Journey to Acceptance

Strategies for Harmonizing the Cycle of Life with the Urban Cemetery Landscape

Capstone Project by Chan Nguyen

UCLA Extension - Certificate in Landscape Architecture Instructors: Meg Rushing Coffee and Steven Chavez Summer 2024





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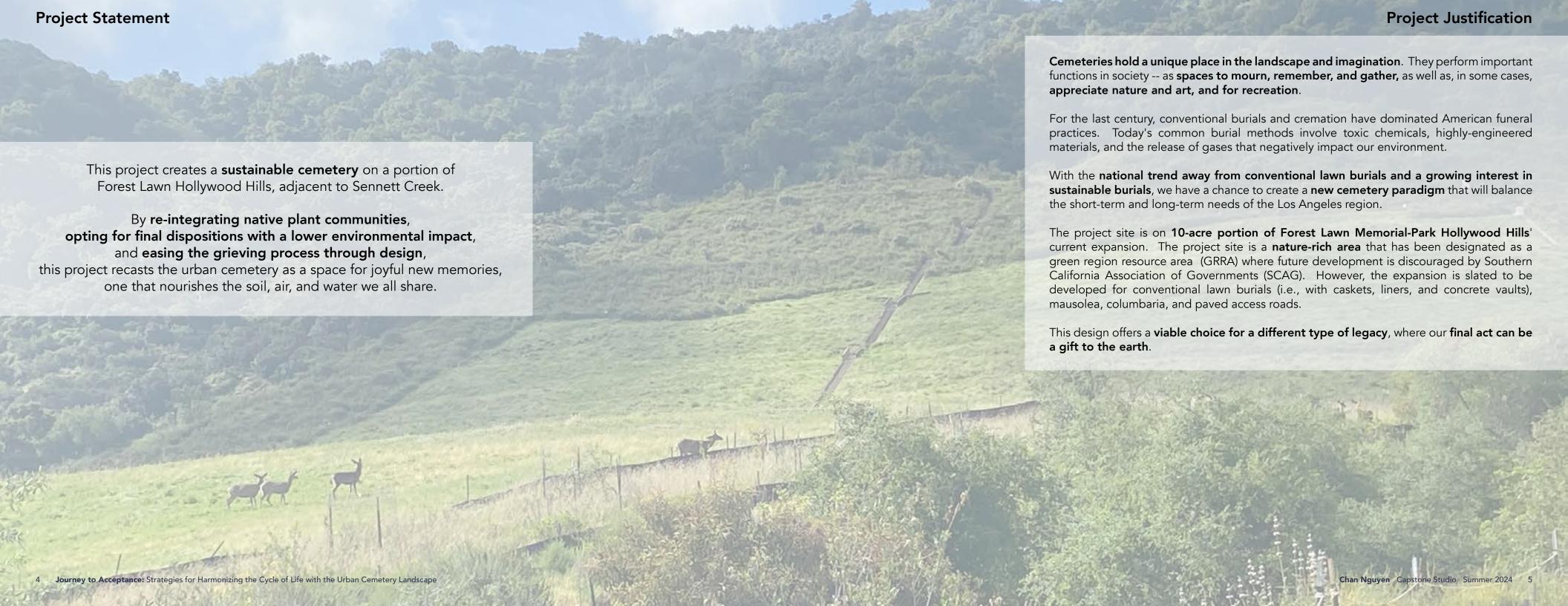
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Introduction

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Cover Photo: Topanga State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains

Left: View from Griffith Park of Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills' established area (middle left) and expansion area under construction (foreground, middle and right). Burbank and San Fernando Valley in the distance.



Sauls Mound Pinson Mounds, TN

One of many native burial grounds throughout the U.S.

Pre-1700s





Burial Hill. Plymouth, MA.

Early colonial cemetery built

intentionally atop native

burial grounds.

Mount Auburn Cemetery Cambridge, MA

First 'garden' or 'rural-style' cemetery in the U.S. and the country's first public park.

1831

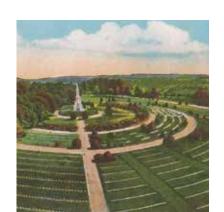




1858 Central Park. New York, NY.

Newly-created city park displaces communities and their graveyards.

Today, Central Park is a popular place for receiving cremated remains.



Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Glendale, CA

Popularizes lawn-park design.

Provides model for 'pre-need' sales business and the vertical integration of the funeral industry.

1917



Digital immortality of our lives on social media

Social media as a type of digital cemetery. Facebook has over 30 million people memorialized.

2000s





Embalming becomes more common during Civil War.

Ability to preserve bodies as such changes the handling and mourning of the dead, from being an intimate act within the home to a more detached process outsourced to others.

Gives rise to funeral industry.



1929 Chapel of the Chimes Oakland, CA

Columbaria architecture addresses growing popularity of cremation.

Julia Morgan, architect.



1622

Goals and Objectives Final Dispositions with a Lower Environmental Impact

"Conventional" burials and cremation account for over 90% of final dispositions.

These two methods involve:

- toxic chemicals (formaldehyde and other embalming fluids)
- highly-engineered materials (reinforced concrete and steel)
- natural resources (wood, bronze, copper); and
- the release of gases that negatively impact our environment.

What goes into the air in a typical cremation?

of carbon dioxide is released into the environment in a typical cremation

Source: Cremation Association of North America

Are funeral preferences changing?

Natural burial

typically involves:

• burial depth of 3.5'

no concrete vault

60% of people in 2023 were interested in exploring "green" funeral options (up from 55.7% in 2021) Source: Cremation Association of North America



"Conventional" burial typically involves:

- embalming
- lined casket
- casket is lowered into a concrete vault with reinforced steel
- headstone / grave marker

typically involves:

- casket, which is then moved to a cremation chamber
- intense heat (1400–1800°F) turns remains into ashes in 1.5–4 hours
- ashes placed in an urn

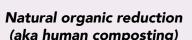
Cremation

- natural wood casket or shroud of natural materials

 no embalming GPS locator or natural stone marker

(aka human composting)

- no embalming
- result is nutrient-rich soil



- specialized, re-usable vessel filled with organic materials
- naturally-occuring, beneficial microbes decompose the body
- (500+ lbs; 1 cubic yard)

THESE methods that nourish the earth and allow for land re-use



Reducing the **Environmental Impact** of Final Dispositions

- practicing only natural burials and human composting, thereby reducing emissions and eliminating harmful chemicals and materials
- foregoing "eternal" resting places in favor of a land-reuse model



Creating Joyful Memories and Improving Health for the Living

- re-integrating native plant communities into the cemetery landscape
- easing the grieving process through design
- improving worker health by eliminating herbicides and toxic embalming chemicals, and replacing the use of heavy machinery with hand-digging



Caring for the Soil, Air, and Wildlife

- embracing seasonality and the life cycle through planting native species to support the watershed, local wildlife, and the Pacific Flyway
- restoring and **supporting keystone species**, such as oaks and bees

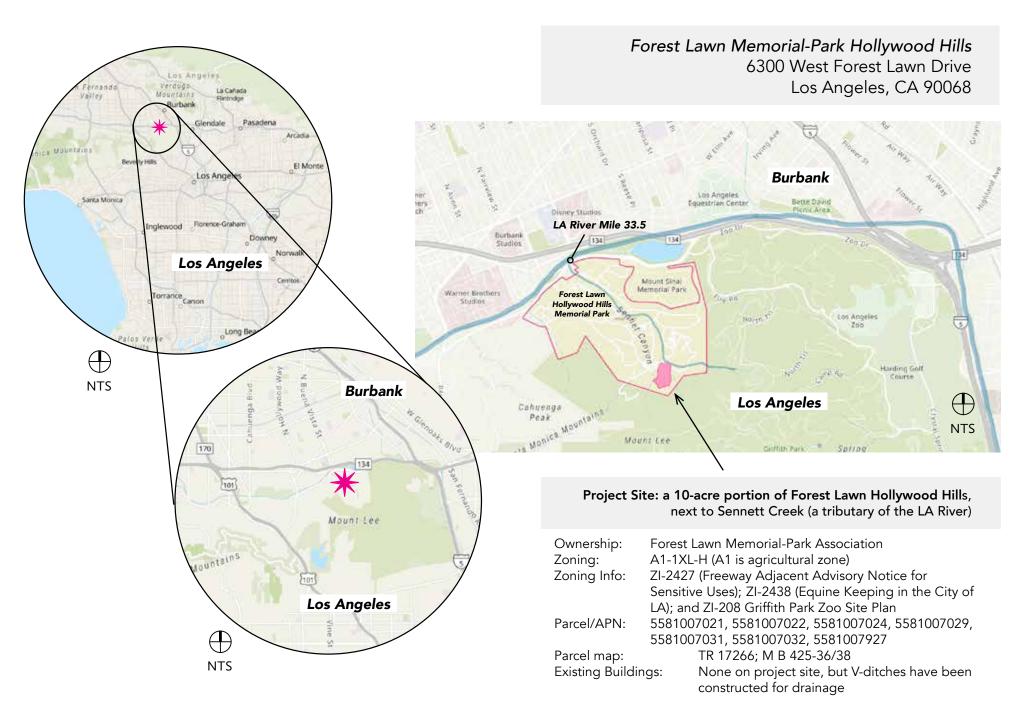


Managing **Stormwater**

- diverting and filterin stormwater with lined bioswales and rain gardens
- using above-ground stormwater management methods as **teaching tools** for the public

Instead of these resource-consuming, pollutive methods that take up a lot of land permanently

Photos of Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills





Entrance signage from Forest Lawn Drive



Old North Church



Sennett Creek (i.e., trees in mid-gound) and coyote



Administration / Mortuary / Flower Shop



Mountains and graves



Columbaria and graves



Road within Forest Lawn



Entrance to The Woodlands, which is the cremation-garden section of Forest Lawn



A shady section of The Woodlands, with some seasonality and meandering DG paths

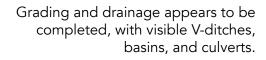


Expansion Plan. Areas in color are part of Forest Lawn's long-term expansion, except for Sennett Creek and power line right-of-way. Further details of expansion areas are provided on page 25.

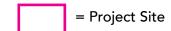


Aerial view of expansion during grading phase





Amount of greenery varies with the seasons.



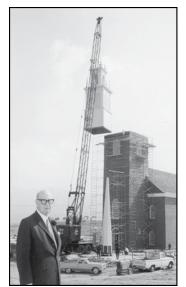












construction of Old North Church (1965) at the Hollywood Hills location. It was inspired by Boston's Christ Church, which was built in 1723.

HUBERT EATON (1881-1966) was an American businessman who revolutionized the industry. Born in Missouri, Eaton came to Los Angeles in 1911 and took a job of selling grave plots for a new cemetery in what is today Glendale. He saw the potential of real estate and cemeteries in Los Angeles, and in 1917 established what became Forest Lawn Glendale.

What did Eaton and Forest Lawn popularize?

- Forest Lawn featured an evergreen lawn-park, with grave markers flushed to the ground. This approach was not only more park-like, but also made mowing and maintenance easier.
- Using the term "memorial park" in lieu of "cemetery," Forest Lawn evoked sunshine, light, and love, and even became a popular wedding venue
- Marketing services and plots on a "pre-need" basis, by going door-to-door and advertising on billboards
- Consolidating the funeral and mortuary business by offering a full menu of services, including flowers, embalming, preparation, and burial options, which would fund an endowment ensuring long-term maintenance

With replicas of European churches and art, and areas with dreamy names like "Whisperland," "Dawn of Tomorrow," and "Slumberland," Forest Lawn became one of California's top tourist destinations, and was supposedly an inspiration for Disneyland.



Billboard (1954)



Wedding billboard (1969)



Vintage postcard

Some famous names buried at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills:



Buster Keaton



Nipsey Hussle



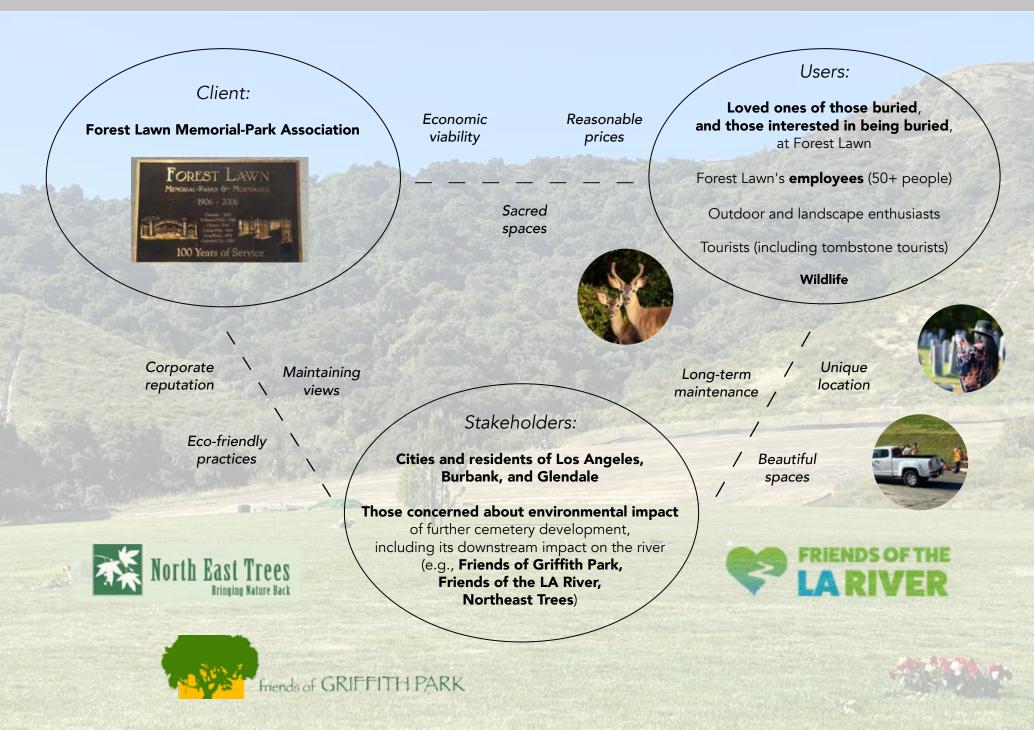
Bette Davis



Matthew Perry



Carrie Fisher & Debbie Reynolds



A Pattern Language

By Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein

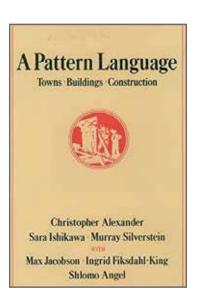
- Create a space that connects us to the life cycle. Reminding us of our shared mortality can help us live more fully and in the present. (Pattern 70, Grave Sites)
- Growth during the life cycle is not inevitable. There needs to be a balanced community that can support and sustain **growth** [This idea can be applied to people, animals, and plants.] (Pattern 26, Life Cycle)
- Importance of creating special places where people can maintain spritual roots (Pattern 24, Sacred Spaces)
- Tree and garden seats are important in creating special social places. (Pattern 171, Tree Places; Pattern 176, Garden Seat)

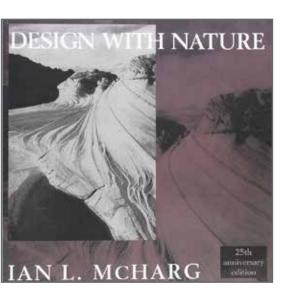
Design with Nature

By Ian L. McHarq

- Respect the natural processes and understand the land when determining what is a suitable and sustainable design
- Use layers of site analysis, inventory, and other data, on both a micro and macro level, before making making design decisions

"Certainly we can dispose of the old canard, "form follows function." Form follows nothing -- it is integral with all processes ... If the purpose of fitness is to ensure survival and evolutionary success for the organism, the species, the community and the biosphere, then adaptations are primarily directed toward enhancing life and evolution." Design with Nature, 25th Anniversary Ed., p. 173.





Hybrid Cemetery Certification Standards Published by Green Burial Council ("GBC")

• Provide clients and families with the chance to participate in the burial and ritual process, subject to applicable state law

- Prohibit embalming, except for embalming wtih GBCapproved, non-toxic chemicals
- Prohibit the use of vaults (partial, inverted or otherwise), vault lids, concrete boxes, slabs or partitioned liners
- Develop a Maintenance and Operations Manual to implement site goals, policies, and best practices
- Establish an endowment fund for maintenance by setting aside at least 10% of all burial plot sales

Additional guidelines (though not required for hybrid cemeteries):

- Average burial density **not to exceed 500 burials/acre** (standard for natural burial cemeteries; 300 burials/acre for conservation burial grounds)
- Limit the type and size of memorial markers so that they do not impair the ecological conditions



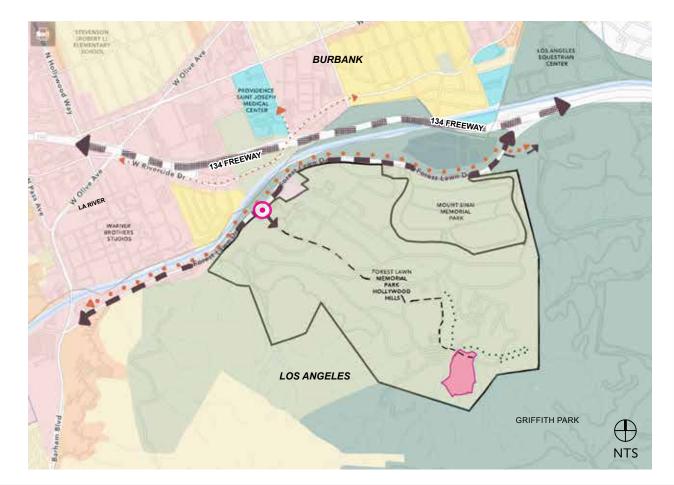
The Sennett Creek (River Mile 33.5) and Headworks Project (River Mile 33) areas "have the opportunity to **enhance native habitat** and connect to other important habitat corridors in the region, especially the riparian to upland connection along the right bank with Griffith Park".

In particular, goals for the Sennett Creek and Headworks Project areas are to:

- Support healthy connected ecosystems
- Enhance opportunities for equitable access to the river corridor
- Foster opportunities for continued community engagement, development, and education
- Improve local water supply reliability







Land Use and Zoning

The area around Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills has a variety of uses, but is primarily three things: **open space**, **commercial** (from small businesses to large corporate headquarters), and residential.

Residential - Single family

Residential - Single-family horsekeeping

Residential - Multi family

Commercial

Industrial

Open Space

Open Space - Historic Preservation



There is **only one access point** (), which is off Forest Lawn Drive. On weekdays commuters use Forest Lawn Drive as a freeway alternative; otherwise there is little congestion, except on holidays and special occasions (e.g., Easter, Memorial Day, etc).

Vehicular Primary Vehicular

Secondary Vehicular Tertiary (most direct route to project site)

4 ■ **→** 134 Freeway

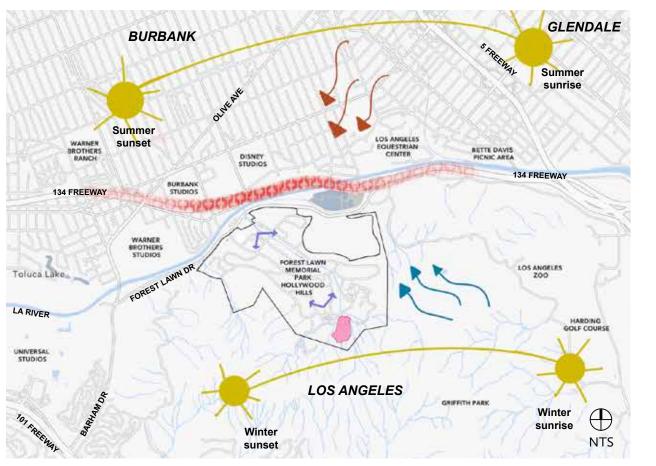
Bicycle



Pedestrian

Planned hiking trail along Sennett Creek

There are **no sidewalks** on Forest Lawn Dr, nor within the cemetery (with few exceptions). However, there will be a hiking trail along **Sennett Creek** as part of the expansion.





Northward view of Burbank and the San Gabriel Mountains



View of Old North Church

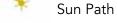
Sensory

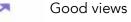
Situated on the northeast end of the Santa Monica Mountains, the project site experiences long, hot summer days. However, its northern exposure and foothill location make it relatively cooler than surrounding parts of the San Fernando Valley.

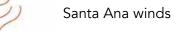
Since the prokect site sits higher than other parts of Burbank, the northward views aren't dominated by buildings and freeways.

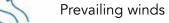


Noise



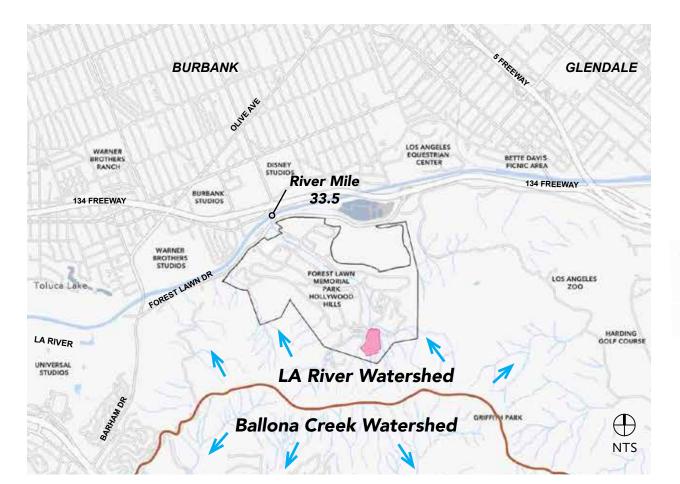








Southward view of the Santa Monica Mountains





Los Angeles River after the rains



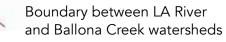
Sennett Creek (at right, with the lush growth), a tributary of the LA River

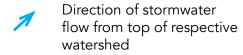
Waterways and Watersheds

Sennett Creek joins the LA River at River Mile 33.5 (River Mile 1 being the Pacific Ocean and River Mile 51 being the river's origin in Canoga Park).

The project site is **near the top of its portion** of the LA River watershed. Consequently, its stormwater is uncontaminated by development.









51-mile long Los Angeles River



1 Junior Achievement of Southern California

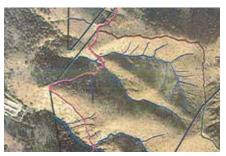


(2) Headworks underground reservoir project, with above-ground Headworks Restoration Park (under construction)

Adjacencies

The project site's immediate neighbors range from **established** institutions, such as Travel Town Railroad Museum (part of Griffith Park) and Mt. Sinai Memorial Park & Mortuary, to important, new public projects, such as the Headworks underground reservoir, which is owned by LADWP and will supply clean water to the city of LA (accompanied by a proposed above-ground, native restoration park designed by Olin) and the proposed Cahuenga Highlands hiking trail.

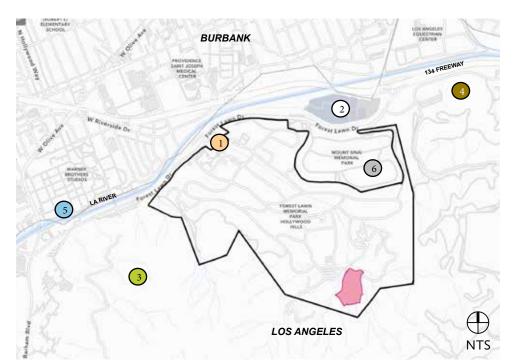
There will be constuction in the area for many years to come, and the site is a microcosm for LA balancing its interests in nature, wildlife, water quality, public parks, and private development.



Cahuenga Highlands trail (proposed hiking trail)



LA River (channelized)





Travel Town Railroad Museum in Griffith Park



6 Mt Sinai Memorial Park and Mortuary

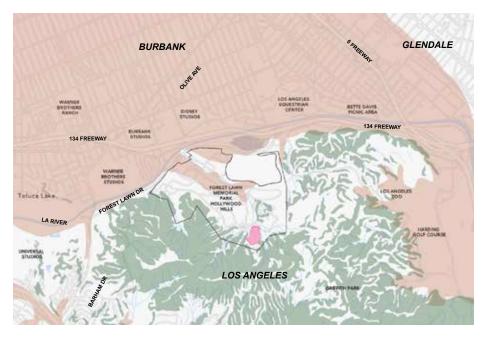


Fire Risk

The project site is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

A "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" (VHFGZ) is an area so designated by the local government based on fuel, slope, fire weather, and other physical conditions. Such a designation may impose firesafety regulations on structures and vegetation.

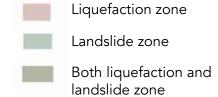




Liquefaction and Landslide

The project site is near, but not within, a liquefaction zone. Also, the site immediately downslope from a landslide zone.

In a liquefaction zone, saturated sand and silt become liquidlike during the shaking of a major earthquake. Buildings and infrastructure can collapse, causing significant injury and property damage.



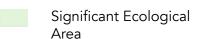
The landslide zone south of the site is so designated because of the steepness of slope rather than actual geologic conditions. These slopes are considered stable and the chance of earthquake-induced landsliding is low.



Significant Ecological Area (City and/or County designated)

Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) are so designated by local governments to protect irreplaceable biological resources.

An area so designated may be subject to certain permitting, design standards, and review process to preserve the area natural biodiversity with private property rights.



The project site is part of the Griffith Park Significant Ecological Area. Required mitigation measures are outlined in the Final EIR with respect to streambeds, basins, and gravel extraction.





Circulation within Forest Lawn

Vehicular: Primary vehicular circulation is the area near the entrance of Forest Lawn and, depending on the events of the day, Old North Church, and the Hall of Liberty.

Parking is in lots and on the side of the roads. There are painted parking spaces in lots, but not on the roads.

Primary vehicular

Secondary vehicular

Bike: There are no designated bike lanes.

Pedestrian: There are no sidewalks along the roads. Pedestrian walkways are generally limited to around structures and parking lots, except for the proposed hiking trail along Sennett Creek, which will be created as part of the expansion.

Planned hiking trail along Sennett Creek



Well-maintained roads



Drop-off area near Old North Church



Stop signs and security



Curbside parking



Existing Structures and City-Approved Expansion

The current approved plan for the project site is consistent with the programming of the existing cemetery, and will include burial property (both ground and creekside), creek overlooks, as well as a plaza, wall crypts, columbaria, and mausolea.

The approved plan preserves Sennett Creek and several drainages, and requires mitigation so that the environmental impact of the expansion is not significant.

Regular ground burial property

Creekside burial property

Graded, but will remain undeveloped

Wall crypts / columbaria / mausolea / plaza

Roads

Creek overlooks

Existing structures near project site:











4 Hall of Liberty parking

Entrance



Grading and Drainage

The project site appears to have been graded in substantial accordance with the approved plan.

The lower part of the project site has a grade of 20% or less, in order to be inclusive of age and abilities, and for safe access for maintenance crews, casket bearers, and equipment.

The project site is near the top of its portion of the LA River watershed. Consequently, its stormwater is uncontaminated by development.

10' contours

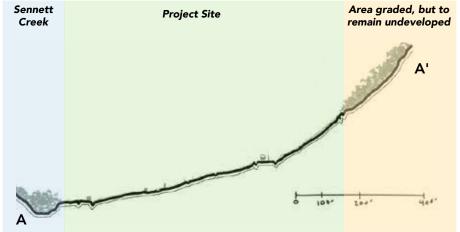
HP+ = High point of project site is 880'

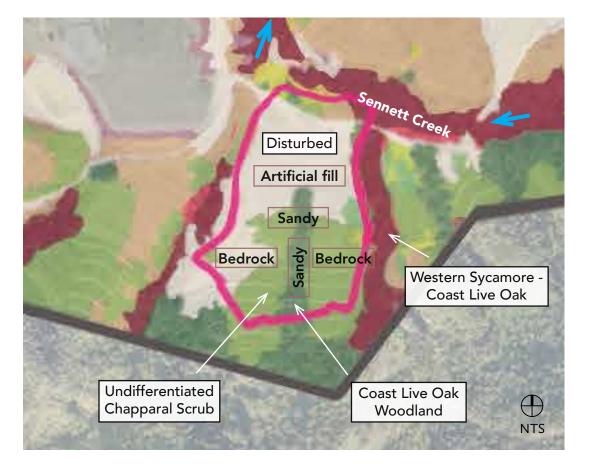
LP+ = Low point of project site is 710'



Water flow direction







Plant Communities Prior to Expansion

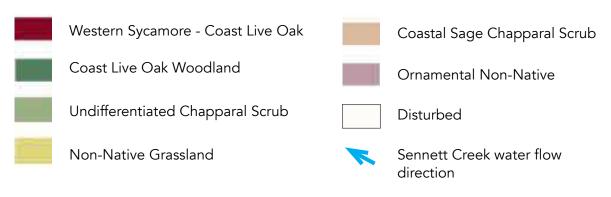
Prior to the cemetery's expansion, the project site's nondisturbed areas were comprised primarily of the following plant communities:

- coast live oak woodland
- undifferentiated chapparal scrub

Sennett Creek and its preserved tributaries were (and remain) primarily the Western Sycamore - Coast Live Oak plant community.

Soil Prior to Expansion

The lower area was primarily artificial fill, while the upper areas are **bedrock**. The midslope area and center strip of coast live oak woodland were **sandy** (gravelly sand/silty sand/sandy gravel).



Site Inventory Site Inventory



Quercus agrifolia coast live oak

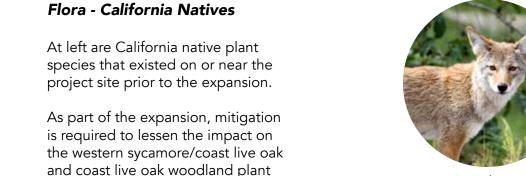


Platanus racemosa western sycamore



Salvia mellifera black sage

communities.



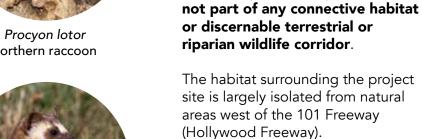




Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk



northern raccoon



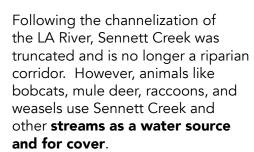
Fauna

Terrestrial and Riparian:

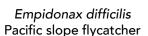
While the north and south slopes of Griffith Park and the Hollywood Hills

are home to many freely-moving,

common species, the project site is







Salvadora hexalepis virgultea

coast patch-nosed snake



Lynx rufus bobcat



mule deer



Mustela frenata long-tailed weasel

Odocoileus hemionus



Eriogonum fasciculatum California buckwheat



Artemisia californica California artemesia





Calochortus catalinae Catalina mariposa lily



Baccharis salicifolia mulefat



Stipa pulchra purple needlegrass





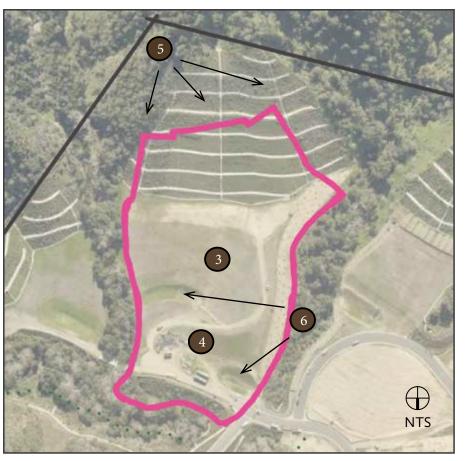
pallid bat

Odocoileus hemionus

Aerial:

The project site is along the **Pacific** Flyway, which is a major northsouth path for migratory birds from Alaska to Patagonia. Along the flyway, birds such as herons, egrets, bald eagles, and flycatchers follow food sources, find breeding grounds, and track the seasons.

Site Constraints Site Opportunities

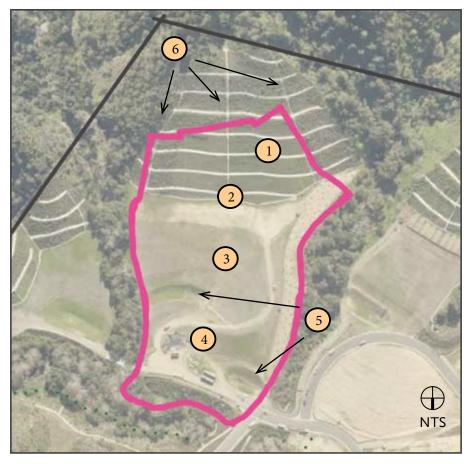


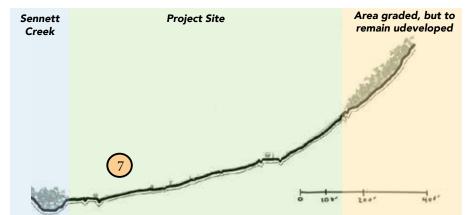
Area graded, but to remain udeveloped **Project Site** Sennett Creek

Site Constraints

- 20%-25% grade makes it difficult to be inclusive and accessible, without switchbacks
- Relative "remoteness" and distance from busier areas of the cemetery may deter those concerned about personal safety and visibility
- Final EIR requires various biological mitigation measures, such as removing invasives and restoring areas adjacent to protected drainages in order to reduce disturbances to the ecosystem
- Artificial fill in lower area of project site
- Repurposing the three v-ditches
- Repurposing existing stormwater basins
- Noise from freeway







Site Opportunities

- Create gathering and contemplative spaces, including a "destination" view at the top
- Restore plant communities that existed prior to expansion
- Natural burials in open and sunnier areas
- Human composting on artificial fill areas to improve soil
- Convert existing basin to lined rain garden
- Convert the 3 V-ditches into dry streams or planted bioswales
- Create a threshold entrance to provide a separation from the rest of the cemetery
- Create and frame views from the top looking downslope, and from the bottom looking upslope







← Successional forestry

Type: Active, green-burial section of an historic, rural cemetery; SITES Gold designation; private property **Location**: Bala Cynwyd, PA, outside of Philadelphia

Designer: Alta Planning + Design **Year and Size**: 2017; 0.68 acre

Former Land Use: Dumping area for the cemetery

Kev Takeaways:

- An ecological system that will ultimately be self-supportive as a result of "assisted ecological succession": **meadow** → successional old field \rightarrow successional woodland \rightarrow climax **forest.** Meadow will evolve into shrub and sapling stage, then pole stage, and finally mature climax forest
- Hand-digging graves to 3.5' depth only, to reduce need for machinery and hasten decomposition
- Only biodegradable or environmentally-friendly caskets, shrouds, and urns permitted
- "Philly Goat Project" offering grazing, animal-assisted therapy, goat yoga, as well as weed and invasives control
- **Ultimately, no irrigation will be necessary** due to native plants and rain garden holding up to 5,700 cubic ft of water

Related goals, objectives, and elements: sustainable burial sites; creating joyful memories and improving health for the living; caring for the soil, air, and wildlife; successional forestry; apiary; memorial bench; low-to-no irrigation



First growing season (meadow stage)



Memorial bench with names engraved



Apiary with interpretive signage





Hilltop grove atop the natural ridge. Visible from the entrance.



Crematorium and chapels

Type: Active, woodland cemetery; forest. UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Designer: Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz. The duo won a competition in which the citation from their entry was described as having "...the stamp of dignity...", "...the austere Nordic nature of its contours...", "...something delicately poetic..."

Year and Size: 1920; 464 acres

Former Land Use: Old gravel quarries with overgrown pines

Key Takeawavs:

- Open and serene cemetery where landscape and buildings blend beautifully and in harmony with the existing **topography and pine forest**. Eye is drawn to the nature; buildings and graves are subordinate but complimentary
- Roughly 10,000 pine trees on site. To ensure regrowth, new pines are planted every year with seeds taken from the original pine trees
- Graves arranged seemingly irregularly and haphazardly
- · Simple and tranquil, yet emotional and powerful

Related goals, objectives, and elements: creating joyful memories; responsible land (re-)use; timelessness; zen spaces; quiet emotionality and dignity of the site



Graves in pine forest



Steps to hilltop grove get less steep as you go up, so as not to tire vistors once they're at the top.



Forest

Type: Active, green cemetery on a hillside

Location: Mill Valley, CA. Located in Marin County, near San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Year and Size: Late 19th century; 32 acres, majority of which is

set aside for natural burials

Kev Takeaways:

- Burial areas range from **shady forests to sunny meadows**. Plantings include wildflowers and native grasslands.
- While traditional burials are offered, the cemetery focuses on natural burials or cremations in biodegradable containers
- **Accessibility limitations:** steep grade and paths in the cemetery require steady balance and fitness
- **GPS-marker** for each burial, also optional boulders and trees
- While quiet and peaceful, the views of the town provide a connection to every day life

Related goals, objectives, and elements: sustainable burial sites; creating joyful memories and improving health for the living; caring for the soil, air, and wildlife; GPS location and natural grave markers; hillside location in near residential area; low-to-no irrigation





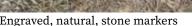
Sloping, forest burial grounds





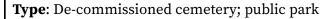
Threshold entrance from the street







Sloping, meadow burial grounds, with seasonal wildflowers and views of Shaded seatwall town. Gravestone boulders in foreground.

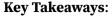


Location: Brooklyn, NY. Located in a densely-populated area, the space is a publicly-accessible, open-space node along the 26-mile Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway.

Designer: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Year and Size: 2017; 1.7 acres

Former Land Use: Military burial site of the adjacent Brooklyn Navy Yard and Hospital. Site was largely off-limits after the cemetery was decommissioned in the 1920's.



- Threshold entrance provides a peek into a quiet landscape
- Elevated, ribbon walkways over the hallowed burial ground reminiscent of a philosopher's walk
- **Evolving meadow** of low-growing native plants and pollinator habitat provide lushness, while allowing visitors to maintain visibility throughout the space
- Stone jumps and an amphiteater provide opportunities for active recreation and social engagement
- Fitness and art classes, and other events and festivals held throughout the year

Related goals, objectives, and elements: creating joyful memories for the living, responsible land (re)-use, social and community programming; elevated walkways







Elevated, ribbon walkways ensure there is no treading on burial grounds





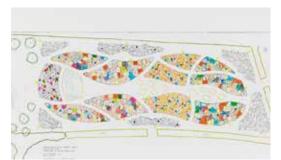


Elevated amphitheater and walkway

Narrow, paved walkway



Aerial rendering during construction phase



Oudolf's landscape proposal



Garden in spring..

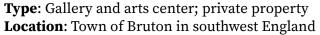




Radic Serpentine Pavillion



Pavillion interior



Designer: Piet Oudolf Year and Size: 2014; 1.5 acres

Former Land Use: 18th century English farm, comprised of a typical rural stone farmhouse surrounded by open

fields. Site sat derelict for decades.

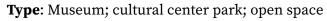
Kev Takeaways:

- Transformed a small town in the English countryside into a cultural destination and inspiration for outdoor education
- Design characterized by **organic shapes** and Oudolf's trademark lush and naturalistic seasonality
- All areas are **wheelchair accessible**
- Radic Serpentine Pavilion provides shelter, shade, and a venue for art exhibits and events. It also doubles as a **whimsical folly** amidst colorful landscape, and an architecturally unique structure
- Supports the artist-in-residence program for the museum

Related goals, objectives, and elements: life cycle (of plants), seasonality, social and cultural programming, pavilion/folly gathering spaces, responsible land (re-)use; artistic and naturalistic planting as a focal point



The 38-acre limit of work (dashed line) sits at the top of a regional watershed and is part of a larger master plan for the 164-acre museum and art park



Location: Raleigh, NC

Designer: Lappas + Havener (now Surface 678)

Year and Size: 2010; 38 acres

Former Land Use: Greyfield; agriculture

Kev Takeaways:

- Due to the site's location at the **top of a regional watershed**, the primary design concern was stormwater management and eliminating flood risk to downstream neighbors
- Stormwater management features include a **cistern** (90,000-gallon capacity - reduced from planned 200,000-gallon due to cost-cutting), bioswales, bioretention terraces, wetland, wet pond, and permeable gravel paving areas
- 32,670 sf of terraced trays (planted with natives) provide structured overflow into a wetland/pond
- By eliminating 11 acres of lawn that required regular mowing, the design avoids 9,000 lbs of CO2 emissions, 460 gallons of fuel, and 190 human-hours of work annually
- Design **reduces annual runoff** by 84% or 2,663,872 gallons (equivalent of four Olympic-size swimming pools)

Related goals, objectives, and elements: stormwater management; caring for the soil, air, and wildlife; seasonality



Bioretention terraced trays control overflow to wetland/pond



Seasonality in the terraces



Sloped, native meadow



Rain garden (foreground)

and autumn

Goals and Project Elements

JOURNEY TO ACCEPTANCE

process of grieving universality of birth, growth, death, supporting keystone species' role in the cycle of life (e.g., such as oaks and bees)

Potential partis:







Green burial sites. Hand-dug burial sites. Families can maintain the site with staff supervision. Maximum burial density of 500 burials/acre. Plots re-used after 25 years.

Green Memorialization (Tech-Related or Natural):

- (a) GPS for burial location;
- (b) digital and futurist possibilities for records, memories, and conversations;
- (c) memorial bulb plantings by loved ones; and/or

open-air pavillion (~1,000 sq ft), and covered deck (~1,500 sq ft)

(d) names permanently engraved on natural stone or wooden markers.



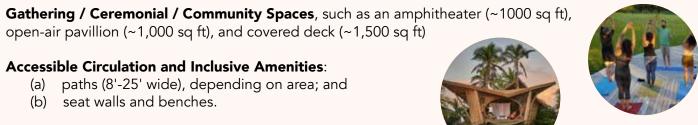
memorialization

Creating Joyful Memories and Improving Health for the Living



- (a) paths (8'-25' wide), depending on area; and
- (b) seat walls and benches.

Children's Interest Areas, such as a tree house (~130sq ft) and tree swing



Tree house (left); community programming

Caring for the Soil, Air, and Wildlife

California native plantings that provide habitat and seasonality.

Animal-Supportive Spaces: bird blind, apiary, bat roost

Educational and Community Programming:

- (a) horticulture and art classes and exhibitions;
- (b) volunteer gardening and weeding days; and
- (c) interpretative signage on sustainable burials, wildlife, and the Santa Monica Mountains.





bat roost (above)



Diverting stormwater from V-ditches into lined bioswales and dry streams

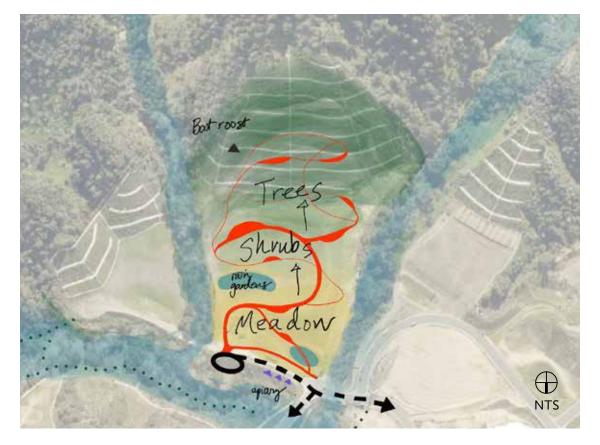
Repurposing basin into lined rain garden (~5,400 sq ft)

Interpretative signage with information about stormwater management, regional watersheds, and the LA River (and its tributaries)



and rain garden

Concept 1: Ribbons **Concept 2: Journey**



Pavillion, amphitheater,

Walkway

Bat roost

Apiary

treehouse, or tree swing

Rain garden, terrace tray, swale,

Hiking trail along Sennett Creek

Ribbons

Key Features

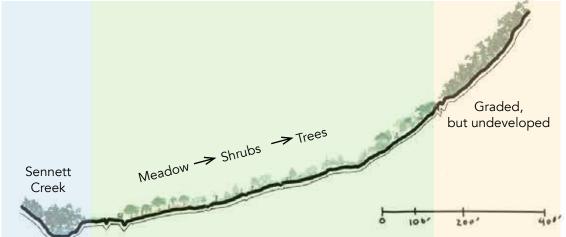
- Circulation driven by interconnected ribbons
- Planting progression from meadow (bottom of hill) to shrubs (middle of hill) to trees (top of
- Rain gardens

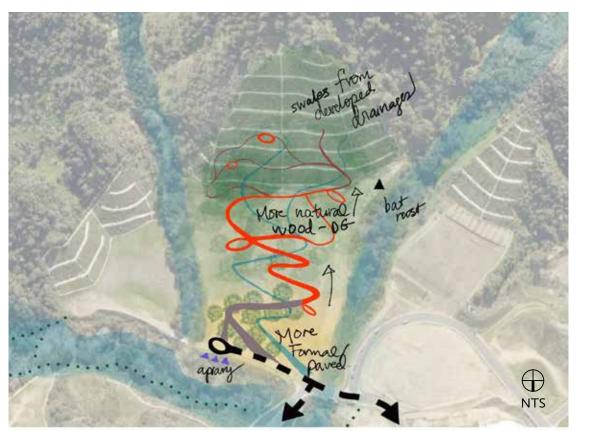




Raised ribbon-like walkway and amphitheater over plantings and burial ground



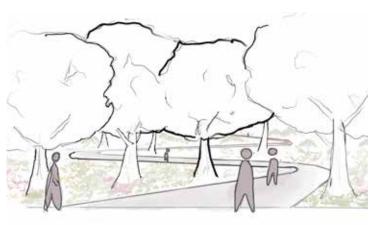




Journey

Key Features

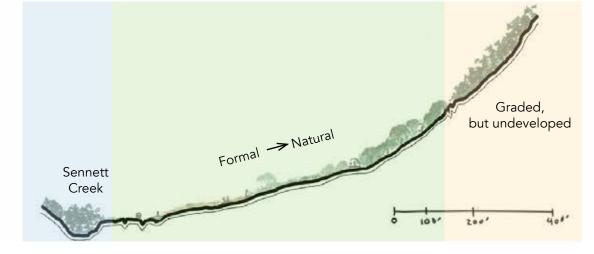
- Walkway narrows as you go upslope, from wide and paved, to a wooden path, to stone/DG
- Planting progression as you go upslope, from manicured, to less cultivated, to natural
- Lined bioswales and rain gardens

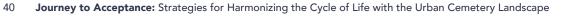




Road

Hiking trail along Sennett Creek





Concept 3: Receding **Concepts Compared**



treehouse, or tree swing

Rain garden, terrace tray, swale,

Hiking trail along Sennett Creek

Outdoor art or boulders

Walkway

Bat roost

Apiary

Receding



Key Features

- Sculptures, boulders, and clusters of trees are foci
- Geometric, straight paths give the design a modern look
- Terrace trays





Outdoor art



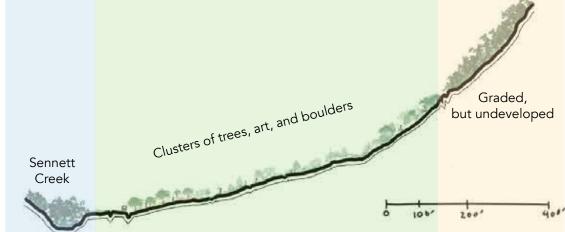
meadow



Boulders and sculpture

Stormwater terracing and







Pros

- Gathering spaces integrated into paths
- Organic, Mobius-like paths for zen walks
- Rain gardens on existing basins
- Light on the land

Post roost

Cons

• Too understated? Lacks "wow" factor?









2. Journey

- Switchbacks provide ADA accessibilty
- Wide walkways are group-friendly
- Converts V-ditches into swales

• Not a continous walk in some places, if dead ends are retained

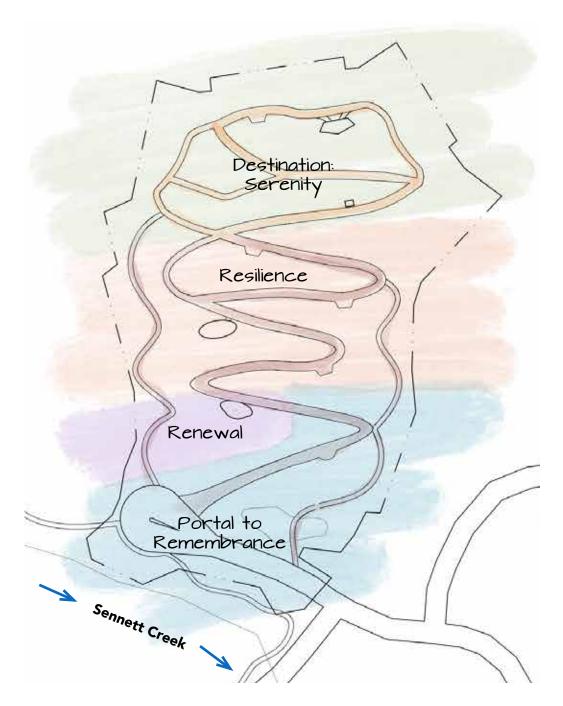
3. Receding

- More intentional, manicured look fits in better with rest of cemetery
- Road up the hill makes it easier for cars and those who prefer to ride up

- More stylized, less natural looking
- Heavier on the land due to more roadway and parking



Illustrative Plan: Journey to Acceptance





Four Primary Areas:

Destination: Serenity (oak woodland)

- Gathering space: covered deck with a destination clearing and view of journey and the San Fernando Valley below
- Disposition: human composting

Resilience (chaparral)

- Gathering space: open-air pavillion serves as main gathering space and area for digital memorialization
- Disposition: natural burials and human composting

Renewal (meadow)

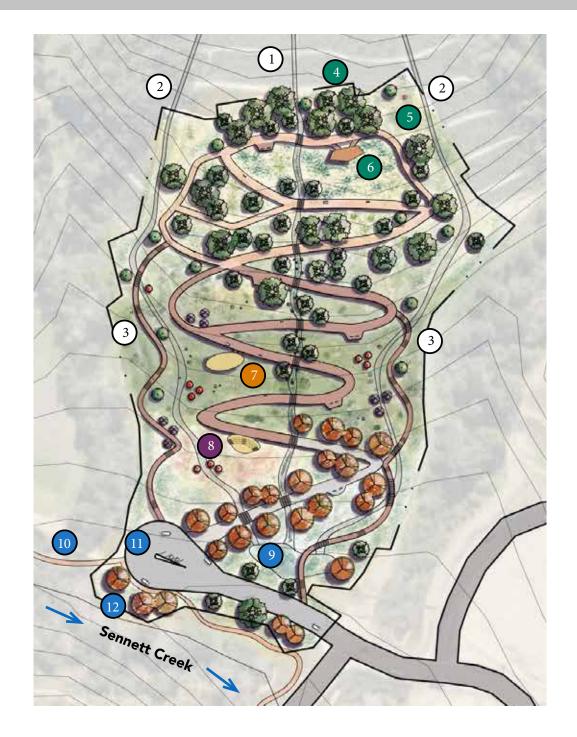
- Gathering space: amphitheater
- Disposition: natural burials and human composting

Portal to Remembrance (riparian)

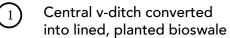
- Gathering space: seat walls beneath sycamore allee
- Disposition: human composting

Each area is ADA-accessible via the central pathway





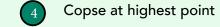
General



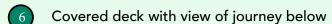


Side stair paths as alternatives to central path

Destination: Serenity (oak woodland)







Resilience (chaparral)

Open-air pavillion (main gathering space)

Renewal (meadow)

Amphitheater overlooking meadow

Portal to Remembrance (riparian)

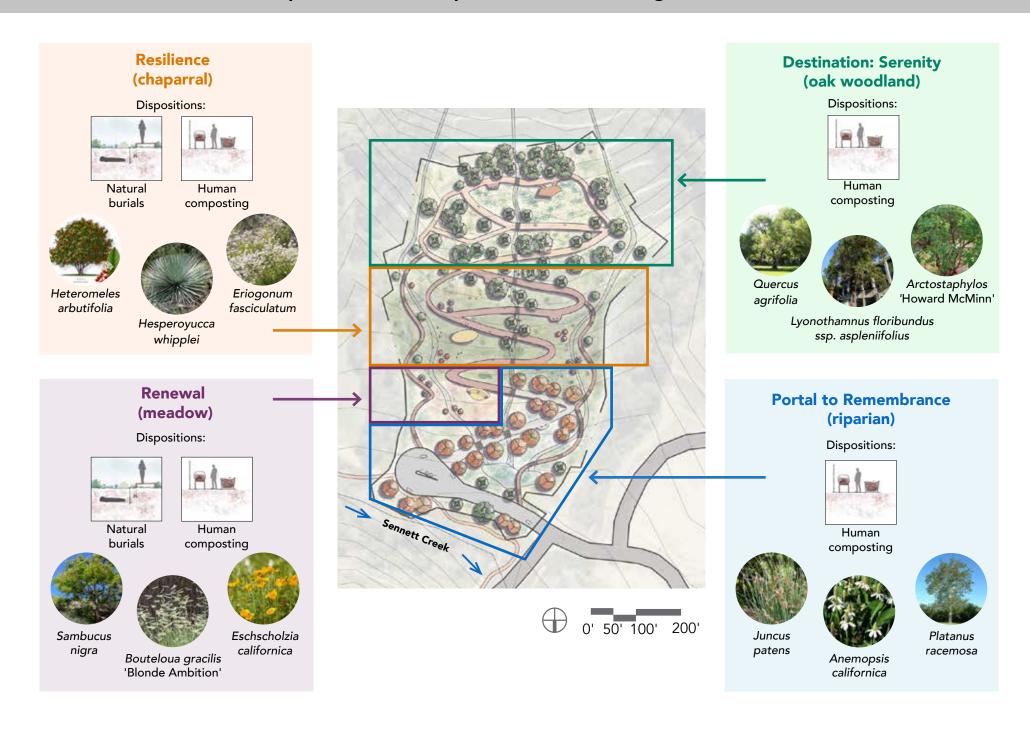
Lined planted swale and dry streams terminate in lined rain garden that empties into Sennett Creek

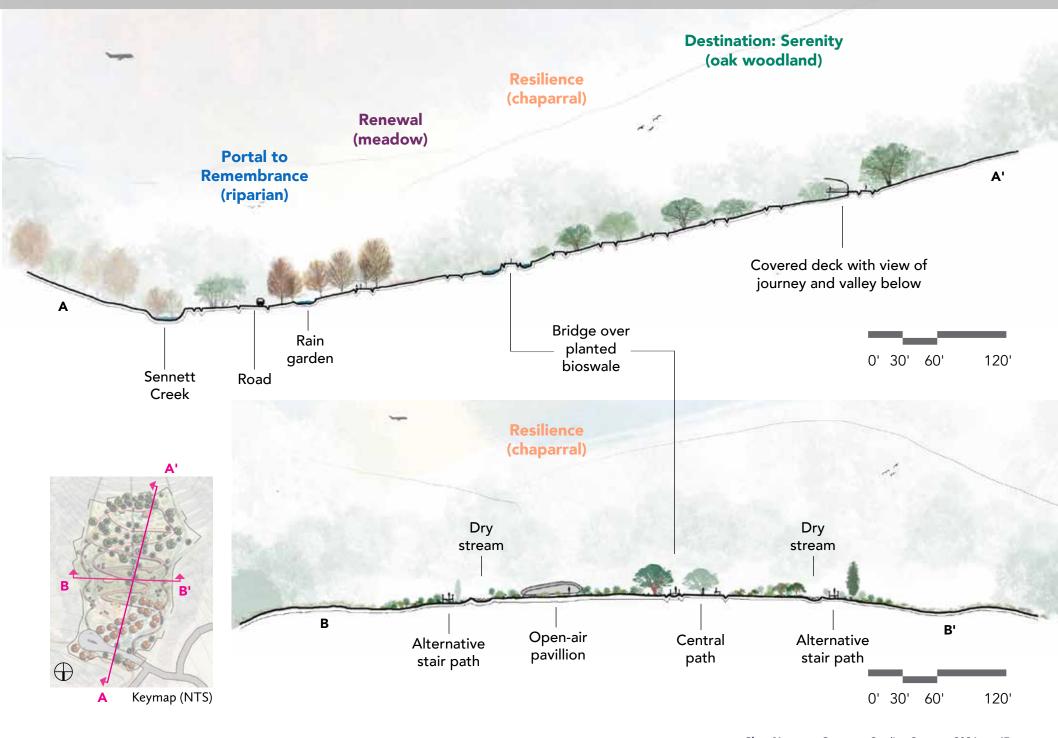
Connection to proposed Sennett Creek trail

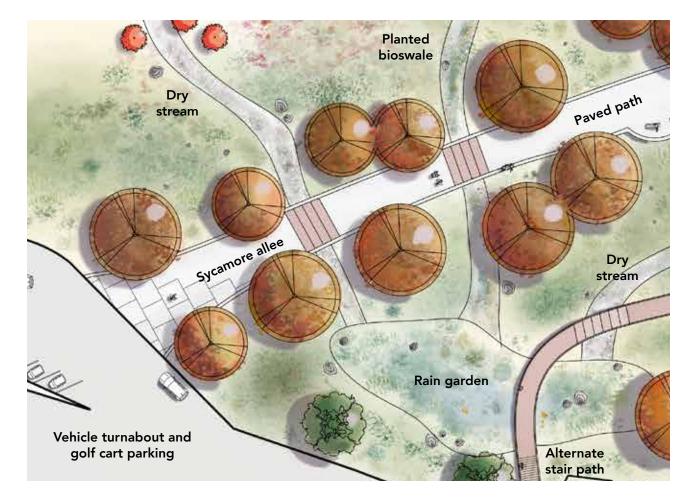
Vehicle parking and turnaround

Apiaries









Dispositions in this area:



Human composting

Portal to Remembrance (Riparian)

- Threshold into a new journey
- Central path: wide and paved path
- Gathering space: **seat walls** beneath sycamore allee
- **Lined rain garden** (previously a basin) where lined planted swale and dry creeks (previously v-ditches) end
- Apiaries near Sennett Creek
- Connection to Sennett Creek hiking trail
- Vehicular access and parking (including for golf carts that)

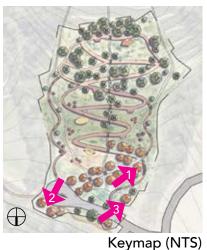




1. Sycamore allee, with seat walls and wide, paved path



2. Apiaries along Sennett Creek





3. Bridge over rain garden

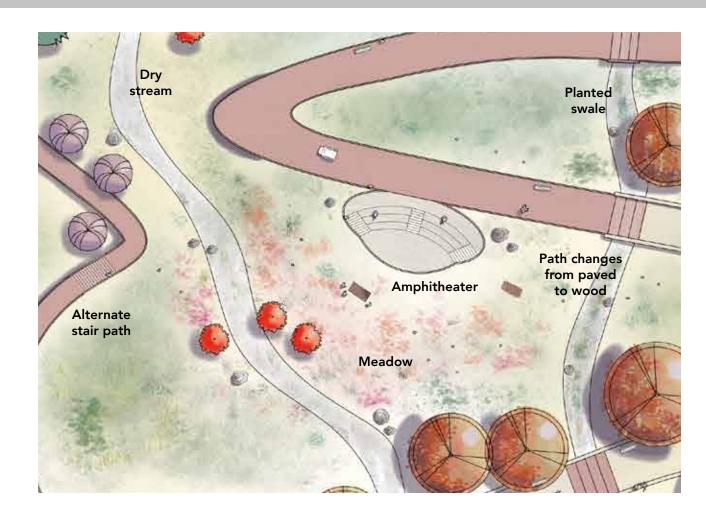






Planted swale and rain garden

Area 2: Renewal (Meadow) Area 2: Renewal (Meadow)



Dispositions in this area:





Natural burials

Human composting

Renewal (Meadow)

- Seasonal meadow, reminding visitors of impermanence and continuous change
- Central path: transitions from paved to a slightly narrower, wooden path
- Gathering space: amphitheater with view of meadow
- This area has the most seasonal color, with wildflowers and deciduous trees, such as black elderberry and western sycamores

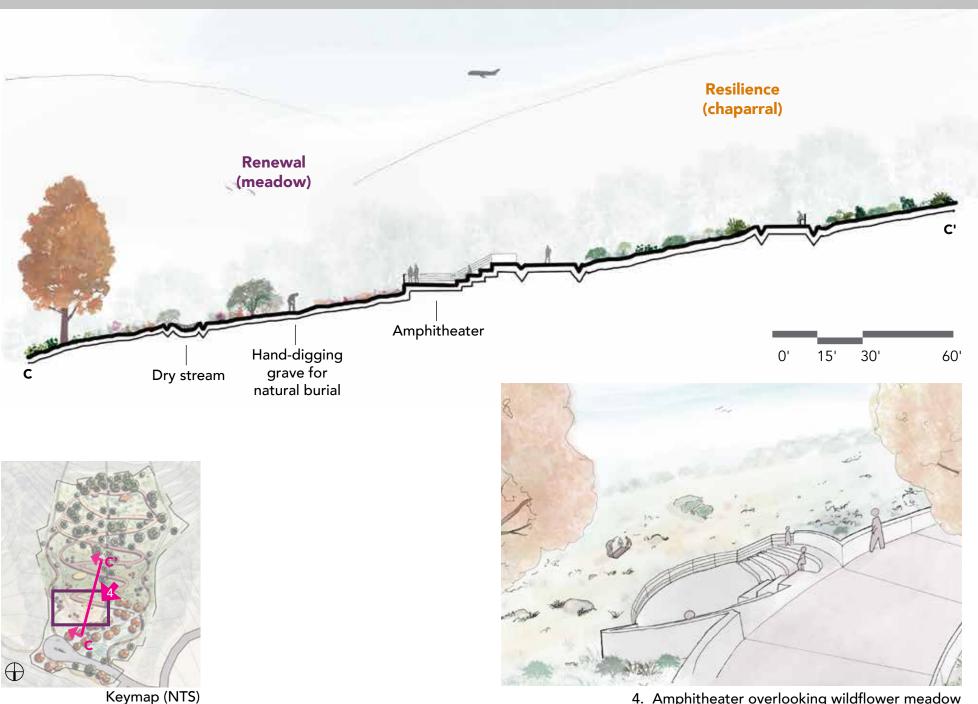






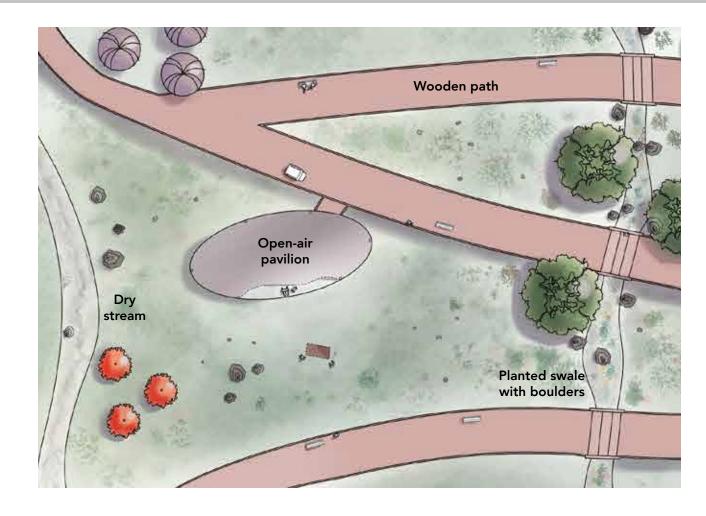
Natural burials and stone markers Alternate stair path

Amphitheater



4. Amphitheater overlooking wildflower meadow

Area 3: Resilience (Chaparral) Area 3: Resilience (Chaparral)



Dispositions in this area:





Natural burials

Human composting

Resilience (Chaparral)

- Relatively open space, characterized by boulders, small trees and shrubs
- Central path: wooden path (continuation from meadow area)
- Gathering space: **open-air pavilion** serves as main gathering space and area for digital memorialization
- Memorial bulb plantings (in this area and throughout the site)





5. Switchbacks and bridges through oak spine and over planted bioswale



6. Pavilion interior, with physical records and digital memorializations that can be projected onto walls and ceiling







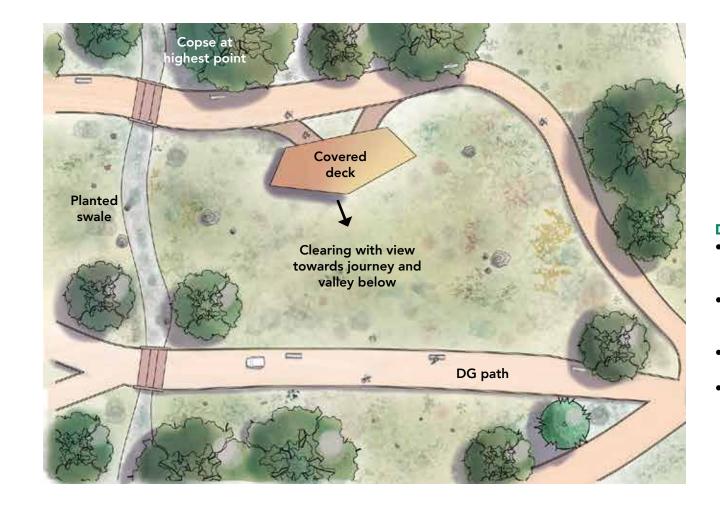


Memorial bulb plantings



7. Tree swing and wooden path under oaks

Area 4: Destination: Serenity (Oak Woodland)



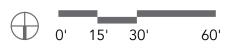
Dispositions in this area:



Human composting

Destination: Serenity (Oak Woodland)

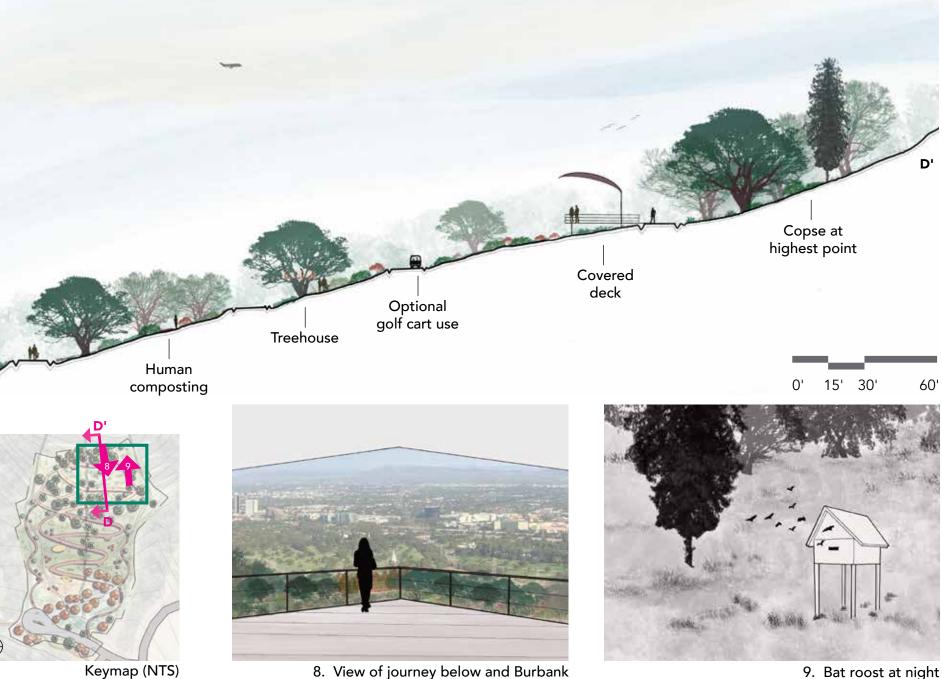
- Copse of coast live oak and catalina ironwood trees at the highest point of the project site
- Gathering space: covered deck with destination clearing and view of journey and San Fernando Valley below
- Central path: narrows from wooden to decomposed granite path
- Bat roost tucked away in top corner







Copse at high point Decomposed granite path



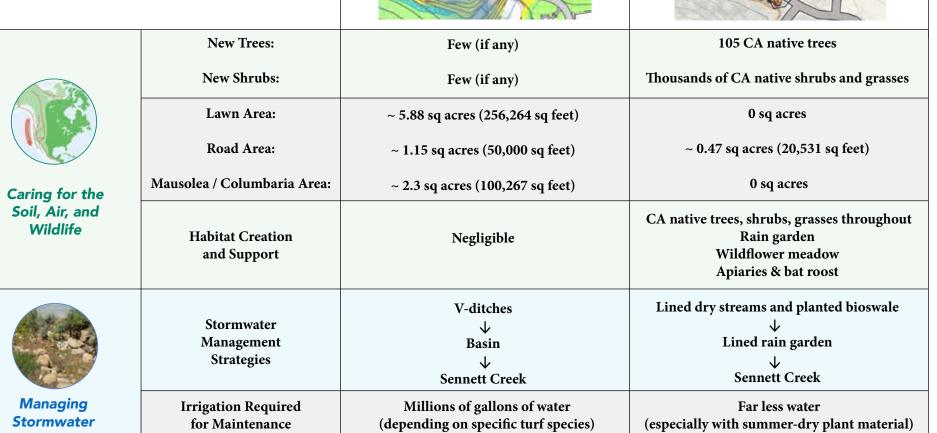
from covered deck

Conclusion: Goals, Revisited Conclusion: Goals, Revisited

HOW IS THIS DESIGN **DIFFERENT?**









Reducing the **Environmental Impact** of Final Dispositions

WHAT DOES THIS DESIGN AVOID?

At least 3.9 million lbs of CO₂ into the atmosphere

At least 2,638 concrete vaults in the ground

Thousands of pounds of embalming fluids; steel and other metals; and other engineered materials

Use of fertilizers and heavy machinery

Impermeable surfaces on slopes

The figures above are <u>calculated very conservatively</u>, based on 1,250 dispositions/acre over 8.18 acres, using 2025 CA projections between "conventional" burials (25.8%) and cremations (71.6%).







WHAT DOES THIS DESIGN PROVIDE?

An opportunity for one's final act to be a gift to the earth

Potential land re-use for subsequent generations

Improved soil health through natural burials and human composting

Improved worker health by eliminating use of toxic chemicals, fertilizers, and heavy machinery

Special spaces for gathering and contemplation

Shade from mature trees for long, hot summer days



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PHOTOS AND IMAGES BY CHAN NGUYEN, UNLESS OTHERWISE CITED

Front cover: https://peakvisor.com/range/santa-monica-mountains.html

Page 2-3 (Table of Contents):

Meg Rushing Coffee

Page 6-7 (Overview of U.S. Cemeteries):

Sauls Mound: https://www.worldhistory.org/Pinson_Mounds/

Burial Hill: https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org /search/ commonwealth:qt54kx185

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Caring for soil, air, and wildlife: https://www.perkypet.com/articles/pacific-flywaymigration

Page 10 (Site Location):

Maps: navigatela.com

Page 12 (Project Site):

Map: Forest Lawn Memorial Park -- Hollywood Hills Master Plan, Final EIR (2012)

Aerial photograph: Google Maps

Page 13 (Project Site):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Bottom center: Mea Rushing Coffee

Page 14 (Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills):

Clockwise from top left:

Hubert Eaton: https://www.facebook.com/photo. php?fbid=2812890782121120&id=178047092272182&set=a.209239385819619

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Buster Keaton: https://www.closerweekly.com/posts/buster-keatons-thirdmarriage-saved-his-life-and-career/

Page 15 (Client, Users + Stakeholders):

Mule deer: https://www.facebook.com/santamonicamountainsfund/photos/a.90 9573065799935/4113312158759327/?type=3&paipv=0&eav=AfZ2eHsrt7HrQoL h0AB-016hMNpXc3JmwHnuvUeBmCBeVYRCPg ka2W1DVR1KLiAops& rdr

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Pages 18-19 (Land Use and Sensory):

Map: LA County Dept of Regional Planning

Pages 20 (Waterways and Watersheds):

Map, top left: LA County Dept of Regional Planning

Map, bottom right: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_River#/media/ File:LARmap.jpg

Page 21 (Adjacencies):

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Pages 22-23 (Fire, Liquefaction, Special Ecological Areas):

Map: LA County Dept of Regional Planning

Pages 24-25 (Circulation with Forest Lawn and Existing Structures):

Maps: Forest Lawn Memorial Park -- Hollywood Hills Master Plan, Final EIR (2012) and LA County Dept of Regional Planning

Page 26 (Grading and Drainage):

Map: Forest Lawn Memorial Park -- Hollywood Hills Master Plan, Final EIR (2012)

Page 27 (Plant Communities and Soil Prior to Expansion):

Aerial photograph: navigatela.com

Page 28 (Flora):

Quercus agrifolia: https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/1227

Platanus racemosa: https://sactree.org/trees/california-sycamore/

Salvia mellifera: https://store.theodorepayne.org/products/theodore-paynefoundation-salvia-mellifera

Eriogonum fasciculatum: https://artemisianursery.com/products/eriogonumfasciculatum-california-buckwheat?_pos=2&_sid=031ba20fb&_ss=r

Lilium humboldtii: https://calscape.org/plant/Lilium-humboldtii-ssp.-ocellatum-(Spotted-Humboldt's-Lily)/gallery

Baccharis salicifolia: https://www.calscape.org/plant/Baccharis-salicifolia-ssp.-salicifolia-(Mule-Fat)/gallery?page=2#

Calochortus catalinae: https://calscape.org/plant/Calochortus-catalinae-(Catalina-Mariposa-Lily)/gallery#

Stipa pulchra: gardenia.net/plant/nassella-pulchra

Page 29 (Fauna):

Coyote: https://friendsofgriffithpark.org/january-2017-coyote-hazing-meeting/

Cooper's hawk: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Coopers_Hawk/id

Northern raccoon: https://m.espacepourlavie.ca/en/biodome-fauna/northern-raccoon

Image Sources Image Sources

Pacific slope flycatcher: https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/pacific-slope-flycatcher

Bobcat: https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=33776&picture=bobcat-or-lynx

Long-tailed weasel: https://www.mammalwatching.com/2020/06/21/westernweasels-and-a-few-other-things-california-and-oregon/

Coast patch-nosed snake: https://californiaherps.com/snakes/images/shvirgulteasd6112.jpg

Pallid bat: https://www.art.com/products/p17003574487-sa-i6998073/jameshager-cave-myotis-myotis-velifer-in-flight-in-captivity-hidalgo-county-new-mexico-usa-north-america.htm?upi=PHCCNR0&PODConfigID=4990699&sOrig-ID=7058

Mule deer: https://www.facebook.com/santamonicamountainsfund/photos/a.90 9573065799935/4113312158759327/?type=3&paipv=0&eav=AfZ2eHsrt7HrQoL h0AB-016hMNpXc3JmwHnuvUeBmCBeVYRCPg_ka2W1DVR1KLjAops&_rdr

Page 30-31 (Site Constraints and Opportunities)

Aerial photograph and map: navigatela.com

Page 32 (Case Study 1: Nature's Sanctuary):

Map and successional forestry: https://sustainablesites.org/sites/default/files/ legal/Case%20Studies_West%20Laurel%20Hill%27s%20Nature%20Sanctuary.

Memorial bench: https://gardenrant.com/2023/11/natures-sanctuary-laurel-hillcemetery-green-burial.html

Others: https://laurelhillphl.com/cemetery-funeral-offerings/green/

Page 33 (Case Study 2: Skogskyrkogården):

Map: https://skogskyrkogarden.stockholm/en/

Hilltop grove: https://peakd.com/hive-194913/@rubencress/skogskyrkogardenunesco-world-heritage-site-a-beautiful-cemetery-located-in-the-stockholm-area

Crematorium and chapels: https://www.significantcemeteries.org/2021/07/ skogskyrkogarden-20-years-of-being-unique.html

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Forest: https://thegreenpilgrim.wordpress.com/2017/06/10/skogskyrkogardena-place-of-peace/

Page 34 (Case Study 3: Fernwood Cemetery):

Map: https://www.fernwood.com/map

Page 35 (Case Study 4: Brooklyn Naval Cemetery):

Top right: Google Maps

All others: https://marveldesigns.com/work/naval-cemetery-memoriallandscape/74

Page 36 (Case Study 5: Hauser & Wirth Somerset):

Top row: https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2012/dec/16/hauser-wirthart-gallery-somerset

Second row, both images: https://www.hauserwirth.com/news/2269-oudolf-field/

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Bottom row, second from left: https://oudolf.com/garden/hauser-and-wirth

Bottom row, second from right: https://www.ft.com/content/5da3937a-fbb0-11e3-aa19-00144feab7de

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Page 37 (Case Study 6: North Carolina Museum of Art):

Bottom row, left: https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/ north-carolina-museum-art

All others: https://www.asla.org/2017awards/324662.html

Page 39 (Goals and Project Elements):

For photos on left column, see page 9

Digital memorialization: https://www.flickr.com/photos/mtaphotos/ albums/72157718036924697/

Tree house: https://ateliernomadic.com/playa-viva-mexico/

Yoga: https://landezine-award.com/naval-cemetery-landscape-3/

Apiaries: https://heritagegardenscemetery.com/memorial-beehives-at-heritagegardens-how-you-can-make-a-difference-for-generations-to-come

Bat roost: https://www.nps.gov/neri/learn/nature/grandview-bat-condo.htm

Page 40 (Concept 1: Ribbon):

Aerial photograph under concept drawing: navigatela.com

Both photos: https://marveldesigns.com/work/naval-cemetery-memorial-landscape/74

Page 41 (Concept 2: Journey):

Aerial photograph under concept drawing: navigatela.com

Page 42 (Concept 3: Recede):

Aerial photograph under concept drawing: navigatela.com

Copse: https://peakd.com/hive-194913/@rubencress/skogskyrkogarden-unesco-worldheritage-site-a-beautiful-cemetery-located-in-the-stockholm-area

Outdoor art: https://whitespace814.com/2017/02/09/whitespace-top-10-edition-1february-10th-2017/

Boulders: https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/glenstone

Stormwater terracing: https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/northcarolina-museum-art

Page 43 (Concepts Compared):

Aerial photograph under concept drawing: navigatela.com

Page 45 (Illustrative Plan):

Aerial photograph under illustrative: navigatela.com

Page 46 (Final Dispositions and Dominant Plantings):

Aerial photograph under illustrative: navigatela.com

See page 28 for Quercus agrifolia, Platanus racemosa, and Eriogonum fascicula-

Heteromeles arbutifolia: https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/697

Hesperoyucca whipplei: https://calscape.org/plant/Hesperoyucca-whipplei-(Chaparral-Yucca)/gallery

Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius: https://selectree.calpoly.edu/treedetail/832

Juncus patens: https://www.wilsonbrosgardens.com/juncus-patens-elk-blue-california-grav-rush-1g.html

Anemopsis californica: https://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/ plantdisplay.asp?cat_id=1&plant_id=2430&page=

Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition': https://ecgrowers.com/boutelouagracilis-38/

Eschscholzia californica: https://sunnylandsgardens.org/plant/california-poppy/

Page 47 (End-to-End Sections):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Page 48-49 (Area 1):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Sycamore allee: https://www.riverbendparktrust.org/historic-marker

Pages 50-51 (Area 2):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Alternate stair path: https://www.treesandtents.com/trailguide/lands-end/

Amphitheater: https://cathedral.org/visit-tour/gardens-grounds/

Image Sources

Pages 52-53 (Area 3):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Open-air pavilion/folly: https://www.jasoningram.co.uk/gardens/piet-oudolf-field-summer/

Memorial bulb planting: https://www.asla.org/2018studentawards/493946-District_Hill_Cemetery.html

Pages 54-55 (Area 4):

Aerial photograph under keymap: navigatela.com

Copse: https://peakd.com/hive-194913/@rubencress/skogskyrkogarden-unescoworld-heritage-site-a-beautiful-cemetery-located-in-the-stockholm-area

Photo of Burbank and San Fernando Valley: Meg Rushing Coffee

Pages 55-56 (Goals, Revisited):

See page 9 for photos relating to Goals and Objectives

Map: Forest Lawn Memorial Park -- Hollywood Hills Master Plan, Final EIR (2012)

Aerial photograph under illustrative: navigatela.com

Back Cover:

Map: U.S. Geological Society

