

# Audubon Center at Debs Park

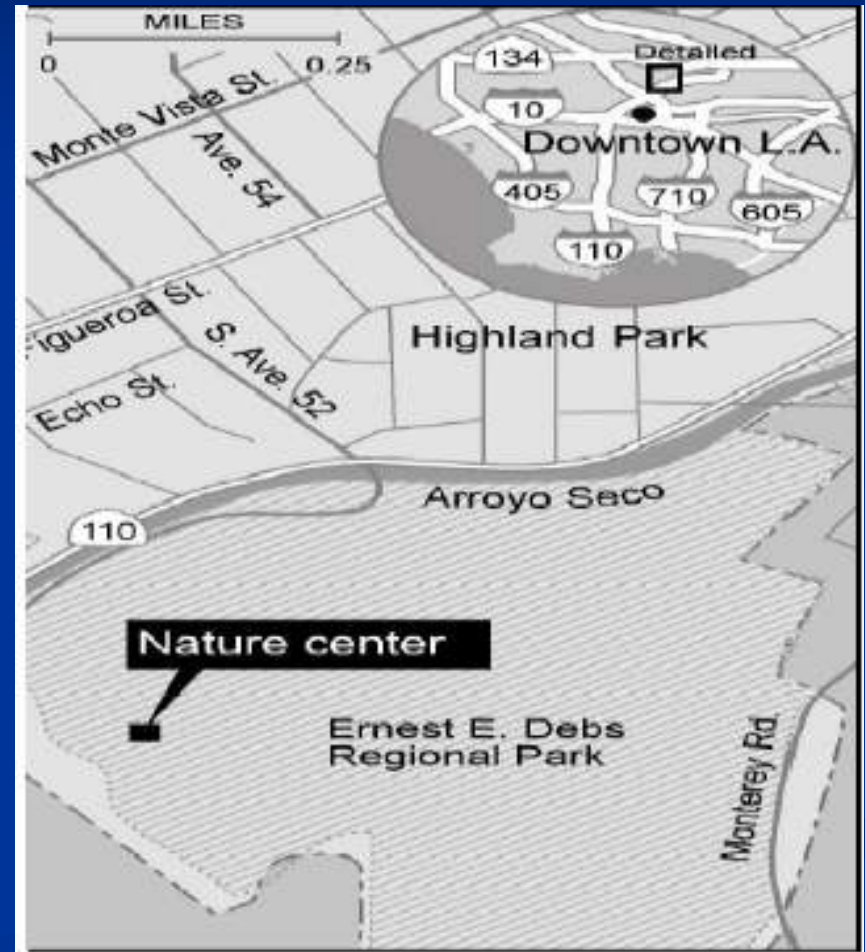
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Green Design & The City

# Opening Eyes to Nature – The Area & Its People

- Surrounding area is L.A.'s most over-crowded.
- Median household income is one of the lowest.
- >50,000 school age children within 2 miles
- Previous local “development” projects



# Opening Eyes to Nature – The Beginnings

- Melanie Ingalls - Senior Project Manager for the California Audubon Society
- Elsa Lopez – Mothers of East L.A.



# Opening Eyes to Nature – The Center & Debs Park

- Ernest E. Debs Park (est. 1952) – 282 acres of “preserved land” owned by L.A. Dept of Recreation & Parks
- Audubon Center (est. 2003) occupies 17 acres
- Funding



# Opening Eyes to Nature – Green Design

“The building should not just be one you learn in , but learn from” – Elsa Lopez



Audubon Center at Debs Park

# Opening Eyes to Nature – Green Design

- The First Leed 2 Platinum Building
- Functions entirely off of sewage & power grids
- Concrete & steel rebar structure
- Cabinets, countertops, and carpets



# Opening Eyes to Nature – Green Design

- 50% of building materials manufactured locally
- 97% of construction debris was recycled
- Re-circulating fountain
- Native vegetation & habitat restoration – 4 biomes
- Daylighting, natural heating & cooling, low VOC materials, sustainable wood, etc....



# Opening Eyes to Nature – Learning Green



“With family-oriented educational programs, the Audubon Center at Debs Park will address these disparities, and will serve as a model for urban nature centers across the country”

– Audubon CA.

# Opening Eyes to Nature – Learning Green

- Kids Programs & Facilities
  - Children's Woodlands
  - Children's Garden Project
  - Kids Theme Packs – insect nets, magnifying glass, water color paint sets, nature journals, leaf tracing sets, and more...
- Adult Programs & Facilities
  - REI – outdoor fitness program
  - Cooking
  - Painting
  - Available binoculars, tri-cycle jogging strollers, and infant backpacks
- Teachers & School Groups



# Opening Eyes to Nature – Learning Green

- Family Programs
  - Weekend full-day programs – guided bird &/or nature hikes, storytelling, astronomy
  - Weeknight – “Full Moon Hikes” for nocturnal creatures
  - Fishing
  - “Start our Bus” Fundraisers
  - Family “Back Bark Explorers” packs



# Opening Eyes to Nature – Thoughts

- Success?
- Can it be done elsewhere?



# Sources

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