



LOGJAM PARK

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Tongva - (west river)

The history of the LA River post Indigenous contact showcases a legacy of brutality and disconnection from the land that had for thousands of years prior provided sustainable food supplies and quality of life to some of the most rich in resource and densely populated Native communities of California. With the expansion of the mission system, spanish rule, state hood and a series of policies created to remove Indigenous people from their homelands - we lost our way. We lost our responsibility to tend and care for the land that has tended and cared for us.

A nutrient rich floodplain was cut up, divided and syphoned off to feed a growing populace that needed more than the river was capable of providing. The killing was slow. A suffocation that has lasted for generations.

In the name of progress, they dammed and dyked the river. In the name of expansion, we stole from our neighbors. Instead of working with the natural systems in place, they were encased in concrete. We didn't try to understand the systems we were taking over. Instead we built within the floodplain, seeking stable ground in the path of seasonal river systems. As a result - many early settlers lost their lives to seasonal flooding. The river became something to fear. They called the river 'Predator.'

In recent years there's been a reckoning on its way. A rich tapestry of engagement between artists, non-profits, environmental groups and community partners who have begun to re-imagine the banks of the river as a place for healing and remediation, the Bowtie Parcel has been a ground zero for these activations.



1769

Portola exhibition first European writing about LA River

1771

Father Junipero Serra founds the Mission San Gabriel Archangel. Twenty other missions will soon follow

1781

The missions orchestrated the construction of "zanjas" through forced Indigenous and Mexican labor

1848

California ceded to US

1850

Under US rule, fines were imposed for improper use of the zanja waters. Affluent residents began sourcing their water directly from the LA River

1853

California Governor John McDougal orders the extermination of all Indigenous people of California

1858

William C. Dryden, forms the Los Angeles Water Works Company. The Los Angeles Water Works Company was succeeded by the Los Angeles City Water Company

1888

Taylor Yard developed as freight storage yard

1913

Los Angeles Aqueduct constructed ending LA River as drinking water supply

1914

Floods inspire channelization

1938

River channelization begins

1945




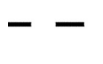









Industrial development increases drastically along LA River

1960

River channelization complete

SITE ANALYSIS



-  - Train noise
-  - Railway tracks
-  - Primary pedestrian circulation
-  - Greenway Trail
-  - Non-native vegetation
-  - Native vegetation
-  - Art installation
-  - Drainage flow
-  - Highpoint
-  - Lowpoint
-  - Sun arch
-  - Prevailing winds
-  - Views



Constraints

- X1 - Difficult accessibility
- X2 - Brownfield site
- X3 - Adjacent to high traffic railway
- X4 - Heavily industrial / commercial area
- X5 - Full sun
- X6 - Adjacent to immovable flood control walls
- X7 - Exposed to flood surge



Opportunities

- O1 - Close proximity to Greenway Trail
- O2 - Adjacent to naturalized bottom area of river
- O3 - Urban floodplain restoration education
- O4 - Expound on existing cultural programming
- O5 - Expound on existing biodiversity
- O6 - Improve living conditions of residents
- O7 - Floodwater storage



A watershed that still holds life, a floodplain polluted and paved

Native vegetation: *Baccharis salicifolia*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Salvia apiana*

Within the jacket of concrete flood control - a chance for natural learning and un-learning

Non native plant species that colonize slopes and surfaces: *Pennisetum setaceum*

Jagged architectural drainage corridors

Traces of human hands mark the landscape

A huge opportunity for activation while honoring all who have been here



Wildlife

MM - Coyote, Raccoon, Rabbit, California Myotis, Western Mastif Bat, Mexican Free-tailed Bat

■ - Redtail Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Coopers Hawk, Osprey, Rufous Crowned Sparrow, Redwinged Blackbird, Red Shouldered Hawk, Green Haron, Canyon Wren, Wrenit, Rudy Duck, Robin, Kingfisher, Scrub Jay, Turkey Vulture, Kildeer, Mallard, Blue Heron, Yellow Warbler

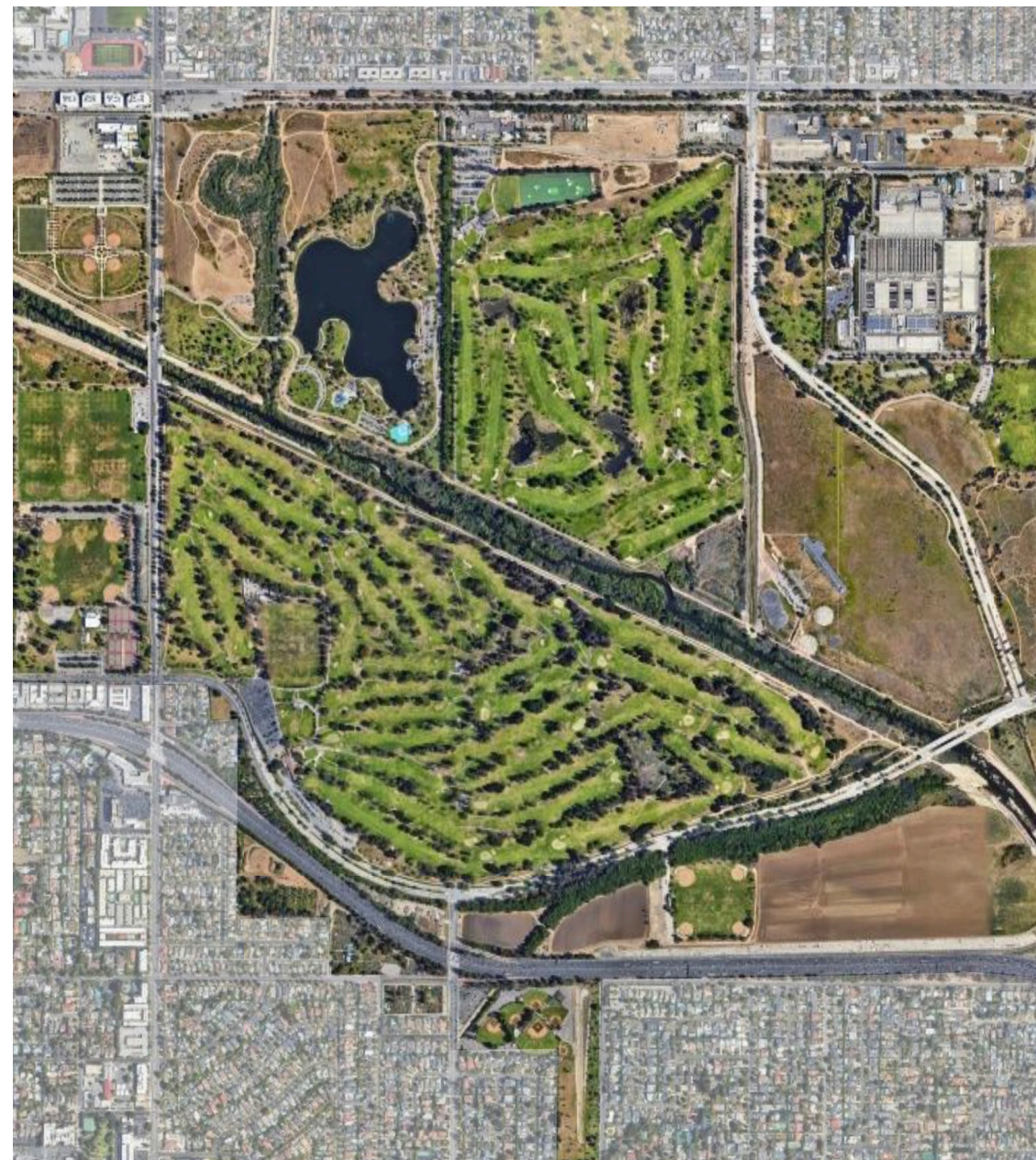
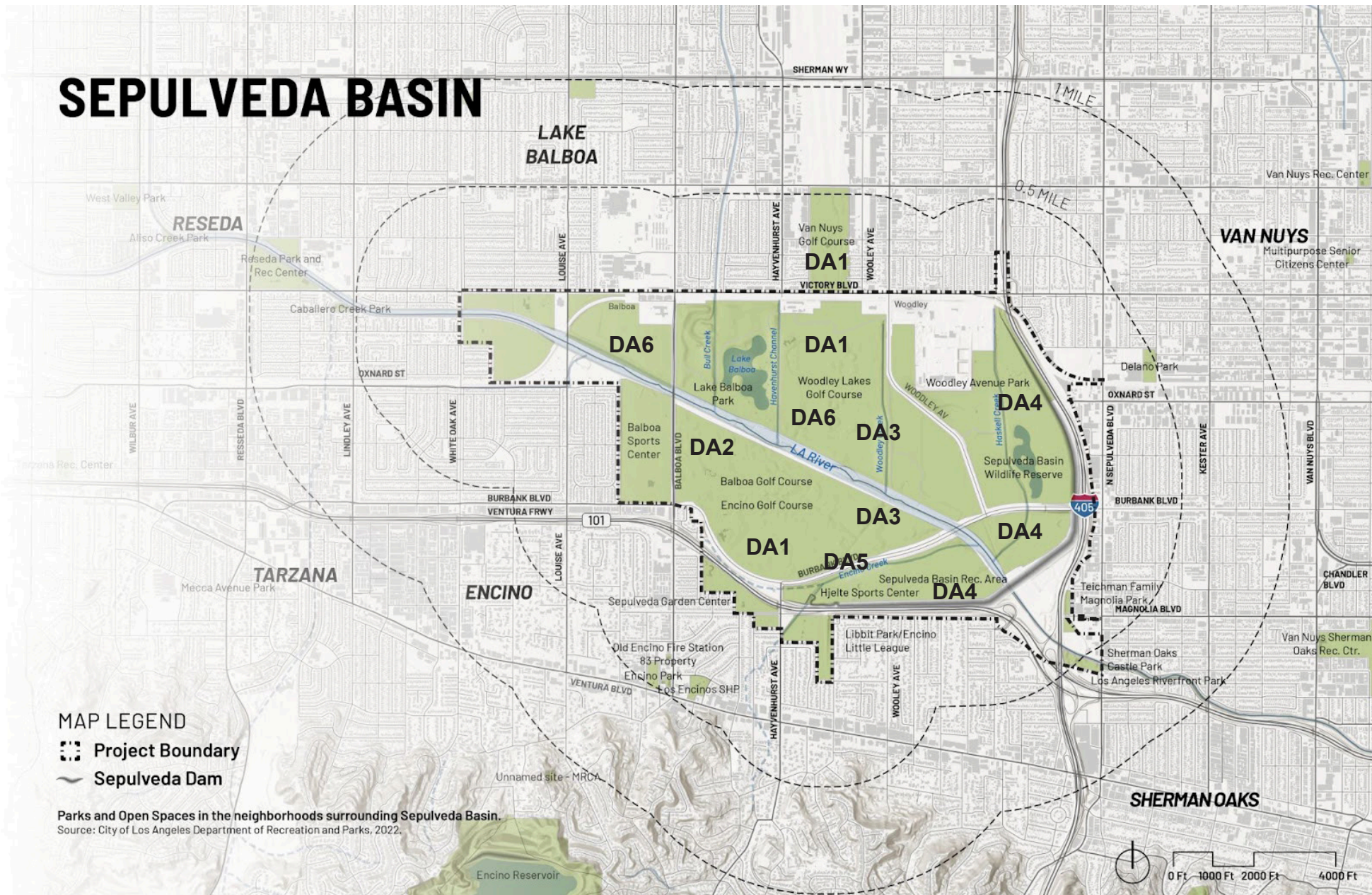
■ - Largemouth Bass, Green Sunfish, Carp, Black Bullhead, Amazon Sailfin Catfish
Mosquito fish, Tilapia, Fathead Minnow, Arroyo Chub

Artistic interventions

- X1** - Hatch - Jesse Harrod
- X2** - ACE Spring Design Studio
- X3** - The Tie That Binds - Mel Chin
- X4** - ACE Spring Design Studio
- X5** - ACE Spring Design Studio
- X6** - LA River Interpretive Signage - Rosen Woo
- X7** - building: a simulacrum of power Rafa Esparza
- X8** - The Unfinished - Michael Parker

Additional past site works

Sarah Dougherty, Iris Yirei hu, Leo Limon, Roach, Timo Fahler, Vyal, Maricon Collective, Juan Manuel Gudino, Mariel Capanna, HOODsisters, Matt Rose, Safos, Matt Rose, Gina Clyne, Rebeca Hernandez Dance Group, Karen Anzoategui, Carolina Caycedo, Mireya Lucio, WXPT, Nancy Klehm, Joe Riley, Audrey Snyder



Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area - Encino, California - 1700 acres

Army Corps of Engineers - 1951

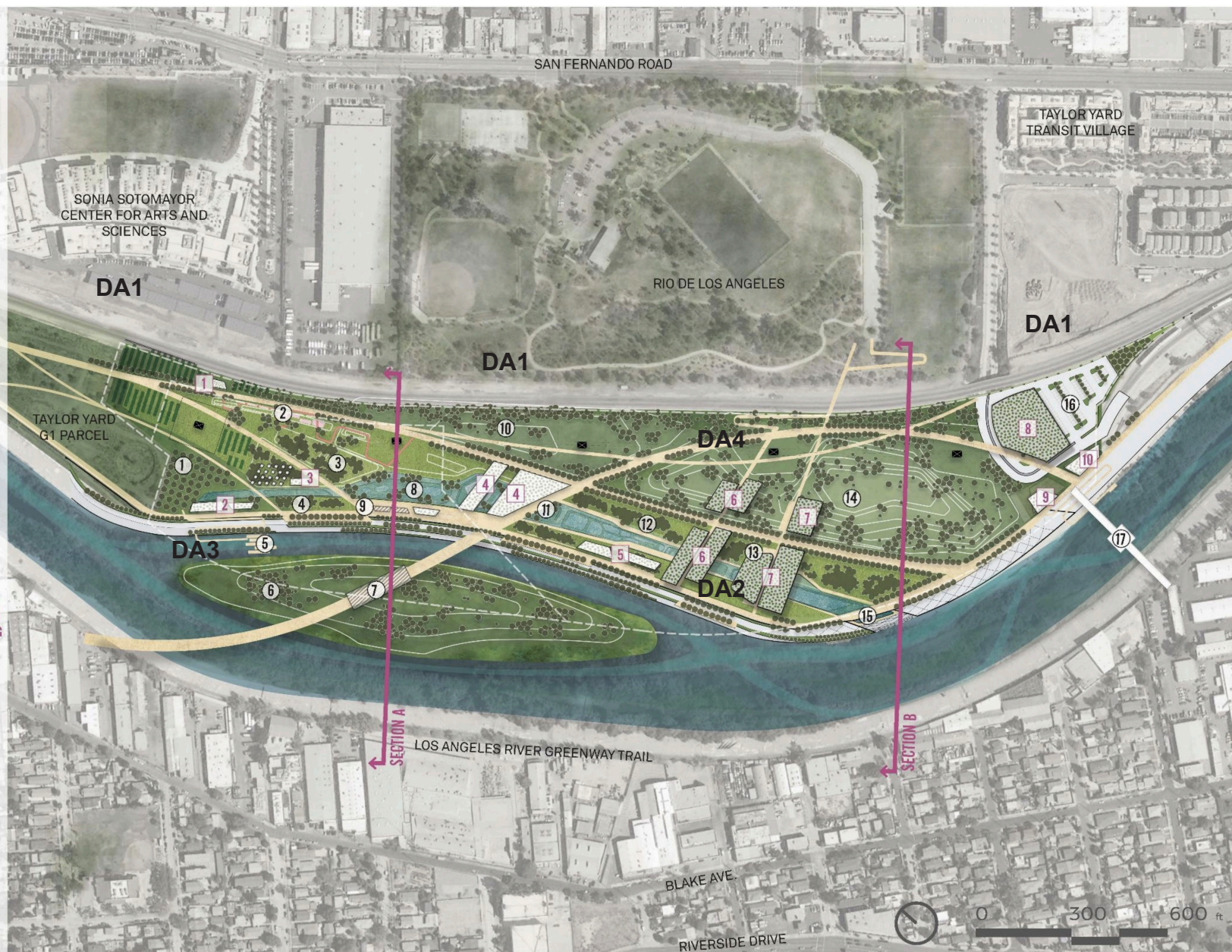
Home to 1 of only 3 natural river bed areas along the 51 miles of the Los Angeles River, the basin supports some of the most endangered wildlife in the area. The Sepulveda Dam and spillway channel and mitigate stormwater as a primary function of the site. It is one of the largest open spaces in the San Fernando Valley featuring several large recreation areas, including parks, three golf courses, a model aircraft field, a velodrome, a Japanese garden, a wildlife refuge, a water reclamation plant, and an armory. There are many tributaries feeding into the LA River within this area making it a site of heightened power and confluence - representing a special opportunity to retain more local water onsite to support communities and local wildlife.

Design Alternatives:

- DA1** - Remove golf courses and restore historic floodplain with native vegetation and wildlife habitat
- DA2** - Create sculpture park where local artists can create works that engage nature and the public
- DA3** - Create new trail system and small lottery campground that weaves through the newly restored floodplain habitat zones
- DA4** - Create sound walls to mitigate some of the 101, 405 fwy noise
- DA5** - Reroute Sepulveda Blvd around the recreation area
- DA6** - Create ranger station, restaurant

CASE STUDIES

- SITE FEATURE**
- ① SYCAMORE GROVE
 - ② DISCOVERY PLAY
 - ③ MEADOW
 - ④ WILLOW UPLAND
 - ⑤ LOW FLOW WALKWAY
 - ⑥ THE ISLAND
 - ⑦ RIVER EXHIBITION PAVILION
 - ⑧ CANAL
 - ⑨ RIVER DECK
 - ⑩ NATIVE PLANT COLLECTIONS
 - ⑪ BRIDGE
 - ⑫ SCULPTURE GARDEN
 - ⑬ AMPHITHEATER
 - ⑭ LARGE HILL
 - ⑮ VISTA
 - ⑯ PARKING
 - ⑰ TAYLOR YARD BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- 4.5 ACRES OF PROPOSED BUILDING FOOTPRINT**
 *2 STORY BUILDING
 **3 STORY BUILDING
- 1 PARK OFFICE/ RANGER STATION*
 - 2 KAYAK LAUNCH/ CAFE
 - 3 RECREATIONAL CAMPING + RESTROOM
 - 4 YOUTH ENRICHMENT CENTER
 - 5 CAFE
 - 6 RESEARCH BUILDING*
 - 7 MUSEUM/CULTURAL CENTER*
 - 8 PUBLIC FACILITY (PARKING BELOW)**
 - 9 RESTAURANT
 - 10 KAYAK LANDING / CAFE / KIOSK



1,000 feet

Taylor Yard River Park 'Island' - Los Angeles, California - 42 acres

Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering - 2022

This design iteration creates an island to separate river flows, mimic split flow / braided channels, and provide significant amounts of new riparian and upland habitat for wildlife ecology. With a focus on regional native plants, there is a proposal for a meadow, sycamore grove, willow upland area and many other natural areas. 'Island' also provides many natural learning opportunities for visitors, an amphitheatre, research station, kayak launch / landing, cafe, museum / cultural center and foot traffic access to frogtown in two locations and a point of entry to Rio De Los Angeles.

Design Alternatives:

DA1 - Increase foot traffic access for local residence to maximize visitation and accessibility

DA-2 - Keep buildings to single story developments

DA3 - Remove low flow walkway to prevent flash flood risk / injury as well as maintain island as wildlife sanctuary

DA4 - Introduce ceremonial harvest area of native vegetation for local Indigenous communities



Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks Park - Kent, Washington - 2 acres

Herbert Bayer - 1982

This groundbreaking project that sought to mitigate seasonal storm water flooding, and merged ecology and art in a way that changed the way we approach landscape architecture. This project was part of a new movement of earthwork that went beyond aesthetic and supported ecological function. The results of this project revealed Mill Creek's dynamic cycles of flood + drought to the public in a way that was educational and inspiring. Here sculpted cones, circles, lines and berms were built into the alluvial delta of Mill Creek Canyon. Grass covered mounds 40' - 100' in diameter built upon the subgrade stormwater detention facility. The works have recently been updated, increasing berm height to accommodate a 10,000 year storm instead of a 100 year storm which was the standard in 1982.

Design Alternatives:

- DA1** - Increase native plant and vegetation along the alluvial plain to make the grounds appear less controlled and formalized, highlighting seasonal change and creating more habitat for wildlife and natural learning opportunities. This modification would also increase shade, recreational opportunities.
- DA2** - Increase interpretive signage areas for more education to public about stormwater mitigation and how these intersections of art and ecology can create new habitat in urban / residential settings.
- DA3** - Create non intrusive board walk for salmon spawning viewing - mature vegetation has now taken over the creek bank making access very difficult.

Design Intentions

Floodplain restoration

The design inspiration for this park is based off the urge to restore Los Angeles River floodplain in an urban setting. Stormwater will be collected, cleaned, stored and directed into 3 otolith shaped rings throughout the park that will help restore riparian ecology and provide habitat along the migratory flyway of the LA River. Partially submerged cisterns will store additional water for future uses.

By keeping water onsite we are able to reuse cleaned stormwater and repurpose it for irrigation as well as facility use.

The park is designed to be a natural learning area for people of all ages. Given the lack of greenspace on the east side of the LA River, as well as in partnership with the 100 acre park initiative that is already underway - the bowtie parcel plays a key role in helping recover equitable green space for humans and non humans alike.

There is a significant history on this site of artist activations, workshops, and community conversations - which I wanted to support and expound upon. From the rich cultural center to site specific art installations throughout the park, as well as an onsite artist residency - I believe that creating spaces for people to imagine and push boundaries is extremely important. It would also be imperative that local Indigenous communities be given permission to tend and harvest culturally significant plant materials from the site. Additionally, I propose that this park be co-managed by state parks and the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribe, to once again ensure that this park provides meaningful revitalization and empowerment to all.

All buildings are made of rammed earth, a combination of soil from the site (that has been remediated through mycelium + native plant restoration) as well as an ecologically friendly concrete.

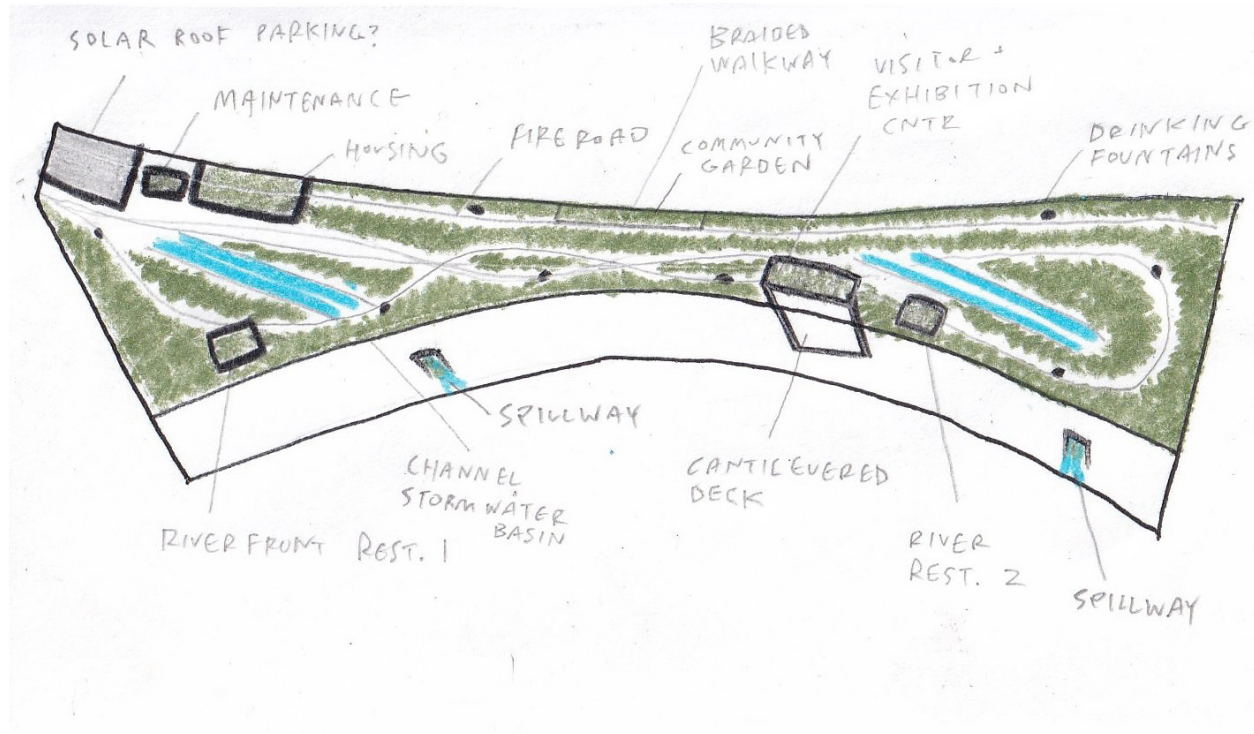
Inside the otolith rings are accessible wildlife islands with hidden play sculptures.

The parks namesake 'Logjam' comes from areas on free flowing rivers where naturally felled trees and root wats would pile up creating back eddies and pools for migrating salmon and steelhead. Onsite there are several large semi submerged log stacks for people to play and hang out on. There are also boulders big and small onsite - a natural occurrence once upon a time in a free flowing watershed coming down from the mountains.

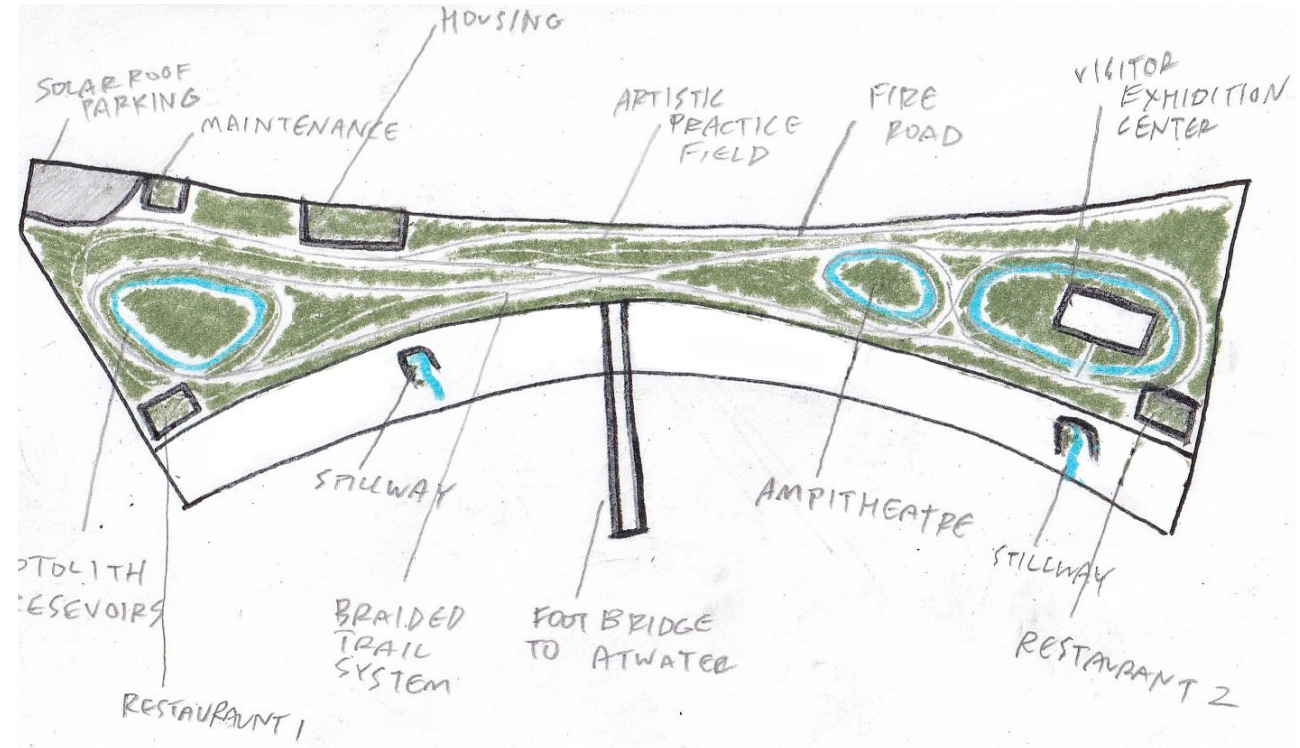
Onsite there is a native plant nursery that will sell local native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs to visitors interested in helping restore our Los Angeles River basin ecology. All building roofs are green roofs providing pollinators with great access to additional areas of habitat / food sources. The pavements are all permeable, pathways are ADA friendly and the roof to the parking lot is solar powered.

Across the train tracks is a 4 story affordable housing complex with a bodega attached and an open air food market across the pavillion. There are giant sycamores, oaks, and willow trees throughout the park offering shade and shelter for creatures big and small.

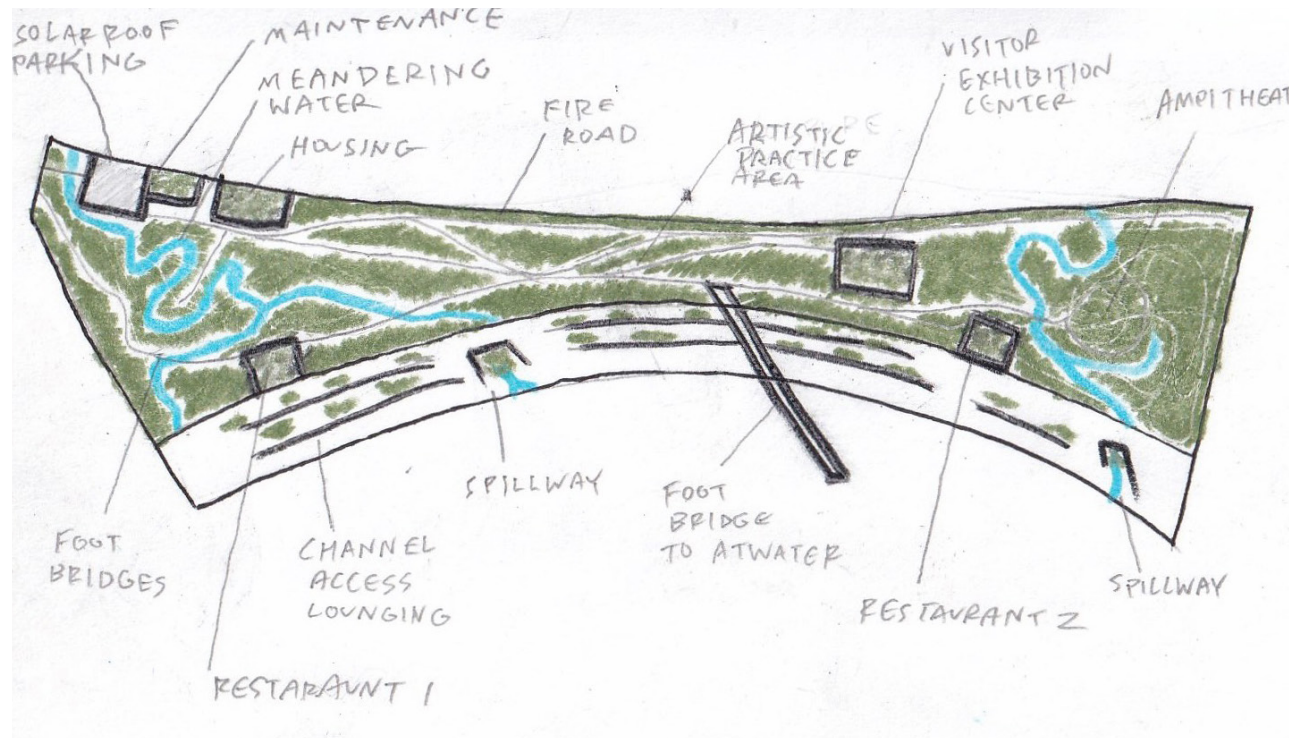




DAYLIGHT CHANNEL







OTOLITH BASIN



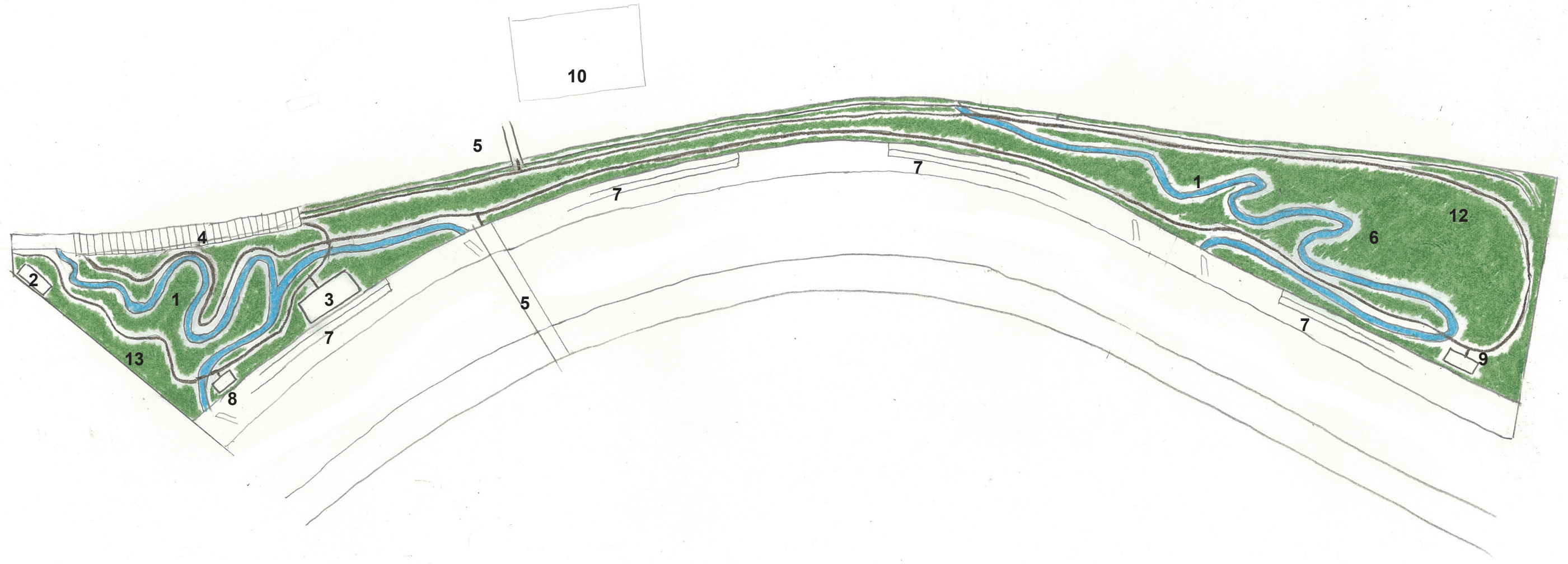
MEANDERING WATER



LEGEND

-  Hardscape structure
-  Vegetation
-  Stormwater
-  Pathways + Service road

'CR33K'
PASSIVE STORMWATER
TREATMENT

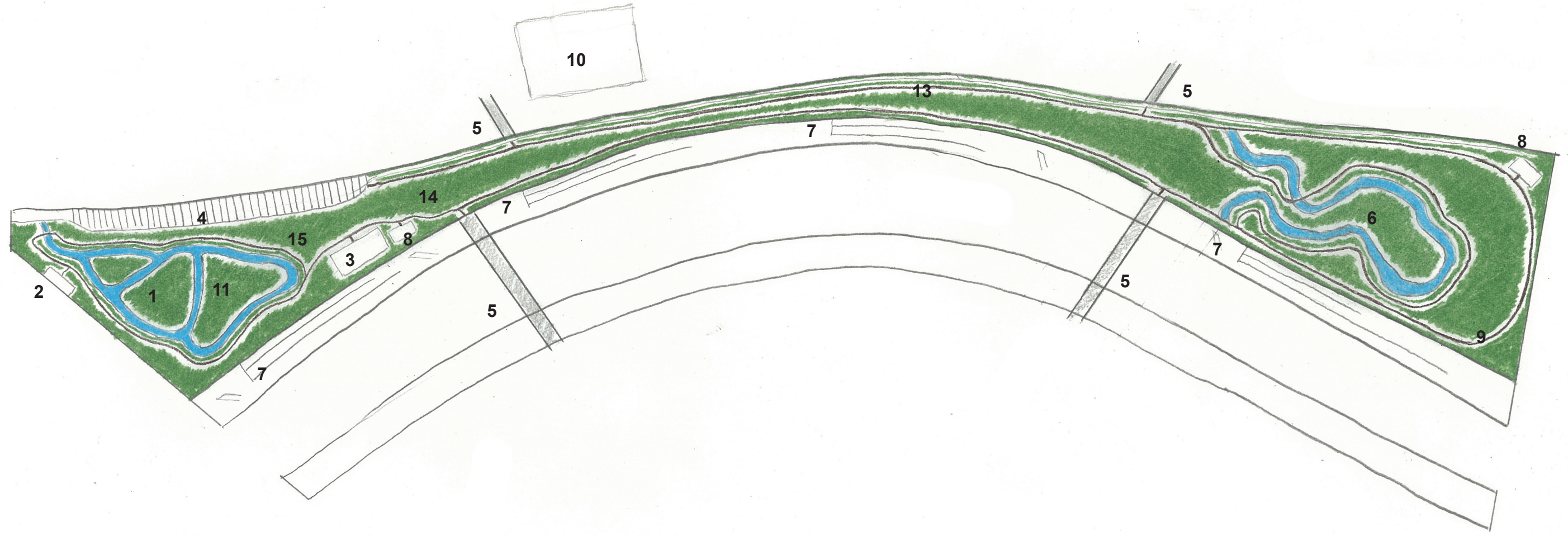


- 1 - Passive creek wetland
- 2 - Maintenance
- 3 - Cultural center
- 4 - Solar Parking
- 5 - Footbridge
- 6 - Passive Creek
- 7 - Channelized Seating

- 8 - Cafe
- 9 - Circulation
- 10 - Housing
- 12 - Art field
- 13 - Fireroad
- 14 - Native nursery
- 15 - Traditional gathering area



'HALF WAY'
PASSIVE STORMWATER
TREATMENT



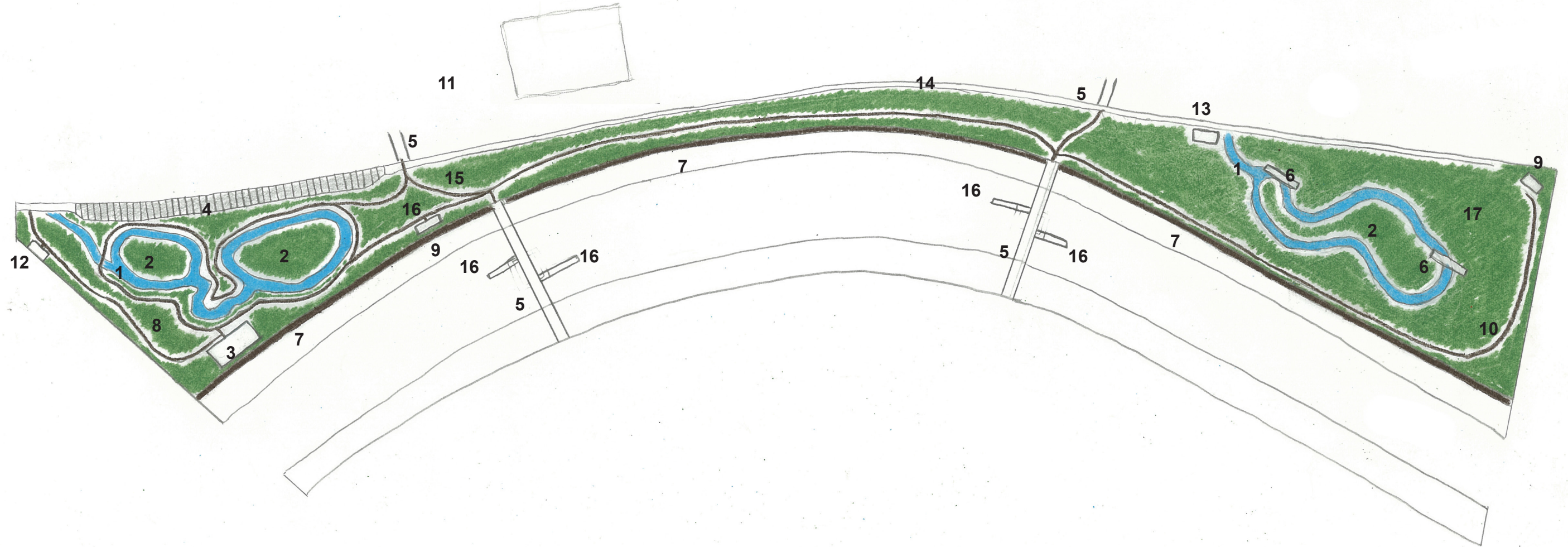
- 1 - Retention wetland
- 2 - Maintenance
- 3 - Cultural center
- 4 - Solar parking
- 5 - Footbridge
- 6 - Passive creek
- 7 - Channelized seating
- 8 - Cafe

- 9 - Circulation
- 10 - Housing
- 11 - Habitat Islands
- 12 - Art field
- 13 - Fireroad
- 14 - Traditional gathering area
- 15 - Native nursery



500'

**CLOSED LOOP
STORMWATER DETENTION**



- 1 - Retention wetland
- 2 - Habitat Islands
- 3 - Cultural center
- 4 - Solar Parking
- 5 - Footbridge
- 6 - Water bunker
- 7 - Wooden riverside boardwalk
- 8 - Natural play area

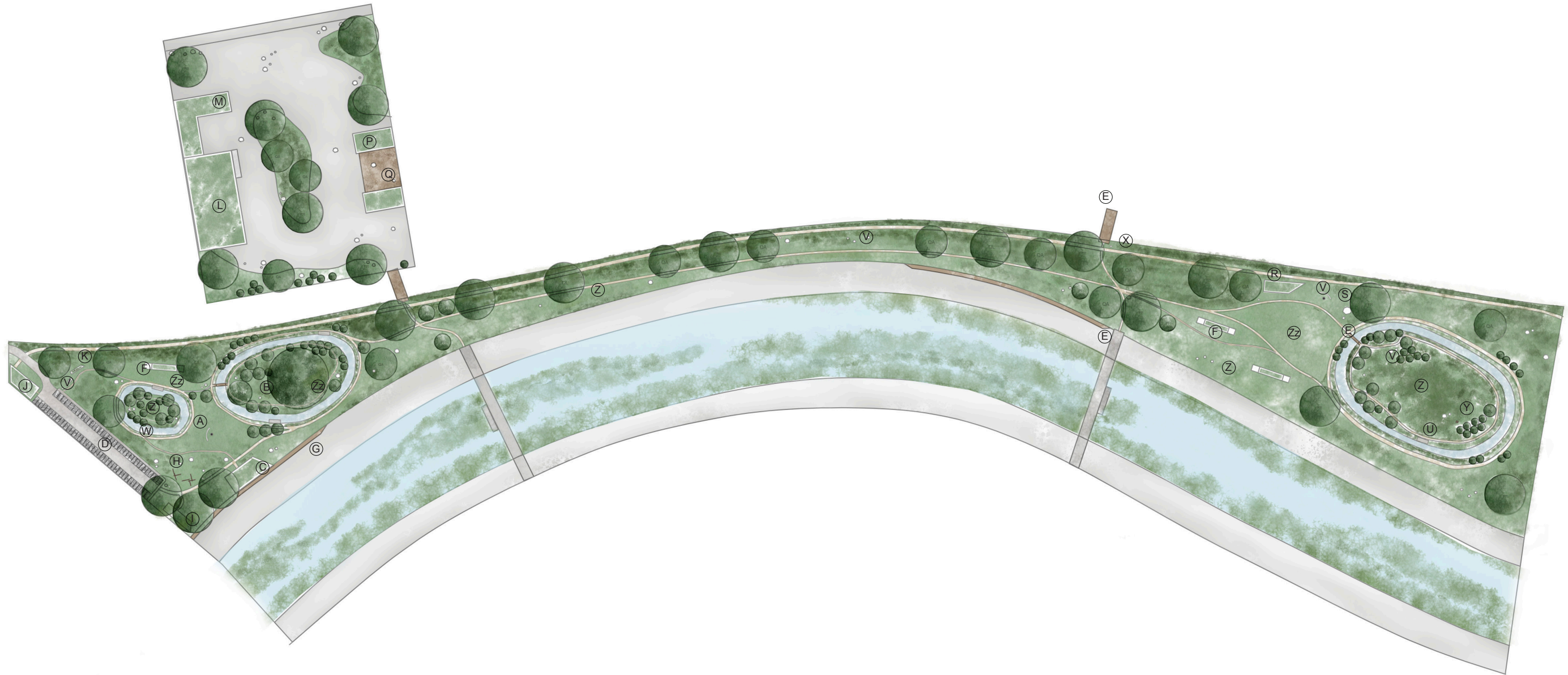
- 9 - Cafe
- 10 - Circulation
- 11 - Housing
- 12 - Maintenance
- 13 - Art residency
- 14 - Fireroad
- 15 - Traditional gathering area
- 16 - Native nursery

- 16 - Observation decks
- 17 - Meadow / grassland



500'

LOGJAM PARK
STORMWATER RETENTION



- (A) - Stormwater otoliths
- (B) - Habitat Islands
- (C) - Cultural center
- (D) - Solar Parking
- (E) - Connection bridge
- (F) - Cistern
- (G) - Wooden riverside boardwalk
- (H) - Natural play area

- (I) - Cafe
- (J) - Maintenance
- (K) - Native plant nursery
- (L) - Housing
- (M) - Bodega
- (N) - Fireroad
- (O) - Traditional gathering area
- (P) - Open air food market

- (Q) - Outdoor patio
- (R) - Artist residency
- (S) - Bench seating
- (T) - Community firepit
- (U) - Wildlife viewing decks
- (V) - Boulder garden
- (W) - Cobble bridge
- (X) - Drinking fountain

- (Y) - Raptor tower
- (Z) - Art field
- (Zz) - Indigenous gathering areas



500'



Logjam play area - Habitat island North end of Logjam



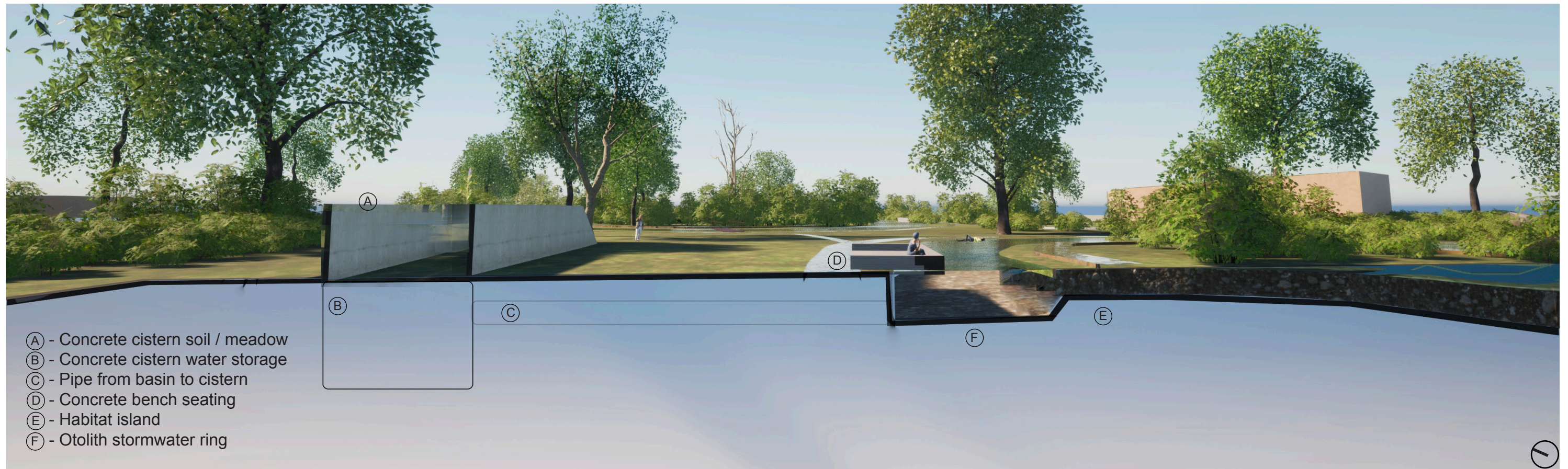
Crossing to art field island - South end of Logjam



Cistern in meadow - South end of Logjam



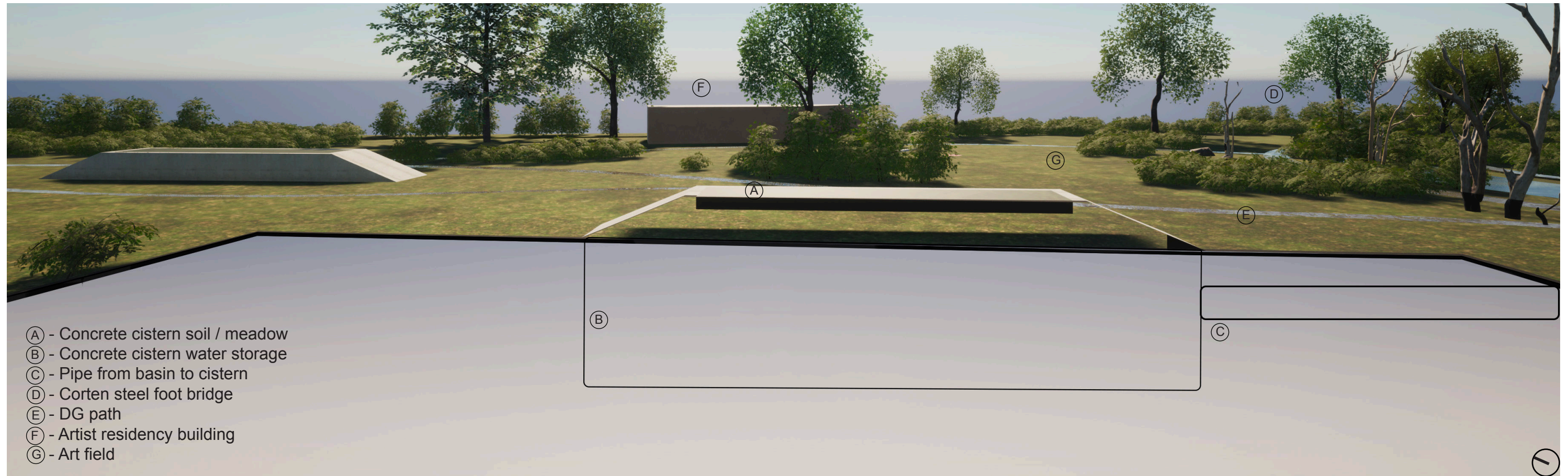
Raptor nesting platform - South end of Logjam



- (A) - Concrete cistern soil / meadow
- (B) - Concrete cistern water storage
- (C) - Pipe from basin to cistern
- (D) - Concrete bench seating
- (E) - Habitat island
- (F) - Otolith stormwater ring



15'



- (A) - Concrete cistern soil / meadow
- (B) - Concrete cistern water storage
- (C) - Pipe from basin to cistern
- (D) - Corten steel foot bridge
- (E) - DG path
- (F) - Artist residency building
- (G) - Art field



100'

TREES



Platanus racemosa - Western Sycamore



Quercus agrifolia - Coast Live Oak



Juglans californica - Southern Black Walnut



Salix exigua - Sandbar Willow



Salix goodingii - Goodding's Willow



Schoenoplectus acutus - Hardstem Tule



Carex praegracilis - Field Sedge



Baccharis salicifolia - Mule Fat



Eriogonum fasciculatum - California Buckwheat



Salvia apiana - White Sage



Muhlenbergia rigens - Deergrass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRLBvi0p71c>



THANK YOU