

ERNEST E. DEBS REGIONAL PARK FRAMEWORK PLAN

Volume 1 of 11

ADOPTED MAY 17, 2000
by the:

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSIONERS

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks

200 N. Main Street
Room 1290, City Hall East
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Submitted by:

Debs Park Community Advisory Committee

Prepared by:



ENVICOM
CORPORATION

28328 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, California, 91301

June 13, 2000

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VOLUME 2 – TECHNICAL APPENDICES

Existing Facilities/Infrastructure Conditions Report; Ernest E. Debs Park
Los Angeles, California; MB&A and Wheeler & Gray; April 1999.

Vascular Plants of Ernest Debs Regional Park; Envicom Corporation; Sept. 1999.

Observed Fauna of Ernest Debs Regional Park; Envicom Corporation; Sept. 1999.

Cultural Resources Report For Debs Park; ESA – W. Bonner; 1999.

Preliminary Geotechnical Study for Debs Park; Converse Consultants; 1999.

Draft Habitat Management and Restoration Plan for Debs Park; National
Audubon Society; September 1999.

Traffic and Circulation Assessment; Linscott Law & Greenspan; September 1999.

INTRODUCTION

Located in the dense cityscape of Los Angeles is the Ernest E. Debs Regional Park (Debs Park), a relatively undiscovered park, hidden to most people who drive by on the adjacent 110 freeway. However, to the people of the nearby homes and the surrounding culturally diverse neighborhoods, this park is their backyard. Over the years, Debs Park has represented many different things to many people: a place for gathering food and ranching, a place for residential development and sporting competitions, and today a place of natural habitats and recreation. The park is host to abundant groves of native woodlands and shrubs giving shelter to numerous birds and animals. The attentive observer may chance a glimpse of a soaring Cooper's or Red-tailed Hawk, the Great Horned Owl, a desert cottontail, or the secretive broad-handed mole. With its expansive open space, and sounds and sights of nature, the park is an inspiring experience. It is also the home of baseball leagues, and a place for family gatherings, picnics, walking, camaraderie, and solitude among shaded trails. Vistas from the park's high spots are breathtaking in their clarity of form, revealing the world around us.



This combination of natural and recreational qualities makes Debs Park a unique and special place – a place worth investing the time and effort to preserve and enhance.

DISCOVERING THE PARK

Balanced on the easternmost edge of the City, Debs Park is located in Highland Park, five miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles on the south side of the Arroyo Seco Parkway (110 Pasadena Freeway) (**Figure 1**). It is nestled within the Repetto Hills and is part of the Arroyo Seco Watershed that drains via the Arroyo, to the Los Angeles River. The Park has an irregular perimeter that roughly resembles the shape of a key. The longest park distance is north to south, approximately 1.2 miles (6,250 feet) and the broadest is located in the northern half (east to west), approximately 0.66 mile (3,500 feet).

REGIONAL LOCATION

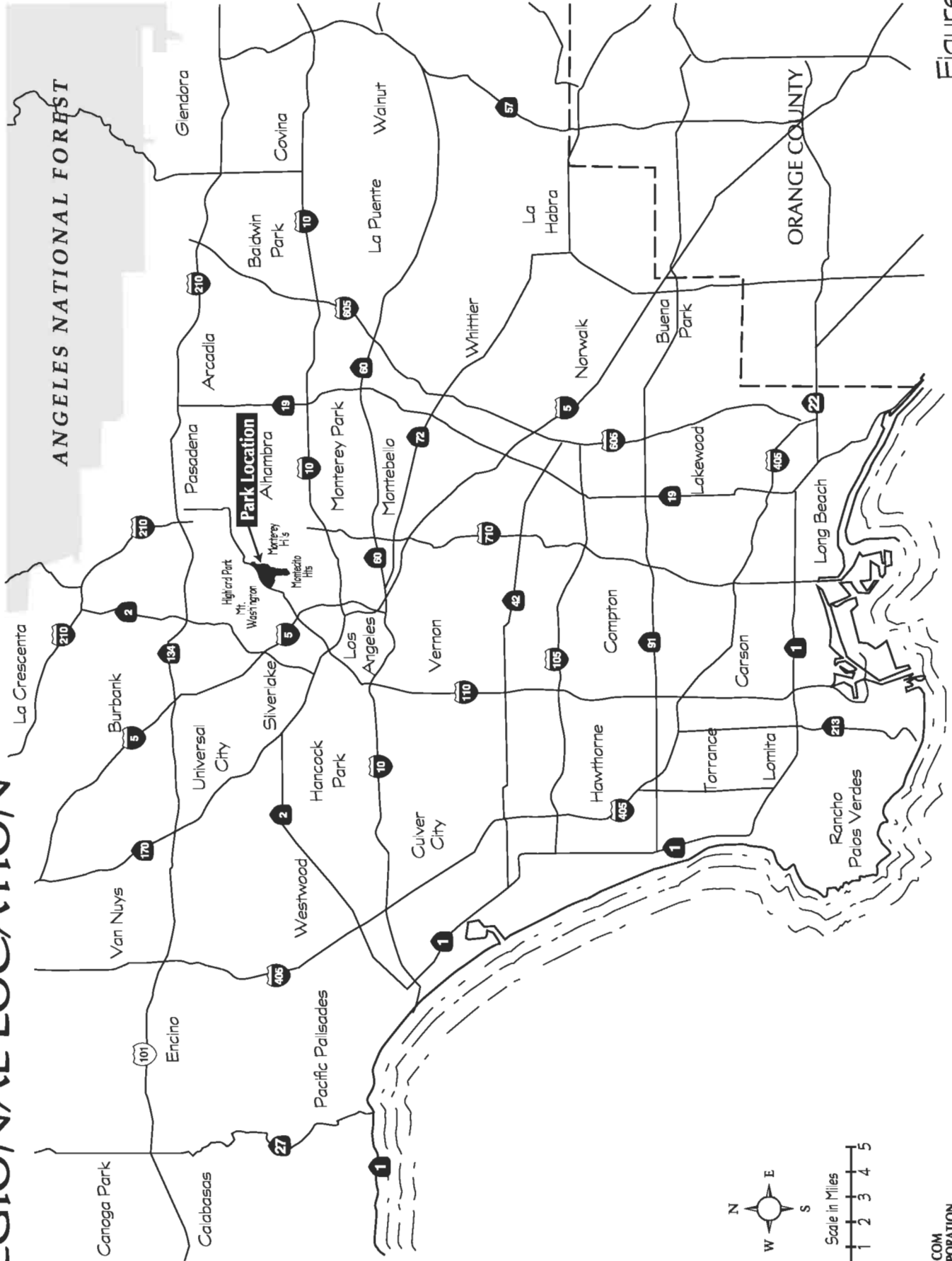


Figure 1

A locally prominent ridgeline, which is generally north-south trending, forms the backbone of Debs Park. This central ridge and its spur slopes divide the park into ten separate catchment basins, with drainage courses radiating north, east, south, and west.

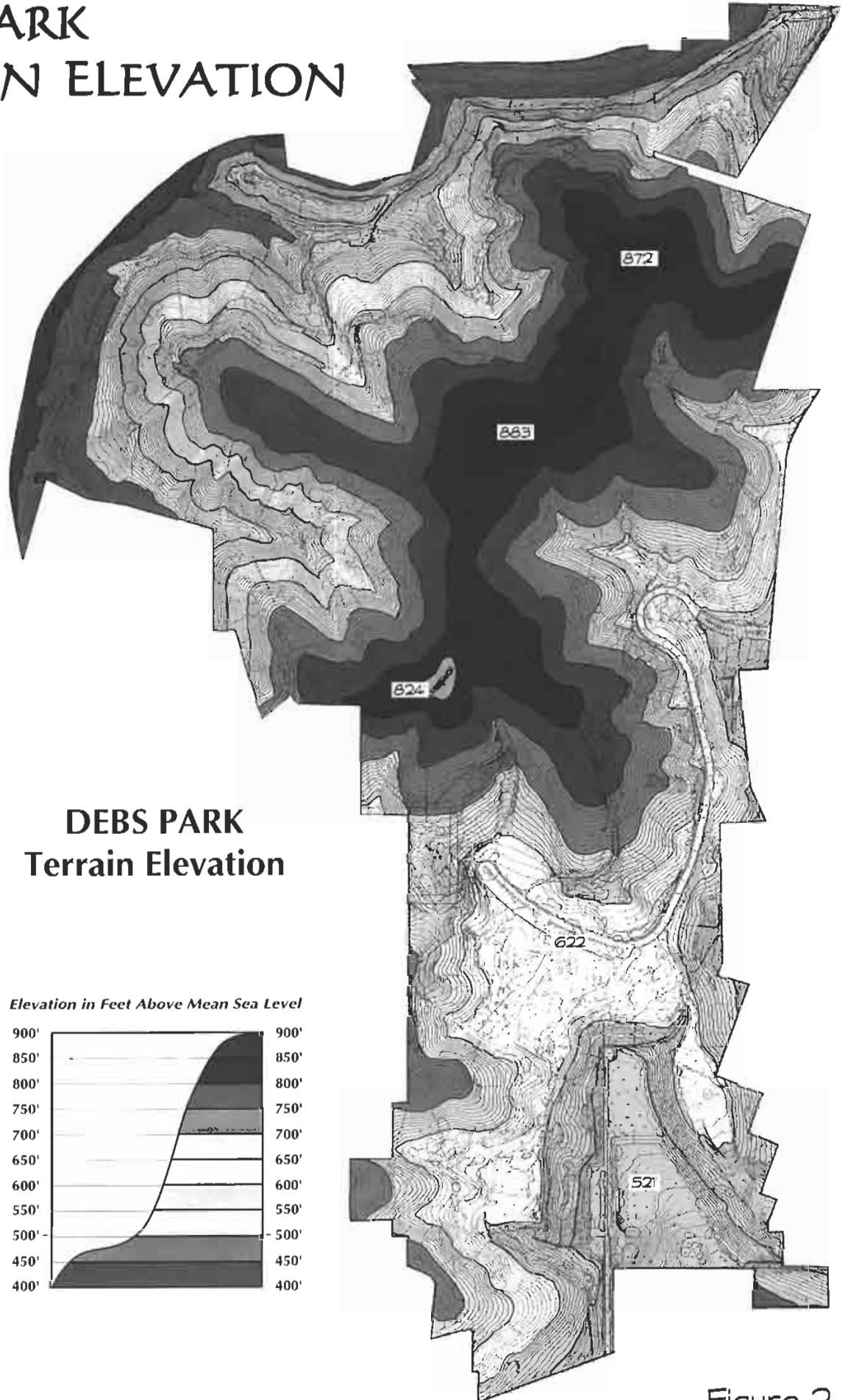
Elevation ranges from 884' at the highest point, to 425' feet at the lowest point, found near the northwest boundary along the frontage with the Arroyo Seco. The varied terrain creates a 459-foot change in elevation, often felt by the hikers that traverse the hill-bound trails (**Figure 2**). Slope gradients vary throughout the park, with the majority of the park having slopes that are steeper than 50% (a ratio greater than 2:1). Active play and picnic areas of the park with terrain less than 10% slope were created by artificial fill in the southern half of the park during the 1970s. Filling this area was responsible for creating approximately 34 acres (11 percent of the total park area).



Figure 3 illustrates existing land use conditions of the park, such as the picnic area and adjacent surrounding communities. The main public vehicular entrance is located on the eastside of the park, off Monterey Road, approximately one mile south of the Pasadena Freeway. From this entrance, a paved road traverses

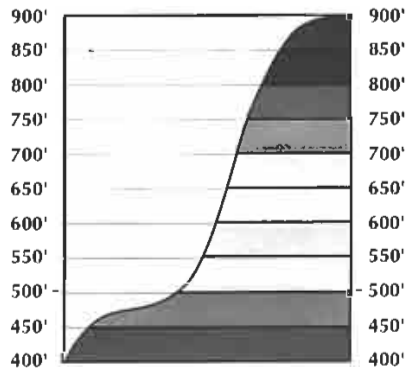
one-half mile into the park to the main parking area. Adjacent to the parking lot is the main picnic grounds with manicured lawns, shade trees, water fountains, picnic tables, barbecues, and restrooms. Opposite the picnic area is a steep hillside covered in both native and ornamental vegetation. From the main parking area, a paved trail/park maintenance road (closed to public vehicles) proceeds up to the top of a hill where there is a small reservoir, a grassy knoll, and park benches. This road continues upward and northward along the hilltop, past a damaged gazebo, closed to public use. Just past the gazebo, a maintenance road joins an unpaved, improved road currently used as hiking trails and fire protection. The unpaved roads wind through the northwestern slopes of the park to Griffin Avenue and the Arroyo Seco Parkway. The northern slopes, covered with dense California walnut woodland, also support remnants of coastal sage scrub habitat. Along the eastern and southern slopes are additional areas of walnut woodland and grassland.

DEBS PARK TERRAIN ELEVATION

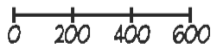


DEBS PARK Terrain Elevation

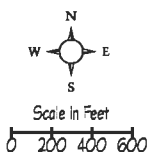
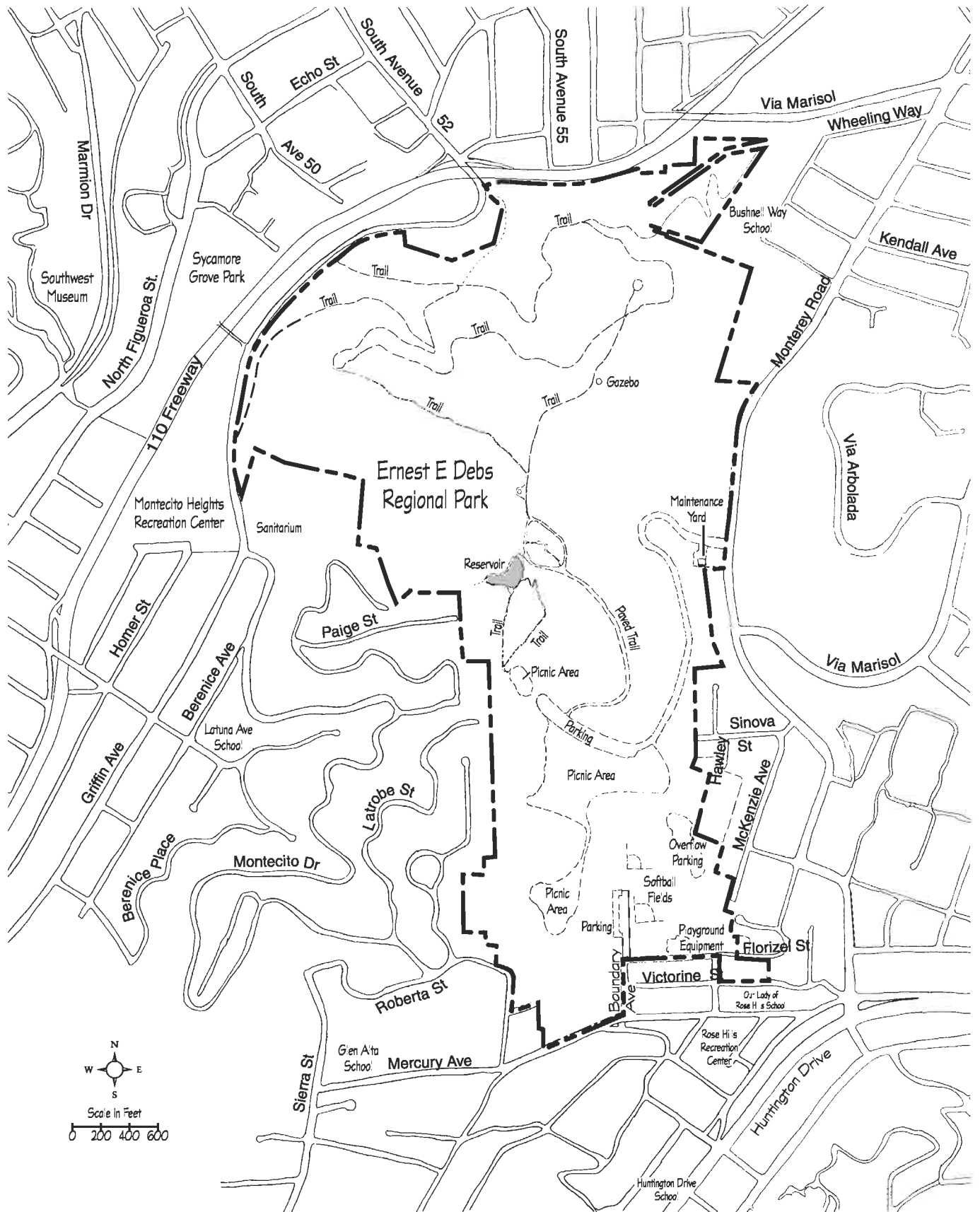
Elevation in Feet Above Mean Sea Level



Scale in Feet



EXISTING CONDITIONS



The secondary park entrance is located on the south side of the park. This is the Rose Hill Park area where recreational activities focus on organized sports including baseball.



Pedestrian access to the park is available from Griffin Avenue, Via Marisol, and Bushnell Way School off Monterey Road. The hills are relatively steep, however the unpaved roads provide an excellent trail network for hiking.

The higher elevations of the Park offer perspectives of the Los Angeles Basin. Downtown Los Angeles is visible to the west; Highland Park and Eagle Rock stretch up to the north toward Glendale; and on clear days the entire San Gabriel and San Bernardino ranges appear to the north and east. Toward the southeast are the Puente Hills, where the City of Whittier has preserved large tracts of land for the protection of wildlife habitat.

WHY CREATE A FRAMEWORK PLAN?

One of the great attributes of Debs Park is its ability to support a variety of uses, from hiking to baseball. To ensure the protection and sustainable management of these and other resources, now and in the future, the Framework Plan outlines a series of land use recommendations, or policies. The policies promote sustaining a unique visitor experience throughout the park, from its natural “wild” side to its manicured lawns and picnic grounds. The Plan further clarifies and articulates a mix of future land identified for the park through the public participation and planning process. Motivation for preparing the plan stemmed from several actions:

- ▶ Availability of funds, including Prop K and A, for infrastructure and facility improvement.

- ▶ Interest of citizen organizations, including the Friends of Debs Park, and individuals to reverse the decline in the park’s environment and to increase park security and the visitor’s perception of safety.
- ▶ Endorsements from the City of Los Angeles and community groups supporting the construction and operation of the Los Angeles Nature Center by the National Audubon Society (Audubon). The Center will provide nature education opportunities and instruction in natural lands management.
- ▶ Proposals from ARTScorpsLA and other community-oriented organizations to provide programming and facilities.
- ▶ Establishment of the Debs Park Community Advisory Committee to work with the community in the preparation of the Framework Plan.

ABOUT THE PARK PLANNING PROCESS

Planning the future of Debs Park started with the official appointment of community members to the Debs Park Community Advisory Committee (the Committee) by the City of Los Angeles. Councilman Mike Hernandez of Council District 1 and former Councilman Richard Alatorre of Council District 14, took the lead in forming and structuring the Committee and providing guidance. The Committee consisted of eight individuals with strong ties to community groups and organizations.¹ In addition, representatives from Council District 1, the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP), and the National Audubon Society-California provided non-voting staff support for the development of the Framework Plan. The Committee’s charge included the preparation of the Draft and Final Framework Plan, interaction with community groups regarding the progress and direction of the planning process, and giving direction to the professional consultants². These responsibilities were carried by conducting monthly meetings and special workshops, completing a planning questionnaire, reviewing various land use proposals for the park, and approving all stages of the Framework Plan.

Studies performed for the planning process included an analysis of land use, terrain and slope, biological resources, geology, drainage, cultural resources, traffic, and public services. Based on an understanding of the physical, biological, and regulatory opportunities and constraints of the park, the Committee working together with the community articulated a number of goals and guidelines for future development of the park. Each proposed land use, thoroughly reviewed takes into consideration conflicting visions for the park and differences of opinions on park usage. Upon completion of the Draft Framework Plan, the City and the Committee held three public meetings³. The

¹ See list of contributors to this document located before the table of contents on pages *i* and *ii*.

² The committee approved the selection of Envicom Corporation, a professional environmental and planning firm as the lead consultant. See list of environmental and planning consultants on page *ii*.

³ A summary of public comments is provided in Appendix B, herein.

intent of the meetings was to present the plan, to solicit additional public comments and ideas, and to bring consensus on areas of concern. For each land use decision, it was the Committee's goal to reach unanimous consensus within the group and with the public. This resulted in several compromises, reflected in the Final Framework Plan. With over a year of effort, the Plan firmly establishes the park's unique regional significance, while also respecting the needs of the adjacent communities.

The investment made by the City, the Committee, community organizations, and others, to prepare the plan demonstrates a strong sense of pride and stewardship in the Park. The Friends of Debs Park, for example has contributed numerous resources over the years to improve the park, and continues to be active in helping visitors enjoy the park. Recently, this group was instrumental in successfully advocating for Proposition K funds for the improvement of park facilities, and contributed to the planning process by providing guidance in the preparation of the Draft Framework Plan. In addition, several non-profit organizations, such as the National Audubon Society and ARTScorpsLA, contributed significantly to the planning process. ARTScorpsLA is among one of the future providers of programs and facilities in the Park. The organization will offer a variety of options for helping young people find a better path in life. The Audubon Society will establish the Los Angeles Nature Center and provide land management expertise for the enhancement and restoration of native habitats at the park. The Nature Center would house interpretive exhibits, classroom space, an open-air study area, and landscaping for wildlife. By focusing on the "wild" or natural side of Debs Park, Audubon will "open" this existing, but under-utilized outdoor classroom for all park visitors.

Plan Organization

The Plan describes the type of existing and future visitor experiences and opportunities available within the park. Organized in sections, the Plan first presents a statement of the Park Goals and Vision, the foundation for all subsequent land use decisions. Following is a description of the park areas, and recommendations to improve infrastructure, to construct new facilities, to provide programming, and to ensure the safety of visitors and the future of the park. Details on the physical, ecological, and social environment of the park are interwoven throughout the document.

ABOUT THE PARK

THE PARK TODAY

Debs Park is designated a regional park, defined by the Department of Recreation and Parks as follows:

“A Regional Park (generally over 50 acres) provides specialized recreational facilities such as lakes, golf courses, campgrounds, wilderness areas, and museums, which normally serve persons living throughout the Los Angeles basin. A regional park may include, or emphasize, exceptional scenic attractions. A regional park may also contain the types of facilities provided in neighborhood and community recreational sites.”⁴



Activity in the central and northern portion of the park is low-key. During the week, neighbors walk their dogs; teenagers, friends, and families use the picnic area. For example, families often group several picnic tables together and string up piñatas to celebrate birthdays, and small groups of children play soccer. Many people walk up to the reservoir and along the ridgeline, where they view the striking scenery of the Los Angeles Basin and surrounding mountains. Weekends are the times of heaviest use. More adventuresome people hike throughout the northern area of the park via the fire roads, or footpaths.

⁴ City of Los Angeles General Plan, Service System Element, Public Recreation Plan, October 1980, page 2.

Existing Programs

Nature interpretive programs are very limited in the park. Current, however limited, monthly bird walks are hosted by Audubon. The Friends of Debs Park hosts periodic events for the public, including tree plantings. In the last ten years, Northeast Trees and the Tree People have also sponsored tree plantings in the park. The Green Meadows Farm operates in the Park four months of the year; two months in the spring and two months in the fall, as a permitted concession.

Park Linkages

The park is one of five regional facilities owned and operated by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks within the Griffin-Metro Region, a geographic area that includes Central and East Los Angeles and Griffin Park. The other four regional parks in the City include Elysian Park, Hansen Dam Recreational Area, Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, and Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area.

In addition, the Department of Recreation and Parks operate numerous neighborhood parks, historic sites, camping sites, sport facilities, and several museums within the Griffin-Metro District. These include a number of small, local public parks, such as Sycamore Grove Park, Arroyo Seco Park, and San Pascual Park. Lincoln Park is approximately two miles from Debs Park; Hollenbeck Park is slightly farther. Established in the 1940's, these are small handsome, older urban parks with mature trees and grassy lawns but little or no understory for wildlife. The smaller, neighborhood-based parks offer after-school and weekend programs and enrichment activities. For example, the Tierra de la Culebra, an outdoors environmental sculpture and community art park, provides after-school art and reading programs for youth. Local libraries also provide literacy and reading programs.

There are also two Recreation Centers adjacent to Debs Park (Montecito Heights, Rose Hill). The centers have indoor and outdoor facilities for active recreational pursuits such as basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball, with staff to organize and supervise activities. Ramona Hall Community Center also provides community meeting space and educational programming and is located next to Sycamore Grove Park.

City parks in east and northeast Los Angeles have numerous active recreational amenities, such as fishing ponds, golf courses, tennis courts, bike and equestrian trails, public amphitheaters, Frisbee golf courses, and dog runs. They provide open space for soccer or ball games and recreational centers with baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and other organized recreational space. All of the local school⁵ sites provide some form of recreational facilities for youngsters, especially paved playgrounds that are used

⁵ More than 32,000 students attend school within a two-mile radius of Debs Park. There are 28 elementary schools, 4 middle schools and 3 high schools run by the Los Angeles Unified School District. There are additional seven private schools in the area.

extensively for organized after-school sports and games. However, there are very few opportunities in northeastern Los Angeles for the kinds of unstructured outdoor activity commonly available in the Santa Monica Mountains, or further north in Pasadena (in Eaton Canyon, or the Hahamunga Watershed Park).

THE PARK'S HISTORY

Cultural historian W.H. Bonner⁶ prepared a brief overview of the cultural resources of Debs Park, including a summary of pre-historic and historical points of interest. Readers interested in further detail should consult additional sources. As with other parts of the Los Angeles Basin, Debs Park may have been sporadically used by early people, however research in various archives and field surveys, to date yielded no evidence of any permanent or long-term village sites.

At the time of European contact in 1769, the Tongva/Gabrielino American Indians lived in the Los Angeles Basin. The Gabrielino are, in many ways, one of the least known groups of California native inhabitants. Like the prehistoric culture before them, the Gabrielino were a hunter/gather group who lived in small sedentary or semi-sedentary groups of 50 to 100 persons, termed rancherías. Location of an encampment was determined by water availability. Within each village, houses were circular in form, and constructed of sticks covered with thatch or mats. Each village had a sweat lodge as well as a sacred enclosure.

Their subsistence relied heavily on plant foods, supplemented with a variety of meat, especially from marine resources. Food procurement consisted of hunting and fishing carried out by men, and gathering of plants and shellfish by women. Hunting technology included use of bow and arrow for deer and smaller game, and throwing sticks, snares, traps, and slings. Fishing was conducted with use of shellfish hooks, bone harpoons, and nets. Seeds were gathered with beaters and baskets, and food was stored in baskets. It was prepared with manos and metates, and mortars and pestles. Food was cooked in baskets coated with asphaltum, in stone pots, on steatite frying pans, and by roasting in earthen ovens. To date, there is no official record of uncovering such artifacts at the Park.

Following the establishment of Mission San Gabriel Archangel in 1771, the Spanish deeded most of the Los Angeles Basin to the mission. Ten years later, some of this land was granted to the el pueblo de la Reina de los angeles de Porciuncula (pueblo de los angeles). Over time, with the Mexican government ruling, the former mission land grants were broken up and given to individuals. The pattern of dispersal between the Spanish and Mexican land grants did not always adjoin one another. There were several large sections of land left over, termed Public or Open Land. One such Public Land existed between the pueblo de Los Angeles grant and the Rancho San Pasqual grant. The northern portion of Debs Park once fell into this Public Land section. The southern

⁶ Cultural Resources of Debs Park, 1999. See Technical Appendices, (Vol.II) for complete text. This report is intended to serve as a brief overview of the cultural history of the park, and should not be considered an all inclusive inventory.

portion of Debs Park, also known as Rose Hill Park, was located in the historic pueblo de los angeles grant.

Rancho San Pasqual was granted in 1843 by Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltoarena to Manuel Garfias. The parcel consisted of some 13,700 acres. The upper reaches of the Arroyo Seco down to approximately what today is Avenue 60 were part of the land grant. In 1857, Garfias sold the rancho to D. B. Wilson, also known as Don Benito. One half interest was later sold to Dr. John S. Griffin. The north side of the Arroyo Seco was granted to Jose Maria Verdugo in 1784 by Governor Fages. The grant consisted of over 36,000 acres. Because of the geography, the parcel cut a triangular wedge into the pueblo de Los Angeles grant, being bordered by the Arroyo Hondo (Arroyo Seco) on the east, and the Los Angeles River on the west.

While the Park remained undeveloped in the late 1800's, surrounding landmarks were under construction. Dr. John S. Griffin in 1873 who purchased neighboring Rancho San Pasqual in 1858. In 1895, Charles F. Lummis purchased three acres of land and began construction of his famous El Alisal home three years later. Plans for the Southwest Museum began in 1911. Construction started in 1913 and was completed the following year. Casa de Adobe, the Southwest Museum, a typical rancho was completed in 1919.

In 1878, the Arroyo Seco, was described as a dry river surrounded by many species of wild plants. However, as early as 1895, the arroyo was surveyed for a highway route. By 1911, attempts were made to preserve the arroyo as a park, however development plans of neighboring communities prevailed. Plans for the roadway were approved in 1924, work began in 1931, and then was halted the following year by the Depression. Ultimately, in January 1939 the first section of the Arroyo Seco Parkway was completed from Fair Oaks to Glenarms. WPA funding provided for landscaping and erosion control. The final portion of the road was completed in December of 1939 and the new route was dedicated in 1940.

In 1928, a dozen or so residential structures were planned in the southern “panhandle” portion of what today is Debs Park. A map printed only four years later suggests that development plans for the southern area had been abandoned. Only two very short east-west streets had actually been constructed. By 1957, the northern portion of the now Debs Park was part of the Arroyo Seco Park that ran along the south side of the Pasadena Freeway.

In 1949, the City of Los Angeles began acquiring land to develop a park on the site. Additional parcels were added until 1963. Under the City's ownership, the park was named the Rose Hill Park. The land remained open space and undeveloped.

In 1968, the City of Los Angeles leased the park to the County of Los Angeles to develop as a regional park. The agreement was for a twenty-five year lease. When returned to the City in 1994, the County had invested \$900,000 into park improvements, and renamed the park the *Ernest E. Debs Regional Park*, in recognition of the former

County Supervisor. Under the City of Los Angeles ownership today, the park remains an important recreational and open space resource.

GOALS FOR DEBS PARK

The goals for Debs Park provide the foundation for the proposed recommendations and policies that will direct future development of the Park. Each goal was developed to provide a strong foundation to base land use decisions. The goals encompass a range of potential activities, from creating wetland habitat where a sterile reservoir now exists, to increasing recreational opportunities. Thoughtful implementation of future activities will ensure compatibility between protecting and enhancing the natural open space with maintaining an active recreational space for the maximum enjoyment and safety of all residents and visitors.

Goal One:

Manage a significant portion of Debs Park to give park visitors an urban wilderness experience by preserving, enhancing, and restoring natural communities, such as walnut woodland, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands.

Goal Two:

Create a safe and harmonious environment for all park visitors.



Goal Three:

Establish the Los Angeles Nature Center under the stewardship of the National Audubon Society within Debs Park to provide a positive, ongoing presence, and to teach people about the natural world so they will enjoy, appreciate, and care for it.

Goal Four:

Transform the existing reservoir pond into viable aquatic and wildlife habitat.

Goal Five:

Provide for the educational and recreational needs of the community while protecting wildlife habitat by encouraging appropriate activities in developed and undeveloped areas of the park.

Goal Six:

Foster positive recreational opportunities that will discourage and eliminate destructive park activities, and that will promote accord amongst park visitors.

Goal Seven:

Encourage, expand, and actively seek community involvement in the development and implementation of park programs to promote community ties, personal ownership, and stewardship.



Goal Eight:

Establish a long-term land management plan (including both habitat management and maintenance plans) with appropriate strategies and maintenance procedures for developed and undeveloped areas of the park.

Goal Nine:

Establish park “gateways” to permit safe and easy park access for the surrounding communities.

Goal Ten:

Establish a Debs Park Advisory Board composed of representatives from the public, the Audubon Society, and the City to monitor, review, and approve projects and to implement the Park Framework Plan.

VISION FOR DEBS PARK

VISION I- THE PARK'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

By providing an opportunity for a wilderness experience close to home, Debs Park serves a special and distinct community need in the northeastern region of the City of Los Angeles. The character of the park builds upon and reflects a natural setting among the heavily urbanized surrounding landscapes. The physical form of the Park can capitalize on its unique role as a place of refuge from the noise, congestion, and hurried pace of city life. The City of Los Angeles has a unique opportunity to create park usage that acknowledges and integrates topography and natural resources. Park planning can promote the principles of sustainability, encompassing an emphasis on the preservation of the Park's natural areas while providing a mix of compatible uses.

**Preservation of
Natural Resources**

While a diversity of uses will be accommodated within the park, the primary emphasis in the "urban wilderness" will be to preserve and enhance natural habitats.

Debs Park has two fundamental roles. One role of the park is to provide a place for nature education, appreciation, and habitat restoration. Debs Park will serve as true open space dedicated to the protection of native flora and fauna. In addition, this "urban wilderness" provides nurturing open space to all residents of the adjoining neighborhoods and region. The park is a place to "reconnect" oneself with the natural world. The other role of the park is a center for community activity with active recreational uses. In addition, the park can host cultural and artistic events that celebrate community life, and serve as a focal point within walking distance of surrounding residences.

With the idea of personal ownership comes proper stewardship from all park users. To that end, all members of the community will be invited to participate in an open dialog that can lead to the sense of partnership, which is central to the health and maintenance of public property.

VISION 2 - FORM AND CHARACTER

Within the park, there will be distinct use areas, which are integrated by pathways connecting a wide range of visitor activities. There will be a continued evolution of the park to an “urban wilderness” with well-defined open space, native habitat, and trail network. The park will also serve as a refuge where local residents come to enjoy peace and tranquility, and return to the rhythms of nature. The park will be a safe place, where visitors do not fear the potential of violence.

Future site development will evolve based on the consideration of the unique environmental qualities of the park, rather than attempt to fit traditional recreational use patterns within its boundaries. All site and facility design will reflect the existing physical and environmental attributes and constraints that are in existence.

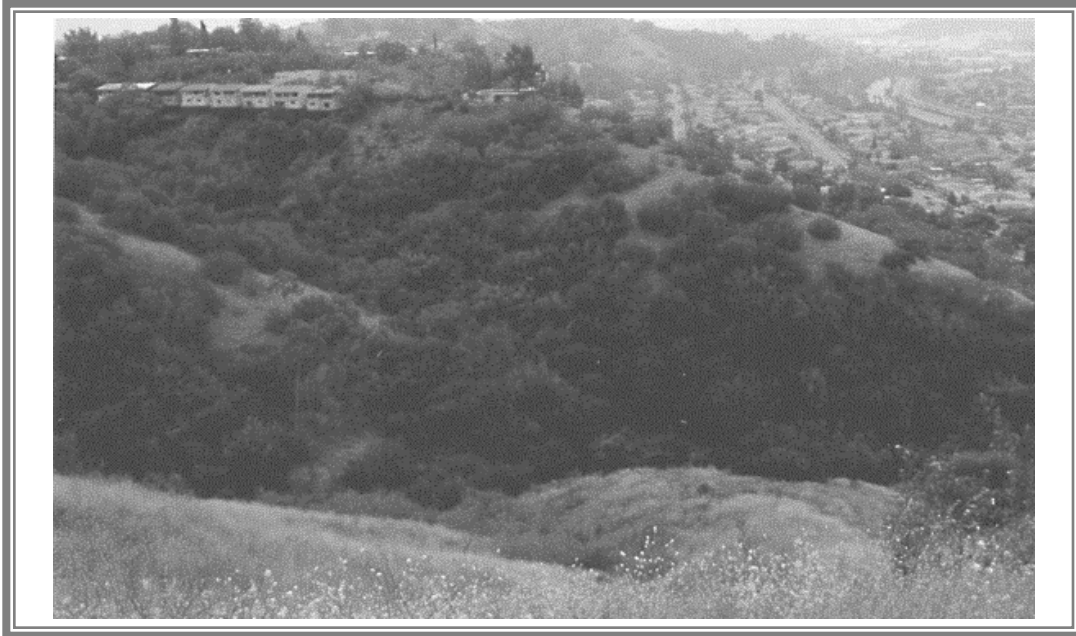
Key recommendations in the Draft Framework Plan include:

- The Audubon Nature Center and related educational activities.
- A Ranger and a potential ranger substation and/or other related facilities.
- Restoration and enhancement of native habitat.
- Facilities improvements including roads, water lines, solid waste disposal, and fire protection.
- Renovation, improvement, and enhancement of the existing reservoir and cascades.
- Potential establishment of a community garden, composting site, and native plant nursery.
- Refurbishing of playing fields and other recreational facilities.
- Compatible programming by ARTScorpsLA and other community groups.

VISION 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The timing and location of facilities improvement will be correlated with commitments to provide adequate transportation and utility infrastructure (sewer, water, energy, solid waste, and telecommunications) and public services (police, fire). The primary uses in the currently developed area (playing fields, picnic tables, barbecues, etc), will continue, however, there will be an opportunity for community groups to propose and operate public programs such as a community garden. New uses will be added only to the extent that they are compatible with existing uses and the vision and goals established in this plan.

In the urban wilderness, there will be few improvements/structures beyond the Los Angeles Nature Center. The Los Angeles Nature Center will be a gateway development that facilitates increasing the park's appeal to the surrounding communities. There will be trails, signage, and interpretive displays. However, the focus will be managing the land for resource conservation. The primary emphasis will be on restoration and/or enhancement of the native plant communities and associated wildlife. Recreational uses in the natural areas will continue to be passive: hiking, walking, jogging, sitting, and observing nature.



PARK AREAS

In the future, visitors to Debs Park will enjoy an expanded range of recreational and educational experiences. As illustrated in **Figure 4**, the Framework Plan divides the Park into four distinct land use areas based on the type of existing facilities, topography, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. In the northern portion of the park, there will be the Urban Wilderness Area, where the tranquility of nature pre-dominates. Here, visitors will be able to spend time hiking, walking, or viewing birds and other wildlife. Visitors will also be invited to explore the demonstration gardens and exhibits of the Los Angeles Nature Center, and to participate in nature education programs. A different type of experience will be found in the family picnic and gathering area located in the central portion of the park. Designed for both large events and small gatherings, visitors will use the green lawns and shade trees for picnics, barbecuing, relaxing, or playing. The southern portion of the park will be designated the ball field and community use area. Currently, this area is used for organized sports; in the future, it could also host several community programs and/or facilities.

Table 1 specifies a number of recommendations for improving the park experience and enhancing natural habitat. This matrix lists both desirable and undesirable land use activities for the Park as a whole, and for each Park Area. Further, **Table 1** also identifies the type of infrastructure improvements required to achieve the Park's land use goals. This list of activities and improvements will be updated periodically as new activities are approved or others are discontinued in the Park. **Figure 5** illustrates the location and type of proposed park land use improvements. Upon approval of the Framework Plan, this map will help guide development.⁷

Below is a description of the unique aspects of each land use park area. This includes the type of plants and animals that exist in the park. The Park contains a wide diversity of plant species and wildlife habitats, as shown in **Figure 6**, as well as numerous ornamental and weedy plant species.



⁷ Of importance to all future work in the Park, is the protection of cultural resources. Therefore, if cultural materials are exposed during construction or found, a qualified archaeologist must study the artifacts prior to removal or further disturbance.

LAND USE AREAS

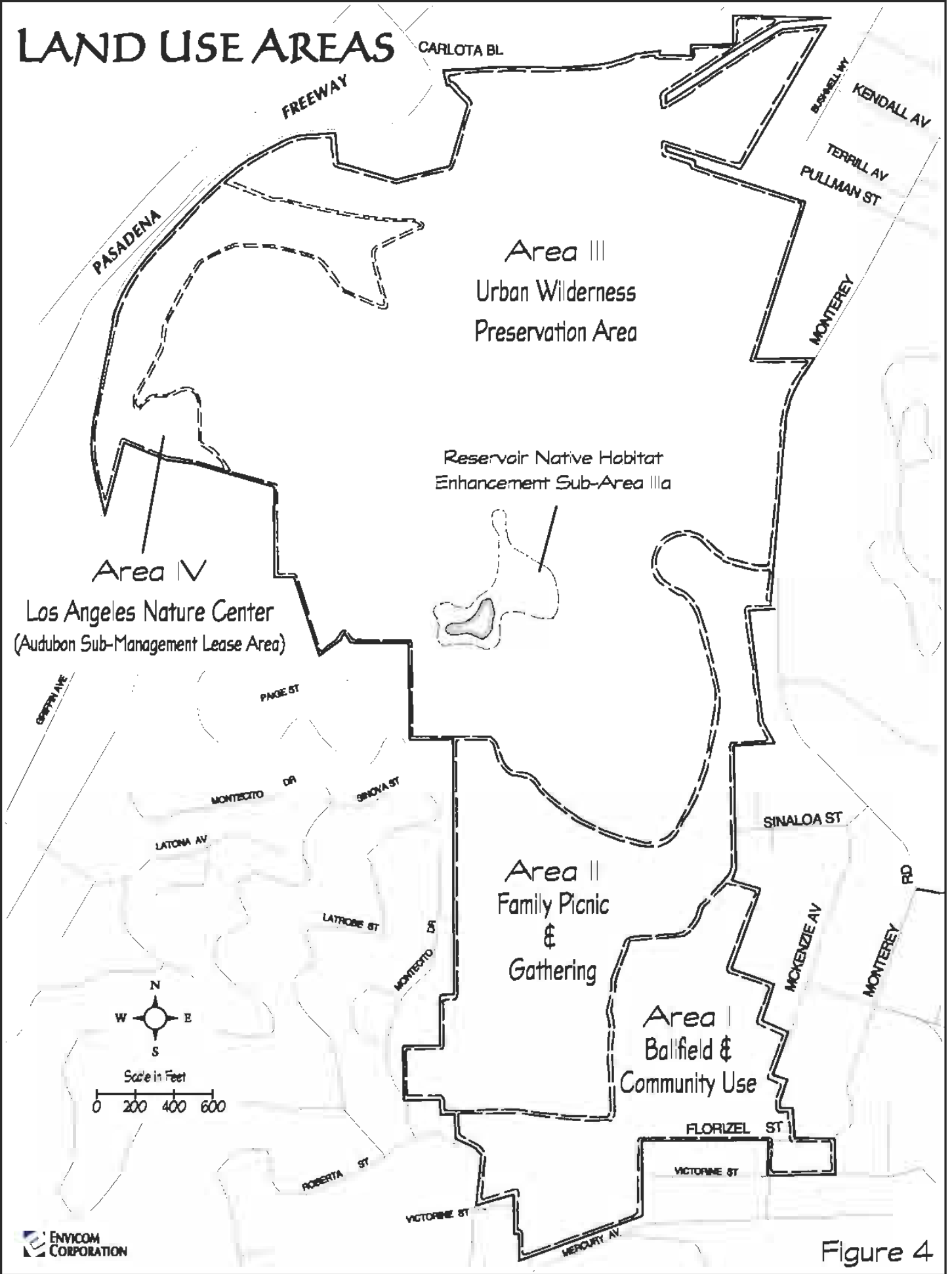


Figure 4

TABLE 1
LAND USE IMPROVEMENT GOALS TABLE

| Designated Land Use or Improvement | Area 1 | Area 2 | Area 3 | Area 4 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Reptilia Island's Renaissance Skill Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New community/recreational facilities as sponsored and funded by community groups including: Community Garden, Community Compost Site, and Park Native Plant Nursery. Maximum 10,000 square feet for each facility. [A] [B]⁸ ARTScorpsLA – Classrooms and Office Space, Interpretive and Skill Building Structures, up to 10,000 square feet. Maximum of 3 acres for programming and 0.50 acres for new sculpture/art installations. [A] [B] | ● | | | |
| In area of overflow parking lot, provide an additional recreational activity such as volley ball, basketball, shuffleboard, or horseshoes, etc. [C] | ● | | | |
| Provide for a new parking area with a maximum of 32 spaces to accommodate future increased use of Area 1 by the community. No new vehicular roads allowed except to serve new parking area. [H] | ● | | | |
| Organized sporting events at ball fields. | ● | | | |
| Provide new barbecue sites. | ● | | | |
| Rehabilitate existing ball fields, improve turf, reduce erosion, provide seating. | ● | | | |
| Maintain picnic areas for public uses. | ● | ● | | |
| Repair main entrance road in areas experiencing erosion and settlement. [J] | | ● | | |
| Non-organized "Pick-up" games (i.e. ball throwing). | ● | ● | | |
| Provide additional barbecues sites. | ● | ● | | |
| Provide expanded turn-around for refuse trucks in the Maintenance Yard. [L] | | ● | | |
| Refurbish the cascades to function as originally designed. [E] | | | ● | |
| No new vehicular roads allowed. | | | ● | |

⁸ Each letter corresponds to a location on the Land Use Improvements Map.

| Designated Land Use or Improvement | Area 1 | Area 2 | Area 3 | Area 4 |
|--|--------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Re-open the closed comfort station and refurbish to universal standards. [K] | | | ● | |
| Rehabilitation of irrigation and fire-fighting water system. | | ● | ● | |
| Replace/repair the existing damaged gazebo. If not feasible, provide a seating area with benches, etc. [M] | | | ● | |
| Provide signage and benches at each vista point. | | | ● | |
| Construct wetland and aquatic habitat at the existing reservoir site. Revegetate with native plants, provide interpretive opportunities. [D] | | | ● | |
| National Audubon Society's Los Angeles Nature Center- Classrooms, Office Space, Exhibits, Demonstration Gardens, Outdoor Education Area, Amphitheater, Nature Trails, Parking. [F] [I] | | | | ● |
| Non-motorized bikes allowed on paved surfaces. | ● | ● | | |
| Programming by community groups compatible with Park goals. | ● | ● | ● | |
| Provide dog refuse bins and pick-up bags. | ● | ● | ● | |
| Picnicking | ● | ● | ⊙ ⁹ | |
| Dog walking on short (6') leash exclusively on designated trails. | ● | ● | ⊙ | |
| Provide onsite ranger/caretaker housing or ranger sub-station. [G] | ● | ● | | ● |
| Festivals | ● | ● | | ⊙ |
| Programming partnerships with Audubon compatible with Park goals. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Create a new Park Ranger position that includes Debs Park and other parks in the immediate vicinity. Increase patrols and presence of peace officers. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Install emergency call box and post emergency telephone numbers. [O] | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Nature enjoyment- I.e. bird watching, photography | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Walking/Hiking, Orienteering | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Interpretive Programming | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Habitat Restoration | ● | ● | ● | ● |

⁹ Picnicking allowed on grassed summit area overlooking reservoir.

| Designated Land Use or Improvement | Area 1 | Area 2 | Area 3 | Area 4 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Replanting non-native species with native plant species (not including lawn areas). | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Remove non-native weedy plant species. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Cultural and artist programming. | ● | ● | ⊙ | ⊙ |
| Brush Clearance- when possible using mowing and hand tools. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Prohibit further use of non-native seed after a fire. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Provide new water system infrastructure. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Construct new trail linkages and improve existing footpaths. ¹⁰ | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Provide entrance, trail, and park signage. Where appropriate also use Spanish and Chinese. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Provide new trash receptacles. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Install security features where appropriate (i.e. gates, lighting). ¹¹ | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Provide recycling bins. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Provide additional sitting areas (i.e. benches, as indicated on the trails map). | ● | ● | ● | ● |

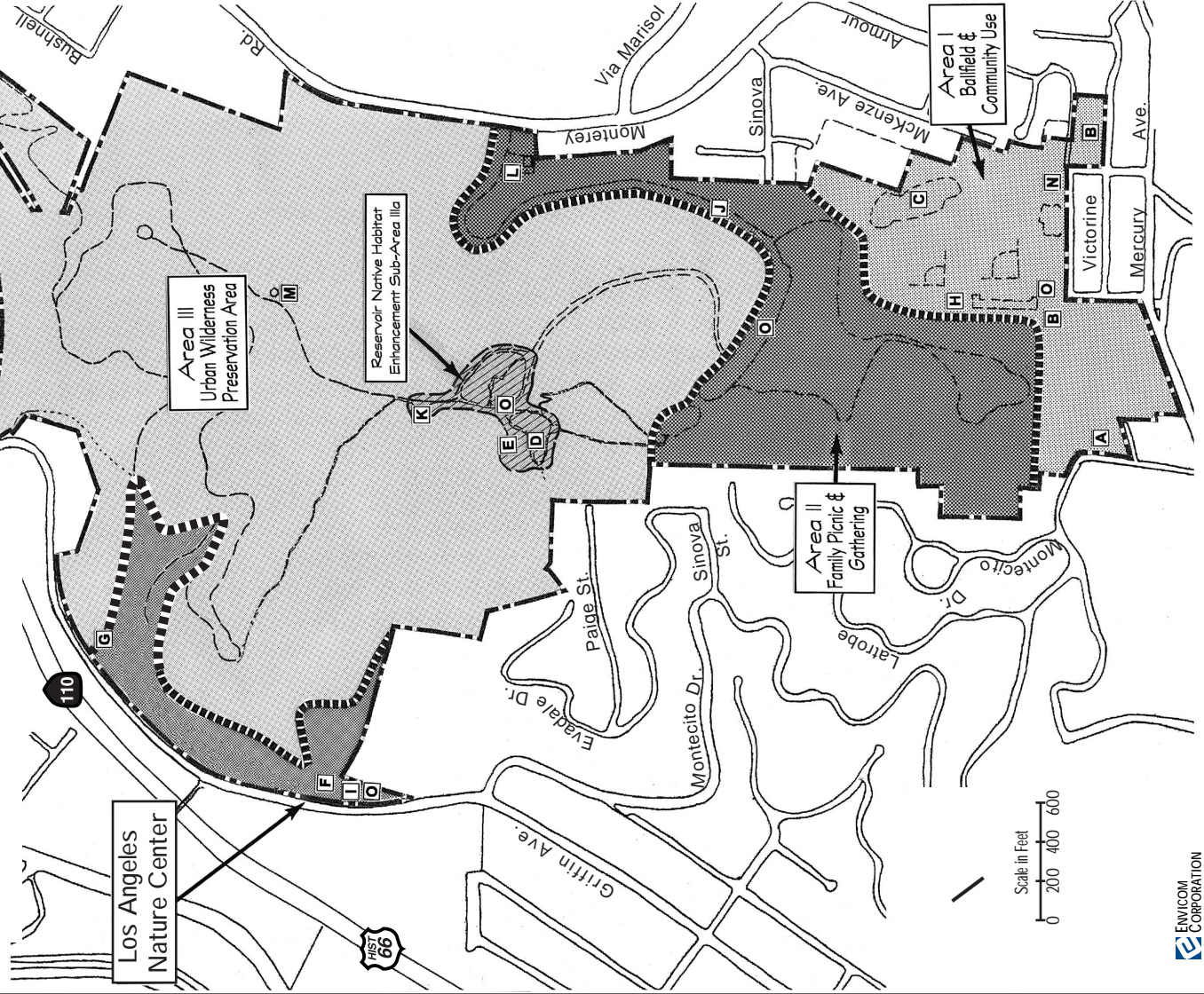
● Allowed ⊙ Limited

| USES NOT PERMITTED | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Hunting | Equestrian use | Working on cars (i.e., changing oil) | Unlawful activities, including but not limited to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● alcohol consumption ● graffiti ● littering ● carving of trees, benches, or any park amenity ● loitering after park closure ● dogs off leash |
| Overnight camping | Fenced in dog park | Amusement park rides, except in Area 1. | |
| Paintball combat | Disc golf | Activities that are not compatible with Park goals (see pages 14-15). | |
| Wildlife watering troughs | Campfires | | |
| Fishing | Amplified music | | |
| Golf practice | Off-road vehicles | | |
| | | | |

¹⁰ See trails map.

¹¹ Pursuant to additional studies.

LAND USE IMPROVEMENTS MAP

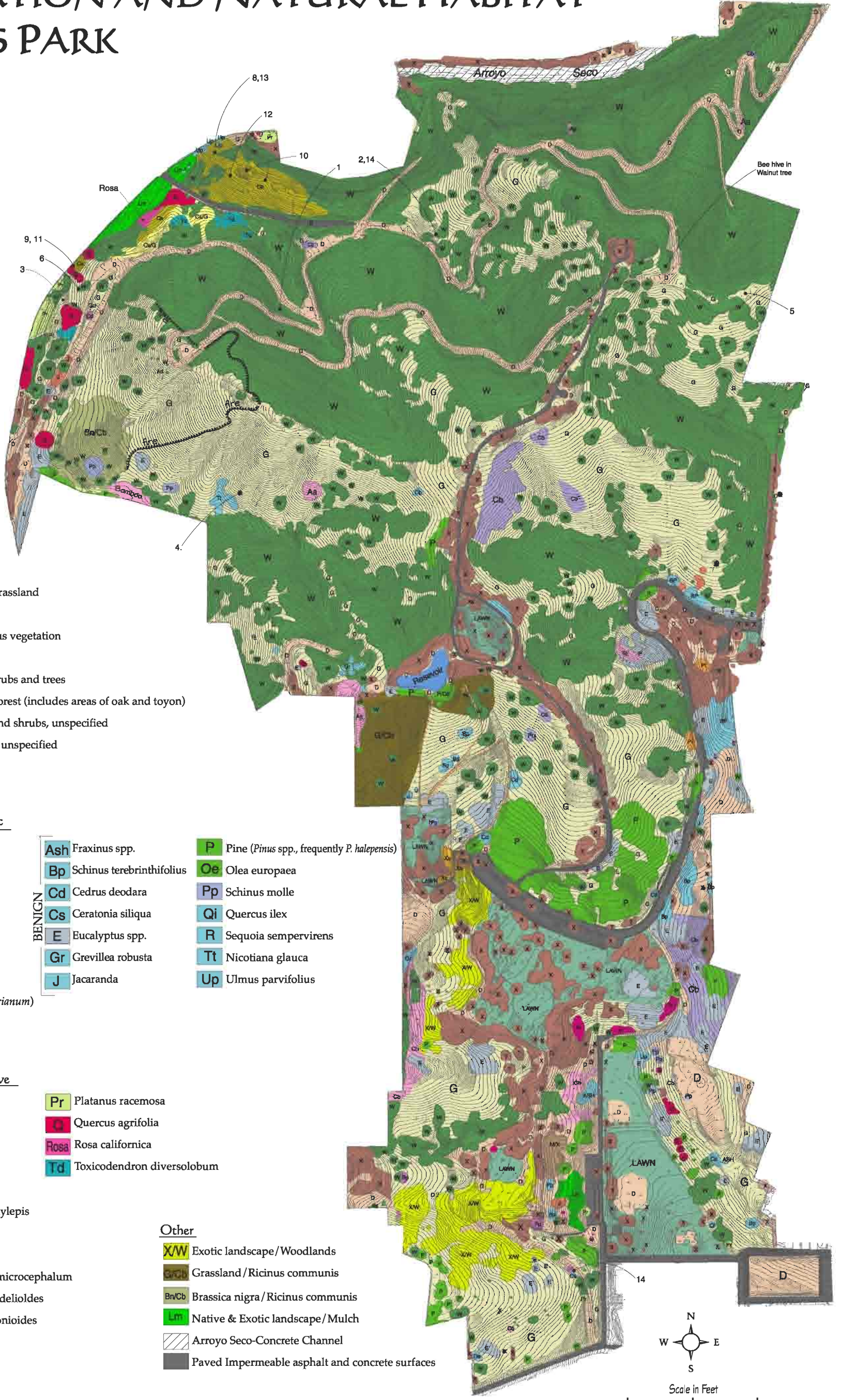


LAND USE IMPROVEMENT GOALS

Designated Land Use or Improvement

- [A] [B] Reptilia Island's Renaissance Skill Center New community/recreational facilities as sponsored and funded by community groups including: Community Garden, Community Compost Site, and Park Native Plant Nursery. Maximum 10,000 square feet for each facility. ARTScorpsLA – Classrooms and Office Space, Interpretive and Skill Building Structures, up to 10,000 square feet. Maximum of 3 acres for programming and 0.50 acres for new sculpture/art installations.
- [C] In area of overflow parking lot, provide an additional recreational activity such as volley ball, basketball, shuffleboard, or horseshoes, etc.
- [D] Construct wetland and aquatic habitat at the existing reservoir site. Revegetate with native plants, provide interpretive opportunities.
- [E] Refurbish the cascades to function as originally designed.
- [F] National Audubon Society's Los Angeles Nature Center- Classrooms, Office Space, Exhibits, Demonstration Gardens, Outdoor Education Area, Amphitheater, Nature Trails, Parking.
- [G] Provide onsite ranger/caretaker housing or ranger sub-station.
- [H] Provide for a new parking area with a maximum of 32 spaces to accommodate future increased use of Area 1 by the community. No new vehicular roads allowed except to serve new parking area.
- [I] National Audubon Society's Los Angeles Nature Center- Classrooms, Office Space, Exhibits, Demonstration Gardens, Outdoor Education Area, Amphitheater, Nature Trails, Parking.
- [J] Repair main entrance road in areas experiencing erosion and settlement.
- [K] Re-open the closed comfort station and refurbish to universal standards.
- [L] Provide expanded turn-around for refuse trucks in the Maintenance Yard.
- [M] Replace/repair the existing damaged gazebo. If not feasible, provide a seating area with benches, etc.
- [O] Install emergency call box and post emergency telephone numbers.

VEGETATION AND NATURAL HABITAT OF DEBS PARK



Plant Communities

- Cs** Coastal Sage Scrub
- Cs/G** Coastal Sage Scrub and Grassland
- D** Disturbed
- G** Grassland and herbaceous vegetation
- M** Mulefat scrub
- MX** Mulefat scrub/Exotic shrubs and trees
- W** Walnut Woodland and Forest (includes areas of oak and toyon)
- X** Exotic Landscape trees and shrubs, unspecified
- Xs** Exotic landscape shrubs, unspecified
- Lawn** Lawn, ballfields

Species Components - Exotic

- | | | | |
|---------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| NOXIOUS | Ar Araujia sericifera | Ash Fraxinus spp. | P Pine (<i>Pinus</i> spp., frequently <i>P. halepensis</i>) |
| | Aa Ailanthus altissima | Bp Schinus terebinthifolius | Oe Olea europaea |
| | Ad Arundo donax | Cd Cedrus deodara | Pp Schinus molle |
| | Bamboo Bamboo | Cs Ceratonia siliqua | Qi Quercus ilex |
| | Bn Brassica nigra | E Eucalyptus spp. | R Sequoia sempervirens |
| | Cb Ricinus communis | Gr Grevillea robusta | Tt Nicotiana glauca |
| | Cr Centranthus ruber | J Jacaranda | Up Ulmus parvifolius |
| | Sm Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>) | | |
| | Sj Spartium junceum | | |

Species Components - Native

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Amorpha californica | Pr Platanus racemosa |
| 2 Bloomeria crocea | Q Quercus agrifolia |
| 3 Datura wrightii | Rosa Rosa californica |
| 4 Encelia californica | Td Toxicodendron diversilobum |

Other

- X/W** Exotic landscape/Woodlands
- Bn/Cb** Brassica nigra/Ricinus communis
- Lm** Native & Exotic landscape/Mulch
- Arroyo Seco-Concrete Channel**
- Paved Impermeable asphalt and concrete surfaces**

AREA I- BALL FIELD AND COMMUNITY USE AREA

Developed for active recreation, the southernmost portion of the park, also known as Rose Hill Park, contains two baseball diamonds, large field areas for football or soccer, and a sandbox play area. Boundary Avenue



provides access to these and other facilities here, including the parking area and restroom, and in addition provides a service road connection to Debs Park Road and the other areas to the north. An undeveloped rectangle of land in the extreme southeast corner of the area is somewhat



isolated by surface streets Mackenzie Avenue and Florizel Street. During the winter and spring, this isolated area supports annual grassland, consisting of alien grasses and forbs. The area is routinely disced in summer for fire abatement purposes.

Similar annual grassland vegetation occurs over larger, hilly areas in the southwest corner, which are also disced around the edges for fire protection. The southwest area also supports scattered exotic, nonnative trees such as

Eucalyptus, palms, and pines, and several others. Occasional individuals of the native southern California black walnut can also be found, along with other common associates of walnut woodlands such as blue elderberry and toyon, especially on the northerly-facing slopes. Substantial infestations of the noxious castor bean occur on the south-facing slopes and extending northward into the woodlands of walnuts and exotic trees.

Coastal sage scrub exists in a small area of a cut slope with one of the few occurrences in the park of California aster and purple needlegrass. West of the parking lot and Boundary road are heavily mulched wood debris and recently planted native trees including western sycamore and coast live oak. Finally, a relatively steep slope area east of the ball fields

and west of a dirt-surface parking lot supports a mixture of exotic trees, native black walnuts, and coast live oak trees, in addition to some castor bean infestations.

Animal life in Area 1 are those most tolerant of close proximity to residences and daytime activities. Birds are most conspicuous wildlife, with resident species such as house sparrow, rock dove, mourning dove, Brewer's blackbird, California towhee, Anna's hummingbird, northern mockingbird, black phoebe, American crow, common raven, and European starling perhaps being the most frequently observed. Nuttall's woodpecker and flicker are also occasionally observed or heard. These resident birds are augmented in winter and during migration by dark-eyed junco, white-crowned sparrow, and yellow-rumped warbler. Birds of prey including red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, barn owl, and great horned owl can also be expected to look for prey in this area.

Mammals occurring in this area, and throughout of the park, include domestic cat, Virginia opossum, fox squirrel, striped skunk, raccoon, and house mouse. Coyotes undoubtedly utilize this area of the park, as elsewhere, feeding on Botta's pocket gopher, desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, and perhaps other small rodent species. Only one species of lizard is known to occur in the park, namely, western fence lizard, and it is expected among the woody vegetation. The possibility of other lizards such as western skink, side-blotched lizard, and snakes such as common gopher snake and California kingsnake should not be discounted. Amphibians such as garden slender salamander, pacific treefrog, or western [California] toad may still persist throughout the park.

During the planning process, this area was identified as the most strategic location for engaging the El Sereno community in establishing an ARTScorpsLA (AcLA) community facility. AcLA will utilize an innovative programming approach to transform this fallow section into a lush, green, large-scale sculptural public place with and for the community. The inclusion of this facility with a sculptural play environment, classrooms, plant nursery, community garden, and composting site will facilitate it becoming a central focus of community life promoting education, job training/employment, child care and community advocacy. Three acres has been allotted for this proposed project, which has been under consideration with the City for four years. AcLA will complete "as built drawings" of *Reptilia Island's Renaissance Skill Center* for final approval to the City and to the Debs Park Oversight Committee in the near future.

Area I Recommendations:

- ▶ Construct new footpath trails as indicated on the Trails Map.
- ▶ Provide new trash receptacles and recycling bins.
- ▶ Allow for the establishment of the *Reptilia Island Renaissance Skill Center* as follows:

- Development of a community garden, compost site, and/or native plant nursery by a community organization that will fund the construction and operation. Permit a *maximum* of 10,000 square feet for each facility.
 - Development of an appropriate building(s) for ARTScorpLA that contains offices, classrooms, restrooms, or other facilities. The *maximum* size of the building(s) shall be 10,000 square feet. Programming shall be allowed within a 3-acre contiguous parcel. This area may include a variety of sculptures for skill training programs. The design of the building and sculptures must be approved by the City and the Debs Park Oversight Committee.
- ▶ Continue on-going maintenance for the rehabilitation of existing ball fields, improvement of turf, reduction of erosion. In addition, provide bleacher and other type of seating.
 - ▶ Allow for the conversion of one baseball diamond to another recreational activity if requested by the community and consistent with the Framework Plan (i.e., volleyball or basketball, or use an area with no natural habitat for additional recreational activities).
 - ▶ Provide new picnic tables and new BBQ grills.
 - ▶ Provide dog waste bins and pick-up bags.
 - ▶ When needed, provide additional parking to the existing 35-car lot of Area 1-Rose Hill. While the existing parking area is efficiently striped, there is the potential to increase the parking supply by adding 20 feet of paved area along the west edge of the lot. This modification would accommodate up to an additional 32 parking spaces. Earthwork, pavement surfacing, and striping would be required.

AREA 2- FAMILY PICNIC AND GATHERING AREA



barbecue grills, play areas, and lighting. Visitor attractions are convenient and easily accessible. The main picnic area is located on manicured grounds surrounded by shade trees, and there is a smaller area south of the main picnic area, accessible by a partially

Located in the south-central portion of the park, this area includes the main entrance from Monterey Road; main parking lot; park offices and maintenance yard; and day-use recreational facilities. Here, both large and small groups gather to celebrate holidays or a sunny afternoon. There are restrooms, picnic tables,

paved walking trail. The smaller area reflects a pastoral setting with its limited access. It is a quiet little area with several trees, barbecues, and benches, although, there are no picnic tables in this area. Currently, many of the benches and barbecue grills suffer from graffiti or knife carvings. The entire area is also heavily used four months of the year (two months in spring and two months in fall) by Green Meadows Farm, a petting zoo program. The activity extends over the majority of the main and secondary areas, and a chain-link fence blocks public use and access to this portion of the park during that time.

Currently, portions of the main entrance road are experiencing a small amount of erosion and undercutting, as fill placed in the canyon bottoms is shifting.



The primary activity area of lawns and extensive plantings of exotic trees sits atop earthen fill deposited in the easterly draining canyons. Many species of non-native, exotic trees are present along the roadways and lawn areas. Among the prevalent species are *Eucalyptus*, Pine, Deodar cedar, white alder, Liquidambar, Jacaranda, toyon, strawberry-tree, Brazilian pepper, silk-tree, and sycamore.

The rather steep fill slope that forms the division between the northern portion of Area 1 and the southern part of Area 2, has concrete terrace drains. The drains are partly obscured by exotic trees and shrubs, as well as by local areas of the native mule fat, a native shrub that is characteristic of moist soils, and hoary nettle. Both thrive here because of additional water from the lawns on the top of the fill. Along the eastern margin of the park, where residences are adjacent, extensive clearing of the herbaceous vegetation among the trees and shrubs occurs, as elsewhere, and substantial castor bean infestation (mostly seedlings) is present.

At the lower (east) edges of the slopes, exotic trees prevail, these becoming less prevalent upslope, and replaced by walnut woodland species components of black walnut woodland including toyon and holly-leaf redberry. Extensive discing of the vegetation on the upper slopes is regularly undertaken to control black mustard infestation and provide fire protection, but perhaps inadvertently aiding in the spread of castor bean.

Area 2 Land Use Recommendations:

- ▶ Remove all graffiti.
- ▶ Repair entrance road in areas experiencing erosion, undercutting, and settlement.
- ▶ Install additional security features.
- ▶ Add new, additional barbecues in the main picnic area .
- ▶ Ensure the picnic areas remain available for public use, primarily picnicking.
- ▶ Allow public access from the parking lot to the smaller, south picnic area when long-term permittees are operating.
- ▶ If the additional parking is not required, in area of the existing unpaved parking lot, other recreational resources such as volley ball, basketball, shuffleboard, or horseshoes, may be permitted.
- ▶ Avoid the construction of new roads.
- ▶ Provide dog waste bins and pick-up bags.

AREA 3 – URBAN WILDERNESS PRESERVATION AREA

This area is defined by its natural habitats, and by its walking and hiking trails, city vistas, and opportunities for solitude. It is the area where visitors have a sense of wilderness, with opportunity for adventure and challenge. It is mostly steep hill-sides and sloping ridgelines. This comprises the largest of the designated areas; one which encompasses substantial biological resource values. Presently, access to the Urban Wilderness area is via the main parking lot of Area 2 to the south, or via street parking on Griffin Avenue along the north and west boundaries of the Park. Numerous other, perhaps unofficial entries are located throughout the perimeter.



The distinguishing feature of the Urban Wilderness is the presence of extensive stands of southern California black walnut. Depending on aspect to the sun, the walnut trees form an open, walnut woodland of scattered individuals among annual grassland on south-facing slopes, to dense tree cover forming walnut forest on the north-facing slopes, where more moisture is available. As elsewhere in the park, additional shrub and tree species of these woodlands and forest include lemonadeberry, toyon, blue elderberry, and coast live oak. Golden currant is occasionally encountered, and heart-leaf penstemon, and Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry are rare shrubs of the understory.

One occurrence of false indigo, the foodplant of the official butterfly of the state of California, the California dogface butterfly¹² is known from the park. Other relatively rare occurrences of plants include fleabane aster, California-Fuchsia, and western pellitory. Because southern California black walnut is a deciduous species, sunlight is available in the understory of these woodlands and forest during the winter, when soils are wet, and growth of grasses and forbs is most rapid. Consequently, the understory is enriched by a number of herbaceous plants, which provide food and cover for wildlife. The prevalent herbs are aliens, including common chickweed, annual bedstraw, horehound, short-pod mustard, and several species of ubiquitous annual grasses.

Native plants are also present, especially the pleasantly fragrant California everlasting, and cliff-aster. Blue fiesta flower, and miner's-lettuce are occasionally encountered. Native grasses can also be found including coast melic, California brome, and rarely, giant wildrye or purple needlegrass. Poison-oak, which is also deciduous, wild cucumber, and chaparral honeysuckle are among common vine-like species in the understory.

In addition to walnut woodland and forest, annual grassland dominates substantial portions of the Urban Wilderness, especially on south-facing slopes. Here, an assemblage of ubiquitous alien annual grasses frequently prevail, including ripgut brome, red brome, soft-chess, slender wild oat, foxtail barley, and rat-tail fescue. These areas can also be locally dominated by forbs, especially black mustard and various alien, thistle-like plants including tocalote, milk-thistle, bull thistle, common and prickly sow-thistles, Russian-thistle, and bristly ox-tongue. Weedy native herbs such as horseweed and wand-chicory are relatively common. Although usually associated with coastal sage scrub, the only known occurrence of the native shrub, California encelia is found on steep south-facing slopes in the western drainage. Although alien, tree tobacco is common on certain south-facing slopes, providing for numerous hummingbirds.

¹² Not recorded at the park.

Among the rarest plant communities in the park, coastal sage scrub is with the one exception described in Area 1, restricted to northern and western margins of the Urban Wilderness. In particular, a south-facing slope at the northerly entrance supports a stand of black sage, California buckwheat, coastal sagebrush, California brickellbush deerweed, and several species of plants not found elsewhere, including caterpillar and sticky phacelias, prickly pear, chaparral morning-glory, sawtooth goldenbush, and possibly also foothill needlegrass.

To the immediate west of the north entrance is an unusual area of coastal sage scrub with scattered shrubs of coastal sagebrush, coyote brush, blue elderberry, and other uncommon species such as amole. Bordering this latter area on the north is an area with evidently moist subsoils, which supports an impenetrable thicket of California rose. This is the only known (extant) location of the noxious vine, bladder flower at the park. Rather unusual is the occurrence of coastal sage scrub on a steep, north-facing slope to the east of the northern entrance. Here, bush monkeyflower, narrow-leaf bedstraw, and golden-yarrow are dominant, and these species are not known from any other locations in the park. This is also the site of an infestation of red valerian. Other pockets of coastal sagebrush along the western margin are notable as the only locations of species including coastal isocoma, Palmer's goldenbush, and rare occurrences of white everlasting, California-Fuchsia, and long-stemmed buckwheat.

Compared to other areas of the park, the large size, natural condition, and relatively low levels of human disturbance in the Urban Wilderness provide the best possible of the existing conditions for wildlife at Debs Park. Furthermore, Arroyo Seco, although channelized and concrete-lined, provides some degree of connectivity of Debs Park to natural areas of the upper watershed located in the San Gabriel Mountains. As a result, the Urban Wilderness area is expected to support the greatest array of wildlife of any of the areas. In addition, observations by Mr. Kimball Garrett, ornithologist with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History and Mr. Dan Cooper of National Audubon reveals that red-shouldered hawk nest in the park here, and possibly even Cooper's hawk and red-tailed hawk. Also confirmed nesting birds are Band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, Anna's hummingbird, western scrub-jay, ash-throated flycatcher, bushtit, Bewick's wren, American robin, black-headed grosbeak, and spotted and California towhees. Others reported likely to breed include black-chinned, Costa's and Allen's hummingbirds, black phoebe, western screech-owl, great horned owl California thrasher, hooded and Bullock's orioles, lesser and Lawrence's goldfinches, and house sparrow.

Observations of other native wildlife species at the park are rather sparse, among confirmed sightings are coyote (D. Cooper), botta's pocket gopher, broad-handed mole (C. Wishner, Envicom Corporation), desert cottontail, and fox squirrel. The presence of a number of species of bats, and small rodents among shrews, pocket mice, kangaroo rats, harvest mouse, white-footed mice, and woodrats might reasonably be anticipated.

Similarly, observations of amphibians¹³ and reptiles are very sparse, and only the western fence lizard is commonly observed. Mr. Dan Cooper, National Audubon, has observed a handful of butterfly species at the park in 1999. These include cabbage white, fiery skipper, skipper (undetermined), western checkered skipper, western tiger swallowtail, marine blue, and gulf fritillary. Ms. Melanie Ingalls, National Audubon observed sara orange-tip in March 1999.

Area 3 Land Use Recommendations:

Within the Urban Wilderness Area, there will be visitor activity or “experience” areas including Audubon’s nature interpretive programs, native habitat restoration, and land management activities. Here, Audubon will play a leading role in partnership with the City to provide land stewardship and habitat restoration. Other places of interest include access points, hiking and walking trails, rest and vista turnouts, and places with unique features, such as the future wetland pond. However, throughout this area, efforts to restore and enhance natural habitats take precedence. The urban wilderness area requires the most protection in order to preserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitat. Therefore, recreational uses and facilities will be minimal, with the enjoyment of nature providing the “recreation.”

Access Points

Urban Wilderness is the area of the park where visitors step lightly, entering primarily on foot. Visitors will access the area through a series of signed gateways that emphasize and express the distinct quality of the park’s woodlands and shrub covered hills. Each gateway into the urban wilderness area will provide an introduction to this resource. Signs will gently remind people to protect the natural resources and to help wildlife by observing and not interfering with their activities.



¹³ Kimball Garrett reports observing a *Batrachoseps* sp. in Area 4 in March 1999; possibly the garden slender salamander.

To implement this vision the following land use design guidelines will apply:

- ▶ Provide clear identification of entrances into the Urban Wilderness Area from existing and future access points;
- ▶ Select a consistent style of signage including the use of graphics, architecture, colors and materials that reflect the area's unique natural heritage;
- ▶ Choose furnishing and hardscape that is durable, and easy to repair and clean.
- ▶ Do not allow the construction of new roads.
- ▶ Provide dog bins and pick-up bags.

Gazebo

Currently, the gazebo is in disrepair and is closed-off to the public. However, this site has potential to serve as a unique visitor experience.

- ▶ Replace or repair the existing gazebo. If not feasible, provide a seating area with benches.
- ▶ Provide a low-cost, non-mechanical interpretive exhibit.



Vista Points

Vista points offer exceptional views to visitors including panoramic views from the San Gabriel Mountains to downtown Los Angeles. To further enjoy the views from the Park, implement the following:

- ▶ Provide one bench and trash receptacle at each identified vista point.
- ▶ Provide interpretive signage where feasible.



Reservoir Site

To provide a reliable source for irrigation and fire-fighting water, a small reservoir was constructed in one of the Park's highest hilltop areas. The reservoir lies wholly within the Urban Wilderness, but it is a developed area including a prominent hill surrounded by exotic trees and shrubs, and conjoined with a lawn area and viewpoint. The margin of the lake is virtually devoid of vegetation, as is also the lake, as park maintenance staff periodically remove algae and vegetation. The soil is compacted, and the borders of the reservoir are sprayed regularly to prohibit vegetation growth. Graffiti covers the trees and benches surrounding the reservoir.



Despite its appearance, the reservoir area receives substantial use for picnicking, fishing (presumably catfish), and the quite prevalent activity of allowing dogs to play and retrieve objects from the lake. In addition, below the reservoir to the north is the "Cascades," an artificial, concrete-rock waterfall that is no longer in operation. Currently, the reservoir does not support a full complement of wildlife and vegetation, as its primary purpose is to provide irrigation water.



Undoubtedly, the local wildlife utilizes the existing reservoir extensively as a source of water. Other potential inhabitants of the lake including fishes and amphibians are unknown. Only one notable plant species is found associated with the lake, a pondweed, tentatively determined to be sago pondweed.

In the future, with the construction of a new water pressure system, this area can be re-created as viable aquatic habitat. The vision for the reservoir is to create an area with wetland plants

that support a wide variety of wildlife, from insects to birds (methods for converting the reservoir into a wetland are discussed in the habitat management plan). The new pond would also serve as the focus for wildlife and nature interpretive opportunities.

Specific recommendations include:

- ▶ Rehabilitate the irrigation and fire-fighting water system.
- ▶ Construct wetland and aquatic habitat at the existing reservoir site.
- ▶ Incorporate protected areas for wildlife and birds in the pond's land use plan by designating public use areas along a portion of the pond's edge.
- ▶ Landscape with native plants.
- ▶ Limit the potential for erosion.
- ▶ Design an appropriate "friendly" barrier (such as fencing) for the protection of wildlife.
- ▶ Develop educational activities to encourage family usage and enjoyment.
- ▶ Post a "No Fishing" sign and discontinue the stocking of fish.
- ▶ Prepare an interpretive exhibit to increase understanding of the enhanced reservoir's biological importance.
- ▶ Explore the feasibility of re-designing the "Cascades" in a way consistent with a natural setting. Repair the pump and address the functioning and maintenance concerns.
- ▶ Re-open the closed comfort station near the reservoir.
- ▶ Install an emergency telephone line and call-box.

Interpretive Areas

Audubon will offer a full range of interpretive programs in the Urban Wilderness area. The Audubon/City native habitat enhancement and restoration projects will become part of the ongoing interpretive opportunities. Specific interpretive areas, marked because of their unique ecological attributes include the pond area, coastal sage scrub, and walnut woodlands. Helping visitors understand the ecological balance of nature is a high land use priority for the Urban Wilderness area. There will be numerous opportunities to develop interpretive programs throughout the area to learn about the site's plants, animals, and sensitive habitats.

Actions to be Discouraged

The maintenance of the park's highly valued wilderness quality will require a synthesis between soil, water, vegetation, and governing social systems such as the

health and safety of its visitors. Long-term viability of the Urban Wilderness area will depend on the actions of the visitor. Unlawful activities, such as littering, vandalism, graffiti, hunting, weapons usage, and other harmful activities slowly erode the urban wilderness experience and destroy wildlife habitat. This area of the park will be subject to intensive restoration and clean-up activities. A high level of management, with law enforcement and visitor education efforts is required to make and keep this area pleasant and safe.

AREA 4- LOS ANGELES NATURE CENTER AREA

This area on the northwestern boundary of the park is integrated with the Urban Wilderness, although it has received considerable past disturbance. Much of Area 4 is the site of former soap-box-derby tracks, and much exotic vegetation occurs in association with this past activity. The upland terrace is the site of a severe infestation of castor bean and milk-thistle, although some of this area was recently burned. The drainage itself includes a rather substantial patch of an undetermined species of bamboo. There are a number of coast live oak trees in Area 4, and some of the only individuals of laurel-leaf sumac are also found here.



Audubon's overall vision is to develop an innovative public/private partnership to:

- ▶ Help preserve this unique neighborhood resource;
- ▶ Enhance the natural habitat; and
- ▶ Provide exciting outdoor education and adventure opportunities.

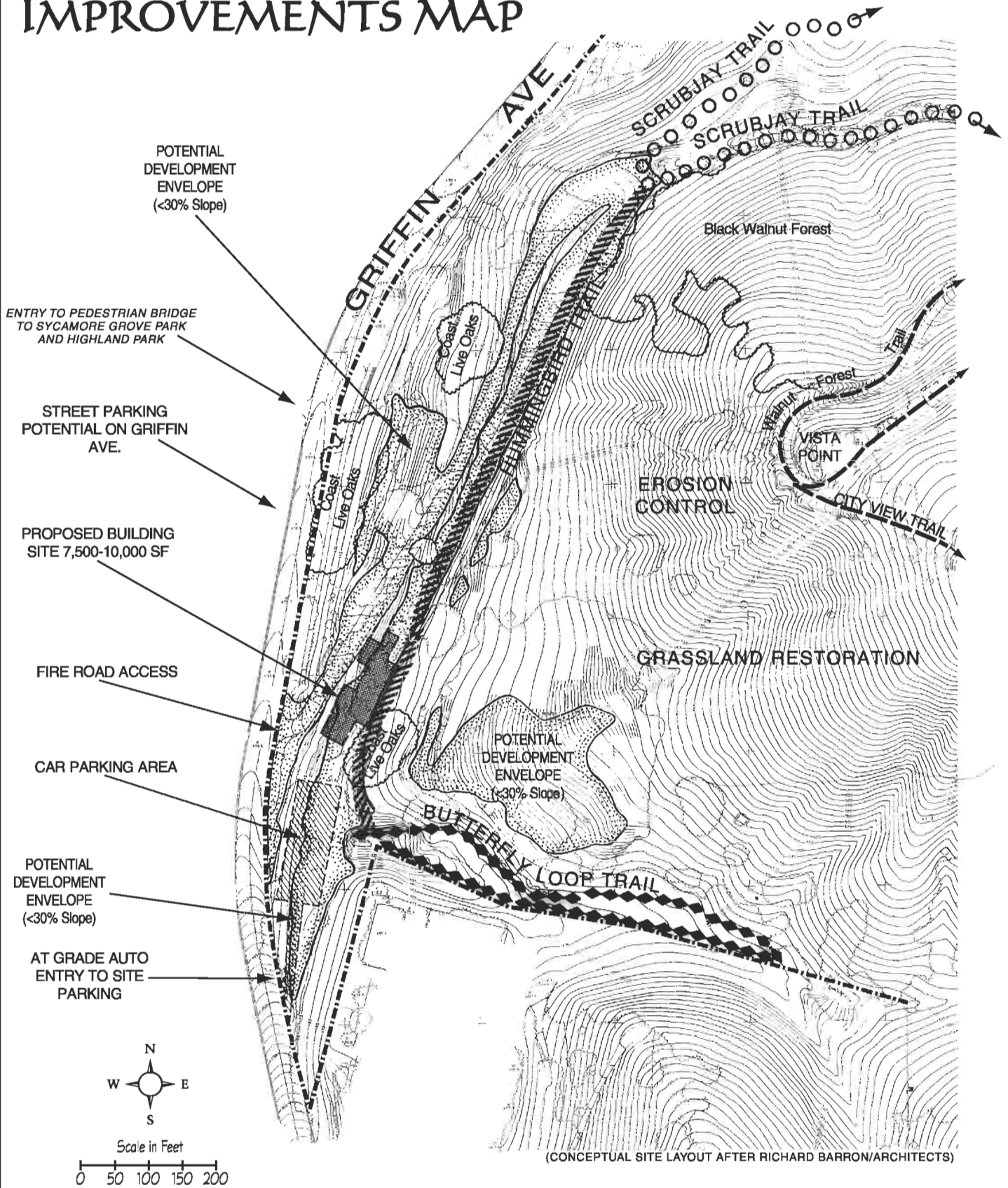
Upon completion of the planning process and adoption of the Framework Plan by the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners, Audubon will lease an area to develop the

Los Angeles Nature Center and related facilities (**Figure 7**). Audubon’s goal is to provide a safe and welcoming place where local children and their families can experience the outdoors together. Outdoor science programs, ecology workshops for educators, after school nature hikes, and weekend family bird walks represent a cross-section of activities that will be offered to the community. In addition, there will be opportunities for habitat restoration, enhancement, and monitoring of wildlife, job training, and mentoring of young people. With a small staff and active volunteer corps, Audubon will work in partnership with the City, neighborhood groups, public and private schools, community centers, and youth and senior citizen organizations. The Los Angeles Nature Center will be a place with classrooms, exhibits, office and retail space, and landscaped grounds for nature education and play. Here, school children, teachers, families, and the community will learn about nature and the park. The proposed building is 7,500 square feet, (with a maximum allowable size of 10,000 square feet), and would be accessible to all park visitors. The Los Angeles Nature Center will be a permanent presence in the park, signaling a commitment to help make the park a safer, more hospitable place. It will also be a “compatible-use” facility integral to the protection of the Urban Wilderness Area.

Area 4 Land Use Recommendations:

- ▶ Authorize the construction and operation of the Los Angeles Nature Center, including classrooms, office space, exhibits, demonstration gardens, outdoor education areas, amphitheater, nature interpretive trails, driveway, and parking. Set a standard size for the site buildings up to a *maximum* of 10,000 square feet. Allow lands under 30 percent slope to be used for demonstration gardens, outdoor classrooms, amphitheater, and other similar activities.
- ▶ Implement the Habitat Management Plan to enhance and preserve surrounding habitat.
- ▶ Manage the Los Angeles Nature Center under specifications of a long-term lease agreement with the City. Clearly define activities that are not allowed in the Audubon lease area and adjacent interpretive natural habitats, including, but not limited to the following:
 - No organized or unorganized sporting events or activities.
 - No public picnicking.
 - No bikes of any kind (motorized or non-motorized).
 - No dogs allowed.
 - No festivals, except as requested by Audubon.
 - No day use/special event permits, except as requested by Audubon.

AREA IV LOS ANGELES NATURE CENTER IMPROVEMENTS MAP



(CONCEPTUAL SITE LAYOUT AFTER RICHARD BARRON/ARCHITECTS)

TRAILS: PATHWAYS FOR PEOPLE

What makes a good trail? A good trail matches its location, adjacent resources, and the type of users with the trail's purpose. There are different types of trails for different experiences. For example, a nature trail does not always serve as a hiking trail, and a footpath is not always a good place for bikes. In Debs Park, trails allow visitors the pleasure of walking and hiking, enjoying



the views, and participating in nature interpretive programs. To use the trails, visitors need only make a short-time commitment in order to “escape” to the sights and sounds of nature, or to find spectacular views of the Los Angeles Basin.



Existing and proposed trails, as well as potential habitat restoration sites are identified in **Figure 8**. Trails take a visitor to the existing picnic grounds, ball fields, and park interior, or in the future to the new Audubon Nature Center or the new restored pond. Existing trails consist of paved access roads; unpaved, engineered “fire” roads; and rugged trails or footpaths. Pedestrian entry points are located throughout the Park’s perimeter, including from Via Marisol, Bushnell Way, and Griffin Avenue.

TRAILS MAP (WITH POTENTIAL RESTORATION SITES) OF DEBS PARK



EXISTING TRAILS

The Summit View Trail leads from the main parking lot to the existing reservoir, then runs northeast to the damaged gazebo, which may be replaced with new seating, and ends at a small rest area. Paved for most of its length, this trail varies in slope from rather steep to almost level. The Summit View Trail forms the backbone of the trail system following the major ridgeline that bisects the park into its eastern and western slopes. In the future, several benches will be installed along the trail to allow for resting during the climb and to enjoy the surrounding landscape. The Summit View Trail also provides access to the reservoir, the Lake View Trail, and to the City View and Walnut Forest Trails. Adjacent to the paved Summit View Trail, on the east, is the unpaved Valley View Trail. This alternative route to the reservoir is a footpath cut into the hillside affording an opportunity for additional, more open views to the east. The Valley View Trail is often damaged by discing of the hillside vegetation. The Plan recommends halting the vegetation discing in this area, and maintaining the trail to reduce erosion.

The Lake View Trail extends from the western edge of the main parking lot, forms part of a small loop trail around the pine tree plantation, and then climbs to the reservoir. Here, the Lake View Trail will connect with the future Pond Nature Trail, which will be improved to reduce erosion and provide access around a portion of the reservoir. Among trails, the favorite for finding panorama views is the City View Trail. This footpath trail cuts across the northwest slopes from Summit View Trail and connects with the Walnut Forest Trail. The City View Trail needs improvement to reduce erosion. Located on unpaved, improved roads that form a loop from east to west, the Walnut Forest Trail is well maintained, and suitable for leisurely walking or fast hiking. Cobblestone walls exist along the trail, adding a sense of history to the area.

Along the northern perimeter of the park, pedestrian access stems from the Oak Ridge Trail, the Seco View Trail, the Sycamore Trail, and the newly proposed Hummingbird Trail. All of these trails provide access to the Walnut Forest Trail, and in turn to the reservoir, and the interior and southern portion of the park. To the south of the main parking lot, is the Woodpecker Loop Trail. This trail is paved, encircling the main picnic grounds, and extending to the smaller secondary picnic area in the south.

PROPOSED TRAILS

To provide additional recreational opportunities and access in the southern portion of the park, the Draft Framework Plan proposes the future establishment of two new unpaved footpaths, the Rose Hill Trail, and the Roadrunner Trail. The Rose Hill Trail will form a loop connecting the ball fields, the picnic areas, the main parking lot, and Lake View Trail. On the southeast will be the Roadrunner Trail, a short loop surrounding the ball fields and extending to the park's southern boundary. In the future, these trails will link new recreational uses in this part of the Park.

As briefly described earlier in the Plan, a nature trail is planned for the reservoir site upon completion of its habitat enhancement program. The nature trail, to be called the Pond Nature Trail, will be wide, with a smooth surface, a split-rail fence, and ADA accessible. There will be an interpretive exhibit and/or handouts. Information of interest may describe the pond restoration process, the type of plants and animals likely to be spotted at the new pond, or the importance of wetlands.

In addition to the Pond Nature Trail, the Audubon Nature Center will establish new nature trails. These will include the Butterfly Loop Trail, located in a small canyon, the Hummingbird Trail, a portion of the Scrubjay Trail in order to connect with the Sycamore Trail, and others, if needed for educational purposes. Both the Hummingbird and Butterfly Loop Trails will be used exclusively for educational outings and interpretive programming. In addition, nature programming will take place on Sycamore Trail and other areas of the Park.

Trail Recommendations:

To ensure proper care and use of the trails and related amenities, implement the following design goals and strategies:

- ▶ Install several benches along the Summit View Trail and other trails, as needed.
- ▶ Halt vegetation discing on the Valley View Trail, and all other trails.
- ▶ Improve the City View Trail and the Valley View Trail, and others as needed reduce erosion.
- ▶ Establish two new unpaved footpaths, the Rose Hill Trail, and the Roadrunner Trail in the southern area of the Park.
- ▶ Establish the Pond Nature Trail, to be at least 6 feet wide, with a smooth surface, a split-rail fence, and ADA accessible. Create an interpretive exhibit and/or provide educational handouts.
- ▶ Establish additional new nature trails. These may include the Butterfly Loop Trail, the Hummingbird Trail, the Scrubjay Trail, and the Sycamore Trail.
- ▶ Maintain the cobblestone retaining walls found in the trail system.
- ▶ Place trail signs in an enclave back from the trail entrance to reduce vandalism and to minimize visual contact from parking lots and entry points.
- ▶ Reinforce the trailhead, the enclave, and first few feet with crushed stone to reduce impacts from erosion.
- ▶ Design the trailhead to begin in an inverted “V” shape, avoid starting the trail on an adverse grade, design trails to move to the right, and use reserve curves to reconnect loops with the stem of a trail.

- ▶ Loop trails to eliminate the need for backtracking, which then reduces number of people seen on a trail, decreases trail wear, and uses a single entry-exit point for easier maintenance and control.
- ▶ Place a visual barrier to prevent users from going to the left of the loop.
- ▶ Use curvilinear design to reduce visual contact with other people.
- ▶ Design trails for interpretive use solely for this purpose.
- ▶ Link new trails with existing trails to create loop options and to provide better access.
- ▶ In flat areas, design the sides of the trail with drainage escape channels, i.e. gutters or mini ditches. If feasible, the center of the trail should be slightly raised above the natural grade.
- ▶ On hills and along the sides of ridges, minimize the damage from water movement by quickly moving water off the trails through the use of:
 - Down sloping (construct down hill trail 2-3 percent lower than the uphill side);
 - Water bars laid on the trail at a 30 degree angle; and/or
 - Grade dips on trails that slowly increase in elevation.
- ▶ Provide signage to keep the user informed and oriented on the trail, i.e. to warn, restrict, or inform, and i.e. “No motorized vehicles.”
- ▶ Place schematic signs with maps of the area at major intersections.
- ▶ Provide signs with the trail names and an associated symbol at intersections along the trail.
- ▶ Use numbered signs and self-guiding brochures for self-interpretive programs.
- ▶ Use gates, steps, stiles, posts, or fences to limit misuse in sensitive areas.
- ▶ To reduce impacts from erosion, rugged and improved trails need to be periodically improved. Use measures to prevent erosion when planning a trail.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

- ▶ No motorized vehicles, motorized bikes, mountain/recreational bikes, or off-road vehicles (ORVs) are permitted along trails, except for authorized park and emergency vehicles.
- ▶ Recreational, non-motorized bikes are only allowed on paved roads, in Area 1 & 2.

- ▶ Dogs on a six (6') foot leash are permitted on most Park trails, except Nature Trails, as described herein.
- ▶ No dogs at all, with or without leashes, are allowed on Nature Trails. These include the Butterfly Loop Trail, the Hummingbird Trail, the Scrub jay Trail, the Pond Nature Trail, a portion of the Sycamore Trail, and others as identified by the City and the Debs Park Advisory Board in the future. The purpose of this policy is to reduce the impact on wildlife and people and contact between dogs, and on school children during interpretive programs.
- ▶ Develop and maintain trails consistent with their adjacent habitat and their intended use, and in accordance with the Habitat Management Plan to minimize impact to vegetation.
- ▶ Bicyclists and skateboarders using the trails present potential safety issues to pedestrians. Post “No Skateboarding” and “No Bicycling” signs in the park and on the trails in Area 3 & 4, and unpaved trails in Area 1 and 2.
- ▶ Trail impact will be monitored and guidelines may be altered based upon the results.

BIKE PATHS AND EQUESTRIAN USE

The relevant City land plans have identified a potential equestrian trail along the northern area of the park and a bikeway along portions of the northern border of Debs Park. The Debs Park Framework Plan recommends placing these two uses along the banks of the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channel and/or on the north side of Griffin Avenue, which is adjacent to the northern



boundary of Debs Park. This is because the northern edge of the Park consists of mainly steep slopes that are not suitable for bike/equestrian pathways. Such an alignment would also be in keeping with existing city policies that recommend maximum use of the banks of the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channel and other flood control channels for biking and equestrian trails. In addition, this recommendation would minimize disturbance to urban wilderness areas and be most compatible with the Plan’s goals.

Recommendations:

- ▶ Provide for non-motorized bike/equestrian pathways on the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channel and/or north side of Griffin Avenue.
- ▶ Council Offices and the City Department of Recreation and Parks should work with City Planning Department to revise and update the Northeastern Los Angeles Community Plan, the 1979 Community Plan, and appropriate land use maps to correspond with this document's recommendations on location of bike and equestrian pathways; thus preventing potential conflict in authority or misinterpretation of plans.



TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

A traffic assessment was prepared by Linscott Law & Greenspan (September 20, 1999) for the Draft Framework Plan.¹⁴ The study addressed access and parking for the construction and operation of the Los Angeles Nature Center. In addition, the study examined other elements of the Debs Framework Plan, such as possible improvements to vehicular access and parking facilities.

From adjacent communities, the 110 freeway has several off-ramps that serve the park: Avenue 43, Avenue 52, Via Marisol, and Avenue 60. Currently, public vehicular access is from Monterey Road on the east and Boundary Avenue on the south. Taking the Monterey Road entrance, the visitor follows a curved road up into the main parking lot. No improvements are proposed to the main entry gate or the main parking lot.

Access to the southern area of the park is via Boundary Avenue from Mercury Avenue. There are two gates along the park access road. The first one is generally open to the public, and the second gate is closed, restricting vehicular access into the interior of the park. It is proposed that the appearance of the southern entrance be improved by adding distinctive signage.

Maintenance and emergency vehicle entrances are also provided in the park. There are two located in the northwest portion of the property from Griffin Avenue. An additional maintenance/emergency vehicle entrance is located in the northwest portion of the site from Via Marisol. No improvements are proposed for these entrances.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

One of the closest bus stops to the northern section of Debs Park is at the intersection of Figueroa Street and Avenue 49 where the DASH bus line stops. From this stop there is a pedestrian bridge one block north adjacent to Sycamore Grove Park. The bridge crosses over the Pasadena Freeway to Griffin Avenue, approximately 500 feet from the proposed entrance to the Nature Center. There are no bus routes on Monterey Road and Griffin Avenue adjacent to the Park. MTA Route 255 runs along Griffin Avenue as far north as Avenue 43, approximately 0.7 miles south of the proposed Nature Center entrance. MTA Route 45 follows Mercury Avenue. The closest stops for Route 45 in the southern portion of the Park include one stop located on the corner of Monterey Road and Huntington Drive North, and two stops on Mercury Avenue near Reynolds Avenue.

¹⁴ See Technical Appendices.

The provision of a bus stop along Mercury Avenue would be beneficial to those people utilizing the southern portion of the park including the playing fields and playground. Although people could use the DASH bus stop on Figueroa Street to enter the Nature Center area, it is several blocks away.

LOS ANGELES NATURE CENTER

The Los Angeles Nature Center would provide approximately 7,500 square feet of building floor area¹⁵ and will offer programs during weekdays for school children, as well as on weekends for adults and families. On a daily routine basis, approximately 15 people are expected to visit the Nature Center at any one time. This number of is expected to increase when a school field trip group visits the Center. It is anticipated that approximately 65 children would attend the Nature Center at any one time. In addition, approximately 12 full-time employees are anticipated to staff the Nature Center.

In terms of site access and parking provisions for the proposed Los Angeles Nature Center, the traffic analysis makes the following observations and recommendations:

Site Access

The Nature Center will be located near the existing southerly driveway on Griffin Avenue. This location was selected to minimize the Nature Center's footprint within Debs Park, thereby reducing the effects on the surrounding environment. Thus, this southerly driveway was analyzed to determine if site access to the Nature Center would be feasible at this location. The Caltrans "Traffic Manual" was consulted to determine the required stopping sight distance, based on the posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour on Griffin Avenue. The "Traffic Manual" recommends a minimum of 250 feet of stopping sight distance. Field observations were made to determine the existing available stopping sight distance along Griffin Avenue at the proposed Nature Center driveway location. North of the proposed site access driveway, there is more than adequate stopping sight distance. South of the proposed site access driveway, the curvature of Griffin Avenue necessitated the need to measure the available stopping sight distance. It was determined that the existing stopping sight distance is 285 feet. Thus, the proposed driveway serving the Nature Center satisfies the minimum stopping sight distance requirements.

Parking

The Nature Center is proposed to provide 7,500 square feet of floor area, with the Draft Framework Plan allowing up to 10,000 square feet. The City of Los Angeles Municipal Code requires one (1) parking space for every 500 square feet within

¹⁵ The Draft Framework Plan allows for up to 10,000 square feet maximum.

commercial buildings. Thus, based on the Code requirements, approximately 15 onsite parking spaces are required for a 7,500 square foot building and 20 spaces would be required for a 10,000 square foot building. Based on the number of staff members and participants anticipated to be at the Nature Center at any one time, 15 to 20 parking spaces will sufficiently meet the expected peak parking demand generated by use of the building. In addition, parking for visitors to the Nature Center's outdoor facilities is expected to generate the need for an additional 15-25 spaces.

However, to minimize adverse effects associated with grading and paving within the existing Park, the study examined the feasibility of using street parking to serve the parking needs of the proposed Nature Center. Typical acceptable maximum walking distance is approximately 0.25 miles or 1,320 feet. To be conservative, a walking distance of up to 500 feet in each direction on Griffin Avenue was assumed for the study to determine the number of available parking spaces. Further, for this review, only the street parking spaces along the east side of Griffin Avenue were considered, as the street parking spaces on the west side require pedestrians to cross Griffin Avenue. Moreover, the street parking spaces on the west side of Griffin Avenue were observed to be occasionally utilized by patrons of the adjacent soccer fields. If a parking spaces length of 25 feet is assumed, then 40 parking spaces are available along the east side of Griffin Avenue, adjacent to the proposed Nature Center site. This supply would be more than adequate to accommodate the peak parking demand needed for the future Nature Center.

Debs Park Area 1 and Area 2

Issues addressed in this section include potential improvements to parking in Area 1 and Area 2.

Parking – Main Parking Lot (Area 2) and Rose Hill (Area 1)

Based on a recent field review, the main parking area of Debs Park contains approximately 127 parking spaces, including four (4) handicap spaces. This lot appears to be efficiently striped to accommodate the maximum number of automobiles. Thus, there does not appear to be an immediate opportunity to increase the parking supply at this location.



The parking lot at the Rose Hill Park contains approximately 35 parking spaces. While the existing parking area appears to be efficiently striped, there is the potential to increase the parking supply by adding 20 feet of paved area along the west edge of the lot. This modification would accommodate up to an additional 32 parking spaces, which would serve the proposed new land uses in Area 1, such as the community garden and ARTScorpsLA building. Earthwork, pavement surfacing and striping would be required. The “overflow” unpaved parking area was not utilized during field observations (which included the Labor Day holiday weekend). Therefore, the need to serve peak parking demands may be more closely tied to the use of the picnic area by Green Meadow Farms, and the cumulative traffic generated by their petting zoo and general public use.

Vehicular Access

Currently, vehicular access to the facilities in Area 1 (Rose Hill) is provided from Mercury Avenue to the south, and access to the main facilities is provided from Monterey Road to the east. There is a connecting roadway between the two areas which is closed to public use. The internal access roads appear to be sufficient in terms of pavement width, sight distance, etc. No other improvements to the internal access roadways appear to be required in conjunction with the Debs Framework Plan.

Traffic and Circulation Recommendations:

- ▶ Should the City Department of Building and Safety approve the use of street parking along Griffin Avenue in lieu of a parking lot, to satisfy either a portion or all of the parking needs of the proposed Los Angeles Nature Center, it is recommended that sidewalks be constructed. Sidewalks should be placed along the east side of Griffin Avenue at an appropriate distance to the north and south of the site access driveway. This cost will be the responsibility of the Audubon Society/LA Nature Center.
- ▶ With construction of the new future driveway, prohibit parking (paint the curbs red) to approximately 10 feet from the edge of the driveway to increase line-of-sight.
- ▶ Provide a pedestrian crosswalk on Griffin Avenue at the future Los Angeles Nature Center driveway. Conduct studies to determine if a signalized crossing is required.
- ▶ To accommodate future land use activities in Area 1, including the *Reptilia Island Renaissance Skill Center*, provide 20 feet of paved area along the west edge of the southern Rose Hill parking lot. This modification would provide up to an additional 32 parking spaces. Earthwork, pavement surfacing and striping would be required.
- ▶ Extend MTA Route 255 on Griffin Avenue 0.7 miles northeast to the future Los Angeles Nature Center entrance.

RESTORATION OF NATIVE HABITATS

The Draft Framework Plan proposes the implementation of a Habitat Management Plan¹⁶ that examines methods to improve the site for wildlife, nature study, and protection of open space. The plan recognizes the potential of Debs Park to become a national model of cooperation between the public and private spheres as a multi-use, urban open space area. Implementation of the Habitat Management Plan will involve a partnership between the City, Audubon, and volunteers. Audubon's role will be to provide oversight of restoration activities, and to assist with technical information and planning. Audubon would also act as a liaison with volunteers that contribute labor and expertise in habitat restoration. The Habitat Management Plan is not intended to give additional work to the current staff of the park, rather the intention is to change some current practices, to increase habitat values, and to seek the help of volunteers to assist with restoration activities. The rewards will be ample in what is sure to become a model of public-private cooperation in balancing conservation education and research with recreation in an urban setting.

NATIVE COMMUNITIES OF DEBS PARK

Because of the Park's isolation from larger blocks of habitat further upstream along the Arroyo Seco, Debs Park has already seen degradation of its natural resources. California Quail, California's state bird, was once common in the Park's native walnut woodland and brushy slopes, but has not been seen in at least ten years. In many cases, exotic species have replaced native ones: Eastern Fox Squirrel, introduced from the Eastern U.S., is abundant while Western Gray Squirrel is absent, and native Harvester Ants, one of the anchors of the California food-chain, has been replaced by the less palatable Argentine Ant.

As shown previously in Figure 6, Debs Park contains an amazing array of wildlife habitats that could be further enhanced to attract wildlife back to the park. These include an open canopy woodland dominated by Southern California Black Walnut, Toyon, and Coast Live Oak, with an understory of Poison-Oak, Hollyleaf Redberry, and Chaparral Honeysuckle. Structurally, this habitat resembles chaparral in being composed mainly of large, tree-like shrubs and offering little shade. However, typical chaparral plants such as Chamise, Mountain-Mahogany and *Ceanothus* are absent or very scarce. Also unlike chaparral, this woodland tends to be destroyed by fire, and often persists here only in deep gullies.

¹⁶ Draft Habitat Management Plan, Audubon Society , September 20, 1999. See Technical Appendices, Volume II.

On south- and east-facing slopes, walnuts strongly dominate and form a closed-canopy woodland above a largely herbaceous understory of exotic Mustard and exotic annual grasses. The distinction between these two types of woodland (open- and closed-canopy) may be the result of both historical as well as current habitat management practices (see below). At the very least, the ecotone between open- and closed-canopy woodland is dynamic throughout the park.

A small (<5 acre) area of coastal sage scrub dominated by California Sagebrush, Black Sage and buckwheats occurs adjacent to Griffin Rd. in the northwest corner of the park. Elements of this habitat are also found locally on steep road cuts and slopes throughout the park, illustrative of the specialized edaphic requirements of this vegetation.

Well-developed riparian communities are essentially absent, although their elements including Western Sycamore, Mulefat and Desert Wild Grape are scattered throughout the park.

Extensive grassland at Debs is strongly dominated by exotics, particularly Mustard. Patches of native grasses, including Purple Needlegrass and California Brome, are found throughout the park's natural communities, particularly on roadcuts.

General Habitat Management Recommendations:

- ▶ Adopt park-wide fire management practices compatible with native wildlife in accordance with the LAFD codes.
 - Establish fire-safety buffer zones that are clearly-designated (around structures) using the minimal width as allowed by the LAFD.
 - Establish clearly-designated areas of the park where native vegetation can be allowed to develop naturally (i.e. without being cleared or disked).
 - Maximize amount of native vegetation allowed to develop along fire roads, which currently serve as the major trail system for the park.
 - Minimize removal of standing or fallen dead wood to enhance habitat for wildlife.
 - When feasible, depending on availability of personnel and equipment, shift from discing to mowing and/or hand-clearing in fire-safety buffer zones.
 - Regarding the Habitat Management Plan, brush clearance may be required in some non-developed areas in order to meet LAFD requirements.
- ▶ Remove and control “Priority I” and, where feasible, “Priority II” exotic species (as listed in the Technical Appendices), and use native species, rather than exotics, in any new plantings.
- ▶ Establish a habitat restoration and ecological monitoring program.
 - Use multiple pilot sites for testing techniques.

- Employ local volunteer labor where possible.
- ▶ Enhance and encourage habitat linkages for sedentary taxa (e.g. California Quail) on park's borders.
 - Investigate nearest sources of colonization by these taxa.
 - Support ongoing conservation and revegetation efforts along Arroyo Seco to increase the overall amount of native habitat in the landscape.
- ▶ Similar to those initiated elsewhere in urban-wildland interface situations, develop a homeowner education program on how to reduce threats to habitat.
- ▶ Initiate a nesting-success study for birds to determine threats.

Management Recommendations by Habitat

The conditions of the major habitats at Debs Park are discussed below, along with suggestions for minimizing the threats currently affecting them.

Open-Canopy Walnut Woodland

Southern California Black Walnut, Toyon and Coast Live Oak is arguably the most intact natural habitat at Debs Park, owing to its apparent ability to resist invasion by exotic species. Since its dominant species, Black Walnut, is considered a "Rare" species by the California Native Plant Society, this woodland is by definition a rare community.

The restoration goals include eliminating exotic taxa from gaps and edges within the habitat; increasing the amount of native woody vegetation along the edges of trails and fire roads to reduce weed invasions and enhance hiking/educational experience; and reducing the sources of excess nitrification along trail edges.

As this habitat is comparatively intact, its restoration will rely on more passive management activities such as the elimination (by hand) of exotics (e.g. Castor Bean, Horehound) from roadsides and the understory.

Active habitat restoration of open walnut woodland is probably not necessary at this time, since exotic species within the chaparral community itself are few, and probably causing no great environmental degradation within the habitat. However, this could change soon, as Castor Bean is currently proliferating along roadsides, and entering the habitat locally through numerous disturbed areas.

Closed-Canopy Walnut Woodland

Most of this habitat occurs on more level terrain than open-canopy woodland, and on south and east-facing slopes such as along Monterey Rd. Unlike the more diverse open-canopy woodland, its canopy is a virtual walnut monoculture, with understory shrubs comparatively rare. The restoration goal is to allow the

community to develop a native understory wherever it occurs in the park, including patches within the “developed” portions of the park (e.g. on the slope southwest of the main picnic area).

The restoration of closed-canopy walnut woodland will depend on the cessation of disking and other practices that disrupt the soil in and around the woodland.

Grassland

Maintaining a native grassland bird community at Debs Park is important to encourage and restore regional diversity of native birds and invertebrates. The restoration goal is to establish a native, herbaceous community large enough to support a diverse array of grassland-obligate species of birds, herps, and invertebrates.

Coastal Sage Scrub

This habitat within the park appears to have been highly disturbed, as it is missing components notoriously sensitive to fire such as White Sage, which may be found just east of Monterey Rd.

Several plants and animals protected by Federal and State Endangered Species laws are dependent on coastal sage scrub, but the amount at Debs Park may be too small to support them.

The restoration goals are to establish a large, intact parcel of coastal sage scrub derived from and composed of native plant taxa already present in Debs Park and vicinity (e.g. Mt. Washington), and to attract enough coastal sage scrub obligate taxa that this community is distinct from the adjacent walnut forest/woodland and grassland.

Riparian

The riparian habitat of the lower Arroyo Seco south of York Blvd. has been essentially eliminated, though remnants remain in the vicinity of Debs Park.

Restoration goals are to maintain an exotic-free example of multi-layered riparian vegetation (including willows, mulefat, etc.) within Debs Park. In addition, investigate the possibility of establishing a native riparian understory within a section of the sycamore grove of Arroyo Seco Park adjacent to Debs Park that supports a native animal community distinct from the walnut woodland within the park.

Volunteer labor should be heavily relied upon for riparian restoration. As with the other habitats, removal of exotics and maintenance of a native understory is a top priority. A study of the effects of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism when

completed, may recommend a cowbird-control program be initiated within Debs Park.

Pond

The small reservoir at the highest point in Debs Park has potentially the highest value for interpretive use of any feature in the park, yet is among the most in need of restoration.

The restoration goals include developing the pond as a showcase for a constructed wetland habitat, whose focus is the passive study of riparian, wetland, and aquatic organisms, particularly wading birds. Also to design and manage the pond in such a way that regular maintenance does not conflict with the first goal. Construction of a wetland and hiring of a consulting firm is to be determined by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Immediate cessation or reduction of spraying around the pond's border, planting a band of non-weedy native vegetation around its border, and restricting human access to a small portion of the edge are recommended.

GENERAL PLANTING GUIDELINES

Debs Park serves as an invaluable storehouse of native vegetation in a highly urbanized area, and any manipulation of the habitat should reflect this. With the range of native species now available from wholesale native plant nurseries, there is no reason to continue planting exotics within the park. Plant material of local origin (lower Arroyo Seco and adjacent Repetto Hills) should be used wherever possible, and a small nursery constructed on site will facilitate this. The list of plants suggested for restoration is included in the Technical Appendices.

EXOTIC PLANTS OF DEBS PARK



Exotic plants are perhaps, the greatest threat to maintaining the natural-areas of Debs Park. These species are most prevalent in disturbed habitats such as trail edges and disked areas. Of the native habitats, open-canopy walnut woodland has the fewest exotics, whereas grassland and closed-canopy walnut woodland tend to have the most. Coastal sage scrub seems susceptible to invasions by specific species, particularly Tree Tobacco and mustard.

Exotic species may be ranked in terms of their threats to the native communities at Debs Park. These may be classified as “Priority I” and “Priority II”. The most serious threats (“Priority I” taxa) include those that resist control efforts and dramatically alter the physical or biological aspects of native habitat (e.g. Tree-of-Heaven thicket replacing open grassland, or an inedible shrub replacing an edible shrub). These are species whose presence anywhere in the park (including developed areas) poses a serious threat to native habitat. Representing less of a threat (“Priority II”) are species that are less widespread and/or slower to invade, but that are still reducing the quality of native vegetation by reproducing in the park. Their removal is recommended from areas of native habitat, but is less of a priority for park-wide efforts.



LEGISLATIVE, MANAGEMENT, AND PLANNING BOUNDARIES

Debs Park is unique in the Recreation and Parks System. According to Recreation and Parks Assistant General Manager, Stephen Klippel, Debs Park is a nature park, with a range of outstanding unstructured recreational opportunities for the local community including picnicking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Its active recreational facilities, such as ball fields, are located in the southern portion of Debs Park, effectively buffering the type of experience visitors can enjoy. No other comparable nature park exists in the area.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES

The park is part of two Los Angeles City Council Districts: District 1 (CD-1), Councilman Mike Hernandez; and District 14 (CD-14), Councilman Nick Pacheco. CD-1 includes the adjacent communities of Highland Park, Cypress Park, Glassell Park, Mount Washington, Montecito Heights, and Lincoln Heights, as well as communities near downtown, including Pico Union. CD-14 includes the adjacent communities of El Sereno and Monterey Hills and parts of Highland Park, as well as the communities of Eagle Rock, Garvanza, downtown Los Angeles, City Terrace, and Boyle Heights. Each District contains approximately 250,000 residents, making them among the most densely populated areas in Los Angeles.

The legislative districts of Debs Park include the:

- ▶ 30th U.S. Congressional District (*Xavier Becerra*, Dem.);
- ▶ 22nd California Senate District (*Richard G. Polanco*, Dem.);
- ▶ 45th California Assembly District (Speaker of the Assembly, *Antonio R. Villaraigosa*, Dem.); and,
- ▶ 1st L.A. County Supervisorial District (*Gloria Molina*).

PARK MANAGEMENT

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, supervised by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, manages and operates Debs Park. The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners sets policy, establishes fees, and approves license agreements for concessions. The General Manager, who administers the Department of Recreation and Parks, is responsible directly to the Board of Commissioners.

PLANNING BOUNDARIES

Activities in Debs Park are governed by a variety of land use plans including the:

- ▶ Open Space Plan of the Open Space Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan,
- ▶ Public Recreation Plan of the Services Systems Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and
- ▶ Northeast District Plan under the Land Use Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan.

Debs Park is located within several planning areas. These include the General Framework Plan for the City of Los Angeles, with supporting community plans for smaller regional planning areas. Efforts are focused on crucial issues in resource allocation, community services, and collaborations to strengthen the infrastructure and vitality of the City, including East and Northeast Los Angeles.

In addition, the Northeast Los Angeles District Area Plan (the northeast plan), which consists of all the Los Angeles communities surrounding Debs Park, was updated and adopted in June 1999. A citizens committee, the Northeast Community Plan Advisory Committee, was formed to help advise the process. They identified important opportunities to preserve and enhance the character of Northeast Los Angeles while improving the economic and physical condition of the community. Their recommendations covered land use, zoning, the built environment, regulations and infrastructure. The northeast plan helps guide the Los Angeles City Council in making land use decisions, and identifies approximate locations and dimensions for land use activities.¹⁷ In the northeast plan, Debs Park is designated open space.

The draft northeast plan identifies “actions that the City should promote, through appropriate City Departments, other governmental and non-governmental agencies, and private parties, to further the goals of the Northeast Plan.” Related actions to the Draft Framework Plan include:

¹⁷ Northeast Los Angeles District Plan, June 1999, Chapter IV – Coordination Opportunities for Public Agencies, pages IV-1.

- ▶ Conserve, expand, maintain, and better utilize existing recreation and park facilities to address the recreational needs of the community.
- ▶ Preserve the existing recreational facilities and park space.
- ▶ Increase accessibility to parkland along the Arroyo Seco and potential parkland along the Los Angeles River.

The northeast plan also states that:

“Much of the Northeast Los Angeles District hillside and mountainous terrain, and as much of the remaining undeveloped lands as feasible is to be preserved for open space and recreational uses.”

The northeast plan further supports the Framework planning process in the following statement:

“Encourage open space for recreational uses, and to promote the preservation of views, historic sites, natural character and topography of the District for the enjoyment of both local residents and persons throughout the Los Angeles region.”

ENTITLEMENT PROCESS

Prior to construction, plans for the Nature Center or any other building in the Park will need to be submitted to the City’s Department of Building and Safety for approval to ensure that all project structures conform with the City’s building and safety and parking codes. The Building and Safety Department will issue building permits and certificates of occupancy upon approval of the plans and completion of construction.

SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

SAFETY

Park Rangers

The Department of Recreation and Parks employs approximately 50 park rangers to patrol approximately 365 parks in the City of Los Angeles. They are responsible for law enforcement and public safety, as well as helping the public have a quality experience in the City's parks. Public safety primarily includes enforcing the City's laws and ordinances. The Park Rangers also engage in activities such as fire prevention, and search and rescue operations, in coordination with other City departments, such as the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) and Los Angeles Fire Department. The park rangers have peace officer status although the only weapons they carry are mace and batons. They typically issue misdemeanor citations when necessary, and employ the LAPD's assistance for more serious offenses.

Los Angeles Police Department

Debs Park is located in the LAPD Hollenbeck area, in Reporting Districts 0402 and 0403. The nearest police station is located at 2111 East First Street. The average response time to emergency calls in the Hollenbeck area during 1998 was 6.6 minutes, which equals the Citywide average. There are approximately 260 sworn officers and 31 civilian support staff deployed over three watches in the Hollenbeck Area. Predominant crimes in this area consist of burglary from residences, aggravated assault, theft from vehicles, and vehicle theft.

Onsite Conditions

Isolation of the park from view and the availability of numerous places to "hide" make portions of the park attractive for unlawful activities. Existing crime problems at Debs Park consist primarily of graffiti and other forms of vandalism, including setting fires and shooting firearms. Graffiti exists on the inside and outside of restrooms, and on picnic benches, drinking fountains, garbage cans, stones, fencing, trees, etc. The other predominant form of vandalism at the park consists of damage from guns. Bullet holes can be found in the garbage cans and restrooms. Outdoor lights have been shot out. Additional problems include people riding all-terrain vehicles on and off the trails. The Department of Recreation and Parks has a graffiti clean-up unit, which usually responds within 24 hours of notification, however the amount of graffiti at the Park makes it difficult to keep up. Park rangers lock the vehicular entrances and the restrooms at night. The lock-up time varies since Debs Park is one of several along a route of parks maintained by park rangers.

Persons drinking alcoholic beverages and an ongoing lack of Park Rangers and authority figures in the park cause several issues of concern, including the safety of personnel in evening or nighttime hours. Adding new safety features would be a benefit, such as call boxes and the posting of emergency phone numbers to contact public services in case of an accident or to report a crime in progress. Given the existing condition, all new or improved facilities will require a constant form of security system to prevent graffiti and vandalism.

An option is to provide a ranger sub-station or ranger residence that would consist of a 24-hour presence in the Park, consisting of three shifts of park rangers. Under this scenario, the park rangers assigned to Debs Park would also be responsible for other City parks along the Arroyo Seco, including Arroyo Seco Park and Sycamore Grove Park.

Safety Recommendations:

- ▶ It is suggested that there be a ranger substation or ranger residence in the Park. The location should be determined by the Park Rangers, the City, and the Debs Park Oversight Committee. Two possible locations are adjacent to the Los Angeles Nature Center or the maintenance yard. Provide a 24-hour caretaker to allow for ongoing surveillance of the park.¹⁸
- ▶ It is suggested that there be a Park Ranger dedicated to Debs Park and nearby Parks.
- ▶ Require new or improved facilities to install a security system to reduce graffiti and vandalism.
- ▶ Replace and repair vandalized facilities, such as all missing light fixtures or bathrooms fixtures.
- ▶ Provide park programming and construct the Los Angeles Nature Center to increase safety by discouraging the presence of unlawful activities.
- ▶ Reduce inappropriate nighttime use by officially closing the park, entrance gates, and asking visitors to leave. However, to provide for community evening use, dedicate a location within Area I and Area II for nighttime activities (i.e. picnics, art festival). This area shall be properly lighted and patrolled.
- ▶ Close vehicular access to the interior of the park at sunset.
- ▶ Post telephone numbers to call for an emergency or to report unlawful activities.
- ▶ Install call boxes throughout the park: possible locations include the parking lots, and top of hill near the reservoir.

¹⁸ Officer Tanya Hanamaikai, Los Angeles Police Department, Community Affairs Group, Crime Prevention Section, telephone conversation on May 14, 1999.

- ▶ Conduct a lighting analysis for areas of public safety concern and identify locations for new lighting poles. The lighting analysis must consider any potential light and glare impacts on neighbors and must be compatible with natural/wild areas.
- ▶ Select lighting fixtures that are vandal-proof.
- ▶ Promote ongoing liaison with local safety committees and community associations to continually work on safety issues.
- ▶ Provide graffiti-resistant signs.
- ▶ Place signs at a height to prevent their being easily spray-painted.

Fire Protection

Two fire stations serve Debs Park. Fire Station No. 12 (5921 N. Figueroa Street) is located 0.6 miles northeast of the park, and Station No. 47 (4575 Huntington Drive South) is 0.4 miles southeast of the park. The existing fire hydrants are in good condition. However, Debs Park is considered by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) as an area of inadequate fire hydrant service.¹⁹ These problems are compounded by the steep slope gradients that typify the park. In addition, the existing irrigation/fire system is inadequate and should be replaced with either a combination irrigation/fire suppression system or separate fire system. The fire system must be capable of serving two fire hydrants at any one time and of providing 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) at the fire hydrant at the end of the line (highest elevation).

Fire-Fighting Water System Recommendations:

- ▶ Provide three new fire hydrants and improve the water line along the trail leading from the parking lot to the reservoir.
- ▶ Provide a fire hydrant near the Nature Center, provided by Audubon as part of the construction project.
- ▶ Improve the existing irrigation/fire prevention system so that is capable of serving two fire hydrants at a time while it is still able to serve the fire hydrant at the end of the line with 1,500 GPM.

Brush Clearance

Some maintenance activities, once thought of as neutral in their impacts, are now known to degrade natural resources by causing an increase in erosion and the presence of weedy plant species. This includes discing for brush clearance, an activity that reduces the park's natural quality, removes important wildlife habitat, and kills wildlife.

¹⁹ City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework, page 2.10-2.

Recommendations of the Draft Framework Plan are designed to protect public safety from the dangers of fire and other hazards, while also allowing for the soil, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and woodlands to recover from years of degradation. Based on LAFD guidelines, fuel modification areas are to be strategically placed as a buffer between natural areas and the perimeter of future structures. The park is subject to fuel modification activities within areas of natural vegetation.

As defined in the County's Fuel Modification Plan Guidelines, which have been adopted by the LAFD:

“A fuel modification area is a strip of land where combustible native or ornamental vegetation is required to be modified and/or partially or totally replaced with drought tolerant, fire resistant plants. Fuel modification reduces the radiant and convective heat, and provides the Fire Department with a defensible space in which to take action.”

As part of its ongoing fuel modification plan, the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP), in accordance with LAFD guidelines, annually clears combustible vegetation within 10 feet of both sides of the trails that are accessible by emergency vehicles. In addition, the DRP is required by the LAFD to annually clear combustible vegetation within 200 feet of any onsite or offsite structures.

Brush Clearance Recommendations:

- ▶ Request the Los Angeles Fire Department to work closely with the City, Audubon Society, and Park Advisory Board to develop a Brush Clearance and Fire Management Plan. This plan will provide guidelines to Debs Park staff for use in conducting brush clearance including the location, and timing of vegetation clearing.
- ▶ Where possible, conduct all brush clearance by mowing, using hand-held tools, and/or using equipment that does not turn over the soil.
- ▶ Do not allow brush clearance contractor or City staff to perform brush clearance beyond the *minimum* City requirement.
- ▶ Discing may be necessary along roadsides outside the 200-foot buffer zone for buildings and ancillary structures.
- ▶ Depending on available resources, all trees within brush clearance areas will be trimmed 6 feet from the ground and all dead material removed.
- ▶ Trim branches 5 feet from any roof structure.
- ▶ Keep all roofs free of a substantial accumulation of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible material.
- ▶ It is suggested that cut vegetation, which is not an invasive exotic weed, may be

machine processed (chipped) and spread back onto the property. If feasible, prior to cutting and spreading vegetation, a qualified botanist would review the materials and approve the vegetation to be spread.

- ▶ Do not exceed a 3-inch depth of chips within 100 feet; and 6” inch depth beyond 100 feet of any structure, per LAMC requirements.
- ▶ Clear brush from roadways to allow safe passage of vehicles without risk of igniting fire.

MAINTENANCE

Several types of maintenance activities are involved in the upkeep of Debs Park. Mowing, minor repairs, collecting refuse, and cleaning restrooms are performed on an ongoing basis. By contrast, replacing roofs or re-paving roads are long-term maintenance activities. In order to improve the efficiency of each, prevention is the third element of park maintenance.

Maintenance Recommendations:

- Enlarge the Maintenance Yard refuse truck turn-around to allow for an increased range of movement.
- Adopt a wildlife friendly maintenance regime based on recommendations developed in this plan and through collaboration with Audubon.

PARK INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER SYSTEM

SEWER SYSTEM

Wastewater generated at Debs Park is treated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Central District. Wastewater generated onsite is conveyed to the Hyperion Treatment Plant located on the coastline in Playa Del Rey. The comfort stations are served by clay building sewers. Comfort stations 1 and 2 drain to a City sewer line in Boundary Avenue in the Rose Hill portion of the project site. Comfort station 3 drains to a City sewer in Sivona Street, to the west of the park. Comfort Station 4 connects to the sewer pipe from the maintenance building that leads to the sewer main in Monterey Road. Comfort station 5 is drained to a City sewer line in Mercury Avenue. The building sewers from comfort stations 1, 2, 3, and 5 are currently in good condition. The condition of the building sewer from comfort station 4 is unknown since it is closed off.

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering does not anticipate the need for improvements to offsite sewer facilities to serve the Nature Center.

Sewer System Recommendations:

- ▶ Provide a connecting line from the Nature Center to the sewer line located in Griffin Avenue.
- ▶ If comfort station 4 is reopened, test the drain line for stoppage before putting comfort station 4 back into service.

SOLID WASTE

Trash collection is provided twice a week at Debs Park by the City's Bureau of Sanitation. Garbage cans are regularly emptied into trash bins located at the maintenance yard, located near the entrance to the park. Trash collected in the Debs Park area goes to the Bradley Landfill, located in the North San Fernando Valley. Green waste is recycled onsite. In addition, mulch is delivered from the Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Water and Power, and Department of Recreation and Parks to supplement onsite green waste.

Onsite Collection Recommendations:

- ▶ Expand the maintenance yard and/or provide an improved access route for the sanitation trucks within the yard.
- ▶ Provide recycling bins throughout the Park.
- ▶ Don't accept off-site mulch that contains potentially invasive plant species including castor bean, thistle, and palm.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP). The nearest receiving stations to the park are Distributing Stations 2 and 36, both in Highland Park northwest of the park. These stations distribute power to Debs Park.

There are four electrical meters in the park. Two are located in the maintenance building, one at comfort station 1, and the other approximately 300 feet west of the reservoir.

Restrooms are lighted on the outside. Currently, there are 14 light standards throughout the park. These include overhead floodlights at the main entrance, along the path leading from the main parking lot to the main and secondary picnic grounds, and at the ball fields in the south. The DWP has indicated that there is sufficient power to provide the current and future electricity needs of the Park.²⁰

Electricity Recommendations:

- Provide connections from the nearest existing DWP lines located under Griffin Avenue to the Nature Center. External lighting of the buildings, amphitheater, and parking lots are recommended for security purposes.
- Provide watertight enclosures for two existing panels and electric meters that are to be relocated from the Pump Room to the Maintenance Building. Relocate to the same wall with the meters. (This is required as the pump room is to be demolished).

NATURAL GAS

There is a 2-inch Southern California Gas line under Griffin Avenue. This line has sufficient capacity to supply natural gas to the Park, including the Nature Center as well as other potential future facilities.²¹

²⁰ Jim Laschober, Project Manager City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, telephone conversation on June 9, 1999.

²¹ Kelly Simpson, Southern California Gas Company, telephone conversation on May 19, 1999.

WATER

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) supplies the water source for Debs Park. The park is currently served by a 778-foot pressure area system, which is located within Monterey Road via a 24-inch water main. The southern portion of the park, the Rose Hill Area is served by a 737-foot pressure area system via a 6-inch water main in Mercury Avenue. The capacity of the main in Monterey Road is 1,584,000 gallons per day or 1,100 gallons per minute at a pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi).

Piped water enters the pump room at the park maintenance building, where the line splits. One line goes to the primary domestic water system and one goes to the primary irrigation/fire-fighting system.

Domestic System

Water is supplied to the five comfort stations (restrooms) in the park and the maintenance facility through a primary domestic water pump that boosts the water pressure to provide water. The piping in the comfort stations is copper. A secondary pump boosts the water pressure again to provide water to a comfort station on top of the hill, near the reservoir, which is currently not in use. The piping in the comfort station near the reservoir has been out of service for several years.

The exterior domestic piping is in poor condition and frequently experiences breaks. However, the piping inside the four operational comfort stations is in good condition. Other issues include:

- ▶ One of the comfort stations is not handicap accessible, although it has stainless steel fixtures that meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The other comfort stations do not meet ADA standards. The lavatories use cold water only.
- ▶ There are two drinking fountains currently available, although two restrooms have rough-ins for additional drinking fountains.
- ▶ Several other minor problems exist in the comfort stations, such as loose fixtures, low water pressure, and lack of ADA accessibility.

Irrigation System

The irrigation/fire-fighting waterline runs up the hill towards the reservoir, serving irrigation control valves, and fire hydrants along the way. The line ends at the reservoir where the water is stored for irrigation and fire suppression purposes. Rose Hill Park is served by a separate irrigation system that connects to a waterline in Mercury Avenue.

Two pipes with hose connections at the reservoir pump water out of the reservoir when necessary. A secondary irrigation pump on the side of the hill provides irrigation water for the knoll adjacent to the reservoir. (An ornamental feature of the reservoir is the Cascades, which consists of a man-made waterfall or “rapids.” Today, the Cascades are in a state of disrepair).

The cement pipes that provide irrigation for the upper park are not in good condition; for example, there have been many breaks in the line. The primary and secondary irrigation pumps are, however, in good working condition. Department of Recreation and Parks employees indicate that some portions of Rose Hill Park are not getting enough irrigated water while other areas are getting too much.

Domestic and Irrigation Water System Recommendations:

The existing offsite water supply from the City is considered adequate to meet the park’s irrigation and domestic water demands.²² However, there are opportunities to improve onsite facilities.

Domestic System

To improve the domestic water system the Draft Framework Plan recommends the following:

- ▶ Replace all exterior pipes.
- ▶ Replace the primary and secondary pumps.
- ▶ Rehabilitate the comfort stations and maintenance building toilet rooms to conform to ADA requirements. Replace all fixtures.
- ▶ Rehabilitate the comfort stations and maintenance building toilet rooms to conform to ADA and State of California Low Flush requirements. Replace all fixtures.
- ▶ Because low flush fixtures require more water pressure than the fixtures they are replacing, the water piping at the fixtures must increase in size, and waste piping will have to be modified.

²² Milad Taghavi, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, telephone conversation on May 11, 1999.

- ▶ Add ADA accessible drinking fountains to comfort stations.
- ▶ Remove or rehabilitate the comfort station near the reservoir. Test the drain line for stoppage before putting the comfort station back into service.
- ▶ Water service, including installation of a fire hydrant will be allowed in order to service the Nature Center. This may include extending the existing DWP water main in Griffin Avenue approximately 1,000 feet northward beyond its current termination point at Montecito Drive. The Audubon Society/LA Nature Center will take responsibility for the costs of installation.

Irrigation System

To improve the irrigation water system, the Framework Plan recommends the following:

- ▶ Replace the existing piping and primary pump system with a new combination fire/irrigation piping system, as specified in the Facilities Report.
- ▶ Provide a new fill assembly for the reservoir, including a valve and level control.
- ▶ Repair and restore the Cascades.

DEBS PARK OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCESSIONAIRES, USE PERMITS & NEW PROJECTS

To ensure the long-term protection of the Park, the City will establish the “Debs Park Advisory Board” to implement the adopted Framework Plan, and to consider any new proposed facilities, operations, improvements, and long term use permits. The Advisory Board will coordinate with all City Departments and the public in the achievement of Framework Plan goals. The Debs Park Advisory Board should be composed of members who broadly reflect the community it serves, with no single interest group having a majority vote. This Board will be supported by the Recreation and Parks Department staff, who should present at all meetings as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Board. Because Debs Park does not have a Recreation Center Director, the Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor of Metro East Region should serve this ex-officio member function, and provide support necessary support to the Board. The Board should be composed of seven members and be appointed according to Department Park Advisory Board Guidelines, as developed by the Department of Recreation and Parks.



APPENDIX B

Vascular Plants of Ernest Debs Regional Park

VASCULAR PLANTS OF ERNEST DEBS REGIONAL PARK

(Compiled from field surveys on June 4, 1998, and on June 4, July 2, August 11 and 25, 1999 by Carl Wishner, Envicom Corp., and by others where noted. Native plant species are italicized; all others are alien.)¹

GYMNOSPERMS

Pinaceae - Pine Family

Cedrus deodara Deodar cedar. Evergreen tree. Common, planted along roadways, among other exotic plantings, in high-use areas of the park. Native to western Himalaya Mountains, India.

Pinus halapensis Aleppo pine. Evergreen tree. Very abundant, planted extensively at the park in distinct groves, and among other exotic plantings along roadways, high-use areas, and occurring unexplainably in bottom of the western drainage. Native to eastern Mediterranean region.

Taxodiaceae - Bald Cypress Family

Sequoia sempervirens coast redwood. Evergreen tree. Infrequent, along roadways, among other plantings, and in high-use areas of the park. Native to coast ranges of California from Monterey County north to extreme southwest Oregon.

ANGIOSPERMS-DICOTS

Amaranthaceae - Amaranth Family

Amaranthus albus tumbleweed. Annual herb. Occasional in disturbed places, especially along roadways. Native of tropical America, occurring as a widespread weed in North America and Eurasia.

Anacardiaceae - Sumac or Cashew Family

Rhus integrifolia lemonadeberry. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Common, but nonetheless restricted to the north portion of the park on open slopes, and in the understory of walnut woodlands and forest, sometimes dominant. Coastal southern and Baja California.

Rhus ovata sugarbush. Evergreen shrub. Uncommon understory shrub of walnut forests on the north slopes. Closely resembling the former species, and reportedly forming hybrids (none observed here).

Malosma laurina laurel-leaf sumac. Evergreen shrub. Rare, a few individuals along the western margin of the park. Ranges coastal southwestern California and Baja California, evidently restricted to near the coast by severe frosts.

Schinus molle Peruvian peppertree. Evergreen tree. Common, planted extensively throughout the park, and reproducing naturally. Native to South America, naturalizing in central and southern California to Texas and Mexico.

¹ Surveys concentrated on areas outside of cultural landscapes and intensively developed areas, therefore, the list is rather incomplete for intentionally planted trees and shrubs. Numbers in parentheses refer to voucher specimens, including date of collection, in the possession of Carl Wishner (some are not yet accessioned, as indicated by dashes).

Schinus terebrinthifolius Brazilian peppertree. Evergreen tree. Common, planted extensively at the park, but perhaps not reproducing naturally. Native to South America, naturalizing along the south coast of California.

Apiaceae - Carrot Family

Anthriscus caucalis bur-chervil. Annual herb. Occasional in understory of north-slope oak forests. Native to Eurasia.

Torilis nodosa torilis. Annual herb. Native of Eurasia, especially Mediterranean, occurring as a weed in California. (CW3371 02Jul1999)

Apocynaceae - Dogbane Family

Vinca major greater periwinkle. Perennial, sprawling. Dominant in understory of walnut forests and mature toyon chaparral on steep north slopes adjacent to homes on north and east margins of park, and north side of the lake. Occasional elsewhere throughout. Native to Europe, naturalized along the entire coast of California.

Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family

Araujia sericofera bladder-flower. Perennial, twining. Rare, one observed in an elderberry, within the patch of California roses on the north margin of the park. A seedling in the grove of Aleppo pines north of the main parking lot was removed in summer 1999. Native to S. America. NOXIOUS WEED CA (citrus groves).

Asclepias eriocarpa kotolo or Indian milkweed. Perennial herb. Rare, among grasses in openings of walnut woodland, slopes west and north of lake. Individuals of this species tend to exhibit at least some nodes with three leaves (whorled), which can be used to distinguish it from the similar California milkweed (*A. californica*), a species with strictly opposite (two) leaves that is also found in the region. California, Nevada, and northern Baja California.

Asclepias fascicularis narrow-leaf milkweed. Perennial herb. Occasional among grasses and disturbed areas throughout. California, except north coast and deserts, to Washington, Utah, and Baja California.

Asteraceae - Sunflower Family

Artemisia californica California sagebrush. Shrub, ± summer deciduous. Uncommon, but locally dominant, limited to a few pockets atop landslides and on steep, cut slopes along the western and northern margin of the park. Coastal central and southern California and northern Baja California.

Baccharis pilularis var. *consanguinea* chaparral broom, coyote brush. Evergreen shrub. Uncommon, in coastal sage scrub and grassland openings near the northern entrance, and on fill slopes adjacent to main developed area. Coastal Oregon and California, and northern Mexico.

Baccharis salicifolia mule fat, seep-willow, water-wally. Evergreen shrub. Common on terrace-drained fill slopes associated with the main use area of the park, uncommon in eastern park drainages, and rare in the natural drainages on the north and west sides of the park. California, west of the Cascade and Sierra ranges, and deserts, to Texas, Mexico, and South America.

Brickellia californica California brickellbush. Shrub, ± summer deciduous. Rare, steep slopes on the western and northern margin of the park. California to Idaho, Colorado, Texas, and northern Mexico.

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- Centauria melitensis* tocalote. Abundant throughout grasslands and in the understory of walnut woodlands and forests. Native to southern Europe, occurring as a weed throughout California. Often erroneously referred to as “yellow star-thistle”, which is the considerably more noxious *C. solstitialis*.
- Cirsium vulgare* bull thistle. Biennial herb. Uncommon, sometimes locally abundant in grasslands and understories of walnut forests and woodlands, as well as landscaped or disturbed areas. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout North America.
- Conyza bonariensis* South American conyza. Annual herb. Rare, mostly near roadways, in lawns, landscaped and disturbed areas throughout. Native to South America, occurring as a weed in central and southern California, to eastern North America. Distinguished from the following species by its hairy herbage and considerably larger flower heads.
- Conyza canadensis* horseweed. Annual herb. Common, occurring in grasslands and in the understory of walnut woodlands and forest, in addition to landscaped and disturbed areas throughout. Occurs nearly worldwide.
- Cotula australis* Australian brass-buttons. Annual herb. Occasional in lawns, disturbed areas. Native to Australia, occurring as a weed along the coast of California.
- Encelia californica* California encelia. Shrub, ± summer deciduous. Rare, two individuals on steep, south facing slope of loose shale in the western drainage. South-central and southern coast of California, northern Baja California.
- Ericameria palmeri* var. *pachylepis* Palmer’s goldenbush. Evergreen shrub. Rare, one individual near coastal sage scrub on slope at western margin. Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to the desert borders in Riverside Co., and Santa Catalina Island.
- Erigeron foliosus* var. *foliosus*² fleabane aster. Rare, understory of toyon and walnut on northern margin. Coastal central and southern California Santa Catalina and Santa Cruz islands, northern Baja California.
- Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *confertiflorum* golden-yarrow. Sub-shrub, ± summer deciduous. Uncommon, on steep north-facing slope in coastal scrub at extreme northern margin of park, with other rare species including *Mimulus aurantiacus* and *Galium angustifolium*. North coast, Sierra Nevada, central and south coast of California, Baja California.
- Gnaphalium californicum* green everlasting. Annual or biennial herb. Common, understory of walnut woodlands and forest, occasional in grasslands and disturbed or landscaped areas. Fresh foliage when crushed produces a most pleasant, citrus-like odor. California, except the Great Valley, to Oregon and Baja California.
- Gnaphalium canescens* ssp. *microcephalum* white everlasting. Biennial or short-lived perennial herb. Rare, one individual in coastal sage scrub at western margin of park (and another on steep south slopes near proposed Audubon Center [D. Cooper]). With other rare species including *Isocoma menziesii*, *Lessingia filaginifolia*, and *Nassella pulchra*. Coastal central and southern California to northern Baja California, and the northern Channel Islands.
- Gnaphalium luteo-album* cudweed. Annual herb. Occasional in moist, disturbed areas. Native of Eurasia, occurring widespread as a weed in California.

² Material observed here has relatively wide leaves, and therefore not referable to ssp. *stenophyllum*, a taxon that is not recognized in The Jepson Manual (Hickman, [editor] 1993).

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- Gnaphalium stramineum* straw everlasting. Annual or biennial herb. Rare, known only from a few plants at one location in walnut forest understory. California to British Columbia, Texas and Mexico. (CW3077 04Jun1998)
- Hazardia squarrosa* var. *grindeloides* saw-toothed goldenbush. Evergreen shrub. Rare, a few individuals on the ridge above south-facing slope at north entrance, possibly with foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*). Coastal southern California, and northern Baja California. (CW---- 25Aug1999)
- Heterotheca grandiflora* telegraph weed. Annual to short-lived perennial herb. Uncommon in disturbed areas along former soap box derby tracks in the west [expected elsewhere]. Typically a weedy native species, but here not abundant. Northwestern California southward west of the Sierra Nevada foothills, and coastal central and southern California.
- Isocoma menziesii* var. *vernonioides* coastal goldenbush. Evergreen shrub. Rare, one individual on a slope on the western margin, with other coastal sage scrub species. Southwestern Sacramento Valley southward through coastal central and southern California, Channel Islands, and northern Baja California. (CW---- 25Aug1999)
- Lactuca serriola* prickly lettuce. Annual herb. Common to abundant in grassland, walnut understory, and disturbed places throughout. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout California.
- Lessingia filaginifolia* var. *filaginifolia* California-aster. Sub-shrub. Rare, restricted to a few steep slopes, one in the southwest, and a few more on the western and northern margin of the park. Southern Sierra Nevada, San Joaquin Valley, central and southern California, northern Baja California.
- Malacothrix saxatilis* var. *tenuifolia* cliff-aster. Perennial herb, somewhat woody at base. Common in the understory of walnut woodland and forest, especially on exposed road cuts into shale, and occasional to common on steep, south facing slopes with grassland and exposed shale substrate. Orange County to Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties, Santa Catalina island.
- Picris echioides* bristly ox-tongue. Annual or biennial herb. Common in disturbed areas, dirt parking lots, landscape areas, and grasslands. Occasional in understory of walnut woodlands and forests. Native to Mediterranean Europe, occurring as a weed throughout California.
- Silybum marianum* milk-thistle. Annual or biennial herb. Common at the site of proposed Audubon center, and rare elsewhere. Native of Mediterranean Europe, occurring as a weed in coastal California and the Great Valley, and Channel Islands.
- Sonchus asper* ssp. *asper* prickly sow-thistle. Annual herb. Occasional in landscaped and disturbed areas, and in grasslands and walnut woodlands. Similar the following species, but with glossy leaves and stiff spines on their margins. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout North America.
- Sonchus oleraceus* common sow-thistle. Annual herb. Common in landscaped and disturbed areas, occasional in grassland throughout. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout North America.
- Stephanomeria virgata* ssp. *virgata* wand chicory. Annual herb. Occasional, especially on steep, shaley south facing slopes. Coastal southern California.
- Taraxacum officinale* common dandelion. Perennial from taproot. Common in lawns and disturbed areas. Native to Europe, occurring throughout California.
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Bignoniaceae - Bignonia Family

Jacaranda mimosifolia Jacaranda or green ebony. Deciduous to semi-evergreen tree. Common, planted extensively throughout landscaped areas of the park. Native to high plains of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina.

Brassicaceae - Mustard Family

Brassica nigra black mustard. Annual herb. Abundant to dominant in grasslands and open, disturbed areas. Native to Europe, occurring throughout California.

Hirschfeldia incana short-pod mustard. Biennial to short-lived perennial herb. Common to abundant in grasslands, and in open, disturbed areas. Native to Mediterranean Europe, occurring as a weed in California west of the Sierra Nevada foothills and the deserts.

Cactaceae - Cactus Family

Opuntia xvaseyi, a named hybrid between *O. littoralis* coast prickly-pear, and *O. phaeacantha*. Sprawling stem succulent. Rare, restricted to one, southwest facing slope in the north. Determination of the specimens here is based on glaucous (blue-green) color of the pads, and few spines per areole; additional scrutiny of flowering material is warranted.³ Los Angeles County (Newhall) to San Bernardino and Riverside counties, near Temecula.

Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family

Lonicera subspicata var. *denudata* chaparral honeysuckle. Evergreen shrub, mostly climbing over other shrubs. Common in the understory of walnuts, and occasionally as individuals or thickets in openings. Coastal southern and central California, Tehachapi Ranges.

Sambucus mexicana blue elderberry. Deciduous shrub or small tree. Common, sometimes dominant in open areas, and among other shrubs in walnut woodlands and forests. California and the Great Basin to British Columbia, Utah, New Mexico.

Symphoricarpos mollis? creeping snowberry, trip vine. Deciduous shrub, trailing or creeping. Uncommon, evidently restricted to a few locations at the tops of steep slopes along the western margin. California to British Columbia, Idaho, and New Mexico. This determination should be verified with flowering and fruiting specimens.

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

Stellaria media common chickweed. Annual herb, sometimes overwintering. Common in understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Native to southwestern Europe, occurring as a weed throughout most of California, including the Channel Islands.

Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family

Atriplex semibaccata Australian saltbush. Perennial herb or sub-shrub. Occasional in dry, disturbed areas, as on slopes south of the lake. Native of Australia, used widely in slope stabilization seed mixes, and established throughout much of California, including the deserts, to Utah, Texas, and northern Mexico.

³ *Opuntia occidentalis* is also closely related, with pads greater than 15 cm wide. Plants here appear to have narrower pads.

Chenopodium murale --. Annual herb. Occasional in disturbed soils, landscape areas, and open grasslands. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout California, to Canada, eastern U.S., and northern Mexico.

Salsola tragus Russian-thistle, tumbleweed. Annual herb. Occasional in grasslands, road edges, and disturbed areas. California to eastern North America, Mexico. NOXIOUS WEED.

Convolvulaceae - Morning-Glory Family

Calystegia macrostegia ssp. *intermedia* morning-glory. Perennial sub-shrub, climbing as a vine over other vegetation. Rare? Observed only on the south-facing slope in the north portion of the park, but expected elsewhere. South coast from Ventura to Orange counties, and Santa Catalina Island. Material here has acute, rather than obtuse tips on the bracts below the flowers, with forms possibly intergrading with ssp. *cyclostegia*, which could also occur at this location. (CW3370 02Jul1999)

Cucurbitaceae - Gourd Family

Cucurbita foetidissima calabazilla. Annual trailing herb. Uncommon, disturbed and open areas. Great Valley, central and southern California and the deserts to Nebraska, Texas, and northern Mexico.

Marah macrocarpus var. *macrocarpus* man-root, wild cucumber. Perennial from large tubers. Common vine found clamboring over shrubs and into trees, particularly on the north-facing slopes. Coastal southern California, Sonoran Desert, and northern Baja California

Cuscutaceae - Dodder Family

Cuscuta californica var. *californica* dodder. Annual, parasitic vine. Occasional, orange-colored string-like parasite on various shrubs, especially California buckwheat and black sage located on the south-facing slope in the northern portion of the park. California to Washington, Nevada, and Baja California. (CW3368 02Jul1999 on *Salvia mellifera*)

Ericaceae -- Heath Family

Arbutus unedo strawberry-tree. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Planted extensively along roadways and in landscape areas in the developed portions of the park. Native to western Mediterranean and Ireland.

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Chamaesyce albomarginata rattlesnake weed. Perennial herb, prostrate. Occasional on disturbed ground, especially in the southwest area of the park. Native to southern San Joaquin Valley and southern California including the deserts, to Utah, Texas and Mexico. (CW3314 04Jun1999; det'd by D. Koutnik)

Chamaesyce serpens spurge. Annual herb, prostrate. Occasional, with the preceding species. Native to South America, occurring as a weed in San Joaquin Valley and coastal southern California, to eastern U.S. (CW3315 and CW3317 04Jun1999; both det'd by D. Koutnik)

Eremocarpus setigerus turkey mullein, doveweed. Annual herb. Rare, a few individuals in disturbed soil east of northeastern lookout. California to Washington.

Euphorbia peplus petty spurge. Annual herb. Occasional in moist, disturbed areas. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed in California to Canada, and in the eastern U.S.

Ricinus communis castor bean. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Abundant, becoming locally dominant. Evidently spreading rapidly to new areas of the park, aided by tractor discing. Native to Europe, Great Valley, central and south coastal California, and eastern U.S. All plant parts are HIGHLY TOXIC, seeds are fatal when eaten.

Fabaceae - Pea Family

Amorpha californica var. *californica* false indigo. Deciduous shrub. Rare, known from two plants at one location in understory of walnut forest in north area of the park. North coast ranges and northern Sierra Nevada foothills south to northern Baja California, and Arizona. (CW3369 02Jul1999)

Lotus salsuginosus var. *salsuginosus*. Annual herb. Uncommon in grasslands. Central and southern California, Sonoran Desert and Mexico.

Lotus scoparius deerweed, California broom. Perennial, often shrubby. Uncommon, most plants are found on ridge above south-facing slope near north entrance. North coastal California and northern Sierra Nevada foothills to Baja California.

Lupinus succulentus arroyo lupine. Annual herb. Rare. A few individuals at scattered locations, usually in grasslands. Northwestern California and Great Valley to Baja California.

Medicago polymorpha var. *brevispina* bur-clover. Annual herb. Rare? Limited to one north-facing slope adjacent to roadway, east of north entrance, but expected elsewhere. Native to Mediterranean, occurring as a weed throughout California and southern U.S. Distinguished from the following variety by the lack of spines on the coiled fruits.

Medicago polymorpha var. *polymorpha* bur-clover. Annual herb. Abundant, mostly evident along roadways and disturbed areas. Native to Mediterranean, occurring as a weed throughout California and southern U.S.

Melilotus alba white sweetclover. Annual or biennial herb. Common in disturbed areas along dirt roadways throughout. Native of Eurasia, occurring as a weed through most of northern U.S., except the deserts; adjacent Canada.

Spartium junceum Spanish broom. Shrub, leaves soon withered. Uncommon on landscaped roadcuts along the main entrance road to the park. Native to Mediterranean, occurring as a weed from north coastal and Sacramento Valley to the south coast of California, and the southern Channel Islands.

Vicia sativa spring vetch. Annual herb. Rare, in grasslands, evidently limited to slopes northwest of the Lake, with the next species. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed from California to eastern U.S. Subspecies is undetermined.

Vicia villosa hairy vetch or winter vetch. Annual herb. Rare, in grasslands on slopes northwest of the Lake, with the former *V. sativa*. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed from California to eastern U.S. Subspecies is undetermined.

Fagaceae - Beech or Oak Family

Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia* coast live oak, la encina. Evergreen tree. Common co-dominant on north slopes in the walnut woodlands and forest, especially at the lower part of the slopes, but occasionally abundant on ridgelines, as in the northeast. Coastal northern California to Baja California.

Quercus ilex? holly oak, Holm oak. Evergreen tree. Planted extensively as a street tree, and occasionally found among walnut woodlands and forests. Native to Mediterranean. (CW---- 25Aug1999)

Geraniaceae - Geranium Family

Erodium cicutarium red-stem filaree. Annual herb. Abundant throughout grasslands and disturbed areas. Widespread weed in North America, native of Eurasia.

Erodium moschatum white-stem filaree. Annual herb. Occasional in grasslands and disturbed areas. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout California.

Grossulariaceae - Gooseberry Family

Ribes aureum var. *gracillimum* golden currant. Deciduous shrub. Occasional in the understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Ranges throughout coastal California.

Ribes speciosum fuchsia-flowered gooseberry. Shrub. Rare, known from northern tip near terminus of Bushnell Way. Reported by Dan Cooper (1999). Central and south coastal California and northern Baja California.

Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family

Eriodictyon trichocalyx var. *trichocalyx* yerba santa. Shrub. Rare? Location in park? Reported by Dan Cooper (1999). Coastal southern California and western desert edge, and Baja California.

Phacelia cicutaria var. *hispida* caterpillar phacelia. Annual herb. Rare? Restricted to south-facing slope in coastal sage scrub at north entrance to the park. South coastal and western desert areas of California, and Baja California. (CW3075 04Jun1998)

Phacelia viscida sticky phacelia. Annual herb. Restricted to south-facing slope in coastal sage scrub at north entrance to the park. South coastal California and Channel Islands, and Baja California. (CW3076 04Jun1998)

Pholistoma auritum var. *a.* blue fiesta flower. Annual herb. Occasional in understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Range includes most of central and southern California west of the Sierra Nevada and the deserts.

Juglandaceae - Walnut Family

Juglans californica var. *californica* Southern California black walnut. Deciduous tree. Abundant and dominant throughout large areas of the park. Endemic species ranging from Santa Ynez Mountains of Santa Barbara Co. south and east to the northern Santa Ana Mountains of Orange and western San Bernardino Co.

Juglans regia Persian walnut. Deciduous tree. Rare, known as a single individual in the bottom of canyon just east of proposed Audubon Center. This cultivated walnut is a native of southeast Europe, Himalayas, and China. Assuming that the occurrence here is a relict from former cultivation, and given that this species was typically grafted onto rootstock of *Juglans californica* var. *hindsii* (northern California black walnut), the latter species might also be found at the park. (CW--- 25Aug1999)

Lamiaceae - Mint Family

Marrubium vulgare horehound. Perennial herb. Abundant throughout, along roads, in grasslands and in the understory of the walnut woodlands and forest. Native of Europe, now a widespread weed worldwide.

Salvia mellifera black sage. Shrub, ± summer deciduous. Uncommon, restricted mainly to south facing slope in north section of park, where locally dominant. Central and south coastal California, and northern Baja California.

Lauraceae - Laurel Family

Persea americana? avocado. Evergreen tree. A few individuals among walnuts and other exotic trees in southwest area of the park. Native of tropical America, widely cultivated in warm parts of the U.S.

Malvaceae - Mallow Family

Malva nicaeensis bull mallow. Annual or biennial herb. Rare, a few plants in disturbed area in the southwest of the park. Native of Eurasia, occurring as a weed throughout California, and naturalizing elsewhere, especially Mexico. (CW3316 04Jun1999)

Malva parviflora cheeseweed, little mallow. Annual herb. Occasional, mainly in disturbed areas and grasslands. Native of Eurasia, a widespread weed in California.

Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family

Eucalyptus spp. Eucalyptus. Evergreen trees. A number of species are planted extensively throughout the park. Occasional individuals in otherwise natural area found may be survivors of previous plantings, or they may have naturalized. In 1998, an isolated eucalyptus was used for nesting by red-tailed hawks. All species are native to Australia and Tasmania.

Onagraceae - Evening-Primrose Family

Clarkia cylindrica ssp. *cylindrica* farewell-to-spring. Annual herb. Rare, perhaps limited to remnant pockets of coastal scrub habitat in the northern areas of the park. South coastal California, including western Transverse Ranges. Additional species should be sought in springtime. (CW3367 02Jul1999)

Epilobium canum ssp. *canum* California-fuchsia, Zauschneria. Uncommon, sometimes dominant on steep, north-facing roadcuts with other coastal sage scrub species, rare in understory of walnut forest. California except high Sierra Nevada and Great Basin areas. Hummingbird pollinated.

Oxalidaceae - Oxalis Family

Oxalis pes-caprae Bermuda-buttercup. Perennial herb from bulbs. Occasional along roadways and landscape beds around the perimeter of the park. Native of South Africa, cultivated and becoming a pernicious weed in coastal California.

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

Eschscholzia californica California poppy. Annual (or perennial herb from heavy tap root). Rare, as a waif in deep wood mulch along the roadway on the west side of the park. Ranges throughout California to southern Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, and northwest Baja California. Highly variable, and used extensively in wildflower mixes.

Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family

Plantago major common plantain. Perennial herb from short caudex. Common in lawns and moist disturbed places. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout much of North America.

Platanaceae - Plane-Tree Family

Platanus racemosa western sycamore. Deciduous tree. Planted intentionally in developed areas of the park, and occasional in drainages of the southern part of the park, and along roadways of the northern perimeter. Central and southern Sierra Nevada foothills, Tehachapi Mountains, Great Valley, central and southern coastal California, and Baja California. Some individuals may be *Platanus acerifolia* (London plane-tree), a commonly planted street tree.

Plumbaginaceae Leadwort Family

Plumbago auriculata Cape leadwort. Planted in moderate amounts along the roadways from the parking lot to the lake, and attracting great numbers of marina blue butterflies during July and August 1999. Native of South Africa.

Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family

Eriogonum elongatum var. *elongatum* long-stem buckwheat. Perennial herb. Occasional, restricted to coastal sage scrub on cut slopes in the north and western margin, and south facing slope at northern entrance. Central and southern coastal California, and Baja California. Undetermined species of skippers were observed feeding on these plants in July 1999. (CW--- 25Aug1999)

Eriogonum fasciculatum ssp. *foliolosum* California buckwheat. Evergreen sub-shrub. Rare, locally dominant on south facing slope at north entrance, and one other small occurrence on the northeast margin. Central and southern coastal California, and northwest Mexico.

Polygonum arenastrum common knotweed, doorweed. Prostrate annual or weak perennial. Occasional along roadways and disturbed areas. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed throughout North America.

Rumex crispus curly dock. Perennial herb. Rare, about moist areas and seeps, and sometimes in uplands with grasses or mustards. Native of Eurasia, occurring as a weed throughout North America.

Portulacaceae - Purslane Family

Claytonia perfoliata ssp. *perfoliata* miner's-lettuce. Annual herb. Occasional, along north-facing banks of the roadways and in the understory of walnut forests in the north. California and the Great Basin and desert mountains to British Columbia and Montana.

Proteaceae - Protea Family

Grevillea robusta silk tree. Evergreen tree. Occasional, planted extensively in the high use areas of the park, along roadways, and on the ridgeline and slopes west of the lake. Native of Queensland and New South Wales, Australia.

Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus californica ssp. *californica*. California coffeeberry. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Rare? A few scattered individuals near other plantings may be introduced as landscape plants. Occurs throughout coastal California and on Santa Cruz Island.

Rhamnus ilicifolia holly-leaf redberry. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Common, occurring throughout the understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Occurs throughout California, including the desert mountains, Arizona, and Baja California.

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Heteromeles arbutifolia toyon or Christmas berry. Evergreen shrub to small tree. Abundant to co-dominant, along with coast live oaks in the walnut woodlands and forest. Occurs throughout most of California and Baja California.

Prunus ilicifolia islay or holly-leafed cherry. Evergreen shrub to small tree. Rare? The presence of this species is uncertain, and needs to be verified. Southern north coast ranges southward to northern Baja California, excluding the Channel Islands.

Prunus sp. (subgenus *Laurocerasi*). Evergreen shrub or small tree. Abundant, used extensively in landscape, and evidently naturalized throughout the understory of walnut woodland and forests. This is similar to the above, but leaves larger and without spines on the margins, and slightly blue-green above. Fruits with very thin flesh, becoming red, resembling those of *P. ilicifolia*, and perhaps referable to Catalina cherry *P. ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*, found on the Channel Islands and mainland Baja California. (CW---- 25Aug1999)

Pyracantha sp. firethorn or pyracantha. Evergreen shrub or small tree. Rare, planted in the park and throughout the region, occasionally escaping to a variety of disturbed and natural habitats. Genus is native to temperate Asia and the Mediterranean region.

Rosa californica California rose. Deciduous shrub from spreading rhizomes. Rare, forming a thicket on the slope just west of the northern entrance, probably the toe of a landslide. Occurs throughout California west of the deserts and the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges, to southern Oregon and northern Baja California.

Rubus discolor [*R. procerus*] Himalayan blackberry. Deciduous perennial vine. Rare, a planting at northwest terminus of main parking lot, and in neighborhood yards on the perimeter of the park. Native of Eurasia, occasionally escaping from cultivation in California to British Columbia.

Rubiaceae -Madder Family

Galium angustifolium ssp. *angustifolium* narrow-leaf bedstraw. Sub-shrub, ± summer deciduous. Rare, limited to one cut north-facing slope adjacent to roadway, east of north entrance, where locally dominant. Plants are dioecious (separate male and female plants). Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains, and Santa Lucia and Santa Ynez Mountains southward along outer south coastal California to northern Baja California, and Santa Catalina Island. (CW---- 25Aug1999)

Galium aparine goosegrass. Annual herb, ± climbing. Common to abundant in the understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Of questionable origin, perhaps Eurasian, occurring from Alaska to California, the Channel Islands, and on the east coast of the U.S.

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

Keckiella cordifolia heart-leaf penstemon. Sub-shrub, spreading. Rare, on north-facing road cuts in the north. South coastal California and northern Baja California.

Mimulus aurantiacus bush monkeyflower. Sub-shrub, ± summer deciduous. Rare, limited to one cut north-facing slope adjacent to roadway, east of north entrance, where locally dominant. With other rare species including *Galium angustifolium* and *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*. Occurs throughout California west of the deserts and Cascade-Sierran mountain ranges.

Simaroubaceae - Quassia or Simarouba Family

Ailanthus altissima tree-of-heaven. Deciduous tree. Dominating local areas in the west-central and southern areas of the park, occasional escapes throughout. Native of eastern Asia, cultivated as a street tree and escaping throughout California by seeds and invasive roots.

Solanaceae - Nightshade Family

Datura wrightii Jimson weed or thorn-apple. Annual or perennial herb. Rare, one individual in grassland along western margin, near location of *Ericameria palmeri* and *Isocoma menziesii*. Inner North Coast Ranges and Great Valley, central and southern Sierra Nevada foothills, Tehachapi Mountains southward through central and southern coastal California, to Utah, Texas, and Mexico.

Nicotiana glauca tree tobacco. Small tree. Common along roadways and in disturbed areas, becoming locally dominant on dry, south-facing slopes in the western drainage. Native of South America, occurring as a weed throughout much of California to the southern U.S. and Mexico, Africa, and the Mediterranean.

Solanum douglasii white nightshade. Douglas' or white nightshade. Perennial herb or sub-shrub. Occasional in understory of walnut woodlands and forest, and sometimes in disturbed places. Southern North Coast Ranges southward through central and south coastal California, Tehachapi Mountains, Mojave Desert, and northern Mexico. (CW3313 04Jun1999)

Solanum rostratum buffalo-berry. Annual herb. Rare, disturbed area in southwest portion of park. Native of the Great Plains, occurring as a weed from California to eastern U.S. and Mexico.

Ulmaceae -Elm Family

Ulmus parvifolia Chinese elm. Evergreen shrub or tree. Occasional, planted extensively throughout the neighborhood, along streets, and sometimes escaping to natural areas, as on cut north-facing slope adjacent to roadway, east of north entrance. Native of eastern Asia, escaping from California to eastern U.S.

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

Parietaria hespera var. *hespera* western pellitory. Annual herb. Rare, steep, north facing cut slope adjacent to roadway in north. San Francisco Bay area and southward along the coast and through the deserts of California to Utah, New Mexico, and northwest Mexico.

Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea* hoary nettle. Rare, on fill slopes adjacent to main developed area of the park. Throughout California except the northwest, and including the western U.S. and northern Mexico.

Valerianaceae - Valerian Family

Centranthus ruber red valerian. Rare, limited to one cut north-facing slope adjacent to roadway, east of north entrance, where locally dominant. With other rare species including *Mimulus aurantiacus*, *Galium angustifolium*, and *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*. Native of Mediterranean Europe, escaping from cultivation in the southern North Coast Ranges and Great Valley, Central Coastal and San Francisco Bay areas, and evidently here as well. (CW---- 25Aug1999)

Verbenaceae - Vervain Family

Verbena lasiostachys var. *scabrida* western verbena. Rare, disturbed area along the northern entrance roadway. Northwestern California and southern Sierra Nevada foothills southward through central coastal and Tehachapi Mountains, western Transverse Ranges, Peninsular Ranges and Baja California.

Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop Family

Tribulus terrestris puncture vine or caltrop. Annual herb, prostrate, with spiny fruits. Occasional, disturbed areas such as the dirt parking lot in the southeast. Native to Mediterranean, occurring as a weed from California to Wyoming, eastern U.S., and central Mexico.

ANGIOSPERMS-MONOCOTS

Agavaceae - Agave Family

Yucca gloriosa? Spanish-dagger or soft-tip yucca. Evergreen shrub. Rare, a few individuals on the south-facing slope in coastal sage scrub at the northern entrance. Native to southeastern U.S., planted extensively, often growing from discarded landscape debris.

Arecaceae - Palm Family

Phoenix canariensis Canary Island date palm. Evergreen tree. Occasional in developed areas of the park, and adjacent to roadways. Native to Canary Islands, escaping in San Francisco Bay area southward along the coast of California.

Washingtonia robusta Mexican fan palm. Evergreen tree. Common landscape tree in the vicinity, occasionally escaping to disturbed and natural sites by seed, which are spread by birds.

Iridaceae - Iris Family

Sisyrinchium bellum blue-eyed-grass. Perennial *Iris*-like plant from rhizomes. Rare, in coastal sage scrub and grassland areas west of north entrance to park. California and Oregon.

Liliaceae - Lily Family

Bloomeria crocea common goldenstars. Perennial herb from bulb. Rare, known only from one location in walnut woodland in the north area of the park. Central coast, Transverse and Peninsular ranges of California, and northern Baja California.

Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. *p.* soap plant, amole. Rare, known only from coastal scrub and grassland areas west of the north entrance to the park.

Poaceae - Grass Family

Unidentified running bamboo. Perennial, from rhizomes. Rare, although occurring as an extensive stand in the western drainage. Origin unknown. (CW---- 25Aug1999)

Arundo donax giant reed. Perennial, cane-like from rhizomes. Rare, one location in an erosion gully on south facing slope northeast of proposed Audubon Center. Native to Europe, an extremely problematic invasive species along streamcourses from the central Sierra Nevada foothills, central and south coastal and Western Transverse Ranges, and the deserts of California.

Avena barbata slender wild oat. Annual grass. Common and abundant, along with other annual grasses throughout the park. Native to southern Europe, and occurring nearly throughout California. *Avena fatua* wild oat is very similar in appearance, and probably occurs here as well.

Bromus carinatus var. *carinatus* California brome. Annual to biennial or perennial grass, without rhizomes. Occasional in the understory or openings within walnut woodlands and forest. Occurs throughout California (except the Great Valley and Sonoran Desert regions).

Bromus diandrus ripgut grass. Annual grass. Dominant along with other annual grasses throughout. Native of Europe, occurring as a weed from California to British Columbia and South America.

Bromus hordeaceus soft chess. Annual grass. Common, with other annual grasses. Native of Eurasia, occurring as a weed in California and the Americas (western hemisphere).

Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens* red brome or foxtail chess. Annual grass. Dominant along with other annual grasses throughout. Native of Eurasia, occurring as a weed throughout California to British Columbia, eastern U.S., and northern Mexico.

Cynodon dactylon Bermuda grass. Perennial from rhizomes or stolons. Occasional in disturbed and natural areas throughout. Native to Africa, cultivated for lawns and forage, occurring as a weed in California including the deserts, and warm temperate and tropical America.

Hordeum murinum foxtail barley. Common throughout grasslands at the park. Native of Europe, California to British Columbia, eastern U.S., northern Mexico. Subspecies undetermined.

Leymus condensatus giant wildrye. Perennial grass, clumping or ± spreading from short rhizomes. Rare, a few locations on the slopes along western and northern margin, and one location in understory of walnut forest. Central and south coastal California, Mojave Desert, and Mexico.

Melica imperfecta coast melic. Perennial grass, without rhizomes. Uncommon in the understory of walnut woodlands and forest. Central and southern Sierra Nevada, Santa Cruz Mountains, South Coastal California and the western Mojave Desert, and Baja California.

Nassella pulchra purple needlegrass. Perennial, clumping, without rhizomes. Rare, Known as only a few individuals at one area of remnant coastal sage scrub in the southwest area of the park, and from one other area among walnut woodlands in the

north area of the park. Northwestern California, southern Sacramento Valley, northern and central Sierra Nevada foothills, central and south coastal California, and Baja California. Purple needlegrass is the official grass of the State of California.

Pennisetum clandestinum kikuyu grass. Perennial grass from stolons. Occasional in lawns, and spreading to landscape areas and road edges. Native of Africa, planted intentionally in lawns and occurring as a weed throughout coastal California to South America. NOXIOUS.

Poa annua annual bluegrass. Annual or biennial grass, clumping or with stolons. Occasional along roadways, disturbed areas, around the lake, and in lawns. Native of Europe, ± cosmopolitan (worldwide).

Vulpia myuros var. *myuros* rat-tail fescue. Annual grass. Common among other annual grasses throughout. Native of Europe, ± cosmopolitan (worldwide).

Potamogetonaceae - Pondweed Family

Potamogeton pectinatus sago pondweed. Plants resembling this cosmopolitan species periodically observed in the lake. Current management practices (algicide, physical removal of aquatic vegetation, unrestricted human access with canines) may preclude development of mature flowering and fruiting specimens, which should be used to verify this determination. Cosmopolitan, except South America.

APPENDIX C

Observed Fauna of Ernest Debs Regional Park

OBSERVED FAUNA OF DEBS REGIONAL PARK

| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| GASTROPODS - Pulmonate Snails | |
| Helicidae | |
| Spanish edible snail | CW ⁴ |
| INSECTS | |
| Lepidoptera | |
| Danaidae | |
| Monarch | x |
| Heliconiidae | |
| gulf fritillary | X |
| Nymphalidae | |
| mourning cloak | x |
| painted lady | x |
| American painted lady | x |
| west coast lady | x |
| buckeye | X |
| Papilionidae | |
| western tiger swallowtail | DC |
| Pieridae | |
| cabbage white | DC; CW |
| sara orangetip | MI |
| Lycaenidae | |
| grey hairstreak | X |
| Polyommatainae | |
| marine blue | DC; CW |
| Hesperiidae | |
| fiery skipper | DC |
| skipper undetermined | DC |
| western checkered skipper | DC |
| funereal duskywing | X |
| western oak duskywing | X |
| AMPHIBIANS | |
| Plethodontidae | |
| arboreal salamander | ? |
| black-bellied slender salamander | ? |
| Pacific slender salamander | ? |
| Bufonidae | |
| western toad | ? |
| Hylidae | |
| Pacific treefrog | ? |
| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |

⁴ This snail, *Otala lactea* is abundant here at Debs Park, as has been photographed by Carl Wishner in July, 1998. Other known locations are Pepperdine University Malibu, U.C. Irvine (Peter Bowler pers. comm.), and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula (Allan Schoenherr pers. comm.). It is native of Spain and north Africa, introduced to the southeast U.S., Cuba, Bermuda, etc. (Tucker 1989).

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| REPTILES | |
| Iguanidae | |
| western fence lizard | DC; CW |
| side-blotched lizard | ? |
| Scincidae | |
| western skink | ? |
| Anguidae | |
| southern alligator lizard | ? |
| Colubridae | |
| striped racer | ? |
| gopher snake | ? |
| common kingsnake | ? |
| BIRDS | |
| Cathartidae | |
| turkey vulture | G |
| Accipiteridae | |
| osprey | w |
| white-tailed kite | w |
| northern harrier | G |
| sharp-shinned hawk | G |
| Cooper's hawk | G; CW |
| red-shouldered hawk | G*; CW |
| red-tailed hawk | G; CW* |
| Falconidae | |
| American kestrel | G |
| merlin | G |
| Phasianidae | |
| California quail | w |
| Rallidae | |
| American coot | w |
| Charadriidae | |
| killdeer | w |
| Laridae | |
| California gull | w |
| Columbidae | |
| band-tailed pigeon | G* |
| rock dove | G |
| mourning dove | G* |
| spotted dove | G |
| Psittacidae | |
| yellow-chevroned parakeet | G |
| Tytonidae | |
| barn owl | CW ⁵ |
| Strigidae | |
| western screech-owl | w |
| great horned owl | w |
| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |

⁵ One individual, apparently shot dead was observed and photographed to the west of the developed area of the park in July, 1999 by Carl Wishner.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Apodidae | |
| Vaux's swift | G |
| white-throated swift | G |
| Trochilidae | |
| black-chinned hummingbird | G |
| Costa's hummingbird | G |
| Anna's hummingbird | G* |
| rufous hummingbird | G; CW |
| Picidae | |
| red-breasted sapsucker | G; w |
| red-naped sapsucker | w |
| Nuttall's woodpecker | G; CW |
| downy woodpecker | G |
| northern flicker | G; CW |
| Tyrannidae | |
| Cassin's kingbird | G |
| western kingbird | G |
| ash-throated flycatcher | G; CW |
| western wood pewee | w |
| olive-sided flycatcher | G |
| black phoebe | G; CW |
| Say's phoebe | G |
| willow flycatcher | w |
| Hammond's flycatcher | w |
| dusky flycatcher | G |
| Pacific-slope flycatcher | w |
| Hirundinidae | |
| tree swallow | G |
| violet-green swallow | G |
| northern rough-winged swallow | G |
| cliff swallow | G |
| barn swallow | w |
| Corvidae | |
| American crow | G; CW |
| common raven | G; CW |
| western scrub-jay | G*; CW |
| Paridae | |
| mountain chickadee | G |
| oak titmouse | G |
| Aegithalidae | |
| bushtit | G; CW |
| Sittidae | |
| red-breasted nuthatch | w |
| Certhiidae | |
| brown creeper | G |
| Troglodytidae | |
| Bewick's wren | G* |
| house wren | G |
| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |
| Muscicapidae | |
| ruby-crowned kinglet | G; CW |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| golden-crowned kinglet | G |
| blue-gray gnatcatcher | G |
| American robin | G* |
| Swainson's thrush | G |
| hermit thrush | G |
| western bluebird | w |
| wrentit | G |
| Mimidae | |
| northern mockingbird | G; CW |
| California thrasher | G |
| Motacillidae | |
| American pipit | G |
| Bombycillidae | |
| cedar waxwing | G |
| Laniidae | |
| loggerhead shrike | w |
| Sturnidae | |
| European starling | G |
| Vireonidae | |
| Hutton's vireo | DC |
| plumbeus vireo | G |
| warbling vireo | G |
| Emberizidae | |
| yellow-rumped warbler | G |
| Townsend's warbler | G |
| hermit warbler | G |
| yellow warbler | w |
| black-throated gray warbler | G |
| Wilson's warbler | G |
| Nashville warbler | G |
| orange-crowned warbler | G |
| McGillivray's warbler | w |
| common yellowthroat | G |
| western tanager | G |
| white-crowned sparrow | G; CW |
| golden-crowned sparrow | G |
| lark sparrow | G |
| chipping sparrow | G |
| fox sparrow | w |
| song sparrow | G |
| savannah sparrow | w |
| spotted towhee | G |
| California towhee | G; CW |
| dark-eyed junco | G; CW |
| black-headed grosbeak | G* |
| Brewer's blackbird | G; CW |
| red-winged blackbird | w |
| western meadowlark | w |
| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |
| brown-headed cowbird | G |
| Baltimore oriole | G |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bullock's oriole | G; CW |
| hooded oriole | G; CW |
| Fringilidae | |
| house finch | G; CW |
| purple finch | G |
| American goldfinch | G |
| lesser goldfinch | G |
| Lawrence's goldfinch | G |
| pine siskin | w |
| Passeridae | |
| house sparrow | G; CW |
| MAMMALS | |
| Didelphidae | |
| Virginia opossum | x |
| Soricidae | |
| ornate shrew | ? |
| Talpidae | |
| broad-handed mole | CW ⁶ |
| Phyllostomatidae ⁷ | |
| California leaf-nosed bat | ? |
| Mexican long-tongued bat | ? |
| Vespertilionidae | |
| fringed myotis | ? |
| California myotis | ? |
| Cave myotis | ? |
| Yuma myotis | ? |
| small-footed myotis | ? |
| long-eared myotis | ? |
| long-legged myotis | ? |
| western pipistrelle | ? |
| big brown bat | ? |
| red bat | ? |
| hoary bat | ? |
| pallid bat | ? |
| silver-haired bat | ? |
| Townsend's big-eared bat | ? |
| Molossidae | |
| Brazilian free-tailed bat | ? |
| western mastiff bat | ? |
| pocketed free-tailed bat | ? |
| big free-tailed bat | ? |
| Leporidae | |
| desert cottontail | G; CW |
| CLASS/Family | Observed by: |
| Sciuridae | |
| California ground squirrel | CW |

⁶ A dead individual was photographed in July 1998 by Carl Wishner.

⁷ List of potentially occurring bat species based on Dixon (1959: Mammals of Los Angeles County) and Constantine (1998: Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences 97(2): 49-75).

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| fox squirrel | G; CW |
| Geomyidae | |
| Botta's pocket gopher | CW |
| Heteromyidae | |
| California pocket mouse | ? |
| Pacific kangaroo rat | ? |
| Creticidae | |
| western harvest mouse | ? |
| California mouse | ? |
| deer mouse | ? |
| brush mouse | ? |
| dusky-footed woodrat | ? |
| California vole | ? |
| Muridae | |
| Norway rat | x |
| house mouse | x |
| Canidae | |
| coyote | DC; CW |
| domestic dog | CW |
| Procyonidae | |
| raccoon | x |
| Mustelidae | |
| striped skunk | x |
| Felidae | |
| house cat | x |

G = observed by Kimball Garrett 26Mar1995-05Mar1999

G* = as above, confirmed breeding status.

w = Wimer, M.C "other species likely to occur" as cited by Garrett.

CW = Carl Wishner, observations July 1998-August 1999.

DC = Dan Cooper, observations to September 1999.

MI = Melanie Ingalls, observed March 1999.

? = not known from park, possibly present.

x = presumed present at the park (common to urban areas)

X = observed in nearby Highland Park vicinity, as reported by Dan Cooper, 1999.