

LOS ANGELES RIVER HEADWATERS PROJECT

The headwaters of the Los Angeles River is formed at the confluence of Bell Creek and Calabasas Creek in the Canoga Park area of the City of Los Angeles. This area has both symbolic and historic significance to the region. Here, the Los Angeles River begins its 51-mile journey through 13 cities.

Project Description

The project seeks to revitalize approximately 1.25 miles of previously restricted Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) right-of-way along the Los Angeles River. Currently, the area is used by the District for maintenance activities. This project proposes to construct recreational trails along both banks of the Los Angeles River between Owensmouth Avenue and Mason Avenue. Enhancements to the site will include improved fencing, native and drought-tolerant landscaping, rest area amenities, educational and interpretive signage, pedestrian bridges over Browns Creek channel and De Soto Drain, and rain gardens.



The project is consistent with the Los Angeles River Master Plan goals of developing a continuous greenway, enhancing water quality, providing recreation opportunities, and restoring the natural environment along the Los Angeles River.

The total project cost is estimated at \$8.4 million. The project has been awarded \$1.9 million through the Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant Program. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2012.

Project Benefits

The project will provide much needed recreational opportunities to a highly urbanized area by encouraging nearby residents to use the trails for passive recreation such as walking and jogging along the Los Angeles River. The trails will also create a pedestrian transportation corridor, connecting residential areas to schools, parks, community centers, and commercial and industrial areas. The project also features water conservation and water quality through the placement of native and drought-tolerant vegetation and the construction of rain gardens. Through interpretive signage, the community will be educated in the history of the Los Angeles River, native and drought-tolerant landscaping, and the use of Best Management Practices to improve water quality and reduce runoff in the Los Angeles River.