

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

For Immediate Release

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Conservancy Opens Bicycle Staging Area at Los Angeles River Center and Gardens Near Downtown Los Angeles

Unique facility will serve cyclists from all over the region with bike maintenance equipment, picnic area, and restrooms.

Cypress Park—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced today the opening of one of the first self-service bicycle staging areas in the City of Los Angeles. The facility, which provides bicyclists a drinking fountain, a repair station, a tire pump, bicycle racks, a picnic table, a sitting area, and a family restroom, is located at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. The River Center is at the confluence of several area bicycle trails near downtown Los Angeles. Cyclists will now have an opportunity to handle basic bike maintenance and rest amongst the mature trees of the Los Angeles River Center.

The project is part of a larger concerted effort along the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco to connect bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the region. The new facility will enhance the bikeway connections between Griffith Park, Elysian Park, and the historic El Pueblo in Downtown Los Angeles.

Furthering a goal of Governor Davis to bring nature to the park-poor regions of urban Los Angeles, bicyclists from the neighborhoods of Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights,

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Chinatown, Elysian Valley, Silverlake, and many other communities will now have easy access to the bike center along with the many other amenities of the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, including the River Garden Park.

The \$100,000 project was funded by the Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

The new facility will be inaugurated on Sunday, May 18, 2003 as a rest stop at the third annual Los Angeles River Ride, a 1,200-rider bike tour along the Los Angeles River from Griffith Park to Long Beach.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation and acquisition of open space and parkland throughout Southern California.

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