

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-204

DATE June 18, 2003

C.D. 01

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DEBS PARK - ROTARY TRAILS (#1145D) - ACCEPT DONATION AND AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES ROTARY FOR TRAIL AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AT DEBS PARK TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY NORTHEAST TREES

J. Combs _____
A. Coroalles _____
J. Duggan _____

H. Fujita _____
*B. Lukehart BSC.
J. Kolb _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Accept, with thanks, a very generous donation of \$100,000.00 from the Los Angeles Rotary for trail and related improvements at Debs Park;
2. Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles Rotary for trail and related improvements at Debs Park with approval as to form from the City Attorney, and approval from the Mayor's conformance with Executive Directive No. 16; and,
3. Authorize the General Manager to negotiate a services agreement with Northeast Trees for construction of the trail and related improvements at Debs Park and to return the negotiated agreement to the Board for further consideration of approval.

SUMMARY:

In December 2002, the Los Angeles Rotary contacted the Department and requested potential sites and projects for them to donate \$50,000.00 each year for three (3) years; for a total donation of \$150,000.00. After discussing several options, it was agreed by both the Department and the Los Angeles Rotary to make trail and related improvements at Debs Park. It was also agreed that the initial project will have a budget of \$100,000.00 as the first two (2) years of funding will be available July 1, 2003. The Department and the Los Angeles Rotary will work together and look at ongoing improvements to Debs Park with the remaining future funding of \$50,000.00.

Planning and Construction Design Division has prepared construction documents which have been presented and approved by the Los Angeles Rotary and the Debs Park Advisory Board.

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The Los Angeles Rotary will establish an escrow account for the funds to be distributed as construction takes place on a reimbursement basis. The Los Angeles Rotary will reimburse the City for eligible costs incurred as project milestones are completed. The Department will monitor construction and perform improvements with in-house forces, such as creating signage and installing concrete pads for benches and picnic tables.

The Department proposes to enter into a service contract with Northeast Trees for the development of trails and related improvements. Northeast trees has been selected to develop the trails and related improvements because they have the specific capacities and expertise to perform the required work. The existing trails were poorly built, are in disrepair, and have become overgrown with weeds. The service agreement will be to renovate, reroute, and upgrade the existing trails, and install such amenities as benches, trash receptacles, and signage.

Currently, there is an ongoing construction project at Debs Park by the Los Angeles Audubon Society to build a nature center. One of the major components of the current construction is the installation of a Native American Terraced Garden on the southern end of the park. This new garden will provide a new gateway into the park, and its trail system. The project to be funded by the Los Angeles Rotary will improve the trails leading out from the new gateway and into the rest of the Debs Park. Debs Park borders the Arroyo Seco waterway, which leads into the Los Angeles Forest and beyond. It is possible that in the future, the new Gateway and trail system will connect the City of Los Angeles, via Debs Park, to the San Gabriel Mountains and beyond.

On May 17, 2003, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) adopted the Final Framework Plan for the Debs Park and the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Board Report #00-177) prepared for the implementation of the Debs Park Framework Plan. The proposed trail improvements comply with the trail guidelines of the Framework Plan.

Prepared by Robert Gutierrez, Project Manager.