

BALDWIN HILLS EASTERN GATEWAY PROJECT

The Eastern Gateway Project consists of a collection of improvements along La Brea Avenue at and near the intersection with Don Lorenzo Drive. These improvements include enhancing pedestrian safety, providing a more pleasant neighborhood entry to Kenneth Hahn Park and the Baldwin Hills, and improving water quality by capturing storm water run-off.

Currently, traffic moves rapidly along La Brea Avenue. Although a stoplight exists at Don Lorenzo Drive, drivers routinely exceed posted limits, which makes for uncomfortable pedestrian crossings. Streetscape improvements along La Brea will encourage traffic calming. New median planting and irrigation and a new pedestrian crosswalk treatment at Don Lorenzo Drive will create a safer experience and a more pleasant aesthetic environment for both pedestrians and drivers. The presence of new trees and shrubs will cue visitors to the park entrance. A new pedestrian entryway to Baldwin Hills Park on the west side of La Brea will include relocation of the existing bus stop to a new spot north of the intersection introduce new native planting, fencing and signage. All streetscape and entryway elements will be designed to enhance the access as well as extend the essence of the Baldwin Hills to the La Brea Avenue.

Beyond the trail entry west of La Brea Avenue is a series of hills. During storms, the rain water runs off and is channeled to a thirty inch diameter cast iron pipe. The water is in turn deposited in the existing concrete culvert and eventually makes its way to the Santa Monica Bay. Our plans are to divert the rain water into an infiltration basin which will allow percolation into the ground rather than contributing to the water entering the Bay. This allows hydrological recharge of the watershed and prevents pollution admission into the ocean.

As is currently the case, the trail portion of the project will be maintained by Los Angeles County Department of Recreation and Parks. The streetscape will be maintained by the City of Los Angeles.

The Eastern Gateway improvements will create a safer environment for pedestrians and begin to visually unite the various elements in the Baldwin Hills Recreation Area. This project is important in creating spaces which help to connect pieces of Baldwin Hills and improve water quality as well. This project will make better and stronger use of what already exists as well as supply new physical and visual delight.