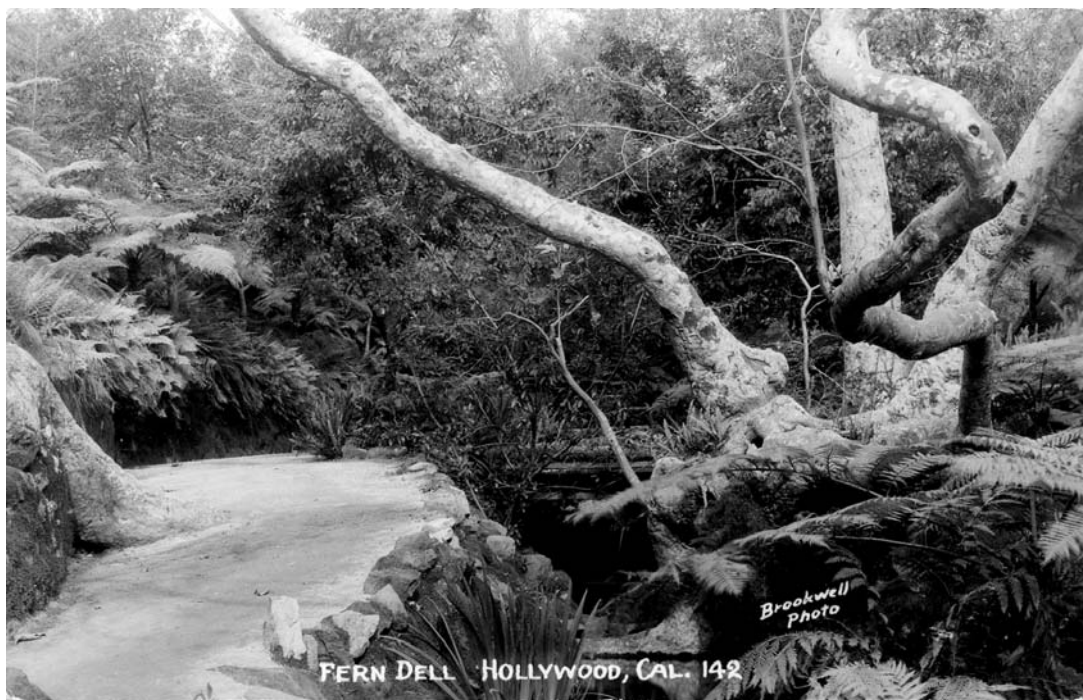




the griffith reporter

the newsletter of friends of griffith park/winter 2012-2013

Fern Dell joins
Pennsylvania Avenue
and Jones Beach on
The Cultural Landscape
Foundation's annual
list of iconic places
worth saving.



One of America's 12 most threatened landscapes

The Cultural Landscape Foundation, an influential Washington D.C. non-profit dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of America's cultural landscapes, has named Fern Dell to its Landslide 2012 list of significant, but threatened, parks, gardens and civic spaces worth preserving. In its announcement, the Foundation singled out Friends of Griffith Park for its Fern Dell preservation effort.

Fern Dell has been a popular oasis in Griffith Park for nearly 100 years, but today its hardscape is deteriorating, and its lushness in retreat. Recognizing that the city needs help to resolve these problems, in the Fall of 2011, Friends of Griffith Park established the Griffith Park Historic Fern Dell Preservation Project. Progress on the initiative is proceeding. Its first phase has been successfully completed and Phase II has begun. Thanks to the support of our funders and all-important members we have positive news to report.

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Landslide 2012: honoring visionary patrons and the sites they helped to create

Griffith Park is the result of an act of benevolence by Colonel Griffith J. Griffith. In 1896, L.A. was still a farm town. But Griffith foresaw the day when it would be a great metropolis whose residents would need sunlight, air and open space. On December 16th, he donated his sprawling ranch to create what he envisioned would be a great park.

His gift, 3015 acres of naturally forested mountains, canyons and meadows, was only the beginning. After his death his son, Van Griffith, served as a Park Commissioner and oversaw these improvements to the Park endowed by his father: the Greek Theatre (1930) and Griffith Observatory (1935).

Today the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, presided over by the Colonel's great-great grandson Van Griffith, continues this legacy of giving. Friends of Griffith Park is grateful to the Trust for the initial funding that made possible the successful completion of Phase I of the Griffith Park Historic Fern Dell Preservation Project.

Landslide® is The Cultural Landscape Foundation's annual selection of important but at-risk landscapes worth saving. This year's theme, *"Patrons and Their Landscapes,"* honors visionaries like Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, whose sweeping act of generosity created Griffith Park. In singling out Fern Dell, The Cultural Landscape Foundation is acknowledging its role in our collective heritage and reinforcing the importance of revitalizing this urban oasis for future generations to enjoy.

Fern Dell: then and now

Fern Dell is a fusion of natural and man-made elements that bridges Griffith Park's cultivated and wilderness zones. In 1914, the Parks department began adding ferns to this stream-fed ravine in Western Canyon, and by the early 1920's, the first of Fern Dell's terraced pools, paths and bridges were in place. In its prime, the 20-acre site was the city's pride. In 1928, *Los Angeles Times* columnist, Lee Shippey, wrote:

"When the brook is rushing and gushing, and all the ferns and mosses are vivid green, and the great sycamores winter-gilded, fill the immediate sky with clouds of gold, that glen seems to us the loveliest we ever saw."

Shippey believed that Central Park, Kensington Gardens, and the Tuileries were no match for Fern Dell. They were *"formal and citified and in no way compare to this masterpiece of the Los Angeles Park Department as works of art."*

The 1930's saw Fern Dell enlarged by New Deal workers and it remained a showplace until regularly scheduled, skilled maintenance ended in the 1970's.

Initial assessment completed

Friends of Griffith Park launched the Historic Fern Dell Preservation Project in the Fall of 2011. Faced with deteriorating conditions everywhere we looked, our first step was to commission a comprehensive assessment of the site. With grants from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, we retained consultants from the landscape architecture, historic preservation and horticulture fields to work as a team on an intensive analysis of Fern Dell. Their collaboration produced the *Historic Fern Dell Cultural Landscape Assessment 2012*, a first-phase diagnostic report that maps, details and photo-documents every feature of the site, and lays the groundwork for the technical studies and professional planning that must precede revitalization.

The assessment has been well-received. Michael Shull, Recreation and Parks Director of Planning, says, *"The Fern Dell Cultural Landscape Assessment Report provides a valuable plan that we can use to assist management of this area as well as support possible future competitive grant funding to protect and restore valuable assets such as this."*

The next task is to apply the assessment's recommendations. Chief among

Fern Dell joins Washington D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue, New York's Jones Beach and other great American places worth saving on The Cultural Landscape Foundation's Landslide 2012 list.



them is the creation of a Cultural Landscape Preservation Plan. This sophisticated blueprint for renewal will combine the expertise of a small army of consultants from a dozen technical fields—hydraulic engineering, landscape architecture, historic preservation, structural engineering, surveying, concrete rehabilitation, horticulture, wildlife ecology and more—into the comprehensive project plan that will be vital to implementation.

Living gifts received

On a parallel front, Fern Dell's horticultural consultants, world renowned fern expert Barbara Hoshizaki and Long Beach Community College instructor Jorge Ochoa, have made generous in-kind contributions. Before her passing in May of this year, Hoshizaki donated a portion of her private fern collection to the effort. Recently, Ochoa and members of Friends of Griffith Park transferred this valuable gift to the growing facilities on the Long Beach campus. There, under Ochoa's direction, Horticulture Club students are nurturing and multiplying the ferns, and creating new specimens from spores that will be ready for planting when the time comes.



A generous gift of exotic and native ferns is being held at the growing facilities at Long Beach Community College where they are being cared for and propagated by student volunteers.

Fern Dell Fund established

With the first phase complete, Friends of Griffith Park is soliciting support for Phase II of the project. We have established the *Fern Dell Fund* to accept donations that will enable this important preservation work to continue.

We encourage our members and friends to consider making a special tax-deductible donation directed to the Fund. Contributions can be made by check (specify Fern Dell Fund on the memo line) or can be made online by selecting the Fern Dell donation option. And if your employer has an employee-matching fund, please consider making a contribution through that established mechanism to match your personal contribution.

Mailed contributions should be sent to:

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

Online contributions can be submitted at:

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org



**Friends of Griffith Park
has inaugurated the
Fern Dell Fund to accept
donations that will further
the work of preserving
this threatened landscape**



Fern Dell horticultural consultants, Barbara Hoshizaki and Jorge Ochoa, have made generous material and in-kind contributions to the project.

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Preventing a ‘Silent Spring’

How Griffith Park neighbors can help put an end to the pesticide poisoning of wildlife



Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* imagined a polluted world devoid of birdsong and natural sounds.

**Concerned residents
can break the cycle of
poisons creeping into
the Park's food chain**



The 50th Anniversary of *Silent Spring* is a good time to take a look at the role pesticides play in the health and survival of Griffith Park wildlife. The publication of Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller helped kick-start the environmental movement. *Silent Spring* revealed pesticides' toxic effect on the wild and only four years after it appeared, DDT was banned. Species whose populations were in decline rebounded. In California, the comeback of the coastal pelican was a stunning success.

Living on the fringes of urban neighborhoods, Griffith Park's wildlife is affected by human practices. Scientific studies tell us that rat poisons are a leading cause of death among the Park's carnivores. After reviewing the findings, Friends of Griffith Park has launched "*Don't Poison the Wild*," an initiative to educate neighbors about the dangers these toxins pose and to suggest viable alternatives.

The killer: anticoagulant rodenticides

The household pesticide most commonly used, anticoagulant rodenticide, is indiscriminate. It kills the targeted species (rats and mice) as well as non-targeted species—such as hawks, owls, bobcats and coyotes. Ironically, the animals unintentionally poisoned provide a natural check on pest populations. They consume quantities of rodents without the environmental risks poisons pose.

Anticoagulant rodenticides trigger internal hemorrhaging, a slow, agonizing death that can take up to two weeks. A rodent dying from rodenticide poisoning is lethargic and tempting prey. When a predator consumes it, it also absorbs the pesticide. This persistence of poisons in animal tissue is called *bioaccumulation*. Its transfer to the carnivore is called *secondary poisoning*, which can be just as deadly.

Rats can mutate to develop immunity to poisons. Their resistance to first-generation anticoagulants has ushered in a more deadly second-generation that can kill in 1 to 3 days and is even harder for wildlife to combat. Children and pets are also at risk of ingestion. Annually, the American Association of Poison Control Centers receives between 12,000 and 15,000 reports of exposure of children under the age of six to rodenticides. Unintended and accidental consumption is not surprising. These products masquerade as food: they are called "bait" for good reason.

In 2008, after protracted review, the US Environmental Protection Agency determined that these high-volume poisons posed an "unreasonable risk" to children, pets, and the environment. Under federal law, pesticides that pose an "unreasonable risk" should not be legal for sale. The EPA gave manufacturers three years to remove them from the market. The deadline was June 4, 2011. Instead, the makers challenged the EPA's ruling and now the agency must follow a lengthier cancellation process that could keep the products on the shelves for years.

Change begins at home

With federal regulations on hold, the issue has moved to the local level. So far, grassroots concern has prompted the Marin Municipal Water District, Contra Costa County, City of Santa Monica and Ventura County to take action against anticoagulant rodenticides. Moves range from aborting their use on public property to limiting their retail sale—or at least consumer acceptance. Undoubtedly, more jurisdictions will follow suit, but there is no reason to wait for an official ban to stop using these poisons at home. The clock is ticking and wildlife needs us now. Read on to learn about safe ways to deal with pests and prevent a silent spring in Griffith Park.

Carol Brusha, Gerry Hans, Laura Howe, Bernadette Soter and Richard Stanley contributed research and writing to this story.



This healthy bobcat tagged in Griffith Park was later found weak and dying from notoedric mange contracted as a result of eating prey that had consumed anticoagulant rodenticide. Photos: Laurel Klein

Some sobering findings on rodenticide exposure and wildlife mortality

This analysis of the impacts of commonly used rodenticides on wildlife was compiled by Friends of Griffith Park from reliable scientific sources. It demonstrates that anticoagulant rodenticides are a leading cause of death in species common to Griffith Park. These poisons suppress animals' immune systems, making them more susceptible to severe infections.

Coyotes. A 5 year study in Santa Monica Mountains found:

- 83% of coyotes were exposed to rodenticides.
 - Rodenticide poisoning was the second leading cause of coyote death.
 - Death was by bleeding, a direct effect of the anticoagulant.
- It has been said that canines are 100x more sensitive to anticoagulants' direct effect than felines.

Bobcats. Since 1996, data from studies in the Los Angeles area indicate:

- 95% of bobcats tested have been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides.
- There is a statistical relationship between exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides and notoedric mange.

Mountain lions. Two collared mountain lions in Santa Monica Mountains, P-3 and P-4, died a bleeding death. Second generation anticoagulant compounds were found to be at high levels in both. Location plotting in the month preceding their deaths showed the cats living in highly urban areas where their diet was probably raccoons, opossums, and other small

animals as opposed to deer. The high levels of anticoagulants in their systems can be explained by the switch to a non-deer diet alternative. The two mountain lions also showed signs of mange.

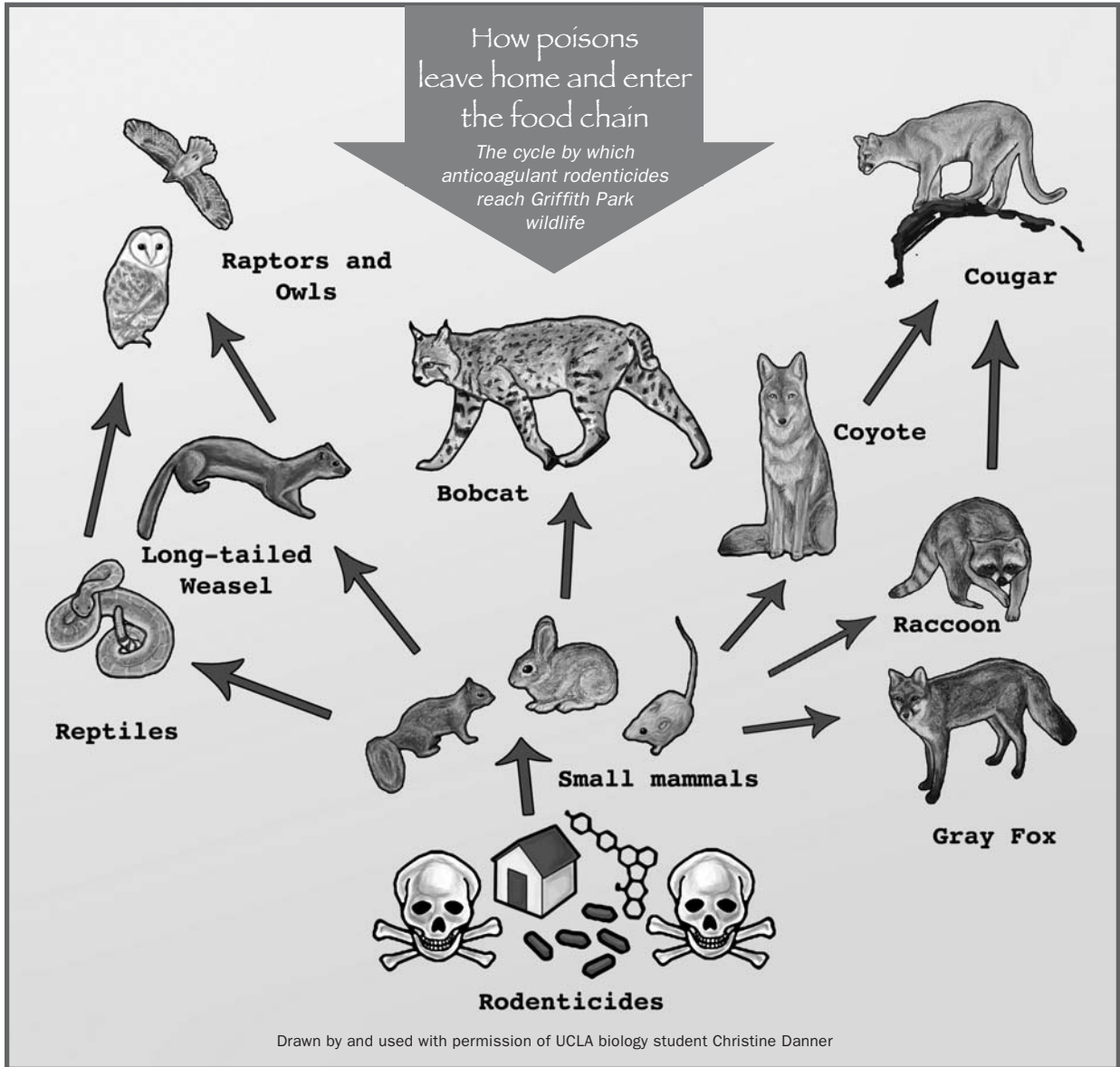
Ten Santa Monica Mountains area mountain lions have been tested, and nine show exposure to rodenticides, some at very high levels. Statewide, 96 mountain lions have been tested in the last seven years, with 74% displaying exposure.

Other wildlife. Birds have been identified to have rodenticide exposure, especially owls, hawks, eagles, and crows. Although data is very limited, exposure has been documented also in squirrels, raccoons and other mammals.

The threat of notoedric mange

Anticoagulants weaken bobcats' immune systems, making them susceptible to mange. The skin-burrowing mite, *Notoedres cati*, is found worldwide, but until now there has never been documented notoedric mange causing a population decline. Every bobcat found in the L.A. area study that died of mange had been exposed to anticoagulants.

A healthy animal should be able to control this infection, but Santa Monica Mountain bobcats are dying gruesome deaths. Uncontrolled mange causes itchy and infected skin, followed by patchy fur loss. Eventually the animal becomes emaciated and weak, ultimately succumbing to infection, starvation, hypothermia or a variety of other complications.



Since time immemorial, Griffith Park's predators have subsisted on mice, rats and ground squirrels. The difference today is that their prey may be laced with lethal poisons. Mammals at risk are (left to right): bobcats, coyotes and grey fox. Carnivorous birds like owls and hawks are also susceptible, as are prey-eating aquatic species like the Great Blue Heron that patrol for gophers in picnic areas near the river.



Photos: Bobcat and coyote, Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study; Grey fox, Laurel Klein; all others Friends of Griffith Park.

Advice from an expert: pest control methods that are safe bets for wildlife

Friends of Griffith Park sat down with Paul Yamaguchi of Yamaguchi Pest Control and asked him to recommend earth-friendly ways to combat household pests. These primary and secondary means were suggested:

Primary rodent control

Fundamental to rodent control is discouraging their presence by removing sources of food, water and shelter:

- Don't leave pet food and water outdoors, especially overnight. Store pet food supplies indoors in sealed containers.
- Seal gaps around air vents to building sub-areas and attics and any other openings that penetrate exteriors. Use sweep seals under doors. A rat can squeeze through a hole the size of quarter; a mouse through a hole smaller than a dime.
- Don't plant ivy—it provides shelter and a food source for rodents: snails and slugs. Ivy on walls can form “rat ladders” to windows, attics and other interior spaces.
- Keep compost piles as far away from structures as possible.
- Keep grass trimmed.
- If you have a bird feeder, use a squirrel guard at the base to keep rodents away. Keep the ground area clean of bird seed.
- Keep outdoor grills and cooking areas clean.
- Keep firewood off the ground and as far away from structures as possible to mitigate shelter opportunities.
- Use city-issue plastic trash bins. If cracked or missing a lid, contact the Department of Sanitation for a free replacement.
- Clean up trash in garden areas to remove shelter for rodents.

Secondary control: traps, old and new

The best secondary way to control rodents is by using traps.

- The best trap is the cheap, old-fashioned, wood-based “snap trap.” From human experience we know that death by rodenticide is particularly painful and can infer that an animal's death is also agonizing—some would say, needlessly cruel. Using a snap trap is more humane: it kills instantly in most cases by breaking the rodent's neck. Don't put the trap right outside a



suspected rodent hole. Instead, look for rub marks along walls as a sign of rodent pathways. Place the trap 90 degrees to the wall. Don't set or bait the trap initially—let the rodents become used to its presence. After a day or two, bait the trap with peanut butter (chunky works best) and set. Setting the trap in the evening mitigates the chance of trapping “non-target” animals. Wear disposable gloves when emptying the traps so as not to come into contact with rodent urine.

- A new type of trap that seems to work well is the electronic trap. Here, a rodent enters a bait box and is effectively shocked into immediate cardiac arrest with high voltage drawn from ordinary dry-cell batteries. Baiting, removal of the dead rat and monitoring are simple. The cost is not cheap, however. Most units run from \$30 to \$50. Check buyer reviews online.
- Glue traps are not effective for rats and other larger rodents that can pull free of the glue. Glue traps work well for mice, but mice will urinate while struggling. Human exposure to rodent urine is a health hazard.
- Live traps (cages) are not worth the risk of exposure to the myriad health hazards involved in handling a live rodent.

When in doubt, call a professional.

If these hands-on pest control methods do not appeal to you, by all means call a professional. Just be sure to stipulate that the method of eradication used does not involve anticoagulant rodenticides and is otherwise safe for pets, children, wildlife and the environment.

Dispose of leftover poisons responsibly.

If you have been using anticoagulant rodenticides and have decided to stop, bring any leftover products to your local toxic waste center where they will be disposed of responsibly.



Friends of Griffith Park at work

Our volunteers enhance the Park by planting trees, cleaning up, and removing graffiti



Friends of Griffith Park volunteers and students from the Environmental Studies class at Marshall High mulched recently planted trees, pulled weeds, and removed trash in the Crystal Springs area of Griffith Park.

Become a volunteer

If you would like to be added to our volunteer database and receive notification of events, please contact us at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org. You can participate as an individual or bring your family and friends. We can also accommodate organized groups by advance arrangement.



Volunteers learn the basics of tree planting at a Friends of Griffith Park service event in conjunction with TreePeople.

1. Digging the hole (easier said than done).
2. Freeing the specimen from its container.
3. Checking the root ball.
4. Lowering the tree into place.
5. Filling the hole with soil.
6. Staking the tree.
7. Making sure the stake is grounded and in the right position.
8. The result: shade for the next generation.



Anza Trail notes

Griffith Park's own Anza Trail National Park Passport stamp debuts at Visitor Center

In 1990, Congress authorized the creation of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to commemorate the route of the epic 18th century expedition that resulted in the Spanish colonization of California. When it is finally complete it will stretch from Nogales, Arizona to the San Francisco Bay, and introduce users to *"landscapes similar to those the expedition saw"* and *"the stories of the expedition, its members and descendents."*

Aspects of these experiences are available today along the Anza Trail in Griffith Park. There may be broken railings here and drainage issues there, but improvements are being contemplated to bring the experience in line with the overall vision. To draw attention to the trail's enormous potential, the National Park Service has taken the welcome step of awarding Griffith Park its own Anza Trail National Parks Passport stamp.

Anza Trail National Park Passport stamps are currently available at some twenty places along the historic route. Among them are Saguaro National Monument, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Channel Islands National Park, San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, and the Presidio of San Francisco. Now passport holders can have their booklets stamped at the Griffith Park Visitor Center, although you don't have to have a passport to receive your stamp.

Improving the trail experience

Since Fall of 2011, Friends of Griffith Park has been engaged with the Anza Trail, serving as Project Cooperator for a primary planning team that includes the Department of Recreation and Parks and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program (RTCA). The RTCA, which supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects, has renewed Friends of Griffith Park's technical

**Friends of Griffith Park
is Project Cooperator for
a primary planning team
that is working to enhance
the Park's segment of the
Anza National Historic Trail**



assistance grant for a second year, enabling us to continue working towards our goal:

To develop a concept plan for Anza National Trail enhancement and management through the Griffith Park-L.A. River corridor promoting community connectivity, native habitat restoration, increased awareness of the trail, improved maintenance, and an enhanced user experience.

Beyond resolving maintenance issues and making necessary repairs, potential trail improvements being discussed include adding interpretive signage to promote its educational value, labeling its heritage trees and plants, enhancing the landscape, increasing shade, mitigating noise and promoting connectivity to other Anza Trail units.



There is a unique-to-Griffith Park aspect of the trail that deserves special focus: the Park's connection to the Anza experience in the person of José Vicente Feliz. Feliz was a soldier on the Anza expedition. In return for his services to the Spanish crown, he was awarded Rancho Los Feliz which later became Griffith Park. His name lives on in the Feliz Adobe, a discrete historic landmark that is a part of the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Visitors Center complex (see sidebar).

Visiting the trail

Griffith Park's segment of the Anza Trail is an established hiking and equestrian trail that parallels the Los Angeles River. On the north, users can pick up the approximately 4-mile route just beyond Travel Town near the Equestrian Center. On the south, it can be accessed near the Pony/Train Ride concession at the Park's Los Feliz entrance. The quality of the trail experience varies. Some segments pass through remnants of oak woodland communities. Others skirt picnic grounds and Wilson-Harding Golf Course, offering views of the Park's foothills. Be forewarned that some sections are less than ideal and that problems with upkeep and freeway noise will affect enjoyment.

But bring your imagination and keep in mind, if we do our work well, from first to last step following the Anza Trail will be a rewarding experience in Griffith Park.

Above: Friends of Griffith Park's Anza Trail Committee joined Park Rangers and the NPS for the stamp's debut. Front row, Carol Henning, Felix Martinez, Gerry Hans, Marian Dodge and Bernadette Soter. Back row, Ranger Russ Brown, Ranger Sharie Abajian, Patrick Johnston of the National Parks Service RTCA program, Ranger Patrick Joyce and Ranger Larry Khou.



Step back in time and discover the Anza Trail

In October 1775, forty soldiers and 240 civilians under the command of Captain Juan Bautista de Anza set out from Tubac, Arizona to colonize present-day California. In January 1776, they passed through the future pueblo of Los Angeles and camped on the river at a place called El Puertezuelo. A plaque in the Pecan Grove picnic area of Griffith Park marks the spot.

The Anza expedition established the Presidio of San Francisco and the pueblo of San Jose. José Feliz remained at the Presidio until 1781, when he received orders to return to Mission San Gabriel. He had been chosen to oversee the founding of Los Angeles by a contingent of 44 multi-ethnic settlers. Six years later, he was appointed the Comisionado of Los Angeles. In exchange for his services to the Spanish Crown, he was awarded Rancho Los Feliz, whose vast acreage included El Puertezuelo and is today known as Griffith Park.



National Park Passports can now be stamped at the Griffith Park Visitor Center. The Feliz Adobe, seen at top, is part of the complex.

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Park Rangers required

With the elimination of L.A.'s park security force, we need Rangers more than ever

Park Rangers respond to issues large and small, preventing the “broken windows” syndrome from taking hold in our parks



Some 10 million people a year recreate in Griffith Park, which is roughly the size of Beverly Hills. Park Rangers help them have a safe and enjoyable visit.

As we go to press, interior discussions are underway at City Hall to absorb the Office of Public Safety (OPS) into the Los Angeles Police Department. Currently, OPS officers (a.k.a. General Services Police) are employed by an agency created in 2006 to provide security for parks and public buildings. If talks go as intended, OPS will be dissolved. Its officers will assume the uniform and portfolio of the LAPD.

This will open a security gap in regional parks like Griffith Park, and there has been no indication of how it will be resolved. The LAPD has its hands full dealing with violent crimes and dangerous suspects. It is no surprise that priority is given to felonies. But it is the delayed or lack of response to lesser infractions that make urban parks inhospitable—and if the “broken windows” syndrome is allowed to take hold, ultimately unsafe. This is why we need Park Rangers.

Park Rangers: efficient service providers

These khaki-clad officers are generalists in the field who react to safety and quality-of-life issues large and small. Park Rangers patrol on foot and in vehicles, rescue the lost and injured, administer first aid, unlock traffic jams, diffuse disputes, enforce regulations, provide interpretive guidance, respond to wildlife issues and play a role in natural resource management. They alert the LAPD to violent crime, serving as its guide in roadless and wilderness areas. And are first responders to fires, escorting the LAFD to the scene and remaining to help them navigate the back-country.

In these financially strapped times, Park Rangers are the city's best bargain: they perform a remarkable multiplicity of tasks. This 2006 City Council Motion (04-2043) tells us that thoughtful officials recognized back then that the comprehensive dedicated coverage Park Rangers provide is an essential component of regional park safety. In part, it says:

“...The upcoming creation of an Office of Public Safety under the General Services Department creates a dedicated security unit and relieves the Park Rangers of many of their security duties, offering an important opportunity to re-examine the workload and appropriate deployment of the remaining Park Rangers, including the possibility of developing and implementing a Park Ranger deployment system whereby each of our large regional parks have dedicated coverage, as appropriate, in the recreational, environmental, and security areas.”

Six years later OPS is on track for dissolution. At the same time, Park Ranger Division staffing and hours are at an all-time low. The Chief Park Ranger position remains unfilled. It is a crisis in the making.

Save the Rangers: let the city hear from you

Friends of Griffith Park is on record as supporting a fully staffed Park Ranger Division within the Recreation and Parks Department, an increase in on-duty hours and the appointment of a Chief Park Ranger. If you agree that we need to save the Park Rangers, please send a letter stating your opinion to:

Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1550, LA, CA 90012

Or e-mail your comment, “Attention Jon Kirk Mukri,” to:

RAP.PUBLICINFO@LACITY.ORG



Outdoor education for urban youth expands

Friends of Griffith Park's outdoor education program conducted in conjunction with Sierra Club Inner City Outings, is doubling its hikes for kids in 2012. Kindergarten through high school students enjoy field trips to Griffith Park geared to their grade level. We contribute funding for the outings and arrange for instructional enrichment, drawing on role models such as scientists Jorge Ochoa and Miguel Ordeñana to enlarge the learning experience. In addition to lessons in natural history, students pick up hiking skills from Sierra Club Hike Leader Joe Young, forming an appreciation for nature and a healthy habit that can last a lifetime.



Top, classroom lessons come to life in Griffith Park. High school biology students gain an overview of the Park's ecosystems, and learn to tell beneficial native plants from troublesome invaders like Castor, the broad-leaved plant educator Jorge Ochoa points to at right.

Left, "good guy" plants like black sage and manzanita are native to Griffith Park.

Below, high schoolers are rewarded with a sweeping view at the summit of their hike.





Advocacy
Support
Education
Service

Friends of Griffith Park Board

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Marian Dodge

Gerry Hans

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**More information
about our mission,
programs and people is
available online at
www.friendsofgriffithpark.org**

About the Board

Friends of Griffith Park's good work is thanks to good people

People who join us as members. People who make up our Board. Friends of Griffith Park is committed to extending the Park's role as L.A.'s great urban wilderness and place of free recreation into the 21st century. Our Board is composed of environmental and recreation activists who have been successful advocates for the Park. They have served on boards of community groups, participated in Park oversight committees and panels, and have educated the public about the Park and its issues, notably marshalling the citywide support critical to having Griffith Park declared L.A.'s largest Historic-Cultural Monument in 2009.

Executive Committee Profiles



Gerry Hans is President of Friends of Griffith Park. When he is not busy with administrative tasks, he devotes his energy to the Wildlife Committee which he chairs, and to programs such as the Fern Dell preservation project, the Anza Trail initiative, and hikes for urban kids. He is past president and current boardmember of the Oaks Homeowners Association, where he fought for the city's toughest anti-mansionization measure, and serves on the steering committee of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey. Holder of a Bachelor of Science in Biology, he has discovered and documented several previously unrecognized native plants in Griffith Park.



Bernadette Soter is Vice President of Friends of Griffith Park. Born and raised in South Central L.A., she is the daughter of a Recreation and Parks maintenance employee. She feels an intimate connection to Griffith Park and an obligation to preserve it for future generations. Bernadette promotes the organization and its programs: speaking and exhibiting at events, and producing the Griffith Park Lecture Series. Her service on the Anza Trail and Fern Dell committees allows her to indulge her interest in history and nature. She is a UCLA graduate and author of *The Light of Learning: An Illustrated History of the Los Angeles Public Library* (1993).



Mary Button brings a successful career in accounting to her role as Friends of Griffith Park's Treasurer. In addition to keeping the organization's books, she serves on its Fern Dell Historic Preservation Project committee and participates with gusto in its organized service events. Mary has run more than 50,000 miles, mostly on the Park's trails. She is co-founder and past president of the Los Feliz Flyers Running Club, and in 2000 was a U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials qualifier and master runner. She also volunteers at the Good Shepherd Shelter for battered women and children, where she has been instrumental in organizing its young people's library.



Marian Dodge is Secretary of Friends of Griffith Park. She is also California Assembly District 42 *Woman of the Year*, chosen for this honor by Mike Feuer in recognition of her commitment to the environment and open space. She chairs Friends of Griffith Park's History Committee and is actively involved in the Fern Dell and Anza Trail projects. She is currently President of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations of Los Angeles and is past President of the Los Feliz Improvement Association. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Marian has taught English-as-a-Second Language and coordinated the program in L.A. city schools. Most recently, she taught at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz.



Laura Howe brings endless energy to her role as Friends of Griffith Park's Volunteer Coordinator, organizing service events that bring hundreds of volunteers to the Park. She has a record of experience with environmental non-profits. She has been a TreePeople volunteer leader and a founding board member of Wild Places in the Southern Sierras. She is also a competitive athlete. Laura enjoys basketball and volleyball, participates in distance races, and is a member of Wild Mountain Runners club. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from USC, and worked in the arts community for twelve years before starting her own fashion business working with clients to create bespoke collections using sustainable methods.



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 _____

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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 3.

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

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.

Friends of Griffith Park is mountain lion-friendly

Lost in the news coverage of P-22, is the fact that the discovery of Griffith Park's mountain lion is the product of an NGO: a science-based, grassroots, independent project that has been methodically assessing the Park's wildlife since 2007.

The Griffith Park Natural History Survey's Wildlife Connectivity Study is responsible for the find. Its Scientific Director, Dan Cooper, admits that P-22 exceeded the study's expectations. *"When we started this project, we figured we'd be thrilled if we found proof of deer crossing over the 101 Freeway, I don't think anyone suspected we'd end up with a mountain lion."*

After P-22 was discovered, GPNHS wildlife biologists alerted California Fish & Game and the National Park Service. They stepped in, anesthetizing the lion to assess its health and collaring it so its movements could be followed. GPNHS cameras continue to document the big cat, whose significance cannot be understated. Cooper explains, *"P-22 may be the most 'urban' mountain lion in the state, if not the world, and his continued presence demonstrates how wildlife can successfully co-exist with people."*

In five short years, the Griffith Park Natural History Survey has become the single most authoritative source of scientific data on the flora and fauna of Griffith Park.



*A recent GPNHS camera-trap photo of P-22. His original radio collar malfunctioned, but he's been fitted with a new one that allows wildlife biologists to keep tabs on him.
Photo: Griffith Park Wildlife Connectivity Study*



The Survey's goal, promoting sound environmental stewardship of the Park, dovetails with ours, which is why Friends of Griffith Park makes support for it a priority. GPNHS projects, like the Wildlife Connectivity Study, are ongoing and thanks goes to our members for helping them continue through their dues and contributions.

A capacity crowd of more than 100 attended a Friends of Griffith Park lecture on P-22 at Immaculate Heart High School in June. Seth Riley, Wildlife Ecologist with the National Park Service, spoke on the ecology of mountain lions and how to co-exist safely with them.