



News Release

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Contact:
Sean Woods,
Sean.Woods@parks.ca.gov
213-590-9476

California State Parks and Local Community Partners To Host L.A. River Camp-Out for Families

Sold out event will connect people to the urban park experience

Los Angeles, Calif.—This Saturday, California State Parks, along with major community partners, will be hosting the L.A. River Campout, a free event aiming to help urban families get engaged with the great outdoors. The free Camp-Out reached capacity just one hour after the event was announced and is part of a series of programs to develop creative ways to use riverfront public land.

The event, which sold-out within one hour of being announced last week, will bring the camping experience to a major urban area, and include other activities, such as art exhibits, interpretive walks, and more. Camping equipment will be available for families and individuals at no cost.

“With major transformations of the L.A. River underway, we want to make the best use of public spaces, and this event is allowing us to use space that is not traditionally thought of as camping space, but that will bring families together to enjoy the outdoors,” said Sean Woods, Sector Superintendent. “This park and this camping experience could be a portal for families to get more connected with the great outdoors.”

California State Parks is working with community groups to make sure the river is a resource accessible by everyone in L.A. Some of the partners include the Los Angeles area arts group Clockstop, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the L.A. Natural History Museum, among others. Clockstop will bring a large scale sculpture exhibit to the 18-acre Bowtie parcel.

Over 100 campers are expected at the volunteer-run camp-out. Rangers from California State Parks, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Lila Higgins from the L.A. Natural History Museum, and landscape designer Kat Superfisky will lead walks to explore the native environs and plant life along the river. Artist Michael Parker whose sculpture “The Unfinished” is part of the Bowtie parcel will lead a memory mapping exercise using aerial imagery from do-it-yourself balloon mapping efforts.



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“There is so much energy and excitement around the L.A. River right now. We want to make sure that as the River evolves, it is inclusive and open to everyone.” says camp-out organizer Julia Meltzer, director of Clockshop. “People now see the river as a beautiful resource. It’s important that the communities near the river benefit from this change and get to enjoy the uniqueness of this space.”

The event info:

- WHAT:** A community camp-out along the LA River to encourage creative use of public lands and urban parks.
- WHO:** California State Parks, Clockshop, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, LA Natural History Museum, Mia Lehrer and Associates Landscape-Architecture Firm, artist Michael Parker, dozens of Los Angeles families including first time campers.
- WHERE:** The Bowtie Parcel on the Los Angeles River Bank. (approximate address: 2800 Las Casitas Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90039)
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 31, 2014. Programming begins at 4:30 p.m., campfire begins at sunset.

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