



**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and  
Conservation Authority open new natural park on the Los Angeles River**

*Innovative and accessible Marsh Park—Phase Two will become a regional  
destination for kayaking, biking, picnicking, environmental education, and  
recreation in the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone*

Elysian Valley, CA, (August 16, 2014)—With a tranquil view of the Los Angeles River as a backdrop, Senator Kevin de Leon, Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles City Councilmembers Mitch O’Farrell and Tom LaBonge joined the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to dedicate a gorgeous new natural park on the Los Angeles River.

The second of two parks built at the Elysian Valley waterfront property, three-acre Marsh Park Phase II features grassy open space, a mission-style 200-person picnic pavilion, decorative gates created by artist Brett Goldstone, ample parking, electric vehicle charging stations, an outdoor education amphitheater for year-round programming, and public restrooms. The new park offers convenient access to kayaking or fishing in the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone, and an entrance to the L.A. River Bike Path. It is destined to become a popular regional recreation portal and key component in the revitalization and restoration of the Los Angeles River.

Smartly designed with innovative "green" features, the park is engineered to clean water that flows from city streets before it enters the river. Bioswales, which are earthen drainage ditches lined with river rock and native plants, course through the park.

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Polluted water is naturally cleansed as it seeps slowly into the ground through sand, rocks, and clay and to replenish the natural underground supplies. This, in turn, increases ground water and decreases dependence on imported water. The park also reduces greenhouse gasses.

The State of California funded more than 90% of the project including acquisition and development of the park with bond funds approved by the voters. Funding sources included Proposition 13 funds called out in the 2000 budget, Proposition 84 funds awarded under the guidelines created by Senator Kevin de Leon's AB-31 (the Community and Neighborhood Park Revitalization Act of 2007 which provides funds to park-poor areas), Proposition 84 grants awarded by the Conservancy and the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Program (IRWMP), and Los Angeles County Proposition A funds.

President pro Tempore-elect Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) remarked, "A family's financial wherewithal should not determine whether or not they have access to parks and open space. Since the passage of my AB 31 in 2008, over 120 park projects have been funded in park-starved communities across the state. I applaud the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for their work on Marsh Park Phase II, a project that provides recreation, open space, and access to the trails along our cherished Los Angeles River in the heart of the city."

The Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority(MRCA) began creating natural parks along the Los Angeles River in 1994 when the Conservancy adopted the "Los Angeles River El Pueblo to Griffith Park Trail Connector Workprogram" and built its first L.A. River Park--Elysian Valley Gateway Park just downstream of Marsh Park. With the eight-mile soft bottom portion of the river known as the Glendale Narrows as their focus, the Conservancy and MRCA continued to develop parks along the river, connecting densely populated neighborhoods with recreational opportunities.

In the 20 years since that time, the Conservancy and MRCA have created dozens of natural parks along the L.A. River and its tributaries (the most recent was Pacoima Wash Natural Park in the City of San Fernando). Both agencies have been key participants in major river planning efforts, and have funded bike trail improvements, public access, greenways, and visitor serving amenities. The MRCA manages two river recreation zones in the Sepulveda Basin and Glendale Narrows for kayaking and fishing.

“What was true 20 years ago is still true today,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “All people need parks. When the Conservancy started working on the river we could see that it was the logical means of connecting urban communities with parks and recreational opportunities. There is a momentum now that is unstoppable.”

The new Marsh Park is open sunrise to sunset and can be accessed from the Los Angeles River Bike Path, or at the end of Rosanna Street, or the end of Gleneden Street in Elysian Valley.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 70,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved hundreds of public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 69,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

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