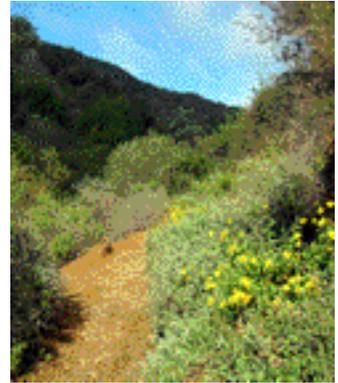
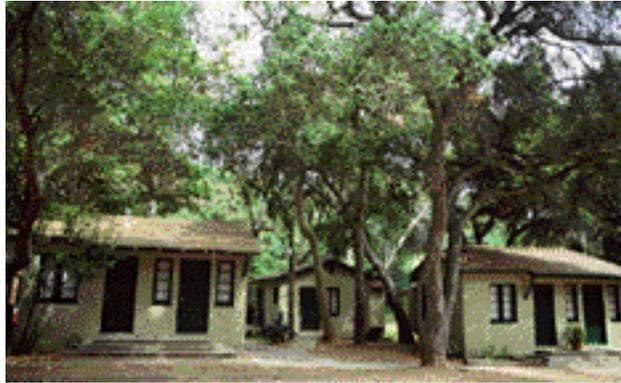


IMPROVEMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Temescal Gateway Park Infrastructure Improvements

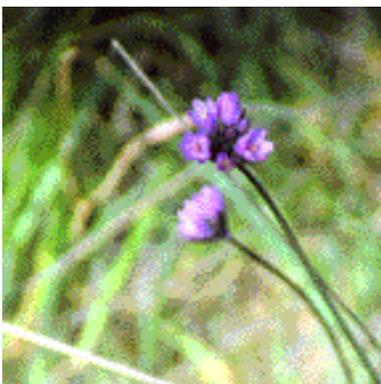
Improvements in Temescal Gateway Park and the Temescal Conference and Retreat Center continued this year with the completion of the new utility infrastructure project. This project upgraded the electrical, gas and water service to all buildings. These upgrades have increased the safety and utility of existing structures. The infrastructure project included installing all the electrical lines underground. Ultimately the proliferation of telephone poles in the back of the canyon will be removed, thus restoring the beauty of the canyon's tree canopy.



Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail – Saddletree Ranch Trailhead and Trail

In the northern San Fernando Valley community of Sylmar, MRCA construction crews built the Saddletree Ranch trailhead, which includes an entrance feature, a kiosk and seating area, and a subsequent new 1.5 mile-long section of the Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail. The trail winds through a 65-acre conservation easement with the San Gabriel Mountains ascending above, and a long view of the San Fernando Valley below. The easement and trail improvements were funded by the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A).

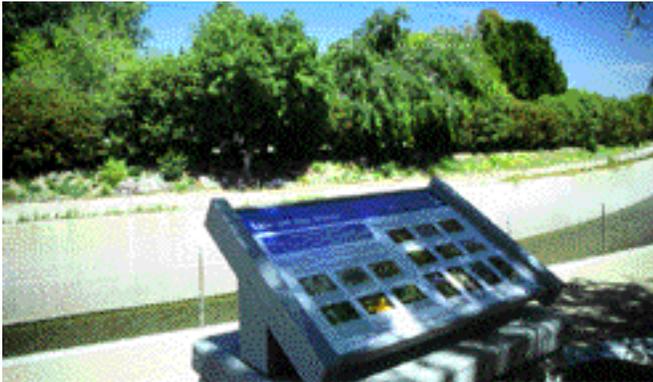
The new trail provides the long-awaited “missing link” to the Sylmar equestrian community. By tying together the Conservancy’s Wilson Canyon Park, Los Angeles City-owned Stetson Ranch, and a Los Angeles City-maintained trail through privately-owned Cascades Golf Course to the Golden State Freeway, it creates the longest publicly-owned section of the Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail outside the Angeles National Forest.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom

The Conservancy dedicated the Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom in Studio City in March 2003. The first of many projects planned by the Conservancy along the river's edge in the San Fernando Valley, the park includes restoration of the natural areas, interpretive displays, an outdoor amphitheater, native riparian landscaping, and irrigation. The Studio City park has long been informally used for dog walking and exercise by the surrounding neighborhood. The Conservancy improved access to the trails by adding stairs on an eroded slope and improving the pathways. The nonprofit Village Gardeners, who for years have worked to beautify the river bank in the area, were a local partner and will use the newly-built shed and composting area. The park is named for Richard Lillard, one of Los Angeles' pioneering ecologists, who had a strong influence on the establishment of the Friends of the Los Angeles River. Mr. Lillard helped lead the fight against converting Mulholland Drive into a freeway and was one of the first to propose a regional park in the Santa Monica Mountains to permanently preserve open space.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Los Angeles River Bicycle Staging Area

As part of a larger effort along the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco to connect bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the region, the Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority built one of the first self-service bicycle staging areas in the City of Los Angeles. Located near the junction of several bicycle trails at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens near downtown Los Angeles, the facility provides bicyclists a drinking fountain, repair station, tire pump, bicycle racks, picnic table, sitting area, and a family restroom. While serving cyclists from all over the region, it will enhance the bikeway connections between Griffith Park, Elysian Park, and the historic El Pueblo in downtown Los Angeles. Cyclists now have an opportunity to handle basic bike maintenance and rest amongst the mature trees of the Los Angeles River Center and River Garden Park. The new facility was inaugurated on May 18, 2003 as a rest stop during the third annual Los Angeles River Ride, a 1,200-rider bike tour along the Los Angeles River from Griffith Park to Long Beach. The project was funded by the Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

