

LA RIVER YOUTH SUMMIT

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

FALL 2018
LA Trade Tech

Prepared by:
DakeLuna Consultants on
behalf of River LA

Los Angeles County
LA River Master Plan Update

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BACKGROUND

This report outlines the planning, coordination, deployment, and outcomes of the Los Angeles River Youth Summit – Fall 2018 event as part of the Los Angeles County Public Works – LA River Master Plan Update community engagement program.

The youth summit planning team recognizes that youth engagement and their input are important components of this planning effort. The planning team also recognizes the mutual benefit when schools, public agencies, and community organizations work together to support learning. In November of 2018, the team planned and deployed an LA River informational day geared for high school age students comprised of lesson plans that would inform their views and opinions. The event brought together students from throughout LA County to learn about the LA River Master Plan Update effort and share their experiences living in neighborhoods near the LA River.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consisted of finding a venue that could accommodate a large number of student participants and that was at approximately a midpoint location in the county.

The team partnered with Los Angeles Trade Tech (LATT) Community College. This venue provided an environment similar to the students' everyday school structure. LATT is also listed as a "routine day-trip destination" in the Los Angeles Unified School District's Field Trips Handbook and Revised Procedures. This "routine" designation made it easier for school principals to issue field-trip slips without requiring additional steps in the process.

1000 students was established as a manageable participation size for the summit. The school outreach plan entailed making sure there was countywide participation, and this was accomplished by setting a goal to ensure each supervisorial district had schools participating at the summit. A mapping exercise was conducted based on proximity to the LA River, which identified 61 schools within the LA River region. To maintain the number of 1000 students, 20 schools were targeted at 50 students per school (50 students fit comfortably in a school bus) and four schools in each supervisorial district.

To obtain attendance from the students, formal invitation letters to participate were distributed. In addition, phone conferences were conducted with school principals and teachers, and numerous in-person presentations and assemblies were held at the schools to encourage participation and answer any questions students and teachers had.

PARTICIPATION

16 High Schools

665 Students

63 School Staff

30 + Volunteers

Six School Districts:

Burbank Unified
Compton Unified
Los Angeles Unified
Lynwood Unified
Montebello Unified
Paramount Unified



TRANSPORTATION

Getting students to the site on time from over 15 locations was an important component of the event logistics. The team did an extensive search for a transportation company that had a good reputation for being reliable. Each company's references were interviewed to verify their claims of reliability. American Transportation was selected as the transportation company for the summit.

The planning team coordinated with each school to ensure there was a transportation liaison onsite. Each liaison was directly connected with the transportation company to establish a more streamlined communication on the day of the summit.

FOOD

Students were provided with healthy alternatives for lunch. A vegan caterer, Todo Verde, was contracted to provide students with healthy snack and lunch options.

KEYNOTE

Miguel Ordeñana, Wildlife Biologist and Coordinator in the Community Science Department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, kicked off the Summit.

As a Los Angeles resident and native of Nicaragua, Miguel shared with the youth his experiences growing up in LA and what inspired him to study local urban wildlife. He spoke about his role as a community scientist and his constant strive and focus towards improving himself as an educator so that he may inspire a more diverse next generation of scientists.





THEMES

The educational goal for the day was to have students learn about the LA River Master Plan Update effort and expose them to a variety of topics and community leaders that could reinforce and incite civic action around current issues taking place in their communities related to the LA River.

Workshop topics included

- Access and Mobility
- Art
- Community Science
- Hydrology
- LA River Watershed
- Native Peoples
- Planning and Design
- Recreation and Safety

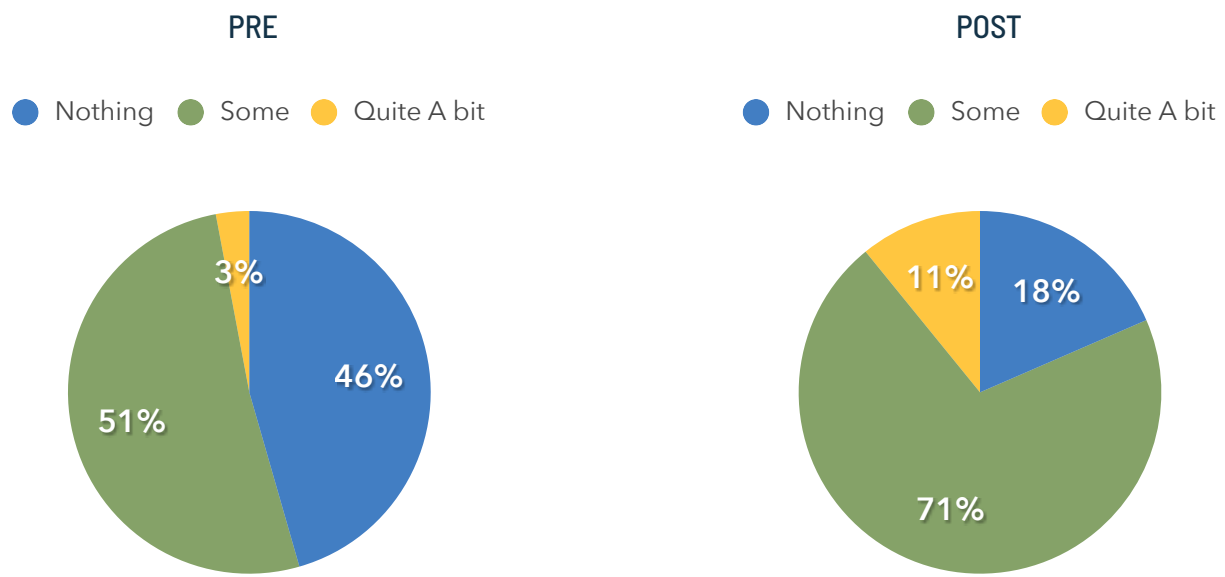
CURRICULUM & SURVEYS

A curriculum for the summit outlined what students could expect from the summit, the experience, themes, and event logistics. It provided a schedule and description of the workshops and expected educational outcomes. A copy of the curriculum is attached to this report in the appendix section.

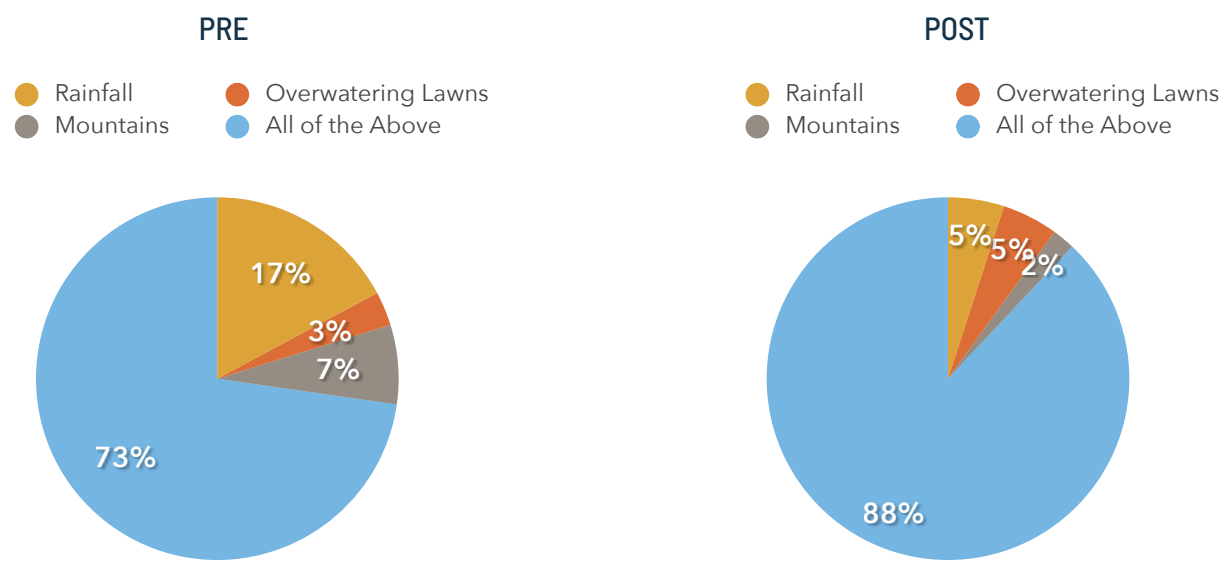
A brief pre-survey was administered to understand the students' general perceptions of the river and water, and to gauge the effectiveness of the educational experience and shifts in thematic literacy based on the topics the students were exposed to at the summit. The following graphs illustrate the shifts in attitude and perception to some of the questions in the survey.

SURVEY RESULTS

How much do you know about the LA River?

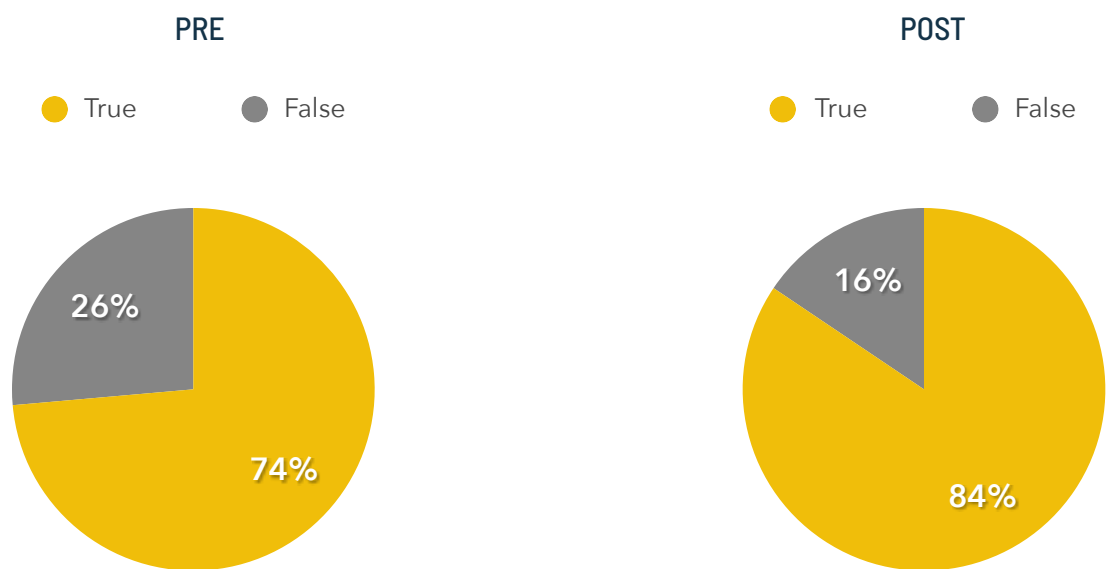


Where does the water in the LA River come from?

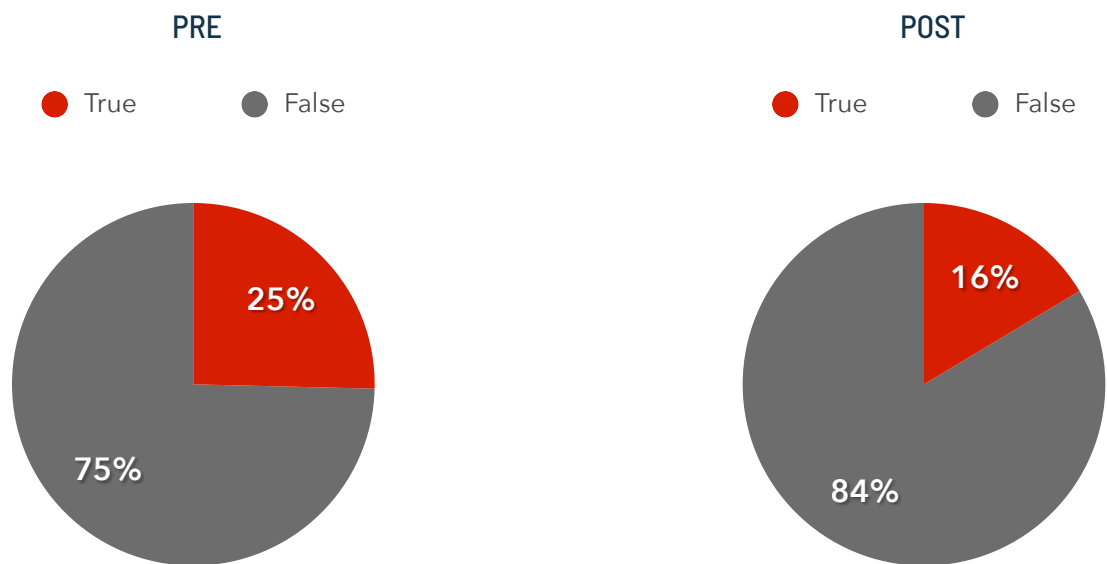


SURVEY RESULTS

The LA Region is within a Global Biodiversity Hotspot.



LA County’s drinking water comes primarily from the LA River.



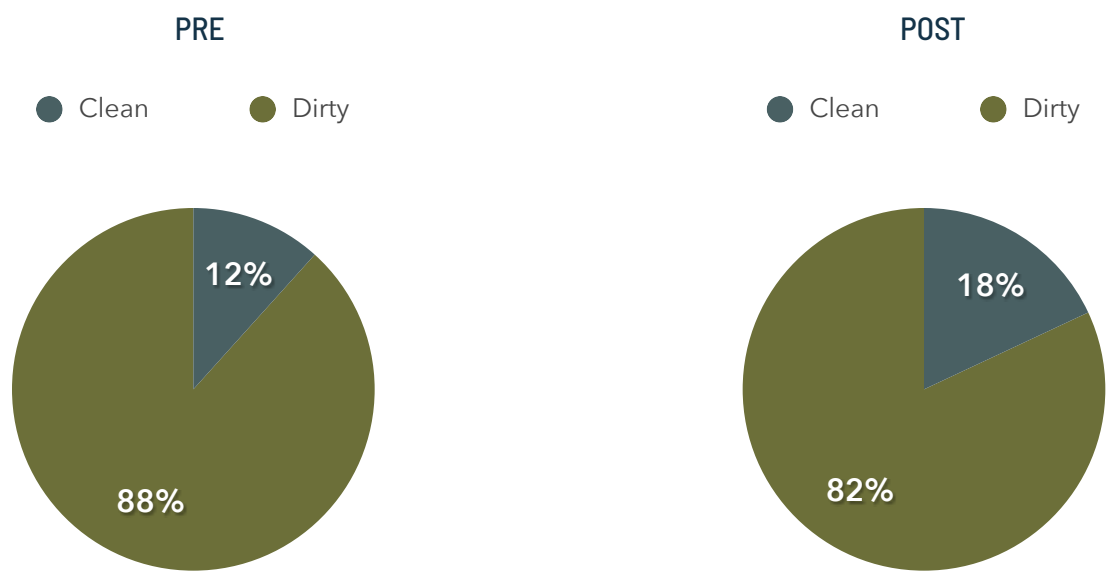
What excites you about the LA River?

“The way it can bring communities together.”

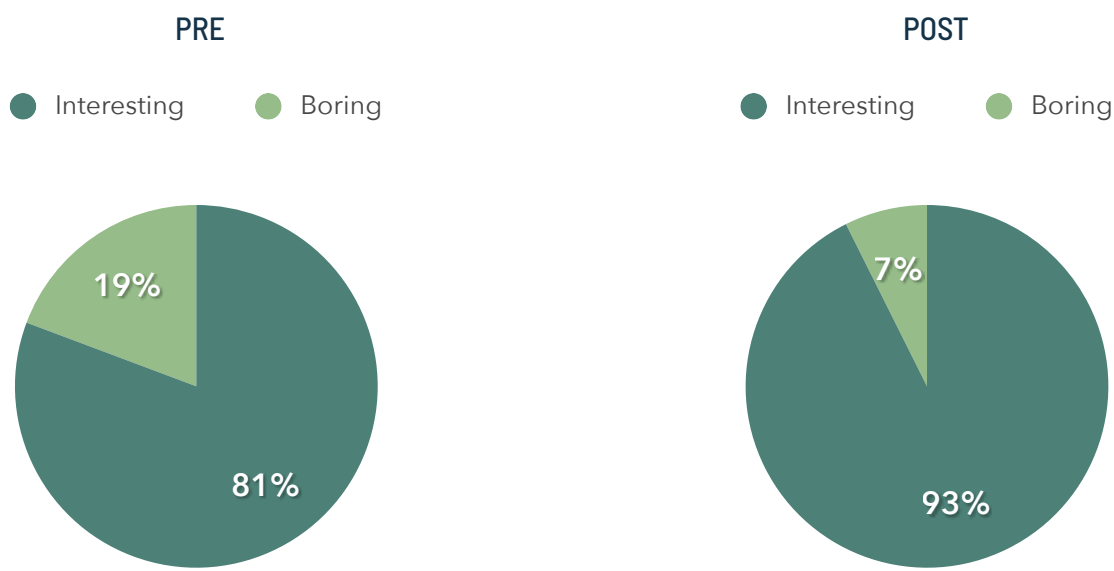


SURVEY RESULTS

The LA River is:

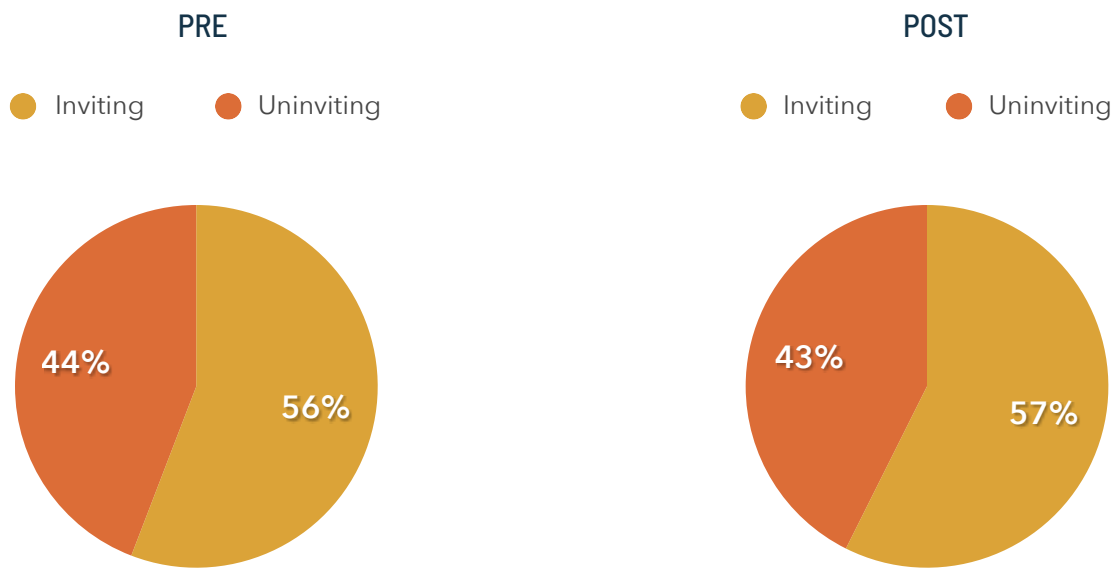


The LA River is:

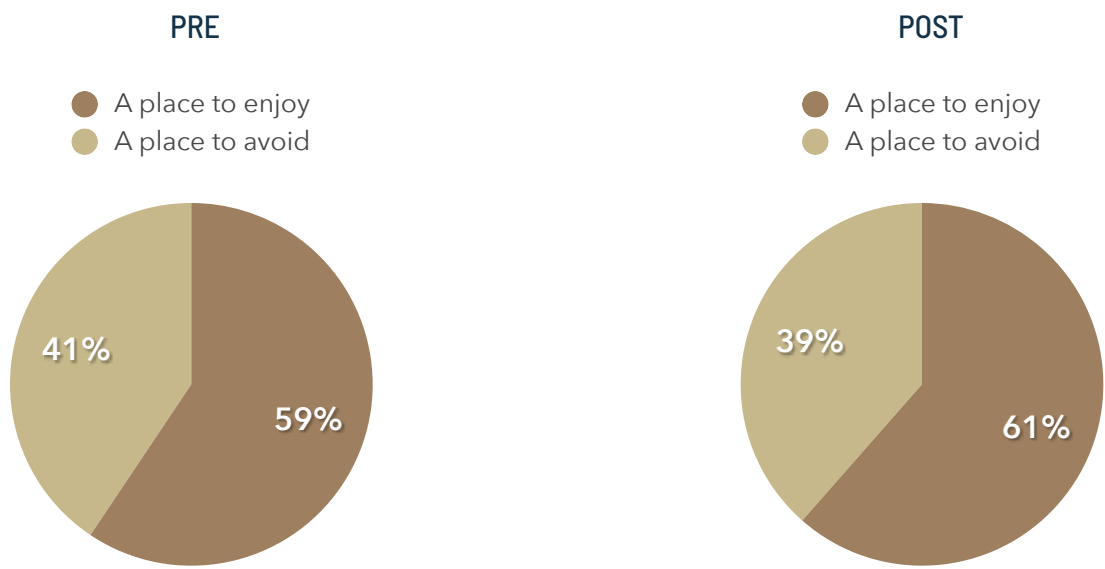


SURVEY RESULTS

The LA River is:



The LA River is:



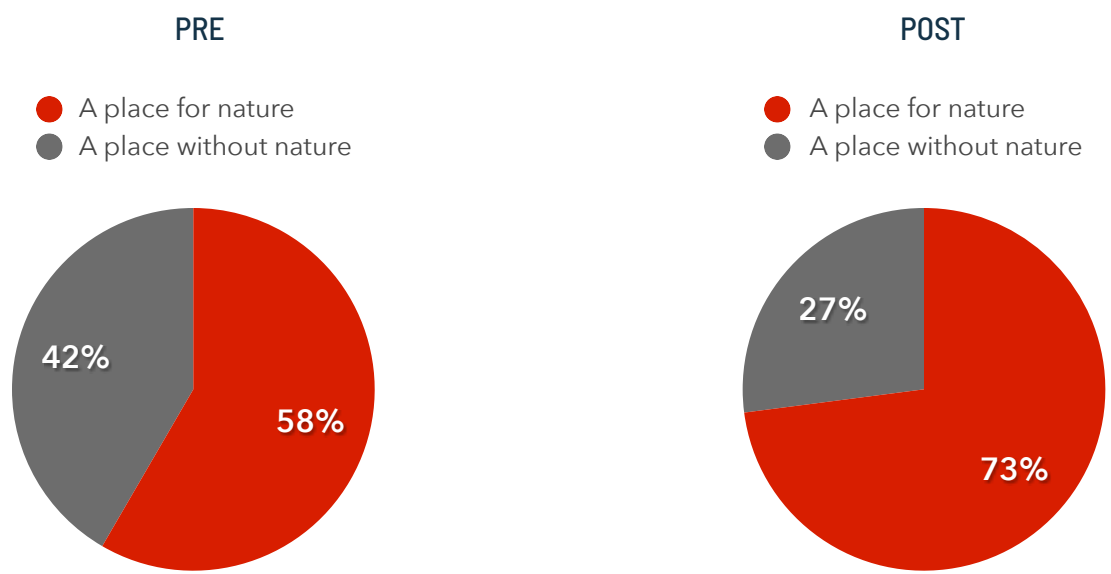
What excites you about the LA River?

“It’s a river.
Rivers are cool.”

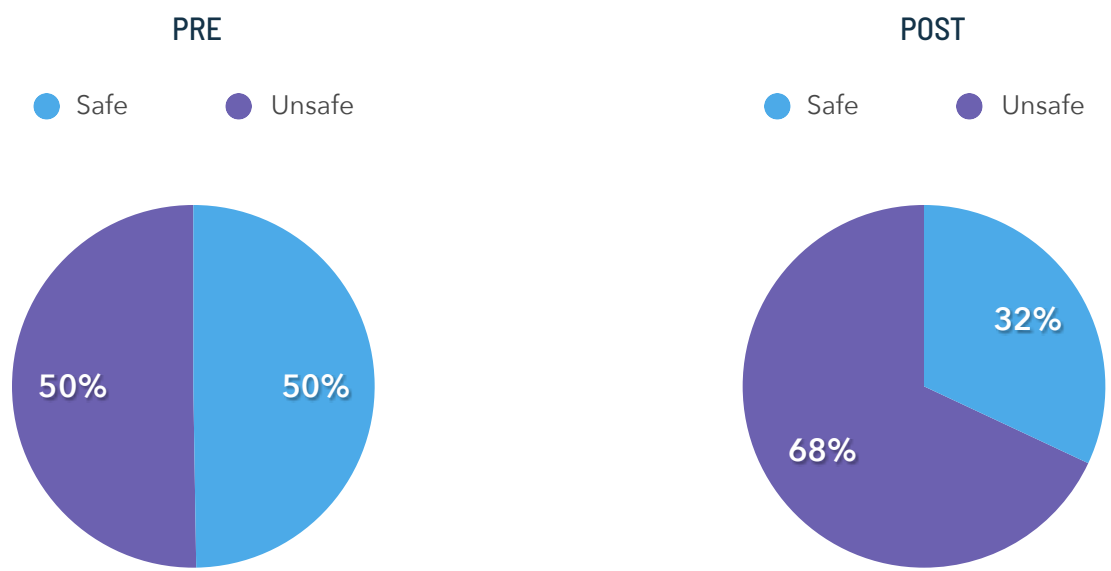


SURVEY RESULTS

The LA River is:

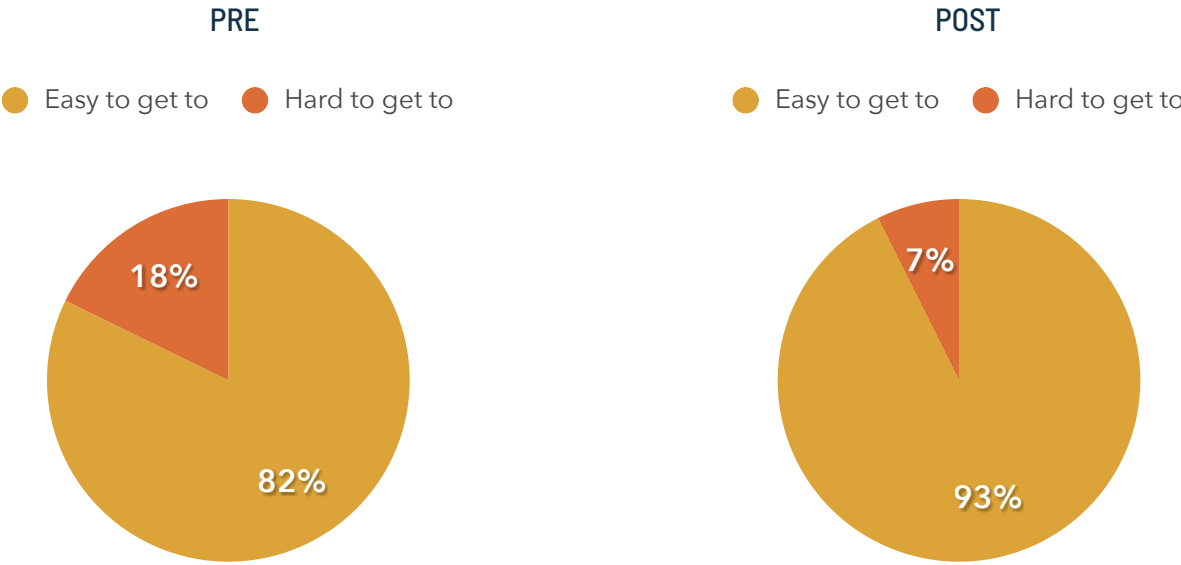


The LA River is:

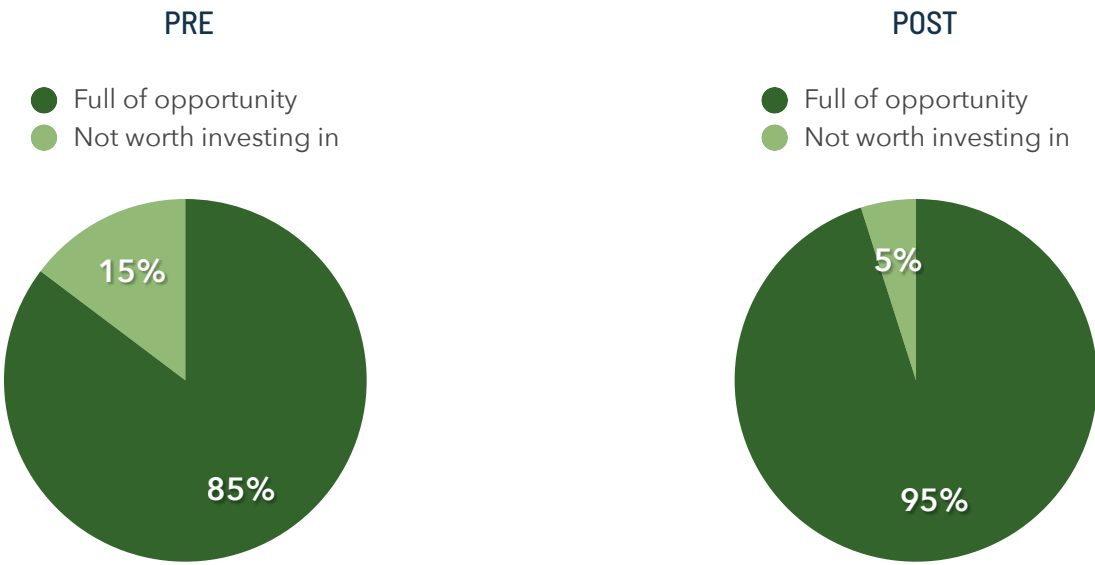


SURVEY RESULTS

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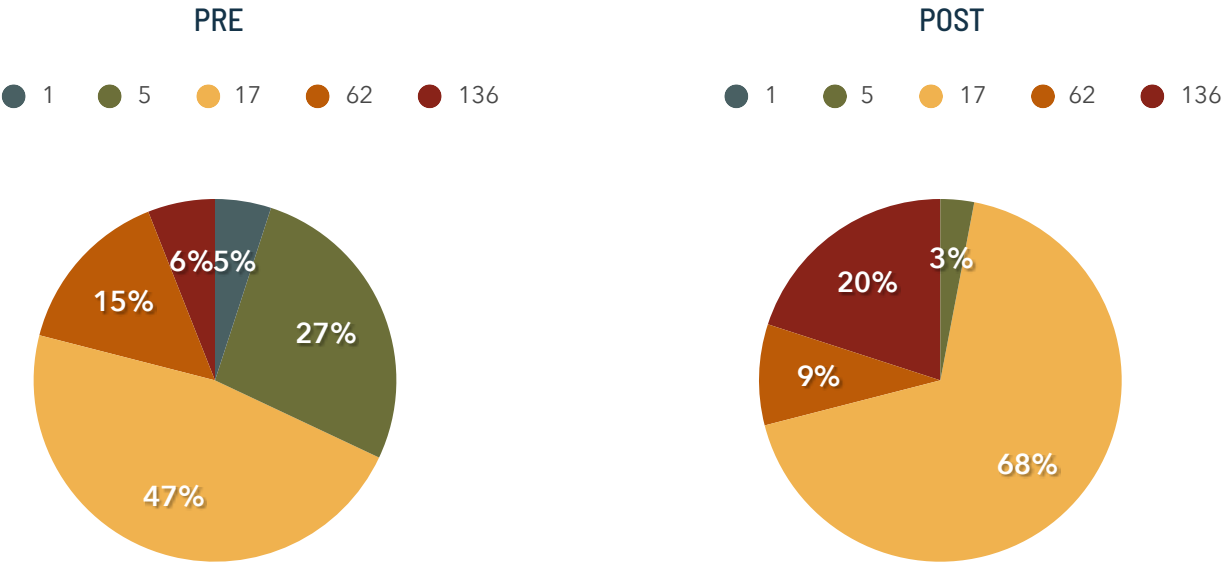


“One thing that excites me about the LA River is that it can play a major role for the cities that surround it.”

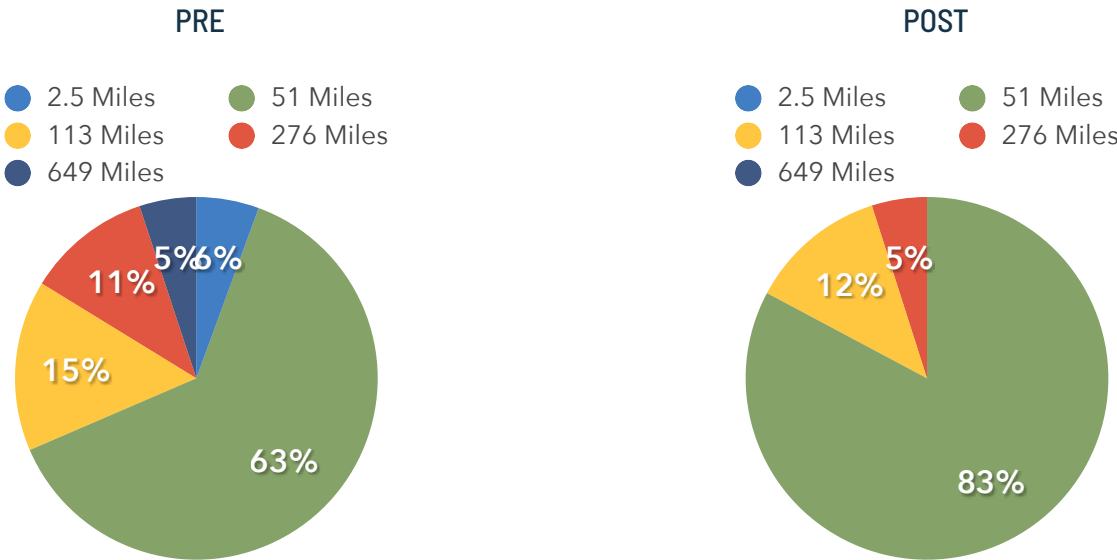


SURVEY RESULTS

How many cities does the river flow through?

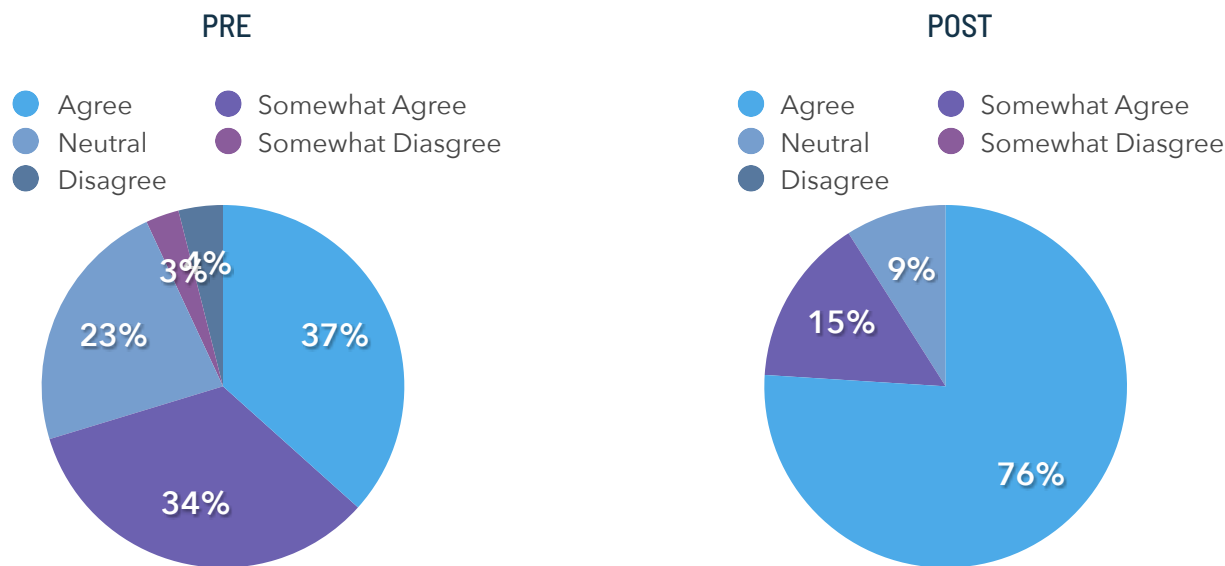


How long is the LA River?

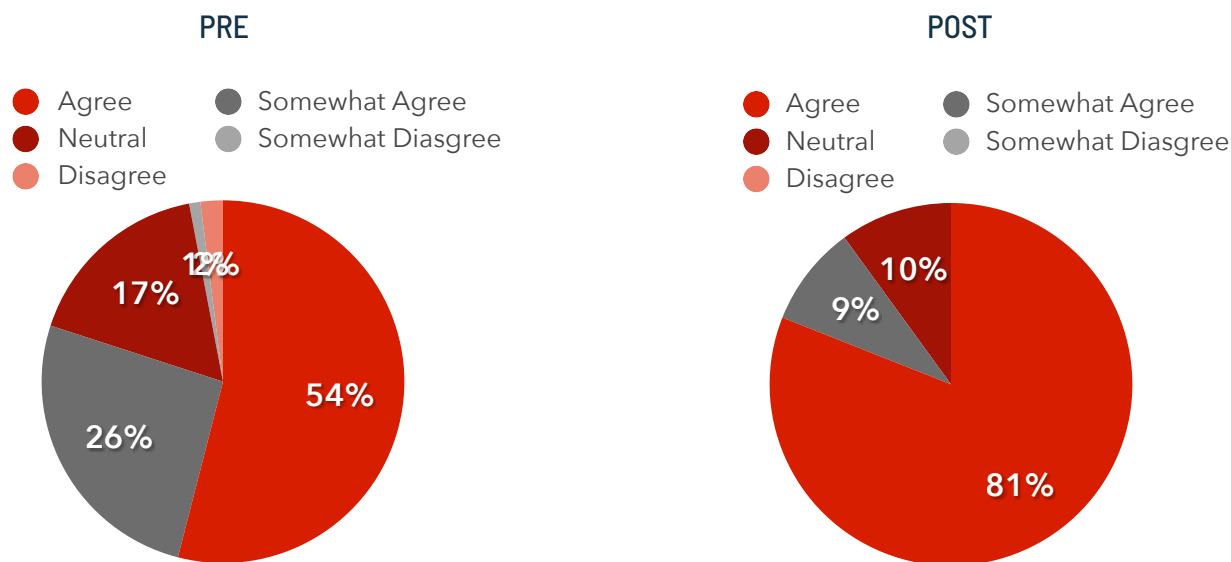


SURVEY RESULTS

I'm interested in the future of the LA River.



I'm interested in helping make the LA River better.



APPENDIX

LA RIVER YOUTH SUMMIT

FALL 2018 - LA Trade Tech

Curriculum November 1, 2018

8:30am - 2:30pm

Los Angeles Trade Tech
400 West Washington Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90015



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 Outdoor Tented Setting

 Indoor Classroom Style

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles County has launched an effort to update the original 1996 LA River Master Plan, synthesizing more recent ideas for portions of the LA River and bringing a comprehensive vision to the transformation of the corridor. Part of the plan's engagement goals are to clearly and consistently communicate opportunities to participate by providing culturally appropriate and interest-relevant outreach and engagement.

Youth engagement and input are identified as important components of this planning effort. We recognize that young adults who are presented with core subject matter information and lesson plans may better form their own views and opinions, which are invaluable data for the planning team. This is why, as part of the engagement activities of the LA River Master Plan Update, the planning team will be hosting a one-day interactive and engaging LA River Youth Summit. The intent of the event is to bring together high-school-age students throughout LA County to learn about the LA River Master Plan effort and share their experiences living in neighborhoods that abut the LA River. The event aims to host 1000 students from 20 high schools, including eight unified school districts, through the LA County region.

When schools, public agencies and community organizations work together to support learning, we all benefit. This planning effort gains great strides in partnering with all of the schools who are participating. The planning team is grateful to all the schools and teachers for their time and commitment to this effort.

Event Information

Thursday, November 1, 2018

8:30am - 2:30pm

Los Angeles Trade Tech

400 West Washington Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90015



EVENT SCHEDULE

TIME FRAME	ACTIVITY
8:30AM	Bus departs from school.
9:00AM-9:40AM	Students and staff arrive at LA Trade Tech based on school's proximity. A live DJ, photo booth, along with some light healthy morning snacks will be provided. Students may complete a short Master Plan Update survey during this time.
9:45AM	Native Land acknowledgement and First People's ceremonial opening by Julia Bogany, Cultural Affairs Officer for the Gabrieliño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians.
10:00AM	Keynote speaker - Large Assembly Area.
10:30AM	Students to regroup into different workshops and activities based on their interest survey responses. Please see campus map for each corresponding workshop location.
10:40AM	Transition time (10 Minutes).
10:50AM	First 30-minute workshop starts.
11:20AM	Transition time (10 Minutes) - Students move to 2nd workshop location.
11:30AM	Second 30-minute workshop starts.
12:00PM	Transition time (10 Minutes) - All students to return to the Large Assembly Area.
12:10PM	Reassemble in the Large Assembly Area to participate in a 30-minute reflection exercise.
12:40PM	Lunch provided on site. Students are encourage to exchange feedback, interact with other educational activities on site, or complete the LA River Master Plan Update survey.
1:30PM	Students and staff depart from LA Trade Tech.
2:30PM	Bus arrives at school.



BUILDING DIRECTORY

AH - Aspen Hall	LA - South Library (non-operational)	SA - Sage Hall
CDC - Child Development Center	LG - Laurel Gymnasium	SQ - Sequoia Hall
CH - Cedar Hall	MA - Mariposa Hall	TH - Toyon Hall
CR - Central Receiving	MH - Magnolia Hall	WH - Willow Hall
CY - Cypress Hall	OH - Oak Hall	
JH - Juniper Hall	OP - Olive St. Parking	MHU - Magnolia Hall Utility
	RH - Redwood Hall	SCU - South Campus Utility

Please NO SMOKING

400 West Washington Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Indoor Classroom - Cedar Hall

Breakout Session - North Quad

Bus Drop-off & pick up

Indoor Classroom - Aspen Hall

Large Assembly Area - South Tent
Registration & Breakout Sessions

- Bus Drop-off & pick up
- Material drop off

Instructor Parking
Parking Entrances may be accessed from:
244 W. 23rd Street, LA 90007 or
245 W. 24th Street, LA 90007

BUILDING DIRECTORY		
AH - Aspen Hall	LA - South Library (non-operational)	SA - Sage Hall
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WORKSHOP CURRICULUM

Instructors

Our goal is to expose high-school-age students to a variety of instructors and teaching styles. These teaching styles range from Power Point presentations, use of visual aids, having curated sessions with multiple instructors, or even using the campus space as their classroom. Selected instructors come from a myriad of fields, with experience ranging from hydrologists, planners, tribal elders, naturalists, NGO representatives, artists and community organizers.

Experience

Given the large number of students in a concentrated time frame, the summit will take place in an educational institution as to provide a similar structure to their everyday school experience. Students will have an opportunity to network and learn from their peers while they discover how their everyday life experiences may relate to the efforts taking place with the LA River Master Plan Update. Our goal is to have students learn why and how these efforts take place and how the subjects presented can lead to civic action within their communities. Workshops topics include: Access and Mobility, Art, Community Science, Hydrology, LA River Watershed, Native Peoples, Planning and Design, and Recreation and Safety. A interest survey will be provided to students prior to the event day for them to rank workshops based on their preference. We will accommodate student's top choices, where possible, for them to attend on the event day.

Evaluation

A brief survey will be administered prior to and after the summit. We will attempt to capture the effectiveness of the educational experience and attitude shifts amongst students based on exposure to topics presented at the LA River Youth Summit. We are sensitive with youth and minor's privacy and protection. The survey responses will be analyzed cumulatively based on schools and workshop sessions.



STUDENT SURVEY

1. How much do you know about the LA River?

- A. Nothing
- B. Some
- C. Quite a bit

2. What excites you about the LA River?

3. What is the Gabrieliño name of the LA River in the LA Basin?

4. Where does the water in the LA River come from?

- A. Rainfall
- B. Overwatering lawns
- C. Mountains
- D. All of the above

5. The LA region is within a Global Biodiversity Hotspot.

- A. True
- B. False

6. When was the last time you visited the LA River or used the LA River Bike Path?

- A. Within the last week
- B. Within the last month
- C. Within the last 6 months
- D. Longer ago
- E. Never

7. LA County's drinking water comes primarily from the LA River.

- A. True
- B. False

8. The LA River is: (select one from each pair)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Clean | Dirty |
| B. Interesting | Boring |
| C. Inviting | Uninviting |
| D. A place to enjoy | A place to avoid |
| E. A place for nature | A place without nature |
| F. Safe | Unsafe |
| G. Easy to get to | Hard to get to |
| H. Full of opportunity | Not worth investing in |

9. How many cities does the LA River flow through?

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| A. 1 | D. 62 |
| B. 5 | E. 136 |
| C. 17 | |

10. How long is the LA River?

- A. 2.5 miles
- B. 51 miles
- C. 113 miles
- D. 276 miles
- E. 649 miles

11. I'm interested in the future of the LA River.

- A. Agree
- B. Somewhat agree
- C. Neutral
- D. Somewhat disagree
- E. Disagree

12. I'm interested in helping make the LA River better.

- A. Agree
- B. Somewhat agree
- C. Neutral
- D. Somewhat disagree
- E. Disagree



ACCESS & MOBILITY

Metro's Los Angeles River Path Project



Instructor(s): METRO

Classroom setting: Outdoor Tented Setting - South Tent

Experience: Students will learn about Metro's Los Angeles River Path Project which will design and construct a bike path along an eight-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River. Starting from Elysian Valley through Downtown Los Angeles to the City of Vernon this project will be closing the longest remaining continuous gap in the Los Angeles River Bike Path. Students will be asked to answer questions through an activity and interactive boards based on what they would like included in the design of the project and concerns with the current study area.



ART

Community, Art, and Culture



Instructor(s): David Flores, Las Cafeteras - Curated by LA County Arts Commission

Classroom setting: Outdoor Tented Setting - South Tent

Experience: Join us for an exploration of the LA River through music, video, storytelling and art. DIY and amplify your voice to shape the future of your neighborhoods along the River to learn and take steps to be agents of change in your communities.

Led by David Flores, members of Las Cafeteras will use storytelling, music, art, video and poetry to engage with students. Las Cafeteras bridges music, art, and social justice in dynamic, educational, and one of a kind performances. They fuse traditional & modern beats with timely stories from the streets of Los Angeles. Known for their energetic bilingual performances, they combine Afro-Mexican (son jarocho), hip hop, folk, and Native American styles with a community focused message.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Using Your Smartphone for Science!



Instructor(s): Lila Higgins, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County/La Brea Tar Pits Museum

Classroom setting: Outdoor, Campus Exploration - North Quad

Experience: Students will learn how to become community scientists and collect biodiversity data using their smartphones.

We will be utilizing technology that students often get in trouble for using during the school day. We will be teaching them how to harness the power of their phones for real scientific exploration, particularly in the context of the LA River. If time permits, we will be exploring an outdoor space and taking photos of nature they find. We will also be employing storytelling (sharing other youth's community science stories), exploration of real objects, and hands-on instruction for their phones. Lastly, we always employ multi-modal techniques in our educational experiences, in order to meet a diversity of learning styles.



HYDROLOGY

Go with the Flow - Hydrology of the LA River



Instructor(s): Mark Hanna, Geosyntec Consultants

Classroom setting: Indoor classroom - Aspen Hall

Experience: Students will gain a solid understanding of how rainfall and dry-weather flow (e.g. car washing, over-watering, etc.) reach the Los Angeles River. When it rains in the mountains surrounding Los Angeles, and on our yards and streets, some of that water seeps into the ground or is soaked up by plants; however much of the water is raced to the ocean through our storm drain network. Following the session, students will understand the difference between a natural and engineered watershed, and will gain a solid understanding of the issues surrounding stormwater including water supply, water quality, and flood control.

Using a watershed approach, this session will engage the students by having students identify locations of interest to them to show examples of the water resource issues in their neighborhoods, and connecting them to the LA River.



LA RIVER WATERSHED

The LA River Rover - Past, Present and Possible Future



Instructor(s): Liliana Griego, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR)

Classroom setting: Outdoor, LA River Rover - South Tent

Experience: FoLAR staff will use interpretive and interactive exhibits, including a custom-designed LA River watershed, to engage, educate and inspire students.

Topics will include:

- A big picture overview.
- Biodiversity, food web and the connection between pollutants from stormwater runoff, how it enters the River and the ocean connection.
- What is a watershed and how does it function?
- What was the River like before channelization and what is it like now?
- What will the River look like in the Future? A design activity.



NATIVE PEOPLES

A Native American Perspective



Instructor(s): Julia Bogany, Cultural Affairs Officer for the Gabrieliño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians

Classroom setting: Outdoor Tented Setting - South Tent

Experience: Julia will set the stage with a video titled "Where's the Water". This lesson plan will focus on the native flora and fauna of the LA River watershed and their importance and relationship to native people. Students will gain an understanding that we are not just individual reflections on the River but rather a collective reflection of entire communities inclusive of all people. The responsibility of the River's stewardship falls on all of us jointly.



PLANNING & DESIGN

My Community, My Voice, My River



Instructor(s): Jessica Henson, OLIN

Classroom setting: Indoor classroom - Cedar Hall

Experience: Students will learn about the relationship of the river to neighboring communities and the people that live there. We will explore what urban designers and landscape architects do and how youth are critical voices in planning for the future of our river and our communities. Students will gain knowledge of how design shapes the future.

Students will be asked to participate in the creation of a river tapestry of memories, ideas, dreams, and stories about their neighborhood and the river. This large scale paper collage will help students spatially understand the river and the communities along its banks and dream about what is possible for the future.



RECREATION & SAFETY

Envisioning a Ranger of the LA River



Instructor(s): Sally Gee, Watershed Conservation Authority

Classroom setting: Outdoor Tented Setting - North Quad

Experience: Students will be introduced to the LA River and provided with information about the River Ranger Program. The students will be able to participate in shaping the vision of River Rangers Program and how that may facilitate their recreation in the LA River. We hope from this workshop, students would feel excited about the Program and support its implementation, while feeling like they have contributed to the development of a resource for their communities.

Students will be able to engage in group discussions with workshop facilitators about the River Ranger Program, including interactions with a current Ranger. Examples of discussion topics include perspectives from a current Ranger about their work, student's perspectives about a River Ranger Program, and opportunities for students to be Stewards of the River.



PLANNING TEAM & PARTNERS

PLANNING TEAM

LA County Board of Supervisors

LA County Public Works

DakeLuna Consultants

Geosyntec

Mercury

OLIN

River LA

PARTNERS

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR)

Gabrieliño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians

Los Angeles LA TradeTech

Las Cafeteras

LA County Arts Commission

METRO

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County/La Brea Tar Pits Museum

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy / Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy





Legend:

- Pedestrian Bicycle Ways / Puntos para peatones y bicicletas
- Bridge Access Ramps / Rampas de acceso a puentes
- Regional Gateways / Puntos de acceso a la región
- Neighborhood C / Vecinos a Barrios
- Infrastructure / Infraestructura
- Bridge / Puente
- River / Río
- Street-E / Calle
- Promenade / Promenade
- Expanded Trail / Sendero Expandido
- Multi-Use Trail Corridor / Sendero Multi-uso
- Bike Path Corridor / Sendero para bicicletas

Starbucks

LA River Master Plan



LA RIVER YOUTH SUMMIT - LA Trade Tech - November 1, 2018

www.larivermasterplan.org