

PACOIMA WASH GREENWAY- EIGHTH STREET PARK

Amended Project Plan

Introduction

Pacoima Wash is a tributary of the Los Angeles River, flowing from the San Gabriel Mountains through the densely populated areas of the City of San Fernando and the Pacoima area of the City of Los Angeles, and it drains into Tujunga Wash and the Los Angeles River. The Pacoima Wash Greenway Project is a 3-mile long series of natural open space that will protect Pacoima Wash's land and water resources. The Greenway will extend from the Angeles National Forest and the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor to the communities of the northeast San Fernando Valley. This amended project plan specifically describes the 4.2-acre Eighth Street Park.

Project Site Description

A 2.79-acre property, consisting of three parcels, located on the northwest edge of Pacoima Wash and directly south of Foothill Boulevard was purchased by the MRCA in 2005. The property was an important acquisition because it is one of the largest properties adjacent to the Pacoima Wash that is not developed and it is in close proximity to the Angeles National Forest.

Subsequent to the acquisition, an additional 1.41 acres from the adjacent Los Angeles County flood control channel were incorporated into the Eighth Street Park project through a Use Agreement with the County executed July 2008.

Government Agencies with Jurisdiction Over Project Area

Los Angeles County Public Works
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Game

Planning Objectives and Principles Sought to be Achieved by the Project

The project provided additional recreational space for area residents. In addition, a storm water quality improvement and detention element was included in the design of this project.

Environmental Goals:

- Provide for watershed protection in the urban environment.
- Implement the "Common Ground" plan and utilize it in an ongoing management process.
- Improve quality of surface water and groundwater in accordance with the "Common Ground" plan.

- Optimize water resources to reduce dependence on imported water in accordance with the “Common Ground” plan.
- Encourage multiple-objective planning and projects in accordance with the “Common Ground” plan.

Proposed Land Uses

This area is intended for passive recreational uses. Trails are provided for walking and biking with the eventual goal of linking to other parks along the Pacoima Wash and to Angeles National Forest. The site will also provide an important connection for wildlife movement along the Pacoima Wash.

Planning

The City of San Fernando commissioned graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona’s Master of Landscape Architecture Program (the “606 Studio”) to design a greenway along the Pacoima Wash. The 606 Studio conducted a series of community workshops and a survey to gain local input and desires for Pacoima Wash. The 606 Studio’s work also built support for converting the Pacoima Wash into a multi-purpose amenity. Through the workshops and survey, the local residents expressed enthusiasm for restoring the Pacoima Wash to a natural environment that would include recreational opportunities such as jogging and bicycling.

Construction plans for the Eighth Street Park are complete and all necessary permits were obtained. The plans call for a passive natural park with trails, wildlife habitat area, and a detention basin that pre-treats and infiltrates stormwater runoff from an adjacent 33-acre neighborhood.

After a request for bids, the MRCA awarded a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Environmental Construction Incorporated, in July 2008. Construction is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2009.

The project is consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan*, the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, and the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*.

Government Agencies, Organizations and Private Parties Consulted

City of San Fernando
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Los Angeles County Public Works
City of Los Angeles
Neighboring property owners
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Hon. Alex Padilla, California State Senator
Hon. Felipe Fuentes, California State Assemblymember
Hon. Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor
Hon. Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles City Councilmember
Pacoima Beautiful
Pacoima Neighborhood Council

Analysis of Economic Feasibility of Proposed Project

The acquisition was funded with a Proposition 50 grant through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Capital improvements are funded through grants from multiple sources, including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Propositions 50 and 84), and a Proposition 50, Chapter 8 competitive grant from the Department of Water Resources (administered by Los Angeles County Public Works). The MRCA is responsible for construction of the park, and will transfer title and maintenance obligations to the City of San Fernando after construction.