

1950's – 60's

The period between the 1950's and the 1970's saw population growth go from 20,000 to 50,000 residents.

Monterey Park had many entries over the years in the Tournament of Roses Parade, and in 1951 was awarded the Grand Sweepstakes Prize.

During the 50's, the City annexed 300 acres of vacant land to prevent a County landfill from being established on the Western boundary of Monterey Park. The City fought other issues as well, including a proposed Airport at the southern border and a proposed dog racing track.

City recreational facilities grew from one park, Barnes Park, to eight including, Garvey Ranch (1952), Edison Trails (1965), Grandview – which was originally named Garfield Park, and more recently renamed George Elder Park (1959), Highlands (1965), La Loma (1953), Langley (1954), Sequoia (1969) and Sunnyslopes (1958).

In 1966, the City of Monterey Park celebrated their 50th Anniversary from June 5th – 12th. This 8 day celebration included a Lion's Club Breakfast, outdoor art festival, store and school displays, carnival rides and a barbecue. This event marked the first year of "Play Days." Up until 1966 the anniversary event was known as Pioneer Days.

Notable dignitaries and celebrities visiting Monterey Park during this period included Lawrence Welk who played at Barnes Park to the first overflow crowd, Janis Joplin, who also played at Barnes Park, Senator Thomas Juchel, who along with actress Jane Mansfield cut the ribbon officially widening Monterey Pass Rd., John Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Robert Kennedy, during their Presidential campaigns, evangelist Billy Graham, Hubert Humphrey, Edward Kennedy, and Governor Edmond Brown.

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Vintage 1940's



1950's

The Barnes Park Memorial Bowl
... through the years



Today: 2001