



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

Tujunga Wash Greenway

Location: 13069 Victory Blvd, Los Angeles, CA

Client: County of Los Angeles

Design Firm(s): Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Landscape Architecture Department

Landscape architect/Project contact: Stephanie Landregan,
FASLA and Elizabeth Jordan

Email: landregan@att.net

ASLA Chapter: California Southern



Project Specifications

Project Description: This is the first park of its kind along the Tujunga Wash flood control channel. The one-mile segment of the once-natural Tujunga Wash includes walking paths, beautiful native landscaping, comfortable benches, interpretive displays, a meandering stream, views of the Santa Monica Mountains, and a shaded picnic area.

Project Type:

Open space - park

A retrofit of an existing property

Design features: Bioretention facility and bioswale. Takes water from the channelized LA River and moves it through a new stream to provide natural ecological stream systems to clean the water and to reintroduce the water downstream in its cleaned form.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates:

County ordinance, local ordinance, to meet funding criteria

Impervious area managed: greater than 5 acres

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: greater than 5 acres

The regulatory environment and regulator was supportive of the project.

Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements? Yes, park space and community access were required and extensive community workshops.

Cost & Jobs Analysis

Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project: >\$5,000,000 (Public funding: State, regional, local)

Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed? No

Cost impact of conserving green/open space to the overall costs of the site design/development project: This was a reintroduction of green space and included in the overall costs

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Slightly increased.

Number of jobs created: 14

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: 1,200

Construction: 1,500

Annual Maintenance: 800

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:

This innovative project provides a natural solution for cleaning water that will eventually flow into the ocean while, at the same time, adding to the region's water supply. A gravity-fed pipe takes urban runoff from the flood control channel and creates a new stream with some of the natural characteristics of the once free-flowing Tujunga Wash. Native plants in the streambed help clean the water, and establish habitat for animals such as birds, frogs, and lizards. During a year with average rainfall, as much as 325,000 gallons of water will flow through the naturalized streambed and will produce enough groundwater recharge to provide 760 families of four with drinking water for an entire year.

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: See this video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysArU3mF2_c

Additional Information

Links to images: <http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=671>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysArU3mF2_c

<http://articles.latimes.com/2007/nov/08/local/me-wash8>

http://dpw.lacounty.gov/apps/news/pdf/2380_2618.pdf

http://www.werf.org/livablecommunities/studies_la_ca.

Extensive door to door community involvement was required. Decorative elements including neighborhood boundary fencing were installed, and coordination with LA County Flood control.