



# the griffith reporter

the newsletter of friends of griffith park/fall 2013



## \$10,000 National Grant Awarded to Fern Dell Project

Friends of Griffith Park is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the **Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation** from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The application for the grant was enthusiastically supported by two influential groups: 1) the Cultural Landscape Foundation which had named Fern Dell to its 2012 National Landslide list of significant-but-threatened cultural landscapes and 2) the Los Angeles Conservancy which recognized Fern Dell's cultural significance and need for rehabilitation. The grant money goes directly into the Fern Dell Fund, established specifically for the rehabilitation of historic Fern Dell.

This is the first national grant Friends of Griffith Park has received and reinforces the national value of Fern Dell and Griffith Park. "Without organizations like Friends of Griffith Park, communities and towns all across America would have a diminished sense of place," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "The National Trust for Historic Preservation is honored to provide a grant to Friends of Griffith Park's Fern Dell Fund, which will use the funds to help preserve an important piece of our shared heritage." The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation was created in 1994 and aims to save historic environments

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in order to foster an appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage and to preserve and revitalize the livability of the nation's communities. The national selection process is very competitive and Friends of Griffith Park received the highest award available (awards range from \$2,500 to \$10,000). The Favrot Grant application was written under the direction of FoGP's Fern Dell Ad Hoc Committee and, in part, by the pro bono services of The Arroyo Guild.

"Thanks to a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from a private donor, a total of \$20,000 will now be added into the Fern Dell Fund," stated Gerry Hans, FoGP president. "We'd like to thank the National Trust and our key matching donor for investing in Friends of Griffith Park and our important work at Fern Dell." Exciting? Yes, indeed! But...

### What you can do now

This is where we need *you* to help make these plans sprout, grow and bloom. Many of you have already made donations to the Fern Dell Fund and we thank you. We've now reached about 25% of our Phase II goal. Won't you join the National Trust, the Griffith Charitable Trust and your fellow Friends of Griffith Park in supporting the rehabilitation of historic Fern Dell? There are several ways you can help. First, become a member of Friends of Griffith Park [friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://friendsofgriffithpark.org). Make a donation to the Fern Dell Fund and ask your friends to do so as well. Remember, every dollar you contribute is doubled, providing two dollars to Fern Dell with our matching grant challenge.

### Fern Dell Phase II

Currently, we are launching the start of Phase II of the Fern Dell Initiative by building off the successful completion of Phase I (the

preparation of a formal Cultural Landscape Assessment Report to describe the site and make recommendations that was funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Los Angeles County Preservation Fund with matching funds from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust).

Phase II is a detailed planning process that calls for numerous technical studies by consultants working hand-in-hand with the Department of Recreation and Parks Planning Division to tell us the best way to preserve and revitalize this charming section of Griffith Park. The studies start with an accurate

technical survey of Fern Dell's 20 acres. Then come technical assessments of every element of the cultural landscape including:

- hydrologists to restore streams and ponds;
- certified arborists to inventory and evaluate trees;
- fern experts to plan invasive plant removal and replanting of fern species;
- irrigation specialists to design sprinkler systems;
- ecologists to assess wildlife;
- historic preservationists and landscape architects to evaluate and appropriately repair and preserve all of the built environment;
- cost estimators to provide critical information as to how much it will actually cost to repair and revitalize Fern Dell.

Without Phase II, there is no way to determine what Fern Dell will require to be brought back and maintained. Our goal is to raise well over \$200,000 to accomplish the critical work outlined in Phase II.

Fern Dell thanks you for your support.



(above) Fannie and Edith Overn relaxed in Fern Dell in 1933.



(right) Los Feliz resident Donna Matson used to play in Fern Dell as a young child.





## Low-flying Helicopters Buzz Griffith Park

**At the June 10th Congressional Field Hearing held at the Autry National Center on the subject of reducing helicopter noise in our neighborhoods,** Congressman Adam Schiff, Congressman Tony Cardenas, and LA Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spoke out strongly, demanding that the FAA readjust their mandates to include the quality of life for citizens on the ground. The hearing attracted a large public attendance fed up with intrusive and disruptive noise coming from non-essential helicopters.

The hearing addressed the current Federal legislation in the House and Senate to reduce LA County helicopter noise. That legislation calls for the FAA to produce a formal report to Congress. In their presentation, the FAA panel members repeatedly explained just how complex the LA airspace is, and that they are reluctant to create any negative economic impacts on the helicopter industry or related commerce.

At the hearing a four-member stakeholder panel presented formal statements and asked the FAA questions about helicopter noise. Friends of Griffith Park's president Gerry Hans was selected to sit on this panel and described the incessant stream of low-flying tour helicopters seeking close-up views of the

Hollywood Sign and the Griffith Observatory, which has worsened in recent years. Not only are nearby residents affected, those who come to Griffith Park hoping for peace and quiet are also impacted. Noise can also have detrimental effects on wildlife.

To avoid Burbank Airport airspace and fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter pilots are sandwiched in a tight range, often 1600-1800 feet above sea level over parts of the park. Since the park's highest peaks range from 1600 to 1820 feet above sea level, helicopters can produce a lot of noise and disruption on the ground. Griffith Park has a history of helicopter crashes. Already this year, there has been one emergency landing in a cloud of smoke and one crash which fortunately was non-fatal and did not start a brush fire.

This is an issue that, no doubt, is not going away overnight. Yet, solutions are possible. A county-wide coalition of citizens has been actively involved in solving the helicopter noise issue, Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition. Friends of Griffith Park is an active participant with this coalition. For more understanding about the problem, go to the coalition's website, [LAHelicopterNoise.org](http://LAHelicopterNoise.org).



# Keeping Griffith Park Free... with \$5 Parking?

**Bending to City Hall pressures to charge for parking, a “pilot study” was conducted for “preferred parking.” The pilot study was declared successful and the Zoo has now fully implemented the paid parking program on a year-round basis.**

**The Los Angeles Zoo is now charging \$5 for “preferred parking.”** Not just for a few close-in spaces, but for 750 parking spaces! On some busy weekends, the limited free spaces were at capacity, leaving some visitors little choice but to reluctantly cough up a \$5 bill.

History tells the story of our City’s misguided forays into charging for usage of Griffith Park and is summarized in historian Mike Ebert’s book entitled “Griffith Park A Centennial History.” The first attempt occurred in 1931 and was staunchly opposed by Van Griffith, son of Colonel Griffith J. Griffith. The next foray occurred in the 1970s and was opposed by Recreation and Parks General Manager, William Fredricksen, who commented “No matter what the benefits, the idea of a parking fee is totally foreign to our idea of what Griffith Park should be.” A last attempt was made in the early 1980s, and was overruled by the City Council after attendance to the park’s attractions dropped dramatically and the income generated at toll gates was about half of what was expected.

All three historical attempts to charge Griffith Park patrons for entering or parking in Griffith Park were short-lived. Clearly, Colonel Griffith’s bequest intends that Griffith Park be an experience available to all economic classes without the burden of expense. The expansive Zoo parking lot is utilized by many cyclists, hikers, picnickers, and runners. The dangerous precedent of allowing paid parking at the Zoo lot could lead to implementation of parking fees at other Griffith Park lots, including Crystal Springs, Fern Dell and Vermont Canyon. If this were to happen, the “park experience” could become out of reach for lower income families and seniors. Revenue-driven policy changes which take place in one park tend to carry over into other parks. The possibility of pay parking across the entirety of City parks is frightening.

In 2010, the Zoo received a great gift courtesy of Proposition O, a bond measure to improve and protect water quality. The project to re-surface the Zoo lot with permeable material and install bio-swales for cleansing runoff water qualified for \$14 million dollars in funding. The public learned about the City Administrator and Mayor Villaraigosa’s idea to put in toll-gates during the project’s construction period. Advocates talked with Zoo Director John Lewis and the matter was thought to have been settled. After further review, it was decided that the extra operating funds could be obtained more cheaply and efficiently by simply raising the price of an average Zoo admission ticket, without penalizing other park users. In addition, changes to traffic flow had not been studied adequately in the required environmental review for the project, so the toll-gates were never installed.

Fast forward to 2013, and we have a beautiful renovated parking lot with drought-tolerant trees and plants. The Zoo admission price was, as planned, increased. The Zoo now has fully implemented the paid parking program on a year-round basis. However, as there was no public outreach, it remains to be seen whether it will be challenged. As this article goes to press, we have learned that the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust may be sending their comments to the City.

Friends of Griffith Park strongly objects to the financial imposition put upon Griffith Park visitors which is contrary to the spirit of the Griffith bequest. Although a legal opinion was rendered by the City Attorney clearing the way for charging at Griffith Park’s largest public parking lot, a first glance seems to indicate that the opinion is flawed and contrived. However, the largest fallout from the City’s push to collect parking fees might just be the negative publicity that the Zoo gets for tacking on additional costs for their patrons and exacerbating the enormous traffic jams it has created on the I 5 at the SR 134 interchange on weekends.



An aerial photograph of the Los Angeles Zoo and its surrounding parking areas. The zoo's main building is visible in the center-left, with the text "LA ZOO" printed on its roof. To the right of the building is a large, multi-level parking lot outlined in red, which is labeled "\$5 PARKING". To the left of the building is a smaller parking lot outlined in green, labeled "FREE PARKING". Above the zoo building is a large, rectangular parking lot outlined in green, also labeled "FREE PARKING". The image shows various roads, trees, and other surrounding infrastructure.

**FREE PARKING**

**FREE PARKING**

**\$5 PARKING**



# Wild About Mushrooms in Griffith Park

**With luck, Griffith Park received a small dose of rain just before experts arrived in LA to help with the first official Griffith Park Mushroom Survey.** The rain made it possible for about 50 species to be documented! The Los Angeles Mycological Society partnered with Friends of Griffith Park for the February 9th survey. Leading the survey was Gary Lincoff of New York City, a well-known mycologist and author of the Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms. Also providing expertise were *Fungi Magazine* editor Brett Bunyard, and Manny Salzman, founder of the Telluride Mushroom Fair. Other expert and hobbyist “shroomers” associated with the local mycological chapter also supervised.

The sign-up to participate in the Saturday survey was so popular that RSVPs had to be closed shortly after announcing it. Friends of Griffith Park wanted the survey to be an interactive learning experience for its members, so it was limited to 35 participants. The survey was done with permission of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Gary Lincoff was impressed with the breadth of species that were fruiting. Mediterranean Climate habitat, like we have in Southern California, may not boast year-round mushrooming, but any moisture event – even fog – can trigger fruiting. The species list with documenting photos is still being processed and will be retained as a part of a continuing series of scientific survey work in Griffith Park. Gary thinks a one-hundred-species list is possible for Griffith Park and was impressed with the group’s proficiency in finding so many tiny species, some of which were only 1/8-inch in diameter.

Mushrooms (or fungi) are critical in ecosystems with lots of woody biomass. Saprophytic, wood-decomposing fungi, are nature’s best recyclers. Other mushrooms are symbiotic, working together with other plants or bacteria, redistributing nutrients within the ecosystem. Mushrooms are also effective toxic-waste disposers and for that reason, scientists are keen to study them.



Inky caps (*Coprinellus micaceus*) fruiting in clusters.



Turkey tail (*Trametes versicolor*) has applications in cancer treatment.

# Utility Charges Continue to Devastate Parks Budget

**The City's relatively new policy of mandating cost recovery (charge-backs) for services continues to decimate the Department of Recreation and Parks budget.** According to the 2013-2014 budget, RAP will pay the Department of Water and Power (DWP) \$6M for water and \$9M for electricity and pay the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) \$3.4M for trash pick-up. Meanwhile DWP controls many acres of park land for power line easements, water line easements, water tanks, settling basins, and maintenance buildings but pays Rec and Parks not one penny for the rental/lease of this property. Likewise BOS controls many acres in the center of Griffith Park as they are responsible for the Toyon Canyon landfill. If DWP can charge Rec & Parks for water and electricity, why can't Rec & Parks charge DWP and BOS for the use of its land at market rates? These non-reciprocal charge-backs are completely unfair.

This new system of charge-backs has effectively cut Rec and Parks operating budget by 30%. Those are dollars that can no longer be used to provide youth programs, Park Ranger security, or routine maintenance. Neglect of any of these areas has a cumulative deleterious effect on the entire park system. Without a comprehensive program of youth activities, more young people might turn toward gangs. Without adequate Park Ranger supervision, illegal activities increase in the park. Witness the recent spate of graffiti along park trails. Without routine maintenance, things fall apart and require full replacement which is much more costly than making small repairs while they are still small.

During the last campaign, when Eric Garcetti was running for mayor, he signed a pledge to restore park funding. ([parkssave.com/parks-save-coalition/](http://parkssave.com/parks-save-coalition/))

Now that Garcetti is Mayor, it's a good time to remind him of that promise. Please write or email Mayor Garcetti ([Mayor@lacity.org](mailto:Mayor@lacity.org)) and ask him:

1) to end the non-reciprocal charge-backs and restore funding to the Department of Recreation and Parks.



LADWP power house located near the Crystal Springs Picnic Area.

2) to restore Park Ranger positions to a much higher level in order to prevent costly damage and to enhance citizen safety.

This fall, a series of public hearings will be held by Rec and Parks to take comments regarding the need to restore park budgets over the next five years. This may be a good opportunity to voice your concerns again. Our parks are too important an asset to everyone in the city to be allowed to fall into disrepair.





# Auto-free Interior Park Roads - Good for Recreation and Wildlife

**Mt. Hollywood Drive and Vista del Valle Drive** have been closed permanently to vehicular traffic since the early 1990s. The closure of these two long, winding roads located within the interior of the Park has been widely welcomed by recreationists. These scenic roads allow for a peaceful co-existence among hikers, runners, equestrians and bicyclists, all of whom welcome a beautiful and safe environment in order to enjoy their sport within the tranquility of the Park.

The decision to close these roads to all traffic except emergency and maintenance vehicles was spear-headed by Councilman Tom LaBonge while a key staff-member of the late, great Councilman John Ferraro. What vision and foresight LaBonge showed in making these roads auto-free and creating so many more miles for safe, passive recreational use!



Prior to the road closures, problems persisted in areas where lewd behavior was often reported. Trash was also an issue, as many drivers would fling their fast-food bags, bottles and cans out the windows of their cars. There were fire concerns too, as many cigarette butts were also flung from car windows. With the closure of these two interior roads, the problems all but disappeared.

Today, over 20 years later, park recreationists continue to traverse this scenic interior of Griffith Park in increasing numbers, as more citizens have discovered this welcoming, bucolic and safe setting. For bicyclists the paved roads are training favorites with hard climbs, but also where they feel safe away from cars. Families with small children and baby strollers take advantage of these car-free roads in the urban milieu for hiking and biking, as well.

Just as important, Vista del Valle and Mt. Hollywood Drives transect the middle of Griffith Park where a healthy, complete wilderness ecosystem persists. Wildlife is no longer subjected to the previous high road-kill mortality rate. They are free to roam. The habitat is less likely to burn. And we, as park users, are better able to enjoy nature at its finest.

How fortunate we are. In a car-driven society, like Los Angeles, it is reassuring to know we can find our escape and relief on the tranquil back roads of our beloved Griffith Park.





# Anza Trail In Griffith Park Gets Its Own Brochure

by Carol Henning, Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, Griffith Park Section



Now Griffith Park has its own **Anza Trail brochure**. This 14 x 17-inch color brochure is illustrated with photos, reproductions of paintings and a map of the Griffith Park section of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The text includes the story of the 1775-76 Anza expedition and a brief history of the four-mile segment that runs through Griffith Park. It focuses on enlisted soldier Jose Vicente Feliz, who, for his role in overseeing the establishment of El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles, was awarded 6,647 acres

upstream from the Pueblo. His holdings became known as Rancho Los Feliz, and the adobe of one of his inheritors, Anastasio Maria Feliz, is today part of the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Visitor Center complex.

Soter & Associates generously contributed the design and development of the brochure in consultation with NPS Anza Trail Superintendent Naomi Torres, Outdoor Recreation Planner Patrick Johnston, and Interpretive Park Ranger Hale Sargent. The Anza National Historic Trail information in the Griffith Park brochure supplements the National Park Service one—which covers the entire trail from Tubac Presidio to San Francisco—by bringing it all back home to the Los Angeles River and the Park.

Friends of Griffith Park, which has worked with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program since Fall 2011, has completed a detailed segment-by-segment working document with plans for mitigating freeway noise, improving maintenance, promoting connectivity to the Los Angeles River, increasing native vegetation and adding interpretive signage. Earlier this year, the project received the recommendation of the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee, a joint working group composed of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the City of Los Angeles in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, which coordinates and evaluates projects along the upper reach of the L.A. River.

Also this year, Friends of Griffith Park inaugurated interpretive hikes that tell the story of the Anza Trail. Participating in these outings are National Park Service Rangers and City of Los Angeles Park Rangers. The first such hike took place on March 23.



National Park Service Ranger Adali Olivares describes the conditions the Anza expedition encountered along the trail.



FoGP President Gerry Hans points out some of the features the Anza expedition would have come across in Griffith Park.

Park service personnel described how Lt. Col. Anza's group of more than 300 settlers—families, cowboys, mule packers and Indian guides—accompanied by over 1,000 head of livestock, survived during their 1200-mile journey. Indeed, the four-mile segment of the trail in Griffith Park is one of the best places in the Los Angeles area to reflect on the legacy and impact of the historic Anza expedition.



# What's happening in Fern Dell

In April, as part of launching the Phase II work, Friends of Griffith Park hired **Cooper Ecological Monitoring** to inventory the wildlife in Fern Dell. The water in the Dell's stream attracts a variety of wildlife; it's time to find out what's there. The team is looking at nesting birds including raptors, large mammal movement, amphibians in the stream, and rodents such as the native Western gray squirrel. The six-month survey will include field studies by three biologists who are conducting both morning and night surveys. In addition the survey utilizes three cameras to track and photograph wildlife. At the end of the survey biologists will map and document their findings. Cooper Ecological has participated in nine previous studies of flora and fauna in the park for the Griffith Park Natural History Survey; however, this is the first study they have conducted specifically in Fern Dell.

On April 16th, **L.A. Times columnist Gale Holland** wrote a nostalgic article on Fern Dell which can be located online at

[articles.latimes.com/2013/apr/16/local/la-me-holland-fern-dell-20130416](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/apr/16/local/la-me-holland-fern-dell-20130416) "...when Fern Dell was still a citywide attraction, I was young enough to believe fairies were hiding under the lush foliage. Now the garden's exotic plants and distinctive hand-hewn stonework are a metaphor for Los Angeles: a blend of make-believe and natural beauty, a lost Shangri-la in a city that ignores its own history."

This past May, Fern Dell was honored by the **Garden Conservancy** which selected it as the lead garden for their Open Days in Los Angeles. The Garden Conservancy is a nation-wide nonprofit organization to preserve exceptional American gardens, to share great gardens, and to educate the public about the best gardening ideas for design, preservation and sustainability. [gardenconservancy.org](http://gardenconservancy.org). Each summer, cities throughout the country show off their public and private gardens. Friends of Griffith Park set up stations in the dell where guests could learn about the ferns, *faux bois*, and Fern Dell history. More than 200 guests enjoyed their visit to Fern Dell that day.

In July, **Soroptimist International - Los Angeles** celebrated their 91st anniversary at Soroptimist Grove in Fern Dell. Soroptimist is a volunteer service organization with 90,000 members in more than 100 countries that works to improve the lives of women. [soroptimist-losangeles.com](http://soroptimist-losangeles.com).



Friends of Griffith Park, in conjunction with the **Sierra Club Inner City Outings Committee (ICOC)**, conducts hikes in Griffith Park for many bus loads of students, kindergarten through high school. Above, third grade students of **Glenfeliz School** in Atwater learned about the ecology of the park and then created models which captured the "circle of life." Friends of Griffith Park is proud to introduce children to the wonders and beauty of the park.



**Friends of Griffith Park participated in the Silent Auction** held at **Our Mother of Good Counsel Church** on Vermont Avenue in Los Feliz. Friends of Griffith Park donated a "basket" which included a framed wildflower photo, mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), T-shirt, and annual membership to FoGP. Gerry Hans (president) and Mary Button proudly represented FoGP at this event.





Soroptimists Barbara Jury, Joyce Jacob, Dona Lawrie, and Julie Mairs celebrated the Soroptimist's LA Chapter 91st anniversary with a picnic in Fern Dell.

popular picnic area. The group of vivacious women enjoyed getting together and learning more about the history of Fern Dell and the role their organization played in its development.

### Coming this fall

Friends of Griffith Park will again host **Historic Fern Dell Tours** in an effort to create a groundswell for the preservation project and to educate the community about the wonders of Fern Dell. The tours have become so popular they are now on an RSVP basis. Members will be notified well in advance.

**The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)**, a national organization, has invited Friends of Griffith Park to participate in their **What's Out There Weekend** scheduled for October 26 & 27. This is the first year TCLF is holding this multi-venue event in LA, but the event has been successful in Washington DC, San Francisco, Philadelphia and New York City.

Stay tuned for the details!

You can help Friends of Griffith Park by becoming a member and making a donation to the Fern Dell Fund at [friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://friendsofgriffithpark.org).

The group used to meet frequently in Fern Dell and dedicated a picnic area and planted a redwood seedling in 1947 to honor the Soroptimist Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in Northern California. Now Soroptimist Grove in Fern Dell features numerous glorious redwoods and is a

**FoGP's Summer Lecture Series** Fulfilling an important component of Friends of Griffith Park's mission... A third summer season for the Griffith Park Lecture Series generated terrific attendance by people interested in nature and history. In cooperation with the Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Library, two were presented at that location and a third was held at the Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium.

**July 18th lecture: Griffith Park: It's Really Wild** with biologist Dan Cooper; Director of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey; Miguel Ordeñana, Wildlife Biologist; and Erin Boydston, Research Ecologist, USGS Western Ecological Research Center.

**August 1st lecture and tree walk at Ranger Visitor Center: Exceptional Trees of the Department of Recreation and Parks.** Jorge Ochoa, Horticulture Department Chair, Long Beach City College.

**August 15th lecture: Secrets of Fern Dell** with guest speaker and local historian, Bernadette Soter.





## Annual Friends of Los Angeles River Cleanup

On May 18th, over 3,000 civic-minded families, groups and individuals descended on various parts of the LA River in conjunction with FoLAR's Great River Cleanup.

Friends of Griffith Park hosted the cleanup at Griffith Park's Bette Davis Picnic Area which was quickly filled by over 350 people working to rid the area of trash and debris, leaving behind a cleaner, healthier environment for wildlife. This cleanup presents a great opportunity for Angelenos to understand the importance of their river and, at the same time, enjoy a beautiful Saturday morning in a lush, green area.



On April 6th, approximately 40 people, many of whom are students from Marshall High, painted out graffiti and cleaned up trash on the lawns and surrounding areas at the Old Zoo.

These enthusiastic Marshall High students always do a great cleanup.



**Volunteer Cleanup at The Old Zoo**





## Garden Conservancy Open Days' Fern Dell Tour

Volunteers Robin Collins and Janet Lam studying materials in preparation for visitors to the Fern Dell Tour.

(below left) Learning about Fern Dell is for all ages. (middle) Volunteer Sherry Buch greets guests at station #1 and describes historic elements of the pedestrian bridge.



## Heritage Day

(above) Felix Martinez explains some of Friends of Griffith Park's projects to guests at LA Heritage Day held in downtown's historic El Pueblo.

Carol and Ron Brusha and Bernadette Soter help staff the Friends of Griffith Park table at LA Heritage Day on April 14th.



# Restoring Historic Fern Dell's Water Supply

**Water has always been the secret to Fern Dell's success.** In pre-European days, Native Americans gathered in Mococahuenga because of its water supply. The Parks Department started planting ferns beside the creek in 1914 and added pools and *faux bois* bridges in the 1920-30s. Visitors were attracted to this cool verdant oasis in the city and Fern Dell became a popular tourist destination. Vintage postcards show us how lush it once was. The springs in Fern Dell were rumored to be a Fountain of Youth and visitors brought jugs to fill with its magical waters. Whether or not it bestowed any youthful qualities, all agreed the water from Fern Dell tasted delicious.

The Park Commissioners Annual Report from 1931 reveals that water in the creek was once recirculated to the upper ponds by a 1,683-foot pipe from the lower dell. A defunct pump still exists. Hydrologists will investigate the possibility of re-establishing a recirculating water system to restore water to the upper ponds where the stately coast redwood trees are suffering from a lack of water. The trees will need intensive "hydrotherapy" with crystal-clear water in order to get them through the drought and the long, hot summers.

Although Fern Dell is currently suffering from a lack of water, there is plenty of water in the area – it just keeps appearing in inappropriate places like the basements of homes, at American Film Institute, in Immaculate Heart High School, and most notably in the middle of Fern Dell Drive. Friends of Griffith Park worked with Recreation and Parks, the Office of Historic Resources, Council District 4, and the Bureau of Street Services to redirect water erupting through the pavement back into the creek.

A French drain was created and pipe was laid eight feet under the road allowing the errant water to flow back into the creek. As a result of this cooperative effort spearheaded by Friends of Griffith Park, an additional 295 gallons of water per hour now flows into the creek at a remarkably constant rate, instead of down the road. That's an additional 2.6 million gallons of water per year!



Despite the dry creek beds and foliage, residents and visitors to LA continue to flock to Fern Dell in droves



Much hope for Fern Dell's complete revitalization hinges on fully utilizing its available water sources. Our planned hydrological studies are important in order to capture this natural water, direct the flow of water into the creek, and reuse it in an environmentally sensitive manner.





# 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 programs, special events and volunteer opportunities, and the satisfaction of knowing that belonging helps conserve and preserve Griffith Park.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## I would also like to give a gift membership at the following level:

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

Send membership to (please print):

RECIPIENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

A gift card will be mailed. Acknowledge membership as a gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Enclosed is a special contribution to the Fern Dell Fund

I am contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Fern Dell Fund. A separate check with "Fern Dell Fund" specified on the memo line is enclosed. For more information about the fund, see page 2.

**Mail this form to Friends of Griffith Park P.O. Box 27573 Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573**

**You can also join and contribute online at [www.friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org)**

Friends of Griffith Park is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit corporation. As such, your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



# P22 Mountain Lion 'At Home' in Griffith Park?

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

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**With his own music video, several twitter accounts, and numerous newspaper articles written about him, one might think that P22 would come out publicly from time to time.** Not so. He has been a resident of the greater Griffith Park area for over eighteen months and has only rarely been seen except by researchers' cameras.

Griffith Park, in comparison to the size of habitat areas these animals typically occupy, is tiny. For this reason, wildlife biologists have been pleasantly surprised he's stayed this long. It's a tribute to the park's rich habitat, its western and northwestern areas which are mostly remote to human activity, and its abundance of deer as a food source. To get to Griffith Park, P22 (P means puma) almost certainly crossed the 405 and the 101 freeways, according to his genetic analysis results. It's a remarkable feat, especially considering the high mortality rate this species incurs from traffic kills.

Recaptured and refitted in August 2012 with a new GPS tracking collar after the first one failed, National Park Service scientists can see GPS points up to eight times per 24 hours. P22's nocturnal activity is widespread within the park, with higher concentrations in the more remote habitat. P22 is displaying a tendency for major human avoidance according to the National Park Service, which has lead jurisdiction for the protection of the species.

Wildlife biologists say that, unlike coyotes and even bobcats, mountain lions behave the same way living near urban areas as



Photo: Courtesy Miguel Ordeñana and Matt Whitmire, Griffith Park Connectivity Study

they do in much larger primitive areas. They pass into residential zones only out of necessity or in a desperate attempt to find new territory. An urge that biologists often cite as potentially significant is the instinct for the 4-year-old male to find a mate; mountain lions have no seasonality for breeding.

P22's residency in Griffith Park is an extraordinary event and has given a team of scientists the opportunity to closely monitor P22, considered to be the most urban mountain lion in the country, if not the world. P22 was first detected through the Griffith Park Connectivity Study, largely funded by Friends of Griffith Park. A second year of connectivity research with over 15 motion-sensor cameras is underway to further understand the movements of a variety of mammals in the park including gray fox and bobcat.

Science has definitely documented that Griffith Park is better connected to other large habitat areas than previously ever imagined. The park is not an island. P22's future paths and our camera research will tell us much more. Stay tuned.