



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fwd: FW: Need for Park Rangers in the Sepulveda Basin

1 message

Debra George <debraleegeorge@gmail.com>
To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 12:18 PM

Council File 12-0899-S1

From: Muriel Kotin [mailto:akotin@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 11:57 AM
To: 'tom.labonge@lacity.org'
Subject: Need for Park Rangers in the Sepulveda Basin

Dear Councilman LaBonge,

Regarding Council File 12-0899-S1

It has been several years since there has been a park ranger presence in the Sepulveda Basin. The rangers are sorely missed! Without a ranger presence, there is essentially no enforcement of park rules. This greatly degrades the parks in Sepulveda Basin, especially my favorite part, the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. The Wildlife Reserve is an important wildlife refuge in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. Visitors from the entire Los Angeles region visit it for birdwatching and photography.

Since I am a birdwatcher and leader of nature walks for children and the public, most my visits to the Sepulveda Basin are spent at the Wildlife Reserve. Since the park rangers were pulled from patrolling Sepulveda Basin, fishing in the Wildlife Lake has become a plague. Fishing lines and hooks entangle birds, killing them. Fishing lines and hooks dangle from trees, as sometimes do large dead birds such as cormorants. A few persons even throw rocks at the large birds, such as hawks, herons, egrets and cormorants, sometimes killing them. I have seen photos of people hunting there.

What do you tell a group of school children who have been enchanted by the birds and plants in the Wildlife Reserve and learning about the web of life there, when they see a man throwing rocks at a great blue heron? What do you tell them about the corpse of a cormorant dangling from a tree, hanged by fishing line? What do you tell them about dogs being walked, often even off leash, shortly after they pass signs saying dogs are not allowed?

What do you tell people who say they have brought their dogs with them despite the signs, who tell you they feel unsafe in the park without their dogs to protect them? Dog walkers regularly bring their dogs off

leash into Woodley Park and the Wildlife Reserve. About a year ago, when many birdwatchers from throughout the region were visiting the Wildlife Reserve to see an unusual hawk, several expressed disgust on the internet at the huge numbers of used condoms they encountered.

Please bring back a ranger presence to the Sepulveda Basin to reduce the misuses of the Wildlife Reserve and Woodley Park!

Sincerely,

Muriel S. Kotin, Youth Activities Chair, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

6801 Las Olas Way

Malibu, CA 90265