Beverly Gardens Park Restoration to Bring Back the Glorious Gardens of Beverly Hills

February 26, 2013 by Barbara Barrielle Leave a Comment

By Barbara Barrielle

I challenge you to take a tour through the website of the Friends of Beverly Gardens Park and not fall in love with the blocks of majestic gardens that were designed when the city was founded almost a hundred years ago. Please lose yourself at www.fobpg.com.

The photos of the gardens in all of their uses – community gathering places, monumental statements of design, family play areas – from the era in which they were designed truly show the design and glamour that founded this city. While still a city of gardens, time has taken its toll on these 23 park blocks. The effort to restore and design the gardens to be sustainable for the future is the mission of The Friends of Beverly Gardens Park but it is incumbent upon all of us to support their efforts.
The restoration project will bring the park into the 21st Century, utilizing current trends in park design. It will begin by bringing back a long-lost favorite and main feature of the park – the lily pond in front of the Beverly Hills monument sign between Beverly and Canon drives. Each of the 23 park blocks will undergo a tactical renovation, weighing many factors such as the age and safety of the trees, and the functionality and aesthetics of important park elements. Wrought iron will replace chain link along the residential alleys. The fountains at each gateway will be restored, a nod to the City’s history and an important step toward an illustrious future. The inevitable aging that 100 years does to a park – varying types of planting materials, outlived repairs, outdated fixtures, and an overused public restroom facility – will be addressed to meet current needs through a cohesive design and comprehensive park management approach.

In addition to the current restoration, the Friends of Beverly Gardens Park intends to ensure the park’s pristine future with funds to furnish a 50-year supply of materials for focal elements like the fountains, to replace aging plants and paving, and to create an annuity to cover extra labor needed to maintain the restoration work.

The city’s founders exhibited true foresight, in the midst of The Great Depression, to hire an innovative landscape architect to create this civic space and lead their way to the future. It is our turn now to step up and help preserve it for future generations, to restore the park to its true splendor and substantiate Beverly Hills as one of the world’s leading cities.