

100 Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard FAQ and Glossary

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard?

The 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard (100 Acres) is a commitment in the form of a Letter of Intent between the City of Los Angeles (City), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to work cooperatively on the design, development, and operation of the Taylor Yard G1 or Bowtie parcel, the Taylor Yard G2 parcel, and Rio de Los Angeles State Park. This cooperation aims to provide surrounding communities, and the Los Angeles region, a vibrant 100-acre, River-adjacent open space destination that will include passive and active recreational opportunities, large areas of restored natural habitat, River access, and enriching and educational experiences for all ages.

Where does the "100 acres" come from?

The Bowtie Parcel encompasses approximately 18 acres and the G2 parcel approximately 42 acres. Rio de Los Angeles State Park is 40 acres. Together they could amount to 100 acres of open space.

What agencies are involved in the 100 Acres and what will their roles be?

The agencies involved are the City of Los Angeles, California State Parks, and the MRCA. The roles will be defined once a formal legal agreement is established.

What does the Letter of Intent do?

The Letter of Intent is the first step in demonstrating that all three agencies are committed to working together to create 100 acres of open space that are complementary in mission and design. The Letter of Intent formalizes a dialogue that has already been occurring.

What are the next steps after the Letter of Intent?

The next step is a formal legal agreement, likely in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, that outlines roles and responsibilities. In the meantime, the three organizations will be working together on the 100 acres, fulfilling the intent of the Letter of Intent.

Will there be a cohesive design for the entire 100 acres?

The idea is that there will be a cohesive design for the entire 100 acres, so that the public will have easy access to all areas of the 100 acres of open space, and so that the uses and activities will be complementary. Details will be specified in a formal legal agreement, but the Letter of Intent initiates our process to work together so that the design and planning can be pursued cohesively starting now.

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Will one agency be leading the 100 Acres?

That has not yet been determined, and will be addressed in the formal agreement. In the meantime, each agency has assigned key staff as their points of contact.

For the City of Los Angeles: Bryan Powell, Bureau of Engineering - Bryan.Powell@lacity.org

For the MRCA: Brian Baldauf, Chief of Watershed Planning - Brian.Baldauf@mrca.ca.gov

For State Parks: Stephanie Campbell, Program Director - Stephanie.Campbell@parks.ca.gov

Is there funding to do the work?

There are funding sources already identified by each of the partners, and efforts to jointly pursue additional funding for the 100 acres. They include the following sources of funds:

1. City Capital Improvement Expenditure Program (CIEP) Funds
2. Funds from the State Budget
3. Proposition 1 Grant Funds through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

What is the Paseo del Río Project?

The Paseo del Río Project is the informal name for an early activation project that would provide riverfront public access all along the Bowtie and G2 parcels (Rio de Los Angeles Park is inland and does not have river access), which may include trails, native habitat areas, water quality improvement features, green spaces, trail recreational opportunities, a kayak launch and landing, gathering spaces or outdoor classrooms, restorative elements, and amenities such as parking, access points, restrooms, gates, lighting, and interpretive signage. The elements of this project will be developed from extensive community input, so these features are just suggestions and are just the beginning. The project will include remediation work prior to construction and it's expected to be open to the public at the end of 2023, early 2024.

How can the community provide input on the Paseo del Río Project?

Once the agreement is finalized and funding secured, the partners will be reaching out to the community in a variety of ways to elicit input in a robust manner. This will include small meetings, discussions with neighborhood groups and Neighborhood Councils, discussions with nearby schools, discussions with residents in the area, questionnaires, design workshops, and other ways to give community members a variety of ways to give feedback on what they would like to see in the project. Given that holding public meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic is currently restricted, it is important to the partners to identify alternate convening and input methods to allow the community to participate throughout the planning process for the Paseo del Río Project.

I've heard there is contamination at the Bowtie and G2 parcels. Is that true?

Due to the site's previous use as a rail maintenance yard for nearly a century, there is contamination in the soil. The Bowtie parcel was historically used for administrative operations and storing cleaning equipment, and the G2 parcel housed train cleaning and refueling

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activities. Contaminants are primarily lead, petroleum in the form of diesel, and other cleaning solvents. The partners are following the prescribed process for investigating and remediating the site in close coordination with our oversight authority, the State's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

How will public health be protected during the Paseo del Río Project construction and during operation?

The number one goal of the partners is to provide a safe, accessible, and clean space for public use. We will be working with DTSC to assure that public health is not compromised during construction, or during the operation of the area.

When will the Paseo del Río Project be completed?

The hope is for the Paseo del Río Project to be completed at the end of 2023, or early 2024. This schedule is still somewhat flexible as we work on full funding and potential delays following Covid-19.

Who will operate, maintain, and provide security for the Paseo del Río Project once it's opened?

At this time, the details of operations, maintenance, and security have not been determined and will be addressed in the formal agreement. All three entities have extensive experience in operating and maintaining parks and open space along the River and elsewhere. The partners intend to find the best solution for ensuring the project operates in an integrated and seamless way.

What are the Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration & Stormwater Capture Project and Bowtie Green Infrastructure Engagement Project?

They are initiatives led by The Nature Conservancy in close coordination with State Parks. The Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration & Stormwater Capture Project proposes to daylight a storm drain from the existing pipeline and divert the water onto the Bowtie Parcel, through a natural arroyo that meanders along the northern site boundary, and is anticipated to be implemented in 2 to 3 years. In conjunction with the stormwater project, The Nature Conservancy is also spearheading the Bowtie Green Infrastructure Engagement Project to develop a model for community and stakeholder engagement on green infrastructure projects. These projects are a separate effort from the Paseo del Río Project but the respective teams are in communication.

How do I get involved?

Email us at info@100acrepartnership.org to be added to the mailing list.

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Glossary of Terms

California Department of Parks and Recreation or State Parks: State's department that provides health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Property owner of Rio de Los Angeles State Park and the Bowtie parcel.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control or DTSC: State's department that protects California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products. Regulatory oversight entity for Rio de Los Angeles State Park, the Bowtie parcel, and the G2 parcel.

City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering or BOE: The City's lead agency for the planning, design and construction management of public buildings, infrastructure, and open space projects. Project managers for the G2 parcel.

City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks or RAP: The City's steward of parkland, offering recreational, social, and cultural opportunities in every Los Angeles neighborhood. Leases portions of Rio de Los Angeles State Park from State Parks and operates and maintains those portions.

Former Taylor Yard Rail Complex: An approximately 244-acre complex previously owned by Union Pacific Railroad and its predecessors for rail maintenance and fueling, servicing nearly all freight rail transport in and out of downtown Los Angeles until 1973. Taylor Yard was divided into 10 designated parcels—Parcels A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J. Since the early 1990s, these parcels have been developed for transportation facilities; industrial buildings; and residential, institutional, and commercial uses. Parcel G was further divided into two parcels (G1 and G2).

Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration & Stormwater Capture Project: A project led by The Nature Conservancy that proposes to daylight a storm drain from the existing pipeline and divert the water onto the Bowtie Parcel, through a natural arroyo that meanders along the northern site boundary.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority or MRCA: A local public agency dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, wildlife habitat, watershed lands, and trails and to ensuring public access to public parkland. The MRCA is a joint powers authority between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Easement owner of a 12.5-acre multi-purpose easement over the G2 parcel.

Paseo del Río Project: An early activation project planned for the Bowtie and G2 parcels that would provide Riverfront public access, which may include trails, native habitat areas, water quality improvement features, green spaces, trail recreational opportunities, a kayak launch and

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landing, gathering spaces or outdoor classrooms, restorative elements, and amenities such as parking, access points, restrooms, gates, lighting, and interpretive signage.

Rio de Los Angeles State Park: A 40-acre park, which opened in 2007, located on Parcel D of the Former Taylor Yard Rail Complex that includes playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, and trails. The parcel is owned by State Parks and portions of the park are operated by RAP.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or SMMC: State agency established in 1980 with a mission to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public. The SMMC has provided a portion of the funding for the project.

Taylor Yard G1 Parcel or Bowtie Parcel: An approximately 18-acre property owned by State Parks and located on the east bank of the Los Angeles River in Northeast Los Angeles.

Taylor Yard G2 Parcel: An approximately 42-acre property owned by the City of Los Angeles and located on the east bank of the Los Angeles River in Northeast Los Angeles, south of the Bowtie parcel.

Taylor Yard G2 River Park Project: Since the City of Los Angeles purchased the G2 parcel in 2017, BOE has been conducting technical studies and developing three site planning options for the 42-acre site, summarized in an Implementation Feasibility Report which was funded by the State Coastal Conservancy. The conclusions of those studies support moving forward with the 100 Acres for a number of technical and accessibility reasons.

The Nature Conservancy: A non-profit organization that is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Lead in developing the Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration & Stormwater Capture Project at the Bowtie parcel in coordination with State Parks.

Vista del Río Project: An early activation project previously planned by the City of Los Angeles for the G2 parcel that is no longer being pursued. Instead, the City is working in coordination with State Parks and the MRCA to implement the Paseo del Río Project.