



Lago Seco Park of 14.74 acres is located at 3920 235<sup>th</sup> Street. It was acquired in sections from the developer of housing for the area, Don Wilson, starting in 1963. The property was purchased in 3 parcels. Its original groundbreaking in 1966 was done in conjunction with the Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association. The name of the park means "dry lake" since it was part of a larger property known as Walteria Lake/Sump. It was formally dedicated on March 23, 1968.

The park was renovated in 2006. Funds for improvements became available through Proposition 12 Grant monies, Parks and Recreation Facilities Funds, and the City's General Fund. The \$2 million improvement project included expansion and upgrade of the community gardens, landscaping, walkways, installation of new handicapped accessible playground equipment with rubberized surface, 2 basketball courts, security lighting, noise monitoring system, restrooms, benches, picnic tables, and a barbecue area.

The park now boasts 136 Community Garden plots (20 feet by 20 feet) which are most popular with area apartment dwellers for growing vegetables and flowers for home use. The gardening program began in March of 1976 and is for Torrance residents only. Those seeking information on the gardens or to be placed on the waiting list may call (310) 781-7520.

A special feature of Lago Seco Park is the baseball/softball area with snack shack. The baseball fields are named Wilson Fields after Mr. Maurice Wilson. These fields are leased by Riviera Little League. In between the two fields, there is a plaque honoring Mr. Wilson for his dedication, leadership and knowledge. He created these ballparks in 1965.

With the completion of enhancements, current and future members of the community continue to enjoy the park. It is primarily a neighborhood place for children to play and families to picnic. It was formally rededicated on August 26, 2006. This park has come a long way since its beginnings.

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