



# AZUSA WILDERNESS PARK

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LD 7

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## PROJECT STATEMENT

The Azusa Wilderness Park extension integrates ecological conservation, recreation, cultural heritage, and community engagement. This dynamic landscape will be both ecologically vibrant and culturally enriching, exemplifying responsible natural resource stewardship. By harmonizing these elements, the park will serve as a model for sustainable landscape design and management.





## AZUSA WILDERNESS PARK

Designing a wilderness park at the threshold of a national monument presents an opportunity to seamlessly merge protected wilderness areas with zones dedicated to conservation and recreation. Key objectives of this design include:

**Ecological Connectivity:** Establishing a buffer zone to maintain ecological connections between core wilderness regions and surrounding landscapes. By preserving contiguous habitats and wildlife corridors, the project will facilitate wildlife movement and genetic exchange, thereby fostering biodiversity conservation.

**Enhanced Conservation:** Extending protected areas and providing additional habitat for native flora and fauna to bolster overall conservation efforts. This initiative aims to safeguard critical ecosystems, rare species, and sensitive habitats, mitigating the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation and human activity.

**Cultural and Spiritual Value:** Acknowledging the cultural and spiritual significance of the landscape to local In-

igenous communities, particularly the Tongva people. Emphasizing historical ties to the land and promoting respect for traditional knowledge and practices related to land stewardship and conservation.

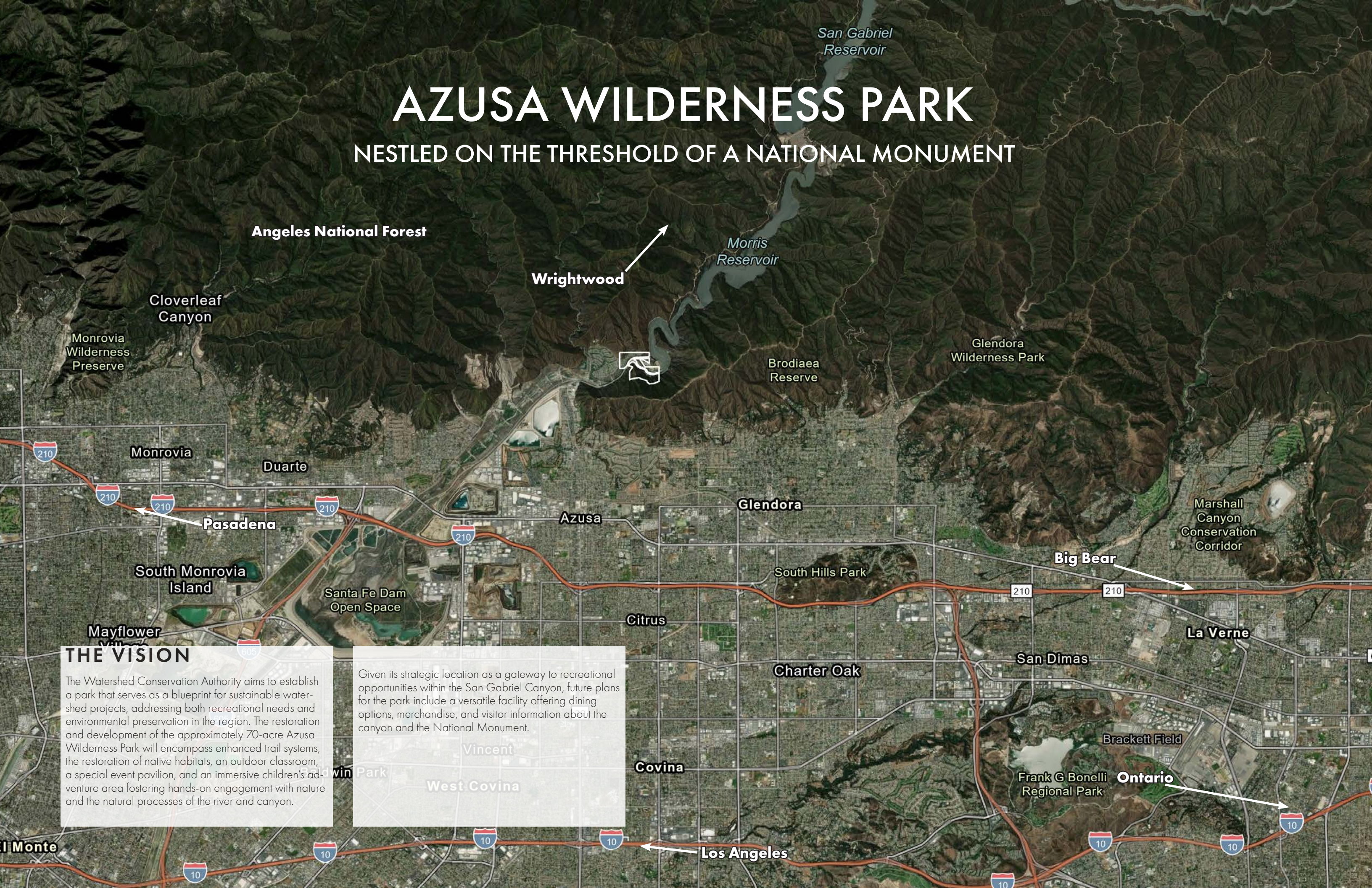
**Resilience to Climate Change:** Playing a pivotal role in supporting ecosystem resilience to climate change by offering refugia for species vulnerable to habitat loss and climate impacts. As temperatures rise and habitats undergo shifts, these protected wilderness areas will serve as stable environments where species can endure and adapt.

Extending **Azusa Wilderness Park** underscores the importance of integrating ecological conservation, recreational opportunities, cultural heritage, and community engagement. The resulting landscape will be both ecologically vibrant and culturally enriching, serving as a testament to responsible stewardship of natural resources.



# AZUSA WILDERNESS PARK

NESTLED ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT



**Angeles National Forest**

**Wrightwood**

*San Gabriel Reservoir*

*Morris Reservoir*

**Cloverleaf Canyon**

**Monrovia Wilderness Preserve**

**Brodiaea Reserve**

**Glendora Wilderness Park**

**Monrovia**

**Duarte**

**Azusa**

**Glendora**

**Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor**

**Pasadena**

**South Monrovia Island**

**Santa Fe Dam Open Space**

**South Hills Park**

**Big Bear**

**Mayflower**

**Citrus**

**La Verne**

## THE VISION

The Watershed Conservation Authority aims to establish a park that serves as a blueprint for sustainable watershed projects, addressing both recreational needs and environmental preservation in the region. The restoration and development of the approximately 70-acre Azusa Wilderness Park will encompass enhanced trail systems, the restoration of native habitats, an outdoor classroom, a special event pavilion, and an immersive children's adventure area fostering hands-on engagement with nature and the natural processes of the river and canyon.

Given its strategic location as a gateway to recreational opportunities within the San Gabriel Canyon, future plans for the park include a versatile facility offering dining options, merchandise, and visitor information about the canyon and the National Monument.

**Charter Oak**

**San Dimas**

**Brackett Field**

**Frank G Bonelli Regional Park**

**Ontario**

**Vincent**

**Covina**

**West Covina**

**Los Angeles**

**Monte**



# 03 Site-Wide Analysis



An abandoned trailer sits at the former mayors home

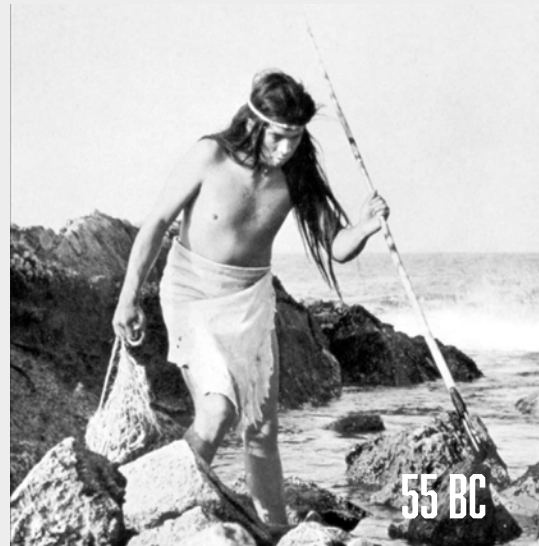


# HISTORIC TIMELINE

AZUSA, CALIFORNIA

## TONGVA PEOPLE

The first humans arrived in what is now called Southern California over 19,000 years ago, likely migrating from across the Bering Strait. California's rich natural abundance led it to have the most populous tribes north of what is now Mexico. The village located in today's Azusa was called Asuksa-nga.



55 BC

## SPANISH COLONIZATION

The Spanish colonization of the San Gabriel River in California during the late 18th and early 19th centuries left a lasting impact on the indigenous Tongva (Gabrieleño) people. Father Junípero Serra founded Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in 1771, aiming to convert the Tongva to Christianity and assimilate them into Spanish colonial society. This mission system brought forced labor, suffering, and hardship to the Tongva, despite being a site of cultural exchange. Spanish presence also led to the establishment of pueblos and presidios, solidifying control in the region. The colonization era was marked by clashes with indigenous peoples and rival colonial powers, enduring until Mexico's independence in 1821.



1771

## MEXICAN ERA

The first Mexican settlement in Azusa was Rancho el Susa, established in 1841 under a land grant from Alta California Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado to Luis Arenas. In 1844, Arenas sold the land to Henry Dalton, an English immigrant from Los Angeles, who renamed it Rancho Azusa de Dalton. During this period, Spanish and Mexican traditions like ranching, agriculture, and Catholicism continued to thrive.

The Mexican era in Azusa was brief, ended by the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 ceded Alta California to the United States.



1841



1854

## GOLD RUSH

During 1854, gold was discovered in the San Gabriel Canyon and a town named El Doradoville was built at the fork of the San Gabriel to take care of some 2,000 miners who had filed on gold claims along the east fork of the canyon. During the next 20 years, it is estimated that \$12 million in gold was mined and shipped to various mints throughout the United States. The town of El Doradoville was destroyed by flood waters in 1861 and 1862.



1887

## AZUSA FOUNDING

The City of Azusa was founded in 1887 and incorporated as a general law city on December 29, 1898. The City is located in the County of Los Angeles, situated 27 miles northeast of the City of Los Angeles, and nestled against the San Gabriel Mountain foothills.



2014

## SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, covers parts of the Angeles National Forest and the San Bernardino National Forest in California. President Barack Obama established the monument on October 10, 2014, safeguarding 346,177 acres of public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains. The conservation effort traces back to 1891 when President Benjamin Harrison designated the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve, marking the earliest federal protection of forested lands in the United States. This initiative was influenced by California conservationists Abbot Kinney and John Muir.



2025

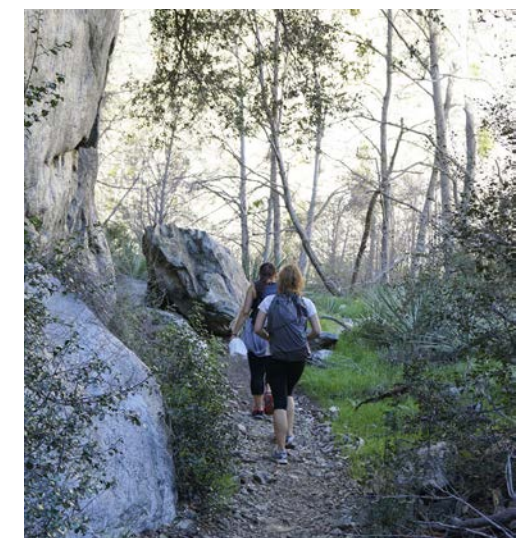
## AZUSA WILDERNESS PARK

Azusa Wilderness Park, situated at the entrance of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, offers breathtaking views of the San Gabriel River and canyon. Located at the former El Encanto Restaurant, the site now houses offices for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Watershed Conservation Authority.

The park features the Hilda Solis River Outlook and native garden, providing a preview of upcoming enhancements. The outlook also serves as a trailhead for a popular 1-mile walk along North Old San Gabriel Canyon Road. Various agencies, NGOs, and community members collaborated on the park's development, aligning with Azusa's General Plan and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan.

Initially spanning 3 acres, the park has expanded to 70 acres through grants and acquisitions by the WCA, aiming for a sustainable watershed project. Future plans include trail expansions, habitat restoration, outdoor classrooms, event spaces, and children's play areas.

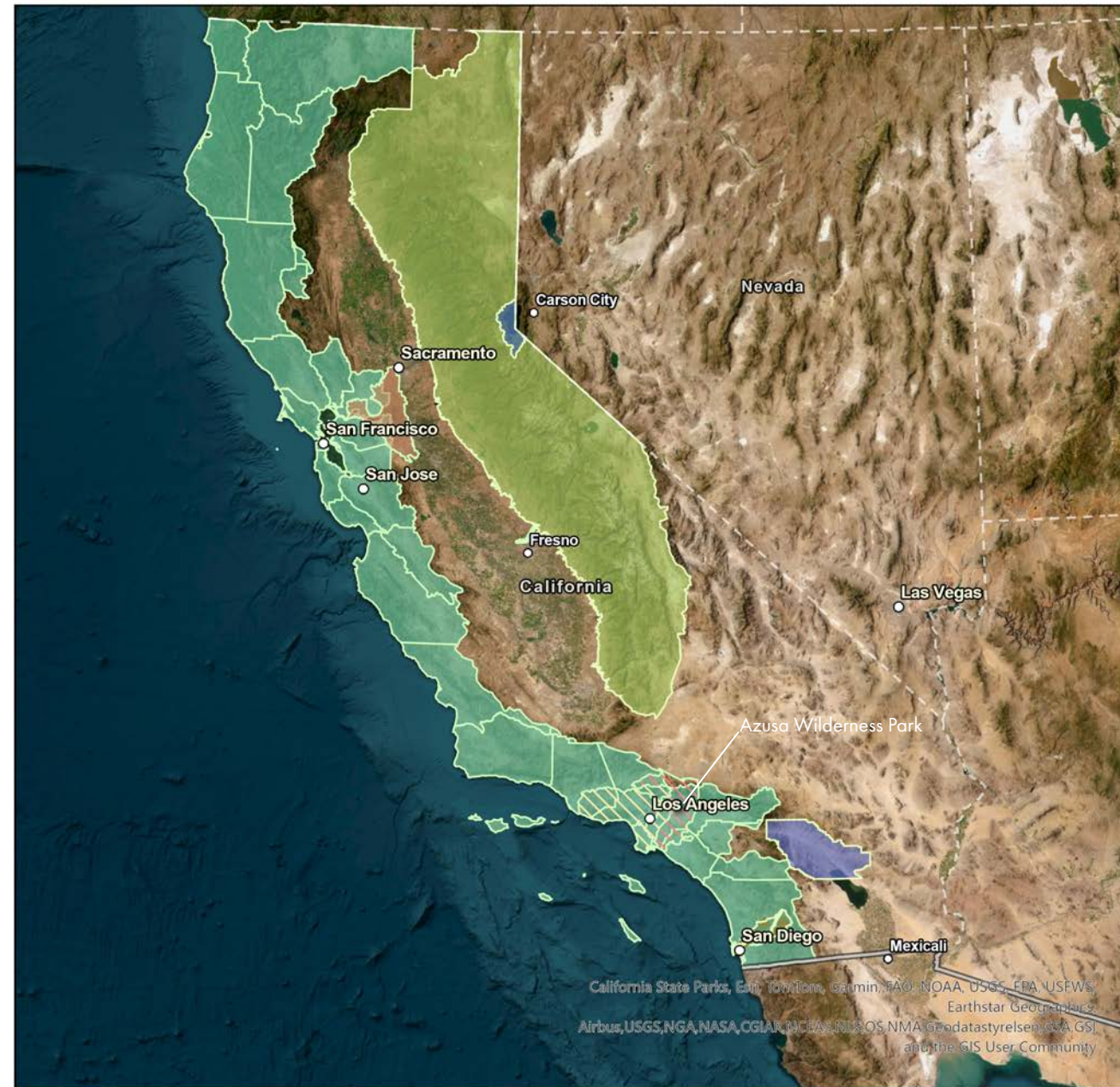




## OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS Azusa Wilderness Park

Designing a master plan for a park in a conservation area at Azusa Wilderness Park, requires a thoughtful approach that balances the preservation of the area's natural beauty and biodiversity with providing meaningful recreational and educational experiences for visitors. The master plan will prioritize habitat preservation, with native plantings and wildlife-friendly features integrated throughout the park. Trail systems will be strategically designed to minimize disturbance to sensitive habitats while offering opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and nature observation. Interpretive signage and educational programs will highlight the ecological significance of the area, emphasizing the importance of conservation and stewardship. Sustainable design principles, including water-efficient landscaping and stormwater management, will be incorporated to minimize environmental impacts. Community engagement will be central to the planning process, with input from local residents, stakeholders, and Indigenous groups guiding the development of the park to ensure it reflects the values and needs of the community.





## CALIFORNIA CONSERVANCIES

California encompasses over 104 million acres of land, with approximately 75 percent classified as wildlands. Among these, the federal government owns 60 percent, while private entities hold 37 percent. The state possesses slightly over 2 percent, with local governments owning the remainder. Additionally, there are 24 million acres utilized for agriculture, leaving a relatively small portion for the state’s population of over 39 million.

The state’s extensive open spaces contributed to its top ranking in the “Open Spaces and Beauty” category of a recent study. California is home to ten conservancies dedicated to land conservation. Unlike other agencies that regulate development, conservancies focus on maintaining land in its natural state. A 2001 analysis suggested that conservancies prioritize resources deemed “of extraordinary significance” to the state.

Above: A view from Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

### LEGEND

- Baldwin Hills Conservancy
- Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Coastal Conservancy
- Delta Conservancy
- Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- San Diego River Conservancy
- San Joaquin River Conservancy
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Tahoe Conservancy
- Azusa Boundary



Scale: 1:6,000,000





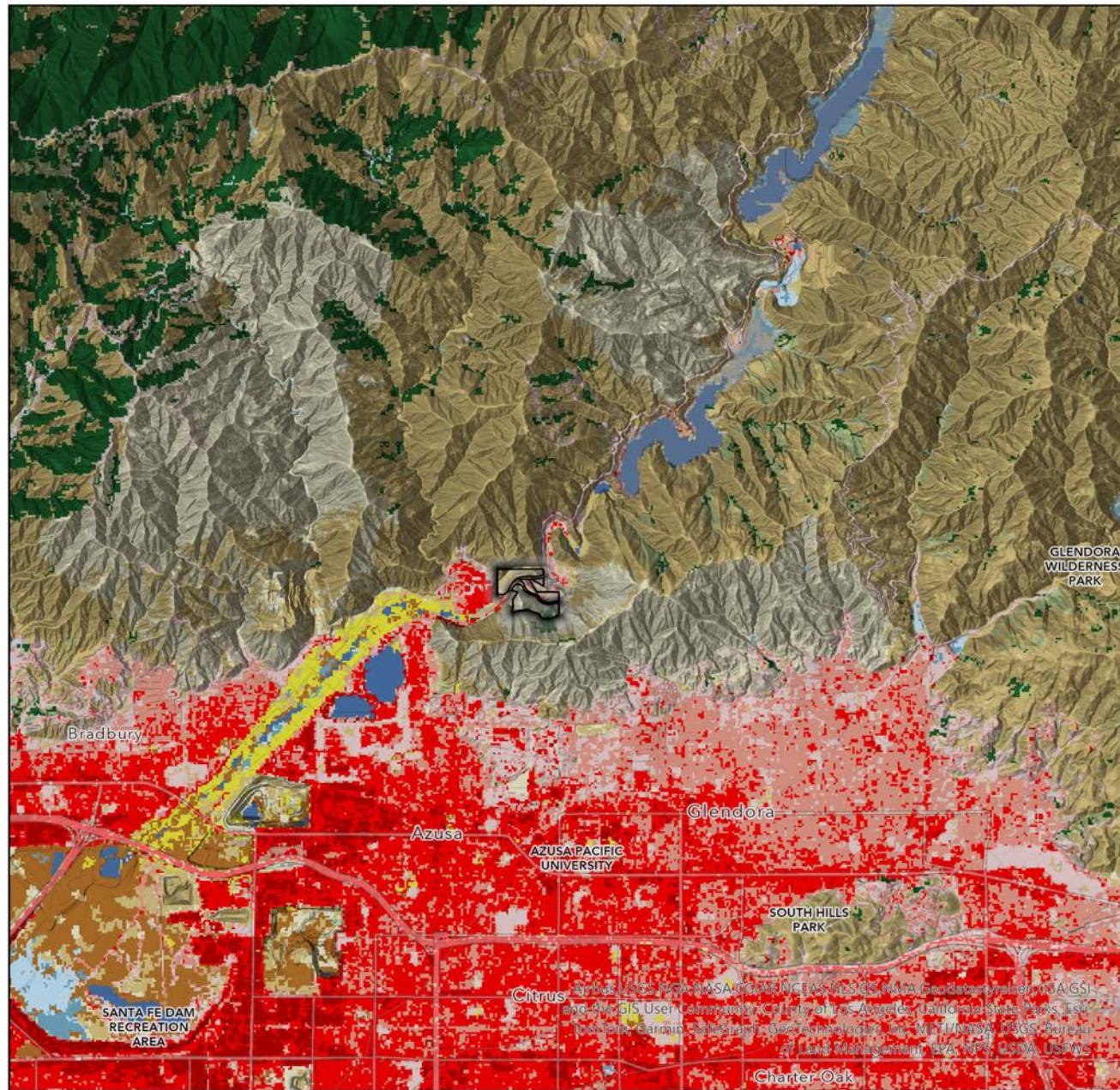
## LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPEN SPACES

Los Angeles County boasts an extensive network of open space, including parks, recreational areas, and natural preserves. While there isn't a specific acreage figure for the entire open space network, the county is home to numerous parks and wilderness areas managed by various agencies, including the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, among others.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, for example, covers over 150,000 acres of open space, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat protection. Additionally, the county has invested in preserving and expanding its network of urban parks and green spaces to enhance residents' quality of life and promote environmental sustainability.

Above: Azusa Wilderness Park





**LEGEND**



**CONTEXT & POTENTIAL USERS WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF PARK**

Examining the local context and user demographics in the urban planning of a wilderness park is pivotal for crafting an outdoor space that benefits residents and safeguards the environment. Understanding the urban surroundings involves delving into aspects such as population

density, socio-economic demographics, cultural diversity, and recreational preferences of locals. This information aids in customizing park amenities and programs to align with the community's needs. Additionally, integrating sustainable design principles is essential, encompassing strategies like energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, and habitat restoration. Engaging with residents and businesses is crucial to advocate for eco-friendly practices and instill a sense of environmental stewardship.

Analyzing age demographics unveils insights into preferred activities; for instance, areas with many families may necessitate playgrounds and family-friendly facilities, while regions with a significant elderly population may favor walking paths or low-impact exercise

areas. Understanding income levels in the vicinity helps in determining suitable amenities, with affluent areas potentially supporting upscale offerings, whereas lower-income areas may lean towards free or low-cost activities.

Exploring the local context and demographics within a 20-minute radius of the park provides valuable insights into potential user preferences, guiding decisions on park design and programming. By factoring in these considerations, planners can develop a wilderness park that not only enriches residents' quality of life but also promotes environmental sustainability and caters to the diverse needs of the surrounding community.



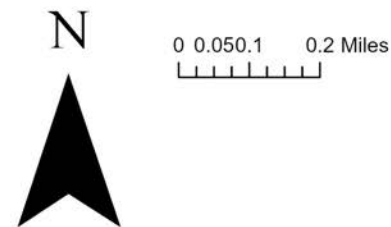


**LEGEND**

- 50' Contours
- Azusa Wilderness Park Boundary

**USGS Elevation Map**

Value
222.1 - 300
300.1 - 400
400.1 - 500
500.1 - 600
600.1 - 700
700.1 - 800

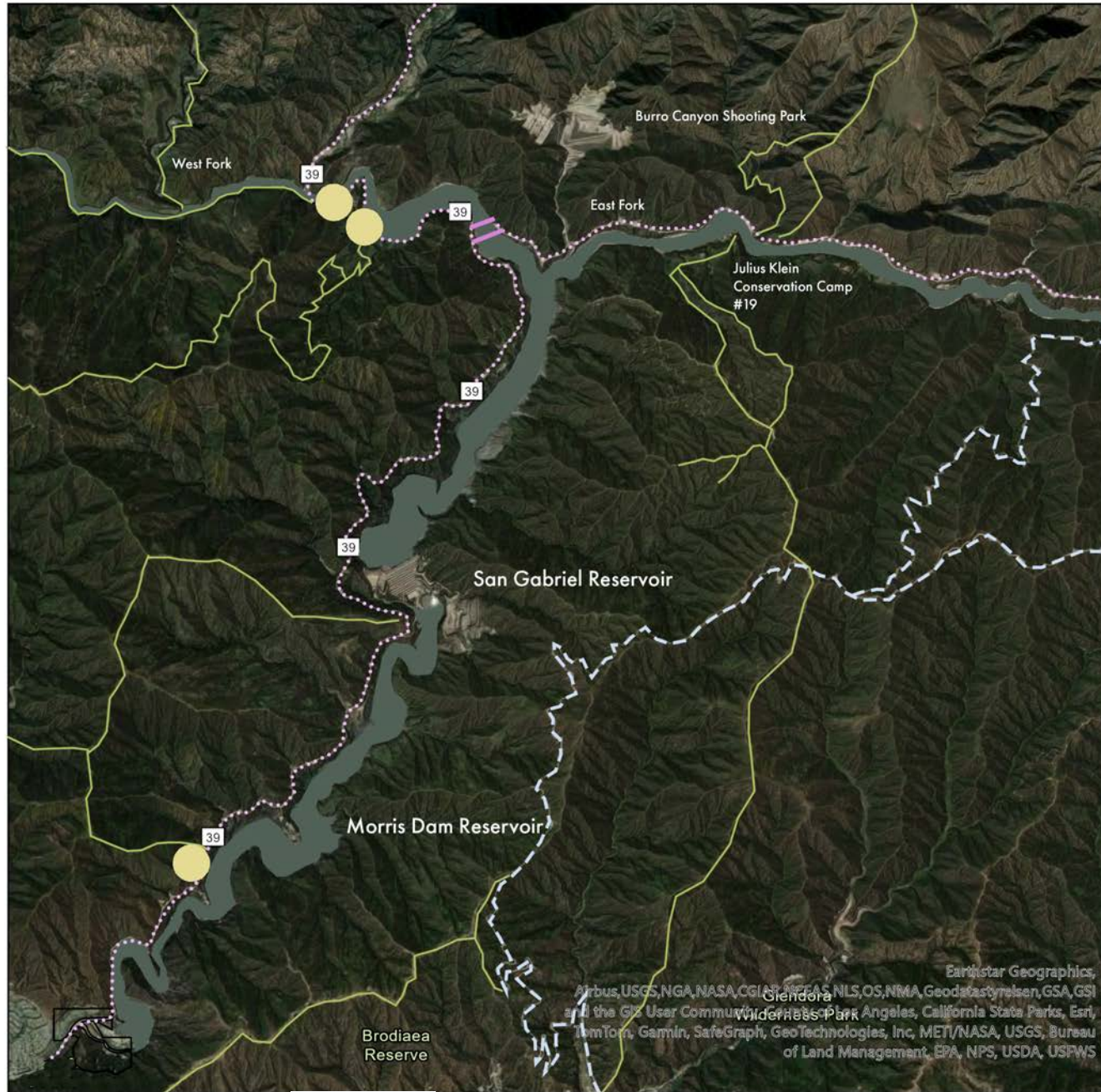


**ELEVATION MAP**

This elevation map, crafted in ArcGIS, is pivotal for planning phase two of Azusa Wilderness Park. It aids in tailoring my design to the site's terrain and environmental conditions. Notably, much of the area within and bordering the park features gentle slopes, easing accessibility concerns. However, potential barriers like steep inclines warrant attention, especially for pedestrians, cyclists, and those with mobility limitations. Integrating features like ramps, stairs, and accessible pathways is imperative to ensure universal access and connectivity throughout the site.

Above: Azusa Wilderness Park connects to the steep mountains of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument



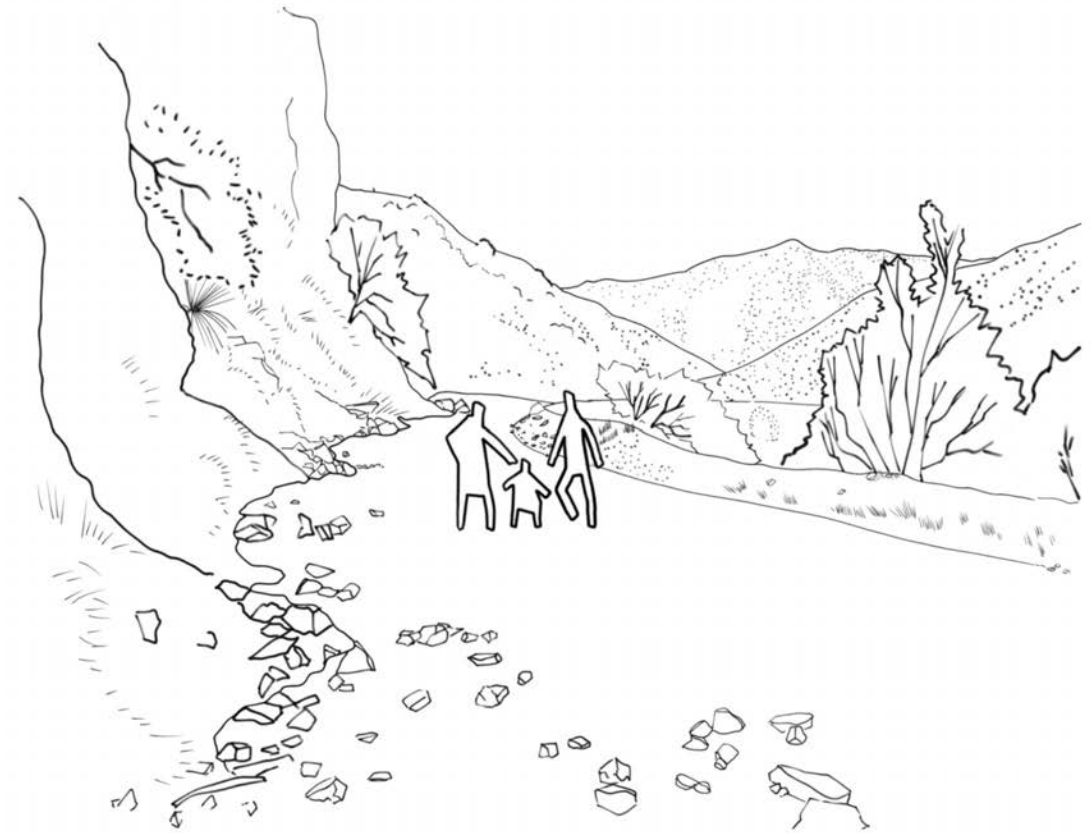


**LEGEND**

- Azusa Boundary
- Hiking Trail
- San Gabriel River
- Primary Vehicular Route
- Bridge
- Trail Head
- Secondary Vehicular Route



Scale: 1:56,000



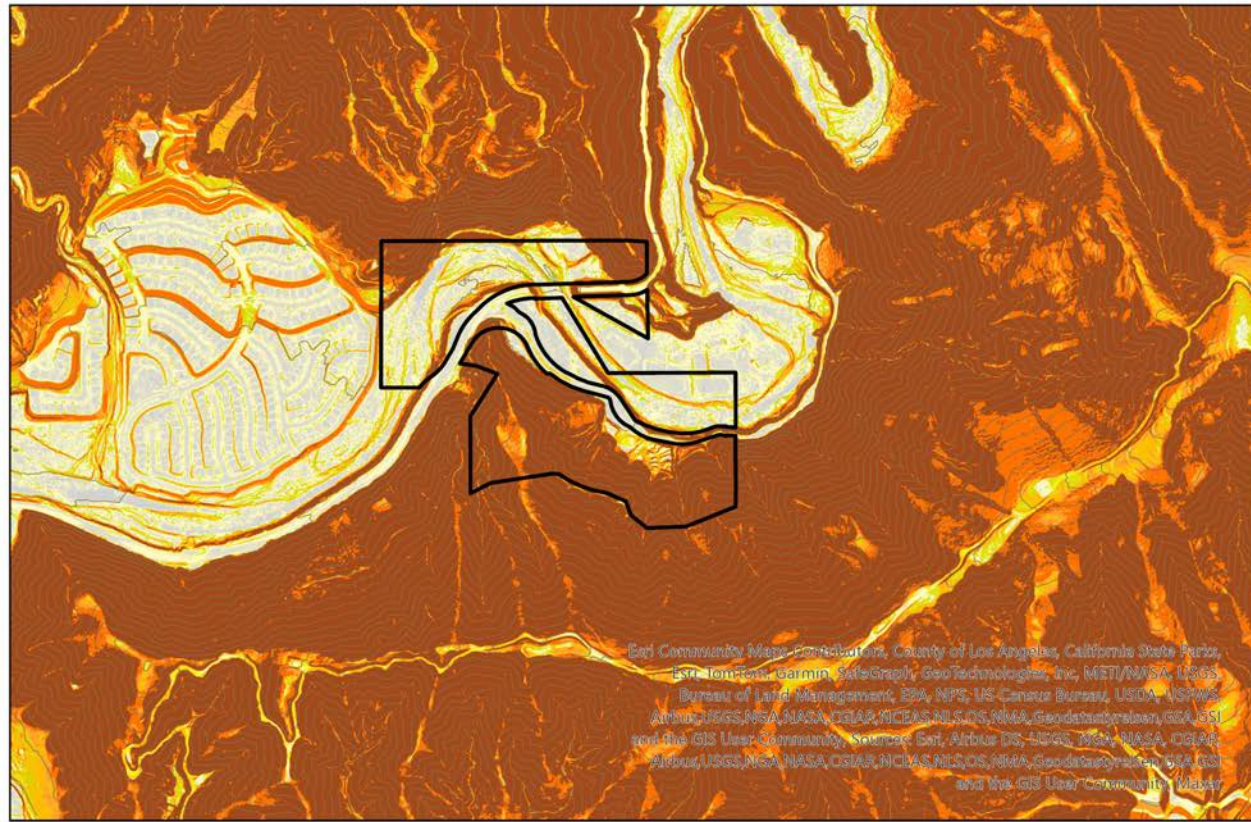
**TRAIL MAP**

Nestled just north of metropolitan Los Angeles and ensconced within Angeles National Forest lies the renowned San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, a beloved destination for hikers and nature enthusiasts alike. For well over a century, these mountains have been a cherished retreat for Southland residents seeking serenity amidst their tranquil trails.

The allure of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is undeniable, drawing hikers for a multitude of compelling reasons. One prominent factor contributing to its popularity is its close proximity to the bustling Greater Los Angeles area, home to over 16 million individuals. Despite the region's reputation for automobile-centric living, it proudly hosts one of the largest concentrations of hikers in North America.

Above: Azusa Wilderness Park starts with a family friend slope that is easy to hike





### SLOPE STEEPNESS

Slope steepness is a critical factor to consider when assessing landslide hazards, particularly in areas above a wilderness area. Steep slopes are more prone to landslide activity due to the gravitational forces acting on the soil and rock materials. When slopes exceed a certain threshold of steepness, they become unstable, increasing the risk of landslides triggered by factors such as heavy rainfall, seismic activity, or human disturbances.

In the context of being above Azusa Wilderness Park, the presence of steep slopes can pose significant risks to both human safety and ecological integrity. Landslides can not only endanger visitors and infrastructure within the wilderness area but also have cascading effects on downstream ecosystems, water quality, and habitat connectivity.

Assessing slope steepness and landslide hazard above the wilderness area involves conducting thorough geological investigations, terrain analysis, and hazard mapping. This will help identify areas with high landslide

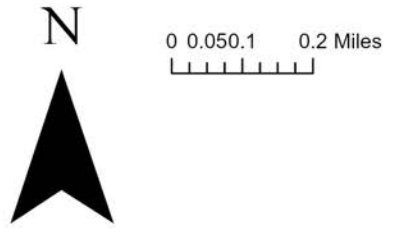
susceptibility and inform land use planning, infrastructure design, and risk management strategies.

Mitigation measures should include slope stabilization techniques such as terracing, revegetation, retaining walls, and drainage systems to reduce erosion and landslide risk.

Ultimately, understanding the relationship between slope steepness and landslide hazard is essential to promoting safety, preserving the natural landscape, and sustain the ecological health of the park.

Above: Hikers tackle steep slope in National Monument

- LEGEND**
- 50' Contours
  - ▭ Azusa Wilderness Park Boundary
- Terrain: Slope Map**
- Flat (0°)
  - Nearly level (1°)
  - Gently level (2°)
  - Gently sloping (3° - 5°)
  - Strongly sloping (6° - 10°)
  - Gently steep (11° - 15°)
  - Moderately Steep (16° - 20°)
  - Steep (21° - 30°)
  - Very steep (31° - 90°)



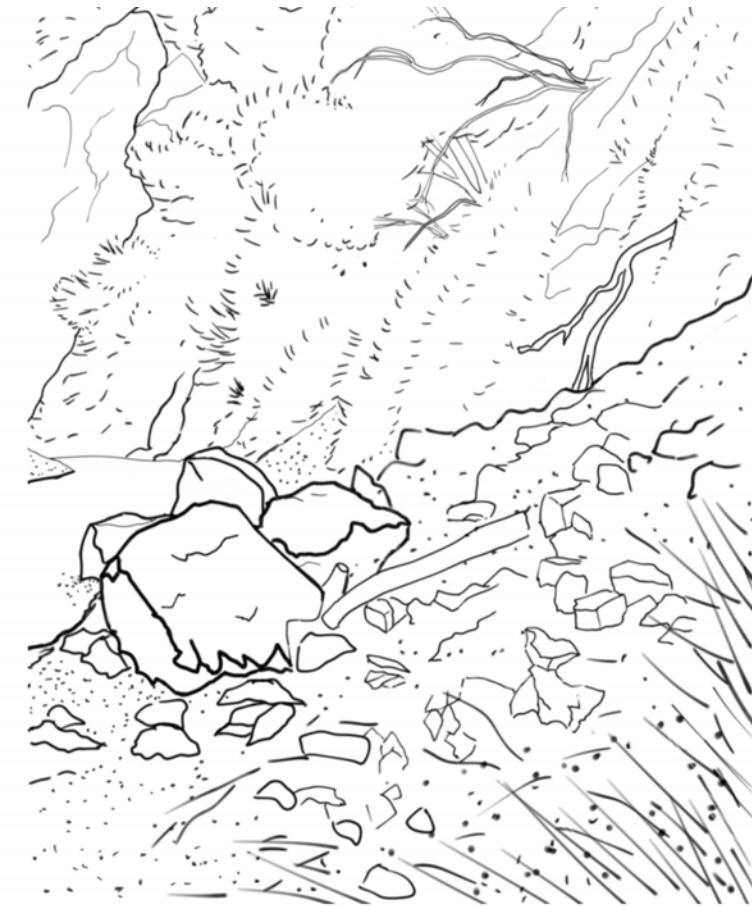




## LANDSLIDE RISK ZONES

Landslides in the region are driven by steep slopes, soil characteristics, vegetation, and rainfall, with fire as an additional factor. Chaparral and coastal sage scrub, prevalent in mountainous areas, have evolved to thrive in fire-prone environments, promoting soil renewal and overall ecosystem health. Lightning strikes during summer storms ignite fires in high-elevation, low-rainfall areas, while Santa Ana winds in autumn exacerbate dry conditions, facilitating wildfire spread.

Urban development in the San Gabriel River Watershed has encroached onto historically fire-prone zones, leading to stricter fire suppression policies. However, this has resulted in increased vegetation build-up, leading to more intense and damaging wildfires. Human-induced fires have become the primary cause, posing significant threats to property, plant communities, and wildlife. Post-fire, massive sediment flows during rainstorms necessitate management to maintain flood protection levels.



Above: Sketch of most recent landslide

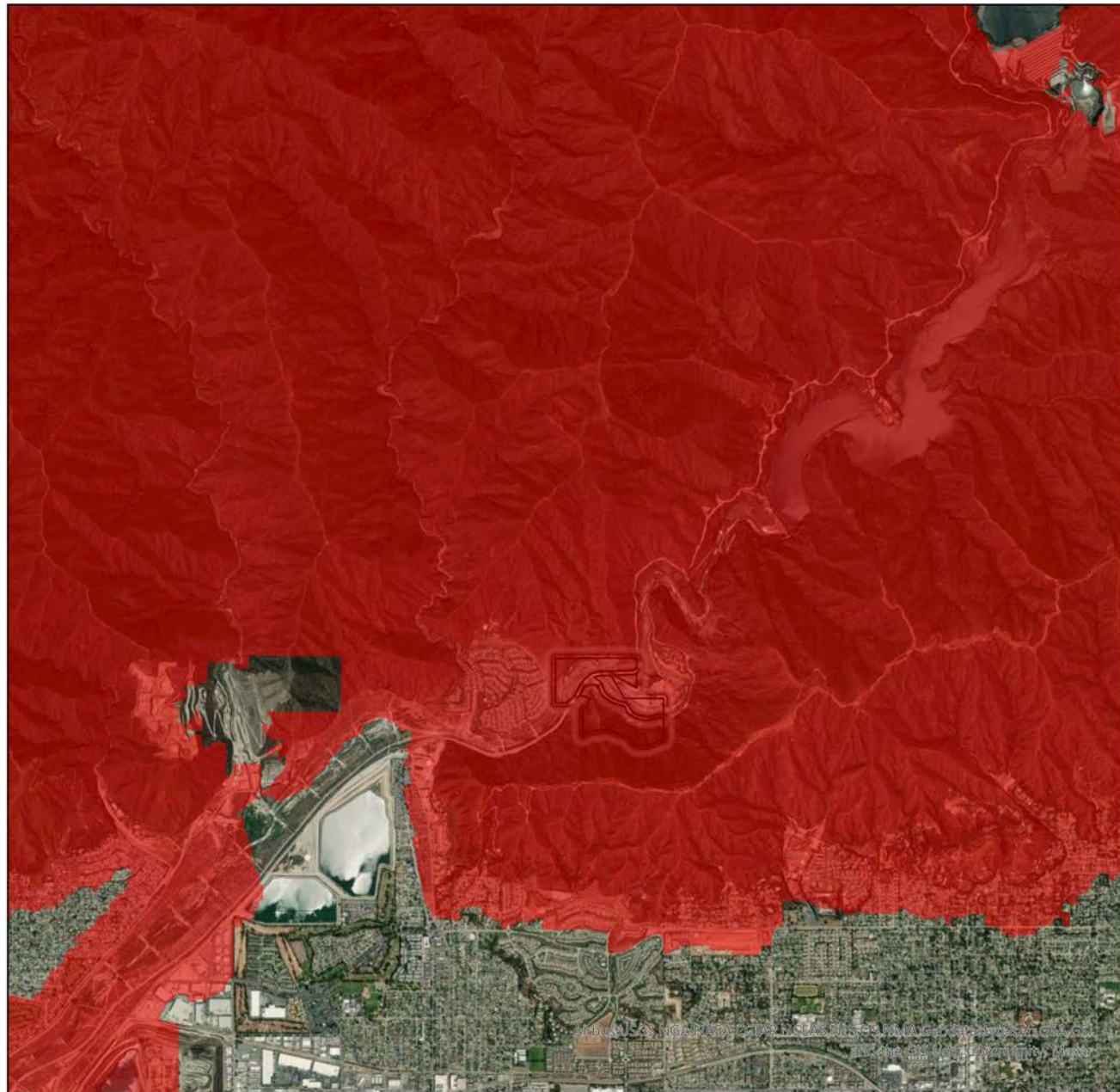
### LEGEND

-  Azusa Boundary
-  Landslide Zones



Scale: 1:10,500





**LEGEND**

Azusa Boundary

**Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

- Very High
- High
- Moderate



Scale: 1:40,000



**FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES**

In California, the frequency of fires is exacerbated by the rapid growth of invasive plant species, which swiftly outcompete native vegetation, forming dense clusters that escalate the overall fuel load. These dense patches of invasive plants easily ignite during fires, intensifying the blaze and leading to more severe wildfires.

Certain invasive species, adapted to fire-prone environments, disrupt natural fire patterns, promoting more frequent and intense blazes. For instance, species like cheatgrass create continuous fuel beds, facilitating the spread of fire, thus increasing the occurrence of larger wildfires.

Moreover, invasive plant species alter ecosystem dynamics, impacting soil chemistry, water availability, and nutrient cycling. These alterations create conditions conducive to fire ignition and spread, making landscapes more susceptible to wildfires.

Furthermore, the displacement of native flora by

invasive species diminishes biodiversity and alters ecosystem structure and function. This can result in changes in fire behavior and severity, as native plants possess different fuel characteristics and fire adaptations compared to invasives.

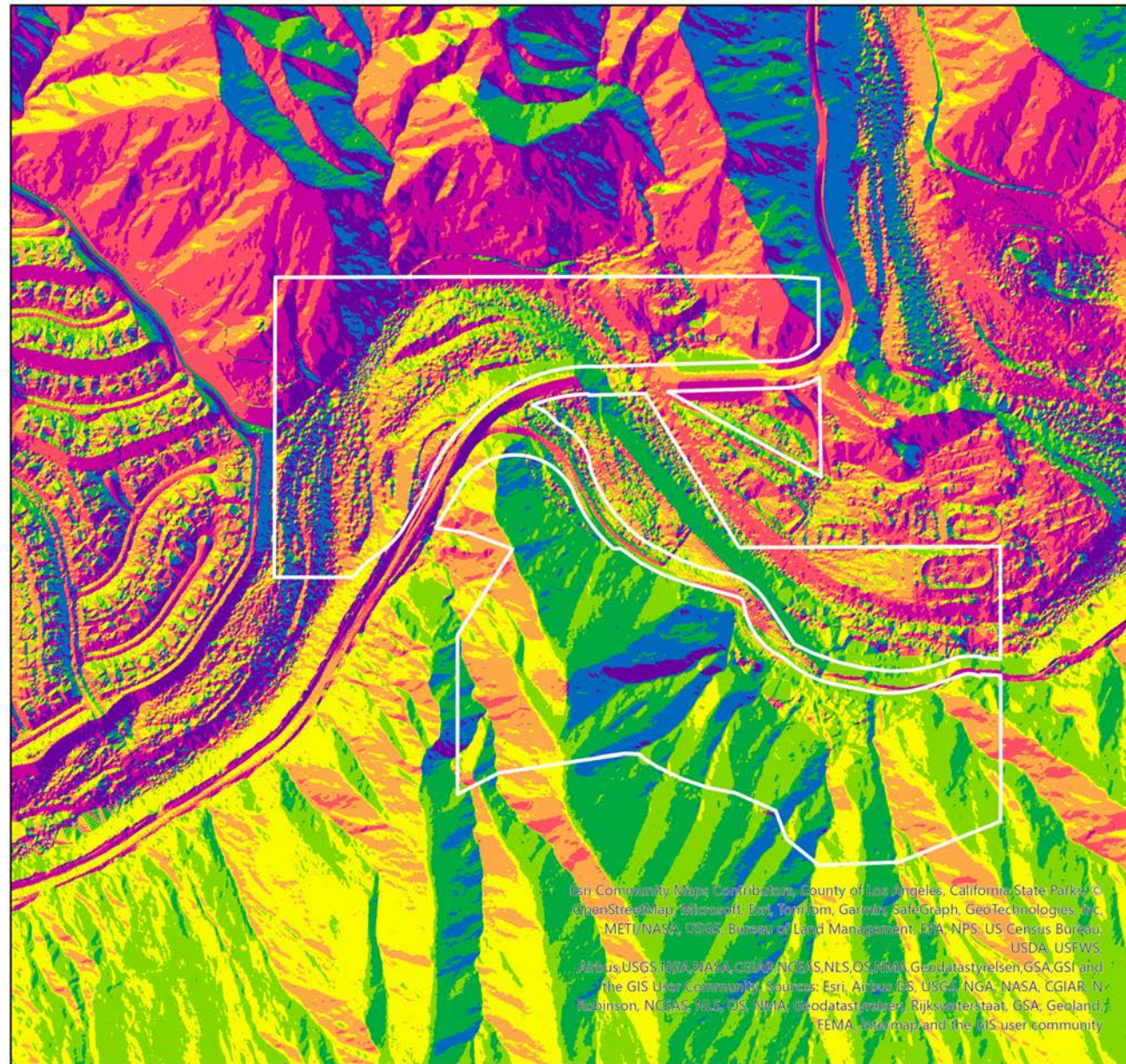
Overall, invasive plant species significantly influence fire regimes and patterns in California. Efforts to manage and control invasive species are essential for reducing wildfire risk and preserving the health and resilience of California's ecosystems.

Above: Fire in San Gabriel Mountains National Monument









**LEGEND**

Azusa Wilderness Park Boundary

**Terrain: Aspect Map**

**ClassName**

North (0 - 22.5)	Southeast (112.5 - 157.5)
Northeast (22.5 - 67.5)	South (157.5 - 202.5)
East (67.5 - 112.5)	Southwest (202.5 - 247.5)
	West (247.5 - 292.5)
	Northwest (292.5 - 337.5)
	North (337.5 - 360)
	Flat (361)

N

0 0.03 0.06 0.12 Miles

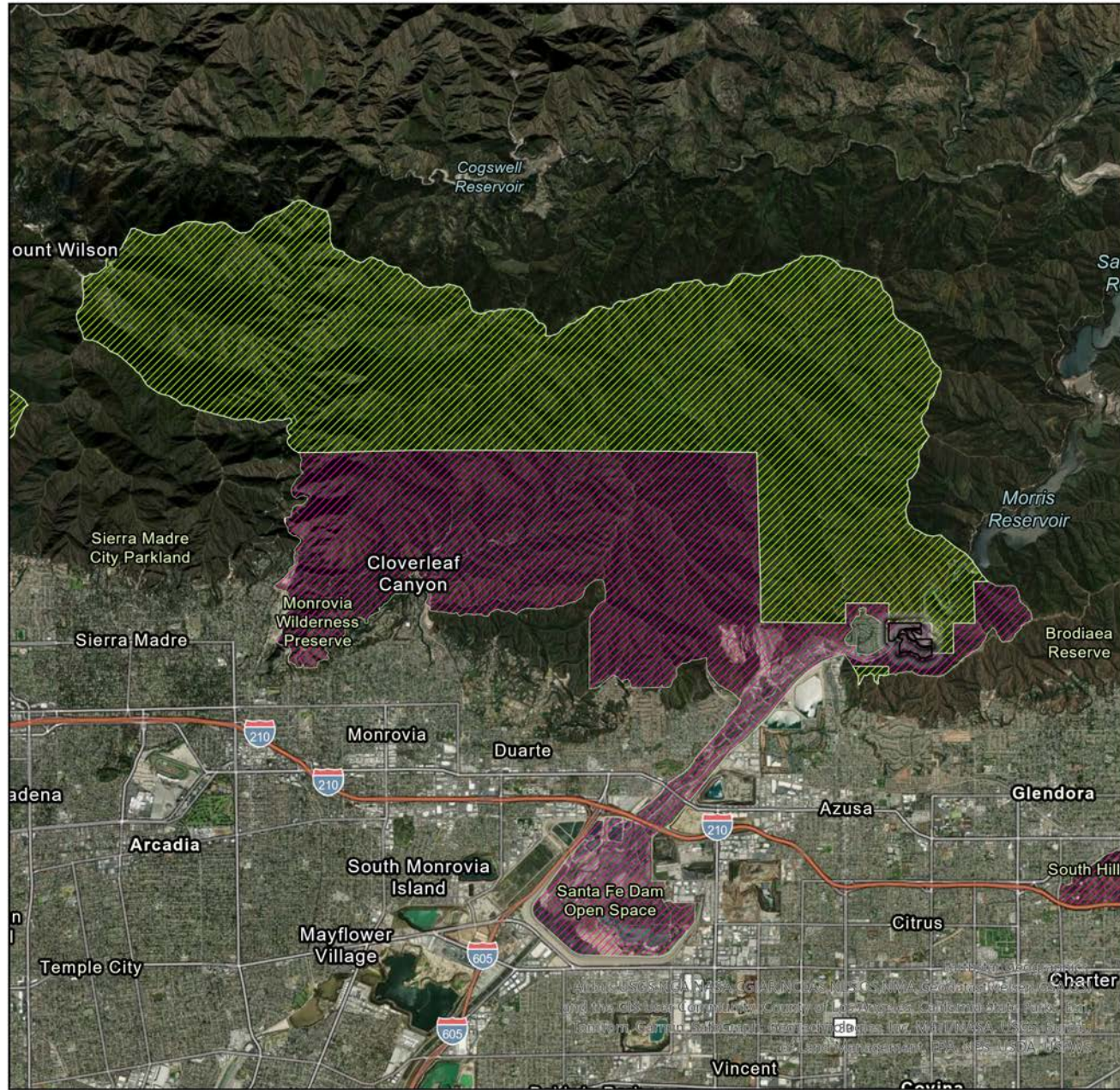


**TERRAIN ASPECT**

Terrain aspect refers to the compass direction a slope faces relative to the sun, significantly impacting microclimates, vegetation patterns, and ecological processes. This region exhibits varying aspects, leading to distinct environmental conditions on north-facing slopes versus south-facing slopes. For instance, north-facing slopes typically receive less direct sunlight, maintaining cooler and moister conditions that favor shade-tolerant vegetation and moisture-loving species. Conversely, south-facing slopes experience more sunlight and warmth, resulting in drier conditions conducive to sun-loving plants. Understanding terrain aspect is crucial for landscape planning, habitat restoration, and land management decisions. It enables the identification of microclimatic variations and ecological niches, guiding vegetation management, habitat restoration, and conservation strategies. By considering terrain aspect, my design can optimize habitat conditions, promote biodiversity, and enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change and environmental stressors.

Above Clockwise: Slope stabilizing, sun loving California natives: *Salvia apiana*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *Cercocarpus betuloides* var *betuloides*, & *Hesperoyucca whipplei*



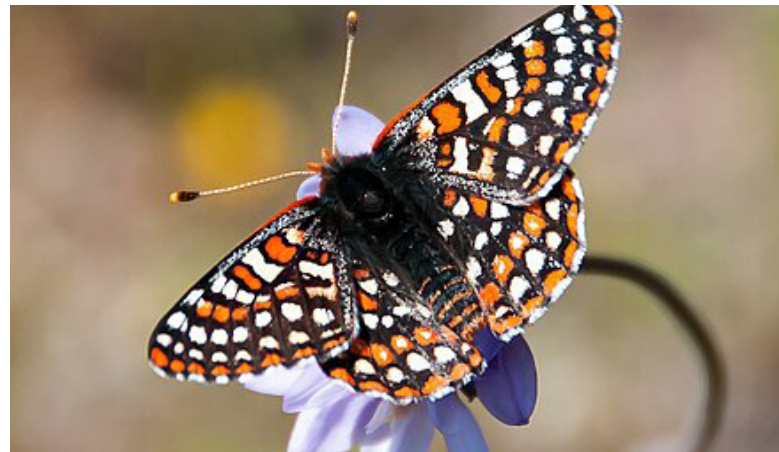


**LEGEND**

-  Azusa Boundary
-  Significant Ecological Area (SEA)
-  Significant Ecological Areas (Incorporated City)\*



Scale: 1:100,000



**SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS**

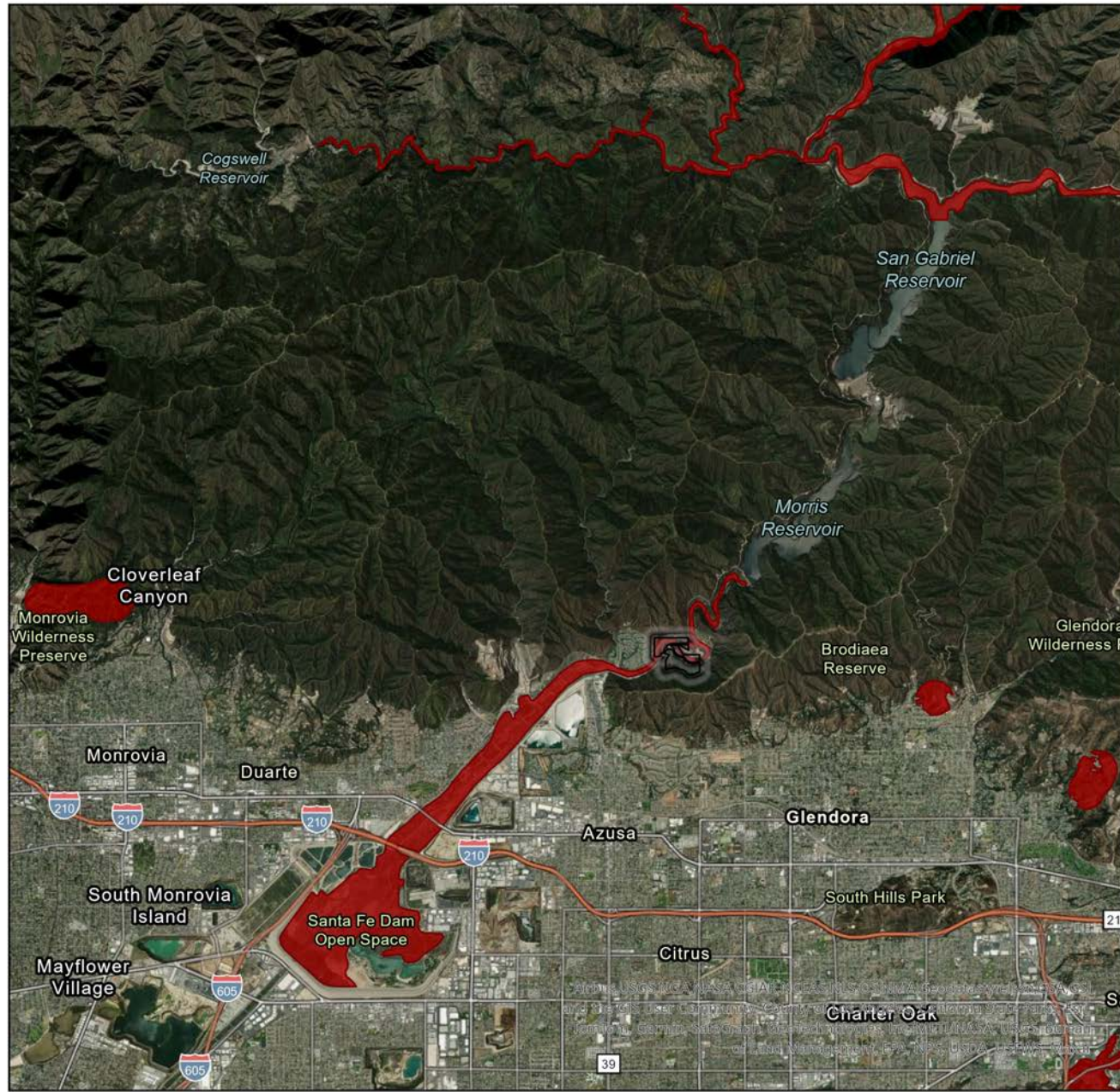
Southern California hosts one of the world's rarest ecosystems due to its Mediterranean climate and other factors. This biodiversity, found on just three percent of the Earth's surface, is notably present in significant ecological areas (SEAs) within the San Gabriel Mountains, Whittier Narrows, and the estuarine region of the San Gabriel River Watershed. SEAs are defined as ecologically vital, fragile areas crucial for preserving threatened or endangered species, as outlined in the 1988 Los Angeles County General Plan.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning designates SEAs within select unincorporated areas, providing added protection for biotic resources. While SEAs don't impede property development, they guide land use practices to preserve existing habitats. Currently, there are 10 SEAs in the San Gabriel River Watershed, with two directly situated on the river, including the Santa Fe Dam Floodplain and Whittier Narrows Dam County Recreation Area.

Additional SEAs are dispersed throughout the Puente-Chino Hills, San Jose Hills, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Further downstream, the Santa Fe Dam Floodplain SEA extends nearly five miles along the San Gabriel River, spanning from Azusa to Irwindale. It encompasses both riverbanks and the surrounding open space area, providing critical habitat protection.

Above Clockwise: Braughtons Milk Vetch, *Dudlyea densiflora*, Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, Least Bell's Vireo





**LEGEND**

Azusa Boundary

**Endangered Southwestern Willow Fly Catcher Habitat**

Critical Habitat

Habitat Boundary



Scale: 1:95,000

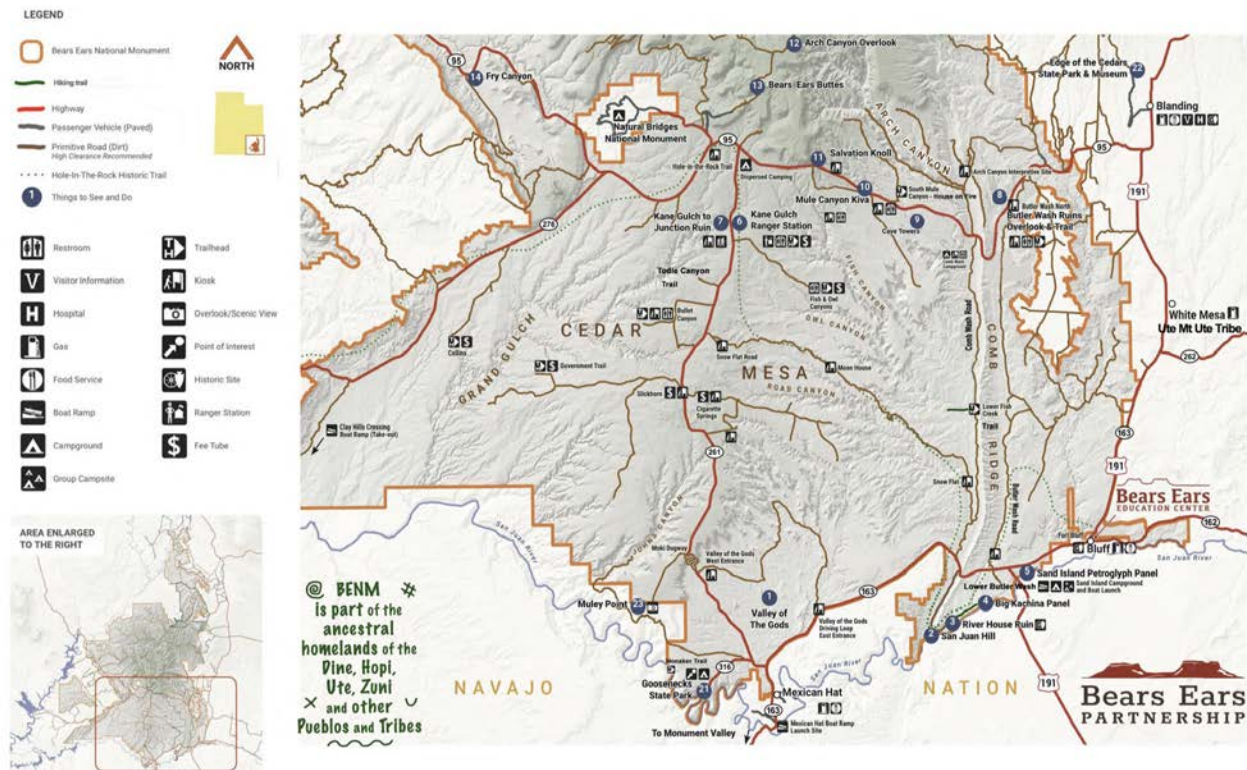


**ENDANGERED SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER HABITAT**

The nesting grounds of flycatchers have suffered significant decline, fragmentation, and alteration due to the extensive loss of riparian cottonwood-willow forests along Southwestern rivers. This habitat loss has led to a drastic reduction in the distribution and abundance of flycatchers. Human intervention, particularly in altering natural river flows, is a primary driver behind the loss of these native Southwestern bosques. Once abundant throughout the region, only 900-1000 breeding pairs now remain in the wild, rendering the flycatcher endangered across its entire breeding range from California to New Mexico. Notably, the stretch along the San Gabriel River, where Azusa Wilderness Park is nestled, serves as critical habitat for this endangered bird species.

Above: Critically endangered Southwestern Flycatcher





Visit with Respect

RESPECT AND PROTECT



### View Sites From A Distance

Many Indigenous peoples consider this landscape sacred, and numerous Tribal Elders ask visitors to view sites from a distance. This small act honors Tribal beliefs and protects cultural resources from the destructive effects of visitation, like erosion.



### Leave All Artifacts

Artifacts are sacred to modern Indigenous peoples, and scientists can learn valuable lessons about the past when objects stay where they are. Artifacts include pottery pieces, stone tools, rock flakes, and corn cobs. It's illegal to remove any artifact, including historic trash, from public lands.



### Don't Touch Rock Imagery Or Make Your Own

Natural oils on your hands damage these delicate images. Vandalism of petroglyphs and pictographs erases stories of ancient people and destroys the experience for future visitors.

## PRECEDENT/ BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

**Bears Ears National Monument** is located in southeast Utah in San Juan County, is made up of 1.36 million acres of public lands administered jointly with the BLM and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

Bears Ears are two, twin geological formations surrounded by roughly 1.3 million acres of desert, situated in Southwest Utah.

President Obama declared it a National Monument in December 2016

Bears Ears is one of the wildest and most ecologically rich areas in the Western United States.

It is sacred land to Native American tribes with numerous burial grounds and cultural sites.

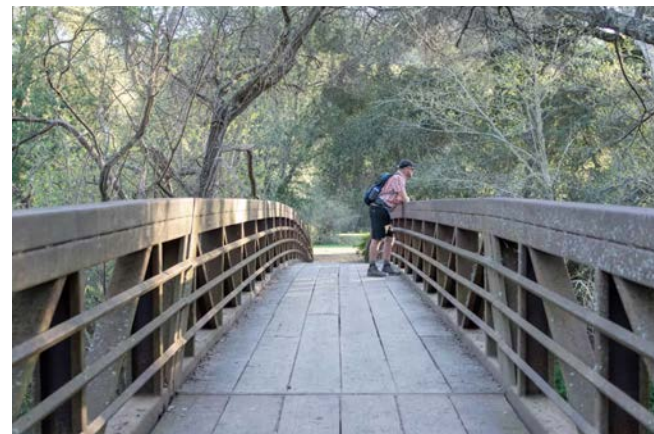
It has a wealth of mineral resources making it vulnerable to development and mining.

The California Condor, Green Cutthroat Trout and the Mexican Spotted Owl are native to this region, not to mention 15 other species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

### Similarities to **Azusa Wilderness Park**:

- Located in a national monument
- Strong native American support
- Hiking
- Beautiful





## PRECEDENT/ SUNOL WILDERNESS REGIONAL PRESERVE

Year opened: 1962

Acres: 6,858

Highlights: Old Green Barn Visitor Center, wilderness hiking, picnicking, backpack camping, access to Ohlone Wilderness Trail.

Fees

Parking: \$5/car; \$4/trailer; \$25/bus.

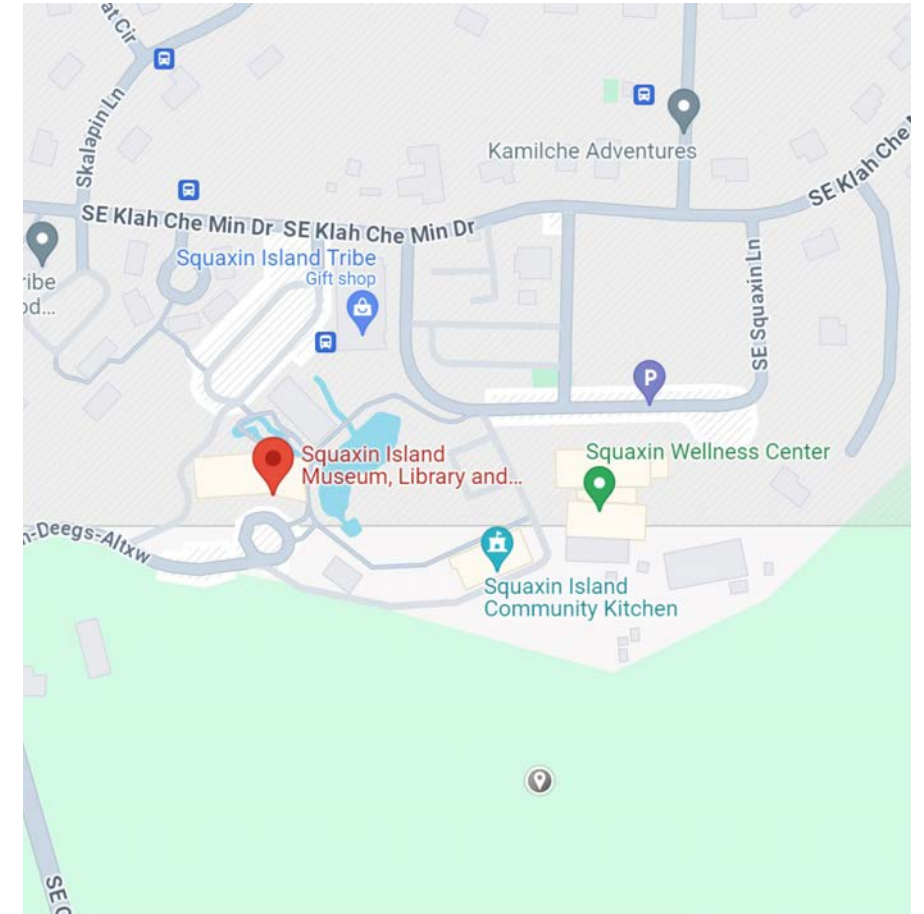
Dogs: \$2/dog. Ohlone Permit: \$2/person.

Camping: \$5/ person/day.

HISTORY: Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking Taunans lived with this land for countless generations, employing horticultural techniques that increased habitat diversity and plant and animal health and numbers. For the Taunan people, everything had a life and spirit, including water,

breezes, and rocks. For today's Ohlone's, this landscape has enduring cultural and historical significance. The park has been ranched continuously since the 1860s, with Patrick and Mary Ann Geary among the first homesteaders. In 1895 the Geary's son, Maurice, built the home and barn that would become today's Interpretive offices (rebuilt 1954) and Green Barn Visitor Center.





## PRECEDENT/ SQUAXIN ISLAND LIBRARY & MUSEUM

### History

Nestled between the rugged mountain peaks of the Olympic Peninsula and the snow-capped volcanoes of the Cascade mountains, the inland sea stretches forth in mystery and enchantment, and clasped within the palm of her hand is a pearl of great beauty; a small island known as Squaxin. Squaxin Island is centered near the entrances to the seven inlets of southern Puget Sound which surround it like the crosspoles of a sacred hoop. This is where the Squaxin peoples lifeblood begins and flows. This tiny island of sea fog and rain, salmon and cedar, is undaunted by the ebb of time. One with the sea that surrounds her, the pulse of the island is rhythmic and primal; it has become the very soul of the tribe that bears its name. There are no year-round residents on Squaxin Island today, yet it is looked upon by the Squaxin people as the bond that unites their past, present, and future generations. Squaxin Island is used for fishing, hunting, shellfish gathering, camping, and other activities. Only tribal members are allowed on the island, but permits can

be obtained through the tribe's natural resources department for tribal members to take friends on the island with them.

How **Azusa Wilderness Park** can design a space to honor the local Native peoples:

- Build a space designed by and for local tribes
- Partner with a local museum to develop programming
- Provide space for storytelling
- Make site fully accessible
- Provide space for local native people to celebrate their culture





## PRECEDENT/ ZION NATIONAL PARK

Size: 229 square miles (593 square kilometers)

Elevation: 4,000 feet (1,220 meters) to 8,726 feet (2,660 meters)

Geology: Famous for rock formations, including sandstone cliffs, canyons, and "Checkerboard Mesa"

Wildlife: Over 78 species of mammals, 291 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 8 species of fish

Location: Southwestern Utah, near the town of Springdale, at the junction of the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and Mojave Desert regions

**Zion National Park** has many accessible features, including:

Shuttle buses: The free in-park and town shuttles have lifts and can transport two wheelchairs at once.

Campgrounds: South and Watchman campgrounds have accessible campsites, and those with a national park pass get a 50% discount.

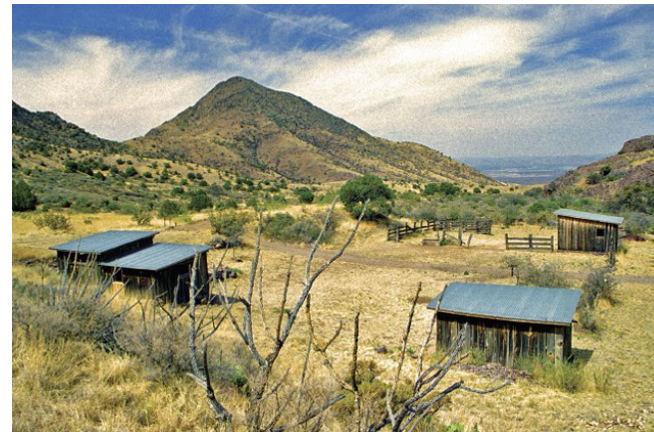
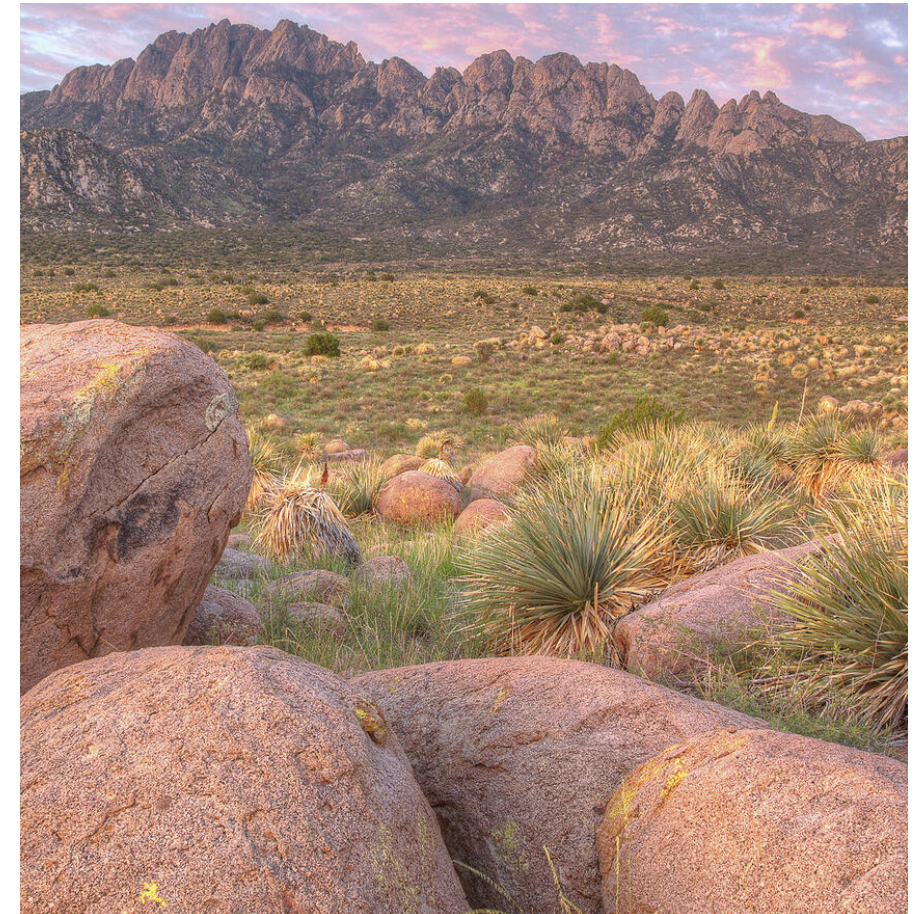
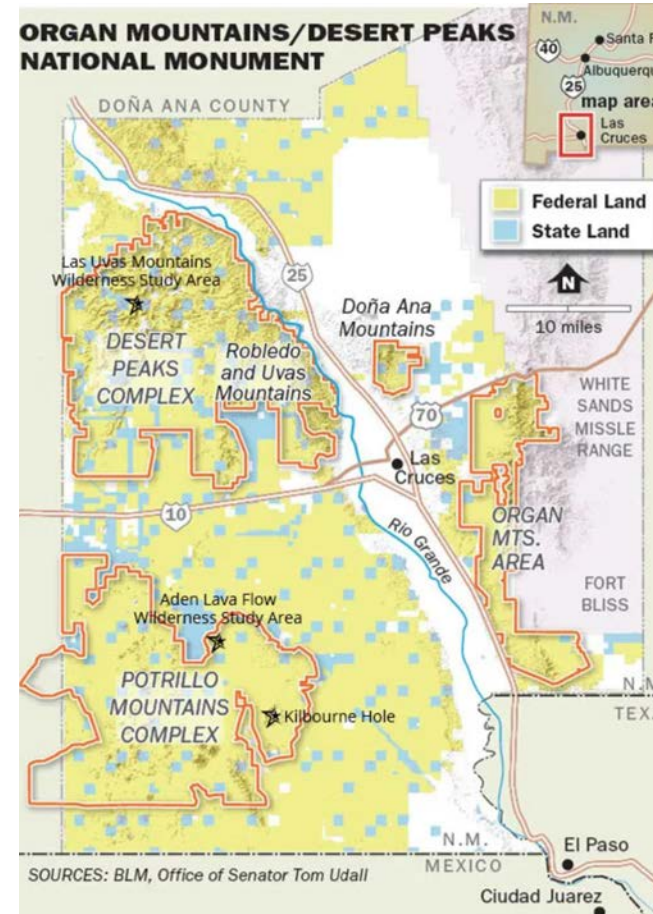
Trails: The 2-mile paved Pa'rus Trail is accessible and open to bicyclists, and the paved Riverside Walk is accessible with assistance.

Admission: Disabled travelers can obtain free admission and discounts on many park facilities.

Similarities to **Azusa Wilderness Park**:

- Incredible vistas
- Accessible nature loop
- Tent camping
- Interpretive signage





## PRECEDENT/ ORGAN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Monument Amenities:

**VISITOR CENTER:** The Visitor Center is located at Dripping Springs Natural Area for information and to see exhibits.

**CAMPING:** Campsites are available at Aguirre Spring Recreation Area, and dispersed camping on the rest of public lands unless otherwise posted.

**PICNICKING:** Picnic tables with charcoal grills are available at La Cueva Picnic Area, Aguirre Spring Recreation Area, and Picacho Peak Recreation Area.

**BICYCLING:** 54 miles of bicycle trails especially at Do Ana Mountains.

**HIKING:** 48 miles of hiking trails.

**EQUESTRIAN:** 40+ miles of riding trails.

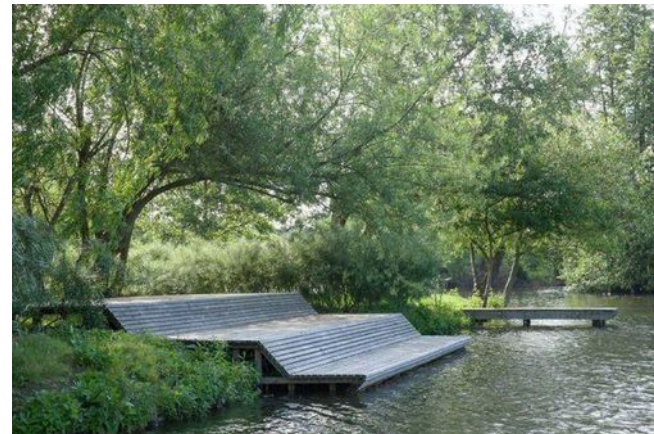
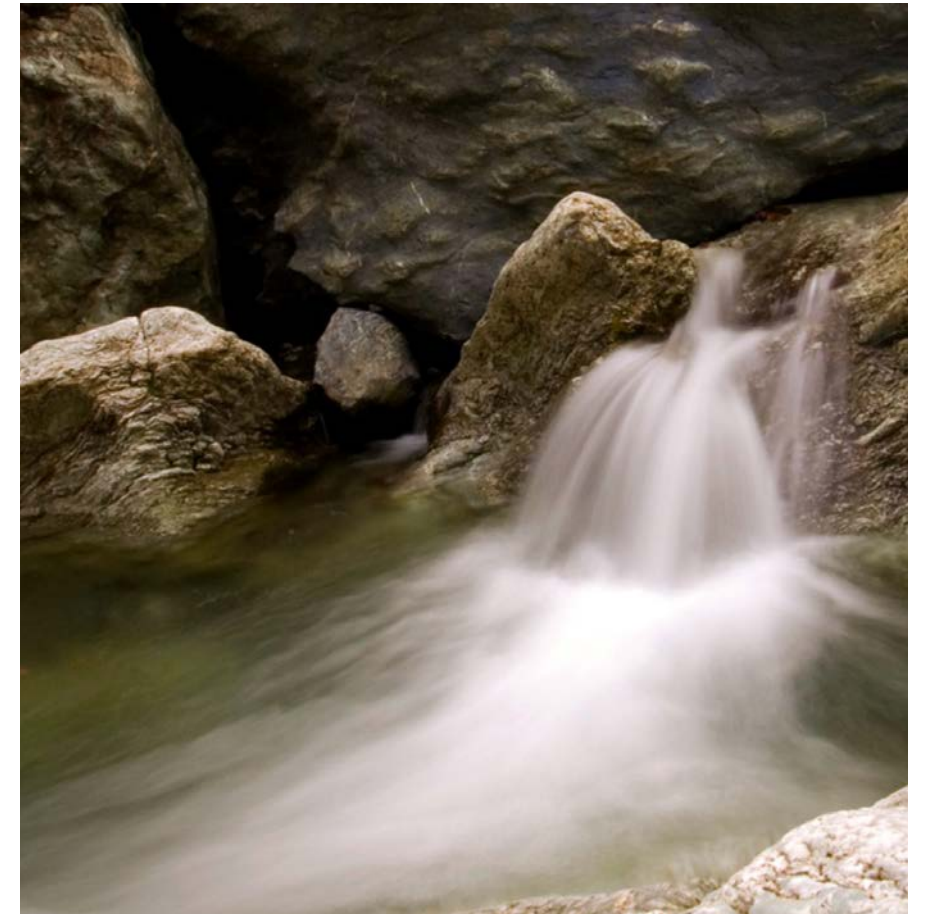
The **Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks National Monument** includes 496,529 acres of public land managed by the BLM. The Monument consists of five mountain ranges: Organ Mountains, Do Ana Mountains, Sierra de las Uvas, Robledo Mountains, and the Potrillo Mountains. These mountain ranges are a part of the BLM’s National Conservation Lands system.

The Monument has lured people for hundreds of years. It has been a homeland for diverse Native American people, Van Patten’s historic hotel, the Butterfield Stagecoach Line, a place of exploration for 17th century Spaniards, a hideout for one of the American West’s most notorious outlaws, and a training ground for World War II airmen and Apollo astronauts. The area is also home to a high diversity of animal life, including golden eagles and other raptors, as well as mountain lions, mule deer, and other mammals.

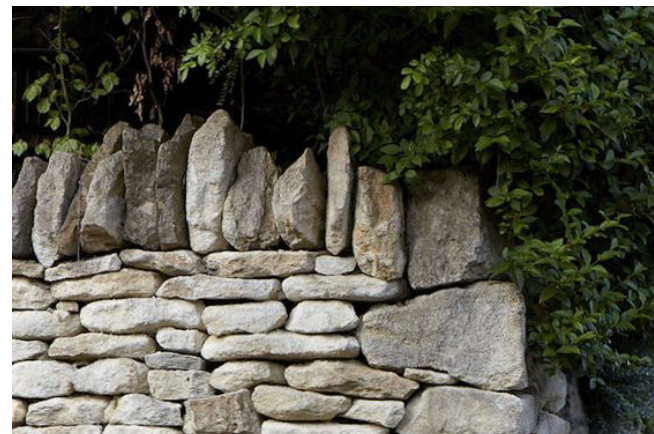
Similarities to **Azusa Wilderness Park:**

- Hiking trails
- Local native people called this area home for thousands of years
- Interpretive signage and educational opportunities
- Picnicking areas





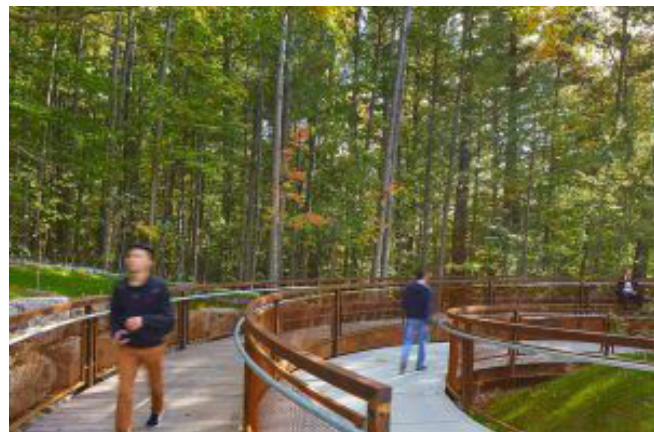
**CASE STUDY/ VIEWING PLATFORM/ STONE WALLS**







**CASE STUDY/ BENCHES/ RAILING**







**CASE STUDY/ WAYFINDING/INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**





# 04 Concept Development

kyonahoban being choked by Tamarisk



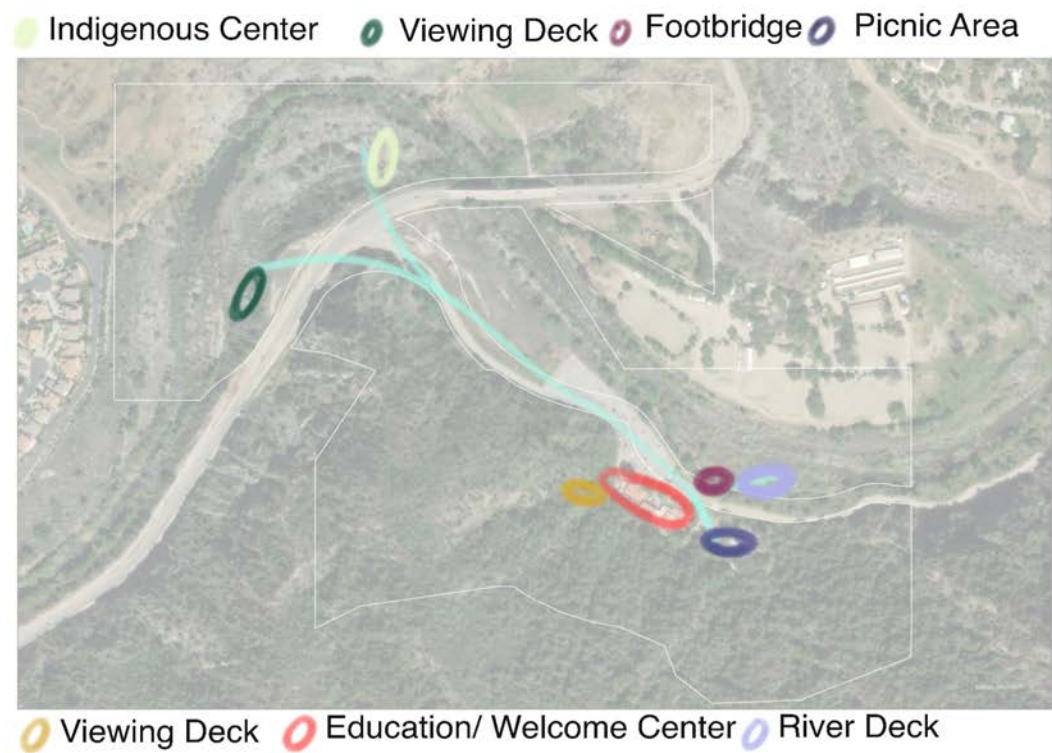
# CONCEPT PROCESS

## BUBBLE DIAGRAM AND METAPHOR DEVELOPMENT



Taking the concept of a metaphor too literal I tried three different approaches when first laying out my bubble diagrams. First was the idea of relating the two forks in the San Gabriel Mountains directly onto the plan. That didn't work well. It looked like a fallopian tube. Second was the idea of trout and how they are grouped when in a school. This is my favorite, but so literal & hard to justify. Finally I loved the idea of incorporating a fishing net based off of the local tribes use of the river. Programming just looked stuck in the net. After speaking to my instructor, Patrick he recommended using an adjacency matrix to look at the diagram anew.

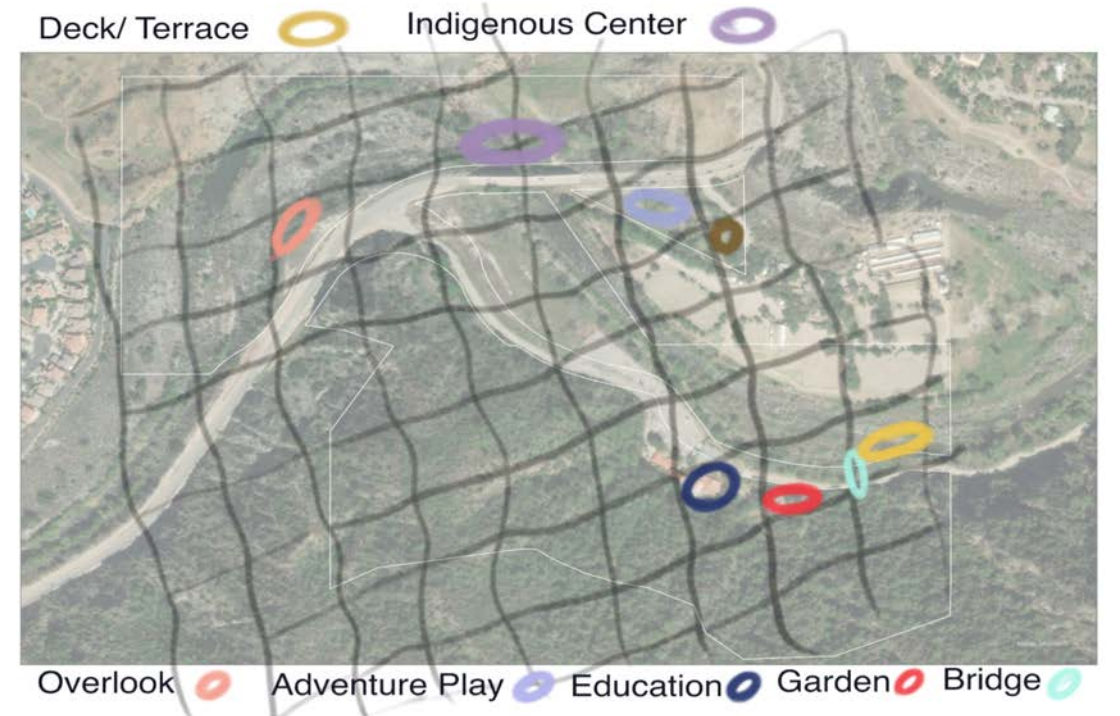
Two Forks



School of Trout



The Net

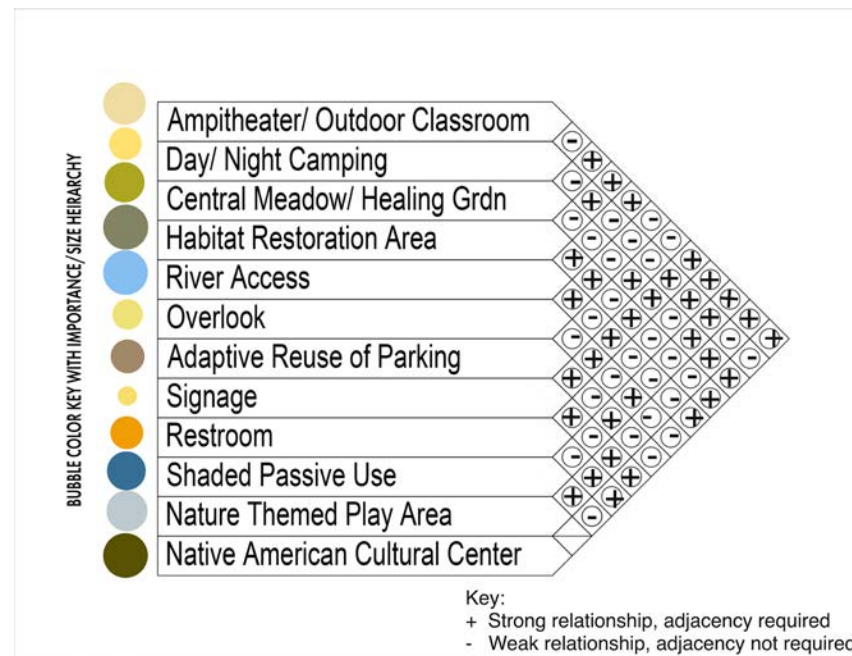




# CONCEPT PROCESS

## ADJACENCY MATRIX

An adjacency matrix serves as a foundational tool that organizes and clarifies relationships, ensuring that the subsequent creation of a bubble diagram is accurate, efficient, and effective. It provides a structured approach to data visualization, enhancing the quality and usability of the final diagram.



Adjacency Matrix for Azusa Wilderness Park

### 01 Clarifies Relationships

An adjacency matrix provides a clear and structured way to represent the relationships between different elements or nodes. It shows which elements are connected and the strength or type of their connections, making it easier to understand the overall structure before visualizing it.

### 02 Data Organization

The matrix organizes information in a systematic manner, ensuring that all necessary relationships are considered. This comprehensive overview helps prevent any critical connections from being overlooked in the bubble diagram.

### 03 Simplicity and Precision

The matrix format simplifies complex relationships into a binary (0 or 1) or weighted format, making it easier to manage and interpret complex data. This precision is crucial when translating relationships into a visual format like a bubble diagram.

### 04 Efficient Planning

By identifying and quantifying relationships first, the adjacency matrix aids in planning the layout of the bubble diagram. It helps determine which elements should be placed closer together based on their connections, leading to a more logical and functional diagram.

### 05 Analytical Foundation

The matrix allows for analysis and manipulation of data before visualization. This can include identifying clusters, key nodes, or potential areas of improvement in the network of relationships.

Reasons for an adjacency matrix



# CONCEPT PROCESS

## BUBBLE DIAGRAM

In landscape architecture, a bubble diagram is a crucial early-stage design tool that visually represents the adjacencies and relationships between different programmatic elements within a site.



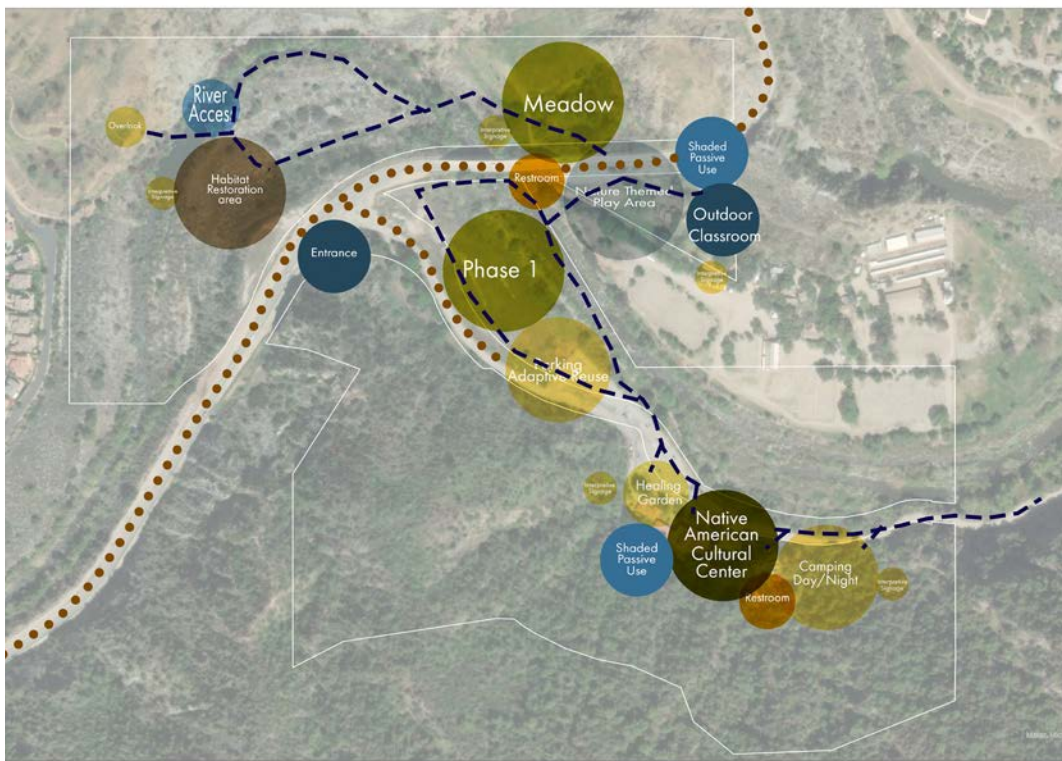
Bubble diagram showing adjacencies & heirarchy



# BIG IDEA 1

## WHISPERS OF HISTORY

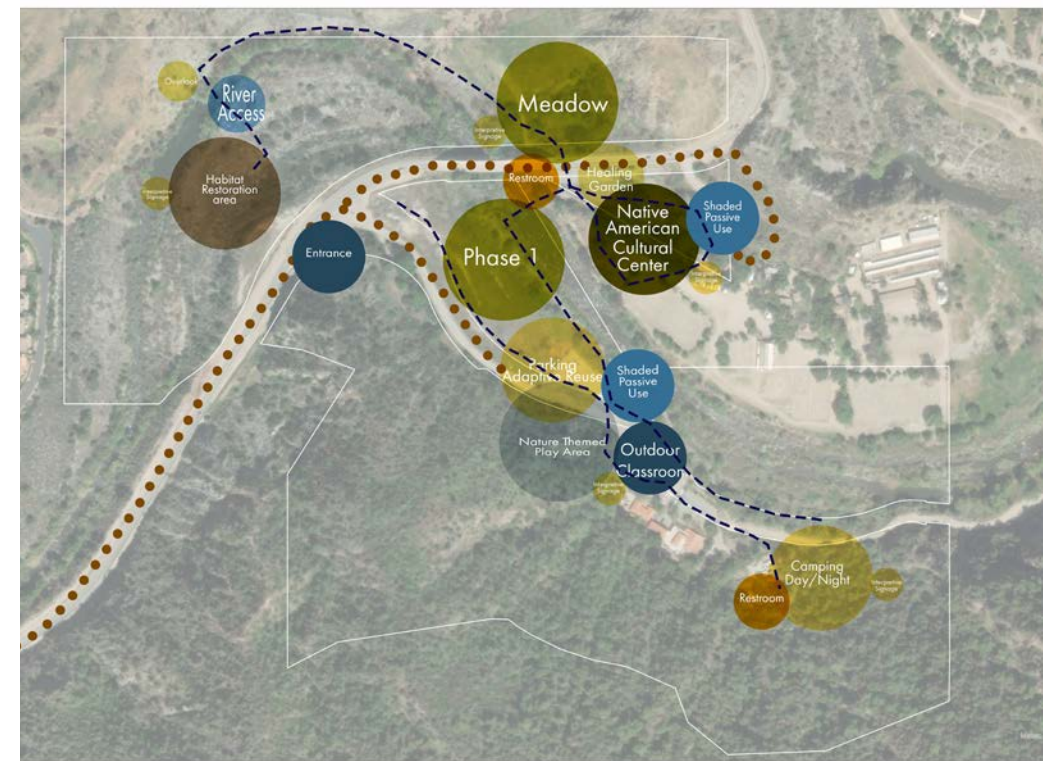
The "Whispers of History" metaphor for the Azusa Wilderness Park emphasizes the deep and enduring connection between Indigenous cultures and the natural landscape. This design approach honors the wisdom, traditions, and contributions of the Tongva peoples, creating a space where visitors can learn from and connect with the land in meaningful ways. The park serves as both a sanctuary for nature and a living museum of cultural heritage, ensuring that the whispers of history are heard and respected by all who visit.



# BIG IDEA 2

## THRESHOLD OF TRANQUILLITY

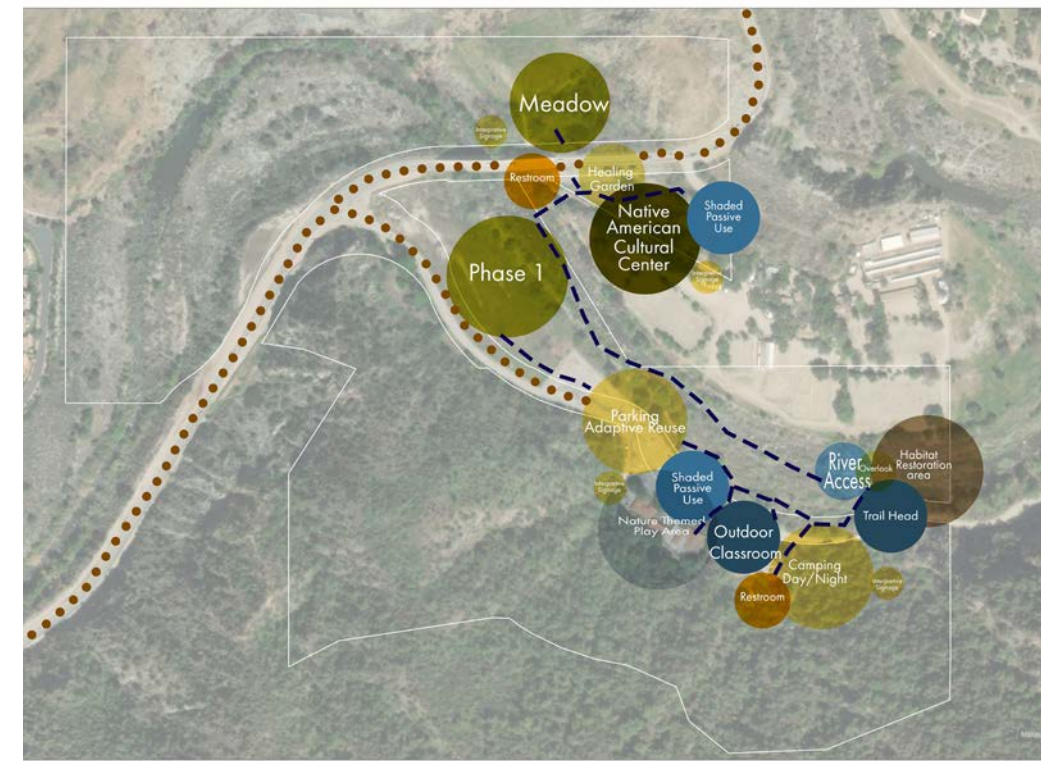
Threshold of Tranquility metaphor envisions the Azusa Wilderness Park as a calming entryway to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument that provides a peaceful and reflective experience, preparing visitors for the majesty and serenity of this special region. This space offers a gentle buffer, helping visitors to slow down, disconnect from the noise, and connect with nature.



# BIG IDEA 3

## NATURE'S EMBRACE

Nature's Embrace envisions the Azusa Wilderness Park as a protective and welcoming space that gently introduces visitors to the wonders of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. It acts as a buffer that preserves the monument's pristine condition by absorbing and managing visitor impact, while also providing a rich, immersive natural experience on its own.

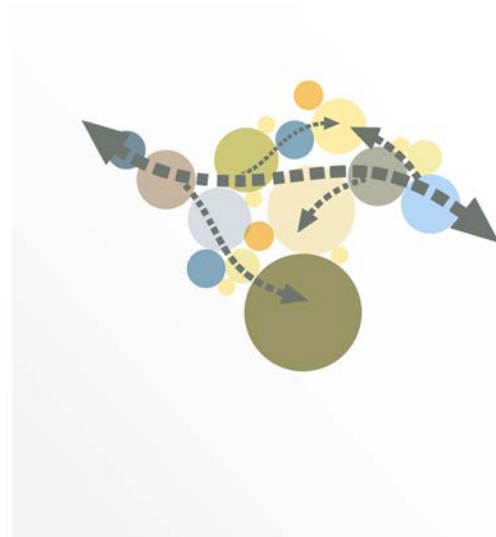




# METAPHOR DEVELOPMENT

Changing my mind about how to visually explain a design metaphor required rethinking on what I wanted this concept to be. I wanted the design to be a buffer for the National Monument. I thought about it being on the threshold of the Monument. Finally, I considered the historic indigenous aspect of the area. With that I reconfigured what my metaphor was and tried to convey it visually.

## Threshold of Tranquility

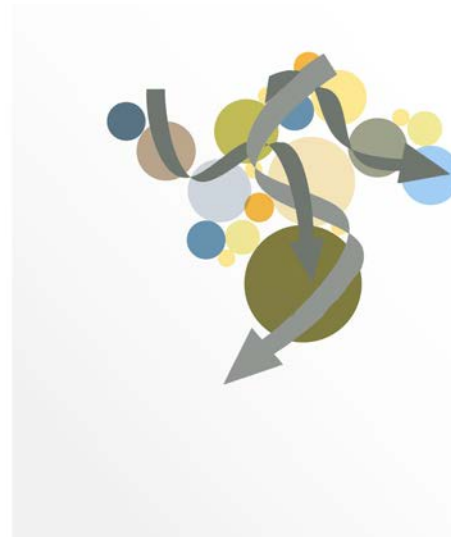


Probably only making sense to myself, I envisioned how a threshold might work. Thinking about all the program elements and visualizing not just passing through but staying.



My final version takes the idea of passing through a peaceful forest as its own journey. The park may be the threshold, but the space is its own respite

## Whispers of History

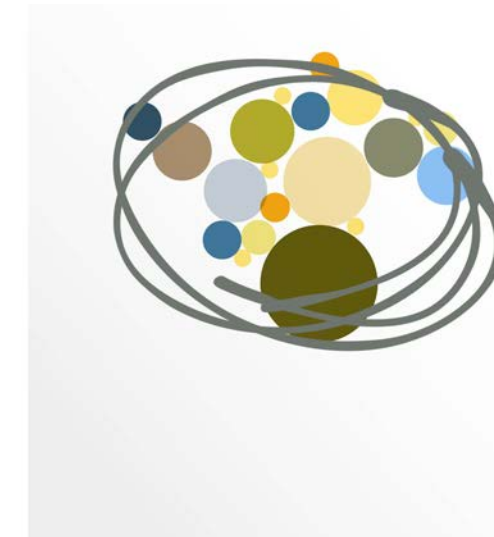


Another example of an idea only making sense to me. Turning over in my head all the potential elements of the design and thinking about being enveloped by the history of this land.

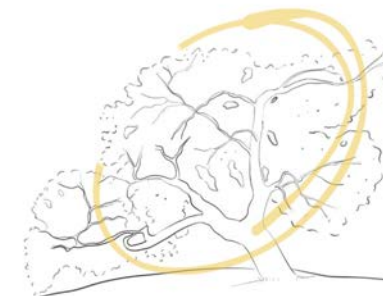


My classmate Callie and I saw a Turkey Vulture soaring on a current of wind while on a second visit to the park. As a Native American symbol of rebirth I felt it was a perfect visualization of Whispers of History metaphor

## Nature's Embrace



Nature's Embrace envisions the park as a self contained, soft landing that can be a stand alone park. No need to enter the National Monument (unless you want to) Azusa Wilderness Park can act as a gentle buffer.



Using a California Native Sycamore as a symbol of Nature's Embrace felt natural and right highlighting the parks proximity and access to the San Gabriel River



# SCHEMATIC CONCEPT



Laying out spatial relationships for a potential master plan. Rectangles represent areas I will fully articulate and do enlargements, perspectives, & sections on



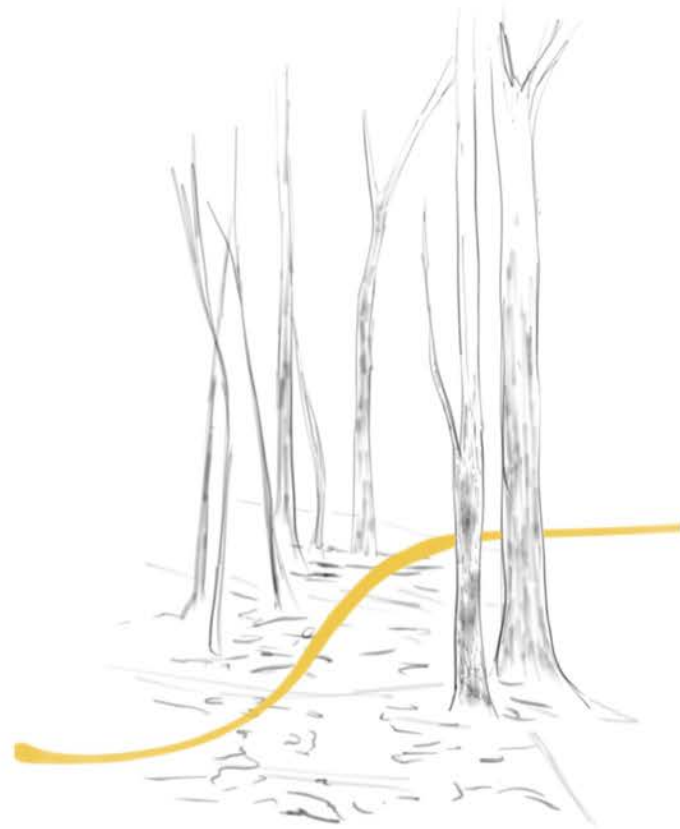
# 05

## Guiding Intent



A Turkey Vulture soars above Azusa Wilderness Park





## DILEMMA

Developing Azusa Wilderness Park promises to enhance public access, recreational opportunities, and environmental education, it also risks disrupting delicate ecosystems, increasing human impact on protected lands, and potentially compromising the integrity of San Gabriel Mountain National Monument's natural and cultural resources. Balancing the need for conservation with the desire for public engagement and enjoyment poses a significant challenge that requires careful consideration and thoughtful design solutions

## THESIS

A thoughtful design solution for Phase II of Azusa Wilderness Park must prioritize sustainable development practices that enhance public access and educational opportunities while rigorously protecting the delicate ecosystems and cultural resources of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and the San Gabriel River Watershed.



# DESIGN PRINCIPALS

## Let The Landscape Speak



Vegetation, habitat, soils, topography, hydrology and other site attributes inform a landscape's suitability for particular uses.

### Habitat Protection



Safeguarding wildlife and natural ecosystems for future generations

## Accessibility & Inclusivity



Ensuring everyone can experience the beauty of nature

### Storytelling



Storytelling transforms spaces into meaningful places, weaving narratives that shape identity and community.

## Balancing Use & Preservation



Offering activity while preserving core wilderness to protect natural habitats

### Public Realm Hierarchy



Structuring spaces from intimate local areas to expansive communal hubs, ensuring accessible and interconnected environments.

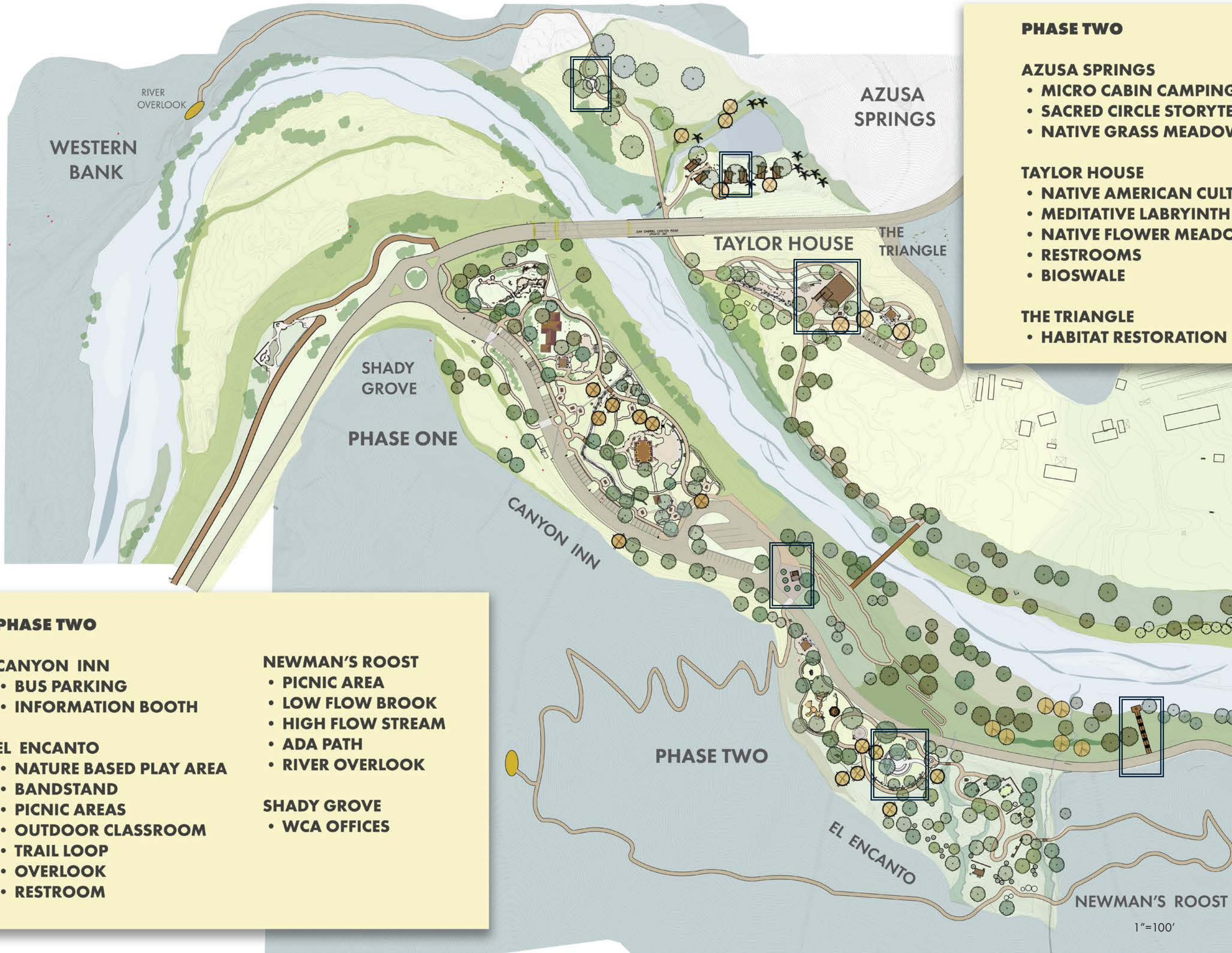


# 06 Design Vision



The dam above Azusa Wilderness Park





**PHASE TWO**

**AZUSA SPRINGS**

- MICRO CABIN CAMPING
- SACRED CIRCLE STORYTELLING
- NATIVE GRASS MEADOW

**TAYLOR HOUSE**

- NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
- MEDITATIVE LABRYINTH
- NATIVE FLOWER MEADOW
- RESTROOMS
- BIOSWALE

**THE TRIANGLE**

- HABITAT RESTORATION

**PHASE TWO**

**CANYON INN**

- BUS PARKING
- INFORMATION BOOTH

**EL ENCANTO**

- NATURE BASED PLAY AREA
- BANDSTAND
- PICNIC AREAS
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- TRAIL LOOP
- OVERLOOK
- RESTROOM

**NEWMAN'S ROOST**

- PICNIC AREA
- LOW FLOW BROOK
- HIGH FLOW STREAM
- ADA PATH
- RIVER OVERLOOK

**SHADY GROVE**

- WCA OFFICES

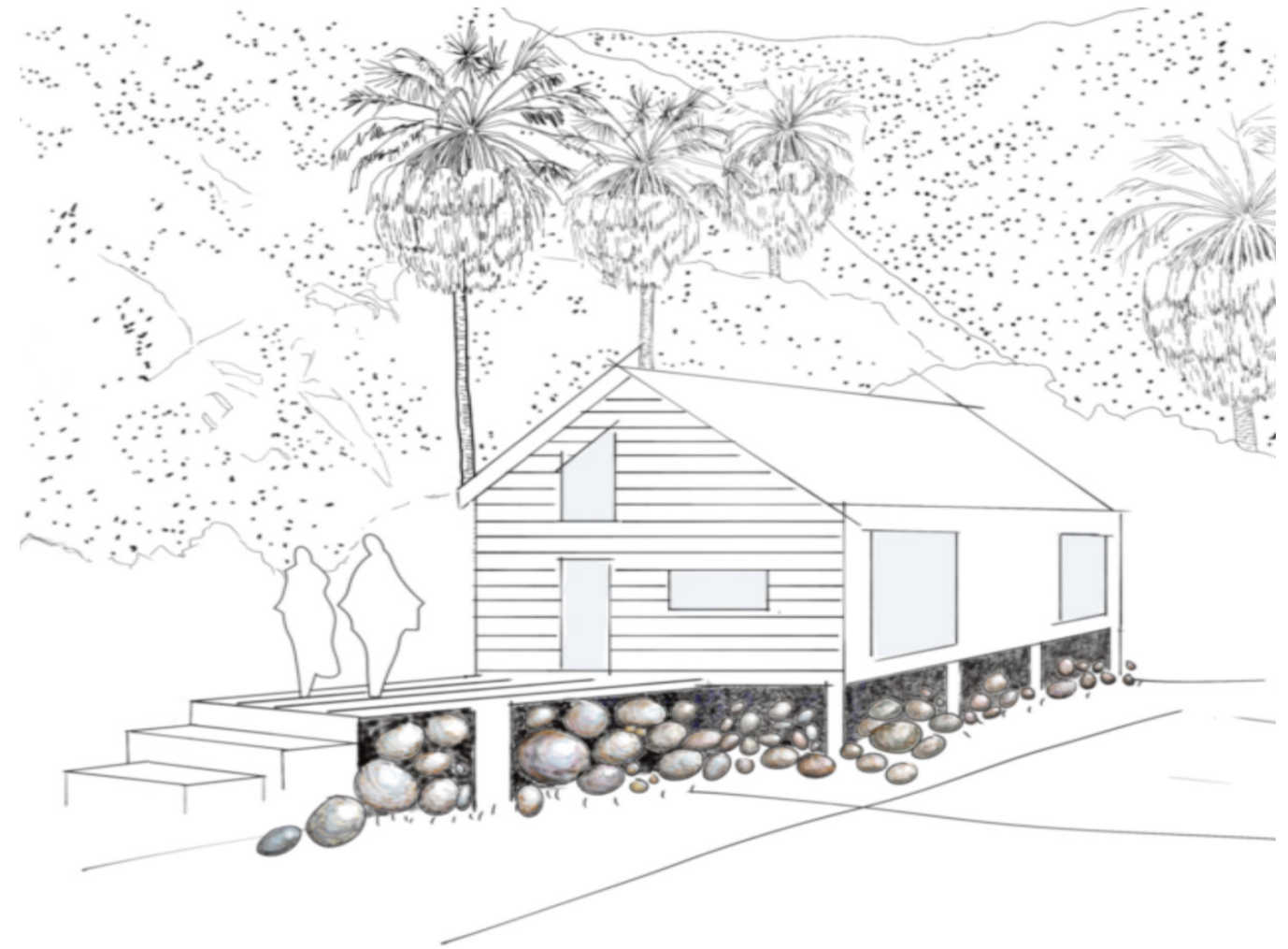


Enlargement Area

1"=100'



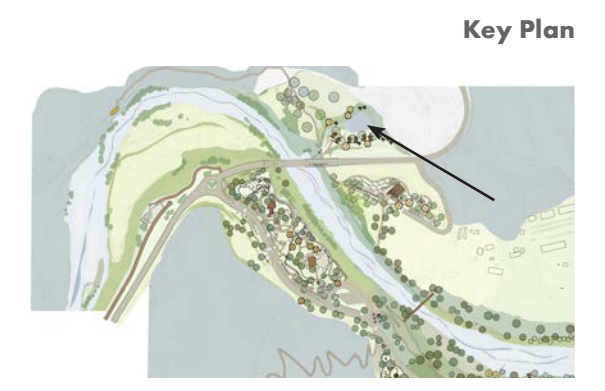




The micro cabins are elevated due to being in a flood zone

## MICRO CABIN CAMPING

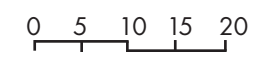
- 450 square foot loft cabins
- Quantity 6
- Year round rentals





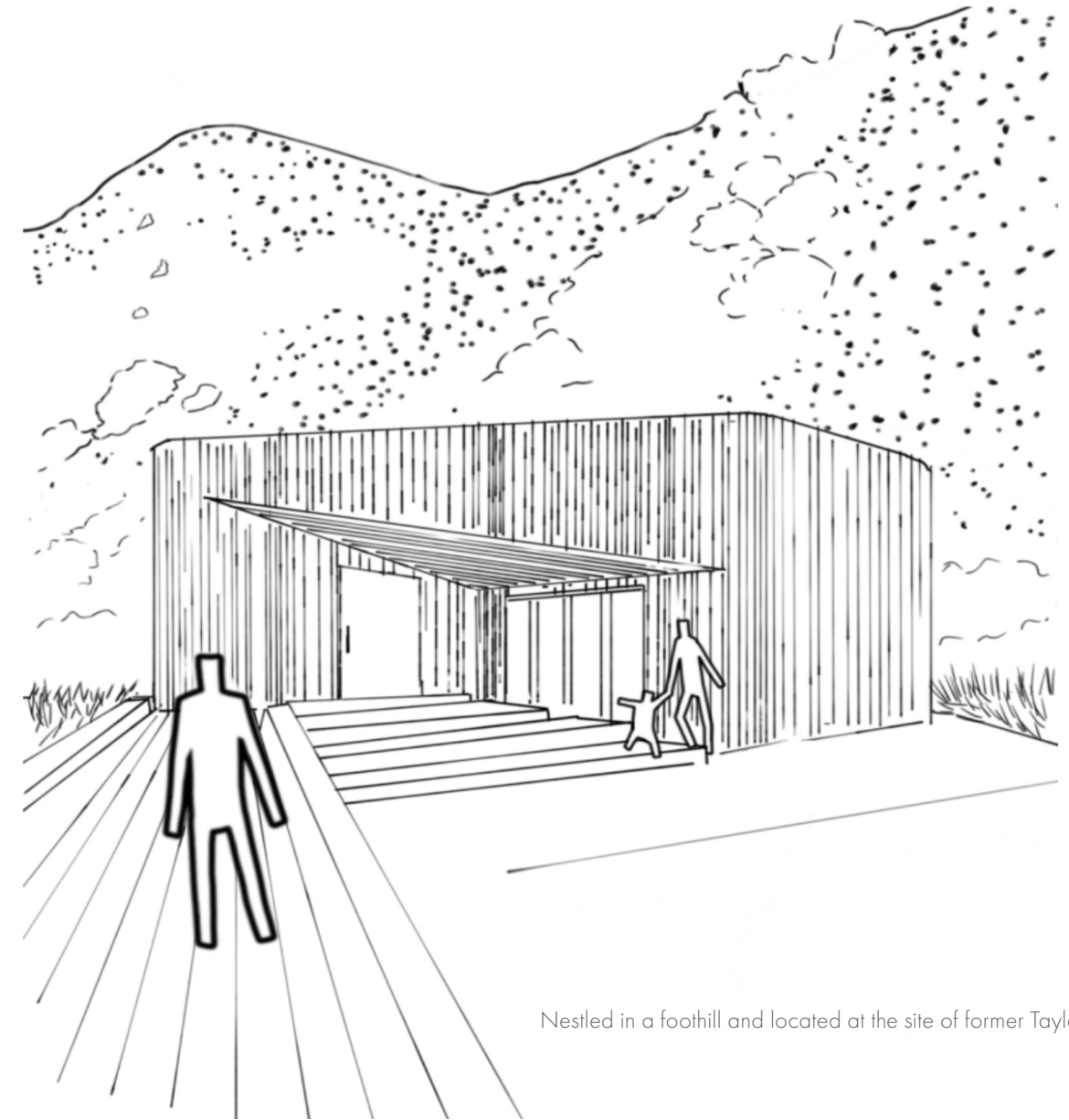


**MICRO CABIN SECTION**



1"=20'





Nestled in a foothill and located at the site of former Taylor House

## NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

- 15,000 square feet of space for cultural events
- Picnic tables and seating
- Meditative labyrinth, healing garden

Key Plan





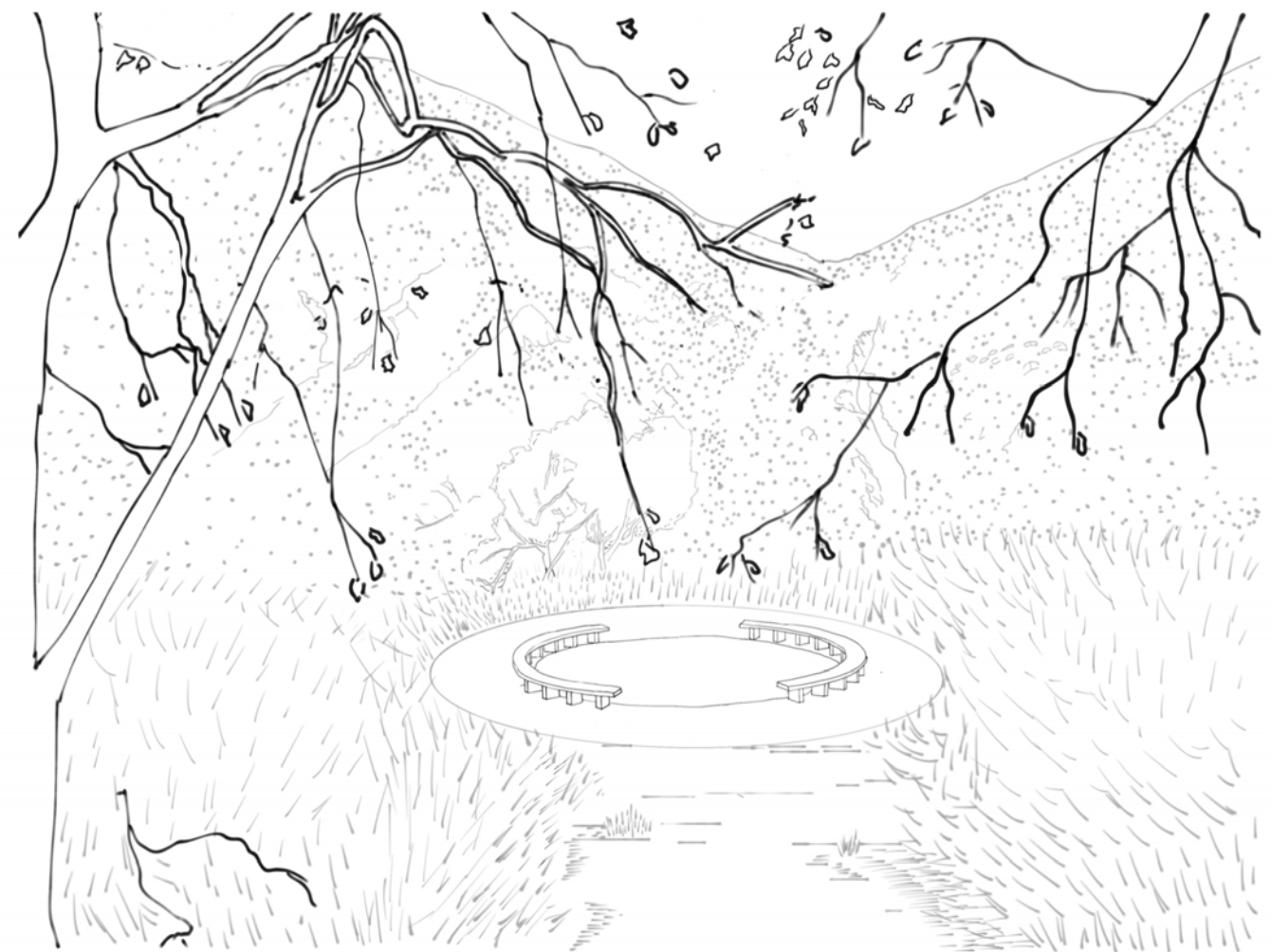
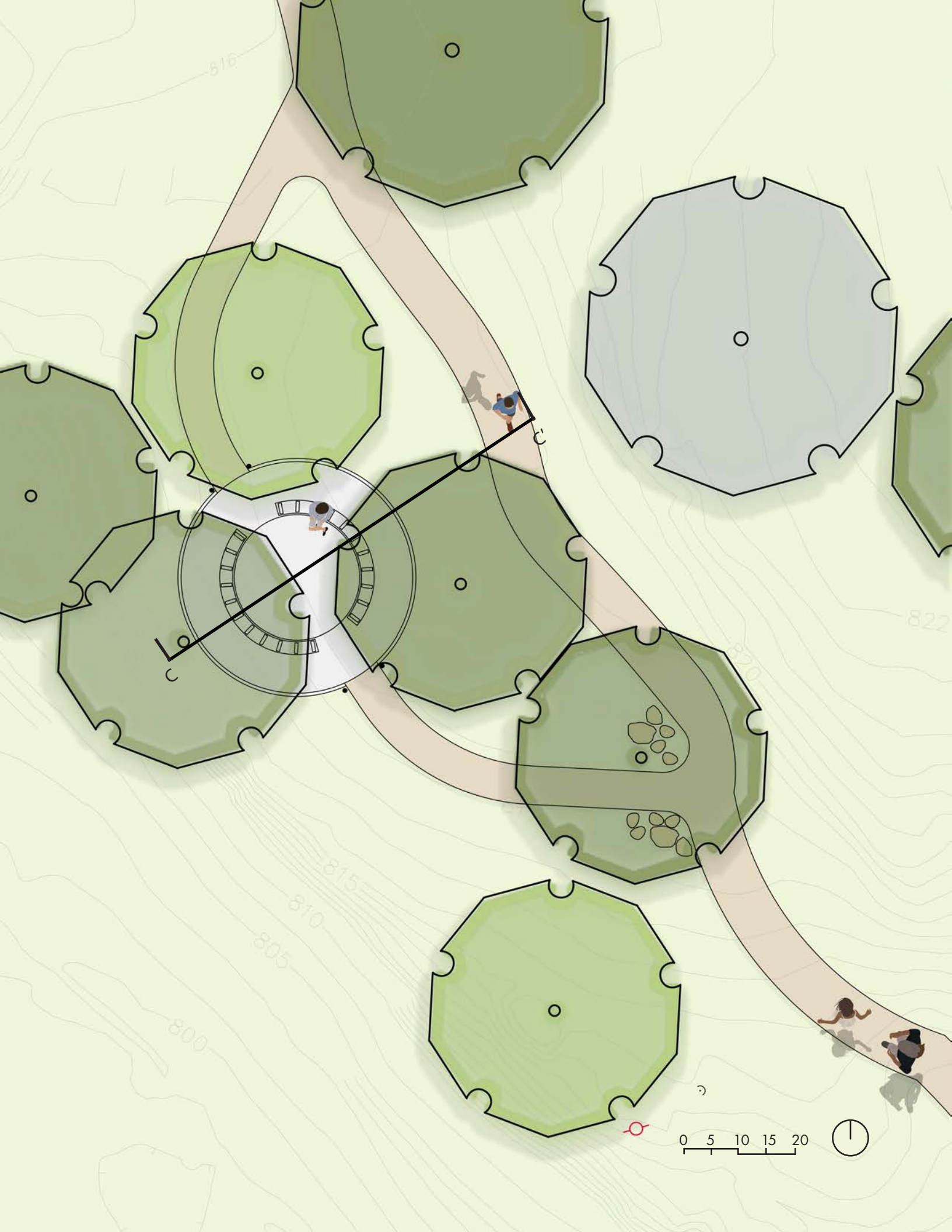


**NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL SECTION**

0 5 10 15 20

1"=20'





Surrounded by native flowers, this storytelling circle creates a sense of place

## SACRED CIRCLE

- Circle for storytelling
- California native flower meadow
- Oak and Sycamore Grove

### Key Plan



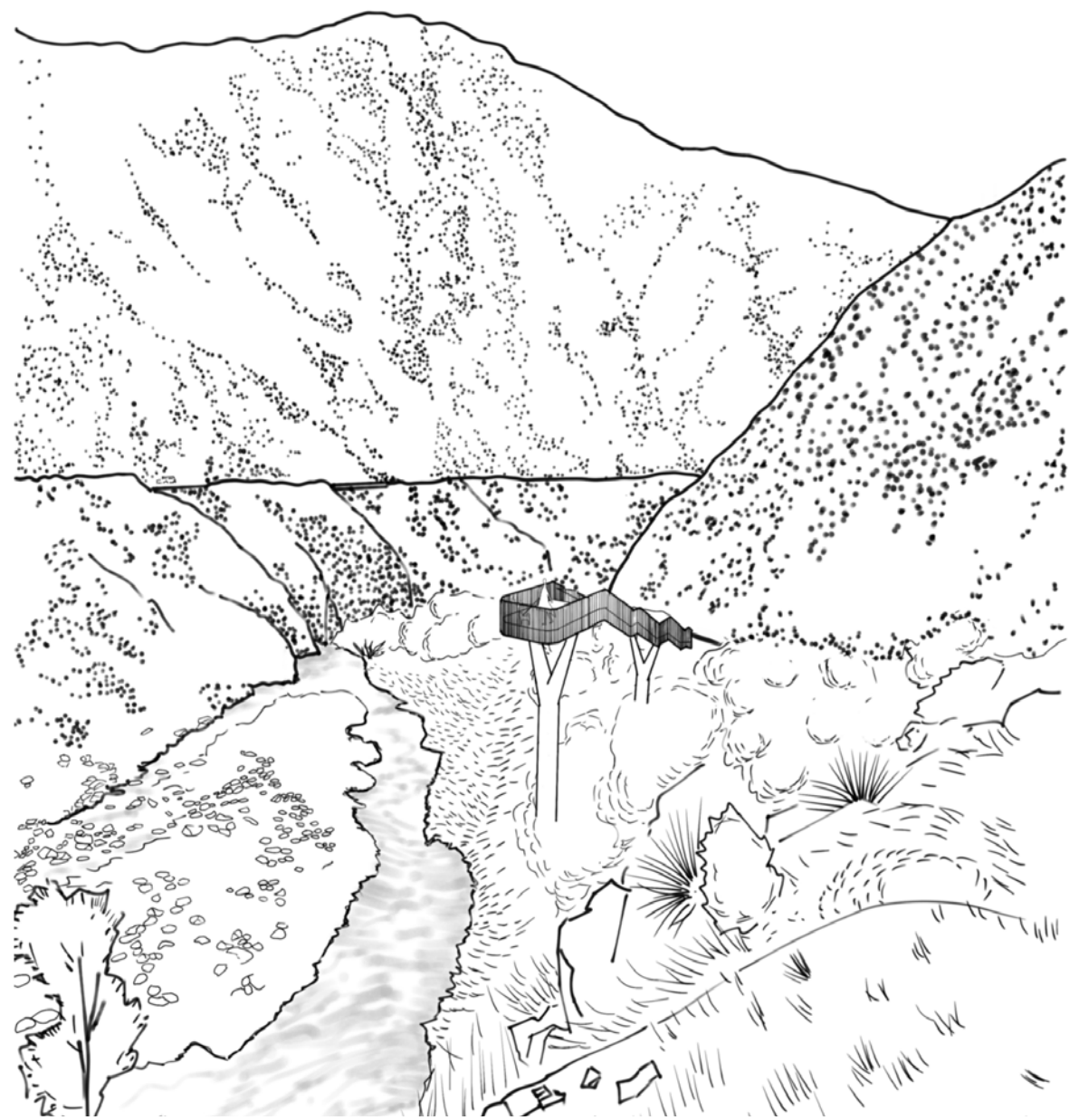
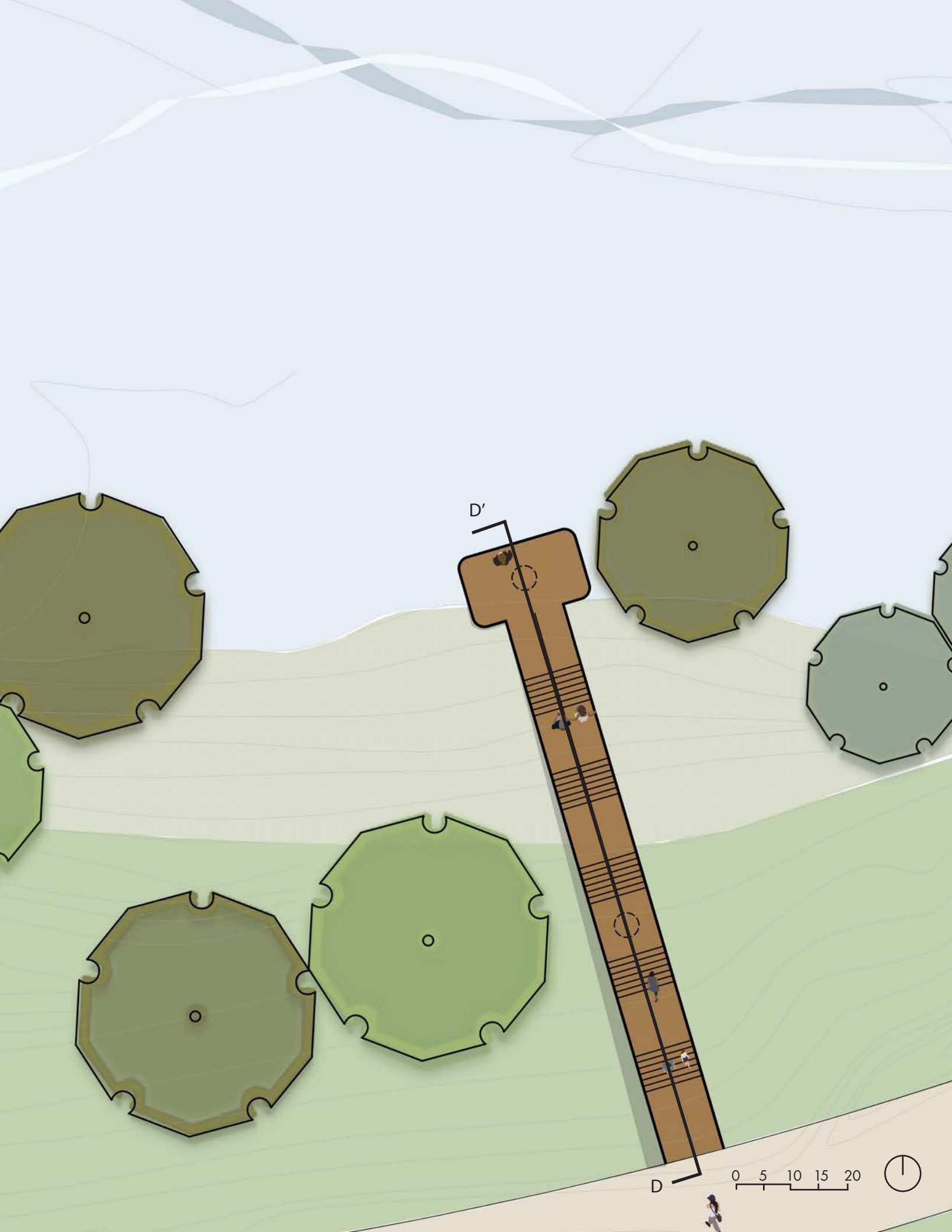




**SACRED CIRCLE SECTION**

0 5 10 15 20 1"=20'





Perched high above the canyon creates a dramatic view and experience

## RIVER OVERLOOK

- River overlook accessed right on trail
- Dramatic view for the adventurous

Key Plan



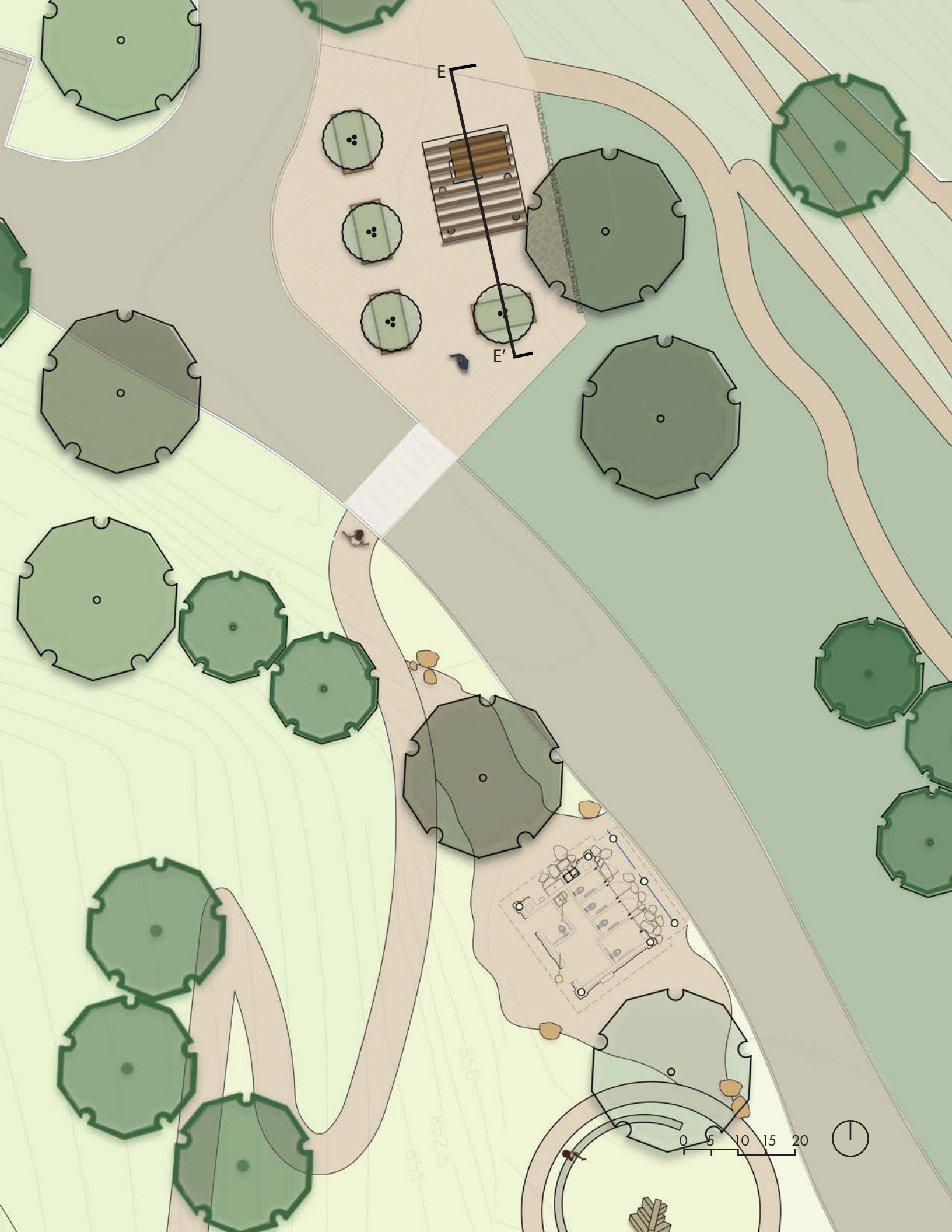




**RIVER OVERLOOK SECTION**

0 5 10 15 20  
1"=20'





This kiosk serves as an immediate point of contact at the bus dropoff

## INFORMATION KIOSK

- Pergola covered information booth
- Bus drop off and parking
- Corten steel planters

Key Plan



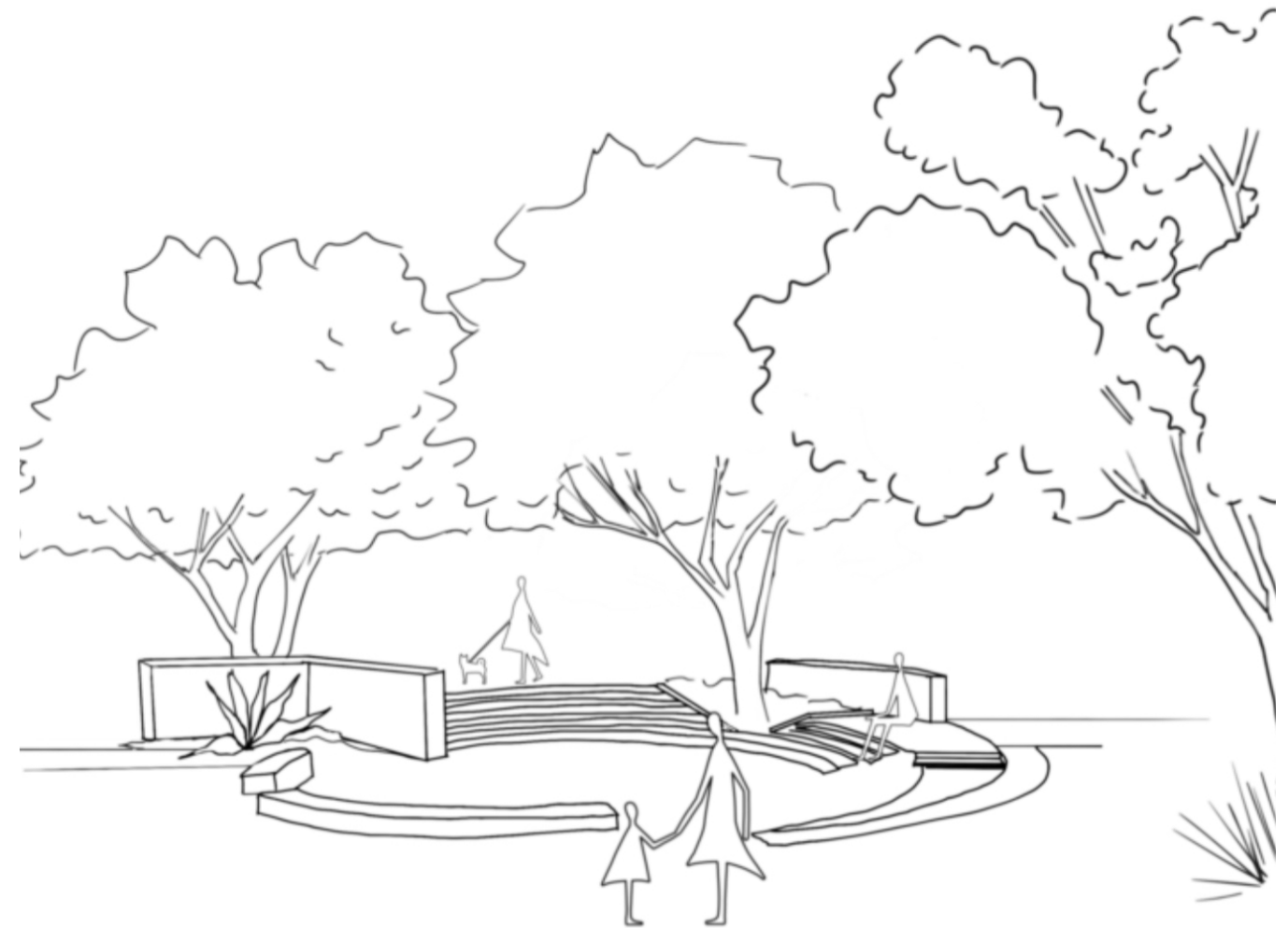
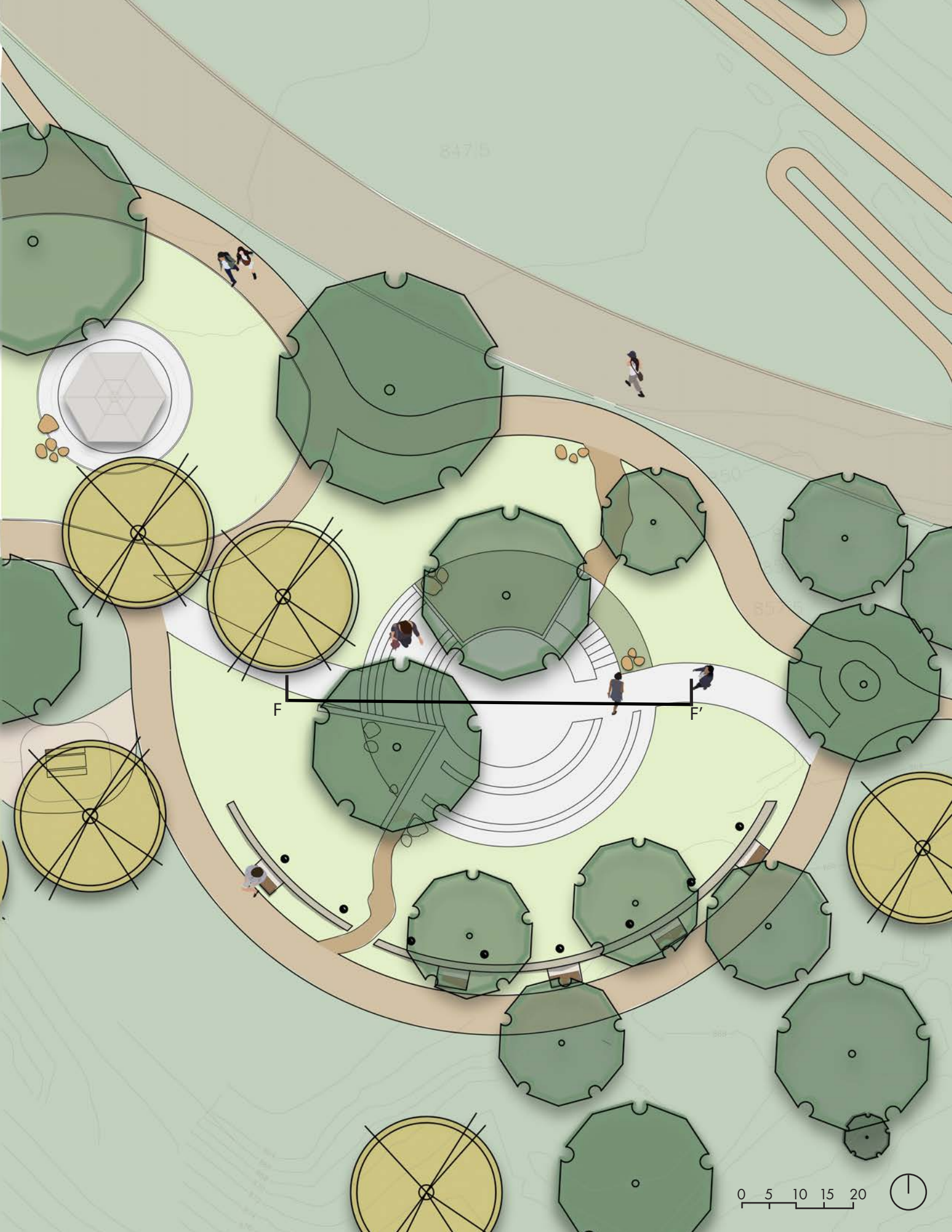




**INFORMATION KIOSK SECTION**

0 5 10 15 20 1"=20'





A shaded outdoor classroom provides a perfect spot for community learning

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

- Shaded outdoor classroom, cast in place concrete
- Bandstand on California Native No Mow lawn
- Benches

Key Plan







**OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SECTION**

0 5 10 15 20 1"=20'