ZOË MARANS

THE GREAT WALL

of **LOS ANGELES**

ART PARK MASTER PLAN

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SITE OVERVIEW

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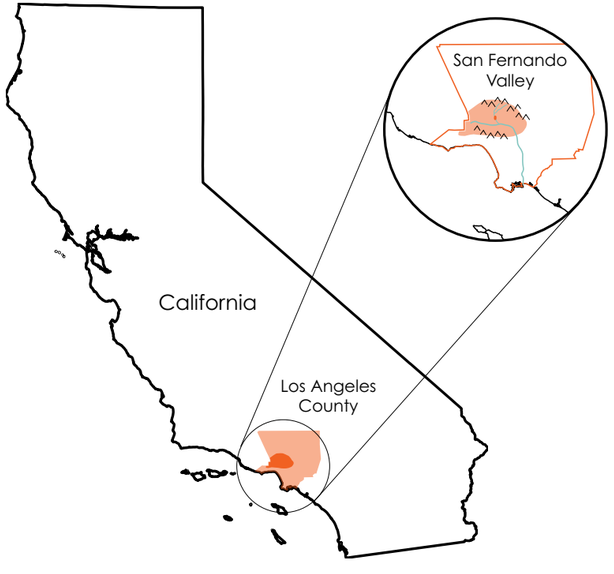
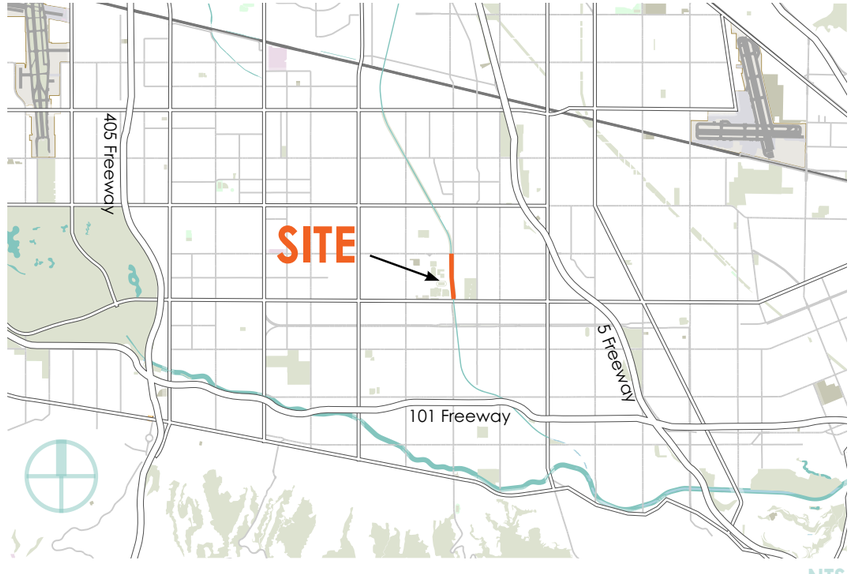




TUJUNGA GREENBELT

The Tujunga Greenbelt is a linear parkspace that flanks the concrete Tujunga Wash flood control channel between Burbank Blvd. and Oxnard Blvd. along Coldwater Canyon Blvd. It's part of a 2.5 mile-long Tujunga Wash Greenway and abuts the Tujunga Stream Restoration Project that was completed in 2007, restoring riparian native habitat and diverting stormwater through a naturalized streambed for filtering and groundwater recharge. The project site is comprised of two long narrow strips of parkland -- one facing schools, one facing a residential zone -- a central flood control channel, pedestrian sidewalks, and the parkway strips east of Coldwater Canyon Blvd.

3/4 MILES
LENGTH OF PARK SITE

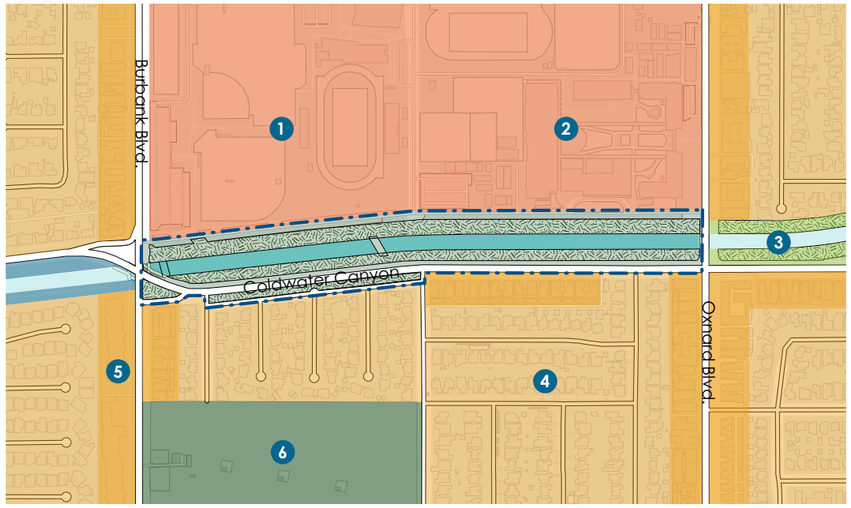
550,000+
POPULATION IN 5 MILE RADIUS

25,000+
STUDENTS AT LAVC & USGHS

REGIONAL HISTORY

The Tujunga Greenbelt and the Great Wall of Los Angeles are important cultural, historical, and environmental landmarks in the San Fernando Valley. The Tujunga Greenbelt follows the original flow pattern of what was once part of the natural Tujunga-Pacoima watershed, carrying seasonal water from the San Gabriel Mountains to the valley basin, nourishing wetlands and supporting diverse Indigenous ecosystems, including those of the Tongva people. After repeated devastating floods, this natural water system was channelized into a concrete flood control system in the 1950s, depleting groundwater recharge and habitat for native wildlife. Rapid post-war development expedited urbanization, leading to population growth (1.8M current residents in the SFV today) and almost complete biodiversity loss to impermeable hardscape. This park currently provides a corridor of recreational greenspace to the local community.

SITE CONTEXT MAP



1. Los Angeles Valley College
2. Ulysses S. Grant High School
3. Tujunga Stream Restoration
4. Single Family Residential
5. Multi-Family Residential
6. Radio Broadcast Towers

Project Site Boundary

0 300' 600' 1,200'

THE GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES MURAL

At the heart of the Tujunga Greenbelt is the Great Wall of Los Angeles, a monumental public art project conceived by artist Judith F. Baca in 1974. Stretching more than half a mile along the concrete walls of the Tujunga Wash flood control channel, the mural is one of the longest in the world and a landmark of community-based public art, the first under Baca's SPARC (Social & Public Art Resource Center) nonprofit. Painted by hundreds of local at-risk youth, artists, and activists, the Great Wall visually narrates the often-overlooked histories of California's marginalized communities, from Indigenous peoples and early immigrants to stories of labor, civil rights, and social justice movements. The project transformed a utilitarian piece of infrastructure into a dynamic cultural landscape, symbolizing resilience, inclusion, and the reclaiming of public space in a rapidly urbanizing environment.

SITE HISTORICAL TIMELINE

PRE-1700s

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

Tongva-Gabrieleno Native American tribes lived throughout the region in reciprocity with the environment. The Basin provided water, a sacred resource for spiritual and essential needs

Untouched by humans, the arroyos swelled and retracted seasonally, providing habitat and sustenance for native wildlife to flourish

NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA PRE HUMANS

3000 BCE

1542-1781

Mexican and Spanish explorers vied for claim, settlement, and governorship of now Southern California, forcibly displacing or enslaving local Tongva

EARLY COLONIZATION

1915

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DEVELOPMENT BOOM

Development boomed after Los Angeles annexed the agricultural lands of the SFV in 1915, and continued to grow rapidly through housing tract expansion after WWII in 1950s

1938

Previous flood adaptions continually failed. This major flood prompted construction of flood control channels to alleviate the problem 'permanently'

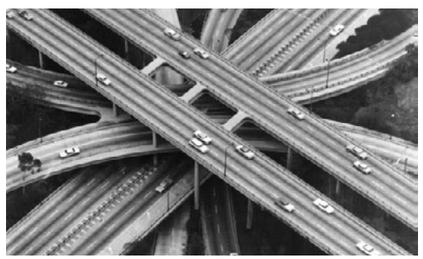
MAJOR FLOOD BREAKS TUJUNGA WASH LEVEE

1950s

TUJUNGA WASH CHANNELIZED

Following repeated catastrophic floods, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers channelized the Tujunga Wash in 15' tall, 20' wide concrete channels, creating a barren scar on the land

1966



Continued urban development and the extension of freeways brings rapid population growth to the SFV. Population at 800,000 (1966) of its future 1.8M (2023)

HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY EXPANSION

1974-1979

GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES MURAL

US Army Corps of Engineers & SPARC collaborate to create a mural, designed by Judy Baca, to tell the disappeared stories of the land, California, and Los Angeles through BIPOC perspectives

1996-2007

15-acres of riparian habitat restored along Tujunga Wash, including soft bottom, bioretention bioswales and streambeds that filters stormwater & beautifies the flood control channel

TUJUNGA WASH GREENWAY & STREAM RESTORATION

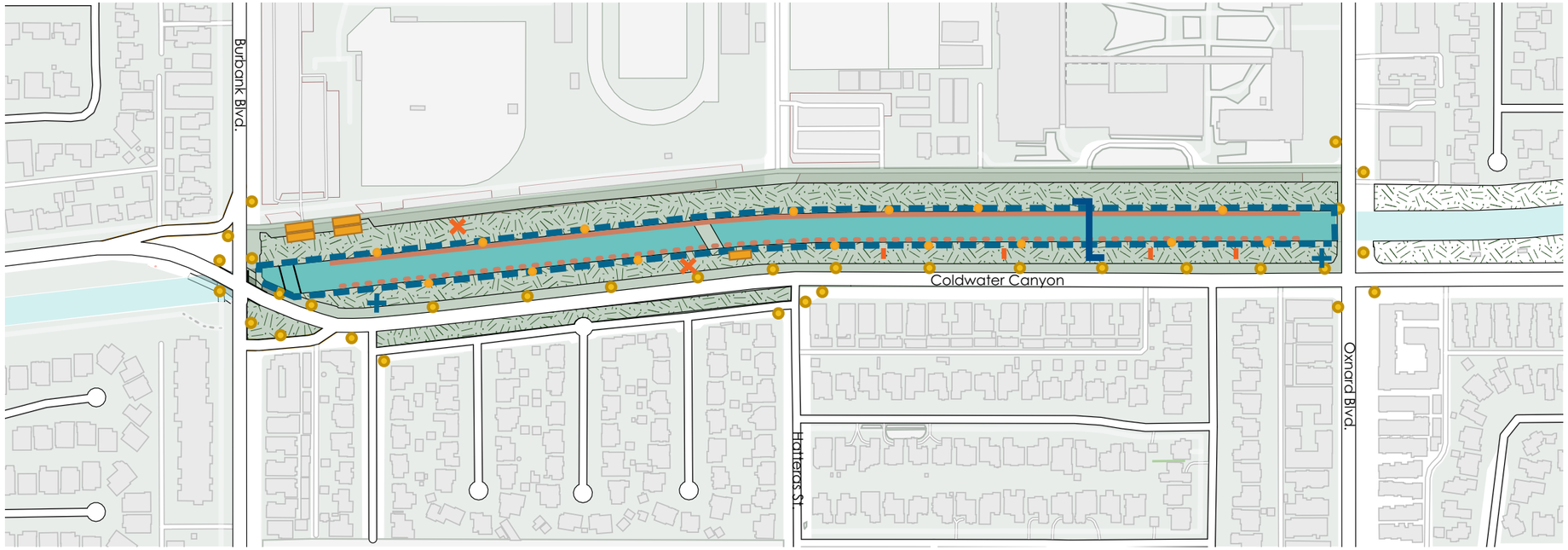
2022+

PARK UPDATES & MURAL EXTENSION

Minor park upgrades installed including 4 benches and mural lighting. Mellon Foundation provides grant for Judy Baca to extend mural drawings for 1960s-2020s on opposing wall

SITE INVENTORY

INFRASTRUCTURE



LEGEND

- Judy Baca's The Great Wall of Los Angeles Mural
- Future Extension of The Great Wall of Los Angeles Mural
- Chain Link Fence
- Municipal Water Line
- Picnic Table
- New Sculptural Bench
- Rainwater Collection Bioretention Swale
- Entrance Sign
- Mural Spotlight
- Streetlamp

Site Entrance Signage at corner of Oxnard & Cold Water Canyon Blvds.

One of two picnic tables on site, neither with shade coverage

Stormwater Collection Bioswale on Coldwater Canyon Extension west side

Waterline Pipe sits above ground & crosses channel as visual eyesore

Chain Link Fence along channel wall, blocking view of mural

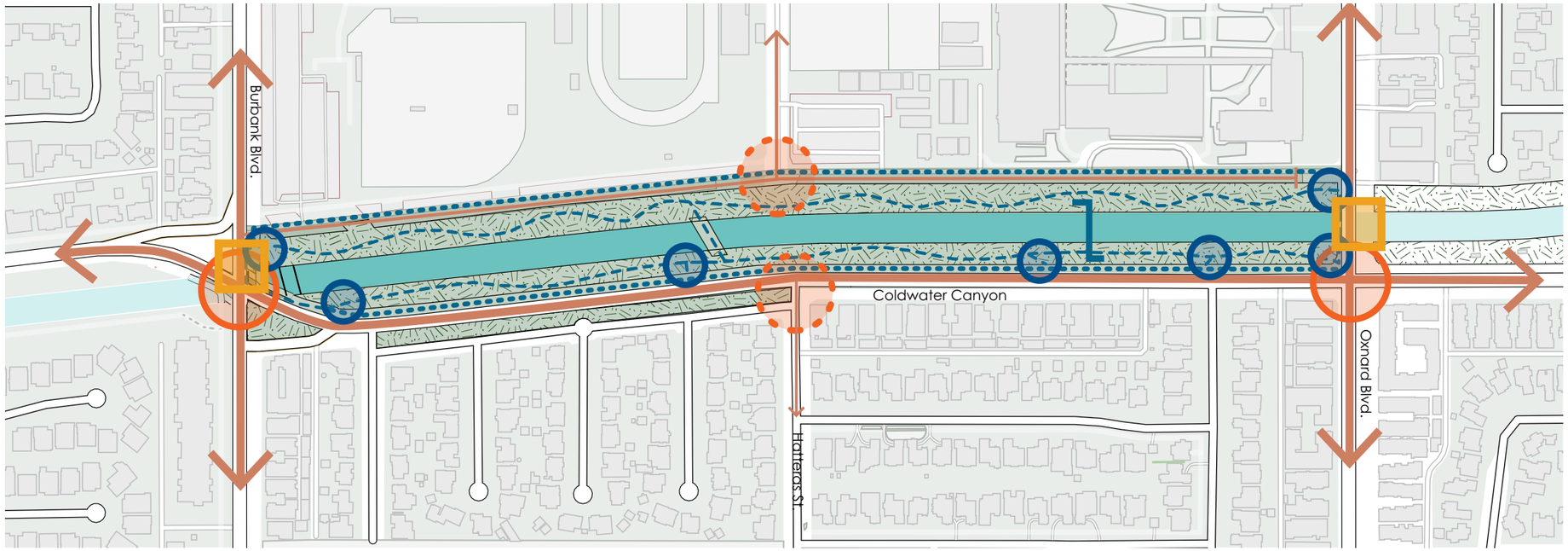
OBSERVATIONS

- By 2028, both sides of the Tujunga flood control channel will be covered in Judy Baca's Great Wall of Los Angeles mural and should be visible easily from both sides of the park.
- Access to channel and mural is blocked by 5' chain link fence.
- Current pedestrian bridge placement does not respond well to existing site conditions, e.g. pedestrian circulation or major nodes.
- Large municipal water drain pipe bisects the park and flood channel as an eye sore that can't be removed.
- Very limited picnicking or seating available to visitors.
- Lights installed in 2024 illuminate the mural, however there is no additional light inside the park other than spillover from streetlights.
- The 4 bioretention stormwater capture systems may collect substantial stormwater due to natural topographic & drainage patterns.
- Only two park entrances have stone monument signs.
- Overall the park is clean from litter, with ample trash cans.

0 125' 250' 500'

SITE ANALYSIS

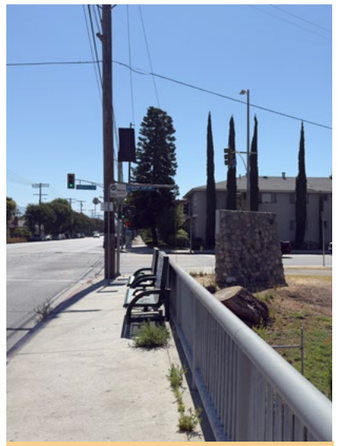
CIRCULATION



LEGEND

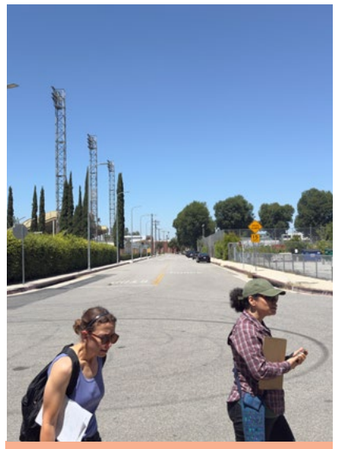
- Vehicular Circulation
- Park Entrance
- External Pedestrian Circulation
- Internal Pedestrian Circulation
- Controlled Intersection
- Uncontrolled Intersection
- Public Transit Stop

Controlled Street Corner with narrow pedestrian sidewalk & accident damage

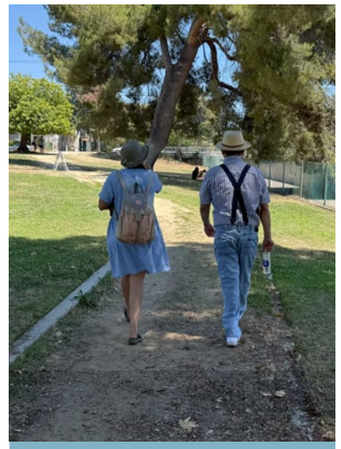


Uncovered Bus Stop on Oxnard Blvd. at Controlled Street Corner

Narrow Public Sidewalk without dedicated Bike Lane



Hatteras St. bisects LAVC/USGHS and neighborhood midway along park



Park Paths are unmaintained DG on west side, asphalt paving on east side

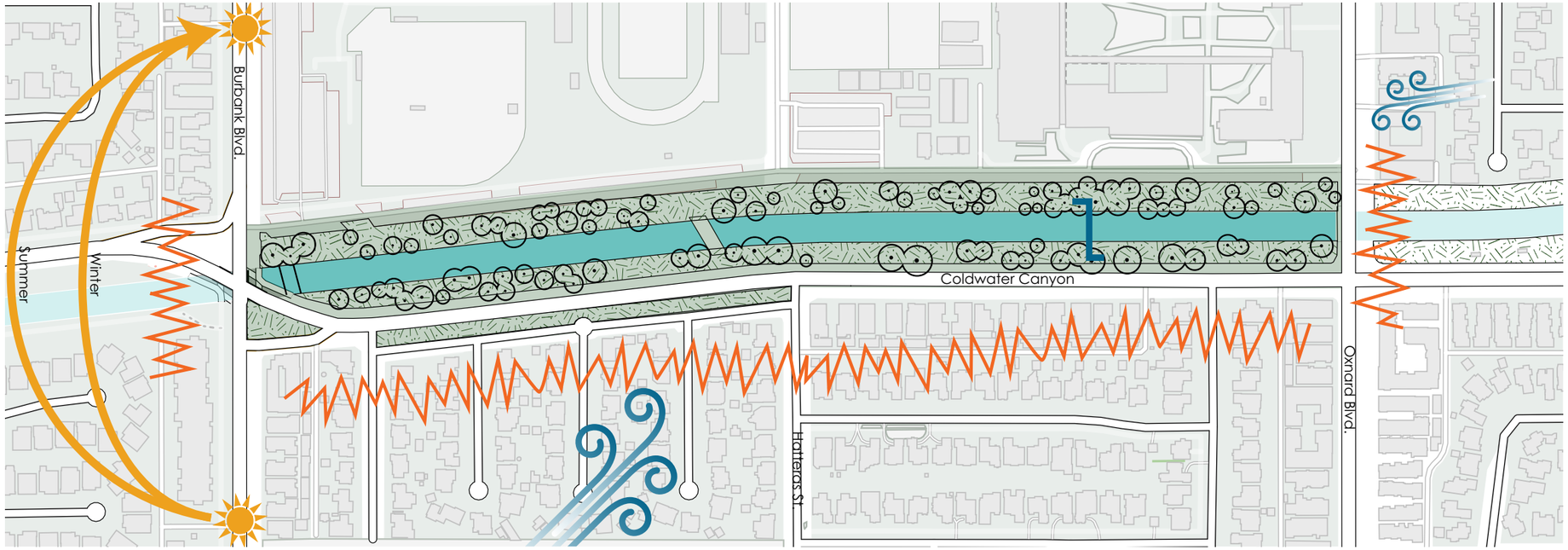
OBSERVATIONS

- Fast traffic along 3 sides of the park: Coldwater Canyon, Burbank Blvd, and Oxnard Blvd, pose a risk to pedestrians and generate substantial noise pollution along the east side of the park.
- The main intersections feature 4-way crosswalks, but there is no public crossing controlled infrastructure at Hatteras St, central along the park's length.
- Notably, the pedestrian bridge is not aligned to any axis or node on site.
- Multiple public transit bus and metro lines stop on Oxnard Blvd and Burbank Blvd, with high volume during school days. Bus stops do not have shade cover, and are mere feet from speeding traffic.
- Streets lack dedicated bike lanes; cyclists must share the right traffic lane with cars.
- Ample parallel street parking on both sides of Coldwater Canyon Blvd, with additional spaces along Burbank, Oxnard, and the school sidestreet.
- There are 7 park entrances, 5 of which are unmarked. Pedestrians can enter the rest of the park by walking on the grass growing to sidewalk.
- Two pedestrian trails wind through each side of the park for a leisure walk or exercise loop, with sporadic viewing of mural from east side path. The west side is DG, the east is asphalt paving.

0 125' 250' 500'

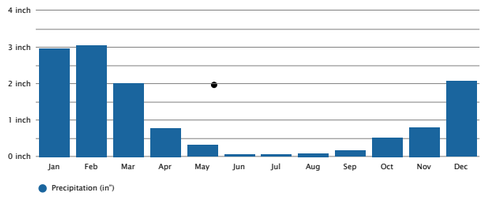
SITE ANALYSIS

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

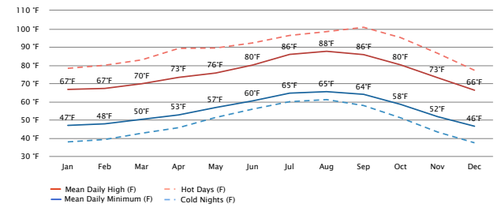


LEGEND

- Sun Path
- Noise
- Prevailing and Seasonal Winds
- Existing Tree

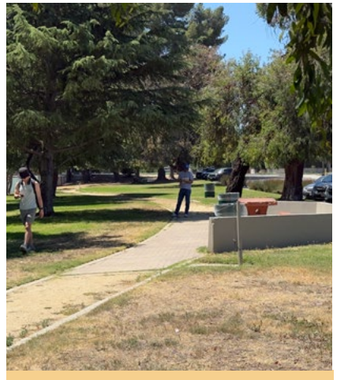


Average Monthly Rainfall

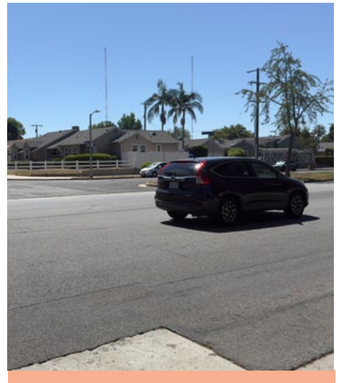


Average Monthly Temperature

Mature Trees scattered through the park provide ample shade

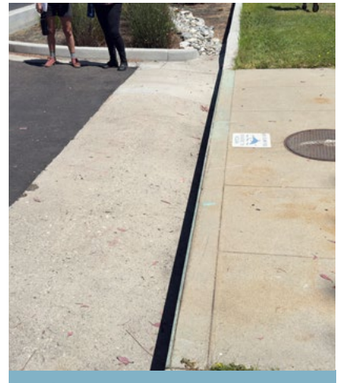


Exposed areas of park without tree cover are extremely hot



Fast traffic east of site creates substantial abrasive noise heard in park

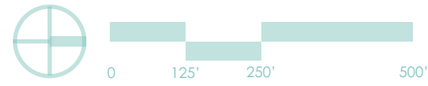
6' height differential slopes down from Coldwater Canyon sidewalk to park



Overflow stormwater from schools on west side drain to LA river

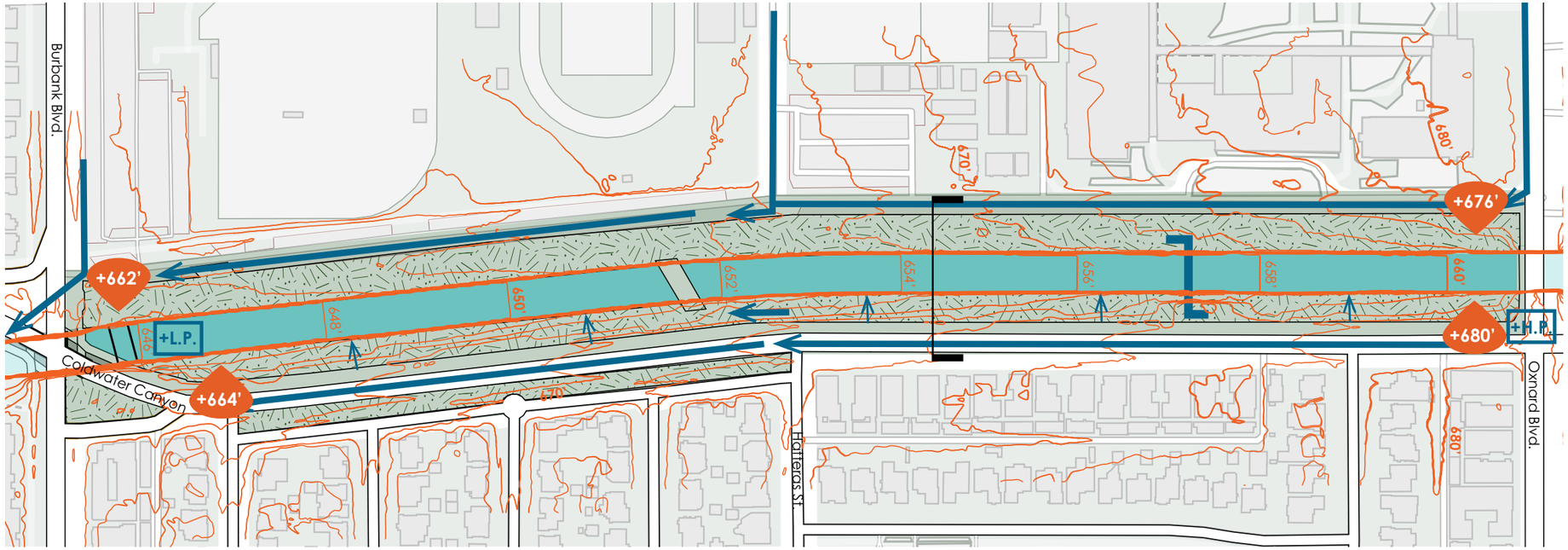
OBSERVATIONS

- Substantial mature tree cover providing necessary respite from sun, however almost all trees are non-native. On-site species include:
  - Aleppo Pine
  - Jacaranda
  - Brazilian Pepper Tree
  - Red Ironbark Eucalyptus
  - Chinese Elm
  - Chinese Flame Tree
  - Tropical Ash
  - Western Sycamore
- Absence of shade structures leaves picnic and open areas severely exposed to hot SFV climate.
- Wandering in-park pathways are enjoyable due to patches of tree canopy shade, however sidewalks circling park are extremely hot in the exposed sun.
- East side features a steep slope from Coldwater Canyon
- Lacking stormwater management structures on site except in southwest corner by school street entrance with 4 rainwater collection bioswales installed in street. Overflow drains directly to LA river.
- Site receives substantial abrasive traffic noise on east, north, and south sides due to main commuter boulevards. School side of park is substantially quieter.
- Very few species of wildlife identified outside of ground squirrels and a few birds.



SITE ANALYSIS

TOPOGRAPHY

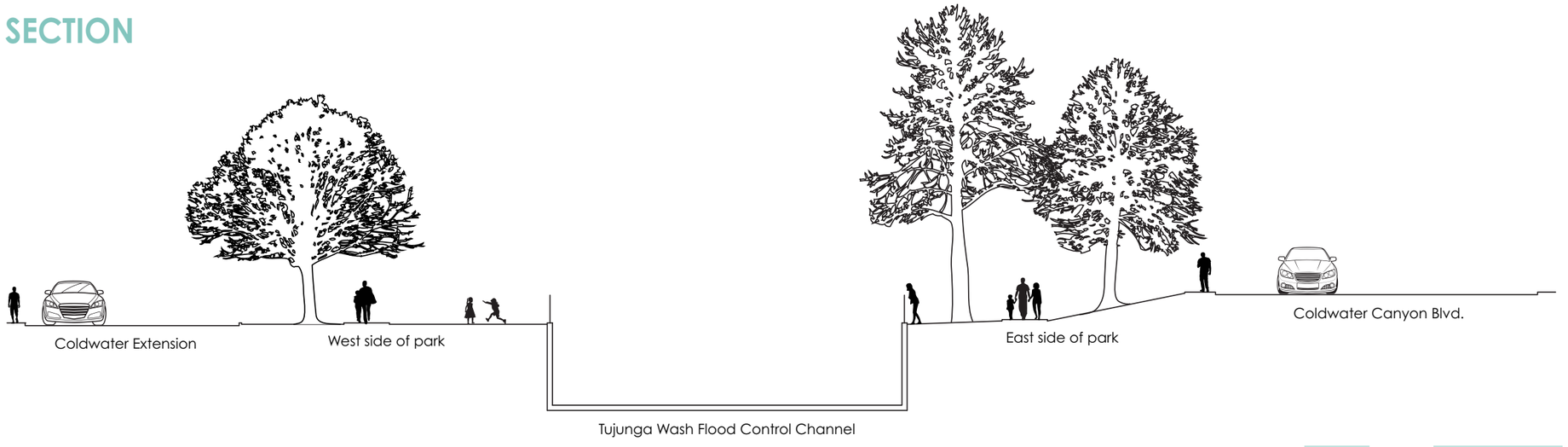


LEGEND

- 2' Contour Interval
- Drainage Direction
- +H.P. High Point Elevation
- +L.P. Low Point Elevation
- Spot Elevation

0 100' 200' 400'

SECTION



0 10' 20' 40'

OBSERVATIONS

- Park is notably linear
- West side is predominantly flat in visitor experience, with slight slope down north to south parallel with water flow direction
- East side also slopes down north to west, but has 6' elevation drop east to west, from Coldwater Canyon Blvd sidewalk down to flood control channel wall
- Flood control channel is box shape, with 16' tall walls dropping down from pedestrian level into the channel
- Visitors must look across channel and angled down from park in order to view The Great Wall of Los Angeles mural

SITE CONSTRAINTS

1 SFV HOT CLIMATE
Other than tree canopy, no shade structures exist on site to protect from the warm climate and create a pleasant environment for visitors

2 NARROW, LINEAR PARK SHAPE
Greenspace of park is 3/4 mile long and each side only 65' wide on average, limiting the types of programming available to add to the space

3 FAST TRAFFIC STREETS WITH NO BUFFER
Cars cause noise & air pollution while posing risk to pedestrians. Street parking is abundant.

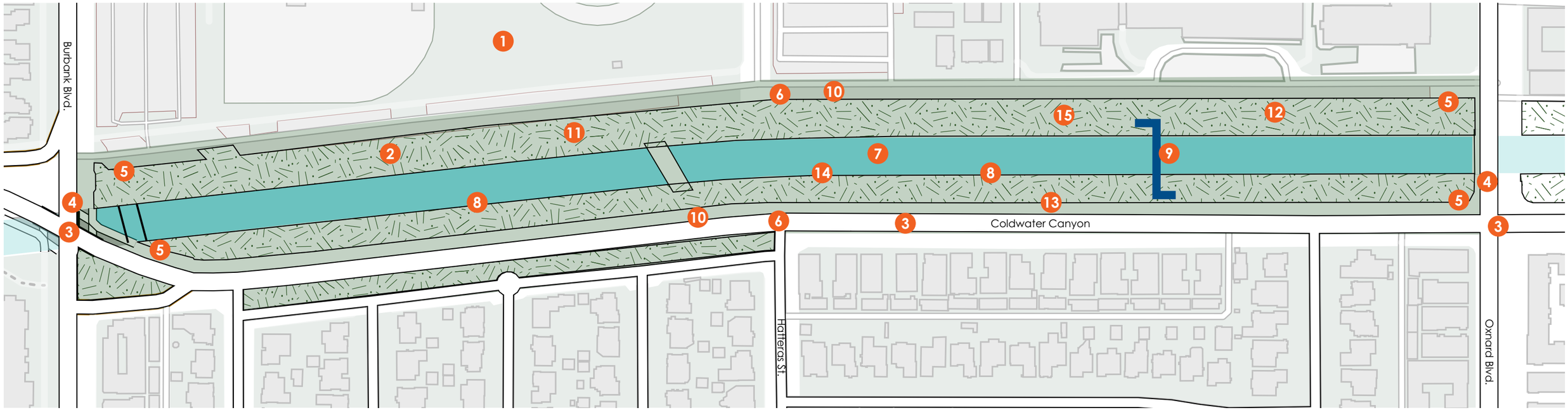
4 EXPOSED BUS STOPS
Benches lack shade covers & are mere steps away from speeding traffic

5 TRIVIAL PARK ENTRANCES
Unassuming signage and lack of dedicated entrances along park borders don't attract, invite, or educate potential visitors

6 UNCONTROLLED MID-PARK ACCESS
Lack of crosswalk and dedicated entrance at center of linear park at Hatteras St on east and west side, limiting visitor access points

7 FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL
Central Tujunga Wash flood control channel bisects park's entire length, severing cross-site connection & preventing infiltration. Flood capacity can not be reduced.

8 POOR MURAL VIEWING
Mural is set below ground level on flood channel walls, visible behind chain link fence. Lack of dedicated viewing points or consistent path close to mural



9 EXPOSED WATER UTILITY LINE
Large unmovable utility conveyance line crosses flood channel above finished grade, is eyesore, and blocks a view along channel

10 STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
Substantial runoff meets at west side of site, draining into Tujunga wash flood channel with minimal systems for collection, retention, filtration, contaminating & exacerbating drainage to ocean

11 MATURE TREE CANOPY
Significant mature tree canopy provides necessary shade & respite, however most are non native and volume limits open space for park development

12 MONOCULTURE GROUNDCOVER
Planted ground is exclusively monoculture Bermuda Grass turf, providing no habitat or wildlife benefits to local fauna

13 SLOPE FROM COLDWATER
Topography slopes down steeply and away from Coldwater Canyon pedestrian sidewalk toward channel

14 LACK OF SIGNAGE
Zero information is provided about the mural, park history, or flood channel, limiting visitor connection to the site and diminishing their experience

15 MINIMAL SEATING
Virtually non existent seating, with 2 picnic benches and 4 individual benches across entire 450,000 SF site. No seating place to gather large group

0 75' 150' 300'

SITE OPPORTUNITIES

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

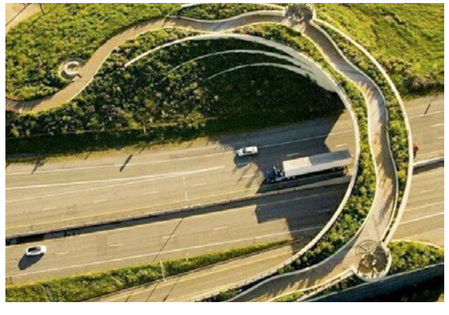
Create safer pedestrian and bike roadside experience by slowing traffic with speed humps, mid-street crosswalk, and planted buffers

STREET BUFFER

Prioritize pedestrian and bike safety with dedicated lanes, buffered from automotive traffic. Leverage topography & vegetation to reduce traffic noise

BUS TERMINALS

Build dedicated bus terminals at each end of park to accommodate volume of commuters, recessed from road, and shaded from the elements



CROSS-CHANNEL CONNECTIONS

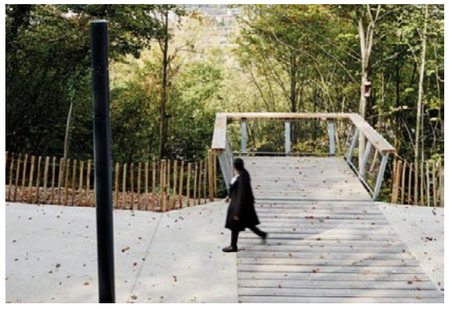
Centralize pedestrian bridge along Hatteras axis to better respond to site context & improve circulation. Incorporate green crossings to support wildlife

INCREASED PLANT BIODIVERSITY

Create habitat & improve environment with CA native plants, water collection zones, and replace turf with drought tolerant groundcover. Improved tree canopy for shade and respite

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Reduce runoff & pollution of Tujunga wash system by installing infiltration basins, green roofs, cisterns, permeable paving, and low flow channel or weirs to slow flood channel



MURAL OBSERVATION

Create dedicated mural viewing path loop, overlook decks along flood channel, and strategically lower eye-line through topography manipulation

INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE

Implement signage throughout park to explain site history, mural production, historical moments in artwork, planting, and community

VISITOR AMENITIES

Build dedicated amenities to attract and retain visitors and generate revenue, including a cafe, restrooms, and community needs e.g. dog park and bike shop

OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACES

Create gathering spaces for small and large groups, e.g. outdoor classrooms, pavilion, social steps, and hammock park

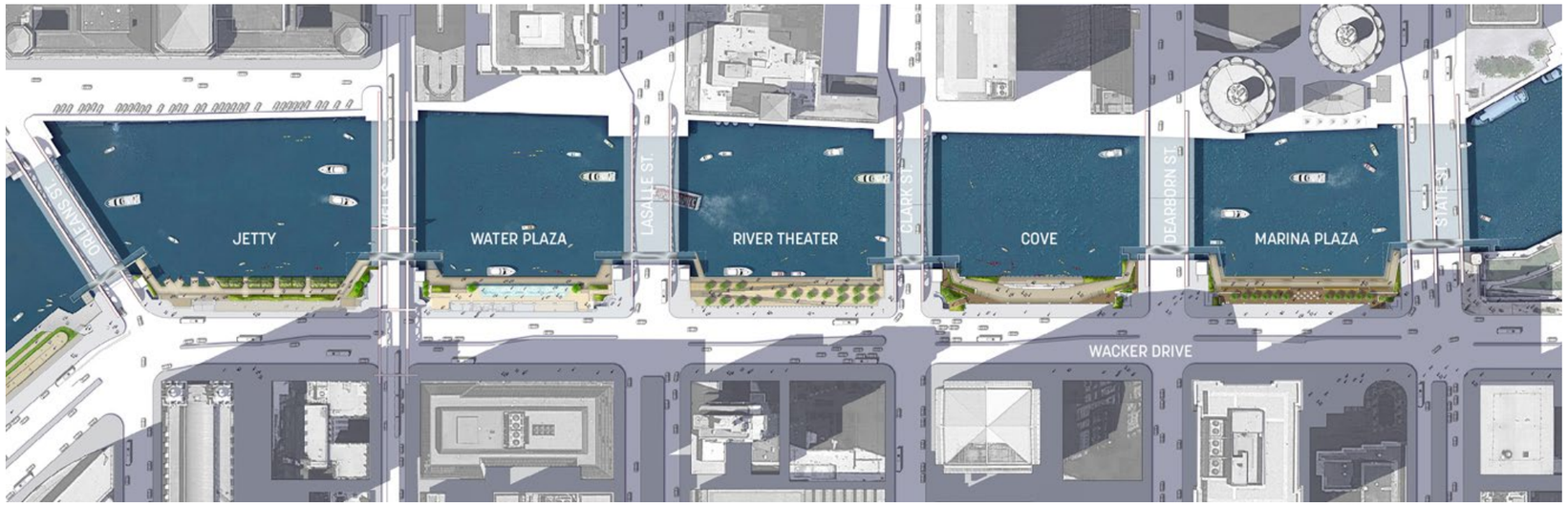
INTEGRATED SHADE & SEATING

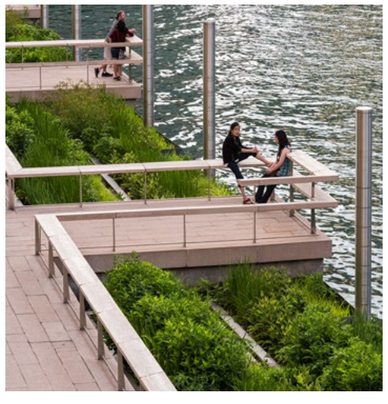
Increase visitor comfort, reduce heat island effect, and expand programming with structures, seat walls, picnic areas, more vegetation, trees, green roofs, kinetic sculptures, and social steps

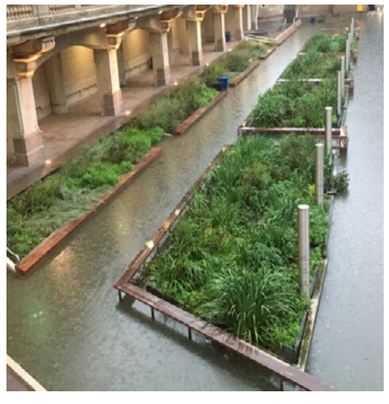
CULTURAL DESTINATION

Develop park's identity with community-oriented flex spaces for activities, e.g. art project space & edible garden plots. Feature local artists' artwork in park

PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 1: CHICAGO RIVERWALK







Chicago Riverwalk is a 5-block riverside improvement project connecting the nearby lake and river confluence to Chicago's downtown core, with ecological, recreational, and economic benefits. It's a car-free zone, built for diverse pedestrian experiences and flood resilience. Designed by Sasaki, it was completed in 2016.

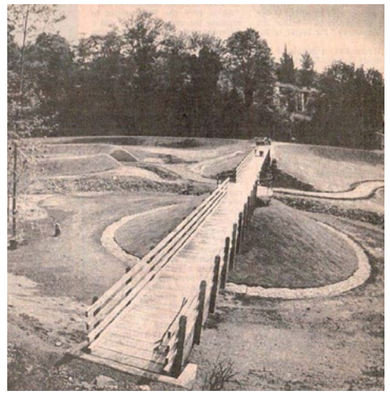
SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS

- Clever use of existing bridges to create 5 distinct rooms, fitting programming and circulation into 25' wide strip
- Transformed the public's impression of previously-industrial conduit river into a vibrant recreational riverfront
- Design can withstand the 7' vertical river change during seasonal flooding, with paving, planting, and lighting that can handle periodic inundation. Floating wetlands in the Jetty rise with flooding
- Dynamic edges connect land and water, including amphitheater steps, docks, sculptural staircases, and 'beach' access, for visitors to enter the water on kayaks or to let boats dock.
- Flexible spaces for active, passive, and seasonal programming, both small and large scale events, including floating museum.
- Captures reclaimed stormwater to irrigate trees
- Site is mostly ADA accessible & includes interpretive signage about river ecology in the Jetty.
- Good integration with amenities, bringing economic value to local businesses

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

- More vegetation and habitat - site is predominantly hardscape, with minimal vegetation. Surveys indicate visitors and citizens prefer the adjacent 'Confluence' property, a wide lawn with Adirondack chairs, indicating the community's desire for natural outdoor spaces to escape the urban environment. More vegetative areas would also reduce heat island effect and amplify cooling effects of the river.
- Stormwater capture - It's unclear how much stormwater is being captured for reuse, vs flowing directly to the river. Additional infrastructure could help with urban runoff & river pollution.

PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 2: MILL CREEK CANYON EARTHWORKS



Renown Bauhaus artist Herbert Bayer created Earthworks Park in 1982 to address flood concerns, blending art, ecology, and landscape architecture into a 2.5 acre public park, stormwater detention facility, and land art installation. It is one of the most well known and effective earthworks design, lauded as 'a masterpiece of environmental art.'

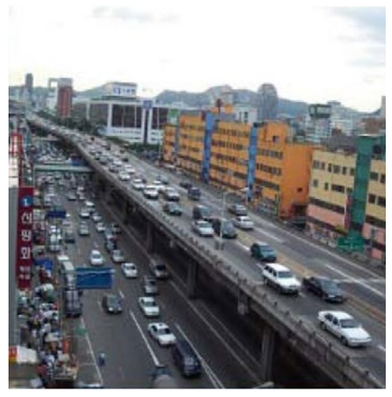
SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS

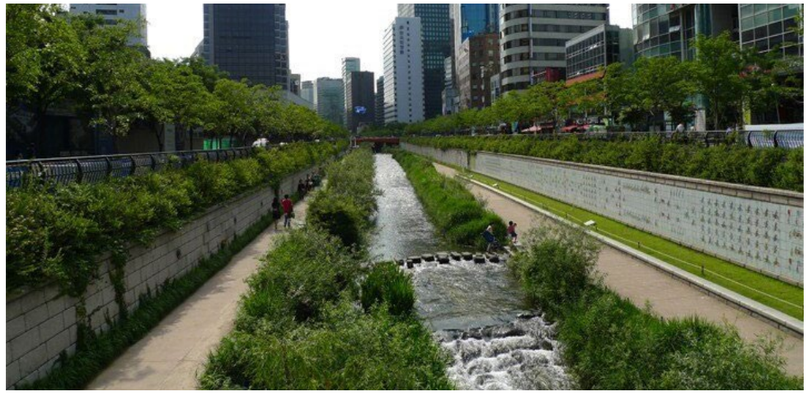
- Sculptural earthwork berms manage the flow and flooding patterns of Mill Creek, creating channels that retain excess water during floods, and prevent downstream inundation.
- Supports healthy creek ecosystem by retaining water.
- Meets 10,000 year storm event capacity through these artistic cut and fill landforms.
- Visually striking topography with simplistic shapes core to Bauhaus design create a fun place for visitors to explore the interplay of art and nature.
- Design functions as a dam without the concrete interference
- Used simple, natural materials like grass, concrete, and wood, which are low impact and cost.
- Creates a memorable experience that evolves depending on water depth with forms disappearing and reemerging.
- Powerful precedent to create more aesthetic public spaces. Shifting paradigm from placing art in landscape to creating artful places with land itself.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

- Does not provide flexible programming areas. Missing outdoor classroom or other gathering areas for diverse use. Currently it's mostly used for walking.
- Lacks connection to the surrounding neighborhoods and wider forests, without well-marked interpretative signage or wayfinding.
- Lack of native plantings - the park is almost entirely grass, which could be more biodiverse and improve stormwater reuptake by planting other native meadow groundcovers and shrubs
- More durable materials and infrastructure to improve longevity

PRECEDENT CASE STUDY 3: CHEONGGYECHEON STREAM RENOVATION





In 2005, Seoul transformed a heavily polluted stream under an elevated highway into a 3.6 mile long restored waterway park and green corridor with pedestrian and ecological features. The unearthed stream improved quality of life for the community, with functional ecosystems and improved north-south connections. Designed by SeoAhn Total Landscape.

SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS

- Restored original river habitat, increasing biodiversity by over 600%+ including countless native species
- Improved urban heat island effect by moving water cooling the air, creating a wind corridor, and vegetation for shade, creating an urban oasis for residents.
- Provides flood protection for up to 200+ year flood event
- Pedestrians get access directly to water, kept at 15" deep
- Overcame community dissent to ultimately create a catalytic project that inspired other stream restoration projects and increased economic activity of local businesses
- Created 22 bridges - 12 pedestrian, 10 automobiles & pedestrians - to improve connection between the north and south sides of the river, which was previously bisected by the freeway.
- Terraced vertical walls give access to river as water levels change, creating seasonal interest.
- Reused construction materials from the original concrete river covering and elevated freeway, reducing construction waste.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

- Due to ephemeral nature of original stream, water is only present during summer rainy season, making it difficult to maintain a consistent "river" amenity. Water is pumped in and filtered from the Han River and subway stations. The amenity could have been left naturalized and seasonally dry
- Diversify river bottom & shape, e.g. different depths and some offshoots, to create better wildlife habitat for long term sustainability
- Better filtration of motorway runoff entering the stream.
- ADA accessibility wasn't addressed until after public outcry.

DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 1: STRATA

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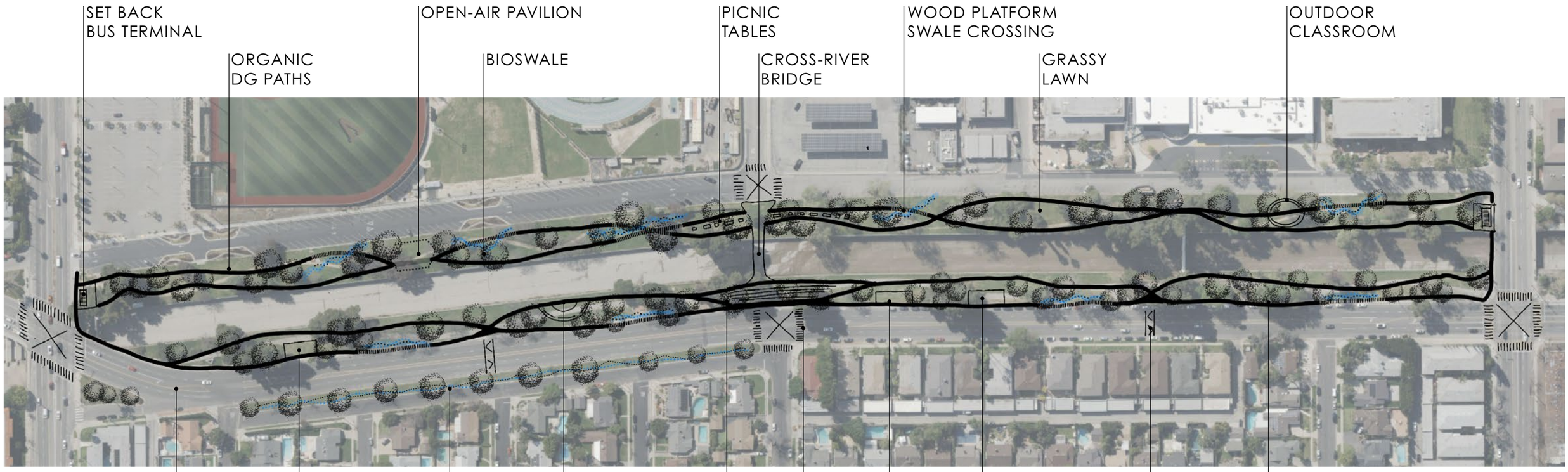

DESIGN STATEMENT

Inspired by the seasonal, changing profile of the ebbing and flowing Tujunga Wash, this concept builds on the park's existing design and uses economic, eco-friendly building materials.

The park primarily remains a place for meandering walks along the DG paths, which double as fitness loops for cyclists and dogwalkers alike. Pedestrians can view mural along entirety of channel, resting at new linear path benches. Urban runoff along adjacent streets is managed through additional bioswales.

NEW PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

- Traffic Calming Measures including Narrower Lanes, Speed Bumps, Pedestrian Crossing Light at Hatteras, Colorful Painted Crosswalks, and a Multi-Modal Protected Bike-Pedestrian Path
- Midway Pedestrian Bridge Crossing
- Dedicated Picnic Table Area
- Outdoor Classroom and Covered Pavilion Gathering Spaces
- Enlarged Offset Bus Terminals on either end
- Central Social Steps and Linear Bench Seating along Paths
- Building Structures for Cafe, Visitor Center, Restrooms
- Sculptural Art & Interpretive Signage dotted throughout

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

- Decomposed Granite multi-modal paths
- Reclaimed Wood Platform Paths from felled park trees
- Rocky Bioswales collect and filter runoff from adjacent streets before it enters the Tujunga Wash stormwater channel
- Urbanite Social Steps and Retaining Walls
- Cob Buildings set into Coldwater Canyon hillside for insulation, with Green Roofs
- CA Native Planting

DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 2: SKY VALLEY

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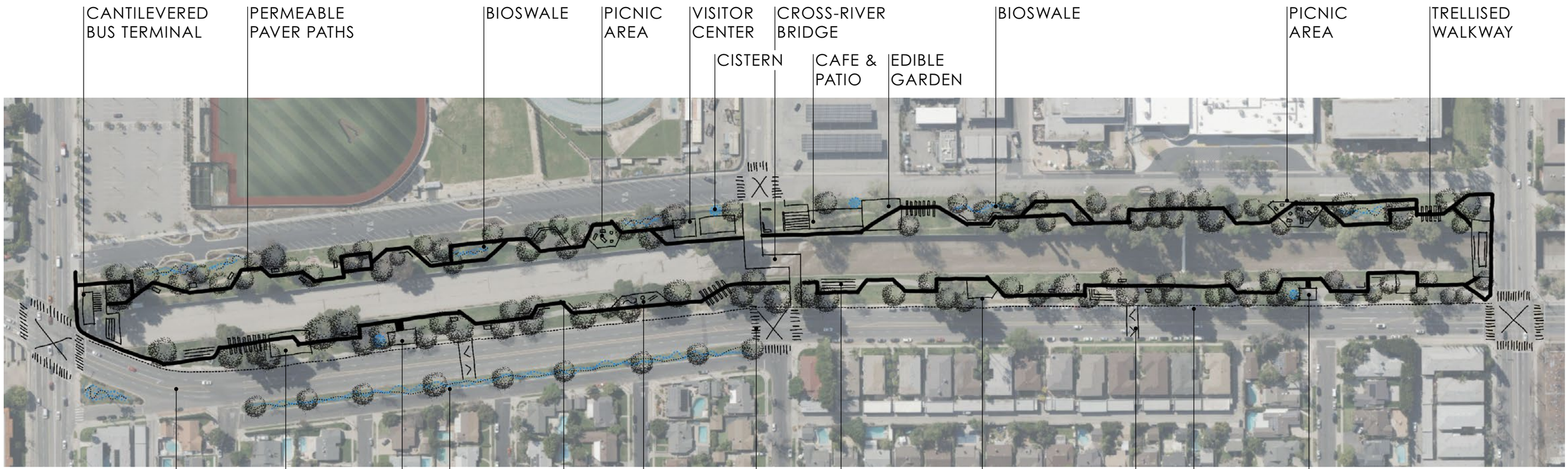


DESIGN STATEMENT

Contemporary design elements like geolinear circulation and shipping container buildings elevate the park to a top tier destination. A central bridge and cantilevered bus terminals give pedestrians a chance to look parallel to river and view the background mountains, expanding boundaries of park to embrace borrowed views without expanding limit of work.

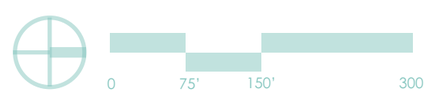
Navigating the permeable paving pathways creates a memorable and engaging experience for visitors while they view the Great Wall of Los Angeles mural and encounter sculptural art throughout the park.

NEW PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

- Traffic Calming Measures including Narrower Lanes, Speed Bumps, Pedestrian Crossing Light at Hatteras, Colorful Painted Crosswalks, and a Bollard-Protected Bike Path
- Angled Pedestrian Bridge Crossing for River Views
- Dedicated Picnic, Outdoor Classroom, Covered Pavilion, and Gathering Areas
- Enlarged Bus Terminals built over river
- Linear Bench Seating and Social Steps along Paths
- Building Structures for Cafe, Visitor Center, and Restrooms
- Sculptural Art & Interpretive Signage dotted throughout
- Edible Garden and Tot Lot

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

- Permeable Paver multi-modal paths
- Reclaimed Wood Walkway Trellises
- Rocky Bioswales filter runoff from adjacent streets before it enters the Tujunga Wash stormwater channel
- Cisterns collect & store on-site roof runoff for later use
- Urbanite Social Steps and Retaining Walls
- Converted Shipping Container Buildings
- Solar Panel Roofs Collect & Supply Electricity
- CA Native Planting



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 3: INNER BANKS

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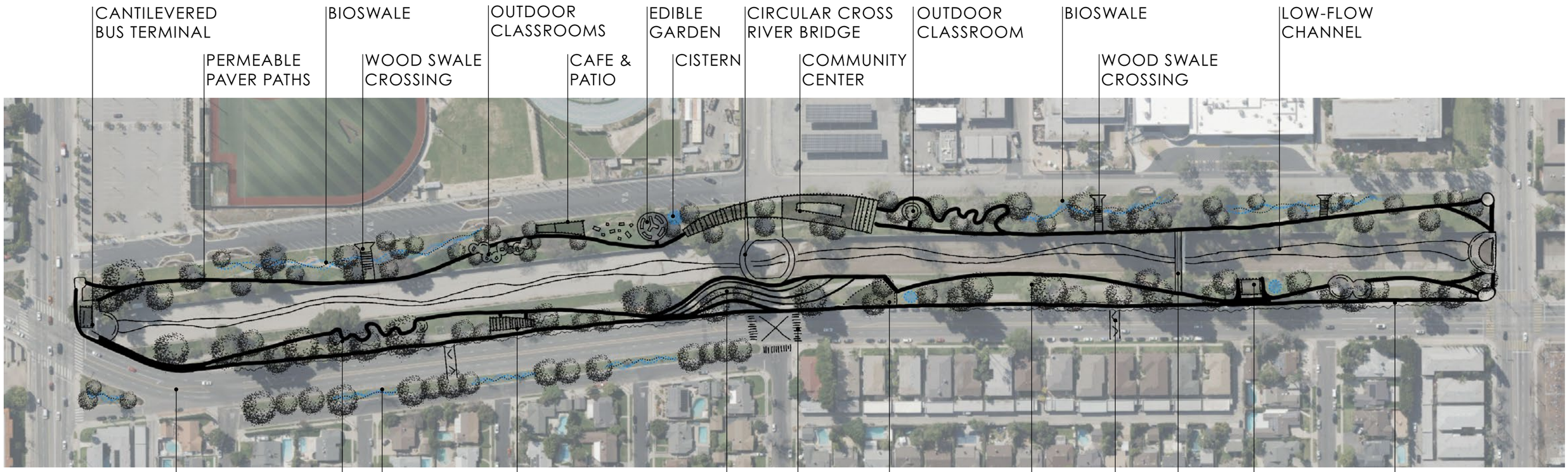


DESIGN STATEMENT

Flowing like water, this design emulates the fluid movement of our seasonal rivers, curving gracefully toward and from the banks of the flood channel. Custom curved architecture and infrastructure elevate the design as a one-of-a-kind destination art park.

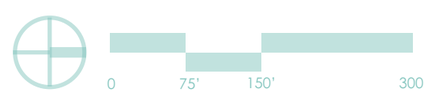
The focus of the park is at the midpoint where Hatteras would bisect the channel, highlighted with curved social steps for gathering, a circular bridge for an engaging pedestrian experience, and an arched community center for various activities and art shows.

NEW PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

- Traffic Calming Measures including Narrower Lanes, Speed Bumps, Pedestrian Crossing Light at Hatteras, Colorful Painted Crosswalks, and a Multi-Modal Protected Bike-Pedestrian Path
- Midway Dual Circular Pedestrian Bridge Crossing
- Dedicated Picnic, Outdoor Classroom, Covered Pavilion, and Gathering Areas
- Enlarged Bus Terminals built over river
- Central Social Steps & Linear Bench Seating along Paths
- Building Structures for Cafe, Visitor Center, Community Center, Restrooms, and Outdoor Pavilion
- Sculptural Art & Interpretive Signage dotted throughout
- Edible Garden, Tot Lot, & Stargazing Bridge

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

- Permeable Paver multi-modal paths
- Reclaimed Wood Platform Paths from felled park trees
- Rocky Bioswales collect and filter runoff from adjacent streets before it enters the Tujunga Wash stormwater channel
- Cisterns collect & store on-site roof runoff for later use
- Low-Flow Channel
- Urbanite Social Steps and Retaining Walls
- Straw Bale, Post & Beam Buildings
- Solar Panels Collect & Supply Electricity
- CA Native Planting



SKY VALLEY CONCEPT STATEMENT

There is something mesmerizing about a horizon line, as far across the Earth as the human eye can see, where sky and land meet. Despite being extremely far apart in elevation, this is the one place where sky and land kiss. The horizon embodies the concept of hope for the future, seeing the opportunities that are far enough away in the future, but close enough to feel possible.

Looking up and down the Tujunga Wash flood control channel one can see mountainous peaks rising from the horizon: the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, and the Santa Monica mountains to the south. The channel looks like an everlasting valley between the elevated parkland of the Tujunga Greenbelt. This man made valley hides the original valley basin, which had infinite views of the mountains around. Here you see the sky above the trees, creating a tunnel, focusing your eye on the origin and destination, embodying a journey toward the future.

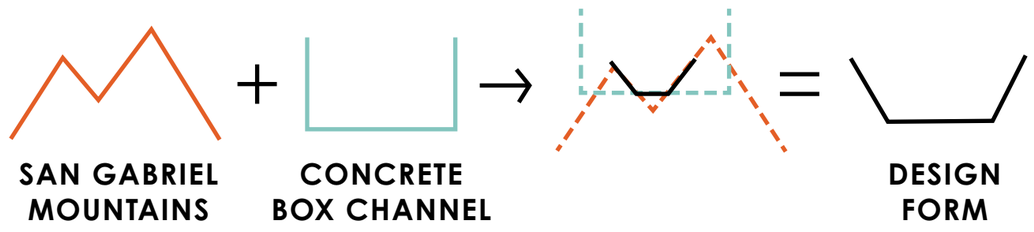
While on site, the only place where you can see the unobstructed sky is from the channel, yet it's inaccessible except for the ends of the park as you walk uncomfortably along bustling suburb streets. I wanted to create an experience for visitors that emphasizes this special moment, encouraging your eye to gaze upon what Judith Baca referred to as the 'Scar on the Land,' confronting our disappeared history and wounds, while reflecting on the hope, possibility, and learnings that come out of that history.

Multiple elements within this Sky Valley design emphasize the journey and reflection seen in the box channel, and are explored in more detail in the following slides.

The goal of this new park design is to create a more enjoyable park experience that highlights Los Angeles history through art installations and improved mural viewing, provide diverse programming to suit students and residents, and improve the ecological and environmental impact of the park and adjacent areas using low-impact design and sustainable methods.

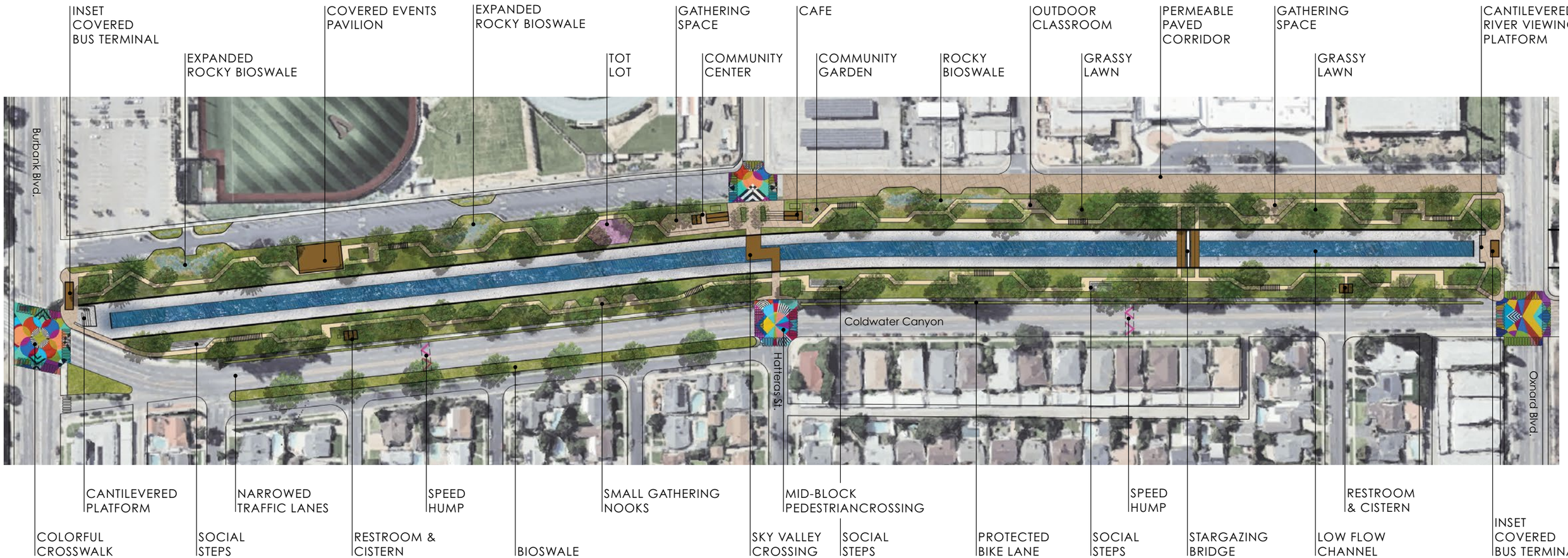
ON-SITE INSPIRATION

The view from Oxnard Blvd looking down the Tujunga Wash concrete flood control box channel was the inspiration for Sky Valley. Combining the graphical form of mountains with the concrete box channel created a design form that I repeated throughout various elements in the site, from pedestrian circulation and paths, to overlook platforms, to gathering areas.



EXCERPTS FROM JUDITH BACA'S GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES MURAL

SKY VALLEY MASTER SITE PLAN



NEW PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS

- Traffic Calming Measures including Narrower Lanes, Speed Bumps, Pedestrian Crossing Light at Hatteras, Colorful Painted Raised Crosswalks, and a Protected Bike-Pedestrian Path
- Midway Dual Circular Pedestrian Bridge Crossing
- Dedicated Picnic, Outdoor Classroom, Covered Pavilion, Lawn, and Gathering Areas
- Enlarged Covered Bus Terminals and Recessed Curb for Transit
- Social Steps & Linear Bench Seating along Paths
- Building Structures for Cafe, Visitor/Community Center, Gallery Space, Restrooms, and Outdoor Pavilion
- Sculptural Art & Interpretive Signage dotted throughout
- Edible Community Garden, Tot Lot, & Stargazing Bridge

SKY VALLEY ELEMENTS

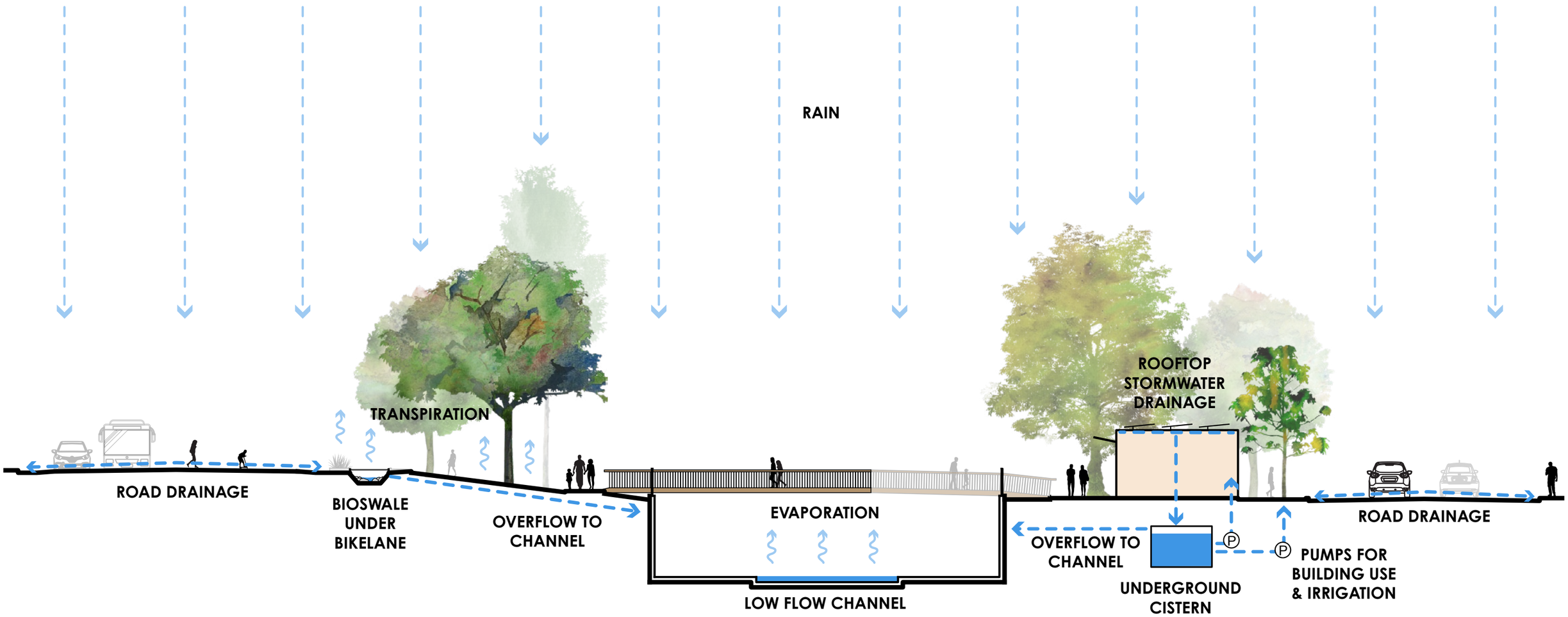
- Offset Central Bridge with views up and down flood channel sky valley
- Low Flow Channel reflects the sky at the basin of the flood channel, and reflects the mural walls from certain angles
- Stargazing Bridge offers a place to pause, take in sky valley, and reflect on the scar on the land while obscuring utility pipe
- Cantilevered Platforms at each end of the park take visitors closer to the channel and offer places to sit and enjoy the long views
- Vertical Elements such as overhead trellises on pathways provide respite from hot sun along with unique and engaging walking experience the encourages you to look up

SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENTS

- Permeable Paver & D.G. multi-modal paths
- Reclaimed Wood Walkway Trellises from trees felled on site
- Rocky Bioswales filter runoff
- Cisterns collect & store on-site roof runoff for later use
- Repurposed Urbanite Social Steps and Retaining Walls
- Converted Shipping Container Buildings
- Solar Panel Roofs Collect & Supply Electricity
- CA Native Planting to attract & retain native wildlife
- Low-Flow channel maintains water year round as wildlife resource and cooling effects
- New trees for improved carbon sequestration & habitat

SITE SECTION ELEVATION 1 - SKY VALLEY BRIDGE + WATER CYCLE

0 10' 20' 40'



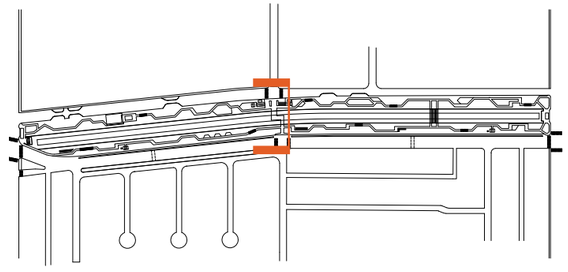
DESIGN ELEMENTS

Section elevation of cross-channel pedestrian bridge illustrates connection between east and west sides of the park and the narrow nature of the green space. Both sides maintain substantial tree canopy for respite and habitat. The east side is now defined by a protected bikelane over a bioswale, and maintains the existing sloped topography. The west side now features repurposed shipping container buildings to house a community center, cafe, art gallery and restrooms as amenities for the frequent student and resident visitors. Solar panels atop the roofs provide electrical energy to power the amenities. A low flow channel maintains water for wildlife and as a reflection of the sky above and murals on the sides.

ON-SITE WATER CYCLE

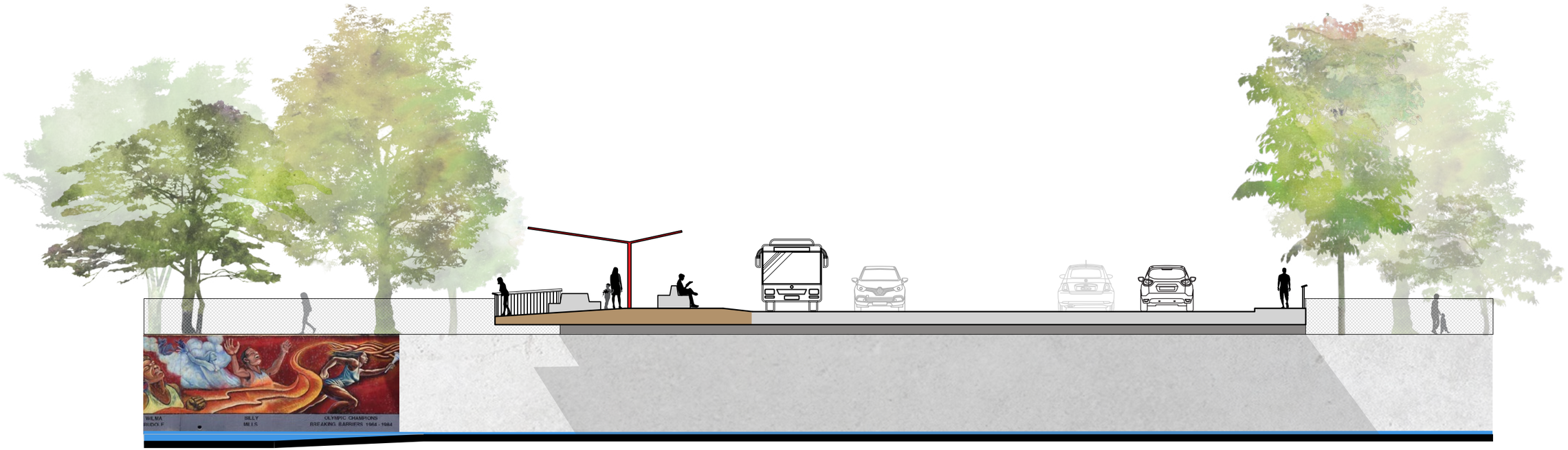
Stormwater from the bordering roads drains into bioswales on both the east and west sides of the park, slowing, cleaning, and infiltrating the water before it overflows into the stormwater channel. Stormwater is collected from all impervious surfaces including building roofs, and funneled into an underground cistern for filtration and storage. This water is pumped back up for use in irrigating the landscape and inside the building like toilets. Overflow from the cistern is directed into the channel, which also has a low-flow channel to maintain water year round.

KEY MAP 1"=600' N



SITE SECTION ELEVATION 2 - BUS TERMINAL + OVERLOOK

0 7.5' 15' 30'



GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES ART PARK STORMDRAIN & MURAL

PEDESTRIAN BUS TERMINAL & RIVER OVERLOOK

OXNARD ST. PUBLIC TRANSIT BRIDGE

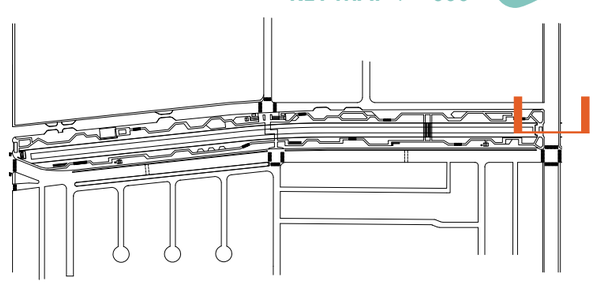
PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK

TUJUNGA STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT STORMDRAIN

DESIGN ELEMENTS

The bridge overpass on Oxnard Blvd and Burbank Blvd have been extended into the Great Wall of Los Angeles Art Park as cantilevered overlooks facing the channel with views of the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains in the background respectively. The extension of elevated surface over the Tujunga Wash stormdrain leverages existing infrastructure to minimize additional construction impact on the land, while substantially increasing the space for pedestrians crossing to either side of the park or waiting for the bus. The sidewalk has been brought in to allow for public transit to pull off the busy road, creating a safer pedestrian experience. A shaded canopy angled up on the ends provides respite for pedestrians while giving views of the surrounding mountains. New stepped seating allows visitors an elevated view of the long channel and linear park, and encourages people to pause and take in the mural and drain. These park nodes become safe gathering areas for people instead of narrow, unsafe walkways pedestrians are forced to use for circulation.

KEY MAP 1"=600' N



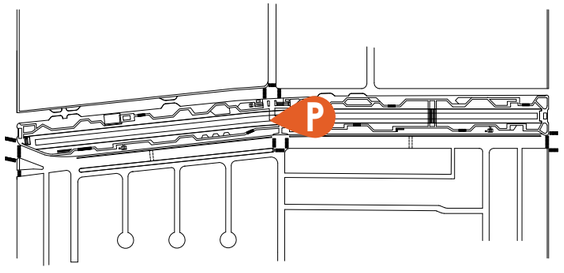
PERSPECTIVE RENDERING 1 - VIEW FROM BRIDGE

DESIGN ELEMENTS

View from the cross-channel pedestrian bridge, looking south toward Burbank Blvd. The noncontinuous shaped bridge forces pedestrians to turn up and down while crossing between east to west sides of the park, parallel to the Tujunga Wash channel, encouraging them to view the mural and reflect on the long expanse of the concrete stormwater channel. This experience also provides pedestrians with a dramatic view of the sky above them, being held on either side by the canopies of the park trees, funneling the eye toward the Santa Monica or San Gabriel mountains, providing a moment of reflection and connection to their surroundings.

The bridge has a metal railing with an angled top rail to invite visitors to pause and lean against the railing to enjoy the view and moment. Interpretive signage about Judy Baca's Great Wall of Los Angeles mural, the history it tells, and the history of channelizing the Tujunga Wash and it's original riparian ecosystem can be integrated into the railing for easy viewing and learning.

KEY MAP 1"=600' N



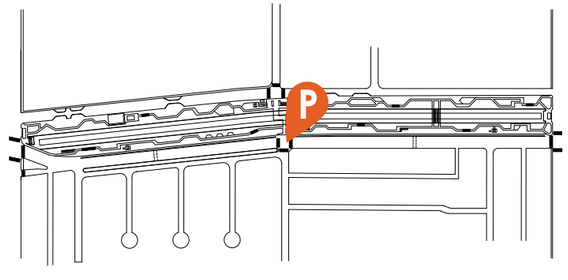
PERSPECTIVE RENDERING 2 - BIKE LANE SWALE

DESIGN ELEMENTS

View at the new pedestrian intersection at Hatteras on Coldwater Canyon Blvd, looking south down the protected bike lane. This new crossing features raised crosswalks, a colorful street mural, and a pedestrian traffic light. The street has been narrowed by 10' to add a vegetative buffer and bike lane without sacrificing parallel street parking. Narrower lanes with two additional speed humps slow vehicular traffic to make the park safer and give passerbys a chance to view the mural from Coldwater. The parkway on the opposite side has been transformed into a vegetative swale e as well, with curb cuts to draw in water from the other side of Coldwater. The new riparian trees add a noise buffer for the residences, while also sequestering carbon and filtering pollution from the air.

The bike lane buffer is a planted area with curb cuts to allow stormwater from Coldwater to enter, slow and filter in the vegetative swale, before emptying into a deeper rocky swale under the bike lane, which is grated for water access and ventilation. The swale under the bike lane retains water for slow percolation into the soil, and has overflow pipes to drain excess into the Tujunga stormwater channel.

KEY MAP 1"=600' N



SKY VALLEY OVERLOOKS

1 Mid-park pedestrian crossing bridge

2 Stargazing benches along municipal water pipe

3 Oxnard Blvd. shaded bus terminal with river overlook

4 Burbank Blvd. terraced river overlook

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Overlooks play a key role in this plan to bring the Sky Valley concept to life, providing expansive views up and down the channel, encouraging visitors to engage with the mural and rich history of the land and wash.

- The new mid-park bridge crossing zig zags over the river so pedestrians must orient themselves up and down the river, capturing views of the channel, mural, and hopeful future expanse.
- Stargazing bridges flank the municipal water line to hide it from overt view while giving a unique pedestrian experience during cool weather and nighttimes.
- Park terminals at Oxnard Blvd and Burbank Blvd have been transformed into cantilevered plazas using existing bridge infrastructure, widening the space for safer pedestrian circulation.
- New bus terminals with expansive seating and curb bump ins prevent buses from blocking vehicular traffic, and give bus goers a shaded place to take in the views.
- Burbank Blvd features decorative, repurposed municipal water pipes as colorful installations to demarcate the start of the park.

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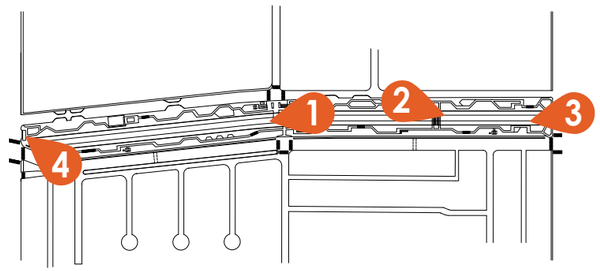


AMENITIES

1 Cafe at central park plaza, made of reclaimed shipping containers and rooftop solar panels

2 Shaded pavilions for gathering

3 Tot lot with play structures and interactive seating

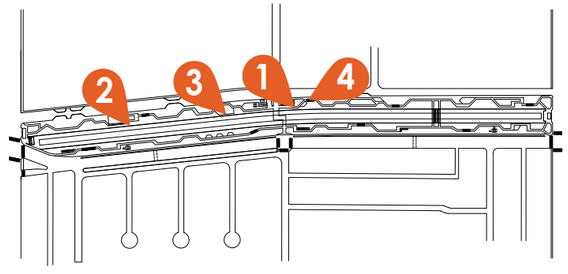
4 Community garden managed by students and residents to produce edible food

DESIGN ELEMENTS

In order to attract and retain park users, various amenities dot the park.

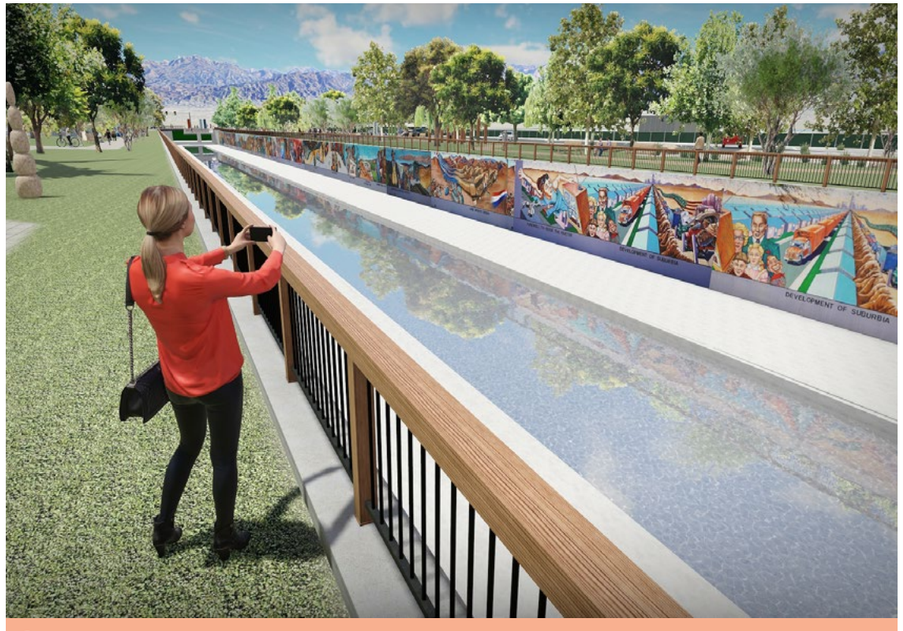
- A central plaza at Hatteras along Coldwater Canyon Extension features repurposed shipping container buildings with solar panels mounted on top to power interior electronics.
- A cafe with outdoor flexible seating operates year round, and an attached community garden managed by students supports learning and provides food for the cafe and locals.
- The plaza becomes a vibrant community hub with a new community center with multi-purpose rooms for art shows, classes, and events.
- Shaded pavilions, outdoor picnic areas, and social steps are throughout the park as places to gather large and small.
- A children's play area with integrated seat walls resides near the central plaza.
- New standalone restrooms along the east side of the park provide respite for visitors.
- Art installations by local artists are along walkways and at circulation foci.
- Interpretive signage is posted throughout the park to provide information about the mural, art, ecology, and history of the area.

KEY MAP 1"=600'



LOW IMPACT DESIGN & SAFETY

1 Permeable paving on Lancer Ave with bioswales for slowing, cleaning, and absorbing stormwater



2 Low flow channel for evaporative cooling, supporting wildlife, and reflecting the mural and sky

3 Vegetative swale buffer with protected bike lane grate over additional stormwater swale

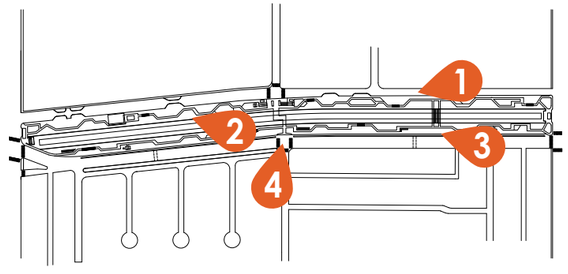
4 Controlled intersection at Hatteras Ave midway on Coldwater canyon with mural crosswalk

DESIGN ELEMENTS

New stormwater management methods have been employed to slow, filter, process, and absorb more urban runoff, resulting in additional benefits like lower municipal water needs and cooling the surrounding air.

- Rooftop runoff is collected and cleaned in underground cisterns at each building, for pumping back to irrigation and non potable building use.
- Seasonal swales have been added along Coldwater Extension and Lancer Lane
- The entire length of the new protected bike lane on Coldwater is a grate over a bioswale.
- Lancer Lane has been retrofitted with permeable paving and bollards for controlled traffic & events (farmers market, food trucks, art shows)
- A new controlled cross walk with traffic light is implemented at Hatteras on Coldwater.
- All crosswalks now have murals on the floor to indicate art park and improve awareness of pedestrians
- Removed sidewalk on Coldwater.
- Expanded pedestrian space on Oxnard & Burbank Blvds' channel bridge crossings .

KEY MAP 1"=600'



VIRTUAL SITE TOUR

THANK YOU!

ZOË MARANS
TUJUNGA GREAT WALL ART PARK
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