Pasadena City Council Takes a Significant Step Towards Enhancing Our Community’s Green Spaces

On May 13, the city approved a $1 million reimbursement agreement with the One Arroyo Foundation for a grant it received from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in 2022.

The project will address erosion and trail deterioration and will connect the three distinct areas of the Arroyo (upper, central and lower), improving trail conditions and re-opening the historic Mayberry-Parker Bridge.

This approval is just the beginning. The next milestone is set for June 10th, when the City Council will award the project contract. We aim to break ground in August and complete the trail by November.

This project is part of a broader vision that began in 2019 when One Arroyo and the City of Pasadena entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to plan and execute demonstration projects for the Arroyo Seco. The MOU, endorsed by the City Council, ensures regular collaboration and quarterly updates, paving the way for a successful and sustainable development.

One Arroyo Out & About

Come Visit Us:

Wednesday, May 22:
Pasadena Celebrates Older Americans Month
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Victory Park, 2575 Paloma St, Pasadena CA 91107

Thursday, June 6:
WPRA (West Pasadena Residence Association)
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM
(OA tabling from 5:30 - 6:15)
Elks Lodge
400 W. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Saturday, June 15:
DENA Juneteenth Celebration 2024
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Metropolitan Baptist Church
2283 N Fair Oaks Ave
Altadena, Ca 91101

Councilmember Justin Jones, District Liaison Lisa Barrios, and One Arroyo staff Rick Gould, Candy Renick, and Cynthia Kurtz, hiked the Lower Arroyo trail loop.

Councilmember Felicia Williams and One Arroyo Managing Director Rick Gould toured the Arroyo Seco to discuss trail improvements.

@onearroyo
The One Arroyo Foundation is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a $200,000 grant from the Ayrshire Foundation to support the One Arroyo Trail Critical Linkages Project. This generous grant will enable the foundation to further its mission of revitalizing Pasadena's historic Arroyo Seco, fostering community health, well-being, and environmental sustainability.

The Ayrshire Foundation, known for its commitment to supporting projects that enhance communities and preserve natural resources, has been a champion of philanthropic initiatives since its inception. The foundation has a long history of investing in projects that have a meaningful and lasting impact on communities across the nation.

The One Arroyo Trail Critical Linkages Project aims to address the deterioration of the Arroyo Seco's trail system by connecting three distinct areas of the Arroyo, improving trail conditions, and re-opening the historic Mayberry-Parker bridge. With nearly 1,000 acres of urban forest and 22 miles of potential continuous trails, the Arroyo Seco is a valuable resource for the Pasadena community. However, heavy use, erosion, and deferred maintenance have led to significant deterioration, making some trails inaccessible and unsafe.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Ayrshire Foundation for their generous support of the One Arroyo Trail Critical Linkages Project," said Steve Madison, Vice Mayor of Pasadena. "This grant will allow us to make much-needed improvements to the trail system, enhancing accessibility and safety for all members of the community."

In addition to improving the trail system within the Arroyo Seco parklands, the Project will also improve trail and access connections to the north into the Angeles National Forest and to the south along the Arroyo Seco to the Los Angeles River. Educational opportunities will be incorporated into the project, engaging local schools in the One Arroyo vision and providing interpretive improvements at scenic, historic, and culturally significant locations.

Support the One Arroyo Foundation in its mission to preserve Pasadena's greatest open space, the Arroyo Seco.

Dogs of the Arroyo: Meet Tango

Tango walked in the Arroyo with Max every day. He sniffed and smelled along the way, checking out the pee-mail and other good smells. Max would often stop to take pictures of birds and other wildlife and Tango would wait patiently by her side.

A favorite spot was just below the San Rafael Bridge (near the riding stables), where Max stopped to photograph the owls nesting there. A group has sponsored a bench to be placed near there in honor of Max.

Another favorite was at the north end of the lower Arroyo, near the Colorado street bridge. Max had a spot where she looked for a sharp-shinned hawk that perched on a tree there. Tango would sit and wait for their walk to continue.

Written by Robin Colman in honor of Tango’s late owner, Max Brenner.
Kidspacem Campout returns—a celebration of the best iconic summer experiences from camping out, fishing, and singing around a campfire and creating camp crafts.

Arrayos & Foothills Conservancy

Help restore the natural habitat at the Rosemont Preserve, by removing invasive plants, watering newly planted natives, and doing trail maintenance in preparation for upcoming field trips.

Rose Bowl Acquatics Center

2024 will be the 30th summer for Anderson Adventure Camp H2O! Our program will run from June 10 - August 9 for campers entering 1st-6th grade in the summer of 2024.

Rose Bowl Stadium

Cross-town rivals, the LA Galaxy and LAFC, will return on July 4, 2024. The match will feature the longest-running fireworks display on the West Coast.

The One Arroyo Foundation board recently visited Crystal Cove State Park in Newport Beach to learn from a model organization dedicated to restoration efforts. This trip provided valuable insights into the organization’s operations, including their successful fundraising strategies and earned revenue models, all reinvested into the park.

The Crystal Cove Conservancy was established in partnership with California State Parks to prevent the construction of a luxury resort and to restore the park’s historic cottages.

With the infrastructure restoration project nearing completion, the Conservancy is now focusing on environmental education for the public and schools. Their programs aim to teach about trail systems, habitat restoration, and marine protection.

Armory Center for the Arts Honors Gale Kohl

On May 18th, One Arroyo board member Gale Kohl was honored by Pasadena's Armory Center for the Arts for her significant contributions as a community leader and her unwavering support since 2008.

Kohl, the owner of Gale's Restaurant in Pasadena, has been a key figure at the nonprofit art center, offering invaluable leadership and support. The event was hosted by Dodgers broadcaster Jorge Jarrín, a close friend of Kohl, adding a personal touch to the celebration. The evening featured heartfelt tributes to Kohl, highlighting her dedication to the arts and the community.
Board Member Spotlight: Doug Kranwinkle

Can you share a bit about your background and how you became involved with One Arroyo?

I grew up in a small town with a population of around 50,000, located in Illinois, west of Chicago. It was characterized by flat farmland. I remained in the Midwest for both my college education and law school at the University of Michigan where I was a classmate of former Pasadena Mayor, Bill Bogaard. In 1967, my wife and I relocated to Pasadena after spending a year in Washington, DC.

My wife was particularly fond of living in DC and insisted that if we were moving to Los Angeles, we should settle in Pasadena. The city reminded her of the midwest and her upbringing. At that time, we were in our mid twenties with young children, and after we moved here we often frequented the Arroyo, enjoying walks with our kids and dogs. I found it to be a truly unique place. We lived nearby and spent a lot of time there.

Terry Tornek (former Pasadena Mayor), Steve Mermell (former Pasadena City Manager), and Darryl Dunn (former Rose Bowl Stadium CEO and General Manager) recognized the need for improved maintenance in the Arroyo and that the City’s budget was already stretched thin. During a visit to New York City, Darryl was inspired by the cleanup efforts of the Central Park Conservancy. Upon his return, he discussed his thinking with then Mayor Terry Tornek, Victor Gordo, and others, leading to the decision to form a study group to address the Arroyo’s issues. Bill Bogaard (former Pasadena Mayor) and I were asked to chair the Arroyo Advisory Group, which consisted of approximately 20 individuals representing various backgrounds within Pasadena.

We met for about a year and a half, ultimately producing a report that was submitted to the City Council. The report recommended the establishment of the One Arroyo Foundation, aimed at securing private support to assist the City in the maintenance of the Arroyo Seco in light of other pressing needs for the city’s strained resources.

What personally connects you to the Arroyo Seco and why do you feel it’s important to preserve this open space?

Currently, I live in a house that offers a picturesque view of the Arroyo and its natural splendor. I consider it one of Pasadena’s most unique assets. It’s remarkable to have such a vast expanse of wilderness practically in our backyard. One morning, as I stepped outside to get the newspaper, I encountered a wildcat prowling nearby. On another occasion, we even had a bear visit our backyard.

Amidst the Pasadena urban environment, the presence of those kinds of wild animals is truly extraordinary. I believe that it is essential that we preserve the Arroyo so that those animals can continue to thrive in this unique environment where they and we humans co-exist. By ensuring its conservation, we can maintain a space that is accessible and beneficial to both wildlife and people.

As a resident of Pasadena yourself, how can residents of Pasadena and surrounding areas contribute to the mission of One Arroyo?

As one of Pasadena’s greatest assets, I believe — though some don’t — that the Arroyo would benefit from increased usage by Pasadena from all parts of the City, not just those of us who live in proximity to it. I believe that the more people utilize it, the greater the support will be for the City to budget the appropriate and needed funding. Additionally, heightened usage can increase interest in private funds being contributed towards its maintenance.

What would you like to see improved in the Arroyo Seco?

I’m not an advocate for constructing new structures in the Arroyo. Its natural beauty is its most significant asset. However, better maintenance of the trails and other areas is necessary. Over the years, some of the beautiful rock walls and other physical assets have deteriorated. They should be fixed. I also believe that adding more natural benches and water fountains, as well as better wayfinding signage along the trails would enhance user’s enjoyment.

How does the One Arroyo Foundation blend with other initiatives and organizations you are a part of?

I serve on the board of the Rose Bowl Operating Company, which oversees the Rose Bowl Stadium and Brookside Golf Course and Clubhouse. The stadium is in the center of the Arroyo, and is a treasured local and national asset. The beauty of the Arroyo Seco is integral to what makes the Rose Bowl unique, and vice versa. When you compare pictures of the Rose Bowl to other football stadiums, the way it’s nestled within this stunning natural setting, is truly remarkable and the synergy between the two is incredible. The Rose Bowl offers an exceptional venue for a variety of entertainment within the Arroyo, while the natural beauty of the Arroyo enhances the stadium’s appeal.