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**Van Nuys Neighborhood Council**



Van Nuys Neighborhood Council  
Parks, Open Space, and  
Environment Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting online or by telephone  
Please click the link below  
to join the Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86182632536>

Dial **(669) 900-6833** to join the meeting  
Enter Meeting ID: **861 8263 2536**  
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**Van Nuys**  
**Neighborhood Council**  
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In Conformity With The September 16, 2021 Enactment Of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) And Due To Concerns Over Covid-19, Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee Meeting Of Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Will Be Conducted Telephonically And Internet Based Via Zoom.

Members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting or participate in public comment to the Committee via telephone should call (669) 900-6833 or one of the following Toll-Free Telephone Numbers: (833) 548 0282, (888) 475 4499 and use Meeting ID No. **861 8263 2536** ; then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. When you have a question for the Host, you can Raise Hand by pressing \*9, when called on to talk, you can mute/unmute by pressing \*6.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** The public is requested to dial \*9 if participating by phone or "Raise Hand" if participating by computer, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

**Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration.**

**AB 361 Updates -**

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned

Chair of Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee: Kathy Schreiner

Members of Parks, Open Space, and Environment Committee:

VNNC Board Members: Hakop Azatyan, John Camera, and John Hendry

Stakeholder Members: Michele Gregory, Quirino de la Cuesta

1. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call.
2. Chair Comments
3. Minutes from January meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.
4. Report and discussion regarding activities and staffing at Recreation Centers in Van Nuys.
  - a. Thomas Ortiz, Facility Director, Van Nuys Recreation Center.  
-- part of pilot to try later hours (4-8 p.m.) for restroom maintenance staff
  - b. Oscar Cardenas, Facility Director, Delano Recreation Center.
5. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder).
6. Discussion regarding community input process for Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan.
  - a. City of LA overview of the project

<https://eng.lacity.org/sepulveda-basin-vision-plan>

# Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Project

## **About the Project**

The Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area is an approximately 2,000-acre flood management basin located in the San Fernando Valley near the intersection of the 101 and 405 Freeways. The Basin is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and includes parks and recreational facilities managed primarily by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks.

## **Need for Vision Plan**

The Sepulveda Basin is the largest public open space in the San Fernando Valley, but surrounding neighborhoods are significantly lacking green open spaces with only 0.2 acres of park per 1000 people in Van Nuys and Sherman Oaks – significantly below the LA County goal of 4 acres/1000 people. While the Sepulveda Basin does provide recreational opportunities for the San Fernando Valley, it can be difficult to access and navigate, areas are underutilized and could be enhanced to provide better natural habitat, recreation, and cultural spaces.

## **Goals of Vision Plan**

The Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan sets out to establish a long-term strategic plan for the future of the Basin which will:

- Increase resilience of the Basin and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Increase ecosystem function within the Basin using nature based solutions.
- Create natural functioning of the LA River and Tributaries.
- Improve interface between recreation and ecological areas.
- Improve water quality of streams and outlets entering the Basin.
- Improve multi-modal transportation access to the Basin and within the Basin.
- Enhance recreational, educational and cultural programming.

### b. Rough timeline.

Info Gathering – Nov 2022 to March 2023
Early Ideas – March 2023 to July 2023
Draft Plan – August 2023 to December 2023
Final Plan – December 2023 to April 2024

c. Request made for presentation to VNNC. What are priority issues and suggestions we want to raise?

- ✓ More access for park goers to the river
- ✓ Plant more native trees
- ✓ Senior walking path around the lake (J. Hendry)
- ✓ Another natural amphitheater near Lake Balboa (J. Hendry)
- ✓ Access to walk and bike the dam crest (J. Hendry)
- ✓ others .....

d. Sepulveda Basin Restoration Feasibility Study by The River Project (April 2022)

The River Project and its partners explored the technical feasibility of restoring ecosystem function to the Los Angeles River and five tributaries in the Sepulveda Basin —a 2,000-acre federally owned flood management facility in the heart of urban Los Angeles.

River restoration at the Sepulveda Basin creates a unique opportunity to radically re- envision parkland and water resource management to address biodiversity, water supply, flood safety, climate resiliency, and community needs through Nature-Based solutions.

As detailed in the study, leading with geomorphic processes yields:

- ~8 miles of restored river and tributaries
- ~5 times increase in groundwater recharge during frequent storms
- ~20% increase in flood storage capacity
- ~22 minutes of additional flood attenuation time in the 100-yr event
- ~669 acres aquatic & riparian habitat; 391 acres upland habitat
- ~Improved water quality via floodplain reclamation
- ~Expanded accessibility through a network of ADA compliant trails and paths
- ~Significant increase in recreational facilities
- ~Opportunities to include cultural facilities
- ~A park unified around the river corridor as the heart of the Sepulveda Basin

<https://www.theriverproject.org/sepulveda-basin-es>  
*click Executive Summary*

7. Discussion and prioritization (high, low) of initiatives discussed in past meetings.
  - a. Enhancing the tree canopy in Van Nuys
  - b. Ways VNNC could advocate for prioritizing planting of native trees and plants and educating Van Nuys stakeholders about the value of planting native trees and plants.
8. Discussion of VNNC participation in the NC Sustainability Alliance and issues under consideration by the alliance. (Kathy will provide update.)
9. Identify topics related to City of LA Parks that we would like to learn more about:
  - a. Rec and Parks plans for capital expenditures at Van Nuys and Delano Rec Centers (Measure A, etc.).
  - b. How are decisions made about using the funds developers pay in lieu of providing park space.
  - c. Others?
10. Member comments and suggestions for future agenda items.
11. Adjournment.

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**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the VNNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnn.org>

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**Neighborhood Council Board Member Oath**

I pledge to represent my neighborhood with dignity, integrity, and pride. I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own.

I will respect, value, and consider everyone's opinion.

I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it.

To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.