create a resiliency hub in the Baldwin Hills Parklands. The one-and-a-half-year planning project will engage with community stakeholders and local agency leaders to collect research, analysis, access maps, and community recommendations for implementing and sustaining a resiliency hub in the Parklands. The goal is to have the Parklands become an innovative resource that will support residents, coordinate communication and distribute resources to the local community. These hubs can create a space to connect community resilience, emergency management, climate change mitigation and social equity.

Image source: <http://bhc.ca.gov/grant-opportunities/bhc-prop-68-grant-program/baldwin-hills-community-resilience-and-access-plan-prop-68/get-involved/>

## Beach ADA Access



The Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) has implemented safeguards and other amenities that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure that everyone has a chance to enjoy County beaches. For individuals who need more support on the sand, beach access mats made of synthetic mesh are available at seven County beaches for use. Beach wheelchairs are also available at 16 County beaches on a first-come, first-serve basis except for Dockweiler State Beach, where wheelchairs can be reserved at the youth center.

Image source: <https://beaches.lacounty.gov/la-county-beach-ada-access/>



For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or are not proficient in English, the Beach Emergency Evacuation Lights System, also known as BEELS, was introduced in June 2021 at Torrance Beach as a new form of emergency preparedness. During an evacuation, BEELS flashes white LED lights mounted on permanent structures and lifeguard towers. A broadcast siren with an audible evacuation alert in both English and Spanish also sound. The alert message changes depending on the evacuation type, and the lights flash slowly for a water-only evacuation and quickly for a full beach evacuation. This system has the potential to be replicated at other County beaches.

## Bruce's Beach



In 1912, Charles and Willa Bruce purchased two lots of land along the shore in Manhattan Beach and turned it into a seaside resort. Known as Bruce's Beach, this resort was a way for Black community members to enjoy and access the beach in an otherwise predominately white area. In 1924, local white real estate agents and civic leaders petitioned the Manhattan Beach City Council to condemn Bruce's Beach and the surrounding blocks—where Black residents started purchasing land—through eminent domain to build a park, which was awarded in 1929. The area sat idle for years, eventually becoming a park in the 1950s.

In April 2021, the Los Angeles County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Holly Mitchell started the process of having the County of Los Angeles return the property to the legal heirs of Willa and Charles Bruce. Senator Steven Bradford introduced Senate Bill 796, "Returning Bruce's Beach to its Rightful Owners," and on September 30, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 796 into law so that Los Angeles County could move forward with returning the land.

Image source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/oct/01/bruces-beach-returned-100-years-california>

## Community Liaison Project

To assess the unique challenges that California's state parks face and to identify solutions, the California Department of Parks and Recreation created a tactical Transformation Action Plan in 2015 that outlined strategic goals for the parks system. One of these goals was to create meaningful connections and relevancy to people. To reach this goal, the California Department of Parks and Recreation created the Community Liaison Project.

The Community Liaison Project is a state-of-the-art outreach and engagement model that leverages robust, strategic partnerships. The project aims to implement long-term and sustainable outreach practices to better engage with park-poor communities in the heart of Los Angeles. The program was piloted at the Los Angeles State Historic Park and the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. Promoters worked with staff to design and implement culturally relevant programming that met the diverse needs and characteristics of the community. Program benefits included establishing trust and effective partnerships, long-term park stewardship and making parks relevant to a broader audience.

## DeForest Park Environmental Education Center in Long Beach



The DeForest Park Environmental Education Center is currently being built in Long Beach and will serve as one of the satellite offices for the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB). The nonprofit received a \$1.9 million grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservatory to build the new facility along the Lower Los Angeles River. The facility was created in line with the DeForest Park Vision Plan that serves as guide for developments at DeForest Park and Wetlands. The satellite office will feature office space and training areas for CCLB and rooms for public use. It will also serve as the base of operations for CCLB's work along the Lower Los Angeles River as well as community environmental stewardship activities at DeForest Park and Wetlands.

Image source: <https://www.presstelegram.com/2021/09/20/environmental-education-center-comes-to-long-beachs-deforest-park/>

## Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park Master Plan



The 126-acre Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park is one of the largest parks in South Los Angeles and is an oasis in a region lacking green spaces. The Park is in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, which comprises about 36,000 residents and has a high level of park need per the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

The first phase of the master plan focused on renovating the 37-acre area in the lower section of the park was completed in February 2021. Improvements included a new community event center, a half-mile lakeside community loop trail with picnic areas, a children's play area with a splash pad, outdoor classrooms and educational graphics, California-native coastal sage scrub and freshwater marsh wetland habitats and a wedding lawn.

The Park is also helping to improve water quality in South Los Angeles. A new pump located beneath the park's surface diverts stormwater runoff from a 375-acre watershed that feeds into Compton Creek, which is then channeled into the lake at the park's center. The new landscaping and wetlands area along the perimeter of the man-made lake provides natural filtration of the water, which is then treated, stored and reused for park irrigation.

Image source: <https://la.urbanize.city/post/83-million-renovation-willowbrooks-earvin-magic-johnson-park-completed>

## Every Kid Outdoors



To help engage and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates, the Federal Land Management agencies have created Every Kid Outdoors: a federal public lands youth initiative. The initiative aims to provide fourth graders and their families—especially those in urban and underserved communities—access to national parks across the country. Starting September 1 to August 31 of the fourth-grade school year, students can sign up for their Every Kid Outdoor pass and explore all of the beautiful natural areas of our national parks. Getting the pass is completely free and each student has a unique code, which encourages everyone to sign up for the program instead of sharing.

Image source: <https://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/every-kid-outdoors>

## Jackie Robinson Park Expansion



Jackie Robinson Park is a 9-acre park located in the unincorporated community of Sun Village. The park was created in part by the advocacy efforts of the Women's Club of Sun Village. Expanding this park would provide much-needed green space in Sun Village, which is considered a park-poor area. The proposed plan includes the construction of a new splash pad, a community stage, a multi-purpose sports field, new walking paths, picnic tables, new restroom buildings, a new parking lot, new solar lighting throughout the park and drought-tolerant landscaping.



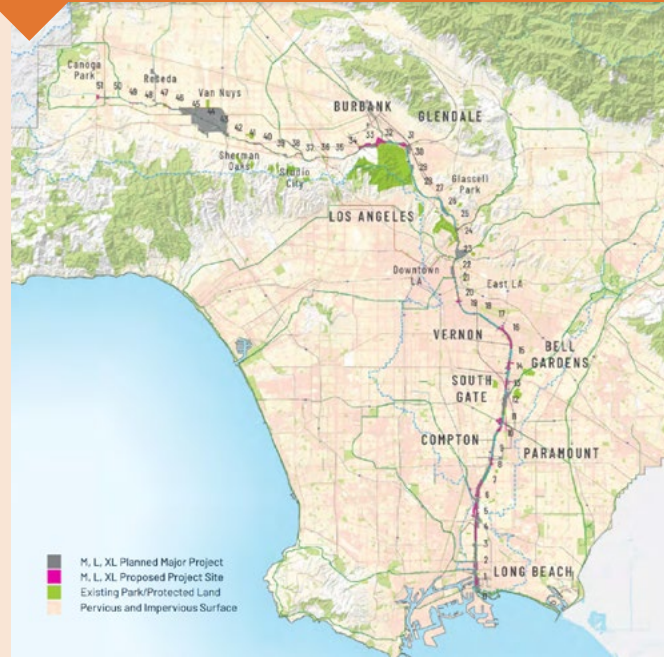
## L.A. River's Taylor Yard Bridge



After three years of construction, L.A. River's Taylor Yard Bridge opened for cyclists and pedestrians in March 2022. The 400-foot bridge was built by the City of Los Angeles's Bureau of Engineering and connects the west bank Frogtown community with the 42-acre park at the Taylor Yard G2 Parcel on the east bank. This new crossing provides river access for residents of the Taylor Yard Transit Village, a mixed-income community adjacent to the park site. The bridge was created in part of the city's ongoing effort to build a more sustainable and connected city. The bridge provides better access to green spaces and new places to walk and bike.

Image source: <https://la.urbanize.city/post/finally-la-rivers-taylor-yard-bridge-opens>

## LA River Master Plan



The recently updated LA River Master Plan aims to restore and develop the area along the 51-mile corridor that runs from Canoga Park to Long Beach. This is the first time the LA River Master Plan has been updated since 1996. Led by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the update was first proposed in 2014 and was developed with substantial outreach efforts and input from community members through community meetings, town halls, a youth summit, discussions with native communities and community partners.

Originally designed to help mitigate flooding, the LA River corridor offers

opportunities to create more recreational, open space for the surrounding communities to enjoy. The 51-mile river corridor is planned with trails connecting the communities on either side of the river and providing more equitable access to the river. The Plan's goal-driven framework has actionable methods to help guide the strategic directions for the LA River. The Master Plan's goals include reducing flood risk and improving resiliency, supporting healthy and connected ecosystems, addressing potential adverse impacts to housing affordability and people experiencing homelessness, promoting healthy, safe clean water and creating jobs while fostering opportunities for arts, culture, and community engagement.

Image source: <https://larivermasterplan.org/>



## Littlerock (Primmer) Park



The Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is in the process of developing a 3-acre park in the unincorporated community of Littlerock in the Antelope Valley. Planned park amenities include a restroom building and associated leach field; shaded picnic areas; two separated children’s play areas for ages 2-5 and ages 5-12 with shade coverings; an equestrian pen with tie-ups and water; shaded fitness area; art/interpretive elements; park monument sign; drinking fountains; picnic tables; grills; trash/recycle receptacles; benches/seating; concrete walkways; bike racks; a plaza; a gazebo; porch swings; landscaping and irrigation; security lighting; chain-link fences; and parking lot with associated ADA parking and ramps.

This development will address the critical need for park space in Littlerock, which is a park-poor area. For years, local residents have been advocating for a park space and gathering venue. Community involvement has been critical in shaping the park and has involved Town Council meetings, multiple pop-up survey events, and virtual meetings were held with the community to develop the conceptual design of the park. Residents indicated that they wanted to design a space that will provide recreational, cultural and community cohesion. The park has the potential to advance equity and create a healthier and more prosperous future for the community.

## Los Angeles County Beach Bus



Offered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (PW), the Beach Bus shuttle program provides residents who do not have readily available access to County coastal open spaces a variety of direct, limited-stop routes to and from County beaches. The Beach Bus operates from eight inland locations: Altadena, Castaic, Charter Oak/Duarte, East Los Angeles, La Canada/Flintridge, Lancaster and Palmdale. These routes serve residents from the first week of July to the first week of September. The Topanga Beach Bus operates daily throughout the year. Tickets are \$1 for general fare and \$0.50 for seniors and people with disabilities. Spaces can be reserved online at [www.LAGoBus.com](http://www.LAGoBus.com) as late as 10:00 a.m. the day of transit (although it is recommended to make reservations ten days in advance).

Image source: <https://beachbus.org/>

Image source: [https://www.avpress.com/news/officials-scale-back-primmer-park-plans/article\\_79e1784e-6db0-11eb-9bfe-53d6c527a354.html](https://www.avpress.com/news/officials-scale-back-primmer-park-plans/article_79e1784e-6db0-11eb-9bfe-53d6c527a354.html)

## NPS Girls Outside Program – Santa Monica Mountains

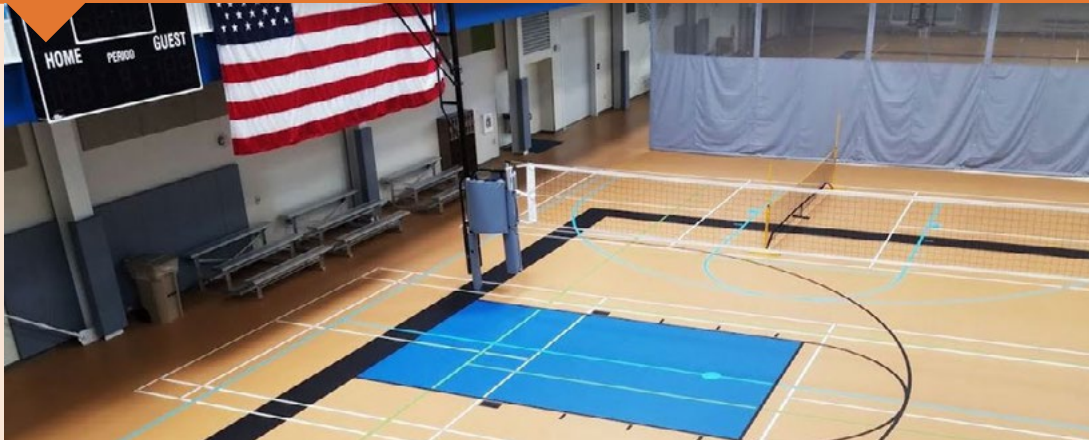


The Girls Outside (GO) program is a new initiative of the National Park Service. This three-day hiking and camping program provides outdoor recreational access to high school girls enrolled in a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school. Each three-day camping trip hosts 15 young women each, and there are five planned trips throughout the year. Participants explore the

beautiful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and engage in various camping and outdoor activities. Participation is free, and transportation and food are provided at no cost to the participants. The initiative aligns with the park's goal to broaden visitorship and introduce diverse populations to their neighboring parklands. The program is funded by the National Park Foundation.

*Image source: Facebook (@santamonicamtms)*

## Palmdale Regional Recreation Complex



The City of Palmdale is studying the feasibility of developing a state-of-the-art regional recreation complex that will serve not only the city, but also the neighboring city of Lancaster and surrounding adjacent unincorporated communities in the Antelope Valley. The goal of the proposed facility is to increase the overall quality of life for residents and visitors by providing a place where people of all ages can access year-round opportunities for social interaction, learning and fitness. The new complex would address a need that residents have expressed for additional indoor recreation opportunities especially during the summer when extreme desert temperatures can limit the ability for people to safely recreate outdoors.

The proposed regional recreational complex has the potential to provide a range of amenities such as a gymnasium, indoor and outdoor synthetic turf fields, an indoor walking track, a learning center, meeting rooms, fitness rooms, a climbing wall, playgrounds, a swimming pool and space for other diverse recreational services. The City of Palmdale is currently engaging residents through public input sessions and surveys to identify the community's needs and priorities. The information that is gathered through the community outreach effort will help to shape the vision for the new facility.

*Image source: <https://cityofpalmdale.org/1136/Palmdale-Regional-Recreation-Complex>*

## Park on the Move



Park on the Move is a new initiative by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DPR staff drive the mobile parks to underutilized areas in park-poor communities and set up recreational activities such as skateboarding, football, soccer, and other play resources for youth to participate in during out-of-school hours. With few places for youth recreation in the designated service areas, coupled with the increased challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Park on the Move provides a valuable play resource.

*Image source: <https://parks.lacounty.gov/parkonthemove/>*

## Park to Playa Trail Link



The Park to Playa Trail, which was completed in late 2020 with the opening of a new pedestrian bridge spanning La Cienega Boulevard, is a 13-mile corridor that connects state, county and city parks from Playa Del Rey to Baldwin Hills. The trail has six segments: Stocker Corridor, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Blair Hills – Segment C, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Culver City Park and Ballona Creek Bike Path. It is the first regional trail in South Los Angeles.

The development of the Park to Playa Trail was in response to the need for more accessible outdoor recreational spaces. The trail connects communities and natural areas in ways that were not previously available or prioritized. Key pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements made this possible including connections over busy arterials and improvements such as curb extensions, traffic islands and the timing of traffic lights. About 80% of the trail is ADA accessible and it is all dog friendly.

*Image source: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Trail/237/park-to-playa-trail>*



## Programs Offered by DPR's Natural Areas Division



The Natural Areas Division of DPR is made up of twenty-four County properties that encompass over 6,200 acres. Defined as areas of unique scenic, historic, geologic, or ecological value with distinctive natural features, these properties are managed to support wild nature, native ecosystems, and their processes.

The County's Natural Areas range in size from a 5-acre urban sanctuary at Stoneview Nature Center to 1,372-acres at Devil's Punchbowl. The nature-based experiences that these facilities offer are diverse. For instance, visitors can experience 106-degree heat at Vasquez Rocks in August and two feet of snow at the Devil's Punchbowl in February!

Natural Areas provide many different opportunities for visitors to experience the County's unique features, for example: exploring the San Gabriel River at Whittier Narrows Natural Area, viewing the ocean from Vista Point at Deane Dana Friendship Park, and taking in city views and a quaint native wildlife sanctuary at San Dimas Canyon just to name a few.

Programs offered at these sites include guided nature walks in Eaton Canyon Natural Area, and guided hikes and virtual field trips at other participating locations. Family-focused programming includes Nature Tails Docent-led Story Time, Parent and Me Multilingual Nature and Family Story Time.

### Every Body Explores

In April 2021, DPR launched its Spring Into Parks program initiative to provide a variety of new educational and recreation options for youth and families to enjoy at no cost. These programs support families by providing a safe, educational space for youth to go after school.

One of the new programs offered is Every Body Explores, which encourages local communities to experience the outdoors by visiting trails and discovering open spaces. Through this program, youth have an opportunity to become community scientists by participating in scavenger hunts and creative nature projects, such as building a birdhouse or designing an insect hotel.

The free drop-in program is available at seven nature centers—Deane Dana, Eaton Canyon, Placerita, San Dimas, Stoneview, Vasquez Rocks and Whittier Narrows.

LA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS  
**EVERY BODY EXPLORES**  
 SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 - MAY 27, 2022

**Get outdoors, discover and explore!**  
 The Every Body Explores program provides participants of all ages an opportunity to check out a Naturalist field backpack that they can use to complete self-guided activities, make observations and explore the park.

**CHECK OUT A NATURE BACKPACK**  
 Backpacks include exploration equipment, activity guides & safety info.

**Tuesday - Friday**  
 2:30PM - 5:30PM

**Saturday**  
 10:00AM - 1:30PM

**No Registration Required**  
[parks.lacounty.gov/fall](https://parks.lacounty.gov/fall)

Sites will observe all County holidays and the program is closed November 22-26. All COVID-19 safety guidelines are fully adhered to.

#LACountyParks @LACountyParks @parks.lacounty.gov parks.lacounty.gov

LA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS  
**NATURAL AREAS**  
 Eaton Canyon Nature Center

**Family Nature Walk**  
 Family Nature Walk is a self-guided activity for families to explore the natural beauty of Eaton Canyon. Participants will receive a field backpack with exploration equipment, activity guides, and safety info. The program is free and open to all ages.

**Guided Hikes**  
 Guided Hikes with LA County Parks Naturalist staff are available at participating locations. Participants will receive a field backpack with exploration equipment, activity guides, and safety info. The program is free and open to all ages.

**PROGRAM DATES:**  
 Every Saturday at Eaton Canyon

**AGE GROUP:**  
 All Ages

**FEE:**  
 \$1.00 Per Person Per Hike

**Connect with LA County Parks Staff at each location**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Image source: <https://parks.lacounty.gov/>

## Puente Hills Landfill Park



The Puente Hills Landfill closed its doors in 2013 after 56 years of receiving trash from homes and businesses in over 60 cities and unincorporated areas across Los Angeles County. After the closure of the landfill, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) worked with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and surrounding communities to develop the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan which lays out the vision for the development of the County's first new regional park in over 30 years. This Master Plan, which was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 2016, presents a phased approach to construction with Phase 1 of the Master Plan offering basic park amenities and infrastructure. When fully completed, the park will include: an entry plaza and the visitor center, multi-use trails, open space, habitat and landscaping, outdoor fitness amenities, educational and interpretive elements, children's play and picnic areas, and parking.

The proposed park will offer diverse, healthy, passive, and active recreational and educational experiences and programming for residents living in park-poor areas in the San Gabriel Valley, Gateway cities, and Southeast cities. The additional 142 acres of parkland that will be provided by this project will help to offset the severe shortages for parkland regionally and in the surrounding communities. Specifically, the park will serve the communities of Avocado Heights, Baldwin Park, Bassett, El Monte, Hacienda Heights, La Puente, Pico Rivera, Rowland Heights, Whittier, Valinda, and beyond.

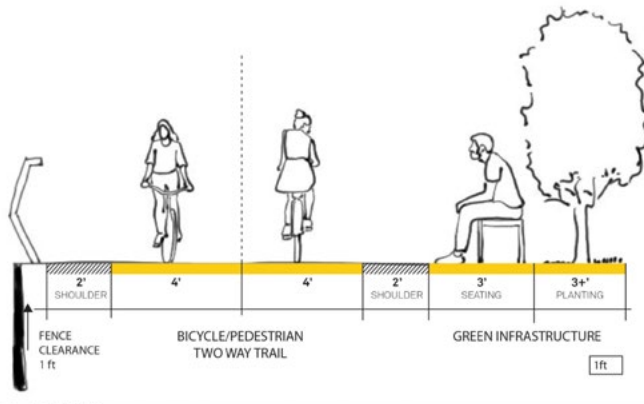
Image source: <https://www.hillworks.us/projects/pp/puentehills/>

## San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network

See what many of the San Gabriel Valley flood channels look like now (click to expand):



Communities along the network will get to share their thoughts about design and local uses. Depending on the space, it might include things like this:



The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan will create a 130-mile, network of bike paths, trails, and greenspaces by updating the County’s flood control channels. The resolution to create the multi-use community greenway was passed in 2017 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The plan will build on the existing San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)’s Active Transportation Planning Initiative’s Greenway Network Feasibility Study.

The goals of the Plan are to improve mobility and recreational opportunities; reduce vehicle

miles traveled; integrate stormwater capture and improve water management; and enhance natural habitats that will benefit the greater community. The Plan will provide equitable access to the San Gabriel Valley communities through effective communication efforts that will engage key stakeholders; ensure that the needs of underserved communities are met through the work of intentional engagement and that their benefits are prioritized; and provide educational opportunities to promote environmental stewardship.

Image source: <https://www.sgvgreenway.org/the-plan>



## Santa Monica Airport Park



The City of Santa Monica is creating a 12-acre expansion of Airport Park that will convert non-aviation land to public recreational open space on the south side of the Santa Monica Airport. The expansion was made possible by voter-passed Measure LC, which required aviation land to be used for park purposes.

The Santa Monica Airport Park will provide new recreational access and gathering space by building off of the original 4-acre facility. The plan proposes adding two regulation-sized synthetic turf fields, three pickleball courts, a picnic area, additional parking, a large natural-turf multi-purpose area, a community garden, a fitness area, a yoga area and a swing hanger to create the 12-acre open space. A pedestrian runway will connect the two park spaces. The Airport Park will provide additional access to those who live in neighborhoods outside of Santa Monica to enjoy the expanded park. There is currently a 6-acre parcel of interim open space in the planned area that parkgoers can access.

This 12-acre expansion is part of a larger plan. The City of Santa Monica has an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration that lays the groundwork for the closure of Santa Monica Airport at the end of 2028 and to repurpose the land as a park. The envisioned 227-acre Santa Monica Great Park could be twice as large of all other Santa Monica parks combined, creating the largest park in Santa Monica and possibly in the entire Westside.

Image source: <http://www.santamonicaparks.org/apx>

## The Cube in Santa Clarita



In April 2021, the City of Santa Clarita debuted the newly rebranded ice rink, The Cube. Back in March of this year, the owners of The Cube announced that they were shutting down the rink permanently. Upon hearing the announcement, the Santa Clarita Valley skating community contacted the City Council to voice their opinions on why they needed to preserve the rink as a recreational venue. The effort was important, as city studies showed that the rink was the second most used venue in the City—more used than parks, libraries and community centers. The advocacy paid off, and the City purchased the 93,000 square-foot building and assets for \$14.49 million and awarded a five-year contract to manage the rink to the Los Angeles Kings and the team's partner American Sports Entertainment Co.

Image source: <https://scvnews.com/santa-clarita-celebrates-the-cube-grand-opening/>

## The Link



The Link is a transit service that connects communities to destinations in Baldwin Hills. The service began in 2013 and is operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (PW). Serving the Metro Expo Rail Line, the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, the Link is an economical, efficient and environmentally friendly shuttle that runs from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and most major holidays. General fare is \$0.25 per trip and senior citizens, persons with disabilities and children under the age of 5 ride for free. The Link accepts all Metro 30-Day and EZ passes.

*Image source: <http://bhc.ca.gov/2017/11/getting-to-the-parklands/>*

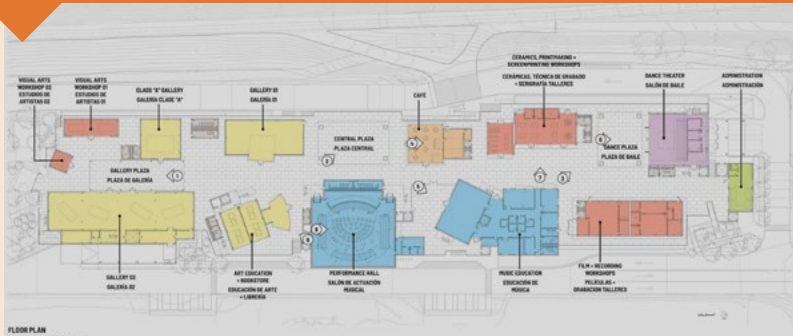
## The Los Angeles – San Gabriel Mountains Urban Shuttle System



The Los Angeles-San Gabriel Mountains Urban Shuttle System is a proposed 10-route transit to park program that would provide access to the San Gabriel Mountains and other nearby open spaces. Having a reliable shuttle system bridges the gap between public transit access and public lands, encourages eco-tourism, improves air quality, reduces the number of

vehicles on the road and positively impacts the overall health and wellbeing of individuals. If implemented, the San Gabriel Mountains Urban Shuttle System would connect a large portion of County residents to world-class trails and mountain destinations, such as Mt. Wilson Observatory, the West Fork National Scenic Bikeway, and the wild San Gabriel River.

## The Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center



The Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center will be located at a prominent site near the confluence where the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo meet in South Gate. The facility is planned to be a multi-arts complex that will serve the surrounding communities as a public, culturally relative, creative gathering place. The addition of the SELA Cultural Center will help to address the cultural and recreation needs of the Southeast area of LA County where no such facility currently exists. The SELA Cultural Center is being developed by the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), in partnership with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and is targeted to be completed by 2024.

Programming at the SELA Cultural Center site will be reflective of the surrounding community, with community input on programming solicited through public meetings, social media campaigns and widespread digital surveying. Keeping the public informed is crucial for large-scale projects like this. Displacement, gentrification and other environmental impacts are all areas of concern when bringing in new attractions to an underserved area. Moving forward, community engagement effort for environmental review and design development phases will include opportunities for online and in-person engagement and ongoing opportunities for personalized feedback.

Image source: <https://www.selaculturalcenter.org/en/home>

## The W.A.T.E.R Program

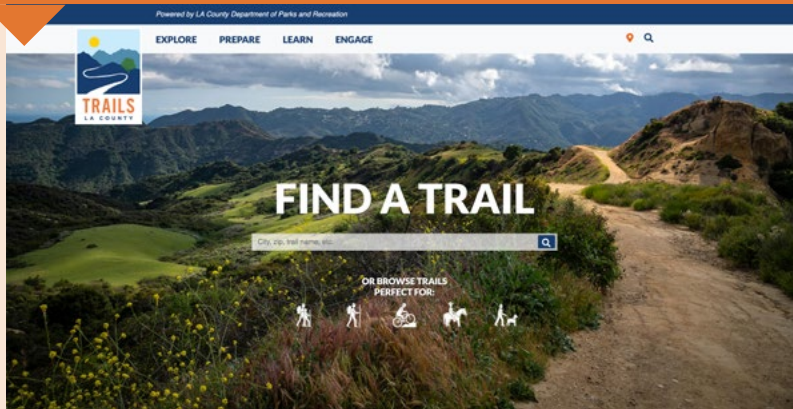


The Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) Water Awareness, Training, Education, Recreation (W.A.T.E.R) Program provides beach and marina access to underserved communities. One way they do this is through Ocean Safety Day. During the school year, youth ages 5-17 from across the County get to spend a day at the beach to learn about ocean safety through kayaking, surfing, paddle boarding and sailing. The trip comes at no cost for public schools. Another option is through the fee-based beginning and intermediate sailing classes are offered in the afternoon during the school year and during the day in the summer months. Youth that participate learn about sailing knowledge and terms, boat maintenance and rigging, knot tying, tacking, docking and instruction to ocean sailing.

The W.A.T.E.R Program also has a weekend program called “District Days in the Marina” where each of the five Supervisors selects a youth-serving community-based organization within their District to participate in ocean safety and beach activities. In this program, youth may bring family members to participate in the activities. Bus transportation and lunch are provided for all participants. The W.A.T.E.R Program will soon expand to engage youth involved in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation systems.

Image source: <https://beaches.lacounty.gov/marina-del-rey-sailing-youth-camp/>

## Trails LA County Website



Trails LA County is the official trail guide to Los Angeles County's 550+ miles of public trails. The website was created by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in collaboration with the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the Mountains Restoration Trust and the Catalina Island Conservancy.

Trails LA County includes both a website and free mobile app that serves as a one-stop information hub for anyone setting out on one of the County's many public trails. Accurate trail maps, curated outings, photos of landscapes, trail use information, trail descriptions, outdoor event information and partner organization information are available on the app and website, and GPS is available on the app so users can track where they are at as they hike. This increased access to information has taken out the guesswork that comes with trying something new and has given County residents a way to explore and engage with the natural spaces around them with confidence.

*Image source: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/>*

## Tree Planting Funded by the Los Angeles County Oak Forest Special Fund



The Oak Forest Special Fund (OFSF) was established in 1991 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. These funds cover expenses related to oak tree and oak wood replacement in cases of removal, identifying potential acquisition sites containing oak forests and planting oaks on County park land. A committee made up of members from the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Regional Planning, and the Fire Department's Division of Forestry determine how to use OFSF funding.

Park-poor urban communities are the most vulnerable to shade inequities and the effects of climate change. Allocating funding to plant oak trees in urban parks is one way to address shade inequities and encourage education and park stewardship. The Board of Supervisors recently approved the use of OFSF funds to plant oak trees at four County parks: Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, Belvedere Community Regional Park, Mona Park, and Victoria Community Regional Park. In coordination with Board offices, the committee is working to identify and evaluate additional sites for future use of funding.

## Triangle Ranch



On December 1, 2021, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced that it had closed escrow on the final 150 acres of the 325-acre Triangle Ranch open space in the central Santa Monica Mountains. It is now permanently protected as public parkland. The area, located south of Agoura Hills, has long been identified as a crucial linkage for habitat preservation, watershed protection and wildlife movement. The purchase contributes to Governor Gavin Newsom’s 30x30 initiative, which aims to conserve at least 30 percent of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030.

Image source: <https://www.theacorn.com/articles/agencies-complete-325-acre-triangle-ranch-open-space-purchase/>

## Walnut Park Pocket Park



Walnut Park Pocket Park is the top priority project identified in the 2016 Walnut Park Community Parks and Recreation Plan. The 0.5-acre park will be the first park in the community of Walnut Park, which has 16,000 residents and a very high level of park need per the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment. The park will include two new playgrounds with shade, exercise equipment, a splash pad, walking paths, an outdoor performance stage, public art, a picnic and BBQ area, landscaping, lighting and a restroom/security building. By providing a new park closer to where people live, the project will help decrease vehicle miles traveled and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The new park will also help expand the area’s urban tree canopy with the installation of 38 drought-tolerant native trees throughout the site. The trees will help alleviate the urban heat island effect, provide cooling and capture particulate contaminants, such as ozone, nitro-gen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and other volatile organic compounds. In addition, the project will improve stormwater capture, treatment and infiltration. Specifically, the park site will capture and treat a 32-acre drainage area in the community, and dry wells will be installed to cleanse and capture up to an additional 1.4-acre feet, or 456,191 gallons, of water infiltration. The planned park is set to be completed by 2023.

Image source: [https://sqc.ca.gov/resources/docs/20180208-CaseStudy\\_CommunityParksAndRecreationPlansinLosAngeles.pdf](https://sqc.ca.gov/resources/docs/20180208-CaseStudy_CommunityParksAndRecreationPlansinLosAngeles.pdf)

## Wildlife Overpass at Liberty Canyon



The Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing is a proposed 8-acre habitat restoration project with a one-mile crossing that will span the 101 Freeway and Agoura Road. Located in Agoura Hills, it will provide a safe and sustainable passage for wildlife crossing the US-101 near Liberty Canyon Road. The goal of the project is to reduce wildlife death and increase biodiversity. The core partners of this project include Caltrans, the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains and the National Wildlife Federation.

When the US-101 was built, it cut through the home range for many animals, including mountain lions and bobcats. The smaller roaming area severely limited the resources these mammals needed to adapt and survive. Adding the crossing will provide access to genetically diverse populations and protect the endangered mountain lion population. Additionally, the crossing will link the Santa Monica Mountains and the Sierra Madre Range, which is critical to sustaining the ecological and evolutionary process in California's South Coast Ecoregion.

Image source: <https://www.rcdsmm.org/what-we-do/wildlife-crossing-at-liberty-canyon/>