THE BOWTIE PARCEL MASTER PLAN

UCLA LD6: Concept Development

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Summer 2021

TIMOTHY HAYWARD



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"THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF A COMMUNITY DEPEND ON ITS GREEN SPACE, ITS OPEN SPACE." -LUIS RINCON, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

BOWTIE PARCEL TIMOTHY HAYWARD LD6 SUMMER 2021

OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

The Bowtie Parcel (also known as G1) is 18 acres of unprogrammed open space on the edge of the Los Angeles River, formerly train service areas, in the northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of Glassell Park.

The area has a rich history and long connection to the LA River. The Tongva people are the earliest known inhabitants of this area living for thousands of years along its fertile basin.

Fast forward to Mexico ceding California in 1847, and Los Angeles saw an enormous growth due the expansion of railroad lines. In 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad line was completed, running through the bowtie parcel and what would become to be known, by 1925, as Taylor Yard.

During Taylor Yard's glory days in the 1960s and 1970s, this 18-acre parcel of land was covered by a complex network of train tracks, roads, large and repair shops and office buildings.

By 1996, after years of financial problems, the Southern Pacific Transportation Company was taken over by the Union Pacific Corporation, the rail workers were transferred, and Taylor Yard became just an empty shell of old railroad buildings along the Los Angeles River. Now, the buildings are gone, though piles of rubble and rebar are scattered about the site and the environmental damage and soil toxicity remains a challenge.

In 2003, the California State Parks Department bought the Bowtie property to preserve the land for nature conservation and support efforts to restore the Los Angeles River and in 2014 partnered with 'Clockshop' to activate the G-1 parcel with art and cultural programming.

When complete, the Bowtie will be part of neighboring Rio de Los Angeles State Park. This area of the Los Angeles River is an important part of the river's ecosystem, one of the only places where the river has a "soft bottom," meaning it does not have a concrete bed and is still in its natural state.

While posing many challenges, this site offers incredible opportunities. The sound of the river, the beautiful scenic borrowed views, and the potential for a more naturalized setting. Habitat restoration as well as passive and active recreational activities will be addressed in this redesign to unlock the potential of this special space.





THE L.A. RIVER CAN'T BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE, BUT IT CAN BE BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW.





SITE HISTORY TIMELINE

A brief overview of the site's history with cultural history in blue and environmental factors in green.



PRE **1750** TO

1985 TAYLOR YARD CLOSES

- Loss of jobs due to the Cajon Pass routes leads to closure of the yards. Environmental damage has been done however.
- Area gets developed for warehouses and zoned for mixed use.
- By the 1990s over half of the rails are vacated. Fedex and Metrolink develop near the site.



2003

2014 CLOCK SHOP BOWTIE PROJECT

1938 LA RIVER FLOODED

A four day storm leads to epic flooding. As a result the Army Corps of Engineers channelized the river and encases it in concrete.

1908 TAYLOR YARD ESTABLISHED

- Taylor Family settles on parcel and starts business
- By the 1920s it becomes a major rail-yard facility.

1960 **RAILROAD RE-ROUTED** ALONG CAJON PASS

- Diesel shops are built along the river to serve the .
- growing need for gas powered engines.
- Taylor Yard is the hub of the Southern Pacific Freight network with over 5000 employees.

• Pre 1750s Tongva People occupied the region for centuries. • 1784 Jose Maria Verdugo receives a grant for 36,000 acres of land which includes the bowtie parcel. • 1876 Southern Pacific Railroad completed. • Railroad runs through parcel.

Residential development spreads throughout Los Angles.

2019**100 ACRE PARTNERSHIP AT** TAYLOR YARD

• after a 2015 passage of a \$1.3 billion dollar plan to revitalize the LA River, Governor Newsom approves \$500K for initial design proposal to the Bowtie parcel.

•

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

ACQUIRES THE BOWTIE PARCEL

• But not before previously being labeled as Taylor Yard is

designated as a brownfield site.

· CA State Parks and Clockshop partner up to bring cultural and artistic

programming the underdeveloped and underutilized parcel.



SITE CONTEXT

About 51 miles long, the Los Angeles River runs in a fixed course through a concrete channel for nearly its whole length. Shown here for context in relationship to site (along with its smaller washes and tributaries.)

> THE BOWTIE PARCEL GLASSEL PARK 2780 W Casitas Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90039

THE BOWTIE IS MANY THINGS AT ONCE. IT'S ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING URBAN HABITATS FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIKE COYOTES, RABBITS, AND THE SIDE-BLOTCHED LIZARD. IT'S A TRAIN YARD FILLED WITH GHOSTS FROM ITS PAST, DECORATED BY NEW GRAFFITI. IT'S ALSO A REFUGE FOR MANY — HOUSED AND HOMELESS ALIKE — WHO SEEK AN ESCAPE FROM THE STRESS AND CONGESTION OF THE CITY. -SOUTH OF FLETCHER: STORIES FROM THE BOWTIE





THE BOWTIE PARCEL 4 TIMOTHY HAYWARD LD6 SUMMER 2021



SITE INVENTORY

NON-NATIVE HEAVYWEIGHTS AT THE BOWTIE PARCEL ARE PROMINENTLY ARUNDO DONAX, MEXICAN FAN PALMS, AND FOUNTAIN GRASS, WHICH ORIGINATES IN AFRICA AND THRIVES BECAUSE IT HAS NO NATURAL PREDATORS, AND CAN GROW IN ROCKS. SEVERAL NATIVE PLANTS ALSO THRIVE HOWEVER, SUCH AS CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT, FRAGRANT WHITE SAGE, AND YERBA SANTA.

NON-NATIVE













Kayakers take advantage of the soft bottom and open current. Note the invasive grasses like Arundo donax (giant cane), an invasive grass from Southeast Asia



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A biker takes advantage of the informal path at the rim of the LA river. This connects the neighborhoods and offers long stretches of uninterrupted views and passive and active recreational opportunities.



Walkker taking advantage of the open space that lack a friendly tree canopy. High tension wires are seen to the right and note the non-native fountain grass and Mexican fan palms that runs through the site.



NATIVE

Salvia apiana



Eriodictyon californicun



SITE INVENTORY

FAUN

THIS STRETCH OF THE RIVER IS PART OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY, THE MIGRATORY ROUTE FOR BIRDS THAT PASS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST. REGULARS HERE INCLUDE OSPREY, LONG-NECKED STILTS, HERONS, CORMORANTS, HAWKS AND VARIETIES OF DUCKS AND GEESE. OTHER ANIMALS INCLUDE REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND MAMMALS.











The lush soft opening of the LA river is broken up by the steep stretch of concrete along the river's walls.



Non-native fountain grass and Mexican fan palms runs through the brownfield. Hot and flat conditions throughout the Bowtie parcel, but beautiful views of the hills and mountains are seen beyond.



An old remnant of the South Turntable that would turn train cars around in this once bustling train yard. Graffiti and other from public art through the Clockworks program is seen throughout the site.











PRECEDENT CASE STUDY #1



RENAISSANCE PARK: CHATTANOOGA, TN

Designer: Hargreaves Associates

ENVIRONMENTAL RECLAMATION

Renaissance Park is a 23 acre wetlands park designed to highlight this area's ecology and history. Once the site of manufacturing plants, by capping contaminated areas Renaissance Park shows how a polluted area can be returned to a clean river habitat and a natural park setting, offering many parallels to the Bowtie parcel. The park's design promotes the return of native plants and animals, enhances river ecosystems, and provides a balance between urban renewal and the conservation of natural resources. Renaissance Park also celebrates Chattanooga's rich heritage.

f Improvement:

Popularity of the location as an urban slope for year-round sledding has made it a challenge to keep the grass growing.

Erosion concerns for one of the park's piers.

During the process of excavating contaminated soils from the site, seasonal rains saturated the soil, leaching into the earth underneath.

The densely vegetated nature of the preserved riparian floodplain forest raised public safety concerns with City administration. Photos show that the riparian nature returned quickly and maintenance is a factor for the Bowtie Parcel.

E Coli has continued to be a problem on site.



PRECEDENT CASE STUDY #2









BUFFALO BAYOU PROMENADE: HOUSTON, TX

Designer: SWA Group

ENVIRONMENTAL RECLAMATION

Buffalo Bayou Promenade is a 23-acre urban park and recreation area that transformed a trash infested urban greyfield into a thriving waterfront. The project improved flood control capacity and transformed a small space beneath the freeway into a safe and welcoming place for pedestrians. Gabion sacks and cages (made with recycled crushed concrete) on the river edge allow water egress and mimic the natural conditions of the channel. Native and naturalized riparian plantings improve the erosion control. The park system connects to the downtown area through 12 new ADA-compliant entries, with each portal highlighted by public sculptures by John Runnels, artistic lighting and perennial gardens.

f Improvement:

Still subject to Hurricane damage. This area was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey leaving heavy sand and silt deposits in the lower park areas.

The freeway covers about 40% of the promenade, and creates an extreme condition of deep shade and lots of auto noise that isn't buffered.

New design scraped up the banks with backhoes, removed a large amount of natural riparian vegetation and trees, and graded the banks with bulldozers, all of which runs counter to best management practices for riparian zones.



PRECEDENT CASE STUDY #3



SITE PLAN 03







01

03



Designer: SeoAhn Total Landscape

ENVIRONMENTAL RECLAMATION

The City of Seoul is changing from an auto and business oriented urban landscape to one that values the quality of life of its people and the importance of functioning ecosystems. By demolishing an elevated freeway and uncovering a section of the historic Cheonggyecheon Stream, the Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project created both ecological and recreational opportunities along a 3.6-mile corridor in the center of Seoul. The design provides flood protection for up to a 200-year flood event. Because water is only naturally present in the Cheonggyecheon during the summer rainy season, 120,000 tons of water from the Han River and several subway pump stations is pumped and treated to create a consistent flow. Native willow swamps, shallows and marshes were constructed in 29 different locations along the restoration, creating habitat for fish, amphibians, insects, and birds. Terraced vertical walls give visitors access as water levels

change, create seasonal interest as levels submerge.

ADA access is limited and was not a requirement as evidenced by photos.

Water is not naturally present in the Cheonggyecheon for most of the year except during the summer rainy season, making it difficult to create a consistent urban amenity requiring non sustainable pumps.

Transportation still very much an issue in Seoul and surrounding this area



SPACE FINDING DIAGRAMMING



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 1

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO

TIERS PLANTED AND TRAVERSABLE TIERS

Peel back the concrete and replace with planted and traversable steps. Ramps for ADA access will be considered.

SHADE STRUCTURE 2

Shade structures throughout connect the property and TONGVA INSPIRED SHADE STRUC- create gathering nodes. TURES ALONG MAIN PATHS

CONTROLLED BIOSWALES 3

BIO-REMEDIATION/ PHYTOREMEDIATION AND RE-STORE RICH RIPARIAN HABITAT

Storm drains have been daylighted creating opportunity to clean and restore water before returning to LA river.

5 **TERRAFORM SHAPES** PARAMETERIC DESIGN

"BEACH" 6



CURVILINEAR SWEEPING SHAPES

CONNECTING BRIDGES working with the curvilinear sweeping forms, dramatic bridges connect the site with the surrounding context.

> Parametric design created undulating and interesting form and opportunity.

TIERS LEAD TO OPEN "BEACH"

Direct connection to the river creates an opportunity to engage on all planes of the site, including the river's edge.



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 2

BIOSWELL PARK

ARROYO DESIGN TO SLOW DOWN WATER

2

Inspired by water moving through sand, the primary focus is to take advantage of moving stormwater though the site.

CLEANSE

STORMWATER FOCUS

Filtration/ Infiltration/ BioRemediation are key to the design.



SLOW DOWN WATER, AND HUMANS WITH STREAMLINE DESIGN

5 BRIDGE CONNECTION Connections are made from Frogtown to site.

STREAMLINE/ SLOW Slowing down humans and water are the main

FLOWING SHAPE BRIDGES

Animals, Natural Habitat and Greenspace > Human in



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 3

CONNECTION/ INTERVENTION

INFINITY LOOP

RETURN TO NATURE

3

Only pedestrian access on North Side. No dedicated parking for site at all and no current connection to future G2 parcel so site dead ends in present state.

MAIN OVERLOOK

2 CANTILEVERED VIEWING PLATFORM

BERMED TRAIN

COVERED TRAIN CREATES OPPOR- Storm drains run under the site feeding into the already TUNITY FOR HILLSIDE VIEWS

activity.

5 Connection can be made to Frogtown and current concrete slopes of concrete river are a missed opportunity to enjoy the scenic sounds and views of the LA river and its soft bottom



DAYLIGHT STORM DRAINS programming to activate the parcel including CONTROLLED LINEAR BIOSWALES bolstering what Clockshop started with public art and attention getting installations.

OVER/ UNDER MAIN BRRDCEng or capping the contaminated water creates opportunity to have topography on this flat PARAMETERIC DESIGN barren parcel.

JUXTAPOSTION

RECTILINEAR AND CURVILINEAR SHAPES

Trees will offer both the benefit of shade in the hot environment, but will also naturally clean and filter the storm water.







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picnic and gathering. On either side, interesting multi-use structures house bathrooms, small cafes, and shade structures with dramatic views of the river. Moving further south is long term housing structure. The next to that building is THE CARBON CAPTURE INSTITUTE, a full time, Manhattan style project that works full time brining the brightest scientific minds together through grants and research to help solve the problem of carbon capture and The curvilinear forms of paths and peeled back tiered mirrors the curve of the river, the flow of water, natural arroyo's and natural flow and aerodynamic flow. The park is designed to withstand a 100 year flood with no buildings placed below the 100 year flood line.

Wetland areas are situated at the output of three storm water pipes entering the park. Water enters the wetland area and infiltrates into the ground instead.

bridges connect the site with the surrounding context.

Parametric design created undulating and interesting





Longfor Island by WISTO Image: WISTO













SECTION /ELEVATION A

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO



SECTION /ELEVATION B

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO



L SECTION /ELEVATION C

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO





EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO "BRIDGE VIEW"



EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO "OVERLOOK VIEW"



EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO



"PLAYGROUND VIEW"

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO "CANOE VIEW"



EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO "BIRDS-EYE VIEW 1"



EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO



"BIRDS-EYE VIEW 2"

WALK THRU VIDEO

EBBS AND FLOW ARROYO



HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/ WATCH?V=KVAQZH2D-GK



