

# METRO PARK

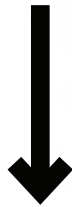
Strengthening Communities through Accessible Open Space

## Project Statement

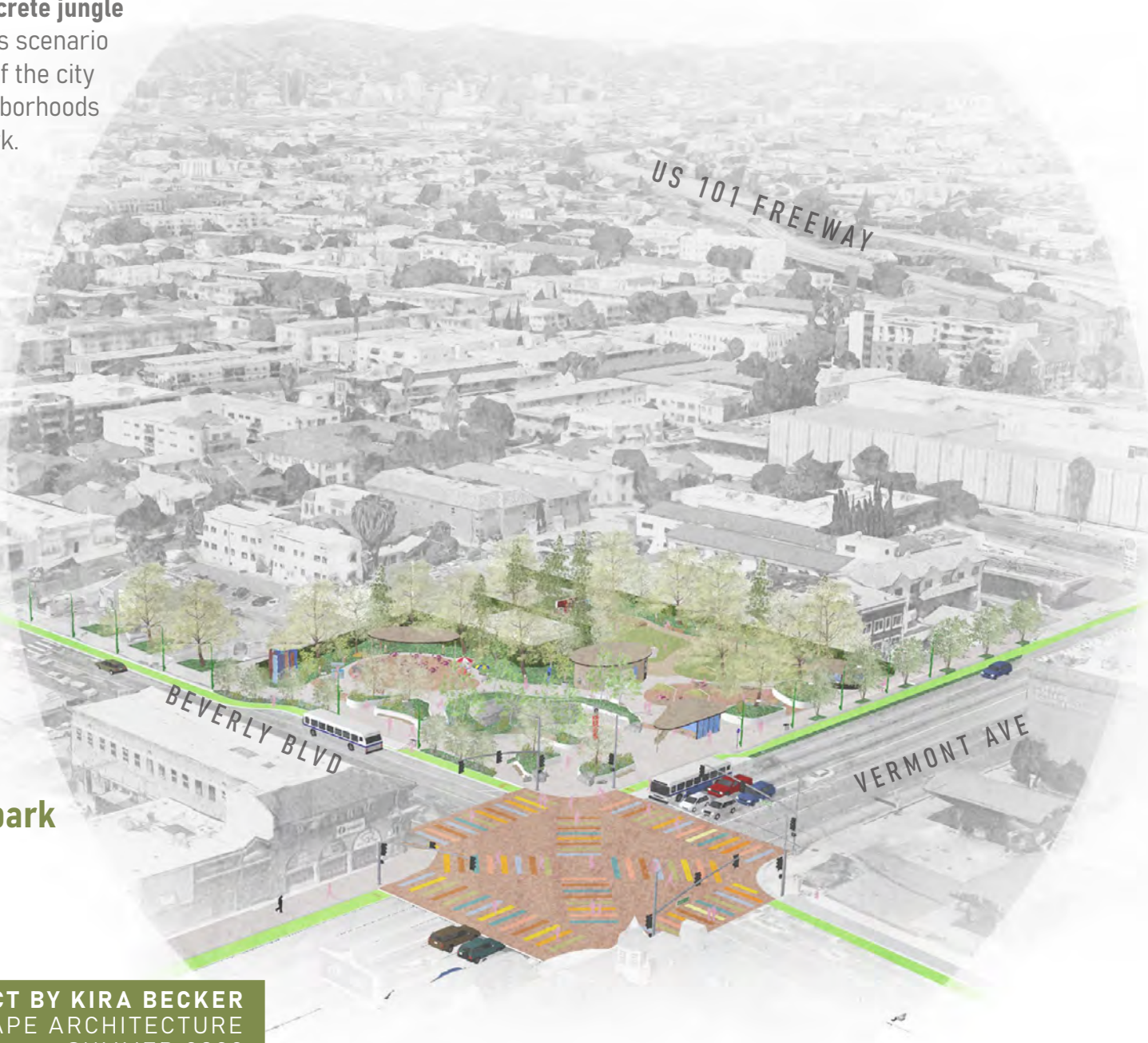
The Los Angeles Beverly/Vermont metro station lies in the midst of a concrete jungle with **no green space in sight**. This scenario is common for LA, as over 50% of the city residents live in park poor neighborhoods beyond a half-mile walk of a park.

Metro Park uses the **powerful pairing of green space and public transit** to sustainably transform the Beverly/Vermont metro station into a **vibrant transit-oriented community park**.

neglected urban space



connected community park

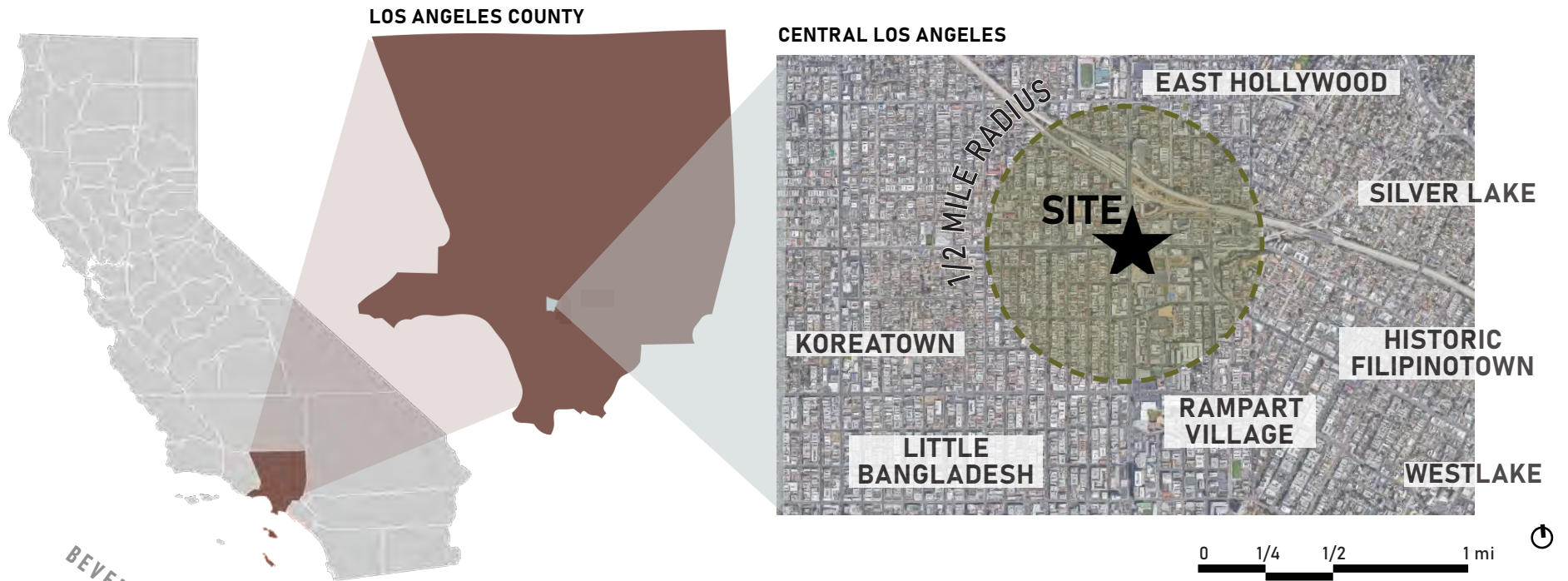


CAPSTONE PROJECT BY KIRA BECKER  
UCLA EXTENSION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
SUMMER 2022

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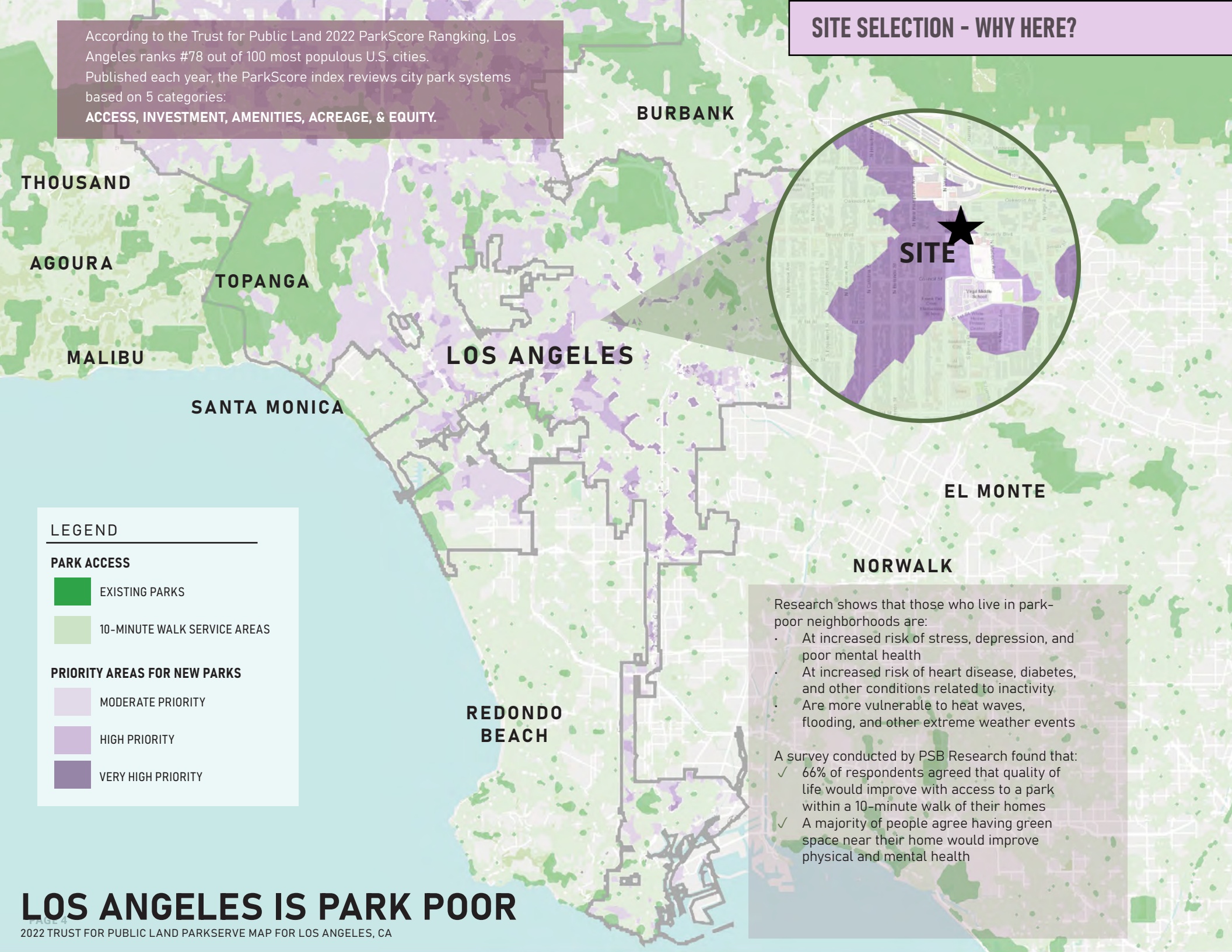
# THE SITE



SITE SIZE: 1.34 ACRES

According to the Trust for Public Land 2022 ParkScore Ranking, Los Angeles ranks #78 out of 100 most populous U.S. cities. Published each year, the ParkScore index reviews city park systems based on 5 categories: **ACCESS, INVESTMENT, AMENITIES, ACREAGE, & EQUITY.**

## SITE SELECTION - WHY HERE?



Research shows that those who live in park-poor neighborhoods are:

- At increased risk of stress, depression, and poor mental health
- At increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other conditions related to inactivity
- Are more vulnerable to heat waves, flooding, and other extreme weather events

A survey conducted by PSB Research found that:

- ✓ 66% of respondents agreed that quality of life would improve with access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their homes
- ✓ A majority of people agree having green space near their home would improve physical and mental health

# LOS ANGELES IS PARK POOR

2022 TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND PARKSERVE MAP FOR LOS ANGELES, CA

# HEAT + POLLUTION EFFECTS



TREE CANOPY IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING SITE

LA County's Department of Public Health states that **"The urban heat island effect causes people in cities to suffer from higher temperatures simply because of where they live. Low-income communities and many communities of color across Los Angeles County are most impacted by the urban heat island effect."** Temperatures can range 5-10 degrees in adjacent neighborhoods depending on tree canopy coverage and groundcover materials. "Los Angeles has the greatest temperature disparities between poor and wealthy neighborhoods that any other state in southwestern US."<sup>1</sup>

**The area of East Los Angeles surrounding the project site has sparse tree coverage, and the effects of heat are more extreme due to asphalt and concrete being the primary paving in the area.** Providing a shaded, cool area is essential for the health of local residents who have few places to escape to when the temperatures rise.

According to a new report by IQAir, **Los Angeles has the most polluted air out of over 2,400 cities analyzed.** TPL's ParkServe tool shows the surrounding area as being heavily polluted. **The addition of trees and vegetation would help to reduce pollution, sequester CO<sup>2</sup> and release oxygen back into the air.**

## URBAN HEAT ISLANDS

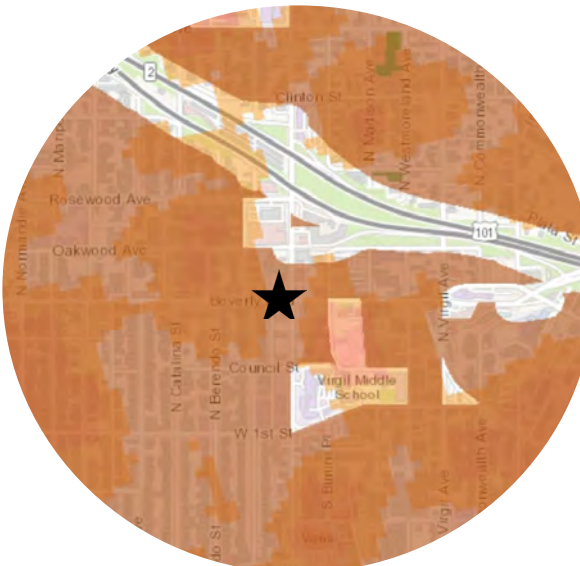


LESS SEVERE

MORE SEVERE



## POLLUTION



LOW

HIGH

MEDIUM

VERY HIGH

## HEAT RISK



HEAT RISK  
PRIORITY ZONES

These are areas where heat islands occur with high density of people outside a 10-minute walk of a park.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-28/extreme-heat-built-environment-equity>

<sup>2</sup>Map data from 2022 Trust for Public Land ParkServe tool <https://parkserve.tpl.org/mapping/index.html?CityID=0644000>

# VERMONT TRANSIT CORRIDOR

## SITE SELECTION - WHY HERE?

### Study Area



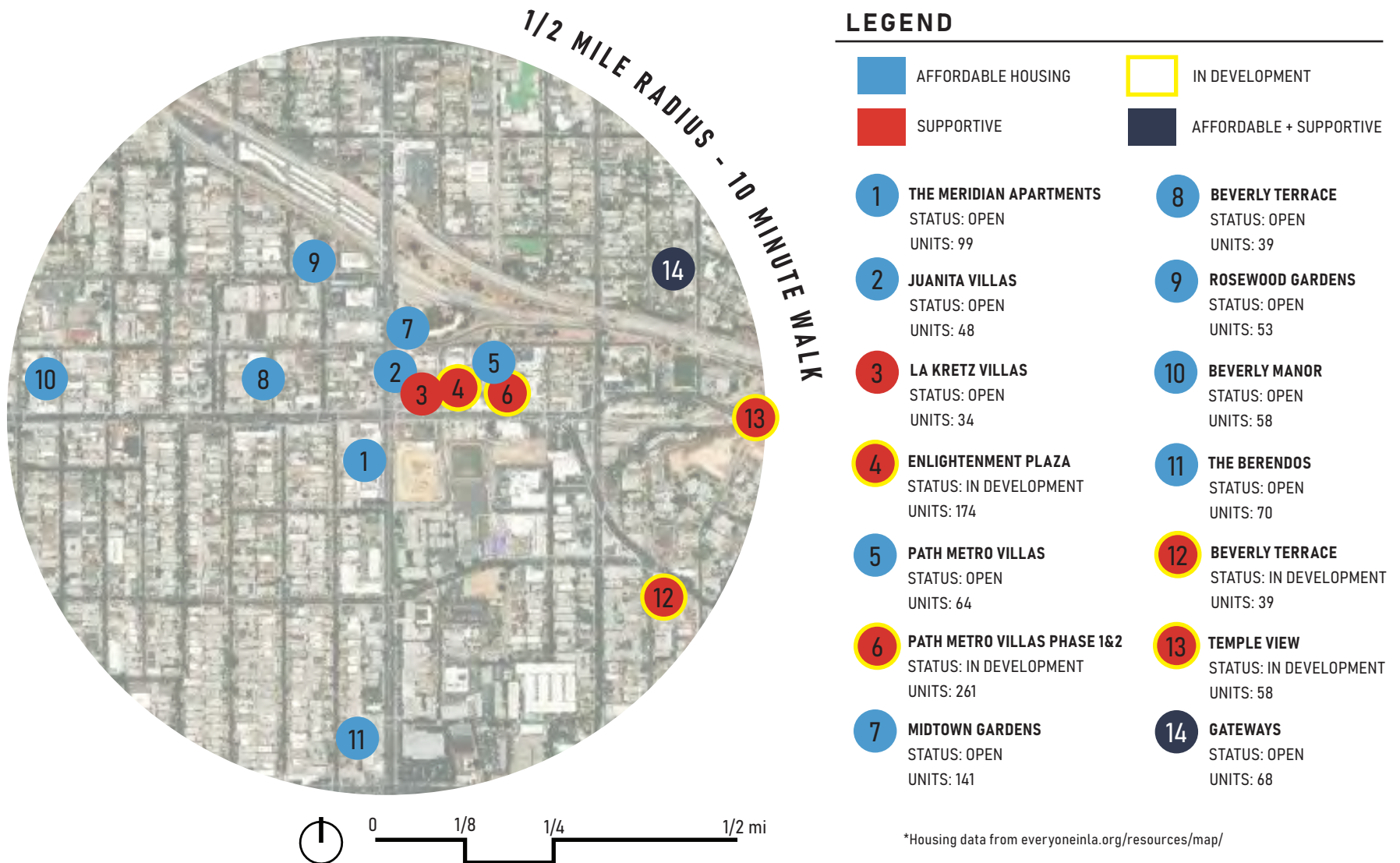
Metro is planning a new transit route that stretches for 12.5 miles from Hollywood Blvd to 120th Street through Measure M, scheduled to open in 2030.

Due to the central nature of Vermont Avenue, the corridor has been identified as a **top prospect for connecting dozens of neighborhoods via an enhanced transit line.**

The project site lies at the north end of the planned transit corridor, and has **the potential to inspire future transit-oriented community parks.**

# POPULATION DENSITY

With the vast majority of Rampart Village and additional adjacent neighborhoods being residential, the population density in the area is already fairly high. The map below shows both existing and future developments for affordable & supportive housing in the area. With a total of 674 existing units, and 532 new units in development will bring a **total of 1206 affordable + supportive housing units to the area in the next several years. Given the increasing density of the area, it is critical that a green space + community resource is made available to these residents.**



# THE 10 MINUTE WALK MOVEMENT

## ZONING LEGEND

- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- SCHOOLS
- LIGHT INDUSTRIAL / MANUFACTURING
- ★ SITE

ZONING FROM ZIMAS.COM

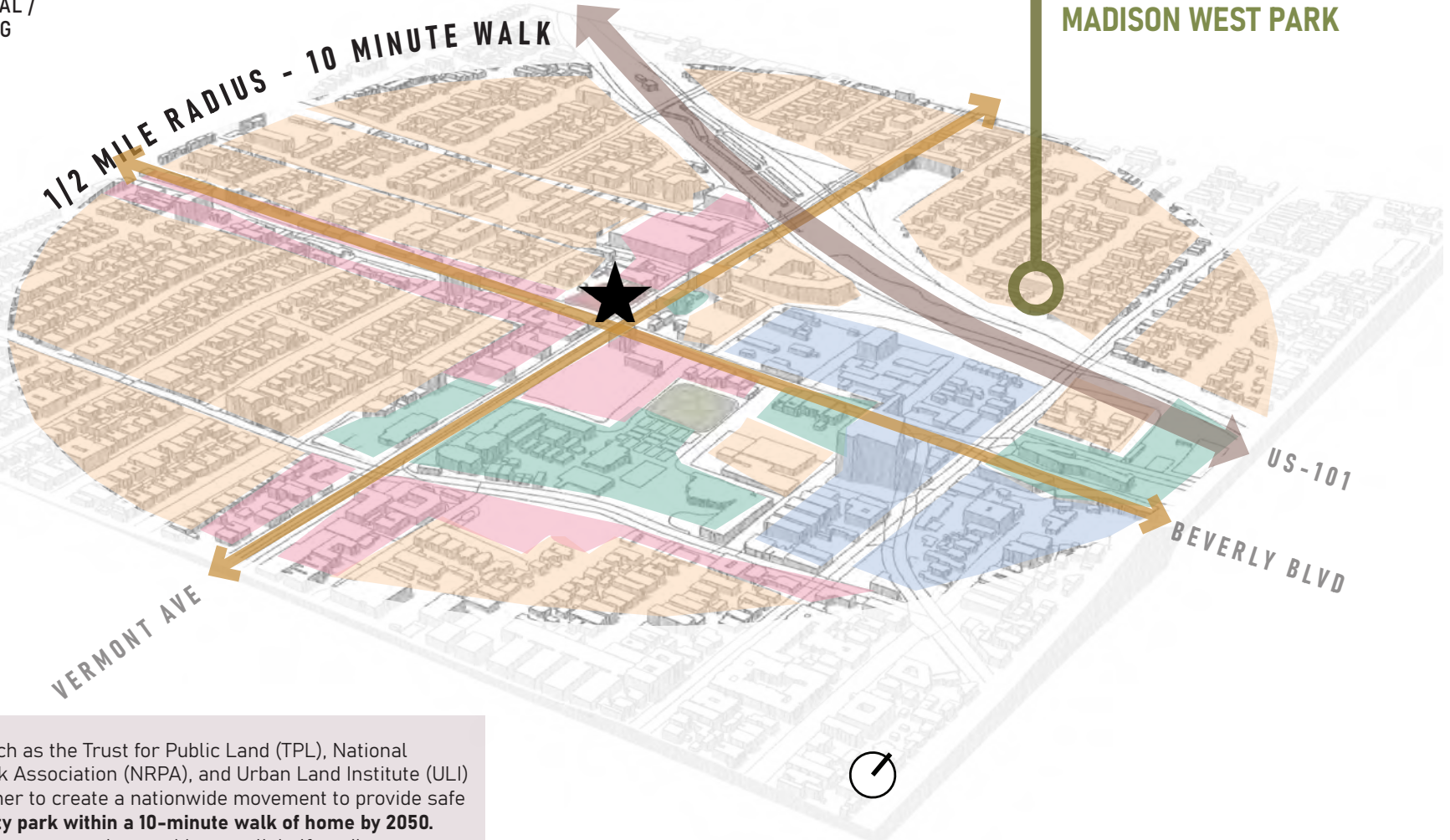
The only park within a half mile.....

"The park is in **very bad shape**... I have hardly seen any families with children playing at the park."

-Maggie, community member

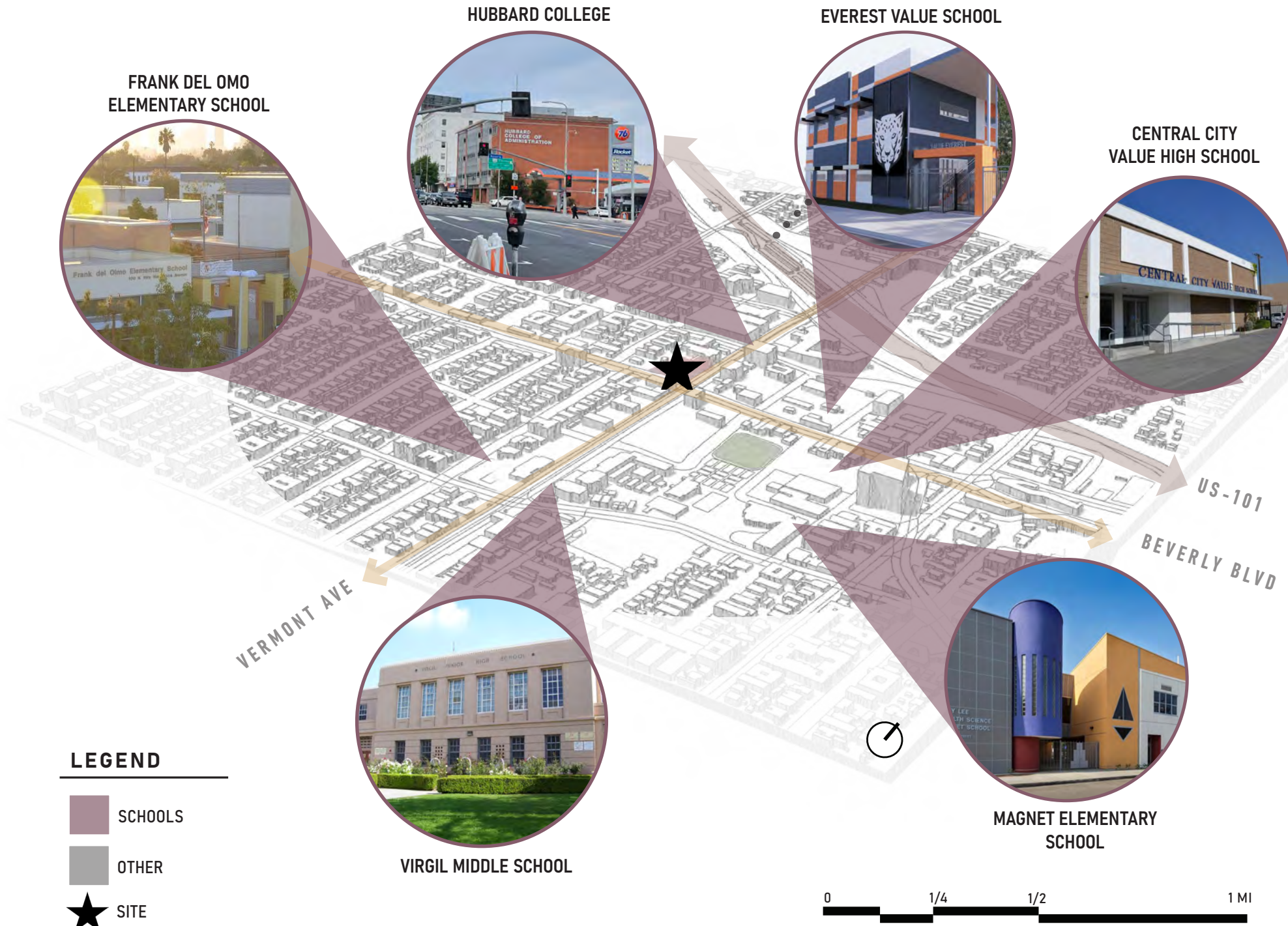


MADISON WEST PARK



Organizations such as the Trust for Public Land (TPL), National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), and Urban Land Institute (ULI) have come together to create a nationwide movement to provide safe access to a **quality park within a 10-minute walk of home by 2050**. Within 10 minutes, most people are able to walk half a mile.

# SURROUNDING CONTEXT



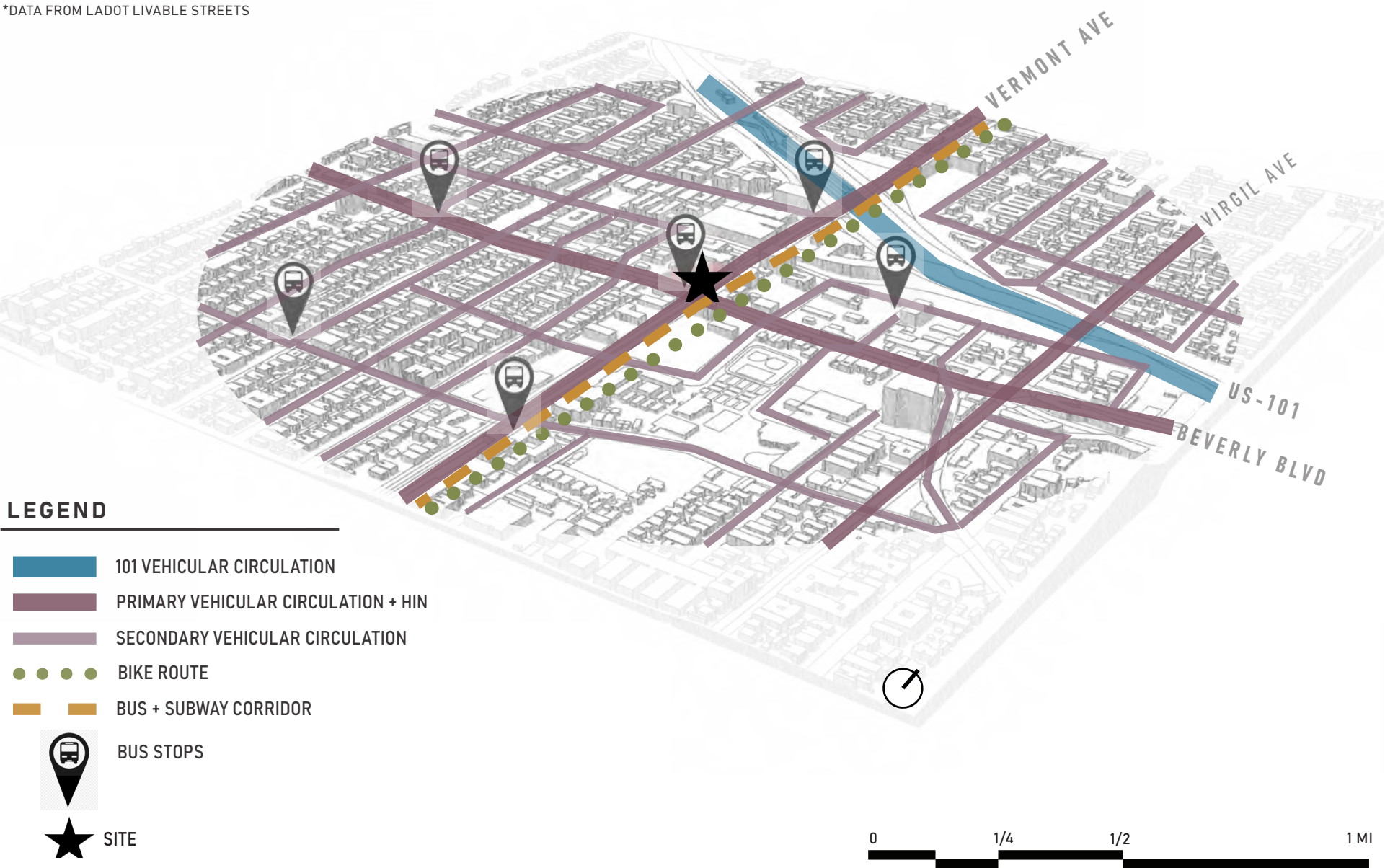
# VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

## The High-Injury Network (HIN)

runs along both Vermont Ave and Beverly Blvd, crossing in front of our site at the intersection that connects many residential areas to the site.

Over the past 12 years, there have been **37 pedestrian deaths**, **4 cyclists deaths**, and **17 traffic deaths** within a 1/2 mile radius of the site.

\*DATA FROM LADOT LIVABLE STREETS



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## MOST COMMON...

### ETHNICITY:

Latino & Asian

### AGE GROUP:

19-34 years old.

### INCOME GROUP:

\$20,000/year or less

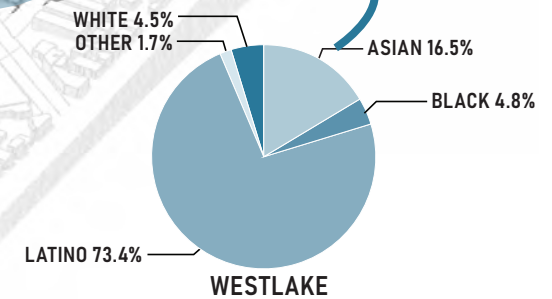
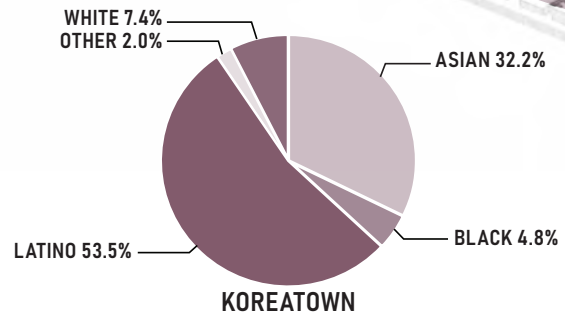
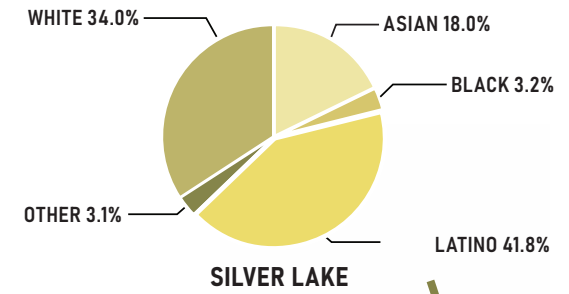
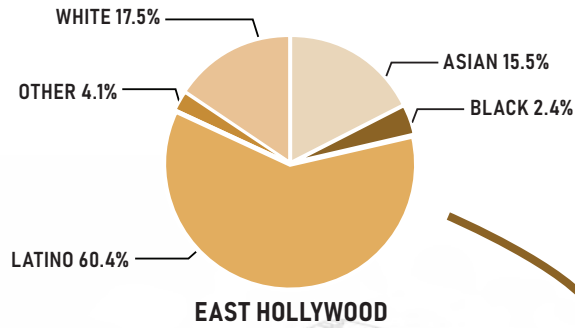
### EDUCATION LEVEL:

less than highschool.

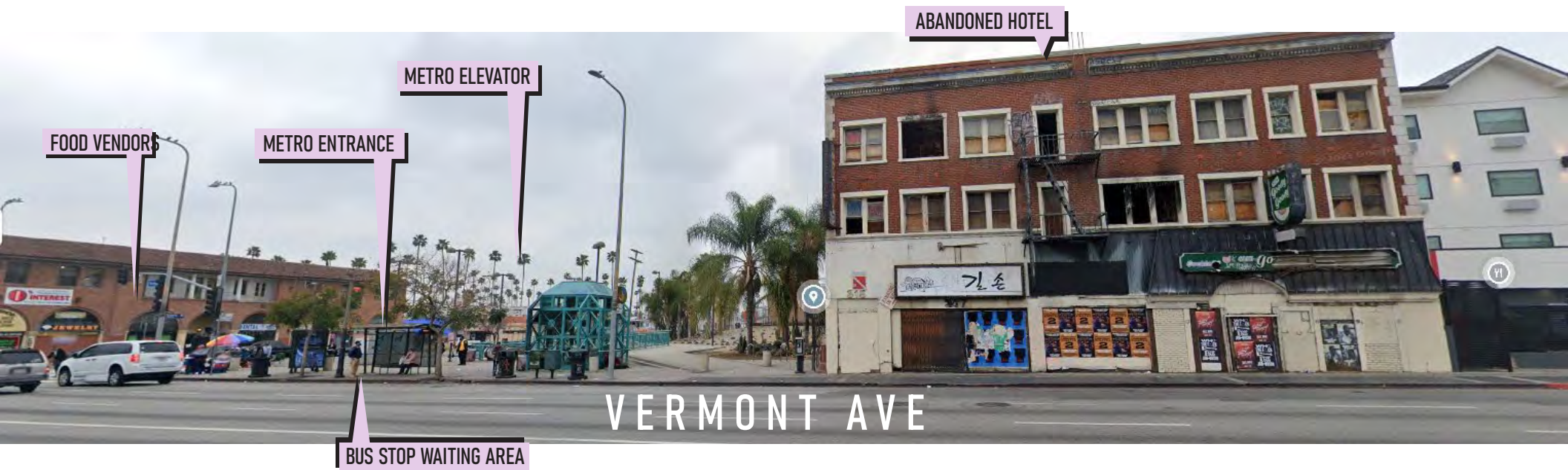
DATA FROM LA TIMES MAPPING LA TOOL



SITE

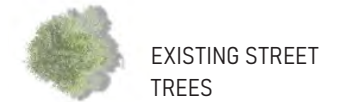
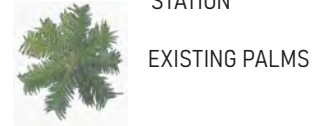
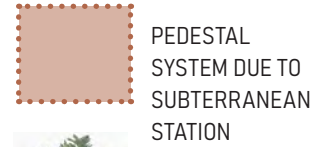


# EXISTING CONDITIONS: OBSERVING THE SITE FROM ACROSS THE STREET



# EXISTING CONDITIONS: SITE INVENTORY

## LEGEND



VACANT LOT

SCOPE OF WORK

ABANDONED HOTEL

METRO  
UTILITY  
BUILDING

VERMONT AVE

BUS STOP +  
ELEVATOR

SIGNAGE

INTERSECTION

DESERT  
PLANTING

BEVERLY BLVD

METRO ENTRANCE + BOULDER  
ART INSTALLATION

0 10 30 60 100'



# EXISTING CONDITIONS: COMMUNITY FOOD TENTS



“The local **food vendors** that set up at the metro station corner are **loved by our community**. Every morning, a line forms on the sidewalk for delicious breakfast foods made by these community vendors.”

-Jess, local resident



KEY MAP

# PROJECTED USERS + STAKEHOLDERS

RESIDENTS



SHOP OWNERS  
+ WORKERS



METRO RIDERS



UNHOUSED  
PEOPLE



STUDENTS  
+ FAMILIES



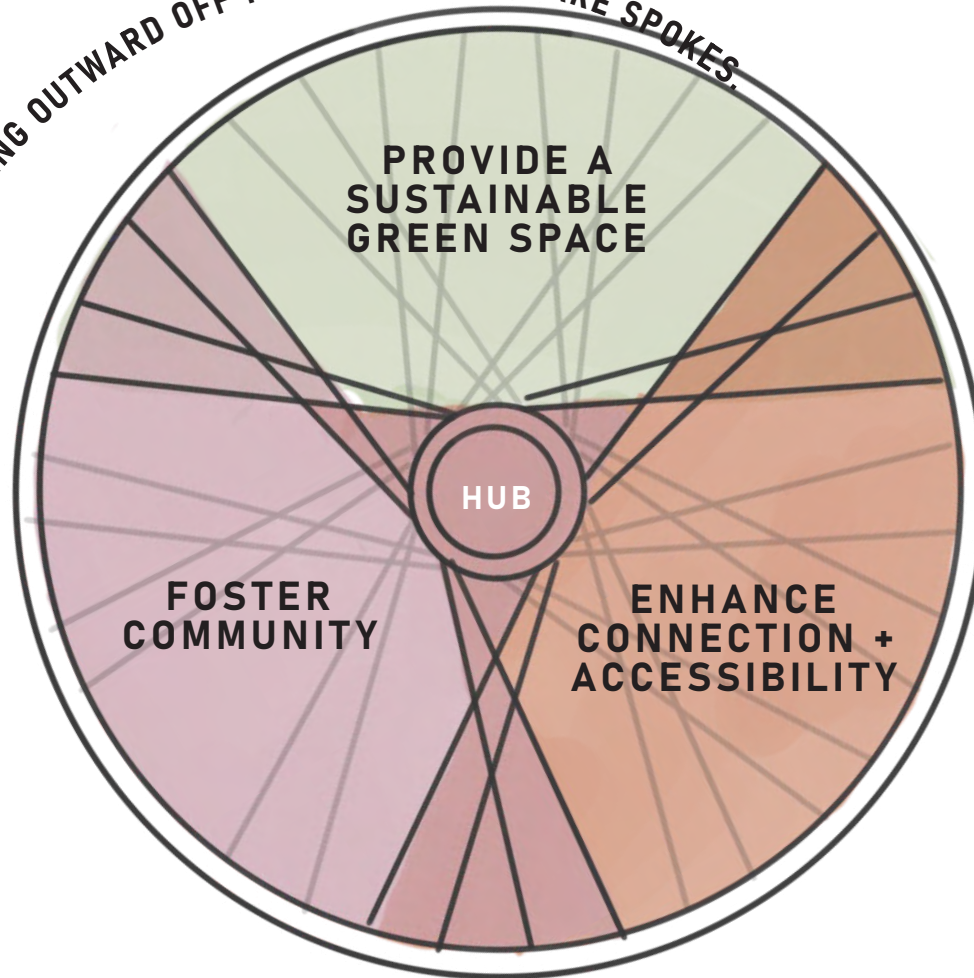
AGENCIES +  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS



# DESIGN METAPHOR + GOALS

METRO PARK IS THE HUB OF A WHEEL.

RADIATING OUTWARD OFF THE CENTRAL HUB ARE SPOKES.



The spokes represent core goals of the park.

THE WHEEL REPRESENTS TRAVEL, ACTIVITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY.

## GOAL:

# PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE GREEN SPACE

## WHAT?

Create a space that is sustainable in terms of **reusability** as well as **durability**.

## HOW?

- Shade via tree canopy and shade structures
- On-site water capture + reuse via bioswales
- Locally sourced new and repurposed existing materials
- Low maintenance, hardy plants (native as much as possible)



# GOAL: FOSTER COMMUNITY

## WHAT?

Provide a **variety of programming** that caters to the **specific needs + interests** of the local community.

## HOW?

- Local art
- Community activities + events
- Elements that promote healthy, active lifestyles for all ages
- Educational opportunities



## GOAL:

# ENHANCE CONNECTION + ACCESSIBILITY

## WHAT?

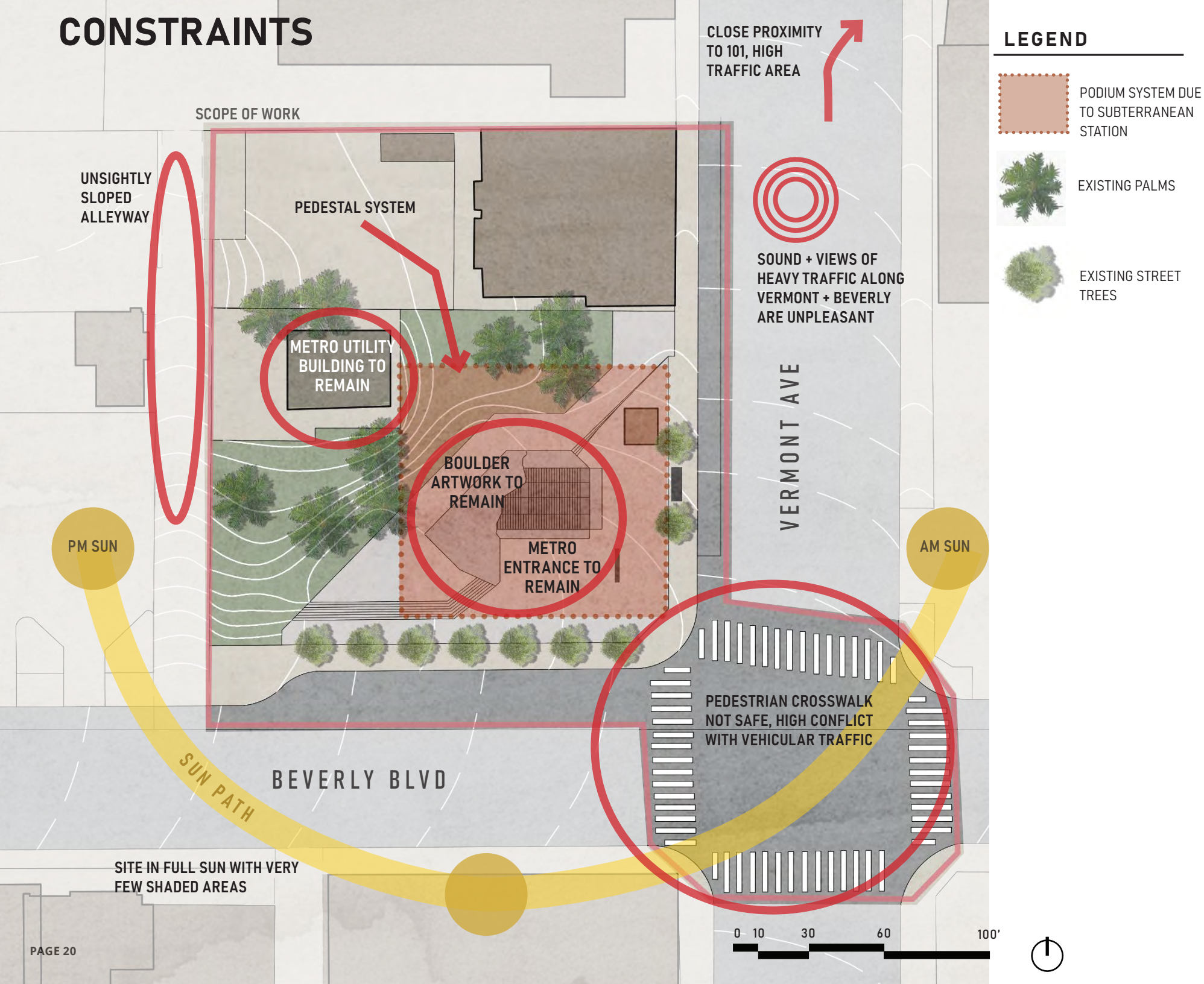
Establish **strong connection + access** within the site itself and to surrounding communities. Incorporate elements that provide a sense of **safety + comfort**.

## HOW?

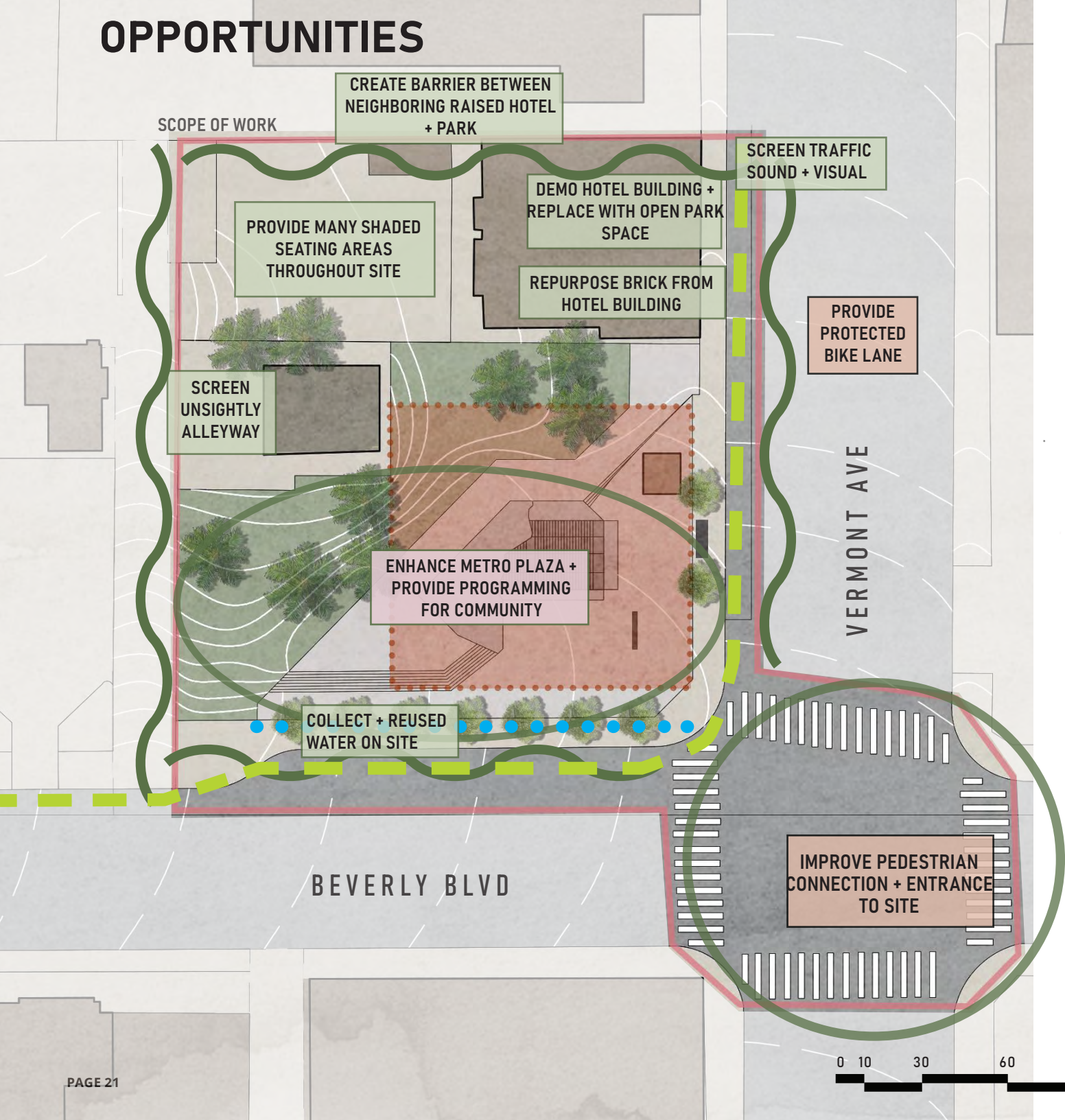
- Pedestrian + cyclist centered design
- Universal design
- Essential amenities (restrooms, etc.)
- Safety + comfort features



# CONSTRAINTS

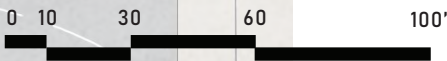
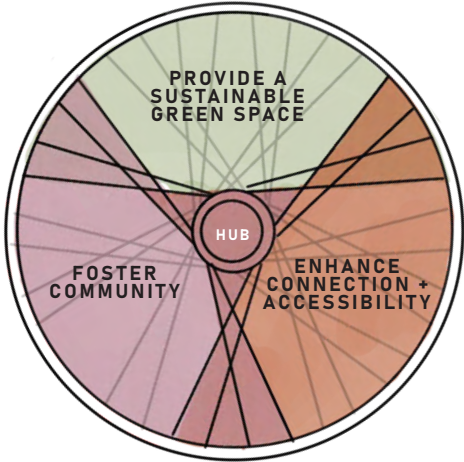


# OPPORTUNITIES



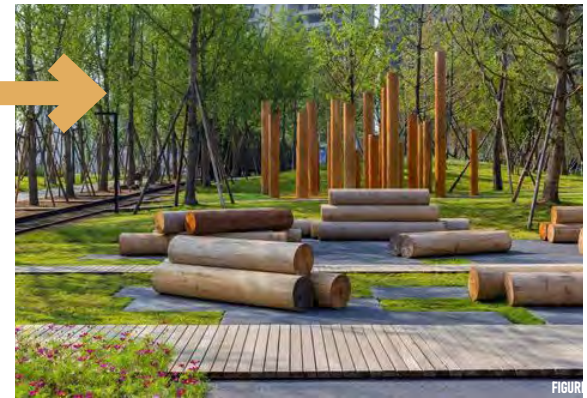
## LEGEND

-  PODIUM SYSTEM DUE TO SUBTERRANEAN STATION
-  EXISTING PALMS
-  EXISTING STREET TREES





# R E T H I N K



PLAY



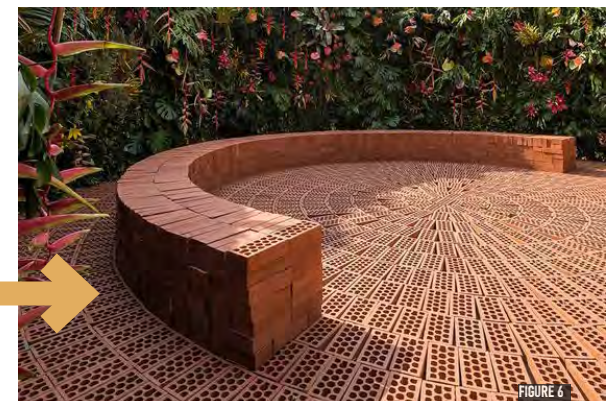
NATURE



CAFE + DINING



R  
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S  
E



# DESIGN METHODOLOGY

## LADOT VISION ZERO TOOLKIT

Provides street safety improvements information that LADOT recommends installing via the Vision Zero Initiative. Includes design guidelines for elements like protected bike lanes, accessible pedestrian signals, bus boarding islands, curb extensions, lane reconfigurations, etc.



## A PATTERN LANGUAGE

This Christopher Alexander book provides a "language", or a guide for designing and planning a multitude of spaces based on the observation of patterns that emerge from these spaces.

Many of the patterns in this book apply directly to my site, and I will use the pattern language of these entities to inform my designs, including the following:

- Local transport areas
- Activity nodes
- Night life
- Street cafe
- Bus stop
- Food stands
- Pedestrian street
- Positive outdoor space
- Entrance transition
- Hierarchy of open space
- Courtyards which live
- Pedestrian density
- Activity pockets
- Opening to the street
- Good materials
- Seat spots



# 103RD ST COMMUNITY GARDEN, NYC

## CASE STUDY 1



**Site:** 103<sup>RD</sup> St Community Garden in New York, NY

**Project Type:** community garden + park

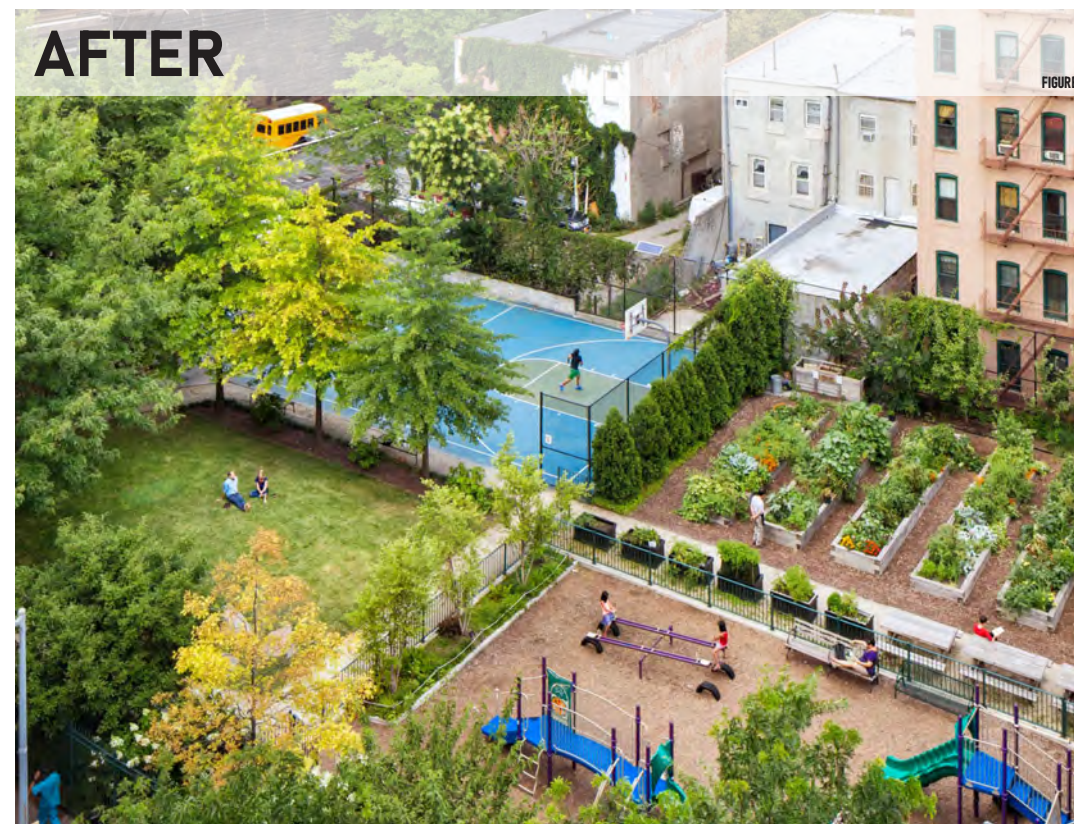
**Size:** 15,441 sq ft (0.35 acres)

**Designer:** SCAPE in collaboration with NYRP and Disney

**Duration of Project:** 2004–2011

### COMMUNITY-FOCUSED DESIGN

The New York Restoration Project (NYRP) in collaboration with SCAPE and members of the East Harlem Community turned an empty-lot into a multi-use garden and community space. The final design divides the site into four quadrants with varied programming.



# PLATFORM PARK, CULVER CITY

## CASE STUDY 2

**Site:** Platform Park in Culver City, Los Angeles

**Project Type:** urban pocket park near transit station

**Size:** 10,300 sq ft (0.24 acres)

**Designer:** Terremoto

**Duration of Project:** 2019

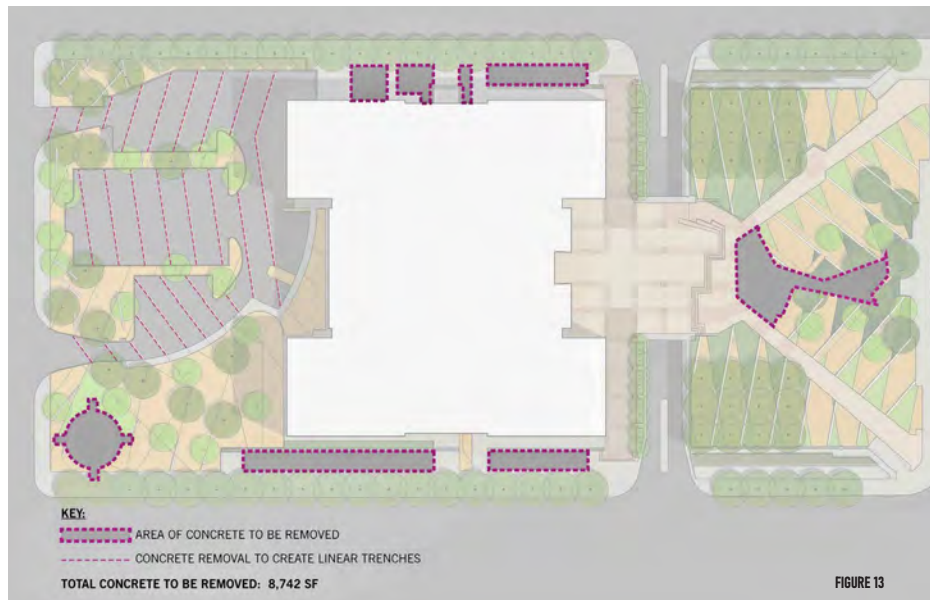
### UNIQUE NON-PRESCRIPTIVE PROGRAMMING

Terremoto transformed this vacant lot under the rail system into an innovative and unique pocket park that brings people together in a less traditional way.



# DOMENICI U.S. COURTHOUSE, NEW MEXICO

## CASE STUDY 3



**Site:** Pete V. Domencini U.S. Courthouse

**Project Type:** civic sustainable landscape renovation

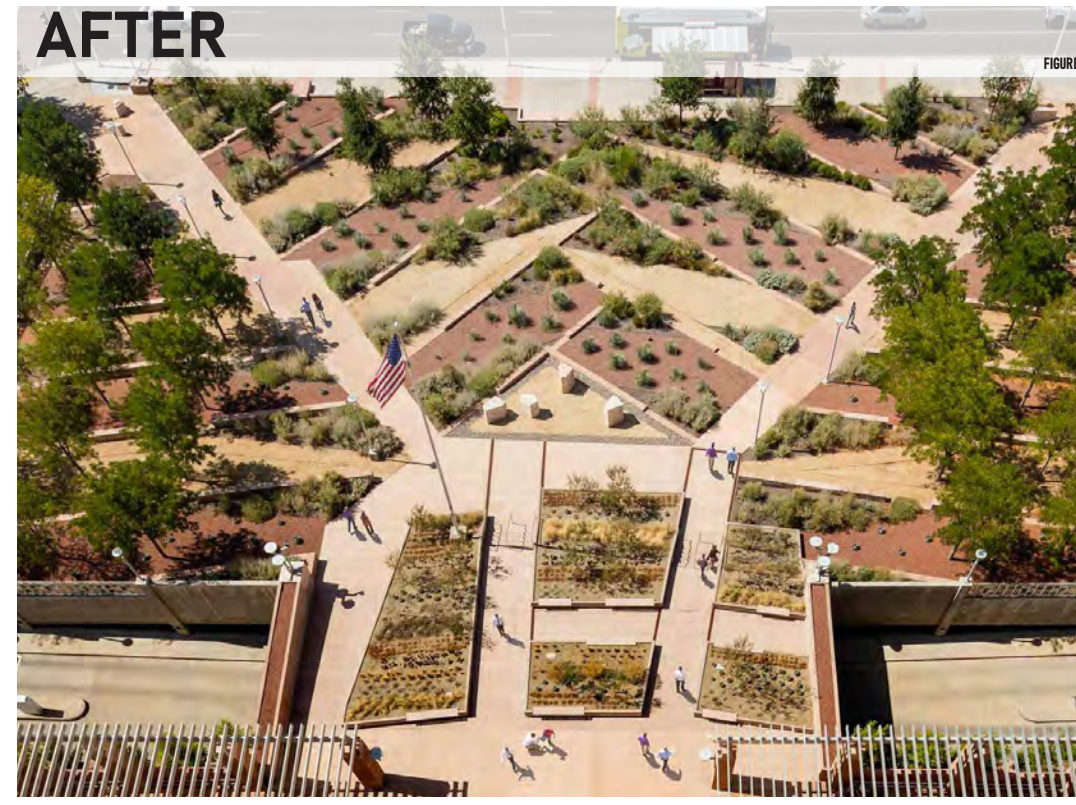
**Size:** 21,000 sq ft (0.48 acres)

**Designer:** RIOS

**Duration of Project:** 2012

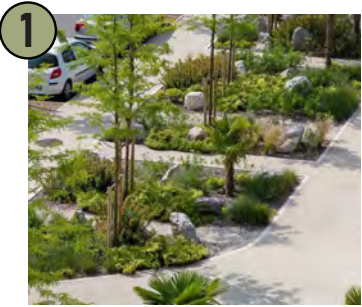
### REPURPOSING OF DEMOLISHED MATERIALS

Rios demolished 0.48 acres of hot, paved plaza, and created a groundbreaking water capture reused plaza that provides a unique sense of place and serves as a welcoming, usable space for the public.



# PROGRAMMING

## PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE GREEN SPACE



1  
BIOSWALES + WATER  
CAPTURE/REUSE ON SITE



2  
SHADE TREES



3  
HARDY PLANTS (NATIVE AS  
MUCH AS POSSIBLE)



4  
PARK SPACE



5  
WALKING PATH

## FOSTER COMMUNITY



1  
LOCAL ART



2  
DESIGNATED VENDOR PLAZA



3  
COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE  
(INDOOR + OUTDOOR)

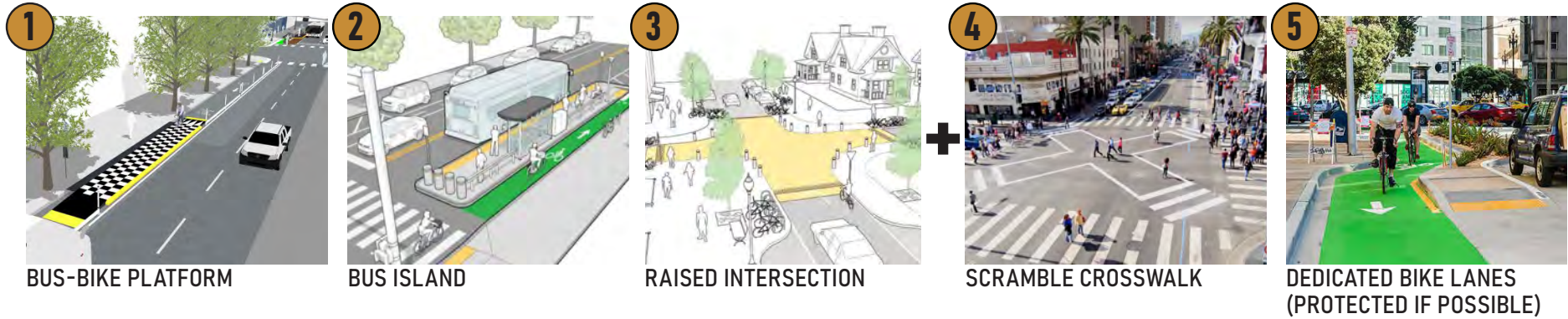


4  
FITNESS EQUIPMENT



5  
PLAY EQUIPMENT

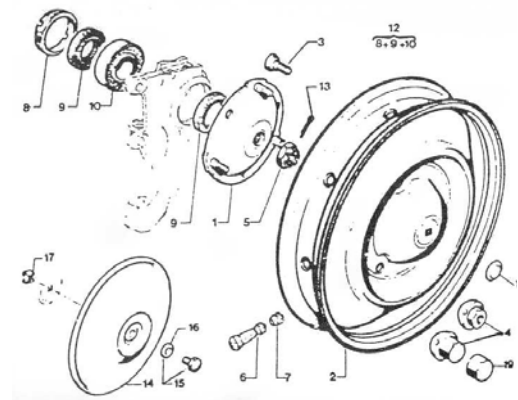
## ENHANCE CONNECTION - LADOT VISION ZERO TOOLKIT



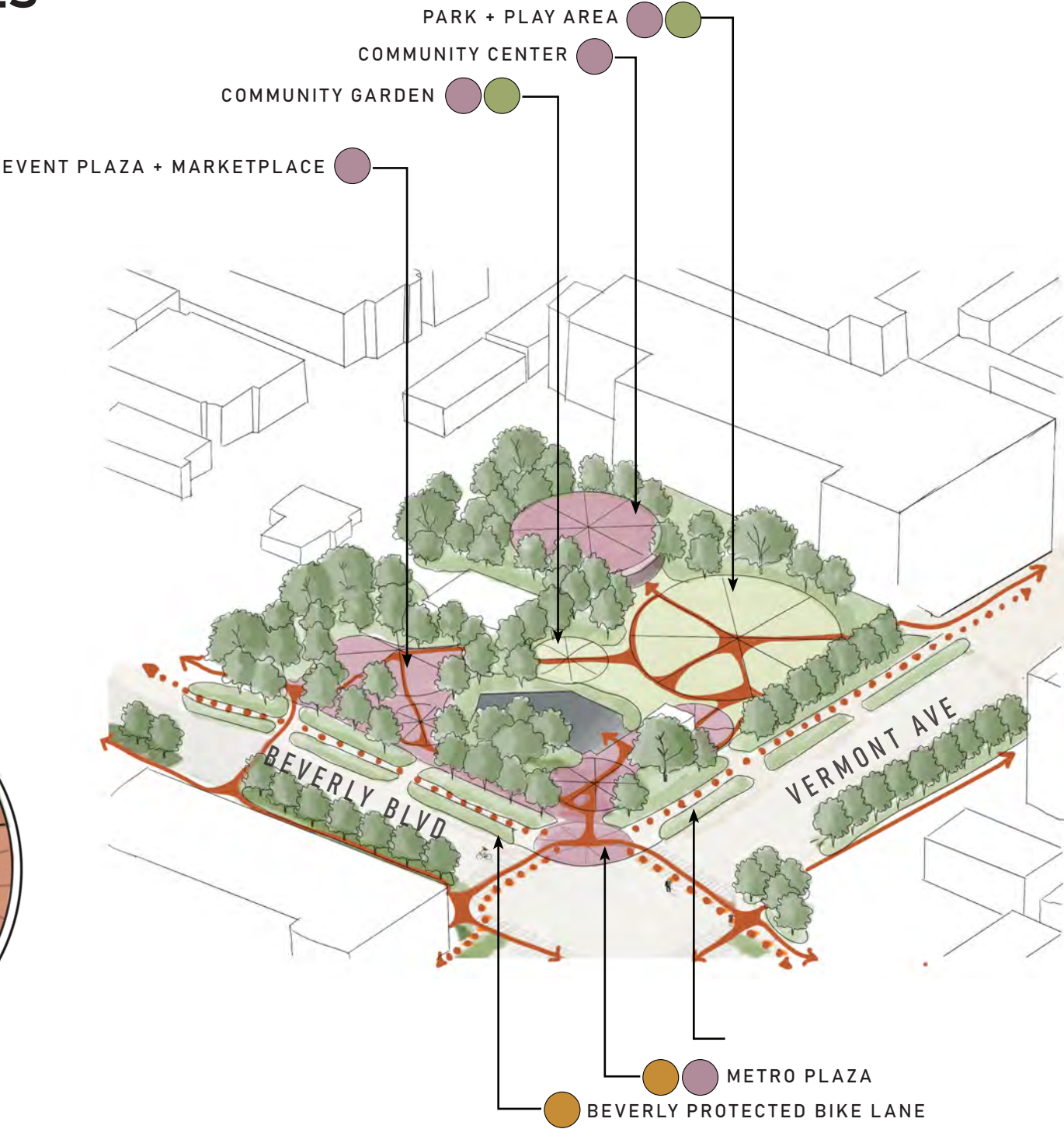
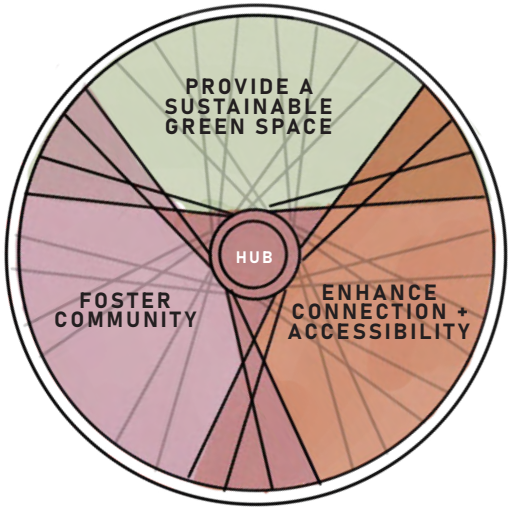
## ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY



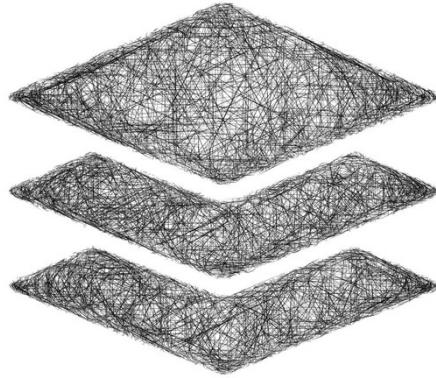
# CONCEPT 1: WHEELS



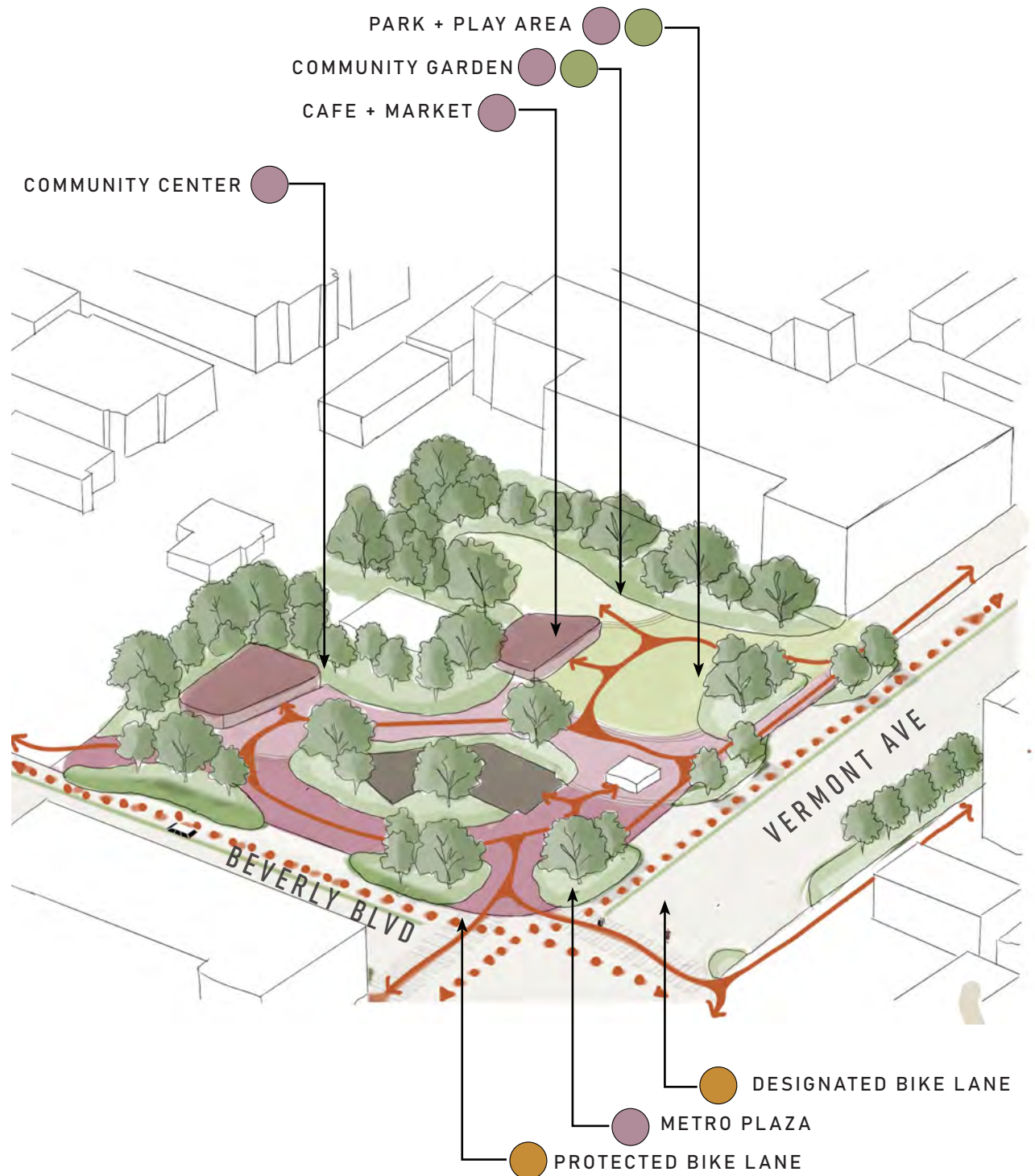
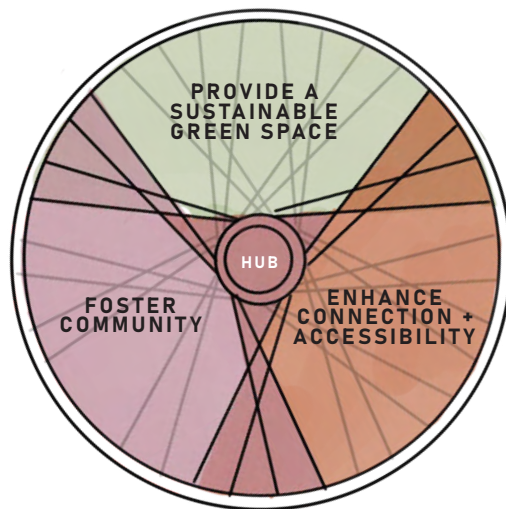
Round rooms with straight paths that cut through the space resemble the wheel shape, which inspired this design concept.



# CONCEPT 2: TIERS



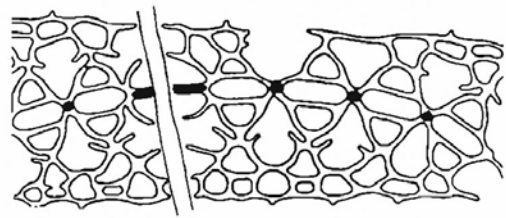
This concept designs around the site's natural elevation changes and creates tiers that have a variety of programming.



# FINAL CONCEPT: ACTIVITY

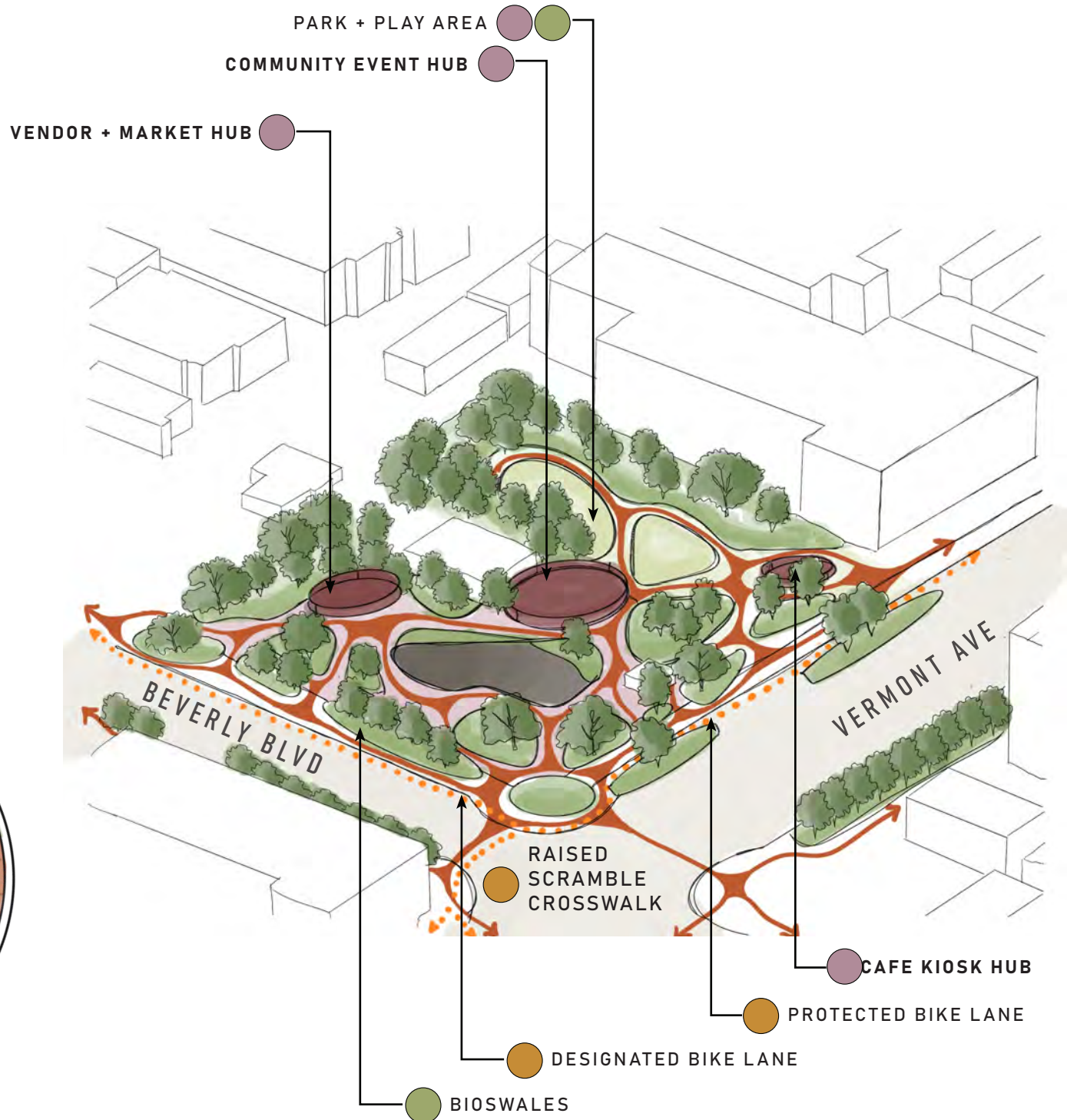
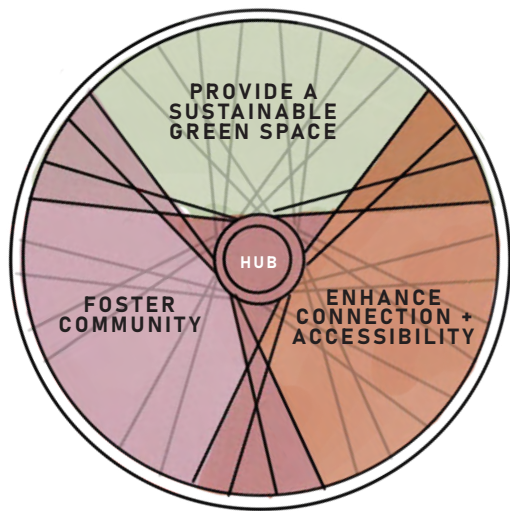
\*THE WINNER\*

According to Christopher Alexander's "Pattern Language"....



Public paths converge on centers of action.  
FIGURE 16

"As they grow, certain 'stars' begin to form, where the most important paths meet. These stars are potentially the vital spots of a community."





# MASTER PLAN



## Connectivity + Accessibility

### CIRCULATION

A raised scramble crosswalk allows safe access to the park. A variety of pathways and access points allow visitors to explore the park as they wish.

Paths converge at activity hubs throughout the site. Every area of the park is accessible by ADA standards.

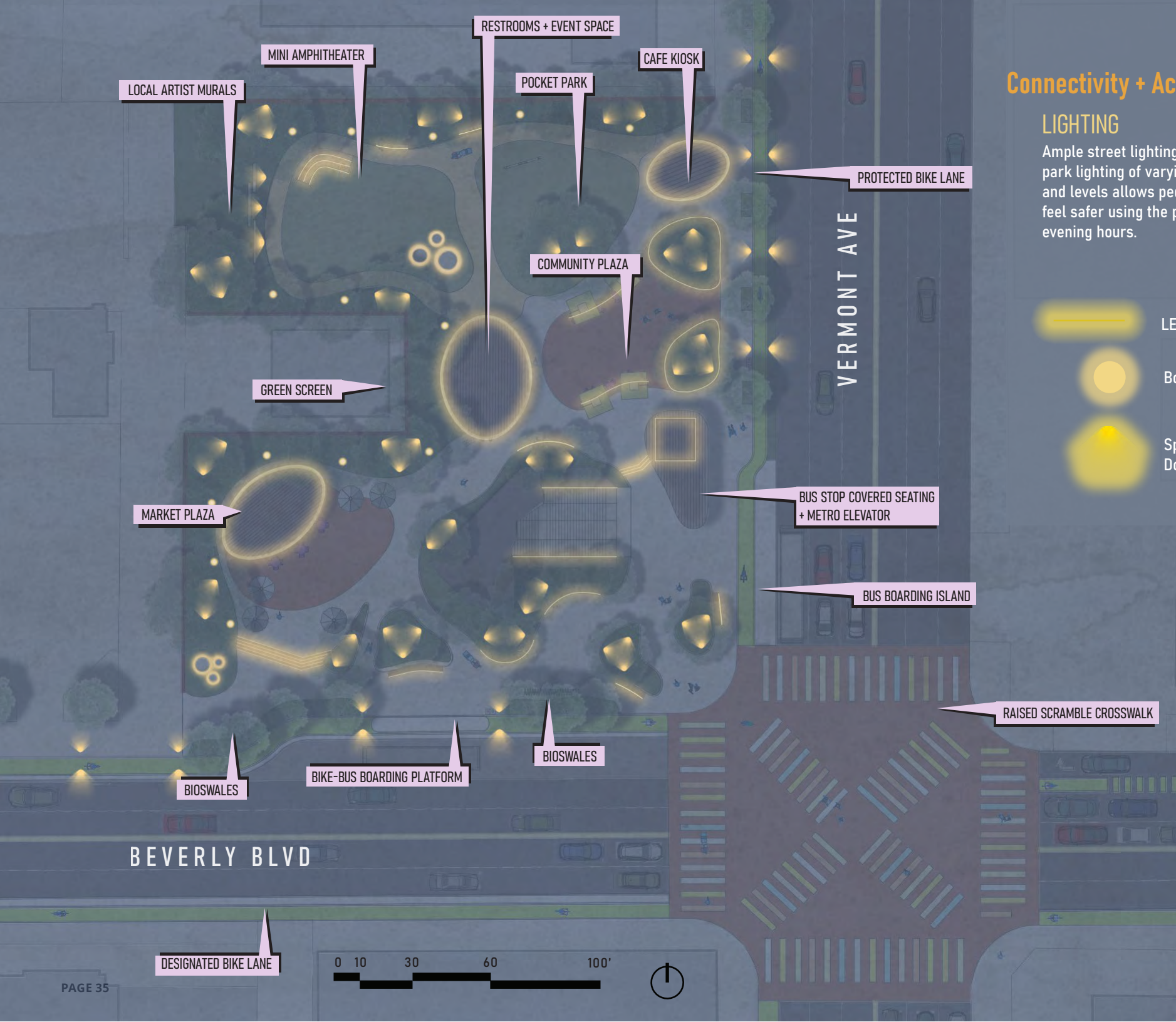


Pedestrian Paths



Primary Access Points

Activity Hubs



## Connectivity + Accessibility

### LIGHTING

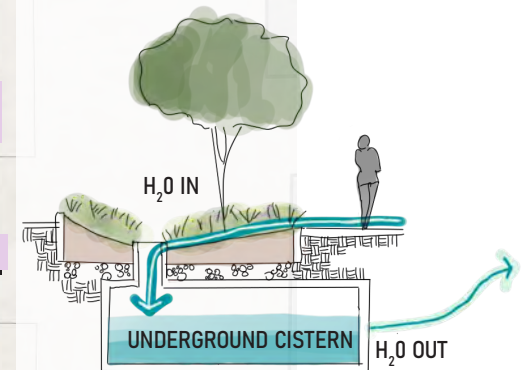
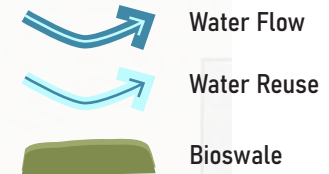
Ample street lighting and internal park lighting of varying types and levels allows pedestrians to feel safer using the park during evening hours.

- LED Strip Lighting
- Bollard Path Lights
- Spotlight (Uplight / Downlight)

## Sustainability

### WATER FLOW + REUSE

The southern portion of the site is graded to allow proper drainage towards the two bioswales that line the park sidewalk. Water is stored in underground cisterns and reused to water vegetation on site.



0 10 30 60 100'



# PLANT PALETTE

**N** CALIFORNIA NATIVE

**B** BIOSWALE COMPATIBLE

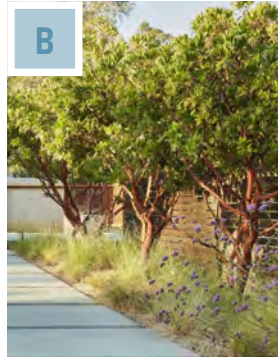
## TREES



**TIPUANA TIPU**  
Tipu Tree



**AFROCARPUS FALCATUS**  
African Fern Pine



**ARTBUTUS 'MARINA'**  
Marina Strawberry Tree



**PLATANUS RACEMOSA**  
Western Sycamore



**MELALEUCA STYPHELIODES**  
Prickly Melaleuca



**CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS**  
Incense Cedar

## SHRUBS



**SALVIA CLEVELANDII**  
Cleveland Sage



**FRANGULA CALIFORNICA**  
Coffeeberry



**BACCHARIS PILULARIS 'PIGEON POINT'**  
Dwarf Coyote Bush



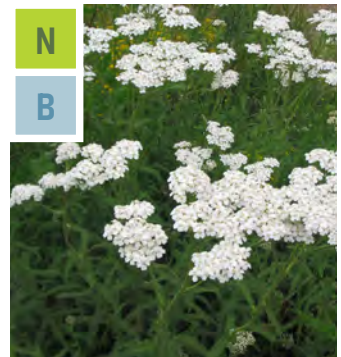
**LEYMUS CONDENSATUS 'CANYON PRINCE'**  
Canyon Prince Wild Rye



**AGAVE ATTENUATA**  
Foxtail Agave



**CAREX TUMULICOLA**  
Berkeley Sedge



**ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM**  
Common Yarrow



**JUNCUS PATENS**  
Common Rush

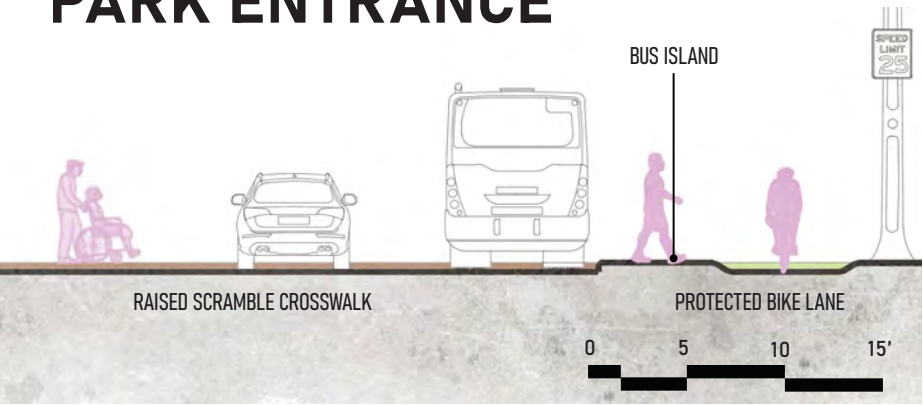


**SOLIDAGO VELUTINA**  
California Goldenrod



**BUCHLOE DACTYLOIDES**  
UC Verde Buffalograss

# PARK ENTRANCE

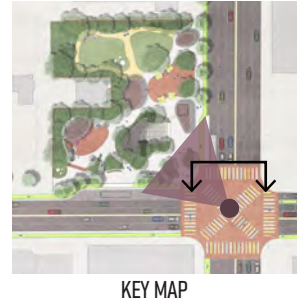


BEFORE

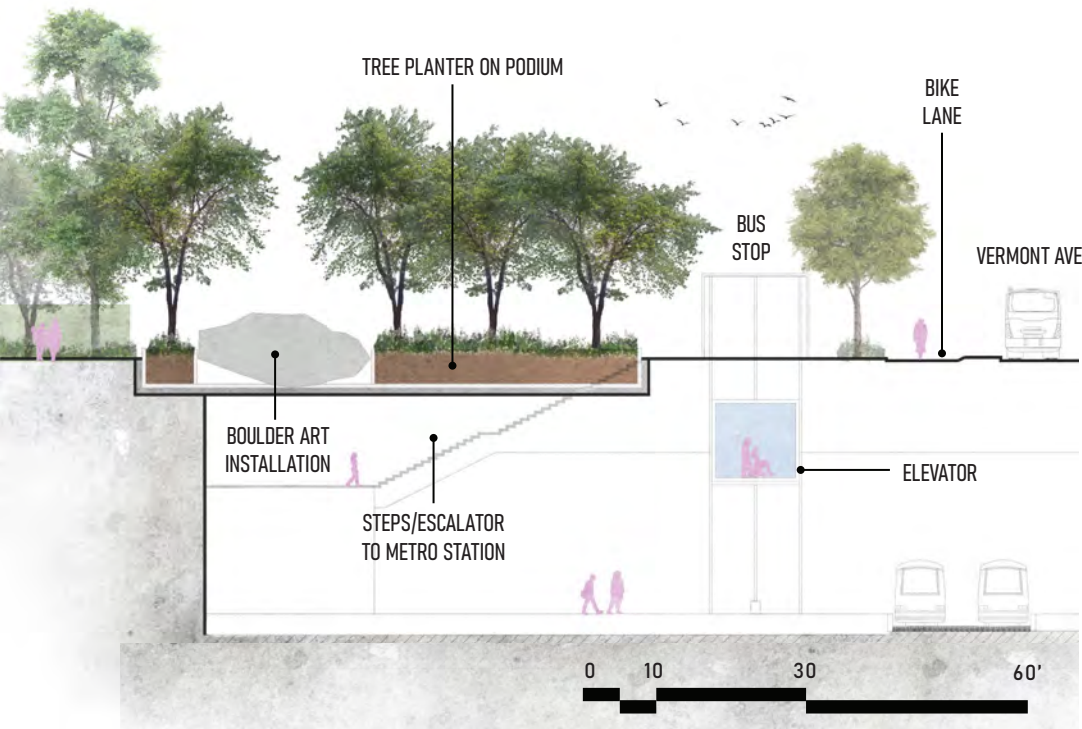


# @ NIGHT

At night, the Sycamores are lit up in a welcoming way, allowing visitors to feel safe during evening hours.



# METRO ENTRANCE + BUS STOP



KEY MAP - SECTION



BEFORE



KEY MAP - PERSPECTIVE



# MARKET PLAZA

Market plaza is where the local food vendors can set up their carts. This plaza is a flex space and could also be used for farmers markets, art shows, and other community events. The repurposed brick marks the space and gives it a sense of place.



BEFORE



KEY MAP



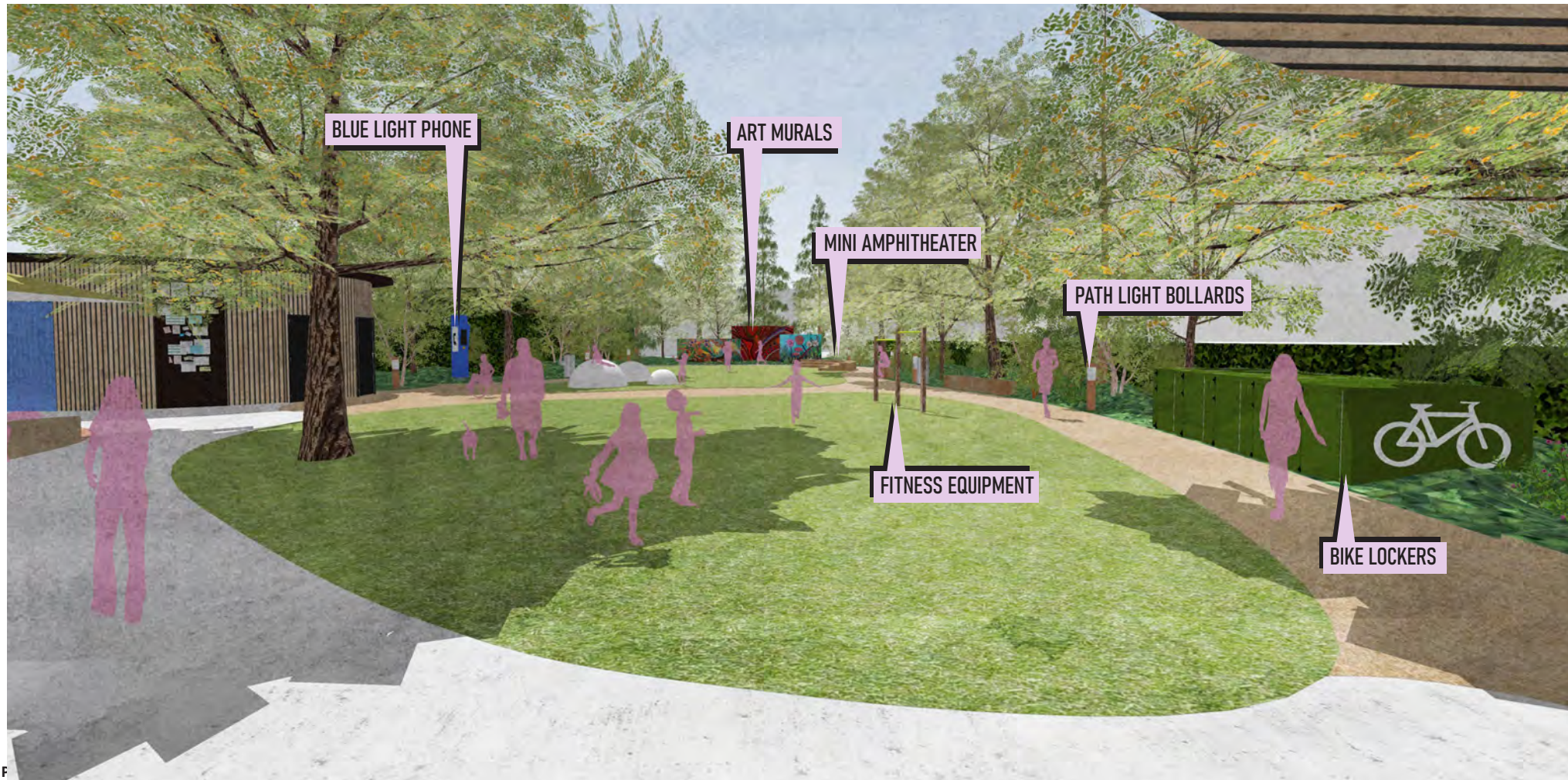
# POCKET PARK + CAFE



BEFORE



KEY MAP



# COMMUNITY PLAZA

The community plaza is made up of an indoor and outdoor event space. The indoor space can be reserved for classes, events, and other community needs. The outdoor space is lined with reclaimed wood seating and can be used for social engagement and events, but also functions as an outdoor lounge.



BEFORE



KEY MAP



# COMMUNITY PLAZA @ NIGHT



KEY MAP



# A MULTI-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT



KEY MAP

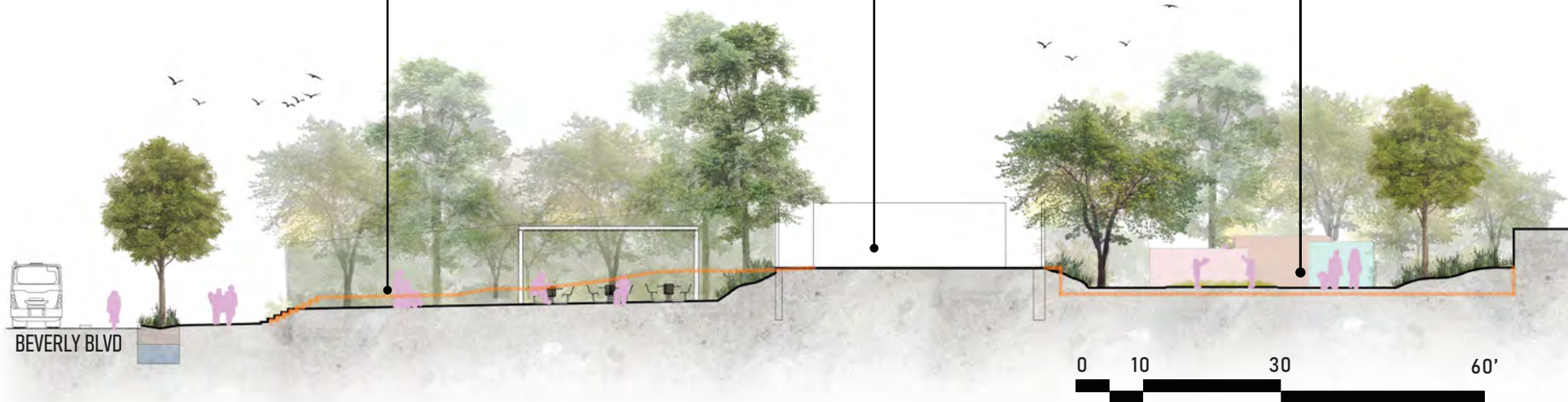
COMMUNITY PLAZA



MARKET PLAZA



POCKET PARK



## LEGEND

- PREVIOUS SITE ELEVATION
- NEW SITE ELEVATION

# METRO PARK

## PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE GREEN SPACE

open park space  
hardy, dry plant palette  
repurposed materials  
water capture + reuse



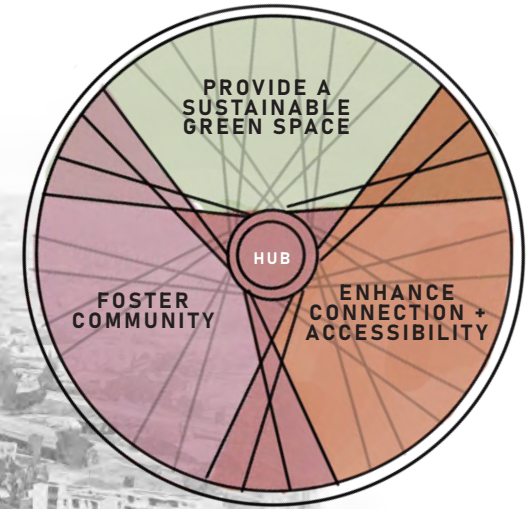
## FOSTER COMMUNITY

community event space  
local food vendors  
local artwork  
play elements



## ENHANCE CONNECTION + ACCESSIBILITY

raised scramble crosswalk  
dedicated bike lanes  
improved elevator experience  
ADA ramps + hardscape



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