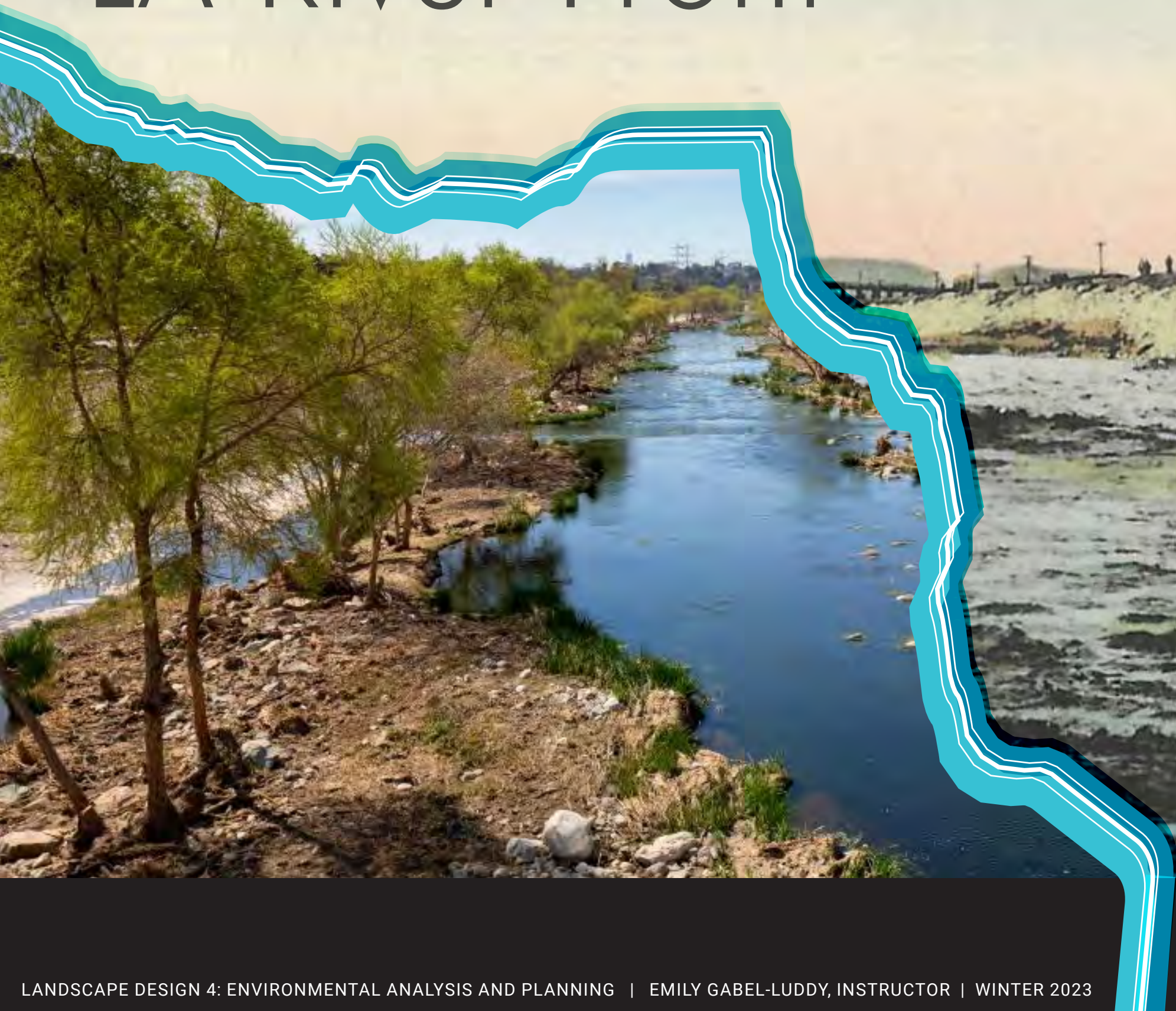


Transforming Burbank's LA River Front



studio
EVERYBODY PLANTS NOW

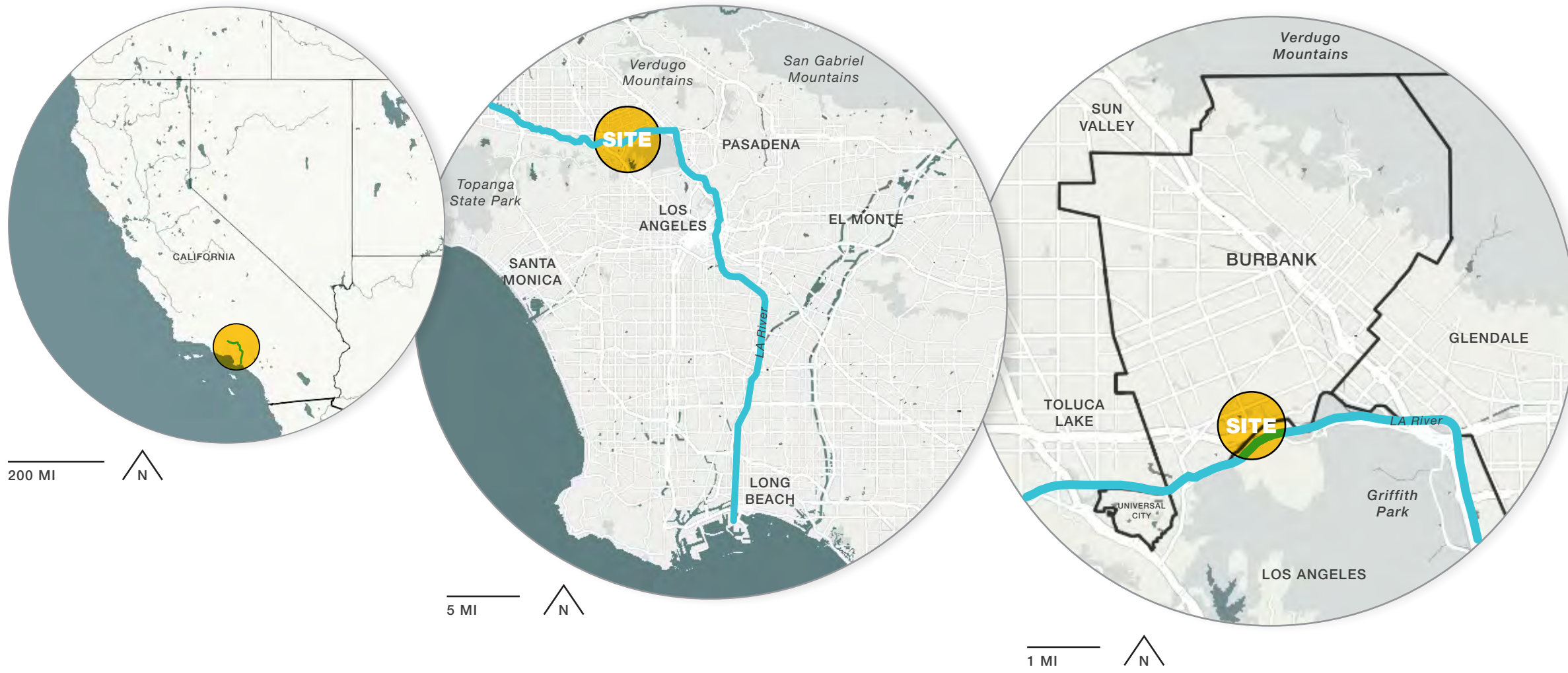
ELENA AVANESOVA | SAM HINCKLEY | JEN MOODY

In 2016

Johnny Carson Park was renovated and Little Tujunga Wash, a drainage channel that traverses the park and flows into the Los Angeles River, was transformed into the centerpiece of the park.

Now, in 2040,

we have the opportunity to continue this vision by utilizing what was once the 134, turning it into an eco-corridor and restoring a portion of the LA River. EPN's vision strives to balance human activity and wildlife habitat, utilizing natural bio-filtration systems to clean storm-water and beautify the land to create an oasis for all.



An (almost) LA Story

Burbank is situated to the north of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, nestled between the Verdugo Mountains to the northeast and the Santa Monica Mountains to the south. Often referred to as the "Media Capital of the World" and located just a few miles from Hollywood, Burbank is renowned for housing numerous entertainment studios such as Disney, Nickelodeon, and Warner Bros. To the south, the LA River flows through Burbank, with Los Angeles and Griffith Park on the opposite side. Between Johnny Carson and Buena Vista Parks, there's the now-defunct 134 FWY, an abandoned roadway that further isolates the city of Burbank from these attractions.



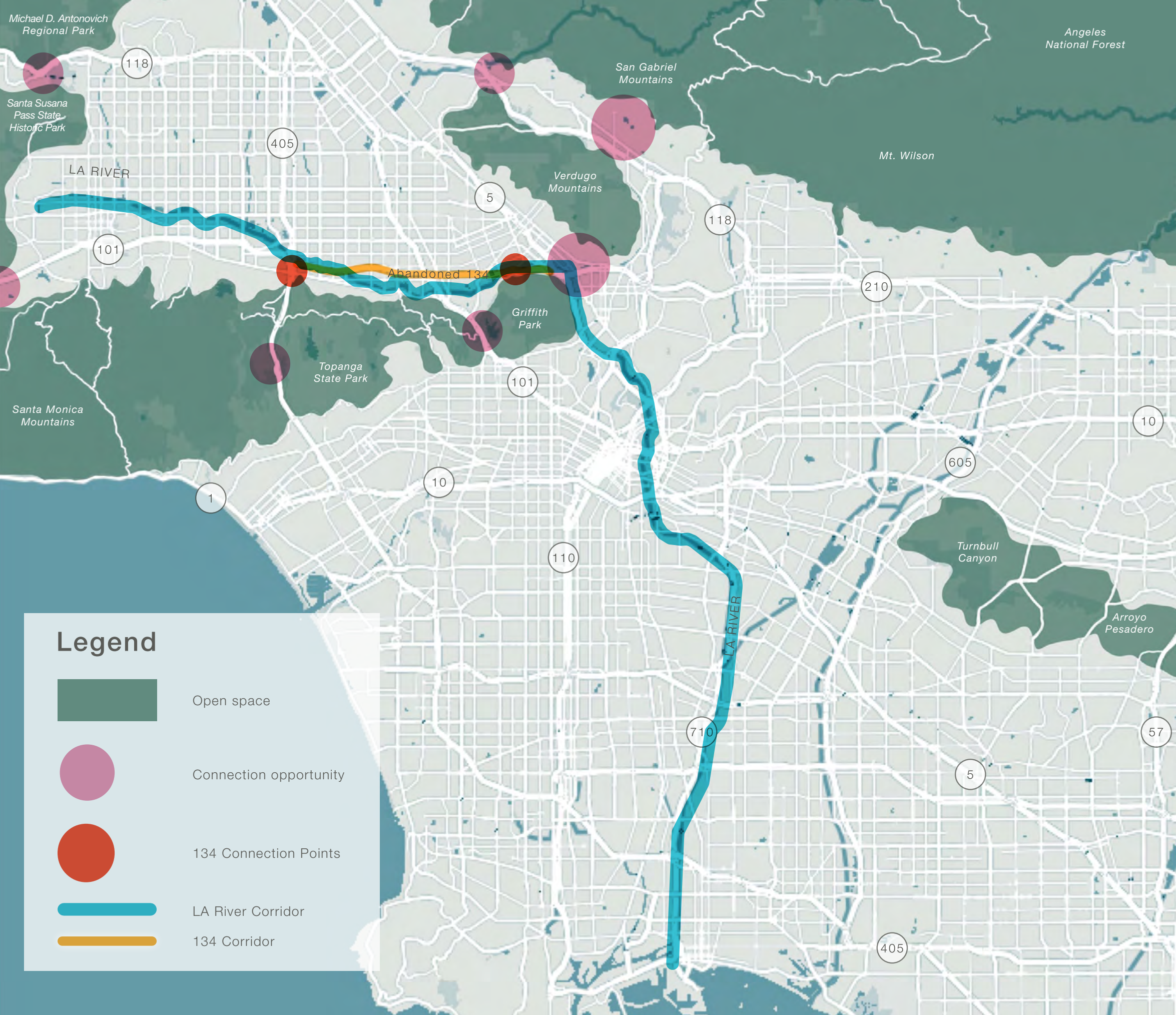


300 FT 

Johnny Carson + Buena Vista Parks

Located at the corner of Riverside Drive and Bob Hope Drive, Johnny Carson and Buena Vista Parks are situated directly across the street from the NBC Studios, where Johnny Carson recorded countless episodes of his "Tonight Show." Thanks to their close proximity to old Hollywood studios and Griffith Park, there are still residential properties zoned for horse-keeping, making equestrian trails a significant part of this area's history and an essential element of its future.





Lost connections

Southern California is connected by a web of freeways, highways, and roads that allow for easy commutes, but have destroyed normal migration paths and territories for our native wildlife.

Even lined with concrete, the LA River serves as an eco-corridor, allowing animals safe passage through the southland. Restoration of a more naturalized riverbank with native plants will encourage further use.

With the closing of the 134 between the 405 and the 5, we are presented with the chance to create a new eco-corridor. No longer filled with cars, the 134 can serve as a highway for animals and humans alike.

The future Burbank Eco-Corridor Park represents just one phase in a larger initiative to reestablish these lost connections. The accompanying map identifies potential locations for re-imagining our landscapes and creating additional wildlife crossings, akin to the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing completed in 2024 (pictured below).



LOCAL WILDLIFE



Mountain lion



Possum



California bat



California thrasher



Belted kingfisher



Golden eagle



Osprey



The great blue heron is so iconic and connected to the river, its image is used for LA River signage.



Stink beetle



Western toad



Alligator lizard



Coyote



Desert cottontail



Wester tiger swallowtail



Snowy egret



Greater Roadrunner



Bell's vireo



Double-crested cormorant



Blue grosbeak



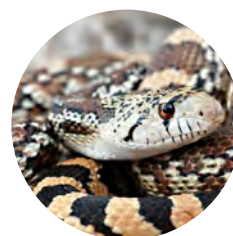
Mule deer



California vole



Bobcat



Gopher snake



Horned lizard



Harvester ants



Los Angeles River



Black-necked stilts



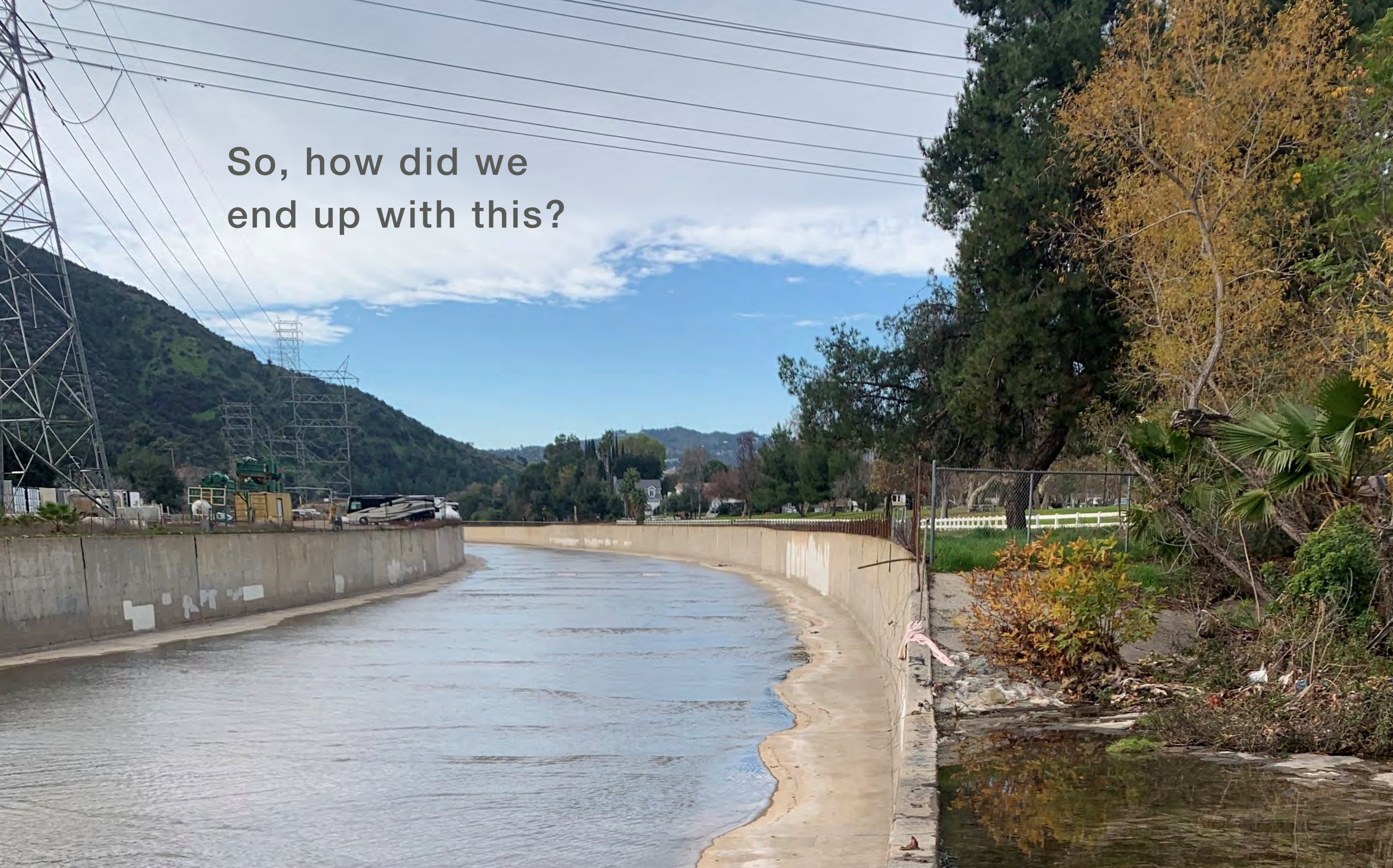
American white pelican

Visit friendsofgriffithpark.org to learn more

California quail



So, how did we
end up with this?



The backstory ...



1769

The river ran dry during the summers and flooded during winter months. Indigenous communities adapted to the climate surrounding the river, maximizing agricultural yields by rerouting the natural flow of the river and constructing water wheels along the river.



1898

In the early days of the watershed, before the massive floods that scared people into channeling it, horseback riding was a major enjoyment.



1913

Until the opening of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in 1913, the Los Angeles River was the main water source for the Los Angeles Basin.



1914-1938

A series of devastating floods caused the River to be channelized: 1914: \$165 million in property damage; 1934: \$75 million in damage and 49 deaths; 1938: \$900 million in damage and 87 deaths

1936

The Flood Control Act of 1936 to assist Los Angeles County in developing and expanding flood control infrastructure, including channelizing 52 miles of the Los Angeles River. Construction of the channel occurred between 1938 and 1959.



1943

In 1942, negotiations with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power resulted in the purchase of approximately 51 acres for a future park development in an effort to beautify the L.A. River area. In June 1943, the site was officially named Buena Vista Park due to its proximity to the street of the same name.



1992

Buena Vista Park was renamed after Johnny Carson to honor the host of NBC's Tonight Show. The renaming of the former Buena Vista Park site was set to coincide with Mr. Carson's retirement from the Tonight Show.



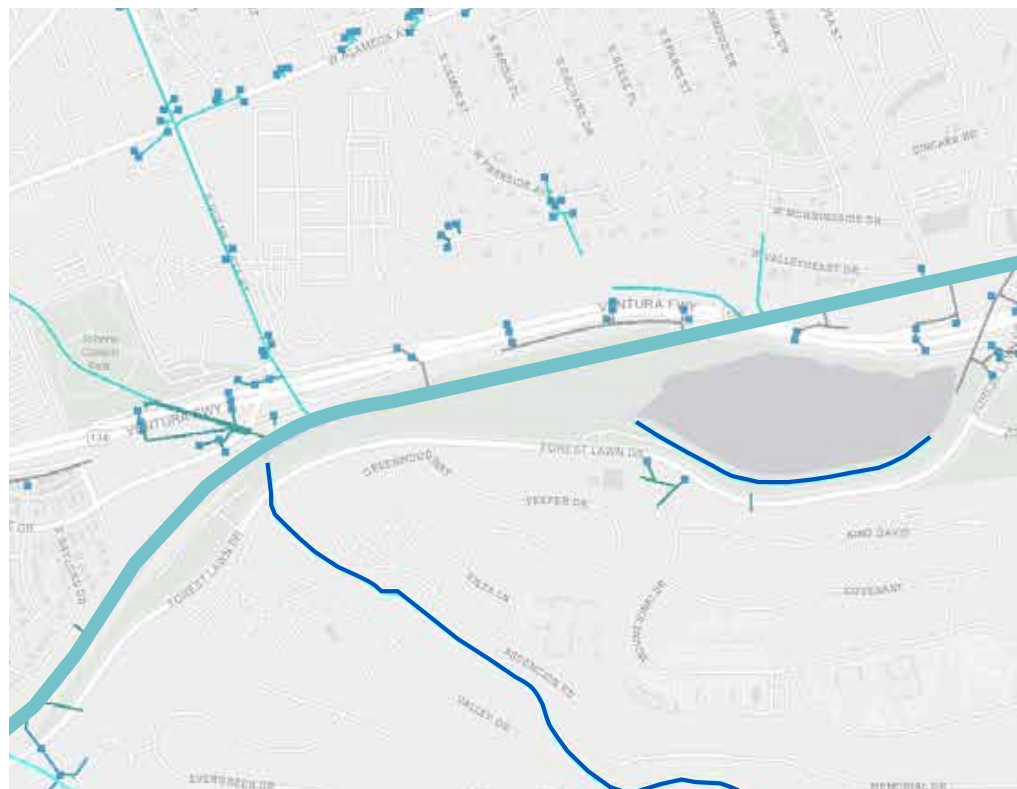
2016

Johnny Carson Park had a complete \$3.7 million renovation, by AHBE | MIG. The work focused on the restoration of the Little Tujunga Wash Creek, which flows into the Los Angeles River and traverses the park.

LA RIVER FLOW + STORM DRAINAGE

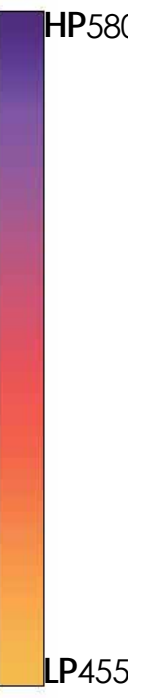
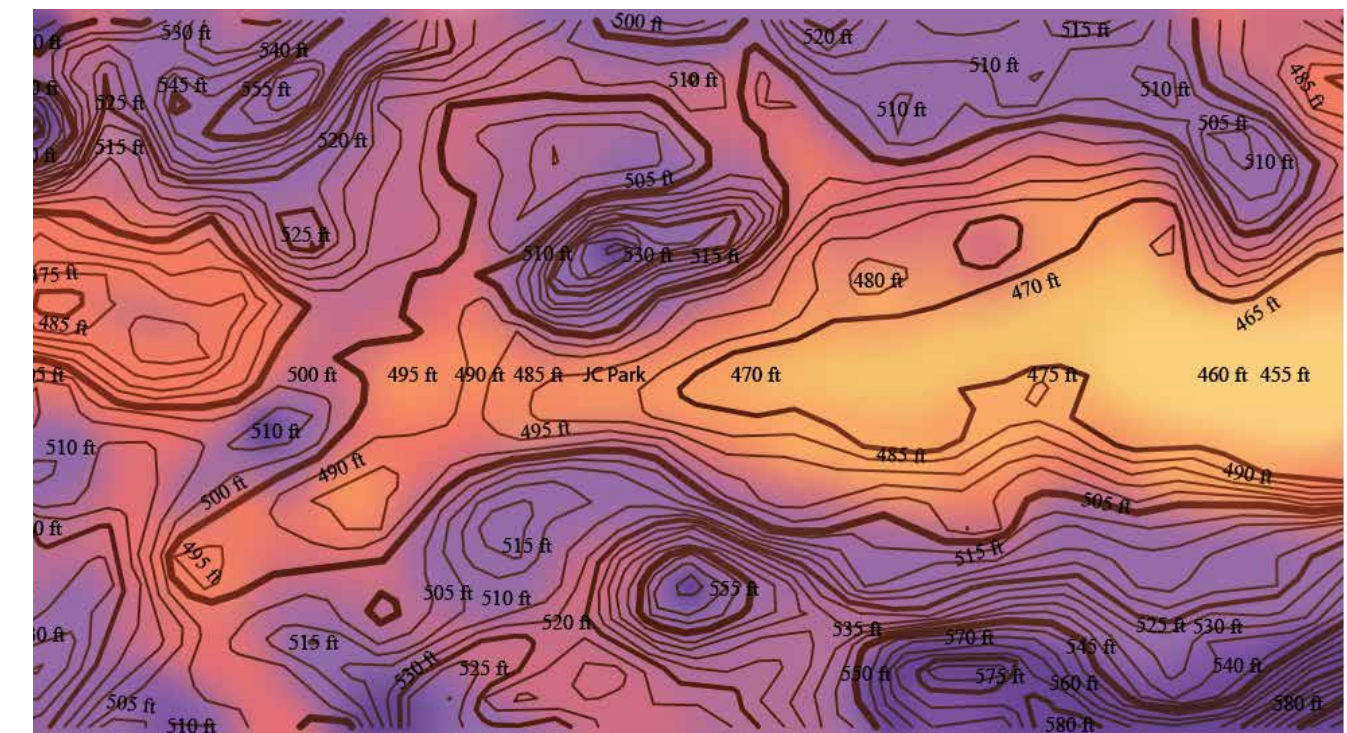
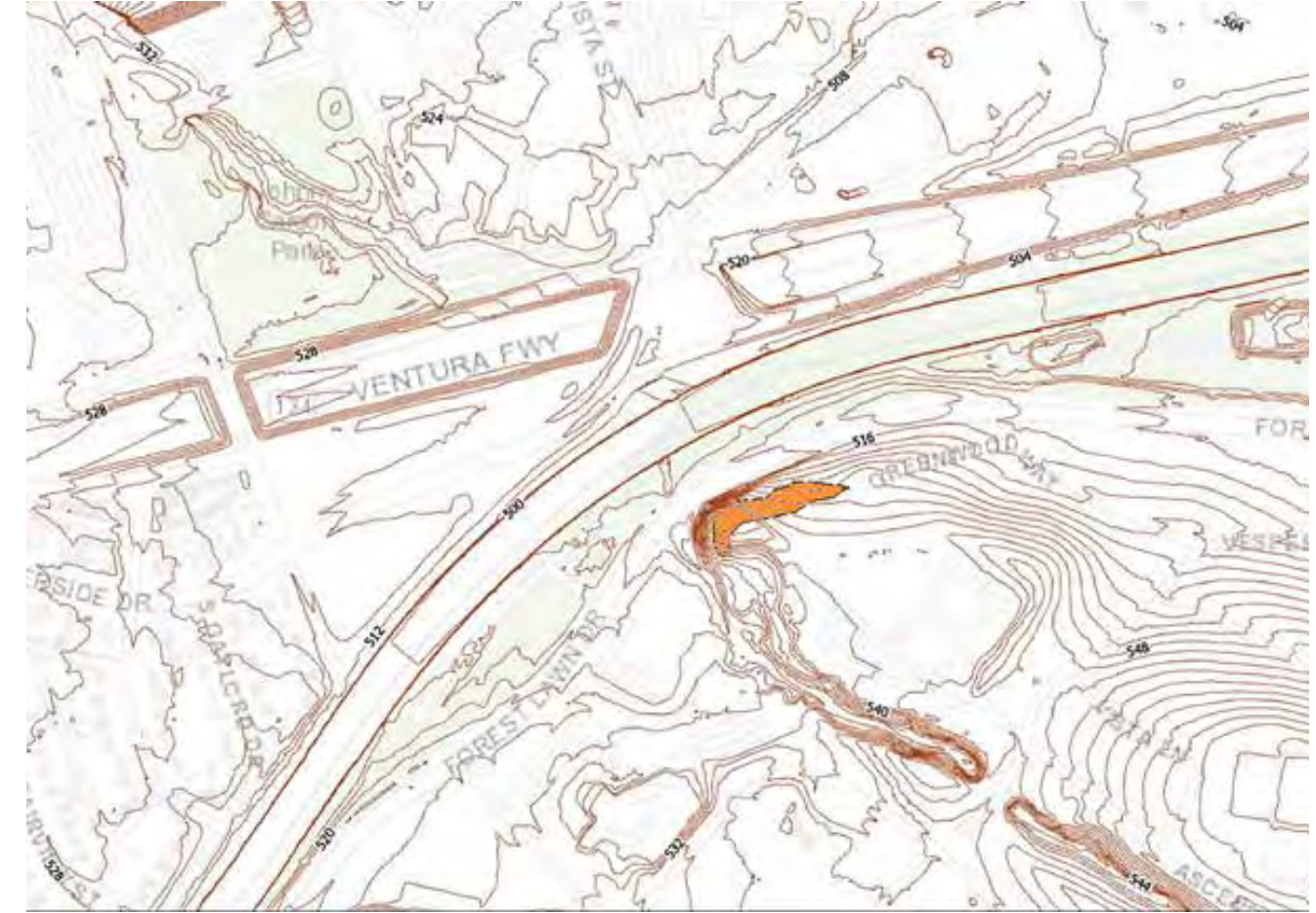


- Current LA River Path
- Areas of Inundation
- Historical Wetlands
- Historical River Paths 1815-1889
- LA Watershed

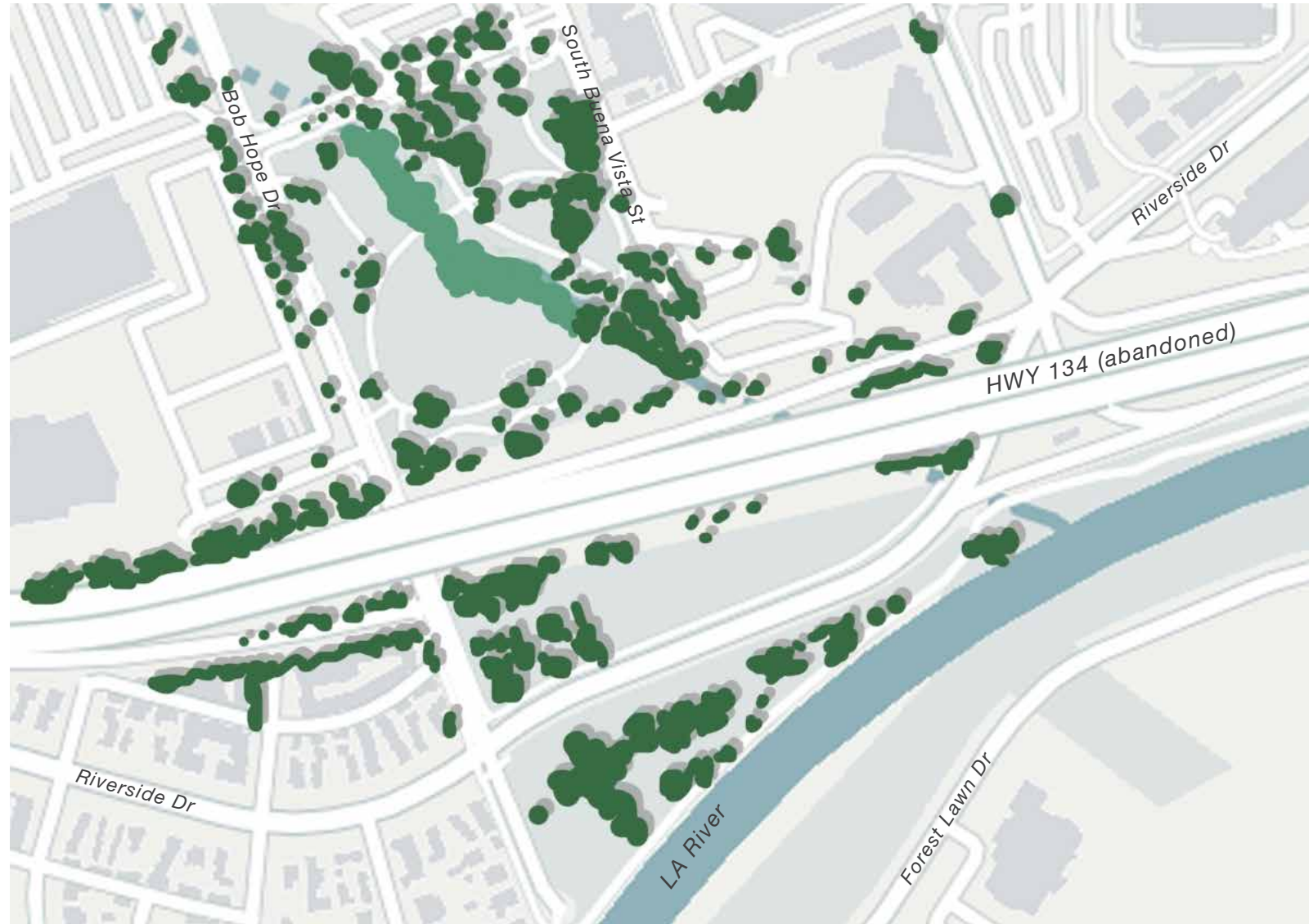


- LA River
- Watercourse
- Storm Pipes
- Drain Inlets

TOPOGRAPHY + ELEVATION



EXISTING TREE CANOPY ANALYSIS



Existing Tree Canopy

Existing Riparian Plants



Quercus agrifolia



Fraxinus latifolia



Juglans californica



Alnus rhombifolia



Salix lasiolepis



Salix exigua



Quercus berberidifolia



Populus fremontii



Acer negundo



Acer macrophyllum



Juniperus californica



Populus trichocarpa



Umbellularia californica



Quercus lobata



Platanus racemose

But wait! There's more...

In collaboration with the City of Burbank, Studio EPN has conceived an expansion plan for the existing Johnny Carson and Buena Vista Parks. This expanded area includes several components: a segment of the soon-to-be abandoned 134 freeway, previously unrealized adjacent park projects, horse trails and equestrian zones, a portion of the LA River, and the Headworks Reservoir (an ongoing project that remains incomplete due to funding constraints).



EXISTING WALKING SHED + VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



LEGEND



PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



SECONDARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



TERTIARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



5 MINUTES / .25 MILES



10 MINUTES / .5 MILES

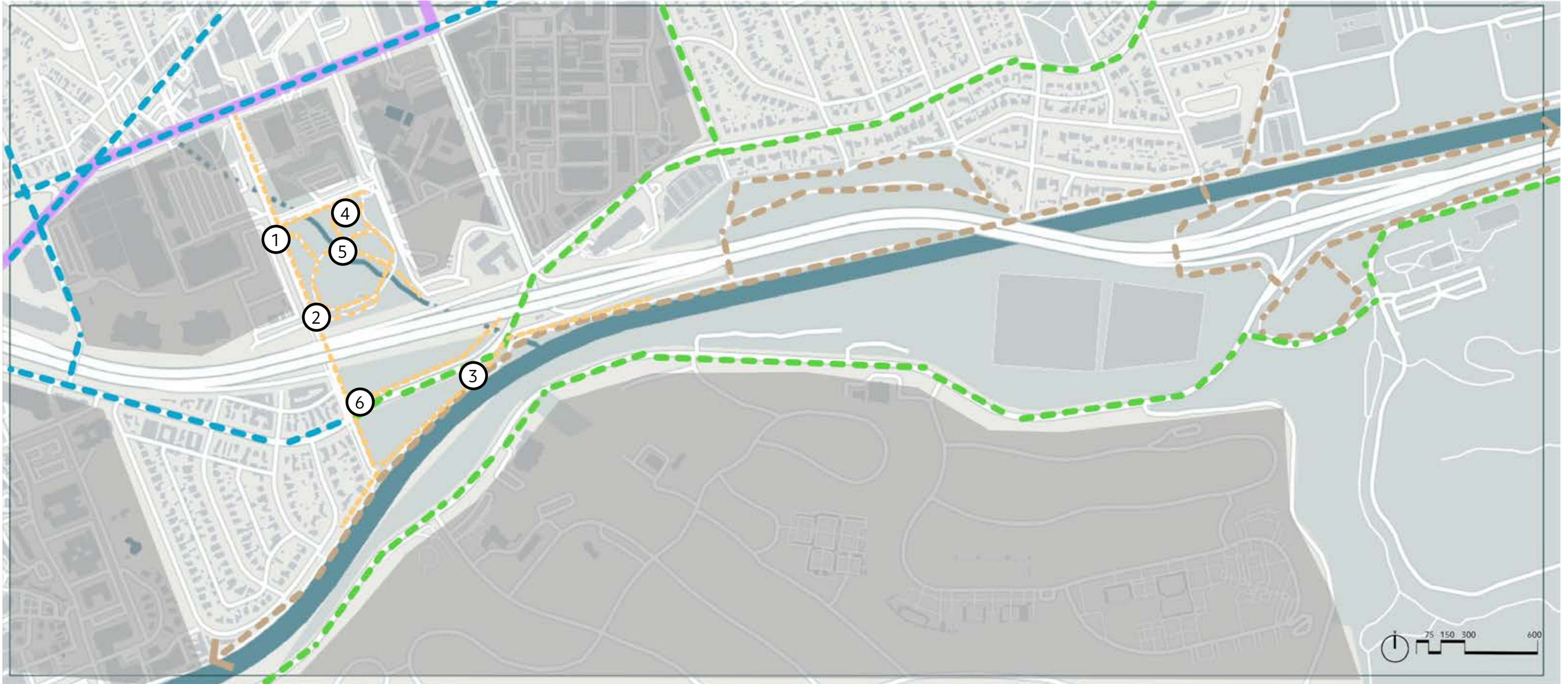


15 MINUTES / .75 MILES



20 MINUTES / 1 MILE

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN + EQUESTRIAN CIRCULATION ANALYSIS



LEGEND

- CURRENT BIKE ROUTE
- PROPOSED BIKE ROUTE
- TRANSIT LINE
- EQUESTRIAN PATH
- PEDESTRIAN PATH

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: Site Opportunities and Constraints



① **CONSTRAINT:** Soon-to-be abandoned 134 has will become a hazard and divides the site

OPPORTUNITY: This open space can be transformed into a linear park and one portion of the 134 eco-corridor



② **CONSTRAINT:** Riverside Dr divides site with 4 lanes

OPPORTUNITY: Enhance pedestrian aspects of street, including bridge connecting north and south sides



③ **CONSTRAINT:** Power lines cut through the property and must remain

OPPORTUNITY: Upgrade park materials, like fencing and trails



④ **CONSTRAINT:** Protect or transplant mature growth trees

OPPORTUNITY: Replace water hungry lawns with California adapted landscapes and utilize storm-water to maintain site

⑤ **OPPORTUNITY:** De-channelize LA River, terrace edges, and create an engaging waterfront for the community and wildlife



⑥ **CONSTRAINT:** Work with only California native and California adapted plants

OPPORTUNITY: Create an environment suited for the area and educate the public on the benefits of native plants



⑦ **OPPORTUNITY:** Create connections between Burbank community and the historic Griffith Park. Enhance trails and allow for humans, horses, and wildlife to move more freely between arbitrary city dividing lines



MASTER PLAN: BURBANK ECO-CORRIDOR PARK



CONNECTION + RECREATION





FOCUS ON: RIVERSIDE LANDBRIDGE

- ① Connection to Johnny Carson Park
- ② Boulder Patch Nature Play Area
- ③ Large Swing + Shade Structure
- ④ Sculpture: Wildlife Towers
- ⑤ Large Swing + Shade Structure
- ⑥ Skylights Over Terraced Riverfront
- ⑦ Wildflower Terraces
- ⑧ Ripple Inlets + Riparian Exploration
- ⑨ Connection to Forest Lawn
- ⑩ Equestrian Suspension Bridge
- ⑪ Stormwater Vernal Pool
- ⑫ Wildlife Viewing Platform + Bridge
- ⑬ Terraced Riverfront Plaza
- ⑭ Pedestrian Suspension Bridge
- ⑮ Showy Chaparral Mix on Hillside of 134 Corridor

CONCEPT IMAGES: RIVERSIDE LANDBRIDGE

View from southwest corner over the stormwater pond and wildlife viewing area



View from Forest Lawn looking down to Riverside Landbridge and the wildflower terraces



Covering Riverside Drive, this large landbridge would connect Johnny Carson Park to the other side of the river without crossing traffic.

A seasonal show of poppies and other native wildflowers would visually attract visitors to the park. Built-in permeable paths would allow guests sought after "super bloom" photos without disturbing native habitats.

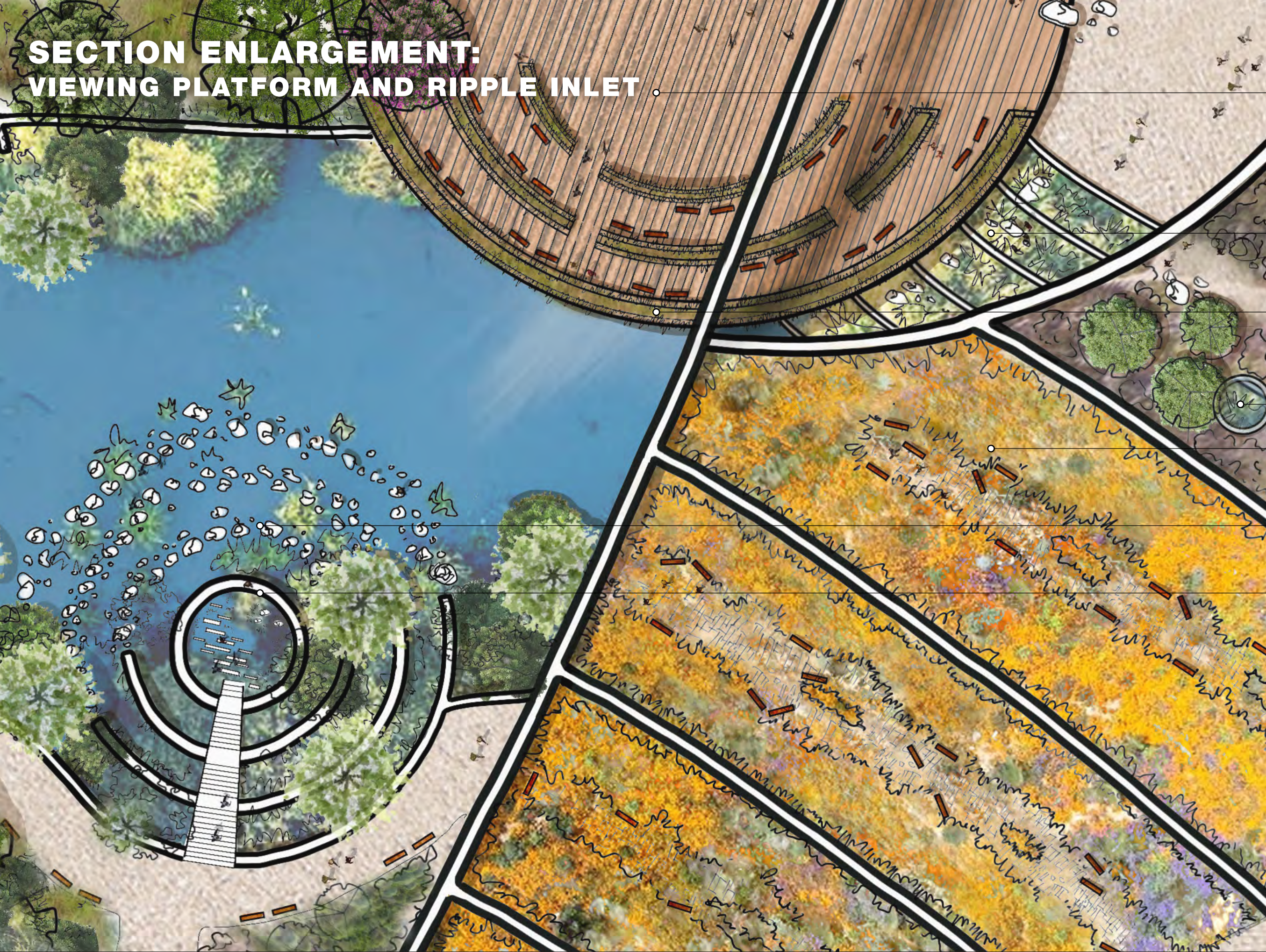
Grasses grown in planters on the viewing platform act as a screen to allow visitors to birdwatch. The stormwater fed vernal pool provides year-round habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Gabion walls made from recycled canal concrete now form permeable retaining walls where needed. These "Ripple" inlets allow visitors access to interact with the river's edge and discover river inhabitants up-close.

Concept drawing of the wetland/ riparian inlets, nicknamed "Ripples"

Large skylights bring warmth and sunshine to the terraces below. The support structures are made to resemble trees and also provide lighting in the evening.

SECTION ENLARGEMENT: VIEWING PLATFORM AND RIPPLE INLET



Viewing Platform +
Gathering Plaza

Riverfront Terrace

Grass Screen for
Wildlife Viewing

Skylight

Wildflower
Terrace

River Boulder
Ripple Echoes

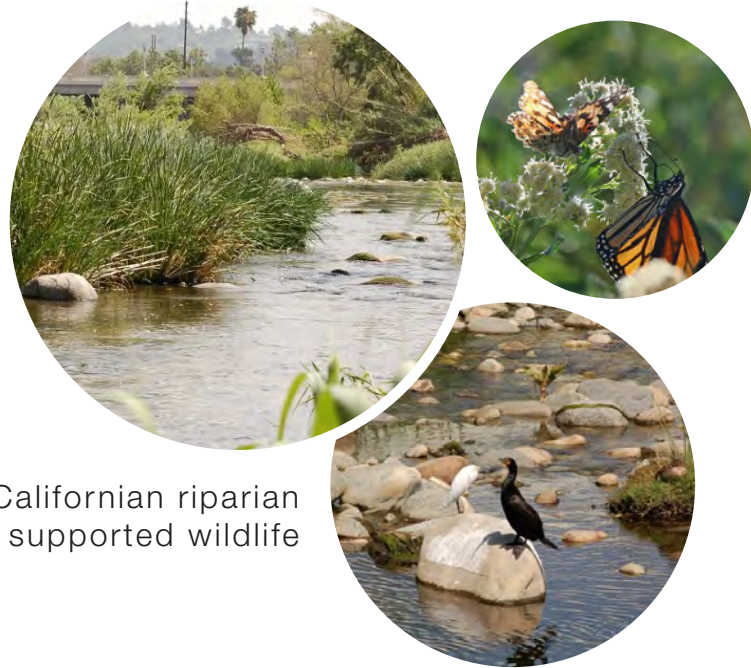
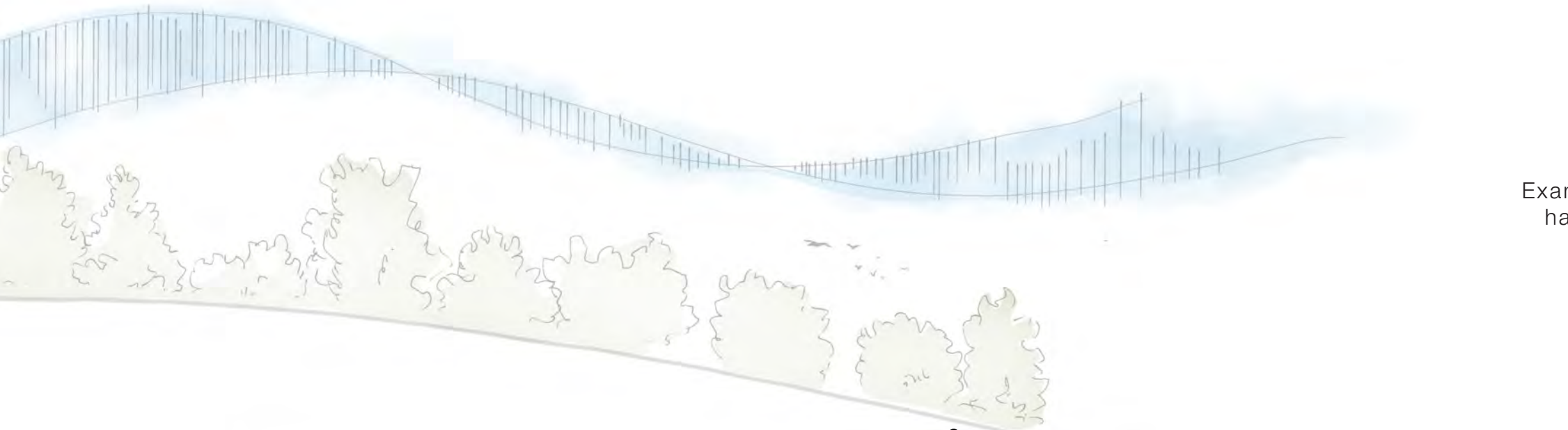
Ripple Inlet +
Riparian Exploration



20 FT



SECTION ELEVATION: VIEWING PLATFORM AND RIPPLE INLET

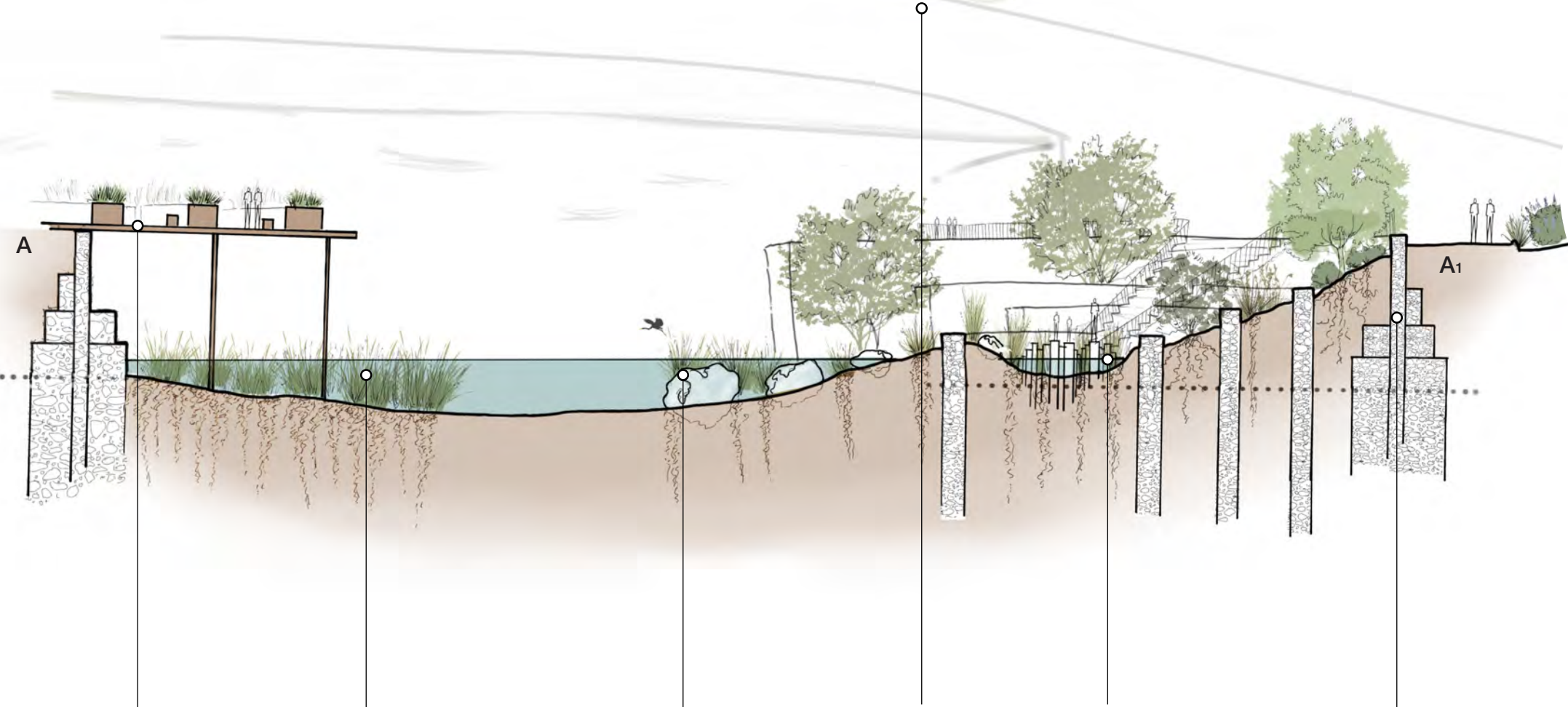


Examples of Californian riparian habitat and supported wildlife

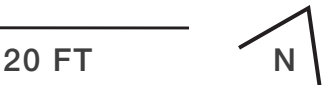
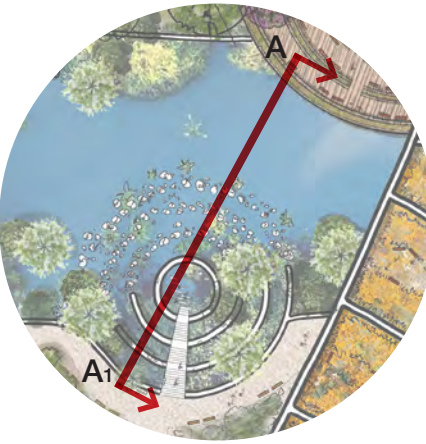
Recycling the broken up canal concrete, these gabion walls allow river water to permeate the surrounding soil while maintaining the river's edge in key locations to avoid property loss, like was seen in the 1930's.



Willows, elderberry, mulefat, and other native plants create habitat and pull water further into the soil to feed surrounding trees and plants further inland.



- Viewing Platform + Grass Planter Screens
- Bank Stabilizing Native Plants
- River Boulder Ripple Echoes
- Riverside Landbridge
- Riparian Exploration
- Gabion Retaining Wall



FOCUS ON: PLAZA 134

LA RIVER STUDIO WALK UNDERPASS FOOD TRUCKS OVERLOOK TREE ALLEY BIKE LANE MEADOW + HORSE TRAILS



This plaza connects the studios and surrounding residential community to the LA River.

The 0.3 mile avenue features a public plaza with food trucks, a tree alley, an underpass for pedestrians and bicyclists, and four stairways allowing easy access to adjacent areas: a studio walk, horse park, and an observation deck.

The 125' wide observation deck sits over the LA River and opens up to a view of the eastern Santa Monica Mountain Range

200 FT



CONCEPT IMAGES

PLAZA 134

A large wooden observation deck over the LA River features benches for group gatherings, 360-degree views, and gradual steps descending to the water, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in nature.

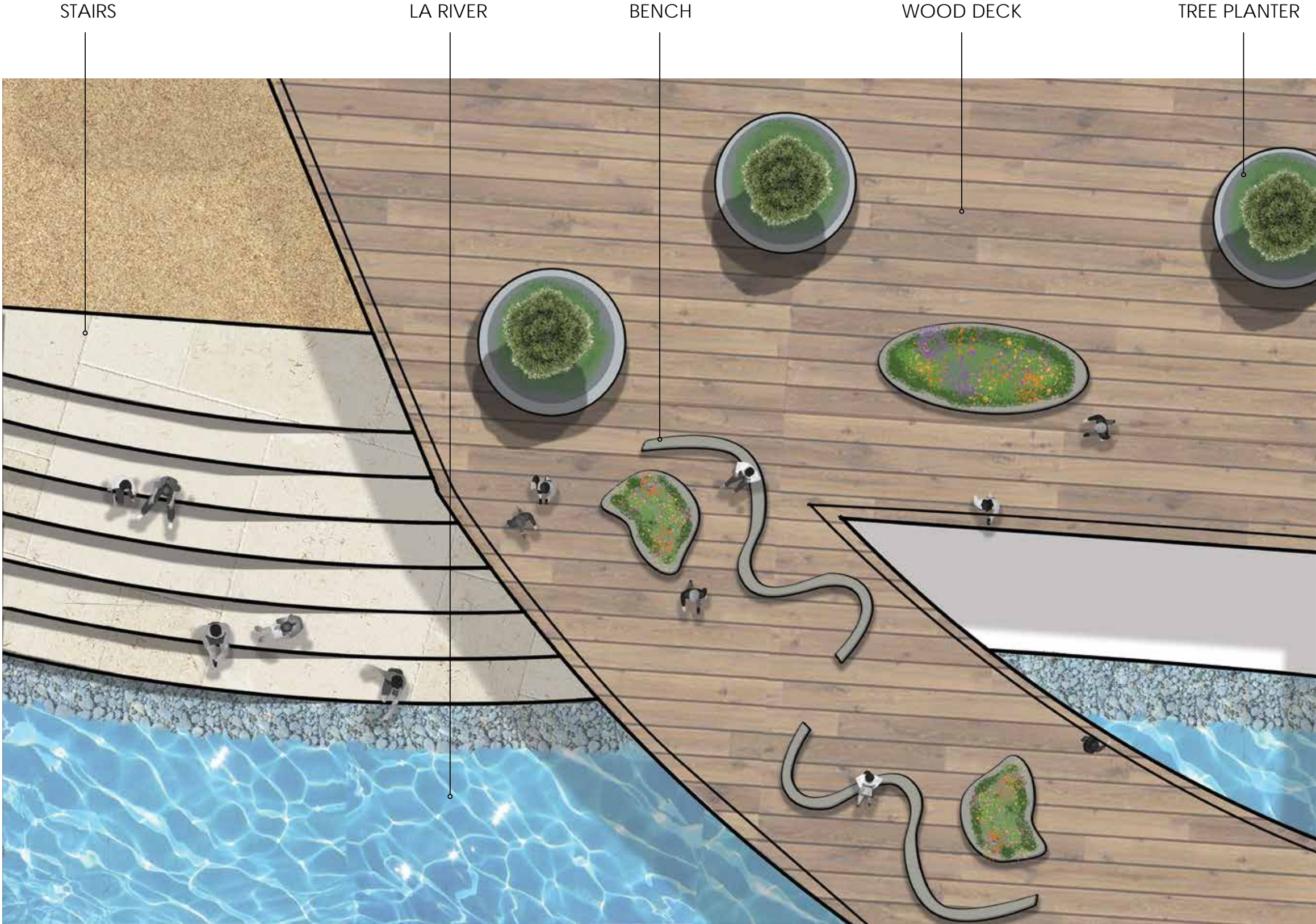


A hub for community engagement, the freeway on-ramp has been turned into a grasscrete path wide enough to allow food trucks access. Permanent outdoor dining areas are available for studio employees and other park visitors. A tree-lined walking alley and adjacent bike path invites guests to take a walk down the corridor.

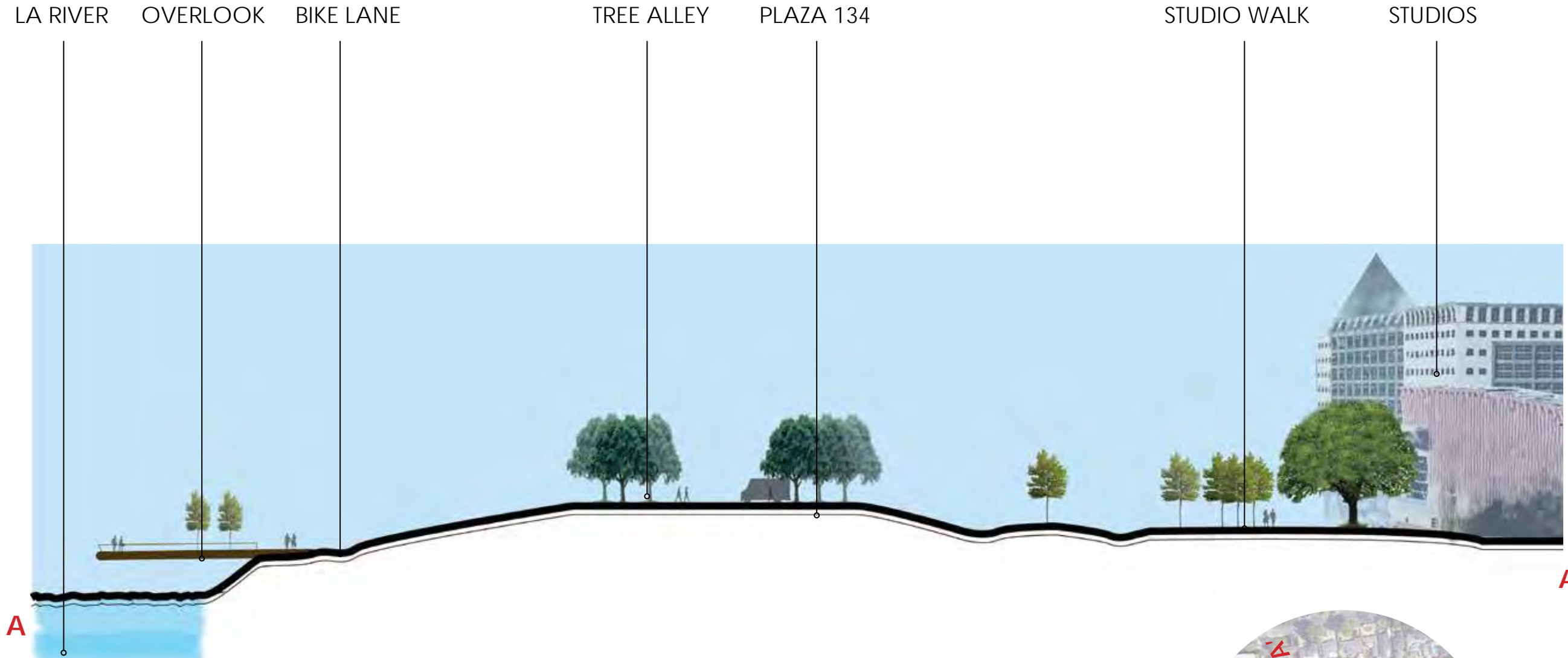


With this portion of the equestrian path moved to the southern side of the river, this once small tunnel would be widened and well lit, allowing pedestrians and cyclists access to the park and LA River from the studios and neighborhood. Staircases and a ramp provide access to Plaza 134 above.

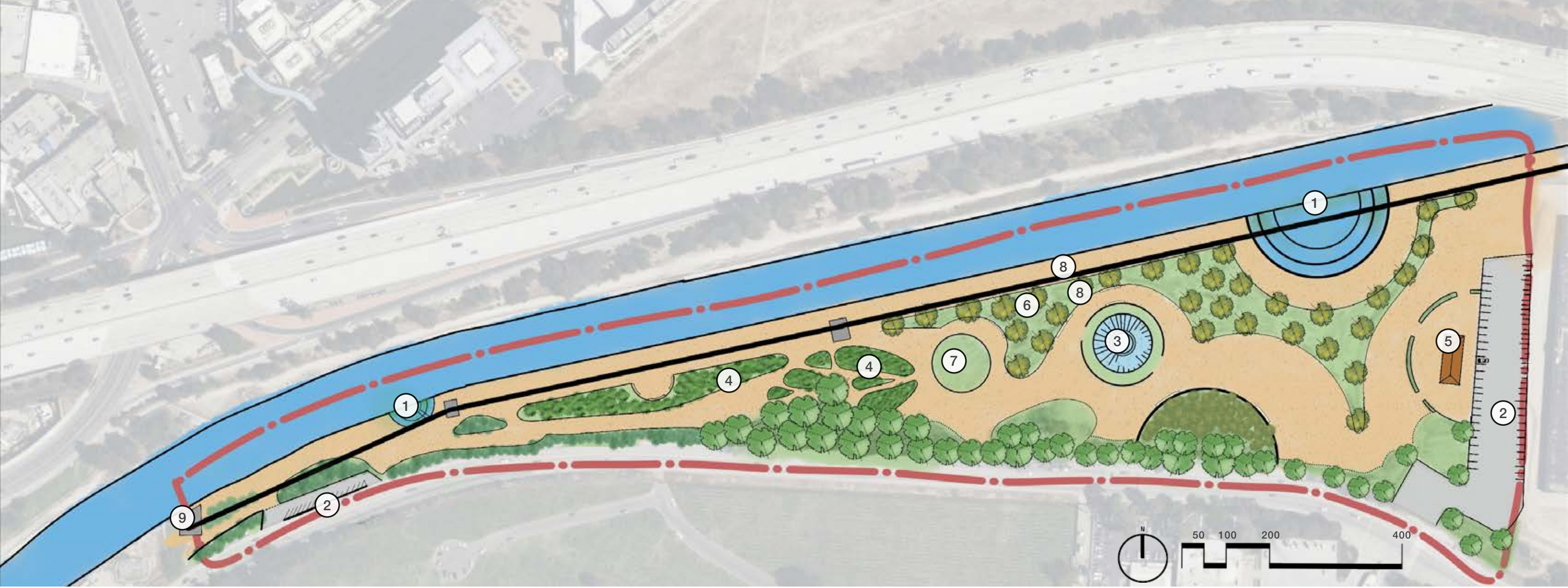
SECTION ENLARGEMENT: PLAZA 134



SECTION ELEVATION: PLAZA 134



FOCUS ON: HEADWORKS PARK



① Rippple Inlets + Riparian Exploration

② Parking Lots

③ Climb/Play Area

④ Chaparral Mounds

⑤ Restrooms

⑥ Sycamore Grove

⑦ Turf Area

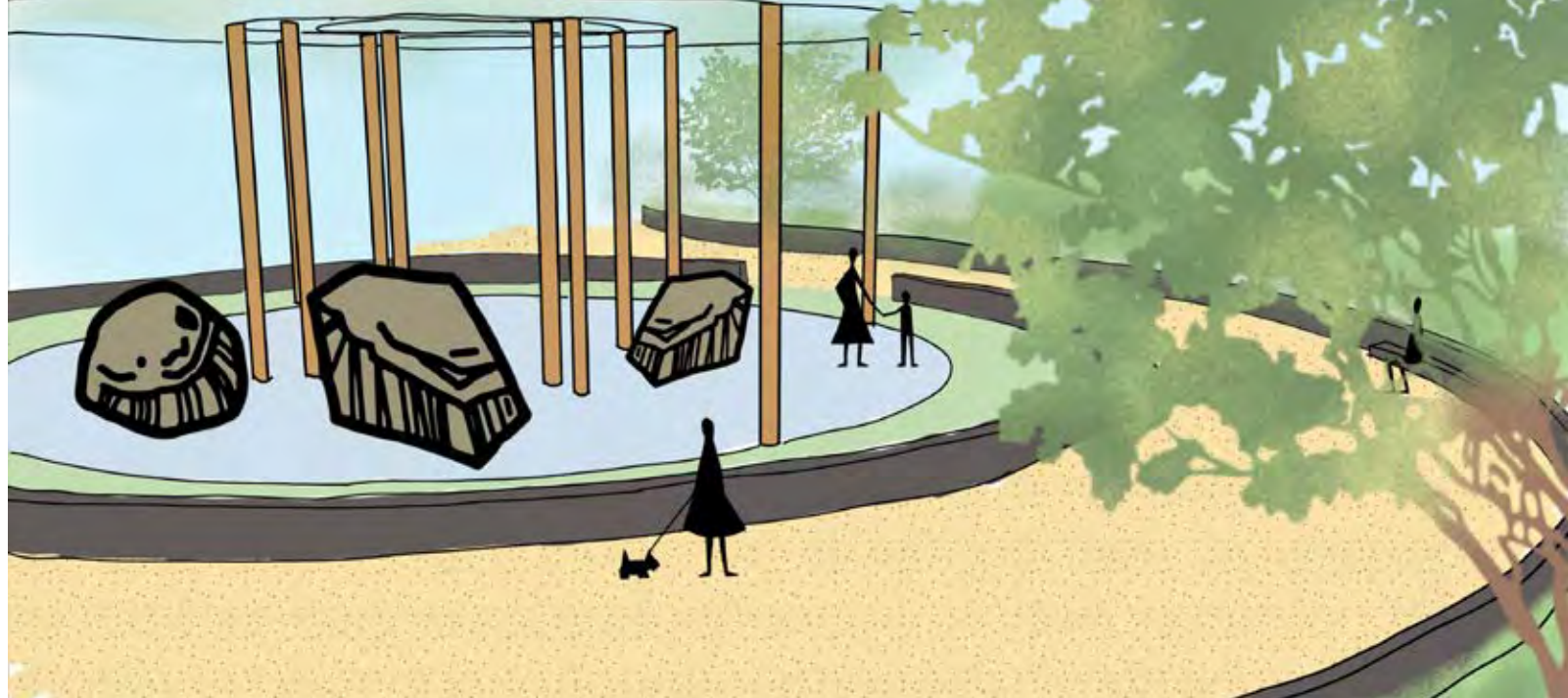
⑧ Equestrian Trail

⑨ High Tension Power Lines

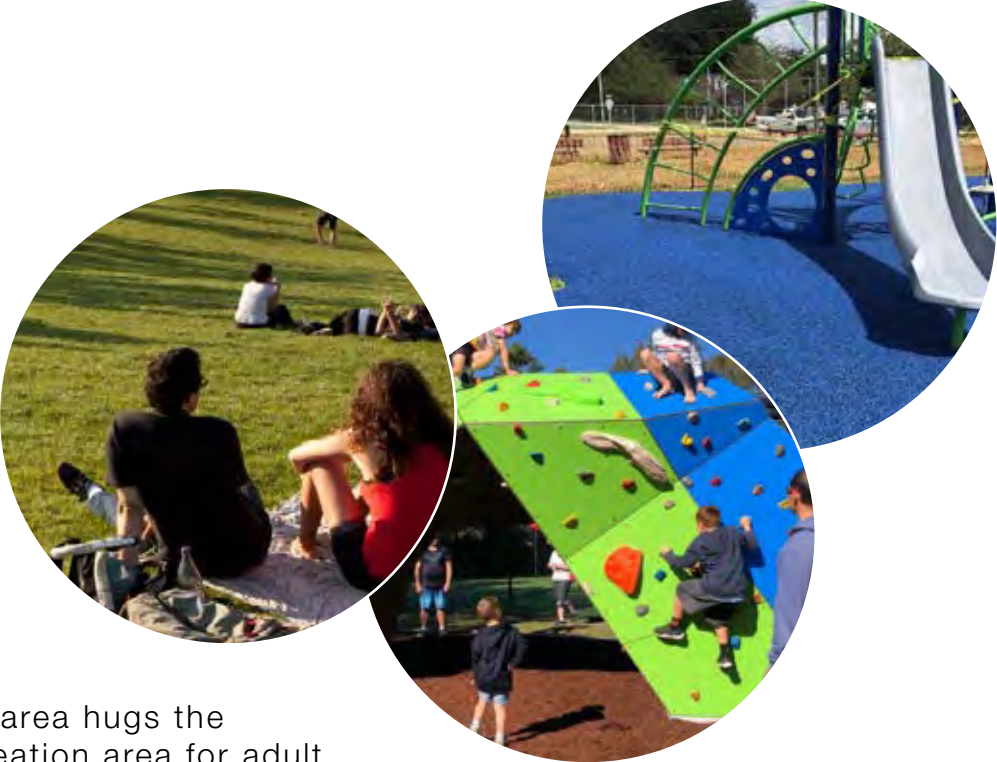
CONCEPT IMAGES: HEADWORKS PARK



Corten Steel circular shade structure fitted with sun shade. Sun shade material permeable to allow for water drainage in case of rain.

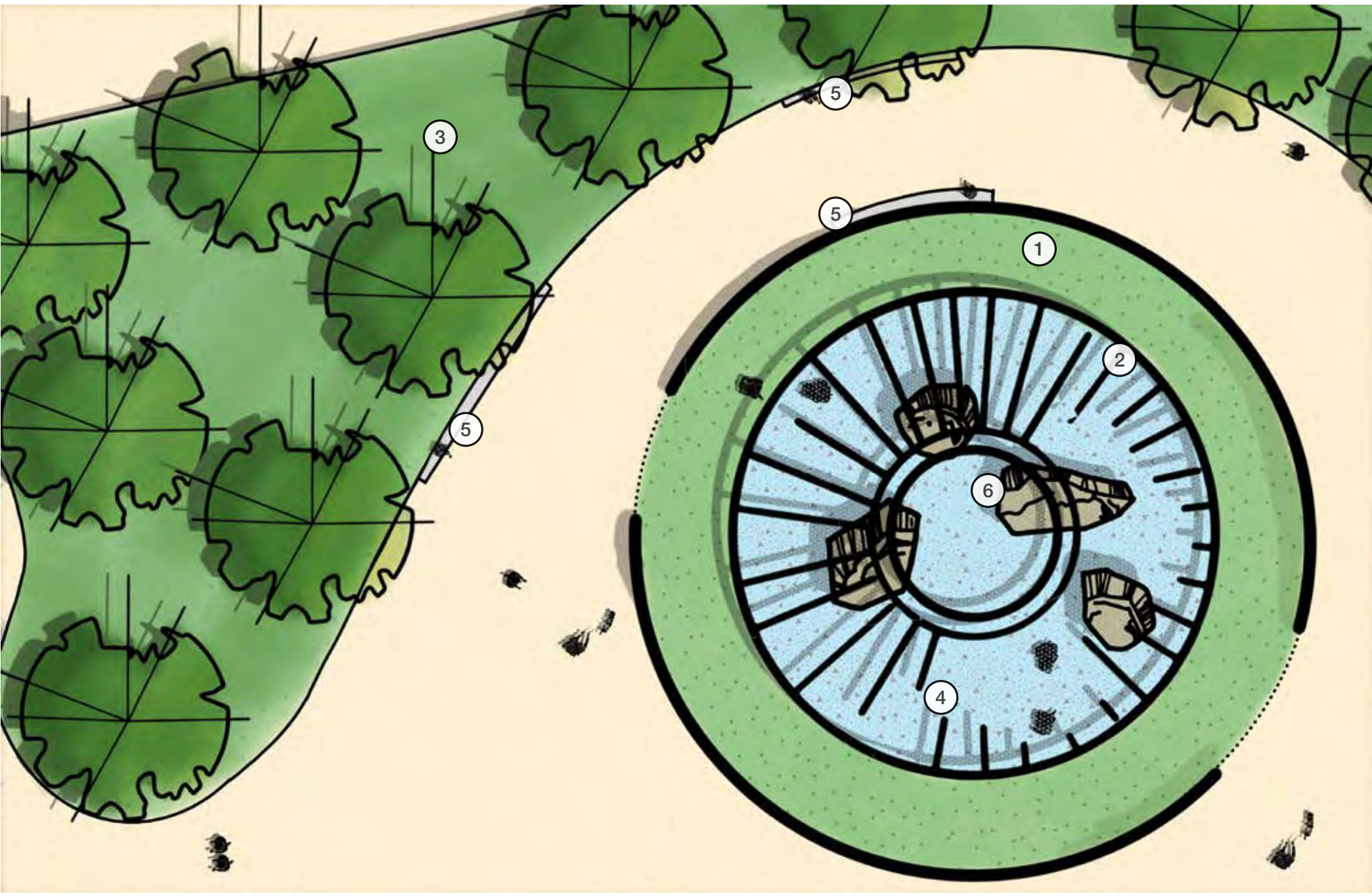


Bouldering Rocks allowing for various skill levels to play and exercise. Ground cover in "play area" blue regrid to reflect on river.

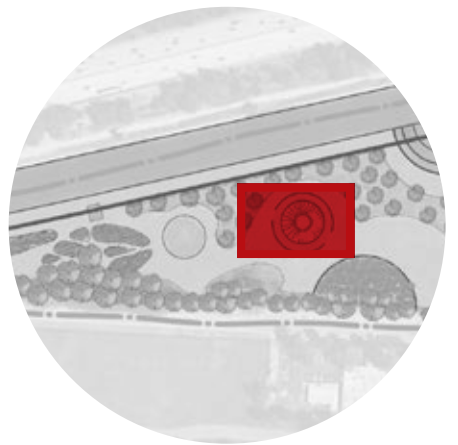


Turf area hugs the recreation area for adult supervision and lounging

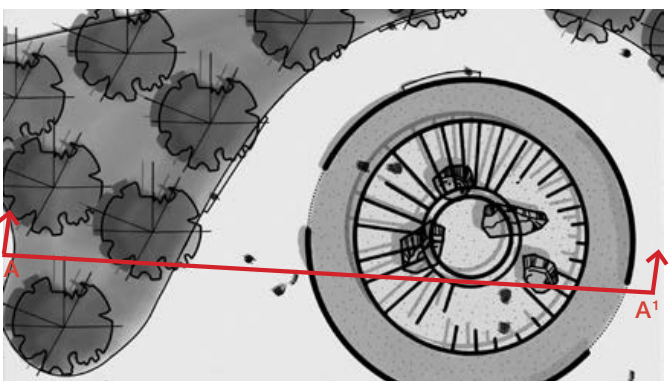
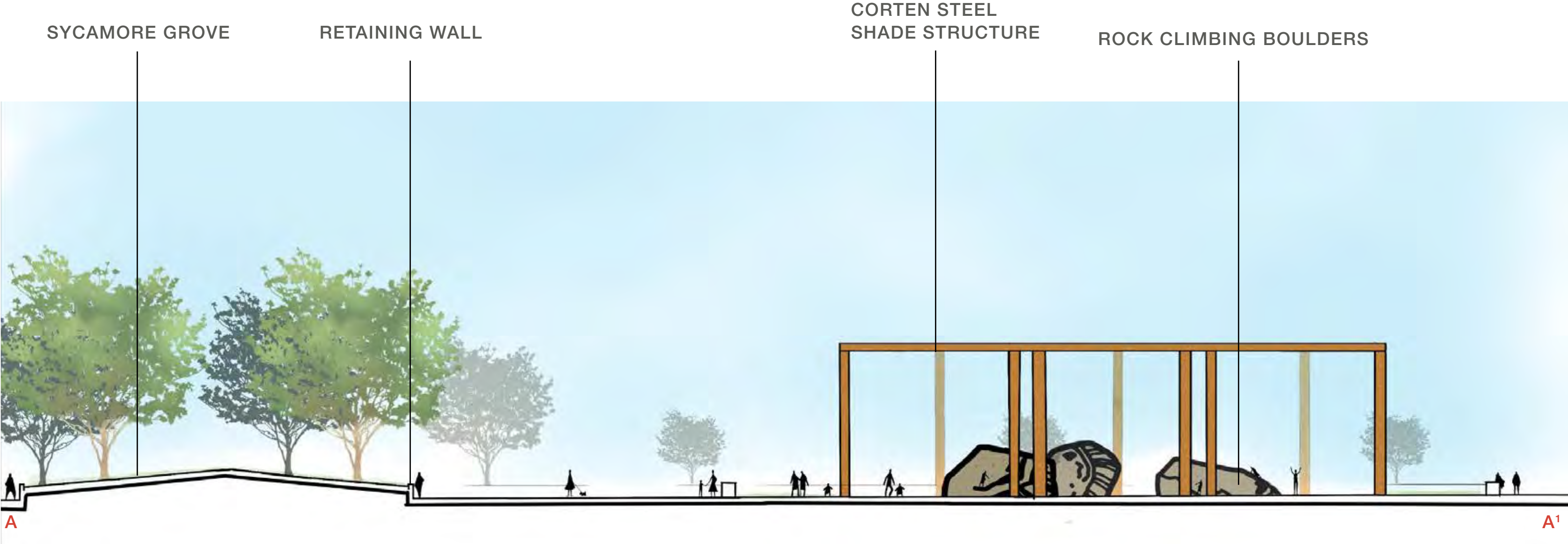
SECTION ENLARGEMENT: HEADWORKS PARK



- ① Turf Area
- ② Circular Shade Structure
- ③ Sycamore Grove
- ④ Regrind Outdoor Ground Cover
- ⑤ Concrete Benches
- ⑥ Rock Climbing Structure



SECTION ELEVATION: HEADWORKS PARK



Thank you!



studio
EVERYBODY PLANTS NOW
ELENA AVANESOVA | SAM HINCKLEY | JEN MOODY