



Paar'e 'eyooxariin xaa.

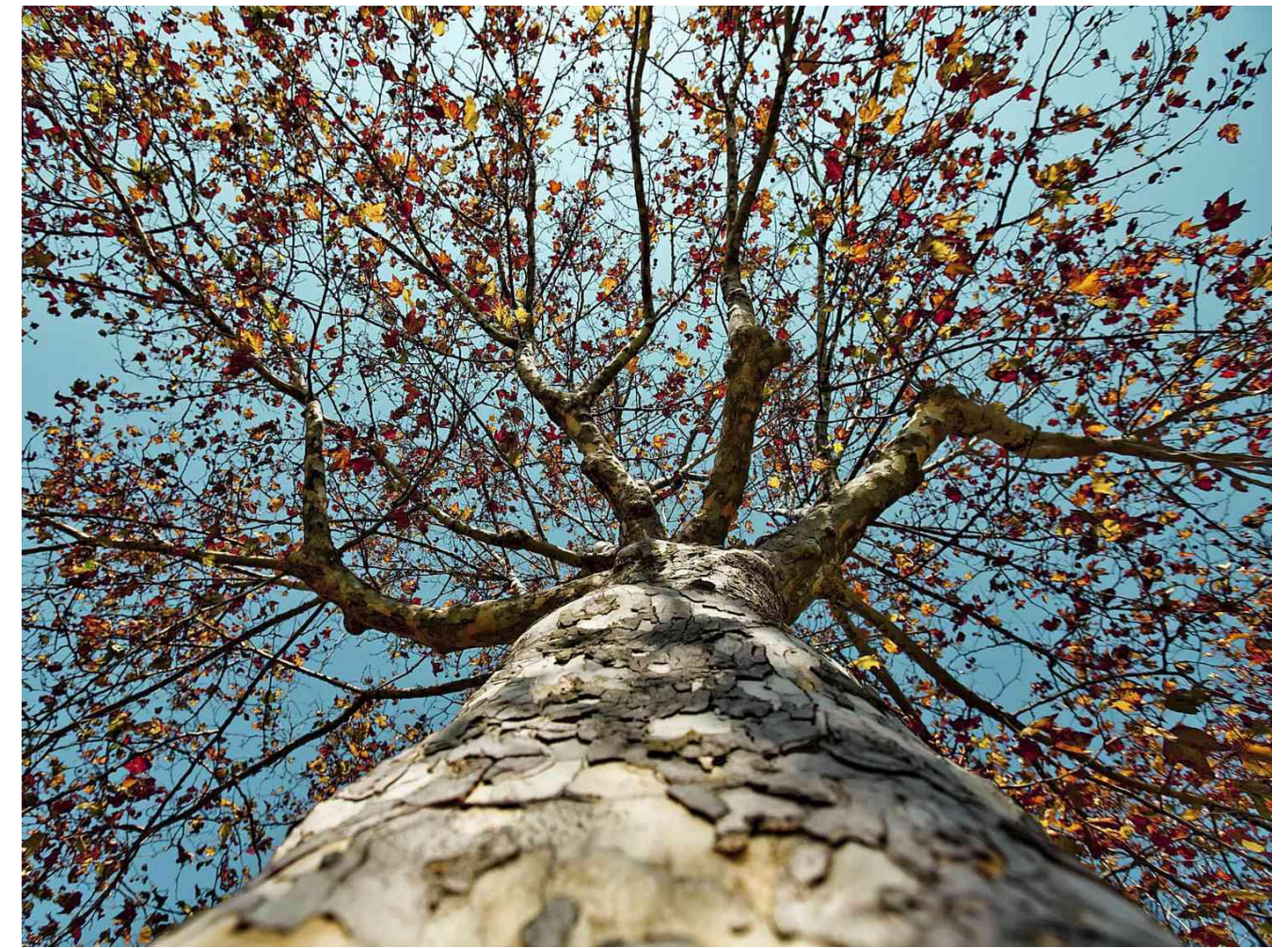
Water is our life.

Johnny Carson Park Expansion Plan

LD4 | Winter 2024 | Emily Gabel-Luddy
Confluence Studio
Amy White, Eddy Zhu, Leeloo Gilet

Table of Contents

Introduction	Acknowledgements	3
	History	4
	Location	5
	Context	6
Site Inventory	Study Diagrams	7-13
Site Analysis	Opportunities & Constraints	14
Indigenous Landscape	Tongva Villages	15
	Story Map	16
	Ethnobotany	17
Conceptual Design	Goals & Objectives	18
	Precedents	19
	Preliminary Designs	20
	Bubble Diagram	21
Final Site Plans	Illustrative Plan	22
	Stormwater Capture Plan	23
	Additional Graphics	24-33
	References	34



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we are discussing today is the traditional land belonging to the Tongva people. We come with respect and gratitude for the Tongva, who consider themselves the caretakers of this land. We acknowledge our responsibility as uninvited guests on unceded Tongva lands to locate our own knowledge and practice in a respectful relationship with Tongva sovereignties and knowledge systems that have always been here.

As a practice, land acknowledgements invite us to consider more deeply the full history, both Indigenous and settler-colonial, of our city and highlights the importance of analyzing culturally significant sites from a historical perspective.

Despite our best intentions and efforts, it is important to note that Confluence Studio, as a group of non-Indigenous people, cannot entirely extricate itself from the settler-colonial society in which we live and practice. As built environment professionals, we understand that urban design shapes people's lives in very real and important ways. Bad design can be devastating, particularly for already marginalized communities, such as Indigenous peoples. With that in mind, we did bring a spirit of open-mindedness and a decolonizing ethic to our work.

We sought to develop a site analysis and design that calls attention to the Indigeneity of the Los Angeles River and the cities it connects. We cannot give Land Back for the sake of completing our design practicum, but we wanted to create a space that honors the historical realities, celebrates the contemporary ways of being, and facilitates future cultural reclamation projects of Indigenous peoples. We see our design as a starting point: an inclusive community space, where people will come together to reconnect with the land, create new memories, and strengthen their community.



History of the Los Angeles River



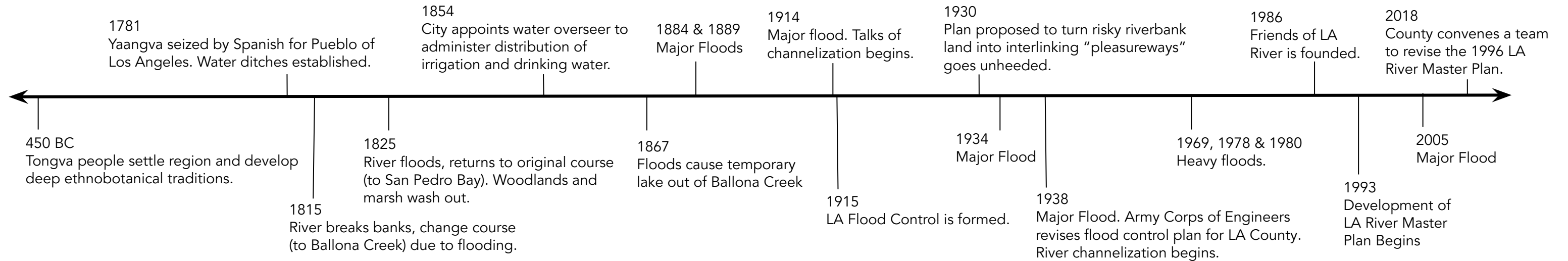
Air view of Los Angeles taken in 1887. Photo Credit: The Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection.



Flooding, gently, into neighboring fields: the Los Angeles River through the Elysian Gap, late nineteenth century. Photo Credit: The Huntington Library



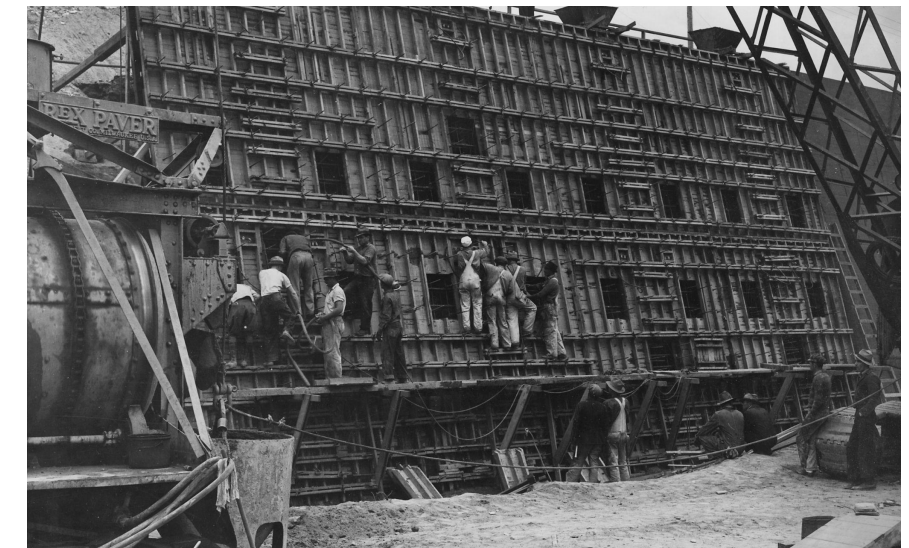
Los Angeles River flood damage in the early twentieth century. Photo Credit: Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



Tongva tribe members rowing in a ti'at, a boat made of native riparian plants. Water travel was of great importance for trade and ceremony.

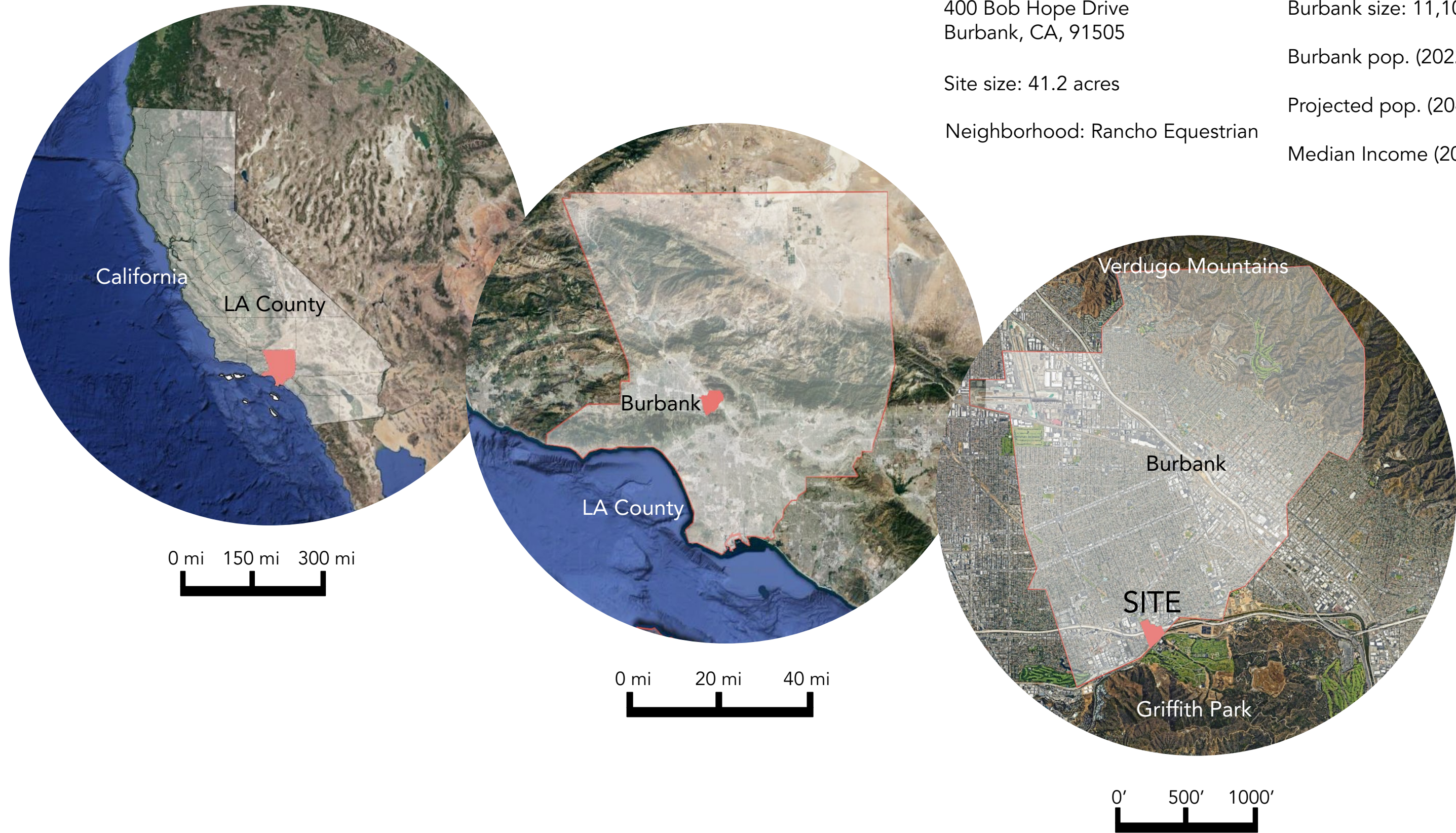


Bucolic, tiny, seemingly innocuous: the Los Angeles River (and cattle) in the late nineteenth century. Photo Credit: The Huntington Library



1938: Workers placing concrete in a section of the counterforted channel wall of the L.A. River. Photo Credit: <https://waterandpower.org>

Location



Notes

400 Bob Hope Drive
Burbank, CA, 91505

Site size: 41.2 acres

Neighborhood: Rancho Equestrian

Burbank size: 11,104 acres

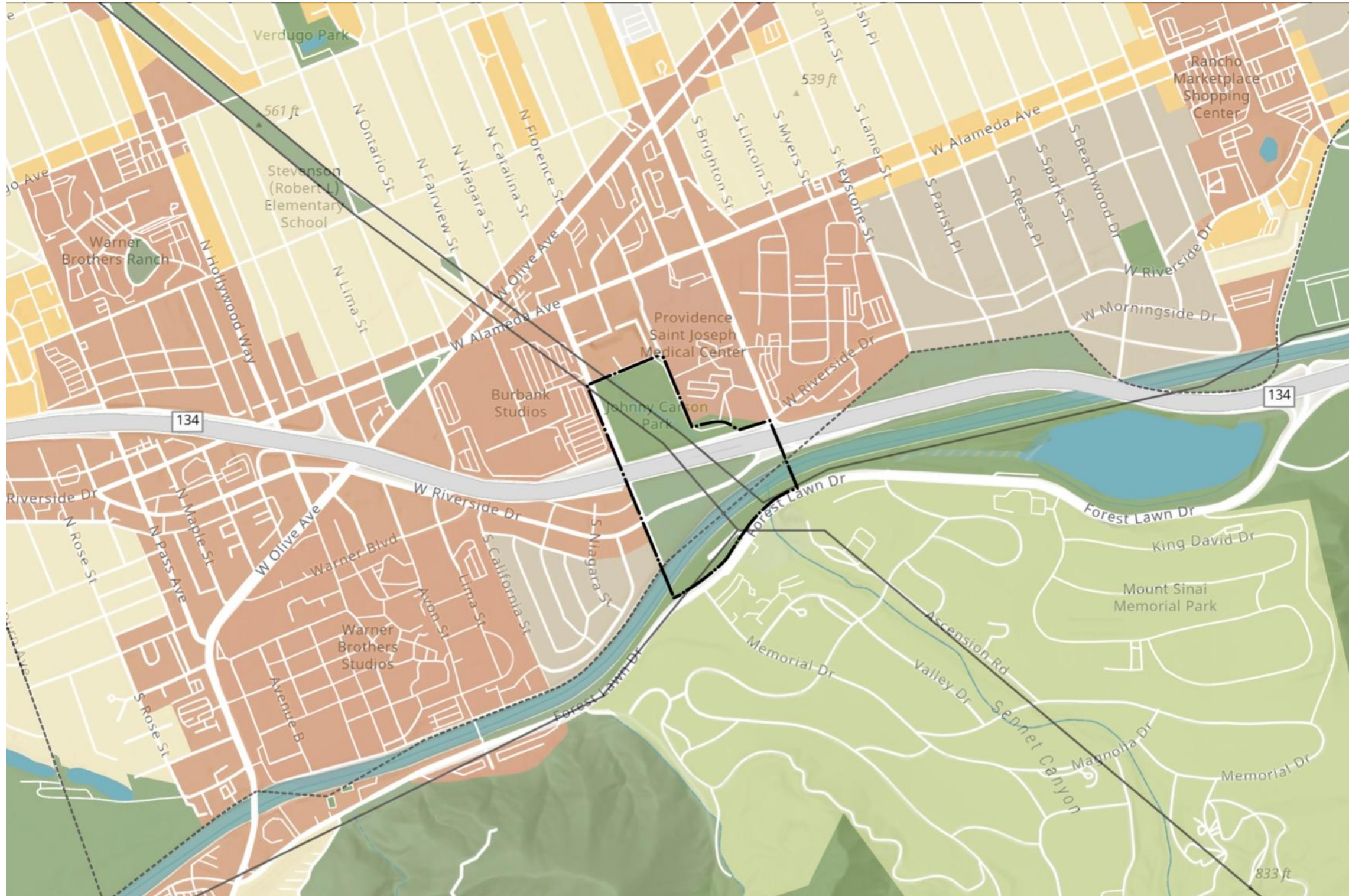
Burbank pop. (2022): 103,920






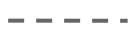


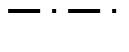


Projected pop. (2040): 118,700

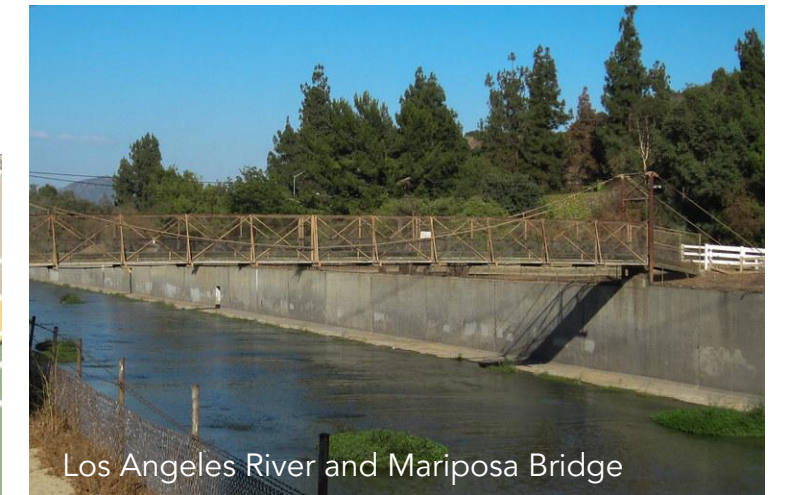
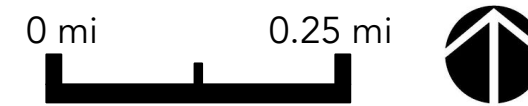
Median Income (2021): \$82,246



Context



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Water |  Highway 134 |  Transmission Lines |
|  Commercial |  Low density residential |  LA/Burbank city limits |
|  Parks and recreation |  Medium-high residential |  Site limits |
|  Memorial park |  Equestrian residential | |



Los Angeles River and Mariposa Bridge



Johnny Carson Park

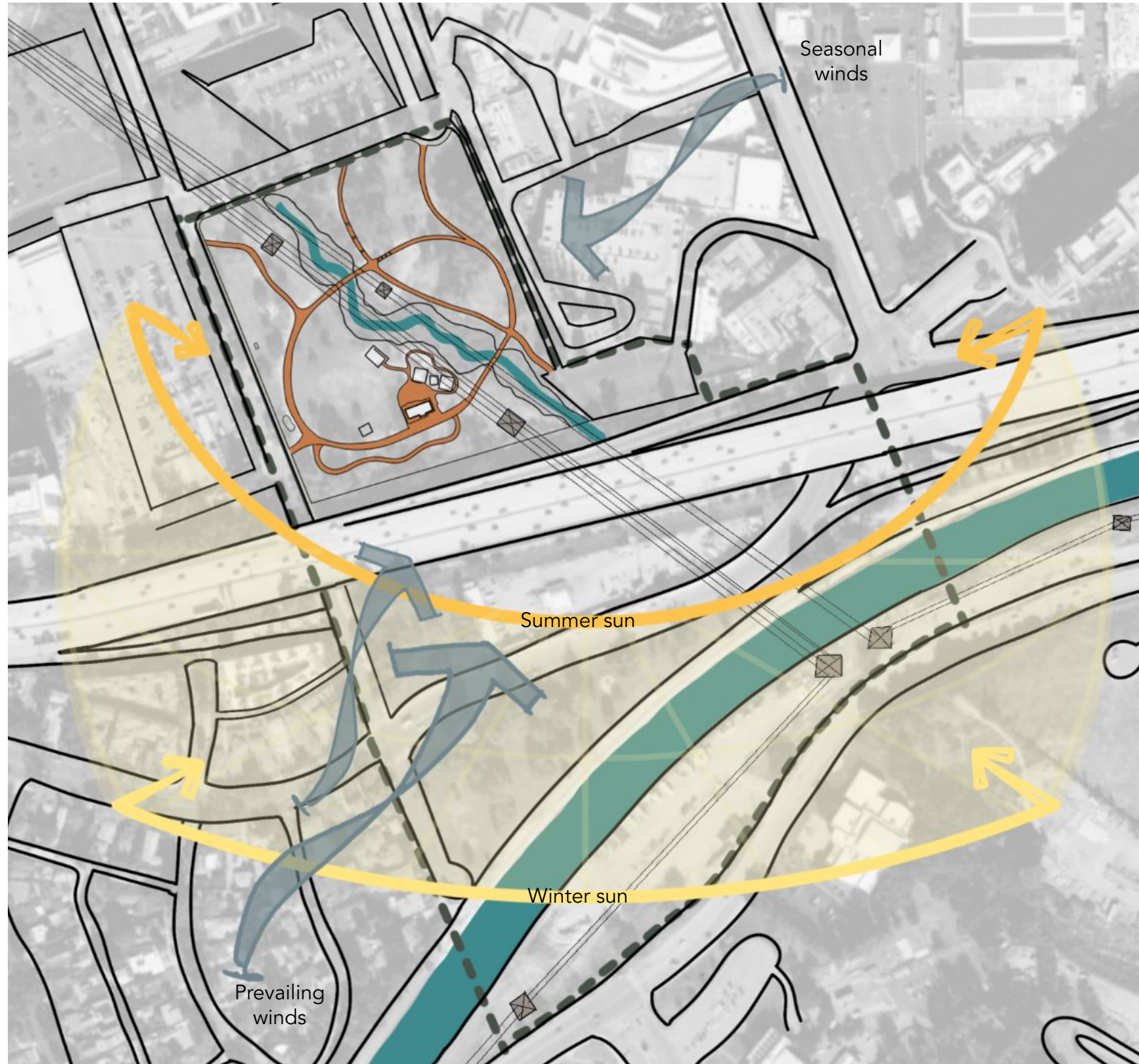


Disney Animation Studios

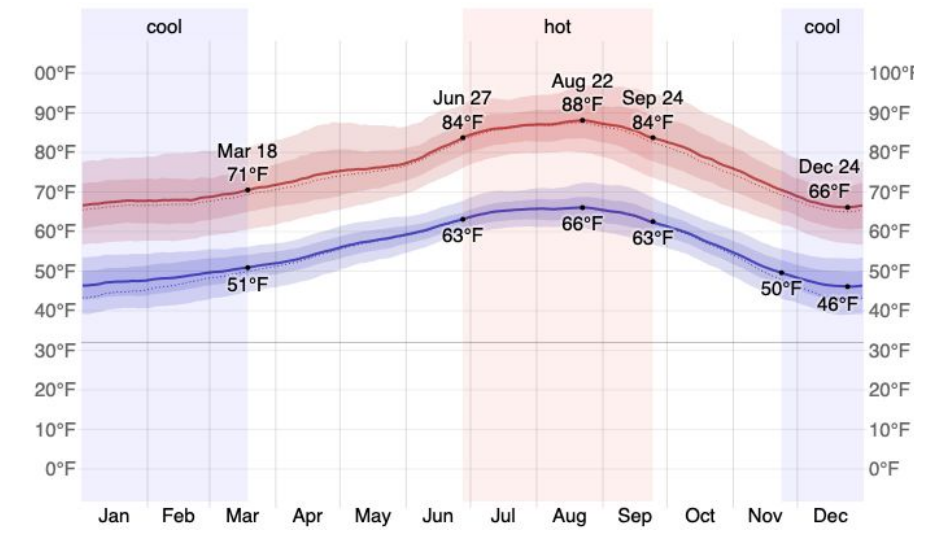


Mixed Residential

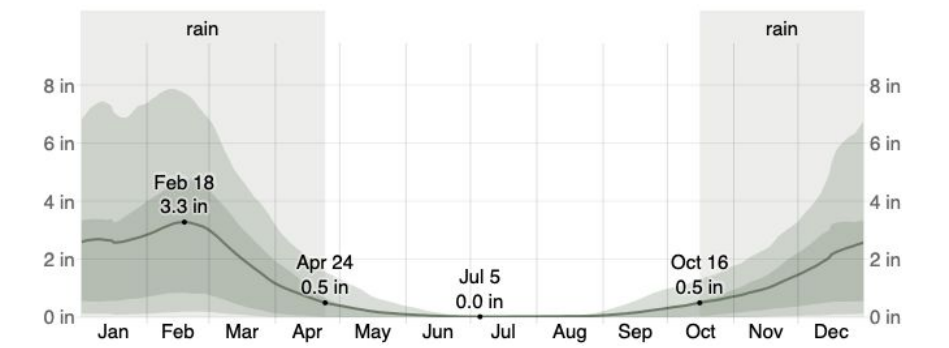
Natural Conditions



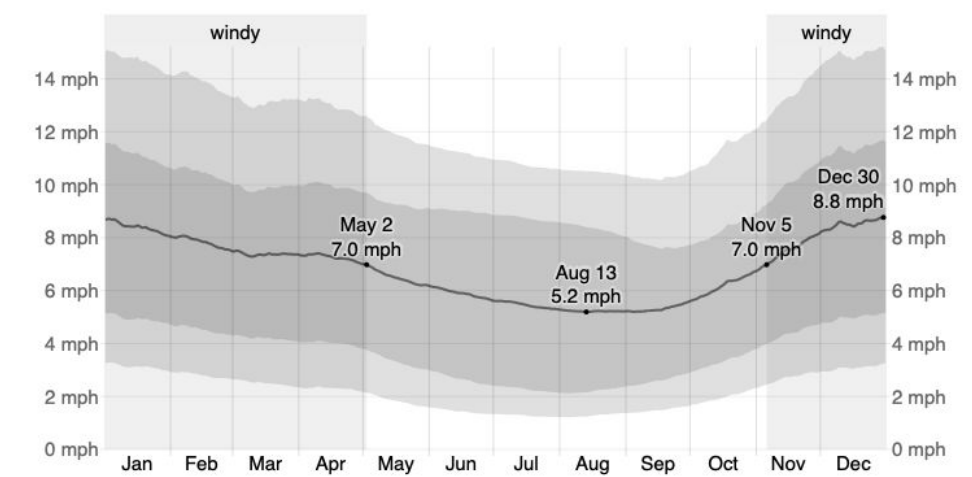
Temperature



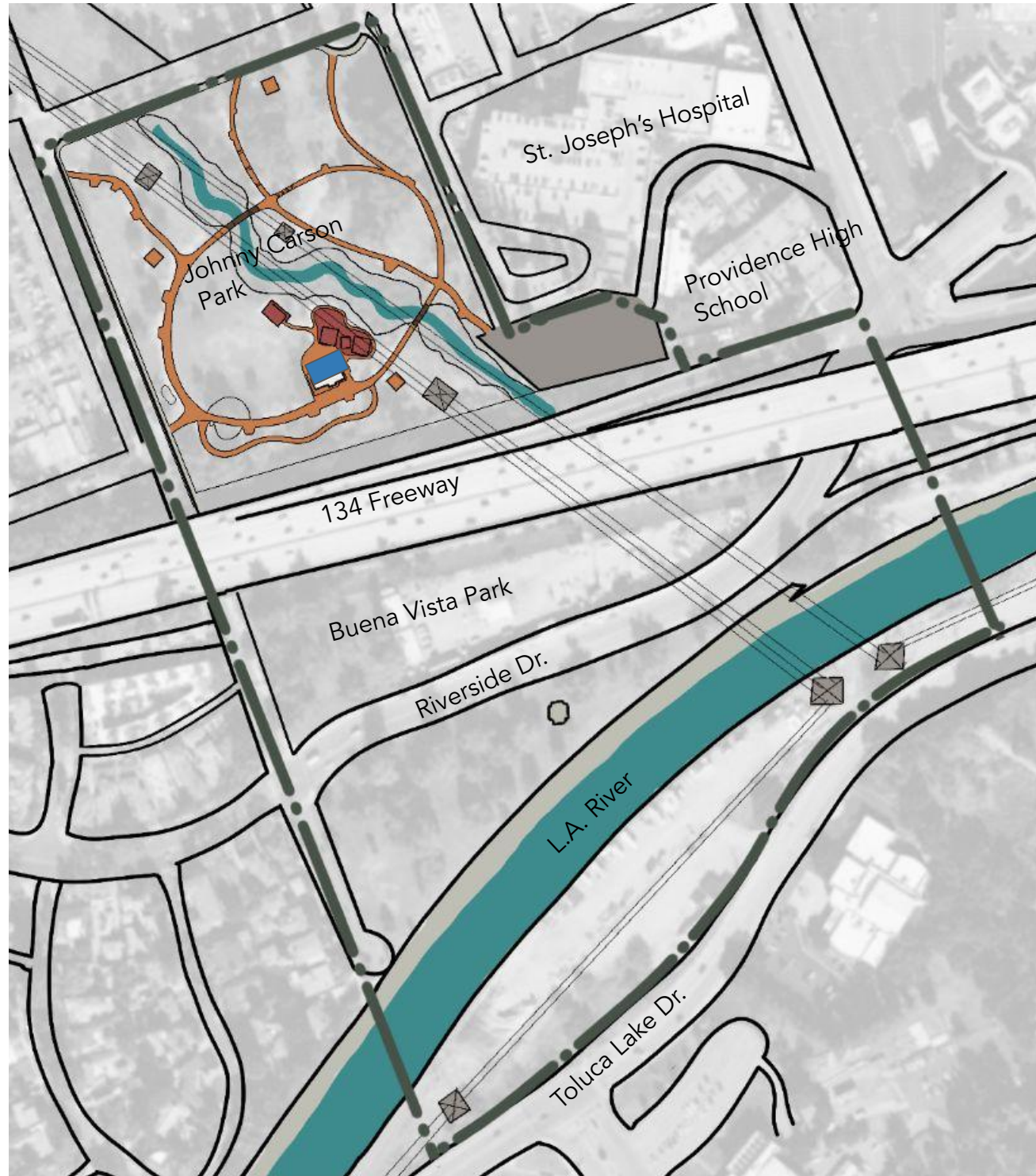
Precipitation






Wind

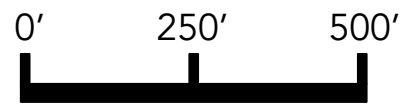


Amenities

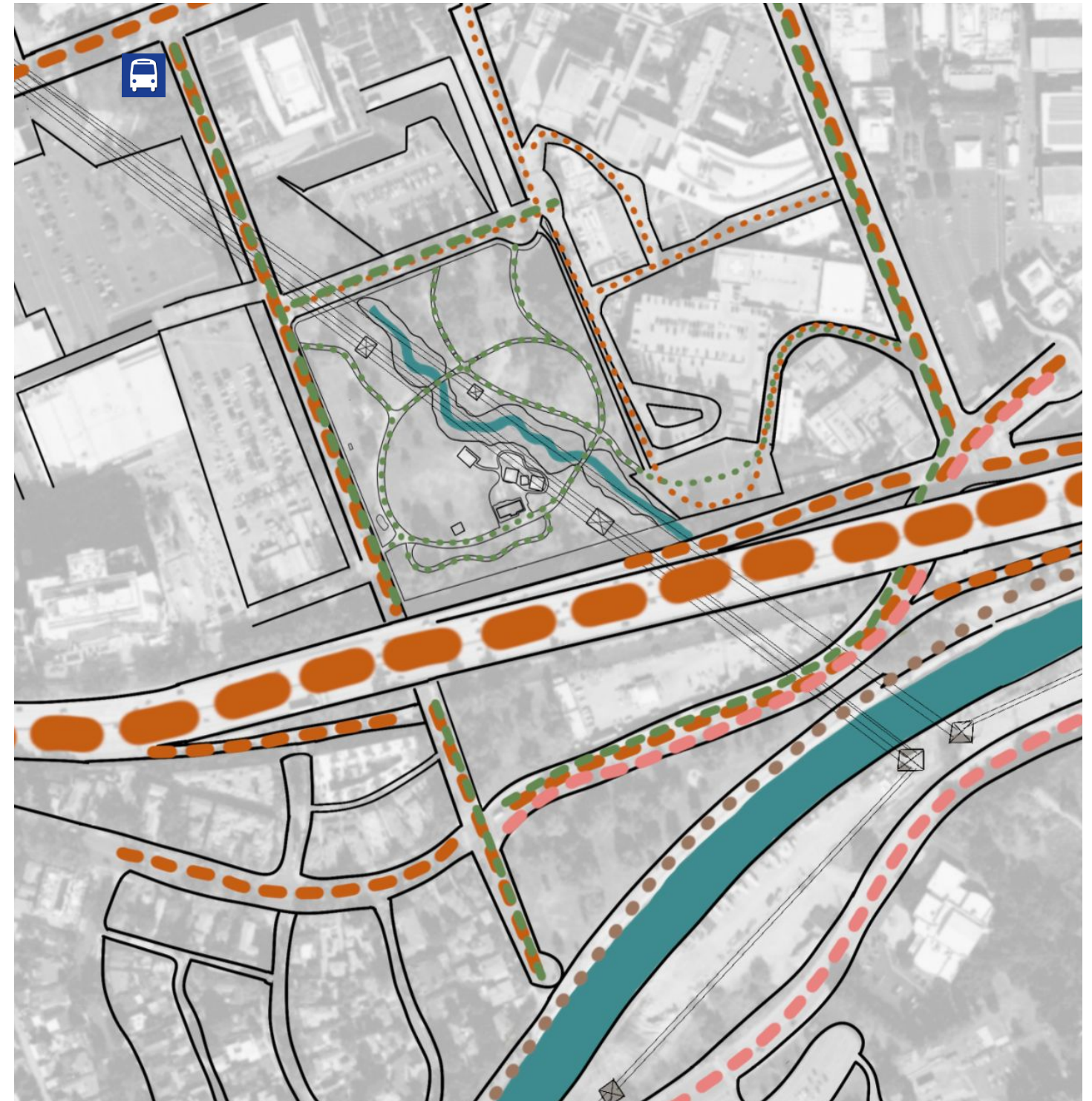


Legend









- | | |
|---|---|
|  Restrooms & Utility Building |  High School Parking Lot |
|  Passive recreation |  Active Recreation |
|  Transmission Towers |  L.A. River & JCP Creek |

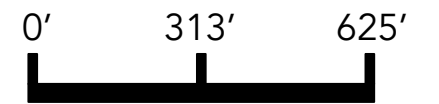


Circulation

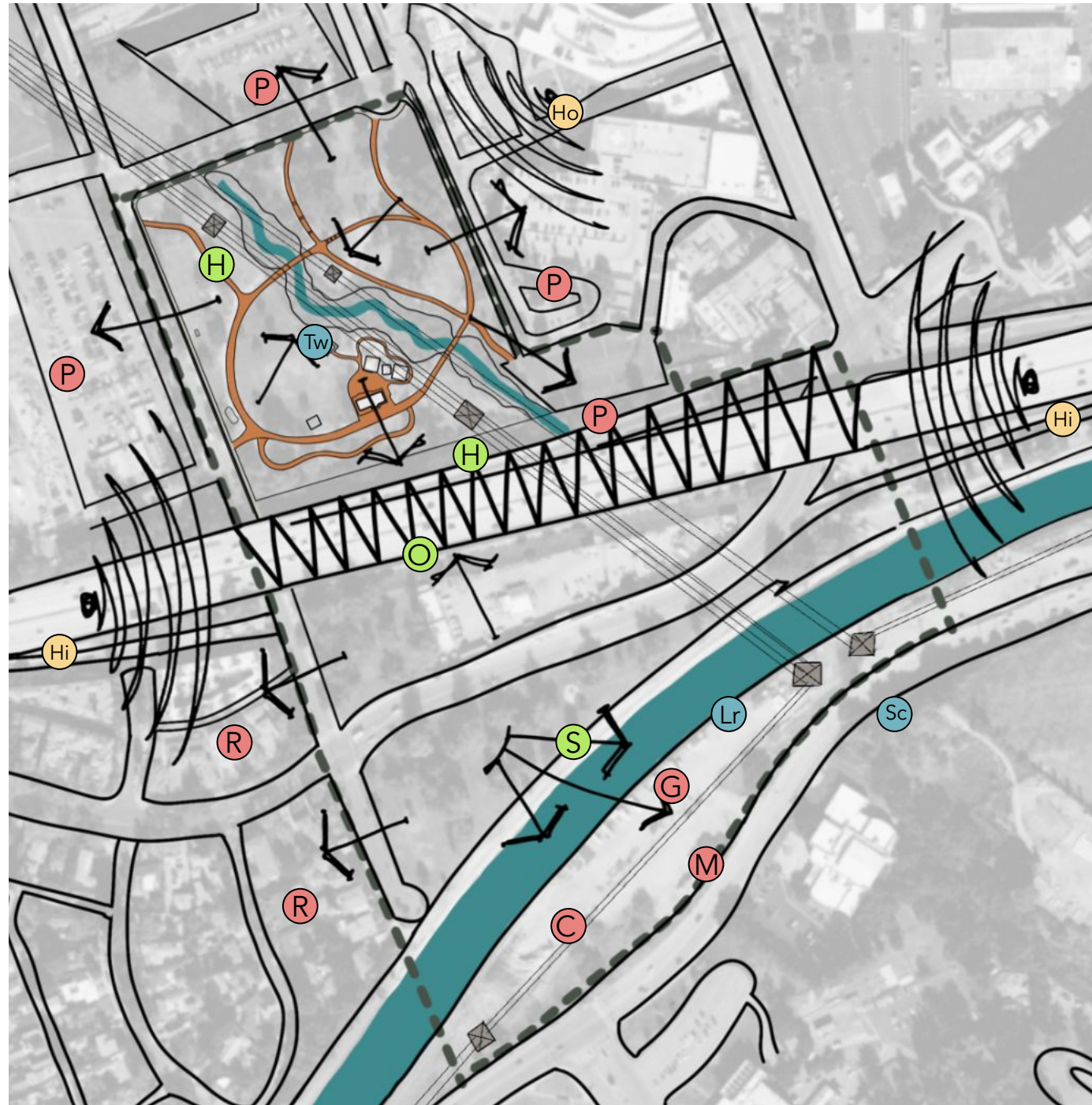


Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Primary Vehicular |  Primary Pedestrian |
|  Secondary Vehicular |  Secondary Pedestrian |
|  Tertiary Vehicular |  Equestrian Pedestrian |
|  Bus Stop |  Bicycle lanes |



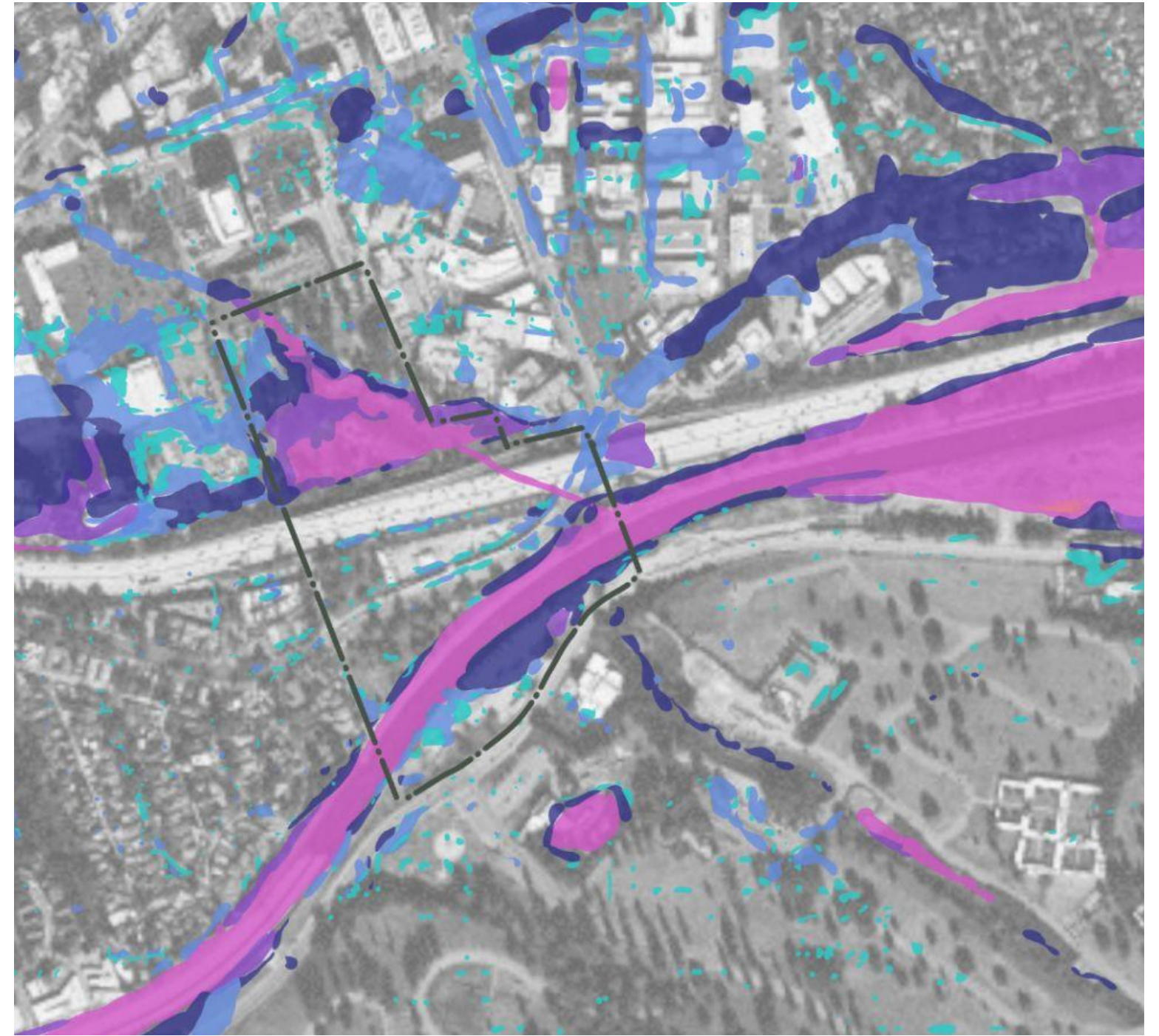
Sensory Conditions



Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Sources of noise: | Off site views of: | On site views of: |
| Ho St. Joseph Hospital | C Cahuenga peak | H High voltage power lines |
| Hi Highway 134 | G Griffith park | Tw Tujung wash |
| P Parking lot | M Memorial center | Lr Los Angeles river |
| R Residences | S Statue | Sc Sennett creek |

100-Year Flood Risk



Legend





- Over Head > 1.7 m
- Waist-Head (1-1.7 m)
- Knee-Waist (.45-1 m)
- < Ankle (.03-.11 m)



Historic Riverbed & Geology



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Waterways 2024 |  Tujunga fine sandy loam |
|  Waterways 1900 |  Riverbed 1917 - Tujunga sand |
|  Yolo clay loam |  Riverbed 1915 - Tujunga sand |

Topography



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  > 530' |  520' Contour Signature |
|  516'-530' |  4' Contour Interval |
|  < 516' |  Pipes |
| |  Water flow / drainage |



Plant Cover



Legend

- Tree Canopy
- Lawn
- Limit of Work

Tree Cover Percentage



Existing	Possible	Δ
9%	90%	+81%
14%	39%	+25%
21%	34%	+13%
15%	25%	+10%
34%	94%	+60%
10%	51%	+41%
21%	61%	+40%
60%	60%	+0%
33%	68%	+35%
17%	72%	+55%
47%	77%	+30%
18%	77%	+59%

Source: [California State Parks](#)



Existing Plants

Native Trees

- Salix lasiolepis**
- 1 *Salix exigua**
- 2 *Platanus racemosa**
- 3 *Alnus rhombifolia**
- 4 *Quercus agrifolia*
- Juglans californica*

Native Shrubs

- 5 *Rosa californica*
- 6 *Venegasia carpesioides**
- 7 *Salvia apiana*
- 8 *Baccharis salicifolia**
- Baccharis pilularis*
- Salvia leucophylla*
- Artemisia californica*
- Artemisia douglasiana**
- Rubus ursinus**
- Muhlenbergia rigens*



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

Non-native Trees

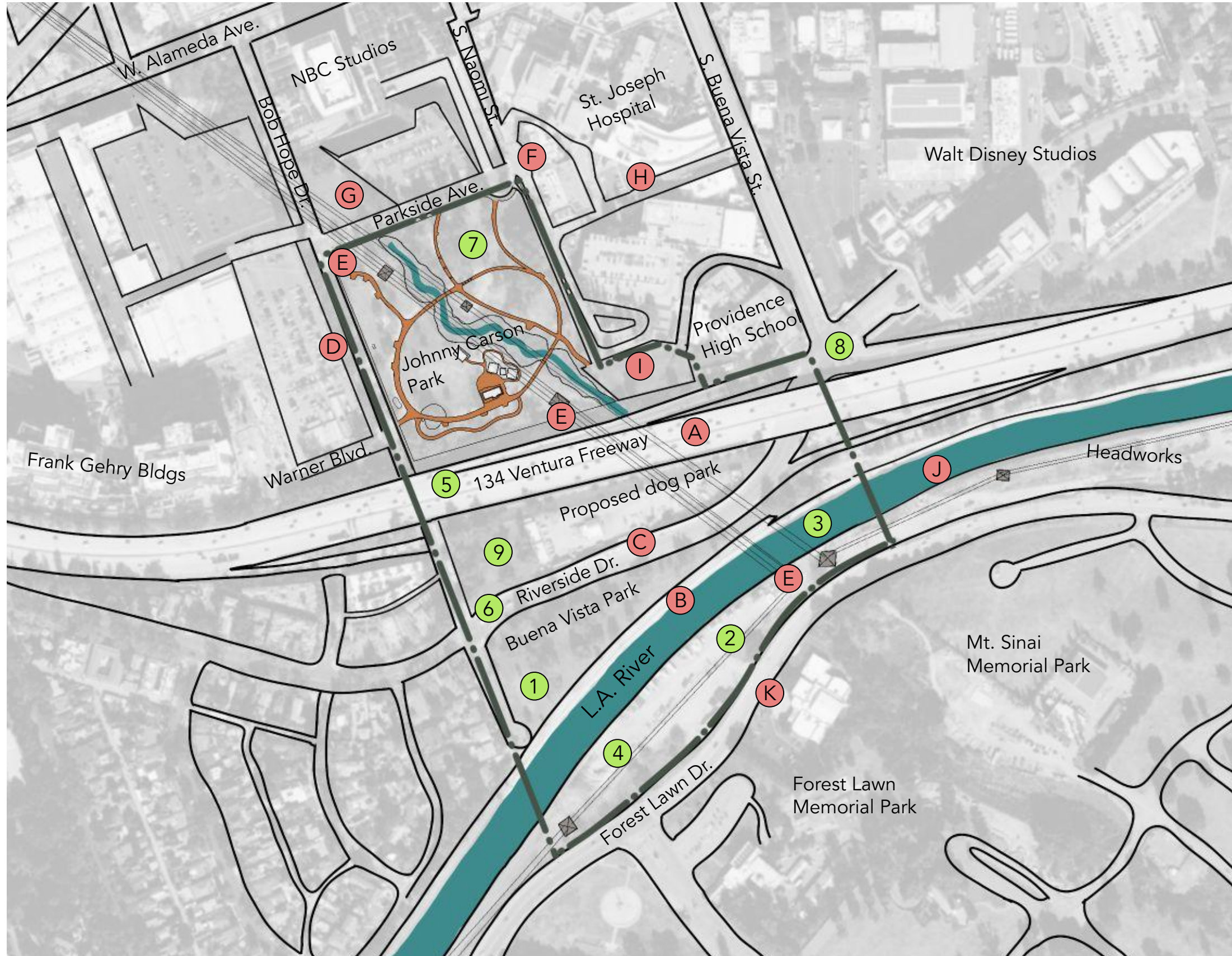
- Pinus halepensis*
- 9 *Pinus canariensis*
- 10 *Ginkgo biloba*
- 11 *Taxodium mucronatum**
- 12 *Washingtonia robusta*
- Koelreuteria paniculata*
- Ulmus parvifolia*
- Pistacia chinensis*
- Schinus terebinthifolius*
- Schinus molle*
- Pyrus calleryana*
- Maytenus boaria*
- Betula nigra**
- Casuarina equisetifolia**
- Washingtonia robusta*

*Riparian species



12

Site Analysis



Constraints

- A** Concrete remains of Ventura Freeway
- B** Channelized river
- C** Riverside Dr.
- D** Bob Hope Dr.
- E** High voltage power lines
- F** St. Joseph Hospital generator noise
- G** Potentially contaminated groundwater
- H** Few sidewalks and bike lanes
- I** Limited parking
- J** Extreme weather events due to climate change
- K** Lost connection to Griffith Park

Opportunities

- 1** Restore native vegetation, wildlife habitat
- 2** Increase tree canopy
- 3** Access to restored LA River
- 4** Connection with Griffith Park
- 5** Re-purpose 134 Freeway into green corridor
- 6** Close off Riverside Dr. to unify park
- 7** Implement stormwater retention measures
- 8** Prioritize pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists
- 9** Add play and education opportunities for all ages

0' 250' 500'



Opportunities



Turn remains of Ventura Freeway into Skygarden



Close off Riverside Dr. to unify park



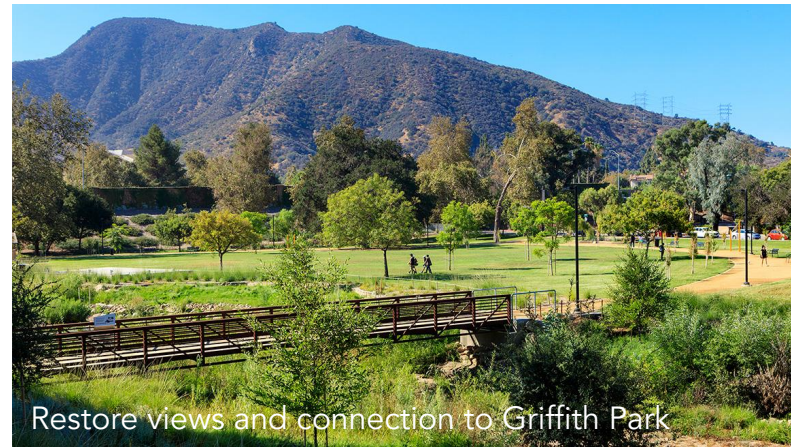
Prioritize pedestrians (and equestrians/cyclists)



Connect to nearby businesses and homes



Connect river to Johnny Carson Park/Wash



Restore views and connection to Griffith Park



Access to river



Splash zone



Outdoor rooms for work, play, education



Restore native vegetation, wildlife habitat



Increase tree canopy, plant micro forests



Implement stormwater retention measures

Indigenous Landscape



Gabrieliño woman in front of shelter covered with tule mats on the banks of the Los Angeles River. Photo: Bowers Museum collection



Tongva men in a ti'at (boat) made of piiro (tule). Photo: Bowers Museum collection



Map of the San Fernando Valley and the ancestral boundary of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.



Restored wetlands of Dominguez Gap, Long Beach.

Notes

For over ten thousand years, Indigenous peoples have lived on and cared for the land now known as Los Angeles.

The Tongva descended from Uto-Aztecan peoples that migrated from Nevada to Southern California 3,500 years ago.

100 villages in *Tovaangar* ("the world," which is now the LA basin) supported 5,000 people.

325,000 Indigenous people lived in California before European arrival.

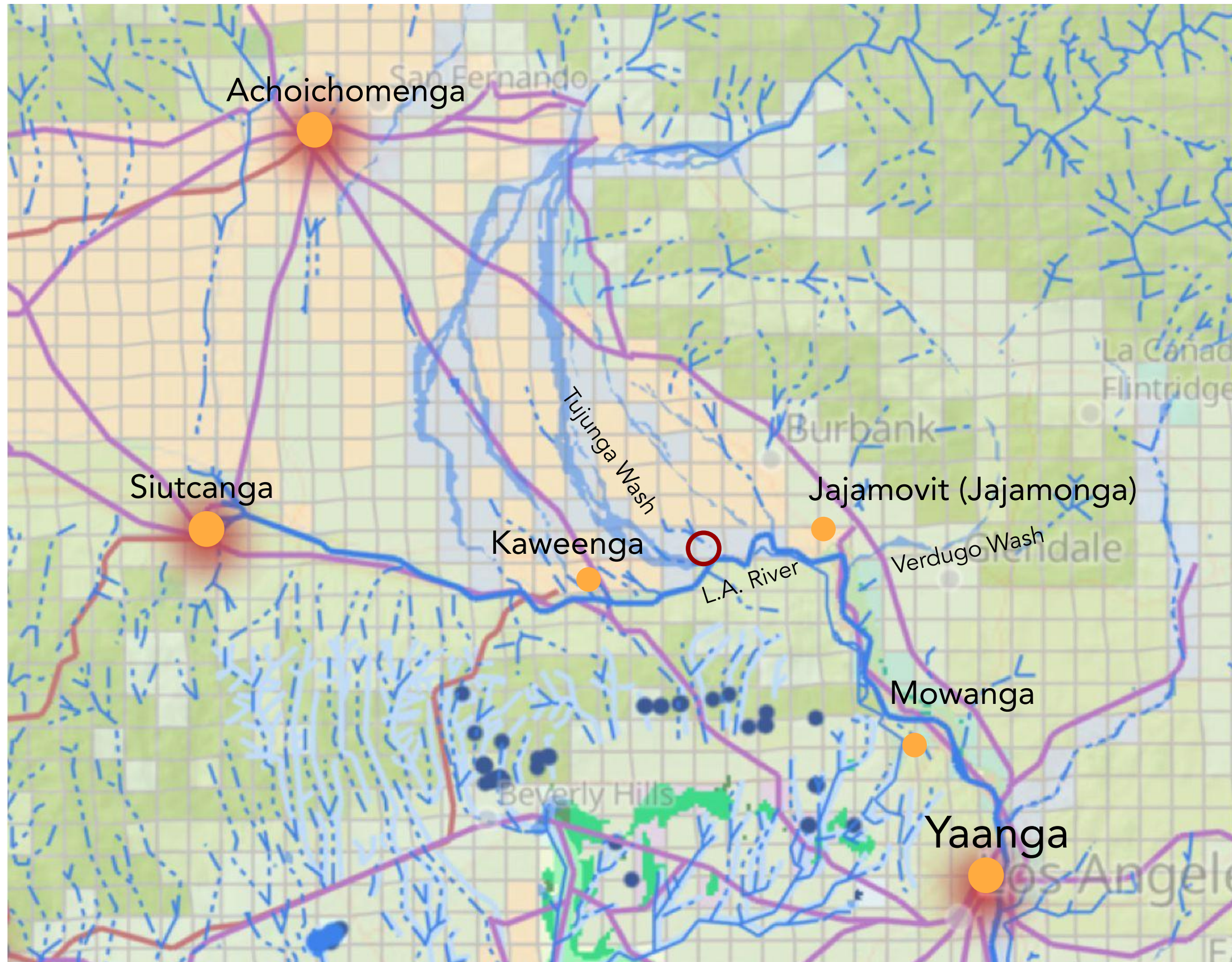
Our site lies just south of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) ancestral border, an area that shared cultural ties with several neighboring tribes.

The Tongva revered the LA River, which they know as *paayme paxaayt*.

In Tongva culture, humans, along with plants, animals, and the land exist in a reciprocal relationship of mutual respect and care.



Indigenous Landscape *"Water is older and wiser than us; it is our relative, it is ceremonial."*



Notes

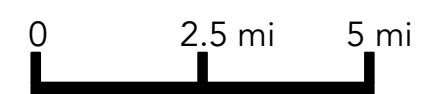
Villages and trade routes developed on and around the river, as water was vital for survival, transportation, and ceremony.

The river fed the creatures that fed the Tongva - trout, blackbirds, rabbits, snakes, grasshoppers - as well as their revered hawk.

Yaanga, what is now the center of downtown Los Angeles, was an important commerce location for trade goods. It was situated close to the river yet high on a hill, away from the flooding riverbed.

Legend

- Ancient roads & trade routes
- Humaliwo trails
- Historical river flow
- - - Historical washes
- . . . Intermittent river
- Foothills, Valley Forests & Woodlands
- Riverwash
- Grasslands & Flowerfields
- Historical hot springs
- Indigenous villages
- Site



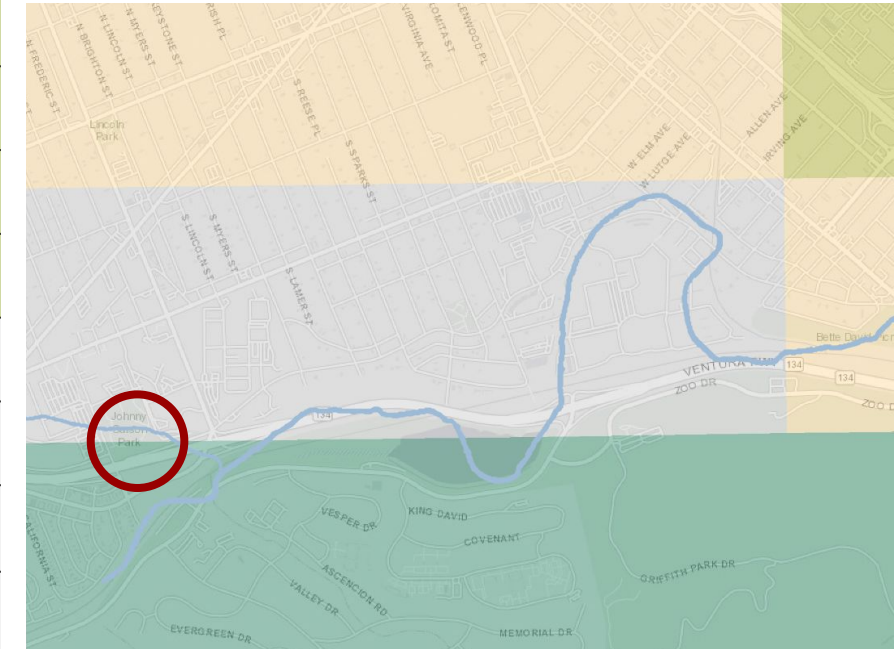
Map courtesy of Longcore, T. and P.J. Ethington, eds. 2023. Mapping Los Angeles Landscape History: The Indigenous Landscape. Report to the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. Spatial Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Ethnobotany

Habitat	TONGVA / Latin / Common	Food	Basketry	Construction	Tools	Medicine	Spiritual
Sage Scrub	KASILI / <i>Salvia apiana</i> / White Sage*	X				X	X
Sage Scrub	PAWOTS / <i>Artemisia californica</i> / Coastal Sagebrush*					X	X
Sage Scrub	AKO / <i>Yucca whipplei</i> / Yucca	X	X		X		
Sage Scrub	PASHIY / <i>Salvia columbariae</i> / Chia	X		X		X	
Sage Scrub	HUHERHETCHUT / <i>Eriodictyon trichocalyx</i> / Yerba Santa					X	X
Riparian	MIISH / <i>Typha angustifolia</i> / Cattail	X		X	X	X	
Riparian	TOKOR MAHAR / <i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> / Mulefat*			X	X	X	
Riparian	OTSUR / <i>Rosa californica</i> / California Wild Rose*						
Riparian	SASH.HAT / <i>Salix spp.</i> / Willows*		X	X	X	X	
Riparian	TUKUNET / <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> / White Alder*		X		X	X	
Riparian	SHAVAR / <i>Platanus racemosa</i> / Western Sycamore*			X		X	
Woodland	DONKETSIP / <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> / Hollyleaf Cherry	X				X	
Woodland	ASHUWET / <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> / Toyon	X			X	X	
Woodland	WEHT / <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> / Coast Live Oak*	X				X	X
Woodland	SOBOCHESH / <i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i> / Bigberry Manzanita	X		X		X	X
All	TSAMEESH / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> / Basket Bush	X	X		X	X	X
All	KU.UT / <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> / Blue Elderberry	X			X	X	X
All	SOAR / <i>Juncus textilis</i> / Basket Rush	X	X		X	X	X
All	SU.UL / <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> / Deer Grass*	X	X		X		X

* Species present on site

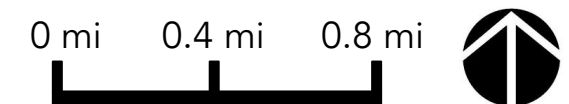
Historical Ecology



Legend

- Channel
- Grasslands & Flowerfields
- Foothills & Valley Forests & Woodland
- River wash
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Site

Level III Ecoregion: Southern California/Northern Baja Coast
 Level IV Ecoregion: Los Angeles Plain



Goals & Objectives

Confluence Studio hopes to restore a natural urban waterway and its habitat by deploying nature-based solutions to create new community spaces that honor the history of the land and Indigenous peoples.

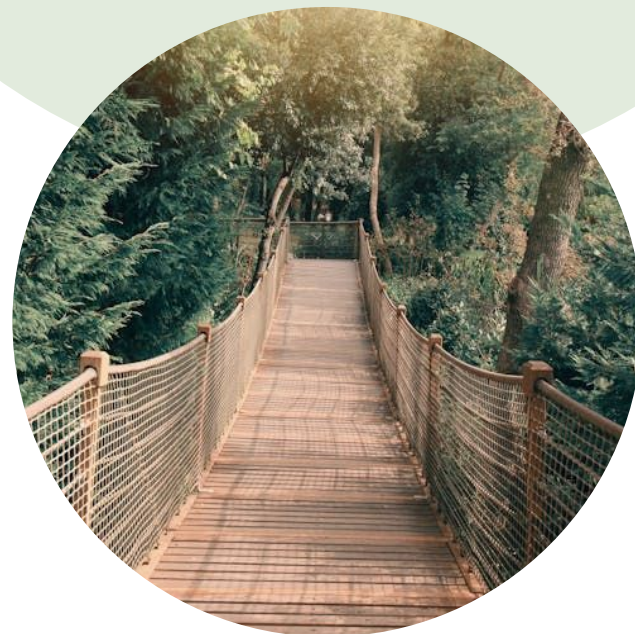


RESTORATION

- Daylight and de-concretize all waterways on site.
- Restore wetland/riparian habitats.
- Feature diverse native plant communities.
- Offer habitat for endangered and endemic species.
- Increase tree canopy and vegetation cover.

CONNECTION

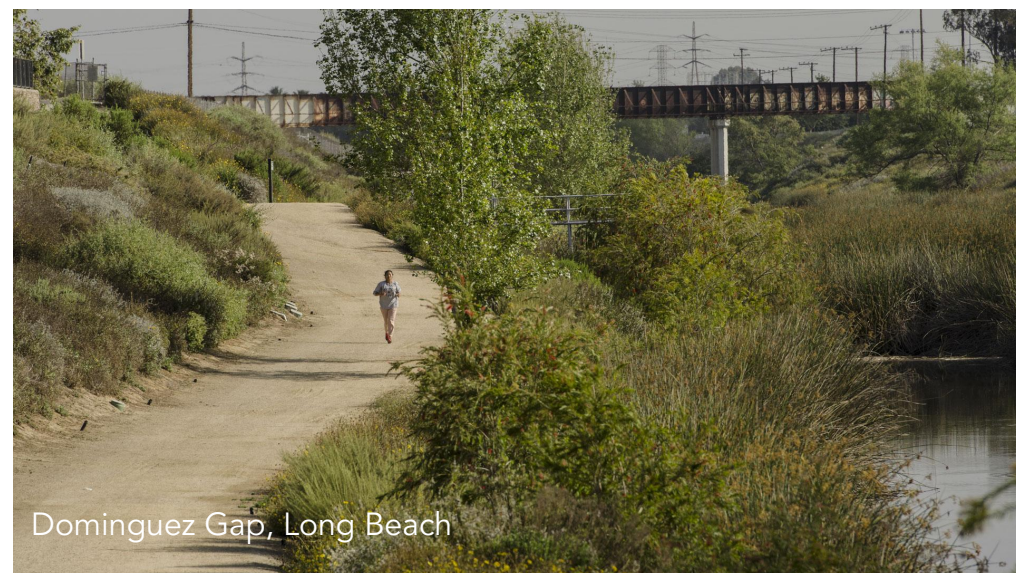
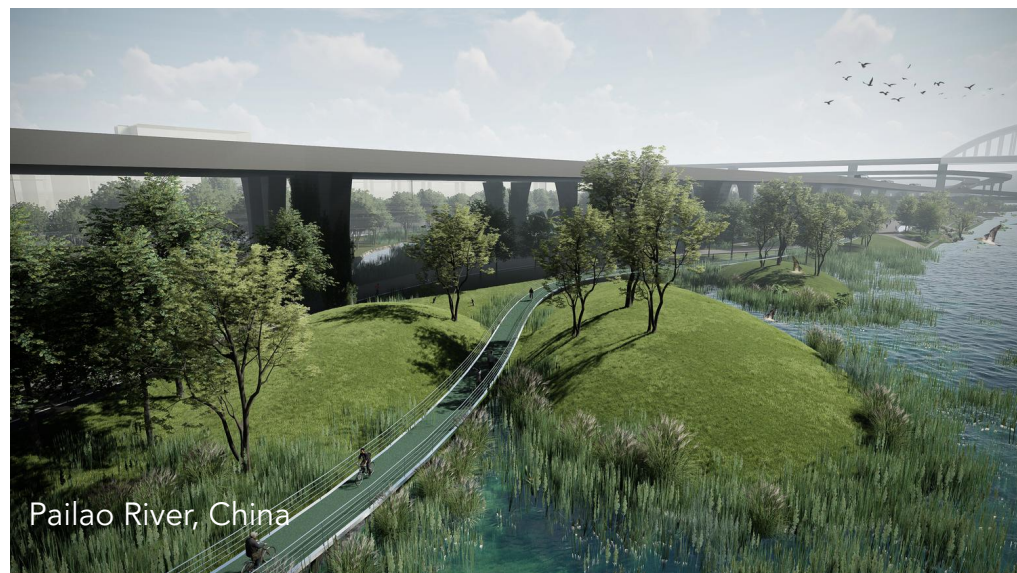
- Create a strong sense of place.
- Offer peaceful environments for healing and exercise.
- Provide engaging public spaces for the arts and sciences.
- Foster stewardship with educational, interactive exhibits.
- Add bridges and access to Griffith park.
- Integrate site within larger scope of LA river restoration.



SUSTAINABILITY

- 100% stormwater capture, using permeable surfaces, bioswales and underground cisterns.
- Use recycled water for irrigation.
- Re-use concrete from LA river walls to construct on site buildings.
- Close off Riverside drive and incentivize non-vehicular modes of transportation.
- Planting micro forests to serve as carbon sinks.
- Reduce urban heat stress and air pollution.

Precedents



Preliminary Designs



Concept 1

Green space, bike lanes and a community center are created on top of the abandoned 134. The freeway is partially opened to daylight the Tujunga Wash as it joins the L.A. River. Bike lanes and pedestrian pathways encircle the site, while micro-forests, outdoor classrooms, and nature preserves fill most of the area.



Concept 2

Cafe utilizes the highest point on the freeway, and provides vistas down to the river. River is stepped back and oxbow lake creates a restored floodplain and riparian ecosystem. Daylighted section of stream allows wildlife access and honors the historical watercourse.

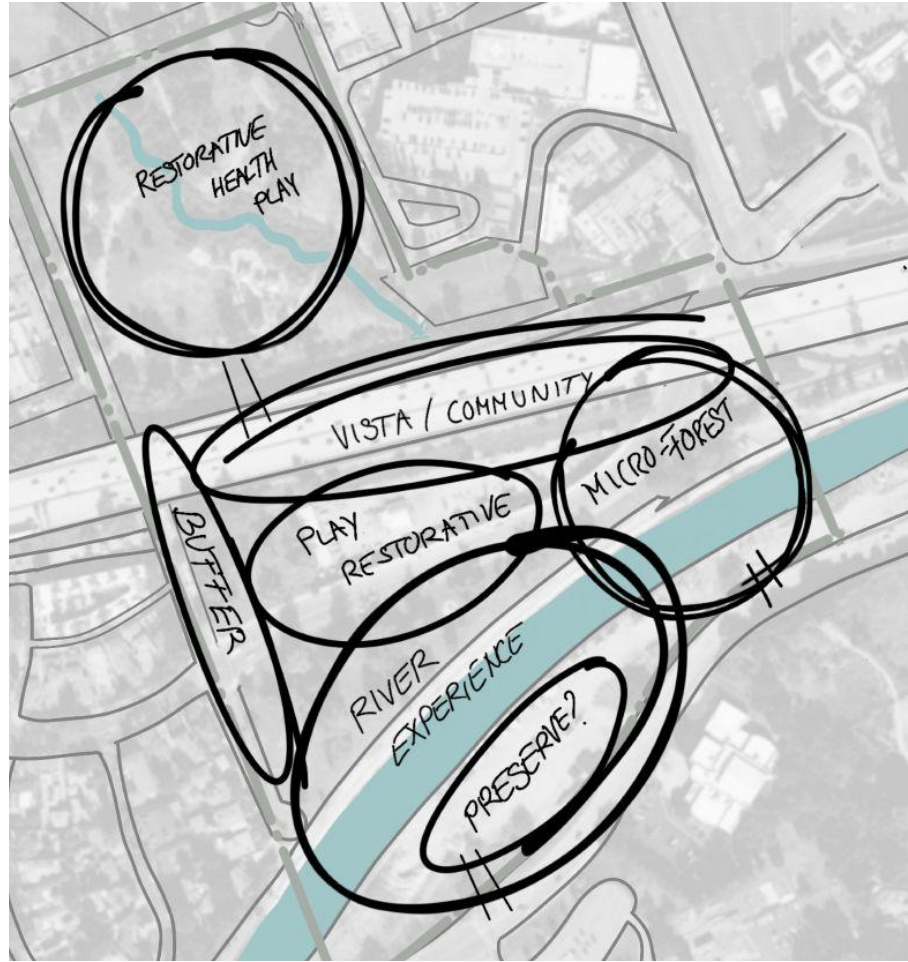


Concept 3

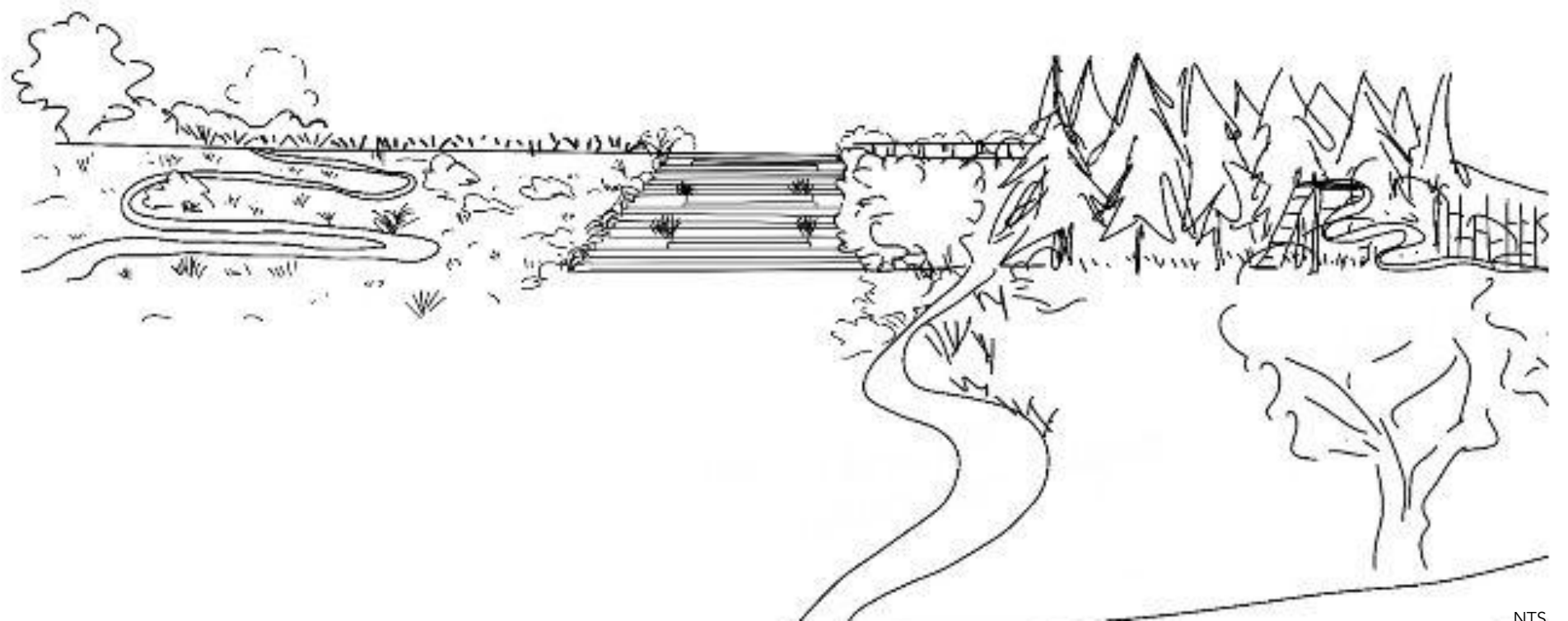
Freeway remains are removed to create connection throughout site. Creates a healing garden in JCP. Includes planted buffers for noise attenuation, residential privacy. LA river access is centered around the confluence point of the three rivers. Design forms are circular and ovate.



Concept Development



NTS

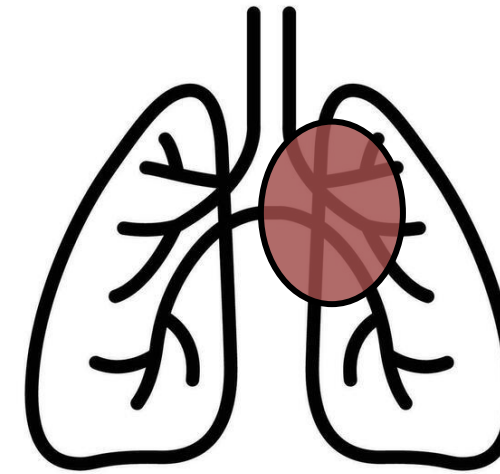


- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Restorative Wetlands | Educational opportunities / Event Space |
| Buffer/ bike path | L.A. River access |
| Connection / access points | Physical activity / recreation |
| Restore / nourish | Micro-forests |
| Play / Make believe | Restorative Grassland Meadows |
| Riparian Corridor | |



NTS

Illustrative Plan



Paar'e 'eyooxariin xaa.

Water is our life.

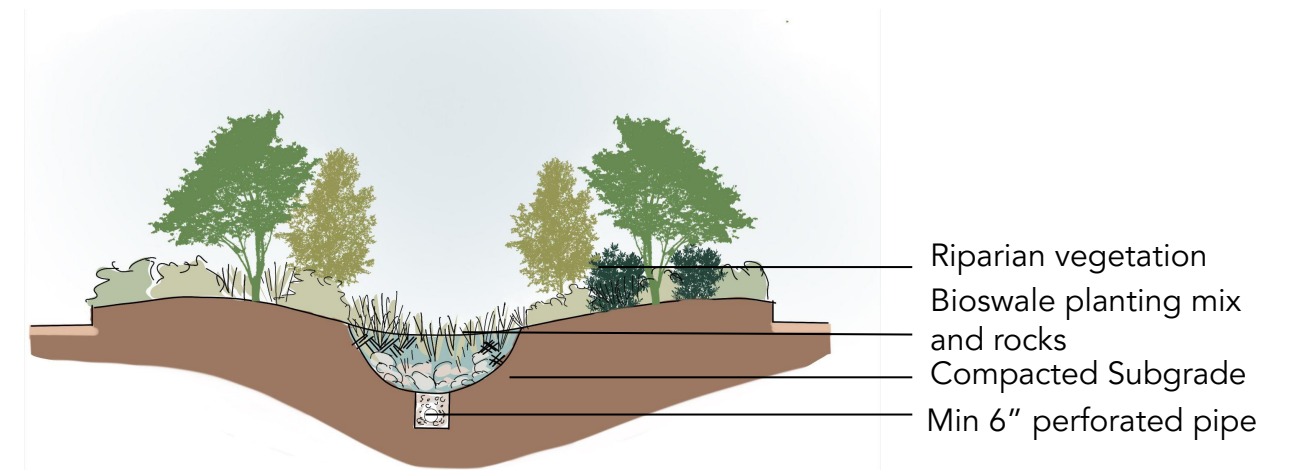
- ① Xaroochot (Gathering Place) Tongva Cultural Center
 - ② Play & Exploration Area
 - ③ Papaaxate (River) Amphitheater
 - ④ Pakooynga (Entrance) & Native Plant Nursery
 - ⑤ Shyee'ey (Medicine) Garden
 - ⑥ Chinuuho' Tuxuunga Paxaayt (Little Tujunga Wash); Preserve
 - ⑦ Sheveer (Sycamore) Island
 - ⑧ Kwaa'ro' 'Achoochon Paar (Frog Lake)
 - ⑨ Hemuuvet (Little Hill) Ramp
 - ⑩ 'Apaakyan Xaayya (Mountain Pass)
 - ⑪ Amphitheater
 - ⑫ Naamkomochot (Bridge)
 - ⑬ Native Shrub Maze
 - ⑭ Shaded meeting place / main entrance to the park
 - ⑮ Micro Forests
- Cycling pathways
 - Permeable aggregate pedestrian pathways
 - Native riparian vegetation
 - Native grassland with walkable species



Stormwater Capture



Bioswale / Rain Garden Section (NTS)



Legend

- Underground cistern with 30,000 gallon water storage capacity
- Bioswale or rain garden to divert and slow down water
- Existing Contour Interval (4' interval)
- Proposed Contour (4' interval)



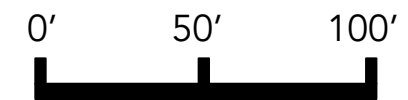
Section-Elevation



Key Map



NTS



Hemuuvet (Little Hill) Perspective

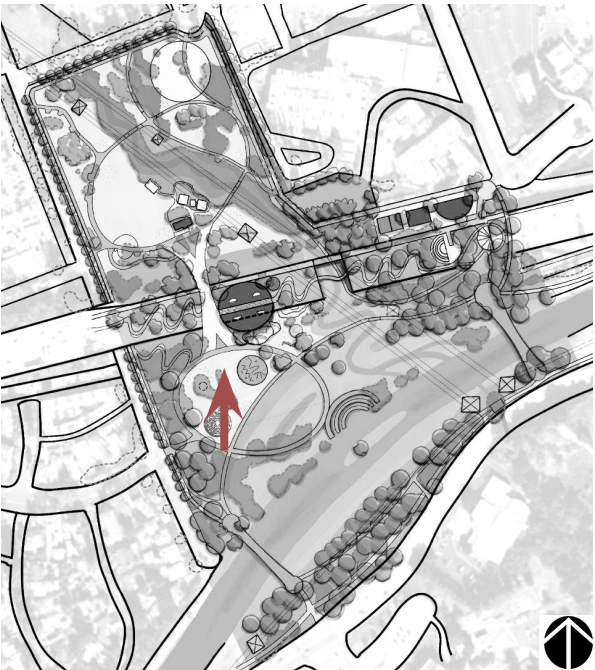


The Cultural Center, *Xaroochot* (gathering place), will serve as both a science and art community hub, highlighting the work of local and Tongva artists. *Xaroochot* will also host a world class restaurant serving seasonal ingredients grown in the nearby native garden, while integrating some of the foods enjoyed by Indigenous people thousands of years ago.

The luxuriously wide ramp across the freeway connects new green space to Johnny Carson Park and various entertainment companies to the north.

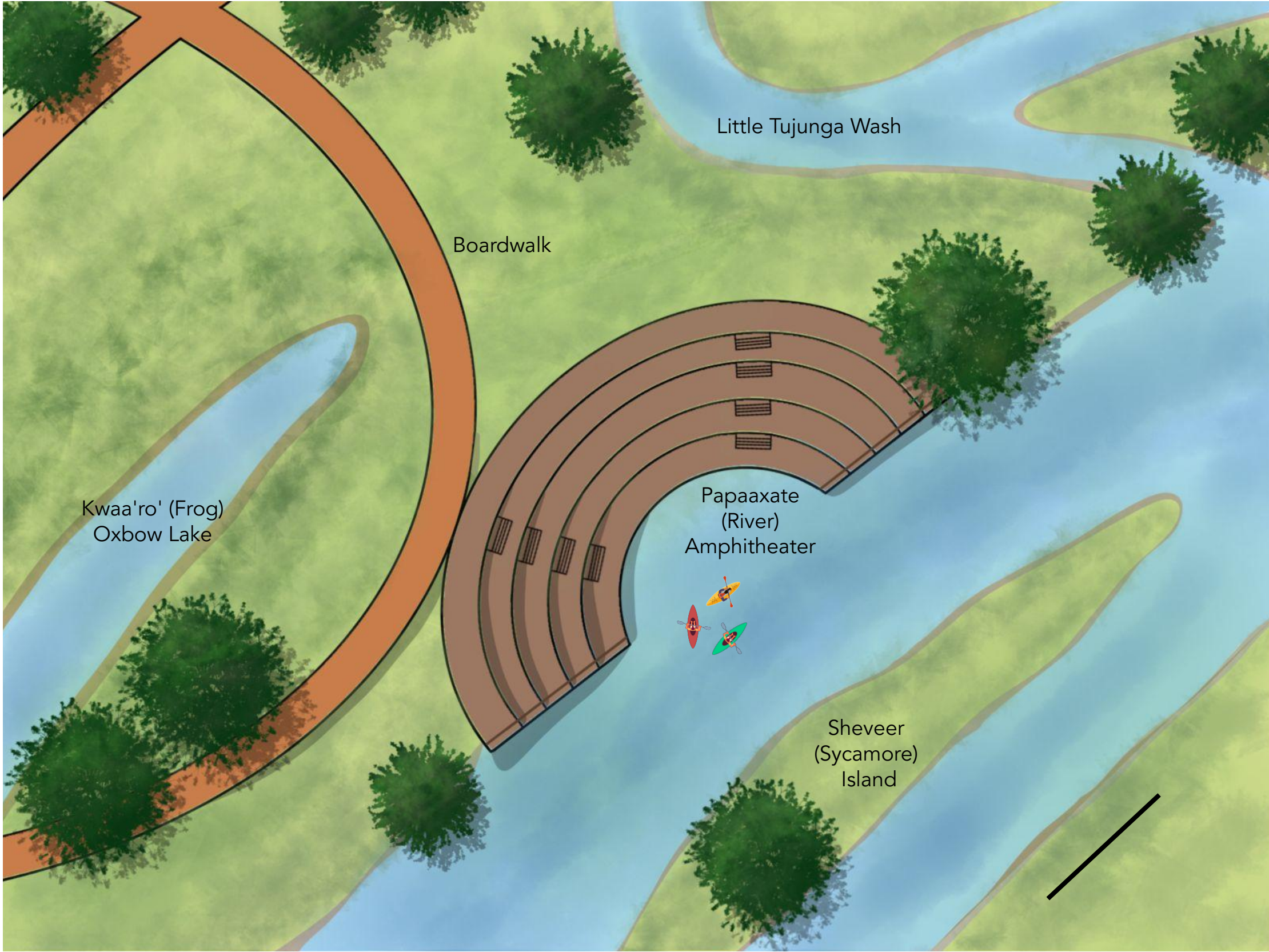
Stunning views of the Verdugo, San Gabriel mountains, and the peaks of Griffith Park mark *Xaroochot* as a key destination for the city of Burbank.

Key Map

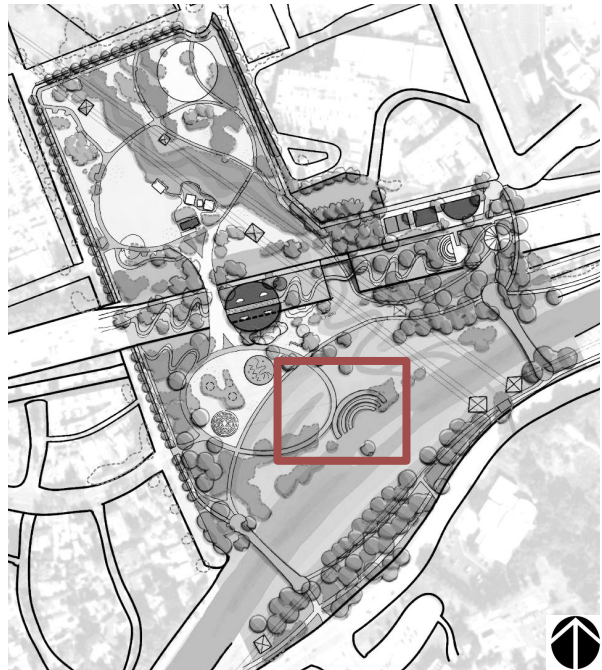


NTS

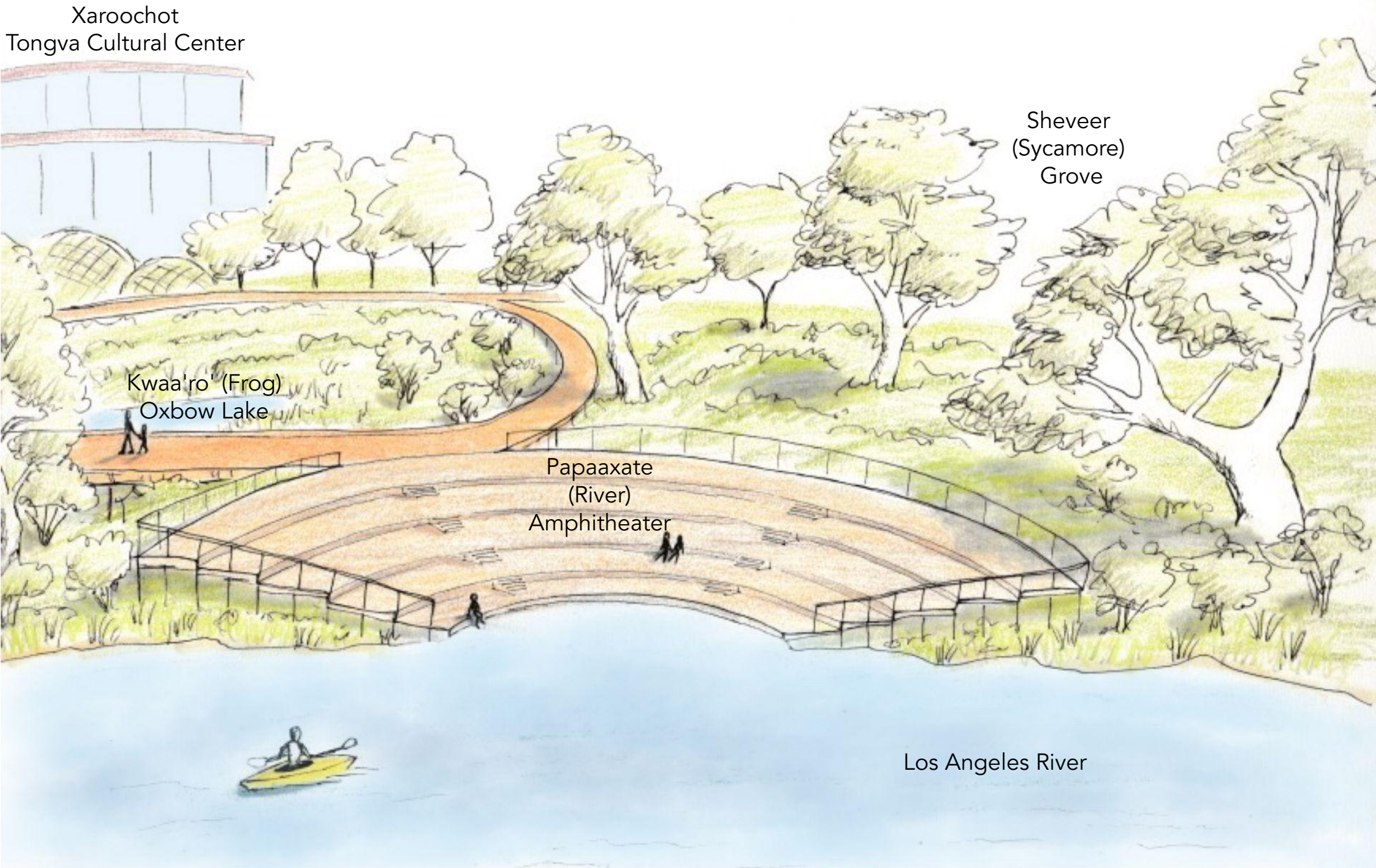
River Access Enlargement



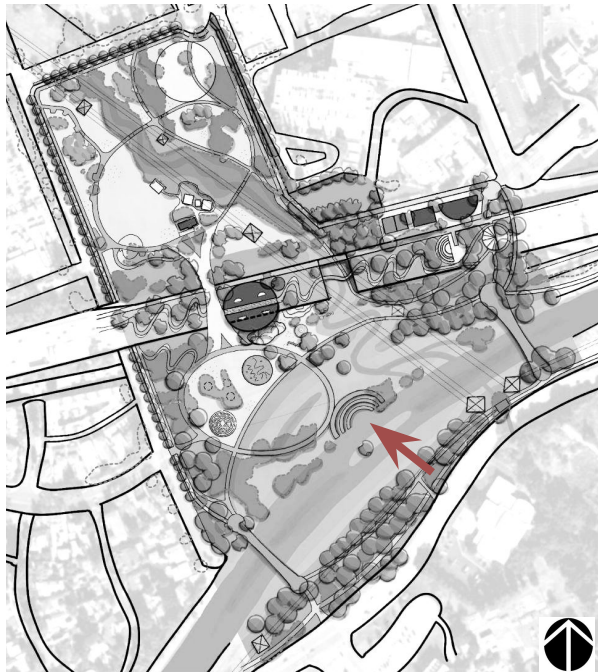
Key Map



River Access Perspective

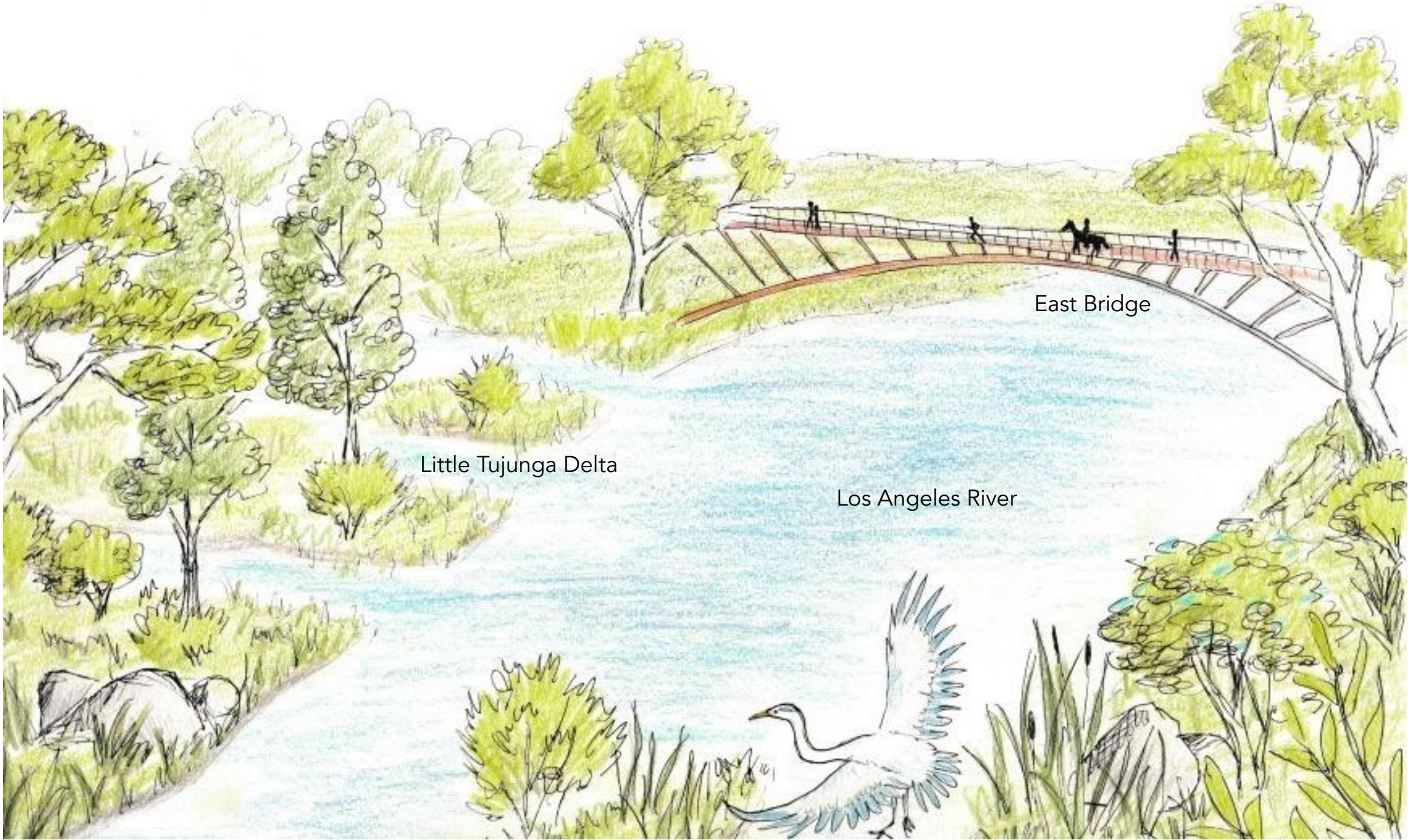


Key Map

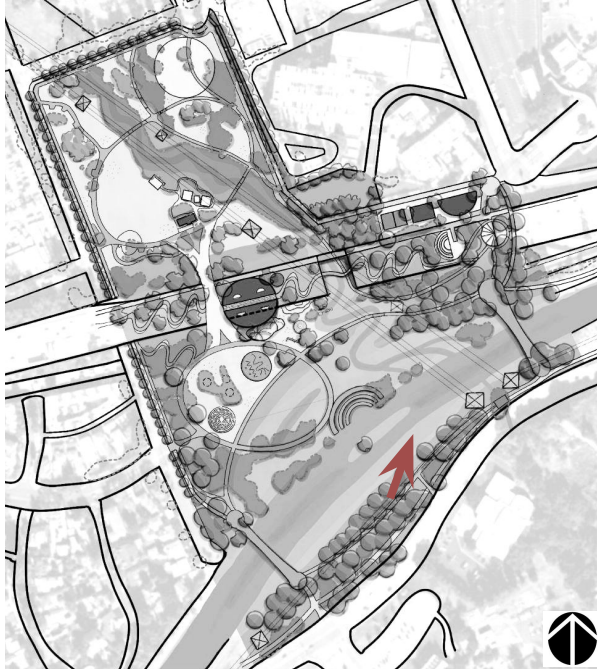


NTS

Paxaayt (River) Perspective

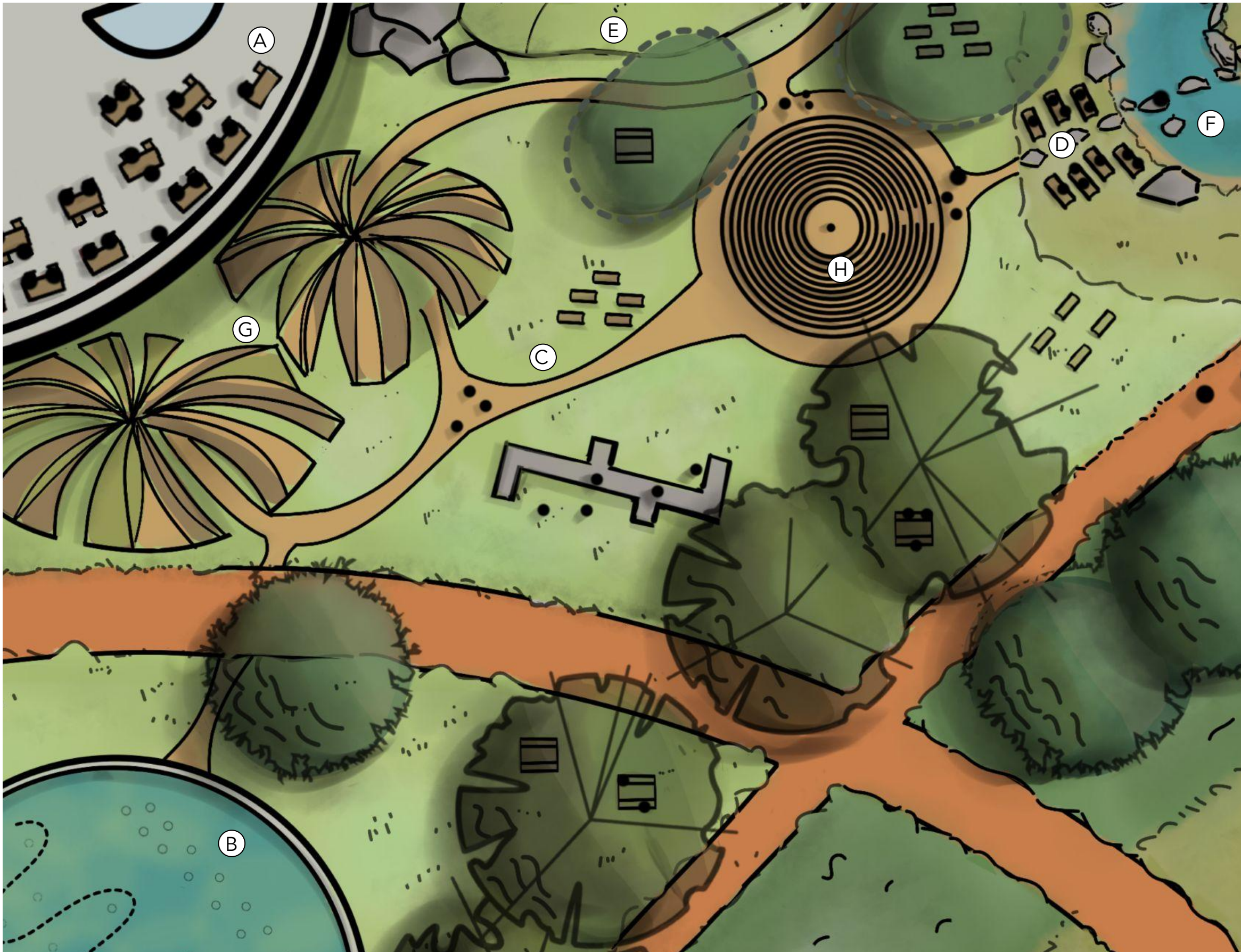


Key Map



NTS

Play / Outdoor Classroom Enlargement



- (A) Xaroochot, Tongva Cultural Center
- (B) Splash Pad / Water Exploration
- (C) Explore / Play area
- (D) Outdoor classroom
- (E) Climbing hill with slides
- (F) Little Tujunga Wash (Johnny Carson Creek)
- (G) Willow-domed shade Structures
- (H) Tongva Kish climbing structure
- Permeable aggregate pathways that drain stormwater to underground cisterns
- Native Riparian vegetation
- Native grassland with walkable species

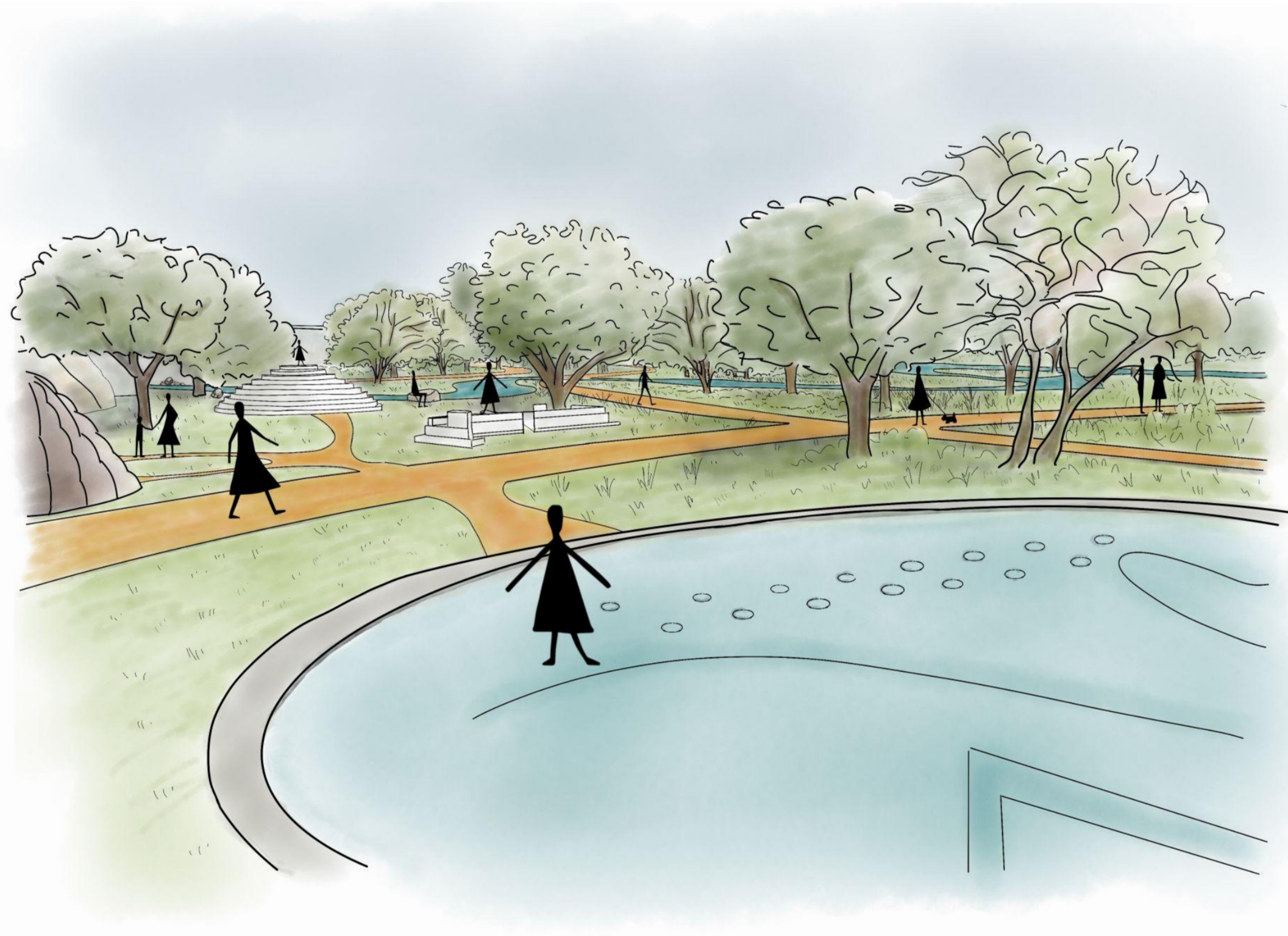
Key Map



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Play /Outdoor Classroom Perspective

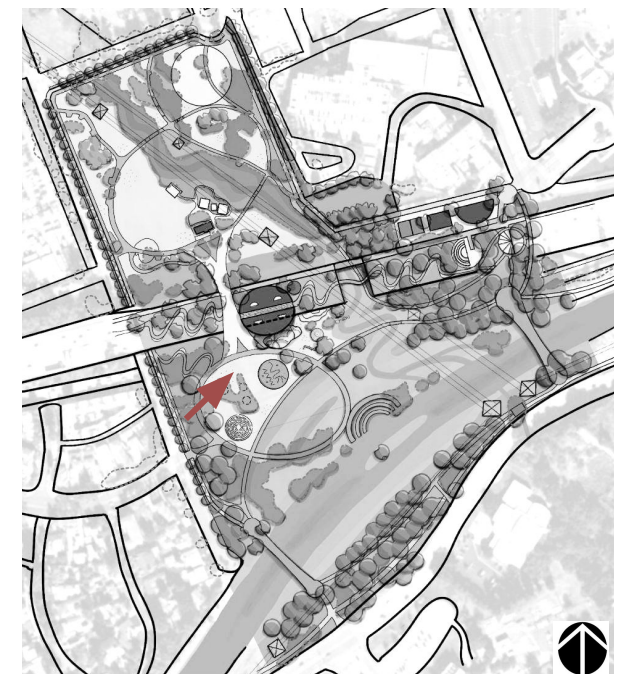


Splash pad with both learning and play opportunities.



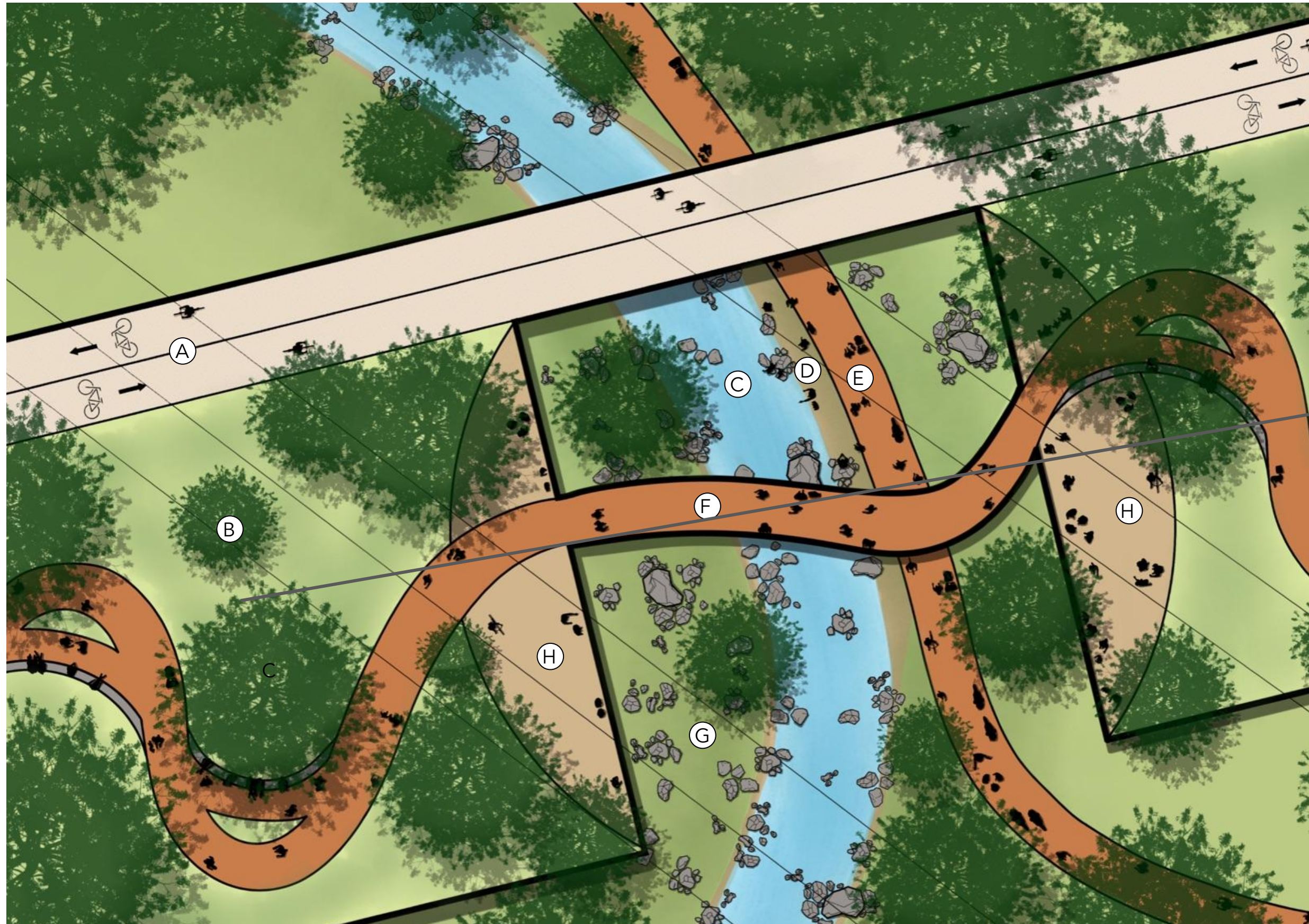
Willow-domed Kish & play structures

Key Map



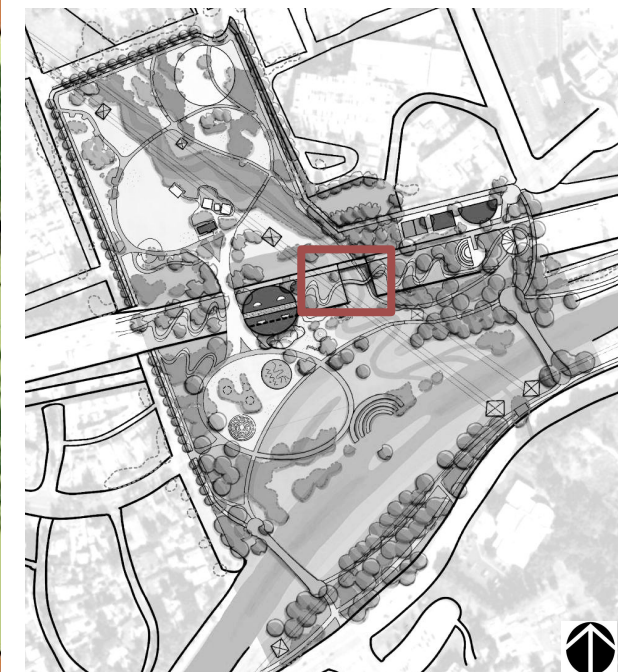
NTS

'Apaakyan Xaayya (Mountain Pass) Enlargement



- (A) Bicycle route
- (B) Oak savannah
- (C) Restored Little Tujunga Wash
- (D) Little Tujunga Wash access/beach
- (E) Expanded path from JCP
- (F) Pedestrian bridge
- (G) Riparian habitat
- (H) Overlook

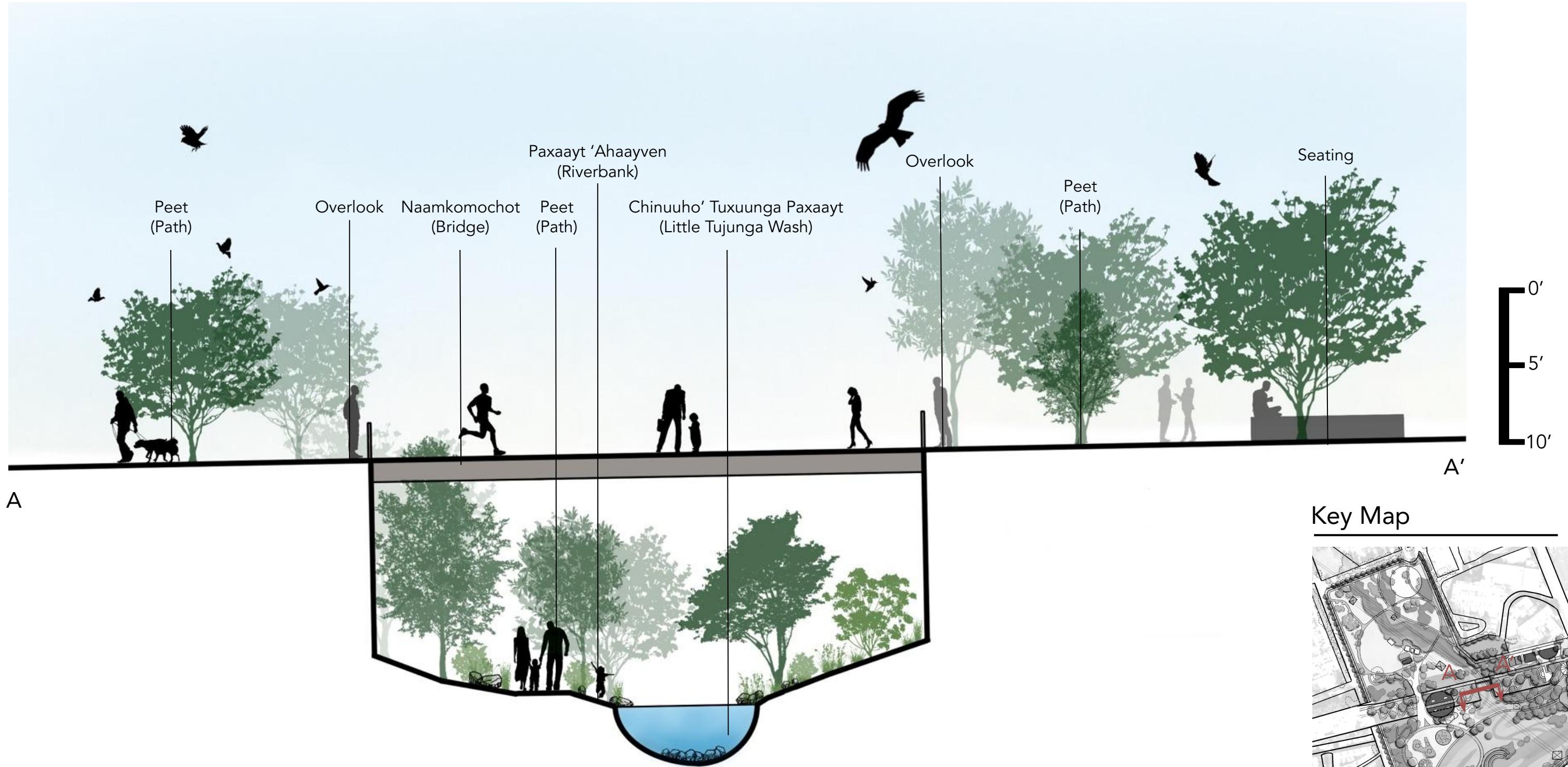
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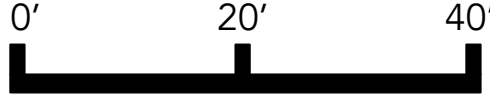
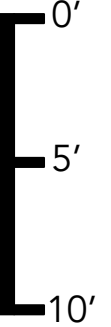


'Apaakyan Xaayya (Mountain Pass) Section/Elevation

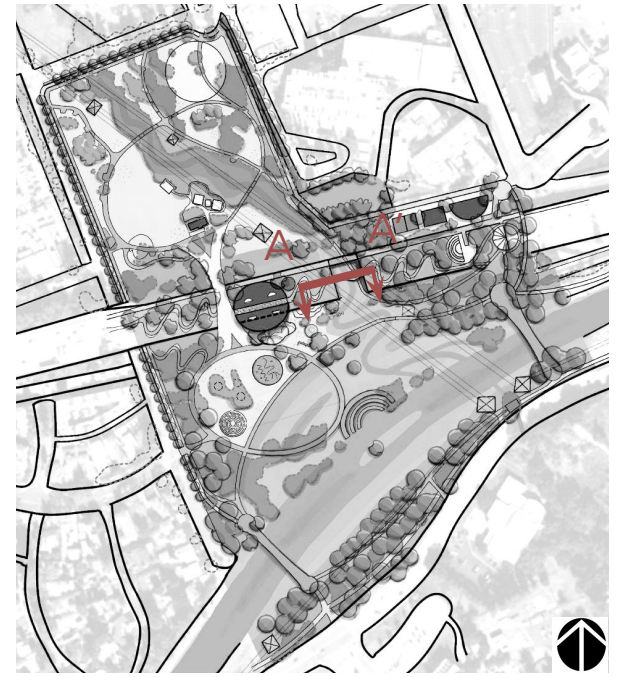


A

A'



Key Map

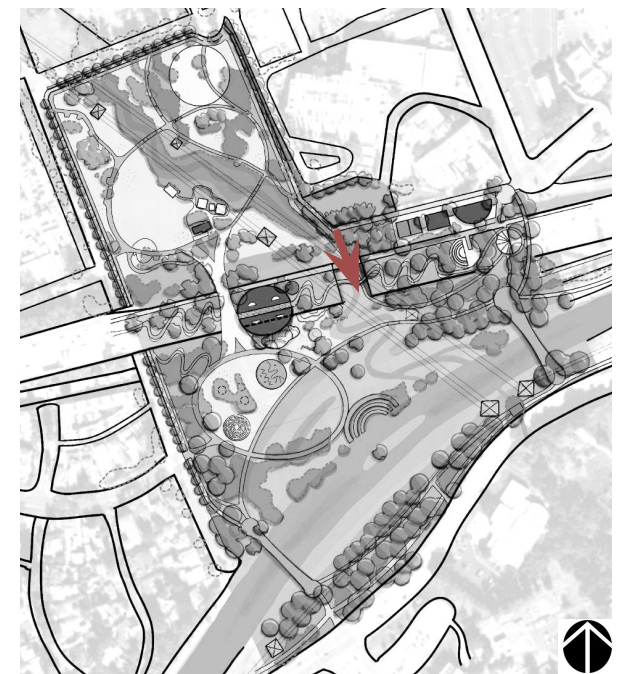


NTS

'Apaakyan Xaayya' (Mountain Pass) Perspective



Key Map



NTS

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