

Los Angeles-History-Highland Park Rose Hill Park

Let contract for first Rose Hill park phase

Includes lake,
nature trail,
picnic area

By Roger Swanson

An \$857,800 contract for development of the first phase of Rose Hill Regional Park was announced last week by Board of Supervisors chairman Ernest E. Debs.

Construction on the first phase is scheduled to begin in August and will be completed within 270 calendar days, Debs said.

The contract was awarded to the A. G. Tutor Company of North Hollywood, low bidder among seven companies seeking the contract which will be financed through bonds approved by voters in a 1964 statewide election.

The initial development will include service roads, pedestrian walkways, a nature trail system, bird sanctuary, group activity area with 90 picnic units and braziers, parking for 132 cars, grading, storm drains, landscaping, sprinklers, utilities, gates and fencing. In addition, a one and one-half acre lake will be created in the center of the bird sanctuary.

STRUCTURES

Structures to be built during the initial phase include a comfort station and service building. Landscaping will include planting of indigenous trees and the trail system will meander through a wildlife preserve.

The Rose Hill property belongs to the City of Los Angeles which has leased it to the county for 25 years for park development since the county alone has access to the necessary state bond financing.

Eventually, approximately \$5 million will be spent in improving the park, Dick White, field deputy for Debs, said Friday. White said work on other phases of park construction will begin as funding becomes available.

Boundaries of the park are roughly Monterey Road on the east, Griffin Ave. on the west and north and Mercury Ave. on the south, according to James Cansler of the planning division, county department of recreation and parks.

FIRST PHASE ONLY

Cansler said park development plans have not progressed beyond the first phase.

"The phases are not projected that far," Cansler said. "We know that there will be further development in the future, but first we want to get this portion under way so we can use the state bond money."

The first phase will improve approximately 90 of the park's 306 acres. The area involved in the initial phase of development is located above the city

baseball field near Boundary Ave. The lake and bird sanctuary with a cascading waterfall will be constructed at the highest point above the ball field in a hilly portion of land.

NATURAL STATE

While considerable development is planned, approximately one-third of the park will be left in a natural state. The north side of the park, now covered with heavy growth, will be further planted with trees to provide a large green belt and screen the area from surrounding residential areas.

A 25 year lease, turning the city owned land over to the county for park development, was signed in 1968 following considerable debate during which the county argued for a longer lease while the city wanted one of shorter duration.

Also earlier proposed and later defeated was a proposal to use the park land, forming a natural and heavily wooded bowl, to dump dirt from excavations at the new Woodrow Wilson High School. Proponents argued that the dumping operation would create 180 acres of level land suitable for home construction. Residents of the area opposed the plan, saying the land should be left in its natural state, not denuded of trees and growth.