

Preliminary Investigation E: Recreation

Prepared by: Cara McLane, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Recreation and Open Space Planning for the Arroyo Seco Watershed will improve recreational opportunities within the watershed by improving public access, providing new and improved recreational opportunities, and creating a balance between recreation and other conflicting uses.

The project team identified four objectives to improve recreational opportunities. They are:

- Improve public access from the Angeles National Forest to the coastal shore by building trails, stairways and bikeways;
- Provide opportunities for a range of recreational activities and promote activities which have little environmental impact;
- Provide opportunities for public use of the watershed's rivers and streams; and
- Provide opportunities to mediate conflicts between recreation and conservation.

Ideally, trails and open space in the watershed would connect to and between adjacent natural and recreational areas, including the Rim of the Valley Trail, the Los Angeles River Greenway, Elysian Park, the San Rafael Hills, the Ascot Hills, the Monterey Hills, the Montecito Hills, Cultural Attractions throughout the watershed, Elyria Canyon, Rainbow Canyon, and Occidental College in Eagle Rock. A connection to the Los Angeles River Greenway would improve coastal access from the watershed. Pedestrian and bicycle routes would ideally be planned to connect to Pasadena Blue Line stations.

As part of the preliminary research, an inventory was made of existing parks and recreational facilities. Each of these were annotated in the project's GIS. Parks and recreational facilities were located via several sources, including the *Thomas Guide*, an existing digital map base of parks, an existing digital map base of local points of interest, the City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks website, Los Angeles County Park & Recreation website, City of Pasadena Parks website, and the project team's prior knowledge. A listing of existing facilities follows:

Table 13: Recreation Facilities in the Arroyo Seco Watershed	
Existing Park / Recreation Facility	Owner / Operator
Angeles National Forest	USFS
Angeles Crest Station	USFS
Annandale Golf Course / Country Club	
Arroyo Seco Golf Course	South Pasadena
Arroyo Seco Park	City of LA
Bear Canyon Picnic Area	
Brookside Golf Course	Pasadena
Brookside Park	Pasadena
Camp Chiquita	
Camp Sierra	
Charles White Park	Los Angeles County
Cleland Avenue Bicentennial Park	City of Los Angeles
Defenders Park (portion)	
Descanso Gardens	Los Angeles County
Ernest E. Debs Park	City of Los Angeles
Garvanza Park	City of Los Angeles
General Farnsworth Park	Los Angeles County
Gould Mesa Picnic Area	
Greayers Oak Park	City of Los Angeles
Hahamongna Watershed Park	Pasadena
Heritage Square	
Highland Park	City of Los Angeles
Highland Park Recreation Center	City of Los Angeles
Highland Park Senior Center	City of Los Angeles
Jackie Robinson Park (portion)	Pasadena
La Cañada Flintridge Golf Course / Country Club	
La Pintoresca Park	Pasadena
Loma Alta Park	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles River Center	City of Los Angeles
Lower Arroyo Park	Pasadena
Lower Switzer Campground	USFS
Lummis Park	
Millard Picnic Area	USFS
Mount Lowe Campground	USFS
Mountain View Cemetery	
Nino Picnic Area	
Oak Grove Park	Pasadena
Oak Grove Ranger Station	
Paul Little Picnic Area	
Rose Bowl	Pasadena
Rose Bowl Aquatic Center	Pasadena

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Existing Park / Recreation Facility	Owner / Operator
San Pascual Park	City of Los Angeles
San Rafael Park	Pasadena
Shelby Park	
Sunset Ridge Station	
Switzer Camp	USFS
Switzer Station	USFS
Switzer Visitor Information Station	USFS
Sycamore Grove Park	City of Los Angeles
Upper Switzer Campground	USFS

The watershed also contains many cultural and historical sites, including museums, many historic buildings, and a portion of Historic Route 66.

Significant portions of the Arroyo Seco watershed are protected open space, ranging from the National Forest to golf courses to passive nature parks. There is almost a continuous stretch of open space of the Arroyo Seco, from the forest to its confluence with the Los Angeles River. Connecting these almost-contiguous parcels would expand the recreational opportunities in the watershed, bringing additional users to parks that have limited parking or access points, and providing access to the Los Angeles River Greenway.

Current types of recreation in the Arroyo Seco Watershed are many and varied. A partial list of the types of activities available includes:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Architectural interest sites | Fitness Walking / Jogging / Skating |
| Archery | Gardens – Ornamental & Botanic |
| Bicycling | Golf |
| Birdwatching | Hiking |
| Casting | Historical sites & neighborhoods |
| Disc golf | Horseback riding |
| Fishing | Soccer / ball fields |

The Recreation and Open Space Planning for the Arroyo Seco Watershed will identify areas that are suitable for recreation. After these sites are identified, they will be ranked for their appropriateness for recreation, based on the existing site conditions, proximity to other recreation, and their capacity, among other factors. The overall network of parks and recreation facilities that is created will be examined at the same time, to ensure an appropriate distribution of sites and activities. Future analysis will also include examination of the many public school sites in the watershed. Schools have a large potential for re-vegetation of paved surfaces, additional recreational facilities, and shared programming with community groups.

The types of recreation considered in the analysis will include all of the current recreational activities listed above, and will also include additional wildlife observation, recreational fishing, and other activities that would enable direct participation with the watershed's rivers and

streams. The analysis will also look at appropriate areas for education and interpretation of the watershed. A range of interpretive methods will be considered, from constructed visitor centers to trail signage to volunteer clean-ups.

Planning will focus on identifying sites for unsupervised recreation which does not require large amounts of infrastructure, i.e., hiking, biking, equestrian trails, natural areas, and interpretive sites. These types of activities tend to have little environmental impact. The project team recognizes that there is substantial demand for other types of recreation in the watershed. While planning for these types of recreation is not one of the *ASWRFS*s goals, the Technical Study for Recreation & Open Space will consider locations appropriate for supervised recreation (i.e. sports fields, playgrounds). It is expected that these types of recreation will be planned for on sites where infrastructure is readily available or easily constructed. School sites are likely to be good candidates for supervised recreation activities. If a conflict arises between unsupervised and supervised recreation, the final plan will reflect the land use that most closely follows the *ASWRFS*s goals.