

People. Plants. Purpose.
The Revitalization of Commonwealth Nursery

Terri Larronde
Capstone Project
Spring/Summer 2022

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

My first visit to Commonwealth Nursery was in July, 2019. The tour was sponsored by Atlas Obscura and it was led by Kat Superkisky, the founder of Grown in LA.

The tour took us through several of the nursery's remaining dilapidated structures and provided a sneak peek of the projects "currently underway to reinvigorate Commonwealth". Following the tour, we met native plant designer and gardener Katherine Pakradouni who was looking for volunteers to help with the propagation of native plants for the park and the LA River Project.

I volunteered every Friday morning with about 8-12 others, propagating, weeding out invasives, gathering pots that were scattered about the property. We transplanted native plants being grown from specially collected urban seed sources in Los Angeles, mostly from the Griffith Park area. Katherine was a wonderful teacher and a great inspiration.

The program has had fits and starts (funding, Covid) and now most of us have moved our energy to 'Friends of Griffith Park' for activities such as invasive plant removal, mulching, trash clean-up and planting natives. A good volunteer group is magic, and we don't want to lose our momentum in helping keep Griffith Park in good shape.

There has been some clean up activity at the Commonwealth site, a bit of plant terrace improvement at City Plants, but in the three years I have known this site, it is still in the same condition.

The buildings on the site are remaining from 1928. Three greenhouses, with roofs caved in, and sheds that are now offices. There is storage for machinery, but no protection from theft or the elements.

The caretaker's cottage and garage have been updated and are now used as the LA Parks Foundation's office.

The remaining "structures" are portable storage lockers. Two port-a-pottys are in use for DWP workers. RAP workers have restrooms near the old storage sheds that are now offices with leaking roofs.

There is one public entrance and exit to the site, with limited parking. One access roadway is blocked with fallen trees and storage containers.

And there is no real centralized purpose right now. It is a machinery graveyard, with a lack of any proper ecological remediation.

After spending so much time in this setting it wasn't hard to look around and see the potential. We volunteers would talk about "what-if's?" (Mainly it was wanting a better restroom situation.) But our real question was why wasn't anything happening in this amazing space in the park?



Overgrown greenhouse with pots strewn about. There are the remnants of a thermal heating system underground in this greenhouse that used to heat water in the winter to keep the greenhouse warm.



Tour group descending the WPA funded, CCC built hand-cut granite stairs



Pots, potting tables, gardening equipment left over from the 1970's when the nursery shut down

A BRIEF HISTORY
of Griffith Park Master Plans

As of today's date there is no Griffith Park Master Plan.

Griffith Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States — larger than the City of Beverly Hills. Yet, in the Fall of 2022 there is no modern, adopted Master Plan for managing and using Griffith Park's more than 4,300 acres.

Master Plans are essential — especially for open space environments such as Griffith Park. A Master Plan provides protection for the Park, guides and protects the Park's future, and establishes a suitable, unified mission.

Since 1968, there have been at least three Master Plans for the Park but none of them have been formally adopted. In 1968 and again in 1978, plans were drafted but sat in limbo. In 2003, under the leadership of Tom LaBonge, City Councilmember for the district, Meléndrez Design Partners was hired to update the 1978 Plan. Meléndrez went about its work, including holding public meetings, in which strong support was voiced for ensuring the Park was protected as an urban wilderness.

Drafts from March 2005, and also from 1968 and 1978 have disappeared from the internet.

The 2005 Meléndrez Draft provided for substantial commercialization in and of the Park, with considerable reduction or complete elimination of much of its urban wilderness identity. Community organizations and individual community members were appalled. The strong public opposition ensued. By the end of 2005, LaBonge worked to establish the Griffith Park Working Group.

Hours were spent by the Working Group (volunteers all) but infighting with RAP personnel resulted in a lack of cooperation and a shut down with the process. Despite this, the Working Group continued and ultimately produced a Draft Master Plan for Griffith Park.

The Draft Master Plan embodied the broad public desire to retain Griffith Park as an urban wilderness and provide available outdoor experience for passive and active Park users. When the Draft Plan was submitted to RAP, the Working Group hoped for continued collaboration and cooperative decision-making. A comprehensive and unified Master Plan for Griffith Park could have set a new standard for urban wilderness parks across the county.

It was not to be.

Eighteen months after submitting its draft, the Working Group received back a highly edited document entitled a "A Vision Plan for Griffith Park." Rather than move forward in collaboration, working with the community to generate a Master Plan establishing enforceable development rules for the Park, RAP undercut the Working Group's efforts by simply renaming the project.

A Vision Plan is not a Master Plan. It contains broad philosophical goals, goals easily forgotten when convenient. In the absence of an enforceable Master Plan, the issues regarding development such as the LA Zoo expansion and the aerial tram, among others, will proceed unchecked.

When adopted by the RAP Commission on January 8, 2014, the commission inserted an additional insult — dropped "Plan" completely, thus eliminating any confusion regarding a lack of environmental review. RAP also established a Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB). GPAB is composed of individuals appointed by RAP for membership. When it began work on November 20, 2014, two of the Working Group members survived RAP scrutiny and were able to serve on GPAB. And while "A Vision" generally seeks to uphold and support the urban wilderness identity of the Park, it remains beholden to RAP and elected officials. It does not carry any of the authority and power that would be found in an adopted Master Plan.

Time has now passed. There is still neither a Master Plan (following adoption of "A Vision") nor any indication of revising a Master Plan in the years to come. Since the Park comprises over 4,300 acres of essentially undeveloped land, there is always a new proposal for using up some of that urban wilderness for one commercial venture or attraction or another.

In the absence of a Master Plan, the supporters of the urban wilderness and current passive and active recreational opportunities available through Griffith Park must be constantly vigilant, aware of, and responsive to the various pockets of commercialization and development being proposed.

Residents will continue to exercise their voices, time, and effort, as did the volunteers who made up the Working Group decades ago, to protect and ensure that Griffith Park remains accessible as an urban wilderness experience, open and accessible to all.

TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE BY VALERIE VANAMAN WHO IS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW; SHE FOUNDED VANAMAN GERMAN LLP, THE FIRST LAW FIRM SPECIALIZING IN REPRESENTING STUDENTS IN EDUCATION MATTERS. VALERIE WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE MASTER PLAN WORKING GROUP AND IS CURRENTLY ON THE FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD.

PROJECT STATEMENT

AN AREA OF GRIFFITH PARK *presents an opportunity*
to engage **PEOPLE** **OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY,**
in what **WAS ONCE** *a thriving nursery for* **PLANTS** *for the* **CITY OF LOS ANGELES,**
with the **PURPOSE** *of education,*
protection of resources and community interaction.

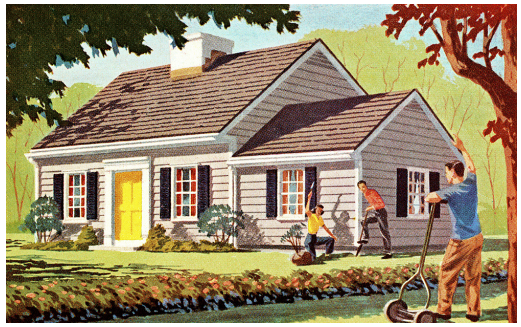




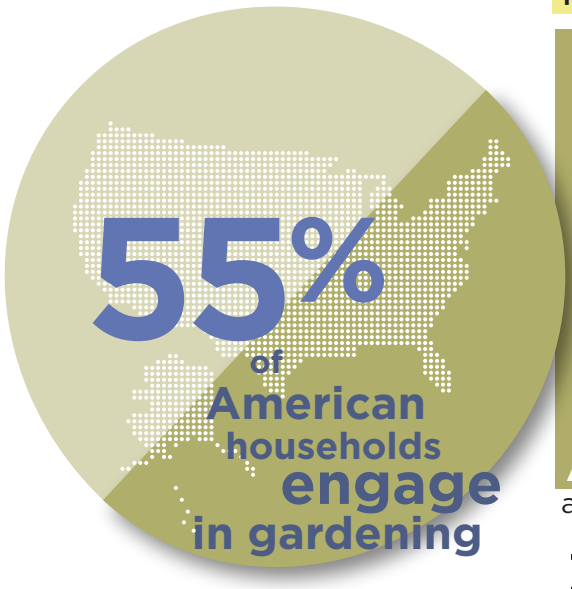




GARDENING



is a popular social activity







a recent survey of all industries found that

LANDSCAPING

topped the list for the

healthiest *and* happiest

PROFESSION

(JAN 18, 2022)

In **1945**, *Americans grew*

45%

of their food in their backyard gardens



In **2020**, *Americans grew*

.1%

of their food in their backyard gardens

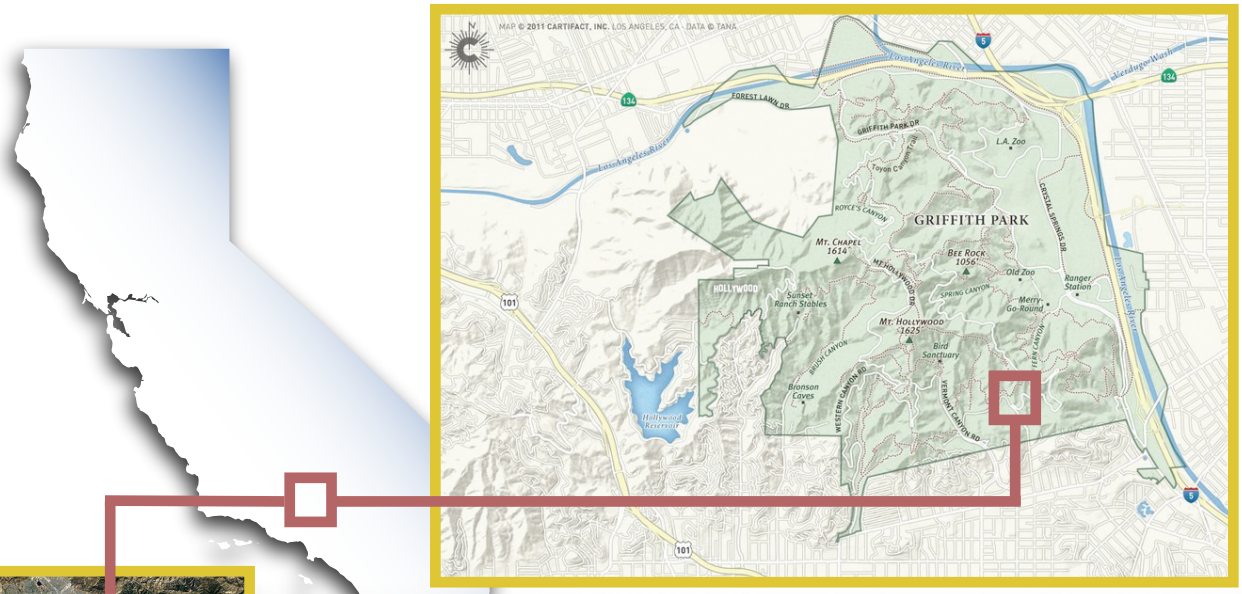
WE NEED TO BRING BACK GARDEN CULTURE

GARDENING IS A HOBBY THAT PROVIDES A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND REWARD FOR THOSE WHO DO IT.



THE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT COMES WITH A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN ALLOWS US TO FOCUS ON THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE.

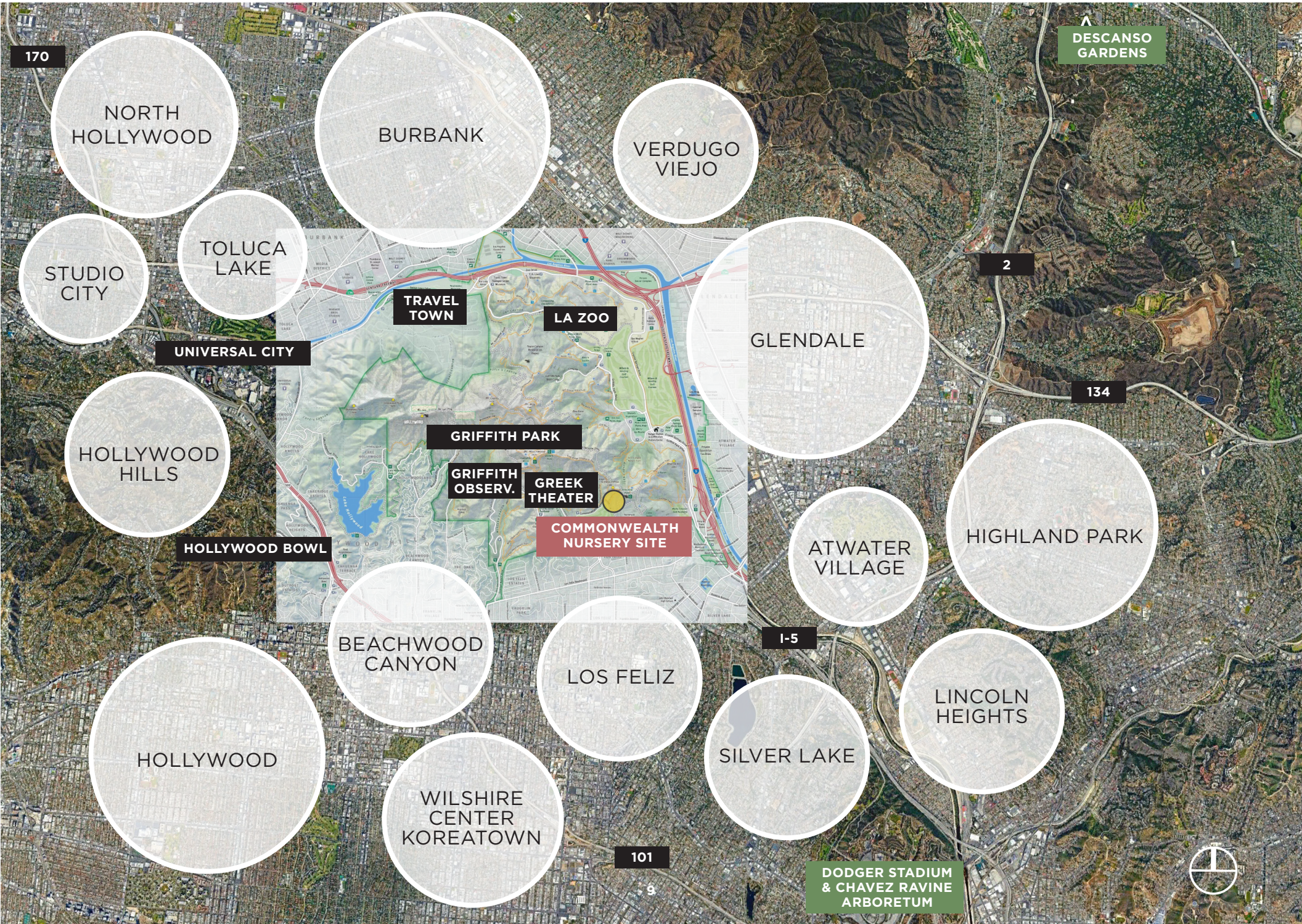
SITE LOCATION



Park Size: 4,210 acres
Owned by the City of Los Angeles
District: 4/Nithya Raman
Zoning: Open Space
Elevation: Ranges from 384 to 1,625 ft. above sea level

BURBANK
GRIFFITH PARK
HOLLYWOOD HILLS
GLENDALE
ATWATER VILLAGE
INTERSTATE 5
GLASSELL PARK
LOS FELIZ
HOLLYWOOD
SILVER LAKE

LOCAL CONTEXT



SITE HISTORY

Situated in a canyon at the northernmost border of Commonwealth Avenue, the remnants of Commonwealth Nursery endure, revealing just a glimpse of a majestic nursery that was, according to accounts in The Los Angeles Times, "made larger than any municipal undertaking of its kind in the country."

- Established on May 26, 1928
- Opened two years before the the Greek Theater
- Operated on nearly 12 acres
- Produced 500,000 plants within its first year
- Has always concentrated on growing native plants

Featured:

- acres of growing beds
- a one-acre lath house
- a general office
- a caretaker's cottage
- a research library
- storage rooms for bulbs/tubers
- bins for materials
- a manufacturing area for pots
- two large greenhouses

- Fully staffed with 19 men from the Los Angeles Parks Dept. as it was known then, 26 WPA men and women workers
- Its purpose was clear: to locally produce all the trees, shrubs, and flowers for city parks and public buildings for the City of Los Angeles



THEN



NOW

PLANTING TERRACES, 1929





TERRACES TODAY

The nursery was officially established on May 26, 1928, around the same time that Roosevelt Golf Course was created, and approximately two years before the official opening of the Greek Theater. The nursery operated on nearly 12 acres of land and produced 500,000 plants within its first year. Its purpose was clear: to locally produce all the trees, shrubs, and flowers for city parks and public buildings and according to *The Los Angeles Times,* makes "Griffith Park one of the largest gardens of native flowers and shrubs in the world."

These were admirable goals, and the nursery was well-equipped to achieve them. Fully staffed from the onset with 19 men from the Los Angeles Parks Department as it was known then, 26 W.P.A. men and women workers, and with chief propagator Joseph Kladler at the helm, the nursery expanded its capacity every year and produced between one and two million plants annually during its heyday.

The nursery featured acres of growing beds, a one-acre lath house, a general office, a caretaker's cottage, a research library, storage rooms for bulbs and tubers, bins for materials, a manufacturing area for pots, and two large greenhouses. The design of the greenhouses was ahead of its time, as they captured rainwater from the roof and stored it in a great underground tank for use six months out of the year rather than relying on municipal water. Unfortunately,

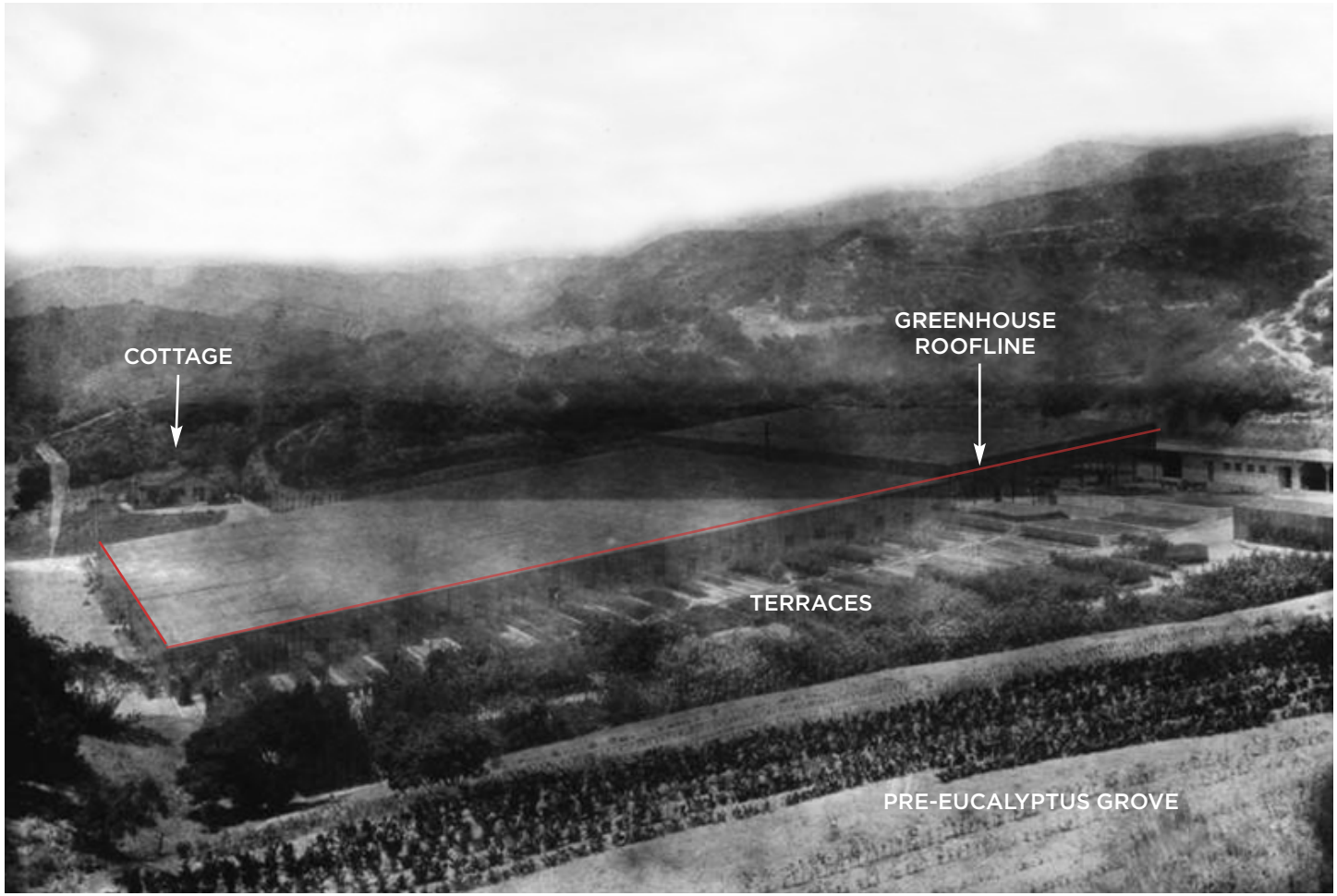


Fig. 1 (1929) The grounds of the extensive nursery, with neatly managed rows set in the hills of Griffith Park.
The long building, a covered greenhouse, is also seen. Caretaker cottage is in the back left. Slope in foreground is now a Eucalyptus Grove with battered Greenhouses.

water conservation was not always a priority outside the nursery, as simultaneous plans were being made to establish an extensive irrigation throughout the Park that would give the recently planted native plants the irrigation and care that is commonly given to a modern lawn, artificially increasing the rainfall of the Park by 400%.

In addition to plant production, the nursery also supported a robust horticulture education program where by interested individuals could apprentice at the nursery to learn from experts and work their way up into the Park department. During its first official year of operation, there were 12 apprentices participating in that program.



Fig. 2 (1929) A view of part of the City Nursery in Griffith Park — a section of terraced propagation beds. *Looking north, terraces had concrete walls, now most are gone.*

As the years went by, the nursery continued to offer horticulture education and operated as a training ground for Recreation and Parks grounds maintenance staff, as well as providing a site for schoolchildren to learn about horticulture and native flora.

Yet despite the public benefit that the Commonwealth Nursery provided to Griffith Park and Los Angeles as a whole, the entire horticulture program ended in the 1970s after the passage of Proposition 13. Budget cuts made supporting the facility and its staff untenable and as a result, the nursery fell into great disrepair.



Fig. 3 (1929) Nursery office and work sheds *Looking east at the top of the property.*



Fig. 4 Plant propagation terraces today *Remnants of the shade cloth hang tattered off the original framing. Green house and shed/offices at the top of frame.*

CITY RAISES HUNDREDS OF PLANTS FOR PARKS
Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Jun 29, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers
pg. A1

CITY RAISES HUNDREDS OF PLANTS FOR PARKS

From where do the trees, flowers and shrubs in Los Angeles' eighty-seven parks come.

Few of the persons who enjoy the plant growth of the various city recreation places know.

They are propagated in a vast nursery in Griffith Park, far off the beaten track, nestled in a canyon at the head of Commonwealth avenue.

LARGE PLANT VARIETY

There the City Park Department maintains the nursery in charge of Joseph Kladler, who has spent most of his life nursing plants.

There Kladler has under propagation more than 750 varieties of flowers, shrubs and trees—the total number of plants exceeding 750,000.

There is a propagating nursery of lath and glass covering more than eleven acres. In addition there is a palm nursery of eight acres in Aberdeen Canyon and a tree nursery of three acres near the National Guard airport.

LARGE GREENHOUSES

Two mammoth greenhouses, 20(feet in length by thirty feet i width, keep nineteen men em ployed by the park department an twenty-six W.P.A. men and wome workers busy attending delica shrubs and plants.

Rare blooms, such as orchids a other similar plants, are produ there and displayed in the conserva tory at Lincoln Park.

Angeles Times 27 May 1928:

PARK FORCE AT OPENING OF NURSERY

Five Hundred Workers Visit City Establishment in Commonwealth Canyon

More than 500 employees of the Los Angeles Park Department attended the formal opening of the new city nursery in Commonwealth Canyon, Griffith Park, yesterday.

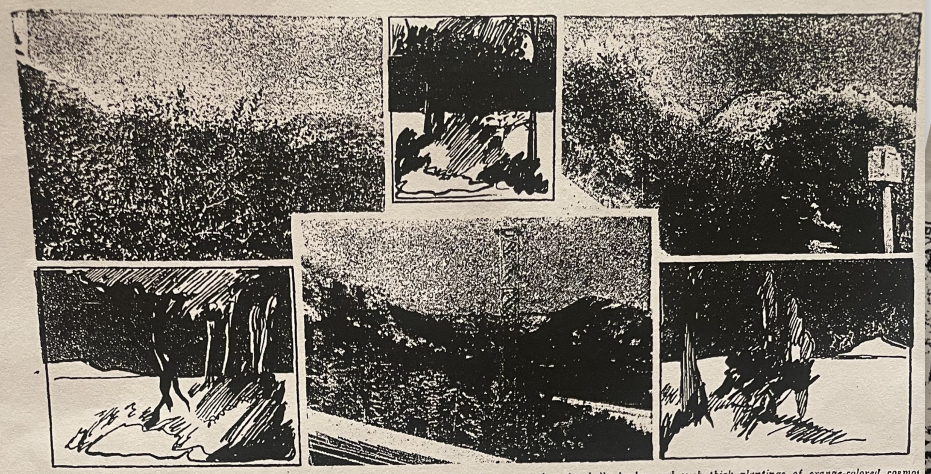
The nursery, which covers twelve acres, supplies flowering plants and tree stock to sixty-nine parks in Los Angeles. There are more than 500,000 plants in the nursery at the present time.

Considerable interest was displayed in the single bed which contained 75,000 live oak trees, which were grown from acorns gathered at Monte Vista. In an adjacent bed 15,000 sycamores are growing.

A feature of the nursery is the course in horticulture that it offers to young men who wish to work up in the park department. At the present time there are twelve apprentices.

The nursery also includes two large hot-houses, where the seedlings are propagated and a plant where flower pots are made.

A Princely Gift: NATURE'S LIBERAL, TOO, IN <span ...
King, Helen W
Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Dec 4, 1932; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times
pg. 112



There is plenty of color near the Greek Theater in Griffith Park right now from berry-covered native holly bushes and such thick plantings of orange-colored cosmos as are shown in the picture at the left. In the center is a glimpse of the young planting on the slopes surrounding the amphitheater, and at the right, a pathway at one of the exits banked with ceanothus.

A Princely Gift

NATURE'S LIBERAL, TOO, IN GRIFFITH PARK

By Helen W. King

SELDOM has a more generous gift been made to a city than that of Col. Griffith J. Griffith when he bestowed some 3761 acres upon Los Angeles for a park. This was back in 1898 and in the years since we have become ever more proud of this great municipal domain.

While considerable sums of money have been expended upon the area's development, vast portions of it still remain entirely in a natural state save for the many miles of roadways that are so popular with our motorists. It is the natural state of the park that really constitutes its greatest charm, for nature, like the park's donor, has been generous. There are hundreds of live oaks, box elders and willows that add much to the beauty of the land, not to mention the thick masses of toyon, or native holly bushes, that abound on many of the hillsides. Other of our shrubs and plants are found there, too, contributing their share of attraction, and in the spring an earnest seeker can find a wide range of wild flowers.

None of these plants, however, occur in the quantities one could desire and they must be supplemented in time, if the park is really to reach its possibilities. With such a tremendous range of materials as are indigenous to the Southland available, it would be nothing short of a crime if the plantings were not largely composed of such subjects. It was very gratifying to me to find, on a recent visit, that our municipal nursery is growing thousands of young plants of rhus, ceanothus in variety, fremontias, manzanita, barberries, mimulus, prunus rhamnus and the like, for use in Griffith Park.

The park authorities are not only contemplating extensive plantings of these beautiful shrubs, but are growing more thousands of trees, the majority of which grow here naturally. Already they have set out hundreds of young sequoias, both sempervirens and gigantea, other hundreds of the incense cedars Monterey and Torrey pines, native sycamores, maples and black walnuts. Some of these have been in for three years and are already making a fine showing.

More than any other of our parks, this one is regarded by the general public as its playground. It is here that the very sporty municipal golf course is laid out. There are also several splendid tennis courts where some of our future champions can be found playing at almost any hour of the day and into the evening, under the illumination of flood lights.

There is the zoo, always a spot of interest, together with the Greek theater, the girls' camp and many other recreational features, made possible by the generous space which can be allotted them in this great city property.

It is three years since the hillside at the back and sides of the amphitheater was planted and already the place is clothed in green beauty from trees and shrubs, with the trees beginning to create a real outline on the crest. Along the front, between the parking space and the structure itself, is a row of slender poplars shooting up to break the glare of the motor lights which would otherwise annoy those sitting in the theater.

Leading out from the seat section, there is a pathway that lies between tall ceanothus bushes and these extend up the hillside. Here is a spot worth remembering, and it's "one for the book" when spring brings out a cloud of blue and white blossoms. There is plenty of color in the place now, largely through the liberal use of that brilliant Mexican sunflower, tithonia, and the orange-colored cosmos, Klondike, a real gem.

There are places in the park where an intensive development has taken place and these vary greatly in character. The entrance to the park at Riverside Drive, for instance with its broad lawns and thick grove of deciduous native sycamores, is in decided contrast to the palm-bordered parkways at the head of Vermont avenue or to the exquisitely refreshing fern dell at the Western-avenue entrance.

This fern dell has been one of our outstanding beauty spots for years. It will be good news to lots of people who have so greatly enjoyed it to know that the stone work is in for more terraces and water pools, extending much farther up the canyon. The lower section of the new development is already planted and by another summer much more of it will be clad in the glistening freshness of helxine and softened with the grace of hundreds of young tree ferns. This is a spot to visit in the spring when the water irises bloom in the series of pools that add so much charm to the place.

Sometimes I think that the only people who can enjoy Griffith Park to its utmost are the horseback riders who follow its winding bridle paths. Sturdy hikers find many delightful spots hidden from those who take their park outings in an automobile. At all events, there is already much of beauty and interest in this vast park and we can all taste the pleasures of anticipation as we watch the steady growth to its ultimate development. At the present moment the hills are positively ruddy with color derived from the heaviest setting of holly berries in years.



Below is a picture of a row of graceful old pepper trees which afford shade for tired players on the tennis courts adjoining the municipal golf links in Griffith Park. It is a pretty setting, all will agree.

A view from an upper circling road, looking across the thick grove of sycamores at the Riverside Drive entrance to Griffith Park. In the center is a view looking up Fern Dell at the Western-avenue entrance.



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Propagation of Plants Draws Many Visitors.
Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); Jun 23, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times
pg. F2

Where Los Angeles Develops Nursery Stock



el, floriculturist of Pittsburgh, in Los Angeles municipal nursery. Car is Jordan eight sedan

Propagation of Plants Draws Many Visitors

Hundreds of motorists, particularly those interested in the culture of flowers, trees and shrubs, visit the municipal nursery in Commonwealth Canyon, Griffith Park, Saturdays and Sundays, according to Joseph Kladler, nursery propagator, who is in charge of the work there for the city of Los Angeles.

Last Saturday a party from the Lord Motor Car Company, Jordan distributor, drove to the nursery in a Jordan eight sedan and was shown about the place by Mr. Kladler. The visit proved a revelation of what the city has accomplished since the nursery was started two and one-half years ago, stated Harry A. Lord, head of the motor company.

"Eleven acres of land are covered by the nursery, which supplies trees, shrubs and flowers for the city parks and public buildings," stated Mr. Lord. "Last year more than 1,000,000 shrubs were propagated and furnished the various parks. This year the shrubs and trees will number 1,500,000. Besides they are growing thousands of bedding plants—those used for setting out in flower beds.

"There are two green houses, 30x200 feet each, and a slat house covering an entire acre. Every foot of space in these buildings is occupied by growing plants. Outside are thousands of others. At present there are 880 varieties of shrubs and plants being propagated by the eighteen men employed there.

"The nursery is furnishing many trees for city park reforestation work. At present there are 35,000 redwoods and 75,000 live oaks being grown and these will be ready for planting next year.

"The green houses are heated by a hot-water system and no city water is used in the place. Instead every bit of rain water that falls on the buildings is caught and stored in a great tank underground. Enough is caught each season to last six months. The remainder of the water comes from wells. A time card system shows the cost of propagating each plant."

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From the
Los Angeles Times
1929

"The greenhouses are heated by a hot-water system and no city water is used in the place. Instead every bit of rain water that falls on the buildings is caught and stored in a great tank underground. Enough is caught each season to last six months. The remainder of the water comes from wells. A time card system shows the cost of propagating each plant."

FROM DAVID KIPEN/AUGUST 18, 2021/KCET

On Oct. 1, 1935, President Roosevelt visited Los Angeles and saw for himself how the New Deal had begun transforming the city. In Griffith Park, he attended the unveiling of a statue honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps. You can still see a replacement statue made of bronze with the figure of "Iron Mike," aka the "Spirit of the CCC," standing sentry in the middle of Travel Town with his trusty shovel.


ORIGINAL

Everywhere around him, Roosevelt would've seen a park coming to life. The Conservation Corps paved roads, blazed trails, created tennis courts and a municipal golf course, even installed a sadly decommissioned hillside sprinkler system in the event of brushfire. Just up the hill, on the greensward in front of the Griffith Observatory, WPA artists sculpted the Astronomers Monument, anachronistically exalting science as indispensable to any viable republic.


RECAST, 1993

Roosevelt's brief crib sheet for his address to the young men of the CCC survives in the archives of the FDR Presidential Library. His **"Informal Extemporaneous Remarks ... at the Unveiling of the Statue Erected by CCC Transient Camp"** ... last all of three sentences:

"I am glad to be here and take part in the dedication of this great statue. It is good to see you all. You are doing a splendid piece of work. (Applause)"

Rhetorically, it falls somewhere short of the great "Second Bill of Rights"speech to Congress in 1944, the one where FDR declared every American's right to a job, a home, healthcare and a good education. But imagine what it must've sounded like to hundreds of poor kids bivouacked in Griffith Park — gainfully employed for the first time, out in the fresh air all day, camping at night with new friends under then-visible stars, hearing their president give them a pat on the back.

WPA funds were responsible for various projects in Griffith Park, including construction of a 9-hole golf course on the former Griffith Reservation, southwest of Commonwealth Nursery. At the urging of Mayor Frank Shaw, it was named in honor of President Roosevelt in 1937.



Check Dams north of Commonwealth Nursery *These classic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) check dams and other stonework along Vista Del Valle Drive are yet another example of the extensive improvements the New Deal carried out in Griffith Park in Los Angeles.*







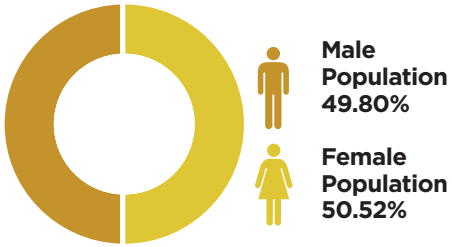
Fig. 5 Projects built by the CCC *All along Vista Del Valle Drive are curbing, stairs, stone work walls and check dams built with WPA funds. Commonwealth Nursery location indicated by the star.*

City of LA Recreation & Parks
City Plants/DWP
Friends of Griffith Park
Grown in LA
LA Parks Foundation

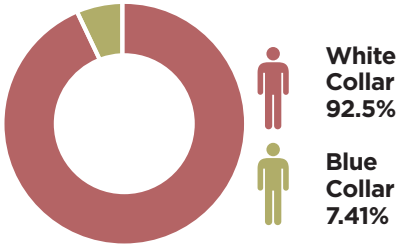


Area Demographics (Los Feliz) *Demographic data shown from the latest U.S. Census Bureau release, the 2019 American Community Survey.*

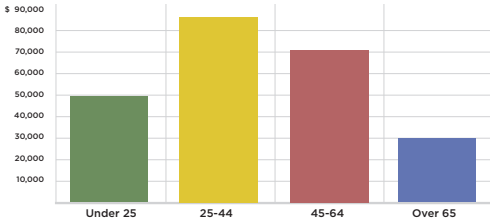
Population



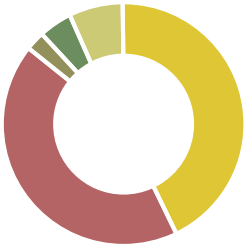
Employment



Median Income per Age



Marital Status



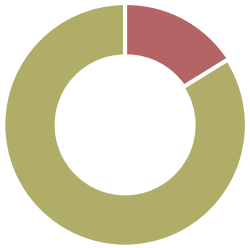
Never Married	46.7%
Married	39.91%
Separated	2.32%
Widowed	4.88%
Divorced	8.52%

Education



No High School	4.77%
Some High School	19.66%
Some College	16.01%
Associate	5.27%
Bachelor's	36.98%
Graduate	17.3%

Occupied



Renter Occupied	80.43%
Owner Occupied	19.57%

Los Feliz's general demographic is **VERY EDUCATED, SINGLE, WHITE COLLAR** they have a high median income but the majority are **RENTERS** thus, they might lack gardening space and would be interested in **SOCIAL INTERACTION** and **VOLUNTEERISM**

FUTURE USERS

Schoolchildren
College Classes
Neighborhood Groups
Scout Groups
City Employees
Mentors/Elderly
Inter-Generational













PROJECT GOALS

PEOPLE

Provide engagement with the community, improve amenities, provide education and training



PLANTS

Re-establish the plant and propagation infrastructure, add walk-through gardens



PURPOSE

Establish better working conditions. Protect the natural resources. Implement surface remediation.



Community engagement

- Community buildings for meeting and classes
- An ampitheater for lectures
- Marketplace area
- Easy access for tree giveaways
- Secluded oak tree garden
- ADA access to gardening
- Office area for registration
- Improve parking for easy access

Horticulture infrastructure

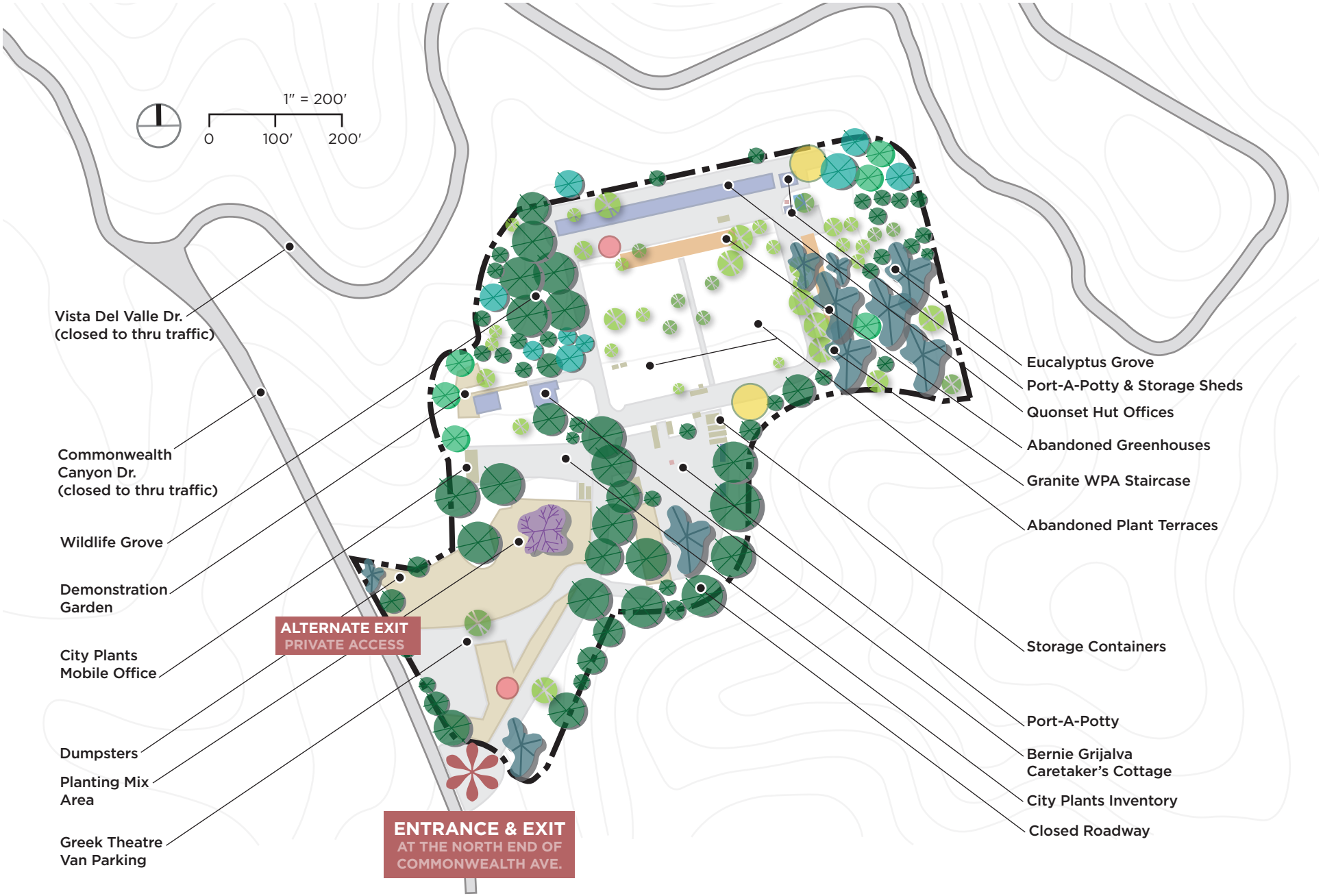
- Rehab the greenhouses
- Build storage sheds for tools and equipment
- Re-establish the water storage system
- Enlarge the native demonstration garden
- Develop walk-through gardens of different focus
- Establish job training in agriculture

Protection and management of water, power and ecology

- Improve employee facilities
- Surface remediation to mitigate heat island effect
- Cisterns for water storage
- Solar power panels on rooftops
- Establish recycling and compost systems



SITE ANALYSIS
Current Conditions



STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE ANALYSIS
Current Conditions

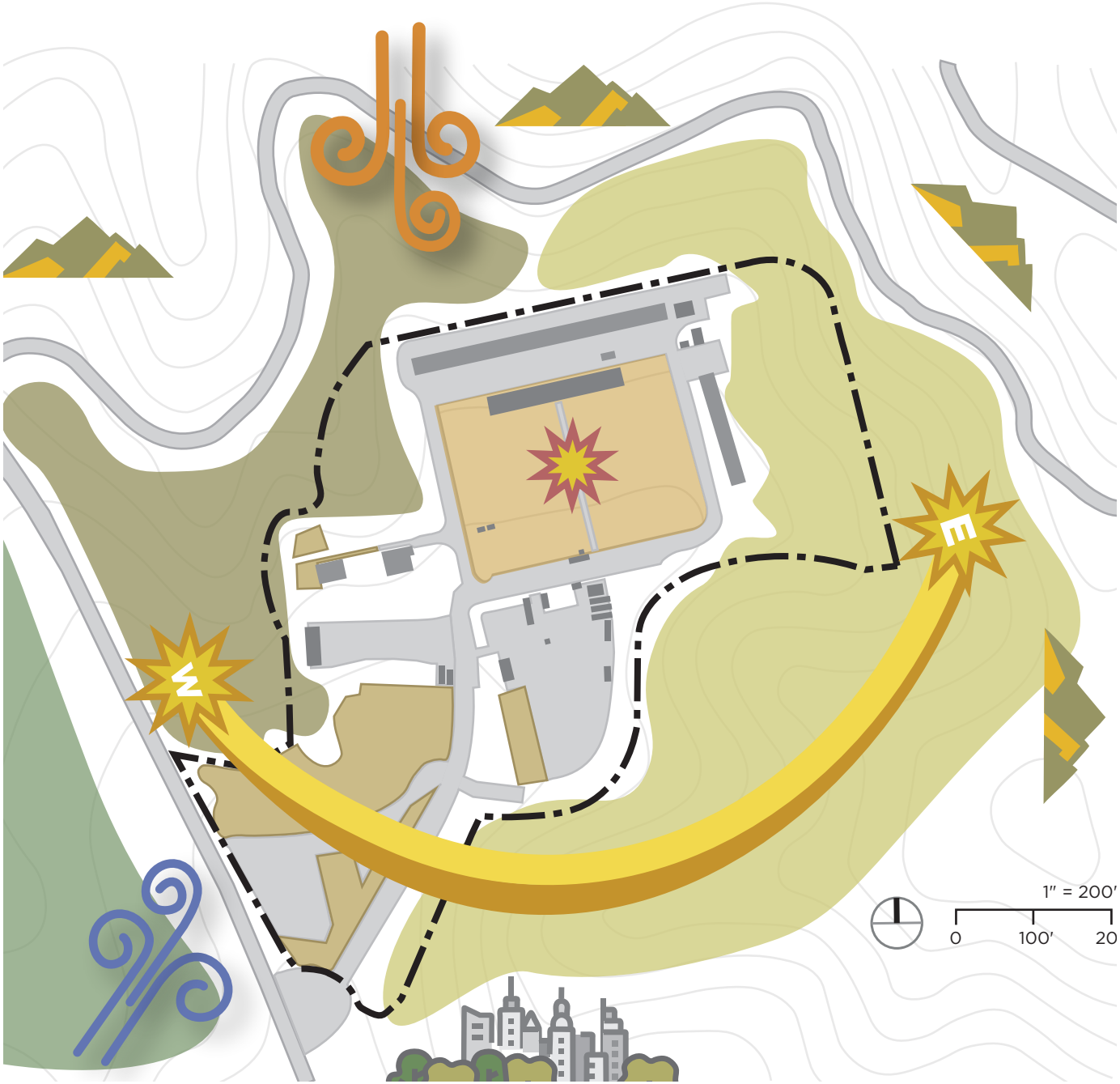


Inoperable Overgrown Check Dams



Decorative Face of Check Dam, an improvement of the New Deal, carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Griffith Park around 1933

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS



LEGEND

- SANTA ANA WINDS
- PREVAILING WINDS
- FULL SUN EXPOSURE
- MOUNTAIN VIEWS
- CITY VIEWS
- HOT ASPHALT
- DG SURFACE
- IRRIGATED GOLF AREA
- NORTH EXPOSURE SLOPE
- SOUTH EXPOSURE SLOPE
- SOIL SURFACE
- PRIVATE PAVED ROADWAY
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Built Structures



LEGEND

- Built Structures
- Storage Containers/ Mobile Office
- Abandoned Greenhouses
- (3) Port-A-Potty
- Possible Cistern Access
- Property Line
- Private Paved Road

Circulation and Surfaces



LEGEND

- Main: Auto, Pedestrian
- Secondary: Auto, Peds
- Auto: Private Access
- Hiking Access/Trails
- Asphalt (≥ 20% of site)
- DG
- Private Paved Road
- Property Line



Cracked, uneven surfaces



Broken asphalt



Lack of proper curbing, uneven surface



Closed roadway



Caretaker cottage, now offices



Port-a-potty for City Plants

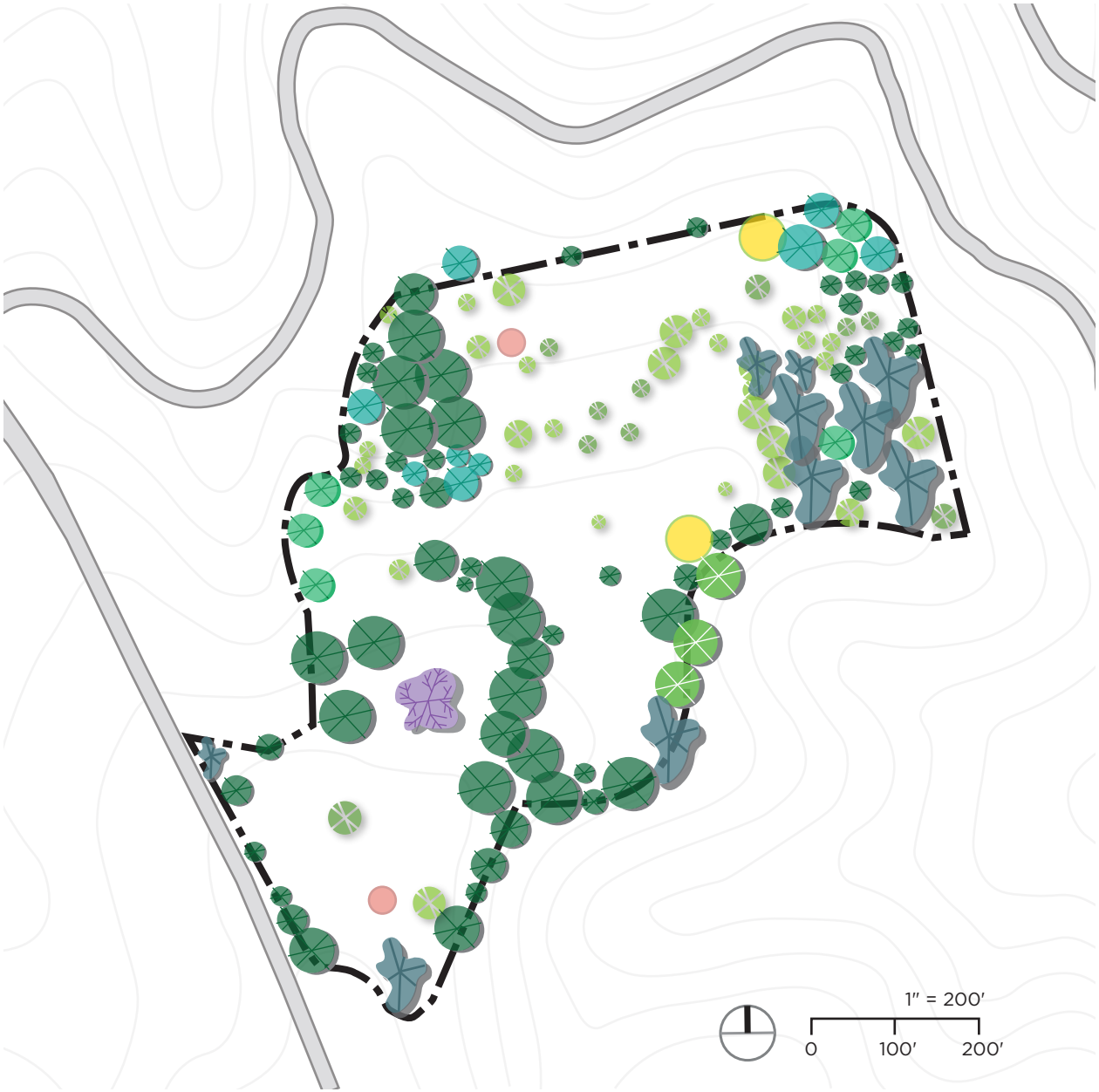


City Plants Manufactured Home Office



Dilapidated Greenhouses

EXISTING TREES



LEGEND

- BAUHINIA VARIEGATA
  Orchid Tree
- EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS
  Eucalyptus
- JACARANDA MIMOSIFOLIA
  Jacaranda
- JUGLANS CALIFORNICA
  Southern California Black Walnut
- PINUS PONDEROSA
  Ponderosa Pine
- PODOCARPUS GRACILIOR
  Podocarpus
- QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA
  California Live Oak
- RHUS GLABRA
  Smooth Sumac
- SALIX LASIOLEPSIS
  Arroyo Willow
- UMBELLULARIA CALIFORNICA
  California Laurel

PRIVATE PAVED ROADWAY

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

PLANT PALETTE
California Natives in Griffith Park



Mule fat
Baccharis salicifolia



Coyote Bush
Baccharis pilularis



Matilija Poppy
Romneya coulteri



Chaparral Honeysuckle
Lonicera subspicata
var. denudata



Cryptantha
Cryptantha intermedia



Morning Glory
Calystegia macrostegia
ssp. cyclostegia



Ladies Tobacco
Pseudognaphalium
californicum



White Everlasting
Pseudognaphalium
microcephalum



Silver Puffs
Uropappus lindleyi



White Nightshade
Solanum americanum



Narrow Leaf Bedstraw
Galium angustifolium
ssp. angustifolium



Blue Elderberry
Sambucus nigra
ssp. cerulea



California Suncup
Eulobus californicus



Peak Rushrose
Helianthemum scoparium



Pineapple Weed
Matricaria discoidea



Golden Currant
Ribes aureum
var. gracillimum



Golden Star
Bloomeria crocea



Yellow Pincushion
Chaenactis Glabriuscula
var. glabriuscula



Coastal Pricklypear
Opuntia littoralis



California Poppy
Eschscholzia californica



Deerweed
Acmispon glaber
var. glaber

PLANT PALETTE
California Natives in Griffith Park



Chaparral Mallow
Malacothamnus fasciculatus



Chaparral Currant
Ribes malvaceum var_malvaceum



Plummers Mariposa Lily
Calochortus plummerae



Redstem Storksbill
Erodium cicutarium



Wild Sweetpea
Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus



Red-gland Spurge
Euphorbia melanadenia



California Four o'clock
Mirabilis laevis var_crassifolia



Turkish Rugging
Chorizanthe staticoides



Sacapellote
Acourtia microcephala



Lanceleaf Liveforever
Dudleya lanceolata



Cardinal Catchfly
Silene laciniata ssp_ laciniata



Heartleaf Keckiella
Keckiella cordifolia



Leafy Daisy
Erigeron foliosus



Cheeseweed Mallow
Malva parviflora



Caterpillar Phacelia
Phacelia cicutaria



Blue Dicks
Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum



Purple Nightshade
Solanum xanti



Chicoryleaf Wirelettuce
Stephanomeria cichoriacea



Lewis's Clarkia
Clarkia lewisii



Stinging Lupine
Lupinus hirsutissimus



Showy Penstemon
Penstemon spectabilis var. subviscosus

OPPORTUNITIES

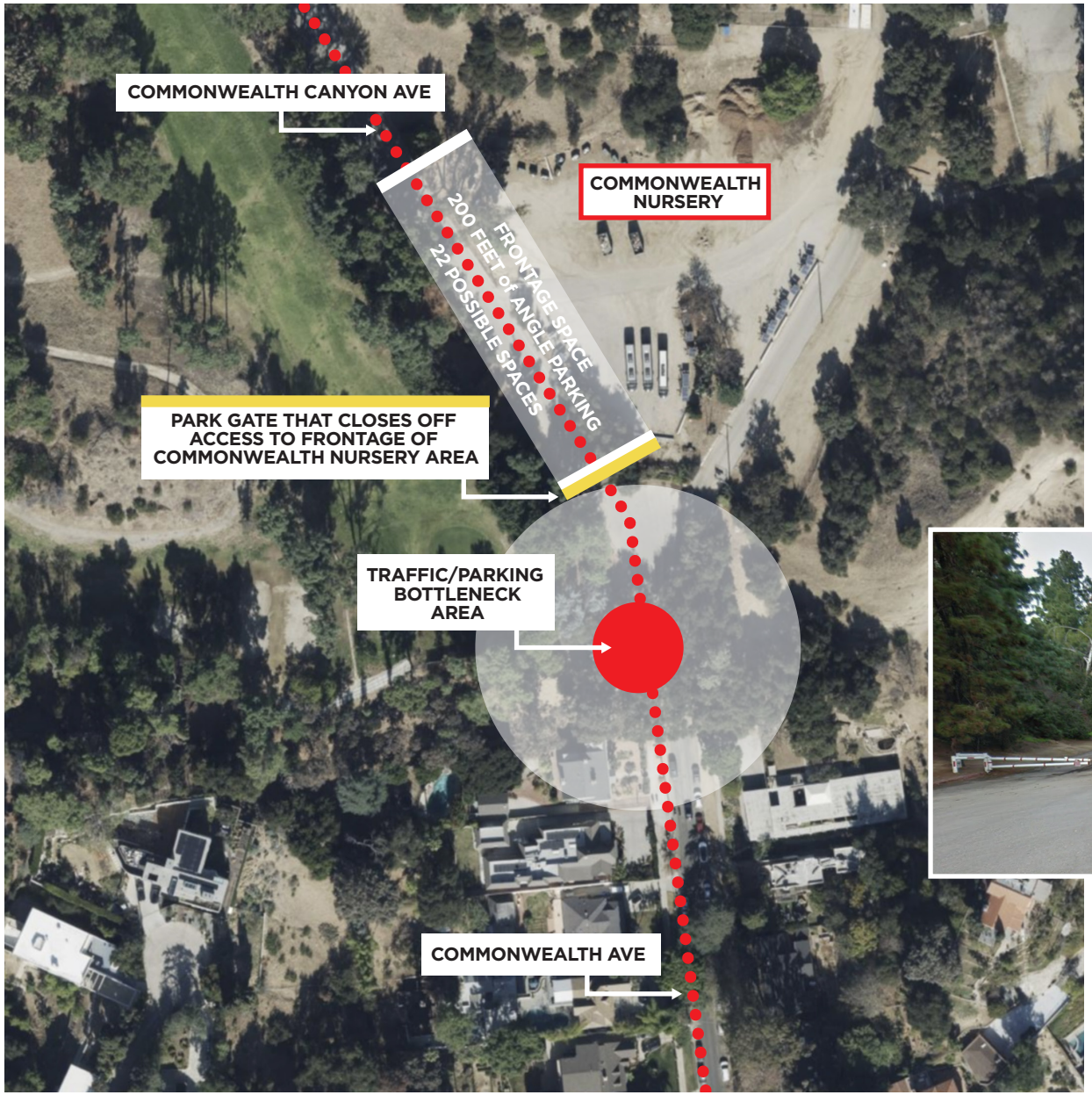


- Space for community programs and improved parking
- Full-sun area for planting and demonstration gardens
- Improved employee conditions and ecosystem restoration through improved circulation, surface restoration, solar power and water storage

CONSTRAINTS



- Lack of community access
- Lack of water storage and planting infrastructure
- Poor drainage, worker conditions and no ecological stewardship



Neighborhood Traffic Issues
Traffic at the north end of Commonwealth, where it meets the Park, can become a bottleneck. The public roadway ends at this point, and people park on Commonwealth to access the trails up to Cedar Grove. There are restrictions, but it causes a traffic jam when people park here, try to turnaround, RAP/DWP trucks going up and down the hill to Los Feliz Blvd. There is room for additional spaces beyond the gate that closes Commonwealth Canyon Ave. to the public.

This is a major complaint from one of the Los Feliz neighborhood association.



The entrance to Commonwealth Nursery, *at the juncture of Commonwealth Canyon Avenue (left - closed gate) and Commonwealth Avenue (right - open gate, during daylight hours).*

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY

PEOPLE

PLANTS

PURPOSE

OPPORTUNITIES

- Space for community programs and improved parking. Rerouting the auto traffic would save the oak grove from further decline.
- Plant terraces and demonstration gardens have desired sun exposure, wide areas for walkability and access to stored water
- Ecosystem restoration connections through improved circulation, surface restoration solar power and water storage







CONSTRAINTS

- Lack of community access
- Lack of water storage and planting infrastructure
- No ecological stewardship, faulty building conditions







SITE OPPORTUNITIES : OVERALL OUTLOOK

The levels and gradations of the property, the sun exposure, and the protection of the surrounding hillsides are what make this a very attractive setting for my goals.

As you venture into the property there are various areas of level ground that are large enough to provide area for community events, farmer's markets, school visits, all with accessible parking.

Adding a row of parking off Commonwealth Canyon Drive, along the entrance, near dumpster row, would help mitigate the bottleneck of cars that end up parking at the top of Commonwealth Avenue to access the trails to Cedar Grove. The Los Feliz Neighborhood Association has complained about the constant auto turnarounds because of the closed gates off Commonwealth Canyon Drive. Their main complaint is the avenue is too narrow for the added traffic congestion. Commonwealth Canyon Dr. would lose approximately 175 feet, allowing for 20 car spaces. Park visitors usually don't pay for parking, and they would not get towed if they miss the restrictions of the neighborhood parking.

This area could also serve as the community connection for free mulch, composting drop-off, registration for special events and for City Plant giveaways.

Going north, up the central roadway, on the right is a second terrace that could be re-purposed with a water retention system and solar power on building roofs. Offices for staff and machine storage would take the place of the 'temporary' storage containers.

Going north is a large sunny stepped area. This could be the redesigned propagation and botanical garden area. There is room for greenhouses and storage sheds for gardening equipment. Water storage underground from the upper slopes rain run-off could be re-introduced.

A botanical trail could provide an axis through the space. The steps could be redesigned to engage walking, and encourage people to experience different growth patterns and different kinds of planting areas, without severe re-grading.

At the top near the eastern edge is a wide semi-flat area. It is fenced in and at an upper plateau away from the rest of the site. This could be the protected area hosting the apiaries and bee harbors encouraging pollinator habitat.

The very top northern edge which now is occupied by RAP and DWP employees could re-purposed. The offices are very old and run-down and need to be refurbished, or rebuilt with modern amenities: Internet/fiber optic cabling, flash water heating, low-flow toilets, grey water retrieval, recycling areas for unused machinery.

Removing all the worn, dilapidated non-permeable paving, replenishing the DG and broken asphalt, and re-routing some of the roadways would result in less treacherous hard surfaces and more water retention. Also, all of the flat areas could hold the cisterns underground for storage of water as the property steps down the canyon.

Rerouting of the main roadway would protect the old Oak Grove and re-purpose that artery into a shaded and bermed walkway.

Adding to the tree canopy, even minimally, would improve shade and soil retention and provide wildlife protection.

The redesign of the areas would provide experiences for all to enjoy and appreciate the space.



Wide, fairly flat entrance area.



Partly shaded second terrace.



Former plant terraces, full sun



Wide, flat grove area for housing or buildings

SITE CONSTRAINTS : OVERALL OUTLOOK

A constraint on this site is the occupying entities of the DWP and the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Dept. that are using the space to store abandoned machinery. This needs to be organized and garaged.

There is minimal electrical, no night lighting. Since this area is closed at sunset, no lights are deemed needed. There are restrooms in some of the offices, but those are not for the public. Two port-a-pottys serve public visitors and workers. There are sewer lines at the very top level for the worker's restrooms.

Also, the area off the Commonwealth Canyon, near the entrance, is used as a parking lot by the Greek Theater for event van storage. The vans are owned by private contractors, by their branding.

Sometimes there are large tractors and trucks from Parks and Recreation.

The row of dumpsters that share the space with the Greek Theater's transport vehicles, and faces the street, in view of the homes on the hillsides, is not a welcome sight. The Los Feliz Neighborhood Association finds this area being used as a dumping ground, a code violation, and blight.



Caretaker cottage with gas line update



Outdated electrical in one of the Greenhouses



Dumpsters around lower level perimeter



Large P&R truck with Greek Theater transport vans parking in background.



Worker offices, storage and restroom area



Large Parks and Recreation trucks

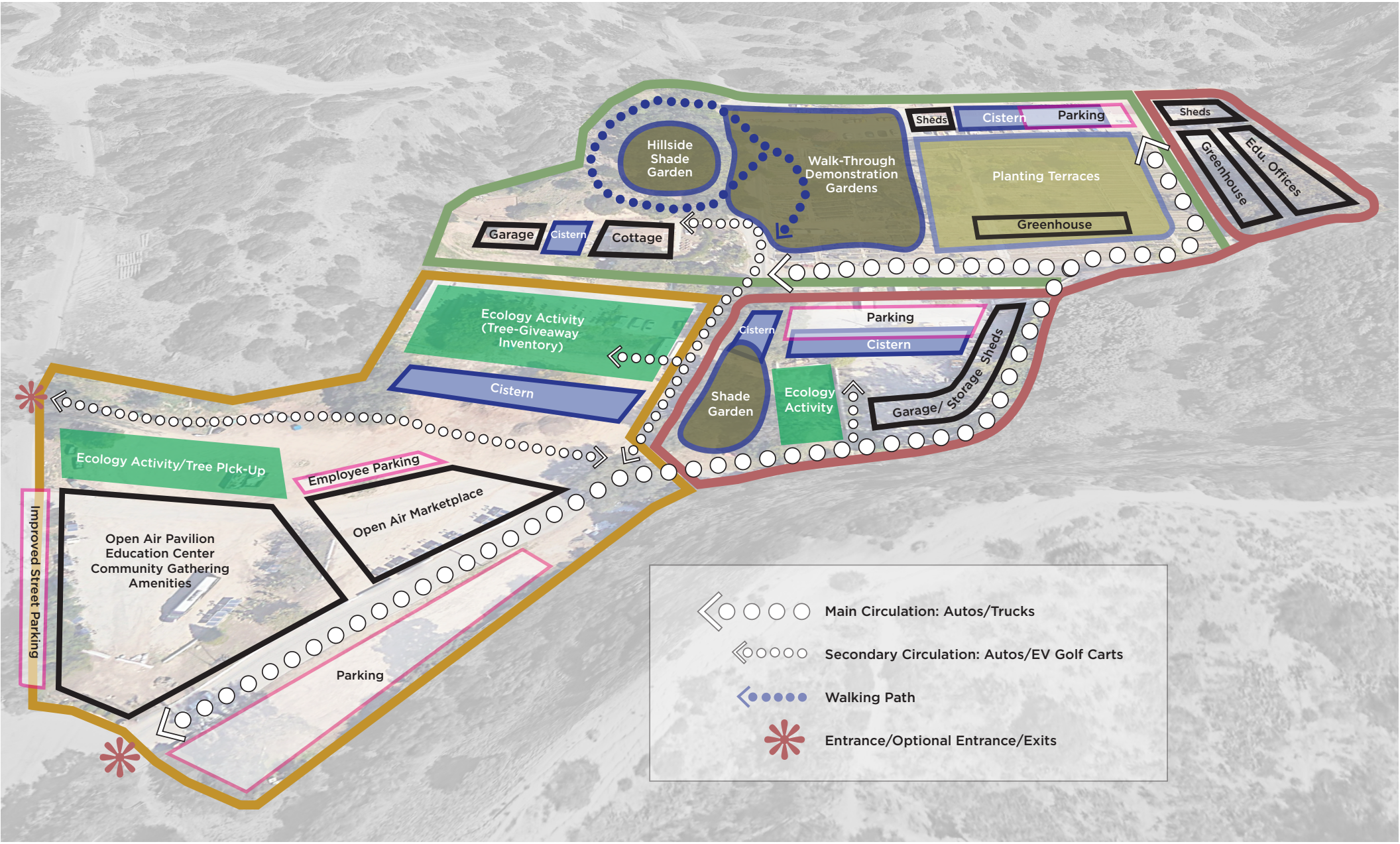


Abandoned machinery



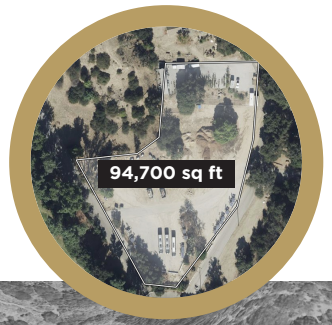
Third-party Greek Theater transport

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DIAGRAM



Based on topography, the site can be broken up into three distinct terraces:

People Terrace

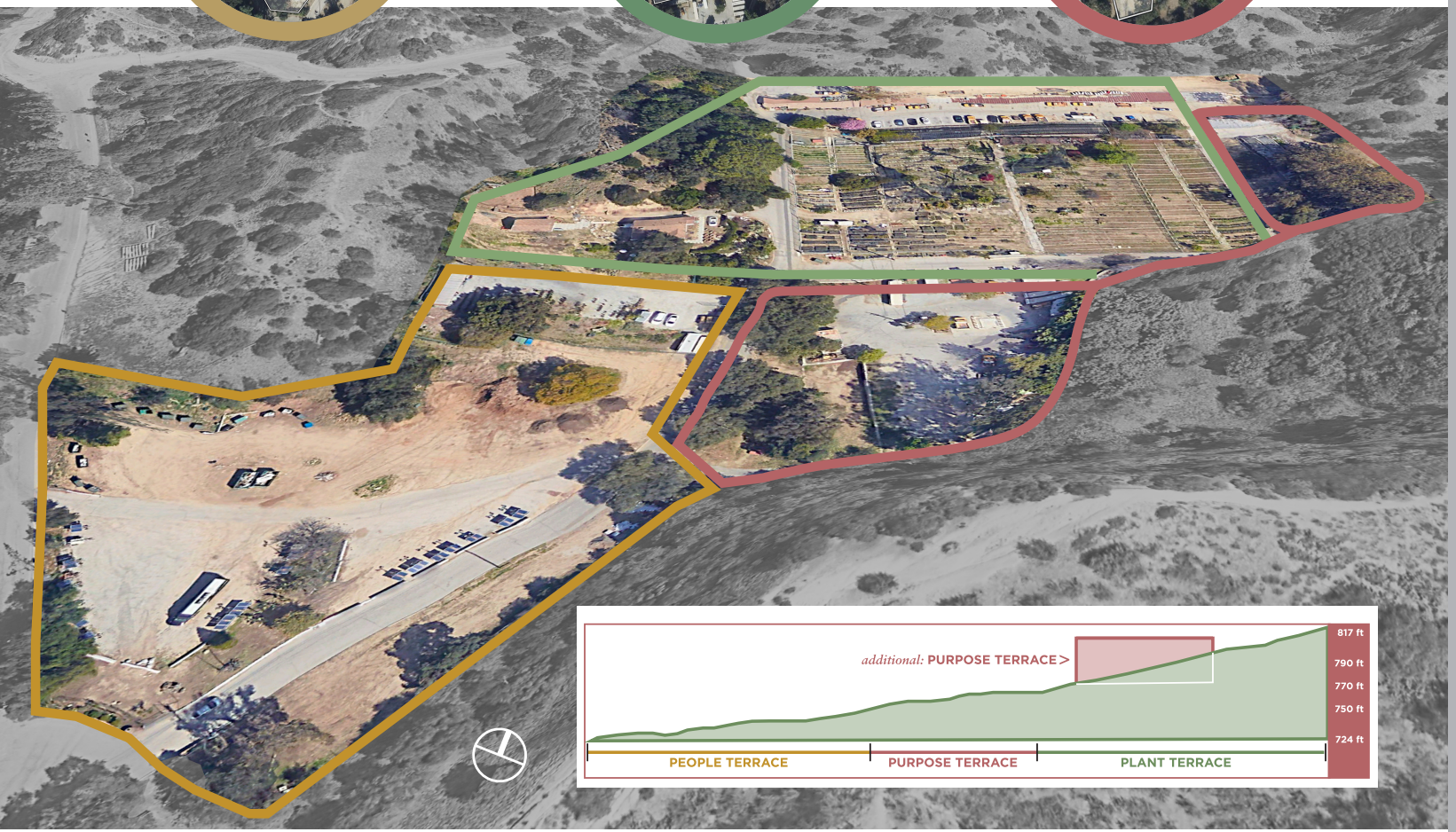


Plant Terrace



Purpose Terrace





People

The first terrace people access

- Welcome Pavillion
- Community/Education Area
- ADA Parking
- Plant Sale Area
- Oak Grove Restoration

Plants

Where horticulture happens

- Propagation Terraces
- Demonstration Garden/Trails
- Restore Greenhouses
- Tool Storage Sheds

Purpose

Upkeep of the tenents of ecology and education

- Water Cisterns
- Apiaries/Bee Harbors
- Solar Power Roofs
- Garage for Large Equipment
- Offices for P & R
- Surface remediation

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

On each terrace the following possible activities and the sizes of materials needed are as follows:

People Terrace

- An education center with classrooms (approx. 700 ft^2) for horticulture study, or community seminar area, 1000 ft^2
- Greeter Pavilion or registration/ information hut
- Shade structures and bench seating
- Farmer's Market area (10-15,000 ft^2)
- Parking with solar panels (65″ x 39″) and EV charging stations (18′ x 9′)
- Tree give-away area
- Public transport drop-off (5′ x 5’ x 8′)
- Trailway hiker's parking on street
- Bike/scooter racks (4′ apart)
- New signage and kiosk for upcoming events
- ADA accessible amenities

Plant Terrace

- Greenhouse restoration
- Trails and botanical walkway
- Revamp of the nursery slopes for plant growing and inventory
- Demonstration garden
- Water-wise, pollinator gardens
- Complementary plantings (plants from climes similar to California)
- Agriculture (Healthy food)/ vegetable/herb gardening
- Tool sheds, storage sheds for pots, trays, small tools needed by the gardeners, as space allows
- Compost bins from 3′ x 3’ x 3′ to 5’ x 5’ x 3′ for proper aeration and accessibility
- New restrooms, 11′ x 20′, 3 stalls, 2 sinks

Purpose Terrace

- Cisterns and rain tanks for water storage
- A Hydrodynamic Separator could go in this area, 6′ - 8′ diameter opening at surface, approx. 16′ deep
- Rec & Parks office area
- Parking for 6 – 8 P&R trucks, some with equipment trailers
- Parks & Rec Equipment maintenance area, garage for tool storage, 6-8 bays as space permits, ea. 9′ wide x 18′ deep
- Additional solar panels on roofing, panel size is typically 65″ x 39″
- Tree and large brush chipper area
- Worker restrooms and clean-up sinks, 11′ x 20′, each gender, 3 stalls, 2 sinks
- Apiaries at top terrace, 100ft^2 – 150ft^2



Pavilion, central meeting area

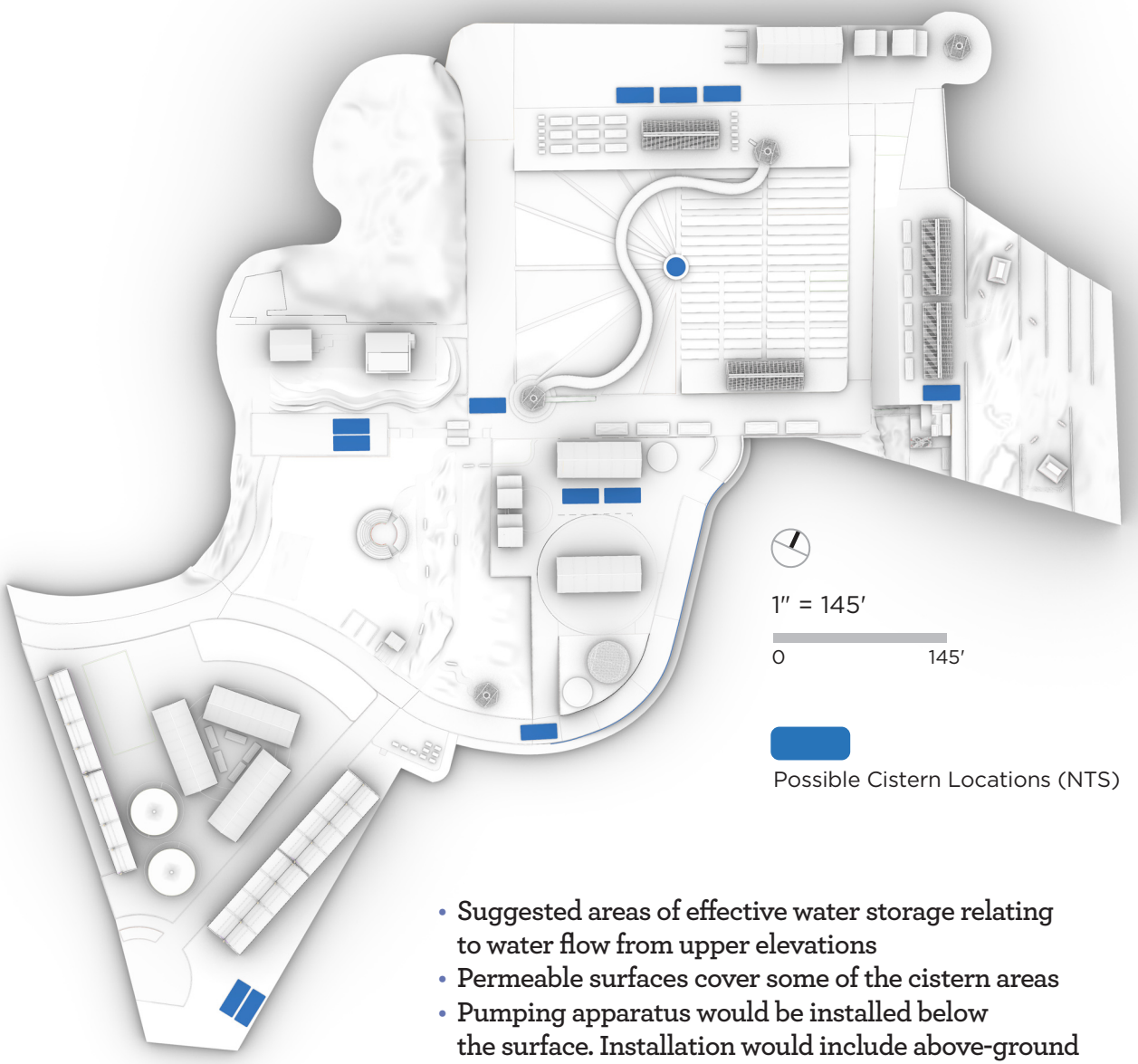


Nursery slopes that need renovating



Garage requirements

PROPOSED WATER CISTERN STORAGE



- Suggested areas of effective water storage relating to water flow from upper elevations
- Permeable surfaces cover some of the cistern areas
- Pumping apparatus would be installed below the surface. Installation would include above-ground fire truck hook-ups.

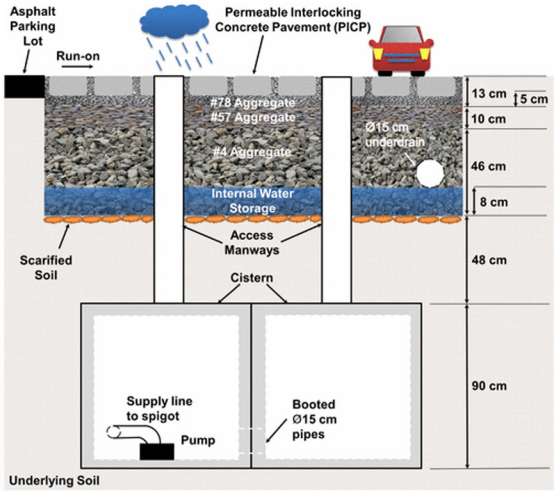


Fig. 6 *Cistern Diagram with Submersible Pump*



Fig. 7 *Underground Cistern Construction Framing*



Fig. 8 *Underground Cistern Construction Concrete Cover*

Changes in traditional stormwater management practices are underway and regulatory agencies are implementing new guidance and requirements for Low Impact Development (LID). New rules focus on runoff reduction strategies including reduced impervious area and onsite infiltration. These options are challenging to implement and are not always practical. Engineers, architects, and developers are designing **rainwater harvesting** (RWH) systems as an alternative LID practice to keep water onsite and reduce runoff.

Cisterns are available in all shapes and sizes, but there are basic attributes that should be present in every cistern no matter what type is selected (see chart below). The most common elements to specify include the following:

- Watertight rating
- Code requirements
- Pump types and location
- Access and maintenance
- Aboveground systems
- Belowground systems
- Material choices
  - Fiberglass tanks
  - Polyethylene tanks
  - Steel Reinforced Polyethylene (SRPE)
  - Plastic crates
  - Concrete structures
  - Fabricated steel tanks
  - Waterproof corrugated metal cisterns
  - Aboveground metal cisterns

Design and Maintenance considerations

Sizing, design life, structural capacity and installation and handling are important factors in cistern choice. All stormwater systems need to be maintained to continue operating effectively. Owners depend on their continued operation and associated utility savings. Easy access and maintenance is very important for cisterns and RWH systems than other LID practices.

	Material	Cost low → high	Installation hard → easy	Longevity short → long	Durability* low → high	Maintenance Access hard → easy	Best Use Capacity (gallons)
Underground	Fiberglass	$$$$$	●●●○○	●●●●○	●●○○○	●●●●○	5,000 to 30,000
	Polyethylene	$	●●●●●	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●○○○	< 5,000
	Steel Reinforced Polyethylene (SRPE)	$$$	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●○	10,000 to 100,000+
	Plastic Crates	$$$	●●●○○	●●○○○	●○○○○	●○○○○	5,000 to 50,000 (with light loading)
	Concrete	$$$$$	●●○○○	●●●●○	●●○○○	●●●●○	30,000+ (with high loading)
	Fabricated Steel	$$$$	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●●○	●●●●○	not recommended
	Waterproof Corrugated Metal	$$	●●●●○	●●●○○	●●●●●	●●●●○	5,000 to 30,000
Above-ground	Monolithic	$$$	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	Up to 20,000
	Plate Assembled On-Site	$$$	●●○○○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	15,000+

*During transport, staging and installation

Fig. 10 Comparison of materials *used for rainwater harvesting cisterns*

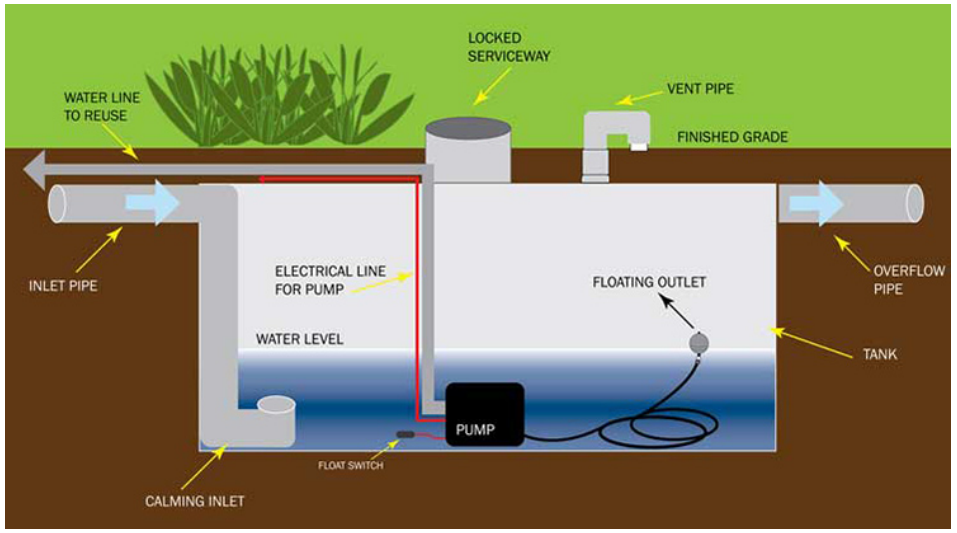


Fig. 9 Typical components *of an underground rainwater harvesting cistern*



Fig. 11 An underground SRPE cistern *installation, similar to the proposed cistern at the zoo, 50 percent backfilled with stone*

According to the Planned Utilization of the Groundwater Basins of the Coastal Plains of Los Angeles County, most of the area sits atop a Quaternary-age alluvium formation, comprising layers of clay, silt, sand, and gravel. And these sediments are the product of fluvial deposition, via the formerly meandering Los Angeles River.

This canyon has a mix of alluvial soil and slope soil. Slopes with a steeper angles have a greater impact on the soil composition compared to a gentle slant. As rain falls, the topsoil's nutrient-rich organic matter will move down the steep slope, especially if vegetation is scarce and water amounts become excessive; deep roots will help the topsoil stay in place during wet winter months. If strategic vegetation is not planted, heavier soil particles, like gravel, will commonly remain at the top of the slope and the base will have an accumulation of lighter soil particles. As a result, the topsoil's even distribution relegates its nutrients to the slope's base.

The alluvial soil at the base of the slopes is the most fertile soil of all other soils. Alluvial soil is deposited by flowing rivers. It is usually formed by mixing fine particles of various soils with salt and other minerals and contains animal and plant matter in a completely decomposed state. It also contains moderate amounts of phosphoric acid, potassium salt and lime.

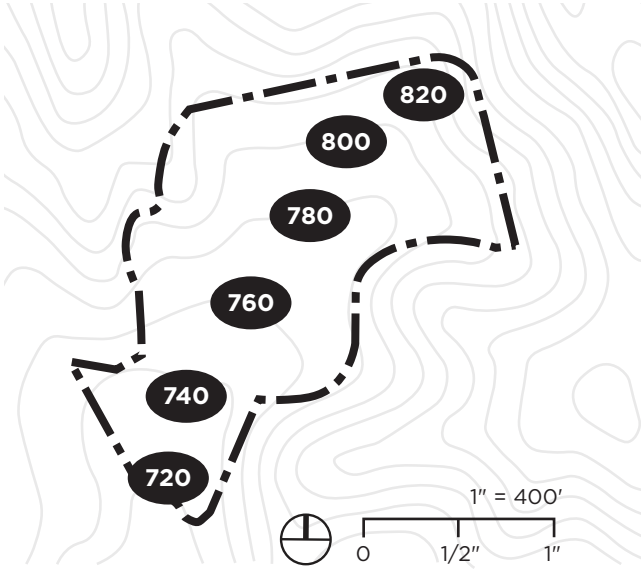
Characteristics also include:

Color: The color can rage from light grey to deep black.

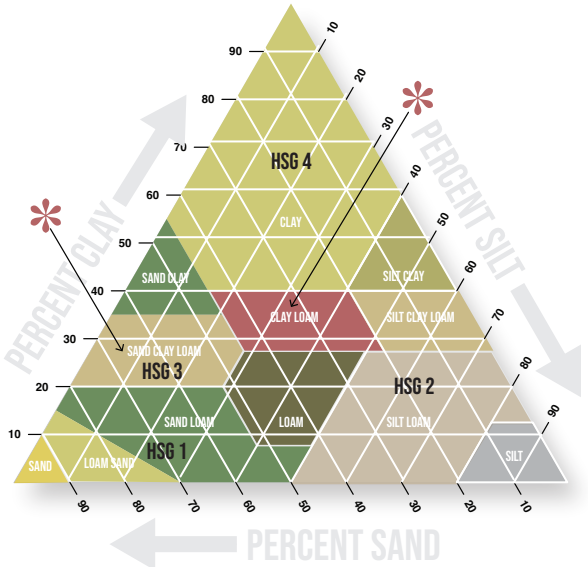
Texture: In the upper reaches of valley, the soil is dry, coarse, porous and sandy with large and non-uniform soil particles.

Much of the basin of this valley is covered by asphalt, and some concrete, which, if removed, may be harboring contaminants such as heavy metals and hydrocarbons. Over time, especially if mulched and composted, the contaminants will leach out, or be removed by weeds and bacteria.

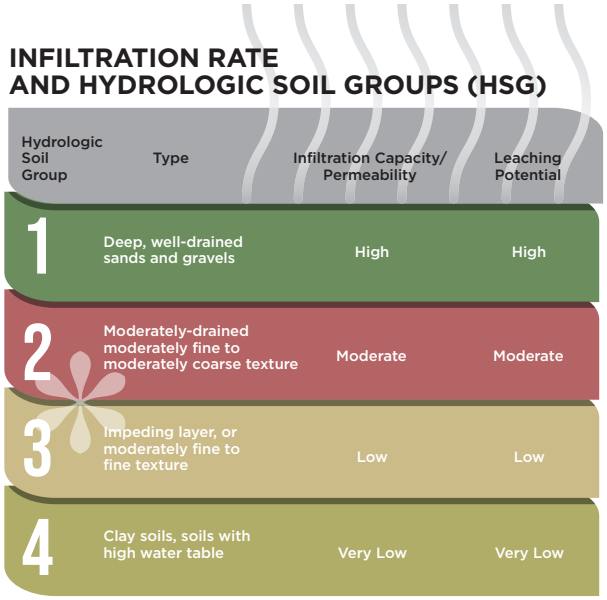
This area borders a liquifaction zone, which makes it susceptible to seismic events as it sits on the Holocene age Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone (activity in the last 11,000 years which qualifies as an active fault). It does not sit in a landslide area.



Elevations of the site *A rise in 100' from the entrance at Commonwealth Avenue to the back area property line.*



The Altamont Soil series *consists of deep, well drained soils that formed in material weathered from fine-grained sandstone and shale. These soils are on gently sloping to very steep uplands.*



The hydrologic soil group *for Altamont soil is between HSG 2 and HSG 3, Clay loam and sandy clay loam, typical of alluvium deposit soil.*

ASPHALT REMEDIATION

Twenty percent of the surface at Commonwealth is asphalt. All needs remediation.
The rest (10%) is concrete (old curbs, terrace walls) and that could be crushed and recycled into stepstones, walls, or fill, as needed.



Fig. 12 *Loading material to be recycled*



Fig. 13 *Bagela Aphalt Mobile Recycler*



Fig. 14 *Asphalt and concrete jaw crushing machine*



Fig. 15 *RAP (recycled asphalt pavement) stockpiled and ready for recycling and installation*

Asphalt recycling repurposes reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and allows municipalities and other organizations requiring new large asphalt to reuse their existing asphalt into new projects. And as an added bonus, recycled asphalt provides a better product at a lower cost. In March 1995, the City of Los Angeles passed a motion requiring that all asphalt surfacing purchased by city departments include a minimum of 15% RAP.



As petroleum prices increase, so does the cost of asphalt. Using some recycled materials decreases the manufacturing cost, which is good whether you are a taxpayer funding a new highway or a municipality building a new parking lot.

All asphalt is 100% recyclable. This includes chunks, millings, leftover plant tailings, etc. Even a small amount of rock, dirt or sand in the mix will not affect the quality of the mix.

Asphalt is the most recycled material in North America. There are about 73 million tons recycled annually, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

The savings of **1800 tons** of **recycled asphalt** are illustrated below:

Asphalt saved from landfills	1,820 tons
Rock that did not need to be mined/quarried	1700 tons
Oil that did not need to be refined or delivered	29,120 gallons
Greenhouse gas emissions that were not put into the atmosphere	70 tons

*Numbers based on 1800 tons of asphalt recycled by M. Leeder Construction during an operating time

Fig. 16

That's nearly twice as much as paper, glass, aluminum and plastics – combined!

Permeable Asphalt

Porous asphalt allows water to drain through the asphalt and into the stone bed below. It then works its way into the soil as nature intended. If toxins are on the surface, they get swept along with the rainfall through the stone bed. From there, they travel into the sub-base so that they are subjected to the natural processes that cleanse water. The size and depth of the stone bed must be designed so that the water level never rises into the asphalt. Porous asphalt tends to be a little coarser than your standard asphalt but is still smooth enough to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and is still an attractive option to consider during the development process.

Porous asphalt will also save money because it eliminates the need to put in a storm-water management solution such as a retention pond.

Porous asphalt pavement can be a valuable tool for municipalities who are interested in storm water management. Porous asphalt pavement is an environmentally-conscious and sustainable paving solution that can offer significant long-term cost efficiency.

BEEZANTIUM, BEE HARBORS & POLLINATOR GARDEN

"If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years left to live."
ALBERT EINSTEIN

On the top Purpose Terrace, I feature two structures inspired by the Beezantiums at the Newt (Hotel) in Somerset, England, and bee harbors







The architecture firm, Invisible Studio, describes the Beezantium they designed for the Newt in Somerset, a UK hotel complex, as a "folly within the landscape." The design of the structure drew on a long tradition of playful and whimsical pavilions, this one housing an apiary, or, a bee colony. The space is shaped by a number of design considerations informed by the service and exhibition of the hive.

The 'beezantium' apiary occupies a natural expanse along the water's edge which had once a been a disused waste-land. Built mainly of timber, the structure is defined by its simple geometry topped by a sloping, shingled roof. The little architectural object suggests a jewel nestled among its woodland surroundings.

The building is clad in oversized timber panels. The exterior walls are built of unseasoned oak, allowing the bees to enter the hive through natural holes or through a network of copper pipes built into the fabric of the structure. The interior is made of polished honey oak, in stark contrast with the rougher exterior, and provides a rich and warm atmosphere in which to enjoy the bees and the bee exhibits. Two oculi are set into a lofty ceiling, providing much-needed light and natural ventilation below. Apiaries are usually contained in a glass box in the middle of the room but by pushing it to the edges, it was possible to create an educational showcase for people to experience a bee's-eye view of the world and explore an interactive hive.







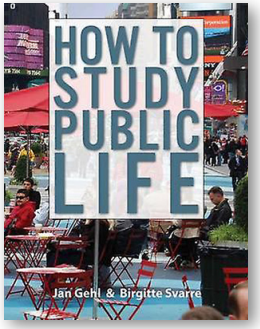


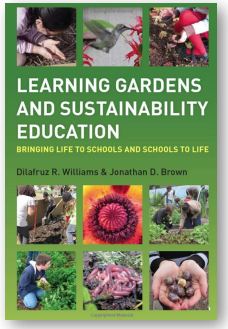
Fig. 17 *Since 98% of the 20,000 known species of bees in the world do not live in hives, I want to encourage these pollinators to make their nests in holes in the ground or boring holes in wood by creating a protected area and giving them bee harbors.*



Community Engagement

- Easy access and a more welcome entrance
- Horticulture and Sustainability education
- Community spaces, convenient parking access
- Marketplace and plant giveaway areas
- Outreach to area schools, garden clubs, and volunteerism



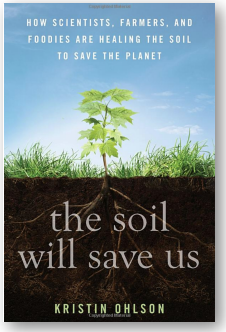


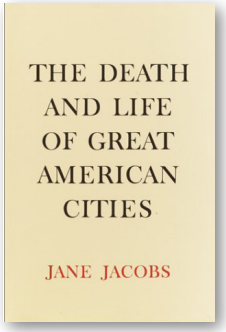


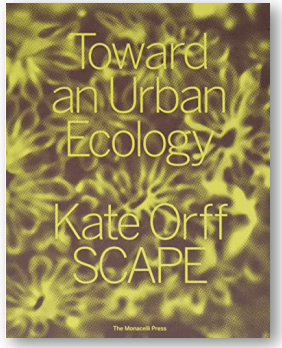
Development of Urban Agriculture

- Rehabilitate the horticulture infrastructure
- Implement water storage systems, bioswales
- Refurbish the plant terraces, improve the soil
- Establish demonstration gardens, add access
- Add agriculture training programs











Guiding Ecological Principles

- Solar power and water retention systems
- Maintenence area that is comfortable for workers
- Low impact traffic throughway
- Protection of ecosystems and wildlife
- Establish site-wide green infrastructure practice

Human induced modification of natural habitats is creating clusters of degraded ecosystems that are causing local extinction of species.

To most people, the term 'landscape' refers to the scenery of fields and forests, of mountains and streams. Gardeners apply the same term to their plantings of flower beds, shrubs, trees and lawns. Although the scales are different, the essence of 'landscape' in both cases is heterogeneity: more than a single element is present, and the more appealing landscapes are almost always varied and spatially complex.

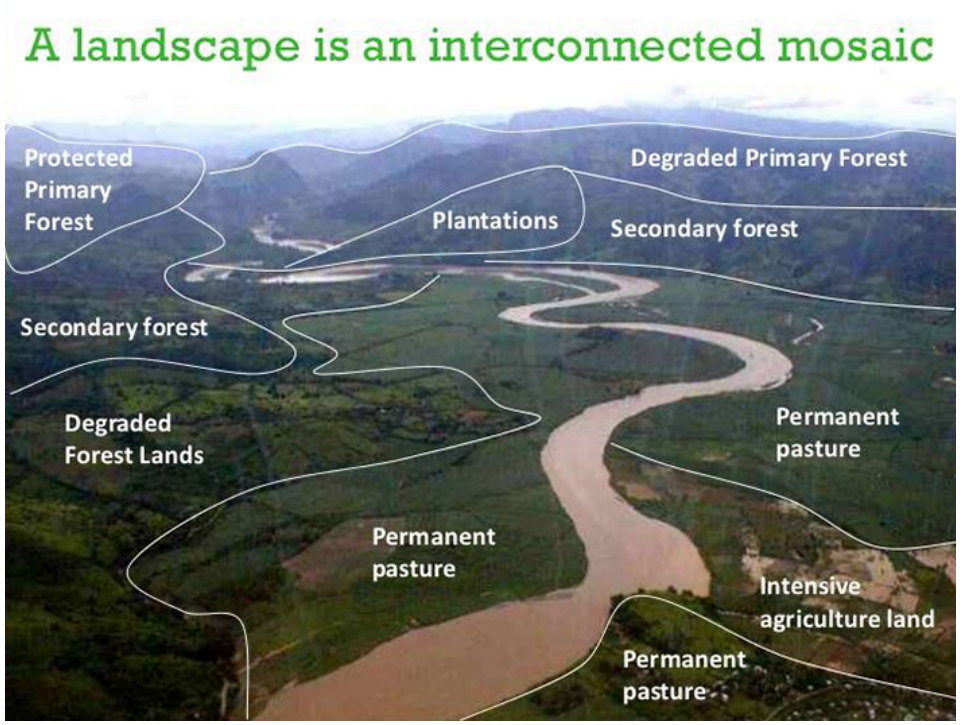
The settings that ecologists study are no different. Whether they are natural or altered by human activities, or are defined at fine or broad spatial scales, environments are spatially heterogeneous. To an ecologist, the beauty of landscapes lies not only in their reality, but in the challenge of understanding how their complex spatial structure affects ecological patterns and processes.

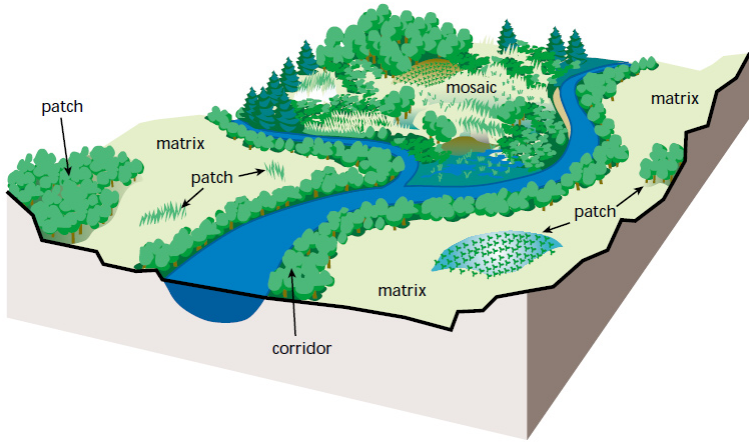
The underlying premise of this discipline is that the composition and spatial form of a landscape mosaic affect ecological systems in ways that would be different if the mosaic composition or arrangement were different.

Mosaic landscape restoration combines aesthetics and ecology to greatly improve the biodiversity and visual appeal of residential yards, urban green spaces and rural countrysides. Striving to bring back native wildlife, incorporating a native plant pallet and managing small spaces helps exhibit a maximum all-season interest. There is no reason why a site should be left as monotonous lawn or be taken over by weeds and invasive plants. Mosaic restoration transforms these spaces into productive and beautiful landscapes that hopefully inspire a variety of communities to think about and care for their immediate environments.

The intention is to honor the ecology and restore the area to a community space in a beautiful and restorative way. Keeping the mosaic in mind keeps the area remediation in check without disruption to the flora and fauna.

The concept of the interconnected mosaic applies to this site because of the mule deer that are present at Commonwealth. Redesigning the space could be disruptive to them, because they come in from the larger park area, so they would not be displaced. They are used to fencing around the planting terraces. Protection from their foraging in the plant propagation area would have to be continued.





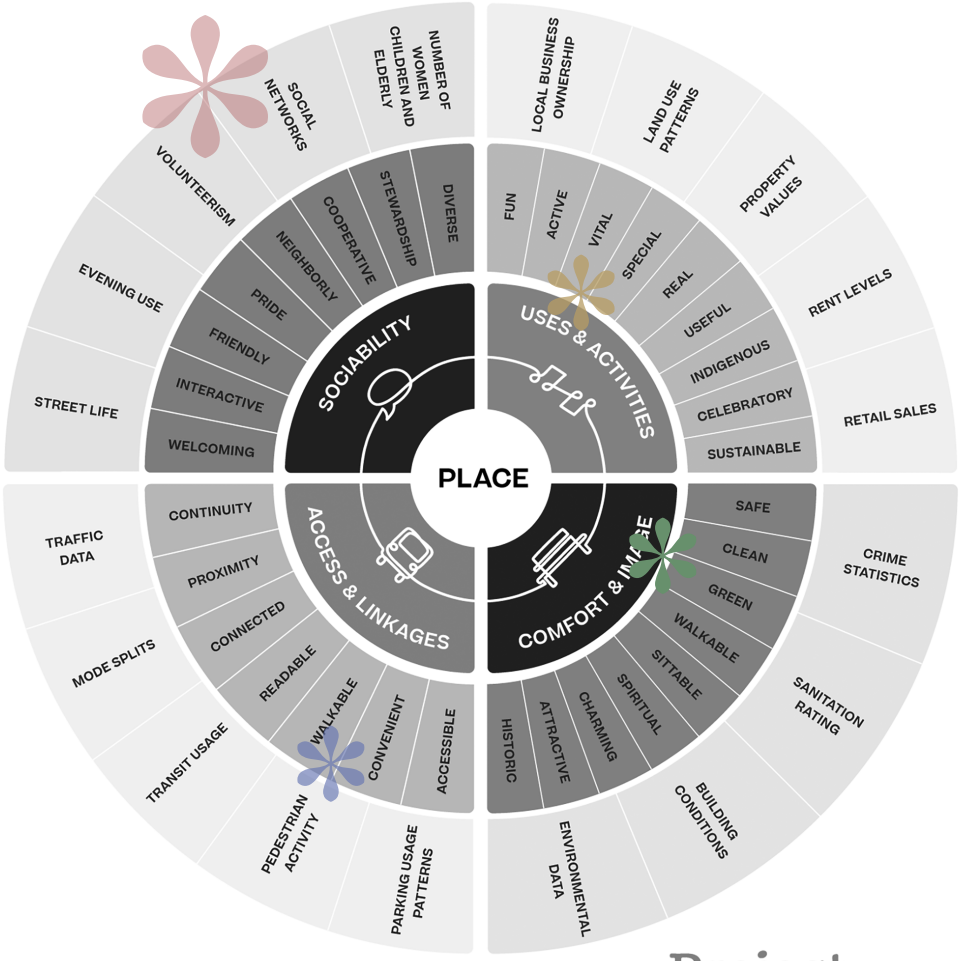
As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, **placemaking** inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.

With community-based participation at its center, an effective placemaking process capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, and it results in the creation of quality public spaces that contribute to people's health, happiness, and well being.

Key Principles of Placemaking

The Project for Public Spaces placemaking approach can be a springboard for community revitalization. Emerging from forty years of practice, the 11 Principles of Placemaking offer guidelines to help communities (1) integrate diverse opinions into a cohesive vision, (2) translate that vision into a plan and program of uses, and (3) ensure the sustainable implementation of the plan. Turning a shared vision into a reality – into a truly great place – means finding the patience to take small steps, to truly listen, and to see what works best in a particular context.

Taking into consideration the demographics of the area, 'sociability' is the strongest of the 'place' factors in regards to Commonwealth. These are younger people, well-educated, affluent, and they live in rental apartments or homes with limited space. Getting out into nature is part of their lifestyle, and combining that with social and philanthropic activities makes 'place' attractive to this group.



Project for Public Spaces

PRECEDENT
Santa Barbara Botanical Garden

- Established in 1928
- 78 acres, 5 miles of trails
- All native plants
- Nature classrooms, library, gift shop and conservation center
- Plant sales
- Strong volunteer program



Nursery Plant Sale



Retail Nursery & Shop



Pritzlaff Conservation Center Gallery

PRECEDENT

Great Dixter House and Garden/The Great Dixter Charitable Trust

- Home of renowned British garden writer Christopher Lloyd
- Nursery was started in 1954, original home is from the 15th century
- Adult education courses include study days, week-long symposia, courses, lectures and workshops
- Old farm buildings were renovated into education space to inspire young people to garden
- Placement volunteer program, must apply to be accepted



Study Day



Volunteers



Children's Program

DESIGN METAPHOR
Trellis

Trellis is a French word related to woven fabrics (three-ply), and how a trellis looks.
The material, usually a type of wood, is criss-crossed into a latticework.
The purpose of the trellis is to support climbing plants, which can't stand straight like a tree or houseplant.
A trellis can also be used for a shade structure, as a border or fence, or a huge architectural statement.
People, Plants and Purpose are the three interweaving concepts that support and create the structure for my site.

- Trellises are great space savers, and enable gardeners to "get vertical" which can be especially useful when growing space is limited.
- Trellis work also often looks more impressive than the actual vine work. It's more visible and structural, especially if the vine goes dormant in the winter.
- A trellis can protect wildlife and keep plants from being attacked by herbivores, insects or fungi.
- Using a trellis can provide shade for plants underneath which tend to bolt if they get too much sun and heat.
- A trellis can substitute for a fence, bench seating, and incorporate lighting and security cameras.





WILDLIFE SUPPORT



VITIS 'ROGER'S RED' WITH TRELLIS SUPPORT



MILLENNIUM PARK

DESIGN METAPHOR INSPIRATION
Trellis


Balustrade


Chain link


Espalier


Fence with Trellis


Trelliage


Lattice pattern in brick


Pergola with Pagoda Trellis


Trellis Railings


Railings


Railing detail


Trellis Fence detail


Trelliage


Tuteaur


Arbor Trellis


Trellis Fence w/Gate


Arbor Trellis Gate


Gate Trellis


Espalier Trellis

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Bubble Diagrams



TRELLIS BRIDGE



TRELLIS WHIRLPOOLS



TRELLIS PERGOLA

DESIGN CONCEPT ONE
Branching Bridge



LEGEND

1. Amphitheater
2. Apiary/Beezantium/Bee Harbors
3. Caretaker's Cottage & Garage Garden
4. City Plants Inventory & Office
5. Community Center/Marketplace
6. Drop-Off
7. Elevated Walkway/Bridge
8. Employee Parking
9. Farmer's Market/Plant Giveaway Area
10. Garden Tool Shed
11. Greenhouse
12. Hillside Oak Grove
13. Info Ticket Booth
14. Main Entrance/Exit
15. Oak Tree Garden
16. Overflow Parking
17. Propagation Terraces
18. Public Parking w/EV Charging
19. Rec & Parks Garage & Office
20. Restrooms
21. Secondary Entrance/Exit
22. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
23. Themed Walk-Through Gardens
24. Underground Cisterns (TYP)

The top terrace has a bridge that connects the top of the area to the bottom and provides a view, and shade ... like the branches of a tree. It exits at the Oak Tree Grove which would be re-designed, in the middle of the site, to protect the trees and prohibit auto traffic. Underground cisterns would be placed in areas with needed parking.

DESIGN CONCEPT TWO
Whirlpools

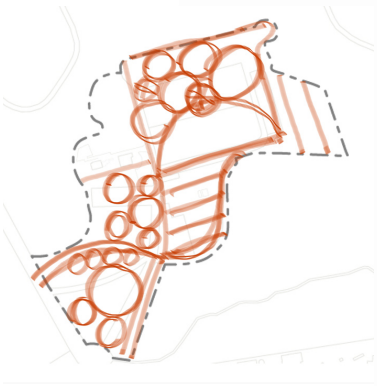


1. Amphitheater
2. Apiary/Beezantium/Bee Harbors
3. Caretaker's Cottage & Garage Garden
4. City Plants Inventory & Office
5. Community Center/Marketplace
6. Criss-Cross Walkway
7. Drop-Off
8. Employee Parking
9. Farmer's Market/Plant Giveaway Area
10. Garden Tool Shed
11. Greenhouse
12. Hillside Oak Grove
13. Info Ticket Booth
14. Main Entrance/Exit
15. Oak Tree Garden
16. Overflow Parking
17. Propagation Terraces
18. Public Parking w/EV Charging
19. Rec & Parks Garage & Office
20. Restrooms
21. Secondary Entrance/Exit
22. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
23. Themed Walk-Through Gardens
24. Underground Cisterns (TYP)

The plant terrace incorporates bioswale/cistern water storage with thematic gardens and appropriate plantings. The whirlpool circular theme would be carried out in surface materiality. Trellis structures would shade meeting areas. The community center is in a hub shape with the ampitheater placed towards the center of the people terrace.

DESIGN CONCEPT THREE

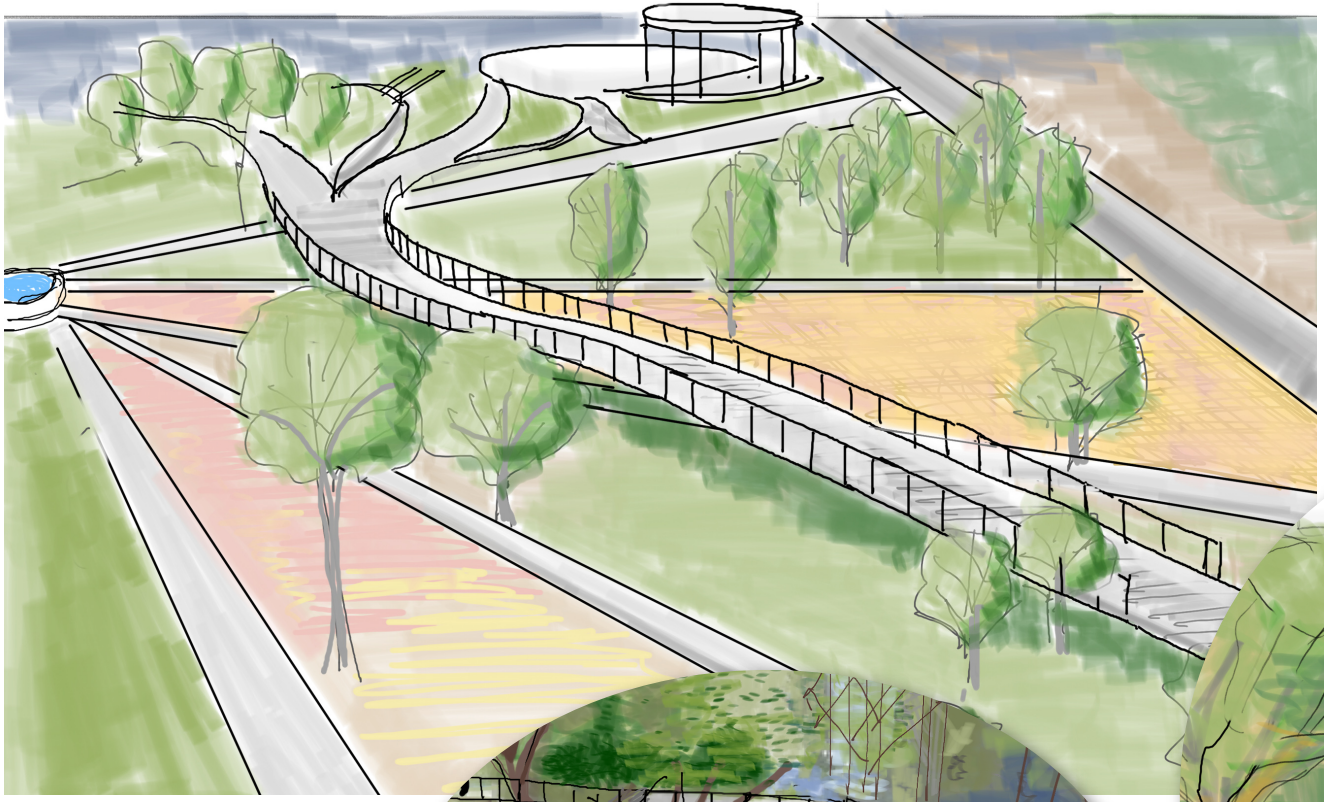
Pergolas



1. Amphitheater
2. Apiary/Beezantium/Bee Harbors
3. Caretaker's Cottage & Garage
4. City Plants Inventory & Office
5. Community Center/Marketplace
6. Circular Walkways with Trellis Patios
7. Drop-Off
8. Employee Parking
9. Farmer's Market/Plant Giveaway Area
10. Garden Tool Shed
11. Greenhouse
12. Hillside Oak Grove
13. Info Ticket Booth
14. Main Entrance/Exit
15. Oak Tree Garden
16. Overflow Parking
17. Propagation Terraces
18. Public Parking w/EV Charging
19. Rec & Parks Garage & Office
20. Restrooms
21. Secondary Entrance/Exit
22. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
23. Themed Walk-Through Gardens
24. Underground Cisterns (TYP)

My third concept features Pergola's throughout the site, with a dramatic central focus Pergola and circular walkways that separate the upper gardens. These could be used for classrooms, social activities and botanical walk-throughs. The garage on the Maintenence terrace is two half circles with a trellised lunch area for employees. The People Terrace has raised platform welcome kiosks with translucent shading material.

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Branching Bridge and Oak Grove Walkway



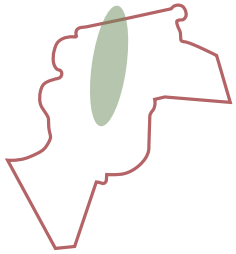
Bridge looking south

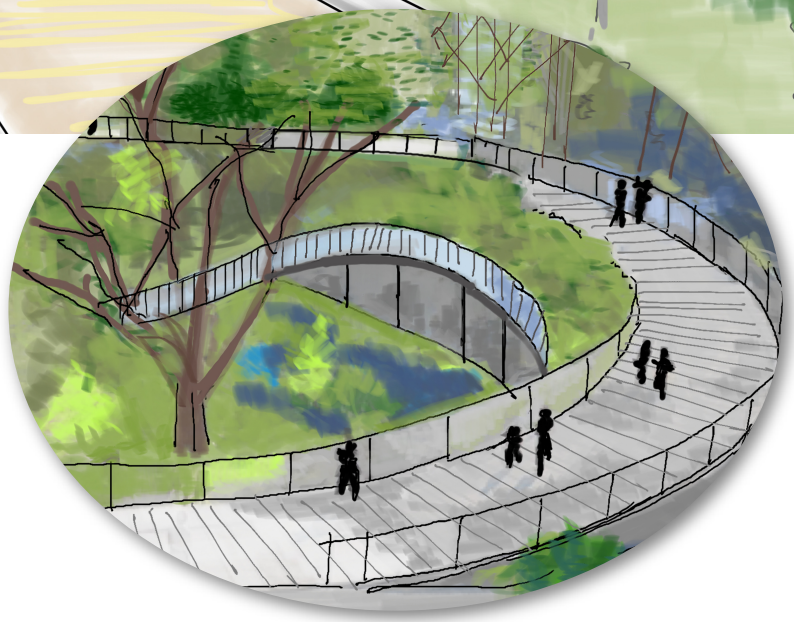


Oak Grove Walkway

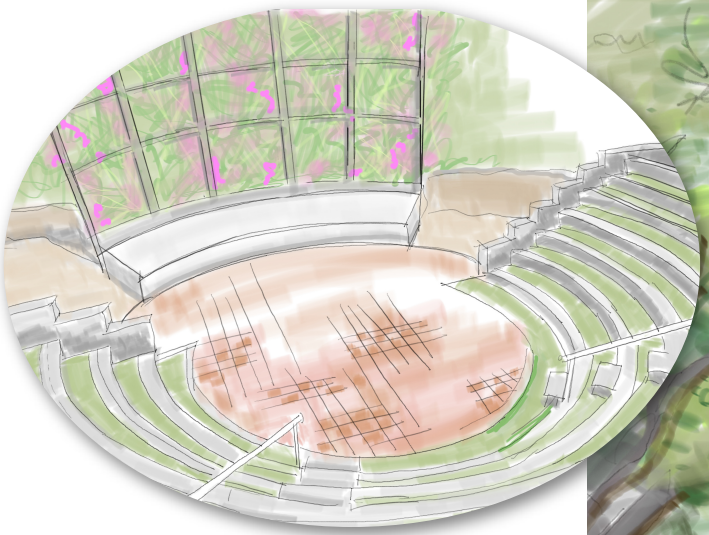


Bridge looking north





Branching Bridge



Courtyard Amphitheater



Oak Grove Walkway berms with seating





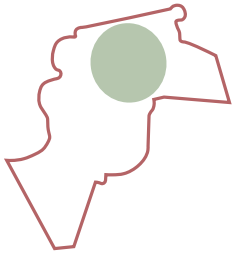
Farmer's Market



Community Center Plant Sale



Terrace Transition Walkway





Terrace Transition with Trellis Covering



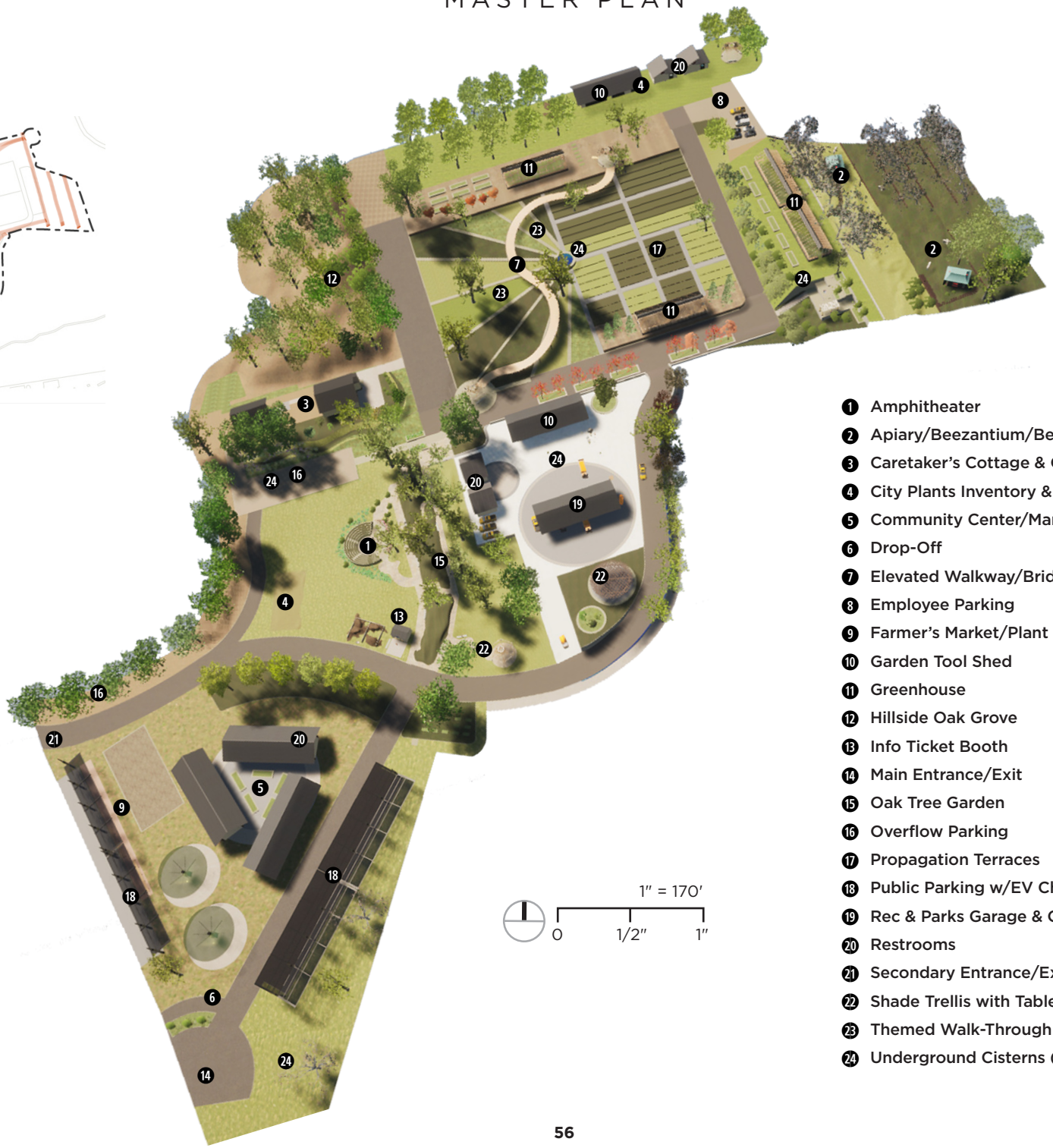
Terrace Transition with Arbor Walkway



Raised Garden Beds

MASTER PLAN





1. Amphitheater
2. Apiary/Beezantium/Bee Harbors
3. Caretaker's Cottage & Garage Garden
4. City Plants Inventory & Office
5. Community Center/Marketplace
6. Drop-Off
7. Elevated Walkway/Bridge
8. Employee Parking
9. Farmer's Market/Plant Giveaway Area
10. Garden Tool Shed
11. Greenhouse
12. Hillside Oak Grove
13. Info Ticket Booth
14. Main Entrance/Exit
15. Oak Tree Garden
16. Overflow Parking
17. Propagation Terraces
18. Public Parking w/EV Charging
19. Rec & Parks Garage & Office
20. Restrooms
21. Secondary Entrance/Exit
22. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
23. Themed Walk-Through Gardens
24. Underground Cisterns (TYP)



Entrance to Commonwealth *Greeting Kiosks under translucent stretch fabric, with EV parking areas, lead into the community center buildings and courtyard*

PEOPLE TERRACE



1. ADA Planters
2. Ampitheater
3. Bus Parking
4. City Plants Staging Area
5. Community Center/Marketplace
6. Drop-Off
7. Employee Parking
8. EV Parking with Solar Panels
9. Farmer's Market
10. Greeting Kiosks
11. Main Entrance
12. Mulch Giveaway
13. Oak Tree Garden
14. Overflow Parking
15. Pergola Patio
16. Second Entrance/Exit
17. Ticket Booth







PEOPLE TERRACE

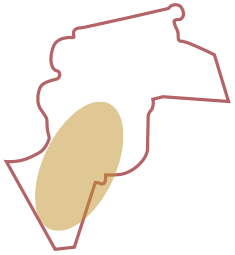












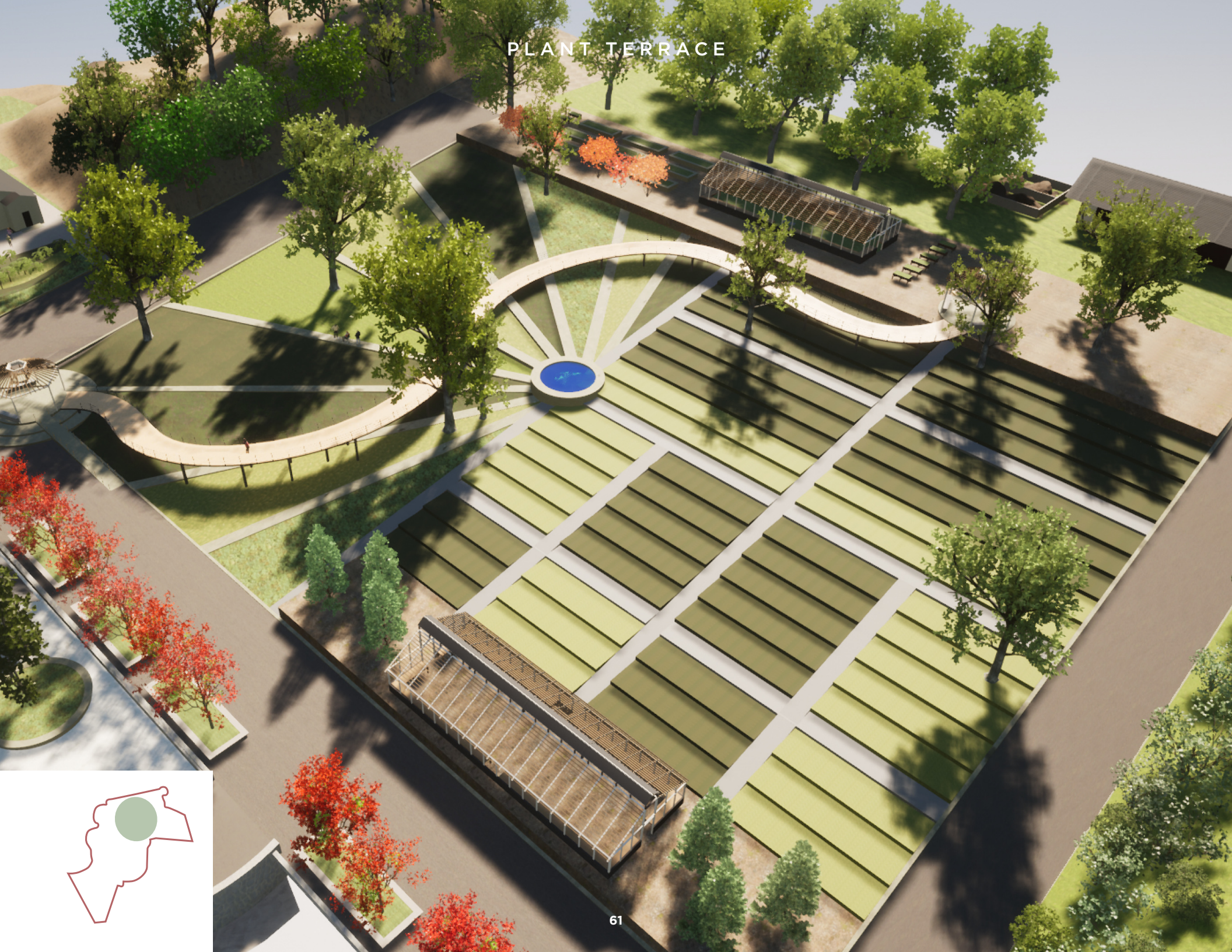
Top Left: *Oak Grove walkway looking south entrance to Ticket Booth*
Bottom left : *Compost Pick-up area, Ticket Booth, Entrance to Oak Grove Walkway*
Top Right: *Amphitheater with Trellis Backdrop*
Middle Right: *Oak Grove walkway at northern end showing planting and tree berms*
Bottom Right: *Caretaker Cottage corner planting tiers; overflow parking lot in background where cistern water storage would be stored*

PLANT TERRACE

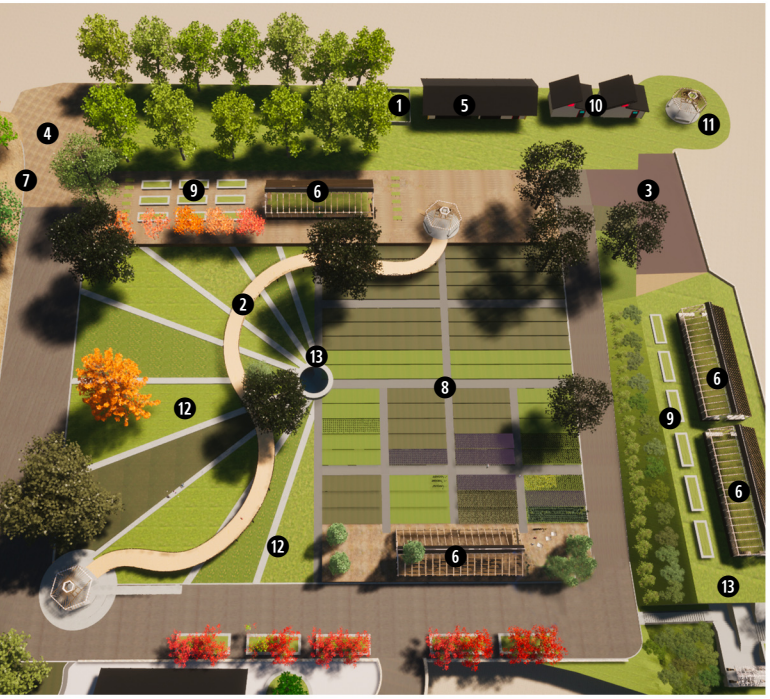


Plant Terrance looking south through themed walking gardens

PLANT TERRACE

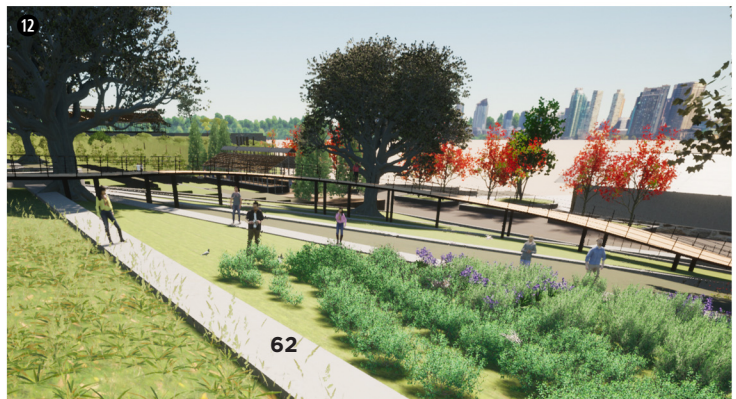


PLANT TERRACE



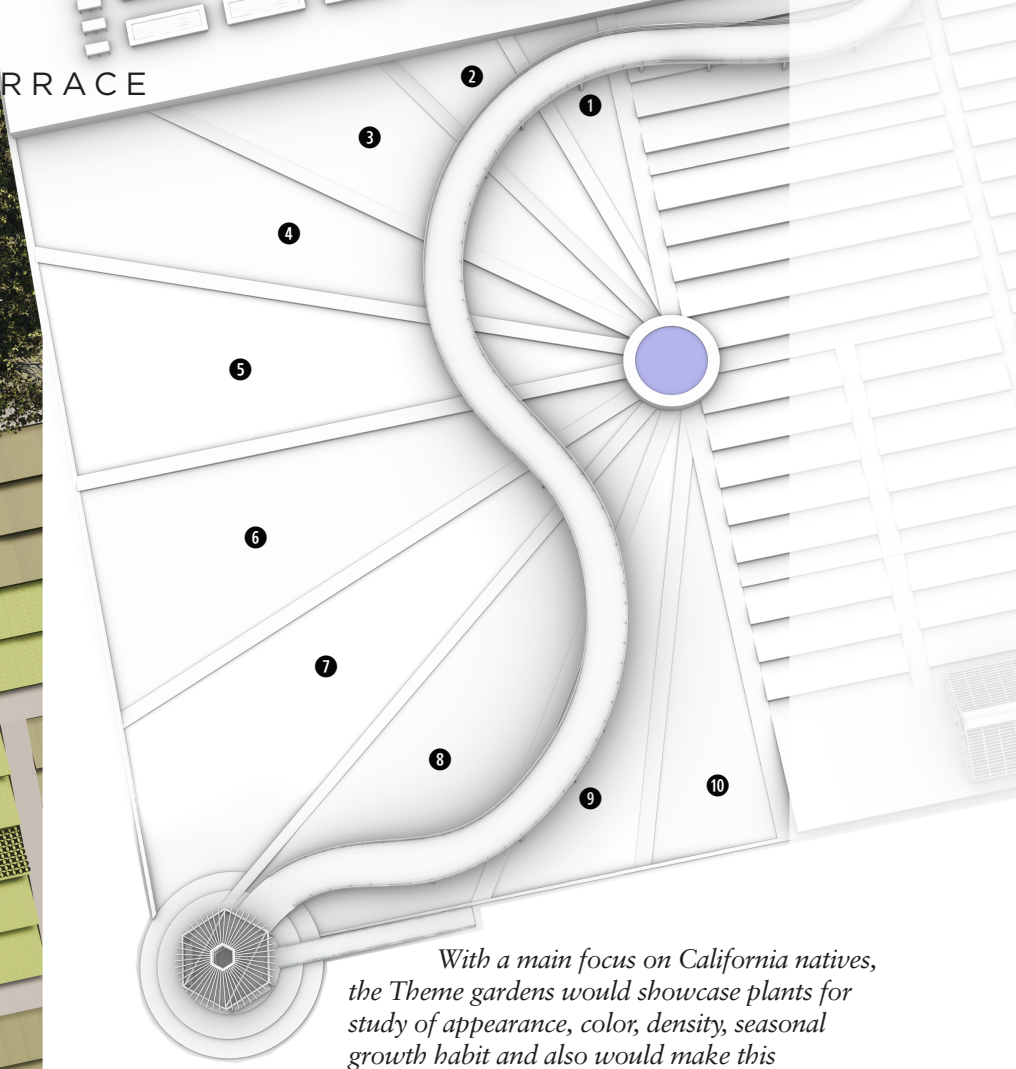
1. Compost Storage
2. Elevated Walkway/Bridge
3. Employee Parking
4. Fire Road Access
5. Garden Tool Shed
6. Greenhouses
7. Hillside Oak Grove
8. Propagation Terraces
9. Raised Planting Beds
10. Restrooms
11. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
12. Themed Walk-Through Gardens
13. Underground Cistern











With a main focus on California natives, the Theme gardens would showcase plants for study of appearance, color, density, seasonal growth habit and also would make this walk-through area a lovely place to visit.

THEME GARDEN *Sample Schematic*

1	Part Shade	California Native Ornamental Shrubs
2	Part Shade	Plants from South Africa
3	Part Shade	Asian Herb Garden
4	Full Sun	Mediterranean Herb Garden
5	Full Sun	Mediterranean Ornamentals
6	Full Sun	California Native Ornamental Shrubs
7	Full Sun/Part Shade	California Native Pollinators
8	Full Sun/Part Shade	Australian & Madagascar Ornamentals
9	Part Shade	California Native Groundcovers
10	Full Sun/Part Shade	Succulents from Central America

PLANT TERRACE: THEME GARDEN
Sample Plant Palettes

Australia


Bottlebrush
Callistemon


Golden Wattle
Acacia pycnantha


Waratah
Telopea


Spider flower
Grevilleas


Kangaroo Paw
Anigozanthos


Native Bluebell
Wahlenbergia stricta


Everlasting Daisy
Xerochrysum

Madagascar


Polka Dot Plant
Hypoestes phyllostachya


Vinca Rosea/Periwinkle
Catharanthus roseus


Spur flower
Plectranthus ciliatus 'Drege'


'Mona Lavender'
Plectranthus


Madagascar Jasmine
Stephanotis floribunda


Royal Poinciana Tree
Delonix Regia


Pliumeria
Frangipani

Mediterranean


Pride of Madeira
Echium candicans


Scotch Broom
Cytisus scoparius


Lentisk
Pistacia lentiscus


English Lavender
Lavendula angustifolia

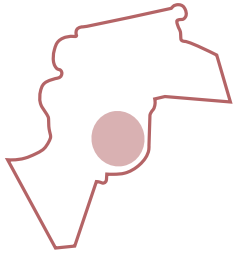

Common Lilac
Syringa vulgaris


Common sage
Salvia officinalis


Meadow Sage
Salvia pratensis

PURPOSE TERRACE





Purpose Terrace *for solar and water storage infrastructure, maintenance equipment, and worker's amenities. Plaza is permeable and houses a water storage cistern or Hydrodynamic-Separator, which cleans the water stored underground. Beginning of Oak Grove walkway is to the far left.*

PURPOSE TERRACE





1. Employee Citrus Garden
2. Employee Parking
3. Entrance/Exit
4. Solar Roofed Garden Tool Shed
5. Oak Tree Garden
6. Rec & Parks Garage & Office
7. Restrooms
8. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
9. Underground Cisterns

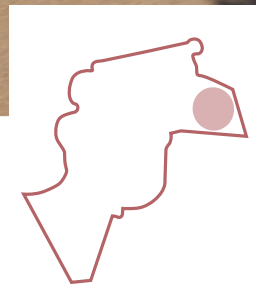






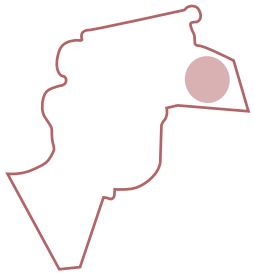






Top Purpose Terrace Connection *featuring an original WPA staircase, with added ADA handrails, that leads to a terraced meeting space. Side wall holds a water cistern storage area. This hillside has a bad erosion problem and needs shoring up, a complete revamp would be necessary for stability.*

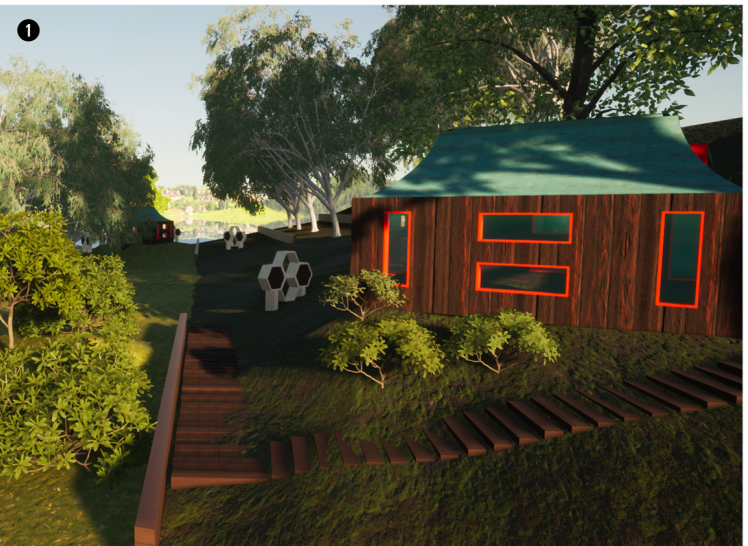
PURPOSE TERRACE





1. Apiary/Beezantium/Bee Harbors
2. Connecting Terrace
3. Eucalyptus Grove
4. Greenhouses
5. Shade Trellis with Tables/Seating
6. Underground Cisterns
7. WPA Staircase









BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
People Terrace



South end People Terrace that stores dumpsters and Greek Theater transport



Intersection and south end of Oak Grove Walkway, with Community Center in background



Roadway to top terraces through oak tree grove



Oak Grove walkway

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
People Terrace



Southern property boundary



Southern property boundary with added parking lot, marketplace, EV chargers and solar parking panels



Main entrance gate at South end



New entrance reconfigured with turn-around, parking, kiosks, and community center

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
People Terrace



Slopes outside the Caretaker's Cottage



Slopes outside the Caretaker's Cottage with native groundcover and shrubs



Auto intersection at top of oak grove area, looking toward's Plant terraces



Intersection at top of oak grove area, looking toward's Plant terraces, traffic has been re-routed

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Plant Terrace



Top of terrace, worker's offices and tool storage



Top of terrace, new office, storage shed, restrooms, greenhouses, above-ground and ADA planters



Fire road that borders abandoned plant terraces



Fire road with themed gardens and walkways area, bridge, cistern and shade pergola at end of bridge

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Plant Terrace



Road at bottom of plant terraces with abandoned machine parts and traffic equipment



Road at bottom of plant terraces where bridge ends at shade pergola



Terrace corner



Rehabilitated terrace corner with small citrus grove and greenhouse propagation area

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Lower Purpose Terrace



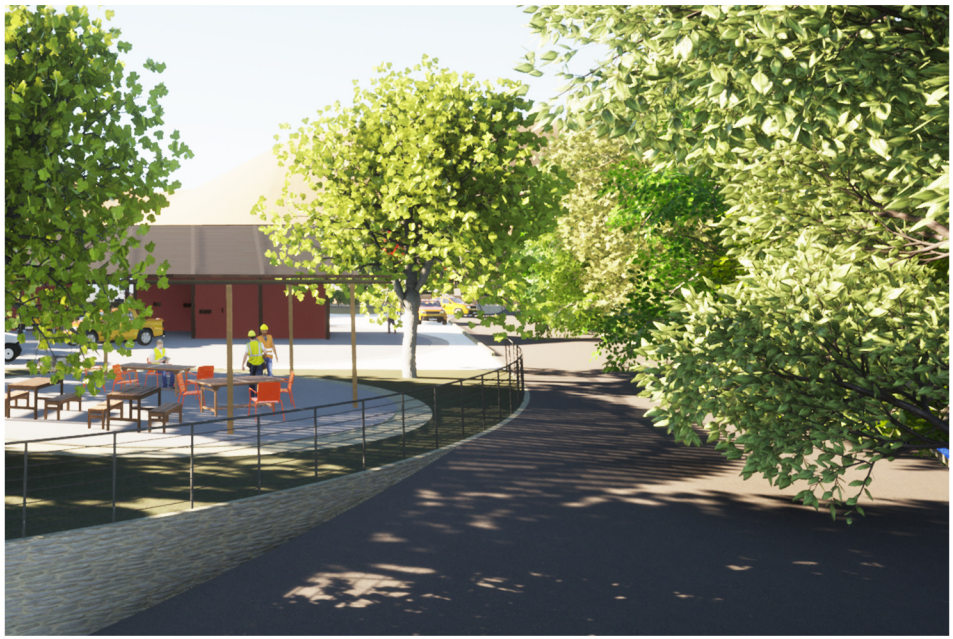
Blocked access roadway



New access roadway to RAP/DWP Worker's Terrace and continuing north



Blocked access roadway with abandoned materials



New access roadway around worker's area and up to the north property area

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Lower Purpose Terrace



Mulch storage



Oak Grove walkway side park with Purpose worker's terrace parking and restrooms on plaza



Purpose lower terrace with Foundation parking lot overgrown with invasive plants

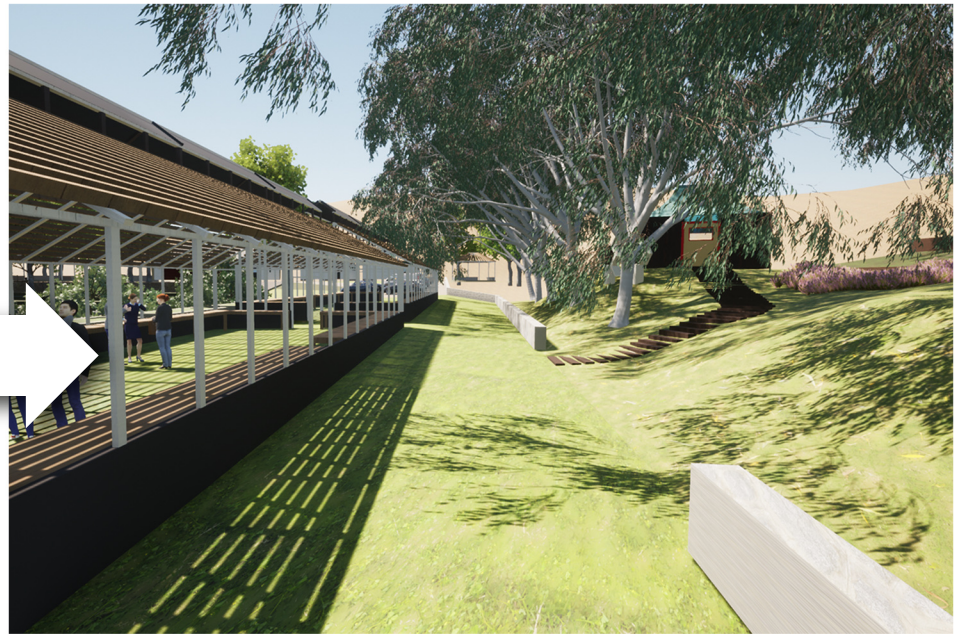


Purpose lower terrace with parking, restrooms, garage, and plaza that has cistern storage underneath

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Upper Purpose Terrace



Abandoned greenhouses in Eucalyptus Grove



Rebuilt greenhouses in Eucalyptus Grove with Beezantiums and Bee harbors



Slope to upper Purpose Terrance



Upper Purpose Terrace with new slope stability, Toyon shrubs for erosion control, underground cistern, and rebuilt greenhouses. Office, restrooms and employee parking in background.

BEFORE & AFTER COMPARISONS
Upper Purpose Terrace



WPA funded and CCC built stairs from the 1930s



Stairs with handrails added, cistern inside rebuilt slope, patio and pergola, plantings for erosion control

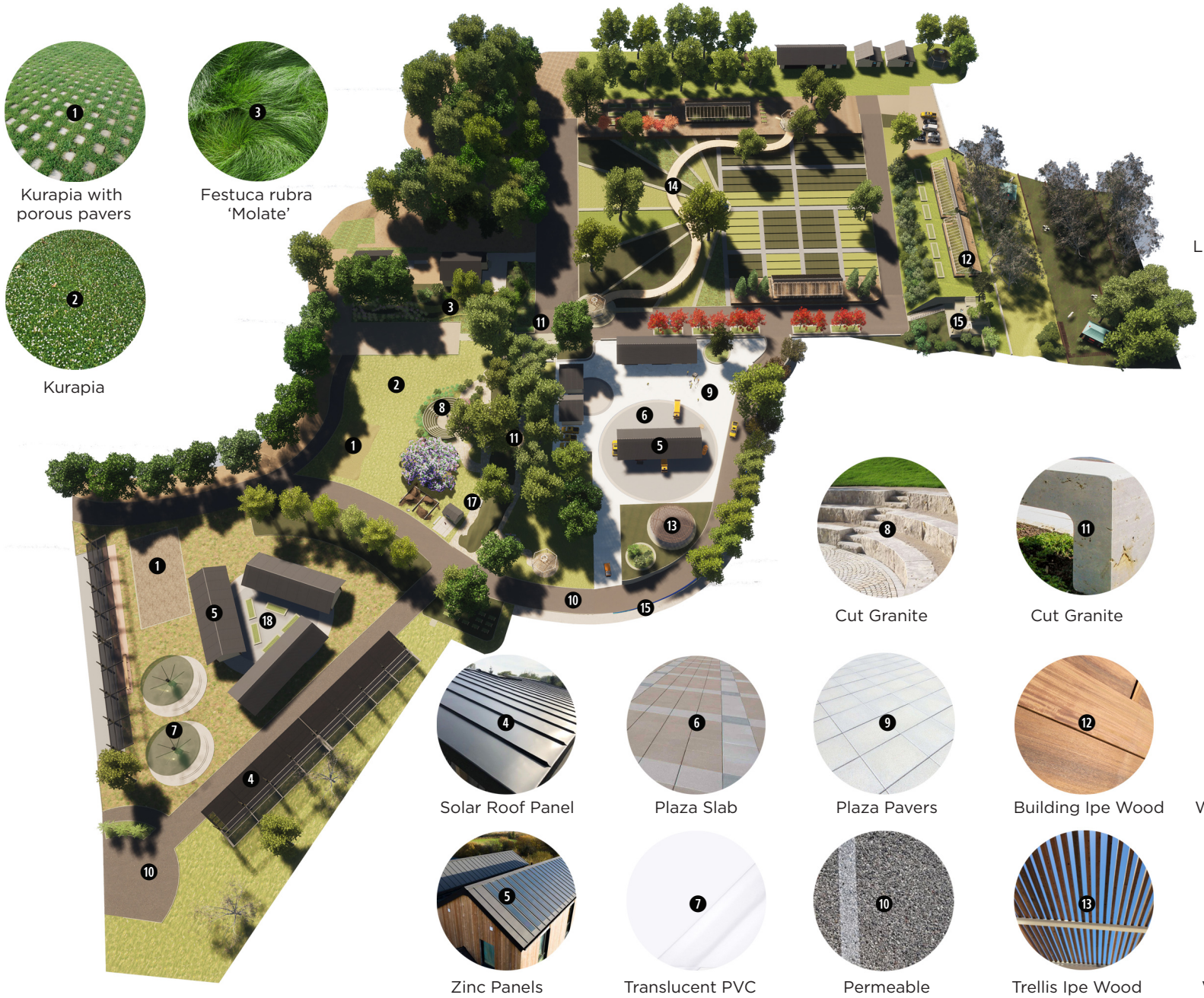


Upper Purpose Terrace with broken walls and fallen trees



Upper Purpose Terrace regraded as a water conduit to the cistern. Native wildflowers and rebuilt fencing with bee harbors help stabilize the Eucalyptus and provide a healthy pollinator habitat.

MATERIALS



Kurapia with porous pavers

Festuca rubra ‘Molate’

Kurapia



Bridge: Structural Lightweight Concrete



Concrete Retaining Walls

Cut Granite

Cut Granite



Wall Cut Stone

Solar Roof Panel

Plaza Slab

Plaza Pavers

Building Ipe Wood



Walkway Cobblestone

Zinc Panels with Solar

Translucent PVC Stretch Fabric

Permeable Asphalt

Trellis Ipe Wood



Walkway Cut Stone

DESIGN CONCEPT INSPIRATION

PEOPLE



Herzog & de Meuron - Slow Food Pavilion, Milan Expo 2015. Via AV, photos © Roland Halbe



Detroit's West Riverfront Park



Farmer's Park, Anaheim

PLANTS



Tadao Ando's Yumebutai Botanical Garden in Kobe, Japan



Stairstep Terrace Gardening: Pinterest



The Freedom Park: //Hapo by GREENInc., Landscape Architecture

PURPOSE



Bee Hotels: Pinterest



Beezantium, at The Newt in Somerset, UK



Clerestory Roof: Eco Friend, British Columbia

Tenets of good grant application and fundraising:

- Make it compelling – don't bore them.
- It should tell a story – facts tell, stories compel.
- Tell about real results of the donations.
- People want to know what good they helped do with their donation.
- Focus on the donor. Make the donor the hero of the story.
- It should **always** include a call to action

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies: Supporting Sustainable Cities

Facing the dual challenges of rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the climate crisis, sustainability and equity must be central components of any recovery strategy. Nowhere is this more critical than in cities, which are home to the majority of the world's population and have acutely felt the impacts of climate change. Cities have long been hubs of innovation and inspiration towards solving the world's toughest challenges, making urban centers uniquely positioned to lead on climate and sustainability issues. In the U.S. and around the world, Bloomberg Philanthropies supports and collaborates with mayors and local partners to ensure cities have the resources they need to raise their ambition, share learnings, and make progress in the transition to a sustainable, healthy future.

America is All In

America is All In works across sectors to bolster existing U.S. climate goals and align them with science-based targets, accelerating institutional and regional climate action and enabling the Biden-Harris administration to present to the global community a new, ambitious, and achievable national target of reducing emissions at least 50% from a 2005 baseline by 2030.

These programs accelerate progress on the most serious threats to our environment by focusing on a set of critical challenges and by supporting the work of leading groups and emerging initiatives. Together with city leaders, policymakers, grassroots movements, environmental advocates and businesses, Bloomberg Philanthropies is taking bold action to protect the planet.

This is reaching for stars, but presenting the program as a way to educate and help solve environmental and social issues such as jobs, hunger and education falls right within the mission of Bloomberg. Their funding could get the project off the ground and instantly gain the respect of Park and City entities.

MacKenzie Scott

Billionaire philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott gave the California Community Foundation two Beverly Hills homes together valued at about $55 million to support affordable housing and immigrant programs in the Los Angeles area. She directed foundation officials to sell the two homes and use 90 percent of the proceeds to permanently endow the foundation's grant making to help low-income people in Los Angeles find affordable housing there.

Scott has now given away about $8.6 billion to 786 recipients since she announced her first gifts in July 2020. And because Amazon's stock price keeps climbing, she has even more to give than when she started.

With this recent latest round of grants, Scott further cemented her reputation as an nontraditional philanthropist among the wealthiest U.S. individuals. She has given out large sums in unrestricted funding to nonprofit organizations since her divorce in 2019 **without** establishing a foundation.

Ms. Scott seems to favor projects that are original and off the map. She also acknowledges women as catalysts for change that don't get the recognition they deserve. Her aim is to balance those inequities. There is no formal application process, so getting the project in front of her in a creative way would be imperative.

> *"It's easy to think of different groups struggling within the same systems as not only separate, but also opposing. Yet when we help one group, we often help them all. A growing body of research on this contains numerous examples — bike lanes designed to protect cyclists improving local retail sales and property values for everyone, seatbelt laws adopted to protect young children saving the lives of people of all ages, students of all ethnicities achieving better learning outcomes at schools that are racially diverse, workforce and education opportunities for women and girls leading to global economic growth. And those are just the positive ripple effects that can be easily counted. The dividends of changes in attitude each time disparate groups help each other are harder to trace. But the trend line is clear. Communities with a habit of removing obstacles for different subsets of people tend to get better for everyone."*
>
> MACKENZIE SCOTT, 2022

MOVING FORWARD
Targeting Volunteerism



friends of GRIFFITH PARK

"A pure wilderness solution is out since a metropolitan area of more than 10 million people cannot surround thousands of untouched acres. Nor is a metropolitan area without green space a viable solution; people need open areas for mental health as much as physical health.

We urge citizens and policymakers to work together to find the best balance between these extremes, building from a deep understanding of the need for nature within the metropolitan area"

VALERIE VANAMAN
FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK
ADVISORY BOARD

Friends of Griffith Park
Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive well beyond the 21st century.

Why does the Park need friends? While some attractions in Griffith Park have well-established groups supporting their missions, until now no one has worked to sustain the whole of the Park. Friends of Griffith Park seeks to conserve its essence, its irreplaceable environment and the history it enfolds.

The impact of reductions in funding, maintenance and staffing is evident in the Park's deteriorating landscapes and historic features. Rising pressures to reposition the Park as a revenue source — thereby opening the door to commercial developments that encroach on its free and open character — pose a parallel threat. Action is needed now, or Griffith Park will cease to be the natural escape from urban pressures that Colonel Griffith envisioned when he donated the Park to the people 115 years ago.

Key points

- Griffith Park's long-standing role and function as the City of Los Angeles' greatest natural, open space is to be recognized, designated, managed and maintained as an Urban Wilderness, with the ultimate goal to preserve, enhance, and sustain the rich bio-diversity that exists in the park today. This includes Griffith Park's Los Angeles River frontage and lands nearby that should be restored as a riparian habitat for nature viewing, education and recreational enjoyment.
- Friends of Griffith Park supports and keeps the City aware of activities of its users and helps maintain avoid any displacement of these activities. Restoration of wilderness areas is a key project focus with activities that support native plantings, trash removal, P-22 Protection, Raptor monitoring and scientific study, and wildfire protection projects.
- Friends of Griffith Park is a community of like-minded people who love the natural world and believe in helping with the upkeep and protection of Griffith Park. Through various group activities the park is maintained and social interaction is shared with people of all ages, and backgrounds. The commonality is a caring for the environment and protecting our natural resource, Griffith Park.
- Friends of Griffith Park was key in spearheading the underground storage facility and hydrodynamic separator project for water retention and cleansing in the Ferndell area of the Park. This water will be used for irrigation and replenishment of the aquifer.

MOVING FORWARD

Development Through Community Fundraising

Fundraising events could be sponsored by community based organizations like Friends of Griffith Park, or other environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, the River Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, or Heal the Bay until Commonwealth establishes their own organization.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

A evening with
ALICE WATERS
Cooking from the Seasonal Garden

Sunset Magazine Sponsors:
YouTube star
KEVIN ESPIRITU
shares his gardening expertise and why his mission is to "teach the world to grow."

HOUSE & GARDEN MAGAZINE
The City Garden:
Make Your Wish List First

Special Guest
JAMIE OLIVER
Kids cook for kids.
How school lunches straight from the garden get kids excited about eating healthy foods

MARTHA STEWART AND SNOOP DOG
Love, Peace, and Harmony while Cooking healthy snacks

Special Guest
MONTY DON
From Jewelry to a Jewel Toned Flower Garden
British and Netflix Star takes everyone on a tour of his own garden , Longmeadow, in Herefordshire,UK

PLANT SALES & AUCTIONS

CA Native Plant Sales

Plants from Australia

Plants from Mexico

Plants from South Africa

Perfect Parkway Plants from Trees to Groundcovers

Dry Garden:
The Water-Wise Front Yard

Slope Plants that are Deer-Resistant

Plants that Beat the Heat

Gardening Tools Auction

CLASSES

Cooking Classes at Café Commonwealth with celebrity Chefs

The Magic of Herb Gardening

Fruits and Vegetables for your Zone

Teas & Aromatics

Composting

Vermicomposting (Worms)

Soil Enhancing Seminar

Irrigation classes
How to change a solanoid, replace a valve, connect the pipes

Taking Care of your Tools Workshop

City Restrictions and Deep Watering Your Trees

It's not Hard to Hardscape

MOVING FORWARD
Research Partnerships

Just as UCLA physicians use skills to keep zoo animals alive at the Los Angeles Zoo's Gottlieb Animal Health and Conservation Center in Griffith Park, wouldn't it be beneficial to have UCLA Extension Horticulture students study and do research at Commonwealth Nursery?

Many years ago, UCLA Extension partnered with the West Valley Occupational Center at Pierce College in Woodland Hills for a Horticulture class. The class was a **UCLA Extension Class called Gardening: Practices & Techniques.** It followed *Intro to Horticulture* which was a lecture class held on the UCLA campus. This class was 6 hours every Saturday morning for 6 weeks.

It was first-hand training in soil preparation, plant selection, propagation, planting, pruning and fertilizing. It also included weed and pest control equipment and methods, types and installation of irrigation systems, specialized plant care, use, care and storage of garden tools, equipment, selecting, planting and care of indoor and outdoor container plants, and vegetable garden preparation.

It was very hands on, everyone was expected to be in class and to be involved. We wore appropriate clothing with appropriate shoes. Gloves and sunhats were highly suggested.

Each student was required to prepare a minimum of 10 practical work modules on cards provided by the instructor, Michael Kristiansen.

A Typical Class

8:00am - 9:00	Practical Demonstration
9:00 - 11:30	Students do the work
11:30 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 1:30	Students do the Work
1:30 - 2:00pm	Students fill out Practical Module Cards

We received the module cards back when they were graded, and had time to go over any areas we were lacking.

This class was instrumental in my early Horticulture education. We were on-site in a large garden area where there were actual plants in a landscape setting, a few compost heaps, storage sheds with tools. We learned to suit-up in protective jumpsuit and goggles for spraying fungicide. We learned about the proper kind of bypass pruners for our hand size, how to clean and oil tools for storage. We also learned how to separate rhizomes in the iris bed and how to pot up plants when they became root bound. It was first hand and first class. The instructor was from South Africa and it was my first exposure to plants from other countries, or even the fact that plants from another country can grow well in our area.

Learning from books and lectures is fine, but there is nothing that can beat practical hands-on gardening experience. To be out in the sunshine, with your fellow students, learning about Horticulture in an actual garden, hosing down a compost heap or pruning a plum tree in the late fall was invaluable and so much fun.

We also explored careers in landscaping and we did a survey of the salaries of various specialties in the field. We had guest speakers from nurseries, tool makers, irrigation supply houses and landscape architecture.

Careers To Consider

A look at a few popular careers in horticulture, and today's average national salaries:

Food Scientist:	$ 74,210
Soil and Plant Specialist:	82,090
Nursery and Greenhouse Manager:	45,000- 64,660
Landscape Designer:	52,800
Commercial Landscape Company Operations Manager:	54,000 - 94,000
Lawn Care and Mowing Technician:	15-20 per hour
Landscape Company Field Supervisor:	27 per hour

A horticulture degree can lead to careers in plant breeding, genetic engineering, landscape design, farming, floral design, research, nursery production, education, food science, landscape construction and management, pest control, marketing — the list goes on. It includes jobs many don't know exist, like horticulture therapists who help senior citizens and those with disabilities by using their expertise in therapeutic plants.

Do You Need A College Degree?

It depends.

Work in the horticulture field ranges from grounds maintenance staff who require no formal education to scientists who need a minimum Ph.D.

Many positions in the nursery and landscape industry require a 2- or 4-year college degree. Depending on the career chosen, students can earn an AA, Bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree in horticulture or a related field.

Bachelor's degree programs introduce topics in soil sciences, management methods and ecological studies that typically qualify students for lots of different horticultural jobs. Students might need graduate-level education if they want to pursue advanced scientific research or teach. And most states do require special certification for workers handling pesticides.

CITATIONS

All photos taken by the author unless otherwise noted

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Google Earth

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3D Model done in Rhino and rendered in Twinmotion

Fly-through Video:

https://youtu.be/zAlNR54B_ZE

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