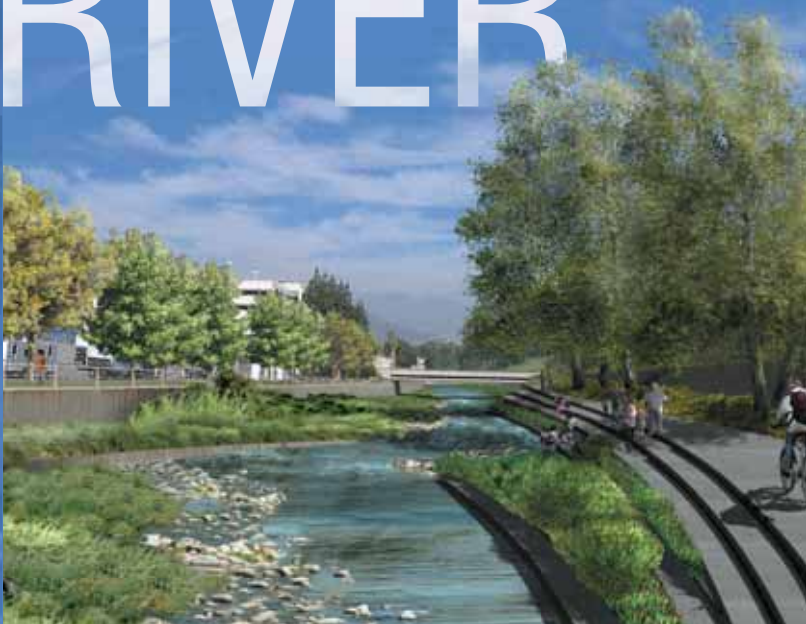


los angeles
RIVER



*re*vitalization



Before and After (above)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



*re*imagine

A bold vision for transforming the River:

The once-mighty Los Angeles River, which crisscrossed a vast floodplain, varying its path to the ocean each winter, became a concrete channel in the 1930s after a series of devastating floods.

Beginning at the confluence of Arroyo Calabasas and Bell Creek in the San Fernando Valley, the River flows for 32 miles, through a multitude of diverse communities within the City. Constrained by rail lines, roadways, and industry, the River today is unseen, inaccessible, and sometimes feared.

*“With this revitalization,
we will transform
the neglected backyard
of the Los Angeles River
to a front yard of
parks and bike paths,
creating something in which
we can all take pride.”*

*- Ed P. Reyes
Los Angeles City Councilmember
Chair, Los Angeles River
Ad Hoc Committee*

A strong foundation of community leadership and advocacy

For more than 25 years, many people have worked to make the River a better place – by creating new parks, trails and bikeways, and restoring native landscapes and habitat.

The City’s River Revitalization Master Plan captures the energy of these efforts and links them together in a holistic, long-term vision.

With ideas for projects large and small, it is a way for all of us to work together to bring nature back to the City, to make sure our children have places to play, and to transform the River into an important legacy for future generations.



reclaim

***32 miles
diverse communities
a generation separated from nature – now reunited***

The Los Angeles Revitalization Master Plan reclaims the River as a major focus of life in Los Angeles. Developed through an extensive community involvement process, the Plan offers a bold vision for the future.

Revitalize the River – Revive the River’s natural ecological heritage and remove concrete where possible to create a connected riparian corridor that provides safe public access and outdoor recreation.

Green the neighborhoods – Connect neighborhoods to the River with a network of green streets, sidewalks, and pathways, distinctive River gateways, signs, and artwork.

Capture community opportunities – Foster a renewed, respectful River identity through watershed-sensitive design standards and land uses that help to strengthen neighborhoods.

Create value – Encourage River improvements that enhance the quality of life in neighboring communities by simultaneously improving the environment, and encouraging economic prosperity.

“Over two hundred years ago, the River gave life to the City of Los Angeles. Thanks to the efforts of countless Angelenos, we’re giving life back to the River, renewing her, transforming her back into the enchanted place she once was. These efforts are one step closer to realization with the adoption of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan in May 2007.”

- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa



our river, our future

A Message from City Leaders

The Los Angeles River, which flows over 50 miles from its headwaters in Canoga Park to Long Beach Harbor, is intricately connected to the history of the City and the region.

The Los Angeles coastal region was first settled by the Tongva or Gabrieleño and Chumash indigenous peoples. In 1769, the expedition of Spaniard Gaspar de Portolà i Rovira, reached a site near the River's confluence with the Arroyo Seco. This settlement became the City of Los Angeles.

The once-wild River often reshaped its path during annual storm seasons that endangered lives and property. So, in the 1930s, the River was channelized and lined with concrete to keep people and property safe from floods.

Until recently, the River was a neglected place. However, local visionaries saw its hidden beauty and potential for restoration. Over the years, they created a movement: their efforts brought respect and nature back to the River.

Six decades after the Los Angeles River was first channelized, the City of Los Angeles faces an unprecedented opportunity to reverse the past and re-envision the River as the soul of the City. The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan sets forth a bold vision for transforming the River, through long-term changes, and nearer-term steps that will make it a valuable, celebrated place.





creating value



Benefits of implementation

The Plan's proposed projects will enrich the City in a variety of ways.

Environmental – Restoring habitat will result in a more diverse, less fragile ecosystem. Treating urban storm runoff will improve water quality and reduce demands on stormwater systems.

Social – A network of parks and a continuous River greenway will provide green “breathing space” in park-poor areas, provide opportunities for children to experience nature first-hand, provide opportunities for walking, bicycling, and horseback riding, and provide positive benefits to public health.

Economic – New parks and open space can serve as important sparks for economic growth and improved prosperity.

How will the Revitalization Plan be implemented?

The Revitalization Master Plan has many proposals for projects throughout the City. These will be developed by working cooperatively with local residents, and other stakeholders. The City will work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the County of Los Angeles, key project partners, to realize the new vision for River revitalization.



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Drawings and photo credit, page 2:
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