



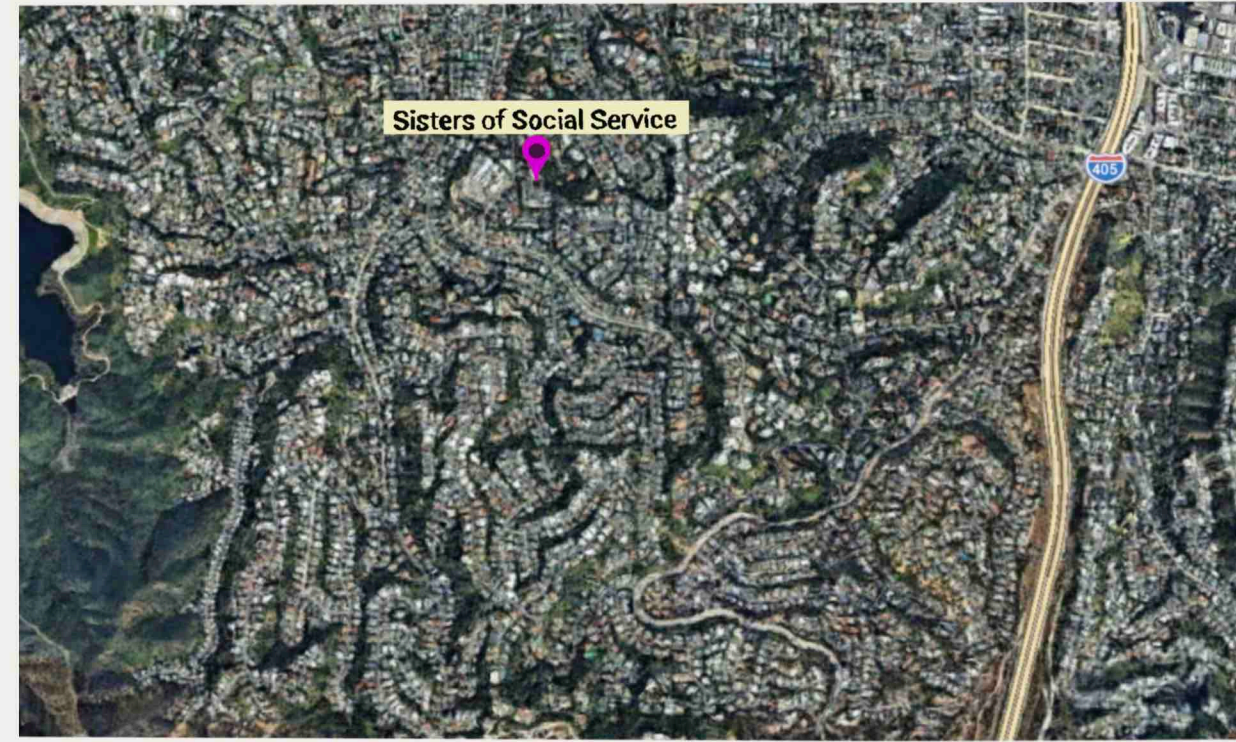
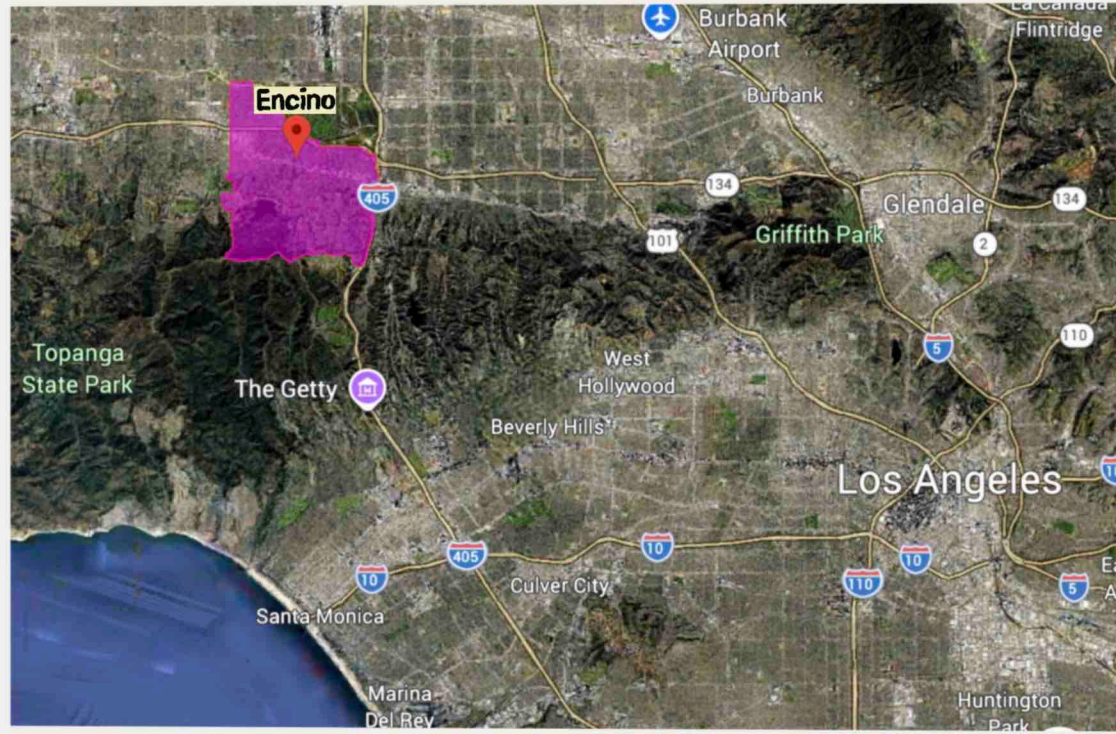
# Sisters of social services

Landscape architecture program LD5 planting design spring '26  
UCLA extension

Instructor : Pamela brief  
By: Danielle moncarz

*And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. Book of Isaiah 58:11*

# Sisters of social services



## Location:

The Encino campus of the Sisters of Social Service is located in the western San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, in a quiet residential neighborhood near the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains.

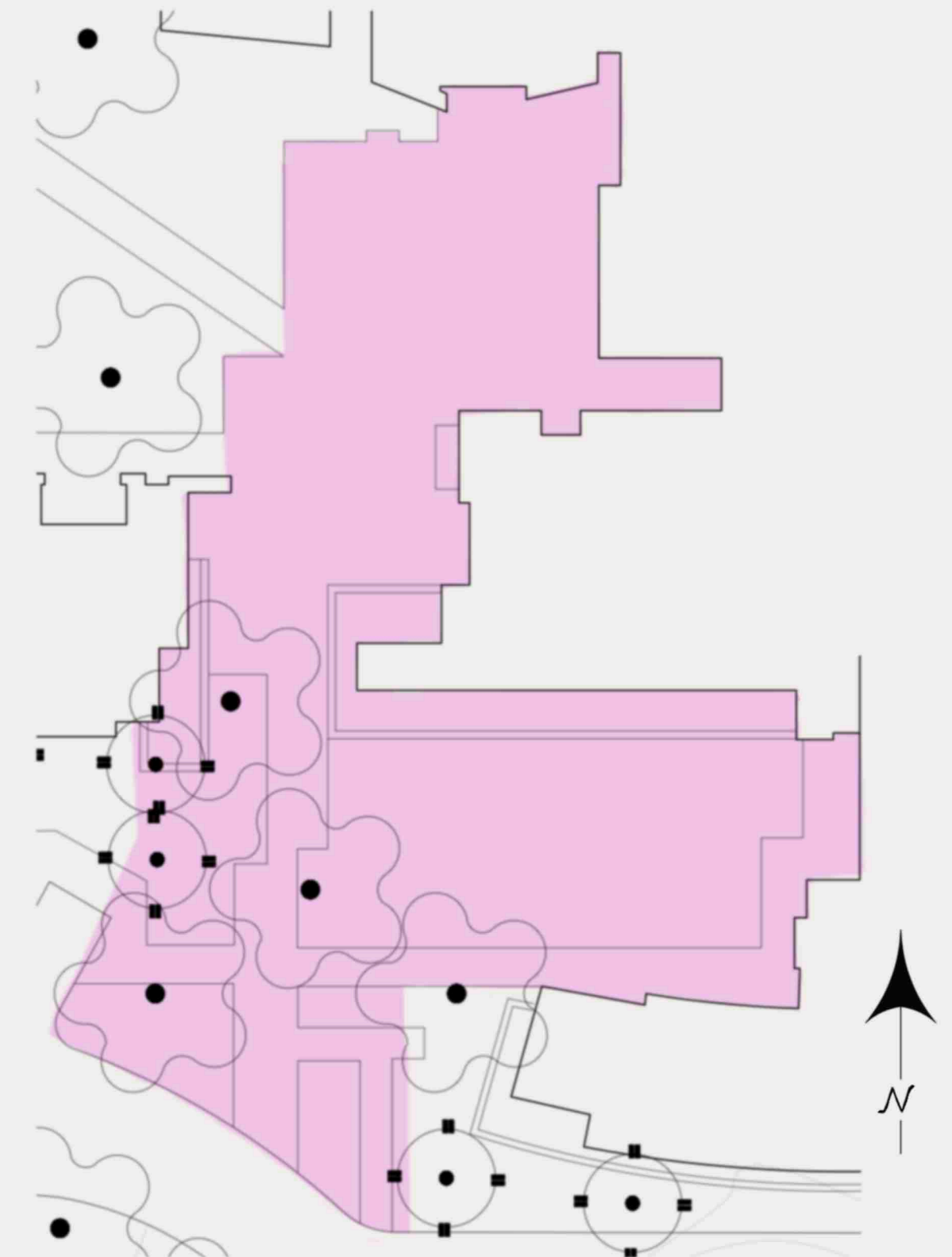
## About Sisters of Social Service:

The Sisters of Social Service began in Hungary in the early 1900s, inspired by the Catholic Church's mission of social justice and care for people living in poverty.

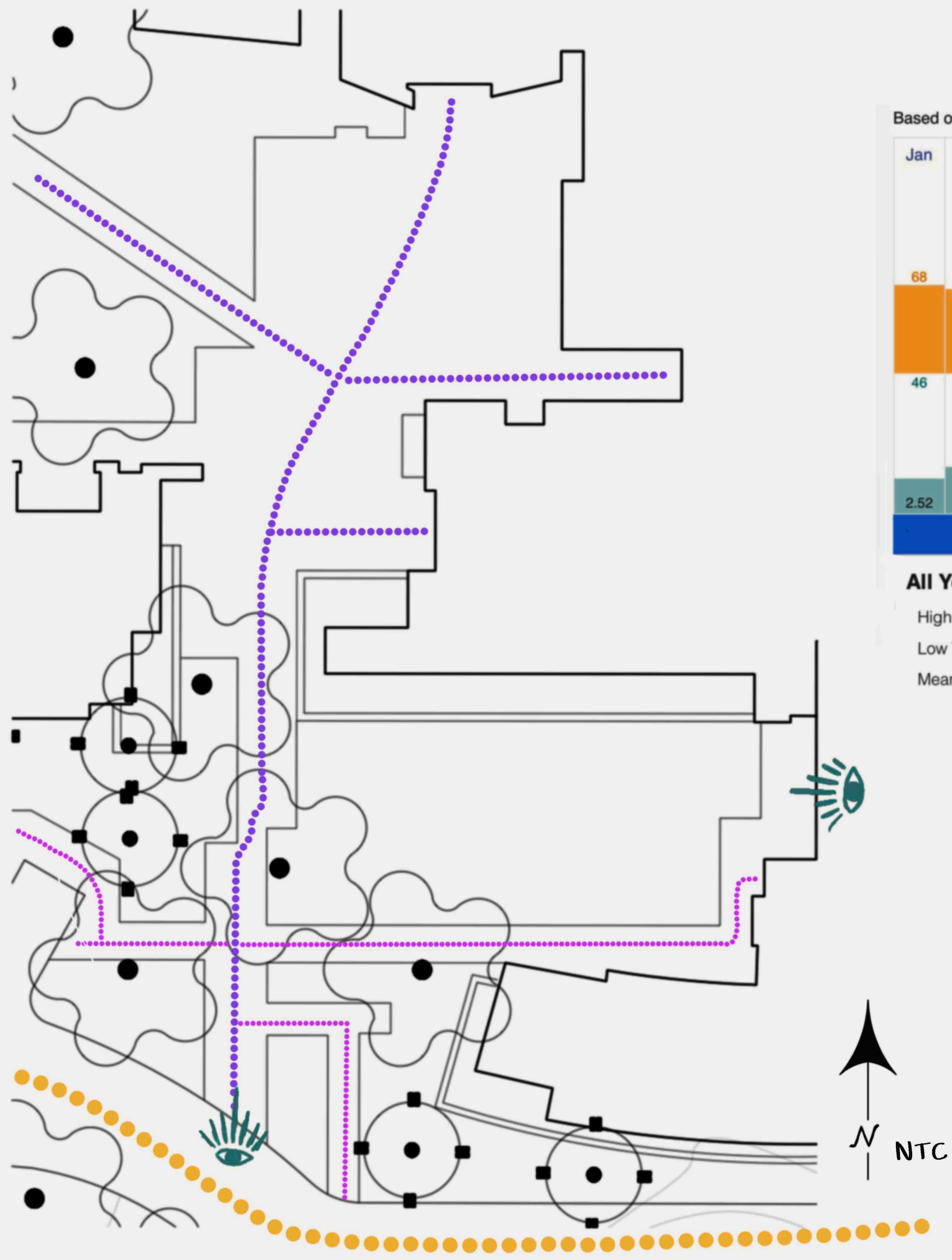
In 1926, the order came to Los Angeles, where they founded ministries focused on supporting women, children, immigrants, and vulnerable communities.

Today, the Sisters continue their mission through social services, spiritual guidance, retreats, community outreach, and peace and justice advocacy. Their center in Los Angeles serves as a place for prayer, healing, education, and support for people of all backgrounds.

I chose to design the main visitor entrance of the site. When entering a new space, the experience begins with the very first moment. This transition has the power to shape how we connect with a place, helping us leave the outside world behind, move from the past into the present, and arrive with a clear mind, ready to absorb the experience and the environment around us.

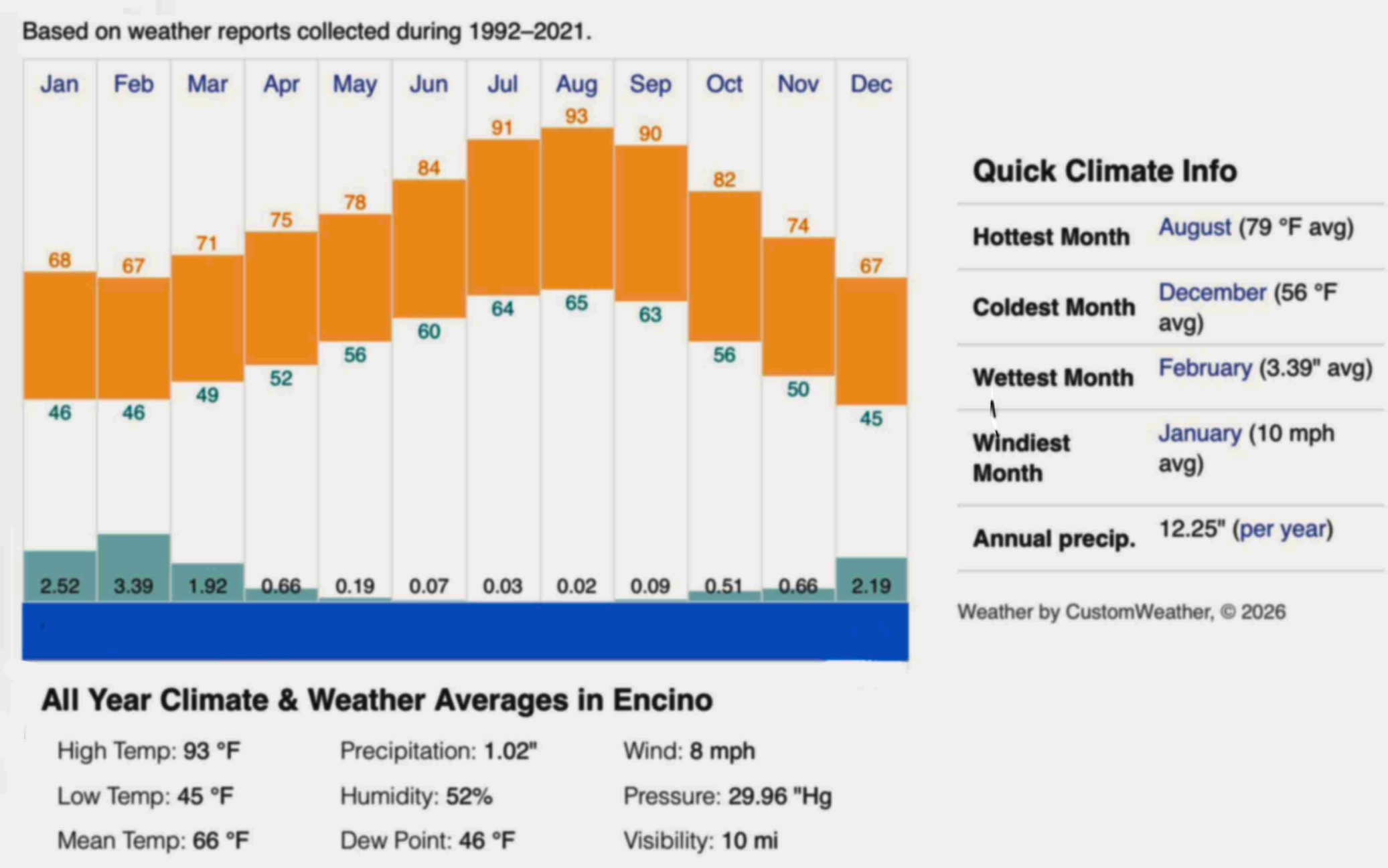


# Site analysis

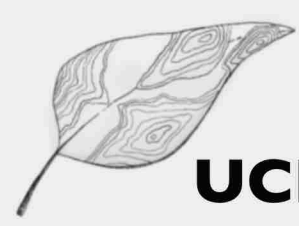
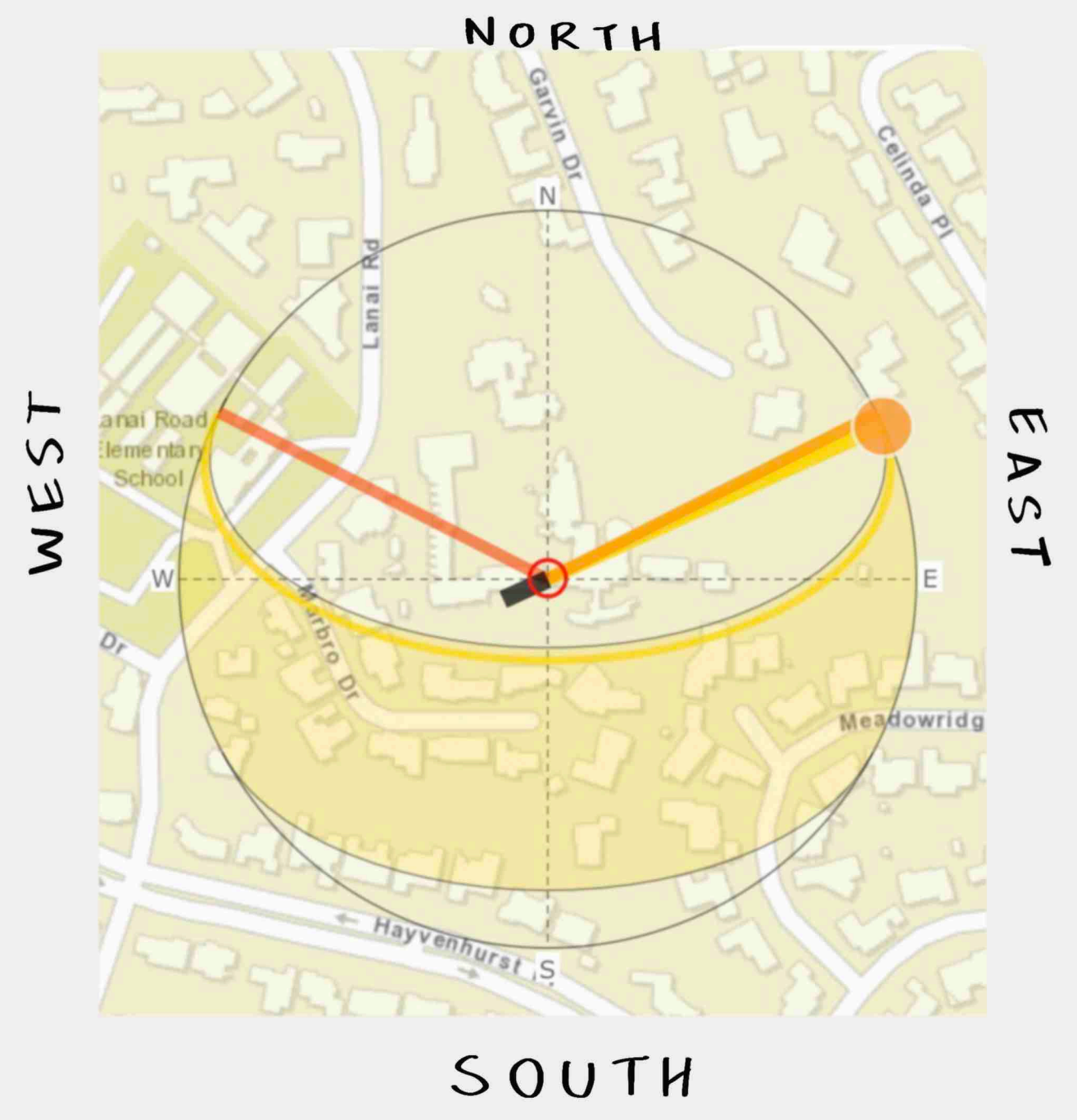


- VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION PRIMARY
- PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION SECONDARY
- 

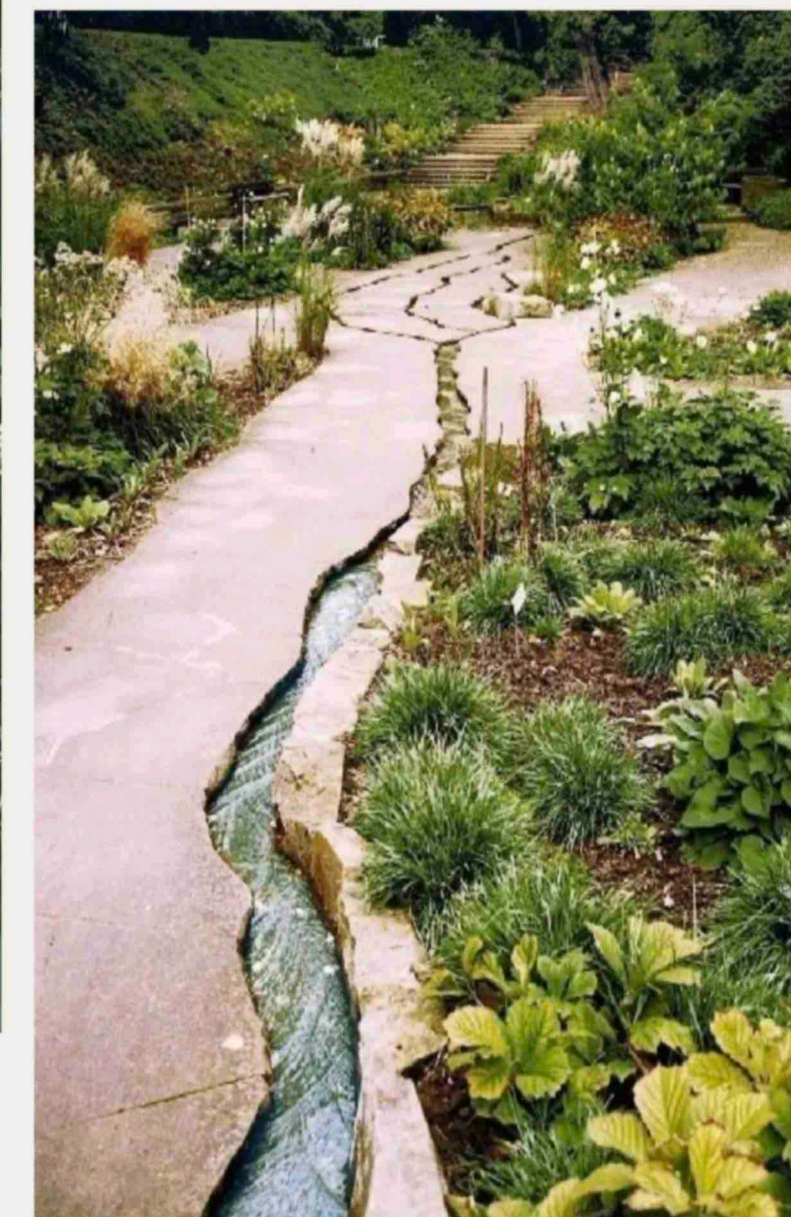
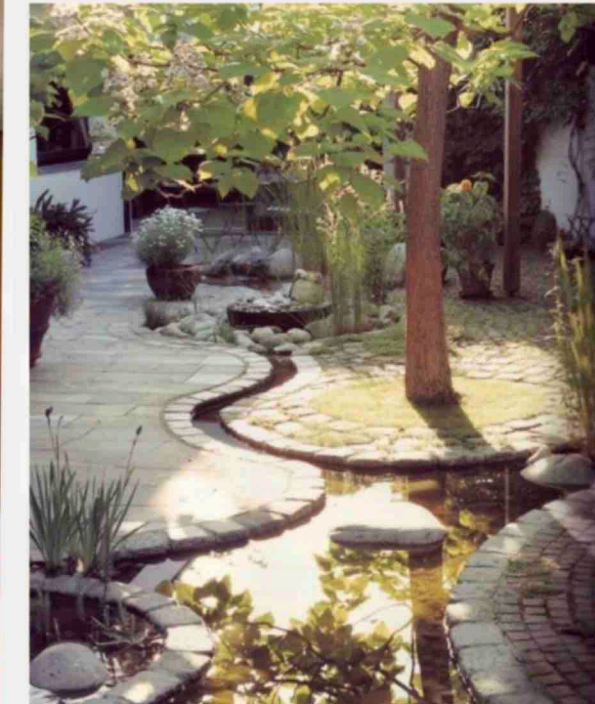
## Annual weather average near encino ca



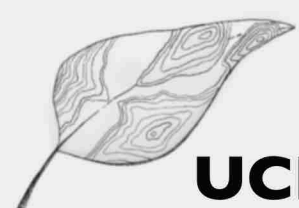
## Sun cycle



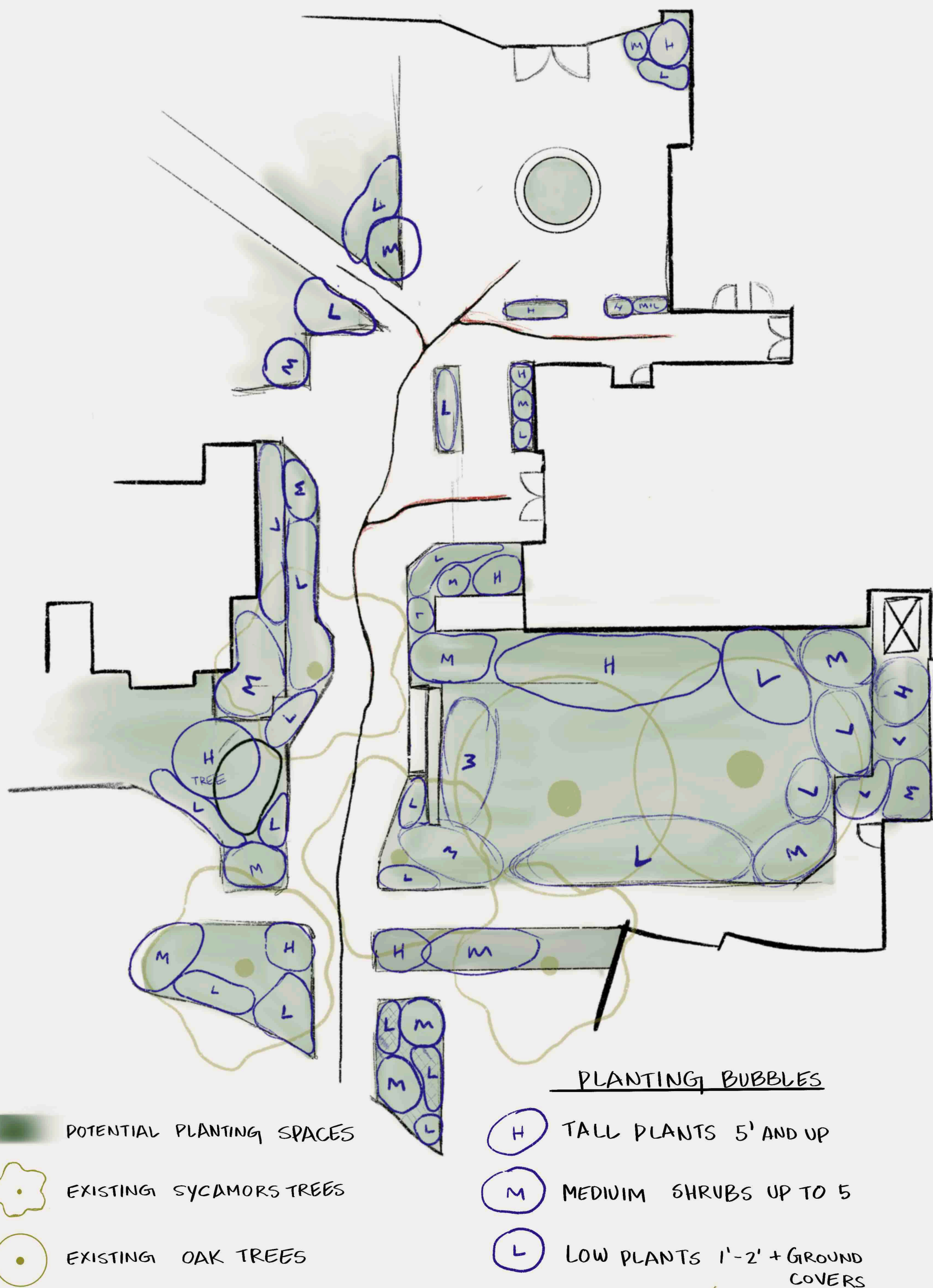
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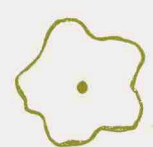
I chose this Bible verse as the leading concept for my design. It came to me after visiting the Sisters of Social Service site, and I felt it deeply connected to the Sisters' mission and values. My interpretation of this verse is that God is represented through the richness and abundance of the land a reminder that the earth can take care of us. Even in extreme conditions of drought (or moments of stress and hardship), the land can offer relief, rest, and restoration. Water is a strong motif in this verse, and it became an element that I carried into my design. Expanding from the connection between humans and the land in biblical times, I wanted to create a space that feels welcoming, but also represents a place of transition. It connects to the idea that we, as humans, are visitors in this world, from ancient history until today, we are here only for a moment. My intention is to create a environment where plants surround you, immersing visitors in a multi-sensory experience as they walk through the space. A place where people can feel the serenity of being part of the landscape as small piece of creation.



# Concept & design development



POTENTIAL PLANTING SPACES



EXISTING SYCAMORE TREES



EXISTING OAK TREES



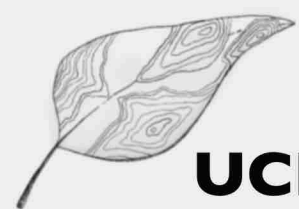
TALL PLANTS 5' AND UP



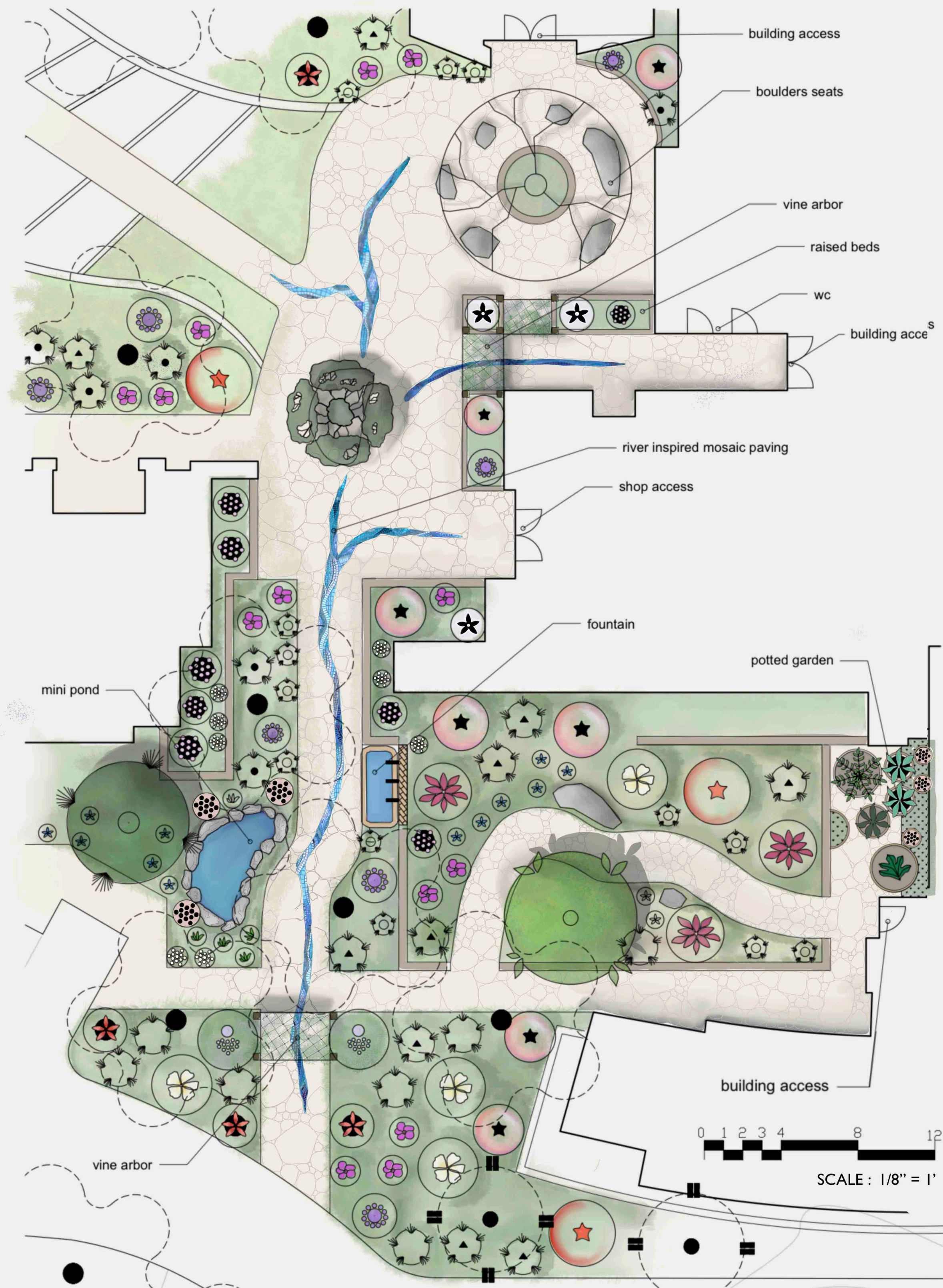
MEDIUM SHRUBS UP TO 5'



LOW PLANTS 1'-2' + GROUND COVERS



# Planting plan



## PLANTS LEGEND

| SYMBOL | NAME BOTANICAL , COMMON                         | QUANTITY & SIZE          |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|        | ARBUTUS UNEDO , STRAWBERRY TREE                 | x 1 , 24" BOX            |
|        | ALBIZIA JULIBRISSIN, MIMOSA TREE                | x 1 , 20 GAL             |
|        | BOUTELOUA GRACILLIS, BLUE GRAMA                 | x 10 , 1 gal             |
|        | CAREX DIVULSA , BERKELEY SEDGE                  | x 10 , 1 gal             |
|        | CARPENTERIA CALIFORNICA ,BUSH ANEMONE           | x 4 , 5 gal              |
|        | CLEMATIS LIGUSTICIFOLIA ,VIRGIN BOWER           | x 3 , 5 gal              |
|        | CONVALLARIA MAJALIS, LILY OF THE VALLEY         | x 5 , 4" pots            |
|        | DICENTRA FORMOSA PACIFIC, BLEEDING HEART        | x 6 , 2 gal              |
|        | EPILOBIUM 'CLOVERDALE' , CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA     | x 4 , 3 gal              |
|        | FESTUCA CALIFORNICA , CALIFORNIA FESCUE         | x 6 , 1 gal              |
|        | HOYA CAROSE , WAX PLANT                         | x 8 , 5 gal              |
|        | LOBULAR MARITIMA , SWEET ALYSSUM                | x 8 , 4" pots            |
|        | LONICERA HISPISULA , PINK HONEY SUCKLE          | x 4 , 3-5 gal            |
|        | MELICA CALIFORNICA , CALIFORNIA MELIC           | x 7 , 1 gal              |
|        | PISTACIA CHINENSIS , CAINESE PISTACHE           | 1 , 24" box              |
|        | OLEA EUROPAEA 'MONHER' , MAJESTIC BEAUTY OLIVE  | 1 , 36" box              |
|        | RIBES VIBURNIFOLIUM , CATALINA CURRANT          | x 3 , 5 gal              |
|        | SALVIA SPATHACEAE , HUMMING BIRD SAGE           | x 3 , 1-2 gal            |
|        | SISYRINCHIUM VELLUM , BLUE EYE GRASS            | x 14 , 1 gal             |
|        | SILENE CORONARIA , ROSE CAMPION                 | x 11 , 1 gal             |
|        | VERBENA LILACINA , VERBENA DE LA MINA           | x 6 , 5 gal              |
|        | WISTIRIA FRUTESCENS , AMERICAN WISTIRIA         | x 2 , 15 gal             |
|        | ASPIDISTRA ELATION , CAST IRON PLANT            | x 1 , 5 gl               |
|        | HOSTA 'FORTUNEI AUREOMARGINATA' , PLANTAIN LILY | x 2 , 1-3 gal            |
|        | WOODLAND FIMBRIATA , GIANT CHAIN FERN           | x 1 , 5 gal              |
|        | HYDRANGAEA QUERCIFOLIA , OAKLEAF HYDRANGAEA     | x 1 , 3-5 gal            |
|        | SOLEIROLIA SOLEIROLLI , BABY TEARS              | 4 plugs per sf ,6" apart |

### Notes

The plant sizes shown on the plan represent the plants at maturity. Some plants will be pruned as needed to support plant health and to fit the space in the desired way. The final size and form of each plant may also be influenced by the design style and the specific conditions of the area where it is planted.

Most plants will be purchased at a young "teen" stage, allowing them to establish well and gradually fill the space. Planting is recommended in fall through winter for the best establishment.

| Botanical name                  | Common name                   | Family          | Size                                           | Water | Bloom                                                        | Comments                                                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arbutus unedo                   | Strawberry tree (madrone)     | Ericaceae       | 15'-30' tall<br>15'-25' wide                   | L     | Winter , pink whit little flowers                            | California native , perennial                                          |
| Albizia julibrissin             | Mimosa tree                   | Fabaceae        | 20'+ tall<br>15'+ wide                         | L-M   | Blooms in summer pink flowers                                | Regular watering in first years , established tree is drought tolerant |
| Bouteloua gracilis              | Blue grama                    | Poaceae         | 0.5-' tall<br>up to 2' wide                    | L     | Summer , yellow purple flowers                               | California native , perennial grass .                                  |
| Cares divulsa                   | Berkeley sedge                | Lamiaceae       | 1'-1.5' tall<br>2'- 3' wide                    | L     | Spring-summer small cream summer                             | California native , perennial                                          |
| Carpenteria Californica         | Bush anemone                  | Hydrangeaceae   | 6'-10' tall<br>5'-10' wide                     | L-M   | Spring summer white , yellow in middle flower                | California native, evergreen shrub                                     |
| Clematis ligusticifolia         | Virgin bower                  | Ranunculaceae   | 10'-30' tall<br>2'-6 ' wide                    | L-M   | Summer, cream white flowers                                  | California native , perennial, winter dormancy                         |
| Convallaria majalis             | Lily of the valley            | Asparagaceae    | 0.5'-1 ' tall<br>about 1 ' wide                | M-H   | Late spring , white fragrant flowers                         | Toxic to digest                                                        |
| Dicentra formosa                | Pacific bleeding heart        | Fumariaceae     | 8'-19' inch tall<br>3' wide                    | M-H   | Spring summer , purple ,pink,white                           | California native , perennial                                          |
| Epilobium 'cloverdale'          | Cloverdale California fuchsia | Onagraceae      | 1'-2' tall<br>4' wide                          | L-M   | Summer, fall , winter (long bloom) red orange flowers        | California native , perennial.                                         |
| Festuca Californica             | california fescue             | Poaceae         | 1'-4' tall<br>about 3' wide                    | L     | Spring winter ,yellow cream flowers                          | California native , perennial grass                                    |
| Hoya carosa                     | Wax plant                     | Apocynaceae     | Can reach 12' long and up                      | M     | Late spring to summer , star shape flower cluster in pink    | Long live evergreen vine                                               |
| Lobular maritima                | Sweet alyssum                 | Brassicaceae    | Ground level- up to 1' tall<br>about 1.5' wide | L-M   | Blooms almost year round , white little flowers, sweet scent | Short lived perennial                                                  |
| Lonicera hispidula              | Pink honeysuckle              | Caprifoliaceae  | 5'-20' tall & wide                             | L     | Spring to fall, pink orange flowers                          | California native , perennial                                          |
| Melica Californica              | California melic              | Poaceae         | 2'-4' tall<br>up to 3' wide                    | L     | Summer , yellow green purple                                 | Clifornia native perennial grass                                       |
| Olea europeae 'monher'          | Majestic beauty' olive tree   | Oleaceae        | 25' tall<br>25' wide                           | L     | Spring to summer white flowers                               | Prune to plan                                                          |
| Pistacia chinensis              | Chinese pistache              | Anacardiaceae   | Can reach 30' and up,<br>25'-35' wide          | L     | Fall seasonal attraction - leaves turn red-yellow            | Deciduous, attractive branch structure in winter                       |
| Ribes viburnifolium             | Catalina currant              | Grossulariaceae | 3' tall<br>8' wide                             | L     | Winter- spring red fragrance flowers                         | CA native , evergreen shrub                                            |
| Salvia spathacea                | Humming bird sage             | Lamiaceae       | 1'-3' tall<br>3' wide                          | L     | Winter; spring , summer pink red flowers                     | California native , perennial herb , ever green                        |
| Sisyrinchium vellum             | blue eyed grass               | Iridaceae       | 1'-2' tall<br>up to 1.5' wide                  | L     | Winter; spring blue/purple flowers                           | California native , perennial, semi-dormate in summer                  |
| Verbena lilacina 'de la mina'   | Verbena de la mina            | Vernbenaceae    | 2'-3' tall<br>3'-4' wide                       | L     | Bloom throughout the year , purple flowers                   | California native , perennial                                          |
| Wisteria frutescens             | American wisteria             | Fabaceae        | 10' tall and up                                | M     | Early spring , light purple flowers                          | Perennial vine                                                         |
| Aspidistra elation              | Cast iron plant               | Asparagaceae    | 3' tall<br>1'-3' wide                          | M-H   | Spring summer - maroon to purple flowers                     | Planted in a pot                                                       |
| Hosta 'fortunei aureomarginata' | Plantain lilies               | Asparagaceae    | 1'-1.5' tall<br>1.5'-4' wide                   | M     | Summer to fall white pinkish flowers                         | Planted in a pot                                                       |
| Hydrangea quercifolia           | Oakleaf hydrangea             | Hydrangeaceae   | 4'-8 tall<br>3'-8' wide                        | M-H   | Spring to summer large cone shape white flowers              | Planted in a pot. When needs pruning, prune right after bloom is done  |
| Soleirolia soleirolii           | Baby tears                    | Urticaceae      | Ground cover                                   | M-H   | Late spring to early summer tiny white flowers               | Planted in a pot and ground                                            |
| Woodwardia fimbriata            | Giant chain fern              | Blechnaceae     | 4'-6' tall<br>4'-6' wide                       | M     | No flowers                                                   | California native , ever green perennial planted in pot                |

Soil Preparation

California Native Woodland Planting Area

Existing declining oak trees will be removed and replaced with a California native plant community, including a madrone tree as a new canopy species. Minimize soil disturbance and preserve existing soil biology when possible. Add mycorrhizal fungi to planting holes to support root establishment. Add soil amendments only as needed according to soil test results. Apply organic mulch to protect soil, retain moisture, and support microbial activity.

Ground-Level Planting Beds

Top dress with biologically active organic compost around plant root zones. Add amendments as recommended by soil testing. Apply mulch to reduce evaporation and improve soil health.

Raised Planting Beds

Place approximately 0.5 ft of branches and woody material at the bottom of beds to support organic matter development. Use a well-draining soil mix containing approximately 50% sandy loam. Finish with a mulch layer.

Areas Where Hardscape is Modified

Remove construction debris and building materials as much as possible. Add healthy planting soil where needed before planting.

Irrigation Requirements

California Native Woodland Planting Area

Fall through early winter planting is recommended to establish roots with seasonal rainfall. Provide supplemental deep watering during the first dry seasons while plants establish. Once mature, the planting is designed to survive primarily on natural rainfall, with occasional deep watering during extreme drought.

Window Garden

Water regularly to keep moist during dry season , use drip irrigation system.

Plaza Planting Beds

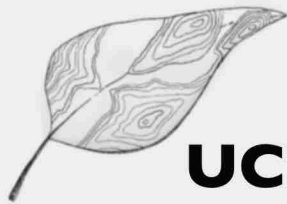
Use drip irrigation for efficient watering. Irrigate regularly during the establishment period. After plants mature, reduce irrigation to approximately 2–3 deep waterings permonth during the dry season to maintain a lush environment.

Mini Pond Planting Area

Moisture-loving plants around the pond will receive additional water from a small overflow stream. Soil should remain moist but not saturated.

Maintenance

Prune plants seasonally after their blooming period to maintain plant health, encourage new growth, and keep the desired shape and size according to the design intent. Ornamental grasses generally do not require regular pruning; remove dry or damaged foliage as needed to refresh growth.





*Chainese pistache*



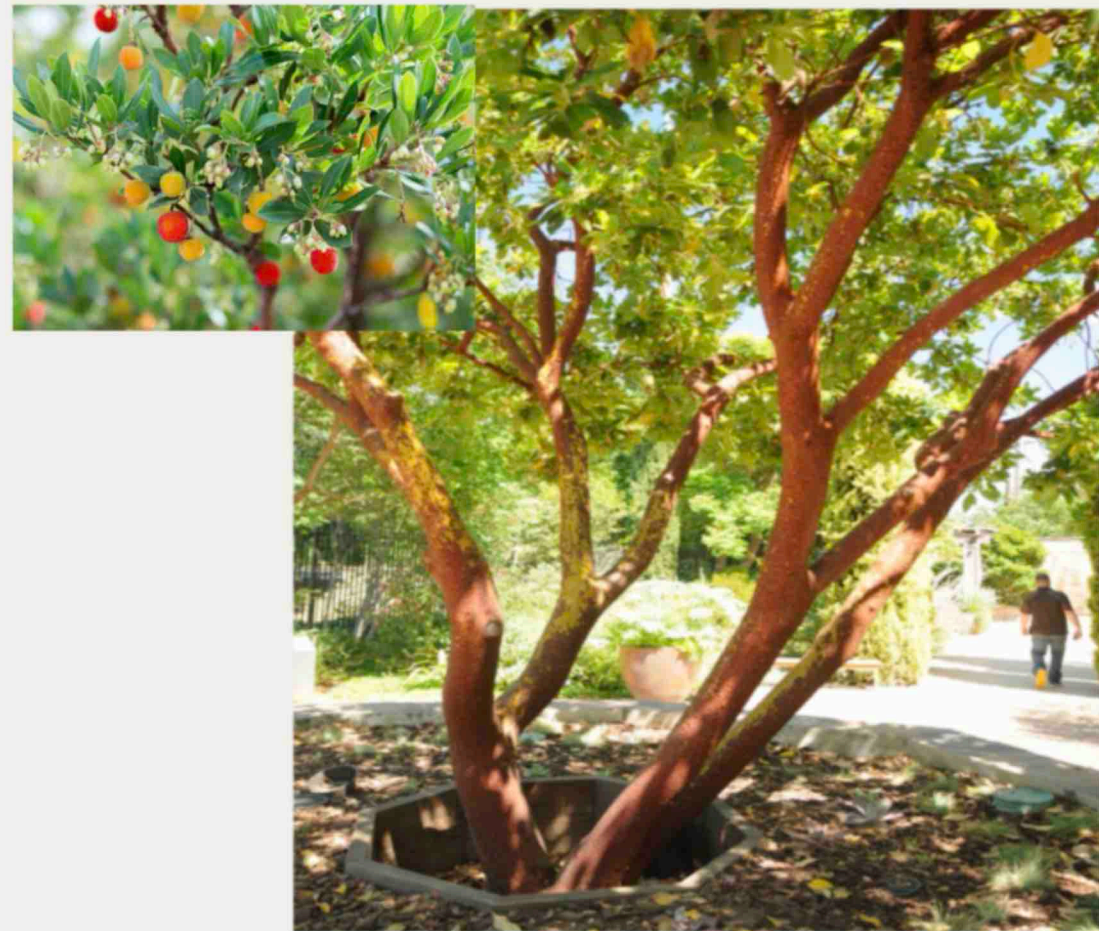
*Albizia julibrissin mimosa tree*



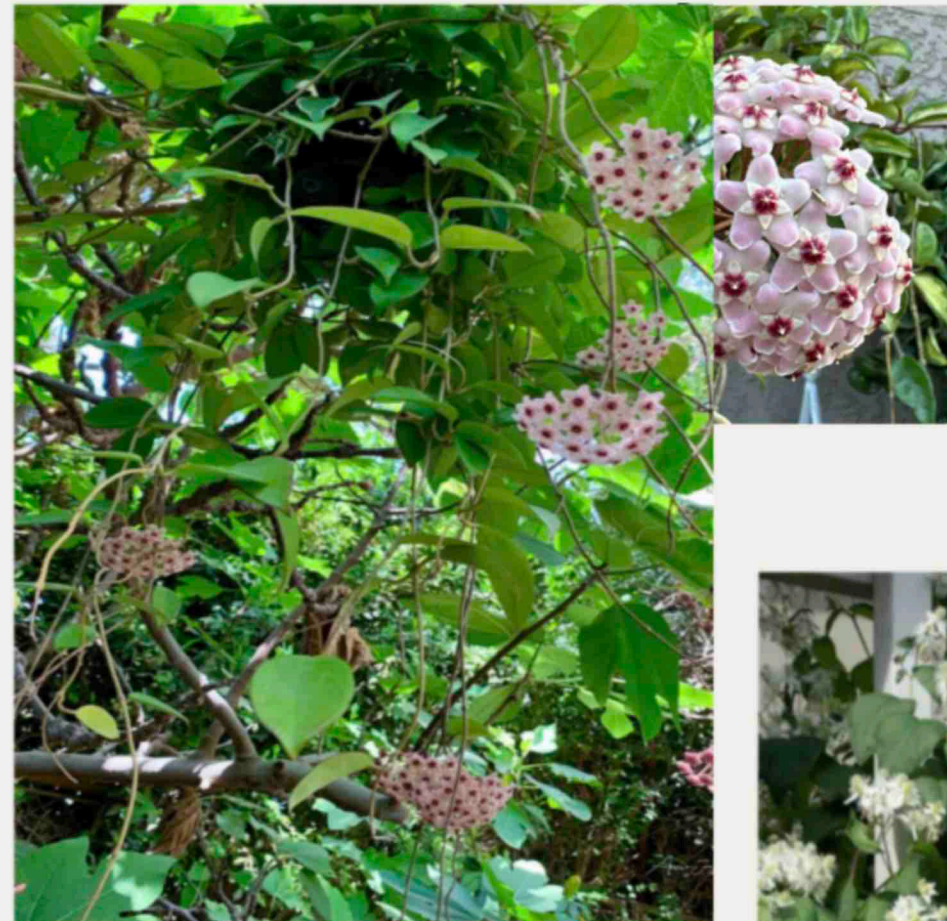
*Woodwardia fimbriata*  
Giant chain fern



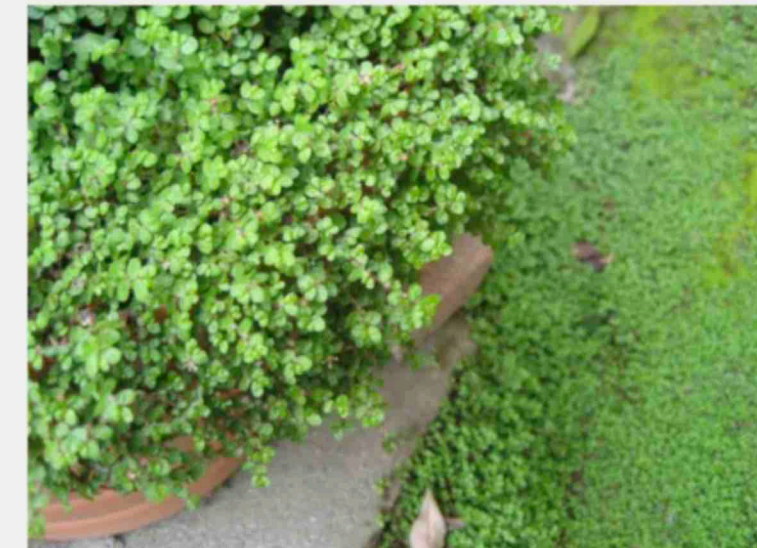
*Hydrangea quercifolia*  
Oakleaf hydrangea



*Arbutus unedo strawberry tree*



*Hoya carosa wax plant*



*Soleirolia soleirolii Baby tears*



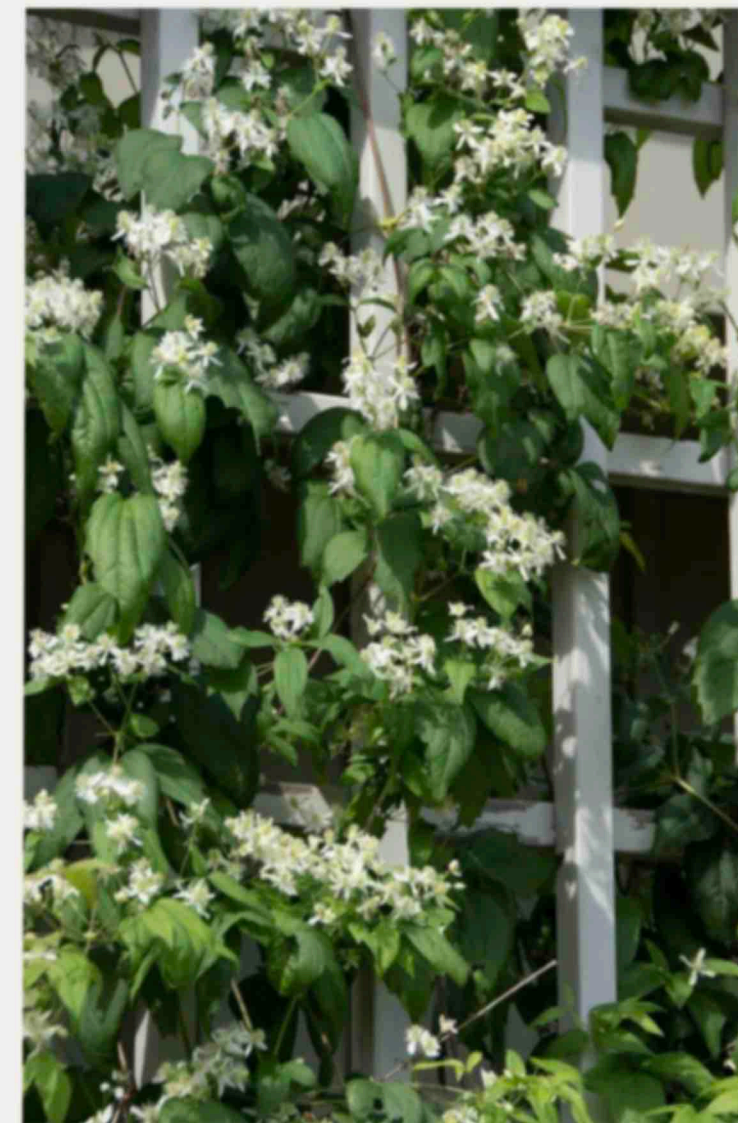
*Hosta*  
*'fortunei aureomarginata'*  
Plantain lilies



*Olea europaea 'monher'* Majestic beauty olive tree



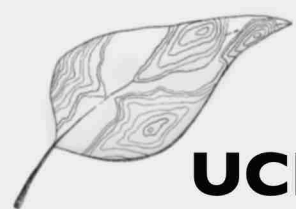
*silene coronaria rose campion*



*Clematis ligusticifolia*  
Virgin bowe



*Aspidistra elation*  
cast iron plant

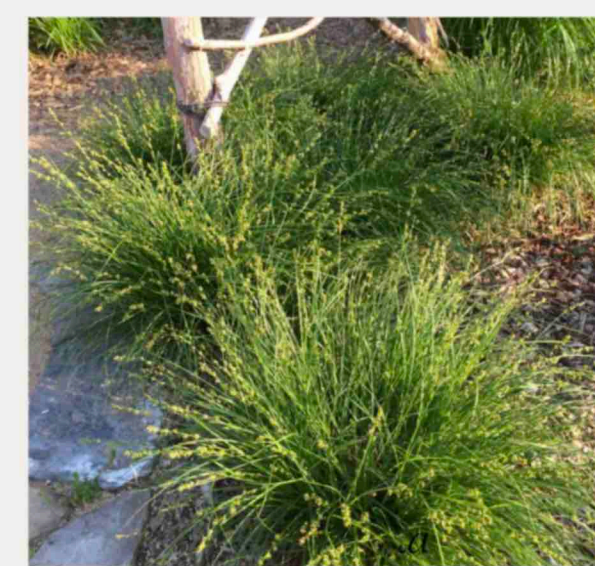




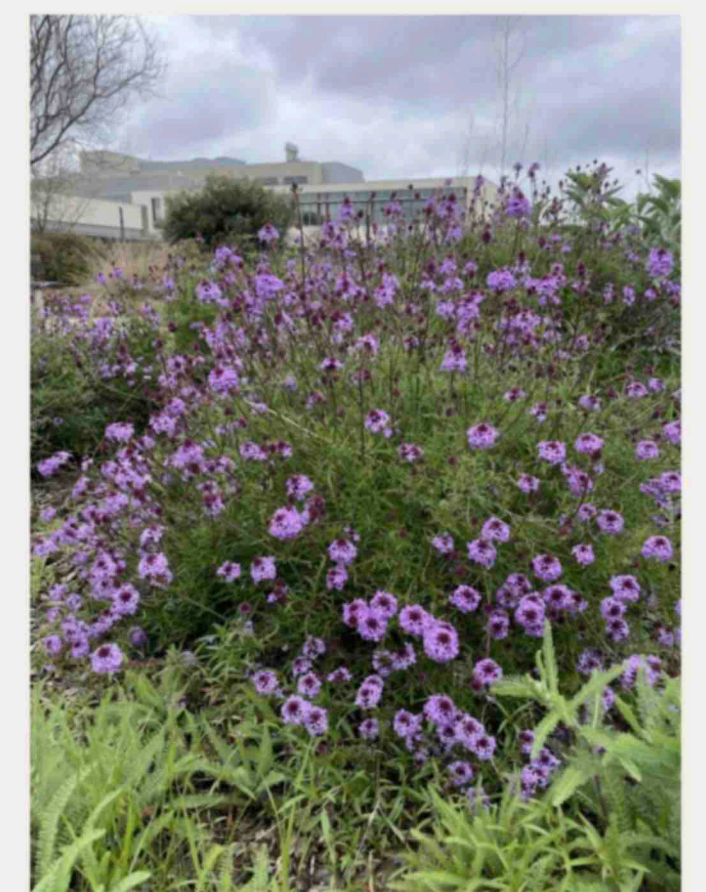
*Lonicera hispidula* Pink honeysuckle



*Carpenteria californica* Bush anemone



*Carex divulsa* Berkeley sedge



*Verbena lilacina* 'de la mina'  
Verbena de la mina



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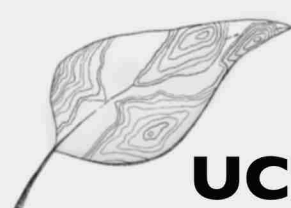
*Epilobium* 'cloverdale'  
Cloverdale California fuchsia



*Dicentra formosa*  
American bleeding heart



*Convallaria majalis*  
lily of the valley



# Thank you

