

RENEWED PURPOSE

Restoring Land and
Lives on a Brownfield
in Compton



PERSONAL STATEMENT

I was drawn to landscape architecture because I believe there is something deeply human about being outside. I turn to outdoor spaces to reset, breathe, find perspective, and experience moments of beauty and wonder. And while I love plants and I love being creative, the side of landscape architecture that really excites me is creating places where people can get outside, feel at peace, connect with something bigger than themselves, recreate, and simply enjoy being there. I believe everyone deserves access to that experience, especially in communities that have historically had less access to quality green space.



My interest in reentry began while reading the work of Angela Davis during the 2020 racial justice movement, when I was introduced to alternatives to our criminal justice system. I became increasingly interested in approaches rooted in rehabilitation, dignity, and the belief that people can grow when given meaningful opportunities and support. Organizations such as Homeboy Industries eventually led me to nature-based reentry programs, where gardening, stewardship, and working with the land can become part of that process.

At the same time, my work in landscape architecture has shown me another gap: we are designing increasingly sophisticated landscapes to manage water, reduce heat, support habitat, and strengthen communities, yet the people responsible for caring for those landscapes often have limited access to specialized training.

This thesis grew from bringing those ideas together: What if a landscape could provide healing and opportunity for people, while teaching people to care for landscapes in return? Can we improve long term outcomes for both people and the land simultaneously through a system of mutual reciprocity?

Introduction.....4

Research + Analysis..... 11

Concept Development..... 36

Design Solutions..... 43

Reflection 70

References75





The driving force for this project is a single, staggering statistic: While California's rate of recidivism is around 40%, some nature- and gardening-based post-incarceration reentry programs **report rates as low as 2%!**

WHY DO GARDENING-BASED REENTRY PROGRAMS WORK?

Successful reentry programs **create value for both employers and employees**, providing training, economic stability, community belonging, and other support resources to marginalized individuals that can **reduce recidivism**. Businesses engaging in second-chance hiring benefit from larger talent pools, high employee retention, and workplace diversity.

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

Interacting with nature is proven to positively impact mental health by creating a calm, safe, restorative environment for a healing journey.

PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

Individual responsibilities like tending plants fosters confidence and self worth, which feeds the cycle of success.

HOLISTIC SUPPORT

Employment is just one challenge formerly incarcerated face upon reentry. Comprehensive services lead to better success.

FOOD IS UNIVERSAL

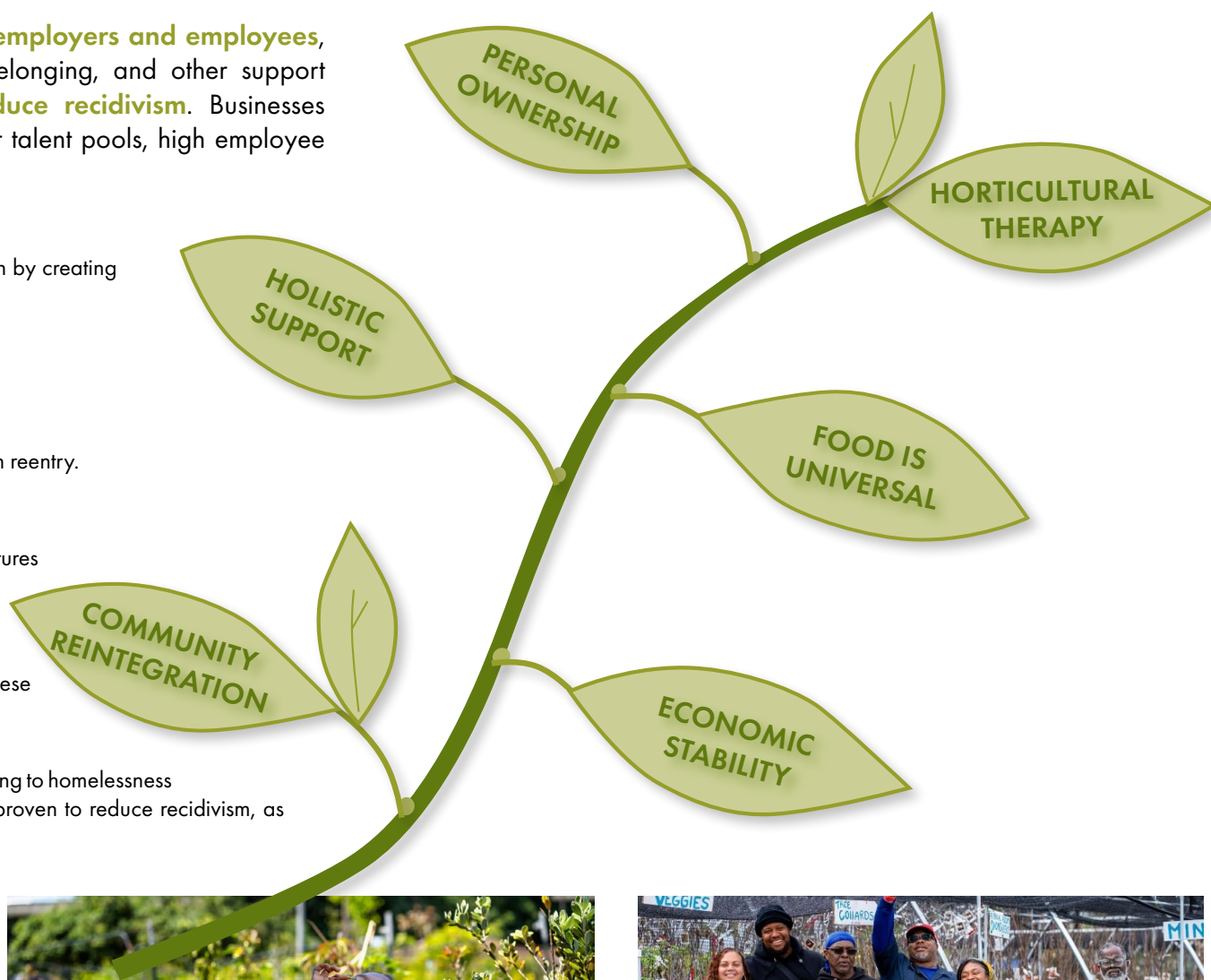
Food is fundamental part of being human, relatable across all cultures and backgrounds, therefore naturally unifying.

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

These programs give them purpose within the community by being productive members of society and giving back to others. These interactions break down barriers.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Securing employment post incarceration is extremely difficult, leading to homelessness and a cycle of re-incarceration. Stable, full time employment is proven to reduce recidivism, as poverty is the strongest predictor for recidivism.



Planting Justice, Oakland, CA (all)



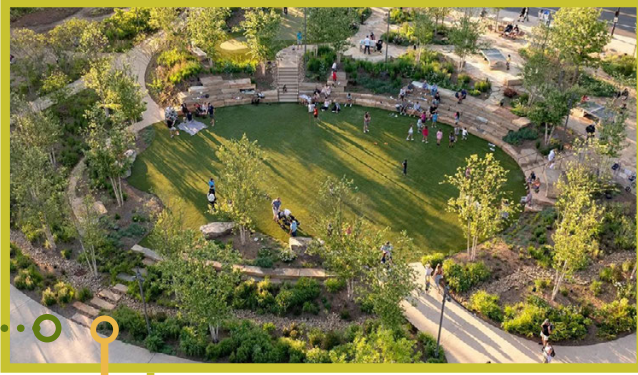


Communities heavily impacted by incarceration often contain underused and stigmatized landscapes shaped by institutional neglect. These sites are frequently overlooked and rejected in ways that mirror the marginalization of formerly incarcerated individuals.

These same communities facing decades of disinvestment typically experience myriad other challenges, including:

- Minimal public parks, green space, and trees
- High pollution and health risks
- Hotter ambient temperatures from urban heat island effect
- High unemployment
- High food insecurity

Social and environmental injustices are often treated as separate problems, yet they are deeply interconnected. **This project explores whether one landscape can begin addressing a system of inequities simultaneously.**



From Vacant Brownfield to Productive Ecosystem

Vacant since 1990, the former landfill reflects decades of disinvestment in Compton. Transforming it into a living green space would **reduce heat and pollution, restore biodiversity, improve public health, and bring much-needed nature to a historically park-poor community**—while supporting broader neighborhood revitalization goals, including improved food access.

Rehabilitating Marginalized People and Places

A program of mutual reciprocity, where people take care of the land, that in turn takes care of them, would be a self sustaining method of rehabilitation. Research shows that **being in nature has a positive effect on mental health and community well-being.**

Green Workforce Development for Lasting Impact

Training in horticulture, ecological restoration, and green infrastructure supports a skilled workforce that can sustain healthy parks and ecosystems long term. As **demand for environmental jobs grows in California**, second-chance hiring programs offer returning citizens meaningful career pathways while strengthening communities and supporting environmental resilience.

PROJECT STATEMENT

This project proposes converting a **previous landfill** vacant lot in Compton into a center for **community activation**, **green job training** and **environmental rehabilitation**.

Transformation of the neglected brownfield in a city that has faced decades of systematic divestment will heal the land with soil remediation, native plant ecology, and stormwater management systems, result in a welcoming public green space for the community with programming for daily routines and cultural events, and offer hands-on education in horticulture, landscape maintenance, and urban agriculture as reentry support for formerly incarcerated.

By combining environmental remediation, community revitalization, and workforce development, this project **reframes stigmatized land and marginalized people as essential agents of care, productivity, and resilience.**



WHY COMPTON?

Compton represents the **intersection of need and opportunity**. It has one of California's highest incarceration rates, reflecting decades of systemic disinvestment, while also facing environmental inequities and underutilized land. Yet it is a city defined by resilience, rich arts and cultures, and a vision for growth and transformation. This project **invests in both the land and the people** to help realize that future.

Compton's incarceration rate is the highest for cities over 20,000 residents in California, and 3x the state average.

Vacant storefronts, neglected lots, aging homes, and illegal dumping reflect decades of underinvestment, undermining neighborhood vitality and perceptions of safety.

Environmental injustice drives disproportionate pollution, extreme heat, poor environmental health, and limited access to trees and shade.

Clear vision for the future in Compton 2045 General Plan based on community input: new parks, clean streets, healthier environments, and a strong economy.

Cherished urban agriculture legacy, including residential farms and Richland Farms neighborhood.

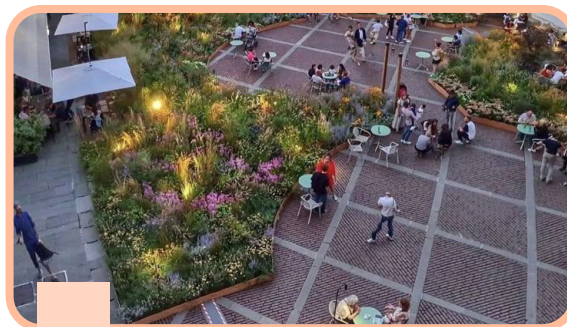
Unshakable fortitude, adaptable, and a drive to thrive

Strong multicultural identity, celebrates diverse traditions.

COMPTON'S 2045 GENERAL PLAN



Released in 2025, the Compton 2045 General Plan outlines the **city's goals and objectives** to revitalize neighborhoods, create safe, equitable opportunity, and empower community members for a brighter, more prosperous future. This project aims to address 6 of the city's primary goals simultaneously.



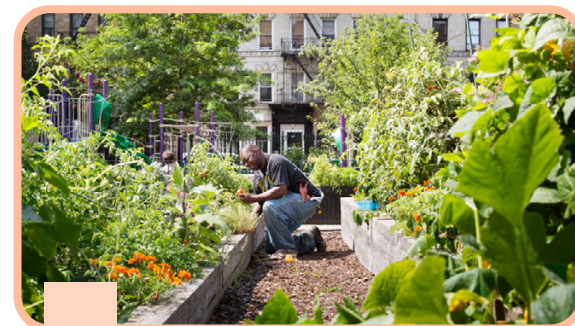
1 Transform vacant lots into vibrant public assets



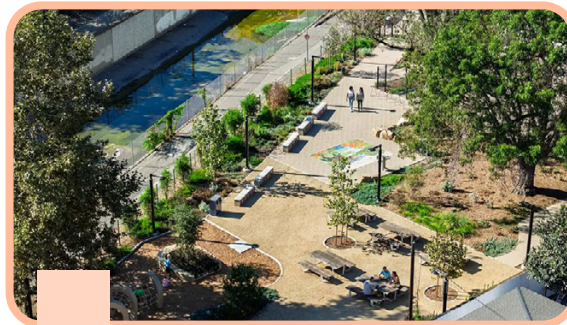
2 Create complete communities



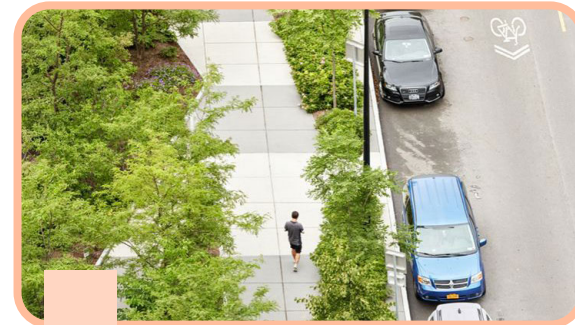
3 Broaden job training and workforce development



4 Address food deserts by expanding urban agriculture



5 Combat environmental pollution and health issues



6 Strengthen safe, multi-modal mobility

Former Alondra Dump

Vacant for 50 years, the main site operated as a Class II landfill from 1956 to 1977, and was never properly capped upon closure. It contains inert construction and municipal waste.

The smaller site was a former nursery lot. Both parcels are currently for sale and redevelopment, and are also prioritized for redevelopment by Compton in the 2045 General Plan.

It lies along a major transit corridor, connecting west Compton to the 110 freeway and coastal cities.



2815-2875 W Alondra Blvd
Compton, CA



+/- 825,000 SF,
19 Acres



Limited Commercial and
Low Density Residential



Compton Successor Agency,
Los Angeles County



Flat, Vacant, Inaccessible,
Minimal Existing Infrastructure

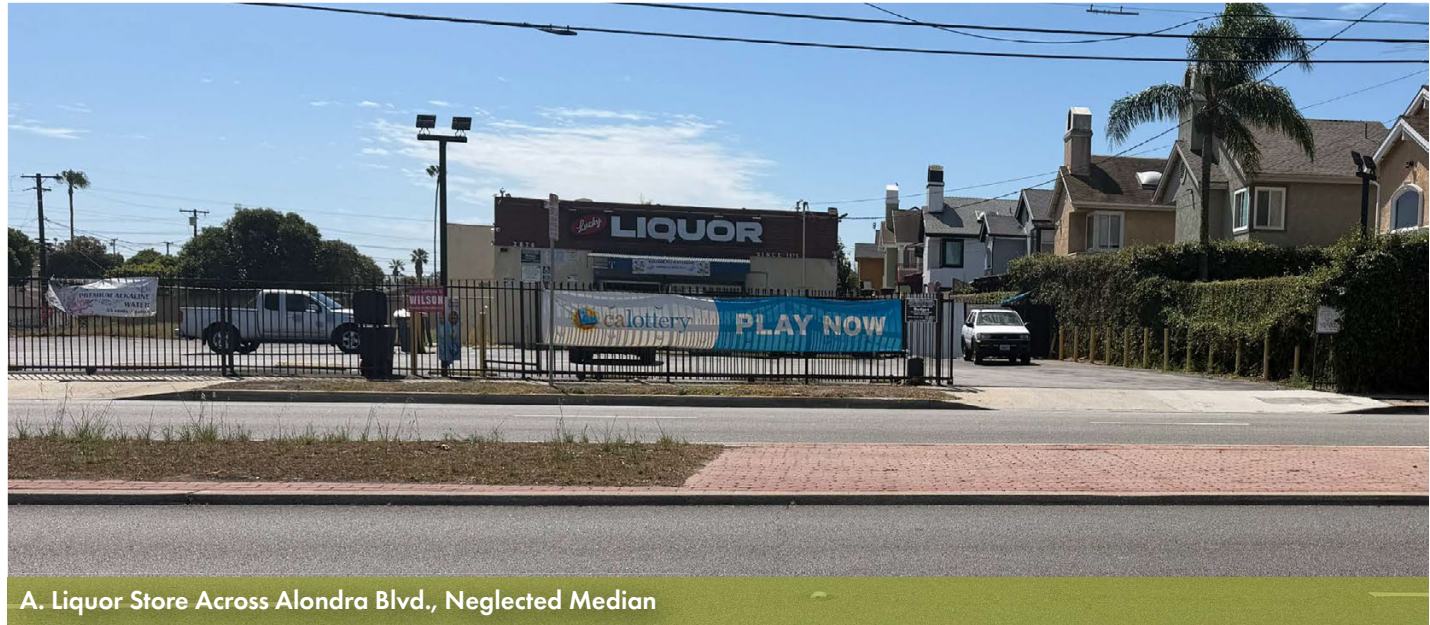


Surrounding Context

- Minimal street tree coverage, amplifying expansive hardscape & discomfort
- Residential context, with one commercial plot: a liquor store
- Audible propeller planes taking off from nearby Compton-Woodley Airport

KEY MAP

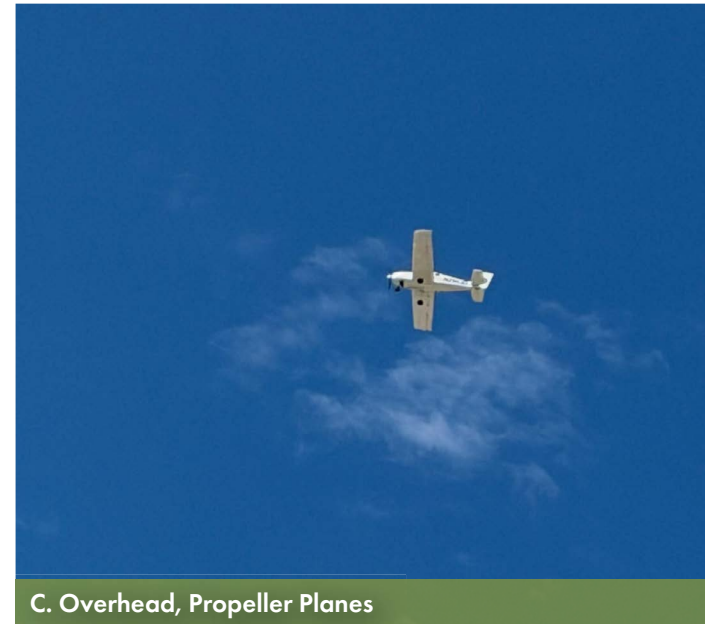
1" = 500'



A. Liquor Store Across Alondra Blvd., Neglected Median



B. Single Family Residential Across Alondra Blvd.



C. Overhead, Propeller Planes

Exterior Edges

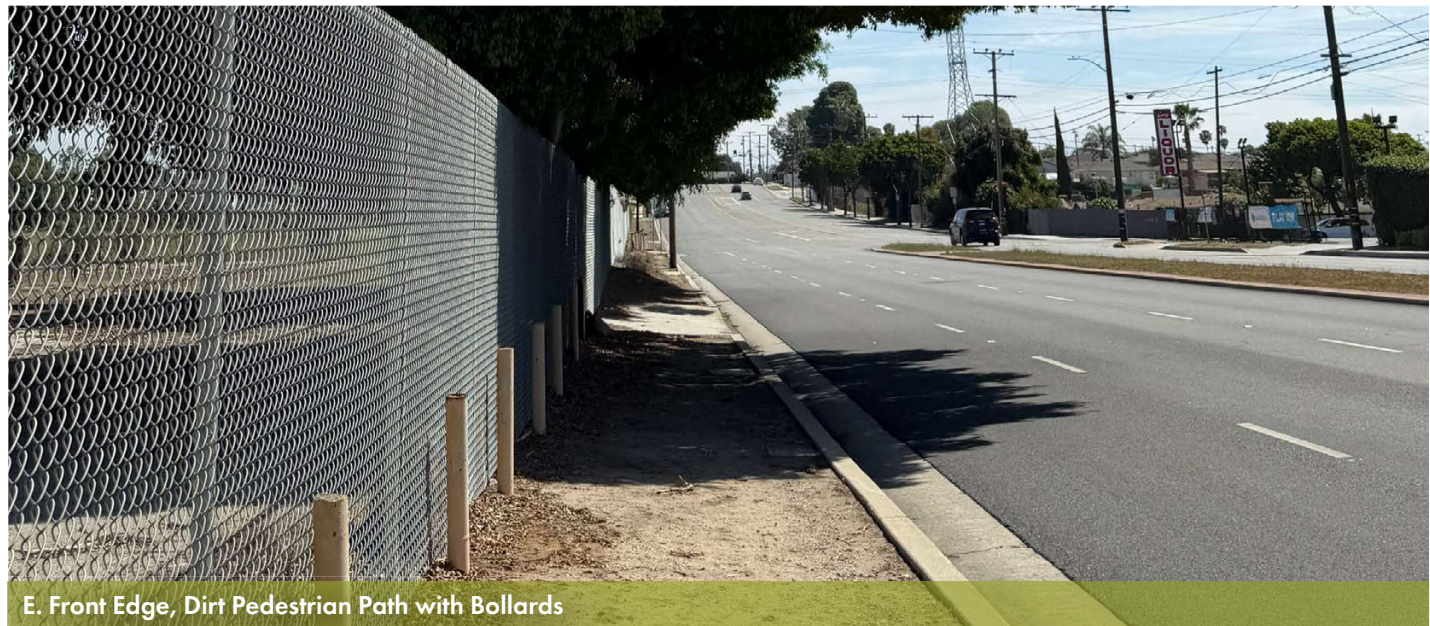
- Fast-moving traffic, fencing, and poor circulation create a disconnected and inhospitable public environment
- No dedicated bike lane or universally accessible sidewalk
- Street storm drain at front of site near existing driveway curb cut

KEY MAP

1" = 500'



D. Front Edge, Dirt Pedestrian Path with Aging Infrastructure and Storm Drain



E. Front Edge, Dirt Pedestrian Path with Bollards

Interior

- Flat, weedy landfill interior
- 95% of site fully exposed without shade
- Deteriorating nursery infrastructure on old asphalt
- In Sunset Climate Zone 23, which is ideal for gardening year round, and one of the reasons Compton became an agricultural hot spot during its 1867 settlement

KEY MAP

1" = 500'

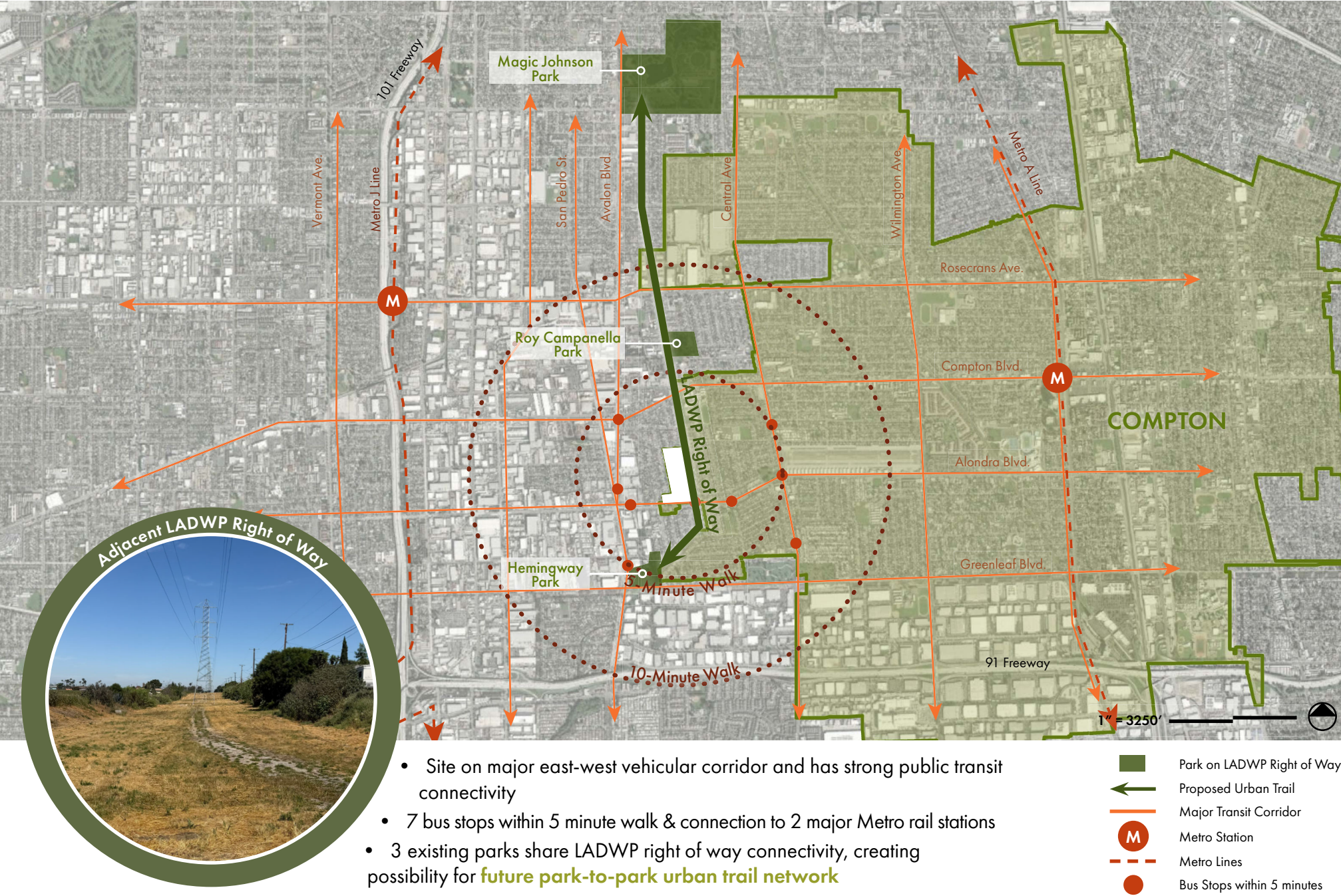


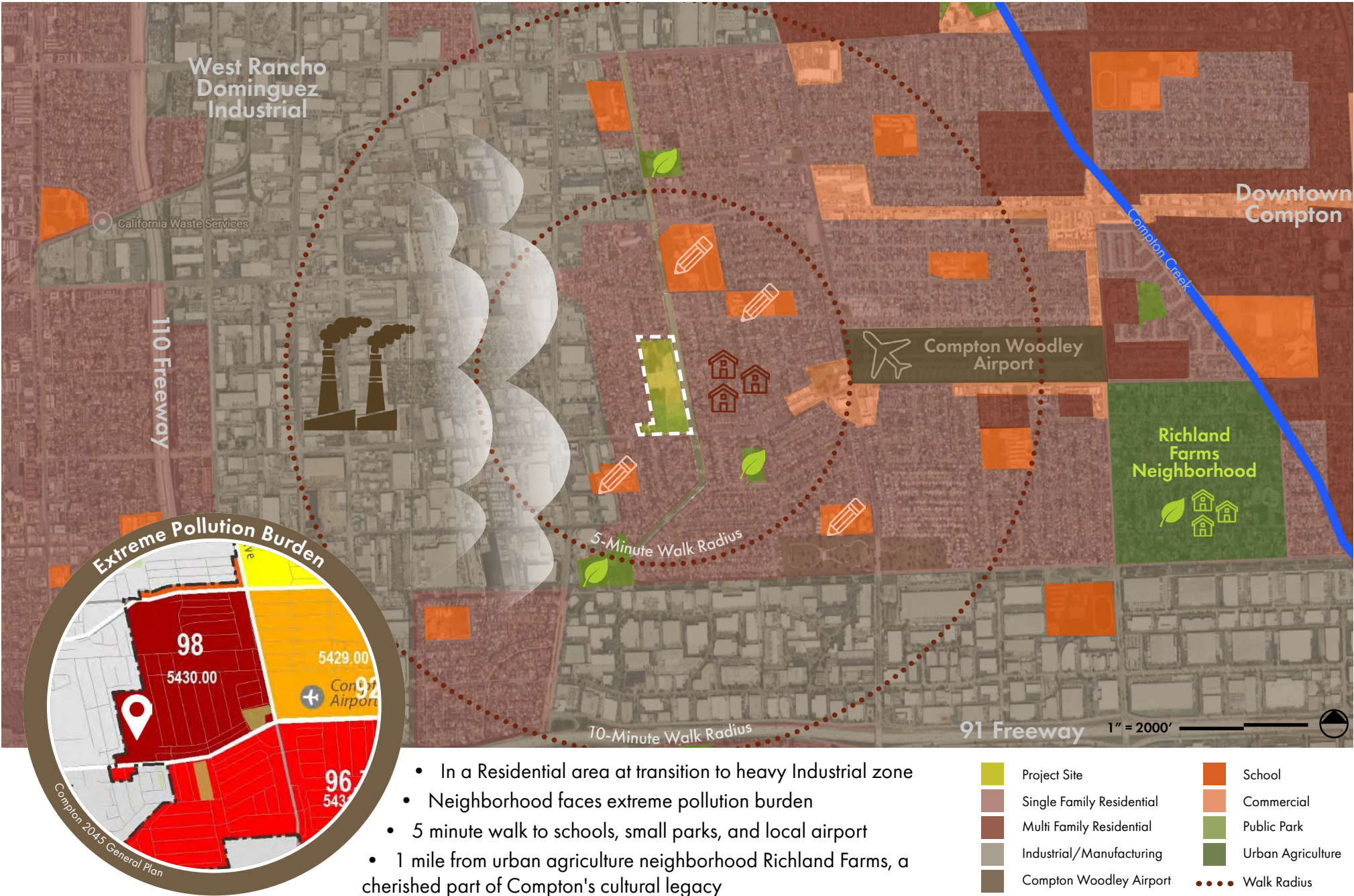
F. Interior, Weedy Flat Top of Landfill



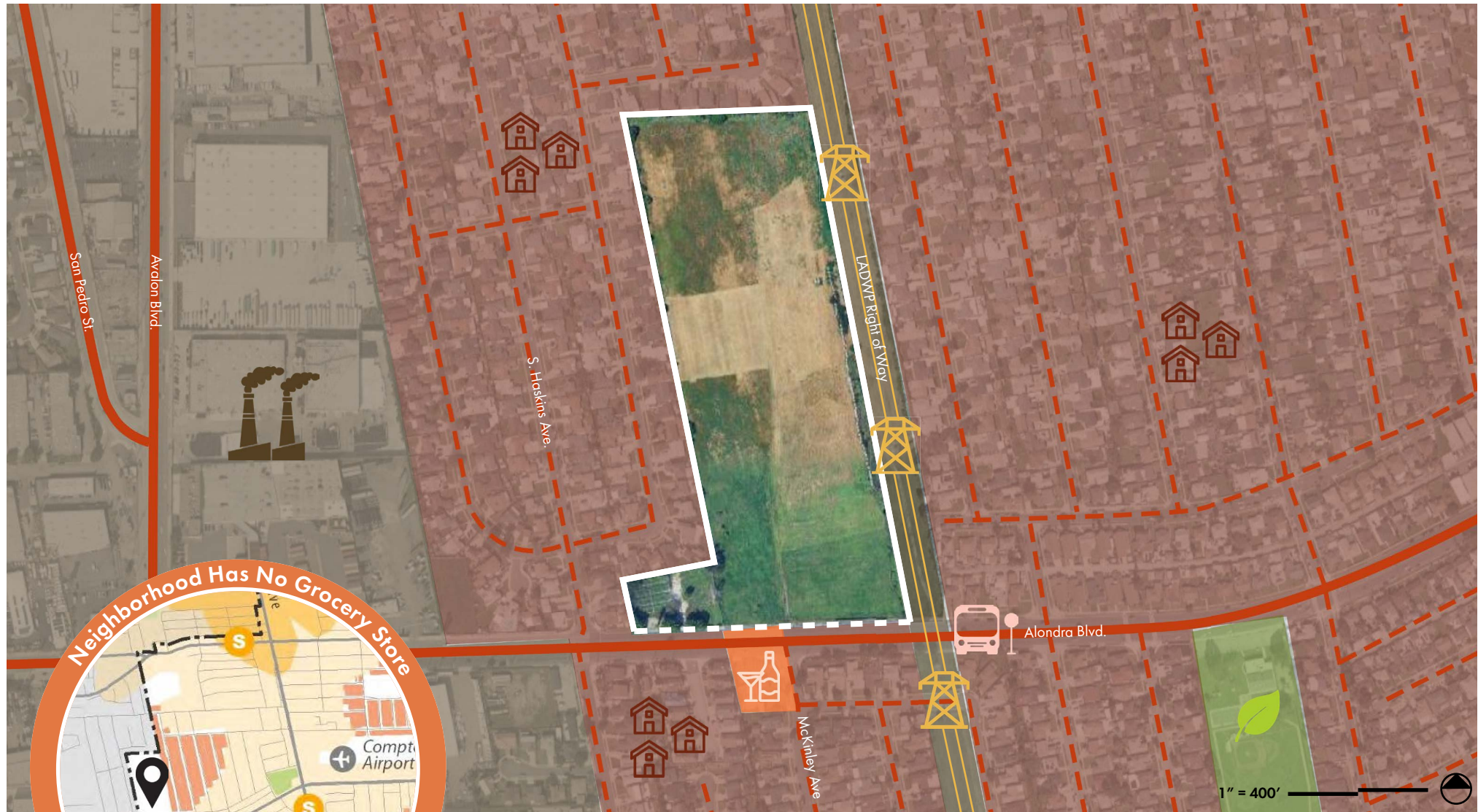
G. Interior, Former Nursery with Dilapidated Infrastructure

SITE CONNECTIVITY





IMMEDIATE ADJACENCIES



Neighborhood Has No Grocery Store

Compton 2045 General Plan

- Heavy vehicular circulation at site front
- Good public transit connectivity with bus stop at site corner
- Only one publicly accessible side of site, 3 others blocked by residential back yards and the LADWP Right of Way with high-tension electric towers
- Neighborhood is in a verified food desert, punctuated by liquor store across street

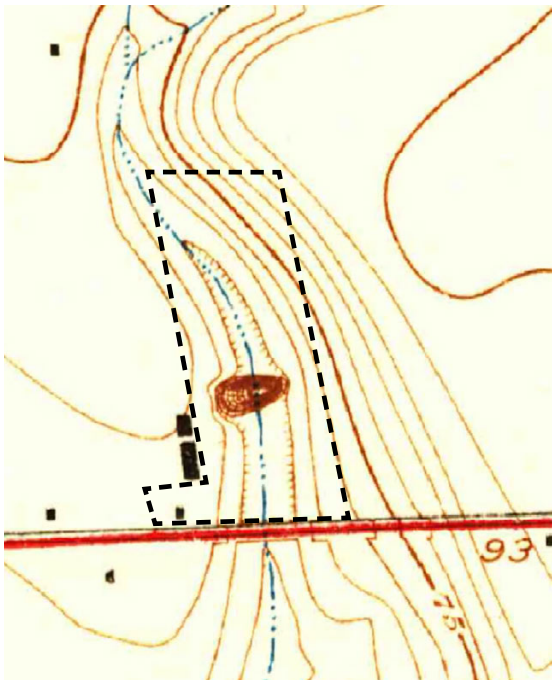
— Heavy Vehicular Circulation
- - - Secondary Vehicular Circulation

TOPOGRAPHY & DRAINAGE

A seasonal tributary ran through the site before suburban development. Portion was used for clay mining, leading to a 63' deep pit by 1930, which became the starting hole of Alondra Dump.

Modern stormwater infrastructure runs north-south through site to storm drain on Alondra Blvd. at lowest elevation, and includes manholes that require maintenance access.

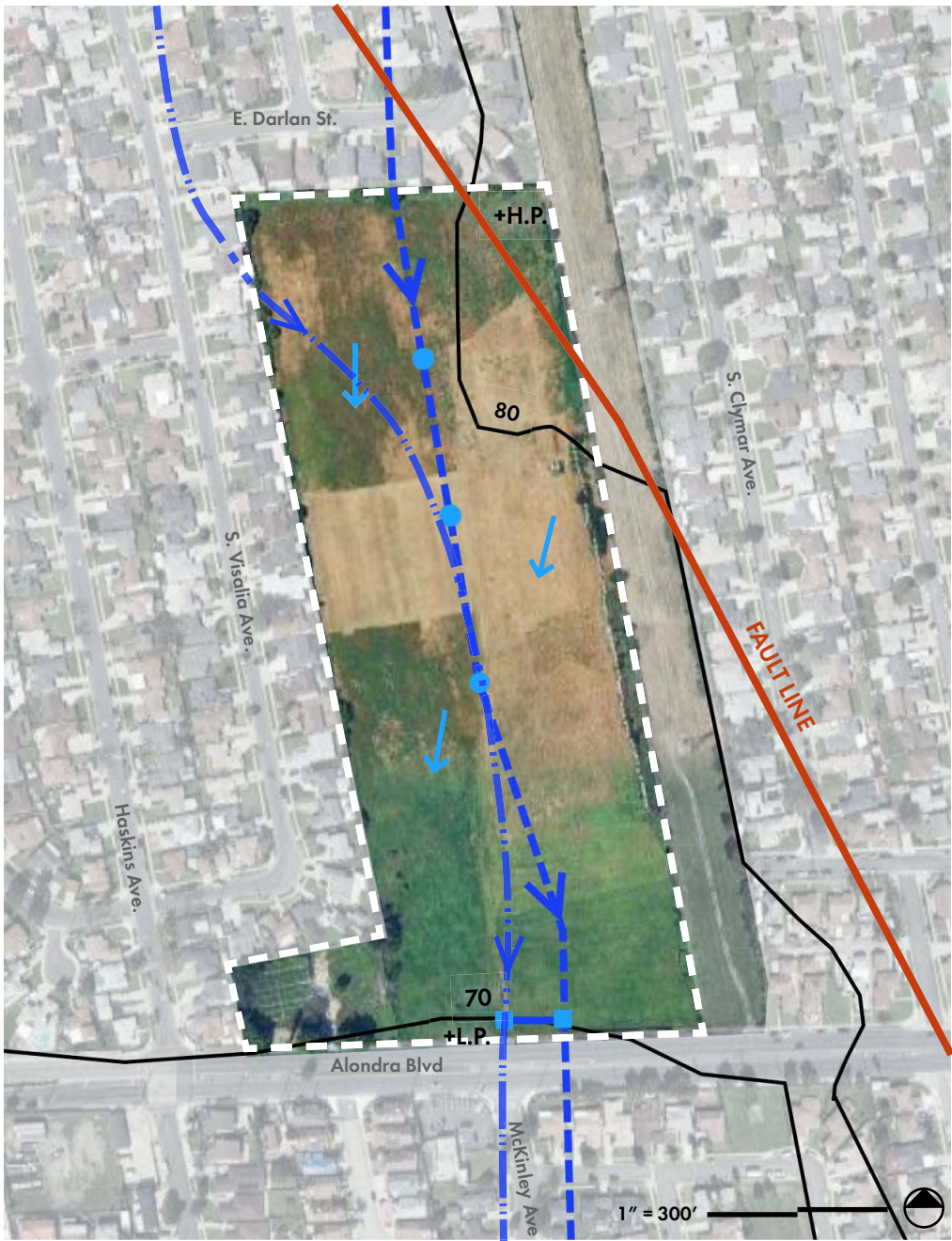
A small fault line bisects northeastern corner of site, discouraging tall, multi-story buildings on site.



1930 Topographic Map

Topography & Drainage

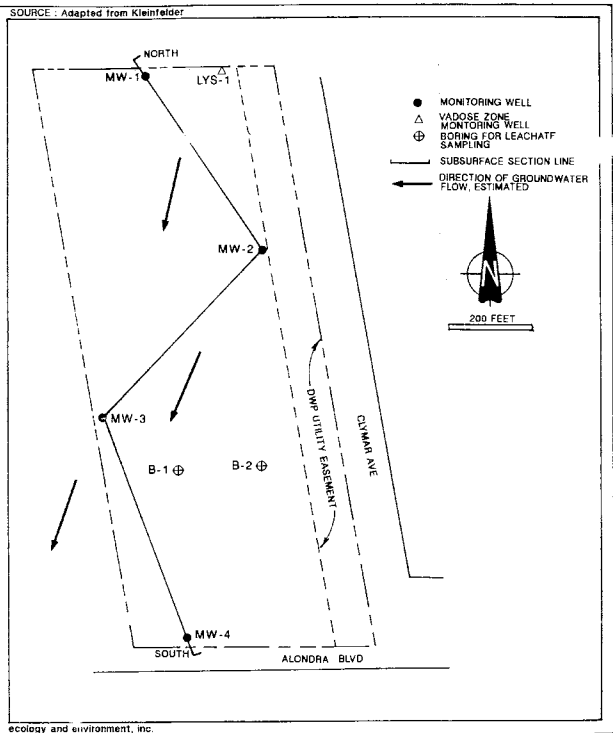
- Stormwater Drainage Pipe
- Drainage Direction
- Original Perennial Stream
- Catch basin
- 36" Manhole
- Contour Line
- High Point / Low Point
- Surface Flow Direction
- Fault Line



SITE INVENTORY

Monitoring wells installed in 1988 found limited contamination indicators, and the site was ultimately classified as low risk for environmental contamination. Quarterly testing mandated by CalRecycle continues to measure minimal methane and groundwater contamination. Wells require 5' access radius.

The site is surrounded on 3 sides by private fencing, with the only access from Alondra Blvd. A row of remnant industrial concrete cylinders is seen from Google Maps.



Hazard Monitoring Wells

Site Inventory

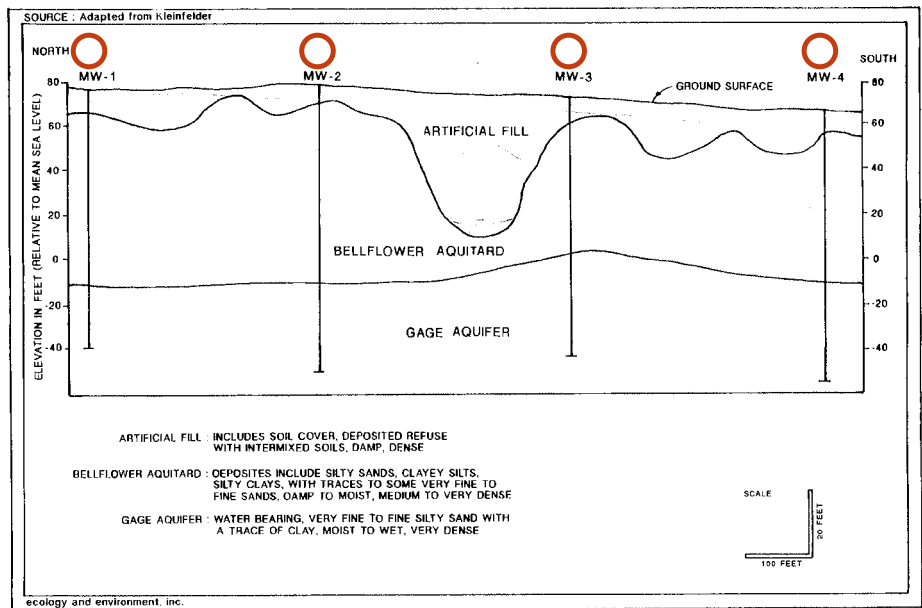
- Chainlink Fence
- CMU Perimeter Wall
- Driveway Curb Cut
- Industrial Cement Cylinder
- Asphalt/Cement Ground
- Monitoring Wells



WASTE DEPTH ANALYSIS

Historic testing found 80% of the site is covered with waste nonuniformly, ranging in depth from only 3' deep, to 63' deep, which is the large pit near the center of the site.

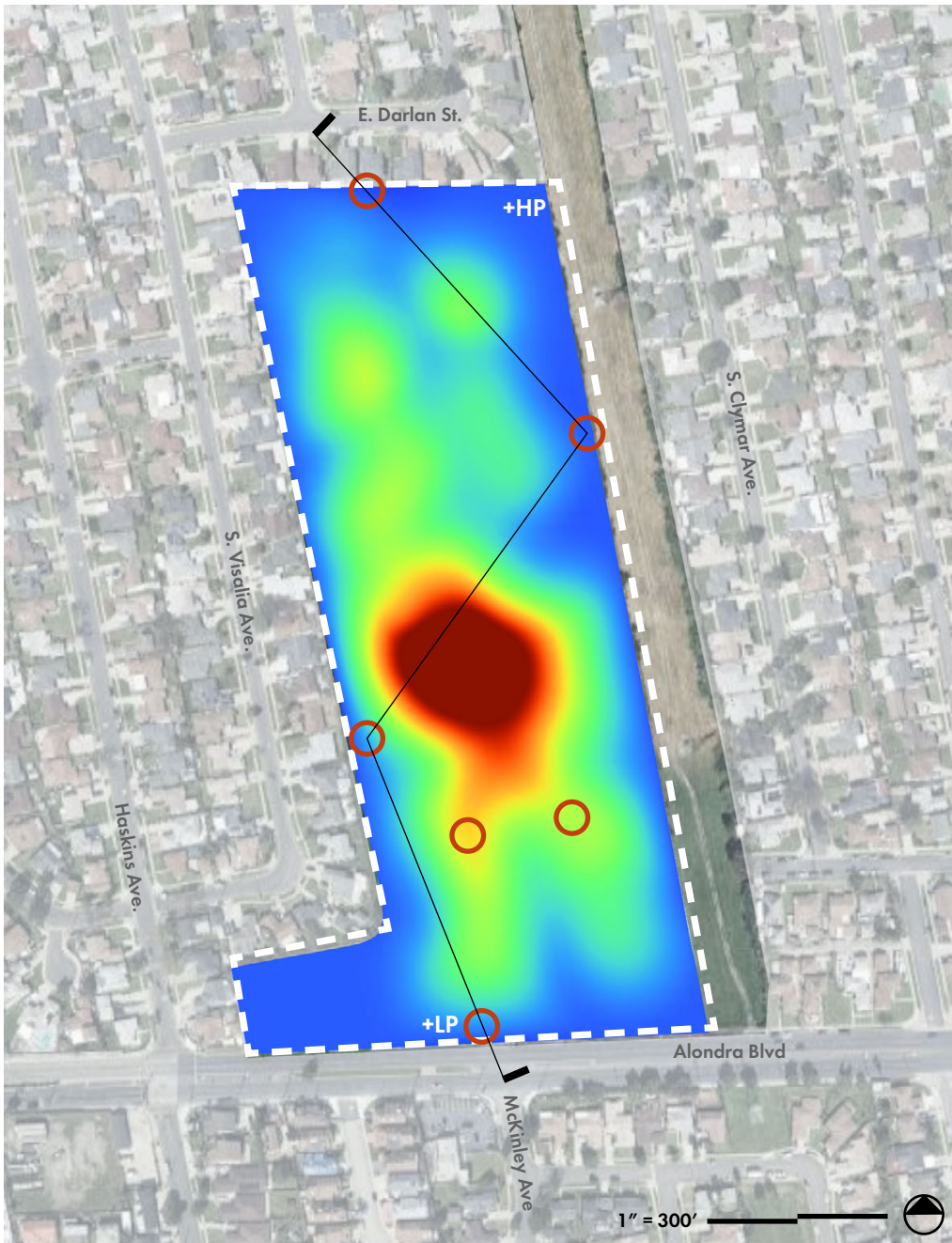
The perimeter of the former landfill and the entire former nursery lot have minimal to zero waste coverage.



1988 Subsurface Section

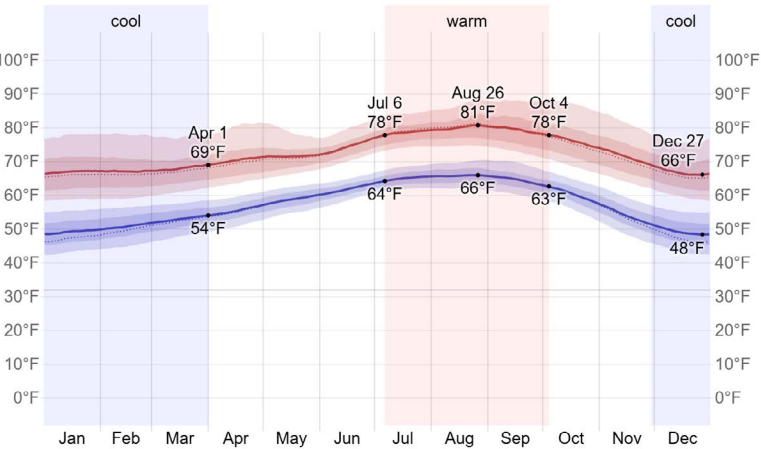
Waste Depth *extrapolated*

- Deepest Waste - 63' Sub-Surface
- Modest Waste - 20' Sub-Surface
- Zero Waste
- Hazard Monitoring Well
- Topographic High Point +HP
- Topographic Low Point +LP

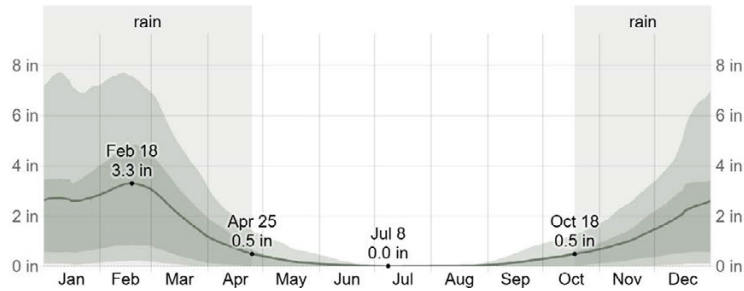


PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

The Project Site experiences temperate weather characteristic of Sunset Climate Zone 23, with some marine influence, resulting in mild winters and comfortably warm summers that make it a prime area for gardening year round.



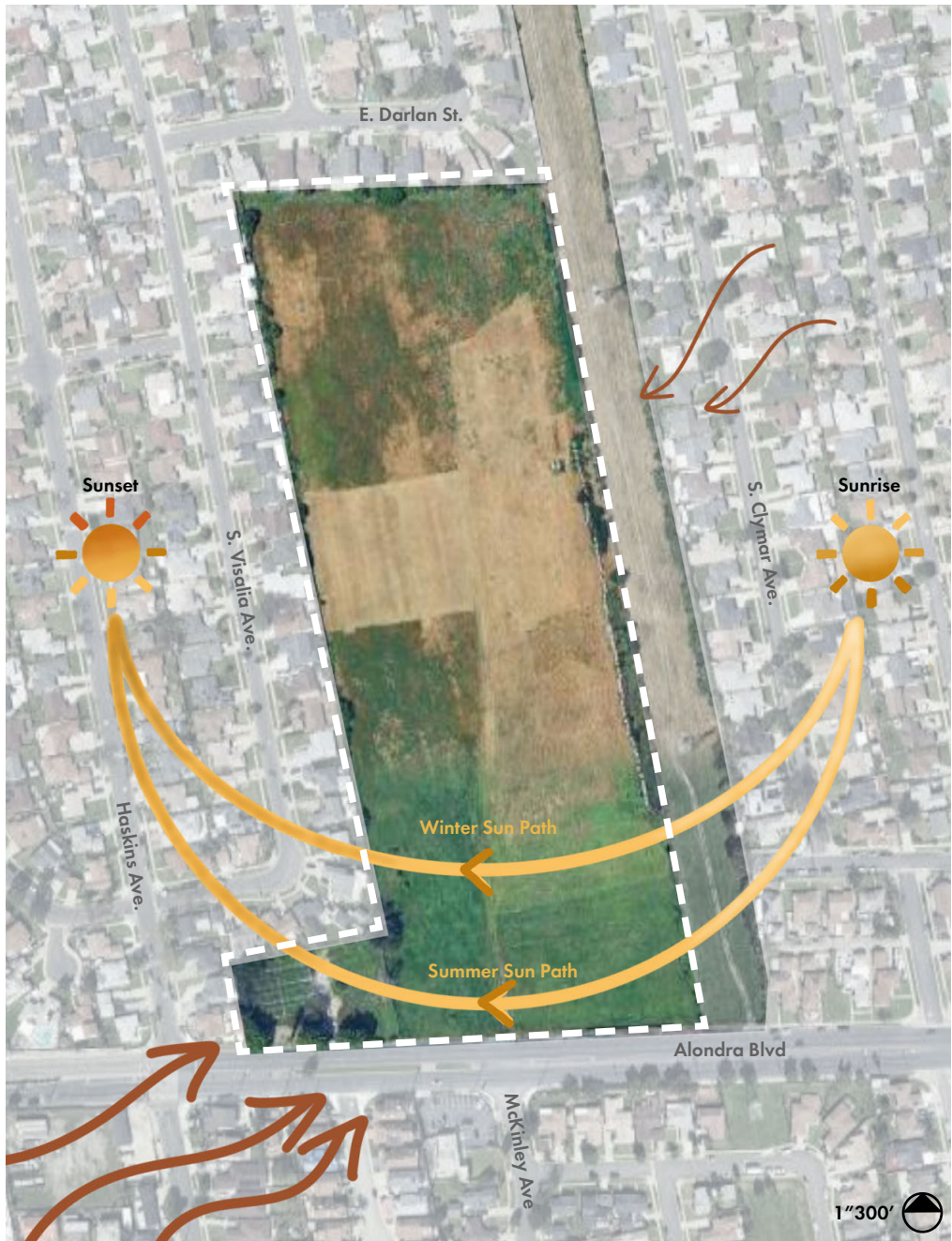
Average Temperatures



Average Rainfall

Physical Conditions

-  Sun Path
-  Prevailing Winds
-  Seasonal Winds



Inspired by

LONG TERM RESILIENCE



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

1. Transform vacant lot into community asset with amenities
2. Create a safe and welcoming street frontage that mitigates environmental burdens
3. Activate community connection through shared space and programming
4. Combat food insecurity with Compton's urban agriculture traditions, community-driven food production, and dining



CONNECT TO NATURE

1. Rehabilitate landfill into healthy, biodiverse park space
2. Collect, divert, and store on-site stormwater
3. Foster environmental education through classes, workshops, and interactive maker spaces.
4. Expand community greening efforts with plant nursery, street tree program, and demonstration gardens



REENTRY SUPPORT

1. Integrate reentry program participants into wider community
2. Provide hands-on green job training for economic stability that also maintains the park and combats food insecurity
3. Heal through horticultural therapy, multi-sensory gardens, and access to nature
4. Provide transitional housing

Informed by

A PATTERN LANGUAGE

LANDFILL REDEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

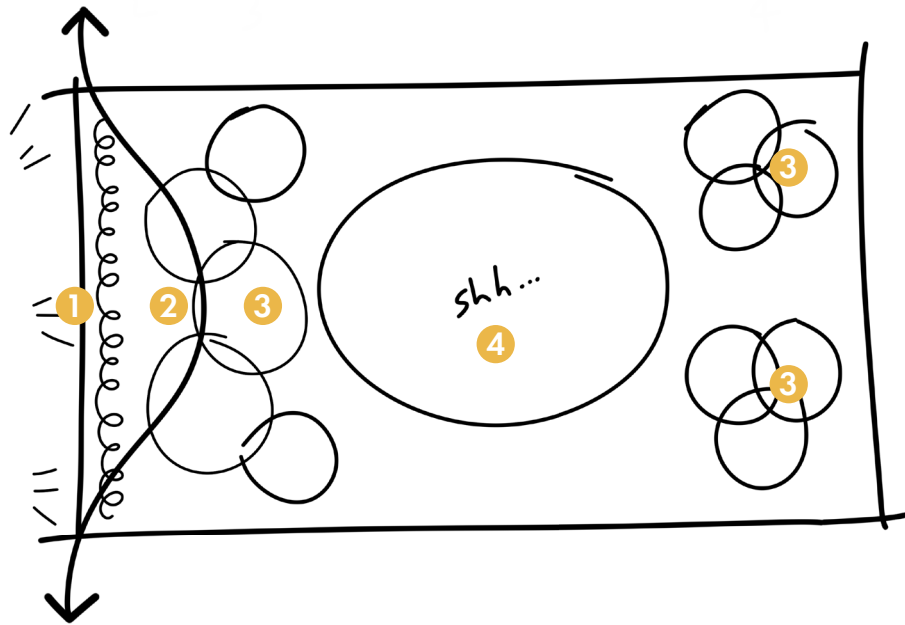
HEALING GARDEN DESIGN



A Pattern Language

Christopher Alexander et al, 1977

Select patterns guide the creation of an **enjoyable, sociable, and highly effective public space that attracts and retains visitors**, including hard- and soft-scape recommendations, proven layouts and adjacencies, and tenets of basic human psychology.



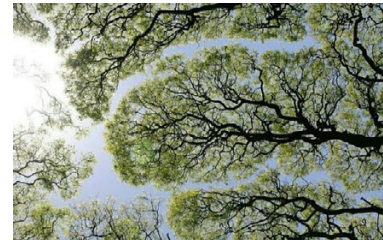
- 1 Block loud noise with thick plantings.
- 2 Place common areas at heart, easily accessible for pedestrians, so people naturally socialize.
- 3 Cluster activity nodes to maintain socialization.
- 4 Place boisterous activities on perimeter, and quiet natural spaces in the center for picnics and contemplative walking.



- 5 Implement a strong sense of place for community to feel welcome and proud of their public park space. Accomplished through personalization: cultural references, local materials, local artist contributions & murals, native plants.



- 6 Human scale elements to keep space accessible. Use smooth wide paths and open sightlines to encourage use and maintain safety.



- 7 Account for cool and warm seasons, with selective seating placement and natural and built shade elements, so users feel comfortable in any climate and time of day.



- 8 Integrate natural elements like trees, open ground, and water features into the hardscape to provide relief from concrete. These soften the space to feel more pleasant to be in.

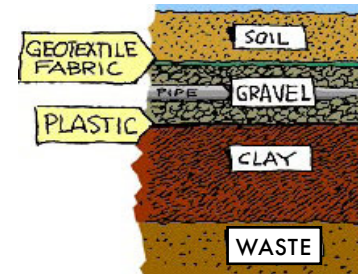
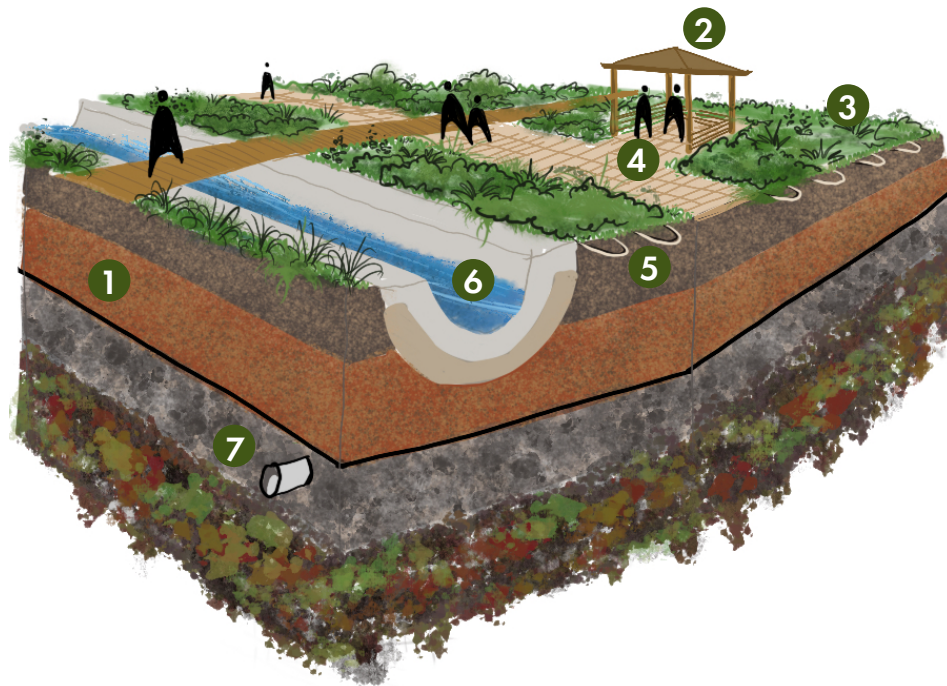


- 9 Preserve and design around important natural and historic elements, which anchor the site's sense of place and purpose to the community. Adaptively reuse elements where possible.



Construction on a Closed Landfill

Landfill redevelopment regulations are designed to **prevent damage to protective infrastructure**, **mitigate differential settlement**, and **avoid contamination** or leaks at closed landfills in order to protect the public and the environment. Complying to standard methodologies ensures the land can be safely rehabilitated to a natural outdoor space that welcomes plants, water, wildlife, people, and activities.



1 PROTECTIVE LANDFILL CAP



2 FLEXIBLE FOUNDATIONS



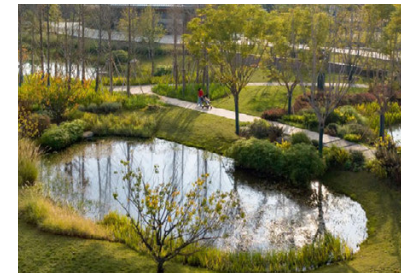
3 LOW VEGETATION



4 FLEXIBLE HARDSCAPE



5 FLEXIBLE UTILITIES



6 WATER COLLECTION



7 HAZARD MONITORING



Landscape and Urban Design for Health and Well-Being Using Healing, Sensory, and Therapeutic Gardens

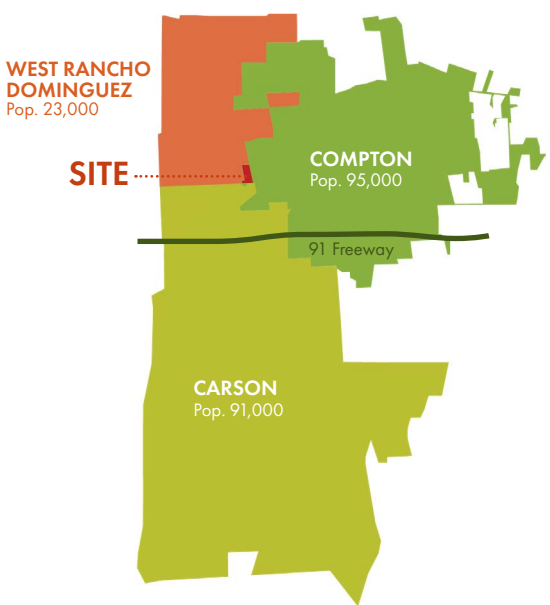
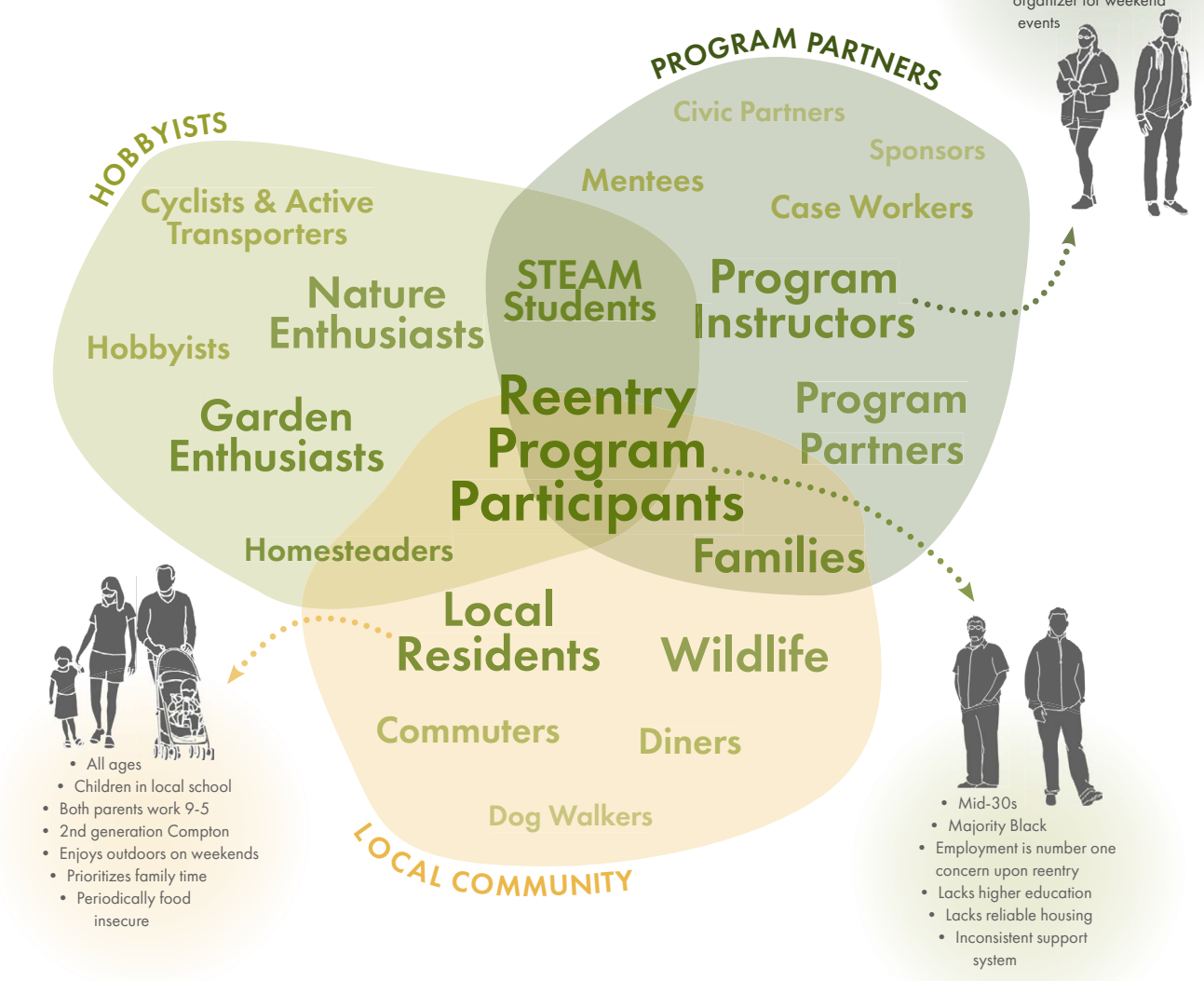
Gayle Souter-Brown, 2015

Healing garden design promotes wellness, improves mood, and reduces aggression and stress by using a biophilic framework with attractive, engaging, soft landscape treatments across **10 categories**:



USERS

At the heart of the park is the green job training-steward reentry program that employees formerly incarcerated individuals. Other users would include **local community members**, **park programming hobbyists**, and **reentry program partners**. Sample personas below:



	COMPTON	WEST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ	CARSON	LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Median Household Income	\$83k	\$86k	\$105k	\$96k
Unemployment Rate	6%	8%	5%	5.5%
Poverty Rate	15%	15%	8%	12%
Persons per Household	4	3	3	3
High School Graduate	33%	26%	21%	20%
Bachelor's Degree+	10%	14%	30%	39%

The communities around the site are ethnically diverse, with predominantly Hispanic, Black, and Asian communities, and have lower educational attainment.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS



COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

Protective Landscape Cap	740k SF
Welcoming Frontage	
Pedestrian Paseo on Alondra	10k SF
Transit Stop & Safe Street Crossing	1k SF
Parking Lot	15k SF
Entry Plazas	5k SF
Community Spaces	
Community Center	3k SF
Central Plaza	20k SF
Outdoor Kitchen + Dining	8k SF
Amphitheater	3k SF
Playground + Splash pad	3k SF

CONNECT TO NATURE

Native Gardens + Trails	Throughout Site
Stormwater Management	
Engineered Detention Basin	10k SF
Diversion Swales	20k SF
Food Programming	
Community Garden	20k SF
Farm Stand	1k SF
Cafe, Restaurant, Dining Deck	10k SF
Community Green Education	
Demonstration Gardens	20k SF
Compost Station	1k SF
Outdoor Experiment Lab	2k SF
Landscape Maintenance Hub	2.5k SF

REENTRY SUPPORT

Urban Agriculture	
Hoop House Nursery	100k SF
Street Tree Nursery	50k SF
Animal Husbandry	40k SF
Green Job Training + Workshops	
Indoor Education Rooms	20k SF
Outdoor Education Rooms	4k SF
Maker Studio Craft Space	15k SF
Healing Nature Spaces	
Multi Sensory Gardens	125k SF
Perspective Hill	125k SF
Holistic Support	
Temporary Housing	5k SF
Private Outdoor Lounge Space	15k SF
Wellness Space	10k SF

Municipal

This project involves diverse stakeholders, from **environmental regulators** overseeing landfill remediation, to **public agencies** managing park infrastructure, to **justice organizations** administering reentry services for the formerly incarcerated.

STATE

- **CalRecycle** - operations & monitoring of closed solid waste landfills

COUNTY

- Los Angeles Department of City Planning - land use planning
- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power - utility easement
- Los Angeles County Public Works - general infrastructure & utilities
 - **Environmental Programs Division** - preserves environment & protects public health from landfill hazards
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board - monitoring leachate
- Los Angeles County Sheriff Department - police force in Compton

CITY

- City of Compton Recreation Department - manages parks and recreation
- Compton Public Works - infrastructure and public utilities
- Compton Fire Department - fire fighting and management
- Compton Traffic Authority - manages street infrastructure along site
- Compton Waste Division - trash, recycling, and yard waste removal
- Compton Water Department - providing potable and irrigation water

USER STAKEHOLDERS

- California Department of Corrections - oversees state's criminal justice system
 - **Division of Rehabilitative Program** - manages & supports returning citizens
- Compton Service Center - Compton-based reentry support organization

Community

This diversity **creates opportunities for partnerships** across all categories, including mentorship programs with at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth, STEAM classes for on site green experiments, and local food justice organizations.

CONTEXTUAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Compton Unified School District - Bunche Elementary, Bursch Elementary, and Enterprise Middle School are within a few block walk radius from the site
- FAA - airspace regulation
- Compton/Woodley Airport - operation of local airport
- Local Residents - also park users
- **Compton Successor Agency** - currently owns the Project Site. Oversees economic development of Compton, including management of commercial districts, resource support, and local workforce development
- Local Businesses - adjacent nursery

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- **Compton College's Rising Scholars Program**
- Compton Youth Employment Opportunity Program
- Compton Chamber of Commerce
- USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- Clean Compton Initiative
- Compton Community Development Department
- Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership

Presidio Tunnel Tops

San Francisco, CA | 2025 | 18 acres

Transforms elevated highway infrastructure into an ecologically rich public park, stitching historic parklands back together.

Key Insights that apply to the Project Site:

- **Thin Planting Medium** - Due to weight limits and elevated infrastructure holding the park above the freeway, they used minimal planting medium, limiting the planting palette to low scrub with very few trees.
- **Choreographed Movement** - Capitalized on views of culturally iconic Golden Gate Bridge and The Bay with winding trails back and forth down grade so position is always changing. Low planting and winding paths encourage curiosity and exploration
- **Seat Backs** - Most benches have backs, facing the view and ocean, to encourage longer, comfortable stays. Options of individual, small group, or large group seatings
- **View Points** - Manufactured mounds facing the views for specific reflection points
- **Textural Details** - Used weathered and repurposed natural materials like felled logs, boulders, gravel, and teak for textural interest and sense of place.
- **Sensory Planting** - Plant material is native or climate adapted, lending to sense of place on the coast. Wispy plants move in the wind, flowers attract wildlife, a few trees frame views, creating a restorative, sensory experience.
- **Hands-On Ecological Discovery** - Visitor center offers learning exhibitions about the park and wildlife, rangers offer tours, an Eco-Lab has interactive scientific and art craft experiences, and outdoor learning labs let people interact with water, materials, and plants.



Park built over 7-lane highway



Wispy plants, windswept teak bench with back to wind, views of Golden Gate Bridge



Winding DG paths in low vegetation with views



Learning Lab for adults and children



BBQ and ADA Picnic Tables for gathering



Local artists mural under Shade Canopies

Cully Park Portland, OR | 2018 | 25 acres

Transforms a former landfill into a park by and for the people, in the most diverse, park-deprived neighborhood of Portland, catalyzing revitalization and hope for future generations.

Key Insights that apply to the Project Site:

- **Industrial-Residential Location** - Context requires buffering from industrial zone, updating perimeter to integrate park into fabric of neighborhood, and rebuilding off site streets for better, safer park access for residents
- **Landfill Remediation** - Implemented landfill closure requirements including impervious liner, gas extraction and leachate collection systems, imported soil on top of liner, and stormwater diversion systems to protect the cap.
- **Infrastructure** - Structural engineer contractors used to devise foundation system to address landfill settlement and slope stability. Pre-loaded areas of future building with fill and compaction to accelerate settlement over a 2-year period.
- **Trees** - Careful selection of tree and plant species with shallow, less invasive roots, and placement of trees over unlikely areas of penetrating landfill liner.
- **Divested to Invested** - Shows power of collaboration among non profits, the city, and private donors to bring outdoor space to underserved neighborhood.
- **Cultural Reference** - Native American inter-tribal gathering area and cultural programming to honor spiritual significance of the land and surrounding area.
- **Community Gardens** - Dedicated are with raised beds and plots for community members to own and garden edible fruits and vegetables.



Site Plan showing mix of heavy and lightweight infrastructure on top of landfill



Community Garden with in-ground and raised bed plots



Indigenous programming & celebrations



Gathering Circle with reclaimed wood totems



Shade Structures, Play Mound Bridge, and Sandbox



Rock Mound play structure

Rainier Beach Urban Farms & Wetlands Seattle, WA | 2018 | 10 acres

Community-driven project to provide food and employment opportunities through an urban production and education farm, workshops and cultural events around equitable food system, and restored wetlands with green stormwater infrastructure.

Key Insights that apply to the Project Site:

- **Job Training** - Creates permanent on site and seasonal jobs, while also offering bridge programs for young adults to gain job and life skills around agriculture, gardening, nutrition, cooking, garden maintenance, and community events.
- **Educational Workshops** - Offer seasonal and year round community classes around urban agriculture, preparing, preserving and cooking food, bee-keeping, composting, and horticultural programs to a variety of ages.
- **Increased Community Access to Food** - Farm produce used in local CSA program, free You-Pick farm, seasonal affordable farm stand, and community meals cooked on site, supporting local individuals and enhancing community connectedness.
- **Spatial Site Layout** - Thoughtful layout utilizing natural flat, arable land for agricultural, berms for separating programming, and elevated areas for buildings. Created flexible community building with commercial kitchen and open floorplan to host events or smaller scale gatherings, along with covered porch for outdoor gatherings with protection from weather elements.
- **Stormwater Infrastructure** - restored wetland to manage stormwater and provide lost habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- **Culturally Responsive Gardens** - In addition to providing food for community, dedicated areas for diverse community groups to honor cultural traditions around food, like the African Elders Garden.



Greenhouses for Protected Growing



Convenient Raised Beds & Community Garden



Outside Covered Porch for Workshops



Inside Community Room with Industrial Kitchen



Accessible Open Plaza for Community Events



Bee Keeping Apiary Tucked in Protective Shrubs

The Steel Yard

Providence, RI | 2009 | 3.5 acres

Adaptive reuse of a former steel fabrication facility into an education space teaching fabrication arts like welding, metalwork, ceramics, and glass blowing, and a vibrant community events space, honoring local identity.

Key Insights that apply to the Project Site:

- **Thematic Job Training** - Education courses are for the same skills the original building was used for: fabrication. This deepens the connection to the site's and community's history.
- **Sense of Place** - Adaptively reused the mill and common steel materials to restore the space on a budget, fit in with surroundings, and avoid destroying its history.
- **Personal Ownership** - Students created site amenities with leftover materials like scrap metal benches, creating sense of pride and stewardship over space. Incubator space gives small businesses and artists retail footprint
- **Communal vs. Private Layout** - Concept of central "carpet" for public events, surrounded by vegetated stormwater "moat," with private, smaller spaces like "hang out" movie deck and outdoor workshop spaces accessed by bridges, separating public and private space while maintaining openness and connectedness.
- **Outdoor Learning Rooms** - Multiple outdoor learning rooms for classes and workshops of various sizes are spaced around the central paved area, which is wide enough for vehicle access, enabling events like car shows, welding competitions, and festivals.
- **Sustainable Materials** - Minimized impermeable surfaces with "woven" carpet of different permeability materials. Processes stormwater on site. Uses recycled discarded materials like appliances and car parts as site elements. Native pioneer plants to recolonize site.



Permeable Turfstone leads to Hang Out Steps and Lawn



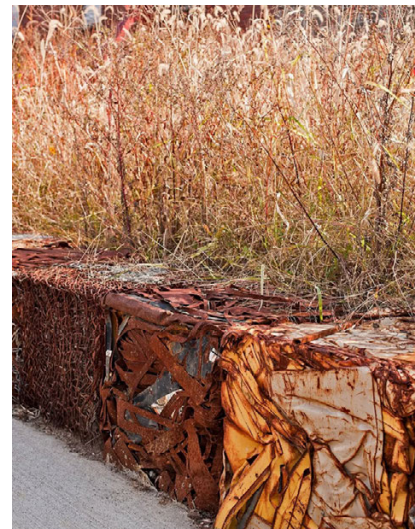
Welding Event with Spectators in Main Plaza



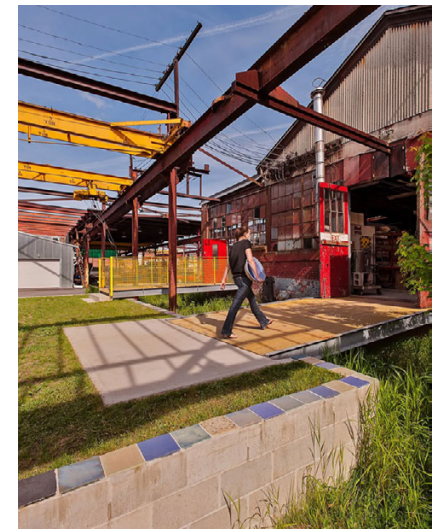
Outdoor Classroom Set Off Main Plaza



Car Show on Central "Carpet"



Student-welded Scrap Planters



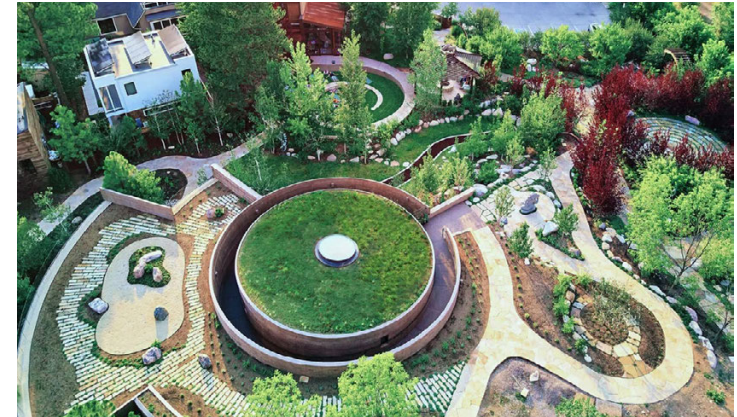
Bridge to Training Foundry

True Nature Healing Arts Carbondale, CO | 2018 | 2 acres

Created a sanctuary for quiet healing and transformation, with a retreat center, cafe, workshop space, and restorative Peace Garden that uses biodynamic gardening practices and sensory methods to ground users.

Key Insights that apply to the Project Site:

- **Interactive Therapeutic Gardens** - The Peace Gardens that surround the retreat center are made for exploring to enlighten users. There are six distinct sensory gardens connected by wandering paths: Zen Garden, Labyrinth, Reflexology Path, Wishing Tree, Yoga Spiral, and Fire Circle. Zen Garden allows you to rake sand meditatively. Reflexology Path lets you feel different riverstone textures on your feet.
- **Filtered Outdoor Light** - Outdoor spaces vary in sun exposure, with shaded areas using a light tarp or slatted wood to allow filtered light in, creating a peaceful respite.
- **Outdoor Rooms** - Although the gardens are connected by a path, each space uses different materials to give a sense of place and activate your senses. Each garden is defined by different landscape elements to signify the different rooms, such as small colorful trees and semi-permeable shrubs.
- **Amenity Proximity** - Gardens are placed close together, at egresses, and on top of all buildings to create an immersive, grounding experience and encourage continual usage of the space.
- **Hide & Reveal Views** - The paths choreograph your movement and experience, with intentionally placed trees, shrubs, hardscape, and sculptural follies to direct your eye and generate curiosity which you discover as you continue moving. Windows in buildings look out to specific garden views.
- **Immersive Community Building** - Subterranean Kiva healing room at center of garden design, with retreat amenities like welcome center, spa, yoga studio, cafe underneath the gardens



Winding paths connect all gardens, around central sunken earthen kiva



Reflexology sensory garden



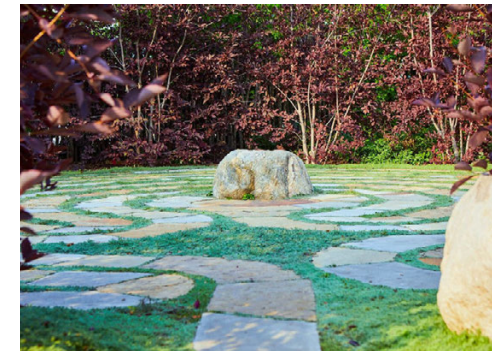
Twisted paths create hide and reveal moments



Zen garden with gravel to rake



Filtered light under white tarp



Labyrinth garden surrounded by red shrubs

SITE OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

- 1** Buffered pathway for safe pedestrian use and multi-modal transportation
- 2** Trees can be planted in deep soil areas, along perimeter, and at street frontage to provide shade equity
- 3** Vehicular entrance at existing McKinley cross street for easy bi-directional ingress and egress on Alondra Blvd.



CONNECT TO NATURE

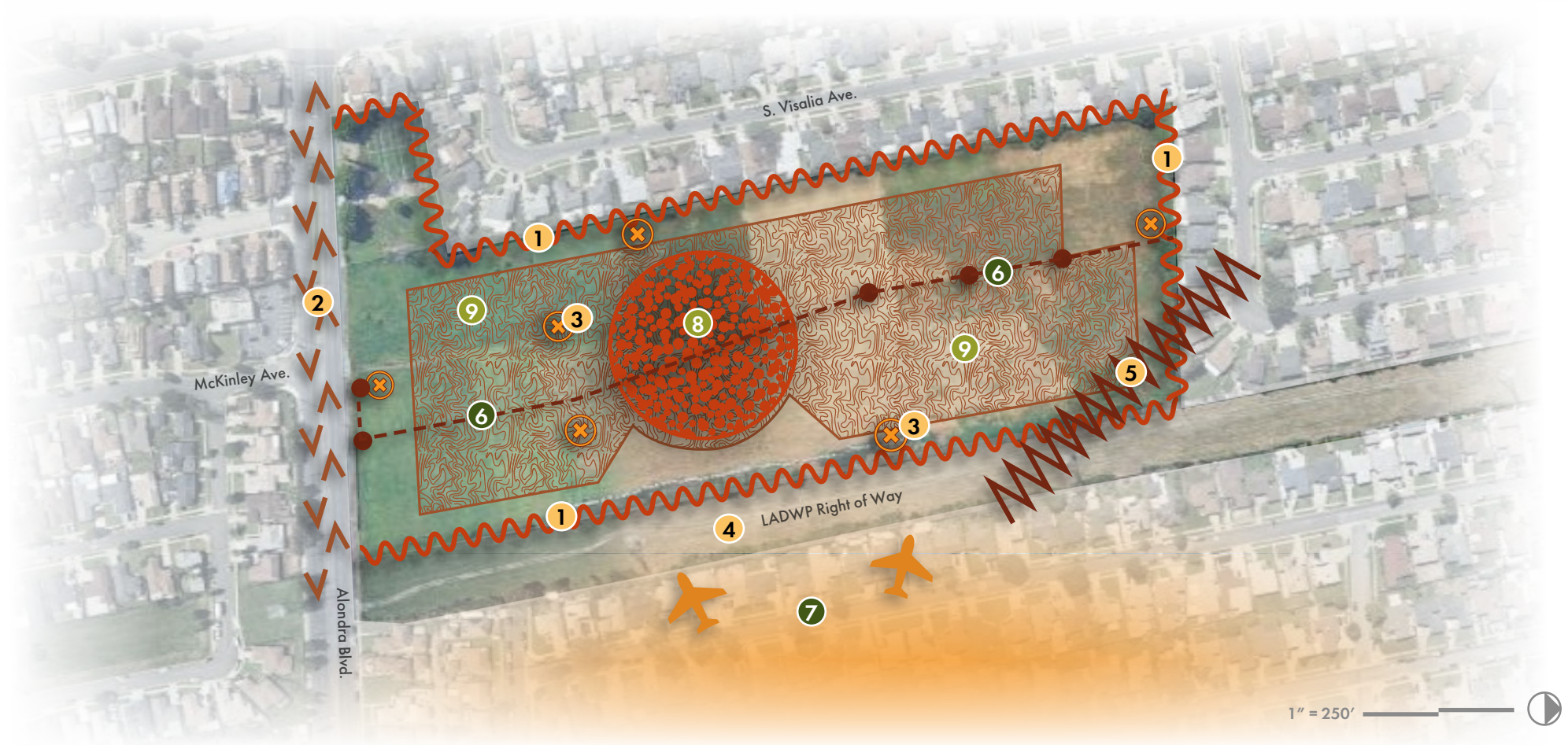
- 4** Stormwater collection and diversion can follow original perennial stream drainage pattern & topography
- 5** Native plant habitat requiring no irrigation can be planted over deep pit, generating ecological biodiversity & access to nature within urban setting
- 6** Lowest elevation next to municipal stormwater catch basin can store collected water in a vegetated detention basin



REENTRY SUPPORT

- 7** Zero-waste areas can support building foundations for structures
- 8** Shallow-wasted areas can accommodate planting with low-to-moderate irrigation and adequate drainage, including raised beds and nursery tables, after being capped

SITE CONSTRAINTS



COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

- 1 Three sides of site are inaccessible by the public
- 2 Alondra Blvd. vehicular traffic is heavy, fast, and unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists
- 3 Landfill hazard monitoring infrastructure requires 5' access setback; nearby buildings need methane monitoring
- 4 LADWP Right of Way with high-tension electric towers blocks east perimeter and access
- 5 Seismic fault-line creates unstable land for tall buildings



CONNECT TO NATURE

- 6 Existing stormwater drainage infrastructure bisects the site
- 7 Airport regulations prevent dense strands of tall trees or wetlands that could attract flocks of nesting birds

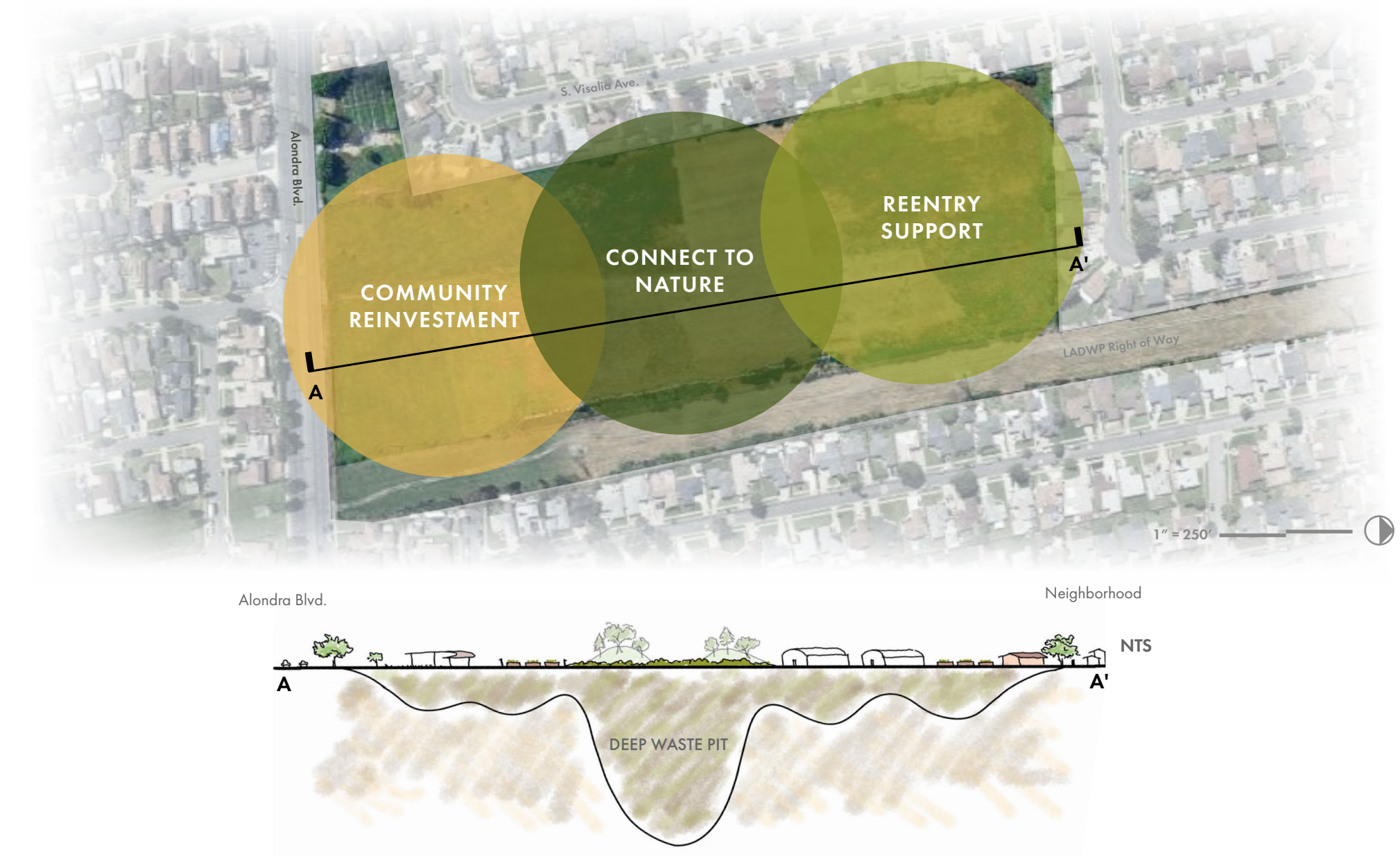


REENTRY SUPPORT

- 8 Deep waste pit will have the most settling, prohibiting structures and irrigation
- 9 Shallow-waste threatens structure foundations, can't receive excessive water, and contaminated soil is unsafe to grow food directly in

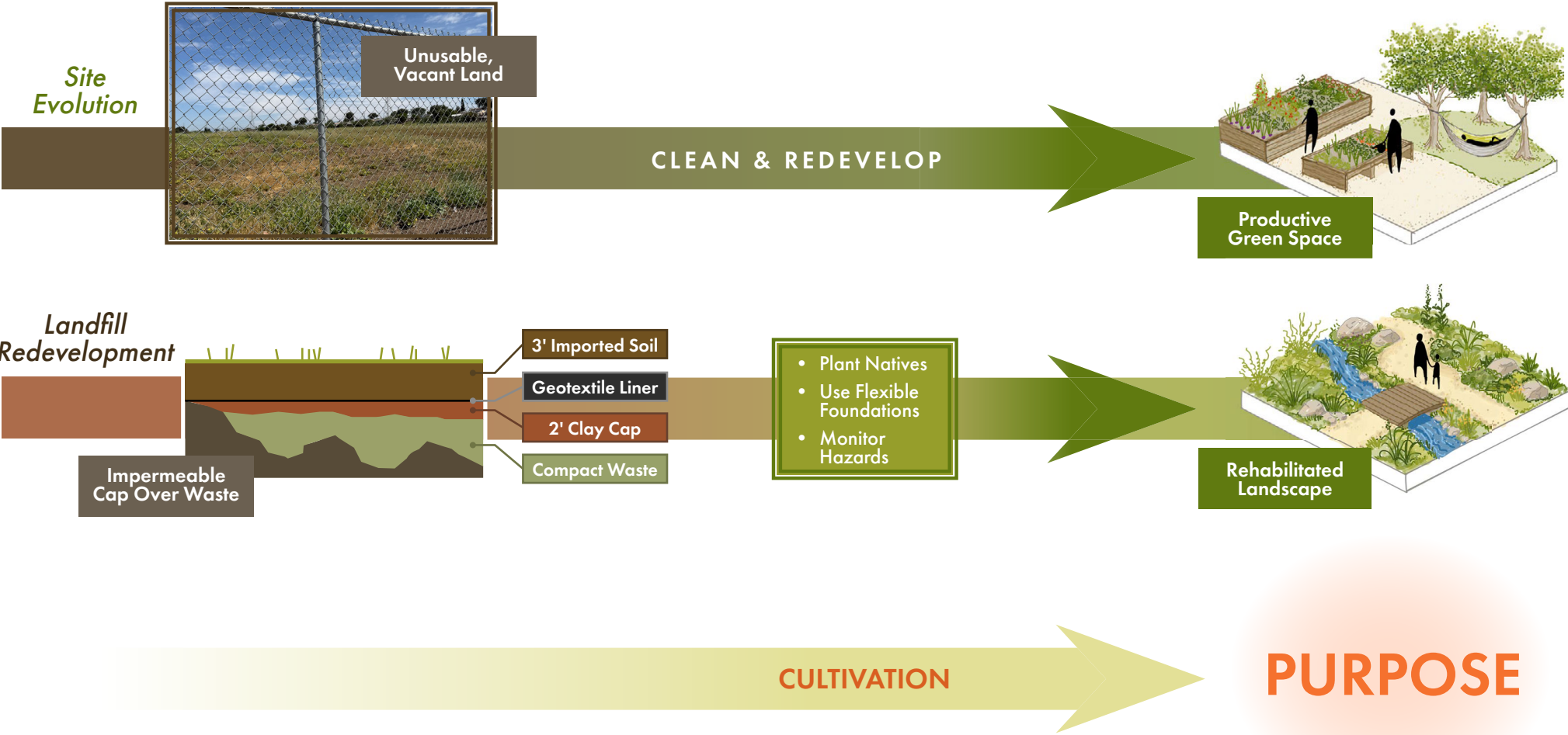
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT | SITE ORGANIZATION

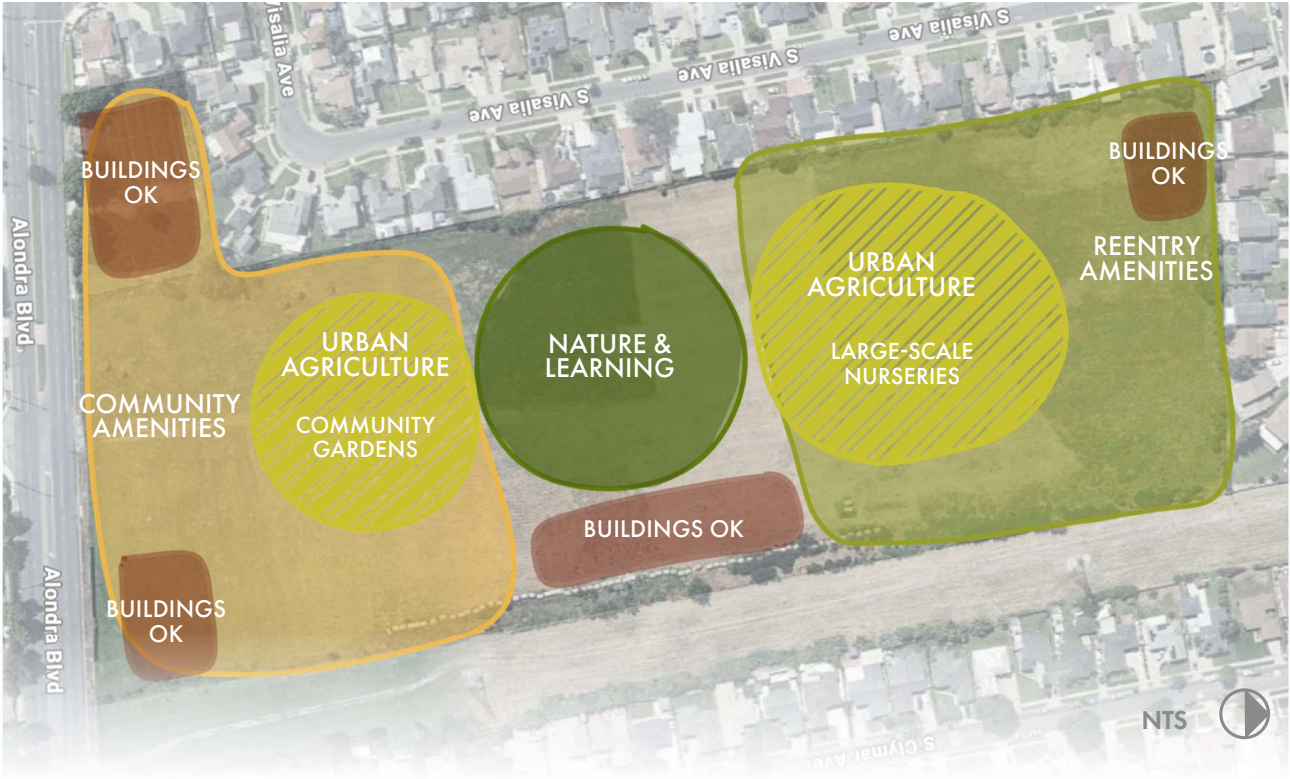
The overall site organization became evident based on the analysis: community spaces in the south near public street access to encourage usage; areas to reconnect with nature and participate with the land in the center; and the reentry program in the north, balancing privacy with public integration



The progression through physical space on the site inspired the big idea of the project and design:
A Park that Cultivates Purpose

It reflects the literal and metaphorical transformation that both the land and people go through, from something overlooked and marginalized, to something rehabilitated and full of purpose. This project transforms spaces, people, and situations that are outcomes of systemic divestment, neglect, and exploitation, into healthy, healing, and abundant versions that connect communities, support individuals, and create a resilient and sustainable future for generations, illustrating how purpose can be cultivated.



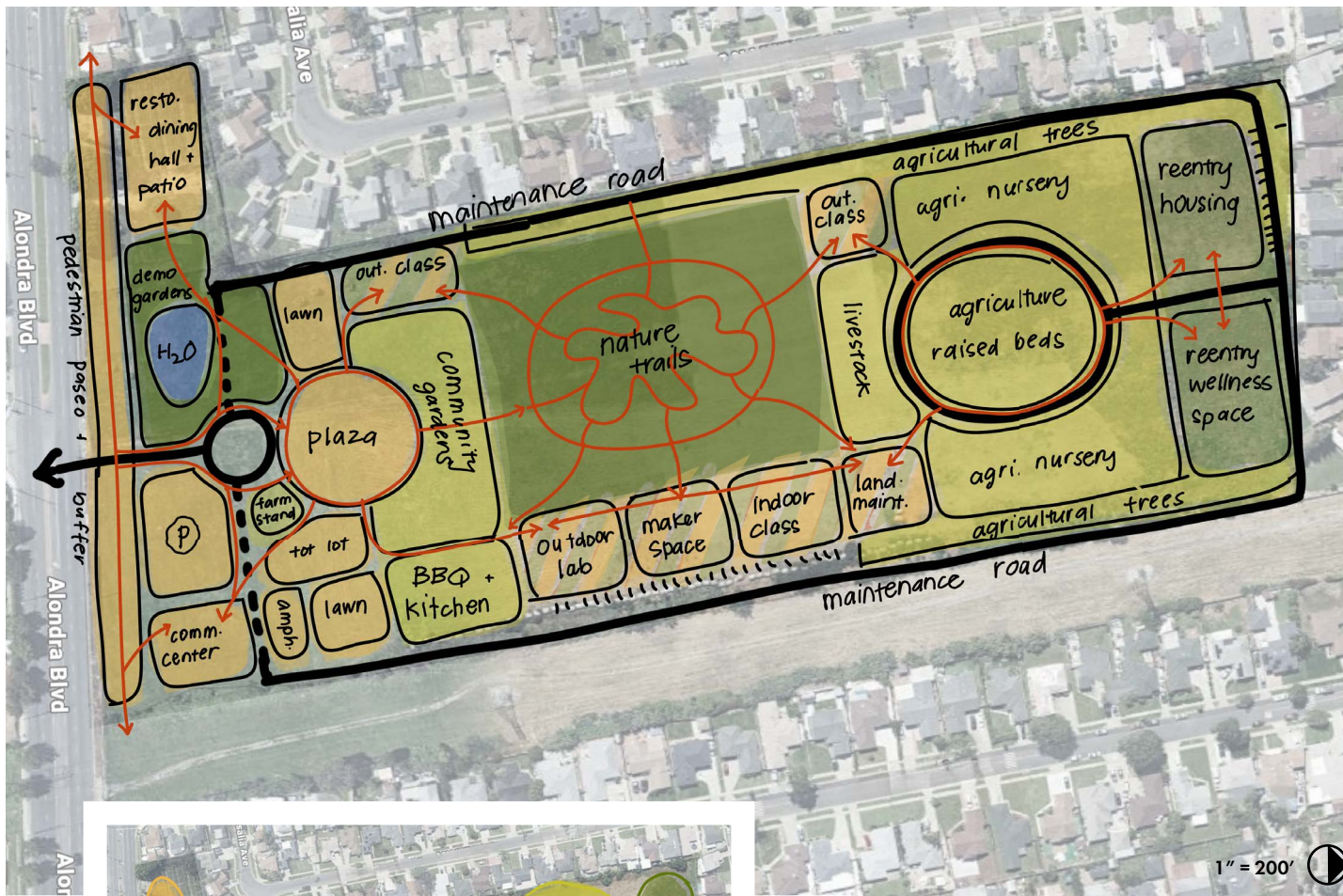


Users of the park find and cultivate purpose as they experience and interact with the space.

The progression through spaces and programming empowers visitors to become increasingly active community members, while helping formerly incarcerated participants reintegrate and find purpose and belonging within the community.

All connected by the healing power of nature.





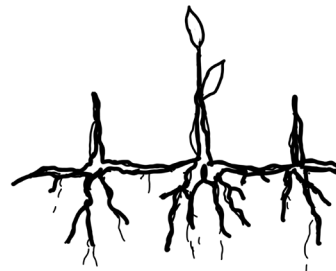
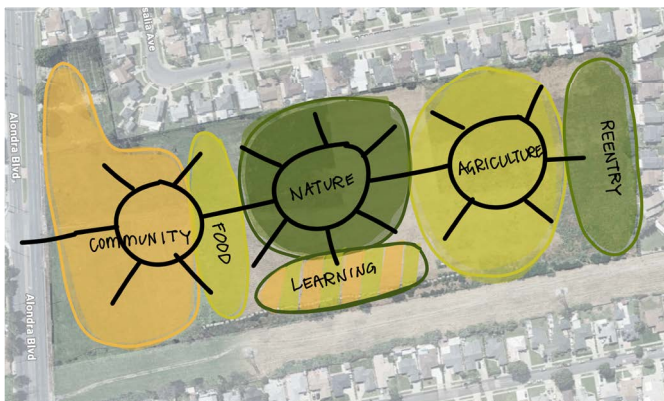
Rhizomes are resilient roots of nature, creating a support system until conditions are optimal to bloom. They can tolerate setbacks and challenges, using reserves of strength and support to bounce back. Their resilience reflects the ability for community, land, and people to unite and use shared resources to grow and thrive, despite hardships imposed upon them.

ADVANTAGES

1. Each third of site has it's own dedicated circular circulation for easy wayfinding.
2. Maintenance road can access all sides of site & programming that needs vehicular access
3. Community Gardens is central, indicating importance within hierarchy
4. Strong central, grand entrance.
5. Reentry wellness space maintains privacy from general public.
6. Outdoor classrooms and learning spaces are spread out creating more diverse opportunities for gathering and learning.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Scattered community food programming.
2. Community center feels disconnected and less important within hierarchy of spaces.
3. Restaurant may be too loud near residences.
4. Livestock at center may feel too prominent, and not as convenient to access from future urban trail in right of way.
5. Reentry wellness space feels disconnected from nature area at center.



DESIGN LAYOUT ALTERNATIVE 2 | WOVEN REINTEGRATION



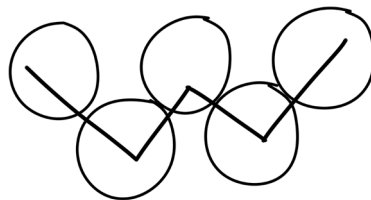
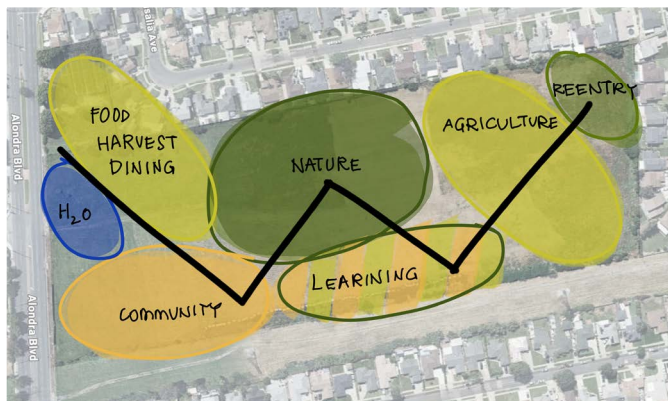
People, communities, and the land are stronger together than separate. This concept weaves back together the patchwork of cultures, experiences, people, and land through education and mutual reciprocity, reflecting unity, wholeness, and strength through shared purpose.

ADVANTAGES

1. Circulation moves users back and forth across site for dynamic experience and multi-directional views
2. Community Center is centrally located and successfully bridges gap between visitor <=> steward by learning space connection.
3. Wellness Reentry space is connected to nature trails.
4. Lawn and tot lot near entrance for easy access.
5. One large perspective hill overlooks site.
6. Livestock area close to future urban trail in right of way, and set back from residences.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Half of maintenance road would cut through site.
2. Parking is isolated, inconvenient
3. Reentry Wellness space is less secluded from public access.
4. Lacks a grand entrance.
5. Circulation does not align with natural activity notes
6. Learning spaces are clustered in one space instead of spread for diverse experiences.



DESIGN LAYOUT ALTERNATIVE 3 | SEED BANK



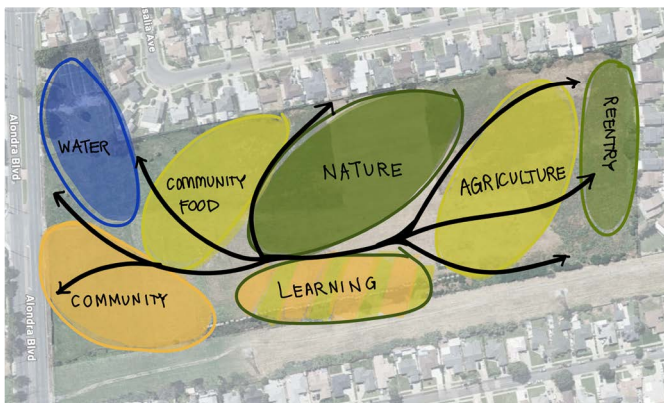
Seed banks save the best seeds of every type of plant, storing the latent opportunity to grow when the conditions are optimal, usually after a challenging setback. This reflects the same opportunity for individuals, community, and the land to blossom and develop into the best version of themselves through this project and site.

ADVANTAGES

1. Learning spaces are more distributed, creating multiple opportunities for use.
2. Circulation from street converges to plaza and community center before continuing on, and organic shapes reflect nature themes.
3. Reentry housing & wellness space maintain privacy from public.
4. Dining immediately adjacent to parking for convenience.
5. Additional plazas along front for more quick park use by passerbys.
6. Central hill has 360 views.
7. Livestock area close to future urban trail in right of way, and set back from residences.

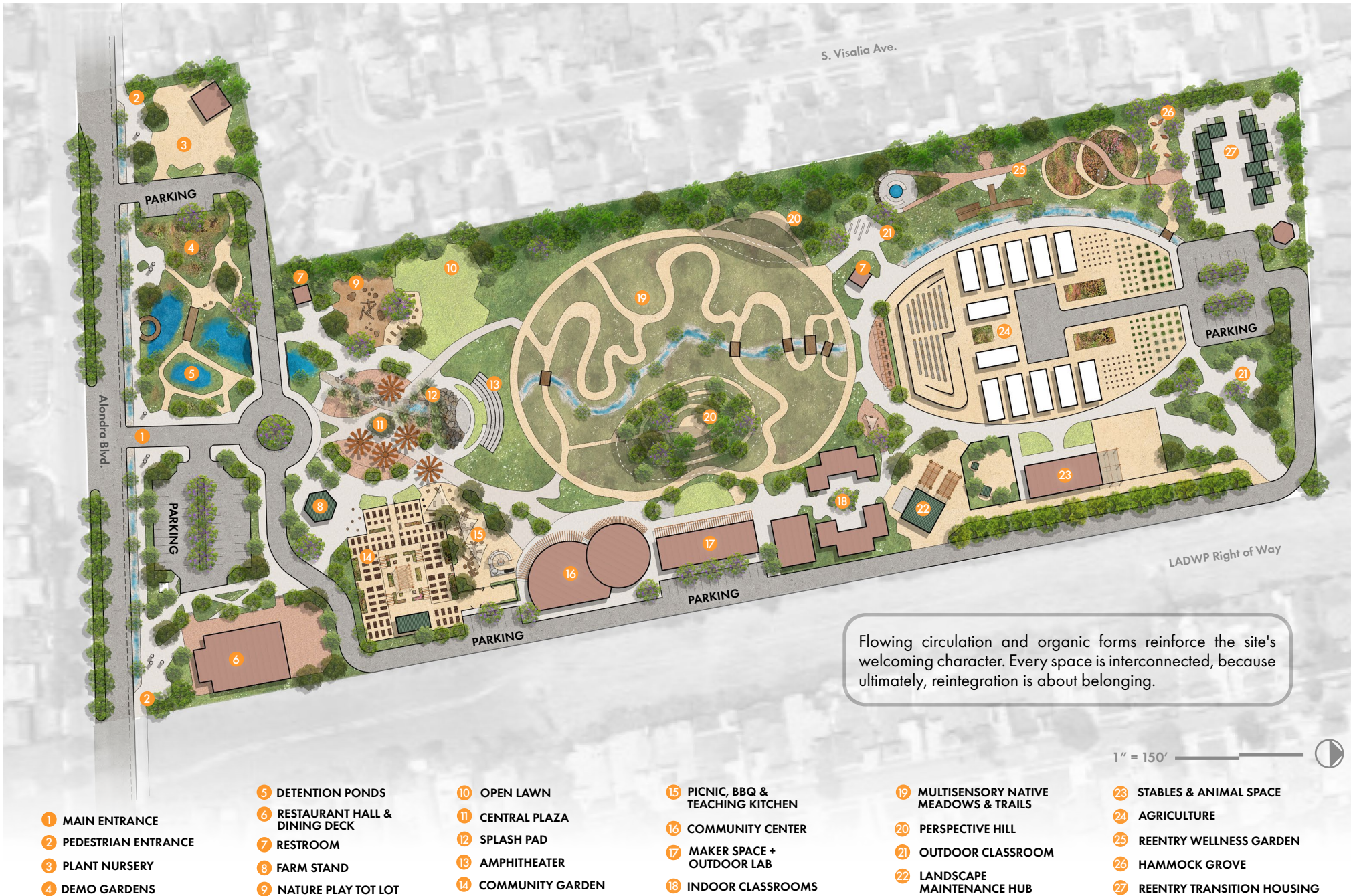
DISADVANTAGES

1. Doesn't capitalize on all no-waste areas for buildings or heavy irrigation or landscaped areas.
2. Tot lot is separated from other high traffic community amenities.
3. Maintenance roads weave throughout entire site.
4. Maker Space is disconnected from Outdoor Experiment Lab, which may need closer connection.





ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN



VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

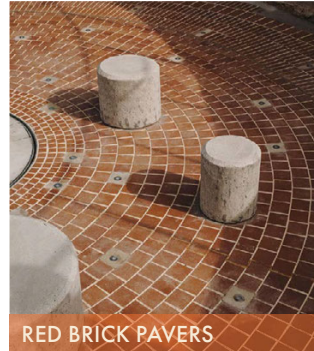


MATERIALS LOOK AND FEEL



The park uses **organic materials** like gravel and wood to help people feel grounded, along with local materials like clay bricks, an homage to the original clay mining pit on site.

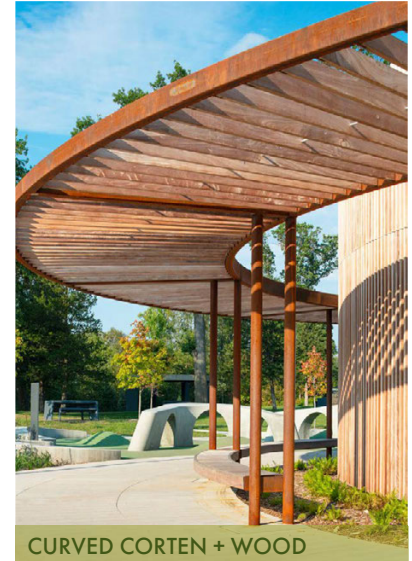
Materials that celebrate a second life are prioritized, like weathered steel with it's warm patina. Gabion walls give leftover concrete rubble from the site a new purpose.



RED BRICK PAVERS



CURVING DG PATHS



CURVED CORTEN + WOOD



LOW STONE WALLS + MEADOW GRASSES



WOOD PLAY STRUCTURES



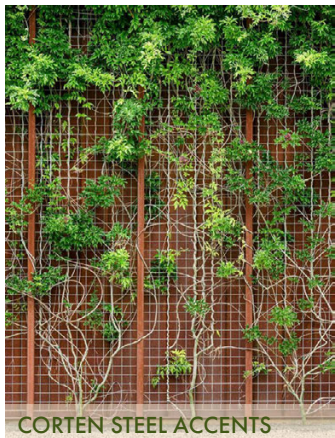
CURVY WOOD TABLES



LIVING ROCK WALLS



GRAVEL + CORTEN SEAT WALLS



CORTEN STEEL ACCENTS



SHADE SCREENS + VINES



ROCKY WATER FEATURES



GABION SEATS + WALLS



PROTECTIVE CLAY CAP

After deep compaction, a 2' impermeable clay cap is installed on top of the landfill waste to **prevent water infiltration**.

3' OF VEGETATIVE SOIL

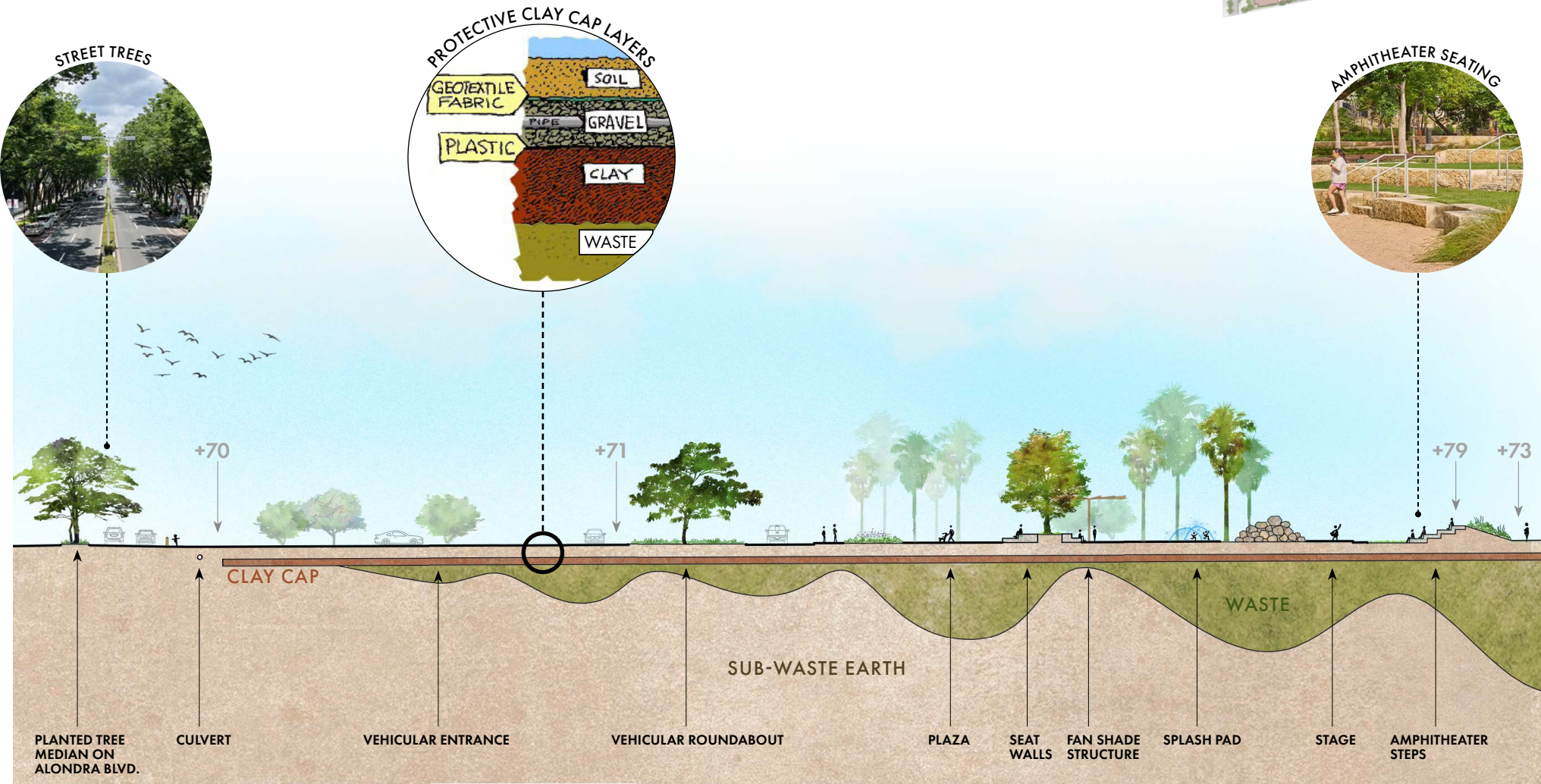
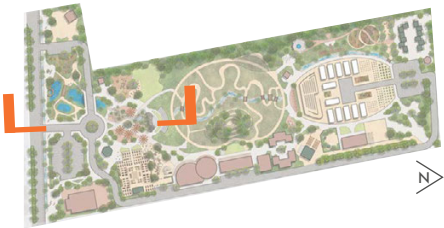
Imported soil would allow for shallow rooted trees and other **planted vegetation** that require no-to-low irrigation.

SPECIAL FOUNDATIONS

Vertical hardscape elements like sculptures and pergolas would use specialized foundations that spread weight horizontally to **avoid differential settlement** effects. Elements like the Amphitheater take advantage of the site's existing gentle slope.

KEY MAP

1" = 700'





KEY MAP

1" = 700'



WELCOMING ENTRANCES

At major corner entrances, pedestrians and commuters from existing adjacent bus stops find small plazas with integrated **seating, bike racks, and signage** to lead them into the park.

GREEN BUFFER

A dense **tree canopy** follows the new pedestrian sidewalk which is set in from the street, buffered by a new **protected bike lane** and a 10' wide **bioswale** running the length of the park on Alondra Blvd., capturing and processing stormwater runoff through curb cuts.

INTERPRETIVE ARTWORK

Art installations at entrances tell of site's history. **Time capsule totem sculptures** of layered concrete embedded with cultural mementos **encourages dialogue** about the landfill, Compton's rich diverse history, and a resilient future in a poignant way.



Rain Garden along street to filter stormwater



Verdant buffer between road and pedestrian paths



Concrete time capsule totem sculptures



PROMINENT

Ephemeral **stormwater ponds** surrounded by **demonstration gardens** of native and climate-adapted plants create an attractive focal point for visitors at the front of the site, the **naturally lowest elevation**.

RESTORATIVE

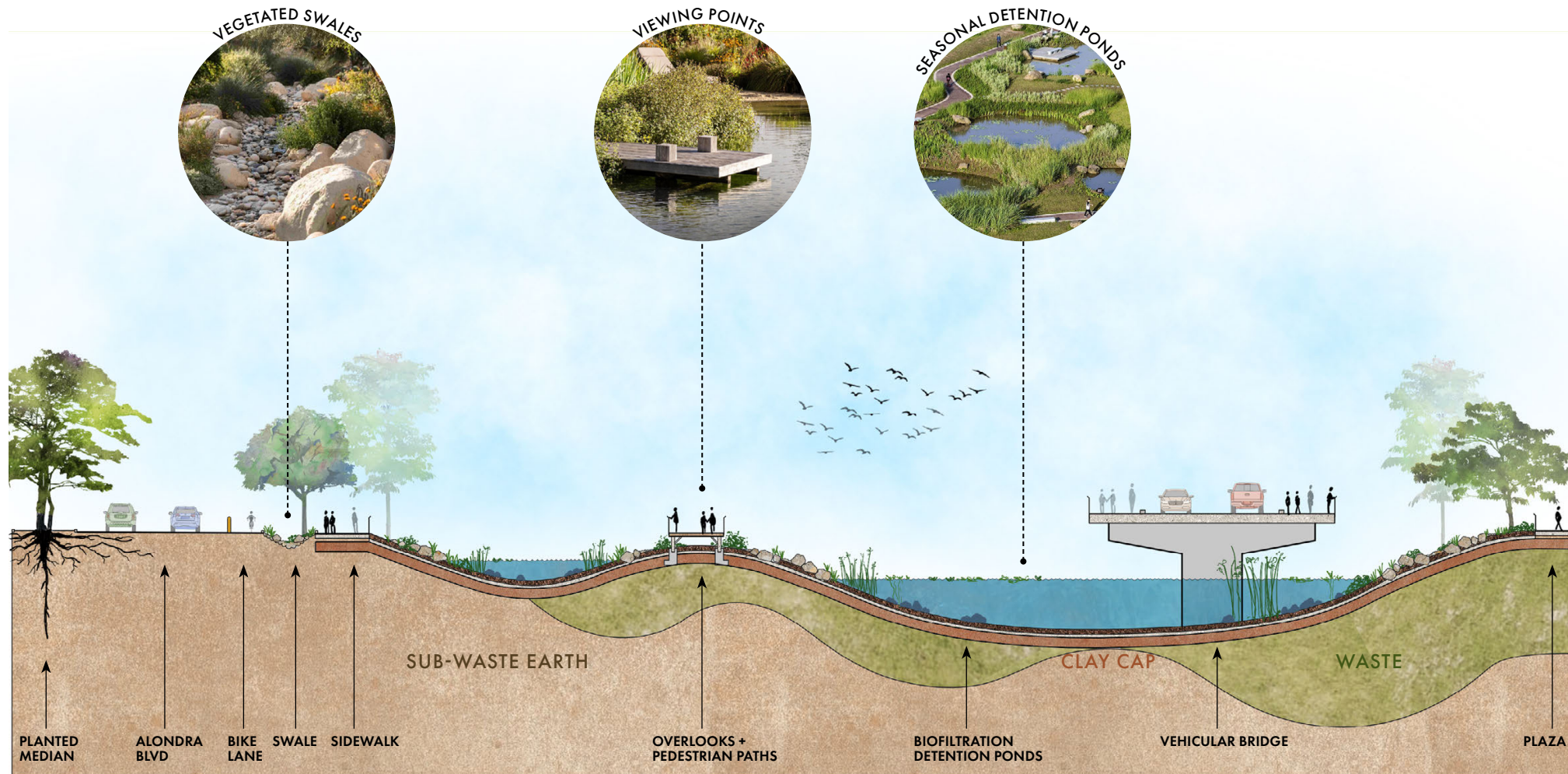
Water is a **calming**, grounding element, creating a space for **curiosity and reflection**, while also setting a welcoming tone for the rest of the park.

RESOURCEFUL

Seasonal ponds **support wildlife** & mitigate heat. Stored water is cleaned through bioremediation can available for reuse as **on-site irrigation**.

KEY MAP

1" = 700'



1" = 30'



ACCESSIBLE

Pedestrian and vehicular **bridges** increase **connection and curiosity**, allowing visitors to experience ephemeral ponds up close while learning about stormwater management.

BUFFERED

Ponds are **concrete-lined** to prevent infiltration into potential landfill waste, then **layered with soil** to support seasonally aquatic species including phytoremediative plants. Overflow flows into nearby stormdrain on Alondra Blvd.

EDUCATIONAL

Creates an opportunity to teach community about **local ecology** and inspire ways to build a more **resilient environment at home**.

KEY MAP

1" = 700'





1" = 30'

KEY MAP

1" = 700'



COMMUNITY CORE

Central **gathering space** welcomes visitors, connected to all other communal amenities, with plentiful seating options.

SPATIAL ZONING

Paving **assists wayfinding** to other areas of the park and defines outdoor rooms. Circular brick paving represents communal unity.

GHOST CREEK BED

Contrast paving **trace the route of the original stream** through the plaza, connecting above ground stormwater elements with their underlying history

A **splash pad** springs from behind the amphitheater outcrop, providing cooling fun. Scattered palms and boulders follow the dry stream path, enhancing the illusion.

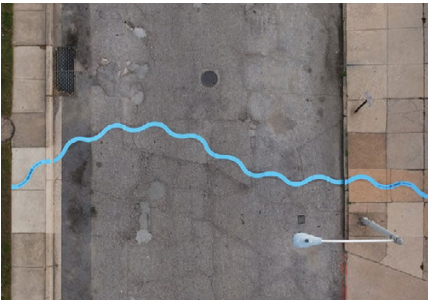
SHADE STRUCTURES

Fan-shaped shade structures echo the palm trees while also paying tribute to **Compton's 'Hub City' legacy**.





INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS
Visitors can lounge on large bench **swings** under a fan shade, sit or scramble over **embedded boulders**, and cool off in the **splash pad** spring oasis, conveniently located near the tot lot and grassy lawn.



Baltimore's *Ghost River*



Organic stone water feature + splash pad



LOCAL REFERENCES

Brick paving **honors on-site natural resource** and genesis of site's landfill history: the clay mining pit.

Overhead fans provide **respite over seating options** in community hub and are a **memorable city icon**.



Central node plaza with converging paths



Concentric brick paving to honor site's history



KEY MAP

1" = 700'



URBAN AGRICULTURE

Large community garden anchored off central plaza to **improve food access**:

- Variety of garden bed sizes including ADA accessible plots
- Peaceful arbor walks
- Pollinator gardens
- Central gathering pergola
- Supply shed & greenhouse
- Vehicle access for loading, drop off, and ADA access

COMMUNAL DINING

Expansive picnic area, **long continuous bench** to unite individual tables

Shade sail and trees in raised planters provide shade

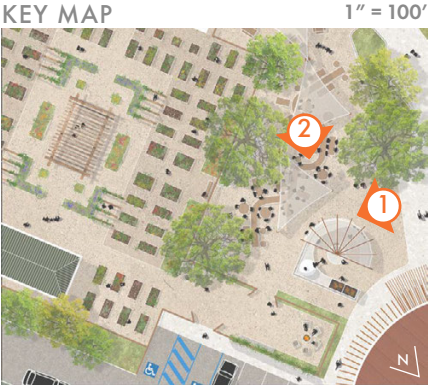
FOOD EDUCATION

Curved commercial teaching kitchen with bar, pizza oven, and BBQ for **nutrition and cooking classes** and **group meals**.

Adjacent to community center to foster engagement.

1" = 30'





FOOD LITERACY
Commercial kitchen adjacent to community garden creates fun environment for **community to get involved with food** production, cooking, nutrition, and group meals.



Outdoor interactive teaching kitchen



Long shared picnic tables



REWILDING

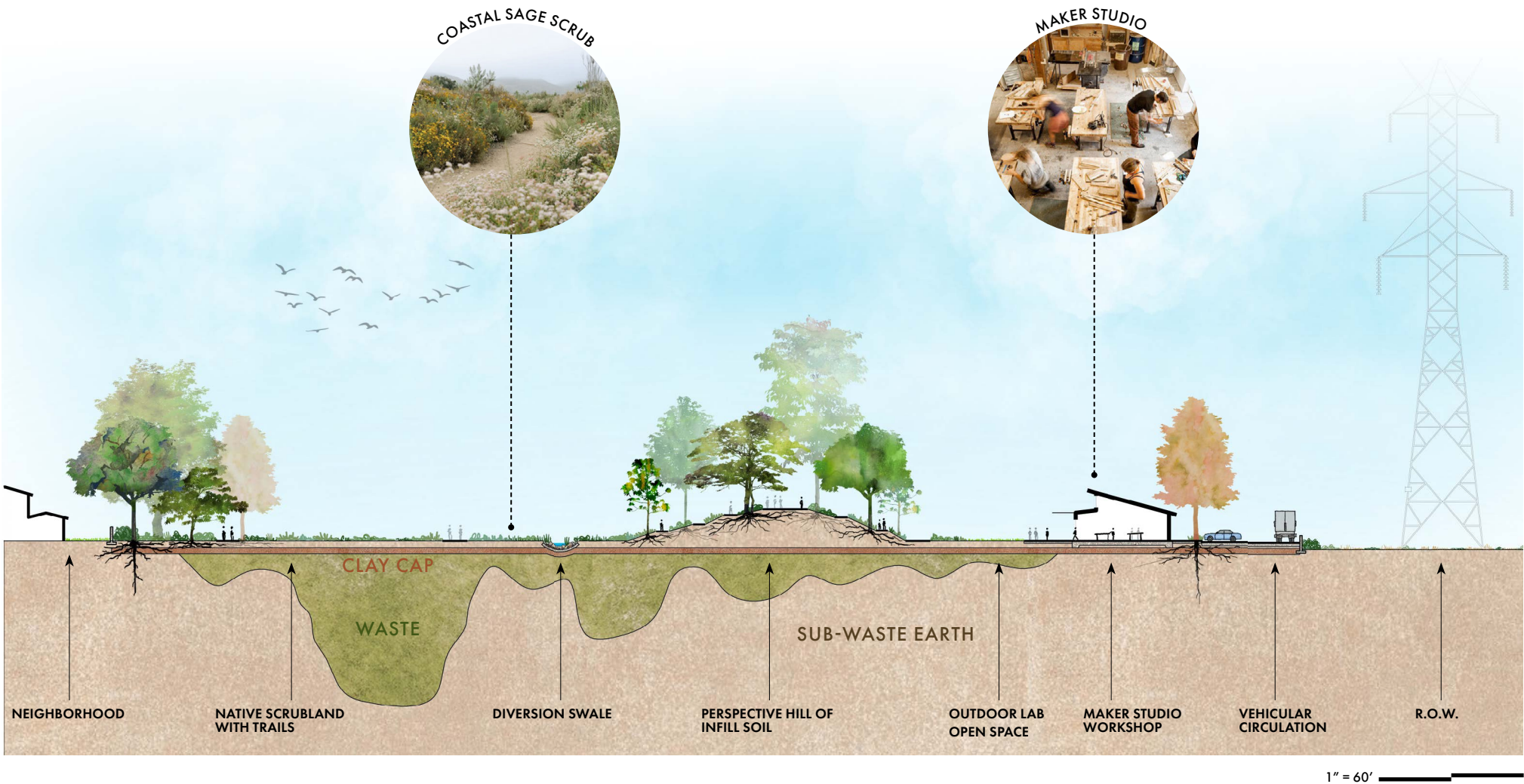
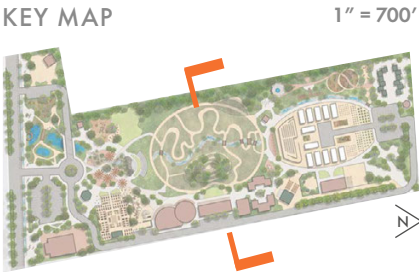
Restores **native coastal sage scrub** ecosystem, which is accustomed to no supplemental water, a requirement for plants over the large waste pit on the site. Attracts & supports native wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Diversion **swales** carry water to front ponds, following original perennial stream path.
Trees buffer the neighborhood for privacy while combatting pollution and heat effects.

GREEN INNOVATION

A **maker studio** workshop and outdoor lab provide uninhibited space and materials for **exploration and experiments** related to landscape maintenance, horticulture, green infrastructure, and more.





KEY MAP

1" = 700'



NATURE TRAILS

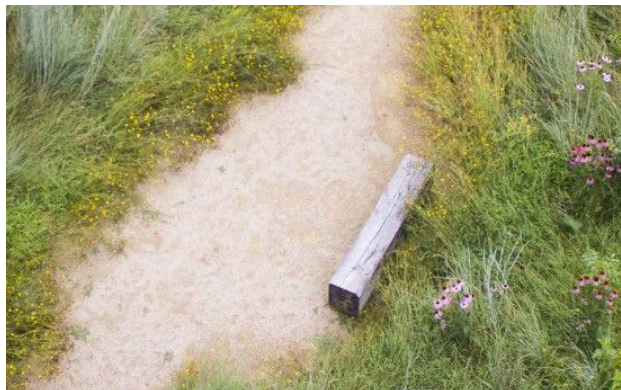
Meandering trails through the 4 acre scrubland create opportunities for **exercise, restorative walks** that create calm, opportunities for teaching about native plants and animals, and as welcoming outdoor space for **Compton's active equestrian community**.

ELEVATED LOOKOUTS

Infill hills create topographic variety and allow for **tree planting with deep roots** that won't threaten the clay cap or interfere with the right of way towers, while still providing natural areas of **shade and respite**.

Views from the earthen hills provide panoramic views of the site, surrounding neighborhood, and flight path, fostering **perspective, optimism, and a sense of freedom**.

A gentle winding path provides universal access to the top, while stairs offer a direct route that can double as cardio exercise.



DG trails through restored native coastal sage scrub



Low hills with tree canopy



Meditative views



KEY MAP

1" = 700'



GREEN JOB TRAINING

Landscape Maintenance is a key part of the reentry program. Lessons would be held at a variety of spaces:

- Indoor classrooms
- **Maintenance building with equipment**
- Outdoor workshop space & open yard
- Small and large outdoor classroom-style gathering areas with seating and shade

PRACTICE SKILLS

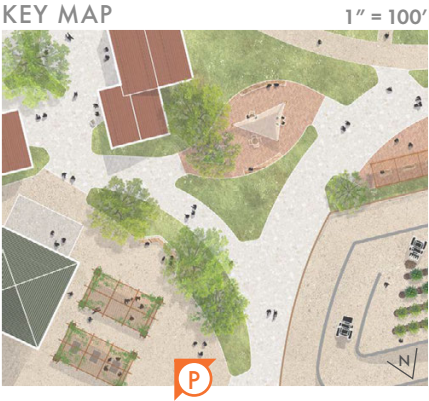
Centrally located to large scale urban **agriculture zone**, wilderness, and **park landscaped areas** to conveniently apply & practice skills and transport equipment.

REINTEGRATION

Situated at confluence of civic and reentry spaces for visibility and **community connection**.

Covered swings look back on native scrub as a playful rest stop for all park users.

1" = 30'



HANDS ON TRAINING

Dedicated **indoor and outdoor training** spaces for reentry participants, including a Landscape Maintenance Hub for **learning proper maintenance techniques**, from pruning to arboriculture, operating equipment, and installing irrigation, etc.

STEWARDSHIP

Land management develops care and stewardship of site, bolstering **sense of pride** among reentry participants and community. Horticulture and nature-based training fosters practical trade skills and a space to build shared community.

VEHICULAR ACCESS

Connected to vehicular circulation, and adjacent to both the central nature trails and agricultural zones for convenient **access to practice** learned skills on site.



Outdoor workshop & lab



Maker studio space



Hands on green job training workshops



STREET TREE PROGRAM

Drought tolerant and street-tree-approved species are grown on site to be donated to **local community greening efforts**, mitigating community-wide heat and pollution burdens.

HOOP HOUSES

Enclosed nursery structures enable safe, elevated, climate-controlled **cultivation of fruits, vegetables, drought tolerant plants, and seedlings**, avoiding potentially contaminated soil under clay cap, to sell at on-site nursery on Alondra Blvd.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

Beds of flowering perennials and shrubs are distributed throughout the agricultural area to **support natural pollination** of nursery-grown plants.

KEY MAP

1" = 700'





KEY MAP

1" = 700'



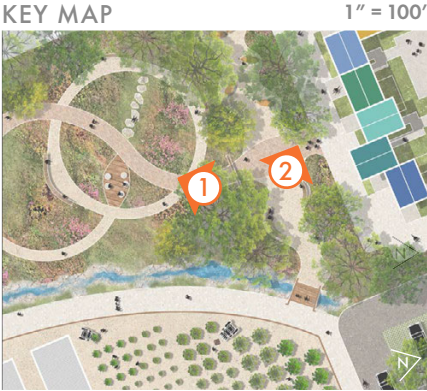
HEALING OUTDOOR SPACE

After spending their time caring for the park's landscape, this is a landscape designed to care for them. A private space for reentry participants, designed with sensory, healing, and calming elements:

- Diverse **organic textures** to ground users into here and now
- Individual and group **immersive seating**
- Meandering paths to explore
- **Aromatic and colorful** plants to inspire curiosity
- **Hammocks** for comfortable outdoor lounging
- **Water element** for reflection
- **Dappled shade** creates a comfortable ambiance

PRIVATE HOUSING

Transitional housing to support participants outside of work and training hours is set in a quiet corner as a restorative retreat. Gives shipping containers a renewed purpose as holistic support housing for reentry participants.



PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

Dedicated lounge & living spaces for participants **to call their own** & take a break from work and training, an important part of their healing journey.



Tree covered hammock grove



Personalized shipping container housing units

REFLECTION POND



MEDITATIVE

Secluded within the multisensory garden, a shallow reflection pond surrounded by concentric arcs of soft wildflowers and cantilevered benches from boulders creates an organic, restorative place to **think, decompress, and find perspective.**

WILDLIFE

Shallow water attracts wildlife, doubling as a bird bath. Being immersed in nature and **observing other living animals** is a naturally calming experience, **lowering cortisol** and improving outlook on life.

REFLEXOLOGY GARDEN

Using a **mosaic of stones** of different sizes, the reflexology garden provides immediate grounding by **diverting focus** from internal thoughts **to the outside world** experience.

KEY MAP

1" = 700'

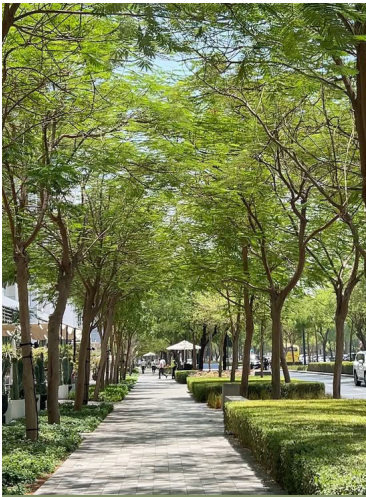
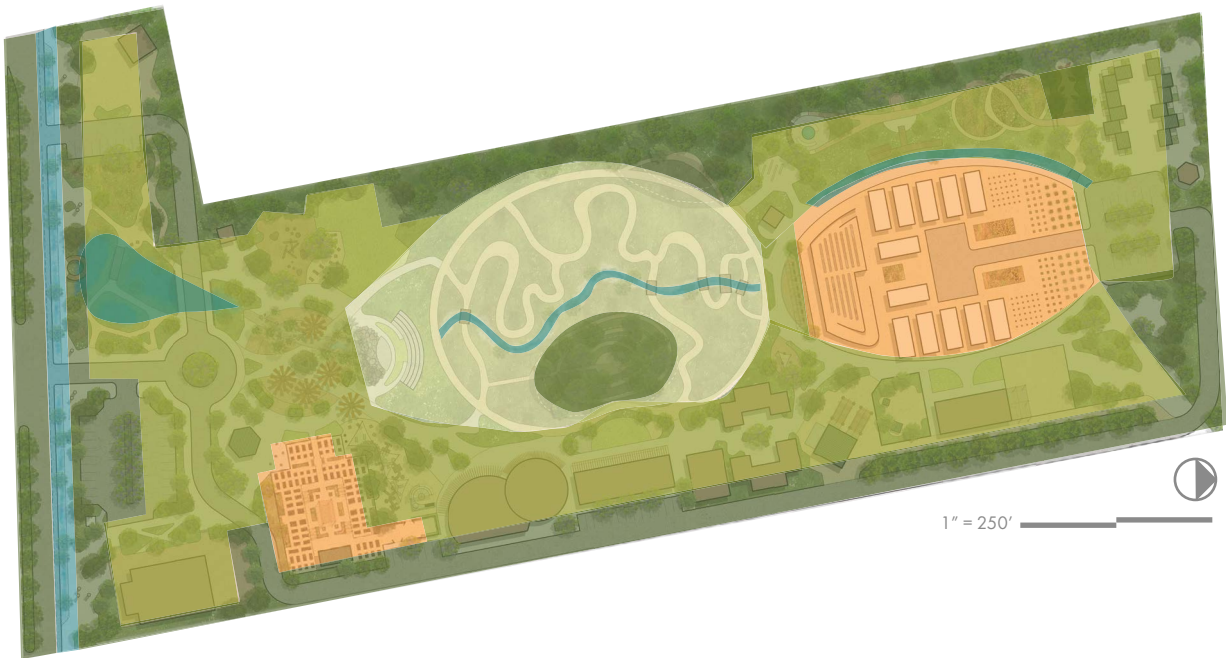


PLANTING STRATEGY

The planting palette is informed by local and historic ecology, future climate projections, and the shallow planting medium above the clay cap. Aside from agricultural plants, drought tolerant species are used throughout to minimize irrigation needs and potential water infiltration into the subterranean waste. Native plants attract local wildlife and create a clear sense of place, honoring local history.



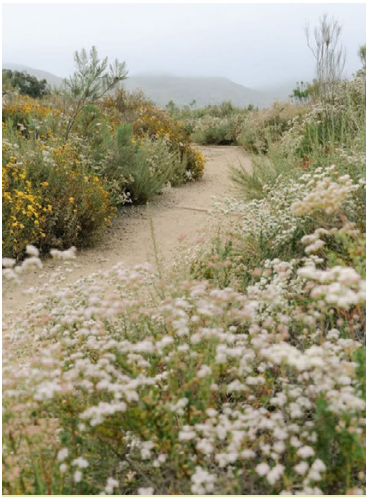
Edible plants throughout the landscape are given interpretive tags to improve food literacy



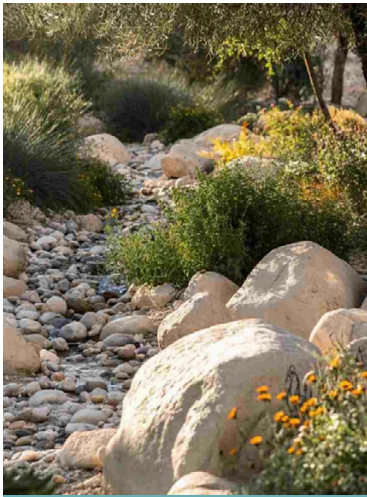
Shallow-Rooted Shade Trees



Lightly Irrigated Traditional Park Landscape



Non-Irrigated Native Coastal Sage Scrub



Seasonally Riparian Plants



Agriculture & Edible Plants

PLANT PALETTE | SHALLOW-ROOTED TREES

Tree planting over a former landfill is highly regulated by EPA and CalRecycle, limiting tree options to those with superficial, lateral, and fibrous roots and without tap roots or vertical-growing roots that could breach the clay cap and cause water infiltration. The following species are documented to have roots that predominantly stay within the top 36" of soil. Many trees would be planted within raised planters and atop bermed mounds of soil to ensure the long-term integrity of the protective clay cap.



Jacaranda
Jacaranda mimosifolia



Australian Willow
Geijera parviflora



Strawberry Tree
Arbutus unedo 'Marina'



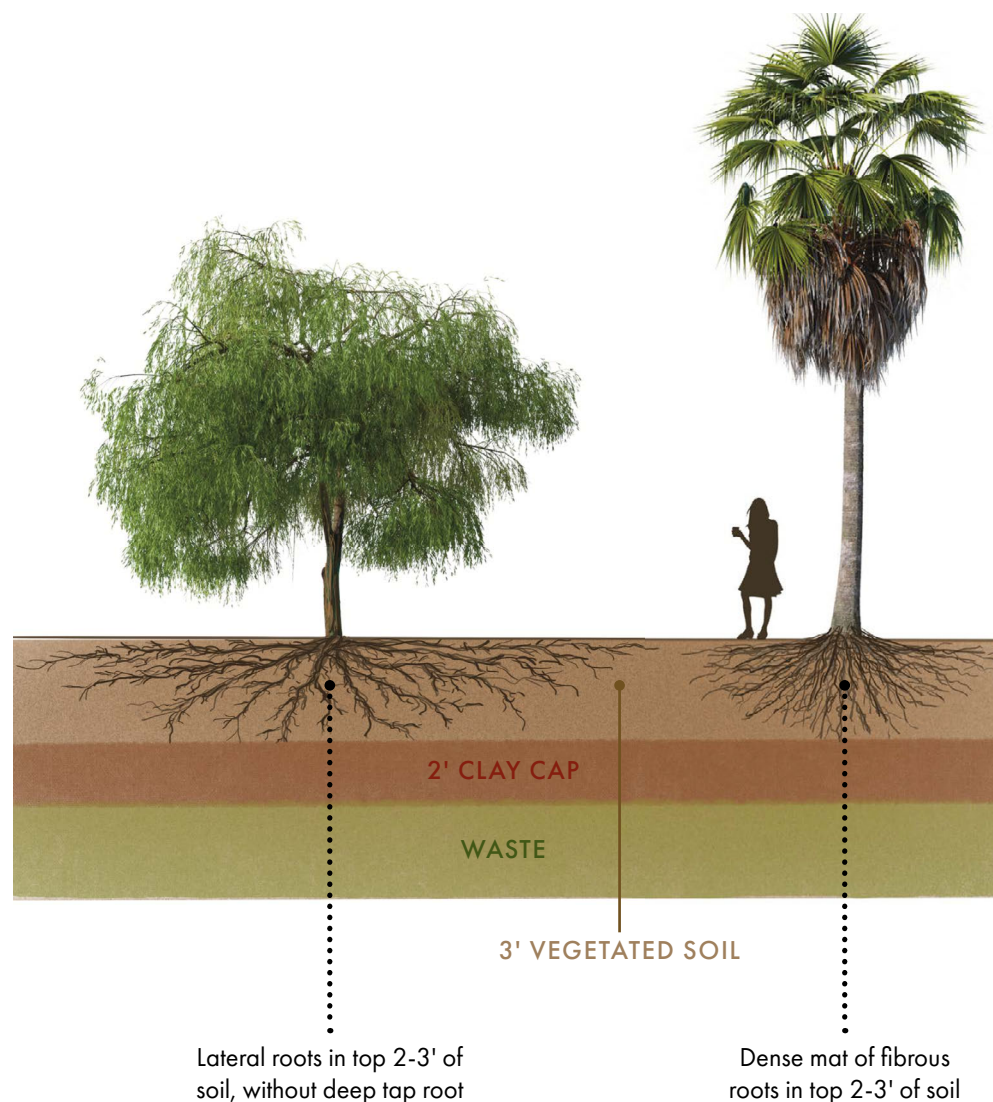
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora



Windmill Palm
Trachycarpus fortunei



Desert Museum Palo Verde
Parkinsonia x 'Desert Museum'



PLANT PALETTE | LIGHTLY IRRIGATED TRADITIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE

A mixture of locally native and climate adapted species create the foundational understory planting for the landscaped areas of the park. These plants prefer light irrigation throughout the year, but low enough to avoid compromising the protective clay cap below it. A blend of greens with pops of cheerful yellow, orange, and pinks complement the site furnishings and emphasize the welcoming tone of the park. These plants are low maintenance, vibrant bloomers, and perform well in mass plantings. Many prefer full sun, which is prevalent on the site due to lower than normal tree coverage, but some like Coffeeberry, Mirror Plant, and Foxtail Agave also thrive in low light areas, ensuring visual cohesion across the site's plantings.



Coral Pincushion
Leucospermum 'Veldfire'



Curve-Leaf Yucca
Yucca recurvifolia



Autumn Moon Sage
Salvia greggii 'Autumn Moon'



Jerusalem Sage
Phlomis fruticosa



Prostrate Coyote Brush
Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point'



Platinum Beauty Lomandra
Lomandra longifolia



Eve Case Coffeeberry
Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'



Marble Queen Mirror Plant
Coprosma repens 'Marble Queen'



Foxtail Agave
Agave attenuata



Orange Lantana
Lantana camara 'Radiation'



Lavender Cotton
Santolina chamaecyparissus



California Native Grape
Vitis californica

PLANT PALETTE | NON-IRRIGATED NATIVE COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

Keystone coastal sage scrub species like Bladderpod, California Buckwheat, and Black Sage create the foundation of the 4-acre rewilded nature space, while flowering natives like Chaparral Mallow, Matilija Poppy, Bush Sunflower, and annual wildflowers bring additional color and joy to the dry landscape. These plants are all California regionally native, without deep roots, that thrive without added irrigation, ensuring water will not breach the clay cap. Many have an herbaceous or sweet aroma, creating a sensorial olfactory experience walking the hiking trails.



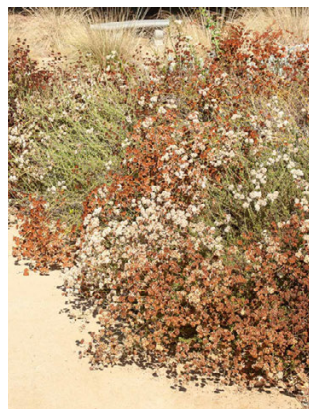
Bladderpod
Isomeris arborea



White Sage
Salvia apiana



Canyon Gray Sagebrush
Artemisia californica 'Canyon Gray'



California Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum



Chaparral Yucca
Hesperaloe whipplei



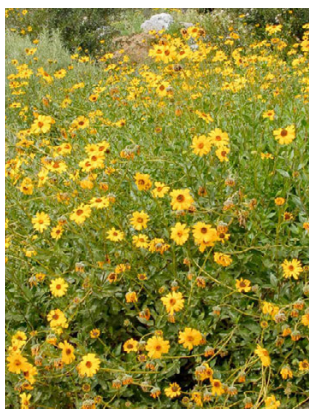
Chaparral Mallow
Malacothamnus fasciculatus



Coulter's Matilija Poppy
Romneya coulteri



Black Sage
Salvia mellifera



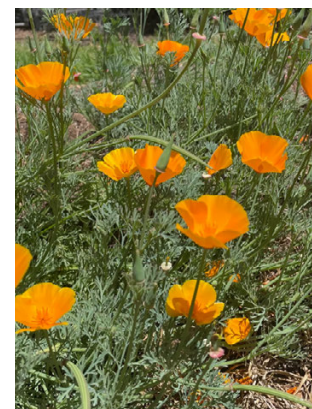
Bush Sunflower
Encelia californica



Purple Needlegrass
Stipa pulchra



Cobweb Thistle
Cirsium occidentale



California Poppy
Eschscholzia californica

California native plants that have adapted to survive in both hot summers with little water and seasonally inundated wet winters are used in and around on-site stormwater management elements, like the seasonal swales and detention basin ponds. These plants provide wildlife value, can tolerate long periods of drought and moisture, and bring seasonal beauty throughout the year, without deep penetrating roots that could compromise the clay cap or engineered basins. Some also provide phytoremediation of collected water and surrounding soil, like *Juncus* and Yerba Mansa.



Blue Elderberry
Sambucus nigra



Western Redbud
Cercis occidentalis



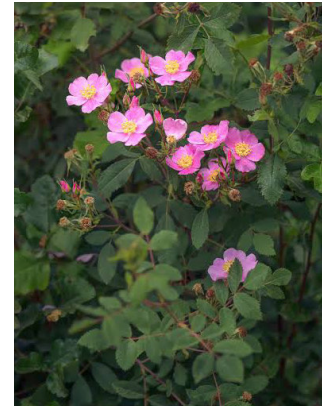
Golden Currant
Ribes aureum



Mugwort
Artemisia douglassiana



Narrowleaf Milkweed
Asclepias fascicularis



California Wild Rose
Rosa californica



California Goldenrod
Malacothamnus fasciculatus



Deer Grass
Muhlenbergia rigens



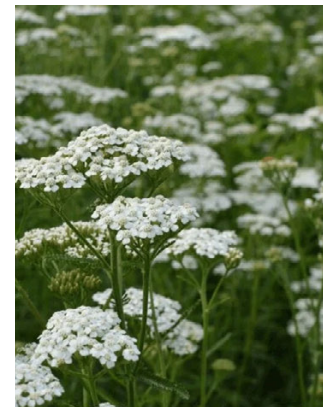
California Elk Blue Rush
Juncus patens 'Elk Blue'



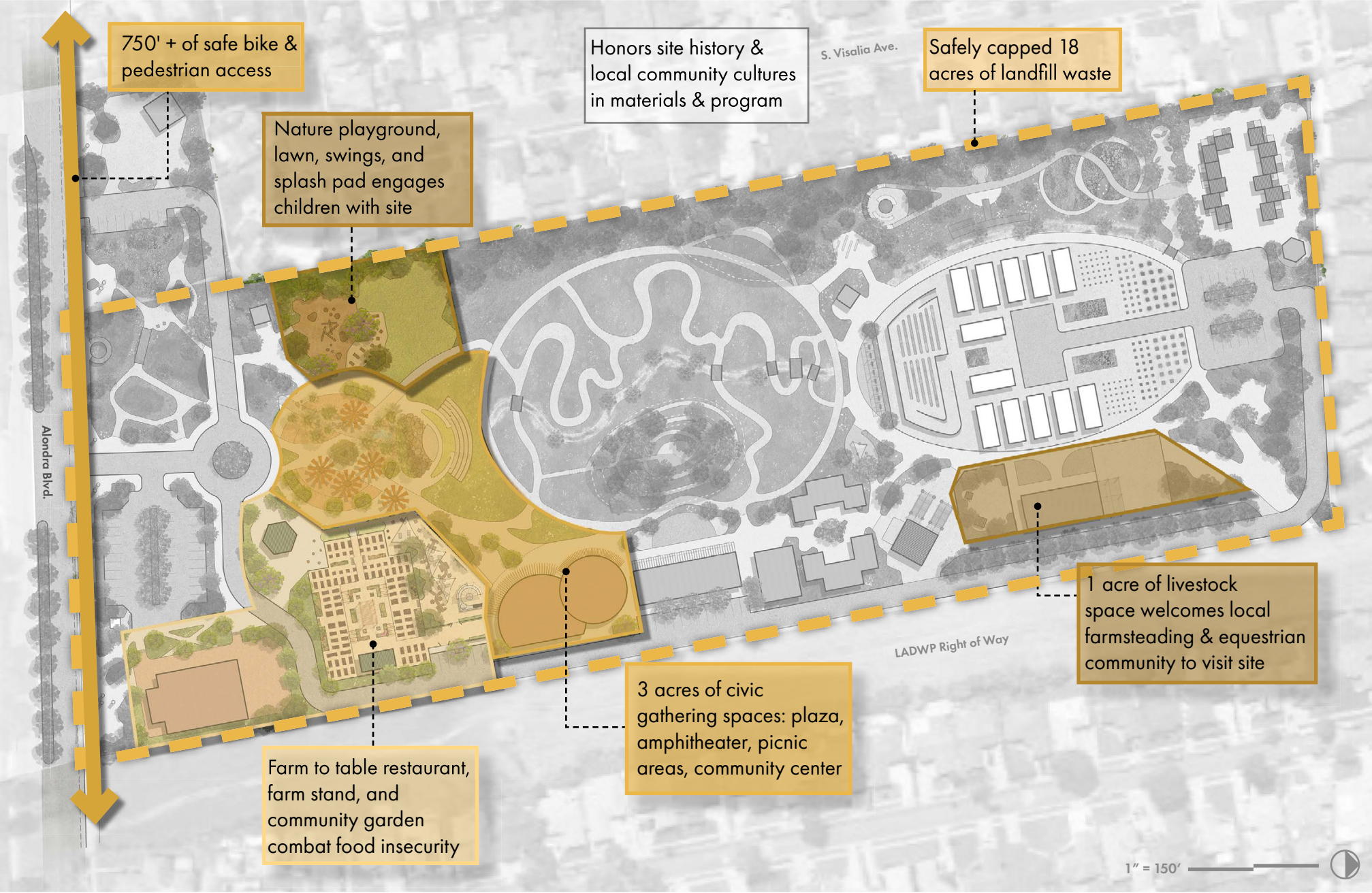
Clustered Field Sedge
Carex praegracilis



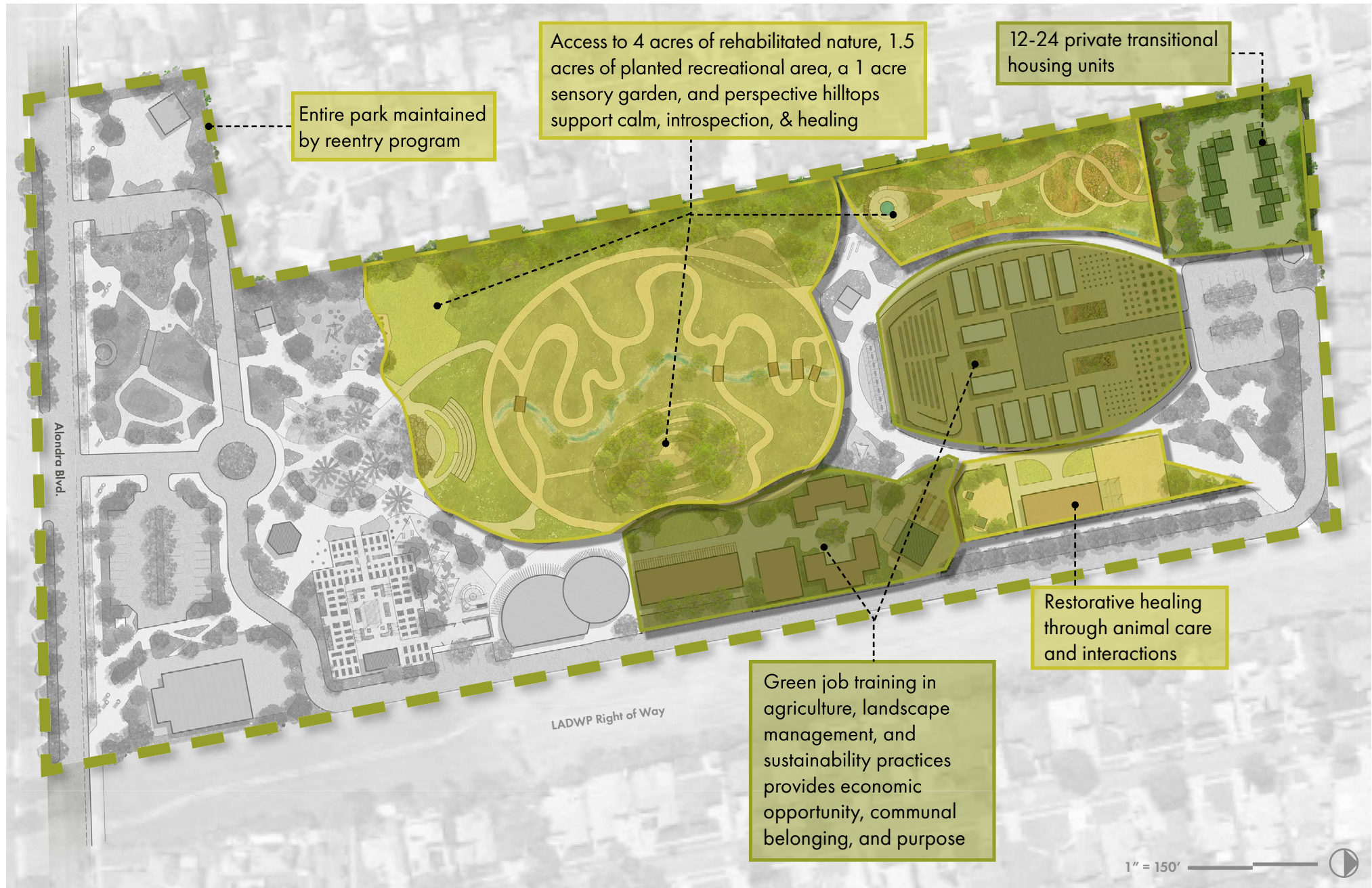
Yerba Mansa
Anemopsis californica



Yarrow
Achillea millefolium







FINAL THOUGHTS

RENEWED PURPOSE demonstrates how addressing interconnected challenges together can break cycles of compounding inequity and create new cycles of mutual restoration.

Through the restoration of a former landfill in Compton, neglected land becomes a resource for healing, opportunity, and connection, while formerly incarcerated people become active participants in its renewal. **This project reframes stigmatized land and marginalized people as essential agents of care, productivity, and resilience.**



THANK YOU

To my instructors, Meg Coffee and Jim Pickel, for supporting this project since day one and pushing me to do better each time I thought I was done.

To all of the guest critics and subject matter experts for sharing their words of wisdom and helping me see beyond my blind spots.

To my classmates for their camaraderie through the highs and the lows.

And finally, to my partner, Reza Ali, for his unwavering support.

Zoë Marans

Capstone Studio

Summer 2026



PHOTO CITATIONS

Title Page Collage: Created in Photoshop by Zoe Marans

- T1: Background Photo taken by Zoe Marans
T2: Matilija Poppy, Illustration, Mary Vaux Walcott
T3: Person Graphic, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/654288652160706647/>
T4: Shrub 1, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/3237030976105473/>
T5: Shrub 2, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/306315212171414381/>
T5: Boulders, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/19351473394909364/>
T6: High Tension Towers, eBay, <https://www.ebay.com/itm/145145501460>
P2.1: Man Reading, *Pinterest*, <https://se.pinterest.com/pin/426012446026149529/>
P2.2: Rocky Splash Pad, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, <https://www.mvvainc.com/projects/hermann-park>
P2.3: Cyclists, Okra, <https://www.okra.nl/project/cadzand-bad/>
P3.1: Gardener, Soft Studio, <https://softstudio.us/dalmatian-peach/>
P4.1: Inmates Gardening, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/landtogetherorg/>
P6.1: Vacant Lot, LA Times, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-06-15/a-new-study-identifies-government-owned-land-that-could-immediately-be-used-for-housing-can-it>
P7.1: Downtown Cary Park, OJB Studios, *Landezine*, <https://landezine-award.com/downtown-cary-park-by-ojb-landscape-architecture/>
P7.2: Therapeutic Gardening, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, <https://www.jsonline.com/picture-gallery/news/2018/08/05/gardening-helps-veterans-cope-ptsd/911179002/>
P7.3: Park Construction, *Groundwork USA*, <https://groundworkusa.org/leveling-up-the-green-work-force/>
P8.1: Lawn Event, OJB Studios, <https://ojb-studios.com/work/myriad-botanical-gardens/>
P8.2: Horticulture Students, Texas Coop, <https://texascooppower.com/horticulture-program-helps-turn-new-leaves/>
Page 9 Collage: Created in Photoshop by Zoe Marans
P9.1: Smokestack, *Washington Post*, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/new-efforts-aim-to-turn-smokestack-pollution-into-usable-energy/2013/08/26/cdf5cb5e-0370-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125_story.html
P9.2: Chainlink Fence, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DW6dozGjsiu/>
P9.3: Incarcerated Walking in Prison, *Truth Out*, <https://truthout.org/articles/the-formerly-incarcerated-and-convicted-peoples-movement-the-struggle-for-freedom-and-transformation-continues/>
P9.4: Alameda Corridor Aerial, *Daily Breeze*, <https://www.dailybreeze.com/2024/07/01/south-bay-history-the-alameda-corridor-project-took-an-old-idea-and-made-it-better/>
P9.5: Activist, *Instagram*, https://www.instagram.com/comptonmuseum/p/DUMyLhmkYxl/?img_index=14
P9.6: MLK Memorial Sculpture, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CngljcxuBQ5/>
P9.7: Cowboy, *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2019/sep/21/black-america-cowboy-heritage-wild-west-style>
P9.8: Urban Agriculture Farmer & Plants, *YouTube*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YW7_OgS-bJI
P9.9: Dr. Dre Mural, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialHHForever/posts/dr-dre-just-opened-his-new-200-million-compton-high-school-/746250844424966/>
P9.10: Flamenco Dancer, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DQlqey1-kil6/>
P10.1: Public Square, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/398850110770980216/>

- P10.2: Street Festival, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DX2wm3vAZHc/>
P10.3: Staking Trees, *San Diego Foundation*, <https://www.sdfoundation.org/community-impact/impact-areas/workforce-development/green-jobs/>
P10.4: Community Garden, *SCAPE Studio*, <https://www.scapestudio.com/projects/103rd-street-community-garden/>
P10.5: Park Aerial, Alondra Gateway Park, *World Landscape Architect*, <https://worldlandscapearchitect.com/alondra-gateway-park-reclaiming-a-creekside-lot-as-a-community-anchor/?v=0b3b97fa6688>
P10.6: Street Parkway, *SCAPE Studio*, <https://www.scapestudio.com/projects/buffalo-niagara-medical-campus-streetscape/>
P11.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, <https://www.google.com/maps/place/33%C2%B053'17.8%22N+118%C2%B015'35.3%22W/@33.8891127,-118.260273,2595m/>
P11.2: Target Areas of Change Map, *Compton 2045 General Plan*, p. 84, https://www.compton2045.org/files/managed/Document/155/PublicReviewDRAFT_ComptonGeneralPlan-01-2025.pdf
P11.3: AI-Generated Black & White Map of Los Angeles, *ChatGPT*, www.chatgpt.com
P12.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P12.2 All photos taken by Zoe Marans
P13.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P13.2: Photo taken by Zoe Marans
P14.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P14.2: Photo taken by Zoe Marans
P15.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P15.2: Photo taken by Zoe Marans
P16.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P16.2: CalEnviroScreen Scores Map, *Compton 2045 General Plan*, p. 218, https://www.compton2045.org/files/managed/Document/155/PublicReviewDRAFT_ComptonGeneralPlan-01-2025.pdf
P17.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P17.2: Grocery Store Access Map, *Compton 2045 General Plan*, p. 237, https://www.compton2045.org/files/managed/Document/155/PublicReviewDRAFT_ComptonGeneralPlan-01-2025.pdf
P18.1: 1930 Topographic Map of Compton, Historic Aerials by NetOnline
P18.2: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P19.1: Hazard Monitoring Wells, Preliminary Assessment Part 1, 1990, p. 2, CalRecycle
P19.2: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P20.1: Landfill Section, Preliminary Assessment Part 1, 1990, p. 6, CalRecycle
P20.2: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P21.1: Average Temperatures, *Weather Spark*, <https://weatherspark.com/y/1620/Average-Weather-in-Compton-California-United-States-Year-Round>
P21.2: Average Rainfall, *Weather Spark*, <https://weatherspark.com/y/1620/Average-Weather-in-Compton-California-United-States-Year-Round>
P21.3: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P22.1: Park Opening Ribbon Cutting, *Waterfront Partnership*, <https://www.waterfrontpartnership.org/blog/point-park-is-now-open-in-harbor-point>
P22.2: Community Garden, *Rethink Rural*, <https://rethinkrural.raydientrural.com/blog/digging-into-community-gardens-a-deeper-look>
P22.3: Handshake, *Unsplash*, A. Calvar, <https://unsplash.com/photos/person-holding-babys-hand-JN-wba6cv4e0>

PHOTO CITATIONS

- P23.1: Pattern Paving, *Dezeen*, <https://www.dezeen.com/2021/03/24/casanova-hernandez-alabian-carpet-public-square/>
- P23.2: Wide Paths, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/130322982963021484/>
- P23.3: Tree Canopy, *Pinterest*, <https://es.pinterest.com/pin/529876712423378668/>
- P23.4: Curving River, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/341921796732376899/>
- P23.5: Train Track Garden, *South Shore*, <https://www.southshorecva.com/listing/pullman-national-historical-park/6918/>
- P24.1: Landfill Cap Layers, *EPA*, <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/recyclecity/landfill.htm>
- P24.2: Flexible Foundations, *Pacific Horticulture*, <https://pacifichorticulture.org/articles/the-south-coast-botanic-garden-from-landfill-to-jewel-of-the-peninsula/>
- P24.3: Flowering Vegetation, *Calscape*, <https://calscape.org/selecting-native-plants>
- P24.4: Flexible Hardscape, *DIY Landscape*, <https://diylandscape.supply/gravel-pathway-vs-decomposed-granite-vs-pavers-best-walkway-for-bluffdale-homes/>
- P24.5: Flexible Utilities, *Pacific Horticulture*, <https://pacifichorticulture.org/articles/the-south-coast-botanic-garden-from-landfill-to-jewel-of-the-peninsula/>
- P24.6: Water Collection, *Pacific Horticulture*, <https://pacifichorticulture.org/articles/the-south-coast-botanic-garden-from-landfill-to-jewel-of-the-peninsula/>
- P24.7: Hazard Monitoring, *Fresh Kills Park*, <https://freshkillspark.org/landfill-engineering/collec-tion-and-processing>
- P24.8: Graphic digitally hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P25: All axio graphics digitally hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P26.1: All People Silhouettes, *The Noun Project*, <https://thenounproject.com/creator/marialuisa.iborra>
- P27.1: Street Crossing, *Landscape Architect*, <https://landscapearchitect.com/landscape-articles/west-sacramento-reclaims-main-street>
- P27.2: Parking Lot, *Sortons Dubois*, <https://sortonsdubois.fr/projets/amenagement-du-parking-du-ze-nith-strasbourg/>
- P27.3: Plaza, *Sasaki*, <https://www.sasaki.com/projects/moore-square/>
- P27.4: Walking Path, *Horseshoe Bay Nature Park*, <https://www.hsbpark.org/about>
- P27.5: Stormwater Basin, *Landscape Architecture Projects*, <https://www.landscapearchitectureprojects.com/projects/2020/1/30/city-bikeways-north-south-bikeways-bmnxk-m73ne-rrmed-669p8-bsmxb>
- P27.6: Community Garden Dinner, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DJovSCRAika/>
- P27.7: Compost, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1092122978537029347/>
- P27.8: Restaurant Yard, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/317011261296993196/>
- P27.9: Hoop House, *Mother Earth News*, <https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/site-hoop-house-zm0z21fmzbut/>
- P27.10: Hill View, *Image Locations*, <https://imagelocations.com/lot-1>
- P27.11: Crafting, *The Art Newspaper*, <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/05/27/sweet-retreats-everything-you-need-to-know-about-artist-residencies>
- P27.12: Hammocks, *Osty et Associes Paysage Urbanisme*, <https://www.osty.fr/fr/projets/view/3/les-promenades>
- P29.1: Park Overview, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/presidio-tunnel-tops-by-field-operations/>
- P29.2: Windswept Bench, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/presidio-tunnel-tops-by-field-operations/>
- P29.3: Winding DG Path, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/presidio-tunnel-tops-by-field-operations/>
- P29.4: Learning Lab Microscope, *Presidio Tunnel Tops*, <https://presidio.gov/explore/attractions/presidio-tunnel-tops>
- P29.5: Picnic, *Presidio Tunnel Tops*, <https://presidio.gov/explore/attractions/presidio-tunnel-tops>
- P29.6: Artist Umbrella, *Presidio Tunnel Tops*, <https://presidio.gov/explore/attractions/presidio-tunnel-tops>
- P30.1: Park Site Plan, *NV5*, <https://www.nv5.com/blog/the-story-of-cully-park/>
- P30.2: Community Garden, *Knot Studio*, <https://www.knotstudio.com/projects/cully-park/>
- P30.3: Indigenous Celebration, *Knot Studio*, <https://www.knotstudio.com/projects/cully-park/>
- P30.4: Gathering Circle, *Knot Studio*, <https://www.knotstudio.com/projects/cully-park/>
- P30.5: Playground, *Knot Studio*, <https://www.knotstudio.com/projects/cully-park/>
- P30.6: Rock Mound, *Knot Studio*, <https://www.knotstudio.com/projects/cully-park/>
- P31.1: Nurseries, *Landscape Performance Series*, <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>
- P31.2: Raised Bed, *Landscape Performance Series*, <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>
- P31.3: Covered Porch, *Landscape Performance Series*, <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>
- P31.4: Community Room, *Landscape Performance Series*, <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>
- P31.5: Accessible Plaza, *Castar Architecture*, <https://www.castarchitecture.com/rainier-beach-urban-farm>
- P31.6: Apiary, *Landscape Performance Series*, <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>
- P32.1: Steel Mill Chute, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/steel-yard-post-industrial-landscape-re-design-klopfert-martin-design/>
- P32.2: Car Show, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/steel-yard-post-industrial-landscape-redesign-klopfert-martin-design/>
- P32.3: Turfstone, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/steel-yard-post-industrial-landscape-redesign-klopfert-martin-design/>
- P32.4: Welding Event, *Klopfert Martin*, <https://www.klopfertmartin.com/projects/the-steel-yard>
- P32.5: Scrap Metal Bench, *Klopfert Martin*, <https://www.klopfertmartin.com/projects/the-steel-yard>
- P32.6: Bridge to Foundry, *Klopfert Martin*, <https://www.klopfertmartin.com/projects/the-steel-yard>
- P33.1: Aerial, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P33.2: Reflexology Garden, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P33.3: Hide and Reveal, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P33.4: Zen Garden, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P33.5: Tarped Dining, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P33.6: Labyrinth, *True Nature Healing Arts*, <https://www.truenaturehealingarts.com/gallery>
- P34.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P35.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P36.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P36.2: Section hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P37: All photos and graphics taken or digitally hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P38.1,2: Axio drawings digitally hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P38.3: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P39: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation

PHOTO CITATIONS

- P40: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P41: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P42.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P42.2,3,4: Sketches digitally hand drawn by Zoe Marans
- P43: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P44: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
- P45.1: Radial Brick Paving, *Metalocus*, <https://www.metalocus.es/en/news/space-rest-and-reflection-circular-look-javier-lopez-bautista>
- P45.2: Curved Nature Trails: *Stefano Marinaz Landscape Architecture*, <https://stefanomarinaz.com/project/woodland-glade-sanctuary-september/>
- P45.3: Curved Portico Building: *Peter J Sieger Architectural Photography*, <https://siegerarchphoto.com/goose-creek-rest-area>
- P45.4: Low Stone Wall: *Fortini Landscapes*, <https://fortinilandscapes.com/project/niner-winery/>
- P45.5: Nature Playground: *Do 512 Family*, <https://do512family.com/austin-waterloo-park/>
- P45.6: Curved Wood Picnic Table: *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/nola-recommendation-folkpark/>
- P45.7: Living Stone Wall: *In The Hills*, <https://www.inthehills.ca/2019/09/meet-the-maker-eric-landman/>
- P45.8: Corten Wood Bench: *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/magneten-sensory-garden-by-ma-su-planning/>
- P45.9: Corten Vine Screen: *ArchDaily*, <https://www.archdaily.com/780510/ccr1-residence-werner-field-wernerfield>
- P45.10: Corten Pergola, *Pinterest*, <https://mx.pinterest.com/pin/769623023856314191/>
- P45.11: Stone Pond: *Real Homes*, <https://www.realthomes.com/news/britain-in-full-bloom-at-hampton-court>
- P45.12: Gabion Wood Benches: *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1092122978543217457/>
- P46.1: Street Trees, *KNYCX Journeying*, <https://knycxjourneying.com/tokyo-food-guide/comment-page-3/>
- P46.2: Landfill Layers Section, *Recycle City*, <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/recyclecity/landfill.htm>
- P46.3: Amphitheater Steps, *Ten Eyck Landscape Architects*, <https://www.teneyckla.com/projects/civic/cedar-hill-signature-park-library>
- P47.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P47.2: Rain Garden, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/893401644873357820/>
- P47.3: Green Street Buffer, Surfacedesign, *World Landscape Architect*, <https://worldlandscapearchitect.com/mission-boulevard-linear-park-hayward-usa-surfacedesign-inc/?v=0b3b97fa6688>
- P47.4: Totem Sculptures, *Palm Springs Life*, <https://www.palmspringslife.com/arts-culture/new-work-of-art-installed-at-palm-desert-civic-center-park/>
- P48.1: Swale, *Marpa*, <https://www.marpa.com/projects/calcaire>
- P48.2: Dock, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DPWagDHdRMK/>
- P48.3: Detention Ponds, *Pinterest*, <https://nz.pinterest.com/domthepom1998/constructed-wetland/>
- P49.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P51.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P52.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P52.2: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P52.3: Ghost River, *Public Mechanics*, <https://publicmechanics.com/projects/ghost-rivers/>
- P52.4: Splash Pad, SWA, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DLneixBOoD4/>
- P53.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P53.2: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P53.3: Radial Plaza, *ArchDaily*, <https://www.archdaily.com/1021988/towards-the-renaturalization-of-urban-spaces-how-08014-arquitecturas-projects-are-reclaiming-barcelonas-streets/66fd64b74003185d-47f7b497-towards-the-renaturalization-of-urban-spaces-how-08014-arquitecturas-projects-are-reclaiming-barcelonas-streets-photo>
- P53.4: Radial Brick Paving, *Metalocus*, <https://www.metalocus.es/en/news/space-rest-and-reflection-circular-look-javier-lopez-bautista>
- P55.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P56.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P56.2: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P56.3: Outdoor Kitchen: Flowers Wintery, *Pinterest*, <https://no.pinterest.com/pin/728809152238152510/>
- P56.4: Long Picnic Table, *Nola*, <https://nola.se/en/products/langbordet-the-longtable/>
- P57.1: Sage Scrub, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZAavmfGdZl/>
- P57.2: Maker Studio, *Rakola*, <https://www.rakola.com/makers-doers/>
- P58.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P58.2: Meadow Trail, *Pinterest*, <https://co.pinterest.com/pin/25262447905494572/>
- P58.3: Hill, *Landezine*, <https://landezine.com/forest-path-in-the-roques-blancues-cemetery-in-the-collserola-natural-park-by-battleiroig/>
- P58.4: Hilltop View, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1092122978544412230/>
- P60.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P60.2: Outdoor Workshop, *Collectif Etc*, <https://www.collectifetc.com/project-attributes/rura/>
- P60.3: Indoor Workshop, *ArchDaily*, <https://www.archdaily.com/1010183/candy-farm-taneya-agri-culture-kyoto-university-global-environmental-architecture-plus-akimura-flying-c/655f79cc0ca0c317a1827fdb-candy-farm-taneya-agri-culture-kyoto-university-global-environmental-architecture-plus-akimura-flying-c-photo>
- P60.4: Outdoor Training, *Flows To Bay*, <https://flowstobay.org/calendar/rescape-maintenance-qualification-training-online-2/>
- P61.2: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P63.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P63.2: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P63.3: Hammocks, *Osty et associes paysage urbanisme*, <https://www.osty.fr/fr/projets/view/3/les-promenades>
- P63.4: Shipping Container Houses, *Pinterest*, <https://es.pinterest.com/pin/685110162128975386/>
- P64.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*
- P65.1: Plant Tag, *J2Made*, <https://j2made.com/projects/santa-barbara-botanic-garden/>
- P65.2: Trees, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1092122978544509532/>
- P65.3: Landscape, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/521784306843096357/>
- P65.4: Scrub, *Instagram*, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZAavmfGdZl/>
- P65.5: Riparian Swale, *Pinterest*, <https://se.pinterest.com/pin/208361920255782735/>
- P65.6: Raised Beds, *Pinterest*, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1092122978544510867/>
- P66.1: Jacaranda, *Devil Mountain Nursery*, <https://devilmountainnursery.com/jacaranda-mimosifolia/>
- P66.2: Australian Willow, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/gei->

jera-parviflora/
P66.3: Strawberry Tree, *Devil Mountain Nursery*, <https://devilmountainnursery.com/arbutus-marina/>
P66.4: Magnolia, *The Magnolia Company*, <https://www.themagnoliacompany.com/blog/meet-the-magnolia-tree/>
P66.5: Windmill Palm, *Monrovia*, <https://www.monrovia.com/windmill-palm.html>
P66.6: Palo Verde, *Sacramento Tree Org*, <https://sactree.org/trees/desert-museum-palo-verde/>
P67.1: Pincushion, *Plant Master*, <https://plantmaster.com/plants/eplant.php?plantnum=4461>
P67.2: Yucca, *Piedmont Carolina*, <https://piedmontcarolina.com/product/yucca-recurvifolia/>
P67.3: Autumn Moon Sage, *Middleton Nurseries*, <https://middletonnurseries.co.uk/product/salvia-autumn-moon/>
P67.4: Jerusalem Sage, *Plant Master*, <https://plantmaster.com/plants/eplant.php?plantnum=177338>
P67.5: Coyote Brush, *Alvarez Nursery*, <https://alvareznursery.com/product/baccharis-pilularis-pigeon-point/>
P67.6: Lomandra, *Plants Express*, <https://plantsexpress.com/products/platinum-beauty-mat-rush>
P67.7: Coffeeberry, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/rhamnus-californica-eve-case-2/>
P67.8: Coprosma, *Everde Growers*, <https://everde.com/plant/marble-queen-mirror-plant/>
P67.9: Foxtail Agave, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/agave-attenuata/>
P67.10: Lantana, *Mississippi State University Extension*, <https://blogs.extension.msstate.edu/ornamentals/plant/tri23096/>
P67.11: Lavender Cotton, *Portland Nursery*, <https://portlandnursery.com/plant-library/perennials/santolina-lavender-cotton/>
P67.12: Grape, *Facebook*, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rvagardeningclub/posts/23955621814074570/>
P68.1: Bladderpod, *Dave's Garden*, <https://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/showimage/186979>
P68.2: White Sage, *Mountain Valley Growers*, <https://mountainvalleygrowers.com/organic-plants/salvia-apiana-white-sage/>
P68.3: Gray Sage, *Las Pilitas*, <https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/94--artemisia-californica-canyon-gray>
P68.4: Buckwheat, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/erigonum-fasciculatum/>
P68.5: Yucca, *Watershed Nursery*, <https://www.watershednursery.com/nursery/plant-finder/hesperoyucca-whipplei/>
P68.6: Mallow, *Cactus Jungle*, <https://cactusjungle.com/plants/malacothamnus-casitas/>
P68.7: Matilija Poppy
P68.8: Black Sage, *Dave's Garden*, <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/4712>
P68.9: Bush Sunflower, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/encelia-californica/>
P68.10: Needlegrass, *Instagram*, https://www.instagram.com/p/C_CXItEpZlo/
P68.11: Thistle, *Annie's Annuals*, <https://www.anniesannuals.com/products/cirsium-occidentale>
P68.12: Poppy, *Plant Material*, <https://plant-material.com/products/eschscholzia-californica?variant=32139096621159>
P69.1: Elderberry, *Klamath Siskiyou Seeds*, <https://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com/product/sambucus-mexicana-blue-elderberry/>

P69.2: Redbud, *The Living Wild Project*, <https://www.livingwild.org/spring-blog-posts/western-redbud/>
P69.3: Golden Currant, *Colorado Hardy Plants*, <https://coloradohardyplants.com/product/ribes-aureum-golden-currant/>
P69.4: Mugwort, *Calscape*, [https://calscape.org/plant/400/Artemisia-douglasiana-\(Mugwort\)](https://calscape.org/plant/400/Artemisia-douglasiana-(Mugwort))
P69.5: Milkweed, *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asclepias_fascicularis
P69.6: Wild Rose, *Alex Kunz*, <https://www.alex-kunz.com/flower-plant-sampler-2-2020/rosa-californica-california-wildrose/>
P69.7: Goldenrod, *Clearwater Color*, <https://www.clearwatercolor.com/single-post/solidago-velutina-ssp-californica-california-goldenrod-ca-native>
P69.8: Deer Grass, *Waterwise Garden Planner*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/muhlenbergia-rigens/>
P69.9: Juncus, *Wilson Bros Gardens*, <https://www.wilsonbrosgardens.com/juncus-patens-elm-blue--california-gray-rush-1g.html>
P69.10: Field Sedge, *Plants Express*, <https://plantsexpress.com/products/california-field-sedge>
P69.11: Yerba Mansa, *Southern Plant Seeds*, <https://www.southernplantseeds.com/product-page/copy-of-aloe-vera-aloe-barbadensis-organic-10-seeds-free-us-shipping-5>
P69.12: Yarrow, *Grow Hoss*, <https://growhoss.com/products/yarrow?variant=52867795616054>
P70.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P71.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P72.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P73.1: Background Site Map, *Google Maps*, see P7.1 citation
P74.1: 3D Model built and rendered using *Realtime Landscaping Architect*

Research

INTERVIEWS

- Compton District 3 Councilman Jonathan Bowers, July 8, 2026, Telephone
- Somshekhar Kundral, P.E., B.C.E.E., of SCS Engineers, July 7, 2026, Telephone

DIGITAL

- 2023 Urban Agriculture Grant Program. 2025. <https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/2023-urban-agriculture-grant-program/>.
- 2815-2875 W Alondra Blvd | Compton, CA. n.d.-a. Retrieved March 29, 2026. <https://www.comptontcity.org/departments/successor-agency/development-opportunity-sites/2815-w-alondra-blvd>.
- 2815-2875 W Alondra Blvd | Compton, CA. n.d.-b. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.comptontcity.org/departments/successor-agency/development-opportunity-sites/2815-w-alondra-blvd>.
- Aka, Laura. 2023. "You Could Almost Define Everything We Do in California as Green Jobs." <https://workingnation.com/you-could-almost-define-everything-we-do-in-california-as-green-jobs/>.
- America at 250 grid. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/america-at-250>.
- An agricultural oasis in the shadow of downtown L.A. – The Denver Post. n.d. Retrieved April 8, 2026. <https://www.denverpost.com/2011/02/25/an-agricultural-oasis-in-the-shadow-of-downtown-l-a/>.
- Archived | Major Study Examines Prisoners and Their Reentry Needs | National Institute of Justice. n.d. Retrieved April 20, 2026. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/major-study-examines-prisoners-and-their-reentry-needs>.
- Ayres. 2016. "Closed Landfills: Managing Limitations, Seeing Possibilities." <https://www.ayresassociates.com/closed-landfills-managing-limitations-seeing-possibilities/>.
- Building Green in California: Your Guide to CALGreen - Energy Analytica. 2024. <https://energyanalytica.com/building-green-in-california-your-guide-to-calgreen/>.
- By. n.d. "The UAW Is Leading the Push for Green Jobs in California." Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://jacobin.com/2026/02/uaw-green-jobs-california-union>.
- California Prison Programs and Reentry Pathways. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.ppic.org/publication/california-prison-programs-and-reentry-pathways/>.
- Camardo, Anna Maria. 2024. "A Perspective for Building on Landfills." <https://www.cclr.org/expert-advice/a-perspective-for-building-on-landfills>.
- Census profile: Compton, CA. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0615044-compton-ca/>.
- Chung, Peaches. 2025. "Jorja Leap on Building Trust and Lasting Change in Watts 60 Years After the Riots." <https://luskin.ucla.edu/jorja-leap-on-building-trust-and-lasting-change-in-watts-60-years-after-the-riots>.
- City Lab Workforce Development: Design as Dialogue for Youth Advocacy. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. <https://www.aslcolorado.org/award/city-lab-workforce-development/>.
- City of Compton, CA: Zoning. n.d. Retrieved April 29, 2026. <https://ecode360.com/35622209>.
- Cohen, Deborah A., Kathryn Pitkin Derosé, Bing Han, Stephanie Williamson, Terry Marsh, and Laura Raaen. n.d. RAND Report - City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Parks - Research Findings and Policy Implications. PDF.
- Compton, CA Demographics - Map of Population by Race. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.censusdots.com/race/compton-ca-demographics>.
- Compton, California, 1933 earthquake. 1933.
- Compton Climate, Weather By Month, Average Temperature (California, United States) - Weather Spark. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. <https://weatherspark.com/y/1620/Average-Weather-in-Compton-California-United-States-Year-Round#Sections-Temperature>.
- Compton Police Department. 2026. Wikipedia.
- Compton Woodley Airport. n.d. Retrieved April 29, 2026. <https://pw.lacounty.gov/core-service-areas/core-service-areas/transportation/los-angeles-county-airports/compton-woodley-airport/>.
- Covering, Stabilizing, Maintaining. 2016. <https://freshkillspark.org/landfill-engineering/covering-stabilizing-maintaining>.
- Demographic Charts. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.comptonchamberofcommerce.org/demographic-info>.
- Diamond, Nick. 2017. "Urban Blight." <https://publichealthpost.org/health-equity/urban-blight/>.
- Documents. n.d. Retrieved April 8, 2026. <https://www.compton2045.org/documents>.
- Fisk, Isabella, and Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis. 2024. "Positive Impacts of Prison-Based Gardening and Horticultural Activities for Previously Incarcerated Individuals." *Ecopsychology* 16(2):107–20. doi:10.1089/eco.2023.0034.
- Flood Control Data Viewer. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. <https://pw.lacounty.gov/mpm/gis/fcd/>.
- From Dumps to Destinations: Converting Landfills to Parks | Smart Cities Dive. n.d. Retrieved May 7, 2026. <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/dumps-destinations-converting-landfills-parks/30435/>.
- From Misinformation To Mass Incarceration: The Role Of Racism In Drug Policy Hysteria | Dream.Org. 2024. <https://dream.org/news-articles/racism-in-drug-policy-hysteria/>.

Research, continued (2)

- Geosynthetic Detention Basin at Shalu Interchange, Taiwan - Environmental Protection - ACE Geosynthetics. n.d. Retrieved June 29, 2026. <https://www.geoace.com/case/Environmental-Protection/Geosynthetic-Detention-Basin-at-Shalu-Interchange%2C-Taiwan>.
- Guzzone, Brian. n.d. "Elements of Proper Landfill Design, Operations and Maintenance."
- Hewis, Johnathan. 2023. "A Salutogenic Approach: Changing the Paradigm." *Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences* 54(2):S17–21. doi:10.1016/j.jmir.2023.02.004.
- How Compton Became a Citadel of Black Political Power. 2022. <https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/when-compton-was-a-citadel-of-black-political-power>.
- How Compton's Communicative Arts Academy Rebuilt the City for Artists and Community Life. 2020. <https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/how-comptons-communicative-arts-academy-rebuilt-the-city-for-artists-and-community-life>.
- How The Murals of Elliott Pinkney Captured the Creative Energy of Compton and Beyond. 2025. <https://www.pbssocal.org/how-the-murals-of-elliott-pinkney-captured-the-creative-energy-of-compton-and-beyond>.
- How to fill the skilled-trade shortage | McKinsey. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/people-and-organizational-performance/our-insights/workers-wanted-how-to-fill-the-skilled-trade-shortage>.
- Hsu, Chih-Wei, and Jay Manzano. n.d. "UNEARTHING THE EXPERIENCES OF LOS ANGELES LANDSCAPERS."
- Initiative, Prison Policy. n.d.-a. "California Profile." Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/CA.html>.
- Initiative, Prison Policy. n.d.-b. "Nowhere to Go: Homelessness among Formerly Incarcerated People." Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>.
- Initiative, Prison Policy. n.d.-c. "Reentry and Recidivism." Retrieved May 25, 2026. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/reentry_and_recidivism/.
- Initiative, Prison Policy. n.d.-d. "Since You Asked: How Many People Are Released from Each State's Prisons and Jails Every Year?" Retrieved April 18, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/08/25/releasesbystate/>.
- Initiative, Prison Policy. n.d.-e. "Where People in Prison Come from: The Geography of Mass Incarceration in California." Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/origin/ca/2020/report.html>.
- Initiative, Prison Policy, and Wendy Sawyer Nam-Sonenstein Peter Wagner, and Brian. n.d. "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2026." Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2026.html>.
- Integrating Water Features for Green Urban Spaces - Sway Features | Methane & Vapor Mitigation Los Angeles. 2024. <https://swayfeatures.com/2024/11/22/green-urban-spaces/>.
- Johnson, Katie. n.d. "Two Public Spaces Highlight the Rising Prominence of Landfill Redevelopment – Perkins&Will." Retrieved May 8, 2026. <https://perkinswill.com/insights/landfill-conversion-waterfront-botanical-gardens-louisville-origin-park-clarksville/>.
- Lafayette Greens. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. <https://www.asla.org/focus-areas/climate-biodiversity-action/case-studies/sustainable-landscapes-case-studies/lafayette-greens>.
- LAND TOGETHER. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.landtogether.org>.
- Land Together. n.d. Retrieved June 1, 2026. <https://biggreen.org/our-impact/land-together/>.
- Landfill Gas Monitoring Procedures. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. https://landfill-gas.com/landfill-gas-monitoring-procedures#Essential_Components_of_a_Landfill_Gas_Monitoring_System.
- Lee, A.-Young, Soo-Young Kim, Hyuk Joon Kwon, and Sin-Ae Park. 2021. "Horticultural Therapy Program for Mental Health of Prisoners: Case Report." *Integrative Medicine Research* 10(2):100495. doi:10.1016/j.imr.2020.100495.
- Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://assessor.lacounty.gov/>.
- Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor Public Portal. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://portal.assessor.lacounty.gov/>.
- Madrigal, Alexis C. 2018. "Big Tech's Newest Experiment in Criminal-Justice Reform." <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/08/big-techs-newest-experiment-in-criminal-justice-reform/568849/>.
- Makings of a Good Landfill Closure Plan. n.d. Retrieved May 8, 2026. <https://www.waste360.com/landfill/makings-of-a-good-landfill-closure-plan>.
- Meeting the Basic Housing Needs of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals in Los Angeles County - MultifaihtEMI. 2023. <https://multifaihtemi.org/meeting-the-basic-housing-needs-of-formerly-incarcerated-individuals-in-los-angeles-county/>.
- Moore-Backman, Chris. 2014. "Formerly Incarcerated People Lead Movement to Confront Oppressive 'Justice' System." <https://truthout.org/articles/the-formerly-incarcerated-and-convicted-peoples-movement-the-struggle-for-freedom-and-transformation-continues/>.
- Mulligan, Kathryn. 2019. "Defy Ventures: 'A Life-Changing Door' for the Currently and Formerly Incarcerated." <https://middlemarketgrowth.org/a-life-changing-door/>.
- oliviah. 2019. "Formerly Incarcerated Leaders Are Paving the Road for Change." <https://chan Zuckerberg.com/newsroom/formerly-incarcerated-leaders-are-paving-the-road-for-change/>.
- PHS's Workforce Development Bootcamp Provides Career Training for the Formerly Incarcerated. n.d. Retrieved May 25, 2026. <https://phsonline.org/for-gardeners/gardeners-blog/workforce-development>.

Research, continued (3)

- bootcamp.
- Planting Justice. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://plantingjustice.org/>.
 - Race, Diversity, and Ethnicity in Compton, CA | BestNeighborhood.org. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://bestneighborhood.org/race-in-compton-ca/>.
 - Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands | Landscape Performance Series. 2025. <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/rainier-beach>.
 - Ramirez, Roxanne. 2025. "Leveling Up the Green Workforce." <https://groundworkusa.org/leveling-up-the-green-workforce/>.
 - Realizing the Promise of Urban Agriculture. 2023. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f16f845323584a6c909d95cb28514a38>.
 - Report: Californians Released From Prison Most Likely to Be Male, Middle Aged and Black. 2024. <https://sdvoice.info/report-californians-released-from-prison-most-likely-to-be-male-middle-aged-and-black/>.
 - Rising Scholars. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www.compton.edu/student-support/rising-scholars/index.aspx>.
 - Rodney King, key figure in LA riots, dead at 47 | MPR News. n.d. Retrieved April 6, 2026. <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2012/06/17/rodney-king-key-figure-in-la-riots-dead-at-47>.
 - Rosales, Betty Márquez. n.d. "California's Youth Job Corps Offers a Second Chance at Career, Higher Education." Retrieved June 1, 2026. <https://edsources.org/2024/californias-youth-job-corps-offers-a-second-chance-at-career-higher-education/706220>.
 - Rowlands, Glenn. 2021. "Carbofol® Seals Retention Basins for Natural Surface Water Purification - Naue - Geosynthetics | Digital Engineering Software | Installation Services." <https://www.naue.com/carbofol-seals-retention-basins-for-natural-surface-water-purification/>.
 - Samuels, Diane. 2021. "Remediation: Cost Saving Approach to Redeveloping on Old Landfills or Dumps." <https://www.scsengineers.com/remediation-cost-saving-approach-to-redeveloping-on-old-landfills-or-dumps/>.
 - Sandwich, Talia, Karen Tamis, Jim Parsons, and Cesar Arauz-Cuadra. n.d.-a. "Rethinking Jail Reentry in Los Angeles County."
 - Sandwich, Talia, Karen Tamis, Jim Parsons, and Cesar Arauz-Cuadra. n.d.-b. "Rethinking Jail Reentry in Los Angeles County."
 - Sandwich, Talia, Karen Tamis, Jim Parsons, and Cesar Arauz-Cuadra. n.d.-c. "Rethinking Jail Reentry in Los Angeles County."
 - says, Philip Wendt. 2015. "The Steel Yard by Klopfer Martin Design Group." <https://landezine.com/steel-yard-post-industrial-landscape-redesign-klopfer-martin-design/>.
 - Sector L: Landfills and Land Application Sites. n.d.
 - Sep 6, Updated: and 2023. 1970. "How Landfills Work." <https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/landfill.htm>.
 - Snyder, Tashanta. 2021. "Compton Cowboys Keep Alive the History of African American Contributions in the Old West and Their Commitment to Youth in Urban Communities." <https://www.arkrepublic.com/2021/02/08/compton-cowboys-keeps-history-of-the-old-west-alive-and-commitment-to-youth/>.
 - Solid Waste Info Mgmt System: Fact Sheet Alondra Waste Disposal. n.d. Retrieved March 29, 2026. <https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/site/factsheet-esri.aspx?id=1908>.
 - Spook Hunters — The Pomonan Magazine The Opera is A Collection of nonfiction essays, excerpts, poetry, and stories and from The Pomonan. 2025. <https://www.thepomonan.com/theopera/tag/Spook+Hunters>.
 - Sundberg, Maureen. 2017. "Phytoremediation: Overview and Opportunities." <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/02/developing-healthy-landscapes/plant-science/phyto-principles-resources-site-remediation-landscape-design/>.
 - Sustainability - San Domenico School. n.d. Retrieved July 15, 2026. <https://www.sandomenico.org/student-life/sustainability>.
 - Sweatt, Jackie. n.d. "LAND USE COMPATIBILITY AND AIRPORTS."
 - SWIS Facility/Site Inspection Details. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteInspection/Details/395112?siteID=999>.
 - SWIS Facility/Site Summary. n.d. Retrieved April 16, 2026. <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/999>.
 - The critical demand for trade skills in the US | McKinsey. n.d. Retrieved April 1, 2026. <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/people-and-organizational-performance/our-insights/tradespeople-wanted-the-need-for-critical-trade-skills-in-the-us>.
 - The Power of Parks to Promote Health. n.d. Retrieved May 25, 2026. <https://www.tpl.org/parks-promote-health-report>.
 - The Power of Parks to Strengthen Community. n.d. Retrieved May 25, 2026. <https://www.tpl.org/parks-strengthen-community-report>.
 - The Prison to Liberation Pipeline - Slow Money Northern California. n.d. Retrieved September 23, 2026. <https://slowmoneynorcal.org/planting-justice/>.
 - The Steel Yard. n.d. Retrieved May 22, 2026. <https://www.klopfermartin.com/projects/the-steel-yard>.
 - Toews, Barb, Amy Wagenfeld, and Julie Stevens. 2018. "Impact of a Nature-Based Intervention on Incarcerated Women." *International Journal of Prisoner Health* 14(4):232–43. doi:10.1108/IJPH-12-2017-0065.
 - Vymazal, Jan. 2010. "Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment." *Water* 2(3):530–49. doi:10.3390/w2030530.

Research, continued (4)

- Waterfront Botanical Gardens | Perkins&Will. n.d. Retrieved May 8, 2026. <https://archello.com/project/waterfront-botanical-gardens>.
- Wessler, Mike. n.d. "New Data Reveals Where People in California Prisons Come From." Retrieved April 17, 2026. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2022/08/31/caorigin/>.
- Workforce Development » CALCTRA Website. n.d. Retrieved April 7, 2026. <https://www.calctra.ca.gov/workforce-development/>.
- Wyman, Nicholas. 2022. "How We Can Increase Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated People—While Easing the Labor Shortage." <https://www.fastcompany.com/90752691/how-we-can-increase-opportunities-for-formerly-incarcerated-people-while-easing-the-labor-shortage>.
- "You Had to be There": Compton in Literature and Memory. 2022. <https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/you-had-to-have-been-there-compton-in-literature-and-memory>.