



FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS



CAÑON RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2007, fire devastated huge swaths of Griffith Park, including the Fern Canyon area near the merry-go-round. Although fire is an essential, healthy part of the natural ecosystem, nature sometimes needs a helping hand to recover from a disaster of this magnitude. Fern Canyon, once a lush, seasonal riparian area and beautiful nature walk was in dire need of restoration after the fire and recent drought.

As the mission of Friends of Griffith Park is to protect and preserve the Park's precious resources, our organization realized Fern Canyon would recover from the effects of the fire more quickly with an infusion of human intervention. With this in mind, Friends

of Griffith Park approached the School for Environmental Studies at John Marshall High School to enlist their aid in the recovery of Fern Canyon.

In order to successfully plant native species, Marshall students conducted soil sample tests to identify which plants would do best in which areas. Based on those results, students created a plant list and drew plans to achieve optimal plant distribution.

It was essential that these plants eventually survive on their own and to achieve this goal, Marshall students

Students from the School for Environmental Studies at John Marshall High School / Native Planting in Fern Canyon, January, 2014

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CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT

hand-carried water to the site as the area has no natural irrigation system. Griffith Park Rangers helped the process by providing a watering tank near the planting site.

In addition to damage from the fire, the Fern Canyon area was impacted by spates of vandalism. In order to address the issue, Marshall students along with other volunteers, worked to mitigate graffiti and repair the vandalism done to this natural amphitheatre.

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School for Environmental Studies at John Marshall High School

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The Native Plant Palette in the Fern Canyon area:

SHRUBS & PERENNIALS

Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> (Point Sal)
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Sugar Bush	<i>Rhus Ovata</i>
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Laurel Sumac	<i>Malosma laurina</i>
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Nevin's Barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>
Creeping Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>
Coffee Fern	<i>Pellaea andromedifolia</i>
Bird's Foot Fern	<i>Pellaea mucronata</i>
Hollyleaf Redberry	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>
Hollyleaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
White Sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>
Fuchsia-flowered	
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes speciosum</i>
Hairy-leaf Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i>
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>
Red Willow	<i>Salix laevigata</i>
California Wild Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>
Eastwood Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i>
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
Mexican Elderberry	<i>Sambucus Mexicana</i>

TREES

Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
California Bay Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>
Bigleaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>



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Friends of Griffith Park owes Griffith Park Rangers a tremendous debt of gratitude for their efforts in this native planting project as well as their ongoing commitment to protecting Griffith Park and those who utilize the Park.

Thanks also to Park Ranger Albert Torres who helped coordinate this project with Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.



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FERN CANYON STAIRS RESTORATION

Over the course of time, the Fern Canyon Trail has been heavily used by hikers going to the interior of Griffith Park. The stairs on the trail leading up from the amphitheatre were in need of repair. Recently the stairs had been closed due to damaging rainfall that made them dangerous. Because of overuse and rainfall, the hillside immediately adjacent to the stairs had also been impacted by erosion.

An Eagle Scout in need of a final project approached Friends of Griffith Park who then coordinated the restoration effort. With a great deal of advance preparation, Eagle

Thanks to Eagle Scout Nick Sauer, his dad, Bob Sauer and all those from Eagle Scout Troop 31 who participated in this stair restoration project.

Special thanks to Kristin Sabo, the volunteer caretaker of Amir's Garden, who helped facilitate the construction with a stair-building lesson, and members of the LA Department of Recreation and Parks maintenance staff.

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Scout Troop 31 completed the project in several days and the refurbished stairs have since been reopened.

This stairs project and the native plant restoration project (pages 1 - 5) are great examples of the positive effects of volunteer services education. These projects do not intrude on the existing natural beauty but restore native vegetation.

Both projects are the culmination of Friends of Griffith Park's partnerships with students from School for Environmental Studies at John Marshall High School, LA Department of Recreation and Parks maintenance crews, Griffith Park Rangers, Eagle Scouts, and area nurseries.

As Friends of Griffith Park identifies new areas within the Park in need of assistance, we will continue to engage volunteers in our efforts to preserve and protect this urban wilderness.

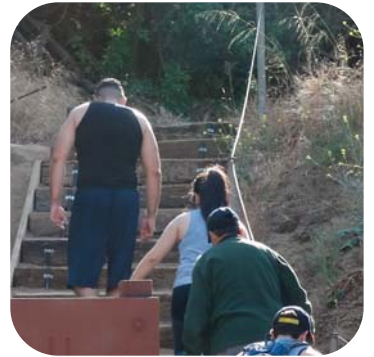
RECENTLY PLANTED SYCAMORE TREE



PLANT UPDATE / SPRING 2014

Because of the special care given during the early planting stage, this area is once again flourishing.

Weekly watering is still a priority as these plants are still establishing in the area; eventually they will thrive on their own.



NEVINS BARBERRY



White Sage



CANYON FERNS MAKING A COMEBACK

OUR MISSION

Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit charitable organization that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive in the 21st Century.

