

Albion Riverside Park Proposition O Project

In 2004, Los Angeles voters passed Proposition O which authorized the City of Los Angeles to issue a series of general obligation bonds for up to \$500 million for projects that would prevent and remove pollutants from Los Angeles' regional waterways and ocean, consequently protecting public safety and meeting federal Clean Water Act regulations. The bonds have allowed the City to purchase and improve municipal properties for projects that protect rivers, lakes, beaches, and the ocean; conserve and protect drinking water and other waters sources; reduce flooding and use neighborhood parks to decrease polluted runoff; and capture, clean up, and reuse stormwater.

The Albion Riverside Park project is one such Proposition O water quality improvement project. Additional funding for the project came from Proposition 84, which finances the creation of new parks and recreation facilities for underserved California communities, and from Proposition K, which is focused on combatting the inadequacies and decay of the City's youth infrastructure and improving park, recreation, childcare and community facilities.

The six (6) acre triangle-shaped site is adjacent to the Los Angeles River, north of Main Street and south of Spring Street. The site is bordered by Albion Street to the southeast, by the existing Downey Park to the north, and by railroad tracks to the west. The overall objective of this project is to develop the project site and implement Low Impact Development (LID), Green Infrastructure, and Best Management Practice (BMP) measures to improve the water quality of stormwater prior to discharging into the Los Angeles River and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean. In addition to collecting, treating and infiltrating on-site runoff, the project will divert stormwater and dry weather flows from an existing storm drain. The diverted flows will be treated and infiltrated or used within the park. The BMPs installed will include bioretention facilities, bioswales, and pervious pavement subsurface infiltration areas. The remainder of the park will be developed for recreational uses, educational purposes, and improved access along the river. Recreational amenities at the site will include multi-purpose athletic fields, walking paths, adult fitness zones, children's play area, picnic area, a new parking lot with permeable paving, site landscaping and a plaza.

The benefits of this project are not exclusive to water quality. Although the pollutant loads are expected to decrease dramatically and exceed the goals of Proposition O, this project will also provide multiple benefits to the neighborhood by creating visual linkages to the Los Angeles River and to other projects referenced in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master plan. T