

What is the history of the meadow?

The meadow (I presume you mean the grassy area across from the interpretive center) has been there for many years.

Originally it was a flat, flower and grass filled space with a creek meandering along one edge, occasionally making its way just a bit into the meadow.

When the city bought this property from Dr. Russell Lee many improvements were planned in order to make the park more usable and enjoyable for visitors.

Several things happened at the meadow. The first was that the creek was channelized. Instead of meandering along we created a channel for it (much like Matadero or Adobe creeks where they run through downtown Palo Alto). This allows us to somewhat control water flow during periods of high rain and it gave us a larger usable area.

Second instead of letting it remain in its wild state we turned the meadow into a large grassy area for people to play, picnic, sun themselves, paint or otherwise enjoy themselves on.

The last thing we did was to add irrigation to keep the grass green during the summer.