

# **GRIFFITH PARK MASTER PLAN**

## **WORKING GROUP**

*DRAFT FOR ADOPTION ON JULY 10, 2006*

### **BUILT FACILITIES**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Within Griffith Park are recreational, cultural, educational and entertainment facilities with a range of architectural styles. An overlay of 1930s Works Project Administration (WPA) infrastructure improvements are present throughout the Park with a variety of other facilities built at various times with diverse architectural themes and styles, particularly along the edges of the Park that are adjacent to urban development. The distinctive character-defining themes within the Park are the historic facilities such as the Greek Theatre, the Griffith Observatory, the Old Zoo, and Fern Dell as well as the WPA elements such as the stone curbs, ornamental baseball field bollards, fences and posts and the native Los Angeles landscape.

Demonstrative of the ability of natural species to adapt for their survival, Griffith Park's built facilities simultaneously serve the needs of its native plant and animal inhabitants as well as its human visitors. Many of its birds and mammals are dependent for life on the Los Angeles River, a formerly natural river whose banks and channels were concreted as a result of the floods of 1938. Deer bed down and bobcats hunt on the flat top of Toyon Landfill, a previously wild canyon in the interior of the Park. The Park's golf courses have been colonized heavily, providing water and nesting sites for birds, forage for deer, and hunting grounds for coyotes and racoons. The Park's picnic areas function as wildlife corridors. For this reason, the care and management of the entire Park must be done in a manner consistent with the Urban Wilderness identity. This requires that changes, improvements, replacements or construction of new facilities at any location in the Park, including the edges of the Park, be accomplished in a manner that is integrated functionally and aesthetically with an Urban Wilderness Identity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This Master Plan sets forth overall principles for the management and care of the Park with specific recommendations when sufficient information already exists to support those recommendations. This differs from the Melendrez Draft which contains an acre by acre description of numerous recommendations that seem to

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largely ignore the survey that was done by California State University at Northridge and input from the workshops held in June, 2003. To demonstrate the difference in the approach taken between the Melendrez Draft and this Master Plan, attached to this Chapter are several appendices summarizing what appears in the Melendrez Draft with regard to built facilities for the Park. Appendix A lists the facilities that are contained within the Melendrez Draft as new projects, Appendix B lists the facilities recommended by the Melendrez Draft for demolition and Appendix C lists the entryway structures proposed by the Melendrez Draft. Appendix D lists the parking structure and lot changes recommended by the Melendrez Draft.

## **II. DEFINITION**

Built facilities include those structures in the Park which are man made, whether in the form of physical buildings, in the form of developed recreational areas, such as tennis courts or in the form of permanently installed devices to move people around the Park.<sup>2</sup>

## **III. INVENTORY**

Within the Park, there are various centers of activity with multiple amenities and structures. Included in those centers are the Los Angeles Zoo and the Autry National Museum, two large, permanent installations operated by agencies and entities other than the Department of Recreation and Parks. While no current, fully accurate official inventory of all of the built facilities within the Park exists, there are currently within the Park at least eleven categories of built facilities that can be identified.<sup>3</sup>

### **A. Restrooms**

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<sup>2</sup> The structures excluded from discussion in this Chapter are any anticipated bus or tram shuttle stops and parking structures. Those structures are addressed in the Vehicular Access and Circulation Section.

<sup>3</sup> Nothing within the Melendrez Draft indicates that the consultant prepared any full inventory of built facilities before drafting the plan. To the best of its capabilities, the Working Group has prepared an inventory of facilities which appears at Appendix E of this Chapter. Of course, that inventory will need to be verified and amended as necessary before a Master Plan can be finalized.

Restroom facilities are scattered throughout the Park.<sup>4</sup> Many of them are currently not functional and others are subject to continual damage. Some of the existing facilities are located in the middle of what could be open space while others are located at sites not easily accessible to the public. There is no consistent design for the facilities nor are the existing facilities constructed consistent with current best practices for public restroom facilities. The Park currently lacks appropriately sited and designed restrooms of a type that can be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.

Before relocating or building new restrooms, a needs study should be conducted to determine the number of restroom facilities required to serve the public using the Park on a typical week-end and the location(s) of greatest need and use. Existing and new restroom facilities should meet minimum accessibility standards, including cubicles accessible to individuals with special needs. Passive solar hot water heating systems should be utilized in each restroom facility.<sup>5</sup> Restrooms should be located or remodeled as necessary to enhance, and not detract from, the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity. In making decisions as to the location of restrooms, consideration must be given to preserving and protecting mobility, views, landscapes, security and erosion control.

## **B. Meeting Rooms**

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<sup>4</sup> No accurate mapping of operational and non-operational restroom facilities within the Park currently exists. Nor does there exist any current needs assessment of the number, type and location of such facilities sufficient to meet the demands of Park users. No information has been provided as to the costs involved in maintaining the current, existing facilities in a useable, safe and sanitary manner.

<sup>5</sup> These systems require no electricity and minimal maintenance.

Within the Park, there are currently at least nine different venues with meeting room space. All of the existing meeting rooms, including the meeting room available at the Ranger Station, are on a fee for use basis. The location of existing meeting rooms includes two spaces at the Griffith Park Golf Clubhouse; two railroad cars at Travel Town; at least six different indoor and outdoor spaces at the Los Angeles Zoo; classrooms, a theater and other spaces at the Autry; a hospitality room at the Greek Theatre; and approximately twelve meeting rooms of various capacities at The Equestrian Center. There are also space and rooms at Friendship Auditorium, Griffith Park Camp, Camp Hollywoodland and the Ranger Station.<sup>6</sup>

Given the range of meeting rooms currently available within the Park and the vacancy rate of those rooms, no apparent current need currently exists for adding structures to the Park for purposes of providing more meeting rooms. This is particularly true given that the facilities are currently used by private and public organizations for purposes that do not fit within a recreational context. Consistent with preserving the Park's Urban Wilderness Identity, effective coordination and management of the existing facilities would appear to meet the need for meeting rooms within the Park.

### **C. Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations**

Currently, a Visitor Center and Ranger Station complex serves the public at the Crystal Springs location. A small auditorium and shaded outdoor area are a part of this

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<sup>6</sup> The information comes from Inventory information provided by Recreation and Parks during February, 2006 and information independently obtained by the Working Group members. At Griffith Park Golf Clubhouse, there is a restaurant with a 60 to 100 person capacity and a banquet hall with a 100 to 300 person capacity. The railroad cars at Travel Town can accommodate 40 persons each. The Los Angeles Zoo has a variety of locations with capacities ranging from 20 to 2,000 people. The Autry has spaces for rent that accommodate up to 400 people as well as classrooms for 35 to 70 people and a theater with a 270 person capacity. The hospitality room at the Greek Theatre can accommodate 225 people and Friendship Auditorium can accommodate 400 to 500 people. Griffith Park Camp has a capacity of 150 people and Camp Hollywood capacity for 180 people. The Visitor Center at the Ranger Station can accommodate 99 people. The Equestrian Center publicizes that it has 13,000 square feet of multi-use event space for weddings, conferences, speciality banquets, fund raisers and company picnics. In addition to the Grand Prix Ballroom which can be broken up into smaller rooms, there is the Equestrian Ballroom and the Equidome. There are also four developed outside areas for open air meetings and events: Equestrian Terrace, Cricket Field, Hunt Field and White House and Garden Courtyard.

complex. Additionally, Recreation and Parks currently maintains a ranger house in Fern Dell that it occupied by a Park Ranger. The needs in the Fern Dell side of the Park do necessitate continuing ownership of the ranger house inhabited by a Park Ranger so that there can be timely responses for that side of the Park from a Park Ranger.

The jewel of the Crystal Springs area, commonly referenced as the Visitors Center and Ranger Station, is the Los Feliz Adobe. The Los Feliz Adobe is an historical structure of the original Rancho Los Feliz that should be preserved and utilized in a manner consistent with best practice uses for such historical structures. With the assistance of individuals trained and experienced in the public use of historical structures, provision should be made for the Los Feliz Adobe to compliment the recently improved Visitor Center. Landscaping should be restored to natural vegetation and the tropical plant overgrowth on the west side of the Adobe should be removed.

Consistent with good management practices, an analysis of the space necessary to provide usable working space for essential Park employees should be conducted prior to any remodeling of existing structures. The analysis should include a determination of which employee positions are essential to this Ranger Station area, recognizing that a full time interpretative Ranger should be stationed at the Visitor Center. For example, it does not appear critical that the Film Office, which does not serve the general public, be located at this high priority area. Non-essential positions should be relocated to other areas, such as the Central Service Yard. Such relocation will enable optimal use to be made of the existing facilities for Park visitors and enable the footprints that encumber valuable open space to be kept at a minimum. The Los Feliz Adobe structure should be brought into primary focus in this area as an historic and cultural treasure for all Park visitors.

All space occupied by essential Park employees should be permanent, not modular, in structure. All current modular structures and trailers should be removed from the area.

#### **D. Recreational And Cultural Structures**

In addition to the plunges and built picnic areas that exist within the Park, there are currently seventeen recreational and cultural sites within the Park that range from one to many structures.<sup>7</sup> Of those seventeen sites, nine either have a Master Plan or leasehold

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<sup>7</sup> Those structures include: Train Ride, Pony Rides, Tregan Golf Academy, Los Feliz Golf Course, Merry-Go-Round, Wilson-Harding Golf Complex, Los Angeles Zoo, Autry National Center, Travel Town, Los Angeles Live Steamers, Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Martinez Arena, Griffith Park Boys Camp, Camp

arrangement unique to that particular facility.<sup>8</sup> For example, while the Greek Theatre is not identified as having a separate Master Plan, improvements and changes to that recreational facility have historically been negotiated at the time of its leasehold renewal.

The existence of individual Master Plans for nine separate areas of the Park, areas that constitute substantial acreage in the Park, presents problems for developing a cohesive, uniform Griffith Park Master Plan. It also results in conflicting proposals with regard to the use of particular acreage within the Park. To ensure that work within the Park is consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity and that the needs of all recreational areas of the Park are identified and addressed, the Master Plan process must identify any conflicts or inconsistencies between the Master Plan and the individual venue master plans and develop a mechanism for resolving those conflicts that is consistent with the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity.

No existing, valid analysis exists to support adding to the Park's current recreational facilities or for increasing the footprint of any existing facility or venue. To the contrary, the survey completed by California State University at Northridge and the information developed during the Public Workshops held in June, 2003 concluded that there was no felt need for more recreational or cultural structures within the Park.<sup>9</sup> The existing

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Hollywoodland, Greek Theatre, Roosevelt Golf Course, and Griffith Observatory.

<sup>8</sup> The existence of individual master plans appears to be the result of an historical practice rather than a considered approach fully reviewed and approved by any arm of City government. The venues that have historically had individual master plans include: Los Feliz Golf Course, Wilson-Harding Golf Complex, Los Angeles Zoo, Autry National Center, Los Angeles Live Steamers, Travel Town, Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Roosevelt Golf Course, and Griffith Observatory. Separate and apart from the Park Master Plan, the Headworks area of the Park is also undergoing its own development and design process through the Department of Water and Power as an available site to replace the Silverlake and Ivanhoe reservoirs. It is essential that the work in that area be done in such a manner as to incorporate and protect the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity of the Park. Particular attention must be given to the protection of wildlife corridors, the native bird and wildlife species, and restoration of, and provision for, open spaces.

<sup>9</sup> There are several Cultural-Historical Landmarks in the Park. Those include: (1) The Hollywood Sign; (2) William Mulholland Fountain; (3) Walt Disney Barn at Live Steamers; (4) 'Little Nugget' Railcar at Travel Town; (5) Los Feliz Adobe; (6) Griffith Observatory; (7) Griffith Merry-Go-Round; (8) Old Zoo; and (9)

facilities should be managed and maintained in such a manner as to enhance the Park's Urban Wilderness Identity and all improvements, changes, additions, or other structural changes of any type, including signage, to any of the recreational facilities or venues, should be subject to the design elements of the Park's Master Plan. Recreation and Parks should avoid entering into any lease, or approving any individual facility Master Plan that would permit the leaseholder or facility to deviate from protecting and preserving the Urban Wilderness Identity of the Park or negatively impacting the rustic nature of the Park as well as the mobility, views, wildlife corridors or landscaping of the Park.

**E. Developed Picnic Areas**

There are at least ten developed picnic areas within the Park.<sup>10</sup> Any addition to, or change of, the existing picnic areas should be preceded by an analysis of the current use made of existing picnic areas, with particular attention paid to days of high impact usage and ways in which the needs on those days can be managed without a need to encumber existing open space for additional developed picnic areas.

All picnic areas should be managed to protect the natural environment and natural open space quality of the area in which they are located, and to improve the aesthetic quality of the area. Where appropriate and feasible, invasive exotic plant materials should be removed from the areas and replaced with native plantings that can prevent erosion and provide maintainable landscaping. Where necessary, such as in Fern Dell, landscaping and historical features should be restored. Park maintenance should give priority to maintaining the landscaping and grounds of built picnic areas.

## **F. Plunges**

There are three plunges (swimming pools) within the Park, the Municipal Plunge at Los Feliz Boulevard and Riverside Drive, the pool at Griffith Park Camp and the pool at Camp Hollywoodland. The pool at Los Feliz Boulevard is in operation from the Saturday after schools on a traditional schedule within Los Angeles Unified School District close until Labor Day. It is open to children 18 and under free of charge and to adults for a nominal fee. The Los Feliz Pool offers group and individual swimming lessons and various specialized programs such as aquacise, team diving and programs for seniors and the disabled.

The pools at Camp Hollywoodland and Griffith Park Camp are for the use of children attending the camp and are not open to the general public.

The Municipal Plunge at Los Feliz Boulevard is an historical structure built in

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<sup>10</sup> Central Park Area; Old Zoo; Shane's Inspiration; Crystal Springs; Mineral Wells; Fern Dell; Bette Davis; Pecan Grove; Vermont Canyon; Bronson Canyon. In addition to these major areas, there are tables at the Lower Old Zoo and Upper Old Zoo areas, the Pony and Train Ride, and the Live Steamers. As of January 9, 2006, the Working Group was able to identify 510 existing picnic tables.

1927 that should be preserved. Consistent with retaining the historical buildings within the Park and its rustic nature, the Municipal Plunge should be maintained in its current configuration.

## **G. Sports Fields and Courts**<sup>11</sup>

As set forth in the Human Dimension Chapter, there are a variety of sports fields within the Park. The survey completed by California State University at Northridge found that approximately five percent (5%) of the respondents engaged in field and court sports while in the Park and approximately three percent (3%) used the golf facilities.

There is no existing valid analysis of how often and when each field or court is in use, the number of people or teams unable to make reservations or obtain use of the existing fields and courts, or the need for more courts and fields within the Park as opposed to surrounding communities that may lack recreational facilities. Before moving, adding to or in any way changing the number or location of existing fields and courts, such an analysis should be completed and the analysis should include a review of the needs of the entire community, including areas outside of Griffith Park. Any changes that are made to the facilities within the Park should be consistent with the findings and conclusion of such an analysis. If changes, additions, or relocation are undertaken within the Park, all field and court areas should be landscaped in a manner consistent with the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity and be located in such a manner as to decrease intrusion on open space, views, and wildlife corridors.

### **1. Field Sports**

#### **a. Soccer**

In 1992, twenty-six (26) acres of the Park were set aside to create the Ferraro Soccer Complex located near the Golden State and Ventura Freeway Interchange. That complex provides seven (7) soccer fields which are used primarily by private adult and youth leagues but also by high schools. The fields are reserved in advance on a fee basis by permitted groups and when not reserved, are available on a walk-up basis.

The field at the Griffith Park Recreation Center was recently refurbished with synthetic turf. It is available by permit or on a walk-up basis for adult games. The field also

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<sup>11</sup> For a full discussion of the recreational users of the Park, reference is made to Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, the Human Dimension Chapter.

provides space for two youth games to be played simultaneously.

## **b. Baseball**

Pote field is adjacent to the Crystal Springs Group Picnic Area. It is one of only two regulation size baseball fields in the City's Municipal Park system. It is available by permit only and is currently used primarily by Los Angeles City College and the Municipal Baseball program.

In the North Atwater area of the Park there is a free walk-up field that can be used for pony league baseball, t-ball and softball. There is also at Lake Hollywood Park a baseball area with a backstop that can be used on a free, walk-up basis for baseball and softball games. The baseball field at Griffith Park Boys Camp is currently reserved for use by the children attending the Camp.

## **c. Golf**

The first city-owned public golf course was established in the Park in 1914. Over the years, golf became increasingly popular and now approximately nine percent (9%) of the Park land is devoted to golf courses. There are more than 200,000 rounds of golf played annually on the five courses now housed at Griffith Park.<sup>12</sup>

The Wilson-Harding Complex includes a driving range and a pro shop. Lessons are available as are cart rentals. Tregnan has a 3 hole teaching course and a driving range and also a clubhouse and classroom for teaching children the principles of the game.

## **2. Court Sports**

### **a. Tennis**

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<sup>12</sup> Wilson-Harding Golf Complex, two 18 hole courses; Roosevelt 9 hole executive course, Los Feliz 9 hole course, Tregnan Junior Golf Academy.

There are twenty-seven tennis courts<sup>13</sup> all of which, with the exception of the Courts at Crystal Springs Drive charge a fee for usage. The Courts at the Griffith Park Recreation Center provide 11 lighted courts that are all available to the public by paid reservation. There are 12 courts at Vermont Canyon that are also available to the public on a paid reservation basis. There are four free tennis courts open to the public on a walk-up basis in the Park's Central area. Approximately six times a year, the Park hosts tennis tournaments which are coordinated by the City in conjunction with various tennis associations.

**b. Volleyball**

There are volleyball/badminton courts in the Crystal Springs and North Atwater areas that are available on a free walk-up basis to players who bring their own equipment. There is also a volleyball court at Griffith Park Boys Camp for the use of the children attending the Camp.

**c. Basketball**

There is a free walk-up basketball court in the North Atwater area as well as a court at Griffith Park Boys Camp for use by the children attending the Camp.

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<sup>13</sup> Riverside Drive Tennis Center; Vermont Canyon Tennis Courts; Park Center Tennis Courts

## **H. Restaurants And Food Concessions**

There are currently 11 locations in the Park with food and beverage service.<sup>14</sup> The survey conducted by California State University at Northridge and the comments at the Public Meetings in June, 2003 concluded that people using the Park were not interested in additional food services within the Park. Given that the existing public input fails to demonstrate the desire for any additional food services, such facilities should be kept to a minimum. As a general principle, food facilities should be kept to a minimum and located so as to afford easy access and minimal impact to the Park environment. The number and location of all food service concessions, whether restaurants or mobile or permanent kiosks, should be determined by a comprehensive Park wide analysis of user groups. All food facilities should be designed in such a way as to be consistent with the rustic character of the Urban Wilderness Identity and to blend into the natural and native environment of the Park.

## **I. Water Tanks**

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<sup>14</sup> These are: (1) Autry National Center Cafeteria; (2) Greater Los Angeles Zoo Food Concessions; (3) Wilson/Harding Golf Course Coffee Shop; (4) Roosevelt Golf Course Café; (5) Eatz Coffee Shop; (6) Griffith Observatory Food Services; (7) Travel Town Snack Stand; (8) Western Canyon Cappuccino and Snack Stand; (9) Greek Theatre Concessions; (10) Los Angeles Equestrian Center Concessions; and (11) Pony Ride Snack Stand.

There are currently seventeen water tanks in Griffith Park. Of those seventeen tanks, four are currently out of service. As part of the Griffith Park Water System Project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)<sup>15</sup> is planning to abandon five existing tanks, rehabilitate two tanks and install two new tanks. At an earlier stage of the project, LADWP installed two new tanks, the Los Feliz Tank with a capacity of 750,00 gallons and Tank 111 with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. When LADWP completes the Griffith Park Water System Project, there will be ten operable tanks within the Park.

In March of 2006, construction was to have started on the Travel Town Tank. That tank has a capacity of 750,000 gallons and provides domestic, irrigation, and emergency water supply to the westerly areas of the Park, including Travel Town, the Composting Facility, and the Los Angeles Zoo Animal Health Center. It also provides a source of water for higher elevations in the Park. In the planning stages is construction of an additional new tank with a 300,000 gallon capacity. This tank will be what is currently referred to as the

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<sup>15</sup> On April 19, 2005, the Los Angeles City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LADWP and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks transferring ownership of selected water system facilities in the Park to LADWP. Among other things, the MOU provides that any facility not transferred to LADWP, but currently in service, will continue to be operated by and maintained by LADWP at no cost to Recreation and Parks until such time that the LADWP notifies Recreation and Parks in writing that the facility is no longer required and will be abandoned. Upon receipt of such notice, it is the sole responsibility of Recreation and Parks to determine and execute the proper disposition of the abandoned facility. LDWP is obligated to maintain all existing and new tanks in such a manner as to achieve the water quality standards set forth by the California Department of Health Services and consistent with other LADWP tanks.

“1217 foot tank” and will serve domestic, irrigation and emergency supply to the central areas of the Park. The tank is also planned to provide a water source for higher elevations in the Park.

Careful coordination between Recreation and Parks and LADWP should take place with regard to the location selected for any new tanks constructed within the Park so that the location is consistent with preserving the rustic character of the Urban Wilderness Identity and protecting mobility, landscaping, wildlife corridors and views. Removing abandoned water tanks, which is the sole responsibility of Recreation and Parks, will restore some areas of the Park in a manner consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity, increase open space and improve views and mobility within the Park. The Master Plan should address the manner and timing of such removal and the way in which the abandoned tanks are to be maintained and utilized pending such removal.

## **J. Utilities**

Power and communications lines and poles are visible throughout the Park and negatively impact the Park environment, scenic views and vistas. To eradicate this blight, all above ground utilities should be placed underground. This should be a priority item and coordinated with the appropriate utility companies.<sup>16</sup>

## **K. Miscellaneous Recreational Facilities**

Throughout the Park, there are recreational facilities that do not easily fit into one of the above categories. Included within such facilities are those that are listed below. Before making any changes or additions to the buildings or facility, an analysis should be undertaken as to the need for such changes or additions and all such changes or additions should be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with preserving the Urban Wilderness Identity.

### **1. Griffith Park Dog Park**

This is an area of approximately 31,150 square feet in which dogs may run off leash.

### **2. Martinez Arena**

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<sup>16</sup> There should also an analysis conducted of alternative sources of energy can be utilized in the Park in an environmentally appropriate manner.

This is an arena located near Travel Town that serves horseback riders of modest means to school and ride their horses. It is free to individual users and is also rented to organizations for horse shows and other equestrian events for a nominal fee.

**3. North Atwater Equestrian Arena**

Located in the North Atwater area of the Park, this arena is used in a fashion similar to the use made of Martinez Arena.

**4. Playgrounds**

There are at least eight developed playgrounds in the Park, including the universally accessible “Shane’s Inspiration.”

**5. Zoo Magnet School and Recreation Center Pre-School**

Both of these schools are housed in buildings on the grounds of the Park.

**III. MAINTENANCE AND MAINTENANCE AREAS**

**A. Maintenance**

Preservation and maintenance of the Park’s existing open spaces and facilities should be a priority. Visitors should be accommodated within the Park while reducing their impact on the Park. When preservation and maintenance falter, landscaping, such as in Fern Dell, quickly disappears and may be replaced with invasive non-native species. Buildings take on an unused and decrepit appearance which may result in vandalism and further damage. Open spaces collect discarded trash and other debris. The Park generally takes on a worn look inconsistent with a vibrant and alive Urban Wilderness.

All planning for the Park should include as a first priority the type and costs of maintenance required to keep the Park a vibrant, rustic natural setting. Before constructing, adding to or changing facilities, attention should be given to the maintenance costs involved in maintaining the facility and, given those costs, whether or not the facility can reasonably be maintained in such a manner as to be appropriately integrate into a vibrant, rustic natural setting consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity.

**B. Maintenance Areas**

There are eight<sup>17</sup> “permanent” service yards and maintenance areas within the Park. In addition, on an “as needed” basis, Park areas have become “lay down areas” for purposes of providing what is asserted to be only temporary storage of equipment and material for current or future projects.<sup>18</sup>

The eight permanent facilities take up approximately 53 acres of Park land. The locations for the permanent facilities appear to be more historical than planned and related to what land was available rather than to a thorough analysis of how to best manage the service yard needs of the Park. Moreover, the Central Service Yard on West Chevy Chase Drive is comprised of 31 acres and provides space and services for both Griffith Park and the Metro Region of Recreation and Parks as well as for other Departments of City Government unrelated to Park activities. It also provides storage for five and ten yard dump trucks, bobcats and other large equipment as well as storage for playground sand, rock and gravel for concrete, chain link fence and project oriented building supplies.

Large number of Park acres are currently utilized for service yards, maintenance areas and lay down areas. To reduce the number of acres used in this manner, Park maintenance facilities need to be consolidated. Such consolidation will provide for efficiency and provide additional recreational areas consistent with the needs of the greater Los Angeles community. Maintenance areas should be relocated out of view of Park visitors

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<sup>17</sup> Central Service Yard; Griffith Golf Service Yard; Roosevelt Golf Service Yard; Tregnan Golf Academy Service Yard; Commonwealth Nursery; Vermont Western; Park Center; and Pettigrew Ranger Service Yard.

<sup>18</sup> There is an on going discussion as to how many temporary lay down areas are in use at the time this Draft is being written. Historically, various areas of the Park have been used as temporary lay down areas, including the Pony Ride overflow parking area; above the helipad on Vista Del Valle; west of the Park Center Service Yard; the Martinez Arena; east of Live Steamers; across from Green Waste/Griffith Park Drive; and PloyWog.

so that they do not detract from the Urban Wilderness Identity of the Park.

Space originally intended to be used on a temporary basis, such as the area north of the overflow lot at the Pony Ride, sometimes seems to become more permanent than temporary with equipment and supplies sitting untouched for months at a time. A careful review should be undertaken of the actual amount of maintenance area needed for Griffith Park as well as a review of why Griffith Park space should be utilized as a general Recreation and Parks storage area. As with much of what has happened to Griffith Park in the past, as a ready open space resource, it appears functions and activities are moved into that open space with little or no regard for the need to preserve the open space and rustic nature of the Park. To have an effective Park Master Plan, this ad hoc manner of decision-making will need to be curtailed. Decisions made regarding using Park space for maintenance and storage will need to take into consideration, and be consistent with, the Urban Wilderness Identity.

#### **IV. UPGRADES AND ADDITIONS**

Additions and upgrades should be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and based on valid analyses of the need for such additions and upgrades. Any upgrades and additions that are undertaken must be done in such a manner as to preserve and restore open space and wildlife habitat, protect wildlife corridors and to minimize the impact of public use and urbanization. Upgrades and additions should be designed in such a manner as to be consistent with the preservation of the Park's cultural and architectural history, and consistent with preserving the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity.

#### **V. DESIGN GUIDELINES**

The Park presents the rustic nature of its Urban Wilderness Identity as 4,000 plus acres of watershed, flood plain, and river with native landscape predominating. With some notable exceptions, such as the Los Angeles Zoo, efforts have been made by leaseholders to put in place elements such as signage in a way that minimizes the urbanization of the Park.

With the exception of paved parking lots and roads, much of the park infrastructure improvements reflect the work of the WPA, including granite trails with boulder edges, and rock walls and rock like looking steps. The use of this natural material, or natural appearing material, provides the Park with a sense of being removed from the urbanization which surrounds it and is a key element to its rustic Urban Wilderness Identity.

Throughout the Park, including those facilities held by leaseholders, the emphasis in any facility design work should be on maintaining the rustic nature of the Park provided by the WPA type elements. To protect and maintain the rustic nature of the Park, all elements of the Park, regardless of where located, need to meet the goal of maintaining the Park's rustic character.<sup>19</sup> As to built facilities, the following elements should always be given consideration.

#### **A. Infrastructure Design**

The rustic Park character is typically defined with natural stone, stucco and natural or colored concrete with muted colors. These are the preferred materials for infrastructure elements throughout the Park.

#### **B. Sustainable Design Principles**

Sustainable design principles should be applied throughout the Park to all aspects of additions and restoration, repairs and maintenance including building orientation, design and materials, and site design issues such as planting and native plant restoration, habitat enhancement, storm water management and watershed connections to the Los Angeles River.

Consistent with sustainable design principles and the Urban Wilderness

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<sup>19</sup> The Melendrez Draft separated the Park into sections, some of which, such as the Crystal Springs area, were to be proposed to become more carnival like with brightly colored flags and banners and other attractions associated with a carnival or amusement park atmosphere. Given the traffic flow of the Park, the way in which the Park is utilized, and the native landscaping of the Park, it is not possible to create a carnival or amusement park atmosphere in one area of the Park without necessarily destroying the overall rustic nature of the Park. The entire Park needs to be preserved and maintained as a single entity with the rustic character intended by its identification as having an Urban Wilderness Identity.

Identity, materials used should be low-maintenance, durable and vandal resistant. Whenever possible, previously used and recycled materials should be used. Improvements should comply with the energy efficiency requirements of the State of California's Title 24.

**C. Accessibility**

Playgrounds should be universally accessible and as buildings and facilities are upgraded, they should also be made accessible.

**D. Furniture**

Furniture used within the Park should maintain a rustic character consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity.

**E. Lighting**

Lighting throughout the Park should provide illumination while minimizing light pollution. Lighting fixtures should be consistent with the rustic character of the Urban Wilderness Identity.

**F. Wayfinding Signage and Graphics**

Earthtones and natural colors should be used to create signage that is consistent with the rustic character of the Urban Wilderness Identity. The signage should be simple with a single design element descriptive of the Park.

**SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**A. Recognize That Griffith Park Is Only One Park Within A Large Park System**

1. Avoid using the open space of Griffith Park as a location for facilities and recreational opportunities that could be more accessible to community use if situated in another location.
2. Identify and maintain the unique recreational opportunities

that exist only in Griffith Park such as extensive hiking and open picnic areas.

**B. Incorporate The Results Of The Public Input Already Received And Base All Decision-Making With Regard To Built Facilities On Public Input and Current Needs Analyses That Take Into Account Facilities Available In Other Nearby Parks**

1. Maintain a current and updated list of facilities available within the Park as well as in nearby Parks.
2. Obtain specific, scientifically valid information as to the need for any proposed addition to the Park facilities before undertaking the project.
3. Deny permission for ad hoc projects, no matter how small unless and until a valid analysis had been done as to the need for the project and its long term impact on the rustic character of the Park.

**C. Avoid Evicting Or Displacing Established Park Users**

1. Maintain a current and updated list of established Park users and the facilities that they access within the Park.
2. Ensure that no decision as to the addition, demolition, or replacement of a facility results in an existing Park user no longer having access to necessary facilities.

**D. Manage The Built Environment Of The Park In Such A Manner That Maintenance, Rehabilitation, Restoration And New Construction Maintains A Rustic Character Compatible With The Urban Wilderness Identity**

1. Develop an inventory of all the significant building materials within the Park that are consistent with the

rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity

2. Prepare a list of preferred materials, finishes, colors, etc. that reflects the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity
3. Develop a master restroom plan for the Park with standard design elements consistent with the rustic nature of the Park and that are universally accessible
4. Identify water tanks to be removed and those to remain and develop a plan for an adaptive reuse or painting of specific tanks that blends in with the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity
5. Develop a furniture palette with specifications for each type of furniture consistent with the rustic character of the Park and criteria for its use and maintenance
6. Develop a light fixture palette that minimizes light pollution and is consistent with the rustic character of the Park to be implemented as repair and replacements are needed
7. Develop and implement a graphic identity and signage program throughout the Park that utilizes earthtones and is consistent with the rustic identity of the Park

**E. Maximize Effective And Efficient Use Of Existing Facilities Before Replacing Or Adding To Those Facilities**

1. Ensure that all existing facilities, including those held by leaseholders, are being effectively and efficiently used before adding new facilities
2. Establish cooperative management committee with all existing leaseholders to ensure a system for

easy accessibility to facilities for Park users

**F. Emphasize Free Rather Than Fee Based Facilities And Activities**

1. Promote free use and enjoyment of the Park
2. Minimize privatization of Park facilities

**G. Avoid Infringing Upon Natural Areas**

1. Preserve natural species
2. Promote and preserve native landscaping
3. Preserve open space
4. Avoid adding to the footprints of existing facilities
5. Preserve wildlife corridors

**H. Involve Local Community In All Facilities Development And Design**

1. Form a permanent Citizen Advisory Board to review and comment on all proposed facility changes, modifications or addition
2. Form a permanent Design Review Advisory Committee to provide support to the Department of Recreation and Parks and Parks Commission and Cultural Affairs Commission to ensure compliance with retaining the rustic nature of the Urban Wilderness Identity