

Park Services, Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Griffith Park News and Updates

May 2022



Hello from The Park Services Office

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“The best view comes after the hardest climb.”

– Unknown

Please join the [Griffith Park Advisory Board](#) as we discuss road and safety improvements throughout Griffith Park. As we discussed at last month’s GPAB meeting, we will be presenting a foundation to work off of that will include both long and short-term ideas to curb cut through freeway traffic and reduce speeding vehicles along the park roadway. This virtual meeting will be held on 5/26/22 at 6:30pm. The agenda with the Zoom link will be [posted here](#) 72 hours prior.

Questions: tracy.james@lacity.org

In appreciation of our General Manager Michael Shull



Mike Shull, General Manager of Recreation and Parks will retire After 30 years of service to the City of Los Angeles.

Mike Shull began his career in the City of Los Angeles in June 1990 as Civil Engineering Assistant for the Public Works Bureau of Engineering. Mike immersed himself in the project management of many large City capital projects centered on the Department of Recreation and Parks, where his knowledge and interest expanded with the challenges the City's park system faced. In 2005, he would join the City's Department of Recreation and Parks as the head of the Planning

Division working on innovative design approaches to improve existing parks and increase access to open space. Since Mike joined RAP in 2005, the Department has added 74 new parks and expanded 14 others, adding nearly 700 acres of land while reducing potable water usage by approximately 50%. In 2013, Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Mike as General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks to oversee more than 450 City Parks on over 16,000 acres of land, 1500 full-time employees, and manage a \$275M operating budget. Using data and technology, Mike implemented equity-based strategies and goals in both achieving gender parity while doubling youth participation in many recreation programs which culminated in a \$160M funding agreement with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games to subsidize youth sports and fitness programs, removing cost barriers for participation in the City of Los Angeles lower-income areas. Some of Mike's key accomplishments include managing the Department during some of the City's most challenging fiscal years while expanding park access, increasing capital investment in low-income communities, achieving gender equity, improving RAP's emergency response services and completing very successful operational and capital improvements at the Greek Theatre. Mike plans to spend more time with his wife Cathy and sons Eric and Tom. Mike has been a friend and mentor to many of us in the Rec and Parks family. We thank him for his years of public service to the City and look forward to seeing him soon as a frequent visitor to Griffith Park!

- Executive Management Team

"Words simply cannot express any of my thoughts about Mike Shull retiring - at least not words that I can say out-loud. "

- Monika Leisring

"From the bridge of the Recreation and Parks starship Mike Shull has not just piloted the Department throughout the Los Angeles spacetime continuum. In addition, with Griffith Observatory as his wingman, he has carried the Recreation and Parks enterprise to infinity and beyond. Thank you from an appreciative Observatory and a grateful universe."

- E.C. Krupp

"It has been a great pleasure to serve on the RAP Board of Commissioners with Mike Shull as the General Manager. I have watched with admiration as Mike has always strived to do what is best for the Department and the City, without consideration for his self-promotion. Mike is a smart, competent, knowledgeable, and dedicated leader. I thank him for his support of the Department and the Board of Commissioners, and I wish him much happiness. Mike, you are a wonderful human being!"

- Sylvia Patsouras

"Along with several other Friends of Griffith Park board of directors, I met Mike Shull during his earliest years with RAP, while he was with the Planning Division. Mike has achieved success leading the Department because he has the analytical skills of the engineer he is, the people skill of listening, and an innate passion and vision for better parks. Mike has always made himself available when I needed to talk.

I'll also miss our random encounters while he "worked overtime" at quite a few Greek concerts! Give Mike a golden pass, maybe? Congratulations, Mike!

- Gerry Hans

"There will never be another like Mike. He has been accessible to all staff throughout his time as General Manager, leading with strength, talent, humility and fairness. It has been beyond exciting to work for a leader in the city that champions 'out of the box' ideas and creates an environment of transparency and customer service. He is will be forever missed but never forgotten!"

- Tracy James

"Congratulations Mike! Ever the incredible leader, you will continue to inspire all of us here at RAP. You are the model of accessibility, intelligence, and integrity. I wish you a wonderful retirement with your beautiful family. Much love."

- Crislyn McKerron

"Mike Shull- You have been one of the best GMs I've had the pleasure of working with. Your commitment to investing in underserved communities and providing opportunities for youth and families to thrive was not unrecognized. And, I personally appreciate you for making this a priority as part of your vision. Happy Retirement, You Deserve It!"

- Rose Watson

Updates from Stefanie Smith, Superintendent of Griffith Region

- Signs of Life is an astronomical detective story that propels visitors to uncover what it took to put life in the universe. Earth is the launchpad to Mars, the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and planets beyond our Milky Way Galaxy in a search for answers to the mysteries that captivate our imagination.

Weekdays

1:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 8:45 p.m.

Weekends

11:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 8:45 p.m.

- Construction begins the beginning of June on the back side of the **Old Zoo**. We will be removing the old chain link fence and replacing it with heavy metal fencing with the goal of keeping park patrons safe, reducing graffiti and curbing some of the criminal activity that occurs inside the enclosures.
- **Anticipated road closure:** Griffith Park Dr., from Travel Town to the Compost Facility will be closed beginning the second week of June. We are looking to **eliminate** cut- through freeway traffic during rush hour and speeding vehicles for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife on this road. Golfers, picnickers and others will need to allow for extra time as using Zoo Dr. will be the only way to access Wilson Harding golf course, Boys Camp, picnic areas, Amir's Garden and the Compost Facility. We will post notification shortly, but this is just to alert you in advance to this closure.
- Masks are still required inside all park facility buildings.
- Bronson Caves remain closed due to falling rocks.
- Parkline is still suspended due to a nationwide driver shortage.
- Have you noticed the speed feedback signs along Crystal Springs? Please slow down. The speed limit in the park is 25 mph. LAPD has been issuing citations and will continue enforcement in the park.
- Visiting the Griffith Observatory? Take the DASH OBS and avoid the hassle of looking and paying for parking. The DASH OBS stops at the base of MT. Hollywood Rd. where you can depart on your hike to the Hollywood Sign or Mt Hollywood.
- Parks Services Division is hiring. There are many part time job opportunities in Griffith Park
If interested please contact:
Traffic team and Tennis Facilities: anthony.gallo@lacity.org
Rental Halls: noe.gonzalez@lacity.org

FLASHBACK

In loving memory of Rex Link, thank you for a lifetime of service.



**No smoking in the Park! Fines
up to \$1,000.00**

**SLOW DOWN: WATCH FOR
PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS AND
WILDLIFE**

Park Rangers: (323) 644-6661

Follow the Park Rangers on social media:

IG: @lacityparkrangers

Twitter: @lacityrangers

FB: City of Los Angeles Park Rangers



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