



# FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER

## Elysian Valley CleanUp Weekend

Lewis MacAdams Park, Elysian Valley Gateway Park, and Steelhead Park  
July 10th, 2021

Our Middle River weekend is always a highlight of CleanUp. The vegetated channel is home to wildlife habitat, and local recreational amenities ensure this stretch of the river is well-trafficked by foot and on bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades and even kayaks. Given the popularity of spots in this section of the River, we often find more single use plastic waste in need of removal from our volunteer corps. Strong turnout from our supporters this weekend - including a special visit from Congressman Gomez and a team from our title sponsors at PacSun - ensured we took a huge leap together in our total progress, surpassing 22,000 lbs of trash removed from our waterway. Thank you to all who have pitched in to care for the LA River throughout CleanUp to ensure that we contribute to healthy communities by maintaining the health of our River.

Volunteer removes an e-scooter from the channel (L), local union chapter joins our cleanup (Center) and shopping cart (R).







# FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER



Great allies like LA River Communities for Environmental Equity ensure our cleanup sites are community efforts (L), Volunteers from our partner PacSun pulled their weight and looked sharp doing so! (R)

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 293 total volunteers, (1,060 vols over five weeks)
- 1,168 bags of trash, (3,003 total over five weeks)
- Weird items: water heater, scooter, "Just Married" sign, automobile parts, car radio, baby stroller and a couch.
- Wildlife on-site: Great Blue and Black crowned herons, warblers, stilts, and a yellow-breasted chat!

**+22,000 lbs of trash removed from the LA River**

**Elysian Valley Weekend - July 10th**



# FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER



Rep Gomez addresses volunteers at Lewis  
MacAdams Riverfront Park.

## **Congressman Jimmy Gomez**

This week we welcomed a very special guest to the River - River Champion and our local congressperson, Rep. Jimmy Gomez. The congressman has been a staunch advocate for the LA River throughout his public service career. He spoke to assembled volunteers and stressed the importance of open space for mental health and the River as a place to adapt to climate change.

## **Climate Change and the LA River**

The LA River touches virtually every type of community as it makes its way 51 miles from the mountains to the sea. We believe the LA River can and should play a role in our adaptation to climate change as we explore ways to sequester carbon, maintain native vegetation, and build shaded open spaces throughout our watershed to beat the heat. Supporting FoLAR helps us prepare for the challenge ahead.



**Elysian Valley Weekend - July 10th**





# FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER

**CleanUp powers FoLAR's work year round!**  
With sponsor support we work to:

- Restore 110 acres of river wildlife preserve with invasive species removal.
- Protect urban riparian habitat for 1,200 species of wildlife.
- Generate 600 public comments to public agencies on impactful environmental policy.
- Advocate for 51 miles of river that serves our need for climate resiliency.
- Connect 3000 Title I students a year to nature in an outdoor or virtual classroom experience on the banks of the LA River.



tools for efficient living



ENCINO  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
COUNCIL

WATER  
REPLENISHMENT  
DISTRICT

PERKINS  
& WILL

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN  
JIMMY GOMEZ (CA-34)

LAKE BALBOA  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL