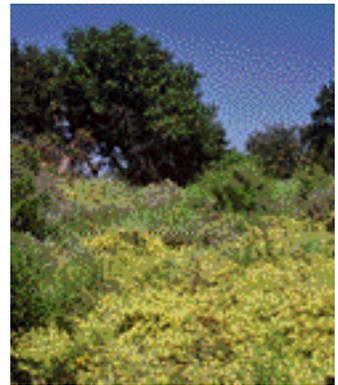


## DEDICATION HIGHLIGHTS

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One of the greatest pleasures of the Conservancy is the dedication of new public parkland. These ceremonies celebrate the accomplishment of often years-long efforts of the Conservancy, its Federal, State, and local government partners, and the leadership of devoted community members to preserve and enhance open space and public parkland. In fiscal year 2002-2003, the Conservancy held twelve dedication ceremonies.

### Tuna Canyon Park



In August 2002, the Conservancy dedicated stunning Tuna Canyon Park. The extraordinary 1,255-acre property, which parallels more than two miles of the Southern California coast, provides dramatic, 360-degree views from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Santa Monica Bay. At the ceremony, biomedical entrepreneur Alfred E. Mann, who, by means of the Natural Heritage Tax Credit Act of 2000 donated 1,015-acres of the pristine coastal wilderness, was honored alongside Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who secured \$3,500,000 in Los Angeles County Proposition A funds to acquire an additional 240 acres.

Tuna Canyon Park links over 18,000 acres of contiguous protected open space from Topanga State Park west to Las Flores Canyon. Deep canyons and ridges support a rich mosaic of coastal Southern California plant communities including sycamore riparian woodland, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, and native grasslands. Tuna Creek, one of the most pristine aquatic habitats in the Santa Monica Mountains, courses through the eastern end of the property to the ocean.

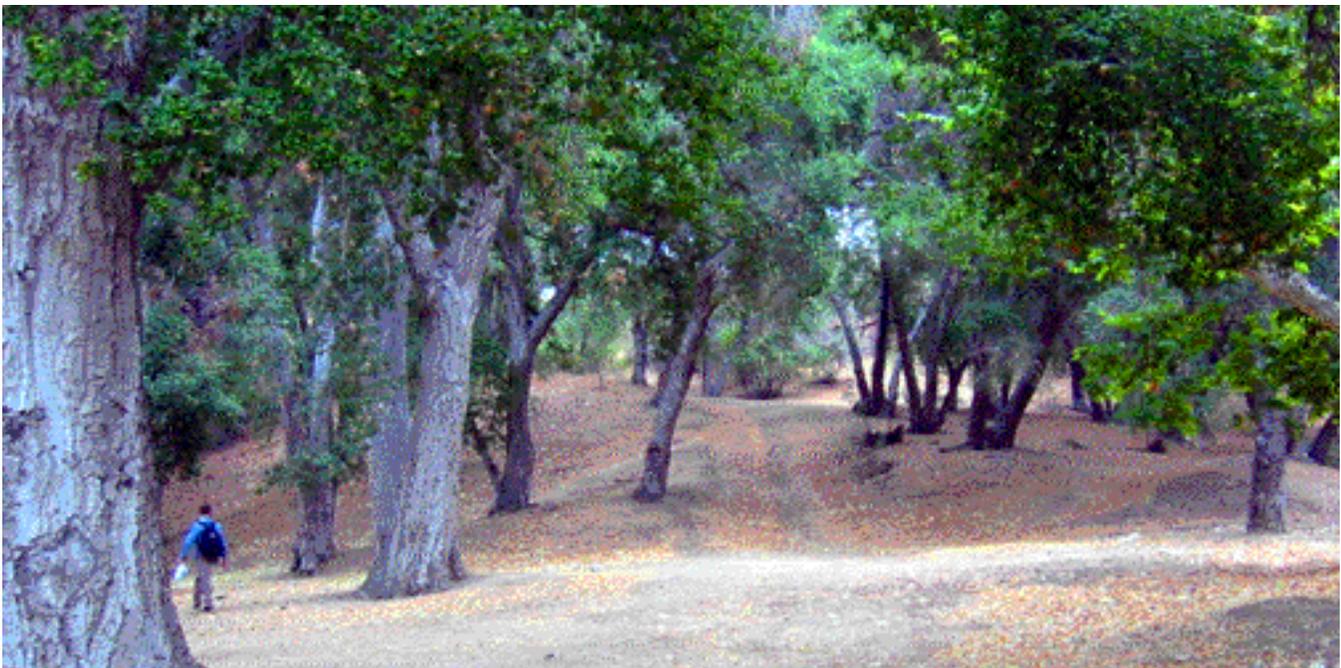
## DEDICATION HIGHLIGHTS

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### Whitney Canyon Park

The long-awaited dedication of 442-acre Whitney Canyon in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA), the joint powers agency between the City of Santa Clarita and the Conservancy, was a major highlight of the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Assemblymember George Runner and the City of Santa Clarita celebrated the culmination of ten years of effort to preserve this regionally significant portal into Angeles National Forest, located immediately adjacent to the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Highway 14).

Popular with hikers and mountain bikers, Whitney Canyon Park provides outstanding examples of coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, chaparral, and riparian corridor vegetation, with year-round springs and at least ten sensitive species. It provides a critical corridor for wildlife movement between the Santa Susana Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains. The blueline stream draining Whitney Canyon is part of the Santa Clara River Watershed; acquisition of the site ensures important watershed protection.



## DEDICATION HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Michael D. Antonovich Open Space**

In August 2002, the Conservancy held a dedication ceremony naming the newly acquired East Canyon-BFI dedication for Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich as the Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve. At the ceremony, longtime park supporters Don Mullally, Mary Edwards, Laurene Weste, and James McCarthy were also honored. The dedication of parkland of 480 acres in upper East Canyon in the Santa Clarita Woodlands had been long awaited, pursuant to a 1992 Los Angeles County landfill development condition. The former Browning Ferris Industries property finally transferred to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in June 2002, with the cooperation of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. The extraordinary property has enormous significance for recreational trail linkages and the ecological integrity of core habitat in the Santa Susana Mountains. It is a key part of a vital 8,000-acre wilderness corridor.

The Michael D. Antonovich Open Space directly adjoins the MRCA's East and Rice Canyon units of the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, and has trail access from the MRCA trailhead at the Old Road in Newhall, and the Weldon Canyon overpass of the Golden State Freeway in the Newhall Pass.



## DEDICATION HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail**

In January 2003, Federal, State, and local officials joined the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at the dedication of the Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail. State Senator Sheila Kuehl authored legislation which named the Trail in honor of Marge Feinberg who, in her 1974 Master's thesis, first envisioned a trail connecting all the parkland and recreational areas encircling the San Fernando, Simi, and La Crescenta Valleys. Mrs. Feinberg passed away in 1999.

Marge Feinberg's tireless volunteer efforts led to legislation that designated the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone. The Corridor was created to form an interlinking system of parks, trails, open space, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities within and between the Santa Monica, Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains. The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor lays out the blueprint for a system of natural lands that shelters wildlife and extends recreational opportunities throughout a large urban area. The backbone of that system-and the thread which will one day tie it together is the Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail.

In addition to State Senator Kuehl, State Senator Richard Alarcón, Assemblymembers Carol Liu and Lloyd Levine, Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla, Santa Clarita City Councilmember Laurence Weste and Congressman Brad Sherman spoke to a large crowd honoring Feinberg's lasting achievements, and underscoring the significance of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor in Los Angeles' regional open space network.

The dedication took place at the Conservancy's newly constructed Saddletree Ranch Trailhead in Sylmar, the most recent addition to the Rim of the Valley Trail.

