



2

Special Focus, Goals
and History

5

Location and
Context

7

Site Inventory and
Analysis

16

Constraints and
Opportunities

18

Case Study

21

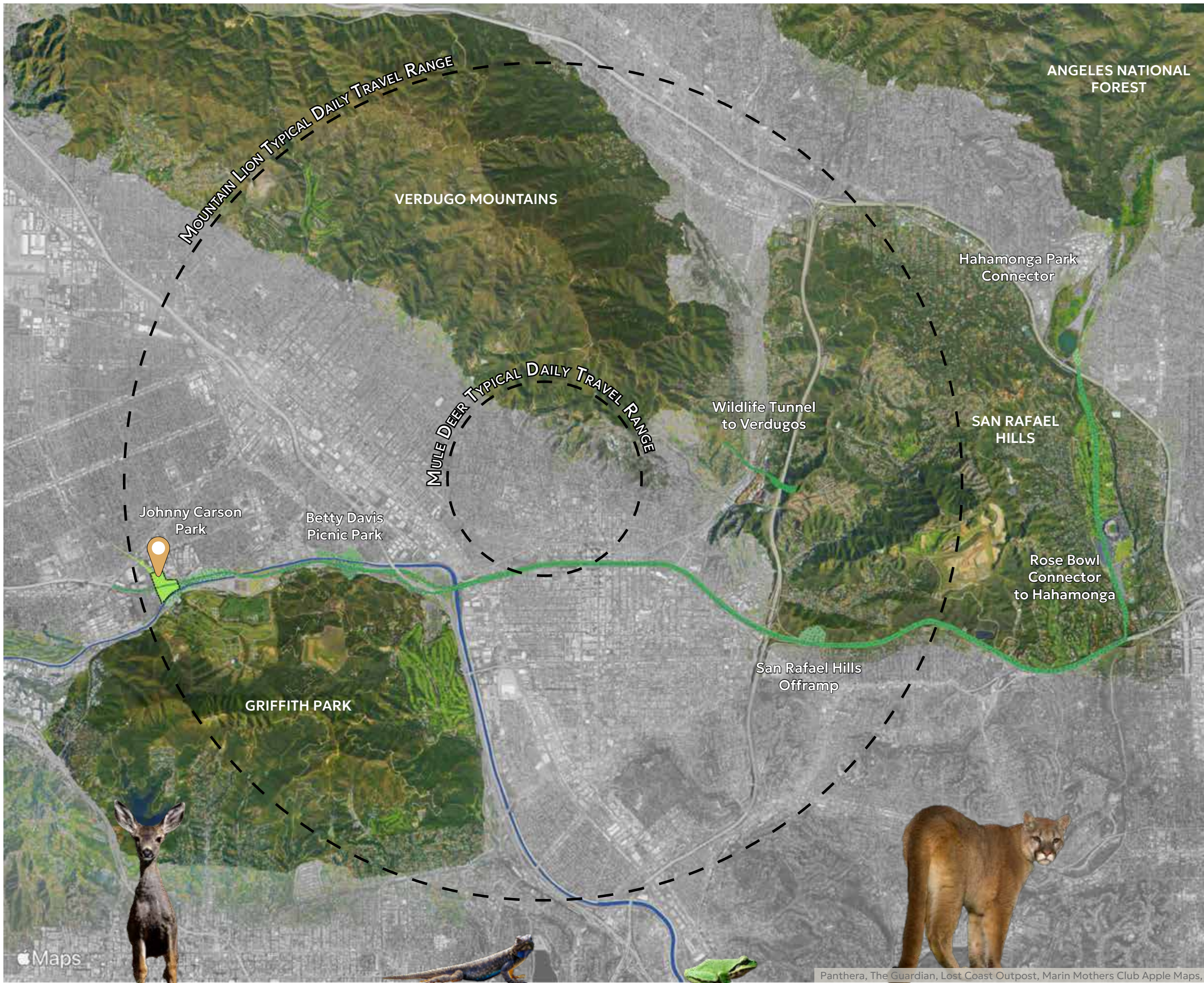
Conceptual
Site Plan

23

Site Plan, Sections,
Enlargements, Perspectives

32

Conclusion



THE ROOM TO ROAM RESERVE

Our special focus for the redesign of the Johnny Carson Park is mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

For these animals to exist in our urban spaces, we must build the necessary ecosystems, food webs, and ecological niches for them to exist.

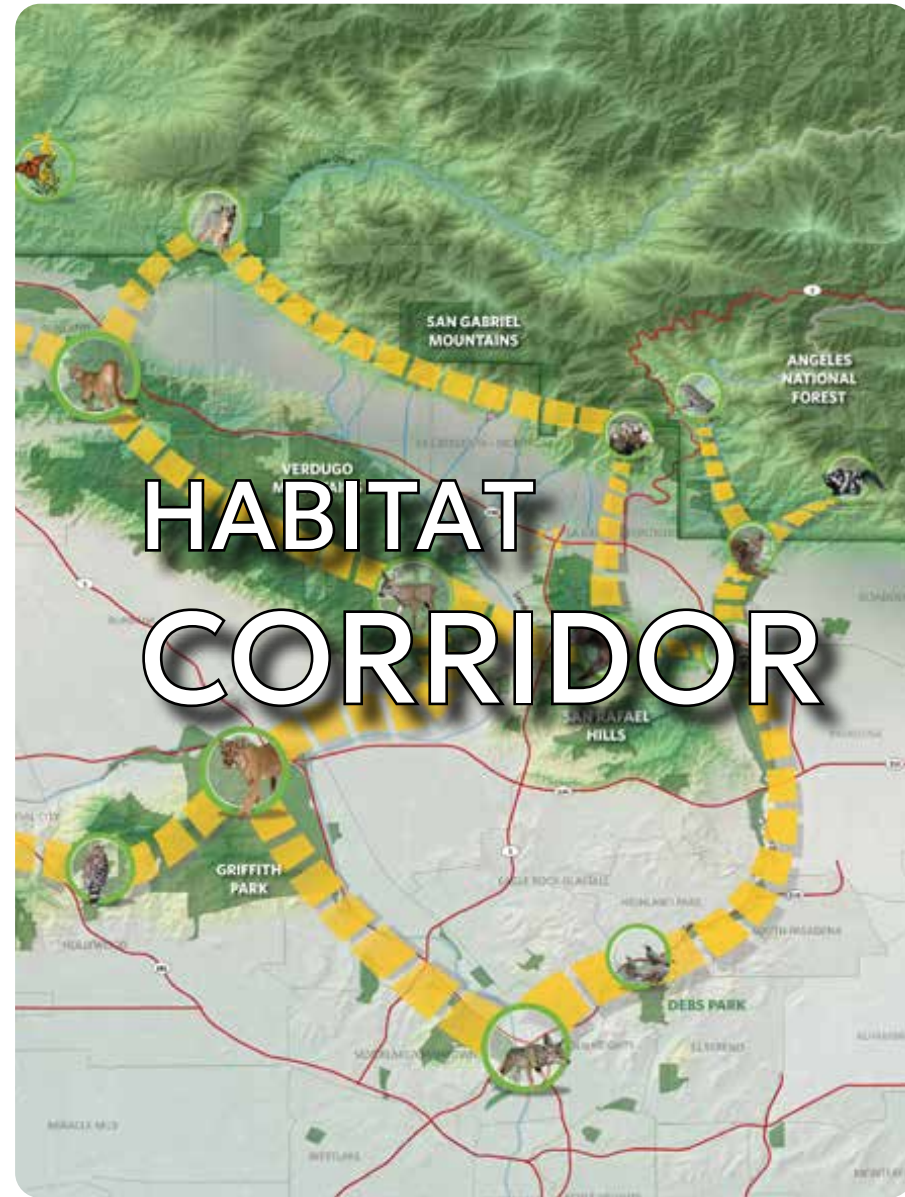
While many animals are small and only require small patches to maintain stable populations, many of the larger animals, from the Mountain Lion to the Black Bear need vast swathes of land to roam and hunt in order to survive and reproduce.

Our goal is to create a series of animal habitat nodes on the now shuttered 134 freeway. The spine of the 134 will connect Griffith Park, the Verdugo Mountains, and the Angeles National Forest which are the largest ecological sinks for wildlife.

By linking these areas we can create a thriving metapopulation of animals, resistant to extinction events like fire, flood and the omnipresent threat of climate change.

Isolated animal populations such as the ones that live in Griffith Park are genetically cut off—it's only a matter of time before the population is too genetically inbred to maintain a healthy, stable population.

Creating a wildlife corridor to the Verdugos and beyond will add both new genetics and biodiversity, stabilizing animal populations.



HABITAT CORRIDOR

Restore Habitat Corridors between the Griffith Park area and The Verdugo Mountains.

Provide native animal specific habitat restoration along corridors.

Re-vegetate corridors with California native plants that form the basis of the ecosystem.

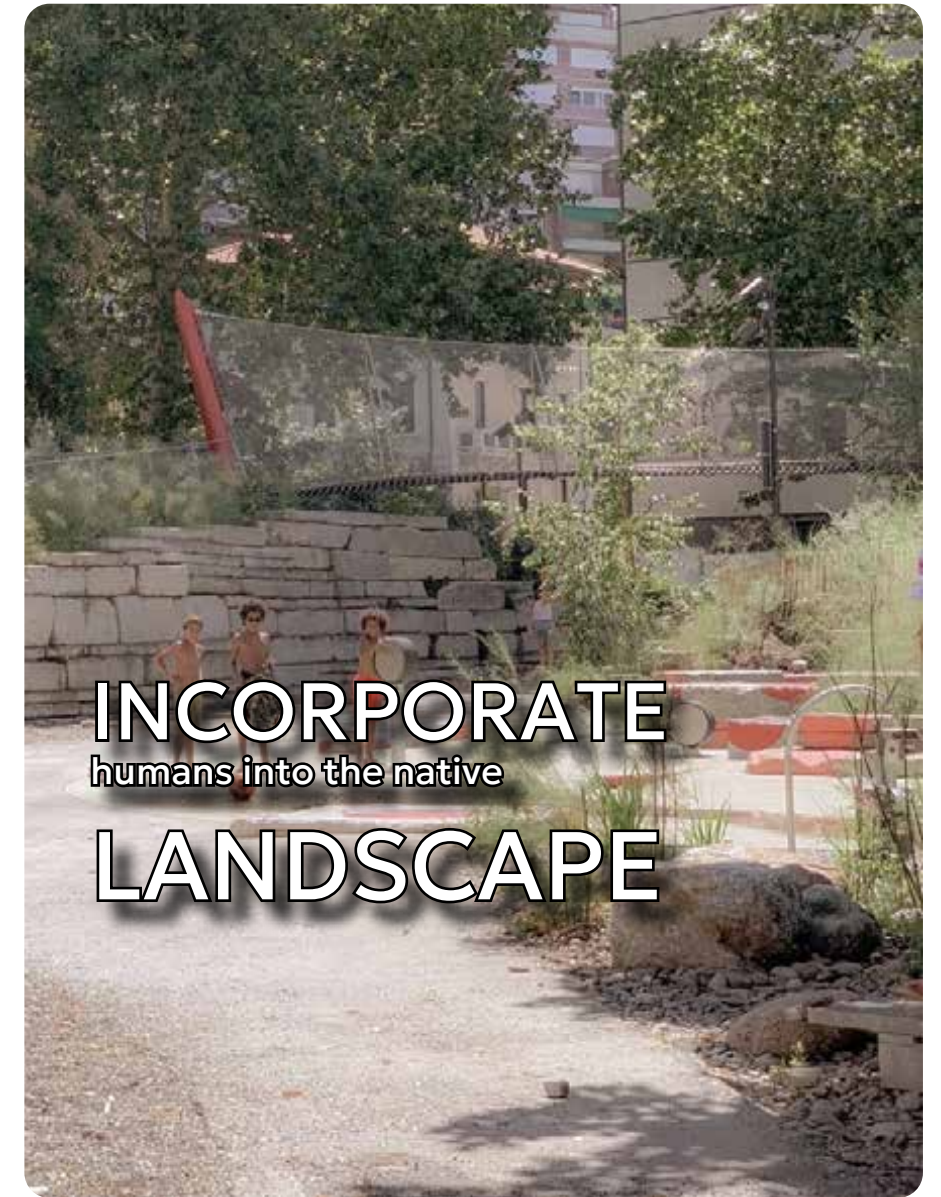


WETLAND RESTORATION

Restore the soft bottom and riparian areas along the LA River.

Create a new riparian corridor to connect the Verdugos to Griffith Park.

Recharge the groundwater table by allowing for flooding and creatively using stormwater.



INCORPORATE humans into the native LANDSCAPE

Connect Johnny Carson Park to the urban fabric of Burbank so all users can use it.

Allow access to the river so people can discover the LA River for themselves.

Create educational and stewardship opportunities for the next generation.

The land was occupied and stewarded by the **Tongva people**. Habitat included riparian woodlands along the LA river as well as **Oak savannas, grasslands, and seasonal flood plains**. Regular cultural burning maintained biodiversity. Some of the wildlife that inhabited Burbank during this era was: **Grizzly bears**, Tule elk, Mountain loins, and extensive reptile and amphibian communities.



SOURCE: LA RIVER MASTER PLAN

The mission system introduced **grazing livestock** including : cattle, sheep, and horses. Native grasses were replaced with **European annual grasses**. There was a suppression of Indigenous management practices and a decline in large herbivore populations. The wetlands were altered by grazing pressures. This marked the beginning of habitat degradation and wildlife population decline.



SOURCE: LA PLANNING HISTORY

The lands started to be subdivided into individual ownership. **Large -scale agriculture** was introduced including citrus, orchards and dry farming. The LA floodplain was increasingly modified and the **wetlands were drained**. Predator eradication campaigns began to protect farm animals over wildlife. The grizzly bears are extirpated. By the early 1900s, Tule elk were eliminated locally, and wolves reduced. This marked the beginning of **fragmentation of native habitat** and the **collapse of apex predator** systems.



SOURCE: PBS SO-CAL

Before 1769

Indigenous Era

1769-1848

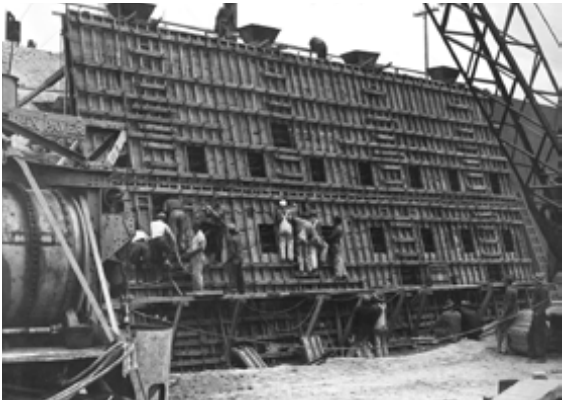
Spanish and Mexican Era

1850-1910

American Ranching & Agriculture Era

1920-1950

Urbanization Era



SOURCE: PLACES JOURNAL

Massive development of Burbank was seen. There was construction of major roads and railways. The LA river was transformed from an ecological corridor to **flood control infrastructure** following repeated flooding in 1930s-1940s. There was a loss of floodplains and wetlands. This resulted in the collapse of amphibian breeding zones and loss of reptile habitat.

1950-1980

Freeway Era



SOURCE: PBS SO-CAL

The I-5 and the 134 Freeway were built. Lockheed and other **industrial developments expanded**. There was an increase in **storm-water runoff** and **pollution**, as well as a widespread pesticide and rodenticide use. Habitat islands were formed. This resulted in genetic isolation of small mammals and reptile populations. This furthered the decline of amphibians and riparian birds. This era marked serve habitat fragmentation and edge effects.

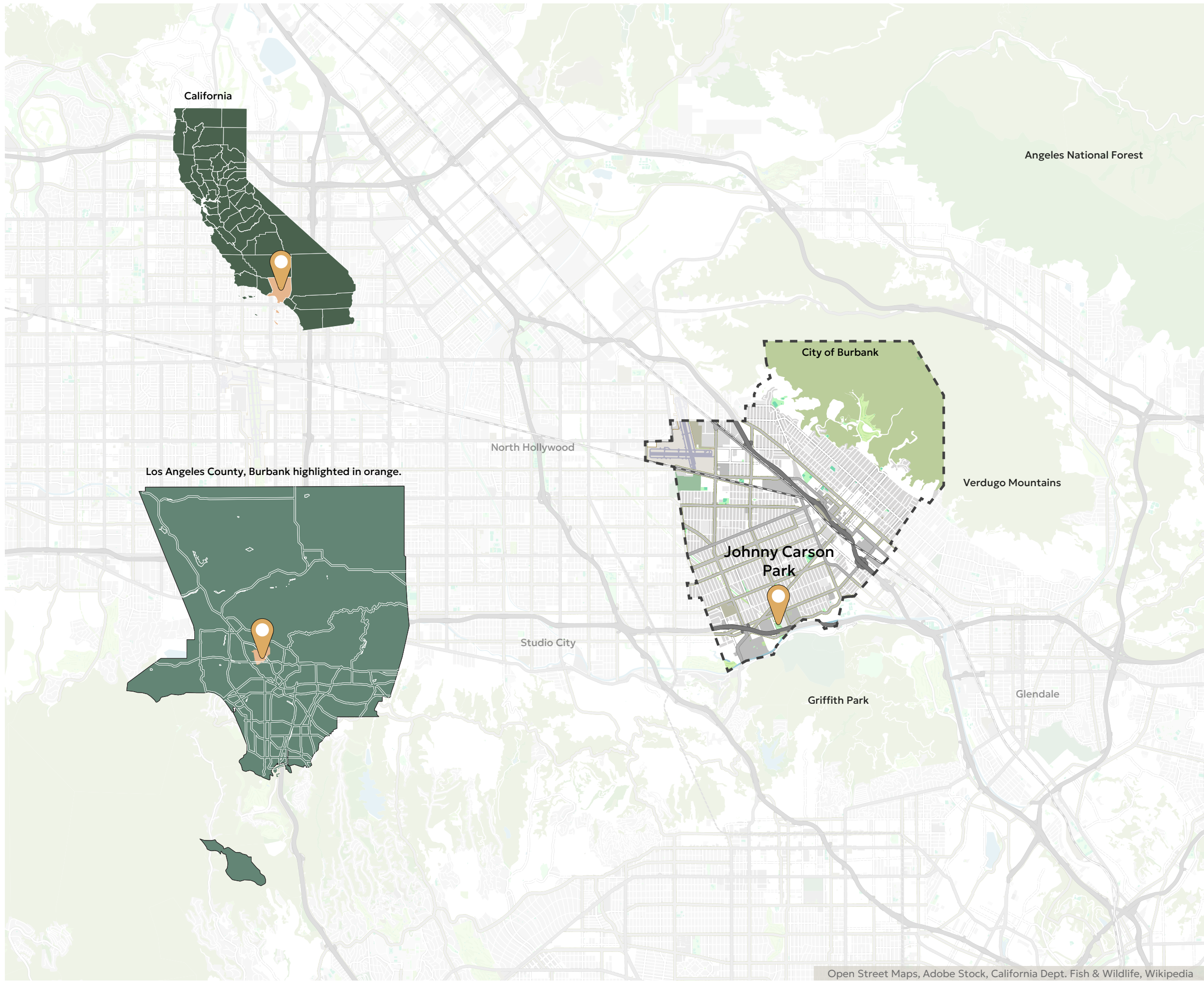
1990- Present

Modern Era



SOURCE: PLACES JOURNAL

There is a continuation of urban pressure as well as an increase in recreation pressure in remaining open space. **Invasive plants** dominate disturbed areas. Climate change intensifies **heat** and **droughts**. There is a continued decline of amphibians and reptiles like the Western Toad and the Southwestern Pond Turtle. However it also marks the beginning of the LA River restoration project. There is an **increase in habitat awareness and conservation efforts**.



LOCATION MAP

Johnny Carson Park is located in Burbank, California. Burbank is a suburban city within Los Angeles County. It is landlocked with no water rights of its own.

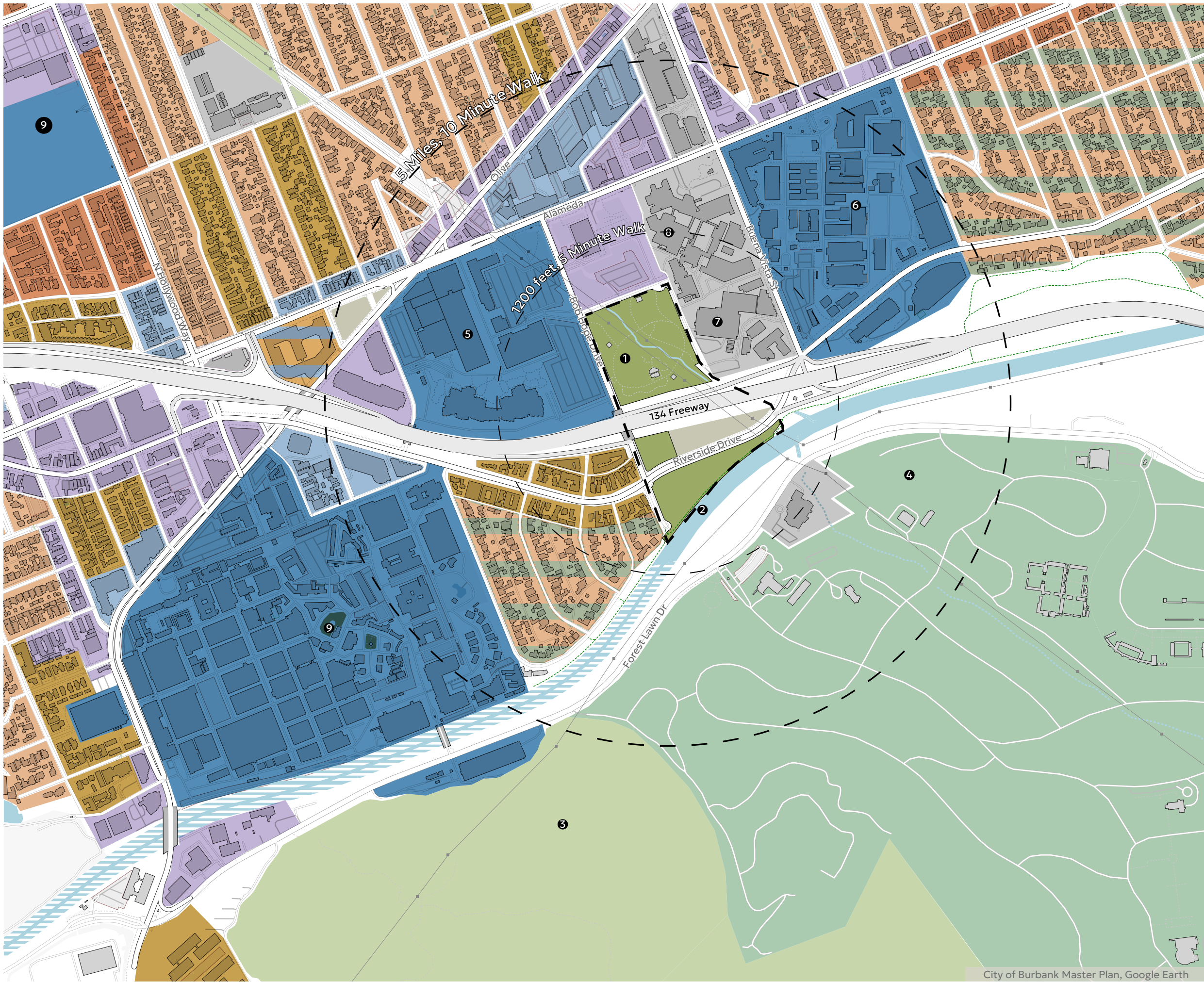
Burbank has a Mediterranean climate, and is within the California Floristic Province; a unique and incredibly biodiverse hotspot. California is home to 30% of all plant and vertebrate species in America. Of that 30%, 65% occur only in California.

650 bird species, 220 mammal, 100 reptiles, 75 amphibians, 70 freshwater fish and 100 marine fish are endemic. Over 6500 plants, of which 2000 are endemic, are found in California.

A variety of animals call Burbank home, from the Mule Deer to the Western Fence Lizard, the Bobcat to the Black Bellied Salamander. They live in a variety of ecosystems from riparian, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands and chaparral, most of which have been eliminated in the process of building the city of Burbank. The last swathes of nature that can support any wildlife lies to the south in Griffith Park and to the north in the Verdugo Mountains.

Burbank is also home to 107,000 people give or take; it represents 1.26% of the LA County, which has hit roughly 9.5 million.

This staggering amount of biodiversity, combined with the sheer quantity of people, has resulted in a 40% decrease in wildlife since 1970.



SITE CONTEXT AND ZONING

Johnny Carson Park is ringed by land use types that cut the park off from the standard users of the park—the residents of Burbank. Furthermore, the LA River, as a channel, prevents wildlife from utilizing the habitat by the Little Tujunga Wash.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site
- Single Family Housing
- Medium Density Housing
- High Density Housing
- Equestrian Residential
- Mixed Use
- General Commercial
- Film Commercial
- Film Production
- Institutional
- Park & Open Space
- Cemetery

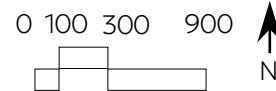
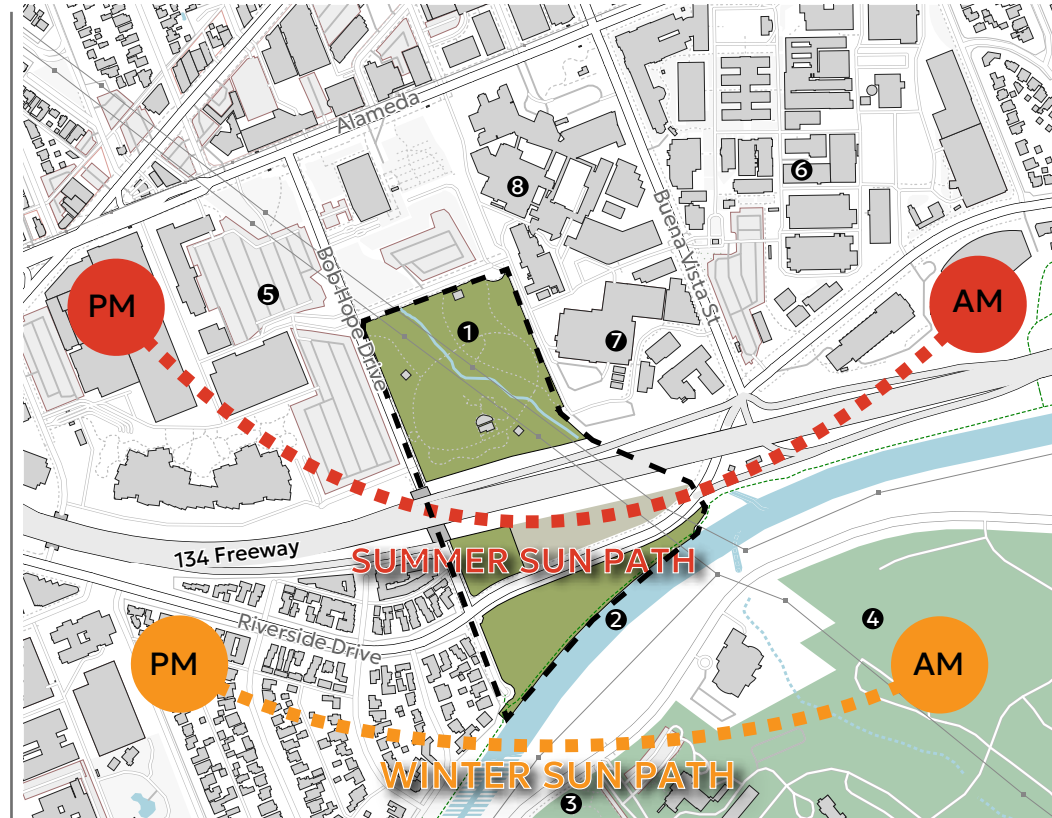
Site Legend

- 1 Johnny Carson Park
- 2 LA River
- 3 Griffith Park
- 4 Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 5 Burbank Studios
- 6 Disney Studios
- 7 Providence High School
- 8 Providence St. Joseph Hospital
- 9 Warner Brothers Studio

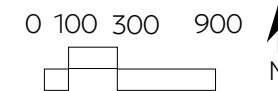
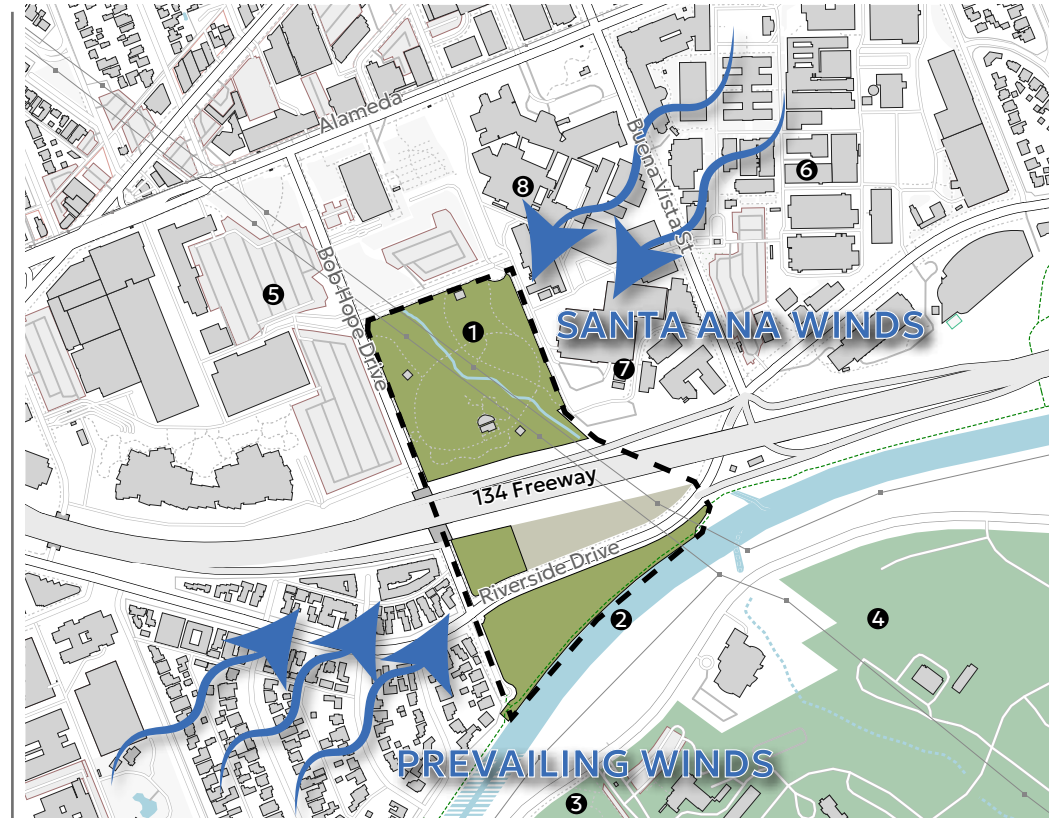
0 100 300 600

N

SUN



WIND

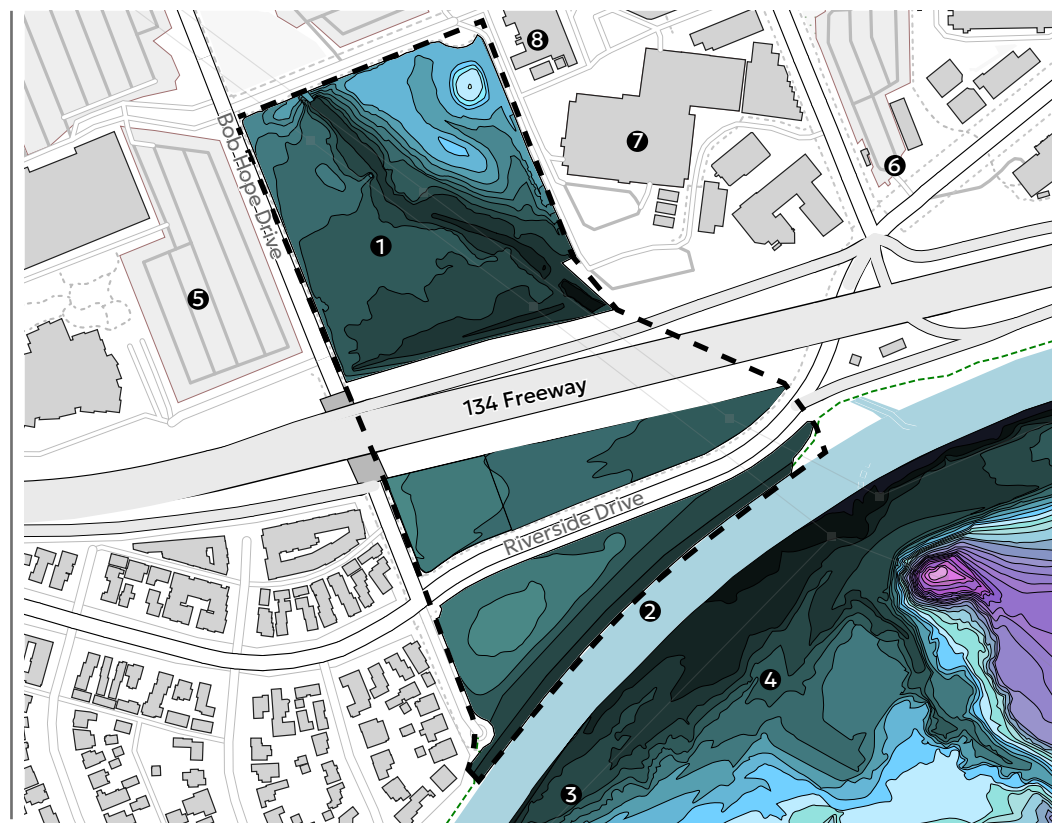


ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

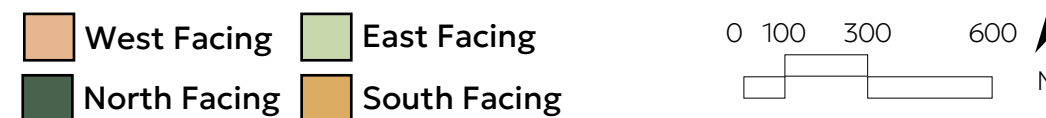
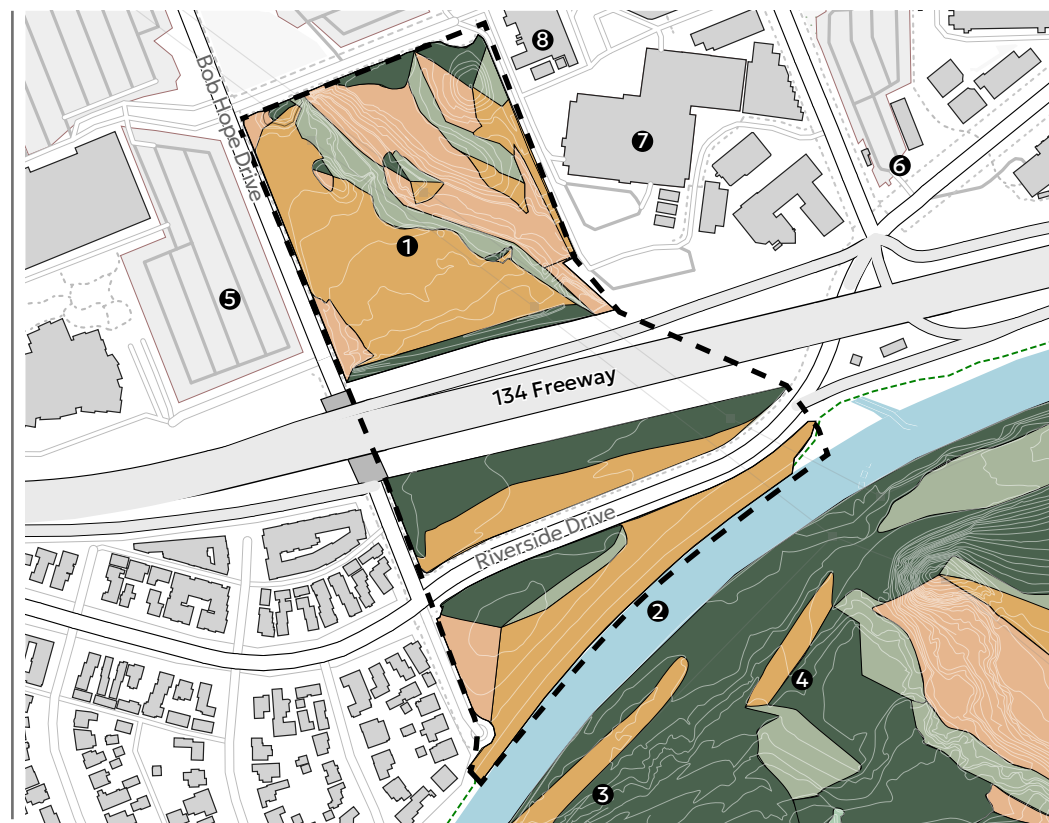
Southern facing slopes and full sun conditions create hotter, drier microclimates that reduce shaded areas and moist habitat for wildlife. This reduces wildlife diversity within the park.

The site is affected by Santa Ana winds, which are hot, dry, down-slope winds that sweep across Southern California. These winds cause significant disruption to animals, particularly when intensified by urban structures. In areas of tall buildings, wind velocities can be enhanced, creating dangerous “canyon effects” that increase turbulence and force. These conditions cause direct mortality, habitat destruction, and significant behavioral changes in wildlife.

CONTOURS



SLOPES



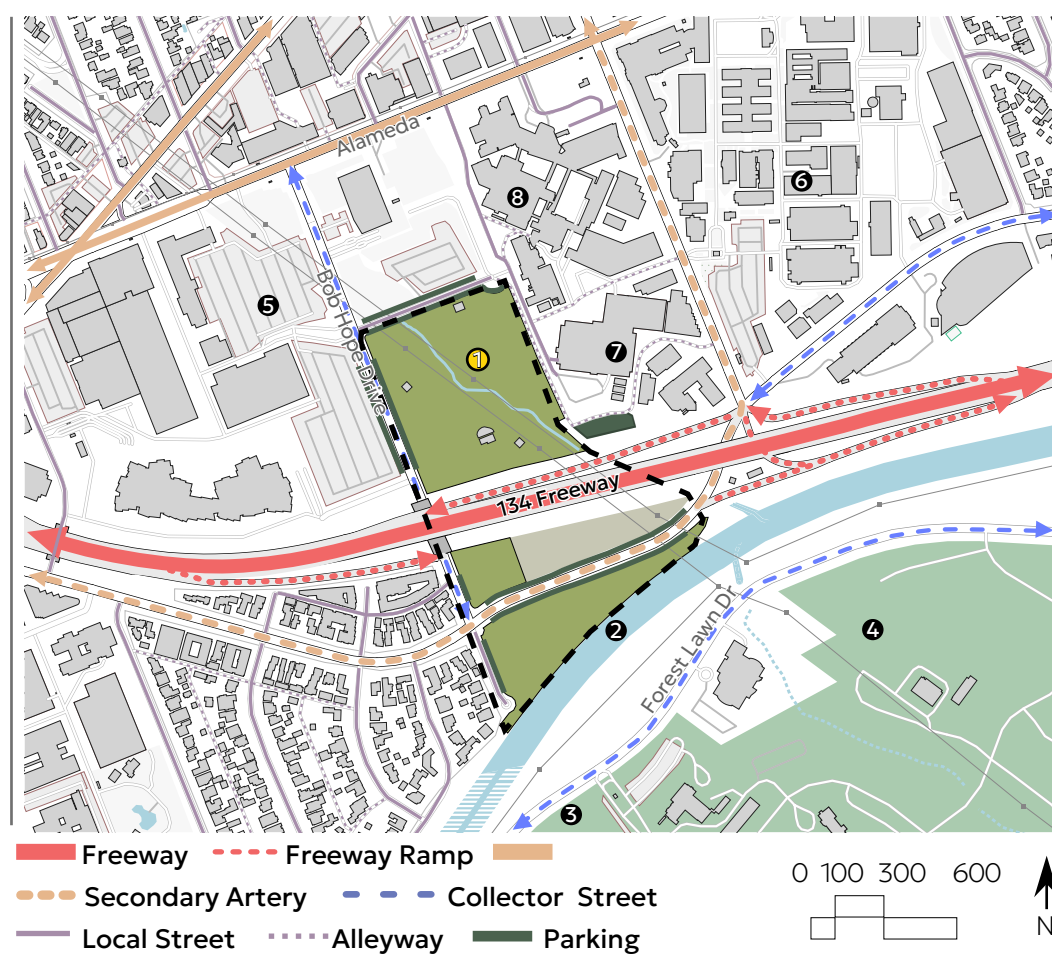
Site Legend

- ① Johnny Carson Park
- ② LA River
- ③ Griffith Park
- ④ Forest Lawn Cemetery
- ⑤ Burbank Studios
- ⑥ Disney Studios
- ⑦ Providence High School
- ⑧ Providence St. Joseph Hospital

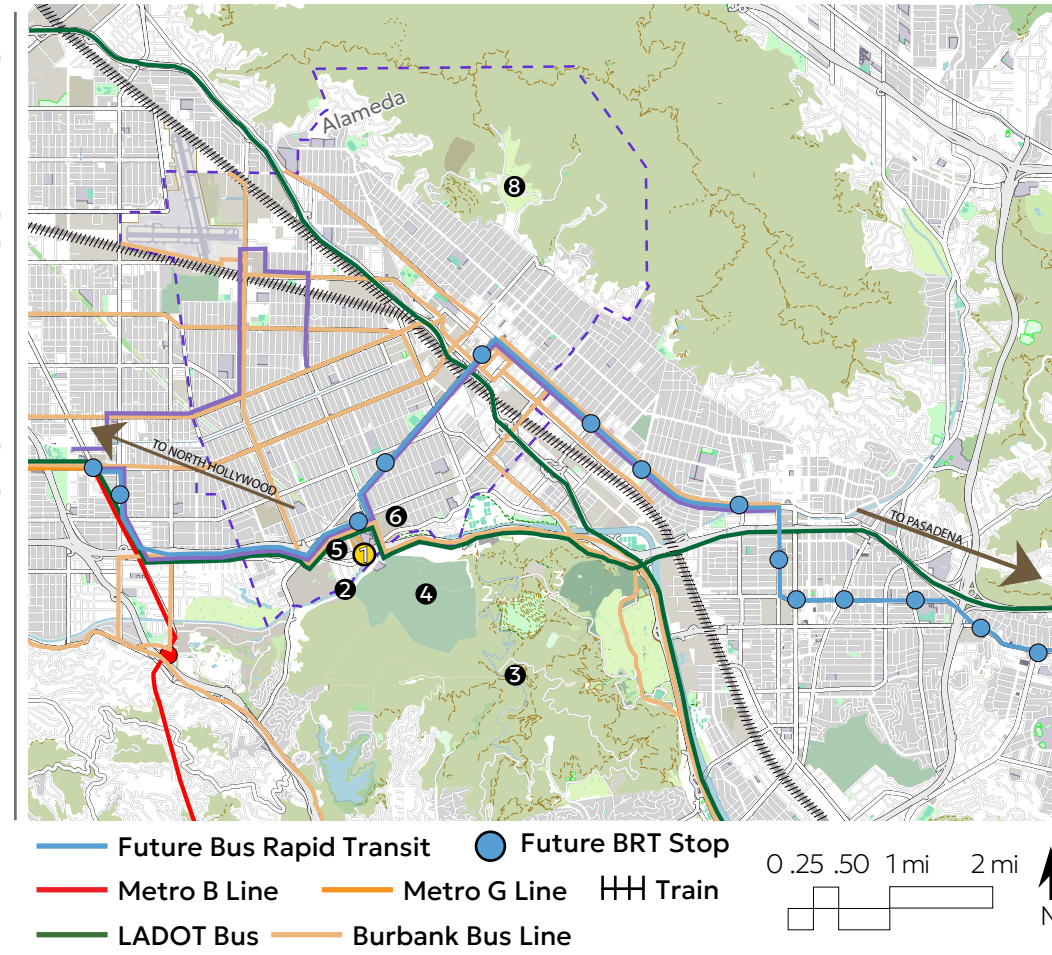
NOISE & VIEWS



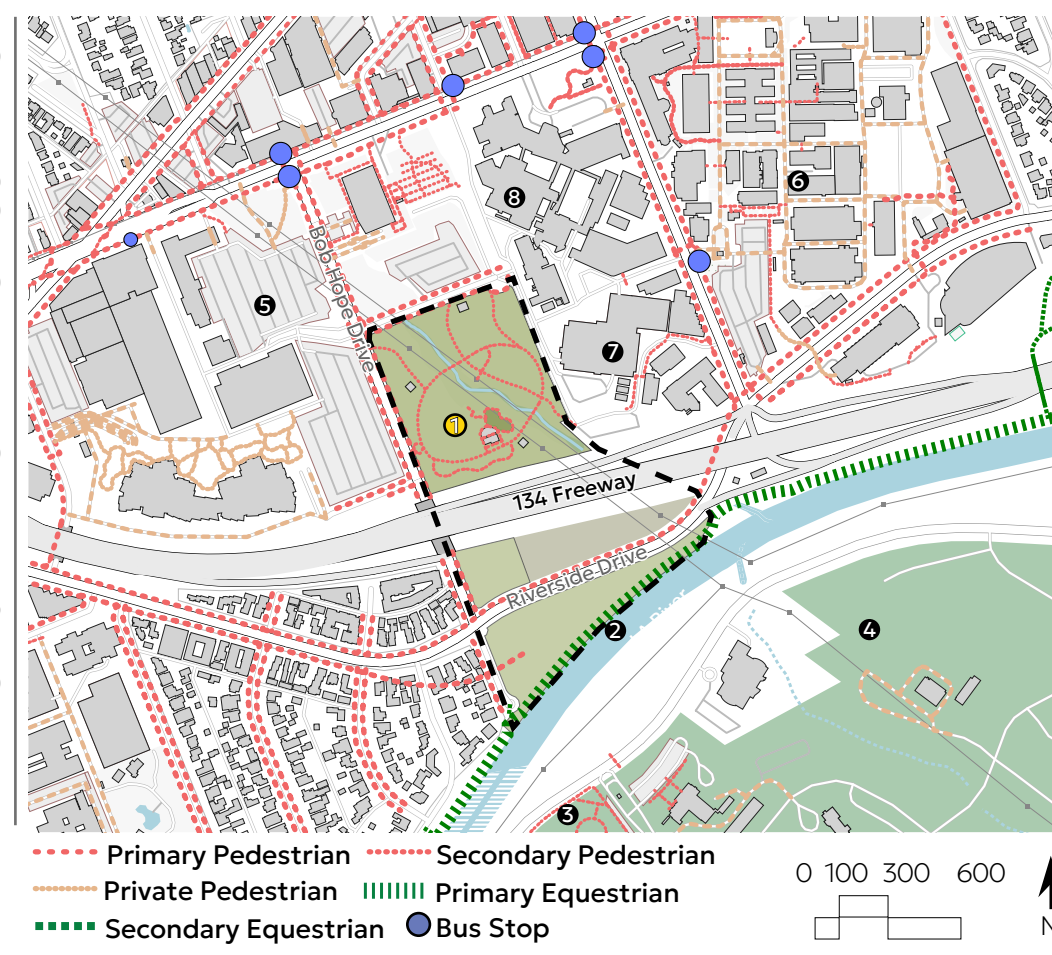
AUTOMOBILE CIRCULATION



REGIONAL MASS TRANSIT



TRANSIT & PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION



USER EXPERIENCE

Elevated urban noise, primarily from traffic and human activity, acts as a severe pollutant that disrupts wildlife by causing chronic stress, hearing loss, and habitat abandonment. It masks essential communication, hinders foraging, and reduces reproductive success.

Parking is difficult to find and relatively ad hoc; users are forced to drive here, and when they arrive, parking is a challenge.

Public Transit to the park is available via local buses, though a future Bus Rapid Transit line will have a stop on Alameda, potentially bringing in more users. There is minimal bike infrastructure to connect the site to the urban fabric via non-vehicular means.

The road network effectively prevents any migration of animals through the urban matrix due to noise, pollution, lack of food and shelter, and car strikes.

Site Legend

- ① Johnny Carson Park
- ② LA River
- ③ Griffith Park
- ④ Forest Lawn Cemetery
- ⑤ Burbank Studios
- ⑥ Disney Studios
- ⑦ Providence High School
- ⑧ Providence St. Joseph Hospital



EXISTING TREE CANOPY

Johnny Carson Park has a decent amount of existing trees on site that provide shade for community members on hot days.

It also has a sizeable amount of native plantings thanks to the existing Oak trees, Sycamores, and installed riparian trees. These plants are vital towards supporting the ecosystem since many of the trees are larval host plants for insects; these insects form the basis of the trophic pyramid for all wildlife.

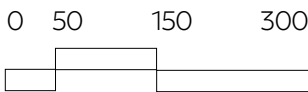
The trees also provide critical habitat for animals; squirrels forage within oak trees while small mammals like mice use trees to escape predators as well as to build their homes out of. The presence of these smaller mammals provides food for larger apex predators.

Canopy Legend

- Native Trees
- Non-Native Trees

Site Legend

- 1 Johnny Carson Park
- 2 LA River
- 3 Griffith Park
- 4 Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 5 Burbank Studios
- 6 Disney Studios
- 7 Providence High School
- 8 Providence St. Joseph Hospital



DECIDUOUS TREES



FLOWERING TREES

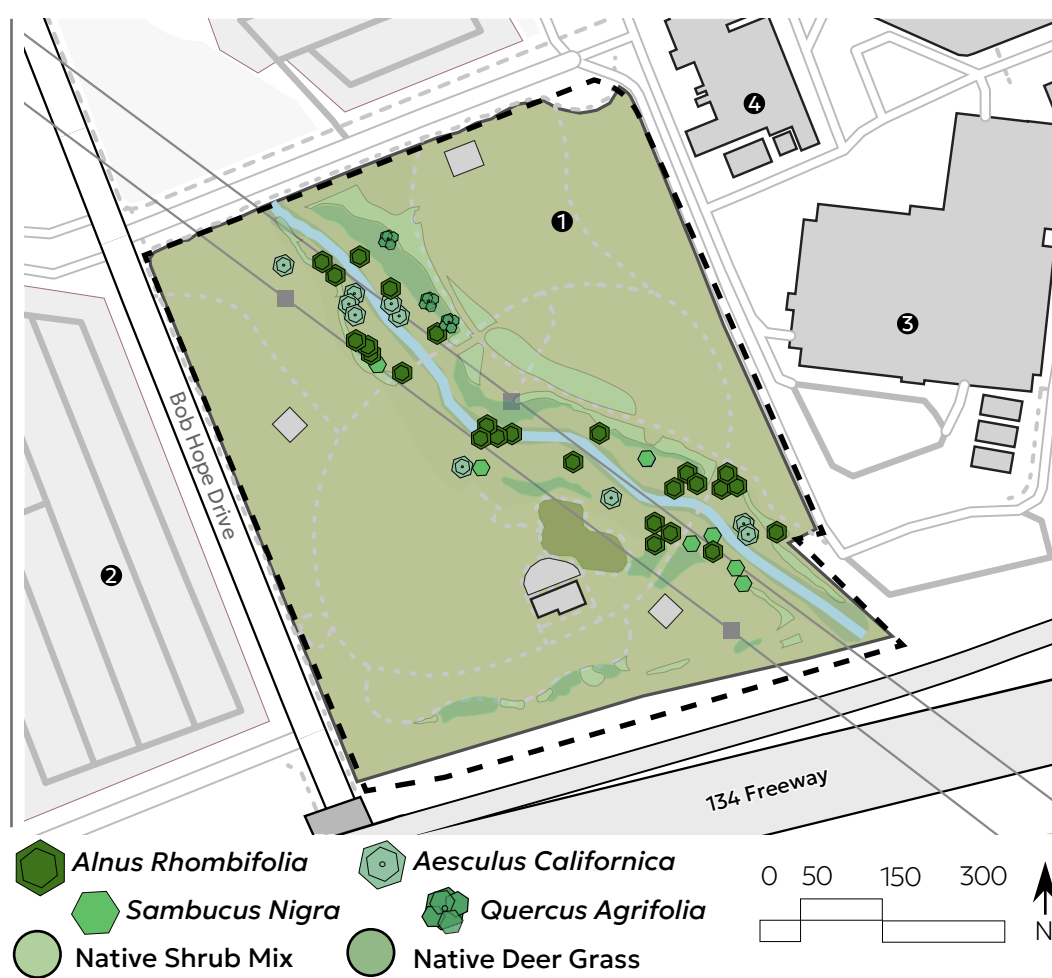


TREE INVENTORY

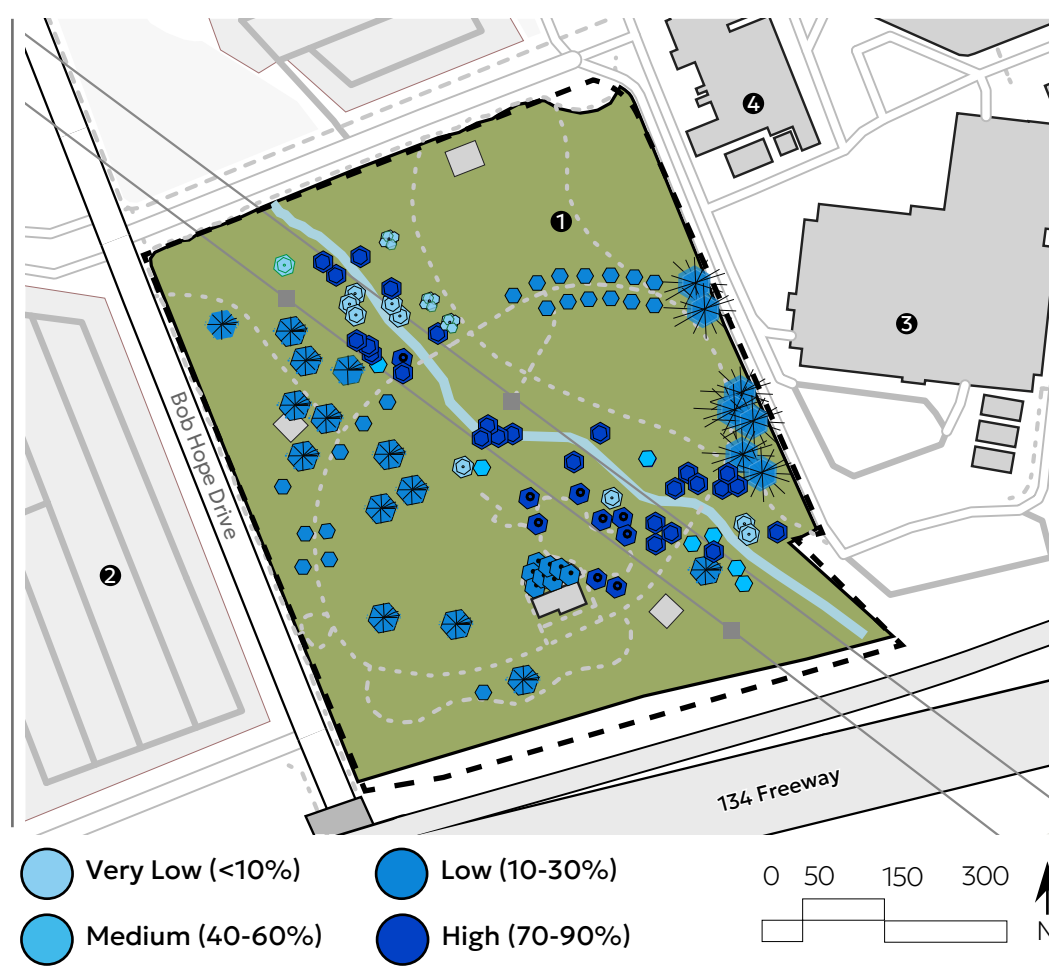
The existing tree palette on site provides a diverse mix of deciduous and evergreen specimens, as well as summer deciduous variety, ensuring some shade cover during early heat waves. The mix of flowering and non flowering varieties offers a diverse canopy as well as varied habitat and food sources for the park animals.

The daylighting of the Tujunga Wash in the 2016 redesign provides a natural setting for the installed riparian species and further diversifies the wildlife that is able to call the park home.

NATIVE TREES



TREES BY WUCOLS PLANT FACTOR



Site Legend

- ① Johnny Carson Park
- ② Burbank Studios
- ③ Providence High School
- ④ Providence St. Joseph Hospital



Sceloporus occidentalis



Elgaria multicarinata



Pituophis catenifer
catenifer



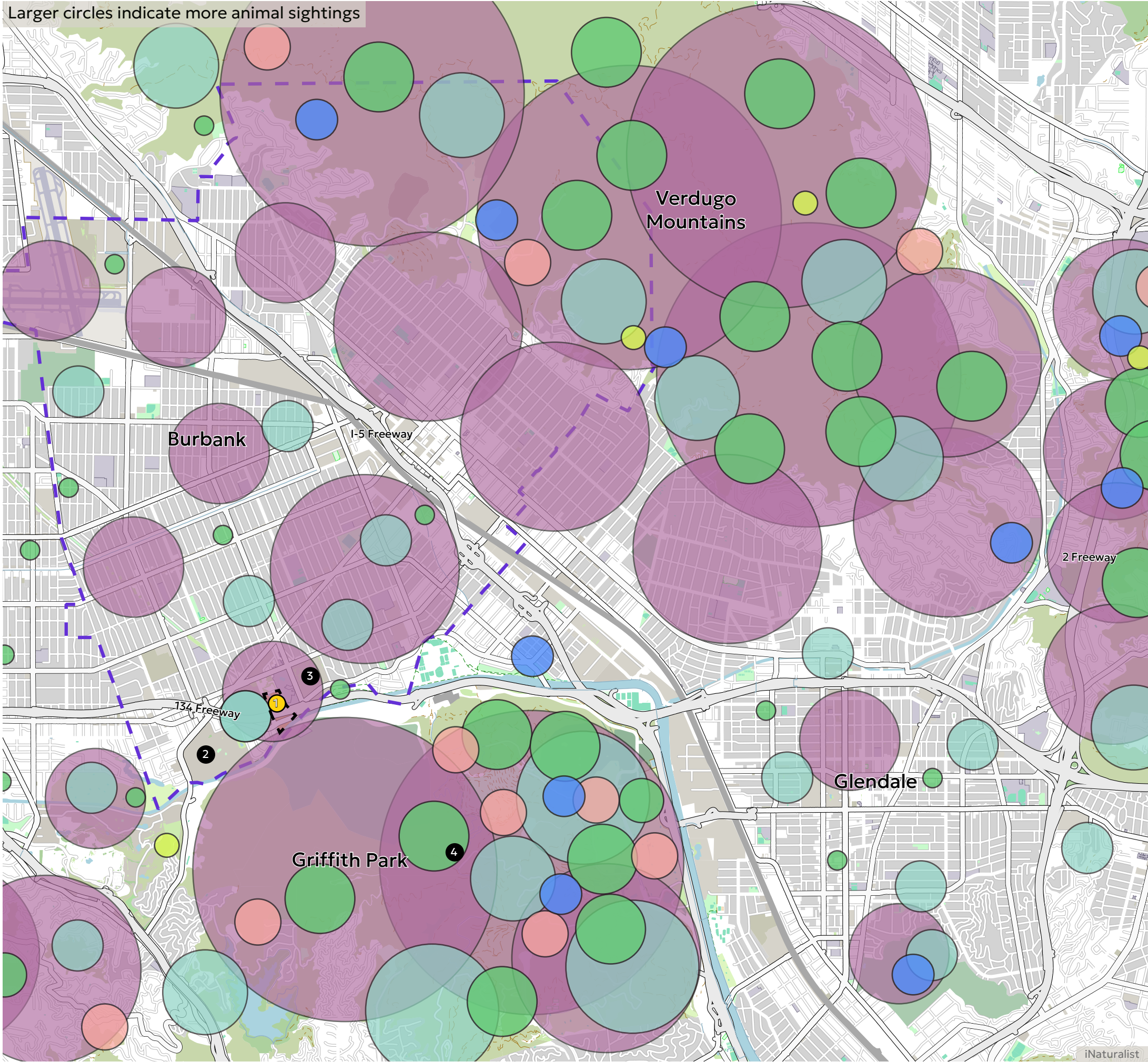
Lampropeltis
californiae



Plestiodon skiltonianus



Actinemys marmorata



REPTILE SIGHTINGS

Reptiles play an important role in the ecosystems of Los Angeles by helping regulate insect and rodent populations while serving as prey for birds, mammals, and larger predators.

Species such as fence lizards, alligator lizards, skinks, and native snakes are well adapted to Southern California’s climate and can persist in parks, river corridors, and foothill environments.

Reptiles rely on rocks for sun exposure, shrubs for shelter, and moist soil near water. Their presence often indicates that habitat structure and ecological processes are still functioning within the urban environment.

The absence of the Southwestern Pond Turtle reflects limited wetland and riparian habitat conditions along the Los Angeles River and the wider L.A. area. Highlighting the need for restored infiltration landscapes and constructed wetlands.

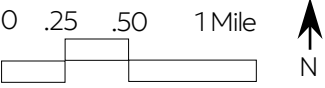
Reptiles need habitat corridors to move safely between food, shelter, and breeding areas, especially in urban environments where habitat is fragmented.

Reptile Legend

- Western Fence Lizard
- Southern Alligator Lizard
- Gopher Snake
- California King Snake
- Western Skink
- Southwestern Pond Turtle

Site Legend

- Burbank City Limit
- Johnny Carson Park
- Warner Brothers Studios
- Disney Studios
- Griffith Park





Pseudacris regilla



Anaxyrus boreas halophilus



Batrachoseps nigriventris



Batrachoseps nigriventris

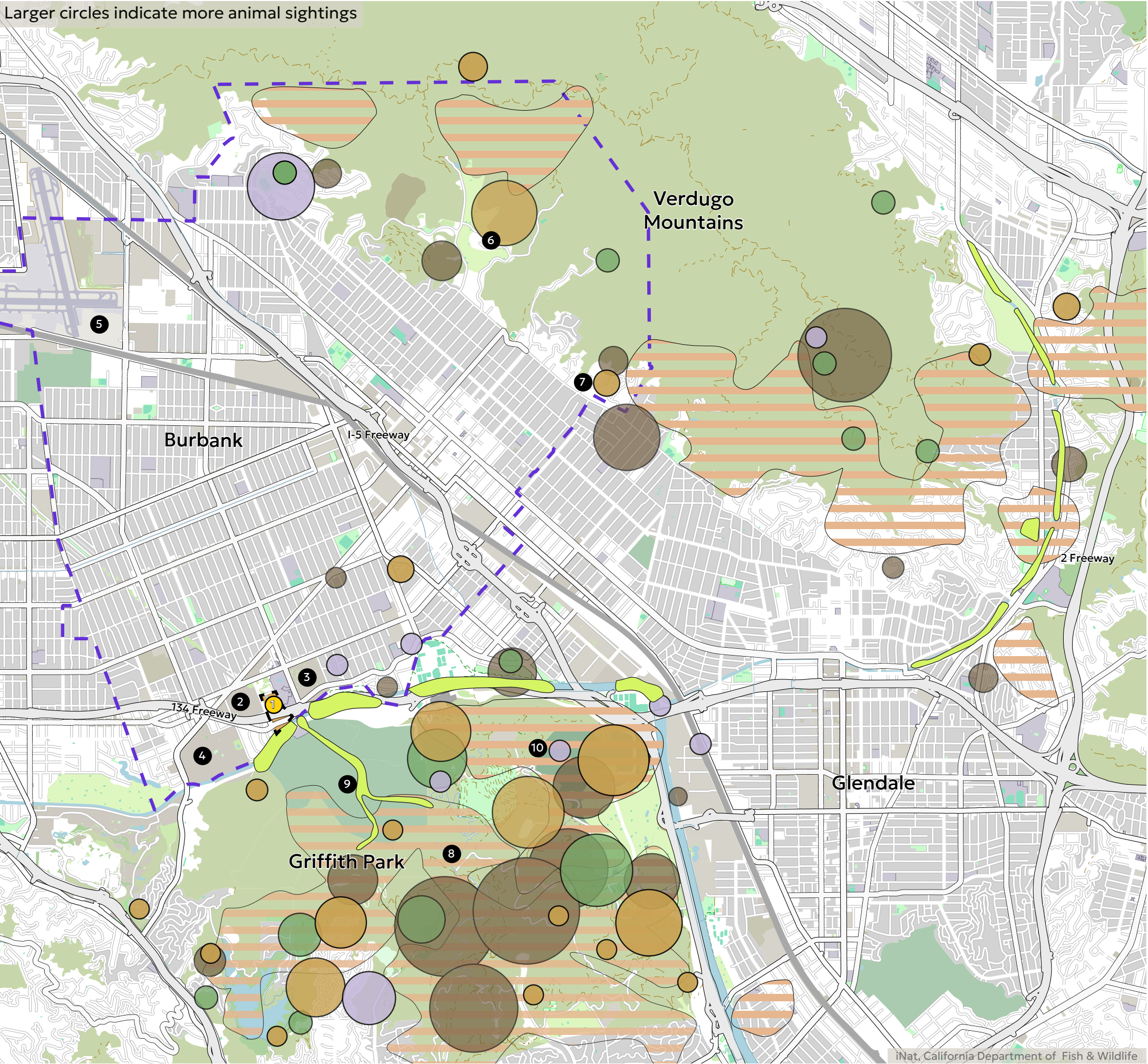


Rana draytonii
(Federally Threatened)



Anaxyrus californicus
(Federally endangered)

Larger circles indicate more animal sightings



AMPHIBIAN SIGHTINGS

Amphibians are indicator species whose presence in a riparian ecosystem demonstrate its health, or lack thereof. Typically found in areas of moisture from the duff under chaparral, slow moving creeks, to ponds and puddles, amphibians occupy a range of riparian spaces. They are keystone species that regulate insect populations while acting as prey for mammals, birds and fish. The presence of amphibians indicate clean water with low sediment and a variety of healthy riparian conditions, like slow moving water, low water temps, shallow puddles and uncompacted soils.

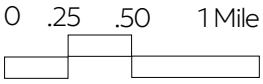
The Arroyo Toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) and the California Red Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) are extirpated in the Los Angeles region despite being historically present. Their predicted range is highlighted on this map.

Amphibian Legend

- Pseudacris regilla*
- Anaxyrus boreas halophilus*
- Batrachoseps nigriventris*
- Batrachosteps major*
- Rana draytonii* predicted range
- Anaxyrus californicus* predicted range

Site Legend

- Burbank City Limit
- Johnny Carson Park
- Burbank Studios
- Disney Studios
- Warner Brothers Studios
- Burbank Airport
- Wildwood Park
- Brand Park
- Griffith Park
- Forest Lawn Cemetery
- LA Zoo





Puma concolor



Lynx rufus



Ursus americanus



Odocoileus hemionus

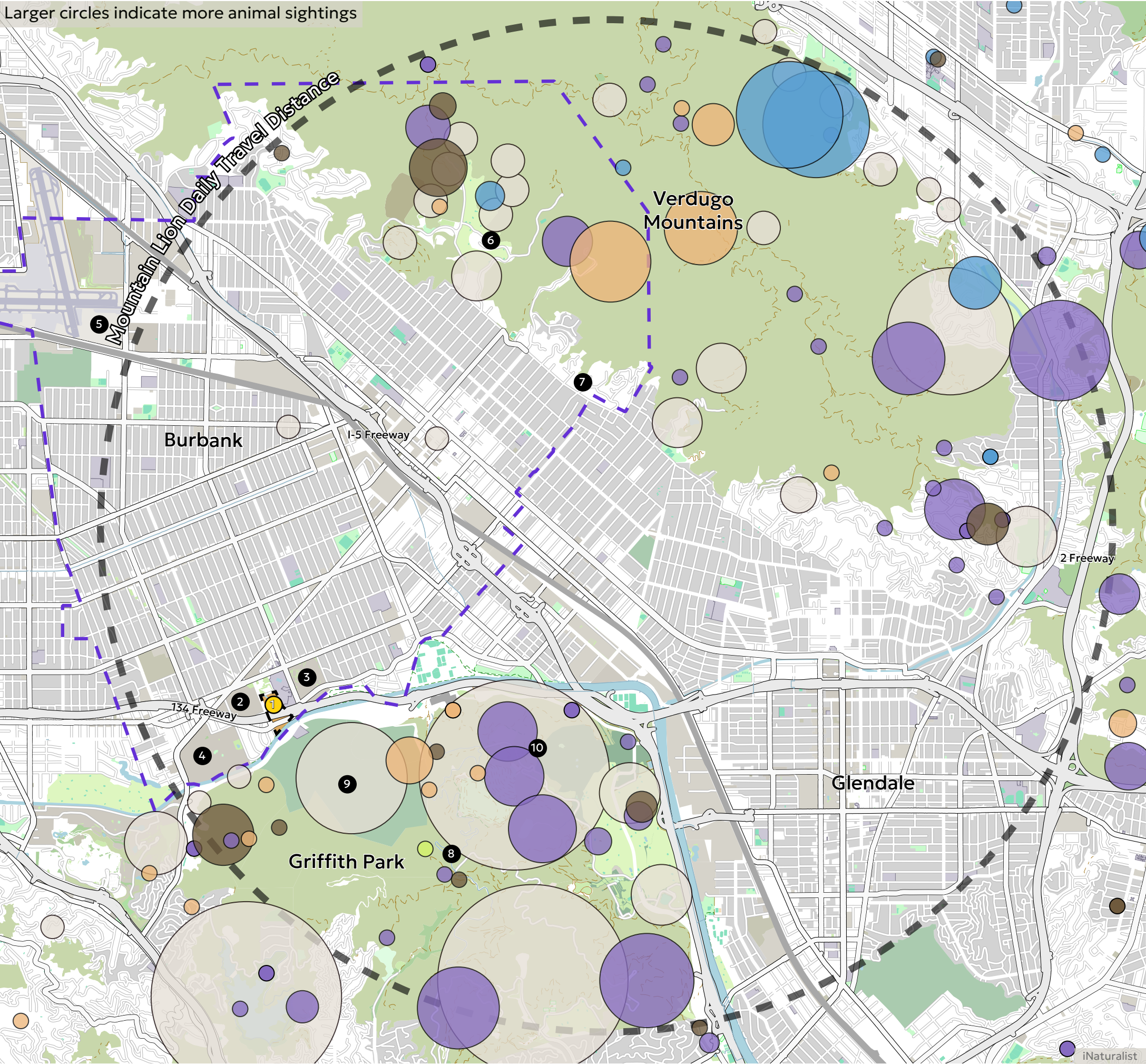


Urocyon cinereoargenteus



Parastrellus hesperus

Larger circles indicate more animal sightings



MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

Some of the top apex predators and ecologically significant mammals make their homes in the canyons and shrubs of Griffith park and the Verdugo mountains. They include the Mountain Lion and American Black Bear.

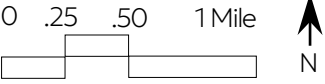
The urbanization of the area over the years has greatly reduced the ability of these native animals to move about safely to hunt prey and find mates. Mountain Lions in particular help move Mule Deer around to prevent the over grazing of vegetation, which in turn helps native plants to set deeper roots, helping to keep invasive species from gaining a foothold in the area. Native plants have been shown to burn less hot than invasive plants during wildfires, so it stands to reason a healthy mountain lion population would help to reduce the destructive nature of wildfires in the area.

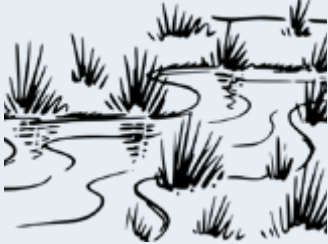
Mammal Legend

- Puma concolor*
- Lynx rufus*
- Ursus americanus*
- Odocoileus hemionus*
- Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
- Parastrellus hesperus*

Site Legend

- Burbank City Limit
- Johnny Carson Park
- Burbank Studios
- Disney Studios
- Warner Brothers Studios
- Burbank Airport
- Wildwood Park
- Brand Park
- Griffith Park
- Forest Lawn Cemetery
- LA Zoo



SPECIES	HABITAT	DIET	THREATS	MIGRATION
 Mountain Lion <i>(Puma concolor californicus)</i> Requires ample space for hunting prey like Mule Deer and small mammals.	 Chaparral and rocky areas.	 Primarily Mule Deer; if unavailable, small animals.	 Habitat fragmentation, genetic dilution, rodenticide, cars, sprawl	 Roams large tracts of land throughout the year.
 Northern Legless Lizard <i>(Anniella pulchra)</i> Requires undisturbed ground layers, native vegetation cover, minimal soil compaction	 Below leaf litter in loose soils.	 Insect, spider larvae, and small invertebrates.	 Habitat fragmentation, soil compaction, urban sprawl, pesticide use.	 Tens of meters in their life; will not cross roads or compacted soil.
 Southwestern Pond Turtle <i>(Actinemys pallida)</i> Requires clean freshwater with muddy or sandy bottoms, abundant aquatic vegetation, and upland nesting habitat.	 Slow-moving rivers, streams, marshes, and ponds with basking sites.	 Aquatic insects, tadpoles, small fish, carrion, and vegetation	 Habitat fragmentation, Bullfrog predation, urban run off, and pollution.	 Max a few hundred meters along waterways or to and from nests.
 California Red-Legged Frog <i>(Rana draytonii)</i> Requires slow moving pools of clean, freshwater with native vegetation and permanent water pools for tadpoles and offspring.	 Quiet pools, streams and marshes, occasionally ponds.	 Variable diet; aquatic and terrestrial insects, worms, snails, small mammals	 Habitat loss, Bullfrog predation, urban run off, and pollution.	 Little movement unless alongside stream side habitat.

SPECIES NEEDS & THREATS

All animals, whether mammals, reptiles or amphibians, require a unique set of conditions in order to survive and reproduce. In some cases, survival is dependent on continuous movement, whereas many smaller species only require small areas to live and do not disperse as part of their life cycle.

Mountain Lions are apex predators who require large areas to roam and hunt. They are apex predators, which means they sit at the top of the food chain. Any disturbances to the lower echelons of the food chain can decrease Mountain Lion populations. They are also vulnerable to biomagnification of pesticides and herbicides, as well as genetic dilution and inbreeding.

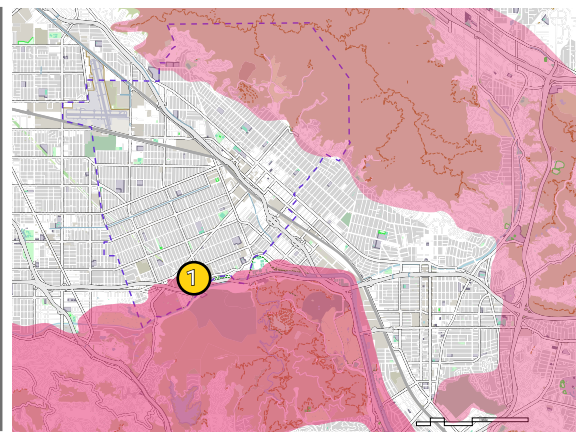
The Northern Legless Lizard requires undisturbed ground; it cannot live on, and will not even cross compacted soil or roads. Thus its needs are modest, but any disturbance to the ground itself results in significant habitat fragmentation. It is also vulnerable to pesticides and herbicides and habitat loss since it feeds on insects that thrive on native plants.

The Southwestern Pond Turtle is extirpated in Los Angeles; this is due to the loss of almost all the riparian habitat in the Los Angeles basin. It requires clean, freshwater, aquatic vegetation, and upland nesting sites. Its presence is an indicator of water quality.

The California Red-Legged Frog is similarly extirpated in Los Angeles. It requires clean freshwater with permanent water pools for its tadpoles to grow up into frogs. Amphibians are incredibly sensitive to pollution since their skin is permeable to the environment, unlike mammals. Any pollution in the waterway will easily enter its bloodstream and kill it.

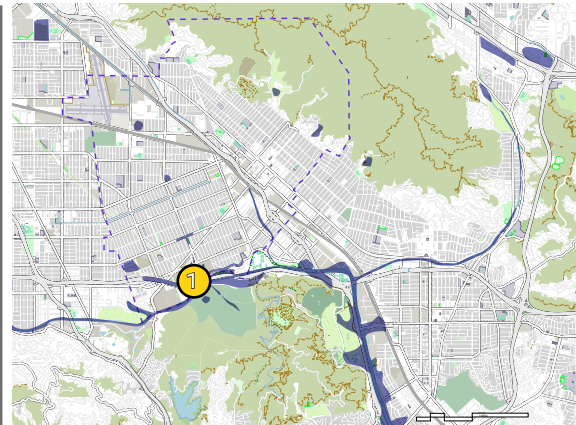
All animals listed are either federally threatened, federally endangered, or recognized as endangered or a species of concern by the State of California.

FIRE RISK MAP



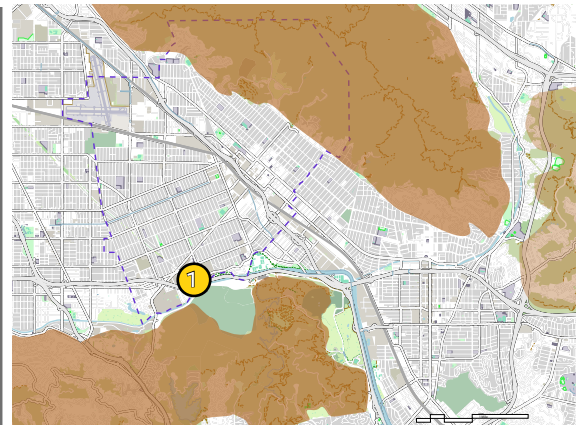
Moderate to high fire risk NTS

100 YEAR FLOOD



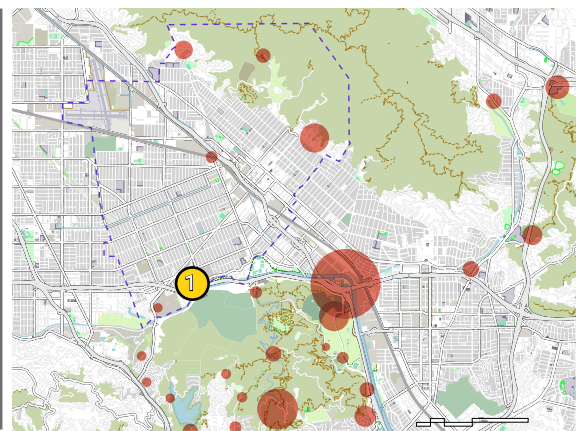
3' or higher flood waters NTS

LANDSLIDE ZONES



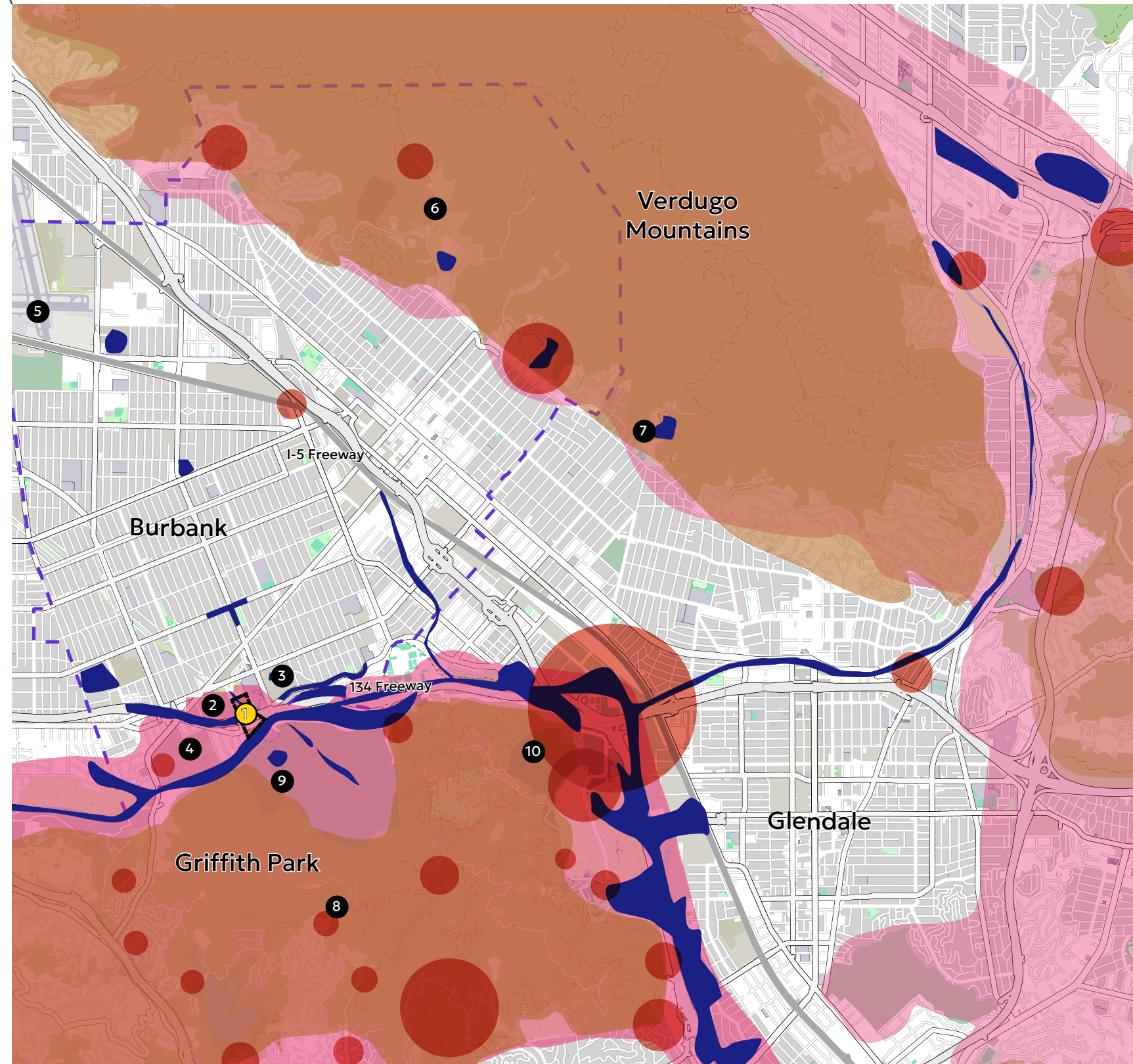
Landslide susceptibility NTS

ROADKILL MAP



Documented roadkills NTS

COMPOSITE WILDLIFE MORTALITY RISK



Moderate to high fire risk 3' or higher flood waters Landslide susceptibility Documented roadkills

Areas with more overlapping threats represent higher rates of animal mortality.

WILDLIFE MORTALITY ANALYSIS

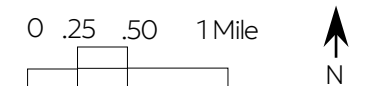
Wildlife has experienced a 40% drop since the 1970s. Animal populations in the Verdugos and Griffith Park face an elevated risk of localized extinction due to the myriad of threats that face them. Risks include fire, landslides and car traffic. Long term risks include genetic isolation and reduced reproductive vigor of local populations.

While this map makes the urban matrix appear relatively safe, with lower mortality composite scores, it actually is incredibly lethal. The urban matrix is so lethal that there are few if any sightings of most animals because they have died at the edges or been driven out. Thus, animals deaths do not appear since there are far fewer animals to begin with.

Thus, we realize, humans and the human environment are incredibly lethal to animals.

Site Legend

- Burbank City Limit
- 1 Johnny Carson Park
- 2 Burbank Studios
- 3 Disney Studios
- 4 Warner Brothers Studios
- 5 Burbank Airport
- 6 Wildwood Park
- 7 Brand Park
- 8 Griffith Park
- 9 Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 10 LA Zoo





SITE CONSTRAINTS

ECOLOGICAL DISCONNECT

The Park and the LA River are severely disconnected from the broader ecosystem, making it difficult for animals to utilize it.

- 1 Dead Riparian Zone
- 2 Few Native Plants
- 3 Poor habitat connectivity
- 4 No refuge for animals

UNFRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

For humans and animals, the park is uncomfortable with power lines, concrete rivers, streets and the heat island effect.

- 5 Power lines
- 6 Bifurcation
- 7 Channelized River
- 8 Noise from Hospital
- 9 Hot Southern Exposures

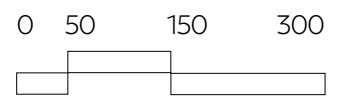
LIMITED HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

For the humans, the park can be difficult to get to, as well as hard to park at.

- 10 Lack of Presence
- 11 Limited Parking
- 12 Isolation from Users
- 13 Isolation from Griffith

Site Legend

- 1 Johnny Carson Park
- 2 LA River
- 3 Griffith Park
- 4 Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 5 Burbank Studios
- 6 Disney Studios
- 7 Providence High School
- 8 Providence St. Joseph Hospital





SITE OPPORTUNITIES

ECOLOGICAL RESTART

Restore the riparian and terrestrial corridors to maximize the ecological benefit to the native animals in the surrounding area.

- 1 Create riparian corridors
- 2 Native plant food web
- 3 Land bridges for animals
- 4 Create ecological patches

BEAUTIFY & AMPLIFY

Create ecological patches and connections while simultaneously creating art to remind humans we share the world with other living organisms, large and small.

- 5 Large scale public art
- 6 P-134 Habitat Highway
- 7 Dechannelize River
- 8 Acoustic Art and garden
- 9 Plant native shade trees

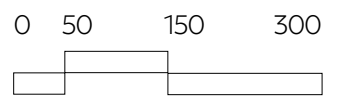
INCREASE CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

Reconnect Griffith Park & the Verdugos using the 134 and JC Park as nodes; enlarge park to urban edges to invite users in.

- 10 Extend park to context
- 11 Mass transit links
- 12 Improve Bike & Walking
- 13 Link JC to Griffith Park

Site Legend

- 1 Johnny Carson Park
- 2 LA River
- 3 Griffith Park
- 4 Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 5 Burbank Studios
- 6 Disney Studios
- 7 Providence High School
- 8 Providence St. Joseph Hospital



National Wildlife Federation Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing

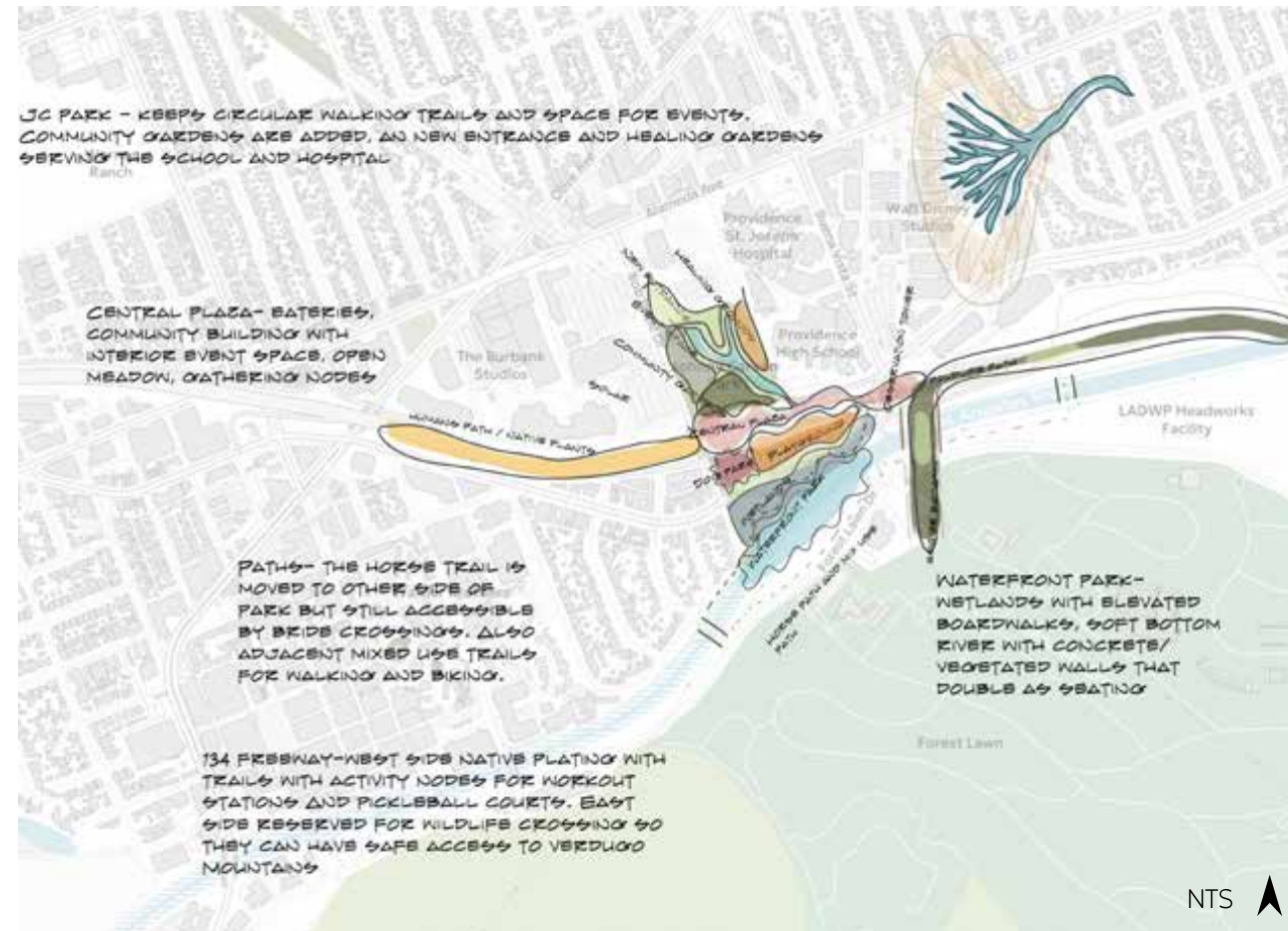
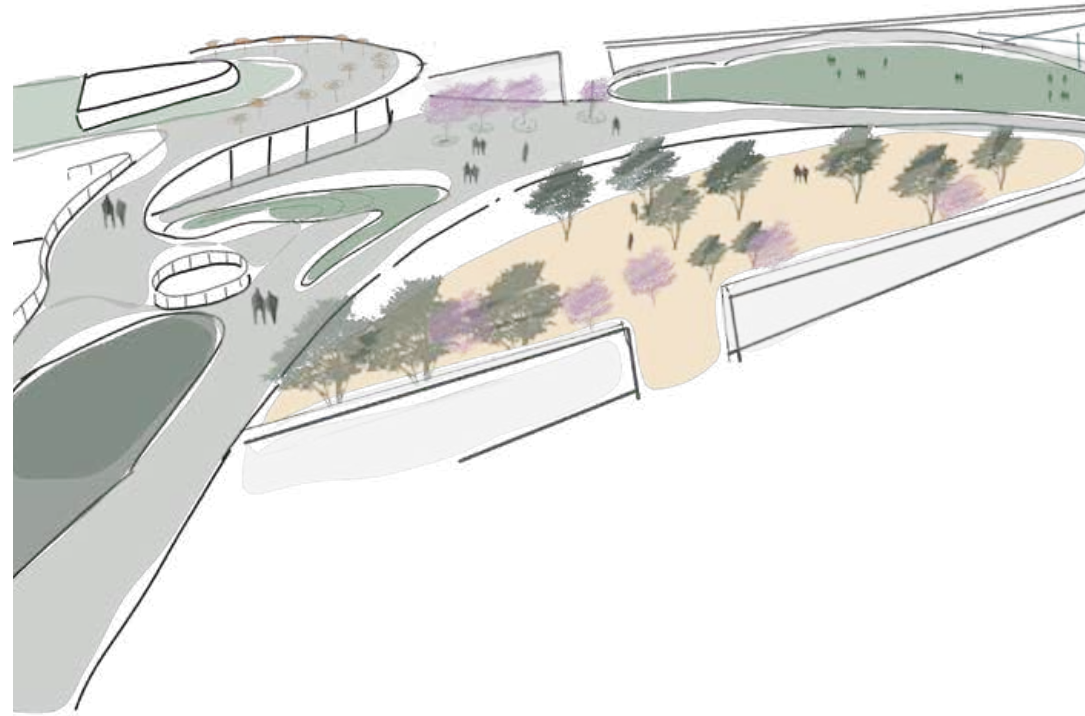


CASE STUDY

The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing reconnects habitat fragmented by the 101 Freeway by creating a vegetated bridge that allows wildlife to safely move between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills. By restoring native vegetation and minimizing human disturbance, the crossing supports species movement, genetic diversity, and long-term ecosystem health. This precedent influenced the design of Johnny Carson Park by demonstrating how infrastructure barriers can be transformed into wildlife corridors. Similarly, the decommissioned 134 Freeway corridor extends habitat connectivity between Griffith Park, the Verdugo Mountains, and the Angeles National Forest, creating safe passage for wildlife.



SOURCE: <https://livinghabitats.com/project/liberty-canyon-crossing/>



CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES

The Alluvial Fan

An alluvial fan occurs when water comes off a steep surface and encounters a flat area; slowing down, depositing soil, and spreading out.

Alluvial fans are rich spots of biodiversity due to their moisture, nutrients brought downhill from the mountains, and life giving water.

We reimagine Jonny Carson Park as a place where animals can slow down, feed and rest before moving on with their migrations.

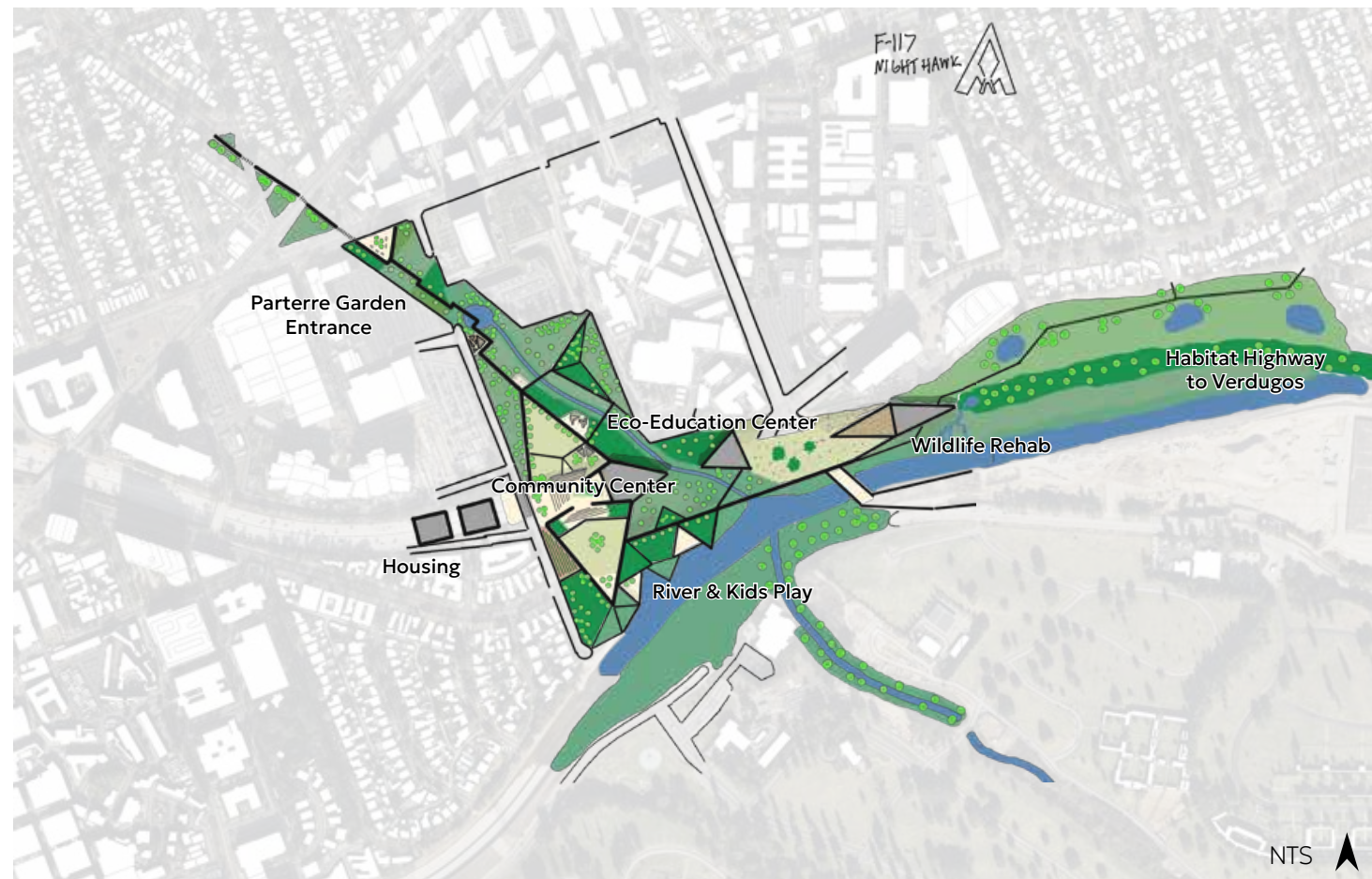
For humans, the park becomes a place where the pace of life slows, enriching the lives of the citizens of Burbank.

Nighthawk

The F117 was manufactured by Lockheed Martin in Burbank. Taking inspiration from its unique, radar evading form, we re-envision the park using the triangular shape as a form making device.

The 134 sports a Civic Center, Ecological Education Center, and an Wildlife Rehab Center placed on top of the berm.

Due to the angular nature of the inspiration, we utilize formal style parterre gardens with native plantings through much of the site.



Section of 134 Freeway looking North

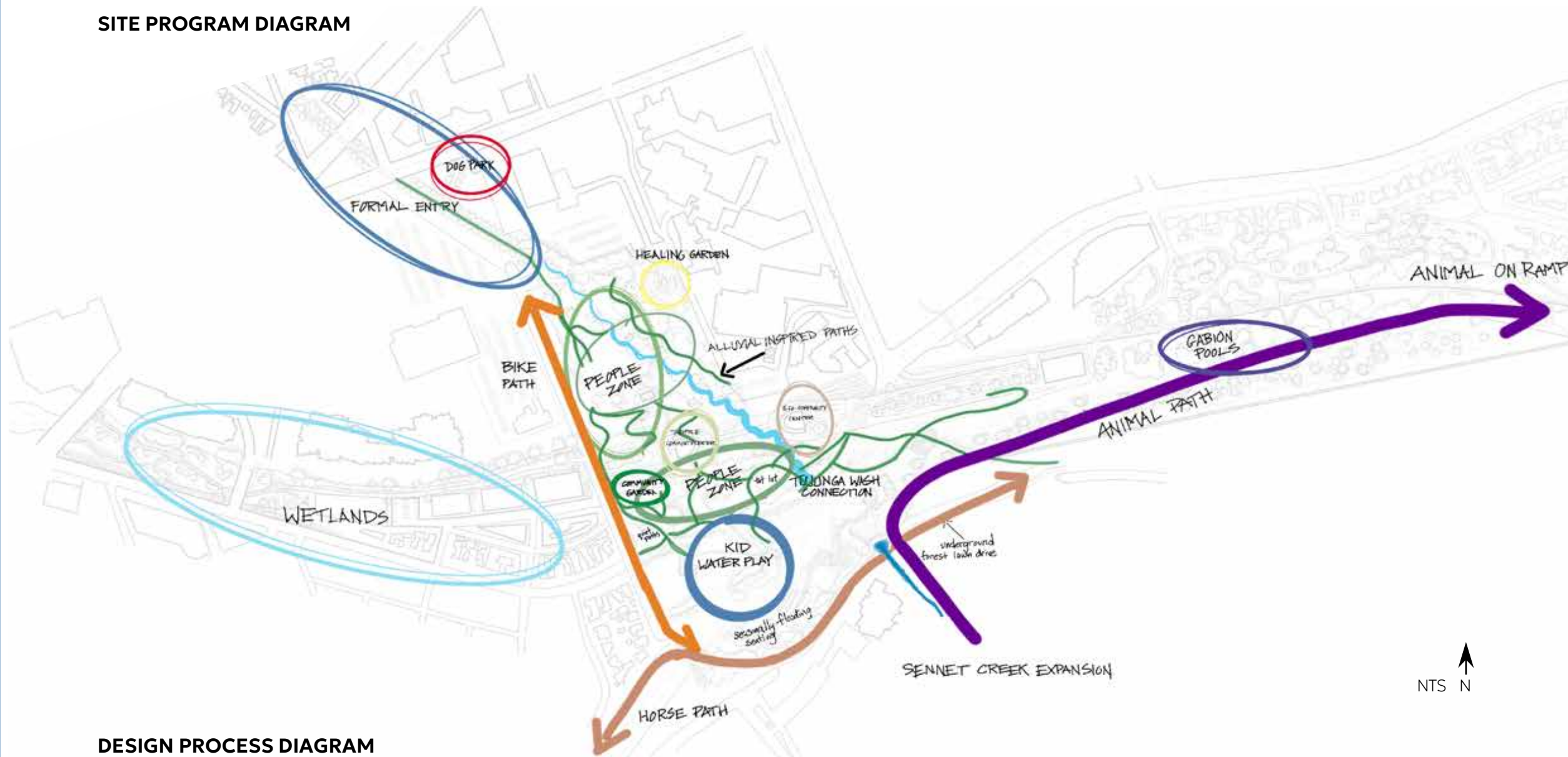


Section of 134 Freeway looking East.



Section of entry Boardwalk by Legacy, looking Northwest

SITE PROGRAM DIAGRAM



PREFERRED CONCEPT: THE ALLUVIAL FAN

Our preferred design concept was the Alluvial Fan. We feel it is more fitting with the overall idea of re-naturalizing the river.

We did borrow from our F117 alternative concept the idea of a formal entry. Our park design becomes significantly wilder the closer you get to the river.

To transition park users from the rigid city grid to the informal curves of our concept, we use a formal entry garden at Alameda Avenue. It is highly axial. Users are directed to an expansion of the Tujunga Wash by the Legacy Building.

From that point forward, users are guided to more and more natural sections of the garden, until ultimately they are in the re-naturalized channel.

We felt it was very important to separate all forms of circulation from one another. Not only are the horse paths separated from the bike and pedestrian paths, but we made sure that the path of animals do not cross at grade with pedestrian, bicycle, horse, or vehicular traffic.

This allows animals to have the fewest interactions with humans which will help them perceive the LA River as a safe space for them to cross up onto the Habitat Highway and travel to the Verdugos and beyond.

DESIGN PROCESS DIAGRAM



Group Bubble Diagram

Rough Circulation & Plant Material

Rough Park Concept

Rough Draft Site Plan

Johnny Carson Conservation Park Site Plan



Johnny Carson Conservation Park Site Plan



Stormwater
Wetlands

Whitenhall Residential
Connector

Wetlands
Boardwalk

Community
Center

Floodable
Amphitheater

Eco-Education
Center

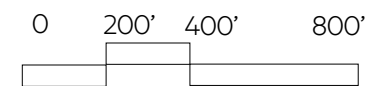
Sennett Creek
Habitat Corridor

Wildlife Rehab
Center

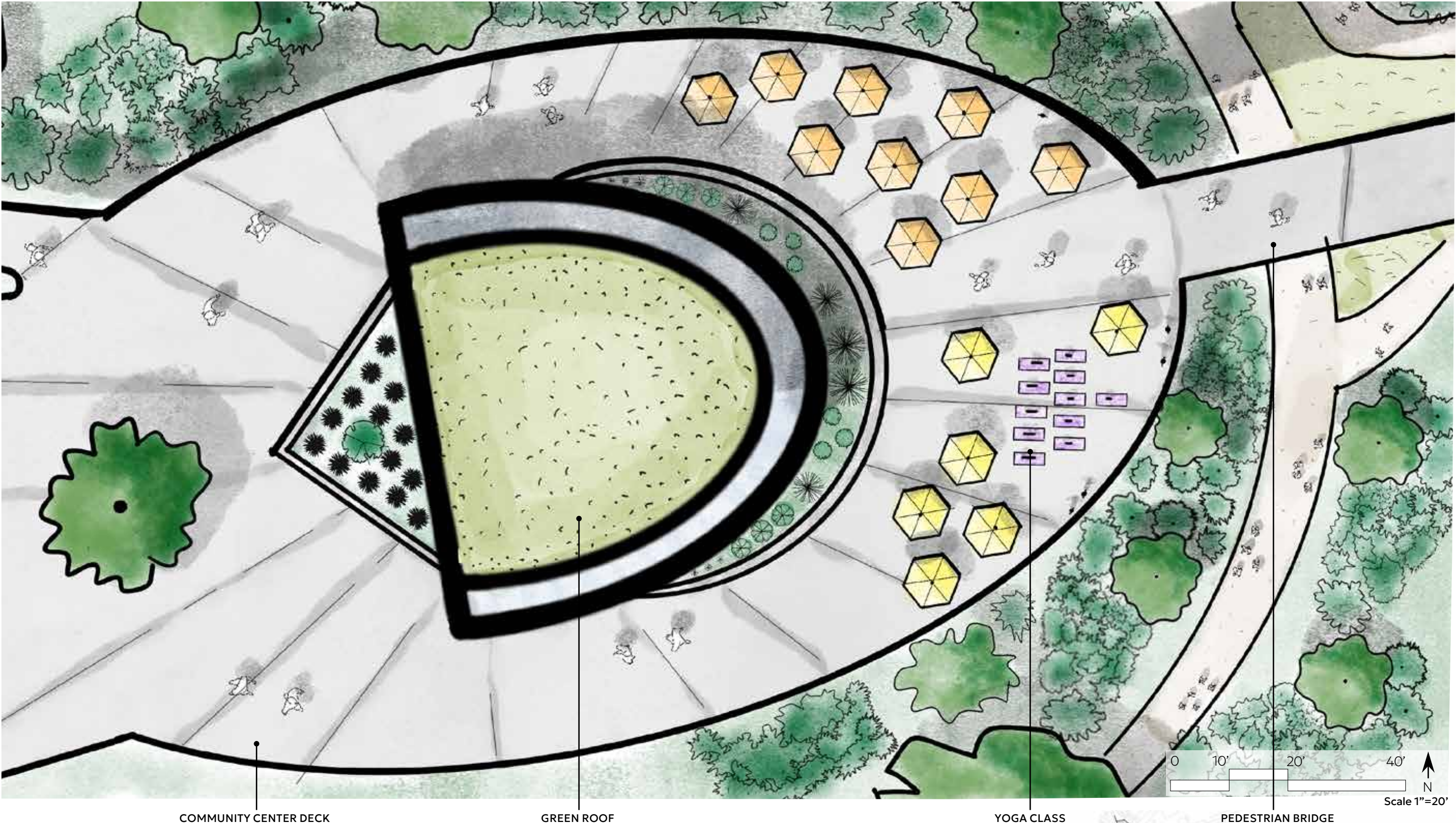
River Crossing
Eco-Islands

Habitat Highway to
Verdugos and Beyond

Affordable
Housing

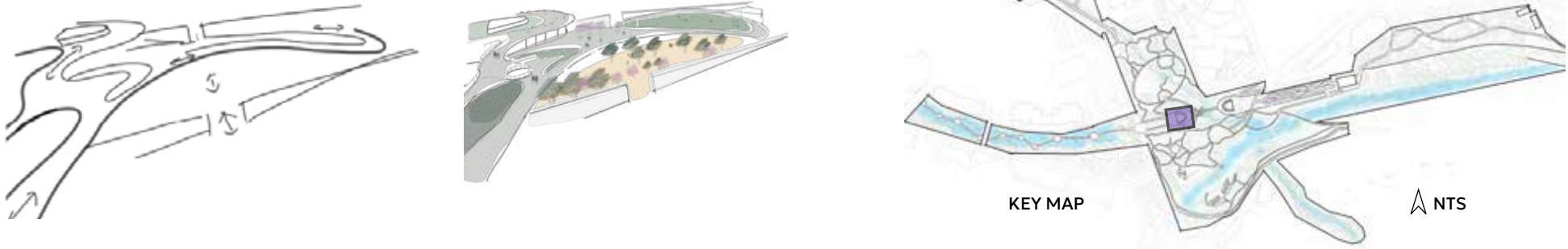


Community Center Enlargement

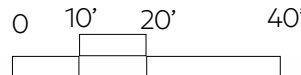
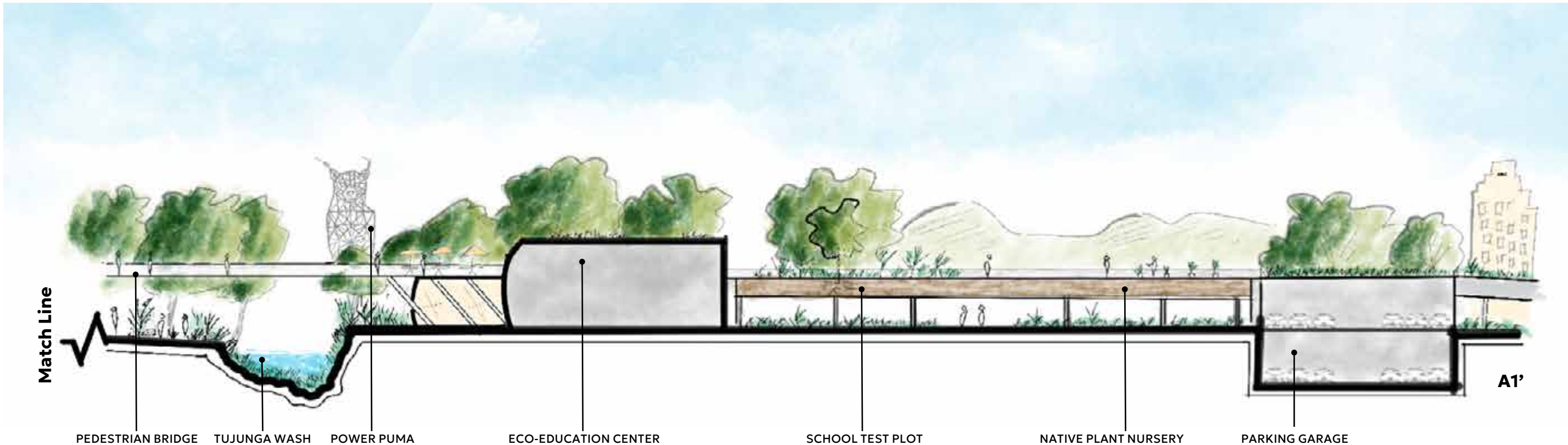


This area integrates native planting, shade trees, and layered vegetation to create habitat structure for birds, reptiles, and small mammals. The surrounding landscape provides shelter, food sources, and shaded microclimates that support wildlife moving through the park corridor.

PROCESS DRAWINGS

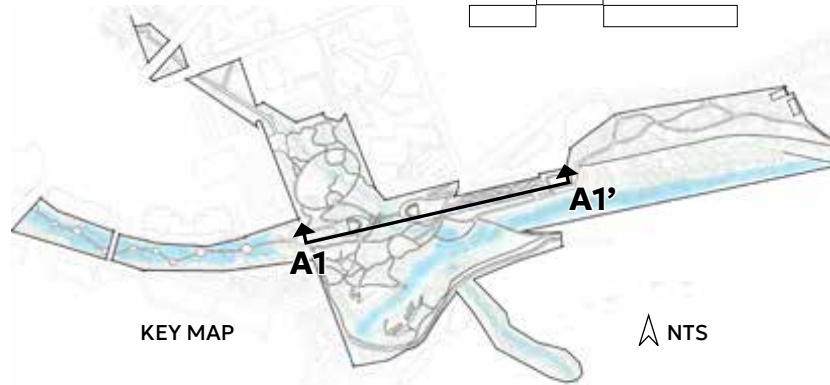
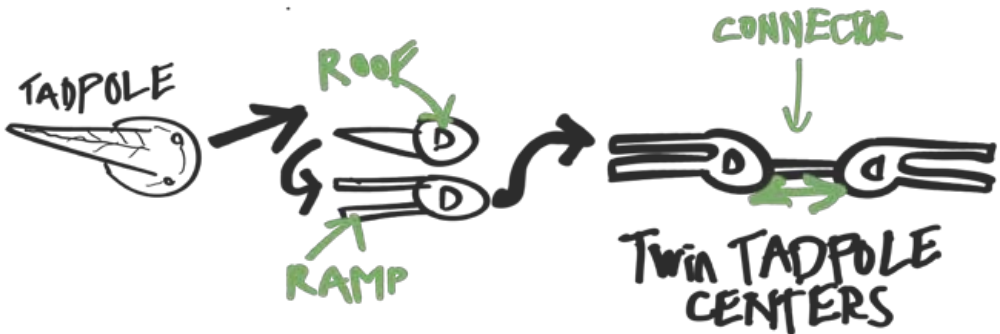


Site Section Looking North



This site section shows highlights the connection and transitions between the two community centers. Inspired by the form of a tadpole, the community center symbolizes ecological transformation and the relationship between land and water. This area creates opportunities for people to gather while supporting surrounding habitat and wildlife.

PROCESS DIAGRAMS



Community Center Perspective



The native shrubs, grasses, and trees surrounding the community center create a transition between human activity and wildlife habitat. These plantings provide cover, nesting areas, and food sources while allowing wildlife to move safely through the park.

FEATURED PLANTS



Baccharis pilularis
Coyote Brush



Eriogonum fasciculatum
California Buckwheat



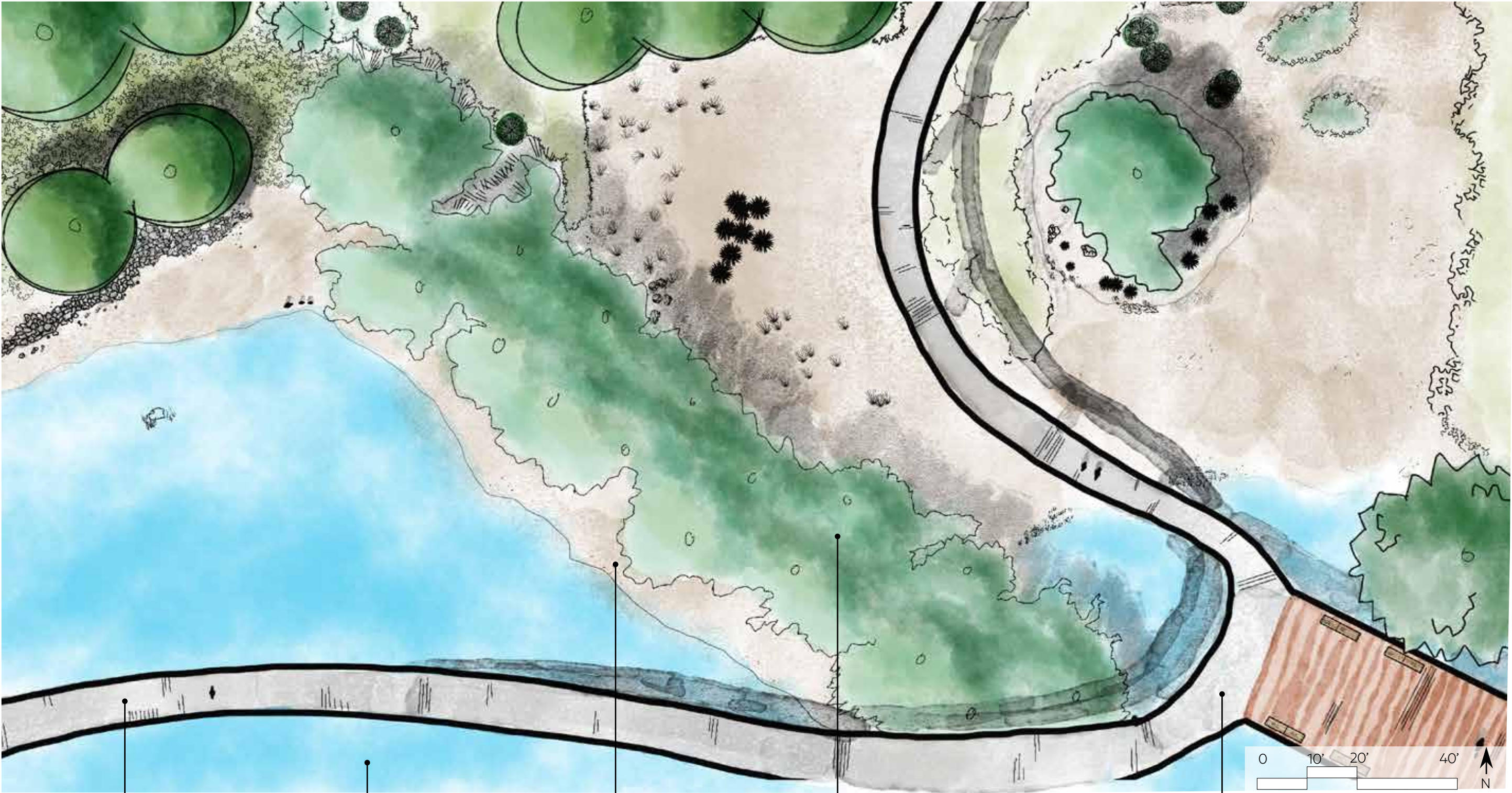
Festuca californica
California Fescue

Calscape

These native plants are Western Fence Lizard habitat



LA River Pedestrian Overlook Enlargement



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

SOFT BOTTOM LA RIVER

BERM

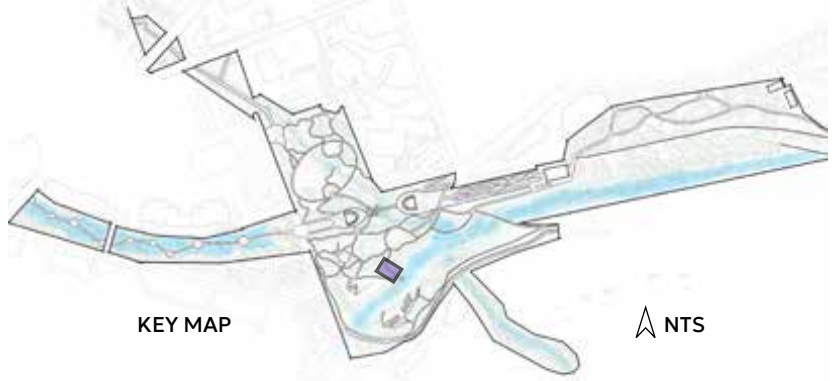
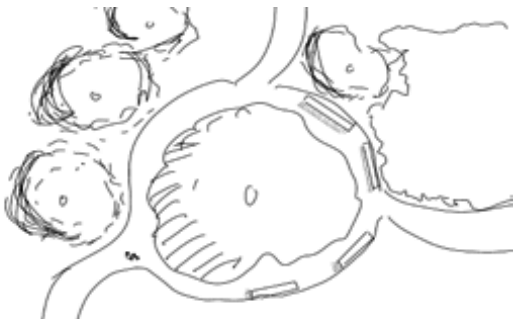
NATIVE PLANTINGS

LA RIVER OVERLOOK

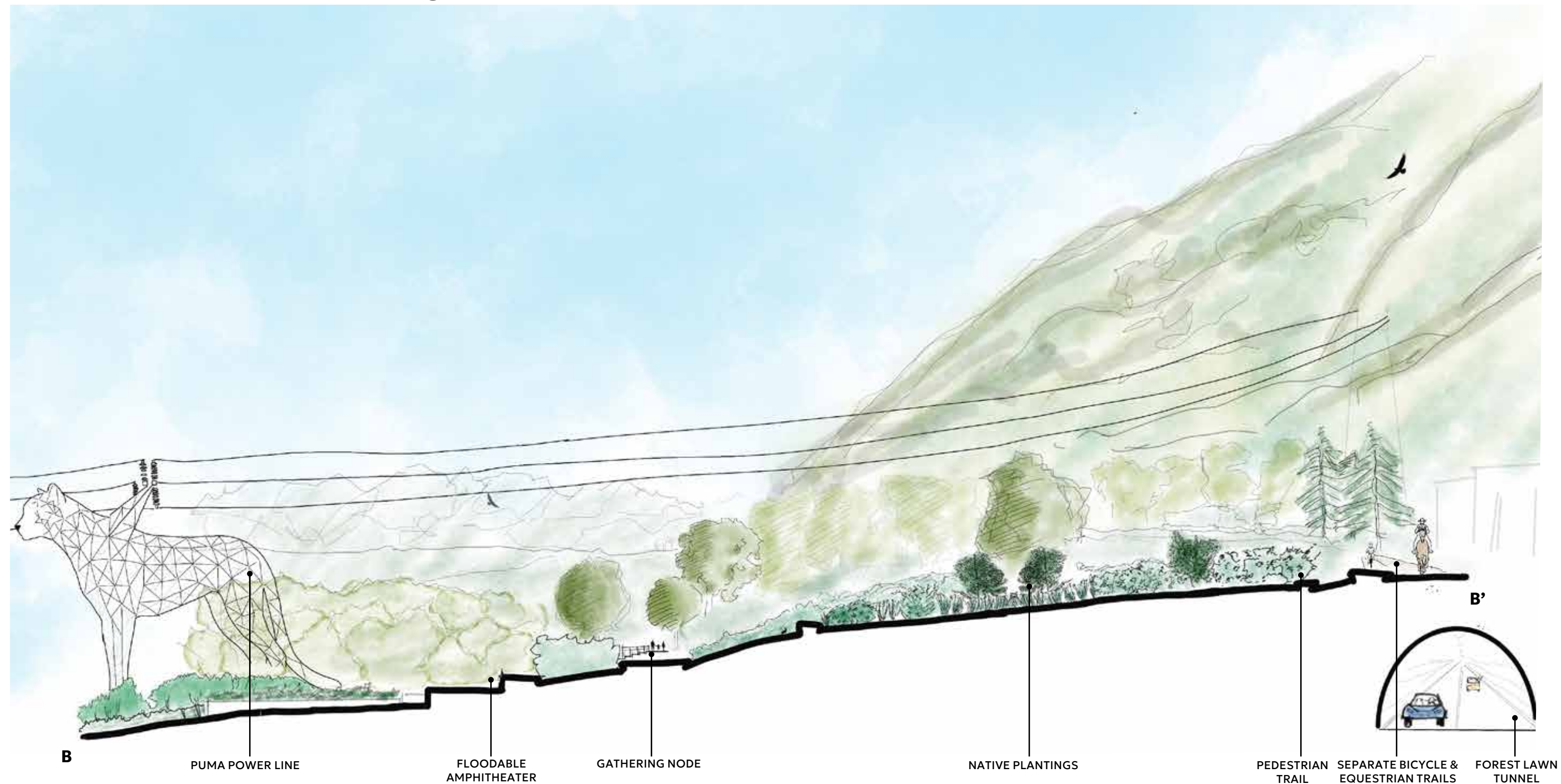
Scale 1"=20'

At the shore of the river an unscripted interactive kids play area brings water, tadpoles and frogs to the feet of the Los Angeles youth. High above, an elevated lookout gives a birds eye view of the enlarged Sennett Creek animal corridor and the LA river. Native riparian plantings create habitat for wildlife in the area.

PROCESS DRAWINGS

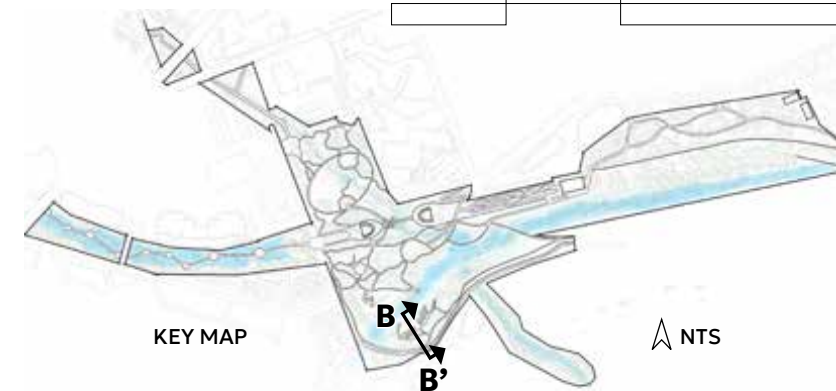
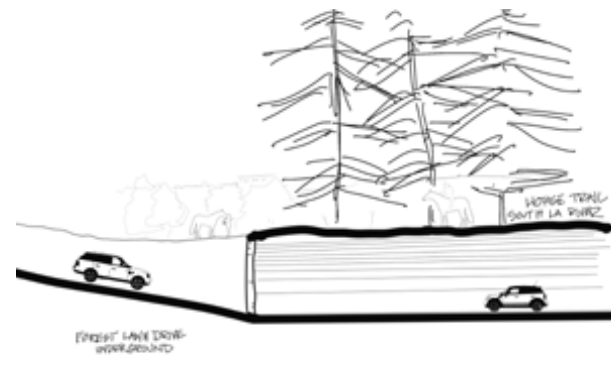
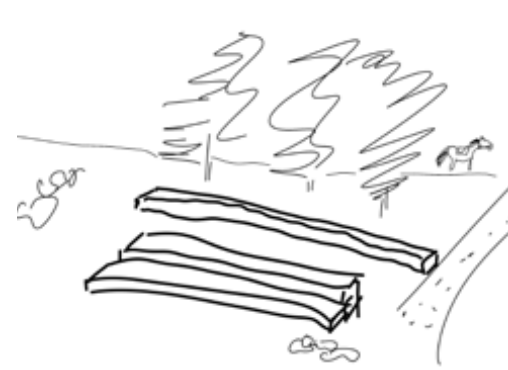


Forest Lawn Drive Section Looking East



The seasonally flooding amphitheater gives patrons an up close view of the power and nature shaping properties of the LA River. By undergrounding Forest Lawn Drive and moving the horse path to the south side of the river as well as adding a dedicated bike path we've separated the slow moving contemplative paths from the faster moving ones, all in the framework of native plantings.

PROCESS DRAWINGS



LA River Water Front Perspective

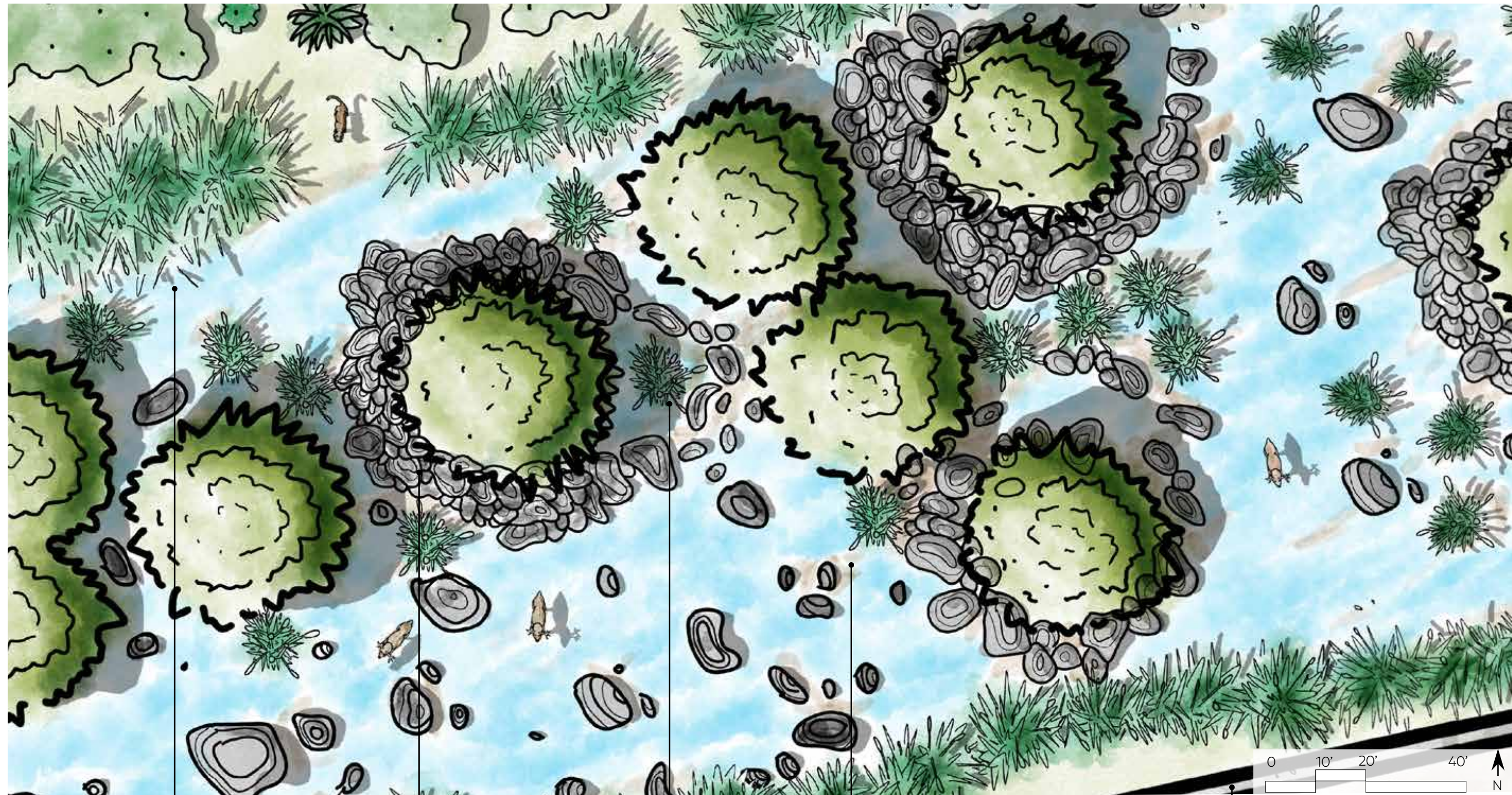


The restored riparian edge and native plants provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for wildlife along the LA River corridor. These landscapes help reconnect fragmented ecosystems and support species movement between Griffith park and the Verdugo Mountains.

PROCESS DRAWINGS



LA River Wildlife Islands Enlargement



LOW FLOW CHANNEL

RIVER CROSSING ECO-ISLAND

SLOW MOVING WATER FOR AMPHIBIANS

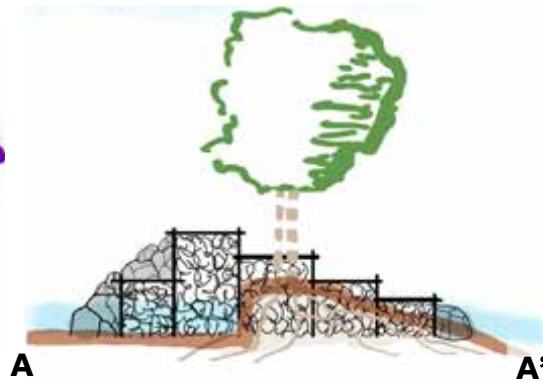
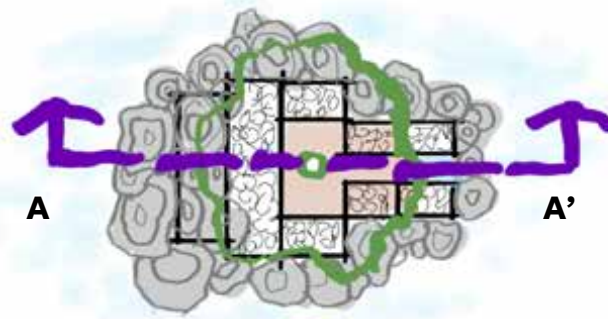
RIFFLE

HEADWORKS PARK RETAINING WALL

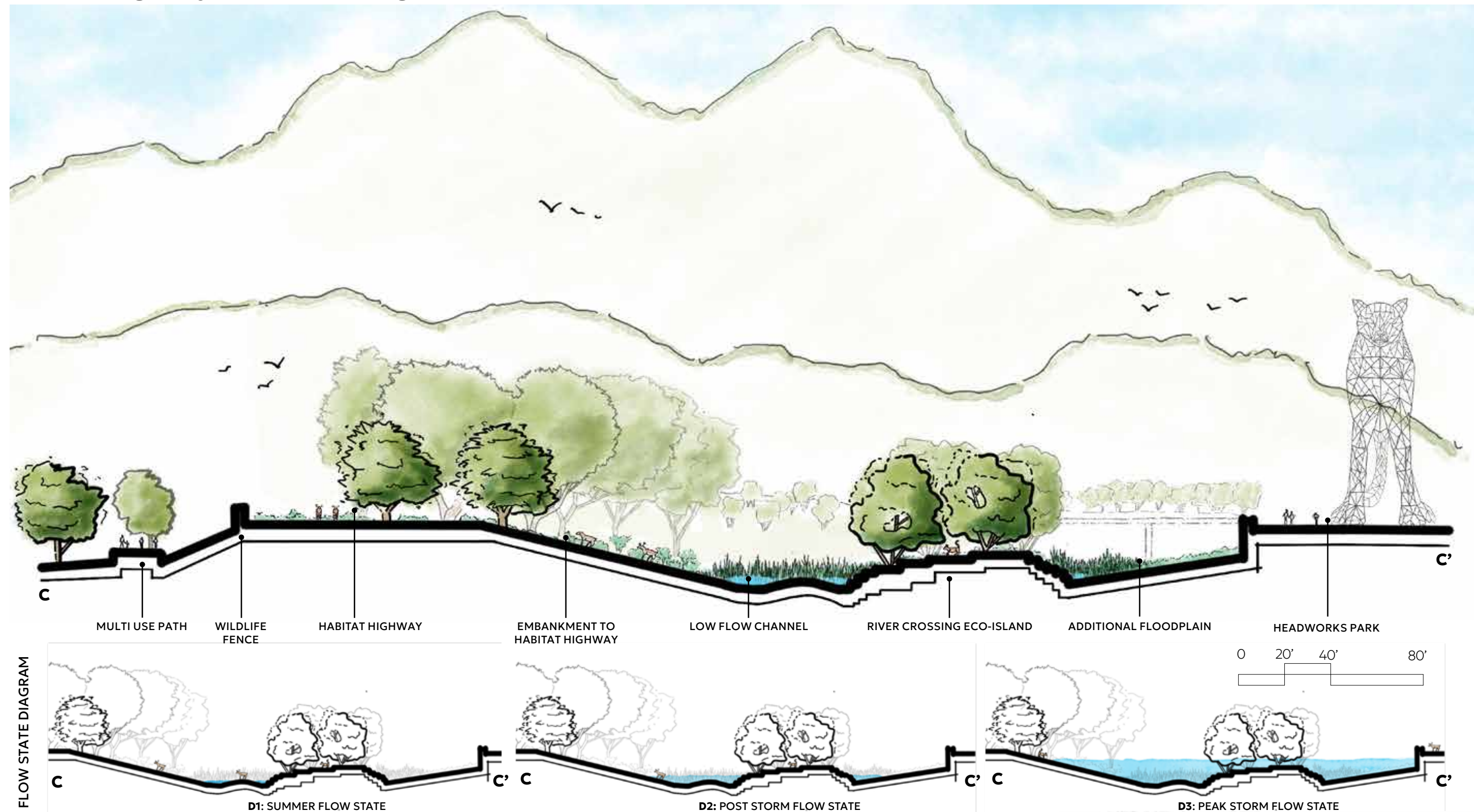
Scale 1"=20'

This space marks the entrance to the habitat corridor along the decommissioned 134 freeway, creating safe passage for wildlife traveling between Griffith Park and the Verdugo Mountains. A variety of fluvial forms like riffles, potholes, and pendant bars create ecological niches for all creatures to cross or call home.

ECO-ISLAND DETAIL



Habitat Highway Section Looking East



This section shows the now wider LA River, allowing for slower water speed, infiltration, and animal habitat. The retired 134 freeway slopes downward to the soft bottom, low flow channel of the river. The eco-islands create a rest stop for animal crossings as well as different ecotone for various animals to inhabit.

D1 show the summer flow state. Animal crossings are easy since the water flow is very low, mostly from the Donald Tillman Reclamation Plant.

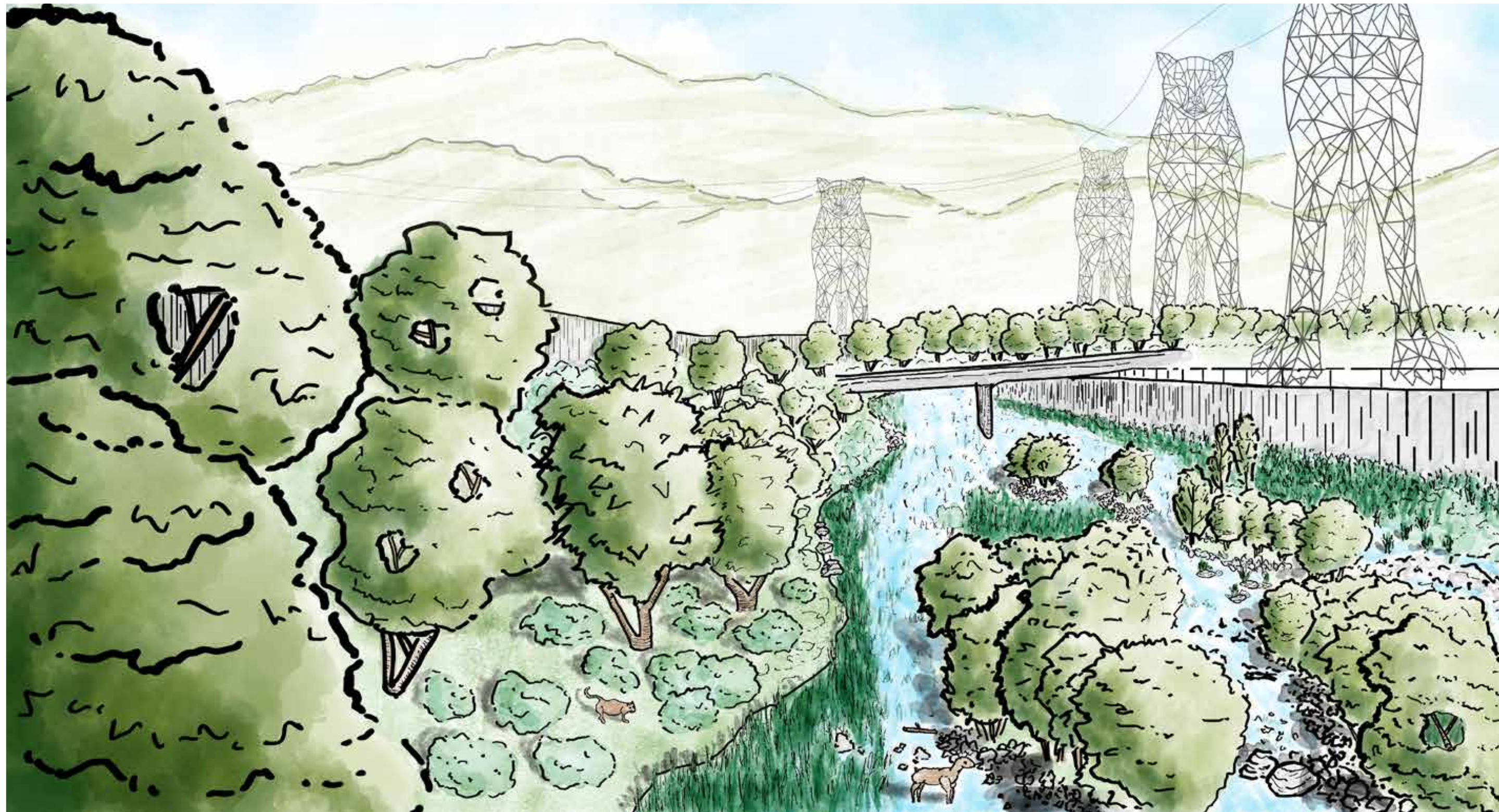
D2 shows the flow state a few days after a storm event. Animals can still swim across and the Eco Islands provide

resting places for animals tired from swimming or fording the river.

D3 shows the flow state during a peak rain event. The river is completely inundated but still contained within its banks. Few animals will survive crossing the river in this flow state.



Habitat Highway Perspective



The Habitat Highway slopes down to the LA River, allowing animals to travel down the Sennett Creek corridor, down the LA River and up onto former freeway deck. Extensive wildlife fencing keeps animals on the habitat highway at all times. The vegetated highway allows for all animals to safely travel to the Verdugos and beyond.

FEATURED PLANTS



Baccharis salicifolia
Mulefat



Platanus racemosa
Western Sycamore



Carex praegracilis
Clustered Field Sedge



Salix gooddingii
Gooding's Black Willow

Calscape





HABITAT CORRIDOR

We connected the Verdugos and Griffith Park to the Angeles National Forest, reducing the likelihood of extinction.

We created a variety of ecotones and habitat niches so animals can flourish.

We prioritized native plants which form the very basis of the food web that all life depends on.

WETLAND RESTORATION

We restored a large section of the LA River and its tributaries so animals can use them for migration.

We created new wetland habitat which is one of the most ecologically valuable zones.

We used natural landforms to capture large amounts of stormwater and infiltrate it.

INCORPORATE humans into the native LANDSCAPE

We connected nearby residential units to the park via pedestrian and bicycle lanes.

We added areas where humans can interact and appreciate the LA River.

We created formal and informal opportunities for kids to play, learn and care for our ecosystem.