

Arroyo Planning Timeline

Compiled by Tim Brick, Managing Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation

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. Koerner announces plans to make the Arroyo Seco a

	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.

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	On July 7 Pasadena City Council enters into agreement with Browning Ferris Industries for low-flow stream restoration on Lower Arroyo. BFI spends more than \$5.4 million over six years to complete the project. The Arroyo Seco Foundation brought BFI to Pasadena and developed support for the project.
	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 .
	\$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.
1993	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.
1999	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; final approval by the City Council does not occur for six more years.
	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.
2001	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.
	January - Central Arroyo Master Plan tentatively approved by Pasadena City

	Council.
2002	May – Pasadena releases Arroyo Seco Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report to mixed reviews; Arroyo Seco Foundation and North East Trees release Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study, which emphasizes nature protection and restoration.
	Arroyo Seco Parkway designated a federal scenic byway, only the second in California.
2003	Pasadena City Council approves Arroyo Seco Environmental Impact Report in April.
	September 29 – Council approves Arroyo Seco Master planning including four separate elements: Hahamongna, Lower Arroyo, Central Arroyo, and Guidelines
2005	Pasadena acquires 30 acre site in northwest corner of Hahamongna from the Metropolitan Water District; site includes County Fire Camp, former USFS ranger station facilities, and existing recreational uses.
2008	ASF completes Central Arroyo Stream Restoration Project that restores native fish to the Arroyo, adds water quality islands to Brookside Park parking lot, and improves stream conditions above and below the Rose Bowl. ASF and its contractor, CDM Smith, worked closely with Pasadena to complete this award-winning project.
2009	Station Fire begins in upper Arroyo Seco Watershed and destroys more than two-thirds of the area. Subsequent floods in the next two years add more than one million cubic yards to the accumulated sediment in the Hahamongna/Devil’s Gate basin.
2010	Hahamongna Watershed Park Addendum is added to the HWP Master Plan to include the 30 acre Hahamongna Annex.
	ASF wins \$3.3 million grant from CA’s Integrated Water Resources Management Program for improvements to the Arroyo Seco Canyon; ASF agrees to allow Pasadena Water & Power to manage the program.
2014	County approves Flood Control District Big Dig program in Hahamongna Watershed Park; goal to remove 2.4 million cubic yards and truck it to distant landfills; ASF and Pasadena Audubon sue the County in December seeking to reduce the negative impacts of the sediment program.
2015	Spirit of the Sage files lawsuit to block the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project alleging inadequacies in Pasadena’s mitigated negative declaration.
	Pasadena approves amendments to the Lower Arroyo Master Plan grant archers unrestricted access to the west side of the Lower Arroyo and denying public access. The Stewards of Public land file a lawsuit to block exclusive of one of the nicest areas in the urban Arroyo, but the lawsuit eventually fails.
2017	Superior Court judge orders Pasadena to conduct a full environmental review of the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project focusing on impacts on downstream habitat from increased diversions by Pasadena Water & Power; the \$3.3 million grant for environmental improvements secured by ASF is forfeited due to failure to complete the project in a timely fashion.
	In March Judge James Chalfant orders County Public Works to revise their EIR, which he declares critically flawed regarding air quality, mitigation measures and cumulative impacts of the project. He ordered the County to revise those sections to ensure that they are fully compliant with CEQA.
	On November 7 the County Supervisors approve the Flood Control District’s

	<p>revised EIR but reduce the amount of sediment to be removed from 2.4 mcf to 1.7 mcf; numerous concerns about the negative impacts of the project and the environmental mitigation matters remain unresolved. ASF and Pasadena Audubon enter into settlement discussions with the Flood Control District but all proposals to reduce the negative impacts of the project are rejected.</p>
2018	<p>Contractors for the Flood Control District begin a three-week program of devastation in Hahamongna Water Park, clearing more than 50 acres of prime riparian habitat and hauling it to Scholl Canyon;</p>