

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood
Candidate Statement

First Name: Laura Last Name: Howe

District A encompasses Griffith Park which is a treasure to the entire Los Angeles area. As a stake holder in District A, I am asking for your vote for the Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. I am a community member who recreates in the park almost everyday and feel something should be given back to this place which gives so much, to so many people. We must work together to ensure that the educational and recreational opportunities are available for everyone to enjoy.

Thousands come to Griffith Park everyday for recreation, employment, education, volunteerism, and peace of mind. The park is both unique and vital in so many ways. It is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. It is home to several native flora and fauna seen only within the boundaries of this park. What an amazing educational opportunity, for children to witness nature in its many states of growth and regeneration, who might not otherwise get that chance. It is a never ending source of learning as an urban wilderness. I feel as a citizen of this community an obligation to see that it is cared for and preserved properly. It is our job to keep it clean, green, and safe for all to enjoy.

The park is also a vital source of recreation and open space in one of the most densely populated places on earth. People derive so much pleasure in the park: hikers, bikers, runners, bird watchers, horseback riders, skateboarders, golfers, tennis players, baseball players, and countless other activities. I run in the park almost every day. As an athlete I appreciate the importance of a peaceful place to recreate.

I have worked with park rangers and community organizations for the past 12 years and have been a member of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council's Parks, River and Open Space Committee for the past 3 year. There are trees thriving in the park that I helped plant over 10 years ago. I see the recovering vegetation, the daily activities, and changes in the park. I have also volunteered doing trash pick up, tree planting, watering, and youth activities. I also worked at the Gene Autry Museum for several years doing exhibition installation.

I believe that working with the community, the city, residents and homeowners and the local business owners is the best way to ensure the well being of the park. I believe it is important to get the community to participate in the process and to have open communication. I have owned and operated a small business in the community for almost 6 years. I have lived within a short distance of Griffith Park for over 14 years. I feel I am in tune with the community on a business level as well an ecological one. If our community wants to keep and cultivate the friendly, culturally stimulating and unique atmosphere we must work together. We must communicate our needs and support local businesses. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council is concerned with many other issues besides the park and I will devote my attention to those as well.

Finally, I feel qualified for this position because of my long standing in the community, being a small business owner, 15 years of experience in environmental restoration, an avid user of the park, I am aware of the parks need for preservation, and the communities need for open communication.

Thank you for your support

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 5/20/08

CANDIDATE STATEMENT