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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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New Park in Compton Dedicated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

*Compton Creek Outdoor Classroom next to Compton High is first of series
of nature parks planned along Compton Creek*

Compton, California—In a break from the first significant rainfall in Southern California this year, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke joined the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and the Compton Unified School District today to dedicate a new natural park alongside Compton Creek in the City of Compton.

The first of many projects planned on the creek by the MRCA, the park provides a rest area alongside the Compton Creek Bikeway, and offers students an outdoor educational opportunity with amphitheater-style seating. Amenities include native plants, signage, seating, boulders, a bike rack, and elegant interpretive gateways designed by steel artist Brett Goldstone

“Compton Creek in its natural state was once the focal point around which the community of Compton was settled.” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “It is the goal of the Conservancy and the MRCA to bring the focus back to Compton Creek and reconnect its neighborhoods with nature.”

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Compton Creek is the longest tributary of the lower Los Angeles River and drains a 42.1-square-mile industrial and residential area in the Los Angeles basin. The 8.5 mile long creek flows through an alluvial plain, which originally included wetlands, marshlands, lakes, and streams that flowed into the Pacific Ocean. The natural course and appearance of the creek was altered in 1939 when the Army Corps of Engineers encased the creek in a concrete channel to convey storm water as a flood control measure. While largely ignored and neglected for many years, since 1996, elected officials, public agencies, and many other organizations have joined together in the Compton Creek Task Force to clean up Compton Creek and provide a forum to change the Creek's role in the community.

Compton High School is one of four schools adjacent to the creek, and [the Compton Creek Outdoor Classroom](#) is the first joint-use project between Compton Unified School District (CUSD) and MRCA to create public parkland. Joint-use projects increase the benefits of land already owned by the public. The park was built by MRCA using \$150,000 of Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks (Proposition A) funds and will be managed by CUSD.

Other Compton Creek park sites contemplated by the MRCA include another joint-use venture at Washington Elementary School upstream, and a park project at the new Gateway Towne Center.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 60,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 115 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

The MRCA is a local government public entity established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

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