



RETURN TO THE RIVER

STUDIO TRACE

Zoe Marans, Josep Ferrer Miranda, and Katja Peppe

ARCH-X 472.9 Landscape Design 4: Environmental Planning & Analysis

Instructors: Emily Gabel-Luddy & Soo Wai Kin

Final Presentation

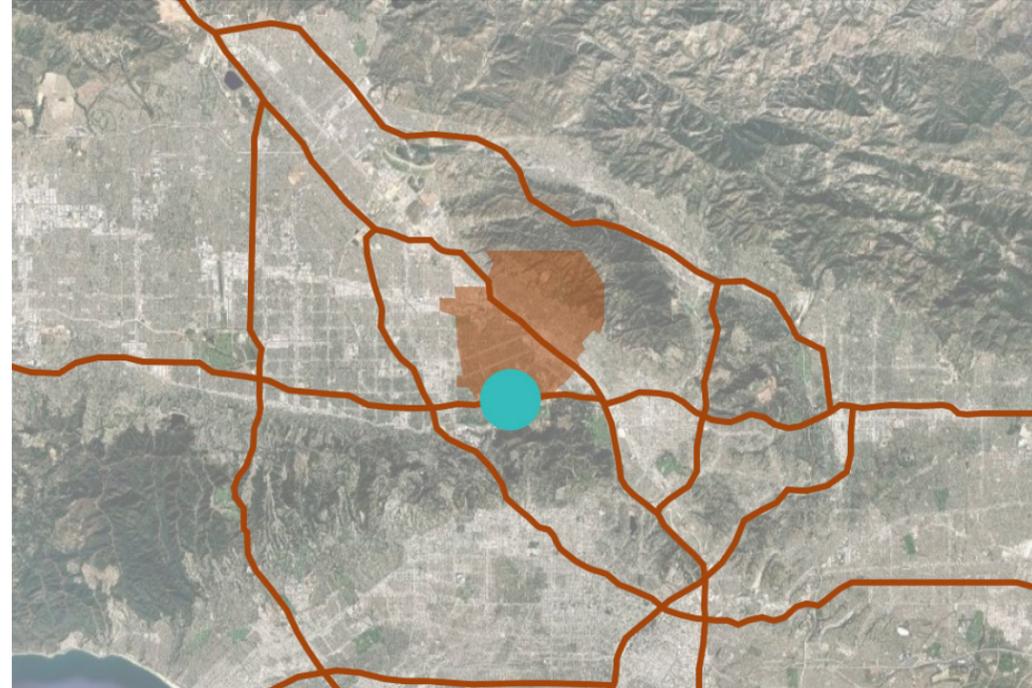
March 18, 2025

PROJECT SITE LOCATION



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

NTS



BURBANK CITY

NTS



CALIFORNIA

NTS



HISTORICAL ECOLOGICAL MAP

NTS

Grassland & Meadow
 Coastal Sage Scrub
 Chaparral & Foothill Woodland
 Historic Watershed
 Site Location

OBSERVATIONS

- Johnny Carson Park is located at 400 Bob Hope Dr. in Burbank, CA 91505.
- The City of Burbank is part of Los Angeles County, which is home to around 9.6 million people.
- The transverse mountain ranges of Southern California provide unique geography and diverse ecology to the area. From the coastline of the Pacific Ocean to the tallest peak in Los Angeles County, Mt San Antonio, is over 10,000' of elevation difference.
- Los Angeles County is an international hub for entertainment, tourism, freight shipping, and manufacturing. The county alone accounts for roughly 3.5% of the United States gross domestic product annually.
- Johnny Carson Park is the 3rd largest community park in the city of Burbank, with over 17 acres.
- The Project Site sits between mile 33 and 34 along the LA River as defined by the LA River Master Plan.



SITE HISTORICAL TIMELINE

10,000 B.C.E. Oldest evidence of **human habitation** in the Los Angeles basin, which is concentrated in **small villages near springs and streams**.

200-500 C.E. Uto-Aztecans enter the region, **absorbing or displacing** the previous Hokan-speaking (Chumash) peoples.

1542 Spanish explorers arrive by ship at San Pedro Harbor, encountering a **significant native population**.

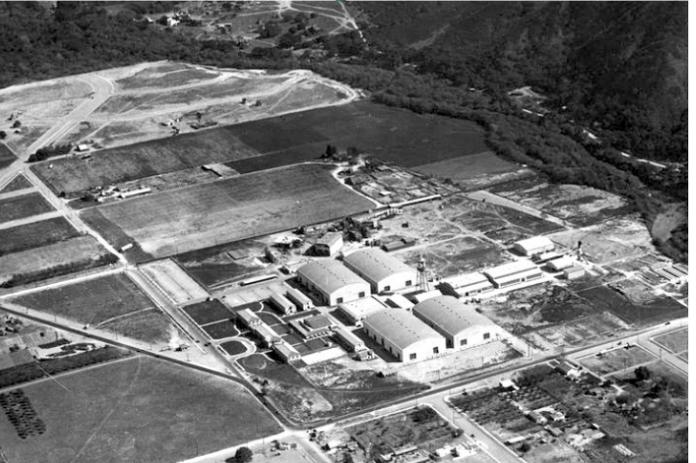
1771 Spanish priests establish the Mission San Gabriel forced labor camp in modern day Montebello, but soon **move to the final location in San Gabriel due to flooding**.

1785 Toypurina and Nicolás José attempt to stage an **indigenous rebellion against the missionaries**, but ultimately fail.

1886 Dr. David Burbank and the Providencia Land, Water and Development Company begin the development of Burbank's **modern urban layout**.

1907 Burbank Community Hospital opens, the first hospital in the San Fernando Valley.

1926 First National Pictures opens and is soon purchased by **Warner Bros Studios**. Disney follows suit.



1928 Lockheed Aircraft Co. relocates to Burbank, kicking off a legacy of innovation in the sky and contamination in the ground.

1938 Massive flooding in Los Angeles kills 115 people, spurring the **channelization of the river** by the Army Corps of Engineers.

1943 Buena Vista Park is established on land purchased by the City of Burbank from the LA Department of Water & Power.

1971 The 134 Freeway is completed, cutting right through the park. In **1992**, the section north of the freeway is renamed Johnny Carson Park in honor of the "King of Late Night."

2016 AHBE Associates remodels the park with a vision to **bring back the original Tujunga Wash ecosystem**.

SITE EVOLUTION



1927 - WILD RIVER

The Los Angeles River remains mostly wild, as pictured here (right) with Griffith Park in the background. Periodic floods and changes of course (center) threaten the burgeoning development that can be seen encroaching on wooded riparian habitat in the aerial photo (left). Note the multiple streams of the Tujunga Wash flowing from the top left corner to the river. Light-colored sandy alluvial plains were a product of this occasional flooding, making development on the riverbank a highly risky, potentially lucrative endeavor..



1960 - CONCRETE CHANNEL

By now the site has been completely transformed, with a single concrete ditch (right) replacing the wash, and the river encased in 16 foot vertical walls. Power lines pave the way for progress, while the dedication of Buena Vista Park (center) acknowledges the need for public open space. New tree plantings and an artificial pond are designed to host picnics and Boy Scout camps, an artificial replacement of the natural features that have been wiped from the land (left).



2002 - JOHNNY CARSON PARK

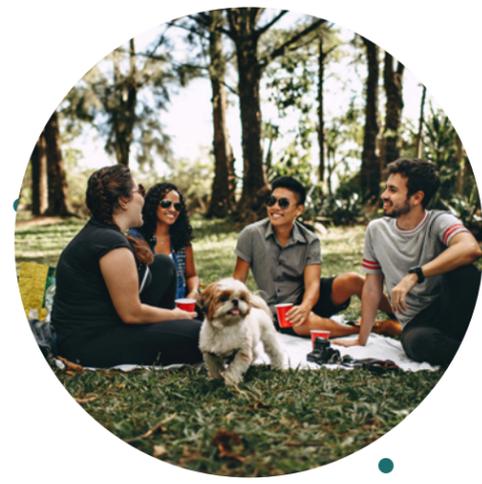
Over the decades the concrete wash has given way to erosion and returned to a semi-natural state (right), previewing the restoration work that AHBE will complete in 2016 (center). The aerial image (left) shows dense development has completely encroached the site, including NBC Studios to the left, the hospital and highschool to the right, a corporate park towards the top, and extensive surface parking all around. By 2024 the restored wash (center frame, left side) will show the same dense thickets of woods that were wiped away back in the 1940s.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



CONNECTION

- Create **ADA accessible circulation** to connect all areas of the project site
- Build dedicated **park entrances** on either side of the LA River
- Install **eco-friendly park amenities** and areas of interest for diverse types of visitors and surrounding land use
- Support **ecological stewardship** through educational centers, information signage, and recreational opportunities
- Create a **uniquely-Burbank** park with a strong sense of identity for the community



RESILIENCE

- Capture and process majority of stormwater runoff on site and ensure historic **flood protection** for extreme weather events
- Design amenities and park areas to **protect people from the elements**
- **Repurpose onsite materials** and use local resources to lower carbon footprint and waste

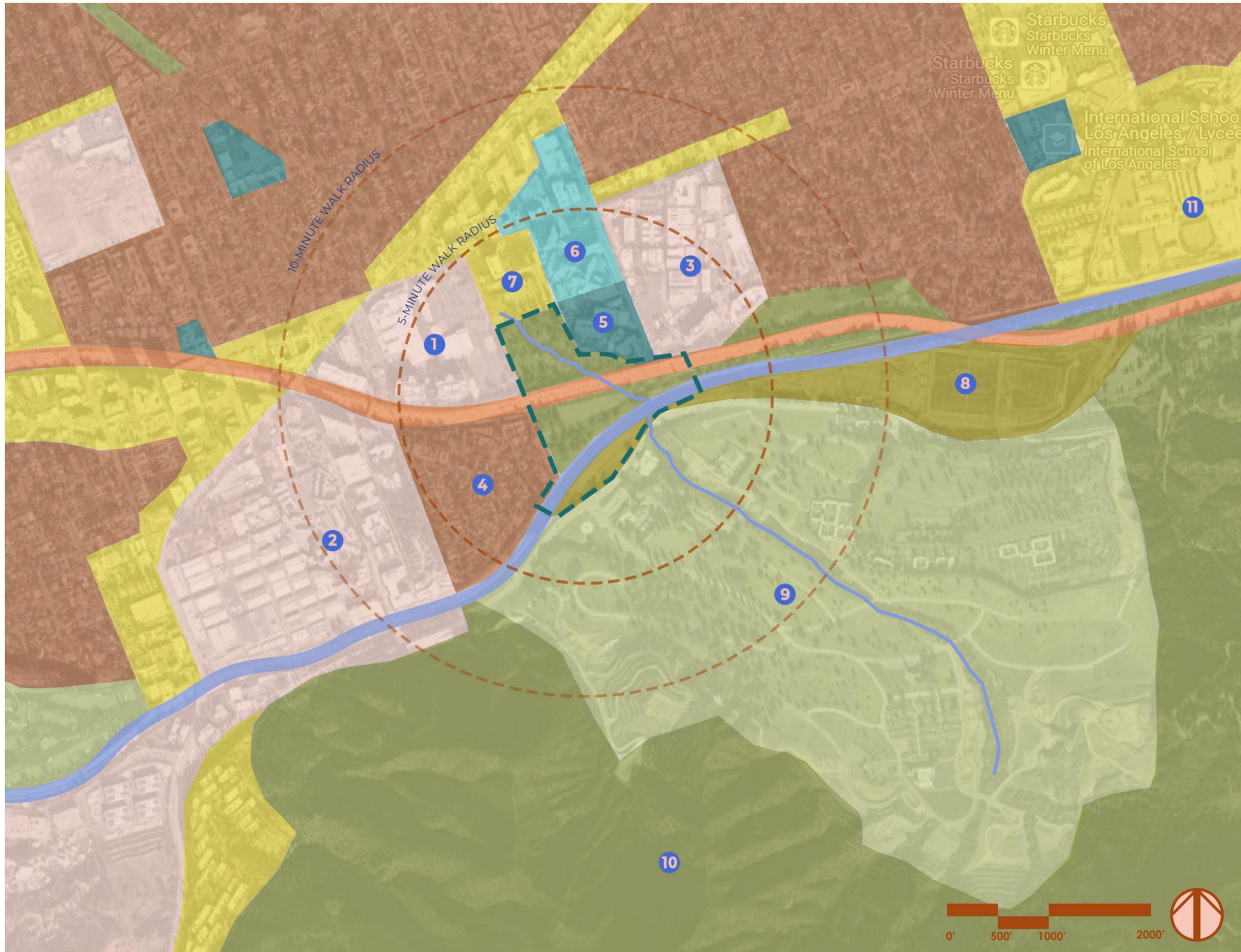
EMBRACE



RESTORATION

- Dechannelize LA River to improve **ground water infiltration** and provide educational, recreational, and wildlife habitat opportunities
- Create, restore, and safeguard **diverse wildlife habitat** to extend wildlife corridors and improve longterm sustainability of site
- Acknowledge **diverse cultural history** of site to create a space for all types of people

CONTEXTUAL LAND USE



OBSERVATIONS

- The Project Site sits in the center of many different types of land use, from private residential, to public green space, to medical, commercial, and education zones.
- Many different types of people, ranging in socioeconomic class, age, and have access to and may use the site for recreation, activities, education, or simply to experience calming nature.
- The Project Site is within a 10 minute walk from the main commercial corridor and public transportation routes.
- Although the site is next to Griffith Park, the revitalized park offers more easily accessible, controlled nature for people to experience vs Griffith Park's more rugged wilderness.
- The Project Site contains the confluence of two seasonal waterways, the Tujunga Wash and Sennet Creek, meeting within the channelized LA River.
- Habitat edges are critical to maintaining healthy internal habitats and bridging nearby ecosystems to support wildlife.

SURROUNDING CONTEXT

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 Burbank Studios | 7 The Pointe |
| 2 Warner Brothers Studios | 8 Headworks Reservoir |
| 3 The Walt Disney Studios | 9 Forest Lawn & Mount Sinai Memorial Park Cemeteries |
| 4 Residential Neighborhood | 10 Griffith Park |
| 5 Providence High School | 11 Los Angeles Equestrian Center |
| 6 Providence Medical Center | |

LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Public Outdoor Green Space | Private Outdoor Green Space |
| Commercial | Los Angeles River and tributaries |
| Residential | Decommissioned 134 Freeway |
| Medical | Commercial Entertainment |
| School | |
| Project Boundary | |

PROJECT SITE PHOTOS



1. Gathering lawn & electric tower at Johnny Carson Park



2. Restored Tujunga Wash seasonal stream at Johnny Carson Park



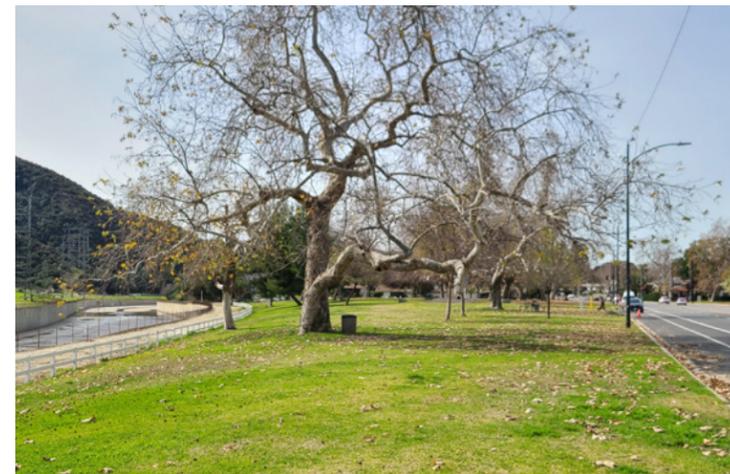
3. View of Griffith Park from highest point at Johnny Carson Park



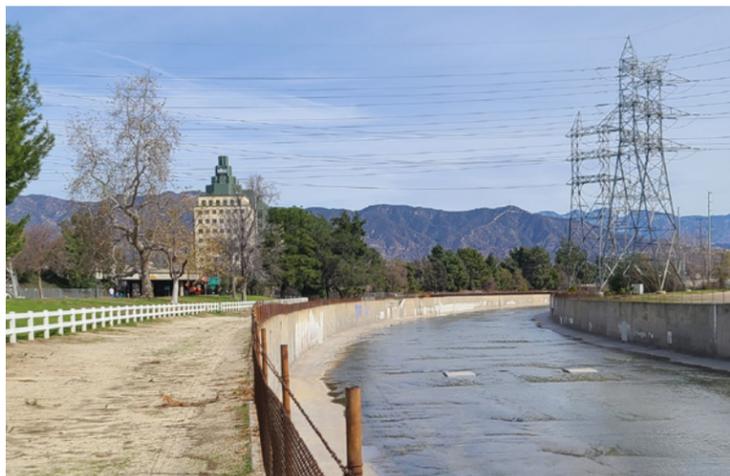
4. Decommissioned 134 Freeway raised above groundlevel



5. Dick Clark Dog Park lot



6. Buena Vista Park between Riverside Dr. and LA River



7. Equestrian Trail by LA River with electric towers



8. View of Buena Vista Park from abandoned lot south of LA River



8. Electric Tower footing & decommissioned 134 freeway in the back

OBSERVATIONS

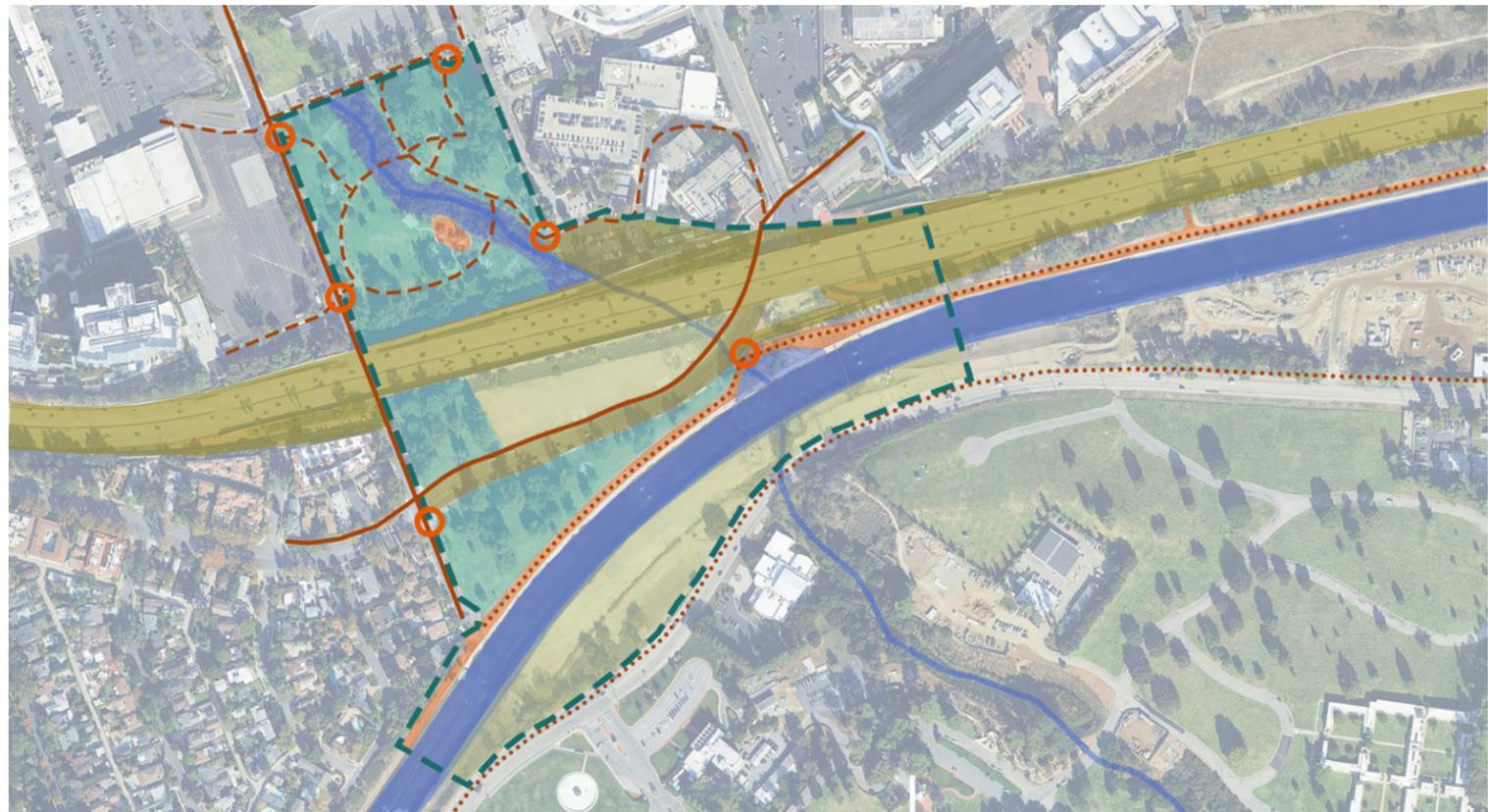
- Typical users of Johnny Carson Park include families with young children, individuals walking dogs, small social groups, and short term daytime leisure visitors from surrounding buildings.
- Midday midweek, Studio Trace observed a small band performing casually, a group of painters, and an individual practicing whip cracking.
- Litter has accumulated in the naturalized creekbed over time, and there are fallen branches due to a recent wind event. The decomposed granite path is in fair condition with some erosion due to rain. Otherwise, Johnny Carson Park is well-maintained.
- Johnny Carson Park is bisected from the adjacent lot that the city planned to open Dick Clark Dog Park by the decommissioned 134 freeway, which is raised above ground level.
- Riverside Drive has low to moderate traffic, which bisects the abandoned lot with the well-maintained Buena Vista Park.
- The dirt equestrian trail overlooks the LA river with an open view toward Griffith Park.
- The electric towers have major footprints throughout the entire Project Site.

KEY MAP

1"=1,000'



CIRCULATION



OBSERVATIONS

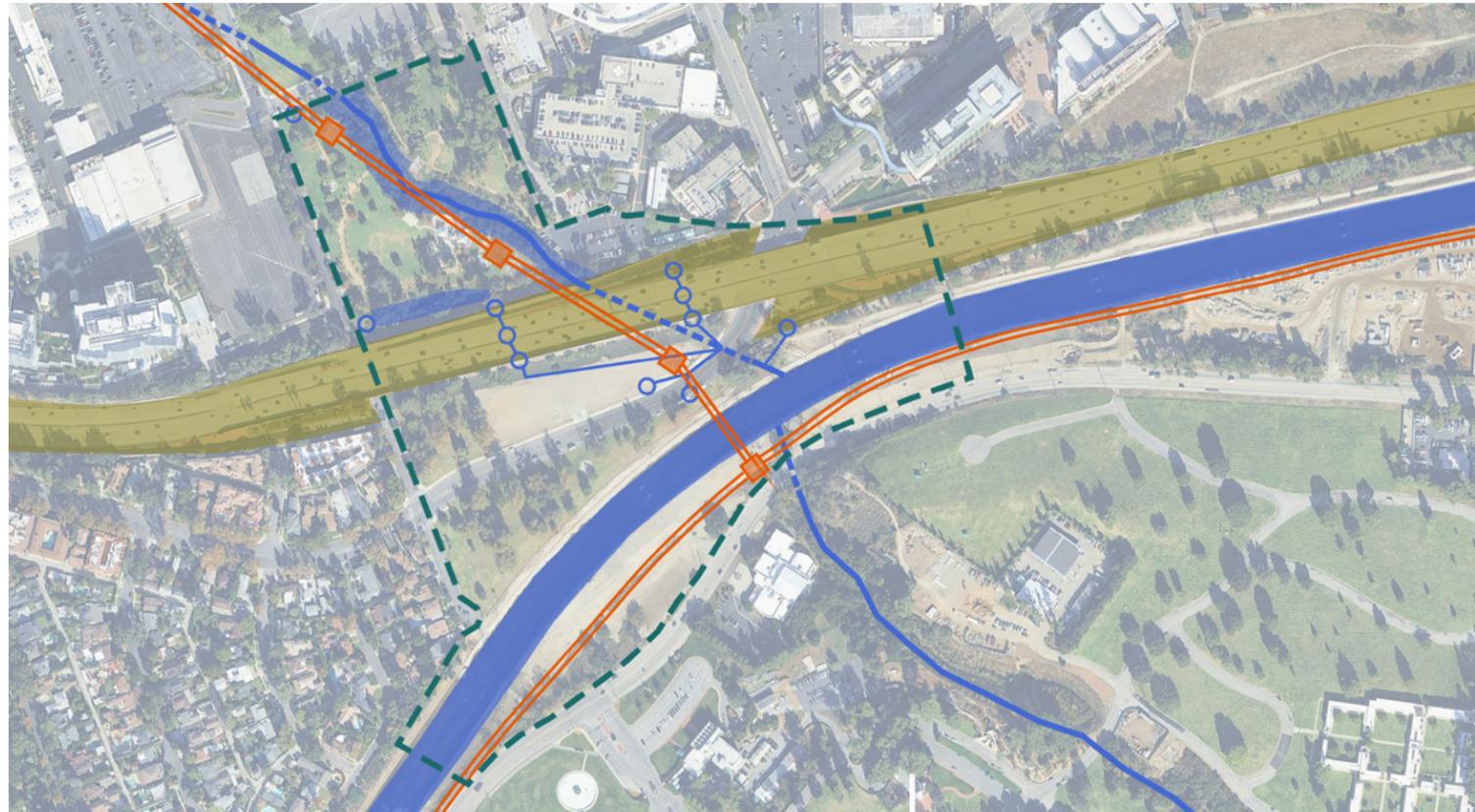
- Park is located at confluence of multiple major vehicular arteries and between three major traffic nodes
- Riverside Drive currently bisects park
- Multiple Burbank Pink Line bus stops within a 5 minute walking distance from park
- Various biking trails surround and cross through the site limit
- Site is located within a 10 minute walk east or west to hiking trails to access Griffith Park
- Equestrian trails run through the park connecting historical equestrian residential zones of Burbank
- Main pedestrian access routes are on Bob Hope Drive and Riverside Drive, coinciding with the two main vehicular routes
- Park is easily walkable from Warner Bros Studios and Walt Disney Studios, Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center, Providence High School, Forest Lawn Cemetery, and various other residential and commercial areas.
- There is currently no pedestrian connection between the south and north sides of the LA river, and minimal connection across the decommissioned 134 freeway berm.
- Lack of visual way-finding signage for pedestrians and vehicular at each current entrance node.

SURROUNDING CONTEXT

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
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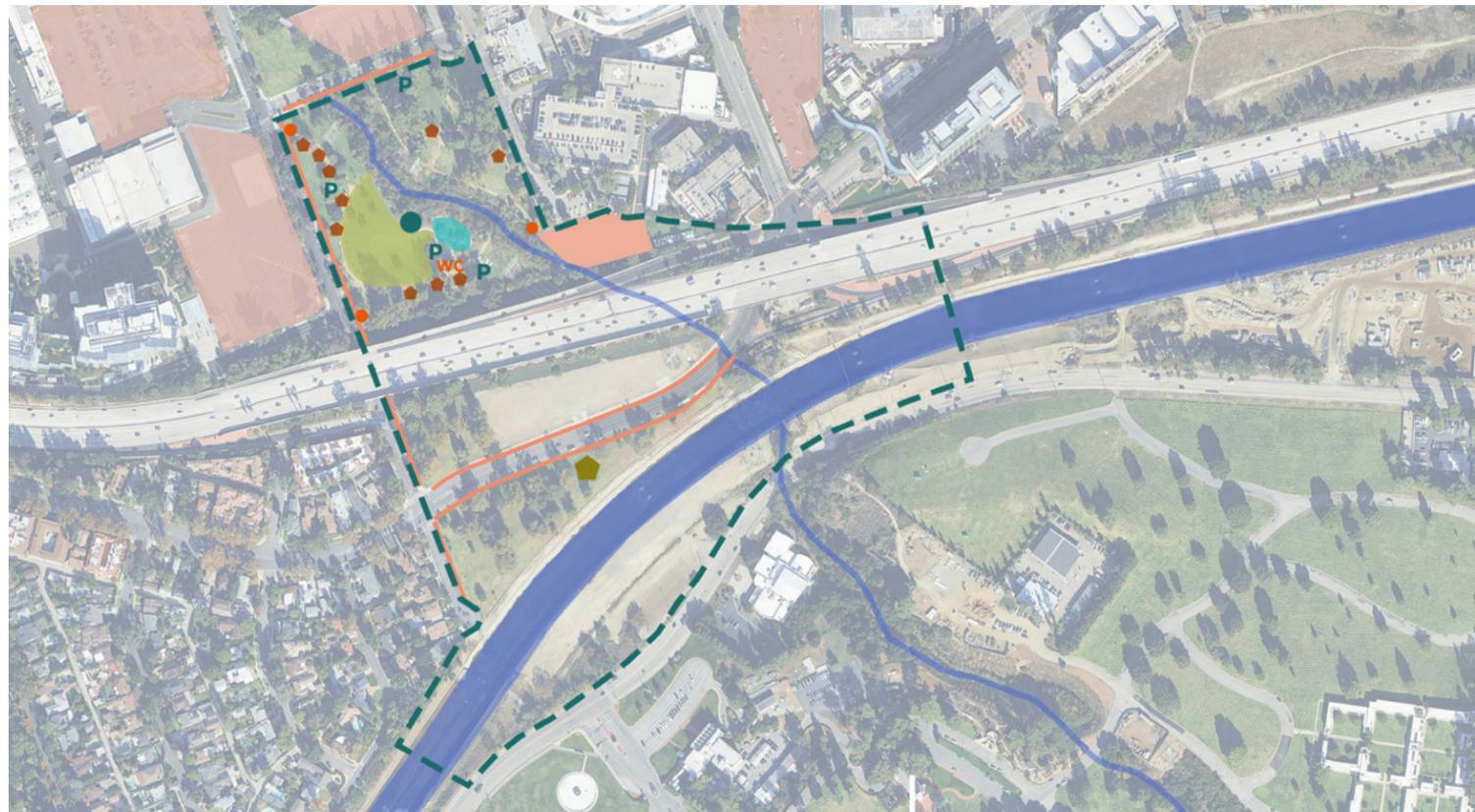
INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITIES



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Electrical Tower
- Overhead Electrical Wires
- Stormwater Catch Basin
- Stormwater Connector Pipe
- Open Natural Stormwater Channel
- Closed Natural Stormwater Channel
- Open Concrete Stormwater Channel
- Infiltration Bioswales
- Decommissioned 134 Freeway
- Project Boundary

1" = 500'



AMENITIES

- Park Entrance Signs
- Johnny Carson Park Parking Lot
- Additional Open Parking Lots
- Street Parking
- Shaded Picnic Areas
- Exercise Equipment
- Public Restrooms
- Outdoor Stage
- Gathering Lawn
- Children's Play Area
- Art Sculpture
- Waterways
- Project Boundary

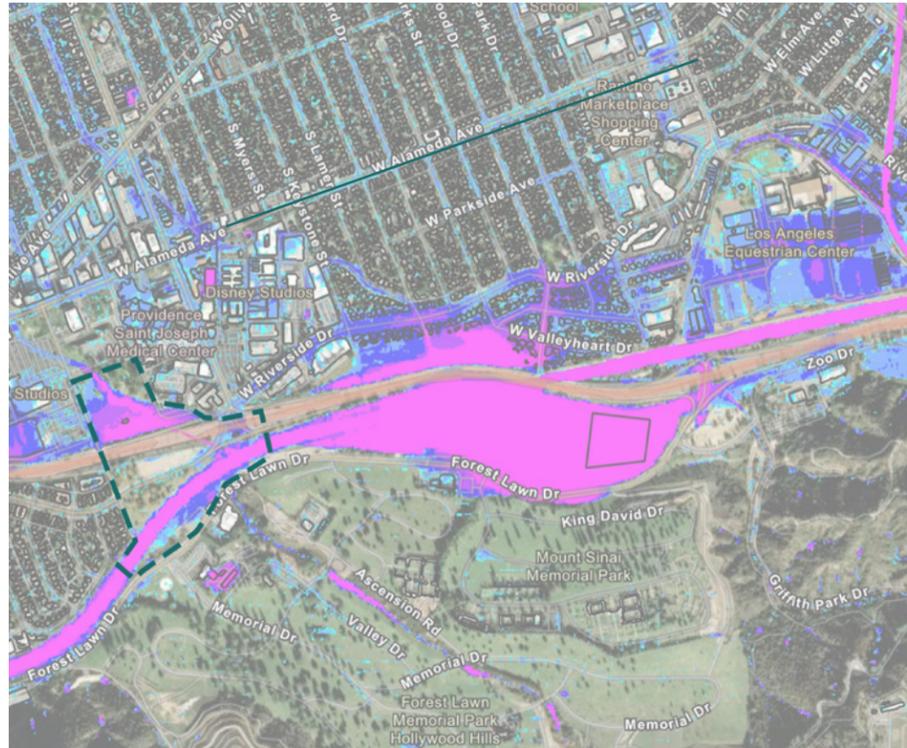
1" = 500'

OBSERVATIONS

- The overhead electrical wires bisect the site dramatically, with 4 large rectangular cement platforms housing the supportive electrical towers.
- Natural drainage occurs along the ancient Tujunga Wash, while drainage infrastructure like street drains and catch basins collect stormwater runoff, all culminating as one in the cement bound LA River.
- The large gathering lawn on Johnny Carson Park and the vegetative Tujunga Wash allow for ground water infiltration, but the majority of stormwater across the rest of the site both hardscape or lawn, and surrounding neighborhoods, flows into the LA River without filtration or recharging our groundwater.
- Exercise machines are dotted around Johnny Carson Park, along with a children's play area, performance stage, and multiple picnic spots for visitors.



TOPOGRAPHY



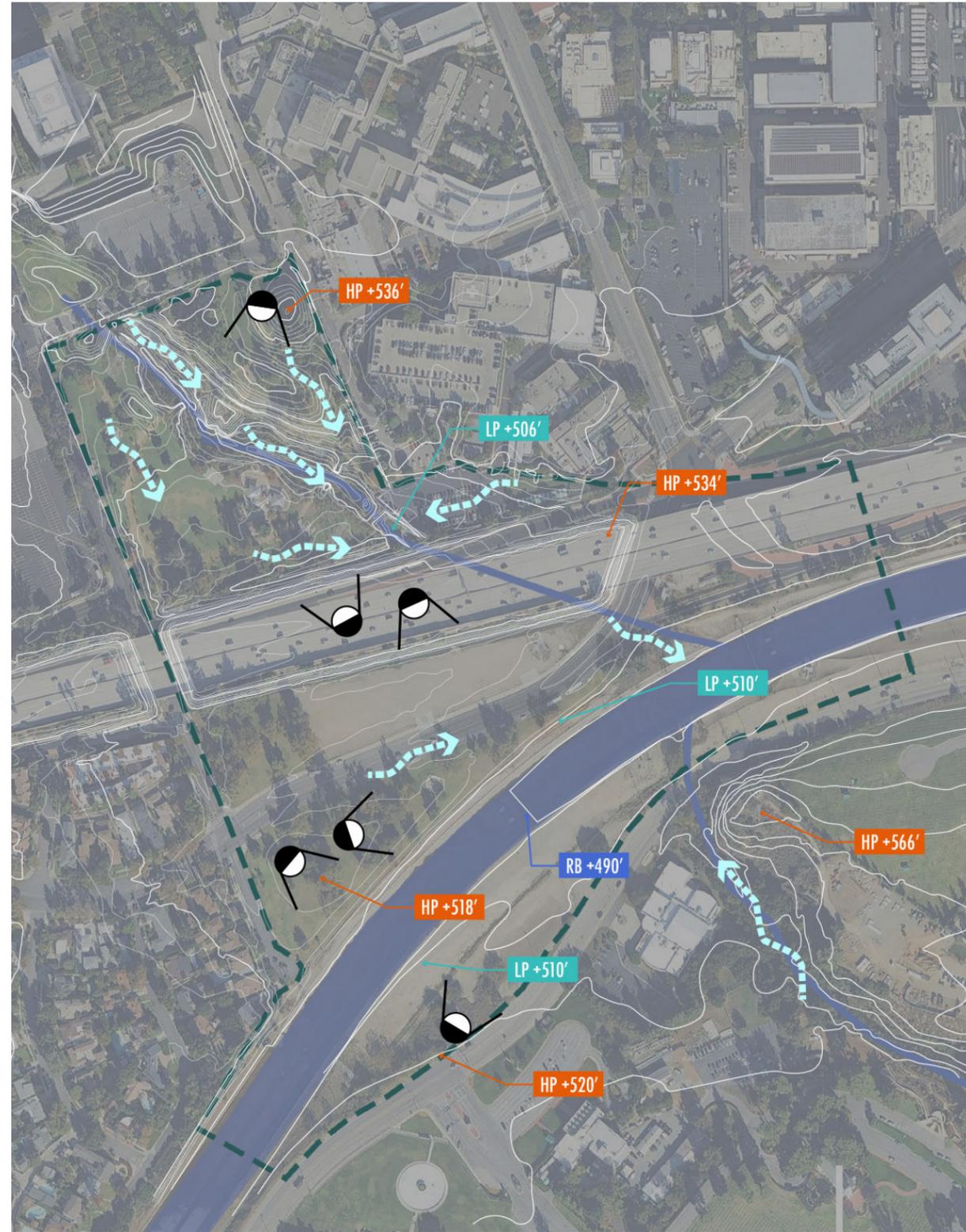
100-YEAR FLOOD HAZARD 1" = 2,000'

- < Ankle High (0.03 - 0.11 m)
- Ankle - Knee High (0.11 - 0.45 m)
- Knee - Waist High (0.45 - 1.0 m)
- Waist - Head High (1.0 - 1.7 m)
- Overhead (>1.7 m)
- Project Boundary



ORIGINAL WILDERNESS 1" = 2,000'

- Current Channelized LA River
- LA River Pre-1938-Channelization
- Alluvial Plain
- Secondary LA River Tributaries
- Original Wooded
- Project Boundary



TOPOGRAPHY, DRAINAGE, VIEWS 1" = 500'

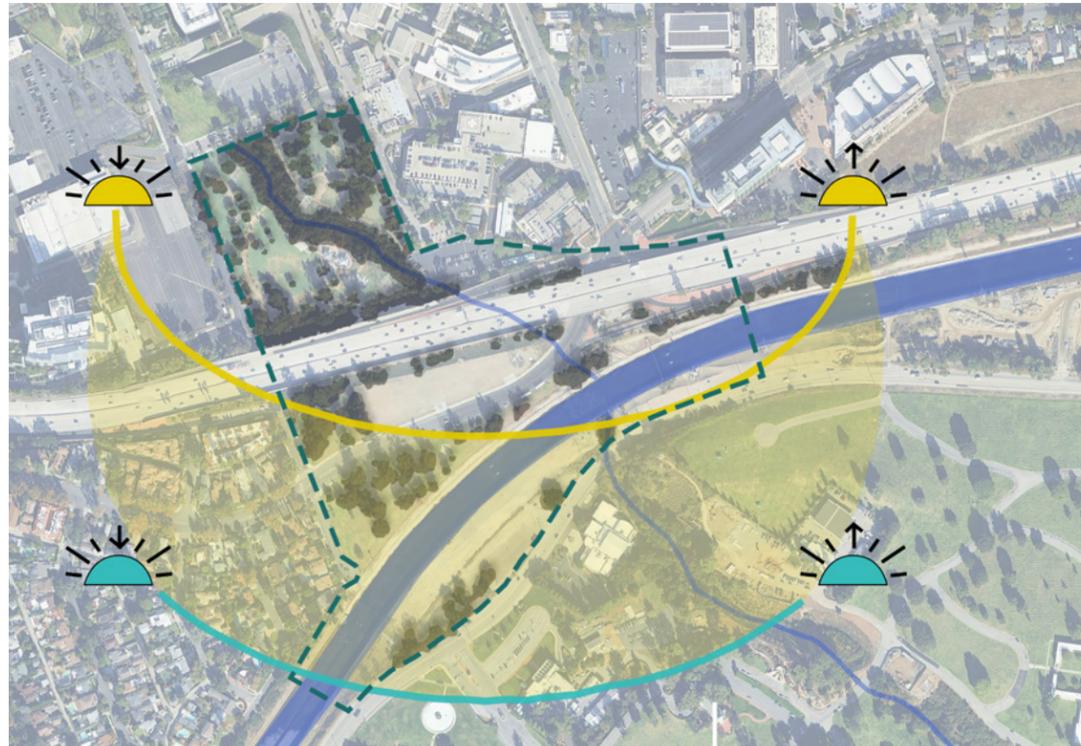
- View
- Water Drainage Direction
- 2' Contour Lines
- Project Boundary
- River Bottom Elevation
- Relative High Point
- Relative Low Point

OBSERVATIONS

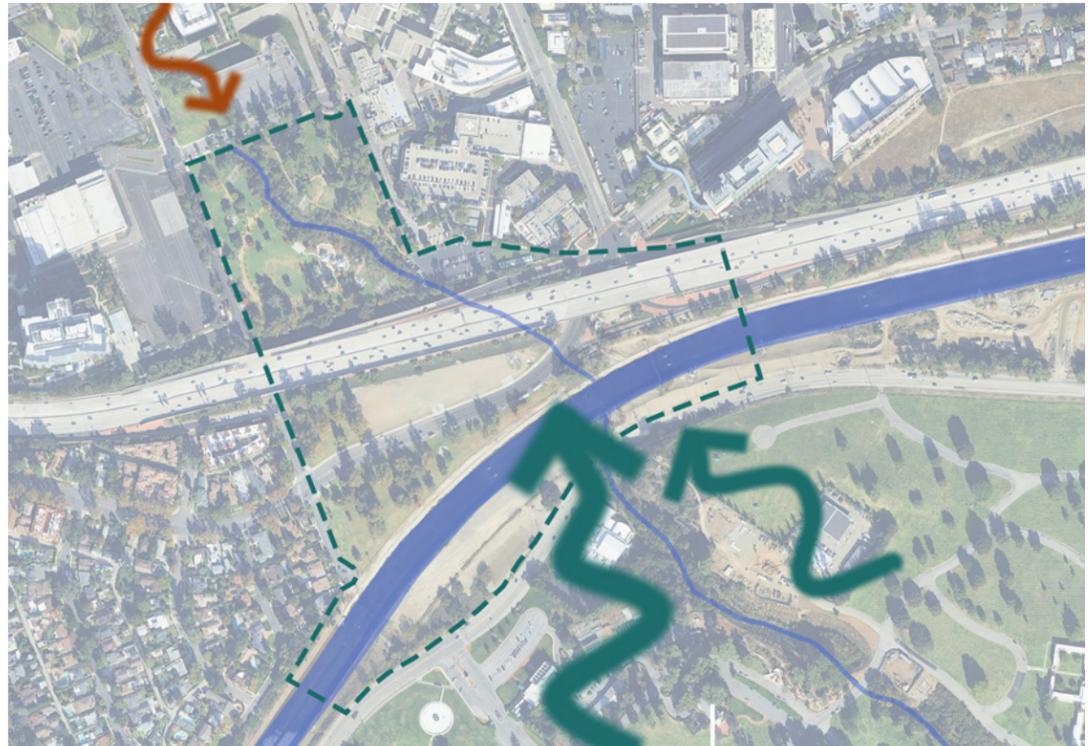
- Topographically, the site is a confluence of natural and man-made terrain.
- Before urbanization, seasonal flooding formed broad alluvial planes, and water just beneath the surface fed dense thickets of woods.
- The imprint of the river is in the urban fabric as if frozen in time. Johnny Carson Park's restoration of the Tujunga Wash shows that it's just underneath the surface, waiting to come back.
- 100-Year Flood Modeling indicates that much of the Project Site and surrounding area by the LA River will be significantly at risk of flooding, causing damage and potential loss.
- Changing the LA River channel footprint can significantly impact water storage capabilities and flood risk mitigation, which must be considered and balanced when redesigning the park.
- What remains of the river bank's natural slope provides opportunities for views and water flow, with the site's lack of soil contamination making it a unique target for safe water infiltration to replenish the groundwater.
- The artificial berm of the freeway creates a barrier in sharp contrast to the sheer drop



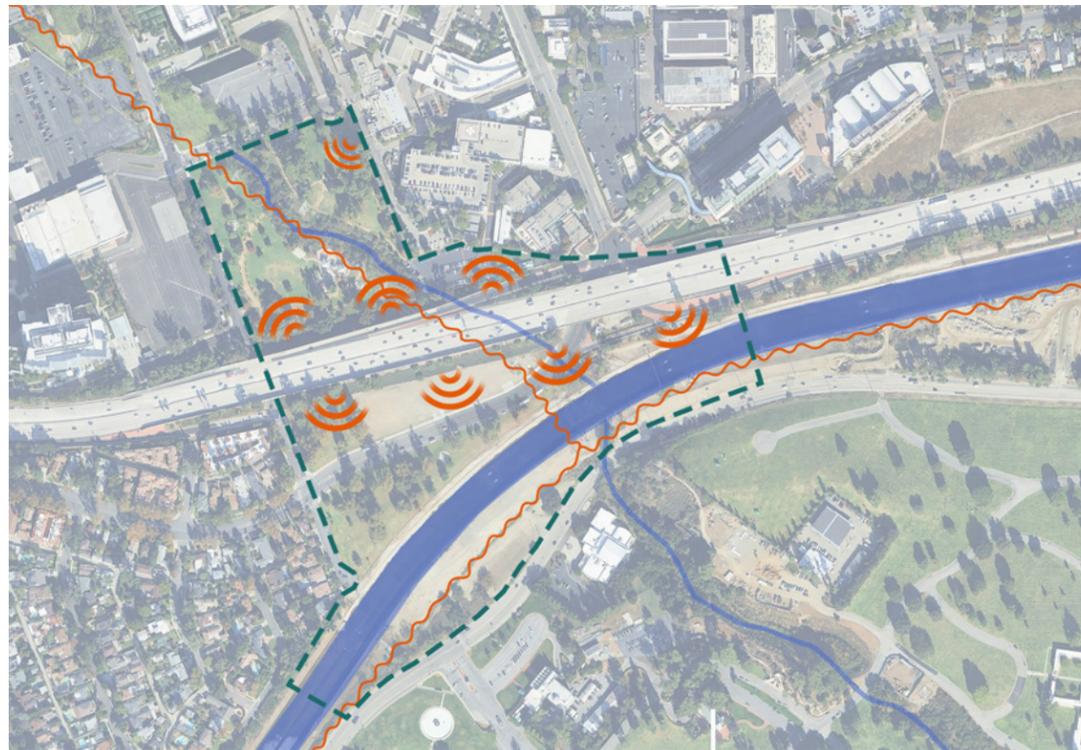
PHYSICAL CONDITIONS



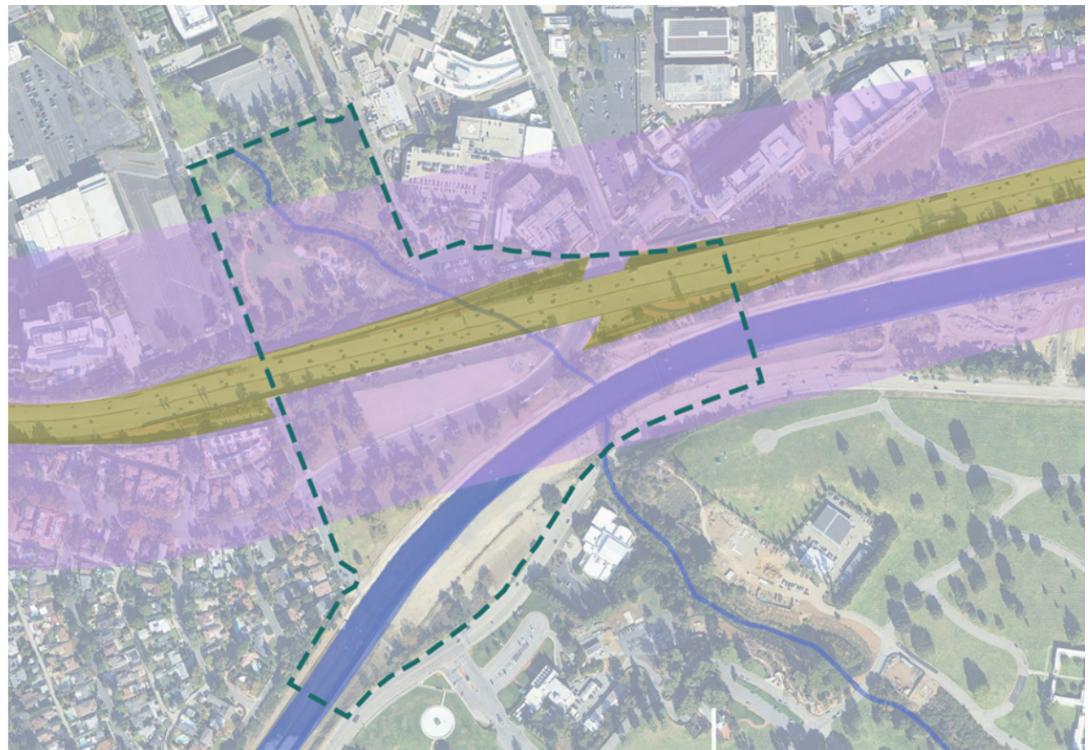
SUN PATTERNS
 Summer Sun Pattern Winter Sun Pattern Sunrise Sunset Project Site
 1" = 500'



WIND PATTERNS
 Prevailing Winds Seasonal Santa Ana Winds Project Site
 1" = 500'



NOISE PATTERNS
 Noise Overhead Electrical Wire Noise Project Site
 1" = 500'



POLLUTION
 134 Freeway Pollution Project Site
 1" = 500'

OBSERVATIONS

- The site receives plentiful sunshine all year round due to its mostly flat topography. The south side of the freeway embankment tends to be warmer than the north side which is typically shaded. The various trees and riparian corridor provide shade on the site, along with the shady north facing slope north of the freeway.
- The prevailing wind direction is from the south & south east. Seasonal Santa Ana winds blow from the north west, typically affecting the area in autumn.
- A piece of large machinery between Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center and the northwest corner of the site makes occasional industrial noise. All areas north of the 134 Freeway are affected by high speed traffic noise. South of the freeway, traffic noise is less noticeable, due in part to wind patterns.
- The 134 Freeway runs through the middle of the site, emitting noxious pollution 500' in each direction. This air pollution affects the northern side of the site more than the southern, due to standard wind patterns.



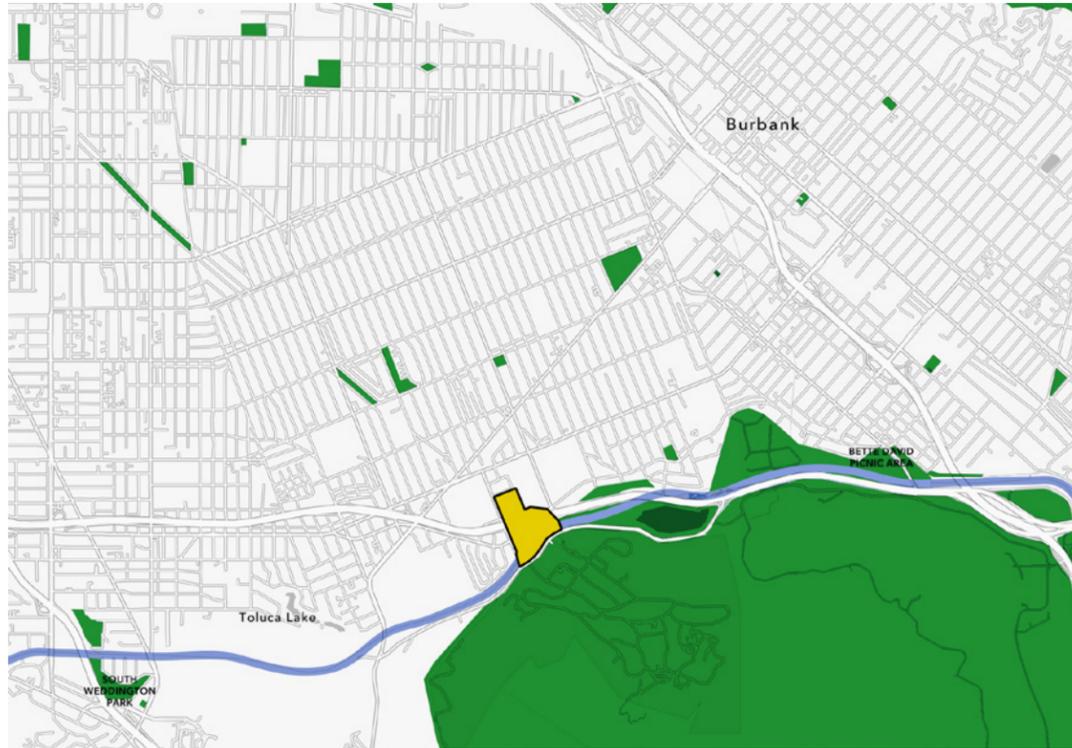
EXISTING VEGETATION



EXISTING TREE CANOPY & LAND USE

1" = 500'

■ Tree Canopy
 ■ Lawn
 ■ Developed Hardscape
 ■ Undeveloped
 Project Site



REGIONAL PUBLIC OUTDOOR GREEN SPACE

1" = 5,000'

■ Public Outdoor Green Space
 ■ LA River
 ■ Project Site

OBSERVATIONS

- Tree canopy is densest in Johnny Carson Park, and along riparian corridors, but there is a lack of vegetation and green space on the rest of the site.
- Majority of understory green space is monocrop lawn.
- Some existing tree canopy at Buena Vista Park and sporadically in undeveloped zones.
- Site sits at border of Forest Lawn and Griffith Park, but otherwise there is very little outdoor public green space and parks in Burbank.
- Vegetation density has decreased close to 10% around the site except for Griffith Park and Forest Lawn.
- The Urban Heat Island effect is noticeable in the residential and commercial areas contextually near the site. This effect is offset by the dense vegetation of Griffith Park and the Santa Monica Mountains.
- Johnny Carson Park is the 4th most tree-populated park in Burbank with 266 individual trees
- Only 62 existing trees within the site are California Native species

COMMON TREE SPECIES ON SITE



Western Sycamore
*Platanus racemosa**



Coast Live Oak
*Quercus agrifolia**



White Alder
*Alnus rhombifolia**



Elderberry
*Sambucus nigra**



Canary Island Pine
Pinus canariensis



Peruvian Pepper Tree
Shinus molle



Chinese Elm
Ulmus parvifolia



Ginkgo Biloba
Maidenhair

*CA Native

LA RIVER ECOLOGY



NATIVE BIRD SPECIES - PERMANENT RESIDENTS



Rainbow / Steelhead Trout



Cinnamon Teal



Black Necked Stilt



Mallard



Great Blue Heron

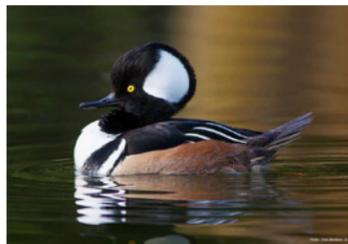


Red Tailed Hawk

NATIVE BIRD SPECIES - WINTER MIGRATORY RESIDENTS



Belted Kingfisher



Hooded Merganser



Greater Yellowlegs



Ruddy Duck

OBSERVATIONS

- Despite channelization, the LA River is still a host to a vast number of native and non-native birds, fish, insects, and mammals.
- This small selection of CA Native birds are documented to live and breed around the LA River on a permanent or migratory basis.
- Many of the birds rely on neighboring ecosystems such as the wooded foothills of Griffith Park for vital habitat.
- The native fish species have been dwindling over the years, mostly due to the introduction of native fish species.
- Urbanization continues to impact native wildlife species by destroying or impacting vital habitat, reducing food and necessary resources, contributing to climate change.
- Local awareness and stewardship are important aspects for improving longterm conservation efforts.



NATIVE FISH SPECIES



Rainbow / Steelhead Trout



Chinook Salmon



Sacramento Pikeminnow



Pacific Lamprey



Santa Ana Sucker

CONSTRAINTS



- 1. LA River is an engineered, concrete channel**, which has reduced wildlife habitat and groundwater infiltration capabilities. However without it, stormwater capacity is limited & flood risk would increase.
- 2. LA River bisects the north and south portions** of the project without existing circulation connections.
- 3. Lack of resilient stormwater runoff collection and processing** for majority of site outside of Tujunga wash. Site water collected in catch basins and deposited into LA River.
- 4. Decommissioned 134 Freeway bisects site**, embankment causes physical barrier.
- 5. Topographic elevation change ~50' between HP & LP** poses drainage and accessibility complications.
- 6. Riverside Dr cuts through the site**, but is an important transportation route for local traffic.
- 7. Wildlife habitat is deeply fragmented** by 134 Freeway, Riverside Drive, and LA River on site, and between Griffith Park and Verdugo Mountains by history of urbanization.
- 8. Overhead Electric Power Lines & Electric Towers** intercept airspace, view corridors, and groundspace, and can not be decommissioned or removed.
- 9. Lack of dedicated park entrances, way-finding, and parking** leading to lack of park identity.
- 10. Limited amenities on site** to make this a destination park.



OPPORTUNITIES



- 1. Dechannelization of LA River** to create wildlife habitat, recreational access, environmental engagement, and groundwater recharging opportunities.
- 2. Improved stormwater management** through sustainable capture, processing, and infiltration to recharge groundwater & restore local watershed.
- 3. Improved circulation and connection** across the sites' various fragmented zones and topography, including ADA accessibility and new, dedicated entrances on each side of the LA River.
- 4. Lower or remove freeway embankment** to better connect each side of the park, and/or leverage high point on **freeway for view corridors**.
- 5. Reroute Riverside Drive** to maintain circulation capacity while connecting park site consistently.
- 6. Recreate native wildlife habitats** to support plants and animals and improve wildlife corridors to adjacent habitats, while ensuring low-maintenance and irrigation needs for an enduring landscape.
- 7. Incorporate electric towers into design more seamlessly** by providing necessary electricity-related amenities, education, and visual relief.
- 8. Add cutting edge sustainable amenities** to attract and retain visitors of all demographics.
- 9. Build educational opportunities** like research centers, improved way-finding, gathering spaces, to encourage education, conservation, and stewardship.
- 10. Repurpose onsite materials** to reduce construction pollution & carbon footprint.



DESIGN PRECEDENTS



Crissy Field - Restored Tidal Marshland



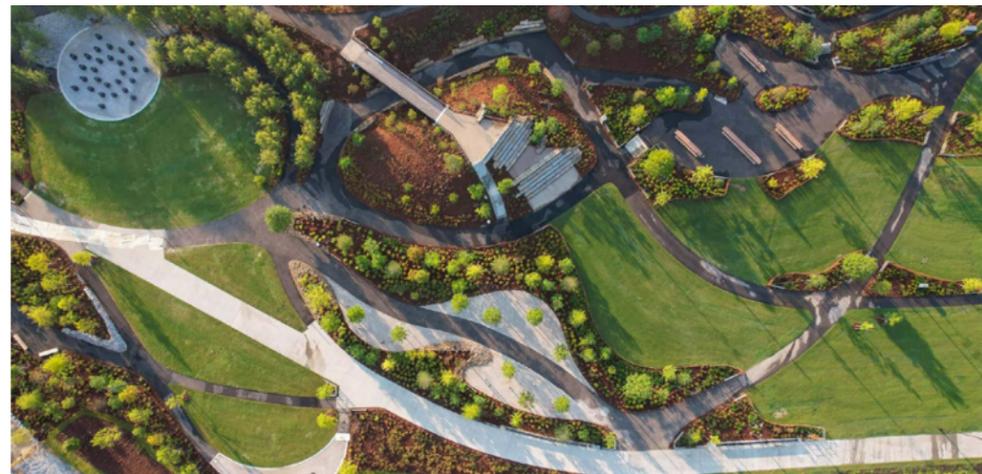
Duke University - Water Reclamation Pond



Vista Hermosa Park - Green Roof Infrastructure



Southbank Chicago Park - River Terrace



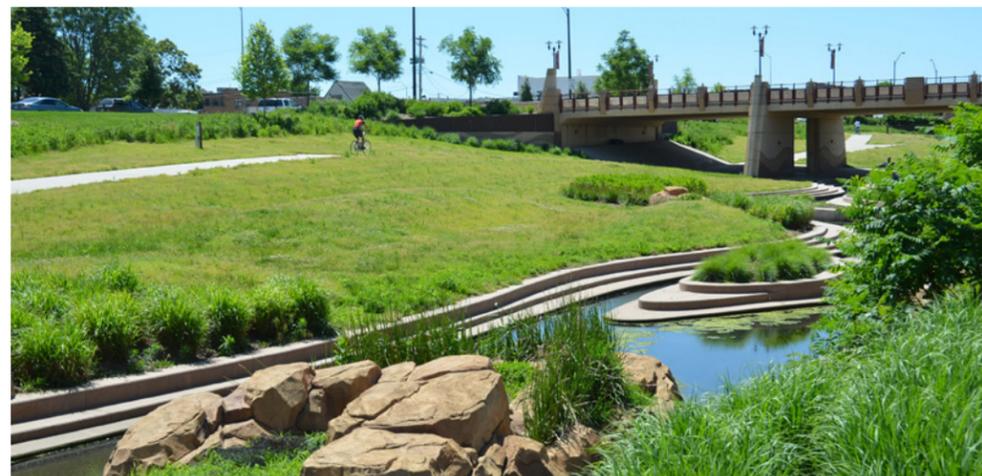
Tom Lee Park - Alluvial Circulation



University of Texas - Great Lawn & Bioswales



Glendale Narrows - LA River Habitat

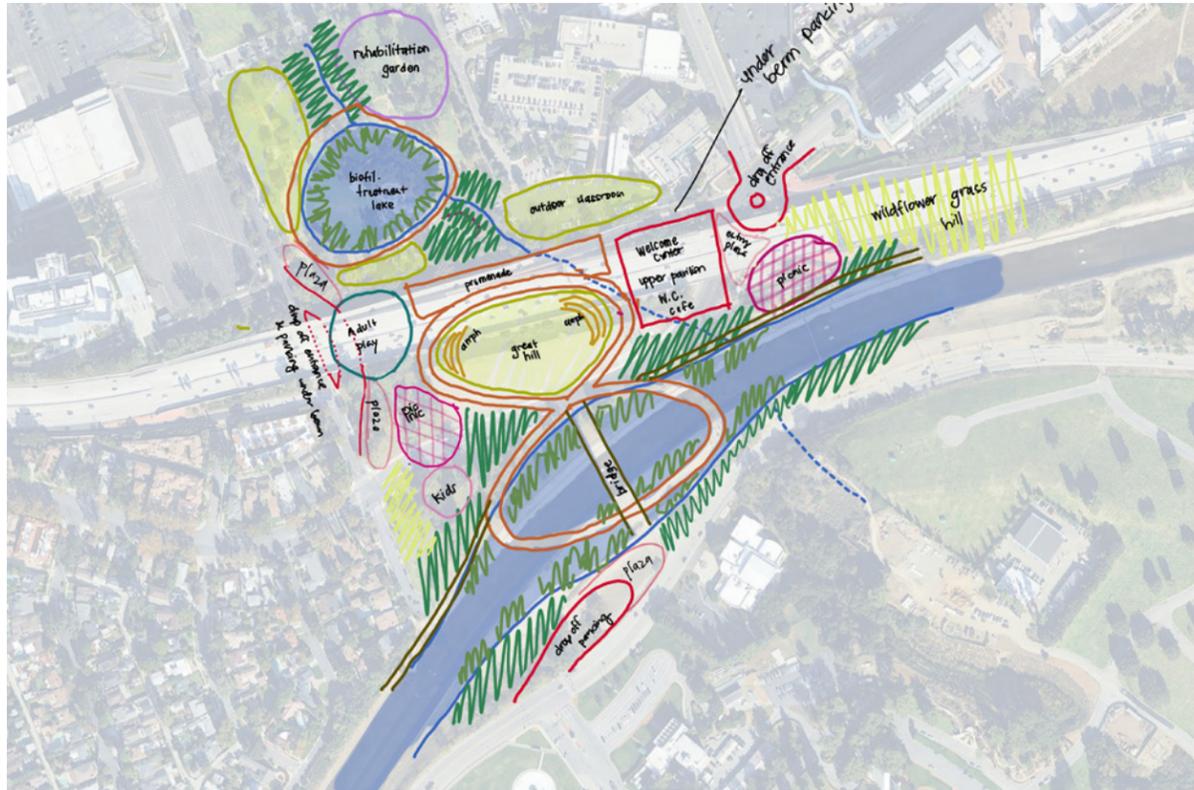


Billy Wolf Trail - Floodable Circulation & Liberated River

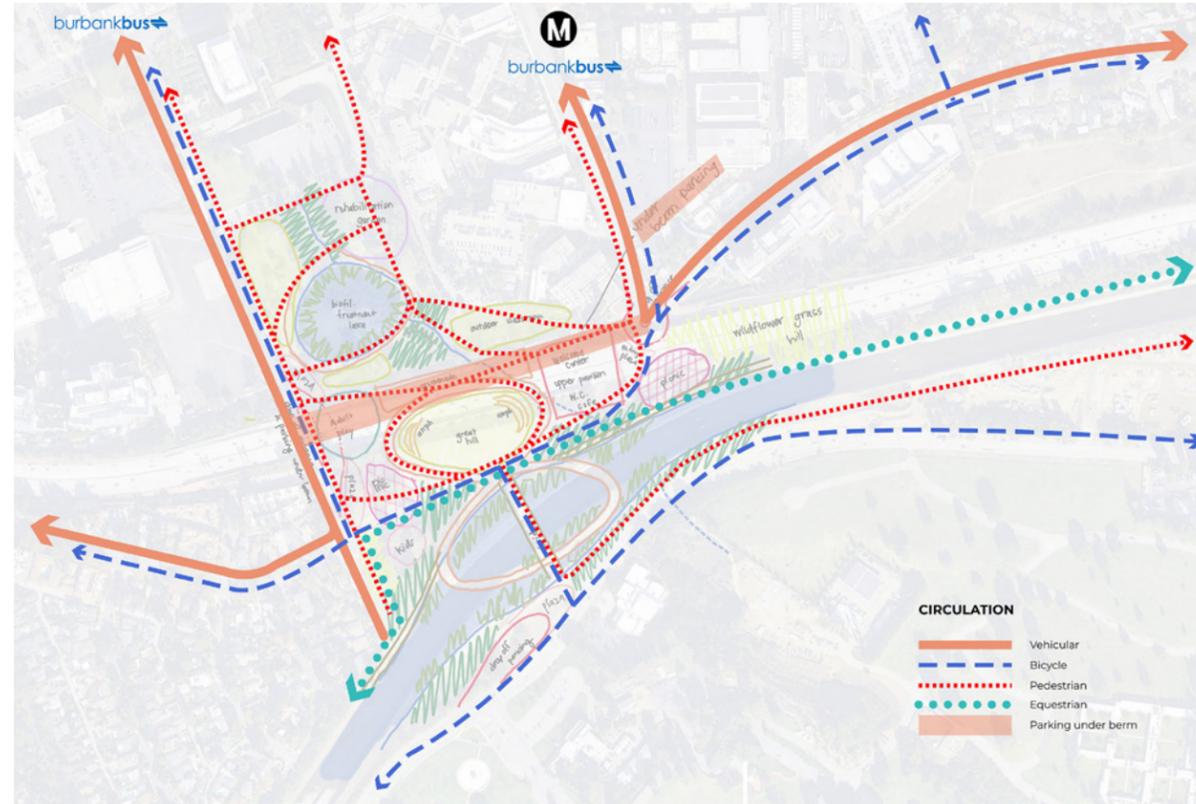


Drainage Ditch - Skate Culture

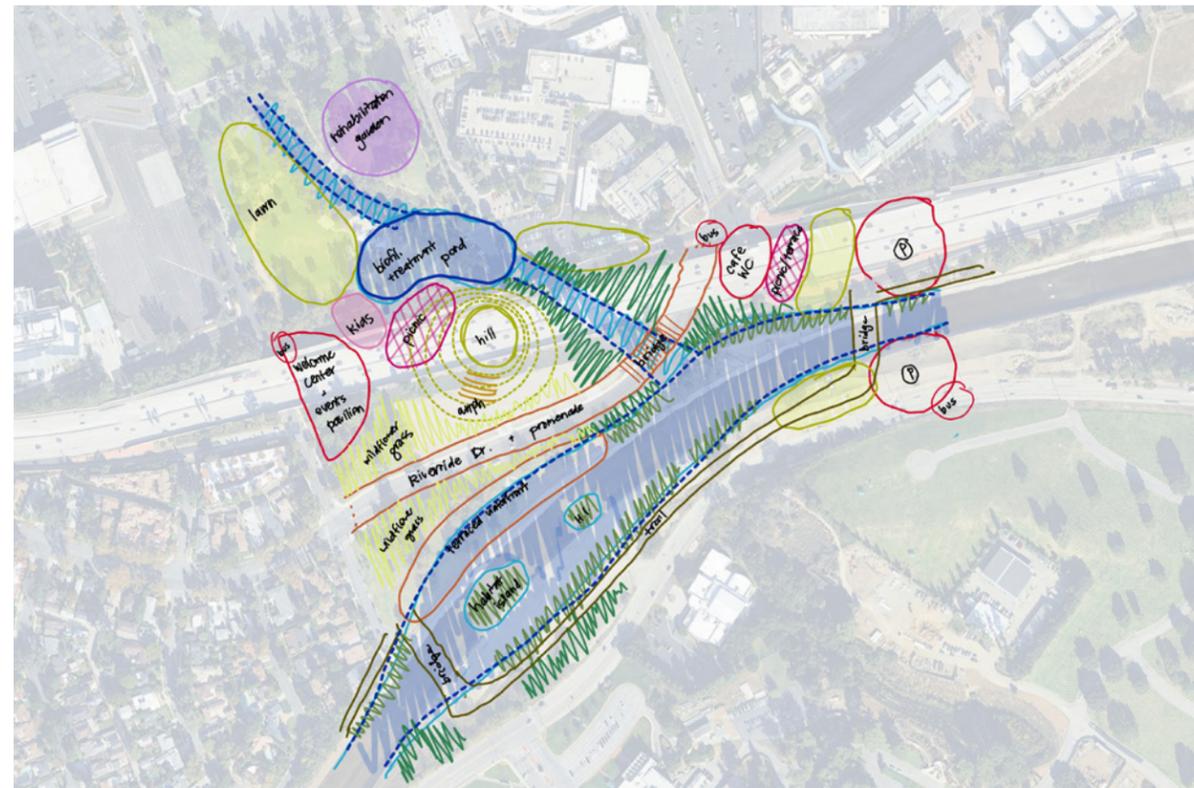
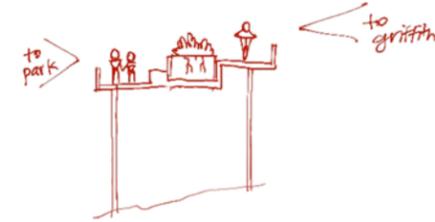
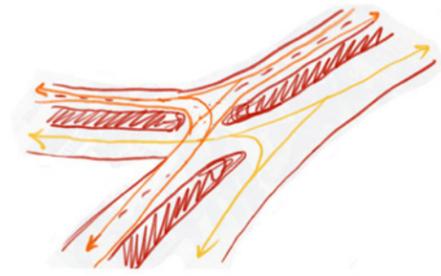
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT - EMBRACE



CONCEPT 1: EMBRACE HISTORY & CURRENT TOPO - RETAIN 134 BERM



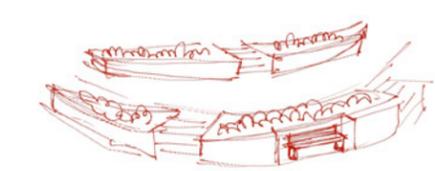
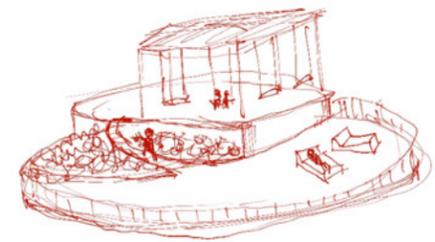
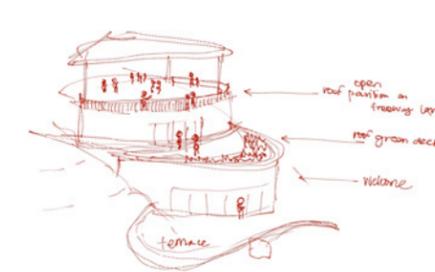
CONCEPTUAL CIRCULATION



CONCEPT 2: EMBRACE PRE-SETTLEMENT LANDSCAPE - ERODE 134 BERM

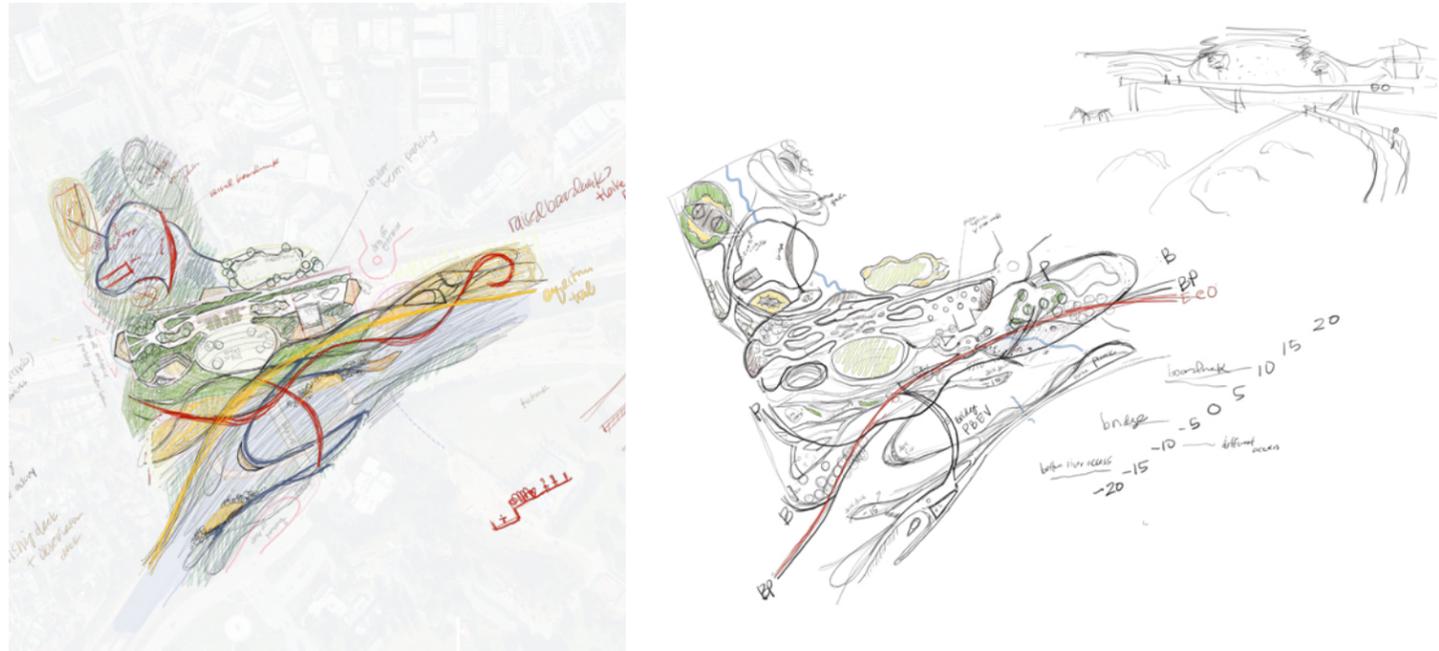


FINAL BUBBLE DIAGRAM

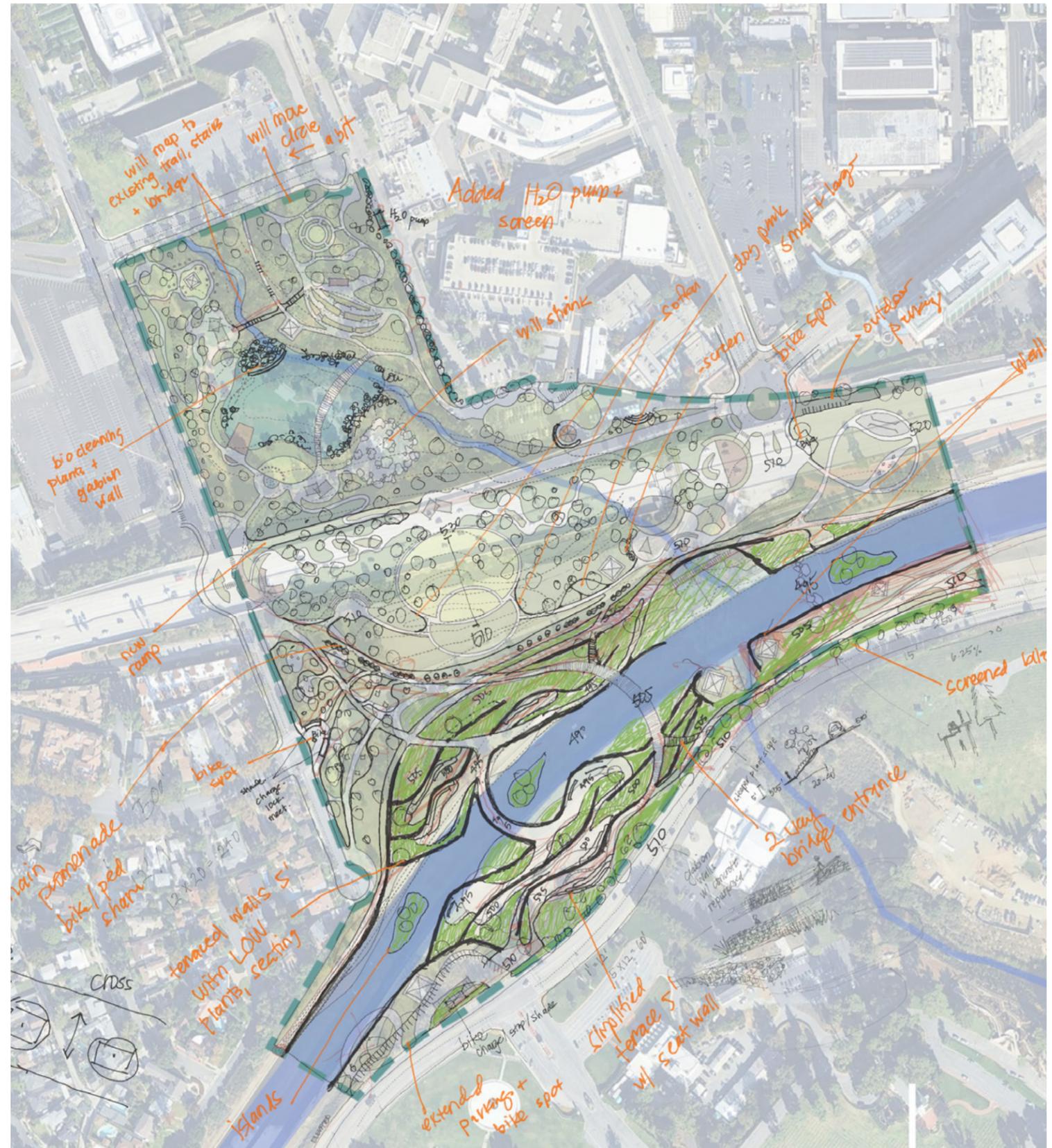


VIGNETTE SKETCHES

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT - EMBRACE



CONCEPTUAL ITERATIONS



FINAL CONCEPTUAL WITH NOTES

MASTER SITE PLAN + PROGRAM



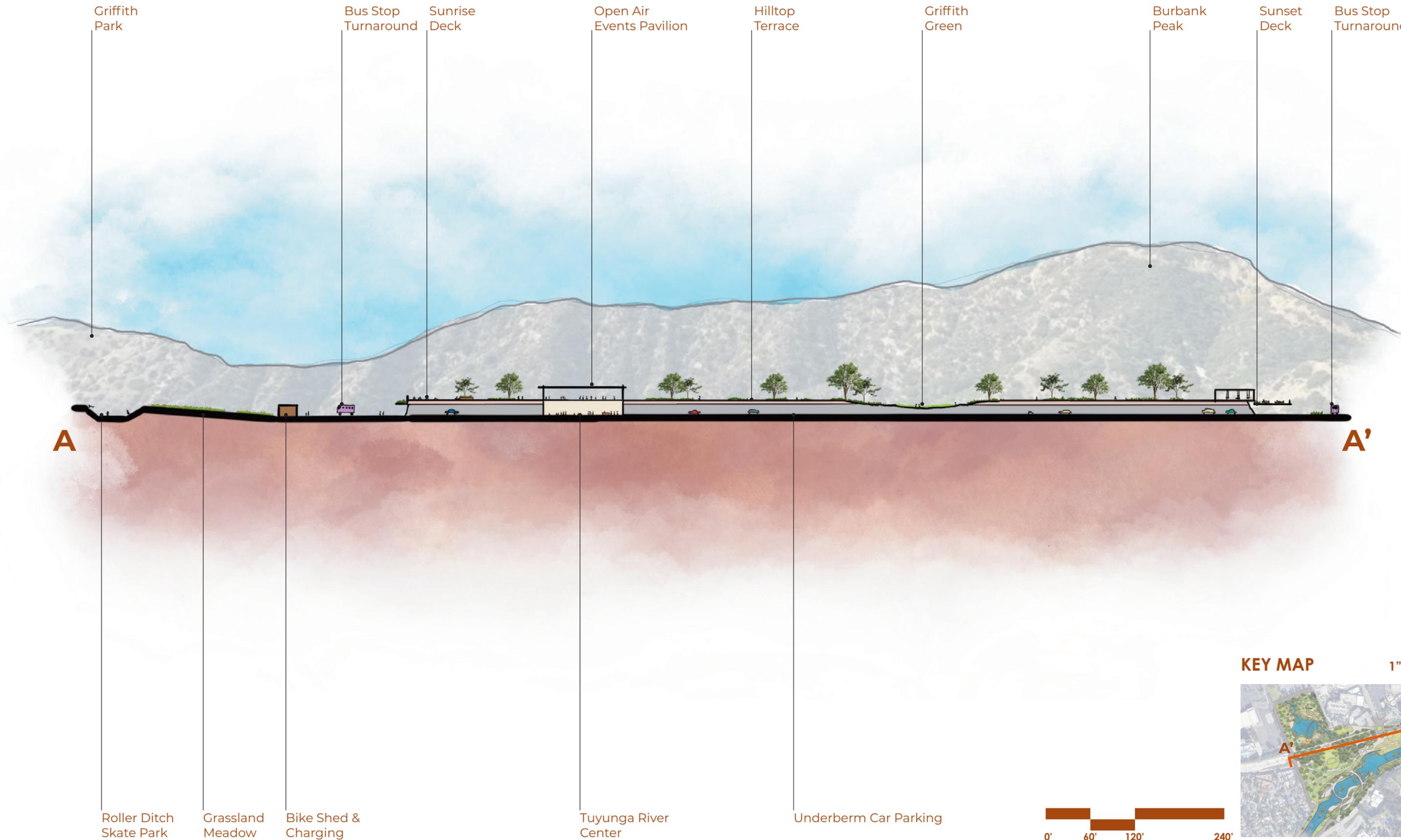
Program elements are placed relative to the context, ensuring convenient access for visitors, prime view corridors, and minimal impact during construction. All areas of the park are intended to be peaceful areas to meander and absorb the beauty and serenity of nature, designed in response to cultural history, topographies, and micro-climates.

Vegetation has been reestablished with CA Native plants, into riparian, forested, and meadow landscape zones.

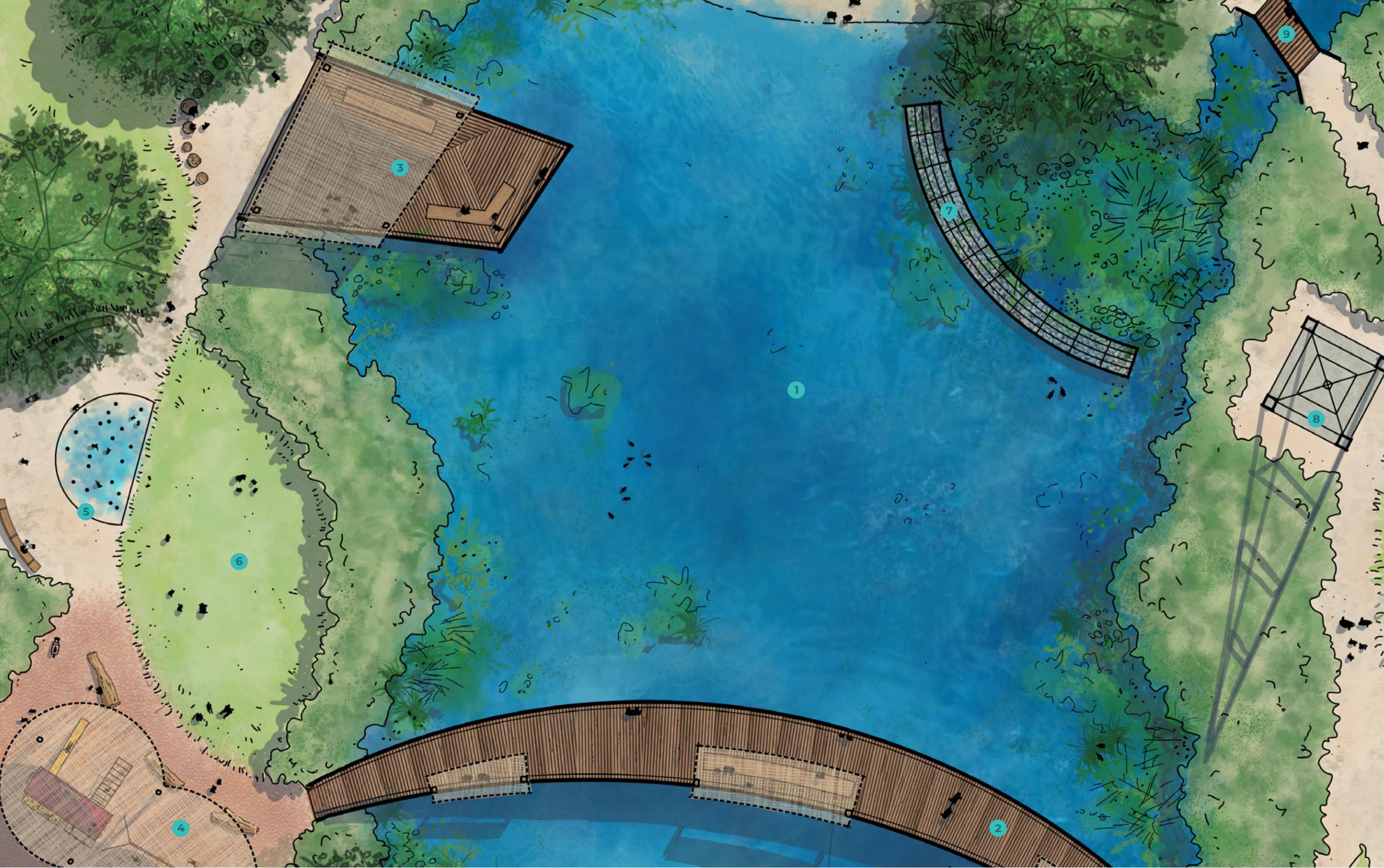
LEGEND

- 1 Tuyunga Retention Pond
- 2 Primary Water Treatment
- 3 Providence Greenyard
- 4 Griffith Green Bowl Lawn
- 5 West River Theater
- 6 Tuyunga River Center & Events Pavilion
- 7 Griffith Gate Bridge
- 8 Meditation Garden
- 9 Community Garden
- 10 Exercise Loop
- 11 Observation Dock
- 12 Kids Playground & Splash Pad
- 13 Grotto Rock Climbing
- 14 Hilltop Terrace
- 15 Sunset Deck
- 16 Sunrise Deck
- 17 Roller Ditch
- 18 Native Demonstration Garden
- 19 Bark Park
- 20 River Rock Landing
- 21 River Terraces
- 22 Outdoor Car Parking & Bike Charging
- 23 Underberrm Parking Entrance & Bus Turnarounds

SITE SECTION



ENLARGEMENT - TUYUNGA RETENTION POND



Tuyunga Retention Pond serves as both a stormwater capture, treatment, and management system to allow water to infiltrate back into groundwater system, and as a park destination complete with observation dock, bridge, and kid-friendly programmatic elements like playground, splash pad, and rock climbing grotto.

During the dry season, Tuyunga Park collects urban dry runoff & pump it to the lake to it full and prevent contaminated water from entering LA's river. Non-invasive phytoremediation plant species filter and clean the water. Riparian species tolerant of constant and temporary inundation line the banks to act as an aesthetic barrier.

LEGEND

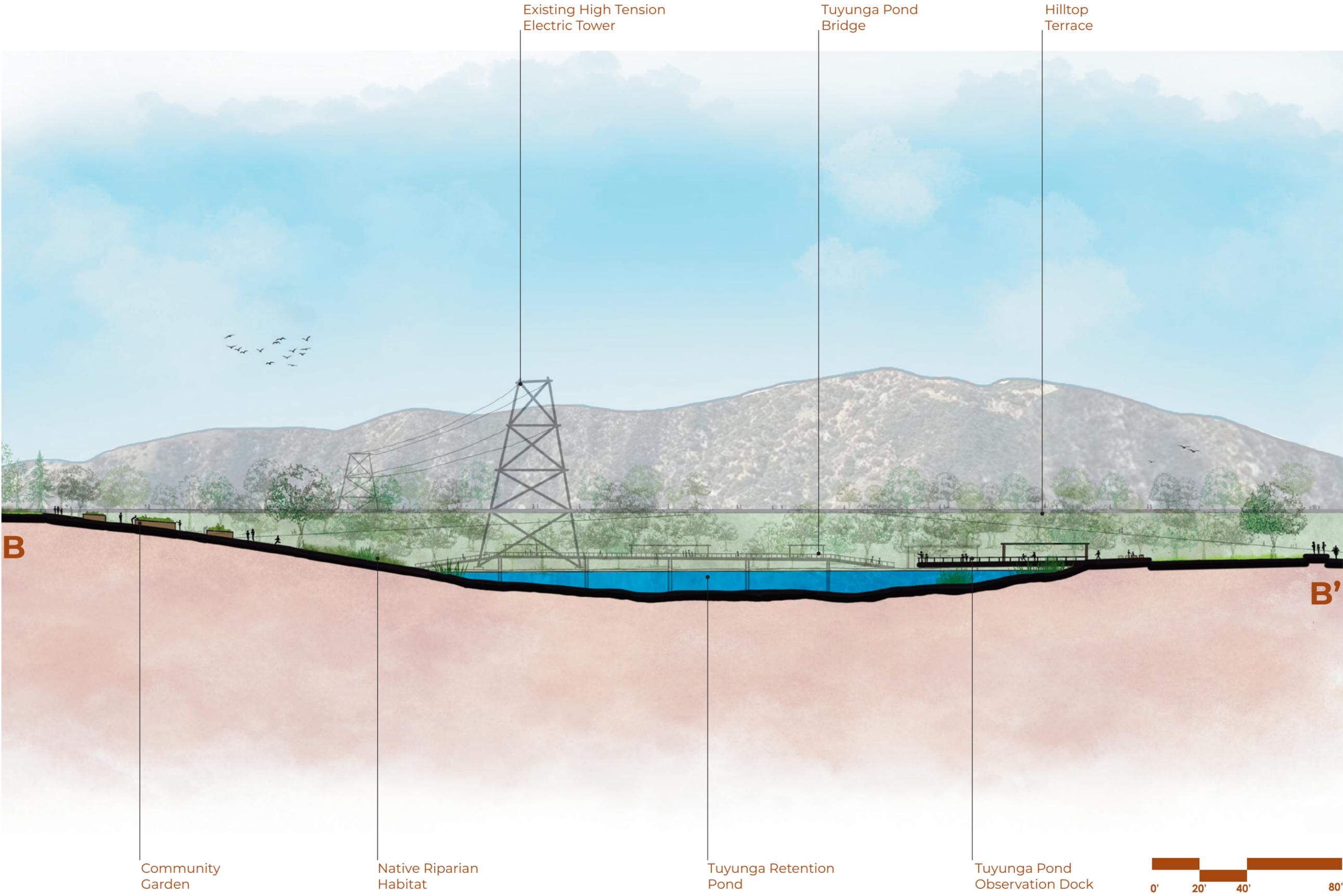
- 1 Tuyunga Retention Pond
- 2 Tuyunga Pond Bridge
- 3 Tuyunga Pond Observation Dock
- 4 Kids Playground
- 5 Splash Pad
- 6 Lakeside Lawn
- 7 Gabion Headwall
- 8 Existing Electrical Tower
- 9 Tuyunga Creek Bridge

KEY MAP

1"=1,200'



SECTION ELEVATION - TUYUNGA RETENTION POND

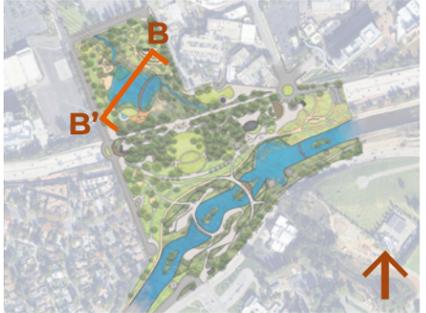


Cross section of Tuyunga Lake illustrates the topographic changes from the wooded hillside used as a community edible garden, to riparian habitats by the lake, and back up to level grasslands for park recreation. The pond is a lower elevation than the downstream portion of Tujunga Creek, to ensure water is captured, retained, and treated before it enters the LA river system during overflow periods such as storms and floods. When water levels rise, the lake water will overflow into Tujunga Creek where it flows through native riparian species to filter large particulates before entering the LA River course.

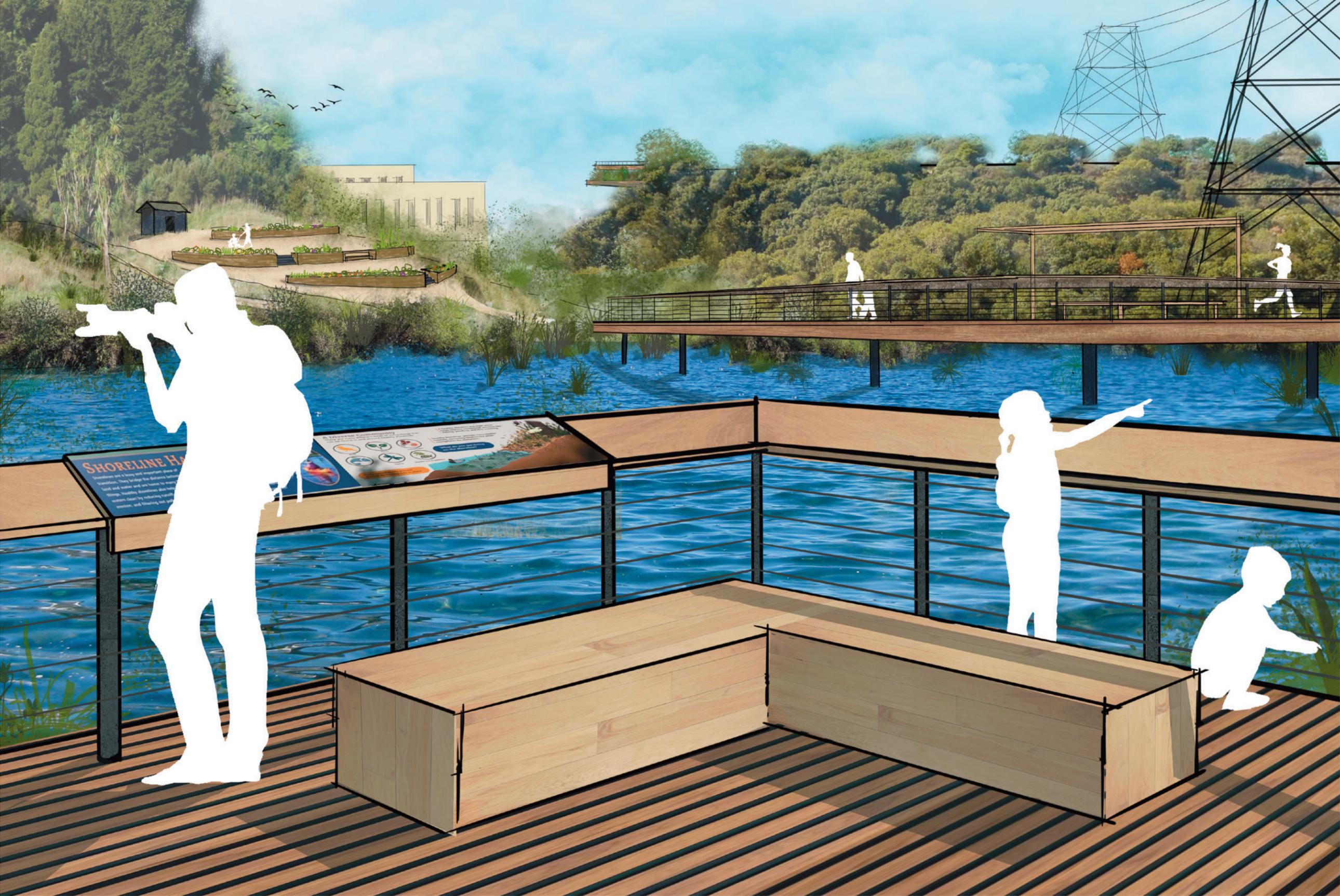
An observation dock with educational panels about the ecosystem, stormwater, and habitat juts into the pond for visitors to get closer to the water.

In the background, visitors see the bridge spanning the lake, the wooded hillside leading up to Hilltop Terrace, and the Santa Monica Mountains backdrop.

KEY MAP 1"=1,200'



PERSPECTIVE RENDERING - TUYUNGA RETENTION POND



View from the Observation Dock overlooking Tuyunga Retention Pond. The railings feature informational signage educating visitors on the local wildlife, habitat, and stormwater management of the surrounding pond. The dock allows visitors a closer look at the lake while enjoying proximity to natural waters, a limited experience in land-locked Burbank.

The pedestrian bridge crossing the pond is visible in the background, and is wide enough for multi-modal circulation (pedestrian and bike) along with shaded rest stops for visitors to take in the peaceful area.

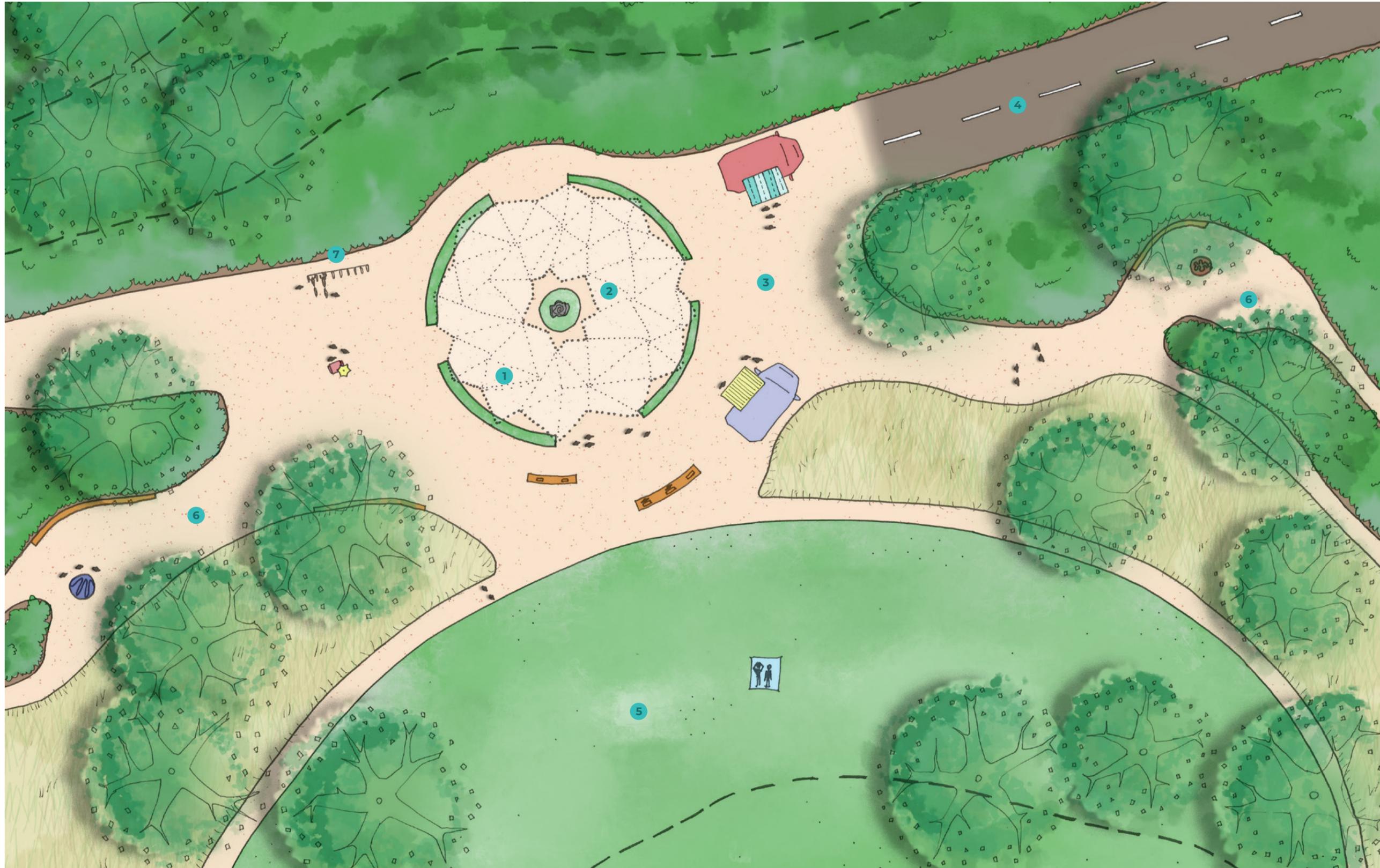
The hillside in the background is terraced with raised beds for a community garden, used by local residents, hospital visitors, and Providence schoolkids.

The Tuyunga Retention Pond area is programmed heavily for kid use, incorporating aspects of play, education, and observation to enrich children's senses, provide a safe space to gather and host activities, and to learn about the environment for future conservation stewardship.

KEY MAP 1"=1,200'



ENLARGEMENT - GRIFFITH GREEN



Griffith Green and the Hilltop Terrace are hubs for laid-back socialization. The 14,000 sq. ft. green lawn is a gentle hill set into the berm, connecting the terrace level to the main promenade on the southern side of the site. Shade trees are placed on the sides of the bowl-shaped lawn; the central axis is kept clear to maintain views of the LA River and Griffith Park.

The Hilltop Terrace sits at the top of the 134 Freeway berm in the center of the site, with panoramic 360 views. It features a large, geometric shade structure and rock sculpture titled 'Valley Rock.' The terrace has vehicular access via the previous freeway on-ramp, with a new ramp carved into the northern hillside leading to the west entrances of the park.

LEGEND

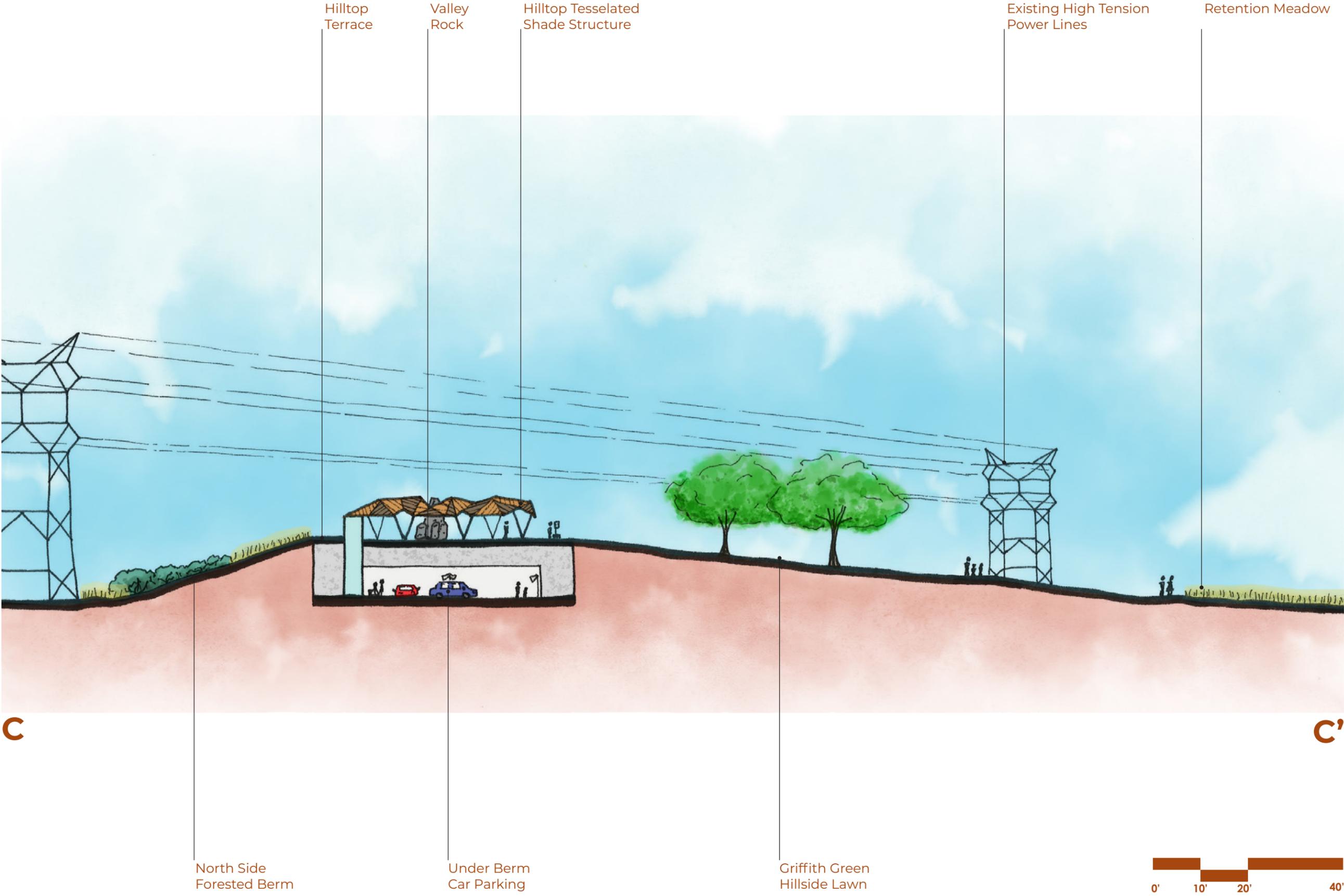
- 1 Hilltop Tessellated Shade Structure
- 2 Valley Rock
- 3 Hilltop Terrace
- 4 Northside Ramp
- 5 Griffith Green Hillside
- 6 Hilltop Trails
- 7 Bicycle Rack

KEY MAP

1"=1,200'



SECTION - GRIFFITH GREEN



The design's embrace of the existing site topography is demonstrated by this cross section. The existing steep slope of the freeway berm is maintained on the north side, creating a natural north-facing forested hillside.

A social plaza, the Hilltop Terrace, sits where the 10-lane freeway once did. Convenient parking with elevator access is offered underneath the berm. The Hilltop Terrace has the space to host food trucks, farmers markets, pop-up shops, educational meet ups, and other community events.

The south side of the berm is reconfigured to the relaxed 8% slope of the new Griffith Green. Visitors may traverse the hill on the green or on the paved paths around the bowl, however, resting on the lawn to enjoy the views of the park and river landscape is encouraged. Connecting the slightly-higher Griffith Green to the main promenade is a retention meadow, designed to slow and spread stormwater before it reaches the LA River.

KEY MAP 1"=1,200'



PERSPECTIVE RENDERING - GRIFFITH GREEN



A geometric, wooden shade structure is central to the Hilltop Terrace. The creased form of the structure is inspired by the topography of Southern California.

A ring of drought-tolerant groundcover surrounds the shade structure creating a sense of enclosure inside, and the eaves of the structure are pitched for rain to fall in the vegetation rather than on the hardscape.

In the center of the structure is a tall rock sculpture with carved-out bowls that collect rainwater to serve as ephemeral stopping places for wildlife, particularly birds that fly between the Santa Monica and Verdugo mountains. The indigenous name for the region may have come from the name of a nearby rock formation. This rock sculpture offers insight to the indigenous and natural history of the area.

Solar panels top the structure to capture excessive sunlight power. Amenities outside of the shade structure include benches, bicycle racks, and mounted tower viewers facing the LA River and Griffith Park.

KEY MAP

1"=1,200'



ENLARGEMENT - GRIFFITH GATEWAY



The Griffith Gateway Suspension Bridge provides pedestrian and bicycle access across the river while creating a memorable pitstop for views of the LA River, surrounding area, and native wildlife using the riparian river habitats.

TREE LEGEND

-  *Quercus agrifolia*
Coast Live Oak
-  *Platanus racemosa*
Western Sycamore
-  *Populus balsamifera*
Black Cottonwood
-  *Baccharis salicifolia*
Mulefat

LEGEND

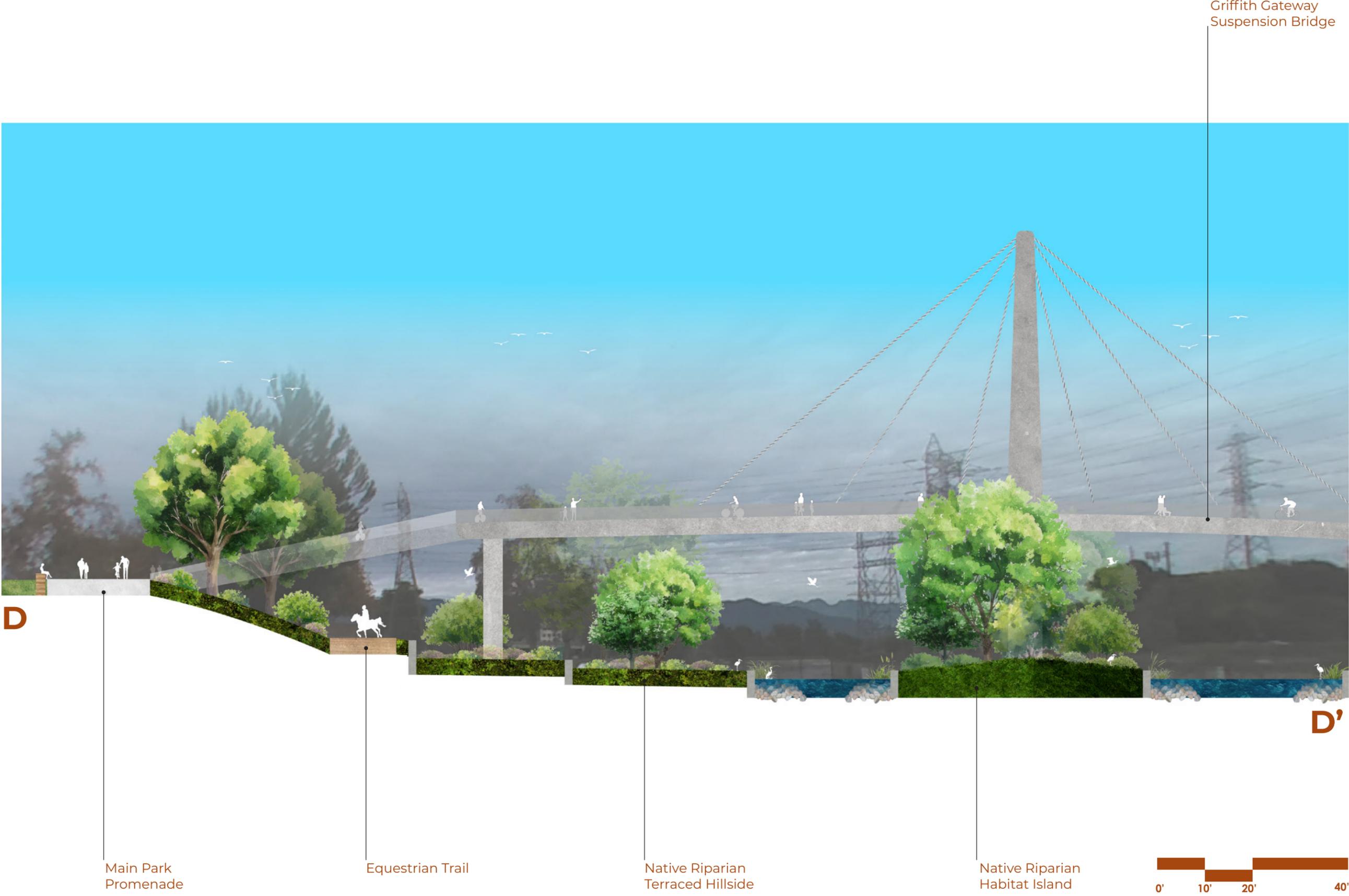
-  Griffith Gateway Suspension Bridge
-  Viewing Platform
-  Bike Path
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Riverside Terrace
-  LA River
-  Riparian Habitat Island

KEY MAP

1"=1,200'



SECTION ELEVATION - GRIFFITH GATEWAY



Griffith Gateway Suspension Bridge

To accommodate increased foot and bike traffic on the Griffith Gateway Bridge, the equestrian trail dips into the newly expanded riverway below. This solution avoids encounters with cyclists, and provides a unique new riding experience. The shaded trail brings riders closer to the river, where they can enjoy the dense riparian vegetation from their elevated seat.

The bridge itself also allows for privileged views into the habitat below, host to scores of bird and plant species. Pedestrians and cyclists connecting between the north and south shores of the park can stop along the bridge to take in the expansive views up and down the river.

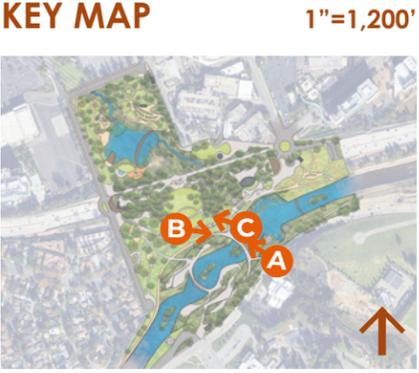
KEY MAP 1"=1,200'



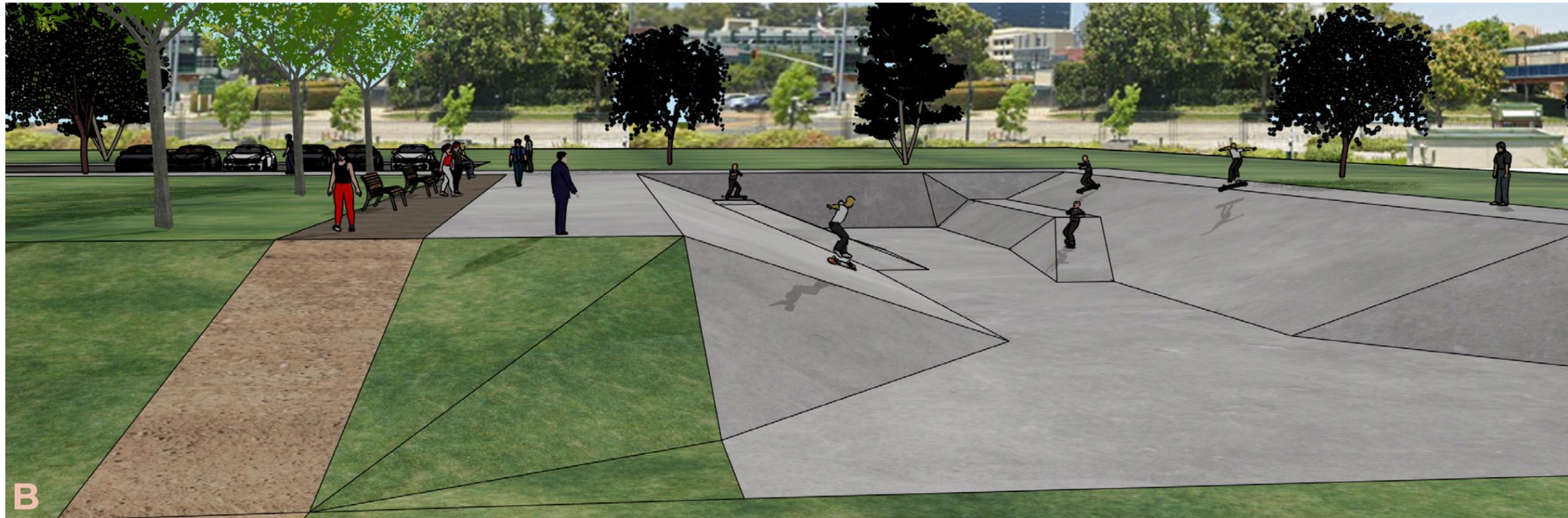
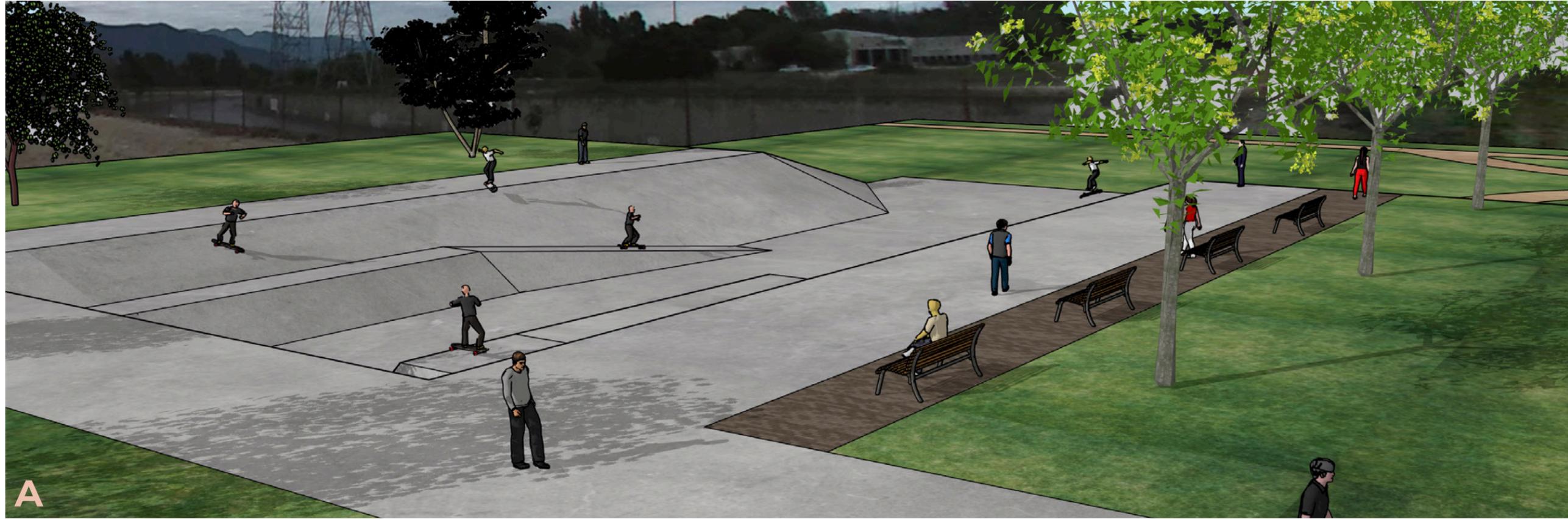
PERSPECTIVE RENDERING - GRIFFITH GATEWAY



The soaring causeways of the Griffith Gateway Bridge present users with a unique experience and open views in all directions. The bridge serves as both a gateway to the parks and an amenity within them. Offering connections to recreation on both sides of the river, simply crossing on foot or by bike becomes an attraction in and of itself, as well as an exciting jumping off point for trails on both sides.



PERSPECTIVE RENDERING - ROLLER DITCH



The Skate Ditch Skatepark taps into the heritage of skateboarding culture in Southern California by paying homage to the original gunnite ditch the Army Corps built in the Tujunga Wash in the 1930s. Rivers have always been places of recreation, and the paved waterways designed to replace them were no different. What started as drainage infrastructure quickly became an incubator for a cultural movement that took the world by storm and spawned a multi-billion dollar industry. The Skate Ditch's link to this heritage and novice-friendly design will make it an attraction for people of all ages from across the county and beyond.



Existing DIY skate ditch in Griffith Park

KEY MAP

1"=1,200'



RESTORED HABITATS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

RIPARIAN



Black Cottonwood
Populus trichocarpa



Blue Elderberry
Sambucus nigra



Mulefat
Baccharis salicifolia



Desert Wild Grape
Vitis girdiana



Arroyo Willow
Salix lasiolepis



California Dutchman's Pipe
Aristolochia californica



Broadleaf Cattail
Typha latifolia



Goldenrod
Solidago californica

SAGE SCRUB - MEADOW



California Sagebrush
Artemisia californica



Narrowleaf Milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis



White Sage
Salvia apiana



Purple Needlegrass
Stipa pulcra



Black Sage
Salvia mellifera



Common Yarrow
Achillea millefolium



California Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum



Coyote Bush
Baccharis pilularis

CHAPARRAL - WOODLAND



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



Hillside Gooseberry
Ribes californicum



Hoaryleaf Ceanothus
Ceanothus crassifolius



Sugar Bush
Rhus ovata



Hollyleaf Cherry
Prunus ilicifolia



Rhamnus californica
Coffeeberry



Chamise
Adenostoma fasciculatum

California native habitats have been implemented across the entire site in their natural locations based on topography and microclimates, returning to a facsimile of the original landscape before settlements. Vegetation zones are kept as large as possible to maintain continuity within the ecosystems and prevent fragmentation.

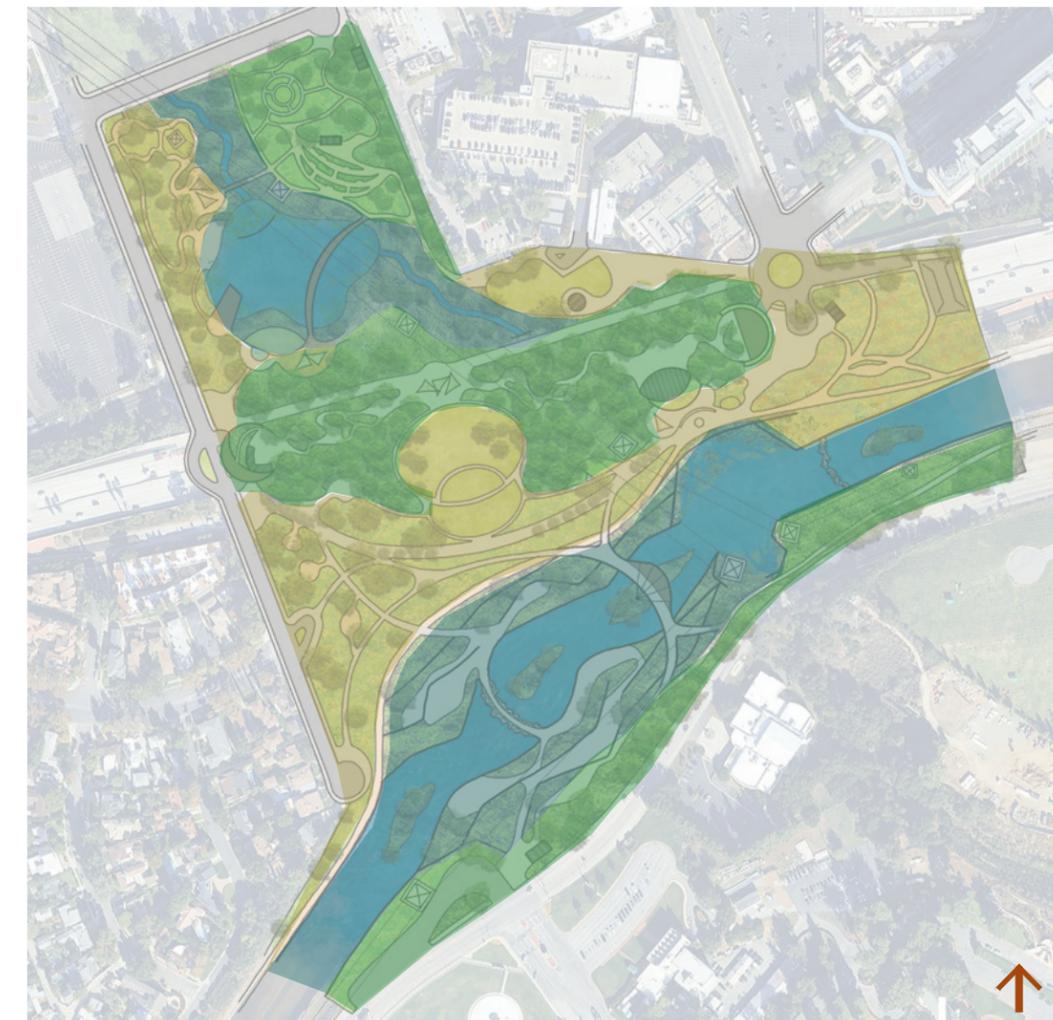
Each vegetation zone features a mix of California native plant species found naturally in those plant communities, to create an organic setting that will support California native wildlife and migratory species. The park becomes an extension of the protected Griffith Park wilderness, while returning parts of the river back to their original habitat.

Visitors become immersed in nature, experiencing plants and wildlife that are continually threatened due to industrialization and habitat loss, which can lead to increased stewardship among the community.

Additionally, greening of the park helps combat the localized urban heat island effect.

VEGETATION ZONES

1" = 300'



Riparian Grassland - Sage Scrub Mosaic Chaparral - Woodland Mosaic

SUPPORTED CALIFORNIA NATIVE WILDLIFE



California Red-Legged Frog
Rana draytonii



Least Bell's Vireo
Vireo bellii pusillus



Riparian Brush Rabbit
Sylvilagus bachmani riparius



Western Mastiff Bat
Eumops perotis



Chalcedon Checkerspot
Euphydryas chalcedona



Crotch's Bumble Bee
Bumbus crotchii



California thrasher
Toxostoma redivivum



California mantis
Stagmomantis californica



Allen's Hummingbird
Selasphorus sasin



California Sister
Adelpha californica



Southern Alligator Lizard
Elagaria multicarinata



Ceanothus Silk Moth
Hyalophora euryalus

SITE EVALUATION

GOAL

Restoration Resilience Connection

OPPORTUNITY

- 1. Dechannelization of LA River** to create wildlife habitat, recreational access, environmental engagement, and groundwater recharging opportunities.
- 2. Improved stormwater management** through sustainable capture, processing, and infiltration to recharge groundwater & restore local watershed.
- 3. Improved circulation and connection** across the sites' various fragmented zones and topography, including ADA accessibility and new, dedicated entrances on each side of the LA River.
- 4. Lower or remove freeway embankment** to better connect each side of the park, and/or leverage high point on **freeway for view corridors**.
- 5. Reroute Riverside Drive** to maintain circulation capacity while connecting park site consistently.
- 6. Recreate native wildlife habitats** to support plants and animals and improve wildlife corridors to adjacent habitats, while ensuring low-maintenance and irrigation needs for an enduring landscape.
- 7. Incorporate electric towers into design more seamlessly** by providing necessary electricity-related amenities, education, and visual relief.
- 8. Add cutting edge sustainable amenities** to attract and retain visitors of all demographics.
- 9. Build educational opportunities** like research centers, improved way-finding, gathering spaces, to encourage education, conservation, and stewardship.
- 10. Repurpose onsite materials** to reduce construction pollution & carbon footprint.

OUTCOME

- Returned channelized LA River to original soft bottom topography, widening the riverine habitat footprint to create wildlife terraces. Visitors can more readily engage with the river, accessing it for recreational opportunities like fishing, kayaking, and research. Habitat islands provide visual relief and improve habitat corridors for native and migratory species.
- Replaced majority turf and hardscape with permeable pavers and retentive vegetation to encourage on-site stormwater percolation. New Tuyunga Retention Pond captures and treats urban dry run off. Softbottom LA River slows water flow & enables infiltration.
- Created dedicated entrances for multi-modal transportation, including new bus terminals, underground parking, and electric bike charging networks. Site is fully ADA accessible including lower river access, and visitors can connect across the river on Griffin Gateway Suspension Bridge.
- Embraced existing topography of decommissioned freeway berm, capitalizing on elevated view corridors. Sunrise and Sunset decks on either end allow for engaging with natural physical aspect of site, while berm provides shaded parking below.
- Contiguous park allows for smooth visitor experience without vehicular disruption, noise, pollution, or safety hazards Expanded transportation terminals including new bus lines and electric bike charging stations encourages eco-friendly visitation.
- High-water-use turf replaced with native meadows and plantings to improve wildlife habitat while retaining recreation ability. Park is predominantly wilderness with limited fragmentation to provide maximum ecological benefit while maintaining visitor programming.
- High power tension electrical towers remain visible in park, with electricity-related programming adjacent to towers for visual reference to 2040 societal and environmental conditions.
- Sustainable infrastructure such as green-roof buildings set into existing berm for natural cooling, stormwater retention pond as kid-friendly destination, electric bike share, and retention planters and bioswales create engaging park elements while being sustainable and ensuring long term resiliency.
- River Center serves as a welcome center, educational and research center, amenity outpost for visitors to learn about the park, river ecology, and native ecosystems. An open-air pavilion rests on top for large events with views. A demonstration garden teaches visitors how to install CA Native gardens and stormwater control measures. Direct access to the river and pond, along with informational signage, educates visitors to encourage long-term stewardship.
- LA River concrete repurposed into gabion retaining and seat walls and hardscape foundations. Cut and fill balanced. Felled trees as benches. Use berm for cool, covered parking underground.