



La Casita Del Arroyo is located on the east rim of the Lower Arroyo Seco.



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The mission of Pasadena Heritage is to identify, preserve, and protect the historic, architectural, and cultural resources of the City of Pasadena through advocacy and education.

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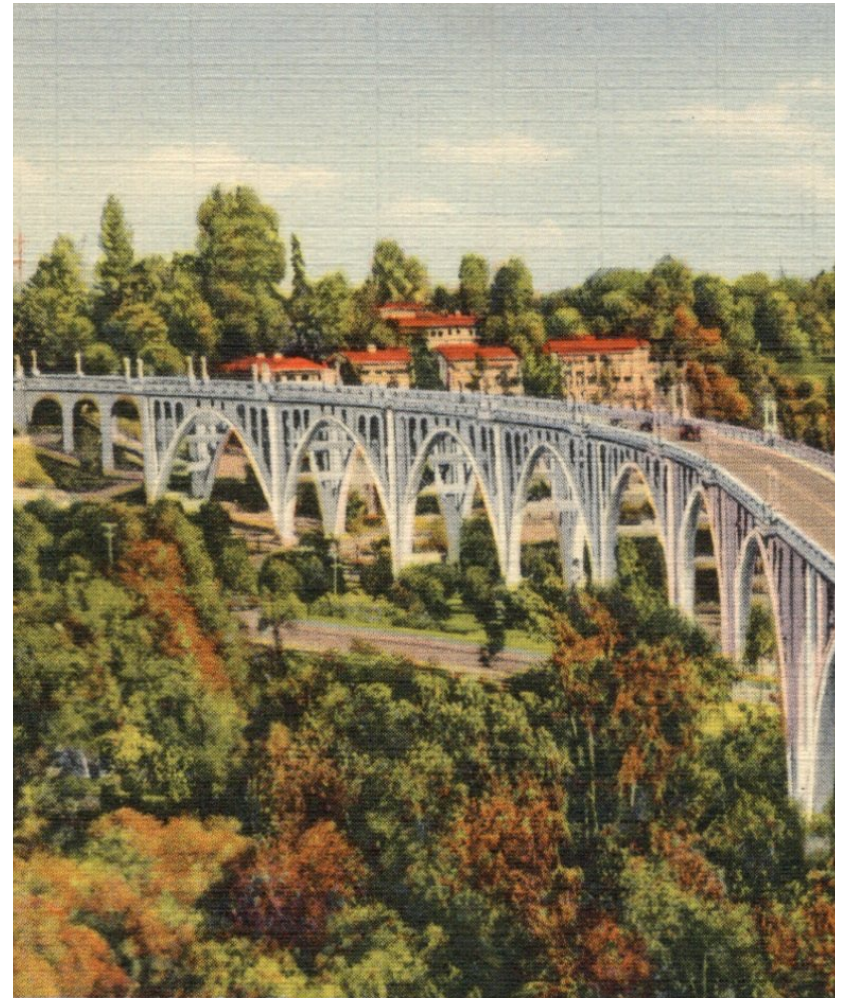
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Pasadena's Arroyo Seco

Historic Sites



View of the Colorado Street Bridge from an early postcard.

History of the Arroyo Seco

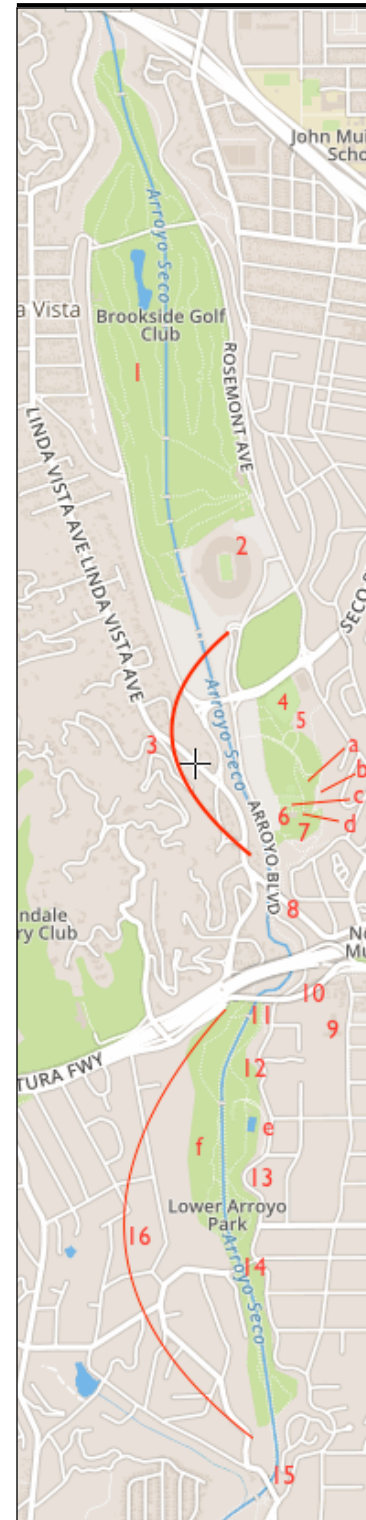
The Arroyo Seco (dry valley) was carved by a tributary of the Los Angeles River and remains Pasadena's greatest open space and watershed. It is among Pasadena's oldest and most important historic places, and there are many individual historic sites within the Arroyo, both natural and manmade. The Arroyo Seco has a long history of recreational use; it was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, by Pasadena Heritage, as a cultural landscape for that reason. Its structures also reflect Pasadena's cultural heritage, transportation history, and regional flood control efforts.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the Arroyo Seco was an important source of inspiration for local artists and the focus of 'The Arroyo Culture' a local expression of the American Arts & Crafts Movement. Local residents and winter visitors used the area for hiking, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. As the area became threatened by development, The Arroyo Seco Foundation was established in 1898 to protect it. Efforts to develop the area as a park began in 1903. After Brookside Park was officially established in 1914, facilities for organized sports were added, including Brookside Golf Club, the Rose Bowl and Jackie Robinson Memorial Field and Stadium. The 1918 Arroyo Seco Park Plan, developed by landscape architect Emanuel Tillman Mische, still guides our use of the Arroyo Seco.

The numerous trails and arroyo stone retaining walls throughout the Arroyo Seco were constructed between 1909 and 1939, many of them as part of Depression Era work relief programs. These trails link up to regional trail networks in the San Gabriel Mountains and along the Los Angeles River. Six bridges, five of them historic, stand as monuments to the long history of efforts to connect one side of the Arroyo Seco to the other.

The area was used by local Native American tribes well before the arrival of European settlers. Arroyo Boulevard follows the course of their foot trail through the Arroyo. Archaeologists have also found one archaeological site, an early Native American cemetery. The Sheldon Reservoir Site was discovered in 1938 and later excavated by E. F. Walker.

While the Los Angeles River tributary that runs through the Arroyo typically has a seasonal, intermittent flow, it also has a history of severe floods. Devil's Gate Dam and the Flood Control Channels were constructed to manage the more torrential flow caused by heavy winter rains. More recently the original riparian habitat has been restored along a 1.25 mile stretch of the Lower Arroyo Seco and there is hope that more of the natural settings will be restored.



Some Historic Sites in the Arroyo

1. Brookside Golf Club Courses
2. Rose Bowl Stadium
3. Brookside Park: including the Bandstand (a), Rockery (b), the Pergola (c), and the Picnic Area (d).
4. Jackie Robinson Memorial Field and Stadium
5. Fannie Morrison Horticultural Center (now Kidspace Children's Museum)
6. Brookside Plunge (now the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center)
7. Brookside Amphitheater
8. Holly Street Bridge
9. Vista Del Arroyo Hotel (now the U.S. Court of Appeals)
10. Colorado Street Bridge
11. Mayberry & Parker Bridge
12. La Casita del Arroyo
13. Bird Sanctuary
14. John K. Van de Kamp Bridge (La Loma Bridge)
15. San Rafael Bridge
16. Lower Arroyo Seco Park: including the Casting Ponds (e) and Archery Range (f)

Not Shown on Map:

17. Space Flight Operations Facility at JPL
18. 25 Foot Space Simulator at JPL
19. Disc Golf Course
20. Devil's Gate Dam

The Central Arroyo Seco

1. **Brookside Golf Club Courses:** The courses of the Brookside Golf Club were designed by William P. Bell, who was a well known golf course architect, and built between 1925 and 1938. It is one of the oldest golf courses in Los Angeles County.
2. **Rose Bowl Stadium:** Designed by the famous architect Myron Hunt, the Rose Bowl Stadium was built in 1922 to house the Tournament of Rose's New Year's day football game. It was originally built as a horseshoe, with the south end open; in 1928 the stadium was enclosed, completing its current elliptical shape. In addition to its importance to collegiate football and the Tournament of Roses, the Rose Bowl has hosted two Olympics, five Super Bowl games, and both men's and women's World Cup Soccer games. The stadium is a National Historic Landmark.
3. **Brookside Park:** Dedicated in 1914, the park was originally known as Arroyo Springs Park. It was renamed in honor of Mrs. Everett W. Brooks, who donated \$3000 toward the construction of a municipal 'plunge' (swimming pool). Notable historic features of the park include the Bandstand (a), Rockery (b), the Pergola (c), and the Picnic Area (d).
4. **Jackie Robinson Memorial Field and Stadium:** Built in 1932, it was designed by Myron Hunt. Originally called Brookside Park Baseball Field, the Jackie Robinson Memorial Field and Stadium is larger and more complex than many municipal baseball fields, seating around 3000 people. By building such a substantial baseball field, Pasadena hoped to attract professional and semiprofessional teams to the city. The Chicago White Sox used it for spring training from 1933-1942 and 1946-1950. Many Pasadena area major league players got their start playing here, including Jackie Robinson, for whom the field was renamed in 1987.
5. **Fannie Morrison Horticultural Center (now Kidspace Children's Museum):** The Horticultural Center was designed by architect Fitch Haskell and built in 1938. It was named for Fannie E. Morrison who donated \$55,000 (almost 1 million dollars today) for the construction. The Center was built to house Pasadena's flower show, established in 1906, which was the first in the Western United States. Originally the Horticultural Center had four pavilions around a courtyard, but the eastern pavilion burned in 1984. The site was adapted in 2004 to house Kidspace Children's Museum.
6. **Brookside Plunge:** Pasadena's first municipal swimming pool was built 1914. It was used during the 1932 Olympics for the water polo and diving trials. It was closed in 1983 and demolished in 1988; the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center was constructed on the site in 1990.
7. **Brookside Theater (Amphitheater):** The amphitheater was constructed in 1920 and designed by Dorothy Schindler. It has a grass-covered stage and a terraced seating area with arroyo stone retaining walls and stairs. The first performance was of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by the Pasadena Community Players. After the amphitheater fell into disuse it became overgrown and was nearly forgotten until rediscovered by city employees in 1990.
8. **Holly Street Bridge (Linda Vista Bridge):** The Holly Street Bridge was completed in 1924, replacing the earlier (1909) Linda Vista Bridge due to concerns that age and disrepair made it structurally unsound. The Holly Street Bridge is Neoclassical in style with an open spandrel design. It is 423 feet long and 70 feet high. The central span is 240 feet in length. The Holly Street Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lower Arroyo Seco

9. **Vista Del Arroyo Hotel:** Situated on the east rim of the Arroyo Seco, the Vista Del Arroyo was originally one of Pasadena's major tourist hotels. The current Spanish Colonial style buildings were built in 1920 (designed by architects Sylvanus Marston and Garrett Van Pelt) and 1930 (designed by architect George H. Wiemeyer), replacing an earlier version of the hotel from 1882. It now houses the *Richard H. Chambers United States Court of Appeals*.
10. **Colorado Street Bridge:** Built in 1913 this famous bridge was designed by engineer John Alexander Low Waddell. It was the tallest concrete bridge of its day. The curved design allowed the builders to avoid areas of the Arroyo floor that were too soft to support the bridge. The Bridge was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. It is the site of Pasadena Heritage's popular, biennial summer Bridge Party.
11. **Mayberry & Parker Bridge:** Located under the Colorado Street Bridge, the modest Mayberry & Parker Bridge was designed by Myron Hunt and built in 1914. It has a closed spandrel design.
12. **La Casita del Arroyo:** Designed by Myron Hunt, La Casita del Arroyo was built in 1932 as a Depression relief project and has been recently restored. It was constructed of Arroyo stone, timber from further up the Arroyo and lumber salvaged from the bicycle track built at the Rose Bowl Stadium for the 1932 Olympics.
13. **Bird Sanctuary:** Created in 1935 in honor of Emma Dickinson, a Pasadena resident who loved birds, the Sanctuary's circular design features Batchelder Tile on the birdbath in the center.
14. **John K. Van de Kamp Bridge (La Loma Bridge):** Constructed in 1914 with an open spandrel, Neoclassical design, this was a joint project by the City of Pasadena and Los Angeles County. It was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

15. **San Rafael Bridge:** The San Rafael Bridge shares the open spandrel, Neoclassical design used for several other Arroyo bridges, but with a simpler design. It was built in 1922-23 and played an important role in the development of San Rafael Heights.
16. **Lower Arroyo Seco Park:** The land in the Lower Arroyo Park was acquired by the city between 1909 and 1918. It has a long history of use for hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, fly casting, archery, horse back riding and other outdoor activities. The Casting Pond (e) was built in 1953 by the Pasadena Casting Club. The Archery Range (f) has been maintained by the Pasadena Roving Archers since 1935.

The Upper Arroyo Seco – Hahamongna Watershed Park

17. **Space Flight Operations Facility:** Constructed in 1961–1963 at Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL), it houses the monitoring and control facilities for interplanetary and deep space exploration by NASA and other agencies. It was made a National Historic Landmark in 1985. *The JPL sites are open to the public on selected days only.*
18. **25 Foot Space Simulator:** This 85 foot high, 27 foot diameter steel cylinder at JPL is used to test spacecraft in space-like conditions. It was also declared a National Historic Landmark in 1985.
19. **Disc Golf Course:** The world's first established disc golf course was constructed here in 1975. It currently has 20 'holes'.
20. **Devil's Gate Dam:** After a severe flood in 1914 resulted in 43 fatalities, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District was formed in 1915. Devil's Gate Dam was completed in 1920 to help control flooding in the Arroyo. After more floods, the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channels were constructed in 1934 and 1947-48.