

LA RIVER PARK AT TAYLOR YARD PARTNERSHIP: LETTER OF INTENT

A collection of publicly-owned properties along the Los Angeles River (LA River) -- pieces of the former "Taylor Yard" rail maintenance yard--form an approximately 100-acre area that is being transformed into a significantly-restored signature park. As envisioned by the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP), many relevant plans, numerous supporters including the Los Angeles River State Park Partners those 100 acres will be home to restored habitats, engaging recreational activities, cultural and educational enrichments, and a full mile of access to the LA River.

The LA River properties included in the 100-acre unified open space are: (1) The Rio de Los Angeles (RdLA) State Park, an existing 40-acre park owned by California State Parks (State Parks) and managed cooperatively by State Parks and the City of Los Angeles (City) through its Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP); (2) The Taylor Yard G1 parcel, an 18-acre property also known as the "Bowtie" parcel for its distinctive boundary shape, which is owned and managed and in the process of design by State Parks; and (3) The Taylor Yard G2 parcel, a 42-acre property that is owned by the City. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) purchased and now holds the rights to a 12.5-acre easement within the Taylor Yard G2 parcel owned by the City, it is subject to use restrictions under grant funding agreements with the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as well as subject to appropriate design, implementation, and early activation integration. Together, these agencies--the City, State Parks, and the MRCA--shall be known as "The River Parties."

The purpose of this letter is to express The River Parties' mutual intent to cooperate to create a unified LA River Park at Taylor Yard (working title) in recognition of the significant mutual public benefits to be realized by cooperating on the design, construction, financing, operation, maintenance and management of the project. The LA River Park will be developed to a standard of global excellence. It will be unique in biological and social character and will be the single largest open space along the LA River to be created in 100 years. The Park will directly benefit the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City at large, it will be a signature feature of Southern California.

The River Parties recognize common goals:

- Create a world-class, physically-connected and unified public open space that advances revitalization of the Los Angeles River and supports urban ecology
- Engage local communities and stakeholders to guide development of the project
- Establish equity, ecology, River revitalization and flood management as the cornerstones for the Park's design, implementation, and programming
- Increase Park access by linking the interiors of the Park and the exteriors of the Parks and community to new transportation options

- Incorporate safety, sustainability and resilience into the remediation, design, construction, operation, and stewardship of the park
- Restore ecosystem values and native habitats along the LA River
- Integrate the Park and the LA River by rethinking the LA River's bank
- Include River activities in the short-term, mid-term and long-term vision
- Establish facilities to enable cultural, artistic, community, and educational experiences and skills
- Curate appropriate revenue-generating programming to provide rich user experiences, to help develop the project, and to sustain future operation and maintenance
- Create physical and programmatic connections between local educational centers and the project's outdoor learning environment
- Provide varied passive and active recreational opportunities and play spaces within the park
- Improve and enhance athletic fields at Rio de Los Angeles State Park
- Establish on-site stewardship staff, on-going daily programming and encourage neighborhood community care
- Include educational, artistic, and cultural/historical partners in the Park's development, programming, and operation
- Create safe and easy physical connections between all of the areas of the 100 acres and to the surrounding communities on both sides of the River

To fulfill these common goals, The River Parties intend to work together to:

- Establish a cooperative agreement within one (1) year to define a collaborative approach to the remediation, design, construction, financing, operation, and management of the project
- Articulate and implement a common vision for the 100-acre area that is ecologically focused and community-driven and delivers on goals outlined above
- Coordinate on marketing, communication and outreach of the common vision
- Seek other implementation and program partners through a wide-ranging engagement process and City-led contracting process

- Provide near-term public programming on each of the properties, as feasible.
- Cooperatively raise funds for design and implementation from multiple sources and using creative value capture techniques
- Engage regulatory and permitting agencies to secure necessary approvals for site remediation, water quality, flood control, and all other environmental reviews consistent with the CEQA and NEPA processes
- Secure necessary authorizations to execute various partnership agreements

The River Parties understand that this Letter of Intent is not a financial commitment to future expenditures and does not create any obligations, legal or otherwise, between them that do not already exist.

On behalf of California State Parks:

Craig Sap, Parks Superintendent

On behalf of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority:

Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles:

Michael A. Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
City Attorney: Mike Feuer

By: tbd , Deputy City Attorney