

## Runyon Canyon Park expands with purchase of private property

■ Councilman helped expedite process for 15 acres

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Visitors to Runyon Canyon Park in Hollywood are celebrating after the city of Los Angeles acquired a 14.9-acre property that will be annexed into the park.

The property is located at 2450 Solar Dr. in the Hollywood Hills and includes a trail and hilltop in the northwest portion of the park. The \$8.75 million land purchase was made possible through a part-

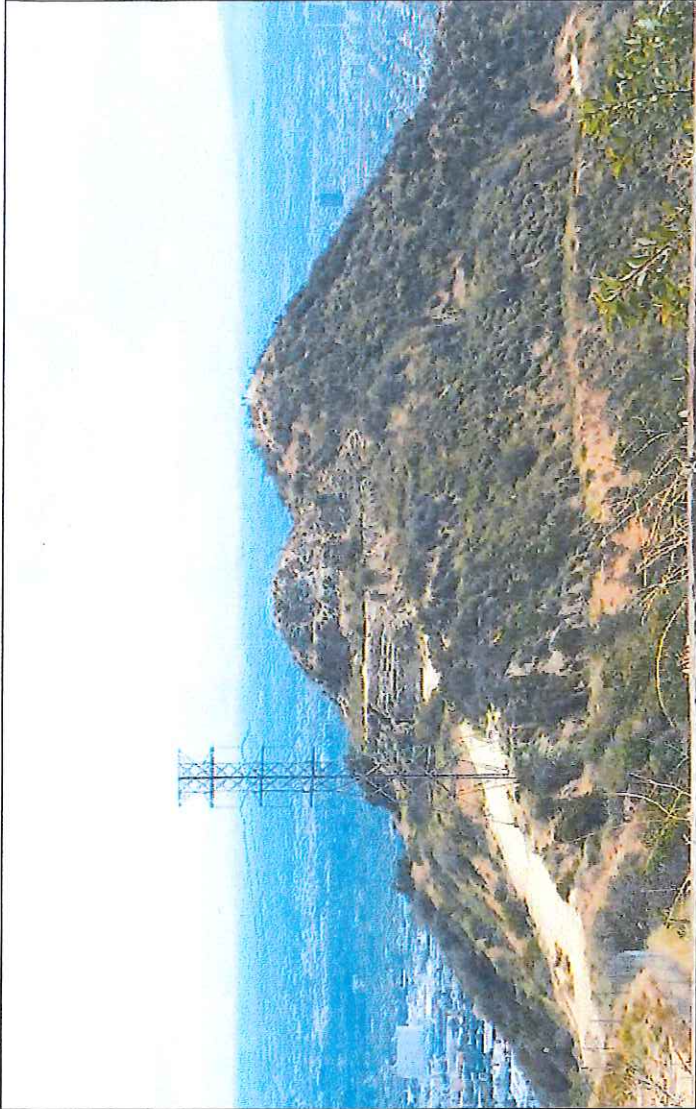
and the Trust for Public Land is contributing \$4.45 million. The funding from the Trust for Public Land comes from donations and grants. The Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation provided \$850,000.

"I am extremely happy. It's a very positive thing," said Don Andres, president of the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation. "People in the community have been trying to preserve the area for well over a decade. It shows the importance of a private foundation working to improve our parks."

Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, supported the land acquisition. In February, the city loaned the Trust for Public Land \$1.5 million because it was uncertain whether the organization would receive promised grants in time for the purchase. Ryu helped expedite the process.

"Runyon Canyon is a beloved regional park that serves as a significant recreational resource for the people of Los Angeles. This purchase will expand our city's open and green spaces, protect our natural habitats and create healthier communities for all," Ryu said. "Most importantly, the newly acquired 14.9 acres will forever be removed from the threat of development and instead preserved for many generations to come."

Groups involved with the pur-



The land acquired for Runyon Canyon Park includes a trail and hilltop with views of the Los Angeles skyline. photo courtesy of Don Andres

chase were concerned the property would be privately developed. Andres added that the parcel will be beneficial to wildlife that lives in the park in the hills northwest of La Brea and Franklin Avenues. Representatives of the Trust for Public Land also praised the acquisition.

"Expanding Runyon Canyon is a victory for the millions of Angelenos who regularly visit this park to get outdoors," said Tori Kjer, Los Angeles program director for the Trust for Public Land. "This trail and knoll are one of the most popular spots in Runyon Canyon and this is a perfect example of the value of investing in natural outdoor spaces for our densest urban communities." Funding came from Los Angeles County Prop. A, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Prop. 1, city of Los Angeles Prop. K, the Friends of Runyon Canyon grant, a California Natural Resources Agency EEMP grant and a California Department of Parks and Recreation Statewide Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. Other local government officials commended the partnership that led to the land acquisition.

"I want to thank all the local government agencies and community groups who helped pull together the funds needed to expand this fantas-

tic resource," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District. "This is a great example of local government agencies working together with the public to expand and protect a resource that benefits everyone."

The purchase ensures hikers and park visitors can continue enjoying the site in perpetuity.

"Runyon Canyon Park is a local treasure and we will continue to do everything possible to conserve this land to ensure Angelenos and visitors are able to enjoy recreational activities at the park for generations to come," said Michael Shull, general manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

**"This trail and knoll are one of the most popular spots in Runyon Canyon and this is a perfect example of the value of investing in natural outdoor spaces for our densest urban communities."**

-Tori Kjer  
program director for the Trust  
for Public Land

nership between the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Trust for Public Land. The city is providing \$4.3 million



**AB 25 MODIFIED TOUR BUSES**  
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN**

**Background:**

Existing law requires that charter-party carriers of passengers obtain a permit from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and register all individual buses with the PUC. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is required to annually inspect the carrier's fleet to verify that the buses are being properly maintained.

Some businesses, particularly in Los Angeles, are operating vehicles that have undergone significant structural modifications. For example, buses with the roofs completely chopped off transporting tourists are commonplace throughout the city. Often times, these modifications to the roof have meant adjustments or removal to other vital components as well: the anchorages of seat belts, frame rails, etc.

Unfortunately, the CHP is unable to determine engineered structural integrity of these vehicles, despite the concern for which comes from removing the original roof.

**This bill:**

1) AB 25 includes in the definition of a 'tour bus,' as either a bus operated by a charter party carrier (PUC § 5360) or a passenger stage corporation (PUC § 226) that has had its roof modified or removed, or has had other major structural modifications not performed by the manufacturer.

The bill requires the CHP, no later than July 1, 2018, to develop and implement an inspection and certification program for tour buses.

Beginning July 1, 2018, a modified tour bus shall not operate without undergoing inspection and certification by the CHP. Any modified tour bus without inspection by the CHP and not certified as safe shall be prohibited from operating and removed from the highway.

2) The bill also authorizes local jurisdictions to restrict the routes or streets upon which modified tour buses may be operated if the jurisdiction determines that it is unsafe to operate on those routes.

3) This bill would extend to the Attorney General, district attorney, and city attorney, as applicable, the same ability granted to CHP to recommend to the PUC that a carrier's operating authority be suspended, denied, or revoked for consistent noncompliance with vehicle codes and regulations.

**Purpose:**

After a three-part investigation by a local news station in Los Angeles late last year, a host of concerns with these businesses came to light. From blatant misinformation about the addresses of celebrities to the removal of seatbelts altogether, the investigation revealed how little the public knows about these buses.

In fact, as a result of the investigation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) submitted letters to operators of these modified tour buses stating, "[NHTSA is] concerned that you are putting the safety of your passengers and employees at risk and urge you to discontinue use of these vehicles."

This bill would develop an inspection program consisting of standards that ensure the safe operation of these vehicles while allowing the tourism industry to continue to thrive.

**Support:**

None on file

**Opposition:**

None on file.

**Staff Contact:**

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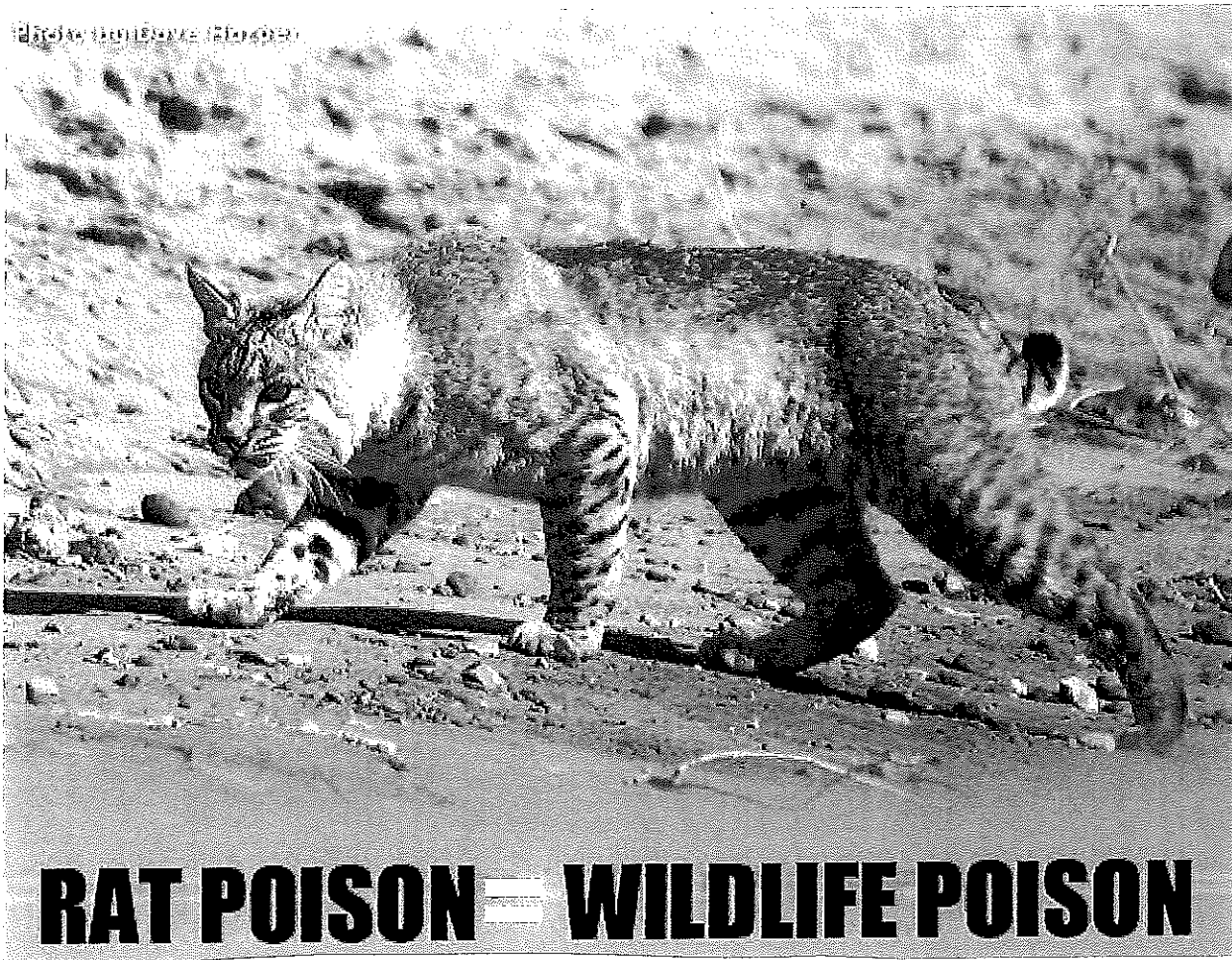
If you want to preserve the Ethel Guiberson/Hannah J Carter Garden, you can help to make this happen!

This can be achieved by having the the Ethel Guiberson/Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, located at 10619 West Bellagio Road, entered in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments by the City of Los Angeles.

I hope you (and your interested friends/Boards) will email a short letter ASAP to the members of the LA City Council PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee, requesting that those members vote in favor of making the garden a Historic Cultural Monument (HCM).

In the Subject Line please refer to "Council File 17-0156, the Ethel Guiberson/Hannah Carter Japanese Garden"

We have supported the efforts of Save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, hoping to stop the sale of the garden by UCLA to the highest bidder. After multiple costly legal battles with the University of California Board of Regents and with UCLA representatives, Hannah Carter's family agreed to a settlement, whereby the Garden would be preserved by the purchaser and UCLA for a period of 30 years. The Garden has already been purchased, but UCLA must make sure it is protected and preserved for those 30 years. The LA Conservancy and Garden Conservancy groups, the Caldwells, as well as other dedicated individuals, have never given up on *preserving the Garden in perpetuity*. Let's do our part!



The Hillside Federation took a position to ban the use of rodenticides (rat poison) in the City of Los Angeles in February, 2014. Assemblymember Richard Bloom's bill, AB 1687, would ban rodenticides in the state. Please call or email Assemblymember Quirk and your own assemblymember and urge their support of AB 1687.

Marian Dodge, Chairman  
Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc.  
[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

From Poison Free Malibu:

We are working with our northern California ally, *Raptors are the Solution*, on new California legislation to restrict the rat poisons that are killing our wildlife.

**Bottom line:** We need people to make a call to Assemblymember Bill Quirk, (916) 319-3965, as soon as possible. Assemblymember Quirk is the Chair of the "ESTM" committee that first considers our bill, and it is not getting high enough priority with limited time left.

The message is simple - Please do something about the poisoning of our wildlife by rat poison. For the purposes of this phone call, all that is needed is to express your concern and to request that Assemblymember Richard Bloom's bill, AB 1687, be supported.

Thank you,  
Poison Free Malibu  
Web: [PoisonFreeMalibu.org](http://PoisonFreeMalibu.org)  
Facebook: Poison Free Malibu