



GRIFITH PARK TRAILS UPDATE

For more than 20 years, the equestrians in Los Angeles Atwater area have been trying without success to get a bridge built across the Los Angeles River to connect them to Griffith Park. Now, the planning process for the long hoped for Atwater Bridge is slowly making its way through multiple public outreach meetings. This

proposed bridge will span a very wide stretch of the Los Angeles River. It will accommodate equestrians, hikers and bikers, each user group separated by barriers. The design dictates horses on the left side, hikers in the middle and bikes on the right side of the bridge.

Mr. LaKretz is the generous donor for this bridge. He is willing to give \$4 Million dollars to see it built. The City of Los Angeles will have to raise another \$1 Million to finish the project.

Some Park users are concerned about the aesthetic design of the bridge. They feel that the design doesn't blend with the other iconic bridges that cross the river. They don't oppose the need for the bridge, but are unhappy with the look of the proposed bridge.

Local equestrian concerns are mostly safety regarding the flooring of the bridge, and the height of the fencing that will protect and contain horses and riders on the bridge as they cross from bank to bank. Other concerns for both pedestrians and equestrians will be the exit ramps, as on the Griffith Park side, users will have to cross the fast moving, paved LA Bike Path.

The safety issues for both bridge design and safe entrances and exits are problems that we feel can be readily solved. The lengthy processes address the public's concerns. Other issues, such as bridge aesthetics and maintenance will be worked out through the City.

We can all keep our fingers crossed for this important new bridge to be built. If all goes smoothly, construction will begin in 2012 and is expected to be completed quite quickly.

