

MACH 1 History Timeline

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| July, 1995 | In preparation for establishing a therapeutic horsemanship program for children with disabilities, founder Joy Rittenhouse is certified as an instructor by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). |
| April, 1996 | Move A Child Higher (MACH 1) is incorporated as a 501-c-3 non-profit with the support of the City of Pasadena. They continue to be supported by the Human Services and Recreation Department's Adaptive Recreation Program, and the Accessibility and Disability Commission. Mach 1 begins as a NARHA member center. |
| July 1997 | Mach 1 begins operations with one Pony and one child, at the Flintridge Riding Club. Using an individualized lesson plan of mounted exercises and games; children with disabilities develop and improve their physical strength, balance and agility, and their coordination and mental abilities. Mach 1 begins volunteer programs where grade school students receive service hours for their help. This has expanded over the years to include grammar and high school students from the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys. |
| October 1997 | The first of a yearly fund raising event is held in Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP). The Ride-A-Thon traverses trails throughout HWP. Regional Mounted Police, including Pasadena's and regional equestrian groups participate to raise funds for operating expenses and scholarships for economically disadvantaged children. The once a week program at the Flintridge Riding Club is expanded to include two horses for fifteen children with disabilities. |
| March, 1998 | Mach 1 expands their program to include college level instruction of physical and occupational therapy for student volunteers and for short term college internships. This on site instruction has been followed up with lectures at several Universities. |
| June, 1998 | The first of a yearly fund raising event is held at the Flintridge Riding Club. The Don't Fence Me In musical student horse show, free to the public, is followed by a benefit dinner and silent auction. |
| February, 1999 | To facilitate growth of the program, Mach 1 begins operations one or two months a year, at Rose Bowl Riders (RBR), as a second site. NARHA considers the two sites as one, separated by a road. The number of children served has increased from fifteen to twenty one. |
| July 29, 2001 | NARHA inspects the facilities used by Mach 1 and certifies that they are compliant with all health and safety laws and codes, ADA standards for accessibility, and NARHA's standards for safety with horses. A hazard assessment is completed. The site is certified safe. |
| May 16, 2002 | Pasadena issues a Draft Arroyo Seco Master Plan and Master Environmental Impact Report, including as a component the Draft Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan. |

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| July, 2002 | With the certification of the facilities and review of their programs using certified instructors, NARHA establishes Mach 1 as a Premier Accredited Center. Families of children with disabilities are put in contact with Mach 1 through three regional centers; the Lanterman Center serving western San Gabriel Valley, the East Los Angeles Center, and the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center. |
| 2002 to 2004 | Mach 1 in an effort to accommodate their expanding program starts the process of finding a suitable site. They move to a private residence in Bradbury, that proves to not be practical. They continue to hold their annual fundraisers at HWP and the Flintridge Riding Club, and use Rose Bowl Riders as their second site. |
| April 14, 2003 | The Pasadena City Council certifies the Arroyo Seco Master Environmental Impact Report which includes the MWD property. |
| September 29, 2003 | The Pasadena City Council approves the Arroyo Seco Master Plans including the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan. |
| August 1, 2004 | Mach 1 moves their program to RBR on a temporary basis and begins the process of reaching an agreement to establish a more permanent presence. Throughout the short time they have provided this program, Mach 1 has received numerous awards and accolades acknowledging their outstanding service. |
| January 11, 2005 | The Asset Management Committee recommends to the MWD Board to enter into a sale agreement, rather than a long term lease. Subsequently the MWD Board agrees to sell the property. |
| July 30, 2005 | A Stabling Agreement for Mach 1 takes effect with Rose Bowl Riders. Among other conditions, it specifies which facilities are for their use and in what way they are to be used. Their program now includes four horses and a donkey, and serves 35 children. |
| August 9, 2005 | The Director of Public Works receives two copies of the escrow documents, including sale agreement, for signatures. Terms of the Sale Agreement include a Permanent Open-Space Easement “to retain the Property for use solely for open-space, park and recreational purposes.” Agreed to purchase price is for \$1,236,000 |
| November 2, 2005 | The purchase and Sale Agreement for MWD property closes escrow. The USFS month to month lease is terminated with MWD. The existing leases to L.A. County Fire Camp #2 and Rose Bowl Riders are transferred to the City of Pasadena as owner of the property. |