



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens

570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100

Los Angeles, California 90065

Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

May 10, 2018

Chairperson Craig Sap  
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
570 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265

## **Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application Elysian Valley Gateway Park Improvements**

Dear Chairperson Sap and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Elysian Valley Gateway Park Improvements. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$850,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), under the Conservancy's Urban Creeks Program. The MRCA's Governing Board approved submittal of this application on May 2, 2018.

The proposed grant would fund project planning and design for rehabilitation and stormwater improvements, focused on the public access and local water quality elements. Elysian Valley Gateway Park was the first park constructed on the Los Angeles River in the late 1990s. We look forward to the opportunity to rehabilitate the park so that it may better serve the river for another 25 years.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposed grant and how it fits the Conservancy's Evaluation Criteria. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

Cara Meyer  
Deputy Executive Officer

# Grant Application

Print Form



The Natural Resources Agency

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265  
Phone: 310-589-3200  
Fax: 310-589-3207  
www.smmc.ca.gov

**Project Title:** Elysian Valley Gateway Park Improvements

**Date:** 5/21/2018

**Funds:** Proposition 12

**Amount:** 850,000

**Applicant Name:** Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

**Match amount:** 0.00

**Address:** 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100

**Match source:** n/a

**State/Province:** Los Angeles, CA

**Total Project Cost:** 850,000

**Zip/Postal code:** 90065

**Phone:** 323-221-9944

**Brief Project Description:** Project planning and design, and park rehabilitation and stormwater improvements for public access and local water quality benefits at Elysian Valley Gateway

**Fax:** 323-221-9934

**Grantee's Authorized Representative:** Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer 323-221-9944, x117 cara.meyer@mrca.ca.gov

*Name and Title*

*Phone Number*

*Email*

**Person with day-to-day responsibility:** Brian Baldauf, Project Manager 323-221-9944, x110 brian.baldauf@mrca.ca.gov

*Name and Title*

*Phone Number*

*Email*

**Project Objective:** The objectives include project planning and design for park rehabilitation and stormwater improvements for public access and local water quality, and implementation of such improvements. (See attached)

\*Attach additional pages as necessary

**Project Address:** N/A

**Latitude:**

**Acreage:**

0.25

**Trail Length:**

**Longitude:**

**APN's:**

5442-017-903

**Stream Miles:**

**Congressional District:**

28

**State Senate District:**

24

**Assembly District:**

51

**Tasks / Milestones:**

**Budget:**

**Completion Date:**

See attached budget.

All work is expected to be complete by December 31, 2022, notwithstanding weather or other delays outside of MRCA's control.

\*Attach additional pages as necessary

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

*Cara Meyer*

Signature of Authorized Representative

5/10/2018

Date

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Elysian Valley Gateway Park was the first Los Angeles River park, constructed in 1995 on a dilapidated residential parcel. Situated in the 13th Council District represented by Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, the park is located in Elysian Valley at the terminus of Knox Avenue. Since the park's opening, much has changed at the River, including the formalization of the maintenance road into a bike path, other River parks, and recreational activities in the river's water. Land uses in the neighborhood have trended away from industrial and manufacturing to residential.

Elysian Valley Gateway Park was a clear catalyst for other park and recreational projects on the river, but after twenty-three years is in need of rehabilitation and updates. The park's original design consisted primarily of native trees and large areas of turf grass, with a chain-link fence providing a barrier along the River's edge. The fence was seen as a desirable park feature at the time, but today creates a barrier that separates the park away from positive river uses. The existing irrigation system is not as efficient as today's standards, and there is not an accessible pathway between the street level and the bike path. More recently, the popularity of the path has led to various conflicts and between pedestrians and cyclists leading to injuries due to a narrow right-of-way and lack of visual access to entry points. At many park access points along the path, including Elysian Valley Gateway Park, there is a demonstrated need for providing enhanced spaces for safe entry and exit at the path, and congregating along but not on the path that allows all users safe passage.

Two public workshops were conducted in 2017 to get input from the community about a park rehabilitation. MRCA then retained a local firm, Withers and Sandgren Landscape Architecture, to create renovation concepts that incorporated the public input, today's accessibility standards, ideas for stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), augmented native landscape planting, and typical park amenities such as seating and interpretive elements. The existing healthy native trees, planted by MRCA as part of the park's original development, will be augmented by additional trees to provide shade and native landscaping. These capital improvements will enhance the utility and safety of the existing facilities and will contribute to a more enjoyable user experience.

The Proposition 1 grant request will fund the full project planning, design and engineering, and implementation of improvements at the site. Work will be accomplished by a combination of MRCA staff and force account, professional consultants, and specialty subcontractors.

The specific needs addressed by this project include sustainable stormwater management, cleaner waterbodies and watersheds, and greater awareness and stewardship of coastal watershed resources. The project will lead to physical improvements which convert an existing park into a multiple-benefit park, enhance habitat connectivity, develop wildlife habitat, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.

The proposed project is consistent with the goals set forth in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Climate Change Policy, State Planning Priorities, and AB 32. The Project seeks to improve a locally and regionally significant public resource for public enjoyment and environmental benefit. The project seeks to ultimately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the state's natural resources. Further objectives of the

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project are to protect the Los Angeles River watershed through the restoration of native habitat, and promote public access to the watershed's land, water, and wildlife resources.

Unique to the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines is the requirement to describe how the project would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The supplemental information below is provided to meet that requirement.

### **BUDGET**

See attached budget.

### **TIMELINE**

The proposed project renovation will be completed within approximately 3 years after grant approval. The project planning and design will take place over the next 1-2 years, with the majority of the improvements being implemented following the permitting process.

### **RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **Project achieves the purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a).**

The project will involve the protection and restoration of California rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds. The proposed grant achieves the following eight (8) Proposition 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.

Since the project is expected to improve the accessibility and increase the usage of the existing park, it will thereby ultimately bring more visitors to the area and encourage spending at local businesses. Additionally, the construction of the project itself will provide economic benefits by creating new jobs and profit for the companies providing project supplies and materials, sub-contractors and crews working on-site.

2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.

Los Angeles County will likely be affected by climate change in the following ways: more severe droughts, more intense heat spells and loss of California's native biodiversity. The design of this Project anticipates these changes and will mitigate them. Native plant landscaping will be present. This will serve as new and enhanced habitat and open space for wildlife, minimizing the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. The Project will also employ water treatment and conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce trash and other pollutants within Los Angeles River. Since this Project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the River, there is much more wildlife that survives there than in other areas. Additionally, the site is relatively near Griffith Park which provides habitat to sensitive species. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation within the proposed project will sequester carbon

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and cool the atmosphere.

3) Restore river parkways throughout the state.

The Los Angeles River is both a River Parkway and an Urban Stream, located in a highly urbanized watershed. The Project is directly adjacent to the Los Angeles bike path, but lacks a well-planned and safe access between park and path for all user types. Southern California contains a wonderful network of open space and trails throughout local mountains and the coastline, but it is not readily accessible to all urban residents as better linkages need to be made to existing public parks. This Project will provide an enhanced and much safer gateway to the directly adjacent river parkway and will bring nature to the urban community, as well as creating enhanced areas to view nature within the Los Angeles River.

4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

Open waterways, such as the River, function as habitat corridors for migratory birds and small mammals, and therefore provide an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. Through proposed stormwater diversion and capture at the site, the Project will help to reduce the amount of pollutants presently being expelled into the River untreated and thus improve the habitat potential and water quality within the River and Pacific Ocean. As mentioned, the project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River where more species survive, fly and swim to, as well as the Arroyo Seco Confluence. It is also adjacent to Elysian Park and downstream from Griffith Park, which are home to many sensitive plant and animal species, and this project will provide a significant habitat link and node within an important ecological and wildlife corridor. By capturing and treating urban runoff on the site, it will improve water quality in the River and help to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems. Additionally, the installation of native plant landscaping (trees and shrubs) will provide new habitat for area bird and other species.

9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.

As mentioned in response #4 above, the Project will reduce the amount of pollutants presently being expelled into the River untreated and will thus protect and restore the health of the watershed, and improve storage within the local groundwater aquifer. Currently, up to 18 acres of the subwatershed drainage area from Knox Avenue and the surrounding neighborhood streets surface flow down Knox, directly along the curb at Elysian Valley Gateway Park, before entering the River untreated at the streetend. The stormwater BMPs will manage both dry and wet weather stormwater by capturing, treating and infiltrating which will help to improve water quality, increase watershed storage capacity, and reduce the volume of water entering the River.

Furthermore, the Project plans for installation of California native trees and shrubs throughout the project site. The purpose of the trees is to create habitat for local wildlife, provide shade for pedestrians, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, generate oxygen, and remove pollutants from

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the air thus helping to address and reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming. The future spacing of the vegetation will maximize those benefits.

10). Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

The Los Angeles River is a coastal watershed, and the Project's implementation will benefit its natural resources and water quality.

11). Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

The project will be designed to reduce sediment, trash, and organic matter from loading and contaminating the Los Angeles River draining the watershed thereby limiting sedimentation and encouraging ground water recharge. As mentioned, the project will be designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate the maximum amount of wet and dry weather urban runoff in order to remove various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil from the water before they can reach the river. Once implemented, the captured runoff will infiltrate thereby increasing the water supply in the local aquifer and will reduce the volume of water entering the river (helping with flood management). The overall cumulative impact of this project is potentially substantial for the given urban area and will treat water that would otherwise enter the river untreated.

12). Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

The Project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Stormwater treatment and improvement projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in fragmented urban interface. The Project will employ water conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce the trash within the Los Angeles River. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species. Cleaner water in the River means cleaner water within San Pedro Bay restoring and enhancing local wildlife habitat. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation will sequester carbon as well as cool the atmosphere, further helping California's native biodiversity by reducing intense heat spells created by climate change.

**The project will provide multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply and/or watershed protection and restoration.**

Upon completion of the design, the Project will feature many uses and benefits including: nature education and habitat for the area's animal species; stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the Los Angeles River; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming) and reduce

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the heat-island effect; promotion of infiltration projects; and aesthetic enhancement to the public and River area. The Project will significantly enhance an existing, but unplanned public access point to the adjacent bike path. Additionally, the project will result in a design that highlights the adjacent river, facing towards it instead of ignoring the river's presence.

**The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.**

The infiltration of stormwater throughout the project will reduce the amount of potable water needed for irrigation, thereby reducing the amount of imported water needed for Southern California.

**The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.**

The project's design and implementation will aim to benefit the Los Angeles River and the larger watershed, which provides a migratory route and habitat to both sensitive and endangered species.

**The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.**

By designing to infiltrate and filter stormwater from the surrounding neighborhood, the water entering the infrastructure of the River will be both reduced and cleaner.

**The project employs new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.**

The project's stormwater treatment will be innovative by diverting up to 18 acres of neighborhood stormwater that currently flows along Knox Avenue, past the park and emptying into the River untreated. It will be a partnership with City of Los Angeles Departments, such as the Bureau of Sanitation, and likely the County Flood Control District. The design and details used in the project's Construction Documents (CDs) will seek to employ some of the standard plans developed by the City's Bureau of Engineering. By the time the design is complete, the plans will have been vetted by two more City departments as needed: Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division.

**The project is located in or adjacent to communities defined no less than 81 percent disadvantaged as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.**

The proposed project is located in Elysian Valley and the US Census tract occupied by the entire G2 site is shown on CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to be a 91-95% Disadvantaged Community (DAC).

**Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.**

As mentioned, the City Bureau of Sanitation is supportive of the stormwater treatment portion of the project to improve water quality for runoff entering the River. Additionally, the local council office has been very supportive of enhancements and/or rehabilitation at the park. MRCA has years of experience planning, designing, permitting and implementing projects more complex than this. The project's design and Construction Documents will be developed with the City in order to make it more likely to be permitted and implemented faster.

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**Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.**

The MRCA has the financial capacity to perform the project on a reimbursable basis. MRCA has been implementing capital projects on a reimbursable basis for many years, and anticipates reimbursable payments in our budgets. MRCA also maintains a line of credit that can be drawn upon in the event of an extended delay.

**Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.**

The MRCA has successfully designed and implemented many multiple benefit recreational projects throughout Los Angeles: Several completed MRCA projects are similar in size, budget, scope and duration to the proposed Project including Ballona Creek Milton Park, Marsh Park, Pacoima Wash Natural Park, and the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration, all exemplary urban projects with innovative water quality treatment components. All of the projects listed above are multi-million dollar projects that bear similarities to the proposed Project and serve park-poor neighborhoods.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of [Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy](#), the [Conejo Recreation and Park District](#), and the [Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District](#). MRCA's mission is to complement the work of these and other agencies in protecting land and public access to natural lands in southern California mountains. Since its inception, the MRCA has designed, planned and constructed scores of small and large projects throughout Los Angeles. The MRCA currently manages over 75,000 acres of parkland and holds fee title to approximately 10,000 acres. The overall goal for MRCA's urban parklands program is to "integrate nature into the urban environment". The completion of this Project will represent one additional step toward that goal.

**The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.**

MRCA is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation & Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District pursuant to Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code. These three entities each have a voting member on MRCA's Governing Board, which approved the proposed grant application.

**Applicant has 1+ years experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.**

As mentioned, since its inception in 1985, the MRCA has designed, planned and constructed scores of small and large projects throughout Los Angeles. MRCA constructed the park in 1995 and has been responsible for its maintenance for the ensuing 23 years.

**Applicant has identified funding for proper maintenance throughout the expected life of the improvements.**

The MRCA will be maintaining the improvements in perpetuity and will have funding allocated to the Project.



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**Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.**

As mentioned above, the MRCA will be maintaining the improvements in perpetuity. As this project would be a renovation of an already existing park, the MRCA currently maintains the park through Operations and General Funds, and expects to use the same funding stream in the years following completion of the renovation improvements.

**Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5 mile radius. .**

The project is the rehabilitation of an existing park. Although it will not add a new recreational resource, the improvements for accessibility will increase the usability of the existing resources.

**The project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.**

The park will be planted with native species to promote watershed health but it is not a full restoration. Wildfire risk is not applicable to this site.

**The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.**

Elysian Valley Gateway Park is already an access point to the Los Angeles River Greenway and the regional bike path. The proposed improvements will increase the quality of that access point and its value to users. Increased accessibility for the park will make it more usable for visitors of all abilities.

**The project adds a significant link to a major regional multi-modal trail or river parkway.**

The Los Angeles River regional bike path is located adjacent to the park. The planned improvements to Elysian Valley Gateway Park include a better transition between park and bikeway, improving conditions for cyclists and others on the path.

**The project upgrades an existing regional trail or river parkway to protect its continued use and enjoyment by the public.**

This Project will provide an enhanced and much safer gateway to the directly adjacent river parkway, as well as creating enhanced areas to view nature within the Los Angeles River. The MRCA plans to enhance the trails within the park to allow users of all types access through the park and to the river path. This will enable visitors to more conveniently access and utilize the river parkway. These proposed new improvements are expected to create better user experiences and encourage people to bicycle or walk along the River to exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors instead of commuting using other transportation facilities.

**Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.**

MRCA has conducted outreach meetings throughout the planning process by partnering with the local Councilmembers Office and holding Community Workshop meetings to listen to suggestions and feedback on rehabilitation concepts. Further Workshops and meetings will be completed during the planning and design process. The affected community will invited to participate in public meetings, design workshops, and be updated on project progress. MRCA will engage with local community-based organizations to ensure high-quality participation from a variety of residents. Updates on the project will be given at monthly MRCA Governing Board meetings, which are publicly noticed.

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**The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.**

The proposed project seeks to rehabilitate public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits, such as creating networks of walking trails and viewing areas, stormwater networks of bioswales and infiltration basins, trees for shade, urban cooling and wildlife protection, and native planting areas that provide habitat patches for wildlife.

The project will design visitor-serving amenities that the park currently lacks, including interpretative signage, greater accessibility, seating, improved walking paths, updated signage for security, and more. Public safety will be increased by renovating pathways, expanding flexible space along the Riverway path edge, upgrading fencing and potentially lights. The renovated park is expected to attract more people than currently use the park, and this can also lead to improved public safety.

**The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a watershed resource.**

Interpretive signage or online resources will be incorporated into the design in order to provide information about the future stormwater treatment as well as the natural resources of the River. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed.

**The project creates a new venue for education and/or interpretation activities that promote water conservation and stewardship, or enhance an existing venue.**

As mentioned, the project will reimage and redesign a currently underutilized park to be a multiple benefit space that will enhance the resource, highlight the adjacent river, educate the public about the importance of the use of native plants and stormwater treatment.

All public information regarding the Project will contain education about the Project's many environmental benefits. As mentioned, this will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Panels describe and heighten awareness of GHG emissions, reduction measures that the public can take in their personal lives to improve air quality, highlight water conservation and water quality improvement measures, and carbon sequestration methods and benefits. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

**The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.**

The rehabilitated site will attract more visitors than currently use the park. The project goal of highlighting the river's proximity, and creating a more expansive area along the existing Riverway path, will result in far more people safely accessing the river path and enjoying views of the River. By designing a more environmentally conscious park, the project will promote water conservation and habitat and will focus on the value of our watershed and natural resources which will benefit the community and enhance its use by the public.

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The project will result in an enhanced public access to a watershed resource that has both high interpretive and educational value, which will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

**Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.**

MRCA is the fee-title owner of Elysian Valley Gateway Park.

### **EXTRA CONSIDERATION POINTS**

#### **QUANTIFIABLE CARBON REDUCTION POINTS**

**The project demonstrates a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration or other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills.**

Carbon sequestration will be achieved through the addition of approximately 19 new native trees to complement the several existing native trees on-site. Although, 19 might sound like an insignificant number, the long-term results of the carbon sequestration and stormwater interception is not insignificant, especially on a site that is 0.25 acres. The infiltration of stormwater will reduce the amount of imported water needed, indirectly reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the reduced need to pump water to Southern California. The calculations provided represent the best analysis by a certified arborist and landscape architecture staff:

The iTree Design tool was used in order to calculate the estimated projected GHG sequestered by the project. This tool enabled staff to insert the size and species of each future tree on-site and locate it in relation to the neighboring property boundaries and residential structures. In estimating the amount of GHG sequestered, the tool considered the types of trees that are being installed: How large they will get and their ability to sequester carbon (since different tree types are able to sequester carbon more successfully and at much higher rates than others). The tool also considered the tree's abilities to shade nearby structures as trees near buildings can reduce heating and air conditioning demands thereby reducing emissions associated with power production. The result of these inputs was a total of 276,182 pounds (138 tons) of carbon being sequestered by the Project's trees over a period of 40 years (6,904 pounds per year).

The iTree Design tool also calculated that, per year, the trees being installed as part of the Project will intercept approximately 594,836 gallons (0.05 acre feet) of stormwater. This will also save energy by capturing and infiltrating water into our local aquifers. Urban stormwater runoff ("non-point source pollution") washes chemicals (oil, gasoline, salts, etc.) and litter from the roadway surface into the River. The more impervious the surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt, rooftops), the more quickly pollutants are washed into our community waterways. Drinking water, aquatic life, and the health of our entire ecosystem can be adversely affected by this process. The on-site stormwater network and vegetation will slow down and capture the majority of runoff. The stormwater network and trees will act as mini-reservoirs, controlling runoff at the source and reducing runoff by intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches, and bark and increasing infiltration and storage of rainwater through the tree's root systems.

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**The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.**

N/A

**The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces and other forms of water capture and storage.**

As discussed above, the project seeks to not only retain all water that falls on-site, but also divert neighborhood stormwater from Knox Avenue to capture significant quantities of wet and dry-weather runoff. The overall cumulative impact of this project is substantial for the given urban area and will treat and infiltrate water that otherwise currently enters the River untreated. Additionally, the project will consider to explore if captured stormwater can be retained for landscape irrigation.

**The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.**

The project will install a significant quantity, for the project size, of California native trees and shrubs throughout the project site. Among many purposes, the trees will provide shade, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, generate oxygen, and remove pollutants from the air thus helping to address and reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming.

**The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.**

The Los Angeles River functions as a habitat corridor for migratory birds and small mammals, therefore providing an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. The project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River where more species survive, fly and swim to, as well as the Arroyo Seco Confluence. It is also adjacent to Elysian Park and downstream from Griffith Park, which are home to many sensitive plant and animal species, and this project will provide a significant habitat link and node within an important ecological and wildlife corridor. By capturing and treating urban runoff on the site, it will improve water quality in the River and help to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems. Additionally, the installation of native plant landscaping (trees and shrubs) will provide new habitat for area bird and other species.

**The develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.**

Investment in this project will support the protection of natural resources and facilitate the further development of a livable, walkable, and healthy community, which is a principal goal of this grant program: As part of the Project's scope, MRCA plans to enhance the trails within the park to allow users of all types access through the park and to the river path. This will enable visitors to more conveniently access and utilize the amenity and will encourage more outdoor activity. These proposed new improvements are expected to create better user experiences and

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watershed benefits. The location of the Project adjacent to a residential community and the river will encourage people to bicycle or walk to the park to exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors instead of commuting to a similar amenity, thereby reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources. The Project would result in very limited new vehicle trips and, as mentioned, is expected to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

**The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.**

Yes, local communities will be engaged during the project. Key project partners are community-based organizations that represent a variety of disadvantaged populations, and the topics of stewardship and climate change awareness will be included. The surrounding community will be engaged to participate in public meetings, design workshops. During these meetings, the importance of providing multiple benefit spaces, protecting our natural resources, establishing healthy watersheds, and providing wildlife habitat will be promoted and discussed. This will lead increase public awareness and eventually provide an outdoor learning tool for nearby students, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship. The MRCA is currently partnering with the volunteers from the Audubon Center at Debs Park to help maintain native landscape at the MRCA's pocket parks throughout the Elysian Valley, and anticipate their prolonged collaboration to help ensure the establishment of native trees and shrubs, as well as park long-term stewardship.

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA**

**Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.**

The project will seek to partner with project partners to conduct programs specifically designed to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities. MRCA frequently partners with Community Nature Connection, a local environmental non-profit that trains and employs youth, for community engagement and outreach services. As mentioned above, the MRCA plans to keep partnering with the volunteers from the Audubon Center at Debs Park to help ensure the establishment of native trees and shrubs, and this could also result in green job training opportunities.

**Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.**

The project area is located approximately a 0.5 mile from Metro Bus Route 96 along Riverside Drive.

**Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.**

As mentioned, the design will incorporate new amenities that currently do not exist within the project site, and provide access through the park and to the river path for all users of all types access. The improvements will be designed to accommodate users of all ability levels.

**Budget for Grant Application  
Elysian Valley Gateway Park Improvements**

**Grant Request: \$ 850,000**

Budget Item		Amount
<b>A. MRCA Staff</b>		
various	Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 400,000
9998, 9999	Administrative Cost	\$ 210,000
<b>SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:</b>		<b>\$ 610,000</b>
<b>B. Materials and Supplies</b>		
5112	Land & Building Improvement - Materials	\$ 100,000
5113	Land & Building Improvement - Equipment	\$ 25,000
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Design/Pre-construction	\$ 5,000
7777	Equipment Allocation	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL C, Materials and Supplies:</b>		<b>\$ 130,000</b>
<b>C. Consultants and Contractors</b>		
5114	Land & Building Improvement - Subcontractors	\$ 60,000
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Design/Pre-construction	\$ 50,000
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 7,500
<b>SUBTOTAL D, Consultants and Contractors:</b>		<b>\$ 110,000</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B+C):</b>		<b>\$ 850,000</b>