

RENOVATION OF EL PASEO DE CAHUENGA PARK

For many years our local park had languished with little repair or improvement. The bushes at the back of the park – which shielded the freeway from view – were cut down to discourage the homeless from camping behind them. The drug dealer who pulled up to the park every morning in his black SUV to distribute his product to his buyers frightened away parents with children. And as the freeway carried more and more traffic, the noise became unbearable.

Then NBCUniversal, as part of their Evolution Plan improvements in the communities surrounding their studio, began to renovate the local parks in these neighborhoods. Our local El Paseo de Cahuenga Park at 3300 Cahuenga Blvd West underwent an extensive renovation.

CPPOA's Board of Directors worked with NBCUniversal personnel for almost a year to discuss what changes should take place in the park. We asked our members for suggestions and incorporated as many of those ideas as possible.

New irrigation, decomposed granite walkways, a 10-foot-high wall next to the freeway, and motion-sensitive security lighting were all added to the park, along with additional picnic tables and benches, new grass and drought-tolerant bushes and flowering plants. The new walkways allowed our park to become ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The new wall brought the freeway noise under control and made the park an attractive place to relax. And the drug dealer was dealt with by the LAPD.

On Saturday, January 23, 2016, the park re-opened to the public with a 10:00 A.M. ribbon-cutting ceremony. Gary Arabia of GC Marketplace provided refreshments afterwards at his restaurant across the street.

Our next "Project in the Park" is to provide some playground equipment for the younger members of our community.