



VISTA HERMOSA NATURAL PARK

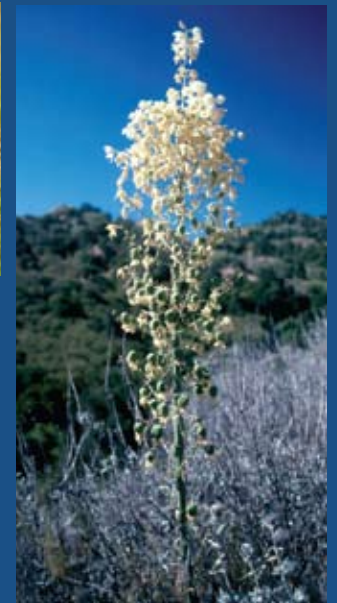
VISTA HERMOSA NATURAL PARK



Located at the western gateway to Downtown, 10.5-acre Vista Hermosa Park is the latest project of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) that boldly returns the serenity and diversity of nature to the Los Angeles urban core. Developed in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Los Angeles, Vista Hermosa is the first public park built in this densely populated area in more than a hundred years.

The park features walking trails, streams, meadows, oak savannahs, picnic grounds, and a nature-themed playground amidst native Mediterranean vegetation. A FIFA-regulation soccer field will be jointly used by the adjacent Edward R. Roybal Learning Center and the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks. An outdoor amphitheater in a grotto provides an ideal setting for environmental and natural history education.

Public community programs will be led by MRCA naturalists. The park will also provide a gateway to Santa Monica Mountains parklands for youth and their families with the free monthly “Transit to Trails” bus program.



SITE PLAN



PARK FEATURES



Children's Adventure Area



Grotto and Waterfall



Grassy Meadows



FIFA-regulation Soccer Field



Picnic Grounds



Cistern
Stores 20,000 gallons of rainwater for irrigation.

CONSERVATION FEATURES

Natural resource protection is part of the core mission of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Vista Hermosa Park incorporates state of the art landscape design and sustainable technologies to maximize green space while conserving water and energy.

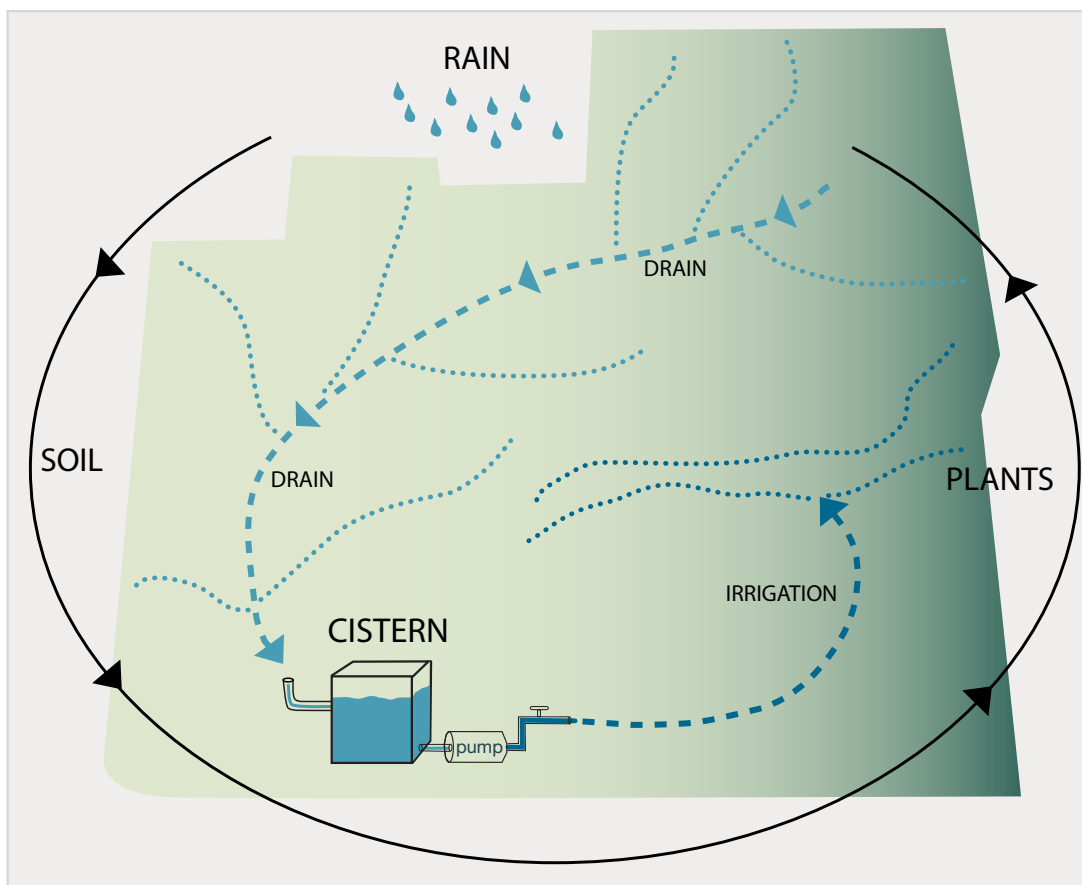
Vista Hermosa Park is a self-contained watershed. Almost every drop of water that falls on the park either percolates into the ground and replenishes the underlying aquifer—a critical source of drinking water in Los Angeles—or is captured for irrigation.

PERMEABLE SURFACES: Hard surfaces, such as parking lots, pavers around buildings, and decomposed granite walkways allow water to soak into the ground. The soccer field is made of synthetic turf that requires no irrigation and allows for absorption of rainwater.

NATURAL HABITAT: The park is planted with native plant species naturally adapted to the arid Southern California climate. Once established, they require little water and maintenance. The vegetation will attract increasingly more wildlife as it matures, and provide refuge for migrating birds.

GREEN ROOFS—The park buildings are capped with “green” planted roofs that retain rainwater and provide insulation, keeping the buildings warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Not only do they save energy, their plants absorb CO₂ and other pollutants from the atmosphere.

CISTERN SYSTEM—Water from every park drain flows into a cistern beneath the lower parking lot. Both overflow irrigation and rainwater are collected and used to water the park during drier weather.





ABOUT THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State Agency dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and creation of public parkland. The Conservancy's mission is to form an interlinking system of urban, rural, and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the public. Since it was established by the California State Legislature in 1980, the Conservancy has helped to preserve over 65,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings throughout Southern California.

ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a local government agency established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The MRCA manages and provides ranger and fire prevention services for public lands and parks that it owns or that are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or other agencies. Education and interpretation programs for thousands of youth are offered year-round. The MRCA works with the Conservancy and other partners to acquire parkland, participate in regional planning processes, and to complete major park construction and improvement projects. The MRCA is one of the principal agencies working towards revitalization of the Los Angeles River and is the leader in providing nature parks in urban areas.



Wilacre Park-Studio City



Whitney Canyon Park-Santa Clarita



Marsh Park-Los Angeles River



Santa Monica Mountains



DEVELOPMENT OF VISTA HERMOSA NATURAL PARK FUNDED BY:

State of California, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy from:

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and
Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50)

The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air,
and Coastal Bond Protection Act of 2000)
(Proposition 12—The Villaraigosa-Keeley Act)

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood
Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

AND

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Development Block Grant Program administered by
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Proposition K: L.A. For Kids

The Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Act (Proposition A)

LA84 Foundation

The Weingart Foundation

AND

The generous cooperation of the Los Angeles Unified School District



PHOTOS: Stephanie Landregan, Liz Jennings, Christine Arnesen, Craig Martell,
Elizabeth Jordan, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Archive

