

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL:

An aerial photograph of a city built on a hillside. The city features a mix of modern and older buildings, with a prominent bridge spanning across the top right. The foreground shows residential areas with palm trees and smaller houses. The background shows a hilly landscape with more buildings and a bridge.

Creating a Regenerative
Landscape Rooted in
Culture, Ecology, and
Justice

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Capstone 2025
Landscape Architecture
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Acknowledgements

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We respectfully acknowledge that the Lincoln Heights Jail site is located on land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands.

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Sally McLean White
May 11, 1946 - June 8, 2023

SPECIAL THANKS:

This book would not be possible without the guidance, mentorship, inspiration and encouragement from my professors and support system. I am so grateful for each and every one of you:

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Lastly, I want to thank my relentlessly inspiring UCLA Landscape Architecture cohort of 2025. It would be an honor to steward the land by your side.

-Amy

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01 Introduction

Project Statement

Once a symbol of **confinement and systemic injustice**, the Lincoln Heights Jail is transformed into a thriving landscape of **regeneration**—where **land, water, air and community** are **restored**. Through phytoremediation, riparian habitat restoration, and stormwater filtration, the degraded environment is rehabilitated, addressing long-standing **pollution** and **ecological scars**. In addition, the site becomes a platform for **community empowerment**, mending the social fabric frayed by systemic injustice. This revitalized landscape creates a dynamic public space that supports **environmental renewal, climate resilience, and social healing**.



Location | 401- 449, 313 - 317 N. Avenue 19, Los Angeles, CA 90031



Lincoln Heights Jail. Photo Courtesy of Reddit

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Boundary



Site Information | Lincoln Heights Jail Triangle

The Lincoln Heights Jail site sits on an asphalt triangle bordered by the Southern Pacific freight rail line and the L.A. River on the west, the 110 freeway on the north, and the Ed P. Reyes River Greenway on the south. The A-Line Metro runs diagonally through the site.



1927 Art-Deco façade of jail entrance

SITE AREA: 268,700 sq. ft (6.1 acres)

SITE PERIMETER: 0.66 miles (3,500 ft)

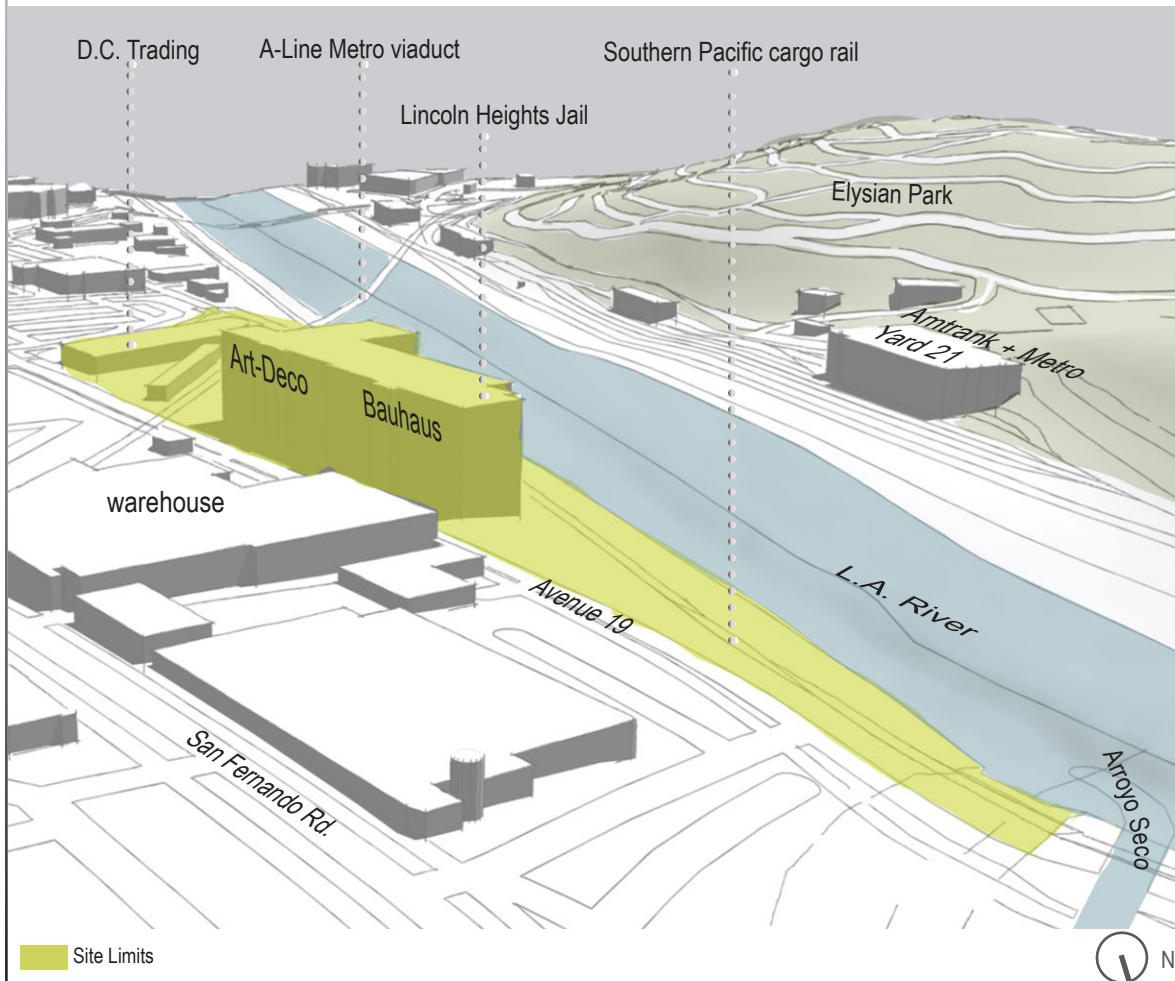
LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- Jail gatehouse
- 1 Former Lincoln Heights Jail. Art-Deco 5-story building + modern expansion; vacant since 2014
- 2a One-story vehicle repair facility for the L. A. Department of Transportation; vacant since 2023
- 2b One-story warehouse for the L. A. Department of Transportation; vacant since 2023
- 3 Dai Cheong Trading Co. Food Products Supplier & DC Distributions

Site Information | The Lincoln Heights Jail

The 5-story Art-Deco jail was built on the eastern bank of the L.A. River in 1927, and opened its doors in 1931. The Bauhaus modern addition was built in 1949. Because of its architectural value, the Lincoln Heights Jail is currently listed as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (LAHCM) 587. The jail was decommissioned in 1965 due to overcrowding, and later passed through various owners, the longest being the Bilingual Foundation for Performing Arts. The building has deteriorated significantly

since its abandonment in 2014, and sits on one of the largest vacant lots of land owned by the City of L.A. In 2017 a group of developers sought to redevelop the site, but the environmental hazards posed too grave and expensive of a problem to repurpose the building. The environmental hazards have only worsened in the last couple of years, leading Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez to present a motion to demolish the building.



Entrance to the Bauhaus modern addition of the jail



View of the Lincoln Heights Jail from Avenue 19

Site Information | Hazardous Materials

Environmental reports completed in November 2014 indicate that the property contains asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and other hazardous materials, including polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorofluorocarbons, and mercury (City of Los Angeles 2014)¹. These toxins leach into the basement after storm events, contaminating groundwater and surrounding areas. In addition, two 10,000 gallon barrels of fuel oil are buried 30' below the surface next to the boiler room. AECOM¹ speculates that the fuel oil barrels were buried in the 1950s and were

used to power the boiler room. Extensive bird droppings completely cover the interior of the building due to the broken windows on site. Since the LA Department of Transportation left the premises in 2023, the vandalism and copper stripping has been an on-going problem, causing the walls, ceiling and floors to degrade more quickly, exposing hazardous asbestos. During rainstorms, the contamination worsens, as chemicals leech into the boiler room, which makes its way into the underground barrels, which then contaminate the groundwater and soil.

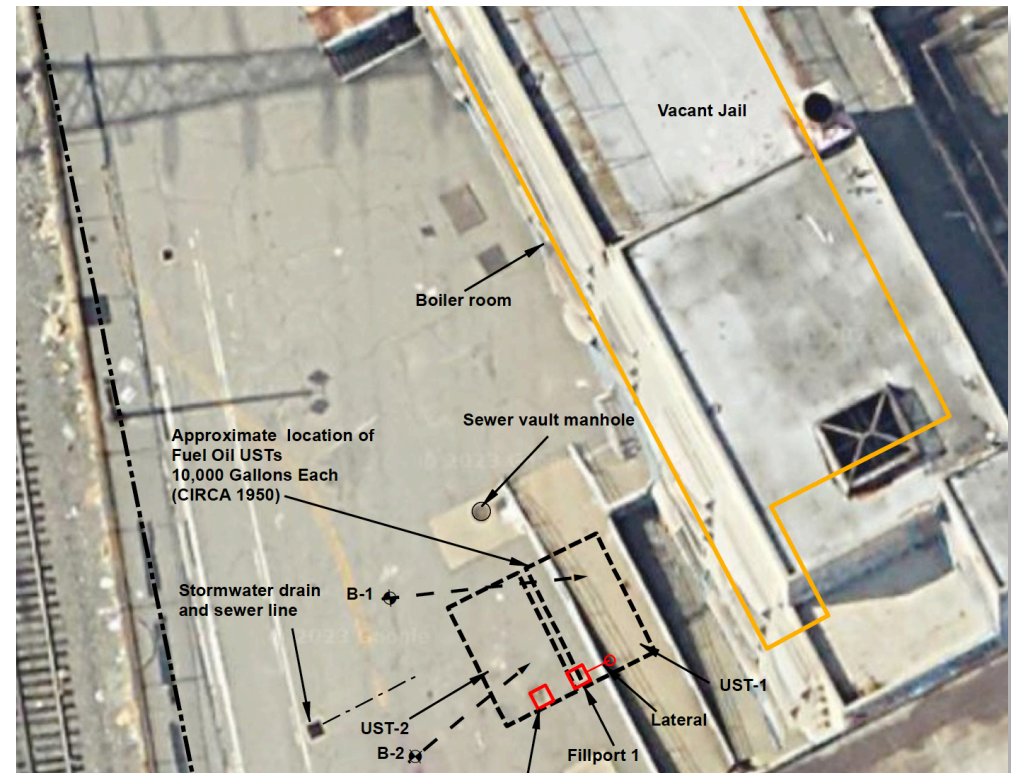


Bird feces have also become a hazard inside the jail.

Asbestos signage fails to keep people away.



Copper wire theft has exasperated the amount of asbesot and lead that are leaching into the concrete walls, floors, ceiling and basement of the jail.



Two 10,000 gallon fuel oil underground storage tanks (USTs) are buried 30 feet below the surface, on the western side of the jail. Photo and notes from AECOM Report²

Edge Conditions | Site Photos



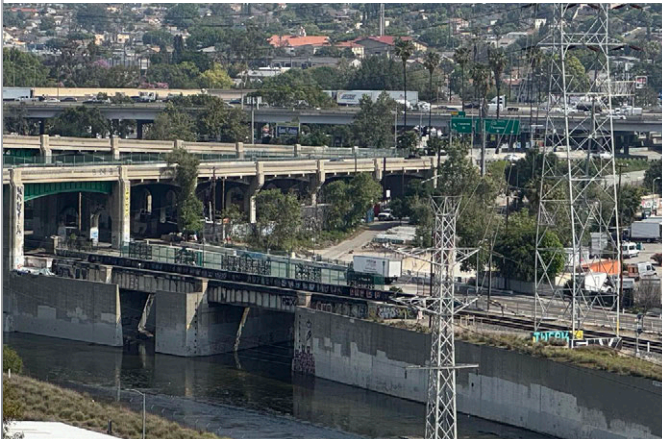
Lincoln Heights Jail and L.A. River viewed from Elysian Park



Zoomed in view of A-line viaduct diagonally crossing the site



Union Pacific cargo railroad at the north end of site and 110 Freeway



Arroyo Seco confluence & vehicle access to river



Asphalt and concrete surround the site. View of jail from the south



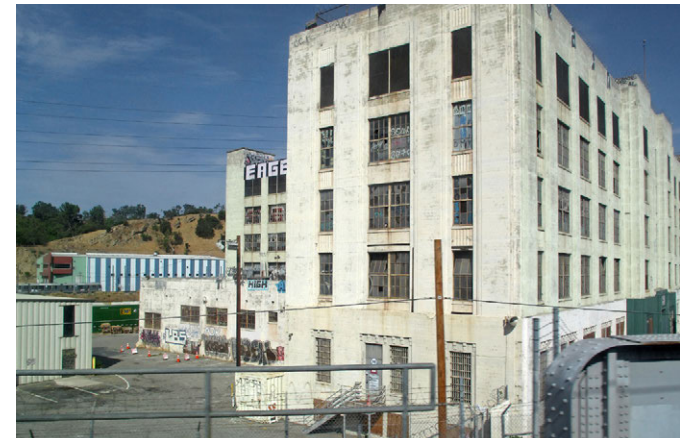
Southern Pacific railroad and transmission towers at north end of site



Vandalized interior of the Lincoln Heights Jail. *Photo by Danielle D.1*



Ed P. Reyes Greenway looking north at the D.C. Trading building



Lincoln Heights Jail viewed from the A-Line. *Photo via Wikipedia 2*

Project Justification

How do we mitigate pollution in neighborhoods adjacent to industry and transportation corridors?

Limited Green Space

- The industrial corridor exists primarily around the river, obscuring riverside bluffs with **factories, empty warehouses, railways and manufacturing plants**
- 7 new mixed-use housing developments are being constructed or developed in the immediate area
- There is no access to the river
- Only **14% of land** in Los Angeles is used for Parks and Recreation, and low-income neighborhoods are 30% less likely to be within walking distance to a park
- Although geographically close, **Elysian Park is inaccessible** from Lincoln Heights

GARDENS OFFER CONNECTION TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

URBAN GREENERY CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ABSORBING CARBON DIOXIDE AND LOWERING CARBON EMISSIONS IN MEGACITIES LIKE LOS ANGELES

HEAT TRAPPING ASPHALT AND CONCRETE CAN RAISE TEMPERATURES UP TO 150°F ON A HOT DAY

NATURE POSITIVE ECONOMY

GLOBAL HEATING = MORE FIRES, LESS WATER = INSTABILITY

SLOW, INFILTRATE, CLEAN, REUSE H2O

NATIVE RIPARIAN HABITATS ACT LIKE SPONGES, RETAINING LARGE AMOUNTS OF STORMWATER, FILTERING POLLUTANTS, METALS AND SEDIMENT OUT OF THE WATER

HIGH QUANTITIES OF TOXINS IN SOILS ARE MOST EFFECTIVELY CLEANED THROUGH PHYTOREMEDIATION

The Lincoln Heights Jail triangle revitalizes the eastern riverbank of the Los Angeles River into an open green space that leans into opportunities for the arts and sciences. Habitat is restored to the original flood plain through bioremediation, native plant design, biomimicry and stormwater management. The stormwater capture system that exists under the Ed P. Reyes Greenway will expand to cover the entirety of the site, allowing for increased filtration, groundwater infiltration and storage collection from nearby industries, warehouses, businesses and residences. In addition, the Union Pacific railroad cargo lines are relocated (decreasing diesel fuel emissions), creating public views and access to the river, while offering respite in an industry-laden neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Project Justification

How do we mitigate pollution in neighborhoods adjacent to industry and transportation corridors?

Environmental Burden:

- Lincoln Heights ranks in the **98th percentile of contaminated neighborhoods** in the state of California
- Annual **PM2.5 concentration is in the top 10%** of CA
- 0.149 tons of diesel particulate matter (DPM) released per year from trucks and cargo trains
- Soil and groundwater are contaminated from **unregulated toxic waste** dumping in the 70s & 80s
- The Lincoln Heights Jail contains **asbestos, lead, arsenic**, other metals, bird feces, **VOCs**, and buried barrels of petroleum products
- Surrounding vacant buildings can become an environmental hazard if left untouched
- Trash and debris** build up in and around the river and Arroyo Seco Confluence pose a **threat to the river's wildlife** habitat and our water supply
- Under California's AB617, communities have a right to safe air, clean water, and access to public spaces

BECAUSE OF IT'S SMALL SIZE, PM2.5 CAN BE INHALED AND DEPOSITED DEEP INTO THE LUNGS

INFANTS, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH PREEXISTING HEART OR LUNG DISEASE ARE MOST AFFECTED BY PM2.5 EXPOSURE

ASTHMA RATES IN LINCOLN HEIGHTS ARE HIGHER THAN 69% OF CA

PM2.5 = AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER THAT IS 2.5 MICRONS IN DIAMETER OR SMALLER

SOME CHEMICALS OF PM2.5 PROMOTE CLIMATE WARMING (E.G. BLACK CARBON)

PM CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING PLANTS, SOIL AND WATER

58% OF PEOPLE IN LINCOLN HEIGHTS DRIVE A CAR ALONE TO WORK

LOW BIRTH WEIGHTS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN 81% OF CA

PM2.5 EXPOSURE =
PREMATURE MORTALITY
CANCER
LUNG & HEART COMPLICATIONS
CHRONIC BRONCHITIS
ASTHMA ATTACKS

Public Health:

- Asthma** rates are higher in Lincoln Heights than 69% of other census tracts in CA
- Babies are more frequently born with **low birth weights** in Lincoln Heights than 81% of other census tracts in CA
- Children and infants are more sensitive to the effects of pollution and can suffer from chronic bronchitis, asthma attacks, **lung and heart complications**, hospitalizations, **cancer and premature mortality** ¹
- 65% of people living in Lincoln Heights are under 18

Goals + Objectives

NATIVE

CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT

AIR

WATER

SOIL

- **Improve air quality** by relocating the freight rail line from the eastern bank of the L.A. River. Create **carbon sinks** that will sequester carbon and filter pollutants via thick tree canopies and vegetative layers.
- Capture and **clean stormwater** + dry weather runoff via constructed wetlands, rain gardens, bioswales and permeable surfaces.
- Support **biodiversity** along the L.A. River corridor.

BELONGING

RESTORE JUSTICE

HEALTH

CONNECTION

SAFETY

- Transform the jail into a civic landscape that acknowledges its **carceral past** through reuse of architectural relics, public art + interpretive design.
- Create inclusive and safe gathering spaces that foster **education, arts, science, social programs** and community healing.
- Create equitable and safe access to the river and connect **pedestrian + bicycle paths** along the LA River & Arroyo Seco greenways.

LOWER UHIE

GREEN SPACE

BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

TREE CANOPY

MICRO-FOREST

- Lower **urban heat island effect** by replacing concrete with permeable surfaces, vegetation, and tree canopy.
- Use **stormwater captured on site** to irrigate native plant material while using hugelkultur, swales and berms to minimize water-use.
- Lower carbon footprint by using regenerative solar energy.
- Create an **ethnobotanical garden** and **urban flower farm** to support **local stewardship**.



Gyeongchun Line Regeneration Park, Seoul, Korea

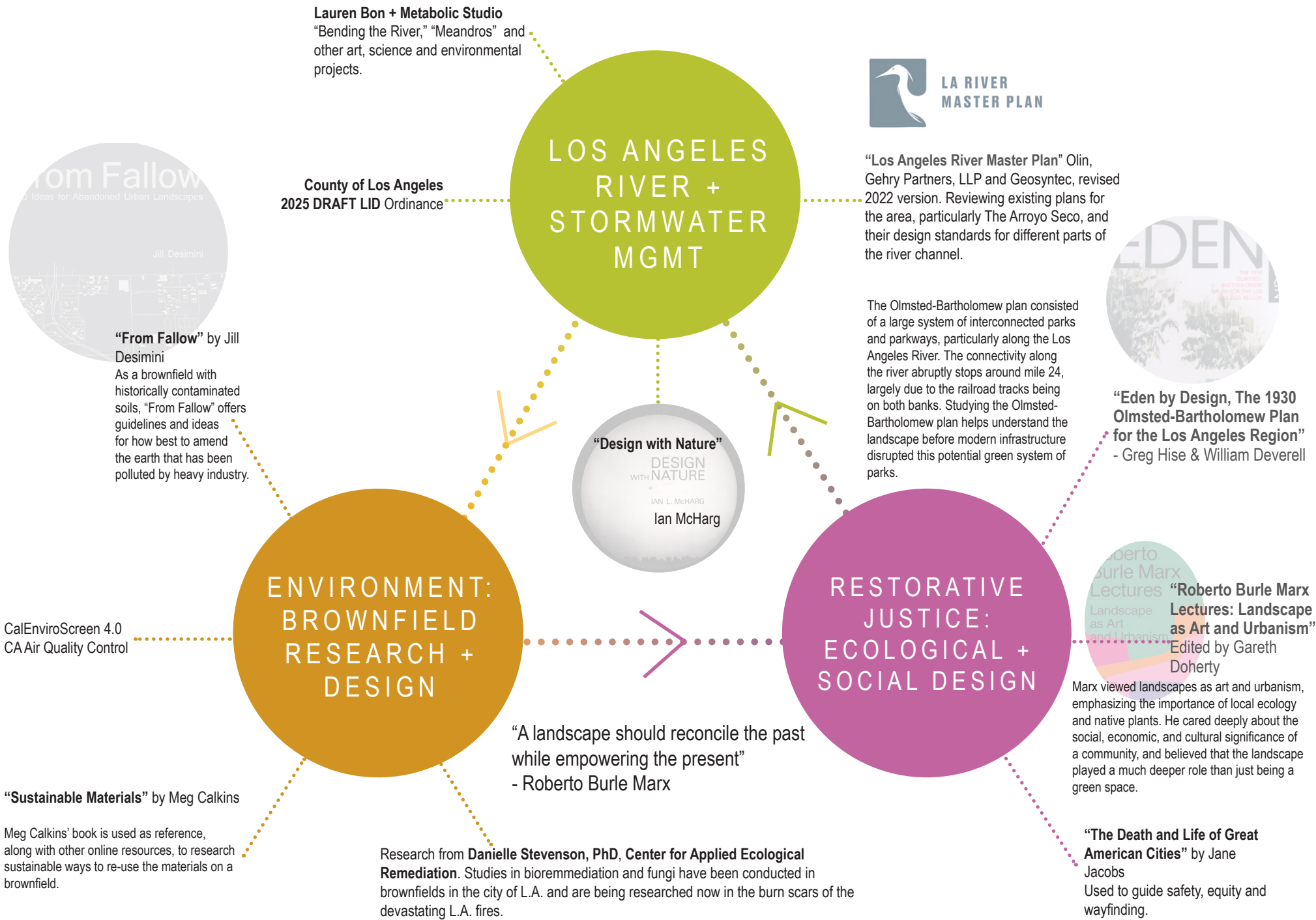


"They Claim I'm a Criminal" Mural by Man One, South Central L.A.



Banks of the Allier River.

Design Methodology + Research



Potential Users

Local, NELA, and downtown residents, students, professionals, artists, activists, Tongva + Indigenous Communities, the formerly incarcerated, wildlife habitat, and the unhoused

The Lincoln Heights arts scene is a very active and vibrant community, with a strong grassroots presence, blending a mix of muralists, artist-run spaces, and a DIY mentality.

Map of adjacent communities within a 5 mile radius



Map Courtesy of ArcGIS

LEGEND:

- Site
- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Boundary

Local Lincoln Heights residents

- Predominantly Latinx and Asian, multigenerational households
- **65% of the population** is comprised of **children and young adults**
- Parents of young children, families, cyclists, seniors, artists, professionals

Adjacent NELA residents

- Mixed demographics coming from: Cypress Park, Mount Washington, Highland Park, Eagle Rock, El Sereno, Chinatown, and Boyle Heights
- Families, cyclists, dog walkers, students, artists, professionals

Downtown LA Workers and Residents

- Younger population from the Arts District, Chinatown and Little Tokyo, using the site at lunch time or for pop-up events

Students

- Students from Lincoln High School, Cal State LA, Trade Tech, YoungNak College of Ministry, community colleges and nearby charter & elementary schools

Wildlife

Tongva and Indigenous Communities

LA River users

- Birders, walkers, cyclists and runners

Formerly Incarcerated Communities

The unhoused population of Lincoln Heights

Demographics | Lincoln Heights - "The Bedroom of the Pueblo"

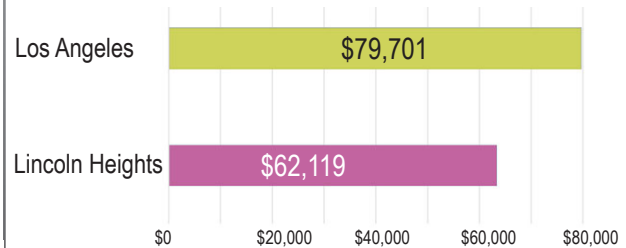
The first suburb of Los Angeles

Population in Lincoln Heights:
27,468 people live within a land area of **2.57 sq. mi.**
Median age is 37 years

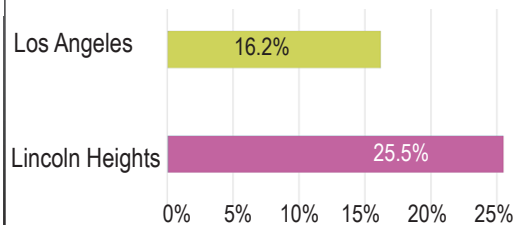
Density:
8,146 people / square mile in Los Angeles
vs. 11,662 / square mile in Lincoln Heights

2.5 people / household in Los Angeles
vs. 9.4 people / household in Lincoln Heights

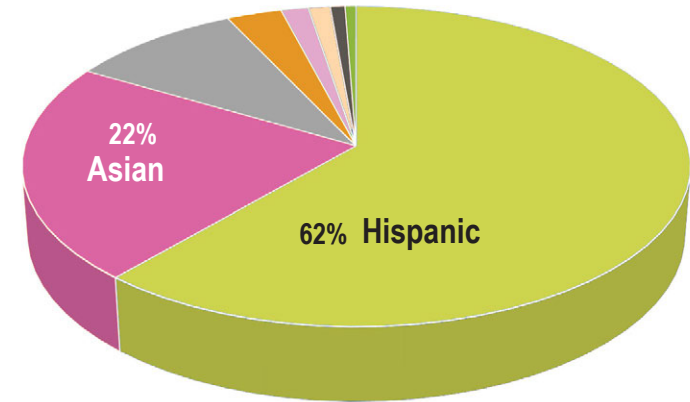
Median Income: **\$62,119 Median income (2023)**
 (\$78,538 National Median Income)¹



Population Living Below Poverty Line:

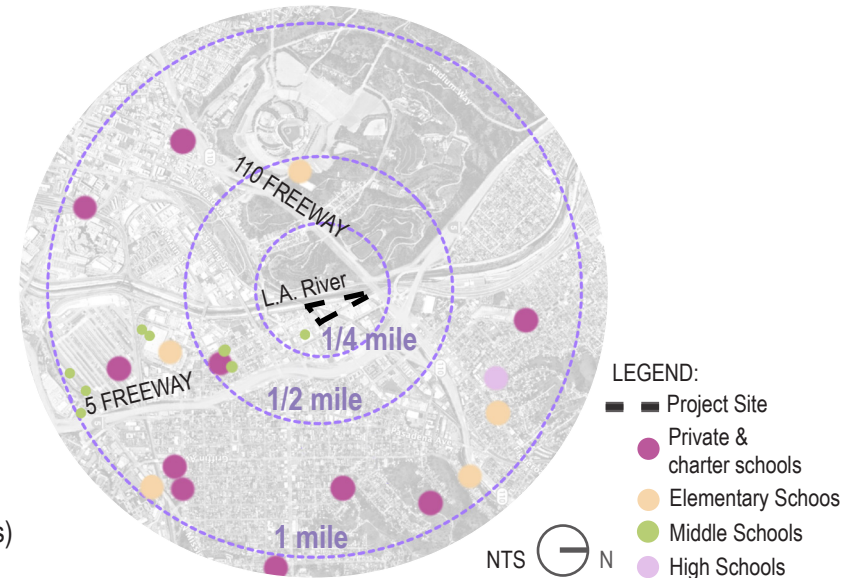


Racial Demographics:



Hispanic 62% Asian 22% White 9.5% Black 3% 2+ Races 1.5% Other 1.2% Native American 0.8% Native Hawaiian 0.6%

Schools in Lincoln Heights:



K-12 SCHOOLS:
 12 Public Schools
 1 Private Elementary School
 1 Private High School (all girls)

COLLEGES:
 Cal State LA
 USC East College Prep

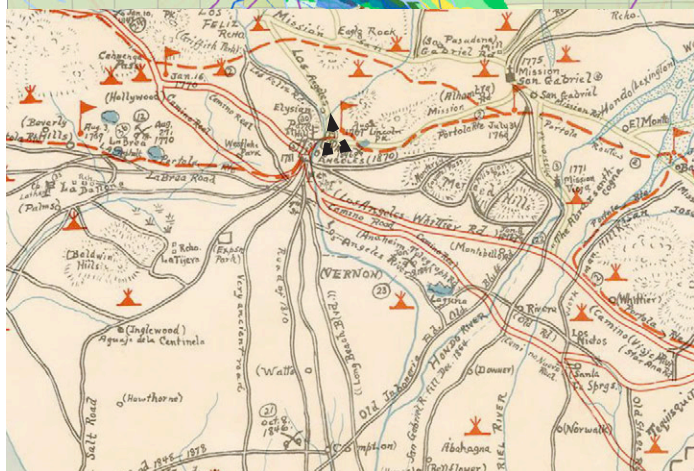
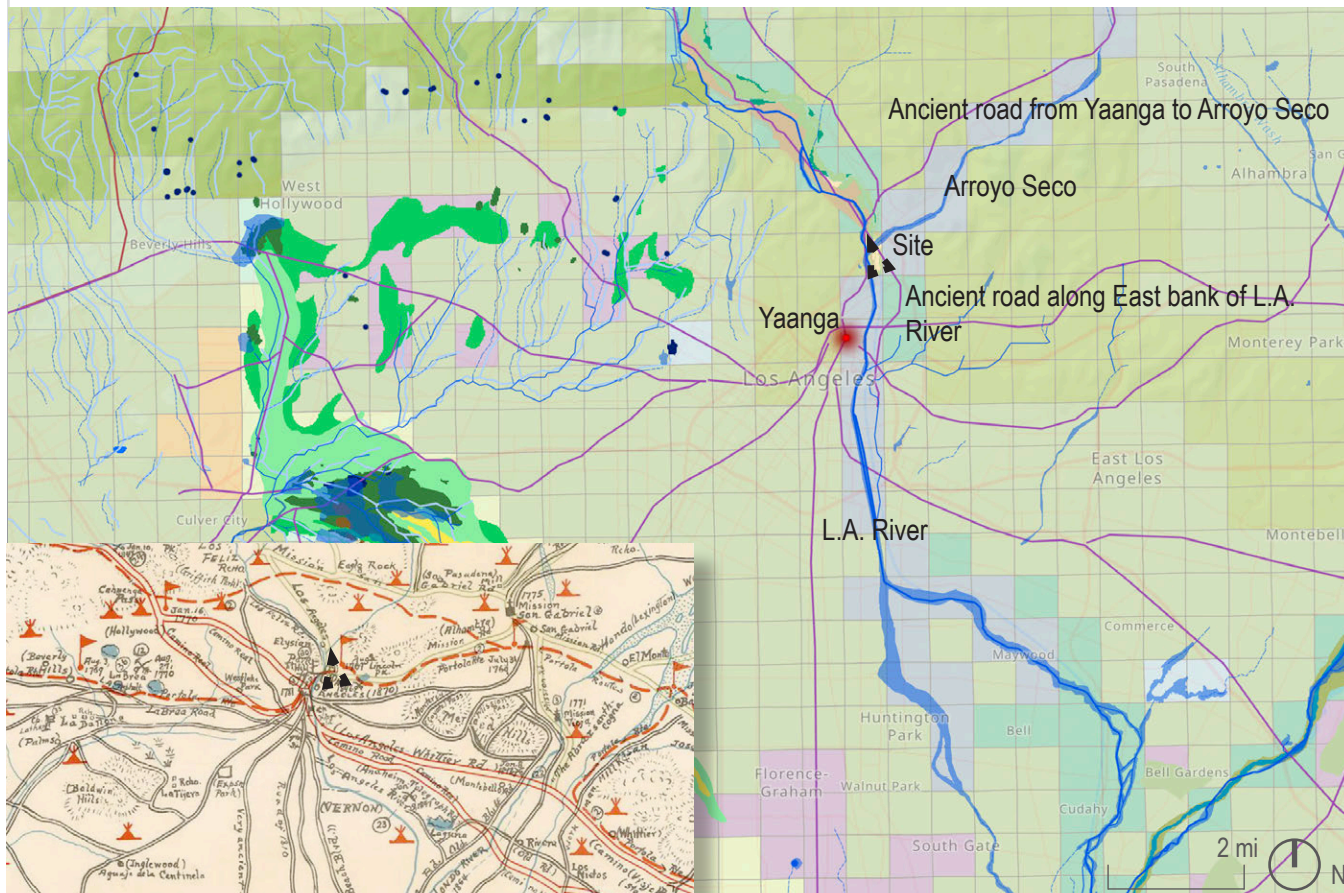
87% LAUSD graduation rate for 2023-2024 school year²
vs. 38% Lincoln Heights high school graduation rate³



02 Site Analysis

Site Analysis | Early Site History

Map of the Indigenous Landscape by the LA Landscape History Project¹



Kirkman-Harriman Map of 1938²

LEGEND:

- Project Site
- Ancient Indigenous roads
- Potential natural vegetation: Coastal Sage Scrub
- Potential natural vegetation: Riparian Forest
- Potential natural vegetation: Riverwash
- Potential natural vegetation: Foothill and Valley Forests and Woodlands
- Stream terraces

- 450 BCE
Gabrieleno Tongva Peoples begin to settle the Los Angeles basin
- Yaanga was a central trading village and important location for commerce. It was high on the hill of what is now Elysian Park/Chinatown, away from the flooding riverbed. The L.A. River was vital to the Gabrieleno Tongva Peoples for trade, transportation, food and ceremony.
- 1542
Spaniard Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo claims the region of Los Angeles for Spain
- 1771
The Spanish conquer and enslave the Tongva and use them to build the Misión de San Gabriel Arcángel
- 1823
Supreme Court Case, Johnson V. M'Intosh. The Doctrine of Discovery became part of U.S. Federal Law and was used to dispossess Indigenous Peoples of their land.
- 1850
California becomes the 31st state

Site Analysis | A History of Injustice + Civil Rights

First railroad opens in Los Angeles

1869

Dawes Act led to Native Americans losing about 100 million acres of their land

1887-1934

Name changed from East LA to Lincoln Heights

1917

Lincoln Heights Jail opens to house 625 prisoners

1931

L.A. River channelization

1938-1960



1943 during the Zoot Suit Riots, citizens (usually white men) took to the streets to attack Latino-looking people dressed in "Zoot Suits"



1943 during the Zoot Suit Riots, several Mexican and Filipino men are arrested for wearing "Zoot Suits"

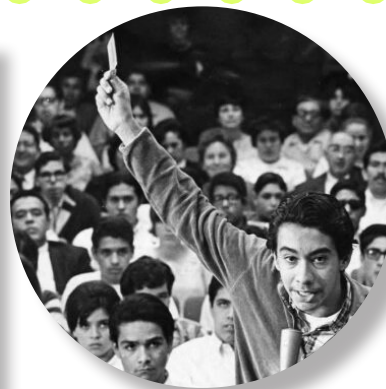
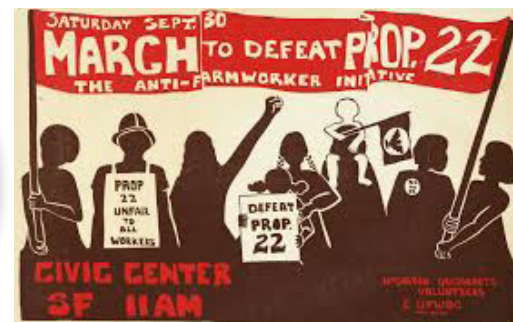


Photo courtesy of the LA Times



No on Prop 22 poster
Courtesy of The University of Pennsylvania

"Zoot Suit Riots"

1943

"Bloody Christmas"

50 officers brutally attacked 7 prisoners, resulting in the historic first conviction of LAPD officers

1951

Police Chief Parker targets members of the **LGBTQ+ community** and imprisons hundreds at the jail, infamously calling it the "Fruit Tank"

1950s-1960s

Jail decommissioned

1965

East LA Walkouts "blowouts" 15,000 high school students advocating for equal access to education

1968

"No on Prop 22"

Opposition to an anti-farmworker initiative, spearheaded by **Cesar Chavez**

1972

LA Riots

1992



1933 Photo of the Lincoln Heights Jail
Courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library

WARNING

THE ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF TOXIC WASTES WILL RESULT IN JAIL.
WE SHOULD KNOW WE GOT CAUGHT!

Lincoln Heights had several illegal and toxic dumping sites in the 70s + 80s



2023 Zoot Suit Cruiser in Elysian Park. Photo courtesy of LA Times¹

2014

LHJ lies vacant and deteriorates significantly

Eunisses Hernandez files a motion to demolish the LHJ due to **environmental hazards**

2023



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images

Lincoln Heights is one of the most affected neighborhoods by the Trump Administration's Ice Raids. As of 9/26/2025 over 5000 people have been detained in the greater Los Angeles area.

2025

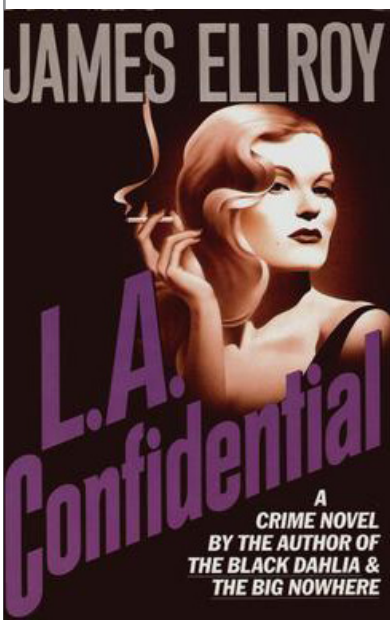
Site Analysis | Pop Culture + the Lincoln Heights Jail



2010 Lady Gaga feat. Beyoncé "Telephone" still from music video.



Scene from Blink 182's "Feeling This" shot on the roof of the Lincoln Heights Jail



James Ellroy's "L.A. Confidential" book published in 1990. Film released in 1997



Scene from Tony Kay's film, "American History X", shot on the rooftop of the Lincoln Heights Jail

1984 •••••
Nightmare On Elm Street filmed in the boiler room at LHJ

1990 •••••
 The notorious "Bloody Christmas" beatings from 1951 inspired the book *L.A. Confidential* along with a film adaptation of the same name

1979-2014
 LHJ housed the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, a non-profit theater group founded by three women to elevate Hispanic culture.

1993
 LHJ Declared Historic-Cultural Monument #587

1998
 Prison scenes from *American History X* filmed at LHJ

2003
 Blink 182 music video *Feeling This* filmed at LHJ

2010
 Lady Gaga feat. Beyoncé music video for *Telephone* filmed at LHJ

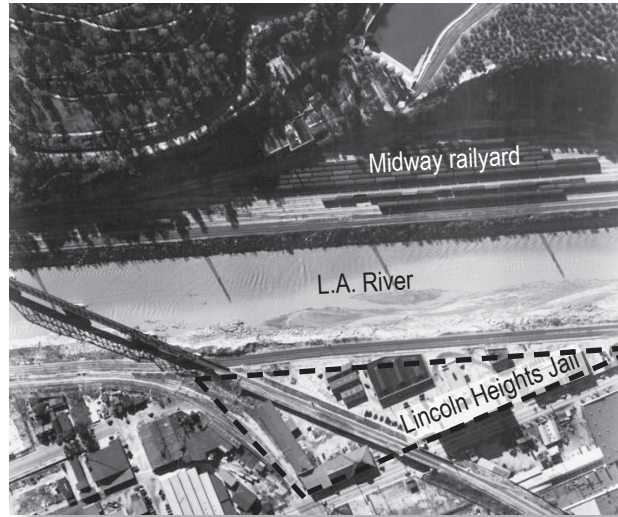
2010
 Scenes from Marvel's *Iron Man 2* filmed at LHJ

Site Analysis | Union Pacific Railroad (Formerly Southern Pacific Railroad)

BRIEF RAILROAD HISTORY:



1939 Photo of what is now the A-line viaduct with the Lincoln Heights Jail in the background.



1938 Photo of the unchannelized L.A. River with the Lincoln Heights Jail site in view, and the Midway Rail Yard, operated by Southern Pacific, on the western bank of the river.

1869: First train tracks laid in the city of Los Angeles

1902: Southern Pacific Railroad relocates its rail yards to Lincoln Heights, slowly shaping the oldest LA suburb into an industrial corridor. With the railroad now on the eastern banks of the L.A. River, the demographics begin to change, bringing in Italian, Irish and migrant agricultural workers from the Southwest to live and work in the neighborhood.

The Southern Pacific Railroad was important for the region, as it became integrated into the Ports of LA and Long Beach, delivering goods from the west coast to the east coast.

1985: Taylor Yard closes, but the Lincoln Heights tracks remain active, though usage and frequency have slowed over time.

1996: Union Pacific buys Southern Pacific Railroad

TANGIBLE HARM:

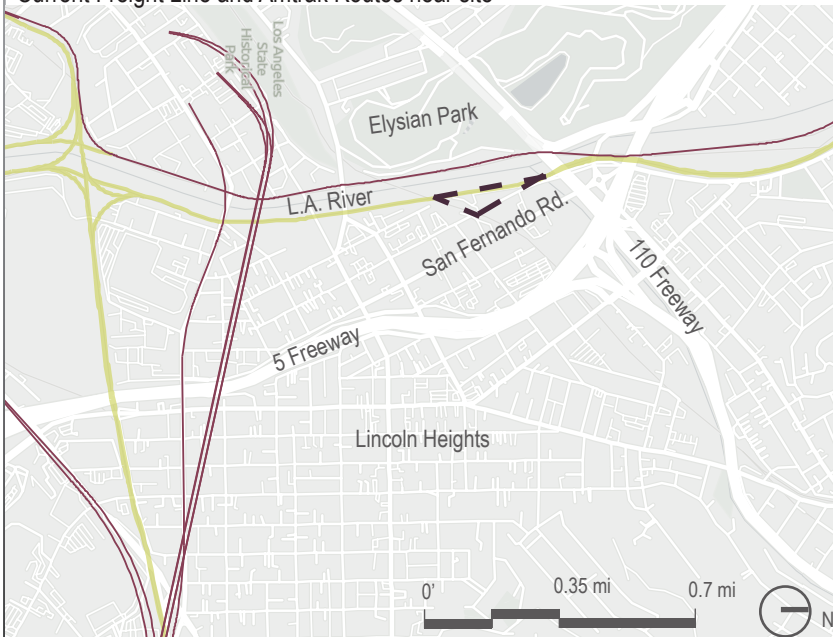
- Derailment** and accidents (two have occurred in Lincoln Heights in recent years)
- Theft** (particularly during the Covid Pandemic) + abandoned goods/litter

NOISE + POLLUTION:

- Freight trains near LHJ are old, functioning on diesel engines that are **highly polluting** (especially while idling)
- Lincoln Heights suffers from a high percentage of **freight train + diesel truck corridor pollution**
- More than half the locomotive pollution in CA is generated by engines built 20+ years ago, which are only required to meet emission standards from that time.
- Horn noise** is loud. Standing right next to a train horn can reach **140 decibels**.
- Physical barrier**, limiting access to the L.A. River

Under California's AB617, communities have a right to safe air, clean water and access to public spaces

Current Freight Line and Amtrak Routes near site



Aerial courtesy of ArcGIS

LEGEND:

- - - Site Boundary
- Union Pacific Railroad (formerly Southern Pacific Railroad)
- CA Statewide High Speed Rail Alignments + Amtrak

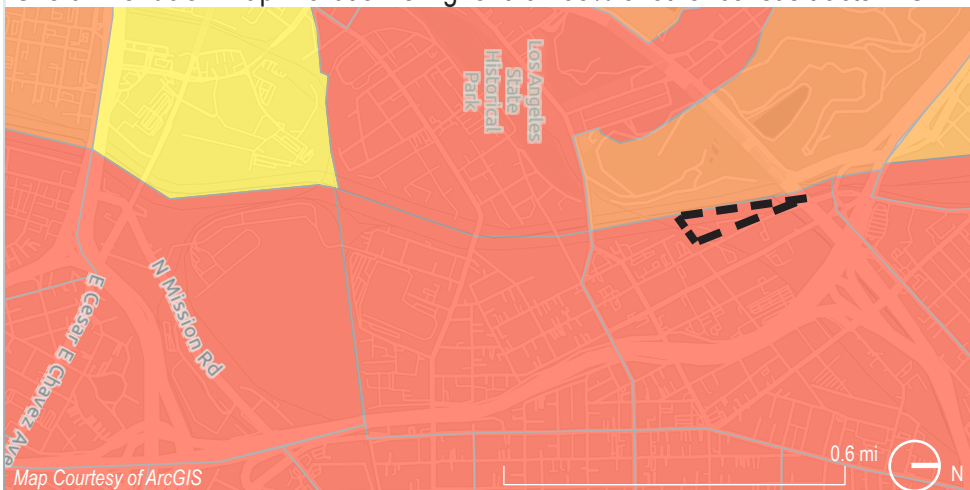


1882 Cartoon entitled "The Octopus" by G. Frederick Keller, depicting the power of the Southern Pacific Railroad

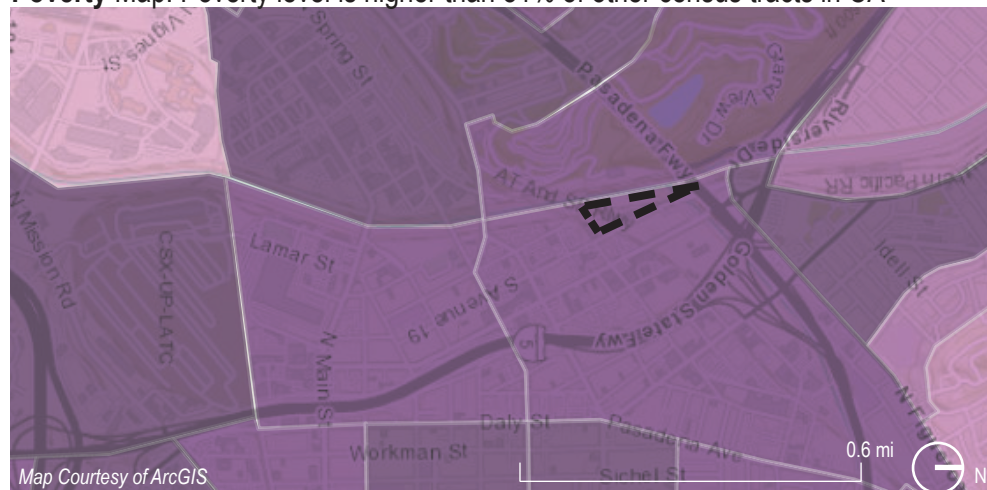
Site Analysis | Environmental Hazards

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), created the Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool: CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0. This tool can be used to help identify California communities that are disproportionately affected by pollution.¹

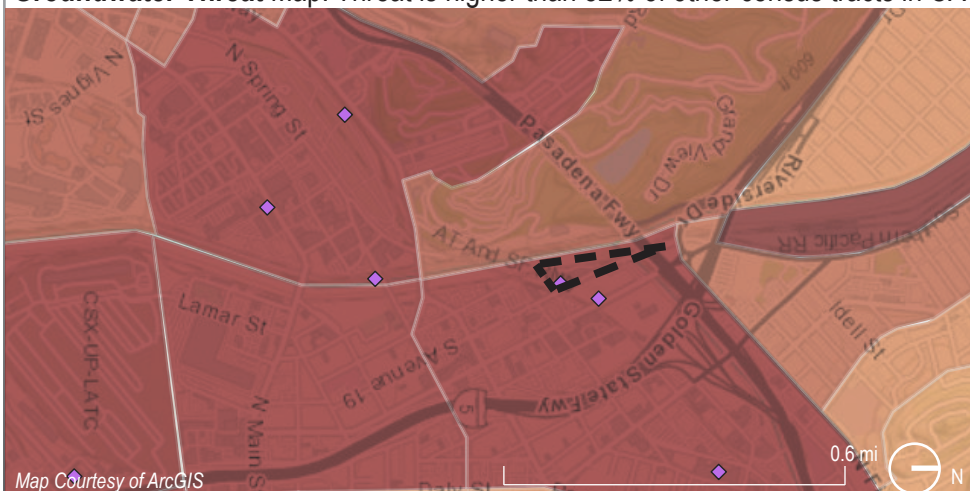
Overall Pollution Map: Pollution is higher than 98% of other census tracts in CA



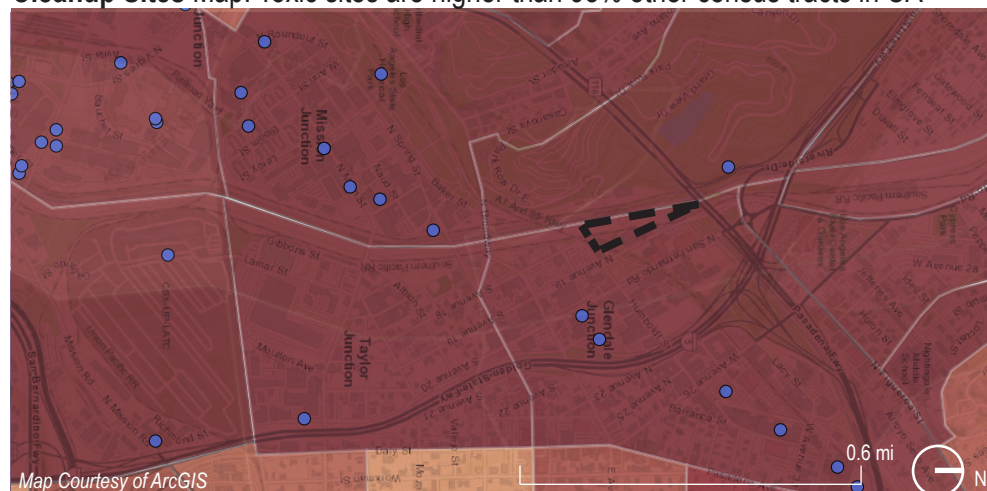
Poverty Map: Poverty level is higher than 81% of other census tracts in CA



Groundwater Threat Map: Threat is higher than 82% of other census tracts in CA



Cleanup Sites Map: Toxic sites are higher than 98% other census tracts in CA



LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- >90-100 (Highest Scores)
- Groundwater Threats Sites

Threats to groundwater come from hazardous chemicals stored in containers above or below ground. The Lincoln Heights Jail site contains two 10,000 gallon-sized petroleum barrels buried 30' beneath the surface. They were installed in the 1950s and used to power the boiler room of the jail. There is a high probability that the tanks are leaking, affecting drinking water and exposing people to contaminated soil and air.²

Groundwater Threats Percentile:			Overall Pollution Percentile:		
 > 30 - 40	 > 50 - 60	 > 80 - 90	 > 80 - 90	 > 60 - 70	
 > 40 - 50	 > 70 - 80	 > 90 - 100	 > 70 - 80	 > 50 - 60	

The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the age of family members. Many studies have found that people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution.³ 49% of people in this census tract are living below the federal poverty level.

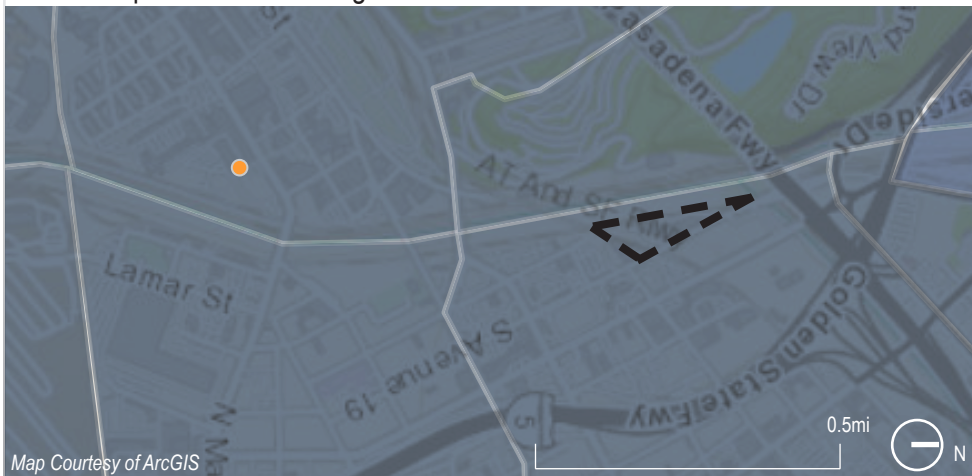
The soil and groundwater may take many years or decades to clean up.

Poverty Percentile:			Cleanup Sites Percentile:		
 > 20 - 30	 > 50 - 60		 Cleanup Sites	 > 20 - 30	 > 60 - 70
 > 30 - 40	 > 60 - 70	 > 80 - 90		 > 40 - 50	 > 80 - 90
 > 40 - 50	 > 70 - 80	 > 90 - 100		 > 50 - 60	 > 90 - 100

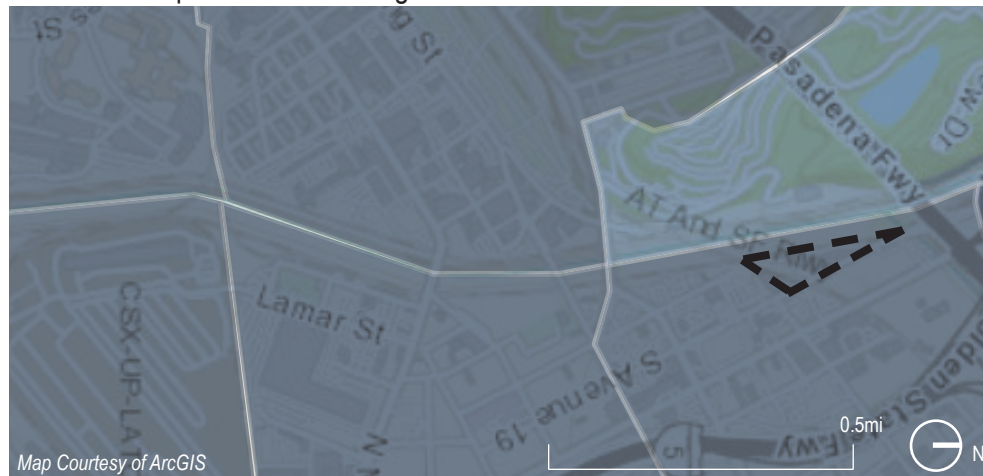
Site Analysis | Health Hazards

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), created the Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool: CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0. This tool can be used to help identify California communities that are disproportionately affected by pollution. ¹

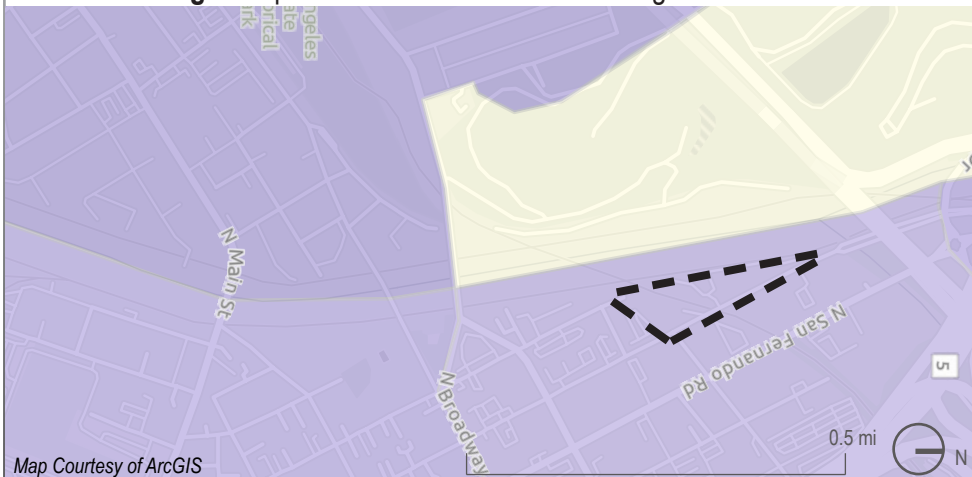
PM2.5 Map: emissions are higher than 94% of other census tracts in CA



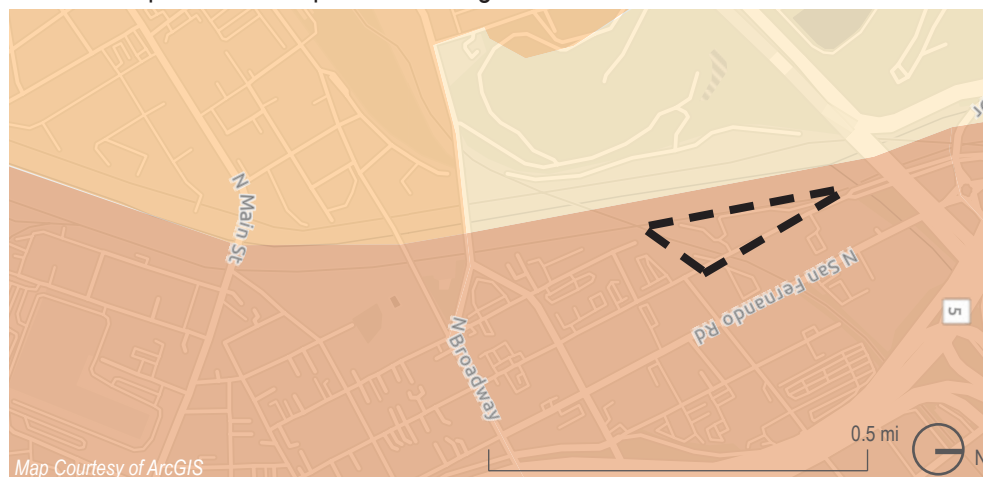
Diesel PM Map: emissions are higher than 95% of other census tracts in CA



Low Birth Weight Map: 6.33% of births born underweight



Asthma Map: asthma hospitalizations higher than 69% of other census tracts in CA



Particulate matter (PM2.5) is very **small airborne particle pollution**, less than 2.5 micrometers thick (less than the thickness of a human hair). PM2.5 is a mixture of particles (organic chemicals, dust, soot, metals, etc.) that come from cars, trucks, factories, wood burning and other activities. Because the particles of PM2.5 are so small, they can **travel deep into the lungs**, causing various health problems including heart and lung disease.

Diesel particulate matter (diesel PM) is made up of gases and tiny solid particles produced from exhaust made by trucks, buses, trains or any equipment with diesel engines. Diesel emissions in California range between 0 - 15 tons per year. Parts of this census tract emit 0.676 tons per year, largely due to the **cargo railroads** and trucks on the **5 and 10 freeways**.

LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- PM 2.5 Monitors
- Particulate Matter 2.5 Percentile:
 - > 60 - 70
 - > 70 - 80
 - > 80 - 90
 - > 90 - 100

This census tract where the site is located has a concentration of 12.97 micrograms per meter cubed (12.97 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). For comparison, PM2.5 concentrations in California range between 1.9 - 16.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.²

Diesel Particulate Matter Percentile:

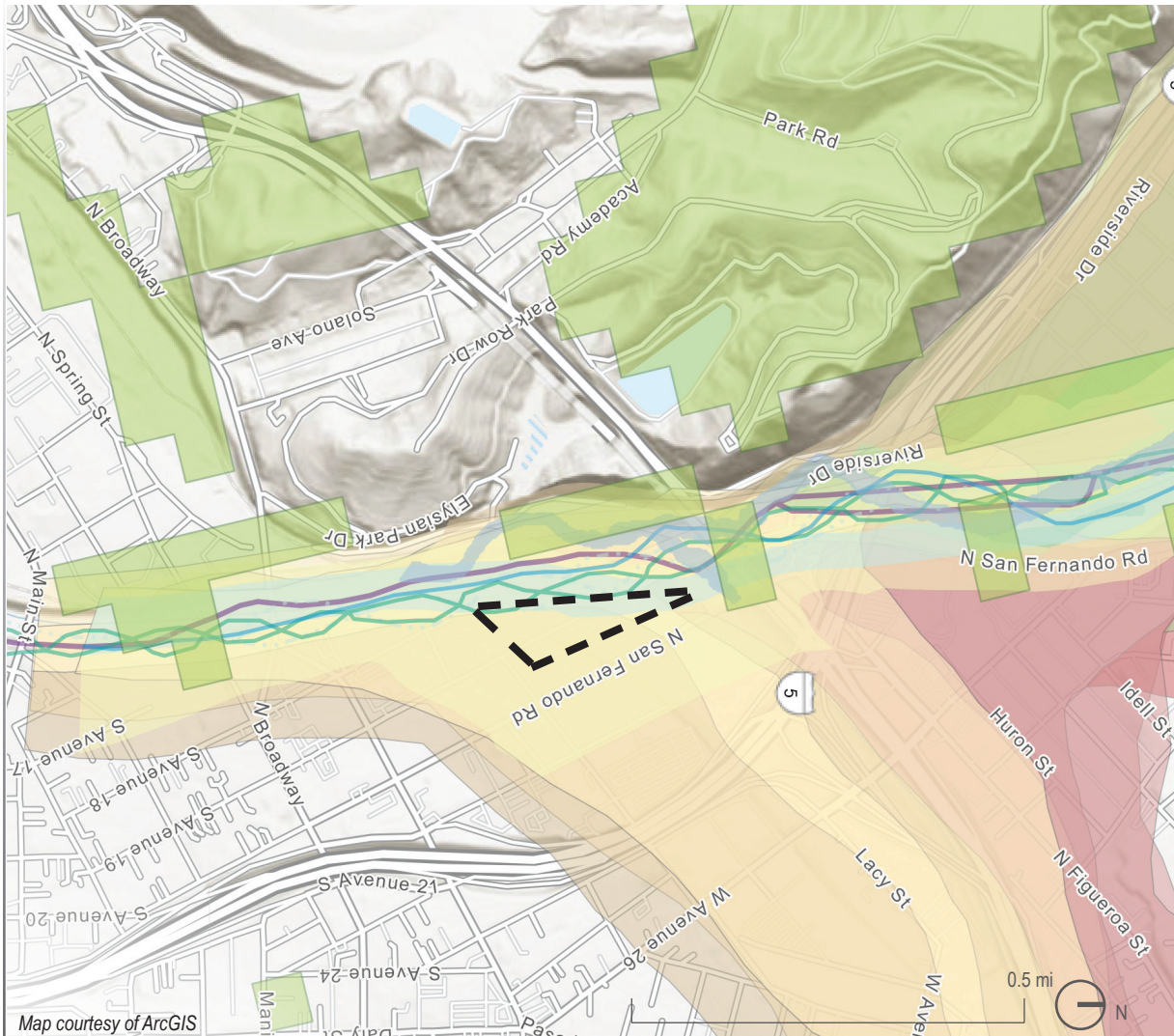
- > 20 - 30
- > 30 - 40
- > 40 - 50
- > 50 - 60
- > 60 - 70
- > 80 - 90
- > 90 - 100

Asthma Percentile:

- 0-25%
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- 75-100%

It is essential for the health of this community that lesser-used cargo lines be re-routed and/or consolidated.

Site Analysis | Historical Ecology + Habitat Connectivity



Map courtesy of ArcGIS

LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- CEHC Natural Areas Small
- Channel 1897 CD
- Channel Topo 1897 Soils 1903
- Channel Soils 1916
- Channel Soils 1917
- Channel Topo 1925
- Channel Hall 1888
- Channel Sand Hall 1888
- Sand

Prior to urban development and the channelization of the Los Angeles River, the Los Angeles Basin, including the project area, was likely covered with marshes, thickets, riparian woodland and grassland. The site exists on the original flood plain of the Los Angeles River, and although the river would run dry for part of the year, shallow bedrock in what is now Elysian Park forced much of the river's underground water to the surface, allowing for a steady year-round flow of water through the area that later became known as downtown Los Angeles.

The original channel sand expanded beyond the site, followed by riverwash, Hanford sand and some Tujunga fine sand.

The CEHC, or California Essential Habitat Connectivity Zone, exists right at the Arroyo Seco Confluence, the hills of Elysian Park, as well as the hills scattered east of Lincoln Heights. Wildlife connectivity is important to amplify on this site.



Least Bell's Vireo. Endangered song bird living along the L.A. River. ¹

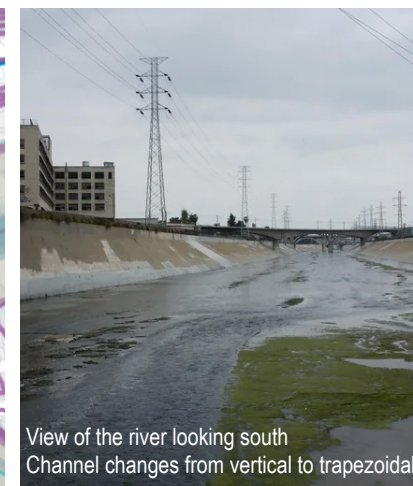
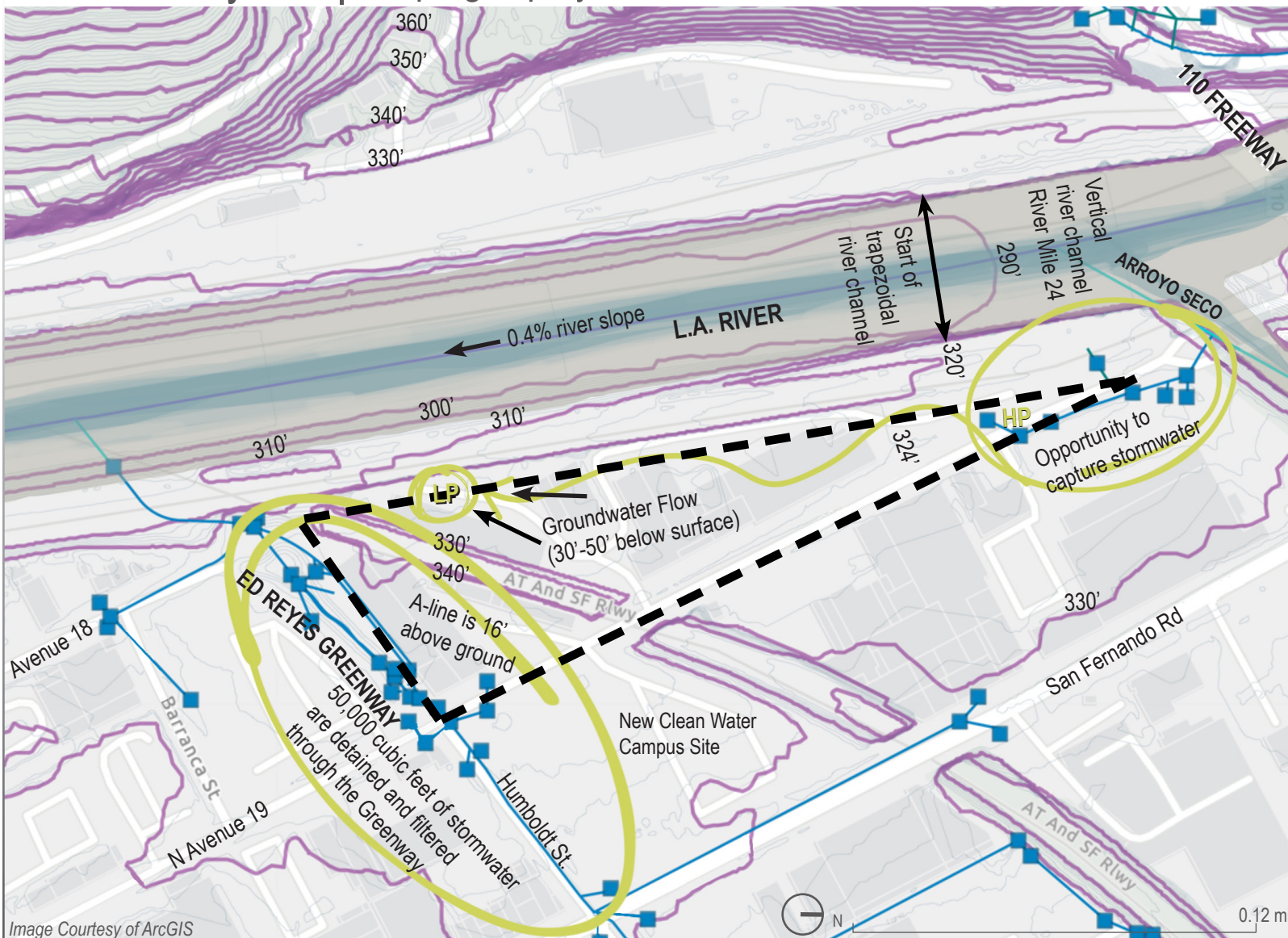


The Black-crowned Night Heron is one of the 132 endangered species living by the river. ²



The Southern California Steelhead trout is an endangered species. Once adults leave the Arroyo Seco, it's almost impossible for them to swim back upstream. ³

Site Analysis | Topography + Water



L.A. River Channel Info:

The trapezoidal shape of the L.A. River channel offers opportunity for river access and restored wetland habitat.

Channel width: 225'

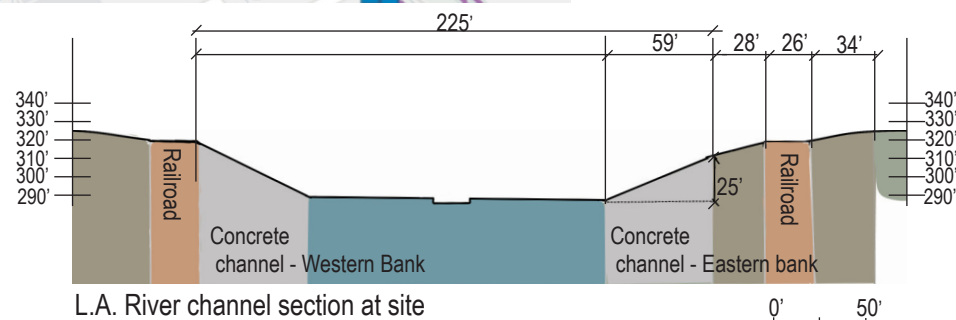
Channel height: 25'

Low-flow channel: 1' deep, 20' wide at the rim, 17' wide at the base

The jail is in the original flood plain of the L.A. River. The site topography is generally level, sloping gently towards the southwest, with the lowest point by the Ed P. Reyes River Greenway, which captures large amounts of stormwater from surrounding streets.

LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- Watershed drains per LADWP
- Stormwater Drain inlet
- 2' Contours
- 10' Contours



Site Analysis | Context and New Housing Developments

10 new mixed-use housing developments in various planning and construction phases, with approximately 617 new units being built within a 1/2 mile of the site.



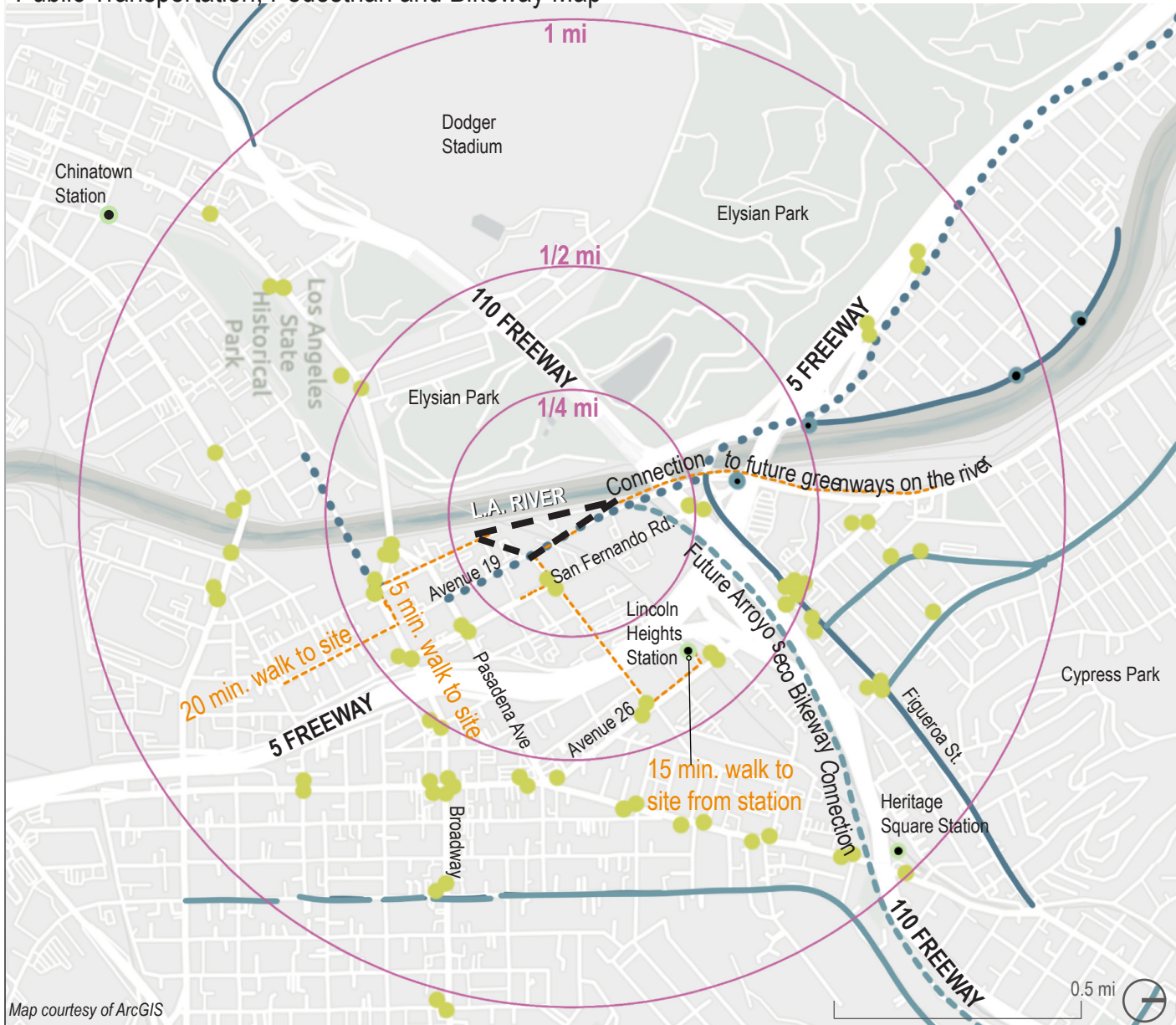
- ① **Clean Water Campus:** Goodwill & LA Sanitation Partnership
342 N. San Fernando Road: 150 units of supportive housing + 50 units Goodwill workforce housing. New Office with 800 parking spaces on site, including 200 for Lincoln Heights Jail site
- ② Barranca Studios: 2020 Barranca St.
200 apartments
- ③ 181 N. Avenue 21:
100-room hotel + 100 apartments
- ④ San Fernando Road & Ave 19:
Northwest New Beginnings Community & Tiny Homes
- ⑤ 1931 N. Workman Street:
mixed-use 8-story building with 137 affordable housing units
- ⑥ 141 N. Avenue 34:
468 apartments & retail space
- ⑦ 2467 Pasadena Ave
mixed-use, 40 apartments
- ⑧ 3000 N. Main St:
mixed-use with 97 units & 72,000 sq. ft. of retail
- ⑨ The Brine: 3016 N. Main Street
97 units
- ⑩ 1321 +1381 N. Mission Road
300 units

LEGEND:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| —■— Project Site | Ⓧ A-line Light Rail station |
| - - - Railroads | ■ Industrial/Hybrid Industrial |
| ■ Church/non-profit | --- 1/4 mi, 1/2 mi, 1 mi radius |
| ■ Green space | ■ New or planned Housing |
| ■ Commercial | ■ Single or Multi-family housing |
| ■ City Services | ■ Schools |

Site Analysis | Circulation

Public Transportation, Pedestrian and Bikeway Map

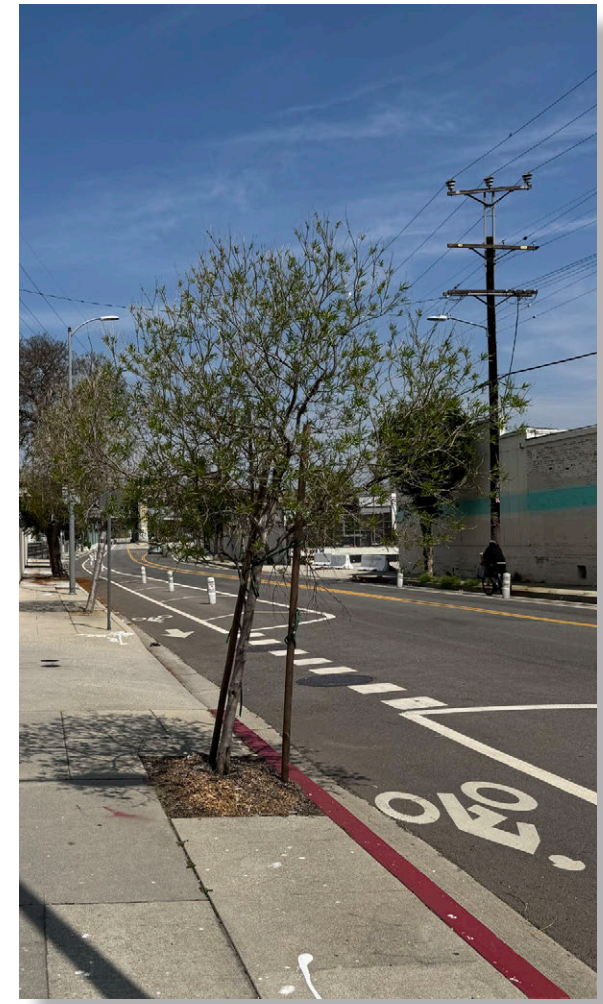


Map courtesy of ArcGIS

- LEGEND:
- Site Boundary
 - Bus Stops
 - Metro Rail Stop
 - - - Pedestrian paths to site
 - LA County Bikeway Access Points
 - Bike Routes
 - Protected Bike Lane
 - - - Arroyo Seco Future Bikeway Connection

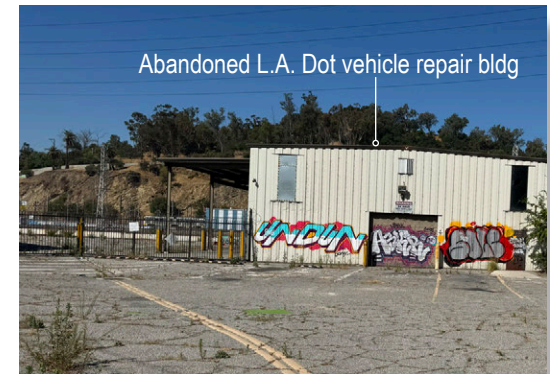
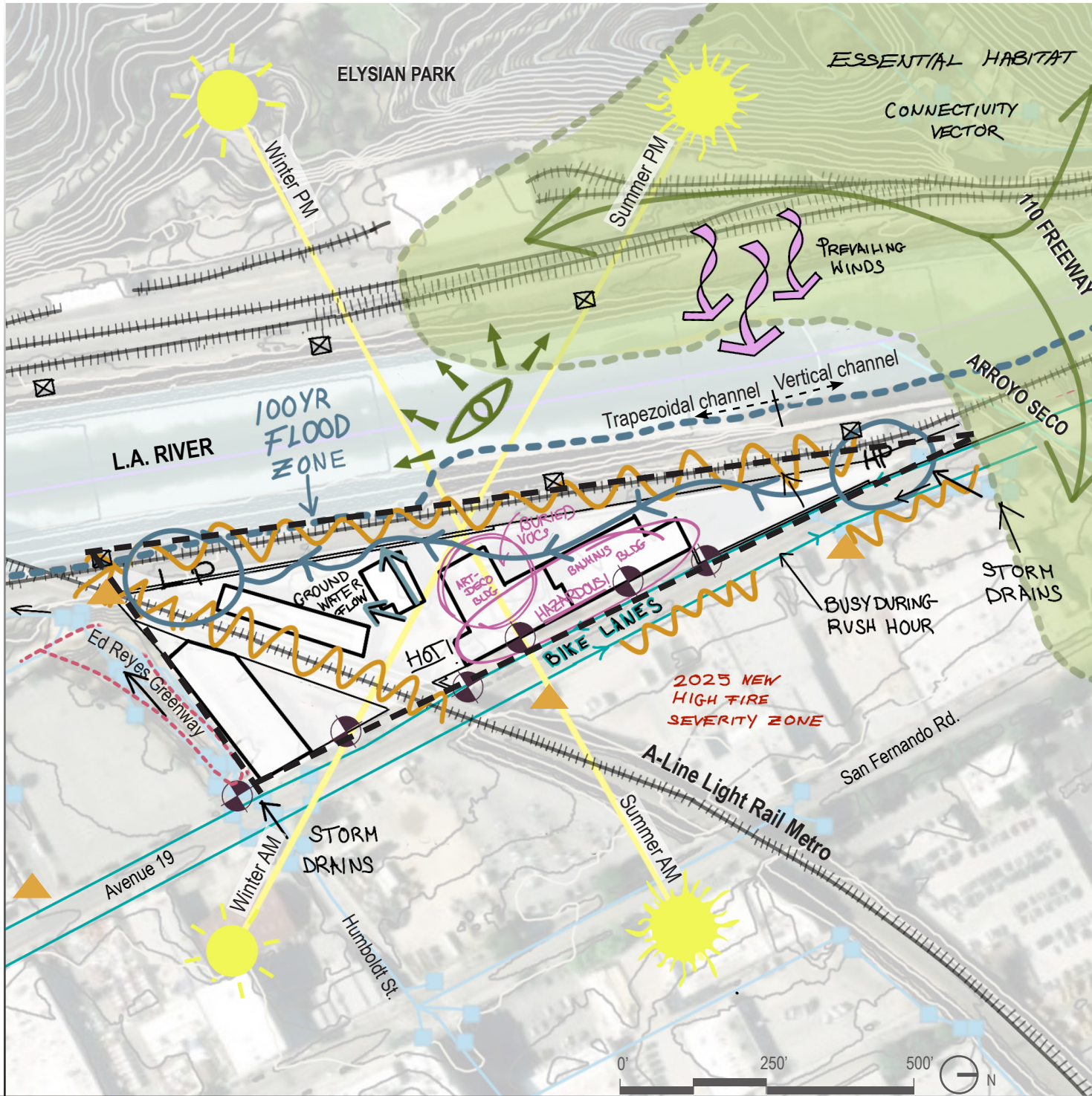
The Lincoln Heights A-Line station as well as several bus stops are within a 5-15 minute walk from the site.

New and existing apartment buildings and single family homes are within a 5-20 minute walk.



The protected bike lanes on both sides of Avenue 19 are fairly active, but could be safer and more pleasant with a vegetative buffered bike lanes. The LARMP plans to connect the Arroyo Seco bikeway to this bike route via ramp. In addition, this road is fairly busy during rush hour (8-9am and 4-6pm on weekdays).

Site Analysis | Synthesis



Abandoned L.A. Dot vehicle repair bldg
View from jail entrance looking west



Elysian Park
110 Freeway
Northwestern view from North end of site

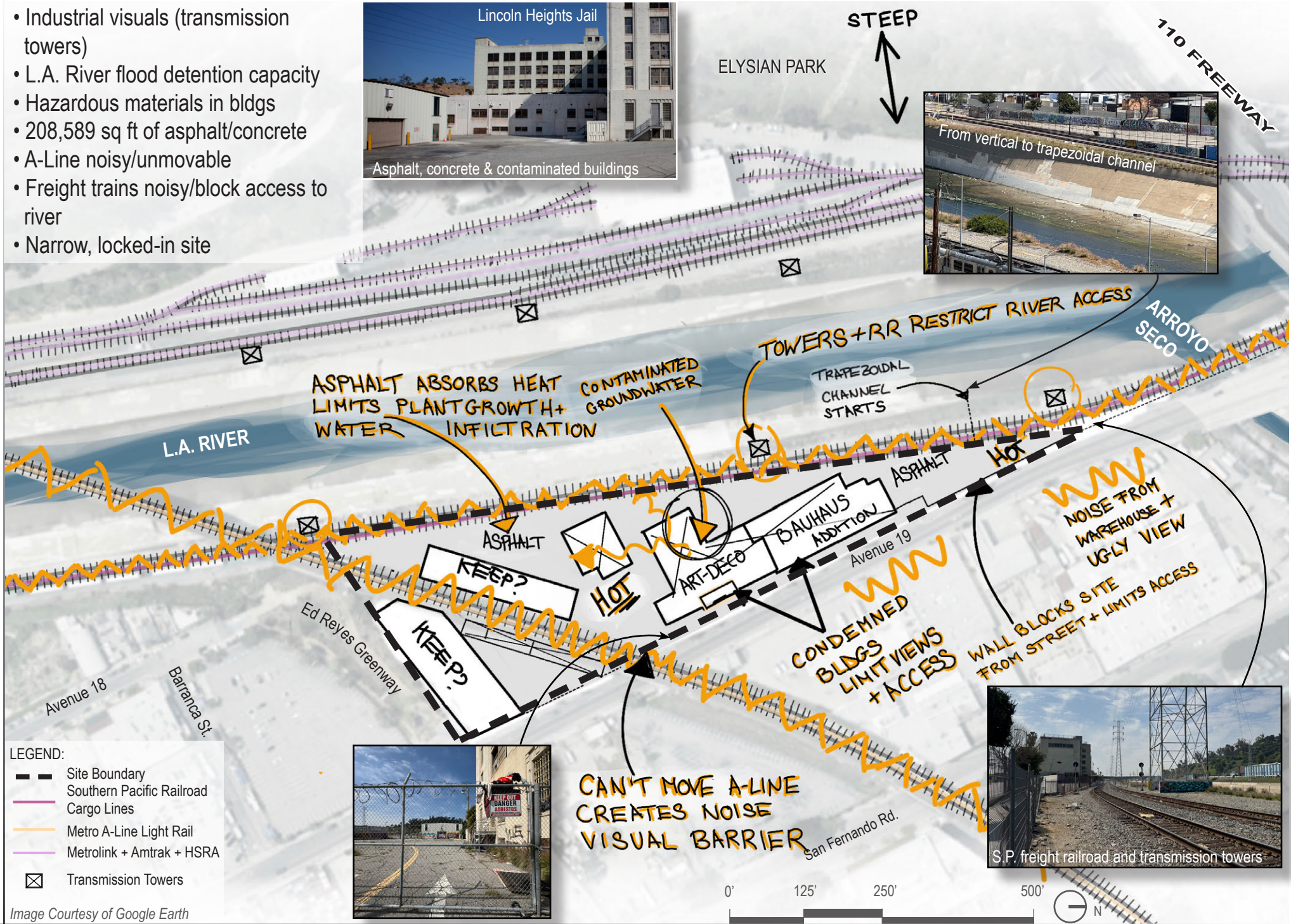
- Hazardous buildings on site
- No Tree Canopy
- Groundwater flows South, Southwest
- 208,589 sq ft of asphalt/concrete
- Transmission Towers unmovable
- A-Line noisy/unmovable
- Beautiful views
- L.A. River channel capacity
- Freight trains noisy/block access to river

LEGEND:

— Site Boundary	— Wall
⊠ Transmission Towers	▲ Temporary Encampments
- - - Pedestrian path	⊗ Current entrances
++++ Railroad tracks	○ 10' Contours in white
□ Asphalt/concrete	○ 2' Contours in grey

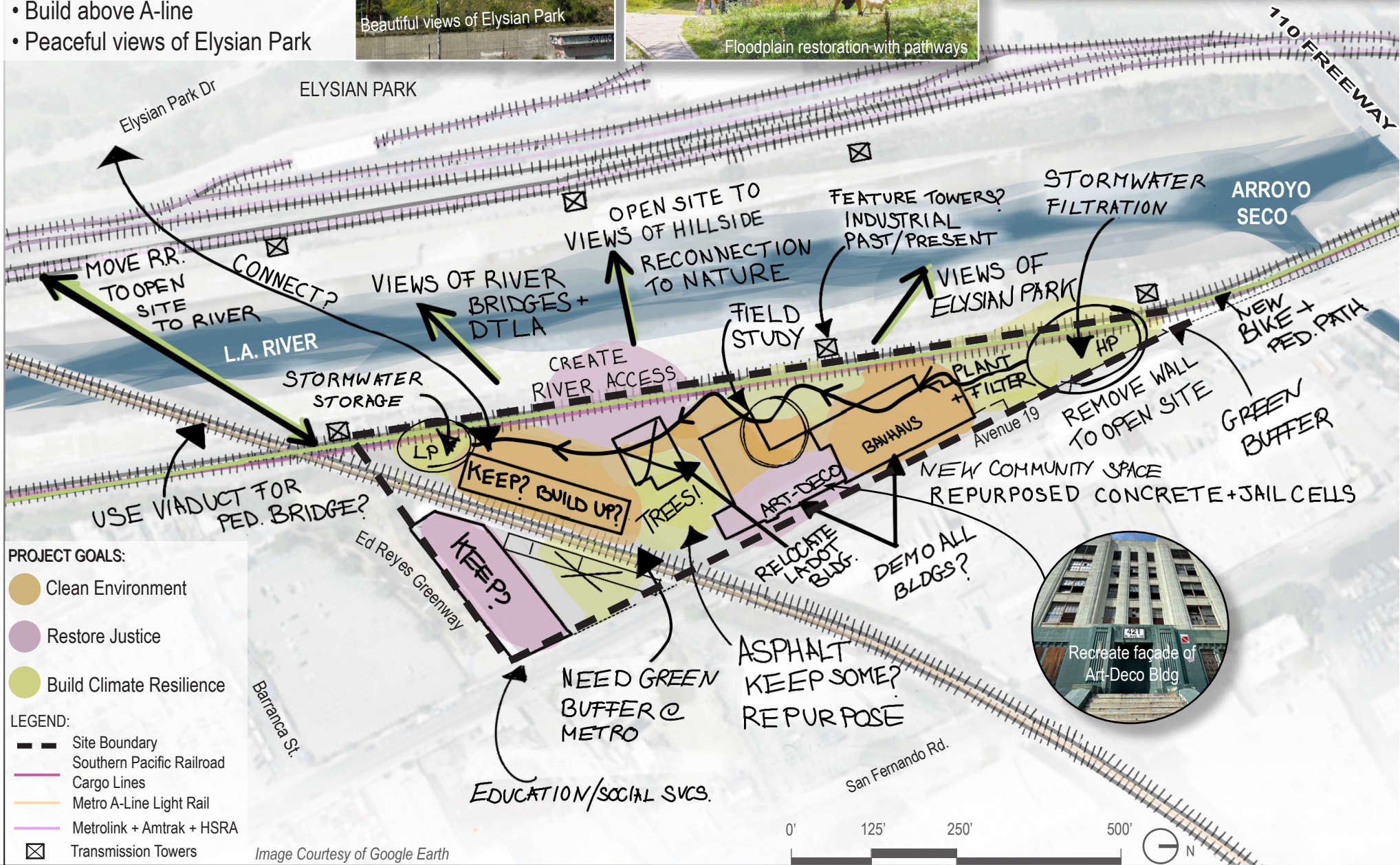
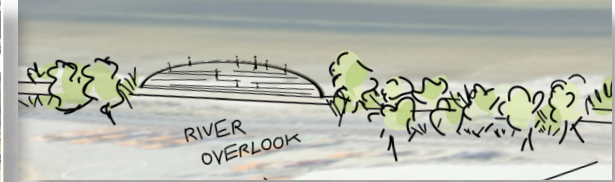
Site Analysis | Site Constraints

- Industrial visuals (transmission towers)
- L.A. River flood detention capacity
- Hazardous materials in bldgs
- 208,589 sq ft of asphalt/concrete
- A-Line noisy/unmovable
- Freight trains noisy/block access to river
- Narrow, locked-in site



Site Analysis | Site Opportunities

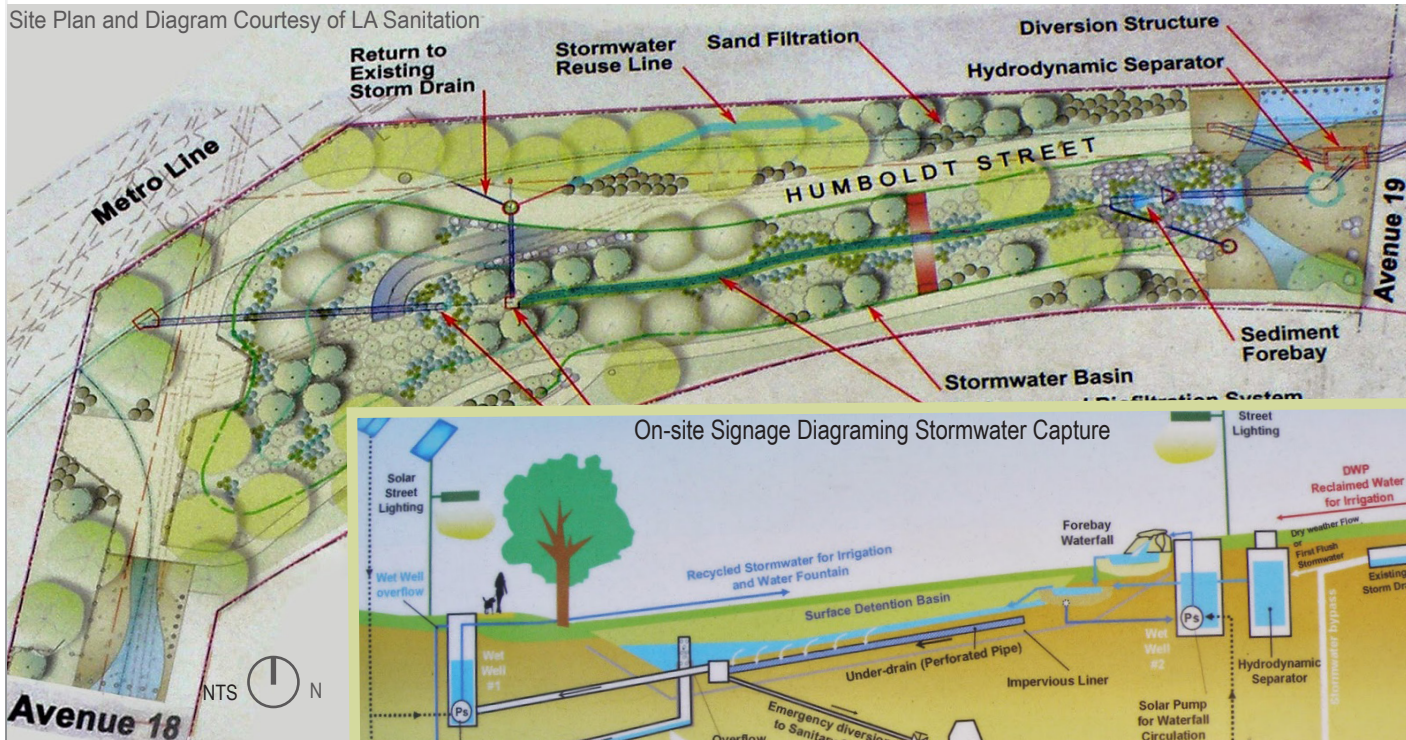
- River / Park Access
- Stormwater filtration
- Increase tree canopy
- Permeable surfaces
- Build above A-line
- Peaceful views of Elysian Park



Project Precedent | Adjacent Stormwater Management Park

Ed P. Reyes River Greenway, Los Angeles

Site Plan and Diagram Courtesy of LA Sanitation



PROJECT: Transformed from a former **toxic waste dump** site into a recreational green space in Lincoln Heights.

SIZE: 1.13 acres

DRAINAGE AREA: 135 acres

DESIGNER: L.A. Sanitation, Watershed Protection Division
YEAR: 2013

TAKEAWAYS:

- 50,000 cubic feet of stormwater detained and filtered.
- 100% of dry weather bacteria flows filtered before entering the L.A. River.
- Improved soil + ground water quality from a **historic toxic waste dump**.
- **Hydrodynamic separator and solar pump** lifts stormwater from a wet well to a spreader. During storms, water flows over a rock weir into a **bio-infiltration of plant materials**.
- Invasive species like Mexican Fountain grass are growing on site. Didn't notice fauna or pollinators on site.
- Park hours are limited: 8am-4pm and is sometimes closed.



Bridge over surface detention basin



Pre-existing conditions. Photo courtesy of www.evanescentcityblog.com



Google aerial photo of Ed P. Reyes River Greenway

Project Precedent | Moving Infrastructure and Restoring Life + Economic Value

Madrid Río, Madrid, Spain



PROJECT: Madrid Río, along the banks of the Manzanares River from El Pardo to Getafe.

SIZE: 2,173 acres

ARCHITECT: Gines Garrido, Burgos & Garrido Architectos Asociados, porras La Casta Arquitectos, Rubio & Alvarez-Sala

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: West 8

YEAR: First phase: 2011; Final completion 2015
Award-winning project

TAKEAWAYS:

- Tunneling the M-30 freeway was one of the **largest infrastructure builds** in Europe at the time. It proved to be highly successful, creating over 2000 acres of parks and active recreation, while **improving air quality significantly**.
- Habitat and **biodiversity** in the Manzanares River was **restored** through an extensive cleaning and **filtration** process using gangplanks, piers and pontoons.
- **Access to the riverfront** was made available for the first time since channelization.
- The neighborhoods around the river cover 6 districts, **connecting** over 800,000 residents **by foot or bike** to the river and surrounding areas.
- Madrid's urban river had been channelized next to a major freeway to allow for urban development, but it created a physical and socio-economic divide between the two banks. It suffered from a past of neglect and disconnection (not unlike the L.A. River). The poorer, southern part of the city has seen **huge economic growth** since the project opened.
- **Pedestrian bridges** that act as **shade structures** and **tree canopy** have greatly reduced the urban heat island effect in this part of Madrid, significantly elevating the way of life.
- 17 play areas made with **sustainable** and **natural materials** forming webs, hammocks, hanging bridges or climbing vines
- An amphitheater, which also serves as a **cultural exhibit hall**, and **restaurant** added **economic viability** to the site.



Arganzuela pedestrian bridge



Overview of newly planted pine forest park



Pine Tree Park



Natural play area



Oblique bridge before construction



Grown-in tree canopy and bridge with log bench



Arganzuela footbridge over the Manzanares River

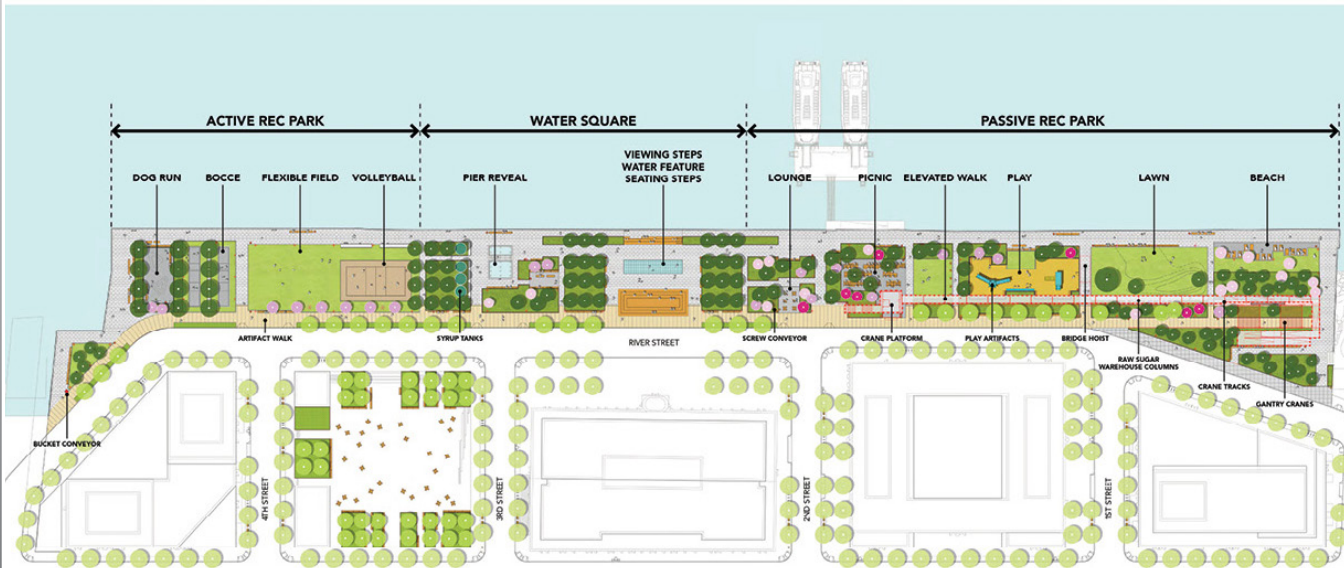
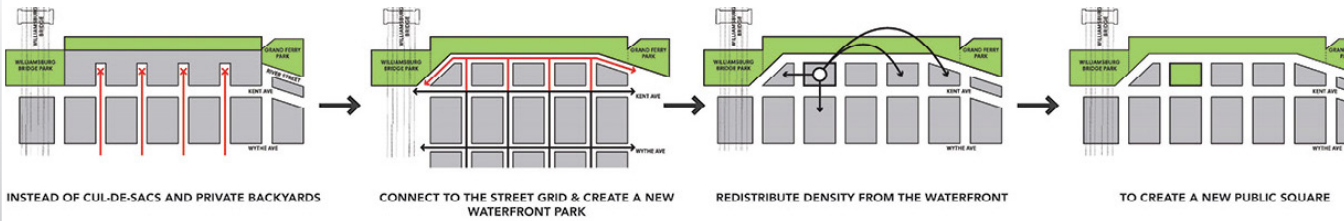


Natural play area

Images courtesy of www.west8.com

Project Precedent | Reconnecting with Industrial Artifacts

Domino Park, Williamsburg Brooklyn



PROJECT: Transformation of Domino Sugar Factory into a mixed-use 11-acre development site, including a 5-acre park with both active and passive recreation.

SIZE: 5-acre park along East River

DESIGNER: Field Operations

YEAR: Opened in 2018

TAKEAWAYS:

- The park brings **new life into old infrastructure** by offering unique and varied areas for the public to gather, interact and learn/play.
- The park connects to the street grid, offering **waterfront access** for the first time in 160 years.
- Materials used were inspired by the Williamsburg waterfront, giving it a **tactile history and sense of place**.
- The site is certified WEDG (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines), meant to create a more **climate resilient waterfront** that is accessible to all. It is built 17' above the water to account for 100-year flood events and sea level rise.
- Climate resilience shows through **strong vegetative buffers with 175 new trees planted** with extensive understory, reducing stormwater runoff while absorbing **potential flood waters**.

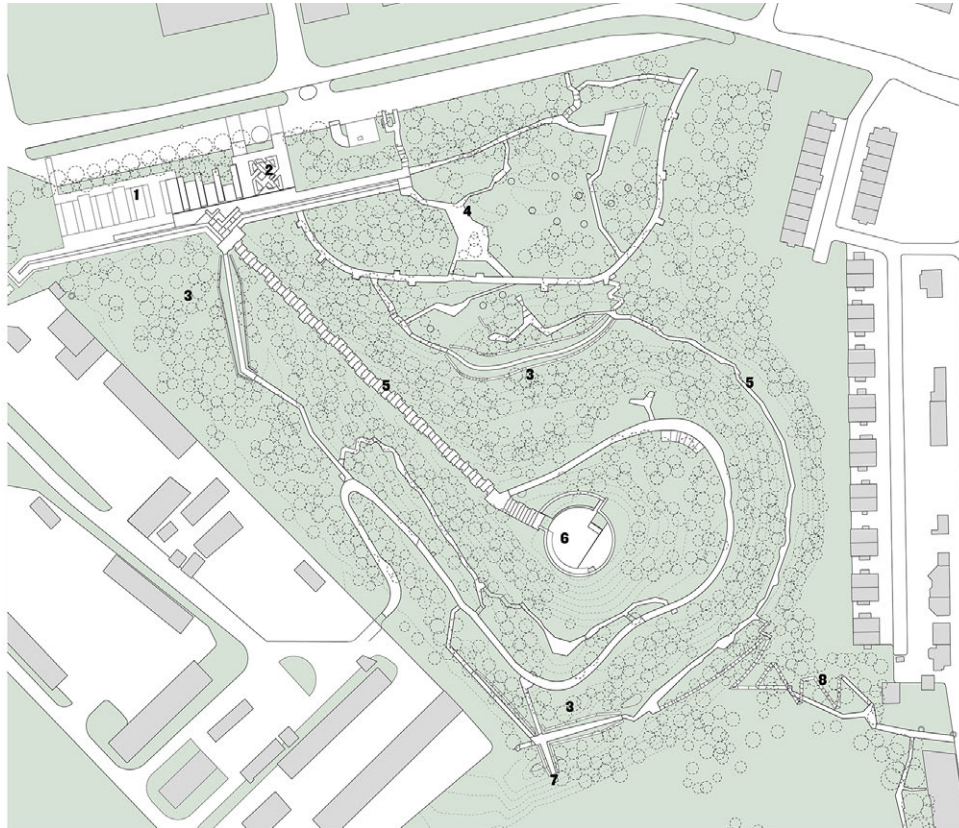


Public playground on the riverfront, created in the theme of the sugar factory

All images courtesy of [www.Field Operations.net](http://www.FieldOperations.net)

Project Precedent | Memorializing through Creative Recycling

Warsaw Uprising Mound Park, Warsaw, Poland



PROJECT: A WWII Memorial park made from a landfill of post-war rubble

SIZE: The mound is approximately 115' tall, using 20 million cubic meters of rubble

DESIGNER: Archigrest + Toposcape

YEAR: Opened in 2023

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Previously a **brownfield and wasteland**, the park design has brought new life and powerful meaning to the city.
- New ADA accessible pathways, resting areas and a **naturalistic playground** have increased the amount of users who enjoy the park.
- The redevelopment has significantly **improved the quality of life** of the local community.
- The design has made the site more **sustainable by increasing vegetation and habitat**.



Rubble found during construction was recycled and filled into exhibition gabions that help tell a story of post-war Warsaw

All images courtesy of www.architecturalreview.com

Project Precedent | Pushing Society Forward through Art

Metabolic Studio, Los Angeles

“Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale that Society Has the Capacity to Destroy.” Sherrie Rabinowitz



The Metabolic Moon site circa 2020



The Metabolic Moon Site - 2025. Asphalt and concrete salvaged on site



The Metabolic Moon site office / lecture hall - 2025

PROJECT: “Un-development 1: Un-paving the City, Unsealing the Earth.”

Under the umbrella of Metabolic Studio, the Moon site is part of Lauren Bon’s art and science installation, where a former tow yard was revitalized into a bustling riparian habitat. Concrete and asphalt were torn up and biodiversity restored through phytoremediation. The site also has a plant filtration system, used to clean the redirected water from the L.A. River. It’s also home to various truckloads of soil from the Topanga landslide.

SIZE: 3 acres on the eastern bank of L.A. River

TAKEAWAYS:

- **Recreated floodplain** using salvaged logs from Angeles National Forest, **native riparian plants**, and soil from the original floodplain of the L.A. River.
- Rainwater is harvested from rooftops and **solar-powered pumps** direct the water for irrigation.
- *Bending the River*: Water reclamation project that secures **106 acre-feet of water annually** from the L.A. River to irrigate local parks.
- **Native wetland treatment** created to clean water being diverted from the L.A. River.
- *Moving Mountains* (on-going project): **repurposes** landslide debris from Topanga Canyon to rebuild floodplains and **establish micro-forests**.
- The studio is very effective at bridging the gap between **art, science and activism**.

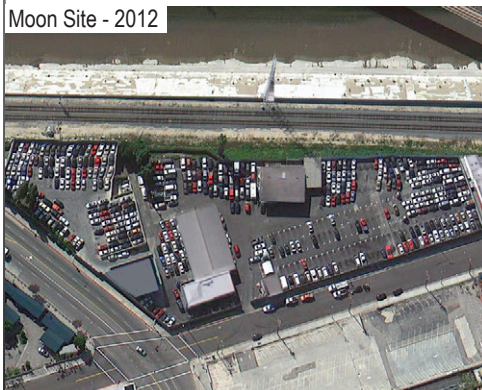
“Bending the River”



Topographic map showing the water diversion to LA State Historic Park



Courtesy of www.metabolicstudio.org



Aerial photos of the Metabolic Moon site where three 60 foot circles were planted and tested for lead throughout the years



Photos courtesy of www.metabolicstudio.org



03 Design Development

Design Development | Potential Programming

Project Goals:

Clean Up Environment

- Freight railroad relocation to create river access and enhance riparian corridor along river; width of 2 railroad tracks is approx. 26' x length of site (1,500').
- Active soil phytoremediation zone with educational signage; approx 700-1000 sq. ft.
- Extended stormwater capture similar to Ed P Reyes Greenway (50'w by 100'l).
- Permeable surfaces throughout site; approx 4.5 acres (assuming 25% of site used for buildings).
- Pedestrian Bridge to Elysian Park above or beside A-line Metro bridge, running 0.27 miles long, about 20' wide.



Restored floodplain at Metabolic Studio's the Moon site

Restore Justice

- Public community space that fosters the arts, education and social services, while retaining the history of the site. 6,000 sq. ft, two story building with rooftop lookout and public bathrooms.
- Outdoor multi-functional community space for food trucks and other mobile services and events. Circular space approx. 1500 sq. ft.
- Pedestrian path along the river that connects to Albion Park and the Bowtie Parcel (min. 4' with 2' buffer or 8' with 2' buffer)
- River overlook: 50' long and about 20' wide
- Children and adult play + explore area with sculptures and murals from local artists; min. 500 sq ft



Flower Farm, Eagle Rock, CA



RTS Pedestrian Bridge, Microsoft Campus, Redmond, WA

Build Climate Resilience

- Micro-forest, pollinator garden and floodplain restoration min. planting size: 16,000 sq. ft.
- Use of solar panels, solar lights and pumps to minimize use of the grid; solar panels to match roof size
- New bike path along the river that connects to other greenways along the L.A. River (ideally 8' wide, min. 6').
- Above or below ground cistern to collect stormwater for on-site irrigation; approx. 5 x 20,000 gallon tanks ~150-180 sq ft per tank.



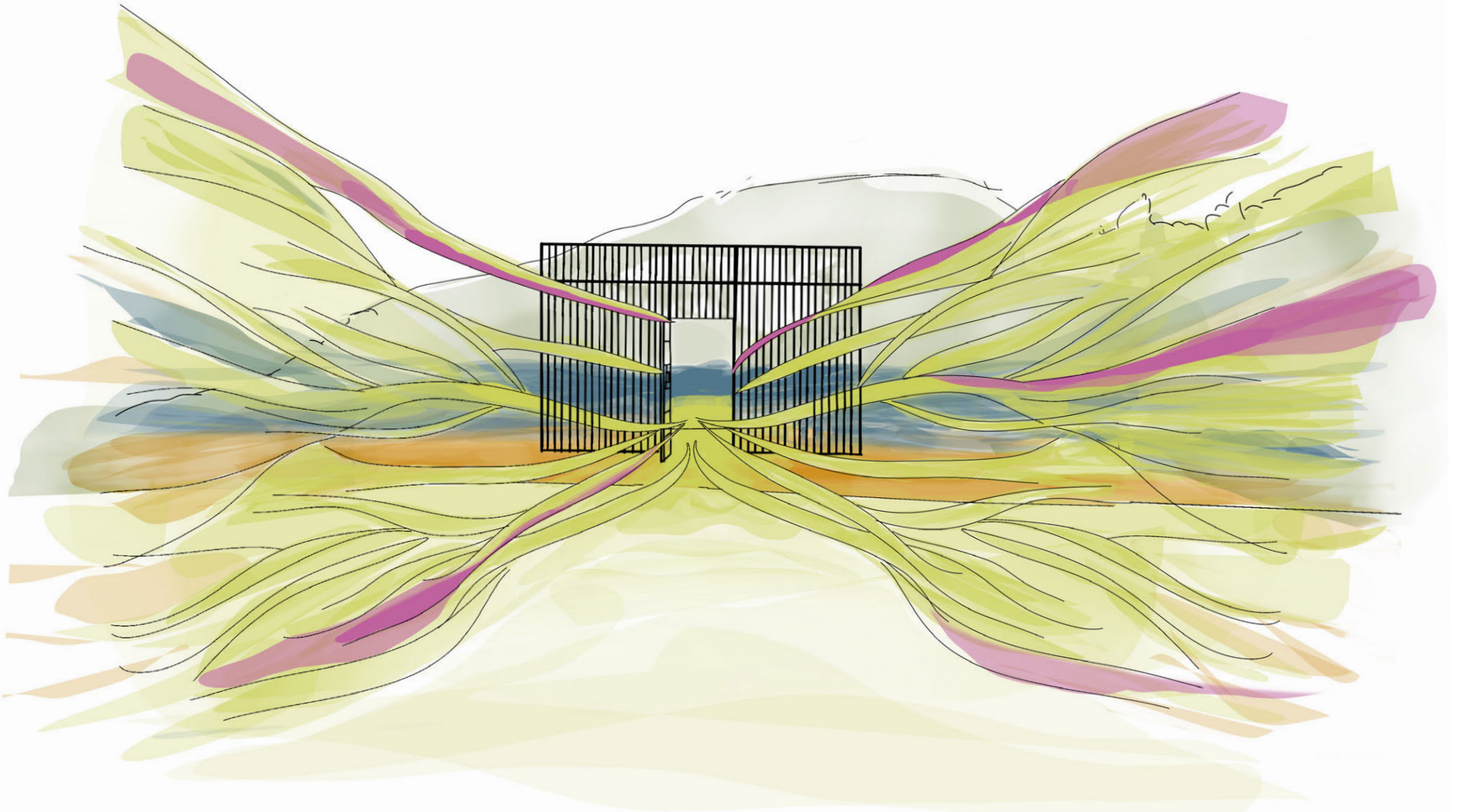
Metabolic Studio, The Moon. "Meandros" art installation where 1 parking spot is transformed into a living ecosystem



Sketch exploring river access

Design Development | Design Metaphor

Unlocking chains of systemic environmental and social injustices while creating stronger, more interconnected systems



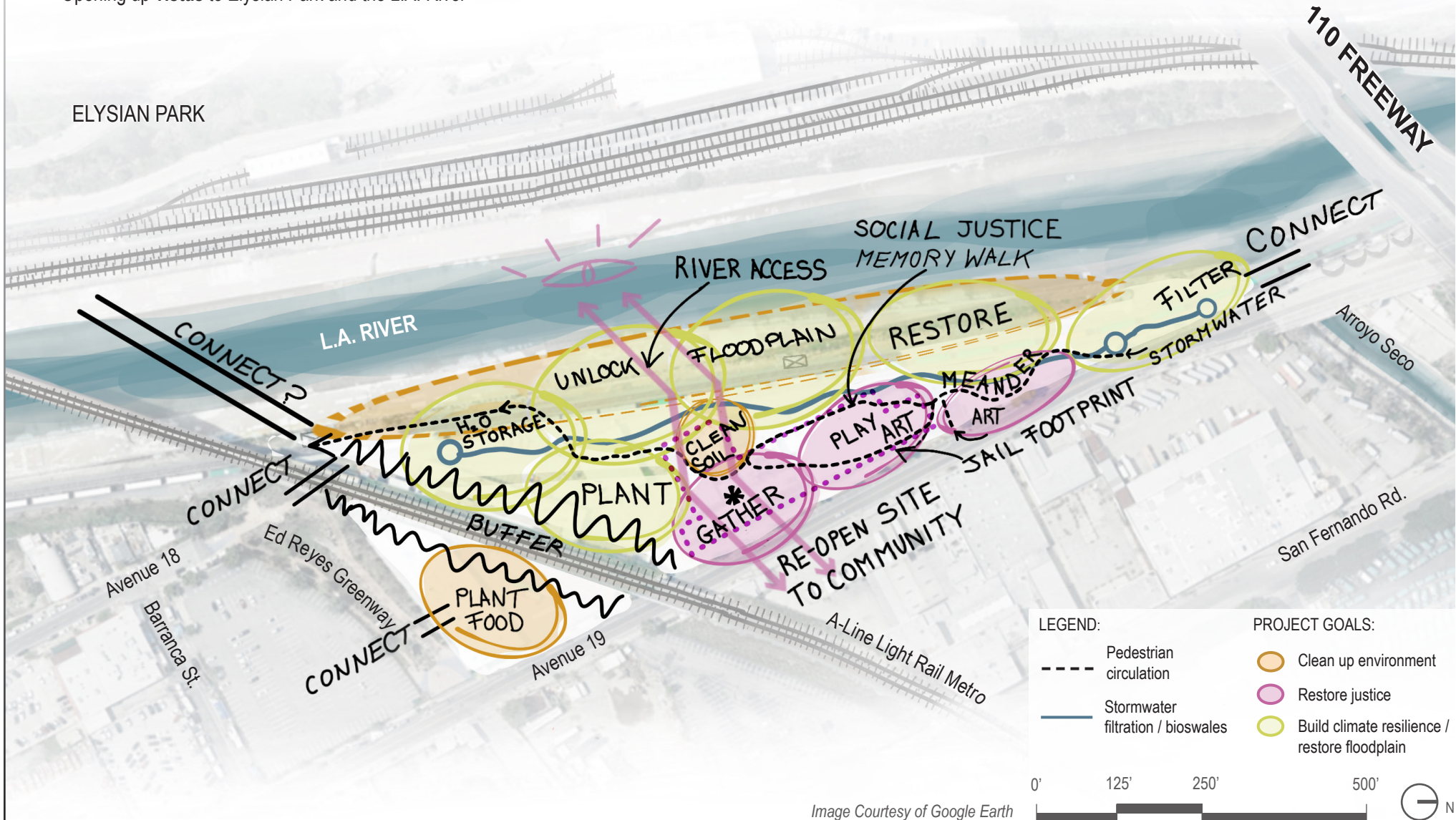
Chains of contamination, incarceration, injustice, displacement, land use, and capitalism are unlocked by a new living system that is vibrant, just, and regenerative. A new system emerges from the interlacing of histories, ecologies and communities – mending what was fragmented by pollution, incarceration, and systemic neglect. As the site approaches the river, nature takes a stronger hold, restoring the land to its original floodplain.

Design Development | Bubble Diagram - Unlocking + Mending Cycles of Harm

How to re-open the site to the community while restoring the floodplain and creating a meaningful space for all living things?

Unlocking and Mending a legacy of environmental degradations and social confinement by:

- Properly disposing of **environmentally hazardous** buildings and other contaminants
- **Relocating** the **Union Pacific freight line** to the western bank of the river
- Breaking up asphalt and concrete and replacing it with **permeable paths + vegetation**
- **Cleaning** river water through stormwater filtration
- Opening up **vistas** to Elysian Park and the L.A. River
- Reinstating natural **flows** of soil, water, plant material, and **habitat**
- Creating safe access to green space, the **arts**, educational and **social** services
- Encouraging foraging and **land stewardship**
- Connecting **green corridors** along the L.A. River



Design Development | Concept 1 - Exploring the River

Building above the A-line to mitigate noise with a large central gathering space by the repurposed/salvaged jail.

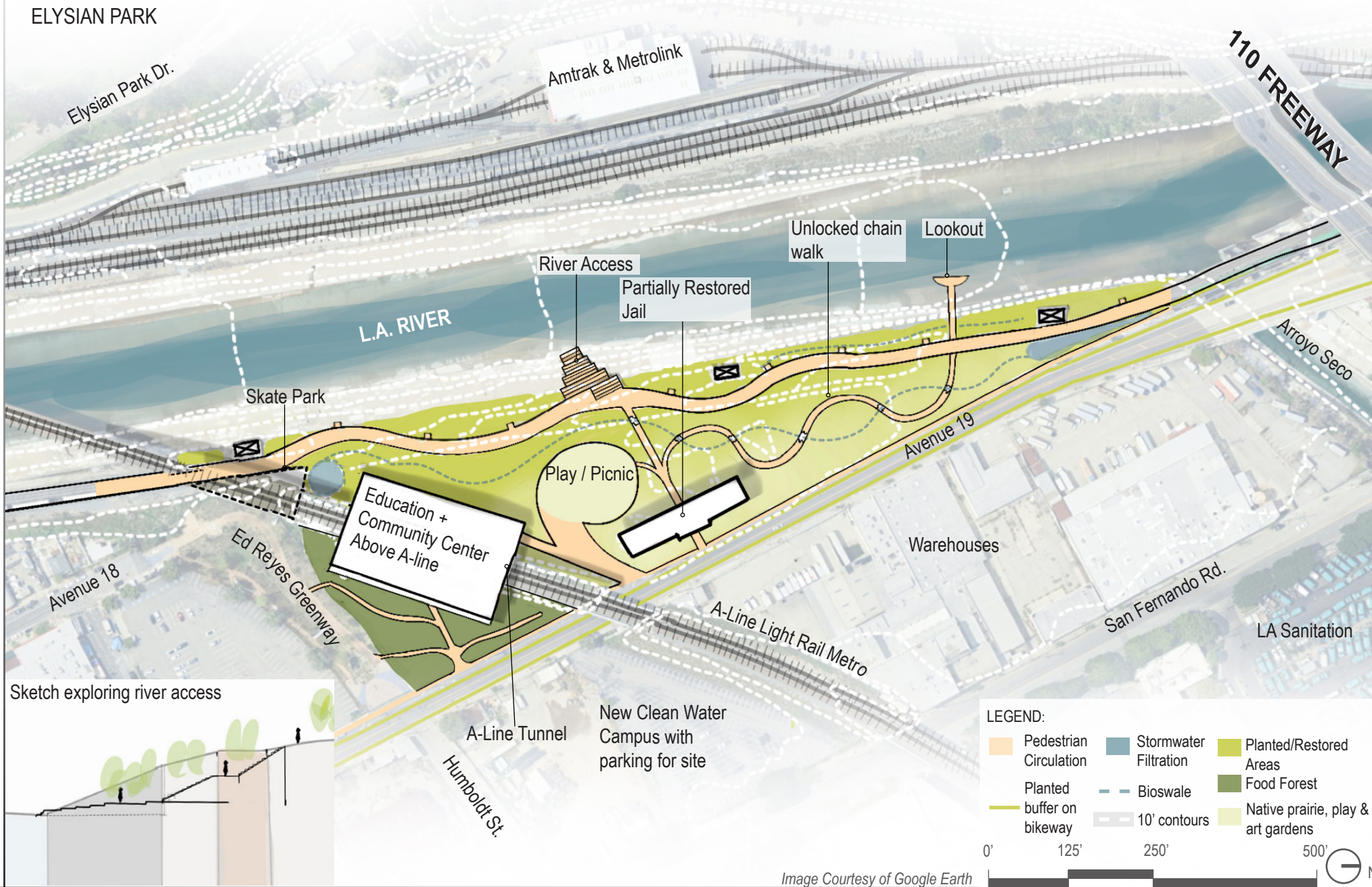


Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Design Development | Section Elevation Concept 1 - Exploring the River

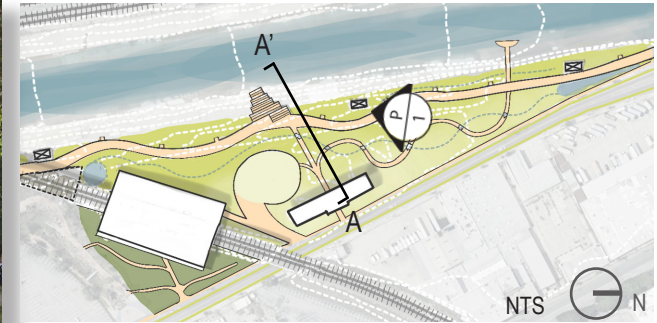


Sketch looking south, approaching the river access

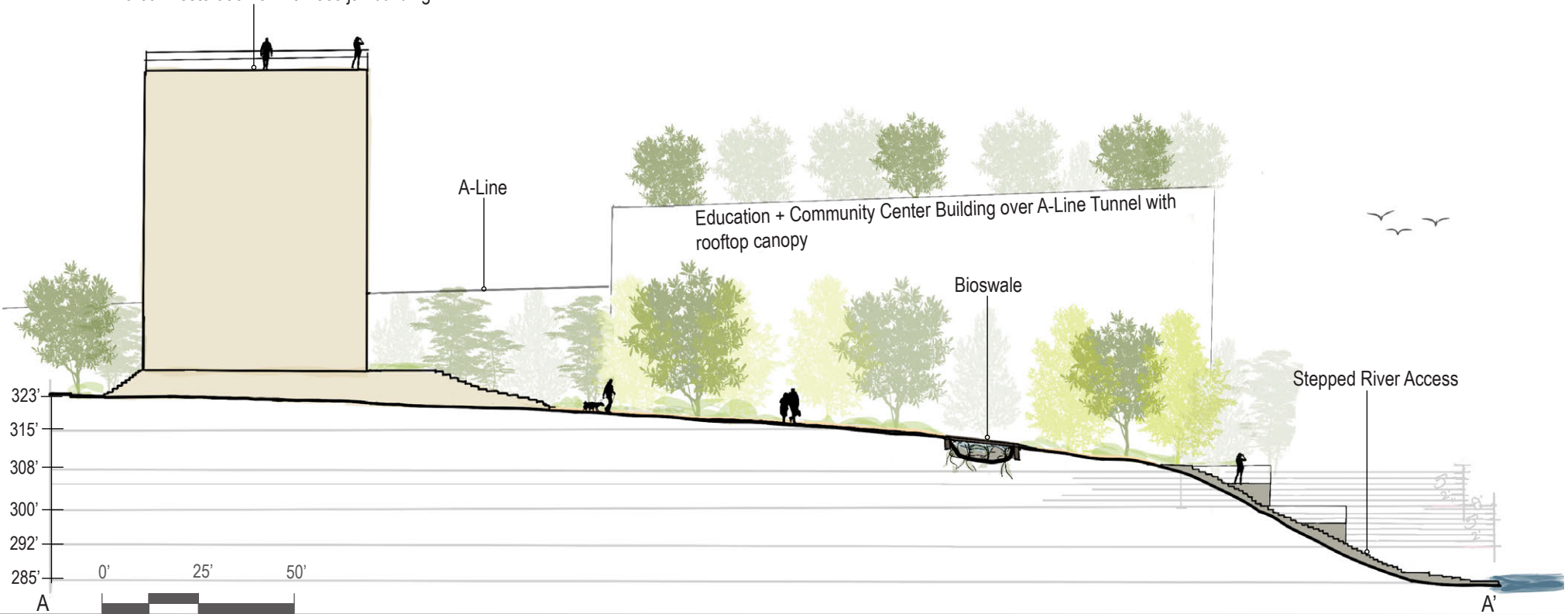


Garden featuring pathways around berms and swales
Photo by SLA Gronningeng

KEY MAP

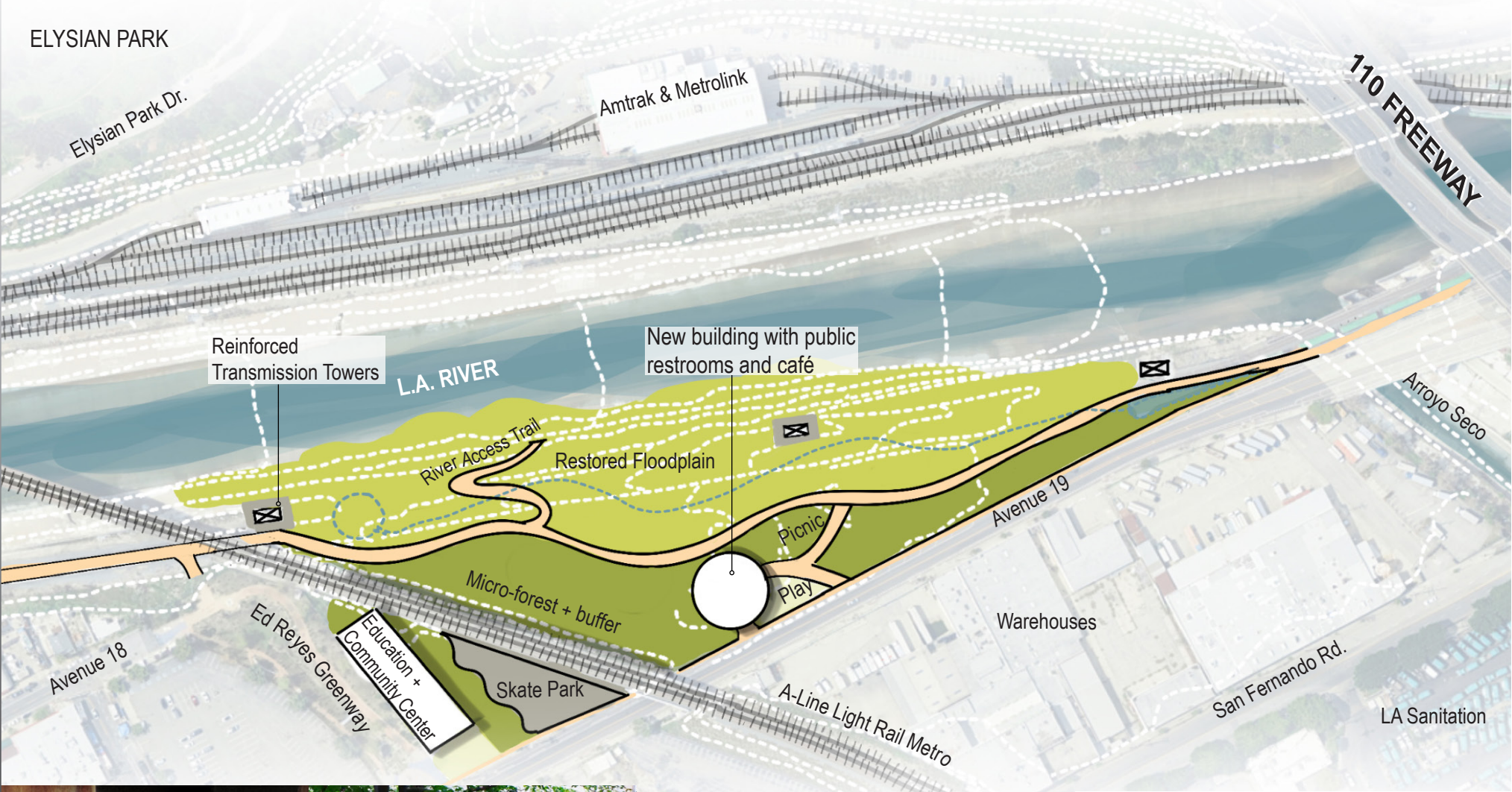


Partial Restoration of Art-Deco jail building



Design Development | Concept 2 - Giving Back to the River

Most of the site is restored, while the existing building on the south side is re-purposed and a circular community building with public restrooms replaces the jail.



New Clean Water Campus with parking for site

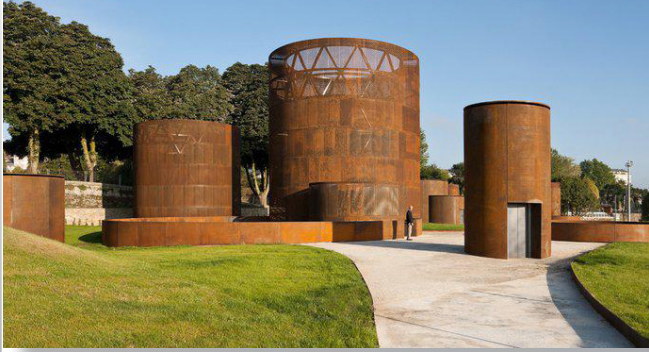
LEGEND:

- Pedestrian Circulation
- Stormwater Filtration
- Bioswale
- 10' contours
- Floodplain Restoration
- Micro-forest and Native Plant buffer
- Art + Play Gardens

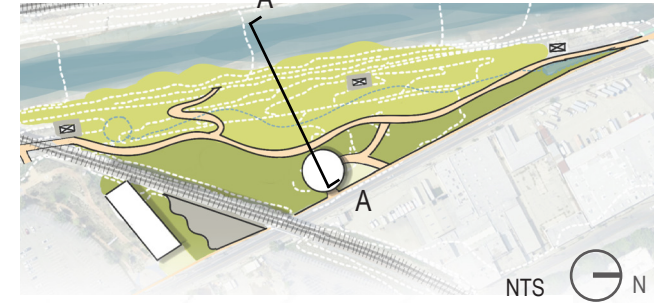


Design Development | Section Elevation - Giving Back to the River

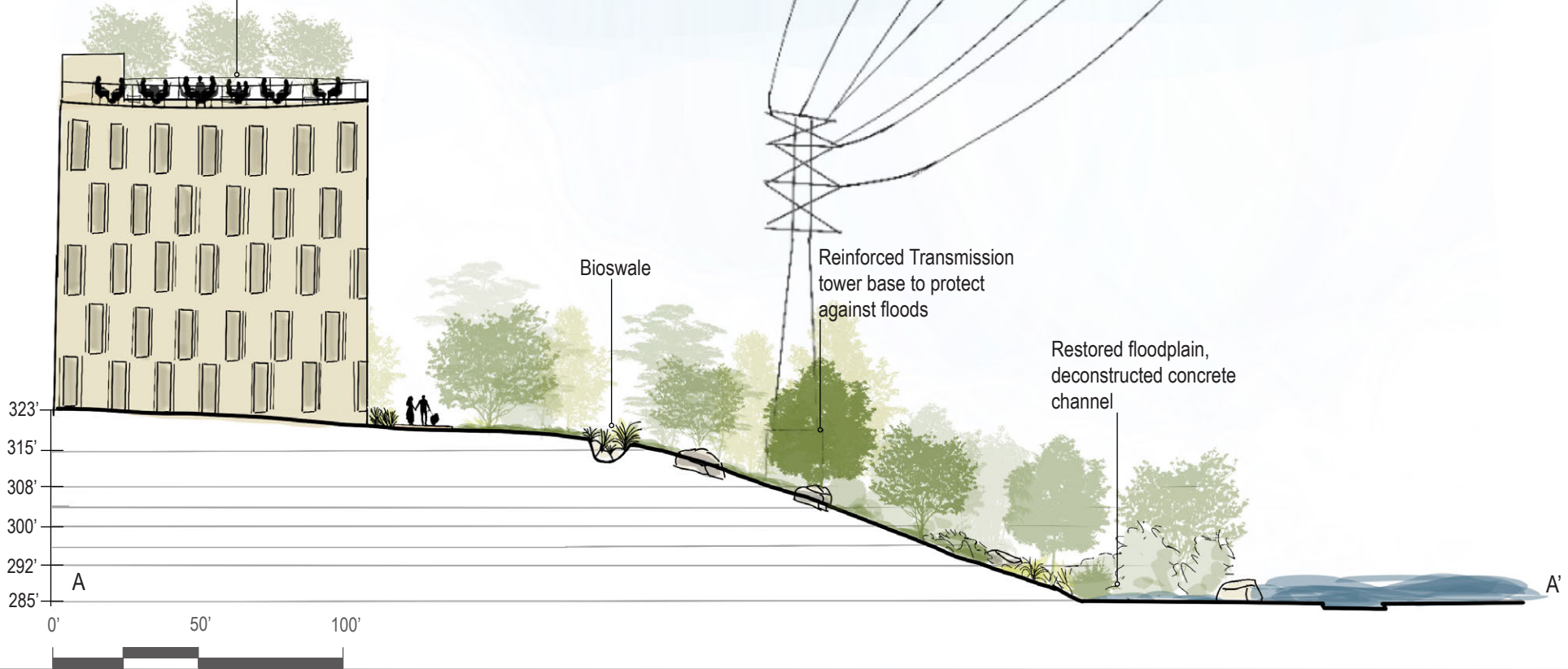
Recycled structure inspiration from Nieto Sobejano's interactive history museum in Lugo, Spain ²



KEY MAP

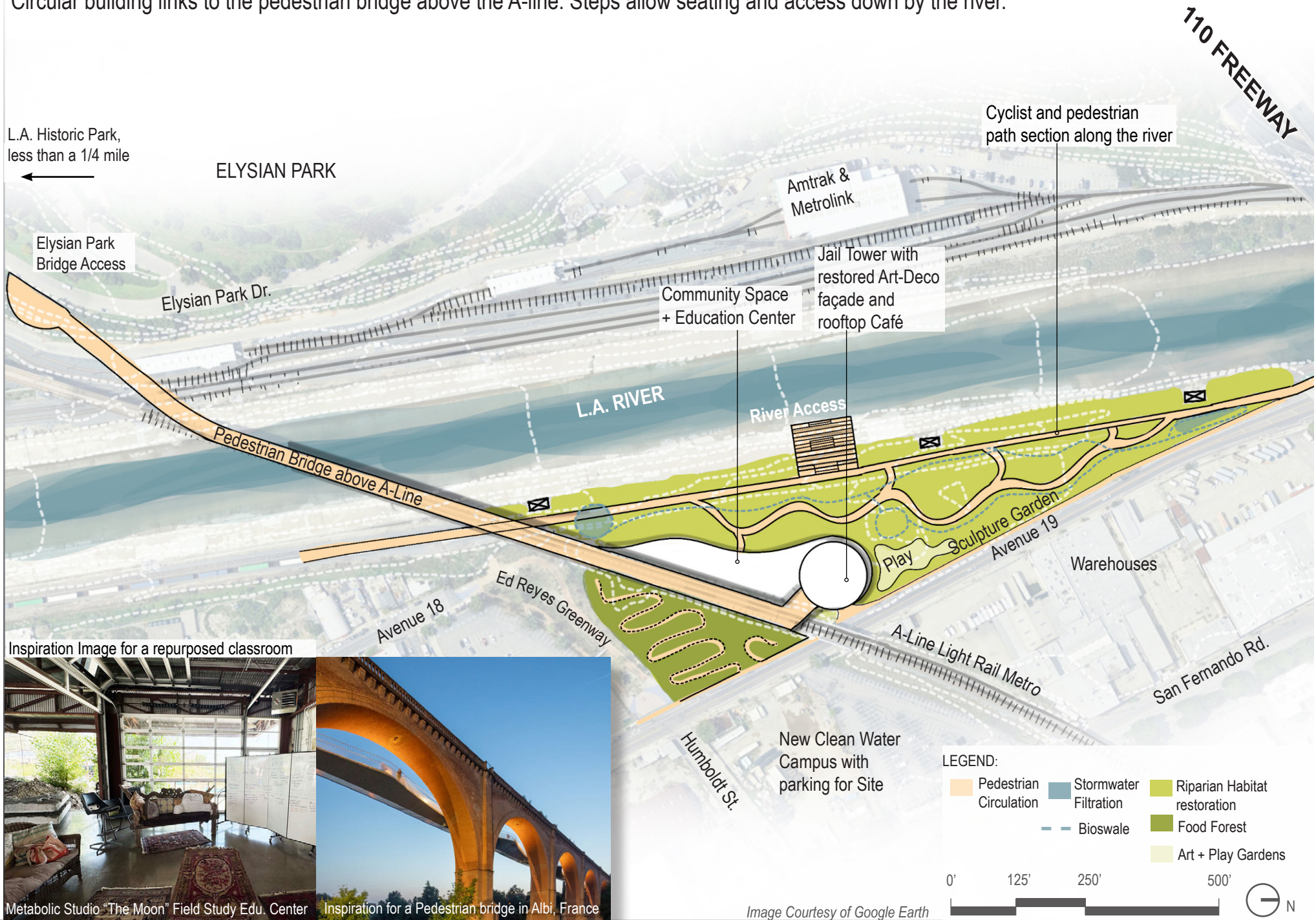


Restoration of Art-Deco jail building with rooftop café and potted shade trees



Design Development | Concept 3 - Connecting Riverbanks

Circular building links to the pedestrian bridge above the A-line. Steps allow seating and access down by the river.



L.A. Historic Park, less than a 1/4 mile

ELYSIAN PARK

Elysian Park Bridge Access

Elysian Park Dr.

Amtrak & Metrolink

Community Space + Education Center

Jail Tower with restored Art-Deco façade and rooftop Café

Cyclist and pedestrian path section along the river

L.A. RIVER

River Access

Pedestrian Bridge above A-Line

Play Sculpture Garden Avenue 19

Warehouses

Inspiration Image for a repurposed classroom



Metabolic Studio "The Moon" Field Study Edu. Center



Inspiration for a Pedestrian bridge in Albi, France

New Clean Water Campus with parking for Site

LEGEND:

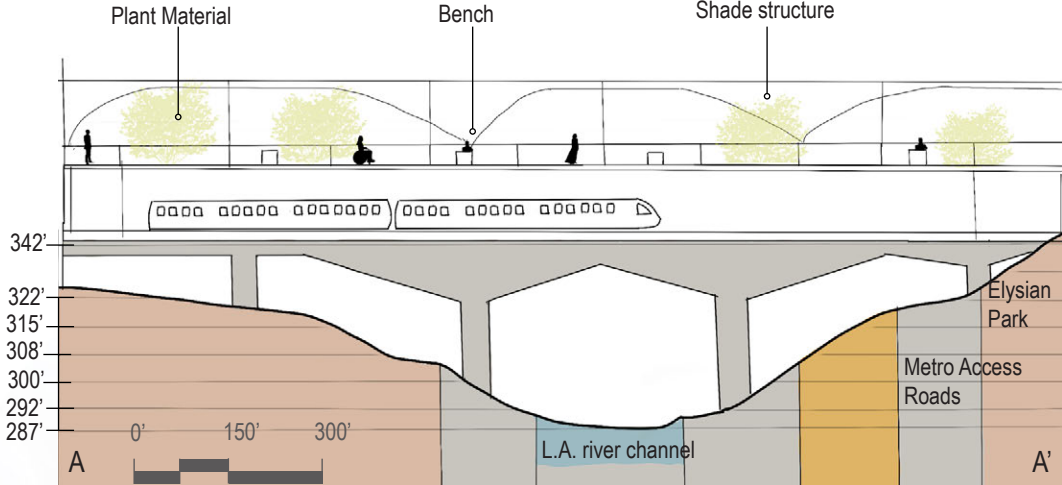
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Stormwater Filtration
- Riparian Habitat restoration
- Food Forest
- Art + Play Gardens
- Bioswale

0' 125' 250' 500'



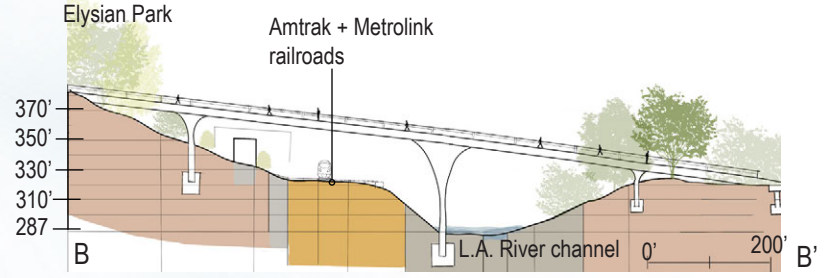
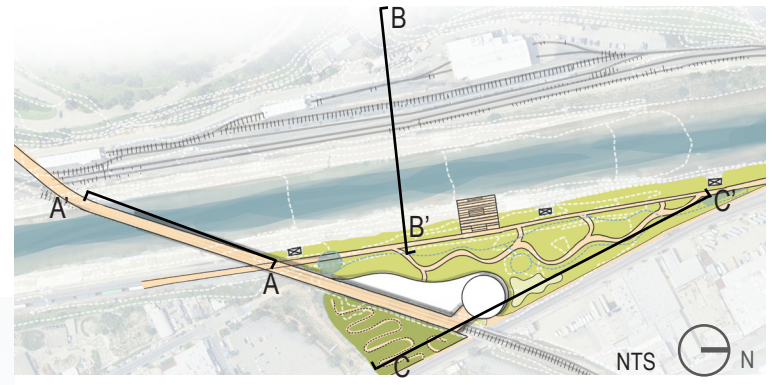
Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Design Development | Section Elevations - Connecting Riverbanks

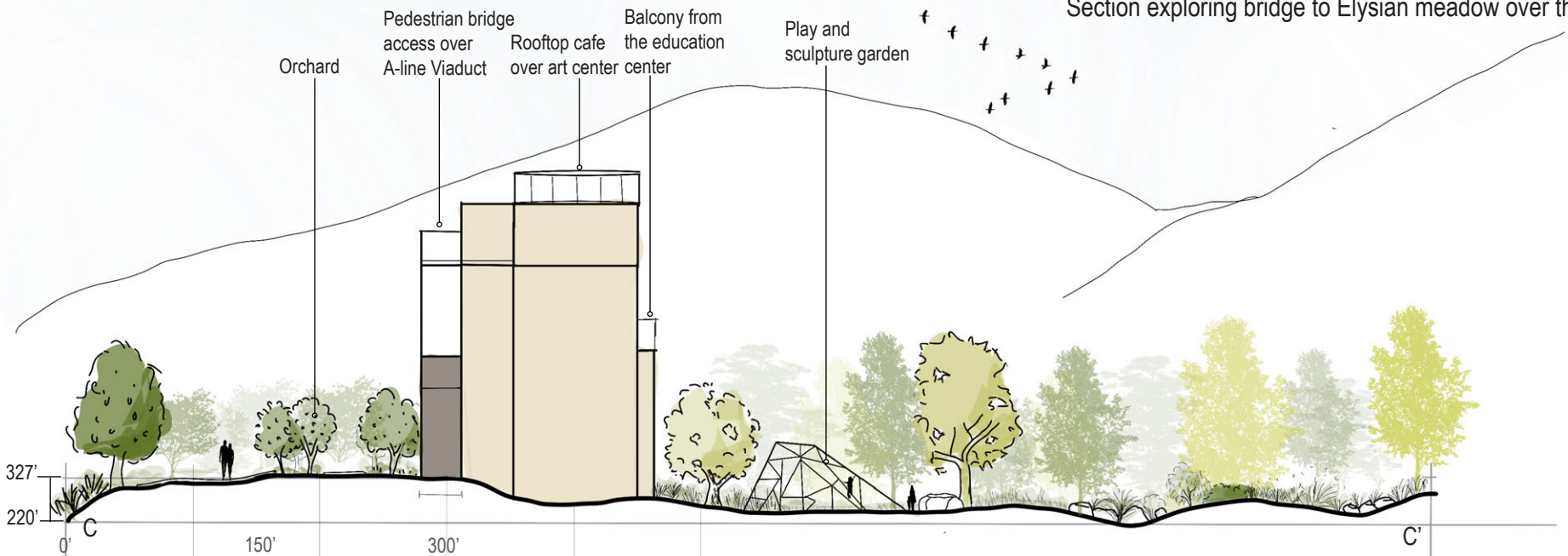


Section exploring pedestrian bridge over A-line viaduct

KEY MAP



Section exploring bridge to Elysian meadow over the L.A. River

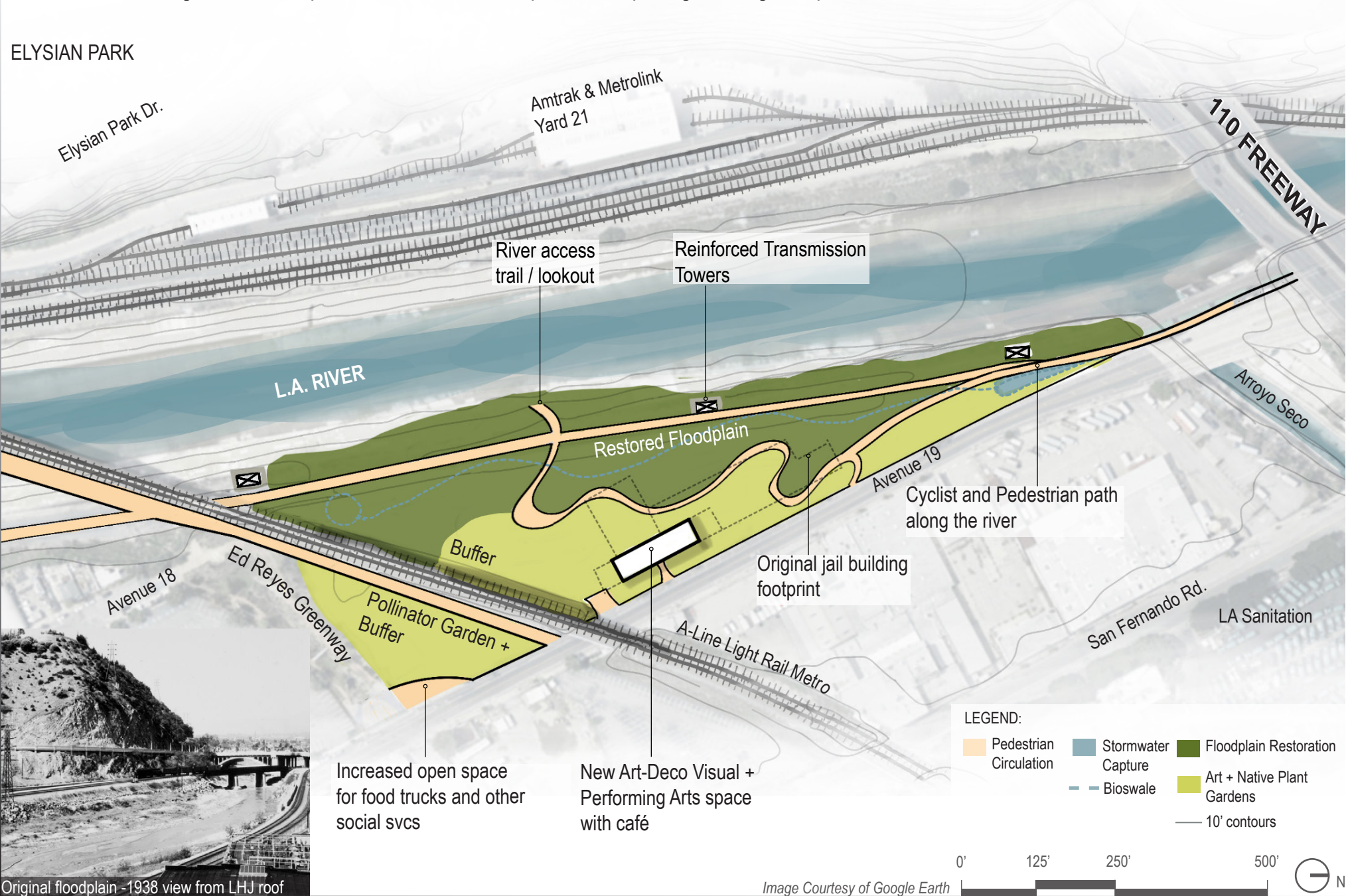


Section crossing the width of the site, showing elevator access to the pedestrian bridge above the A-line

Design Development | Final Concept: Unlocking Potential

Two thirds of the site is restored to a riparian habitat. A green buffer is planted by the A-line, and the hazardous buildings are removed. Materials are salvaged wherever possible, and reused as permeable paving, seating, sculptures, etc.

ELYSIAN PARK





04 Design Solutions

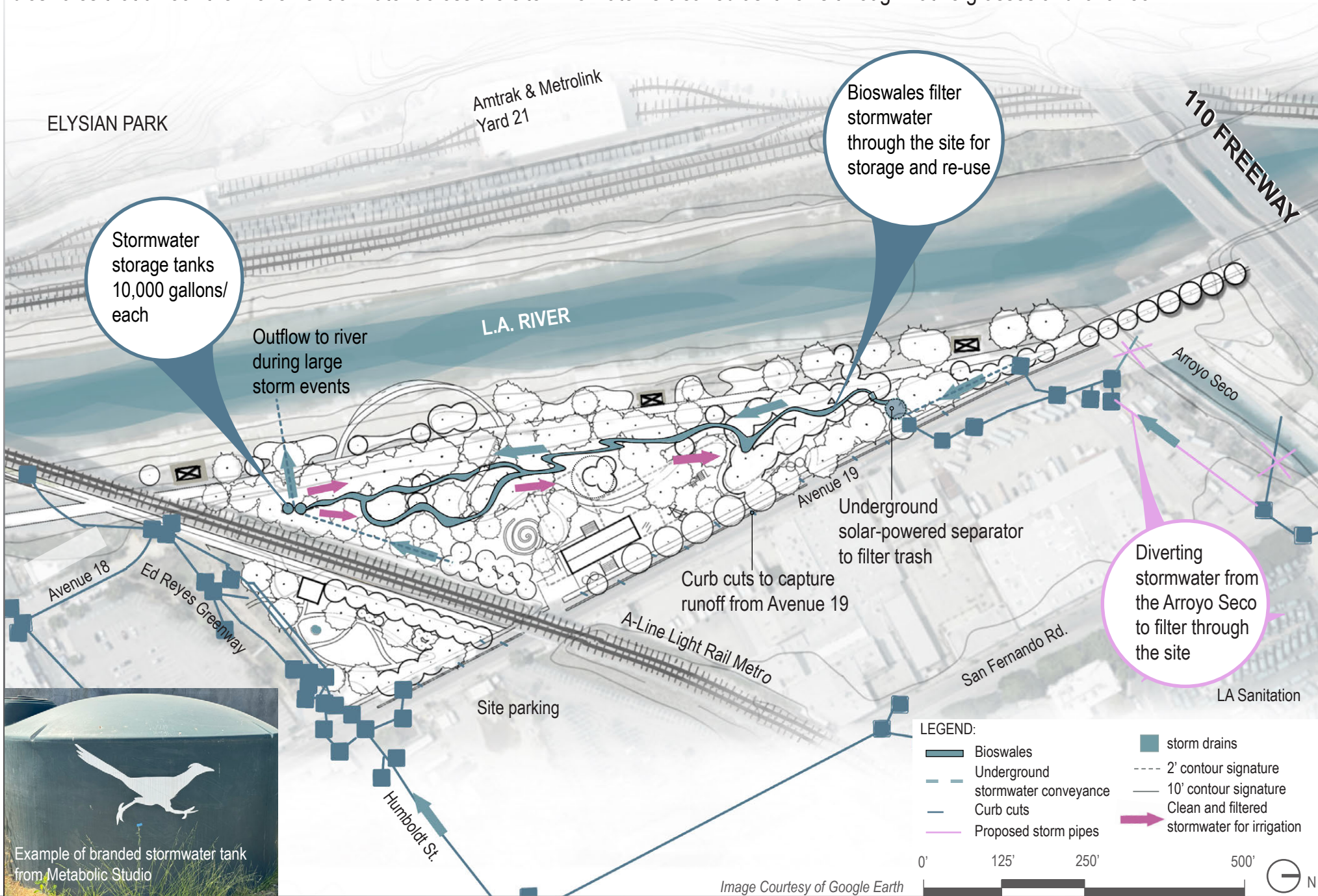
Site Plan



Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Water Diagram

The storm drains that would otherwise flow into the Arroyo Seco are now diverted into the park and filtered, or daylighted, through a system of bioswales that unlock the movement of water across the site. The water is cleaned as it flows through native grasses and lava rock.



Example of branded stormwater tank from Metabolic Studio

Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Enlargement 1 | Graffiti Gateway + Liberation Garden

KEY MAP



Jail cell trellises with *Calistegia macrostegia*

Interactive Sculpture Garden and play area

Tree ring bench

Native grass labyrinth honoring the Tongva people

Picnic Area

Phytoremediation field test site with *populus fremontii*

Bioswale



The height of the rooftop café offers stunning views of Elysian Park and downtown LA.

The labyrinth showcases tall native grasses used by the Tongva people. Various footbridges throughout the site allow you to witness up close the seasonal bioswales that meander throughout.

Memory Walk

Native rainbow garden honoring the injustices done to the LGBTQ+ community

Original jail footprint

Interactive sculpture

New Art center, Graffiti Gateway, and rooftop café with a solar panel awning

LEGEND:

- Pedestrian Circulation
- Floodplain Restoration
- Bioswales
- Permeable paving

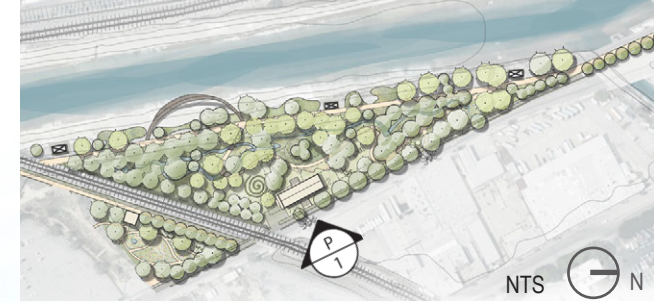


Avenue 19

Perspective | Graffiti Gateway, a New Landmark



KEY MAP



A threshold that once implied containment now serves as a passage into a green, thriving space. The art-deco façade is recreated (or salvaged) to honor the historical architecture of the late 1920s.

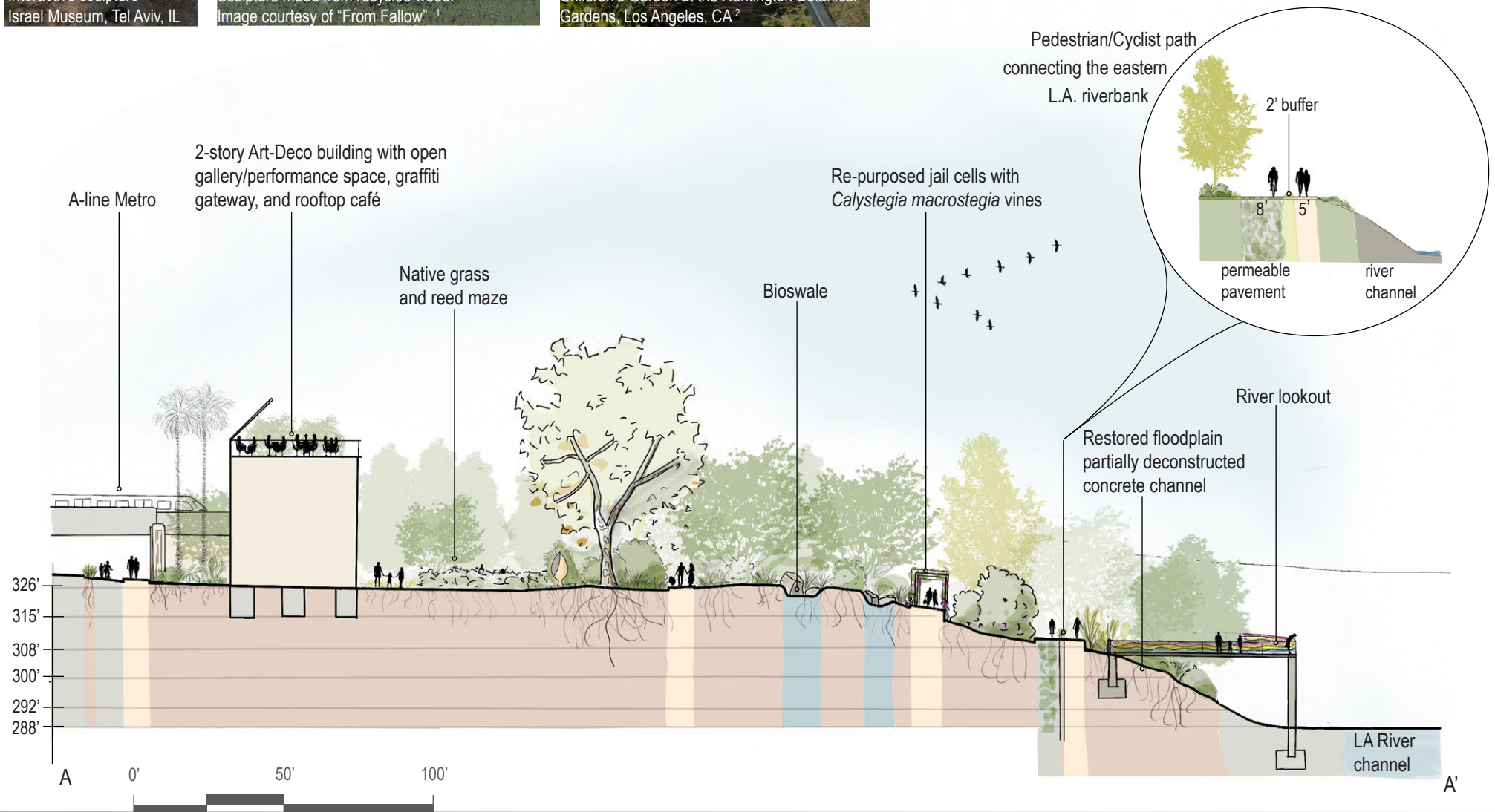
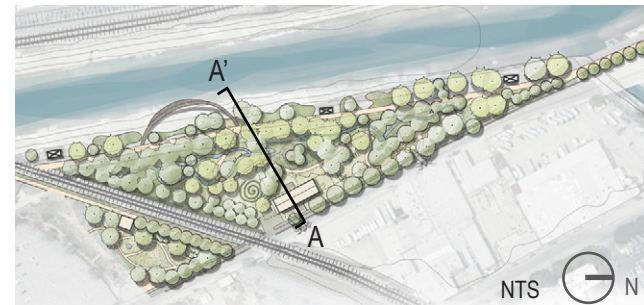
The Gateway embraces the rich culture of Lincoln Heights' past and present, displaying local muralists' work on all sides. The surrounding walls will be used as a blank canvas for local artists .

Main entrance to Graffiti Gateway, the new public gallery and café. Permeable paving, Sycamore trees and California native coastal scrub envelop the building, complementing the re-created green Art-Deco façade of the original Lincoln Heights Jail. Pictured here is Man One's "Battles of Gargantuans" mural, *courtesy of www.manone.com*.

Section Elevation | Liberation Garden to the River



KEY MAP



Perspective | Liberation Garden

KEY MAP



The Graffiti Gateway opens up into the Liberation Garden. A native pollinator garden envelops the Memory Walk, honoring the LGBTQ+ community and others who were wrongfully imprisoned at the jail.



Perspectives | Memory Walk



Creative graphics designed by local artists and storytellers will help communicate environmental urgencies and history of the area.

Inspiration image courtesy of www.cutout.com/au

KEY MAP



Towards the end of the Memory walk, people pass through salvaged jail cells covered in California Island Morning glory – creating a sense of confinement. As they reach the end, the tunnel opens up to a full view of the river lookout, symbolizing expanse and release.



The Memory walk is demarcated in some areas with a low-lying chain-link railing with vines and native grasses growing through it. Interactive signage depicts the complex history of the jail.

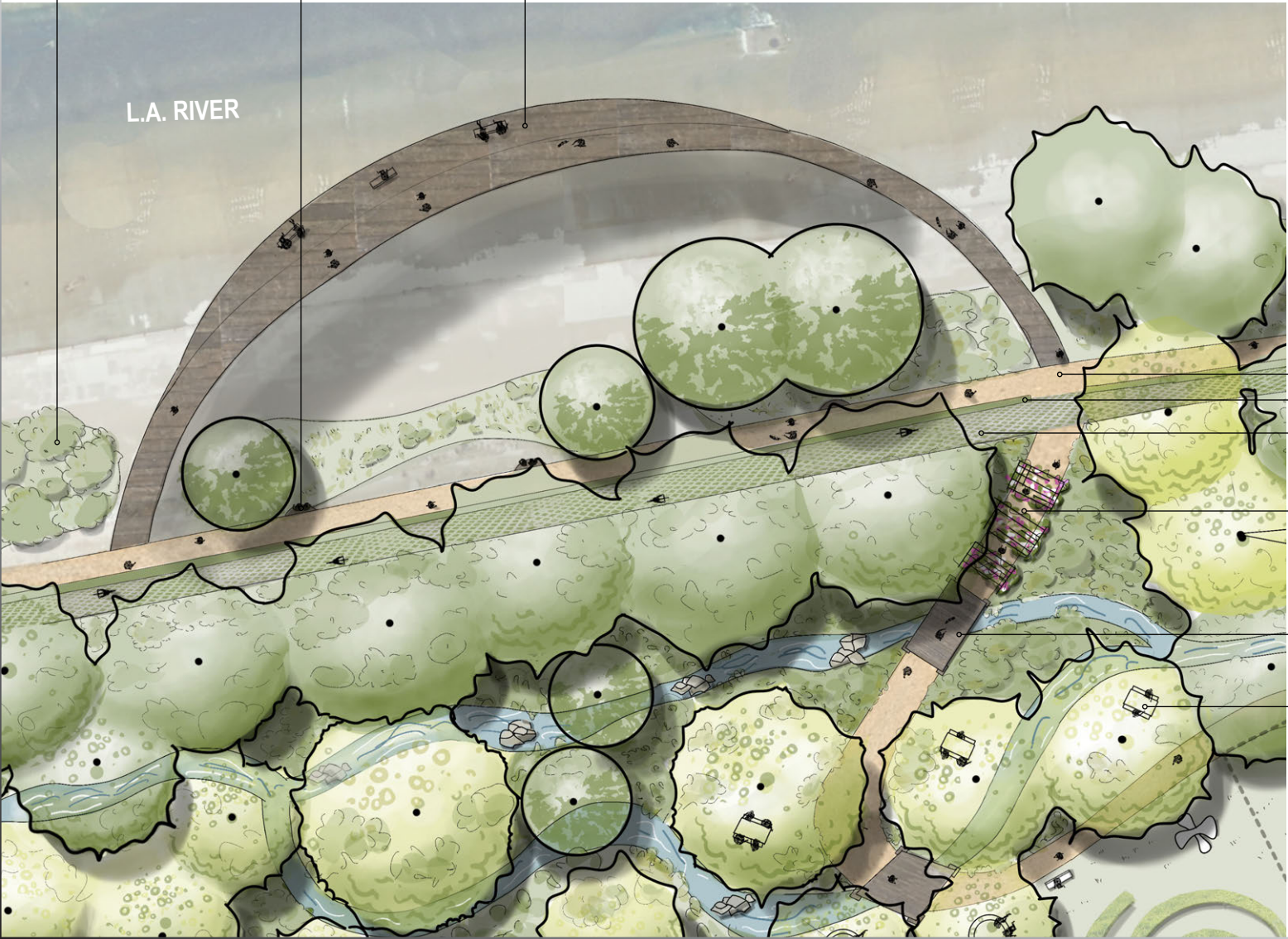


Enlargement 2 | River's Edge

KEY MAP



Deconstructed channel planted with riparian flora
 River channel seating
 River Lookout with seating

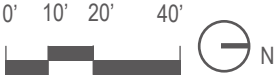


This wooden river lookout extends over the channel, breaking free from the enclosure of the repurposed jail cells. Here the user can fully enjoy the views of the river, its bridges, and Elysian Park.

- Riverside pedestrian pathway
- Planted buffer
- Permeable cyclist pathway
- Calystegia macrostegia*-covered jail cells
- Footbridge over bioswale
- Picnic area

LEGEND:

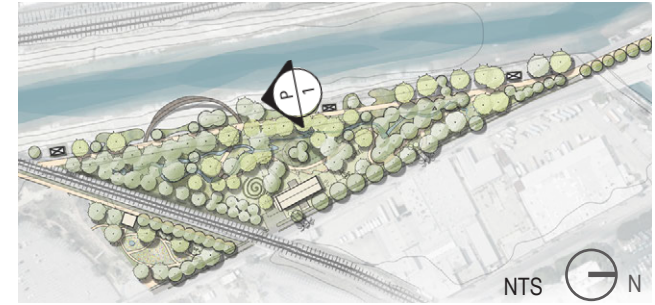
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Restored Floodplain
- Bioswales



Perspective | River's Edge



KEY MAP



Sections of concrete from the river channel are removed and re-used as sculptures in the garden and/or building materials. The added fluvial vegetation improves flood detention and water quality, while restoring the river's ecosystem.

Long benches are placed along the furthest edge of the lookout to enjoy peaceful views. The rainbow theme is continued along the handrails of the lookout.

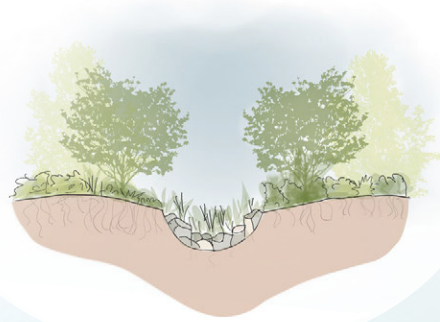
Overlook with seating and a metal rainbow railing honoring people wrongfully imprisoned at the jail.



Section Elevation | West to the River

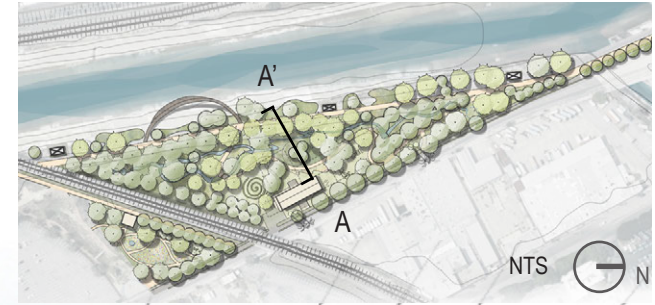


Inspiration: Bioswale from Metabolic Studio's The Moon site



Bioswale Sketch

KEY MAP



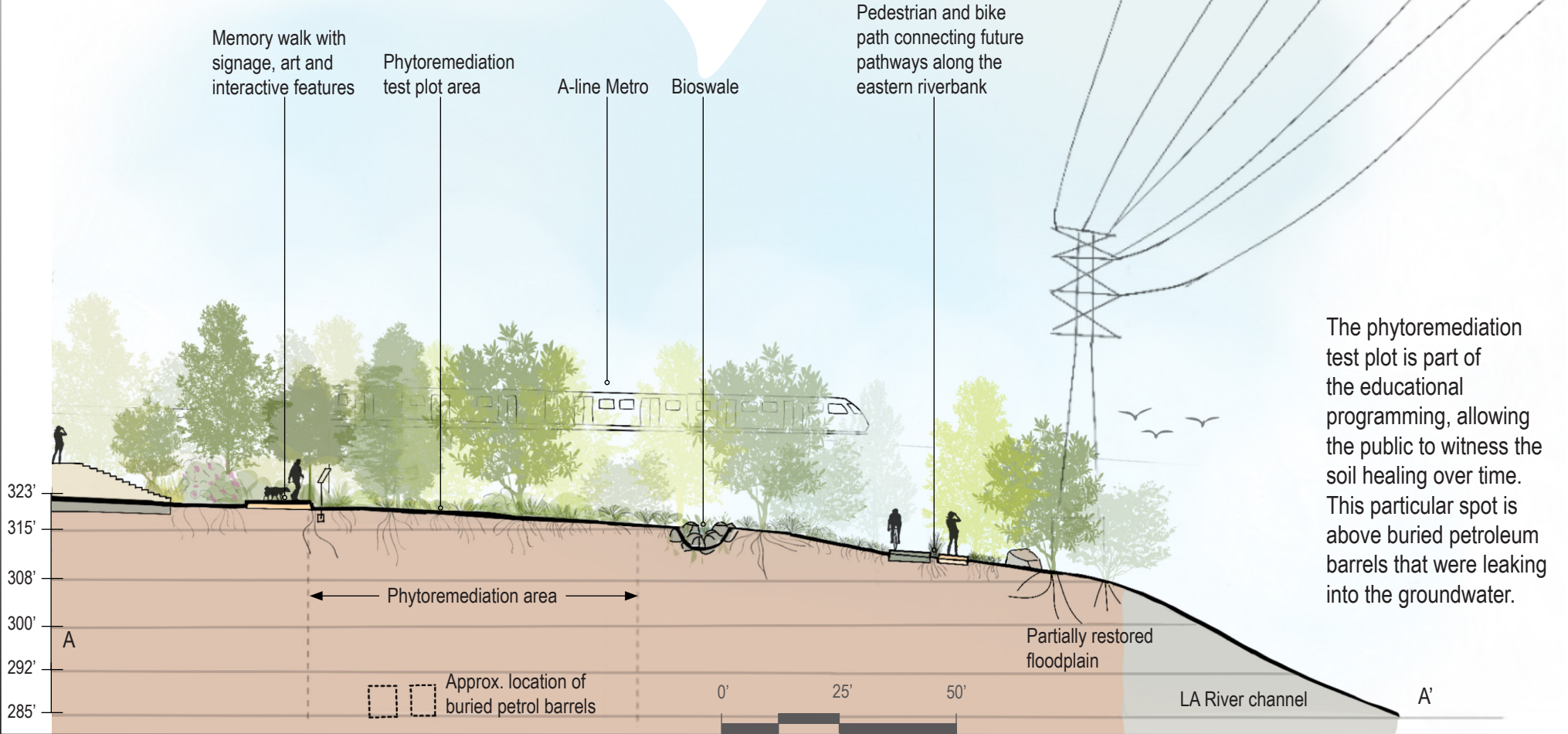
Memory walk with signage, art and interactive features

Phytoremediation test plot area

A-line Metro

Bioswale

Pedestrian and bike path connecting future pathways along the eastern riverbank



The phytoremediation test plot is part of the educational programming, allowing the public to witness the soil healing over time. This particular spot is above buried petroleum barrels that were leaking into the groundwater.

Perspective | Views of Elysian

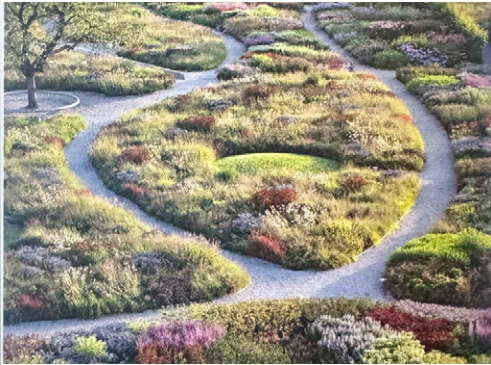
KEY MAP



Ample seating along the riverbank path and the lookout give users the opportunity to enjoy new peaceful vistas of Elysian Park and the L.A. River.

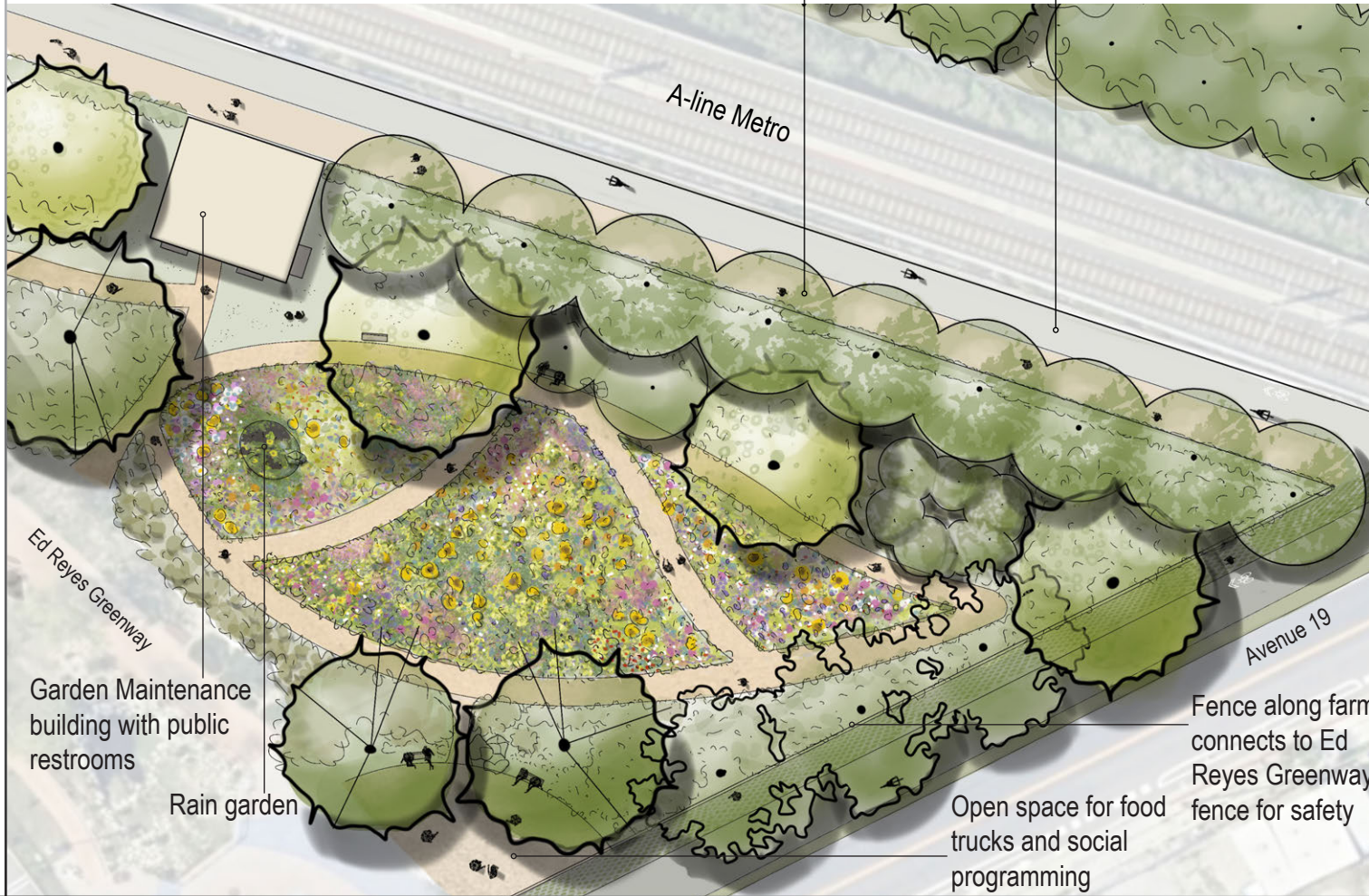


Enlargement 3 | Urban Flower Farm



Inspiration: Piet Oudolf Garden, Weil am Rhein, Germany. Photo by Julien Landoo

KEY MAP



This pollinator garden doubles as an urban flower garden, where community members can grow, harvest, and sell flowers and seeds. The garden is designed to **bloom** throughout the year, creating **year-round foraging opportunities** for pollinators and humans alike.

A mix of groundcovers, shrubs and small trees around the flower garden create a buffer from the A-line while supporting bees, butterflies and birds. Educational and interactive signage about native pollinators and traditional **Tongva plant uses** will engage passive users.

The garden is in the shape of a **seed pod**, evoking the release of potential and **hope** for our future generations.

LEGEND:

 Pedestrian Circulation



Perspective | Urban Flower Farm + Event Space

KEY MAP



The open multi-functional space on the southeast end of the flower farm can be used for food trucks, pop-up events, or mobile social services addressing the needs of the community (such as laundry, health, dental or immigration services). If needed, it can connect to the Ed Reyes open space, doubling the capacity.

↓ Ed Reyes Greenway



Perspective | Urban Flower Farm

With a focus on ethnobotanical plants, the garden will showcase a mix of annuals, perennials, herbs and grasses that bloom at different times throughout the year.

KEY MAP



This view is from the northern path of the flower farm looking southwest. Benches for seating line the DG pathways, and the site is graded so that stormwater is retained in the flower garden. The maintenance building also has a public restroom.

Section Elevation | South to North



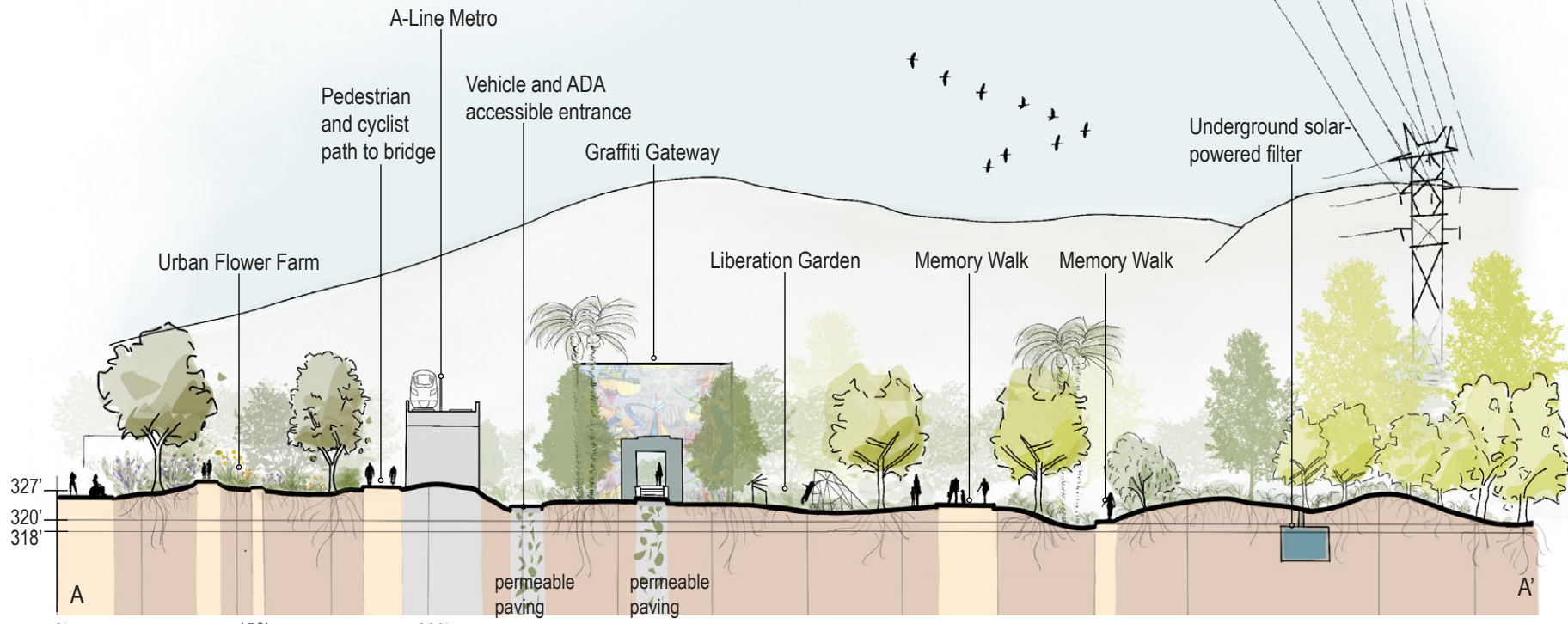
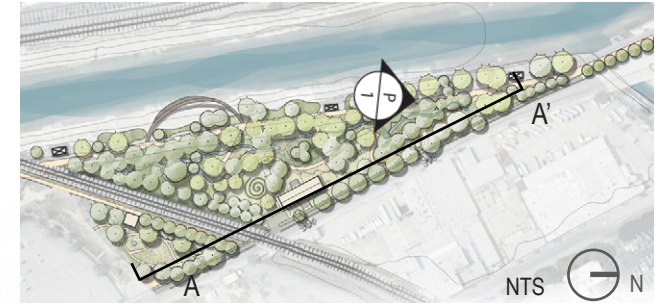
Sketch from the restored floodplain looking north



Boulders and trees act as natural barriers to the park north of the A-line, where 2 ADA accessible entrances lead you into the park from Avenue 19. The main entrance in the Graffiti Gateway remains open with restrooms that include showers, available to the community until 11 PM (or as determined safe by local law enforcement).

The Flower Farm will continue the fencing currently around the Ed Reyes Greenway, giving unlimited access to community members working or volunteering at the site.

KEY MAP



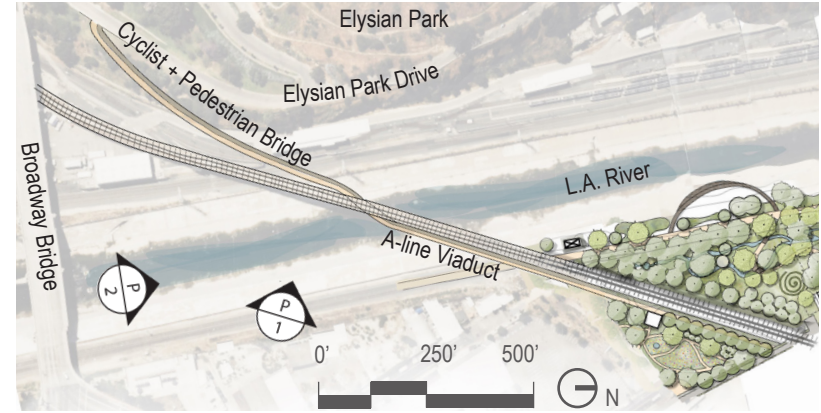
This section covers the length of the site from south to north revealing a now open and inviting public space

Phase 2 | Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge to Elysian Park



The pedestrian and cyclist bridge follows the A-line viaduct until it veers above into Elysian Park near the Broadway Bridge entrance.

KEY MAP

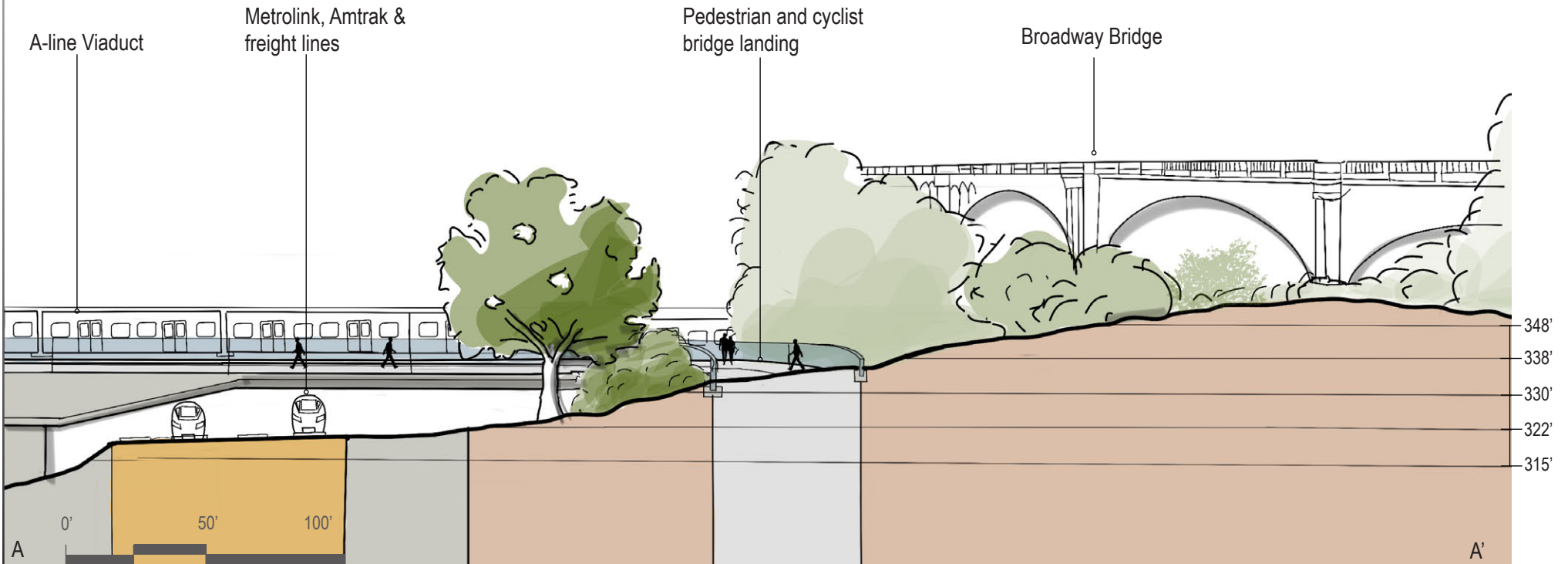
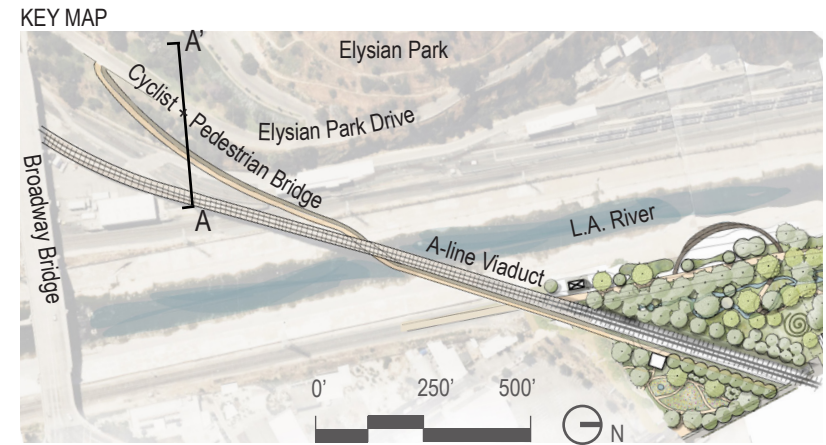


Pedestrian and cyclist bridge saddles the A-line Viaduct halfway across the river before separating and landing near the Broadway entrance to Elysian Park.

Phase 2 | Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge Section



Pont Vieux d'Albi in France: a new bike and pedestrian crossing attached to an old train viaduct in Albi, France. *Photo by Vincent Boutin*



Section of Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge landing near the Broadway entrance to Elysian Park.

Plant Palette

California Native Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Grasses and Wildflowers



Images left to right: *Platanus racemosa* (Western Sycamore), *Populus fremontii* (Cottonwood Fremontii), *Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud), *Sambucus mexicana* (Mexican Elderberry), *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak), *Encelia californica* (Bush Sunflower), *Calystegia macrostegia* 'Anapaca Pink' ('Anapaca Pink' Island Morning Glory), *Salvia apiana* (White Sage), *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince' ('Canyon Prince' Wild Rye), *Eriogonum arborescense* (Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat), *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' ('Blonde Ambition' Blue Gramma Grass), *Asclepias fascicularis* (Narrow Leaf Milkweed), *Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy), *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita Bop' ('Margarita Bop' Penstemon)

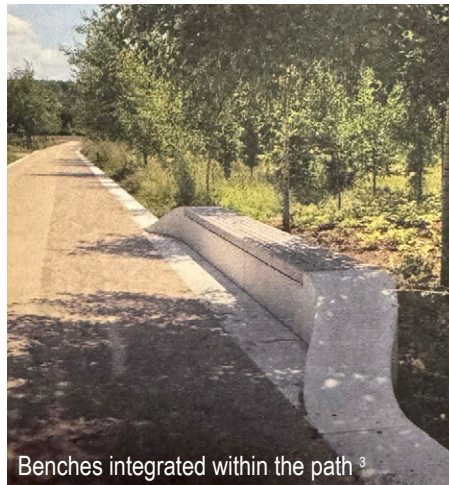
Materials Palette



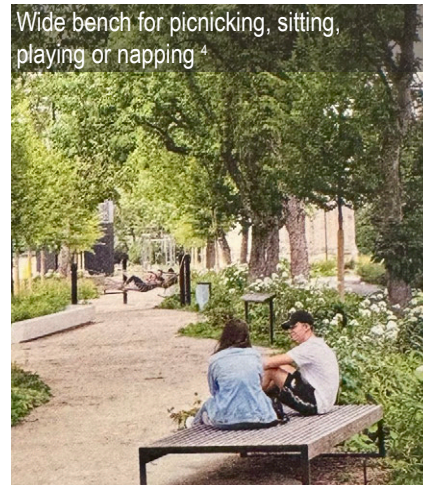
All images from "Contemporary Landscape Architecture Masterpieces Around the World" Edited by Chris Van Offelen © 2024¹



Simple wooden foot bridge over bioswale ²



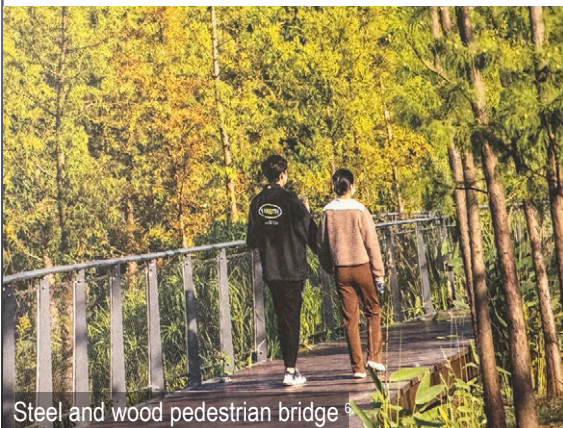
Benches integrated within the path ³



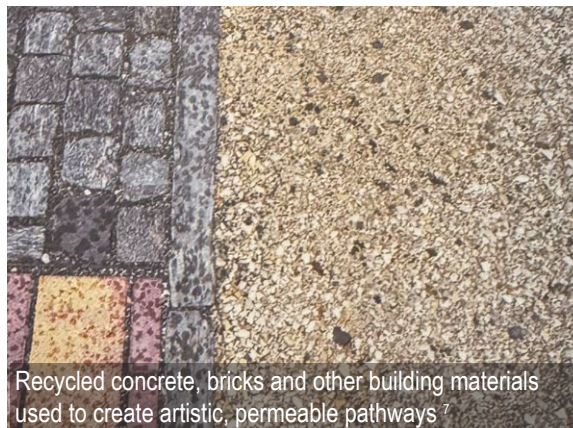
Wide bench for picnicking, sitting, playing or napping ⁴



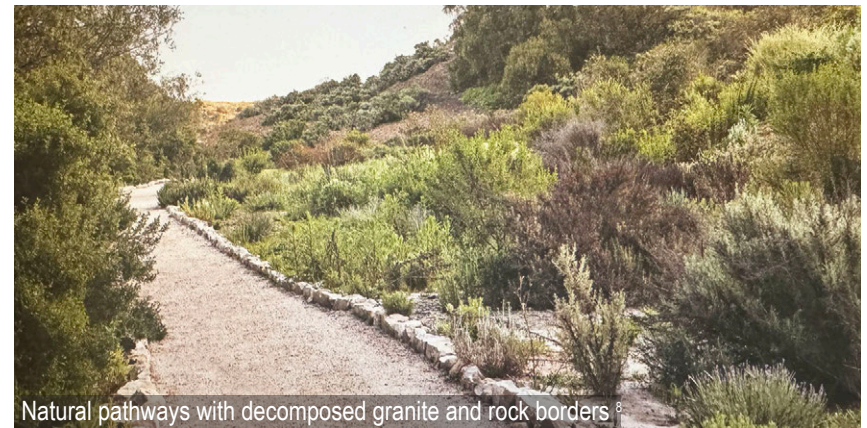
Art in the landscape ⁵



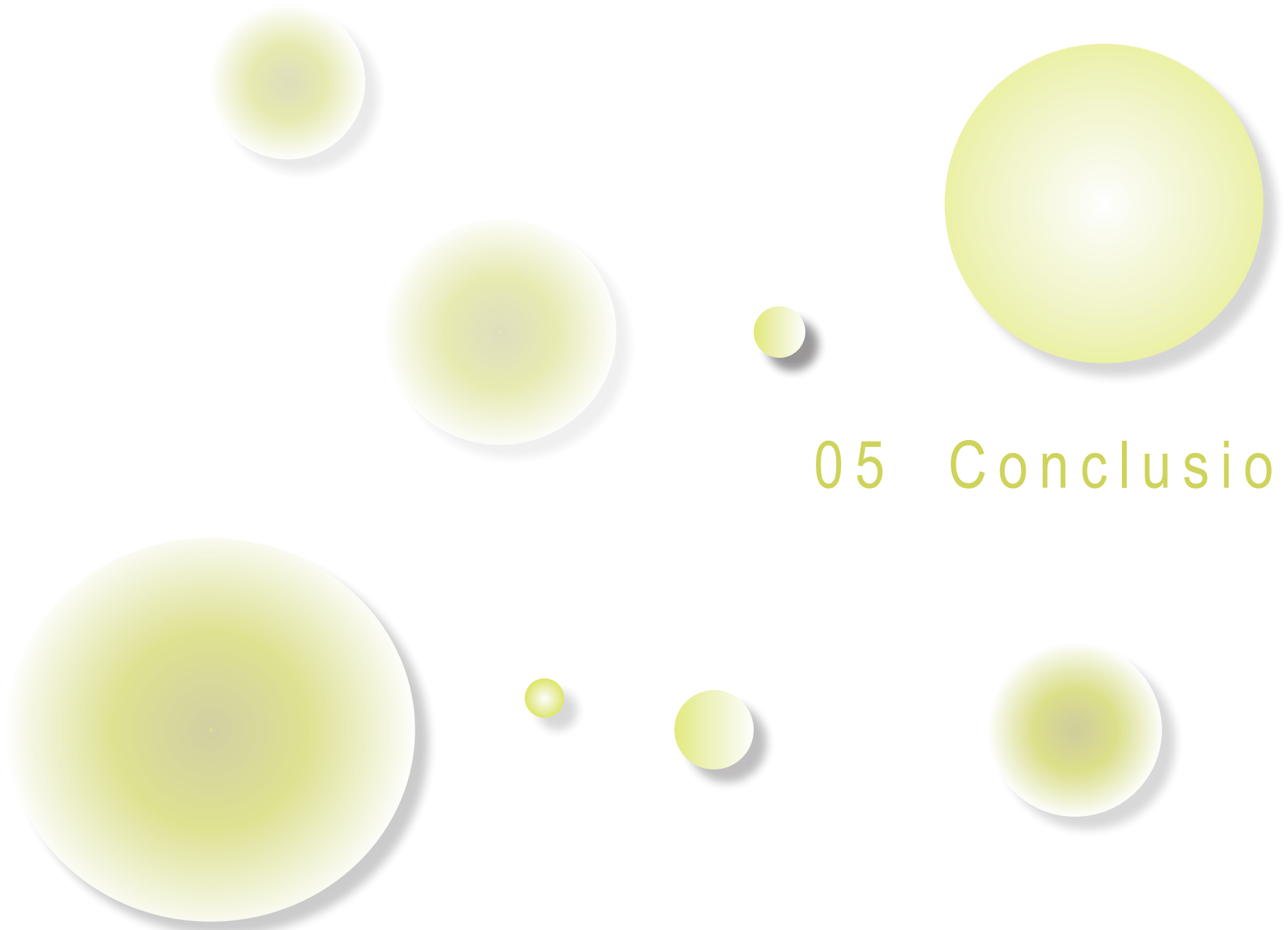
Steel and wood pedestrian bridge ⁶



Recycled concrete, bricks and other building materials used to create artistic, permeable pathways ⁷

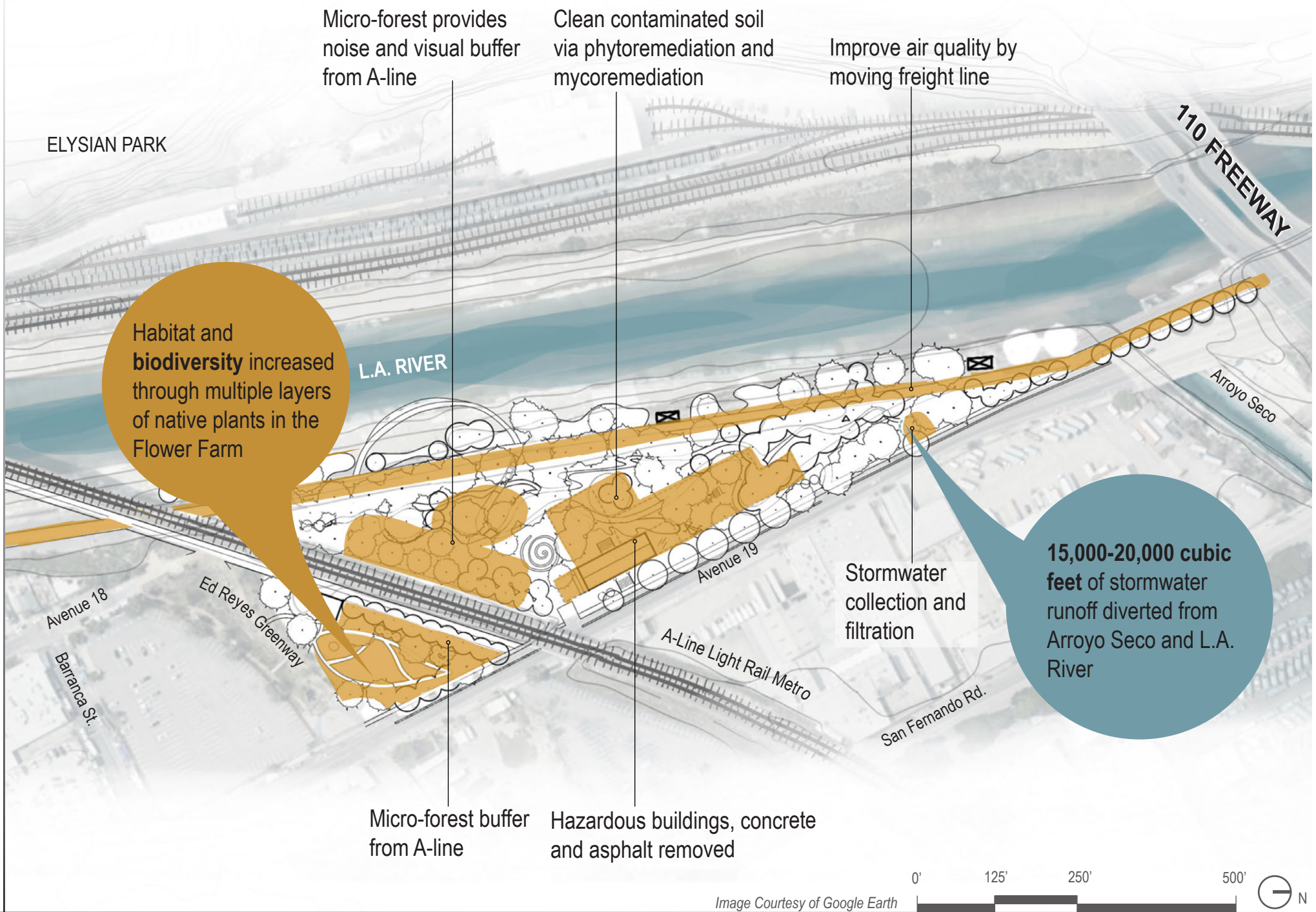


Natural pathways with decomposed granite and rock borders ⁸



05 Conclusion

Conclusion Analysis | Goal Attainment: Clean Up Environment



ELYSIAN PARK

Micro-forest provides noise and visual buffer from A-line

Clean contaminated soil via phytoremediation and mycoremediation

Improve air quality by moving freight line

Habitat and **biodiversity** increased through multiple layers of native plants in the Flower Farm

15,000-20,000 cubic feet of stormwater runoff diverted from Arroyo Seco and L.A. River

Micro-forest buffer from A-line

Hazardous buildings, concrete and asphalt removed

Stormwater collection and filtration



Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Conclusion Analysis | Goal Attainment: Restore Justice

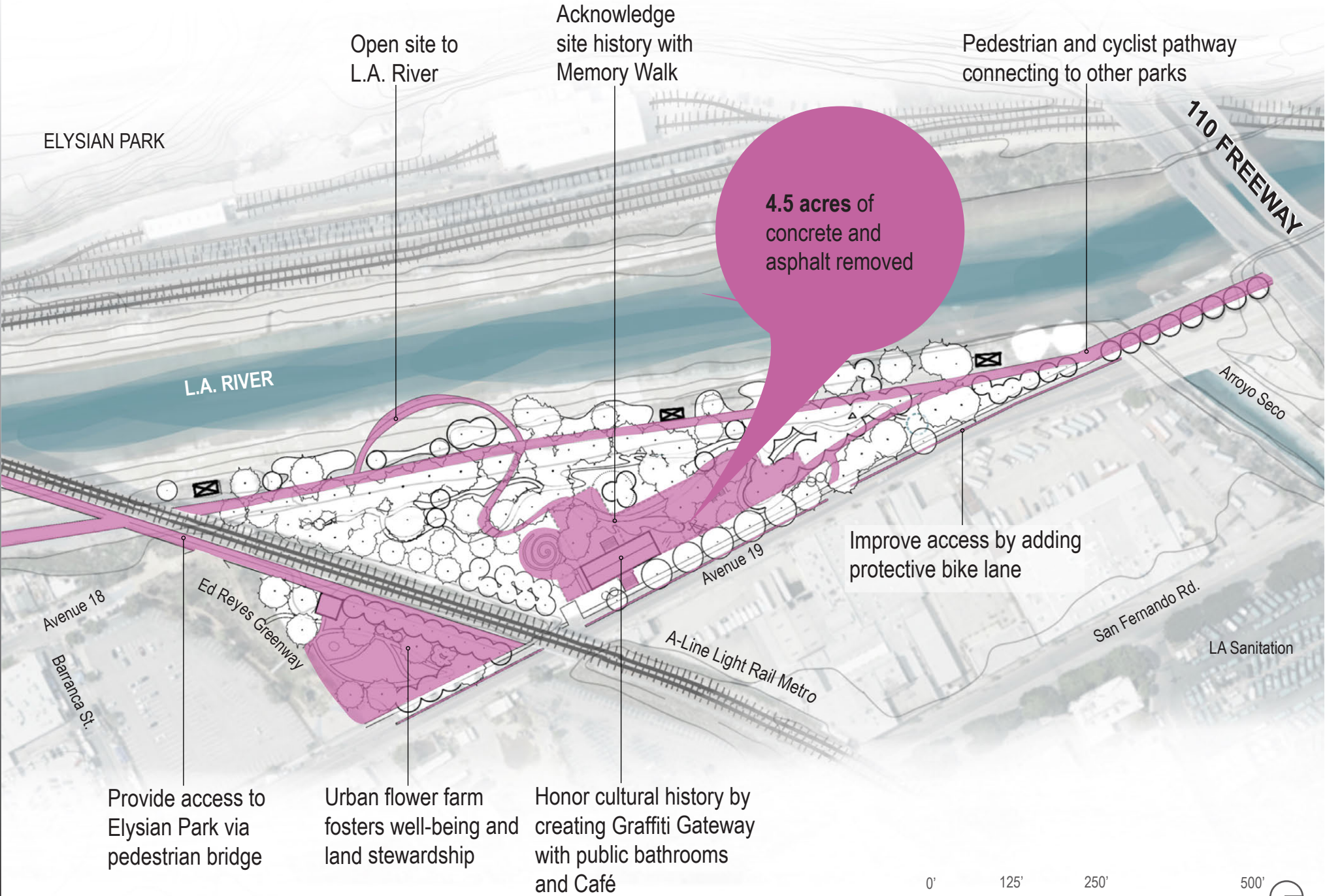
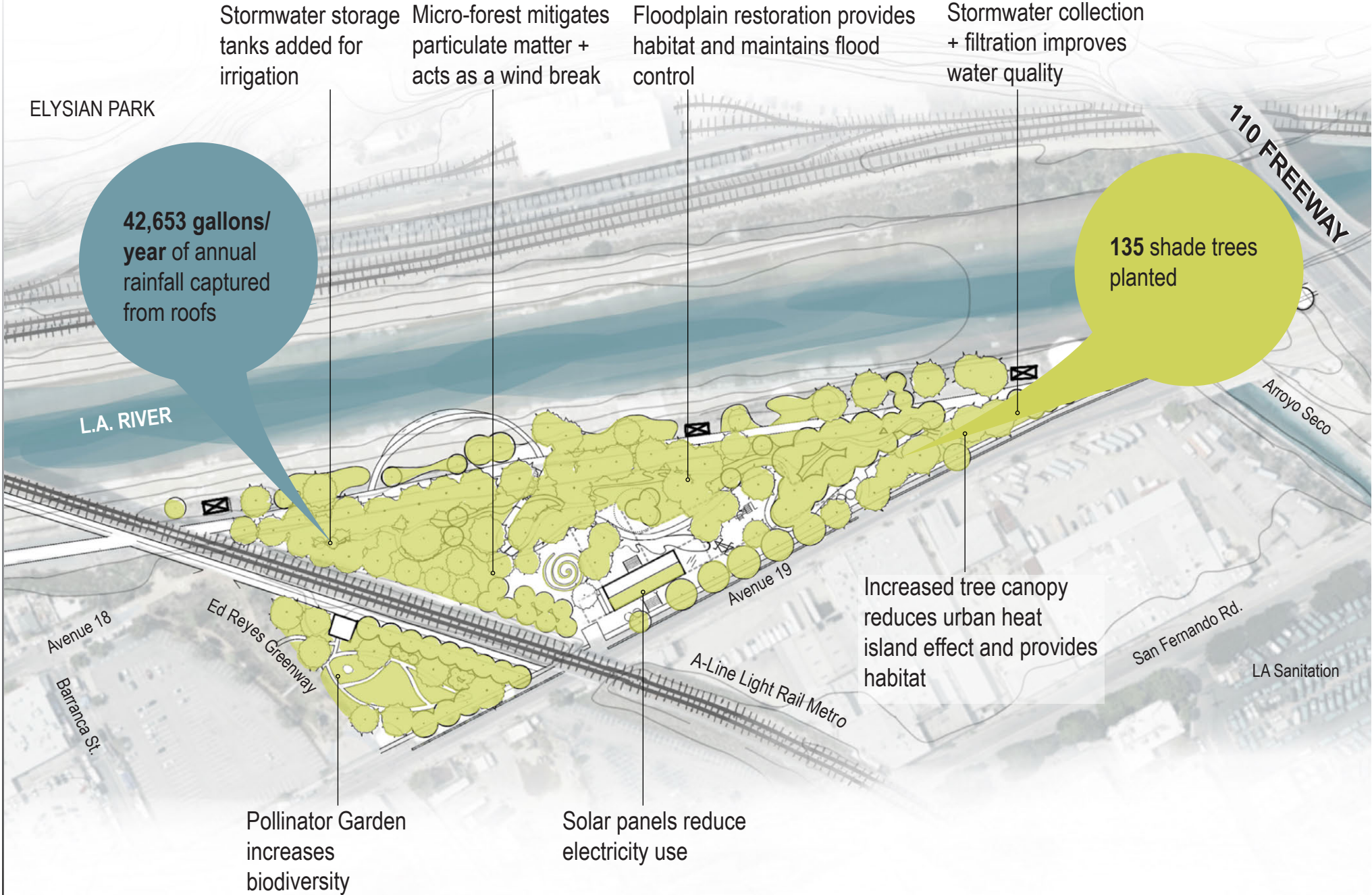


Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Conclusion Analysis | Goal Attainment: Build Climate Resilience



Conclusion Analysis | Summary

PROJECT GOALS

Clean Up Environment



Restore Justice



Build Climate Resilience



River Access,
pathways and
gardens made
available to the
public

**4.5 acres of
asphalt & concrete
removed**

**Building footprint
decreased by 95%**

**4.8 acres of original
floodplain restored**

**5.4 acres of green
space added**

Avenue 19





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