

October 16, 2002, 9:30 AM, Sally Spotts' Elysian Park Urban Hike

Trailhead: parking lot opposite Grace E. Simon Lodge in Elysian Park, near Dodger Stadium.

Description 7 miles?, 700 feet. For those hiking shorter, I will provide maps w/ section(s) to eliminate. Trails, dirt roads, streets, and grass. Great views of LA skyline and city sprawl & mountains (I'd love it to be clear), Dodger Stadium, railroad yards, stretches of quiet and stretches of freeway noise, transient sightings (mostly individuals leaving the scene), Little League fields, dry trees & shrubs (what's new), distinguished trees planted 1893-1920, many labeled near parking, Police Academy rock garden. If nobody schedules the Lodge, we will begin with brief stroll through their grounds. Oh, and we cross over the freeway a couple of times. Jim and I felt unusually thirsty --- city air?

From 1-5

Take Stadium Way exit. Go about 0.5 miles on Stadium Way and make right turn at sign "Grace E. Simon Lodge". Turn left into parking area opposite the Lodge and park at far end.

From 110 / Pasadena Freeway

Southbound: Take "Academy Rd" exit. [See "Once...below]

Northbound: Take "Solano/Academy Rd" exit, which puts you on Solano. Immediately turn right at Amador (plenty of signs) and follow it and signs to Academy Rd.

Once on Academy Rd, follow it past the Police Academy, road makes a sharp right. Then turn right on to Stadium Way. Go approx. 0.5 mile and turn left at sign for "Grace E. Simon" Lodge.

Turn left into parking area opposite the Lodge and park at far end of lot.

History Etc Bits

1769. Portola Trail marker is the original 1769 encampment from which grew the ---

1781 Pueblo of Los Angeles. Developing a trail from San Diego to San Francisco, Capt. Gaspar de Portola and 67 men (with Father Serra and Father Crespi) camped here - first Europeans. Marker is at end of Broadway Bridge over LA River. Portola named the river "El Rio de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciumcula". They left after one day and a couple of little earthquakes. Comments: "...grown with cottonwoods and alders, among which ran a beautiful river... "...all the requisites of a large settlement..."

1800. William Mulholland lived in guard house at Buena Vista Reservoir around 1880.

1886. Elysian Park was dedicated in 1886. Then known as Stone Quarry Hills it was part of the original pueblo land grant.

1965. Grace Simon begins fight to keep a convention ctr., etc. out of park.

Park lovers look to using rail yards ---Taylor Yard on the river opposite Elysian Park and Cornfields (swath of clear land) in the City North area. Cornfields has made park status, I think.

Elysian Park Fault, a blind reverse fault beneath central Los Angeles... Although this Elysian Park earthquake would recur infrequently, its size and recurrence interval may be similar to those estimated for the sources of the destructive 1971 San Fernando and 1994 Northridge earthquakes.

The Point Grand View area was once the site of a mountain (hill?), which after moving for 38 dramatic days collapsed into Riverside Drive and the Los Angeles River 11/ 26, 1937.

Elysian Park is down to about 16 maintenance workers. Citizens Comm. to Save Elysian Park, Scott Fajac 213-367-0781, 1403 Macbeth St, LA 90026, ccsep@echopark.net . Elysian Park Hdgt 213-485-5054. Police Academy (has tours) 213-485 1258.