

News Release



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Los Angeles State Historic Park Begins Revitalization Construction Project

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – California State Parks will officially break ground tomorrow on the 32-acre parcel known as the “Cornfield” rail yards at Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP). The transformation of this site into a world-class park will connect more Californian’s to the State Park System and develop other compatible uses in the heart of the nation’s second largest city and in one of the city’s most diverse communities.

“This project will leave an indelible legacy in this city, and will embody the passion and support of the many people making it possible by ensuring we create recreation opportunities in urban parks that are innovative and accessible to everyone, especially our underserved communities,” said Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), Director of California State Parks. “We are proud that this park will allow visitors to discover and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles.”

The estimated \$18 million construction project will begin next month using existing Proposition 84 funds. The park will remain closed during the yearlong construction. The project will add a welcome pavilion, additional parking lots, an amphitheater, a promenade for a farmers market, wetland areas, and infrastructure improvements, including permanent restrooms.

“Los Angeles Historic Park will provide our underserved urban residents access to green and open spaces and this represents a complete paradigm shift for our State Parks Department,” said Senator Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles). “This shift is long overdue, and I’m proud to have saved this world-class project from last year’s budget chopping block. Together, we did this.”

“I feel so gratified to have played a part, along with my colleague, Sen. Kevin De León , in securing \$20.8 million in crucial funding for the completion of this game-changing project,” Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) said. “The Los Angeles State Historic Park is part of a larger vision to reconnect our urban centers with the

natural environment. When the project is complete, this revitalized park will allow local residents the opportunity to interact with 32 acres of green, open space in areas that have long been deprived of such privilege.”

Over the past 12 years, California State Parks has worked hand-in-hand with surrounding communities and elected officials to develop a world-class park that will be a vibrant space for civic dialogue, cultural celebration and historic remembrance. State Parks has engaged the local community in an unprecedented series of public meetings and planning workshops during which they shared their vision for the park’s future.

In 2001, Senate Bill 1177 authorized the acquisition, planning, design, environmental assessment, and environmental cleanup of the 32-acre parcel known as the Cornfield rail yards in the city of Los Angeles.

The Cornfield property is a 32-acre abandoned railroad yard in downtown Los Angeles, adjacent to the Chinatown district, and is set at the midway point of an evolving 52-mile Los Angeles River greenway and is considered a catalyst for a river revitalization movement.

The project is supported by a broad coalition of community groups, as well as environmental and civil leaders, including the Cornfield Advisory Committee, Natural Resources Defense Council, California State Parks Foundation, UCLA, Chinatown Business Improvement District, Chinatown Yard Alliance, the L.A. Conservation Corps, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Mujeres de la Tierra, The City Project, and Urban Semillas, to name a few.

For more information on the construction, please visit the [project website](#) or www.lashp.la.

California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

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