

Project #1: Residential Design

# From Habitat to Hideaway

James Kang

LD 5: Planting Design, Spring 2026

Pamela Brief

Residential Design

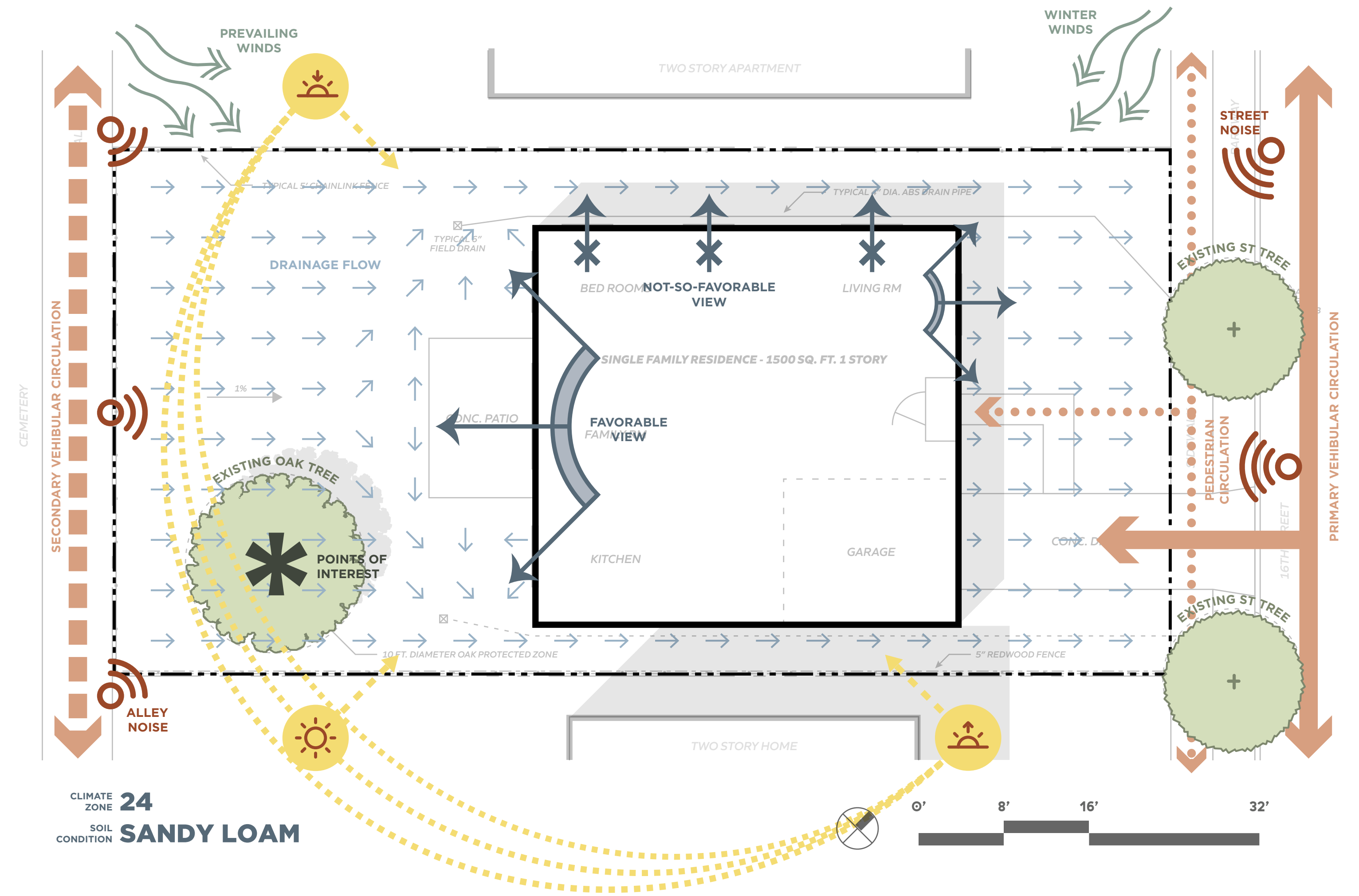
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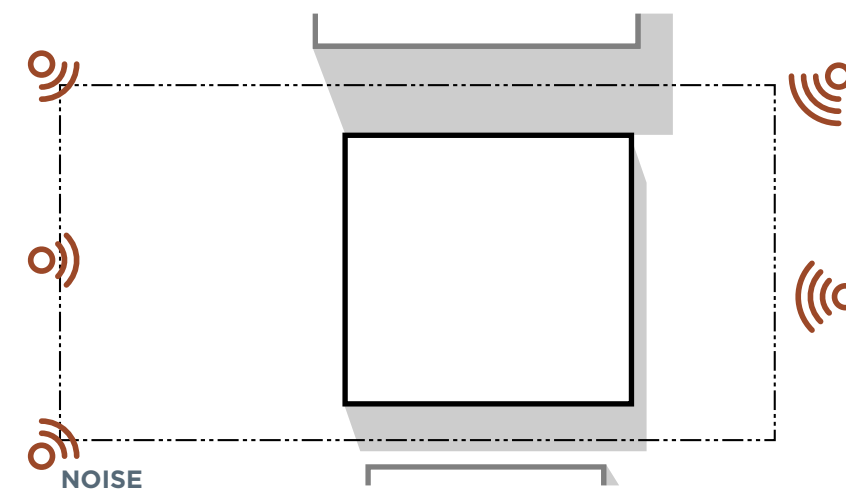
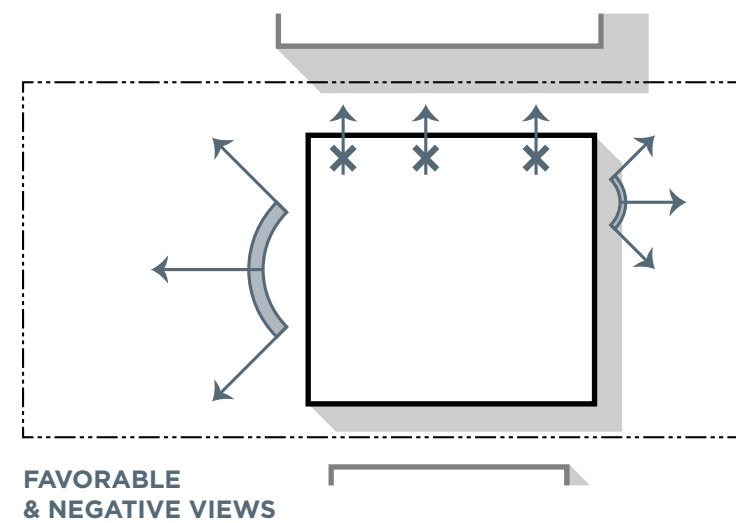
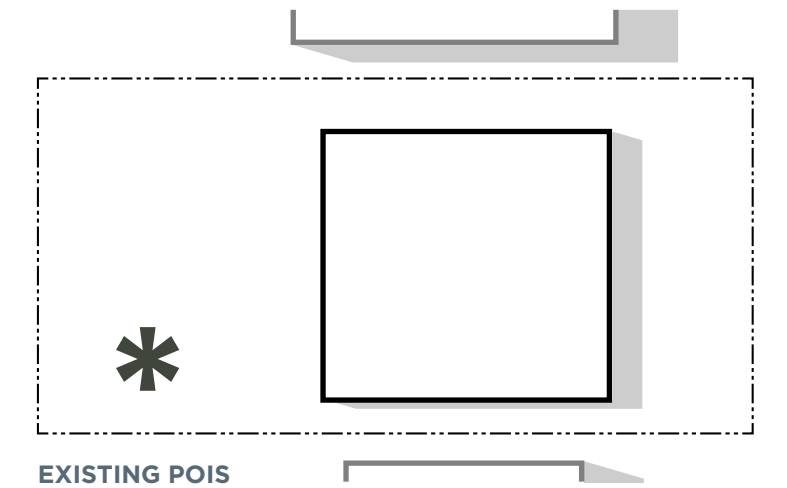
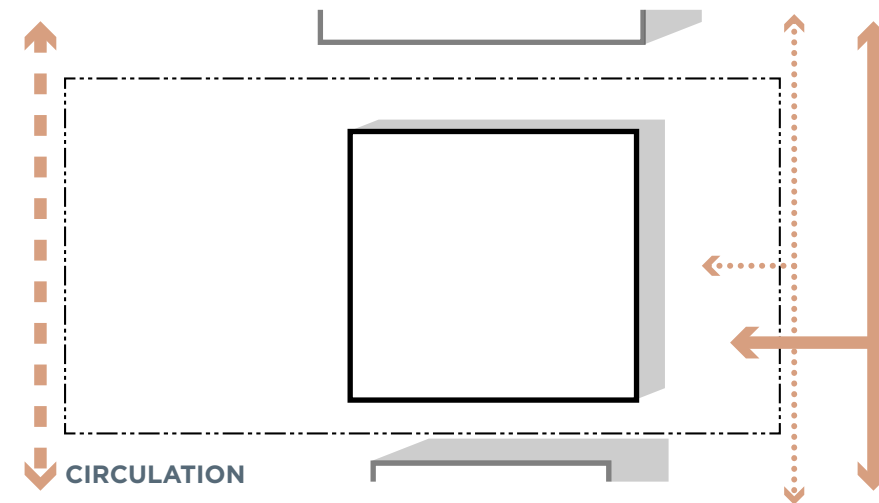
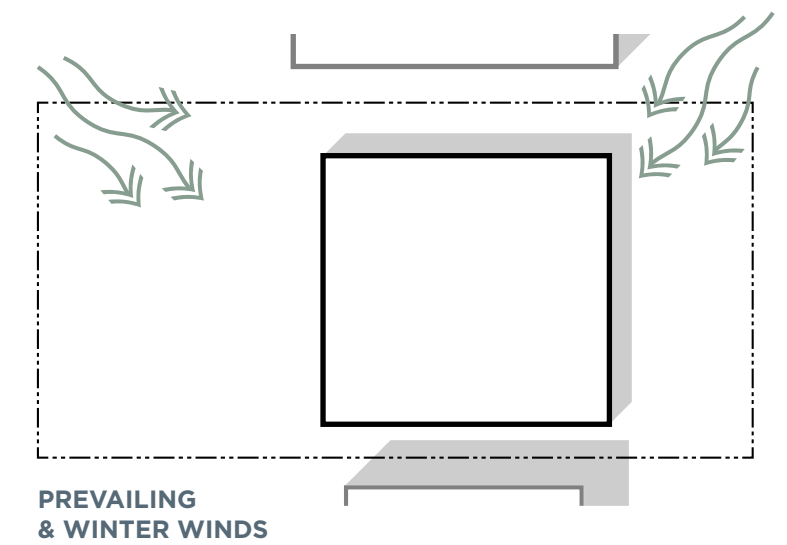
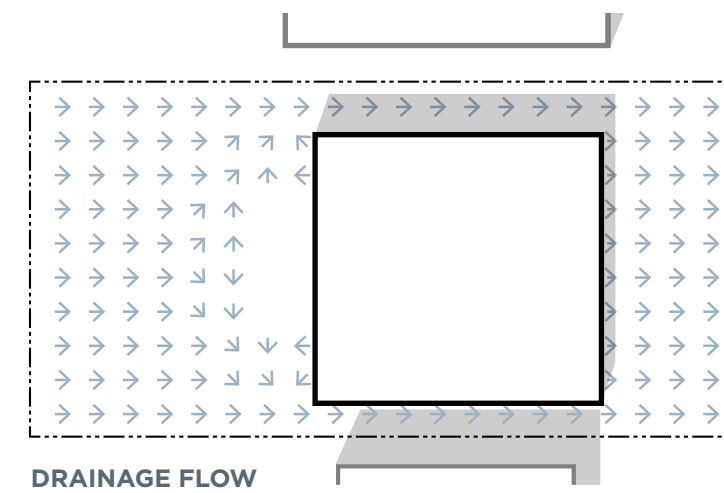
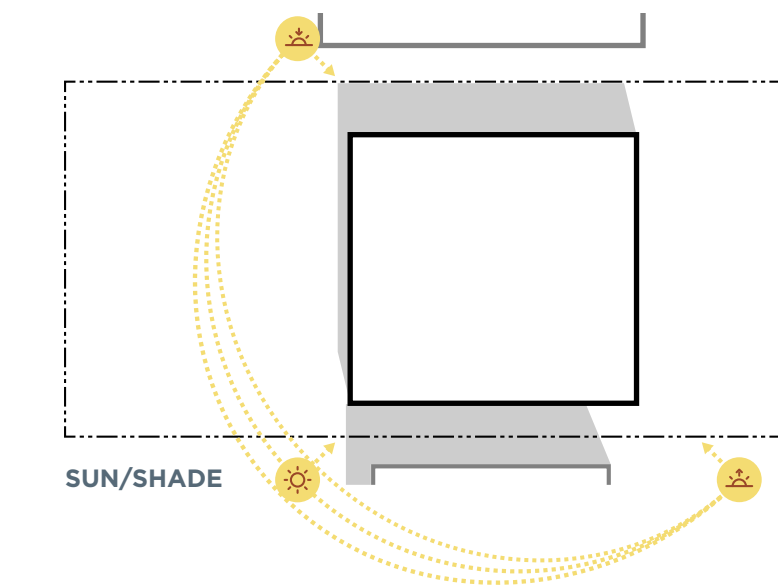
# Residential Design Site Analysis

This site analysis examines the environmental and spatial conditions including seasonal sunlight, prevailing winds, drainage flow, circulation, privacy, and noise. Located within Climate Zone 24 with sandy loam soil, the site contains a variety of microclimates shaped by existing mature trees, including a large oak that creates shaded ecological zones and influences planting opportunities. These observations informed the overall spatial organization of the landscape and established opportunities for ecological planting, outdoor gathering, and family-oriented use throughout the site.



# Residential Design Site Analysis

The secondary site analysis further investigates the environmental systems influencing the site, focusing on shadow patterns, drainage flow, circulation, views, and existing vegetation. The shadow study highlights the contrast between sunny open areas and cooler shaded zones beneath the oak canopy and adjacent to the house, helping define locations for pollinator meadow planting, woodland gardens, and rain garden spaces.



CLIMATE ZONE **24**  
SOIL CONDITION **SANDY LOAM**



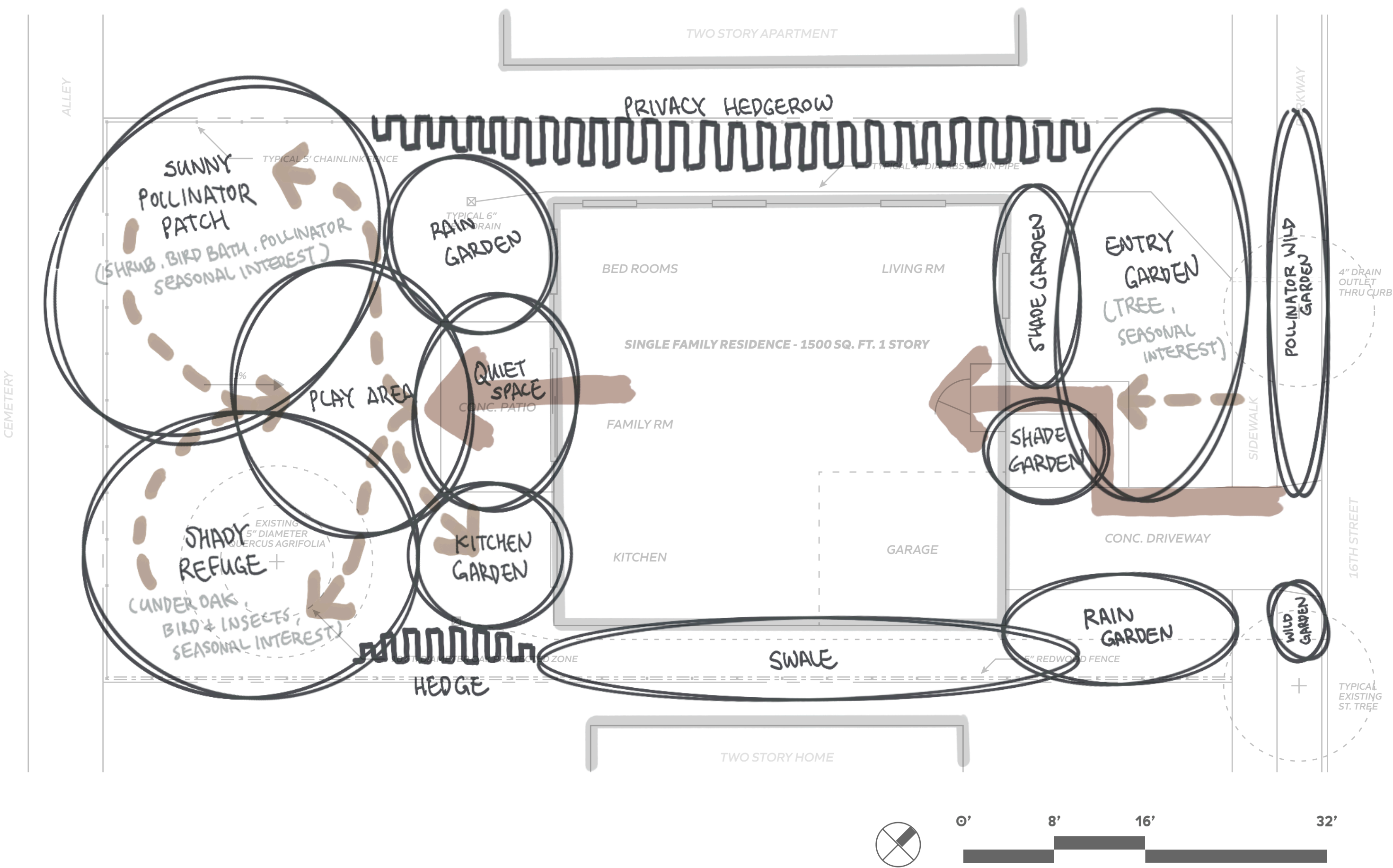


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# Bubble Diagram

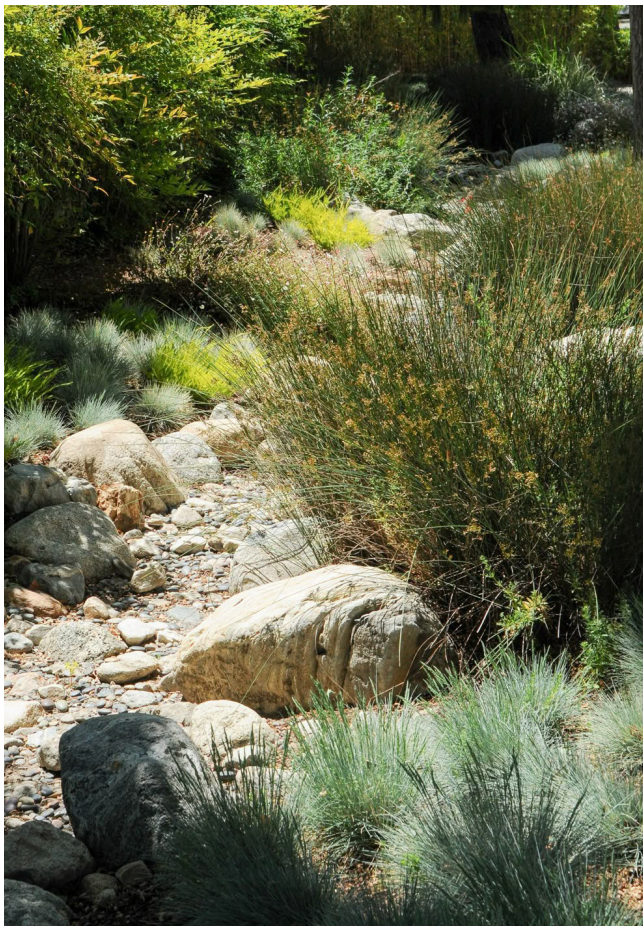
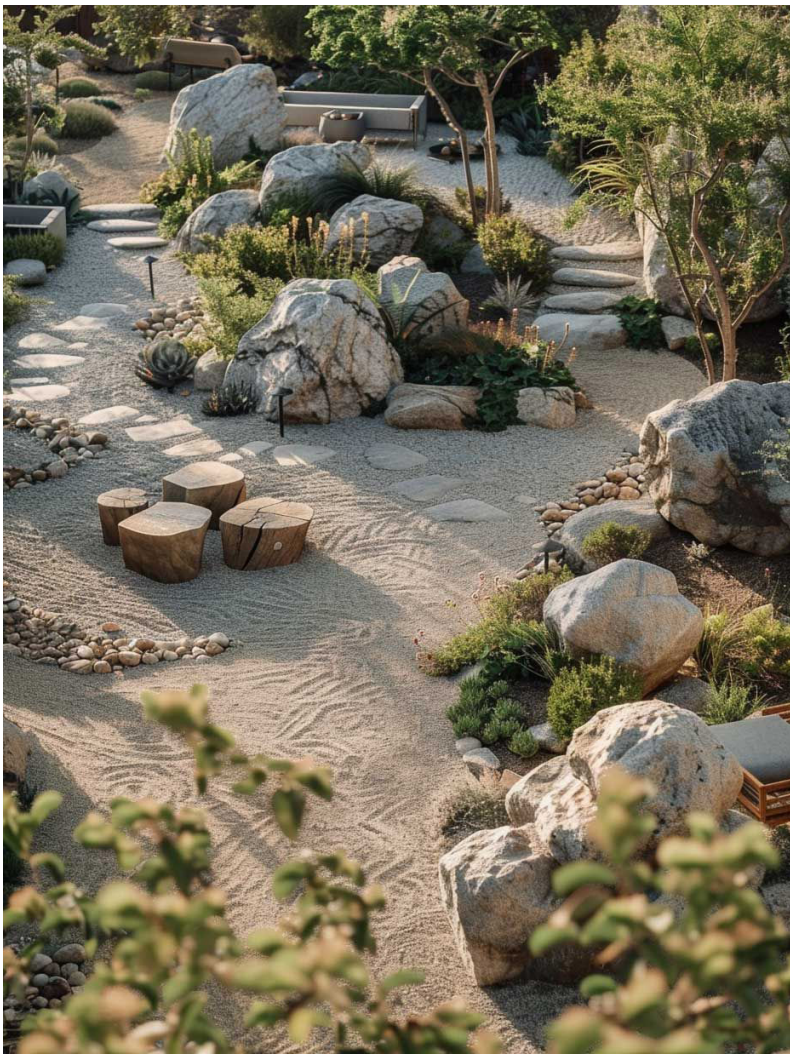
## FROM HABITAT TO HIDEAWAY

The bubble diagram translates the site analysis into a series of interconnected spatial zones organized around circulation, gathering, ecological planting, and family use. Guided by the concept **From Habitat to Hideaway**, the design explores how the landscape can transition from outward-facing ecological habitat into smaller, more intimate spaces of retreat, play, and discovery. Sunny portions of the site begin establishing pollinator meadow and edible garden areas that support biodiversity and seasonal activity, while shaded zones beneath the oak canopy and along the house edge become quieter woodland-inspired spaces for rest and refuge.





Residential Design  
**Moodboard**

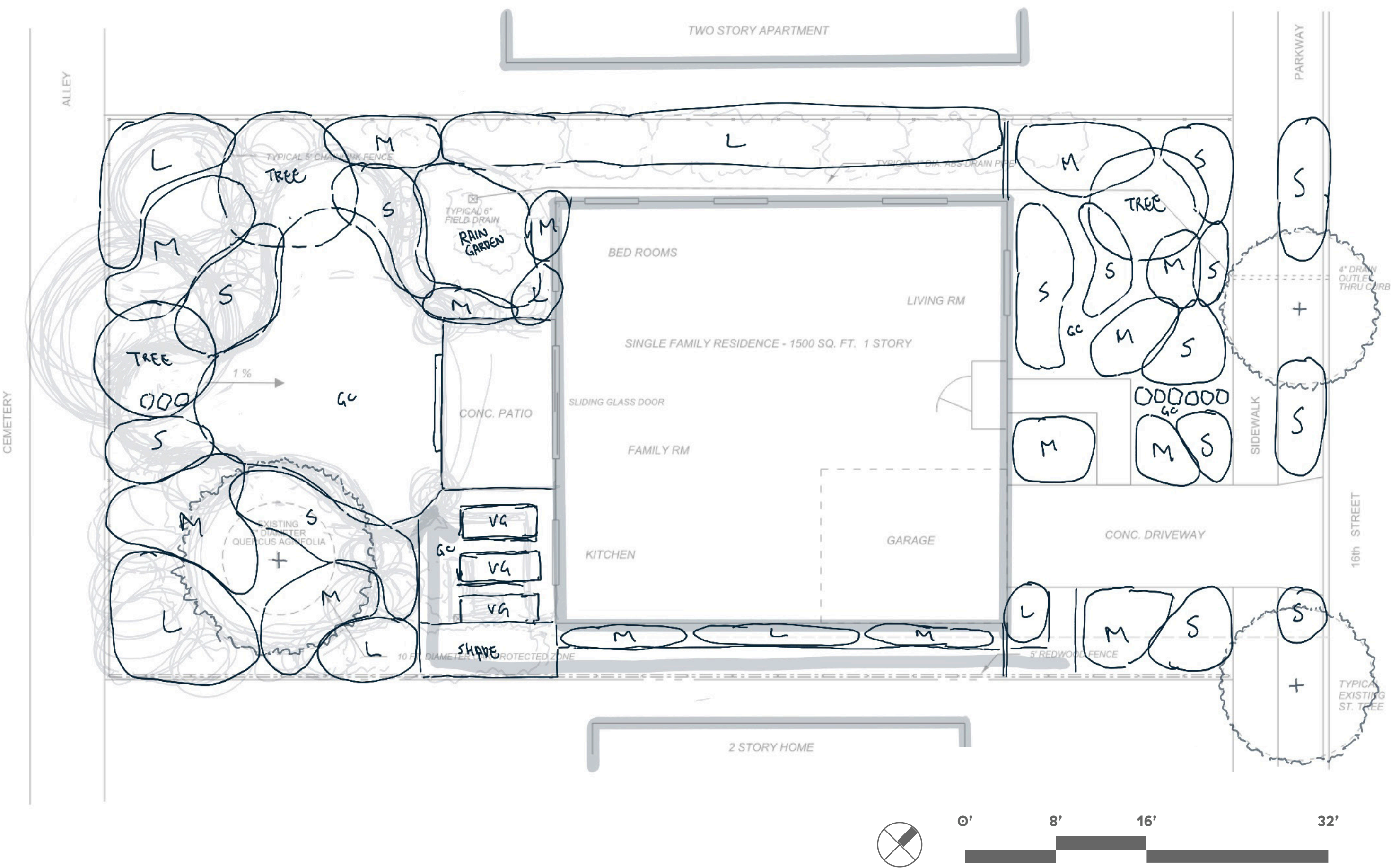




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# Bubble in a Bubble

The bubble-in-bubble diagram further develops the spatial organization of the landscape through layered zones of planting, circulation, gathering, and play. Building on the previous bubble diagram, additional circulation paths were introduced to provide direct access to the backyard without going through the house, improving connectivity throughout the site. A pergola structure was also added to create shaded gathering space while introducing vertical structure that helps soften neighboring views and increase privacy. Woodland planting and shaded retreat spaces are concentrated beneath the oak canopy and along the house edge, while sunnier portions of the site support pollinator meadow and edible garden planting. Layered screening along the property edges helps buffer street noise and neighboring views while maintaining a soft, naturalistic transition between habitat spaces and more intimate outdoor rooms.

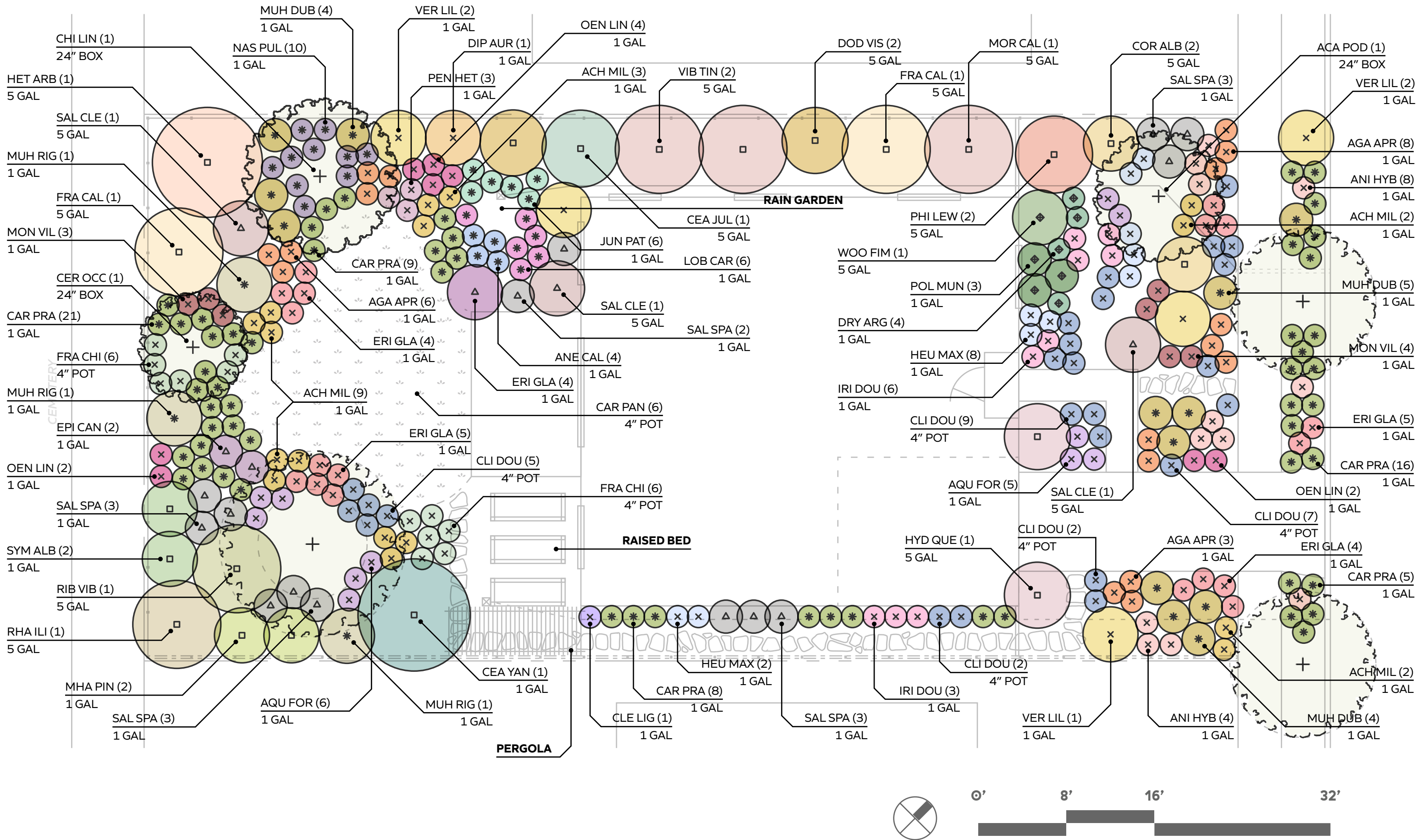




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# Planting Plan

This planting plan organizes the residential landscape into interconnected hydrozones that balance ecology, sensory planting, and family use. Guided by the concept **From Habitat to Hideaway**, sunny areas support pollinator meadow planting with Verbena lilacina ‘De La Mina’, Achillea millefolium, Penstemon heterophyllus, Epilobium canum, and Muhlenbergia dubia, while shaded areas beneath the oak canopy and along the house transition into a woodland-inspired palette of Dryopteris arguta, Iris douglasiana, Aquilegia formosa, Clinopodium douglasii, and Hydrangea quercifolia. A central Carex pansa play lawn provides space for the family’s daughter and dog, while a shaded hideaway beneath the Cercis occidentalis creates a smaller moment of refuge within the garden. Rain garden planting with Juncus patens, Anemopsis californica, and Lobelia cardinalis supports infiltration and seasonal moisture variation throughout the site.





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Plant Palette

| SYM                                                                                 | CODE    | BOTANICAL NAME                    | COMMON NAME            | MATURE SIZE (H X W) | WUCOLS       | SIZE    | QTY | POLLINATORS        | BLOOM COLOR         | SEASON              | SUN / SHADE      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------|-----|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|    | ACA POD | <i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>      | Pearl Acacia           | 15–25’ x 15–20’     | Low          | 24” box | 1   | Bees               | Yellow              | Winter–Early Spring | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | ACH MIL | <i>Achillea millefolium</i>       | Yarrow                 | 1–3’ x 2–3’         | Low          | 1 gal.  | 16  | Bees, butterflies  | White/yellow        | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |
|    | AGA APR | <i>Agastache ‘Apricot Sprite’</i> | Hummingbird Mint       | 1–2’ x 2’           | Low–Moderate | 1 gal.  | 17  | Hummingbirds, bees | Apricot-orange      | Summer–Fall         | Sun              |
|    | ANE CAL | <i>Anemopsis californica</i>      | Yerba Mansa            | 1–2’ x spreading    | Moderate     | 1 gal.  | 4   | Bees               | White               | Spring–Summer       | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | ANI HYB | <i>Anigozanthos hybrids</i>       | Kangaroo Paw           | 2–4’ x 2–3’         | Low–Moderate | 1 gal.  | 12  | Hummingbirds       | Red/orange/yellow   | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |
|    | AQU FOR | <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>          | Western Columbine      | 2–3’ x 1–2’         | Moderate     | 1 gal.  | 11  | Hummingbirds       | Red/yellow          | Spring              | Part Shade–Shade |
|    | CAR PAN | <i>Carex Pansa</i>                | Meadow Sedge           | 6–12” x spreading   | Low–Moderate | 4” pot  | 513 | Minimal            | Inconspicuous       | Spring              | Sun–Part Shade   |
|                                                                                     | CAR PRA | <i>Carex praegracilis</i>         | California Field Sedge | 1–2’ x spreading    | Low–Moderate | 1 gal.  | 59  | Minimal            | Inconspicuous       | Spring              | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | CEA JUL | <i>Ceanothus ‘Julia Phelps’</i>   | Julia Phelps Ceanothus | 6–8’ x 6–8’         | Low          | 5 gal.  | 1   | Bees, butterflies  | Deep blue           | Spring              | Sun              |
|  | CEA YAN | <i>Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point’</i>   | Yankee Point Ceanothus | 2–3’ x 8–12’        | Low          | 1 gal.  | 1   | Bees, butterflies  | Blue                | Spring              | Sun              |
|  | CER OCC | <i>Cercis occidentalis</i>        | Western Redbud         | 10–20’ x 10–20’     | Low          | 24” box | 1   | Bees               | Magenta-pink        | Spring              | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | CHI LIN | <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>         | Desert Willow          | 15–25’ x 15–20’     | Low          | 24” box | 1   | Hummingbirds, bees | Pink/lavender       | Summer              | Sun              |
|  | CLE LIG | <i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>    | Western White Clematis | vine                | Low–Moderate | 1 gal.  | 1   | Bees               | White               | Spring–Summer       | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | CLI DOU | <i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>      | Yerba Buena            | 2–6” x spreading    | Low–Moderate | 4” pot  | 25  | Bees               | White/pale lavender | Spring–Summer       | Part Shade–Shade |
|  | COR ALB | <i>Correa alba</i>                | White Correa           | 4–6’ x 4–6’         | Low          | 5 gal.  | 2   | Hummingbirds       | White               | Winter–Spring       | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | DIP AUR | <i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i>       | Monkeyflower           | 3–4’ x 3–5’         | Low          | 1 gal.  | 1   | Hummingbirds, bees | Orange/apricot      | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |



Residential Design

Plant Palette

| SYM                                                                                 | CODE    | BOTANICAL NAME                 | COMMON NAME            | MATURE SIZE (H X W) | WUCOLS        | SIZE   | QTY | POLLINATORS       | BLOOM COLOR       | SEASON             | SUN / SHADE      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|    | DOD VIS | <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>        | Hopseed Bush           | 10–15’ x 6–10’      | Low           | 5 gal. | 2   | Bees              | Greenish          | Spring–Summer      | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | DRY ARG | <i>Dryopteris arguta</i>       | Coastal Wood Fern      | 2–4’ x 3–4’         | Low–Moderate  | 1 gal. | 4   | Minimal           | None              | Non-flowering      | Part Shade–Shade |
|    | EPI CAN | <i>Epilobium canum</i>         | California Fuchsia     | 1–3’ x 3–4’         | Low           | 1 gal. | 2   | Hummingbirds      | Red-orange        | Summer–Fall        | Sun              |
|    | ERI GLA | <i>Erigeron glaucus</i>        | Seaside Daisy          | 1–2’ x 2–3’         | Low–Moderate  | 1 gal. | 22  | Bees, butterflies | Lavender/pink     | Spring–Fall        | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | FRA CAL | <i>Frangula californica</i>    | Coffeeberry            | 6–10’ x 6–10’       | Low           | 5 gal. | 2   | Bees              | Greenish-white    | Spring             | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | FRA CHI | <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>     | Beach Strawberry       | 4–8” x spreading    | Moderate      | 4” pot | 12  | Bees              | White             | Spring–Summer      | Sun–Part Shade   |
|    | HET ARB | <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> | Toyon                  | 8–15’ x 8–10’       | Low           | 5 gal. | 1   | Bees, birds       | White             | Summer             | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | HEU MAX | <i>Heuchera maxima</i>         | Island Alum Root       | 2–3’ x 2–3’         | Low–Moderate  | 1 gal. | 10  | Bees              | White/pink        | Spring             | Part Shade–Shade |
|  | HYD QUE | <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>   | Oakleaf Hydrangea      | 4–8’ x 4–8’         | Moderate      | 5 gal. | 1   | Bees              | White             | Late Spring–Summer | Part Shade       |
|  | IRI DOU | <i>Iris douglasiana</i>        | Douglas Iris           | 1–2’ x 2–3’         | Low           | 1 gal. | 9   | Bees              | Purple/blue/white | Spring             | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | JUN PAT | <i>Juncus patens</i>           | Common Rush            | 2–4’ x 2–4’         | Low–Moderate  | 1 gal. | 6   | Minimal           | Brown             | Spring–Summer      | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | LOB CAR | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>      | Cardinal Flower        | 2–4’ x 1–2’         | Moderate–High | 1 gal. | 6   | Hummingbirds      | Red               | Summer–Fall        | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | MHA PIN | <i>Mahonia pinnata</i>         | California Holly Grape | 4–6’ x 4–6’         | Low           | 1 gal. | 2   | Bees              | Yellow            | Winter–Spring      | Part Shade       |
|  | MON VIL | <i>Monardella villosa</i>      | Coyote Mint            | 1–2’ x 2–3’         | Low           | 1 gal. | 7   | Bees, butterflies | Lavender          | Summer             | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | MOR CAL | <i>Morella californica</i>     | California Wax Myrtle  | 10–20’ x 8–15’      | Low–Moderate  | 5 gal. | 1   | Bees, birds       | Greenish          | Spring             | Sun–Part Shade   |



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Plant Palette

| SYM                                                                                 | CODE    | BOTANICAL NAME                | COMMON NAME        | MATURE SIZE (H X W) | WUCOLS       | SIZE   | QTY | POLLINATORS        | BLOOM COLOR     | SEASON              | SUN / SHADE      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
|    | MUH DUB | Muhlenbergia dubia            | Pine Muhly         | 3–4′ x 3–4′         | Low          | 1 gal. | 13  | Minimal            | Tan/purple      | Fall                | Sun              |
|    | MUH RIG | Muhlenbergia rigens           | Deergrass          | 4–5′ x 4–6′         | Low          | 1 gal. | 3   | Birds              | Tan             | Summer–Fall         | Sun              |
|    | NAS PUL | Nassella pulchra              | Purple Needlegrass | 2–3′ x 2–3′         | Low          | 1 gal. | 10  | Birds              | Tan             | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |
|    | OEN LIN | Oenothera lindheimeri         | Gaura              | 2–4′ x 2–3′         | Low          | 1 gal. | 8   | Bees, butterflies  | White/pink      | Spring–Fall         | Sun              |
|    | PEN HET | Penstemon heterophyllus       | Foothill Penstemon | 2–3′ x 2–3′         | Low          | 1 gal. | 3   | Hummingbirds, bees | Blue-purple     | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |
|    | PHI LEW | Philadelphus lewisii          | Mock Orange        | 6–10′ x 6–8′        | Moderate     | 5 gal. | 2   | Bees               | White           | Spring–Early Summer | Part Shade       |
|    | POL MUN | Polystichum munitum           | Western Sword Fern | 3–5′ x 4–6′         | Low–Moderate | 1 gal. | 3   | Minimal            | None            | Non-flowering       | Part Shade–Shade |
|  | RIB VIB | Ribes viburnifolium           | Catalina Currant   | 2–3′ x 6–8′         | Low          | 5 gal. | 1   | Bees               | Pink-white      | Winter–Spring       | Part Shade–Shade |
|  | RHA ILI | Rhamnus ilicifolia            | Hollyleaf Redberry | 6–10′ x 6–10′       | Low          | 5 gal. | 1   | Bees, birds        | Greenish        | Spring              | Part Shade       |
|  | SAL CLE | Salvia clevelandii            | Cleveland Sage     | 4–5′ x 4–6′         | Low          | 5 gal. | 3   | Bees, hummingbirds | Lavender        | Spring–Summer       | Sun              |
|  | SAL SPA | Salvia spathacea              | Hummingbird Sage   | 1–3′ x spreading    | Low          | 1 gal. | 14  | Hummingbirds       | Magenta         | Winter–Spring       | Part Shade       |
|  | SYM ALB | Symphoricarpos albus          | Snowberry          | 3–6′ x 4–6′         | Low–Moderate | 1 gal. | 2   | Bees               | Pink-white      | Spring–Summer       | Part Shade       |
|  | VER LIL | Verbena lilacina ‘De La Mina’ | De La Mina Verbena | 2–3′ x 3–4′         | Low–Moderate | 1 gal. | 5   | Bees, butterflies  | Lavender-purple | Nearly Year-Round   | Sun              |
|  | VIB TIN | Viburnum tinus                | Laurustine         | 6–10′ x 6–10′       | Moderate     | 5 gal. | 2   | Bees               | White-pink      | Winter–Spring       | Sun–Part Shade   |
|  | WOO FIM | Woodwardia fimbriata          | Giant Chain Fern   | 4–6′ x 4–6′         | Moderate     | 5 gal. | 1   | Minimal            | None            | Non-flowering       | Part Shade–Shade |



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# Plant Photos



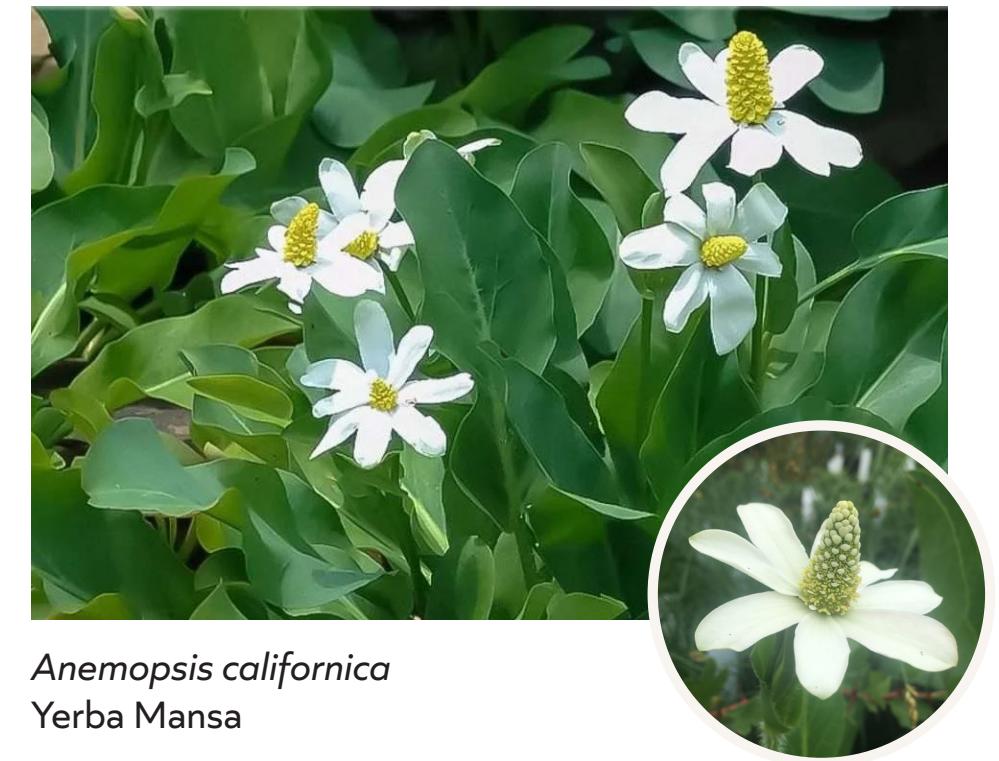
*Acacia podalyriifolia*  
Pearl Acacia



*Achillea millefolium*  
Yarrow



*Agastache 'Apricot Sprite'*  
Hummingbird Mint



*Anemopsis californica*  
Yerba Mansa



*Anigozanthos hybrids*  
Kangaroo Paw



*Aquilegia formosa*  
Western Columbine



*Carex pansa*  
Meadow Sedge



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# Plant Photos



*Carex praegracilis*  
California Field Sedge



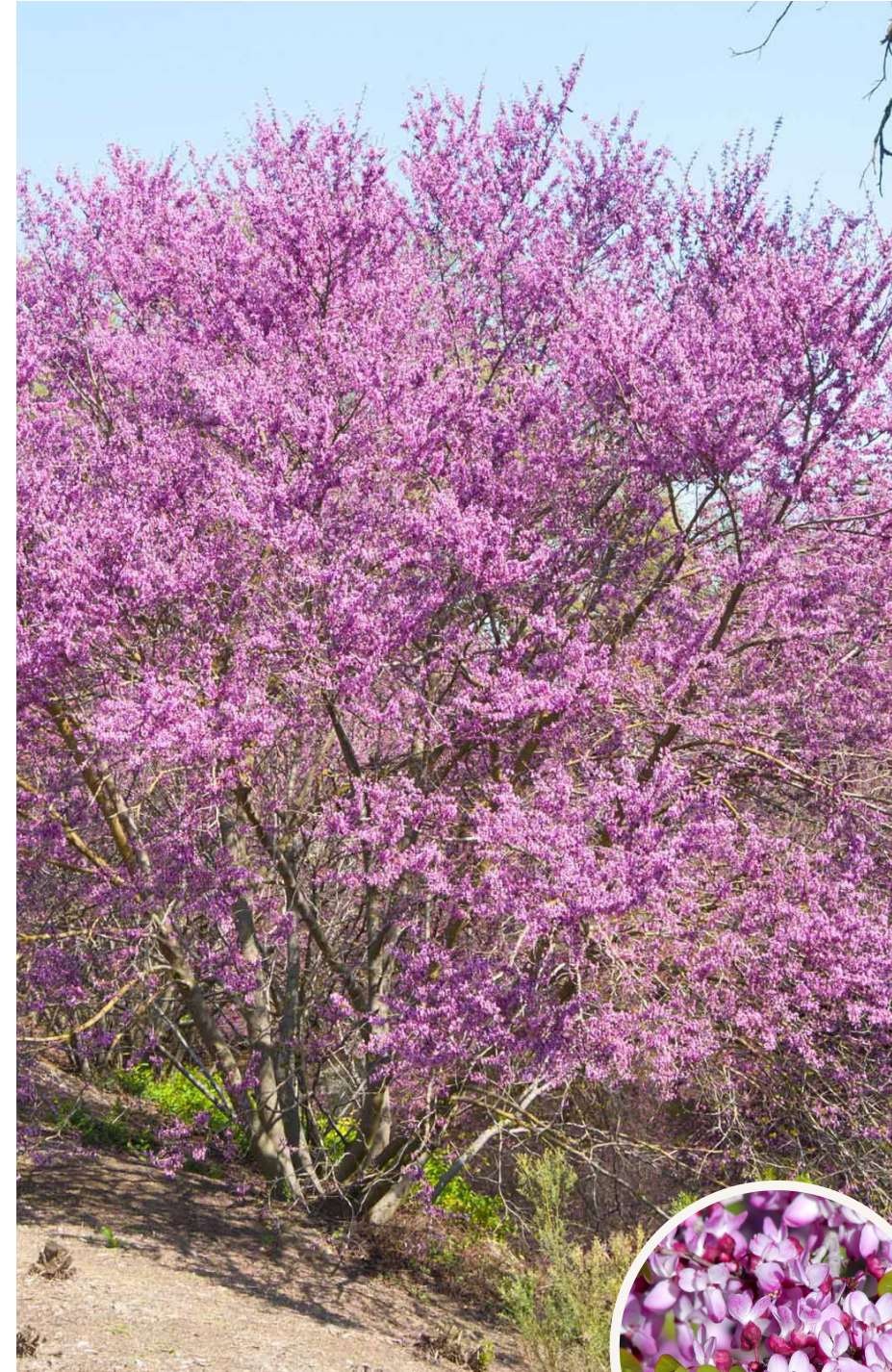
*Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'*  
Julia Phelps Ceanothus



*Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'*  
Yankee Point Ceanothus



*Clematis ligusticifolia*  
Western White Clematis



*Cercis occidentalis*  
Western Redbud



*Chilopsis linearis*  
Desert Willow





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# Plant Photos



*Clinopodium douglasii*  
Yerba Buena



*Correa alba*  
White Correa



*Diplacus aurantiacus*  
Monkeyflower



*Dryopteris arguta*  
Coastal Wood Fern



*Epilobium canum*  
California Fuchsia



*Erigeron glaucus*  
Seaside Daisy



*Dodonaea viscosa*  
Hopseed Bush



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# Plant Photos



*Frangula californica*  
Coffeeberry



*Fragaria chiloensis*  
Beach Strawberry



*Heteromeles arbutifolia*  
Toyon



*Heuchera maxima*  
Island Alum Root



*Hydrangea quercifolia*  
Oakleaf Hydrangea



*Iris douglasiana*  
Douglas Iris



*Juncus patens*  
California Gray Rush





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# Plant Photos



*Lobelia cardinalis*  
Cardinal Flower



*Muhlenbergia dubia*  
Pine Muhly



*Morella californica*  
California Wax Myrtle



*Mahonia pinnata*  
California Holly Grape



*Muhlenbergia rigens*  
Deer Grass



*Monardella villosa*  
Coyote Mint



*Nassella pulchra*  
Purple Needlegrass



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# Plant Photos



*Oenothera lindheimeri*  
Gaura



*Penstemon heterophyllus*  
Foothill Penstemon



*Polystichum munitum*  
Western Sword Fern



*Ribes viburnifolium*  
Catalina Currant



*Philadelphus lewisii*  
Mock Orange



*Rhamnus ilicifolia*  
Hollyleaf Redberry





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# Plant Photos



*Salvia clevelandii*  
Cleveland Sage



*Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina'  
De La Mina Verbena



*Symphoricarpos albus*  
Snowberry



*Salvia spathacea*  
Hummingbird Sage



*Woodwardia fimbriata*  
Giant Chain Fern



*Viburnum tinus*  
Laurustinus



# Soil Preparation, Irrigation, & Maintenance Guide

## SOIL PREPARATION

Existing sandy loam soil is generally well suited for California native and Mediterranean-adapted species, though compacted areas should be loosened prior to planting to improve drainage, root establishment, and long-term plant health. Soil preparation throughout the site responds to the varying hydrozones and microclimates created by sun exposure, existing trees, and drainage flow patterns.

**Sunny meadow and pollinator areas** should maintain lean, well-draining soil conditions with minimal amendments to support drought-adapted planting and reduce excessive growth. **Woodland shade areas** beneath the oak canopy and adjacent to the house should receive moderate compost incorporation and shredded bark mulch to retain moisture, moderate soil temperature, and support lush understory planting. **Rain garden areas** should be deeply loosened to encourage infiltration while supporting seasonal moisture variation and ecological stormwater management throughout the site.

## IRRIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The landscape should utilize a hydrozone-based drip irrigation system with separate valves for sunny meadow planting, woodland shade planting, rain garden planting, and Carex lawn areas. Deep infrequent irrigation is recommended after establishment to encourage drought resilience and healthy root growth.

**Sunny meadow zones** should receive minimal supplemental irrigation after establishment, while **woodland shade gardens** should maintain moderate moisture levels with longer intervals between watering cycles. **Rain garden areas** may gradually rely more heavily on stormwater runoff once established, with supplemental irrigation provided during prolonged dry periods. **Carex lawn areas** will require more frequent watering during establishment before transitioning to lower long-term water use.

## MAINTENANCE GUIDE

The landscape should be maintained as a layered naturalistic California garden emphasizing ecological function, seasonal texture, and long-term plant health rather than rigid formal appearance.

**Sunny meadow and pollinator planting areas** should be seasonally cut back and lightly thinned as needed to maintain airflow and encourage continued flowering. **Woodland shade gardens** should receive annual mulch replenishment and selective pruning while allowing ferns, sedges, and Clinopodium douglasii to naturalize gradually beneath the canopy.

**Rain garden planting areas** should be monitored for sediment accumulation and drainage performance, with occasional cutback of rushes and riparian perennials to refresh growth. **Carex lawn areas** may be occasionally mowed for a more uniform appearance, though allowing a slightly naturalized character will better integrate the lawn with surrounding meadow planting.

