# George Michael's favourite Beverly Hills public toilet gets the axe



The Will Rogers Memorial Park in Beverly Hills has closed a significant chapter in pop culture history with the recent demolition of its infamous men's restroom, a site forever linked to British pop star George Michael. The park, located at the intersection of North Canon Drive and Lomitas Drive, became a local landmark following the singer's arrest there in April 1998 for engaging in a lewd act, an incident that dramatically altered the public perception of Michael's sexuality.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the scandal that propelled Michael out of the closet, following years of speculation regarding his sexual orientation. Speaking to reporters shortly after the incident, Michael described himself as having placed himself "in an extremely stupid and vulnerable position." The arrest led him to pay a fine and undertake community service, but it also kickstarted conversations about sexuality and fame, changing how the public viewed the pop icon.

Despite its disreputable past, the restroom became a popular tourist destination over the years, attracting visitors eager to capture photographs in front of the now-demolished facility. The Daily Mail reports that the site was routinely featured on TMZ’s guided tours of Los Angeles, with tour buses regularly stopping to allow tourists to take pictures and engage with its storied history.

Local authorities had previously taken action due to reports of "cruising" within the restroom, culminating in a police sting operation that resulted in Michael's arrest. The Beverly Hills Police Department had received multiple complaints leading up to this operation, further entrenching the restroom's notoriety.

The original bathroom has now been replaced with one remaining grey cinder block wall, as part of a redevelopment project aimed at modernising the facilities in the park. A new restroom is scheduled to be constructed, with completion expected by mid-September 2025. In the interim, portable toilets are being provided for public use while the construction progresses.

As for George Michael, born Georgios Panayiotou, he passed away in 2016, but his legacy lives on, not only through his music but also through the indelible impact of that moment in the Beverly Hills restroom. Following his arrest, he famously addressed the incident in the music video for Outside [pictured], which featured couples of various orientations engaging in public displays of affection, further solidifying his stance on self-acceptance and freedom of expression in the years that followed.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJYhdxTxftI> - This YouTube video discusses the demolition of the Will Rogers Memorial Park restroom where George Michael was arrested in 1998 for lewd behavior, providing context and visuals of the location. It also touches upon George Michael's background and the incident's significance.
* <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1998-apr-09-me-37715-story.html> - This Los Angeles Times article from 1998 reports on George Michael's arrest in the restroom of Will Rogers Memorial Park, detailing the circumstances surrounding the event and the aftermath.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZN1qTbQNFM> - This YouTube video highlights the now-demolished George Michael bathroom in Beverly Hills, providing visuals and context about the location's historical significance.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source could provide details about the broader context of George Michael's legacy and the cultural impact of the incident; however, it does not directly offer specific information about the restroom's demolition or historical context.