



TONGVA

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Design Graphics III
Winter 2024
Razo



“Every landscape has a story to tell. It’s our job as designers to bring that story to life.”

- Lawrence Halprin



(Visit California, 2024)

“If you think about an arroyo with a source of water and native and indigenous grasses and topography – that’s kind of the essence of [Tongva] park,”

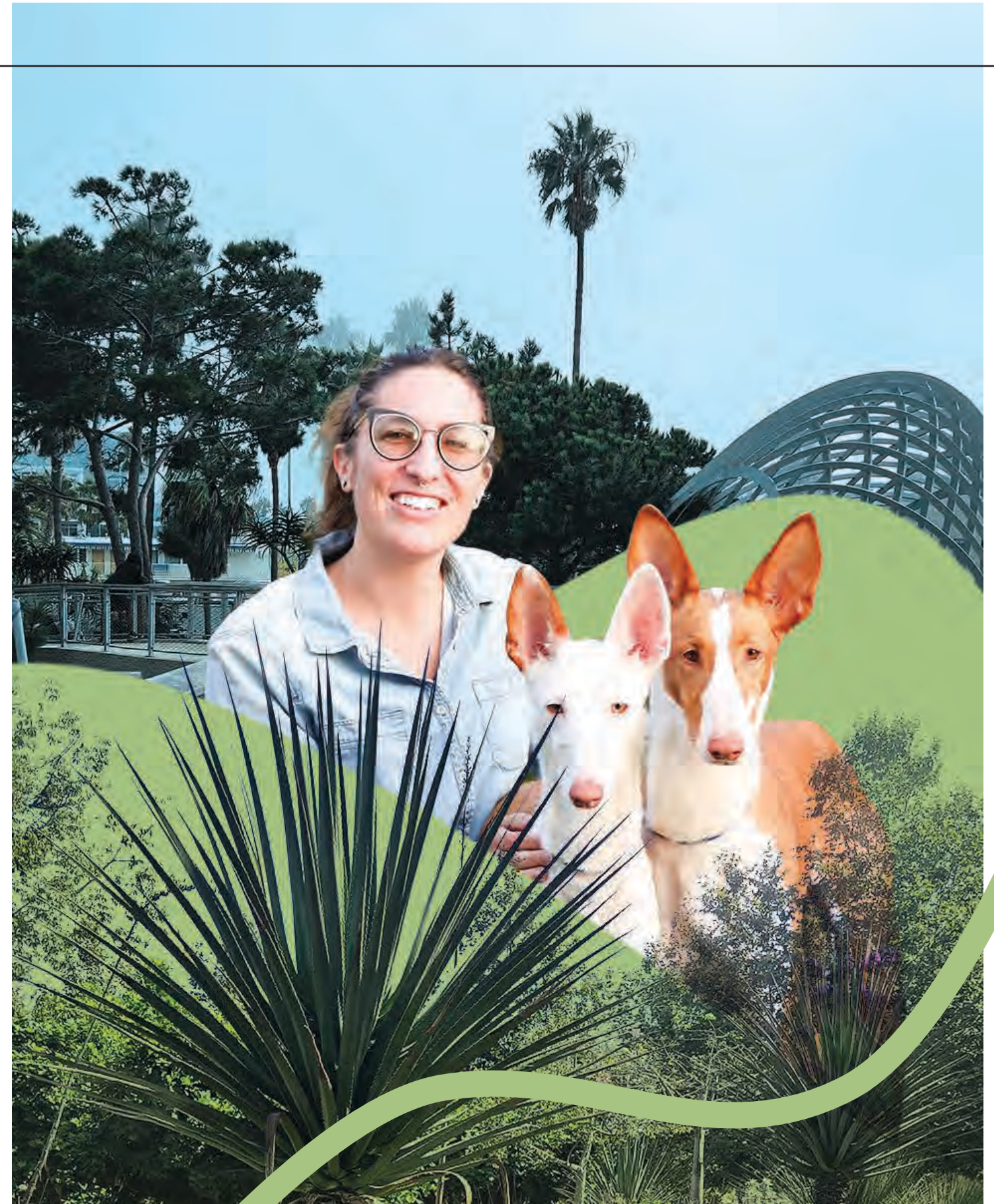
- Karen Ginsberg, Santa Monica Community and Cultural Services Director

ABOUT ME

I am excited to utilize my skills as a landscape architect to create dynamic designs that connect people to nature. California is home to growing cities and some of the most diverse and unique flora and fauna in the world. It is my goal as a landscape architect to improve the lives of California residents by integrating local biodiversity and sustainable design with form and function.

My background is in wildlife conservation and management. I spent years involved with environmental research and monitoring projects, and documenting the impact that our current lifestyle brings. Through my field work, I have been lucky enough to be immersed in many wild spaces of California and to witness it's beauty. I am committed to bringing new and innovative ecological designs to the landscape architect world that support the conservation of local ecosystems.

- Victoria Stover
UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Student



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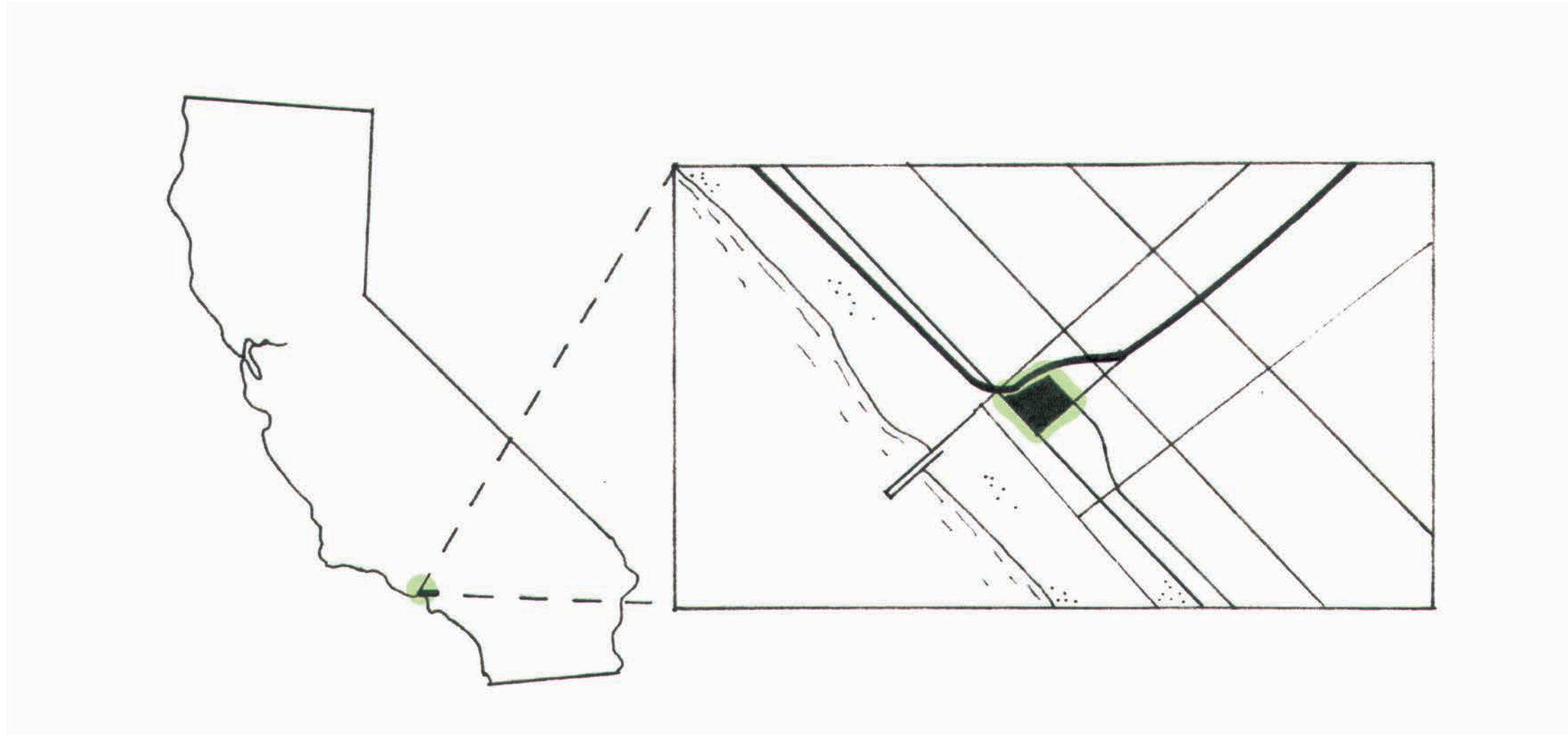
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INTRODUCTION



Tongva Park is located in the heart of Santa Monica, California with street address:
1615 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401

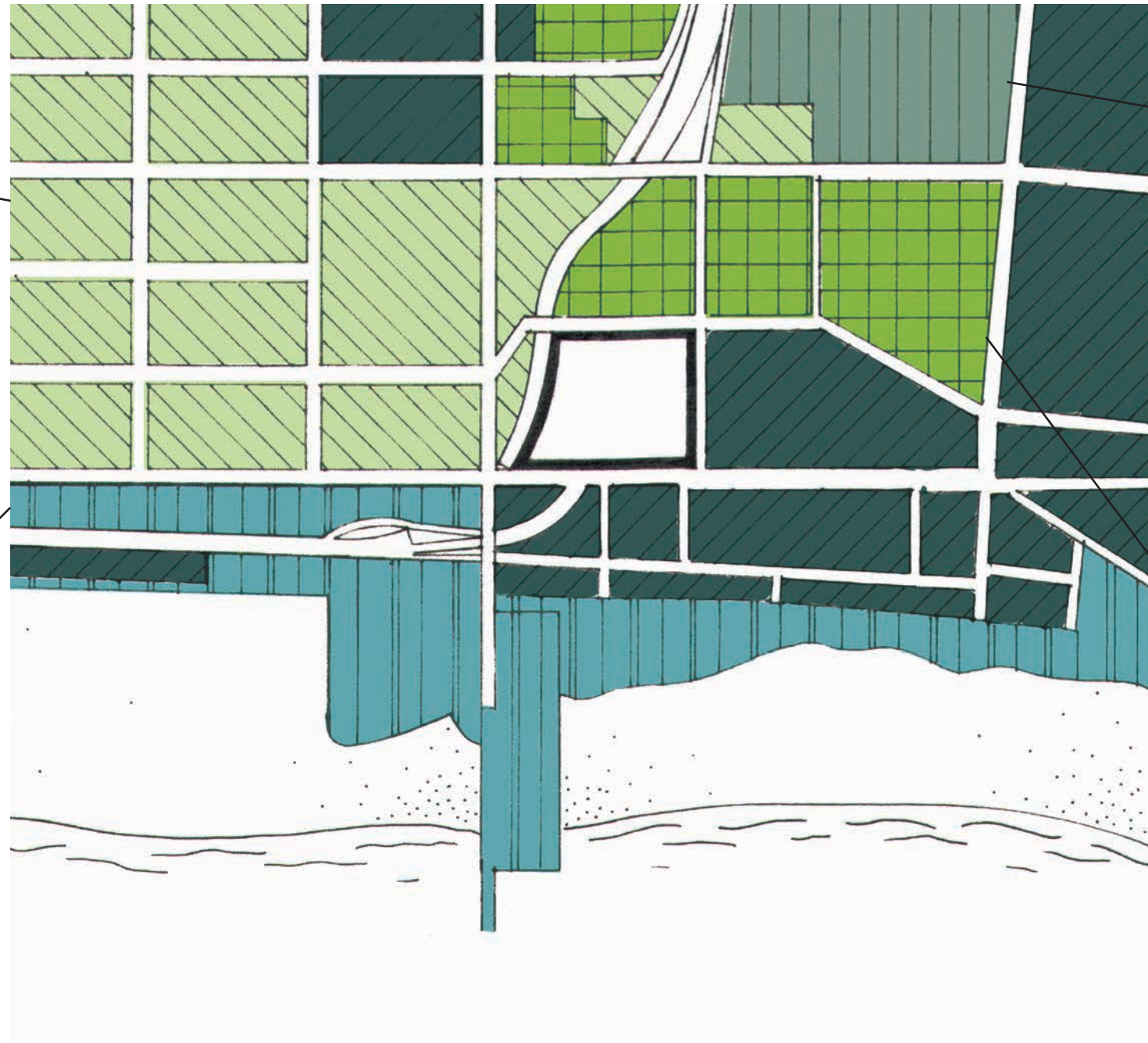
CONTEXT



COMMERCIAL
ie. Santa Monica Place
(Warren, 2024)



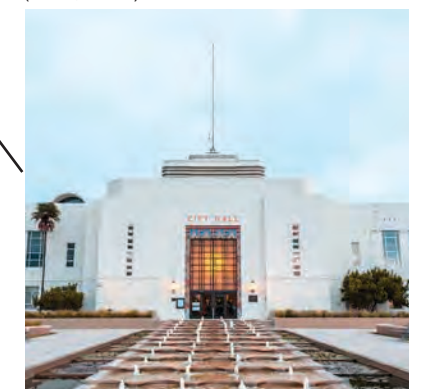
RECREATIONAL
ie. Santa Monica Pier
(Neal, 2024)



EDUCATIONAL
ie. Santa Monica High
(HED, 2021)

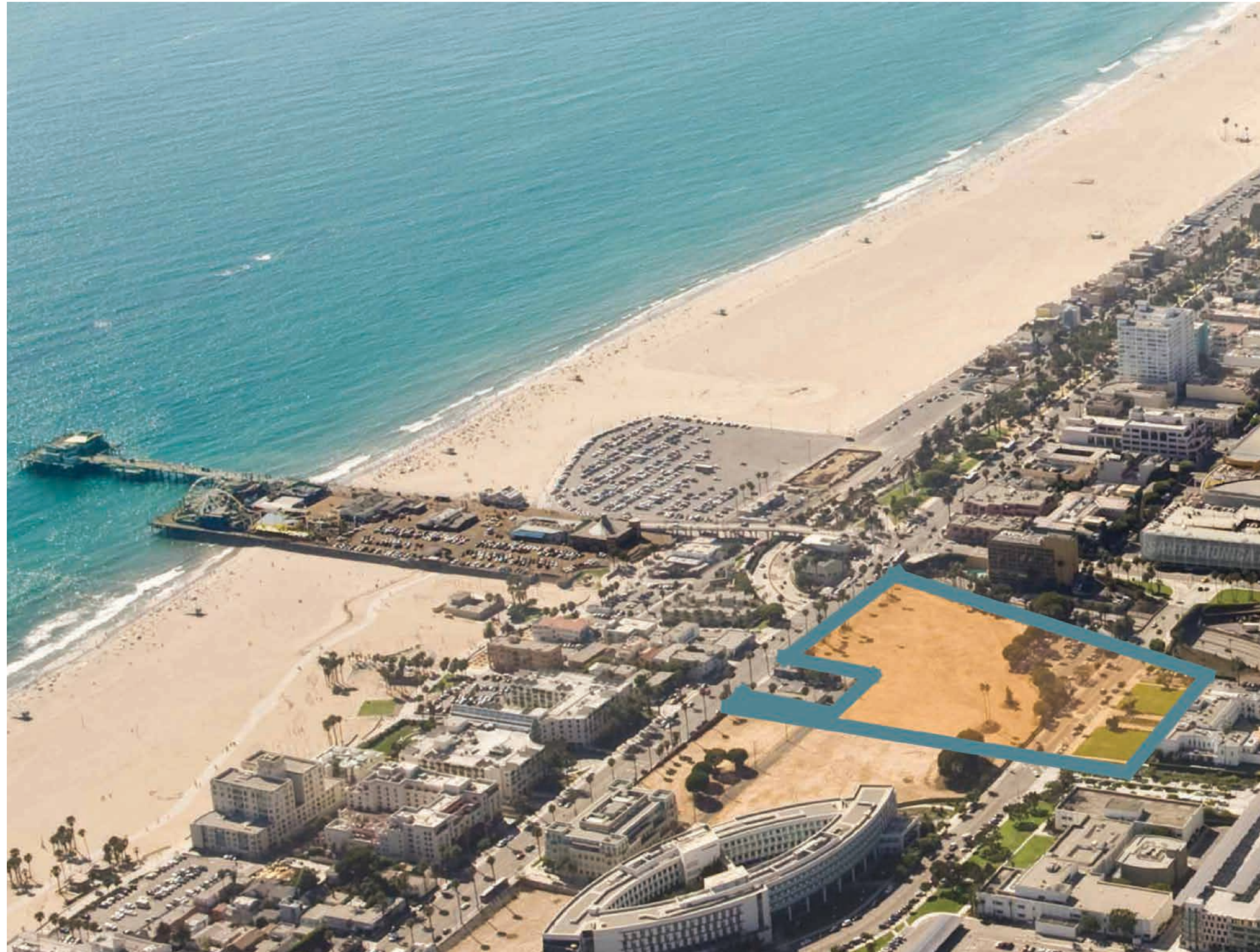


MIXED RESIDENTIAL
ie. Belmar Apartments
(DNA, 2024)



MUNICIPAL
ie. Santa Monica City Hall
(Pauker, 2019)

DEVELOPEMENT HISTORY



In the early 20th century, the site was used for an emergency housing project for local World War II veterans and their families.

In 1950, the site was sold by the city to the Rand Corporation. up until 2000, the site was occupied by sprawling concrete office buildings.

In 2000, Rand sold most of the site back to the city for \$53 million, removed the buildings, and built a new building facing Main St.

The Site remained undeveloped until 2012, when Tongva Park and neighboring Belmar Apartments construction began.

Tongva Park was officially opened to the public in September 2013. (Larios, 2014)

(Smith, 2014)

INDIGENOUS HISTORY



(Fuller, 2021)

The Tongva people are indigenous people of the **Los Angeles Basin**. Before settler contact, Tongva ancestors occupied the land that is now Newport Beach to Malibu, San Bernardino mountains to the sea, and the four southern Channel Islands. Their community has **survived colonizer attempts at eradication**. Their culture is passed down from generation to generation. Tongva people continue to play an integral role and share their culture in the Los Angeles community.



(Bennett, 2015)

They lived integrally with the four sacred rivers, **Los Angeles River** (Pay.mi pah. hit), **Hondo River** (Che-noo.eh pah.hit), **San Gabriel River** (To.to.ting.ah pah. hit), and **Santa Ana River** (Kah.ho pah. hit). The rivers brought fresh water from the surrounding mountain ranges and nourishment in many forms. Indigenous people used rivers to navigate to far regions.



(Jengod, 2023)

Before settler contact, the Tongva people inhabited **hundreds of villages** throughout the landscape. Tongva families resided in dome shaped homes (called **kias**) made of a framework of bent **willow** poles that were thatched with layers of dried **tule** (also called bulrush). The Willow poles were staked into the ground and tied together at the top with **yucca** fiber. Entryways faced north to keep wind and sunlight from entering and were covered with deer skin or mat. There were from 500- 1500 kias per clan.



(Kramer, 2016)

Tongva people had an **interconnected relationship with the flora and fauna** and continue to preserve their relationship to this day. Tule and grasses were used for creating baskets that were integral to their traditional lifestyle. **Acorns** from oak trees were a staple in their diet. They also gathered fruits, leafy greens, prickly pear, yucca, chia seeds, mushrooms, corms. They hunted deer, rabbit, fish, whales, and seals. (Gabreleno (Tongva) San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, 2021).

COASTAL SAGE SCRUB SPECIES



California Sagebrush - *Artemisia californica*
(Calscape, 2010)



California Brittlebush - *Encelia californica*
(SMMTC, 2010)



California Buckwheat - *Eriogonun fasciculatum*
(Calscape, 2010)

Tongva park is located in **coastal sage scrub habitat**, a biodiverse habitat that hosts many endangered and endemic species.

Coastal sage scrub of California is among the most **endangered ecosystem** types in the United States (Noss et al. 1995). Some of the threats to this ecosystem and are urban development and climate change (Beltrán et al. 2014)

Level III Ecoregion : Southern California/Northern Baja Coast
Level IV Ecoregion: Los Angeles Plain (EPA)
Habitat: Coastal Scrub (CDFW)



(Scherson, 2010)

Coastal California Gnatcatcher
Polioptila californica californica is a federally endangered subspecies endemic to coastal sage scrub habitat (FWS, 2000). They are considered an umbrella species, which allows their protections apply to their critical habitat, its inhabitants, and especially benefiting other endemic species.

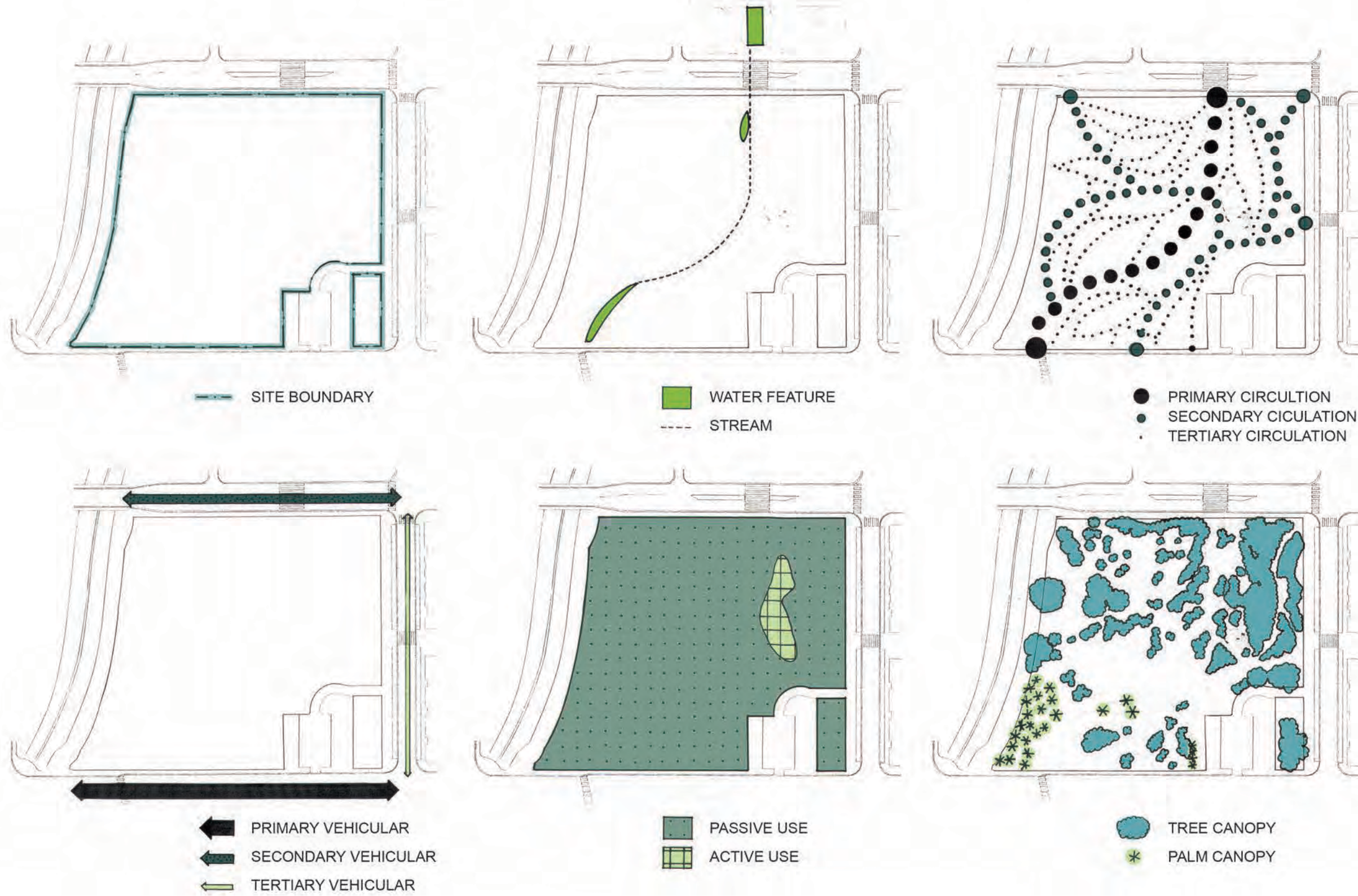


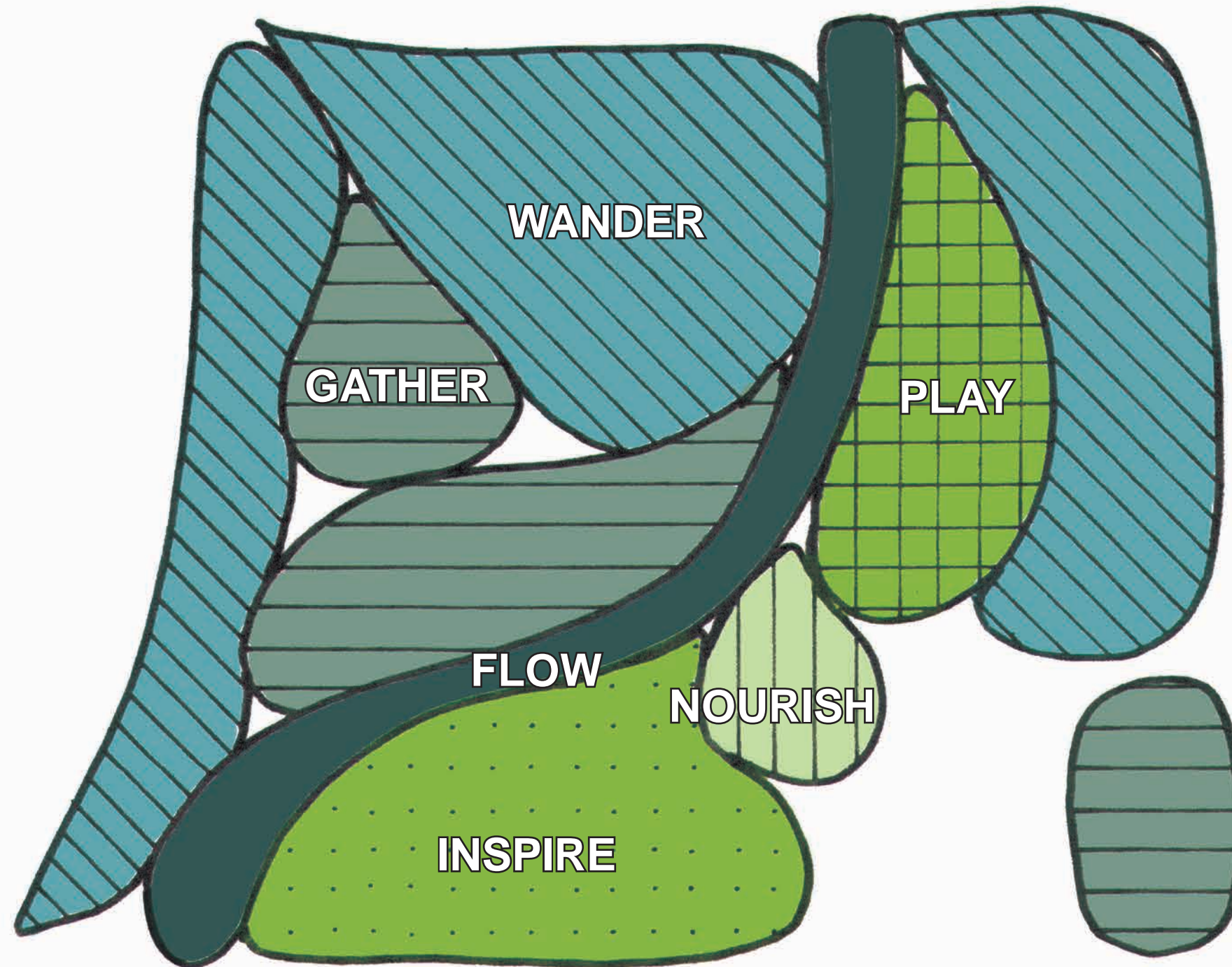
(Abela, 2011)

Agile Kangaroo Rat
Dipodomys agilis is endemic to the Southern California/Northern Baja Coast Ecoregion (Sullivan, 1997) Primarily feeds on seeds of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Likely predators are owls, foxes, coyotes, rattlesnakes. (Ahlborn, 2024)

The slide features a white background with two large, overlapping green abstract shapes. One shape is in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. A thin black horizontal line runs across the top of the page, starting from the left edge and ending at the right edge.

SITE ANALYSIS







The movement in Tongva Park's design represents the flow of an **arroyo**, a water flow pattern intertwined with the story of Southern California's water precipitation cycle and how the life and landscape that has evolved to thrive in the semi-arid environment and fast flowing seasonal water.



ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN



AMPHITHEATER

RESTROOM

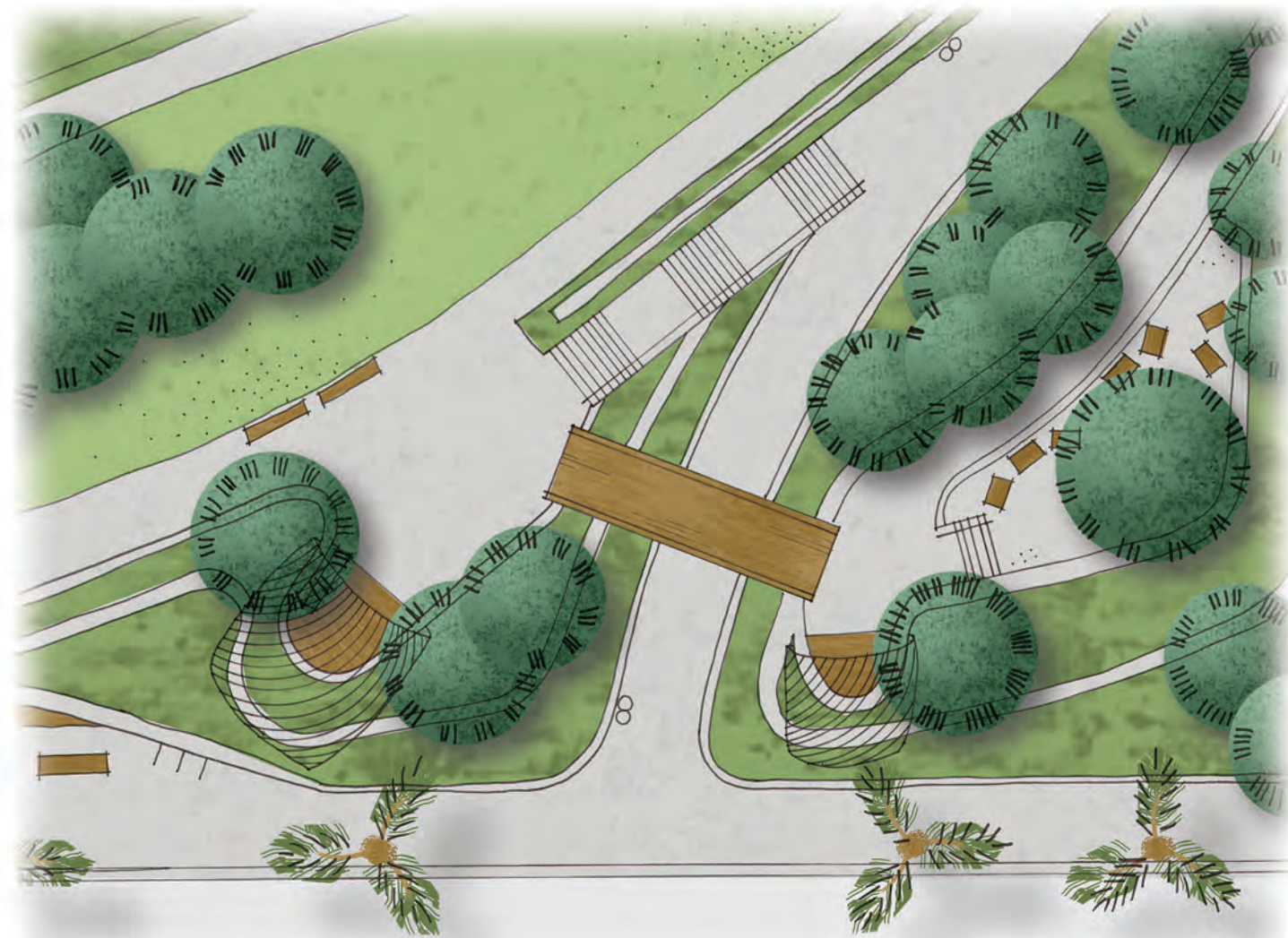
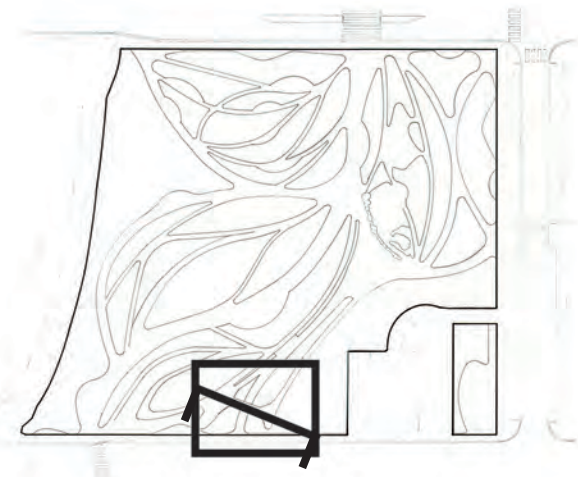
WATER FEATURE

OBSERVATION DECK

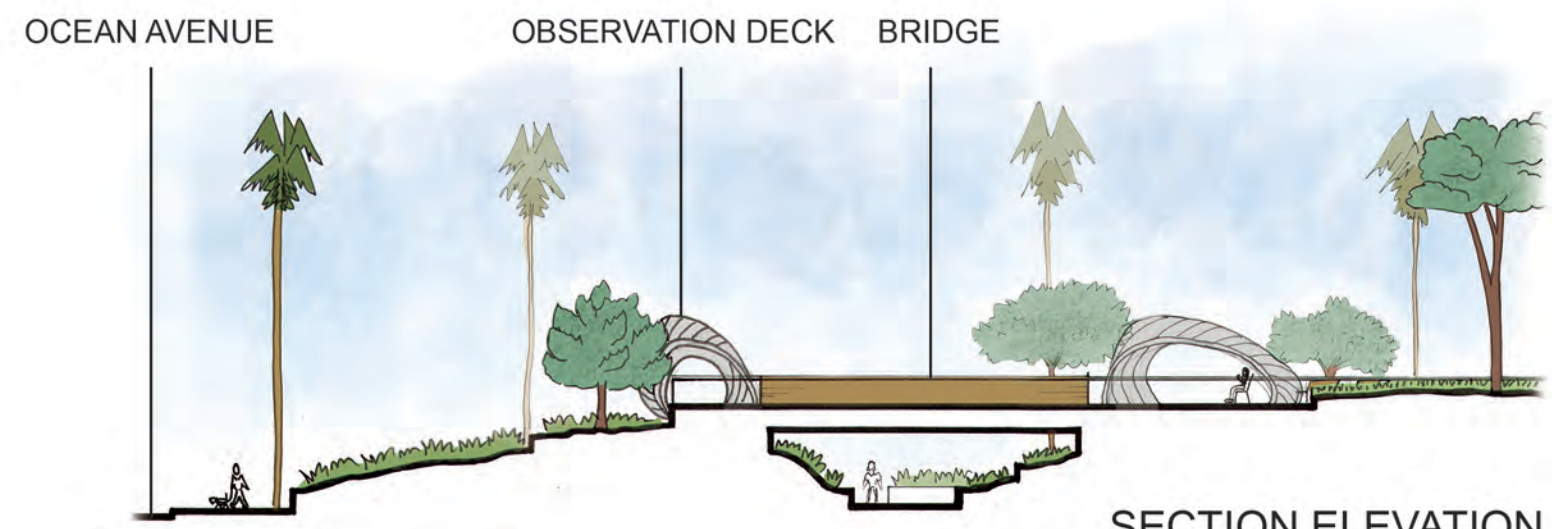
PLAYGROUND

EXISTING TREE

ENLARGEMENT AND SECTION ELEVATION



ENLARGEMENT



SECTION ELEVATION



LOOKING SOUTH-EAST AT BRIDGE



LOOKING SOUTH AT OBSERVATION DECK



LOOKING WEST AT OCEAN AVENUE SIDEWALK

The page features a white background with a thin horizontal line near the top. Large, abstract green shapes are positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text 'PARK ELEMENTS' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

PARK ELEMENTS



(LotsaFunMaps, 2017)

Tongva Park includes amenities such as a playground, public restroom, and amphitheater.

More elements include benches, picnic tables, water fountains, bike racks, ADA accessibility, landfill and recyclables receptacles, and public transportation access.



DESIGN ELEMENTS

Tongva Park has a strong sense of space to California's Los Angeles basin with its symbolic design elements. The park topography is defined by a series of **mounds** that represent the rolling hills, which are indicative of the California landscape.

The park's braided **paths** symbolize the movement of the local arroyos and allow you to navigate the park's **four distinct sections**: Observation Hill, Discovery Hill, Garden Hill, and Gathering Hill.

The **water feature** includes three distinct pools with unique fountain displays. The three pools are connected by a channel, representing an arroyo, and traverses a wide sweeping, winding path through the hills from city hall down the gradual slope toward the ocean.

The **metal framework**, at Observation Hill, represents a woven Tongva basket and provide an experience for viewing the Pacific Ocean. This moment simulates the feeling of standing atop the iconic California coastal bluffs.

The **metal play structures**, at Discovery Hill, can be interpreted as representing the homes (kies) of the Tongva ancestors.



PLANT PALETTE

Tongva Park features a mix of native plants and drought-tolerant plants species.

Trees native to Southern California area found at Tongva Park include western sycamore, (*Platanus racemosa*), Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), island oak (*Quercus tomentella*).

Few **plants** in the park were of the coastal sage scrub ecosystem, in which the park resides. Example sightings were deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*).

Tongva Park incorporates **existing and relocated** ornamental trees including *Ficus rubiginosa* '3 Amigos,' Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), and Chinese fan palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).



MATERIALS

Tongva Park features a mix of materials that are both modern as well as symbolic of the natural Los Angeles landscape.

Rocks, ranging in size from large boulders to small gravel, were used to tie connections to the rocks seen in hillsides to the arroyos and rivers of LA.

Wood gives a softened approach to the modern aspects of the park such as benches, bridges and handrails.

Metal is used as an accent to create modern and artful aesthetic to points of interest as well as functional elements.

Cement is used throughout the park with a modern approach to function. It is used as a way to create unifying forms that represent the concept of arroyos. Small river rocks are pressed into some areas of the cement to help strengthen this concept.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Tongva Park symbolizes many aspects of the Los Angeles Basin.

The concept that ties the park together is the concept of an **arroyo**.

The movement of the park allows visitors to flow and experience the pace of water flowing through the space, allowing for inspiration and connection to the local landscape.

The park achieves this strong **sense of space** by utilizing materials, plant palette, and design elements to represent the local landscape and its indigenous residence.



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Thank you Laura Razo, Rebecca Schwaner, and David Squires for the incredible learning opportunities throughout the Design Graphics course series.

I acknowledge that the land discussed in this presentation is the home and traditional land belonging to the Tongva Nation.