

Green Schoolyard Project Highlight:

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington Elementary School



Images: Before (left) and after (right) images depict the impact of the Compton Creek Natural Park Project at Washington Elementary School | LACC Photo Library

This fiscal year (2022-2023), CAL FIRE's UCF program has \$117 million available specifically for schoolyard greening projects. The Compton Creek Natural Park at George Washington Elementary, Compton Unified School District, has many components that showcase a good example of a green schoolyard project. (This project was not funded by CAL FIRE.) Continue reading to learn about this project and start thinking about how you want your schoolyard of interest to look like! More information about eligible applicants for green schoolyard grants is available in the grant guidelines.

The Compton Creek Natural Park is located along the Compton Creek bike path in the City of Compton on the campus of George Washington Elementary School. The project was a collaboration by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), California State Parks, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) Compton Site, Compton Unified School District, and Compton residents. The project consists of native trees and plants, bioswales, 127,000-gallon underground cistern used for on-site irrigation, permeable pavers, decomposed granite path, interpretive signage, benches, community garden, outdoor amphitheater, community plaza, decomposed granite surface parking lot, among other sustainable components. The park features native habitats for wildlife and plant communities historically found along Compton Creek. The park also provides environmental and cultural

learning areas for the Compton Unified School District, community events, resource fairs, and is open to the public.

The park was constructed by the LACC Compton Site which continues to maintain the park and has its operations building onsite at the park. The Compton LACC site is a conservation workforce development program for young adults ages 18-26. Participants of the program serves Compton and the surrounding cities. Carlos Campero, LACC Director of Conservation Programs at the Compton Site, is dedicated to assisting the community of Compton by providing LACC members with valuable paid work experience, vocational and educational programs, and the necessary life skills to succeed.

Carlos states, “I want to make the youth of this community aware and teach them how and why the work within their community matters and makes a difference for everyone.”

You can learn more about the Compton Creek Natural Park by visiting the [LACC’s web site](#). If you have questions or ideas about a potential schoolyard greening project, please contact your local CAL FIRE Regional Urban Forester to discuss your project in preparation for the upcoming grant application period.

[Learn More about the Compton Creek Natural Park](#)

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