

December 15, 2022



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Who is Getting the Ax in Silver Lake?

By Hugh Kenny, resident and Silver Lake Green committee member

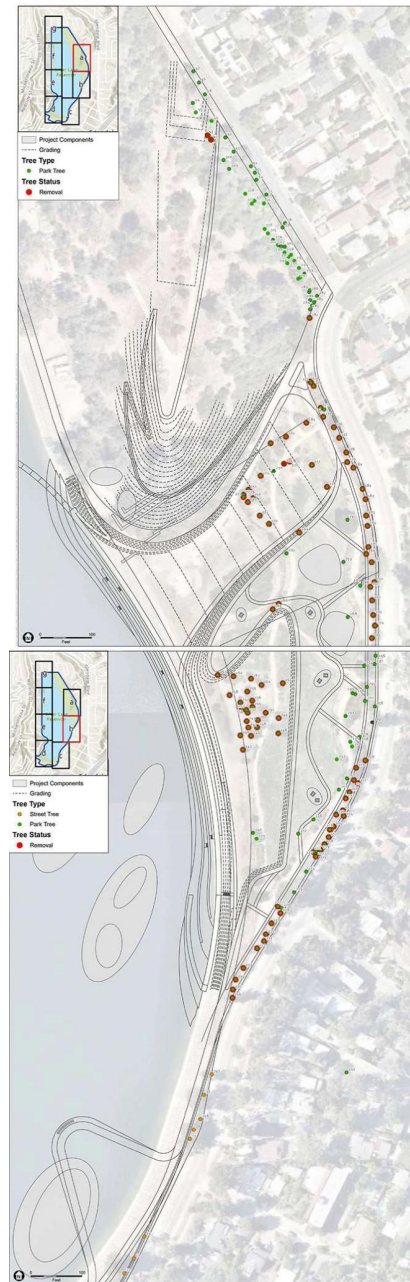
The Silver Lake Reservoirs Draft Environmental Report claims that only a few mature trees would be destroyed for the Reservoirs Master Plan. And that those trees would be replaced by 500 trees.

I count almost 100 going down. Look for yourself at the image. You will see eighty-five trees, right there. Each blood red circle represents a stump. Young, old, ill, healthy, "protected," native or exotic, tidy or rowdy. If they are in the path of a landscape designer's pencil, they will be erased.

Thirty trees on this same path were destroyed when it was built in 2008. Several trees were replanted, half died. The rest have been mangled by incompetent pruners. One of them leans o'er the path, like Damocles' sword, waiting to fall. (I let 311 know and spoke to Mr. Dupree of Rec and Parks, urging them to cut it down.)

I'll go for a park. The laid-back park that the community agreed upon. One that supports nature and does no harm to her.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



Figures 8a, 8b RAP and BSS Trees

Please take this direct link to comments and tell them to lighten up on the tree cutting... and support the trees that grace our community and that so many wild creatures call home.



P-22, L.A.'s famous mountain lion seen in Griffith Park. (Photo: Miguel Ordeñana)

Running Out of Space: P-22 is an Example of Wildlife Fighting to Survive in Shrinking Habitats

If you live in Silver Lake, you've probably been following the news about P-22, the approximately 12-year-old mountain lion which, according to National Wildlife Federation California Regional Executive Director Beth Pratt, has been living in Griffith Park in the smallest home range ever recorded for a mountain lion—and the most urban. P-22 was safely removed from the backyard of a home in Los Feliz and was previously sighted several times in Silver Lake neighborhoods—worrisome signs for a wild animal. Pratt said that he is now being evaluated by top biologists and veterinarians, who are making sure he has the best care in the future.

There are obvious parallels between P-22's plight and the future of the natural habitats at the Silver Lake Reservoirs. Experts say the lack of habitat and habitat connectivity led aging P-22 to residential communities. While we don't have mountain lions living within the reservoirs, there are bobcats, migrating birds, raccoons and many, many more types of species looking to find a small place to call home.

[READ THE LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY](#)

[READ THE COVERAGE ON NPR.COM](#)

Wildlife Experts Weigh In on Plans for Reservoirs



Experts are sharing their informed opinions on the Silver Lake Reservoirs Master Plan Draft Environmental Report and the consensus is that “this one (the report) has demonstrably failed at its job.” In a detailed document shared by the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Daniel S. Cooper, Ph.D., senior conservation biologist, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, “...found the Biological Technical Report to be lacking in both rigor and specificity, particularly for such a large, visible site as Silver Lake Reservoir,” and asked the city “... to afford this site the scrutiny it deserves.” Cooper also notes that introducing fish as a local prey source could be highly-invasive and even illegal.

https://3a20fcbb-3beb-4ed8-ada9-b72c8ddd50f.usrfiles.com/ugd/3a20fc_d6c4bb78ce1847b88d3e1c7aead8886e4.pdf

Similarly, Amanda J. Zellmer, associate professor, Occidental College. “...found the plans for habitat restoration, assessment of the current biological resources, and the evaluation of impacts to wildlife connectivity to be lacking in the DEIR.” Zellmer points out that, “... areas that are accessible to wildlife and inaccessible to humans through the use of wildlife friendly fencing that... detracts humans from entering the habitat (are essential).”

https://3a20fcbb-3beb-4ed8-ada9-b72c8ddd50f.usrfiles.com/ugd/3a20fc_fd844d5e09dc47a79e244ef6b632537.pdf

More experts agree—additional work needs to be done on the EIR. Please share your opinion:

[SLRCMP Draft EIR Comments](#)

Deadline to submit comments: 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 16, 2022



Former councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and new councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez

Thank You... and Welcome

On December 9, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell participated in his last city council meeting. We are grateful for the many things the councilmember and his staff accomplished during the years he served CD 13, including setting Los Angeles on the path to 100% carbon-free, renewable energy by 2035, leading the city in affordable housing production, reducing homelessness by 23% in the last two years, improving the quality of life for seniors in our communities, keeping people housed and fed during a once-in-a-century pandemic, taking on countless public works and beautification projects, and much more. We welcome union labor organizer [Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez](#), who was sworn in on December 12, and look forward to working with him and his staff for the betterment of Silver Lake.



Two Days Left to Contribute to Neighborhood Toy Drive

LAPD's annual toy giveaway will take place December 17 at the Northeast Community Police Station, [3353 San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, CA 90065](https://www.lapd.com/3353-San-Fernando-Road-Los-Angeles-CA-90065). Toys for 3- to 12-year-old girls or boys can be dropped off at the Northeast Station before the 17th. Last year, Northeast gave away 600 toys; the 2022 goal is to distribute 1,000 toys during a holiday party that will include refreshments, holiday games and music—and the opportunity to meet with L.A. city first responders.

Happy Holidays from Silver Lake Together!

Thank you for all you've done throughout 2022 to keep Silver Lake a vibrant, caring, unique community. Sending best wishes for happy holidays and the best in 2023!



Let Us Know!

www.silverlaketgether.com

Need help with an issue in Silver Lake? Do you have ideas that will help our neighborhood or want to share community news?

Email Us

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