

# PRESS RELEASE



## SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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### **Supervisor Gloria Molina, Senator Jack Scott, Councilmember Eric Garcetti, DWP General Manager Ron Deaton, North East Trees, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Dedicate New Bicycle Park on the L.A. River**

*Crystal Street Park transforms DWP transmission lot into neighborhood recreational space, creates new partnership model for turning underutilized public lands into parks.*

Los Angeles—At a dedication ceremony held today in a new park in a cul-de-sac of an industrial stretch of the Los Angeles River, the Santa Monica Conservancy, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power presented a new and shared vision of improving the livability of the Los Angeles region.

“By maximizing the potential of existing public land, and working in partnership at the State, County and local level,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, “we are able to create badly needed public parkland and recreational opportunities in densely populated urban areas where they are needed most. Joint use, multi-benefit projects give the public the most for its money.”

Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Safe Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A) funded a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and North East Trees to build the new Los Angeles River Bicycle Park at Crystal Street on land occupied largely by a DWP transmission tower. Councilmember Eric Garcetti was instrumental in working with the agencies to

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overcome internal hurdles in providing a new use for land that had served just one function for decades.

For generations, Los Angeles has turned away from the river that runs through it,” said Councilmember Garcetti. “This generation is returning to face the river. We’re embracing it for recreation, for community-building. We’re looking to the river for the future shape of our city.”

The new bicycle park emphasizes services for cyclists using the adjacent Los Angeles River Bike Path. It provides parking for regional recreational cyclists and an orientation kiosk with map. Amenities include native shade trees, signage, custom seating, boulders, pathways, bicycle maps, and a custom bicycle kiosk. Currently cyclists can park and ride eight miles of bike path upstream along the Los Angeles River towards Griffith Park. Plans are currently in development to connect the Bikeway downstream to Downtown Los Angeles. On a typical day, recreational bicyclists use the Crystal Street “onramp” to the bike path continuously throughout the day. The park will encourage more use of the bike path.

North East Trees worked with the community, Los Angeles City and County to create improvements that complemented the needs of the local neighborhoods. Volunteer events were held to encourage community support and ownership of the new plantings and facilities. The project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the LA County’s Los Angeles River Master Plan.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 55,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

The MRCA is a local government public entity established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

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