

GRIFFITH PARK MASTER PLAN DRAFT
ADDED DRAFT CHAPTER ON RECREATIONAL USER GROUPS
Submitted by the Subcommittee of the Working Group, January 9, 2006

Introduction

Page 1 of 15

THE HUMAN DIMENSION

Foreseeing the day when nature and open space would be an expensive commodity beyond the reach of most residents of a densely-developed metropolis, Colonel Griffith specified that Griffith Park be a free public park in perpetuity so that its “plain people” could enjoy the curative powers of “open space – rustic and available to all.” Over the years, human enjoyment of the Park has developed largely in step with its benefactor’s vision: the Park’s established user groups share with its donor an appreciation of its unique role as a respite from urban pressure and, for the most part, are compatible with its identity as an Urban Wilderness.

In planning for the future of the Park, it is important to take into account its human dimension and recognize who its human visitors are and how, when, where and why they recreate. These users are hikers/walkers, picnickers, equestrians, bicyclists, runners, and active sport participants who play golf, soccer, baseball, tennis, volleyball and basketball, people who swim for sport and fitness, visitors to its museums and major attractions, and patrons of its childrens’ camps. Once an overview is gained of the Park’s human dimension, it can be joined to an understanding of its plant and animal world to produce a plan for the Park that is compatible with its identity as an Urban Wilderness and that equitably provides for its users.

HIKERS

Hikers are not only the largest user group in Griffith Park – almost 25% of its visitors hike or walk - they are one of its oldest. During his brief service as a City of Los Angeles Park Commissioner in 1903, donor Colonel Griffith pioneered the first access for hikers, blazing a road from Crystal Springs to the narrow canyon at the foot of Bee Rock. It became a popular route for early Griffith Park hikers that is still used today.

Hiking is the Park’s most accessible form of recreation and, as such, fulfills the Colonel’s vision of “a park for the people.” Of all of its user groups, hikers are its most diverse. People of all ages - toddlers to senior citizens - hike. They hail from every ethnic and group and social class, irregardless of economic level since the activity involves no fee or investment in equipment or training. The reasons people hike in the Park are as diverse as the people themselves: health and fitness, reinforcement of family ties, sociability,

The Human Dimension

2 of 15

personal relaxation, nature appreciation and escape from urban pressures. The State of California's 2005 survey of recreation trends bears out this form of recreation's centrality to Park enjoyment. Among all Californians, recreational walking in the outdoors ranks first, wildlife viewing third, and trail hiking fourth in popularity.

Although most Griffith Park hikers walk individually or in small groups, the Park is a focal point for organized hiking. Park Rangers lead interpretive hikes; scouting organizations, children's day camps, the Park's resident boys' and girls' camps offer hikes for kids; and established entities ranging from the Los Angeles Unified School District to the Sierra Club hold periodic nature hikes. Since the early 1960's, the Sierra Club has also sponsored year-round evening hikes in Griffith Park, attracting hundreds of hikers each week.

Most regular hikers prefer to begin their excursions in the morning or towards the onset of evening, avoiding the shadelessness, higher temperatures and somnolence of mid-day. Griffith Park's wildlife is more easily heard and seen, and the sights and smells of its plant communities better perceived at these times. For this reason, those who drive to the Park generally find parking easily near the initial road or trail head they select. All hikers do not arrive by car, however. Many who hike on a regular basis walk into the Park from access points on all sides. The extra distance that this adds to the outing is compensated for by the freedom and pleasure derived from an automobile-free experience. Other hikers arrive by public transit and choose from various stops that place them in the Park or near its boundaries in relatively close proximity to its roads and trail heads.

Beyond a tranquil and safe experience free of urban incursions, hikers make few demands. They generally bring their own water, and leave behind little trash: if trash cans are absent, the pack it in, pack it out ethic prevails. The recent installation of waste bag dispensers at several points in the Park, has encouraged dog-walkers to clean up after their pets and, increasingly, responsible owners are bringing their own bags for this purpose. A major personal safety and security issue for hikers was resolved a decade ago with the closure of the Park's interior roads. Antisocial and criminal activity facilitated by automobiles disappeared with the cars; the resultant safety and tranquility transformed the roads ideal routes for low and moderately skilled hikers. Their closure also opened them up for bicyclists and parents of infants in strollers to exercise in a traffic-free zone, and has afforded equestrians and trail runners safe passage to trail heads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In consultation with the Park ecologist, manage trails and roads for pedestrian safety without negatively impacting the Park's natural features.
2. Recognizing that the Park's interior roads are important corridors for hikers and walkers, keep them closed to motorized traffic.

The Human Dimension

3 of 15

3. Before undertaking Park repairs and improvements, consider their impact on hiker access, safety and tranquility.
4. For user information and back-country safety, publish an accurate trail map coded to a discreet signage and mileage-marker system, obtainable at the Park Ranger Station.
5. To promote a safe and positive experience, staff the Park with resident Park Rangers who are knowledgeable about the Park's trail system and focused on the security and quality-of-life issues that arise in a regional park.
6. Initiate an education program to discourage trail cutting and its resultant erosion and loss of habitat.
7. Enforce all safety rules and regulations, such as the City's ordinances banning wheels on trails, running of horses, smoking, and disturbing the peace.

PICNICKERS

In excess of a million people a year enjoy picnicking in Griffith Park. More than 9% of respondents in a recent study conducted at the Park named it as their preferred pastime. Annually more people come to Griffith Park for this use than to any other park in the municipal system. The Park features more than a dozen major, free developed picnic grounds, as well as four group picnic areas available by-reservation only and one accessible on a first-come basis. Additionally, there are green spaces throughout the Park that are used as settings for informal, blanket-style picnics: Park Central, Griffith Park Recreation Center, Mulholland Fountain, Vermont Canyon, Western Canyon, and Bronson Canyon, are just a few of these locales.

Family Picnicking

Griffith Park offers picnickers a range of settings from intimate nooks for quiet enjoyment to areas roomy enough for a child's birthday party. In addition to providing tables, benches, and other amenities such as grills, drinking fountains and restrooms at these sites, the Park's free developed grounds are typically located near one or more of its major attractions. Many are situated at or near playgrounds, play structures and other children's facilities such as the Park's pony rides, merry-go-round, and museums such as Travel Town and Live Steamers. As a group, Griffith Park picnickers are self-directed. They bring their own provisions, camp furniture and blankets, co-exist peaceably with each other, and, content with the amenities the Park provides, make few demands beyond maintenance and clean-up. Occasional infractions by this large, diverse group can include taping off areas for exclusive use, un-permitted play structures, and amplified sound.

The Human Dimension

4 of 15

Although the Park attracts picnickers from all ethnic groups, on weekends and holidays Hispanic picnickers are typically in the majority. This cultural group's enjoyment of picnicking is borne out by a ten-year USDA Forest Service/BLM study confirming that Hispanic Californians first recreational preference is for day-long extended-family outings in a green setting involving extensive on-site meal preparation. Another state survey found that these users desire more opportunities to walk outdoors for fitness and fun. The close proximity of trails to picnic areas allows them to do this, making the Park an even more attractive destination.

Permit Picnicking for Groups

The Crystal Springs group picnic area is the only area that can be reserved for group use in Griffith Park. It offers three picnic pads with tables and barbecues on shaded slabs, a volleyball court, restrooms and parking. The term "picnicking" is elastic in this context. While social celebrations and company gatherings are held at Crystal Springs, large public events such as cooking expositions and health and fitness jamborees – often requiring signing, stages, canopies, and booths – are also sited there. Paid monitoring by Park Rangers is mandated for events exceeding 300 persons or serving alcohol, and organizers are sometimes required to hire maintenance personnel for post-picnic clean-up. Because the area is adjacent to other public uses, the impact a group event will have on neighboring recreationists and the Park itself is taken into account in the awarding of permits. The fees charged for permits are determined by the number of persons (up to 800), number and type of temporary structures, and use of electricity and department personnel.

The Issue of Displacement

During the first two decades of the 20th Century, the City's Park Commission made it a priority to establish formal picnic grounds in Griffith Park. Decades later, new types of recreation eclipsed picnicking in the eyes of its decision-makers and, with the exception of Fern Dell, the Park's historic grounds vanished or contracted, displaced by built facilities or taken by condemnation for public works. The shifting and loss of picnic terrain and the tendency to consider picnicking an expendable use is reflected today in proposals for new or expanded facilities that inevitably come at the expense of the Park's picnic areas. A recent example is the removal from continuous picnicking use of a large portion of the lawn north of the Griffith Park pool that has been fenced off for the exclusive use of spectators at the occasional swim meets that occur during the four months a year when the pool is open. Because picnickers have no advocacy group that speaks specifically for them it is incumbent on Park managers and the public to ensure that priority is given to the needs of this large user group to prevent their displacement.

The Human Dimension

5 of 15

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Preserve existing picnic areas and reject proposals that will displace this use.
2. Make proximity to public transit a priority in developing new picnic areas.
3. Restore Fern Dell to its historic use as a picnic area.
4. Make ornamental features such as the Autry's south lawn available to the public for blanket-style picnicking.
5. Seed the area south of Mulholland Fountain on Riverside Drive and make it day-use area for blanket style picnicking close to public transit.
6. Remove the spectator fencing from the lawn north of the municipal pool and restore it to its previous use as a blanket style picnic area.
7. For the peace and enjoyment of all picnickers, enforce all Park rules and regulations particularly those prohibiting invasive behaviors.

EQUESTRIANS

Equestrians are Griffith Park's original user group. Horses have flourished within its boundaries since Rancho days. Colonel Griffith prided himself on his coaching skills, and he and his son, Van, often roamed the Park's hills on horseback. In the first decades of the 20th Century, the City pastured its police and fire horses in the Park's open meadows and photographs from the same period inevitably show riders on its trails. In the nineteen-teens, rodeos were organized at Griffith Park by the cowboys attracted to Hollywood by the nascent film industry. In the twenties and thirties, the Park emerged as a headquarters for social riding and equestrian parties hosted by the elite. This reached its peak in The Breakfast Club which, for a fifteen-year run beginning in 1924, brought together civic and corporate leaders, motion picture personalities, and visiting dignitaries for weekly rides on the Park's trails.

Although the well-heeled can be encountered today at occasional Equestrian Center competitions, the majority of Griffith Park riders are neither wealthy nor prominent. They are middle class people who make economies in their lives to support their pastime, day visitors who rent horses to connect with nature and history, and parents who introduce their children to horses at the Park's hugely popular Pony Ride concession. L.A. children are also exposed to the mysteries of horsemanship through organized camp activities at Griffith Park. Throughout the summer and during holiday periods, Griffith Park's boys' and girls' camps, girls and boy scout troop camps, and privately-operated children's camps from around the region conduct group rides on the Park's trails

Currently, there are more than 2,000 horses living in and around the Park, stabled in facilities and backyards on the Park's edges. In addition to its resident equine population,

The Human Dimension

6 of 15

hundreds of other horses are transported to the Park each week for equestrian events and shows, or trail riding.

The area northeast of the Park, near its Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC), is an important hub of equine activity. Public rental stables, large commercial boarding stables, small boarding operations and backyard barns without number are located here, along with the feed and tack stores, veterinarians, equine dentists and chiropractors, farriers, horse laundries, heavy equipment vendors and trainers of every kind. A significant number of horse-owners reside here in the LAEC-adjacent equestrian condominiums and in the Rancho tract, a community of homes zoned for horsekeeping. Southeast of the Park is Atwater Village, a historic horsekeeping neighborhood that is home to a half-dozen commercial boarding stables, some of which feature riding schools and training operations. Several of the facilities are notable for their youth involvements. This is where Girl Scouts earn their horsemanship badges, horse camps for kids are held, and Taking the Reins, a non-profit organization helping at-risk girls build self-esteem is headquartered. A local organization, Preserve Atwater Rancho is working with the City on a zoning initiative to preserve the area's historic horsekeeping status. Northwest of the Park is Sunset Ranch. Established in the twenties to serve the Hollywoodland tract, its direct linkage to Griffith Park's trails was marketed as one of the neighborhood's chief selling assets. Today it is a public rental and boarding stable that has carved a unique niche for itself with its guided night-rides, a round-trip tour of the Park including a restaurant dinner.

Bridle Trails

Griffith Park is criss-crossed with 55 miles of bridle trails that equestrians share with hikers, runners, deer, coyotes, racoons, skunks, hawks and owls and, occasionally, an elusive bobcat or mountain lion.

Martinez Arena

Located near Travel Town in Griffith Park, Martinez Arena serves the backyard owner of modest means, providing these users with a place to school and ride their horses. Created under the aegis of Park Ranger Abe Martinez in the early sixties, it is free to the individual user. The arena is also rented to organizations for horse shows, gymkhanas, and other equestrian events for a nominal fee.

The Human Dimension

7 of 15

North Atwater Equestrian Arena

Atwater Village backyard horse owners use the Park's North Atwater Equestrian Arena to turn out and train their horses. Critical to horsekeeping in that area, this facility serves the public in ways similar to Martinez Arena.

Zoo Drive Equestrian Staging Area

This area furnishes day riders hauling mounts to Griffith Park with a safe place to park and unload their stock on a requisite unpaved surface. Located opposite the Live Steamers Railroad Museum on Zoo Drive, the spot provides easy access to the trailhead across the street and is shared with other park users.

Pony Rides

For a minimal charge, Griffith Park's popular Pony Ride concession introduces children to the thrill of the trot. Located on Crystal Springs Drive, it also offers wagon rides for children and their families and is near the Park's most heavily-used picnic grounds.

Los Angeles Equestrian Center

The Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC) in Griffith Park is the region's leading equine facility. Annually, it hosts the Bill Pickett Rodeo, Los Angeles National Grand Prix, Memorial Day Classic and Pacific Coast Cutting Futurity, plus numerous breed and discipline events, dressage, western, barrel races, show jumping, and driving competitions. Home to 500 horses, it offers outdoor rings, hot walkers, sun pens and other amenities for training and care. Additionally, the public can rent mounts from its Griffith Park Horse Rentals or learn to ride at its Traditional Equitation School.

LAEC also hosts riding programs for non-profits. Best known are the Ahead With Horse Therapeutic Riding Program for children at risk and the Interscholastic Equestrian League which is composed of 60 middle and high schools. Annual events that welcome the public include the Tournament of Roses Equestfest which allows children to see and touch Rose Parade horses, the CALNET Special Olympics-style riding event, and the Hollywood Charity Horse Show donating its proceeds to non-profits serving children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Keep the Park's interior roads, important equestrian corridors, closed to motorized traffic.
2. Preserve and maintain existing trails. Currently at risk is Skyline Trail which is being undermined by the mining of decomposed gravel.

The Human Dimension

8 of 15

3. Arrest the hazardous deterioration of the woodcrete fencing along bridle trails.
4. Maintain Martinez and North Atwater arenas as public equestrian facilities.
5. Preserve and improve the Zoo Drive Equestrian Staging Area: designate it as an official horse trailer parking area, install tie rails, and consider adding a small holding corral for unloading horses.
6. Build a Griffith Park Equestrian Bridge over the L.A. River in Atwater Village to replace the existing dirt crossing that will soon be submerged.
7. Staff the Park with resident Park Rangers who are knowledgeable about the Park's trails and who know how to respond to equestrian issues.
8. Enforce all rules and regulations, such as City ordinances banning wheels on trails, running of horses, smoking, vending and disturbing the peace.
9. Before undertaking repairs and improvements, consider their impact on equestrian safety and use.

RUNNERS

Although hundred of runners use Griffith Park every day and often thousands on weekends, runners are among the Park's most under-recognized user groups. Their needs are small and they typically recreate at off-peak hours, particularly in the early morning.

The flat terrain in the Park's east and north offers the most attractive routes for most runners. For routine workouts, runners commonly follow north-south Crystal Springs Road, and transition at the Zoo parking lot to the east-west portion of Zoo Drive. To add distance, many cross into Burbank via Victory Blvd, or continue along Forest Lawn Drive. When conditions allow, some runners prefer the flat dirt trail paralleling I-5 and I-134 where they are relatively safe from traffic hazards. Because loop routes are more interesting, some runners use Griffith Park Drive combined with Zoo Drive and Crystal Springs Drive. This route adds hills but can be hazardous since it exposes runners to closely passing vehicles.

For runners who enjoy mountain trails, the Park has much to offer. Runners have little environmental impact on trail beds and are generally environmentally-conscious. They recognize the hazards of straying, (encounters with poison oak and rattlesnakes), and are seldom guilty of the trail-cutting and consequent erosion seen in the Park. Mt. Hollywood Trail and Tetrick Trail are two of the most popular trail running routes.

Raceday Events

While the Park is a magnet for individual runners, it periodically hosts organized events for large groups. For many decades, the Park has been the City's venue of choice for 5K and 10K road races, as well as other distances and relays. These are usually

The Human Dimension

9 of 15

headquartered in the Park Central area. Weekend events such as the Jimmy Stewart Relay, Run for a Green L.A., and Say No to Drugs Race, among others, promote fitness and the sport of running, benefit worthy causes, and draw positive publicity and new people to the Park.

Youth Running

Griffith Park is an important resource for the Los Angeles Unified School District's team sport of cross-country running. The Park is only one of three courses used by the District's eight leagues, yet it hosts almost half of its meets. These competitions, which occur weekly in the fall, typically draw 500 athletes from twenty-two high schools to a staging area on the picnic lawn north of the Greek Theatre in Vermont Canyon. From this starting point, runners follow a looping course through the south end of the Park. After the race, athletes return to the lawn for water and refreshments provided by coaches, parents and chaperons. For the past three decades on the last Saturday in September, the Bell-Jeff Cross-Country invitational meet, an all-day event, draws more than 1000 participants from 75 schools throughout Southern California to this same staging area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Flat terrain, the runner's greatest need, is a limited and diminishing resource in Griffith Park. An example is the expansion of the Zoo which eliminated a short connector that once completed a scenic, safe loop around the west side of the Zoo parking lot. Using this stretch, runners could avoid busy Zoo area streets using the tunnel (to avoid crossing the east-west Zoo Drive), following a dirt path along the west side of the Zoo parking lot, and reconnecting to Crystal Springs. The connector's loss has exposed them to traffic hazards. These kinds of capital improvements are made in the Park heedless of their displacement of runners and other established park user

A. Adopt Concepts for Safer Running.

1. Encourage use of off-street paths and trails, to protect runners from street traffic hazards and diminish conflict with bicyclists. Example: create 3-5 ft. dirt or crushed rock paths for runners such as the path east of Crystal Spring Drive
2. Establish "safe running routes." The best are looping or partially looping with safe transitional easements at intersections, and signage, including mile markers, to encourage their use. Established "safe running routes" should be designated on maps available at the Ranger Station.

The Human Dimension

10 of 15

3. Provide more protection for runners who use the bike lanes, especially at dangerous intersections such as the I-5 overpass near the Autry Museum and Zoo..Continue bike lane markings at intersections, where they are most needed.
4. Enforce speed limits.
5. Consider the consequences of closing off routes on runner safety prior to initiating road work, utility projects or construction.
6. Enforce dog leash laws and replace “NO RUNNING OF HORSES” signs on equestrian trails.

B. Maintain Trails

1. Maintain trails to encourage their use. Flat terrain trails most used by runners (paralleling I-5 & I-134) are also those that would be the easiest to service.
2. Improve drainage in the tunnel under the I-5 access road, just north of the Autry Museum, to avoid dangerous detouring by runners (standing water is also a health risk to man and horse, with the advent of West Nile Virus).
3. Periodically grade trails on the east side of Griffith Park to prevent the standing water that collects on flat trails after rainfall.
4. Mitigate the deep dust that accumulates on trails in summer with a tractor and blade.
5. Replace maintenance practices that create surfaces hazardous for running, such as the deep, parallel lines cut with a harrow.

C. Support Race Day Events

1. Repeal the ban on 10K routes past the Zoo Parking lot to preserve major race events in Griffith Park and restore the importance they traditionally have held on the Park’s calendar. Most race events are completed by 10 am (Jimmy Stewart Relay is the exception), and normal Zoo activity can resume shortly thereafter.
2. Re-evaluate fees for traffic control and rules for financial compensation to Park concessionaires to determine if there are ways of reducing these costs which burden organizations that would like to continue staging race events in the Park.

D. Support Youth Running

1. Preserve the grassy picnic area north of the Greek Theatre in Vermont Canyon as an assembly area for high school cross-country running meets.
2. On meet days, arrange for Greek Theatre restrooms to be available to students before and after races.

The Human Dimension

11 of 15

BICYCLISTS

Although bicyclists have always used Griffith Park's paved roads, over the past decade bicycle use has grown significantly as the Park has steadily increased and improved its bicycle lanes and routes. This has happened as a result of: 1) Specific capital improvements made in accordance with the Bicycle Element of the Department of Transportation's Master Plan which promotes the expansion and upgrading of bicycle facilities in City parks, and 2) As a consequence of a policy change undertaken for general Park safety that provided substantial new opportunities for safe and enjoyable cycling. There are now more than 26 miles of bikeways and bike routes in the Park. Approximately 23 of miles of them are auto-free. According to the most recent user study, cyclists now exceed the number of visitors who visit the Park to play golf or organized/team sports, and is roughly equivalent to equestrian use.

Capital improvements undertaken specifically for cyclists in recent years include two perimeter bikeways: the Crystal Springs Bikeway and Northern Bike Route, a striped and signed bicycle lane extending from just north of the Park's Los Feliz Blvd entrance to Travel Town, and the Los Angeles River Bikeway, a dedicated bike-only route entering the Park south of Los Feliz Blvd via the Alex Baum elevated bicycle bridge and extending the length of the Park. At various points throughout the Park, cyclists can transition from one route to another.

In the mid-1990's, the decision to permanently close Griffith Park's paved mountain roads to motorized traffic opened up a new automobile-free zone for recreationists in the Park's interior. Although hikers, not bicyclists, took the lead in advocating for the closures of Mt. Hollywood Drive and Vista del Valle Drive to all but official and emergency vehicles, bicyclists benefited at once from the change. The action multiplied significantly the number of auto-free miles at bicyclists disposal. Wide enough to reduce the chance of collisions between bicyclists and pedestrians, these scenic, winding roads allow peaceful co-existence between users, and offer cyclists interaction with nature and inspiring views.

Cyclists of all ages and skill levels enjoy Griffith Park. They range from occasional riders who rent from its concessionaire to skilled riders who arrive on (or transport) their own equipment. Choosing from available routes, cyclists enjoy relatively flat and smooth rides suitable for family outings, relatively flat and smooth rides for long distance or race training, or steep and challenging rides for personal fitness or nature enjoyment

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Keep the Park's interior roads closed to motorized traffic. Development initiatives that will result in the reopening of the Park's winding, mountain roads to automobiles will

The Human Dimension

12 of 15

promote the risk of collisions between bicycles and cars; in turn, cyclists swerving to avoid motorized traffic will be hazardous to pedestrian users. The reintroduction to motorized vehicles will spell the end of the tranquil co-existence that exists among those who use these corridors for recreation and result in their displacement.

2. Maintain and manage these roads to benefit cyclists. Continue to clear rockslides and fill potholes that occur after heavy rains and ensure that drivers of permitted vehicles, i.e. film location trucks and vans proceed with caution and abide by the speed limit.
3. Reduce the potential for conflict on Crystal Springs Drive by adding signs cautioning drivers to watch for cyclists, and consider separate paths for runners/walkers.
4. Rigorously enforce and, perhaps, lower the speed limit, thereby discouraging commuters who are more likely to exceed the posted limit as they cut through the Park.
5. Continue to improve conditions and amenities for cyclists by bringing L.A. Bikeway gates and transitions in conformance with DOT standards; improving maintenance and weed suppression, and creating better entry/exit solutions at Victory Blvd.
6. Equip the Park with more and better bicycle racks.
7. Make maps of approved bicycle routes available in the Park.

ACTIVE SPORT PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the facilities of a Regional Park described in the General Plan for the City of Los Angeles as golf courses, campgrounds, wilderness areas, exceptional scenic features and museums, Griffith Park contains facilities for active recreation usually found in Neighborhood or Community parks. It contains the municipal park system's highest number of golf course (5), driving ranges (2), tennis courts (27) and soccer fields (8/16); an adult regulation baseball field (1 of 2 citywide), two walk-up youth baseball fields, two walk-up volleyball courts, a basketball court, and the most popular municipal pool in the City. In addition to these facilities, archery, volleyball, basketball, soccer and baseball are played at Griffith Park Boy's Camp and both the boys' and girls' camps are equipped with pools. A recent survey of the Park's recreationists found that 5% of respondents engaged in field and court sports while 3% of respondents were golfers.

Golfers

Griffith Park is considered the birthplace of municipal golf. The first city-owned public golf course in the nation was established in the Park in 1914. Although it was a primitive course with sand "greens," it met with success. Over the decades, more golf courses were developed in the Park and today, roughly 9% of its area is devoted to the sport. More than 200,000 rounds of golf are played annually on its five courses. These include Wilson 18-hole course, Harding 18-hole course, Roosevelt 9-hole executive course, Los Feliz 9-hole 3-par course, and Tregnan Junior Golf Academy. Wilson-Harding amenities for golfers

The Human Dimension

13 of 15

include a driving range, men's and women's clubhouses, a pro shop, golf lessons, cart rentals and a restaurant with bar. Cafes serving beer and wine are located at Roosevelt and Los Feliz and, in addition to its 3-hole teaching course and driving range, Tregnan Academy features a clubhouse and classroom where children can learn the principles of the game.

Field Sport Participants

Soccer

Recognizing the growing popularity of the sport, in 1992 26 acres in Griffith Park were set aside to create the Ferraro Soccer Complex, a grassy facility located near the Golden State-Ventura Freeway Interchange not far from the Autry Museum. The complex includes 7 fields, a children's playground, restrooms and parking. Private adult and youth leagues are its primary users, but high schools also play and practice there. The fields are generally reserved in advance on a fee basis by permitted groups, but when not reserved are available to the public on a walk-up basis. In addition to the Ferraro Soccer Complex, soccer is played at the Griffith Park Recreation Center. Its recently refurbished synthetic turf field is available by permit or on a walk-up basis for adult games or two simultaneously played youth games. Spectator bleachers are located there and restrooms, parking and a children's play area are nearby.

Baseball

Adjacent to the Crystal Springs Group Picnic Area in Griffith Park is Pote Field, one of only two regulation baseball fields in the municipal park system. Pote is available by permit only and is used primarily by Los Angeles City College and the Municipal Baseball Program. To a lesser extent, Pote is also used by private high schools and other groups and for motion picture filming. Its amenities include a scoreboard, bleachers, restrooms, a children's play area and parking. In Griffith Park's North Atwater area is a free walk-up field that can be used for pony league baseball, t-ball and softball. Its amenities include bleachers, restrooms, a children's play area and parking. On the Park's northwest side, at Lake Hollywood Park is a baseball area with backstop that can be used on a free, walk-up basis for baseball and softball games. There is an additional baseball field at Griffith Park Boys Camp which is reserved for the use the children there.

Court Sport Players:

Tennis

Games are played and lessons are given daily, and tournaments held six times a year at Griffith Park's 27 tennis courts. Griffith Park Recreation Center located on the Park's

The Human Dimension

14 of 15

southeastern side features a facility with 11 lighted courts, (including a tournament court), all available to the public by paid reservation. The complex includes a Pro Shop where tennis lessons can be arranged and restrooms; parking, and a children's play area are located nearby. To the west, is the Vermont Canyon tennis facility with 12 tennis courts in a scenic setting available to the public on a paid reservation basis. Tennis lessons can be arranged and restrooms and parking are available on the site. In Griffith Park's Park Central area are four free tennis courts open to the public on a free, walk-up basis. Six times a year, Griffith Park hosts tennis tournaments which are coordinated by the City in conjunction with various tennis associations.

Volleyball

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

Basketball

Griffith Park has a free walk-up basketball court in its North Atwater area as well as a basketball court for the use of the children at Griffith Park Boys Camp.

Swimmers

The municipal plunge at the Griffith Park Recreation Center is the top pool in the City's park system, and is first in use in all classifications. In operation from the Saturday after LAUSD dismisses to Labor Day, it is open to children 18 and under free of charge and to adults for a nominal fee. In addition to group and individual swimming lessons, special programs offered by the facility include organized lap-swimming, aquacise, water polo, synchronized swimming, team diving, and programs for seniors and the disabled. In addition to Griffith Park's public plunge, there are also pools at Hollywoodland Girls Camp and Griffith Park Boys Camp for the use of the children there.

The Human Dimension
15 of 15

CAMP-GOERS

Research is currently in progress on a discussion of the Griffith Park Boys Camp and Hollywoodland Girls Camp programs, activities and facilities for children and their families that will be added to this chapter.

VISITORS TO MUSEUMS AND MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Research is currently in progress on a discussion of the visitors to the Park's major attractions such as Travel Town, Griffith Observatory, and other venues that will be added to this chapter.