



Back to Nature!

Where will the hundreds of State Parks take you today?



Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook at a glance

Here you find a natural oasis of restored coastal sage scrub habitat.



The natural environment around you belongs to an endangered ecosystem and it's only found in a rare Mediterranean type climate. Plants of the coastal sage scrub normally survive on less than 10 inches of rain per year and grow no higher than 12 feet. The climate would be a desert if we were not quenched by the high humidity of coastal fog. All of the plants have special adaptations that make survival possible through leaf modifications, seasonal dormancy, and extensive root systems. This ecologically damaged land is being returned to health.



Animals inhabit and others will return to Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

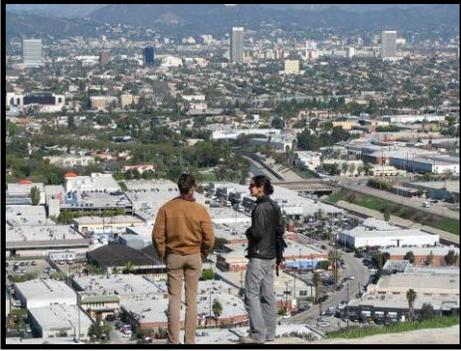
Gray foxes, raccoons, skunks, and opossums are some of the larger mammals who inhabit the park. You are truly in "fox hills". You may only see their footprints because some species are nocturnal, while others are quite secretive, rarely venturing beyond the shade and safety of the brush. A variety of birds, insects and other animals live here. The cactus wren has recently disappeared from this park, but restored prickly pear cactus habitat will hopefully give the birds a place to nest. Please remember to dispose of all trash to keep these animals safe from harmful waste.

Native Peoples have managed the lands for thousands of years.



The Tongva made practical use of the region's resources and tended the land in innovative ways. Using methods such as burning of brush areas, "broadcasting" of seeds, and modifications of water sources, they fostered a habitat that sustained beneficial plants, game animals, and fish. What can we do today to bring nature to the city and be caretakers of the earth?

Let's rethink the LA river and the Ballona Wetland watershed.



In recent years a strong interest in revitalizing" the Los Angeles River has emerged, bringing together concerned citizens, community leaders, and elected officials along with environmental and recreational groups. Their goals include restoring habitat, improving water quality, providing access for public enjoyment, and promoting economic development—all while maintaining or even enhancing flood protection. To achieve these goals, California State Parks added two new river front parks and the Los Angeles City Council approved a visionary river master plan.

What role should parks and nature play in modern life?



State parks exist to provide the public with opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. As California becomes increasingly urbanized, more is being done to create and expand state parks in populated cities. Some examples in this area include Los Angeles State Historic Park, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and this overlook site in the Baldwin Hills. For many city dwellers, these new parklands offer a "first taste" of the rich natural and cultural heritage preserved in California's State Park System. Once introduced, visitors are encouraged to explore more of this great park system...and to claim more of this heritage as their own.

Coming Soon!

Guided Nature Hikes
Full Moon Hikes
Birdwatching with experts
Junior Rangers
Native Plant Restoration
Nature and Culture themed workshops
Campfires with rangers or guests
Special cultural events for families
Environmental restoration service learning



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www.parks.ca.gov/bhso

Park Open Hours: 8am-sunset