

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Conservancy Unveils Joint Use Natural Park Plan for Belmont Learning Center
State-of-the-art "Vista Hermosa Park" will provide environmental education and badly needed open space in the center of the city

Los Angeles—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy unveiled today stunning plans for a joint use natural park at the site of the Belmont Learning Center near downtown Los Angeles. The Conservancy was approached by Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Jose Huizar and Los Angeles City Councilmember Ed Reyes to develop a park in conjunction with the completion of the high school. Senator Gil Cedillo, Assemblymembers Jackie Goldberg and Fabian Nunez, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina have also endorsed the project.

Providing a "mountain watershed experience" in the center of the densely populated Pico Union District, the 14-acre Vista Hermosa Park will feature trails, wetlands, chaparral, fishing ponds, soccer fields, picnic areas, and an environmentally-themed children's play area.

"Census data tells us that more than 30% of the residents of this area live in poverty. The joint use development of the Belmont Learning Center and adjacent Vista Hermosa Natural Park will provide a first rate educational experience unparalleled in any part of this city," said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Vista Hermosa Park will build on the Conservancy's success in its creation of the Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park in South Central Los Angeles. There, the

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Conservancy created an internationally acclaimed natural park on 8.5 acres of what was formerly a DWP pipe yard. The hugely successful park provides urban families an opportunity to experience the natural world, provides the community with environmental education, and serves as an entry point to the local mountains.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a state agency dedicated to the preservation and creation of parkland throughout Southern California.

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