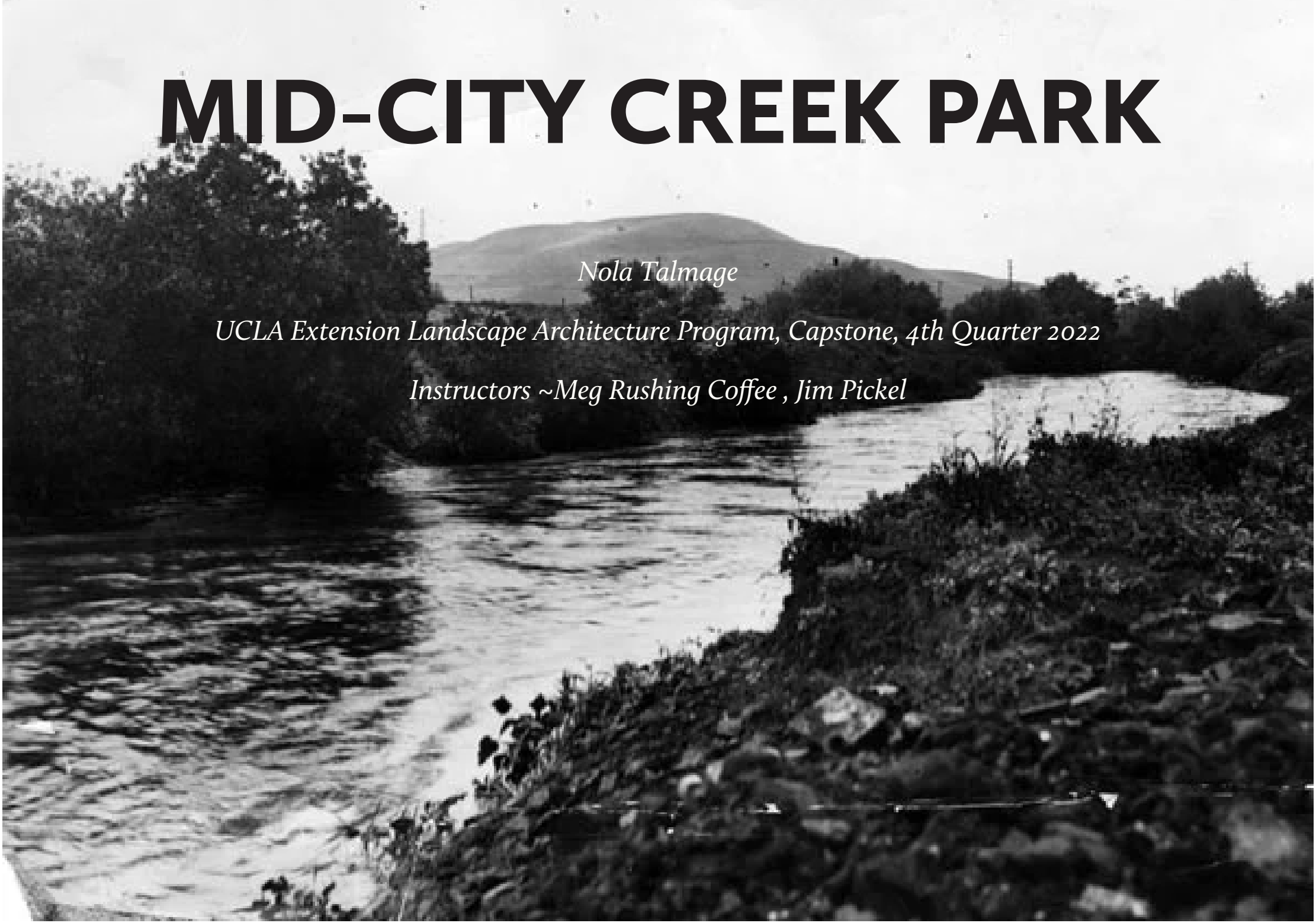
MID-CITY CREEK PARK



Nola Talmage

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program, Capstone, 4th Quarter 2022

Instructors ~Meg Rushing Coffee , Jim Pickel

CONTENTS

- PROJECT STATEMENT & SITE INTRODUCTION
- SITE ORIENTATION
- USER GROUP ANALYSIS
- PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
- GOALS & OBJECTIVES
- SITE ANALYSIS
- CASE STUDIES
- PROGRAM ELEMENTS
- DESIGN METHODOLOGY
- DESIGN CONCEPT
- EARLY SKETCHES
- ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN
- ILLUSTRATIVE WATER PLAN
- ELEVATIONS
- ENLARGEMENTS
- PERSPECTIVE DRAWINGS




END


IN MEMORY OF ELLIE SCHNITZER
(1922-1996)
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES











The intersection of La Cienega Blvd and Venice Blvd represents a central North/South, East/West node of the city of Los Angeles, which suffers from relentless traffic, freeway pollution and poor pedestrian circulation. The neighborhood surrounding the intersection has remained disconnected and disjointed because of the concretized and closed Ballona creek and the 10 Frwy cutting through the area.

Mid-City Creek Park is a series of bioswales surrounded by passive activity space, which provides accessible green space, native species support, and groundwater replenishment for the surrounding neighborhood. As well, it contributes to the ongoing efforts by many city agencies and environmental groups to revitalize Ballona Creek, and send clean water to the Ballona Wetlands. The development of this site specifically seeks to connect the residential neighborhood currently 'locked' in place by the 10 Freeway, La Cienega Blvd., Venice Blvd., and the concretized creek itself to an accessible nature park with paths, sitting and eating areas and play structures, the nearby resources on Washington Blvd, and the other surrounding residential streets.

How can Landscape Architecture help integrate this section of Ballona Creek with the surrounding neighborhood, renew pedestrian connectivity, and increase green space equity in Mid-City Los Angeles?

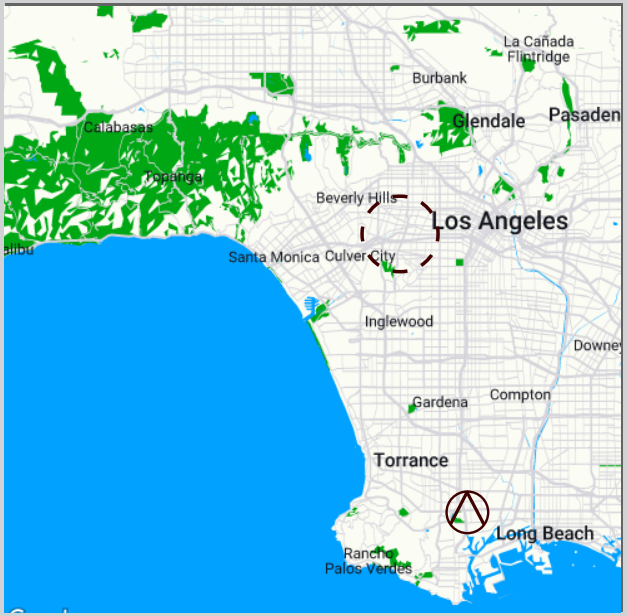
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Orientation

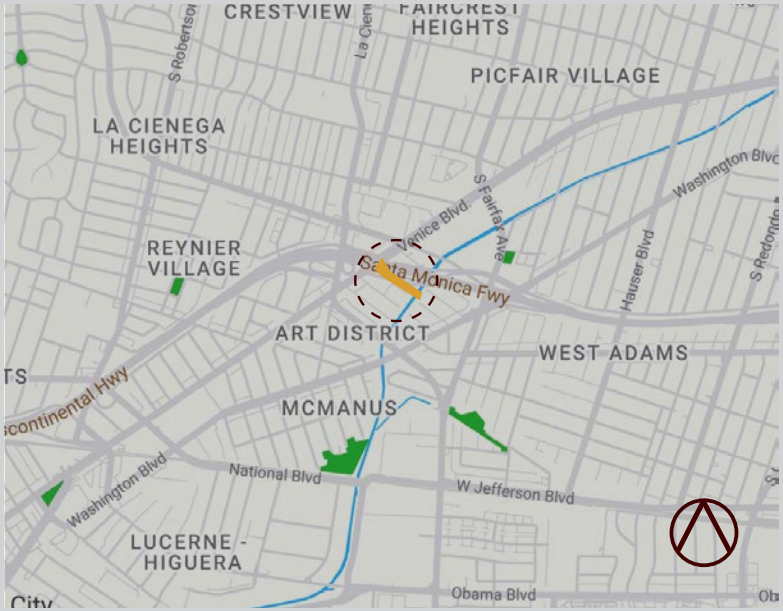
1 city block on La Cienega Blvd.

This future park is located on an underutilized commercial block of La Cienega Blvd, in Mid-City Los Angeles between Venice and Washington Blvds and adjacent to the Ballona Creek water channel.

It is also just West of the La Cienega entrance and exit of the 10 freeway. The combination of these major arteries has caused the surrounding residential neighborhoods to be disconnected, especially this neighborhood, which is completely locked in place.









1 CITY BLOCK

LA CIENEGA BLVD

Between Washington Blvd. and Venice Blvd.

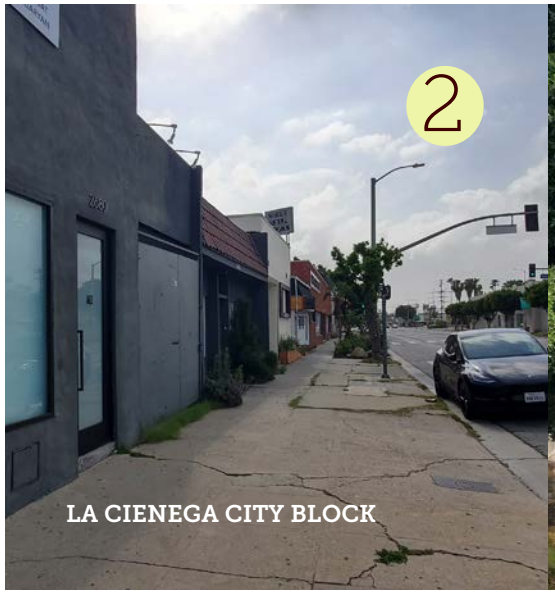


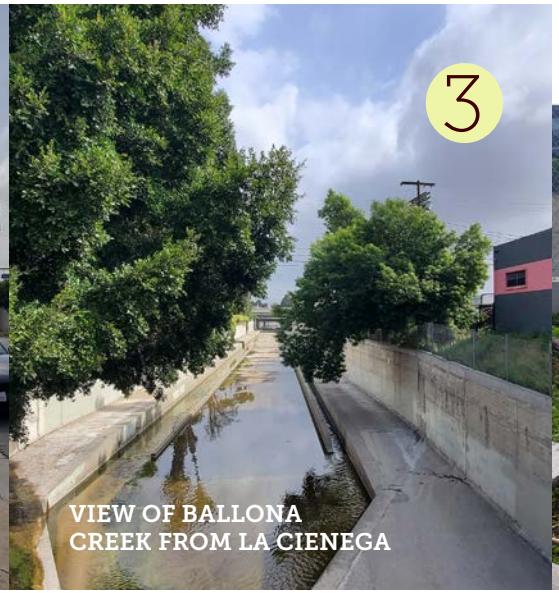
Looking at the project site head on, we see a very long city block, with one story commercial structures. The length of the block and the lack of shade or visual interest has meant that it has little to no pedestrian activity. Six lanes of fast moving traffic further inhibit pedestrian engagement. The access alley behind the buildings (image 1) sits above a storm channel which inlets into the Ballona Creek, seen here in image 3.

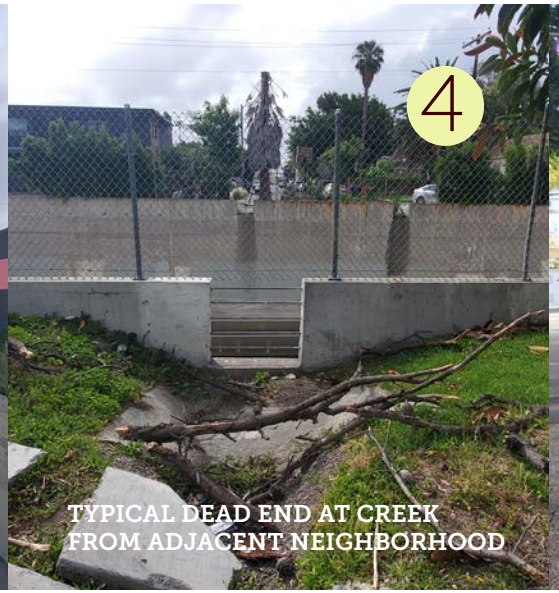
The neighborhood streets behind the block all dead end in unsightly, on surface drainage structures, with no access to the creek's edge. In image 5 we see the entrance to the back alley from La Cienega and the only significant shade tree on the block, this massive Ficus Macrophylla.

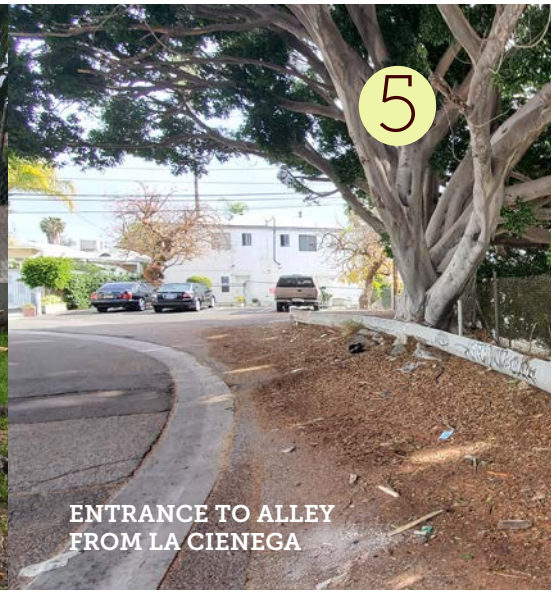

4
1
3
2
5


1
ALLEY BEHIND LA CIENEGA
BELOW GRADE STORM CHANNEL


2
LA CIENEGA CITY BLOCK


3
VIEW OF BALLONA
CREEK FROM LA CIENEGA


4
TYPICAL DEAD END AT CREEK
FROM ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOOD


5
ENTRANCE TO ALLEY
FROM LA CIENEGA

User Analysis

LA City District 10

The neighborhood stakeholders of this area are part of LA City Council District 10. This site sits at the gateway to a very diverse community of Angelenos. This includes historic neighborhoods of Crenshaw, West Adams, Baldwin Hills Lemeirt Park, Korea Town, Lafayette Square and Jefferson Park.

Herb Wesson, a long standing council member of District has stated his mission is to create access to opportunity, establish an anti-racist Los Angeles and speak for people historically excluded.

One of the many ways this district has suffered is a lack of green space equity.

"ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY ...

ESTABLISHING AN ANTI RACIST LOS ANGELES ...

CHALLENGE VESTED INTERESTS ...

SPEAK FOR PEOPLE HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED."

HERB WESSON

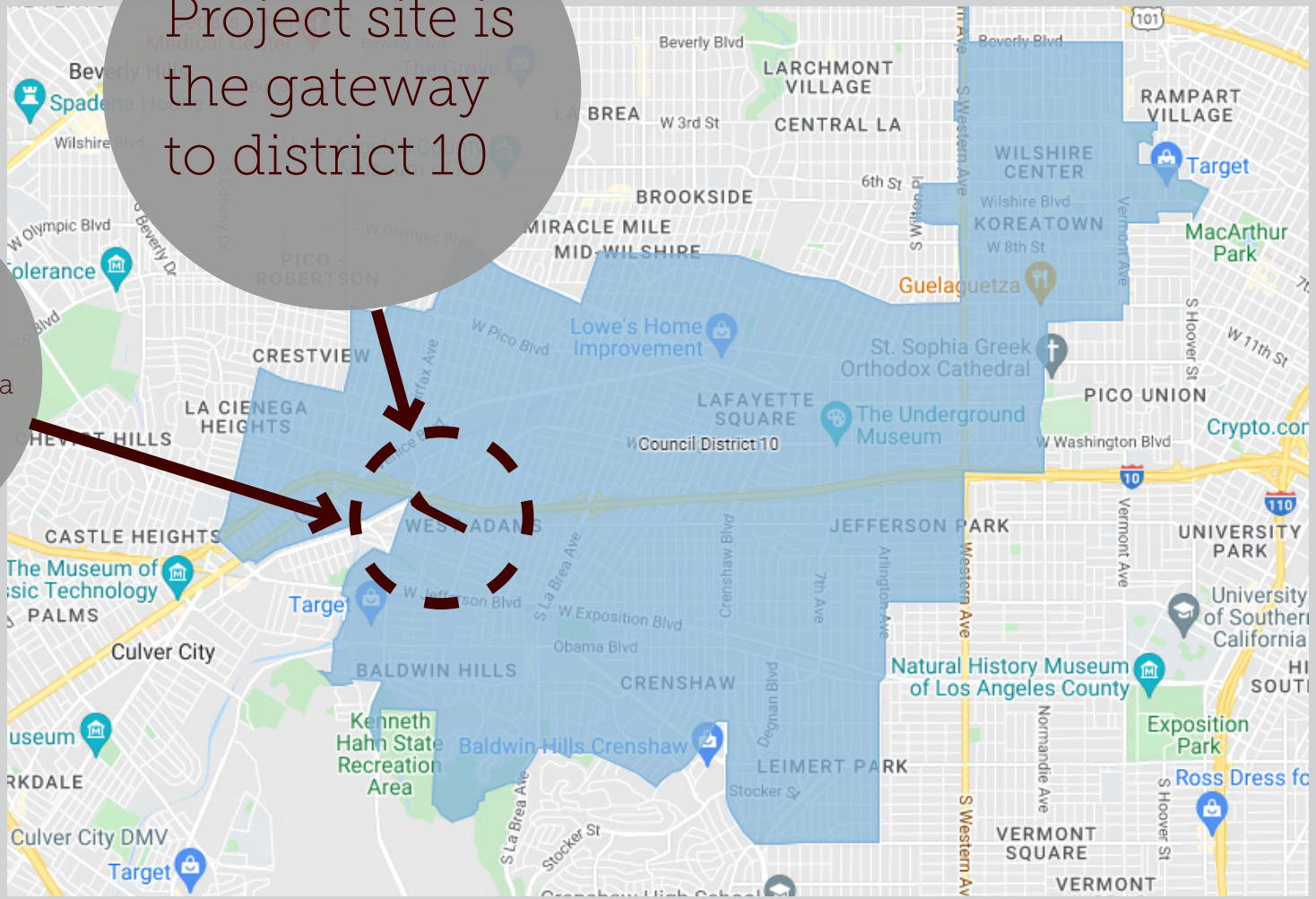
TERMED OUT, ACTING LA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER - DISTRICT 10

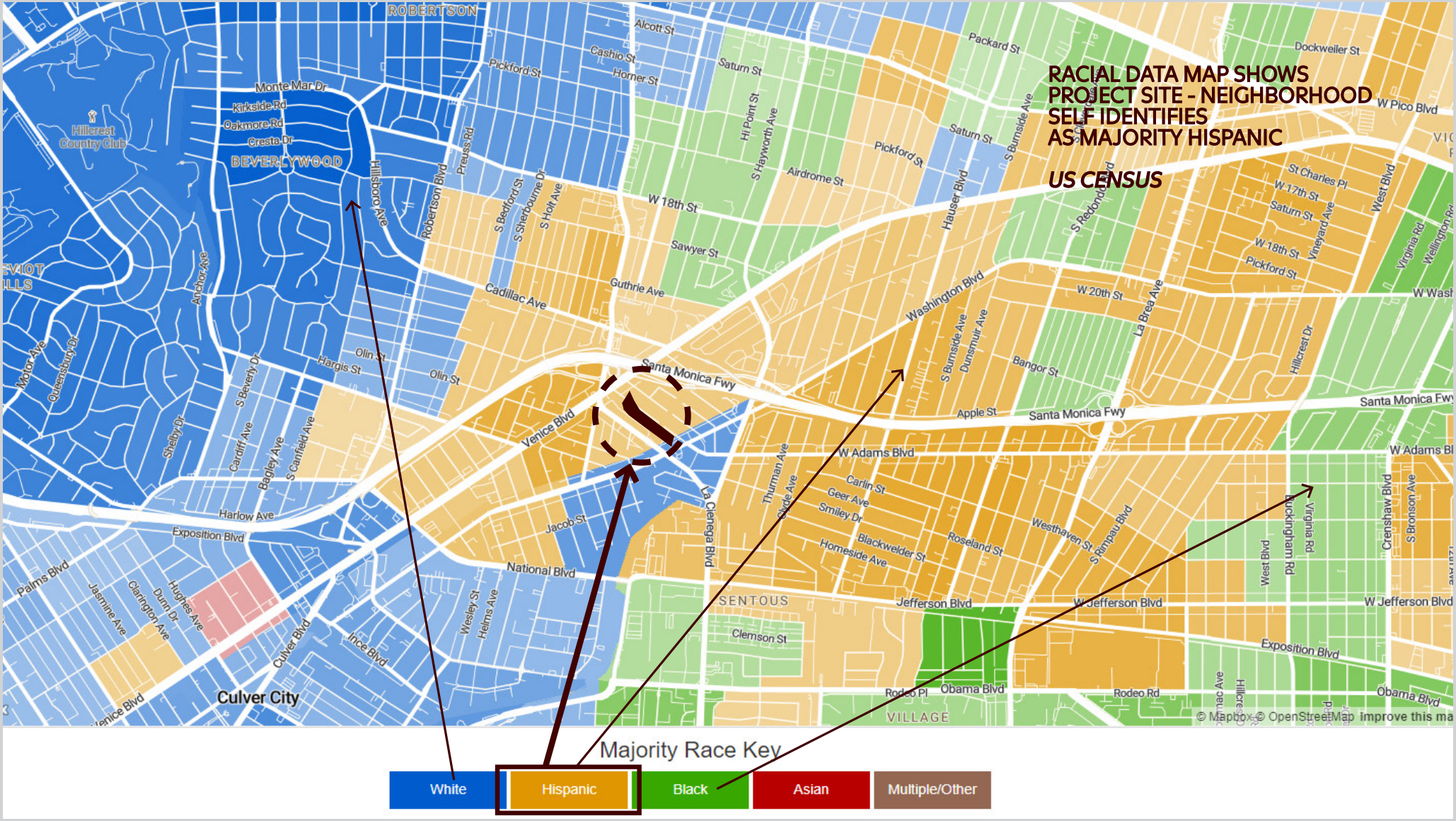


Project site is the gateway to district 10

Major North/South, East/West junction

Venice Blvd, La Cienega Blvd and 10 Frwy intersection

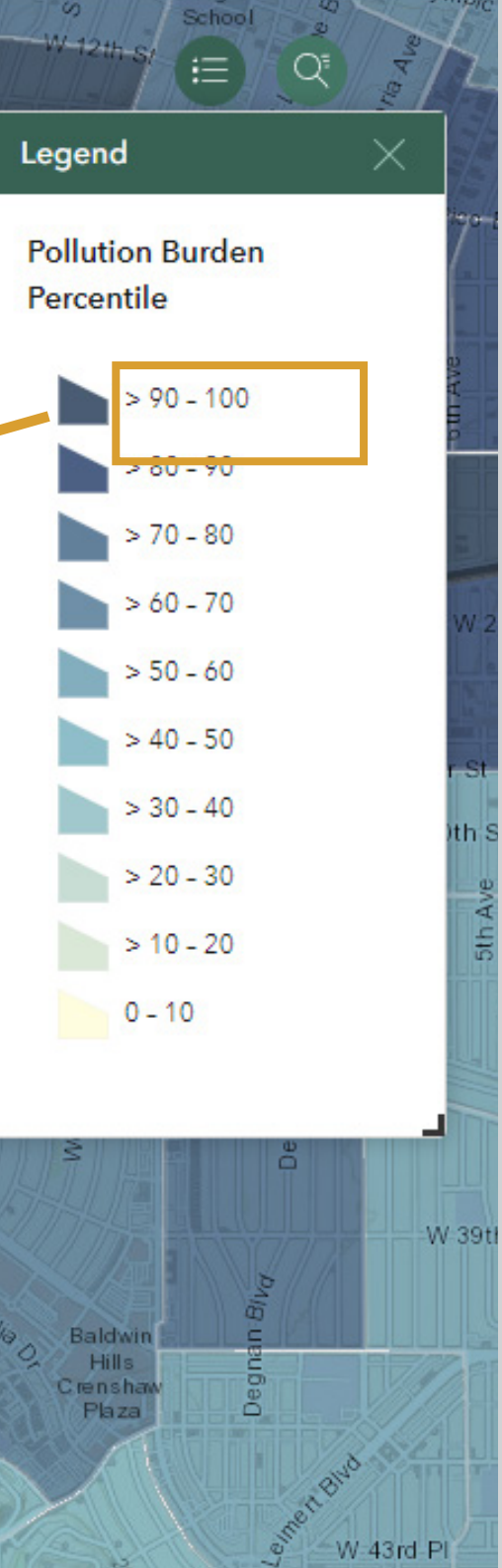



RACIAL DATA MAP SHOWS
PROJECT SITE - NEIGHBORHOOD
SELF IDENTIFIES
AS MAJORITY HISPANIC
US CENSUS
Majority Race Key
White
Hispanic
Black
Asian
Multiple/Other
Culver City
SENTOUS
VILLAGE
ROBERTSON
BEVERLYWOOD
Hillcrest Country Club
Monte Mar Dr
Kirkside Rd
Oakmore Rd
Cresta Dr
Alcott St
Pickford St
Cashio St
Horner St
Saturn St
Hi Point St
S Hayworth Ave
Airdrome St
Packard St
Dockweiler St
W Pico Blvd
S Burnside Ave
Hauser Blvd
S Redondo Blvd
St Charles Pl
W 17th St
Vineyard Ave
West Blvd
Virginia Rd
Wellington Rd
W 18th St
Sawyer St
Robertson Blvd
Preuss Rd
S Bedford St
S Sherbourne Dr
S Holt Ave
Hillsboro Ave
Anchor Ave
Cadillac Ave
Guthrie Ave
Washington Blvd
W 20th St
La Brea Ave
Hillcrest Dr
Bangor St
Dunsmuir Ave
Olin St
Hargis St
Santa Monica Fwy
Apple St
Venice Blvd
Motor Ave
Queensbury Dr
Shelby Dr
S Beverly Dr
Cardiff Ave
Bagley Ave
S Canfield Ave
W Adams Blvd
Thurman Ave
Clyde Ave
Carlin St
Geer Ave
Smiley Dr
Blackwelder St
Homeside Ave
Roseland St
Westhaven St
S Rimpau Blvd
Buckingham Rd
Crenshaw Blvd
S Bronson Ave
Harlow Ave
Exposition Blvd
Jacob St
National Blvd
La Cienega Blvd
Jefferson Blvd
W Jefferson Blvd
Clemson St
Palms Blvd
Jasmine Ave
Clarington Ave
Dunn Dr
Hughes Ave
Culver Blvd
Ince Blvd
Wesley St
Helms Ave
Rodeo Pl
Obama Blvd
Rodeo Rd
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this ma

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE PARK SITE SELF IDENTIFIES AS PRIMARILY HISPANIC.

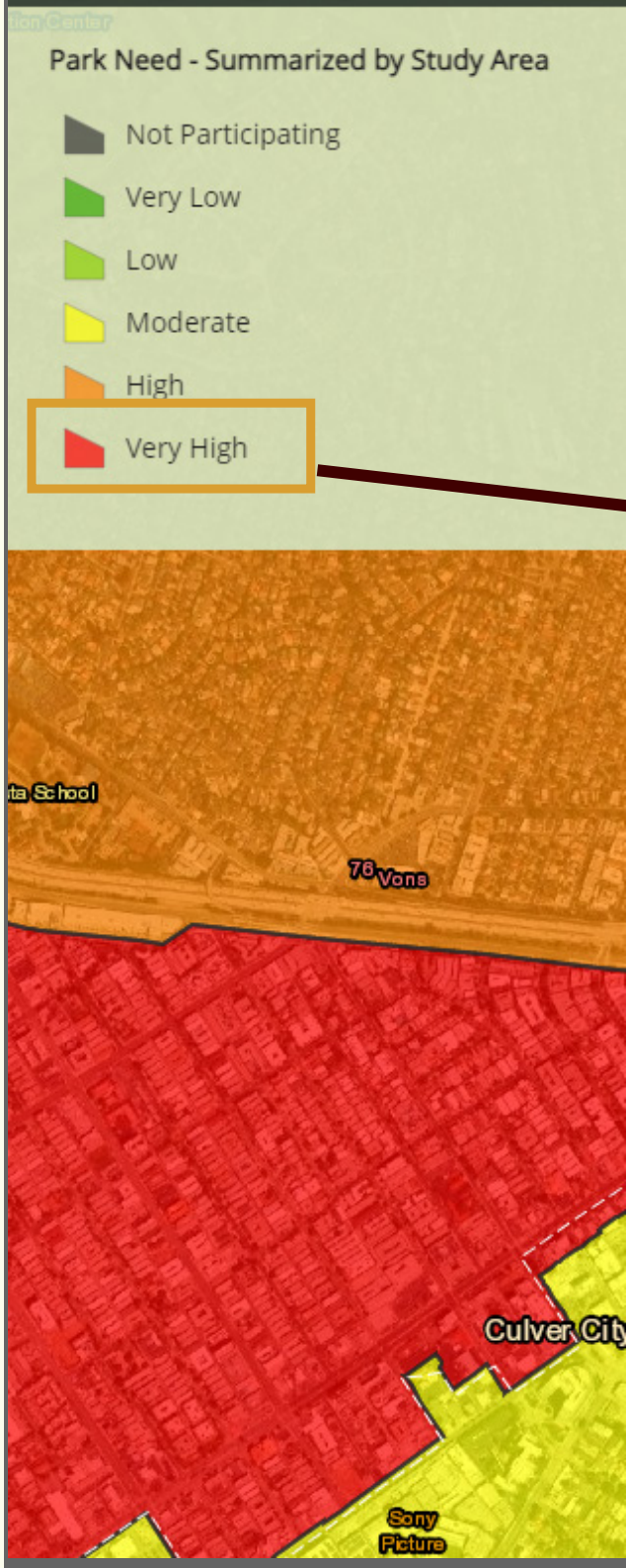
THE MAJORITY OF NEARBY NEIGHBOURHOODS TO THE EAST ARE MIXED AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC. THE NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTLY WEST ARE PRIMARILY CAUCASIAN.

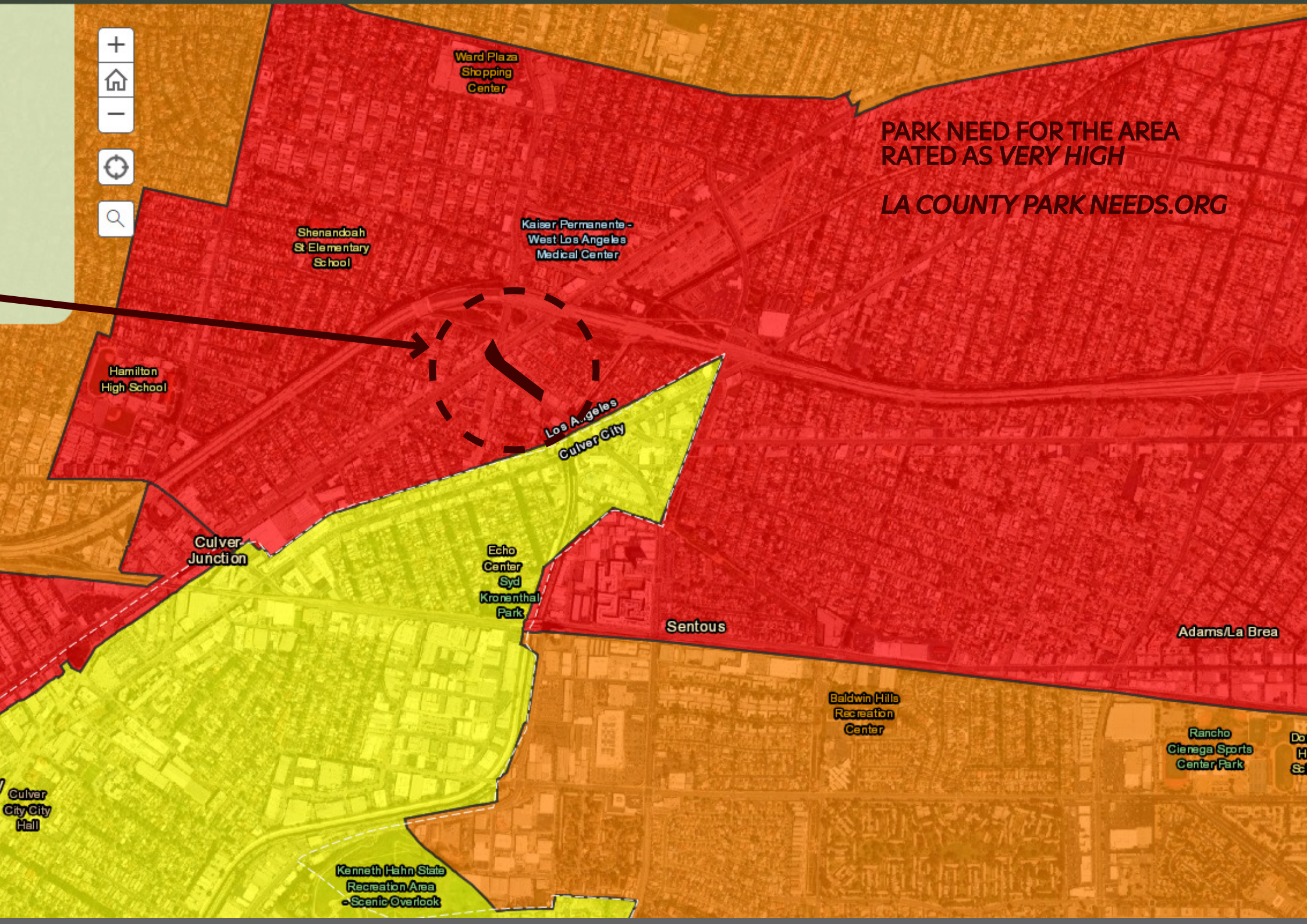

DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER
RATED AS *VERY HIGH*
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Culver City
BALDWIN HILLS
423 ft
519 ft
Venice Blvd
Rosa Parks Fwy
Jefferson Blvd
S La Cienega Blvd
Higuera St
Overland Ave
Hamilton High School
Dorsey High School
Culver City Park
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
Veterans Park
Culver City Senior High School
West Los Angeles
Hillcrest Country Club
Rancho Park Golf Course
20th Century Fox Studio
Westside Pavilion
Palms Park
Vista School
Sony Picture Studios
Center
Coliseum St
Obama
Rosa Park
W Jefferson Bl
Alcott St
Cashio St
Kirkside Rd
Cresta Dr
W 25th St
Beverlywood St
National Blvd
Southern Pacific RR
Lafayette Pl
Lincoln Ave
Jasmine Ave
Mentone Ave
Midway Ave
Elenda St
Barman Ave
Albright Ave
Minerva Ave
McLaughlin Ave
Bledsoe
Sam Dre
Ocean Dr
Don Felipe Dr
Don Luis
W Don Tomaso St
Don Miguel Dr
Hillcrest Dr
Santa Rosa
Tabor St
Rose Ave
Military Ave
S Bentley Ave
Keystone Ave
Vinton Ave
Wesley St
Clyde Ave
Smiley Dr
Geer St
Carlin St
Homeside Ave
Alsace Ave
S Sycamore Ave
S Rimpau Blvd
S Harcourt Ave
Vineyard Ave
Hillcrest Dr
Pickford St
Venice Blvd
Sawyer St
Guthrie Ave
Stearns Dr
S Orange Grove Ave
S Genesee Ave
S Hayworth Ave
S Holt Ave
S Bedford St
S Robertson Blvd
S Crescent Heights Blvd
S Ogden Dr
W Pico Blvd
Saturn St
Hauser Blvd
S La Brea Ave
Ridgeley Dr
Redondo Blvd
Beverwil Dr
Castle Heights Ave
Bagley Ave
S Canfield Ave
S Beverly Dr
Anchor Ave
Club Dr
Motor Ave
Patricia Ave
Ayres Ave
Tennessee Ave
Kenwood Ave
W Olympic Blvd
Manning Ave
Northvale Rd
Overland Ave
Mentone Ave
Jefferson Blvd
405
10



THIS AREA ENDURES A HEAVY POLLUTION BURDEN DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO THE 10 FREEWAY AND SURROUNDING VEHICULAR ARTERIES.

THE PROJECT SITE SITS IN A LARGE
SWATH OF PARK POOR NEIGHBORHOODS.




PARK NEED FOR THE AREA
RATED AS *VERY HIGH*
LA COUNTY PARK NEEDS.ORG
Ward Plaza Shopping Center
Shenandoah St Elementary School
Kaiser Permanente - West Los Angeles Medical Center
Hamilton High School
Los Angeles
Culver City
Culver Junction
Echo Center Syd Kronenthal Park
Sentous
Adams/La Brea
Baldwin Hills Recreation Center
Rancho Cienega Sports Center Park
Culver City City Hall
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area - Scenic Overlook

Social Benefits

Justification

- SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PER CAPITA PARK ACREAGE.
- INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE EQUITY FOR RESIDENTS OF THIS AREA
- REDUCE HEAT ISLAND EFFECT IN MID-CITY AREA
- SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL BENEFIT FROM INCREASED ACCESS TO NATURE AND EXERCISE
- MEDIATE POOR AIR QUALITY
- RECONNECT THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS CUT OFF BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 FRWY
- MEDIATE IMPACT OF HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE ON MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

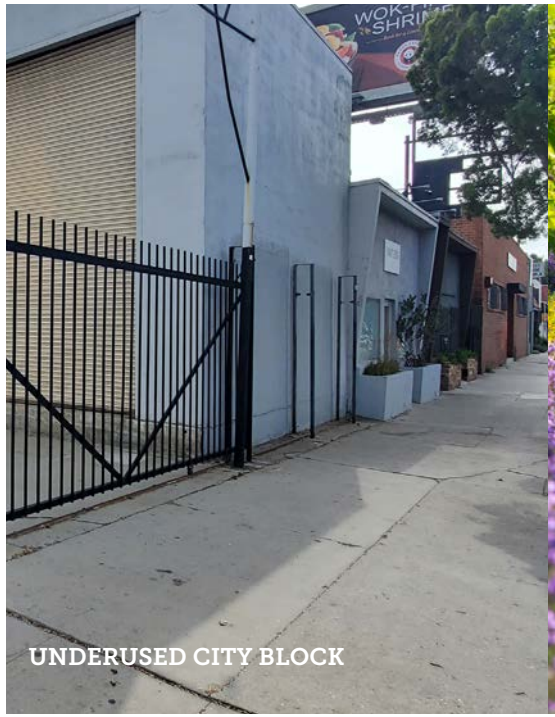
**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT "address the racism ingrained in historical transportation and urban planning.... reconnect neighborhoods cut off by historic investments..... target "40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments to disadvantaged communities."*

Existing Site Demolition

Justification

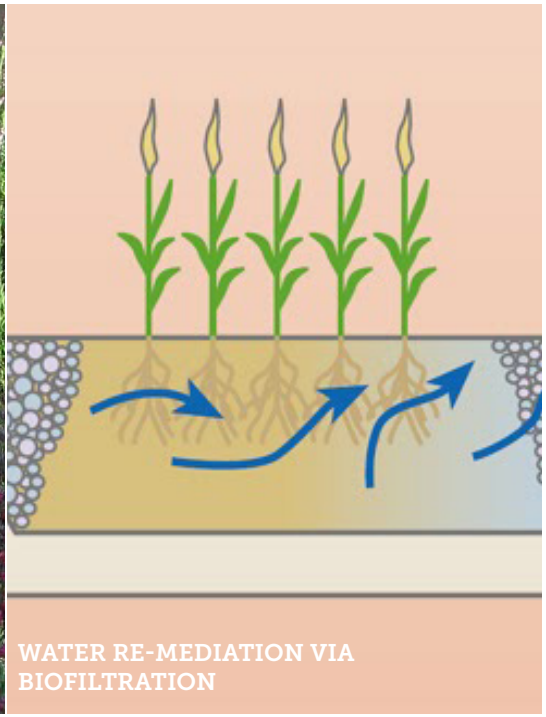
- CEQA MANDATE TO CREATE MORE GREEN SPACE
- ONE STORY COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES ON-SITE TO BE DEMOLISHED CREATES A LOWER IMPACT THAN MULTI STORY BUILDING DEMOLITION
- NO HOUSING IS BEING DEMOLISHED - UNDERUSED COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS
- NO HISTORIC OVERLAY IN PLACE
- RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE DEMOLITION COMPARED TO OTHER MASSIVE COMMERCIAL PROJECTS IN CA
- CAL RECYCLE BEST PRACTICES IN DEMOLITION WASTE REDUCTION CAN BE APPLIED

Goals and Objectives


UNDERUSED CITY BLOCK


STORM WATER IRRIGATED PARK

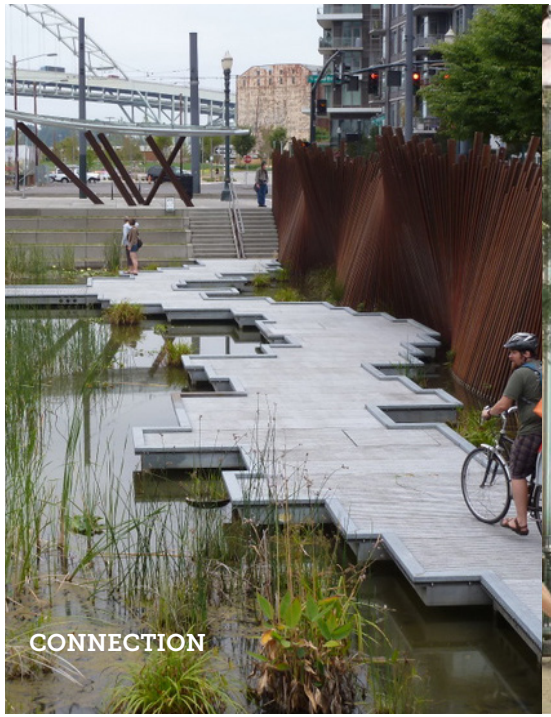

CALIFORNIA NATIVE HABITAT

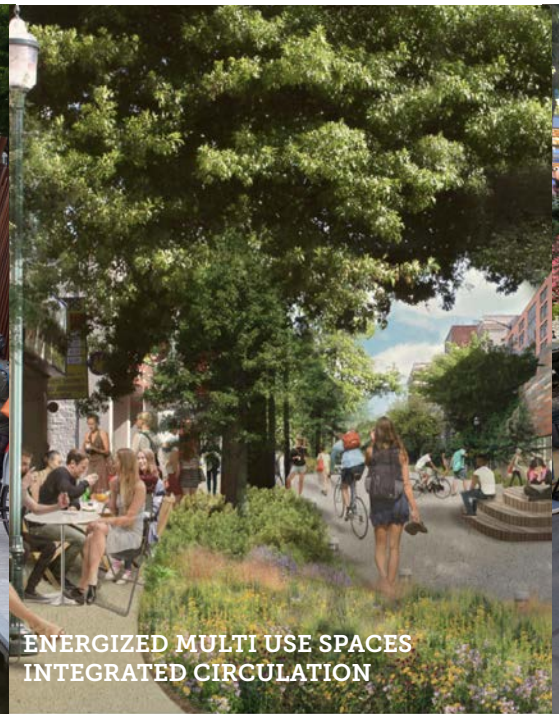

WATER RE-MEDIATION VIA BIOFILTRATION

1 DAYLIGHT AN EXISTING STORM WATER CHANNEL NEAR IN AN UNDERUSED CITY BLOCK TO CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE FOR MID-CITY.

- Demolish existing commercial buildings
- Design accessible circulation and open areas with shade.
- Restore historic native plants to the area.
- Employ sustainable landscape design principles.
- Create plant focused design.
- Utilize native plant palette, including endemic species.
- Improve watershed health for Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay
- Employ storm water health management design strategies.
- Engage interdisciplinary approach to engineering and landscape design
- Bioswale remediation/filtration of water prior to the bay
- Groundwater replenishment through hard-scape and plant design

Goals and Objectives


CONNECTION


ENERGIZED MULTI USE SPACES
INTEGRATED CIRCULATION


COMMUNITY GATHERING


NATURE BASED PLAY AREA

2 PROVIDE GREEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS FOR HEALTH, RELAXATION, COMMUNITY GATHERING, AND PLAY TO A HIGH PARK NEED AREA

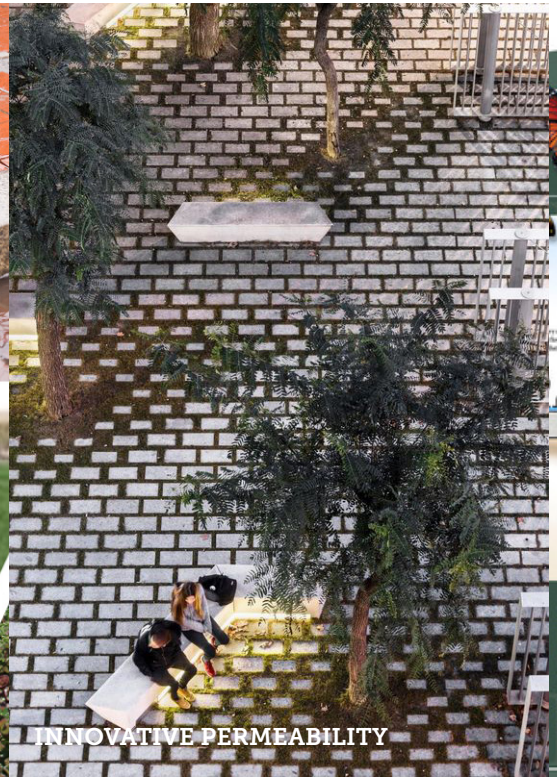
- Utilize planting design, which includes significant new tree canopy to reduce heat island effect and mediate poor air quality.
- Include pedestrian and bike path bridges over the creek to adjacent neighborhood.
- Connect to existing Ballona Creek bike path.
- Employ principles for designing energized, multi use public spaces.
- Create space for community activities & commercial trade.
- Design vehicular access points for trade and safety and multiple pedestrian and bike access points to the park.
- Design accessible trails and pathways and opportunities for rest within nature.
- Include innovative play structure design to encourage engagement with nature.

Goals and Objectives





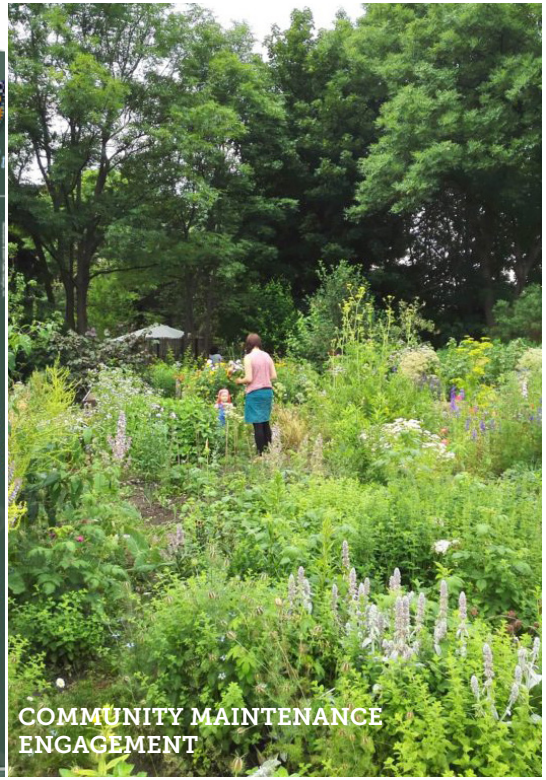
SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT



INNOVATIVE PERMEABILITY



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE ENGAGEMENT

3 CREATE WATER MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PARK

- Utilize best practices for on surface water management
- Incorporate improved design materials to achieve maximum water permeability and design flexibility.
- Illustrate responsible water management with signage
- Design planting plans that allow for community maintenance and engagement - ie. pruning and seed harvesting.

Weather events in California are becoming more intense, unpredictable and destructive. Although we are squarely in the middle of a significant drought, the possibility of immense water deluge beyond our city water infrastructure's ability to manage is not only real, but likely.

Utilizing best practices for on surface water management alongside water storage of the storm channel source will help the longevity of this park, as well as illustrate responsible use of water in a way that Angelenos can benefit from.

Site Context

Looking West

Looking West, we see that there is significant high end development. The Platform shopping mall less than a mile away, the Cumulus Residential complex around the corner with a new Whole Foods next door, and the Metro E Line a half mile away all reflect a burgeoning wealthy community.

In contrast to this development, there are 3 semi permanent homeless encampments near the 10 Frwy just ¼ mile to the East of our site. In my opinion, this extreme inequity coalescing within a square mile is a civic disaster. Public space for health, safety and connection is just one of the many solutions at our disposal to address this concern.



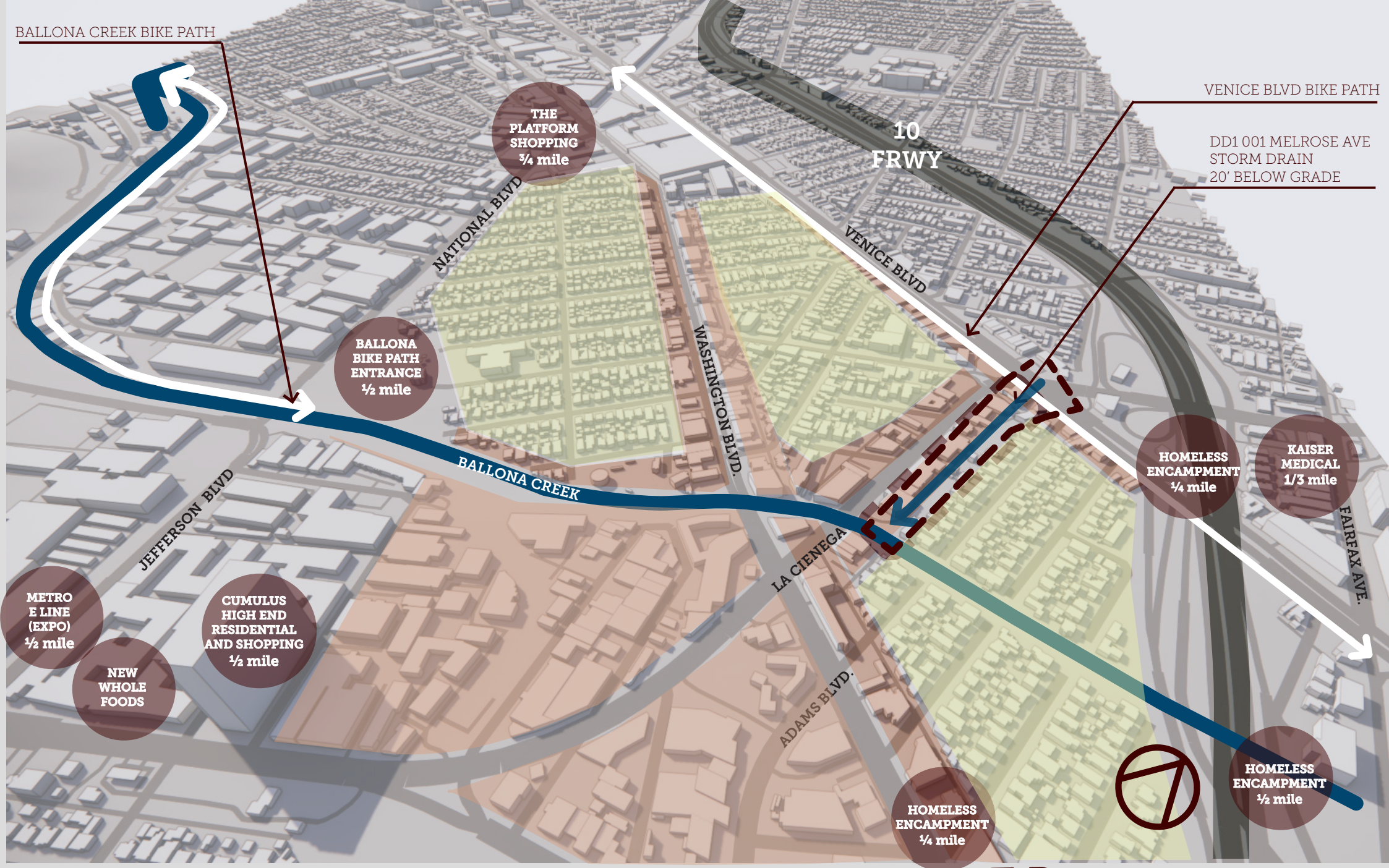
MEDICAL FACILITY AND HOSPITAL



BIKE PATH ENTRANCE

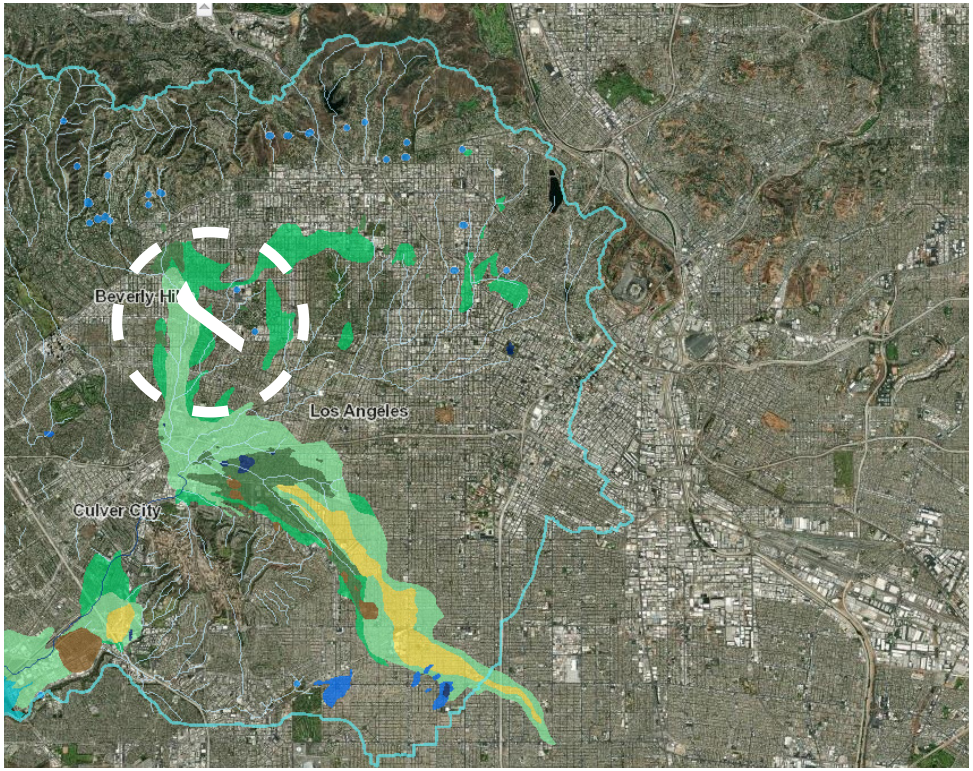

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT

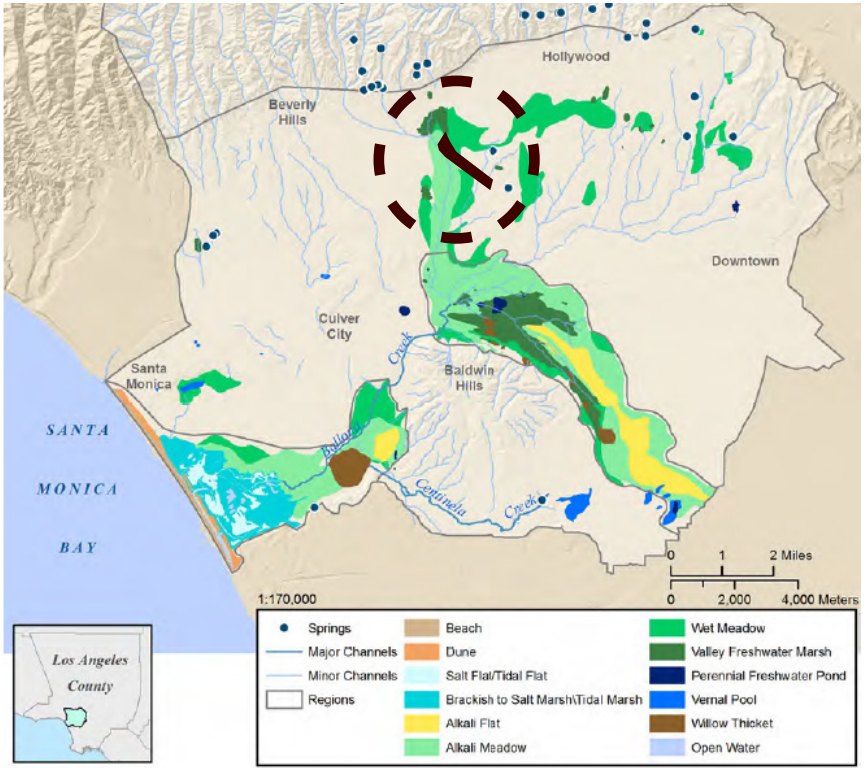

THE PLATFORM


BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH
THE PLATFORM SHOPPING ¾ mile
10 FRWY
VENICE BLVD BIKE PATH
DD1 001 MELROSE AVE STORM DRAIN 20' BELOW GRADE
NATIONAL BLVD
VENICE BLVD
BALLONA BIKE PATH ENTRANCE ½ mile
WASHINGTON BLVD.
BALLONA CREEK
JEFFERSON BLVD
HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT ¼ mile
KAISER MEDICAL 1/3 mile
FAIRFAX AVE.
LA CIENEGA
METRO E LINE (EXPO) ½ mile
CUMULUS HIGH END RESIDENTIAL AND SHOPPING ½ mile
NEW WHOLE FOODS
ADAMS BLVD.
HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT ½ mile
HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT ¼ mile
MOSTLY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
PROJECT SITE

Ecological Context

The project site is geographically part of an historic watershed that fed the original Ballona Creek. At one point the entire area that surrounds it was an Alkali Meadow, home to many plants and animal species. It was all part of the healthy water network that existed before city development forced the Army Corps of Engineers to concretize the water channels to prevent destructive flooding. It is time to revisit these antiquated solutions so that we can revive the natural environment and ensure that Los Angeles is able to thrive in the future.





HISTORIC WETLAND 'ALKALI MEADOW' AREA WITHIN WATERSHED

RESEARCH ANALYSIS EXCERPT 'BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY PROJECT'



HISTORIC PHOTO BALLONA STORM CHANNEL

LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER PHOTO COLLECTION



PEN, INK, WATERCOLOR MAP, CIENEGA WETLANDS

UC BERKELEY BANCROFT LIBRARY



FIGURE 19: *Alkali lands in the La Cienega wetland complex at the base of Baldwin Hills (photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library, date unknown).*

ALKALI MEADOW LANDS HISTORIC PHOTO

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

EXCERPT FROM 'BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY PROJECT'

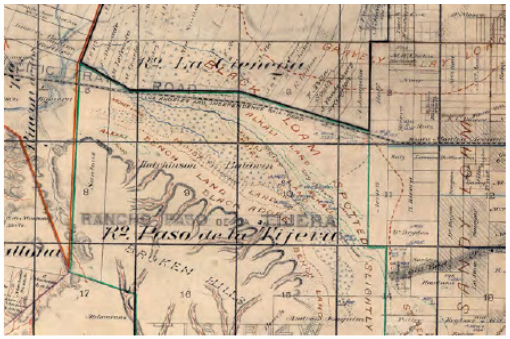


FIGURE 18: *Hall irrigation map (1888), notice the reference to alkali land. [courtesy of California State Archives].*

STATE ENGINEER, WILLIAM HALL, IRRIGATION MAP

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

EXCERPT FROM 'BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY PROJECT'

Site Constraints

Pollution, noise and poor pedestrian circulation plague the surrounding neighborhoods. Particularly the one locked in place between the freeway and Venice and La Cienega Blvds. The Ballona Creek is currently un-passable, so this further disconnects the adjacent neighborhoods.

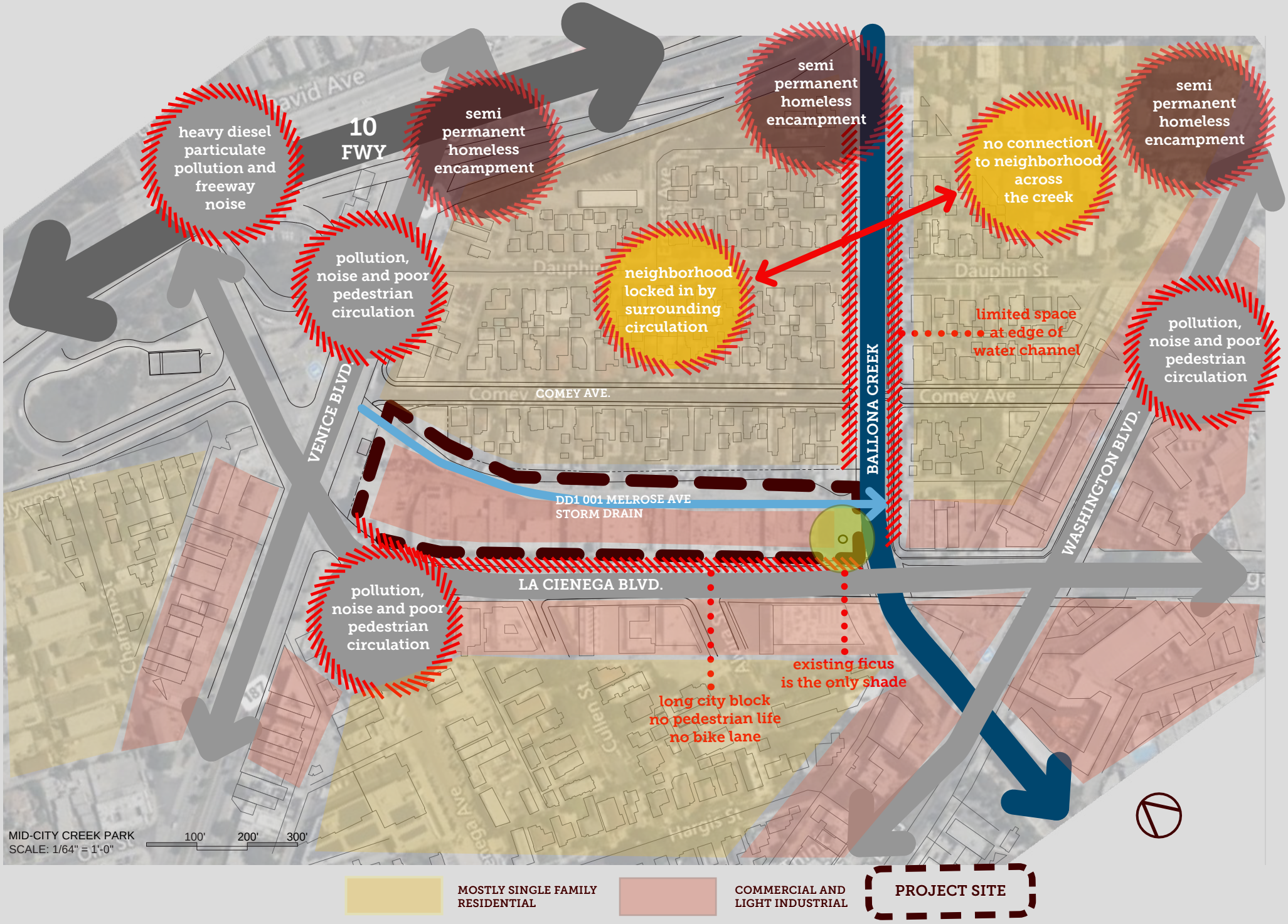
The edge conditions of La Cienega and the creek itself are poor, and there are a number of unhoused people living in poor conditions nearby.

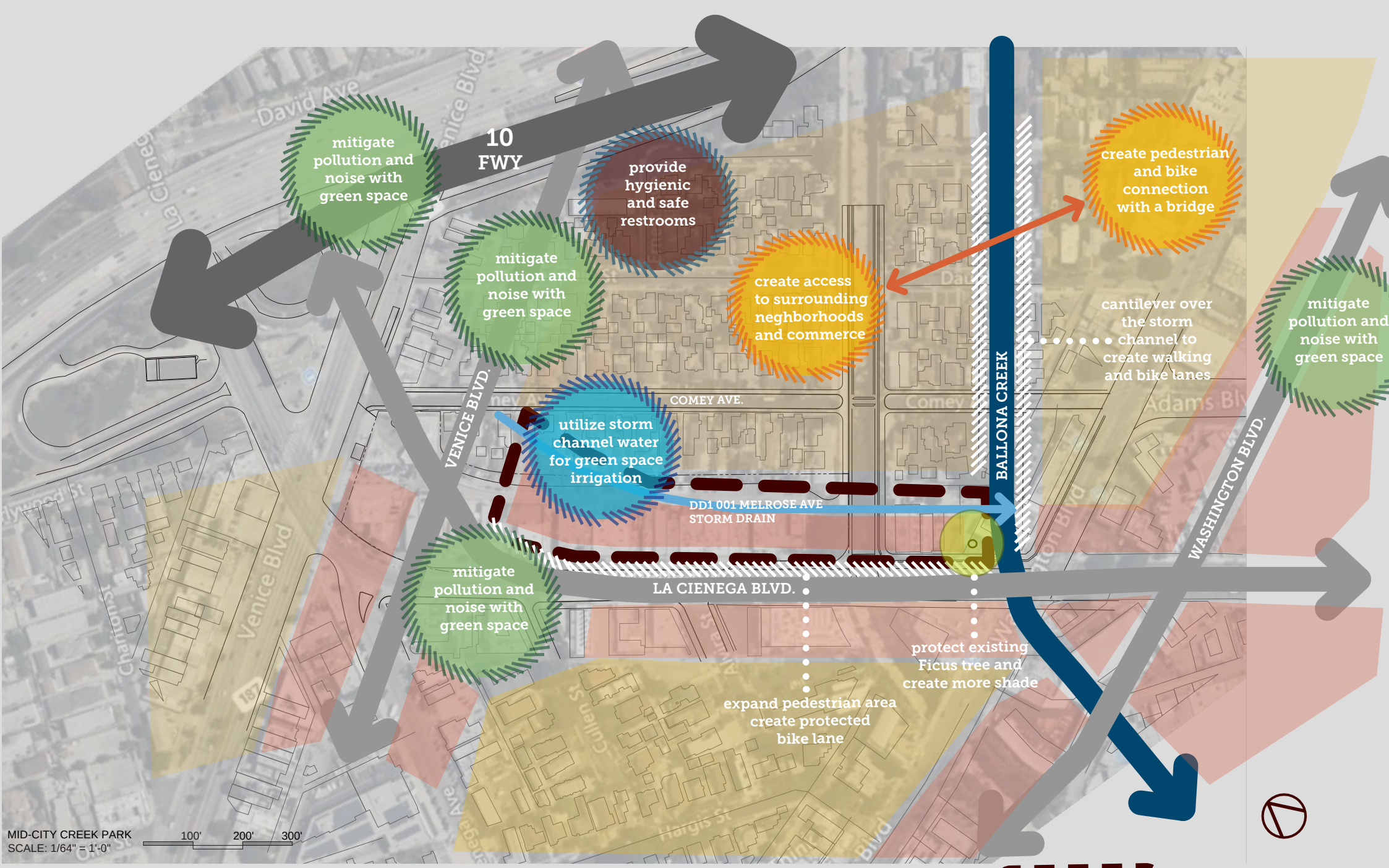
All of these constraints provide the justification for this project and give us an opportunity to make life better with significant green space. The existing below grade storm channel DD1 001, and B15240 Lines, which channels storm water from the higher elevations in the North into the Ballona, presents our greatest opportunity. Let's use that water to create green space equity!



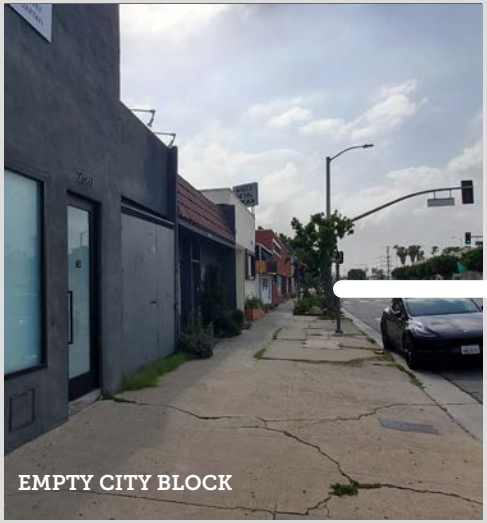




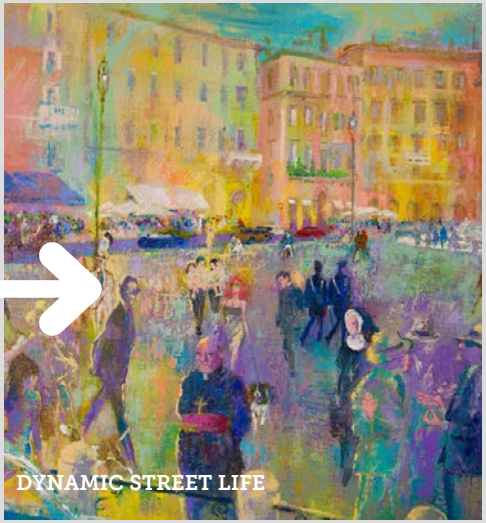

heavy diesel particulate pollution and freeway noise
10 FWY
semi permanent homeless encampment
semi permanent homeless encampment
no connection to neighborhood across the creek
semi permanent homeless encampment
pollution, noise and poor pedestrian circulation
neighborhood locked in by surrounding circulation
limited space at edge of water channel
pollution, noise and poor pedestrian circulation
VENICE BLVD.
COMEY AVE.
BALLONA CREEK
WASHINGTON BLVD.
DD1 001 MELROSE AVE STORM DRAIN
LA CIENEGA BLVD.
pollution, noise and poor pedestrian circulation
existing ficus is the only shade
long city block no pedestrian life no bike lane
MID-CITY CREEK PARK
SCALE: 1/64" = 1'-0"
100'
200'
300'
MOSTLY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
PROJECT SITE


mitigate pollution and noise with green space
10 FWY
provide hygienic and safe restrooms
create pedestrian and bike connection with a bridge
mitigate pollution and noise with green space
create access to surrounding neighborhoods and commerce
cantilever over the storm channel to create walking and bike lanes
mitigate pollution and noise with green space
VENICE BLVD.
COMEY AVE.
BALLONA CREEK
utilize storm channel water for green space irrigation
DD1 001 MELROSE AVE STORM DRAIN
WASHINGTON BLVD.
mitigate pollution and noise with green space
LA CIENEGA BLVD.
protect existing Ficus tree and create more shade
expand pedestrian area create protected bike lane
MID-CITY CREEK PARK
SCALE: 1/64" = 1'-0"
100'
200'
300'
MOSTLY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
PROJECT SITE

Site Opportunities



EMPTY CITY BLOCK



DYNAMIC STREET LIFE



EXISTING STORM CHANNEL



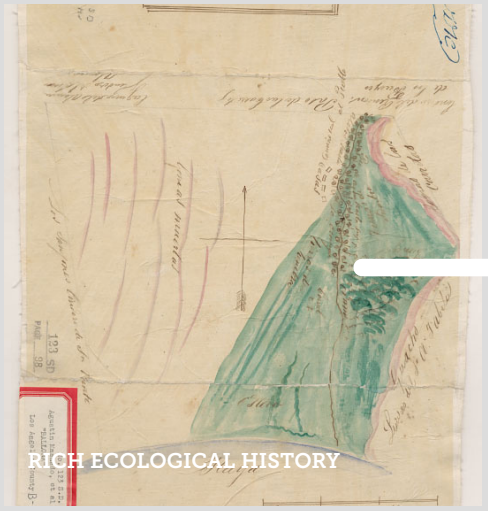
GREEN SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY



NARROW CHANNEL EDGE



CANTILEVERED BIKE
AND PEDESTRIAN PATH



RICH ECOLOGICAL HISTORY



NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION

Case Study

Milton Street Park, Completed 2018

Los Angeles, CA, SWA for Mountains Conservation







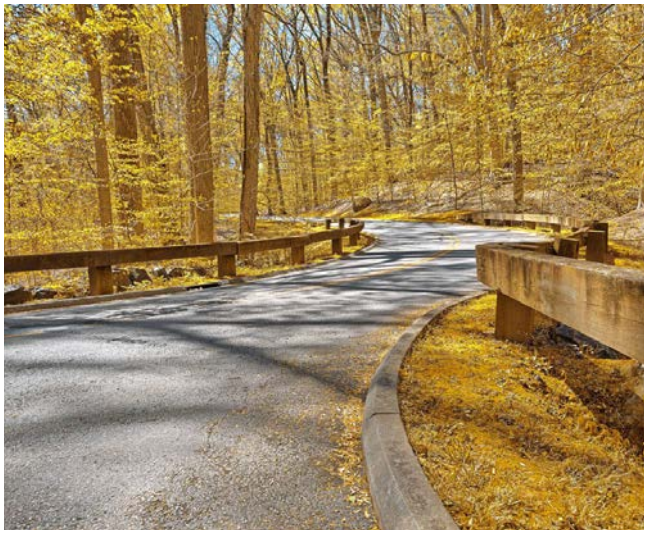


Case Study

Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. - Completed 1890

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, JR., JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED







JUSTIFICATION FOR ROCK CREEK PARK IN 1860

- Respite from the noise and movement of the city.
- Recreational pursuit
- Inspire an appreciation for artistic and cultural forms
- Connected people to nature. Michler remarked that parks had "the free air of Heaven"—meaning, in twenty-first-century language, that they offered clean air by lessening air pollution via trees soaking up fumes
- Flattened the playing field for different social classes to interact
- Encourage healthy exercise.

DESIGN INSPIRATION

- Successful water management in urban setting
- Natural edges to the creek are not compromised by necessary infrastructure to protect the built environment.
- Transportation spines were created alongside and through the park to great effect.

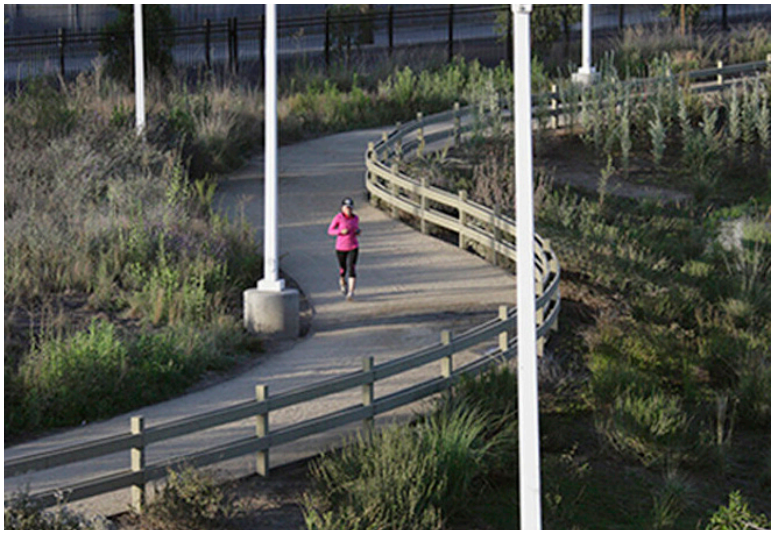
Case Study

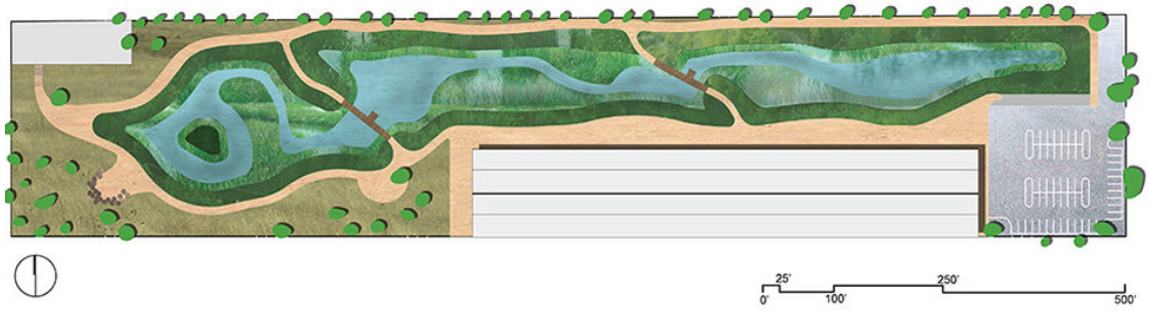
South Los Angeles Wetland Park, Completed 2011

PSOMAS, Mia Leher & Assoc.









- SUCCESSFUL STORM WATER CAPTURE AND TREATMENT TECHNIQUE APPLIED
- NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION/REHABILITATION
- ACCESSIBLE GREEN-SPACE IN PARK POOR AREA OF LOS ANGELES
- TRAILS, BOARDWALKS, OBSERVATION AREAS, PICNIC AREAS AND ROCK GARDENS
- POST OCCUPANCY ANALYSIS REVEALS IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR NEW PROJECTS

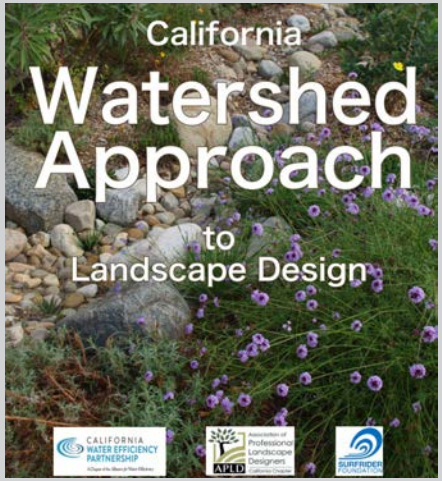
Design Methodology

- WATERSHED/STORMWATER CAPTURE AND CLEAN ENGINEERING MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

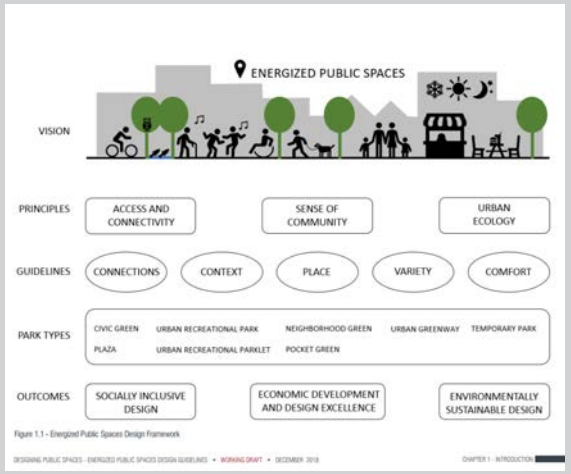


SASAKI DESIGN FIRM PROJECT RENDERING

- LID - LOW IMPACT DESIGN PRINCIPLES

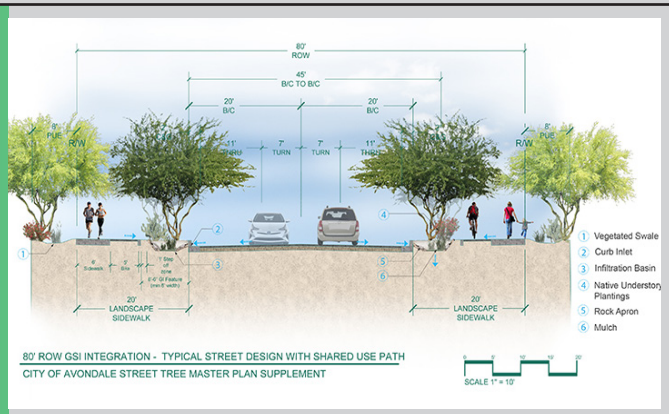


- URBAN PARK AND OPEN SPACE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

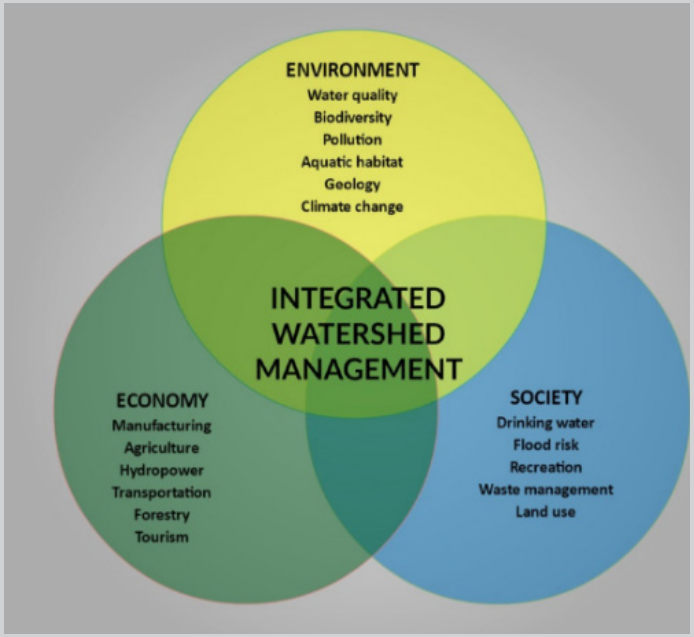


GREEN STREETS PROGRAM, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT





WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP

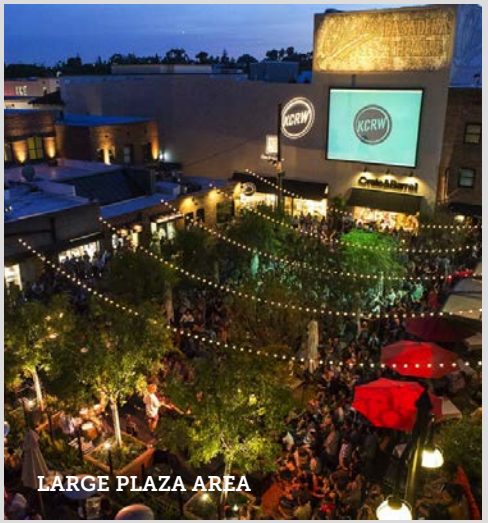


Program Elements


GATHERING SPACE IN SHADE


SAFE NIGHT LIGHITNG


RESTROOMS WITH WASHING AREAS

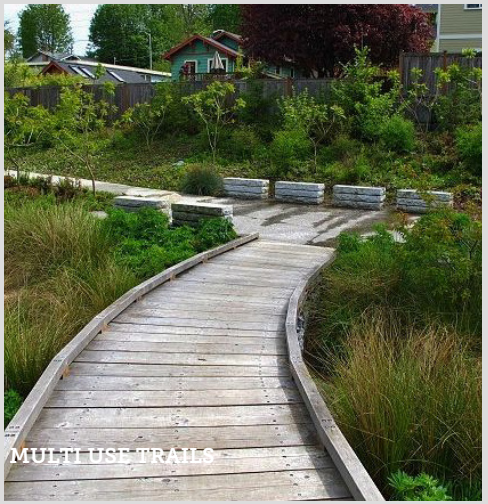


LARGE PLAZA AREA


BRIDGE TO OTHER SIDE OF BALLONA

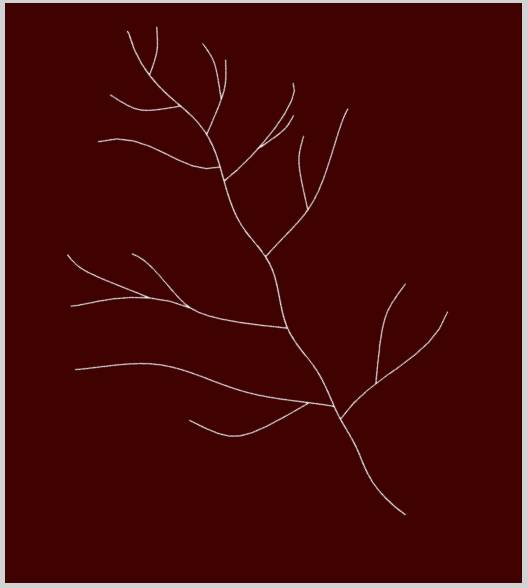

BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH CONNECTION


RICH NATIVE PLANTING PLAN


MULTI USE TRAILS







Design metaphor

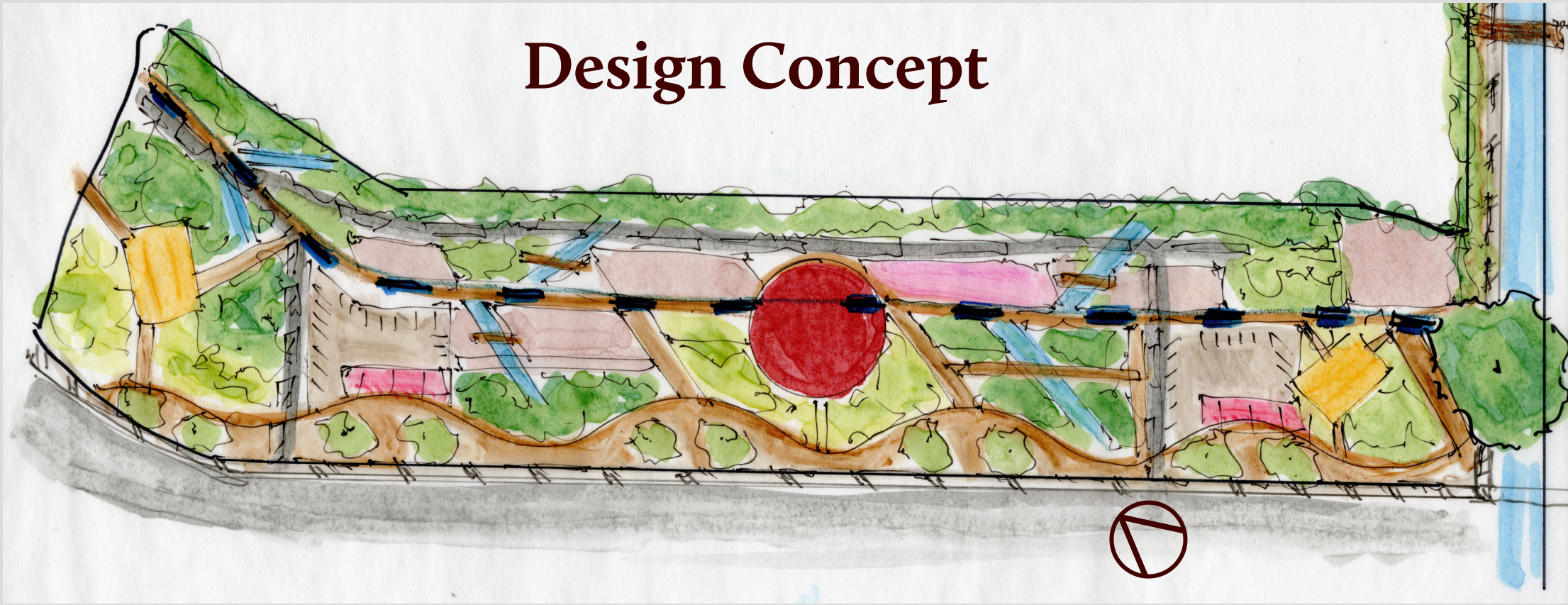
-

Dendritic flow

I looked to the ecological history of the site for my design inspiration. The dendritic flow pattern is reflected in the original Ballona water-shed. This universal pattern is found in plant and animal biology as well as atmospheric energy.

This pattern can also reflect a non-hierarchical social structure, where all the dendritic branches flow towards the primary stem which in turn brings life to the entire system. This seemed an apt metaphor for a project that seeks to bring the balance of nature back to a part of our city that has been ignored because of the road and irrigation infrastructure pattern imposing itself on the land.

Design Concept



My concept diagram uses the storm channel as the dendritic spine. It is watershed in reverse, with its rigid concrete path of storm water serving a series of bioswale branches along the length of the park. Where the water moves somewhat rigidly, the pedestrian paths can flow more like water, opportunistically, though not always directly, to their destination.

These accompanying sketches illustrate my early thoughts on the programming design.

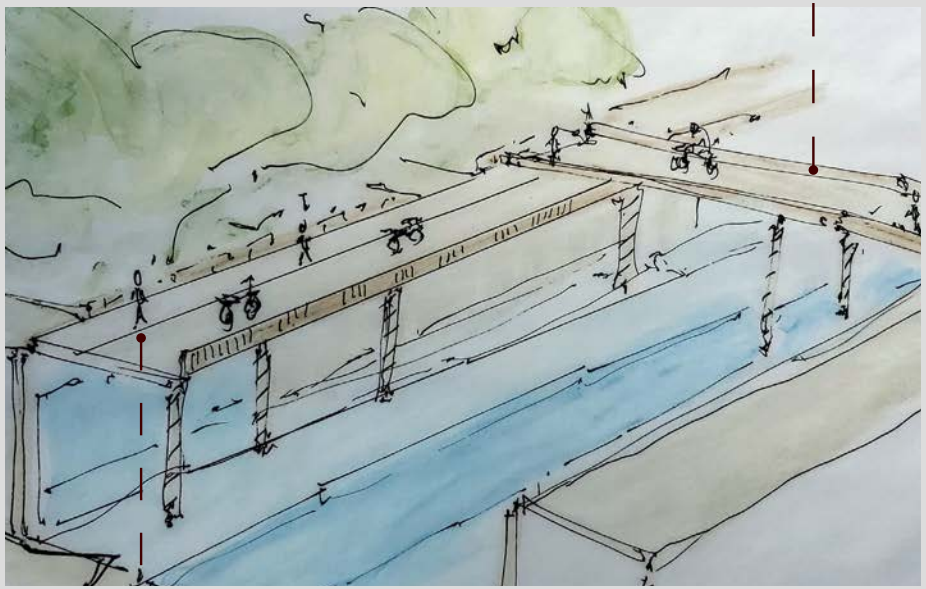
BIOSWALE WITH
CHECK DAM WALLS

NATURE BASED
PLAY AREA



BIOSWALE BRIDGE

BRIDGE ADJOINING
NEIGHBORHOODS



CANTILEVERED BIKE AND
PEDESTRIAN PATH

GATHERING
SPACE

STORM DRAIN

COMMUNITY
CENTER



NEW BIKE
PATH

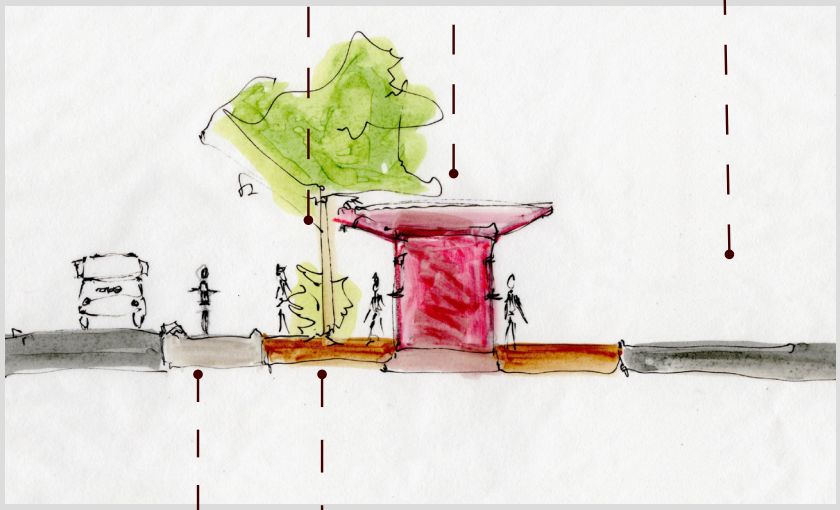
GROUND WATER
RECHARGE
AND OVERFLOW

WATER STORAGE
FOR
IRRIGATION

GATHERING
SPACE

SEMI
PERMANENT
COMMERCE

PARKING



NEW BIKE
PATH

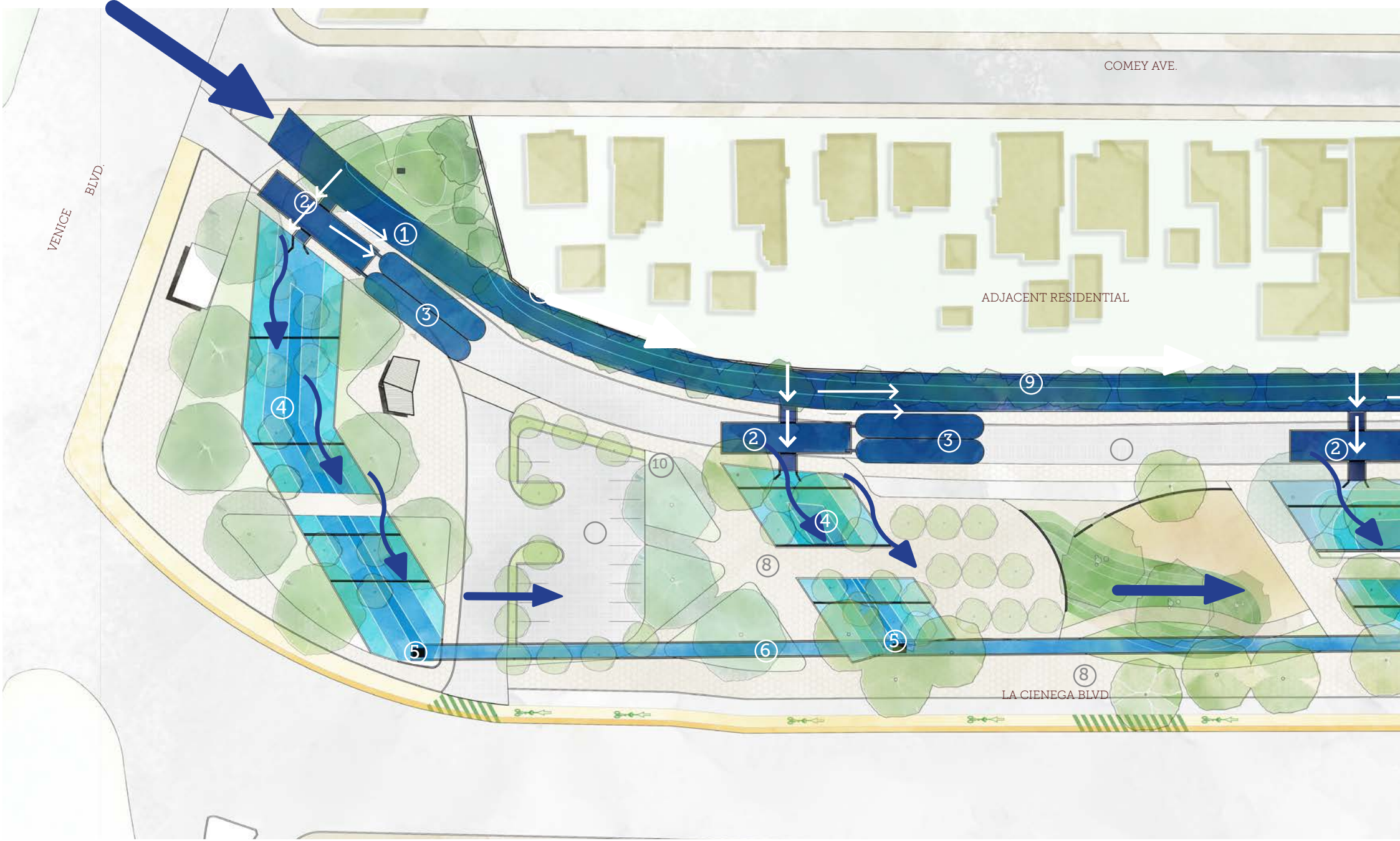
GREEN SIDWALK
SPACE



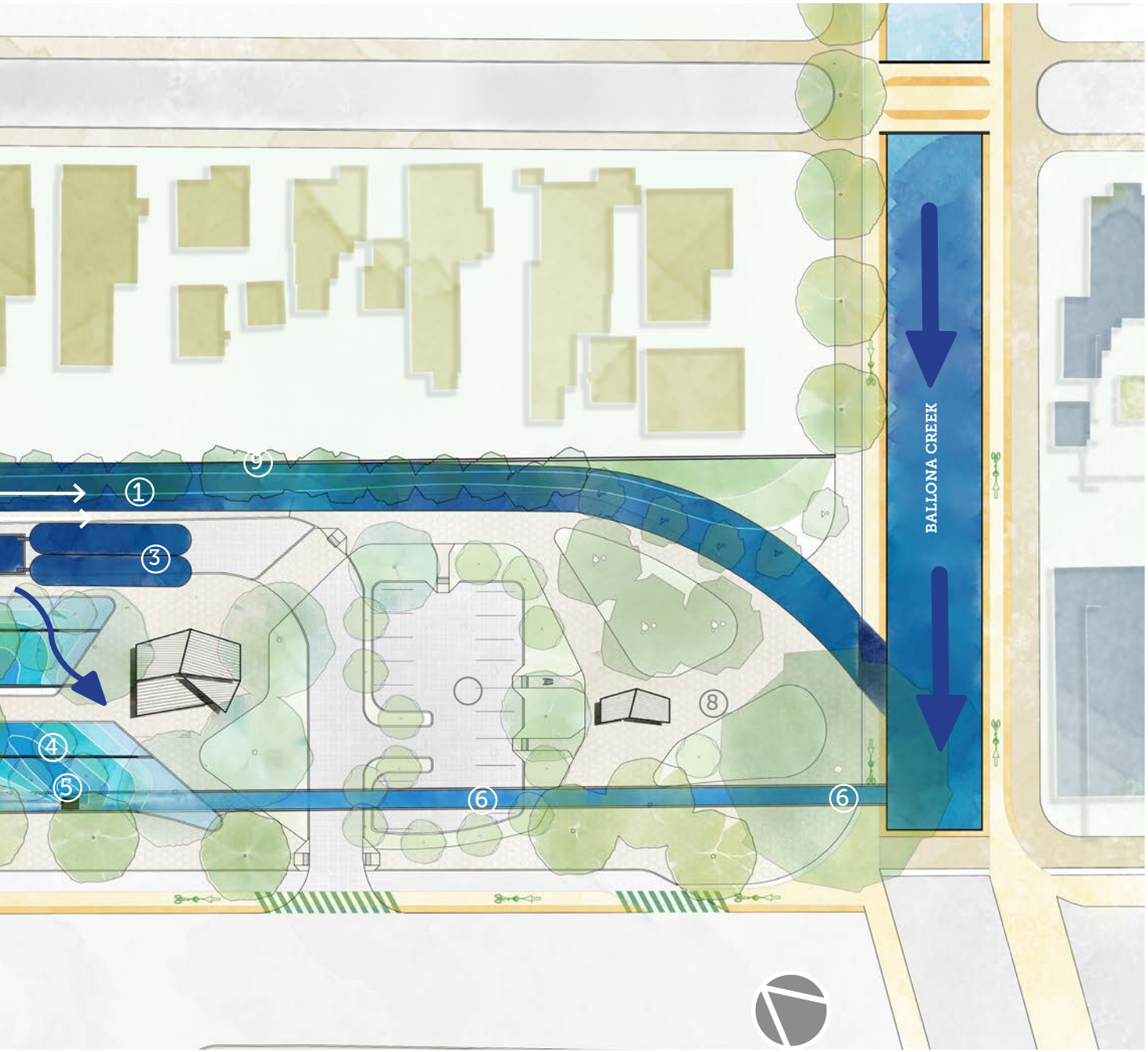
Illustrative Plan



1. RESTROOM AND WASHING AREA
2. PARKING
3. BIOSWALE
4. MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY VEHICULAR ROAD
5. NORTH ENTRANCE AT VENICE BLVD.
6. GATHERING SPACE
7. NATURE PLAYGROUND
8. WEST ENTRANCE ON LA CIENEGA
9. COMMUNITY CENTER
10. ELEVATED PLANTING BUFFER
11. TRAILHEAD AND GATHERING SPACE
12. PROTECTED BIKE LANE
13. SOUTH ENTRANCE NEAR WASHINGTON BLVD.
14. BIOSWALE BRIDGE
15. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
16. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH
17. NEW CROSSWALK
18. NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRANCE



Illustrative Storm Water Plan



MID-CITY CREEK PARK

0' 20' 60' 100'

The storm water, which moves through the below grade storm channel from North to South is diverted into a series of Wet Well Diversion chambers, also below grade. It is then pumped to the surface to irrigate the bioswales, overflow water fills the adjacent cisterns to be stored for irrigating the rest of the park.

STORM CHANNEL WATER MANAGEMENT

1. DD1 001 LINE MELROSE AVE STORM DRAIN
2. WET WELL DIVERSION CHAMBER
3. WATER STORAGE CISTERN
4. BIOSWALE REMEDIATION
5. REMEDIATED AND OVERFLOW WATER DRAIN
6. RETURN DRAIN CHANNEL

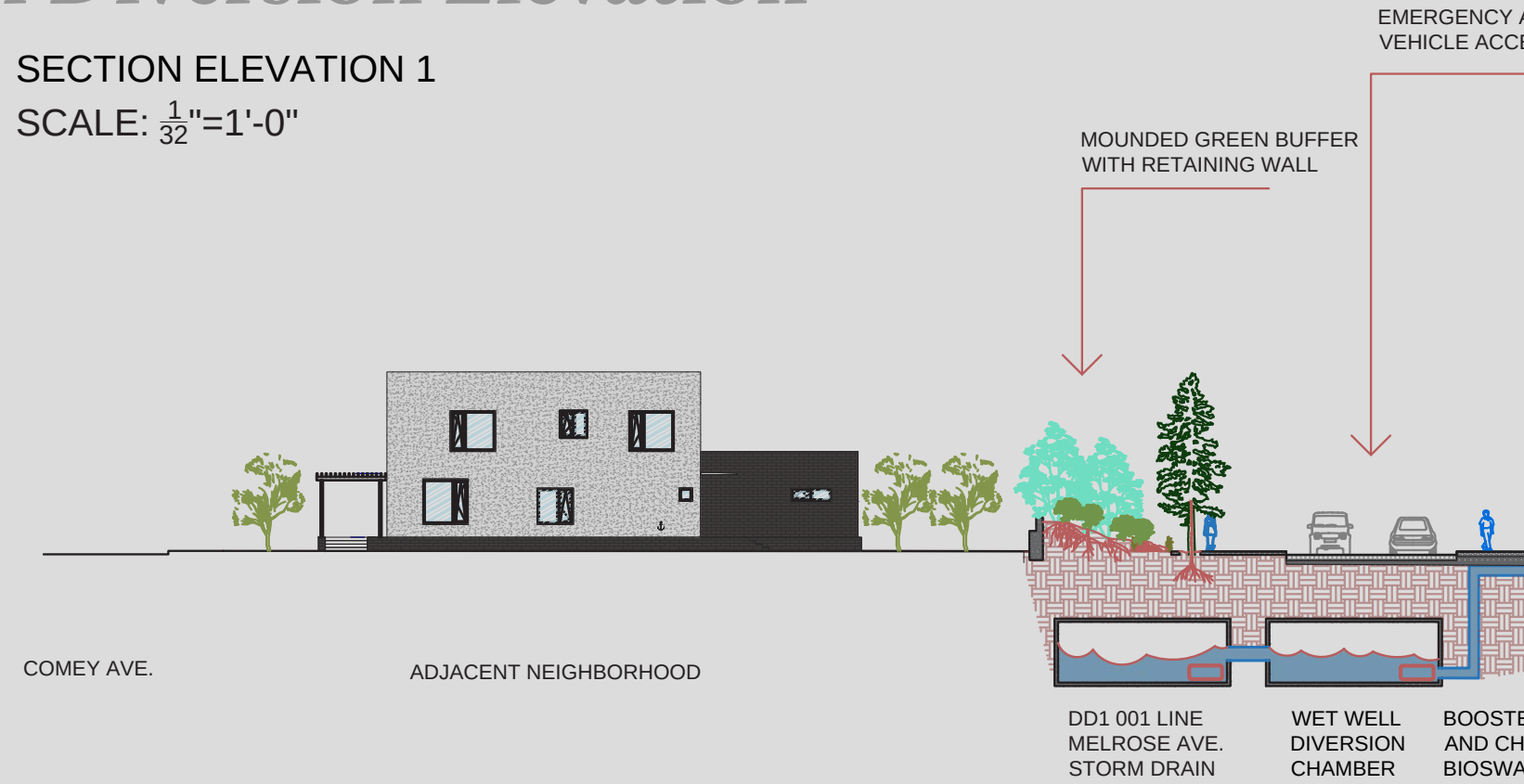
ON SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

7. PERMEABLE ROAD MATERIAL
8. PERMEABLE PEDESTRIAN PAVING SYSTEM
9. MOUNDED PLANTING WITH POSITIVE WATER FLOW
10. DEPRESSION WATER RETENTION AND DRAINCURB CUT PARKING PLANTERS

Storm Drain Diversion Elevation

SECTION ELEVATION 1

SCALE: $\frac{1}{32}$"=1'-0"



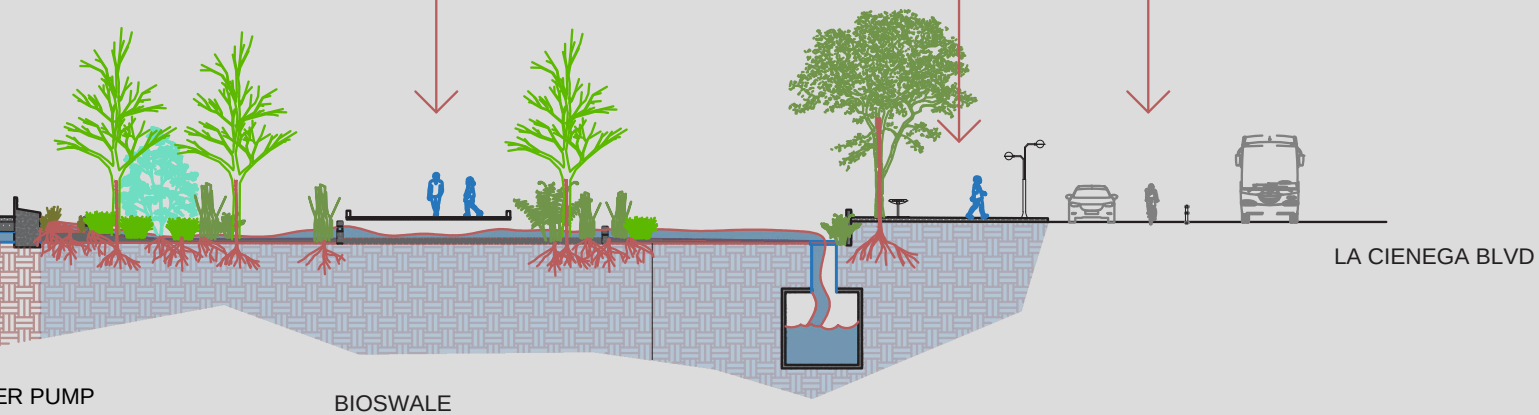
As the water travels through this new plant system it is cleaned of various toxic materials the water has picked up in its travels - bioremediation. That cleaner water then travels to the Ballona via a new channel.

AND MAINTENANCE
ESS

BOARDWALK

EXPANDED
SIDEWALK

BIKE PATH

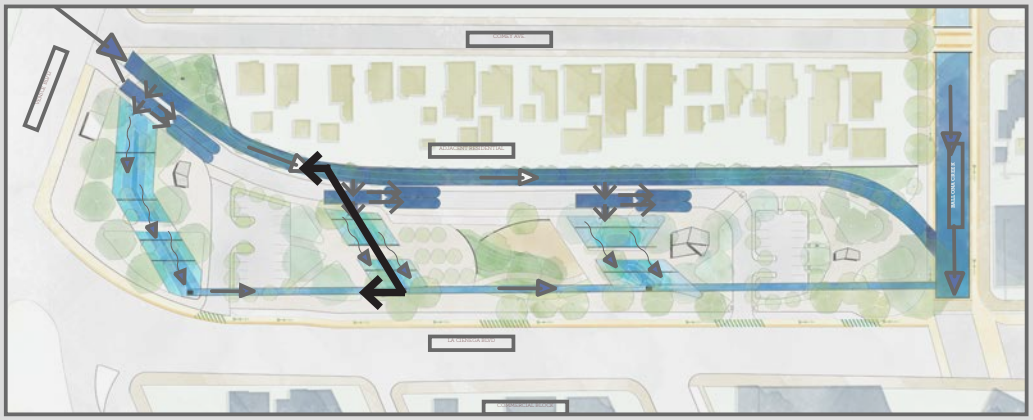


LA CIENEGA BLVD

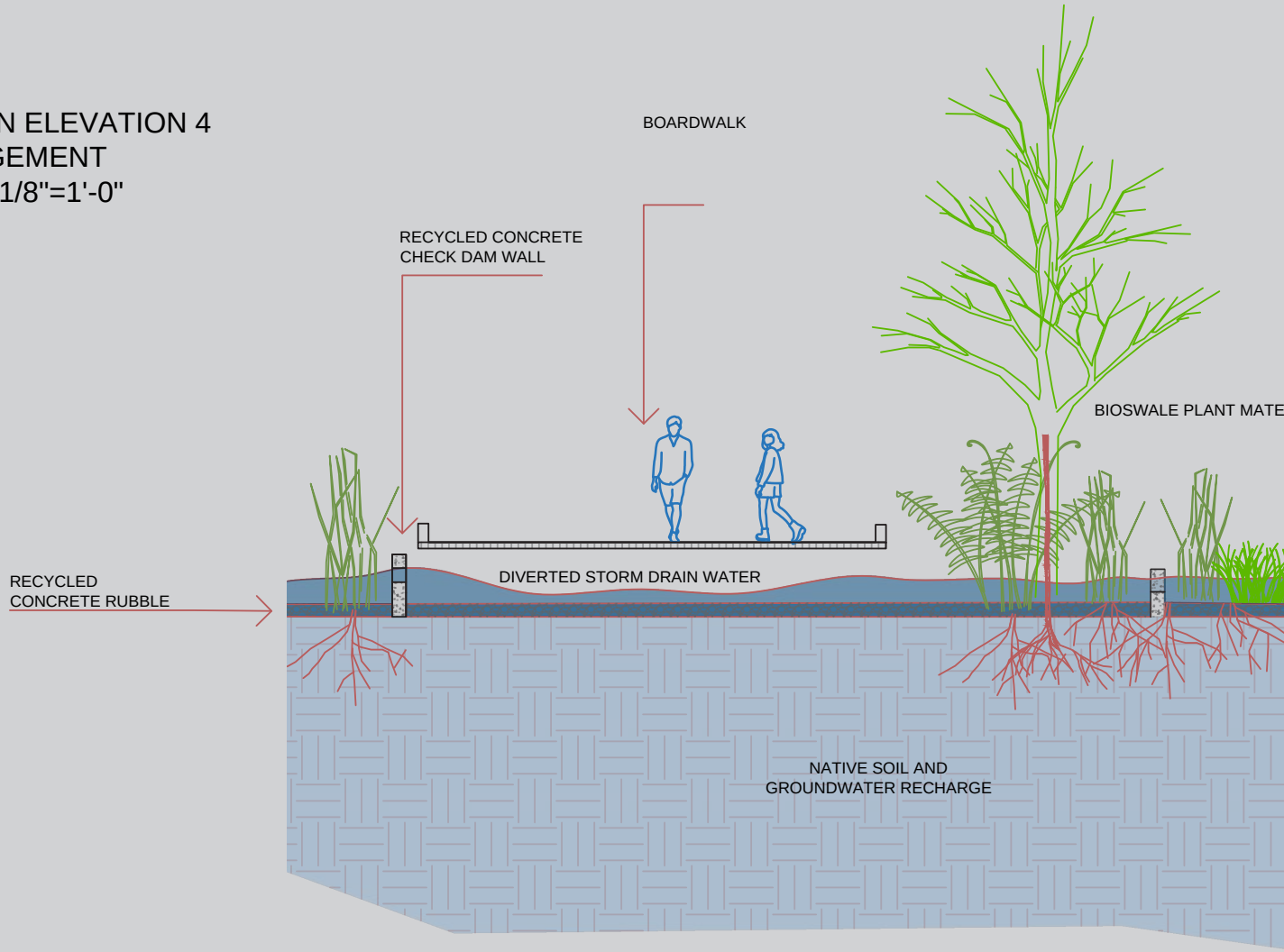
ER PUMP
ANNEL TO
LE INLET

BIOSWALE

REMEDIATED AND OVERFLOW
WATERRETURN TO BALLONA

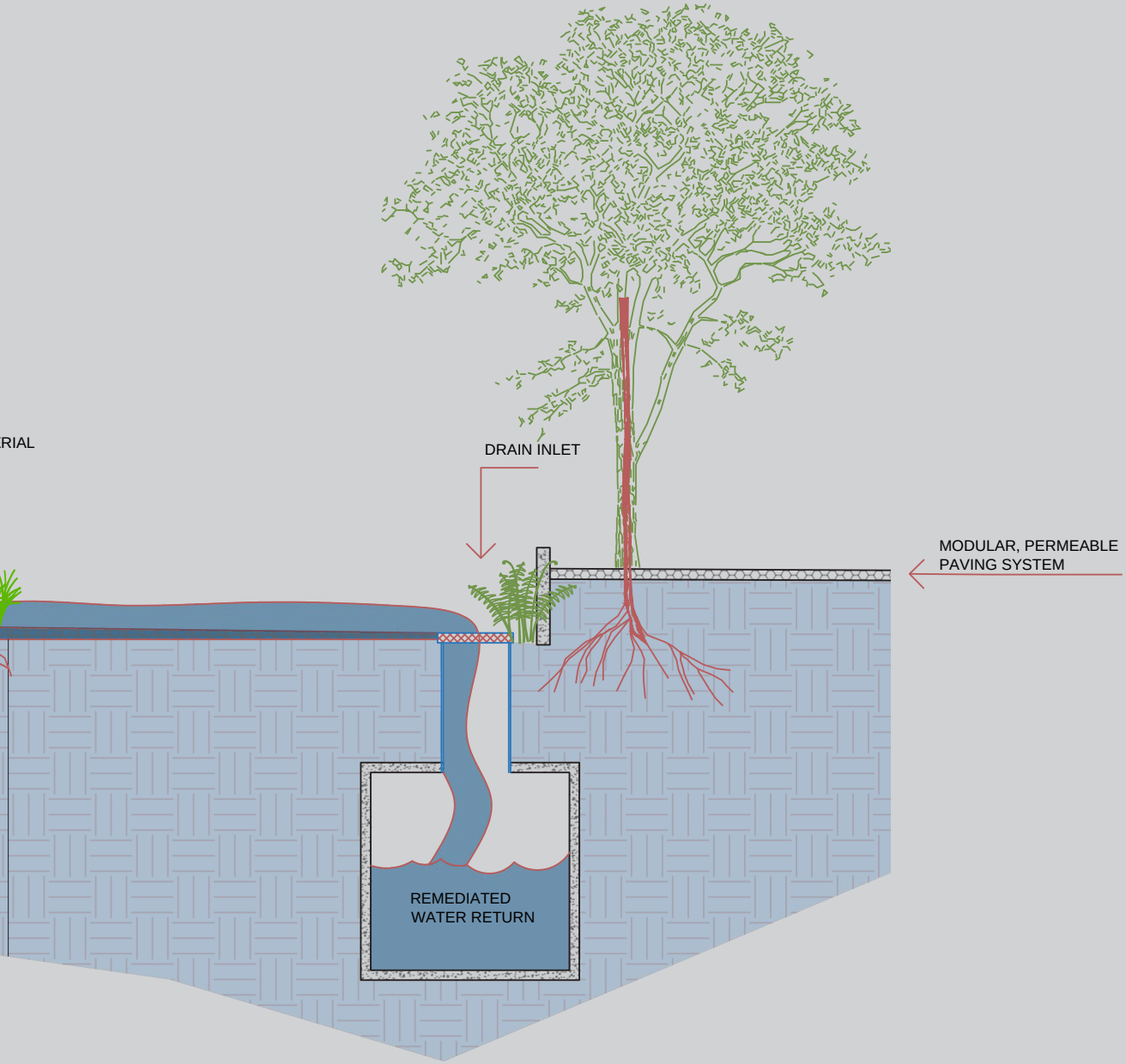


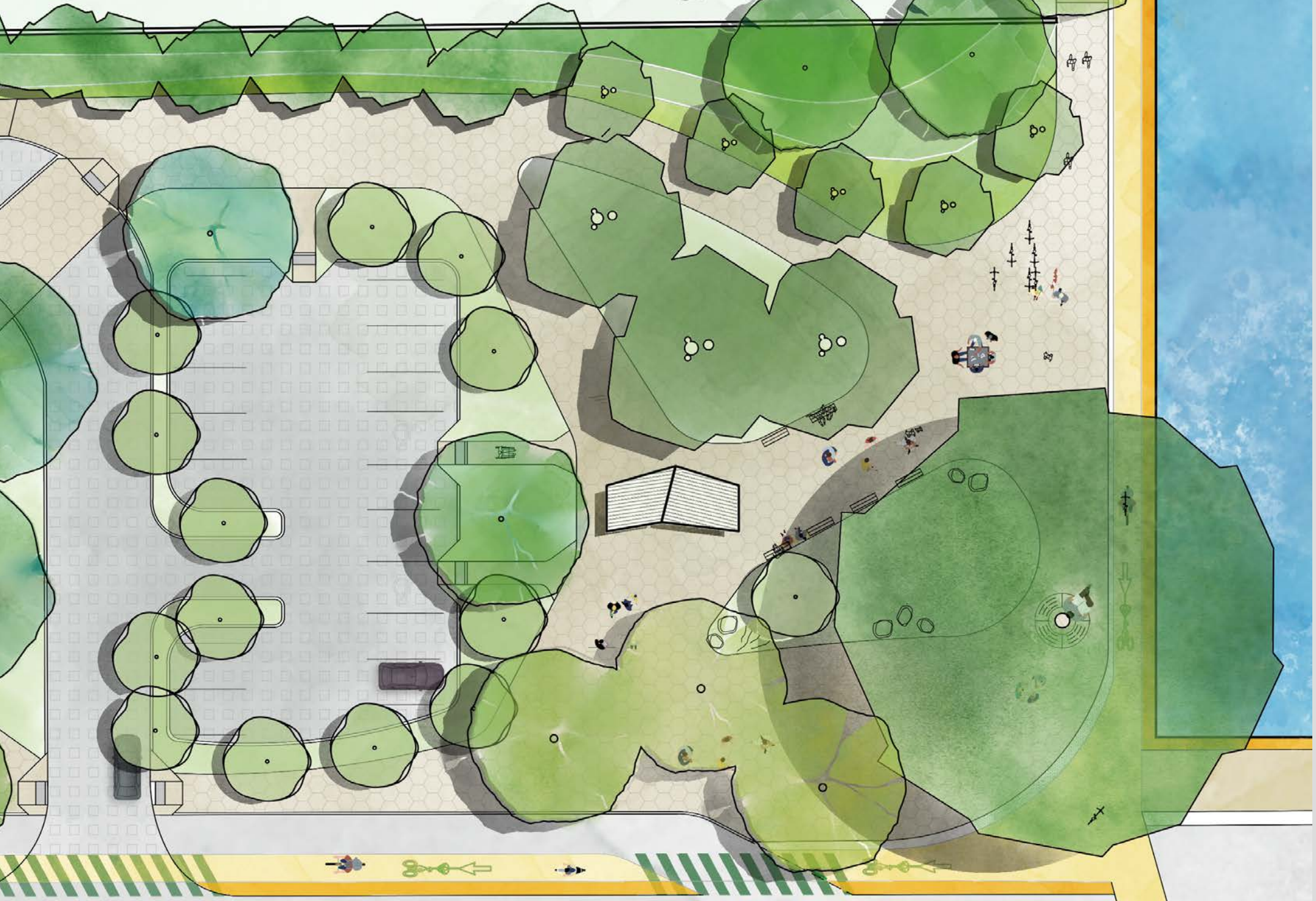
SECTION ELEVATION 4
ENLARGEMENT
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



Storm Drain Diversion Elevation

Enlargement


RIAL
DRAIN INLET
MODULAR, PERMEABLE
PAVING SYSTEM
REMEDIATED
WATER RETURN



SOUTH WEST ENTRANCE TO THE PARK

The SouthWest Entrance to the park, which features the existing Ficus tree casting her shade along many new tree and plant partners : Platanus racemosa, Pinus eldarica and a dedicated Quercus agrifolia planter.

There are protected bike lanes on both La Cienega and a cantilever terrace off of the creek. A general meeting area for people entering the park or strolling along the creek creates an informal entrance.

Here is the first of 2 ample restroom areas, which were inspired by the Santa Monica Beach restrooms. Those restrooms have been very successful in accommodating un housed people as well as tourists and visitors to the beach. This has been accomplished through good design and a vigilant maintenance program. This serves a good model for the restrooms in my design.



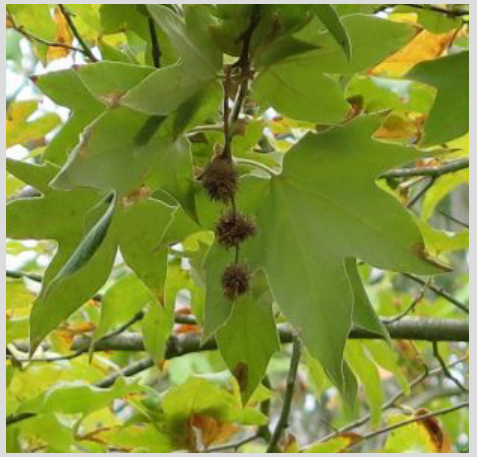
CALIFORNIA NATIVE SHRUBS



PINUS ELDARICA



HYGENIC, ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS



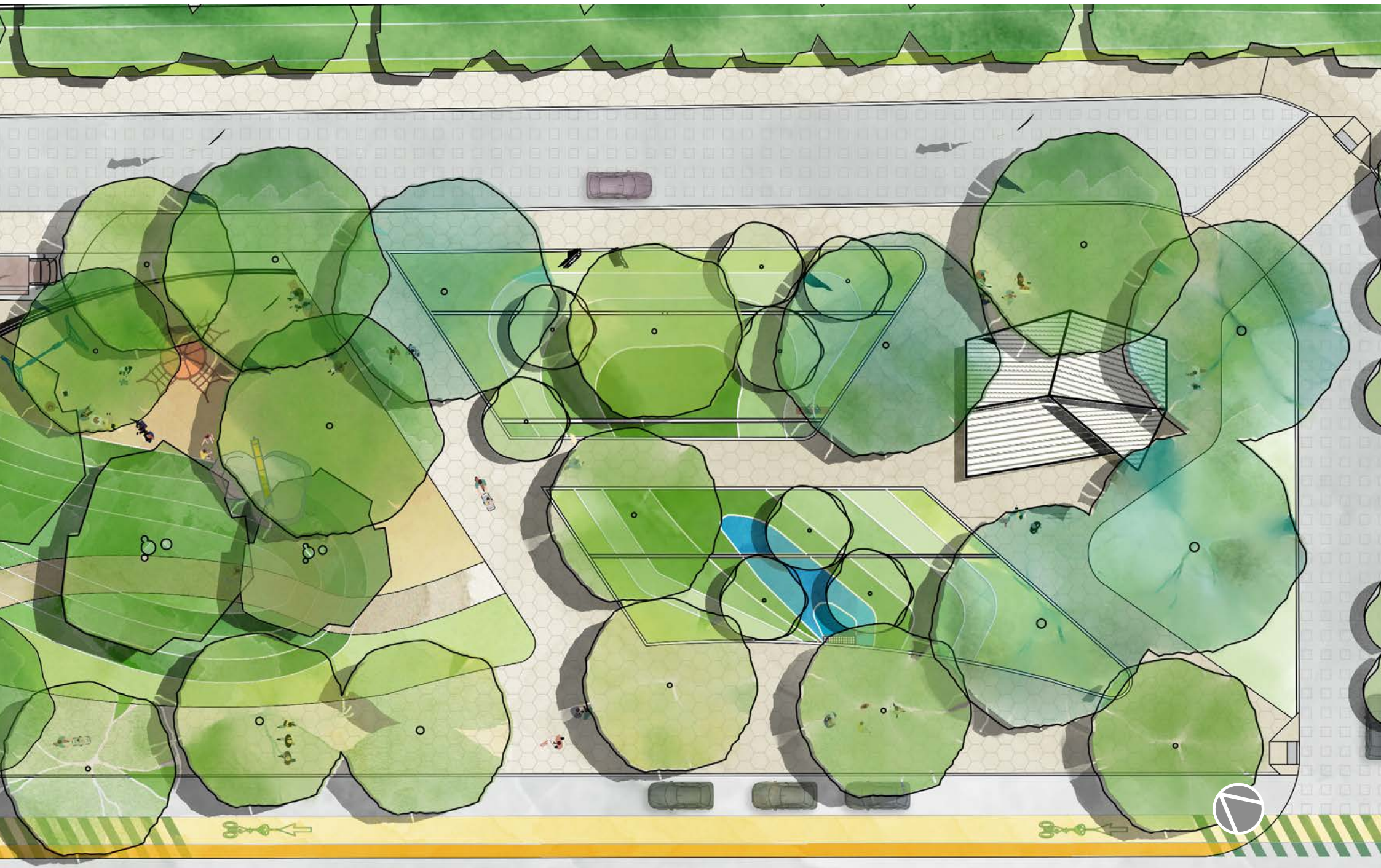
PLATANUS RACEMOSA



QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA



PROTECTED BIKE LANE



0' 10' 20' 60' 80'

BIOSWALE AND PLAY AREA



The community center, bioswale and play area. Native drought tolerant plants that also perform well in water inundation, such as Cercis occidentalis, Achillea millefolium, Juncas patens, and various sedges and grasses are featured. High performing shade trees such as Tipuana tipu protect the nature based play area from direct sun.



CERCIS OCCIDENTALIS



TIPUANA TIPPU



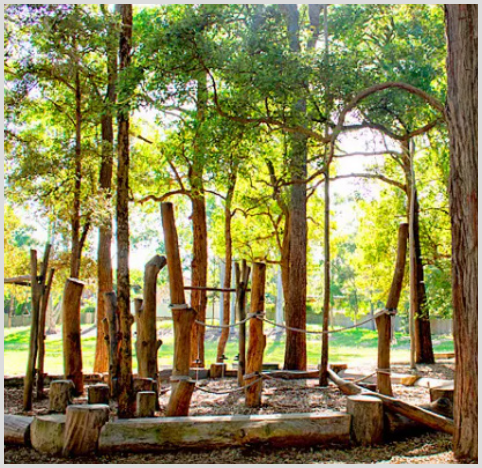
BIOSWALE FOOT BRIDGE



ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM



SEDGES AND GRASSES



NATURE BASED PLAYGROUND



THE PLAZA AND GRASSY MOUND

0' 10' 20' 60' 80'

The plaza has ample shaded seating and is large enough to accommodate intimate urban programming, like small concerts and performances. The grassy mound retaining wall serves as a backdrop for performances. Another bioswale flanks the other side. This part of the design features recycled concrete from the demolition phase of the project. And the grassy mound uses the offset soil from excavation for the cisterns and return channel. The additional offset soil is used for the elevated planting buffer.



RECYCLED CONCRETE WALL



RHUS LANCEA SHADE TREES



A LITTLE GRASS IS NICE



LYONOTHAMNUS FLORIBUNDUS



FOOD AND VENDOR TRUCK ZONE



BENCHES TABLES CHAIRS

BIO SWALE AND PLAY AREA

The kids are having a good time in the park, lovers stroll across the bioswale footbridge, friends take selfies. The permeable hexagonal paving system has colorful wayfinding paths. The maintenance vehicle road, which sits above the storm channel is removed from pedestrian circulation but easily accessible. On the other side of the road is a retained planting buffer to protect the neighborhood from noise and help with the poor air quality.

Just beyond the playground we see the edge of the grassy mound and the truck vendor stations at the edge of the plaza.





PLAZA AND GRASSY MOUND

It's 4 o'clock, the transitional time between work and school and home life. A few people enjoy the relatively empty park while food vendors set up for the evening crowd. A musician awaits her bandmates - they plan to test out some new material on the dinner crowd.

SOUTH WEST ENTRANCE TO THE PARK

People are enjoying the new bike lanes, the restrooms, and the shaded sitting areas. A small parking lot and the existing parking lane on La Cienega make it an accessible park for those not living nearby.







PERMEABLE PAVING



MODULAR PERMEABLE PAVING



UMBELLULARIA CALIFORNICA



MIXED NATIVE AND ADAPTED SPECIES



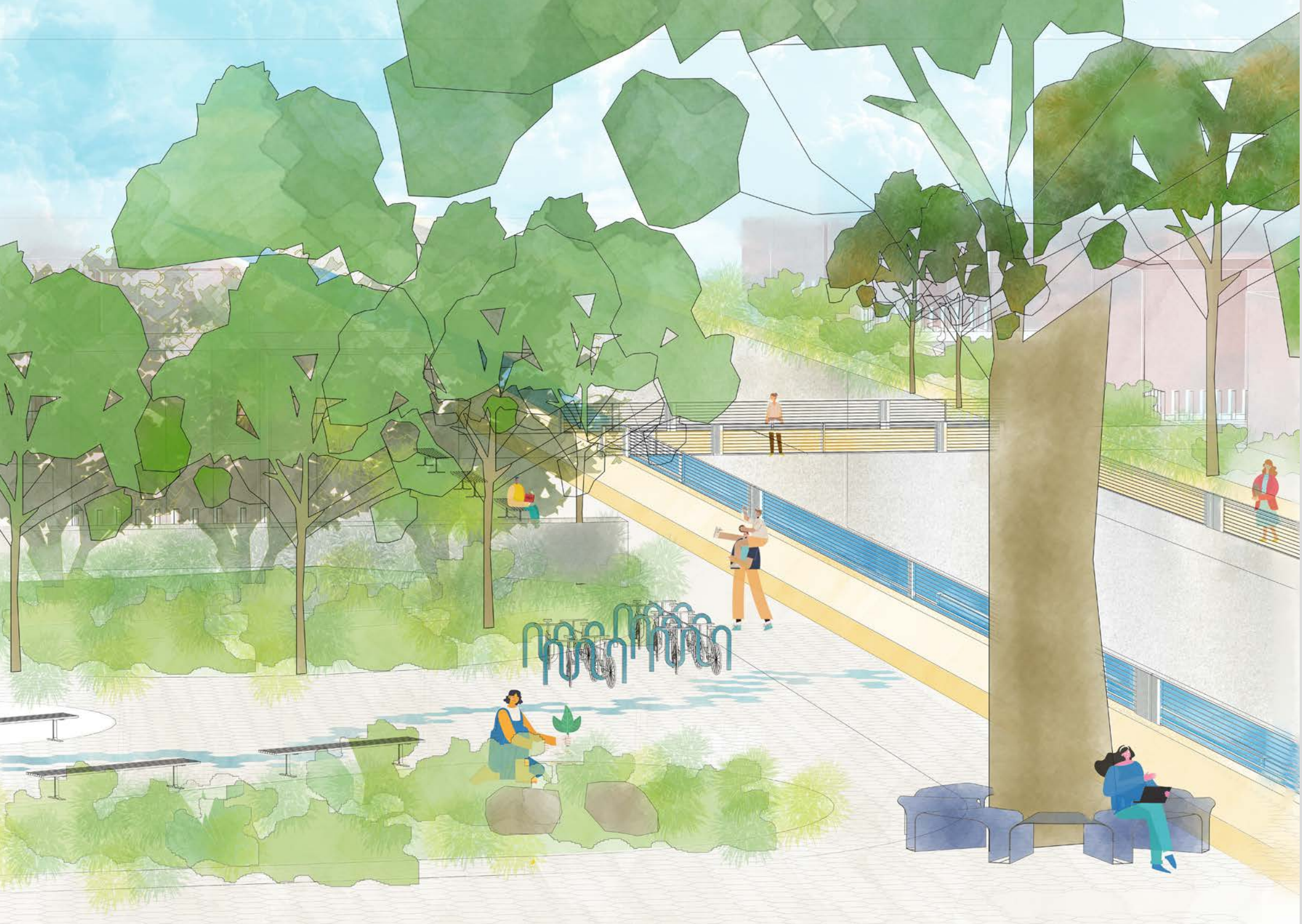
ALOE MARLOTHII



CHILOPSIS LINEARIS

ON SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

On surface water management with parking lot planter curb cuts flow into depressed planting areas. The permeable hexagon pavers and permeable parking lot material mean that this entire site utilizes our precious water to the fullest - irrigating needed plant life, recharging ground water, and cleaning stormwater before it heads to the Santa Monica Bay.



BRIDGE ACROSS THE CREEK

A view of the new creek bridge is being enjoyed by the surrounding neighborhood. Someone waits for a friend underneath the Ficus, and a local resident does a little garden maintenance and seed harvesting of the native plants.



BRIDGE ACROSS THE CREEK



TREE BENCH FOR EXISTING FICUS



HETEROMELES ARBITIFOLIA



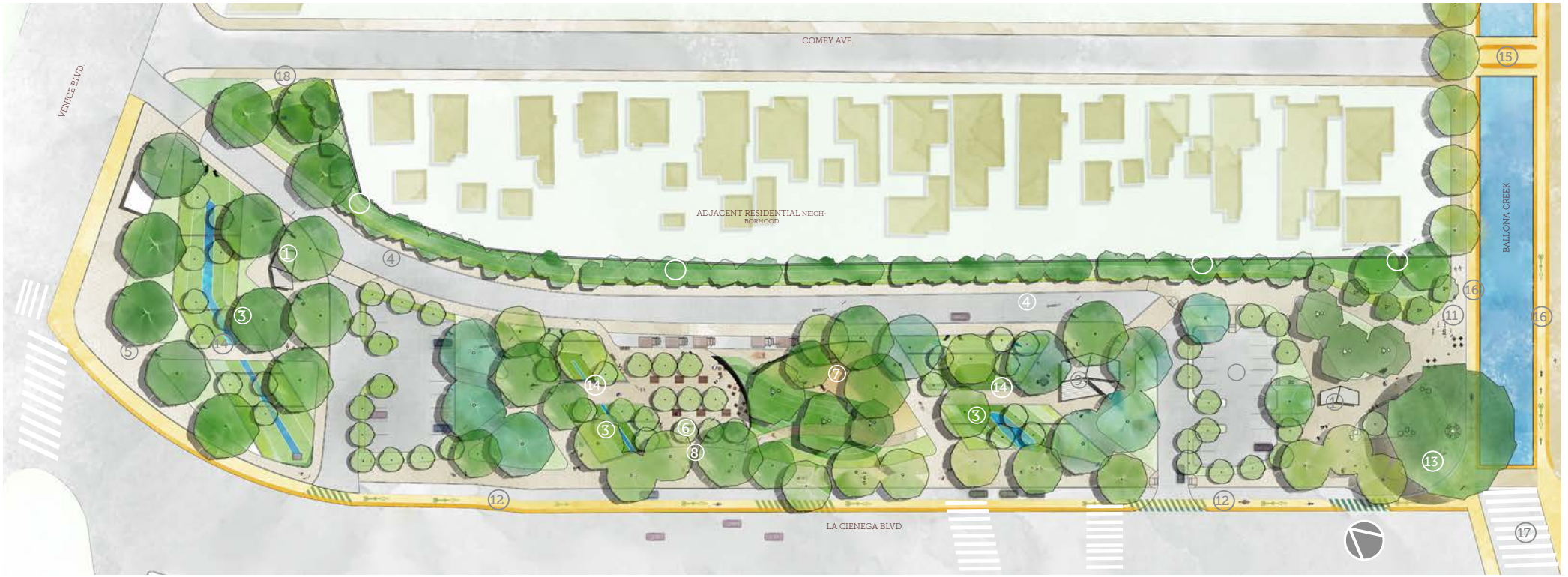
RHUS INTEGRIFOLIA



ERIOGONUM FASCICULATUM



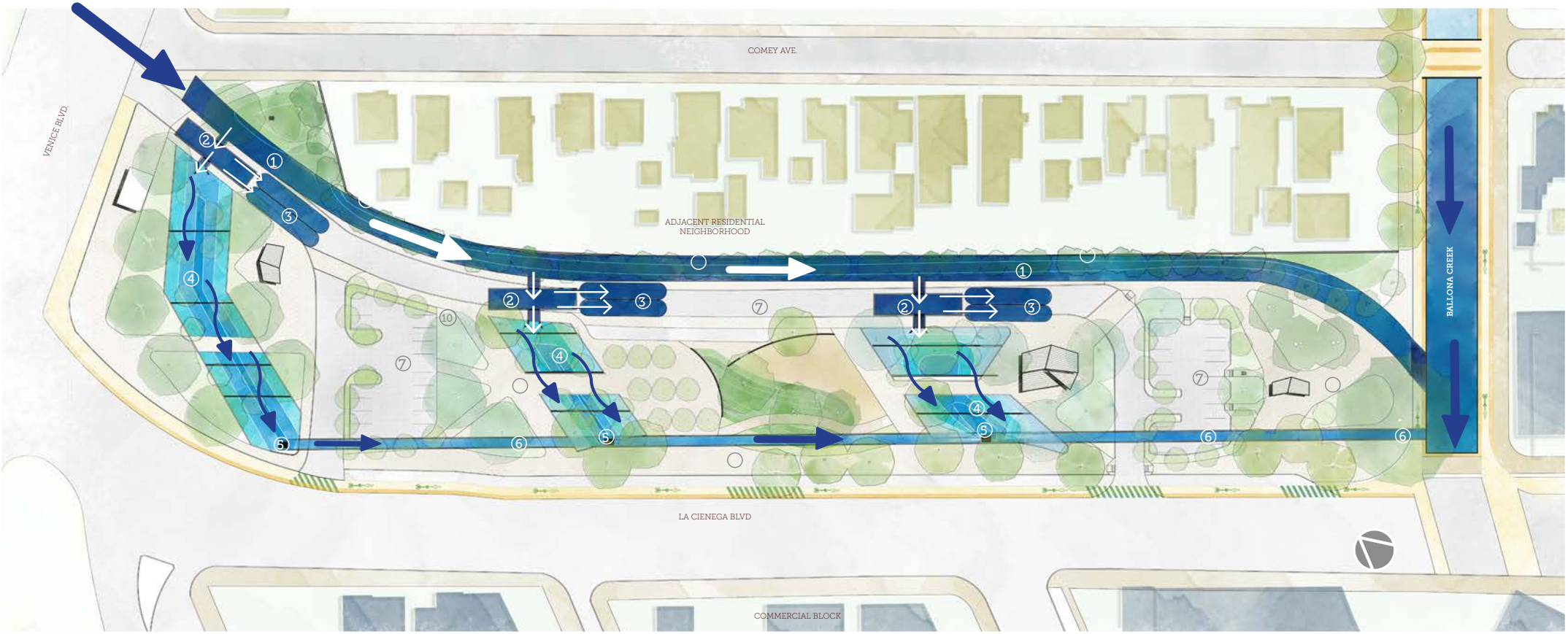
MIXED NATIVE PALETTE



1. RESTROOM AND WASHING AREA
2. PARKING
3. BIOSWALE
4. MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY VEHICULAR ROAD
5. NORTH ENTRANCE AT VENICE BLVD.
6. GATHERING SPACE
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14. BIOSWALE BRIDGE
15. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
16. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH
17. NEW CROSSWALK
18. NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRANCE

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

NOLA TALMAGE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - UCLA EXTENSION
CAPSTONE PROJECT 4TH QUARTER 2022



MID-CITY CREEK PARK

0' 20' 60' 100'

STORM CHANNEL WATER MANAGEMENT

1. DD1 001 LINE MELROSE AVE STORM DRAIN
2. WET WELL DIVERSION CHAMBER
3. WATER STORAGE CISTERN
4. BIOSWALE REMEDIATION
5. REMEDIATED AND OVERFLOW WATER DRAIN
6. RETURN DRAIN CHANNEL

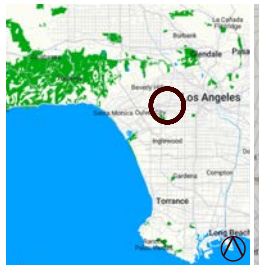
ON SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

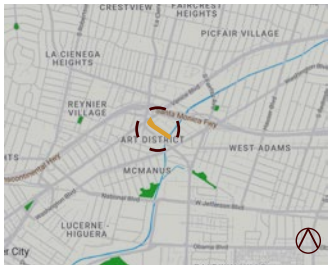
7. PERMEABLE ROAD MATERIAL
8. PERMEABLE PEDESTRIAN PAVING SYSTEM
9. MOUNDED PLANTING WITH POSITIVE WATER FLOW
10. DEPRESSION WATER RETENTION AND DRAINCURB CUT PARKING PLANTERS

ILLUSTRATIVE WATER PLAN

NOLA TALMAGE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - UCLA EXTENSION
CAPSTONE PROJECT 4TH QUARTER 2022

LOS ANGELES, CA - LA CIENEGA BLVD
1 CITY BLOCK - Between Washington Blvd. and Venice Blvd.





ORIENTATION AND INVENTORY





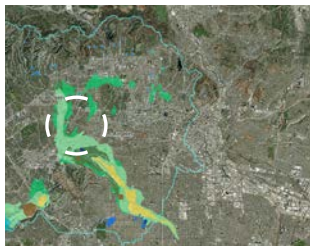
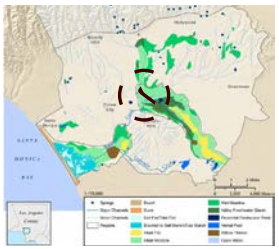








ECOLOGICAL HISTORY

HISTORIC WETLAND 'ALKALI MEADOW' AREA WITHIN WATERSHED

RESEARCH ANALYSIS EXCERPT 'BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY PROJECT'



HISTORIC PHOTO BALLONA STORM CHANNEL

LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER PHOTO COLLECTION



PEN, INK, WATERCOLOR MAP, CIENEGA WETLANDS

UC BERKELEY BANCROFT LIBRARY



STATE ENGINEER, WILLIAM HALL, IRRIGATION MAP

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

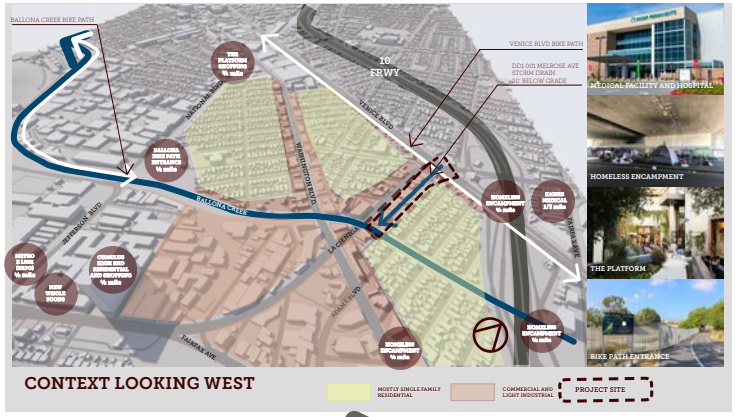
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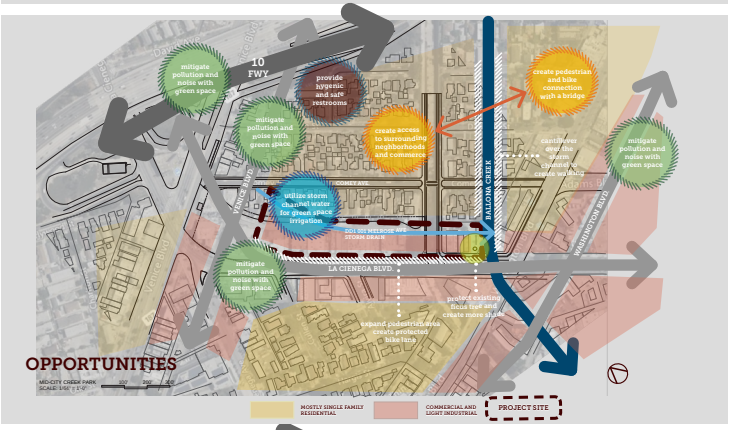


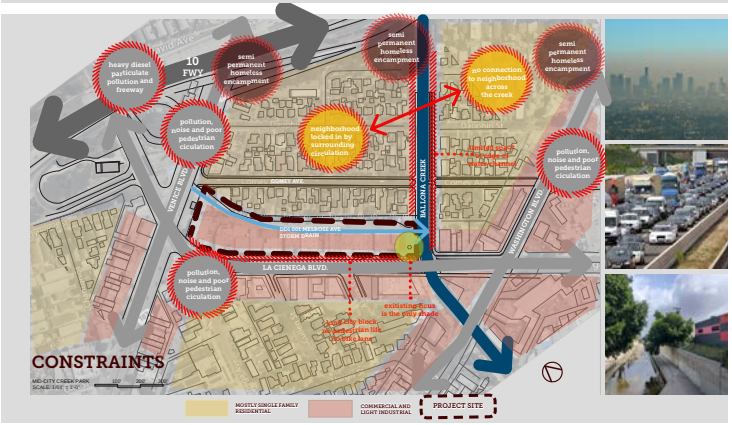
ALKALI MEADOW LANDS HISTORIC PHOTO

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

EXCERPT FROM 'BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY PROJECT'







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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - UCLA EXTENSION
CAPSTONE PROJECT 4TH QUARTER 2022

PERSPECTIVE ILLUSTRATIONS



WEST ENTRANCE TO THE PARK



BIOSWALE AND PLAY AREA



THE PLAZA AND GRASSY MOUND



BRIDGE AND PATHS ALONG THE CREEK



ON SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

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