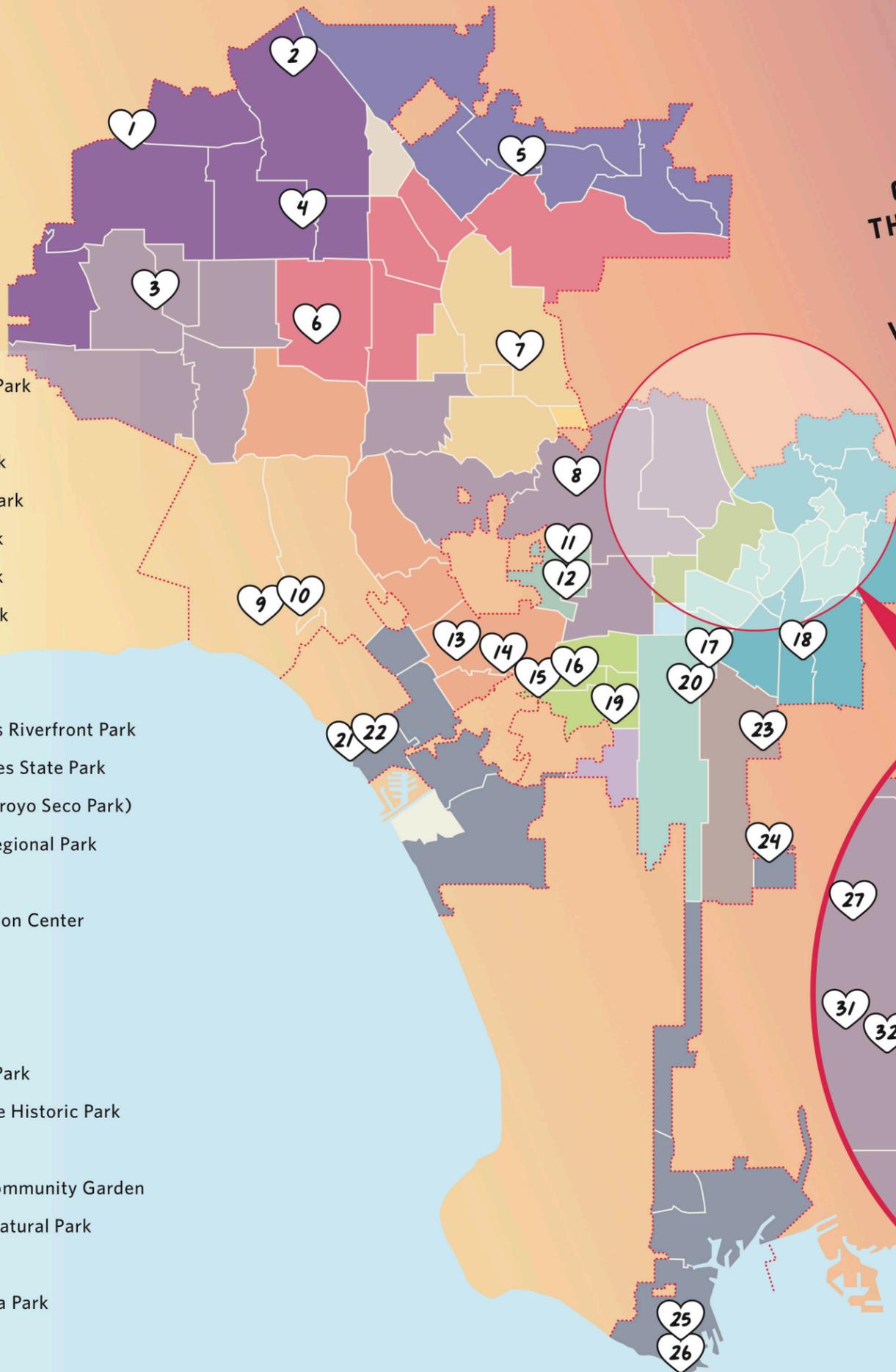


WE L.A. PARKS MAP

- 1** Stoney Point Park
- 2** O'Melveny Park
- 3** Quimby Park
- 4** Dearborn Park
- 5** Hansen Dam Recreation Area
- 6** Lake Balboa / Anthony C. Beilenson Park
- 7** North Hollywood Recreation Center
- 8** Runyon Canyon Park
- 9** Temescal Gateway Park
- 10** Will Rogers State Historic Park
- 11** Pan Pacific Park
- 12** Hancock Park
- 13** Palms Park
- 14** Media Park
- 15** Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
- 16** Rancho Cienega Sports Complex
- 17** Estrella Park
- 18** Hollenbeck Park
- 19** Leimert Plaza Park
- 20** Exposition Park
- 21** Venice Skate Park
- 22** Venice of America Centennial Park
- 23** Augustus F. Hawkins Nature Park
- 24** Watts Towers of Simon Rodia State Historic Park
- 25** Angels Gate Park
- 26** Point Fermin Park

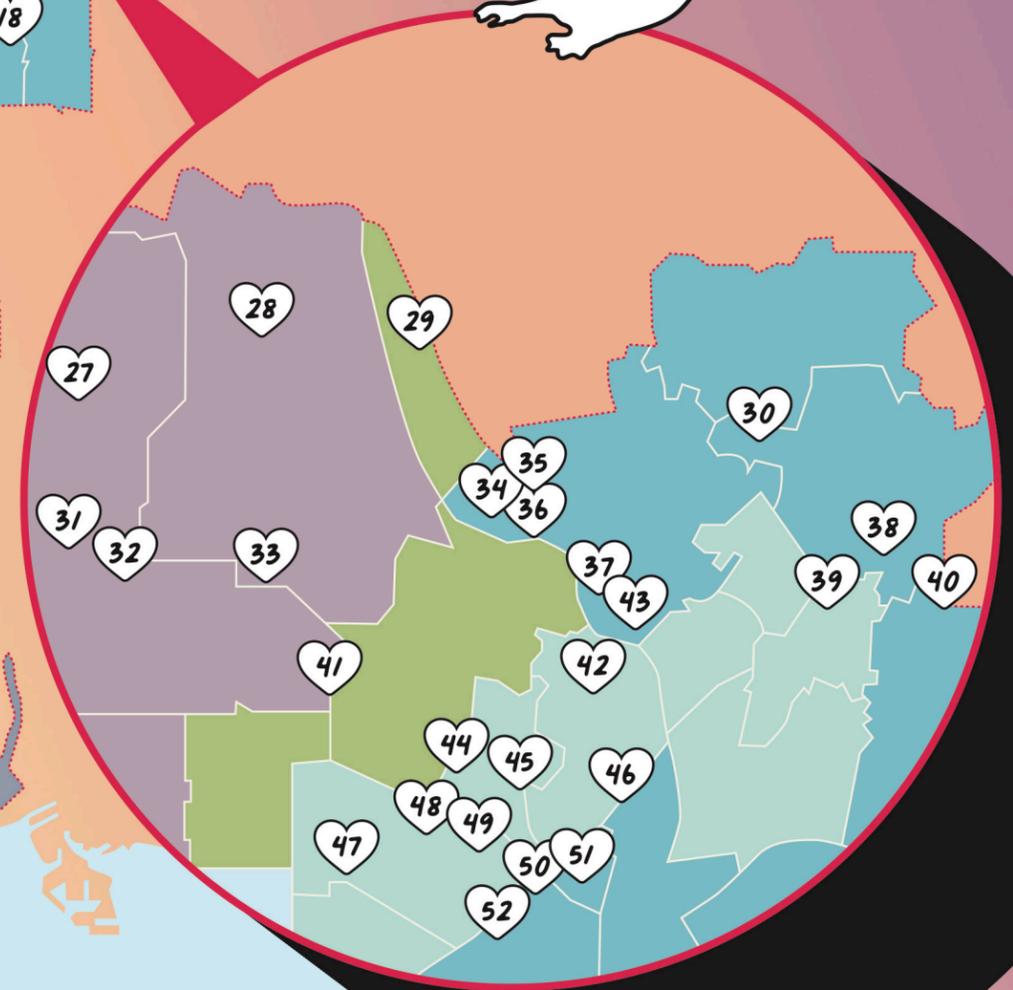
- 27** Lake Hollywood Park
- 28** Griffith Park
- 29** Chevy Chase Park
- 30** York Boulevard Park
- 31** Franklin-Ivar Park
- 32** Carlton Way Park
- 33** Barnsdall Art Park
- 34** Glenhurst Park
- 35** Bowtie Parcel
- 36** Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park
- 37** Rio de Los Angeles State Park
- 38** Hermon Park (Arroyo Seco Park)
- 39** Ernest E. Debs Regional Park
- 40** Elephant Hill
- 41** Bellevue Recreation Center
- 42** Elysian Park
- 43** Cypress Park
- 44** Echo Park
- 45** Everett Triangle Park
- 46** Los Angeles State Historic Park
- 47** MacArthur Park
- 48** Unidad Park + Community Garden
- 49** Vista Hermosa Natural Park
- 50** Grand Park
- 51** Los Angeles Plaza Park
- 52** Pershing Square



WITHIN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, THERE ARE **HUNDREDS**

OF PUBLIC PARKS. THE 52 FEATURED IN THIS BOOK ARE JUST A FRACTION OF THEM.

WHICH PARKS IN THE CITY HAVE YOU VISITED? COLOR IN THEIR HEARTS AND ADD OTHER PARKS YOU HAVE VISITED OR WANT TO VISIT!



BOWTIE PARCEL

2800 CASITAS AVE., LOS ANGELES 90039

Named for its bowtie shape, this 18-acre parcel in Glassell Park (technically part of the same land as Rio de Los Angeles State Park) is a space of transition in more ways than one. Like Rio, it's part of the former industrial lot known as the Taylor Yard, which was a service facility for the Southern Pacific Railroad for most of the 20th century. In 2003, almost two decades after the railroad shut down, the blighted land was acquired by California State Parks, and community advocacy groups encouraged the agency to restore it as parkland. Whereas this effort is near complete at Rio, here at the Bowtie visitors can actually see this process taking place, as fig trees and other plants and grasses sprout in the middle of decomposing asphalt. Also, the stretch of the Los Angeles River that is accessible here is one of only three soft-bottomed sections, making both vegetation and wildlife abundant, despite the urban landscape. There are big plans for the Bowtie Parcel—as of 2021, California State Parks is working on conceptual design for this future state park along the L.A. River; they hope to be done by 2025.

One thing you're sure to notice at the Bowtie is the array of interesting artworks and interpretative projects, including signage by artist Rosten Woo and wooden shade structures built by Woodbury University architecture students. These, plus a number of public programs, are the work of the Elysian Valley-based nonprofit Clockshop, which has overseen more than 100 projects, performances, and events at the Bowtie, including readings and campouts. Clockshop's unique partnership with California State Parks to activate this space and develop the future park with community input includes the Bowtie Youth Council, a group of young Angelenos from northeast L.A. who act in an advisory role to shape the park's priorities. This interesting place—a park in the making—shows how collaborative park-making can be—and also how urban wilderness thrives, if given the chance to bloom.

FEATURES Public art installations, river access

Artist: **GRAY CHEEK**

I came here once for a reading at night and we got to sit around a fire and roast marshmallows! Then another time I was here for a special day when rangers taught us how to fish. I didn't fish but I liked walking down to the river. It's beautiful, and even though you are in the middle of the city, you can see all kinds of birds.



CYPRESS PARK

2630 PEPPER AVE., LOS ANGELES 90065 • (213) 485-5384

The neighborhood of Cypress Park lies in the valley between the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco, and is pretty much surrounded by big parks—Rio de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian Park, and Ernest E. Debs Park are all nearby. But this smaller park, with its busy recreation center, gives locals and visitors alike an easily accessible place to recreate. That's one thing about parks: there's no one-size-fits-all—bigger, more natural parks serve some of our needs (to hike, to experience wildlife), and smaller, more manicured parks serve others. Every park, like every person, is unique, and brings different gifts.

FEATURES Barbecue pits, children's play area, multipurpose sports field, volleyball courts, picnic tables, recreation center

Artist: **ZAIYDE CROSS**

I chose this park because it's in our neighborhood. I love it because it has a huge field to play in and lots of space to run around. The people in my drawing are wearing masks to mark the awareness of the uncertainty that we live in because of the pandemic. I think that we should wear masks to protect and care about other people.



ELYSIAN PARK

929 ACADEMY RD., LOS ANGELES 90012 • (213) 485-5054

Founded in 1886, Elysian Park is one of L.A.'s oldest and largest parks. Of course, the land has a long history before that—the site that is now the Police Academy's rock garden was once a gathering spot for the Tongva. There's so much history to this massive open space that it's no wonder the park was declared to be a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. Much like Griffith Park, there are many magical spots here; you could visit every day and never see them all. From hiking trails to the Chavez Ravine Arboretum, Dodger Stadium to Montecillo de Leo Politi Park, there are surprises (like a horse stable) all around, and you can quickly move from the populated city to the wilds. One spot not to miss is Angel's Point, which offers an incredible view and a sculpture made by Echo Park artist Peter Shire that honors Frank Glass and Grace E. Simons, two activists who worked to preserve the park so that we can continue to enjoy it today.

FEATURES Bike path, hiking trail, horseshoe pits, jogging path, children's play areas

Artist: **SOPHIA ALLISON**

I enjoy Elysian Park for its mountain views and bird-watching. California Scrub-Jays populate the area and are blue, gray, and white. I thought it would be appropriate to showcase them specifically in relation to the Dodgers, whose stadium is in the neighborhood.



ERNEST E. DEBS REGIONAL PARK

4235 MONTEREY RD., LOS ANGELES 90032 • (213) 485-5054

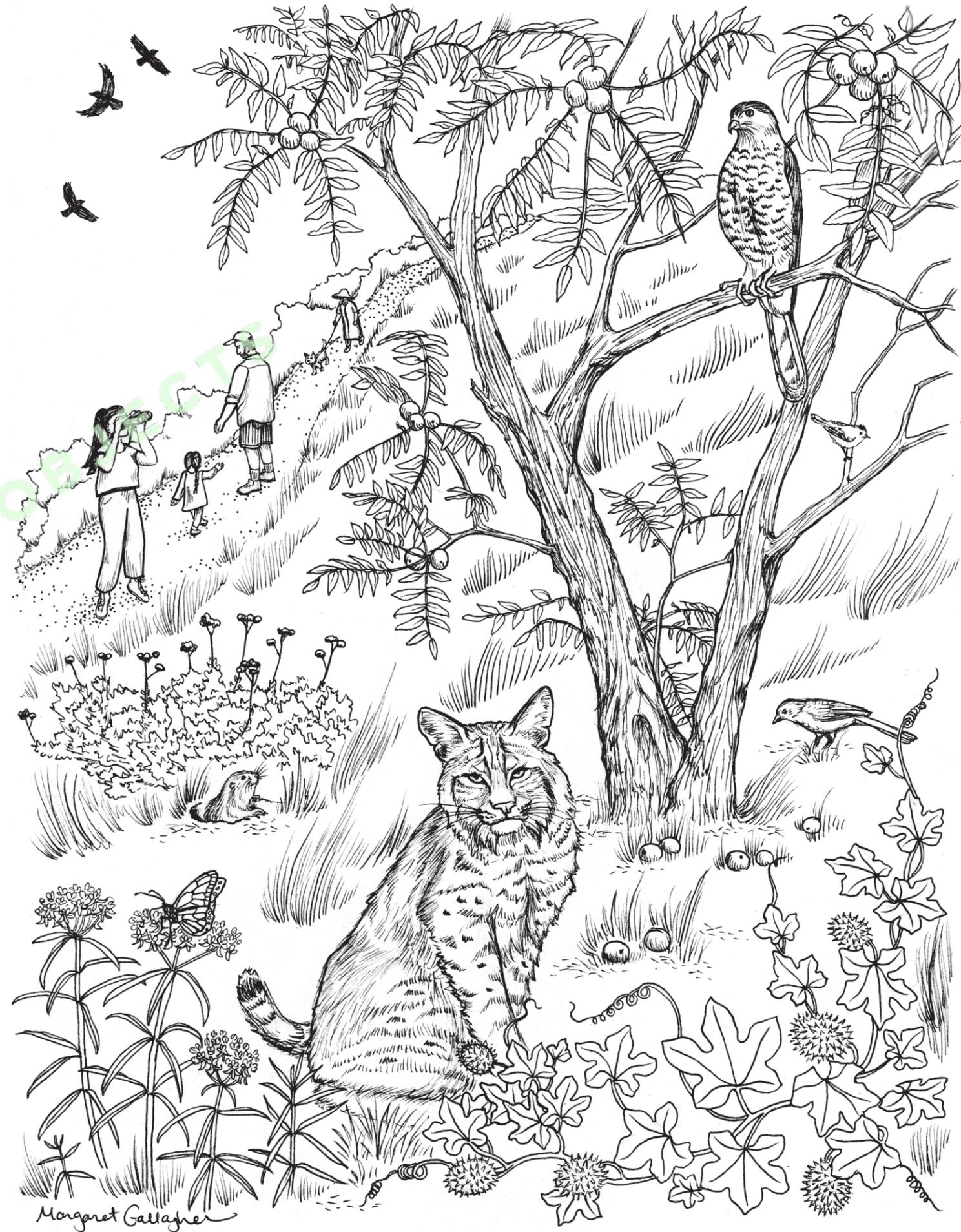
A great urban wildlife destination, this 282-acre park was named for the county supervisor who approved its founding in 1968. It contains all the amenities of a recreational park as well as rugged natural areas where native flora and fauna can flourish. There are plenty of hiking trails for exploration and even a fish-filled pond, named Debs Pond, although many locals call it "Peanut Lake," due to its shape. Home to more than 140 different species of birds, Debs Park is an important refuge for waterfowl and for residents of northeast L.A., who love to walk their dogs here. With incredible views of the Los Angeles Basin, and educational sites like an Audubon Center and the Native American Terraced Garden, both the beauty and the environmental importance of the Arroyo Seco's ecosystems are on display.

Many of the special living things that can be found at Debs Park are illustrated here: a bobcat, a California towhee, a ruby-crowned kinglet, a Cooper's hawk, a monarch butterfly, ravens, wild cucumber, narrow-leaf milkweed, California buckwheat, and a Southern California black walnut tree.

FEATURES Barbecue pits, picnic tables, bike path, hiking trail, pond, Audubon Center, Native American Terraced Garden

Artist: **MARGARET GALLAGHER**

My favorite thing about Debs Park is the way that humans and wildlife both feel at home here. You can see so many species of birds, and even coyotes and bobcats, right next to the same trails that hikers and joggers use all the time.



GLENHURST PARK

2932 GLENHURST AVE., LOS ANGELES 90039 • (213) 485-4833

Located in a residential area of Atwater Village, this neighborhood pocket park could easily be overlooked—but what a shame that would be! The grassy park offers open space, a windy walking path, and a sizable play structure with a slide. There are perfect shade trees to picnic under as well.

FEATURES Children's play area

Artist: **ANNA MAGNUSON**

Watching my kids play at the playground, I keep thinking of the poem "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry, especially the lines "I come into the peace of wild things / who do not tax their lives with forethought / of grief." I don't have many opportunities to sit quietly in a forest, but watching my kids explore their natural abilities and inclinations feels similar. I appreciate sitting under trees and letting my kids be peacefully wild.



HERMON PARK (ARROYO SECO PARK)

5566 VIA MARISOL, LOS ANGELES 90042 • (213) 485-4833

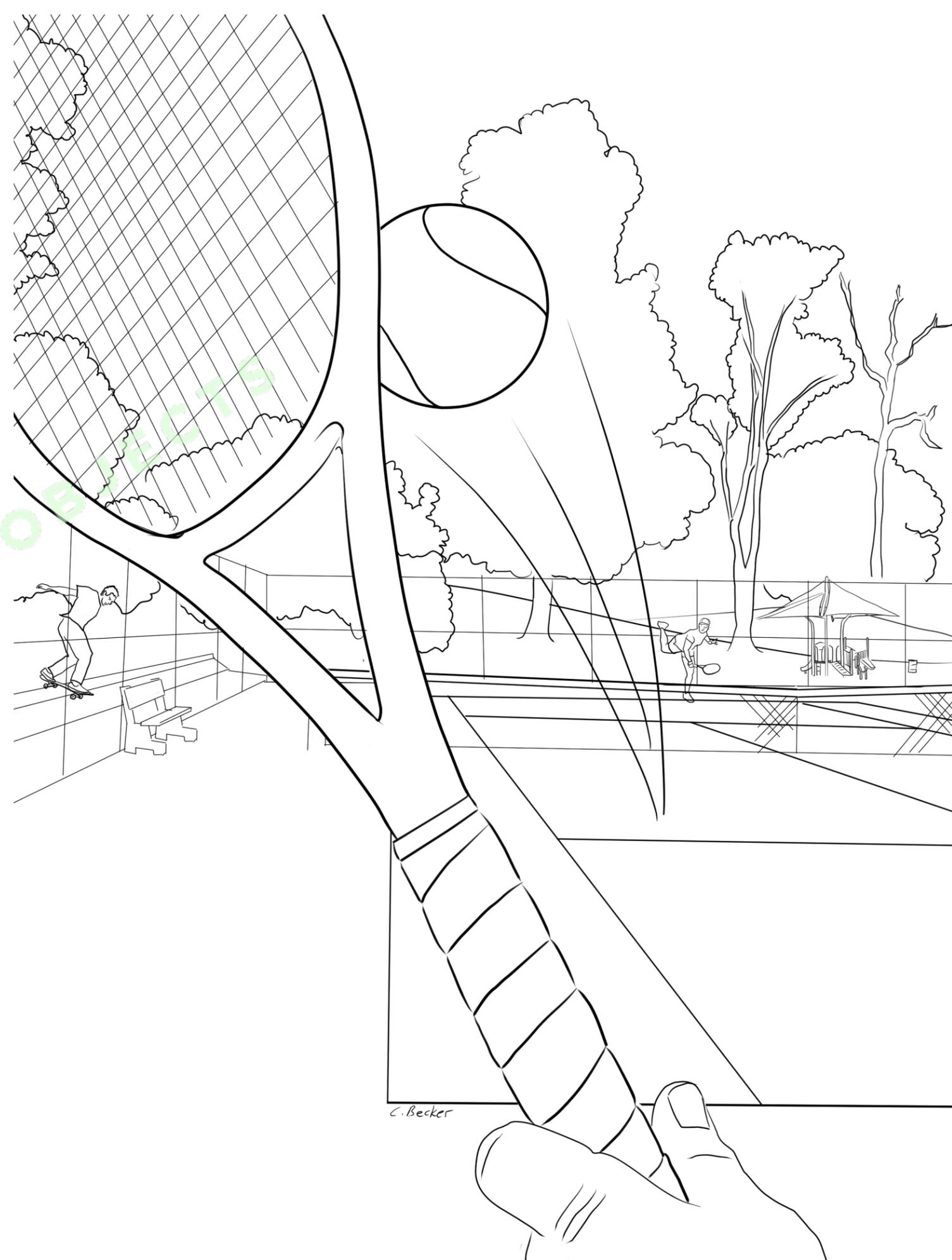
To celebrate the centennial of the 1903 founding of the Hermon community by a group of Free Methodists, Arroyo Seco Park was renamed “Hermon Park in the Arroyo Seco.” The community itself was named for Mount Hermon, which lies on today’s Syria-Lebanon border and is regarded as a sacred mountain in the Bible.

The park used to be home to the well-known Arroyo Seco Lawn Bowling Club, whose four bowling greens were constructed in 1932 and praised by national and international players. Tennis courts now sit where three of the Arroyo Seco Lawn Bowling Club’s greens were. The club’s ranch-style clubhouse, designed by California’s first official state architect, Carl C. McElvy, was built in 1939. Today it is home to the Art in the Park center, which provides art, music, and cultural education to the surrounding communities.

FEATURES Barbecue pits, universally accessible playground, picnic tables, tennis courts, art center

Artist: **CHARLIE BECKER**

Hermon Park has been one of my main haunts for playing tennis for the past few years, and the importance of having a place to safely exercise and socialize during a global pandemic can't be overstated. Being a skateboarder as well, I appreciate that some skaters turned the curb next to the courts into a fresh new skate spot.



LEWIS MACADAMS RIVERFRONT PARK

2999 ROSANNA ST., LOS ANGELES 90039 • (323) 221-9944

Named in honor of the poet and environmental activist Lewis MacAdams, who founded the conservation organization Friends of the Los Angeles River, this 3.9-acre park celebrates the local ecology and community of the Elysian Valley. For MacAdams, the nearby Los Angeles River was an important gathering place for both humans and wildlife, and his legacy lives on in this beautiful park, which features native plants and animals, and is part of the larger 51-mile Los Angeles River Greenway. Aside from being a great place to picnic, the park offers easy access to the River Bike Path and to the Los Angeles River Recreation zone.

FEATURES Picnic grounds, grassy areas, nature-themed children's playground, outdoor classrooms, a loop trail with outdoor fitness equipment

Artist: **JENNIFER CUELLAR**

The proximity of this park to the L.A. River creates a unique overlap between urban man-made space and existing wilderness. The beautiful landscaping throughout provides shelter and natural resources to local wildlife, encouraging animals to inhabit the park, which is accessible from the river.



RIO DE LOS ANGELES STATE PARK

1900 N. SAN FERNANDO RD., LOS ANGELES 90065 • (323) 276-3015

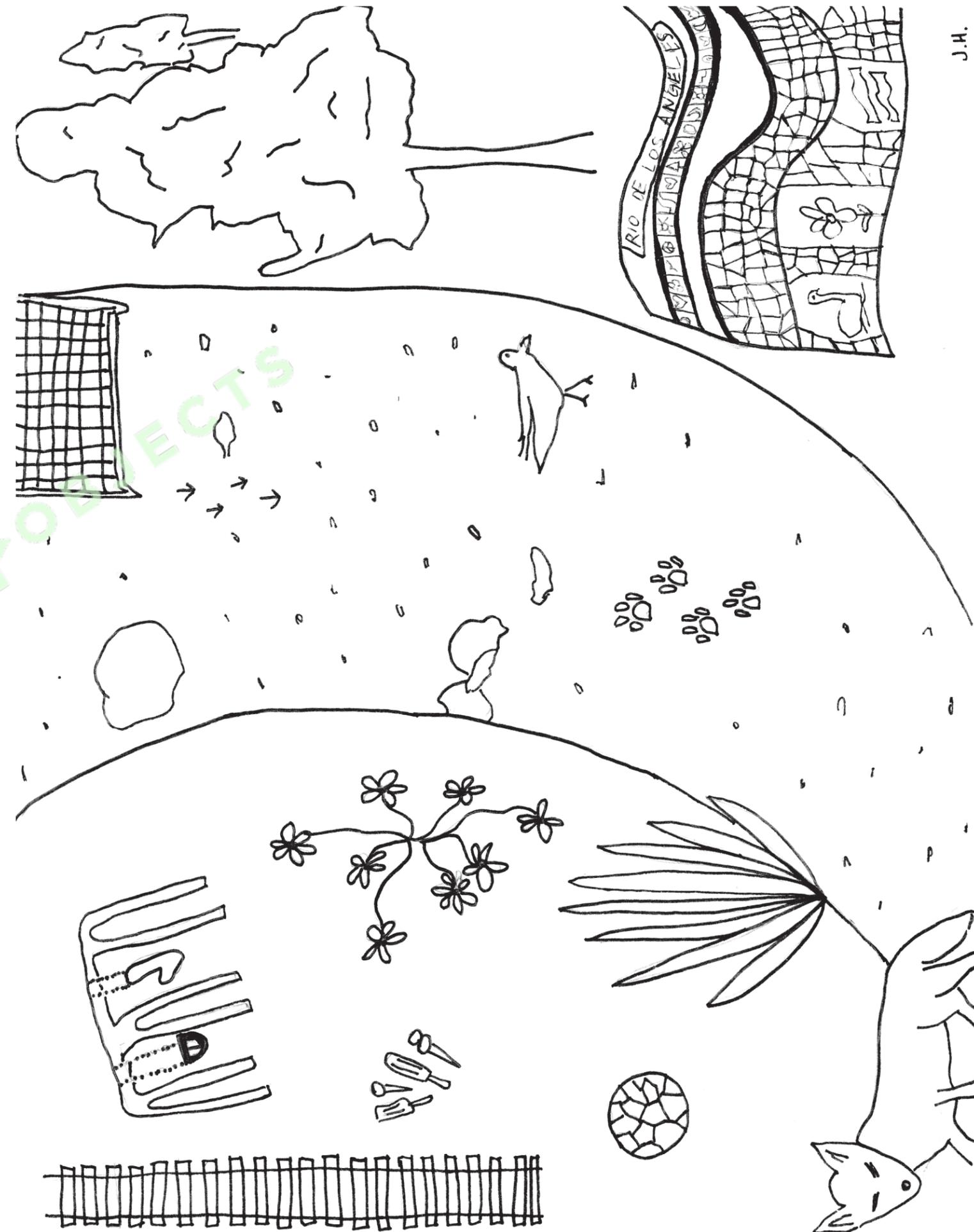
This site, like the Bowtie Parcel and the nearby Los Angeles State Historic Park, is reclaimed industrial space that is being returned to nature. Community advocates rallied to create a park here when the Taylor Yard, a freight-switching facility used by Southern Pacific Railroad, closed in the 1980s. It took decades, and the combined efforts of at least 36 organizations, who came together as the Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard, to successfully stop proposed developments and create the first state park on the Los Angeles River, which opened to the public in 2007. Remember, people make parks!

With so many different groups involved, there were, of course, competing ideas of what the new park should be. Today's park, which supports both active recreation areas as well as more remote, wildlife areas (called "passive" in park-speak), proves that creative compromise can make a win for everyone. This park is a model not only of the power of people to bring more open space to park-poor areas, but also of how including multiple perspectives in the planning of a park—or any aspect of our lived environment—creates a better place, period. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who raised their voices and worked hard, today we have 247 reclaimed acres of open space along a special, soft-bottomed section of the river, and a vision we can work toward together of restoring all 51 miles of the Los Angeles River.

FEATURES Baseball diamond, basketball courts, community room, multipurpose room, picnic tables, soccer field, splash pad, synthetic field, tennis courts, universally accessible playground, walking paths

Artist: **JESSICA HOFFMANN**

I love this living example of community-centered re-greening. The soccer fields are busy all day every day, kids love the playground and splash pad, and just a few steps away you can retreat into a nature path with native plants, chirping birds, and a community-made mosaic bench that tells the land's story.



YORK BOULEVARD PARK

4948 YORK BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90042 • (323) 255-0373

Situated on one-third of an acre and on the site of a former gas station, York Park, as most call it, is a great example of how it doesn't take a lot of land to make a meaningful park. It is a gathering spot for the neighborhood that includes a play structure (with a snake slide and musical instruments), benches, shock-absorbent ground, and a small amphitheater. There are plenty of things to climb on and places to jump, plus the park is big enough to play tag without ever losing track of your kids or friends. And there's often a food truck nearby, so it's perfect for an impromptu picnic too. But the best thing about this park might be how it was created: Highland Park residents ages 11 and above voted on which of three proposals for the park space they liked best, allowing the community to contribute to the park's design.

FEATURES Children's play area, amphitheater, chess tables, musical play structures, outdoor fitness equipment, free library

Artists: **MAITE + MAX ALDAY**

What's inside York Park is just as important as what's outside its wrought-iron gates: a long-standing Latinx community and hipsters, graffiti and murals, coffee shops and taco trucks, and the legendary Bob Baker Marionette Theater. What was once a gas-station lot is now a lively neighborhood park with kids sliding out of a tree trunk and playing on bongo-style drums. York Park represents both what is painful about Highland Park—gentrification—and what is beautiful—diversity and creativity.



WE ♥ L.A. PARKS

L.A.

PARK ADVENTURES

FINISH

You've had an amazing park day! How many park hearts did you collect? Give everyone a high five and take a photo of how you feel. Take a rest and wait for other players to finish to see who has the most hearts!

MAGIC HOUR
You make it to Barnsdall Art Park in East Hollywood in time for sunset.
Show us how you will enjoy it.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
It starts pouring rain.
Show us what you do. Skip a turn to enjoy the rain and look out for rainbows!

LAKE AHEAD
In the Valley, you visit Lake Balboa / Anthony C. Beilenson Park.
Show us activities to enjoy at the lake.

GET A LIFT
You're near a subway station and bus stop. Do you have money or a TAP card to take public transportation?
If you do, show us what you do on a bus or subway, then go forward 3 spaces.

HELP AN ANIMAL
Oh no! You come across an injured animal and want to help it.
Go back 1 space to ask the rangers what to do.

PARK RANGER SIGHTING
At Los Angeles State Historic Park by Chinatown, you see a park ranger giving visitors a tour of the park.
Pretend you're at your favorite park in the city. Take us on a tour and show us what you love about it.

PICNIC TIME!
You arrive at Griffith Park and are hungry after hiking.
Skip a turn to enjoy a meal and drink.

MARCH AHEAD
At Pershing Square in downtown, crowds are gathering for a rally and march.
What causes would you march for?

GOOD DEED
You see litter in the park and put it in the trash. Thank you!
Go forward 4 spaces.

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?
You arrive at Elysian Park. Listen carefully. Those are the California Scrub-Jays singing and chirping.
Sing and chirp like a bird.

PLAYGROUND FUN
At Pan Pacific Park, you have fun on a swing.
Without using words, share what other playground structures you enjoy.

COOL DOWN
You're in downtown and it's a hot day. Go to Grand Park to enjoy the splash pad.
Show us what you like to do in the water.

FLY A KITE
It's kite-flying weather at Angels Gate Park in San Pedro.
Show us how to fly a kite.

WILDLIFE ALERT
At Ernest E. Debs Regional Park in Montecito Hills, you see wildlife and native plants.
Name 3 animals or plants you spot to move forward 3 spaces.

MURAL TOUR
In Historic Filipinotown's Unidat Park, you discover Eliseo Art Silva's large Filipino American mural.
What's the nickname for Historic Filipinotown? Move forward 2 spaces if you know it.

SPORTS GALORE
At Palms Park, BMX riders are flying through the air.
Demonstrate other sports people enjoy at parks.

BEACH DAY
Head to Venice Beach Skate Park to watch people skating, then take a dip in the ocean.
Share what you love about the beach.

YAY, NAP TIME
Ah, isn't it so relaxing to be at the park? Go snooze in the shade.
Skip a turn to enjoy yourself and show us how you nap!

ENJOY THE MUSIC
Lucky you, musicians are playing at Leimert Plaza Park.
Sing or play a song and show us how you dance.

FORGOT SOMETHING
Darn, you forgot your lunch you prepared at home. No worries!
Go back 4 spaces to pack it.

COYOTE SIGHTING
At Rio de Los Angeles State Park, you spot a coyote in the distance.
Do your best coyote impression!

PARK MEMORY
What is one of your favorite park memories?
Share it.

RIVER FUN
Time to visit the L.A. River. Head to Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park.
Call a friend to join you. If they answer, move forward 2 spaces.

PACK YOUR BAG
What do you need for your park outing?
Share what you will pack and why.

START
Get ready for an awesome day!