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CAROUSEL OPENING HIGHLIGHTS REYES' \$2.5 MILLION REVIVAL OF LINCOLN PARK — *-Councilman joins thousands this weekend to celebrate park clean-up*

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, who spearheaded the multimillion-dollar clean-up of Lincoln Park, welcomed the thousands who celebrated the park revival this weekend with carousel rides, cotton candy and family fun.

“Parks are already scarce in my district,” said Reyes. “So when I became a councilman, creating safe, fun and affordable activities for families easily became a top priority.”

The carousel opening highlights a \$2.5 million revitalization of one of the City’s oldest parks. In addition to the merry-go-round, the park improvements also include landscaping, walkways, a skate park, a T-ball field, and a universally-accessible playground, with wheel-chair-accessible ramps and Braille displays. The 50-acre park, at 2501 Valley Boulevard, is located in the Los Angeles community of Lincoln Heights.

Lincoln Park, first called East Los Angeles Park and then Eastlake Park, became a major amusement center when it opened in 1901. It featured the area’s first zoological display, giant stone elephants at the gate and a carousel, built in 1914, that cost a nickel to ride.

The historical carousel, with hand-carved wooden horses, was gutted in fire in 1976. The park declined and become a haven for gang violence, drug deals and other criminal activity.

Still, the fond childhood memories of Lincoln Park never died for Reyes, who pledged to renew the park when he became a councilman.

“I remember when my parents took me to Lincoln Park for carousel rides and cotton candy,” said Reyes, who spearheaded the park’s multimillion-dollar clean-up. “I still hold those memories close to my heart. Today, I hope the Lincoln Park revival will provide opportunities for children and families to create their own memories, too.”

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