

**Reseda River Loop Urban Greening Project  
Los Angeles, CA  
Submitted by The Trust for Public Land**

The Confluence Park project will create a new community green space by transforming 1.8-acres of currently unused, gated and locked Los Angeles County Flood Control (CFC) and Department of Water and Power (DWP) right-of-way into a vibrant, natural, park. The project will focus on restoring the right-of-way area that has served as nursery storage and a yard waste dumping ground for decades into a natural space that will provide habitat value for birds and insects and open space for community residents. The proposed amenities for this site will be made from recycled materials and include three picnic and shade shelters, decomposed granite walking paths, a boulder amphitheater for educational gatherings, interpretive signage, a large bio-swale demonstration garden and natural area that will include over an acre of California coastal sage scrub plants and habitat.

In addition to creating new green space, the park will integrate natural systems throughout the design. This includes working with a restoration ecologist to determine the appropriate topography, native plants and other design elements to create maximum habitat for birds and insects. The project will also use swales and grading to capture and infiltrate all rainwater that falls on the site allowing it to percolate down to the groundwater table. Finally, the project will focus on education in the form of a demonstration garden, interpretive signs and garden talks by local plant experts as an important way to raise awareness of how seemingly small landscapes and actions can add up to big environmental change.

TPL is working in partnership with Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, a local day school, the Jewish Home for the Aging, the West Valley YMCA and other community and faith-based organizations to complete the Reseda River Loop. The local community has been very involved in the project. Between April and August 2009, TPL hosted over six community meetings and recently initiated a community competition for the gate designs for the project site. Upon completion of the loop, TPL will work with the County and community to create a friends group to serve as stewards of the site. The Project is designed to use existing public lands including the local school and the county right-of-way.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is currently developing another portion of the project area and has agreed to maintain the walking and biking paths on the Reseda River Loop. Since 1972, TPL has completed more than 3,900 land conservation projects in 47 states, protecting more than 2.8 million acres. TPL's Los Angeles program is committed to creating and enhancing public parks and recreational open space in Los Angeles County's most under-served communities. Currently, two out of three children in Los Angeles County do not live within walking distance of a park or play area and many adults have no safe accessible place to exercise.