

Puente Hills Landfill Park

Fulfilling a Promise to the Community



UPDATE: Yet again, the Sanitation Districts are trying to avoid their obligation to the community. This time, they have attempted to use funds that could support park development to instead pay unmet pension obligations!

It is time to honor the commitment made to build the park for the communities surrounding the former Puente Hills Landfill.

In 2016, the LA County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the Sanitation Districts, approved the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan. This Park Master Plan transforms the former landfill into the long-awaited park, serving those who lived next to the landfill for nearly 60 years.



Trails and open space



Wildlife habitat



Picnic spots



Children's nature area



As a condition of operating the landfill from 1983 until the landfill's closure in 2013, the Sanitation Districts agreed to set aside money to pay for the development, operation, and maintenance of the future park.

But for 20 years, the Sanitation Districts did not set aside any money to fund the park despite being required to do so. Now the park is in jeopardy of not being built.

1983-2004	2013	2016	Today
Sanitation Districts operated Puente Hills Landfill, once the largest landfill in the United States, with an obligation to pay for a community park	Landfill closes	Master Plan approved	Awaiting funding

For the community, by the community

Over 1,400 neighbors united and multiple resolutions and letters of support from local municipalities and community organizations were received as part of the Park Master Plan process.

The Puente Hills Landfill Park will serve the communities of Avocado Heights, Baldwin Park, Bassett, El Monte, Hacienda Heights, La Puente, Pico Rivera, Rowland Heights, Whittier, Valinda, and beyond.



Puente Hills Landfill Park

Frequently Asked Questions



Why hasn't the Puente Hills Park been built?

The Park Master Plan for the Puente Hills Park was unanimously approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors in 2016 with broad support from community members, local organizations, and the Sanitation Districts. Development of the park, which will require \$283 million, plus \$4 million annually for maintenance, has not begun because the Sanitation Districts have refused to make good on their commitment to fund the park. This has resulted in ongoing environmental injustice and forced the County to bring a now-pending lawsuit against the Sanitation Districts.

Why are the Sanitation Districts involved?

The Puente Hills Landfill Park is located within the boundaries of the Puente Hills Landfill, which is owned by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, an independent governmental body separate from the County of Los Angeles. The Puente Hills Landfill was once the largest landfill in the United States before ending its landfill operations in 2013. As a condition of operating the landfill from 1983 until the landfill's closure in 2013, the Sanitation Districts agreed to set aside money to pay for the development, operation and maintenance of the future park.

Where is the funding for the park?

The Sanitation Districts have so far only set aside \$37 million, a fraction of what is needed to build, operate, and maintain the 142-acre park. In court filings, the Sanitation Districts represented they could not use \$585 million set aside to fund post-closure landfill activities for any purpose other than post-closure maintenance. Now, the Sanitation Districts have revealed that as much as \$468 million of these funds can be "freed up" for other purposes. But instead of using this money for the park, they proposed to use the money to pay for their unmet pension obligations.

What needs to happen to get the park built?

The Sanitation Districts are more than \$247 million short on fulfilling their 35-year promise to the working-class communities surrounding the Landfill. They must set aside a portion of the \$585 million not needed for post-closure maintenance to follow through on their obligation to fund the development, operation, and maintenance of the park.

What is at stake?

The approved Park Master Plan will provide a community park with recreational programming and multi-use open space, including the elements listed below. They are all in jeopardy if the Sanitation Districts do not fund the park.

- Range of recreation & outdoor fitness
- Stair climb, walking/running path
- Universal accessibility
- Wildlife habitat & nature preserve
- Multi-use trails for horse riding, cycling, & hiking
- Bicycle education
- Dog park area
- Outdoor concerts and music in the park

How can I get involved?

- 1) Send a letter to the Sanitation Districts to demand they fulfill their obligation to the community and fund the park.**
- 2) Call in on 3/24 for the Sanitation Districts meeting during public comment.**

For more information, visit parks.lacounty.gov/phlandfillpark or email phlandfillpark@parks.lacounty.gov.