



Living Down by the River

Our vision for the Los Angeles River in the neighborhoods north of Downtown Los Angeles is to establish an environmentally sensitive urban oasis, with open space, recreational areas, educational facilities, and a thriving, ecologically-functioning River.

This vision aligns with the goals the Ad Hoc River Committee laid out in 2002 for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. We believe that, by focusing on these priorities, we will organically realize improvements that relate to the historic themes of our river and our diverse communities.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Who is in charge of the LA River? The US Army Corps of Engineers is not funded adequately to maintain or improve the River channel that it built from 1938-1940. Today, LA County is the local permittee, which means that they act on behalf of the US Army corps in issuing permits, upon review and approval by other public agencies.

What are the current plans? One, is for the US Army Corps and the City jointly to restore 11 miles of River, from Downtown to Griffith Park, for an estimated \$3 billion dollars. This reportedly requires a 100% match from LA City. The Mayor's office has assembled the River Department Specialists under his office. At the current time, LA Architect Frank Gehry is working pro-bono on a vision for the LA River Revitalization Corporation.

Who operates and maintains the parks and trails on the LA River? Along the west bank, the City contracts with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps provides graffiti removal. The City of LA maintains the bike path. We need more landscape maintenance. In Elysian Valley, community groups are asking for improved lighting. Please contact: [www: laconservationcorps.org](http://www.laconservationcorps.org) or www.smmc.mrca.gov.

How can we add parks, trees, a pedestrian path, a bridge to Downtown and continuous landscaped improvements on a bike path into Sepulveda Basin? City leaders reportedly lack local funds to accomplish this, so they are asking residents to support the Army Corps Study, Alternative 20, and \$1 billion in Economic Development Growth bonds to fund cost of infrastructure. Meanwhile private donations to the LA River Revitalization Corporation are growing.

How can I help?

1. Enjoy the River's biology and natural history. Take a walk, bike, horse or kayak ride.
2. Visit Friends of the LA River (FOLAR) at North Atwater Park. Contact: smejia@folar.org.
3. Get involved in the River...Attend Atwater Village Neighborhood Council- River Committee (see <http://www.atwatervillage.org>)
4. Write letters to your Councilperson, the LA River Revitalization Corporation and Supervisors Hilda Solis and Sheila Keuhl on projects you care most about.
5. Report nuisances on the east or west bank of the river or in the channel to: County Department of Public Works, Flood Maintenance Division, (626) 458-4000.
6. Visit Friends of Atwater Village Always for updates www.atwatervillagealways.org