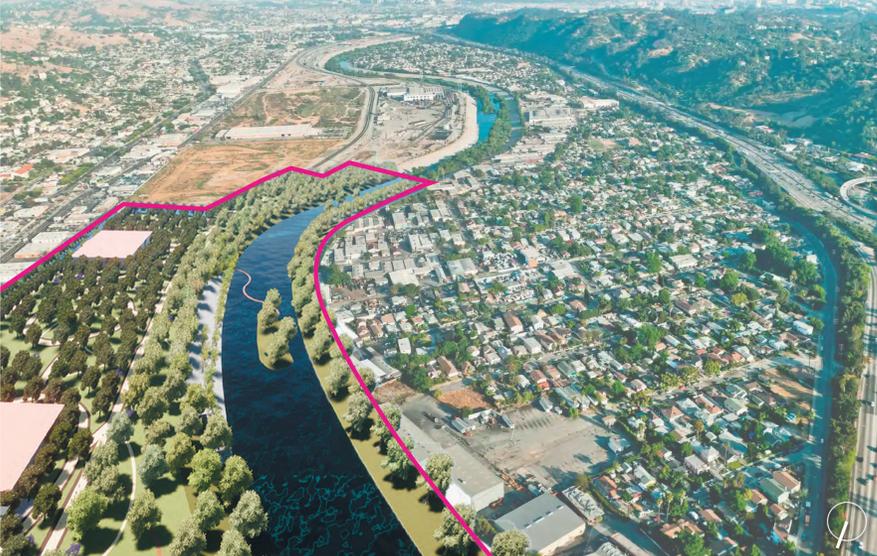


The Bowtie Ecological Refuge

Climate Research, Education and Justice at the Heart of the LA River

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Site History & Timeline

A History of Displacement of Native People, Flora and Fauna

2500 BCE
The Tongva people tend to the land live sustainably along the river for 4500 years.

1542-1848
Spanish Colonization decimates Tongva Population. Mission era begins and leads to genocide and revolts.
Mexican control, California becomes a State. Last Tongva town destroyed.

1876-1939
Agriculture and dairy farms, rolling hills of coast live oak and willow trees.
Pacific Railroad is complete. The natural river is channelized and turned into the largest storm drain system in the world.
Land becomes toxic. The steel-head trout, now an endangered species, disappear from these waters.

Methodology & Site Research Analysis

Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Report, 2015
Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) & LA County Riparian Habitat Restoration & Concrete Removal Recommendations

LEGEND

- Riparian Buffer/Transitional Zone
- Riparian Habitat
- Freshwater Marsh Feeds Wetland
- Daylight Streams
- Aquatic Habitat
- Concrete to Remain
- Scope of Work
- Existing Buildings

Remove Concrete & Bioengineer West Channel Wall

Concrete Channel Needed for Flood Control

Remove Concrete East Channel Wall

Convert Storm Drains to Daylight Streams

Site Location

Los Angeles City & Los Angeles River Watershed



A Contemporary History of the Bowtie

1999-2003
The California Floristic Province is declared one of the top 25 global hotspots of rapid biodiversity loss.
Federal interest to study the feasibility of solutions for ecosystem degradation on the LA River.
California State Parks buys the Bowtie with intent to restore habitat.

2006
Friends of the LA River (FOLAR) Donates \$1 Million for Army Corps to conduct The LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Report.

2007
Army Corps hires Studio-MLA to present designs for transforming 32 miles of the concrete-lined channelized river into public green space.

2013
Army Corps identifies, "Area with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization," river could be the "green spine" of the city and maintain flood risk management.

2019
Los Angeles City, California State Parks and Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) form the "100-Acre Partnership," to transform 11 miles from Griffith Park to downtown into contiguous green space.

2015
LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Report is released.

2022
FOLAR fight to have new electric high speed rail line, set to begin construction this year, relocated along the I-5 Freeway and "back away from the river".

SALT/RADAR/Clockshop release conceptual design for Bowtie.

Site Opportunities & Constraints

LEGEND

- Scope of Work
- New Environmental Education Campus
- New Electric High Speed Rail
- New Bike Access
- Existing Bowtie Access
- Local Public Schools
- New Bowtie Point of Access
- Demo Buildings

OPPORTUNITIES

- Add 3 New Access Points to Bowtie
- Transform Media Tech Center into Environmental Education Campus
- New Electric High Speed Rail Location
- Extend Bike Access
- Add 3 New Access Points
- Demo 4 Media Center Buildings

CONSTRAINTS

- Concrete to Remain for Flood Control
- Toxic Soil

Local Context

LEGEND

- Scope of Work
- LA River
- Bowtie Parcel
- I-5 Freeway
- LA Media Tech Center
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Public School
- Mt Washington
- Glassell Park
- CA-2 Freeway
- Elysian Valley
- Atwater Village
- LA River Bike Path
- 1/2 Mile Radius Each

Project Goals & Objectives

- Restore Ecological Habitats
- Improve Hydrology
- Connect Neighborhood Via Green Infrastructure
- Create Environmental Justice Hub
- Habitat Zones
- Constructed Wetland
- Seating & Picnic Areas
- Extend Bike Path Access
- Research & Education Campus
- Bird & Wildlife Viewing
- Concrete Channel Removal With Flood Control
- Multi-Use Nature Trails
- Native Plant Nursery
- Study Decks, Research Pods, Nature Gathering Areas

Design Metaphor

Capillary Network of Connectivity

LA River Watershed as a circulatory system, the Bowtie as the heart. The capillaries as a natural system of use and reuse.

From Heart

- Smooth muscles
- Arteriole
- Pre-capillary sphincters
- Capillaries
- Venule

Metarteriole

To Heart

Master Plan

This project will transform a toxic, post-industrial parcel of land into an ecological sanctuary. It proposes to expand upon the Bowtie site by rerouting a section of the Union Pacific Rail Line, incorporating the Los Angeles Media Tech Center and providing access for the surrounding neighborhood. It is a habitat restoration, hydrology, green space equity project in the age of climate change.



Welcome Center



Wetland



River Steps



Research Island



Welcome Center & Native Plant Nursery



Wetland



Nature Trails & Multi-Use Paths



River Steps & Research Island