Dariusz Krasinski

Infinity Park: Transforming a Stormwater Sump Basin into a Recreational Park

UCLA Extension - Landscape Architecture Program
Capstone Project - Spring / Summer 2023
Instructor: Meg Rushing Coffee



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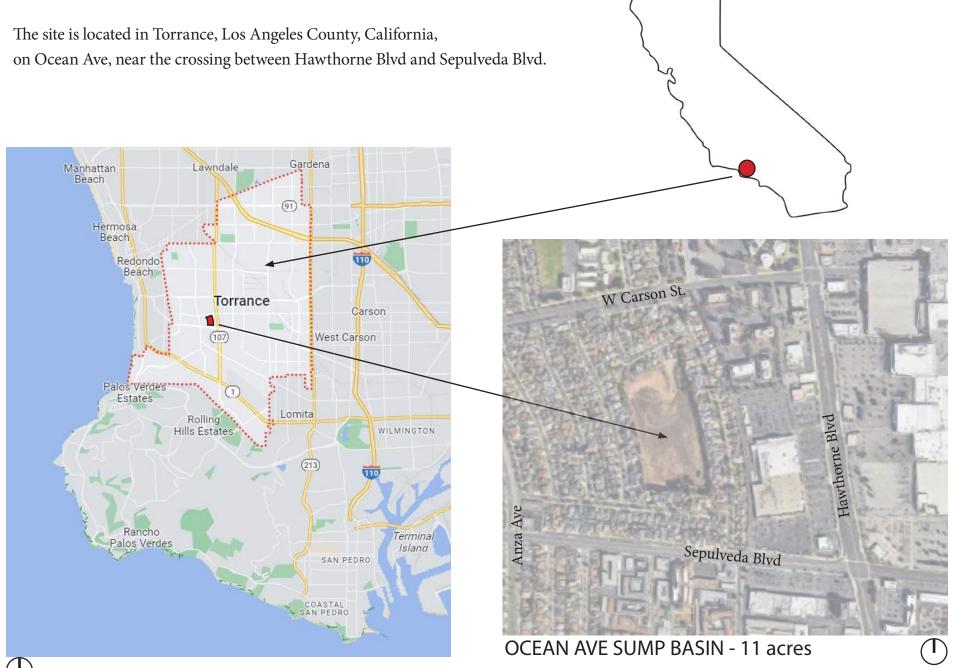
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PROJECT STATEMENT:

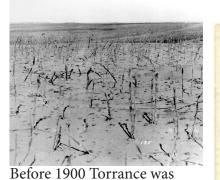
This project will explore opportunities and provide solutions for an underutilized stormwater sump basin. The recreation park will be designed with the intention of enhancing urban livability while promoting stormwater management, the natural environment, social interactions, and human health through physical activity.



SITE LOCATION



Torrance history



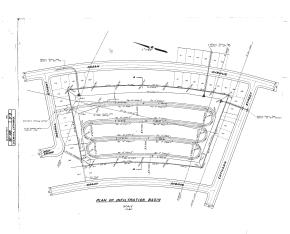
an empty field.
Courtesy of the California Historical Society Collection, USC Libraries.



City of Torrance incorporated in 1921



Torrance was resolving a massive stormwater problem since the city was founded and the problem continued with new developments



Ocean Ave sump basin construction plans

Before 1900

1911

1921

1930

1932

1950

1956

Frederick Law Olmsted Jr, was hired to design planned city. source: South Bay Daily Breeze



The City of Torrance was founded on May 31, 1911 by Jared Sidney Torrance and Associates after the purchase of 2,791 acres of land from the Dominguez Estate Company for \$976,850.

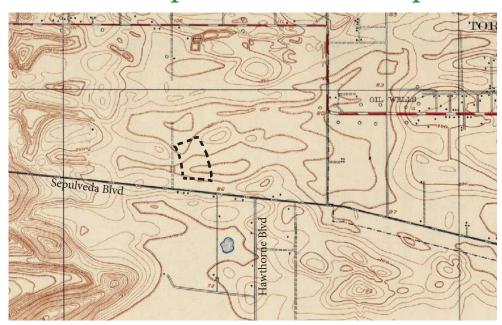


Oil production kept Torrance going during the Great Depression. source: City of Torrance

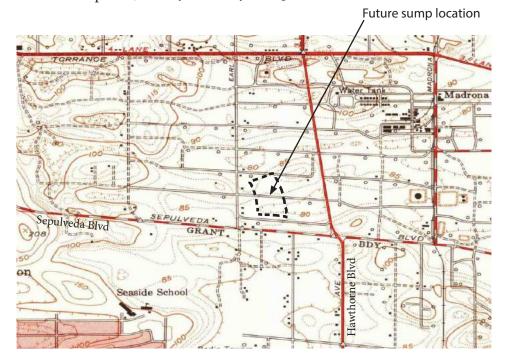


Developers were required to build sumps to mitigate the flooding problem. (Credit: CSUDH, South Bay History Collection)

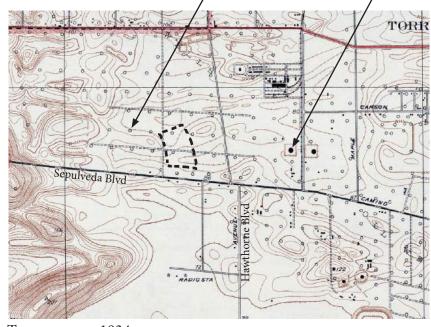
Land development before sump basin construction



Torrance map1923, source: https://www.oldmapsonline.org/



Torrance map 1951



Oil well

Oil tank

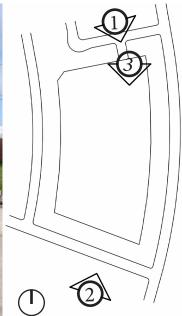
Torrance map 1934



Torrance map 1964

Photos of existing conditions







1 Entrance from north





3 Site views from the entrance

PARCEL MAPS

From LA County Department of Regional Planning GIS-NET

Size of the site: 10.926 Acres

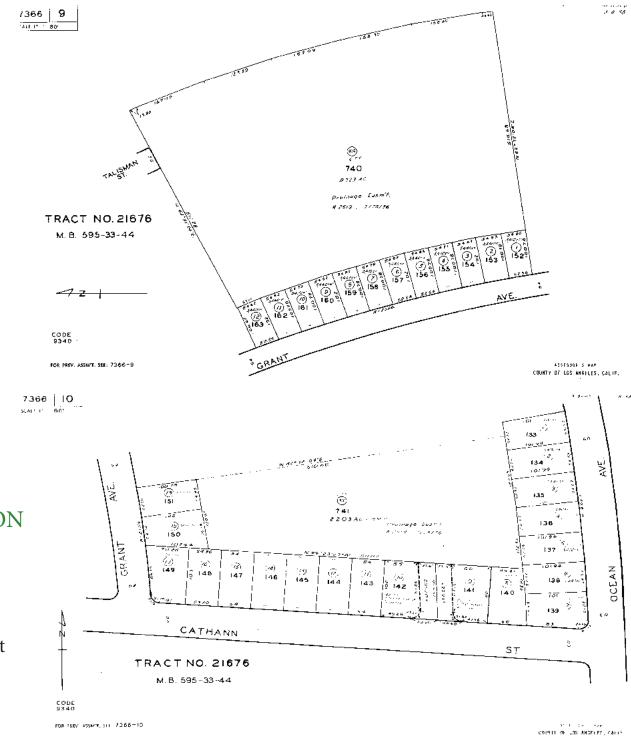
The site consists of two parcels:

AIN 7366009900 Address not available No buildings 8.723 AC Parcel Type: Government Owned Jurisdiction: City of Torrance Zoning: Drainage easement / Utility / Quasi-Public Space

AIN 7366010900 Address not available No buildings 2.203 AC Parcel Type: Government Owned Jurisdiction: City of Torrance Zoning: Drainage easement / Utility / Quasi-Public Space

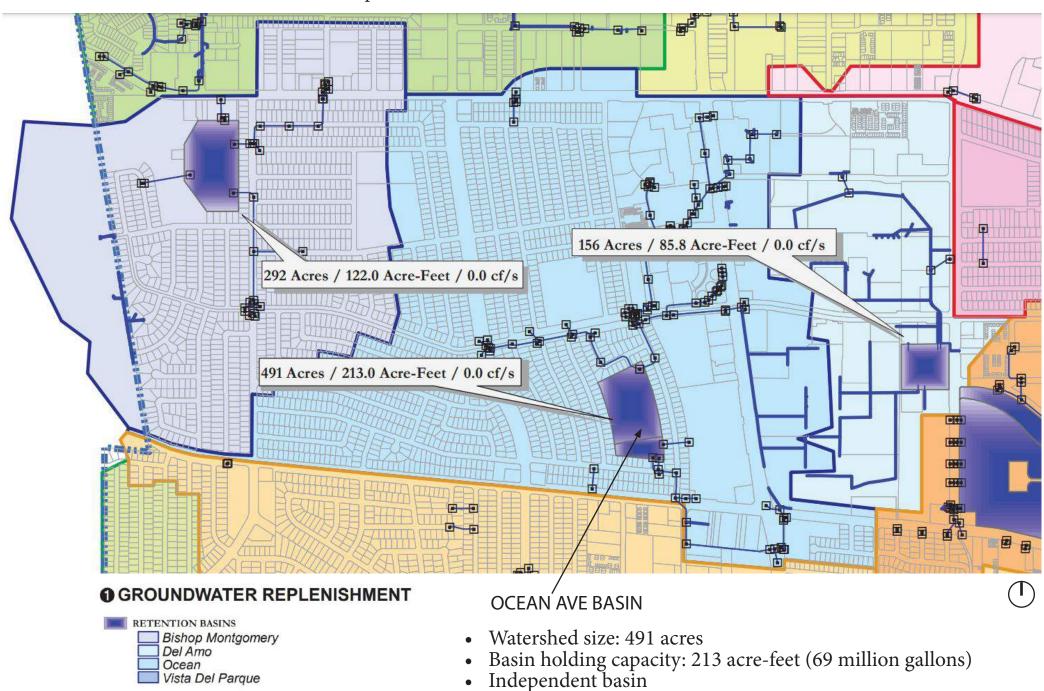
AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PROJECT

- State of California
- County of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- City of Torrance
- Torrance Police Department
- Torrance Water Department



Ocean Ave basin watershed

A stormwater basin, also known as a sump, is a reservoir that acts as a collection area for stormwater overflow.



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION - Need for a recreational park

- Low Nature-Based Recreation Area Acreage (1,540 acres) 1.51 acres per 1,000 residents.
- Every individual should have access to nature-based recreation areas within walking or cycling distance.
- 8% of South Bay residents have access within 0.5 miles of walking distance and 56% within 2.5 miles of cycling distance.

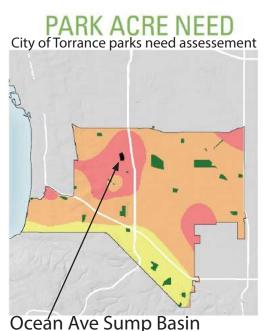


PROJECT JUSTIFICATION - Parks improve health and well-being

- People living in developed cities spend increasingly more time working on electronic devices and driving vehicles.
- New technologies increase work efficiency but negatively impact the health of every individual if overused.
- Prolonged sitting and excessive exposure to computer screens can weaken people physically and mentally.
- Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for residents.
- Regular visits to recreational parks are a great way to disconnect from technology and avoid health conditions including limited mobility, poor posture, sleep problems, eyestrain, depression, and anxiety.







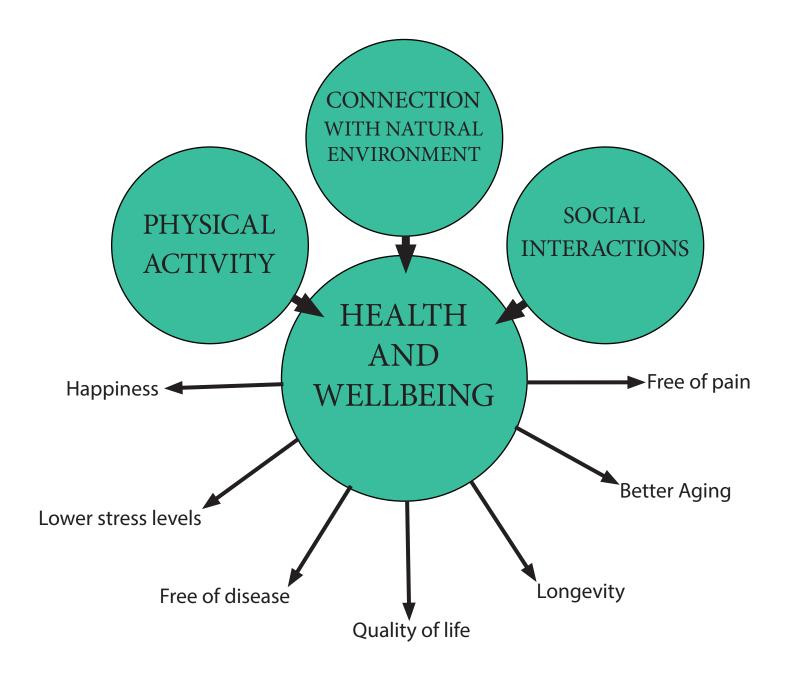




This land can provide more benefits Ocean Ave sump basin in Torrance is an underutilized site of 11 acres and approximately 30 feet deep.

- After an intensive storm, the sump has a proportionally small amount of water collected compared to the size of the site.
- The main purpose of the sump is to mitigate local flooding and allow water to soak into the ground.
- Considering the high value of the land and limited open spaces within the densely developed Greater Area of Los Angeles, landscape designers should take advantage of any opportunity to connect local residents to the natural environment.

BIG IDEA



DESIGN METHODOLOGY

The methodologies to be used in developing the concept design for transforming the Ocean Ave sump basin into a recreational park will follow design standards to accomplish project statement goals:

1. Recreation Park Design

- Spacial organization
- Security and safety (CPTED)
- Pedestrian and bicycle circulation
- ADA compliance
- Sustainable design and energy efficiency

2. Health through physical activity

- Fitness zones for all ages and levels
- Kids play
- Elders' needs for open space and physical activity

3. Stormwater BMPs

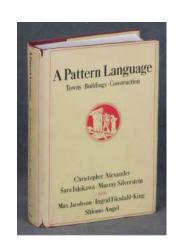
- Stormwater capture and recycling
- Biofiltration
- Vegetated swales
- Natural drainage

4. Community connection

- Everyday destination
- Open space
- Small gathering spaces

5. Green space

- Tree place
- Native plants
- Garden growing wild





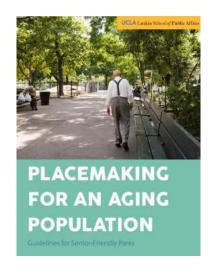


County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Stormwater Best Management Practice Design and Maintenance Manual

> For Publicly Maintained Storm Drain Systems

> > May 2009

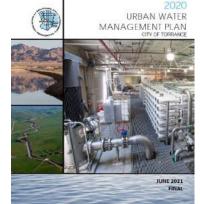


PLANNING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK FOR LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID)

PART B
PLANNING ACTIVITES
av 9, 2016 STH EDITION







CASE STUDIES / PRECEDENTS: Boneyard Creek Restoration: Scott Park and the Second Street Detention Basin

Location: Second Street Basin, Champaign, Illinois 61820

Designer: Hitchcock Design Group

Size: 10 acres

Completion Date: 2010

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The detention basin functions as a recreational open space.
- Water features enhance the attractiveness of the park.
- Soil erosion reduction through water BMPs.
- The design increased stormwater holding capacity and enhanced ecological function.
- The detention basin provides 100-year flood protection in the setting of an attractive park.
- 5 acres of open space for recreational use during non-flood conditions.
- Two distinct waterfalls, taking advantage of the 20-ft drop in elevation from the street level to the basin.
- 4,115 feet of paved pathways wind throughout the site and link to the surrounding neighborhood.
- The 500-ft main promenade was located 4 ft below the grade of the adjacent street and parking areas to create a more pleasant pedestrian experience by limiting visual and audio disturbance from cars.





CASE STUDIES / PRECEDENTS: Vista Hermosa Natural Park

Location: 100 N Toluca St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Designer: Mia Lehrer + Associates

Size: 9.5 acres

Completion Date: 2008

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Excessive vegetation can create safety issues.
- DG paths do not work well on sloped paths.
- Water features design should account for functionality.
- 94% of the park's surfaces are permeable to allow stormwater to infiltrate and minimize runoff.
- Pollutants are removed as stormwater is filtered by vegetation, upland bioswales, and an artificial turf base material before entering the municipal stormwater system.
- A natural basin holds 100,000 gallons of rainwater and contributes to the retention of 95% of stormwater runoff on-site.
- A 20,000-gallon cistern collects stormwater runoff from a synthetic turf soccer field.
- The captured water is used to irrigate planted areas on the site.
- Sequesters an estimated 22 tons of atmospheric carbon annually in 800 trees on site, equivalent to the carbon emissions from the annual energy use of 2 homes.
- It serves approximately 1,500 to 2,000 athletes per week.
- The park is not safe many hidden spaces and dead-end paths.







CASE STUDIES / PRECEDENTS: Cromwell Park

Location: 18030 Meridian Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

Designer: GAYNOR, Inc. / PACE An Engineering Service Company

Size: 9.6 acres

Completion Date: 2010

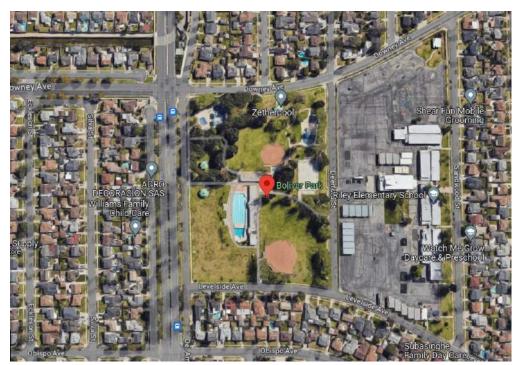
• Urban park serves as a regional stormwater facility to relieve flooding and improve water quality.

- Stormwater options include: vegetated biofiltration channels for conveyance and treatment, rain gardens, and a constructed stormwater wetland with detention storage.
- Passive, active and cultural activities: baseball/softball, basketball, open space natural area, paved trails, picnic areas, playground, public art, reservable field, reservable picnic, restroom, soccer field.
- Gracefully arching accessible pathways, and colorful native plantings unify and enliven the park site.
- Cromwell Park's diverse features are attracting park-goers of all ages and interests.
- The park's stormwater features are successfully eliminating local flooding.





CASE STUDIES / PRECEDENTS: Bolivar Park



Location: 3300 Del Amo Blvd, Lakewood, CA 90712

Designer: Tetra Tech

Size: 10 acres

Completion Date: 2016





TREATMENT oldcastleinfrastructure.com

- 2.9 million gallon, multi-chambered storage and infiltration facility beneath the park.
- Pretreated and collected stormwater satisfies 100% of the park's 9.5-million-gallons-per-year irrigation needs.
- Smart water technology by using real-time controls cloud-based system connected to National Weather Service data.
- Features: athletic fields, baseball and basketball court, BBQ, multi-purpose game court, picnic area, playground, restrooms, swimming pool, playground, water fountains.
- The stormwater enters the settlement section of the system, where pollutants can be settled out. Water then flows over the 2'-0" settlement weir and collects in a watertight section of the vault, storing runoff for on-site irrigation. During high flow events, the stormwater flows over a 5'-8" harvesting weir into another section of the system. In this section, precast openings in the base of the system provide an infiltration surface area that allows water to infiltrate into the ground and recharge the groundwater.

stormtrap.com

CASE STUDIES / PRECEDENTS: Bolivar Park

Bolivar Park - GENERAL PLAN



- KEY TAKEAWAYS:
- Pretreatment facility surface area requirement.
- Underground stormwater collector capacity.
- The collector is satisfying 100% of the park's irrigation needs.

POTENTIAL USERS



LOCAL RESIDENTS



AGING COMMUNITY RESIDENTS



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
OF LOCAL SCHOOLS



PERSONAL TRAINERS WITH STUDENTS



COMMERCIAL CENTER
EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS



- 55.1% have Bachelor's degree or higher
- The average household income is \$118,289



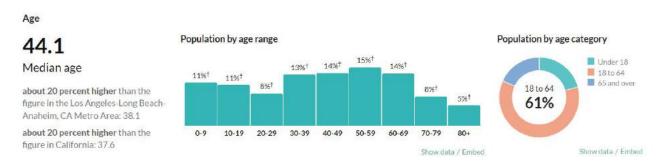
GUESTS OF LOCAL HOTELS

ETHNICITY

- Asian 35%
- White 34%
- Hispanic 19%
- Two or more races 7%
- Black 4%
- Other 1%

Torrance population - Census data 2022

- 61% of people are 13 to 63 years old
- 55.1% have a Bachelor's degree or higher
- Asian 35%
- White 34%
- Hispanic 19%
- Two or more races 7%
- Black 4%
- Other 1%
- The population is declining at 2.16% annually.
- density 6,699 people per square mile
- The average household income is \$118,289.
- Poverty rate of 8.18%
- About 30% of people in Torrance were born outside of the United States.
- About 15% of the population of Torrance has Japanese heritage.
- Torrance has a large Korean population.
- Torrance is expected to enjoy 34% job growth over the next decade.
- 4.8% Veterans



Educational attainment

94.8%

High school grad or higher

in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area: 82.1%

in California: 84.5%

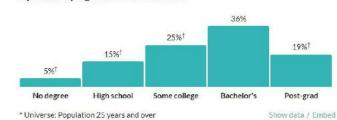
55.1%

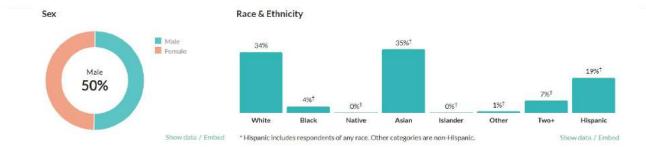
Bachelor's degree or higher

about 20 percent higher than the rate about 1.5 times the rate in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area: 37.1%

about 10 percent higher than the rate about 1.5 times the rate in California. 36.2%

Population by highest level of education





Transportation to work

28.1 minutes

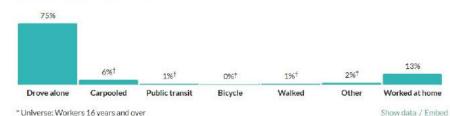
Mean travel time to work

* ACS 2021 5-year data

about 90 percent of the figure in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area: 30.5

a little less than the figure in California: 29.6

Means of transportation to work



"Universe: Workers 16 years and over

1. Southwood residential area



2. Jefferson Middle School - 0.2 mil

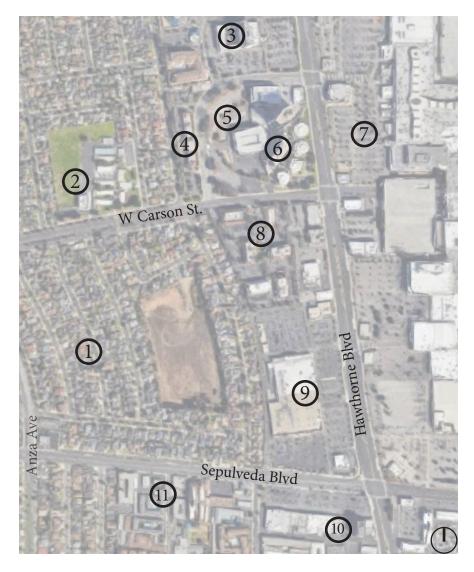


3. Hilton Hotel - 0.45 mil



4. Extended Stay America Hotel - 0.25 mil

CONTEXT & Distances





5. Modern aging community - 0.3 mil



6. Commercial office buildings - 0.35 mil



11. Apartment buildings - 0.7 mil



10. Commercial buildings - 0.7 mil



9. Walmart / Staples - 0.45 mil



8. Torrance Executive Plaza - 0.3 mil



7. Del Amo Fashion Center 0.55 mil

Dariusz Krasinski

ZONING MAP Parks & Basins **General Plan Land Use Policy** Land Use Designations Columbia Park Low Density Residential (0-9 du/ac) Low-Medium Density Residential (9.1-18 du/ac) DEL AMO BLVD Henrietta Basin Medium Density Residential DEL ANO BLVD (18.1-31 du/ac) Medium High Density Residential (31.1-44 du/ac) EMERALD ST. High Density Residential (44.1+ du/ac) **Bishop** General Commercial (max 0.6 FAR)* MARICOPA ST Montgomery Commercial Center (max 1.0 FAR)* Basin Light Industrial (max 0.6 FAR) Heavy Industrial (max 0.6 FAR) Residential Office CARSON ST. (max 0.6 FAR*, 18.1-31 du/ac) Ocean Ave **Business Park** Sump Basin (max 0.6 FAR) PLAZA DEL AMO Public/Quasi-Public/ Open Space SEPULVEDA BLVD Hospital/Medical (max 0.6 FAR)** AIR Airport Walteria Lake Madrona Marsh **Preserve and Nature** PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY Center Lago Seco Park LOMITA BLVO **Hickory Park** SKYPARK DR STAMONTANA

1. CAPTURE AND RECYCLE STORMWATER

Maintain existing sump basin capacity • Use stormwater for irrigation **OBJECTIVES:**

- Filter out stormwater pollutants



Prefiltration facility (0.2 ac)



The underground stormwater collection reservoir (2 ac)



The overflow detention pond (1 ac)



Infiltration bioswale (0.3 ac)

2. PROVIDE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- **OBJECTIVES:** Create recreational green park Reduce carbon footprint
- Heal minds through connection to nature



Native plants garden (2 ac)



Dry creek with bridges (0.46 ac)



Rain garden (0.3 ac)



Contemplative garden (0.46 ac)

3. PROVIDE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a variety of activities for users of all ages
- Encourage walking, running and biking
- Provide shade to allow for exercise



Fitness zones for all ages and levels (0.6 ac)



Rehabilitation and injury prevention zone (0.2 ac)



Main pathway (0.6 ac)



Obstacle course for adults (0.4 ac)



Yoga space (0.1 ac)



Secondary pathway (0.6 ac)



Obstacle course for kids (0.4 ac)



Playground (0.3 ac)

4. ENHANCE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

OBJECTIVES:

- Create a safe environment
- Reduce social isolation
- Integrate local community



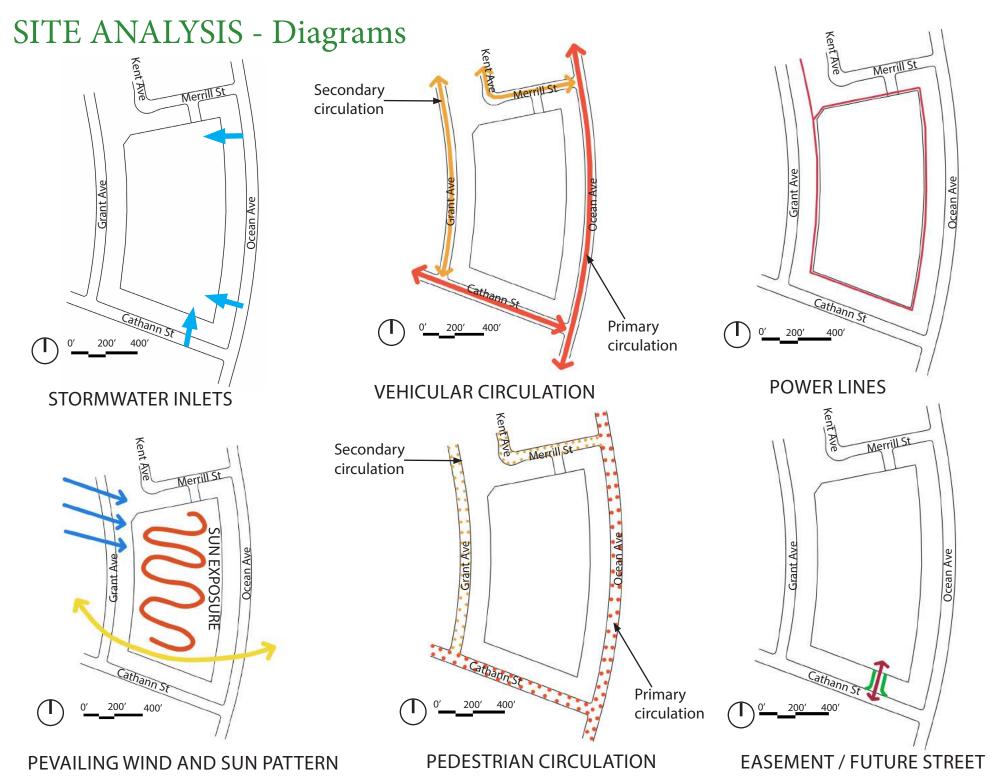
Open green space (0.5 ac)



Shaded picnic grounds (0.2 ac)



Chess tables area (0.1 ac)



SITE ANALYSIS - Bike lanes / Parking / Bus stops





Carson Street



Ocean Ave



No restrictions on street parking

The design of the neighborhood park encourages walking and biking for local residents instead of using vehicles. Main streets provide dedicated bike lanes or bicycle-friendly roads. The Southwood neighborhood is quiet and there is always street parking available for further located visitors. There is a street cleaning parking restriction once-a-week for 3 hours.

SITE ANALYSIS - Sump basin condition after storms

March 1st

Next day after heaviest storm in 2023





March 15th

Next day after second strong storm in 2023





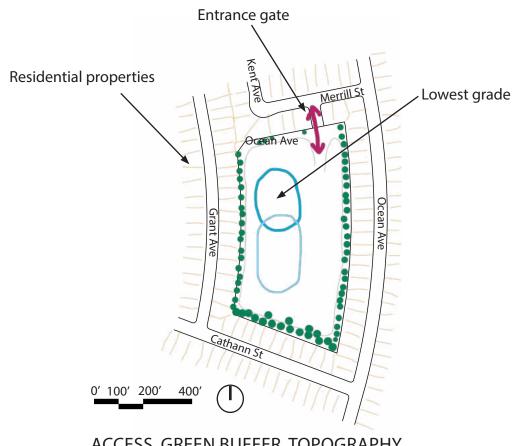
August 20th at 10pm

The day of Tropical Storm Hilary in 2023

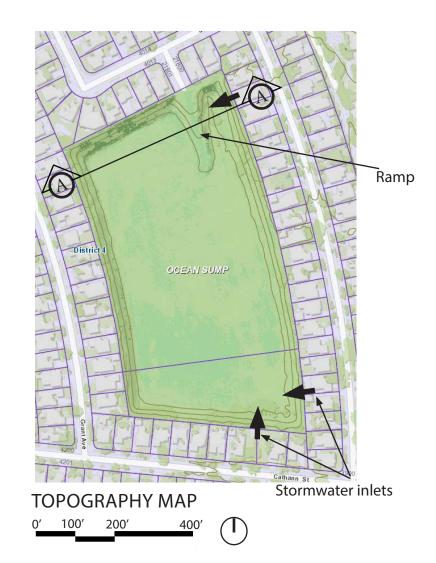


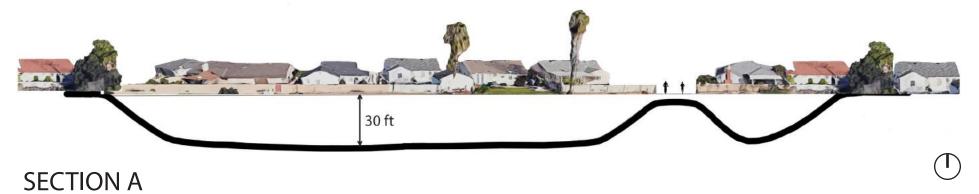


SITE ANALYSIS - Topography / Section



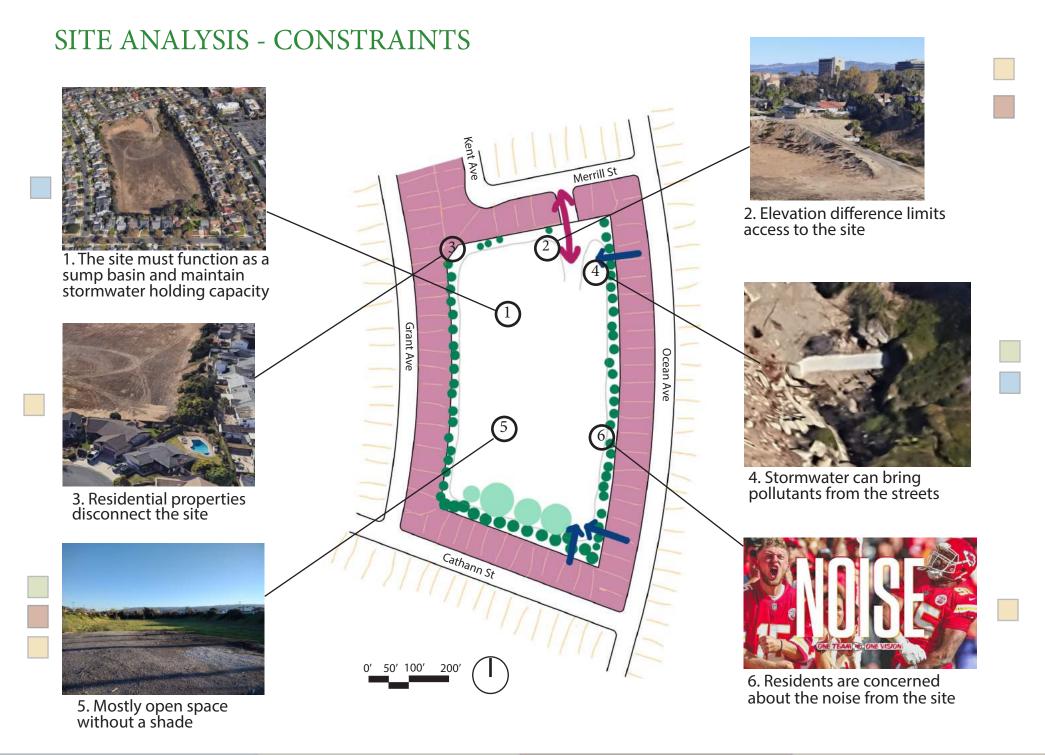
ACCESS, GREEN BUFFER, TOPOGRAPHY





SITE ANALYSIS - OPPORTUNITIES





DESIGN METAPHOR



INFINITY - the concept of something that is unlimited, endless, and without bounds. Infinity can have a symbolic meaning for everything which we want to last in eternity: life, health, love, or humankind.



Bamboo Craft Village, Chengdu, China



Nancy Holt sculpture, Finland

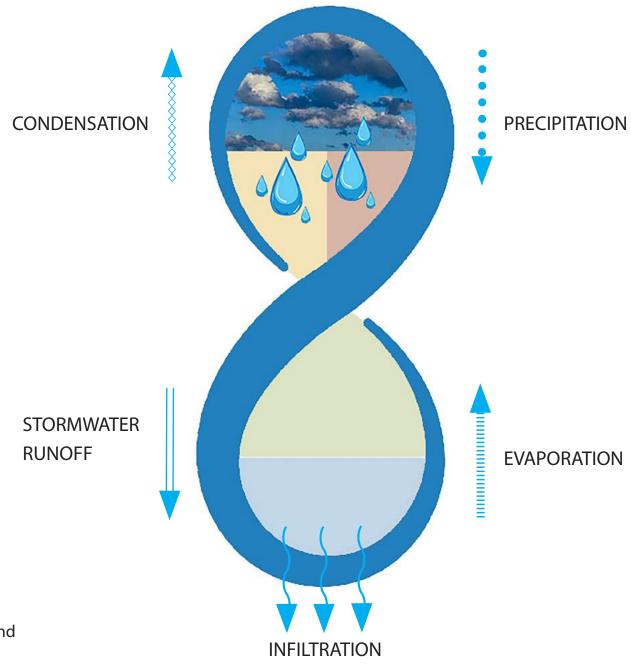


Bamboo Craft Village, Chengdu, China



Giant Panda National Park, China

DESIGN METAPHOR - Infinity water cycle



Water management is a foundation of this project.
It helps to create a natural environment, which attracts people to physical activity and social interactions.

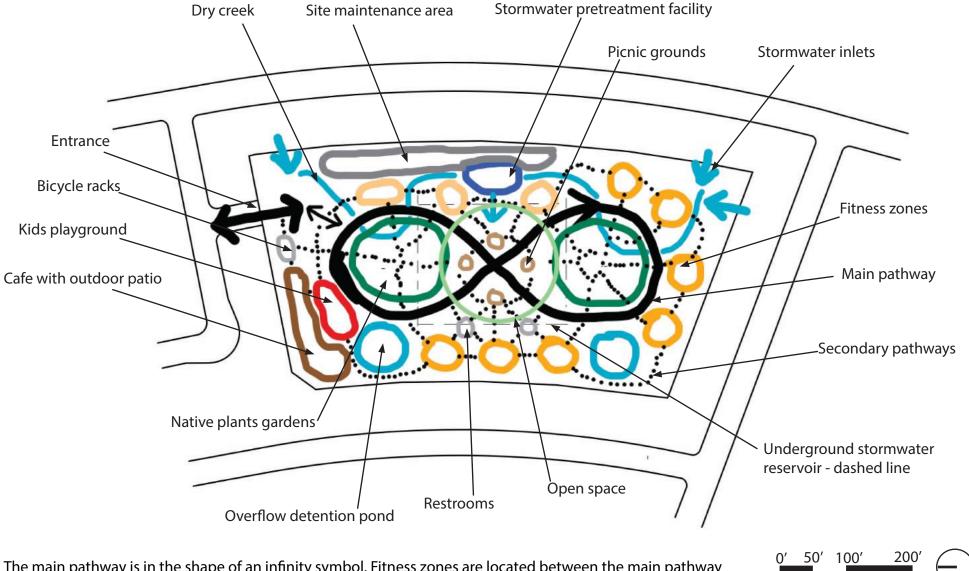
MANAGE STORMWATER

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

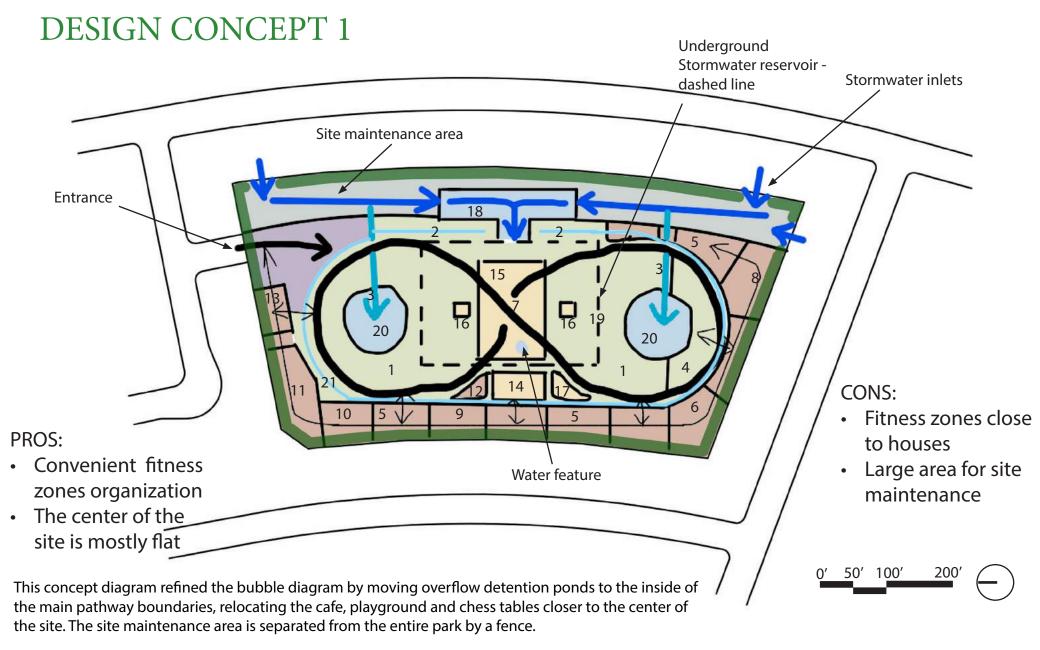
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

DESIGN CONCEPT - Bubble diagram

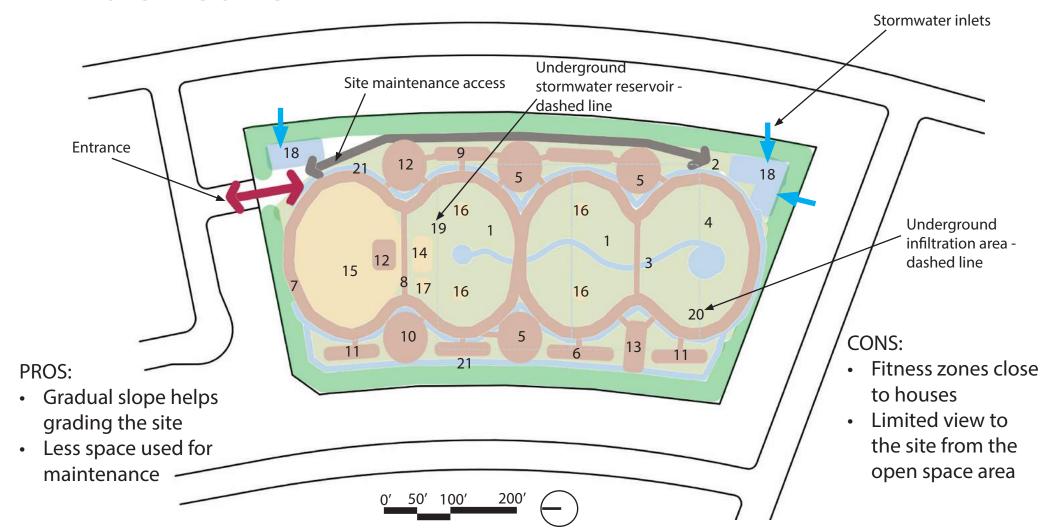


The main pathway is in the shape of an infinity symbol. Fitness zones are located between the main pathway and the property line. Stormwater is directed through dry creeks to a pretreatment facility and then to an underground reservoir. There are two overflow detention ponds in case of heavy storms. A native plant garden is located inside of the main pathway boundaries. The rain garden collects the water in the center of the site. A cafe with outdoor patio, kids' playground and bicycle racks are located close to the entrance to the park. The net of secondary pathways connects all of the program elements together.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY		SOCIAL INTERACTIONS	MANAGE STORMWATER
2. Rain garden3. Dry creek with bridges4. Contemplative garden	5. Fitness zones6. Obstacle course7. Main pathway8. Secondary pathways9. Obstacle course for key		14. Cafe with outdoor patio15. Open space16. Picnic grounds17. Chess tables area	18. Pretreatment facility19. Stormwater reservoir20. Overflow detention pond21. Bioswale

DESIGN CONCEPT 2

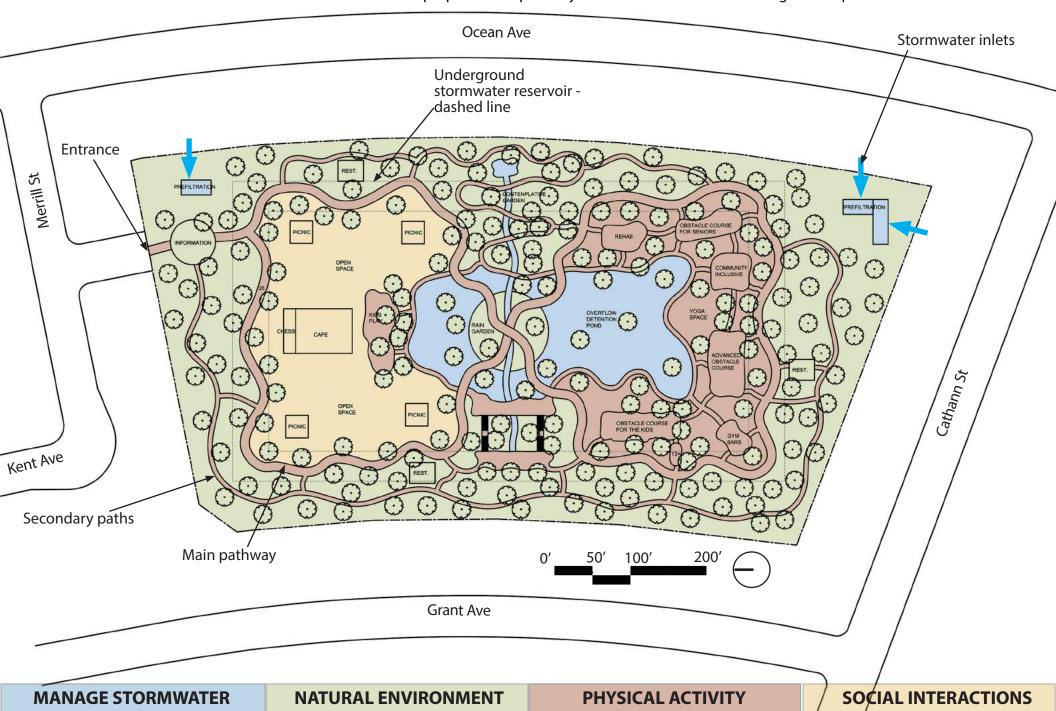


This design concept has a completely different approach to the site grading. The open space at the north part of the site is at the street level and the rest of the site gradually slopes towards the south end of the property. The main pathway, previously in the shape of an infinity sign, is divided into two additional segments which define fitness zone spaces. The underground reservoir is expanded to an infiltration area, allowing stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. Most of the social interactions take place close to the entrance on a flat surface and native plant gardens with dry creek take a sloped portion of the site.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY		SOCIAL INTERACTIONS	MANAGE STORMWATER
2. Rain garden 3. Dry creek with bridges 4. Contemplative garden		•	14. Cafe with outdoor patio15. Open space16. Picnic grounds17. Chess tables area	18. Pretreatment facility19. Stormwater reservoir20. Underground infiltration area21. Bioswale

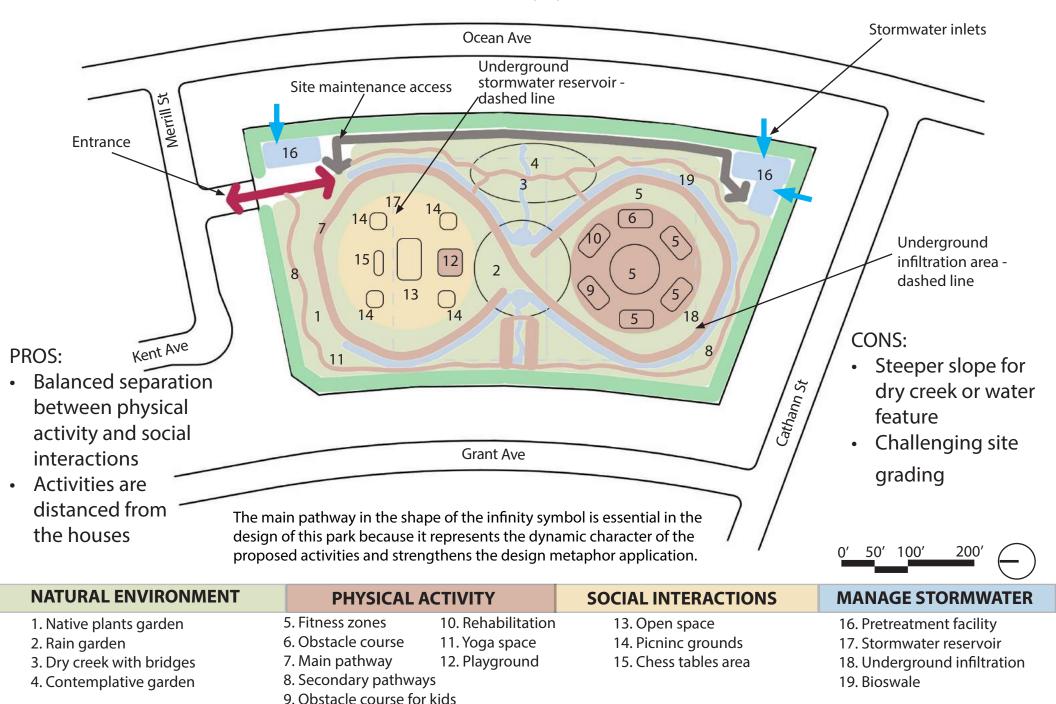
DESIGN CONCEPT 3

This design concept place native plant garden outside of the main pathway and brings social and physical activities inside in order to increase distance from park activities and residential properties. All pathways are transformed into more organic shapes.



DESIGN CONCEPT - Final

Final design concept place native plant garden outside of the main pathway and brings social and physical activities inside in order to increase distance from park activities and residential properties.



ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

STORMWATER PRETREATMENT FACILITY

STORMWATER INLETS

ENTRANCE

PLAYGROUND **ENTRANCE INLET**

STORMWATER

CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN



PICNIC STRUCTURES NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN

YOGA SPACE

FITNESS ZONES

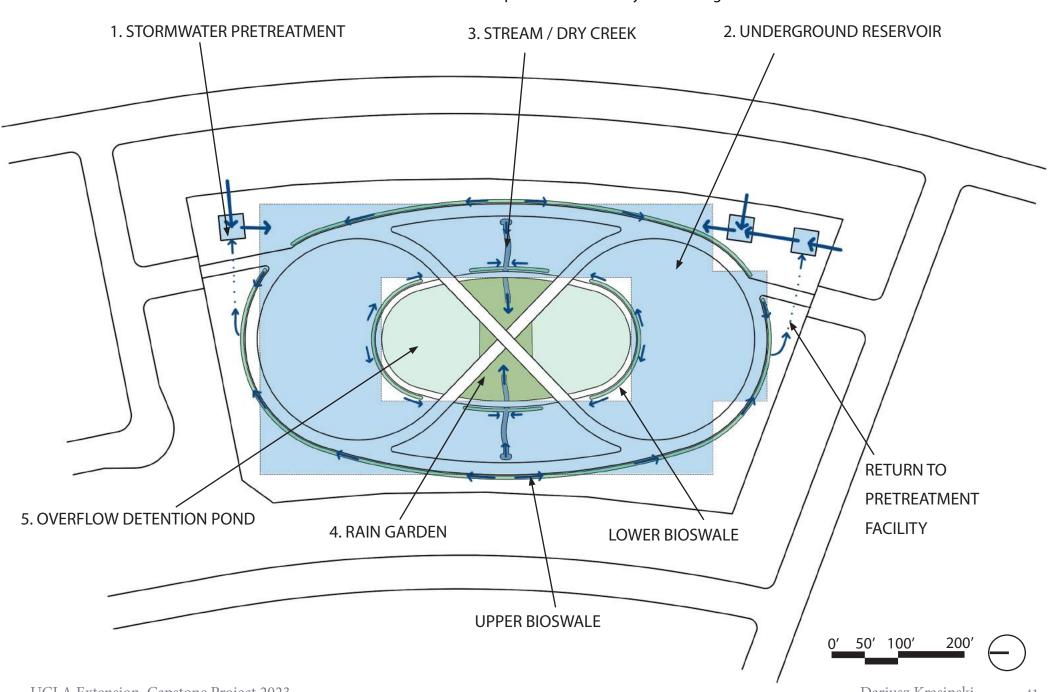
50' 100'

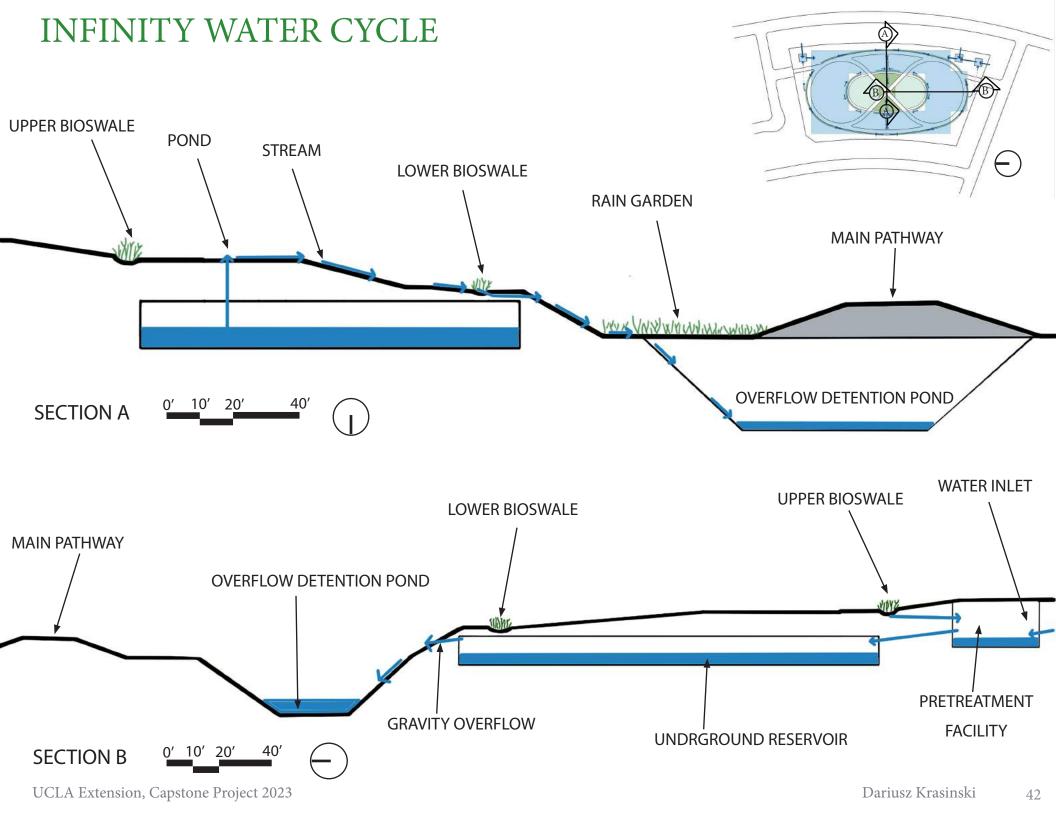
200'



INFINITY WATER CYCLE

Stormwater enters the site through storm drains to pretreatment facilities, then it is collected in the underground reservoir. Excess of stormwater can be pumped out down the streams to the rain garden. In case of heavy storms, water can overflow into the detention pond and infiltrate into the ground. Two bioswales collect and filtrate the water from the site and send it back to a pretreatment facility and underground reservoir.





ENTRANCE - Perspective 1





Both park entrances are modest with inviting, arched, planted pergola. The street is separated from residential properties by a solid hedge for privacy.

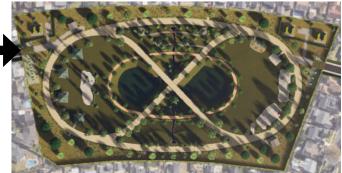
Vehicular circulation is controlled by bollards, which can be removed in an emergency or for site maintenance purposes.

ENTRANCE - Perspective 2





Broom concrete finish



Right at the entrance, visitors can find signs informing them about the park amenities, communicating the park rules, and educating them about stormwater management.

Concrete road under pergola leads straight to the main park pathway or turns east to stormwater pretreatment facilities.



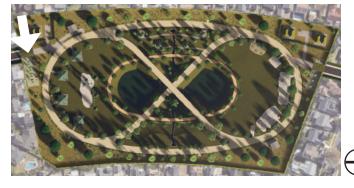
ENTRANCE - Perspective 3

The entrance is a transitional space where visitors can park their bicycles near the main gate, meet friends at chess tables or go further into the native plant garden. There are permeable pavers on both sides of the concrete road.





Permeable holland paving stones

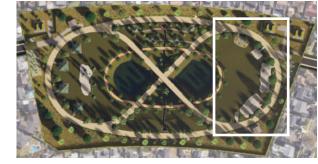


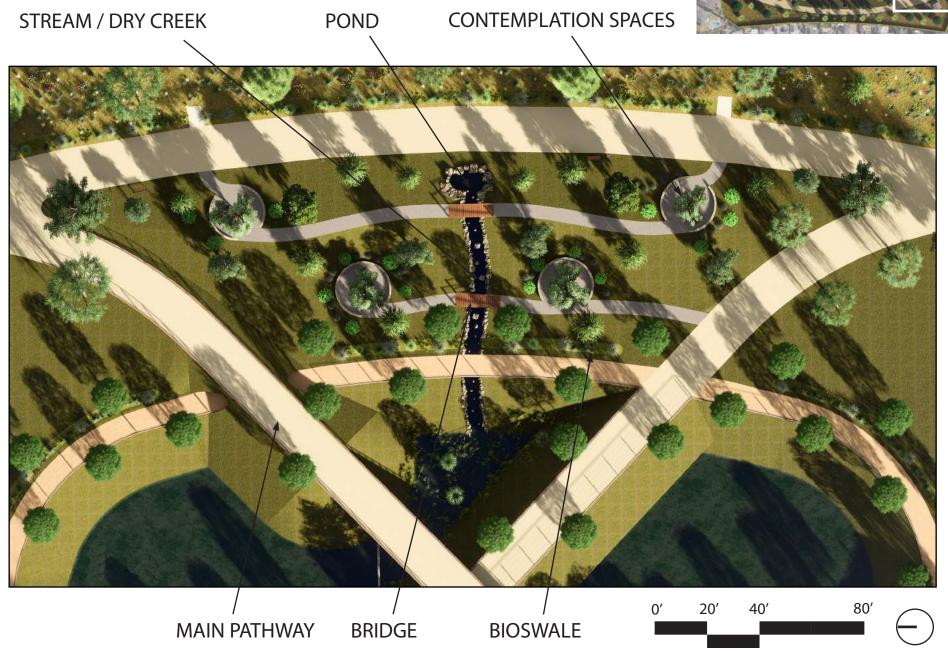


Magnolia Grandiflora 'Little Gem'

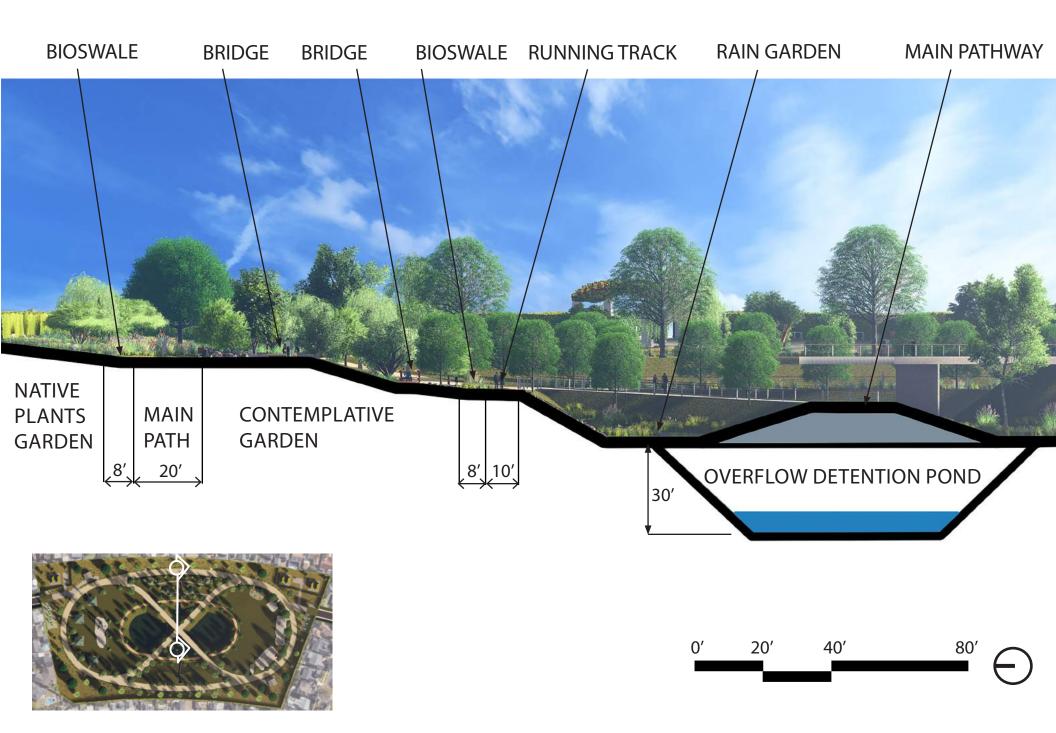
CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN - Enlargement

Contemplative garden design is dedicated to older users, who appreciate smaller and quiet spaces with close connections to nature. Six-foot wide pathways link contemplative spaces and allow users to enjoy the view of a stream or dry creek from the bridges above.





CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN - Section



CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN - Perspective 1



Hummingbird Sage

CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN - Perspective 2



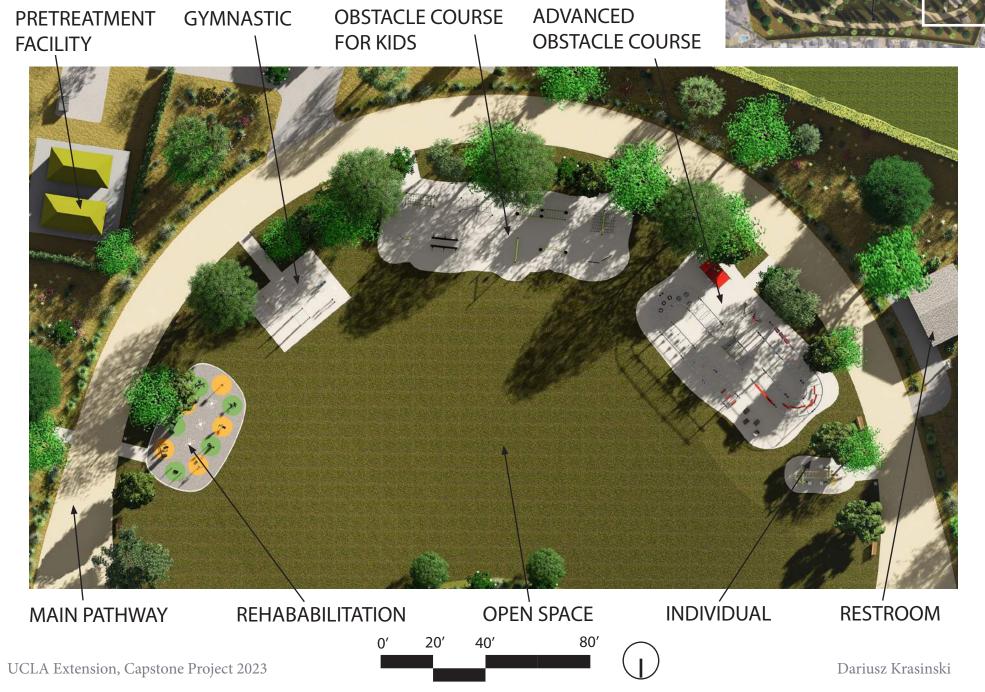


Exposed aggregate concrete pathways

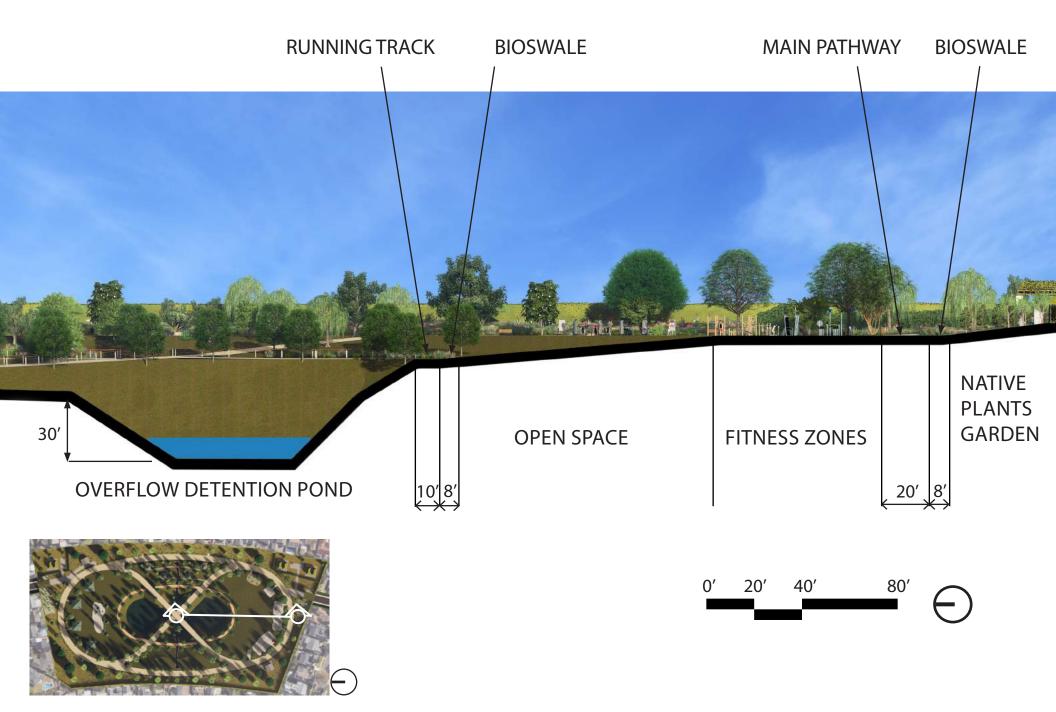
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FITNESS ZONES - Enlargement

Five different fitness zones give users of all ages and levels an opportunity for physical activity using stationary equipment on soft rubber-based flat surfaces. Sloped open space can be utilized for short runs up and down. The rehabilitation zone is located close to the contemplation garden, conveniently for older users.



FITNESS ZONES - Section



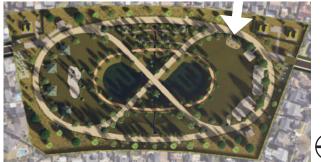
FITNESS ZONES - Perspective 1





The rubber pathway is slip resistant, resilient, and flexible. It includes a 100% recycled rubber base.

Color: Earth yellow

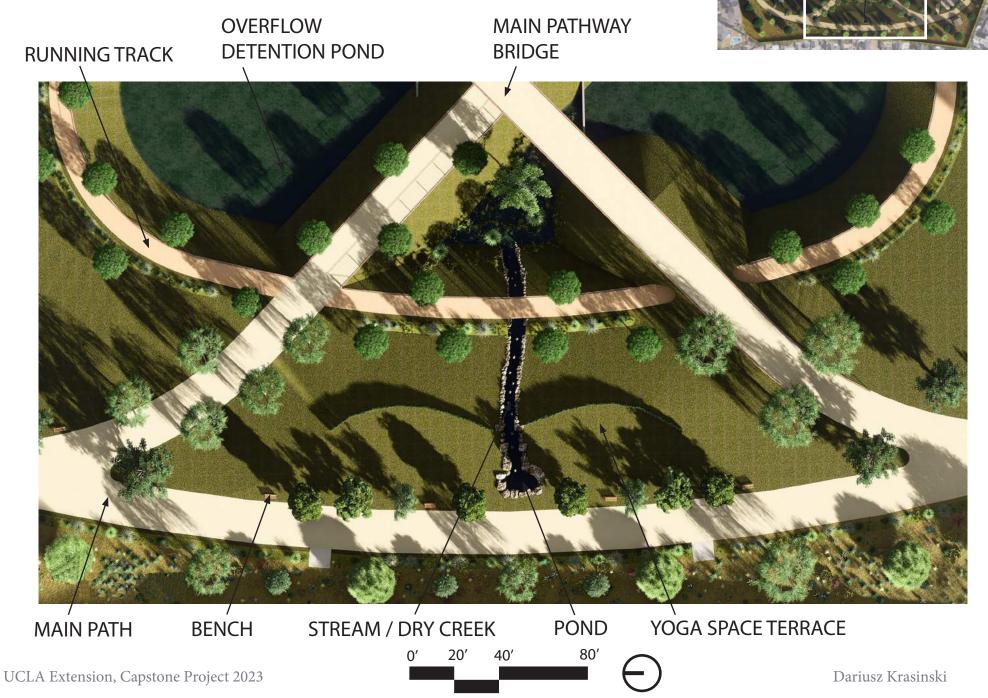


FITNESS ZONES - Perspective 2

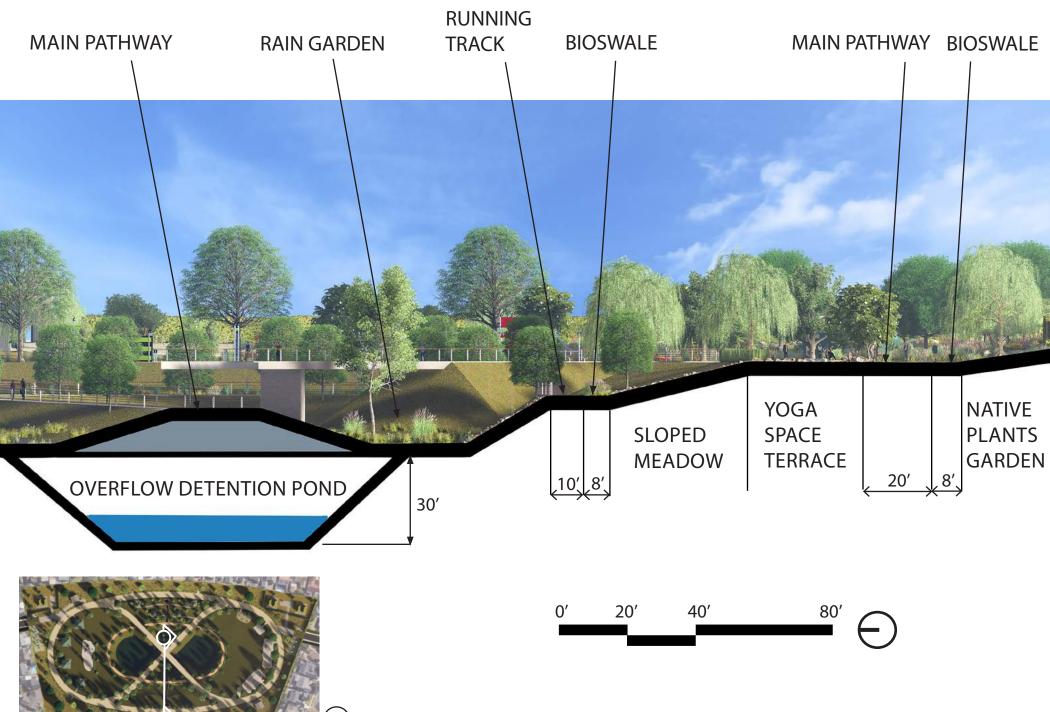


YOGA SPACE - Enlargement

Yoga space terrace is a flat area with a pond and a stream running down the slope to the rain garden. The yoga terrace has a low hedge at elevation change for safety. While standing at the hedge, there is a good view to the center of the park where the overflow detention pond and main pathway bridge are located.



YOGA SPACE - Section



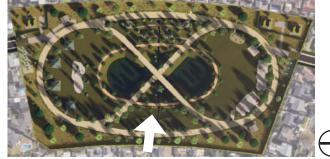
YOGA SPACE - Perspective 1





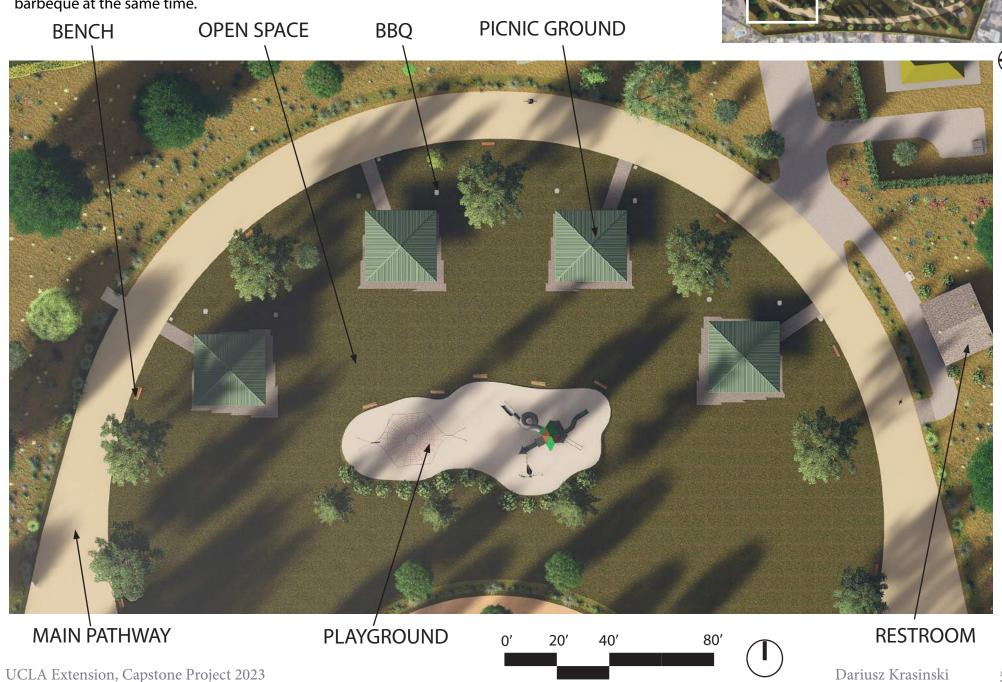
YOGA SPACE - Perspective 2



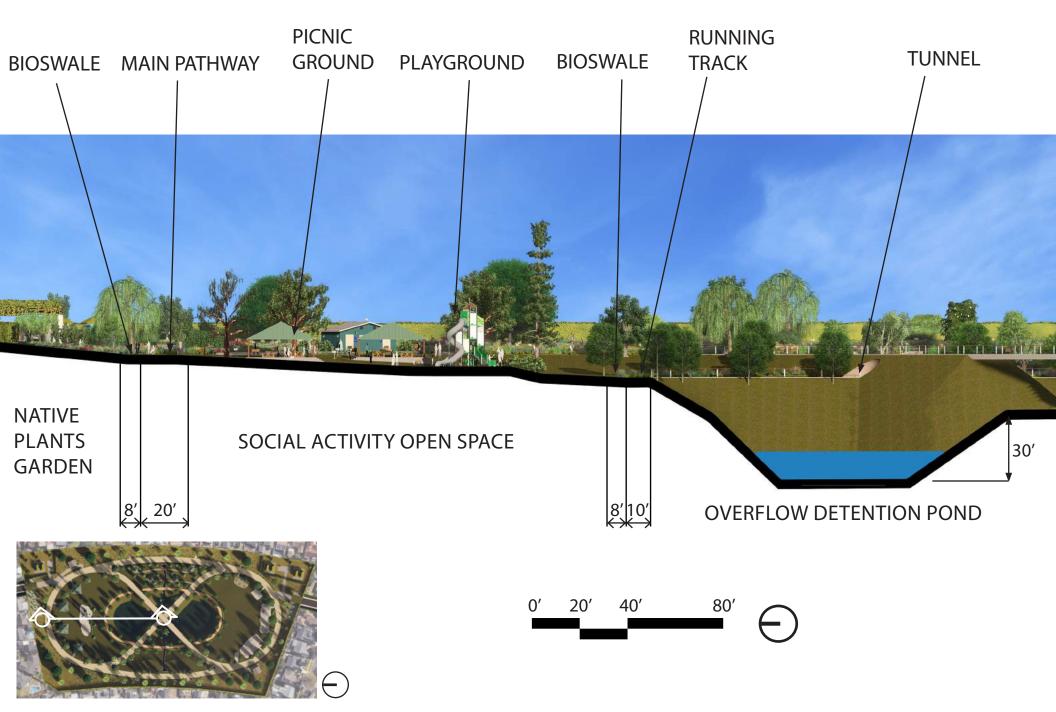


SOCIAL ACTIVITY - Enlargement

This part of the park is designed with the intention of engaging visitors in social interactions. There is a kids' playground in the center of the open space with a spider web climber and a tall tower structure for active fun. Parents can watch their kids from shaded picnic structures while enjoying company and barbeque at the same time.

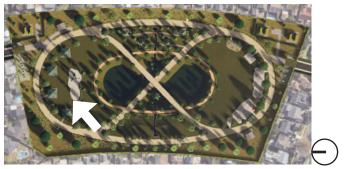


SOCIAL ACTIVITY - Section



SOCIAL ACTIVITY - Perspective 1







Deodar Cedar

SOCIAL ACTIVITY - Perspective 2













Palo Verde

Catalina Cherry

Canyon Prince Wild Rye Dariusz Krasinski

RAIN GARDEN & BRIDGE - Perspective

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White Alder

California Sagebrush

Dariusz Krasinski

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE - Perspective





Carex pensa - (Pacific Dune Sedge) stabilizes sloped areas. Drought tolerant and low maintenance sedge.

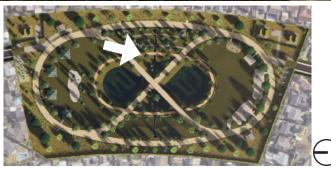


The main pathway bridge eliminates the risk of collision at the pathway crossing and creates nice views of the entire park.



RAIN GARDEN & BIOSWALE - Perspective











California Gray Rush

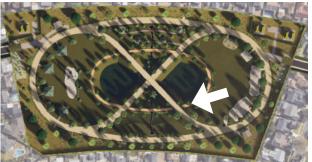
Dariusz Krasinski

RUNNING TRACK TUNNEL - Perspective





Dual layer rubber running tracks consist of a base layer made from 100% recycled post-consumer rubber topped with a 1/2" colored wear layer.





NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN - Perspective 1









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Deer Grass

Dariusz Krasinski

NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN - Perspective 2











Dariusz Krasinski

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CONCLUSION



PROJECT BENEFITS:

NTS 🔵

- 11 acres of Nature-Based Recreational Park
- The underground reservoir will satisfy 100% park irrigation needs
- 0.8 mil of recreational pathways
- Reduced carbon footprint by growing many trees.
- The park can become a center of social interactions for the local community
- Improved residents' health and well-being

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