



ericGARCETTI

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

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L.A. RIVER GLEAMS GREEN AS GARCETTI DEDICATES MEADOWVALE PARK

Councilmember Eric Garcetti joined environmental and neighborhood activists to dedicate a river-side pocket park on the Los Angeles River this morning. Where once a graffiti-scarred dead-end was distinguished only by holes cut in a chain-link fence, benches now sit facing the river, surrounded by a small garden of native plants.

“By the banks of the Los Angeles River, the founding Pobladores made camp and built the settlement that would become Los Angeles,” said Councilmember Garcetti, who represents the Elysian Valley community where the park sits. “Today, the river connects L.A.’s present to its past. And it connects the cozy community of Elysian Valley to a regional resource. In Meadowvale Park, a grandmother who lives in this neighborhood might sit and see a bicyclist from Tarzana stop for a rest on a long ride.”

The park, whose design and construction were managed by North East Trees, was built with funds from voter-approved Proposition A. It is one of four parks built by the organization that line the Los Angeles River. “This represents the gradual transformation of the area along the Los Angeles River,” said Pieter Severynen, Director of Planning and Design for North East Trees. “Here, the river has escaped its concrete straitjacket. Green life is sprouting, as is a new attitude towards the river.”

“This dead end was a gangster hangout,” said Lewis MacAdams, Chairman of the Board of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR). “It was ugly. Now it’s a beautiful spot for the community to gather.”

Elysian Valley residents Linda Toliver and Gary Guidinger were on hand for the dedication. “This represents respect for the community,” said Guidinger, a 20-year resident. It represents care and concern for the river. It’s unifying.” Toliver, a 30-year resident of the neighborhood, said that she walks the river daily and “for years, saw nobody. It was as if it had been forgotten. Now people are fighting for the river.”

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