



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065

Los Angeles River Recreation Zone to Open on Memorial Day

The Public is Welcome to Kayak, Walk, and Fish on two sections of the river managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in Elysian Valley and at the Sepulveda Basin in Encino

Los Angeles, (May 25, 2015)—Starting on Memorial Day (Monday), for the third year in a row, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles, and the Army Corps of Engineers, will manage the Los Angeles River Recreation Program to increase fun and safe public access to the Los Angeles River.

Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell was instrumental in securing operation funding from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation for the second year.

Any member of the public will be able to launch a non-motorized, steerable boat, such as a kayak or canoe, from MRCA-operated locations—at Rattlesnake Park off Fletcher Drive in Elysian Valley, and the Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone in Encino. Walking and fishing are also permitted in the Recreation Zone.

More information about how to use the river recreation zone, where to “put in” and “take out,” and where to sign up for organized tours is available on the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone website at www.lariverrecreation.org. The public is encouraged to check out the website prior to visiting the recreation zone.

“The success of the MRCA-managed Los Angeles River Recreation Zone increases every year,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer of the MRCA. “We want the public to know that the river is here to connect them to nature, and the MRCA will be here to ensure their experience is enjoyable and safe.”

The river will be open sunrise to sunset daily, under safe conditions. Use of the recreation zone is free of charge to any individual or informal group, and there is no need to make a reservation. However, organized groups (either non-profit or for-profit) must obtain a permit and make a reservation. Visitors should check the recreation zone website www.lariverrecreation.org for more information including permits for groups, trail guides and maps, frequently asked questions, safety precautions, and links to private operators who will offer organized tours.

The MRCA has been working on the river for more than 20 years together with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and many community groups and nonprofit organizations. The goal is to create a continuous 51-mile greenway from the headwaters of the river in the San Fernando Valley, to its terminus in the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. The MRCA ran its first Los Angeles River Kayak program as a partner with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in the highly successful Paddle the L.A. River Program in the Sepulveda Basin in 2011

In addition to managing the recreation zone, the MRCA will continue its “Access for All” program which provides developmentally disabled youth and adults tours of the Los Angeles River in specially designed rafts or “kaboats” that provide easy access for participants.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 72,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River.

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