

May 18, 2009

Ron Scholten  
4411 Los Feliz Blvd., Apt. 1204  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dear Mr. Scholten:

Thank you for your concern with the well-being of Griffith Park. It is a treasure that is important to all of us.

The burn area was only closed for about six months after the fire.

Immediately after the fire, the Department of Recreation and Parks put together a team of fire recovery experts to advise them on best practices of fire recovery. The team included the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Department of Fish and Game, and local university environmental departments.

Dead, burned or declining trees do not need to be removed from undeveloped natural areas unless they pose a significant danger to the public. In cases where these trees are near fire roads, trails, picnic areas or areas frequented by the public like Captains Roost and Dante's View, Rec. and Parks has removed them. In other areas these trees provide some benefits, such as, perching and habitat for numerous species of birds and animals, as well as soil stabilization even if the roots are dead. In some other cases trees may appear severely burned or even dead but will eventually sprout new growth. It is a normal forestry practice to leave these trees in place.

You may read more about the fire recovery plan in the Fall, 2007 *Los Feliz Observer*.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge, President