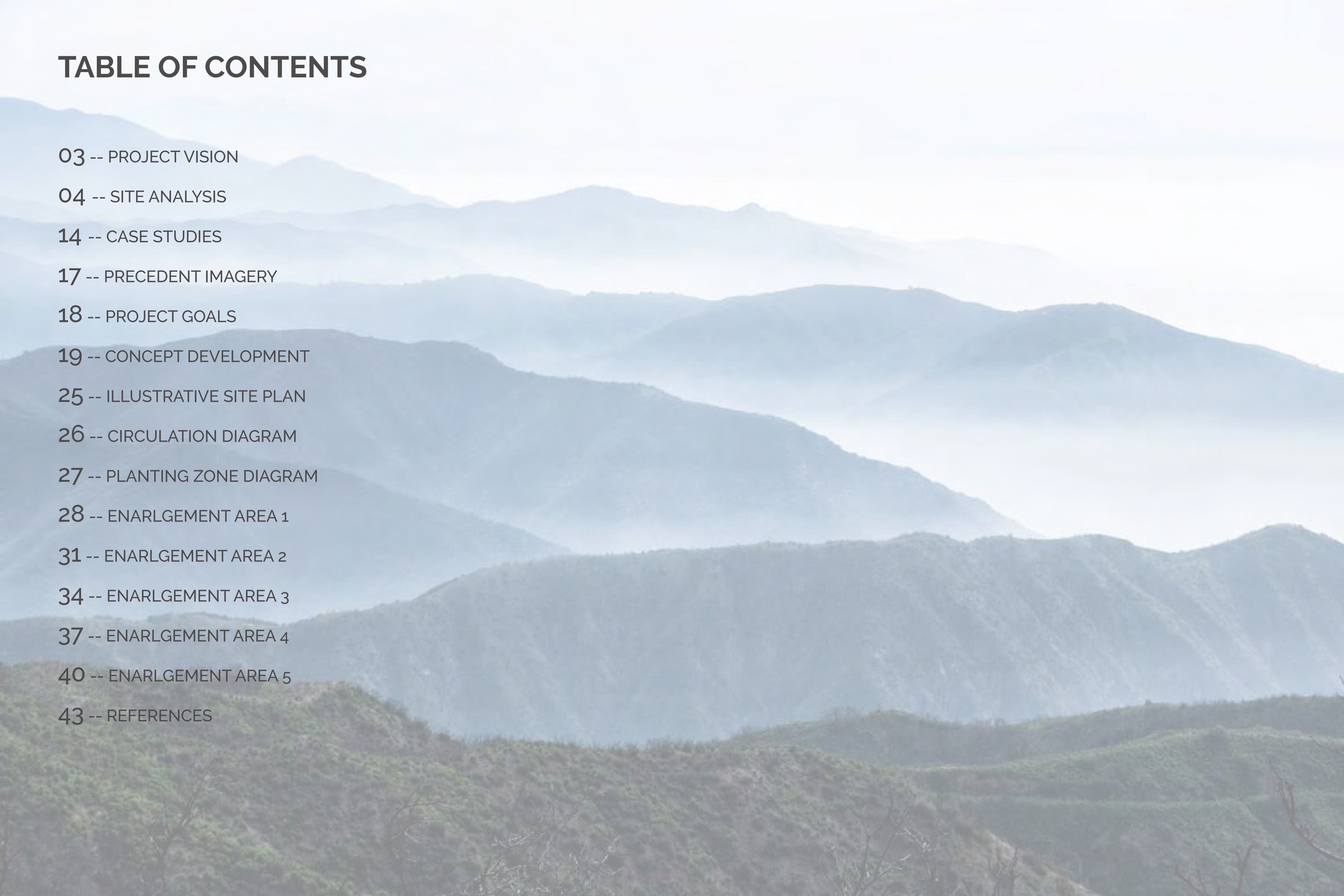


# AZUSA WILDERNESS PARK

*A Gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument*





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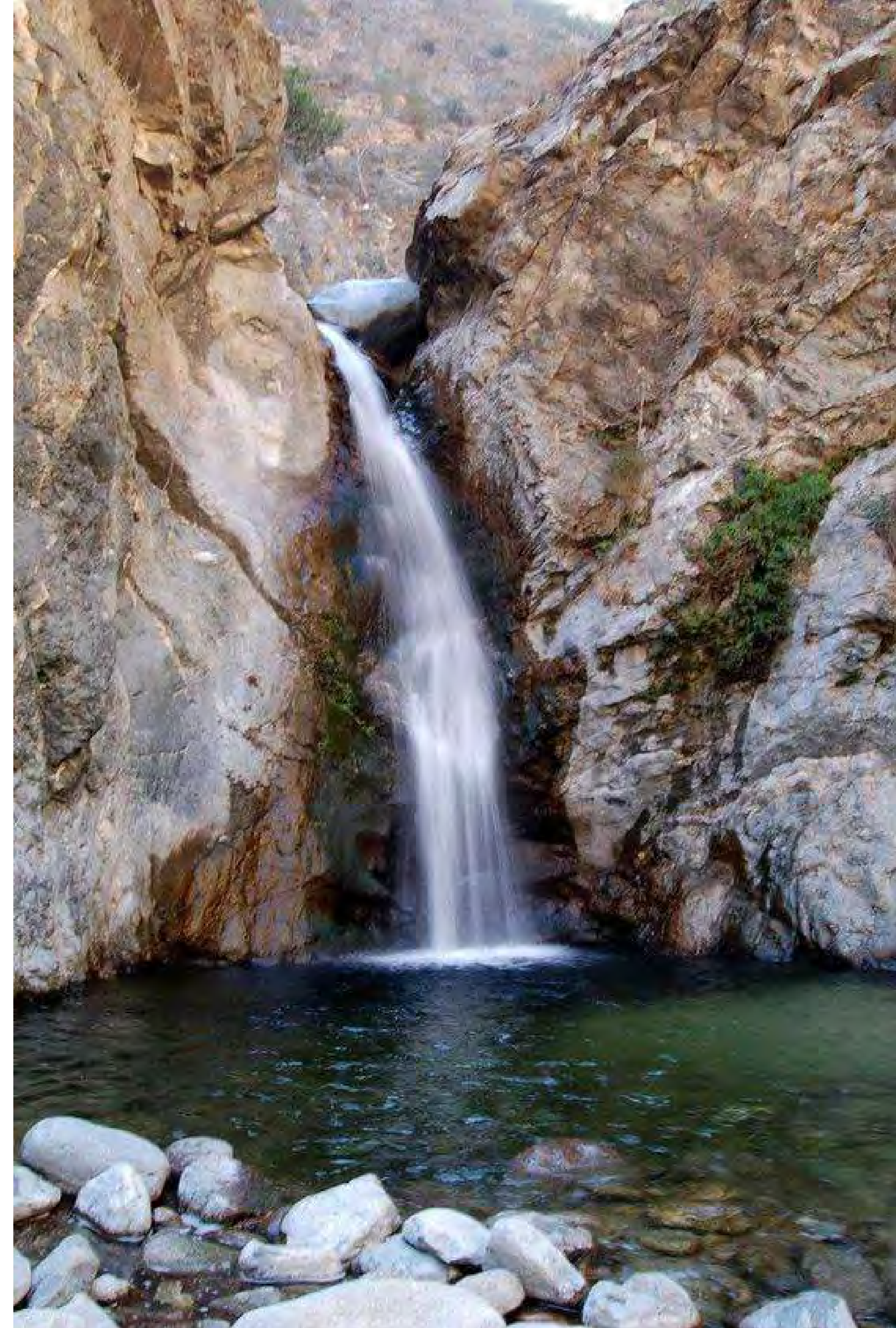
- 03 -- PROJECT VISION
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# PROJECT VISION

The vision is for a “City Nature Preserve” that balances open space recreation and environmental restoration.

The project site is a gateway into the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and is significant both in its context and history, offering incredible views and is filled with meaning for the Indigenous Peoples.

A series of improvements capitalize upon current WCA Masterplan Phase 1 (Entry Improvements Project) elements that guide visitors on an awe-inspiring journey through nature that encourages a mindset of stewardship and appreciation.



# SITE OVERVIEW



Forest: Angeles National Forest  
Location: Los Angeles County, CA



# THE FIRST NATIONS



## LAND DEDICATION

The land is home to the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, who are indigenous to the region. In particular, the village of Asuksavit was located in close vicinity to the project site, serving as a trade hub and gateway (with close kinship ties) to the mountain Serran clans of Japchivitam and Amutskupeatam. Burial and cemremonial sites were located at the Mountain Cove development in Azusa, CA before tehir excavation. The village is one of the oldest documented villages in Los Angeles County, estimated to be near 10,000 years old.

# SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT



## Legend

- San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
- Proposed National Monument Expansion
- Proposed National Recreation Area

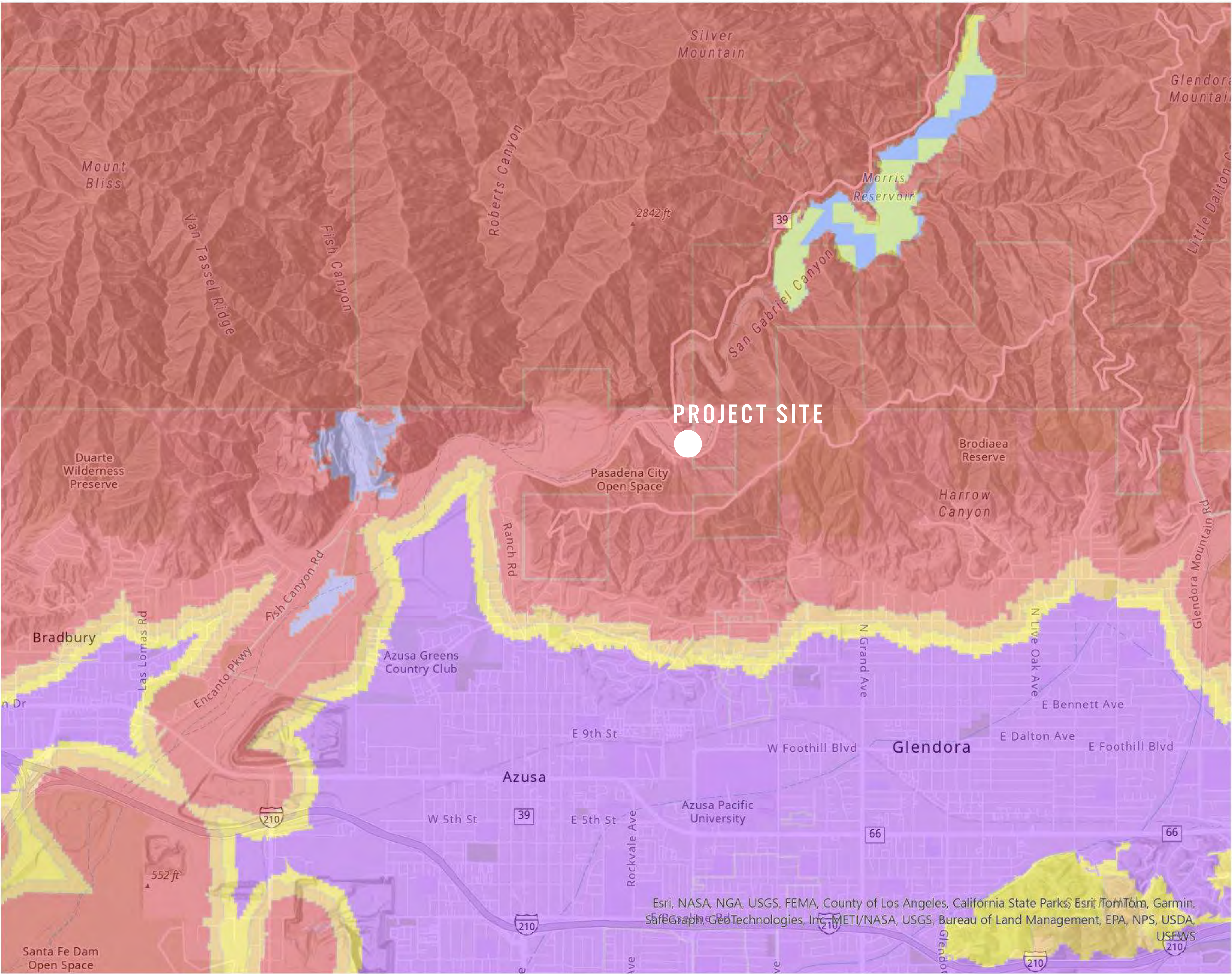
**National Monument:** a historic site or geographical area set aside by a national government and maintained for public use.

The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) was established on October 10, 2014 by proclamation of President Barack Obama under the Antiquities Act.

Since then, it has been expanded upon by 105,919 acres by the Biden Administration on May 2, 2024.

“The national recreation area enhances parks in communities adjacent to the river and connect them with San Gabriel Mountains through bikeways and transit to trails. The proposed national recreation area would permanently protect a critical wildlife corridor between the San Gabriel Mountains and Santa Ana Mountains in Orange County.” (Monsen, 2015)

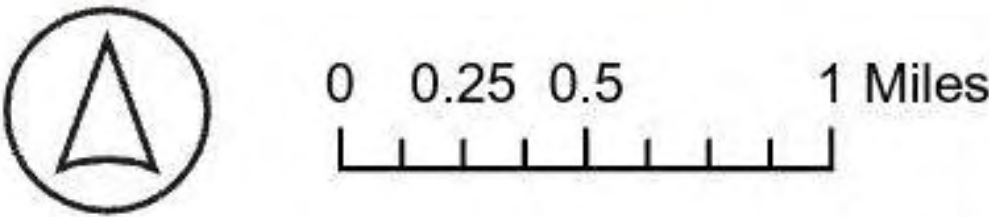
# FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES



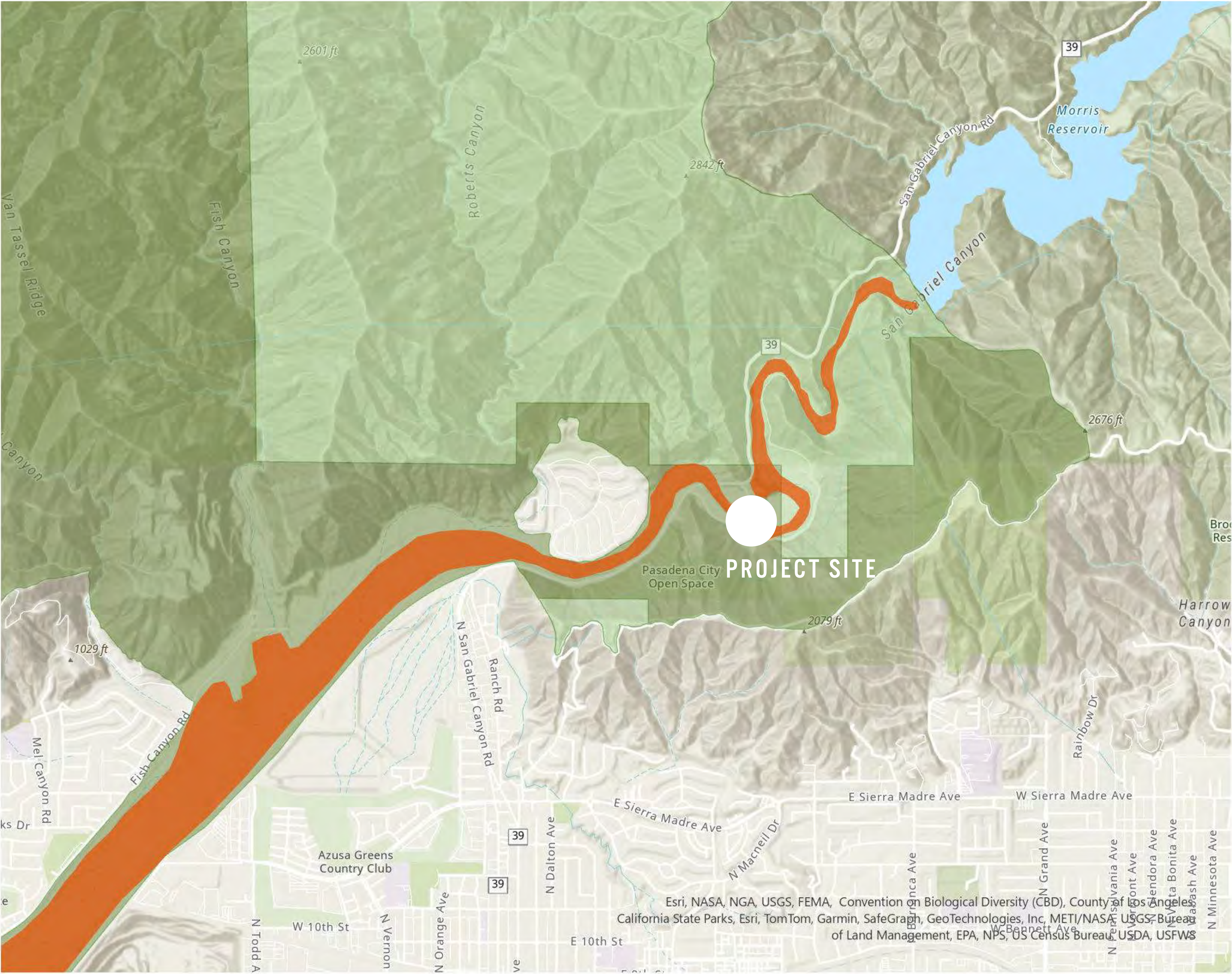
## Legend

- Urban Unzoned
- Non-Wildland/Non-Urban
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

The project is located in a Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ), which is mapped according to weather, topography, vegetation, and past fires in the region. This area in particular has suffered countless fires in the past, and invasive vegetation has a tendency to overtake native vegetation within those burn areas.



# LOCAL ECOLOGY



## Legend

 Southern California Critical Habitat Zone

## Significant Ecological Area (SEA)

 Significant Ecological Area

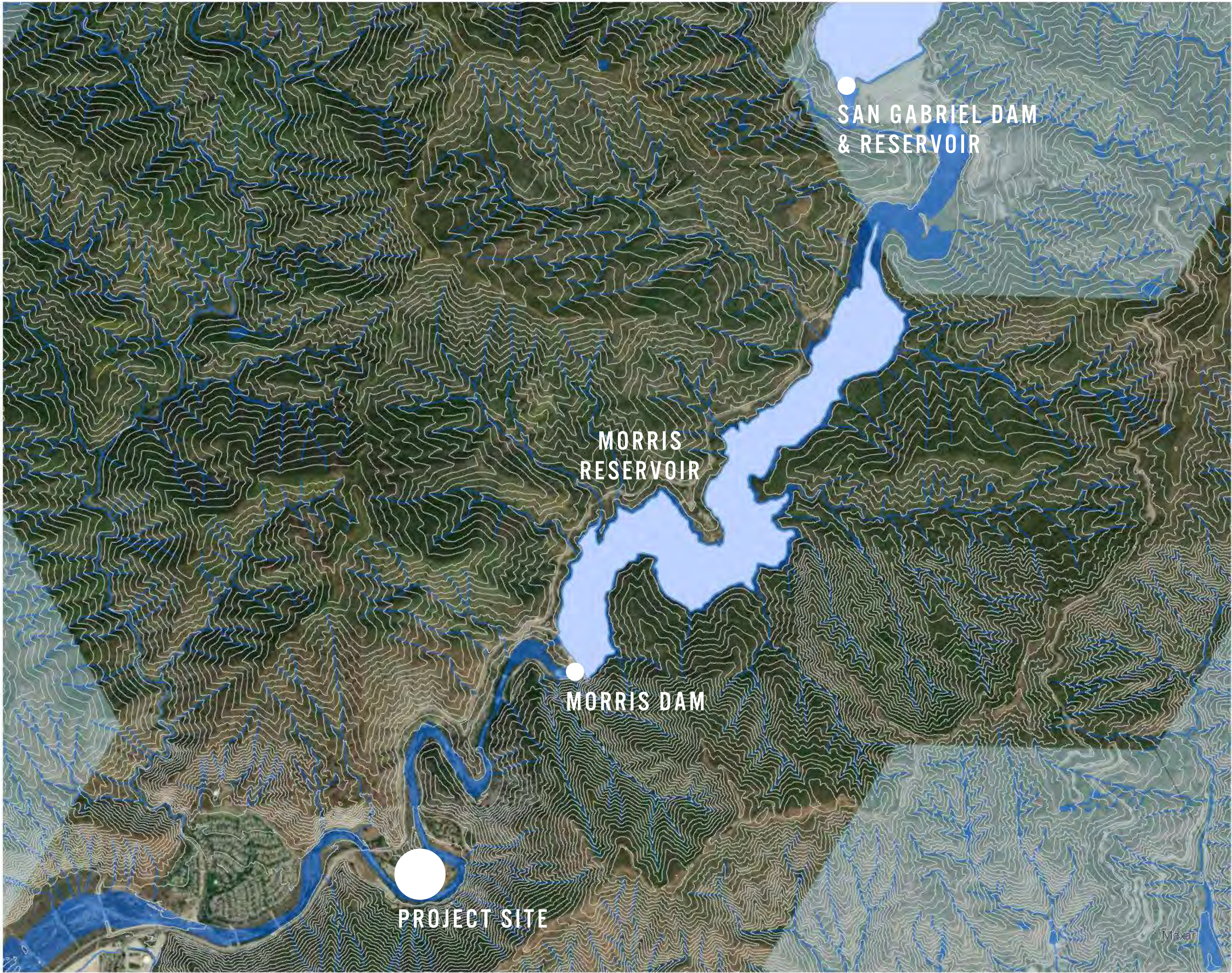
 Significant Ecological Area (Incorporated City)

**Significant Ecological Areas (SEA):** are officially designated areas within LA County with irreplaceable biological resources.

The objective of the SEA program is to conserve genetic and physical diversity within LA County by designating biological resource areas that are capable of sustaining themselves into the future.

The SEA Ordinance establishes the permitting, design standards, and review process for development within SEAs, balancing preservation of the County's natural biodiversity with private property rights. (*County of LA*)

# TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY



## Legend

- 50' Contour Lines
- Lakes
- Wetlands

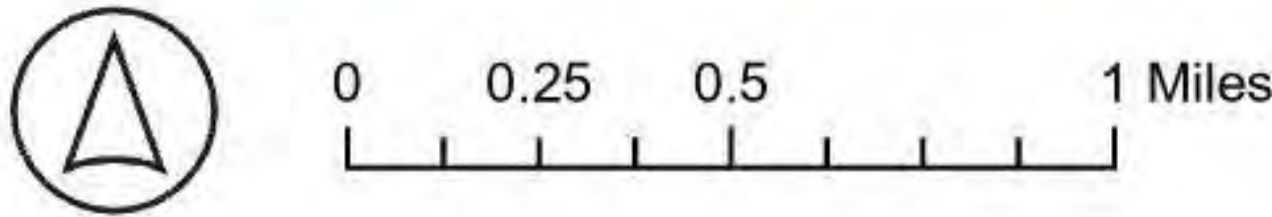
## Freshwater Wetlands

- Meadow and Emergent Wetlands

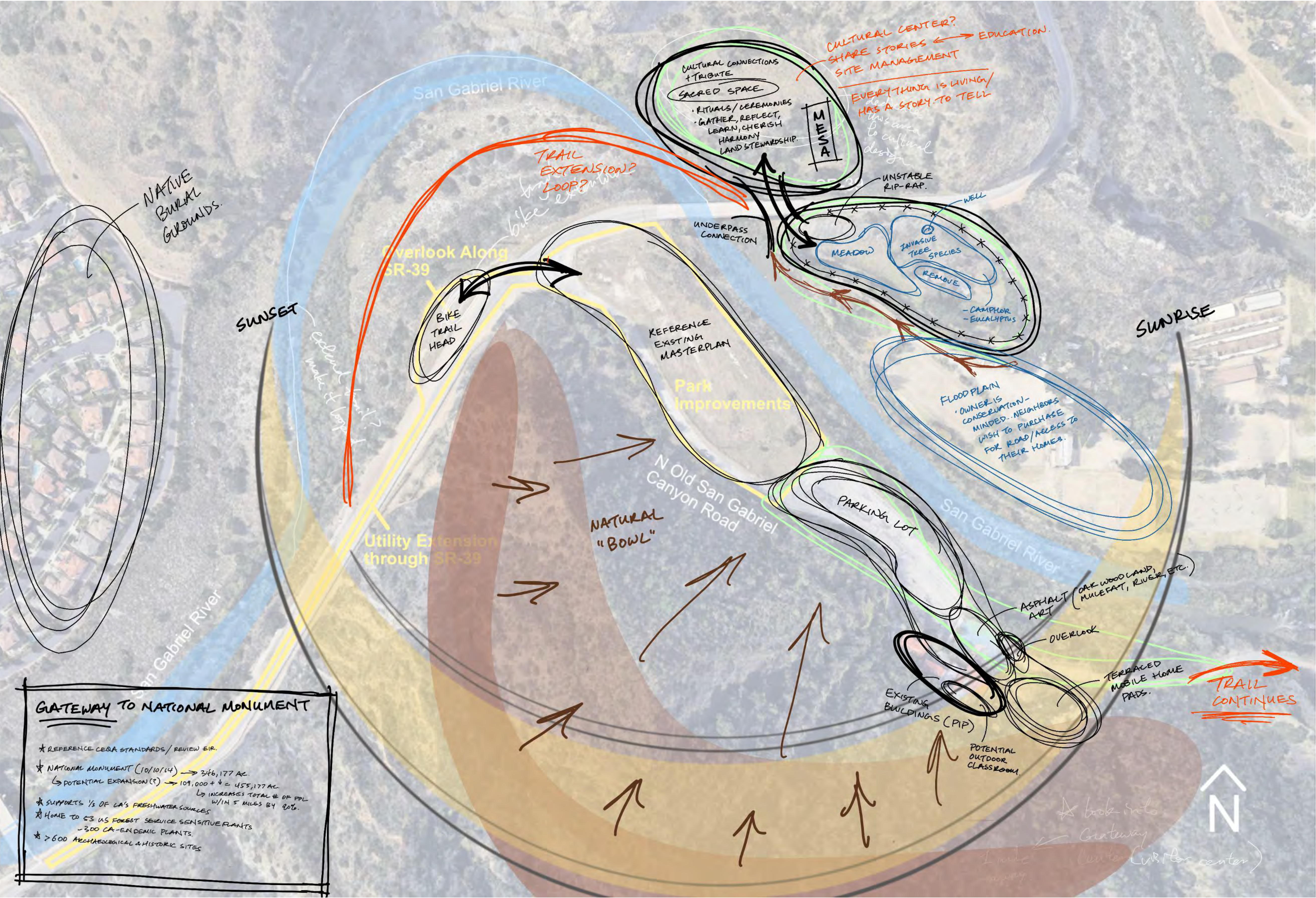
Two dams, Morris Dam and San Gabriel Dam, exist upstream on the San Gabriel River. Both dams create reservoirs that render the project site susceptible to flooding if water to be released. This is an added danger in addition to the fact that the site already exists within a floodplain.

It is important to note that the dams have significantly altered the flow patters and velocity of the river, which was once a vast alluvial floodplain.

Sharp, sloping topography around the site, which is located within a bowl created by the surrounding mountains, allude to drainage mitigation measures that will be required to protect the site from major flooding. The topography funnels water from the mountains into the watershed below, where the river eventually carries it to the ocean.



FIELD ANALYSIS



# SITE OPPORTUNITIES

011



1. Existing urbanite to be reused on site. There is also opportunity to protect-in-place and restore existing paths.
2. Existing outdoor "rooftop" zone behind the El Encanto building to be restored and repurposed. Reminiscent of an outdoor classroom.
3. Architectural features that can be incorporated into a landscape narrative/storytelling/placemaking experience.
4. The river is a valuable natural resource where we can not only establish safe human access zones for education and recreation, but there is also great need for ecological restoration within the river.
5. Trail and recreational opportunities that capitalize on breathtaking borrowed views.
6. Existing terraced mobile home pad zone features rustic stone walls that create a terraced landscape.

# SITE CONSTRAINTS



1. River access is potentially dangerous, especially during peak rainfall months result in dangerous water flow and velocity. Portions of the site are also located in a floodplain.
2. Existing tarp under bridge serves as a mitigation measure to prevent construction debris from polluting the river. Human activity (via river access) has a similar effect, so the design needs to be mindful about where human access to the river should and should not be placed.
3. Architectural features that can be incorporated into a landscape narrative/storytelling/placemaking experience.
4. Two dams, Morris Dam and the San Gabriel Dam, create reservoirs that has greatly changed the flow patterns and ecology of the river. There is a chance that water may be released from these two areas in the future.
5. Taylor house, along with a slough of other structures on site, are delapidated and void of all structural integrity. There is an art in determining what to protect and what the demolish.
6. Unstable slopes have caused the North Old San Gabriel Canyon trail to temporarily close. Future mitigation measures are required if the trail is to be safe for public use and enjoyment.

A photograph of a vast mountain range under a hazy, golden sky. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted trees. The sky is filled with soft, horizontal clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and warm golden tones.

**“Nature is not a place to sit. It is home.”**

**-Gary Snyder**

Fort Ross Cultural Trail

Located in Jenner, CA, this ~2.80-mile trail system seeks to **connect the stories** of Indigenous Tribes, Alaska Natives, the Call Ranch history, and beyond in an effort to help visitors understand the incredibly **broad and complex multi-ethnic history of the area**. The history will be represented in a series of 23 engaging interpretive stops that **utilize multimedia/virtual reality to create a vivid and educational experience**, while also mitigating construction costs. This system will be further expanded upon via the Fort Ross Cultural Trail App, which will include even more stories for users to explore! The trail alignment itself was also subject to intensive studies such as biological assessments, sub-surface testing, etc. to ensure that the resulting trail design avoids or **minimizes conflicts with sensitive resources while utilizing low-impact construction methods** that do not disturb the adjacent bluffs.

# Fort Ross Cultural Trail

## Step into the Past: Step into the Future

Soon you will be able to step inside history and explore the deeply layered, multicultural landscape of Fort Ross/Metini. This interpretive multimedia experience, enhanced with augmented reality and virtual reality technologies, will immerse visitors in stories of the past and ongoing cultural connections.

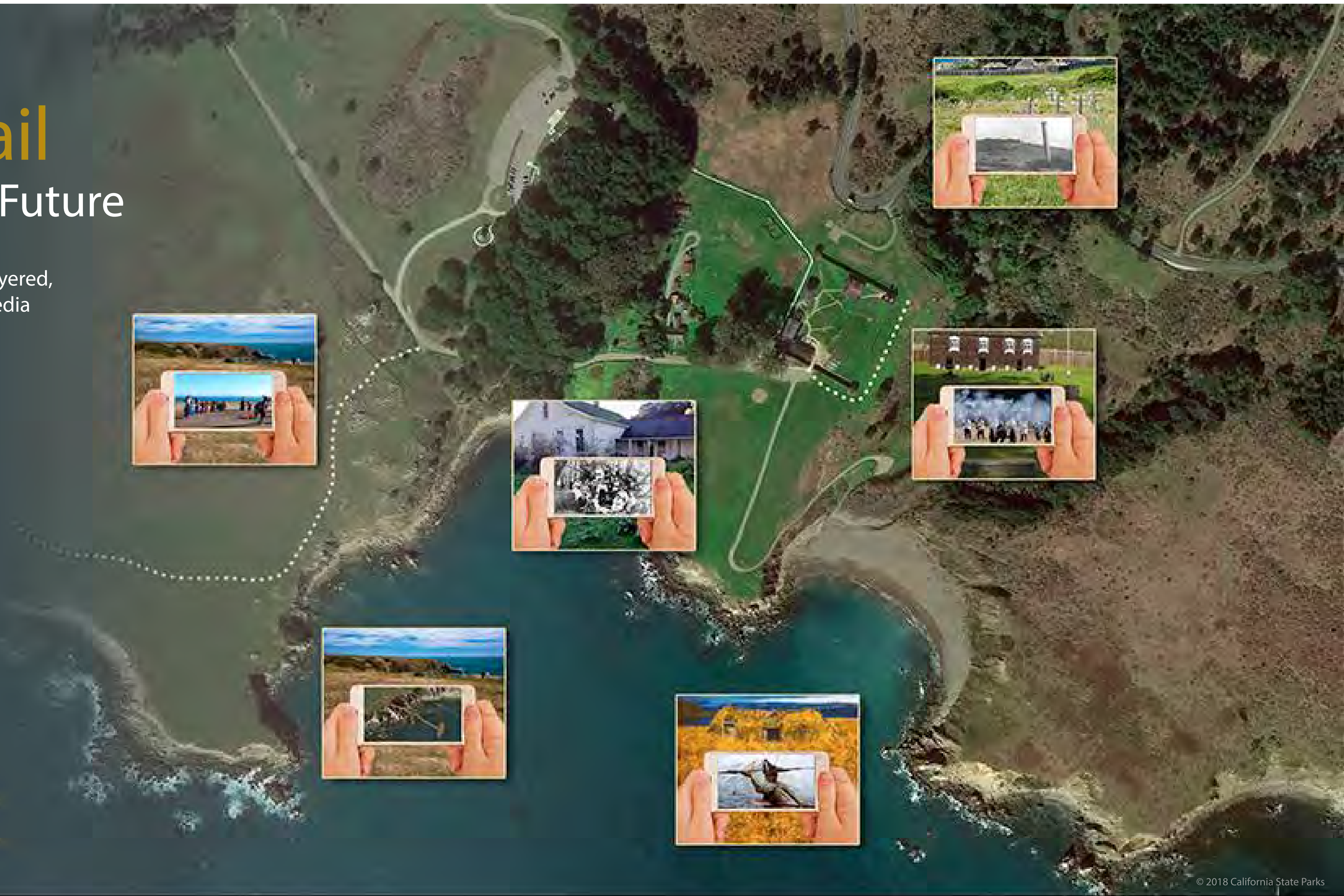
Hear stories told in descendants' own voices:

Follow the Kashia Cultural Trail Story and explore the state park through the lens of people connected to this place since time immemorial.

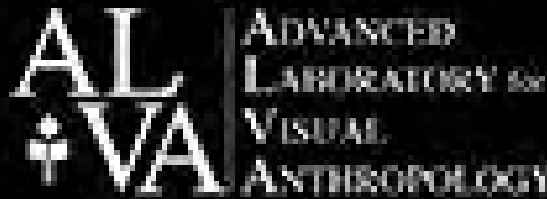
Choose the Russian American Company Story and learn from Alaska Natives, Coast Miwok, Kashia, Native Hawaiians, Russians, and others once connected to Ross Settlement and discover how this brief, 29-year venture left such an indelible imprint on communities to this day.

Explore the American Ranch Story with the Call family's century of living on the Sonoma Coast. Discover how their commercial enterprises linked them to the surrounding communities and the vast Pacific maritime highway.

FORT ROSS CULTURAL TRAIL OPENS IN EARLY 2021



The project builds on best practices developed through California State Parks' History and Relevancy, Bodie 3D, and Sonoma Coast Doghole Ports Survey projects.



## Oakland Museum of California

- Client/Owner: City of Oakland
- Architect: Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates (KRJDA)
- Project Type: Cultural
- Size: 300,000 SF (museum + gardens)
- Location: Oakland, CA
- Year Completed: 1968

The Oakland Museum of California takes a holistic approach to the museum and educational experience by integrating **art, natural history, and cultural history** into a single museum, which goes against traditional museum design. Instead, it is a **lush, terraced, walled garden** that submerses the visitor in the natural wonders of nature. At its heart, this is a **“museum for the people” - a community gathering space, arboretum, and park**. The juxtaposition of strong geometric architectural forms coexist with the natural, park-like elements to create a space where history, nature, and people work together to tell a story of the past, present, and future.

*“The great achievement of the Oakland Museum of California was to show that a museum need not look like a temple or paalce ut can be a public park.”*

-The Wall Street Journal





Rubio Canyon

- Agency: Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC)
- Project Type: Natural Preserve
- Size: 41 acres
- Location: Altadena, CA
- Year Completed: 2012

The Rubio Canyon Improvement project began in 2009, when AFC and its partners acquired 41 acres of land in the Altadena foothills, which backs up to the San Gabriel National Forest. The project aims to create a connection to the Altadena Crest Trail, becoming a **key linkage point in the regional trails system**. The landscape within the canyon is quite diverse, featuring **steep chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian habitats**. Continual efforts (mostly through **volunteer programs**) rally against **invasive species removal** of euphorbia, fountain grass, and more.

A major lesson learned from this case study can be learned from the disaster of 1998, when the engineers of a road and building site grading project resorted to dynamite to expedite grading efforts, which caused a **major landslide** that is still trigger slope **instability and erosion** to this day. Restoration and preservation efforts of the AFC strive the **heal the scars** that have been left on the land and the surrounding community.







CONNECT

Nature has a special way of **connecting with people** and serving as a **connection point between people**. This project strives to forge a relationship between people and nature that is built on **respect** and **stewardship**, while also providing a platform through which people can connect with one another, and even forging relationships that **transcend cultural differences**.



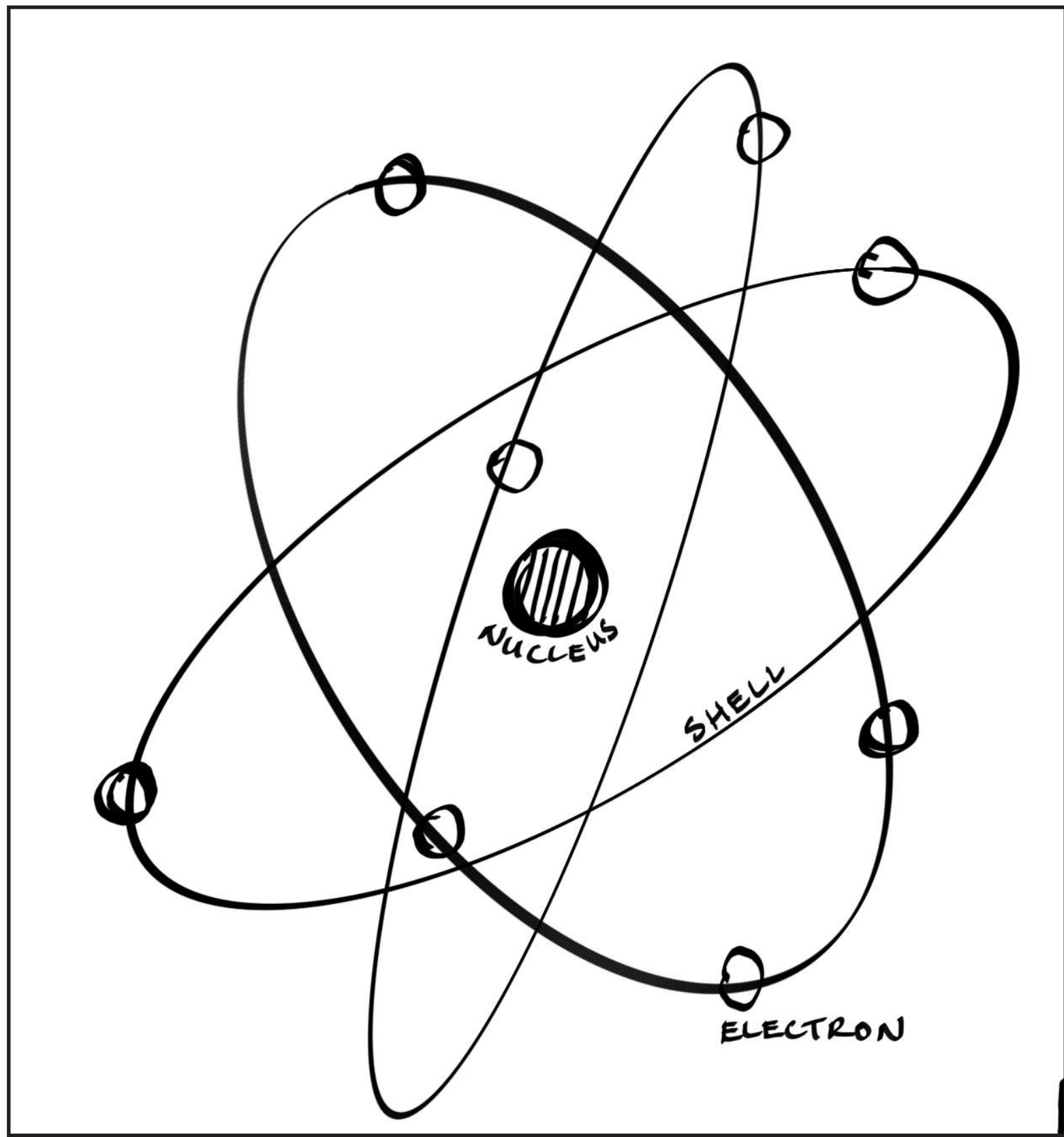
RESTORE

The natural world is constantly undergoing change. More often than not, humans are the cause (whether directly or indirectly) of negative changes and **ecological devastation** - this is a **pattern** that can be observed world-wide, and The San Gabriel National Monument is no exception. As such, a primary goal of this project is to **protect existing flora and fauna** to allow them to **flourish**, while **restoring areas that require human intervention**.



WELCOME HOME

The United States is a country who has built its foundation on **stolen land**. The area of the San Gabriel National Monument is **home** to the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe, who were among the wealthiest, most populous, and **most influential native groups in Southern California**. They were indigenous and present ~7,000 years ago, and this project recognizes that **unshakable fact**. It's time to **welcome Gabrielino descendents home!**

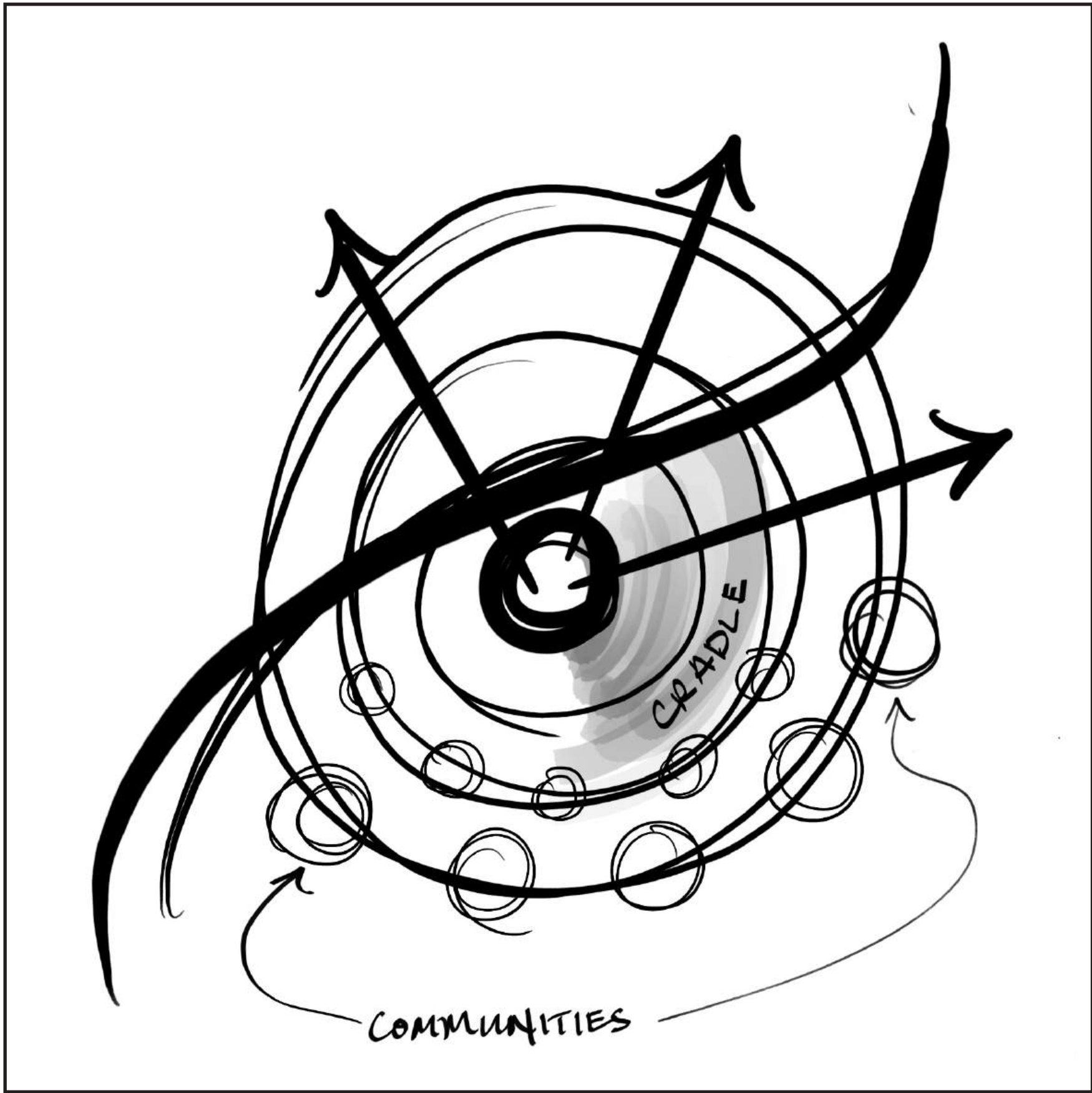


The Atomic Model

An Inter-Connected System, where...

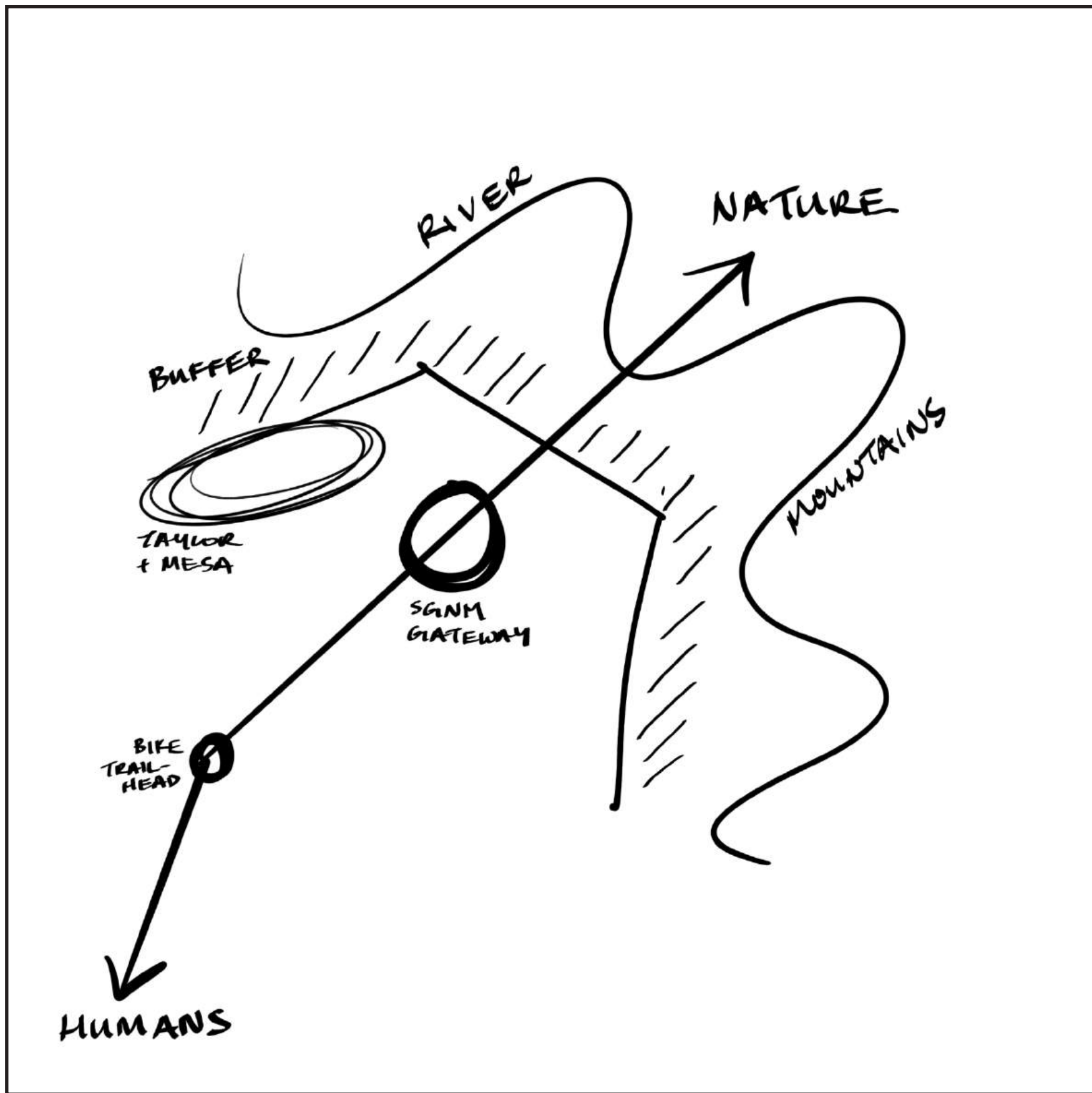
- Nucleus | San Gabriel National Monument Gateway
- Electron | Human Factors / Urban Landscape
- Shell | Environmental Factors / Natural Landscape

Nature was present first, and its invisible threads continue to shape and influence human life. In fact, it sustains it. The San Gabriel National Monument Gateway serves as a cornerstone site - a threshold - where people can learn to appreciate and respect the awe-inspiring power and beauty of nature.



The Ripple Effect

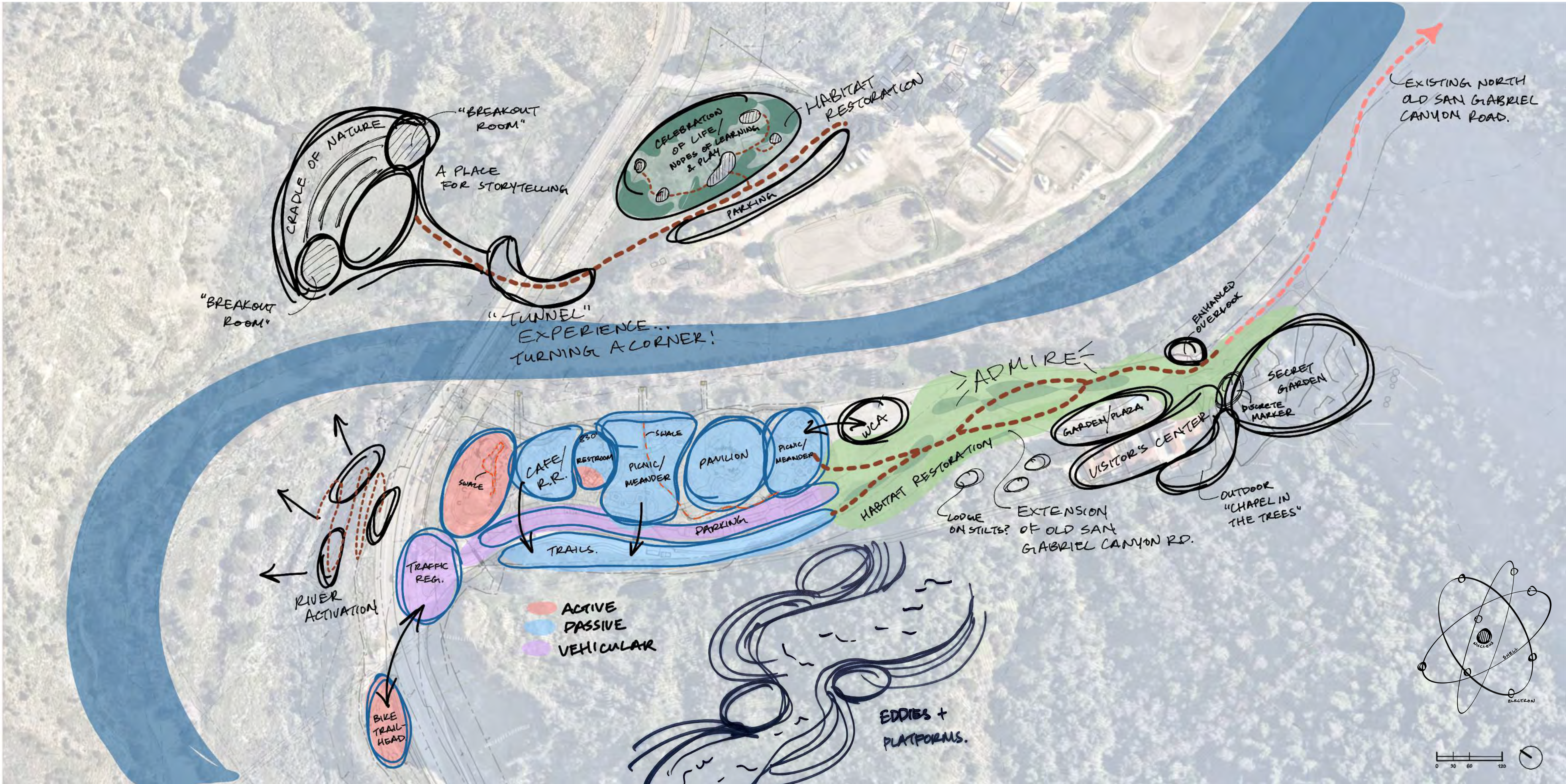
The river is a powerful force of nature that bisects the urban landscape and the natural landscape, creating ripples of influence in its wake. The site itself is cradled within a bowl at the heart of its surrounding mountains, serving as a pivotal gateway into the natural world beyond. It connects humans in a responsible manner with all the natural elements that call for preservation, restoration, and appreciation.

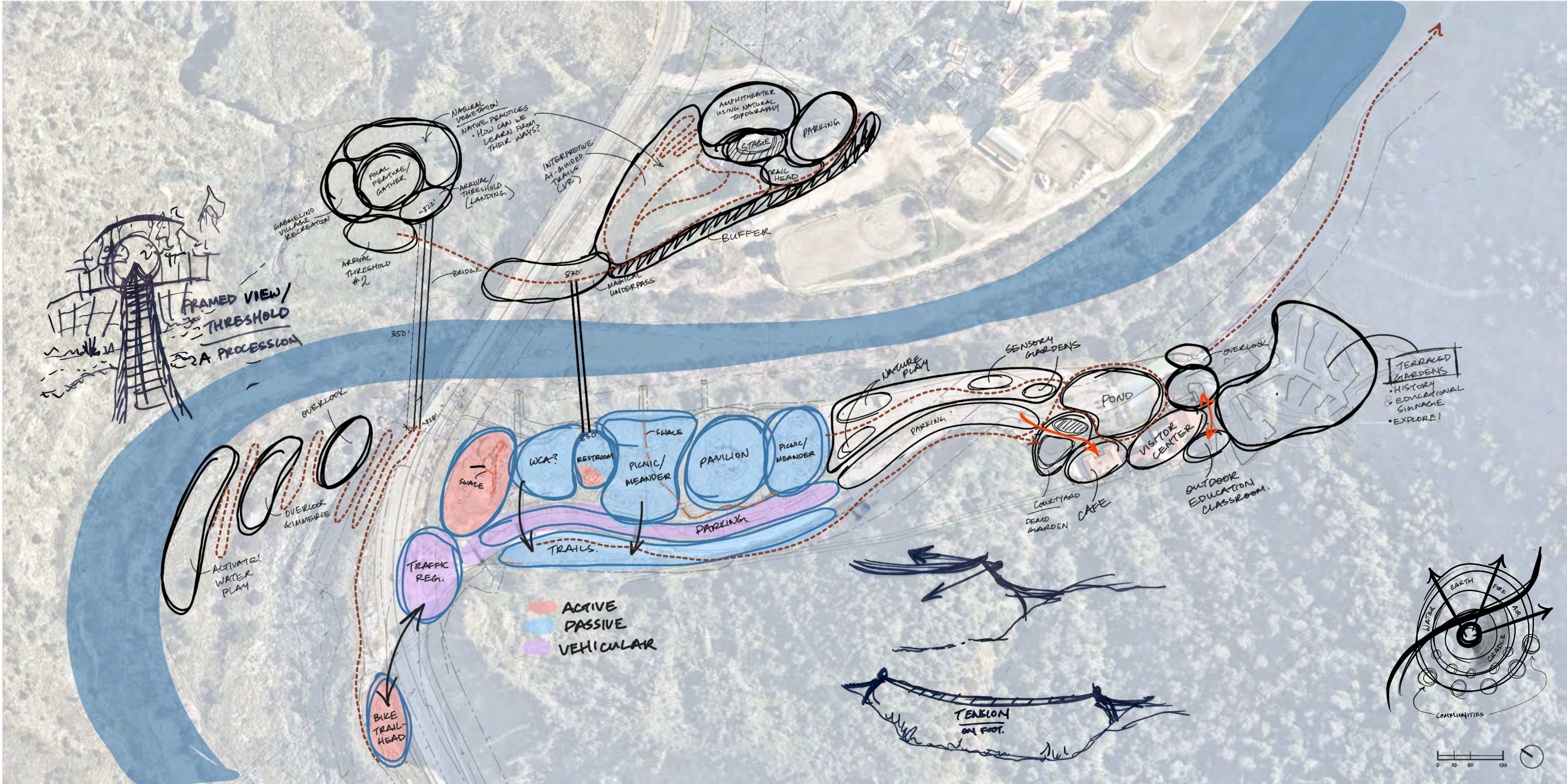


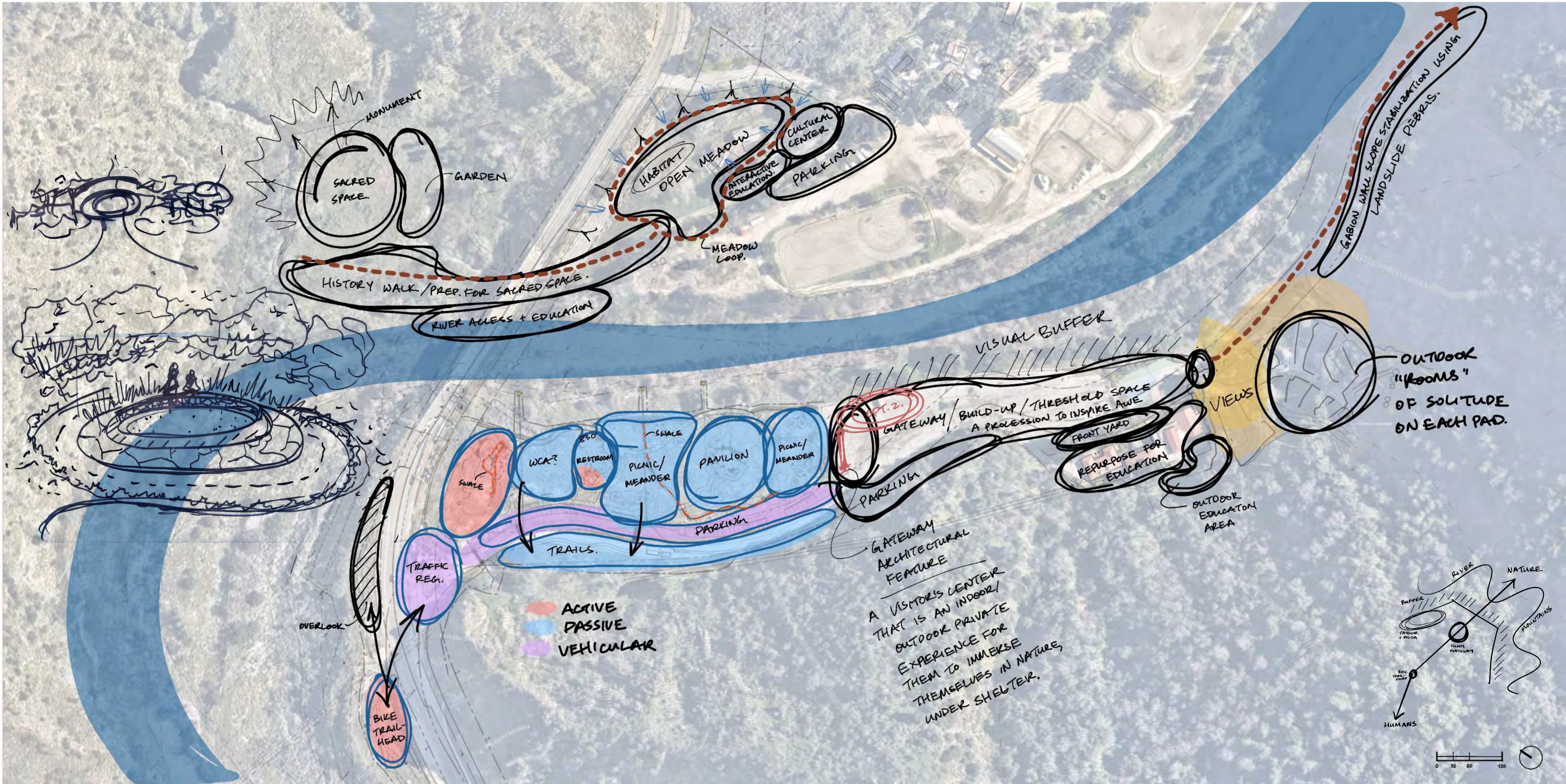
The Bow and Arrow

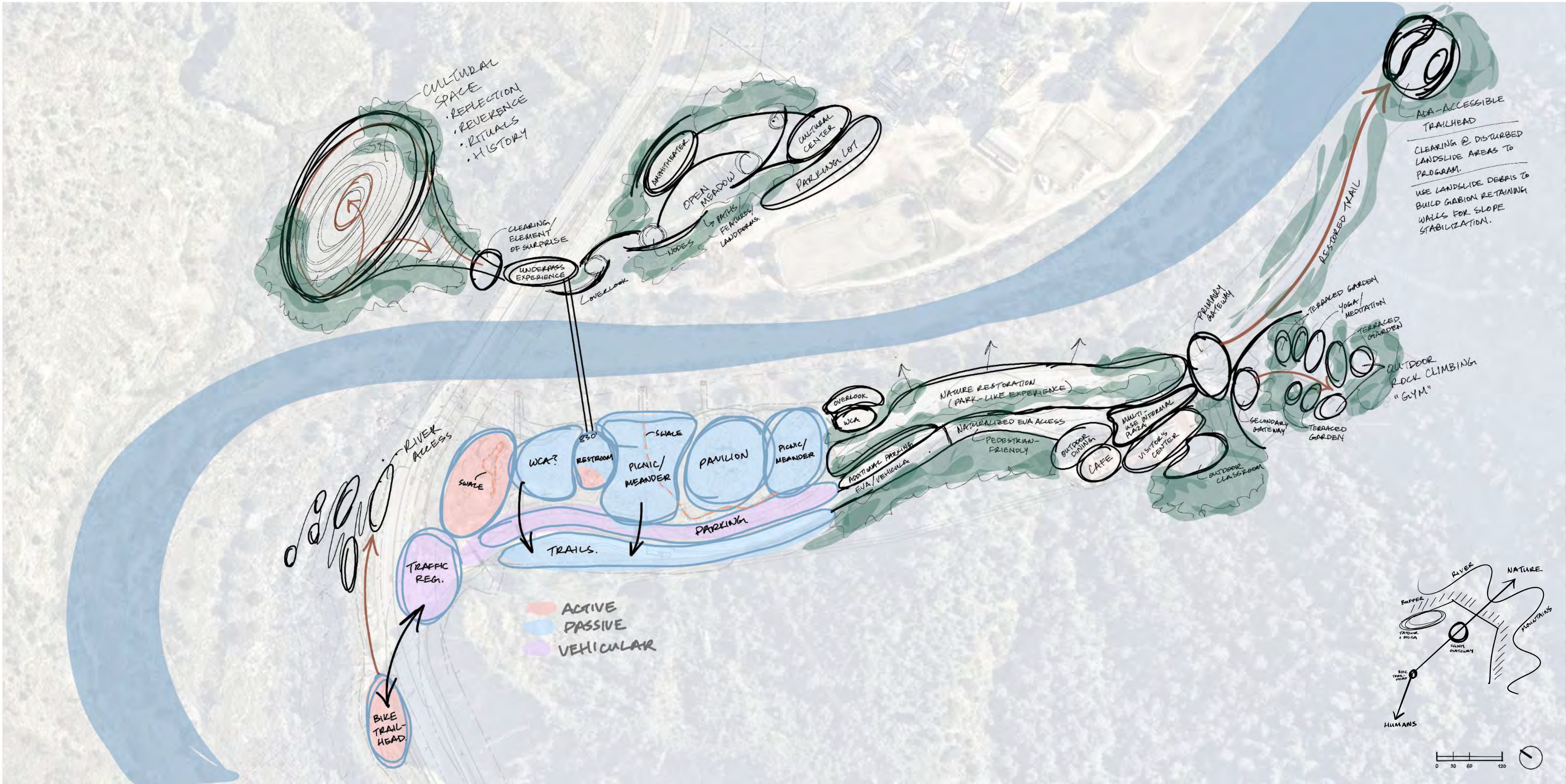
A powerful tool to launch the San Gabriel National Monument (SGNM) towards a brighter future, where humans and nature work in tandem towards a symbiotic relationship.

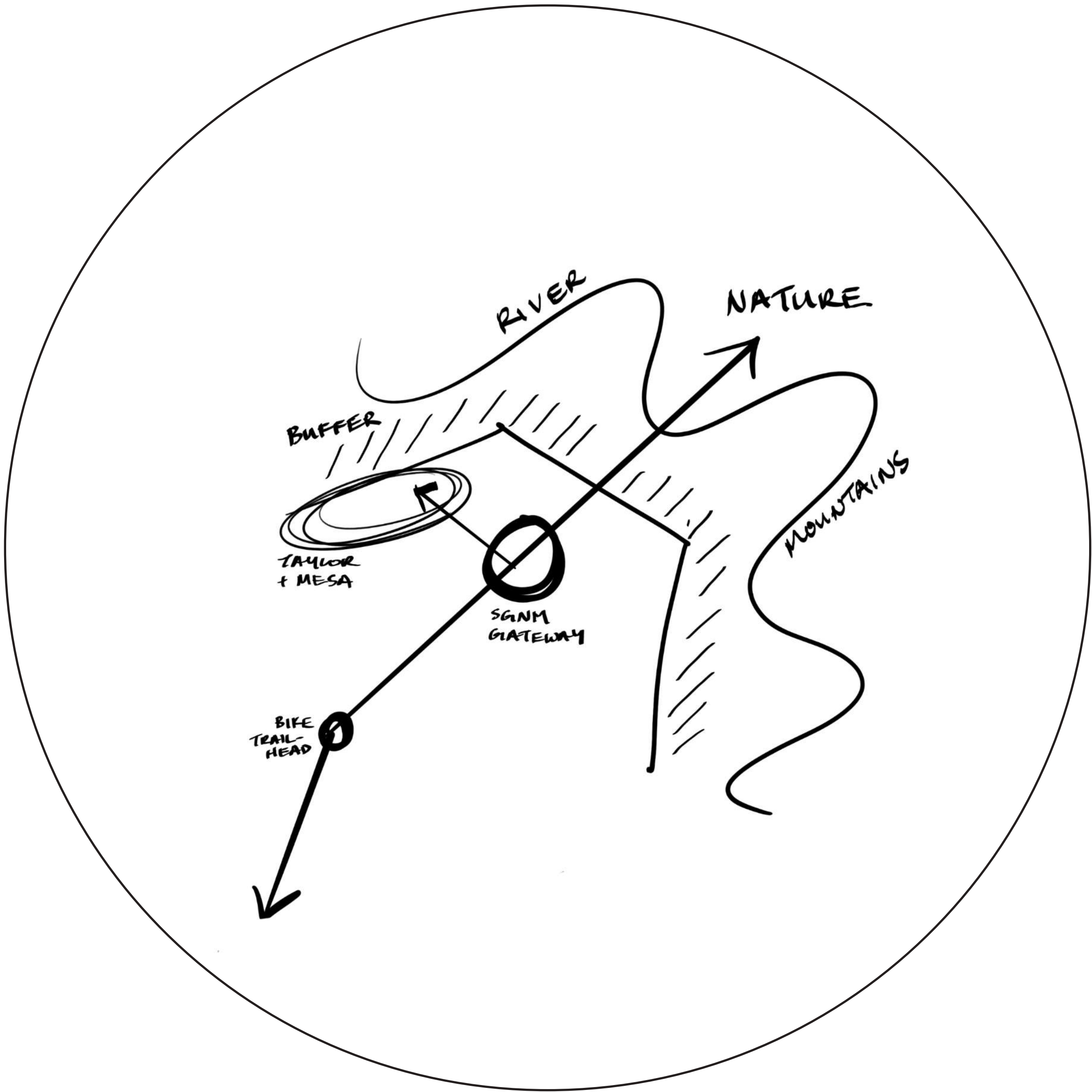
Humans come through SR-39, a narrow mountain pass, hitting a few destinations along the way such as the bike trailhead and Azusa trail rest area. The first opportunity to truly orient and educate the visitor is at Azusa Wilderness Park, which serves as a gateway into the SGNM, from where visitors are launched into the national monument with a fresh perspective and newfound admiration for the natural world that sustains us.



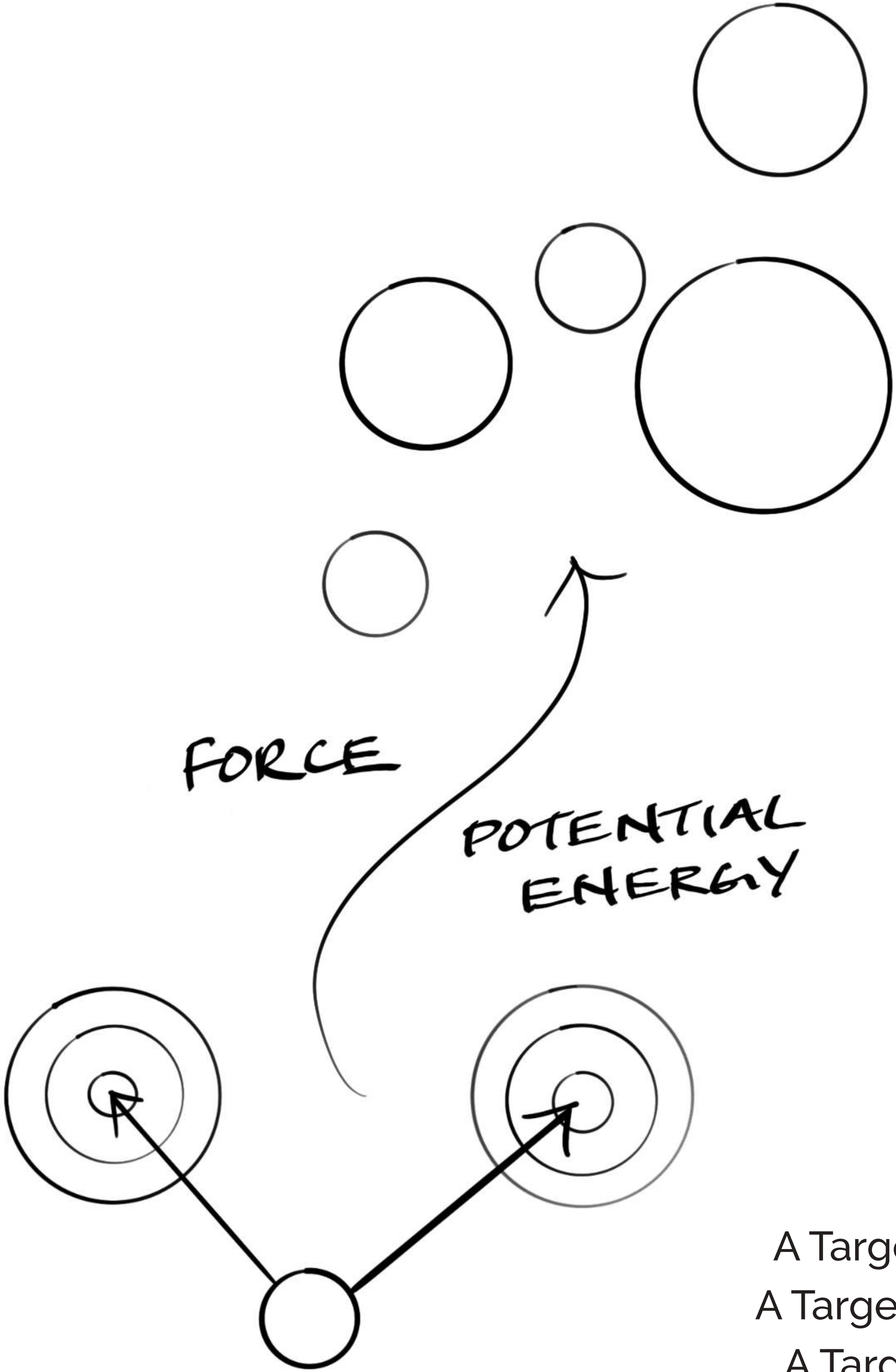








PARTI



- A Target Audience
- A Target Destination
- A Target Purpose



LEGEND

- |                                                                   |                                          |                                       |                                               |                                              |                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ① Overlook                                                        | ⑧ Ceremony Circle                        | ⑮ Amphitheater & Multi-Use Stage      | ⑳ Bollards                                    | ㉔ Educational Classroom Extension Trail      | ㉞ Gabion Retaining Wall Using Landslide Debris |
| ② Tension Footbridge                                              | ⑨ Cultural Pavilion                      | ⑯ Raised Trail Connection to Building | ㉕ Alternative Lawn River Overlook Picnic Area | ㉕ Existing Tributary                         | ㉟ Overlook Study Area w/ Alternative Lawn      |
| ③ Riverwalk Trail                                                 | ⑩ Focal Rest Area w/ Trellis             | ⑰ Restored Native Meadow              | ㉖ Microforest & Trails                        | ㉖ Riverwalk Trail                            |                                                |
| ④ Riverwalk Rest Area / Overlook                                  | ⑪ Wetland Overlook & Beach               | ⑱ Shuttle Drop-Off with Parking       | ㉗ Cafe w/ Outdoor Dining Area                 | ㉗ Terraced Rock Climbing Walls               |                                                |
| ⑤ Indigenous-led Cultural Garden                                  | ⑫ Native Wetland Habitat                 | ㉙ Proposed WCA Building               | ㉘ Visitor's Center & Gift Shop                | ㉘ Picnic Terrace                             |                                                |
| ⑥ Sensory Circle                                                  | ⑬ ADA-Accessible Bridge                  | ㉚ Drop-Off Roundabout                 | ㉙ Primary San Gabriel Canyon Trail Gateway    | ㉙ Terraced Camping Pads                      |                                                |
| ⑦ Bioswale (visual connection from waterfall to restored wetland) | ⑭ Cultural Education - Meadow Story Walk | ㉛ Proposed Parking                    | ㉚ Existing Hilda L. Solis River Overlook      | ㉚ Restored Old San Gabriel Canyon Road Trail |                                                |



LEGEND

- |  |                                 |  |                                  |  |                            |
|--|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | Primary Vehicular Circulation   |  | Primary Pedestrian Circulation   |  | Trail Head                 |
|  | Secondary Vehicular Circulation |  | Secondary Pedestrian Circulation |  | Trail Rest Area / Overlook |
|  | Tertiary Vehicular Circulation  |  | EVA Access (Multi-Use Road)      |  | Bicycle Circulation        |





California Native Meadow



Coastal Sage Scrub



Riparian / Wetland / Bioswale

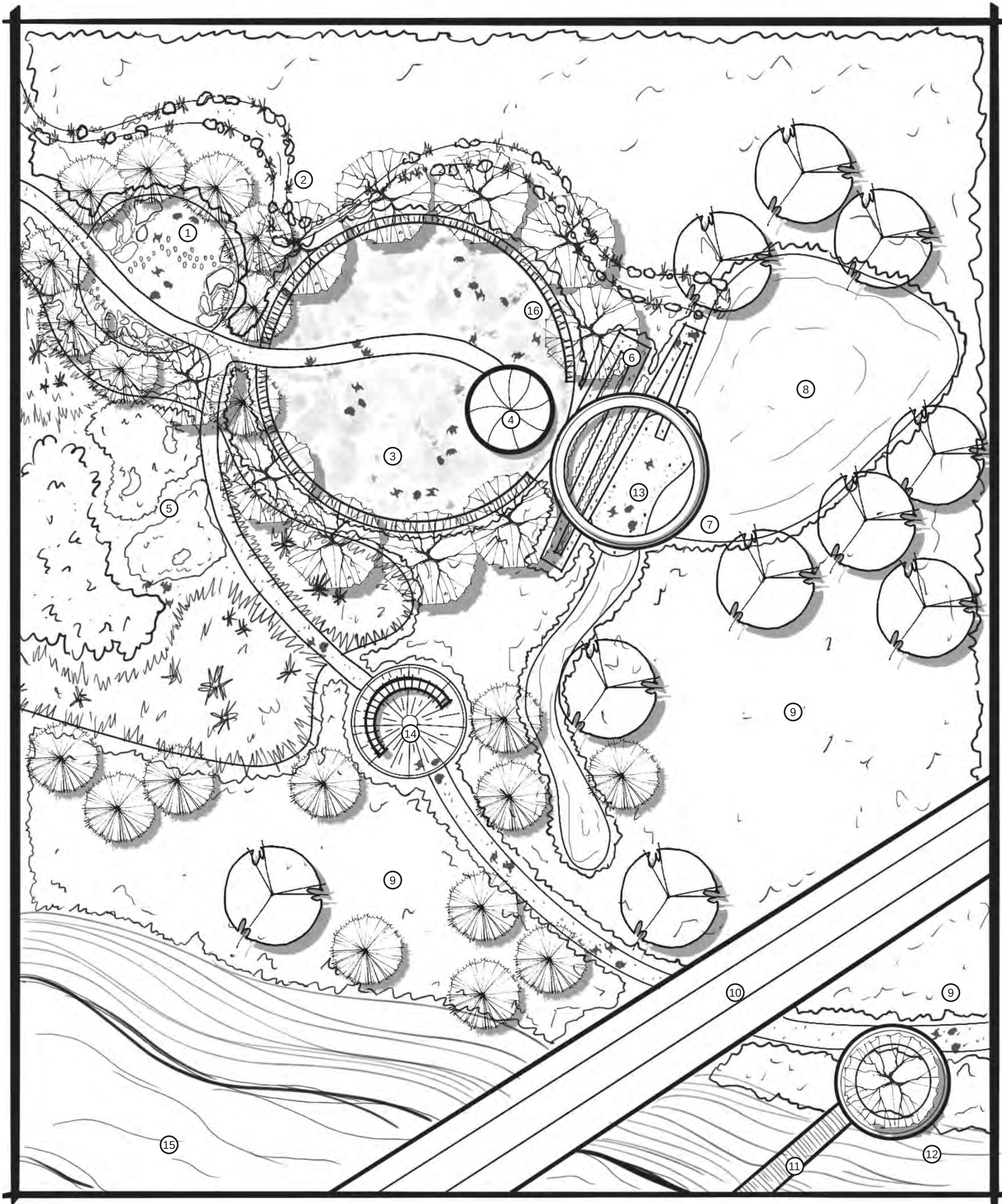


Cultural / Educational Garden



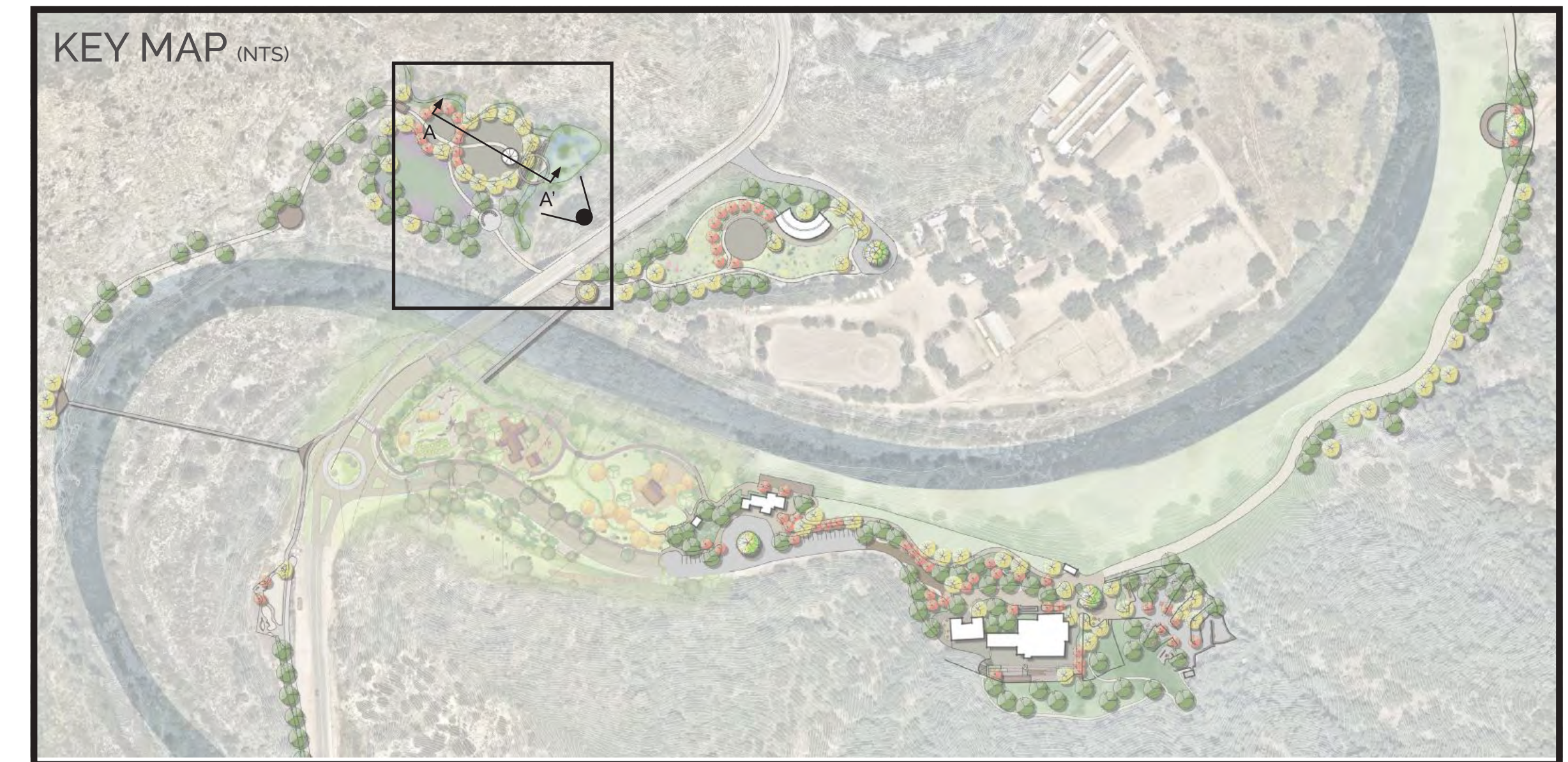
Climate Adaptive & Native Planting





## LEGEND

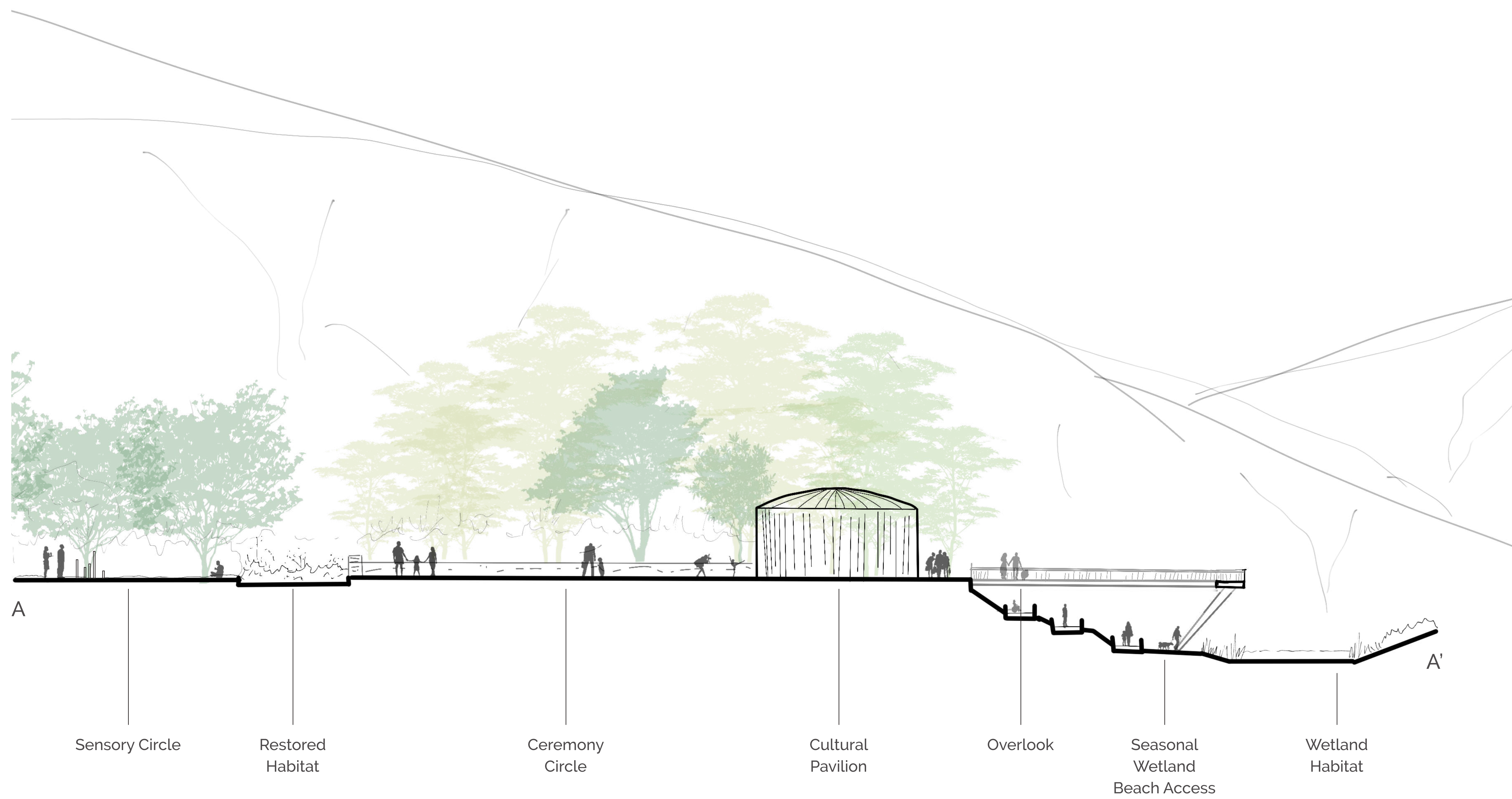
- |   |                                |   |                            |
|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| ① | Sensory Circle                 | ⑨ | Restored Native Vegetation |
| ② | Bioswale                       | ⑩ | San Gabriel Canyon Road    |
| ③ | Ceremony Circle                | ⑪ | ADA-Accessible Bridge      |
| ④ | Cultural Pavilion              | ⑫ | Overlook / Trail Rest Area |
| ⑤ | Indigenous-led Cultural Garden | ⑬ | Wetland Beach Access       |
| ⑥ | ADA-Accessible Ramp            | ⑭ | Focal Cultural Rest Area   |
| ⑦ | Raised Wetland Walk            | ⑮ | San Gabriel River          |
| ⑧ | Seasonal Wetland               | ⑯ | Low Seat Wall              |

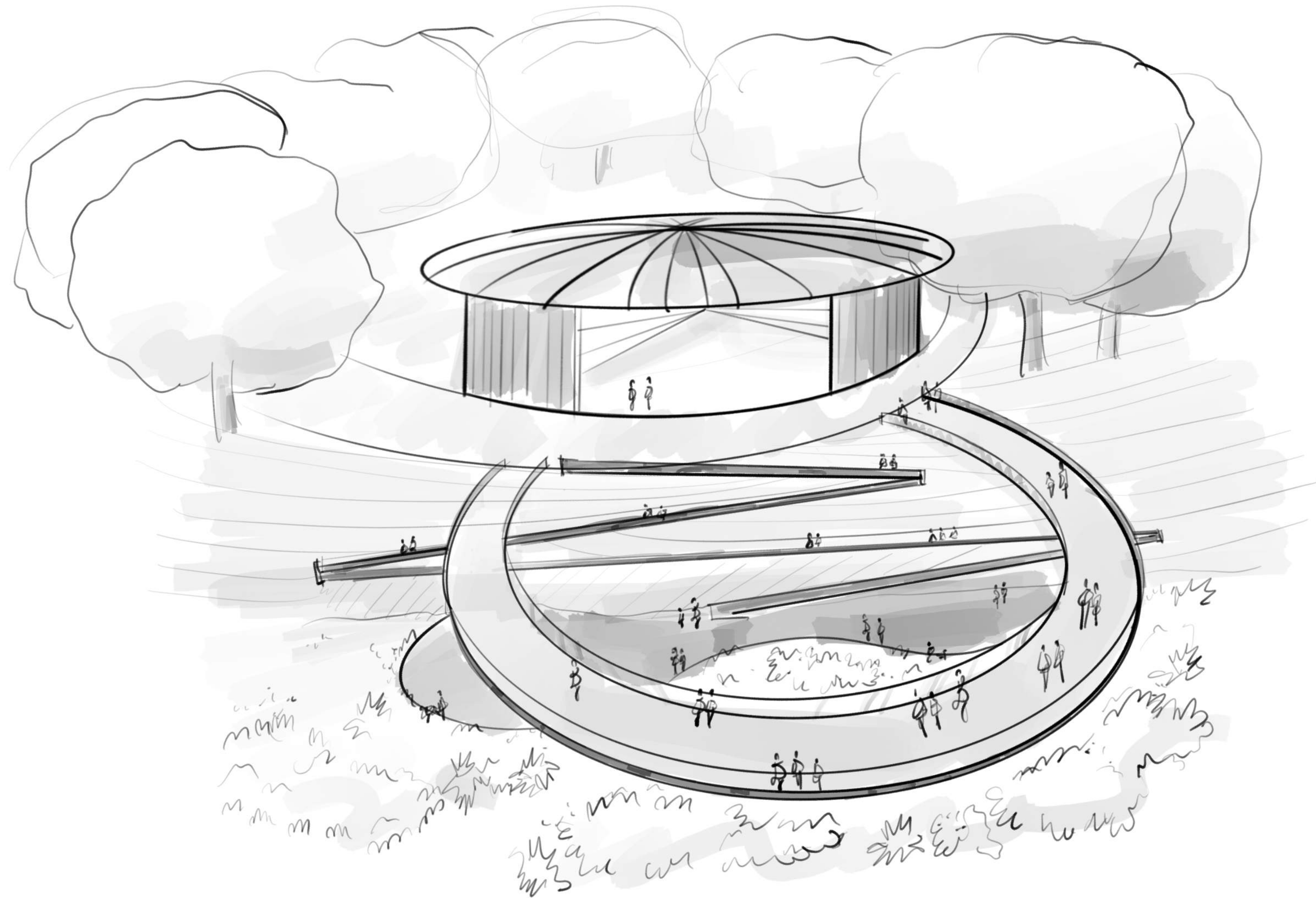


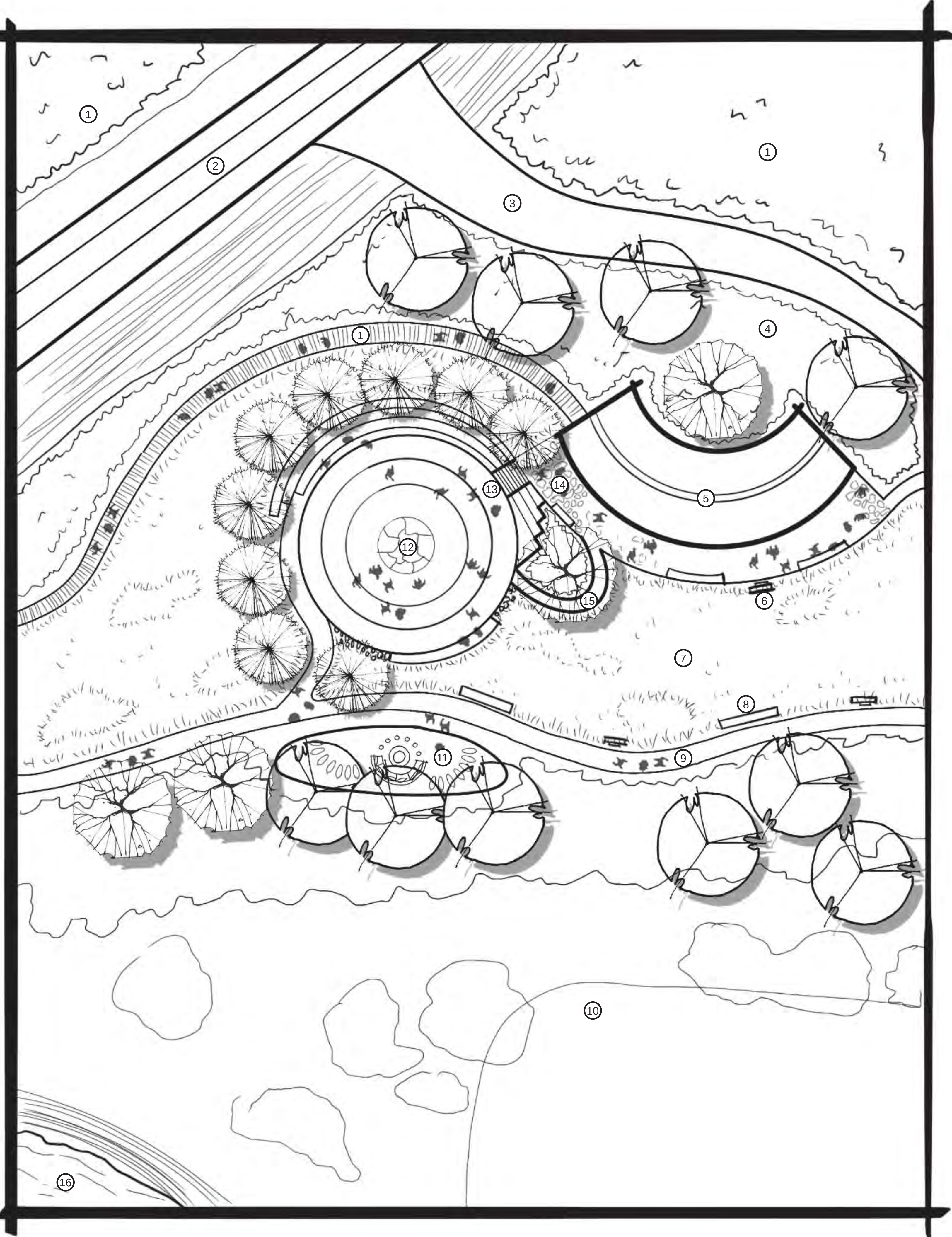
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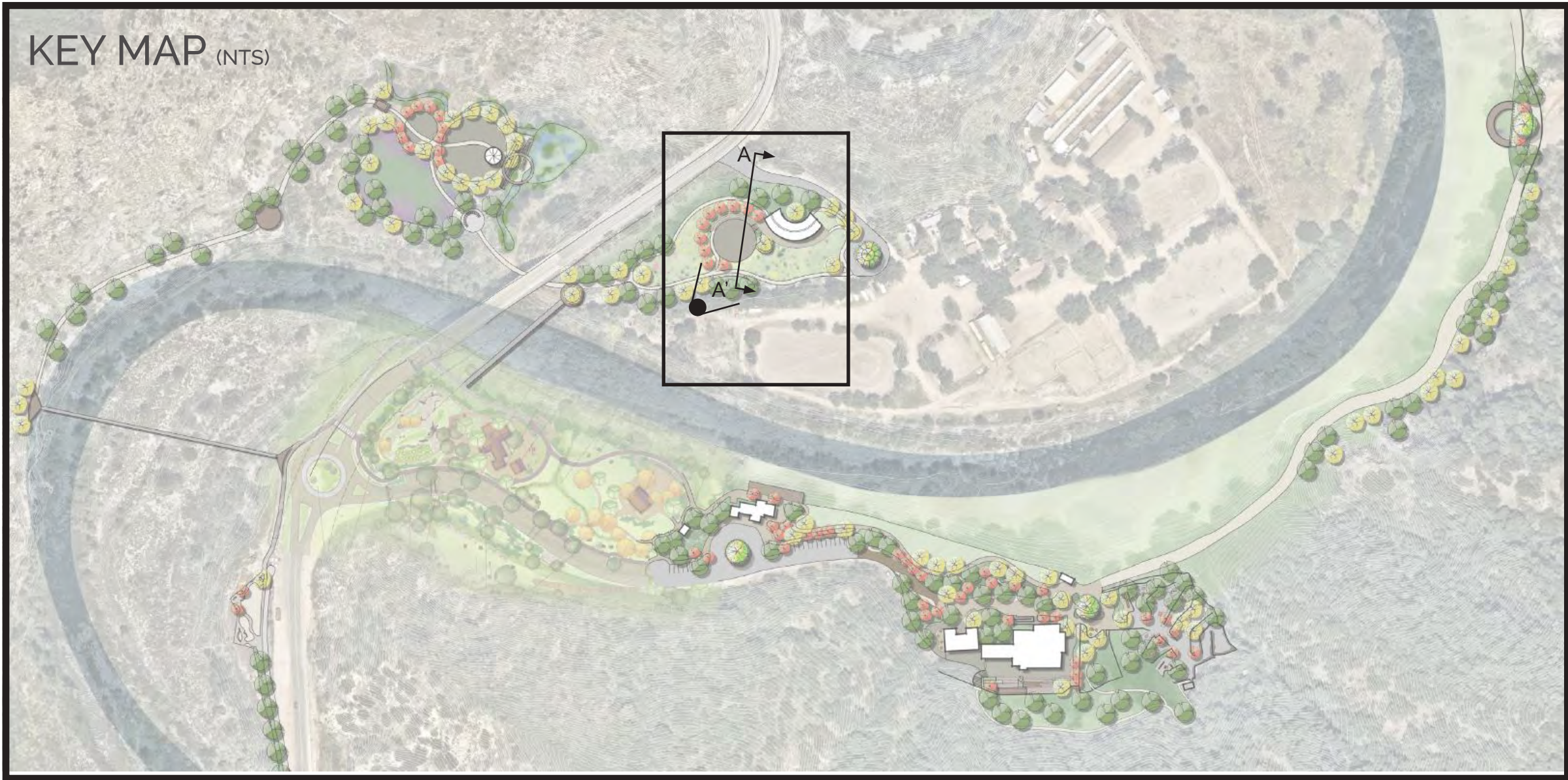


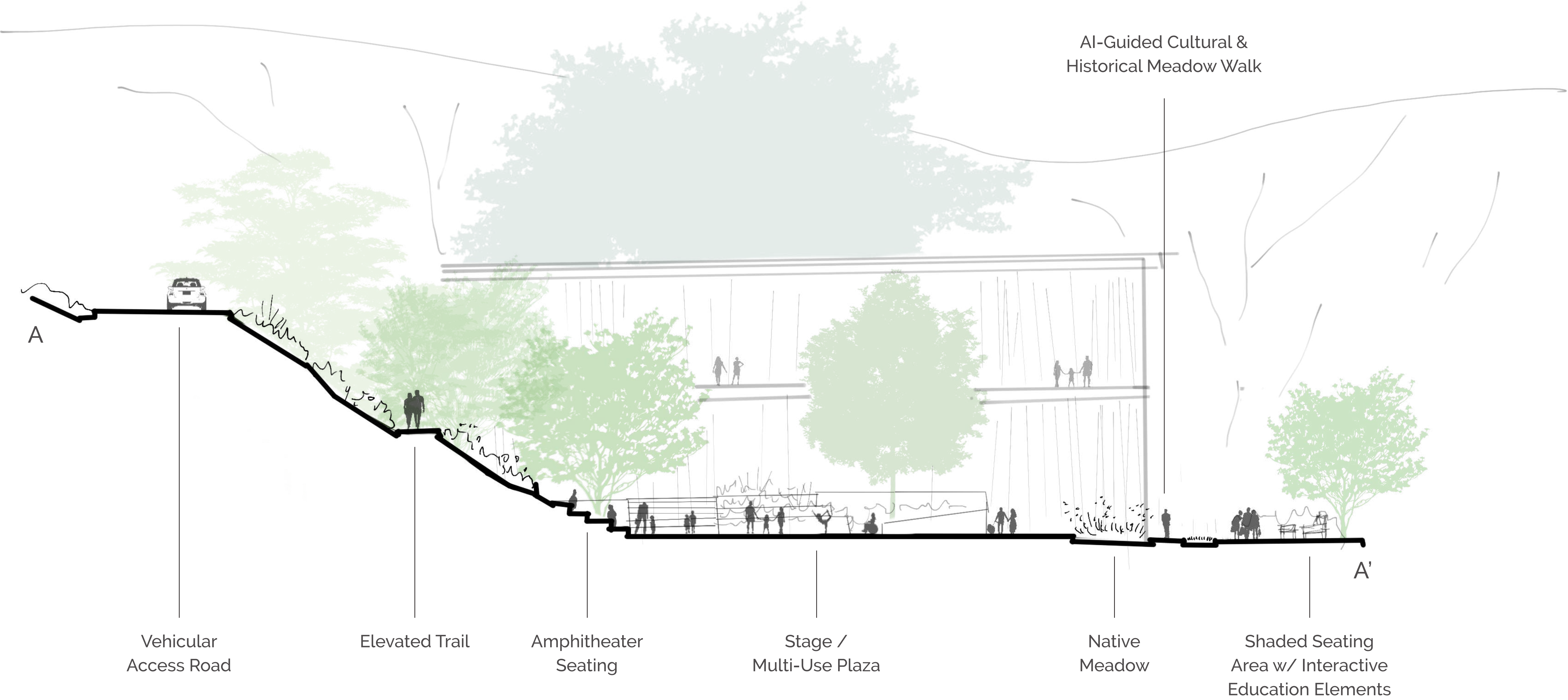


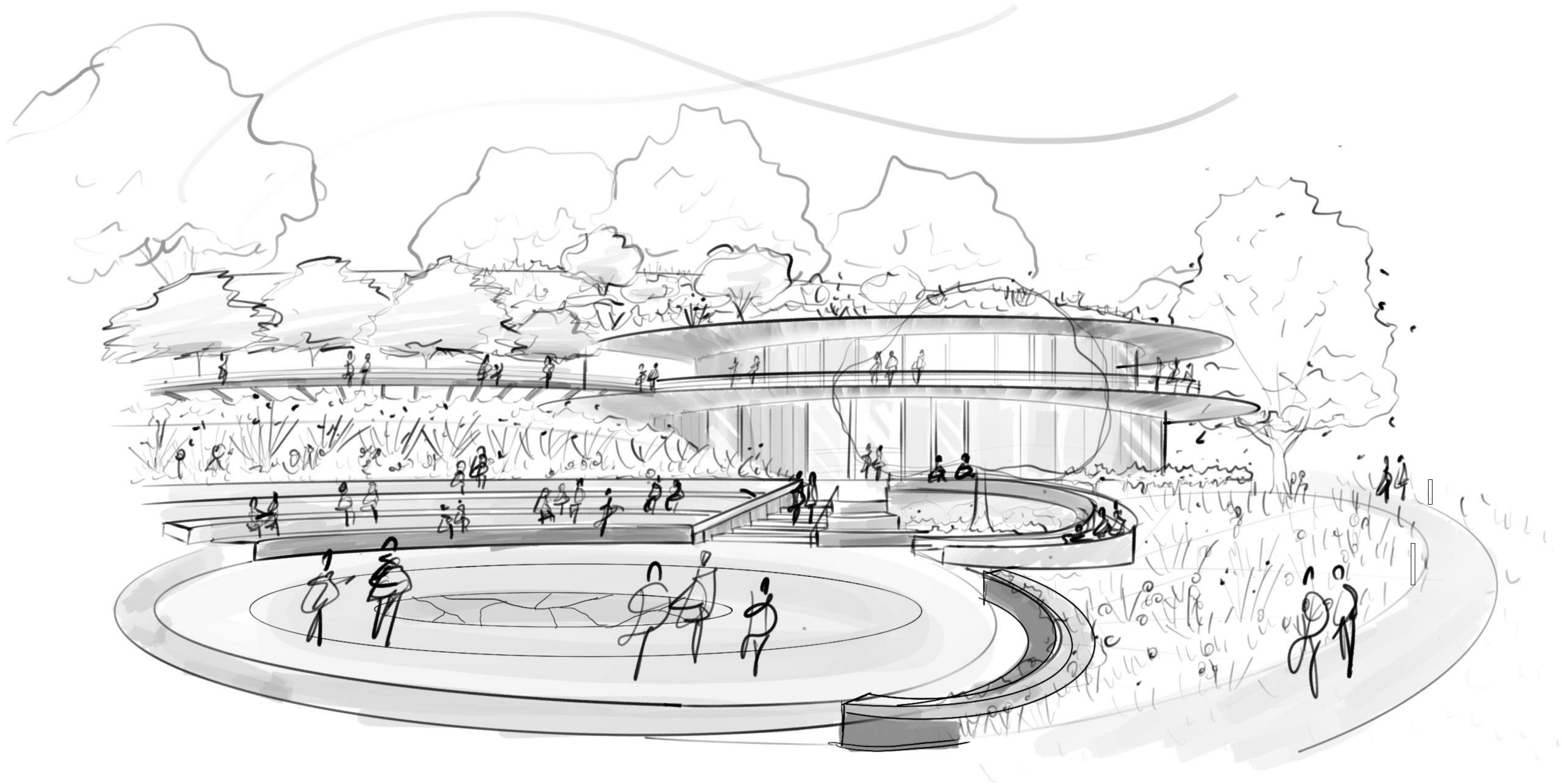


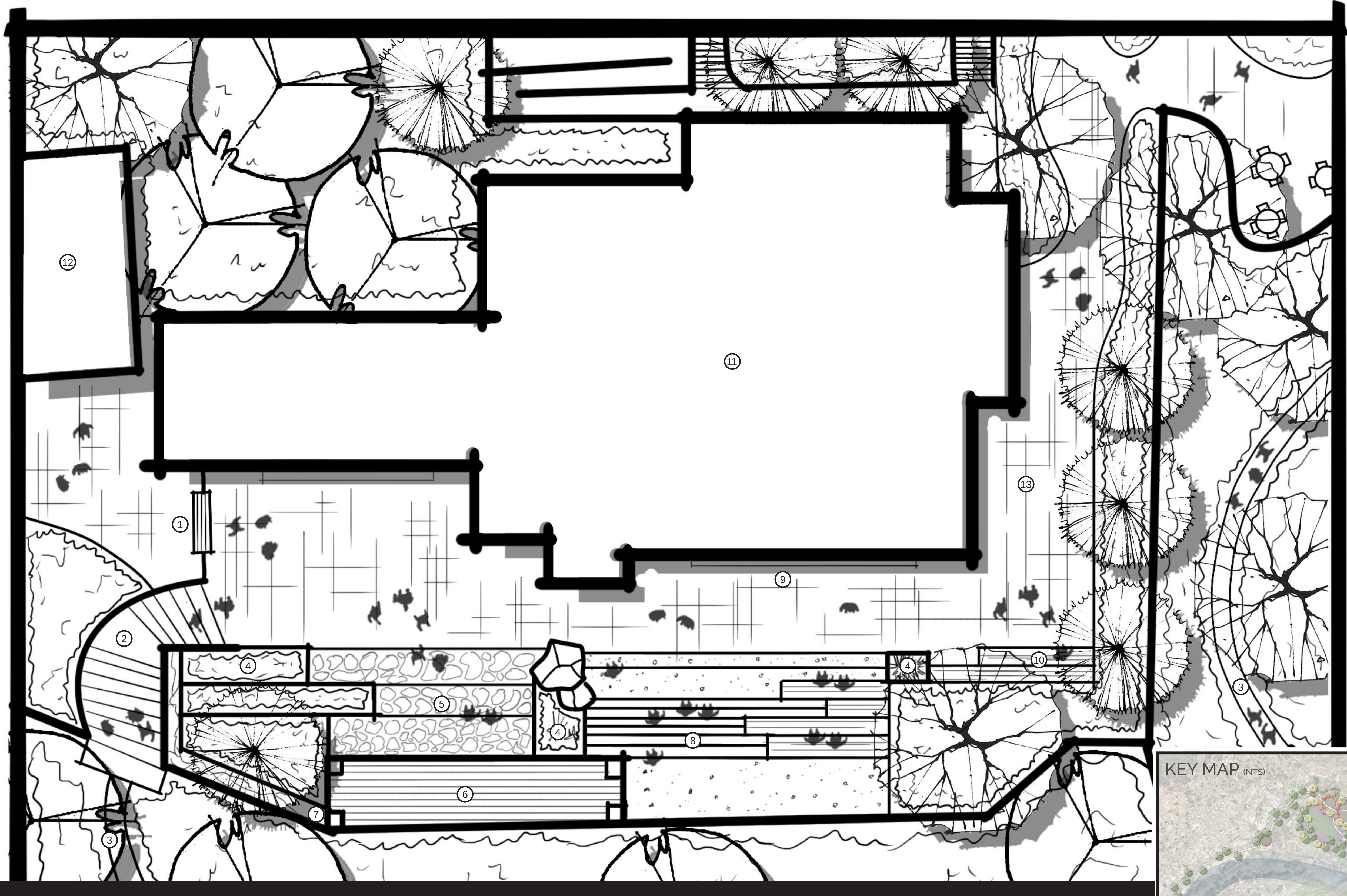
LEGEND

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ① Restored Vegetation               | ⑨ Historical Meadow Trail      |
| ② San Gabriel Canyon Road           | ⑩ Adjacent Equestrian Property |
| ③ Shuttle Access Road               | ⑪ Trail Rest Area w/ Bonfire   |
| ④ Earth Berm                        | ⑫ Amphitheater & Stage         |
| ⑤ Two-Story Cultural Center         | ⑬ Stairs                       |
| ⑥ Educational Signage               | ⑭ Taylor House Urbanite Paving |
| ⑦ Native Meadow                     | ⑮ ADA-Accessible Ramp          |
| ⑧ Taylor House Reclaimed Wood Bench | ⑯ San Gabriel River            |







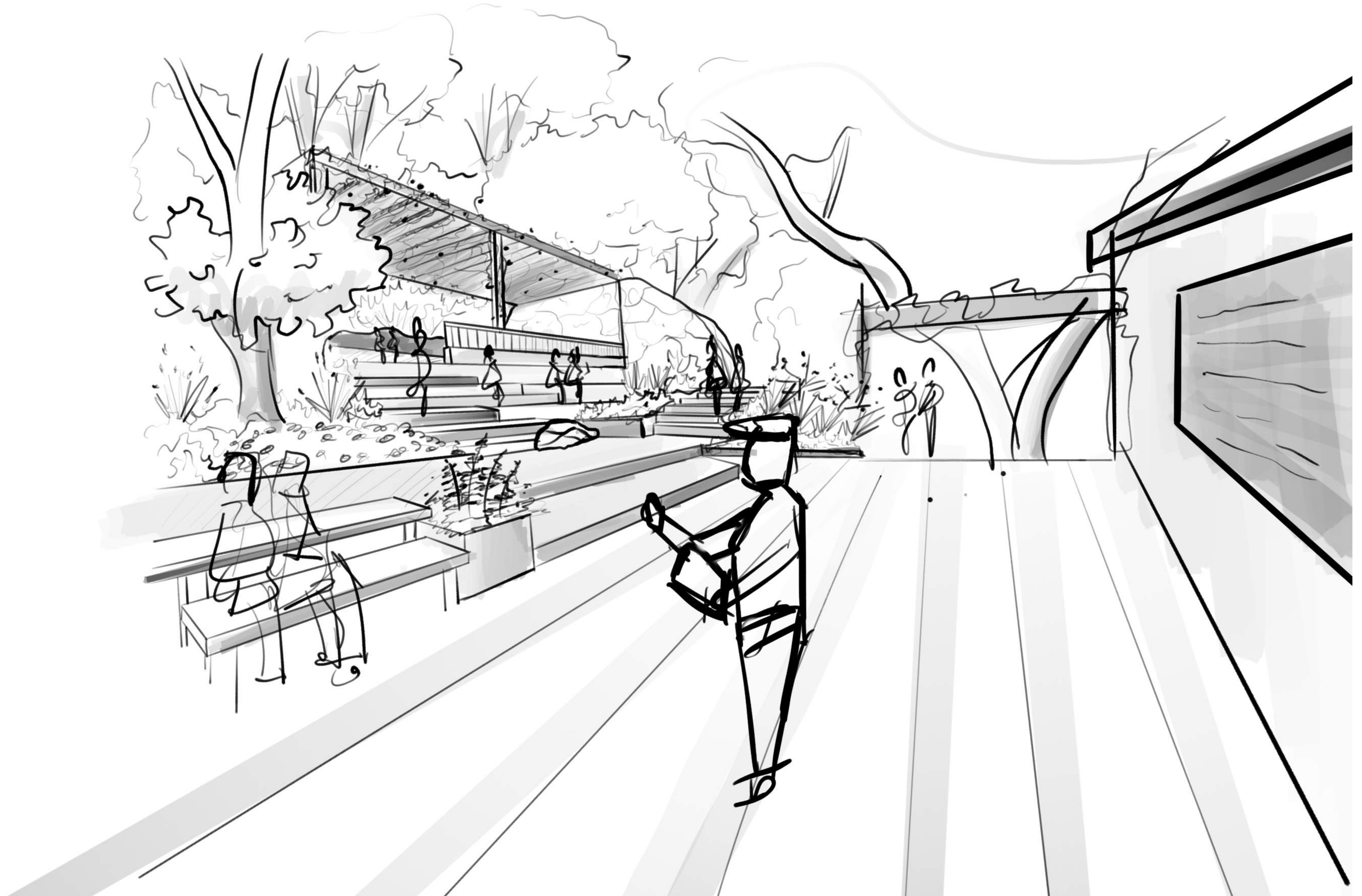


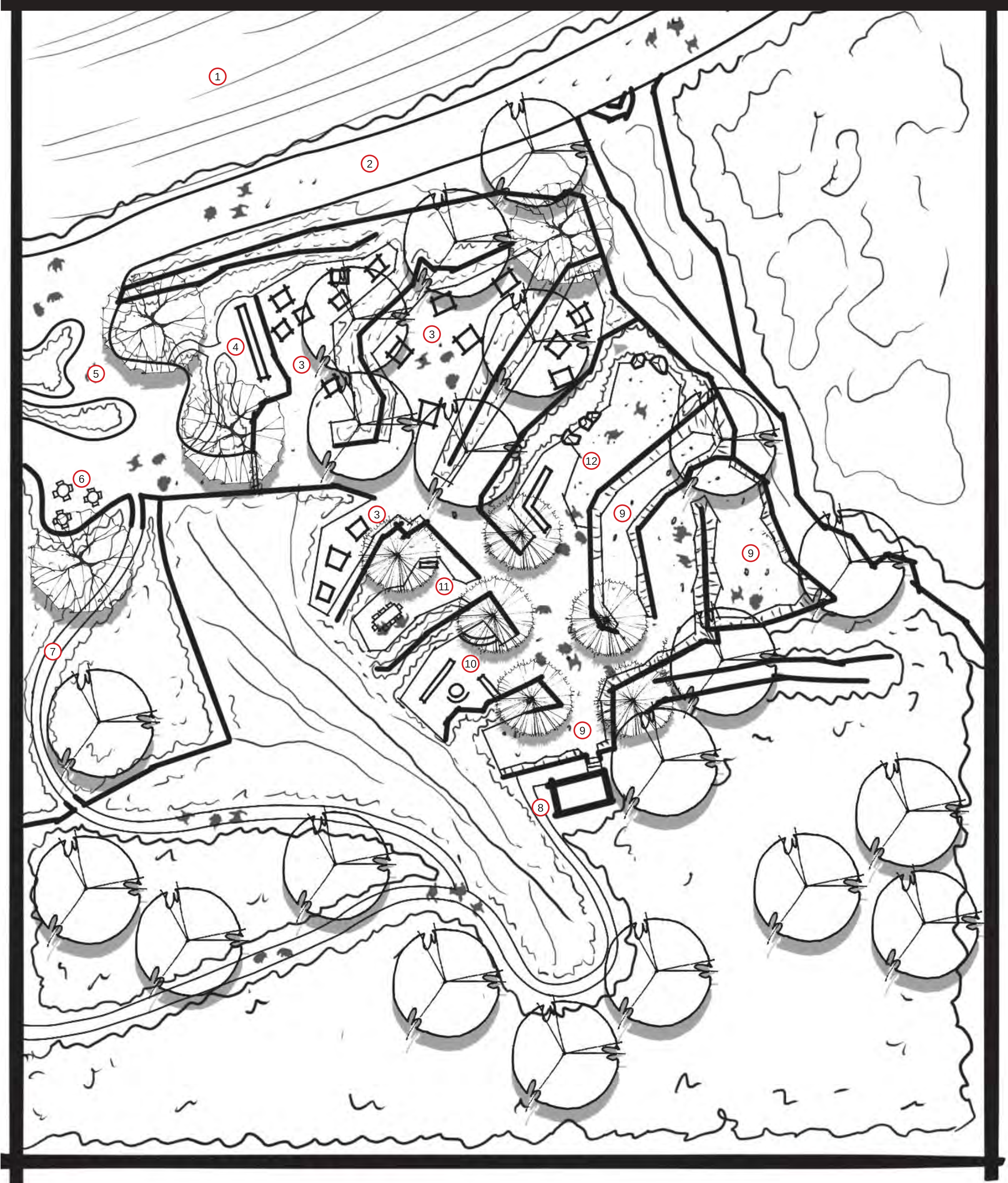
LEGEND

- |                                  |                        |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ① Arbor Gateway                  | ⑥ Trellis              | ⑩ Benches                          |
| ② Stairs                         | ⑦ Stone Wall           | ⑪ Visitor Center / Gift Shop       |
| ③ Trail                          | ⑧ Amphitheater Seating | ⑫ Cafe                             |
| ④ Raised Planter                 | ⑨ Blackboard           | ⑬ Decorative Semi-Permeable Paving |
| ⑤ Paving from previous seat wall | ⑩ Benches              |                                    |

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM - Section Elevation





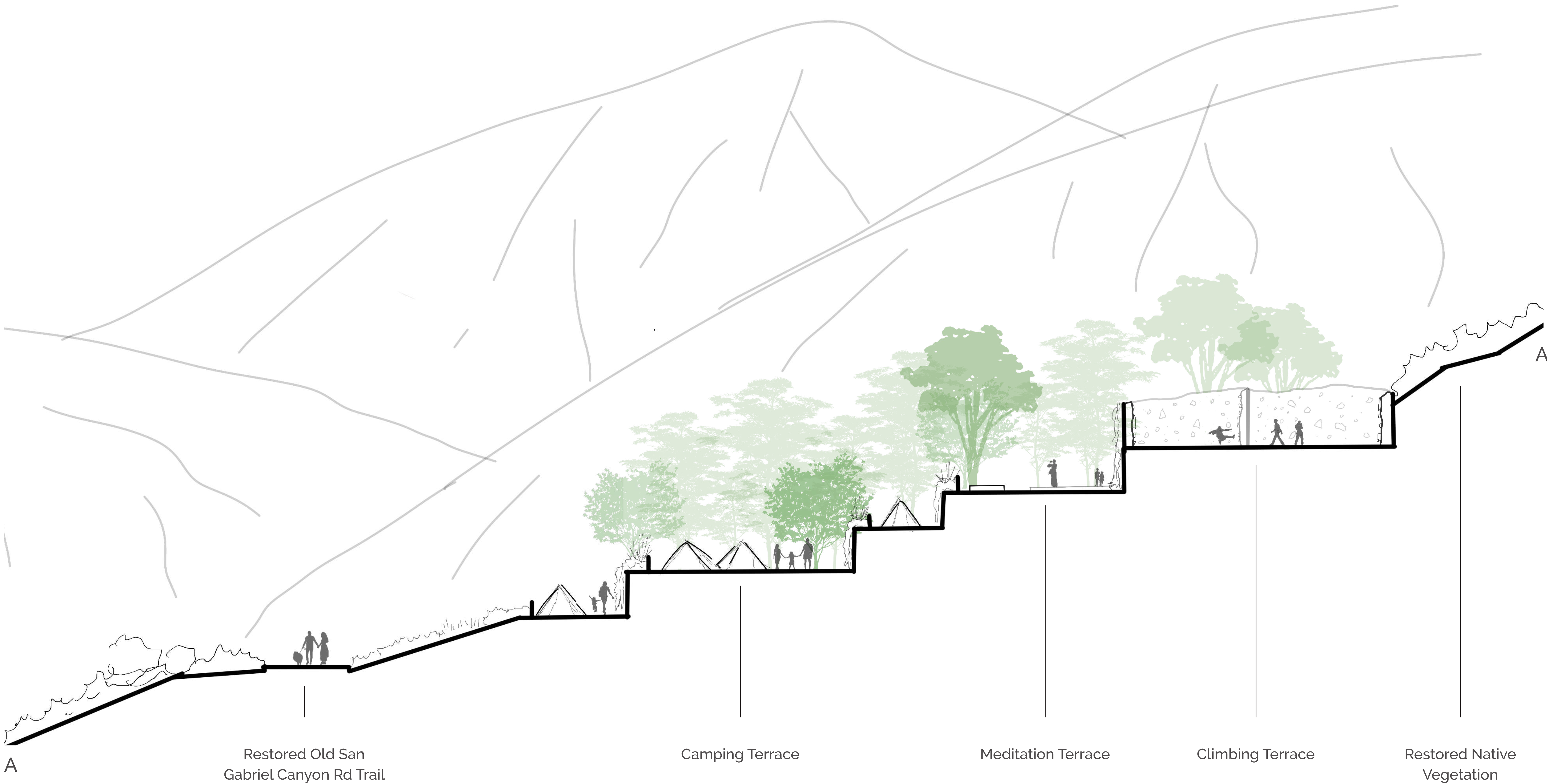


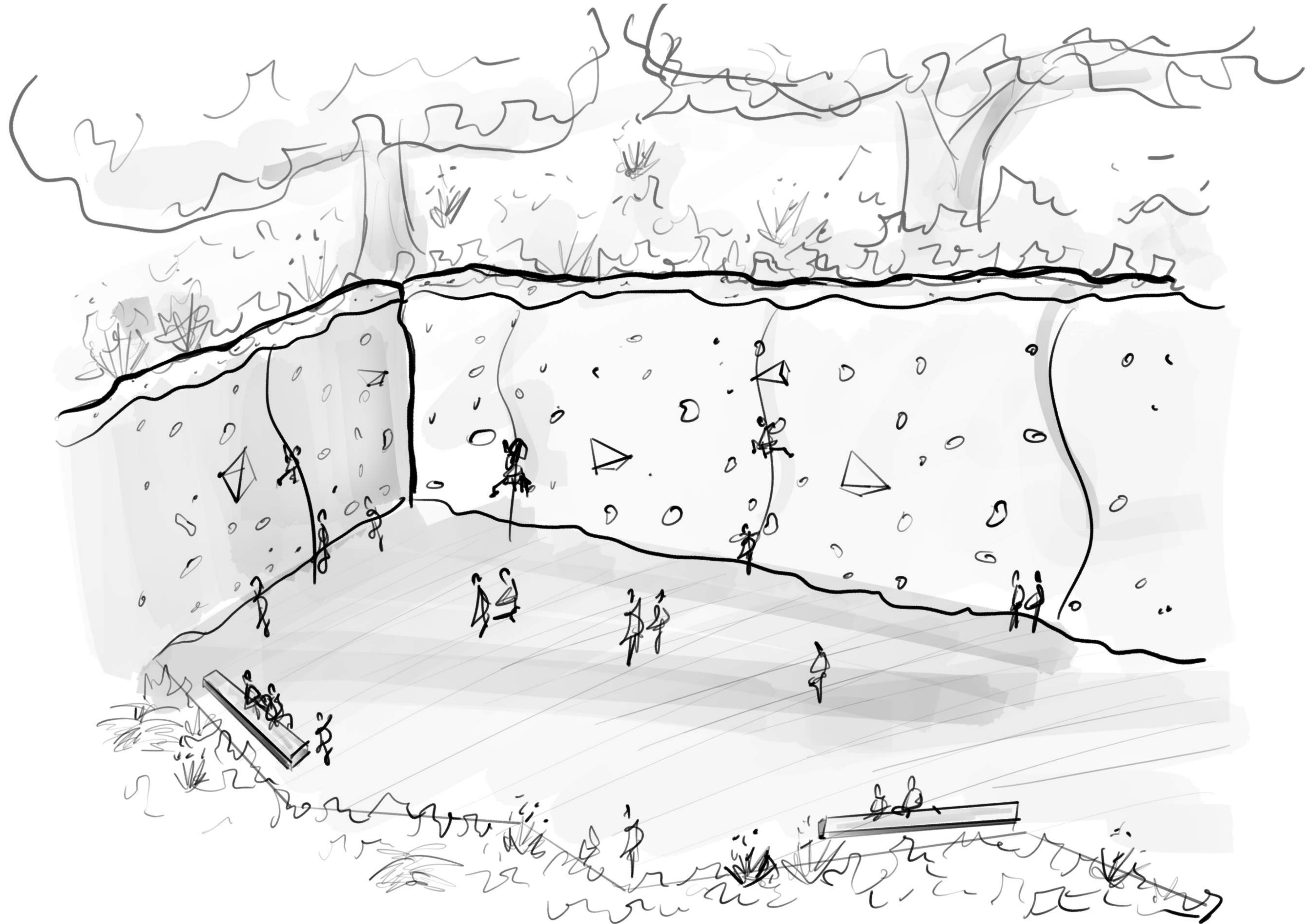
LEGEND

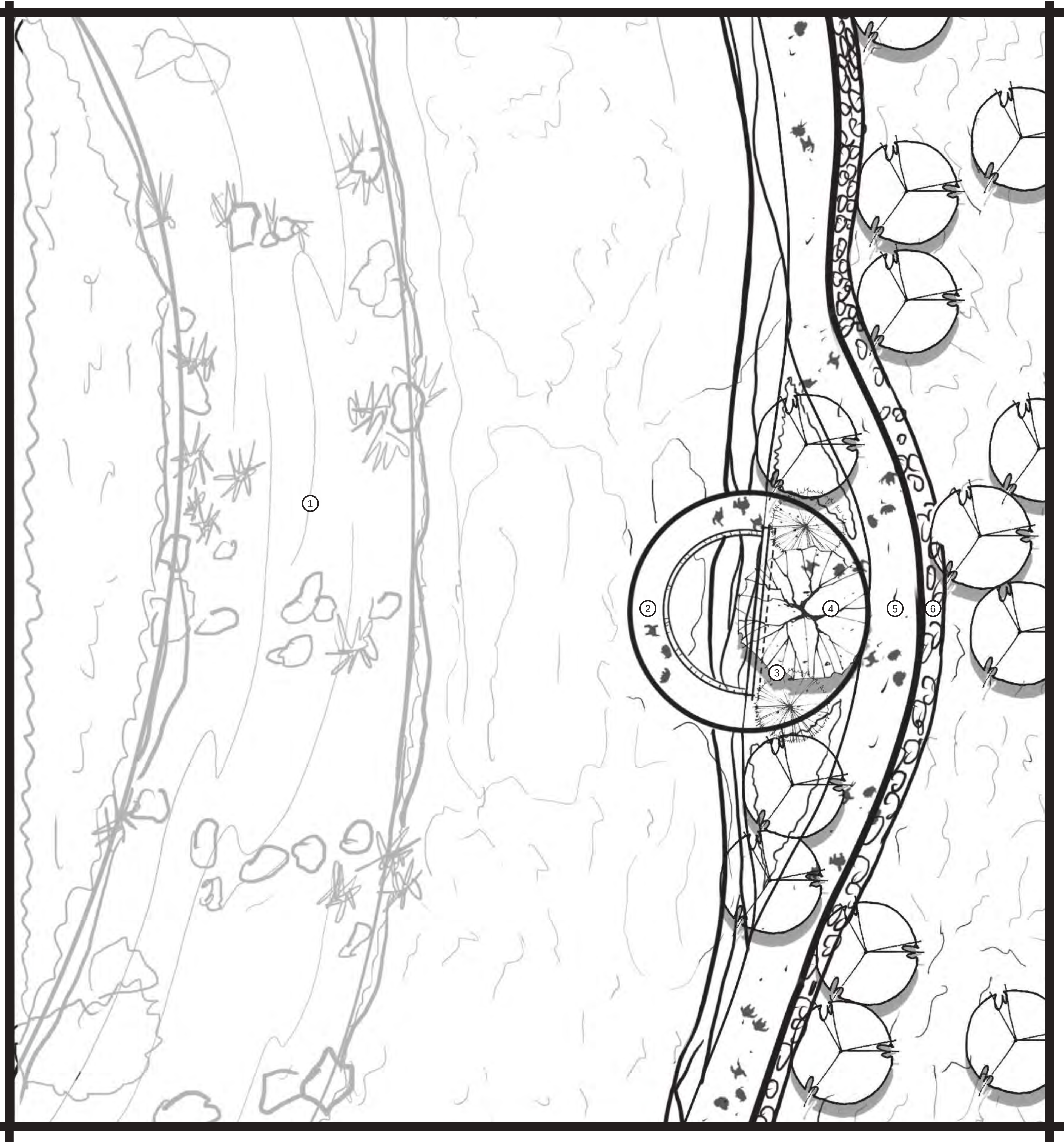
- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ① San Gabriel River               | ⑨ Terraced Climbing Wall       |
| ② Old San Gabriel Canyon Road     | ⑩ Climbing Warm-Up Area        |
| ③ Terraced Camping Area           | ⑪ Terraced Picnic Area         |
| ④ Bench                           | ⑫ Meditation Terrace           |
| ⑤ Gateway and Educational Signage | ⑬ Stairs                       |
| ⑥ Picnic Area                     | ⑭ Taylor House Urbanite Paving |
| ⑦ Trail                           | ⑮ ADA-Accessible Ramp          |
| ⑧ Existing Building               | ⑯ San Gabriel River            |



TERRACED ADVENTURES - Section Elevation

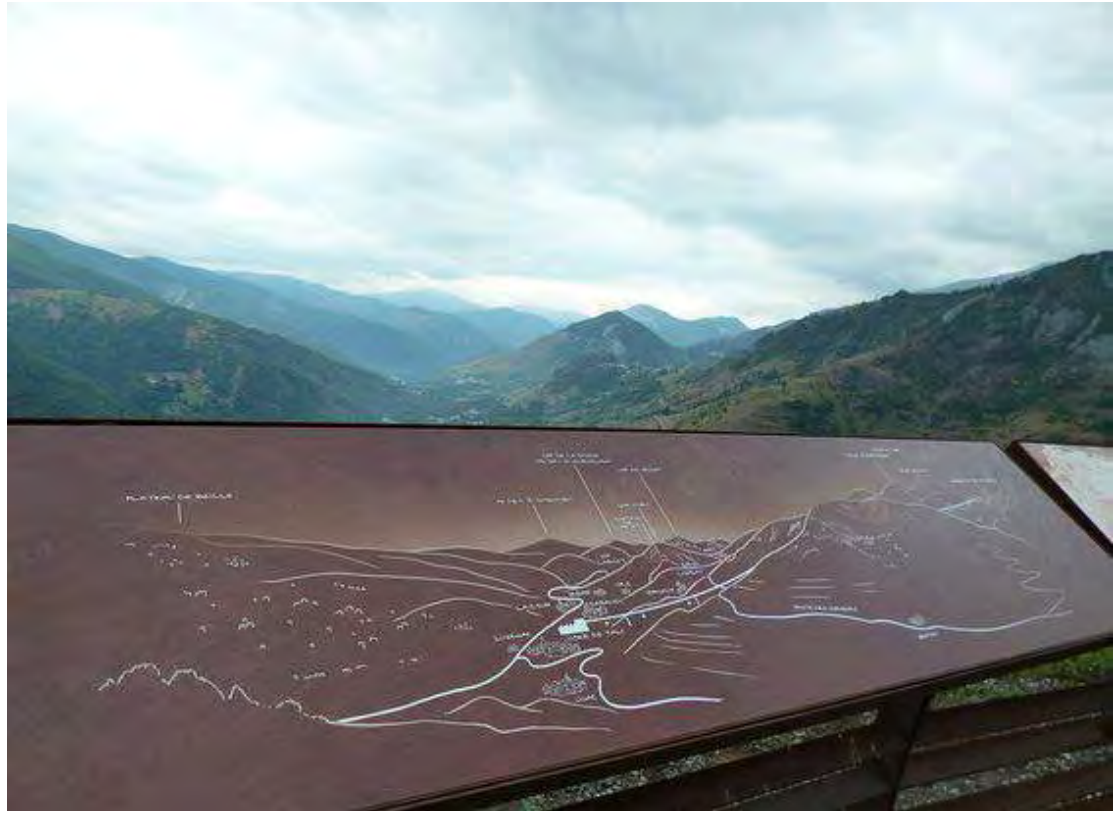




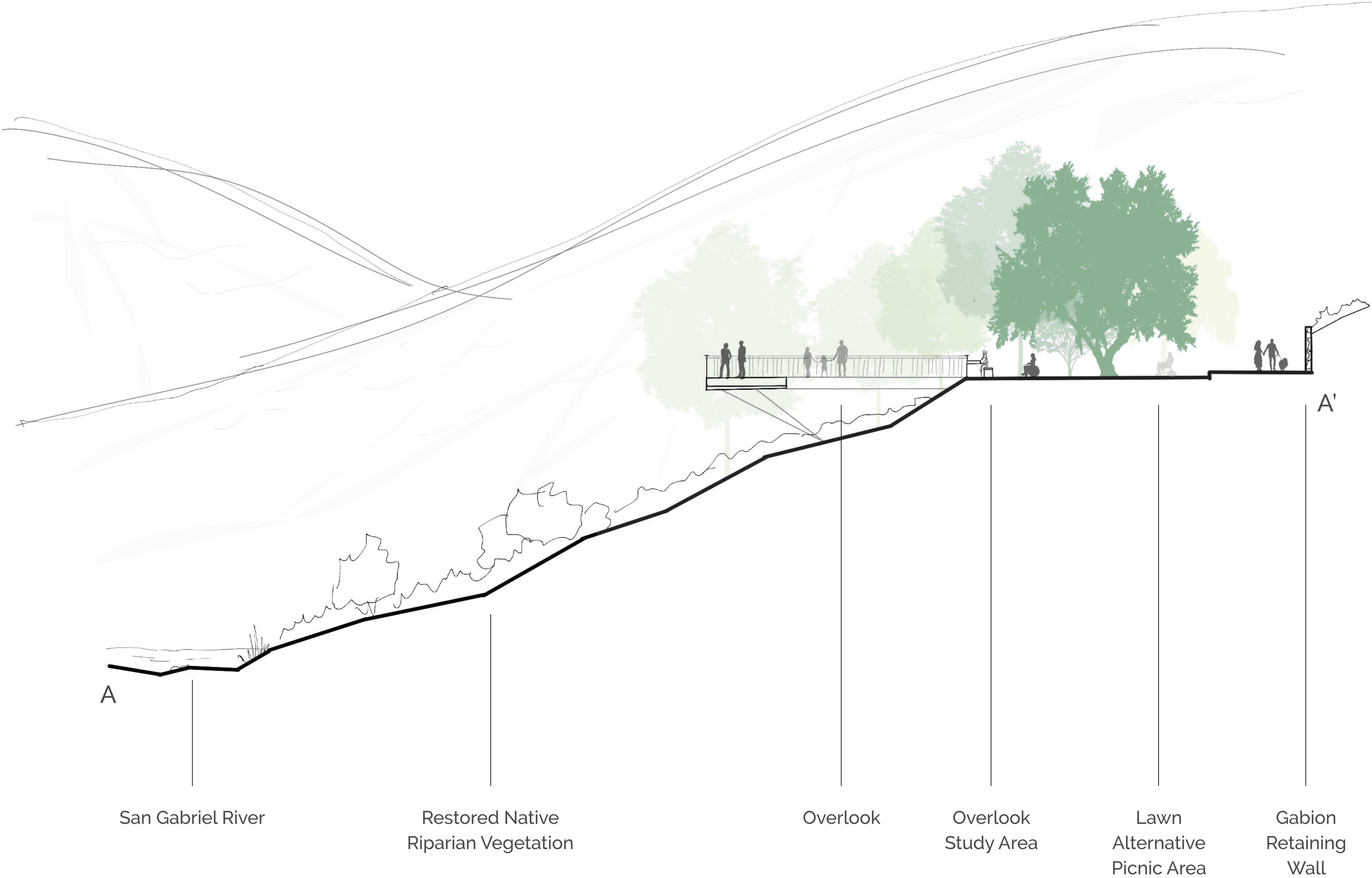


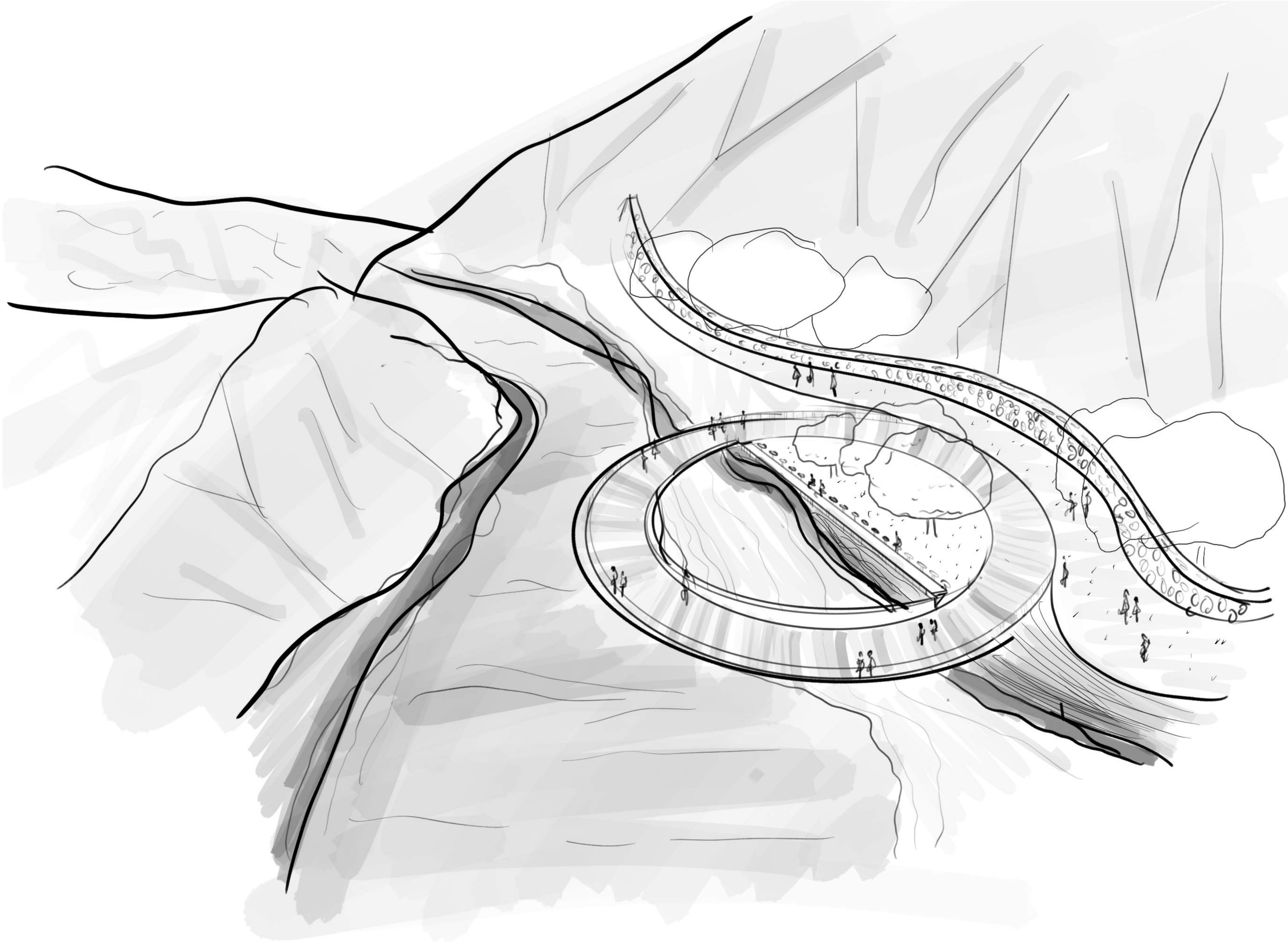
LEGEND

- ① San Gabriel River
- ② Overlook
- ③ Overlook Study Area
- ④ Lawn Alternative Picnic Area
- ⑤ Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd Trail
- ⑥ Landslide Debris Gabion Wall w/ Educational Signage



# OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD OVERLOOK - Section Elevation





## Images:

<https://peakvisor.com/range/san-gabriel-mountains.html>  
<https://www.thrillist.com/travel/los-angeles/best-waterfall-hikes-in-la>  
[https://sunrise.maplogs.com/old\\_house\\_rd\\_pasadena\\_ca\\_usa.475474.html](https://sunrise.maplogs.com/old_house_rd_pasadena_ca_usa.475474.html)  
<https://www.archdaily.com/950043/architecture-and-nature-a-framework-for-building-in-landscapes>  
<https://www.archdaily.com/950043/architecture-and-nature-a-framework-for-building-in-landscapes/5f90a0b563c01756a70000cd-architecture-and-nature-a-framework-for-building-in-landscapes-photo>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/518265869630853662/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/856035841699824144/>  
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## Site Photos: Brennan Groh & Jen Moody