

Spring 2007
Newsletter

Save Chatsworth, Inc.

.... A coalition of homeowners and local non-profit organizations, dedicated to saving Chatsworth from excessive, irresponsible development. Save Chatsworth, Inc. was founded in July of 2002.

Save Chatsworth Awarded Community Beautification Grant for 2007-2008...

For the second year in a row, The City of Los Angeles, Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification has awarded Save Chatsworth a matching grant for restoration work in Chatsworth Trails Park.

This year's work will include the installation of additional fencing and hitching rails, continued clearing of invasive, non-native plant material and the on-going process of planting native trees, wildflowers and shrubs.

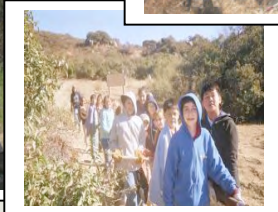
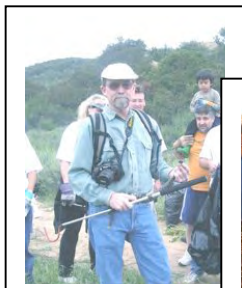


From left to right: 1) Spring 2007 in the park
2) Brush Clearance 3) Our water trailer
4) Jeannie Plumb, Maureen Levitt, Jelena Csyani, Marty Woll, Clara Woll removing a very long pipe!



Chatsworth Trails Park 2006 First Year Highlights

Clockwise: 1) Project Manager Marty Woll and Head of School, CHA, Graham Browne 2) Newly planted trees 3) Our new sign
4) Sierra Canyon Students 5) Chatsworth Hills Academy Students 6) "Our Own Backyard" Event – CHA 7) Madena Asbell, L.A. Native Design, and CHA Students 8) Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart, University of La Verne, and CHA Students



Chatsworth Trails Park Dedication December 11, 2006 . . .

On December 11, 2006, Save Chatsworth, Inc. hosted the official dedication for Chatsworth Trails Park. As well as our honorary guest, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, who presented scrolls commending various community organizations, schools and individuals for their service, in attendance were State Assembly Member Lloyd Levine, Paul Edelman and Rorie Skei from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Millie Jones from the County Supervisor's office, Virginia Watson, founder of the Chatsworth Historical Society and curator of the Chatsworth Museum, Betty Sommers, curator of the Homestead Acre Grounds and Hill-Palmer Cottage, Hans Giraud, Presidio Chatsworth, LLC, Linda Johnson from State Senator George Runner's office, John Bwarie from Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith's office, and Michael Espinosa and Rosa Benavides from the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification.

This dedication ceremony marked the end of our first year of work in Chatsworth Trails Park, work funded by a grant from the City of Los Angeles. We are proud of all the improvements to this natural park and sincerely thank all of those who have helped us in our efforts. We will continue with more improvements this year, so please check back for upcoming events!

The following groups or individuals were presented scrolls on December 11, in recognition of their contributions:

Save Chatsworth, Inc.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Presidio Chatsworth, LLC

The City of Los Angeles, 12th District Council Office,

Councilman Greig Smith

The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Chatsworth Hills Academy School

Sierra Canyon School

JDK Railroad Materials, LLC, Dan Huffman

L.A. Native Design, Madena Asbell

Matilija Nursery, Bob Sussman

Chaminade College Preparatory School

Larry McCoy, Light Equipment Operator, City of Los Angeles

Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart, Fletcher Jones Professor of Biology, University of La Verne

Twin Lakes Property Owners Association

Kathleen and Ernest Misko

Bob Oliver, Light Equipment Operator, City of Los Angeles

Over the past year, Save Chatsworth, Inc. has:

Filled 5 dumpster loads of trash

Filled 5 20-foot green waste roll-off bins

Cleaned out abandoned homeless campsites

Cleared non-native weeds and brush

Removed graffiti from rocks, removed a large and very active bee's nest

Repaired portions of the trail, removed concrete dumping

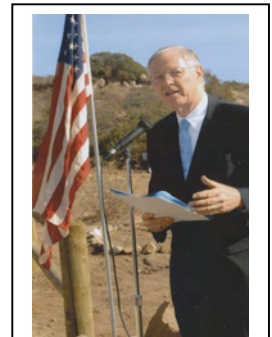
Purchased a water tank and trailer

Planted oak trees, native shrubs and wildflowers

Installed additional fencing and installed a brand new sign for the park



Chatsworth Hills Students and Teachers at December 11 dedication



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

**Calendar of Events
2007**

Saturday, April 22
Earth Day Celebration
9:00 a.m.
Chatsworth Park North

Deerlake/Vistas
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 24
6:00 p.m.
Radisson Hotel

Sunday, April 29
Chatsworth Historical
Society Annual
Garden Festival
11:00 – 4:00
The Homestead Acre
Chatsworth Park South

Thursday, May 3
Chatsworth Hills
Academy Community
Service Day in
Chatsworth Trails Park
9:00 a.m. to 11:00



Twin Lakes Property Owners Association
Mark Watters, Vanessa Watters,
Warren Stone

Watering Help Needed!...

Last fall, Save Chatsworth purchased a 350-gallon water trailer to aid in the installation of trees and shrubs in the park. Native plants need at least a year of supplemental watering before they survive on whatever nature delivers in rainfall. So, after the rainy season has ended, we will need to water on a bi-weekly or even weekly basis through the hot summer months.

We have the good fortune to have the very generous loan of an appropriate vehicle to tow our trailer from Kathleen and Ernest Misko, and also the very generous loan of a location to store the water tank and trailer by Dan Huffman. The irrigation process involves picking up the SUV, hitching up the tank, filling the tank at the City fire hydrant at the north end of Canoga, driving up into the park, and watering. The process takes about 2 hours of time.

If someone has an appropriate vehicle to tow the trailer, then the step of picking up the SUV could be eliminated.

We are in great need of volunteer help to water during the dry months. If we can assemble a large enough list of volunteers, then the amount of time each person would need to donate could be very minimal – perhaps only two to three trips to water for the remainder of the year.

Another way you could help is to make a donation to Save Chatsworth, Inc. Your donation will help us to fund our watering efforts, planting projects and educational outreach.

If you can help, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact info@savechatsworth.org, or call (818) 464-3472. Or go to www.savechatsworth.org and click on the "Watering Volunteer Signup" link on the left side of the screen, under the heading of Chatsworth Trails Park. To make an online donation, click on "Make a Donation".

You may send donations using the form below to:

Save Chatsworth, Inc.
21704 Devonshire St., #133
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Thank you for your support!

Please detach here - - - - -



Save Chatsworth
Water tank and Trailer

**Save Chatsworth
Officers 2007**

President:
Vanessa Watters

Vice President:
Jeannie Plumb

Treasurer:
Marty Woll

Secretary:
Katherine Weisman

Members of the Board:
**Warren Stone, Clara Woll,
Jelena Cysani, Mark
Watters**

Please help us to continue our efforts to preserve the rural character and heritage of Chatsworth and to restore Chatsworth Trails Park! Save Chatsworth is a qualified tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c) (3). Donations are greatly appreciated and are fully tax-deductible.

\$10.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____
\$75.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Thank you for your support.

Save Chatsworth, Inc.
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#133
Chatsworth, CA 91311

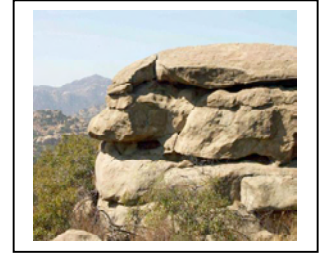
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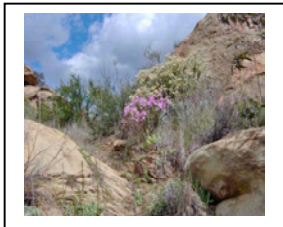
Stoney Point Land Acquisition Approved...

The Board of the Department of Recreation and Parks has approved the Los Angeles City Council District 12 office's proposal to acquire five acres of land adjacent to Stoney Point Park here in Chatsworth. If acquired, equestrian facilities will be maintained. The preservation of this natural area is critical to the protection of the equestrian character of the neighborhood, and the addition of these five acres to the current Stoney Point Park will be of great benefit to all of those who ride or hike the trails, and to the entire community as well.

The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council has contributed \$20,000 of its \$50,000 yearly budget towards the acquisition. Total purchase price is \$2.5 million, and Councilman Greig Smith's office has put together funding from six different sources.



For more
information about
Save Chatsworth,
Inc., please visit
www.savechatsworth.org



Deerlake Ranch/Vistas Update...

Update from January 23 meeting of the Deerlake Ranch/Vistas at Indian Oaks construction Monitoring Committee:

Vistas at Indian Oaks Construction Schedule:

The project traffic mitigation measures were discussed. At the intersection of Topanga Canyon Blvd, Poema Place and the 118 freeway, the south side of Poema will be widened, a new westbound lane will be added, and also a signal light will be added both at Mayan and Poema, to replace existing stop signs. Signalization will be added to include right-turn lanes eastbound and westbound on Poema approaching the 118 freeway.

Community response still reflected concern about the traffic at this complicated and miserably congested intersection, despite the developer's assurances that the mitigation plan was drafted with 100 more units than the 65 approved and under construction in mind. Suggestions included camera enforcement and the request for a Caltrans representative to be present at the next committee meeting. The community was advised that closures of the 118 freeway due to construction were not planned.

Temporary Trails:

The temporary trail plan for both the Vistas project and the Deerlake ranch project are awaiting County approval.

Construction Issues:

Discussion was conducted regarding construction during high wind periods. The developer has agreed to be more diligent in shutting down construction activity if the wind gusts exceed 25 miles an hour. They continue to water down the site during dry and windy periods, including weekends. Due to complaints about vehicles blocking access to Mayan Drive – they are now limiting equipment delivery hours to after 9:00 a.m. No grading is ever supposed to take place on Saturdays.

Deerlake Ranch:

Due to economics, Deerlake Ranch does not expect to begin construction until late spring/early summer 2007.

Changes to the tentative tract maps have been made. More elaborate entrances to the gated areas are planned, and the sequence of the various tract maps has been revised. The first phase of construction will now include all improvements to Poema, and the Topanga Canyon or "A" Street bridge. This will hopefully get construction traffic off of Canoga Avenue sooner than originally planned.

The relocation of two sewer pump stations was discussed, and considered to be improvements over the original design.

The Canoga Avenue bridge will take approximately 4- 6 months to construct, and the Topanga Canyon Blvd. bridge will take about 10- 12 months. Heavy grading will occur for the duration of 6 months, and infrastructure improvements will begin after 9 months.

Twin Lakes Sewers:

The developer is hoping to get permission from the County to simplify a complicated process of acquiring easements for the sewer right-of-way by requesting a single easement from the Twin Lakes Park Company, a company originally formed in the 1920s to manage the homes in the Twin Lakes area.

The majority shareholder in this company is now Pepperdine University. An update on this item is expected within 30 days.