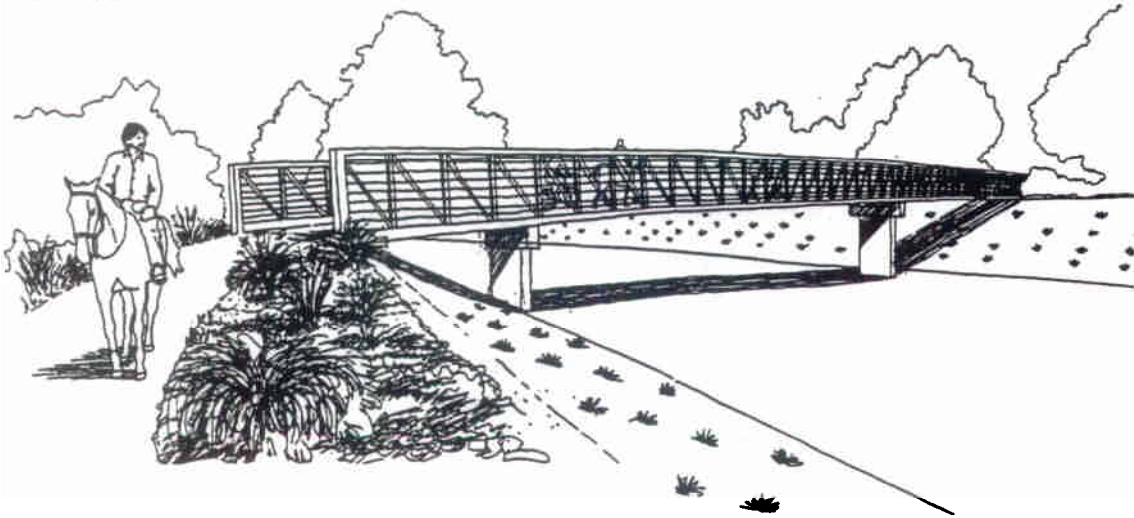


APPENDIX D: DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The Planning Team and Advisory Committee investigated the feasibility of developing one or more short-term demonstration projects along the river which best exemplified a long-term Master Plan project. The projects would reflect the stated goals of the Advisory Committee as well as the input from the public workshops.

During October and November of 1993, a total of 208 participants shared their ideas for the Los Angeles River Master Plan at six public workshops. The meetings were facilitated by the Planning Team. Participants worked in small groups to review preliminary project ideas generated by the Advisory Committee relating to aesthetics, economic development, environmental quality, flood management and water quality and recreation. Additional project ideas were also noted and considered. An effort was made to gauge the level of support for the various preliminary project ideas either through group discussions or by ranking preference.

The Planning Team prepared the "Summary of Public Workshop Discussions." This document presents the meeting results in more detail. The document includes a discussion summary, questions posed by the workshop participants and a list of project types strongly supported by participants. The following describes the selection process used for determining the most viable demonstration projects and describes the four selected projects.



SELECTION PROCESS

A subcommittee of volunteers from the Advisory Committee worked with the Planning Team to select the four demonstration projects presented on page 343.

The following initial project list was generated by the Planning Team and the Advisory Committee.

1. Expand on the North East Trees planting projects near Arroyo Seco
2. Soccer field in Vernon
3. Dominguez Gap planting
4. Los Feliz walkway to Colorado Boulevard.
5. Glendale river front trail connection to Bette Davis Picnic Area

6. Fletcher Drive Park
7. Los Angeles River signs
8. Flood management and water conservation public information program
9. Golf driving range in Vernon
10. Tree planting along the river at City of Los Angeles soccer fields
11. Fish ponds along river at 405 and 710 Freeways.
12. River safety training site, short and long term approaches
13. Erosion control planting on levee in Paramount
14. Tree planting projects in the cities of: Compton, Bell and South Gate
15. Trout stocking of river (would be a longer-term project)
16. Interpretive site for engineering and industrial use of the river in the cities of: Vernon, downtown Los Angeles and Compton
17. Connection to park on Golden Avenue in Long Beach

The subcommittee developed a set of seven criteria for use in selecting the most feasible demonstration projects. The following table shows the outcome of the scoring that was done by the entire group at one of their meetings.

Each project was scored for each criteria on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least favorable or definite, and 5 being most favorable or definite, as shown by the examples below.

SITE

1 = no apparent site available or identified

5 = definite site available, no acquisition required, owner apparently willing to support project

FUNDING

1 = no funding source identified, or funding unavailable in the near future

5 = dependable funding source, or promising funding source in the near future

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1 = little or no interest or support expressed at public workshops

5 = high level of interest or support expressed at public workshops

MEETS RIVER GOALS

1 = meets none or only one of the river's goals developed by the Advisory Committee

5 = meets several of the river goals

SHORT IMPLEMENTATION

1 = project cannot be completed or well underway within 2 years

5 = project can be completed within 2 years

MAINTAINABILITY

1 = completed project would be difficult or expensive to maintain; no jurisdiction is willing to take on maintenance responsibility

5 = completed project would be easy or inexpensive to maintain; jurisdiction willing to take on maintenance responsibility

The following table shows the outcome of the scoring.

**LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN
PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS JANUARY 1994**

PROPOSED PROJECTS	SITE	JURISDICTIONS	FUNDING	COMMUNITY SUPPORT	MEETS RIVER GOALS	SHORT IMPLEMENTATION	MAINTAINABILITY
1. Tree Planting-- Arroyo Seco	2	City of LA, DWP, MTA, LACDPW, Caltrans	4	5	3	3	4
2. Soccer Field	3	Vernon, Private, DPW, DWP	4	2	2	3	2
3. Dominguez Gap	5	LACDPW, Long Beach, Co. P&R	4	5	4	4	3
4. Los Feliz	4	LACDPW, Corps, City of LA, DWP	5	5	3	4	5
5. Glendale River front	5	City of Glendale, Corps, LACDPW	4	4	4	3	4
6. Fletcher Drive Park	3	Private land, City of LA	4	3	3	3	3
7. River Signs	4	All	4	5	3	4	3
8. Public Information	5	All	4	5	3	4	4
9. Golf Driving Range	3	City of Vernon, DWP, LACDPW	4	4	3	4	4
10. Trees at River	5	City of LA, Edison, Corps	3	5	2	4	4
11. Fish Ponds (not ranked)	--	----	----	----	----	----	----
12. River Safety (not ranked)	--	----	----	----	----	----	----
13. Erosion Control (not ranked)	--	----	----	----	----	----	----
14. Trees (Compton)	3	City, Corps, LACDPW	4	5	3	4	4
15. Trout Stocking (not ranked)	--	----	----	----	----	----	----
16. Engineering Interp. Site	4	Corps, Cities, LACDPW, DWP	4	4	5	3	3
17. Connection to park on Golden Avenue	5	City of Long Beach, LACDPW	4	5	4	4	4

The types of projects supported by the workshop participants and organized by issue, are summarized below.

AESTHETICS: tree plantings, nurseries and community gardens, defensive plantings, clean-ups, art contests, bronze map, petroglyph paintings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: economic development projects should contain recreational, aesthetic or other components and make decision makers aware of the benefits that proximity to the river can bring to economic development projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: re-vegetation and planting projects, wetlands restoration.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION: recognition of the flood control function of the river as well as enhancing this function through use of detention basins, the use of parks for detention, increase water conservation, reclamation, groundwater recharge, and minimizing of runoff.

RECREATION: develop a network of trails along the entire river, acquire easements for recreation, develop more accessibility to the river, develop features and programs to ensure public safety and, where feasible, develop additional detention basins.

What the demonstration projects will accomplish:

- Take the first steps toward implementing the Advisory Committee's goals for the river.
- Reveal potential problems that may be encountered in future projects and provide an opportunity to begin developing solutions (e.g. soil contamination at potential project sites).
- Reinforce the need for the Master Plan.
- Clarify the types of implementation plans that will be most useful to local jurisdictions and citizens' groups.
- Reinforce the contributions all those who have been involved in the planning process.

A Demonstration Project Subcommittee, consisting of volunteers from the Advisory Committee, recommended the following projects for implementation:

1. Tujunga Wash/Hansen Dam Interpretive Site
2. Los Feliz Riverwalk
3. Dominguez Gap Environmental Enhancement
4. Wrigley Greenbelt Trail Enhancements (The Wrigley Greenbelt Trail Enhancement, was not implemented due to a coordination conflict with the LACDA Project. It is anticipated that it will be constructed at a later date.)

A fifth demonstration project was also considered: construction of an interpretive sign in the City of South Gate at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo Channel. Unfortunately, after careful consideration from South Gate's City staff and its City Council it was not recommended as a short-term demonstration project due to complex issues resulting from its previous use as a landfill. The project is still listed as a long-term project in the Final Master Plan.



PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

1. TUJUNGA WASH/HANSEN DAM INTERPRETIVE SITE

PROJECT LOCATION

Hansen Dam is located on the confluence of the Big and Little Tujunga washes along the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley. The basin lies in an area of rapid commercial and residential growth and is quickly reaching capacity. The area is readily accessible by automobile from several freeways, highways and boulevards: Interstate 5 (Golden State Freeway); Interstate 210 (Foothill Freeway); State Highway 118 (Foothill Boulevard); and San Fernando Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop a series of interpretive signs at the crest of Hansen Dam (elevation 1087.0 feet, maximum height of 97.0 feet) which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The signs would educate and inform the public on various water conservation resources: Tujunga Wash, Hansen Spreading Grounds, San Fernando Groundwater Basins, San Gabriel Mountains and Big Tujunga Wash.

A 40- to 60-foot wide bike path currently traverses the dam's crest and continues into the reservoir area. The City of Los Angeles' Recreation and Parks Department has leased a portion of reservoir area and developed it into parkland. The Corps completed a Master Plan for Hansen Dam in 1991 which includes a 15-acre swim lake, expansion of the existing Equestrian Center, 70-acre boat lake and development of a land resource plan for the entire basin.

Other appurtenances: benches, bike racks, telescopes.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS

Consistent with Corps' Hansen Dam Master Plan.

STATUS

The Corps will design and construct the project in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Planning Team.

2. LOS FELIZ RIVERWALK

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located on the access road on the east bank of the Los Angeles River extending 1.3 miles from Los Feliz Boulevard north to Colorado Boulevard. The walkway is accessible to Griffith Park—the largest recreational facility in the City of Los Angeles. It also abuts Atwater Park, numerous horse stables and a golf course. Future extensions of this trail could be accomplished northerly along the river's maintenance road to Betty Davis Park and the Griffith Park Equestrian Center in Burbank. Southerly extensions could be developed to connect the trail with Taylor Yard and Elysian Park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Los Feliz Riverwalk consists of providing pedestrian access to the east bank of the Los Angeles River between Los Feliz Boulevard and Colorado Avenue. This project would legalize the use of the east bank of the river by providing a walking environment for residents. Presently the east bank is enclosed by six- to eight-foot high chain link fencing. Sections of this fencing have been opened illegally to allow pedestrian and equestrian access and use of the bank. Access gates at three locations, informational signage and landscaping at key locations would be desirable. The one-way distance is 1.3 miles.

The future vision is to connect the proposed Glendale Riverwalk to the Los Feliz Riverwalk and also continue the walkway south to Elysian Park and the Pasadena Freeway. Combining those areas would create a trail more than seven miles long.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This project is consistent with the adopted Los Angeles City General Plan and its elements. Plan programs call for the creation of linear trail systems along flood control channels.

STATUS

The Planning Team continues to coordinate this project with the City of Los Angeles and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. DOMINGUEZ GAP ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

PROJECT LOCATION

Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds in north Long Beach.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Enhance bird habitat by removing existing non-native plants and planting additional native trees and shrubs compatible with wetland and upland conditions. Install interpretive signs visible to users of the LARIO bike and equestrian trails. Signs will interpret the bird life of Dominguez Gap and the Los Angeles River, as well as the role of the spreading grounds in flood protection and water conservation, concepts of watersheds and urban run-off and water quality.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The L.A. County Department of Public Works operates Dominguez Gap as a spreading grounds for ground water recharge. The exact design of the project (the number and location of plantings and the locations of signs) will be coordinated with the operation and maintenance requirements of the site.

General Plan maps from Long Beach show the L.A. County flood control easement as Parks and Open Space. A strip of land on the west side is labeled Right-of-Way (Edison). On the east side, directly adjacent to the river there is a mix of open space and parks, single family residential, mixed style homes, mixed uses, and institutions/schools.

Dominguez Gap is surrounded by recreation trails—the LARIO bike trail on the west and the equestrian trail on the east, with connecting trails at the north and south ends. Near Del Amo Boulevard, at the north end of the site, is a major access point to the LARIO Trail.

STATUS

The Corps of Engineers has proposed to co-sponsor with L.A. County Department of Public Works the enhancement of the spreading grounds area including the clean-up and planting of Dominguez Gap (east side), just south of Del Amo Boulevard. The project will involve areas both inside and outside the basin fence.

4. WRIGLEY GREENBELT TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS

PROJECT LOCATION

This project will be located between Wardlow Road and Willow Street on DeForest Avenue. This trail runs parallel to the Los Angeles River, at the base of the raised levee in the City of Long Beach. The trail will be accessible from 34th Street, 32nd Street, 31st Street, Spring Street, 28th Street and 27th Street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed demonstration project (covering approximately two miles of trail) would include trail improvements to the LARIO County Riding and Hiking Trail. The project includes the following trail amenities: a trail head (a large sign indicating the trail entrance), a 12-foot wide access trail connecting to the LARIO Trail, trail fencing, trail signage and trail resurfacing (see attached map). This trail improvements project could serve as Phase I: a demonstration phase to the city's proposed Wrigley Greenbelt project. The Wrigley project involves the vacant land between De Forest Avenue and the LARIO Trail. Phase II: development of the Wrigley Greenbelt, would be completed by the City of Long Beach.

The county trail is not well-used in this area because it is in such poor condition. There is a need to enhance the trail and construct a trail head with access to the LARIO Trail from Deforest Avenue.

The greenbelt site has been difficult to acquire a lease for until now. The City of Long Beach has now been given approval to lease the land and develop it into a greenbelt. This project has a lot of support from the City Council and the community. The city has applied for Proposition A monies to develop this project. As a way of promoting community involvement, a design competition to develop a specific river graphic should be held. This graphic would be repeated along the river on all signs and used in any publications related to the river front.



RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Los Angeles River Master Plan: The signage on this trail can tie the entire trails system together by providing a means for identifying the river. A call box would serve as a safety element proposed in the Master Plan. City of Long Beach, Wrigley Greenbelt Project: This trail would tie the pedestrian trails proposed in the Wrigley project to the LARIO Trail.

LACDA: Because this area would serve as a high-visibility node, the LACDA project could incorporate aesthetic improvements to the walls that will be constructed in this area.

STATUS

Due to construction scheduling of the LACDA Project, it is anticipated that this project will be constructed at a later date.