



# The Great Wall of Los Angeles Park

## Master Plan

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# OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

The site area of The Great Wall of Los Angeles, also known as the Tujunga Greenbelt, is located in present-day Valley Glen, a Los Angeles neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California. The area of study includes the channelized Tujunga Wash along Coldwater Canyon Avenue between Oxnard Street and Burbank Boulevard and the eastern edge of the Valley College campus and Grant High School.

The first known inhabitants of this land are the Tongva people, who established communities around the Tujunga Wash; the name Tujunga is derived from the Tongva term Tuhuunga, meaning "place of the old woman." The now channelized Tujunga Wash runs directly through the site.

The arrival of Spanish colonizers in 1542 initiated a period of brutal colonization of the Tongva people and claiming the region as their own. The missions in the 1770s began the forced conversion of the Tongva to Catholicism, with the Spanish renaming them "Gabrieleno." Despite resistance, including a revolt in 1773, the Tongva were subjugated and forced into labor.

In 1781, Spain founded the city of Los Angeles and colonial rule exclusively claimed all water rights from the Los Angeles River, and therefore the Tujunga Wash. The Spanish imposed an apartheid-like system, brutally forcing Tongva to work as peasants in service of the missions and other colonizers. Tongva people were forced to work the fertile land of the Valley land, becoming landless refugees themselves.

Following the Mexican War of Independence in 1821, California came under Mexican control, but this period was short-lived. The United States declared war on Mexico, and by 1848, California became part of the U.S. and achieved statehood in 1850. Despite treaties promising land to Indigenous peoples, the U.S. government did not ratify them, leading to further displacement, dispossession, and criminalization of the Tongva.

The late 19th century saw more agricultural development in the Valley, specifically around the production of wheat and citrus. The establishment of the Southern Pacific Railroad, transforming the region even more with the access it provided.

Significant developments around the site in the mid-20th century include the founding of Los Angeles Valley College and the construction of a flood control channel on the Tujunga Wash in the 1950s. Suburbanization accelerated with the construction of the Hollywood Freeway and the post-war housing boom.

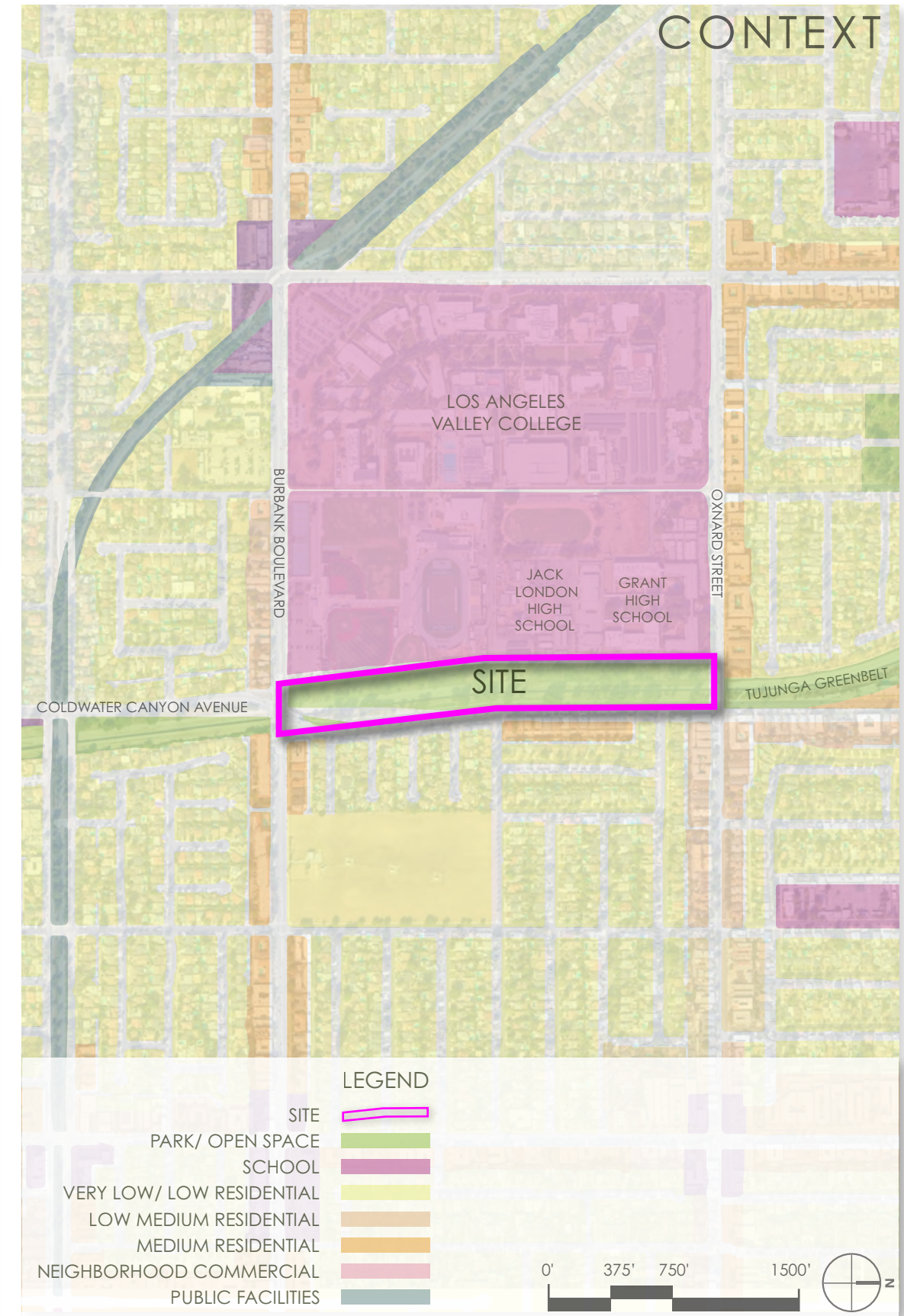
The Great Wall of Los Angeles mural project began in 1974 under artist Judy Baca, depicting the region's complex history through an effort that aimed to engage the community. Official recognition of Valley Glen as a community came in 2004, followed by the implementation of greenway and restoration projects. The Great Wall was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017, and a new mural section was unveiled in 2023.

Future plans include the installation of the Green Bridge at the Great Wall, as well as the expansion of the Great Wall mural on the entire opposite side of the channel by the Summer 2028 Olympics, continuing the area's legacy of cultural and environmental enhancement.

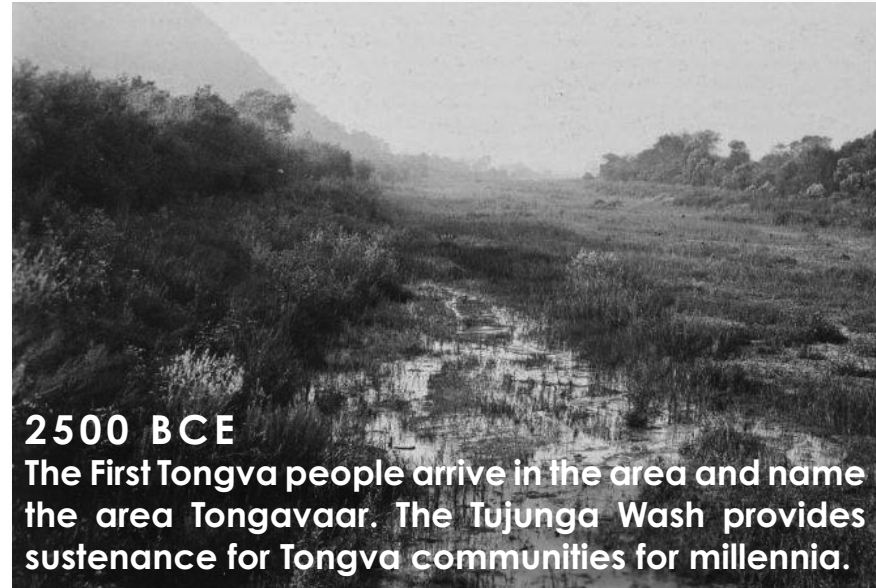
## LOCATION



## CONTEXT



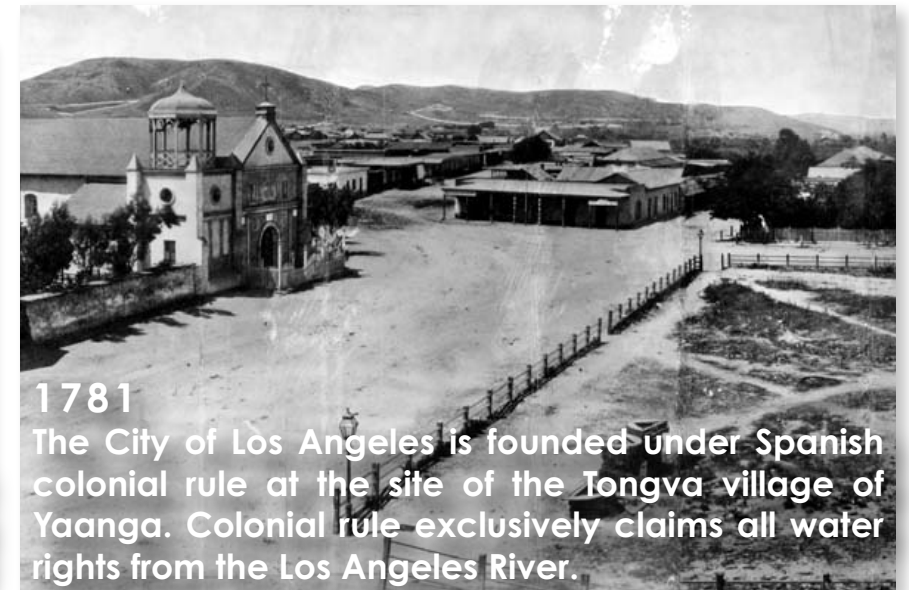
# SITE HISTORY TIMELINE



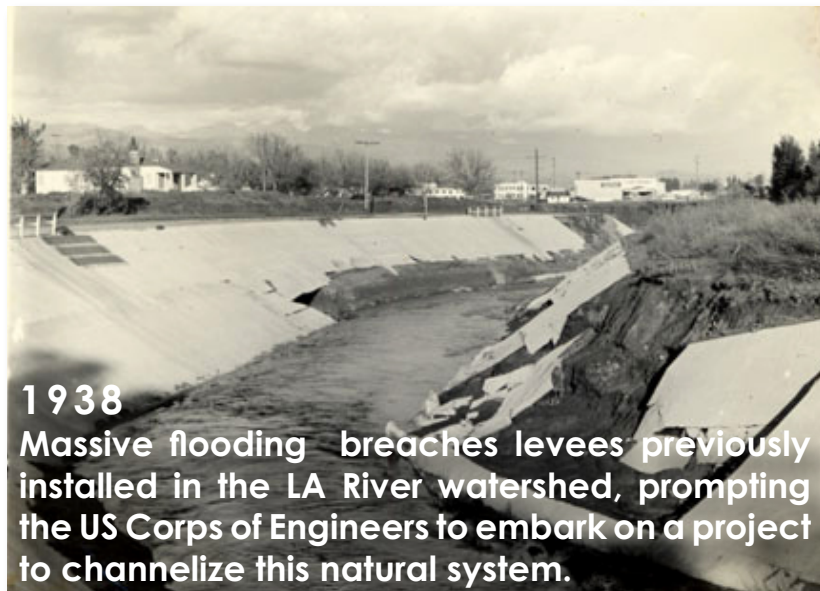
**2500 BCE**  
The First Tongva people arrive in the area and name the area Tongvaar. The Tujunga Wash provides sustenance for Tongva communities for millennia.



**1542**  
Brutal colonization begins with Spanish arrival in Tongva territory. Present-day California, along with Mexico, becomes part of the colonized "New Spain."



**1781**  
The City of Los Angeles is founded under Spanish colonial rule at the site of the Tongva village of Yaanga. Colonial rule exclusively claims all water rights from the Los Angeles River.



**1938**  
Massive flooding breaches levees previously installed in the LA River watershed, prompting the US Corps of Engineers to embark on a project to channelize this natural system.



**1974**  
The Great Wall of Los Angeles mural construction begins under the supervision of artist Judy Baca.



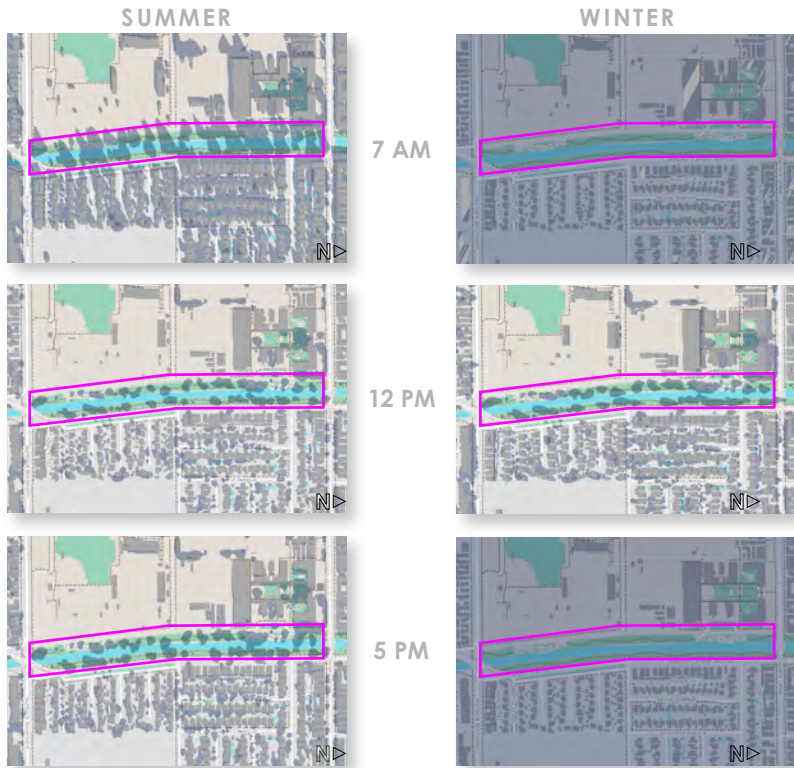
**2007**  
The Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration Project is completed.



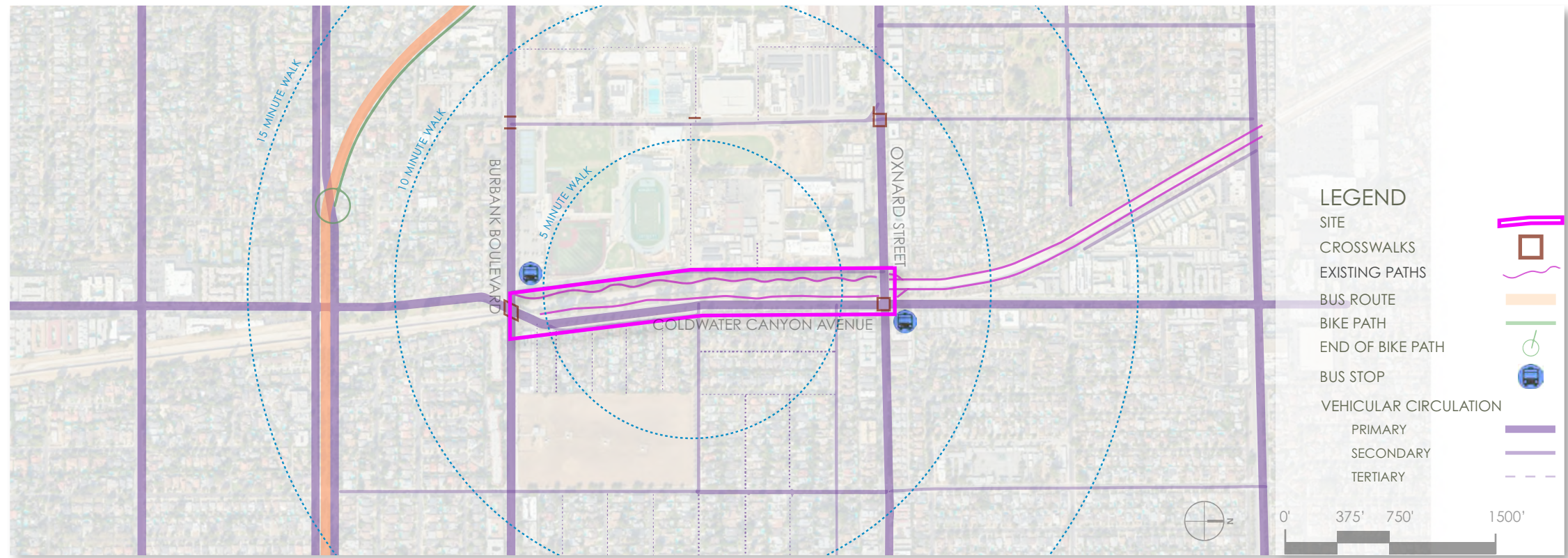
**FUTURE PLANS**  
The Green Bridge at Great Wall is proposed. The mural will be extended to a length of one mile by the 2028 Summer Olympics.

# SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

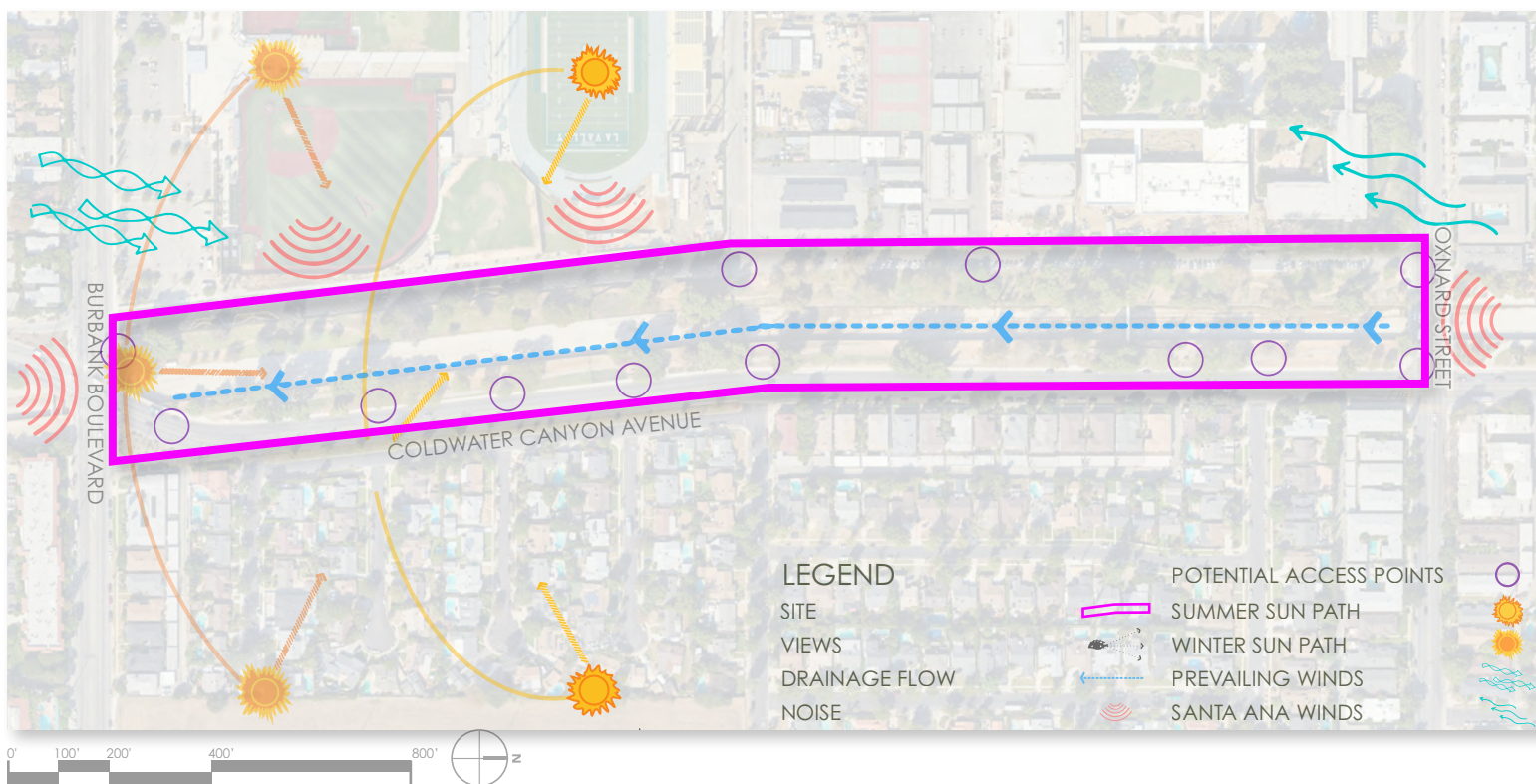
## SUN AND SHADE



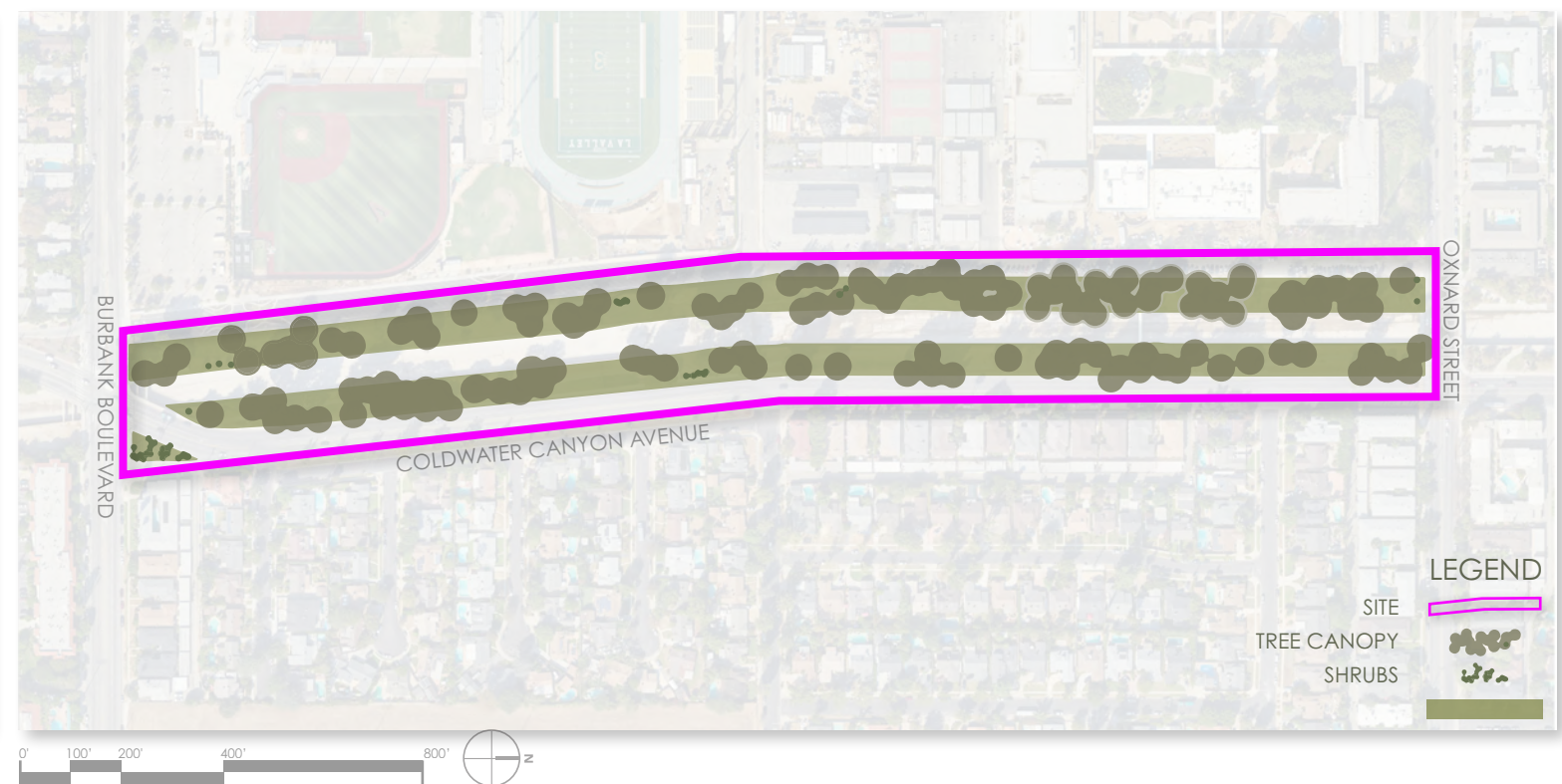
## CIRCULATION



## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



## EXISTING VEGETATION



# SITE CONSTRAINTS

- 1 No current connection to G Line Bikeway; bikeway ends 1 block from site
- 2 Concretized channel prevents water infiltration
- 3 Limited connection to public transit
- 4 Future Green Bridge will need to be considered in plan
- 5 Lack of water fountains and restrooms for visitors
- 6 Limited seating and gathering areas
- 7 Limited connection to college and high school programming

- 8 Future mural project must be considered in plan
- 9 Pedestrian and bicycle access through Greenway is limited
- 10 Limited wildlife habit restoration in progress at site
- 11 Noise from schools may impact wildlife
- 12 Limited tree canopy prevents gathering
- 13 Limited watershed connection
- 14 Lack of central focal area to site

## SITE LEGEND

- A Tujunga Greenbelt
- B Mural
- C Grant High School
- D Jack London High School
- E LAVC Monarch Stadium
- F Radio Station Towers
- G Los Angeles Valley College
- H Orange Line Busway
- I G Line Bikeway
- J Bus Stop



# SITE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Connect bicycle circulation to G Line Bikeway
- 2 Make soft bottom on channel for water infiltration
- 3 Improve public transit connections
- 4 Integrate visitor's center with Green Bridge
- 5 Provide water fountains and restrooms for visitors
- 6 Provide seating and gathering areas
- 7 Consider integrating high school and college programming into site program
- 8 Protect future mural site areas
- 9 Provide pedestrian and bicycle access through Greenway
- 10 Program wildlife habit restoration areas
- 11 Consider noise mitigation components
- 12 Connect / integrate with LAVC Urban Forest Master Plan
- 13 Repair connection to Los Angeles River Watershed
- 14 Emphasize focal area at Green Bridge

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# PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 1: RIVERBANK PROMENADES - SPREE



reflection

gathering

history

## SPREE PROMENADES

LOCATION: BERLIN, GERMANY

PROJECT SIZE: ~ 15 ACRES

PROJECT TYPE: SITE DESIGN

PROJECT COMPLETION: 2005

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Spreebogenpark, or 'Park of the Spree Arch,' is a relatively new public park on the riverside promenades in the government district of Berlin, Germany. Weber + Saurer conceptualized the design and the implementation was and overseen by gruppe F. The aims were to preserve open space for gathering as well as provide grand vistas framing the historic buildings of the area. Typical Berlin cobblestones were reused and railings were avoided wherever possible to enable a close-up experience of the river, while granite benches, low railings, and sloping riverbank walls acted as safety barriers. The design takes place on both sides of the river, featuring large promenades, framed views, sculptural elements, gathering areas, sunken passageways, and plenty of seating.



Sources:  
[1. gruppe F](#)  
[2. Trip Advisor](#)  
[3. Competition Line](#)



## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Reused materials such as cobblestones
- Continues Berlin's legacy of extensive biking and walking routes

## SOCIAL

- Provides new gathering spaces along the riverbanks
- Historical context of sit: was a 'no man's land' between the two sides of Berlin Wall

## ECONOMIC

- Creates gathering spaces near many museums and cultural centers
- Creates a connection to the main train station



# PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 2: MEDELLÍN RIVER PARKS MASTER PLAN



## MEDELLÍN RIVER PARKS

LOCATION: MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA  
 PROJECT SIZE: 20 KM LINEAR PARK  
 PROJECT TYPE: PUBLIC PROJECT  
 PROJECT DURATION: 2014 – 2016  
 PROJECT OVERVIEW

A collaboration among engineers, urban planners, and architects, Medellín River Parks seek to unify the community after enduring a long-severed urban space. The project aims to draw people back to the river they've not been able to access for many years due to highway construction in the 1950s that cut off access. The importance of this waterway is the focus of the project, constructed on both sides of the river. It is biophilic in its approach, restoring habitat to preserve native species and burying vehicular traffic under the main promenade, reconnecting the river to the land. Ecological awareness is also centrally focused through the educational aspect of the project.



Sources:  
 1. [ASLA](#)  
 2. [Metalocus](#)  
 3. [Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize](#)

### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Habitat restoration at the core of the design
- Reconnects the biotic network of the valley

### SOCIAL

- Reconnects sides of the city previously separated by highways in the 1950s
- Post-Escobar governance: mayor took a new approach to reduce inequality and to heal social and environmental damage caused in the past through "social urbanism" initiative

### ECONOMIC

- Part of a larger revitalization plan that brings green spaces and cultural institutions to neighborhoods that have been neglected

# PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 3: PARIS-PLAGES



## PARIS-PLAGES

LOCATION: PARIS, FRANCE

PROJECT SIZE: 3.5 KM

PROJECT TYPE: PUBLIC PROJECT

PROJECT DURATION: 2007-ONGOING

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

This urban public project is an initiative to create temporary artificial beaches on the shores of the Seine during the sweltering summer months. From floating swimming pools to sandy beaches, this space offers a much-needed transformation of the typical promenades. It is free to enjoy the plages, providing access for those who may not be able to leave the city in the Summer to escape the heat. Programming continues to grow each year and includes swimming, kayaking, pedal boating, games, dancing, and entertainment.



Sources:  
[parisjetaime.com](http://parisjetaime.com)  
[thrillist.com](http://thrillist.com)



## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Provides a local place for summer activities, reducing travel emissions
- Imported sand is no longer used due to environmental concerns

## SOCIAL

- Programming includes a variety of active programming
- Several gathering spaces along the river provide access at different locations for accessibility

## ECONOMIC

- Provides free spaces for people who may not be able to afford to leave the city

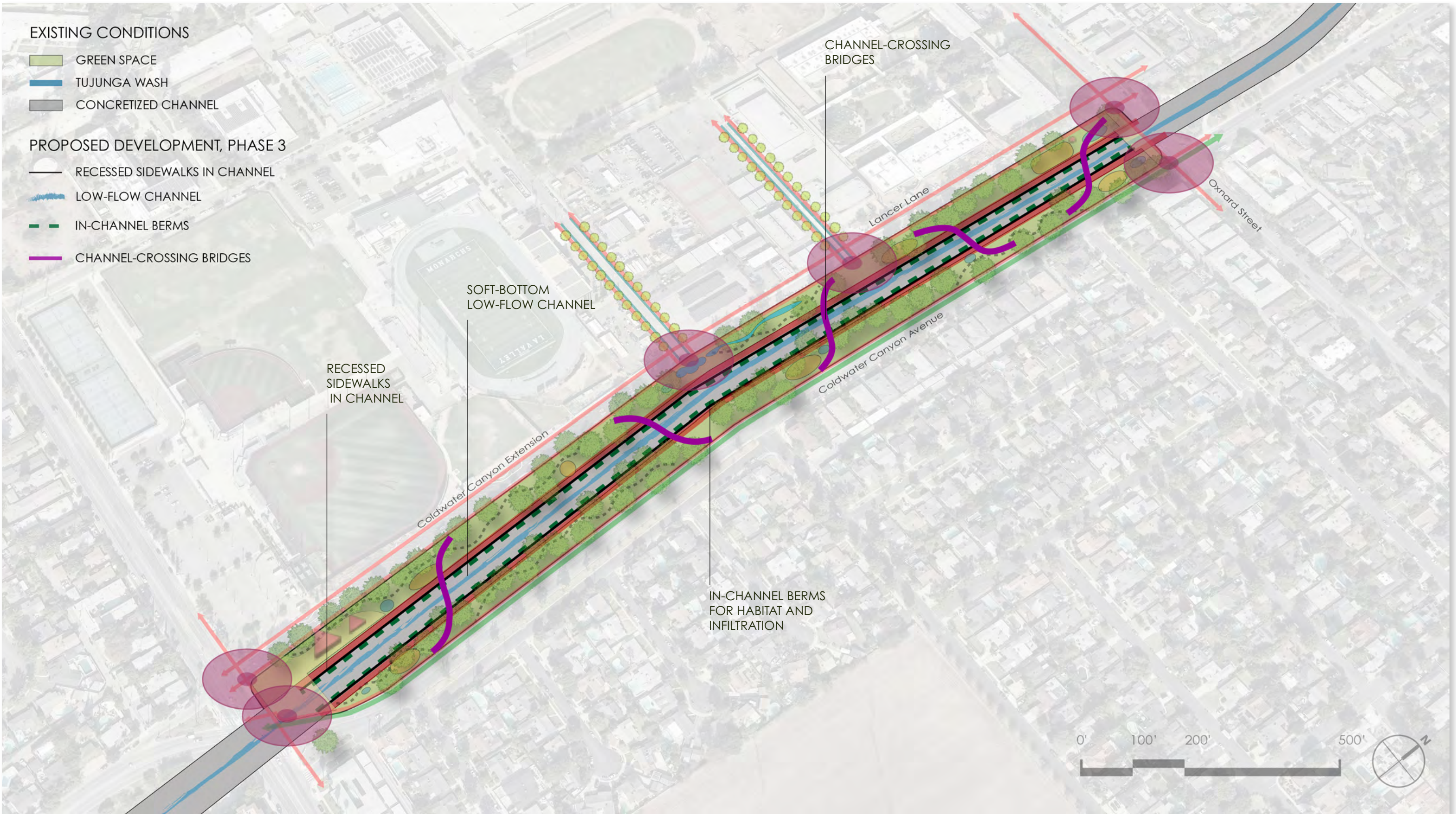
# DESIGN PHASE 1



# DESIGN PHASE 2



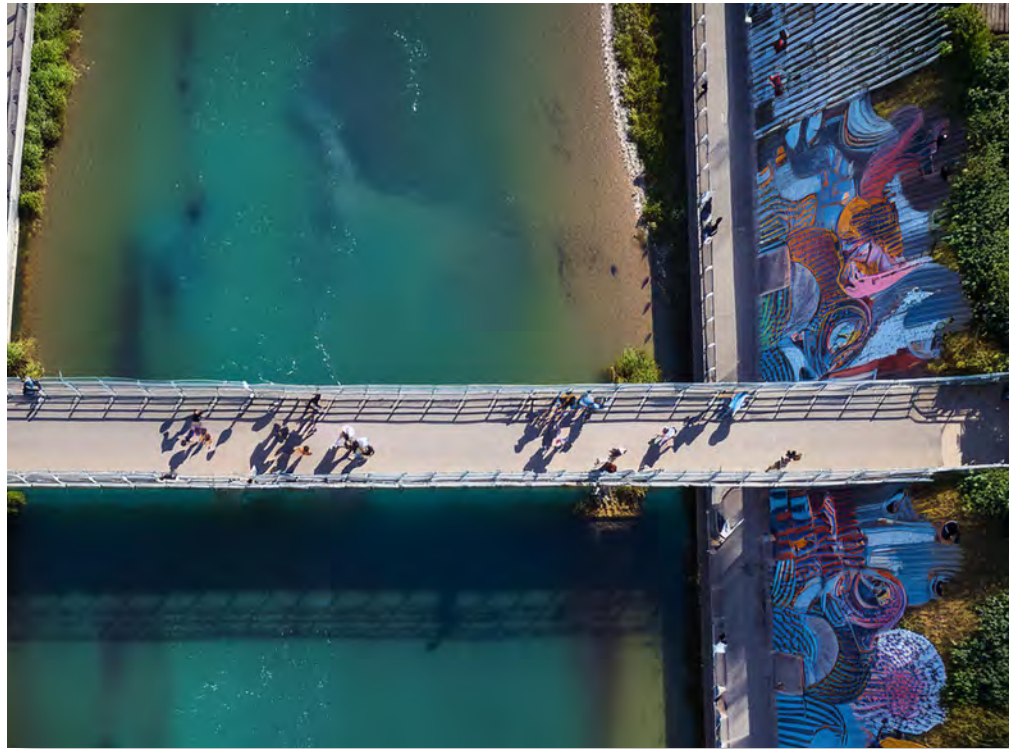
# DESIGN PHASE 3



# GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES PARK

## CELEBRATION

CULTURAL PLACEMAKING



The aim of this project is to transform the Tujunga Greenbelt into a vibrant cultural hub centered around the iconic mural “The Great Wall of Los Angeles,” conceptualized and facilitated by artist Judy Baca.

Goals:

- Celebrate and uplift local history and art and create spaces for artistic expression
- Foster community interaction and educational opportunities with the mural
- Incorporate a visitor center and exhibition spaces to enhance the site's role as a landmark destination

## CULTIVATION

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



Through the Integration of innovative environmental design strategies throughout the park, this site will be a model for Low Impact Development techniques in practice in an urban public space.

Goals:

- Honor and steward the land by capturing and managing stormwater and protecting the Tujunga Wash
- Incorporate green energy solutions to optimize the site's potential for self-sustaining energy use
- Utilize environmentally-sensitive products and practices in the design and care of the space

## COMMUNITY

ADAPTABLE AND ACCESSIBLE  
PUBLIC SPACE



The design will create a flexible, multi-use park that serves diverse community needs while ensuring long-term viability.

Goals:

- Provide free public amenities as well as revenue-generating features to financially sustain the park
- Prioritize universal accessibility and safety, integrating the park seamlessly with the surrounding urban fabric
- Create adaptable spaces that can evolve with changing community needs and environmental conditions

# MASTER SITE PLAN

## GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES PARK

LOCATION: VALLEY GLEN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

PROJECT TYPE: PUBLIC PARK

STAGES OF WORK: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

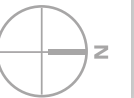
YEAR: 2024



### PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS

- |                                |                            |                           |                       |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Primary Site Node            | ⑥ Amphitheater             | ⑪ Bridge - ADA Accessible | ⑬ Protected Bike Lane |
| ② Visitor's Center and Gallery | ⑦ Channel Sidewalk         | ⑫ Picnic and BBQ Area     | ⑭ Sycamore Allée      |
| ③ Café                         | ⑧ Splash Pad               | ⑬ Restroom                | ⑮ Widened Sidewalks   |
| ④ Interactive Programming      | ⑨ Stream and Native Garden | ⑭ Water Fountain          | ⑯ Rain Garden         |
| ⑤ Promenade                    | ⑩ Playground               | ⑮ Fitness Station         | ⑰ ADA Ramps           |

0' 50' 100' 200' 500'



# LOW IMPACT DESIGN PLAN

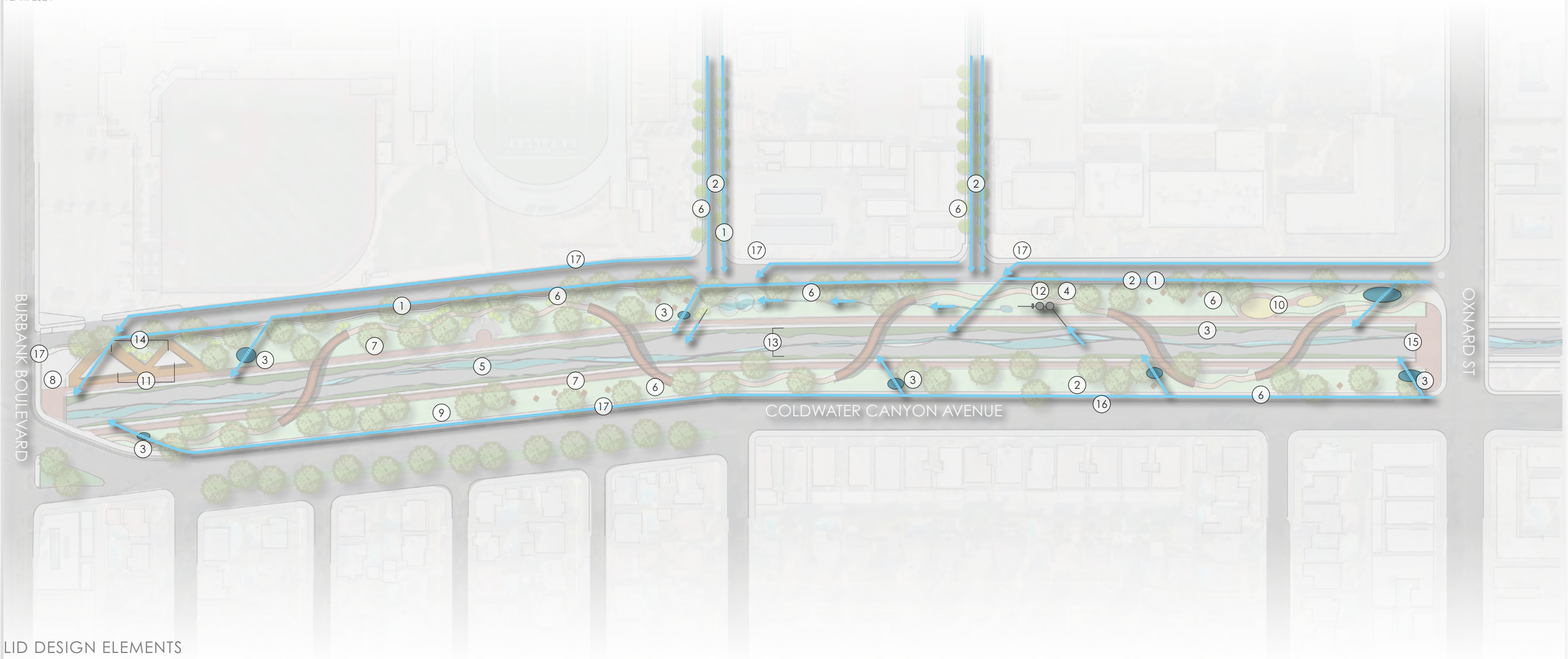
## GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES PARK

LOCATION: VALLEY GLEN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

PROJECT TYPE: PUBLIC PARK

STAGES OF WORK: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

YEAR: 2024



### LID DESIGN ELEMENTS

#### STORMWATER INFILTRATION STRATEGIES

- ① Curb Cuts
- ② Rain Gardens
- ③ Infiltration Basins
- ④ Underground Cisterns
- ⑤ Low Flow Channel
- ⑥ Native Plantings

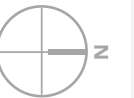
#### ENVIRONMENTALLY-AWARE STRATEGIES

- ⑦ Permeable Paving
- ⑧ Urbanite
- ⑨ Mulch Reused from Site
- ⑩ Natural Playground Materials
- ⑪ Bird-Proof Glass
- ⑫ Filtration for Water Play Areas
- ⑬ Wildlife Habitat Restoration

#### GREEN ENERGY STRATEGIES

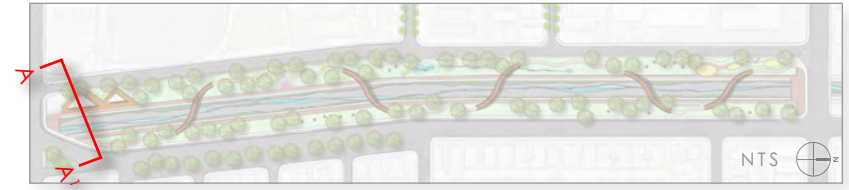
- ⑭ Solar Panels on Roofs
- ⑮ Turbines in Channel
- ⑯ Bikeability Increased
- ⑰ Walkability Increased

0' 50' 100' 200' 500'





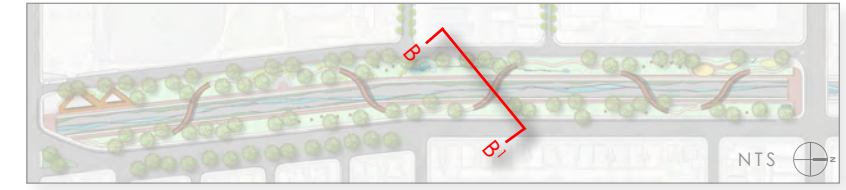
# SITE SECTION 1



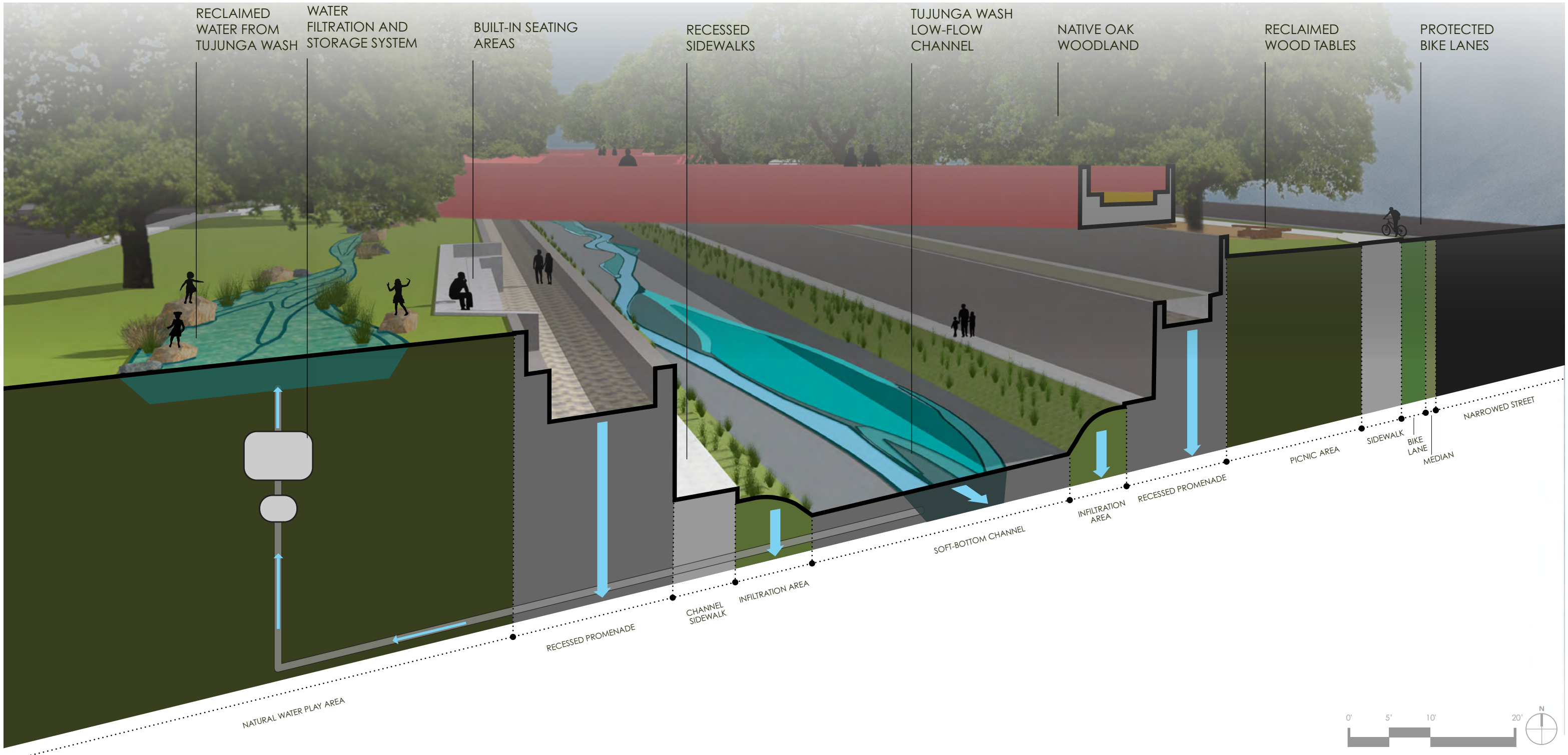
KEY MAP



# SITE SECTION 2



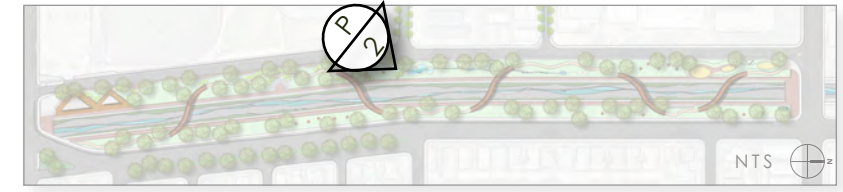
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# PERSPECTIVE 1



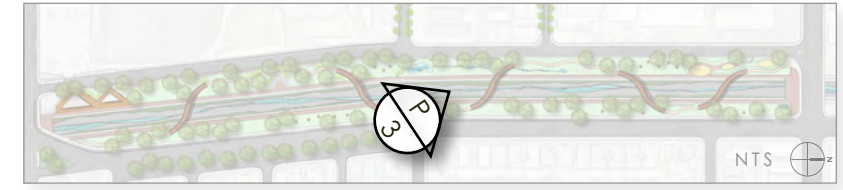
# PERSPECTIVE 2



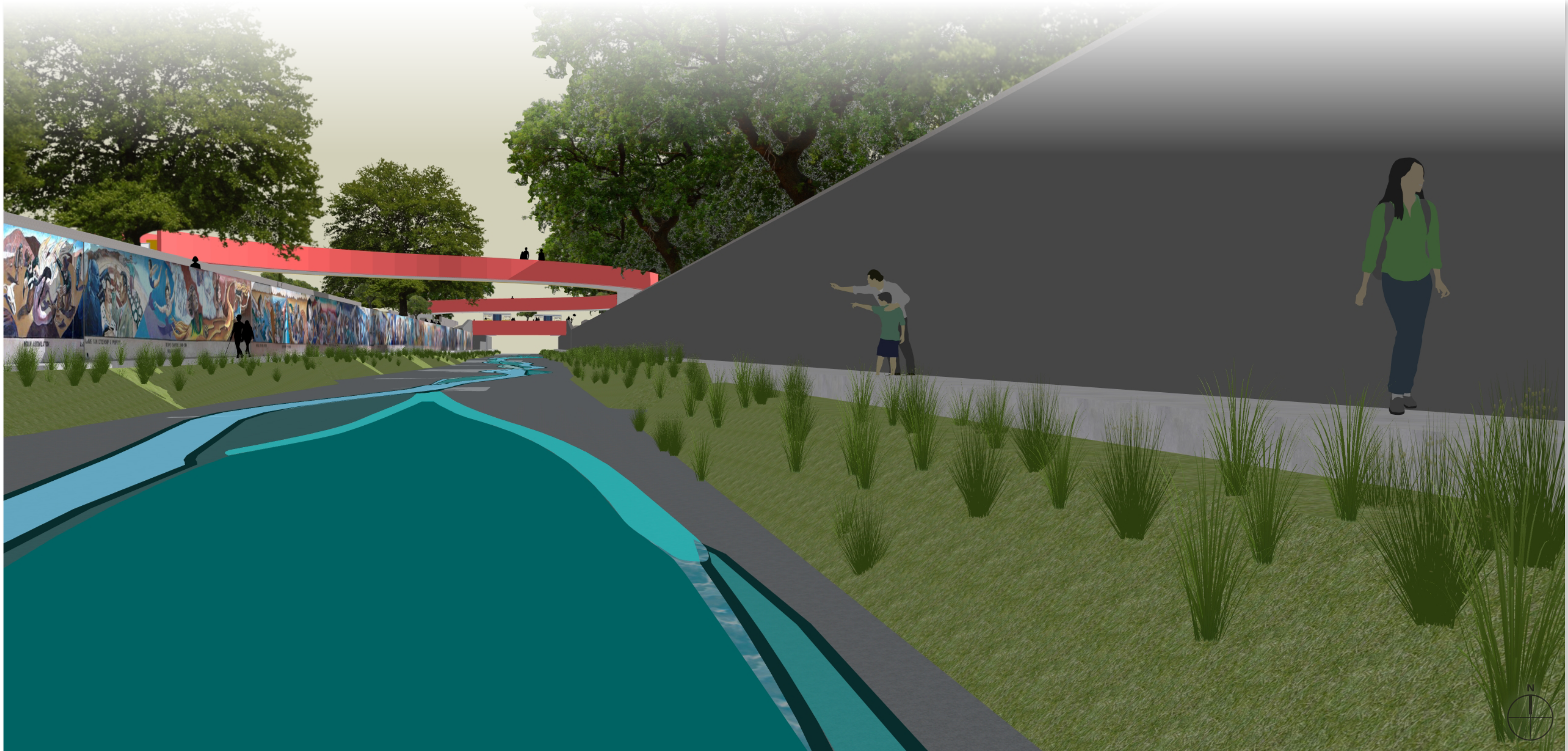
KEY MAP



# PERSPECTIVE 3



KEY MAP



# WALKTHROUGH VIDEO

