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## Griffith Park: Council File: Council Files 14-0588 and 14-0589 and

1 message

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**Richard Stanley** <rstanley@richardstanleyrealtor.com>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 1:28 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

From: Richard Stanley; 1971 DeMille Dr.; L.A. 90027

### **Developing Griffith Park Open Space is a Poor Use of a Scarce Public Resource**

Griffith Park is an urban island of mostly unspoiled, natural terrain. Relatively little of the Park is level land. Crystal Springs is one of those rare, level parts of the Park. It is the sole large group picnic area. There is also a baseball diamond there already that must be reserved in advance, is locked and is seasonally and rarely used. The picnic area is in constant use, especially on weekends and holidays—all year long.

To bulldoze this area of mature trees and expansive lawns for another locked, rarely used, special-interest use is unconscionable and misbegotten. A better solution would be to use brown fields, such as the Taylor Yards, for baseball fields. The Crystal Springs site is not close to any population centers. It is not accessible easily by children. A forward-thinking solution for new baseball fields would be to locate them where children live—not in remote Griffith Park.

Getting to Griffith Park usually requires a car ride—often on the Golden State Freeway, which backs up dangerously when crowds are drawn to the Zoo/Autry area. Adding more traffic to an already overloaded freeway interchange (Zoo Drive) is inviting catastrophe.

The city's thinking is "build it and the kids will come". The reasoning should be "built it where the kids live and they will surely come on their own."

Once the open space of Crystal Springs is gone, it will be gone forever. We citizens of Los Angeles deserve to leave a better legacy of our time than to squander precious open parkland shamefully.

I feel the same way about the proposed Performing Arts project at the Old Zoo. I live in Los Feliz. I am very concerned about the increased use of the Park at night. One careless cigarette and the Park could suffer another out-of-control, nighttime brush fire that could devastate Los Feliz, as happened in Berkeley and the Oakland Hills.

Griffith Park does not need more development. The city has done a poor job maintaining the Park improvements that are there now, e.g., Fern Dell. The city doesn't need, and can't afford, an increased maintenance load.

**Please leave Griffith Park alone.**



## Richard Stanley

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