



# THE BIRD PATH

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Between Bluebird Drive and Blackbird Way  
Calabasas Historic Landmark No. 5

**Date Built:** 1920s

**Designated:** June 8, 2011



**Above:** Entrance to the Bird Path on Blackbird Way

The Bird Path is part of the original Park Moderne housing development. Park Moderne was subdivided into 174 lots in 1927. The proposed development was organized along narrow streets named for birds and was envisioned as an artist colony featuring footpaths, pools, fountains and a pump house. The existing Bird Path is the only remaining footpath that was part of the development.

The Bird Path appears on tract maps dating back to 1929 and was likely part of the original planned subdivision. The path may have been designed by Jock Peters, one of the avant-garde architects involved in the original design of the community. The path is a dirt path traversing open space between Bluebird Drive and Blackbird Lane and has been purposely left as open space.

The Bird Path is a dirt walking path approximately 6'-6" wide and 125' long. It slopes upward from the intersection of Bluebird Drive and Meadowlark Drive, at its west entrance, to Blackbird Way, at its east entrance. Railroad ties are situated as steps at two locations along the path to adjust for the change in grade. The path stretches in a straight line between three properties whose fences clearly denote the boundaries of the path. Round wooden signs constructed on post and beam frames that identify the entrances of the path were installed in 1993 by the Calabasas Historical Society.

In the late 1970s, the Calabasas Historical Society was founded largely due to interest in the history of Park Moderne and fear of its potential demise caused by encroaching development. The Historical Society was able to preserve the Bird Path and eventually restore it in the mid-1980s due in part to the efforts of the Historical Society's efforts. The Bird Path remains an important Landscape and a reminder of Calabasas' past as a rural community.



Above: Bird path looking towards Blackbird Way

The City of Calabasas' Historic Preservation Program was created in January 2008 to safeguard Calabasas' heritage by protecting our unique historic places for the education and enjoyment of the people of Calabasas. The City of Calabasas is currently identifying properties such as the Mason Residence that are worthy of preservation and demonstrate Calabasas' unique character and heritage.



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