

Tate Tilles-Perrine
UCLA Extension Architecture Program
Meg Rushing Coffee and Jim Pickel
Capstone Seminar: Spring 2026
Capstone Studio: Summer 2026

Rooted in South LA: An Urban Ecology of Habitat and Culture



Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	3
------------------	---

SITE + CONTEXT

Project Statement	4
Site Context	5-7
Site Inventory	8-9
Site Photos/Surrounding Context	10-11

COMMUNITY + CULTURAL CONTEXT

Agency Data	12
Demographics	13
Black Cultural District	14-15

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Existing Ecological Context	16
Documented Urban Wildlife	17
Adjacent Open Space	18
Patch Dynamics	19

SITE ANALYSIS

Project Justification	20-21
Health Assessment	22
Noise Pollution	23
Park Needs Assessment	24
Traffic Counts + Metro Ridership	25-26
Bicycle Safety	27
Complete Streets	28

DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Design Methodology	29
Goals + Objectives	30
Users	31
Program Elements	32
Precedents	33-35
Interview	36
Opportunities + Constraints	37-38

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Early Concepts	39-41
Refined Concepts	42-48
Final Concept + Process	49-51

FINAL DESIGN

Illustrative Plan	52
Enlargements	53-59
Plant Palettes	60-61
Materials Palette	62
Conclusion	63-65
Bibliography	66-67

Acknowledgements

THANK YOU!

I sincerely want to acknowledge and thank my partner, friends, and family, whose love, care, and encouragement supported me throughout Capstone and my entire journey through the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Certificate Program. I could not have made it through these years without your continued support, patience, and belief in me.

I am also deeply grateful to the instructors, jurors, and mentors who shared their guidance and encouragement throughout the program. Your support has challenged me to grow, strengthened the way I think about design, and fostered a deeper appreciation for the many perspectives and possibilities within the field of landscape architecture.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my cohort, who shared this journey with me over the last three years. The challenges we worked through, the fun we had, and the excitement of learning and designing alongside one another made this experience especially meaningful. I am incredibly grateful to have gone through this process together.

Project Statement

At the intersection of Crenshaw and Obama Boulevards, this project proposes a neighborhood-scale ecological patch that restores coastal sage scrub habitat and improves access to functional open space within a fragmented urban landscape. Through landscape architecture, the design enhances biodiversity, supports community well-being, and cultivates a strong cultural sense of place.

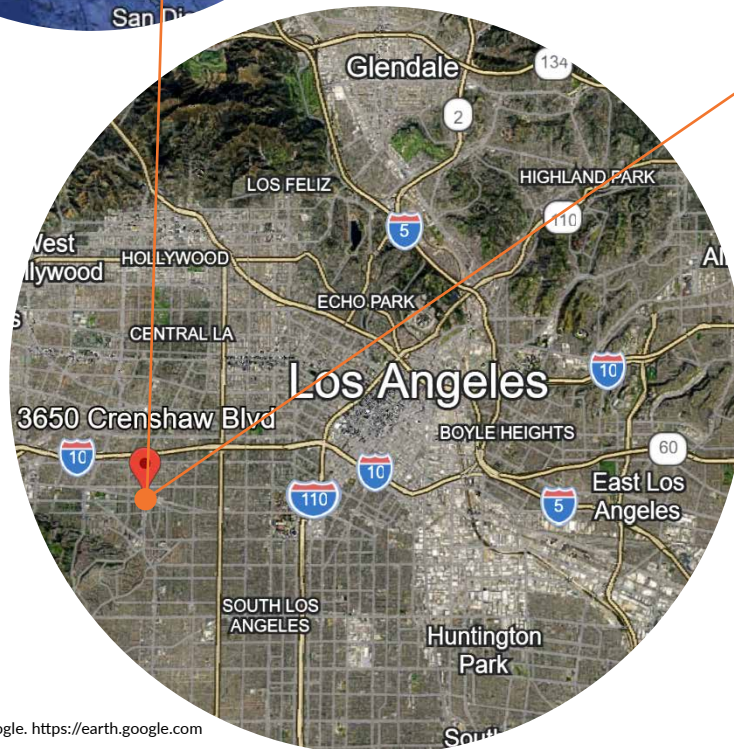
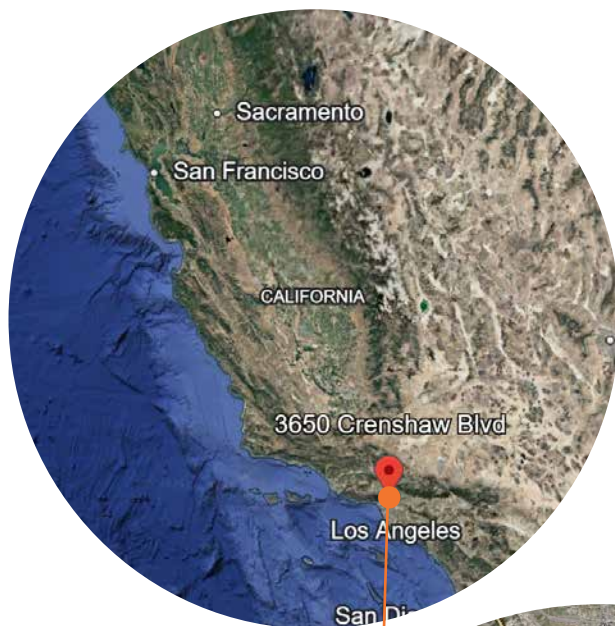


Looking SE at existing conditions on the N side of Obama Blvd



Looking SE at existing conditions on the S side of Obama Blvd

Site Location



State: CA

County/City: Los Angeles

Geographic Region: South Los Angeles

Adjacent neighborhoods: West Adams, Baldwin Hills and Leimert Park

Acreage: ~9 acres

Intersection: Crenshaw and Obama Blvds

Along: Malcom X Route

Metro lines: E and K (Expo/Crenshaw stop)

● Project site

Zoning

Site zoned as **Community Commercial**. “Community Commercial areas are intended to encourage a mix of uses that are compatible with the needs of local residents and accommodate viable existing neighborhood businesses” (City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, 2021, p. 2.0-7).

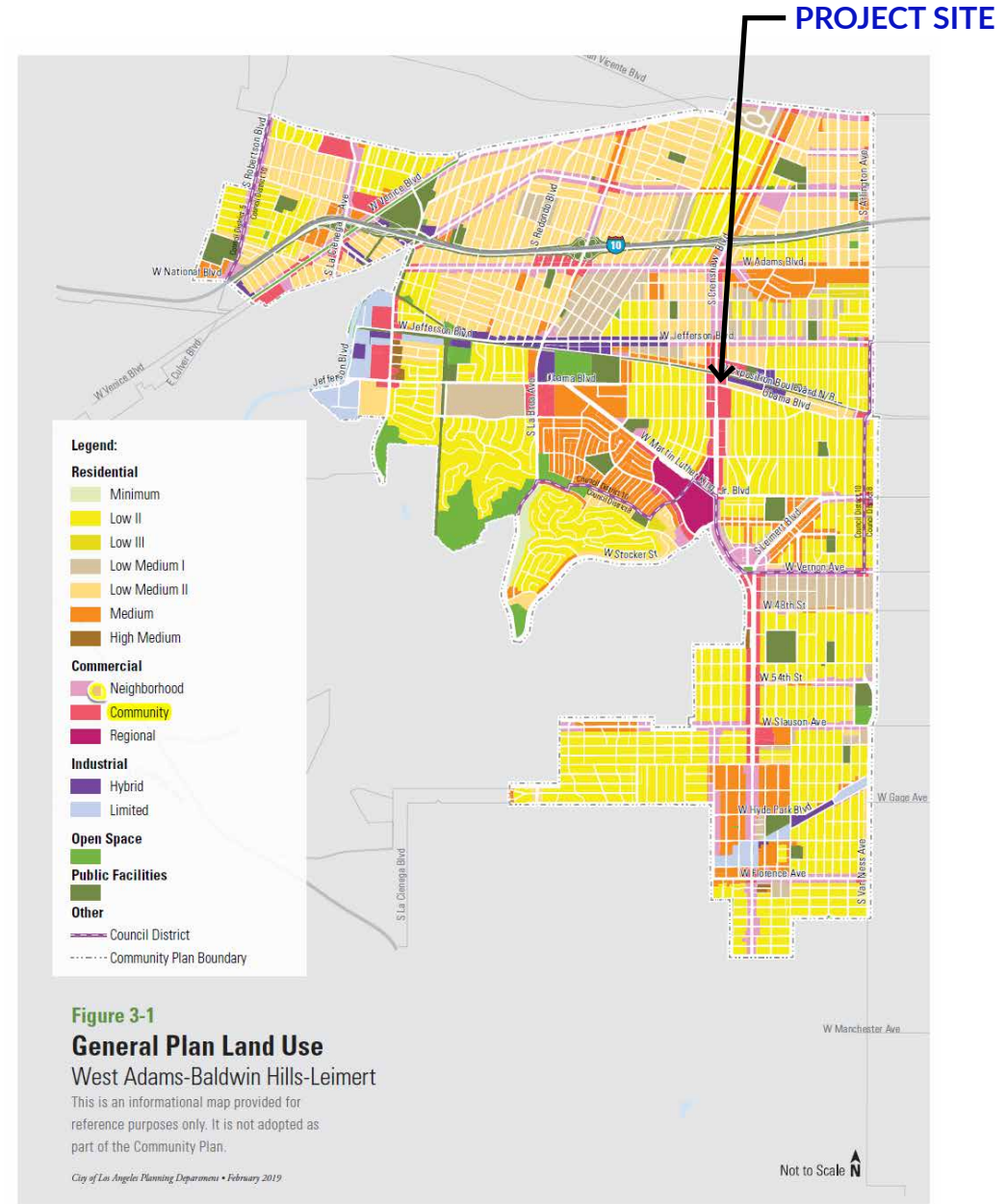
Addresses: 3630/3642/3650/3656/3662/3668/3670/3680/3684/3690/3698 S Crenshaw Blvd, 3510 W Exposition Blvd, 3635 S Bronson Ave, 3500/3505 W Obama Blvd

Zip Codes: 90016, 90018

N side of Obama parcel #s: 5044002901, 5044002903, 5044002904, 5044002905, 5044002902

S side of Obama parcel #s: 5033001035, 5033001034, 5033001033, 5033001032, 5033001031, 5033001030, 5033001029, 5033001028, 5033001027, 5033001041, 5033001039, 5033001039, 5033001023, 5033001041, 5033001021, 5033001020

Proximate zoning: site surrounded by Low II residential zoning, characterized primarily by single-family homes, many supporting multigenerational households.



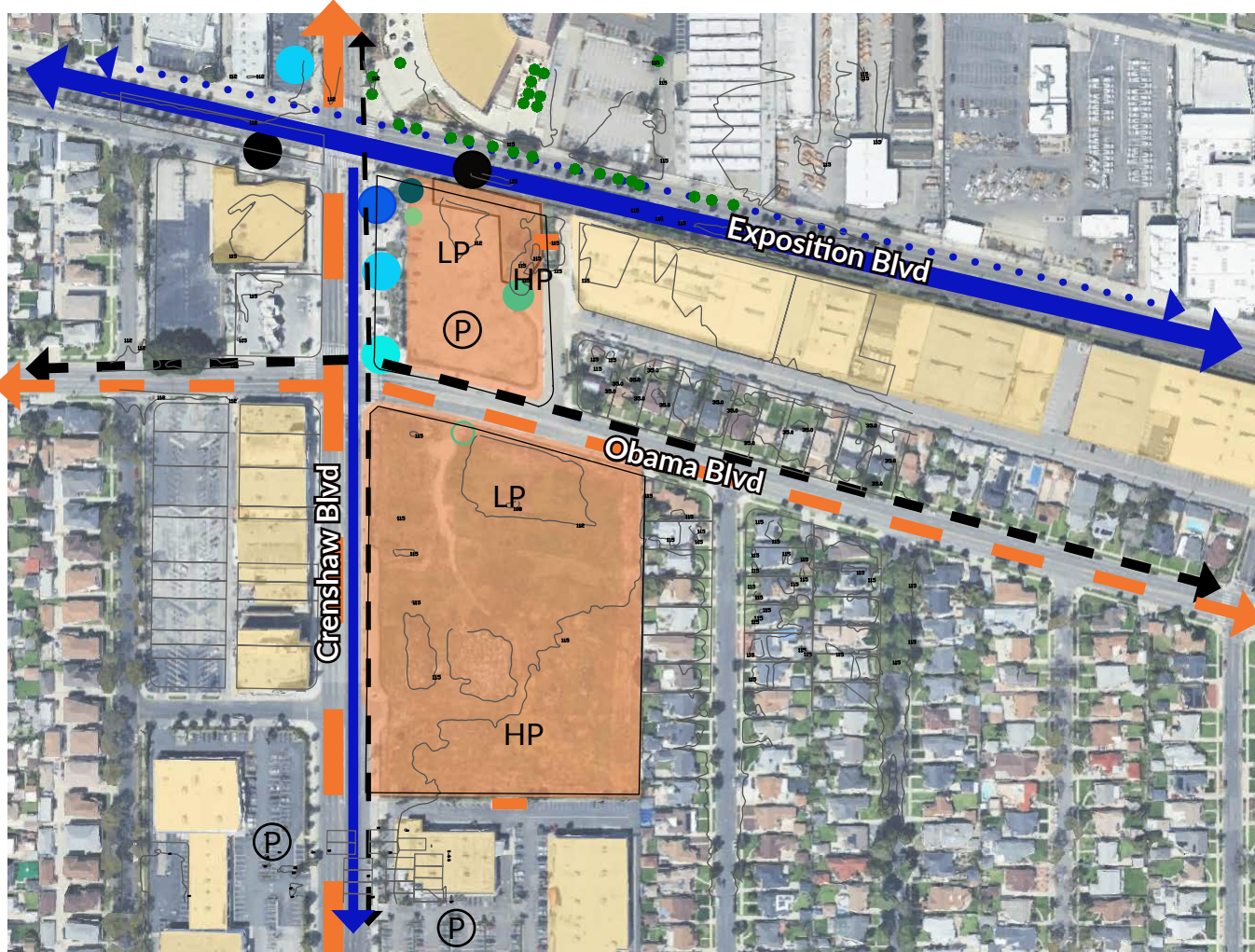
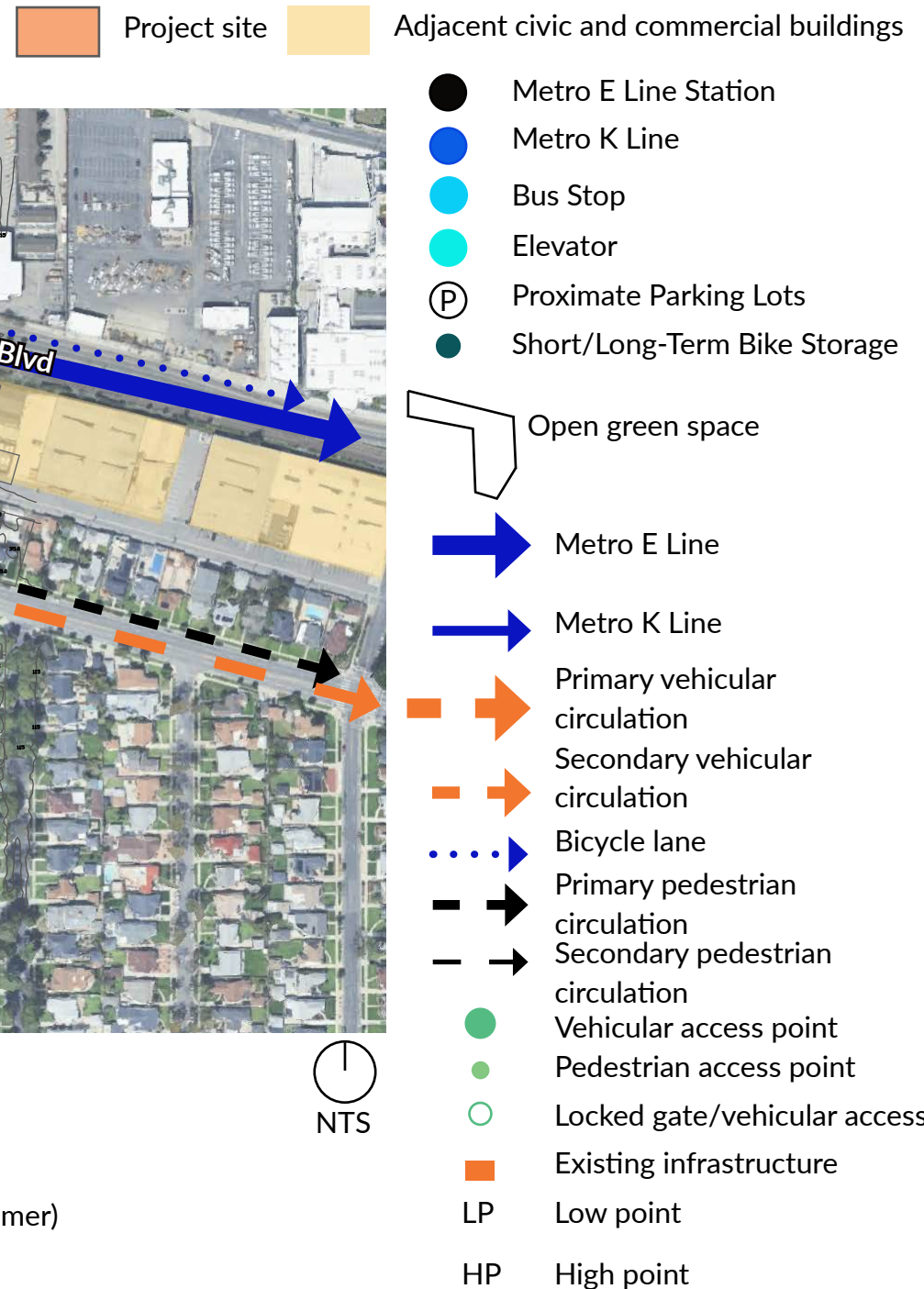
From "West Adams-Leimert Park- Baldwin Hills Community Plan" by City of Los Angeles Planning Dept., 2016, www.planning.lacity.gov

- Nearest freeway: I-10 (approx. 1 mile away)
- Located between Downtown LA and Santa Monica Bay; considered part of the westside of Los Angeles
- Central, desirable location in the South LA region
- Close to major job centers (Downtown LA, Century City, LAX)
- Near key destinations (Leimert Plaza Park, Fox Hills Mall, Kenneth Hahn Park, Exposition Park)
- Served by two light rail lines improving regional connectivity: the E Line runs east-west, while the K Line currently extends south from the Crenshaw/Expo station, with plans for future expansion northward.



Site Inventory

SITE + CONTEXT



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

Climate: Mediterranean

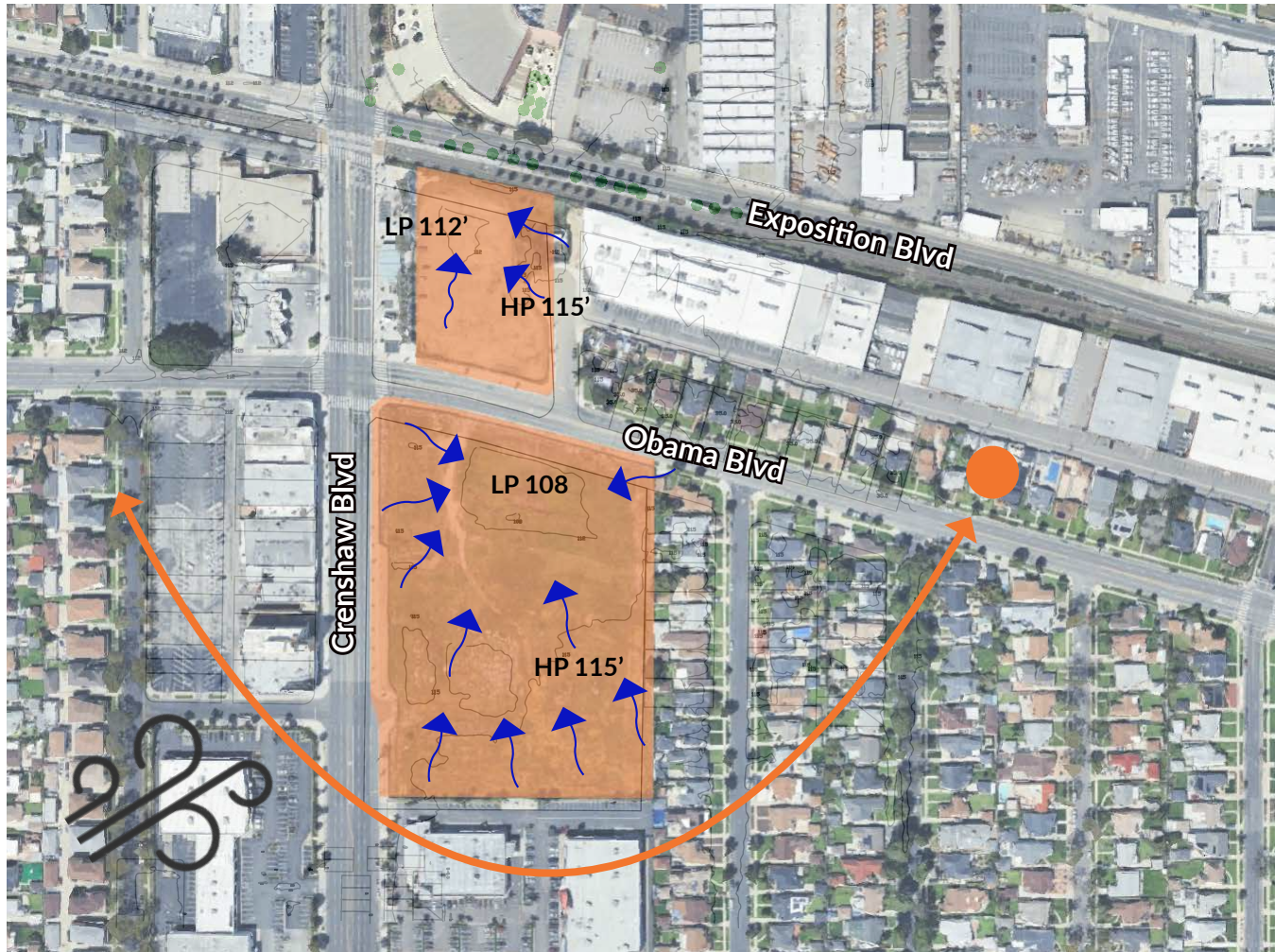
USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: 10b

Sunset Climate Zone: 22

Prevailing winds: from the Southwest (especially in spring and summer)

Precipitation rate: annual average is ~14-15"

Drainage



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

Contours: every 3'

 Project site

 Drainage

LP: Low Point

HP: High Point

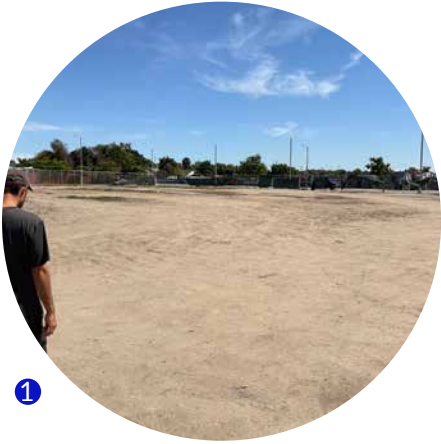
 Prevailing Winds

 Sun's Path

- Stormwater generally drains toward the northern ends of both portions of the site, with relatively minimal grade change across the landscape.
- Soils on the north side of Obama Boulevard are heavily compacted, likely as a result of the area being used as a construction staging site during development of the Metro K-Line.


NTS

Site Photos



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>



Surrounding Context



1



2



3



4



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>



5



6



7



8

Agency Data

County Supervisor for District: 2

County Supervisor for District 2:

Holly J. Mitchell

City Council District/Councilwoman:

10/Heather Hutt

10th District Southwest Contact:

Jonathan Mitchell

Neighborhood Councils: Empowerment

Congress West Area Neighborhood

Development Council and United

Neighborhoods NC

Community Plan Area: West Adams -

Baldwin Hills - Leimert

Fire Authority: South Bureau, LAFD Fire

Station 34

Watershed: Central Santa Monica Bay

Watershed

Plant Community: coastal sage scrub



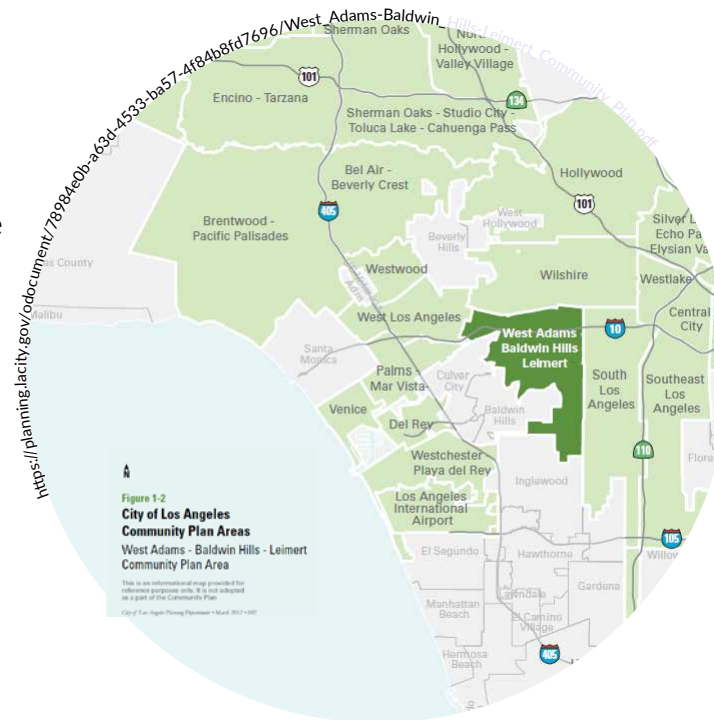
Holly J. Mitchell



Heather Hutt



Jonathan Mitchell



<https://neighborhoodempowerment.lacity.gov/ecwandc/>



<https://www.facebook.com/UNNC.LA/>

COMMUNITY + CULTURAL CONTEXT

Demographics

Of Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, and West Adams

*Neighborhoods chosen relative to 2016 West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan



West Adams

NTS



Baldwin Hills

NTS



Leimert Park

NTS

Project site

West Adams

Total population: 18,351
 Median household income: \$73,516
 Total households: 7145
 Average people per household: 3
 Owner occupied homes: 34.9%
 Largest workforce demographic: 63%
 work for private companies
 Average commute time: unknown

Baldwin Hills

Total population: 31,173
 Median household income: \$67,681
 Total households: 12,906
 Average people per household: 2
 Owner occupied homes: 32.6%
 Largest workforce demographic: 63%
 work for private companies
 Average commute time: 16 minutes

Leimert Park

Total population: 11,531
 Median household income: \$62,533
 Total households: 4797
 Average people per household: 2
 Owner occupied homes: 30.6%
 Largest workforce demographic: 63%
 work for private companies
 Average commute time: 11 minutes

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



61,055

TOTAL POPULATION

West Adams, Leimert Park, & Baldwin Hills

AGE DISTRIBUTION



16.3%
Under 18



10.5%
18 to 24



31.1%
25 to 44



25.2%
45 to 64

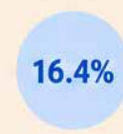


16.8%
Over 65

RACIAL COMPOSITION



41.8%
Black or
African American



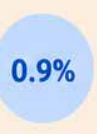
16.4%
Two or
more races



14.5%
White



4.1%
Asian



0.9%
Native
American

AVERAGE TRANSPORTATION METHOD



65.0%
Car



11.6%
Public
Transit



0.1%
Bicycle



0.9%
Walk



19.6%
Other

OpenAI. (2026, September 4). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT

Black Cultural District

JUNE 2025

- With the initiative of CA State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Phase I of the Historic South LA Black Cultural District was published to support the long-term economic stability of Black-owned businesses, residents, and artists.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- South LA residents were invited to share stories of resilience, identity, and aspirations for the future.
- These conversations informed a collective vision of “Black Permanence” for the Historic South LA BCD.

DECEMBER 2025

- In December of 2025, The Historic South LA BCD designation became finalized.



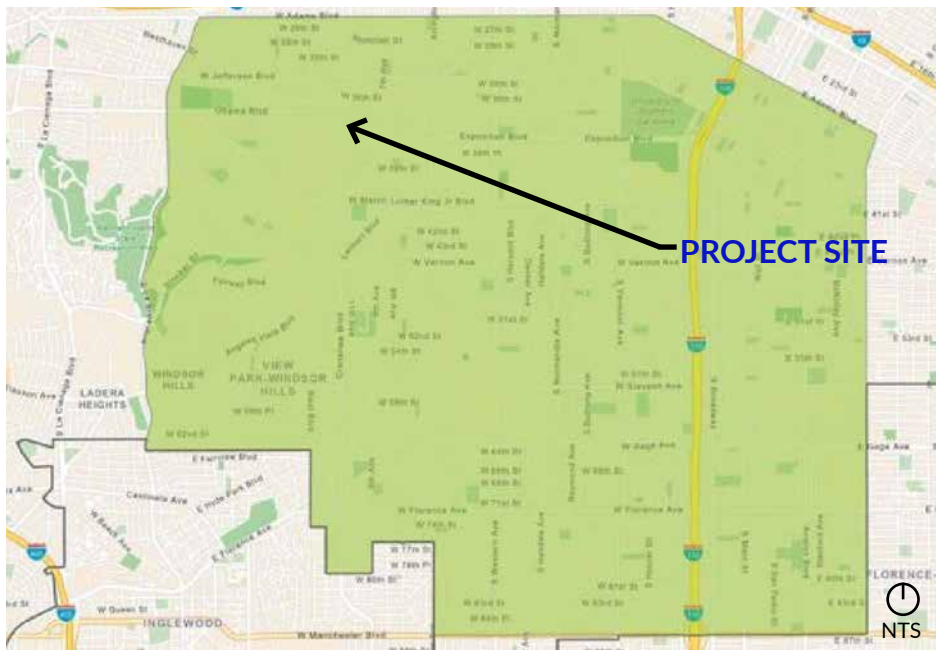
<https://sd28.senate.ca.gov/>

CA State Senator for the 28th District Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



<https://www.lacommons.org/historic-south-la-black-cultural-district>

Art that celebrates black cultural identities



<https://www.lacommons.org/historic-south-la-black-cultural-district>

“Entryways” of the Historic South LA Black Cultural District



<https://www.lacommons.org/historic-south-la-black-cultural-district>

South LA community-identified values

Black History of South LA

Prior to 1781

Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The community of south LA acknowledges the occupants and stewards of the land prior to colonization as the Tongva, Kizh, and Chumash peoples. They also want to recognize the labor of enslaved peoples upon which the nation was built, as well as the continued contribution of their survivors. Additionally, they acknowledge the labor, voluntary, involuntary, forced, trafficked or undocumented of indigenous and immigrant peoples.

1781

Black Founders of Los Angeles

Over half of the 44 original settlers (Pobladores) who founded Los Angeles had African ancestry. Black history is therefore intertwined with the city's origins and development from its earliest days.

Mid-Late 1800s

Success of Early Black American Settlers

Following U.S. control of California, Black settlers established businesses, homesteads, and community roots throughout the region. Figures such as Biddy Mason and John Ballard helped shape early Los Angeles despite widespread discrimination.

1916–1970

The Great Migration

Thousands of Black Americans migrated to Los Angeles seeking opportunity and refuge from racial violence in the South. Arriving from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, they established vibrant communities throughout Central Avenue, Watts, Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, West Adams, Inglewood, and Compton, permanently shaping the cultural landscape of Los Angeles.

1925–1968

Building Important Institutions

In response to exclusion from many public and private institutions, Black Angelenos created their own networks of support. Organizations such as Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, Broadway Federal Savings, the Consolidated Board of Realists, the Black Panther Party Los Angeles Headquarters, and other institutions provided critical resources, economic opportunity, advocacy, and cultural leadership.

1950s–1970s

Development of Black Political Power

Civil Rights victories and community organizing helped expand Black political representation in Los Angeles. Leaders such as Charlotta Bass, Gilbert W. Lindsay, and Tom Bradley broke racial barriers in government and helped create pathways toward greater political influence, representation, and opportunity.

1950s–1980s

Schools as Places of Belonging and Pride

Schools served as important centers of community identity, achievement, and social connection. Institutions such as Charles Drew University (1966) and Los Angeles Southwest College (1967) expanded educational opportunities and became lasting symbols of community investment and empowerment.

1980s–1990s

Rise of South LA's Sister Communities

As crime, disinvestment, and housing pressures increased in South Los Angeles, many Black families relocated to communities such as Atladena, Leimert Park Palmdale, Lancaster, Moreno Valley, and the Inland Empire. These emerging "sister communities" maintained strong cultural and family ties to South LA while creating new centers of Black life throughout Southern California.

2025

Recognition

South LA recognized as The Historic South LA Black Cultural District.

Existing Ecological Context



CA sagebrush
Artemisia californica
Photo by Neal Kramer



CA buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum
Photo by John Doyen



Coyote bush
Baccharis pilularis
Photo by Calscape



CA bush sunflower
Encelia californica
Photo by Michael O'Brien



White sage
Salvia apiana
Photo by John Doyen



Lemonade berry
Rhus integrifolia
Photo by Keir Morse



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia
Photo by Calscape



Coast live oak
Quercus agrifolia
Photo by Zoya Akulova



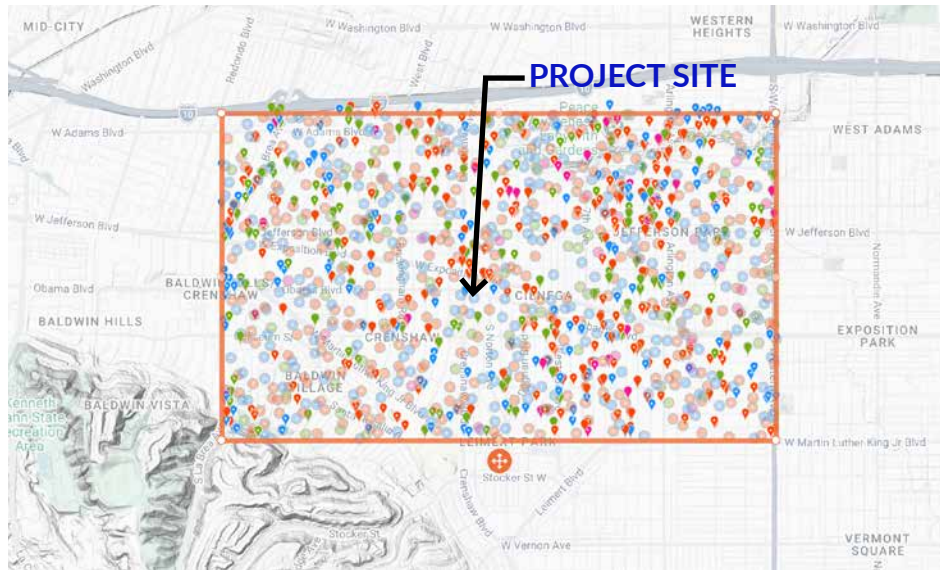
Western sycamore
Platanus racemosa
Photo by Neal Kramer



<https://www.laspilatas.com/nature-of-california/communities/coastal-sage-scrub>

- The project site lies within the Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) plant community, one of Southern California's native ecosystems.
- CSS is adapted to a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters (~12–25" annual rainfall) and hot, dry summers (~80–90 degree days).
- Frequent coastal fog and overcast mornings ("June Gloom") help moderate early summer temperatures before clearing by midday.
- The plant community occurs across a wide range of soil types, contributing to its ecological diversity.
- Many CSS plant species enter summer dormancy during prolonged heat and dryness, conserving resources until cooler conditions return.

Documented Urban Wildlife



<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?netlat=34.02626674756896&nelng=-118.31185777483546&subview=map&swlat=34.0200119697085&swlng=-118.3522783230039>

Through iNaturalist, within 4.5 square miles around project site:

- 4388 Observations
- 825 Species
- 1345 Identifiers
- 627 Observers

This community science data demonstrates ongoing engagement with local wildlife despite fragmented habitat conditions surrounding the project site.

It is unclear whether the data was collected primarily by local residents or by individuals moving through the area. Regardless, the observations demonstrate that wildlife species continue to inhabit fragmented ecological conditions surrounding the site, suggesting that expanded habitat could further support and strengthen local biodiversity.



Red-Tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/5212-Buteo-jamaicensis>



Alligator Lizard
Elgaria multicarinata
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/32055-Elgaria-multicarinata>



Red-flanked Bluetail
Tarsiger cyanurus
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/210941-Tarsiger-cyanurus>



Yellow Rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/145245-Setophaga-coronata>



Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/49133-Vanessa-atalanta>



Monarch
Danaus plexippus
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/48662-Danaus-plexippus>



Western Spotted Orb Weaver
Neoscona oaxacensis
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/123713-Neoscona-oaxacensis>



Cedar Waxwings
Bombycilla cedrorum
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/7428-Bombycilla-cedrorum>



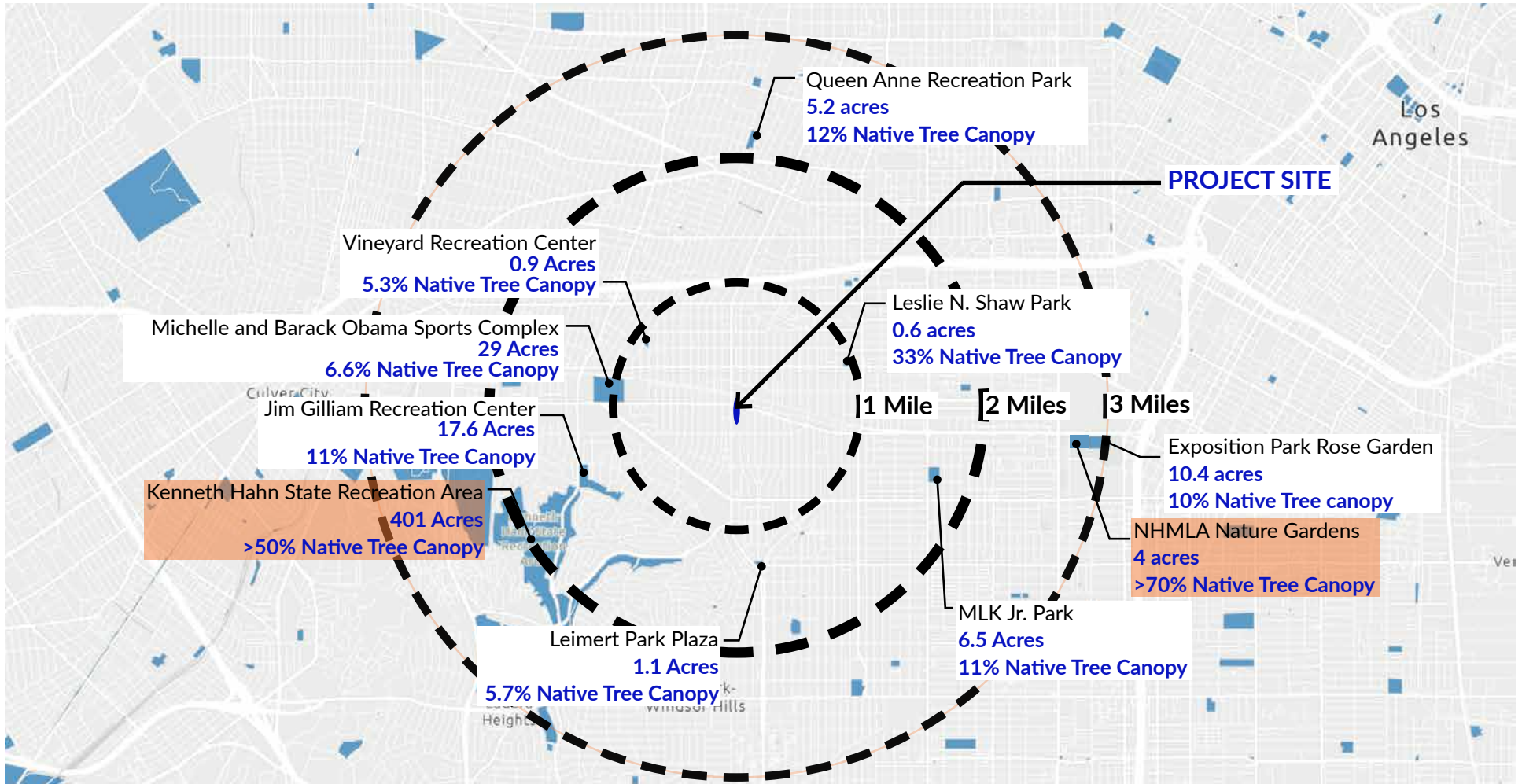
Great Western Swallowtail
Heraclides rumiko
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/428606-Heraclides-rumiko>

Adjacent Open Space

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Nearest CSS ecological habitat patches to site

- Centering the project site, the nearest open park spaces that function as ecological habitat patches of comparable size and ecological value are located approximately two miles to the west and three miles to the east.
- While several nearby parks provide pockets of native tree canopy, they remain fragmented and lack the size and connectivity needed to support wildlife habitat at a meaningful ecological scale.



https://data.lacounty.gov/datasets/4e6083c7960d4a1caedb57aa76473e4f_0/explore?location=34.021933%2C-118.340214%2C13

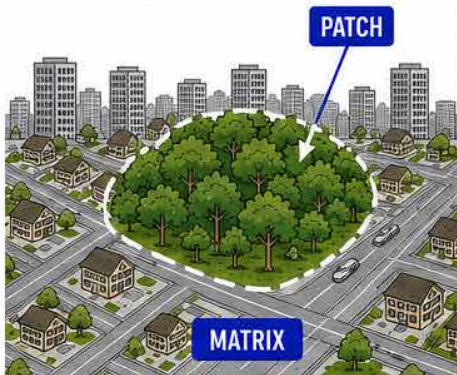


Patch Dynamics

1 PATCH & MATRIX

A patch is an area of similar habitat that differs from its surrounding matrix.

A matrix is the background land use in which patches exist.



2 DISTURBANCES DRIVE PATCH DYNAMICS

Disturbances in nature and from people influence the formation of patch dynamics.



FLOODS



WIND



FIRE



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

3 SIZE MATTERS

The bigger the patch, the greater the biodiversity.

SMALL PATCH



Lower biodiversity

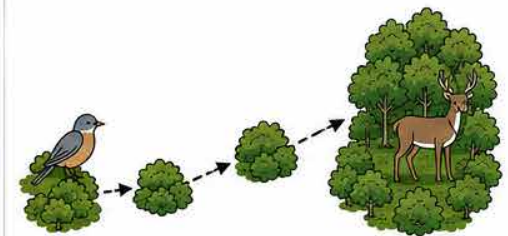
LARGE PATCH



Higher biodiversity

4 SMALL PATCHES, BIG ROLE

Smaller patches serve fewer species and act like stepping stones to the next habitat.



5 EDGE VS. INTERIOR

Edges and interiors create habitat for different species. More interior space means more protected habitat and greater biodiversity.



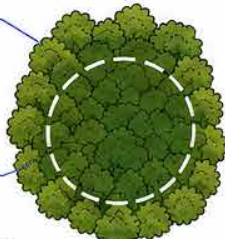
EDGE

More light, wind, and variable conditions



INTERIOR

More stable conditions, more protection



More interior space = more biodiversity

6 SHAPE INFLUENCES HABITAT

Rounder shapes allow more interior species diversity.



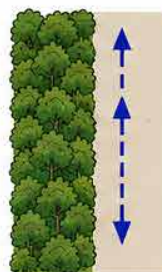
Elongated shapes allow more edge type species.



7 BOUNDARIES GUIDE MOVEMENT

A straight boundary encourages movement along an edge (corridor), while a more convoluted edge encourages movement across the boundary (between habitats).

STRAIGHT EDGE
(Along the edge)

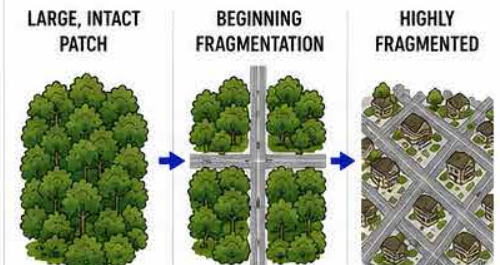


CONVOLUTED EDGE
(Cross the edge)



8 FRAGMENTATION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Over time, large patches break into smaller ones. As edge increases and interior decreases, biodiversity declines.



DECREASING BIODIVERSITY

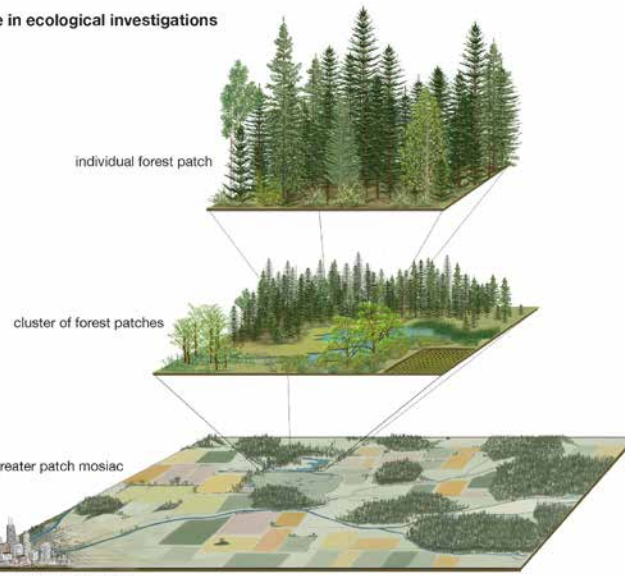
Project Justification

As urban populations continue to grow, cities expand through development patterns that fragment habitats and disrupt ecological continuity. The United Nations projects that by 2050, 68% of the global population will live in urban areas, intensifying these trends. This growth not only contributes to the decline of native and local wildlife, but also further distances people from everyday interactions with the natural environment, and amongst themselves.

The project site presents a unique opportunity to strengthen ecological function within a highly urbanized and fragmented landscape. Through the lens of patch dynamics ecology, the project establishes a diverse mosaic of habitat types, plant communities, and landforms that support biodiversity and create conditions for wildlife to establish, move, and thrive. By developing a meaningful habitat patch within South Los Angeles, the project reframes open space not simply as recreational land, but as functioning ecological infrastructure that can support both wildlife and people.

Strengthening ecological function also creates opportunities to improve physical and mental well-being. Research shows that access to nature can reduce stress, support physiological regulation, and provide restorative experiences. Yet these benefits remain unevenly distributed. In South Los Angeles—particularly in neighborhoods such as West Adams, Baldwin Hills, and Leimert Park—this disparity exists within a broader history of systemic disinvestment.

Scale in ecological investigations



© 2013 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

<https://www.britannica.com/science/patch-dynamics>

Patches can vary in size, but function similarly

Example Ranges of Minimum Patch Area

Taxa	Patch Area
 Plants	5 to ≥ 250 ac
 Invertebrates	50 sq ft to ≥ 2.5 ac
 Reptiles and Amphibians	3 to ≥ 35 ac
 Grassland Birds	12 to ≥ 135 ac
 Waterfowl	≥ 12 ac
 Forest Birds	5 to ≥ 95 ac
 Small Mammals	2.5 to ≥ 25 ac
 Large Mammals	40 ac to ≥ 2 sq mi
 Large Predator Mammals	3.5 to ≥ 850 sq mi

<https://npshistory.com/publications/proposed-parks/tx-castner-range-rp.pdf>

The size of the patch will determine the users

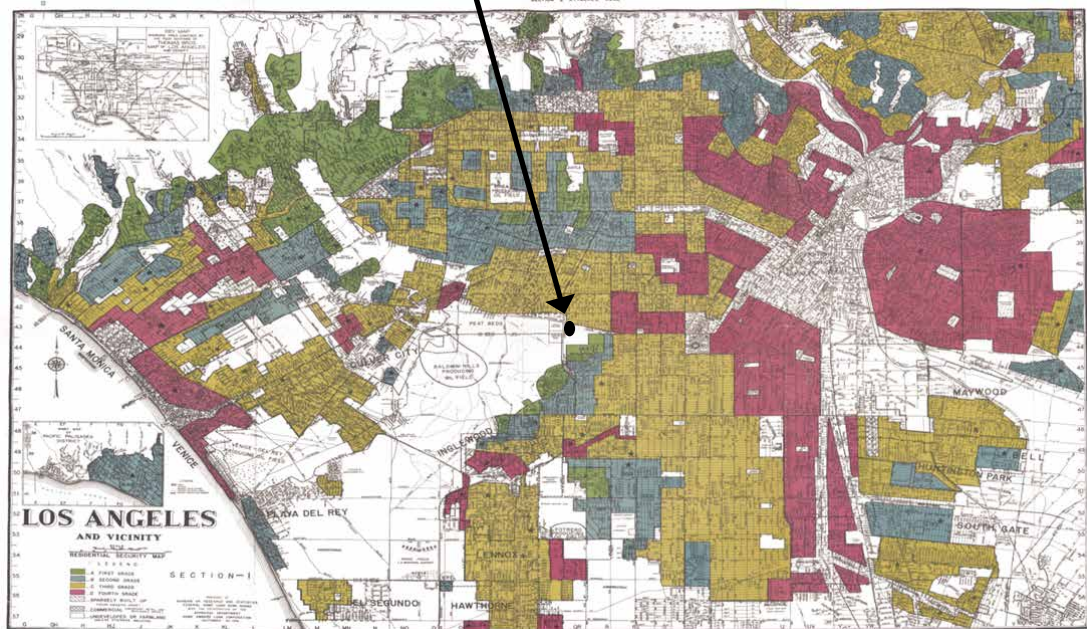
Project Justification Cont'd

Practices such as redlining contributed to long-term environmental inequities, including disparities in tree canopy and access to environmental amenities. Research has found that historically redlined “D” neighborhoods have, on average, 21% less tree canopy than “A”-graded neighborhoods, which also tend to have older, more uniformly distributed canopy and greater proximity to environmental amenities. While the project site falls just outside historically “C”-graded areas, it exists within this broader landscape of inequities.

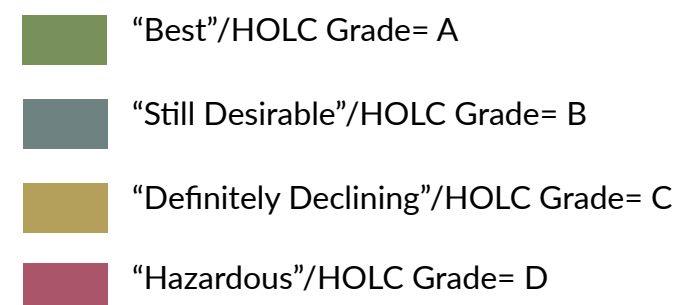
These historical patterns continue to shape access to open space today. According to a 2022 National Equity Atlas study, “disproportionately high numbers of Black and Latinx residents in Los Angeles County live in lower-income, park-deficient neighborhoods” (National Equity Atlas, 2024). The 2022 Park Needs Assessment identifies the project area as having a high park need. By creating opportunities to encounter local ecology, the project expands access to open space while supporting both ecological and human well-being.

However, ecological restoration and access to nature alone are not enough. An equitable approach to open space must also reflect and support the cultural identities of the communities it serves. Cultural practices and relationships to land shape how people understand, value, and engage with nature. Through intentional design and review of previously collected community input, the project seeks to strengthen these relationships, fostering a sense of place in which ecological experience, cultural identity, and community belonging are interconnected.

PROJECT SITE



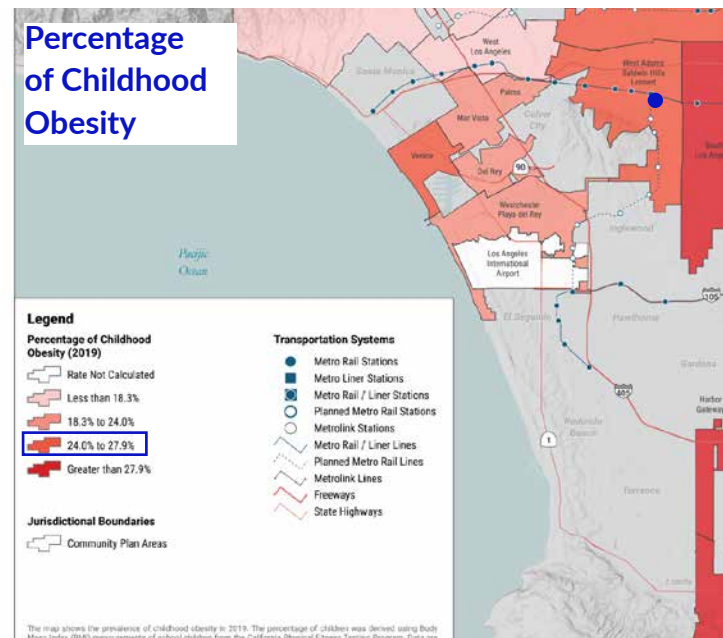
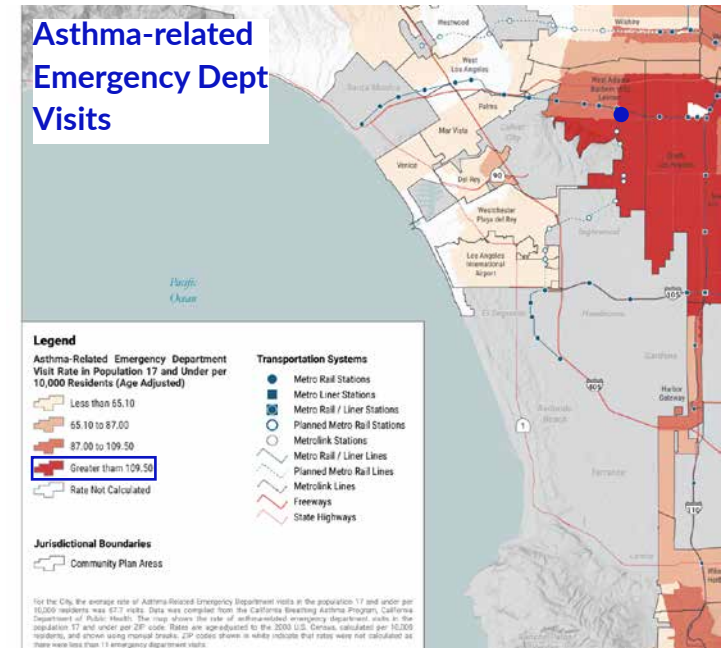
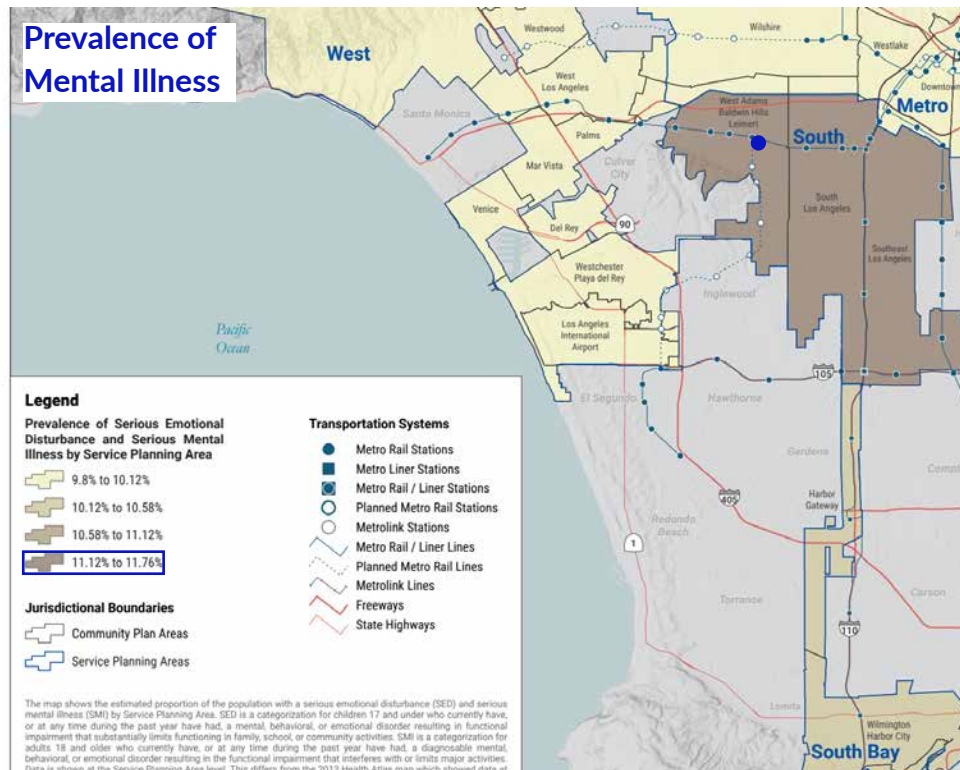
In 1939, The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) created redlining maps to assess perceived lending risk and guide investment decisions. Areas graded as yellow or red were often home to communities of color and subsequently experienced decades of disinvestment and limited access to functional open space.



Health Assessment

• Project site

- While rates of coronary heart disease and stroke are elevated near the project site, particularly concerning are the high rates of asthma—especially among individuals under the age of 17—as well as childhood obesity.
- High population density and significant vehicular activity surrounding the site may contribute to poor air quality and adverse respiratory health outcomes.
- Although grocery stores are located within a 1/2-mile radius of the site, these data indicate a need for greater access to recreational space.
- The project site is located within an area where residents experience elevated rates of mental health disturbances.
- Access to parks and natural environments has been shown to reduce the severity of symptoms associated with conditions such as ADHD, depression, and OCD.



All images: <https://data-lahub.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/a980fbf3111341f18ba4a63c98b3e1bb/about>

Noise Pollution



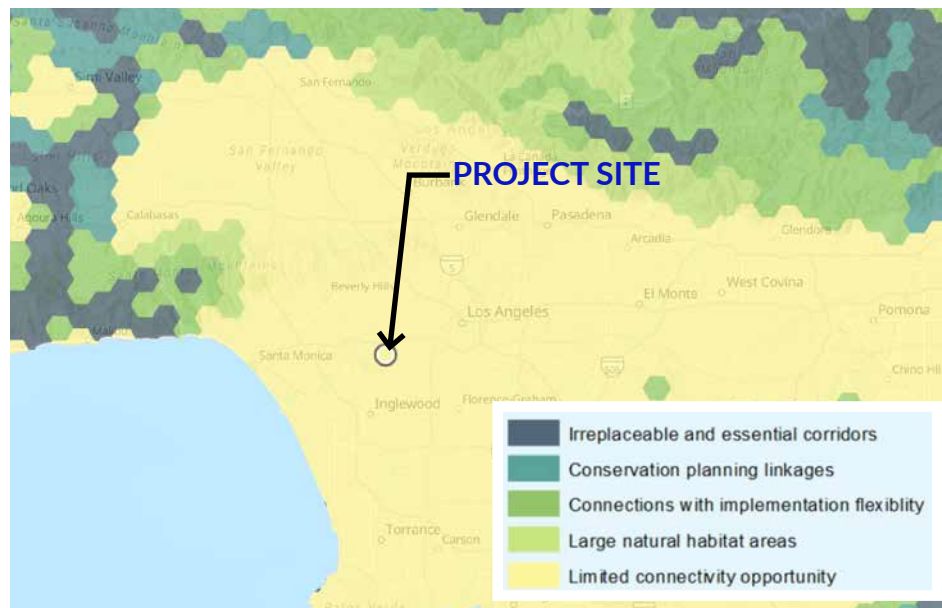
<https://howloud.com/>

- Both the intersections of Crenshaw Blvd/Obama Blvd and Crenshaw Blvd/Exposition Blvd generate significant sound. The Metro E line (above ground) is also a major contributor, as is the not distant 10 freeway.
- “‘Especially in America, rail lines, highways and airports often border neighborhoods that tend to be where the most underserved communities live,’ Roscoe [Environmental Health Researcher] said, nodding to the racist history of redlining and highway placement across many U.S. cities. ‘People who are already probably experiencing some social risk factors and stressors on their health are the ones who are both experiencing the most noise pollution and most vulnerable to the negative health effects,’ she added” (Botel, 2024).
- High noise levels can negatively affect local wildlife by disrupting communication, interfering with foraging and prey detection, and causing animals to avoid otherwise suitable habitat. These impacts can reduce habitat connectivity and limit the movement of species across the landscape.

Park Needs Assessment

PNA City of Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park-Hyde Park

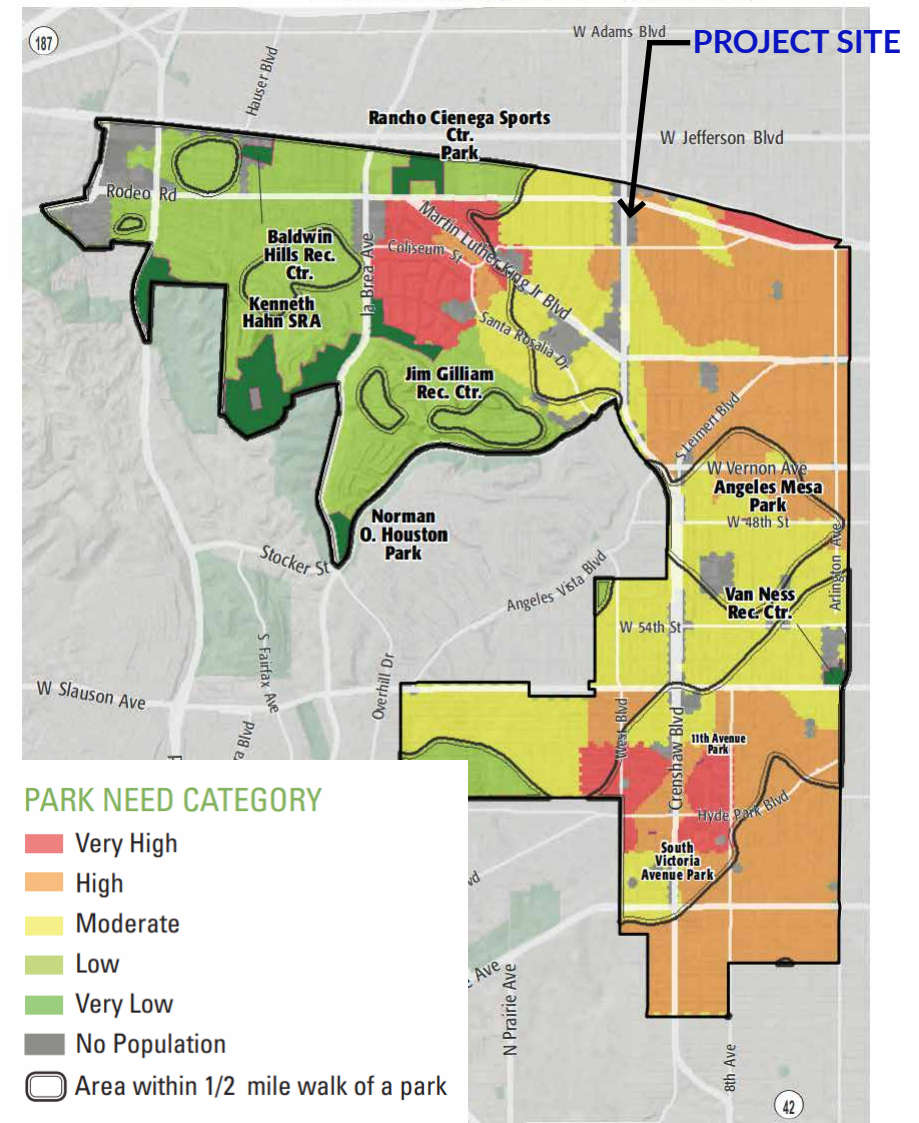
- The project site is within an area that has a high park need.
- The study area provides only 0.7 park acres per 1,000 residents, significantly below the 1.6 park acres per 1,000 residents average found in Los Angeles County's high park need communities.
- The unequal distribution of parks and green space disproportionately affects communities of color, which account for 84% of the population living in areas prioritized for restoration across Los Angeles County.
- *Limited Connectivity Opportunity* generally means that an area currently has relatively low value for facilitating wildlife movement between larger habitat cores.
- Enhancing functional open space on the project site could improve residential access to parks, as well as connectivity of CA terrestrial habitat.



<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/Analysis/Connectivity>

= PARK NEED

*Calculated using the following weighting: (20% x Park Acre Need) + (20% x Distance to Parks) + (60% x Population Density)

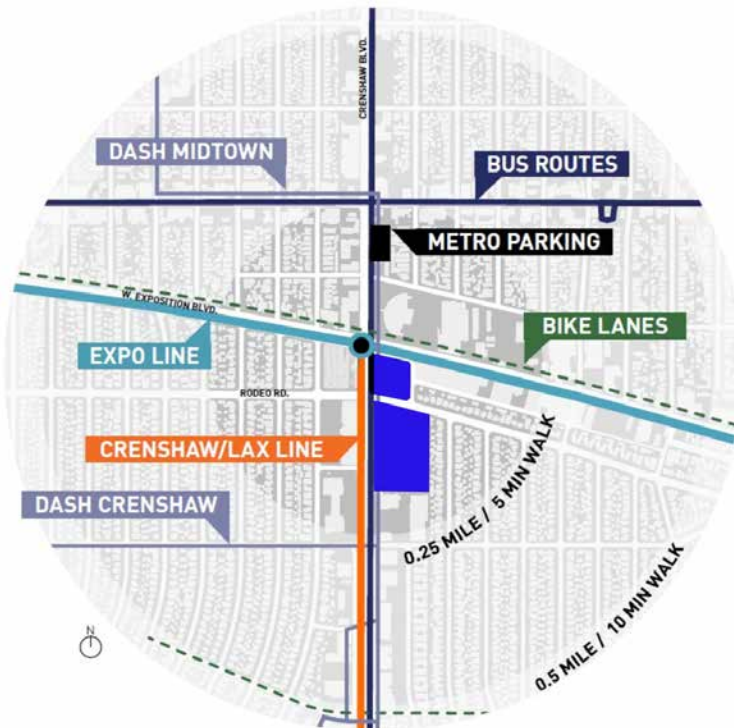


https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_083.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

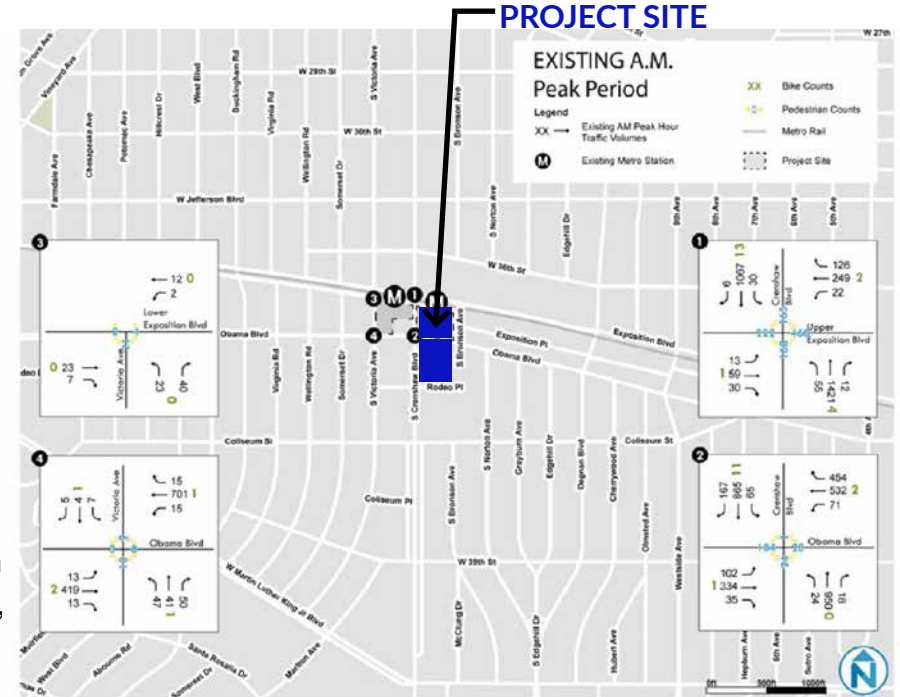
Traffic Counts

The transit data shows:

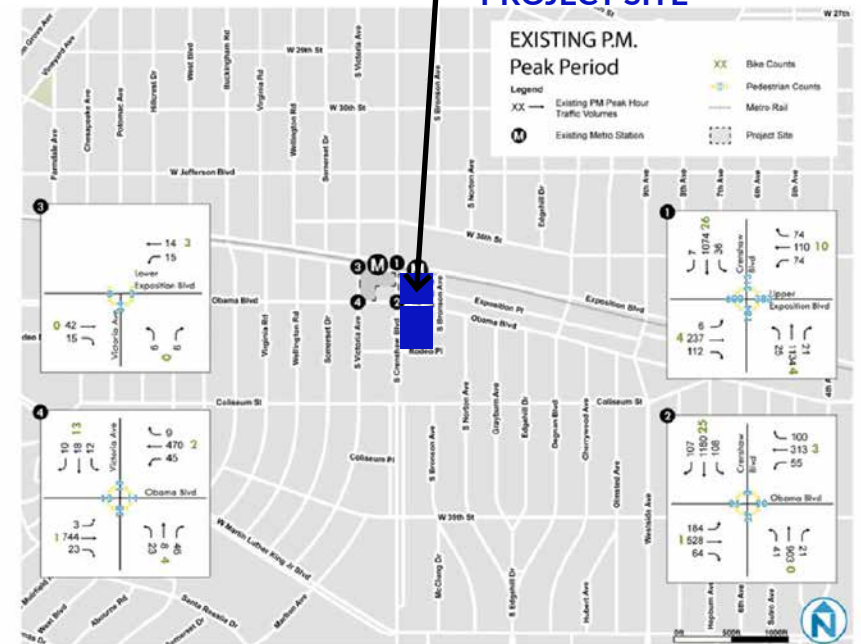
- Pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular movement around the project site
- Data was from Tuesday-Thursday April 17th-19th, 2018- average weekdays in the from 7am-10am, and from 3-6pm. The weather was mild during this time period.
- The data points to the fact that Crenshaw (N/S) appears to be where the most vehicular and bicycle traffic flows, whereas down Exposition (E/W) and Obama Blvds (E/W) there is more pedestrian flow.
- It can be assumed that numbers of pedestrian and cyclist movement in the area will have increased with the opening of the Metro K-Line in 2022- being the fastest public transit to Sofi Stadium (opened in 2020), and the Intuit Dome (opened in 2024).



SITE ANALYSIS PROJECT SITE



PROJECT SITE

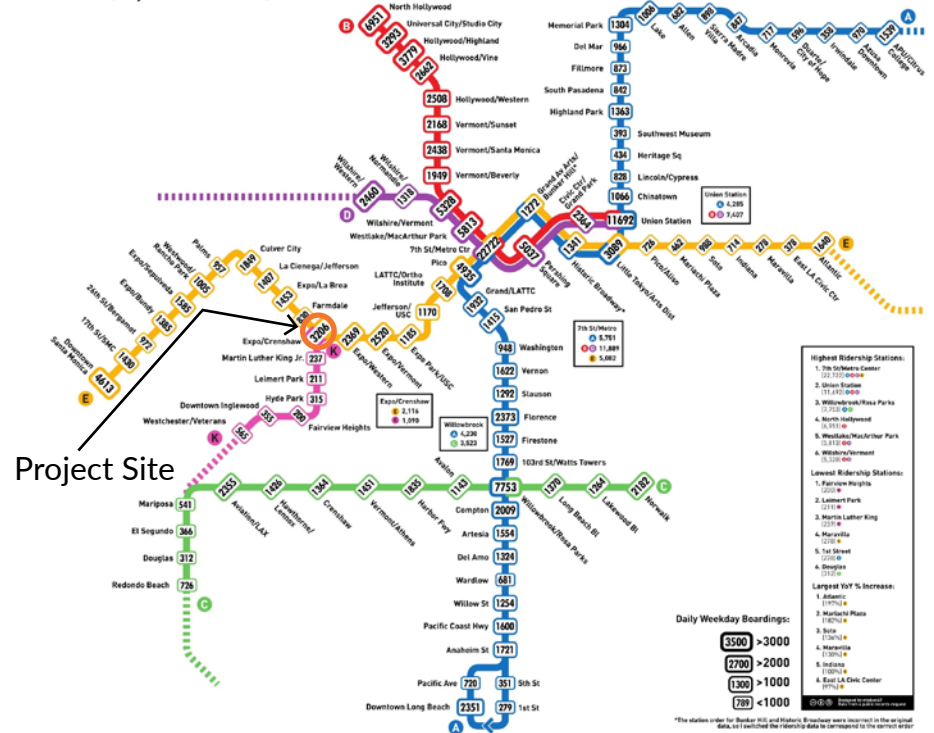


Metro Ridership

Metro Rail Weekday Ridership
FY 2023 (July 2022 - June 2023)



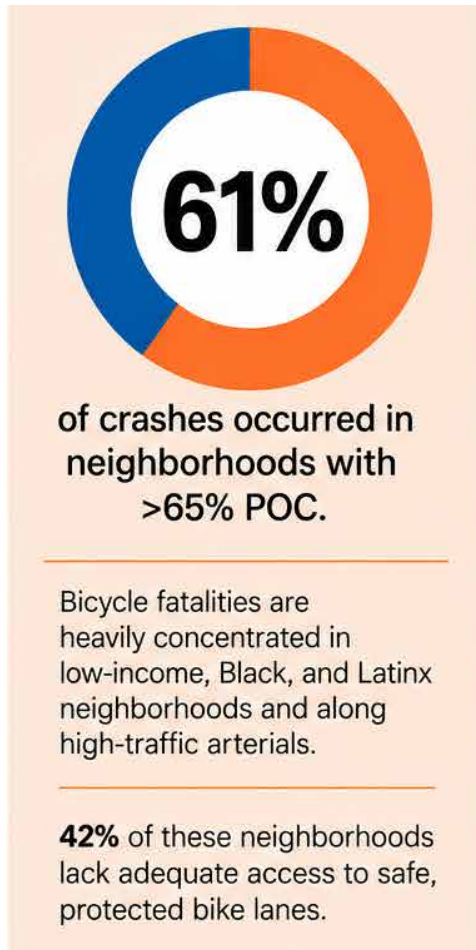
Metro Rail Weekday Ridership
FY 2024 (July 2023 - June 2024)



Both images: <https://la.streetsblog.org/2024/08/14/a-peek-into-metro-rail-ridership-details-station-by-station>

- Between July 2022 and June 2024, ridership at the Expo/Crenshaw E Line station steadily increased following the opening of the Expo/Crenshaw K Line extension in October 2022. This trend is especially significant because the Expo/Crenshaw station is directly adjacent to the project site, making the area highly accessible. Nearby transit stops, including Expo/Western (4 minutes), Farmdale (2 minutes) on the E Line, and Martin Luther King Jr. Station (1 minute) on the K Line, provide residents with quick access to the site.
- This accessibility is particularly important as the community continues to prioritize more sustainable forms of transportation and reduce dependence on automobiles. The site's close proximity to multiple transit stops also allows visitors to arrive safely and conveniently without needing to navigate surrounding traffic by car.

Bicycle Safety



- The community plan for the neighborhoods around the project site values creating networks of multi-modal linkages as well as fostering healthy communities, and promoting sustainable development. The advancement of safer bicycle lanes and protected movement around the project site could enhance the physical and mental well-being of users of the space, and possibly reduce the vehicular movement along the major intersections.

Two left images: https://www.la-bike.org/_files/ugd/4c5d61_d5d196aa1fe04529ad097e07047bf371.pdf

Far right image: <https://www.southcentralpowerup.com/>

OpenAI. (2026, September 4). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT

Complete Streets

One way to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety would be to develop complete streets.

Avenue I (Secondary Highway) *CRENSHAW BLVD.

Roadway Width: 70 ft.

Right-of-Way Width: 100 ft.

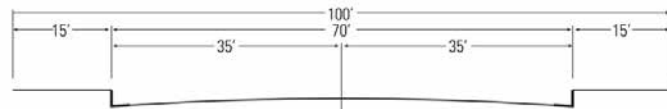
Typical Number of Lanes: 1-2 lanes in each direction *3

Typical Sidewalk/Border Width: 15 ft.

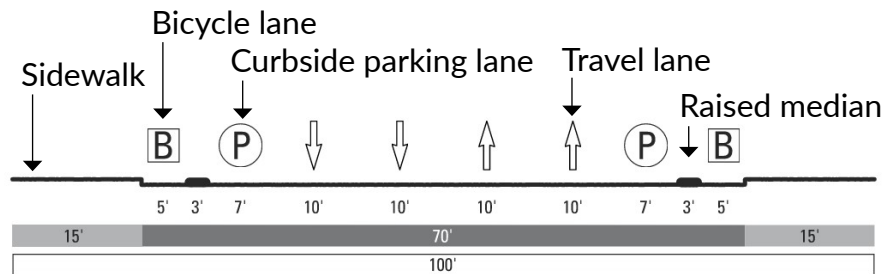
Target Operating Speed: 35 mph



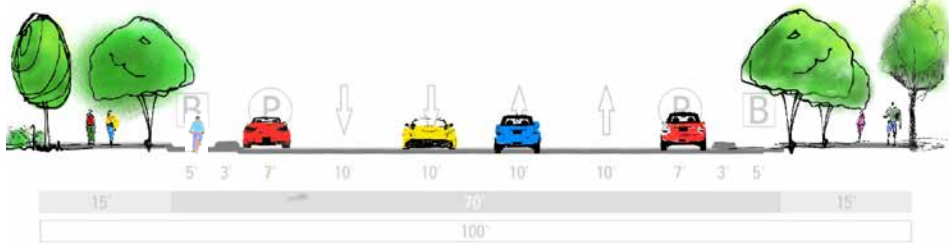
Current street measurements



Potential complete street layout



Potential complete street section



Avenue II (Secondary Highway) *OBAMA BLVD.

Roadway Width: 56 ft.

Right-of-Way Width: 86 ft.

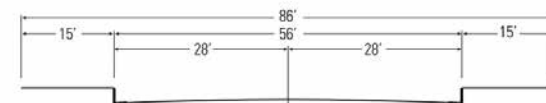
Typical Number of Lanes: 1-2 lanes in each direction *3

Typical Sidewalk/Border Width: 15 ft.

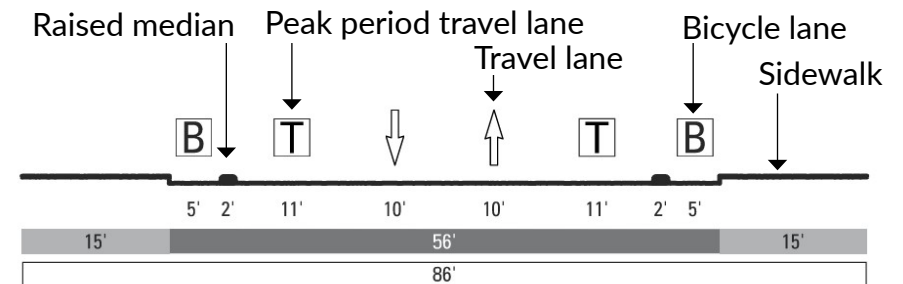
Target Operating Speed: 30 mph



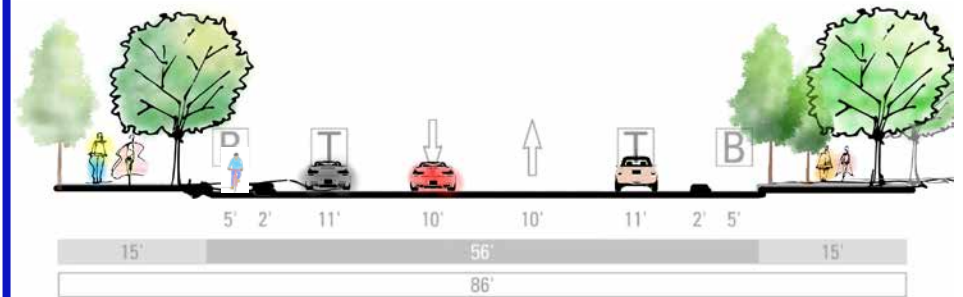
Current street measurements



Potential complete street layout



Potential complete street section



"Current street measurements" and "potential street layouts" from "Great Streets for Los Angeles", by the City of Los Angeles, <https://planning.lacity.gov/>

Design Methodology

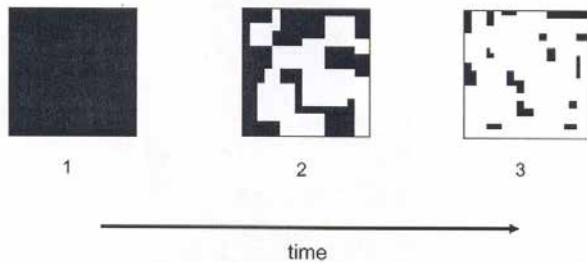


Figure 1 The process of habitat fragmentation, where “a large expanse of habitat is transformed into a number of smaller patches of smaller total area, isolated from each other by a matrix of habitats unlike the original” (Wilcove et al. 1986). Black areas represent habitat and white areas represent matrix.

<https://cdland4.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/forman-lecture.pdf>

1. PATCH DYNAMICS THEORY

- Patch Dynamics is an ecological theory that views landscapes as interconnected mosaics of habitat patches that vary in size, composition, and function.
- These patches are constantly shaped by disturbance, succession, and species movement, creating dynamic systems that change over time rather than remaining in equilibrium.
- A high interior to edge ratio leads to more protected habitat and greater biodiversity.

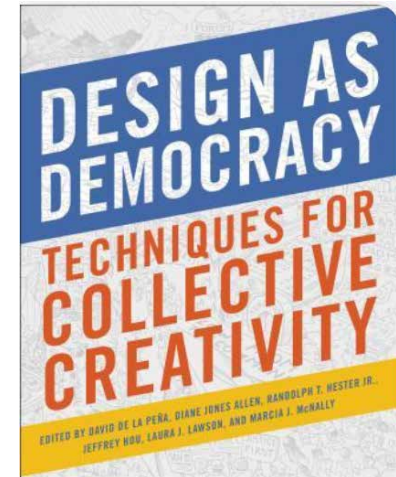
Complete Streets

AB 1358, The Complete Streets Act, requires the legislative body of a city or county to ensure that their transportation plans meet the needs of all users of the roadway, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, motorists, peoples of all ages and abilities, particularly children, the elderly and the disabled.

https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/78984e0b-a63d-4533-ba57-4f84b8fd7696/West_Adams-Baldwin_Hills-Leimert_Community_Plan.pdf

2. COMPLETE STREET DESIGN

- Complete Streets are designed to improve accessibility, convenience, and safety for all transportation users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists.
- By prioritizing people over vehicles and safety over speed, Complete Streets enhance the comfort of walkers, bikers and skaters.
- Bicycle lanes, raised medians, fewer traffic lanes, and widened sidewalks can create safer conditions for pedestrians.



<https://carturesti.ro/carte/design-as-democracy-251044117>

3. DESIGN AS DEMOCRACY: IN-HOUSE AHA!

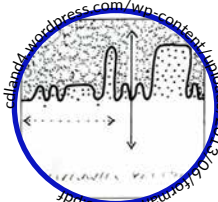
- Capstone time constraints limited direct community engagement, requiring alternative methods of understanding community needs.
- The designer takes responsibility for deeply investigating the site, context, and underlying design problem.
- Site engagement, existing community input, and a “place narrative” reveal insights and “A-ha” moments that can later be brought back to the community for reflection and refinement (de la Peña et al., 2017).

Goals and Objectives

GENERATE ECOLOGICAL PATCH DYNAMICS



- Create a patch with a high interior to edge ratio to enhance biodiversity.



- Design a variable curvilinear edge that will encourage wildlife to move across edges and boundaries.



- Establish a Certified Wildlife Habitat with sources of: water, food, cover, places to raise young, sustainable practices.



CREATE A SAFE FUNCTIONAL SPACE THAT ENHANCES WELL-BEING

- Build indoor/outdoor community spaces that include shade structures for cooling.



- Develop a Complete Streetscape to invite people to arrive at the site safely.



- Create walking paths and opportunities for movement.



CULTIVATE A CULTURAL SENSE OF PLACE

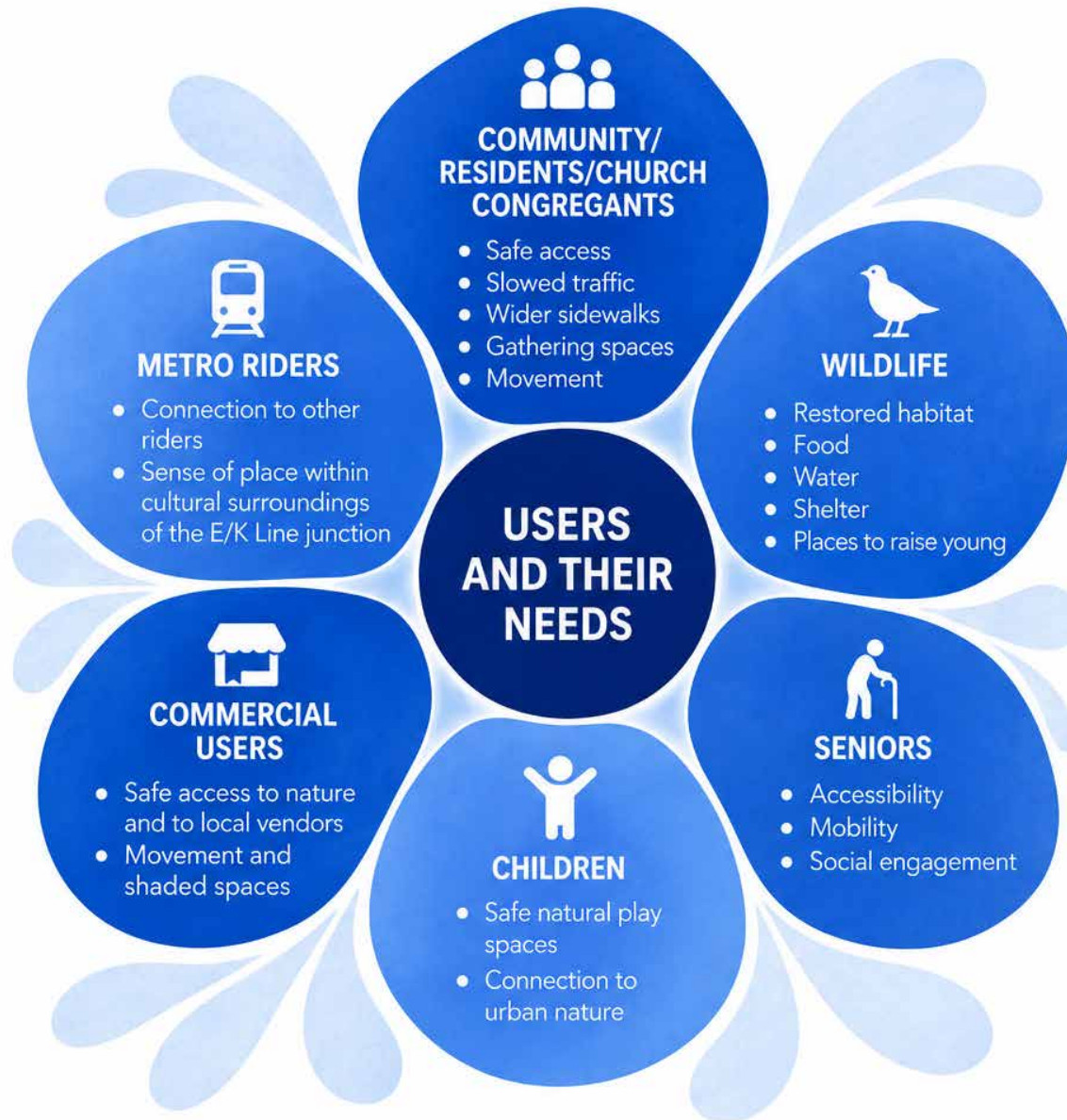
- Incorporate the artwork of local artisans into features on the site.



- Create a space for cultural movement (i.e. dancing and music).



- Allow for improvisation by integrating flexible space for food, fashion vendors, car shows and block parties on a pop-up/temporary basis.



Program Elements

3



GATHER & CONNECT CULTURALLY

Culturally grounded spaces that invite gathering, storytelling, celebration, and connection to place and each other.

- Community Building / Cultural Hub (~5,000 sf)
- Flex Space – Performance Stage (~1,000 sf)
- Local Art / Monument Representation (~500–1,000 sf)
- Swingset or Natural Play Equipment (~500–1,000 sf)

2



SAFE ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT

A network of accessible spaces that promote physical movement and mental restoration through safe circulation and connected transitions.

- Pedestrian Scramble (~9,000 sf)
- Expanded Pedestrian Corridor (~15–18')
- ADA Walking Paths (~5' wide)
- Bicycle Lanes (~5')
- Shade Sails (~625 sf)
- Wayfinding & Connectivity

1



ECOLOGICAL PATCH DYNAMICS

Develop interconnected habitat patches that strengthen biodiversity and ecological function.

- Certified Wildlife Habitat (~6 acres)
- Bioretention Basin (~3/4 acre)
- Pollinator Corridor (~1 acre)
- Wildlife Refuge Zone (~1/2 acre)
- Riparian & Coastal Sage Scrub Plant Communities

3

CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Gathering creates cultural connections, strengthens the identity of the space, and gives people a sense of well-being.



2

CONNECTION

Safe, functional movement provides people access to urban nature, offers opportunities for improved health, and connects people to other users.



1

FOUNDATION

Healthy ecological systems create the conditions for all life to thrive.

LA State Historic Park

Los Angeles, CA

Take aways:

- The park functions as a mosaic of interconnected habitat types, including meadows, orchards, grasslands, and coastal sage scrub plant communities. This diversity of ecological patches creates opportunities for wildlife to forage, seek shelter, and move throughout the site.
- Once a major rail yard serving waves of migration into Los Angeles, the park is now directly connected to the Metro system through the nearby Chinatown Station.
- Public art throughout the park helps communicate the site's cultural and environmental history while strengthening its identity.
- This precedent demonstrates how ecologically valuable habitat can successfully coexist with public use. Its transit-oriented access, integration of public art, and ecological programming inform my approach to designing a space that is accessible, educational, and culturally meaningful.

DESIGN FRAMEWORK



lastatehistoricpark.org/art-in-the-park/

Art at the park



spurlock-land.com/

Bioswale



welikela.com/things-to-do-today-2-27-2020/

Adjacent to LA Metro



spurlock-land.com/projects/los-angeles-state-historic-park

Site Plan

South LA Wetlands Park

Los Angeles, CA

Take aways:

- This 9-acre park transformed a former brownfield and municipal bus yard into an ecological oasis.
- Designed as both habitat and infrastructure, the park captures and treats stormwater runoff from a 525-acre watershed connected to the LA River.
- Native riparian and wetland plant communities stabilize soils, enhance biodiversity, and create habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.
- Interpretive signage and educational features encourage visitors to move throughout the circulating loop, and to engage with local ecology.
- This precedent demonstrates how stormwater infrastructure can function as both an ecological resource and an educational experience. The integration of walking paths, native habitat, and interpretive programming provides a model for making ecological processes visible while supporting biodiversity and community engagement.

DESIGN FRAMEWORK



<https://south-los-angeles-wetlands-park.wherere.com/#photos>



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/south-los-angeles-wetland-park>

The site captures, treats, and stores thousands of gallons of water in its design.

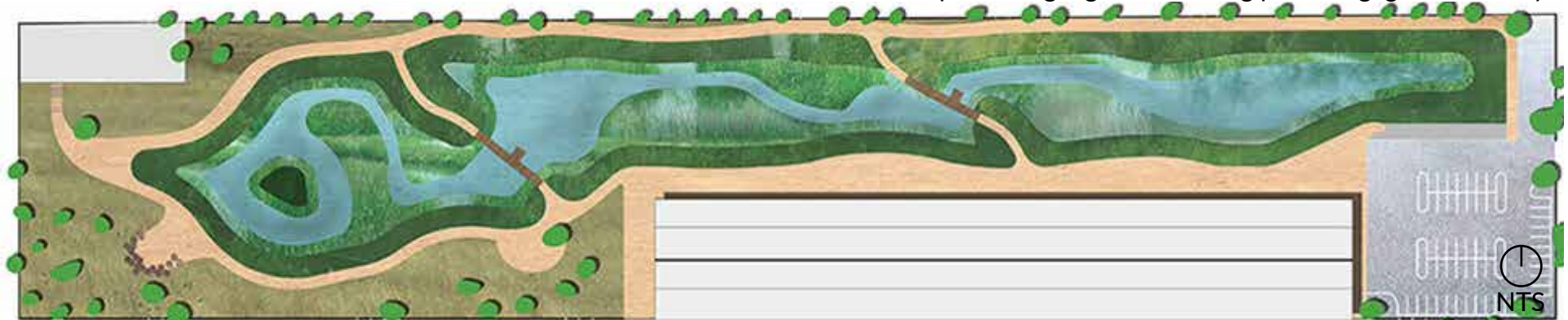


Photo by Alexis Maldonado



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/south-los-angeles-wetland-park>

Interpretive signage and walking paths engage community.



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/south-los-angeles-wetland-park>

Site plan

Nature Gardens

Take aways:

Exposition Park, CA

- The 3.5-acre landscape surrounding the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County functions as both a living exhibit and a vital ecological core within an urban context. Composed of over 70% native plant species, the Nature Gardens qualifies as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.
- The site's direct connection to the Metro E Line provides transit riders with convenient access to an urban nature experience.
- Ongoing care for the gardens is provided by a dedicated team of horticulturists who balance ecological stewardship with public access.
- As a whole, the site demonstrates how a concentrated urban landscape can operate as a resilient ecological habitat. It points to how dedicated stewardship can generate an effective ecological space. It also grants transit riders easy access to visiting urban wilderness in a heavily fragmented space.

The 1913 (left), Pollinator Meadow (middle), and the Pond (right) sections of the

Nature Gardens



https://www.instagram.com/p/B8_zJB-PAaIS/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D



<https://www.instagram.com/p/B9hWfH-Qn1di/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D>



<https://studio-mia.com/design/natural-history-museum-gardens/>

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM – NATURE GARDENS – SECTION & GRID MAP

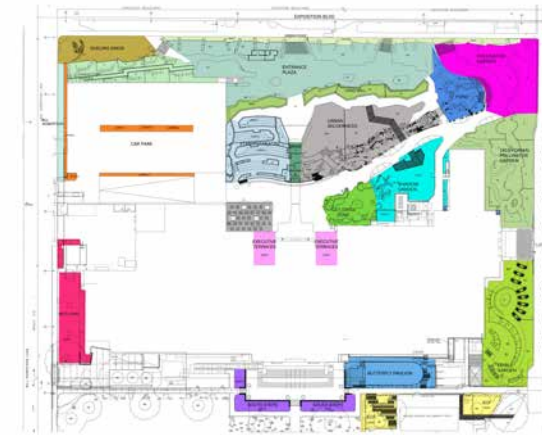


Image courtesy of Alan Duke

Site plan



<https://www.instagram.com/p/DcCRVtLy0AD/?stkn=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>



<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJFJyBTTOno/?stkn=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>

Urban wildlife in the Nature Gardens

Interview: Miguel Ordeñana

Q1: What are the biggest barriers you've seen when it comes to getting people interested in local urban wildlife?

- One of the biggest challenges is people's mindset. Many people believe Los Angeles is devoid of nature, so building interest in urban wildlife takes time and patience. People often question what they will experience in an urban wilderness space and why it is relevant to their daily lives.
- People have limited free time, so engagement efforts must consider- scheduling, childcare, family-friendly activities, and multilingual materials. Building connections to urban nature requires meeting people where they are and making these experiences accessible and relevant to them.

Q2: How can access to urban wildlife and green spaces contribute to a stronger sense of Community identity?

- When people are meaningfully invested in a project, they are more likely to connect with and support its outcome. During the planning process, it is important to ensure that community needs are prioritized, members' voices are heard, and trusted community leaders are present to advocate for those most impacted by the project- this will foster a sense of ownership.

Q3: How have you observed ways that engaging with urban wildlife improves people's well-being?

- The mental and physical health benefits are clear. Families gathering, walking groups spending time in natural spaces, and people using nature as a respite from urban life have all been observed. These connections to nature can reduce stress, lower cortisol levels, and strengthen people's sense of connection to their communities. Involving people in the stewardship and care of a space—such as weeding or maintenance—can also support mobility while fostering pride and a deeper sense of responsibility for the land.



<https://www.akronzoo.org/blog/celebrating-hispanic-voices-conservation>

- M.S. Ecology from UC Davis
- Senior Manager, Community Science at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles
- Wildlife Biologist
- Environmental Justice Advocate
- Environmental Educator

*Responses are paraphrased from the interview

Opportunities



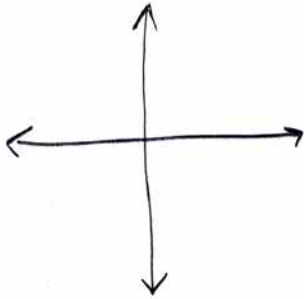
Constraints



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

Early Concepts

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



THE JUNCTION

The Junction frames the site as a place of connection: a literal meeting point of the E and K Metro Lines and the Crenshaw-Obama crossroads, and a metaphorical meeting point of mobility, ecology, and Black cultural history. Here, transit riders, neighbors, visitors, and wildlife all intersect within a shared urban landscape.



RESONANCE

Resonance describes the lasting impact of the landscape beyond its physical boundaries. Inspired by the strike of a West African drum, the project acts as a catalyst for movement, connection, and exchange. Just as a drumbeat radiates outward, drawing people together through rhythm and celebration, the site generates waves of ecological, social, and cultural activity.

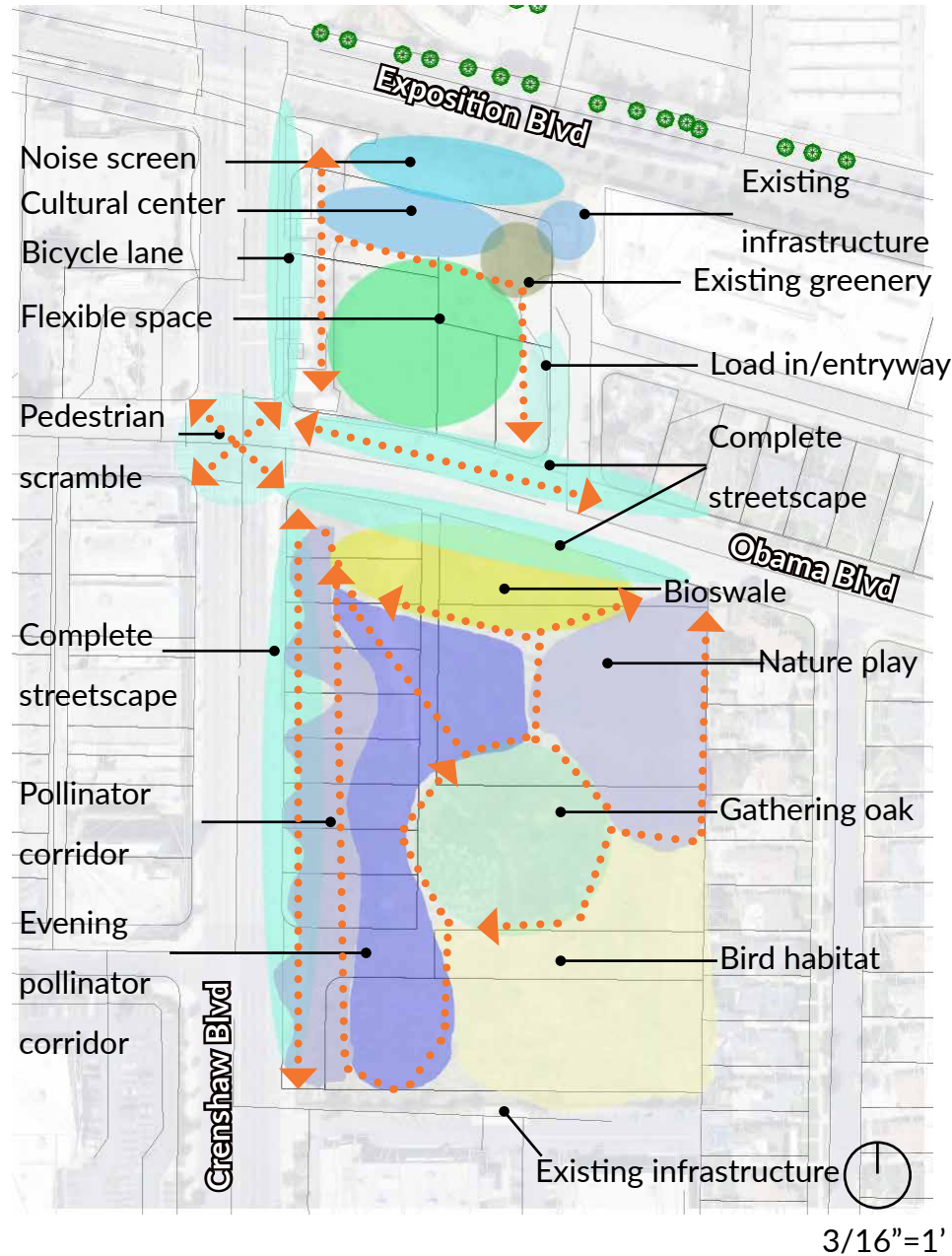


THE ENTRYWAY

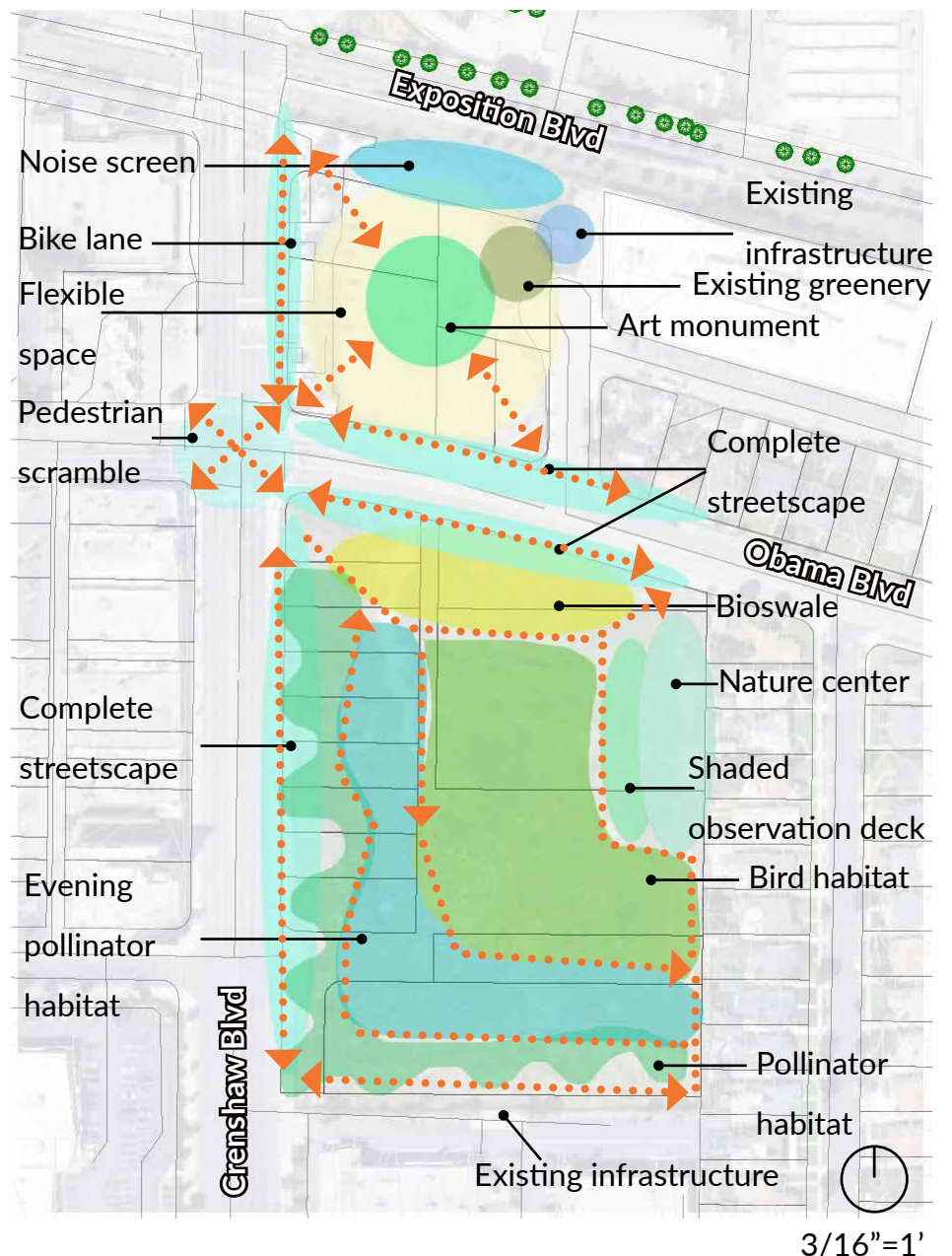
Entryways within the Historic South LA Black Cultural District invite people to engage with stories of Black resilience, creativity, and identity. Ecologically, the site serves as a gateway for native habitat, connecting residents, visitors, and Metro riders to local nature and community values.

Early Concept Development

THE JUNCTION

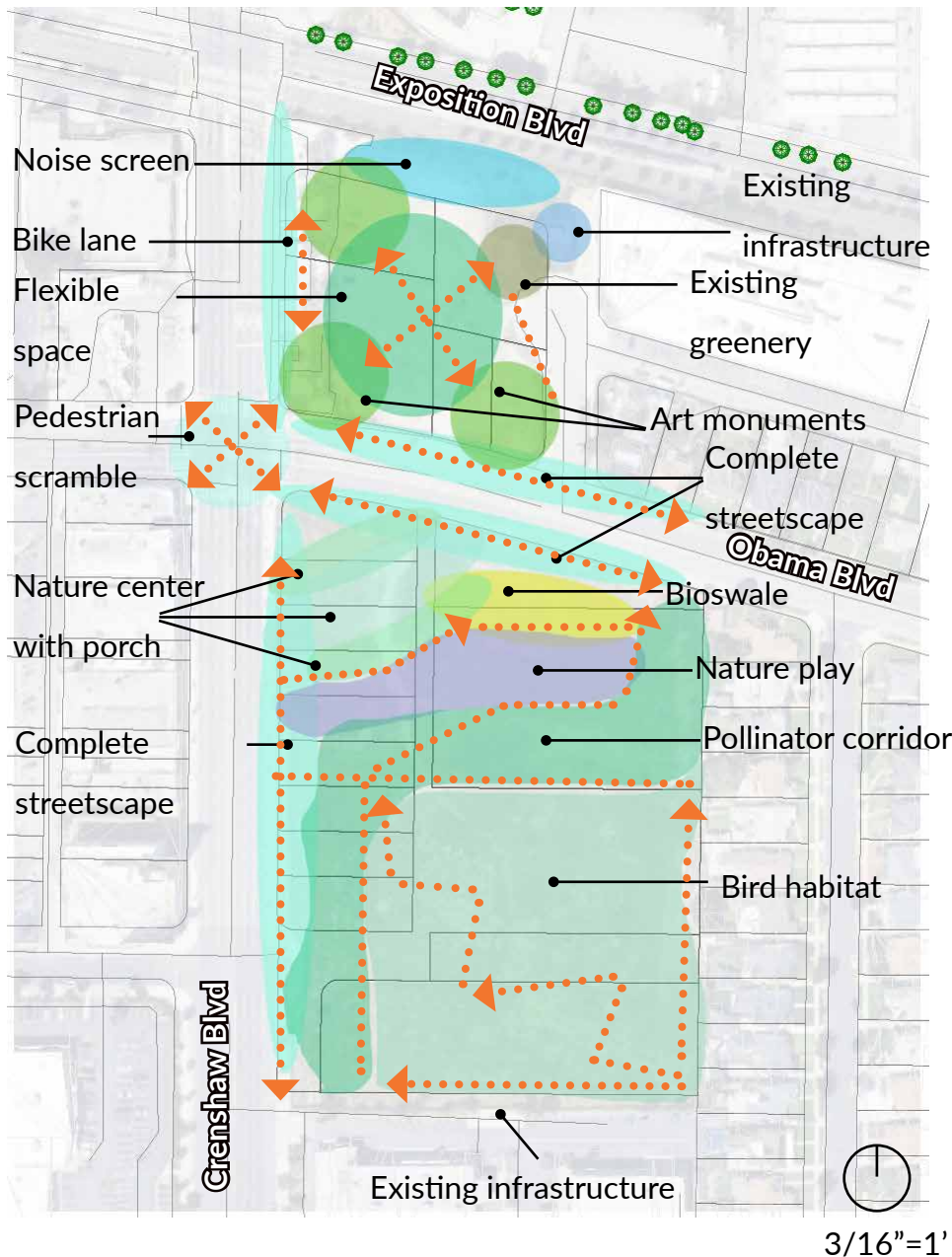


RESONANCE



Early Concept Development Cont'd

ENTRYWAYS



Early Concept Development

- Program arrangement
- Pedestrian circulation
- Local art placement
- Community gathering
- Shade opportunities
- Limited water retention

Evolving Considerations

- Optimal habitat patch location
- Minimizing disturbance to support biodiversity
- Balancing safe community gathering with wildlife refuge
- Complete streets to include widened sidewalks and planted parkways
- Bioretention basin

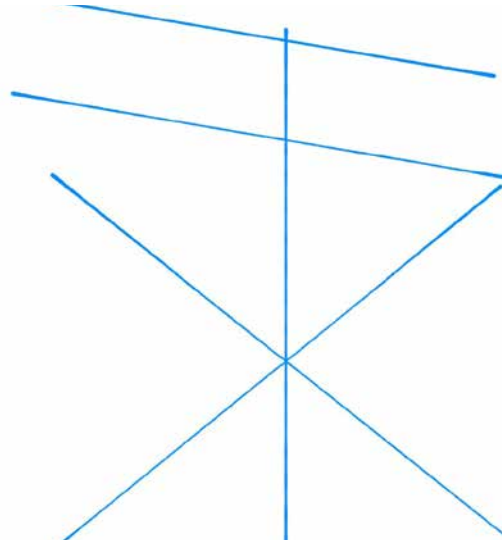
Refined Concepts

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



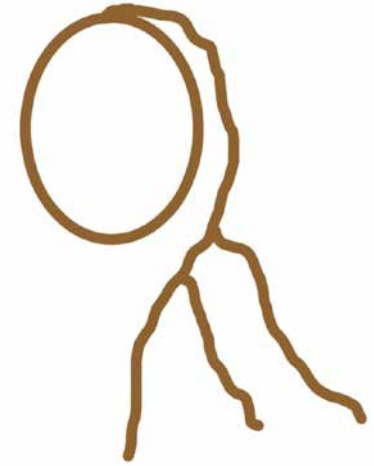
ENTRYWAYS

Entryways within the Historic South LA Black Cultural District invite people to engage with stories of Black resilience, creativity, and identity. Ecologically, the site serves as a gateway for native habitat, connecting residents, visitors, and Metro riders to local nature and community values.



THE JUNCTION

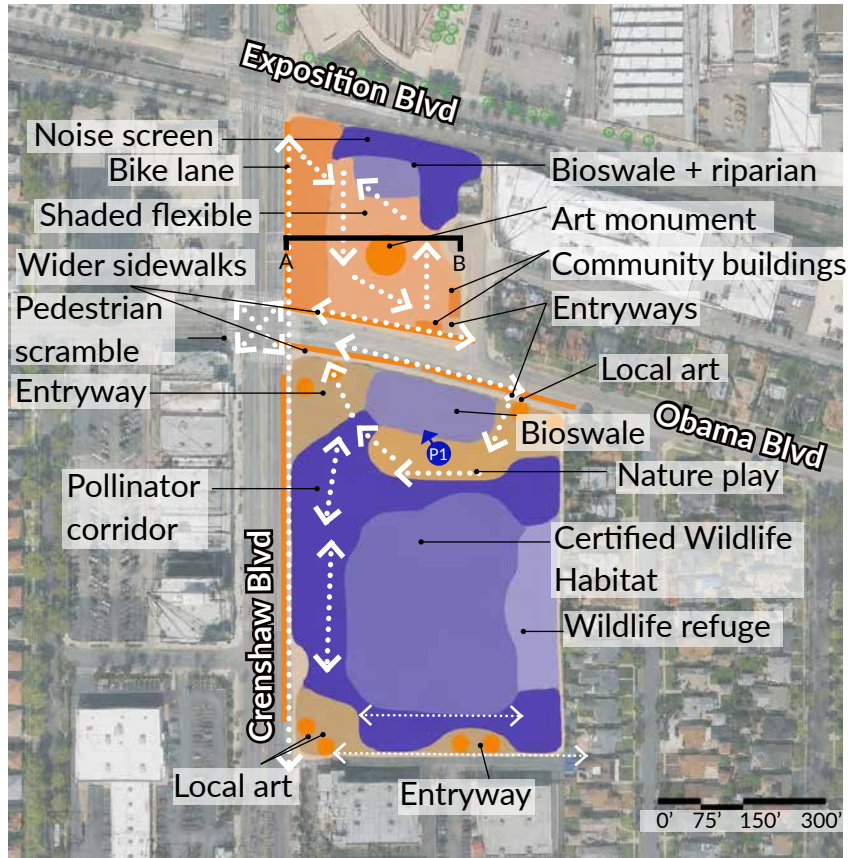
The Junction frames the site as a place of connection: a literal meeting point of the E and K Metro Lines and the Crenshaw–Obama crossroads, and a metaphorical meeting point of mobility, ecology, and Black cultural history. Here, transit riders, neighbors, visitors, and wildlife all intersect within a shared urban landscape.



EMERGENCE

Emergence explores the moment a seed awakens—first setting roots before reaching toward the sun. Habitat forms these roots, creating the conditions for wildlife and ecological relationships to develop. As nature thrives, it invites curiosity, discovery, and human connection. Through engagement with local ecology, people also connect with the stories and cultural identity of place.

Entryways



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>



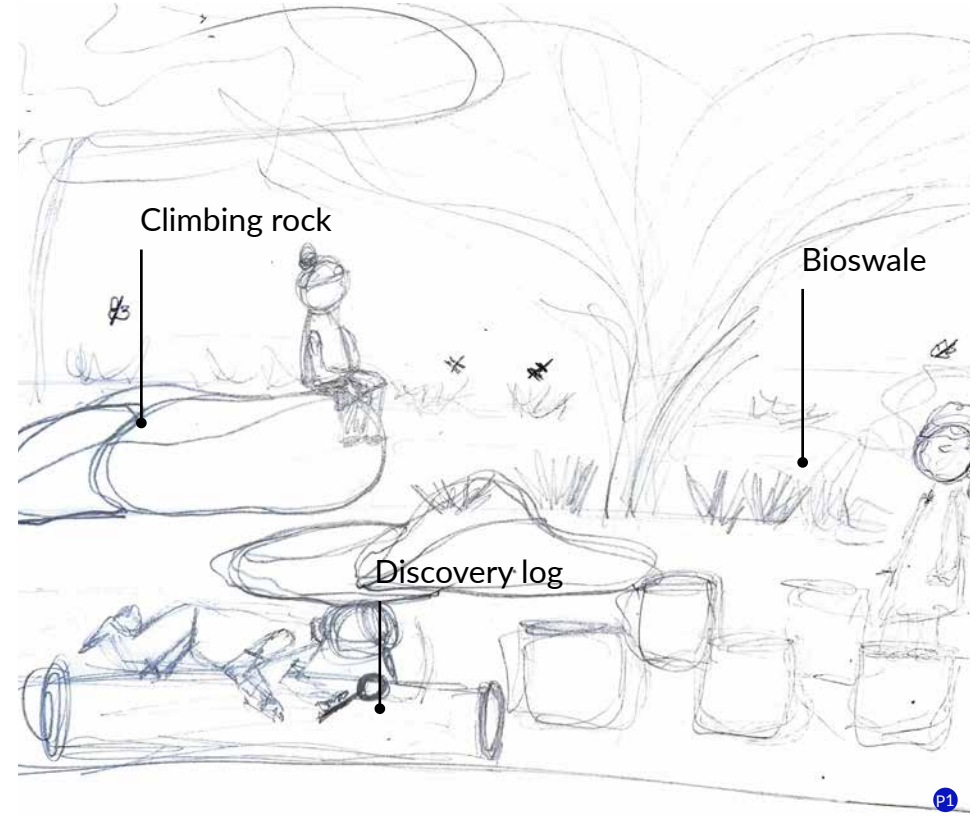
*Section is 60m wide

The flower center artwork: <https://www.thedicksonstudio.com/blank-1>

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Orange Variations of orange are human-focused elements

Blue Variations of blue are habitat-focused elements



Central art piece

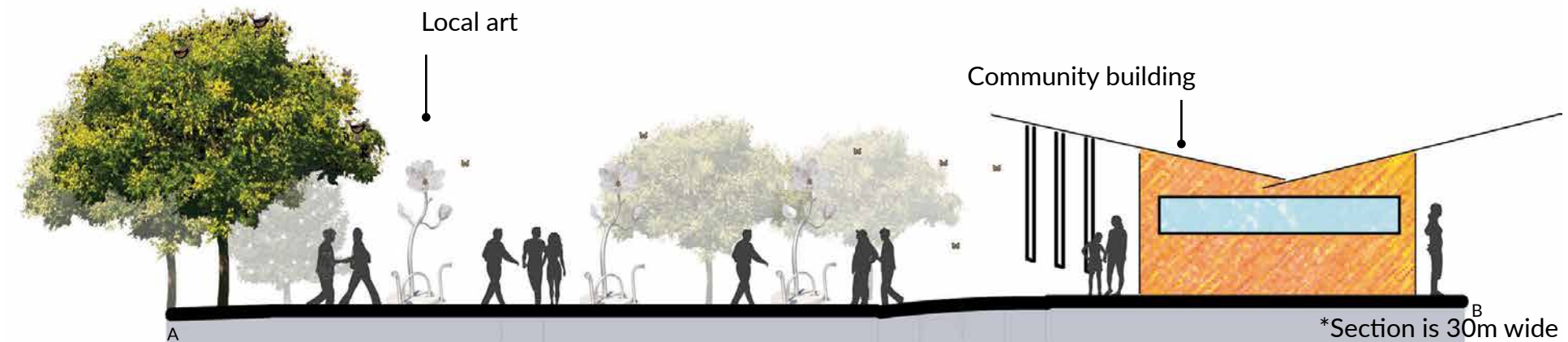
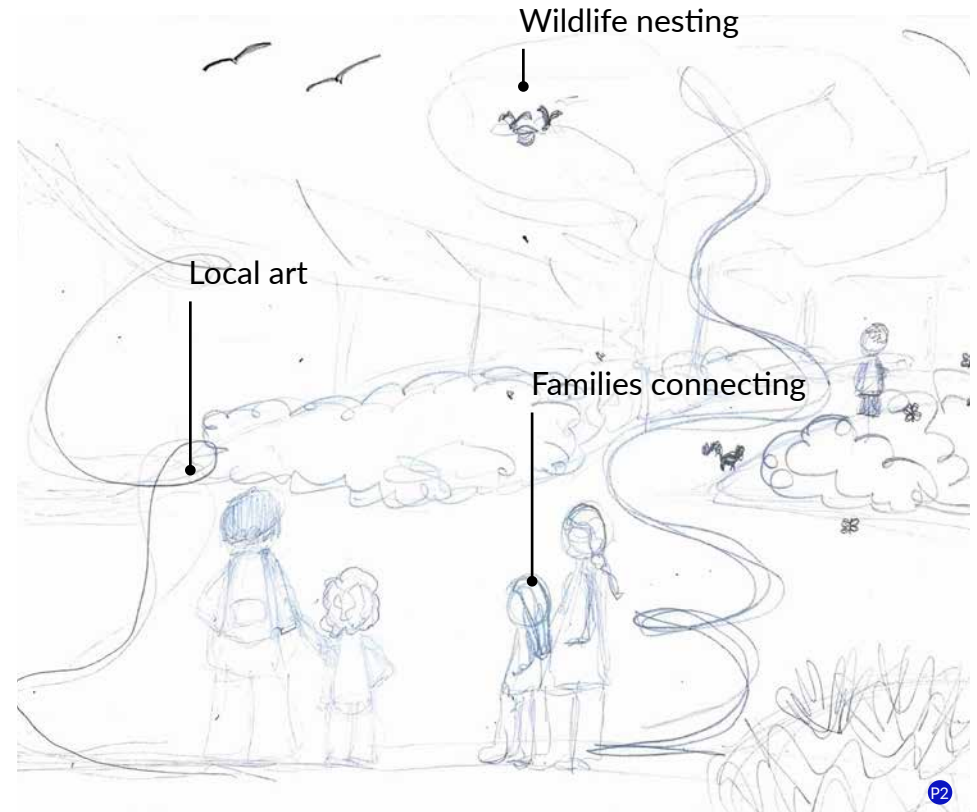
Shade sail

Junction

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



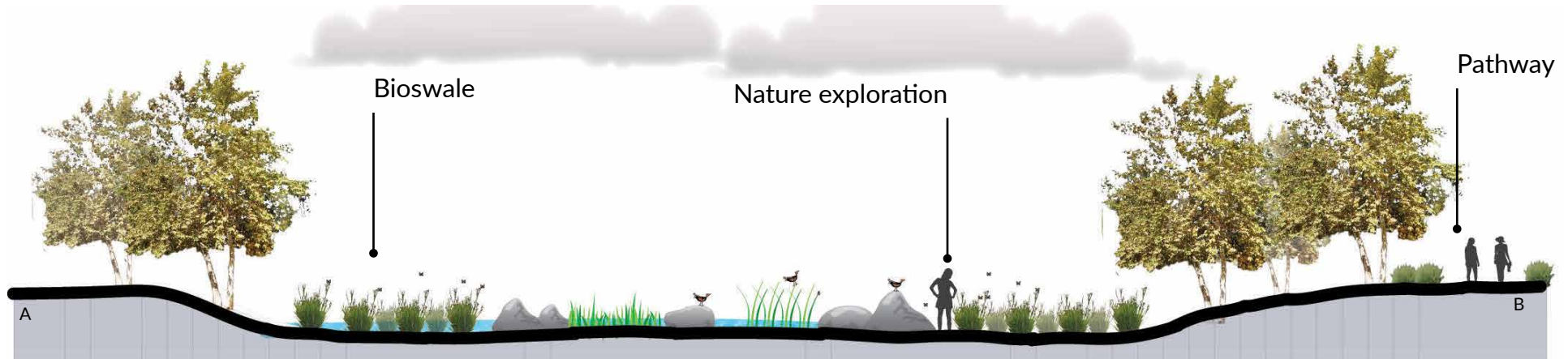
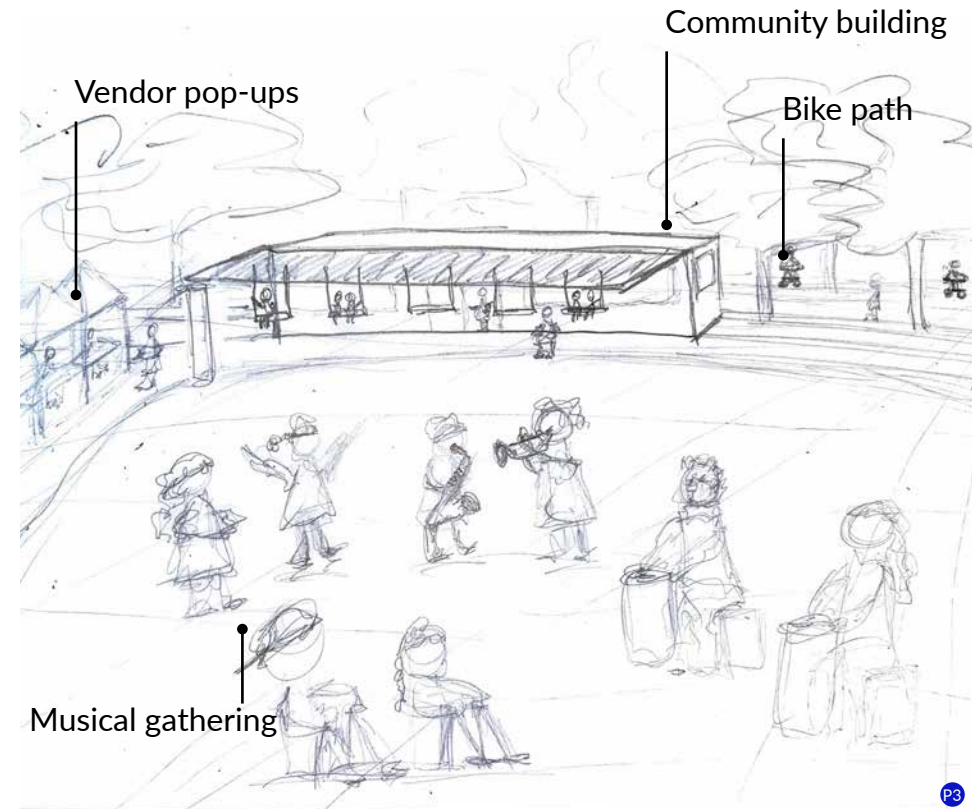
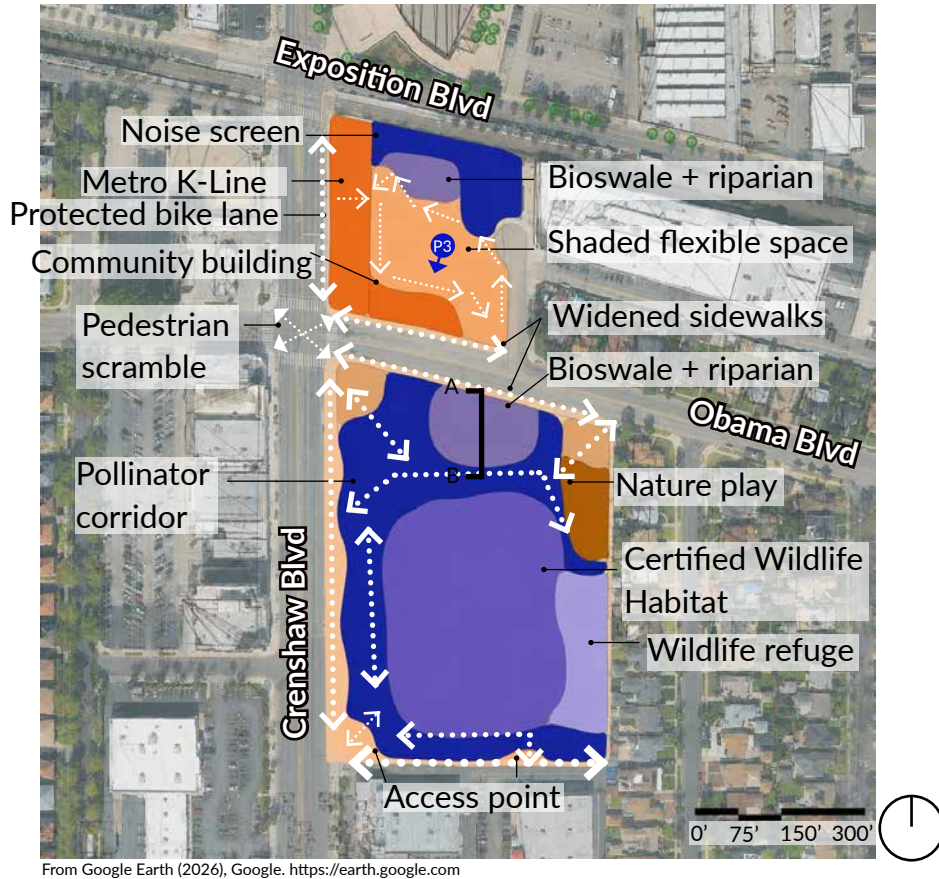
From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>



The flower artwork: <https://www.thedicksonstudio.com/blank-1>

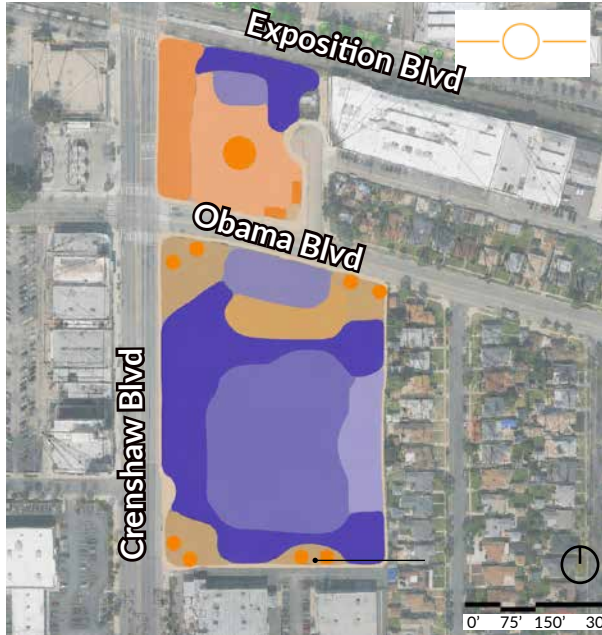
Emergence

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



*Section is 60m wide

Pros/Cons



All images: from Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

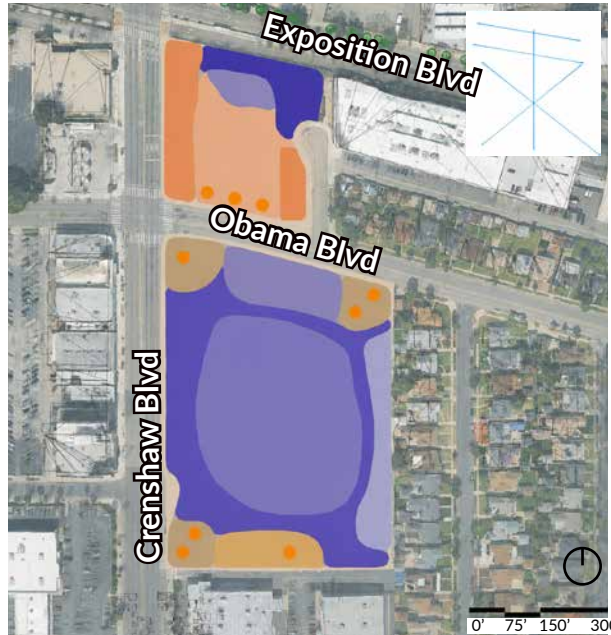
ENTRYWAYS: Entryways serve as cultural and ecological gateways, connecting people to Black history, community identity, and local nature within south LA.

PRO:

- Emphasizes the entryways to the site as places where art and culture collide.
- Two buildings allow for a variety of programs to be planning that incorporate public exposure to ecology and culture.

CON:

- Portions of the site are inaccessible to the public.
- Nature play is between habitat limiting effectiveness of patch dynamics.



JUNCTION: The Junction frames the site as a meeting point where mobility, ecology, Black cultural history, and community intersect within a shared urban landscape.

PRO:

- Intersection of art and culture is experienced on both sides of Obama Blvd.
- The ecological core of the project can be circulated by pedestrians completely.

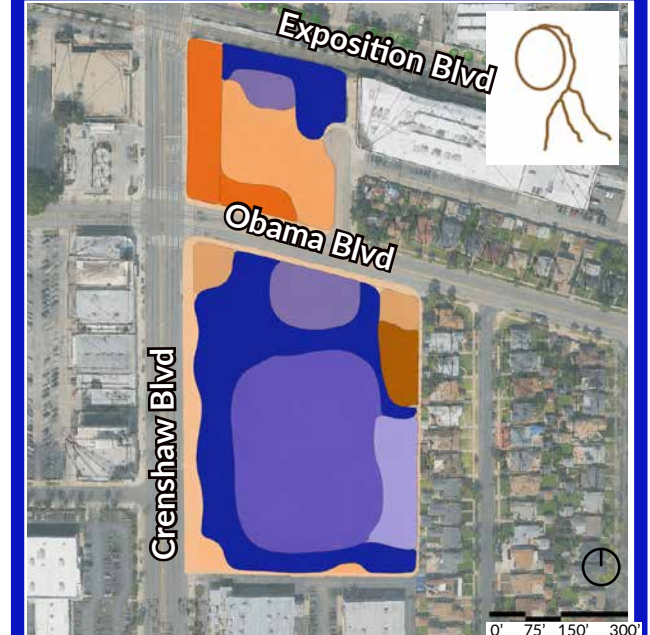
CON:

- Nature play is nearest to a commercial parking lot that would need to be expanded for best use of the site.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Orange Variations of orange are human-focused elements

Blue Variations of blue are habitat-focused elements



EMERGENCE: Emergence transforms busy urban edges into layered habitat where ecology, culture, and human connection grow together.

PRO:

- Provides people a chance to observe urban wildlife, while also gives space for wildlife to thrive.
- Large open flexible space for arts and culture programming to emerge.

CON:

- Portions of the site are inaccessible to the public.
- Residential adjacency may limit active nature play due to noise impacts.

Vision: Emergence

FROM URBAN EDGE TO NATURAL INTERIOR

As disturbance recedes, connections emerge.



URBAN / DISTURBED EDGE

High impact
Connections limited

EMERGENCE

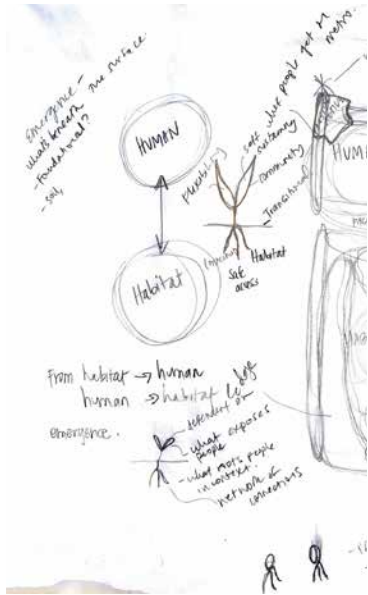
Connections grow
Potential realized

PROTECTED HABITAT INTERIOR

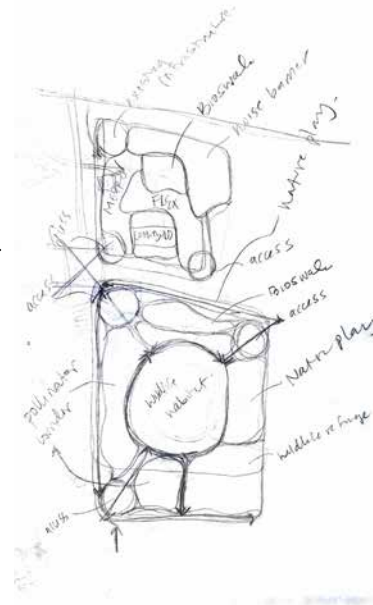
Low impact
Life thrives

Reworking Emergence

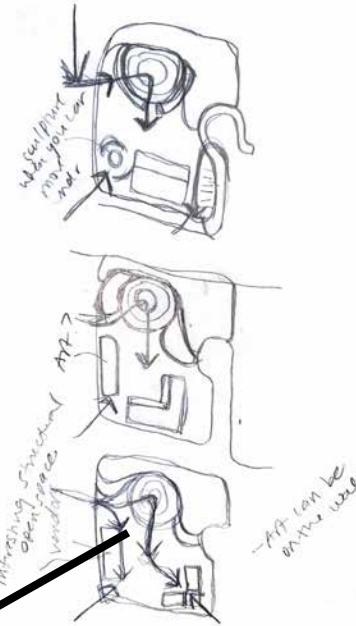
Human and habitat



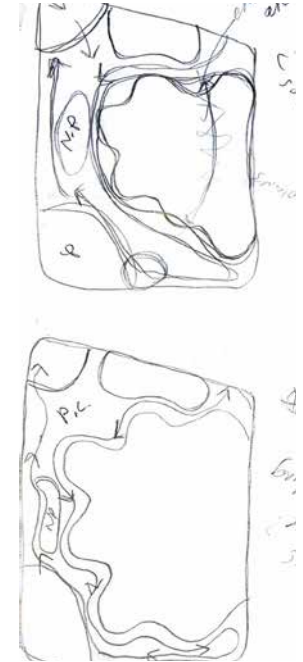
Initial program



Reorganizing N side



Reorganizing S side



N side entrance

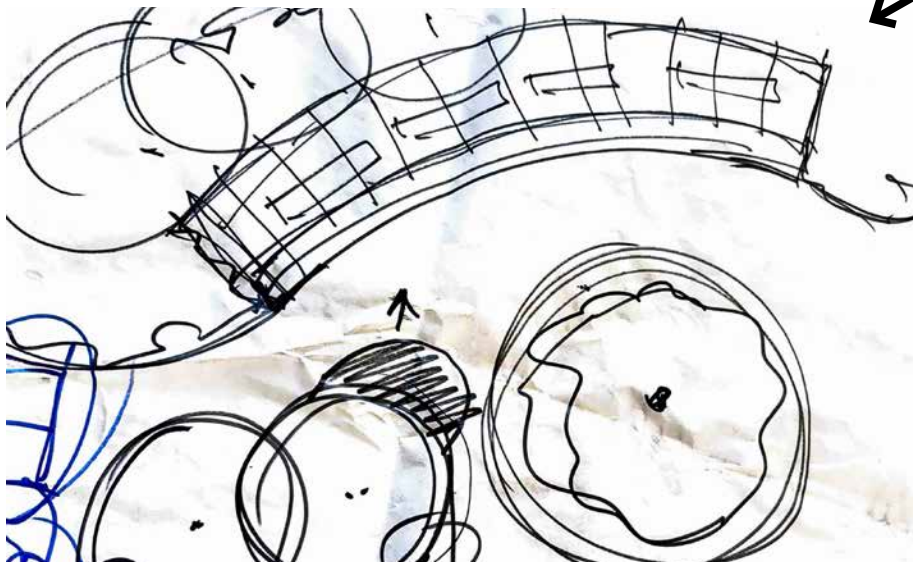


Image credit: Jim Pickel

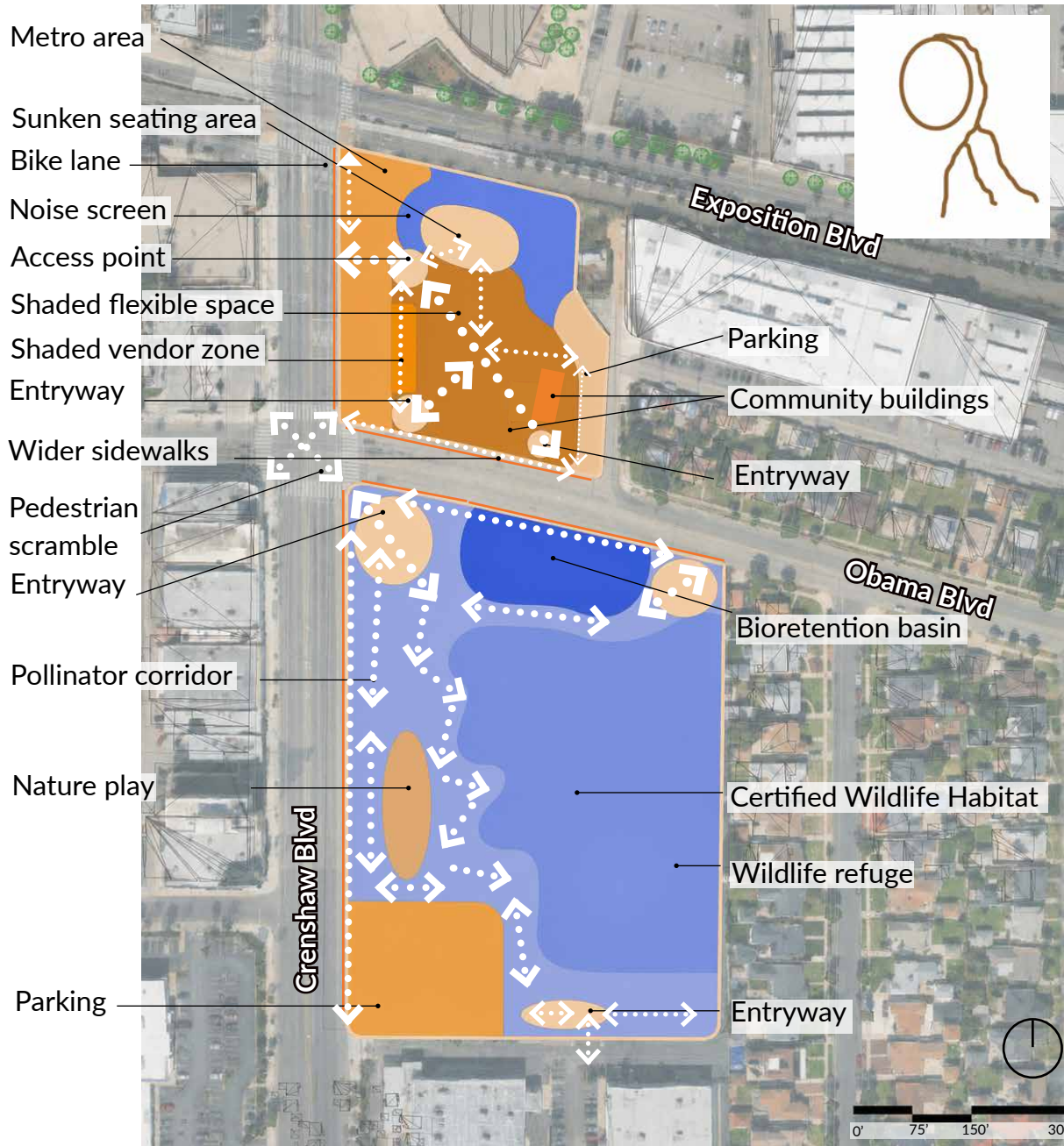
Reworking Emergence included:

- Imagining where to incorporate human and habitat elements together.
- Thinking more deeply about the placement, shape and size of the habitat interior.
- Incorporating program elements on the N and S sides of Obama Blvd.
- Working with Jim to rework the shape of the covered swingset entrance.

Final Concept

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

- Variations of orange are human-focused elements
- Variations of blue are habitat-focused elements

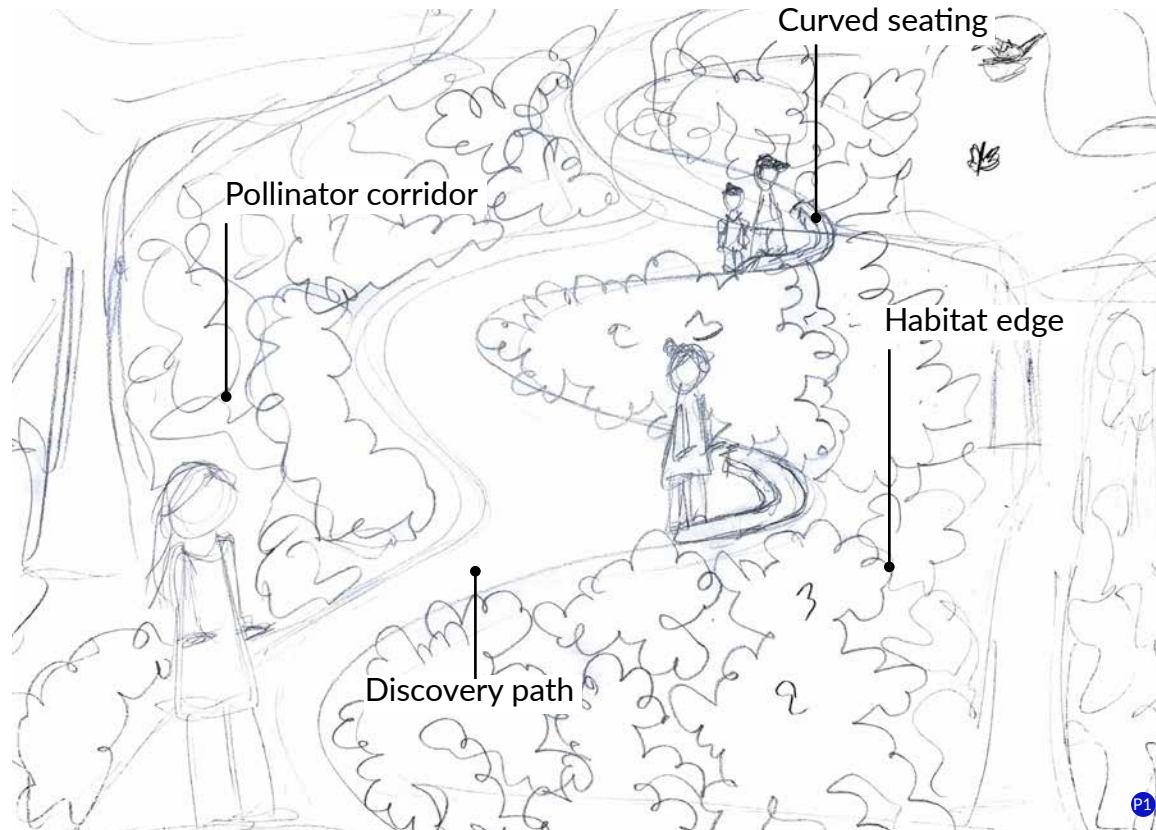


From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

Core principles:

- Emergence is the process through which ecological systems and human connections grow together over time.
- Inspired by a seed breaking through its coat, the design transforms the site's busy urban edges into a layered interior of habitat and cultural experience.
- As ecological patches mature, they create the conditions for wildlife to establish, move, and thrive.
- These same landscapes invite curiosity, gathering, and storytelling, allowing relationships between people, nature, and culture to emerge organically.

Process: Emergence



CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



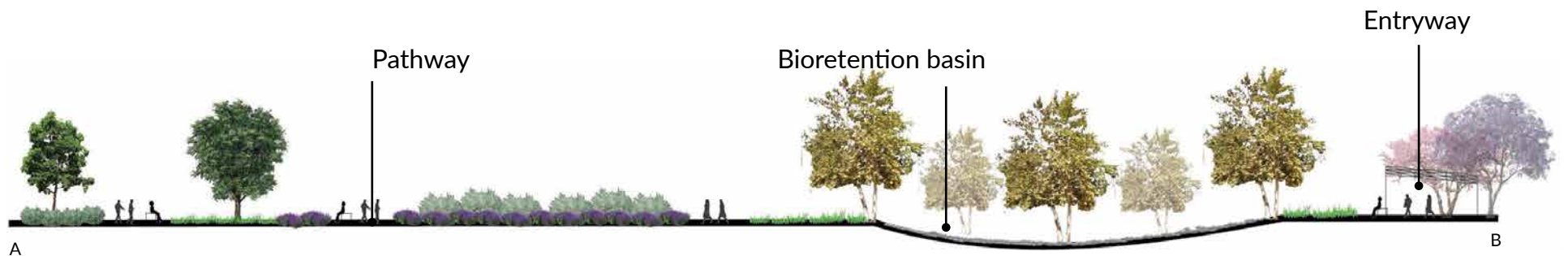
<https://cl.pinterest.com/pin/68749233282/>



<https://www.instagram.com/p/Dafmz6Clu2R/>

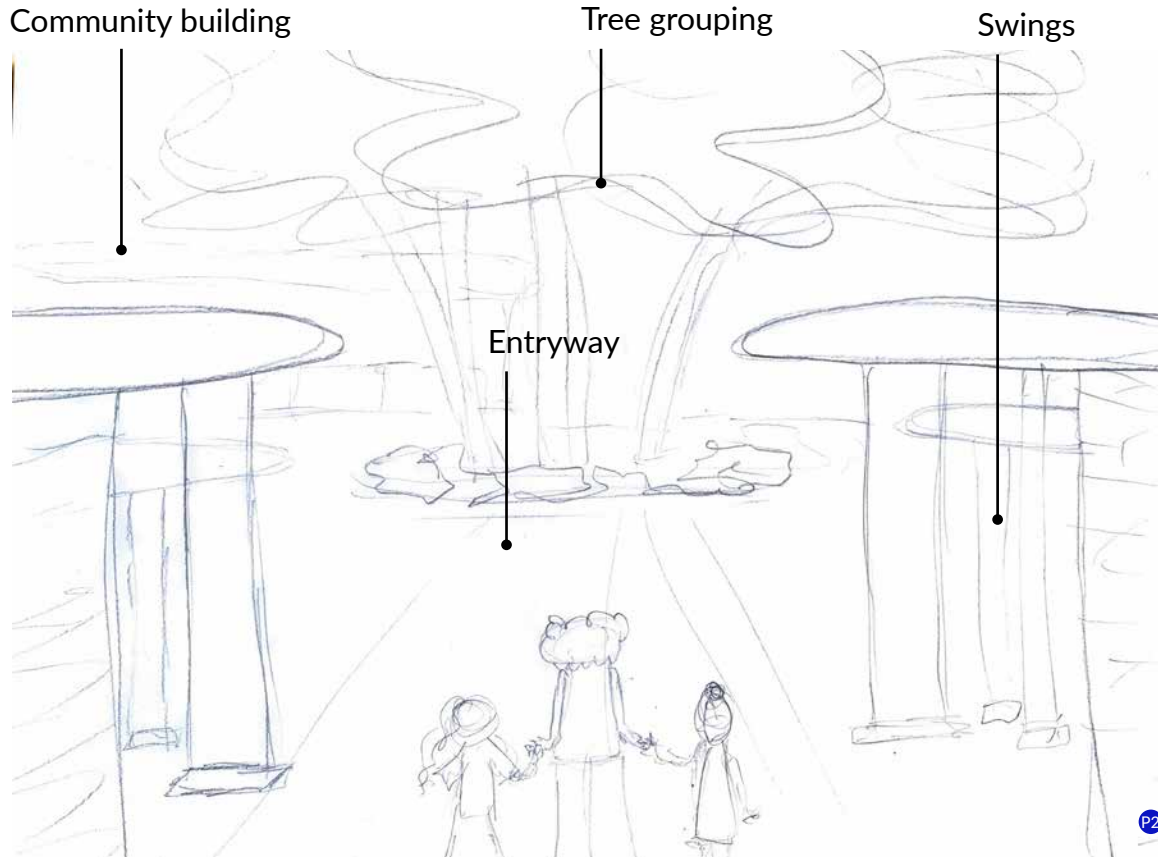


earth.google.com



*Section is 60m wide

Process: Emergence



“But if you look at it really closely, I think, you can see the importance of improvisational skill, the importance of being able to do it, to create a thing of beauty with exactitude and precision, there on the spot’. Beauty is an ability to command recognition: I am present and compelling.”

-Brenda Marie Osbey (Hood, Tada, 2020)



https://www.tripadvisor.com/AttractionProductReview-g32655-d28042730-Crenshaw_Eat_and_See_Food_and_Shopping_Tour_of_South_LA-Los_Angeles_California.html



earth.google.com

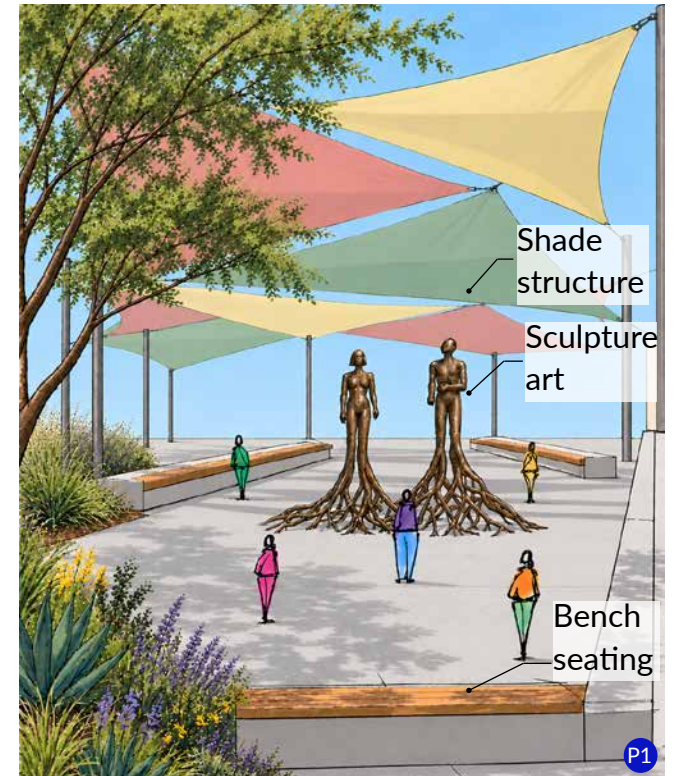
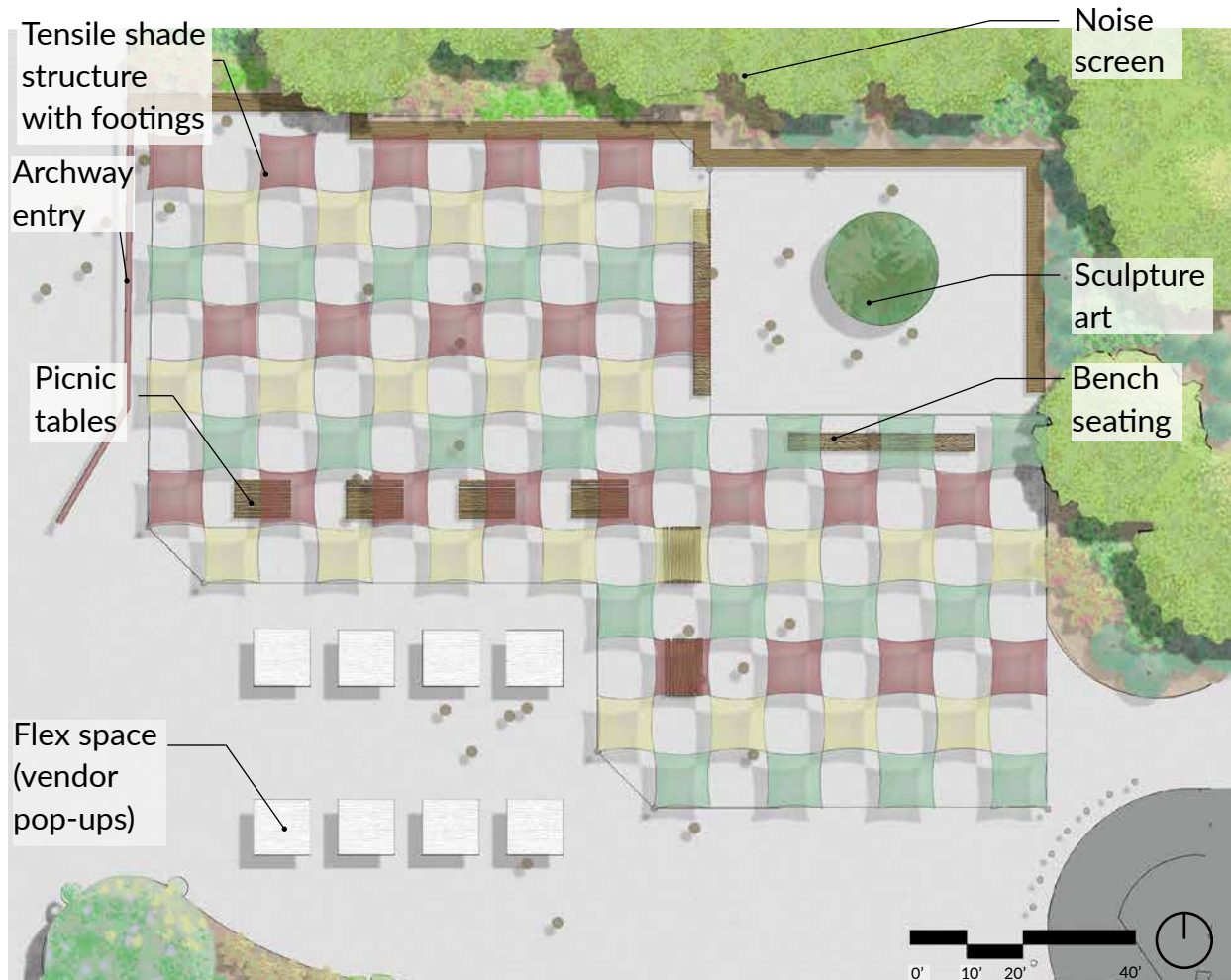


*Section is 40m wide

Illustrative Plan



North of Obama Blvd.



OpenAI. (2026, September 10th). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT



<https://parks.lacounty.gov/faith-and-hope-park/>



https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g293984-d15753095-Reviews-Vintage_Givon-Tel_Aviv_Tel_Aviv_District.html

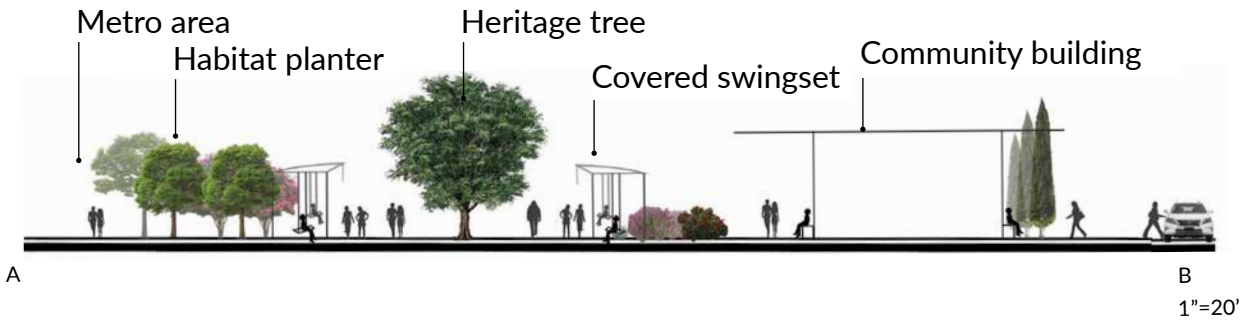


Tree souls, Alison Saar (1994). lalouver.com



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

North of Obama Blvd.



FINAL DESIGN



<https://es.pinterest.com/pin/428827195794075257/>

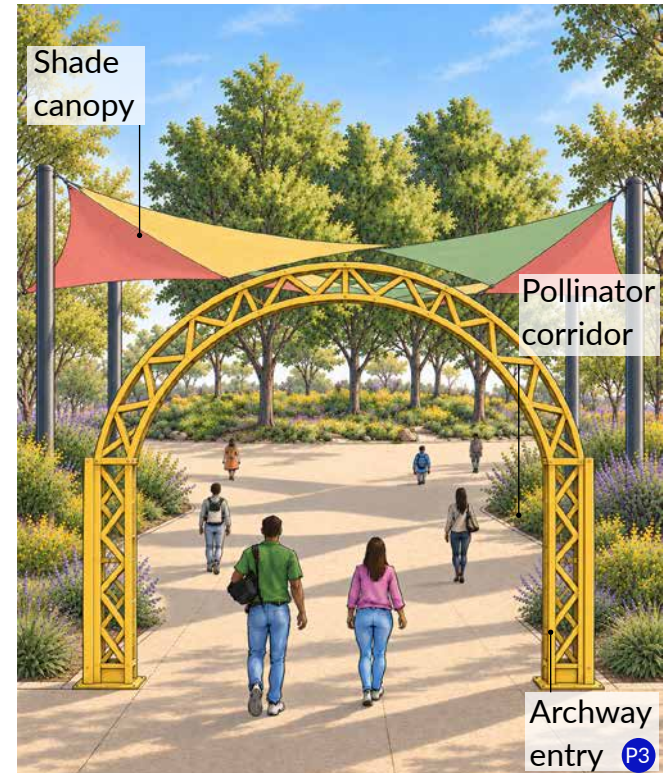


OpenAI. (2026, September 10th). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

South of Obama Blvd.



OpenAI. (2026, September 8). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT



https://www.reddit.com/r/Urbanism/comments/1skcn-w8/i_redesigned_a_street_in_my_city_would_love_your/



<https://www.facebook.com/immdesignlab.milano/photos/1468031261994367/>



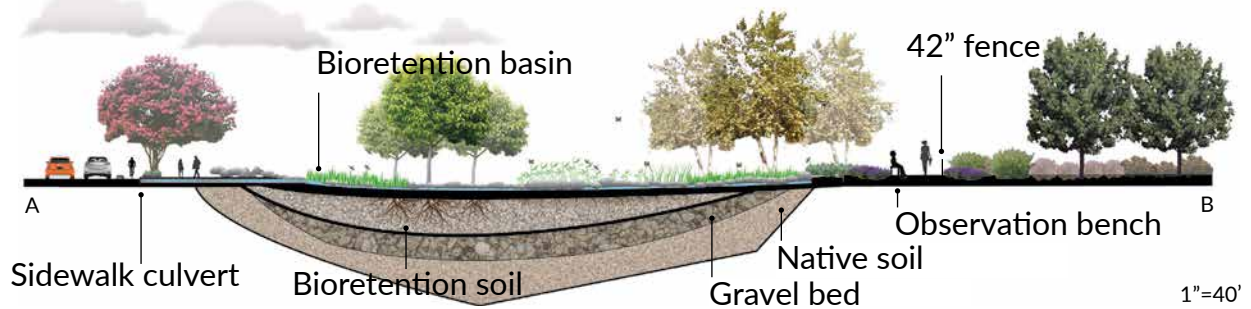
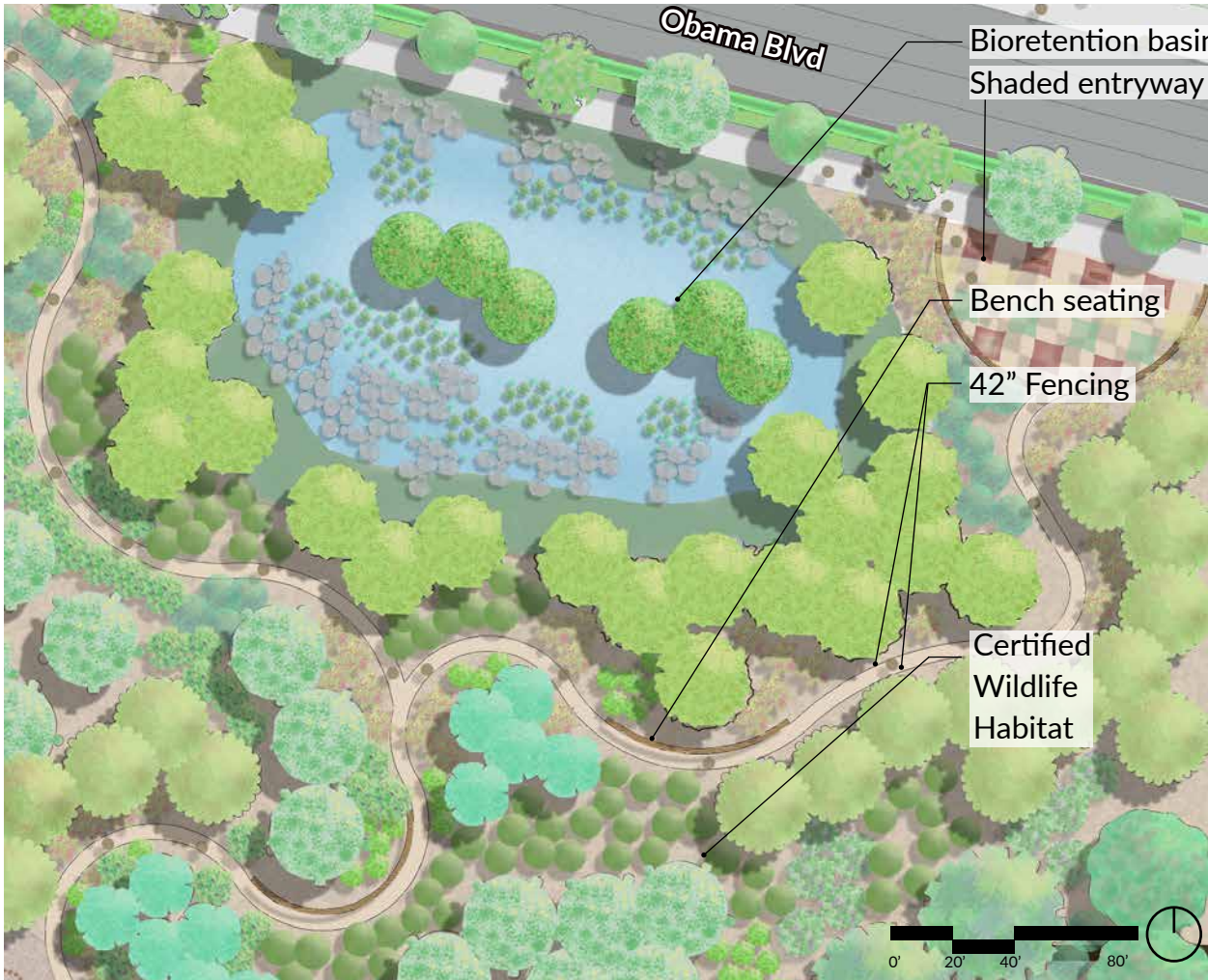
<https://sk.pinterest.com/pin/121456521196548179/>



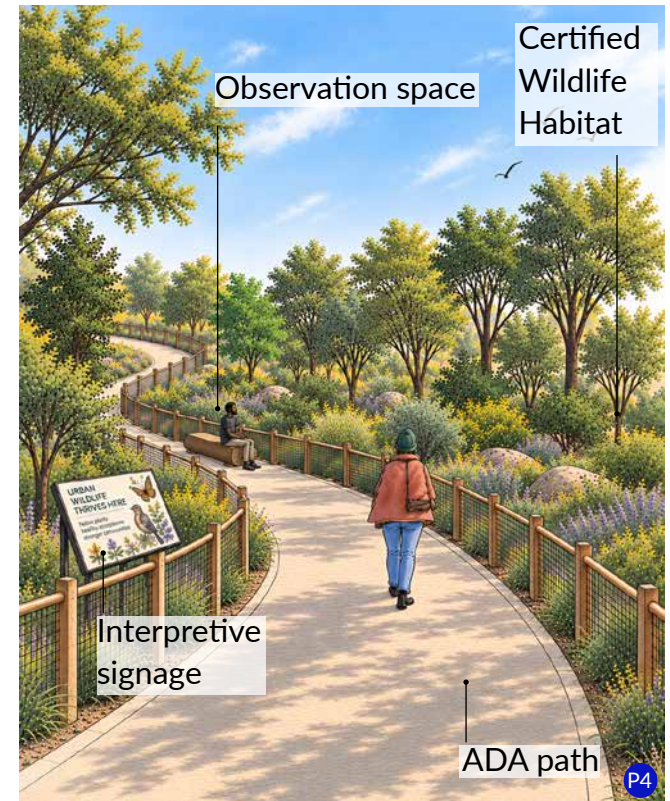
From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

South of Obama Blvd.

FINAL DESIGN



South of Obama Blvd.



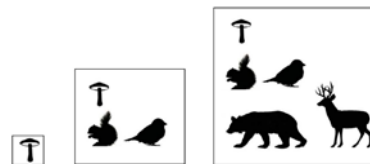
OpenAI. (2026, September 8). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT



<https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/communities/coastal-sage-scrub>



<https://baynature.org/magazine/spring2026/the-intelligence-of-bird-nests/>



<https://cdland4.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/forman-lecture.pdf>



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

South of Obama Blvd.

FINAL DESIGN



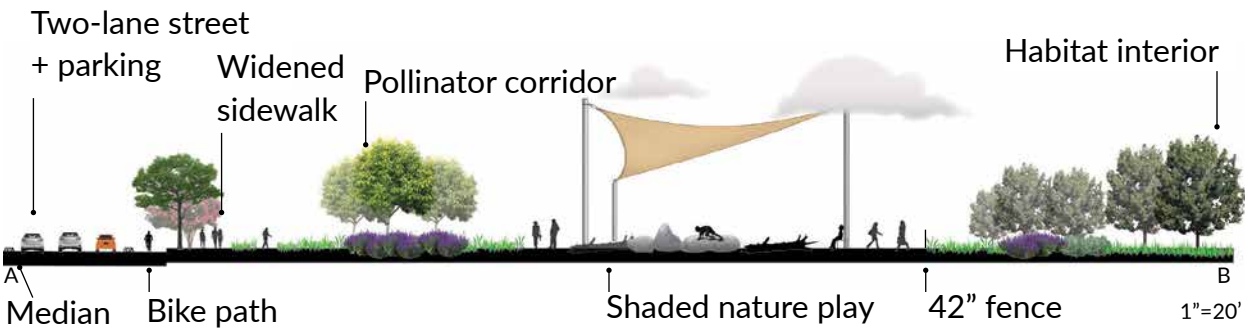
OpenAI. (2026, September 9). [AI-generated image]. ChatGPT



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

South of Obama Blvd.

FINAL DESIGN



<https://terremoto.la/project/verily-playground>



From Google Earth (2026), Google. <https://earth.google.com>

Planting Palette

EDGE SPECIES: adapted to sun, wind and disturbance.
Stabilize edges and provide early habitat and nectar supply.



White sage
Salvia apiana

Photo by John Doyen



CA sagebrush
Artemisia californica

Photo by Neal Kramer



CA bush sunflower
Encelia californica

Photo by Michael O'Brien



Common yarrow
Achillea millefolium

Photo by Dr. Mark S. Brunell



CA buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum

Photo by John Doyen



CA Fuchsia
Eriogonum canum

Photo by George Jackson

INTERIOR SPECIES: thrive in more protected conditions.
Opportunities for food, shelter, and nesting are provided.



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia

Photo by Calscape



Western sycamore
Platanus racemosa

Photo by Neal Kramer



Coast live oak
Quercus agrifolia

Photo by Zoya Akulova



St. Catherine's lace
Eriogonum giganteum

Photo by Wynn Anderson



Coyote bush
Baccharis pilularis

Photo by Calscape

EXPOSED EDGE



PROTECTED INTERIOR

WILDLIFE RELATIONSHIPS



HOST PLANT
Supports life cycle



NECTAR
Nectar source



POLLINATOR
Pollen + nectar



FOOD
Fruit, seed, or acorns



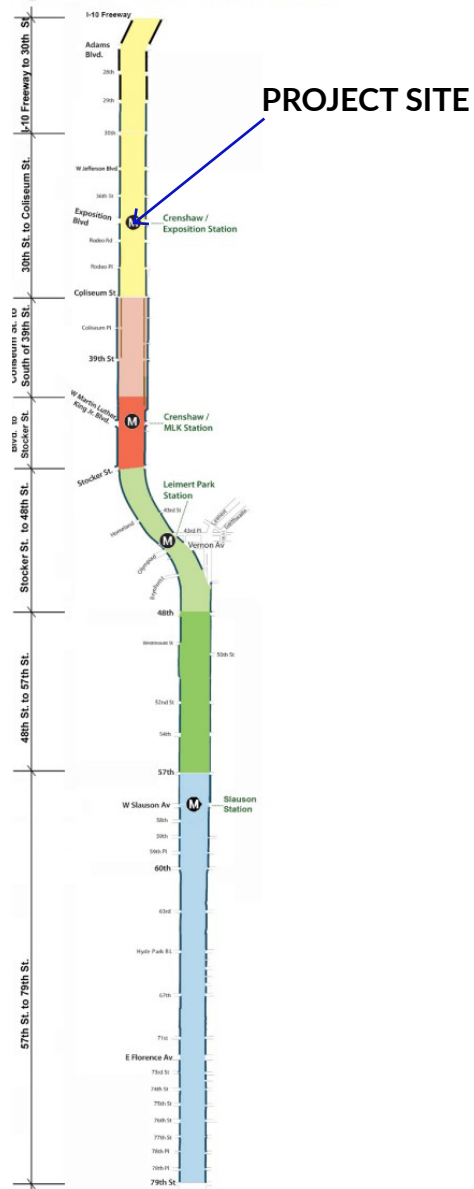
COVER
Shelter from
predators/weather



NESTING
Nesting habitat

Streetscape Palette

Figure 13. Street Trees Palette



Tree Chart ¹	Crenshaw/Exposition TOD I-10 Freeway to 30th Street	Crenshaw/Exposition TOD 30th Street to Coliseum Street	Coliseum Street to South of 39th Street	Crenshaw/MLK TOD North of MLK Jr. Boulevard to Stocker Street	Leimert Park POD Stocker Street to 48th Street	48th Street to 57th Street	Crenshaw/Slauson and West Blvd TODs 57th Street to 79th Street
Camphor	A						
California Sycamore			A				
Catalina Ironwood	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Desert Museum Palo Verde					D		D
Tipuana Tipu		A					
Chinese Pistache	D*		D*			D*	
Pink Trumpet Tree		D*		D*			

A = Accent Tree (to be placed in open spaces and plazas and in the right of way, as space permits)

D = District Tree (D* indicates new proposed district trees as of January 2017)

U = Unifying Corridor Tree

1. Alternate tree species may be identified as part of ongoing, Council Office-facilitated planning and public outreach associated with the Prop 1C Infill Infrastructure project and other concurrent projects.

<https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/ae10d6a0-d3d1-4292-966b-5d2ab9d7a41c/Crenshaw%20Streetscape%20Plan%20-%20Tree%20Selection.pdf>



Catalina ironwood
Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius

<https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/832>



Tipu tree

Tipuana tipu

<https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/1419>



Pink trumpet tree

Handroanthus heptaphyllus

<https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/1373>

Materials Palette



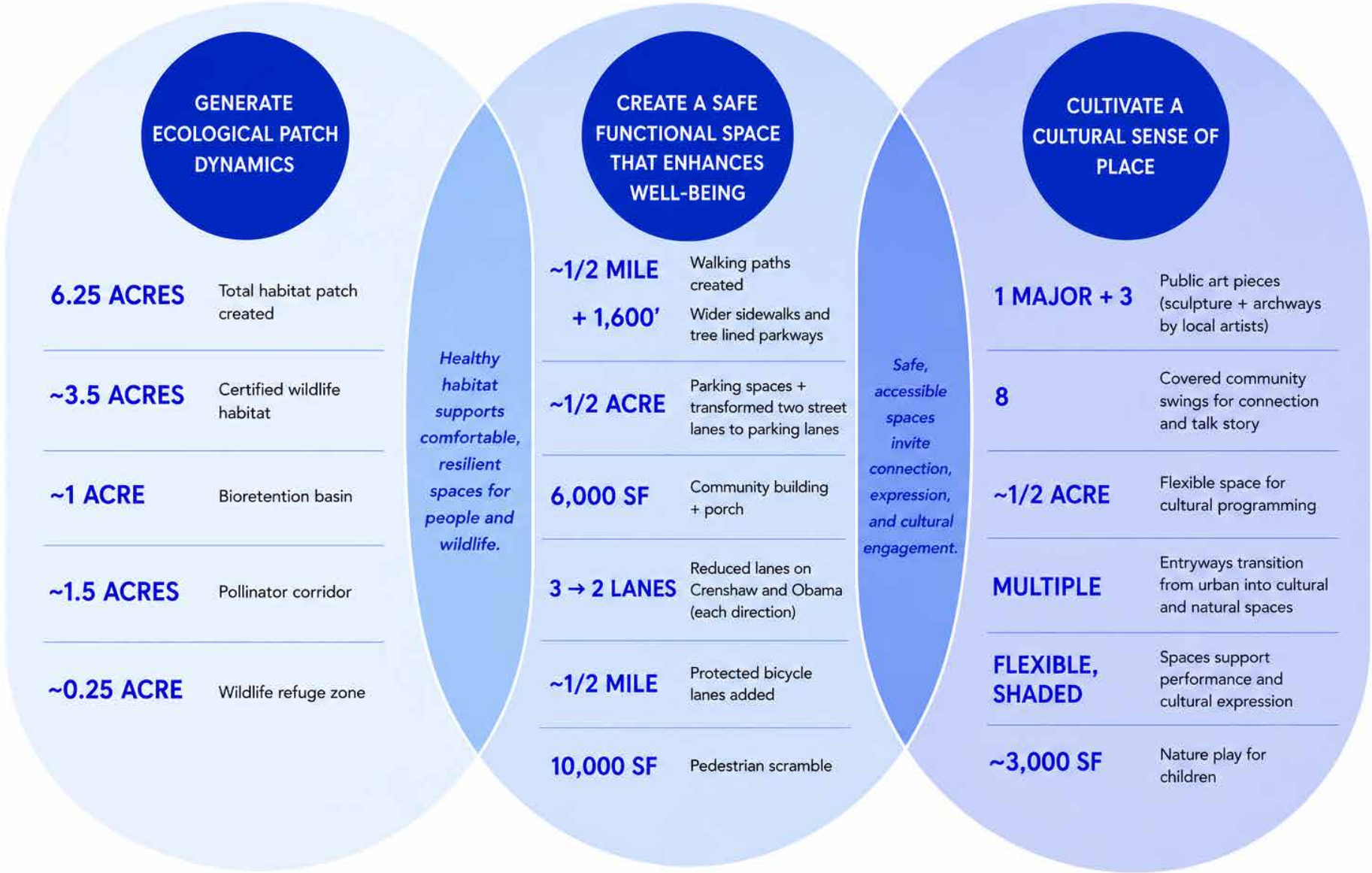
Materials gradually shift from harder materials such as tinted concrete and concrete pavers on the N side of Obama Blvd, to more natural materials such as resin-bound aggregate pathways, wood, boulders and mulch on the S side of Obama Blvd.



Illustrative Plan



Conclusion



Final Remarks



GENERATE

The design generates ecological patch dynamics, using a high interior-to-edge ratio to create a gradient of habitat where biodiversity can emerge.

CREATE

Ample space for movement, safer and slower streets, and accessible connections create a functional landscape where well-being, comfort, and connection can emerge.

CULTIVATE

Community art, flexible gathering spaces, nature play, and the mirrored swingset cultivate opportunities for cultural expression, shared experience, and a stronger sense of place to emerge.

EMERGENCE

Together, these strategies invite an emergent experience, as people move from the site's urban edges into increasingly immersive natural and cultural spaces.

Bibliography

1. Baldwin Hills - Crenshaw, Los Angeles, CA demographics: Population, income, and more | point2homes. (n.d.). <https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/CA/Los-Angeles/Baldwin-Hills-Crenshaw-Demographics.html>
2. BikeLA. (2023). 2023 bicycle safety report. <https://www.la-bike.org/bicycle-safety-report-2023>
3. By the numbers. LA Metro. (2026, May 12). <https://www.metro.net/safety-support/by-the-numbers/>
4. Data. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Home Page. (n.d.). <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/Analysis/Connectivity>
5. de la Peña, D., Allen, D. J., Hester, R. T., Jr., Hou, J., Lawson, L. J., & McNally, M. J. (Eds.). (2017). Design as democracy: Techniques for collective creativity. Island Press.
6. Exposition Park Rose Garden – La Park Needs Assessment – Department of Recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/parks/exposition-park-rose-garden/>
7. Harvard Graduate School of Design. (2013). Introduction to landscape ecology: Patch/matrix/edge/mosaic [Lecture slides]. <https://cdland4.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/forman-lecture.pdf>
8. Historic south la black cultural district. LA Commons. (n.d.). <https://www.lacommons.org/historic-south-la-black-cultural-district>
9. Hood, W., & Tada, G. M. (Eds.). (2020). Black landscapes matter. University of Virginia Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv19cw9rx>
10. Jim Gilliam Recreation Center – la park needs assessment – department of recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/parks/jim-gilliam-recreation-center/>
11. LA County Park Needs. (n.d.). <https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PNA-Plus-Report-Dec2022-2.pdf>
12. LA County Park Needs. (n.d.). https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_083.pdf
13. Las Pilitas Nursery. (n.d.). Coastal sage scrub. <https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/communities/coastal-sage-scrub>
14. Leimert Park, Los Angeles, CA demographics: Population, income, and more | point2homes. (n.d.). <https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/CA/Los-Angeles/Leimert-Park-Demographics.html>
15. Leimert plaza – LA Park Needs Assessment – department of recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/parks/leimert-plaza/>
16. Leslie N. Shaw Park City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/park/leslie-n-shaw>
17. Linton, J. (2024, August 14). A peek into Metro rail ridership details station-by-station. Streetsblog Los Angeles. <https://la.streetsblog.org/2024/08/14/a-peek-into-metro-rail-ridership-details-station-by-station>
18. Los Angeles City Planning. (2021). Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles 2021 [Data set]. City of Los Angeles. <https://data-lahub.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/a980fbf3111341f18ba4a63c98b3e1bb/about>
19. Martin Luther King Jr. Park City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/park/martin-luther-king-jr>

Bibliography Cont'd

20. Michelle and Barack obama sports complex (a.k.a rancho cienega sports complex) City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://dev.pastilla.recreation.parks.lacity.gov/reccenter/rancho-cienega-sports-complex/>
21. Minaravesh, B., Fukumori, R., & Robbennolt, S. (n.d.). Exploring economic insecurity and green space equity in Los Angeles County. National Equity Atlas. <https://www.nationalequityatlas.org/research/analyses/green-space-equity-los-angeles-county>
22. Patch dynamics | ecological succession, species interactions & landscape ecology | britannica. (n.d.). <https://www.britannica.com/science/patch-dynamics>
23. Queen Anne Recreation Center City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/reccenter/queen-anne>
24. Recreational Spaces. County of Los Angeles Open Data. (2023, June 30). https://data.lacounty.gov/datasets/4e6083c7960d4a1caedb57aa76473e4f_0/explore?location=34.021933%2C-118.340214%2C13
25. Ride On! Bike Shop/Co-Op. (n.d.). Ride On! Bike Shop/Co-Op. <https://www.rideonbikeshop.com/>
26. Site Topography-3650 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90018. Topoexport. (n.d.). <https://app.topoexport.com/history>
27. South Los Angeles Wetland Park. Landscape Performance Series. (2024, December 13). <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/south-los-angeles-wetland-park>
28. The ecological and evolutionary consequences of systemic racism in Urban Environments | Science. (n.d.). <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aay4497>
29. The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. (n.d.). Crenshaw Crossing- CEQA Public Transit. CEQAnet. <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/>
30. Vineyard Recreation Center – la park needs assessment – department of recreation and Parks. (n.d.). <https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/parks/vineyard-recreation-center/>
31. West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert. (n.d.). https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/78984e0b-a63d-4533-ba57-4f84b8fd7696/West_Adams-Baldwin_Hills-Leimert_Community_Plan.pdf
32. West Adams, Los Angeles, CA demographics: Population, income, and more | point2homes. (n.d.). <https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/CA/Los-Angeles/West-Adams-Demographics.html>
33. Wikimedia Foundation. (2026, June 10). Kenneth Hahn state recreation area. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Hahn_State_Recreation_Area
34. Wood, E. M., Esaian, S., Benitez, C., Ethington, P. J., Longcore, T., & Pomara, L. Y. (2023). Historical racial redlining and contemporary patterns of income inequality negatively affect birds, their habitat, and people in Los Angeles, California. Ornithological Applications, 126, duad044. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithapp/duad044>
35. Yang, J. M. (n.d.). The impact of urbanization on wildlife populations: A global perspective. International Journal of Pure and Applied Zoology. <https://www.alliedacademies.org/articles/the-impact-of-urbanization-on-wildlife-populations-a-global-perspective-30883.html>