

June 25, 2020



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



*Los Angeles County Parks and Needs Assessment supports a need-based allocation of funding for parks and recreation.*

## **Motion Asks SLNC to Redirect Funding to Park-poor Communities and Take a Stand to Address Racial Inequalities in Access to Green Spaces**

Yesterday, Silver Lake Together received a copy of a motion sent to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council by resident and community equity activist Nina Sorkin. Specifically, Sorkin's motion asks that the SLNC send a letter to Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council recommending, "... current funding for park space in Silver Lake be re-directed and future funding for green space and recreation areas be allocated to park-poor areas."

According to The Advancement Project, In 2016, the [Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment](#) determined that more than half of Los Angeles County is considered “park poor,” with 82% of these areas located in communities of color. In the proposed letter, Sorkin noted that Measure A, which passed in November 2016, continued “...inequitable investment and racialized land-use decisions that concentrated environmental injustice and public disinvestment in non-white neighborhoods.”

Sorkin said Representative Adam Schiff’s June 20 statement inspired her to submit the motion. “This is a rare time in our nation’s history. We have a responsibility to make profound changes to end systemic racism... .” Her motion also asks that copies of the letter be sent to Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, Councilmember David Ryu and the Park Equity Land Trust. The SLNC’s next meeting is Wednesday, July 1.

[Read the motion submitted to the SLNC](#)

[Read the proposed letter on equity and equality in funding for green space](#)

[Review Advancement Project findings](#)

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## Silver Lake Environmentalist and Native Plants Expert Killed

*Community advocate and wildflower expert  
Timothy Stirton was killed in a tragic accident in  
Silver Lake on June 17.*



On June 17, Timothy Stirton, 63, known for his expertise in native plants and the environment, was struck and killed on the corner of Effie Street and Silver Lake Boulevard. According to police reports, Stirton had the right of way and was driving his moped west on Effie when he was struck by a speeding SUV heading south on Silver Lake Boulevard. The driver of the SUV ran the red light and was said to be driving at a high speed. Traffic fatality investigators from LAPD’s Central Traffic Division have jurisdiction of the case, and are still investigating the cause of the fatal accident. The identity of the driver and passenger in the SUV, who were slightly injured, have not been released.

Stirton was also a photographer and former member of Silver Lake’s Green and Beautification Committees. Although Silver Lake Boulevard was reduced from four lanes

to two lanes (road diet) years ago in order to slow traffic, and to allow for bike lanes, complaints of speeding and reckless driving have continued. Silver Lake Together strongly recommends that LAPD's Central Traffic Division provide at least two motor officers to regularly patrol the entire stretch of Silver Lake Boulevard, to regulate traffic and ticket speeders.

[In this video, Timothy Stirton demonstrates wildflower garden planting and care](#)

[Los Angeles Times article on Timothy Stirton and his passion for native plants](#)

[Read Los Feliz Ledger article on the accident](#)



## COVID-19 Cases Continue to Surge in Los Angeles

Many may think they are done with COVID-19, but COVID-19 isn't done with them. Cases of active infection continue to rise in Los Angeles County at a rate of more than 1,000 per day, with dozens of deaths recorded each day. Particularly, infection among younger people is now driving these numbers.

Recently, there has been criticism of the city's failure to provide enough COVID-19 testing capacity. Following complaints about not being able to get an appointment to be tested, Mayor Eric Garcetti has promised the city will increase availability of testing.

[Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Updates](#)

[LAist article on COVID-19 testing capacity in Los Angeles](#)

## Support Neighborhood Safety with Free 'Slow Down Silver Lake' Signs



The COVID-19 “Safer at Home” orders have resulted in less traffic on Silver Lake’s normally congested roads. However, the empty streets seem to encourage some Angelenos to speed dangerously, putting pedestrians and pets at risk. Silver Lake Together is continuing its campaign to give residents a tool to combat speeding in their neighborhoods: **Slow Down Silver Lake signs**. The eye-catching signs are available at no cost (first-come, first-served) and can be ordered simply by emailing your name and address to [editor@silverlaketogether.com](mailto:editor@silverlaketogether.com).

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## Parking Restrictions and Safe Parking: Has Anything Changed?

Silver Lake Together has received several emails asking if the Los Angeles Municipal Code that prohibits parking of a vehicle upon any city street, highway or alley for more than 72 or more consecutive hours is still in effect (California Vehicle Code and Section 80.73.2 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code). According to comments in the communications, there has been a recent uptick in RVs – which people seem to be using as shelter – parked on Silver Lake streets. The answer? In August 2019, The Los

Angeles City Council reinstated the ordinance that bans sleeping overnight in vehicles in residential areas and forbids living in a vehicle within a block of a park, school or day care. The ban is not widely enforced, and according to an article in LAist, LAPD data shows police wrote just 48 tickets during the first six months of 2019. LAist also reported that the homeless count estimated at least 9,500 people live in a vehicle in the City of Los Angeles. “By contrast, the local [safe parking program](#) currently offers spots for approximately 200 vehicles.” (2019 data)

[Read the LAist article](#)

[Safe parking program](#)

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## Share Your COVID-19 Experiences

The Silver Lake History Collective is gathering local stories, photos and videos to document life in Silver Lake during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Safer at Home order. History Collective Co-chair Michael Masterson said, “Sharing your experiences during the Safer at Home order will help us capture the collective story of this historical time. We are asking residents and stakeholders to consider sharing one or more anecdotes about their experience via the online survey.” The Collective documents neighborhood history through personal accounts and multimedia storytelling.

[Share your COVID-19 experiences](#)

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## Are Gophers an Ecosystem Problem -- or Benefit?



After receiving emails about a gopher infestation from concerned residents on Edgewater Terrace, we turned to the [Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary](#) (SLWS) to learn more about these cute creatures. Sanctuary members asked us to remember that within Silver Lake’s wider ecosystem, various predators eat gophers as part of their diet. If allowed time to find these gopher villages, the predators will eventually rebalance our habitat – as long as we do not destroy the predators. SLWS went on to say that Silver Lake currently has sufficient numbers of bird, feline and coyote predators to have a good chance of regaining a functioning ecosystem. (Common predators include great horned owls, barn owls, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, coyotes (they can eat nine to 10 gophers a day) bobcats,

gopher snakes, feral cats, etc.)

And while gopher tunnels can be unsightly, the online resource [Coyote Yipps](#) points out they also benefit areas where they live, increasing soil fertility by mixing plant material and fecal wastes into the soil, by aerating or tilling the soil with their tunneling activity.

The bottom line? According to [CLAW](#) (Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife), poisons enter the food chain and can eventually kill other wildlife and wild birds. And deterrents like flooding gopher tunnels are cruel. If all else fails, trapping and relocation is an option, but trapped parents may leave babies behind.

Silver Lake Together checked with LADWP who said that they have not received reports of an uptick in gophers at the Reservoirs, but they will check the dam area to be sure there are no holes.

SLWS suggests viewing *The Biggest Little Farm*, directed by Emmy Award-winning director John Chester, to see how rebalancing happened on a real farm in Moorpark, Ventura County. It's available on Netflix.



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## Let Us Know!

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**

[editor@SilverLakeTogether.com](mailto:editor@SilverLakeTogether.com)

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