



the griffith reporter

the newsletter of friends of griffith park/spring-summer 2012

Crossroads: Griffith Park

Griffith Park is a crossroads where people come to take a break from the metropolis, relax under a tree or on a trail, breathe in the sage, drink in a view, recreate, learn, or do nothing at all. Griffith Park is a wildlife crossroads, too. A nexus of habitats for a surprising array of species that depend on them for their health and survival.

Right now, Griffith Park is *at* a crossroads. Steep budget cuts have reduced the municipal funding necessary to sustain it. Basic maintenance and security are at risk. Without public support, the longterm health of Griffith Park – and our entire park system – face an uncertain future.

Friends of Griffith Park would like you to consider these facts. Griffith Park is the largest municipal park and urban wilderness within a U.S. city's limits. It is the largest municipal landmark in the U.S. It is a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) in the County of Los Angeles General Plan. Taken alone, these are reason enough why Griffith Park deserves public investment if it is to continue to thrive. We invite you to read more about L.A.'s 2012-13 Budget and its implications for Griffith Park inside.

L.A. residents reject advertising in parks. Is the city listening?

Parks are retreats from urban cares and the relentless drumbeat of commerce. They are also a core city service and do not exist to generate revenue. This past December, more than 40 community organizations representing tens of thousands of people across Los Angeles informed the City Council Planning Committee that they opposed advertising in parks.

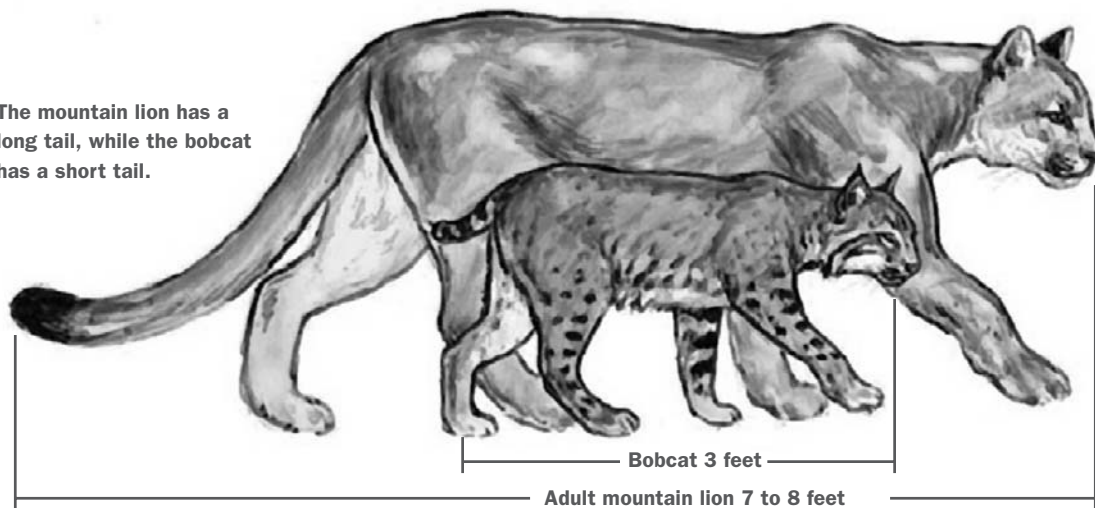
But some officials are still looking for ways to convert people who use parks, especially kids, into marketing targets. They are choosing to interpret the groundswell against advertising in parks to mean that the public opposes billboards and super-graphics only – making other forms of advertising fair game.

This spring an attempt was made to persuade Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates to recommend that advertising be permitted to “wrap” park furniture in order to convert these basic amenities into revenue sources. Mindful of the opposition to park advertising registered by more than 20 neighborhood councils, the Budget Advocates declined.

It was the third time in 18 months that the idea had been floated. In October 2010, the private L.A. Parks Foundation was poised to allow Warner Bros. to flood three parks with movie advertising in exchange for a donation to the foundation. Fortunately, park advocates and neighbors learned of the plan in time to prevent it.



The mountain lion has a long tail, while the bobcat has a short tail.



BIG CAT CONFIRMED

Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study records mountain lion in our midst

It happened on February 12, 2012 at 9:15 p.m. Cameras belonging to the Griffith Park Natural History Survey's (GPNHS) Wildlife Connectivity Study captured a mountain lion moving east towards Griffith Park. They are the first known photographs of a mountain lion east of the CA-101 Hollywood Freeway/Cahuenga Pass within the Santa Monica Mountains eco-region.

The GPNHS Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study is the first project to evaluate the movement of wide-ranging mammals through potential corridors that may connect Griffith Park and its vicinity to neighboring natural areas. Mountain Lion P22 is an important find. Compared to smaller Griffith Park carnivores like bobcats and coyotes, mountain lions require more space and connectivity. Populations are known to exist in the Santa Monica Mountains west of and in the Verdugo Mountains north of Griffith Park. Preliminary genetic analysis by UCLA indicates that P22 is likely from the Santa Monica Mountains, which would mean he crossed both the 405 and the 101 Freeways. The presence of this solitary, territorial animal is a positive indication that Griffith Park is more connected to nearby open space than once thought.



Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.
USGS



Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.
USGS

Images show the dramatic difference in size between mountain lions and bobcats. Both are shy and elusive, but observers are many times more likely to encounter a bobcat than a mountain lion in Griffith Park. Due to their high resource demands and reliance on contiguous habitat, these large and medium sized mammals are excellent indicators of ecosystem health and connectivity. Findings from the GPNHS study can raise awareness about how important this is to the survival of natural creatures in the wild.

Currently, GPNHS researchers are using thirteen remote cameras at potential wildlife corridors across the Hollywood Freeway/Cahuenga Pass area which divides Griffith Park and contiguous wildlife habitat from the rest of the Santa Monica Mountains. Cameras are located both on potential wildlife corridors to document wildlife crossings, as well as in open space adjacent to potential corridors to monitor wildlife activity on the edges. This work is critical. Highways and freeways may speed human travel, but mortality caused by collisions with vehicles is one of the most well-known and immediate risks to urban wildlife. When wildlife is unable to successfully cross urban arteries, inbreeding and loss of genetic diversity can result. This may elevate an animal population's chance of extinction.

Initiated in July 2011, the Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study has recorded to date mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), among others. In the near future, camera stations will be added on the east side of Griffith Park to monitor potential connections for wildlife across Interstate-5 towards the Verdugo Mountains. We hope that information from this study will be used to identify valuable wildlife corridors and to inform stakeholders on how to better facilitate wildlife movement to and from Griffith Park.

Mountain Lion P22 and Griffith Park

The GPNHS Wildlife Connectivity Study documented Mountain Lion P22, but CA Fish & Game and the National Park Service made the decision to radio-collar and release it back into the Griffith Park area.

Wildlife experts maintain that humans have little chance of being killed by mountain lions. They have been studied in areas with heavy human use and have been able to coexist without incident. These elusive creatures are primarily active at night and usually hide out in shady places during the day. A study in Anza Borrego State Park tracked mountain lions in an area that supports human recreation. The animals were resting right alongside trails and went unnoticed and unencountered.

Attacks are rare and those recorded have almost all been by young juveniles struggling to find natural prey in marginal habitat. By way of contrast, P22 is a 3 year old, full grown male and a successful deer specialist. It is not acting abnormally or dangerously and has already crossed paths with and been sighted by humans in the park without incident.

Support and Acknowledgements

Research for this Griffith Park Natural History Survey project is taking place in cooperation with landowners in the area. It is being jointly conducted by biologists Dan Cooper and Miguel Ordeñana from Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. and Erin Boydston of the USGS Western Ecological Research Center. Principal funding is provided by Friends of Griffith Park and its members, with additional support from Hollywood United Neighbor-

Here's how to keep yourself safe and help Mountain Lion P22 survive

Unlike more remote areas, Griffith Park is an urban wilderness surrounded by a human populations on all sides. It is heavily visited and used by hikers, equestrians, and runners. It is the nature of mountain lions to avoid humans but if you spot one be safe and do not approach it. If allowed, mountain lions will eat pets (so will coyotes), so please obey the law and walk your dog on a leash in Griffith Park for its safety and the safety of P22.

To avoid problems, remember these rules:

Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.

Avoid hiking when mountain lions are most active – dawn, dusk, and at night.

Stick to wide, established trails.

Keep a close watch on small children.

Walk your dog on a leash.

If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects.

Pick up small children.

If attacked, fight back.

If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.

For more information contact Public Information officer Kate Kuykendall.
805-370-2343; kate_kuykendall@nps.gov

hood Council. Additional project support comes from the U.S. Geological Survey. Community partners include the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Caltrans, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, as well as private residents in the area.

For more information about the Griffith Park Natural History Survey and its findings, see the story on page 9 and visit our web site: www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

These observations are considered preliminary and have not been interpreted; complete findings from the study will be released following analysis and project completion in late 2013.



RENEWING FERN DELL

Close-up on the Griffith Park Historic Fern Dell Preservation Project

For nearly a century, Fern Dell has been an urban oasis. In its first sixty years, it was one of Griffith Park’s most celebrated features but more recent decades have not been so kind. Today it is in need of rehabilitation and, fortunately, help is on the horizon. Facilitated by generous funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s L.A. County Preservation Fund, the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust and the support of our members, Friends of Griffith Park is working with a professional team to lay the groundwork for Fern Dell’s revitalization.

The story of Fern Dell

Drawn by its year-round waters, pre-European Tongva/Gabrieleño peoples convened tribal meetings in a verdant canyon they called “Mococahuenga.” By the early 20th Century, the canyon had become part of Griffith Park and it took on a new role. In 1914, the Parks Department began adding ferns to the ravine and by the dawn of the 1920s the first of Fern Dell’s terraced pools, bridges and *faux bois* elements were in place. Visitors to L.A. flocked to Fern Dell. Guidebooks listed it as a “must-see” and

postcards captured its beauty for the folks back home.

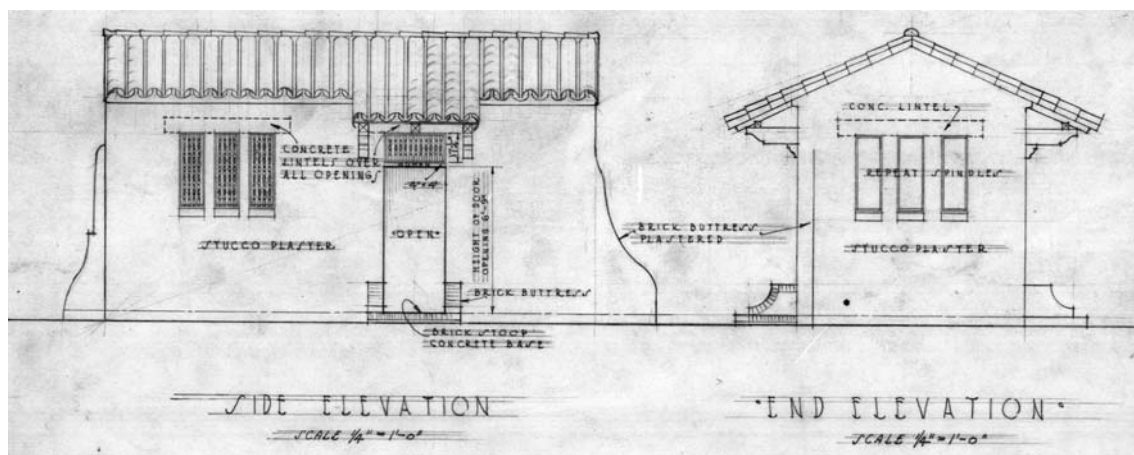
The Depression elevated Fern Dell’s fortunes. It was enlarged by New Deal laborers and craftsmen residing in the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in Griffith Park. Using the National Park Service handbook as their guide, they built additional water features, picnic grounds, terraced areas and railings in what architectural historians call “Park Style.”

Post-War, the Dell became a magnet for families, and many baby-boomers recall playing Tarzan and tag in its jungle-like recesses. Today, 21st Century Angelenos still turn to it for enjoyment. On any given day, a microcosm of L.A. can be seen strolling, hiking, appreciating nature, or enjoying a picnic or a book.

In-kind donations and student volunteers

Project team members Barbara Joe Hoshizaki and Jorge Ochoa have gone beyond the scope of their contracts to contribute generously of their personal time and material.

Senior botanical consultant Barbara Hoshizaki is renowned for having introduced many fern species to cultivation. Past Presi-



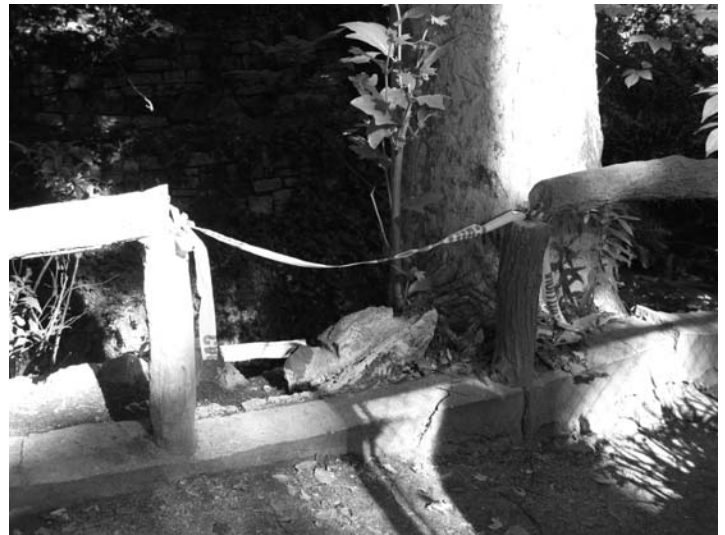
Fern Dell’s Spanish Revival architectural overlay can be seen in the vintage blueprint of a “comfort station.”

dent of the American Fern Society, she has written numerous articles on ferns and has served as a consultant to *Sunset Western Garden Book*, *Hortus Third* and the *Time-Life Fern Book*. She is donating a portion of her extraordinary fern collection to the revitalization – valuable specimens as well as spores that, if properly handled, will multiply, flourish and be ready for planting when the time comes.

To protect and nurture this living donation, project co-consultant Jorge Ochoa, Horticulture Instructor at Long Beach Community College (LBCC), has volunteered his know-how and the services of students in the LBCC Horticulture Club. The Horticulture Program boasts a 35 foot by 100 foot greenhouse with all electronic controls, a shade house of equal size and a half acre of growing grounds. It is here that the students will propagate and grow ferns for future transfer. The work with spores will take place in the greenhouse and the resultant plants will be acclimated in the program's shade house. These efforts will be of great importance in providing training and knowledge to Horticulture students which they can use to achieve their academic and career goals.

With seed grants from charitable foundations, in-kind donations from our members and generous individuals, and help from future funders and donors, Friends of Griffith Park, is looking forward to the day when Fern Dell reclaims its place as one of the most beautiful and singular places in Griffith Park.

Fern Dell is the only public fern garden of its size and significance in California. In its prime it was one of the Park's most celebrated features. Even in decline, its historic value contributed to the City's 2009 decision to designate Griffith Park as its largest Historic-Cultural Monument.



Above, Fern Dell's faux bois (fake wood) concrete railings and stone-rimmed ponds have fallen into disrepair, but a preliminary analysis has found it is not too late to save these character-defining features.

Left, Horticultural Consultants to the Historic Fern Dell Preservation Project, Barbara Joe Hoshizaki (standing) and Jorge Ochoa (kneeling) evaluate fern specimens as a student looks on. Student volunteers in the Horticulture Program at Long Beach Community College will help grow and propagate plants and spores donated by Hoshizaki from her private collection for future planting at Fern Dell.



RANGERS TO THE RESCUE

Recognizing the unsung heroes who protect the public in Griffith Park

Rescues are on the rise in Griffith Park. Typical is an incident that happened in January. Park Rangers came to the aid of a hiker who had left the trail, scaled a height and become stranded. As is often the case, he did not know where he was. Rangers asked him to tell them where he had parked and to look about and describe what he saw. Based on his responses, he was found perched perilously on the side of Hogback Trail. The first Ranger on the scene assessed his injuries and then called in the Fire Department (LAFD). While the LAFD was en route, a Ranger rappelled down to the hiker. The initial plan was to affect the rescue with an LAFD ground unit, but a helicopter was needed to complete the job. Everyone for a mile around could see the LAFD copter; but few noticed the Park Ranger truck that led them to the spot and enabled the positive outcome.

Park Rangers are unsung heroes who make six to seven rescues a month in Griffith Park. With their experience and thorough knowledge of the park, they are first responders who locate the lost and injured and guide the LAFD to the scene. Trained in rescues by the County Sheriff's Department and the LAFD, they interact smoothly with these departments as well as the Office of Public Safety (OPS) and LAPD to which they refer reports of serious crime.

Some safety advice for hikers

Acting Chief Ranger Albert Torres recommends that hikers be prepared and has provided the safety tips listed on the right. If things still go wrong and you need help, call the Park Rangers. Their job is to solve problems. It might be as simple as handing you a bottle of water and encouraging you to turn back, or as dangerous as rappelling down a cliff to carry you out. Before you take risks, keep in mind that the LAFD bills for ambulance or helicopter services. Its Basic Life Support Emergency Base Rate is \$974 plus mileage to the hospital. If you require Advanced Life Support, another \$300 to \$500 will be added. Depending on your policy, your insurance may pick up part of the fee, or you could wind up paying the entire bill. The injury and cost will both ruin a beautiful experience. So hike safely and enjoy Griffith Park.



Trail Safety Tips

Know your ability level

If you are a novice, choose an easy trail or start with a group hike. Know where you're going; take advantage of the map available at the Visitor Center.

Stay on the trail

Leaving trails destroys wildlife and fragile habitat and may expose you to poison oak, snakebites and other hazards.

Be prepared

Wear sturdy shoes; take plenty of water and wear sunscreen.

If you need help, call a Ranger.

Ranger Dispatch: 323 644-6661

Safety Alert: Is L.A. considering leaving its regional parks defenseless?



As we go to press, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Los Angeles Daily News* are reporting that details are being worked out on a plan to absorb the 250-officer strong Office of Public Safety (OPS) into the Los Angeles Police Department. If the conversion takes place, it will move Mayor Villaraigosa closer to realizing his goal to expand the LAPD's ranks to 10,000 officers. It will also diminish safety in our parks

Without warning in 2004, a plan to eliminate the Recreation and Parks Department's Park Ranger Division was sprung full-blown on the city. Along with library and zoo security officers, Park Rangers would cease to exist to make way for a consolidated Office of Public Safety. It would be tasked with park safety, but would not patrol the parks. The plan did not take into account that parks are not buildings. They are porous, complex places and only by dint of stubborn advocacy did the public manage to avert the Rangers' immediate extinction.

At the time, officials appeared to accept the argument that due to their complex terrain, unique usages and multiple safety

Safety Alert continues on page 15

PARKS IN CRISIS

An open letter to the city's budget-makers

**The Los Angeles City Council
Budget & Finance Committee
is making recommendations on
the funding of parks and other
city services for Fiscal Year
2012-13. Here is the essence
of a letter sent to the panel by
Friends of Griffith Park.**

Over the past five years, the budget of the Department of Recreation and Parks has been decimated. In 2007-2008, its Total Service and Program Funding equaled \$150,858,717; in 2011-2012, the figure was \$114,274,192 – a reduction of 24%. The 2012-2013 city budget seems on track to provide little relief.

Rec & Parks has been forced to reduce its workforce to below the bare minimum. There are not enough maintenance workers and gardeners to keep up the parks; there are not enough Park Rangers to maintain safety and keep infractions and vandalism under control. Our urban parks are deteriorating and are in danger of becoming dead zones. When parks die, the cost to revive them dwarfs any savings realized from budget cuts. The State of California is now facing this problem as it grapples with restoring parks that have been shuttered for budgetary reasons.

Friends of Griffith Park realizes that all city departments are experiencing cuts. However, we believe that there are ways Rec & Parks can receive much higher Total Service and Program Funding without significantly increasing its budget appropriation.

Eliminate Indirect Support Costs

Since 2008-2009, Rec & Parks has paid Indirect Support Costs to the Department of Water & Power (DWP) and to the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) for water, electricity, and trash services. In 2011-2012, these Indirect Support Costs summarily subtracted a total of \$19,700,000 from the parks' City Charter-mandated funding. This is a glaring inequity. The water Rec & Parks uses, in the main, keeps our parks green and alive so they can be enjoyed by the public. Likewise, the electricity it uses lights rec centers and sports fields throughout the city. At the same time, Rec & Parks is making a concerted and successful effort to switch to recycled water, where safe and appropriate, and is leading the way for other departments. The BOS hauls trash that is generated primarily by the public, not by the Rec & Parks Department itself. Unless and until all other city departments and agencies are required to pay for these services, Rec & Parks should not be required to do so.

End One-Way Chargebacks

If, however, Rec & Parks must pay for the above services, then it should also be allowed to chargeback to the DWP and BOS the fair market value of the rights-of-way and acreage it currently provides these departments in parks free-of-charge. Laydown areas, work areas, equipment parking, high voltage transmission line easements, above-ground and buried water tanks, buildings, water main easements, reservoirs, and dumps are some of the non-reimbursed uses these departments enjoy on Rec & Parks properties.

Stick To The Parks' Core Mission

Rec & Parks should be relieved of the responsibility of providing landscape maintenance for city properties that belong to other departments. City Hall grounds is one example. Other departments' needs should not be placed on the backs of Rec & Park's overtasked employees. If Rec & Parks continues servicing these properties, the costs to do so should be reimbursed from the owners' budgets, not from Rec & Parks' already inadequate funds.

Rec & Parks is experiencing a maintenance and security crisis. Manpower shortages are leading to problems that will take decades to correct. The only funding available is from the City's General Fund, or from equitable and realistic arrangements with the DWP and Bureau of Sanitation. We urge you to explore these ways to restore the department's budget, so it can again provide the level of service and recreational opportunities it has traditionally offered, and to which the people of Los Angeles are entitled.

Respectfully, Friends of Griffith Park

**Three consecutive
years of budget
cuts have placed
Griffith Park in
jeopardy. It's time
for the City
to restore the
funding our park
system needs.**

ALONG THE ANZA TRAIL

Working with the National Park Service to enhance a Griffith Park asset



**Griffith Park's
Anza Trail is
an important link
in a National
Historic Trail
stretching from
Nogales to San
Francisco Bay**



The year is 1775. In October, forty soldiers and 240 civilians under the command of Captain Juan Bautista de Anza set out from the presidio at Tubac, Arizona to colonize present-day San Jose. In January 1776, they pass through the future pueblo of Los Angeles and camp on the river at a place called *El Portezuelo*. Later, one soldier, Corporal Jose Vicente Feliz, will receive a land grant that includes *El Portezuelo*. It will become known as Rancho Los Feliz and, ultimately, Griffith Park.

Fast forward to 2012. With a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (NPS-RTCA) program, Friends of Griffith Park has embarked on a project to improve Griffith Park's Anza Trail. We are excited to be serving as Project Cooperator for a primary planning team that includes the Department of Recreation and Parks and the NPS-RTCA.

The outcome will be a link in a well-defined Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail stretching from Nogales, Arizona to the San Francisco Bay. Along the trail, the National Park Service envisions that users will *"experience landscapes similar to those the expedition saw; learn the stories of the expedition, its members, and descendants... and appreciate the extent of the accomplishments of Juan Bautista de Anza and his colonizers."*

Part of President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" Initiative

Elevating prospects for success is the project's recent mention in President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" (AGO) *Fifty-State Report*. The report highlights two projects in every state as local grassroots conservation efforts of significant value. In California, one of them is trail improvements along the Los Angeles River including Griffith Park and the Anza Trail. Its inclusion helps position the project as a priority endeavor for the State and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Current trail conditions, challenges and opportunities

Horseback riders, hikers and runners routinely enjoy Griffith Park's segment of the Anza Trail – a distance of approximately 4 miles. It can be accessed at the Park's northwest end opposite the Equestrian Center or at its southeast terminus near the Pony/Train Ride concession at the Park's Los Feliz entrance. In some places it passes through remnants of oak woodland communities and is shaded by heritage oaks and ancient sycamores. Elsewhere, it skirts picnic grounds and Wilson-Harding Golf Course offering views of the Park's foothills. Be forewarned that some sections of the trail are less than ideal and that problems with upkeep and freeway noise will affect enjoyment.

Friends of Griffith Park is seeking to improve the overall trail experience. Beyond resolving maintenance issues and making needed repairs, potential improvements may include adding interpretive signage to promote the trail's educational value, creating signage to call attention to its heritage trees and plants, improving the landscape, adding noise mitigation measures and promoting connectivity to other Anza Trail units. We are at the beginning of the planning process, but if we do our work well, the Anza Trail will one day become a rewarding experience to discover and enjoy in Griffith Park!

The Anza Trail's inclusion in the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Fifty-State Report is gratifying. President Obama launched AGO to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda, based on the premise that lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people.



Some portions of Griffith Park's Anza Trail need improving. Above, drainage and maintenance issues plague the under-freeway tunnels that deliver horseback riders to the trail. Left, one segment passes through an area that supports intermittent heavy construction and trucks, while another exposes users to unabated noise from the 5/Golden State Freeway.



Stretches of the Anza Trail offer glimpses of history and natural beauty and allow us to imagine what might be. Above, the presence of the trail within Griffith Park is currently marked only by a plaque in the Pecan Grove picnic area. Right, a pleasant section of the trail shaded by mature oaks – the kind the Anza expedition would have seen in the 18th century; The Feliz family adobe in the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Visitors Center complex, a tangible reminder of the Park's rancho history.

NATIVE INTELLIGENCE

The Griffith Park Natural History Survey reaches its five-year milestone

The recent confirmation of a mountain lion, the sighting of bat species previously unknown in Griffith Park, the discovery of native plants once thought to have disappeared from its borders – all are the work of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey. In just five short years, this grassroots endeavor has become the most comprehensive repository of information about the Park's native animals and plants. And it's all thanks to the vision of one determined individual.

In late 2006, as a member of the Griffith Park Draft Master Plan Working Group, George Grace was dismayed to learn there was no scientific data on the Park's flora and fauna. The City lacked a formal database of current or historic information; the best knowledge resided with the Park Rangers and it was incomplete and sometimes anecdotal. George had a good idea: Why not raise funds and start documenting the natural wonders of Griffith Park?

Serendipitously, local ecologist, Dan Cooper a veteran of Audubon California, had just founded *Cooper Ecological Monitoring*. With an academic background at Harvard and graduate work at UC-Riverside, Dan was eminently qualified and was asked to come on board as Scientific Director. A volunteer Steering Committee composed of George Grace, Gerry Hans, Charley Mims and Dan Cooper was formed and the Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS) was on its way.

After seed funding was provided by the Franklin Hills Residents Association, Oaks Homeowners Association and a few individuals, further luck appeared in the form of two young aspiring ecologists taking a break from finishing their academic courses. Stephanie Spehar, (now Dr. Spehar, on staff at the University of Wisconsin's Anthropology program) and Paul Matthewson, were asked to help Cooper execute a field-intensive survey. They all but donated their time and worked diligently in the park over the spring/summer of 2007. The result was the release of the first GPNHS study.

George's vision realized

Today, the Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS), has grown into the single most authoritative source for scientific data on the Urban Wilderness we call Griffith Park. Its collective knowledge offers tremendous value to decision-makers and has already proved helpful in protecting the park. In 2009, four GPNHS studies were appended to the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust's successful application to have Griffith Park declared a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

Funding from Friends of Griffith Park and contributions from community groups and individuals make the GPNHS possible. Surveys from its last five years are re-capped on the opposite page and exciting findings from its current endeavor, the Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study, are discussed on page 2.



Above, Wildlife Biologist Miguel Ordeñana and Friends of Griffith Park President, Gerry Hans are just two of the individuals who have contributed to the expanding knowledge base of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey.



Two finds from the GPNHS native plant study. Left, Clubhair Mariposa Lily, *Calochortus clavatus*. Right, Chocolate Lily, *Fritillaria biflora*.



Large Mammal and Herptile Survey, early 2007. 42 detection stations were set up to analyze species richness throughout Griffith Park. Exciting mammal findings included detection of the shy, rarely seen, gray fox in the Old Zoo area. Another key carnivore, the bobcat, was found to be more widespread in the park than thought. The herptile work continued into 2009, with confirmations of three salamander species, several other amphibians and quite a few reptiles. The coast horned lizard was found to persist in western areas of the park, but, alas, no longer in its central and eastern areas as reported in previous decades.

Bird Inventory, 2007-8. More than 200 bird species have been recorded in Griffith Park over the years, and around 150 occur every year. From March through June, nearly 70 species may nest in Griffith Park. This inventory formalized these lists which can be retrieved from FoGP's GPNHS link.

Bat Survey, 2008. Survey teams supervised by bat expert, Stephanie Remington, were equipped with ultrasonic detection and recording equipment. Eight different bat species were identified by their unique acoustical patterns. One, the western red bat, is classified as a "sensitive species of concern." Two others are recognized as having declined in recent years in the region and they depend on intact native tree habitat that Griffith Park provides. The abundance of other species, especially the pipistrelle, was surprising.

The Griffith Park Rare Plant Survey, 2009-10. GPNHS and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) corroborated on this energetic survey that culminated in a report that exceeded expectations. Cooper managed the study, enlisting a crew of plant scouts to formally describe the approximately 300 native species in Griffith Park. Ten known from the park are considered "rare" by the CNPS. Of these, seven were documented, some in surprising abundance. Unexpected species were also discovered. The report concluded, "...important populations of rare plants were found park-wide... Therefore, it is nearly impossible to point to a given region of the park and declare it unimportant for rare plants..."

Squirrel Survey, 2010-ongoing. This survey is mapping the distributions of the park's three squirrel species. The western gray squirrel, with fluffy gray tail and pure white underbelly, is the park's gorgeous native. Its territory may be increasingly impacted by the reddish-colored eastern fox squirrel, a species which was accidentally introduced in 1904. The third species is the native western ground squirrel which burrows on hillsides. The survey is examining the interaction and displacement of the park's squirrel species as well as establishing baseline knowledge.

Butterfly Survey, 2011-ongoing. To date, over 800 butterflies have been counted and the presence of 36 species, of the 45 or so considered possible in this area, confirmed. Tim Bonebrake, Cooper's consulting butterfly expert and biologist, found at least one small population of Fatal Metalmarks that was unexpected. He is also impressed by the relatively large numbers of Echo Azures, Pale Swallowtails, Brown Elfins and Bramble Hairstreaks that all require natural habitat and all seem to be doing well.



Above, Griffith Park Natural History Survey camera captures a coyote (*Canis latrans*), an opportunistic feeder and one of the Park's major predators.



Left, just two of the 36 species that have been confirmed in Griffith Park by the GPNHS Butterfly Survey that is currently in progress. Top, Anise Swallowtail, *P. zelicaon*; Bottom, West Coast Lady, *V. annabella*. Photos of butterflies from Griffith Park nature hounds are solicited, so please visit the GPNHS link on Friends of Griffith Park's website for how to participate in this "citizen science" activity.



GPNHS camera records a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), the largest herbivore in Griffith Park and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Access to the surveys is available online to all interested in wildlife. Complete reports and species lists are available at the GPNHS link on the Friends of Griffith Park website.

Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills Environmental Impact Report Released

Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills is embarking on a major expansion that will eliminate much of the relatively undisturbed open space on Griffith Park's northwest border. Last year, Friends of Griffith Park filed extensive comments on the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). We opposed the removal of the extraordinarily rich and mature native habitat directly bordering the Park: the potential sacrifice of 632 protected coast live oak trees and other native flora, and adverse impacts on Sennet Creek, a critical wild-life corridor that originates in Griffith Park and cuts through Forest Lawn to connect the Park to the L.A. River.

Because California's EIR process requires proposers to submit development alternatives, five plans were presented with Plan 1 being the most impactful on the Park. Friends of Griffith Park recommended that Plan 5, the least impactful, be adopted. The final EIR released this February settled on Plan 4, and contained 20 pages addressing our concerns.

Just as the process ended, cameras belonging to the Griffith Park Natural History Survey captured a mountain lion moving east towards Griffith Park and Forest Lawn (see story, page 2). The confirmation of this major carnivore has enormous implications on development in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. Friends of Griffith Park has filed a request for a Supplemental EIR to deal with this dramatic new finding and are awaiting a report from City planners.



L.A. River Fun Run/Walk Sunday, May 6 at 7:30 a.m.

Friends of Griffith Park is a sponsor of this 5 kilometer run that allows registrants to experience the river up close. Look for us in the Expo Area and at a water station.

Registration is \$15; proceeds benefit the Los Angeles River and the foundations that preserve her. Registration and bib pick-up is May 4 (12 to 7) and May 5 (10 to 6) at A Runner's Circle, 3216 Los Feliz Blvd, L.A., CA 90039. Race day registration is available from 6:15 to 7:15 a.m. Find more info about this event at www.friendsofgriffithpark or go to www.lariverfunrun.com



Marian Dodge named Assembly District 42 Woman of the Year

Assembly Member Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) has recognized Marian Dodge, a founding director of Friends of Griffith Park, as Assembly District 42's *Woman of the Year* for 2012. In March, Marian joined honorees from each of the other seventy-nine California Assembly districts for special recognition at a ceremony at the California State Capitol. "I am thrilled," says Marian of this accolade, "and am reminded of Margaret Mead's words, 'Never doubt that a small group of concerned people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.'" In addition to serving on Friends of Griffith Park's board, Marian has enjoyed a long relationship with the Park and helped lead the citywide movement to have it declared an L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument in 2009. We are proud of our colleague and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor!

Your memories and photographs can help document Griffith Park history

Oral histories and personal photographs not only enrich the historic record, they can lead to unexpected discoveries. Friends of Griffith Park would like to interview people who grew up with the Park. Recorded interviews will be archived; vintage photos and memorabilia will be scanned and returned. If you have an album or shoebox of old memories of Griffith Park, an interesting story to tell or know someone who does, please send us a message: www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Cahuenga Peak Native Plant Hike, Sunday, May 20 at 9 a.m.

Join the California Native Plant Society and Friends of Griffith Park on a steep but not too strenuous hike to Griffith Park's new acquisition at Cahuenga Peak. We'll look for *Calochortus plummerae*, *Pickeringia montana*, and *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *mollis*, (translation: amazing native plants!). Nature willing, we'll find these and other species and enjoy views of the San Fernando Valley and L.A. Basin. Meet at Wonderview and Lake Hollywood Dr., reached off Barham (exit 101 at Barham). Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. 3 hrs. Contact dan@cooperecological.com for further info.

Advertising In Parks *continued from cover*

Increasingly, proponents of advertising in parks are employing language that masks their true intent – calling advertisers *donors*, payments for advertising space, *donations*, and the ads themselves *recognition signage*. The vocabulary of philanthropy is being misapplied. These *donations* are actually transactions.

Real donations do not require payback. Throughout Los Angeles benefactors are thanked and acknowledged on institutional donor “walls”, that contain no logos, references to products and services, or individual messages. Visit the Los Angeles Public Library, UCLA, the Los Angeles Music Center and major museums to see how this works.

How funds gained through advertising would be used and who would make those decisions is murky. But in any case, the net proceeds won't buy much. The President of the Recreation and Parks Commission has admitted that the potential upside from selling advertising in the parks “*is not a windfall.*” The real beneficiaries will be advertisers who will gain unprecedented access to L.A.'s kids.

Is Zoo Opening Door to Advertising in Parks?

Despite the City Council Planning Committee's clear direction in December that there be nothing in the Sign Ordinance that would permit advertising in parks, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo, a rent-free tenant of Griffith Park, has applied to become a “Sign District.” This status would exempt the Zoo from the city's sign law and allow it to sell advertising in all its forms – including the digital ads, billboards, and super-graphics seen at L.A. Live and Staples Center. It will also establish the precedent that there can be “Sign Districts” and advertising elsewhere in Griffith Park and throughout the park system.

The late Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, said, “*The coast is never saved. It's always being saved.*” And so it is with our parks. The sign lobby never sleeps and the public must remain ever-vigilant. To protect our parks, we urge you to get involved. E-mail, write and phone your councilmember to communicate or reaffirm your opposition to advertising in parks. Raise the issue at community meetings. Ask your organization to take a stand. Contact the L.A. Zoo and ask it to withdraw its “Sign District” application.

Friends of Griffith Park will be examining the city's 2012-13 Budget closely to see if park funding is linked to advertising and other commercial schemes. Periodic updates on this issue will be posted on our web site. And on our “Contact” page you will also find how to contact city officials. Go to: www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Partial list of organizations opposing introducing advertising into city parks:

Beverlywood HOA
Brentwood Community Council
Brentwood Residents Coalition
CD-11 Transportation Advisory Committee
Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park
Coalition To Ban Billboard Blight
Debs Park Advisory Board
Federation of Hillside & Canyon Associations
Friends of Griffith Park
Holmby-Westwood Property Owners Assn
Homeowners of Encino
Los Feliz Improvement Association
Oaks Homeowners Association
Pacific Palisades Community Council
Pacific Palisades Residents Association
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Sierra Club Griffith Park Task Force
Sierra Club, Verdugo Hills Section
Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council
Atwater Village Neighborhood Council
Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Neighborhood Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
East Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council
Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Neighborhood Council
Mid-City Neighborhood Council
Palms Neighborhood Council
Pico Neighborhood Council
Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhood Council
Studio City Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhood Council
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westchester-Playa Neighborhood Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council
Valley Village Neighborhood Council



Donor recognition that thanks contributors without commercializing institutions and their settings. Note that the fund-raising entities tasked with finding support do not distract from donor names by calling attention to themselves. Top row: UCLA's Court of Philanthropy is a low wall that honors a hundred or more benefactors and blends into the campus. Left: Anza Borrego State Park acknowledges gifts with simple name plaques grouped in a row on the front of low benches at the visitors center.

Volunteers are making a difference in Griffith Park

Friends of Griffith Park helps to clean and green the Park through service events that include planting trees, removing invasive plants, painting out graffiti, picking up litter, and more. Our volunteers work hard, but they enjoy seeing the results!

You can participate as an individual or bring your friends. We can also accommodate organized groups by advance arrangement. Check our website regularly for upcoming events and If you would like to be added to our volunteer database, send us an e-mail at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org



Top of page, volunteers plant trees that will create oxygen and shade for the next generation. Friends of Griffith Park is working to enhance the Park's canopy with the help of TreePeople, individual volunteers, service groups and schools.

Directly above, invasive plants crowd out native flora and harm the Park's ecosystems. Removing them is a difficult but satisfying chore – no wonder this group of volunteers has energy left to smile for the camera.

Above right and right, Marshall High School Environmental Studies students and Friends of Griffith Park members paint out graffiti and clean-up the Old Zoo Picnic Area. Before the crew of 60 volunteers arrived, tags and trash were everywhere. By the end of the morning the site was graffiti-free and spotless.



Safety Alert *continued from page 6*

issues, L.A.'s regional parks – 50% of the city's parkland – deserved to be protected by officers with special skills. But this turned out to be wrong. Every year since 2004 Park Ranger Division's staffing, hours and equipment have been reduced and from a previous high of 64 Park Ranger Division positions, there are only 19 Rangers today.

With OPS on the block, there is as yet no indication that officials are considering closing the park security gap by restoring the Park Ranger Division to its pre-OPS strength. In fact, there is no guarantee that the Rangers will not be cut yet again. And, as was the case in the short-lived consolidation, the city has not reached out to park constituents to ask them what they think.

The answer is written in the public record. For the last five budget cycles, park advocates and neighbors have urged the City to fully staff the Park Ranger Division. Every year, the request has been denied. Typically, response is made that the Office of Public Safety (OPS) and LAPD are more cost-effective than Park Rangers. But Park Rangers are paid less than these city employees. Or, response is made that the OPS and LAPD can keep parks secure – but they do not patrol the parks. These forces respond only to incidents, and are neither tasked

with nor familiar with issues unique to regional parks.

Park Rangers are the only public safety officers that patrol the parks, alert for problems that can arise in the backcountry as well as in developed facilities. They troubleshoot and solve conflicts that occur everywhere, and work in a score of small ways to foster a safe environment. Currently Griffith Park is the only regional park staffed by Rangers although they are so few that they are only on duty between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Still they persevere and are surprisingly effective. But how long can this be sustained without adequate support?

Friends of Griffith Park and other regional park advocates are concerned that the City's 2012-13 budget will recommend more cuts to the Rangers. We are asking all who care to contact the city and demand that there be Park Rangers in all regional parks. E-mails, letters and other expressions of concern should be directed to your Councilmember and to the Chairs of the City Council's Budget Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee. Please cc your message to the General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks. You will find their names and contact information on the "Contact" page of our web site: www.friendsofgriffithpark.org



Public parks are a safety valve of great cities...Give nature a chance to do her good work and nature will give every person a greater opportunity in health, strength and mental power.
Colonel Griffith J. Griffith

Join Friends of GRIFFITH PARK

- Preserve Griffith Park's landscape, ecosystems and wilderness features
- Safeguard Griffith Park's integrity as L.A.'s largest Historic-Cultural Landmark
- Promote free use and oppose commercialization and loss of open space
- Promote knowledge about the Park's natural heritage and human history
- Provide support for the Park's study and preservation

Members receive news and updates on issues and happenings in the Park, invitations to of programs, special events and volunteer opportunities, and the joy of knowing that belonging helps to conserve and preserve Griffith Park.

Return this form with your payment to Friends of Griffith Park, P.O. Box 27573, Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573 or visit our web site and join online at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

YES! I would like to join Friends of Griffith Park at the following level:

\$25 Friend \$50 Caretaker \$100 Guardian \$250 Steward \$500 Benefactor Above: \$_____

I am enclosing a check made out to Friends of Griffith Park in the amount of \$_____

Please charge the amount of \$_____ to my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

CREDIT CARD NUMBER_____ EXP DATE_____

CARDHOLDER NAME_____

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE_____

ADDRESS_____

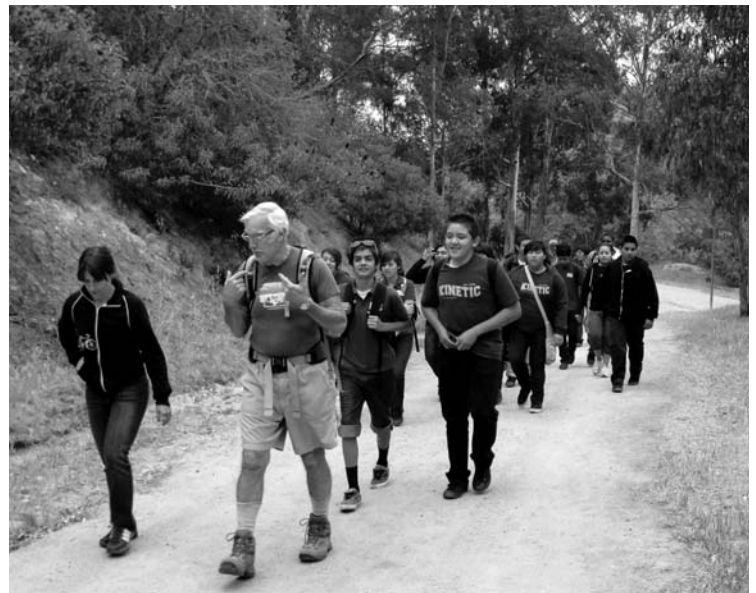
CITY, STATE, ZIP_____

PHONE NUMBER_____ E-MAIL_____



Friends of Griffith Park, P.O. Box 27573, L.A., CA 90027-0573

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PASADENA, CA
PERMIT #277



Join Friends of Griffith Park and help support outdoor education for urban kids

Since March 2011, Friends of Griffith Park has partnered with the Inner City Outings Committee of the Sierra Club to bring hundreds of city kids to Griffith Park to discover the natural world. We help underwrite transportation and associated expenses and provide knowledgeable hike leaders familiar with Griffith Park trails. Using them as a pathway to learning, elementary through high school students absorb lessons about ecology and history, pick up hiking skills and discover the joys of outdoor exercise – healthy habits that we hope will last a lifetime!



P.O. Box 27573, L.A., CA 90027-0573

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org