



*ENHANCE, EXPAND, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE
LOS ANGELES CITY PARKS*

Los Angeles Parks Foundation



Annual Report 2012

Contents:

2) The Chairman and Executive Director Letters

4) Programs

6) 2012 Special Projects

8) Projects and Initiatives in Progress

11) 2012 Events

12) Financial Summary

13) Supporters and Board of Directors

The Department of Recreation and Parks has 60 public pools serving millions of water enthusiasts each year.

Los Angeles has the largest number of public golf courses in the country with the Department of Recreation and Parks managing 13 courses throughout the city.

Cover photos (left to right): LAPF bench at Del Rey Lagoon, Hansen Dam Golf Course, Yosemite Recreation Center Playground**

*All photos with * have been generously provided by JuanCarlos Chan, the official photographer of the Department of Recreation and Parks.*



The Los Angeles Parks Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) public benefit corporation created to support the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance, expand, preserve and promote recreation and parks for the people of Los Angeles.

The Foundation is an example of the unique benefits that can be realized with public-private partnerships to raise funds to provide enhancements that the City is unable to provide with limited municipal funding. The Foundation supports, but does not supplant, public funding through programs and initiatives such as Adopt-A-Park, Donate-A-Bench and Friends of the Parks. In addition, the LA Parks Foundation raises funds through corporate sponsorships and public and private funding opportunities.

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks continues to effectively make a difference in projects big and small. The Department manages 435 parks and recreation centers. These parks are open to the public 365 days a year and provide programs and recreational opportunities for all ages. Whether it is building a new park where a foreclosed home once stood or placing a bench beneath a shady tree, the LA Parks Foundation continues to expand its role and importance in support of our city parks.





Dear Friends,

Our Los Angeles Parks Foundation is not only improving our parks, it is changing the face of our City. By early 2013 the Department of Recreation and Parks, with the important help of our Foundation, will open the first 10 of the 53 parks being built under our 50 Parks Initiative. The remaining new parks for the oldest parts of Los Angeles are in various stages of planning and construction and should all be in place in about a year and a half. Each of these small parks does more than add an amenity to a street-scape; often it replaces a derelict, foreclosed house or other eyesore that was dragging a street down. Under our City Charter, when land is dedicated to park use it may never be sold, transferred, or used for other purposes. Thus, the beneficial changes we are making to our neighborhoods are permanent. This is one example of the kind of proactive initiatives our Foundation spearheads.

Under the superb leadership of our Executive Director Judith Kieffer we are not just receiving and giving grants, but conceiving and implementing major projects. Next on our priority list (and among many other programs) is the Nature Conservancy in Griffith Park. We are resurrecting the ruins of the old greenhouses at the end of Commonwealth Avenue and creating a vibrant growing and learning center for people of all ages. This important project is done in partnership with the Griffith Trust, the office of Councilmen Tom LaBonge, and a number of generous individual and foundation supporters. The first grants already enabled schematic planning and the rebuilding of the infrastructure.

We will continue to work with the community to create something beautiful and significant during 2013. We solicit everyone's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry A. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barry" and last name "Sanders" clearly legible.

Barry A. Sanders, President of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation



Dear Friends of our Parks,

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation funded \$1.6 million of park improvements in 2012. The public-private partnerships that have developed in support of our city parks resulted in the construction of 4 new neighborhood walk able parks, the preservation of an orange grove that will be harvested by local food banks, the completion of an all-access sports field for those with disabilities and many other park projects.

I am grateful to the volunteer board of directors and the individuals, corporations and foundations that have joined us to enhance, expand, preserve and promote the more than 435 city parks of Los Angeles.

Our city parks are where living happens – educating our children in sports participation, gathering places for our senior citizens, celebrating family and friends, exercising for physical well being and enjoying quiet respite and reflection. More park programs, improved park amenities and more green space provide a better quality of life in our city.

Thank you for being part of this effort to improve our parks. Congratulations to the amazing staff of the Recreation and Parks Department for their commitment to our parks under the leadership of General Manager, Jon Kirk Mukri. The LA Parks Foundation would not be able to help without the support of city staff who make everything happen in our parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Kieffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Judith Kieffer, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation

Programs

ADOPT-A-PARK

2012 proved to be a successful year for the Adopt-A-Park program. Along with the long standing adoption of Mar Vista park by local Windward School, the adoption of Hoover Recreation Center by the Werner Family Foundation, the adoption of Banning Recreation Center by Wells Fargo, there was a special adoption of Denker Recreation Center. Thomas Safran and Associates not only went above and beyond the standard donation for adopting a park, they had a day of service where over 100 of their employees installed and created the many improvements requested by the Denker staff and community. Included were shade for the bleachers and dugouts, angel mix for the baseball field, additional park benches and tables throughout the park, decoration and organization of the teen and after school room, landscaping and a large contribution of sports equipment, art supplies, books and more.

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation was happy to facilitate all of the 2012 park adoptions. The program, which allows for individual donors and corporations to adopt a park of their choice and make specific park improvements, truly makes a difference. The adoption brings Recreation Center's staff and the community together with the donor to make the very best enhancements to the park in need.



RAP and LAPF staff on new benches at Denker



Jill Werner and sister Susan Troy at Hoover Rec*



PLUG INTO YOUR PARKS

With the support of our sponsor, City National Bank, LAPF has provided free electronic recycling drop off sites at parks throughout much of Los Angeles. City National has been supporting the LA Parks Foundation since 2009 and to date the foundation has provided drop off sites at 15 park facilities and collected over 100,000 pounds of e-waste. This years drop off sites were located at Mar Vista and Glassell Recreation Center.

DONATE-A-BENCH

The number of thoughtfully placed benches has grown, due in part to the generous donations received through our Donate-A-Bench program. In 2012, the Foundation placed 15 benches including the refurbishment of an existing bench at the Asilomar Bluffs, the addition of a water fountain to a park and donated a bench to a fallen soldier.

Each donor has the opportunity to install an inscribed bronze plaque on the bench, many of which honor family and friends. This program has expanded seating areas for rest and reflection with a personal touch.



New bench at Moore Park



Refurbished bench at Asilomar

FRIEND OF THE PARKS

Community members can donate to their neighborhood park through the Foundation's Friends program. With the support of online donations, the Friend of the Parks program supported fundraising efforts of local groups to refurbish tennis courts, supply a lacrosse team, finance a wall mosaic and many other park specific projects.

Unspecified Friend donations fund the annual Holiday Grants, which provide extra support for holiday festivities at the recreation centers. The foundation was able to gift 20 parks in need in December, 2012. The grants were primarily used to purchase food and toys that were distributed at park holiday parties.



Park patrons at Holiday party at Canoga Park SC



Westchester Lacrosse program*

In the past six years the Department of Recreation and Parks has added 40 parks and over 650 acres of park land.

Special Projects

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation successfully completed many large projects in Los Angeles city parks. Special projects are made possible by the support of individuals, foundations and community groups.

Highlights

Hoover Ideal Urban Park

Completed Phase I. Partnering with USC, RAP and community members, the Foundation created a design that has made the outdoor space at Hoover Recreation Center more usable and inviting for the neighborhood. Phase I included outdoor exercise equipment and a walking path. The project was funded by the Werner Family Foundation.

Barry A. Sanders Sports Field

An All Access Sports Field, the first of its kind, is providing an opportunity for physically challenged children and adults to participate in sports such as baseball and soccer. The field is located in the Anthony C. Beilenson Park. The foundation continues its support by granting funds for programming. The project was funded by the generosity of GroW of the Annenberg Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, LA84 Foundation, Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Chevrolet and Eco Media.



Hoover walking path



Hoover exercise equipment*



Barry A. Sanders Sports Field



Barry A. Sanders Sports Field ribbon cutting*



Venice Beach basketball refurbishment

LA City parks offer over 25 all access playgrounds providing special play space for all children.

Venice Beach Basketball Courts

The iconic Venice Beach basketball courts were refurbished. This included resurfacing and new basketball hoops. The Diller-Von Furstenberg Family Foundation funded the project.

Rustic Canyon Tennis Courts

Through the fundraising efforts of park patrons 3 tennis courts were resurfaced and refurbished.

Watts Cluster Tutoring Program

With a grant received from the AT&T Foundation in 2011, the Los Angeles Parks Foundation funded an after school tutoring program at 3 recreation centers known as the Watts Cluster. The program provided tutoring in math and reading comprehension to over 70 grade school students.

Mounted Patrol

Continued support of the Mounted Patrol in Griffith Park with funding for a trainer for the horses and the Rangers.



Watts Cluster tutoring program



Rustic Canyon Tennis Courts

In Progress



50 Parks 97th Street Park



50 Parks 76th Street Park

Through grants from the California Endowment and First 5 LA the LA Parks Foundation has partnered with the city and others to build 4 new parks. These parks are part of a citywide initiative to add more open space to densely populated neighborhoods.

Despite decreased revenue and staff, the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department has embarked on an ambitious project to add 50 small, neighborhood parks in areas of our city without sufficient green space. The department has identified blighted or foreclosed housing sites for creation of walk able parks with children's play equipment, landscaping and respite areas within densely populated neighborhoods. As one of the largest urban park expansions in the country, Los Angeles is at the forefront of increasing park lands, improving neighborhoods and promoting a better quality of life for all Los Angeleanos.

76th Street Park, dedicated December 2012, was one of the first to open. Construction was funded by The California Endowment. First 5LA sites at 97th Street, 105th Street and Kagel Canyon Park are all set to open in the beginning of 2013.



50 Parks Kagel Canyon



50 Parks Wilmington Park*



Franklin Canyon Orange Grove

For many years the grove has been managed by the Department of Water and Power as part of the water and dam issues that exist within Franklin Canyon. Discussions that have been ongoing for many years have resulted in a long term lease of the property to the City Recreation and Parks Department. The lease has been confirmed as a result of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation securing a donation from the David Bohnett Foundation for the initial restoration, maintenance and enhancement of the grove, which had deteriorated in recent years.

As has been done over the years, the LA Parks Foundation will provide opportunities for local, not for profit food banks to bring folks on site to harvest the fruit for distribution.

The restoration project is currently underway in two phases. The first phase has been completed resulting in a tree survey, drip irrigation to each tree, pruning the healthy trees, some fencing repairs and mulching each tree well. Phase 2 will involve removing dead trees, removal of invasive trees along the south edge of the property, new fencing and filling in the grove with 116 trees.

The LA Parks Foundation is raising additional funds to pull leaking dam water immediately adjacent to the grove and establish a water containment tank on site that will provide all the irrigation needs of the grove.



In Progress



The Los Angeles Parks Foundation, on behalf of the City of L.A. Recreation and Parks Department, is currently seeking funds to restore an old nursery property at Griffith Park into a state-of-the art Nature Conservancy which will provide on-site educational opportunities for the general public, with a focus on elementary and middle school aged youth who lack access to nature education.

The Commonwealth Nursery at Griffith Park was a fully operational nursery from the 1920's through the 1970's, when budget cuts led to the facility's decline. The facility has not been operational since that time and only three partial greenhouses and dilapidated buildings remain.

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation will construct and recreate the nursery as a conservancy for native and ornamental trees and plants, a training and research center and an educational facility for students and other groups and agencies. Constructing a Nature Conservancy within a restored nursery will allow the Department to realize its commitment to green practices and environmental sustainability and to address some of the most important conservation challenges of the 21st century by combining correct horticultural practices with current technologies.



Events



The Rose Award is held in May annually, at the iconic Rose Garden in Exposition Park. The event honors a woman who has made an extraordinary contribution to the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles.

The 2012 honoree Betty White represents the best of LA- an enthusiastic spokesperson for our city, committed volunteer for the LA Zoo, a lifelong champion of animal welfare and an example of living life to the fullest. Many close friends of Ms. White were in attendance along with city officials and others to honor her.

Lisa Leslie, WNBA star, spoke about the importance of recreational opportunities for our youth.



Jon Mukri, Rena Wasserman, Lisa Leslie, Betty White, Alex Hodges, Vicki Israel*



Betty White*



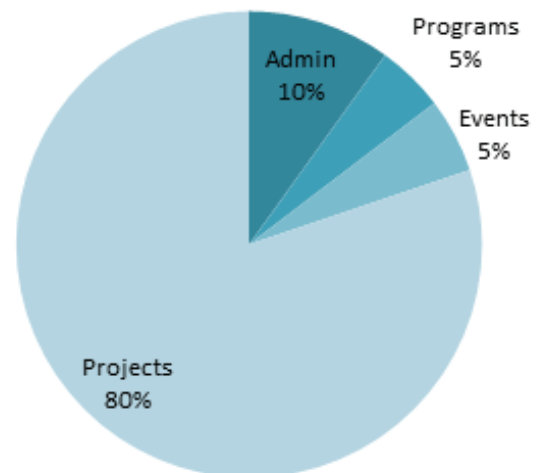
Susan Harris, Betty White, Judith Kieffer*

Financial Summary

2012	Support & Revenue
Corporate & Business Grants	\$510,000.00
Foundation & Trust Grants	\$2,046,000.00
Individual Contributions	\$198,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,754,000.00

In the past few years the Department of Recreation and Parks has seen budget reductions of over 40%.

Expenses



The Los Angeles Parks Foundation nearly doubled its revenue in 2012. Our partner, the Department of Recreation and Parks, received almost as much as we had granted from 2008 to 2011 in just one year! In **2012** LAPF contributed over **\$1.6 million** dollars to support park programs, events and projects.

Los Angeles Parks Foundation *Board of Directors*

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