



PUSH START BUTTON

ABOUT THE CLIENTS

I believe that the single biggest factor on a garden is the client. Therefore, I have decided to imagine the clients as real people for this project.

The husband works at Riot Video Games in Santa Monica, while the wife works as a voice actress, also in the video game and television space.

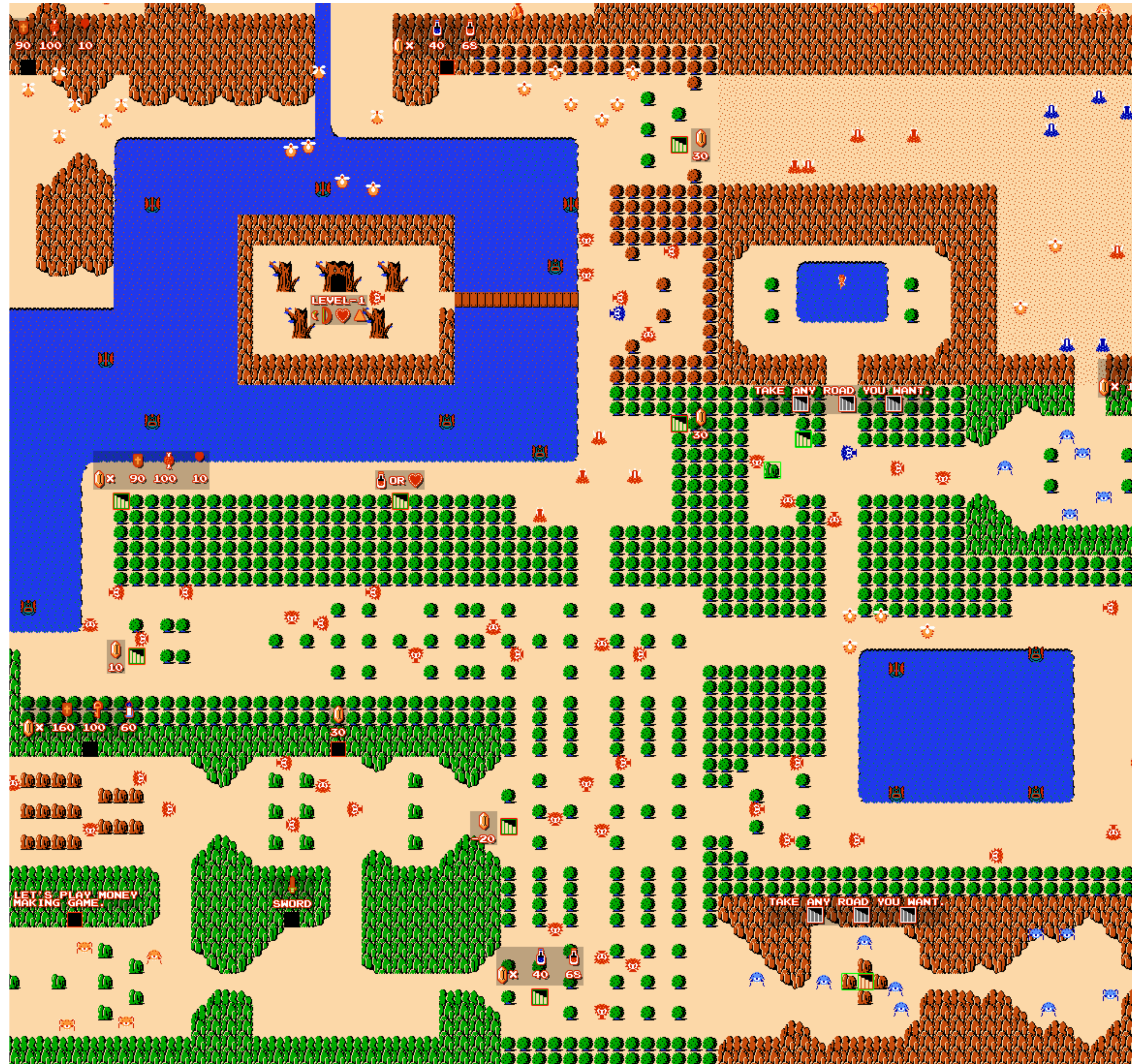
They are a pair of people who work and play in the video game realm; some of their favorite activities are World of Warcraft raids, ARC Raiders, and of course, the Zelda franchise. Their love of games didn't slow down after the birth of their daughter; rather they were excited to share their favorite games with her as she grew up. Their daughter's favorite video game character is Yoshi. Her favorite movie is the Mario Movie; her room is decorated with what seems to be the entirety of the Pokemon Pokedex. Her favorite color is pink.

DESIGN NARRATIVE

I have opted to take client's passion for video games and try and transform it into a real life video game garden. The Legend of Zelda works well with this because the Zelda gameplay style is a progression of different screens that you travel, discovering villains and mischief along the way. Ultimately, Zelda is about discovery; this garden will be anchored in that idea.

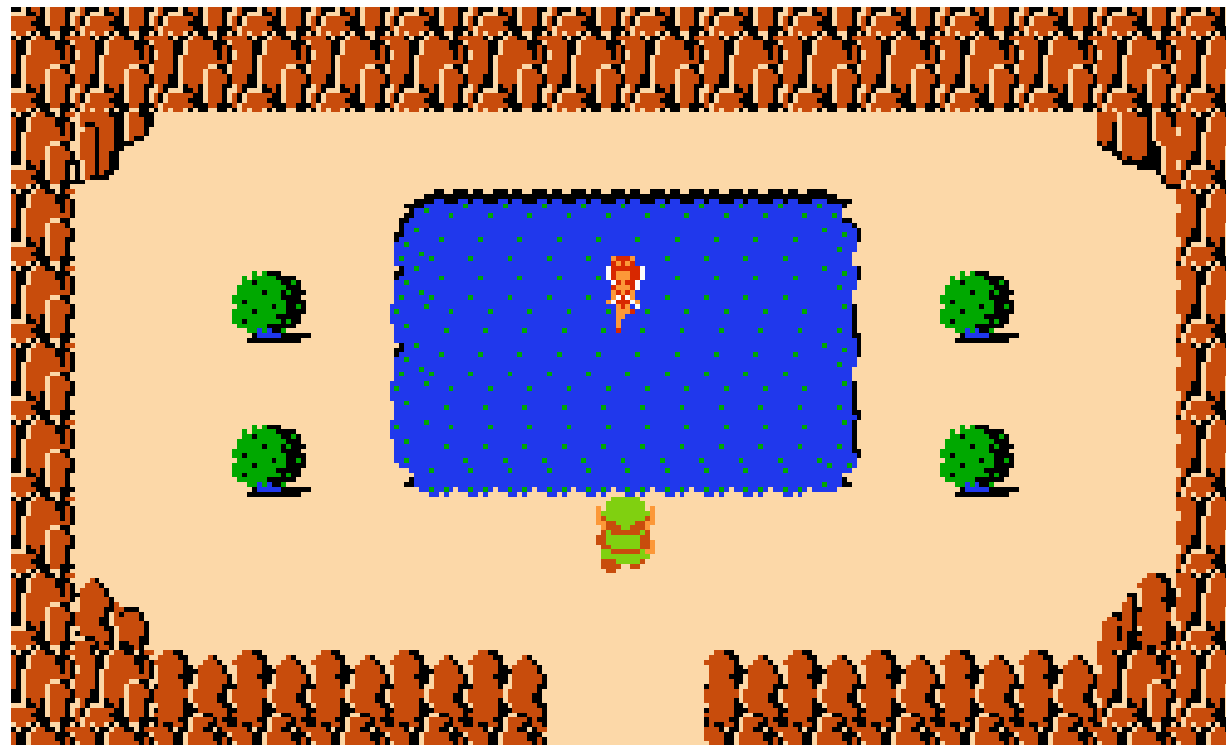
As you can see in the original map of Hyrule (the place where The Legend of Zelda takes place) to the right, it's a world filled with adventure and mystery, with hidden doors, fairy fountains, secret staircases, unfriendly monsters and the occasional ally. The goal of the game is to collect 8 fragments of the Triforce, which will allow you to enter the dungeon of Ganon (the main bad guy) and rescue Zelda, who has been kidnapped by Ganon.

The garden will be structured into a series of "screens" or garden rooms that are themed to play into Zelda's rich overworld visuals and storytelling. It will not be overtly retro or "8-Bit" or blocky like the original Nintendo graphics. Rather it's a narrative device to get a family away from their screens and out into their own garden, to write their own adventures in the real world rather than the digital one.





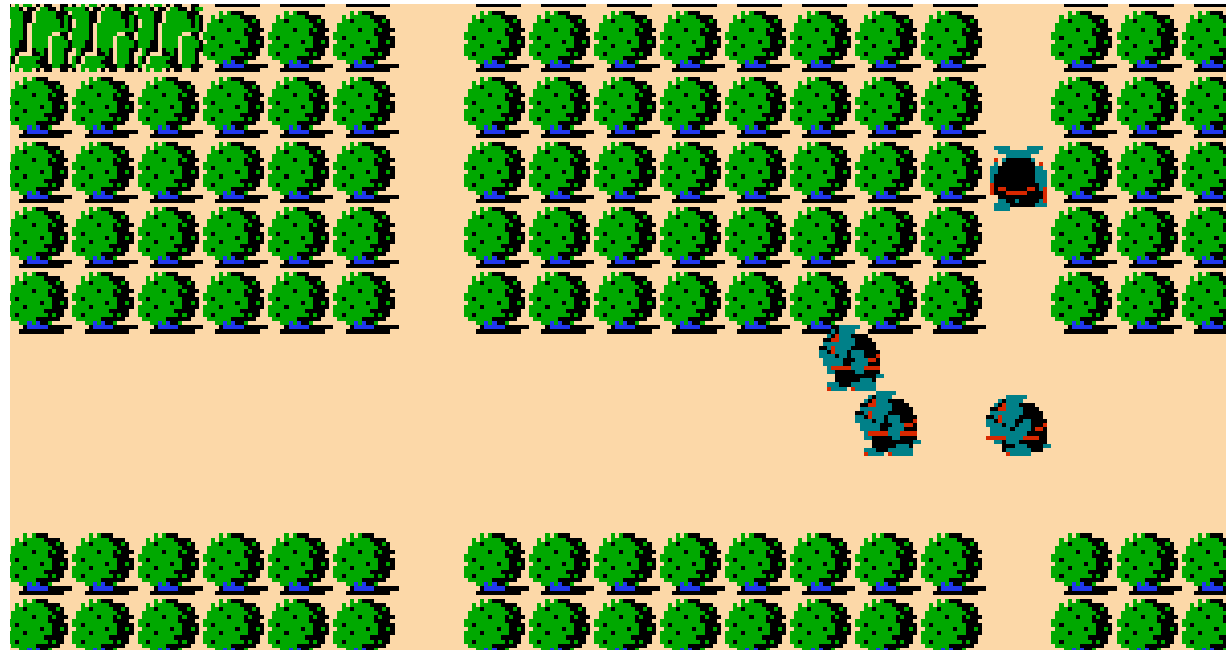
Nintendo Corporation of America



Nintendo Corporation of America



Hip Chick Digs



Nintendo Corporation of America



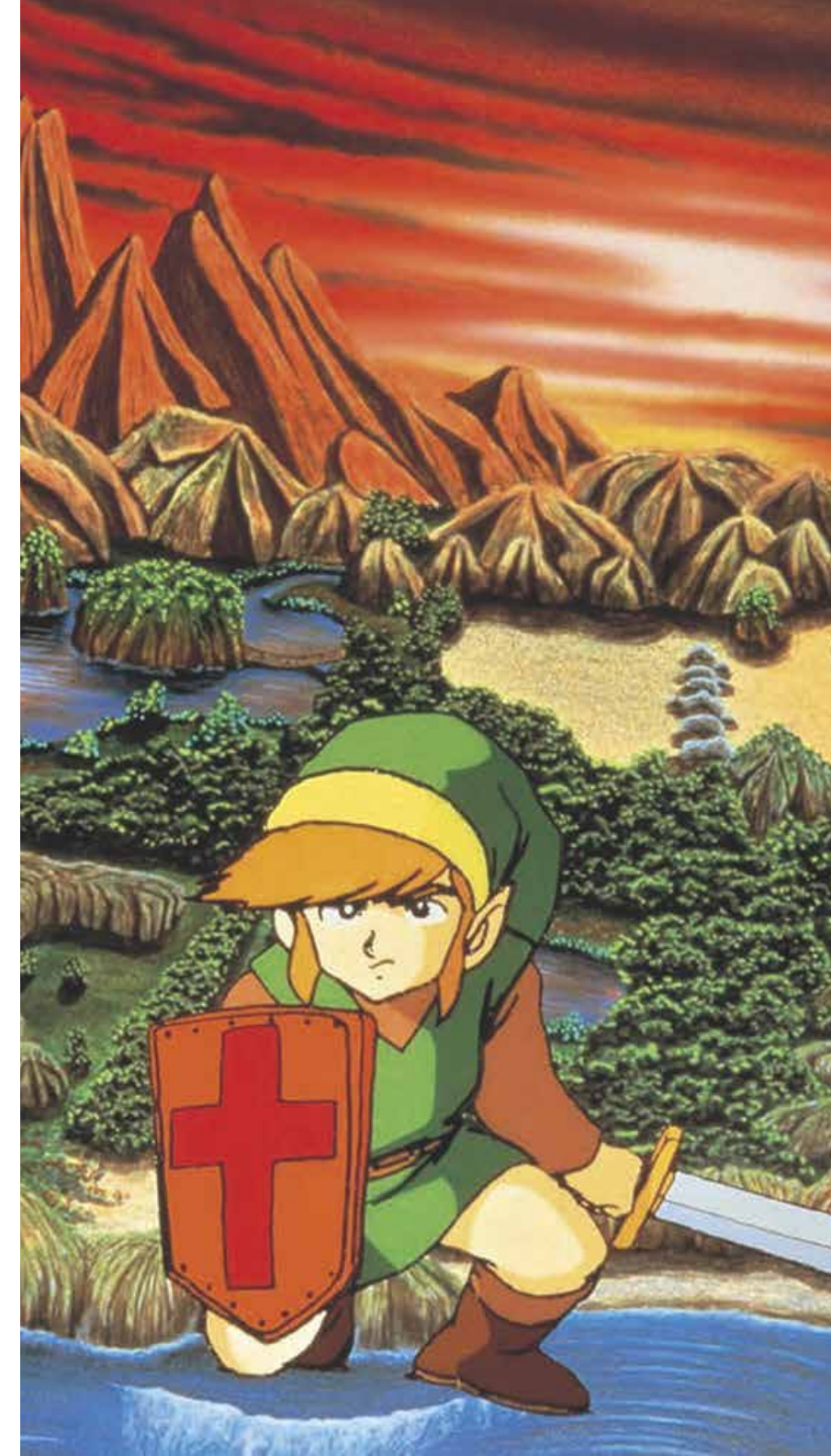
<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1730281249/hyrule-castle-poster-art-legend-of-zelda>



iNaturalist



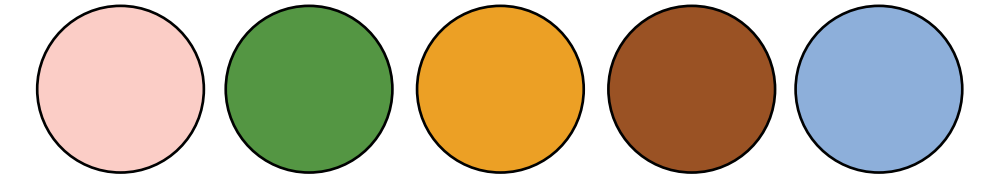
Nintendo Corporation of America



https://zelda.fandom.com/wiki/Gallery:The_Legend_of_Zelda

COLOR PALETTE

Taken from the Video Game Splash Screen, our palette will emphasize pinks, greens, yellows, brown and a splash of blue.



ADVENTURE

Zelda's gameplay is all about adventuring from screen to screen, pathways should be adventurous. Stepping stones, non-linear pathways and natural materials shall be used as much as possible.

PLAY

Zelda is predominantly nonlinear in game structure, allowing you to discover hidden rooms and dungeons in any order. Our garden shall be similarly unprescribed but will encourage interaction via scent and touch, just as Zelda encourages you to interact with rocks, plants and walls to reveal gameplay features.

WHIMSY

Hyrule, where the game Zelda takes place, is a whimsical, mysterious place. Plant material shall be selected that emphasizes interesting forms, structures, seedheads, flowers to help convey that sense of wonder throughout the year.

EXPANSIVENESS

The original Zelda game was 600 screens of material fit onto an NES ROM Cartridge. It packed a lot into a small memory space! Our garden shall be similarly ambitious, creating a large overworld space to enjoy, with smaller screens or "rooms" hidden away to find and appreciate.

SEASONALITY

Gardens change overtime; even Zelda understands this. Some sections of the Lost Forest are Green, and some are brown. Our garden will undergo seasonal change every year, but at each stage of change, plant material will be selected that highlights the beauty of that change.

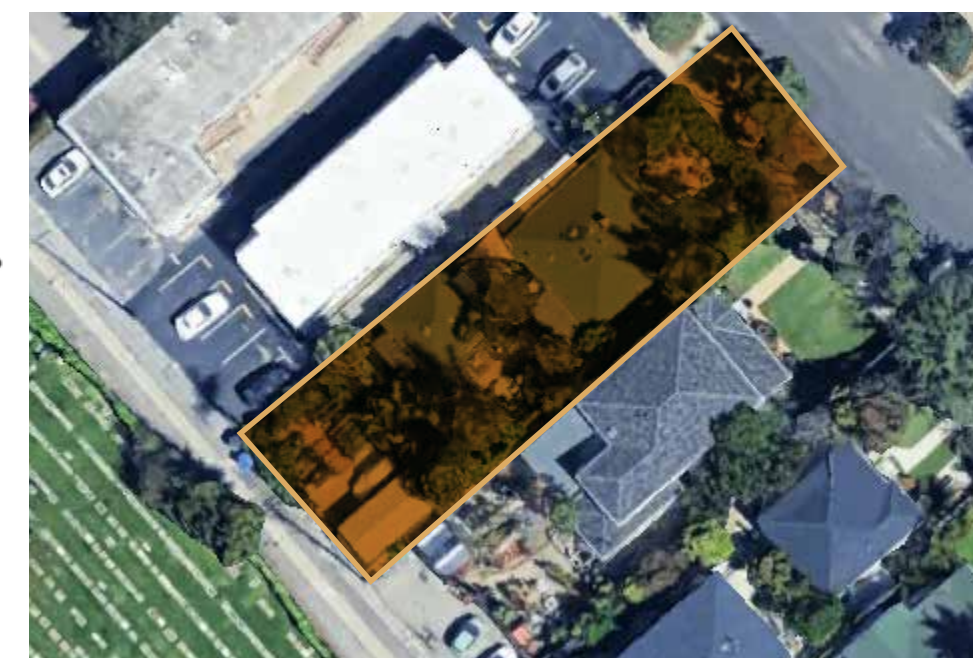


Surfrider Foundation

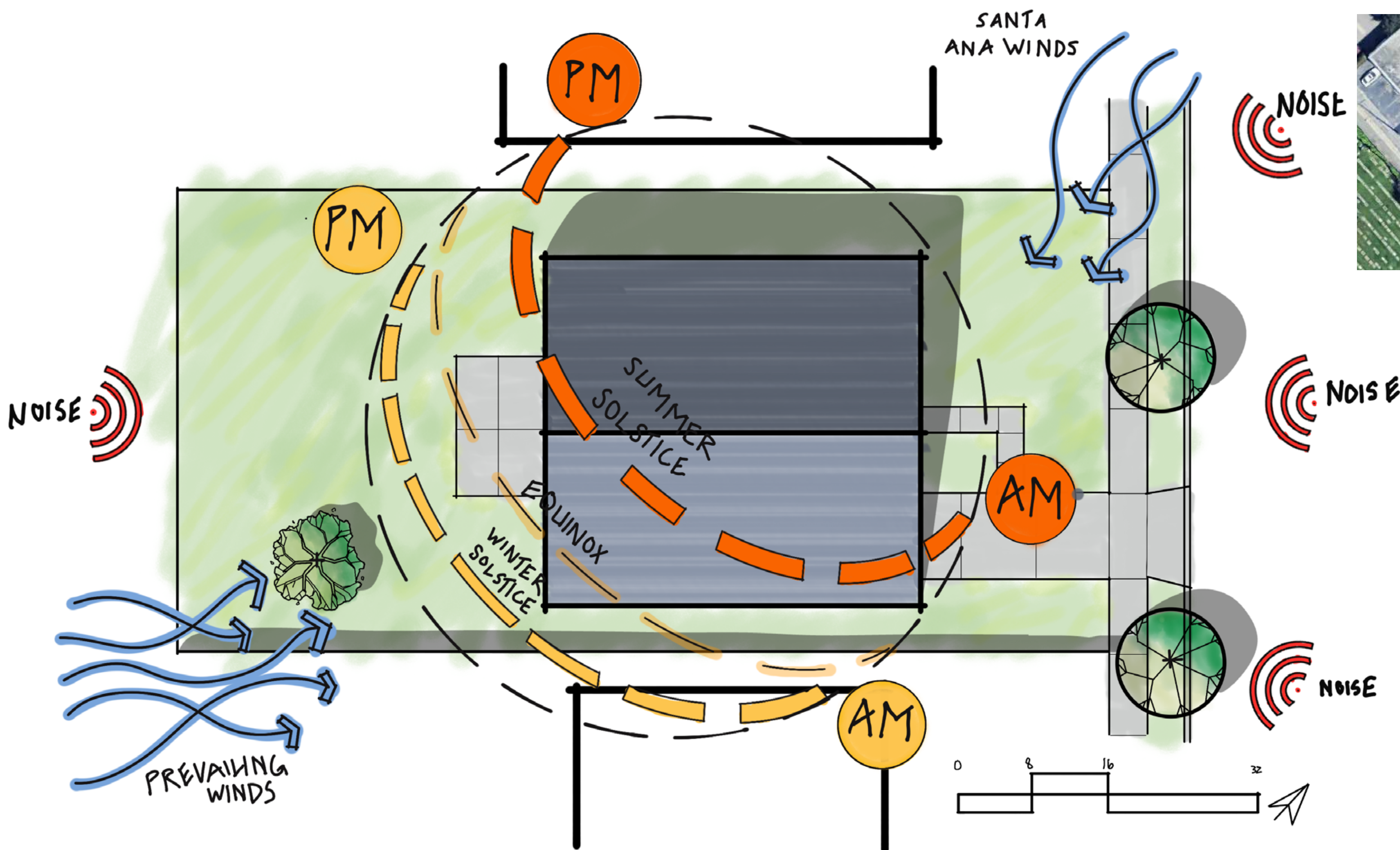


Waterwise Garden Planner, Bob Perry

SITE LOCATION:
1834 16th St, Santa Monica,
California



NTS ↑



SUNSET ZONE:
Zone 24

PREVIOUS ECOLOGY:
Coastal Sage Scrub to
Grassland and Flower-fields

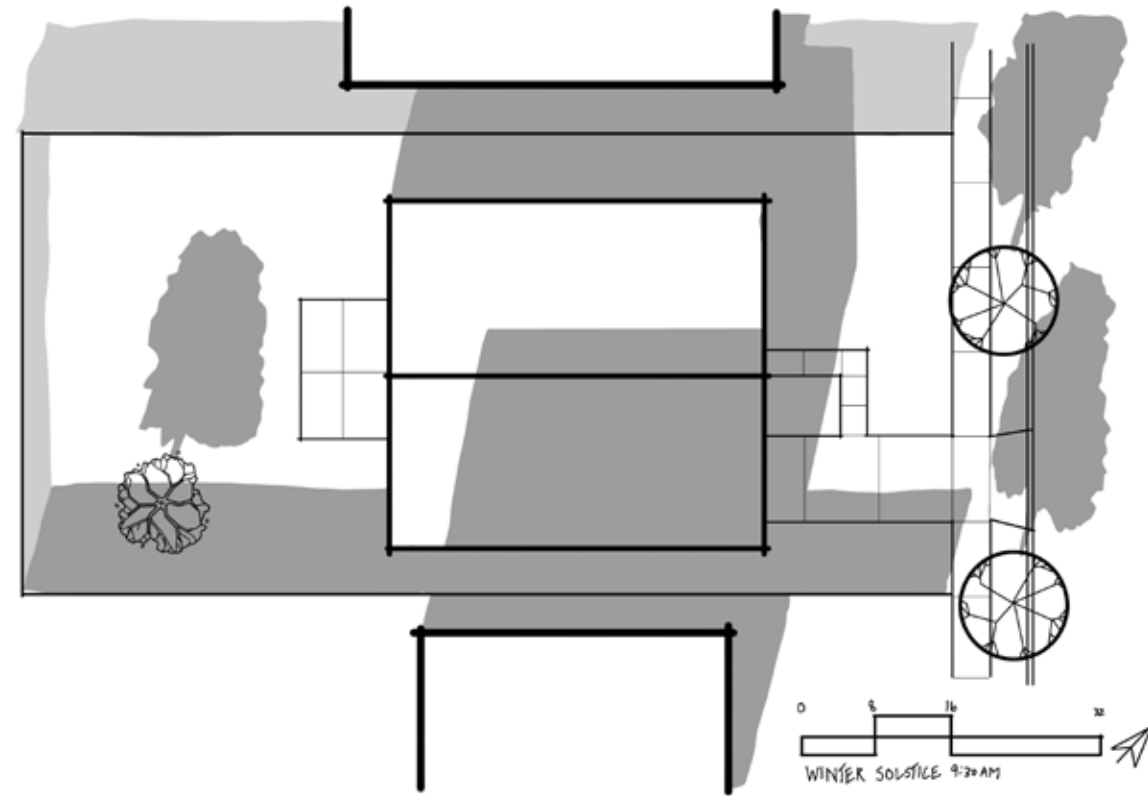
SOIL TYPE:
65% Urban Soils
20% Piervue
15% Sepulveda

Remnant soils pre-urbanization
were well drained sedimentary
soils derived from slate and
other alluvial fan remnants.

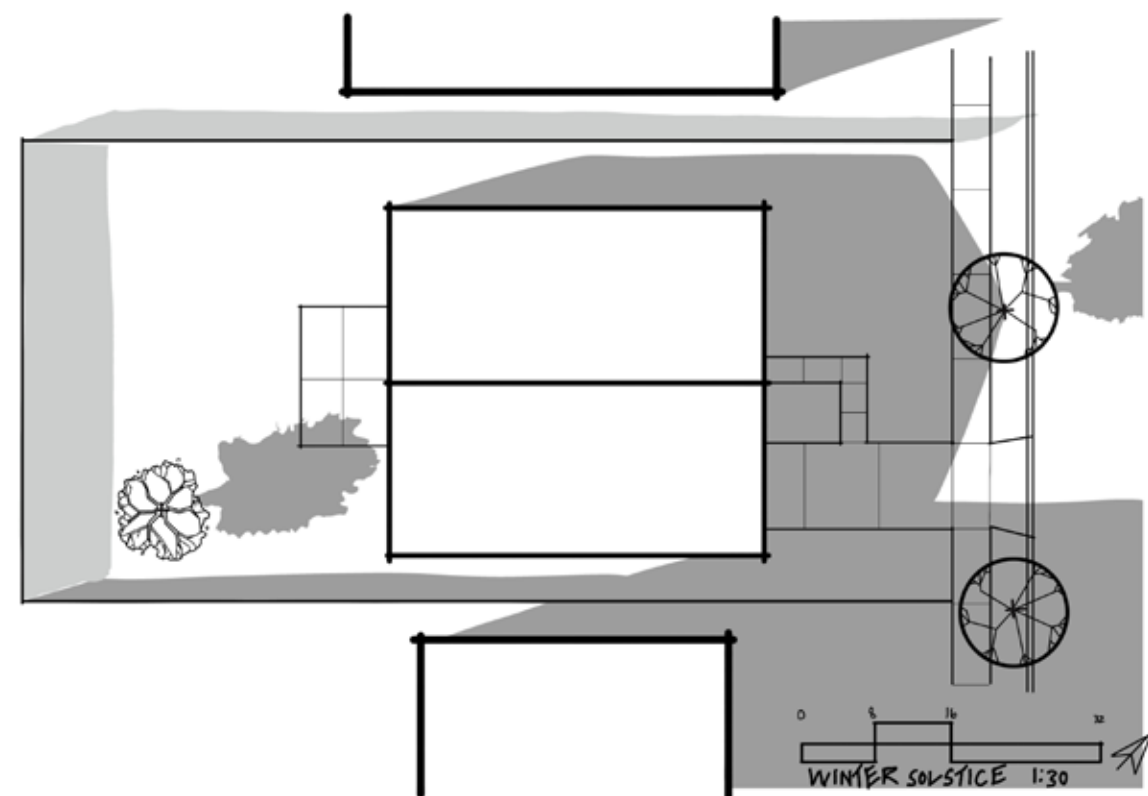
Urban Soils consists of material
derived from cut and fill and
may be a mix of a variety of
different soil types depending
on what was available at the soil
yard. It is often compacted and
of low quality with low organic
material and low amounts of soil
biology.

SOURCES:
Google Earth
Western Sunset Garden Book
(2012)
Longcore Lab@ UCLA
California Soil Resources Lab

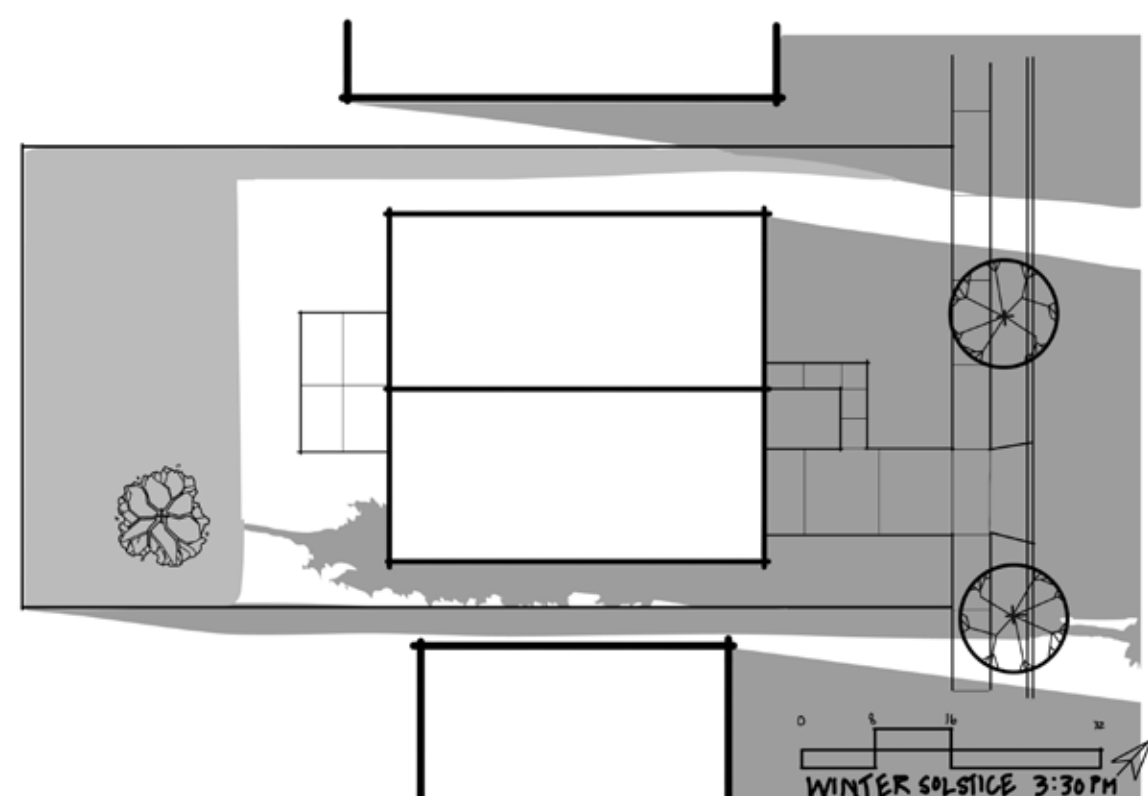
WINTER SOLSTICE — DECEMBER 21st



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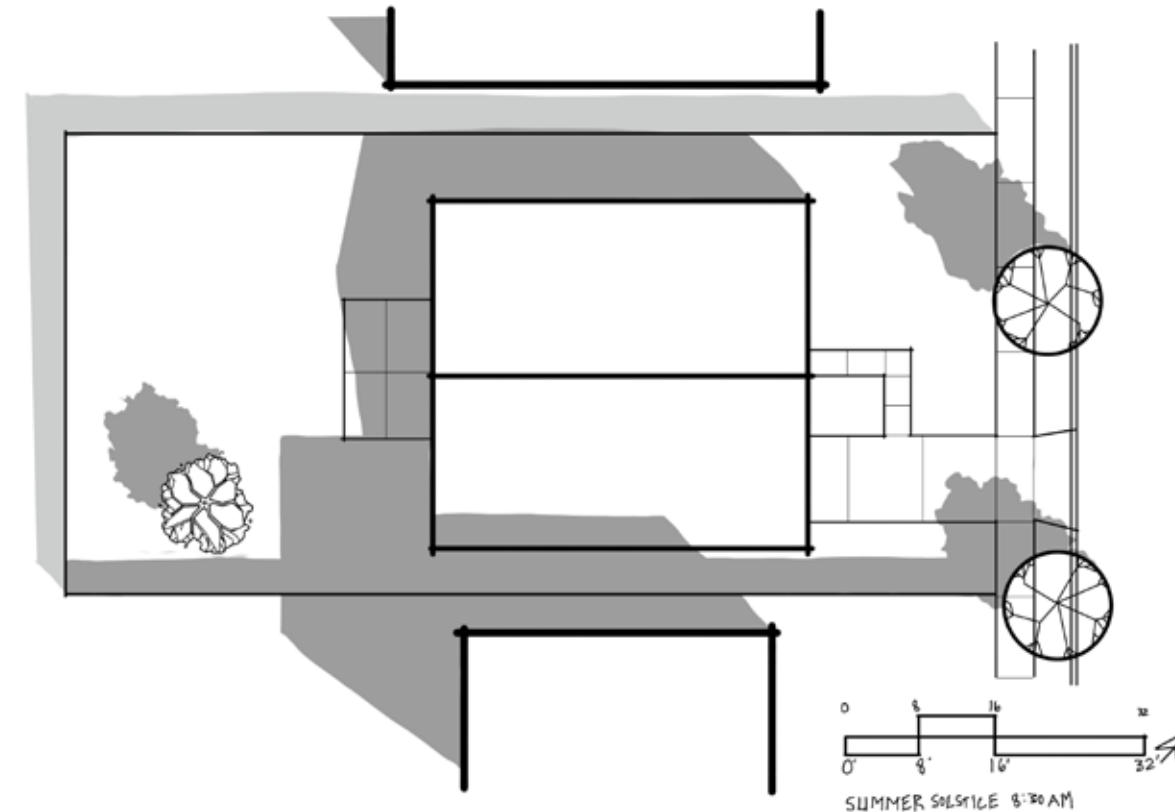


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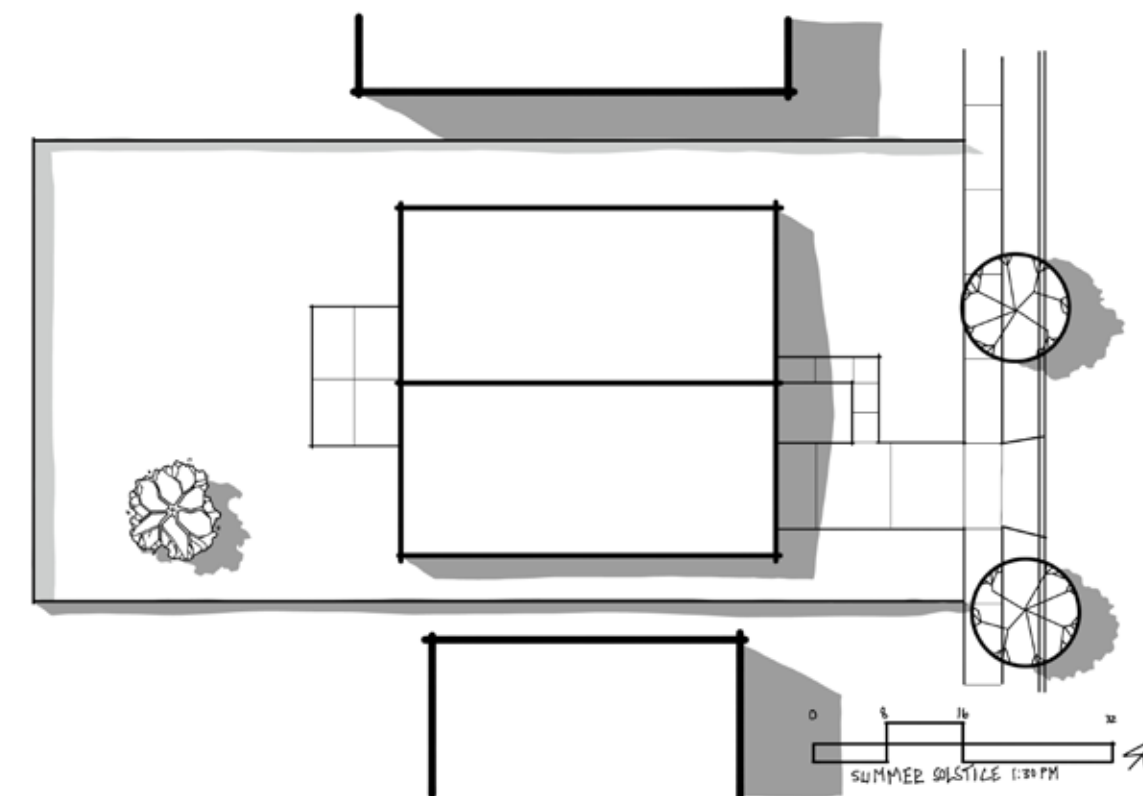


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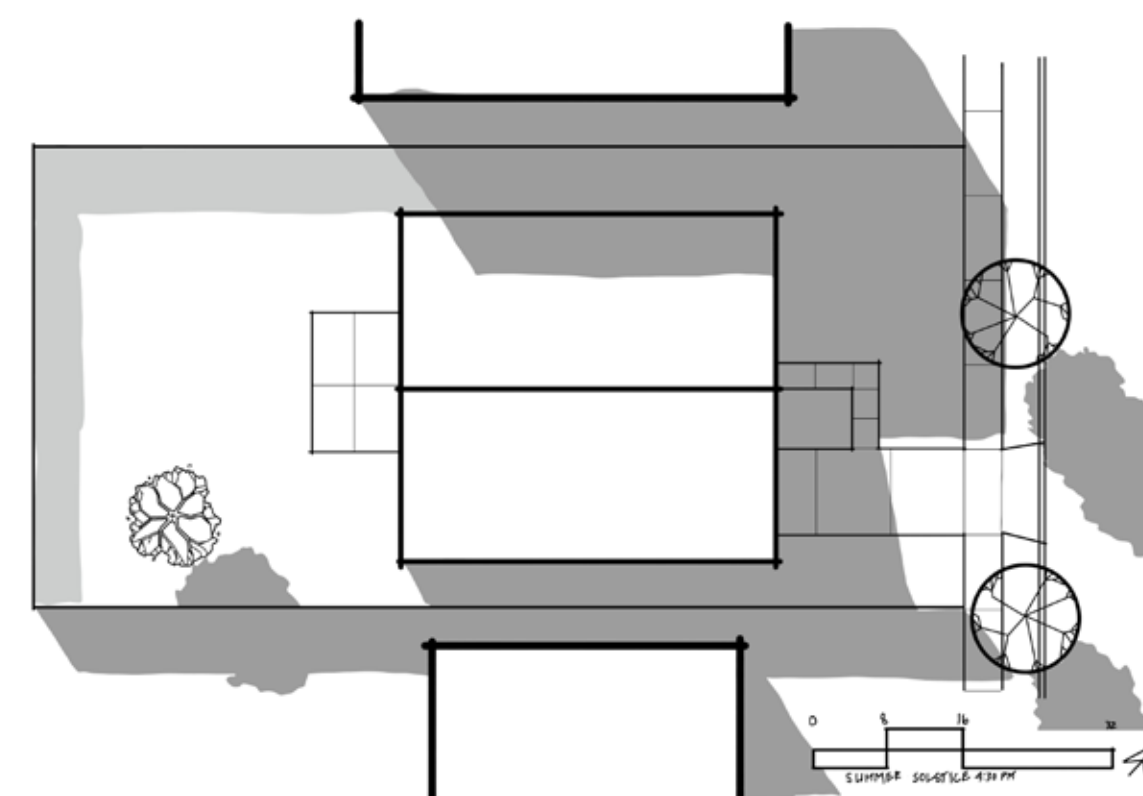
SUMMER SOLSTICE — JUNE 21st



8:30 AM



1:30 PM



4:30 PM

CASTING SHADE:

The apartment building and house cast a good amount of shade across the areas immediately around the house throughout the day. These areas can be considered part sun to part shade. These include the side yards. The chain link fence casts more of a dappled shade than a true heavy shade. Its impact to sunlight can be ignored. The redwood fence to the South will impact sunlight for plants immediately adjacent to the fence.

The Front Yard and Back Yard not immediately by the house or side yard can be considered full sun, though in Winter the house casts a significant shadow throughout the day. This shadow moves though and should allow for a variety of plants to grow, except in areas immediately adjacent to the front door, bound by the walk up and the driveway.

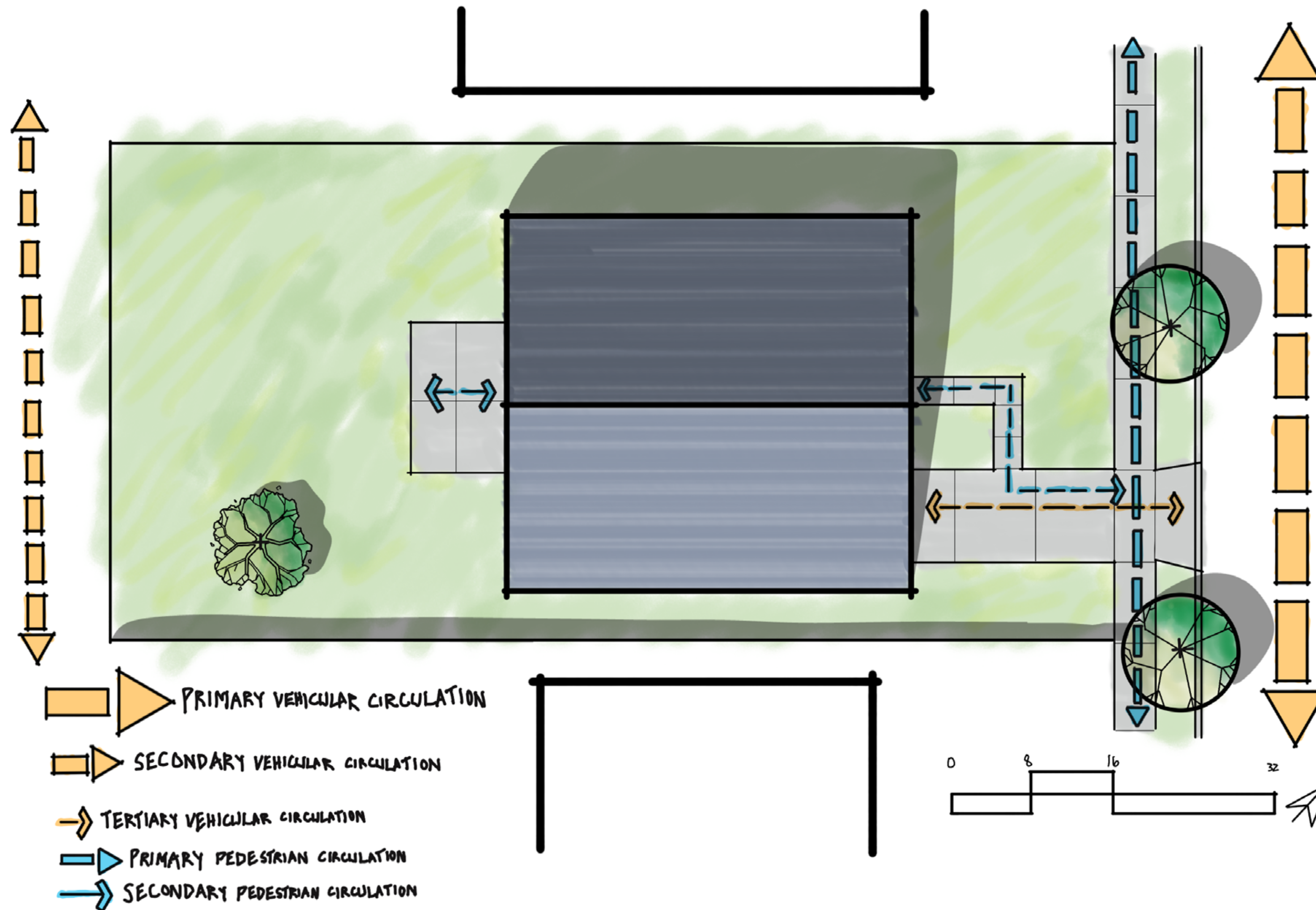
At 5' in radius (10' in diameter) the Coast Live Oak in the back is not large enough to significantly cast shadows, though it will impact the garden over time.

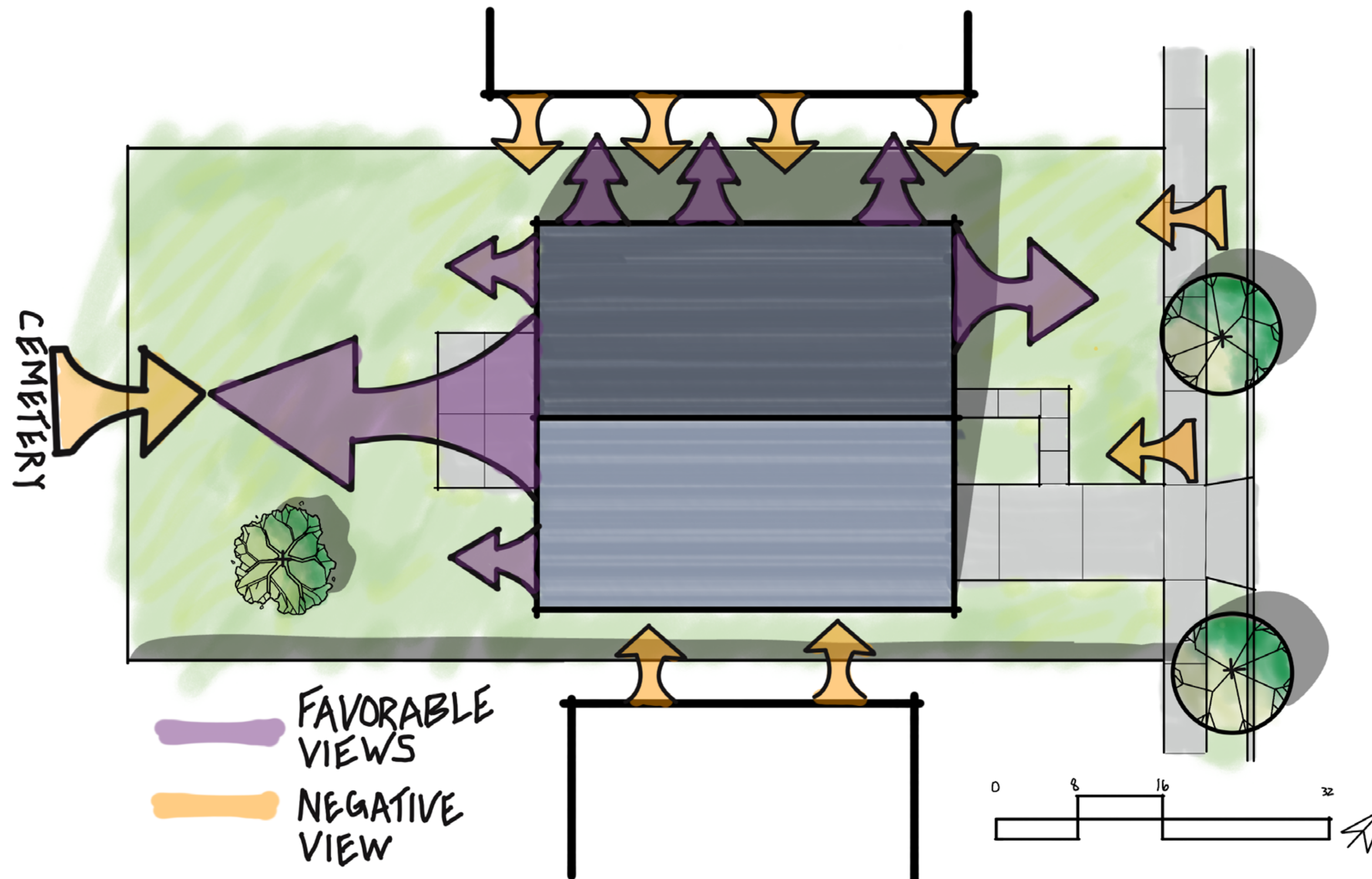
CIRCULATION

The street is the primary driver of vehicular circulation, along with the alley to the South that separates the cemetery from the houses.

Pedestrian circulation is limited to the sidewalk. To enter the house, one must walk on the driveway which feels unwelcoming and unpedestrian-centric.

In the backyard, pedestrian circulation could range across the entirety of the site, but there are very few reasons to leave the square concrete pad off the back of the house.





VIEWS

The two largest favorable views are from the double doors in the back, which open onto the patio from the Family Room. Framing this view will be particularly important since it can make the house feel larger than it really is by extending sight lines from inside the house, outside.

The next largest view would be from the Living Room window in the front out to the street. Privacy concerns will need to be addressed so occupants don't feel like they're living in a fish bowl.

There are plenty of opportunities for vignettes on the west side of the house where the bedroom windows are located.

Negative views include from the street and from the apartment building and from the two story house. The apartment building has the largest negative views since it has a high concentration of people looking into the bedrooms of the house, a particularly sensitive situation.

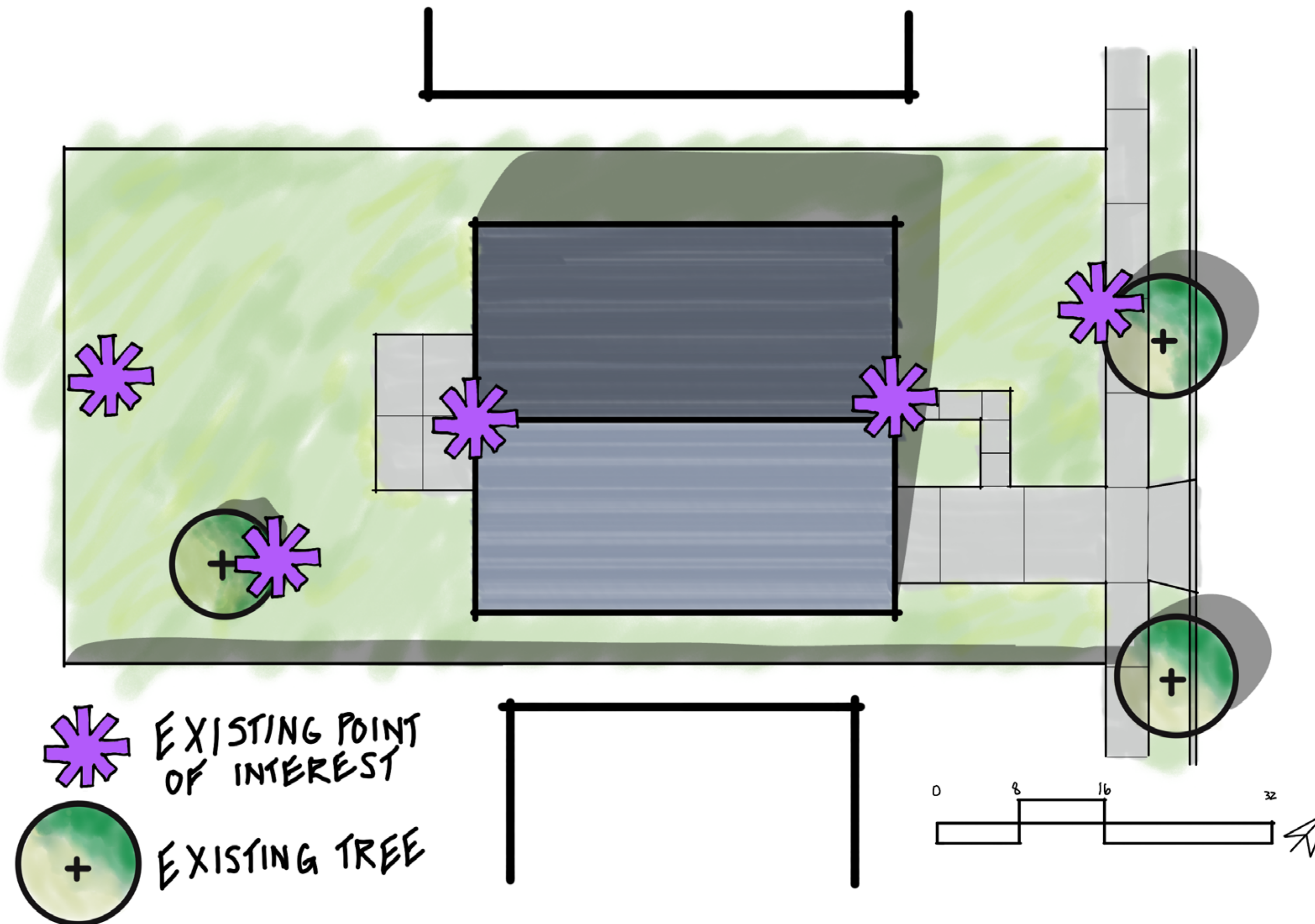
Views from the cemetery into the backyard can also be a cause for concern. Conversely, the times I've been to a cemetery, I'm rarely concerned with my surroundings in those cases.

INTEREST POINTS

Existing trees can always be used as points of interest, particularly when they are in view of windows, like the street tree to the north in the front.

Doors and the crown of roofs can also create focal points by being the tallest or most emphasized since many people paint their doors a separate color from their trim or house colors.

The cemetery to the west can also create an interesting point of interest depending on the clients response to this particular context.



WATERSHED

The highest point on the ground is in the back yard, at the property line where the alleyway is. Water would flow to the two drains and out to the street, with the lowest point being at the curb where the driveway apron meets the street.

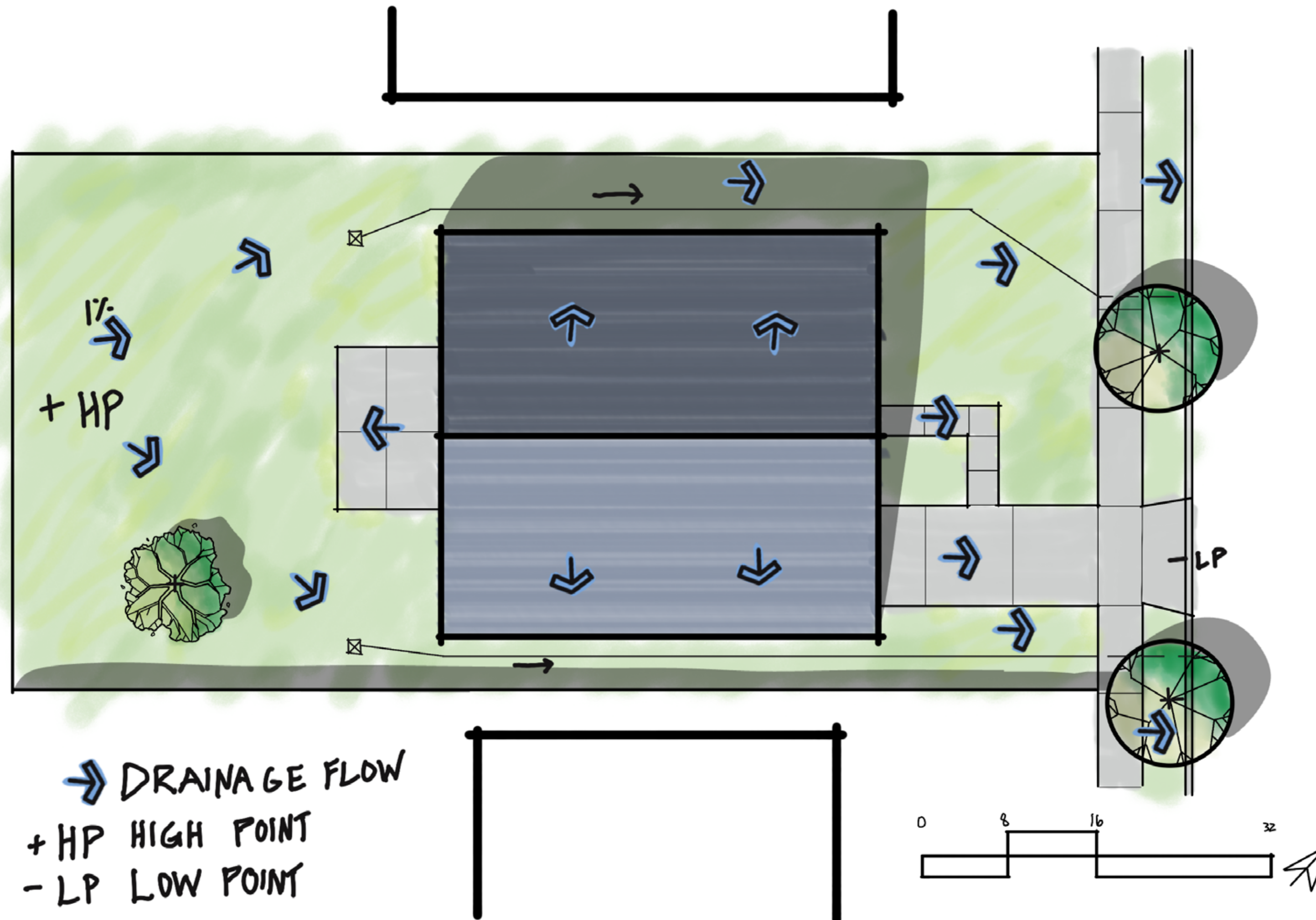
For the site watershed, the roof is, as usual, the highest point. The combined roof square footage is 1520 square feet. In a one inch rain event the roof would generate 947 gallons of rain to be harvested.

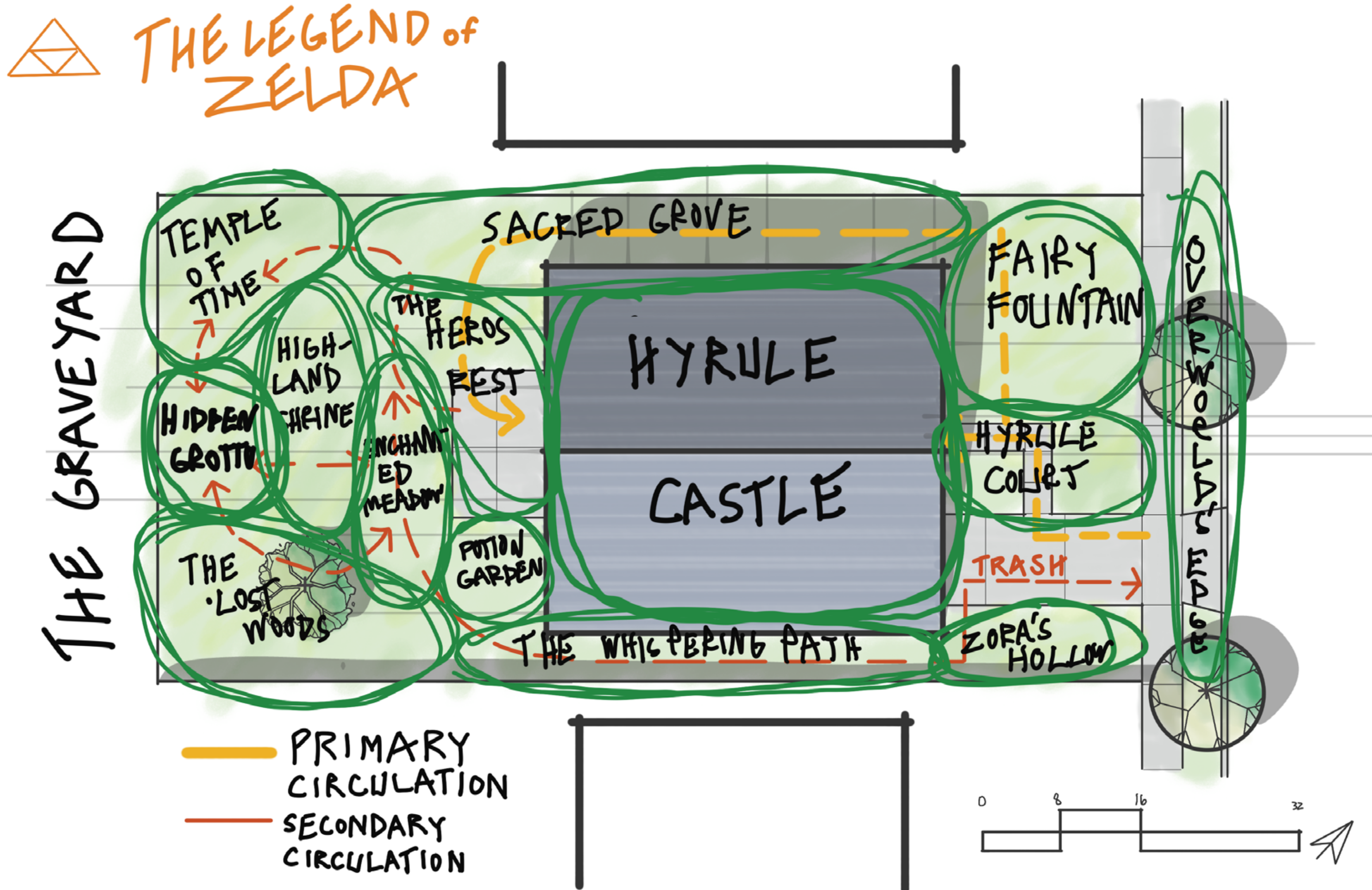
Santa Monica averages 13 inches of rainfall per year, yielding potentially 12,310.5 gallons of rainwater to be harvested just off the roof of this house.

For context, that is equivalent to 16.5 HCFs of water. Indoor water use for an average 3 person family is 237 gallons per day. Over the course of one month that consists of 9.5 HCFs. One adequately sized rain garden can offset over a month's worth of water.

SOURCES:

City of Santa Monica Water Self Sufficiency Report, 2023



**BIG IDEA BUBBLE DIAGRAM**

The Zelda game has a rich lore that's been expanded since the game was first made in 1986. I've taken some of the themes and places in the Zeldaverse and assigned them here.

I imagine the house as Hyrule Castle with the entryway up to it being a slightly more formal affair.

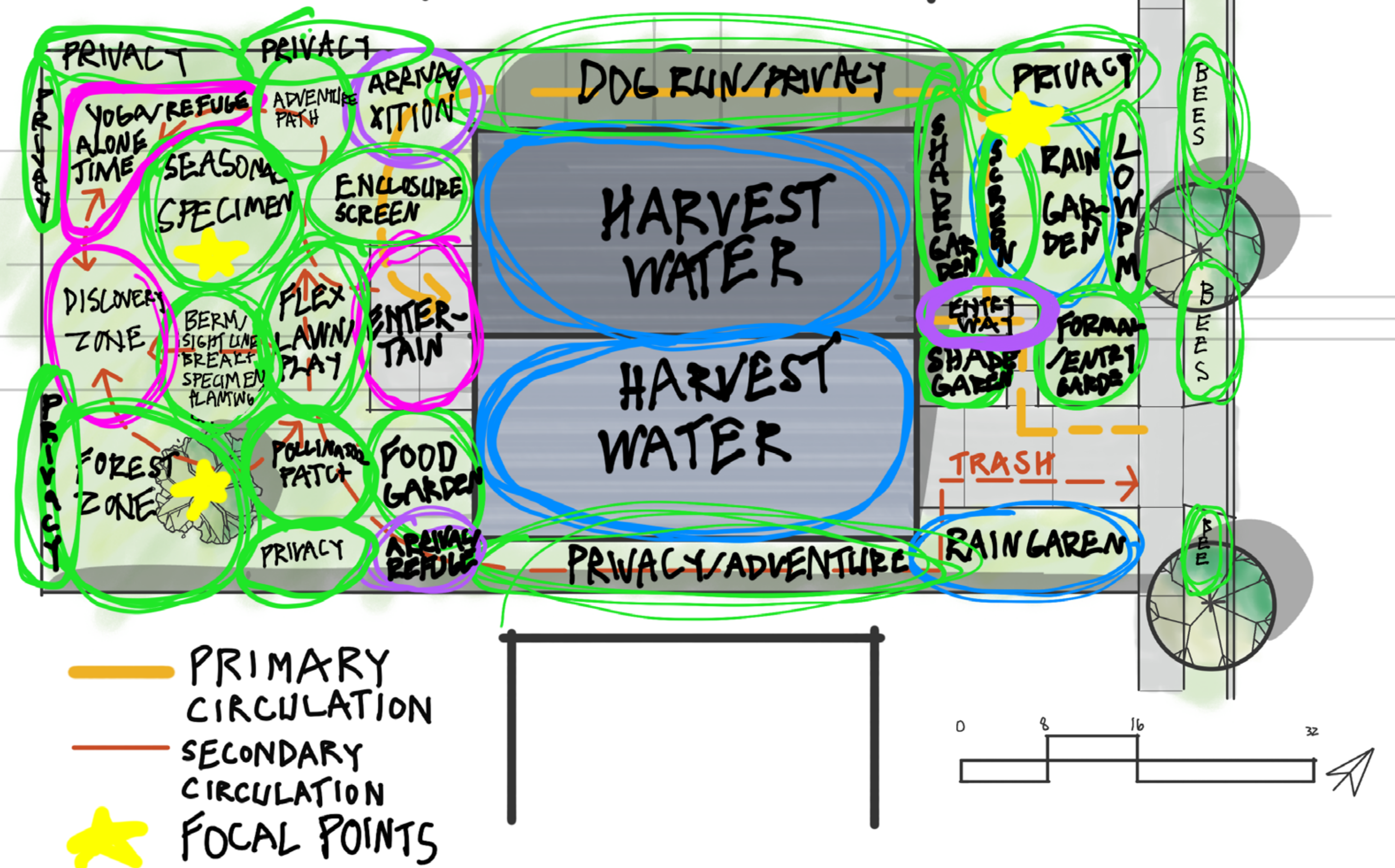
Rain gardens become fairy fountains that heal Link, while the requested vegetable garden is transformed into a potion garden. A small flex lawn becomes an enchanted meadow for the daughter and dog to run around.

In the back corner, the space for the Yoga patio becomes an area of solitude and contemplation, while the existing oak tree at the bottom forms the mainstay of the Lost Woods, an area in Zelda that is filled with all sorts of hidden doorways and enemies to battle.

A view of the graveyard is maintained at the Hidden Grotto; the Legend of Zelda has several graveyards maps to journey through. I want to present the graveyard not in a negative context, but as simply an extension of the Zelda Garden beyond the borders of the clients house.



THE LEGEND of ZELDA



FUNCTIONAL BUBBLE DIAGRAM

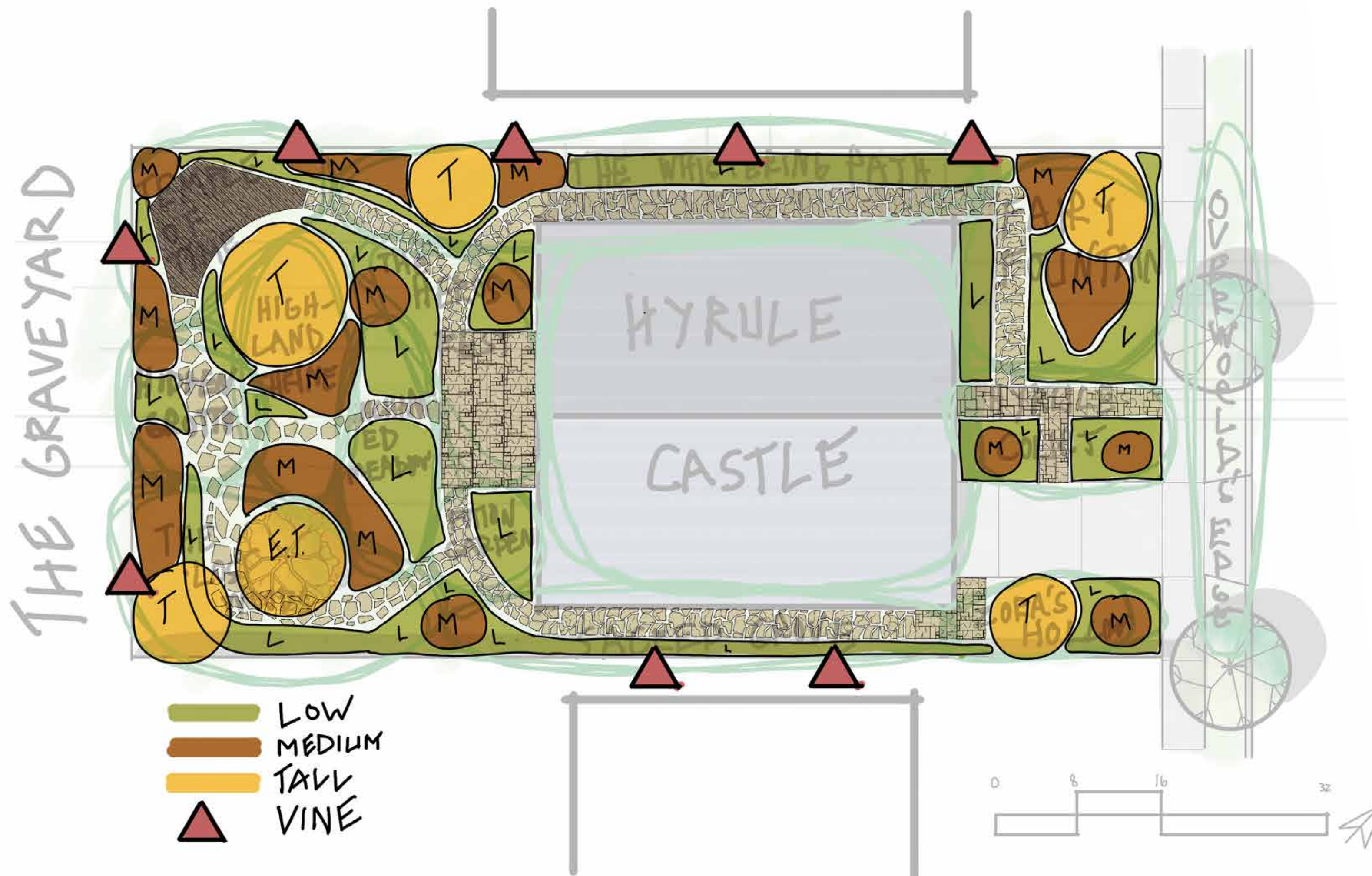
The best gardens do several things all at once in each space. If each space can be programmed ecologically, functionally and thematically, we will achieve a very high functioning garden for the clients as well as for the environment.

PLANT MATERIAL HEIGHTS BUBBLE DIAGRAM

This diagram helped locate and place all the structural shrub material.

Low plant material was suited for narrow spaces and along actively used pathways, while medium to tall shrubs and small trees are placed away from circulation.

It also helped me control views to the graveyard while also creating separate enclosures and garden rooms for the areas seen in the previous bubble diagrams.





Coast Silk Tassel 'Evie'
Garrya elliptica 'Evie'



Coffeeberry
Frangula californica



St Catherine's Lace Buckwheat
Eriogonum giganteum



Compact White Sage
Salvia apiana 'Compacta'



'Poza Blue' Sage
Salvia 'Poza Blue'



San Diego Viguiera
Bahiopsis lacinata



Giant Coreopsis
Leptosyne gigantea



Alkali Sacaton
Sporobolus airoides



Checkerbloom
Sidalcea malviflora



San Miguel Island Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens



Island Pink Yarrow
Achillea millefolium 'Island Pink'



Seaside Daisy 'Bountiful'
Erigeron glaucus 'Bountiful'



Britton's Dudleya
Dudleya brittonii



Marin Pink Fuchsia
Epilobium canum 'Marin Pink'



'Clearwater Blue' Festuca
Festuca idahoensis 'Clearwater Blue'



Foothill Sedge
Carex tumulicola



Purple Three Awn
Aristida purpurea



Canyon Sunflower
Venegasia carpesoides



Western Columbine
Aquilegia formosa



Mulefat
Baccharis salicifolia



Yerba Mansa
Anemopsis californica



Sand Dune Sedge
Carex pansa



Sea Thrift
Armeria maritima



Beach Strawberry 'Lipstick'
Fragaria chiloensis 'Lipstick'



Canyon Sunshine Iris
Iris douglasiana 'Canyon Sunshine'



Canyon Snow Iris
Iris douglasiana 'Canyon Snow'



Island Morning Glory
Calystegia macrostegia

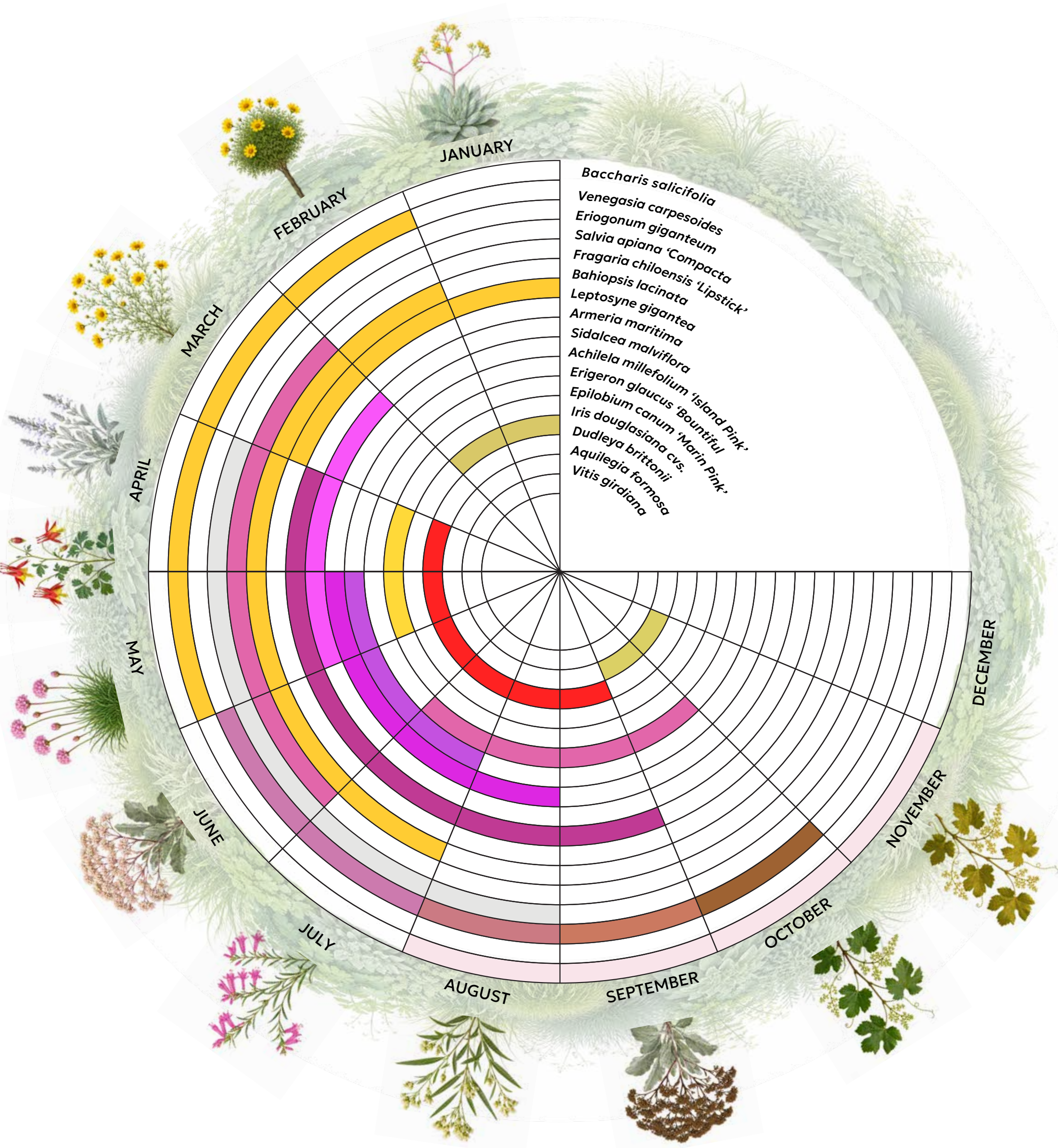


Happy Wanderer Purple Lilac Vine
Hardenbergia violaceae 'Happy Wanderer'

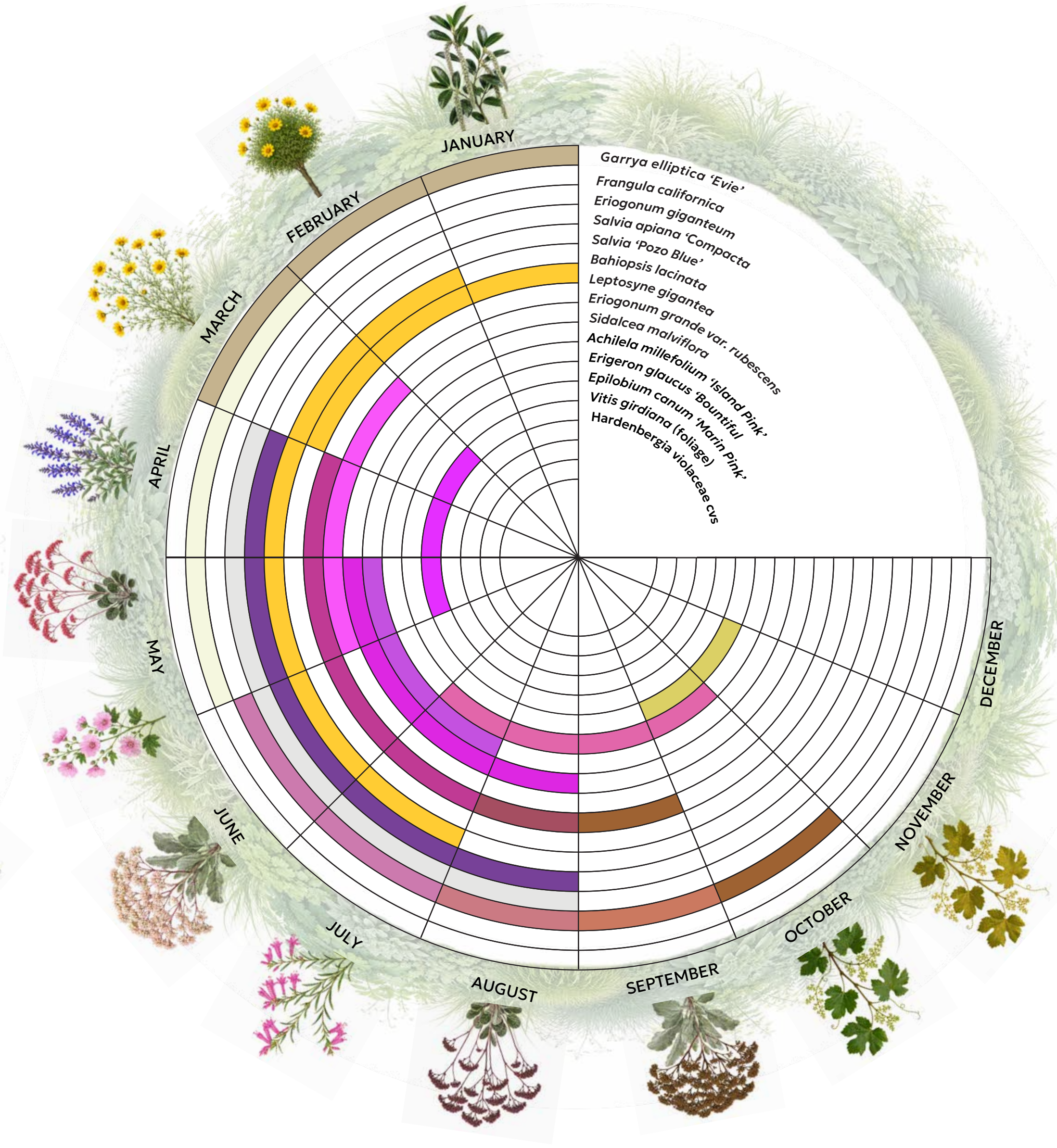


Desert Wild Grape
Vitis girdiana

FRONT YARD

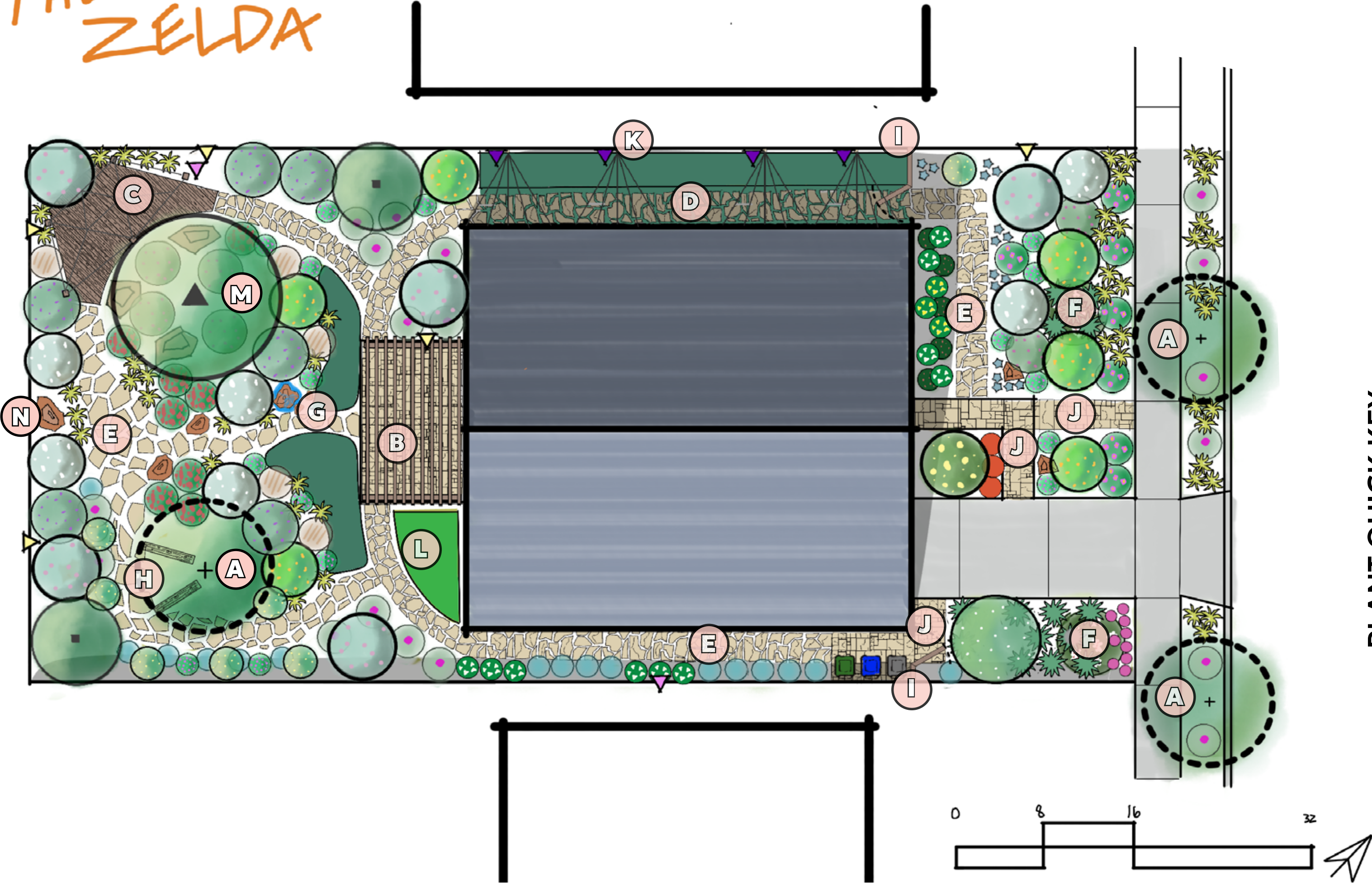


BACK YARD



Grasses not included in the above bloom calendars.

THE LEGEND of ZELDA



PLANT QUICK KEY

ICON	BOTANICAL NAME
	<i>Garrya Elliptica</i> 'Evie'
	<i>Frangula californica</i>
	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>
	<i>Salvia apiana</i> 'Compacta'
	<i>Salvia Clevelandii</i> 'Pozo Blue'
	<i>Bahiopsis lacinata</i>
	<i>Venegasia carpesoides</i>
	<i>Leptosyne gigantea</i>
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>
	<i>Anemopsis californica</i>
	<i>Carex pansa</i>
	<i>Armeria maritima</i>
	<i>Sporobulus airoides</i>
	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> 'Clearwater Blue'
	<i>Aristida purpurea</i>
	<i>Eriogonum grande</i> var. <i>rubescens</i>
	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i> 'Bountiful'
	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>
	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> 'Canyon Snow'
	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> 'Canyon Sunshine'
	<i>Dudleya brittonii</i>
	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>
	<i>Vitis girdiana</i>
	<i>Hardenbergia violaceae</i> 'Happy Wanderer'
	<i>Epilobium</i> 'Marin Pink'
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Island Pink'
	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> 'Lipstick'
	<i>Carex tumulicola</i>

- A

 Existing trees
- B

 New pergola and flagstone patio
- C

 New flex deck with overhead cable trellis
- D

 Flagstone path with adjacent dog run
- E

 New flagstone pathway
- F

 New vegetated rain garden
- G

 New boulder fountain
- H

 New reclaimed timber seating
- I

 New gate
- J

 New stamped and stained concrete pathway
- K

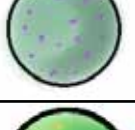
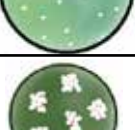
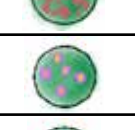
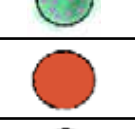
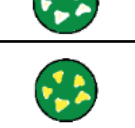
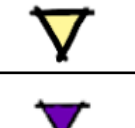
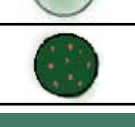
 New overhead cable trellis for privacy
- L

 New In ground vegetable garden, species TBD per client.
- M

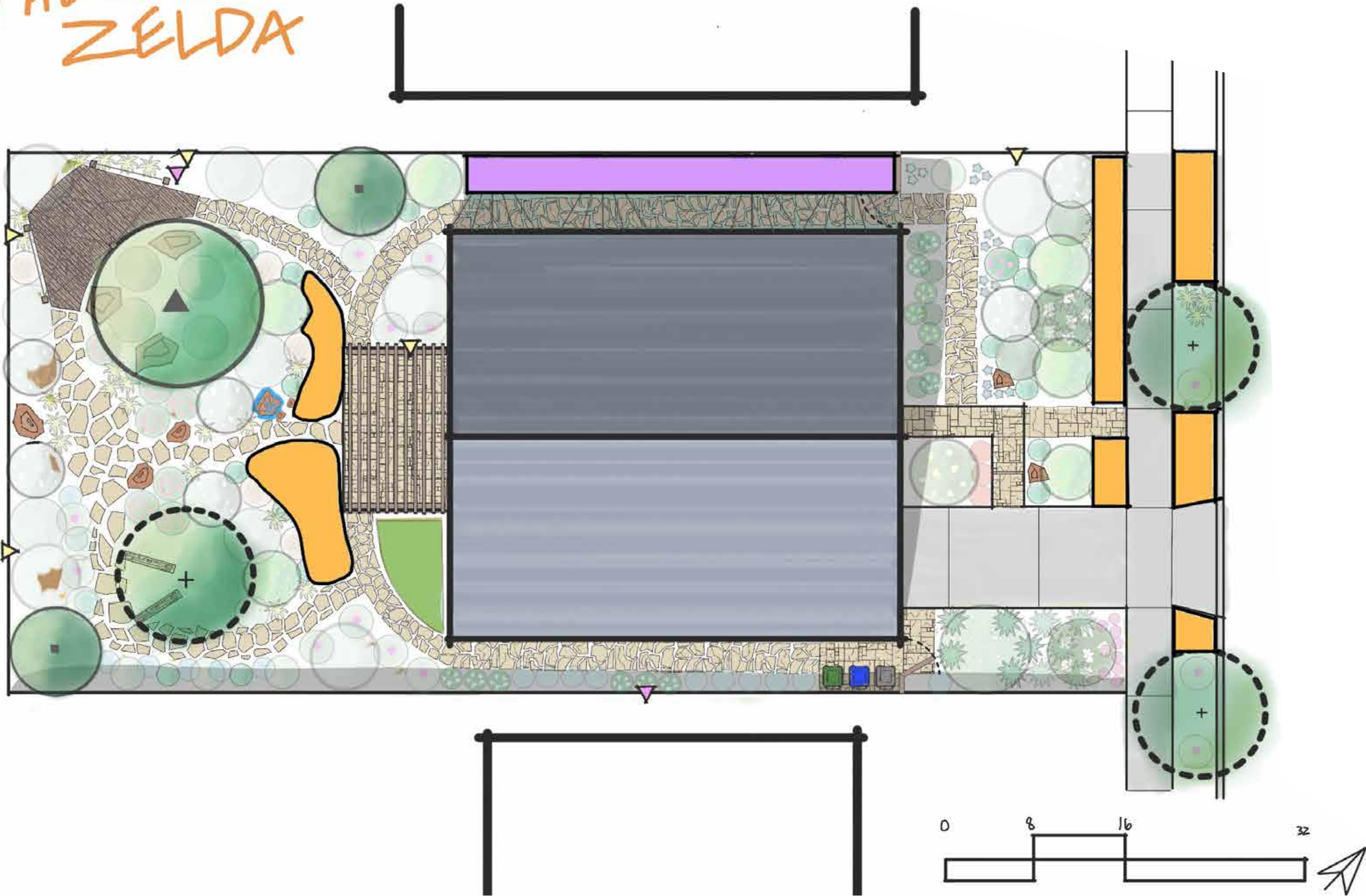
 Raised berm
- N

 New boulder, typical

PLANT SCHEDULE

ICON	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HxW(Mature)	WUCOLS	QUANTITY	CONTAINER SIZE	FLOWER SEASON	CLASSIFICATION
	<i>Garrya elliptica</i> ‘Evie’	Coast Silk Tassel	15x15	L	1	24” Box	January-March	Small Tree
	<i>Frangula californica</i>	Coffeeberry	12x8	L	2	15 Gallon	March-May	Large Shrub
	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	St. Catherine’s Lace	6x6	VL	5	5 Gallon	June-October	Shrub
	<i>Salvia apiana</i> ‘Compacta’	Compact White Sage	4x5	VL	6	1 Gallon	March-August	Shrub
	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> ‘Pozo Blue’	Pozo Blue Sage	5x5	VL	6	1 Gallon	April-July	Shrub
	<i>Bahiopsis lacinata</i>	San Diego County Vigueria	4x5	L	6	1 Gallon	February-July	Shrub
	<i>Venegasia carpesoides</i>	Canyon Sunflower	6x6	M	6	1 Gallon	February-July	Shrub
	<i>Leptosyne gigantea</i>	Giant Coreopsis	5x3	L	6	1 Gallon	January-March	Shrub
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule Fat	10x8	H*	1	5 Gallon	August-November	Rain Garden Shrub
	<i>Anemopsis californica</i>	Yerba Mansa	1x6	M	2	1 Gallon	April-September	Rain Garden Groundcover
	<i>Carex pansa</i>	Sand Dune Sedge	1x3	M	14	1 Gallon	April-July	Rain Garden Groundcover
	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Thrift	1x1	M	10	1 Gallon	March-August	Rain Garden Groundcover
	<i>Sporobulus airoides</i>	Alkali Drop Seed	3x3	VL	5	1 Gallon	April-October	Grass
	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> ‘Clearwater Blue’	Clearwater Blue Festuca	2x2	L	18	1 Gallon	July-August	Grass
	<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Purple Three Awn	3x2	L	53	1 Gallon	March-September	Grass
	<i>Eriogonum grande</i> var. <i>rubescens</i>	San Miguel Island Buckwheat	1x3	L	7	1 Gallon	April-September	Perennial
	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i> ‘Bountiful’	Bountiful Seaside Daisy	1x3	L	7	1 Gallon	May-June	Perennial
	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>	Checkerbloom	2x2	L	14	1 Gallon	February-May	Perennial
	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Western Columbine	4x2	M	3	1 Gallon	April-September	Perennial
	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> ‘Canyon Snow’	Canyon Snow Iris	2x2	L	10	1 Gallon	April-May	Perennial
	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> ‘Canyon Sunshine’	Canyon Sunshine Iris	2x2	L	3	1 Gallon	April-May	Perennial
	<i>Dudleya brittonii</i>	Britton’s Dudleya	1x1	VL	17	1 Gallon	January-February	Perennial
	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Island Morning Glory	20x20	L	2	1 Gallon	April-June	Vine
	<i>Vitis girdiana</i>	Desert Wild Grape	50x50	L	5	1 Gallon	May-June	Vine
	<i>Hardenbergia violaceae</i> ‘Happy Wanderer’	Purple Vine Lilac ‘Happy Wanderer’	12-16x12-16	L	4	5 Gallon	February-May	Vine
	<i>Epilobium</i> ‘Marin Pink’	Marin Pink Fuchsia	2x4	L	6	1 Gallon	July-October	Groundcover
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> ‘Island Pink’	Island Pink Yarrow	1x3	L	12	1 Gallon	May-August	Groundcover
	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> ‘Lipstick’	Lipstick Beach Strawberry	.5x8	L	5	1 Gallon	March-June	Groundcover
	<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	Foothill Sedge	1.5x3	L	216	72 Cell Plug Flat	April-July	Groundcover

THE LEGEND of ZELDA



WILDFLOWERS

Wildflowers should be sewn right before a 1” rain event in early winter. In a dry winter, water seedlings in for 3 days consecutively with hose water, then as they germinate, continue applying water every two days or so for at least a week. Taper off moisture as seedlings reach 3-4” high.

These have been chosen to match our Zelda Color Scheme as well as their ease of germination in a layer of mulch, which will cover the entirety of your site post-installation.



Eschscholzia californica 'Apricot Chiffon'



Eschscholzia californica 'Moonglow'



Layia platyglossa



Phacelia campanularia



Nemophila maculata



Nemophila menziesii

WILDFLOWER MIX KEY

WILDFLOWER SCHEDULE

ICON	BOTANICAL NAME
	Full Sun Mix: <i>Eschscholzia californica</i> 'Apricot Chiffon', <i>E. californica</i> 'Moonglow', <i>Layia platyglossa</i> , <i>Phacelia campanularia</i>
	Part Sun Mix: <i>Nemophila maculata</i> , <i>Nemophila menziesii</i>

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HxW(Mature)	WUCOLS	QUANTITY	SEASON	MIX
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> 'Apricot Chiffon'	Apricot Chiffon Poppy	1-2x1-2	VL	5 Ounces	March-July	Full Sun Mix
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> 'Moonglow'	Moonglow Poppy	1-2x1-2	VL	3 Ounces	March-July	Full Sun Mix
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Tidy Tips	1x1	VL	4 Ounces	April-May	Full Sun Mix
<i>Phacelia campanularia</i>	Desert Bluebells	1-2x1-2	VL	2 Ounces	February-April	Full Sun Mix
<i>Nemophila maculata</i>	Five Spot	1x1	VL	1 Ounce	March-May	Part Sun Mix
<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	Baby Blue Eyes	1x1	VL	1 Ounce	March-May	Part Sun Mix



P1. TEMPLE OF TIME/FLEX DECK

A flexible deck for yoga or relaxation is in the corner of the yard. The overhead cable trellis has *Calystegia macrostegia* growing over it. As the vine grows, it will create a thick thatch layer on the bottom, consisting of twisted brown vines, creating the illusion of an ancient, timeless place, befitting of our video game garden.



P2. SACRED GROVE/SIDEYARD

The chainlink fence becomes a trellis that the evergreen vine *Hardenbergia violaceae* 'Happy Wanderer' grows up. Steel cables are affixed from the fascia board of the house to the top of the fence to create privacy from the 2 story apartment building next door. It creates a sense of enclosure along with a beautiful dappled light for the bedrooms it shields from prying eyes.



P3. HYRULE COURT/ FRONT YARD

Yellow flowering *Bahiopsis lacinata* and *Venegasia carpesoides* flank the pathway that now leads to the door; the flower colors have been matched to the front door to create a sense of harmony. Planting is more restrained and lower in size for a more refined appearance.



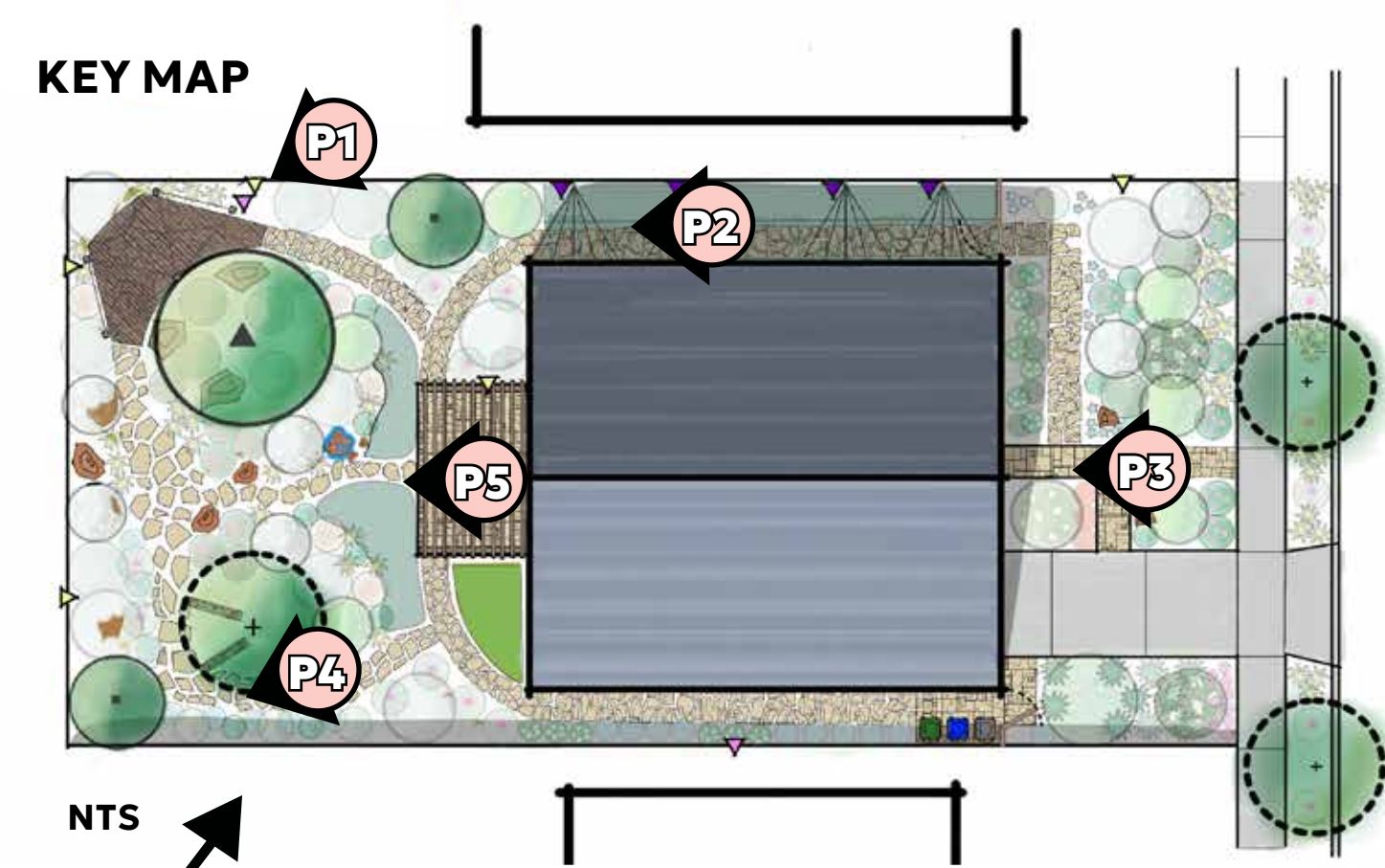
P4. THE LOST FOREST/BACK YARD

A grove of *Leptosyne gigantea* flank the path that winds around the oak tree; the *L. gigantea* are like miniature trees in that they are stout, generally single trunked, and much taller than they are wide. As the summer heat wears on, the *L. gigantea* will drop their leaves and become bear trunks, contributing to that mysterious 'Lost Forest' feel.



P5. HERO'S REST/BACK PATIO

A large pergola creates dappled shade for entertaining; it also cuts the electric bill by reducing sunlight onto the south side of the house during the summer. A flagstone path, flanked by sages, invites you deeper into the garden. In the foreground, a Sand Dune Sedge lawn allows for room for play or larger gatherings spilling off the patio. A boulder fountain creates a sense of calm. The graveyard is framed in view, but by placing plenty of plant material and focal objects before it makes it a background player rather than the focal point.



Every garden is a reflection of its caretaker. While the plants in this palette can be found locally throughout Los Angeles County, many of them will perform better in terms of plant health and aesthetics with a hand from their human caretaker.

SOIL CARE

Caring for the soil in this garden is the most important. Stay off of it when it's wet, after it rained or been irrigated for at least a few days to avoid compaction. Keep it covered with mulch or even better, material from the plants themselves. Native plants will mulch themselves with leaves overtime. Try to put as little in the green bins as possible; your yard is the best green bin in the world! If a plant is spent or dies, keep its roots in the ground; cut it back at the ground so the soil structure that was built by the plant is maintained rather than destroyed.

Minimal fertilization is required in this garden. The Carex Lawns will bounce back from summer dormancy and the winter prune back faster with a 1/4 strength application of fish fertilizer, but other than that, nothing "needs" fertilization.

Increasing the soil biodiversity is a much better way of caring for the soil, particularly in the first few years as your soil moves from a bacterial dominated ecology to a fungal dominated ecology. Compost teas, worm teas or humates are all effective at increasing the soil biology and can be applied with a pump or backpack sprayer. This can be done once a quarter and tapered back to once a year as the garden hits its third year. After that, if the plants are flourishing, they'll begin creating their own soil microbiomes that best benefit them.

IRRIGATION

Native plants do not need a lot of water to thrive. However, young native plants are surprisingly thirsty as they get established. Watering deeply, widely, and infrequently helps them build deep, wide, drought resistant root structures that allows them to survive with no rainfall for over nine months. For your yard, this equates to approximately two hours and twenty minutes of irrigation using the installed drip grid to apply 1" of water. Your Racchio irrigation timer has been programmed to water every other day in the first week of planting, every 3 days in the second week of planting, and once a week for the following month. After a month, it will begin watering once to twice a month depending on weather conditions. That said, the best irrigation controller is the human caretaker. If a plant is flagging, check the soil moisture with a soil probe (or your finger). If the soil is moist, skip the next watering cycle. If

the soil is dry, pull up the next watering cycle and apply some water with a hose to the affected plants.

Gardening is about observing, measuring, and acting. Skipping any one of those steps is a huge mistake; to measure and act without observing means to expend effort and resources for no reason. To observe and measure but without acting negates the effort it takes to watch your plants. The worst sin is to observe a plant (it's wilting!) and act (lets water it!) without measuring. This is the mistake many homeowners make. One must ask first how dry is it before one applies water, otherwise you don't know how much to water! Often plants that appear to be underwatered are actually overwatered. The symptoms are exactly the same, so always measuring how moist the soil is before watering is important!

Always check the soil before watering. Then check after you've watered to see how far all that water really got. You'll be surprised how long it takes to get an inch of water 6" deep into the soil.

As the garden matures past its third year, plants can be weened off supplemental irrigation entirely, though expect them to go dormant in the summer.

Plants in the rain garden should be irrigated to maintain their lushness over time. Irrigation can be as infrequent as a deep soak every two weeks, but it depends on the weather.

MAINTENANCE

In general, native landscapes require less frequent maintenance, but when they do need maintenance, they take longer sessions to do the maintenance in. In the late fall to early winter, cut back most of the plant material back to a node. Keep all trimmings on site; if you have a chipper/shredder, run the trimmings through that and spread it anywhere the mulch is looking thin.

If you are looking to hire out your maintenance, most normal gardeners and mow and blow crews are not familiar with the plant material or techniques necessary to maintain a yard like this. I recommend utilizing the Theodore Payne Foundation Job Board or hiring a person who has earned their Native Landscaper Certificate or done the UCLAx Horticulture Certificate program and completed the California Natives Elective.

When pruning, always use sharp, clean tools. It is always appropriate to remove dead or decayed material. It is always appropriate to prune or remove material growing in a pathway.

Beyond pruning, weeding is the single most time intensive task in your yard, as neighbors' plants will continue to seed into your yard. Pull weeds before they set seed to control their spread. As the garden fills in, the weed pressure will reduce as the native plants will be able to outgrow the weeds for sunlight.

A few pruning instructions for the plants are below:

Garrya elliptica: As plant grows in, choose lowest permanent branch and prune off all lower branches. Ensure good structural pruning at planting. Prune after flowering in Spring. Manage epicormic shoots as it will continue to bud from base throughout its life.

Frangula californica: Prune for size and shape in late winter or early spring before flowering. Does not respond well to heading cuts, use removal cuts. Can be pruned lightly throughout the year.

Eriogonum species: For St. Catherine's Lace, pinch back frequently in the first year for density. For size control prune new growth in early Spring. To refresh plant, cut back hard into old wood in November ish. For San Miguel Island Buckwheat, deadhead spent flowers in late October, otherwise minimal pruning required.

Salvia species: If deadheading, keep trimmings whole and nearby so birds can eat the seed. Otherwise, prune back after the birds have feasted in late October or November. Prune back 1/3 or so to refresh plants and maintain size; keep at least 2-3 active nodes below each cut. White Sage should be tip pruned and pinched regularly during the growing season to encourage dense form and prevent branch breakage on young plants. Pozo Blue Sage can also be tip pruned to encourage bushier forms.

Bahiopsis lacinata: Prune back after flowers are spent in late fall.

Venegasia carpesoides: Prune in late fall or early winter, heading back as necessary to maintain size.

Leptosyne gigantea: Do not damage or prune main trunks as this can permanently damage the plant. If side branches get in the way, remove branch back to where it joins its parent stem. Stake plants for vertical form when young. Dried shaggy leaves can be pruned off after plant goes dormant, but that is part of its aesthetic in The Lost Forest.

Baccharis salicifolia: Shape in late winter or early spring. For size control, cut back or coppice branches to base. For rejuvenation, cut back entire plant to ground.

Epilobium Marin Pink: After the first year, cut back hard to the ground after plant is spent in Winter. Pull up runners where plant is not desired.

Fragaria chiloensis 'Lipstick': will runner over edges of pathways. Redirect stems or prune back as necessary.

Erigeron glaucus 'Bountiful': For optimal flowering, deadhead plant before flowers go to seed to encourage a second wave of blooms. Prune back spent stems back to where they meet the parent plant.

Anemopsis californica: Expect this plant to go completely deciduous after the summer, even with some supplemental water. Cut back after it is spent. Will runner and pop up in other moist areas; this is acceptable and planned. If it shows up out of bounds, simply pull it or redirect the runners back into the rain garden. Will not survive in areas with low moisture.

Perennials not mentioned above: Generally low maintenance, deadhead after flowers are spent. When deadheading, cut spent flower stem at the base where it joins the rest of the plant. This is particularly important for Yarrow if you intend to walk on it.

Aristida purpurea: Plant readily self seeds throughout the garden, if this is undesirable or if seed heads pose a problem with your pet, you can trim the seed heads off before they ripen and turn light tan in the late spring to early summer. My experience with this plant and pets is it is not problematic unless the pet is running through a dense thicket; I have seen some dogs and cats even eat the seed heads with no issues. Cut back hard in late fall or early winter to prevent a buildup of dead thatch over time.

Carex pansa: Can go dormant if summer water is withheld. If this happens, take a string trimmer and cut back in the winter 3-4" above the ground, then apply water. A dilute 1/4 strength fish emulsion can be applied to invigorate plant, but is not necessary. Do not cut back into the crown of the plant as this can damage it.

Carex tumulicola: Clean up in winter with a string trimmer or pair of hedge trimmers, removing the growth down to 3-4" above ground. Do not cut into the crown of the plant as this can damage it.

Grasses not mentioned above: Cut back hard in the winter

to 3-4", so plant does not develop a dead thatch layer.

Vitis girdiana: This plant does want to be 50' long. Luckily it is easy to prune. Wait until all foliage drops off in winter. Then prune back all secondary and tertiary growth back to the main leaders. Always cut back to a node. Plant can be coppiced but I do not recommend that. Very tolerant of winter pruning, bounces back easily; learn how to prune on this plant as it can take a beating and be absolutely fine. Do not weave main leader through chain link fence; will girdle itself as it grows old. Rather, use velcro tape or cloth to tie trunk to the fence. Do not prune when plant is beginning to push new buds in late winter or early spring as the plant will bleed sap profusely from the pruning wound for several days. If any branch is in the way or grows into a path, it can be removed at any point. *Vitis girdiana* does not fruit near the coast and as such I consider it dog safe.

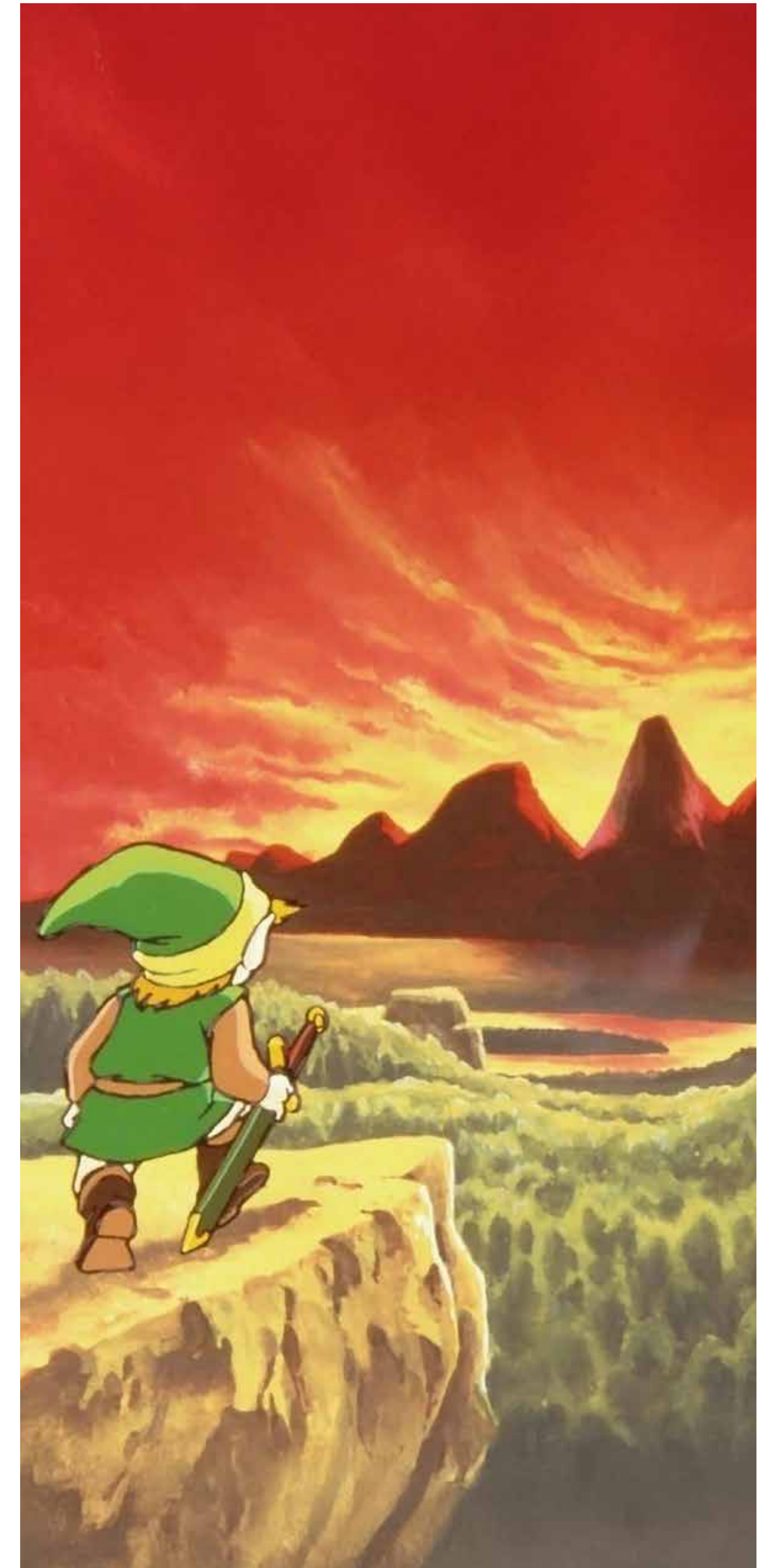
Calystegia macrostegia: Plants in this plant family are known to be aggressive and large, which is why it has the full run of your fence. Prune it off neighboring plants at any time. Prune back hard to dethatch it every few years. For your Flex Deck, the whole point is to develop the thatch layer to make the deck appear under an ancient vine. Prune back new growth to that thatch layer as required. Can be summer deciduous if it does not receive supplemental water (though this happens less frequently in milder conditions) which will slow down its growth. Train branches and twigs up onto supports.

Hardenbergia violaceae 'Happy Wanderer': Prune as needed as vine is vigorous, though pruning in late fall or early winter, before spring flowers set, or after main bloom is done, is best. Can be pruned throughout the year.

Wildflowers: Wildflowers will help fill in the space as your garden grows in its first two years. Over time, they'll slowly reduce in number, but will reseed themselves into areas where they are happiest. More seeds or different species can always be added in as desired as you get the hang of your garden. For a superbloom, water by hand 40-60% higher than the monthly rainfall average in winter.

Maintenance often sounds scary, but getting started is the most important thing. Just like anything new, it takes a bit of practice to master, like any video game. Just like Link wasn't a perfect warrior when he set out to save Zelda, you don't need to be a seasoned horticulturalist to take care of your Hyrule inspired garden!

Garden fearlessly!



Nintendo Corporation of America

