



Supervisor Gloria Molina, local leaders, and children from Elizabeth Learning Center celebrate the grand opening of Cudahy River Park on April 1, 2009

City of Cudahy officials and dignitaries welcomed County Supervisor Gloria Molina for the grand opening of Cudahy River Park. Speakers at the short dedication ceremony included Scott Wilson, North East Trees founder and Alina Bokde, from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Three classes of students from the nearby Elizabeth Learning Center attended the ceremony and joined the Supervisor in a tour of the park.

In 2005 work began on Cudahy River Park - a small gem along the Los Angeles River featuring benches and seat walls, a picnic table, a bike rack, and interpretive signage. The park serves as a miniature urban riparian forest, and is designed to divert and clean on-site water runoff from Clara Street and River Road Drive's storm drains into three retention basins under the park. The interpretive signs teach visitors about the history of city, the water purifying effects of the park, and its flora and fauna. The park's plants are a mix of riparian and coastal sage, the trees include Hollyleaf Cherry and Elderberry, and the shrubs include both Coyote Brush and Deer Grass. The park also provides a rest spot for pedestrians and bicyclists coming from the Los Angeles River.

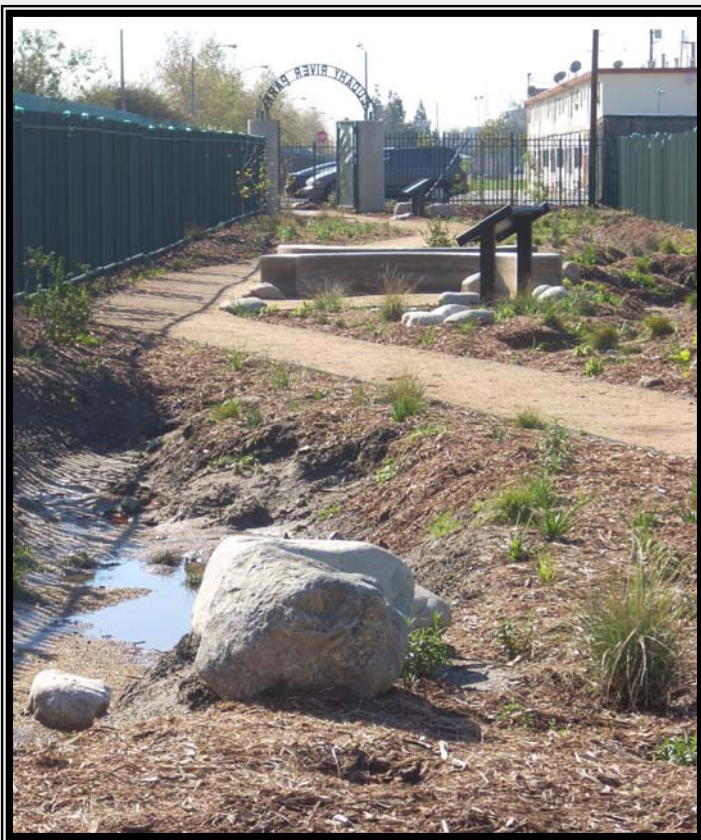


Photo by Sonia Nicholson

The park is planted entirely with native drought tolerant plants



North East Trees Founder Scott Wilson explains the unique features of the park to area students

Supervisor Molina appropriated \$513,000 of Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition funding toward the project. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy completed the project’s funding with an additional grant of \$150,000. North East Trees then designed and built the park with the assistance of 5,248 hours of labor from local youth.

Supervisor Molina shared her vision at the grand opening that Cudahy River Park will foster both the sustainable greening of the Los Angeles River and the recreational and open space needs of local families:

“Our Southeast cities continue to suffer from lack of open space, yet the population continues to thrive. And so we must continue to create policies and projects which reflect our need for recreation and open space. Today we are celebrating the completion of a wonderful greening project—and commemorate our efforts to transform the Los Angeles River. This vision began with the Upper Region of the Los Angeles River—when community organizations and local leaders saw a need to enhance the river and bring back its natural beauty. However, in addition to beautification, we have also created more opportunities for Los Angeles County residents to be active and increase their overall quality of life. We quickly realized the importance of greening the Southeast portion of the Los Angeles River. We have successfully completed projects in South Gate, Bell, Maywood—and now Cudahy!”



Photo by Christopher Robles, Rostra Communications

Supervisor Gloria Molina and excited students tour the small but important park

Visit Cudahy River Park at 5322 Clara Street at the intersection of Clara Street and River Road next to the Los Angeles River in the City of Cudahy