

THE FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLY

PROJECT 1: RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

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LD5: PLANTING DESIGN
SPRING 2026



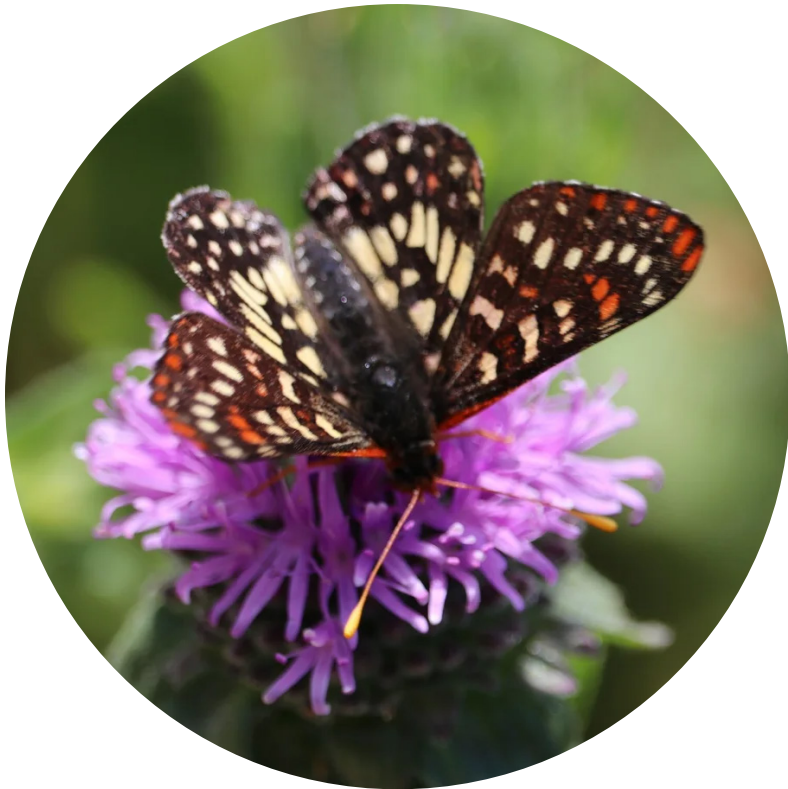
CONCEPT AND DESIGN INSPIRATION

The design concept for this garden is inspired by the playful, meandering movement of butterfly flight and the sense of calm wonder that comes from observing butterflies move through a landscape.

Rather than organizing the site through rigid geometry or linear circulation, this garden embraces soft curves and looping pathways that encourage wandering, pause, and discovery. Plants are arranged in layered drifts and playful repetitions rather than highly controlled compositions, evoking movement and spontaneity.

The garden is also a dream oasis for those who inspired it – butterflies. There’s a strong emphasis on California native species that support local butterflies throughout all stages of their life cycle, including larval host plants and year-round nectar sources.

Drawing from the character of Southern California coastal ecosystems, the garden comfortably balances playfulness and serenity. The space is thus immersive, restorative, and alive with movement.



Source: iNaturalist.org



Source: Terremoto.la



Source: Terremoto.la



Source: Ananda Woodworks



Source: Orcaliving.com

CONCEPT AND DESIGN INSPIRATION

BUTTERFLIES FOUND IN SANTA MONICA

Acmon Blue



Painted Lady



Mourning Cloak



Lotus Hairstreak



Gray Buckeye



Small White



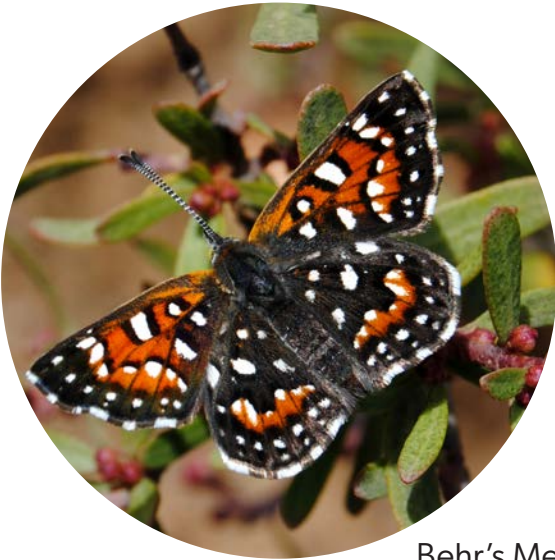
Monarch



Pale Swallowtail



Sara Orangetip

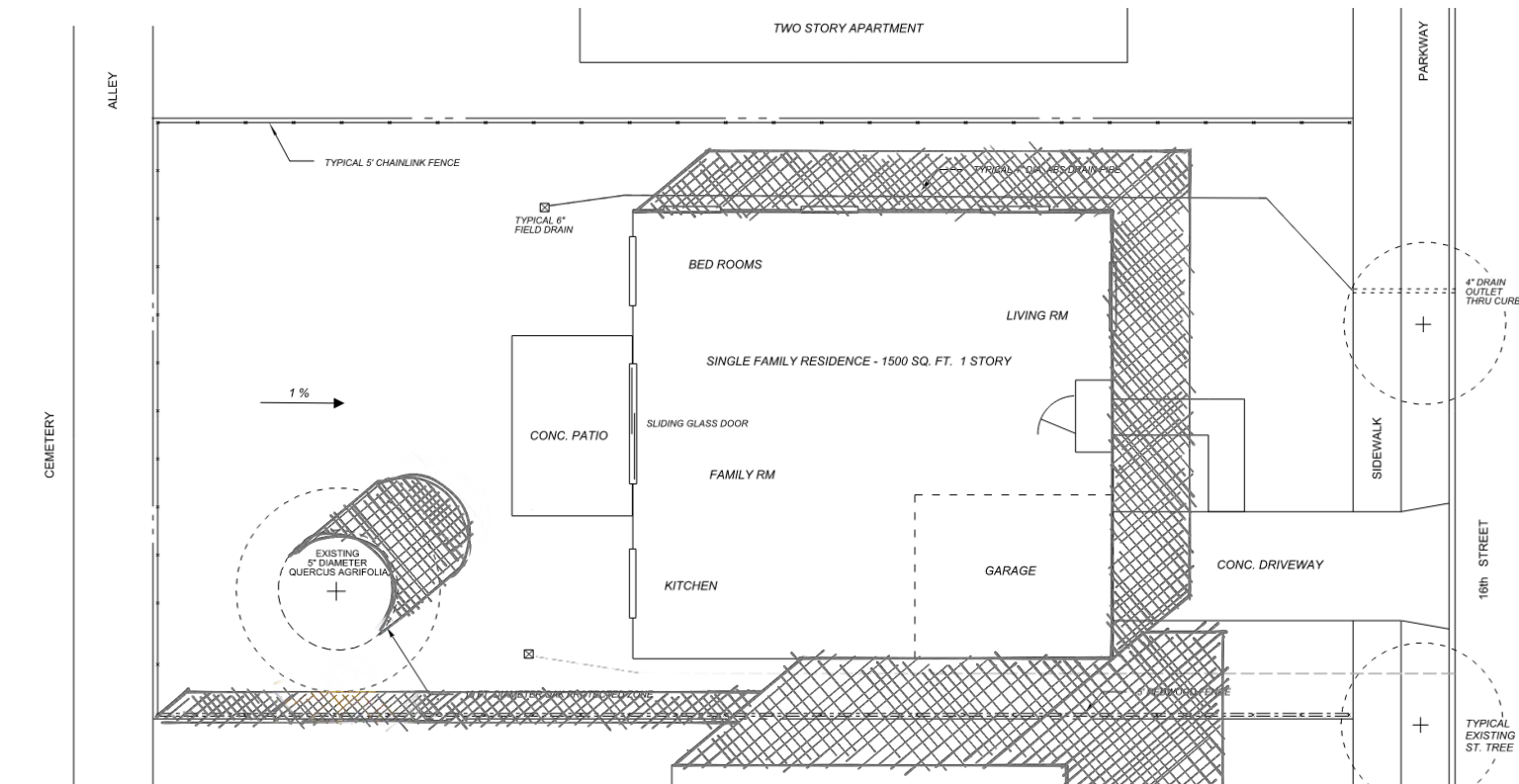


Behr's Metalmark

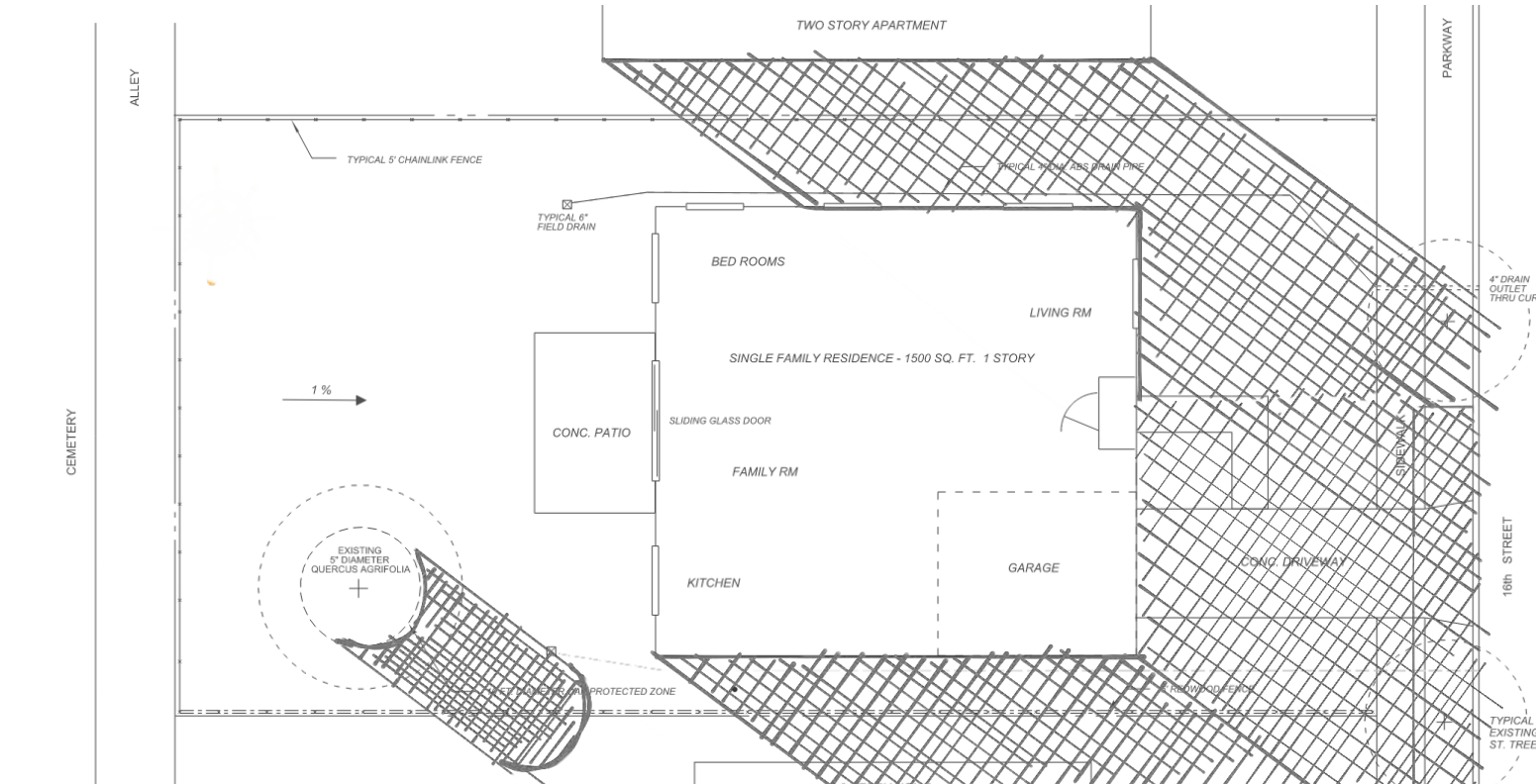
SITE ANALYSIS: SUN AND SHADE



MORNING



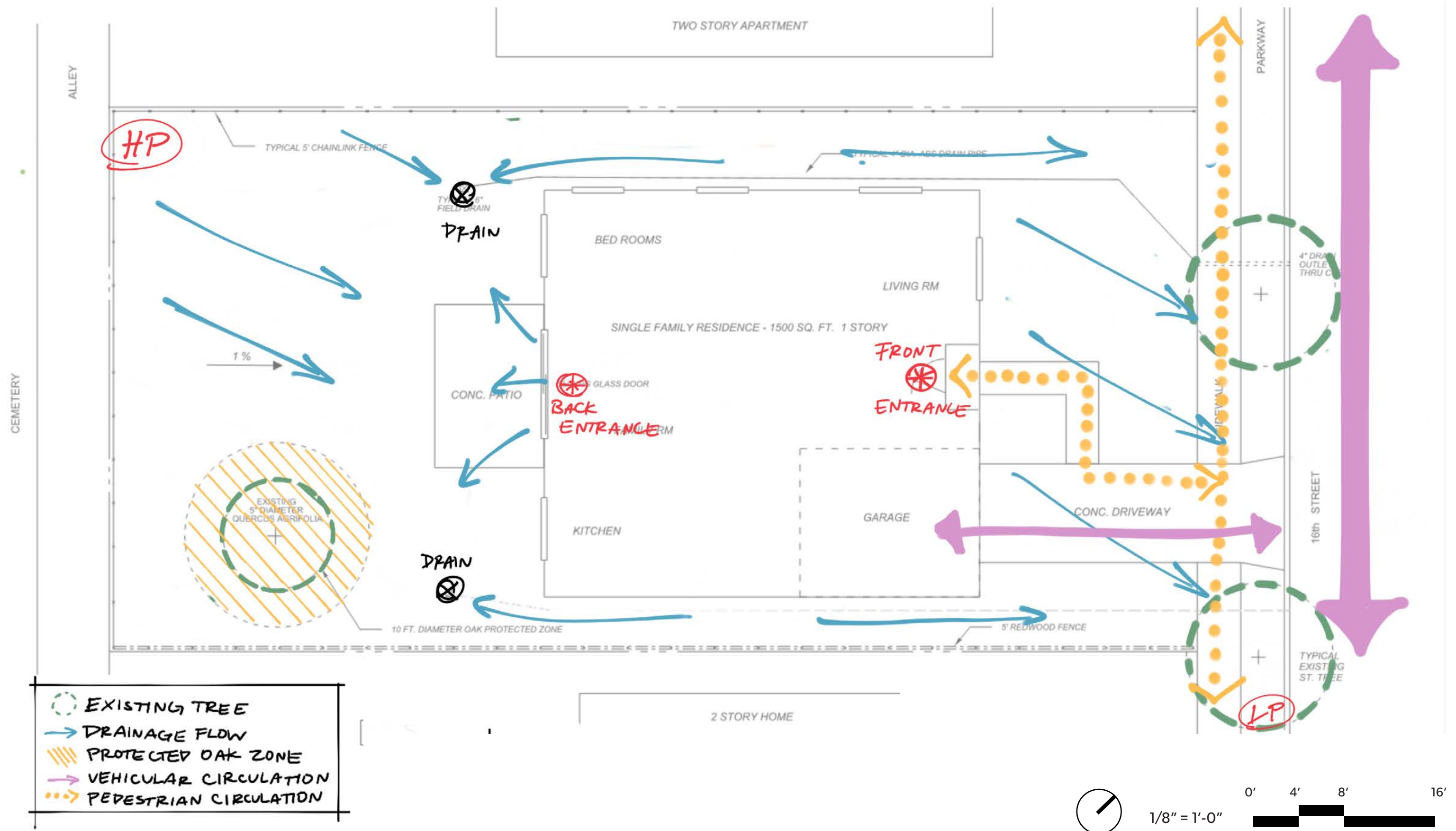
MIDDAY



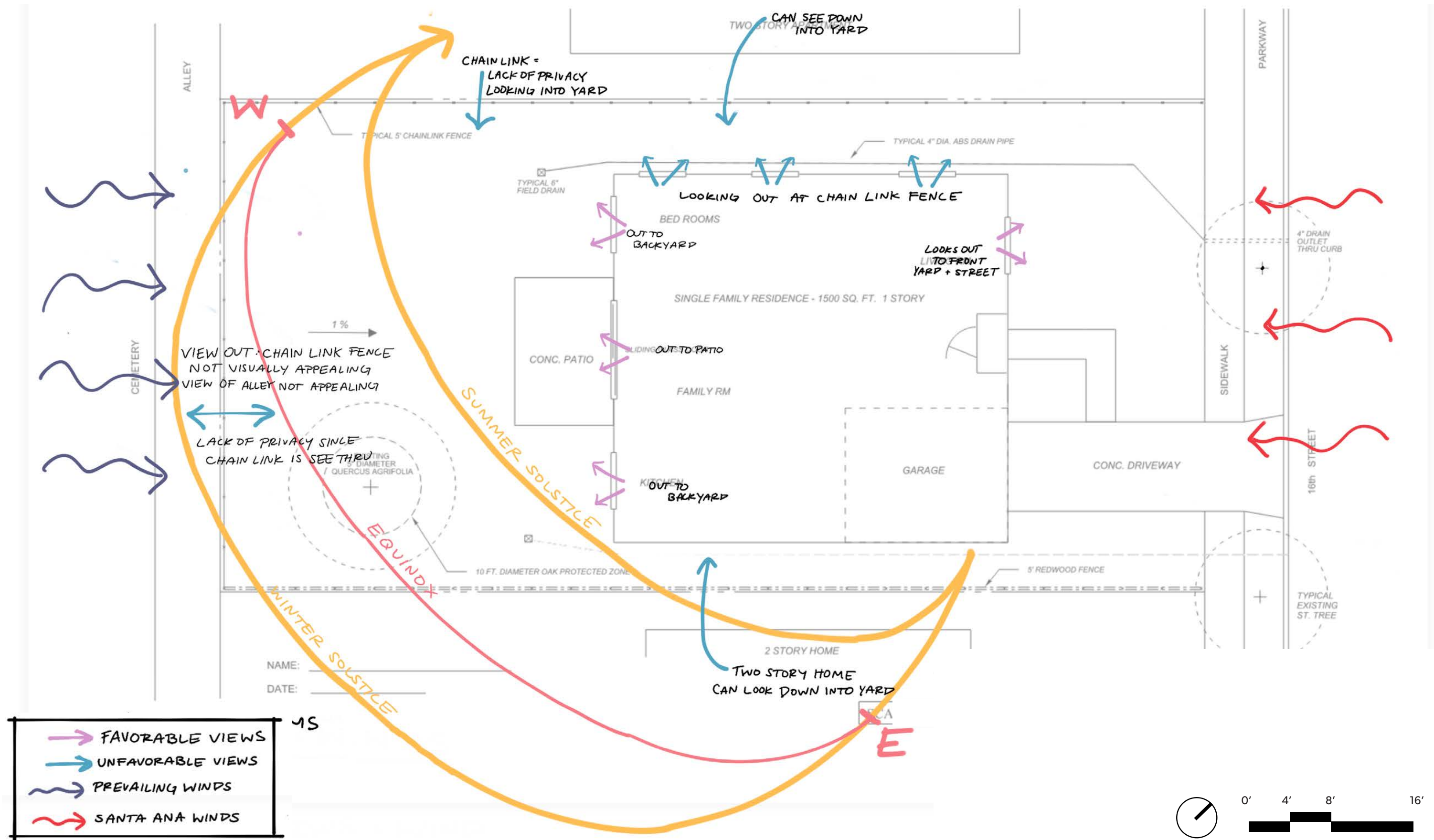
EVENING



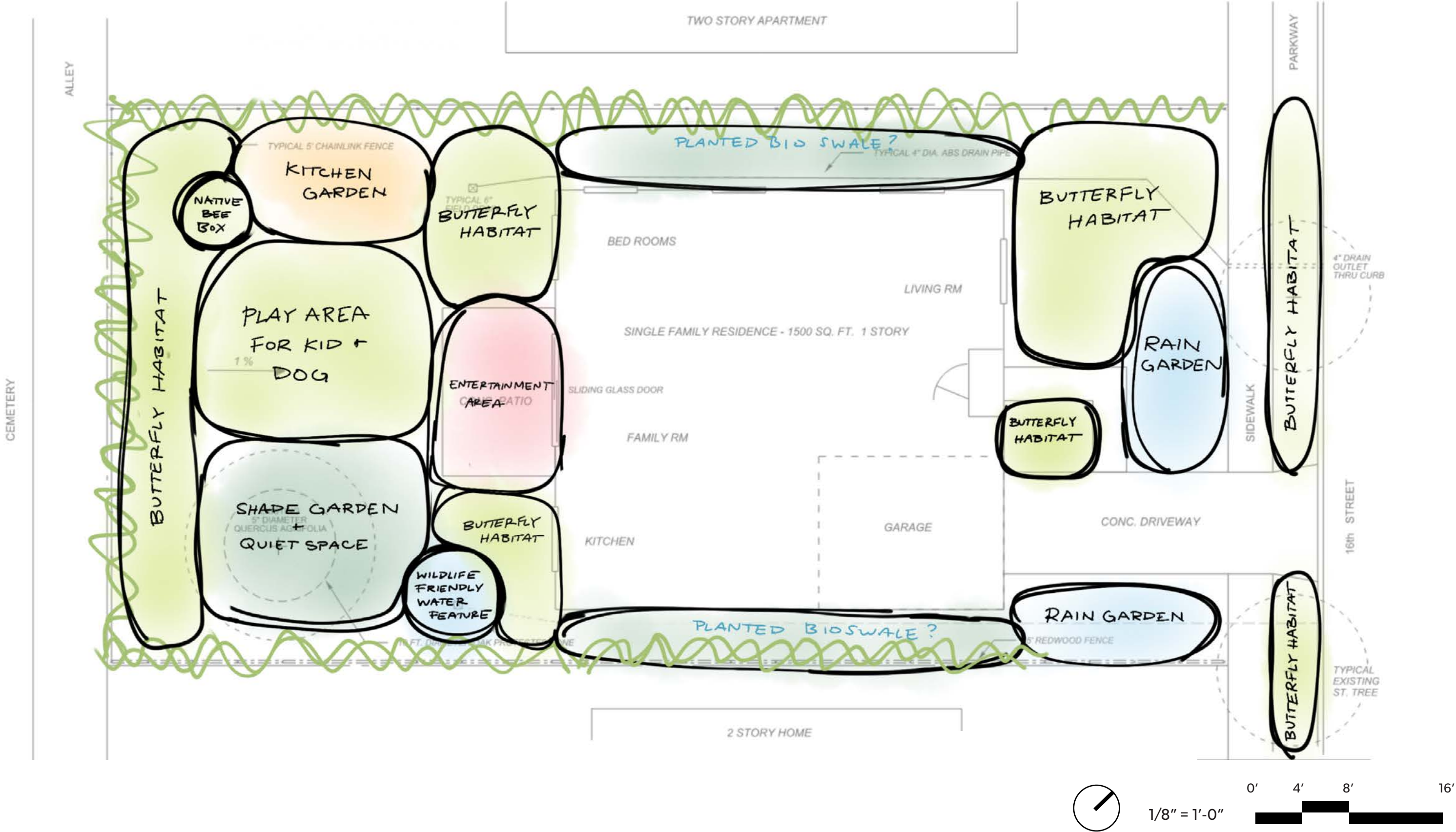
SITE ANALYSIS: CIRCULATION, DRAINAGE, EXISTING TREES



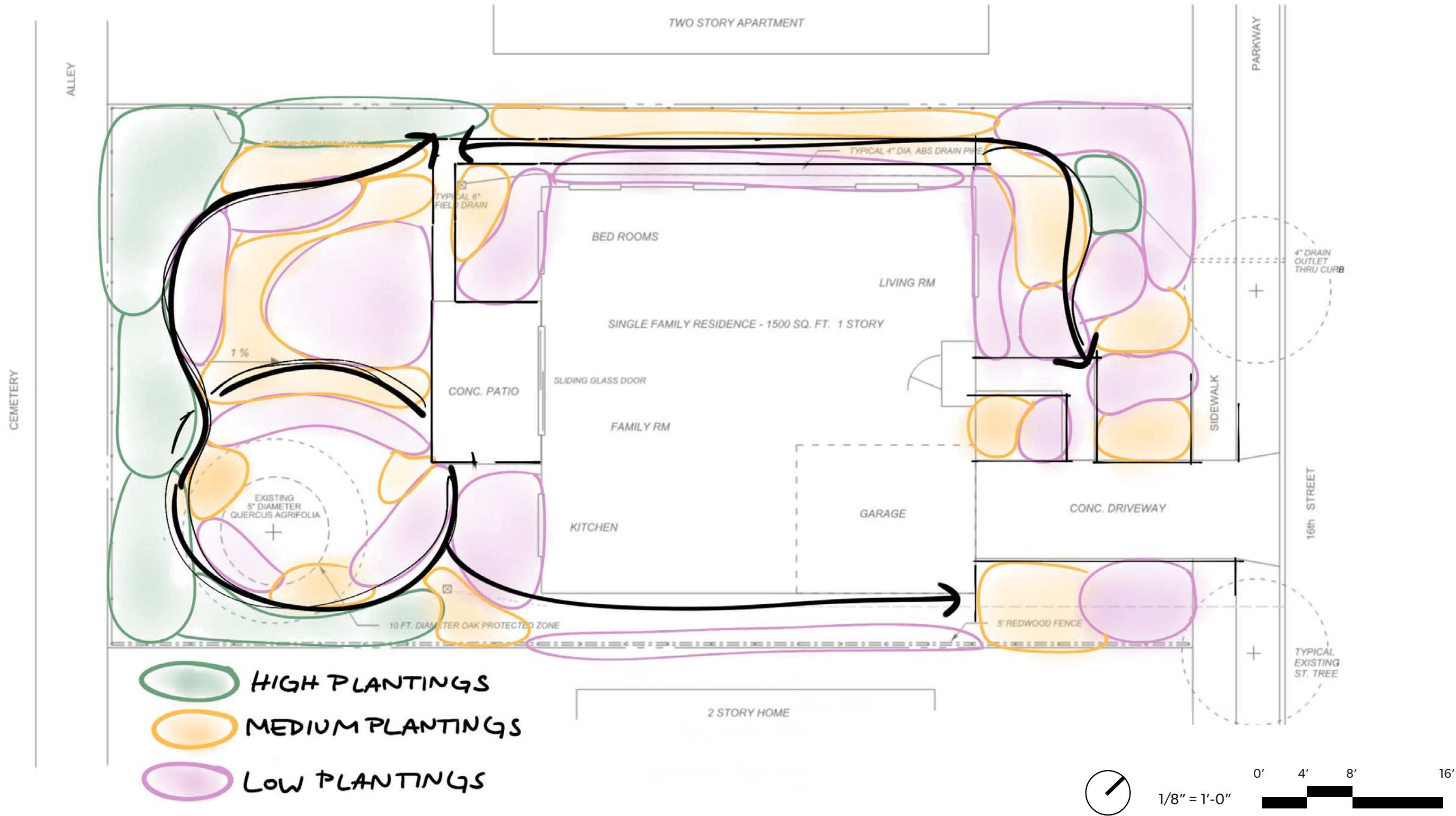
SITE ANALYSIS: SUN PATH, WIND, VIEWS



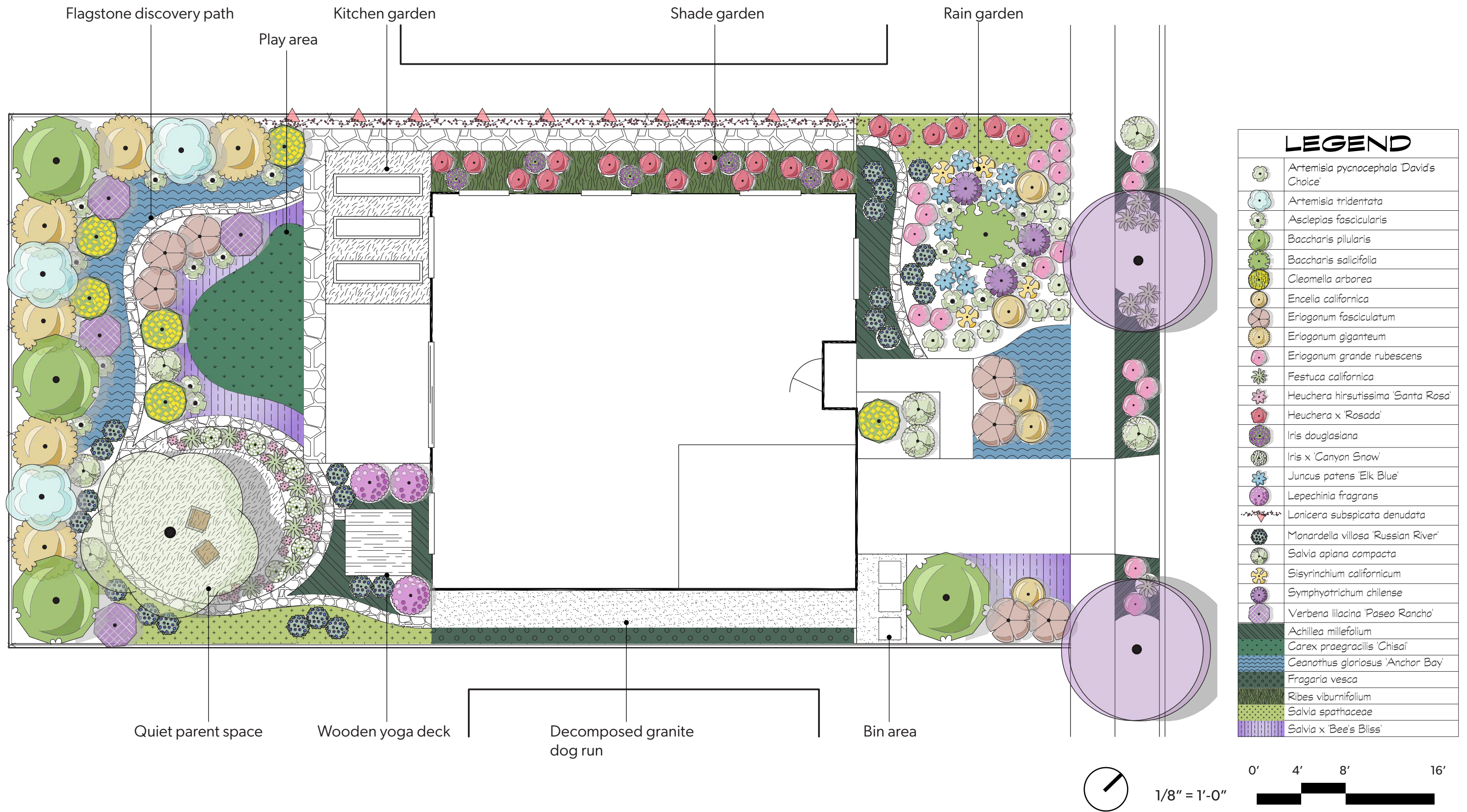
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



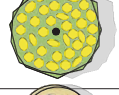
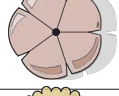
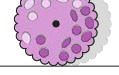
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



SITE PLAN



PLANTING SCHEDULE

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	SIZE	QTY	MATURE W X H	WUCOLS	FLOWER COLOR	BLOOM MONTHS	BUTTERFLY SUPPORT
SHRUBS								
	Artemisia pycnocephala 'David's Choice' Dwarf Coastal Beach Sagewort	4"	9	2' x 1.5'	Low	Yellow (inconspicuous)	June - September	Nectar
	Artemisia tridentata Big Sagebrush	1 GAL	3	5' x 6'	Very low	Yellow (inconspicuous)	August - November	Larval host, nectar
	Asclepias fascicularis Narrowleaf Milkweed	1 GAL	17	2 x 3'	Very low	Pink, cream	May - October	Monarch host plant, nectar
	Baccharis pilularis Coyote Brush	5 GAL	4	8' x 6'	Low	Cream	July - December	Larval host, nectar
	Baccharis salicifolia Mulefat	5 GAL	1	6' x 6'	High	Cream	July - December	Larval host, nectar
	Cleomella arborea Bladderpod	1 GAL	6	4' x 4'	Very low	Yellow	Year round	Nectar
	Encelia californica Bush sunflower	1 GAL	5	3' x 3'	Very low	Yellow	February - June	Nectar
	Eriogonum fasciculatum California Buckwheat	1 GAL	7	4' x 4'	Very low	White, pink	May - October	Larval host, nectar
	Eriogonum giganteum St. Catherine's Lace	1 GAL	6	6 x 6'	Very low	White, cream	May - October	Larval host, nectar
	Eriogonum grande rubescens Red Buckwheat	1 GAL	18	2' X 1'	Very low	Red, Pink	April - September	Larval host, nectar
	Festuca californica California Fescue	4"	15	2' x 2'	Low	None	May - June	Shelter habitat
	Heuchera hirsutissima 'Santa Rosa' Coral Bells	1 GAL	22	1 x 1'	Moderate	Pink	July	Nectar
	Heuchera x 'Rosada' Rosada Coral Bells	1 GAL	18	2' x 1'	Low	Pink	April - July	Nectar
	Iris douglasiana Douglas Iris	1 GAL	4	2' x 2'	Low	Purple	May - July	Nectar
	Iris x 'Canyon Snow' Canyon Snow iris	1 GAL	6	2' x 2'	Low	White	March - April	Nectar
	Juncus patens 'Elk Blue' Spreading Rush	4"	9	2' x 3'	Moderate	Bronze	June - October	Shelter habitat
	Lepechinia fragrans Island Pitchersage	1 GAL	3	4' x 5'	Low	White, purple	March - October	Nectar



PLANTING SCHEDULE

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	SIZE	QTY	MATURE W X H	WUCOLS	FLOWER COLOR	BLOOM MONTHS	BUTTERFLY SUPPORT
SHRUBS								
	Lonicera subspicata var. denudata Santa Barbara Honeysuckle	1 GAL	10	Vining x 8'	Low	Yellow	June - July	Nectar
	Monardella villosa 'Russian River' Russian River Coyote Mint	1 GAL	24	3' x 2'	Low	Purple	May - August	Nectar
	Salvia apiana compacta Compact White Sage	4"	7	3' x 3'	Very low	White, cream	March - August	Nectar
	Sisyrinchium californicum Yellow-eyed Grass	4"	4	2' x 1.5'	Moderate	Yellow	March - August	Larval host, nectar
	Symphotrichum chilense Pacific Aster	1 GAL	3	3' x 4'	Moderate	Purple	June - October	Larval host, nectar
	Verbena lilacina 'Paseo Rancho' Paseo Rancho Lilac Verbena	1 GAL	4	4' x 4'	Low	Purple, pink	Year round	Nectar

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	SIZE	QTY	SPACING	MATURE W x H	WUCOLS	FLOWER COLOR	BLOOM MONTHS	BUTTERFLY SUPPORT
GROUND COVERS									
	Achillea millefolium Common Yarrow	4"	37	24 IN. O.C.	3' X 1'	Low	White	April - September	Larval host, nectar
	Carex praegracilis 'Chisai' Small California Field Sedge	4"	183	10 IN. O.C.	1' x 1'	Moderate	Copper	March - June	Shelter habitat
	Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay' Anchor Bay Point Reyes Ceanothus	4"	8	60 IN. O.C.	Spreading x 3'	Low	Blue, purple	March - May	Larval host, nectar
	Fragaria vesca Woodland Strawberry	4"	79	10 IN. O.C.	Spreading x 0.5'	Low	White	January - July	Larval host, nectar
	Ribes viburnifolium Evergreen Currant	4"	7	48 IN. O.C.	Spreading x 3'	Very low	Red, maroon	February - April	Larval host, nectar
	Salvia spathacea Hummingbird Sage	4"	15	36 IN. O.C.	Spreading x 2'	Low	Pink, magenta	March - May	Nectar
	Salvia x 'Bee's Bliss' Bee's Bliss Sage	4"	6	60 IN. O.C.	Spreading x 2'	Low	Purple	April - June	Nectar

PLANT PALETTE

HYDROZONE 1: FULL SUN



Baccharis pilularis
Coyote brush



Verbena lilacina 'Paseo Rancho'
Paseo Rancho lilac verbena



Artemisia tridentata
Big sagebrush



Asclepias fascicularis
Narrowleaf milkweed



Encelia californica
Bush sunflower



Eriogonum giganteum
St. Catherine's lace



Artemisia pycnocephala 'David's Choice'
Dwarf coastal beach sagewort



Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay'
Anchor Bay Point Reyes ceanothus



Cleomella arborea
Bladderpod



Eriogonum fasciculatum
California buckwheat



Salvia apiana var. *compacta*
Compact white sage



Salvia x 'Bee's Bliss'
Bee's Bliss sage

PLANT PALETTE

HYDROZONE 2: PART SUN



Achillea millefolium
Common yarrow



Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*
Red buckwheat



Carex praegracilis 'Chisai'
Small California field sedge



Monardella villosa
Coyote mint



Lepechinia fragrans
Fragrant pitcher sage



Salvia spathacea
Hummingbird sage

HYDROZONE 3: RAIN GARDEN



Symphyotrichum chilense
Pacific aster



Juncus patens 'Elk Blue'
Blue spreading rush



Asclepias fascicularis
Narrowleaf milkweed



Baccharis salicifolia
Mulefat



Sisyrinchium californicum
Yellow-eyed grass

PLANT PALETTE

HYDROZONE 4: DRY SHADE



Iris x 'Canyon Snow'
Canyon Snow iris



Ribes viburnifolium
Evergreen currant



Heuchera hirsutissima 'Santa Rosa'
Santa Rosa coral bells



Fragaria vesca
Woodland strawberry



Iris douglasiana
Douglas iris



Festuca californica
California fescue



Heuchera x 'Rosada'
Rosada coral bells