



**For Immediate Release**

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**Harvard-Westlake River Park Moves Forward as City Releases Draft Environmental Impact Report**  
*Report finds no significant and unavoidable operating impacts of shared recreational space*

**Studio City** - Harvard-Westlake School achieved a major milestone today when the City of Los Angeles released a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) that concluded that its River Park project would result in less than significant operational impacts to the environment in every area studied.

The DEIR examined a broad array of environmental issues, from transportation and cultural resources to biological resources and greenhouse gas emissions at the proposed Harvard-Westlake River Park, which would repurpose the Weddington Golf & Tennis property in Studio City into an athletic, recreational, and park center available to the school and the public.

Visit the City Planning Department website to download the DEIR here:

<https://planning.lacity.org/development-services/eir/harvard-westlake-river-park-project-0>

“The River Park is an extraordinary example of river redevelopment, and we hope it will serve as a new model for how projects can incorporate multi-use, public-private components,” said Rick Commons, Harvard-Westlake President and Head of School. “We have worked hard to ensure that our proposal is responsive to the needs of our students and the community, without causing negative impacts on our neighbors. It is immensely gratifying to know that the City’s thorough environmental review validates our vision for the River Park.”

While there will not be any significant environmental impacts during project operation, noise during certain phases of construction of the project could be a temporary impact based upon the City’s conservative analysis, which is the case for most development proposals in urban areas.

The plan, designed by Gensler and Studio-MLA, proposes a 16-acre park with athletic and recreational amenities for use by Harvard-Westlake students and members of the general public. The proposal for the site along Whitsett Avenue adjacent to the LA River calls for retaining the current Weddington clubhouse, café, and putting green. New construction includes a gymnasium, two playing fields, a running track, eight tennis courts, and a swimming pool. Those facilities will be available for public use, as will nearly six acres of plazas, lawns, and wooded areas that will be publicly accessible from dawn to dusk.

The plans also include a state-of-the-art water reclamation system that will capture, clean, and reuse stormwater run-off from both the project site and the adjacent residential neighborhood to the north. As the largest privately-built system of its kind in the City of Los Angeles, it is an example of the school’s commitment to developing an environmentally responsible project.

The DEIR release marks the start of the public review and comment period on the document, which will be followed by public hearings before the City Planning Commission and Los Angeles City Council. Those hearings are expected to begin later this year.

With the DEIR now available for public review on the City Planning Department's website, school staff will continue to engage with community stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue about the features and benefits of the River Park.

"The River Park affirms our school's commitment to environmental sustainability and preserves this urban open space for years to come," said Commons. "We have spent much of the last several years discussing our plan with our Studio City neighbors and we look forward to continuing the conversation in the months ahead."

For more details on the Harvard-Westlake River Park, please visit [www.hwriverpark.com](http://www.hwriverpark.com).

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