

Arroyo Planning Timeline

Compiled by Tim Brick, Managing Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation

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| 1890s | Charles Lummis forms the Arroyo Seco Foundation to preserve and protect the Arroyo Seco. |
| 1894 | South Pasadena newspaper editor George W. Glover suggests that cities bordering the Arroyo Seco join in making a park from Los Angeles to the mountains with winding roads, sparkling fountains and roses climbing on old snags |
| 1906 | Highland Park residents form the Arroyo Seco Park Association. |
| | Aldolphus Busch begins to transform the banks of the Arroyo Seco in southern Pasadena into a world-renowned botanical garden that thrives as a tourist destination until 1938. |
| 1910 | Pasadena voters reject bond to purchase Arroyo lands |
| 1911 | Woman's Improvement Association of South Pasadena meets to discuss making the Arroyo Seco a great sunken garden. |
| | The Garvanza Improvement Association, the first organization of its kind in Los Angeles, is incorporated. Plans for the future include supporting the building of Arroyo Seco Branch Library. Past projects include tree planting, sewer system support, and advocacy of a park along the Arroyo. |
| | Women's Improvement Association has a well-publicized picnic at Sycamore Park to promote purchase of Arroyo land for park uses. |
| | J. B. Lippincott, LA Parks Commissioner lays out vision and plan for parkways in Los Angeles, including the Arroyo Seco in a June article in California Outlook. |
| 1912 | "Parks for the People" editorial in <u>The Craftsman</u> , Vol 22, No. 5, Aug. '12 celebrates the great natural beauty of the Arroyo and calls for its preservation. |
| | In March representatives from Pasadena, South Pasadena, Los Angeles and Los Angeles County meet to form the Arroyo Seco Parkway Association. Members discussed plans for a graceful boulevard winding through an ever-changing park. |
| 1913 | Major effort in LA to purchase parkland through an assessment district fails – 4/12/13 <u>CA Outlook</u> . Mrs. As. S. Lobingier of Highland Park and J. B. Lippincott address a rally in Sycamore Park to support the bond issue. |
| 1914 | Pasadena Mayor William Thum begins acquisition program of Arroyo lands for park purposes. |
| 1915 | 45 acres of Arroyo lands above Devil's Gate are purchased for \$22,297 (Woods, 394) |
| | Los Angeles County Flood Control District releases first major flood plan for Southern California with a major emphasis on Arroyo Seco planning. |
| 1917 | Wood, J.W., <u>Pasadena, Historical and Personal</u> , , 1917, pf. 389 (discusses Arroyo as a park – natural beauty and setting. Discusses Busch Gardens for park |
| | Renowned architect Myron Hunt develops an Arroyo Seco plan, which recommends that the Lower Arroyo be reserved for trails and bridle paths and planted only with native plants. |
| 1920 | Devil's Gate Dam constructed, the first of the County's flood control dams |
| 1922 | Rose Bowl Built |
| | South Pasadena voters pass a \$100,000 bond issue to buy 100 acres of the Arroyo Seco land lying within the city of So Pasadena. |
| 1924 | Pasadena City Manager C. W. Koiner announces plans to make the Arroyo Seco a |

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| | wild flower preserve using native plants and shrubs |
| 1925 | PSN May 21, 1925 City of Pasadena purchases two acres of land from Ms. Busch for path. Extension of road for equestrians is made possible by deal. Varies from 100=150 feet in width and is 1000 feet in length. Westerly boundary. "Under terms of purchase the city is to put up a 58" fence on top of the retaining wall along the frontage of the lower garden." |
| 1934 | Arroyo Seco is lined with rip-rap from below Devil's Gate to Linda Vista Bridge. |
| 1935-40 | Arroyo Seco Parkway, first urban freeway in the West, is built in the Arroyo Seco channel. |
| 1938 | Busch Gardens is closed as a public attraction |
| 1941 | US Forest Service undertakes the Los Angeles River Watershed Program to manage flood and water resources in the Angeles National Forest; their first project is the construction of Brown Mountain Debris Dam four miles above the mouth of the Arroyo Seco. |
| 1947-48 | Flood channel is constructed in Pasadena's Lower Arroyo |
| 1964 | Pasadena City Council adopts the Jencks Resolution calling for care and stewardship of the Arroyo Seco. |
| 1971 | City and county plan to channelize the Arroyo stream from Holly Street to Colorado Street Bridge is rejected by City Council. The Pasadena City Council renounced \$750,000 from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and refused to grant the District an easement under the Holly Street Bridge to straighten and channelize the last natural part of the Arroyo. This untouched area shows us what the Lower Arroyo once was and can be again. |
| | Arroyo Seco Master Plan is presented to the Public Land Use Committee of the Pasadena Planning Commission; chair: Ted Tyler. Ted Calleton offers a rebuttal opposing the construction of Rosemont Pavilion south of the Rose Bowl. |
| 1972 | Master Plan for Upper Arroyo Seco developed by Gruen Associates |
| 1974 | Arroyo Seco Parklands Preservation Law passed by the CA Legislature to prevent freeway encroachment in the Arroyo. |
| 1976 | At the request of equestrians, hikers, and residents of Busch Gardens, the City prohibited cars from driving to the target archery field, now the AIDs Memorial Grove, and to the area further south to the South Pasadena Stables. |
| 1977 | Pasadena declares the Lower Arroyo to be a City Cultural Landmark. |
| 1979 | Pasadena Star News reprints the Arroyo Craftsman article, "Parks for People", 1/14/79 |
| 1980 | Arroyo Seco Planning Study Committee presents the Pasadena Planning Commission with a draft ordinance, Nov. 12, 1980; Graeme Henderson, Chair |
| 1982 | Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan is prepared by Takata & Associates for the City of Pasadena |
| 1985 | Pasadena Strategic Plan Committee identifies Devil's Gate as promising site for park and open space expansion; Devil's Gate Advisory Committee formed. |
| | Renowned environmental artists Newton and Helen Harrison present an eye-opening exhibit on Arroyo restoration at Baxter Gallery at Caltech |
| 1987 | Newton and Helen Harrison present "String of Pearls" exhibit on Arroyo restoration at the Armory Center for the Arts. |
| 1988 | "Master Plan for the Lower Arroyo Seco", Graduate Program, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Cal Poly, Pomona, June 1988; lays out a vision for Arroyo Seco restoration. |

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| 1989 | Pasadena City Council adopts Arroyo Seco Ordinance, prepared by a citizens committee led by Bill Thomson and Victor Ell; the ordinance limits Rose Bowl use and directs funding from Arroyo events to Arroyo purposes. |
| | Staff Report to Cultural Heritage Commission, Master Plan for Lower Arroyo, 5/11/89, Ann Scheid, staff |
| 1991 | The Arroyo Seco AIDS Memorial Grove is dedicated in Pasadena's Lower Arroyo. |
| 1992 | Devil's Gate Multi-Use Project (DGMUP) Joint Powers Planning Authority is formed, consisting of Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. |
| | Raymond Basin Groundwater Program is proposed as part of a comprehensive report on local groundwater prepared by the engineering firm, CH2M Hill. |
| | DGMUP JPPA prepares Preliminary Park Plan for Hahamongna Watershed Park; Pasadena City Council approves the plan; JPPA sunsets. |
| | Pasadena issues \$2 million in certificates of participation for Arroyo Seco improvements; funding later diverted to Rose Bowl uses. |
| | Engineering firm Brown & Caldwell prepares Preliminary Economic Assessment for the Devil's Gate Multi-Use Project . |
| 1993 | \$3.2 million for Arroyo improvements secured in County Parks A Bond election. |
| | The County relinquishes authority for Oak Grove Park and turns responsibility over to Pasadena; Hahamongna Watershed Park formally opened October 16. |
| | In 1993 the City of Pasadena adopts its current General Plan, containing OBJECTIVE 9, which emphasizes stewardship of the natural environment (Policy 9.5) and restoration of the natural area of the Arroyo Seco (Policy 9.2). |
| 1994 | Hahamongna Operating Company established to plan and develop Hahamongna Watershed Park. |
| 1996 | Hahamongna Operating Company disbanded by Pasadena City Council; authority for park planning and operations is given to Public Works; additional \$1 million for HWP in County Parks Bond election. |
| 1997 | County of Los Angeles completes the rehabilitation of Devil's Gate Dam. |
| | City begins Arroyo Seco Master Environmental Impact Report to consider the three area master plans as well as the Rose Bowl use plan and design guidelines for the Arroyo. |
| | February - After extensive community process, the Draft Master Plan for the Lower Arroyo Seco is tentatively approved by the City Council. |
| 1999 | The Historic American Engineering Record produces a detailed history of the development of the Arroyo Seco Parkway. |
| 2000 | February - Master Plan for Hahamongna Watershed Park tentatively approved by the City Council. |
| | California State Polytechnic University 606 Studio graduate students prepare "The Arroyo Seco Parkway Corridor," a wonderful vision for the restoration of the parkway to its future grandeur. |
| 2001 | January - Central Arroyo Master Plan tentatively approved by Pasadena City Council. |
| 2002 | May - Pasadena releases Arroyo Seco Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report; Arroyo Seco Foundation and North East Trees release Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study |
| | Arroyo Seco Parkway designated a federal scenic byway, only the second in |

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| 2003 | California. |
| | Pasadena City Council approves Arroyo Seco Environmental Impact Report in April. |