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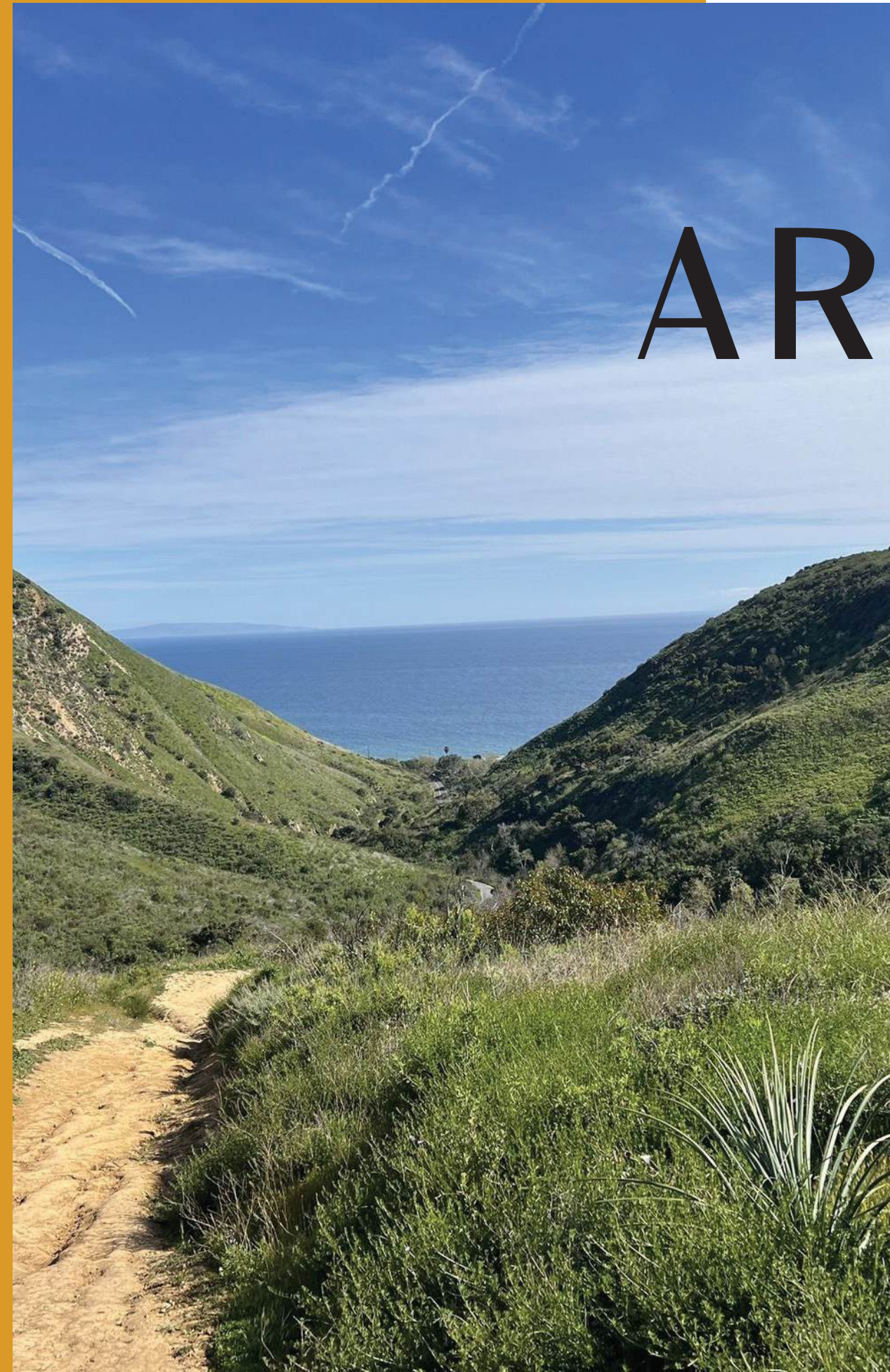


“the real voyage of
discovery consists not in
seeking new landscapes,
but in having new eyes”

- Marcel Proust

THE EVOLUTION

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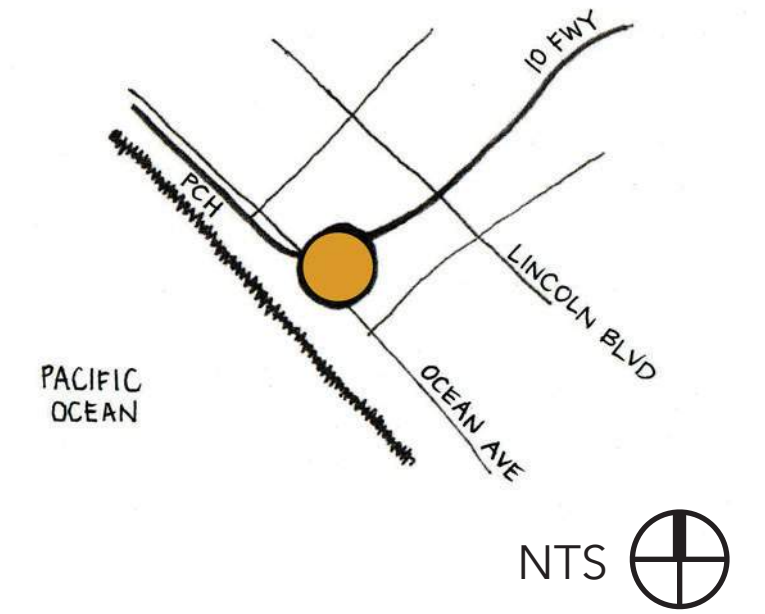
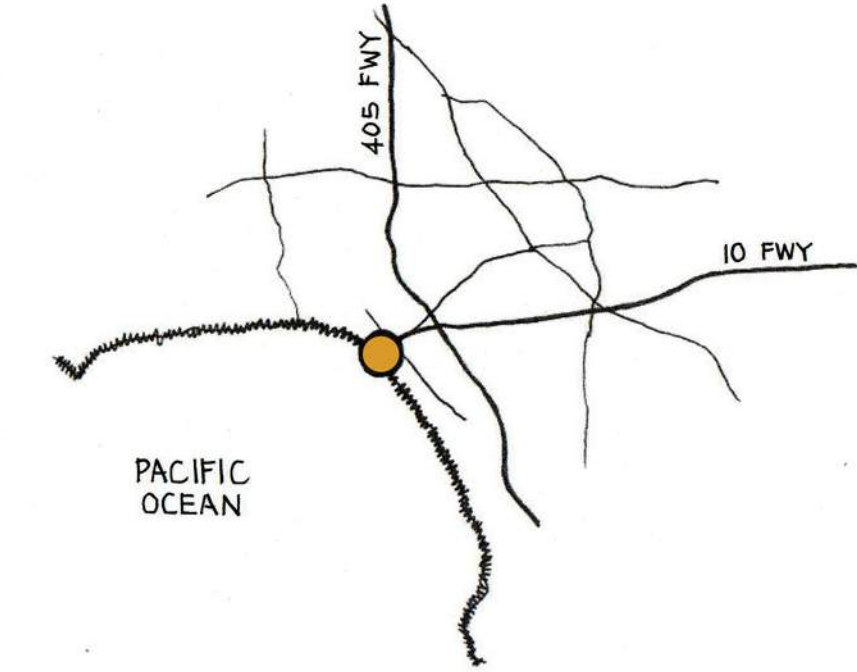
ARRIVAL

"it's the journey, not the destination."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

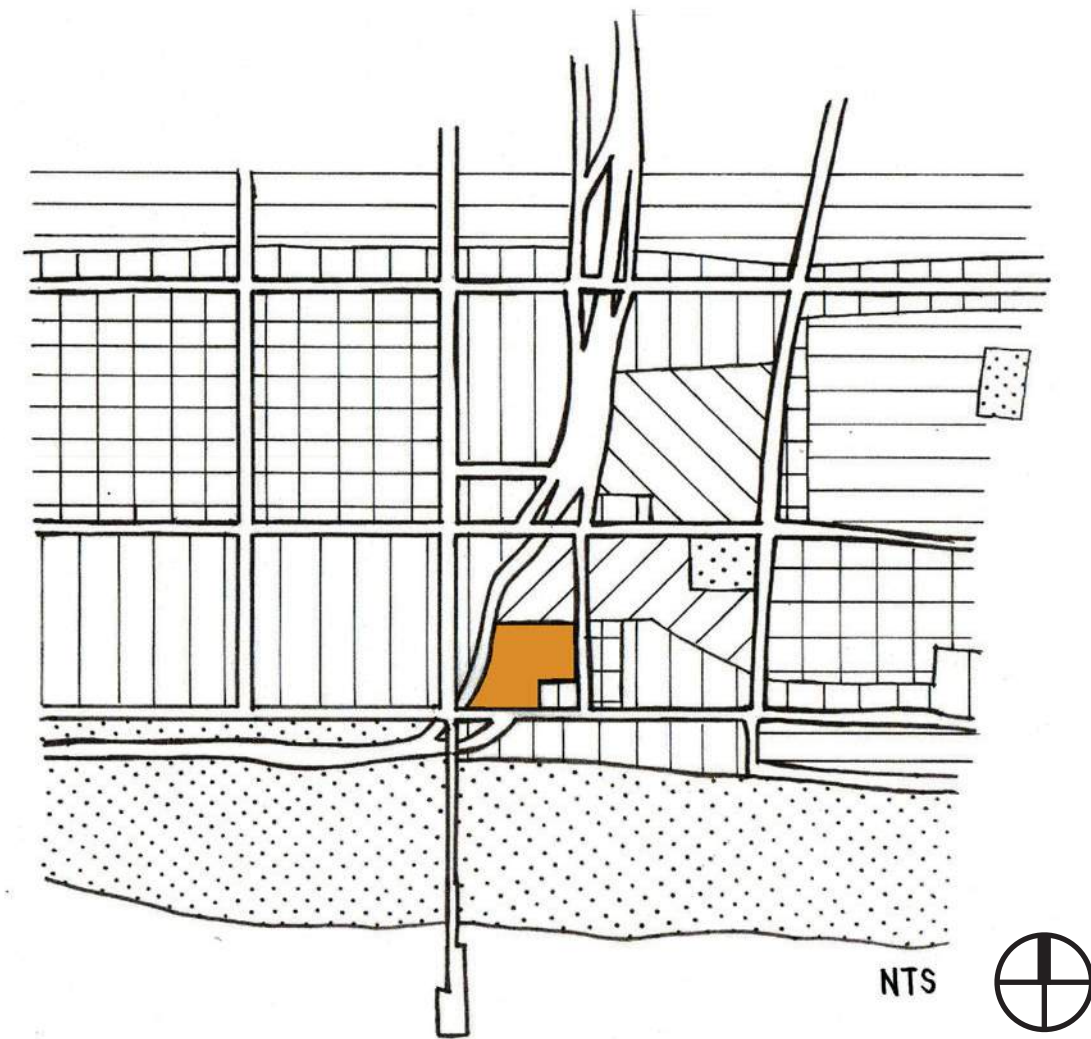
location

Tongva Park is notably located at the center point of Santa Monica Bay, where the LA Basin below the surrounding mountains meets the coastline. This central point coincides with where the 10 Freeway meets the beach and veers north to become the Pacific Coast Highway.



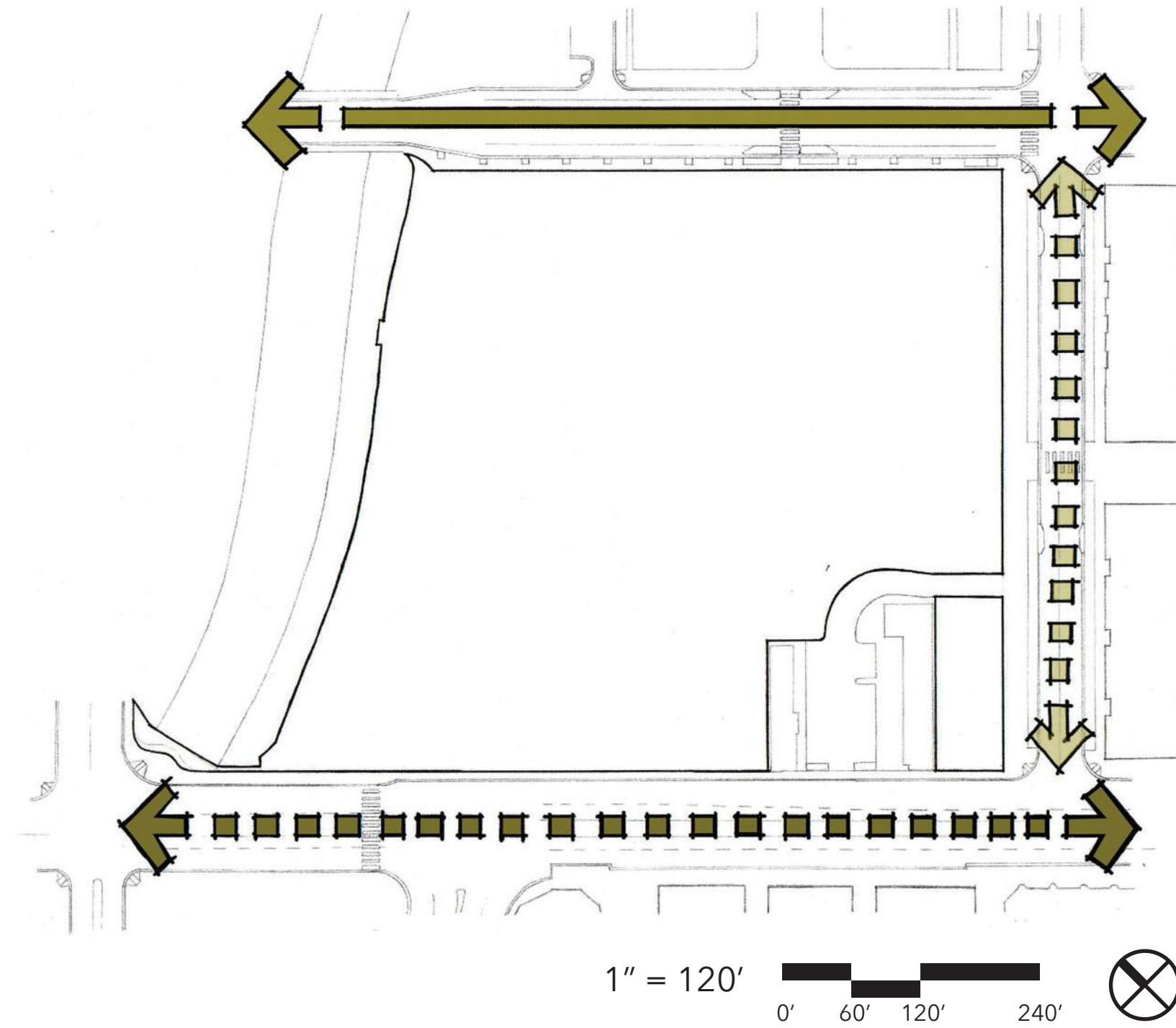
context

Defined by City Hall to the east, and Santa Monica Beach to the south, Tongva Park is situated as the confluence between commercial, residential, and leisure spaces for locals and visitors alike.



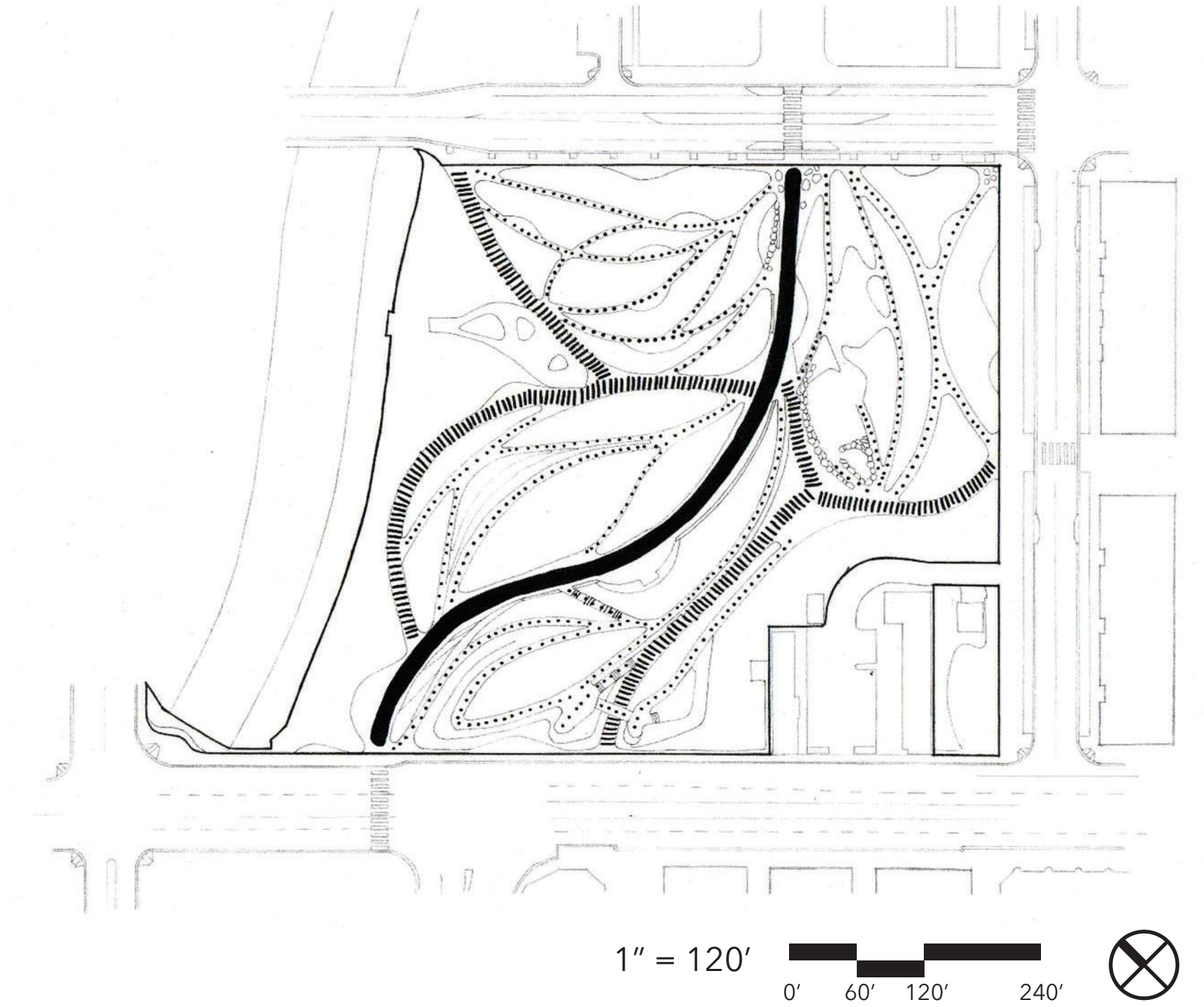
vehicular

Visitors can arrive by vehicle -- car, bus, carpool, bicycle -- on Main Street, Ocean Avenue, or Olympic Avenue. The 10 Freeway flanks the North West side of the park, however there are no freeway access points in this block. Despite being surrounded by vehicular routes, there is minimal parking; solely a few street meters, a single defunct bus stop, and bike racks on two sides. This makes Tongva Park more of a passive stopover than a sought out destination.



pedestrian

Once at the park, visitors can meander on various pathways to explore the different areas, scenes, and amenities inside. The primary pedestrian route is a wide curved path connecting Santa Monica City Hall in the East and Ocean Avenue & the Santa Monica Pier in the West. The hierarchy of paths are reflected in the width of the walkway and the type of aggregate paving used.



ground

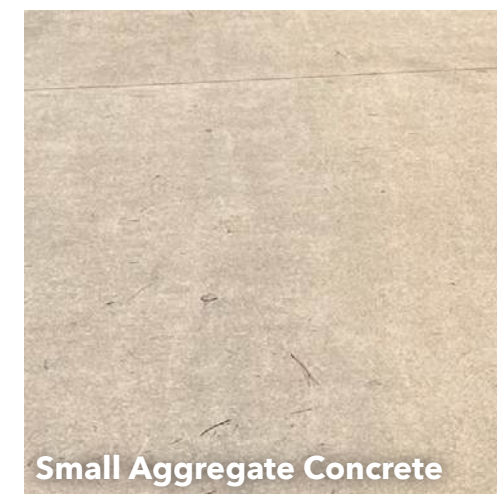
Tongva Park uses distinct types of surfaces within a materials family to emphasize the unique parts of the park in a purposeful way: from the main walkway's large aggregate, to a finer aggregate for smaller tributary pathways, to the rubber in the tot lot.



Large Aggregate Concrete



Medium Aggregate Concrete



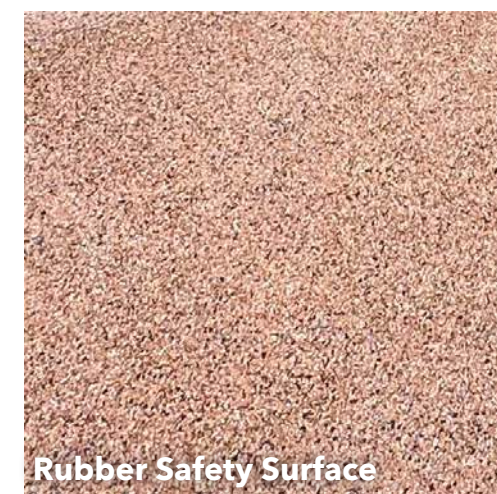
Small Aggregate Concrete



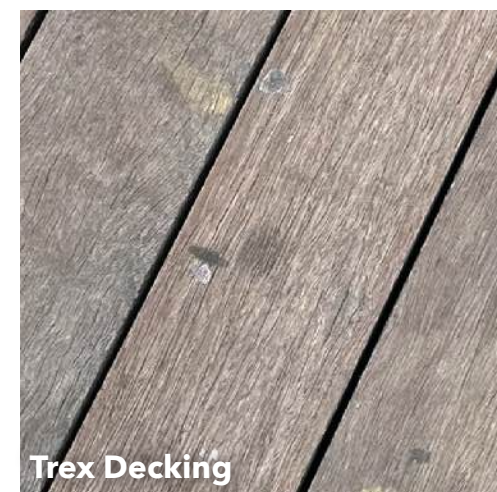
Permeable Pavers



Compacted Stone



Rubber Safety Surface



Trex Decking



Grass Turf



Asphalt




P1



P2

ARROYOS

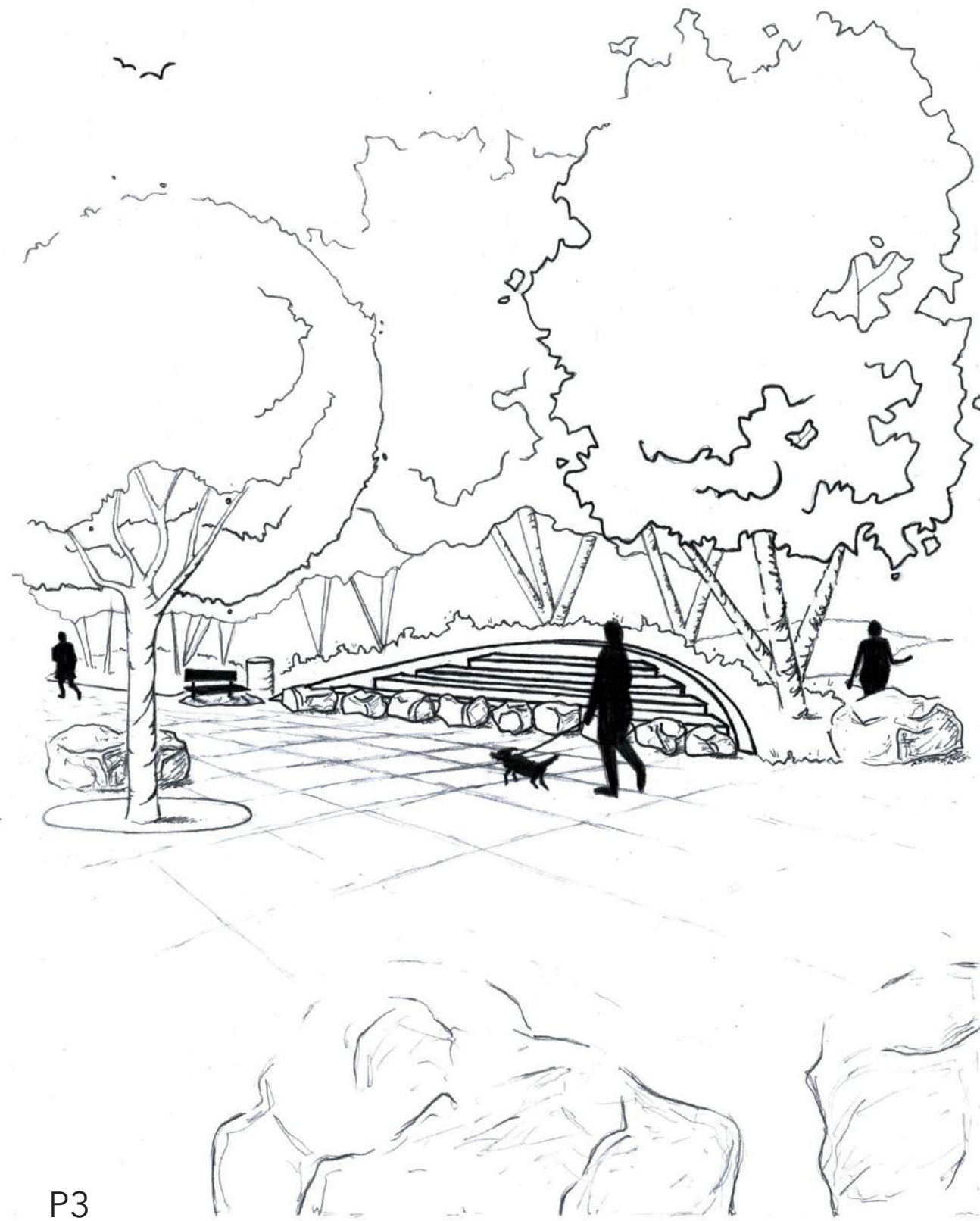


Water shapes our environment and is essential for survival. The LA Basin's fertility, fueled by the Los Angeles River, attracted indigenous tribes and settlers alike. Springs and snow melt in the hills fed the river, facilitating trade and transportation to the ocean. The fluid shapes carved into the land by this water over hundreds of years are arroyos - dry creek beds - which ultimately became one of the guiding motifs for the Tongva Park design.

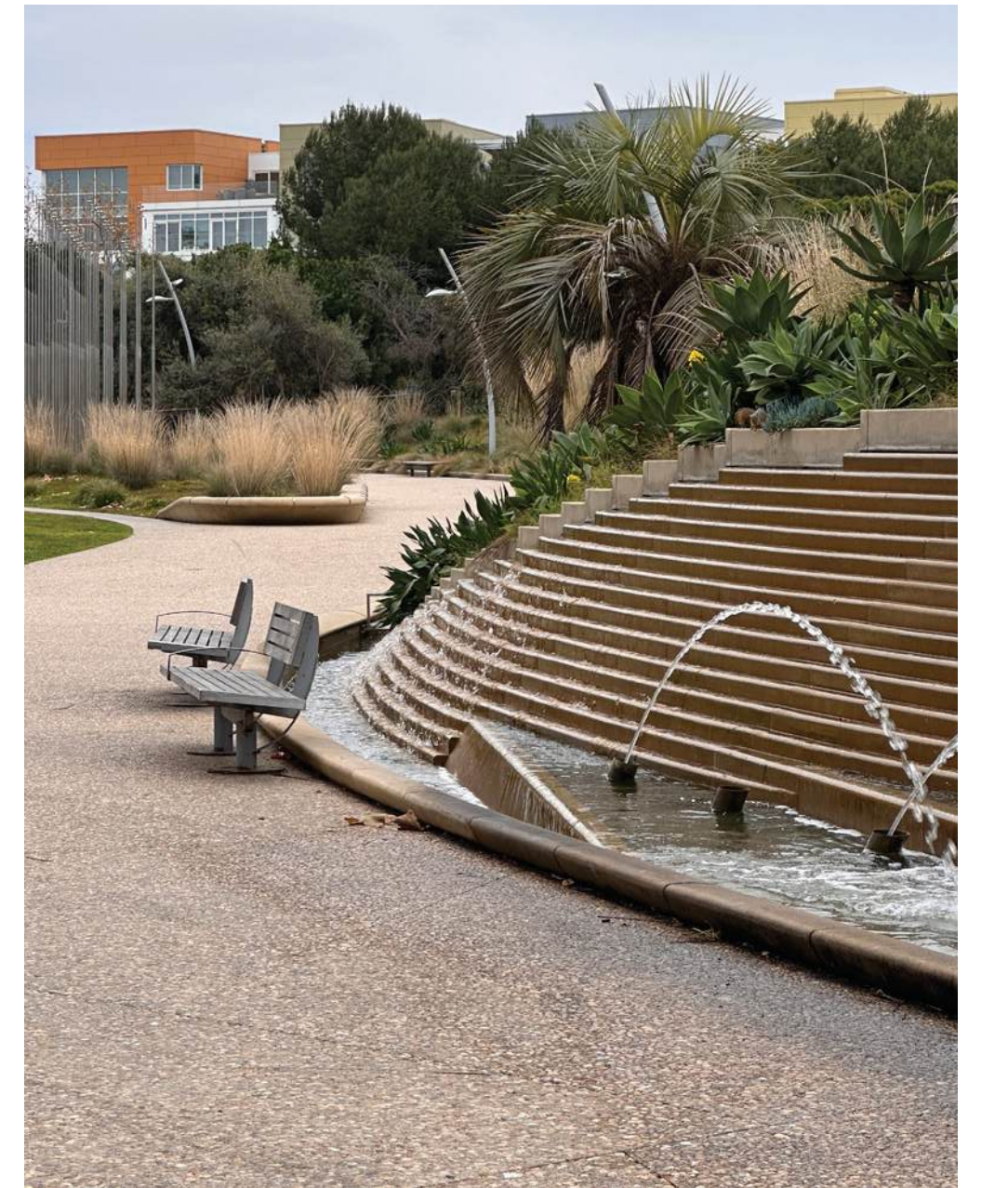
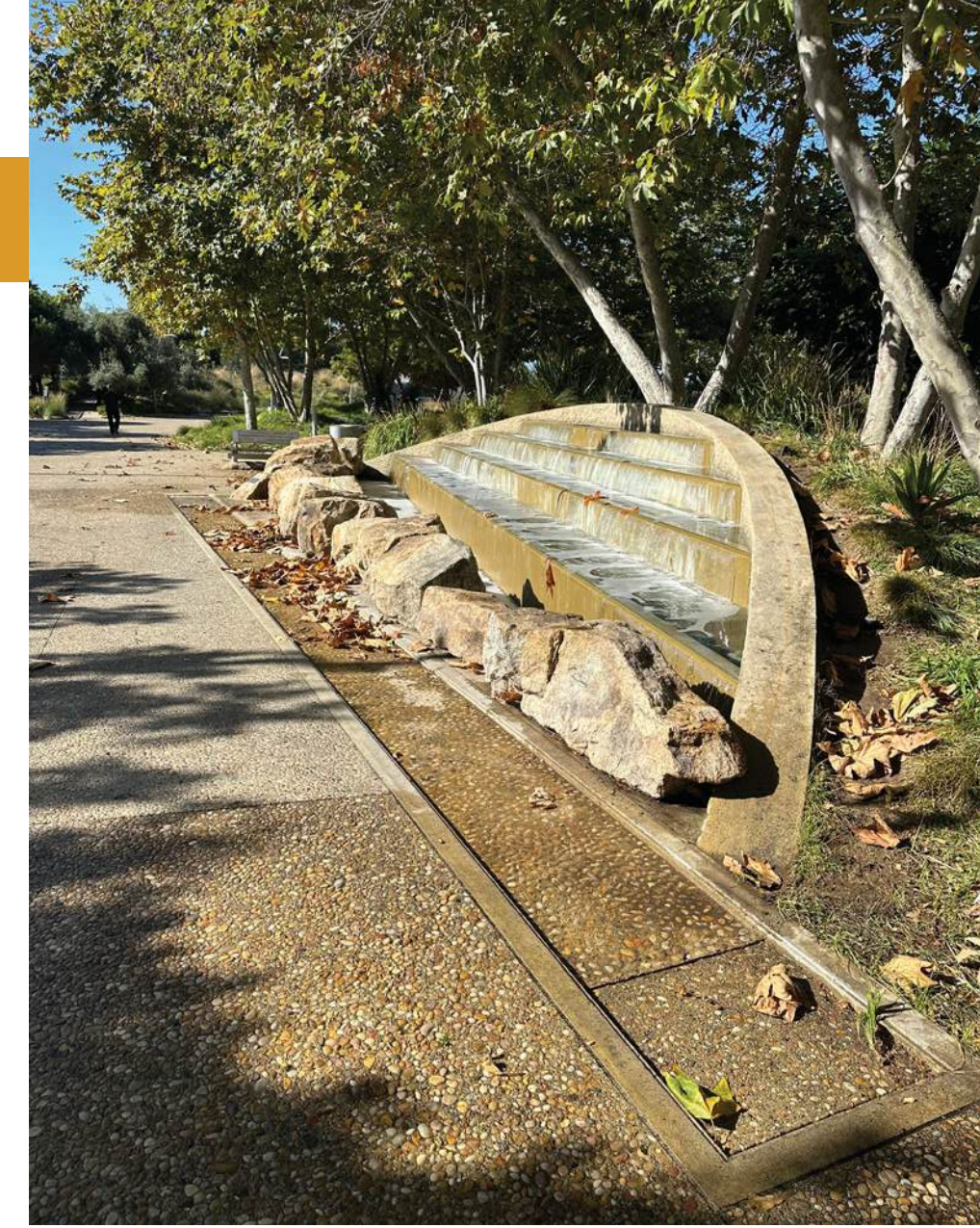
The shape of the arroyo can be seen in almost all aspects of the park. Visitors are immersed in scenery of flowing water, curving pathways, and soft rolling hills, creating an inviting experience. They discover new aspects hidden around each bend - from fountains, to hilltop views, to bird nest look outs, to pleasant bench nooks for rest. By incorporating the arroyo into the design, Tongva Park honors the local indigenous Gabrielino-Tongva tribe.

water

Flowing water is used in Tongva Park to symbolically connect City Hall on Main St. to the Pacific Ocean. These fountains and surface rills in the park echo the shapes of arroyos in different ways, but all are built with the curvilinear forms, and form an implied stream of continual water like that flowing from the nearby mountains to the sea.



P3



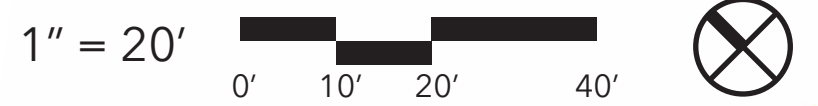
15

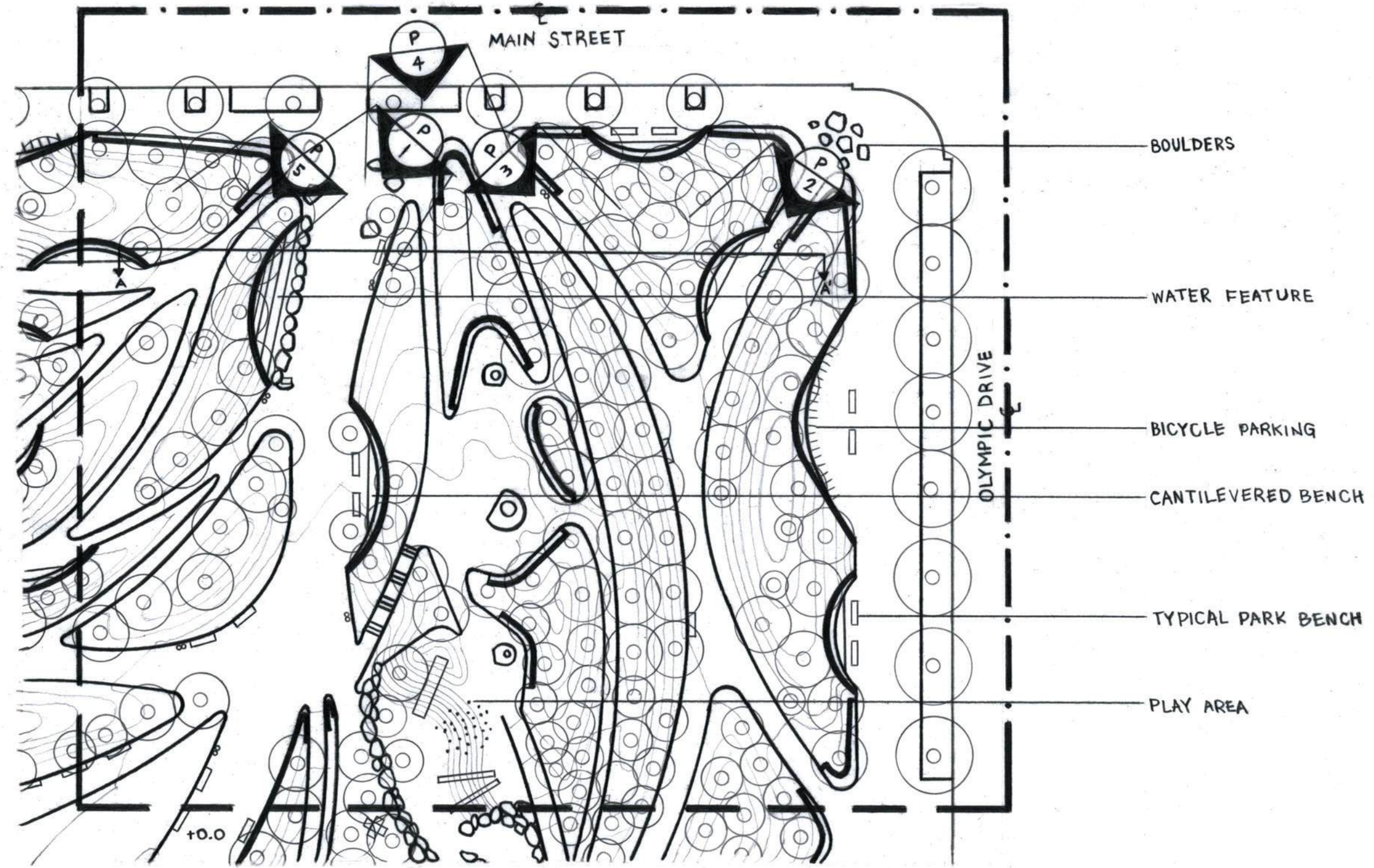
topography

Garden beds, walkways, and landforms mimic the natural topography of the local Santa Monica mountains, with water carving through landmass to create arroyos and small hills on it's way to the ocean.

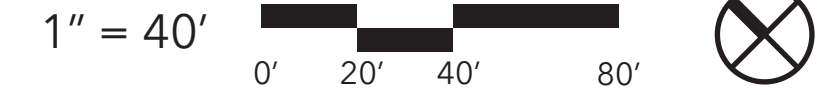


SECTION ELEVATION OF ARROYO SHAPED PLANTERS



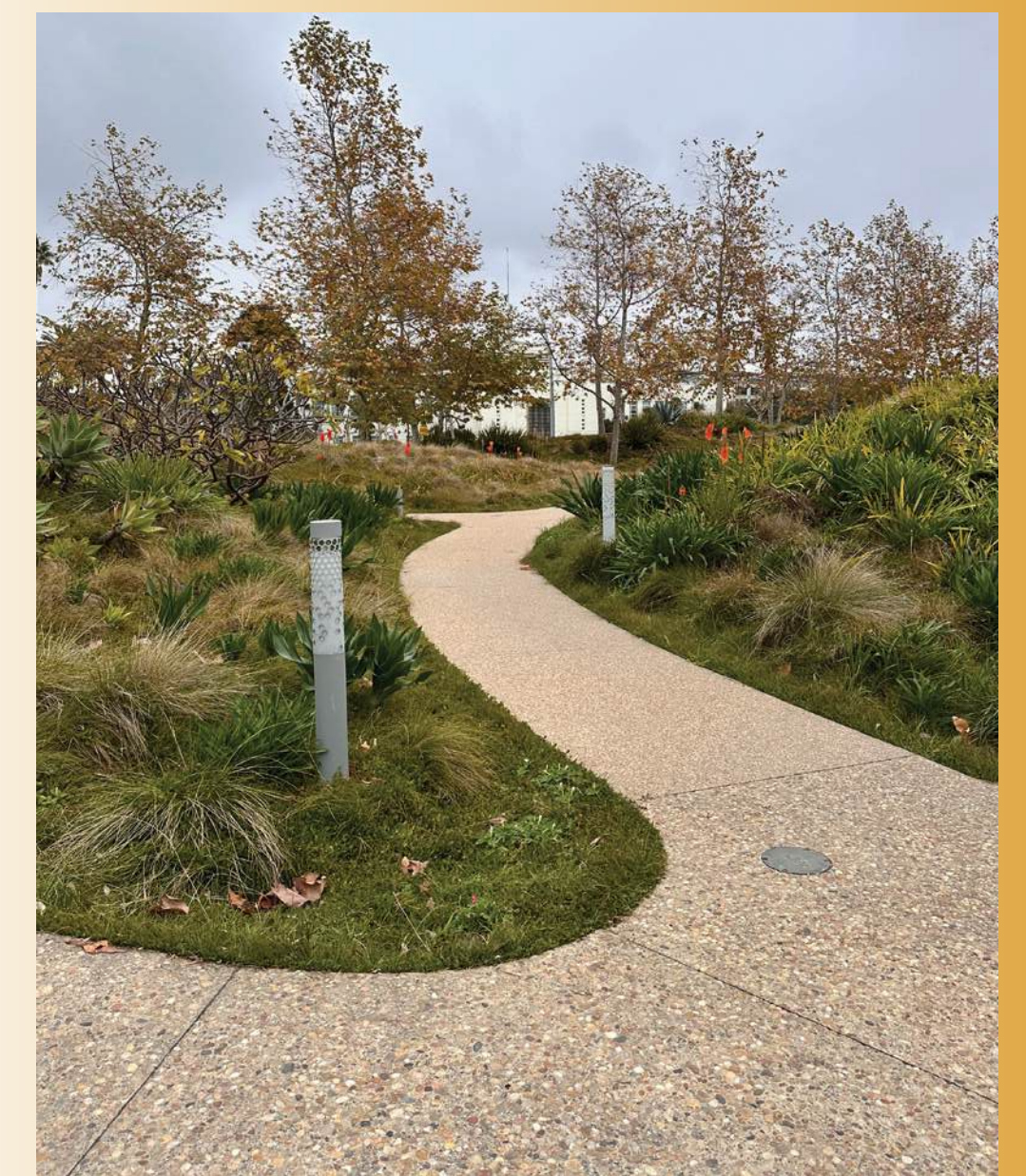
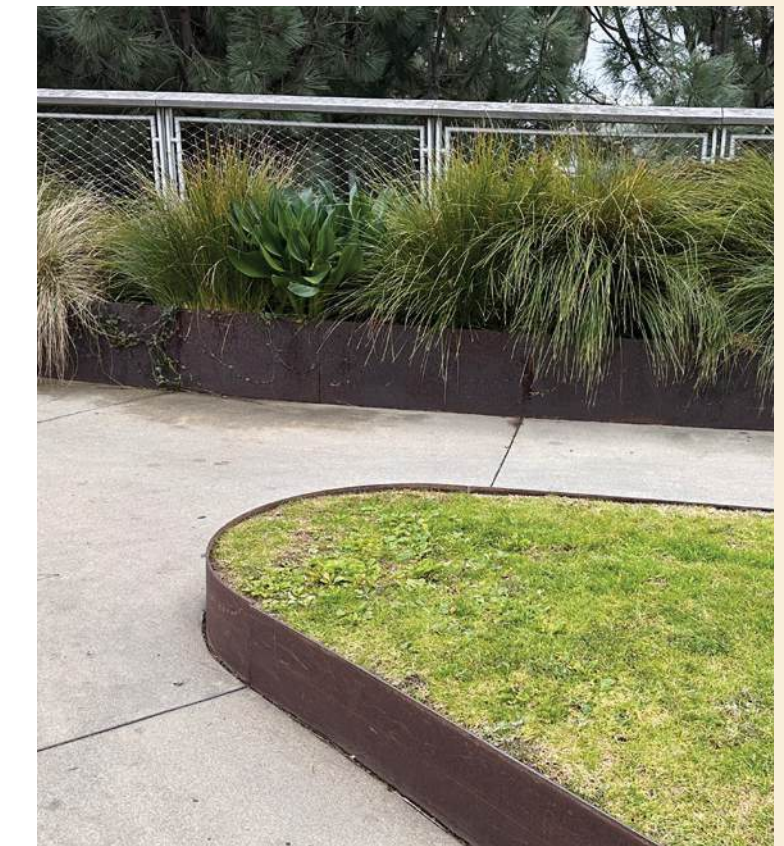


CURVED ARROYO FORMS



planters

All the garden planters are soft curved shapes that fit within one another to create a complete puzzle. They are based off the forms of water running through land creating tributaries and offshoots.



amenities

The curvilinear shape of an arroyo can also be seen in the forms of the park's amenities. From the tot lot play structures and the amphitheater, to the bathroom facade and bike rack areas, each amenity has a curved nature to create cohesion within the park and a sense of welcoming.

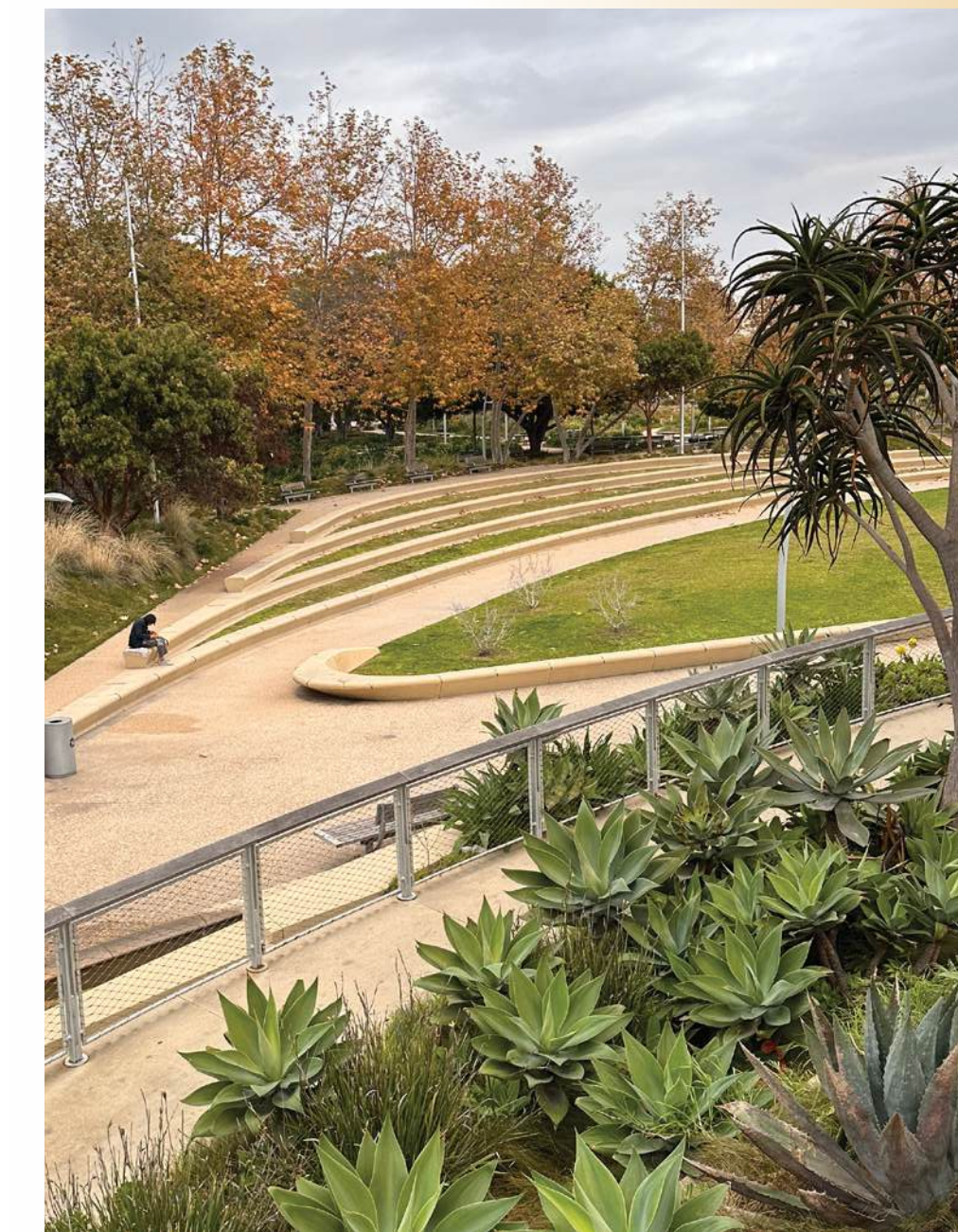
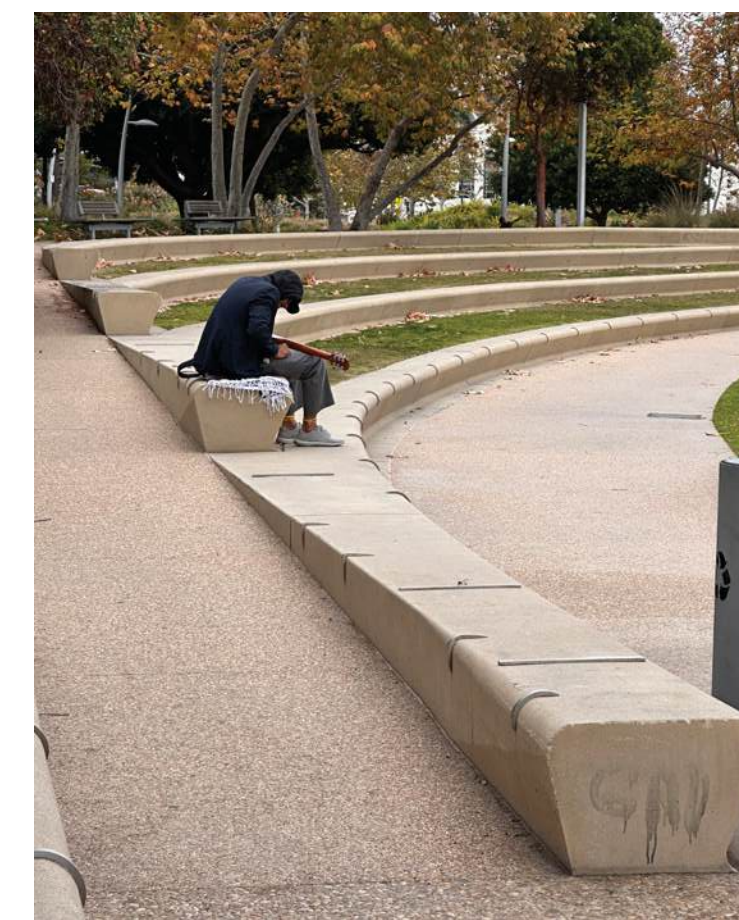


AMENITIES LEGEND

	PRIMARY ACCESS POINT		BENCH SEATING		RESTROOM		PICNIC TABLES
	SECONDARY ACCESS POINT		BIKE RACK		WATER FOUNTAIN		PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES
	TERTIARY ACCESS POINT		OVERLOOK NESTS		TRASH & RECYCLE		ART INSTALLATION

1" = 120'

0' 60' 120' 240'

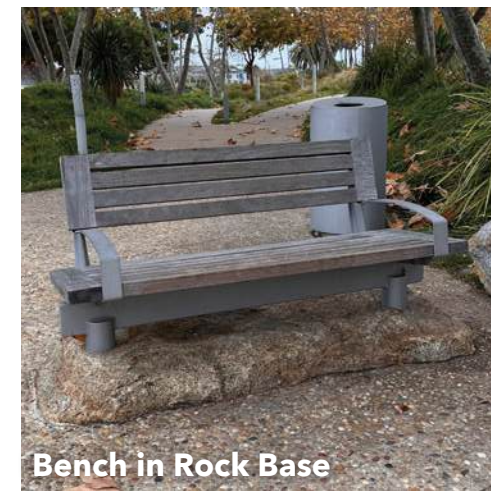


seating

There are countless types of seats throughout Tongva Park, made either of teak wood or sand colored cement aggregate. Many follow the curvilinear forms of the arroyo, creating carved out moments for rest and reflection. The volume of seating in the park encourages relaxation and emphasizes the passive nature of the site.



Standard Bench



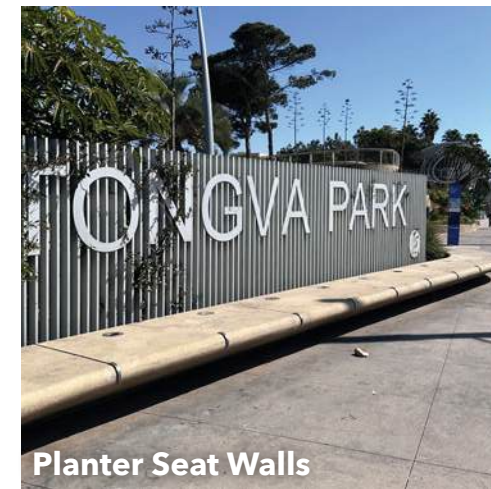
Bench in Rock Base



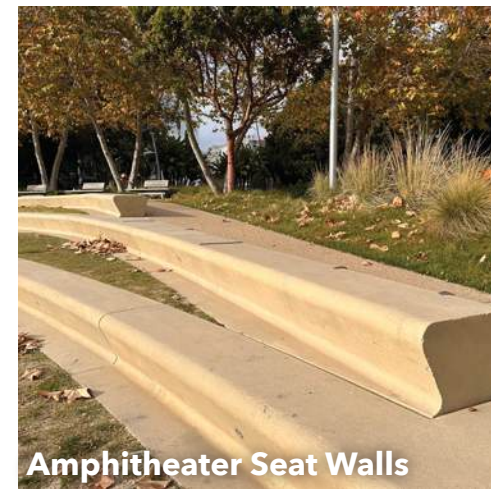
Flat Backless Bench



Cantilevered Arc Bench



Planter Seat Walls



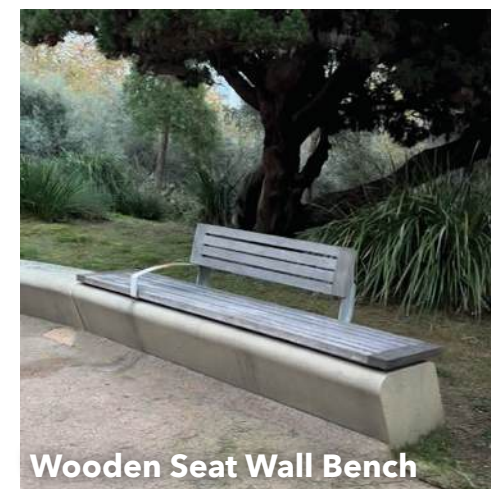
Amphitheater Seat Walls



Square Picnic Table



Standard Picnic Table

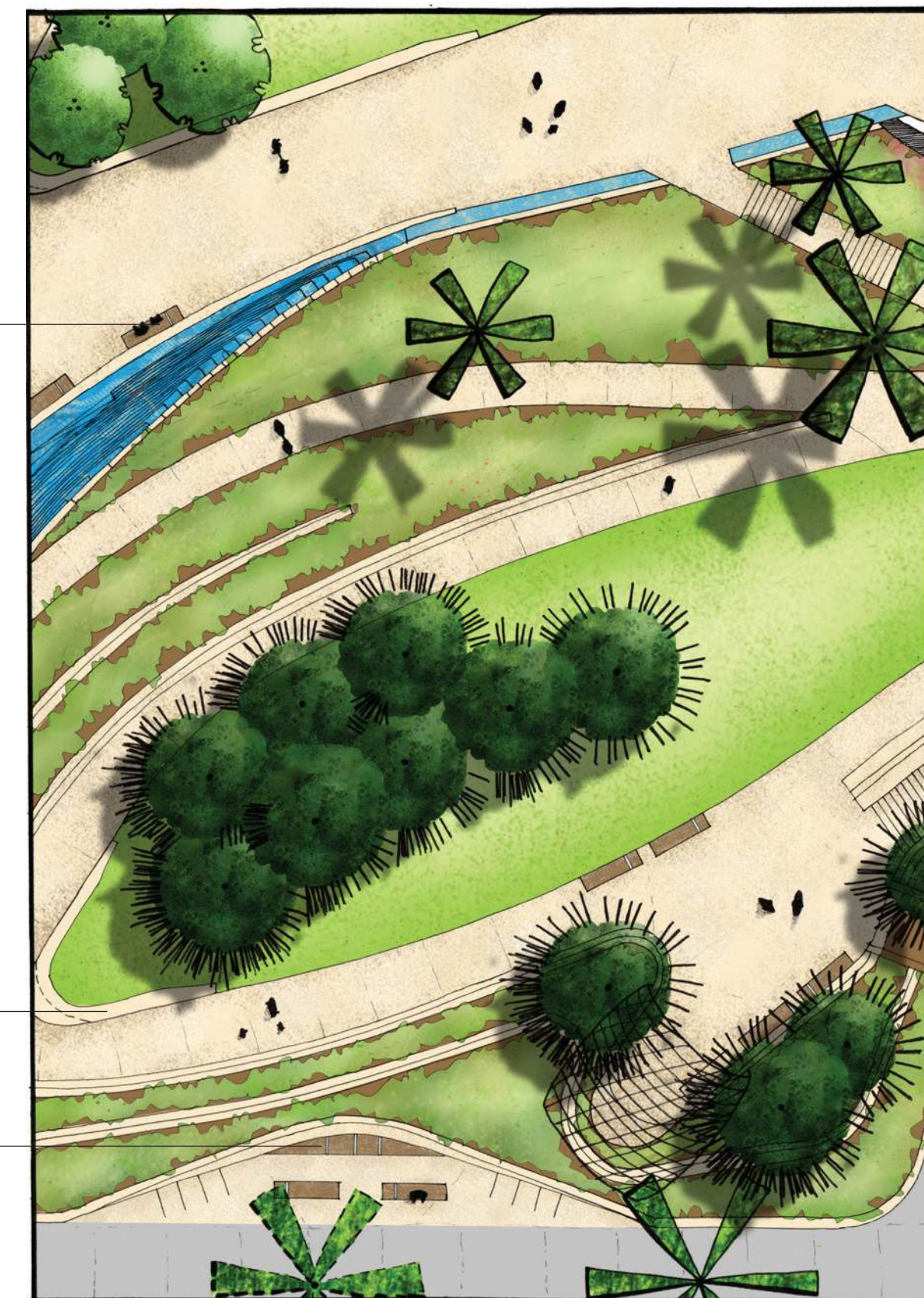


Wooden Seat Wall Bench

STANDARD BENCH

PLANTER SEAT WALL

CANTILEVERED ARC BENCH



SEATING

1" = 20'



bird nests

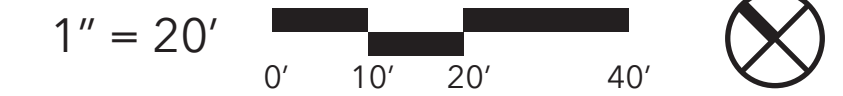
Two metal cage bird nests define the South West side of the park, overlooking Ocean Avenue to provide views of Santa Monica Beach and the ocean. These nests use the same curvilinear form seen throughout the park, this time mimicking an ocean wave curling and crashing into the soft sand.



P4



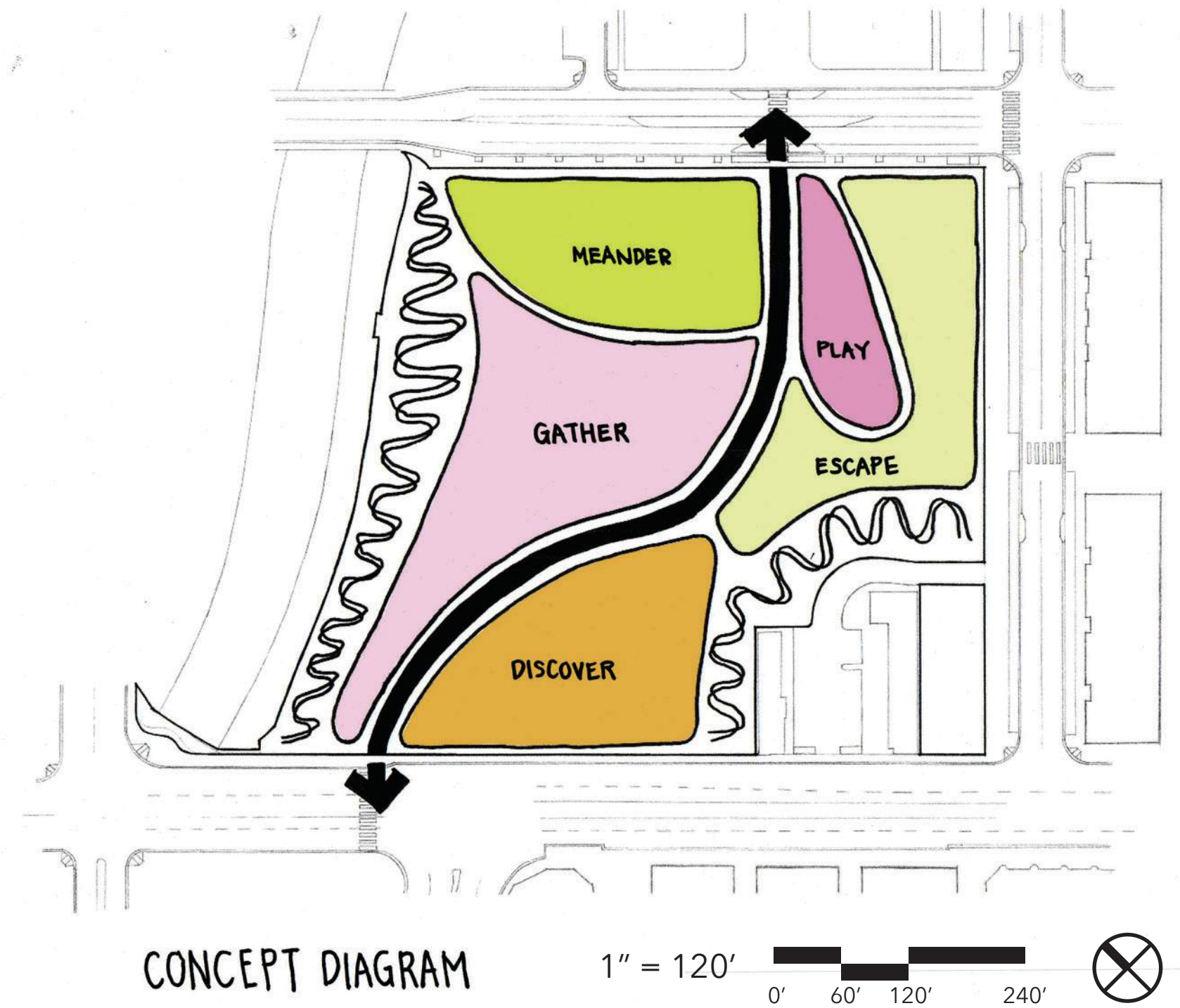
SECTION ELEVATION OF BIRD NEST ON HILL

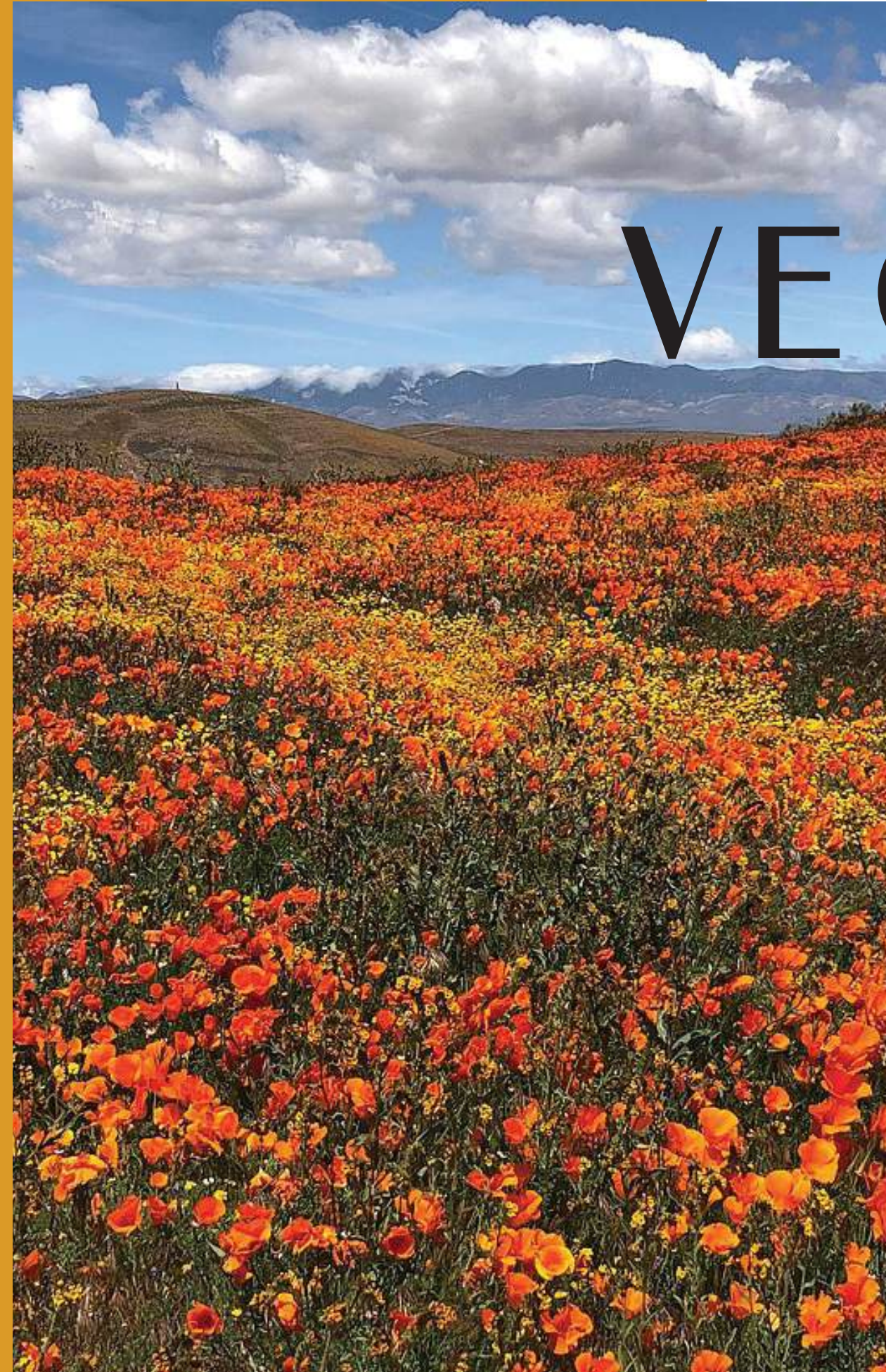


25

big idea

After exploring Tongva Park over the last year, expanding both physical footsteps and my conceptual understanding of landscape architecture design, I see the conceptual program and intent behind the design. Analyzing the park in segments resulted in a comprehensive and cumulative understanding.





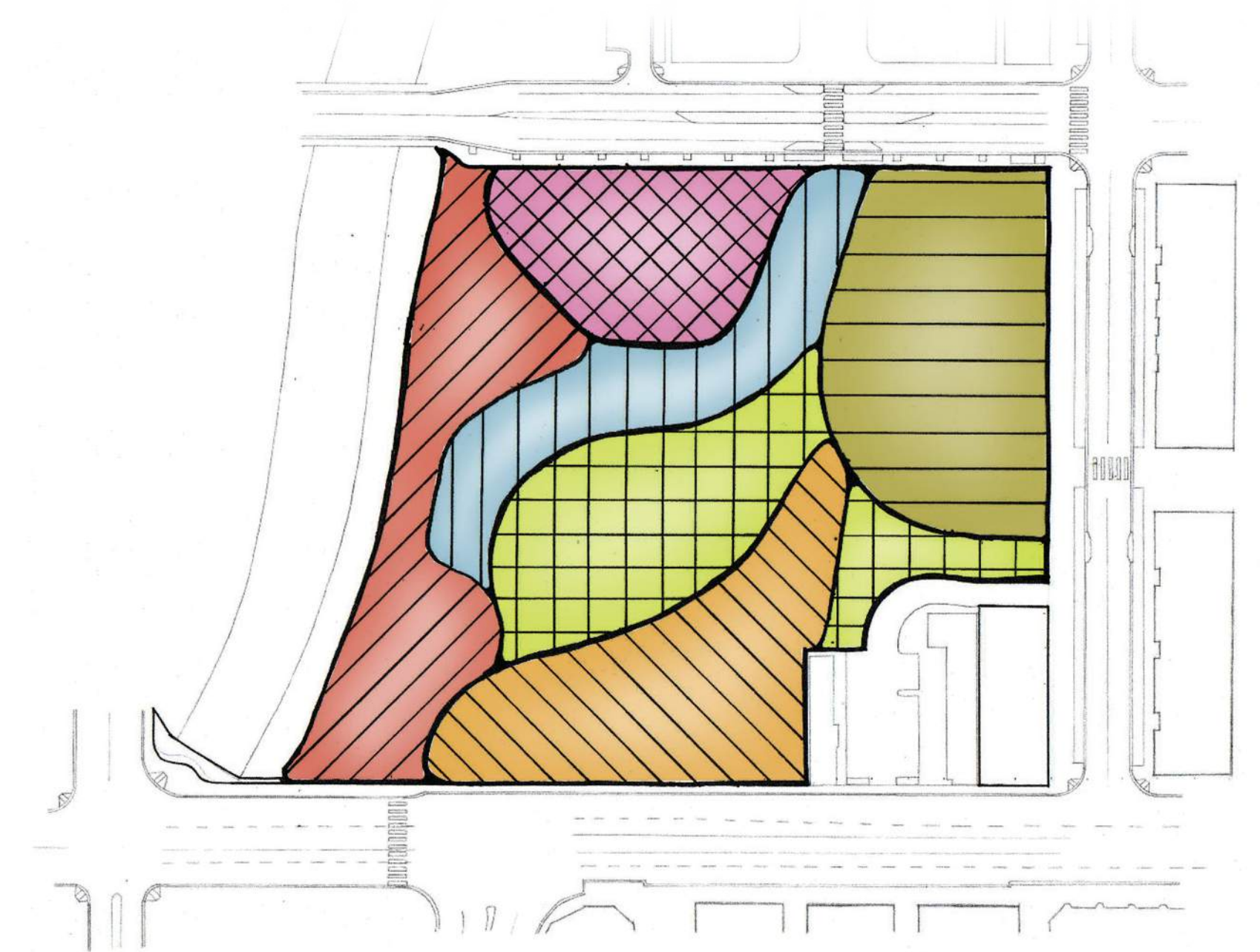
VEGETATION

"in every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir

ecozones

California is unique in that it has distinct types of plant habitats corresponding to specific environmental characteristics, such as elevation, salinity, and temperature. Tongva Park represents multiple California ecosystems through groupings of plant species in different areas of the park. Some species cross between two zones, a phenomena also found in nature.



riparian



Carex divulsa



Platanus racemos



Zephyranthes candida



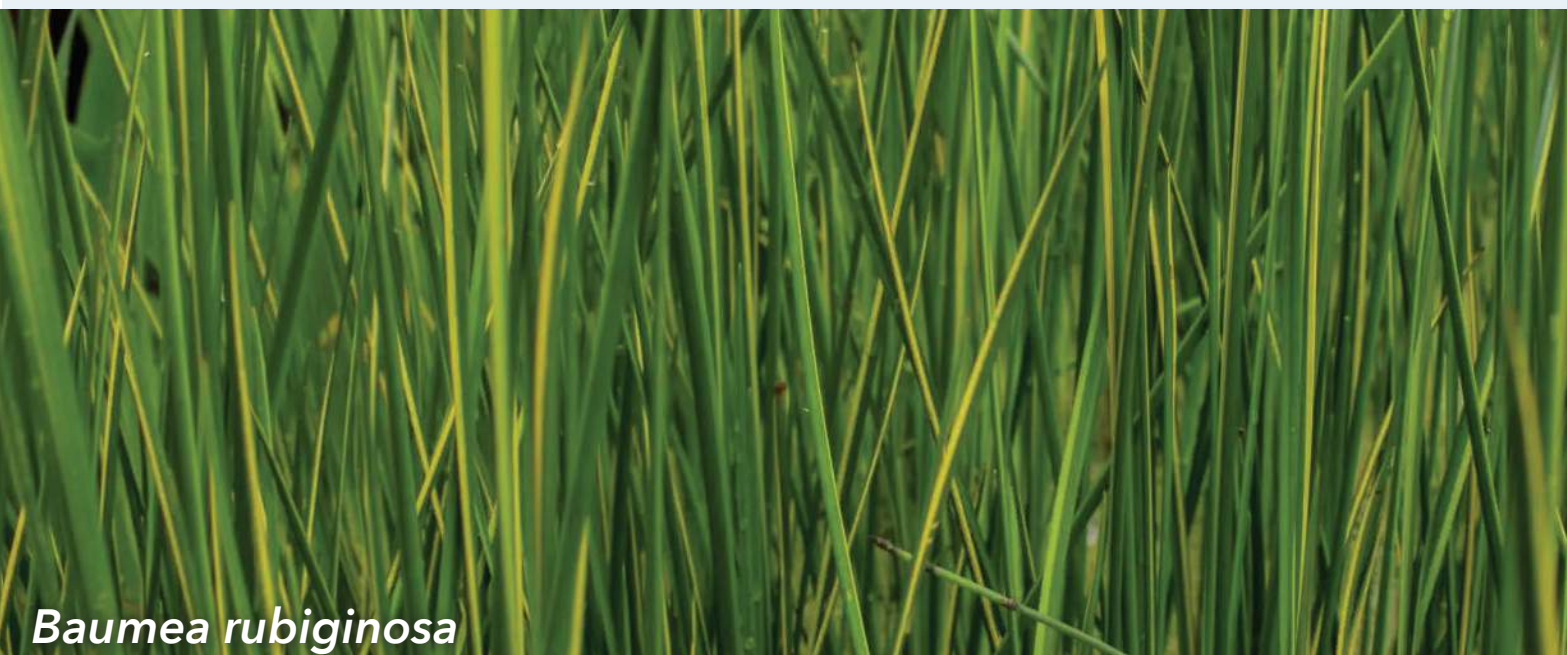
Pennisetum 'Fairy Tails'



Umbellularia californica



Juncus patens 'Elk Blue'



Baumea rubiginosa



Ranunculus californicus



Cyperus alternifolius 'Nana'



Acorus gramineus



Anemopsis californica



Lomandra 'Breeze'

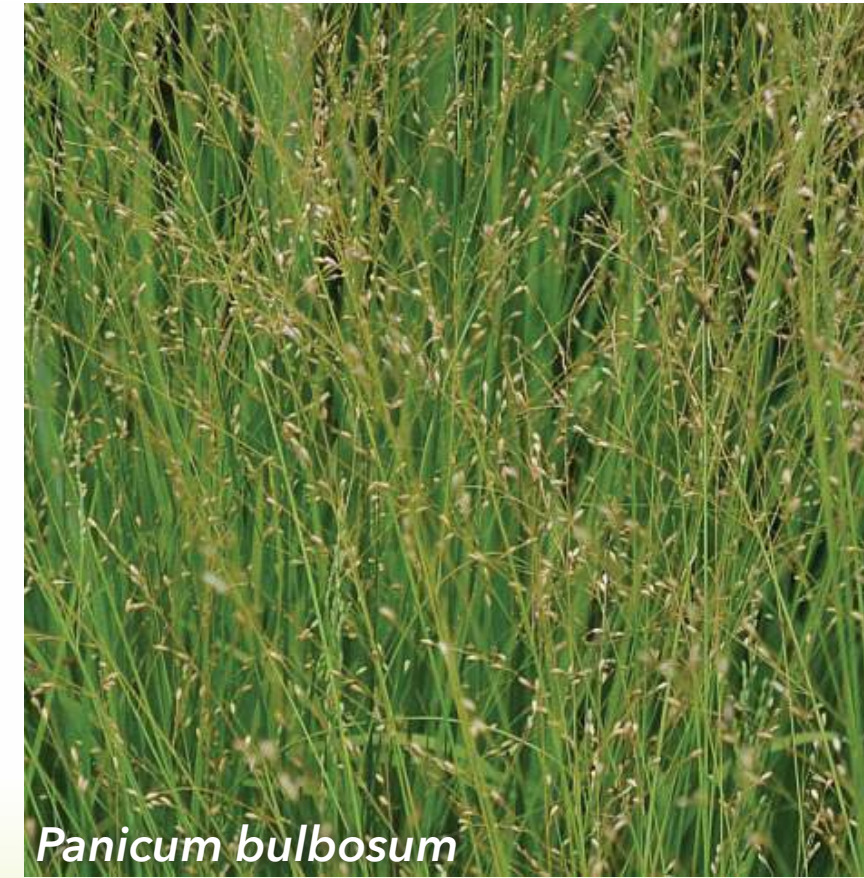
meadow



Oenothera lamarckiana



Arbutus marina



Panicum bulbosum



Echeveria 'Afterglow'



Tabebuia impetiginosa



Muhlenbergia 'Pink Flamingo'



Pennisetum spathiolatum



Oxalis



Gaura siskiyou



Carex praegracilis



Bellis perennis



Bougainvillea 'Barbara Karst'

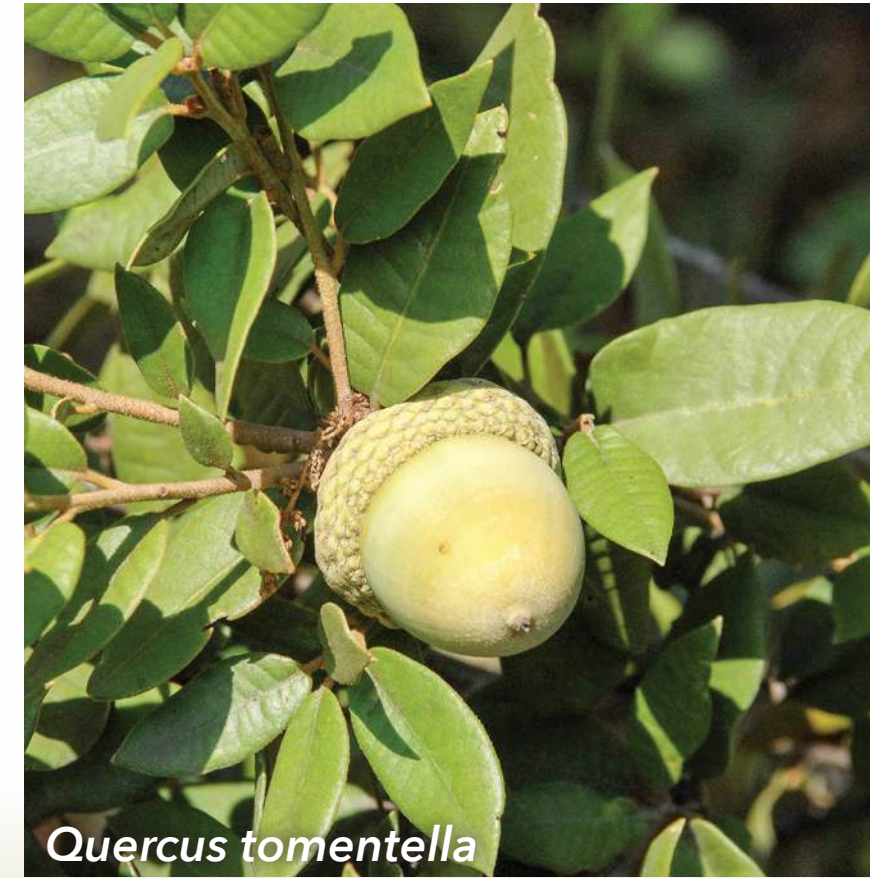
forest



Leucojum



Pinus halipensis



Quercus tomentella



Pennisetum 'Fairy Tails'



Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'



Beschomeria



Sesleria 'Greenlee hybrid'



Urginea maritima



Restio festuciformis



Ipheion



Dianella 'Silver Streak'



Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'

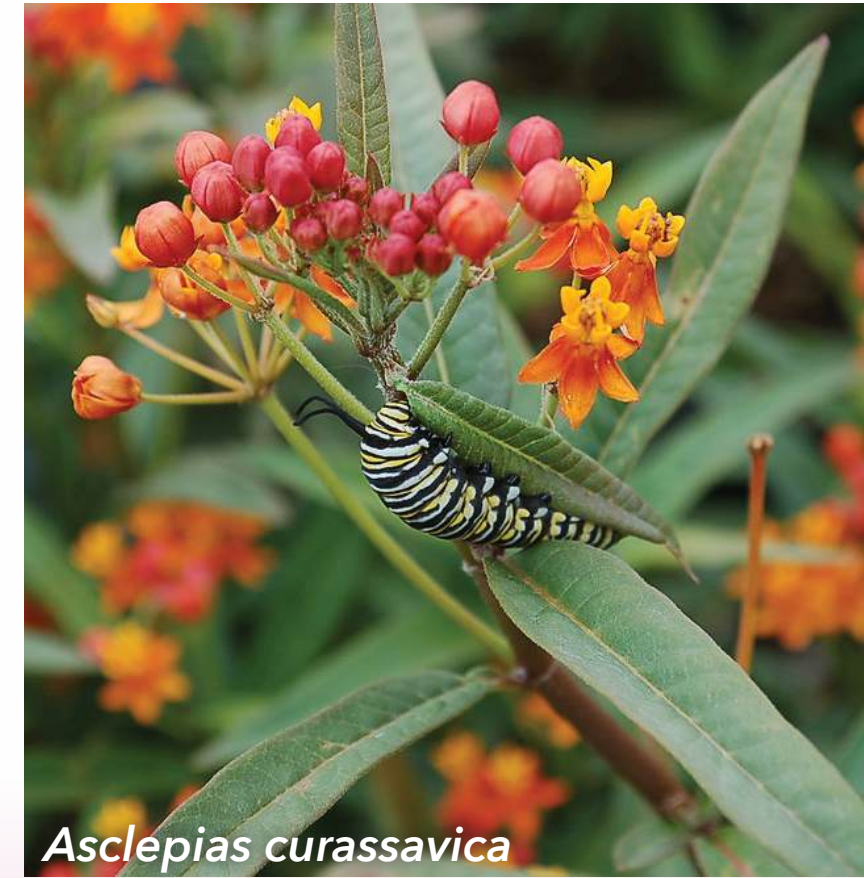
tropical grassland



Aloe thraskii



Ceiba speciosa



Asclepias curassavica



Eriogonum cinerium



Plumeria rubra



Strelitzia juncea



Erythrina coralloides



Bouteloua gracilis



Erigeron glaucus 'Sea Breeze'



Aloe ferox



Calodendrum capense



Muhlenbergia dubia

coastal bluff



Muhlenbergia lindheimeri



Pinus pinea



Crassula arborescens



Ravenea glauca



Nolina parryi



Agave vilimoriniana



Agave attenuata 'Boutin Blue'



Echeveria imbracata



Lygeum spartum



Aloe arborescens



Pinus torreyana



Aristida purpurea

jungle



Phoenix reclinata



Ficus nitida



Sabal minor



Grevillea 'Canberra Gem'



Ficus macrophylla



Brahea edulis



Hemerocallis



Phoenix dactylifera



Tradescantia spathacea



Washingtonia filifera



Gazania



Cycas revoluta

TERMINUS



"one's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

- Henry Miller

site plan

hand rendered, black & white



site plan

hand rendered, color



site plan

digitally rendered, color

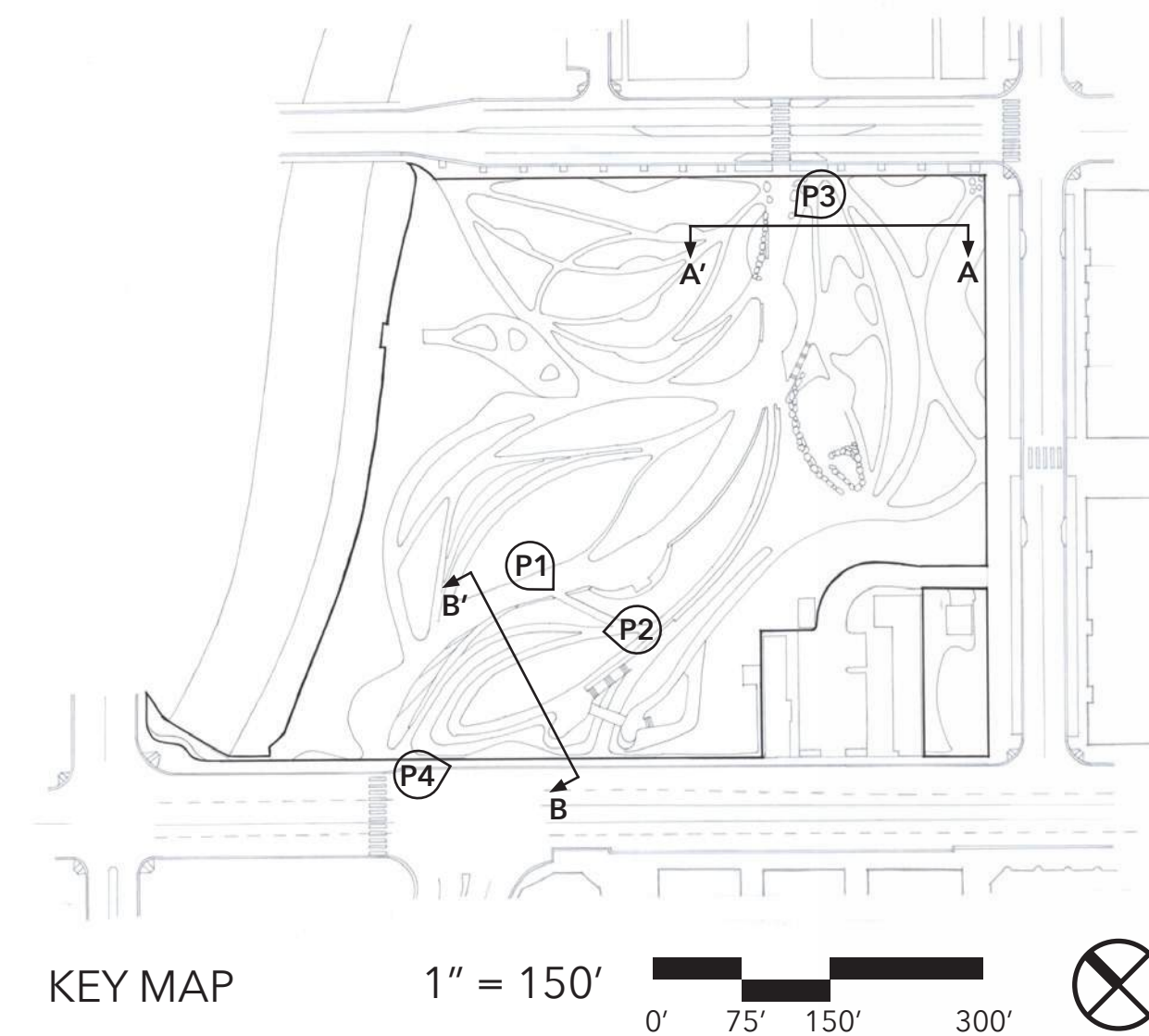


final thoughts

As the evolution of my exploration of Tongva Park comes to a close, I'm reminded of flowing water: the pinnacle of all of life; that brings people together, but also which wars are fought over; that enables plants to grow, but can also create deadly natural disasters.

We too are like water: adapting to our environment; creating space for ourselves; exploring paths that open in front of us; being a force when necessary, and stillness at other times.

As water, we pick up items on our way, leaving some behind as sediment when they no longer serve us, while keeping others dissolved within us, but always staying true to our nature. I hope to keep much of what I learned in this class close within me, and will let myself flow wherever I choose to go next.



resources

A huge thank you to my instructors, Laura Razo, Rebecca Schwaner, and David Squires for teaching me how to graphically represent my ideas in hand drawn and computer rendered work. These skills are invaluable & I'm amazed at how much I learned.

All Tongva Park photos are my own except city hall (p7, Santa Monica Daily Press), the apartments (p7, Redfin) and the bathroom (p21, West-Centric).

Scenery photos are free stock photos from Unsplash.com.

Plant photos are from Gardenia.net, Calscape.org, or Wikipedia.com.

THANK YOU!