



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

PRESS RELEASE

4100 Baldwin Park Blvd. · Baldwin Park, CA 91706 · (626) 813-5245, Ext. 317 · Fax: (626) 814-2998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Manuel Carrillo, Department of Recreation and Community Services director
Phone: (626) 813-5245, Ext. 314
Fax: (626) 814-2998
E-mail: mcarrillo@baldwinpark.com

Final stages of renovations underway for Nature Park *Community invited to informational meeting*

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (January 12, 2018) – Less than a year after re-debuting the upgraded Walnut Creek Nature Park, city officials are prepping to inform the community of some final touches on the venue’s renovations.

A community meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, to update residents and the general community on the final phase of the project, which may start as soon as Fall 2018. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Esther Snyder Community Center, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd.

Local officials said they are excited to wrap up a restored venue they hope will help meet the public’s interests in rediscovering nature. Walnut Creek Nature Park initially reopened to the community on March 30, 2017. The initial stages of the renovated nature park feature various upgrades, including solar lighting, drought tolerant plants and a new irrigation system, as well as paved walkways and increased surveillance.

Manuel Carrillo, director for the city’s Department of Recreation and Community Services, said final blueprints for the new Walnut Creek Nature Park now call for mostly cosmetic changes, including added lighting, extended walking trails, and automated fencing.

But one of the greatest perks of the final, restored venue will come via an observation deck and a bridge that will offer direct connectivity to the San Gabriel Wash bicycle trail.

“These are going to be the staple of the park,” said Carrillo.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, along with the State of California’s Natural Resource Agency, Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy have all contributed toward the \$1.4 million costs toward

revamping Walnut Creek Nature Park. Carrillo added that he and his staff are still working on allocating funds for the final phase, which they hope could be secured within the next three years.

The renovated Walnut Creek Nature Park is suited for families to get outdoors and simply connect to their surroundings. Project associates have even integrated a state-of-the-art playground that is laid out like an obstacle course for children to explore.

“It’s getting us back to our roots of nature. I think our families will have a place to play and reconnect,” added Mayor Manuel Lozano.

Walnut Creek Nature Park is unique to Baldwin Park, which offers various local parks with community centers and some open space. Still, the city has been ranked as “park poor” under the Los Angeles County Countywide Comprehensive Park Master Plan. According to that report, Baldwin Park lists fewer acres of park space in comparison to the Los Angeles County average. The report also stated that 22 percent of Baldwin Park’s population has accessibility to walk to a park, compared to the county average of 49 percent who live within walking distance of a park.

Walnut Creek Nature Park has been part of Baldwin Park since the late 1980s. It was designed to serve the community as a place for relaxation and exposure to nature; however, over time, the park has weathered its share of wear-and-tear, and it has never been updated since its inception. Finalizing updates of Walnut Creek Nature Park comes in due time.

“The Walnut Creek Nature Park is in an area of the county in high need of parks or parkland,” said Jane Beesley, an administrator with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. “This park offers a safe place to walk, run, play, and enjoy the green space by sitting on a bench for the children, families and members of the community. The benefits are found in both physical and mental health.”

Beesley’s group, along with the State of California’s Natural Resource Agency, Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy have all contributed toward the \$1.4 million costs toward revamping Walnut Creek Nature Park. All funding has been accounted for through federal and state grants, according to Carrillo.

City associates hope that the draw toward this revamped open space will be met with new security measures to help preserve the environment and dynamic of the nature park. For example, visitor walkways have been widened enough to allow police units to drive

throughout the park, rather than forcing officers to patrol the area on foot, and for maintenance crews to get around more easily.

City staff said they have also partnered with the Baldwin Park Police Department to create a community neighborhood watch system that will assist with monitoring of park afterhours. The new Nature Park also features an access gate that will be closed outside of traditional operating hours, which are from morning to dusk.

“The Walnut Creek Nature Park is about the refurbishment of the park to better than its original plan. There are the modern accommodations for ADA that also make the park easier to use by children, the elderly, these changes make it easier for us all to enjoy the park,” said Beesley.

About Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park's Department of Recreation and Community Services provides year-round recreation activities and community services to residents of Baldwin Park and surrounding communities. For more information, contact the Department of Recreation and Community Services at (626) 813-5245.

###