

In Los Angeles, these investments built urban parks and outdoor recreational centers for children and their families...

Los Angeles

Essential Investments in Los Angeles County

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

In Los Angeles, these investments built urban parks and outdoor recreational centers for children and their families — helping combat obesity and promoting healthier lifestyles. They're providing educational opportunities for the next generation of environmental stewards. They're protecting critical habitats from being consumed by urban sprawl, and they're preserving and restoring the last of Los Angeles' coastal wetlands.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the noteworthy investments in Los Angeles are:

LOS ANGELES RIVER

Once so blighted that a lawmaker proposed turning it into a freeway, the Los Angeles River is coming back to life and providing outdoor recreation for families. The Los Angeles River passes through 13 cities and countless communities as it flows from the western end of the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach. Proposition 40 and other public investments are transforming the land along the river's 51-mile course and bringing more parks to Los Angeles, the city with the fewest acres of parkland per person in the U.S.



Los Angeles River (Los Angeles County)
Photo: Friends of the Los Angeles River & Peter Benett

UPPER LAS VIRGENES CANYON OPEN SPACE PRESERVE (FORMERLY AHMANSON RANCH)

The land is part of a critical ecological linkage and wildlife corridor between the Santa Monica Mountains and the ranges to the north — protecting habitats and endangered species. Made possible by Propositions 40 and 50, Ahmanson Ranch was a major achievement for Los Angeles County communities seeking to preserve open space for people and wildlife.



Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (Los Angeles County)
Photo: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

The future of all of California...depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish.

BALLONA WETLANDS

The Ballona Wetlands in Marina del Rey is the last vestige of Los Angeles' once-vast coastal wetlands, and one of Southern California's most valuable habitats for endangered species. It's also an important stopover for migratory birds and valuable open space in a crowded urban environment. Because of its significance, the surrounding community fought for decades to save this precious habitat from development. With financing from Proposition 12 and other funding sources, more than 1,000 acres of the Ballona Wetlands were saved.



Ballona Wetlands (Marina del Rey)
Photo: Friends of Ballona Wetlands

BALDWIN HILLS ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETIVE INITIATIVE

With investments from Proposition 40, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy launched an environmental and educational initiative to encourage stewardship and action among young people in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles. By teaching them about critical habitats and the environment, this initiative is preparing the next generation to care for our natural resources. It also provides a much-needed venue for outdoor recreation in one of the country's most densely populated urban areas.



Baldwin Hills (Los Angeles County)
Photo: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

SAN GABRIEL RIVER PARKWAY

The San Gabriel River passes through 19 cities, touching communities where more than 2 million people live. It passes through one of the most densely populated regions in the state, where total park and open space is less than half an acre per 1,000 residents. Intact oak forests and riparian woodlands line the upper river through San Gabriel Canyon, supporting core populations of sensitive species, including federally threatened and endangered species. With public investments from Propositions 13 and 40, local and state agencies have purchased land for parks, wetlands and habitat restoration along the river, creating havens for children to play and greening eastern Los Angeles County.

LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK ("CORNFIELDS")

One of downtown Los Angeles' first parks, the Cornfields give low-income and transit-dependent families a place to gather and enjoy the outdoors. The 32-acre park is an ecological and cultural gem for the city, as well as an important part of the Los Angeles River greenway project. With investments from Proposition 40, the park is a model of accessibility to the outdoors in the city's core.

CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.conservingcalifornia.org

