

David M. Gonzales Stormwater Capture Project

LADWP.com/Parks



Location: Pacoima, Council District 7
Project Start Date: May 2026
Estimated Completion Date: May 2028
Work Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 am-4:00 pm, with occasional Saturday work

Project Description

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE), has developed an innovative Stormwater Capture Parks Program to collect rainwater and urban runoff at nine local parks in the East San Fernando Valley. These stormwater capture projects will help replenish the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, improve water quality in the Los Angeles River, alleviate local flooding, and provide recreational and environmental benefits to the community through related park improvements.

The David M. Gonzales Recreation Center, is owned and operated by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The project will install a 2.6-acre subsurface infiltration gallery, utilizing approximately 3 acres of land for stormwater capture and infiltration. The project will divert stormwater from two nearby storm pipes, one along Pierce Street and the other along Van Nuys Boulevard.

Approximately 448 acre-feet per year of runoff from a 759-acre tributary area may be captured and infiltrated. Two hydrodynamic separators will be placed upstream of the infiltration gallery to separate trash, debris, sediment, oils, grease, and fine particulates from stormwater. In addition to flow measuring devices and maintenance holes for monitoring, operations, and maintenance purposes, educational signage will engage the community and promote sustainability awareness.

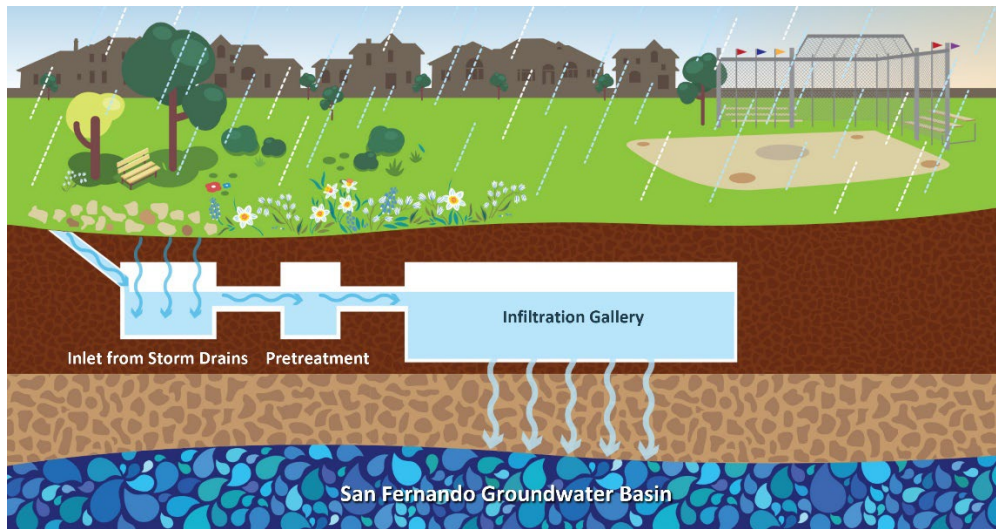
Greenery will be included in the form of native vegetation, grass, trees, and other park improvements to expand recreational use. The project seeks to transform this site into a park with nature-based recreational components and improved infrastructure that will enhance the neighboring Disadvantage Community (DAC), serve the needs of residents, and restore the local habitat.

Project Location

The project is located in the upper Tujunga Wash Watershed within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin, south of the I-210 freeway, southeast of the SR-118, and North of I-5 freeway in the Pacoima neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The site is bordered by Pacoima Elementary School to the Northwest, Herrick Ave. to the Northeast, Pierce Ave. to the Southeast, and Norris Ave. to the Southwest. The park is located in Council District 7.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater capture involves the collection of rainfall and runoff from open spaces such as parks, and urban lands such as city streets, homes and businesses. Captured stormwater is then redirected to soak into a groundwater basin and stored for future use, thereby creating a more resilient, sustainable, and water-secure Los Angeles for generations to come.



Stormwater capture projects come in various forms and may include catch basins, bioswales, pre-treatment devices, pump stations, storm drains, underground infiltration galleries, and other stormwater management best practices. Project components will be located within each park to maximize stormwater capture.

Project Schedule

Construction will begin in May 2026 and is anticipated to be completed by May 2028.

Project Partners

LADWP has partnered with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

Cooperative Efforts

This project is being developed in accordance with the practices and principles outlined in the LADWP Stormwater Capture Master Plan (2015) and the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

Community Benefits

Neighborhood stormwater capture projects are an important part of helping LADWP increase the City's local water supplies and reduce its dependence on more expensive imported purchased water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

Collectively, the Stormwater Capture Parks Program is expected to capture nearly 949 million gallons of water annually with the goal of doubling the average stormwater captured from about 21 billion gallons annually to more than 49 billion gallons annually by 2035. In addition, stormwater capture projects reduce local pollutants such as trash, metals and bacteria that enter the Tujunga Wash, Los Angeles River and the ocean. Community benefits include park upgrades through open space enhancements including active and passive recreation space.

The facilities being constructed beneath David M. Gonzales Park will capture and treat approximately 147 million gallons of stormwater water each year — enough to supply roughly 1,300 to 1,600 Los Angeles households annually. That equates to filling 165 Olympic-sized swimming pools each year.

Contact Us

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