

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE
LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER CORRIDOR

606 Studio 2017

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

College of Environmental Design • California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

SIGN

SOLUTION

NO SIDEWALK

PR

Ability

Safety

Add pavers walking trail

More lighting at Jackson Park

Too Much Weed SMOKING!

LENGTH OF PARV Private Park

2 inches

Beautiful

Make Sidewalk (walking trail)

Picnic Benches

Add Poop Bags & Stop Points!

Build a fence to separate Big Little Dogs.

Exercise Bars Equipment

Trees

Comfort

ade

Bike RACK

Too Dog TRASH @ park

Need Poop bags DOG PARK Needs improving!

SHADE TREES

Good

Lots of



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COLLECTIVE EFFORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, cities around the world have shown renewed interest in reclaiming urban waterfronts as a means of revitalizing public space and developing multi-functional green infrastructure for social and ecological benefits (Batten, 2012). The Los Angeles metropolitan area, home to 15 million residents, and its relationship to the Los Angeles River, is one such example. Once a tapestry of meandering streams, arroyos, and washes, today the LA River is an inaccessible, fully engineered flood-control system with much of its original ecological function lost (Gumprecht, 1999). Plans for the river's revitalization have emerged over the past 20 years, ranging from complete floodplain restoration to the creation of waterfront development, parks, and wildlife habitat (Fletcher, 2008). While these proposals provide a broad vision for the river's future, they do not necessarily include provisions for the specific needs of individual communities. With this in mind, the first step toward the sustainable revitalization of the river requires building social and economic capacity in disadvantaged neighborhoods, specifically along the Lower LA River. Doing so will provide these communities with greater opportunity to voice their support for local improvements that fit within the context of the existing master plans while still reflecting their own community-specific interests.

Collective Efforts builds on the momentum to revitalize the LA River, largely emanating from the master planning efforts of the City of Los Angeles, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and regional river development organizations. This project presents an alternative approach that concentrates on neighborhood-scale interventions that address community-specific needs for open space improvements. Centering on the Gateway Cities, with an emphasis on a two-mile corridor surrounding the LA River, *Collective Efforts* utilized participatory design methods to work closely with residents to generate concept plans for a variety of inter-connected neighborhood sites. The project teams also engaged community members in designing and building small immediate projects. Informed by local knowledge at each step, this approach inventoried existing conditions to address community-specific needs in neighborhoods that are typically under-served by conventional top-down planning efforts. The documentation of this approach serves as a model for participatory design that can be applied in similar communities throughout the region.

THE GATEWAY CITIES

The Gateway Cities are a collection of 27 cities and unincorporated areas that occupy the southeastern region of Los Angeles County. They are characterized by their transportation- and manufacturing-centered economies as well as populations that are considered to be ethnically diverse and generally working class (LAEDC, 2017).

THE FOCUS AREA

The focus area for the project includes river-adjacent landscapes that are within two miles of the LA River's edge. This corridor is meant to capture those neighborhoods that would be impacted by development along the river and who would potentially use the river and adjacent landscapes for recreation. Since the corridor is related to a measure of accessibility, the street network is used to determine where the two-mile boundary is located. The 606 Studio routed two miles from the LA River along the street network instead of using a uniform two mile distance from the river. For this reason, the boundary does not run parallel to the edge of the river.

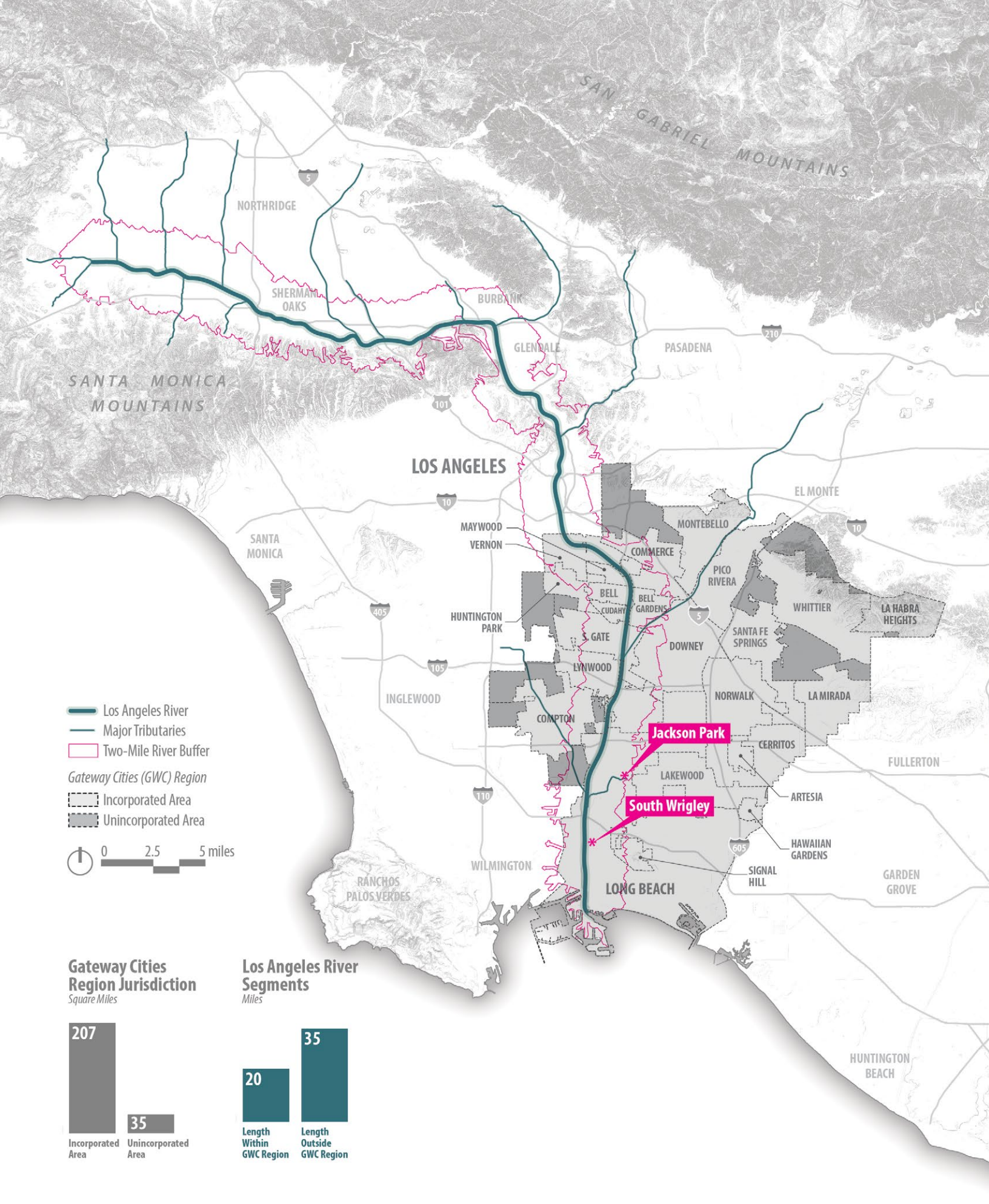


FIGURE i Gateway Cities Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

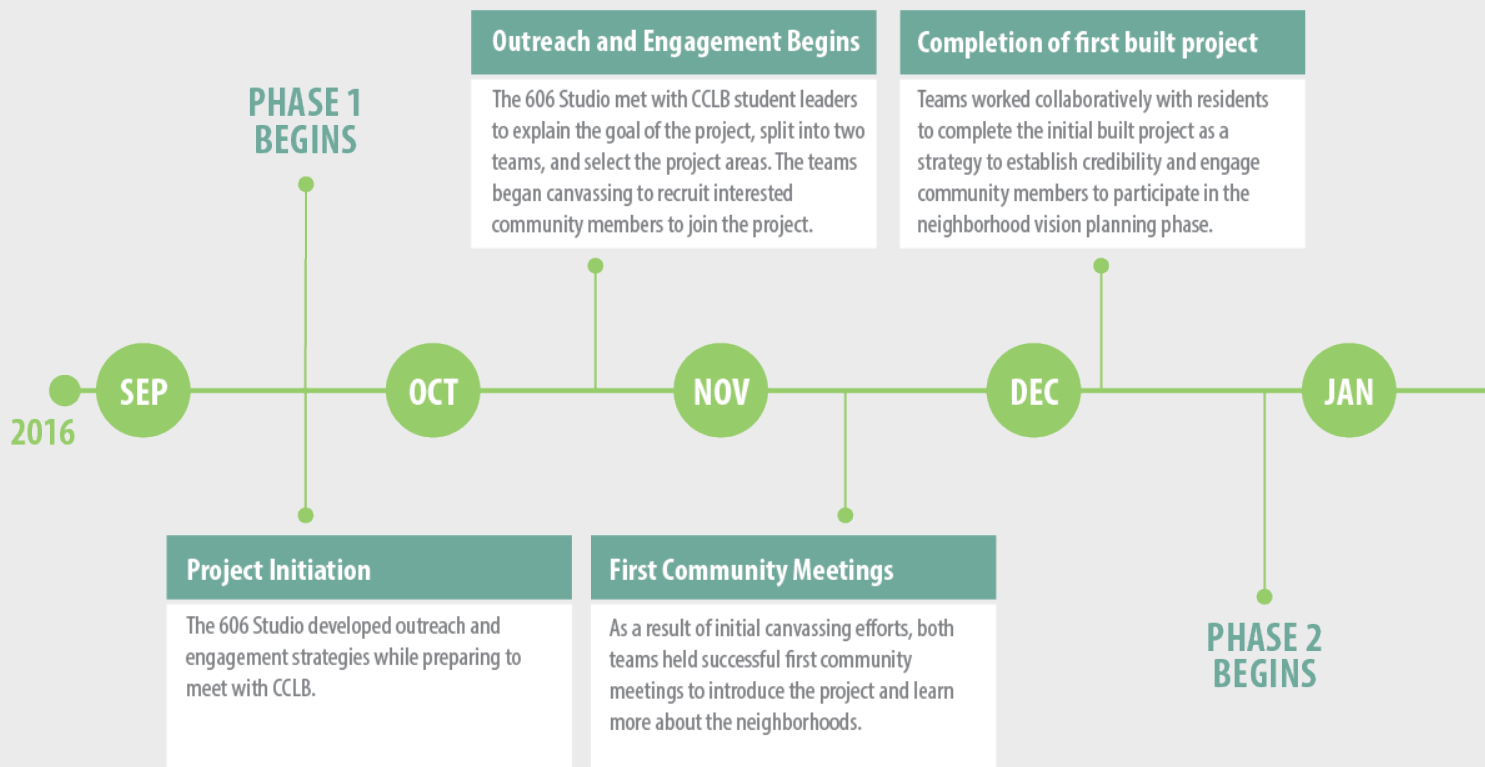
METHODS

The 606 Studio used a number of methods to address key questions about the project areas (**Table i**). Some methods focused on connecting with community members to learn about their specific needs and preferences, while other methods centered on researching and identifying data sources to support the mapping and analysis of the project's geographical, environmental, social, and political context.

TIMELINE

Collective Efforts took place over a period of nine months, from September 2016 to June 2017 (**Figure ii**). The project was split into three different phases, each of which incorporated different elements of community outreach and participatory design (**Figure iii**). Each phase offered different opportunities to work collaboratively with residents to identify community priorities and generate design solutions that responded to their specific landscape improvement needs.

FIGURE ii Key Project Milestones

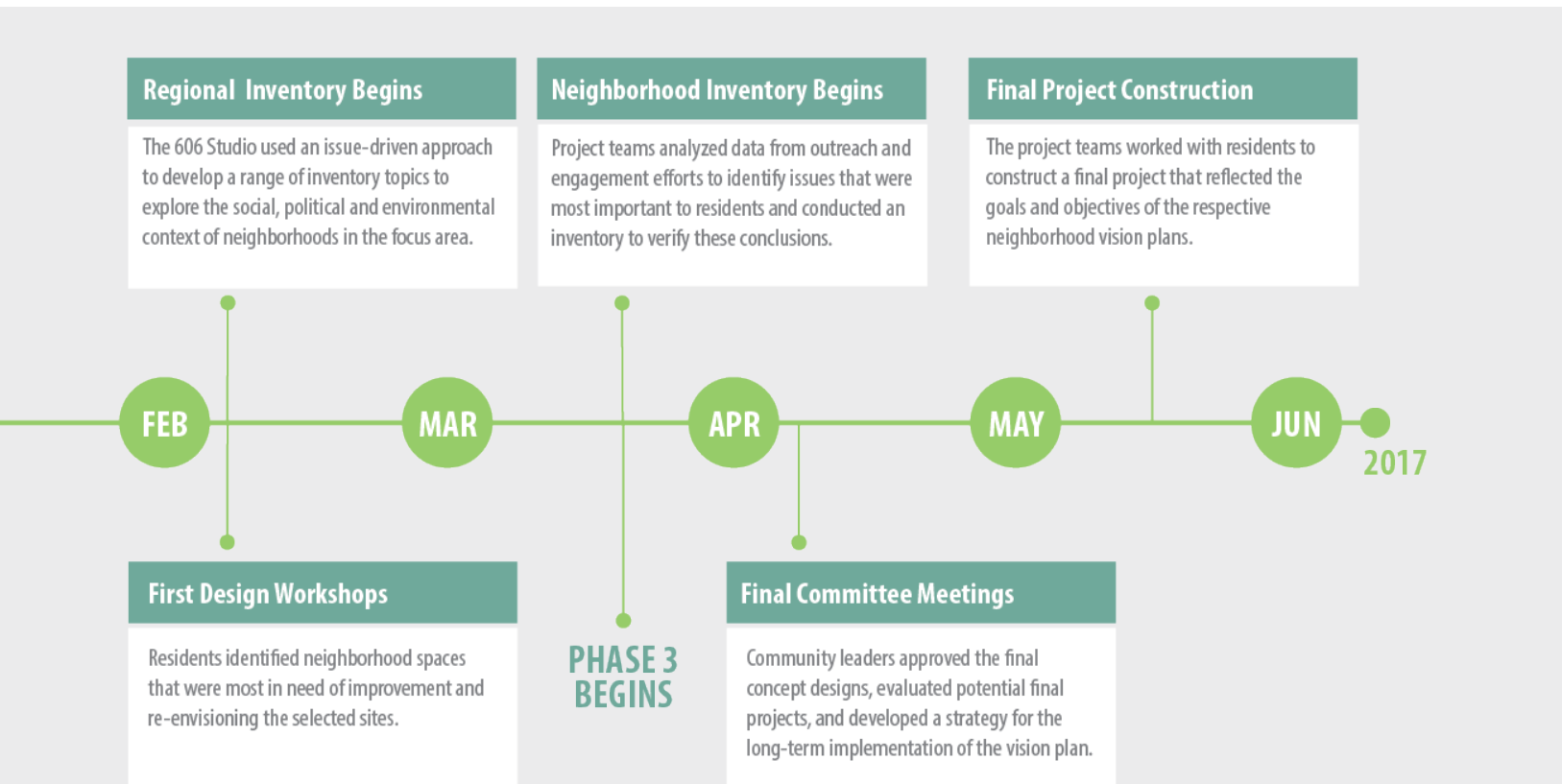


- 1 Canvassing**
Door-to-door recruitment strategy
- 2 Interviews**
Using targeted questions to learn more about stakeholders and project areas
- 3 Field Observation**
On-site data collection
- 4 Data Mining**
Acquiring and processing secondary information
- 5 GIS Mapping and Analysis**
Visualizing spatial data to analyze socio-cultural and environmental conditions
- 6 Community Meetings**
Engaging residents in setting the goals and objectives of the design process
- 7 Steering Committee Meetings**
Decision-making with community leaders
- 8 Design Workshops**
Participatory activities organized to engage residents in the design process
- 9 Build Days**
Preparation, installation, and clean-up of construction projects

TABLE i Project Methods

PHASE 1: Community Outreach and Engagement	PHASE 2: Neighborhood Vision Planning	PHASE 3: Final Project Implementation
Develop community outreach and engagement strategies	Solidify committee of community leaders	Identify range of potential projects for final build days
Learn about community priorities and concerns	Adapt community outreach and engagement strategies	Evaluate options with community and develop plans for construction
Identify and recruit interested community members	Inventory neighborhood conditions based on community priorities	Construct final project with community members
Engage community members with initial build project	Facilitate community design workshops	Identify strategies for long-term implementation of vision plan
RESULT: Immediate improvement that demonstrates intent of project and initiates community ownership	RESULT: A set of three to six concept plans that represent the community's vision for the neighborhood	RESULT: Built project that reflects community priorities and generates momentum for long-term landscape stewardship

FIGURE iii Objectives and Outcomes of Project Phases



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REGIONAL INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The project utilized an issue-driven approach to developing a regional inventory and analysis. Instead of completing an exhaustive and comprehensive review of all available data sets for the region, *Collective Efforts* focused on key issues that are central to understanding the context of the neighborhoods where the project took place (**Table ii**). The issues were identified through integrating residents' perspectives identified through community outreach with input from the project teams.

For the majority of these topics, LA County was assessed as a baseline for comparison. Data for the Gateway Cities is presented alongside the county-wide data to provide context for analyzing the conditions of the study region. The project focuses on a two-mile corridor surrounding the Lower LA River (the focus area) to identify the key issues and characteristics of river-adjacent communities in the Gateway Cities. For some topics, the conditions of the Lower LA River Corridor are compared to the Upper LA River Corridor to highlight disparities between the two regions. This analysis demonstrates the importance of focusing initiatives on the neighborhoods and associated open spaces in the focus area.

TABLE ii *Summary of Regional Inventory Findings*

INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
History	The channelization of the LA River and the development of the I-710 Freeway corridor have contributed to the disenfranchisement of communities in the Lower LA River Corridor.
Land-use and Demographics	Neighborhoods in the focus area tend to have a higher concentration of industrialized land uses, lower median incomes, lower levels of education attainment, higher population density, and higher densities of minority residents.
Hydrology and Water Quality	The landscapes associated with the Lower LA River Corridor have greater amounts of impervious surfaces, higher runoff volumes and flow rates, and the region has a higher concentration of permitted point-source polluters.
Air Pollution	Air quality issues are dispersed equally throughout the region, but communities in the focus area experience higher rates of air pollution-related diseases such as asthma, potentially suggesting a need for pollution mitigating landscapes.
Regional Open Space Opportunities	Access to open space is consistent throughout the region, but neighborhoods in the Lower LA River Corridor have significantly less park acres per 1,000 residents and in some cases more poorly maintained park facilities.
Habitat Conditions	The large patches of open space that are necessary for providing habitat for many species are not available in the focus area and there is a general lack of biodiversity.
Plans, Policies, and Regulations	There are several plans and policies that impact communities in the focus area, however many are either too broad in scope, too general in their provisions, and/or are not directed at making community-specific landscape improvements.

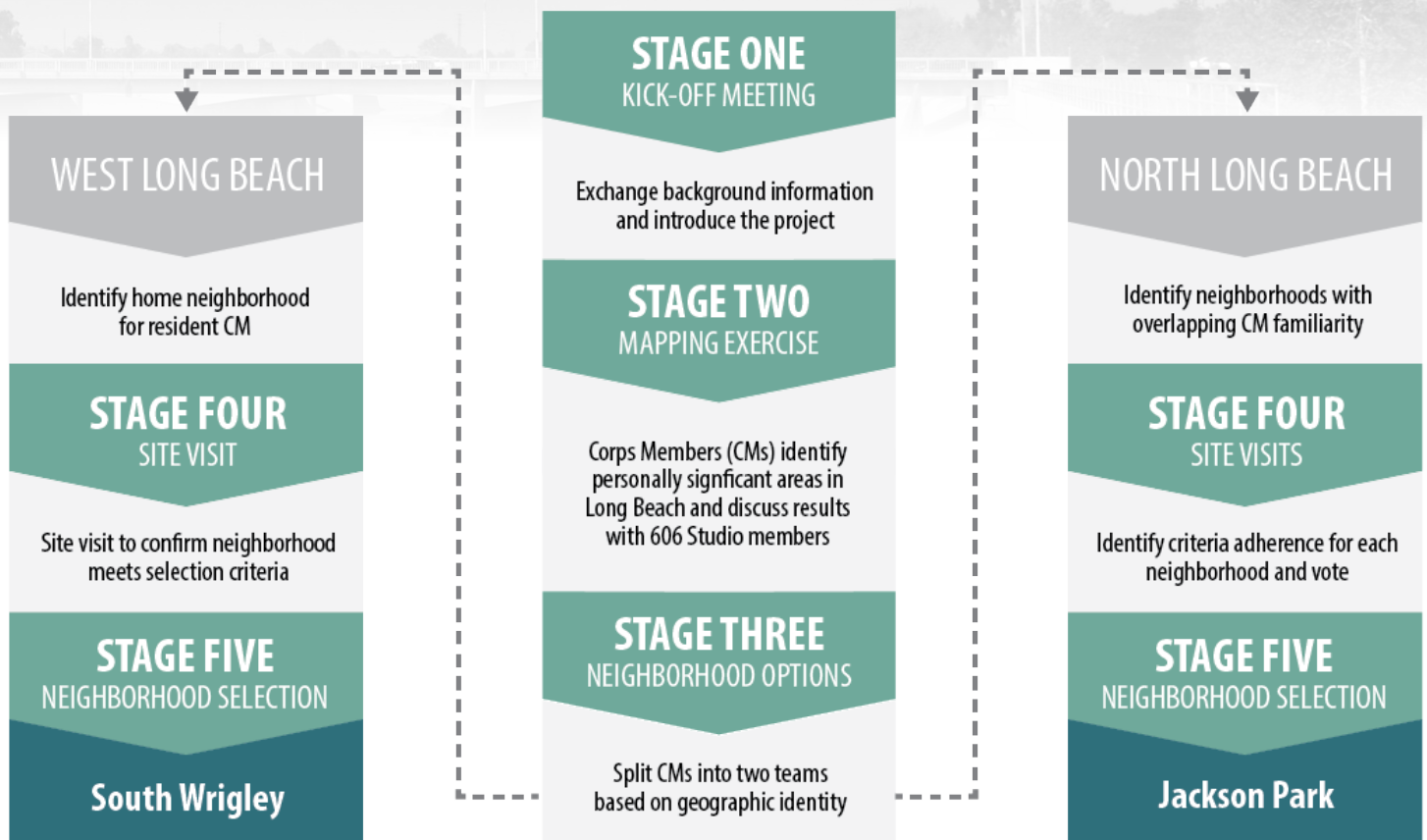


FIGURE iv *Neighborhood Selection Process*

NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTION

The Conservation Corps is a non-profit charitable organization that provides work opportunities and training programs to at-risk youth aged 18 to 25. Work projects are service-oriented and aimed at providing assistance to city and county agencies while helping youth members establish healthy work habits and a sense of environmental stewardship (CCLB, 2017).

The Conservation Corps was identified to participate in *Collective Efforts* through allied organizations involved in development efforts surrounding the LA River. The purpose of working with a youth development agency was to nourish authentic community by initiating organizing efforts with youth residents who were rooted in their neighborhood and understood the perspectives of the local community. The hope was that involving these community members would also build long-term future environmental stewards while providing exposure for at-risk youth to urban planning, landscape architecture, and other fields oriented toward sustainable development. The Long Beach branch of the Conservation Corps (CCLB) volunteered to work collaboratively with the 606 Studio to provide a unique leadership opportunity for interested Corps Members (CMs).

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The 606 Studio worked with the CCLB to identify representative neighborhoods in Long Beach where the project would take place (**Figure v**). The 606 Studio was split into two teams, which provided the opportunity to select two project areas and allowed the teams to document how the same participatory design methods would yield different results depending on the specific context of the community.

The neighborhood selection process began with four CMs from the CCLB who were identified as potential leaders with an interest in community development by CCLB. The CMs met with the 606 Studio to exchange background information and discuss the importance of doing work in neighborhoods where the CMs had grown up or felt an attachment. During the second meeting, the CMs mapped areas in Long Beach that were of personal significance to them. At the third meeting, the CMs split into two groups: two CMs would represent North Long Beach and the other two would represent West Long Beach. One CM lived outside of the Long Beach Area, but agreed to work in West Long Beach.

The North Long Beach team developed options based on their mapping results, highlighting areas where CMs had overlapping familiarity. The team selected four neighborhoods as potential sites, conducted site visits, and developed criteria for evaluating each of the neighborhoods (**Table iii**). After careful consideration, the North Long Beach team selected the neighborhood of Jackson Park (**Figure v**).

The West Long Beach team identified one neighborhood as a potential site because only one CM lived in the project area. The selected neighborhood was where the resident CM had spent most of his childhood. The West Long Beach team used a similar process of evaluation to determine that the neighborhood of South Wrigley met the project criteria.

1 Neighborhood Familiarity

Assessing the CMs level of connection to the area

2 Physical Inventory

Identifying connections to the river, sidewalk conditions, open space accessibility, etc.

3 Sense of Community Identity

Noting indicators of community pride and sense of place

4 Opportunities for Improvements

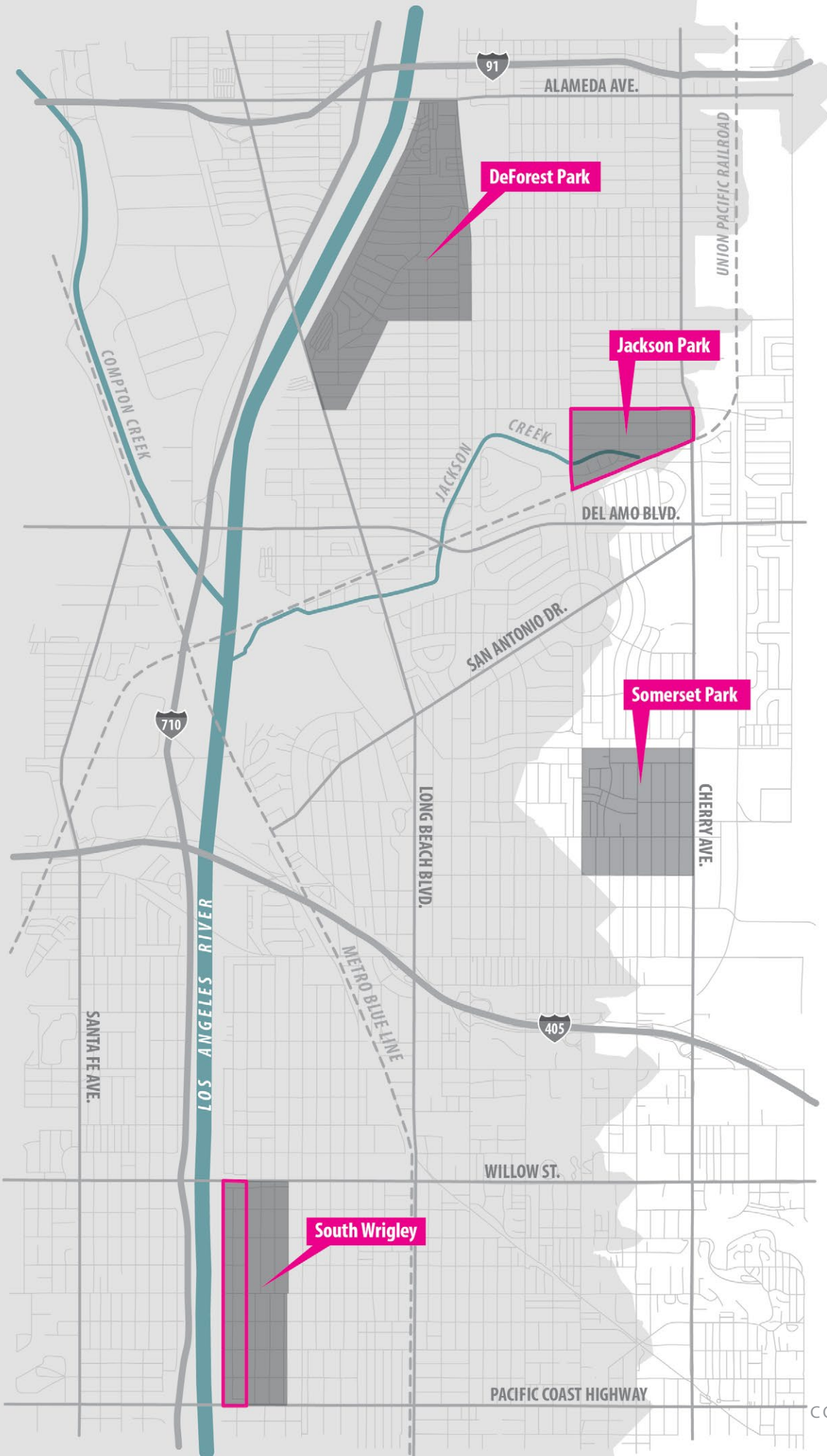
Surveying open spaces with potential for improvement

TABLE iii *Neighborhood Evaluation Criteria*



Left. CCLB Neighborhood Mapping Exercise with 606 Studio Team

FIGURE v *Neighborhood Options and Final Selections*





SOUTH WRIGLEY

Above. Palm Trees Line South Wrigley Residential Street

The South Wrigley community is comprised of primarily Hispanic and middle- to low-income working-class residents*. The neighborhood is located in West Long Beach directly adjacent to the eastern edge of the LA River between Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Willow Street (**Figure vi**). It covers approximately 410 acres and encompasses primarily residential land uses with commercial land uses concentrated along the perimeter of the neighborhood, except along the western edge where it meets the river.

*The 606 Studio referenced current census data to determine the most appropriate language for demographic descriptions used throughout the report.

Due to the size of the neighborhood, the team narrowed the project area boundaries to include only the western edge of South Wrigley, extending from the river levee to Golden Avenue. There is one official city park located along the river called Avila Park, and there are two informal parks at the north and south ends of the project area. Cressa Park is located at the south end of the neighborhood, is rarely used, and is perceived as an eyesore due to the lack of ongoing maintenance and park amenities. The Willow Street Entrance Park is located at the north end of the neighborhood and also has no amenities. There are three river-access points in the project area.

After completing extensive outreach efforts, the team compiled and analyzed results for trends and reoccurring themes to identify topics for the neighborhood inventory. Inventory results confirmed much of what the residents were expressing in terms of concentrating improvements along the river's edge throughout the project area. It also highlighted the need for design solutions that provide increased safety and better access to social and recreational amenities while promoting opportunities for habitat creation, stormwater management, and pollution mitigation (**Table iv**).

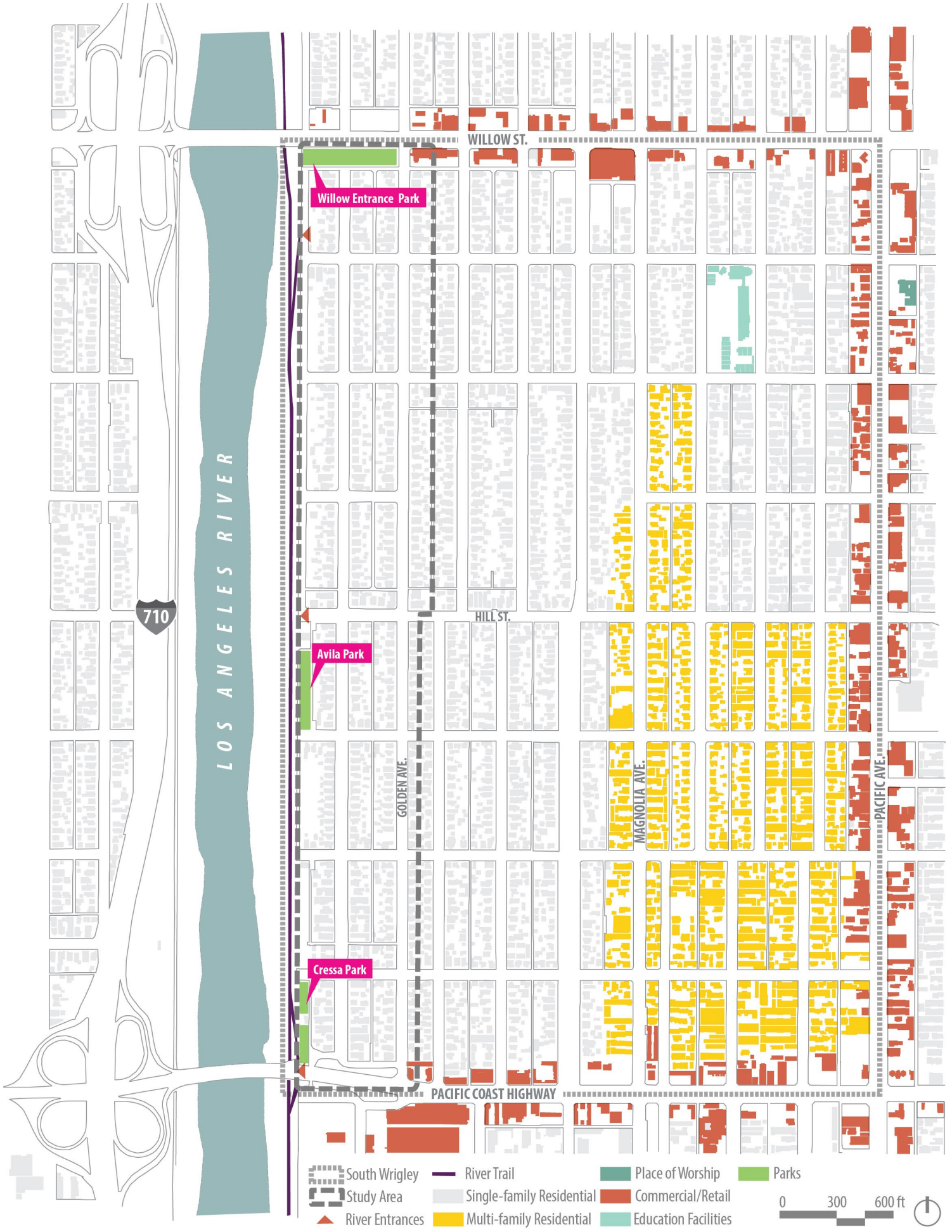


FIGURE vi South Wrigley Geographic Context and Project Area Boundaries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
Demographics	The South Wrigley community is representative of other communities in the Lower LA River Corridor.
Historic Context	The neighborhood is situated over a historic wetland and river channelization bisected the original settlement.
Neighborhood Identity	The neighborhood is characterized by well-kept homes and gardens surrounded by poorly maintained public landscapes.
Social Amenities	There are few seating and comfortable social gathering areas in the neighborhood.
Safety and Security	Concerns emanate from the lack of visibility along the river and the perceived danger associated with homelessness.
Street Conditions	There are few crosswalks and flood control strategies, and poor visibility along streets in the project area.
Environmental Concerns	Residents are conscious of the need for better habitat opportunities for local birds and pollinators.
Aesthetics	Insufficiently maintained public landscapes, illegal dumping, and graffiti negatively impact neighborhood aesthetics.
Past and Future Projects	There are a few long-term proposals for the neighborhood, but nothing proposed for the immediate future.

TABLE iv *South Wrigley Neighborhood Inventory Results*



Above. South Wrigley Initial Build Day Project

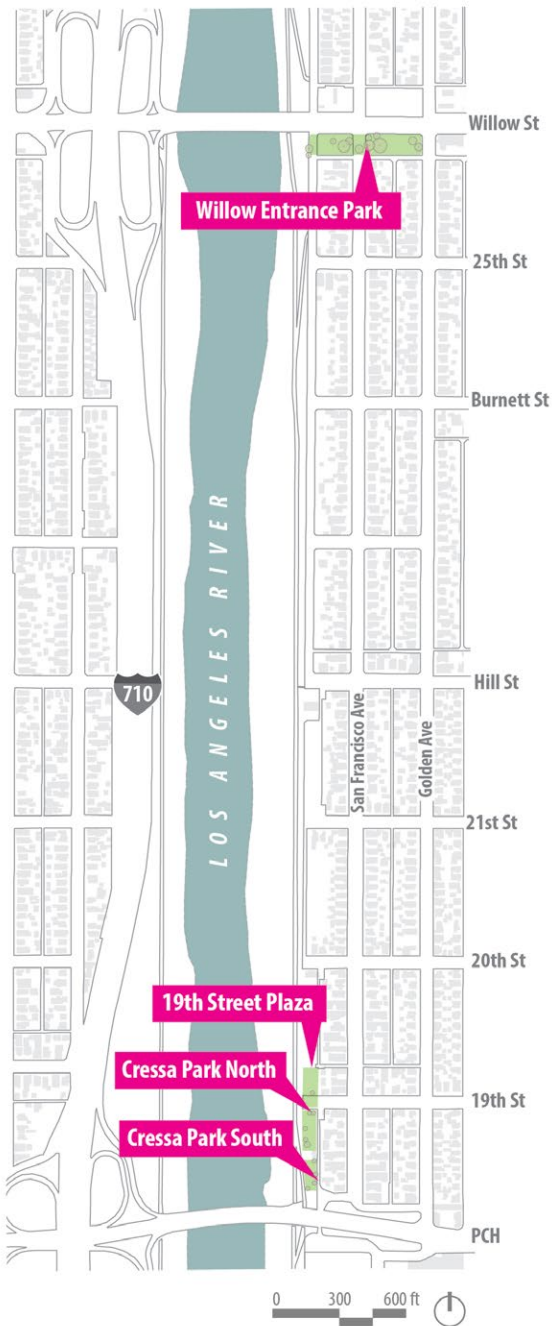


FIGURE vii *South Wrigley Final Site-Specific Project Locations*

1 Landscape Improvements
Create guidelines for using plant material to address key community-identified issues
2 Street Improvements
Create guidelines for addressing key issues along the three primary roads within the project area

TABLE v *South Wrigley Thematic Projects*

Phase 1: Community Outreach and Engagement

During the first phase of this project, the team used door-to-door canvassing to conduct outreach and invite community members to learn about the project. Those residents who expressed interest at these early stages were identified as potential community leaders and were later invited to join the steering committee. Through a series of community meetings, residents identified and voted on what was to be constructed for the first built project. They chose to construct benches in the large open space at the north end of the project area that was often used for social gatherings, but had no existing amenities. Three benches were designed and built in collaboration with community members. The completion of the initial built project engaged residents and encouraged local ownership.

Phase 2: Neighborhood Vision Planning

In the second phase, the project team began working with the community to generate designs for the neighborhood vision plan. The goal was to generate community-based concept designs for three to six project sites. The selections shifted over time, but ultimately the project team worked with the community to finalize four site-specific concept designs and develop guidelines and objectives for two thematic projects that were applied generally throughout the project area.

The site-specific projects include: Willow Street Entrance Park, 19th Street Plaza, Cressa Park North, and Cressa Park South (**Figure vii**). The thematic projects embodied neighborhood improvements that were important to the community, but not necessarily tied to one specific site (**Table v**). These two projects are intended to be applied generally, and include landscape improvements and street improvements throughout the project area. The team facilitated a series of community workshops to produce design alternatives for the site-specific projects and to discuss the objectives of the thematic projects.

Phase 3: Final Project Implementation

The final phase of the project was focused on working with steering committee members to design and build a portion of one of the long-term projects as a demonstration of the neighborhood's vision. The project selection was based on criteria such as feasibility (how easy it would be to build), political implications (the project's compatibility with existing

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land use designations and local political will), and overall neighborhood impact. During a series of meetings, committee members deliberated over the implications of each of the options (**Table vi**). In certain cases, the team was asked to meet with local organizations or city representatives to help assess the viability of the different options.

During this time, concern voiced by the city's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) led the team to remove the benches completed during the initial build project. Two of the three benches were relocated to yards of involved community members. Ultimately, the steering committee along with the team members determined that it was necessary to complete the final build project on private land, rather than on one of the public sites of the long-term projects. This informed the decision to implement a demonstration garden in a residential yard as part of the landscape improvements thematic project, which includes recommendations for residents to incorporate habitat and water quality improvement strategies in their own yards.

Right. South Wrigley Final Build Project

TABLE vi *South Wrigley Options and Evaluations for the Final Build Project*

PROJECT OPTION	DESCRIPTION	EVALUATION
Cressa Park South Entrance	Clean-up and provide entry path from edge of street to park entrance. Plant row of trees to define space. Install bioretention areas to manage runoff from the Pacific Coast Highway overpass.	Site preparation would have been difficult and despite local political support for the improvement it was unclear if the project would have resulted in increased use of the existing park and an improved sense of safety.
19th Street Plaza	Clean-up and provide seating along street edges. Use bollards and paint to define multiple recreation uses. Install basketball hoop and infiltration areas.	Site preparation and construction would have been difficult, but feasible. The project was controversial among neighborhood organizations. Committee members agreed it would have had a significant positive impact.
Exercise Equipment	Install three exercise equipment stations in the Willow Street Entrance Park.	Construction would have been feasible, but committee members agreed a walking path would have a bigger impact on the park. Local political agencies would not support construction in this park.
Walking Path	Install a walking path and meandering dry creek bed in the Willow Street Entrance Park.	Due to the size of the park, site preparation and construction would have been difficult to complete. Local political agencies would not support construction in this park. Committee members agreed it would have had a significant positive impact.
Demonstration Garden (Final Selection)	Install a demonstration rain garden in a residential front yard and have a gathering to discuss the implications of infiltration and using drought-tolerant plants that are beneficial for local wildlife.	Site preparation and construction was very feasible. The project did not require approval. The yard was located in a visible part of the neighborhood where other residents were engaged by the construction process.



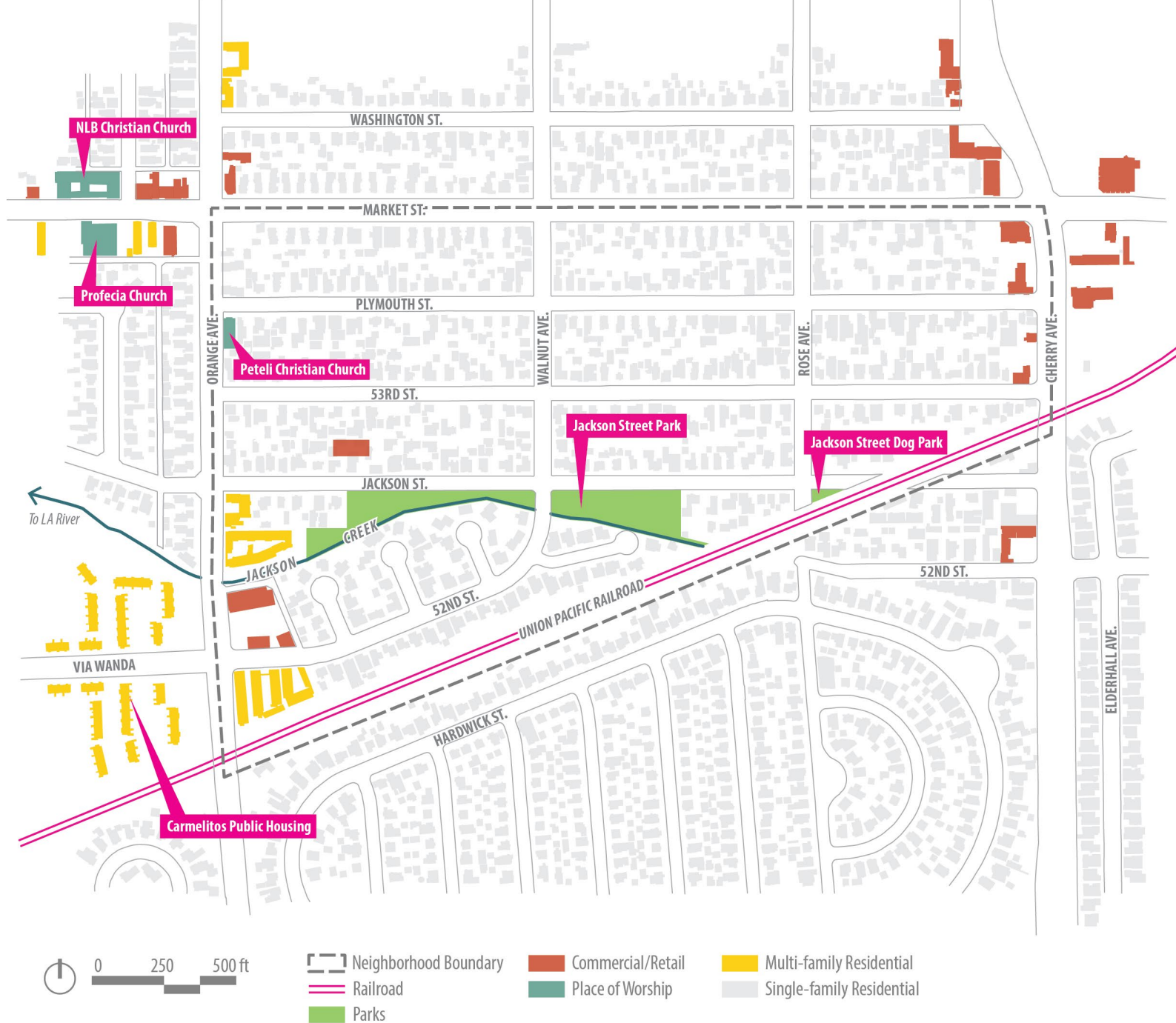


FIGURE viii Jackson Park Geographic Context

JACKSON PARK

The Jackson Park community is ethnically diverse and comprised primarily of low-income working-class residents. The neighborhood is located in North Long Beach two miles east of the LA River. Jackson Creek, a ten foot wide concrete drainage channel, bisects the neighborhood and continues west to the LA River (**Figure viii**).

The Jackson Park neighborhood is bordered by Market Street to the north and the Union Pacific Railroad corridor to the south. Orange Avenue forms the western border and the neighborhood extends east to Cherry Avenue. The neighborhood covers approximately 90 acres and encompasses primarily single-

family homes and residential apartments with a small number of commercial properties along its periphery. Park space in the neighborhood includes Jackson Street Park as well as Jackson Street Dog Park.

Through the community outreach and engagement process, the team identified the issues that were most important to the residents, which guided the neighborhood inventory process (**Table vii**). Inventory results confirmed the community-identified issues and helped the project team understand the design opportunities and constraints of the neighborhood.

Phase 1: Community Outreach and Engagement

The first phase of the project included canvassing, a series of community meetings, and a culminating built project. The team held a series of community meetings to familiarize residents with the project and identify potential community leaders who could form a neighborhood steering committee. The team worked collaboratively with these community members

TABLE vii *Summary of Jackson Park Neighborhood Inventory Results*

INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
Demographics	The neighborhood is representative of other communities in the focus area.
Historical Context	Jackson Park is situated on former farmland and military housing.
Neighborhood Identity	There is no defined neighborhood identity aside from the relationship to the existing linear park.
Safety & Security	Residents feel unsafe due to a lack of speed bumps, signs and poor lighting.
Seating Area	There is little seating throughout the neighborhood.
Facility and Infrastructure Maintenance	Infrastructural repairs on roadways and playground equipment are needed.
Waste Disposal	A lack of trash receptacles and inconsistent maintenance resulted in the accumulation of garbage.
Environmental Concerns	Flooding and stormwater quality are primary concerns for community members.
Aesthetics	The absence of an overall aesthetic makes the neighborhood appear unattractive.
Recreational Opportunities	A lack of recreational programming has resulted in sporadic park use.
Past and Future Projects	Potential investment in infrastructure could restore the neighborhood.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

to design and build the initial construction project, which resulted in the implementation of three new benches in Jackson Street Park. Two benches were constructed at the children's playground (where no seating was previously located) and a third hexagonal bench was built around a large tree. The build days created momentum and strengthened community bonds, forming a foundation for the next two phases of the project.

Phase 2: Neighborhood Vision Planning

The second phase of the project was comprised of a series of design workshops and steering committee meetings that resulted in the development of the neighborhood vision plan. During the first workshop, the team facilitated activities that allowed community members to identify and map areas in their neighborhood that needed improvement. The team worked with community members to aggregate the results into a list of potential project sites, and after meeting with the steering committee to prioritize the options, decided on five sites to be designed in greater detail (**Figure ix**).



Above. Jackson Park Initial Build Day Project



FIGURE ix Jackson Park
Final Site Selections

Through a series of additional design workshops, the community created two design alternatives for all five community spaces. During this interactive and collaborative process the community made design decisions that reflected priorities for improving safety, health, accessibility, aesthetics, comfort, and environmental quality throughout the neighborhood. The community reviewed the design alternatives and suggested revisions that informed the final conceptual designs.

Phase 3: Final Project Implementation

The final phase of the project focused on collaborating with community members to select a final built project. Before determining the scope of work, the project team facilitated a group discussion with community members to determine the most feasible site for construction. **Table viii** describes the different projects and summarizes the evaluations community members made regarding project selection.

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During this time, concern voiced by PRM led the city to remove the benches completed during the initial build project. This prompted community members to focus on construction projects that could be completed on private land. The removal of the initial built project also inspired community members to form a neighborhood association and develop an action plan that would allow the community to work more collaboratively with PRM to bring about future improvements to the neighborhood parks and open spaces.

The community voted to construct a portion of the plans for the Orange Avenue commercial area. The intent of the final build project was to bring ecological and aesthetic improvements to a prominent commercial area at the southwestern corner of the neighborhood. Both the action plan and build project were designed, developed, and stewarded by community members, which created a sense of ownership and generated momentum for making future neighborhood improvements.

Right. Jackson Park Final Build Project

TABLE viii *Jackson Park Options and Evaluations for the Final Build Project*

PROJECT OPTION	DESCRIPTION	EVALUATION
Vacant Lot	Clean-up and implement site remediation and beautification strategies. Install seating, shade, bioretention areas, and neighborhood signs.	Owners requested an unfeasible lease agreement. Remediation of the former gas station site would require significant funding and municipal coordination.
Railroad Corridor	Install a bike path along the Union Pacific Railroad easement to feed into existing bicycling connections. Install a land bridge, rain gardens, solar lighting and seating to activate the space.	Easements in the site created a complicated path to municipal approval. Residents agreed the project was worthwhile but felt that less administratively complex projects were preferable.
Market Street	Install vegetated street medians, bulb-outs, and biofiltration elements to calm traffic and remove pollutants from stormwater runoff.	City improvements for Market Street were already in the planning stage. Residents agreed that other sites should be prioritized.
Jackson Street Park	Install community programming opportunities such as pathways, exercise areas, soccer fields, and playground equipment. Implement ecological improvements.	Community members overwhelmingly preferred this site for making immediate improvements, but city agencies would not support community-build projects in the park.
Jackson Park Action Plan (Final Selection)	Establish a neighborhood association to work collaboratively with city agencies to implement future neighborhood improvements.	Residents were enthusiastic about forming an association in addition to completing a final build project.
Orange Avenue Commercial Area (Final Selection)	Install vegetated bioswales, trench drains and planters to infiltrate and remediate stormwater runoff and ease heat-island effects associated with excessive hardscape.	The project was located on private land and did not require approval. Community members recognized the potential of this site to address community priorities.





Above. Community Members on Relocated Bench at South Wrigley Home

LESSONS LEARNED

Implementing participatory design-build strategies is a challenging, yet worthwhile, endeavor. Each stage of the process involves a different set of tools and requires designers to be adaptable and responsive to changing site conditions, political will, client needs, and community perspectives. The complexity of this approach is something that can only be learned through a hands-on approach to learning, which makes challenges inevitable. Some of these challenges are common to community organizing efforts in general, while others may be specific to the particular context of the project. Readers should consider their specific situation and context when identifying appropriate strategies. **Table ix** summarizes the key ‘tips’ that future designers can use to guide projects with a similar scope of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 606 Studio developed a series of policy and design recommendations based on the experience of working in different capacities with community members and local agencies. Through the application of the participatory design framework, the team discovered a number of barriers that slow the efficacy of the community organizing process, including the local political climate as well as the willingness and capacity of residents to engage in the development of neighborhood improvements. The project also revealed how limited government resources strain the ability of public agencies to support community-based projects. *Collective Efforts* identifies strategies to support the community organizing process. The recommendations are organized based on the entities they are directed at, such as educators, public agencies, and local businesses (**Table x**).

CATEGORY	KEY INSIGHTS FROM LESSONS LEARNED		
Community Outreach and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify meeting location and date before initiating canvassing outreach. • Develop a clear understanding of project goals before going door-to-door. • Ask relevant questions to engage residents in a conversation and build a relationship. • Collect phone numbers as well as email addresses to enable direct contact with residents for later outreach. • Use alternative outreach methods such as social media and newsletters but do not rely on them for meeting attendance. • Call residents and develop relationships with them to ensure continued engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, identify a local meeting location early in the organizing process. • Find a private space that is consistently available at a regular time where it is easy to set up tables and chairs. • If you are having trouble finding a location, ask residents if they know of a place where they feel comfortable meeting. • Be flexible. There are always creative solutions if there are no ideal locations. • Use key questions to keep meetings and workshops focused on the design goal. • Be aware of group dynamics and find ways to encourage everyone to participate. • Encourage attendees to show up on time, but be prepared for latecomers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to adhere to the agenda, but allow time for open discussion. • Create a more formal meeting setting to encourage participants to show up on time and adhere to the agenda. • Think carefully about the order of activities and how they might encourage or discourage people from participating. • Imagery is helpful for communicating goals and intentions to participants. • Outreach material can reflect the personality of the organizing team and community members. • Be brief. Use packets as a tool to support the meetings and outreach, but they should not be the main focus.
Inventory and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin regional inventory as early as possible, preferably before community outreach. • Ensure the inventory creates an argument for the community work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use community meetings, interviews, and field observations to inform inventory focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-reference inventory results with final designs to ensure designs are responsive to community priorities.
Working with Local Agencies and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When working with youth, involve a larger number of volunteers than needed to accommodate inconsistent attendance and ensure representation. • Keep in contact with staff of local agencies and organizations to maintain communication and accountability throughout the process. • When working with youth in low-income communities, recognize that they may not feel safe working in their own neighborhood. • Recognize and accommodate the complex home-work-school lives of youth partners. • Build mentor-mentee relationships with youth partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify leaders to support your efforts. • Be aware that organizations may not represent overall community demographics. • Avoid letting organizations take control of your bottom-up organizing efforts. • To maximize impact, choose neighborhoods without existing associations. • Identify city agencies that are open to the idea of community-based work prior to beginning the project. • Establish open and direct lines of communication as early as possible without potentially jeopardizing the momentum of the community efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve residents in the conversation with city agencies as much as possible to demonstrate community will. • Keep records of all correspondence with city and council representatives. • Follow-up all phone and in-person conversations with city staff and council representatives (and their staff) with emails documenting the content of the discussion as well as the times, date, and location.
Design Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the number of exercises to ensure community members do not become weary and disengaged. • Listen to peoples' reactions as they engage with designs to understand how they perceive their neighborhood and the project site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a variety of tools to make the designs as interactive as possible. • Start with smaller sites to make it easier for participants to learn to think spatially. • Provide inspirational imagery and ask people to find their own images to encourage a wide range of design alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that residents tend to prioritize safety over aesthetics, design, and ecosystem services. • Provide examples, diagrams, and images to explain design features.
Build Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow residents to direct the activities. • Have a variety of activities available that people can work on simultaneously. • Always have water and snacks available. • Start construction early to avoid heat and fatigue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify projects on private land early in the design process to ensure there are options for construction if public spaces are unavailable. • Choose highly visible locations to promote the project and recruit new participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider creating a third-party community-based group that is not affiliated with an established agency to address accountability.

TABLE ix Key Tips for Future Participatory Design-Build Projects

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GROUP	RECOMMENDATIONS
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate community-based projects into K-12 academic curriculum to promote civic engagement at a young age. • Encourage local community-based non-profits to partner with schools to create community resources.
Public Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the permitting process for small-scale community-based projects. • Be active in the communities to demonstrate a willingness to build a relationship with residents. • Encourage communities to form neighborhood associations, leading to increased social capital. • Make grants and grant writing resources available to community groups. • Target remnant public and private landscapes as opportunities for developing multi-benefit green infrastructure.
Neighborhood Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and promote participatory design methods to ensure neighborhood development reflects community priorities.
Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold private developers accountable for providing social and environmental amenities. • Require high-end developers to redirect revenue for community development efforts to low-income areas.
Local Business Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant in community development.
Landscape Architects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in local government to support participatory community development initiatives.

TABLE x *Project Recommendations*

RESILIENCY TOOLKIT

Collective Efforts defines a ‘resilient’ landscape as one that is able to sustain its function over time and under stress. With limited resources to continually rebuild our environment, it is important our landscapes are built to withstand and adapt to the changing conditions around them. The 606 Studio developed a ‘Resiliency Toolkit’ to provide guidelines for public agencies and community organizations who are interested in taking a more strategic approach to the long-term durability and sustainability of public landscapes.

The Toolkit identifies three key components for discussing landscape resiliency: landscape stressors, landscape elements, and landscape relationships. Stressors are conditions that a landscape must be able to endure and adapt to over time, such as extreme weather conditions or vandalism. Landscape elements are the individual design components such as plant materials or site furnishings. Landscape relationships describe where things are placed on a site and how they relate to one another. To use the Resiliency Toolkit, an organization or agency would determine which landscape stressors are most relevant to their project and use the corresponding criteria to make design decisions that maximize landscape resiliency (**Table xi**).

CONCLUSION

One of the objectives of *Collective Efforts* was to work with community members to create plans for multi-benefit infrastructure that addressed social needs while providing environmental services. This inherently represents a partnership between design professionals, agencies, organizations, and community members where the design experts take on the role of facilitators to integrate their understanding of regional environmental priorities with the priorities and interests of local residents. This partnership is foundational to the sustainable development of neighborhoods in the Lower Los Angeles River Corridor and the key to building resilient communities.

TABLE xi *Criteria for Selecting Resilient Landscape Design Elements*

STRESSOR	PLANT SELECTION CRITERIA	SITE FURNISHINGS CRITERIA	FACILITIES CRITERIA
Misuse and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris can be easily removed • Uncomfortable to the touch • Maintains visibility into the site • Resistant to damage by humans • Tolerant of soil compaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages users to dispose of trash • Spray-paint resistant • Discourages ‘urban camping’ • Discourages skating or grinding • Difficult to damage • Easy to clean • Easy to repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be easily damaged • Ability to withstand regular cleaning • Easy to repair • Spray-paint resistant • Lack of hidden or low visibility areas
High Levels of Human Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to tolerate occasional impact from adjacent activities • Will not injure users • Deep root system (trees) • Slow growing trees • Fast recovery time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Easy to replace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Deep footings
Changing Use Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transplant-friendly • High branching shade trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Adaptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Easily converted to new use
Weather Extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can withstand seasonal flooding • Deep roots System (trees) • Low fuel potential • High water content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Can be tethered instead of fixed in place • Easily replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Easily repaired • Deep footings
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective at sequestering carbon • Provides shade • Able to filter and/or remove pollutants from contaminated air and water • Drought-resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Low-energy consumption • Reduces impacts of pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Promotes infiltration

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01 PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1

INTRODUCTION

The Gateway Cities (GWC) are a collection of 27 cities and unincorporated areas that occupy the southeastern region of LA County (**Figure 1.1**). They are characterized by their transportation- and manufacturing-centered economies as well as ethnically diverse and generally working class populations (LAEDC, 2017). Communities in the Gateway Cities are often considered to be more disadvantaged socioeconomically, environmentally, and politically compared to many communities throughout the rest of LA County (Li, 2017). Analysis conducted by the 606 Studio illustrates that historic disenfranchisement, a lack of financial and educational resources, water and air pollution, park poverty, and a lack of habitat for native flora and fauna are prevalent issues throughout the region. Without the financial, educational, and political resources to work toward neighborhood revitalization, many of these pressing needs go unaddressed. Residents of these neighborhoods often express concern over the lack of opportunities for genuine involvement in the decision-making processes that affect their community (Milburn, 2017).

Collective Efforts builds off of the 606 Studio project *Community Constructed* (2016), which culminated in a series of community-designed and built works in the Gateway Cities of Bell, Cudahy and South Gate. By adopting a non-traditional community-based approach to identifying project sites, programming, and implementation, residents are engaged from day one and throughout the entire process. Additionally, *Collective Efforts* partnered with the Conservation Corp of Long Beach (CCLB) to establish and build community capacity in a more rooted and direct manner, ensuring the long-term and ongoing community ownership of the resulting projects.

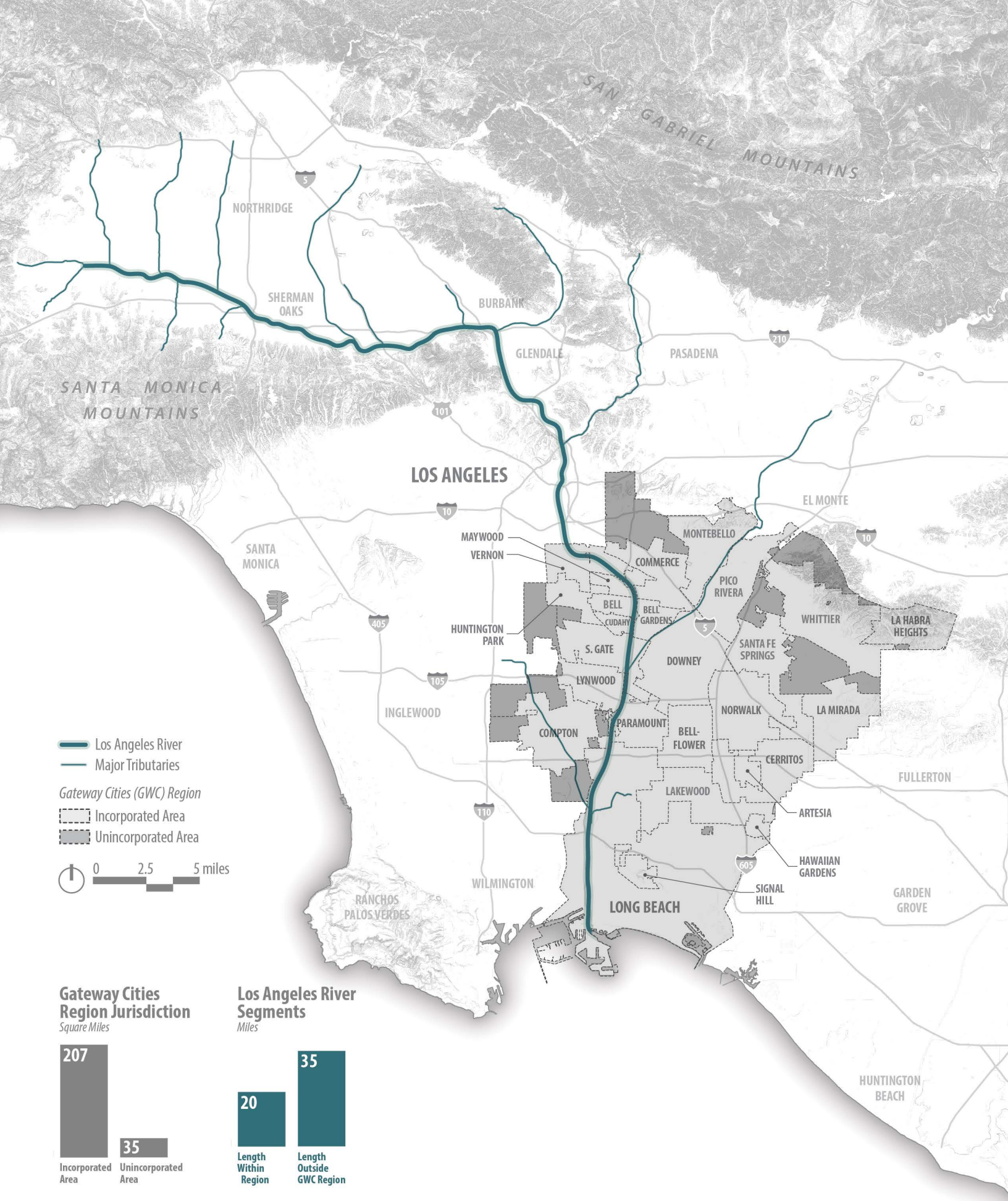


FIGURE 1.1 Gateway Cities Region

1.2

THE 606 STUDIO

Each year, the 606 Studio completes one or more capstone projects for the landscape architecture graduate program at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The 606 Studio has nearly 45 years of award-winning service work focused on helping municipalities, non-government organizations, community organizations, and other agencies to solve complex problems resulting from relationships between human and natural systems. The 606 Studio projects apply advanced methods of analysis and design to address significant issues concerning resources of both the physical and social environment, with broad implications that go beyond project site boundaries.

In 2015-2016 the 606 Studio project, *Community Constructed*, adopted a bottom-up participatory design approach and focused on the neighborhood scale to develop design solutions that seek to bridge the gap between local interests and regional visions. It centered on creating community-driven designs for immediate neighborhood improvements as opposed to developing regional-scale master plans with a multi-decade implementation strategy. The project teams worked closely with neighborhood residents to develop a series of community-designed and built works in three different river-adjacent neighborhoods in the Gateway Cities. The purpose of these projects was to explore how participatory design can engage these underserved communities and provide an alternative to top-down master planning efforts (606 Studio, 2016). *Community Constructed* focused heavily on implementing the participatory design process within the context of river-adjacent neighborhoods as well as developing strategies for selecting neighborhoods with the greatest need. The success of the previous 606 Studio provided the foundation and framework for the outreach, participatory design, and build day strategies that were used for *Collective Efforts* and allowed the current project to set more expansive goals.

Instead of focusing on one community project per neighborhood, the *Collective Efforts* project teams worked with residents to develop neighborhood-scale vision plans that address their community-specific landscape improvement needs. The teams worked collaboratively with residents to generate three to six plans for inter-related sites in each of

Below. The Work Completed for *Community Constructed* (2016) Established the Foundation for *Collective Efforts* (2017)



the neighborhoods and there was an emphasis on initiating a dialogue with residents about how the landscape can serve both social and ecological functions. Specifically, the teams focused on incorporating strategies for improving local water quality.

The *Collective Efforts* partnership with the CCLB jump-started the site selection process. This allowed for an ambitious project scope that included an initial build project, multiple concept designs per neighborhood, and a final construction project that reflected the goals and objectives of the overall neighborhood vision plan. Similar to *Community Constructed*, *Collective Efforts* utilized participatory design strategies to engage residents in creating projects that directly address their needs and resonate with the culture and character of their neighborhood.



1.3

THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH PARTNERSHIP

The CCLB is a non-profit charitable organization that provides work opportunities and training programs to at-risk youth aged 18 to 25. As one of 14 certified Conservation Corps organizations in the State of California, the CCLB is able to administer their own high school education programs and provides high school diplomas to young adults (CCLB, 2017). CCLB work projects are service-oriented and aimed at providing assistance to city and county agencies while helping youth members establish healthy work habits and a sense of environmental stewardship (CCLB, 2017). Typical duties for program participants include recycling, park restoration, drought-tolerant plant installation and steam-cleaning building facades for graffiti removal. The environmental focus of the CCLB aligns well with the focus of the *Collective Efforts* project.

The Conservation Corps was identified to participate in *Collective Efforts* through allied organizations involved in development efforts surrounding the LA River. The purpose of working with a youth development agency was to nurture

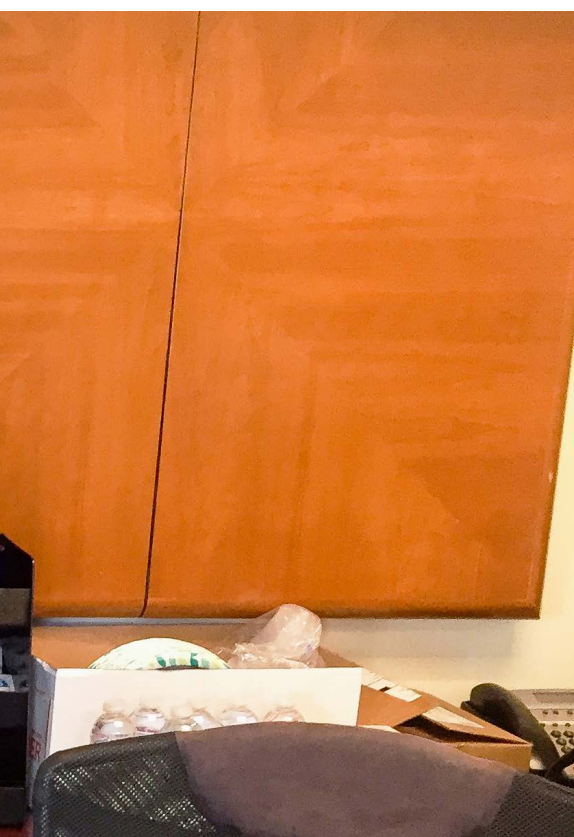


*Right. CCLB Members Discussing
Local Playground Facility*



authentic community by initiating organizing efforts with youth residents who are rooted in their neighborhood and the perspectives of the local community. The hope was that involving these community members would also create long-term future environmental stewards while providing exposure for at-risk youth to urban planning, landscape architecture, and other fields oriented toward sustainable development. The CCLB volunteered to work collaboratively with the 606 Studio to provide a unique leadership opportunity for interested CMs.

*Below. CCLB Members Participating
in Canvassing Training*



The partnership between the 606 Studio and the CMs began with an introductory meeting with key members of the organization. The directors selected four CMs to attend this initial meeting and learn more about *Collective Efforts*. The four CMs were selected based on their leadership skills and their interest in community development, and three out of the four students lived in close proximity to the LA River. Partnering with the CMs provided an opportunity for the project teams to gain valuable insight into the neighborhoods. The hope was that these young adults would have the unique opportunity to work on projects that would directly impact their own neighborhoods, while learning more about landscape architecture and related fields. The partnership between the 606 Studio and the CCLB created a platform for mentoring and encouraged the CMs to expand their understanding of the importance of landscape and their own capacity to enact change in the world around them.

Collective Efforts owes a debt of gratitude to the original CMs who helped jump-start the community outreach and engagement process: Anthony Taufi, Crystal Avina*, Larry Hall, and Jaycob Beach.

The original CMs guided the 606 Studio on tours of the Long Beach area and participated in mapping personally significant places while defining the boundaries of what they considered to be their neighborhood. The CMs helped the 606 Studio select the two neighborhoods where the planning and design efforts would take place, and also participated in many of the initial community outreach efforts. With their help, the students were able to start outreach and engagement in November 2016 and the project was able to develop a broader scope of work that ultimately had a greater impact on the communities. While only two of the four CMs continued working with the project through completion, *Collective Efforts* would not have achieved such a broad scope of work without their involvement.

*Crystal Avina left the CCLB shortly after her involvement with *Collective Efforts* began. She was unavailable for an interview.

Below. CMs use Stickers and Markers to Identify Personally Significant Places





MEET THE CONSERVATION CORPS MEMBERS

ANTHONY TAUFI

"All my life has been a fight," admits 25 year old Anthony Taufi, an upcoming mixed martial arts fighter. Born in Hawaii, Anthony is the second oldest among five brothers and one sister. He and his family settled in West Long Beach and eventually he moved in with an uncle living in the Wrigley neighborhood, where he still lives today. Like many kids, Anthony was bullied. By 13, he vowed to do something about it and took his 5' 7" inch frame to a boxing gym in nearby Wilmington and learned how to fight. Gym life suited Anthony and he quickly found the family atmosphere he craved with his fellow martial artists and instructors. As he matured physically he expanded his training to include Gu Gkung Do, a style of Taekwondo emphasizing striking. Anthony holds belts in Judo and Ju Jitsu, has Gold and Silver Gloves in boxing, and studies both Muy Thai and traditional kickboxing. Anthony credits martial arts with keeping him from being consumed by gang life, which derailed his schooling for a brief period of time. He was later able to finish his degree once he enrolled at the CCLB.

While at the CCLB, Anthony's dedication to his schoolwork was noted by the Director of Education who selected him as a candidate for the Cal Poly Pomona 606 Studio project. Anthony was the primary reason why the west Long Beach team chose South Wrigley as one of the project areas. Anthony's infectious personality and local knowledge of the Wrigley community was invaluable to the project team.



JAYCOB BEACH

Born with cerebral palsy, Jaycob struggles with the effects of monoplegia in his right arm and seizures related to fluctuations with his medication and health care coverage. The seizures leave him exhausted and impact his ability to maintain consistent work and school schedules. Missing classes led to Jaycob falling behind in school and by his sophomore year he had been in and out of four different Long Beach high schools. He was attracted to the CCLB because he knew students who had excelled there and felt like community work would be a good fit for his interests. Once he completes his high school education, Jaycob hopes to enroll at Long Beach City College to study audio engineering. Despite the setbacks, Jaycob credits his grandmother, Coni, for his eternal optimism and with instilling in him a can-do attitude that helps him overcome life's obstacles.

Jaycob was attracted to the *Collective Efforts* project because he saw a need for additional green spaces that could offset the concrete strip malls that characterize the North Long Beach landscape. He saw funding going into projects like fast food restaurants that weren't benefiting the community, and cited a need for more parks and gardens. Having grown up in the nearby Bixby Knolls section of Long Beach, Jaycob had a grounded familiarity with Jackson Park and its residents. During door-to-door outreach efforts, Jaycob struck an easy rapport with residents, commiserating with one woman over a particularly memorable teacher they both endured in school. His ease with the community helped the project team build relationships with Jackson Park residents.



LARRY HALL

Larry Hall grew up in South LA, and has nine sisters and brothers who live along the west coast from LA to Seattle. As a child, Larry was always creative. He remembers hearing the phrase, "A picture's worth a thousand words," and it struck a chord that still resonates with him today. He seemed to always have a pencil or paintbrush in his hand and he thrived in photography and woodshop art classes at Locke High School in Watts. Despite his dedication, Larry still found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time and was forced to take time off from school. When he was ready to return, Larry found himself a year and a half behind his classmates. His mom's cousin had success getting her H.S. diploma with the CCLB and suggested he give it a try. Larry joined the CCLB in July of 2016 and was on schedule to earn his H.S. diploma in spring of 2017. Larry credits Irene Quinones (Mrs. Q, as she's known around school) with believing in him and providing the necessary structure and guidance to allow Larry's natural talents to flourish.

While at CCLB, Larry has studied writing, painting, photography and tattoo-artistry. He has also written, directed and produced his own videos. Larry was drawn to the project because he likes creating things with his hands and likes the idea of building something to better the community. After graduation, Larry has an offer for full-time work at a nearby oil refinery, which will build a solid financial base for his family and young daughter. He also would like to enroll at Long Beach State University, and sees himself enhancing his artistic skills as a filmmaker or photographer.

1.4

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1.4.1 PROJECT GOAL

Engage communities along the Lower LA River Corridor in a dialogue about the river and its associated open spaces to identify priority neighborhood landscape improvements that address stormwater runoff (water quality, quantity and temperature, including pollutant mitigation) and ecological systems. These improvements will also enhance the link between existing river parks and their neighborhoods and create multi-functional green infrastructure that concurrently addresses the need for (1) recreation and leisure spaces to improve quality of life and physical health, and (2) environmental improvements that provide ecosystem services such as stormwater management, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat.

Below. Engaging Residents in a Dialogue about the Potential of River-adjacent Neighborhood Landscapes



1.4.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1 Conduct issue-driven regional and local analyses to better understand the unique environmental and social characteristics of the Gateway Cities neighborhoods and the necessity of and urgency for public engagement in the development and revitalization of the physical environment and social connections.
- 2 Use participatory design methods to identify three to six projects in each of two neighborhoods (six to twelve projects total) that can have positive impacts on stormwater runoff (water quality, quantity and temperature, including pollutant mitigation) and thereby on habitat and other ecological systems.
- 3 Develop local community knowledge of the river, the interaction of the river and neighborhood, and how the river can be an ecological and social asset for residents.
- 4 Provide recommendations, tools and techniques to support safe and improved public access to the river and the riverfront open space system.
- 5 Develop a community engagement process that results in a sustainable commitment to local river and landscape resources.
- 6 In each neighborhood, develop informed community leadership committed to community and landscape improvements.
- 7 Mentor local youth, including members of the CCLB, to become community leaders and local stewards of healthy neighborhood landscapes.
- 8 Implement local work days and small scale community projects to create a sense of ownership in each neighborhood.
- 9 Identify strategies for establishing oversight and guidance that is committed to implementation, funding, and maintenance of neighborhood projects.
- 10 Identify materials, design approaches, and practices to increase landscape resilience in the Los Angeles region.



1.5

PROJECT METHODS

A number of methods were used by the 606 Studio to gain a better understanding of the study region and project areas. Some of the methods relied heavily on working with community members to identify their specific preferences and priorities for enacting change in their neighborhoods. This includes methods such as canvassing, community meetings, and steering committee meetings. Additional methods were more data-driven, such as GIS mapping and analysis, and were used primarily to conduct the regional inventory. Following is a complete list of methods that were applied throughout the project. **Table 1.1 and 1.3** summarize the key questions that drove the selection of these methods, while **Table 1.2** illustrates when the methods were utilized throughout the project. Detailed findings for each method are documented in the regional and neighborhood inventory sections of the report (**Section 2, 4.3, and 5.3**).

1.5.1 CANVASSING

Door-to-door canvassing is an outreach method that is used to target a group of people with the intent of garnering their support for an idea or getting them involved in a group effort, usually over a short period of time (Perfect, 2016). The canvassing strategy for both teams evolved over time depending on the purpose of the outreach. The teams developed ‘pitches’ to describe the goals of the project as well as business cards and fliers that included contact information and an overview of the project. The students used maps of the neighborhood to document and track resident responses. The primary goals included learning more about residents’ perspectives about making neighborhood improvements, and identifying residents interested in participating in community meetings, design workshops, and the overall project. Refer to **Appendix B and C** for outreach materials and response tracking sheets used during the canvassing process.

1.5.2 INTERVIEWS

Interviews were used throughout all phases of the project. They were conducted with representatives from local organizations as well as political agencies, which offered greater insight

	Canvassing	Interviews	Field Observations	GIS Mapping and Analysis	Community Meetings	Steering Committee Meetings	Design Workshops	Build Days
What type of improvements are most important to residents?	X	X			X	X	X	
What are people’s existing perceptions of the river and the role it plays in their neighborhood?	X	X			X	X		
How can the community-designed and built projects inspire local ownership?			X		X	X	X	X
How can participatory design strategies be effective for developing community leaders?					X	X	X	X
What are the opportunities for making improvements in the neighborhood?		X	X	X	X	X	X	

TABLE 1.1 Summary of Questions for Community-based Methods

	Data Mining	GIS Mapping and Analysis	Field Observations
How has the historic development of the region impacted current conditions?	X		X
What are the demographic and land use conditions in the study region?	X	X	X
How are river-adjacent communities in the Gateway Cities impacted by stormwater runoff and pollution?	X	X	
What are the implications of air pollution along the Lower LA River and adjacent communities?	X	X	
Do communities in the focus area have adequate access to parks and open spaces?	X	X	X
How have habitat conditions been impacted by urban development in the study area?	X	X	X
What are the regulatory conditions that shape the political landscape in communities along the LA River?	X		

TABLE 1.3 Summary of Questions for Data-Driven Methods

	PHASE 1 Community Outreach and Engagement			PHASE 2 Neighborhood Vision Planning			PHASE 3 Final Project Implementation		
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Canvassing									
Interviews									
Field Observation									
Data Mining									
Mapping and Analysis									
Community Meetings									
Steering Committee Meetings									
Design Workshops									
Build Days									

TABLE 1.2 Use of Methods Throughout Project Development

into specific attitudes and perceptions of various stakeholders involved in the project. Regional organizations were contacted during the first phase of the project to learn from similar already established efforts and identify potential resources while local organizations were contacted during the second and third phases as a strategy for identifying partners and establishing local support for the project. Teams attended local organization meetings, contacted political agencies, and met with local companies that expressed interest in supporting the project.

1.5.3 FIELD OBSERVATION

Field observation is used to survey the existing conditions of a site or neighborhood. Both project teams used field observation to develop a better understanding of neighborhood characteristics such as street conditions and pedestrian amenities. The teams documented observations using photography, notes, and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices.

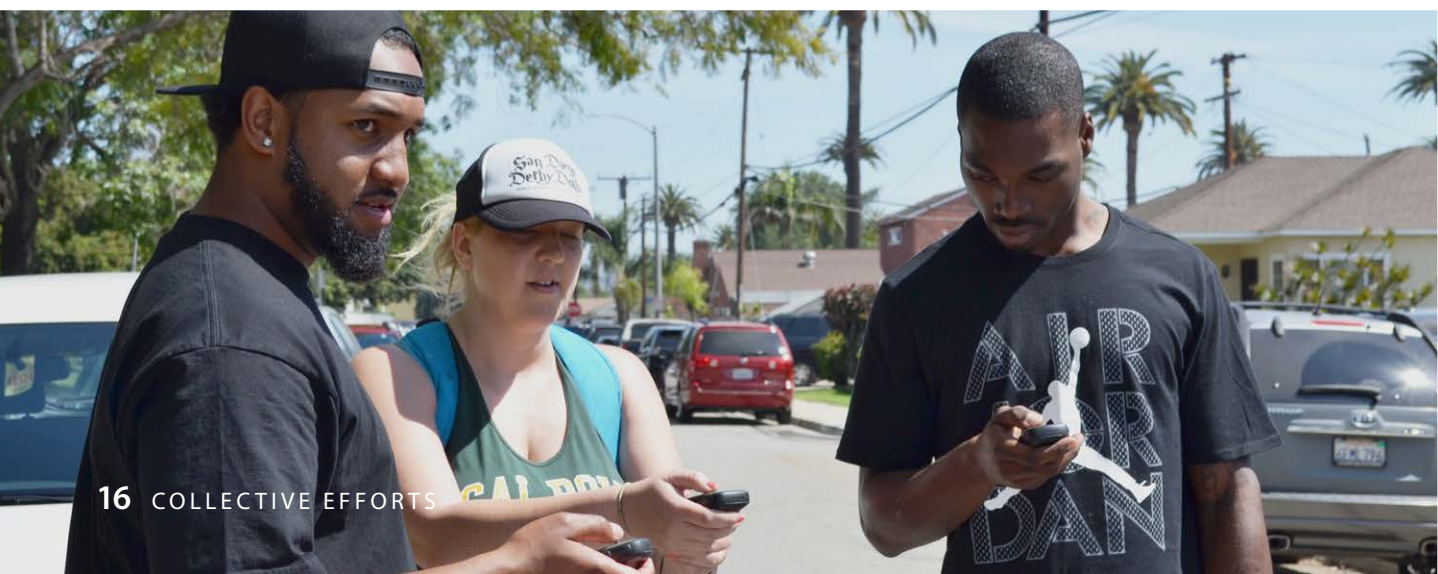
1.5.4 DATA MINING

Data mining describes the process of acquiring and processing information from a variety of sources and perspectives (Palace, 1996). Data mining was most relevant for the regional and neighborhood inventory portions of the project. A number of sources were identified, which included internet databases, pertinent organizational and political web resources, academic literature, and 606 Studio faculty members.

1.5.5 GIS MAPPING AND ANALYSIS

Within the field of landscape architecture, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is utilized as a tool for implementing geodesign, a method of design that is derived from the work of Ian McHarg; designers collect detailed information about a landscape and overlay data layers to reveal patterns that

Below. Project Team Member Works with CMs to Program GPS Devices





Above. Project Teams Used a Variety of Sources for Data Mining

highlight the opportunities and constraints of a given site (Goodchild, 2010; Li & Milburn, 2016). Since its inception, geodesign strategies have been utilized for initiatives such as: trail planning, understanding park accessibility, protecting sensitive habitat from encroaching development, analyzing changing land use patterns over time, and reconciling habitat fragmentation. The merging of geographic principles and urban design is creating new opportunities for designers to achieve a variety of social and environmental goals through geospatial analysis that supports or rejects the development of a specific project (Talen, 2011).

GIS mapping was used in the regional inventory and analysis process to understand the environmental and socioeconomic conditions of the Gateway Cities in comparison to LA County, which was treated as a general baseline. Comparisons were also made between the Upper and Lower LA River to better understand the unique characteristics of river-adjacent neighborhoods in the Gateway Cities. GIS was utilized to process, map, analyze, and visualize data that was collected from various sources, including LA County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other public sources.

The 606 Studio followed an issue-driven approach to analysis that focused on community-specific topics for investigation. Socioeconomic analysis focused on factors such as ethnicity, income, and levels of education attainment. Environmental analysis centered on hydrology and water quality, air quality, open space opportunities, and habitat conditions. For a list of questions that were addressed with the use of GIS mapping and analysis, refer to **Table 1.2**.



1.5.6 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community meetings are intended to support the organized sharing of ideas and information, which typically requires setting a meeting goal, developing an agenda, and inviting people ahead of time to ensure the meeting is well attended (Enriquez, 1997). Community meetings were used during the initial community outreach and engagement phase to help the teams identify community leaders. Prior to the meetings, students reserved meeting locations and proposed meeting times that worked for those who were interested in attending. Each community meeting included different activities to encourage a dialog that helped the project teams answer certain questions and address their goals for each meeting.

Above. Activities Encourage Community Interaction and Help to Achieve Meeting Objectives

1.5.7 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Due to the complexity of many of the critical decisions that needed to be made throughout the project, a smaller steering committee was formed with a subset of the residents participating in the larger community meetings. The steering committees consisted of the residents who were most interested in long-term implementation of the project and were recruited on an ongoing basis throughout the project. The committee members were intended to be representative of the larger community with respect to considerations such as age, ethnicity, and homeownership. Steering committee meetings were often used to seek advice and to make key project decisions outside of community meetings and design workshops. The hope was that these community leaders would become empowered to become long-term landscape stewards as a result of the project.

1.5.8 DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Design workshops typically require several days of preparation and include discussions and activities to generate design alternatives and present results (Watson, 1996). During the neighborhood vision planning phase of the project, the project teams held three to four design workshops where community members played an active role in generating the concept designs for different sites throughout their neighborhoods. During the workshops, some basic landscape design principles were conveyed to the community members to help facilitate the design process and generate ideas. These workshops introduced concepts relating to stormwater management that were incorporated into the final designs.

1.5.9 BUILD DAYS

Build days included preparation (developing documents, gathering materials, etc.), construction, installation, clean-up, and/or removal. Preparation days typically involved only project team members, who would purchase materials and complete tasks requiring greater precision and attention to detail such as wood cutting. On construction days, neighborhood volunteers gathered to build the projects that had been selected and designed by involved community members. The build days were not only used to implement projects, but also to build a sense of ownership in community members by having them actively taking part in installation. Clean-up days involved removing all debris and tools from the project site, and, during the third phase, also involved the removal of the initial build project.

Below, left to right. Design Workshops Engage Residents in the Design Process; Build Days Encourage a Sense of Ownership



1.6

PARTICIPATORY DESIGN

Over the last few decades, citizens have begun to play a greater role in the environmental design and community development process (Hester, 1984). Traditionally, the environmental design process was conducted by design experts and professionals with limited input from the community, which ultimately resulted in exploitative practices that had little consideration for disenfranchised minority populations (Hou & Rios, 2003). The extent of public participation was predominantly data collection using techniques such as surveys, public comments, and focus groups, or to inform the community about the project through public forums, newsletters and public meetings (Hester, 1984). Fortunately, the design process has moved in a direction where the public is more involved in the decision-making process and community-driven design methods have been developed to empower marginalized citizen groups (606 Studio, 2016).

1.6.1 SPECTRUM OF PARTICIPATORY DESIGN

Various models have been created to investigate the degree to which the public is involved in the design process. One example is Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation developed during the early years of participatory design (Figure 1.2). This model ranks levels of participatory involvement, from no community involvement to complete citizen control of the design process (Arnstein, 1969). Starting from the bottom, 'non-participation' relies on design professionals who hold all the decision-making power and seek no input from citizens. It rises to levels of 'tokenism', in which citizens' concerns and input are heard but have no real impact on the decision-making process. On the opposite end of the spectrum is 'citizen control', where the community has all formal decision-making power and control over financial resources for implementing projects in their neighborhoods (Arnstein, 1969).

Other professionals and organizations have also developed frameworks and models for describing the various approaches and levels of participatory design. Table 1.4 describes the spectrum of participatory design as defined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAPP). In this model, informing and consulting are not participatory design methods

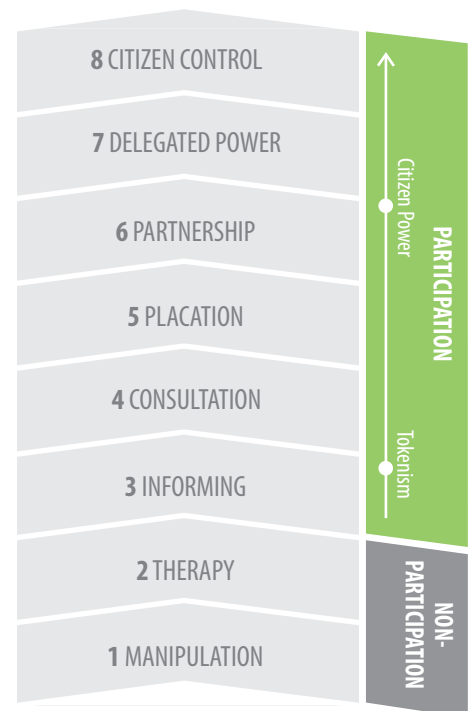


FIGURE 1.2 Arnstein's Ladder
(Adapted from Arnstein, 1969)

For a more complete investigation into the history and political context of participatory design, refer the 606 Studio project *Community Constructed* (606 Studio, 2016).

and do not allow integration of communities into the design process (IAPP2, n.d.). The goal of participatory design changes depending on the context, but is generally the engagement of the public to achieve a common design goal while striving to empower the community (Hester, 1984, Toker, 2007). Techniques such as workshops, group meetings, citizen advisory committees, and site walks allow the community to be involved at every stage of the design process and ensure projects respond to specific neighborhood characteristics and/or issues that are most important to local residents (Cancian, 2015).

1.6.2 PARTICIPATORY DESIGN STAGES

There are a number of different participatory design stages, and throughout each the level of public participation can vary depending on the level of community engagement and how involved residents are in the decision-making process (606 Studio, 2016). For each step in the process, the facilitator must consider the level of public participation and how it helps or hinders the goals of the project and the goals for achieving

TABLE 1.4 IAPP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

	Public Participation Goal	Promise to the Public	Example Techniques
Empower	Place final decision making in the hands of the public.	We will implement what you decide.	Resident juries Delegated decision
Collaborate	Partner with the public on each aspect of the project including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	Resident advisory committees Consensus building Participatory decisions
Involve	Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	Workshops Deliberative polling
Consult	Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge your concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	Public comment Focus groups Surveys
Inform	Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	We will keep you informed.	Fact sheets Web sites Open houses

STAGE	QUESTION
Project Conceptualization	Who determined that the project was necessary? Who designed the project process? Who “started the ball rolling”?
Project Scope/Program	Who determined what should be done? What “things” should happen? What would be the end goal? What would be measures of success?
Site Assessment	Who assessed the area for its opportunities and limitations? Who evaluated different locations as potential sites for a design project(s)?
Site Selection	Who picked the site for the design project(s)?
Site Design	Who designed the alternatives for the site? Who determined the location of elements? Who determined the relationships between elements?
Design Evaluation	Who determined which aspects were priorities? Who determined which aspects were less important? Who evaluated the design for its ability to address the needs of the community? Who suggested modification to the design(s)?
Design Modification	Who modified the design based on the evaluation? Who decided what to prioritize when there was conflicting feedback?
Design Selection	Who selected and approved the final design?
Funding/Project Finances	Who acquired the resources for the project? Who paid for/provided resources for the project to be built?
Construction	Who built the project?
Maintenance	Who will maintain the project? Who will provide resources for repairs?

equity and empowerment; moreover, full participation may not always be the answer. Designers should be careful and considerate when laying out the design strategy (Melcher, 2013). **Table 1.5** illustrates the stages of participatory design and describes the types of questions facilitators must ask themselves about the role community members play throughout the process.

TABLE 1.5 *Participatory Design Defined by Stage of Participation*

The level of community engagement throughout each of the design stages can be defined by the techniques and tools that are adopted (606 Studio, 2016). For instance, strategies that favor in-person communication tend to be more participatory than those that utilize an on-line platform. Similarly, the

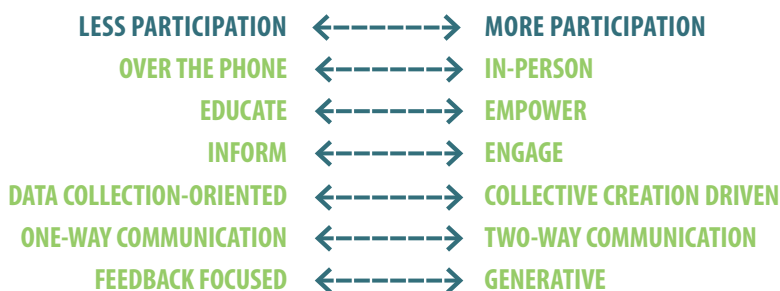


FIGURE 1.3 *Level of Participation for Techniques and Tools*

type of venue or the size of a meeting can impact the level of participation, as will the types of questions that are posed to the community and how they are asked to engage with those questions (Milburn, 2016). Some participatory design approaches also have an educational component where the goal is to influence people’s perceptions of the issue at hand. Designers must be careful to focus on engagement strategies that will maximize the impact of the message to avoid a scenario where the public is merely being informed of a problem and told to think differently (Cancian, 2016). Whatever tools or techniques are being implemented throughout the various stages of the design process, there are several different continuum for assessing the quality of the public participation (**Figure 1.3**). **Table 1.6** summarizes the participatory methods that were used throughout the *Collective Efforts* project and describes the levels of engagement for each of the methods.

TABLE 1.6 *Project Methods and Techniques in the Context of Participatory Design*

TOOL/TECHNIQUE	GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY	FORUM (IN PERSON OR OTHER)	FOCUS	COMMUNICATION FORMAT (ONE-WAY OR TWO-WAY)	VENUE (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE)
Canvassing	Individual	In-person or Via Flier	Engagement	Two-way	Public or Private
Interviews	Group	In-person or Via Email	Outreach	Primarily One-way	Public or Private
Community Meetings	Group	In-person	Educational	Two-way	Public
			Engagement		
			Data Collection		
			Idea Generation		
Steering Committee Meetings	Group	In-person	Engagement	Two-way	Public
			Data Collection		
			Idea Generation		
Design Workshops	Group	In-person	Educational	Two-way	Public
			Engagement		
			Idea Generation		
Mapping Exercises	Group	In-person	Data Collection	One-way	Public
Pros and Cons Exercise	Group	In-person	Data Collection	One-way	Public
			Engagement		
			Education		
Brainstorming Exercise	Group	In-person	Data Collection	One-way	Public
			Engagement		
			Education		
Build Days	Group	In-person	Engagement	Two-way	Public

1.6.3 PARTICIPATORY DESIGN IN THE GATEWAY CITIES

There are several reasons why participatory design is vital to the development and revitalization of the Gateway Cities, specifically in neighborhoods surrounding the Lower LA River. First, many neighborhoods within the Gateway Cities are home to predominately working class, lower-income families, and are often ignored during the traditionally top-down design and planning process (606 Studio, 2016). Participatory design engages these residents in articulating their own vision and their own designs, generating improvement plans that respond more effectively to their community-specific needs.

Second, community involvement in the participatory design process can create the momentum essential to building community capacity (Chaskin, 1999). Developing community capacity can lead to citizen-driven neighborhood organizations or citizen advisory groups that give communities the skills, resources, and experience to pursue active change in their neighborhoods (Mayer, 1995). This allows underserved communities to be better prepared to work collaboratively with public agencies to support sustainable community development. Neighborhoods in the Gateway Cities could benefit from this approach to community development.



Third, city agencies have limited resources so it is important for public projects to be relevant to local communities to make the most of investment dollars. By involving community members throughout the development process, agencies can ensure the final designs include elements that residents are likely to use. Similarly, when a community is engaged throughout the design process they are more likely to take ownership of the project and are less likely to damage or vandalize site amenities (Milburn, 2017). This translates to less money spent by public agencies on unnecessary public amenities and related maintenance costs.

Finally, involving residents at all stages of the design process, allows residents to share valuable insights throughout the programming, goal setting, site analysis, and inventory stages to allow for design solutions that are more appropriate to the neighborhood's context (Hester, 1984). Using participatory design in river-adjacent communities in the Gateway Cities has the power to supplement and enhance existing planning efforts throughout the LA River corridor; moreover, it has the potential to marry community-driven projects with long term visions to create more compelling and representative plans that celebrate the unique character of individual neighborhoods. Participatory design is an effective strategy to accomplish the goals set forth by *Collective Efforts*, and serves as a model that can be applied in similar communities throughout the region.



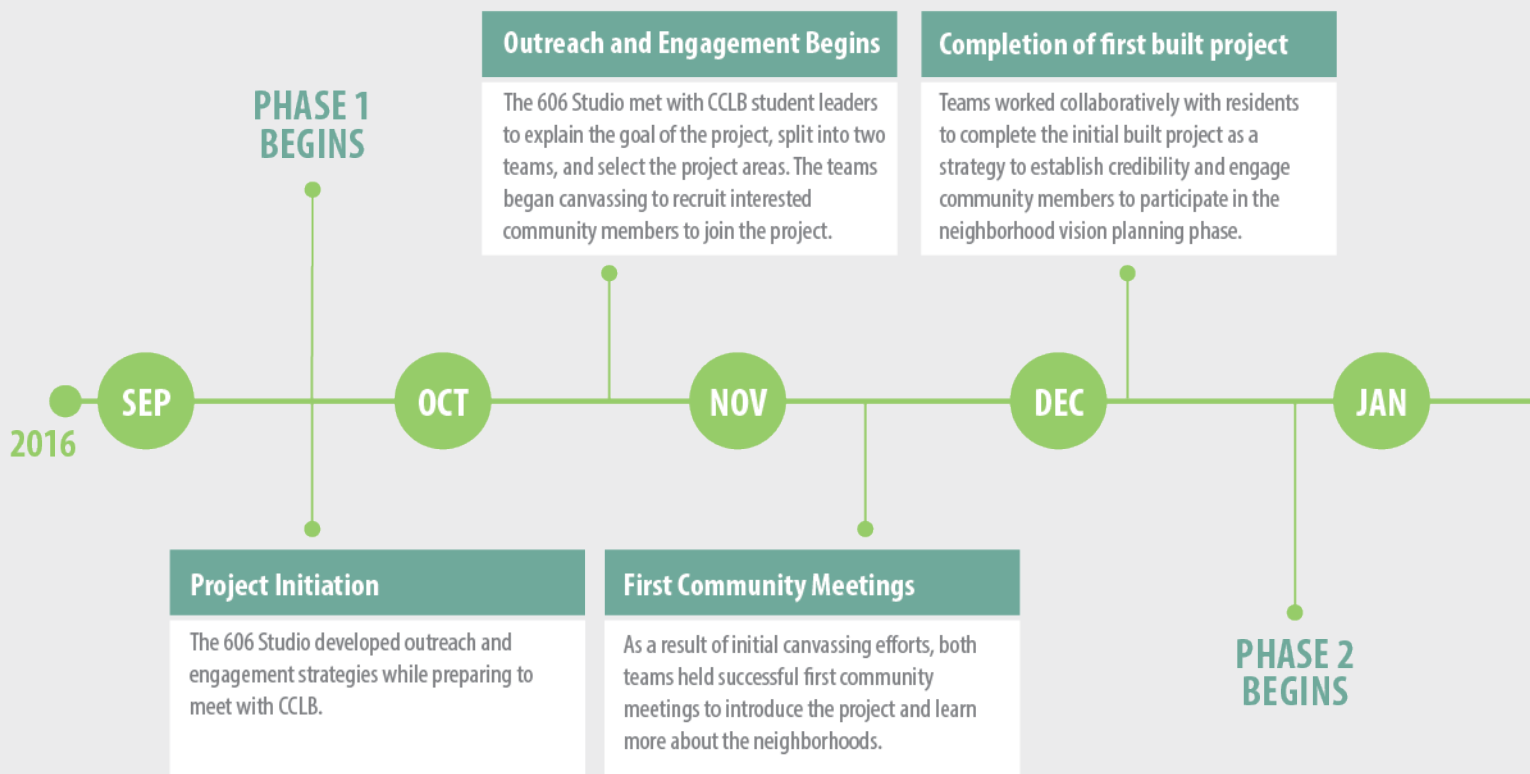
1.7

PROJECT TIMELINE

Collective Efforts took place over a series of nine months, from September 2016 to June 2017. The project was split into three different phases, each of which contained different elements of community outreach and participatory design. Each phase offered different opportunities to work collaboratively with residents to identify community priorities and generate feasible design solutions that respond to their neighborhood-specific landscape improvement needs.

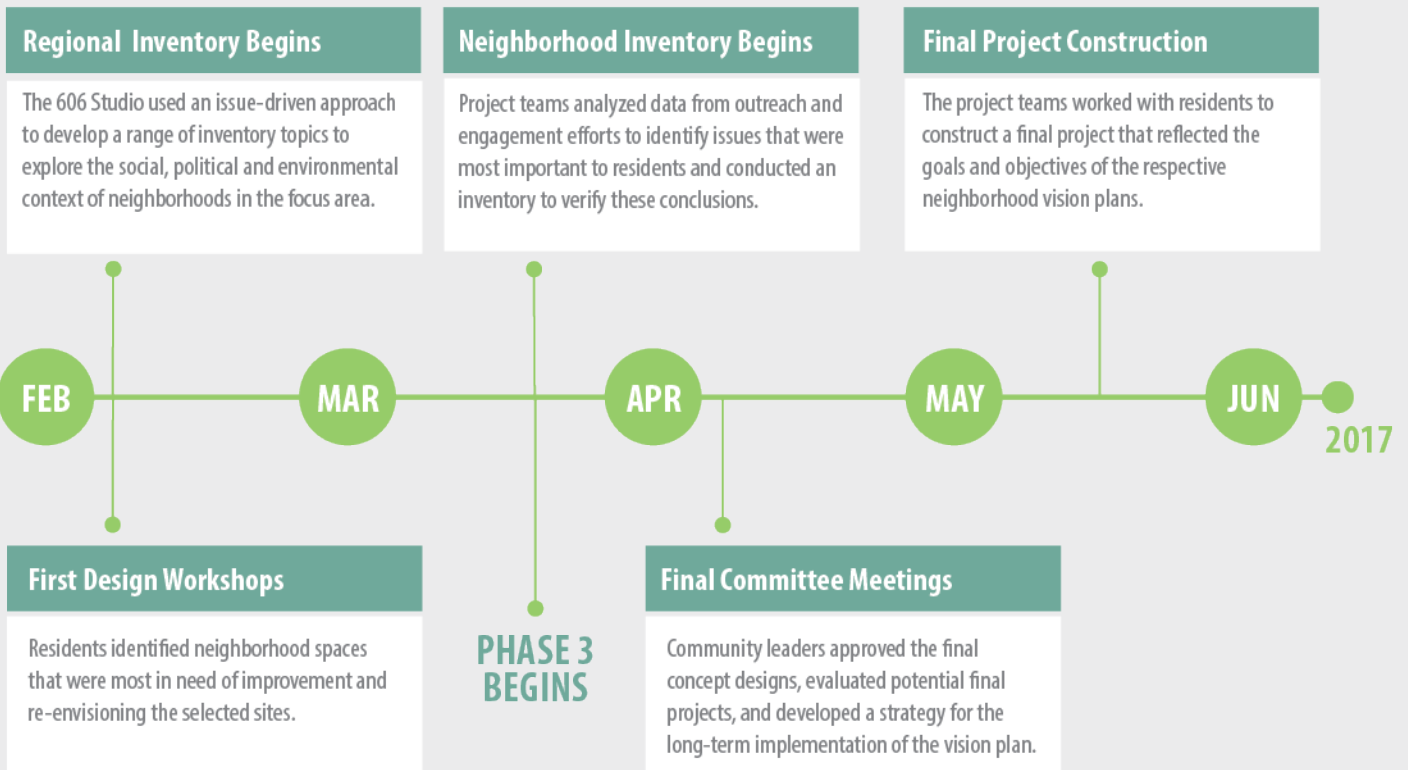
Figure 1.5 illustrates the objectives and outcomes for each phase, while **Figure 1.4** highlights key milestones that occurred throughout the project. See **Section 4.4 and 5.4** for details regarding the specific design process and results for the three phases in each of the two neighborhoods.

FIGURE 1.4 Key Project Milestones



PHASE 1: Community Outreach and Engagement	PHASE 2: Neighborhood Vision Planning	PHASE 3: Final Project Implementation
Develop community outreach and engagement strategies	Solidify committee of community leaders	Identify range of potential projects for final build days
Learn about community priorities and concerns	Adapt community outreach and engagement strategies	Evaluate options with community and develop plans for construction
Identify and recruit interested community members	Inventory neighborhood conditions based on community priorities	Construct final project with community members
Engage community members with initial build project	Facilitate community design workshops	Identify strategies for long-term implementation of vision plan
RESULT: Immediate improvement that demonstrates intent of project and initiates community ownership	RESULT: A set of three to six concept plans that represent the community's vision for the neighborhood	RESULT: Built project that reflects community priorities and generates momentum for long-term landscape stewardship

FIGURE 1.5 Objectives and Outcomes of Project Phases





A grayscale photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, a large number of birds, possibly waterfowl, are scattered across the water and the banks. A concrete bridge with several pillars spans across the river in the middle ground. In the background, there are trees and utility poles with power lines. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

02 REGIONAL INVENTORY

2.1

INTRODUCTION TO THE GATEWAY CITIES

Collective Efforts focuses its attention on the Los Angeles Gateway Cities to explore the potential of utilizing participatory design methods to make landscape improvements in river-adjacent communities that are disadvantaged socioeconomically, environmentally, and politically compared to many communities in Los Angeles County. As the name suggests, gateway communities tend to accommodate people on their way through to a central destination or hub of economic development, which in this case is the City of Los Angeles. Due to the fact that most gateway cities are not major destinations in their own right, their economic priorities tend to be heavily centered on transportation and manufacturing (Burghardt, 1971). This ultimately prevents these types of communities from being able to diversify and grow their own economic capacity. Meanwhile, the central destination area is able to flourish and expand its influence, relying upon the services of the gateway region without necessarily supporting its independent growth and development.

The Los Angeles Gateway Cities are located within the south-east region of LA County, extending south to the Port of Long Beach and east to the edge of Orange County (**Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1**). The neighborhoods in this region have some of the most diverse populations in LA County and the region as a whole is characterized by its manufacturing industries. There are a number of social and environmental implications that are associated with this lack of economic diversification. Increased industrial activity contributes to air pollution, water contamination, and habitat degradation, while a dense concentration of industrial land uses can negatively impact the accessibility of parks and open spaces for local residents.

Central to the discussion of the Gateway Cities is the LA River and the associated transportation corridor that runs along its western edge, which is partly what defines the ‘gateway’ characteristic of the region. In recent decades, regional-scale master planning efforts have turned their focus to the LA River and its surrounding landscapes in an effort to create a cohesive identity for LA County that has its basis in the revitalization of

GATEWAY CITIES

CITY OF ARTESIA
CITY OF BELL*
CITY OF BELL GARDENS*
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
CITY OF CERRITOS
CITY OF COMMERCE*
CITY OF COMPTON*
CITY OF CUDAHY*
CITY OF DOWNEY*
CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK
CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS
CITY OF LA MIRADA
CITY OF LAKEWOOD*
CITY OF LONG BEACH*
CITY OF LYNWOOD*
CITY OF MAYWOOD*
CITY OF MONTEBELLO
CITY OF NORWALK
CITY OF PARAMOUNT*
CITY OF PICO RIVERA
CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
CITY OF SIGNAL HILL*
CITY OF SOUTH GATE*
CITY OF VERNON*
CITY OF WHITTIER
UNINCORPORATED AREA*

* ALL OR A PORTION OF THESE CITIES ARE WITHIN THE TWO-MILE LOWER LA RIVER CORRIDOR

TABLE 2.1 *Gateway Cities of Los Angeles*

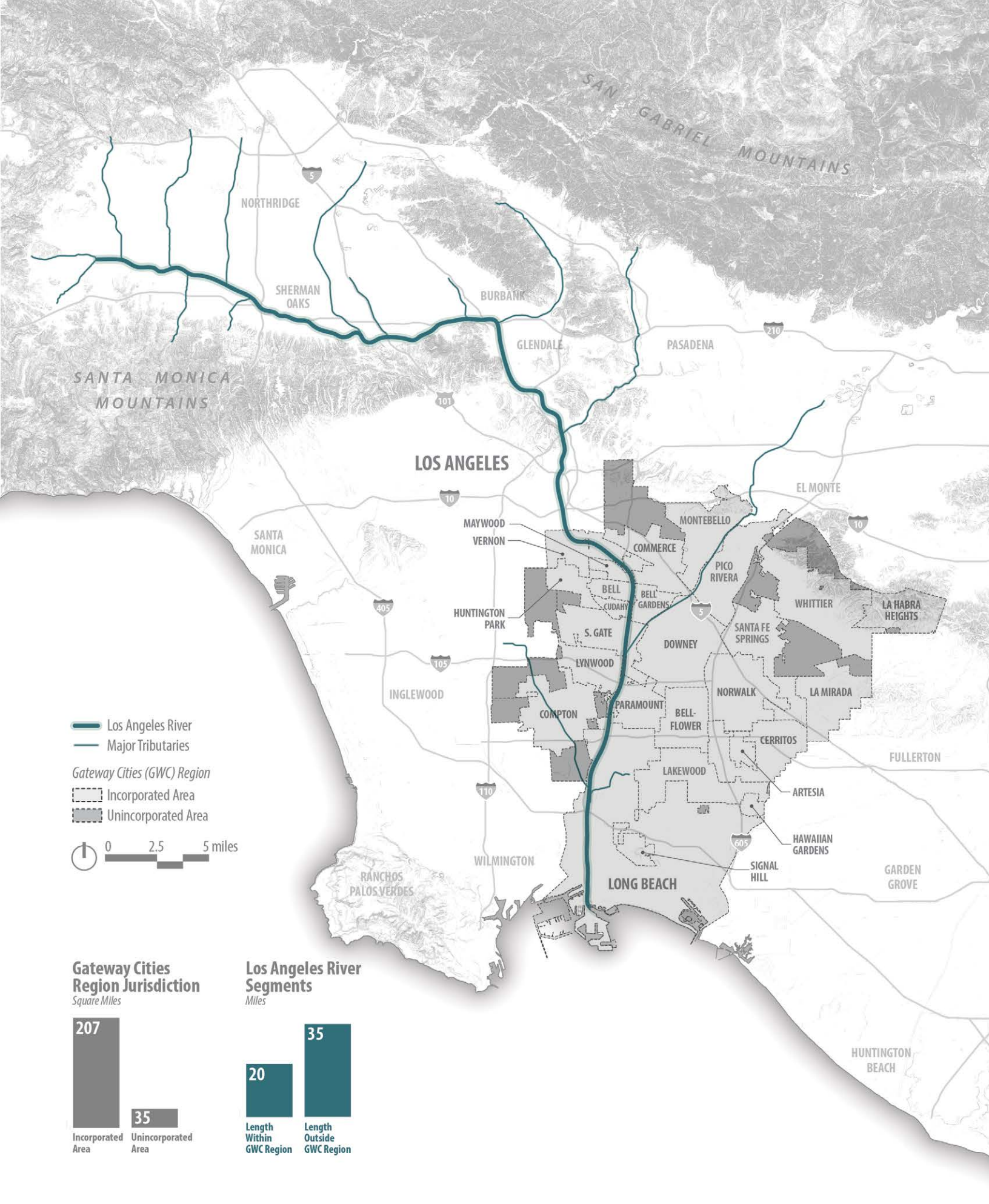
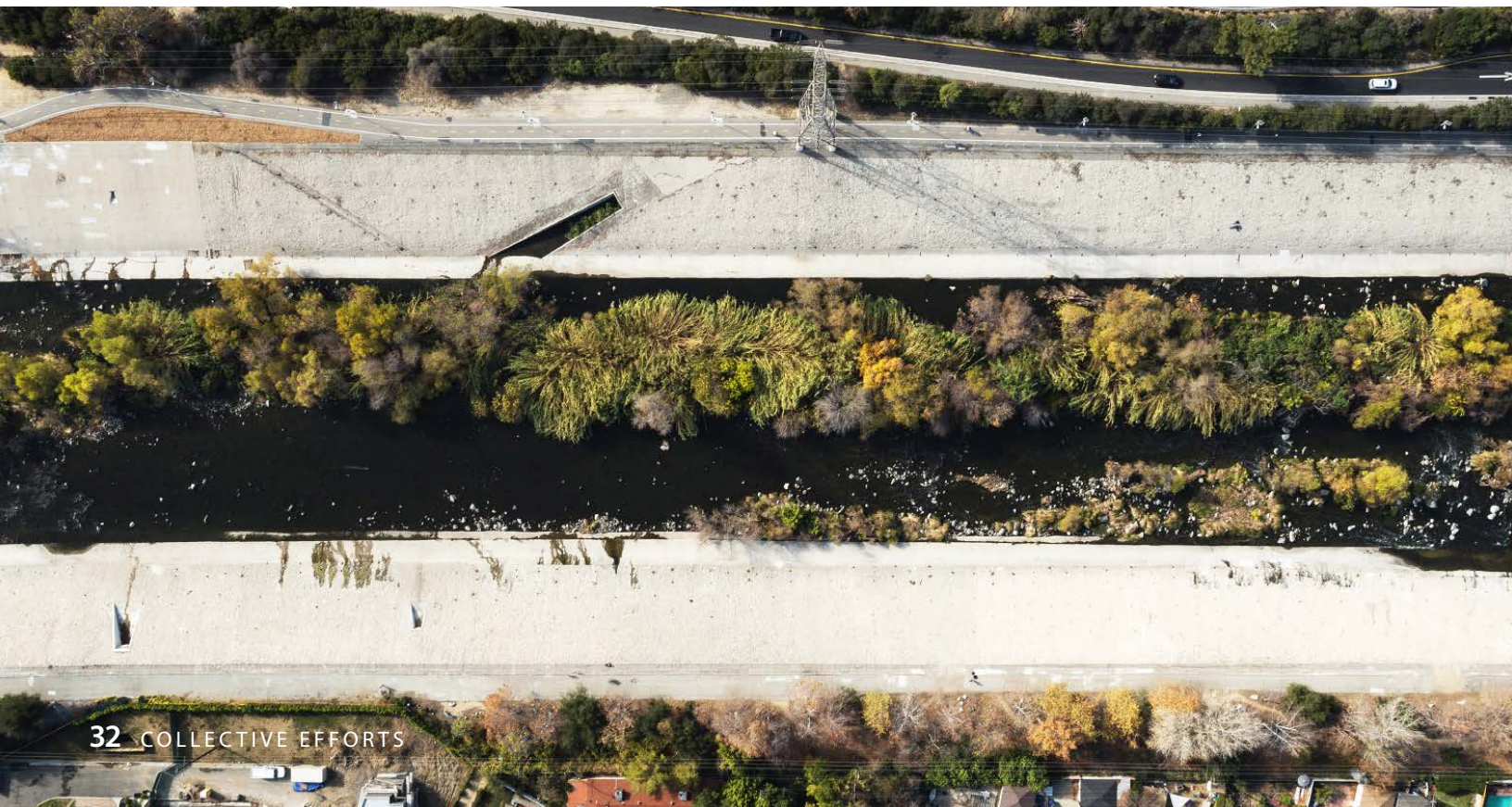


FIGURE 2.1 Gateway Cities Region

the urban waterfront. Residents that live near this corridor are more likely to be impacted by any development along the river, and communities without the capacity to defend their interests may be negatively impacted by the encroaching development (Kreitner, 2016). Meanwhile, more affluent and well-organized communities with available time and resources are able to campaign for development that provides open space and recreational opportunities, despite the fact that lower-income neighborhoods may have greater need for these amenities (Melcher, 2013). Without the organizational capacity and internal community resources to ensure that their interests are represented, disadvantaged river-adjacent communities may be overlooked by regional planning efforts (606 Studio, 2016).

Regional history, demographics, hydrology, air quality, open space needs, habitat conditions, and regulatory environments are all considered key factors in framing the goals and intent of *Collective Efforts*. Data for LA County is used as a baseline for comparing the Gateway Cities to regional existing conditions, and the Lower LA River Corridor defines the focus area for the project (**Figure 2.2**). The dividing line between the Lower and Upper River is located at the boundary between the City of Los Angeles and the City of Vernon to be consistent with existing river-related planning documents. The conditions along the Lower LA River are compared against conditions of the Upper LA River to highlight the discrepancies between the two regions, further illustrating the need for increased resource allocation and community engagement efforts for open space improvements in the focus area.

Below. Highlighting Characteristic Differences between the Upper LA River (Left) and the Lower LA River (Right)



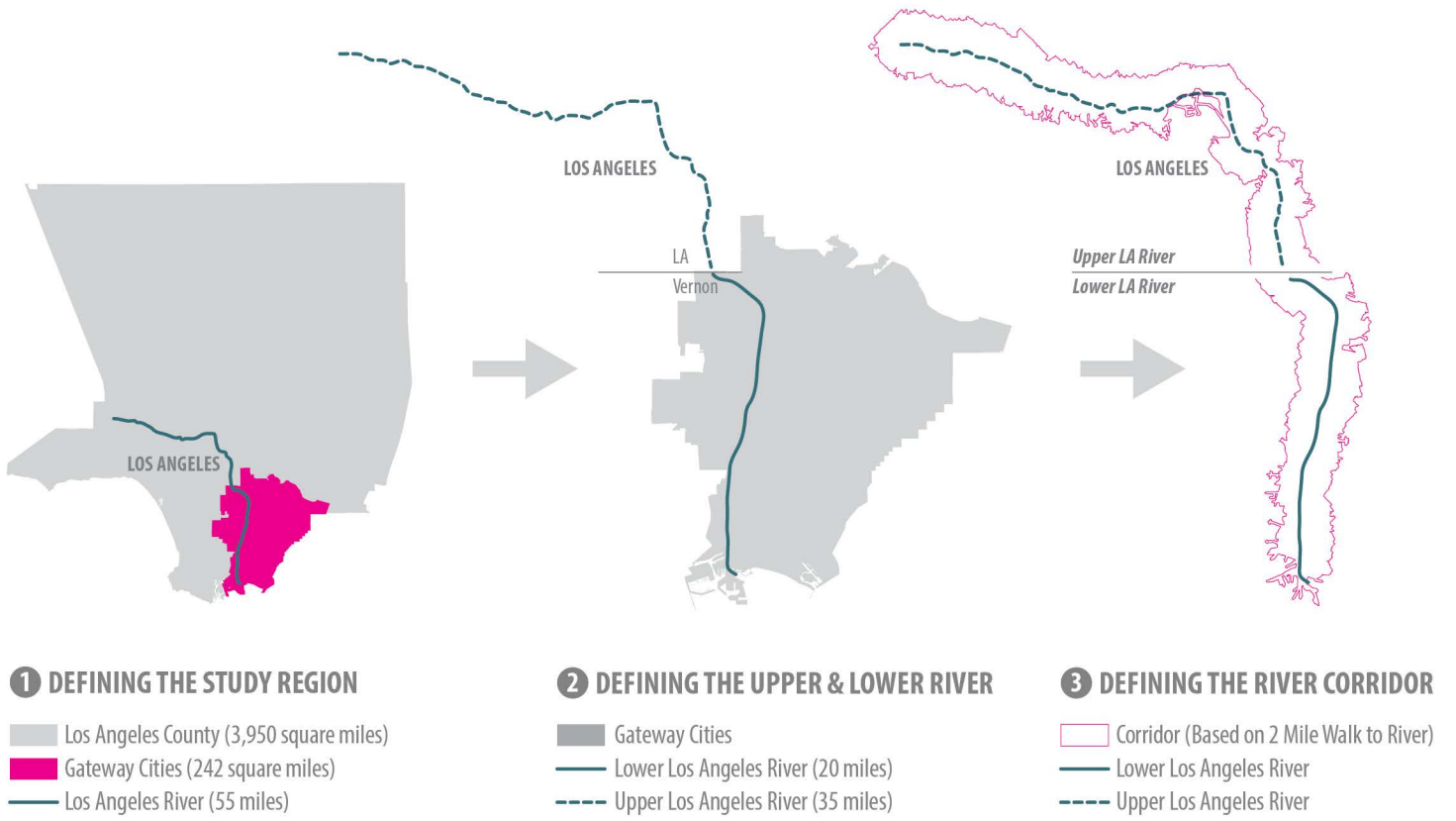
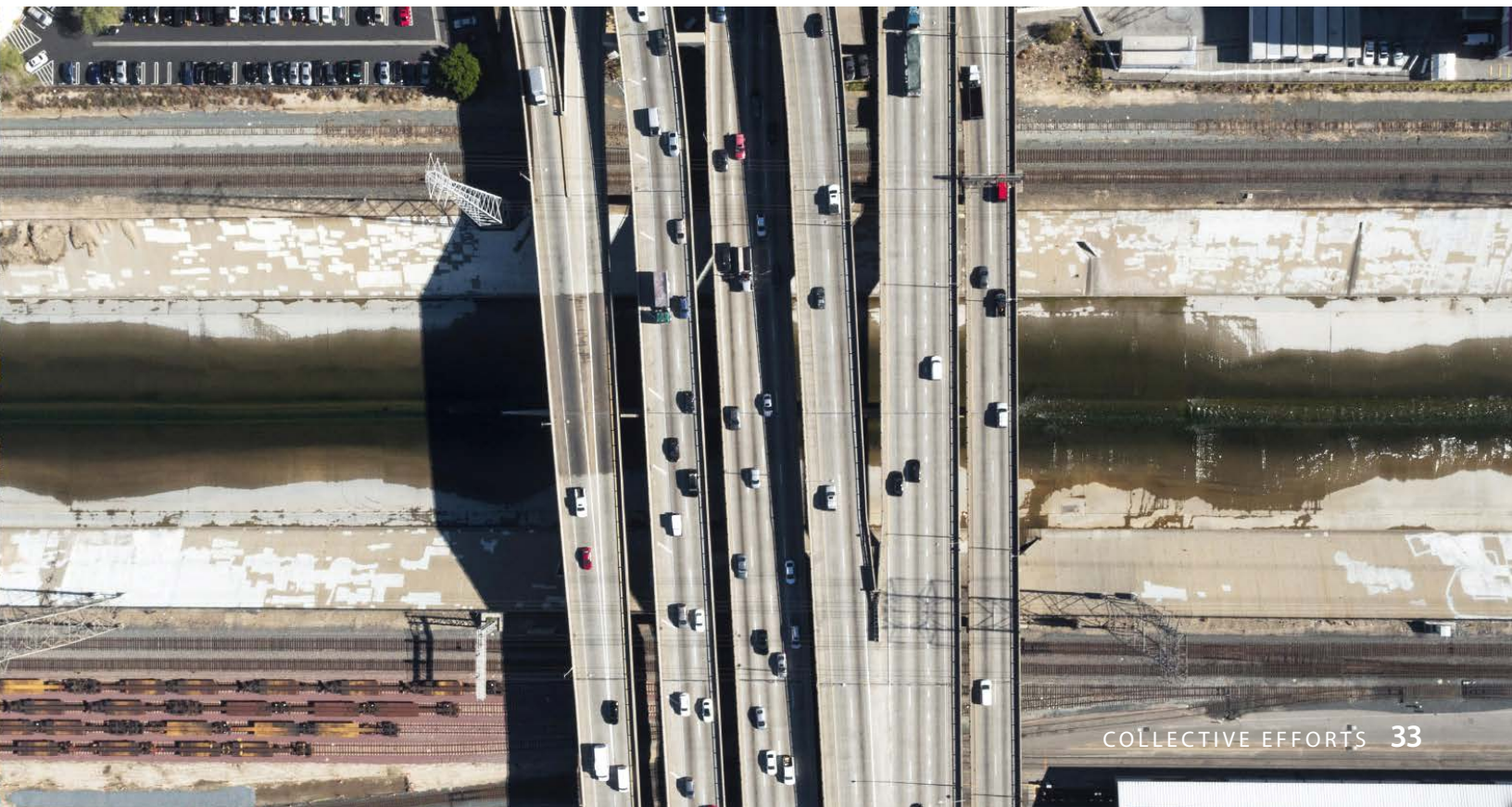


FIGURE 2.2 *Defining the Upper and Lower LA River Corridors*



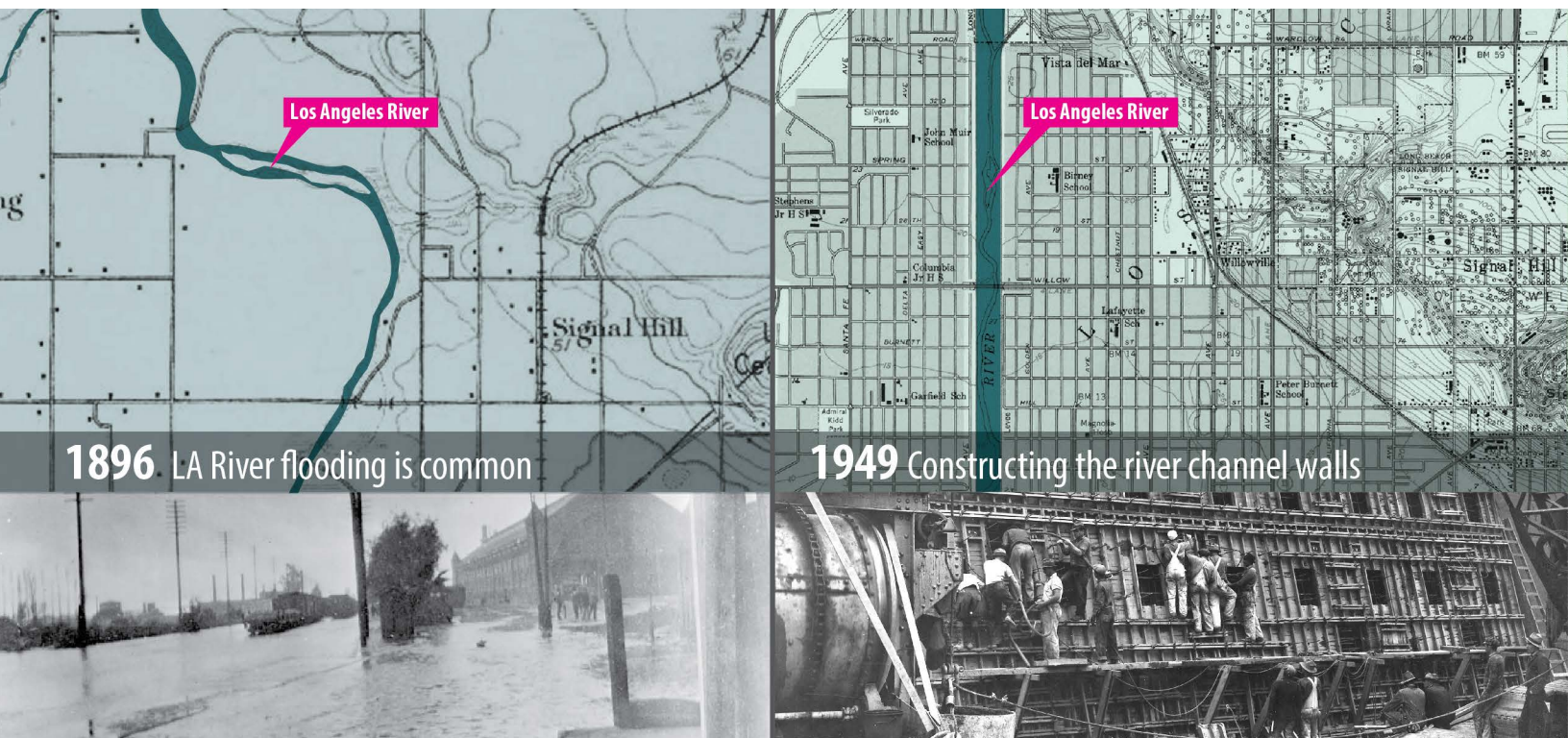
2.2

REGIONAL HISTORY

Cultural landscapes take shape as a result of a complex interaction between the geomorphic qualities of a region and the vast array of political, economic, and social forces that human settlement introduces to the land. Each generation of development possesses different ideals and motives from the last, yet the landscapes we inherit reflect the priorities of those who came before us. The more dense and interwoven our settlements become, the more difficult it is to alter the urban fabric. The history of Los Angeles and its Gateway Cities is no different.

The LA River once provided nutrient-rich lands that supported a diversity of plant and animal life throughout the region, as well as a source of livelihood for the early Native American tribes who settled there (Gumprecht, 1999). Early Spanish missionaries were also drawn to the abundance of the river and began to build permanent settlements supported by the diversion of river water into agricultural lands (Gandy, 2006). Without understanding the implications of expanding a city beyond the means of its natural resources, the population of Los Angeles continued to grow and development slowly encroached upon the river's edge.

FIGURE 2.3 *Historic Development Surrounding the Los Angeles River*

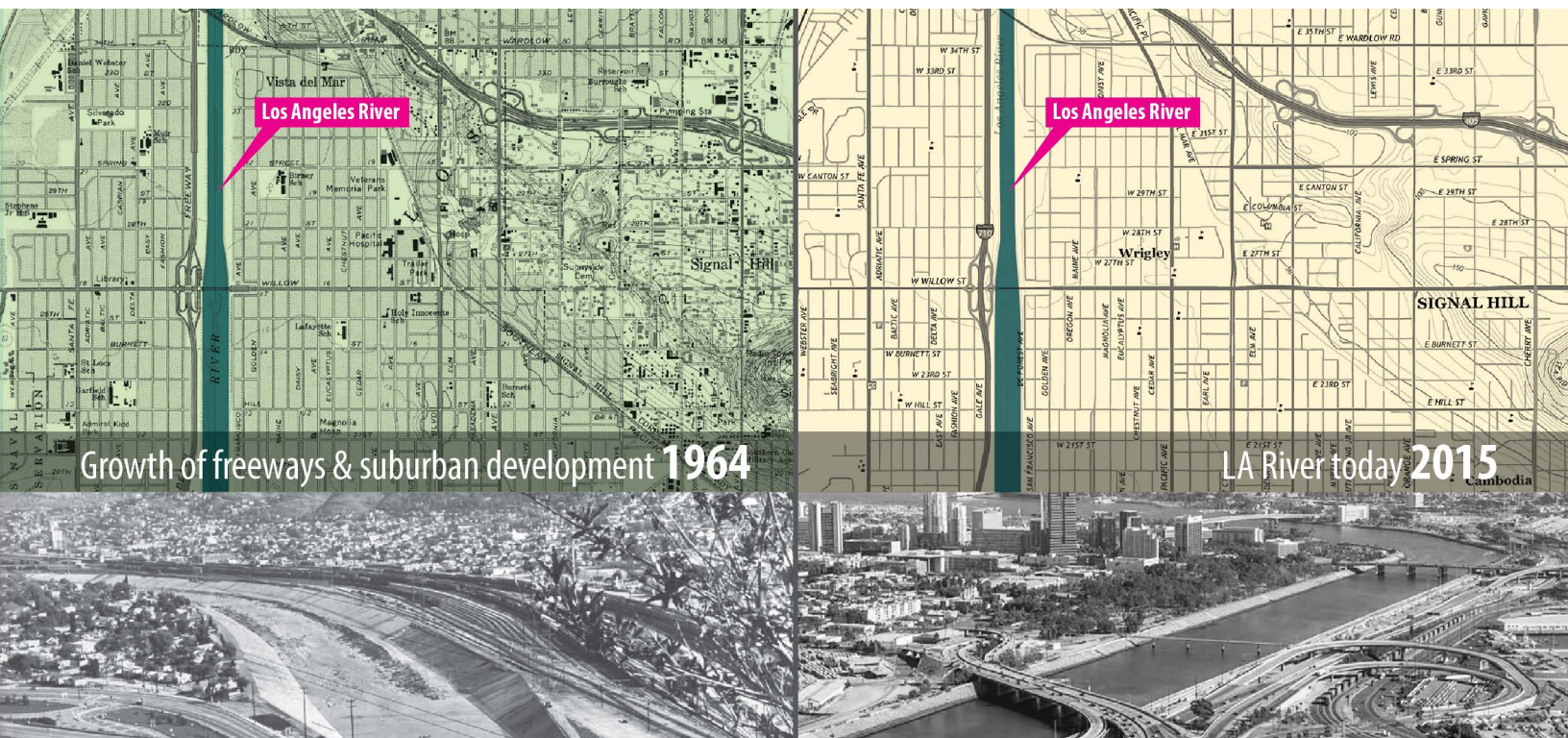


1896 LA River flooding is common

1949 Constructing the river channel walls

The City of Los Angeles exists because of the LA River, but the very resource that inspired settlement eventually became hazardous and could no longer support the growing population. It eventually ran dry during the summer months and extreme floods would overtake the city during heavy winter storms (Gumprecht, 2006). The river was no longer perceived as a life-sustaining resource, but rather a threat to human settlement. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated efforts to channelize the watercourse beginning in the late 1930s, and the Los Angeles region continued to sprawl and surround the river (Fletcher, 2008) (**Figure 2.3**).

Meanwhile, the City of Long Beach was developing rapidly along the coast as the Union Pacific Railroads were constructed, transportation technology expanded, and oil was discovered in Signal Hill. The Port of Long Beach was established in 1911, making the region a nexus for international trade and the distribution center for consumer goods throughout the southwestern United States (Estrada, 2017a). With increased capacity at the port, the region required increased highway capacity for trucks transporting goods to and from the port. The City of Long Beach proposed a freeway that would terminate at the port and run efficiently along the western edge of the LA River (Estrada, 2017a). The I-710 freeway displaced thousands of people, but provided increased economic benefit to dozens of private corporations (Estrada, 2017b). Communities of the Gateway Cities were disproportionately impacted by the freeway (Estrada, 2017b). Together, the channelization of the river and the development of the I-710 Transportation Corridor ultimately set the stage for the historic disenfranchisement of river-adjacent communities in the Gateway Cities.



2.3

REGIONAL LAND USE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

There are many differences between the demographic characteristics of the Gateway Cities and LA County as a whole. The same patterns can be observed when comparing the neighborhoods along the lower and upper reaches of the LA River. Some of the most significant demographic differences include population density, ethnic distribution, poverty rates, primary spoken languages and education attainment levels. Land use patterns also vary significantly between regions. **Table 2.2** summarizes many of the key demographic differences between LA County and the Gateway Cities.

Throughout the Gateway Cities the predominant land use is residential. However, there is more land in industrial use throughout the focus area than there is along the upper reaches of the river (**Figure 2.4**). Within the Upper LA River Corridor there are approximately 590 acres of industrial land while there are approximately 720 acres within the Lower LA River Corridor. This amounts to 9% and 18% respectively of the total land in each region.

Communities in the Gateway Cities also have higher rates of population density, poverty, families with female householders, and Spanish speakers. Increased population density can result in overcrowding and over-use of public amenities leading to resource degradation. This, combined with higher rates of poverty, suggests these communities have less economic capacity to create and maintain amenities. It is also helpful to examine the number of families with single female householders, because these residents face additional economic strain and may be less likely to dedicate time to civic engagement (Milburn, 2017). Language barriers are an issue because it could be more difficult for people to access important resources and information available only in English. This can limit residents from understanding what tools they can utilize to enact change in their neighborhood (Ohar, 2016).

In contrast, LA County and specifically areas along the upper reaches of the LA River tend to have higher rates of education attainment, a higher median household income, as well as a

higher concentration of White residents (**Figures 2.5-2.9**). Communities with higher education attainment tend to have the ability to access the resources necessary for initiating local changes that reflect their particular interests (Melcher, 2013). Higher median income levels also suggest residents possess a greater level of financial security and would be more willing to dedicate time to causes that are ancillary to meeting their basic needs (Melcher, 2013). This includes advocating against industrial land uses, which forces manufacturers into more disadvantaged areas. Affluent communities often enjoy better environmental conditions and access to less congested parks (Sister, et al., 2010).

TABLE 2.2 *Demographic Comparison of LA County and the Gateway Cities*

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS		LA COUNTY (2012)	GATEWAY CITIES (2012)
Area (Square Miles)		4,083	242
Population			
	Total Population	10,065,031	2,246,284
	Population per Square Mile	2,465	9,282
Ethnicity			
	White (Inc. White Hispanics)	50%	47%
	Black	8%	8%
	Asian	14%	9%
	Two or More	5%	4%
	Other	22%	30%
	Hispanic	50%	68%
Family Size			
	Family Household	67%	75.6%
	Non-family Household	7%	5%
Household Size		3.2	3.61
Highest Level of Education Attained			
	High School Diploma	19%	21%
	Bachelor Degree	20%	13%
Median Household Income		\$63,720	\$54,800
Poverty Rate		15%	17%
Employment Rates			
	Employed	95.7%	94.9%
	Unemployed	4.3%	5.1%

Note: Data illustrated in mapping analysis may represent different numbers than those included in the above table depending on the year of GIS data available.

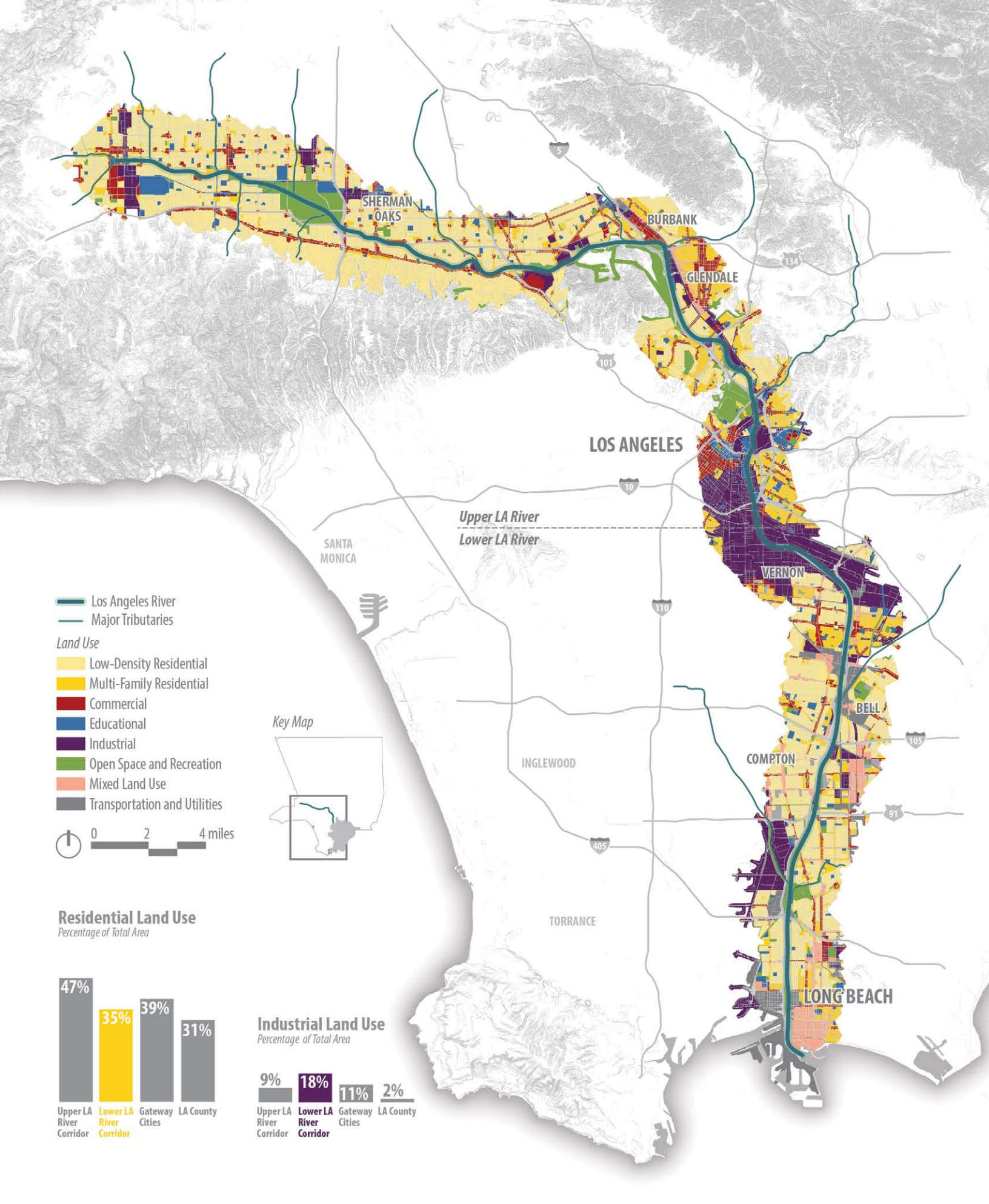


FIGURE 2.4 Land Use along the LA River Corridor

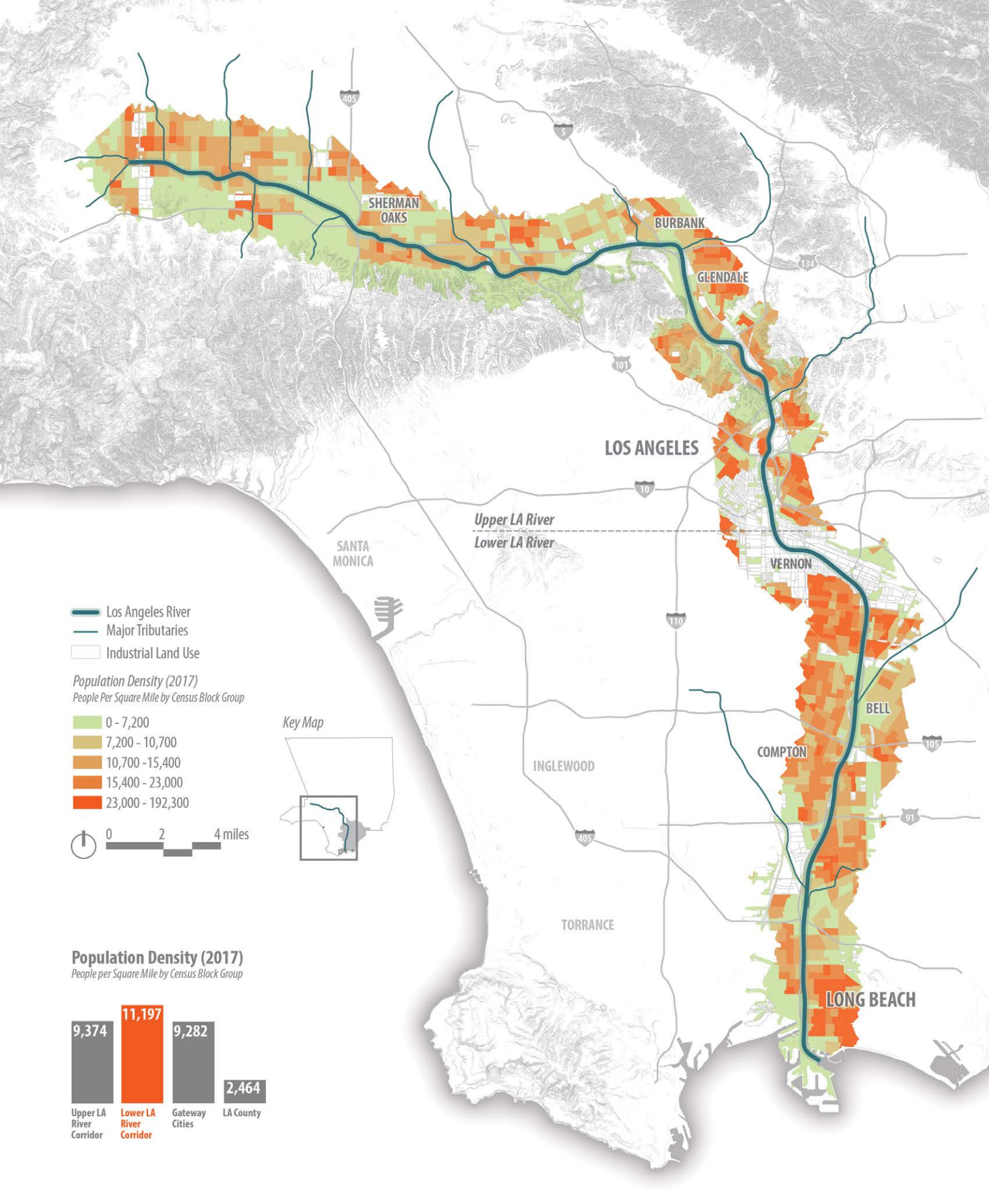
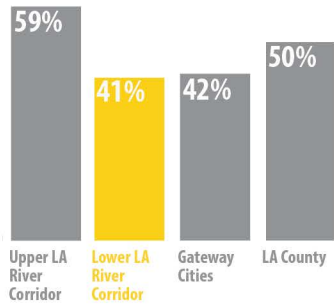


FIGURE 2.5 Population Density along the LA River Corridor

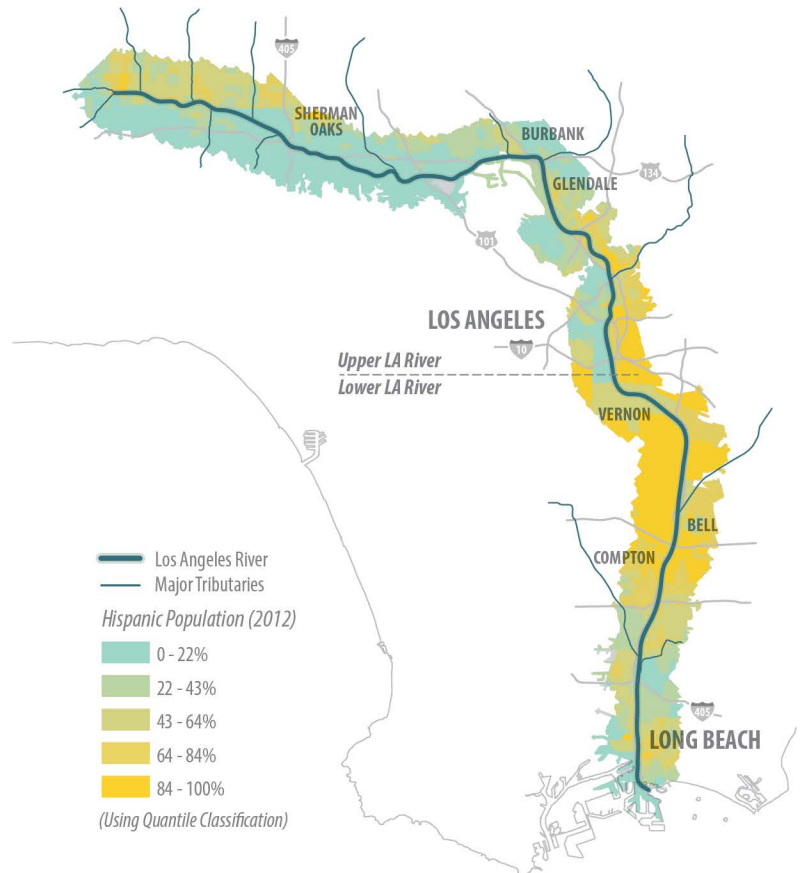
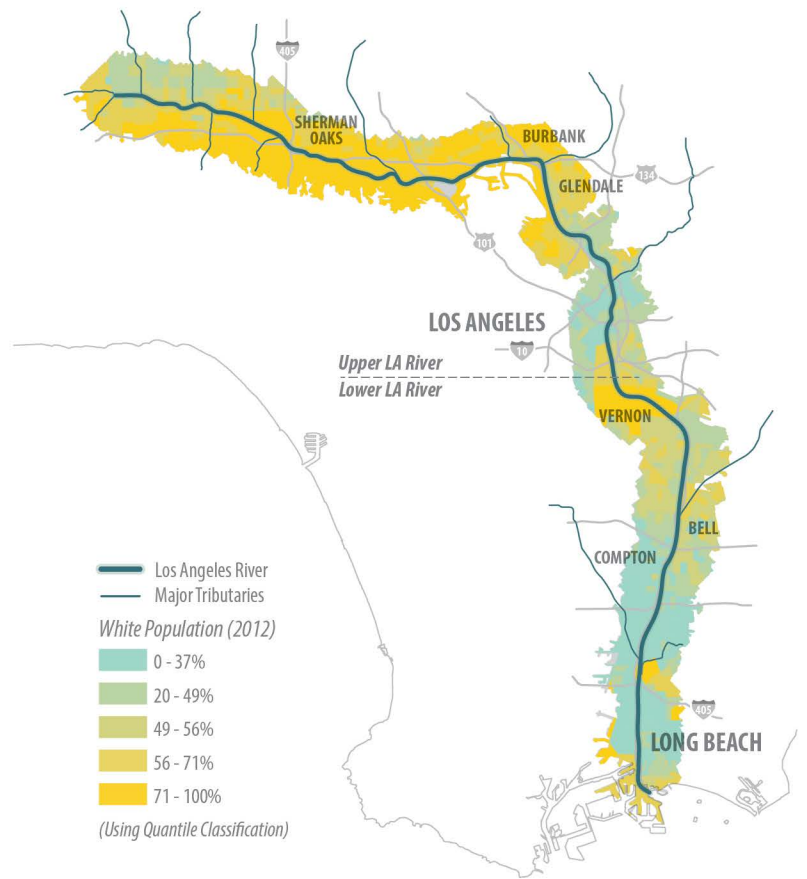
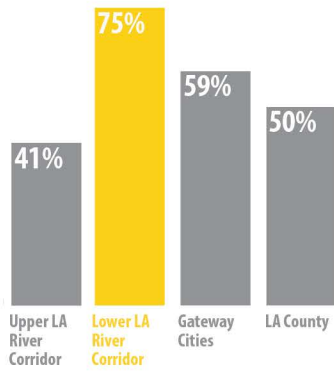
White Population (2012)

Percentage of Total Population (By Census Block Group)



Hispanic Population (2012)

Percentage of Total Population (By Census Block Group)



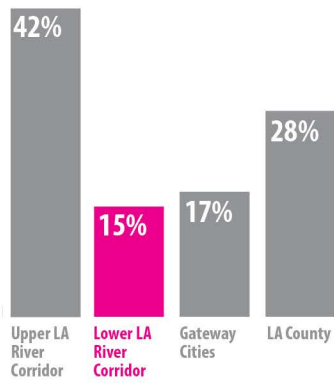
Key Map



FIGURE 2.6 Comparison of Ethnic Populations along the LA River Corridor (2017)

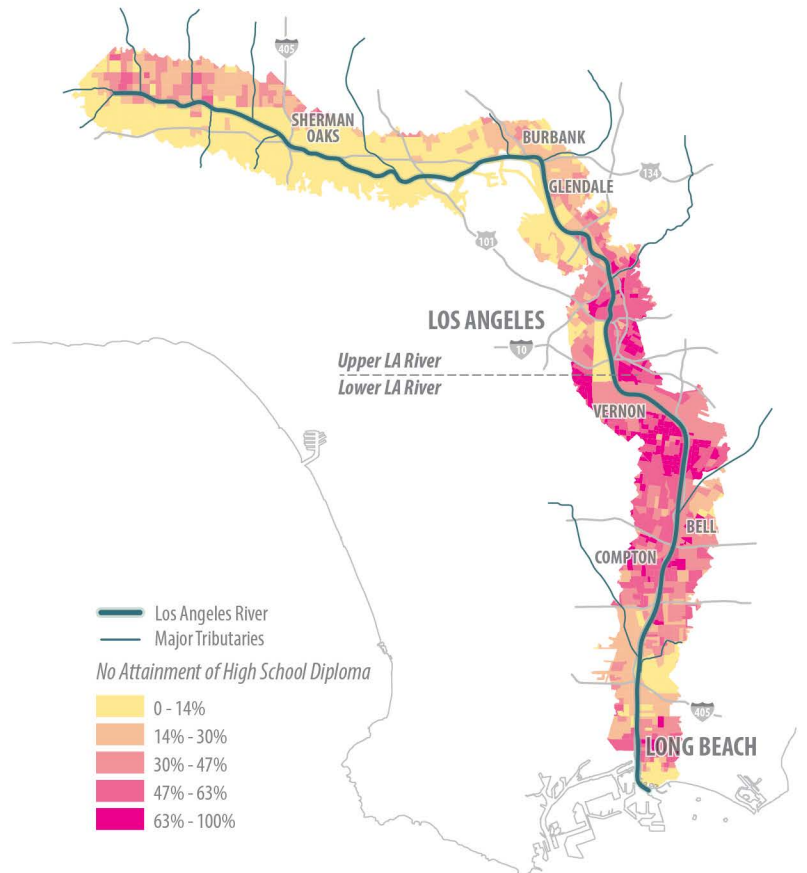
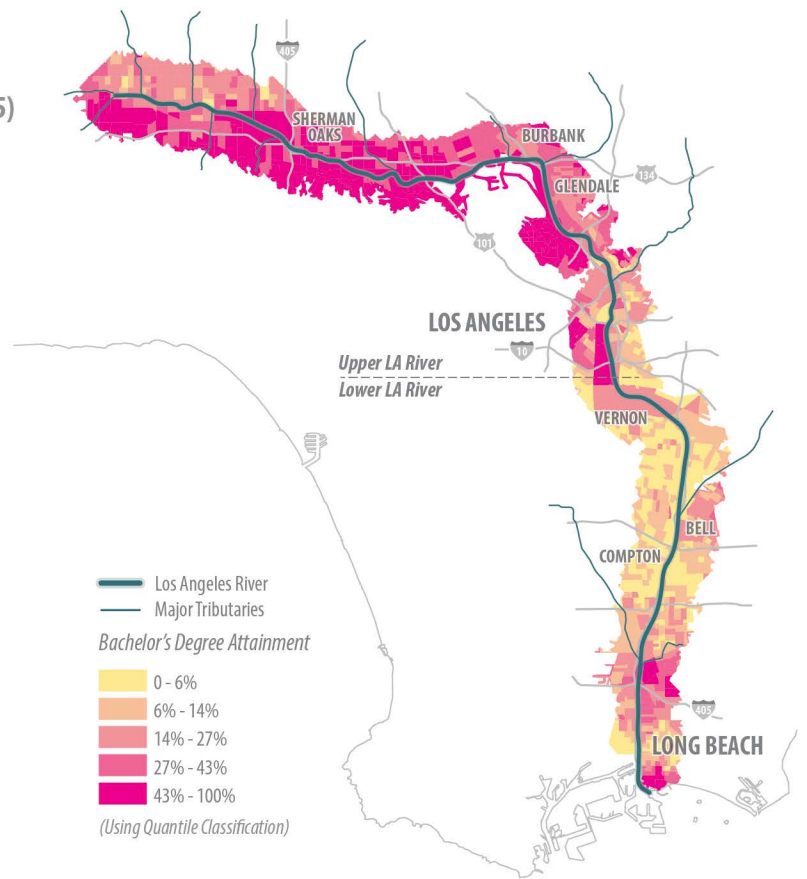
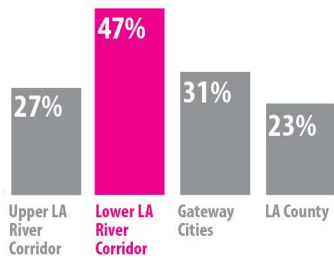
Bachelor's Degree and Higher Degrees Attainment (2015)

Percentage of Population 25 Years and Over (By Census Block Group)



No High School Diploma Attained (2015)

Percentage of Population 25 Years and Over (By Census Block Group)



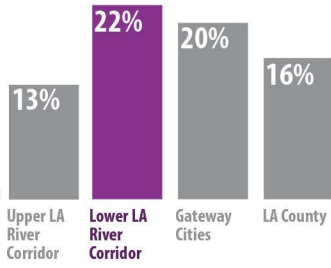
Key Map



FIGURE 2.7 Education Attainment along the LA River Corridor (2015)

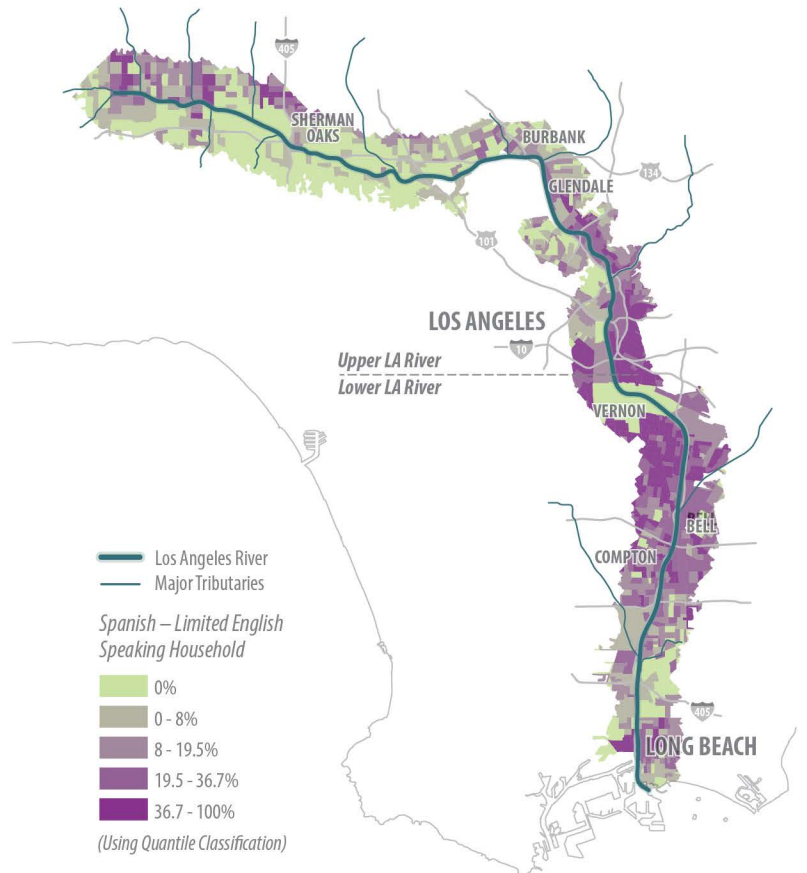
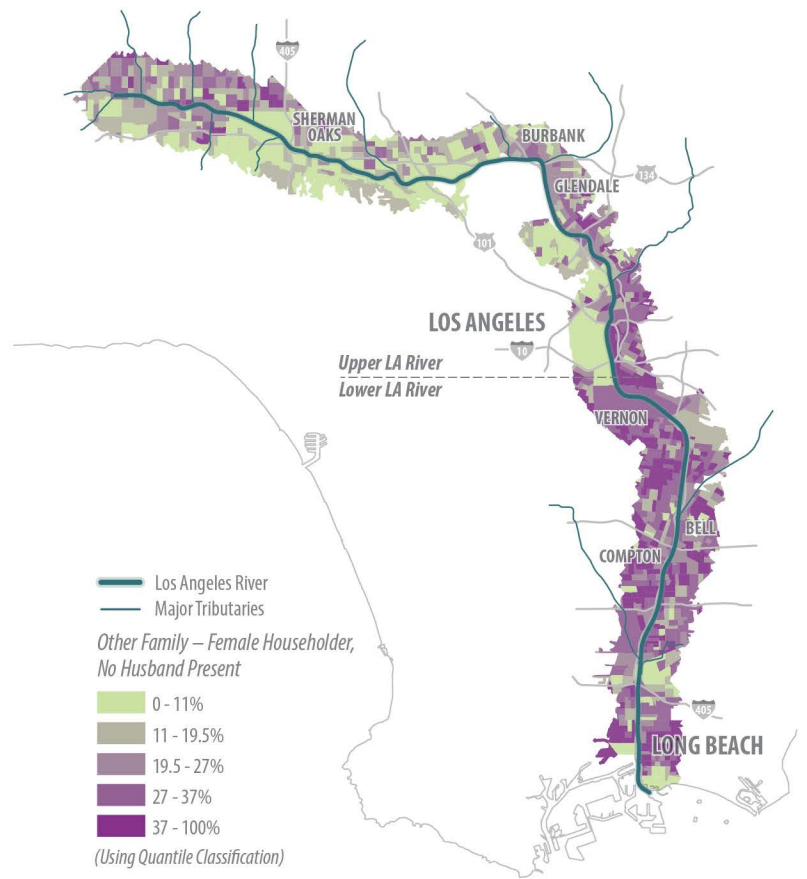
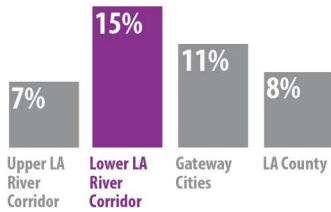
Other Family – Female Householder, No Husband Present (2014)

Percentage of Total Households (By Census Block Group)



Spanish – Limited English Speaking Household (2015)

Percentage of Total Households (By Census Block Group)



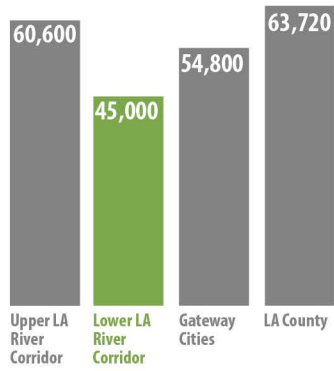
Key Map



FIGURE 2.8 Disadvantaged Populations along the LA River Corridor (2015)

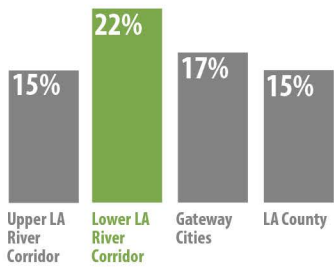
Median Household Income (2012)

U.S. Dollars (By Census Block Group)



Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level

Percentage of Total Households (By Census Block Group)



Key Map

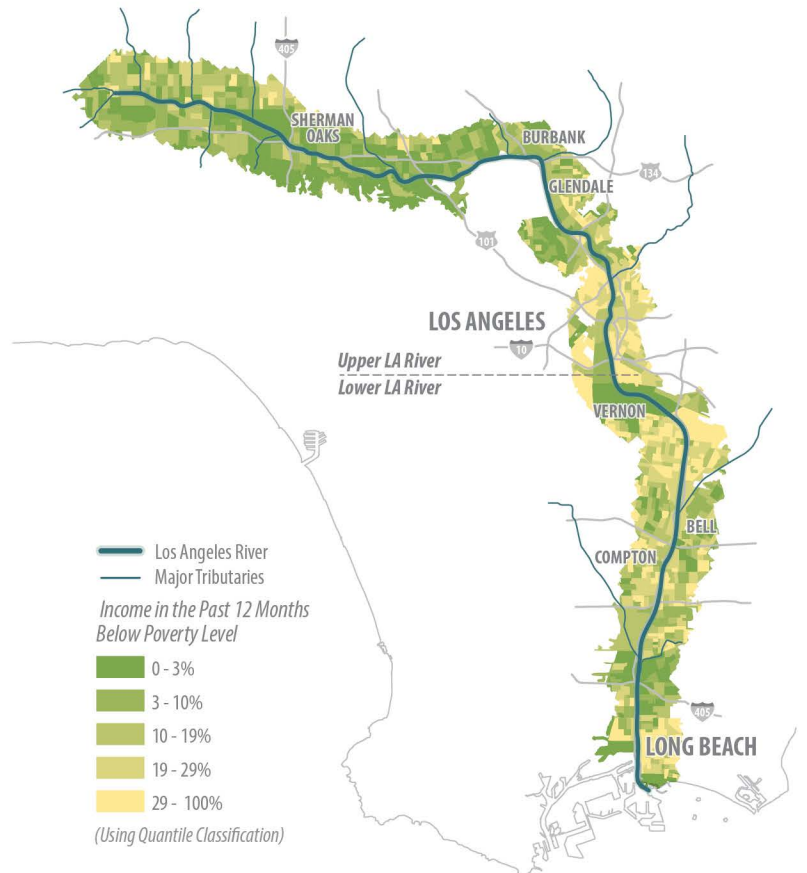
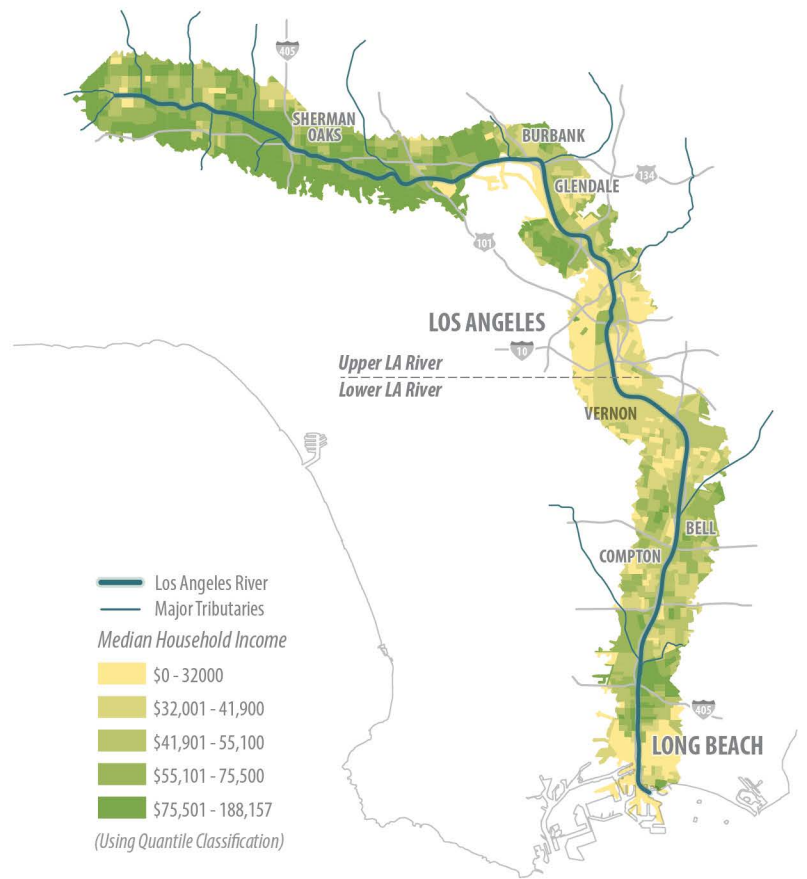


FIGURE 2.9 Income and Poverty Levels along the LA River Corridor (2017)

2.4

REGIONAL HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY

Due to the proximity of the Gateway Cities to the LA River, the 606 Team examined regional hydrology and water quality within the context of the LA River Watershed. The LA River Watershed drains an area of 824 square miles within LA County (LARWQCB, 2017). Within its boundaries is a wide variety of terrain, with elevations extending from sea level to over 6,000-feet, including mountain ranges, coastal plains, rolling hills, and valleys (LACDPW, 2015a). The LA River Watershed is bounded by the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains to the north, the San Gabriel Watershed and Puente Hills to the east, the South Bay coastal plain to the west, and the Pacific Ocean to the South (**Figure 2.10**).

The LA River headwaters originate in the San Fernando Valley at the confluence of Bell Creek and Arroyo Calabasas. From this origin, the river flows approximately 55 miles east and southward, while dropping a total elevation of 795-feet over its length before it empties into the Long Beach Harbor (CLADPW, 2007). Once a meshwork of meandering and dendritic river flows, the river today is a fully engineered flood control system with approximately 82 percent of the river and its associated tributaries now lined with concrete (Fletcher, 2008). The remaining 'naturalized' portions of the river include a six-mile reach through the Glendale Narrows near Griffith Park, a two-mile stretch through the Sepulveda Basin, as well as the lowest two-and-a-half miles of the river where the tidal influence prevents channelization (Fletcher, 2008). The river and its tributaries are fed by a complex underground network of storm drains and surface network river branches. A number of debris basins, dams, and reservoirs have also been constructed within the watershed for flood control and groundwater recharge (City of Los Angeles, 2016).

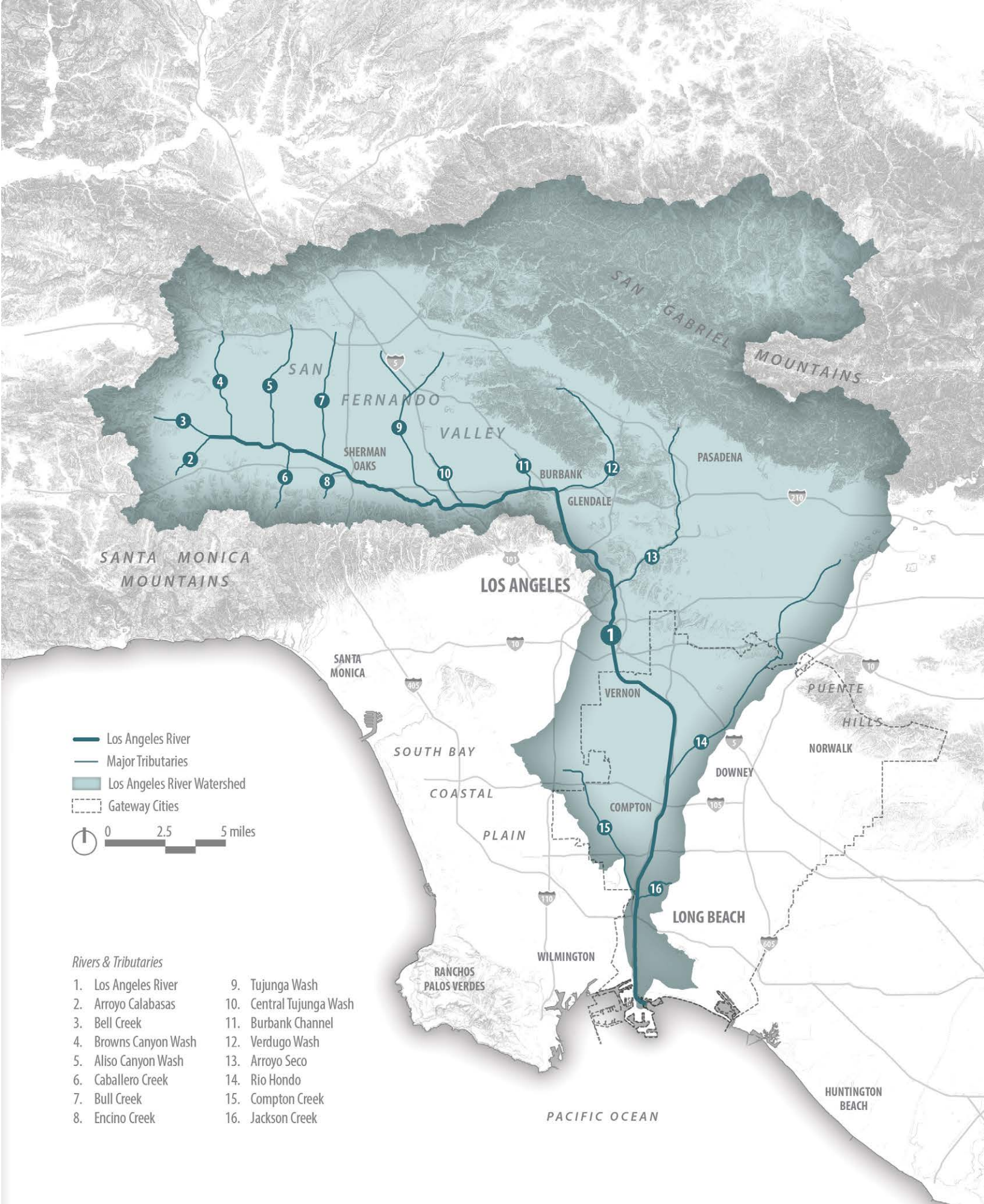
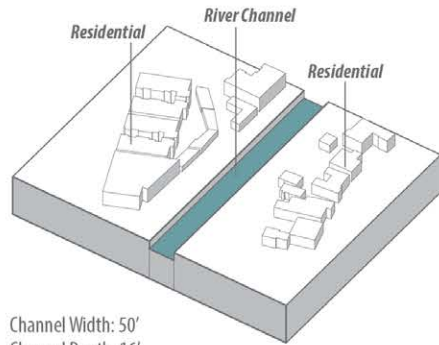


FIGURE 2.10 *Los Angeles River Watershed*

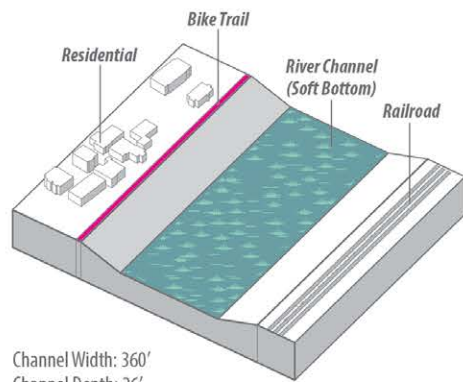
UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER

1 Sherman Oaks



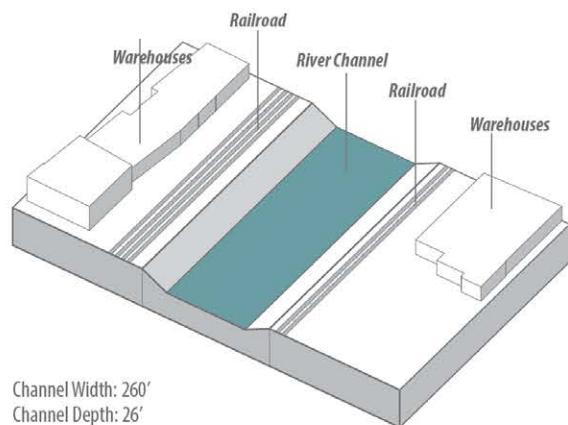
Channel Width: 50'
Channel Depth: 16'

2 Frogtown



Channel Width: 360'
Channel Depth: 26'

3 Boyle Heights/Arts District

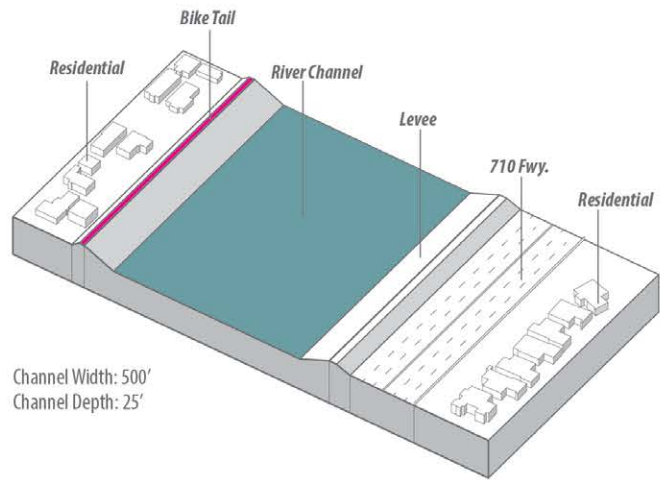


Channel Width: 260'
Channel Depth: 26'

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER

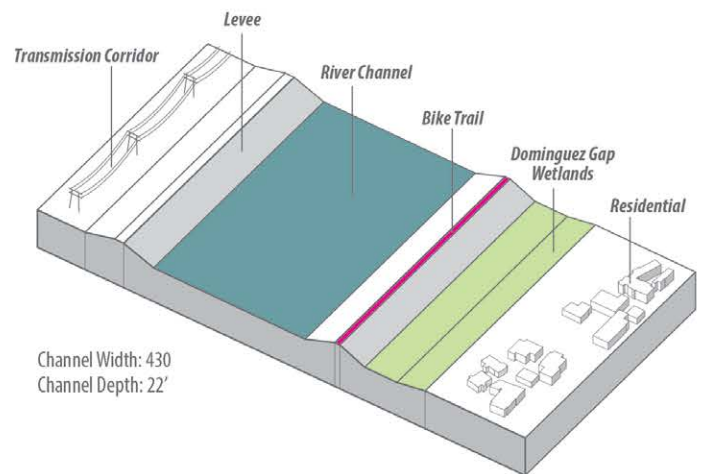
1 Sherman Oaks

4 Cudahy/Bell Gardens



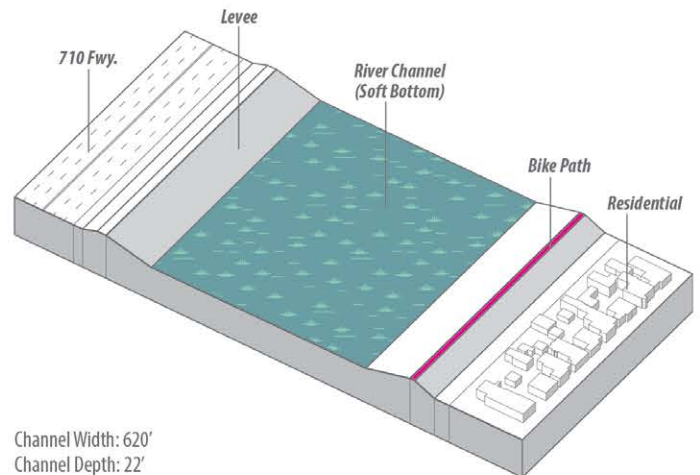
Channel Width: 500'
Channel Depth: 25'

5 North Long Beach



Channel Width: 430'
Channel Depth: 22'

6 South Wrigley



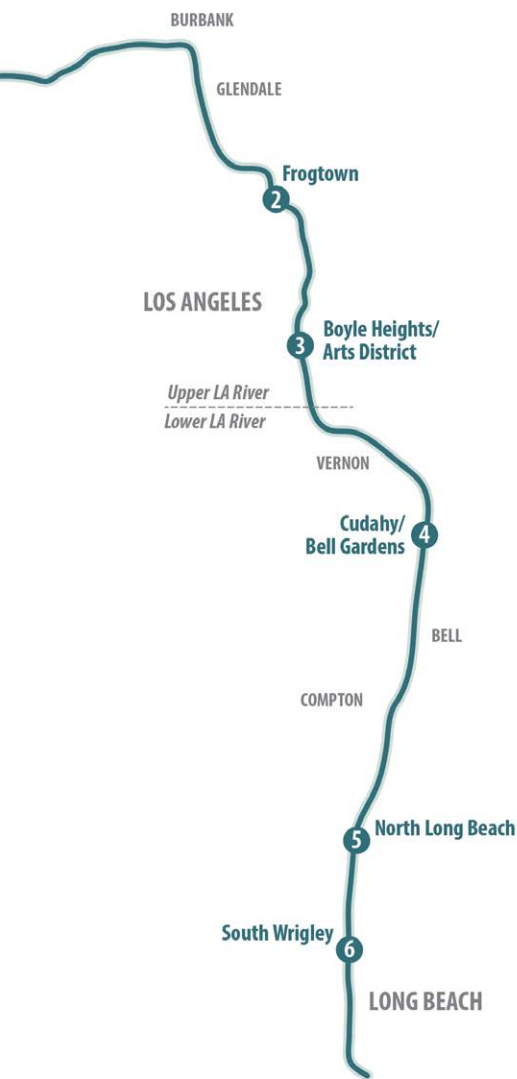
Channel Width: 620'
Channel Depth: 22'

FIGURE 2.11 Los Angeles River Cross-Sections and Key Map

2.4.1 KEY HYDROLOGICAL ISSUES

While the river channel itself is often overlooked by the public eye despite its massive size, it plays a significant role in influencing and defining regional urban form. In many cases, its significant width and inaccessibility creates abrupt edges and awkward transitions, physically dividing communities that lie in its path. Along its upper reaches in the San Fernando Valley, the river channel is 50 to 200 feet wide, with levee embankments ranging between 18 and 26 feet in height (LARWQCB, 2004). Downstream, channel geometry is significantly larger (ranging from 350 to 550 feet) to allow for increased flow capacity. Levee embankments become larger as well, ranging from 22 to 27 feet in height (LARWQCB, 2004) (**Figure 2.11**). Many river-adjacent communities throughout the Lower LA River Corridor are situated as much as 20 feet below the top of the embankment levees, significantly reducing physical access and visual connections to the river.

Prior to urbanization and channelization, surface water hydrology within the LA River Watershed was subject to natural processes. Today, dams have altered the course of flowing water bodies and impeded the transfer of sediment. Native soils have been covered with impermeable surfaces, dramatically altering storm hydrographs and increasing runoff rates and flood volumes (LACDPW, 2015b). Floodplain and wetland habitats that formerly provided water treatment and groundwater recharge have been largely eliminated from the landscape, accelerating the transport of stormwater flows from higher to lower elevations (LACDPW, 2015b). Within the watershed, 100 percent of the original lower riverine tidal marsh and 98 percent of all inland freshwater marshes have been drained or filled. The most substantial remaining historic wetlands are within the lower reaches of the river where the channel is unlined (California Resources Agency, 2001).



Below. LA River Before Channelization





Above. Localized Flooding

Localized flooding is also an issue for many river-adjacent neighborhoods because the majority of the region's precipitation tends to occur during high-intensity storms between January and March. Flows in the LA River and its tributaries rise and fall rapidly during storm events, with the LA River itself occasionally reaching flow levels of 36 billion gallons per day (Fletcher, 2008). Within a five hour storm period, water levels in the river channel can rise from three inches to 25 feet (Fletcher, 2008). Efforts to reinforce river channel walls have provided increased flood protection for river-adjacent communities (California Resources Agency, 2001). However, periodic flooding is still an issue and is typically a result of debris and trash from urban runoff collecting and plugging catch basins.

2.4.2 PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ASSESSING WATER QUALITY

Three major factors were identified for assessing water quality in the Gateway Cities and the Lower LA River Corridor. First, the amount of impervious surfaces in a landscape is an indicator of how easily water can infiltrate a landscape. Second, the runoff depths and volumes in an area represent how much water is not able to infiltrate and is therefore carrying pollutants into storm drains and local waterways. When pollution sources are concentrated in areas that have a high percentage of impermeable surface, the water quality is likely to be more impaired than in areas where this is not the case.

Impervious Surfaces

Impervious surfaces include landscape elements such as sidewalks, parking lots, rooftops, or anywhere else water cannot penetrate. Dense, sprawling urban areas are more likely to have a larger concentration of these types of landscape features. Large areas of impervious surface are problematic because they tend

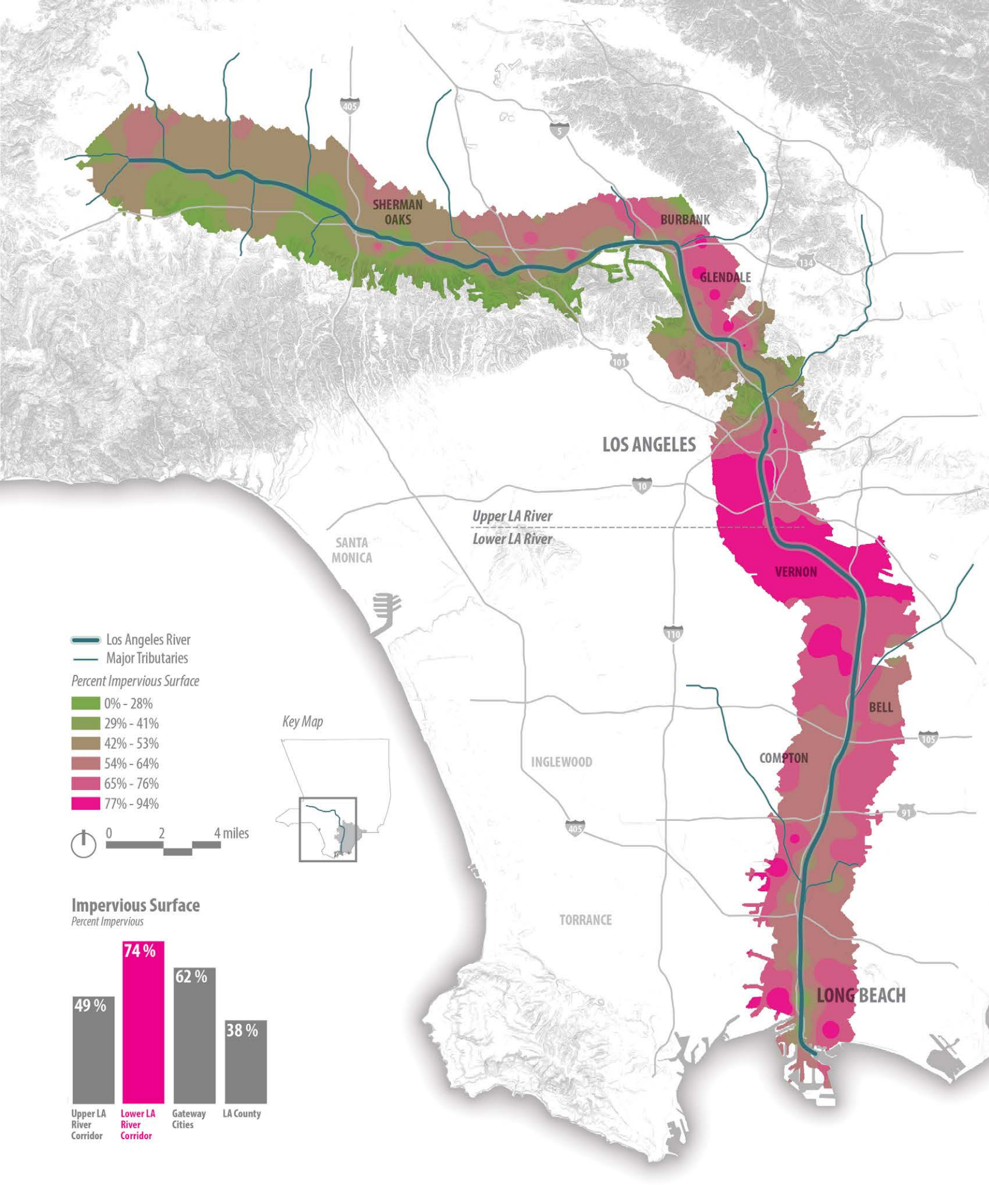
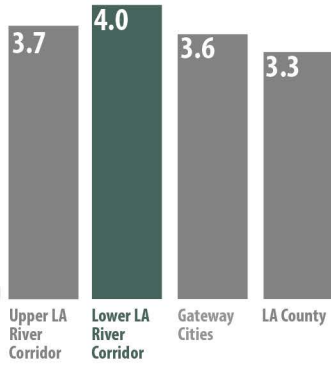


FIGURE 2.12 *Impervious Surfaces in the LA River Corridor*

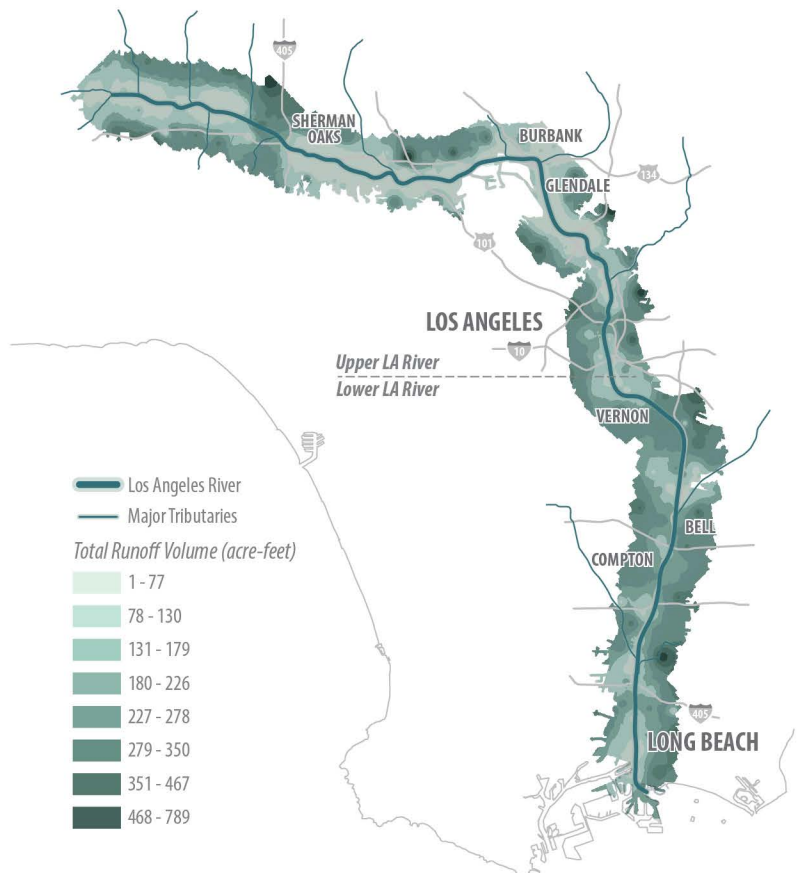
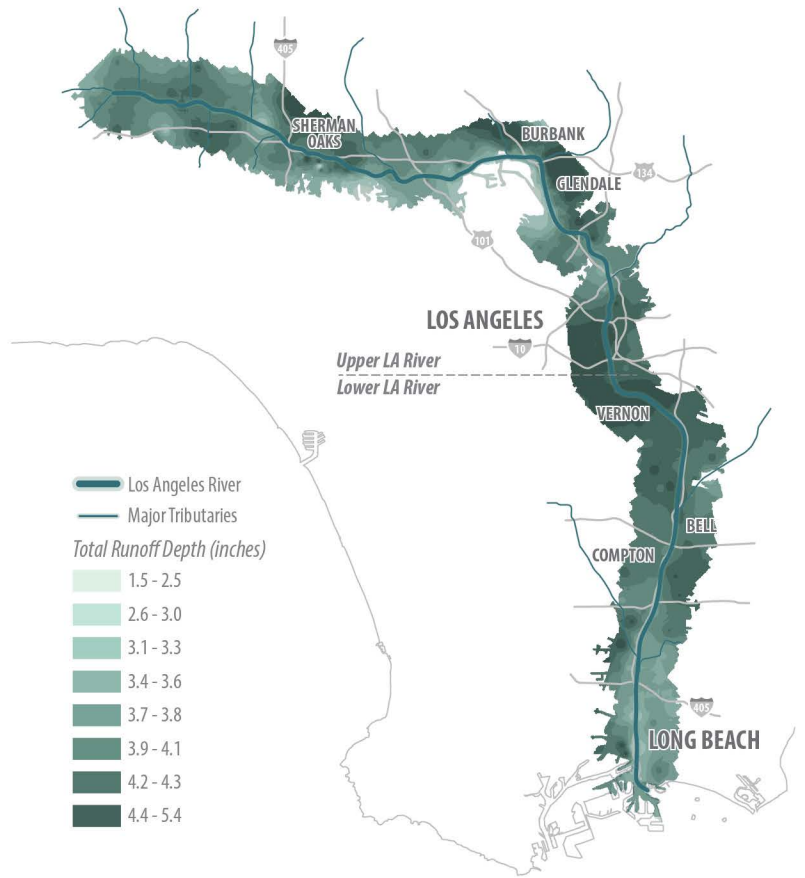
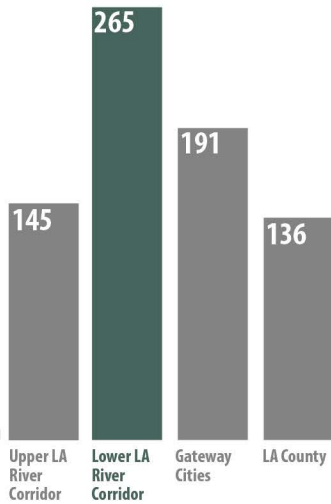
Average Stormwater Runoff Total Depth by Subwatershed

Inches Over a 24-hour Period, 50-year Storm Event



Average Stormwater Runoff Total Volume by Subwatershed

Inches Over a 24-hour Period, 50-year Storm Event



Key Map



FIGURE 2.13 Comparison of Stormwater Runoff in the Los Angeles River Watershed

to generate more surface runoff that transports contaminants to local waterways (Sleavin et. al., 2000).

In general, the Lower LA River Corridor and Gateway Cities region have more impervious surfaces when compared to other regions in the study area (**Figure 2.12**). Seventy-four percent of the Lower LA River Corridor is covered in impervious surfaces, while only fifty percent of the Upper LA River Corridor is considered impervious. This suggests that neighborhoods in the focus area are more likely to experience degraded water quality.

Stormwater Runoff Depth and Volume

Stormwater runoff depth and volume are an indication of the amount of water that is not allowed to infiltrate during a storm event. Since infiltration is a mechanism for filtering and removing contaminants from runoff, runoff depth and volume can be an indicator of local water quality.

The data reflects average rainfall depth (inches) and volume (acre-feet) over a 24-hour period during a 50-year storm event (**Figure 2.13**). Calculations are based on predefined subwatershed boundaries determined by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The analysis shows that the Gateway Cities and Lower LA River corridor produce higher levels of stormwater runoff in both depth and volume when compared to other regions in the study area. This result is correlated with higher levels of impervious surface, which is more common in the Lower LA River Corridor.

*Below. Contaminated
Stormwater Runoff*



Regional Point and Non-point Pollution Sources

The LA River and many of its tributaries are considered ‘impaired’ by pollutants that include trash, metals, bacteria, pesticides, oil and grease, and nutrients (City of Los Angeles, 2016). Pollutants come from either point sources or non-point sources, with studies showing that six percent of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) come from point sources and 94 percent come from non-point sources (Friends of the Los Angeles River & Agalita Marine Research Foundation, 2009). Point source pollution refers to contaminants that come from a single, identifiable source such as discharge from a wastewater treatment plant, oil refinery, or other industrial activities. Non-point source pollutants originate from difficult-to-identify sources, such as illegal dumping, that generate contaminants and pollutants that can end up in surface runoff (California Resources Agency, 2001).

Throughout the watershed, thousands of permitted entities discharge into the LA River and its tributaries, including wastewater treatment facilities, electrical power plants, and municipal stormwater facilities (LARWQCB, 2017). The primary mechanism for point source pollutant control is through the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, which monitors discharge of pollutants and other toxins into local waterways (California Resources Agency, 2001). This system requires that point source polluters obtain a permit for their activities.

An analysis of NPDES and toxic discharge permits throughout the watershed shows that the Gateway Cities and specifically the Lower LA River Corridor contain a much higher density of NPDES and toxic polluters when compared to other regions (**Figure 2.15**). This implies that there are higher concentrations of polluting land uses in the focus area which, based on previous analysis, also experiences higher runoff volumes and has higher rates of impervious surfaces. Collectively, the data suggests water quality is more impaired in the Lower LA River Corridor than in the rest of the region.

Below. Pollution in the Los Angeles River



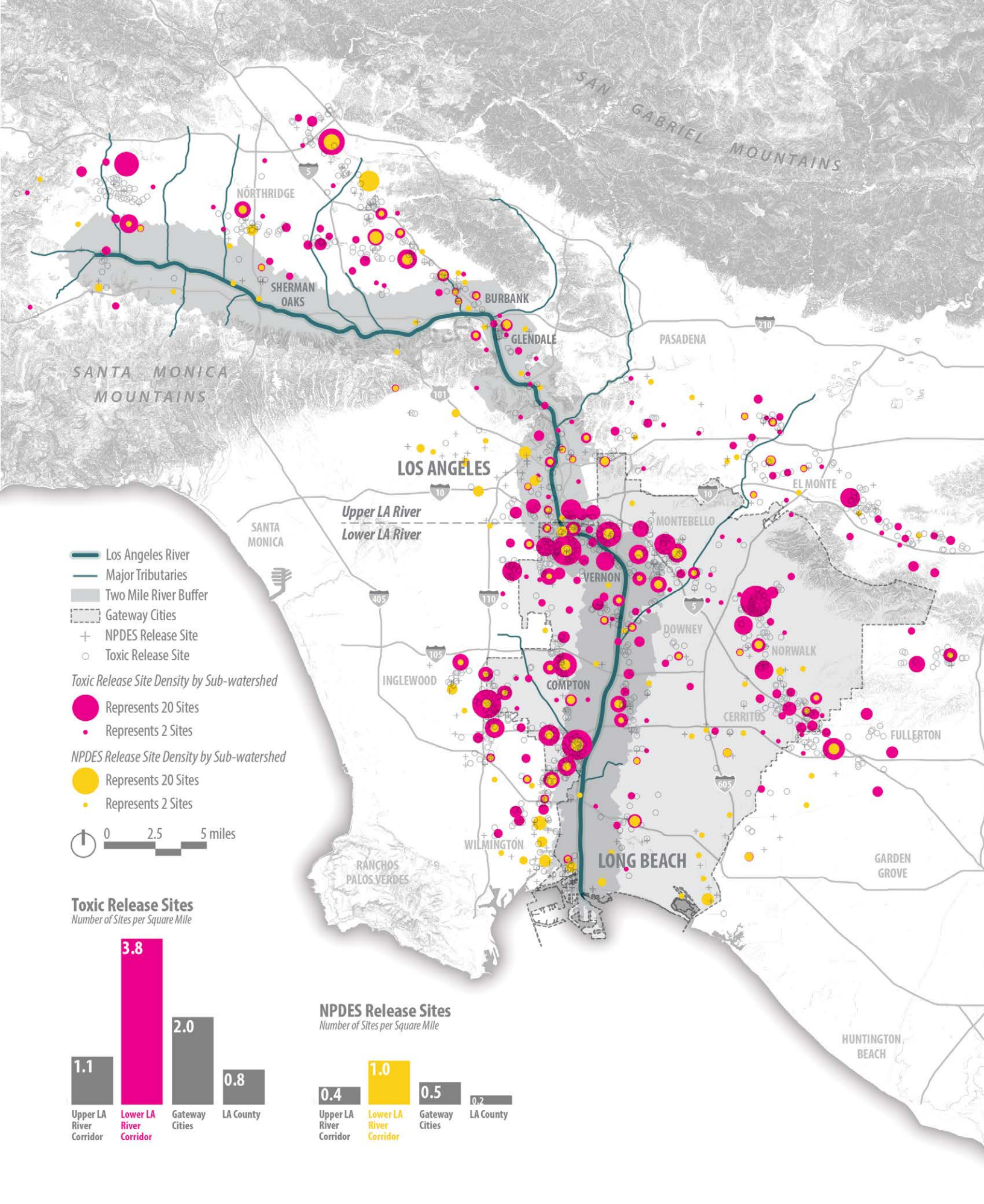


FIGURE 2.14 Point Source Pollution in the Los Angeles River Watershed - NPDES and Toxic Release Locations

2.5

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY

The South Coast Air Basin encompasses a total of 6,480 square miles including all of Orange County, and parts of LA, Riverside, and San Bernadino Counties. The South Coast Air Basin is confined by the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, the Santa Ana Mountains to the southeast, and the Santa Monica Mountains to the west.

Improving regional air quality, historically among the worst in the nation, is an ongoing State and County priority (CARB, 2013). Both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) have been working to reduce harmful emissions throughout the region. While progress has been made over the past decade in reducing exposure to emissions, air quality still poses substantial public health risks (CalEPA, 2016).

Below. Industrial Land Uses Near Residential Communities are a Hazard to Public Health





Above. Smog and Air Pollution in the Los Angeles Region

2.5.1 KEY ISSUES RELATED TO AIR QUALITY

One of the key issues with air pollution is that the causes are varied and largely comprised of non-point pollution sources, making the management of emissions difficult. Major sources of air pollution include: agriculture, dust, fires, fuel combustion, industrial processes, vehicles, and solvents (EPA, 2016). Over half of all air pollution is caused by mobile sources such as cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains (National Parks Service, n.d.). Large stationary sources, such as fossil fuel power plants, smelters, industrial boilers, petroleum refineries, and manufacturing facilities are also major contributors (National Parks Service, n.d.). The unique geomorphological configuration of the South Coast Air Basin funnels and holds warm air from the Pacific inversion layer, effectively blanketing the region and trapping many of these pollutants in congested “hot spots” such as highways and rail yards. Among a wide range of other issues, continued dependence on automobiles, environmental disasters such as fires, and activity at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports perpetuate poor air quality throughout the region.

2.5.2 PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ASSESSING AIR QUALITY

The EPA is responsible for overseeing air quality conditions throughout the country, and sets national standards for the following six air pollutants: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur oxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), and lead (Pb) (EPA, 2016). Assessing the concentration of these pollutants forms the basis for understanding air quality conditions. The following analysis highlights health risks that are typically associated with exposure to these pollutants, and also examines the potential for various landscapes to mitigate the harmful impacts of reduced air quality.



Health Risks

Some of the most significant health risks associated with air pollution are respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (NIEHS, n.d.). The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) to aid investigators in identifying pollution sources and concentrations, associated health impact, as well as communities that are disproportionately burdened by these issues (OEHHA, 2017). The tool is updated periodically to reflect a variety of data sets (associated with census tracts), including: emission concentrations for harmful pollutants such as diesel particulate matter (PM), PM_{2.5}, and ozone; traffic volumes; rates of emergency room visits for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; and demographic information.

Above. Emissions from Port-related Activities

Focusing on the health-related impacts of air pollution, a comparison between the Upper and Lower LA River Corridors illustrates a discrepancy in the amount of hospitalizations that occur as a result of asthma and cardiovascular disease. For the Lower LA River Corridor, the data reflects a concentration of asthma related hospitalizations around the ports and other heavily industrialized areas (**Figure 2.15**). Per 10,000 residents, an average of 64 people per year are reported as having visited the emergency room due to asthma, with fifteen of the 186 census tracts reporting over 100 residents per year, mostly in Long Beach neighborhoods. For communities in the Upper LA River Corridor the average number of emergency room visits per 10,000 residents is 49. This data suggests that emissions are more severe within the focus area and thus there are greater rates of respiratory illness. However, emissions are generally uniform throughout the region with the exception of diesel PM, which has greater concentrations throughout the Lower LA River Corridor. This implies there may be other confounding variables that contribute to the increased health risks of communities in the focus area.

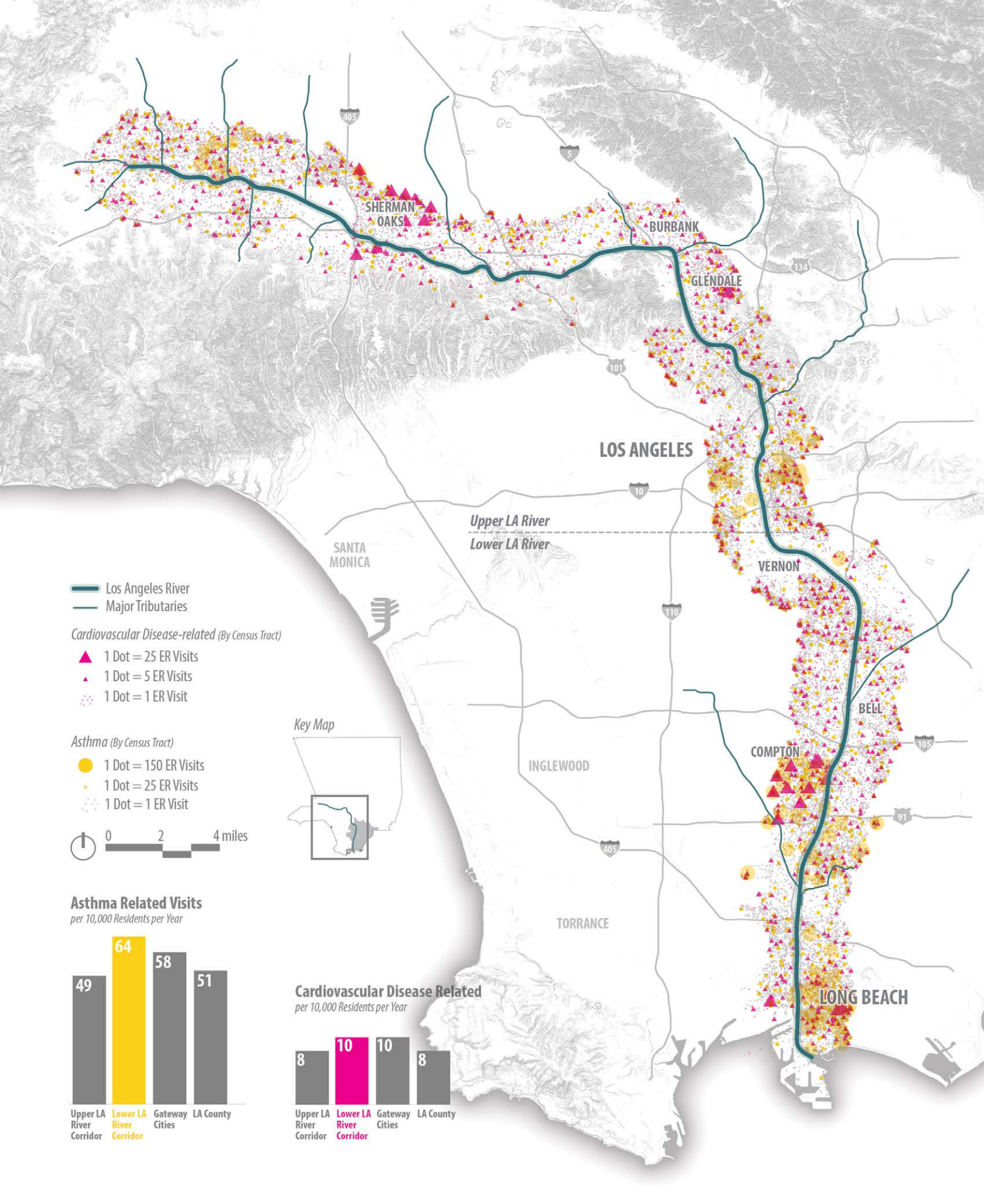


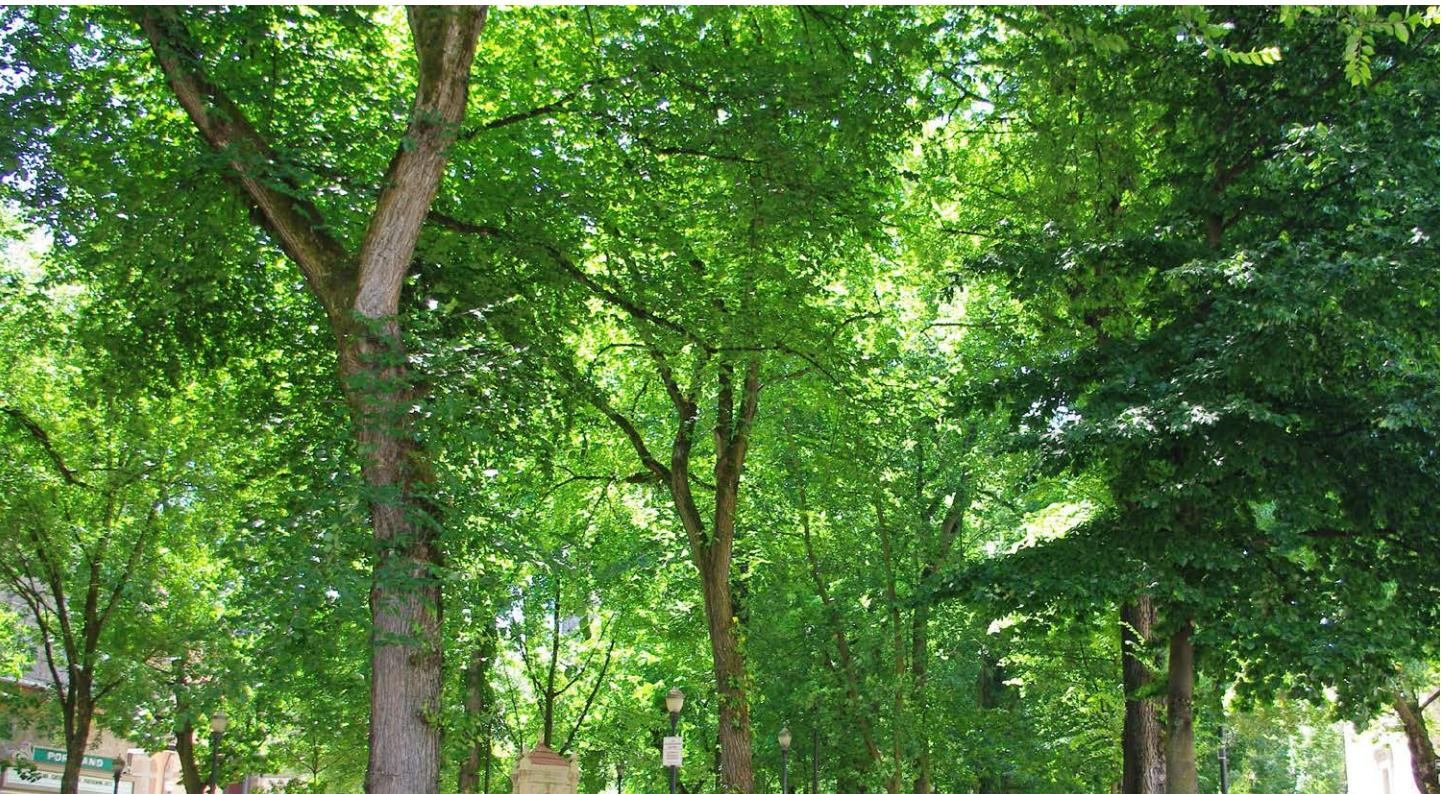
FIGURE 2.15 Density of Emergency Room Visits for Air Pollution Related Diseases in the LA River Corridor

Mitigation Potential

Traffic volumes are greater in the Upper LA River Corridor, which would typically be associated with increased emission levels and higher rates of respiratory illness, but emission levels for ozone and PM 2.5 are similar throughout the region (OEHHA, 2017). A study that compared the effectiveness of various types of green infrastructure in terms of their capacity to mitigate some of the negative impacts of air pollution found that increasing tree canopy cover had the greatest impact on improving air quality (Jayasooriya et al., 2017). The ecological benefits of green infrastructure (specifically in urban areas) are also directly related to the size and quality of the open space where the strategies are being employed (Zupancic et al., 2015). This implies that, although air quality may be a regional issue (given the prevailing wind patterns that decentralize pollutants), areas that lack canopy cover and sufficiently large areas of open space are more susceptible to the negative impacts of air pollution. If these same areas are concentrated near the pollution sources (i.e. along highway corridors or near industrialized land uses), then resident populations could potentially be at a higher risk for air quality-related diseases.

Figure 2.16 illustrates the tree canopy cover throughout the LA River Corridor, highlighting how communities along the upper reaches may have greater potential to mitigate the negative impacts of air pollution due to higher levels of canopy cover.

Below. Canopy Cover Helps Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Air Pollution



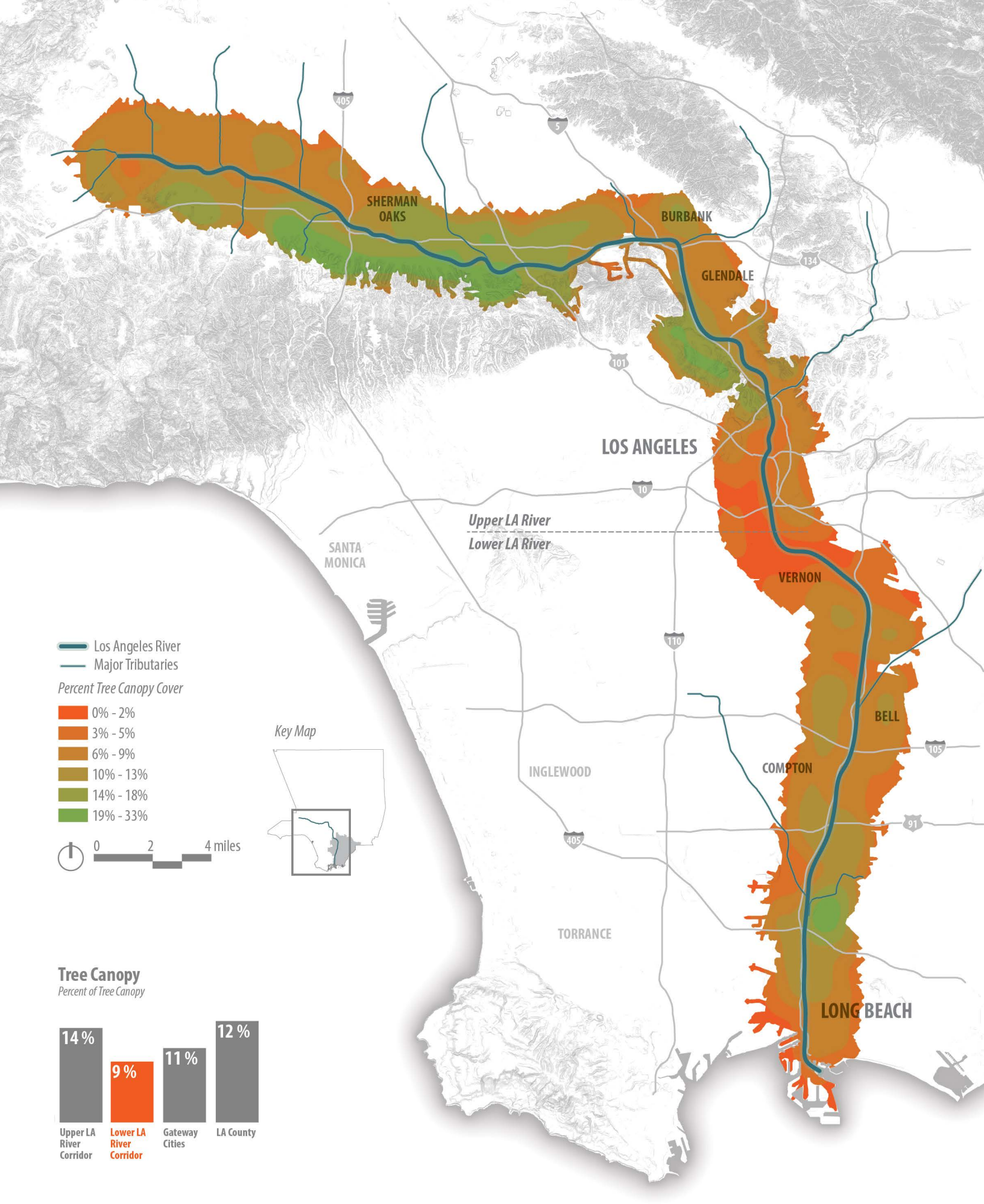


FIGURE 2.16 Canopy Cover in the LA River Corridor

2.6

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

As the Los Angeles metropolitan area continues to grow and as more people move into urban areas, promoting a healthy urban environment through the creation and preservation of open spaces is becoming increasingly more important (Gordon, 2015). Open space provides many advantages for communities and neighborhoods. It plays a crucial role in creating healthy communities and provides formal and informal places for people to recreate (McKenzie, 2013). Open space is also important for preserving wildlife habitat and improving water quality (Eysenbach, 2007). Research has shown that numerous health benefits are associated with access to open space including reduced stress and depression (Eysenbach, 2007; Villanueva et al., 2015; Ward et al., 2016). Although there are many challenges that arise when balancing open space and development, the creation and preservation of open space is vital to human health.

2.6.1 KEY ISSUES RELATED TO OPEN SPACE

There are several issues that contribute to or are associated with the lack of open space in communities, and many of these issues result in patterns of inequity throughout the region. For example, low-income and largely minority neighborhoods tend to suffer higher rates of obesity than more affluent communities due in part to the lack of attractive, walkable, and safe spaces to be physically active (Moore et al., 2008; Spoon, 2014). Similarly, 70 percent of predominately African American neighborhoods and 81 percent of predominately Hispanic neighborhoods across the country lack adequate access to recreational facilities (Moore et al., 2008).

As identified in **Section 2.3**, many of these neighborhoods also experience higher rates of population density and are more likely to be close to industrial land uses and highly polluted areas. High density means that park space is often over-used and does not fully address community members' needs (McDonald, 2010). High use results in maintenance costs to address issues such as graffiti, litter, and overgrown vegetation. If left alone,



Above. Attractive and Walkable Open Spaces are an Important Neighborhood Amenity

these issues can create the perception that the open space is unsafe (McKenzie et al., 2008). If these spaces continue to fall into disrepair, they may become vacant or abandoned, and research has shown that neighborhoods located near vacant and barren spaces are prone to higher levels of crime and illicit behavior compared to neighborhoods near vegetated green spaces that are more actively used (McKenzie et al., 2008).

2.6.2 PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ASSESSING OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Three major factors were identified for assessing open space opportunities in the Gateway Cities and the Lower LA River Corridor. First, the level of park access (as determined by average walking distance) is an indicator of how often communities will use these spaces. Second, the density of park acreage per 1,000 residents indicates if there is sufficient available park space. Lastly, the condition of park facilities and amenities in existing parks indicates the quality of the accessible parks and open spaces.

Open Space Accessibility

Open space accessibility is a measure of whether river-adjacent communities have access to parks and open spaces within walking distance of their homes. What is considered walking distance varies depending on the size of the park being visited, but typically this distance ranges between a quarter-mile and a half-mile (Regional Plan Association, 1997; Van Herzele & Weidemann, 2003). This study uses a half-mile as the standard for measuring park accessibility. Most people will use a park or open space if they are within walking distance, but once the distance doubles they are 50 percent less likely to visit (NRPA, n.d.).

A network analysis based on the LA County street and trail network was used to identify communities that were within a half-mile walking distance of a park or open space (**Figure 2.17**). The results indicate that for all of the study regions, roughly half of the population is lacking park space within walking distance. This suggests that communities throughout the county as a whole have equal access to parks. However, these results do not account for population density and income levels. Areas with higher population density require more park acreage to meet community needs. Lower-income residents living in the Gateway Cities need to walk, bike and use public transportation more often, and are less likely to own a vehicle (Leadership Conference Education Fund, 2011). This suggests that walkability is more crucial in these neighborhoods.

Communities in the Gateway Cities may also have more significant social and physical barriers that inhibit park accessibility. Physical barriers, such as highways, railroads, and urban areas with poor pedestrian infrastructure can isolate neighborhoods and prevent access to park space. Social barriers such as perceptions of safety or the association of parks with local criminal behavior can also influence whether or not local residents will visit a park (McKenzie et al., 2008; NRPA, n.d.).

Below. An Unsafe Freeway Underpass Can Discourage Residents from Walking to a Nearby Park



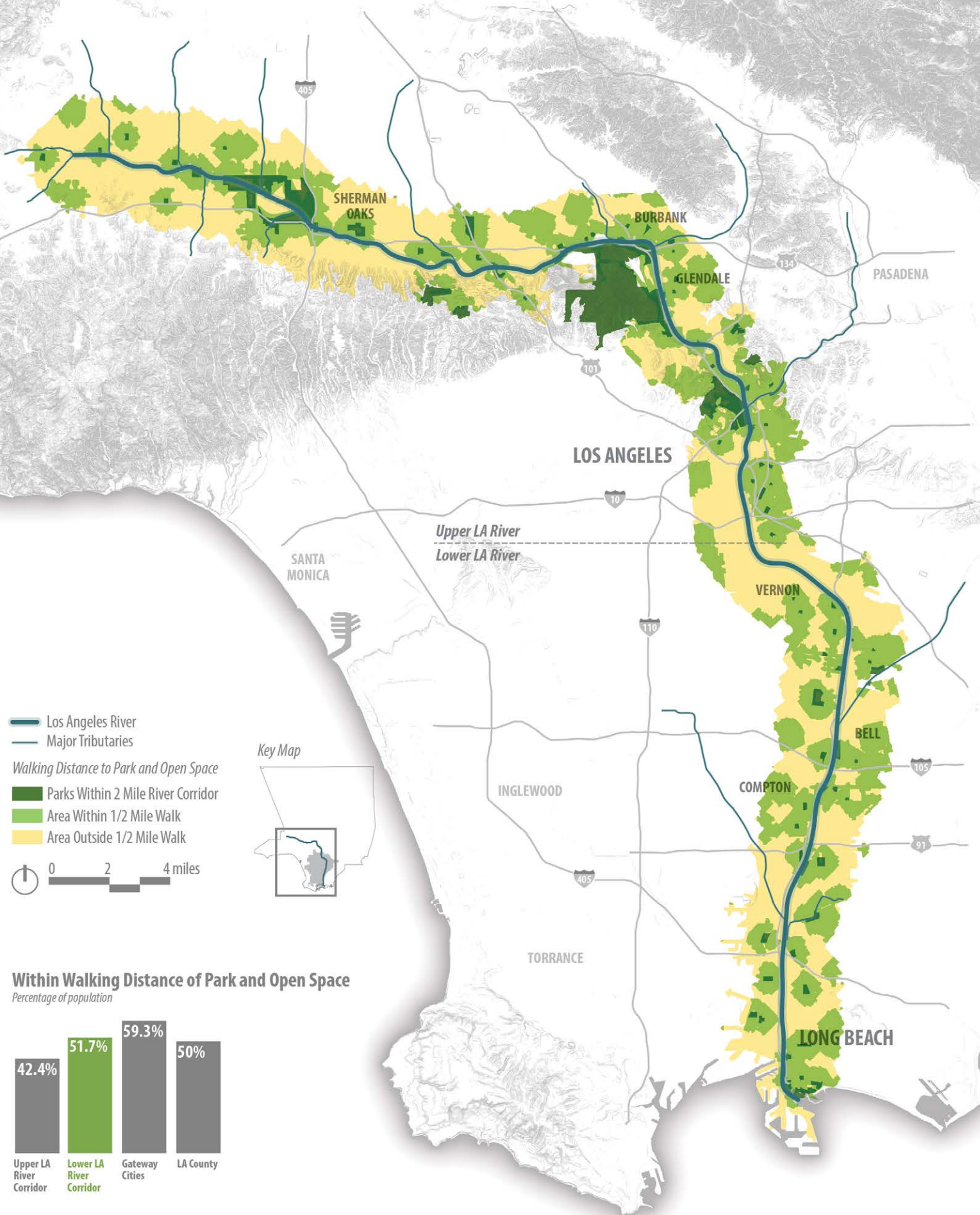


FIGURE 2.17 Park Accessibility in the LA River Corridor

Park and Open Space Density

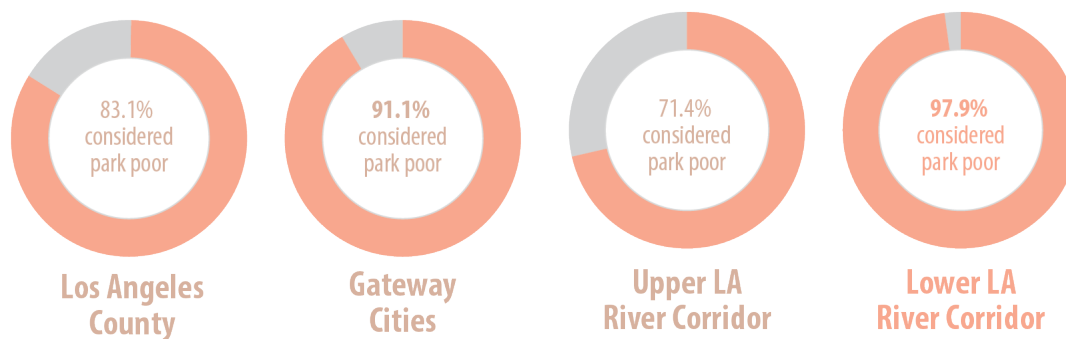
When measured by proximity, communities in the Gateway Cities and Lower LA River Corridor have better access to open space than the rest of the county. However, much of the park land in these regions is small, averaging 7.8 acres as compared to the county average of 297 acres.* To provide a more accurate analysis of park and open space opportunities it is necessary to calculate park density, which is measured in park acres per 1,000 residents (PA/1kR) that reside within a half-mile service area. This measurement takes into consideration the population density surrounding the park and paints a more accurate picture of park and open space needs within the study region.

* 297 acre average includes the Angeles National Forest

The following analysis uses two standards as a basis for comparison, one set by LA County and one set nationally. LA County considers 4 PA/1kR as adequate to fulfill the needs of residents, while ten park acres is the national standard (LACDPR, 2016). Any population that falls below 4 PA/1kR is considered park poor, neighborhoods that fall between four and 10 PA/1kR are considered to have a moderate level of park availability, and areas with above 10 PA/1kR have very high levels of park availability (**Figure 2.19**).

On average, residents in the Gateway Cities have 2.5 PA/1kR. Communities in the focus area had an average of 2 PA/1kR, approximately an eighth of the park acreage density in the Upper LA River Corridor. In the Lower LA River Corridor, 97.9 percent of communities were considered park poor followed by the Gateway Cities with 91.5 percent park poor communities (**Figure 2.18**). The Upper LA River Corridor had 28.6 percent of communities above 4 PA/1kR, yet the majority of communities were considered park poor. Although the overall rates of park poverty are relatively high throughout the region, the results highlight the need to concentrate efforts on the development and preservation of park spaces in river-adjacent communities in the focus area.

FIGURE 2.18 Percent of Communities Considered Park Poor



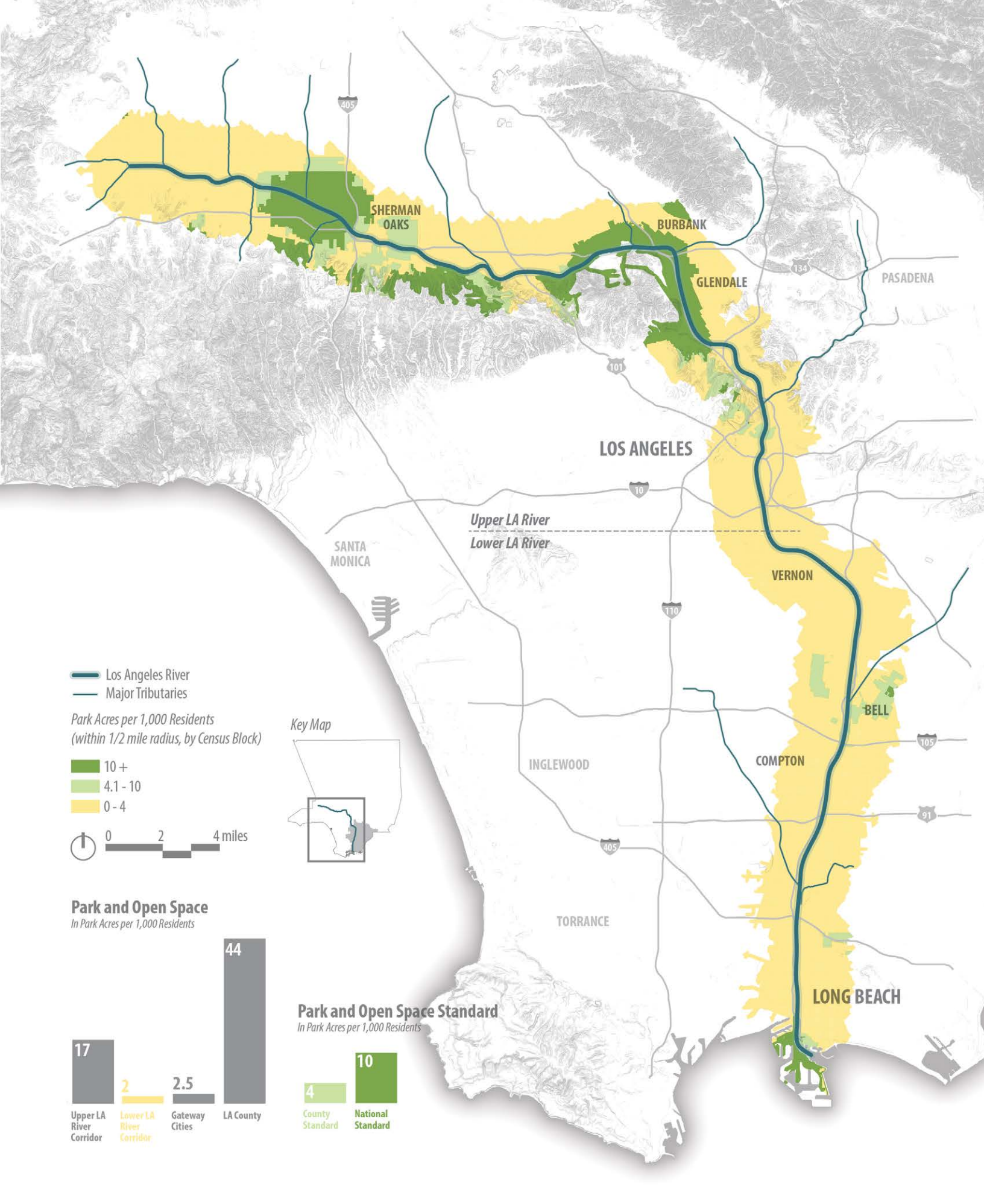


FIGURE 2.19 Park Density in the LA River Corridor

	LA County	Gateway Cities	Upper LA River Corridor	Lower LA River Corridor
Playground Facilities	50.1% in good condition	36.1% in good condition	67.2% in good condition	25% in good condition
Active Recreation Facilities	43.1% in good condition	44.6% in good condition	26.3% in good condition	39.0% in good condition
Passive Recreation Facilities	35.2% in good condition	36.1% in good condition	34.1% in good condition	33.3% in good condition

Park Facility Conditions

The poor conditions of park facilities can often be a hindrance to the community's ability to use the space. This is especially problematic when park facilities and recreation centers are the only recreational resources outside of school for children in low-income and minority communities (McKenzie, 2013). Assessing park facility conditions is therefore vital for identifying how these spaces do or do not fulfill a community's needs. To conduct this analysis, data from the County of Los Angeles Parks Needs Assessment was used to identify the percentage of park facilities that are in good condition in river-adjacent communities. **Table 2.4** describes the various types of facilities that were considered in the analysis.

TABLE 2.3 *Conditions of Park Facilities Compared across Study Regions*

Above. Poorly Maintained Facilities can Hinder Park Use



ACTIVE FACILITIES
HARD COURTS SPORTS FIELDS GYMNASIUMS RECREATIONAL AREAS
PASSIVE FACILITIES
PICNIC AREAS COMMUNITY CENTERS SENIOR CENTERS
PLAYGROUND FACILITIES
PLAYGROUNDS

TABLE 2.4 *Types of Park Facilities*

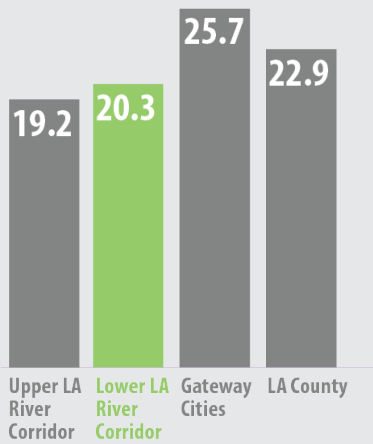
Across all types of facilities, 30 to 40 percent are reported to be in good condition. The rest of the facilities are either in poor or moderate condition, or their condition has not been reported. Facilities in the focus area are generally in poorer condition than those throughout the region (**Table 2.3**).

Analysis was also conducted to identify the number of facilities per 50,000 residents in the study area, with results indicating that facility availability is consistent throughout the region. However, in some cases there are more facilities in parks and open spaces in the Lower LA River Corridor and in the Gateway Cities (**Figure 2.22**). This may be due to the fact that most parks and open spaces in these communities are classified as mid-size regional parks or smaller local parks that more typically include sport facilities and programming. These communities also are more ethnically diverse, and recent research has found that these populations require more active facilities for recreational use (Milburn, 2017). Much of the open space along the Upper LA River consists of naturalized areas and protected reserves where sports facilities are less likely to be located. The data for LA County is incomplete and more research and data collection is required to provide a more accurate representation of park facility conditions.

FIGURE 2.20 *Number of Facilities in Parks and Open Space (per 50,000 residents)*

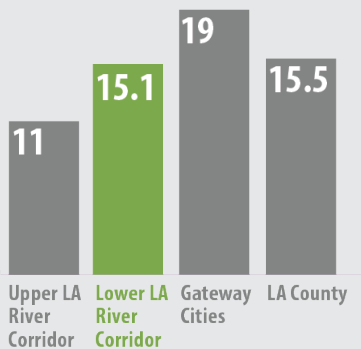
Active Recreation Facilities

Number of Facilities per 50,000 Residents



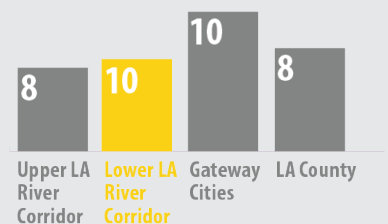
Passive Recreation Facilities

Number of Facilities per 50,000 Residents



Playground Facilities

Number of Facilities per 50,000 Residents



2.7

REGIONAL HABITAT CONDITIONS

Habitat conditions in LA County have changed dramatically as a result of urban development and expansion. Most of the remaining critical habitat areas are located on the fringe of urban areas, and current efforts are aimed at conserving these areas while identifying strategies for building wildlife corridors and connecting small habitat patches. However, due to the high cost of land throughout the region and the complex laws and regulations that govern land use, it is often difficult to acquire and restore landscapes to original habitat conditions. One of the largest current restoration attempts focuses on the LA River and its potential to support ecological function as a major wildlife corridor. The LA River Revitalization Master Plan aims to restore habitat, improve water quality, and improve water resources along the 32 mile stretch of the LA River in the City of Los Angeles (City of Los Angeles, n.d.).

The Green Vision Plan is another solution proposed to aid in habitat conservation. It is a collaborative effort between the University of Southern California, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, and Baldwin Hills Conservancy. The mission of the Green Vision Plan is to “offer a guide to habitat conservation, watershed health and recreational open space for the Los Angeles metropolitan region” (Rubin et al., 2006). This plan identifies target species and parcels of land that would be appropriate for creating habitat. Throughout the study region, the plan recommends using existing parks and open spaces to provide habitat.

In general, rehabilitating regional habitat conditions while supporting urban biodiversity requires creativity and the ability to think about new ways to connect landscape patches using interconnected remnant parcels of land as habitat corridors. Localized efforts for alternative design strategies include developing green belts through neighborhoods to act as corridors, or wildlife crossings that traverse major highways (National Wildlife Federation, 2017b).



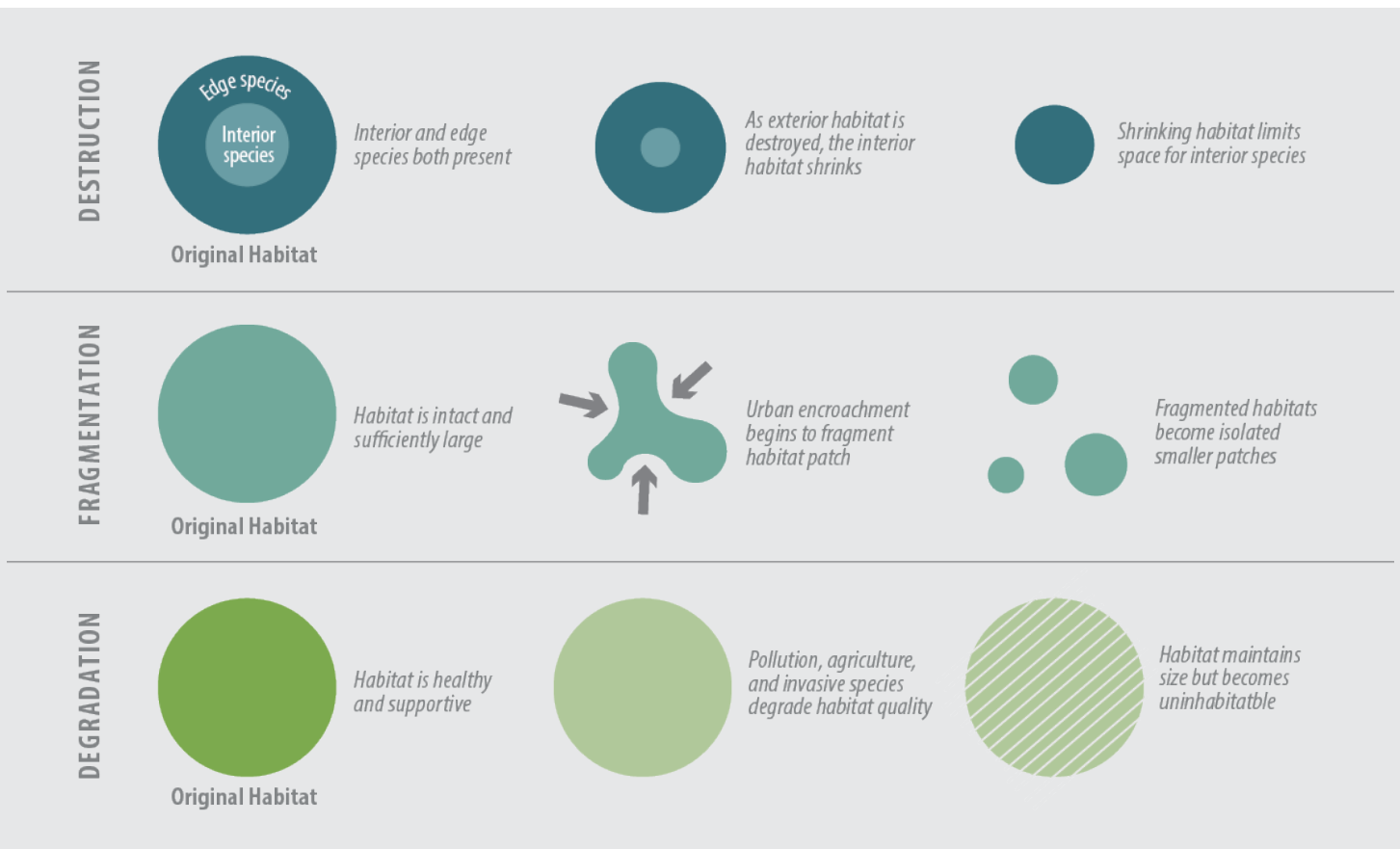
Above. Proximity to Urban Areas Puts Pressure on Local Wildlife

2.7.1 KEY ISSUES RELATED TO HABITAT CONDITIONS

Landscape ecology is typically discussed in terms of patches, corridors, and a background matrix that combine to create a unique landscape mosaic for different regions (Forman, n.d.). Patches are described as the landscape areas where habitat exists, while corridors are linear stretches of habitat that connect the patches of open space and provide a way for wildlife to navigate through the urban environment (Forman, n.d.). The background matrix is the dominant land type within the region. Within the context of landscape ecology, there are three primary issues that threaten the delicate relationship between these various components: habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, and habitat degradation (National Wildlife Federation, 2017a) (Figure 2.21).

Habitat destruction is a primary concern, and occurs when a habitat has been reduced in size due to the expansion of agricultural lands, cities, or timber harvesting; grazing; coastal development; global warming; and natural causes such as earthquakes and volcanoes (National Wildlife Federation, 2017a). When an open space is large enough it can support both edge species and interior species. However, as spaces decrease in size, interior species can no longer survive.

FIGURE 2.21 *Difference Between Destruction, Fragmentation, and Degradation*





Above. Willow Street Tidal Estuary

Habitat fragmentation occurs when a habitat is altered and spatial separation between habitat units undermines continuity. Fragmentation can affect both terrestrial and aquatic life, and the shape and extent of the fragmentation zones can vary considerably depending on the species (The Wildlife Society, n.d.). Terrestrial habitats are fragmented by structures such as roads and developments, whereas aquatic habitats are impacted by the building of dams and water diversions (National Wildlife Federation, 2017a). Habitat fragmentation is problematic because it reduces biodiversity in a number of ways by splitting the population into smaller groups and making it more difficult for individuals within the group to defend themselves or reproduce. Fragmentation can increase crowding within a population and make it more difficult to find food and water, which often forces animals to come into conflict with humans in developed areas (Annenberg Learner, 2014).

Habitat degradation is when a habitat can no longer support the native wildlife because of factors such as pollution, invasive species, or global warming (National Wildlife Federation, 2017a). The habitat size is not necessarily reduced but the functionality is impaired and no longer sufficient for supporting the wildlife population.

Habitat destruction, fragmentation and degradation have all occurred throughout LA County (**Figure 2.22**). The destruction of habitat due to urban encroachment goes hand-in-hand with fragmentation. As the habitat is being destroyed by the expansion of cities, it creates pockets of open space that are no longer connected. The LA River is an example of habitat degradation: although it still functions as a passage for transporting water to the ocean, channelization has degraded and dramatically altered its ecological functionality (Fletcher, 2008).

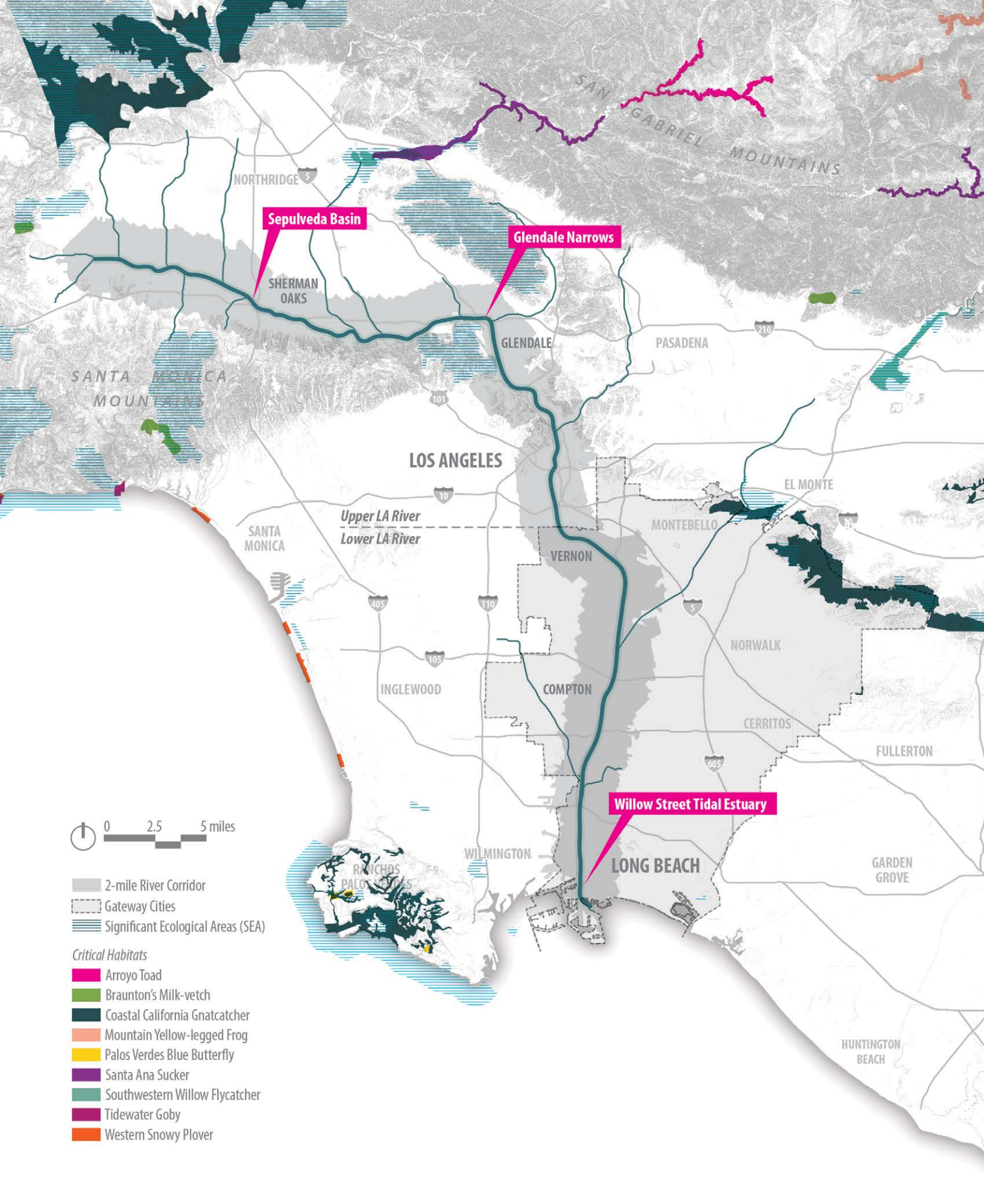


FIGURE 2.22 Critical Habitat and Significant Ecological Areas in LA County

2.7.2 PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ASSESSING HABITAT CONDITIONS

The Preservation of Large Open Spaces

One of the primary factors for assessing habitat conditions in LA County is identifying the number of large open spaces that are available within the region. LA County includes large parks such as Griffith and Elysian Park, as well as the Angeles National Forest. Altogether, LA County has close to 903,000 acres of open space (35% of the total area of LA County), while the Gateway Cities region has approximately 11,300 acres (only 7% of the total area of the Gateway Cities). The average size of open space in LA County is 297 acres (including the Angeles National Forest) as compared to 23 acres in the Gateway Cities. This difference in park size and density is a major contributing factor to the lack of apex predators in the Gateway Cities.

LA County is one of only two counties in the nation that encompasses desert, mountain, and coastal territories. The County has identified important habitats and ecological community associations as Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) which, combined with extensive established open spaces, form the foundation of LA County conservation efforts. These SEAs occur mainly in the northern part of LA County with only four out of the 137 areas occurring in the Gateway Cities.

There are 16 species that are either endangered or threatened and have critical habitat throughout LA County (U.S. Fish and Wildlife, 2017) (**Table 2.4**). The Gateway Cities has critical habitat for one of these species: the Coastal California gnatcatcher (**Figure 2.23**). There are also several endangered or threatened bird species that migrate through the area as part of the Pacific Flyway migratory route (**Table 2.5**).

TABLE 2.5 *Endangered or Threatened Species with Critical Habitat in LA County*

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES WITH CRITICAL HABITAT IN LA COUNTY	
Arroyo toad (<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>)	Braunton's milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>)
California condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>)	Coastal California gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica</i>)
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>)	Desert tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>)
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	Lyon's pentachaeta (<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>)
Mountain yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana muscosa</i>)	Palos Verdes blue butterfly (<i>Glucopsyche lygdamus palosverdensis</i>)
Santa Ana sucker (<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>)	Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>)
Spreading navarretia (<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>)	Thread-leaved brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>)
Tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>)	Western snowy plover (<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>)



ARROYO TOAD



CALIFORNIA CONDOR



CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER



LEAST BELL'S VIREO



MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROG



PALOS VERDES BLUE BUTTERFLY



TIDEWATER GOBY



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER

PACIFIC FLYWAY ENDANGERED OR THREATENED BIRDS

San Clemente sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli clementeae</i>)	Short-tailed albatross (<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>)
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>)	Light-footed clapper rail (<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>)
San Clemente loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi</i>)	California clapper rail (<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>)
California brown pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>)	California least tern (<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>)

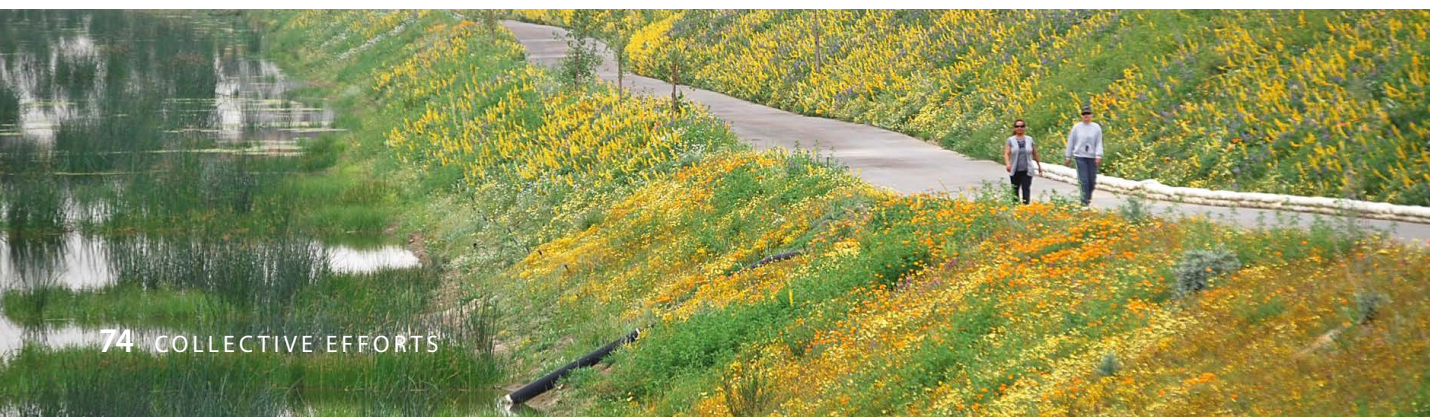
The LA River Corridor does not have critical habitat for any of the endangered or threatened species in LA County. However, there are three segments of the river that have been ‘naturalized’, which include the Sepulveda Basin, the Glendale Narrows, and the Willow Street Tidal Estuary (Fletcher, 2008) (**Figure 2.22**). The Willow Street Tidal Estuary exists in the Lower LA River while the other two exist in the Upper LA River. These riparian and wetland areas are habitat for endangered birds such as the California brown pelican and California least tern. These areas are the healthiest segments of the LA River and host a wide variety of species, such as Swainson’s thrushes, night herons, ospreys, wood ducks, and many reptiles and amphibians. Due to its location at the terminus of the LA River, the Willow Street Tidal Estuary is now one of the most biologically productive stopovers for migrating shorebirds because effluent-rich water has spread out across the concrete sills allowing invertebrates to extensively colonize the area (Fletcher, 2008).

TABLE 2.6 Pacific Flyway
Endangered or Threatened Birds

Lack of Habitat Biodiversity

There are two main habitat areas in the Gateway Cities region. One is the riparian wetland habitat of the Willow Street Tidal Estuary in the southern part of the Gateway Cities. The other is the Sycamore Canyon, Worsham Canyon, and Arroyo San Miguel open spaces in between Whittier and Hacienda Heights. This area encompasses a mix of Coastal Scrub, Coastal Oak Woodland, and Grassland habitat. The area is also critical habitat for the threatened California gnatcatcher. The rest of the region is almost completely urbanized, allowing for little to no habitat biodiversity. **Figure 2.23** shows the location of different types of habitat, highlighting the need for habitat creation in the densely urbanized areas of the Gateway Cities.

*Below. Wetland Riparian Habitat
at the Dominguez Gap Wetlands in
Long Beach, CA*



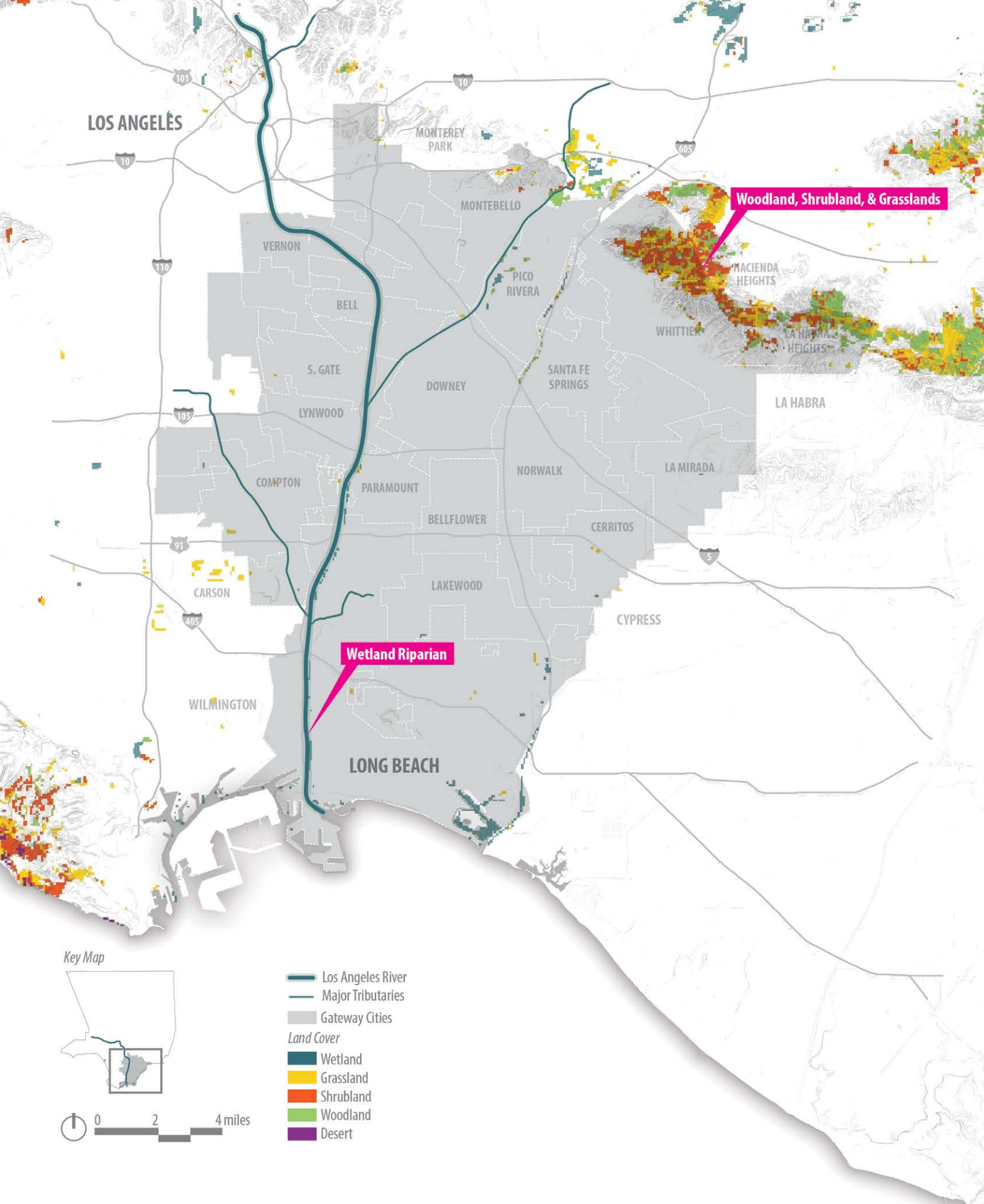


FIGURE 2.23 Land Cover and Habitat Diversity in the Gateway Cities and Surrounding Region

2.8

PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

Over the past several years, state and local agencies throughout the region have adopted planning and policy regulations focused on improving the urban public realm. These policies and plans seek to shape development and growth in ways that improve air and water quality, ecology, recreation, health, and economic opportunities. Several state and regional plans have been crafted specifically to shape urban development policy related to the LA River and its ongoing revitalization process, while other plans focus on achieving higher environmental health standards for Southern California in general.

The shift in attitude toward the river as a cultural and ecological resource has led to the creation of a number of master plans for the river and its adjacent landscapes. The plans vary in size and scope to include recommendations for open space improvements or guidelines for agencies to develop their own plans. Some existing plans encompass the entire river and surrounding watersheds, while others focus on particular segments (**Figure 2.24**). For the most part, the plans rely on some combination of the following tools to guide planning recommendations: trail development, park creation, habitat restoration, economic investment, and/or public art. The level of community involvement in each of the plans also varies. Some plans were developed primarily by consultants or governing agencies, while others relied more on public outreach.

The project area is primarily governed by City of Long Beach policies and includes the city's general plan, zoning ordinance, low impact development (LID) ordinance, and other specialized planning efforts. A complete list of plans and policies relevant to the project area are provided in **Table 2.5**.

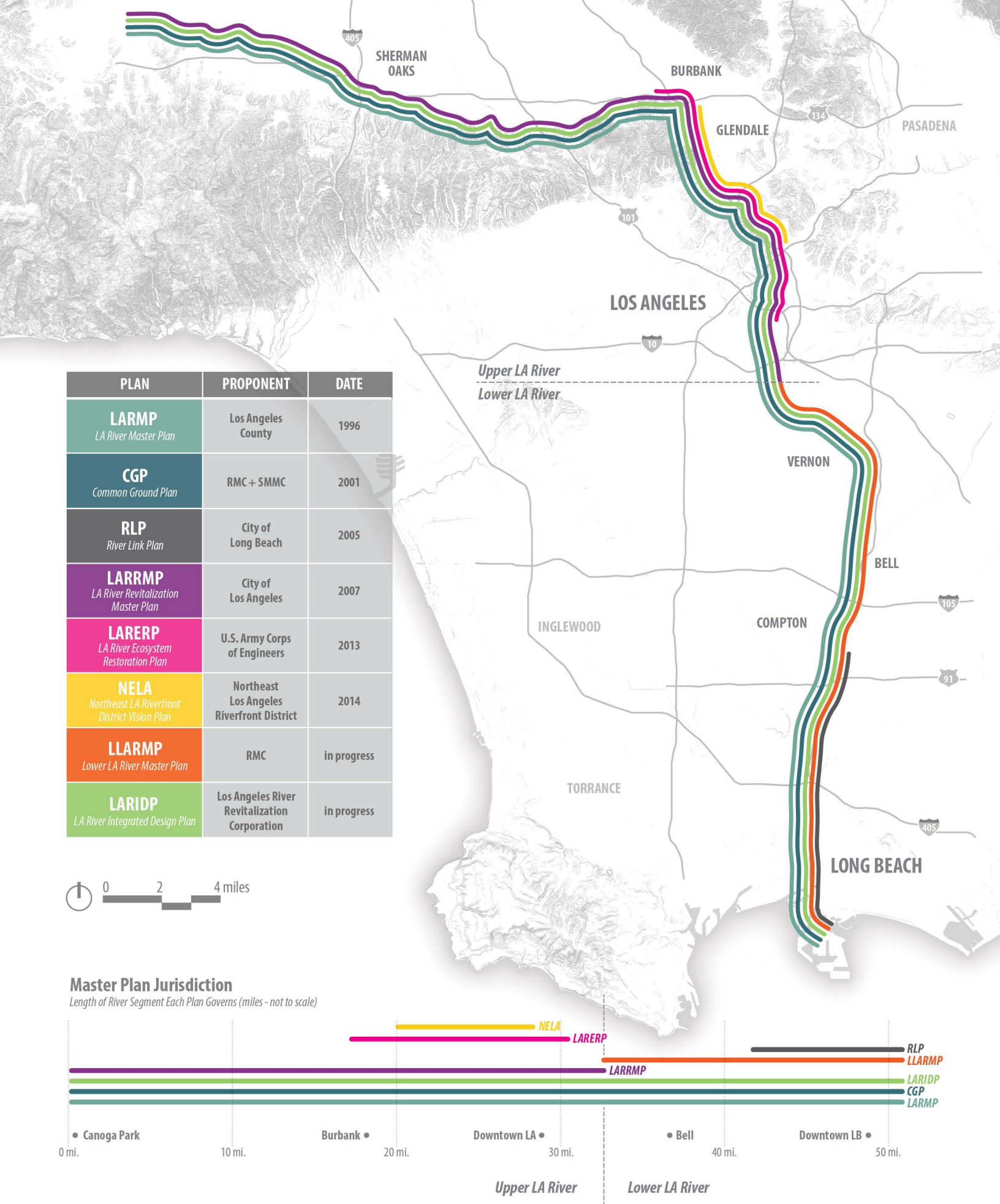


FIGURE 2.24 Master Plans for the Los Angeles River

PLAN/POLICY	DESCRIPTION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) (RMC, n.d.)	Currently in progress, the LLARRP is part of an update to LA County’s River Master Plan that will address the 19-mile Lower LA River, from the City of Vernon to Long Beach Harbor. The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and their project partners will “engage communities in a meaningful way through a community driven collaborative process while addressing issues of community equity, watershed health, and water quality.” Additionally, the plan will identify funding sources for the development of local projects. The LLARRP will help bring a number of projects, which are currently at different levels of development, under a single umbrella.
LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WMP) (LARWQCB, 2015)	Developed by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the WMP aims to achieve pollutant reductions in the water bodies of the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The program brings together local agencies within the Gateway Cities and helps to acquire funding for the implementation of localized watershed control measures.
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRWMP) (IRWMP, 2014)	IRWMP is a plan for the Greater Los Angeles County Region for the next twenty years to facilitate collaborative planning for the responsible management of water resources. Its general objectives focus on: improving water supplies and supply reliability, improving surface water quality, expanding recreational access, conserving habitat, and enhancing flood protection infrastructure.
COMMON GROUND FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA (California Resources Agency, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, 2001)	<i>Common Ground</i> is a plan addressing watersheds and open space jointly developed by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy (SMMC). It includes geographic regions of the San Gabriel River watershed, the Lower LA River watershed, and the Upper LA River watershed. The plan is intended to support and inform planning efforts by cities, federal, state and local agencies, communities, groups and individuals in the watershed. It includes subwatershed plans for future parks, open space, and bike trails in individual cities.
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	
LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN (LARRMP) (CLADPW, 2007)	In 2005, LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa approved the development of the LARRMP, a document that would address the 32 miles of river that flows through the city of LA. In 2007, the plan was completed, outlining a 25 to 50 year plan to guide improvements to the LA River. The goal of the plan is to make the river a landmark for the city.
LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN (LARMP) (LACDPW, 1996)	The LARMP was the first effort to develop a new vision for the river’s future. The plan was a result of the collaboration between stakeholders and experts, including LA city and County Departments of Public Works, City and County Parks and Recreation, City and County Planning, a variety of cities and other agencies, and the National Parks Service. The intent of the master plan was to create a document that identified ways to revitalize the publicly-owned rights-of-way along the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash into an “urban treasure.”

TABLE 2.7 Regional and Local Planning Initiatives Affecting the Project Area

CONCLUSION	IMPLICATIONS
The plan is expected to be completed in 2018.	The scope and objectives of the LLARRP in many ways parallel <i>Collective Efforts</i> , including its focus on the Lower LA River and interest in building a project process that seeks to engage river-adjacent communities. <i>Collective Efforts</i> can provide a framework for successful community engagement in this region.
The program identifies existing pollutants related to urban activities and identifies optimal placement of treatment systems as a primary option, but also includes ‘adaptive management strategies’ that allow agencies to adjust the number, location, and size of future treatment systems. The responsibility for implementing water quality projects is distributed amongst all Lower LA River watershed city agencies.	The WMP lists locations of sites for future regional BMPs. It identifies sites throughout the Lower LA River Watershed, including sites within or near the project areas.
The IRWMP identifies a comprehensive set of recommendations and strategies to be integrated into strategic planning for other important urban issues. The strategies respond to statewide priorities, while also allowing for local variation and flexibility, resulting in a coordinated approach toward achieving multiple benefits across the region. The plan identifies possible future actions that have yet to be approved, adopted, or funded, and potential funding sources, including local and state grant funding. Some of the identified funding sources include Propositions 50, 84, and 1.	Proposition 1 includes funding for projects that achieve objectives associated with its Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP). The purpose of the DACIP is to involve disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas in the IRWMP planning process. The program seeks to increase understanding of water needs in these areas and develop long term solutions to address these needs. The concept plans proposed by <i>Collective Efforts</i> would potentially be eligible for Proposition 1 grant funding.
The plan provides a set of guiding principles that can be used for open space planning. It recommends that these guiding principles be adopted by counties, individual cities, and communities when developing future plans that address open space, habitat, and water resources. Subsequent plans are necessary to determine how and where specific projects will occur.	<i>Collective Efforts</i> uses research from and adopts many of the guiding principles developed by the <i>Common Ground</i> plan. These include: create, expand, and improve public access to open space and recreation for all communities; promote stewardship of the landscape; establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters, and extend open space; improve the quality of surface water and groundwater; encourage multi-objective planning and projects; involve the public through education and outreach programs.
The plan includes recommendations for physical improvements to the river corridor through the city of LA, and to the green space network in the river’s adjacent communities. It provides recommendations at a policy level for managing public access and ensuring public health and safety, in addition to providing a framework for river governance and management. Lastly, the plan provides recommendations for short and long term priority projects and potential funding strategies.	<i>Collective Efforts</i> takes place outside the LARRMP scope. However, the LARRMP provides an excellent model for addressing community development strategies for river-adjacent communities. General objectives of the LARRMP that are applicable to <i>Collective Efforts</i> include: Enable safe public access and connect neighborhoods to the river; Create a continuous greenway while extending open space, recreation, and water quality features into adjacent neighborhoods; Engage residents in the community planning process and consensus building; Focus attention on under-used areas and disadvantaged communities.
The plan attempts to maintain the river as a resource that provides flood protection, recreation, environment enhancement, aesthetics, an enriched quality of life, and sustainable economic development. Master plan recommendations are intended to be implemented on a city-by-city basis.	Jurisdiction over river-adjacent property within the project area is under the City of Long Beach. The <i>RiverLink</i> plan provides guidance for river-adjacent property within its jurisdiction and adopts many of the recommendations of the LARRMP.

PLAN/POLICY	DESCRIPTION
LOS ANGELES RIVER INTEGRATED DESIGN VISION (LARIDV) (LARIDV, 2015)	This plan attempts to strike a balance between maintaining flood-control measures and opening up the river to public access. Developed by Architect Frank Gehry, the LARIDV will: 1) visualize LA River Revitalization Master Plan implementation possibilities in the Downtown LA Corridor that reflect projects that are currently in motion while taking into account future planning; 2) focus on interventions that improve connectivity and access to the river; 3) imagine how to achieve function while embracing world-class design.
GREENWAY 2020 (RiverLA, 2015)	<i>Greenway 2020</i> attempts to connect all 51 miles of the LA River, from Canoga Park in the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach, by the year 2020. It is part of River LA, a nonprofit organization created to ensure the 51-mile LA River integrates design and infrastructure to bring people, water and nature together. The <i>Greenway 2020</i> envisions the riverbank as a continuous 51-mile active transportation and recreational corridor, becoming a spine for the larger bike and pedestrian networks within the County and river-adjacent cities.
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	
GATEWAY CITIES AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (GCAQAP, 2013)	The 2013 Gateway Cities AQAP evaluates air quality and health impacts and makes recommendations for achieving emissions reductions in the Gateway Cities.
SUBREGIONAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (GCSSCS, 2011)	As part of Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is an element of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) intended to integrate transportation strategies to achieve ARB emissions reduction targets and general land use growth patterns for the southern California region.
CITY OF LONG BEACH	
CITY OF LONG BEACH GENERAL PLAN UPDATE (LBGP, 2015)	The Long Beach 2040 <i>General Plan</i> is the citizens' blueprint for development and the guide to achieving the city vision. California law requires each local government to adopt a local General Plan, which must contain at least seven elements: Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Conservation, Noise, Open Space and Safety.
CITY OF LONG BEACH ZONING ORDINANCE (City of Long Beach, n.d.)	The Zoning Regulations (Title 21 of the Municipal Code), in conformance with the General Plan, regulate land use development within the City of Long Beach. Within each zoning district, the Zoning Regulations specify the permitted and prohibited uses, as well as development standards including setbacks, height, parking, and design standards.
LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) ORDINANCE (City of Long Beach, n.d.)	LID is stormwater management that mimics natural systems to slow, clean, infiltrate and capture rainfall. It's an economical and efficient way to replenish local aquifers, reduce pollution, increase the reuse of water and improve the quality of beaches and waterways.
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) (City of Long Beach, 2014)	CHIP is aimed at advancing the health of Long Beach communities.

CONCLUSION	IMPLICATIONS
<p>The LARIDV is divided among 7 design firms each charged with designs for a particular section of the LA River.</p>	<p>The seven designs for the LA River will need to integrate into one cohesive vision. To date, plans have not been revealed and are speculative. The LARIDV focuses on areas near downtown Los Angeles.</p>
<p>Through an integrated 51-mile river design vision, <i>Greenway 2020</i> connects neighborhoods, eases commutes, builds healthier spaces, invests in communities, and supports the need to restore the river’s natural beauty. <i>Greenway 2020</i> attempts to make the LA River a key linkage to the approximately 30% of major transportation stops that are within one mile of the river.</p>	<p>The <i>Collective Efforts</i> goals align with <i>Greenway 2020</i> goals to: 1) create social/economic value along the LA River; 2) connect neighborhoods to the LA River and accelerate the corridor’s role as an alternative transport route; 3) bring people to the LA River for recreation, learning, and public engagements; and 4) enhance the river channel and restore habitat.</p>
<p>The AQAP study found significant levels of air pollution and adverse health impacts. Pollutants of greatest concern were PM2.5 and Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) from diesel emissions. By 2035, air quality in the Gateway Cities is projected to improve as a result of regulating major sources of diesel emissions.</p>	<p>Concept plans developed for <i>Collective Efforts</i> will take into consideration the project’s impact on local air quality in line with the goals and objectives of the Gateway Cities AQAP.</p>
<p>The 2012–2035 RTP/SCS is primarily a transportation plan: however, the transportation network in the RTP/SCS and the growth patterns envisioned in the Plan Alternative must complement each other. Integration of land use and transportation is essential for improved mobility and access to transportation.</p>	<p><i>Collective Efforts</i> has potential connections to SCS areas of focus and can address the plan’s goals through the proposal of street improvements and bike and pedestrian infrastructure that ties into existing plans.</p>
<p>The <i>General Plan</i> will provide strategies to 1) address demand for housing and lifestyle choices; 2) guide location/aesthetics of new development; 3) protect the character of single family neighborhoods; 4) preserve the environment for future generations; 5) improve the pedestrian experience and increase walkability; 6) reduce the number of residents (76%) commuting from Long Beach for work; and, 7) encourage larger open spaces by allowing a moderate increase in height limits in transit-oriented and mixed-use areas.</p>	<p>The Advanced Planning program acts as the keeper of the <i>General Plan</i>. Duties include consulting with individuals and organizations concerning the city’s long-range vision, coordinating public input on long-range planning and collecting and analyzing demographic and land use data and trends. The communities of Jackson Park and South Wrigley can provide data and designs from <i>Collective Efforts</i> for future improvements.</p>
<p>Zoning Regulations for: Jackson Park: R-1-N, R-2-N, R-4-N, P, CNA, PR South Wrigley: R-1-N, I, P, CHW</p>	<p>Zoning regulations in both the South Wrigley and Jackson Park communities are primarily single-family with a scattering of multi-family residential, commercial and institutional uses. The limited number of commercial areas available for landscape improvements narrowed the choices for suitable build projects.</p>
<p>The LID Ordinance is a two step process: 1) proactive site planning that minimizes the amount of new impervious surface on a project, 2) incorporating LID BMP measures that offset the runoff from the impervious surfaces of a project.</p>	<p>Both the Jackson Park and South Wrigley projects effectively use LID principles and meet the requirements of the Ordinance by addressing and treating stormwater and rainfall.</p>
<p>The project goals include: 1) ensure healthy active living by addressing health conditions such as obesity, chronic diseases, mental health and increasing access to care; 2) create safe physical and social environments that promote good health; 3) achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of Long Beach residents.</p>	<p>The <i>Collective Efforts</i> goals align with CHIP objectives to increase the amount of open space that promotes active living and increases support for and involvement in the implementation of the <i>Safe Long Beach Plan</i>.</p>

2.9

IMPLICATIONS OF REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The regional analysis paints a picture of environmental injustice and socio-economic disparity and suggests the need to re-allocate resources to river-adjacent neighborhoods in the Lower LA River Corridor (**Table 2.6**). The regional inventory and analysis suggests the need to pursue alternative approaches to solving the complex urban landscape problems of the study area.

Remnant landscapes such as vacant lots, abandoned transportation corridors, schoolyards, and street medians can serve multiple functions and provide a variety of benefits for river-adjacent communities. For example, reducing impervious surfaces and providing opportunities for infiltration through the use of swales, rain gardens, and detention basins can help alleviate flooding and local water pollution. These same areas can incorporate trees and specific plant material that have the ability to trap and/or filter harmful airborne particulate matter and reduce pollution-related health risks. Overlaying recreational uses and identifying improvements to amenities in parks, along streets, and in other pedestrian areas creates opportunities for safe access to outdoor spaces that can improve the health and well-being of local residents. All of these proposed solutions work together to create opportunities for improving habitat conditions, especially in neighborhoods along the Lower LA River where the river corridor provides some of the most significant habitat in the region.

Below. The High Line in New York is an Example of Re-imagining an Unused Transportation Corridor

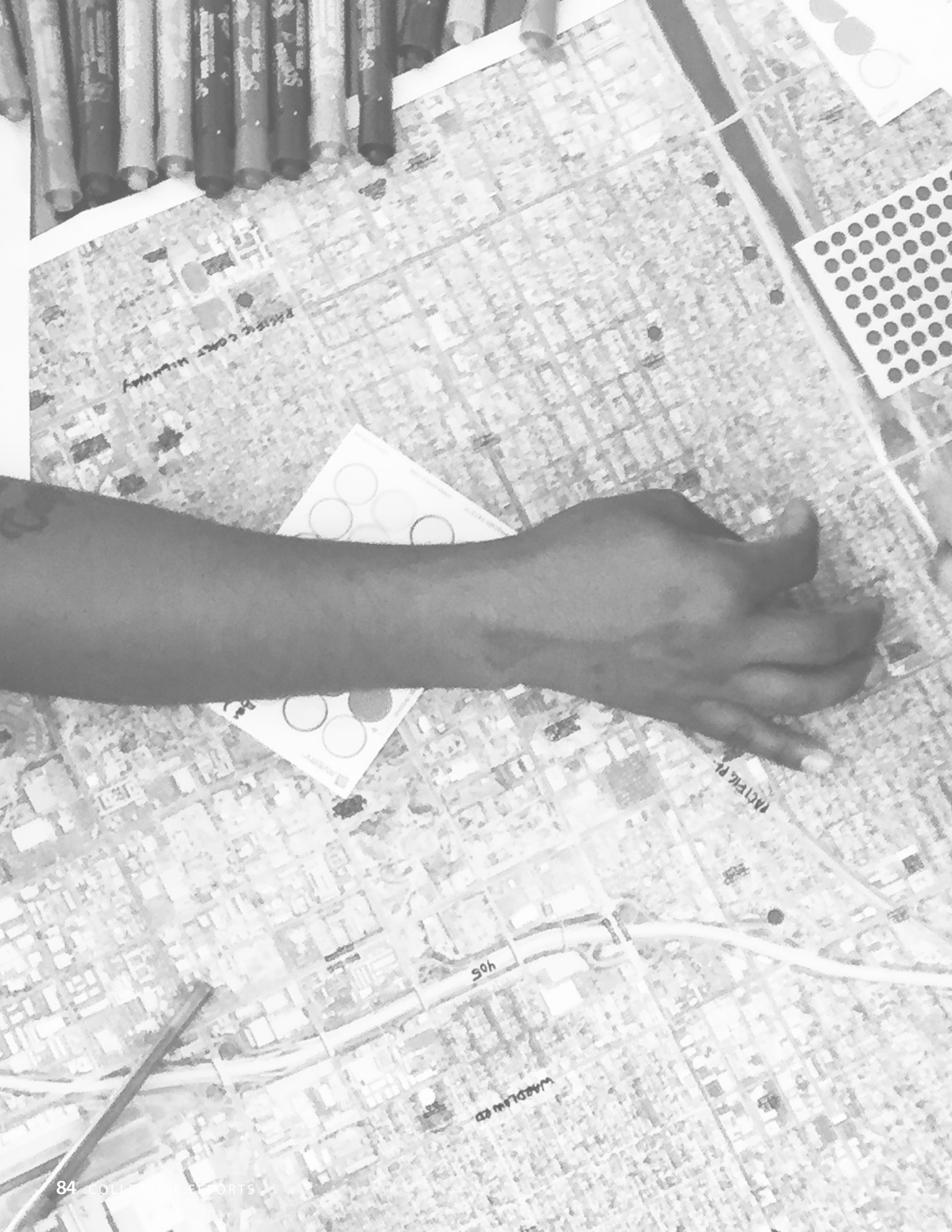




Above. The Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach, CA is a Multi-benefit Landscape that Restores the Soil, Captures and Cleans Stormwater, and Provides Recreational Opportunities

TABLE 2.8 Summary of Regional Inventory Findings

INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
History	The channelization of the LA River and the development of the I-710 Freeway corridor have contributed to the disenfranchisement of communities in the Lower LA River Corridor.
Land Use and Demographics	Neighborhoods in the focus area tend to have a higher concentration of industrialized land uses, lower median incomes, lower levels of education attainment, higher population density, and higher densities of minority residents.
Hydrology and Water Quality	The landscapes associated with the Lower LA River Corridor have greater amounts of impervious surfaces, higher runoff volumes and flow rates, and the region has a higher concentration of permitted point-source polluters.
Air Pollution	Air quality issues are dispersed equally throughout the region, but communities in the focus area experience higher rates of air pollution-related diseases such as asthma, suggesting a lack of pollution-mitigating landscapes.
Regional Open Space Opportunities	Access to open space is consistent throughout the region, but neighborhoods in the Lower LA River Corridor have significantly less park acres per 1,000 residents and, in some cases, more poorly maintained park facilities.
Habitat Conditions	The large patches of open space that are necessary habitat for many species are not available in the focus area and there is a general lack of biodiversity.
Plans, Policies, and Regulations	There are several plans and policies that impact communities in the focus area, however many are either too broad in scope, too general in their provisions, and/or are not directed at making community-specific landscape improvements.





03

NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTION

3.1

OVERVIEW

Community Constructed (606 Studio, 2016), developed a five-stage selection process to identify suitable neighborhoods for participatory design-build projects. The first two stages of the process involved taking inventory of vacant lots and other areas of unused open available land throughout the Lower Los Angeles River Corridor. The teams identified neighborhoods with particular characteristics, such as a sense of community identity, connections to the LA River, and proximity to parks and open space.

Collective Efforts took a different and more expedited approach to the neighborhood selection process, primarily as a result of working with the CCLB. The selected youth Conservation Corps Members (CMs) influenced the selection process, which resulted in the identification of two Long Beach neighborhoods (**Figure 3.1**).

The neighborhood selection process began with four CMs who were identified as potential leaders with an interest in community development. The CMs met with the 606 Studio

Below. Collaboration Between Studio Members and Conservation Corps Members was Central to the Neighborhood Selection Process



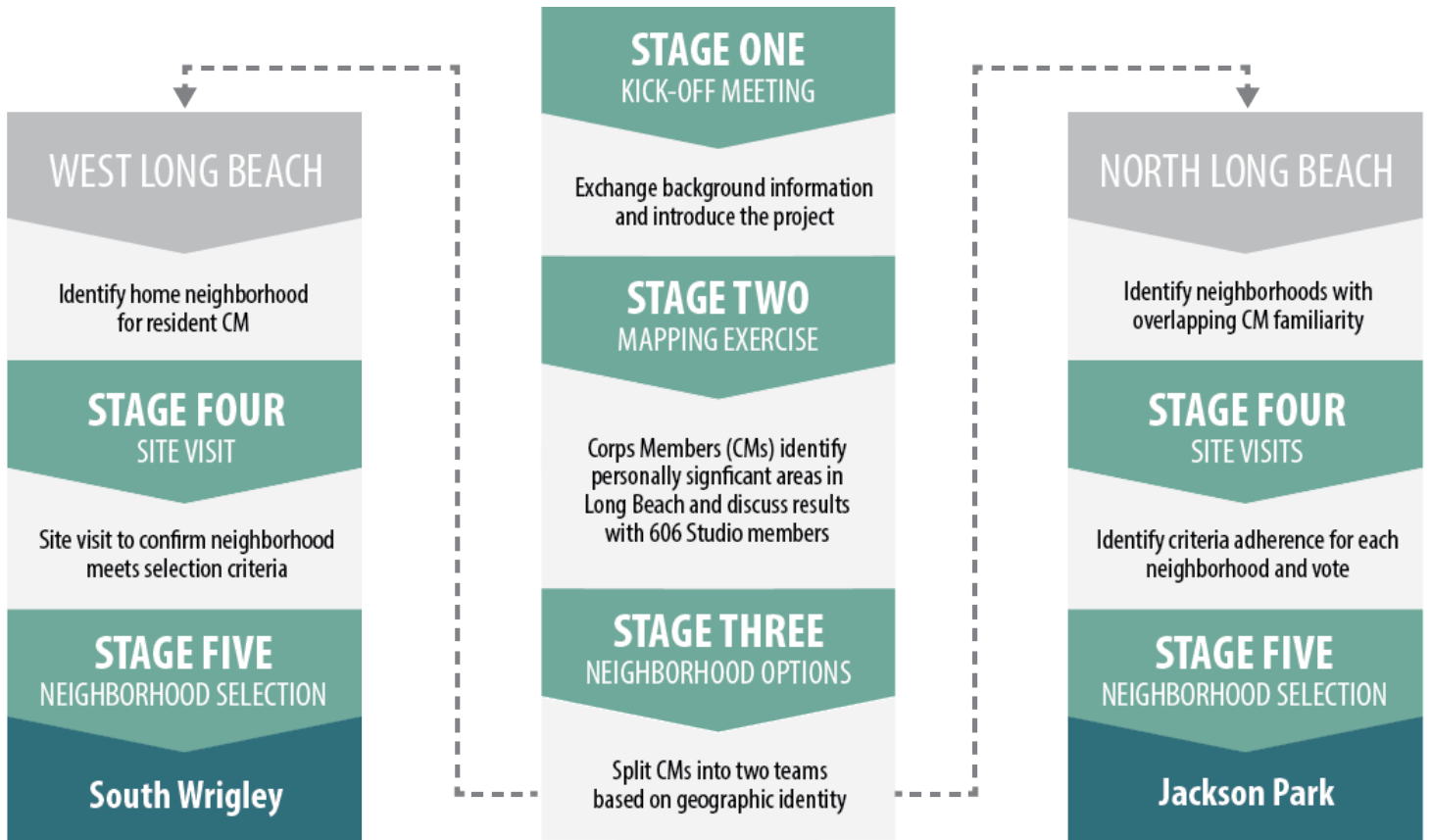


FIGURE 3.1 *Neighborhood Selection Process*

to exchange background information during an introductory meeting. The 606 Studio explained the importance of working in neighborhoods where the CMs had grown up or were attached to the community during the kick-off meeting).

During the second meeting the CMs were asked to map areas in Long Beach that were of personal significance to them through a mapping exercise. At the third meeting, the CMs split into two groups: two CMs would represent North Long Beach and the other two would represent West Long Beach. Each pair of CMs partnered with one of the two 606 Studio project teams. One CM lived outside of the Long Beach Area, but agreed to work in the West Long Beach neighborhood.

The neighborhood selection process for the two teams diverged because of the CMs, and each team identified potential neighborhoods using slightly different criteria (**Figure 3.1**). Once the options for each team had been identified, the two groups conducted site visits to evaluate the neighborhoods. Each team made their final selections. The entire process took three weeks to complete, allowing the project teams to initiate outreach and engagement earlier in the project timeline than was possible for *Community Constructed* (606 Studio, 2016).

3.2

SELECTION PROCESS

3.2.1 KICK-OFF MEETING

The initial meeting with the CCLB included key members of the organization and four youth CMs. The 606 Studio members introduced themselves and explained how they became interested in landscape architecture, while the four CMs discussed their backgrounds, personal goals, and motivation for getting involved in the project. The initial meeting set the stage for building relationships with the CMs and provided an opportunity to explain their role as the anchors grounding the project in each of the selected neighborhoods.

After the kick-off meeting, the 606 Studio took a strategic tour through West and North Long Beach. The Studio members drove along major streets, through several neighborhoods, and into many areas that were adjacent to the LA River. Throughout the tour, they also made note of prevalent land-use types, typical neighborhood characteristics, and conditions along the river. This allowed them to facilitate the mapping exercise during the second stage of the neighborhood selection process.

Below. Kick-off meeting with CMs





Above. CMs Worked Together to Complete Neighborhood Mapping Exercise

Below. One CM Presents Cognitive Mapping Exercise



3.2.2 MAPPING EXERCISE

The 606 Studio used participatory mapping techniques to learn more about the CMs and local river-adjacent neighborhoods. Large-format aerial maps of West and North Long Beach were used as a base for the exercise. The CMs used markers, stickers, and pens to identify the locations of their favorite restaurants, schools they attended, areas where they felt unsafe, and walking/biking routes.

Three of the four CMs lived in either West or North Long Beach and participated in the aerial mapping exercise. One of the CMs lived outside of the region, but was able to participate by doing a cognitive mapping exercise for his own neighborhood. Using markers and stickers and a large sheet of paper, this CM mapped the significant aspects of his neighborhood from memory.

3.2.3 NEIGHBORHOOD OPTIONS

At the onset of the project, the goal was to work in neighborhoods where CMs had lived or were currently living to allow the project to be rooted in local knowledge and experience. The other primary criteria were: the neighborhoods feel connected to the LA River, have opportunities for making open space improvements that could address both social and environmental needs, and be representative of other communities throughout the Gateway Cities region.

For the West Long Beach team, only one CM lived in Long Beach, so the area where he grew up was the priority neighborhood for consideration. The neighborhood also has a clear connection to the LA River and is demographically representative of other communities in the focus area.

For the North Long Beach team, the two CMs both lived in the area so the team identified common familiar locations. Using the initial selection criteria, the project team worked with the CMs to identify three neighborhoods that could be considered for the final selection: DeForest Park, a neighborhood adjacent to the LA River in North Long Beach; Somerset Park, a neighborhood in Bixby Hills just west of the Long Beach Airport; and Jackson Park, a neighborhood just east of the Carmelitos Housing Project and bisected by Jackson Creek (**Figure 3.2**).

3.2.4 SITE VISITS

The two teams split up for the fourth stage of the neighborhood selection process. The West Long Beach team visited South Wrigley and took inventory of the open space opportunities to ensure the neighborhood met all of the primary criteria. The resident CM showed the team several vacant lots and an abandoned park that were all adjacent to the river. There were also open spaces at the entrances to the neighborhood where there were no existing amenities for residents. This inventory satisfied the initial criteria and allowed the team to make their selection.

The North Long Beach team had three different neighborhood options to assess, and with the help of the CMs the team developed a secondary set of selection criteria to evaluate the neighborhoods (**Table 3.1**).

*Below. 606 Studio Members Visited
Local Neighborhoods with CMs*





Above. Existing Landscape Conditions were Evaluated as Part of the Physical Inventory for Neighborhood Options

1 Neighborhood Familiarity

Assessing the CMs level of connection to the area.

2 Physical Inventory

Identifying connections to the river, sidewalk conditions, lack of maintenance, etc.

3 Sense of Community Identity

Noting indicators of community pride and sense of place.

4 Opportunities for Improvements

Taking inventory of vacant lots and other areas that lack amenities.

TABLE 3.1 *North Long Beach Neighborhood Evaluation Criteria*

Neighborhood Familiarity

During site visits for each of the neighborhood options, the North Long Beach team asked the CMs to characterize their level of familiarity with the neighborhood. Familiarity was based on: the number of friends or family living in the area, whether any of their usual walking/biking routes went through the neighborhood, and how often they would visit surrounding local businesses. In some cases, the CMs expressed negative attachments to certain parts of the neighborhood.

Physical Inventory

Identifying a neighborhood with a connection to the LA River was crucial to the selection process. The CMs also identified landscape issues such as sidewalk condition, level of maintenance, and tree canopy as important factors for determining which neighborhood could potentially benefit most from landscape improvement projects.

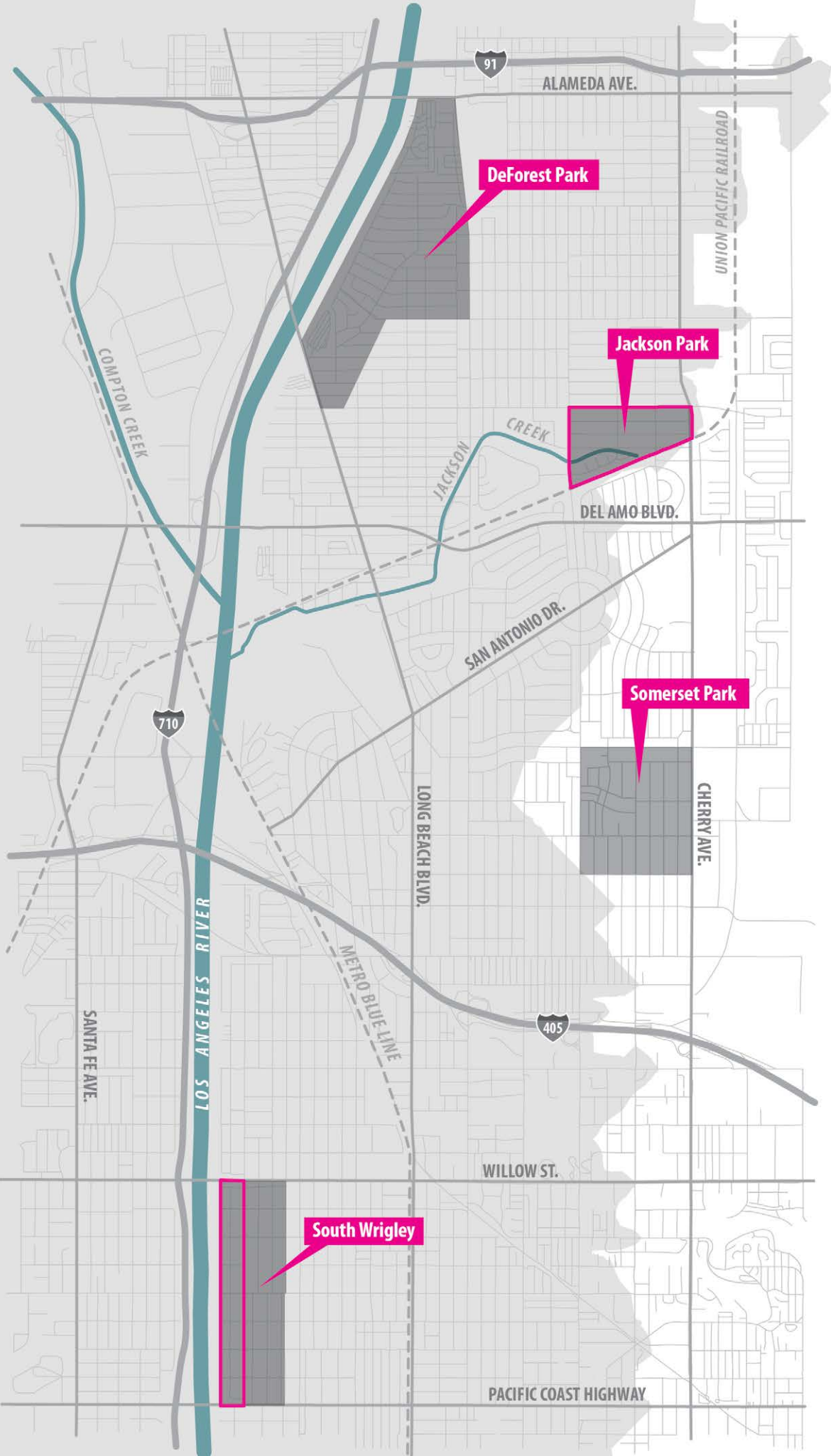
Sense of Community Identity

The North Long Beach team spoke with residents who were walking through the neighborhoods. These conversations played a role in helping the team understand the communities better. The team also made observations regarding the characteristics of people’s homes, identifying areas where residents took pride in the maintenance and furnishing of their front yards. This apparent sense of ownership played a role in determining which neighborhood would be selected for the project.

Opportunities for Improvements

Neighborhoods with vacant lots or unused open spaces were considered to have more opportunities for making improvements. The team also took into consideration the quantity and quality of amenities that were present in existing parks and open spaces.

FIGURE 3.2 *Neighborhood Options and Final Selections*



Key

- Project Area
- Potential Neighborhoods
- Two-mile River Corridor

0 2,000 4,000 ft

NEIGHBORHOOD/ STUDY REGION	BLACK	ASIAN	WHITE	HISPANIC*	BELOW POVERTY	MEDIAN INCOME
South Wrigley	20 %	11 %	32 %	56 %	25 %	\$36,900
Jackson Park	13 %	26 %	27 %	45 %	19 %	\$49,000
Lower LA River Corridor	10 %	7 %	41 %	75 %	22 %	\$44,500
Gateway Cities	8 %	9 %	47 %	68 %	17 %	\$54,800

TABLE 3.2 *Summary of
Neighborhood Demographics*

*Statistics are based on 2012 census data. 'Hispanic' includes both white and non-white Hispanic populations, which is why percentage values add up to over 100 %.

3.2.5 NEIGHBORHOOD SELECTION

South Wrigley

The West Long Beach team committed to working in South Wrigley, specifically in the part of the neighborhood that was adjacent to the LA River. The area provided ample opportunity for making improvements, one of the CMs had a strong tie to the area, and the neighborhood as a whole was representative of other communities in the focus area (**Table 3.2**).

Jackson Park

The North Long Beach team selected the neighborhood of Jackson Park. Both the CMs felt a connection to the neighborhood and agreed there were a variety of opportunities for making landscape improvements. There were also several indicators that the community had a sense of local pride and would be potentially willing to engage in the participatory design process. The team also identified a connection to the LA River via the channelized tributary of Jackson Creek, which bisects the neighborhood. Although Jackson Park is not directly adjacent to the LA River, the team felt this was an opportunity to engage residents in a conversation about how local landscapes and infrastructure impact the river and its watershed, even if the river itself is not visible.



A green-tinted photograph of a residential street. In the foreground, a paved road with a white stop line is visible. A concrete curb separates the road from a sidewalk. Behind the sidewalk is a tall, light-colored fence. A silver car is parked behind the fence. In the background, there are several houses with gabled roofs and several tall palm trees. The sky is a uniform light green color.

04 SOUTH WRIGLEY

4.1

WHERE IS SOUTH WRIGLEY?

The South Wrigley neighborhood is located in West Long Beach directly adjacent to the eastern edge of the LA River between Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Willow Street (**Figure 4.1**). It covers approximately 410 acres and encompasses primarily residential land uses with commercial land uses concentrated along the perimeter of the neighborhood, except along the western edge where it meets the river.

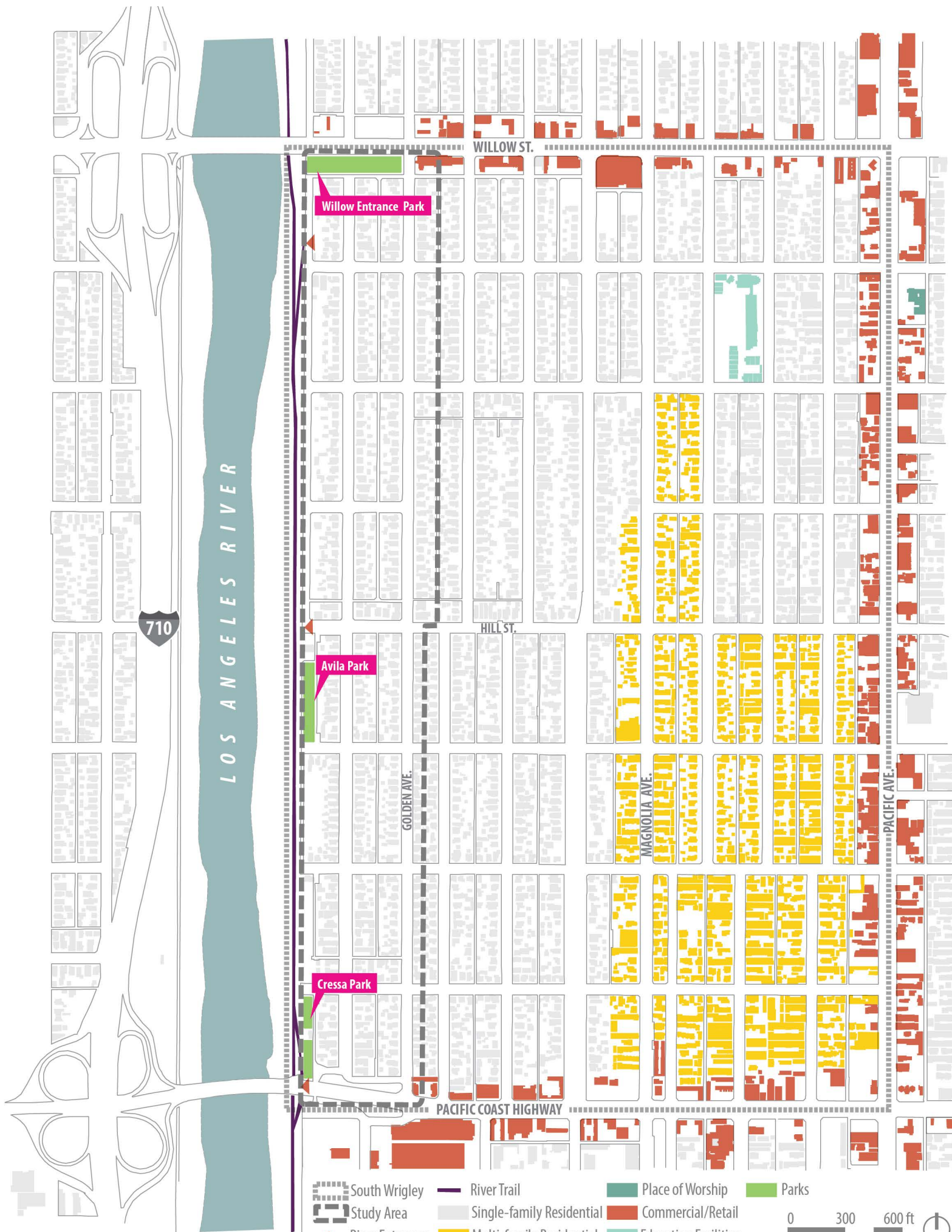
Residential streets include two lanes of traffic, while commercial streets accommodate four. On-street parking is allowed throughout the neighborhood. The neighborhood is surrounded mostly by residential land uses to the north and east, while most areas south of the neighborhood consist of industrial and commercial businesses.

There are river access points located at both the northern and southern boundaries next to Willow Street and PCH (**Figure 4.1**), as well as on Hill Street toward the center of the neighborhood. Despite the neighborhood's adjacency to the river trail, the river levee rises about 20 feet above street level, rendering the river invisible from the neighborhood. Due to the size of the neighborhood and the scope of the project, the project team set the project boundaries to include only the western edge of the neighborhood, extending from the river to Golden Avenue.

FIGURE 4.1 *South Wrigley
Geographic Context and Project Area
Boundaries*

*Below. The River Levee Separates
Residents from the River Channel*





710

LOS ANGELES RIVER

WILLOW ST.

Willow Entrance Park

HILL ST.

Avila Park

GOLDEN AVE.

MAGNOLIA AVE.

PACIFIC AVE.

Cressa Park

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

South Wrigley	River Trail	Place of Worship	Parks
Study Area	Single-family Residential	Commercial/Retail	
River Entrances	Multi-family Residential	Education Facilities	

0 300 600 ft

4.2

APPLICATION OF METHODS

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the South Wrigley project area, the team identified a number of primary questions that helped guide research and investigation efforts throughout the course of the project (**Table 4.1**). With these questions in mind, the project team chose the following methods: canvassing, interviews, field observations, data mining, and GIS mapping and analysis, community meetings, steering committee meetings, design workshops, and build days. The team used each of the methods at different stages of the project depending on the desired outcome (**Table 4.2 and Table 4.3**).

TABLE 4.1 *South Wrigley – Project Methods Logic*

BIG QUESTION	SUB QUESTIONS	METHODS	
Who lives here?	What are the demographic characteristics of the neighborhood? How do the demographics compare to the broader region? What is the political context of this community? What are the unique characteristics of community members?	GIS Data Mining Interviews Canvassing	Field Observations Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings
What is the community's relationship with the LA River?	Do people use the river trail for recreation? What are the attitudes and perceptions surrounding the river?	Field Observations Interviews	Canvassing Steering Committee Meetings
What are the existing assets of the neighborhood?	What are the opportunities and constraints facing this neighborhood? How do these impact what improvement can be made here?	Interviews Canvassing Field Observations	Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings Design Workshops
What are the immediate needs of residents in terms of improving their quality of life?	What are the issues faced by residents on a regular basis? What types of changes are most important to them?	Interviews Canvassing Field Observations	Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings
Where should the community improvement projects be located?	Where are issues concentrated in the neighborhood? What is the community's preferred location for each of the projects? Where would projects have the most impact?	Field Observations Interviews	Steering Committee Meetings Community Meetings
How can the project team engage the community in making design decisions?	How would the community like to see the potential sites improved? What elements of the design are a priority? What are the design details the community would like to incorporate in the project?	Design Workshops	Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings



Above. Conservation Corps Member and Project Team Facilitate Community Meeting

FINDINGS	IMPLICATIONS
<p>The neighborhood is predominately Hispanic and working class, as is the entire Lower LA River Corridor. There are two existing neighborhood associations that are not representative of the community demographics. Residents take pride in their neighborhood diversity, variety of front yard landscapes, and local wildlife.</p>	<p>The participatory design process and resulting designs need to respond to the culture and character of the neighborhood. If they do, the project approach will be relevant in other communities throughout the focus area. The plan should include a variety of opportunities for different users.</p>
<p>Some residents use the trail for recreation, but others do not due to concerns about homeless encampments. A few residents did not know they could access the river trail in their neighborhood. Many of the perceptions surrounding the river are negative due to the association with homelessness and security issues.</p>	<p>The Neighborhood Vision Plan should encourage recreational uses along the river's edge to activate river-adjacent landscapes, promote positive associations with the river, and discourage homeless encampments.</p>
<p>There are many undeveloped spaces along the edge of the river, however due to their current conditions many residents are uncomfortable with the idea of using these spaces.</p>	<p>Concept plans for developing these open spaces should begin with spaces that residents are already comfortable with using, then transition to those with some visibility before expanding into the most significant problem areas.</p>
<p>Residents are primarily concerned with issues of homelessness, lack of safety, and illegal dumping.</p>	<p>The design objectives should address issues of homelessness, identify strategies to improve safety and security, and include interventions to reduce illegal dumping.</p>
<p>Neighborhood issues are concentrated in areas along the river. Improvement projects are preferred in locations that are already used by community members, and in areas near river entrances where increased use was perceived as a benefit.</p>	<p>Improvements should be concentrated along the river. Spaces that are already used by community members should be prioritized for development.</p>
<p>Residents were engaged by design questions and their responses directed the project team to include elements and focus on priorities that were unique to the community members and might not have otherwise been a primary focus of the design work.</p>	<p>Designs should prioritize safety and security while still addressing the project goals of integrating recreation opportunities and stormwater management strategies. Designs should be fun and colorful, and should have an organic quality that reflects the aesthetic of the private landscapes in the neighborhood.</p>

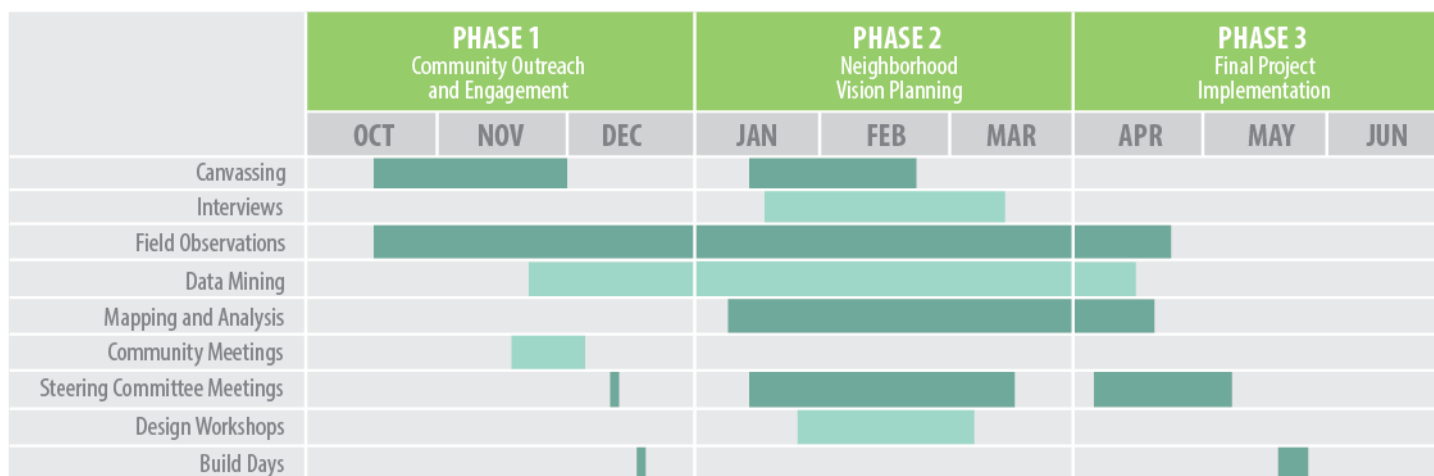


TABLE 4.2 *South Wrigley – Use of Methods Throughout Project Development*

METHOD	GROUPS INVOLVED	PARTICIPATORY TECHNIQUES
Canvassing	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Community Members	Informal Conversation
Interviews	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Community Members, Stakeholder Representatives	Informal Conversation
Field Observations	Project Team	N/A
Data Mining	Project Team	N/A
Mapping and Analysis	Project Team	N/A
Community Meetings	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Steering Committee, Community Members	Open Discussion, Brainstorming, Mapping Exercises, Pro/Con Analysis, Preferencing, Voting
Steering Committee Meetings	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Steering Committee	Open Discussion, Brainstorming, Mapping Exercises, Pro/Con Analysis, Preferencing, Voting
Design Workshops	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Steering Committee, Community Members	Open Discussion, Mapping Exercises, Group Discussion, Site Design
Build Days	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Steering Committee, Community Members	Site and Material Preparation, Assembly

TABLE 4.3 *South Wrigley – Application of Methods*

Key Canvassing Questions

Do you use the river trail?
If you use local parks, which parks do you tend to visit?
What do you like about the neighborhood?
Are there any improvements you would like to see made in the neighborhood?
Can we count on you to attend a community meeting/design workshop?
May we have a phone number or email address to contact you about future meetings/events?

TABLE 4.4 *South Wrigley – Key Canvassing Questions*

Canvassing Dates

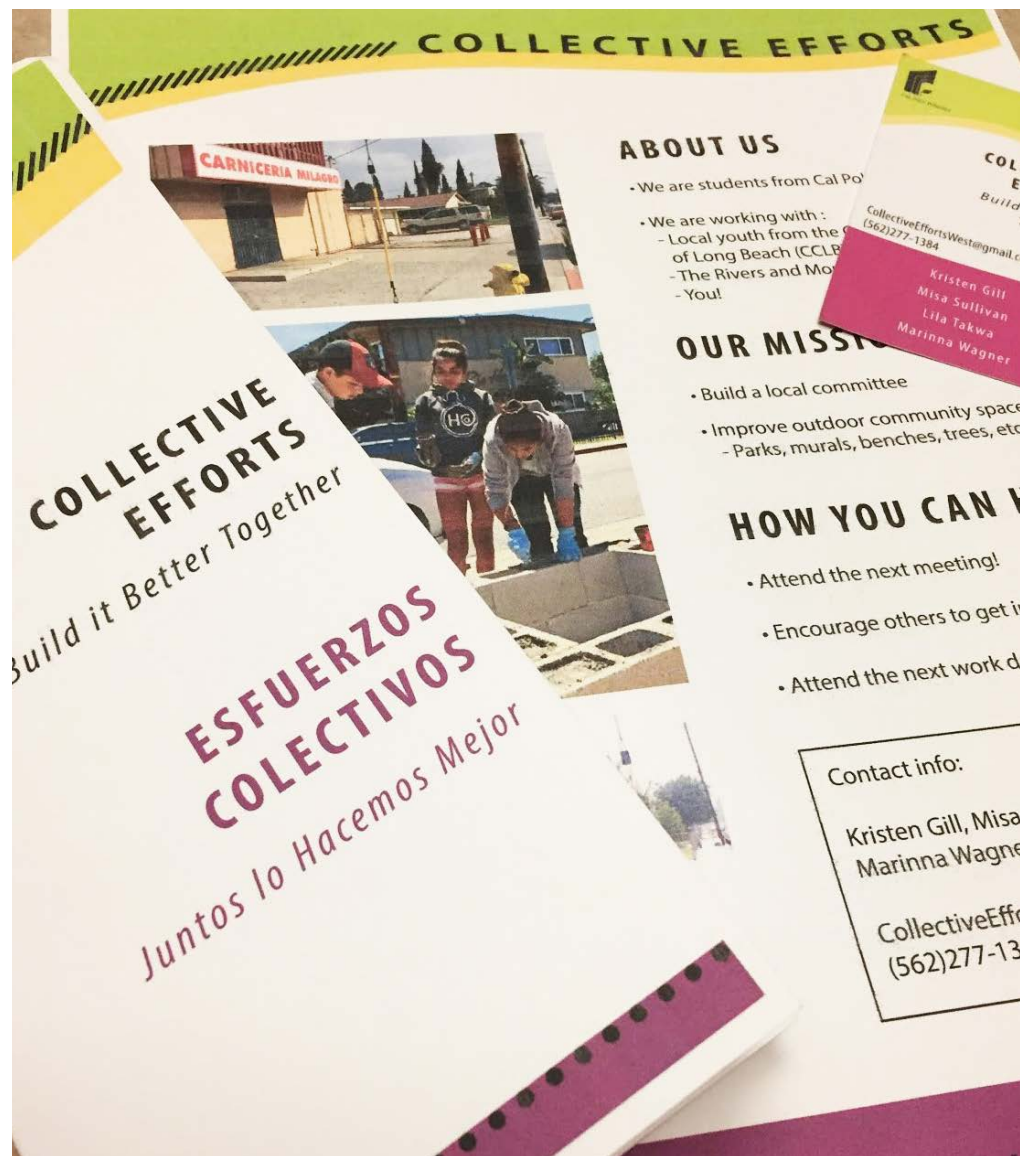
Saturday, October 22, 2016
Monday, October 24, 2016
Saturday, October 29, 2016
Friday, November 11, 2016
Monday, November 14, 2016
Friday, November 18, 2016
Monday, November 21, 2016
Saturday, November 26, 2016
Friday, January 27, 2017
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Friday, February 17, 2017
Saturday, February 18, 2017

TABLE 4.5 *South Wrigley – Canvassing Dates*

4.2.1 CANVASSING

Canvassing was used to develop an understanding of South Wrigley, meet the residents, explain the project, and build relationships with community members who had an interest in the project (**Table 4.4**). During the initial outreach and engagement phase, the goal was to recruit community members to form a steering committee that would guide the development of the second and third phases of the project. During the Neighborhood Vision Planning phase, canvassing was used to invite residents to attend the design workshops.

Canvassing occurred during daylight hours on several occasions throughout the first two phases of the project (**Table 4.5**). The two CMs that joined the project assisted with the canvassing efforts on many of the days, which allowed the team to split into two groups to canvass both sides of the street simultaneously. The team provided bilingual (Spanish and English) brochures to help explain the objectives of the project. Refer to **Appendix B** for documentation of the outreach materials and response results for this method.



Right. Bilingual Canvassing Materials

4.2.2 INTERVIEWS

The project team used interviews to learn more about the neighborhood and garner support for the project (**Table 4.6**). Interviews were conducted with representatives from local neighborhood organizations as well as with representatives from the district council office (**Table 4.7**). Interviews were intended to gather information about local neighborhood history, get buy-in for the project, understand the neighborhood from a different perspective, and to identify strategies to ensure the build projects fulfilled the needs of the community while addressing the interests of local agencies and other stakeholders.

INTERVIEWEE	INSIGHT
District 7 Chief of Staff City of Long Beach	Residents in the project area are primarily concerned with the presence of homeless encampments as the prevalence of illegal dumping along the river levee. The primary form of political involvement for these residents is via online platforms filing complaints about these particular issues.
Wrigley is Going Green (WiGG) Founder	Safety and security are a significant issue within the neighborhood, especially near alleyways and along the river. WiGG recommended using city plant lists for creating a plant palette that could also strengthen identity and expressed interest in taking ownership of the landscape improvement project.
Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance (WANA) Board Member #1	This board member explained the history of WANA and how the organization had issues working with the city to address maintenance issues along the river. Although this member was part of the group that built Cressa Park, she agreed that it was time to include active uses along the river to improve community safety.
Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance (WANA) Board Member #2	This board member helped build Cressa Park as well, but she was adamant that preserving the native plants took priority over transitioning the park to more active uses. She believed WANA could support parts of the plan, but not those that involved removing native plants from Cressa Park.
Wrigley Association Member	This member provided a different perspective on the history of the neighborhood organizations and argued that neither of the organizations would do anything about the vision plan since it only impacts a small portion of the neighborhood. It would be best to leave the vision plan in the hands of residents who were actively involved with the <i>Collective Efforts</i> project.

Key Interview Questions

What are the primary concerns of residents in the project area?

How politically active are these residents?

How supportive are various stakeholders of making improvements to the area?

Are there any recommendations that should be included in the vision plan to accommodate particular stakeholders?

How can the team work with the agency/ stakeholder group to support the future implementation of the Neighborhood Vision Plan?

TABLE 4.6 *South Wrigley – Key Interview Questions (above)*

TABLE 4.7 *South Wrigley – Interview Results (left)*

4.2.3 FIELD OBSERVATION

Once key neighborhood issues were identified, the team used field observation to verify inventory conditions throughout the project area. Inventory items included stop signs, crosswalks, and storm drains. The team also observed the location of homeless encampments, areas with flooding and runoff problems, and planting areas that were overgrown and poorly maintained. See **Section 4.3** for detailed results of the field observation.

4.2.4 DATA MINING

The project team used data mining to determine historical, environmental, and social characteristics of the neighborhood. Datasets were primarily from local and regional government agencies. See **Section 4.3** for detailed results of the data mining.

4.2.5 GIS MAPPING AND ANALYSIS

GIS was used to map major issues and relevant factors in the community. Neighborhood mapping was completed using participatory mapping exercises, existing data sources, as well as data collected via GPS devices. The neighborhood mapping exercises identified where community members felt unsafe, areas that required aesthetic improvements, and areas where additional lighting could be beneficial. A GPS device was used to geolocate street lights, trash, graffiti, and neighborhood trees. The two CMs participated in the data collection process and helped the team input data points. The team used GIS software to analyze canopy coverage and the density of trash in the neighborhood. See **Section 4.3** for detailed mapping results.

Below. Conservation Corps Members and the Project Team Conduct Field Observation



4.2.6 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community meetings occurred during the initial outreach and engagement phase of the project. The team selected various activities to address key questions. See **Section 4.4** for detailed results of the community meetings.

Community Meeting One

The first community meeting occurred on November 19, 2016 at a small neighborhood park. As a result of the initial canvassing efforts, there were nine people in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to learn about the local perceptions of the neighborhood and identify a list of ideas for the first build project (**Table 4.8**).

Community Meeting Two

The second community meeting was held on Monday, November 28, 2016 at a coffee shop that was identified by the community as a local gathering space. Additional canvassing recruited more residents to the meeting, while one of the first meeting participants invited several friends to join resulting in a total of 16 attendees. The purpose of this meeting was to select the initial build project by having participants answer key questions about each of the potential projects (**Table 4.9**).

4.2.7 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering committee members were initially those who were present at the first community meeting and who demonstrated an interest in taking on a leadership role in the project process. The steering committee evolved over time, with some members

Key Questions – Community Meeting One

What areas or aspects of the neighborhood do you like?

What areas or aspects of the neighborhood do you not like or make you feel unsafe?

What improvements could be made in the neighborhood, both immediately and in the future?

TABLE 4.8 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Community Meeting One*

Key Questions – Community Meeting Two

Could the project be completed in a single weekend?

Can we acquire the necessary materials for the project?

What impact would the project have?

TABLE 4.9 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Community Meeting Two*

Below. Second Community Meeting at Local Coffee Shop





Above. Steering Committee Meeting to Review Final Concept Designs

Key Questions – Committee Meeting One

What should the built project look like?

Where should it be located?

What construction materials are needed?

What colors should be used?

TABLE 4.10 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Committee Meeting One*

Key Questions – Committee Meeting Two

What are the key issues that residents deal with in the neighborhood?

What are community priorities for making improvements?

TABLE 4.11 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Two*

Key Questions – Committee Meeting Three

Where was the greatest interest in making improvements?

What are the boundaries for each site?

What programming elements could be incorporated into each site?

TABLE 4.12 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Three*

leaving and other residents joining after being recruited through the ongoing canvassing efforts. The committee was intended to be representative of the community, allowing residents to make key project decisions. The steering committee typically included five residents. See **Section 4.4** for detailed results of each of the steering committee meetings.

Steering Committee Meeting One

The first steering meeting was held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at the home of one of the steering committee members. Attendees included four steering committee members and one of the CMs. The purpose of this meeting was to create design alternatives for the project that had been selected during the second community meeting (**Table 4.10**).

Steering Committee Meeting Two

The second steering committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at a committee member’s home. Five committee members attended this initial meeting for the Neighborhood Vision Planning phase. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare committee members for the design workshops and create a list of neighborhood priorities (**Table 4.11**).

Steering Committee Meeting Three

The third steering committee meeting took place over a series of three evenings in February 2017 following the first design workshop. The team met with committee members separately to accommodate conflicting schedules. The purpose of the meeting was to distill the results of the first design workshop and identify three to six project sites. The committee also determined various programming elements that could be incorporated into each of the projects to provide a framework for the next two design workshops (**Table 4.12**).

Steering Committee Meeting Four

Following the completion of the third and final design workshop, only steering committee meetings were held to ensure the final decisions were made by those who are most familiar with the project. The fourth steering committee meeting was held on Saturday, April 08, 2017 at a small local park. The purpose of the meeting was to present the final design concepts for each of the sites, discuss any revisions to the plans, and discuss potential options for the final build days (**Table 4.13**).

Steering Committee Meeting Five

The fifth steering committee meeting took place on Saturday, April 22, 2017 in the same local park. Prior to this meeting, the committee members asked the project team to interview representatives from the neighborhood organizations and city agencies to get their input regarding the plans. The purpose of this meeting was to share the results of these interviews as well as the news about potential removal of the first build project (**Table 4.14**).

Steering Committee Meeting Six

The sixth steering committee meeting took place over a series of days at the start of May 2016 with individual steering committee members meeting at separate times. Prior to this meeting, the team removed the first build project as requested by the city. The purpose of this meeting was to select a new final build project based on the understanding the group could no longer build on public land (**Table 4.15**).

4.2.8 DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Design workshops were used during the Neighborhood Vision Planning phase to identify potential improvements throughout the project area and develop design alternatives for the project sites. These design workshops used participatory techniques to guide community members through the process of developing design solutions. See **Section 4.4** for detailed results of the design workshops.

Design Workshop One

The first design workshop was held at a local coffee shop on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. As a result of canvassing efforts, two new community members were recruited to the workshop for a

Key Questions – Committee Meeting Four

Do the plans represent the design intentions of community members?

Are there any design elements that need to be adjusted, removed, or added?

Which part of the sites could be constructed for the final build days?

What would be the impact for each?

TABLE 4.13 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Four*

Key Question – Committee Meeting Five

Based on interviews with neighborhood organizations and the city, how do you think the project should move forward?

TABLE 4.14 *South Wrigley – Key Question for Committee Meeting Five*

Key Question – Committee Meeting Six

Is there a final build project that can be completed on private land while still reflecting the objectives of the Neighborhood Vision Plan?

TABLE 4.15 *South Wrigley – Key Question for Committee Meeting Six*

Key Questions – Design Workshop One

Based on the initial list of neighborhood issues and community priorities, which are most important to you?

Where in the neighborhood are these issues most prevalent?

Where in the neighborhood should these priorities be addressed?

TABLE 4.16 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Design Workshop One*

Right. Residents Work Together to Identify Neighborhood Areas that Need Improvement



total of seven attendees. The purpose of the first workshop was to learn what issues were most important to residents and where they wanted neighborhood improvements to occur (**Table 4.16**).

Key Questions – Design Workshop Two

What design features would you like to see included in the site and why?

Where would you like these elements to be located and why?

What issues can be addressed by the thematic projects?

What are the key objectives for each of the thematic projects?

TABLE 4.17 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Design Workshop Two*

Key Questions – Design Workshop Three

For each design element, which alternative is closer to the design you would prefer?

Why do you prefer certain design elements over others?

Are there any other elements you would like to see included in the final design?

TABLE 4.18 *South Wrigley – Key Questions for Design Workshop Three*

Design Workshop Two

The second design workshop took place at the same location on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. This workshop followed the steering committee meeting where the committee identified three project sites and three thematic projects (neighborhood improvements that would be applied generally throughout the project area as opposed to one specific site). Additional canvassing efforts resulted in one additional community member for a total of eight workshop attendees. The purpose of the second workshop was to develop two design alternatives for each of the three project sites and to discuss the goals and objectives for each of the thematic projects (**Table 4.17**).

Design Workshop Three

The final design workshop was held in two parts to include a greater number of community members. The first round was held at the coffee shop on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 with six attendees, while the second round was held at a local park with an additional four community members who were recruited as a result of canvassing efforts. The final workshops were used to evaluate the design alternatives with community members and identify which design elements were preferred from each alternative (**Table 4.18**). The results of this workshop were used to generate the final concept designs for each of the sites that were evaluated by the steering committee at the start of the final project phase.

4.2.9 BUILD DAYS

Build days occurred at the end of the community outreach and engagement phase as well as during the final project implementation phase. Prior to build days, the team prepared a list of materials and developed construction documents to help guide installation (**See Appendix B**). Build days occurred over consecutive days and involved activities such as site preparation, installation, and clean-up. See **Section 4.4** for detailed results of the build days.

Initial Build Days

The initial build days took place over three days between Friday, December 9 and Sunday, December 11, 2016. Friday was dedicated to acquiring materials and pre-cutting and sanding wood to allow community builders to focus on assembly and installation. Saturday was dedicated to assembling and installing the first build project, and Sunday concluded with painting. The purpose of the initial build days was to generate momentum for the project, engage community members, and establish local ownership over neighborhood improvements.

Below. Community Members Work on Different Construction Tasks During Initial Build Day





*Above. Final Build Days
Included Activity Stations and
Construction Tasks*



Project Removal

Following the fifth steering committee meeting, the city requested that the team remove the first build project. The project was uninstalled on Sunday, May 7, 2017 and relocated to yards of community members who had participated in the initial build days.

Final Build Days

The final build days took place over a series of three days between Friday, May 19 and Sunday, May 21, 2017. Friday was dedicated to site preparation and coordinating the delivery of project materials. Saturday focused on construction and installation, while Sunday concluded with a culminating celebration of the project. The goal of the final build days was to engage residents in a project that reflected the objectives of the Neighborhood Vision Plan, present the final designs to community members, and facilitate an open discussion about the future of the plan.

4.3

NEIGHBORHOOD INVENTORY RESULTS

Conducting a neighborhood inventory provided a foundation for ensuring plans were reflective of community-specific issues. The inventory topics were based on the results of the community meetings, interviews, outreach efforts, and design workshops. Using content analysis techniques, the team identified patterns in community responses to determine the key neighborhood issues. The team used data mining, GIS mapping, and field observations to complete the inventory. The results yielded design implications that the team used to guide the goals and objectives of the final Neighborhood Vision Plan.

4.3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

It was important to determine the demographic characteristics of the project area to ensure the community was representative of the other neighborhoods in the Lower LA River Corridor (**Table 4.19**). It also enabled the team to verify that steering committee members were representative of the neighborhood population.

TABLE 4.19 *South Wrigley
Demographic Comparison*

STUDY REGION	BLACK	ASIAN	WHITE	TWO OR MORE	OTHER	HISPANIC*	BELOW POVERTY	MEDIAN INCOME
South Wrigley	20%	11%	32%	6%	29%	56%	25%	\$36,900
Lower LA River Corridor	10%	7%	41%	4%	36%	75%	22%	\$44,500
Gateway Cities	8%	9%	47%	4%	30%	68%	17%	\$54,800

* Per U.S. Census Data, Hispanic includes both White and Non-White Hispanic demographics. White includes both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White. The total can be greater than 100%.



MEET THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WRIGLEY

VICTOR & RACHEL MURILLO

Victor Murillo could not recall why he answered the door. On any other day, an unannounced knock at the door meant a Jehovah's Witness or someone peddling discount cable television. So when the project team introduced themselves as graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona looking to improve the neighborhood, he was relieved. The project team was unsure whether or not Victor was interested in joining the team, but were pleasantly surprised when Victor and his wife Rachel became driving forces behind the success of the project.

Education has always been important to the Murillos. Victor graduated from UCLA with a degree in history and spent several years working in the field of Information Technology (IT). Victor returned to school in 2008 to study GIS. Rachel teaches forensic science at McBride High School in East Long Beach. Aside from wanting to take the opportunity to make improvements in the neighborhood, the couple was interested in supporting the project because of its academic association with a university.

As far as couples go, Victor and Rachel consider themselves typical of South Wrigley. "Multi-racial," replied Rachel when asked what she was referring to. "Established," Victor added. "Home prices have gone up and priced out all the young people. We're what's left." "Yeah, the DINKS," Rachel chimed in. When asked to clarify, "The DINKS. Double-income, no kids," she explained.

Victor and Rachel moved into their home on 20th Street in 2003, just a few years after getting married. The Murillos never imagined

they would be South Wrigley for that long. The neighborhood was making a comeback then, but things had slowed down. "Mostly older folks," Rachel notes – DINKS by default – "their kids are grown and have moved away."

That is part of the reason why Victor and Rachel responded to the Cal Poly team's pitch for landscape improvements. The Murillos enjoy the outdoors, often spending their weekends hiking, camping, or strolling through the Huntington Gardens or the LA County Arboretum watching for ospreys or hawks. They see plenty of opportunities in South Wrigley to increase habitat in the vacant spaces along the LA River. Rachel has been considering how to label some of the local vegetation in an effort to educate youth about their environment, while Victor believes that residents themselves should begin to go door-to-door to help build support for community improvements.

They admit this type of work is not easy. "The same six people turn up at every workshop," Rachel admits, and "more [help] is needed if we're going to overcome the institutionalized apathy that comes after decades of not getting things done." That's why this project was so important to the Murillos and why they were so invested in improving South Wrigley. The community's local parks and open spaces were in disrepair and have increasingly become associated with a lack of safety and security, but as Victor noted, "it's never too late to make a change." The Murillos believed that with more community buy-in and a greater enthusiasm for taking ownership of the neighborhood, South Wrigley could become the engaged and active community they envisioned it to be.

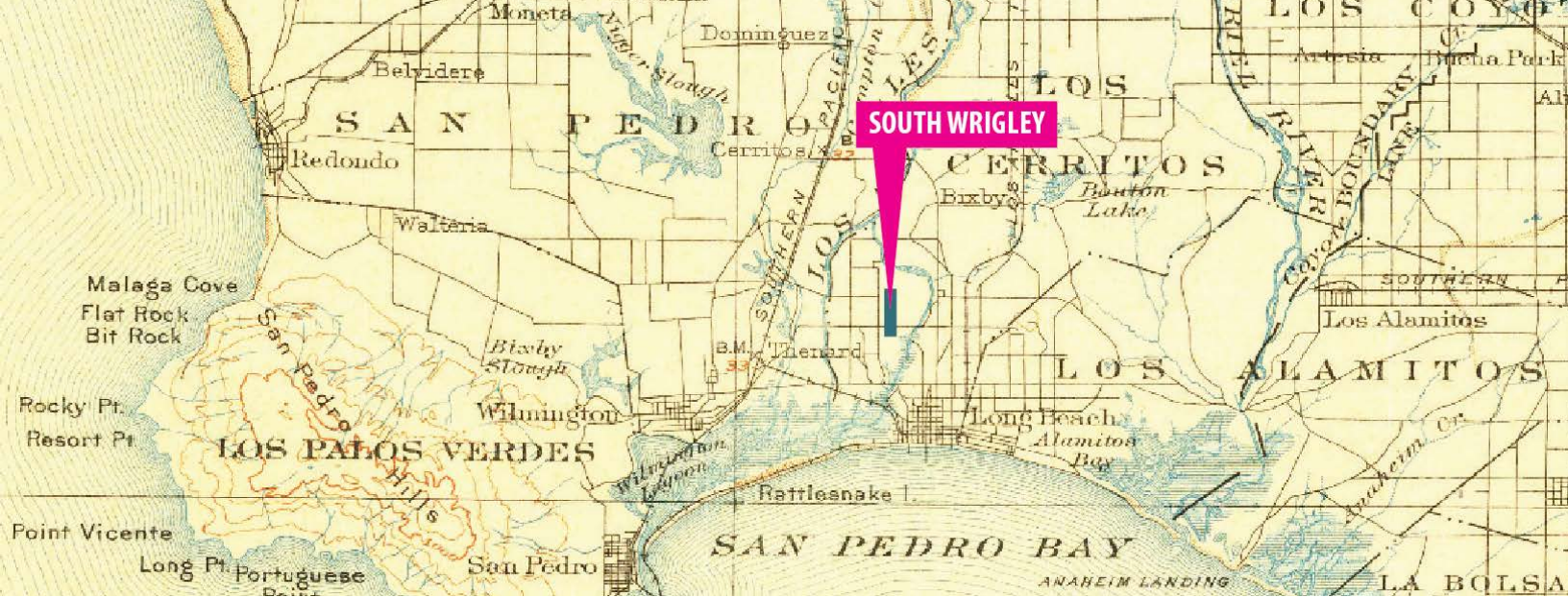


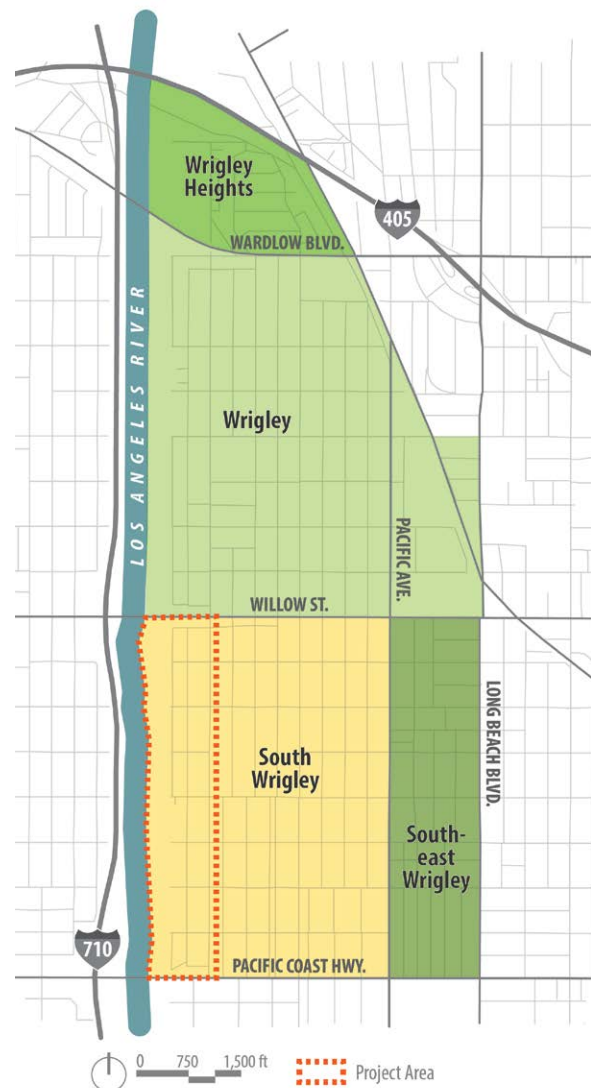
FIGURE 4.2 Historic Map of South Wrigley

4.3.2 HISTORIC CONTEXT

Prior to the channelization of the LA River, the area that is now South Wrigley was a wetland located between two naturally divergent branches of the river (**Figure 4.2**). In 1876, flooding from the San Gabriel River led to the deposition of willow seeds throughout these lower wetland areas. These seeds became established trees, and when the area was first settled in 1887 it was referred to as ‘The Willows’. The nutrient rich land was excellent for farming, and the area produced a variety of crops such as apples, pears, corn, pumpkins, and alfalfa. In 1924, ‘The Willows’ became ‘Wrigley’ when William Wrigley Jr. (of Wrigley chewing gum) developed the settlement. As the channelization of the river bisected the growing and developing neighborhood, land use was slowly converted from agriculture to residential (Burnett, 2015). Today, the neighborhood is divided into four areas: Wrigley Heights, Wrigley, South Wrigley, and Southeast Wrigley (**Figure 4.3**). The project area is located in the western portion of South Wrigley.

As the Wrigley area became more developed, community members eventually formed the Wrigley Association to address broader community needs. However, the leaders of the organization tended to represent the more affluent and white members of the community. Between 2008 and 2010, some members of the association wanted to acquire 501(c)(3) status to apply for grant funding for neighborhood improvements. These members eventually split from the parent organization to form the Wrigley Area Neighborhood Alliance (WANA). Conflict between the leaders of the two organizations, as well as a lack of representation of the broader community demographics, unintentionally contributed to some of the problematic conditions in the project area.

FIGURE 4.3 Division of Wrigley Neighborhoods



4.3.3 NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

Residents expressed a strong sense of community identity, and because this was a common theme during many of the meetings with residents, the team investigated how the identity of the community members living in the project area might be different from the Wrigley area as a whole.

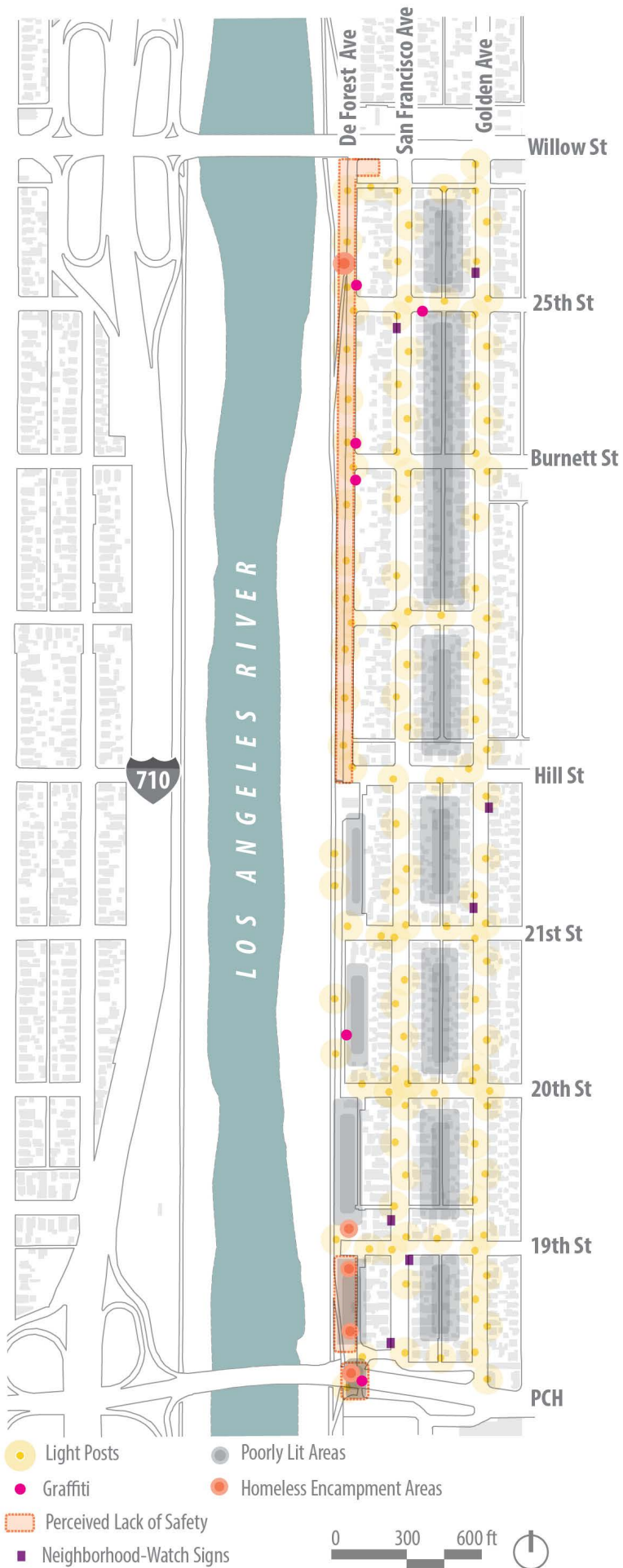
One of the primary identifiers of the project area are the large palm trees that line the streets. From a design perspective, the towering palm trees seem out of scale for the residential context, but for residents they are distinct and easily identifiable.

Within the project area, the open space adjacent to the river is also unique. The height of the river levee (approximately 20-feet), combined with the presence of several undeveloped parcels of both public and private land, create a number of problematic conditions. The lack of visibility in these areas encourages homeless encampments, illegal trash dumping, illegal storage, and other illicit activities. Many residents reported during meetings and workshops that they associate the river with these conditions, which for many has led to negative perceptions about the role the river plays in their neighborhood.

Residents living in the project area also expressed enthusiasm for do-it-yourself landscape improvements. Many front yards feature an eclectic mix of planting materials and each yard is different from the next. Residents noted that this is representative of the vibrancy and diversity of the community. They also appreciate the well-maintained private landscapes as public landscapes are often overgrown and poorly maintained.

Below, left to right. Palm Trees Line the Streets of South Wrigley, Vacant Land Adjacent to the LA River, Well-maintained Private Landscape





Above, top to bottom. Vacant River-adjacent Land where Visibility is Low, Alleyway with Poor Lighting, Remnant of Homeless Encampment at PCH Underpass

FIGURE 4.4 South Wrigley – Safety and Security Concerns

4.3.4 SAFETY AND SECURITY

Issues

Concerns about safety and security were brought up at nearly every community meeting. There are many open spaces between the homes of residents and the river levee where visibility is low, lighting is inadequate, and maintenance and waste removal are neglected. This discourages use by community members and encourages homeless encampments and delinquent behavior. An interview with the Chief of Staff for the 7th District Office reiterated that safety and security are a priority for local residents, whose complaints are typically related to landscape maintenance, illegal dumping, homelessness, and the associated perception of increased crime.

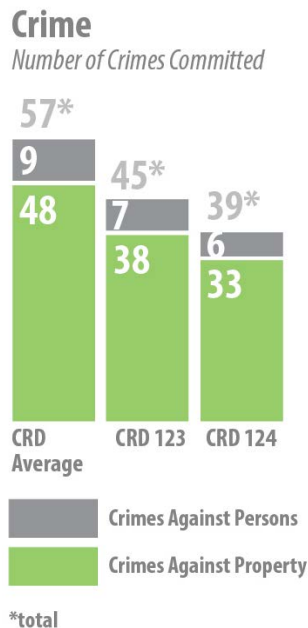
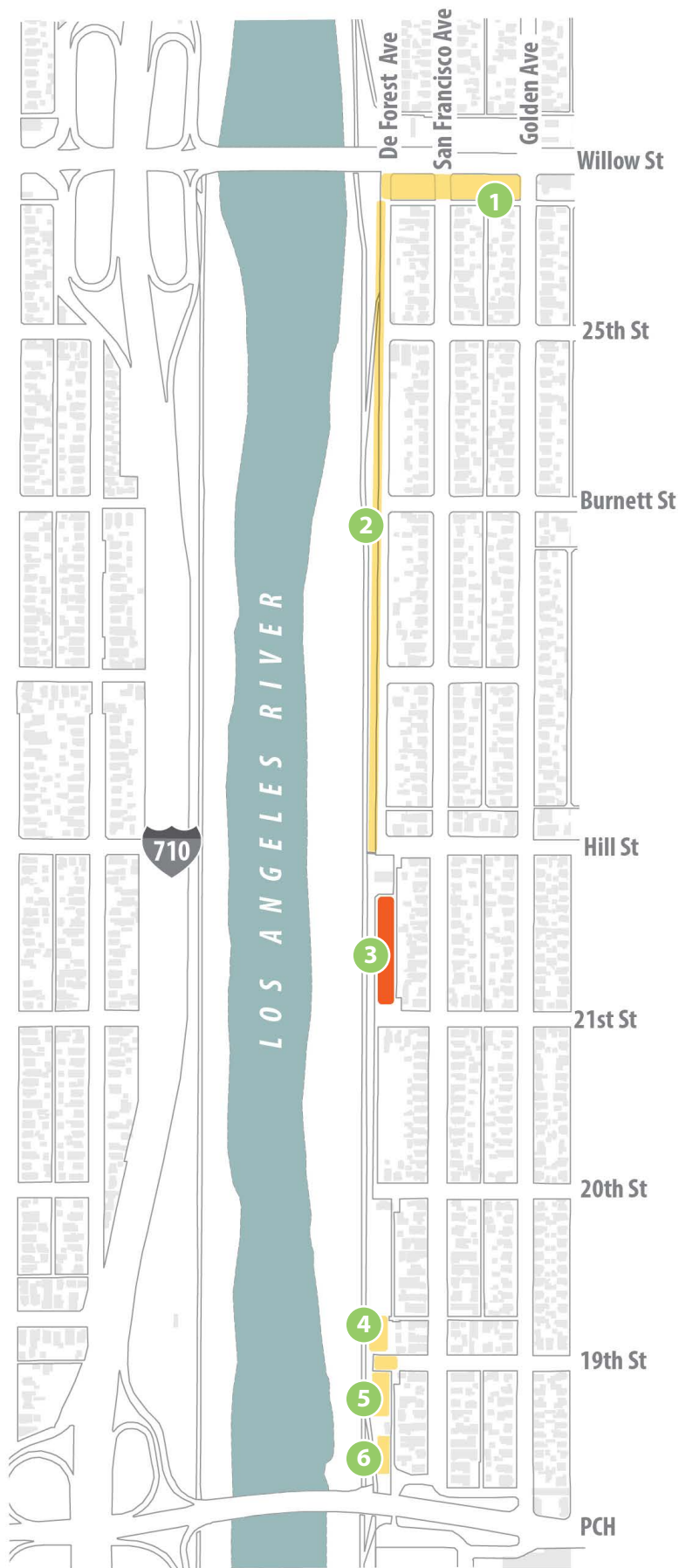


FIGURE 4.5 South Wrigley Crime Reporting Districts (CRDs) 123 and 124 Compared to CRD Average for 2013 thru 2016

As a whole, South Wrigley does not experience more crime than average when compared to other neighborhoods throughout Long Beach (**Figure 4.5**). This indicates a perception of a lack of safety and security in the project area as opposed to an actual crime problem. Based on conversations with community members, these perceptions are mostly associated with the presence of homelessness and the lack of lighting in certain areas. The presence of graffiti may also be a factor. **Figure 4.4** illustrates where homeless encampments are most commonly located, where lighting is lacking and where graffiti is evident. The results coincide with the community-identified areas where they feel unsafe, which are mostly open spaces adjacent to the river.

Opportunities and Constraints

Throughout many of the meetings, residents discussed activating the open spaces along the river to reduce the presence of the homeless. The community recognized that if residents take ownership of these spaces, the perceived danger may become less of an issue. However, the residents also believe the city needs to play a greater role in managing homelessness and illegal dumping. City staff attribute the problem to the complicated overlap of political jurisdictions in the areas along the river, which makes responding to complaints difficult. They also acknowledge that removing encampments from an area takes time because the homeless have a right to due process and cannot simply be picked up and dropped off at another location. Unless there is a broader effort to provide services and opportunities for the homeless, the issue may continue to persist. The challenge for site design is finding ways to make residents feel more comfortable using these spaces for recreation while still being sensitive to the fact that some of these spaces may continue to be used as people's homes.



- Open Spaces for Potential Social Amenities
- Open Spaces with Available Social Amenities



1. WILLOW ENTRANCE PARK



2. DEFOREST AVENUE



3. AVILA PARK

FIGURE 4.6 South Wrigley – Existing and Potential Areas for Social Amenities Such as Benches

4.3.5 SOCIAL AMENITIES

Issues

Comments from residents throughout the community outreach and engagement process revealed a common community desire for improved access to social gathering spaces and amenities. In general, there is a lack of seating areas or tables in the project area that residents can use for social gatherings. Residents were concerned that many of the parks that have these amenities were not within walking distance. There are open spaces where community members can set up their own tables and chairs, but there are few existing amenities that encourage impromptu social interactions. **Table 4.20** documents amenities provided by parks and open spaces in the project area.

Opportunities and Constraints

Residents identified that places for community members to socialize with one another would improve relationships between residents. However, community members also suggested that the current lack of seating and gathering areas may be due to the perceived danger of homelessness, which some believe is worsened by the provision of benches and tables. The concern is that these amenities accommodate extended periods of loitering. **Figure 4.6** highlights the existing and potential areas for providing social amenities.



4. 19TH STREET VACANT LOT



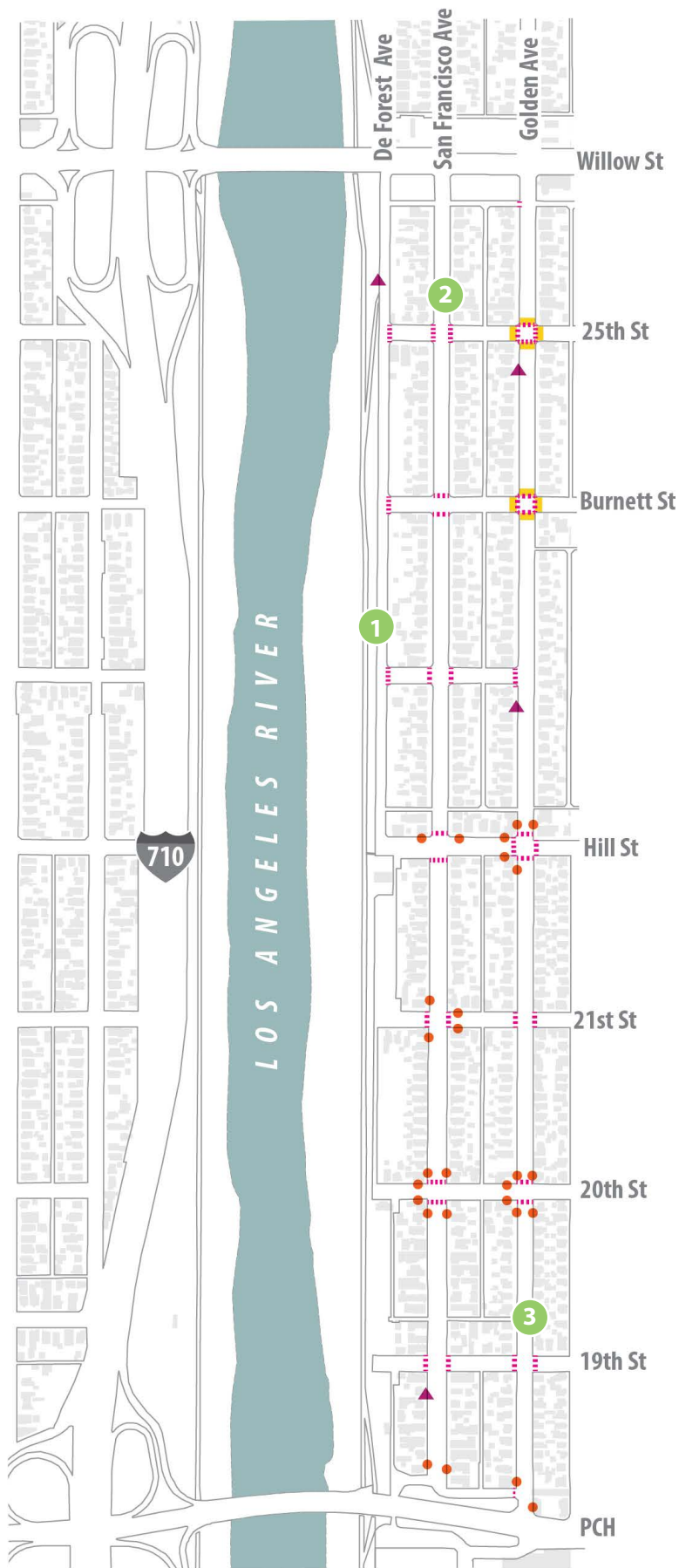
5. CRESSA PARK NORTH



6. CRESSA PARK SOUTH

SITE	AMENITIES
1. Willow Entrance Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large open space • Large shade trees
2. De Forest Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalk • Lights • LA River Trail access points
3. Avila Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play structure • Decomposed granite pathway • Trash cans • Small benches near playground • Shade trees • Open grass area
4. 19th Street Vacant Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
5. Cressa Park North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
6. Cressa Park South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

TABLE 4.20 South Wrigley – Park Amenities in Project Area



- ▲ 25mph Sign
- Crosswalk
- Stop Sign
- Storm Drains



FIGURE 4.7 South Wrigley – Street Condition Inventory

4.3.6 STREET CONDITIONS

Issues

Many of the issues identified by the community were associated with the physical condition of neighborhood streets. Golden, San Francisco and De Forest Avenues are the three roads that run north-south through the project area. Community members identified different issues for each street.

De Forest Avenue is a street adjacent to the river levee that functions as an alleyway, providing vehicular access to residents' backyards (**Image 1**). Residents report that a lack of visibility along the half-mile stretch of road encourages homeless encampments, illicit behavior, and illegal dumping. The western edge of the street closest to the river lacks a sidewalk and shade. River entrances exist at either end of the street, so people are invited to use the area, but there are no pedestrian amenities.

Residents' primary concern about San Francisco Avenue is that the street itself is in poor condition. The team noted localized flooding at many intersections along the road (**Image 2**). Frequent flooding appears to be causing cracking and damaging the asphalt throughout the project area. Flooding is worst along street segments without storm drains (**Figure 4.7**).

Golden Avenue connects to both Willow Street and PCH, which are major arterial streets that connect to the I-710 freeway. According to community members, drivers use Golden Avenue to cut through the neighborhood during periods of increased freeway traffic volumes, often ignoring stop signs and posted speed limits. Residents reported collisions with bicyclists, and indicated they felt many of the intersections along Golden Avenue were not safe for children to cross on their own. Residents felt that a lack of clearly defined crosswalks may contribute to the issue (**Figure 4.7**).

Opportunities and Constraints

Along Golden Avenue, there are opportunities to install crosswalks and other pedestrian safety measures. Stormwater management infrastructure can be used to address flooding issues along San Francisco Avenue. De Forest Avenue is wide enough to accommodate pedestrian infrastructure along the western edge, however maintaining access to the utility poles along the street may present a design constraint.

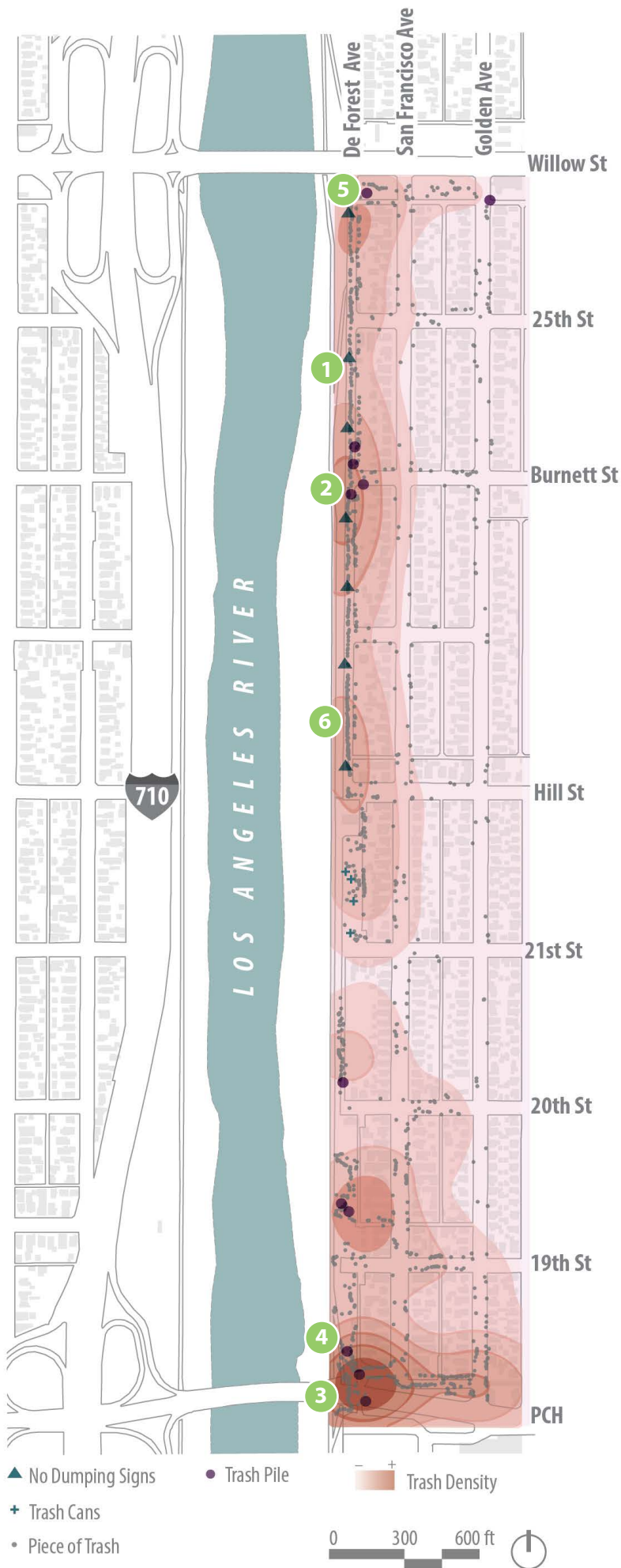


FIGURE 4.8 South Wrigley –
Trash Density

4.3.7 AESTHETICS

Issues

During the community meetings and design workshops residents expressed concern about the aesthetics of the neighborhood, specifically near the entrances at Willow Street and PCH and along the edge of the river levee. The primary concerns for residents were pieces of trash and trash piles, poorly maintained or degraded landscapes, and graffiti. The poor aesthetic quality of the neighborhood entrances reduces the community's pride in their neighborhood, while the issues along the river contribute to their lack of desire to use these spaces.



4. OVERGROWN LANDSCAPE



5. DEGRADED LANDSCAPE



6. GRAFFITI

Illegal dumping is a significant issue in the project area (**Figure 4.8**). Signs discouraging the activity are prevalent, yet they seem to be ineffective (**Image 1**). The lack of visibility in spaces along the river make it easy for people to leave behind piles of unwanted furniture, clothing, and other paraphernalia (**Image 2**). According to residents, the response time for removing the trash is often several days. They also believe much of the dumping is a result of people disposing donations rejected by the Goodwill just south of the neighborhood (**Image 3**).

Overgrown vegetation contributes to a lack of visibility that makes residents uncomfortable (**Image 4**). Degraded landscapes near the neighborhood entrances negatively impact community identity because these are the first neighborhood spaces encountered on a regular basis (**Image 5**). Residents also mentioned graffiti as a negative neighborhood aesthetic because it indicates delinquent behavior (**Image 6**).

Opportunities and Constraints

Providing trash cans in the neighborhood is a simple improvement to address trash issues. In areas where graffiti and illegal dumping are concentrated, there are opportunities to create active-use spaces that could encourage residents to take ownership of these spaces and become 'eyes on the street' to discourage negative behaviors. Landscape areas near the entrances provide ample room for making landscape improvements, however the team was told the city has restrictions on irrigating these landscapes because they are considered street medians. Another problematic entry landscape that residents identified is located on private commercial property, and difficult to change.

4.3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Issues

The primary environmental concerns are pollution from the I-710 Freeway and surrounding roadways, as well as the deteriorating habitat conditions in the project area. Most of the open spaces in the neighborhood are close to major roadways, and residents have identified that noise and air pollution are a concern. Also, due to its adjacency to the LA River, South Wrigley is an important part of the Pacific Flyover migratory route and is adjacent to the Willow Street Tidal Estuary. The regional inventory process indicated this area is important habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife. Some residents expressed concern that neighborhood landscapes lacked adequate habitat conditions to support these species.

Opportunities and Constraints

The green space buffer between the homes and the river is currently zoned as residential. However, due to the sensitivity of some wildlife, it is important to keep this buffer free from high-impact development to maintain this space for habitat. Residents have made an effort to provide habitat for wildlife in their front yards. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has a program that allows people to certify their yards as a “wildlife garden.” According to NWF, a certified wildlife garden needs to include at least: three sources of food, one source of water, two sources of cover, and two places to raise young. Several yards in South Wrigley have many of these qualities and there is potential to use demonstration gardens to encourage others.

Below. The Willow Street Tidal Estuary



PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
Avila Park	Existing pocket park with playground and open space; Built as part of <i>RiverLink Plan</i>
Cressa Park	Existing community-developed park with native plants; Park in disrepair due to lack of maintenance
Hill Street Pedestrian Bridge	Proposed pedestrian bridge at Hill Street river access point crossing over LA River; Part of <i>Community Livability Plan</i>
Overpass Improvements	Proposed bike and pedestrian infrastructure for PCH and Willow Street overpasses; Part of <i>Community Livability Plan</i>
South Wrigley Greenbelt	Proposed walking trail along De Forest Avenue between river entrances; Part of <i>RiverLink Plan</i>
South Wrigley Mini-Parks	Proposed parks in excess road right-of-ways at either end of the project area; Part of <i>RiverLink Plan</i>
Willow Street Improvements	Proposed pedestrian infrastructure improvements on Willow Street; Proposal by City Fabrick

TABLE 4.21 *South Wrigley Past and Future Projects*

Below, top to bottom. Avila Park Entrance; Avila Park Playground



4.3.9 PAST AND FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Avila Park

Located between 21st Street and Hill Street, Avila Park (known to the community as the ‘Pocket Park’) was constructed in 2010 as a result of the *RiverLink* Proposal (a Long Beach planning initiative developed by the 606 Studio in 2007). The primary feature of the park is a children’s play structure. The park also includes a few small benches near the play area, drought tolerant plantings, several tall eucalyptus trees, a decomposed granite pathway connecting the two entrances, and open spaces of mulch and grass that community members can use to set up picnic tables or hold events. Local community members as well as other residents throughout the Long Beach area worked with city workers to complete the installation of the park.

2. Cressa Park

Cressa Park was completed in May 2010 by the Wrigley Association in an effort to transform a vacant city-owned parcel of land (Lejins, 2010). The park is adjacent to the LA River and located behind residential properties between PCH and 19th Street. The original intent of the park was to provide a winding path through a native habitat. The project was developed without permits but in partnership with the city and was allowed to remain because of the perceived benefit to the community. Ownership of the park was transferred to WANA after the group split from the parent organization. WANA obtained a ‘Right-of-Entry’ permit that was unknowingly contingent upon the organization being fully responsible for park maintenance. The group tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a contract with the City of Long Beach for maintenance assistance. The park fell into disrepair and, without lighting or other city-provided amenities such as trash cans, the park eventually became overgrown and littered with garbage. Combined with the low-

visibility of the site, this turned the park into a liability for the community, and it has become a popular place for homeless encampments, delinquent behavior, and illegal trash dumping.

3. Hill Street Pedestrian Bridge

The *Community Livability Plan* is a city-wide plan that aims to alleviate the environmental and health-related impacts of the I-710 Transportation Corridor on the surrounding neighborhoods (City of Long Beach, 2008). The Hill Street Pedestrian Bridge, which connects the two sides of the LA River at Hill Street, is proposed by Caltrans with the funding from the Safe Routes to School program.

4. Overpass Improvements

Future improvements to the PCH and Willow Street overpasses are part of the *Community Livability Plan* initiative aimed at improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety on roads that cross the I-710 Freeway and LA River corridor.

5. South Wrigley Greenbelt

The South Wrigley Greenbelt was included in the *RiverLink* Proposal (606 Studio, 2007), however the plan has yet to be adopted by the City of Long Beach. The proposed plan includes narrowing De Forest Avenue to provide a half-mile walking trail that connects two of the river-access points. The plan includes a decomposed granite pathway and recommends including riparian woodland plant species and trees. Exercise equipment stations are proposed along the length of the trail.

6. South Wrigley Entrance Mini-Parks

The mini-parks were proposed by the *RiverLink* Proposal for the two open spaces at either end of the project area (606 Studio, 2007). The plan proposes to develop the spaces as community mini-parks, expanding into excess road right-of-ways wherever possible. The City of Long Beach has not yet adopted these plans for development.

7. Willow Street Improvements

City Fabrick, a non-profit urban design studio, developed plans for future improvements to the pedestrian environment along Willow Street from the LA River to Atlantic Avenue. The improvements would enhance neighborhood walkability while encouraging connections to local transit stops.



Above, top to bottom. Cressa Park After Completion in 2010 (Photo Credit: Diana Lejins); Cressa Park in 2016

4.3.10 DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

Based on the neighborhood inventory results, the project team identified several considerations that supplemented the design process by providing context for community-identified landscape improvements (**Table 4.22**). The design implications also guided the development of specific objectives for each of the final concept designs.

The Neighborhood Vision Plans should reflect the diversity and vibrancy of the South Wrigley neighborhood and should honor the historic significance of both the wetlands and past community efforts to revitalize open spaces in the neighborhood. The plans should also align with the goals and objectives of any existing long-term proposals for making improvements in the surrounding areas.

The Willow Street Entrance Park should be prioritized for improvements because residents associate the entrance to their neighborhood with a sense of community identity. Areas with highest visibility along the river should be implemented next to encourage residents to begin using river-adjacent landscapes.

Developing open spaces that provide opportunities for social gathering, wildlife habitat, stormwater management, and air quality improvements are all prioritized by the neighborhood inventory. Above all, the Neighborhood Vision Plan should develop strategies for inspiring a local sense of community ownership that encourages use of outdoor spaces and enhances the sense of safety and security throughout the South Wrigley project area.

TABLE 4.22 *South Wrigley
Neighborhood Inventory Results*

INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
Demographics	The South Wrigley community is representative of other communities in the Lower LA River Corridor.
Historic Context	The neighborhood is situated over a historic wetland and river channelization bisected the original settlement.
Neighborhood Identity	The neighborhood is characterized by well-kept homes and gardens surrounded by poorly maintained public landscapes.
Social Amenities	There are few seating and comfortable social gathering areas in the neighborhood.
Safety and Security	Concerns result from the lack of visibility along the river and the perceived danger associated with homelessness.
Street Conditions	There are few crosswalks or flood control strategies, and poor visibility along streets in the project area.
Environmental Concerns	Residents are conscious of the need for better habitat for local birds and pollinators.
Aesthetics	Insufficiently maintained public landscapes, illegal dumping, and graffiti negatively impact neighborhood aesthetics.
Past and Future Projects	There are a few long-term proposals for the neighborhood, but nothing proposed for the immediate future.

4.4

DESIGN PROCESS AND RESULTS

Collective Efforts consisted of three project phases: Community Outreach and Engagement, Neighborhood Vision Planning, and Final Project Implementation. The following section documents the process and results for each phase. Refer to **Section 4.2** for descriptions of the project methods.

4.4.1 PHASE ONE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the initial project phase was to establish a foundation for the participatory design process by building relationships with community members and becoming familiar with the project area. The team used canvassing, two community meetings, a steering committee meeting, and build days to complete the phase's objectives (**Figure 4.9 and Table 4.23**).

Canvassing

At the start of the project, the team developed canvassing strategies, outreach materials, and a pitch for explaining the project goals and objectives. CMs assisted with the canvassing

Phase One Objectives
Develop community outreach and engagement strategies
Learn about community priorities and concerns
Identify and recruit interested community members
Engage community members with initial build project

TABLE 4.23 *South Wrigley – Phase One Objectives*

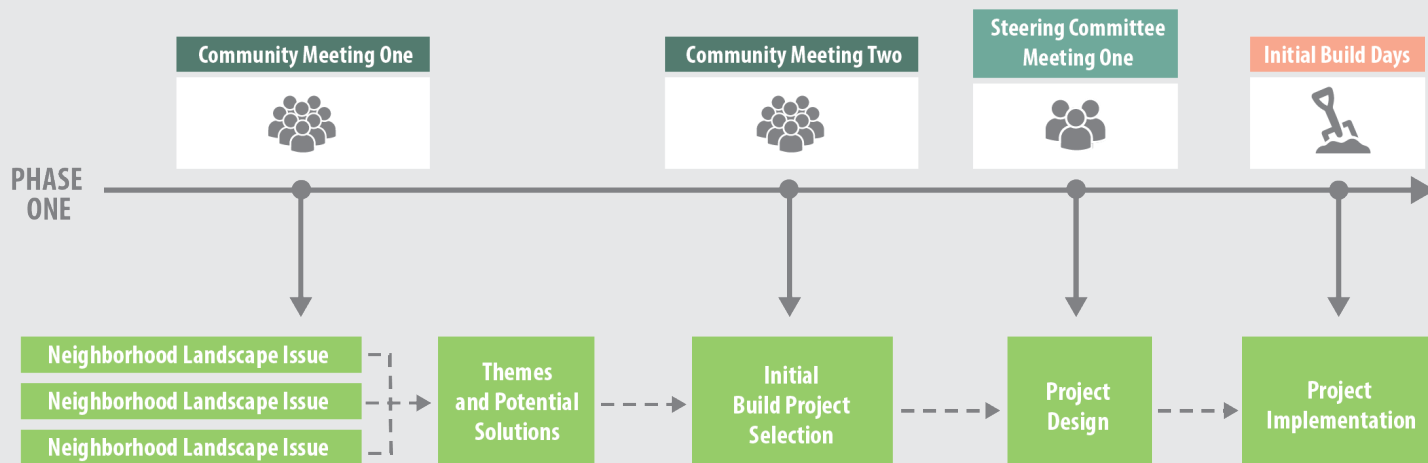


FIGURE 4.9 *South Wrigley – Phase One Process*

efforts. Canvassing materials included a bilingual brochure, business cards, maps for recording canvassing results, and sign-up sheets for interested residents to write down their contact information (**Appendix B**). Canvassing continued throughout the rest of the outreach and engagement phase. Refer to **Section 5.2.1** for a list of canvassing dates.

The team canvassed over 300 homes and collected more than 100 neighborhood contacts. While the majority of those who expressed interest in the project did not attend meetings, the outreach method resulted in conversations that were valuable for insight into community priorities. The team learned about local politics and discovered the primary concerns of residents. Canvassing also provided an opportunity to engage residents in a discussion about their connection to the LA River and the adjacent landscapes. Despite the fact that there are three river access points in the project area, some residents were not aware they could access the river trail or that there were parks and open spaces along the river in their neighborhood.

Community Meeting One *Generate Ideas for the Initial Build Project*

Once the team had identified a location, they began inviting residents to attend the first community meeting. On the day of the meeting, the team set up tables and chairs in a local community park and prepared a meeting agenda, which included introductions, a mapping activity, and a brainstorming exercise. The team invited participants to use an aerial map to identify areas of the neighborhood they enjoyed, areas where they felt unsafe, and areas they felt improvement was needed. Community members discussed common issues they felt were important to the neighborhood, and then used a brainstorming exercise to generate ideas about landscape improvement projects that could potentially address these issues.

Residents participated in the mapping exercise and recognized many of their concerns were shared with others: this prompted new questions about local landscape resources, the river, and

Below. Project Team Member Organizes Community-generated Ideas for Local Landscape Improvement Projects



the implications for making improvements to the neighborhood. Residents also began asking about the city permitting process, how new park spaces would be maintained, and how potential projects might impact homelessness in the area. Community members generated a list of projects that could potentially address some of the concerns they identified during the mapping exercise (**Table 4.24**).

Community Meeting Two *Review Options and Vote on Initial Build Project*

During the second community meeting, participants were asked to work in groups to generate pros and cons for each potential initial build day project. Before breaking into small groups to discuss the projects, the entire group developed criteria for evaluating a project, which were: ease of construction, ability to acquire materials, and level of impact on the community. Each team had different projects to evaluate, and once the activity was completed a representative from each group presented their work. Materials included large sheets of paper and colorful markers for participants to write down their responses. Participants voted for their two favorite projects, the options were narrowed to two alternatives, and community members voted for a second time to make the final decision (**Appendix B**).

After the first round of voting, the top two project alternatives were building benches in a local park and installing half-court basketball at the end of one of the neighborhood streets. After the second round, community members voted to install benches for the initial build project.

Steering Committee Meeting One *Finalize Designs for Initial Build Project*

The team invited residents who had attended both community meetings to be a part of the steering committee for the project. During the first steering committee meeting, the group made key decisions regarding the final design for the initial build day project. The project team provided inspirational images to generate design ideas, and the committee discussed the merits of each option until they reached a consensus. Based on the committee's decisions, the team developed construction documents and a list of construction tools and materials (**Appendix B**).

The committee chose to build two benches and one picnic table that wrapped around a tree. Since homelessness is a community concern, one of the primary considerations for the designs was to ensure the benches would not accommodate sleeping. To address

Potential Build Day Projects

Install half-court basketball
Organize a clean-up day
Install educational signs
Build neighborhood entrance signs
Install river access signs
Paint crosswalks
Plant trees
Paint utility boxes
Build benches (selected project)
Paint a mural

TABLE 4.24 *South Wrigley – Initial Build Project Options*

Below. Community Member Presents Pros and Cons for Potential Build Day Project





Above. Bench Design Inspiration

this issue, the team suggested curved benches with a narrow width. The committee decided the benches would have the greatest impact if they were installed in the park at the Willow Street neighborhood entrance. The space was already used by residents and currently had no amenities.

The project team explained that in the past community groups had taken one of two approaches to projects like this: some groups approached the city and applied for a permit, while others built the improvements and were prepared to apply for a permit or remove the benches if an issue arose. The project team shared the pros and cons of each option. Community members felt a more immediate build project would have greater impact in terms of generating momentum for the second and third phases of the overall project, so the benches were designed to be easily dismantled in the event that they would need to be removed.

Initial Build Days ***Project Implementation***

The team invited all previously contacted community members to participate in the build days. The team prepared by coordinating with confirmed attendees to ensure the group would have water, snacks, and all the necessary construction tools. The team pre-cut pieces of wood so community members could focus on assembly. They also provided everyone with construction documents and residents decided which tasks they wanted to participate in (digging holes for bench posts, sanding pieces of wood, painting, etc.). The group tested the completed work for stability and made adjustments where necessary.

The benches and table were completed successfully over a series of three build days. Several passing community members asked about the project and were happy to see the improvements. Residents reported the benches were well-used and those who were involved were proud of their work and committed to the long-term success of the project.



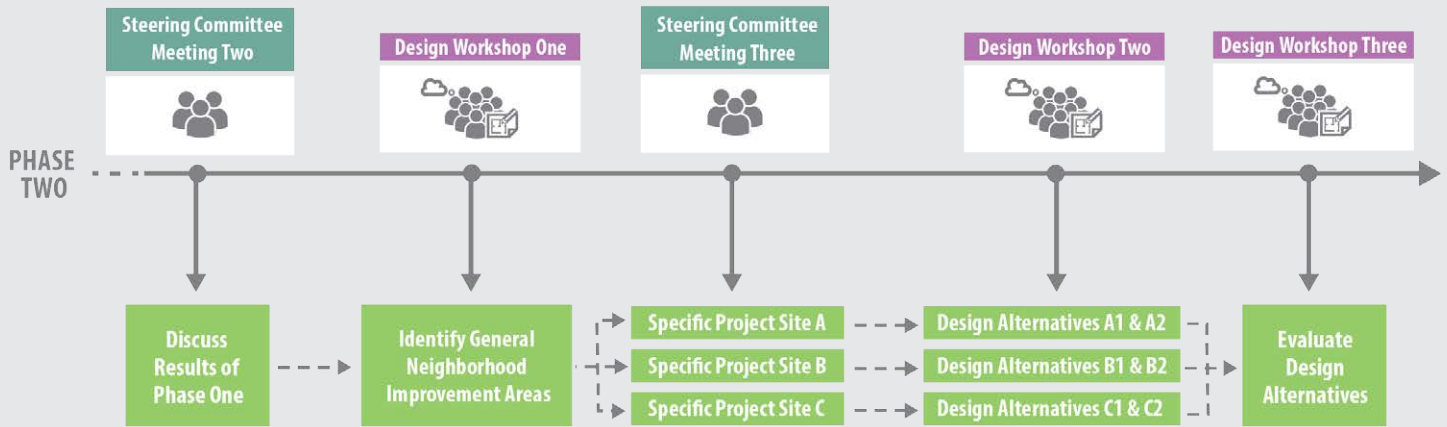


FIGURE 4.10 *South Wrigley – Phase Two Process*

4.4.2 PHASE TWO: NEIGHBORHOOD VISION PLANNING

The purpose of the second phase was to develop community-based designs for three to six sites within the project area that would collectively constitute the Neighborhood Vision Plan. The team used canvassing, steering committee meetings, and community design workshops to complete the phase objectives (Figure 4.10 and Table 4.25).

Phase Two Objectives
Solidify committee of community leaders
Adapt community outreach and engagement strategies
Inventory neighborhood conditions based on community priorities
Facilitate community design workshops

TABLE 4.25 *South Wrigley – Phase Two Objectives*

Steering Committee Two *Discuss Phase One Results and Plans for Phase Two*

The Neighborhood Vision Planning phase began with a steering committee meeting. The project team presented the calendar for the upcoming weeks and reviewed the process for developing the Neighborhood Vision Plan. The team created maps that highlighted significant open spaces in the project area and the committee discussed the condition, land ownership, and relevant land use designations of these areas. The committee reviewed and refined a list of neighborhood improvement priorities that were identified during the outreach and engagement phase. This list was used during the first community design workshop.

Starting the second phase with a steering committee meeting provided members with the opportunity to discuss the results of the previous project phase. Presenting the calendar to committee members allowed them to adjust the schedule for the upcoming meetings and workshops. The primary result of the initial steering committee meeting was the list of priorities that were used for the first design workshop (Table 4.26).

Left. South Wrigley Initial Build Days: Construction and Completed Benches

Canvassing

The project team adjusted their canvassing approach to include discussion of the initial build project. The team conducted their outreach strategically by focusing on parts of the neighborhood that were underrepresented in the past community meetings, specifically the southern portion of the project area that consisted mostly of apartment buildings. The team distributed fliers for the upcoming design workshops, and used the same maps and sign-up sheets that were used during phase one to record outreach results. Canvassing continued on throughout the rest of the vision planning phase. Refer to **Section 5.2.1** for a list of canvassing dates.

The additional canvassing successfully recruited new community members to join the project. Referencing the benches that were built at the end of phase one was an effective strategy for demonstrating to residents the goals and objectives of the project. Those who had seen the benches felt positively about them and reported they had seen people them being used.

Community Design Workshop One *Identify General Neighborhood Improvement Areas*

The team selected two participatory exercises for the first community design workshop. The first activity involved reviewing the list of neighborhood priorities developed by the steering committee. The team provided attendees with short packets that explained each of the priorities with text and images (**Appendix B**). Attendees had the opportunity to add additional items to the list, and then placed stickers next to the priorities that were most important to them. Participants then split into two groups and used stickers, markers, and a base map

Neighborhood Improvement Priorities
Lighting
Traffic calming
Surveillance
Exercise equipment
Half-court basketball
Seating areas
New landscape planting
Flood control
Wayfinding signs
Trees
Public art
Trash clean-up
Welcome sign

TABLE 4.26 *South Wrigley – Neighborhood Improvement Priorities*

Below. Community Member Identifies Her Top Five Neighborhood Improvement Priorities



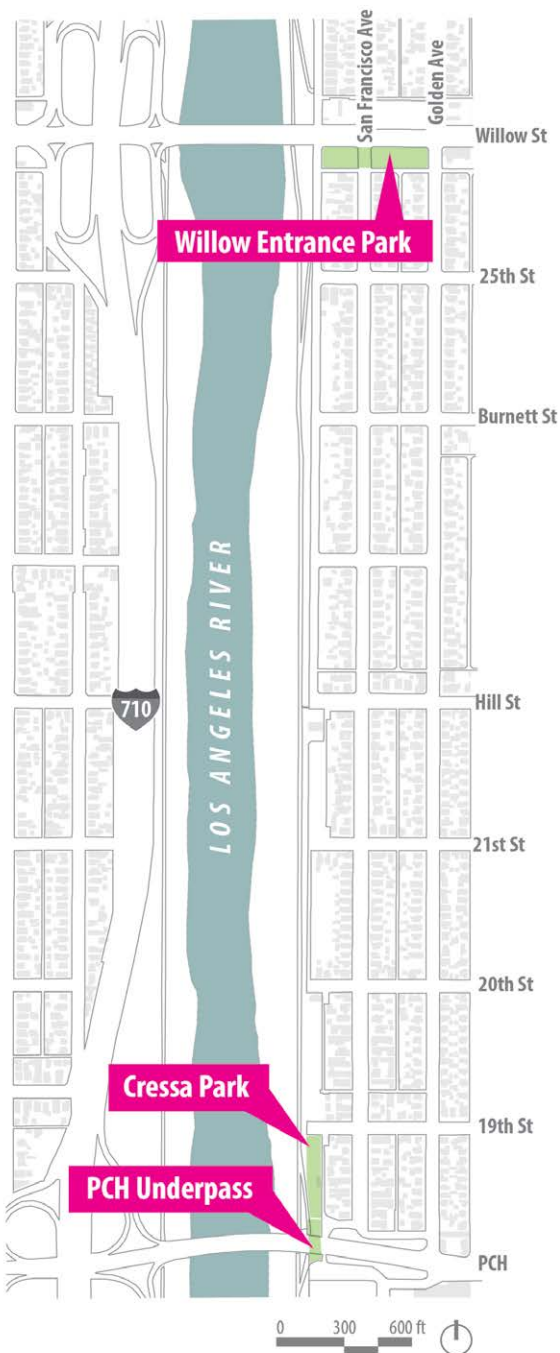


FIGURE 4.11 South Wrigley – Preliminary Site-Specific Projects

of the project area to identify locations where these priorities could be addressed. Stickers were coded so each corresponded to a different priority, and there were no limits to how many stickers could be used. Once the groups completed this activity, the groups compared the maps to one another and the team facilitated a discussion about the results.

Identifying community priorities motivated a discussion about why certain issues existed in the neighborhood. The top five priority improvements were lighting, a dog park, exercise equipment, new landscape plantings, and trees (**Appendix B**). In general, the mapping results for both teams were similar and community members identified open spaces along the river as areas that would benefit most from improvements (**Appendix B**).

Steering Committee Three Identify Specific Project Sites

The mapping results from the first design workshop were used as the basis for the next steering committee meeting. The project team worked with committee members to analyze the results and identify three to six projects for the neighborhood improvement plan. Areas with a higher concentration of stickers were prioritized as potential sites and, if a single priority was noted throughout the entire neighborhood, the group discussed a ‘thematic’ project that was not site-specific. Committee members came to a consensus about site selection and thematic projects.

Working with steering committee members to analyze the mapping results gave a key role in the decision-making process. The committee selected three site-specific projects and three thematic projects (**Figure 4.11** and **Table 4.27**). The projects evolved over time in response to community input, but these initial project selections provided the foundation for the second design workshop.

THEMATIC PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION
Exercise Equipment	Install exercise equipment along the river trail at all three entrances to encourage use
Street Improvements	Improve street conditions in the neighborhood to address safety and environmental issues
Landscape Improvements	Strengthen community identity with cohesive planting recommendations for yards and open spaces

TABLE 4.27 South Wrigley – Preliminary Thematic Projects

Community Design Workshop Two

Generate Conceptual Design Alternatives for Selected Sites

The second community design workshop was centered on developing design alternatives for the site-specific projects. The team set up stations for each of the sites and attendees worked on whichever one they preferred. The team provided a variety of materials for the exercise, which included wire trees, construction paper cut-outs, string, markers, pens, tape, and stickers. Participants arranged the different elements to express their design intentions. Throughout the activity, the team spoke about design strategies and ways environmental considerations such as stormwater management could be incorporated into the sites. The team used site photos and inspirational images of various design solutions to facilitate the discussion.

Residents chose not to design the PCH Underpass. They agreed the space needed to be improved, but they found it difficult to design because they could not imagine themselves using the space. Conversely, attendees were enthusiastic about creating design alternatives for the other two sites. When the team introduced stormwater management concepts, participants were open to including simple features such as bioswales and bioretention areas. Two design alternatives were created for the Willow Entrance Park and Cressa Park, while no alternatives were generated for the PCH Underpass.

Below. Residents Use Interactive Materials to Generate Concept Designs





Above. Community Members Review the Design Alternatives and Vote

Community Design Workshop Three **Evaluate Design Alternatives**

Based on the results of the second workshop, the project team refined the design alternatives for the Willow Entrance Park and Cressa Park, and generated design alternatives for the PCH Underpass. For the final workshop, the team set up different stations for each project and community members moved through each station and discussed the design alternatives. Participants were asked to review each site and select the elements they preferred from each alternative. The team documented the responses and used them to develop the final concept designs.

Although the team created design alternatives for the PCH underpass, participants were still hesitant about the idea of using the space underneath the freeway overpass for any sort of recreation. Some community members did not evaluate the alternatives for this space and focused on the other two sites. Community members decided to eliminate the PCH underpass from the Neighborhood Vision Plan and suggested splitting Cressa Park into two separate projects (Cressa North and Cressa South) since the site is physically divided into two spaces by a garage and the programming for each space was unique.

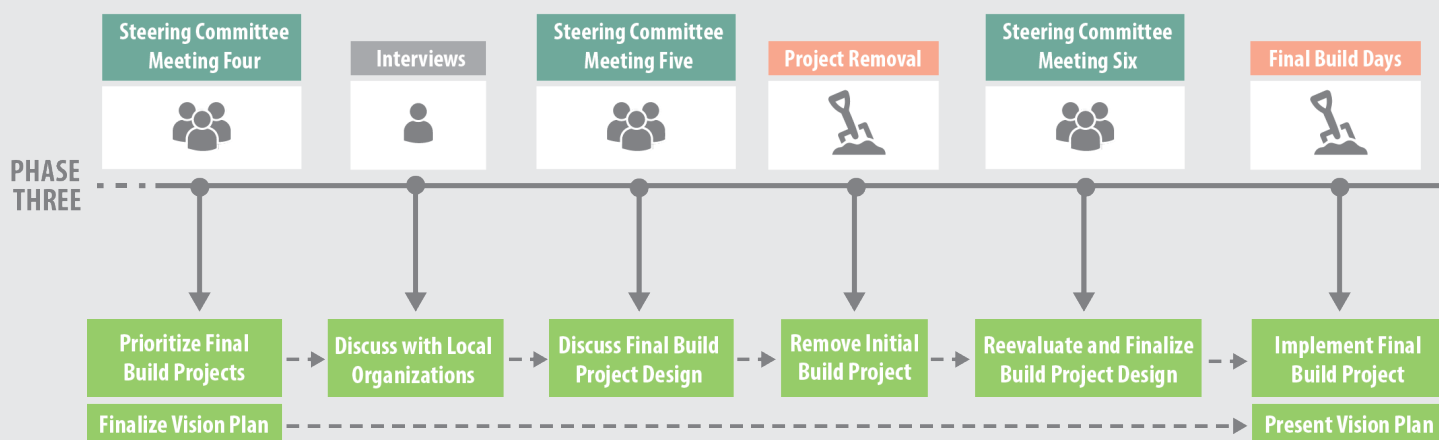


FIGURE 4.12 *South Wrigley – Phase Three Process*

4.4.3 PHASE THREE: FINAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of the last project phase was to finalize the concept designs and complete a final build project that reflected the goals and priorities of the Neighborhood Vision Plan. The project team used steering committee meetings, interviews, and build days to complete the phase objectives (**Figure 4.12 and Table 4.28**). The team also removed the benches that were completed during the first project phase, which impacted the final outcome of the project.

Steering Committee Meeting Four *Prioritize Final Build Projects & Finalize Vision Plan*

During the first meeting for phase three, the project team presented the three final concept designs for the new set of sites that committee members identified at the end of the second phase. Committee members asked questions and made comments about any changes they wanted to see. Prior to the meeting, the team identified parts of the sites that could potentially be implemented in the short-term based on the budget for final construction as well as the proposed timeline for installation. At the meeting, the group worked together to identify pros and cons for each of the proposed build projects.

Committee members were excited about the final concept designs and made a few recommendations to add additional amenities to the sites. In addition, members also discussed liability issues, political implications, and the potential impact

Phase Three Objectives
Identify range of potential projects for final build days
Evaluate options with community and develop plans for construction
Construct final project with community members
Identify strategy for long-term implementation of vision plan

TABLE 4.28 *South Wrigley – Phase Three Objectives*

of each project. The top choice for the final project was a pathway through the Willow Entrance Park. However, committee members were also interested in developing a multi-purpose social gathering and recreation area near the entrance to Cressa Park North. This project was referred to as the 19th Street Plaza. Construction in the 19th Street Plaza was dependent upon local political support for the improvements and the project's role as a catalyst for other improvements along the river. The committee asked the team to conduct interviews with local agencies and organizations to determine their level of support for the proposed build day projects.

Interviews

Discuss Final Build Project with Local Agencies and Organizations

The team set up interviews with local neighborhood organizations and made an attempt to set up a meeting with the Chief of Staff for District 7 and a representative from Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM). The team prepared key questions for each of the interviewees regarding their support of the final build project.

The representatives from both neighborhood organizations demonstrated support for the 19th Street Plaza. WANA representatives made recommendations to adjust the plans for the adjacent Cressa Park so they would be more consistent with their original designs for the park. They wanted to ensure that existing native plants would be protected, and that provisions would be made to prevent the homeless from using the space. The representative from the Wrigley Association was enthusiastic about being a part of the build day efforts. The Chief of Staff and the representative from PRM were unresponsive and the team was unable to meet with either.

Below. The End of 19th Street where Committee Members were Interested in Constructing the 19th Street Plaza



Steering Committee Meeting Five *Discuss Final Build Project Designs*

Prior to this committee meeting, the team received news that PRM was potentially going to ask both project teams to uninstall their initial build projects. The team shared this information with committee members and discussed the potential implications. The project team also shared the results of the interviews in favor of constructing a small portion of the 19th Street Plaza as a strategy for catalyzing the revitalization of river-adjacent neighborhood landscapes. The team provided inspirational images for potential design elements so committee members could work on creating design alternatives.

In response to the potential request to remove the initial build project, the committee initiated a dialogue about the nature of local planning and development processes. They determined it would be unwise to construct the selected final build project since it was on public land, but they wanted to create design alternatives for the 19th Street Plaza to be included in the final Neighborhood Vision Plan.

Project Removal *Remove and Relocate Initial Build Project*

During this time, a board member of one of the neighborhood organizations mistakenly reported to city council that the project team intended to construct an unpermitted dog park in South Wrigley during the final months of the project. At the same time, the city sent a letter to the 606 Studio requiring the immediate removal of all benches constructed without permits. While this letter was in direct response to the benches built by the Jackson Park team and community, it was clear the letter

Below, left to right. The Table was Constructed to be Easy to Remove and Carry Away; The Benches were Given to Community Members



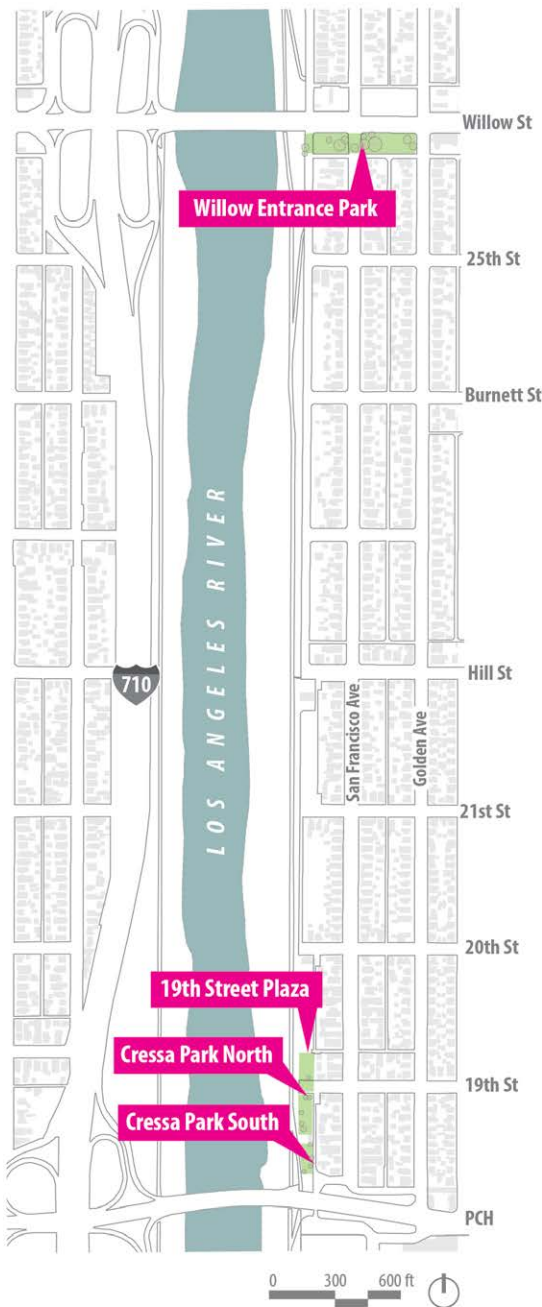


FIGURE 4.13 South Wrigley – Final Site-Specific Project Locations

1 | Landscape Improvements

Create guidelines for using plant material to address key community-identified issues

2 | Street Improvements

Create guidelines for addressing key issues along the three primary roads within the project area

TABLE 4.29 South Wrigley – Thematic Projects

applied to South Wrigley as well. The team removed the initial build project to demonstrate cooperation with the city.

Team members met onsite to uninstall the benches and relocated two of them to the front yards of community members who were involved in the initial build days. The benches were designed to be easily uninstalled, which resulted in effective project removal.

Steering Committee Six Reevaluate and Finalize Build Project Design

After the benches were removed, the final build projects needed to be reevaluated. The team met separately with individual committee members to discuss why the benches were uninstalled and what the implications were for the final build project. The team worked with committee members to develop additional options for completing a final build project on private land that reflected the goals and objectives of the Neighborhood Vision Plan.

The group determined the best option for moving forward was completing a demonstration garden that reflected the priorities of the landscape improvement project (one of the thematic projects identified in the vision plan). **Table 4.30** summarizes the final build project options and evaluations. The committee also determined that the 19th Street Plaza should be considered a separate project since the site now felt separate from Cressa Park North. This prompted a discussion about the final site-specific and thematic projects, and the committee also decided to remove exercise equipment from the Neighborhood Vision Plan since these elements were specifically included in the site-specific designs. **Figure 4.13** and **Table 4.29** summarize the final set of projects for the South Wrigley Neighborhood Vision Plan. For specific details regarding the existing conditions, final concept designs, and design objectives, refer to **Section 4.5**, South Wrigley Neighborhood Vision Plan.

Final Build Days

Implement Final Build Project & Present Vision Plan

Committee members wanted to invite all residents who were involved throughout the course of the project to be a part of the final build days. The project team was responsible for conducting this outreach, and prepared the final construction documents to determine the required materials and tools to complete the demonstration garden (**Figure 4.14**). The committee also decided it would be important to present the final Neighborhood Vision Plan during this time, as a way to celebrate and acknowledge everyone's hard work throughout the year. The

PROJECT OPTION	DESCRIPTION	EVALUATION
Cressa Park South Entrance	Clean-up and provide entry path from edge of street to park entrance. Plant row of trees to define space. Install bioretention areas to manage runoff from the PCH overpass.	Site preparation would have been difficult and despite local political support for the improvement it was unclear if the project would have resulted in increased use of the existing park and an improved sense of safety.
19th Street Plaza	Clean-up and provide seating along street edges. Use bollards and paint to define multiple recreation uses. Install basketball hoop and infiltration areas.	Site preparation and construction would have been difficult, but feasible. The project was controversial among neighborhood organizations. Committee members agreed it would have had a significant positive impact.
Exercise Equipment	Install three exercise equipment stations in the Willow Street Entrance Park.	Construction would have been feasible, but committee members agreed a walking path would have a bigger impact on the park. Local political agencies would not support construction in this park.
Walking Path	Install a walking path and meandering dry creek bed in the Willow Street Entrance Park.	Due to the size of the park, site preparation and construction would have been difficult to complete. Local political agencies would not support construction in this park. Committee members agreed it would have had a significant positive impact.
Demonstration Garden (Final Selection)	Install a demonstration rain garden in a residential front yard and have a gathering to discuss the implications of infiltration and using drought-tolerant plants that are beneficial for local wildlife.	Site preparation and construction was very feasible. The project did not require approval. The yard was located in a visible part of the neighborhood where other residents were engaged by the construction process.

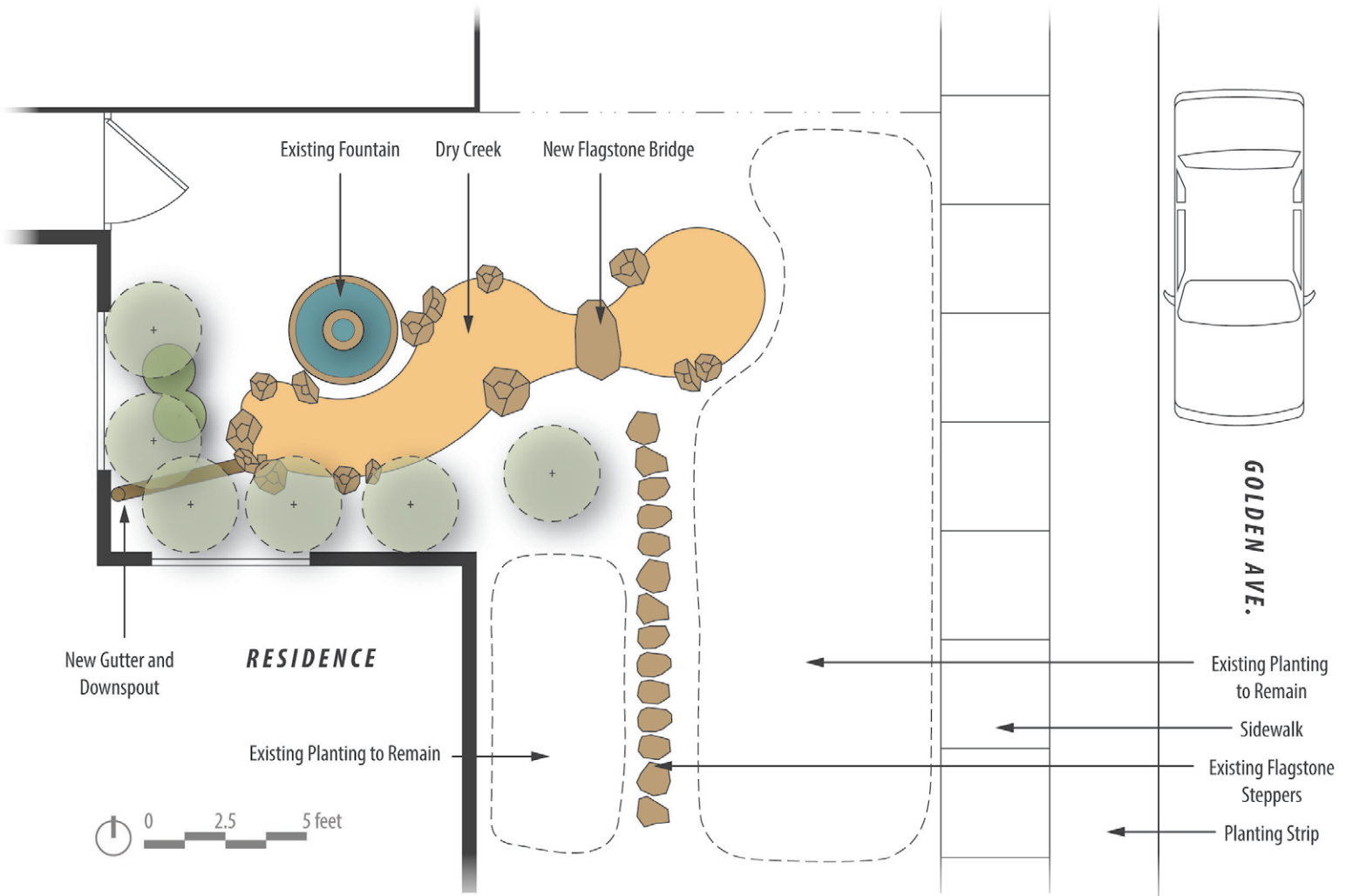
project team worked with the committee members to determine other activities that could be used to engage participants during the final build days before the vision plan was presented. It was decided that attendees could paint bird houses, make seed bombs using the seeds of native plant species, and take home drought-tolerant plants that provide habitat and foraging opportunities for local pollinators. The project team created informational packets for attendees to take home that explained the demonstration garden and the benefits of implementing stormwater management strategies in a residential context.

The final build days took place over a series of three days. A few passing community members asked about the demonstration garden and committee members took turns explaining how the dry creek bed would allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground and how this would prevent pollutants and contaminants from entering the storm drain system. Participants were enthusiastic about painting bird houses and learning about different plants that were helpful for local pollinators. Presenting the final vision plan provided the opportunity to discuss how community involvement influenced the final concept designs, how residents could become involved in making local

TABLE 4.30 *South Wrigley – Final Build Day Project Evaluations*

FIGURE 4.14 *South Wrigley – Final Build Project Concept Plan (right)*

Opposite. Final Build Project Before and After



landscape improvements in the future, and how important it was for residents to think about river-adjacent landscapes as a potential community resource. Attendees decided amongst themselves that it was time for them to participate in the local neighborhood organization meetings, and agreed to support the development of landscape improvements that provide both social and environmental benefits.

Opposite. Painting Bird Houses and Presenting the Final Neighborhood Vision Plan

Below. Constructing the Dry Creek Bed





4.5

SOUTH WRIGLEY

NEIGHBORHOOD VISION PLAN

The Neighborhood Vision Plan is a conceptual plan for making improvements along the Lower LA River in the neighborhood of South Wrigley. The plan reflects community-specific priorities while also responding to the project goal of developing multi-benefit projects that provide for social and recreational needs while integrating stormwater management strategies. Community meetings, design workshops, steering committee meetings, and the neighborhood inventory process informed the conceptual designs. The vision plan focuses on four community-identified site-specific projects (**Table 4.31**). Participants determined guidelines for two thematic projects that are meant to be applied generally throughout the neighborhood and ultimately establish connections between the site-specific projects (**Table 4.32**).

Below. The Entrance to South Wrigley at PCH and Golden Avenue



Right. Local Bicyclists Taking a Break to Enjoy the Blue Wave Bench Before it was Removed

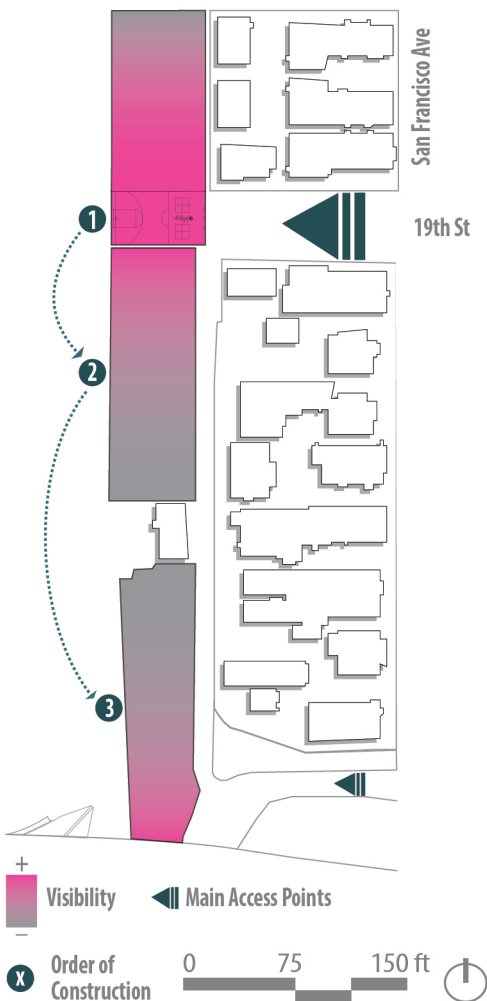
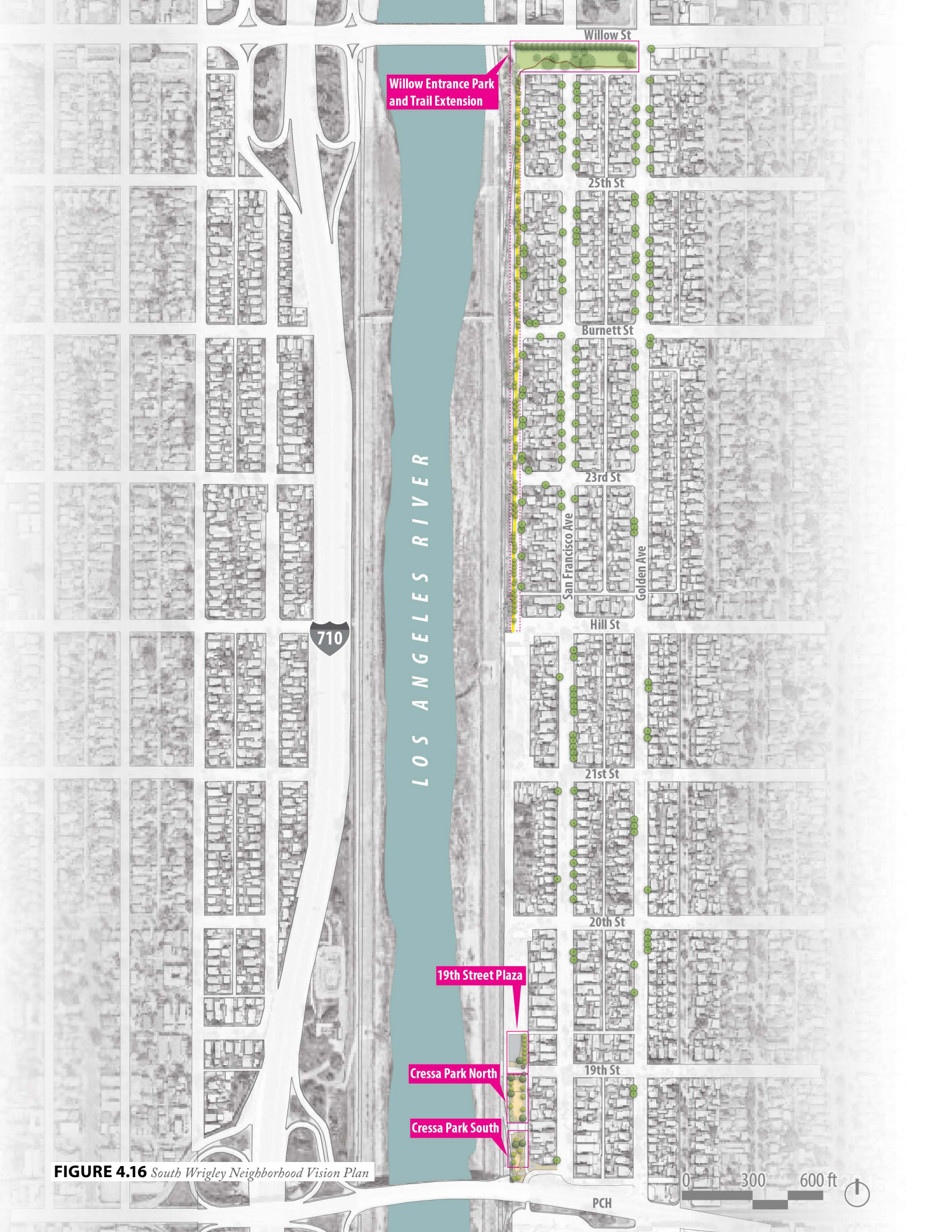


FIGURE 4.15 *Visibility and Project Phasing*

The thematic projects are presented first to provide an overview of the guidelines that are applied to the rest of the vision plan. The guidelines were developed through surveys distributed at community design workshops and discussions held during steering committee meetings.

The concept designs are presented in the order that community members decided they would like to see them developed. Their top priority was making improvements to areas of the neighborhood that residents already used on a regular basis. Participants felt these projects would have strong local buy-in and would be immediately successful. In order to make improvements to landscapes that are adjacent to the river levee, community members felt strongly that development needed to focus first on areas that were most visible from within the neighborhood (**Figure 4.15**). Residents typically considered these areas to be unsafe, so participants felt that making improvements to the most visible areas first would have the greatest success. Once users became aware of the recreation opportunities along the river and felt more comfortable being in these spaces, the improvements could expand into other river-adjacent landscapes.



Willow Entrance Park and Trail Extension

19th Street Plaza

Cressa Park North

Cressa Park South

FIGURE 4.16 South Wrigley Neighborhood Vision Plan



NAME	EXISTING CONDITION	PROPOSAL
Landscape Improvement Plan	Many of the public landscapes throughout the area are overgrown and poorly maintained. The project area is also located in a 'habitat zone' along the LA River.	Develop a plant palette that improves the aesthetic quality of the neighborhood and reinforces the neighborhood identity. Include recommendations for plants that have low-water and maintenance requirements and provide habitat for local birds and pollinators.
Street Improvement Plan	There are three main streets in the project area. One street has dangerous traffic speeds, another has issues with flooding and road cracking, and the third has low-visibility leading to crime and illegal trash dumping.	Develop recommendations that address the issues on each of the streets to create a safer pedestrian environment and more effective strategies for managing stormwater.

TABLE 4.31 *Overview of South Wrigley Thematic Projects as Determined by Participants*

NAME	EXISTING CONDITION	PROPOSAL
Willow Entrance Park and Trail Extension	This open space that features existing trees and a sloping edge that meets the sidewalk at Willow Street. This is the largest and most visible open space available to residents, and there are no lights, pedestrian amenities, or trash cans. The slope along the northern edge is eroding due to lack of plant cover and wet-season flooding.	Take advantage of the existing trees and provide a meandering pathway through the park. Include lighting and trash cans. Terrace the slopes to prevent erosion and create a dry creek bed that meanders alongside the pathway to encourage interaction with stormwater features. Include planting and bollards to define the edge of the space.
19th Street Plaza	The end of 19th Street is the most visible vacant land and open space along the edge of the river. Debris and overgrown weeds characterize the landscape and a broken basketball hoop is mounted to the fencing of the river levee. There are issues with people loitering in their vehicles during evening hours.	Activate this space as a catalyst for creating a sense of community ownership over river-adjacent landscapes. Include a multi-purpose court that accommodates basketball, four square, and hopscotch. Provide lighting, seating, and trash cans. Develop a skate park that directs stormwater into bioretention areas. Create bulb-outs that prevent parking at the end of the street and help define the space.
Cressa Park North	Once a flourishing native habitat with a meandering decomposed granite pathway, Cressa Park is now an overgrown and unused space that attracts illegal trash dumping and homeless encampments. It is located next to the river levee just south of the 19th Street Plaza. There is a perimeter chain link fence, lighting, trash cans, and seating.	Create a useable space that enhances the surveillance and accessibility of river-adjacent landscapes by installing a community dog park. Create separate areas for small and big dogs, as well as perimeter seating, trash cans, lighting, bioswales, dog play equipment, water fountains, and double entry gates.
Cressa Park South	The southern portion of Cressa Park is separated from Cressa Park North by a storage garage. All the same existing conditions apply, but illegal dumping is worse due to proximity to the highway underpass. Native plants and trees are present, but weeds dominate.	Re-create the character of the original park by providing a pathway through native plant habitat. Create low impact uses by installing exercise equipment. Define the entrance to the park with a row of trees and vegetation and install a new pedestrian river access gate to allow residents access to the river trail without having to go under the highway. Include bioretention areas to deal with runoff from PCH and the adjacent river levee.

TABLE 4.32 *Overview of South Wrigley Site-Specific Projects as Determined by Participants*

LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The landscapes in South Wrigley define the neighborhood's identity. The palms that line the streets are clearly visible when approaching the neighborhood and are unique to this area. They indicate to residents that they have arrived home. The neighborhood also has a very do-it-yourself ethos, with self-landscaped yards decorated with hand-made trinkets.

There are plenty of large open spaces in the neighborhood, but most are poorly maintained. These areas include the entrances to the neighborhood and most of the river-adjacent landscapes, with the exception of Avila Park which is regularly maintained by the city. The majority of local open spaces lack maintenance and irrigation, and have a negative impact on the aesthetic experience of the neighborhood as well as the perception of safety. Due to the proximity of the LA River, these landscapes provide habitat opportunities for local birds and pollinators.

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS



Design Objectives
Incorporate low water use plants to reduce irrigation needs
Use low maintenance plants to reduce maintenance costs
Use low growing plants to maintain visibility throughout open spaces
Preserve existing palm trees to maintain neighborhood identity
Plant shade trees between palms to increase canopy cover along streets
Plant sloped medians, river trail embankments, and road easements to prevent erosion
Use a vibrant and diverse plant palette to reflect neighborhood identity
Select a variety of plants to meet the habitat needs of local birds and pollinators
Plant trees along the river levee to increase privacy for residents
Plant trees along the river levee to reduce the impact of air pollution from I-710 freeway
Create bioretention areas to filter and clean runoff
Use plants to deter homeless encampments

TABLE 4.33 *Landscape Improvement Plan – Design Objectives*

Left. Typical Landscape Features in South Wrigley



Agave attenuata



Jacaranda mimosifolia



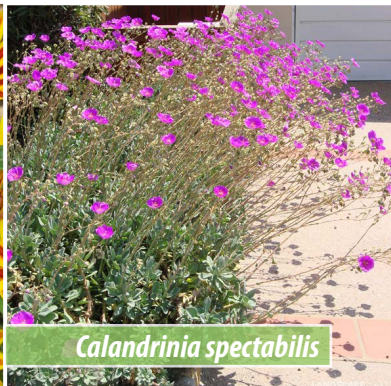
Ceanothus spp.



Juncus patens



Gazania spp.



Calandrinia spectabilis



Salvia spp.



Agave americana

The landscape improvement plan is applicable to residential homes and public landscapes. Both residents and public agencies can incorporate and promote greywater and rainwater gardens while also providing habitat, improving aesthetic quality, and creating a sense of neighborhood identity. The community’s priorities are the neighborhood entrances at Willow Street and PCH where they intersect with Golden Avenue. **Table 4.34** makes recommendations for various plants that address each of the plan objectives. Many of these plants are already present in residents’ front yards and help reinforce community identity.

TABLE 4.34 *Landscape Improvement Plan – Plant Recommendations*

Low-Maintenance	Heavenly bamboo (<i>Nandina domestica</i>), Mock orange (<i>Pittosporum spp.</i>), New Zealand flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>)
Drought Resistant	Rock purslane (<i>Calandrinia spectabilis</i>), Foxtail agave (<i>Agave attenuata</i>), Trailing lantana (<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>), Rosemary (<i>Rosmarinus spp.</i>), Yarrow (<i>Achillea spp.</i>)
Street Trees	Jacaranda tree (<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>), Camphor tree (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>), Gold medallion tree (<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>)
Erosion Control	Wild lilac (<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>), Prostrate acacia (<i>Acacia redolens</i>), Prostrate rosemary (<i>rosemarinus prostratus</i>), Gazania (<i>Gazania spp.</i>)
Habitat & Foraging	Sage (<i>Salvia spp.</i>), Toyon (<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>), Milkweed (<i>Asclepias spp.</i>), Manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>), Tree mallow (<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>)
Infiltration Areas	California grey rush (<i>Juncus patens</i>), Deergrass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>), Yarrow (<i>Achillea spp.</i>), Berkeley sedge (<i>Carex divulsa</i>)
Carbon Sequestration	Pine trees (<i>Pinus spp.</i>), Oak trees (<i>Quercus spp.</i>), London plane tree (<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>)
Security	Red yucca (<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>), California grey rush (<i>Juncus patens</i>), American century plant (<i>Agave americana</i>), Beavertail cactus (<i>Opuntia spp.</i>)

STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EXISTING CONDITIONS

There are three main streets in the project area: Golden Avenue, San Francisco Avenue, and De Forest Avenue. Golden Avenue connects to two main streets at the north and south end of the neighborhood. According to residents, drivers use this street to avoid traffic on the I-710 Freeway. There is a 25 mile per hour speed limit, but drivers exceed 50 miles per hour, creating dangerous conditions for children, bicyclists, pedestrians, and stray pets.

On San Francisco Avenue, flooding is the primary issue and the street is cracked and damaged. Flooding is a problem in the northern part of the neighborhood where there are no storm drains or infiltration areas to manage local runoff. De Forest Avenue runs between the backyards of residents' homes and the river levee. The lack of visibility and pedestrian amenities makes it appealing for illegal dumping, criminal behavior, and homeless encampments.

DESIGN FEATURES

There are a number of strategies that can be used to address the street improvement objectives. **Table 4.35** summarizes the tools that can be applied for each objective.

TABLE 4.35 *Street Improvement Plan – Design Features and Tools*

Traffic Calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant crosswalks for high visibility and sense of community identity • Speed feedback sign to remind drivers of their current speed • Speed bumps near entrances • Bulb-outs to narrow the streets
Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curb-cuts along planting strips to allow for stormwater infiltration • Replacing street edges with permeable paving
Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for recreation in river-adjacent areas • Narrow roadway to discourage on-street parking and in-car loitering • Create vegetation buffer between roadway and LA River Trail • Add pedestrian amenities to encourage use and promote ownership

Design Objectives

Implement traffic calming strategies on Golden Avenue to improve pedestrian safety

Use retention and infiltration techniques to reduce flooding on San Francisco Avenue

Promote design strategies that improve safety and security on De Forest Avenue

TABLE 4.36 *Street Improvement Plan – Design Objectives*

Below, left to right. Crosswalk on Golden Avenue; Flooded Intersection on San Francisco Avenue; Lack of Pedestrian Infrastructure on De Forest Avenue



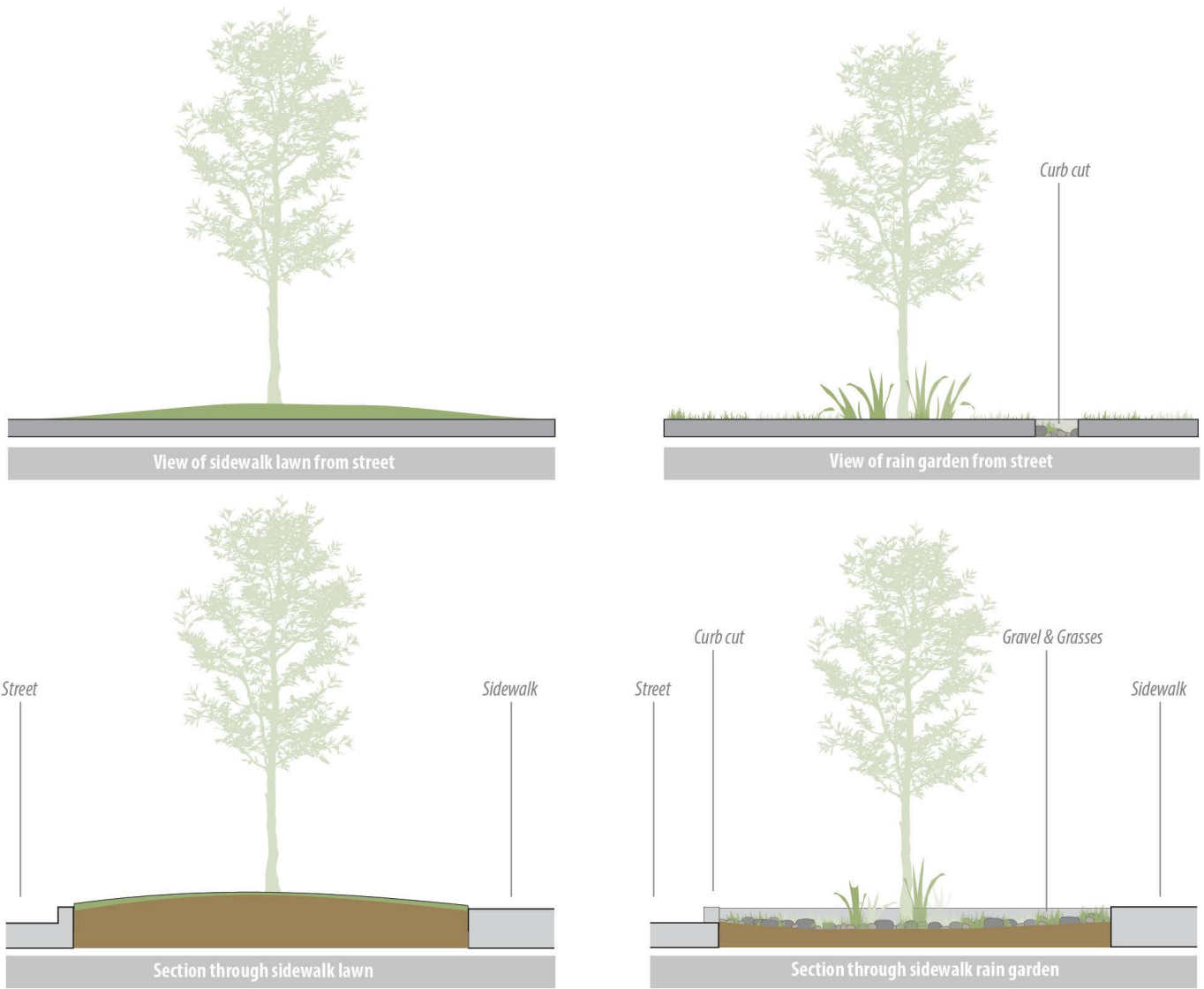


FIGURE 4.17 *Street Modifications for Stormwater Management*



WILLOW ENTRANCE PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The park at the intersection of Willow Street and Golden Avenue is the largest and most visible park in the neighborhood and has a number of established trees. Seasonal grasses grow during rainy seasons, and patches of ivy attempt to retain the sloping roadway easement that forms the northern boundary of the site. There is no buffer between the site and the adjacent high-speed road, and much of the easement slope is eroding. Although residents use the space for parties and informal recreation, there are no pedestrian amenities and the ground is difficult to traverse with exposed tree roots and bare dirt.

DESIGN FEATURES

Willow Entrance Park is a priority because the site is already used by residents who are enthusiastic about improvements in this location. It is highly visible and a source of community pride. *The RiverLink Plan* (2007) also recommends turning this open space into a community park and expanding into street right-of-ways wherever possible.

In general, pedestrian amenities such as trash cans, benches, and lighting are provided at appropriate intervals throughout the park. Residents preferred benches to tables although, if tables are included, they should be designed to discourage use by the homeless. Landscape improvements should use plants that discourage loitering in lower-visibility areas and tolerate seasonal flooding in infiltration areas. Drought tolerant plants and those that provide habitat are included throughout the design. Plants with vibrant colors are included at the entrances. **Table 4.38** summarizes the specific design features of the site.

Design Objectives

Add pedestrian amenities to accommodate residents' needs

Locate amenities away from roadway easement to protect park users

Create a buffer along Willow Street to define and protect space

Preserve existing trees for shade

Beautify areas near entrance to enhance sense of identity at neighborhood entrance

Manage runoff from Willow Street

Create opportunities for outdoor recreation

Use the Landscape Improvement Plan to guide planting decisions

TABLE 4.37 *Willow Entrance Park Concept Plan – Design Objectives*

Below, left to right. Erosion Along the Northern Edge of the Park; Lack of Buffer Between Park and Willow Street; Open Space with No Welcoming Point of Entry



DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Entrance Beautification	The park entrance includes a sign that designates the park with a name assigned by residents. Community members wanted to incorporate plants around this area to make residents feel welcome as they enter the neighborhood from Willow Street.
Walking Path	The walking path is meant to facilitate movement through the park and direct users toward the river access points to encourage use of the LA River Trail. The designated walking area can also limit soil compaction around existing trees and keep pedestrians away from the roadway easement.
De Forest Avenue Trail Extension	This feature can be constructed separately either before or after the park. The trail is part of the Street Improvement Plan and would connect to both river entrances at either end of the street and direct users into the park. The plan narrows the road right-of-way to accommodate a meandering pathway, which includes exercise equipment, bioswales, and fencing or a rock border to define the edge of the trail. Trees shade the pathway and lighting bollards are provided at regular intervals.
Dry Creek Bed	A dry creek bed can interact with the walking trail to connect users to the nearby LA River. Residents enjoyed the idea of walking over bridges while strolling along the pathway.
Exercise Equipment	Exercise equipment is located along the pathway to encourage outdoor recreation and promote interactions among community members. The presence of exercise equipment so close to the river access points may also encourage users to enter the neighborhood from the river trail and enjoy the neighborhood amenities. Keeping the exercise equipment concentrated in the western portion of the park allows for a variety of park experiences.
Open Space	Residents embrace the flexibility of this space and want to maintain some of the open area for picnics and unstructured play. The ground should be treated to address the gophers, and a low-water ground cover that can tolerate foot traffic should be used to define the space for passive use.
Slope Terracing	The sloping edge of the park is terraced to prevent erosion and increase the survival of plantings. Terracing creates 'stepping pools' that would allow water to infiltrate slowly without undermining the integrity of the slope.
Tree Buffer	Residents preferred planting a row of trees along Willow Street over planting new trees throughout the park. The tree buffer can help mitigate pollution from vehicles while also defining the space. The trees will also improve the pedestrian experience along Willow Street by creating shade and a sense of human scale.
Bulb-outs	The residents wanted to use bulb-outs to define the edge of the park and slow traffic turning into the neighborhood. Planting trees in these bulb-outs can help shade parked cars and provide areas to infiltrate stormwater.

TABLE 4.38 Willow Entrance Park Concept Design Features as Determined by Participants

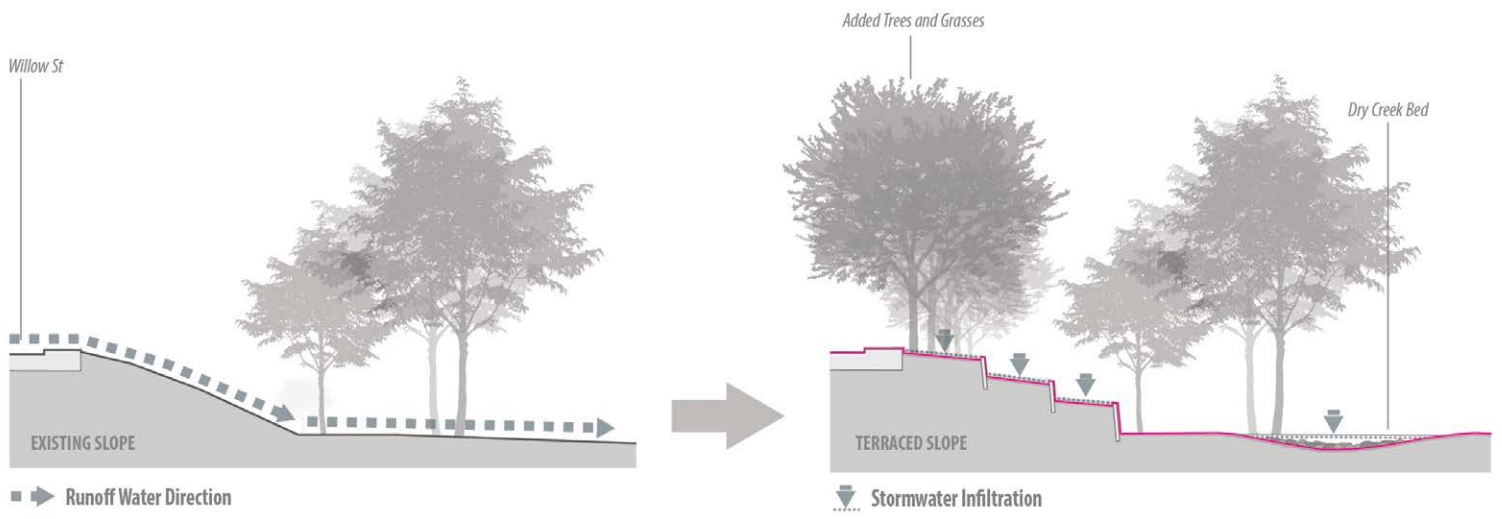
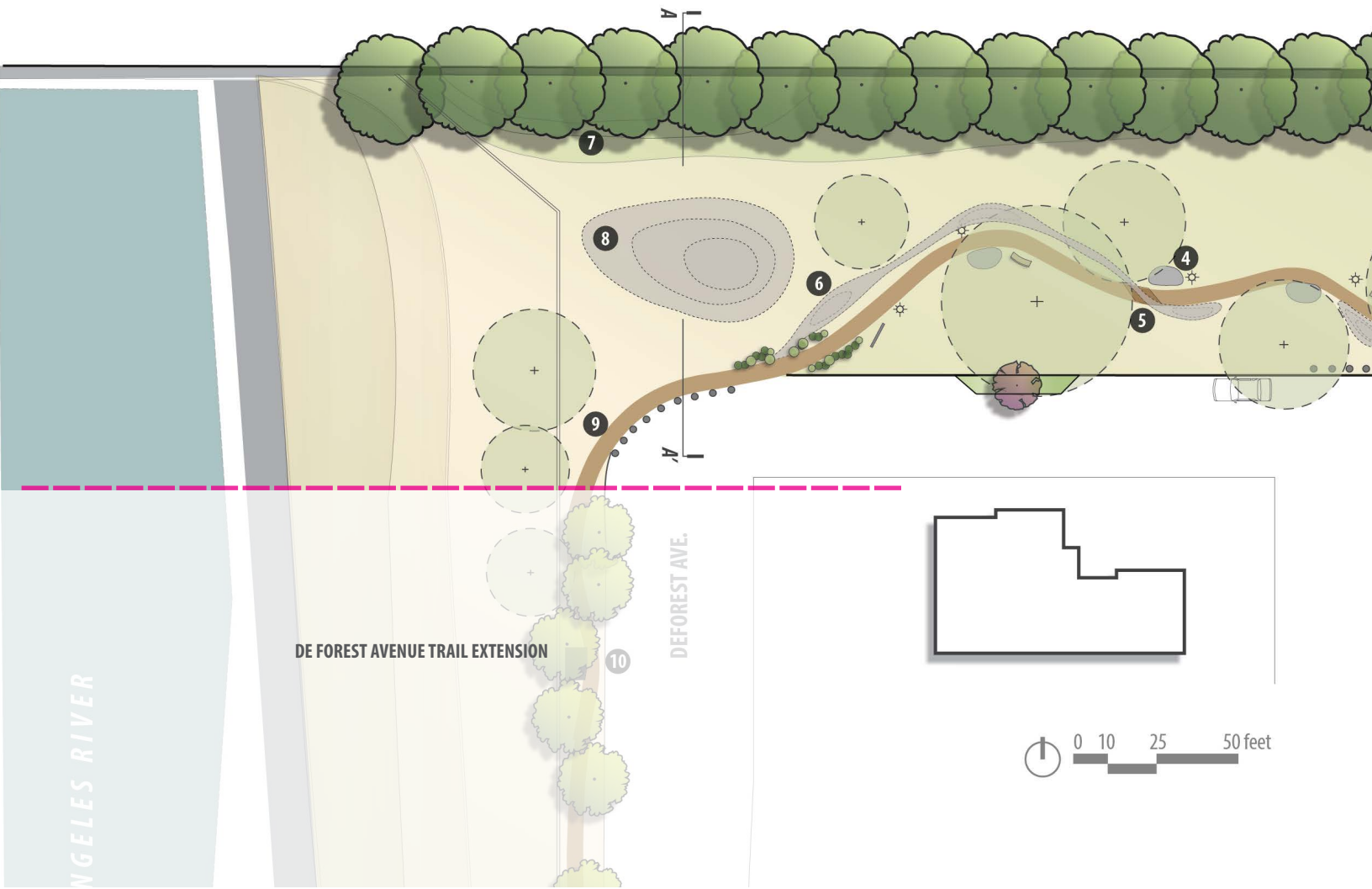
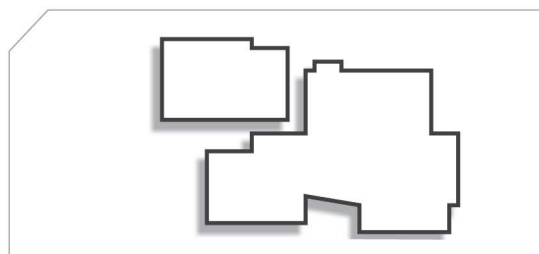
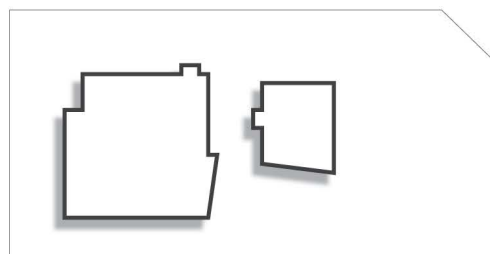
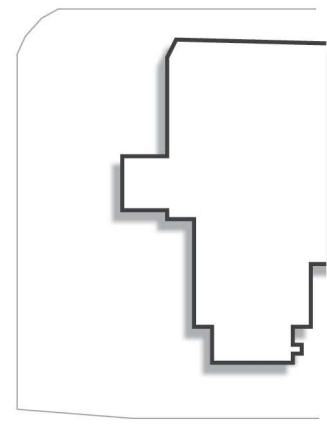
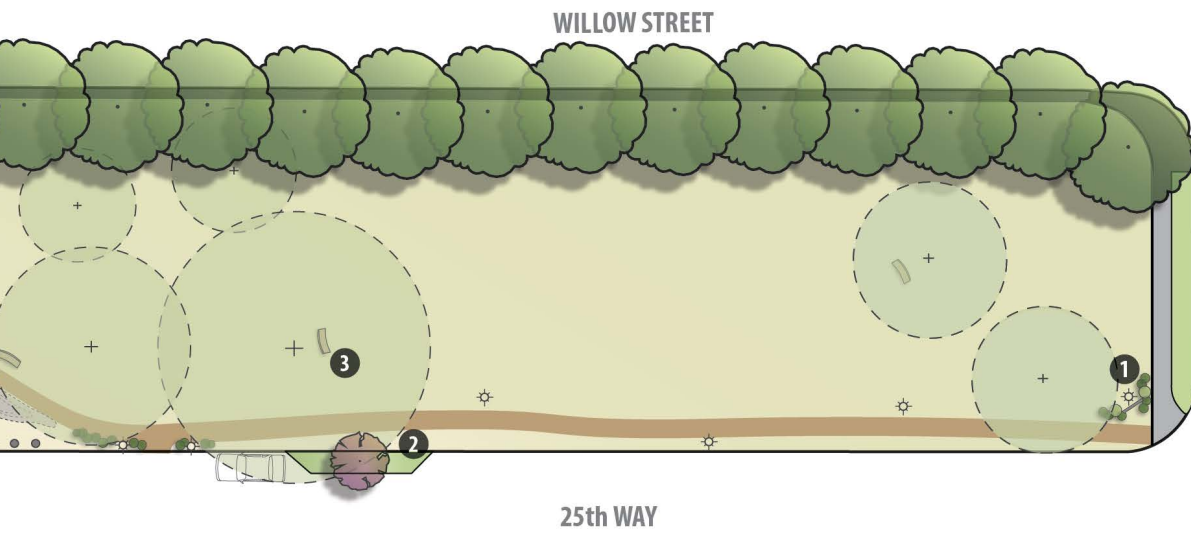
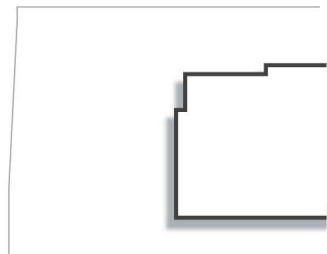


FIGURE 4.18 Willow Entrance Park – Concept Plan, Terracing Diagram, and Section



GOLDEN AVENUE



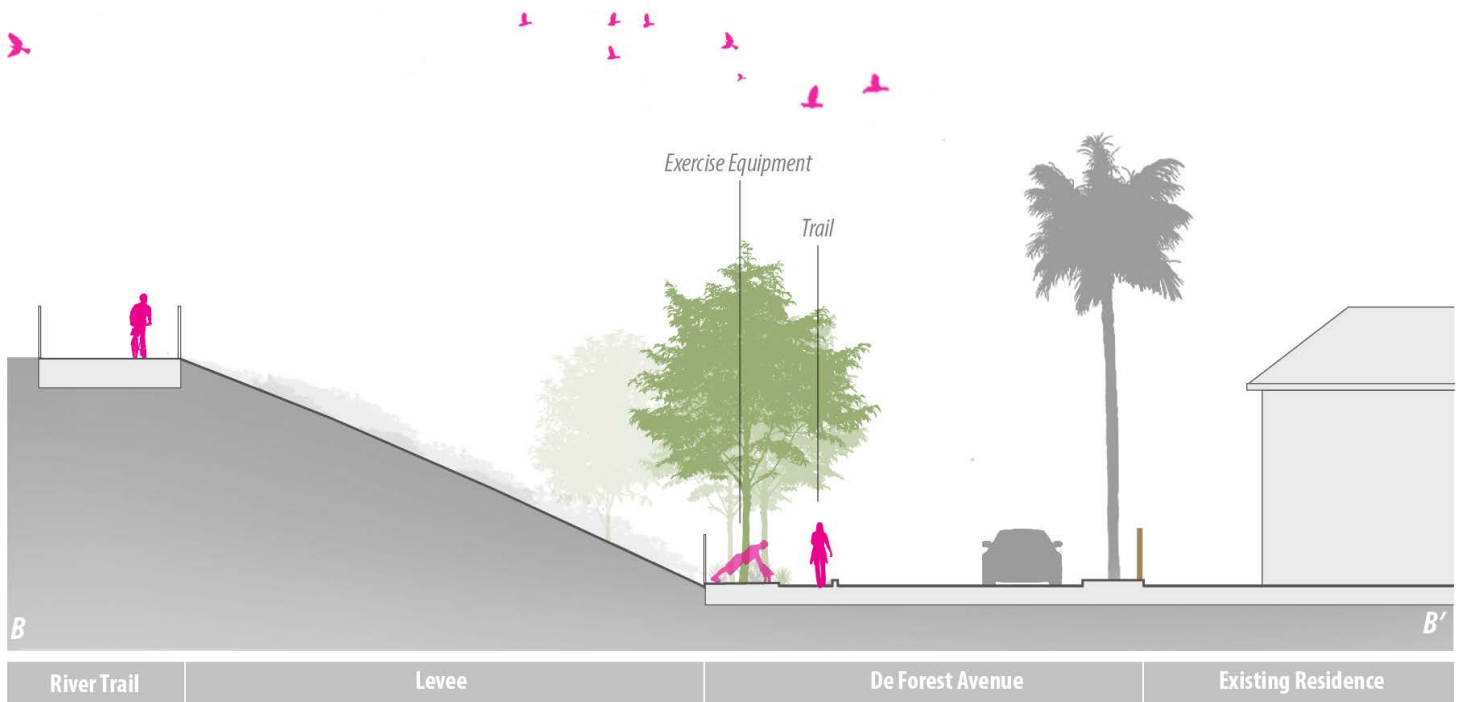
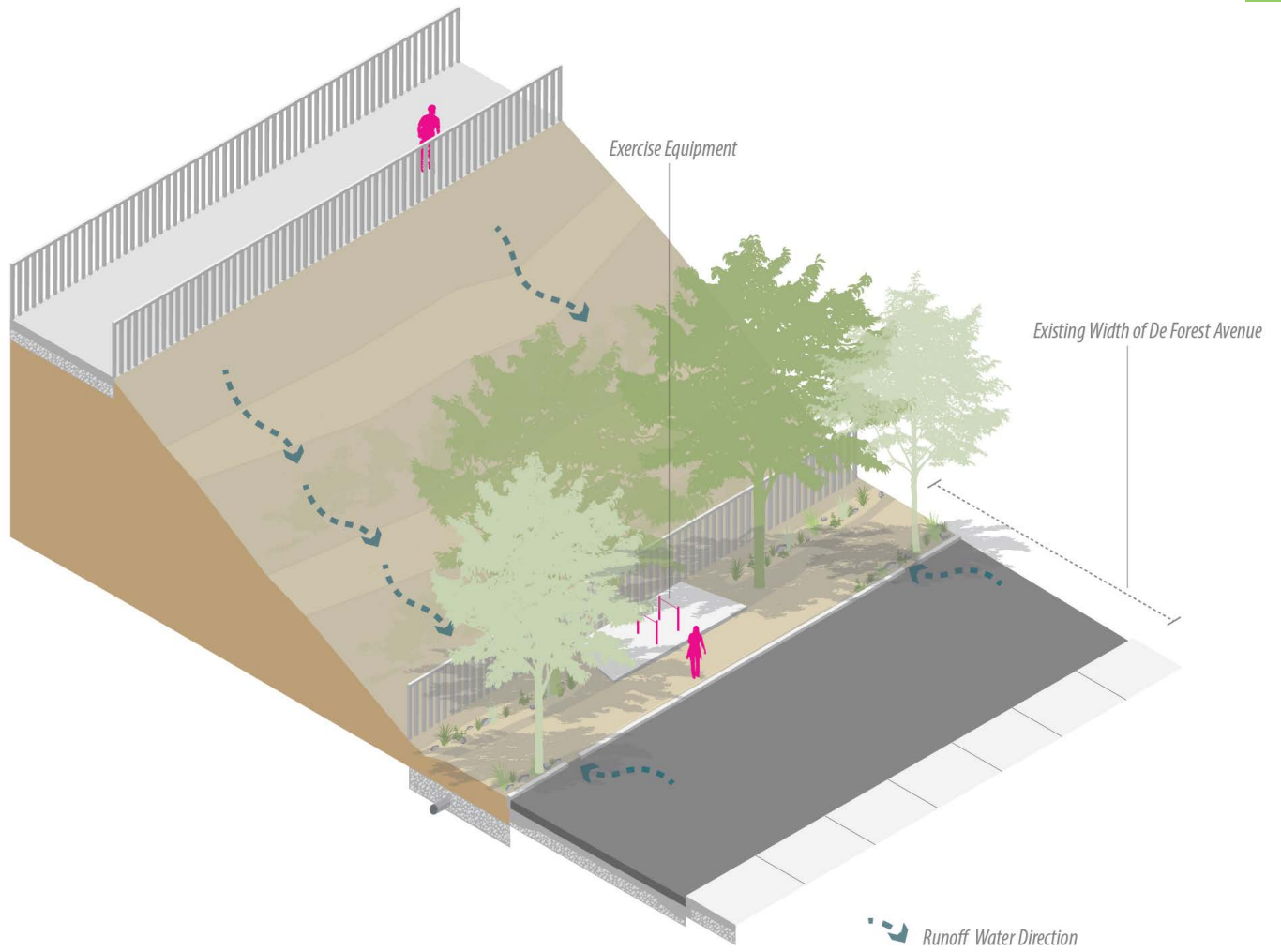
- 1 Neighborhood Identity Sign
- 2 Parklet
- 3 Bench
- 4 Exercise Equipment
- 5 Bridge Over Swale
- 6 Swale
- 7 Terraced Slope
- 8 Infiltration Basin
- 9 Decomposed Granite Path
- Bollards
- ⊕ Existing Trees



Section A-A' through Willow Entrance Park



FIGURE 4.19 De Forest Avenue Trail Extension – Concept Plan, Section, and Waterflow Diagram



Section B-B' through De Forest Avenue and River Trail

19TH STREET PLAZA

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The end of 19th Street has a broken basketball hoop mounted to the fence along the river levee and debris accumulates throughout the area. Due to the absence of homes on either side of the street and the lack of use of surrounding areas, the end of the street has also become a popular place for people to loiter in their vehicles. The adjacent landscapes are comprised mostly of overgrown weeds. There are no amenities in the area.



Design Objectives

Provide multiple recreational opportunities, especially for youth and young adults

Create active uses to catalyze ownership of river-adjacent landscapes

Create active use to improve visibility of other river-adjacent areas

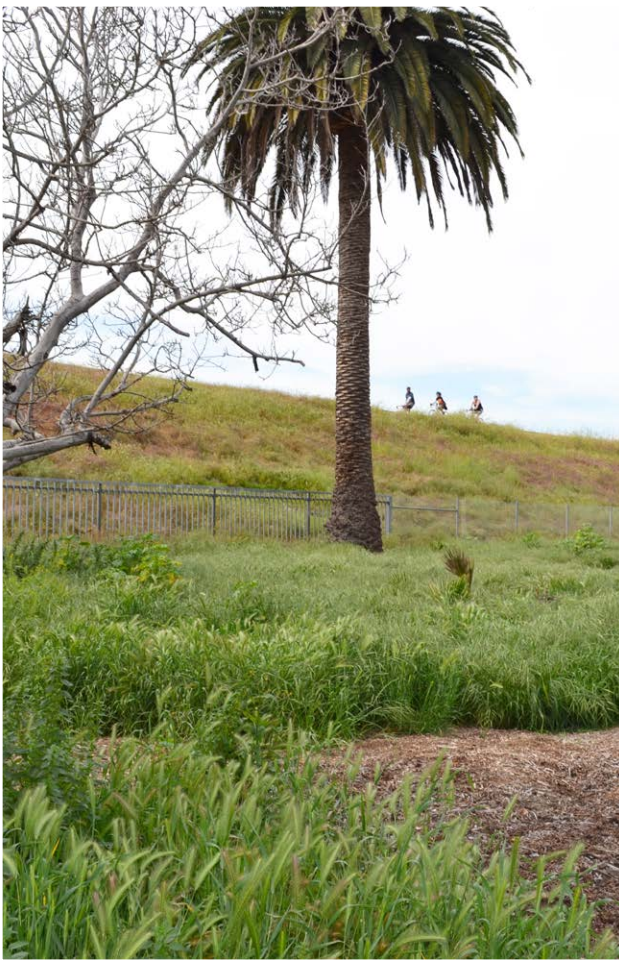
Provide buffer to protect surrounding neighbors

Limit vehicular access to define area as community space

Use the Landscape Improvement Plan to guide planting

TABLE 4.39 *19th Street Plaza Concept Plan – Design Objectives*

Left. Trash and Debris Accumulate at the End of 19th Street



Above, left to right. Vacant Land Next to the Site is Covered in Overgrown Weeds; Broken Basketball Hoop Indicates Past Recreation Use



DESIGN FEATURES

Of the vacant land that characterizes the southern portion of the neighborhood along the edge of the river levee, the end of 19th Street is the most visible area from within the neighborhood. For this reason, construction of this portion of the plan should occur prior to developing the other landscapes along the river (Cressa Park North and Cressa Park South). By activating this river-adjacent landscape and inviting community members to take ownership of this space, residents will become more comfortable using the area along the river for recreation, and increased use will serve to mitigate homeless encampments and illegal dumping.

According to residents, lighting and surveillance is a key part of this plan. Currently, this area along the river lacks sufficient lighting to ensure the safety of community members. At least one surveillance camera should be included in the skate park, and a perimeter fence with a lockable gate should be considered as a strategy for reducing nighttime use of the park. Having a city attendant lock the gate will also ensure surveillance of the site.

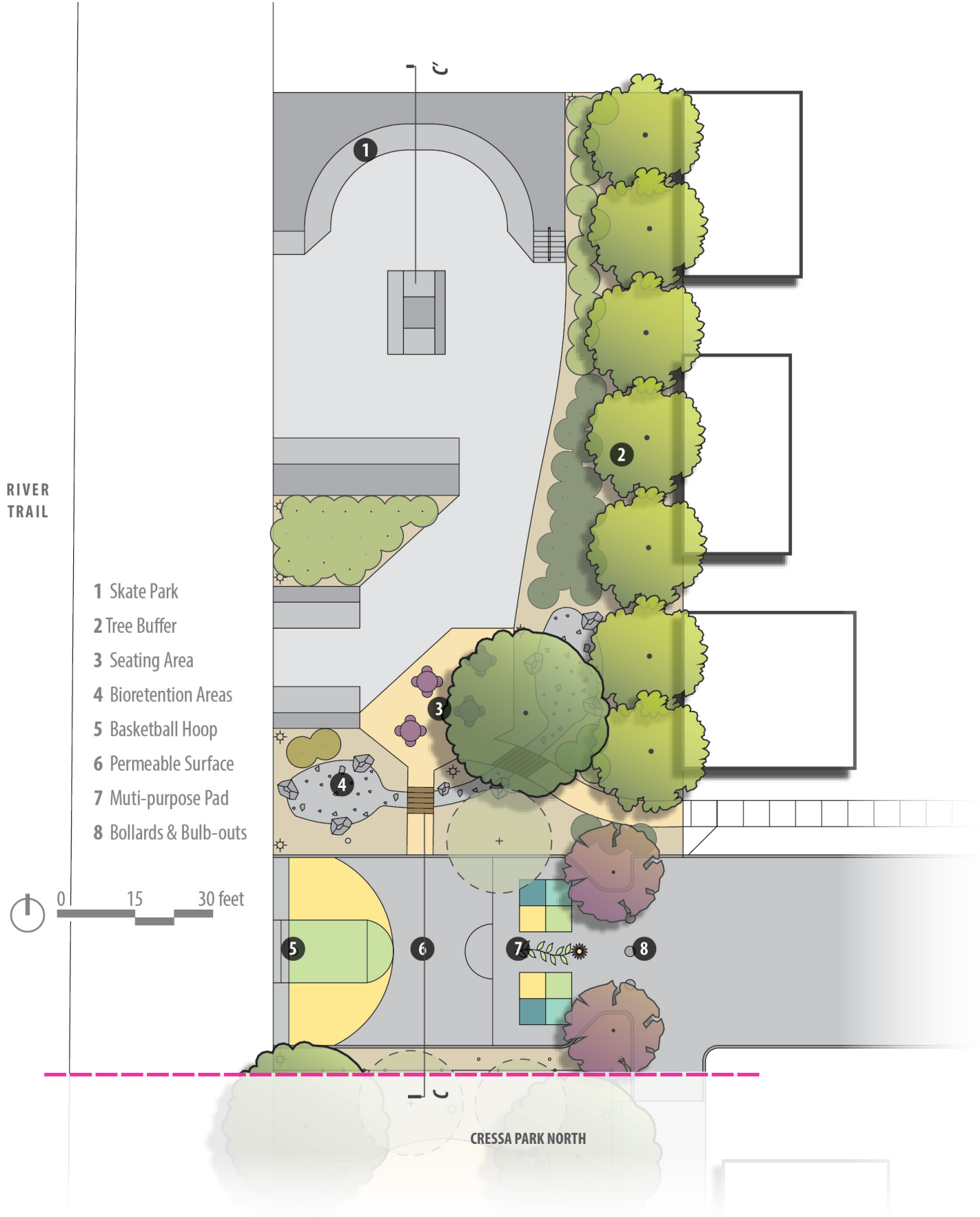
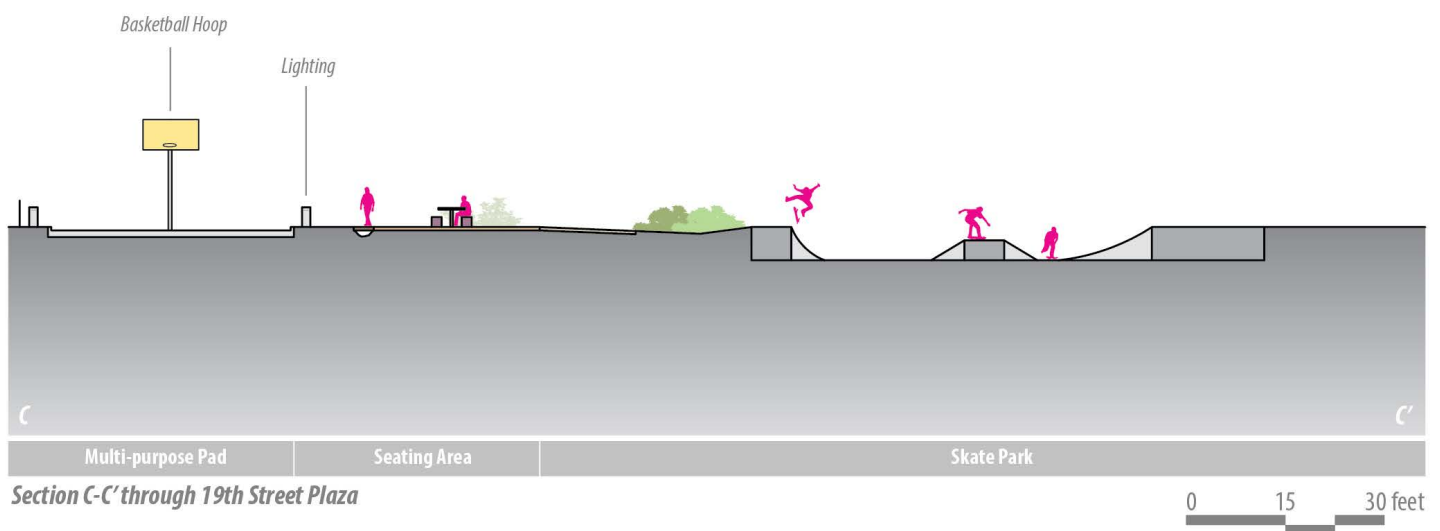


FIGURE 4.20 South Wrigley 19th Street Plaza – Concept Plan and Section

DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Basketball Hoop	The basketball hoop reflects the existing conditions of the site. Residents installed the existing hoop, so installing a permanent structure demonstrates respect for their desires.
Multi-purpose Pad	The surface in front of the basketball hoop can be painted with various lines to accommodate a basketball court key and other activities such as four square or hopscotch. Providing a variety of court options increases the flexibility of the space and makes it appealing to a wider variety of users.
Permeable Street Surface	The street surface is designated as permeable asphalt or concrete to accommodate recreation activities while allowing for infiltration. The space will not allow regular vehicular traffic.
Bioretention Areas	Run-off from the playing surface and skate park is redirected into bioretention areas. Appropriate landscape plantings are included to help filter the water and improve site aesthetics.
Skate Park	This is an important amenity for young community members who are not involved in structured recreational activities such as after-school sports. This group can become active supporters of utilizing river-adjacent landscapes.
Bollards and Bulb-outs	Separation between the plaza and the rest of the street is important for creating a sense of enclosure without reducing visibility of the area. These design features will also limit vehicular access.
Seating Area	Appropriately designed seating invites community members to enjoy the space, without accommodating sleeping. Seating can be attached to the ground to prevent theft, and designed to discourage use by the homeless.
Tree Buffer	The tree buffer along the eastern edge of the skate park is important for creating a sense of separation between the skate park and adjacent homes. These trees will also provide passive cooling for the homes and garages next to the plaza.

TABLE 4.40 *19th Street Plaza Concept Design Features as Determined by Participants*



CRESSA PARK NORTH

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Burdened by years of inactivity and lack of maintenance, Cressa Park appears to be abandoned. Weeds outnumber the native plants in the park. *Urtica dioica* (Stinging nettle), which is a major skin irritant, dominates the vegetation. The park is surrounded by a black chain-link fence, and there are two entrances connected by a meandering path. However, this path is almost unrecognizable due to the overgrowth of weeds. The entrance that leads to 19th Street has removable bollards at the entrance intended to allow maintenance vehicles to access the park. The other entrance leads to the alleyway behind the homes on San Francisco Avenue. This alleyway surface is worn and cracked and in need of repair. To the south, the park is bordered by a private storage garage. The western edge of the park is adjacent to the river levee, creating a sense of separation between the park and the LA River Trail. There is no lighting, seating, or trash cans to encourage use of the space. Currently, illegal dumping and homeless encampments are a deterrent to use.

Design Objectives

Add amenities to encourage active use and there by increase safety

Plant strategically to maintain visibility in the park

Plant to minimize maintenance and water-use

Utilize stormwater management techniques

Provide seating areas to encourage socializing

Provide trees to shade seating areas

Use the Landscape Improvement Plan to guide planting decisions

TABLE 4.41 *Cressa Park North Concept Plan – Design Objectives*

Left. Lack of Amenities and Ongoing Maintenance in Cressa Park





Above, top to bottom, left to right. Cressa Park North is Visible from the LA River Bike Trail; Parking Garage Divides Cressa North from Cressa South; Chain-link Fence Defines the Perimeter of the Park

DESIGN FEATURES

Once the 19th Street Plaza has been established and community members are actively using the river-adjacent landscapes, Cressa Park North could be cleared of debris and prepared for installation of a dog park. According to residents, the dog park would need to be broken up into two spaces for small and large dogs. In general, seating is designed to discourage the homeless, and lighting is installed throughout the entire park. Trash cans are provided at regular intervals as well as dog waste bag dispensers. Residents would like to have water fountains for their dogs on both sides of the park. The landscape would be planted to minimize maintenance, and trees line the park to provide shade for visitors.

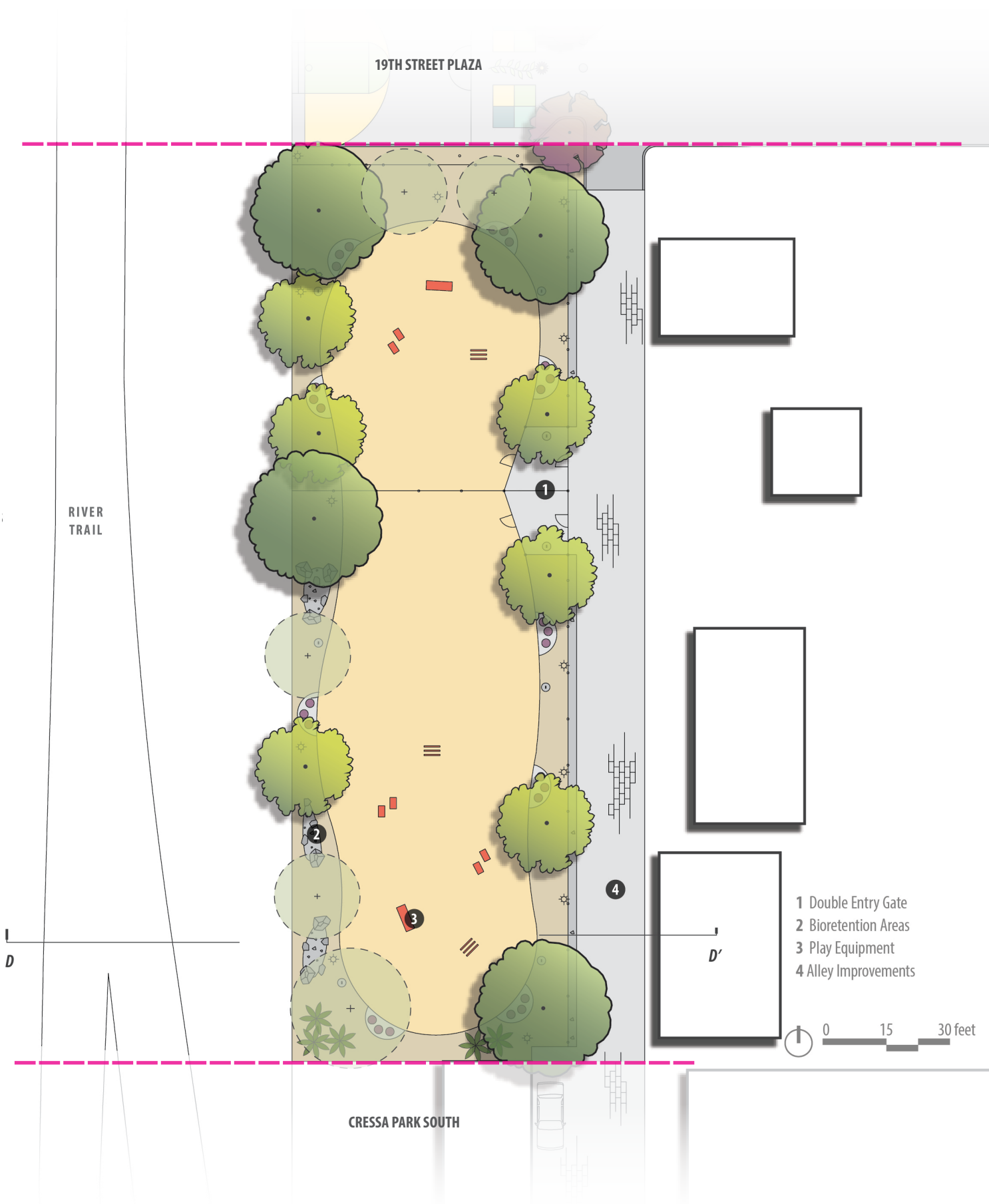
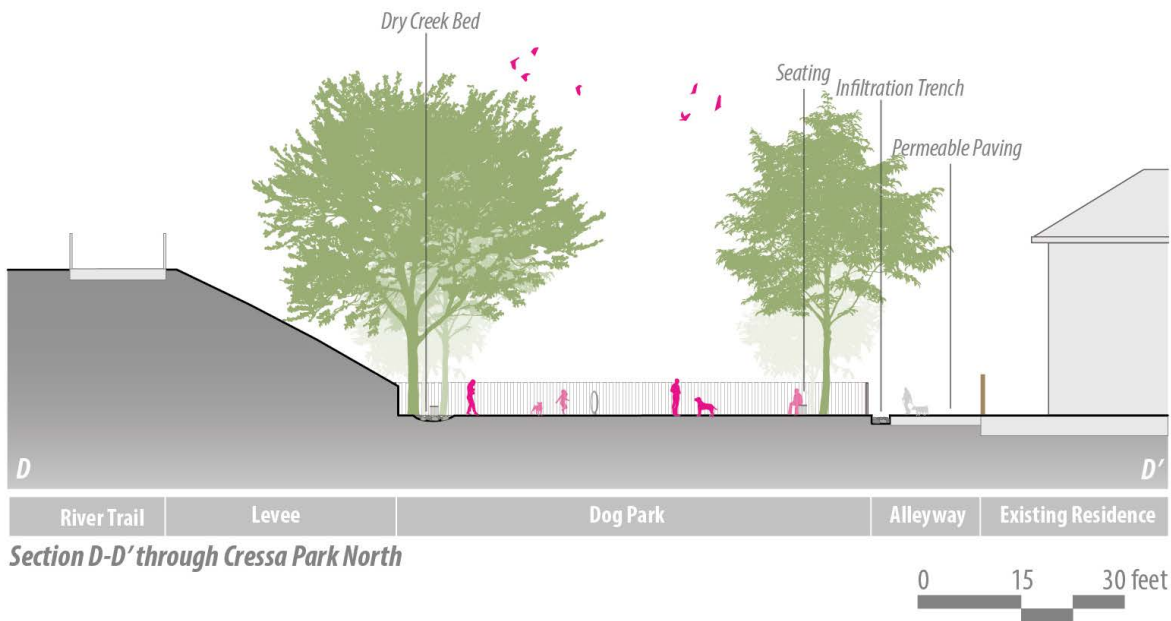


FIGURE 4.21 Cressa Park North – Concept Plan and Section

DESIGN FEATURE	
Double Entry Gates	The entrances to the dog park are located centrally and moved away from the 19th Street Plaza to prevent users from interrupting adjacent activities. The location is visible from 19th Street. Double entry gates are required to prevent dogs from escaping.
Play Equipment	Play equipment will help enrich the experience for dogs and owners. Equipment is clustered to leave some open space for users to play fetch and allow dogs to run freely through the park.
Bioretention Areas	Bioretention areas are located along the perimeter of the park. Slight variations in topography create a more interesting landscape while directing water for infiltration.
Alley Improvements	Alley improvements will enhance the park entrance experience. Permeable asphalt or pavers and a trench along the perimeter of the park fence allow for infiltration.

TABLE 4.42 *Cressa Park North Concept Design Features as Determined by Participants*



CRESSA PARK SOUTH

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The southern portion of Cressa Park is poorly maintained and under-used. The weeds outnumber the native plants and the meandering trail is overgrown. This portion of the park is separated from its northern counterpart by a garage and private yard. The alleyway to the east connects the two portions of the park. The same berm separates the park from the river, however, the berm dips down as it moves south to allow for the PCH overpass. To the south of the overpass is the entrance to the river. Visitors must walk beneath the underpass to get from the river entrance to Cressa Park. There is a Goodwill Store next to the river entrance, and according to residents, this is one of the reasons the underpass has become a dumping ground. Goodwill is unable to accept many large items such as mattresses and instead of disposing of them properly, people drive around the corner and dump them beneath the overpass. This area is also where the city dumps its mulch. There area has become littered with massive amounts of trash and piles of mulch. There is also a problem with homelessness in the area due to its lack of visibility from the street. In the event of rain, the runoff from PCH is directed into this area, but there is no storm drain and the area is prone to flooding.

DESIGN FEATURES

Close proximity to the river trail entrance will encourage trail-users to stop and visit the park. The park will become a workout destination for the people walking the trail. Lighting, seating, and trash cans are included throughout the plan. Defensive planting strategies are used in areas where visibility is low.

Design Objectives

Relocate river access point to improve safety

Create buffer to define the edge of the park

Utilize stormwater management techniques to address runoff from PCH overpass

Plant strategically to maintain visibility from the river trail

Promote active use to increase the safety of the park and underpass

Provide amenities to encourage social gathering

Use native plants where possible to reflect the original design intent of the park

Use the Landscape Improvement Plan to guide planting decisions

TABLE 4.43 *Cressa Park South Concept Plan – Design Objectives*

Below. Lack of Amenities and Ongoing Maintenance in Cressa Park South



Below, top to bottom, left to right. View of Cressa Park South from Existing River Access Point; Runoff from PCH is Channeled into Cressa Park South; Community Members are Uncomfortable Using the Alley Next to the Park



CRESSA PARK NORTH

RIVER TRAIL

RIVER TRAIL



FIGURE 4.22 Cressa Park South – Concept Plan and Section

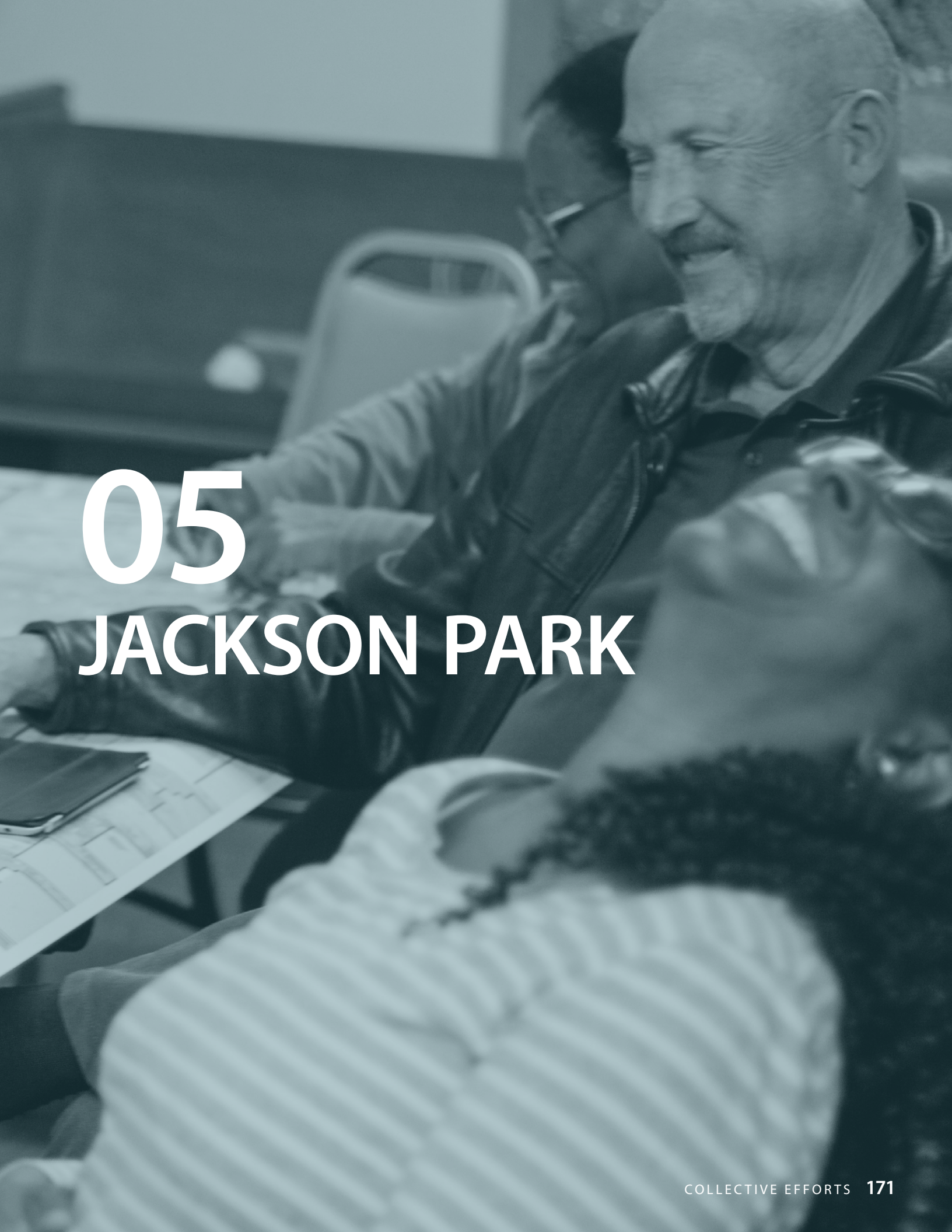
DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
River Trail Access	Moving the pedestrian access point next to the park would encourage users to use the space. It would also create a safe place for residents to access the trail without having to go underneath the PCH overpass.
Tree Buffer	A row of trees is used to help define the edge of the park leading up to the river access gate. It will create a separation from the underpass without completely blocking visibility.
Runoff Management	To address the runoff from the PCH overpass flooding the entrance to the park, a rock swale and drain pipes located below the trail are included to redirect water toward the park's bioretention areas.
Bioretention Areas	The bioretention areas are highly visible at the entrance of the park and narrow to accommodate a bridge to create a sense of entry. The bioretention area will connect to a secondary bioretention area planted with low growing shrubs and perennials. The plants will attract pollinators and birds and welcome them into the river-adjacent parks.
Bollards	Bollards are included to prevent drivers from pulling into the park to dump trash.
Exercise Equipment	To increase the activity in the park, exercise equipment is placed near the entrance. The equipment could become a node on the river trail and a meet-up location for residents.
Pathway	To emulate the previous intent of Cressa Park, a meandering path connects the exercise equipment area to the second park access gate.

TABLE 4.44 *Cressa Park South Concept Design Features as Determined by Participants*



Section through Cressa Park South





05

JACKSON PARK

5.1

WHERE IS JACKSON PARK?

The Jackson Park neighborhood is located in North Long Beach two miles east of the LA River. Jackson Creek, now a ten-foot wide concrete drainage channel, bisects the neighborhood and continues west to the LA River (**Figure 5.1**). The Jackson Park neighborhood is bordered by Market Street to the north and the Union Pacific Railroad corridor to the south. Orange Avenue forms the western border and the neighborhood extends east to Cherry Avenue.

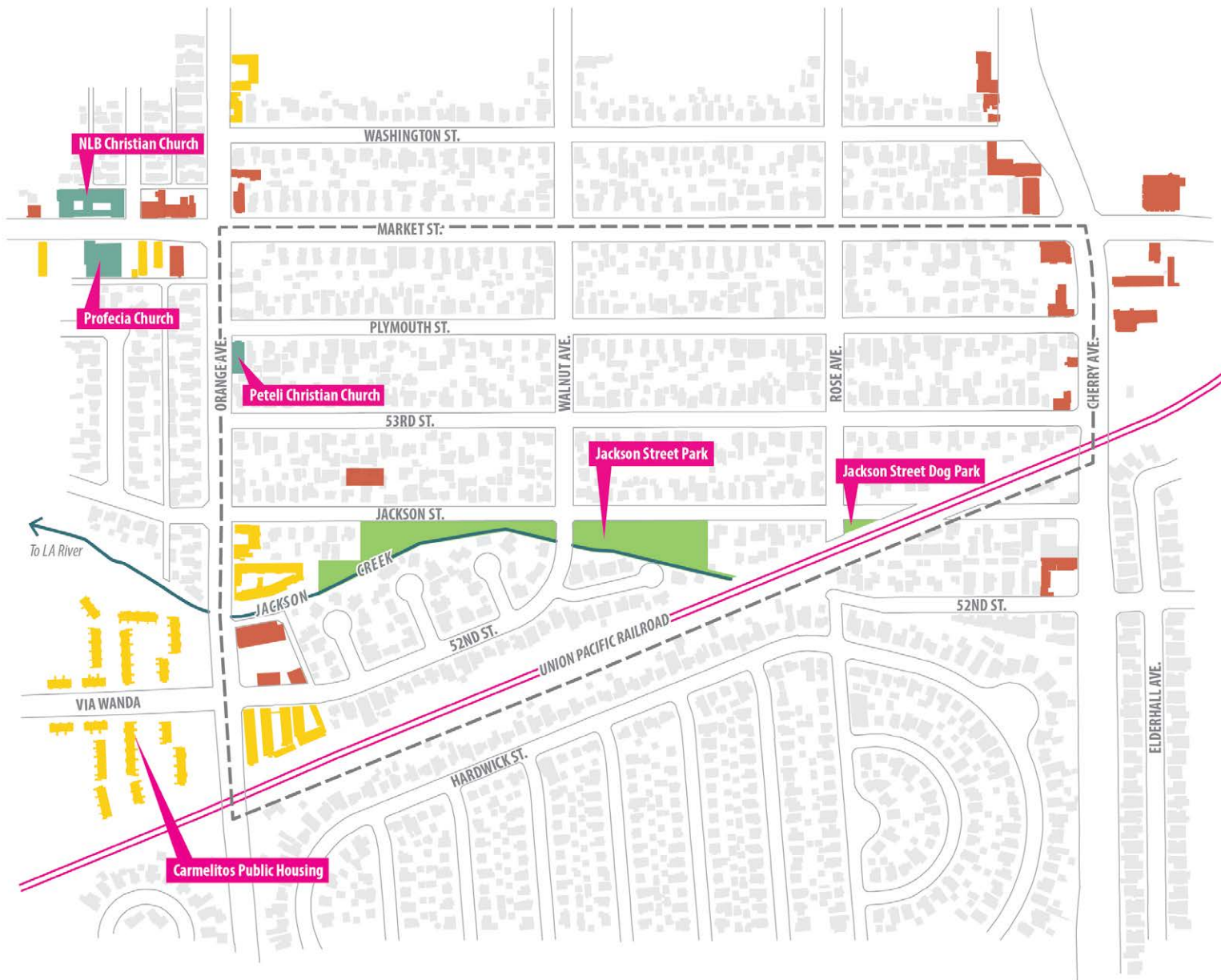
The neighborhood covers approximately 90 acres and encompasses primarily single-family homes and residential apartments with a small number of commercial properties along its periphery. The neighborhood is surrounded mostly by residential land use to the north, west and south, while most areas east of the neighborhood consist of industrial and commercial businesses.

On-street parking is allowed throughout the area along the two-way single-lane residential roads. Major thoroughfares such as Cherry Avenue, Orange Avenue, and Market Street are wider multi-lane streets that allow for higher-speed two-way traffic. Five foot sidewalks, and three to four foot grass easements between the street and sidewalk, exist throughout the area.

FIGURE 5.1 *Jackson Park Geographic Context*

Below, left to right. Jackson Street; Commercial Property on Cherry Avenue; Apartment Complex on 52nd Street; Elevated Union Pacific Railroad; Jackson Street Park





5.2

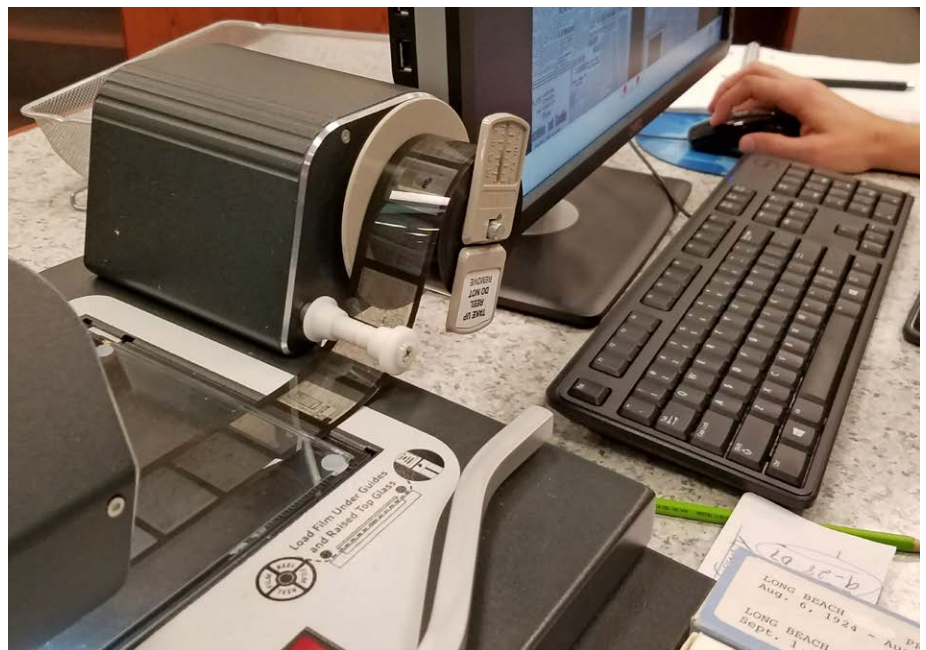
APPLICATION OF METHODS

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the Jackson Park neighborhood, the team identified a number of primary questions that helped guide the research and investigation efforts throughout the course of the project (**Table 5.1**). With these questions in mind, the project team chose the following methods: canvassing, interviews, field observations, data mining, and GIS mapping and analysis, community meetings, steering committee meetings, design workshops, and build days. The team used each of the methods at different stages of the project depending on the desired outcome (**Table 5.2** and **Table 5.2**).

TABLE 5.1 *Jackson Park Project
Methods Logic*

BIG QUESTION	SUB QUESTIONS	METHODS	
Who lives here?	What are the demographic characteristics of the neighborhood? How do the demographics compare to the broader region? What is the political context of this community? What are the unique characteristics of community members?	GIS Data Mining Interviews Canvassing	Field Observations Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings
What is the community's relationship with Jackson Creek?	Are people aware of their proximity to Jackson Creek? What are the attitudes and perceptions surrounding the channelized creek? Are they aware of the creek's connection to the LA River?	Field Observations Interviews	Canvassing Steering Committee Meetings
What are the existing assets of the neighborhood?	What are the opportunities and constraints facing this neighborhood? How do these impact what improvements can be made here?	Interviews Canvassing Field Observations	Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings Design Workshops
What are the immediate needs of residents in terms of improving their quality of life?	What are the issues faced by residents on a regular basis? What types of changes are most important to them?	Interviews Canvassing Field Observations	Community Meetings Steering Committee Meetings
Where should the community improvement projects be located?	Where are issues concentrated in the neighborhood? What is the community's preferred location for each of the projects? Where would projects have the greatest impact?	Field Observations Interviews	Steering Committee Meetings Community Meetings

Right. Microfilm Reader Used to Collect Historical Data



FINDINGS	IMPLICATIONS
<p>The neighborhood is predominantly Hispanic and low-income, with smaller communities of Pacific Islanders, Asian-Americans, African-Americans and Caucasians. This community is more diverse than most others in the focus area. Residents have low voter turnout and a significant portion of the community do not speak English.</p>	<p>The participatory design process and resulting designs need to respond to the culture and character of the neighborhood. If they do, the project approach will be relevant in other communities throughout the focus area. The neighborhood is a strong candidate for building political capacity through community engagement efforts.</p>
<p>Despite the chain-link fence that lines the channel, Jackson Creek is susceptible to graffiti, underage drinking, and littering. The channel is also prone to flooding. Residents consider the channel to be a nuisance and do not embrace its connection to the LA River.</p>	<p>The neighborhood vision plan should encourage interaction with Jackson Creek to promote positive associations with the channel. Efforts to revitalize the creek should be included in the later implementation stages of the plan.</p>
<p>Jackson Street Park presents the greatest opportunity for landscape improvements because it is central to the neighborhood and at the core of community identity. There are also several vacant or underutilized areas along the edges of the neighborhood that present opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>Concept plans should emphasize adding amenities to the existing Jackson Street Park, since this is a space that is already used frequently by residents. The rest of the plan should embrace making improvements to a variety of types of spaces throughout the neighborhood.</p>
<p>Residents are primarily concerned with issues of loitering, graffiti, and drug use around Jackson Street Park, which they perceive is a result of inadequate lighting and a general lack of amenities. Violence and crime are perceived as issues throughout the entire neighborhood.</p>	<p>The design objectives should address issues of vandalism and loitering in Jackson Street Park and identify strategies to improve safety and security throughout the neighborhood.</p>
<p>Neighborhood issues are concentrated in Jackson Street Park and improvement projects are preferred in this location. Community members also prioritize making improvements to vacant and abandoned areas along the perimeter of the neighborhood. These are areas that residents see when entering the neighborhood, and improvements would help generate a more positive sense of community identity.</p>	<p>Improvements should be concentrated in Jackson Street Park. Projects that contribute to a sense of community identity should be prioritized for development.</p>

	PHASE 1 Community Outreach and Engagement			PHASE 2 Neighborhood Vision Planning			PHASE 3 Final Project Implementation		
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Canvassing	█			█					
Interviews				█					
Field Observations	█			█			█		
Data Mining		█		█			█		
Mapping and Analysis				█			█		
Community Meetings		█							
Steering Committee Meetings			█	█			█		
Design Workshops					█				
Build Days			█					█	

TABLE 5.2 Jackson Park – Use of Methods Throughout Project Development

METHOD	GROUPS INVOLVED	PARTICIPATORY TECHNIQUES
Canvassing	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Community Members	Informal Conversations
Interviews	Project Team, Conservation Corps Members, Community Members, Stakeholder Representatives	Informal Conversation
Field Observations	Project Team	N/A
Data Mining	Project Team	N/A
Mapping and Analysis	Project Team	N/A
Community Meetings	Project Team, Steering Committee, Community Members	Open Discussions, Brainstorming, Mapping Exercises, Pro/Con Analysis, Preferencing, Voting
Steering Committee Meetings	Project Team, Steering Committee	Open Discussions, Brainstorming, Mapping Exercises, Pro/Con Analysis, Preferencing, Voting
Design Workshops	Project Team, Steering Committee, Community Members	Open Discussions, Mapping Exercises, Group Discussion, Site Design
Build Days	Project Team, Steering Committee, Community Members	Site and Material Preparation, Assembly

TABLE 5.3 Jackson Park – Application of Methods

Key Canvassing Questions

- How long have you lived in the neighborhood?
- If you use local parks, which parks do you tend to visit?
- What do you like to do at the park?
- Are there any improvements you would like to see made in the neighborhood?
- Can we count on you to attend a community meeting/design workshop?
- May we have a phone number or email address to contact you about future meetings/events?

TABLE 5.4 *Jackson Park – Key Canvassing Questions*

Canvassing Dates

- Saturday, October 22, 2016
- Monday, October 24, 2016
- Saturday, October 29, 2016
- Friday, November 4, 2016
- Friday, November 11, 2016
- Monday, November 14, 2016
- Friday, November 18, 2016
- Monday, November 21, 2016
- Saturday, November 26, 2016
- Thursday, December 7, 2016
- Friday, January 27, 2017
- Saturday, January 28, 2017
- Friday, February 17, 2017
- Saturday, February 18, 2017

TABLE 5.5 *Jackson Park – Canvassing Dates*

Right. Project Team Member Canvassing in Jackson Park

5.2.1 CANVASSING

Canvassing was used to develop an understanding of Jackson Park, meet the residents, explain the project, and build relationships with potential future participants (**Table 5.4**). During the initial outreach and engagement phase, the goal was to recruit residents to serve on a leadership steering committee that would guide the development of the second and third phases of the project. During the neighborhood vision planning phase, canvassing was used to invite residents to attend the design workshops.

Canvassing occurred during daylight hours throughout all phases of the project (**Table 5.5**). Depending on the number of students present, the team stayed together or split into two groups to canvass both sides of the street simultaneously. The team provided bi-lingual fliers (Spanish and English) to explain the objectives of the project. Refer to **Appendix C** for documentation of the outreach materials and response results for this method.



INTERVIEWEE	INSIGHT
District 8 City of Long Beach Councilmember	<p>The Councilmember for District 8 hoped to coordinate the neighborhood vision planning process with existing proposed projects in the area. He agreed to feature the project team in a promotional newsletter to aid their outreach and demonstrate the intent to collaborate. However, at a later interview the Councilmember was concerned about his relationship with the Department of Parks Recreation and Marine (PRM).</p>
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) City of Long Beach Parks Director	<p>The project team learned that PRM does extensive work on community outreach and engagement for many of the city's projects, however it lacks the mechanisms for supporting community-led projects that originate outside the department. Efforts by the project team were considered contradictory to current PRM process and protocol with regards to public projects. The CCLB, supported by PRM, could be an avenue for collaboration for future 606 projects and community based landscape improvements.</p>
City Fabrick Executive Director	<p>The executive director of City Fabrick acknowledged the challenges of working with the City of Long Beach and promoted an “ownership to stewardship” process that emphasized building support through the community whenever possible. The more authentic the process, the more the community will buy into it. He also emphasized maintenance as an integral part of every plan.</p>
LA-Mas Co-Executive Director	<p>LA-Mas does not operate in Long Beach but was able to advise the team how to work more effectively within the community. One of the co-executive directors shared with the team that a community should inform design and the design's success depends upon community ownership. She encouraged the team to seek like-minded organizations, such as City Fabrick, to improve outreach and effectiveness.</p>
Swamp BBQ Business Owner We Care Long Beach Executive Director	<p>This business owner/organizational leader has had a long history of community involvement in Jackson Park. His interviews were used to develop a better understanding of the neighborhood and identify ways to engage local businesses in the organizing process. Swamp BBQ picnic events were an effective tool that brought community members together for the final build project. His We Care Long Beach Foundation gives teens access to technology to combat violence.</p>
North Long Beach Christian Church Reverend	<p>The North Long Beach Christian Church provides neighborhood sports recreation facilities, religious services and a safe forum for various social groups. The reverend aided the project team by shedding light on the numerous ethnicities living in Jackson Park and the local institutions that could provide resources for engaging different community members. She also allowed the project team to hold all of the community meetings and workshops at the church.</p>
Jackson Park Neighborhood Resident #1	<p>This resident was drawn to the project team's work because of the door-to-door approach. She helped the team understand social complexities within the neighborhood and supported the idea that small improvements can lead to major changes. She had experience with the district office and the Long Beach Democratic Club, which allowed her to be a key player in developing the Jackson/Bret Harte Neighborhood Association.</p>
Jackson Park Neighborhood Resident #2	<p>Thirty plus years working with power brokers at Long Beach Gas and Oil gave this resident the unique ability to educate the team on the intricacies of Long Beach politics. He favored a collaborative approach with city entities such as PRM. His contacts in the city council helped the team understand the complex nature of public projects and steered the advocacy strategy toward a long-term open and collaborative effort with city staff and the district council office.</p>

TABLE 5.6 *Jackson Park – Interview Results*

Key Interview Questions

How can the team reach community members who don't speak Spanish or English?

How can the designs for the commercial area fit into the specifications of ownership?

How can the community rebound from the conflict with PRM and develop a more collaborative relationship?

What resources can the community tap into to bring more positive municipal attention to Jackson Park?

How can the community get replacement benches in Jackson Park?

What types of DIY efforts worked with city entities in the past?

TABLE 5.7 *Jackson Park – Key Interview Questions*

5.2.2 INTERVIEWS

The project team used interviews to gather and share information (**Table 5.7**). Interviews were conducted in person by either the project team or a single team member and used a semi-structured format with handwritten notes. The interviews ranged in length from 15 to 90 minutes. The purpose of the interviews was to communicate with local stakeholders (residents, political leaders, city staff, non-profit organizations, and local businesses) about the objectives of the project, to collect information about community priorities, and to learn more about existing projects in the area (**Table 5.6**).

5.2.3 FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The project team used field observations to document the spatial distribution and severity of issues in the neighborhood. This included identifying issues such as infrastructure degradation, trash and litter, environmental pollution, and areas that lacked seating. The team documented these issues using field observation maps. See (**Section 5.3**).

5.2.4 DATA MINING

The team used data mining to determine the historical, political, cultural, environmental, and social characteristics of the neighborhood. Research concerning the neighborhood's history was conducted at the Long Beach Public Library where the team reviewed microfilms. Other data sets were primarily from local and regional government agencies. See (**Section 5.3**).

5.2.5 GIS MAPPING AND ANALYSIS

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were used to map issues and factors concerning the Jackson Park neighborhood. This was done through combining data from participatory mapping exercises, existing data sources, and field observations. GIS was also used in interpreting key neighborhood inventory issues identified by the community. See (**Section 5.3**).

5.2.6 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community meetings occurred during the initial outreach and engagement phase and the final project implementation phase. The team selected various activities to address key questions. All meetings were held at the North Long Beach Christian Church (NLBCC) directly adjacent to the neighborhood. See (Section 5.4)

Community Meeting One

The first community meeting was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016. As a result of the initial canvassing efforts, there were six people in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to learn about the Jackson Park neighborhood and identify a list of ideas for the first build project (Table 5.8).

Community Meeting Two

The second community meeting was held on Friday, December 2, 2016. Additional canvassing recruited three more community members for a total of nine attendees. The goal of this meeting was to select the initial build project by having participants answer key questions about each of the potential projects identified during the first meeting (Table 5.9).

Community Meeting Three

The third community meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 during phase three of the project. A total of 12 community members were in attendance, most of whom had participated in the initial community meetings or design workshops. The goal of this meeting was to discuss in detail the final build project and discuss the priorities of the neighborhood association that was created as a result of the project (Table 5.10).



Key Questions – Community Meeting One

What is your experience of living in the neighborhood?

What are some key assets, or things you value in the neighborhood?

What are some concerns you have about the neighborhood?

TABLE 5.8 *Jackson Park – Key Questions for Community Meeting One*

Key Questions – Community Meeting Two

What does the neighborhood need that can be provided by the build project?

What should this project look like?

Where should this project be located?

What items and tool are needed to complete the project?

TABLE 5.9 *Jackson Park – Key Questions for Community Meeting Two*

Key Questions – Community Meeting Three

What are the ultimate goals you have for the Jackson Park community?

How can the community get political representation to pay more attention to them?

Who should we meet with first, the political representative or the city entity?

What can the community of Jackson Park offer the city and political establishment to encourage more collaboration?

TABLE 5.10 *Jackson Park – Key Questions for Community Meeting Three*

Left. Mapping Exercise Presentation by a Community Member

Right. Steering Committee Meets in Jackson Park to Discuss Build Project



Key Questions – Committee Meeting One

Where will the build project function most successfully?

How far away does the build project need to be from other site amenities?

What are the exact material requirements of the project?

TABLE 5.11 *Jackson Park – Key Questions for Committee Meeting One*

Key Questions – Committee Meeting Two

What are your thoughts about the completed project from phase one?

What neighborhood areas should be the focus of the project moving forward?

What should be the objective of the first design workshop?

How should the team conduct further neighborhood outreach and are there any specific individuals that should be contacted?

TABLE 5.12 *Jackson Park – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Two*

5.2.7 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The project team asked community members if they were interested in joining a steering committee, a group of individuals that would take on a leadership role to make key decisions throughout the project. The steering committee was intended to be representative of the community and evolve over time, with some members leaving and other residents joining after being recruited through ongoing canvassing efforts. The steering committee typically included five residents. See (Section 5.4).

Steering Committee Meeting One

The first steering committee meeting took place in Jackson Street Park on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The goal of the meeting was to finalize the exact location of the build project, take precise measurements of the site where the build project would be located, and review the final construction documents for the initial build project (Table 5.11).

Steering Committee Meeting Two

The second steering committee meeting was held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the NLBCC. Four committee members were in attendance. The goal of this meeting was to work with committee members to identify which areas of the neighborhood

were priorities for making improvements and review the strategy for the upcoming design workshops (Table 5.12).

Steering Committee Meeting Three

The third steering committee meeting was held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Jackson Street Park with six committee members in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to distill the results of first design workshop and identify three to six priority sites that would be designed over the next two workshops (Table 5.13).

Steering Committee Meeting Four

The fourth steering committee meeting took place on April 11, 2017 at the NLBCC. Six committee members were present at the meeting. The goal was to discuss details of the Jackson Park advocacy efforts and discuss design and implementation of the final build project (Table 5.14).

5.2.5 DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Design workshops were used during the neighborhood vision planning phase to identify potential improvements throughout the project area and develop design alternatives for the project sites. These design workshops used participatory techniques to guide community members through the process of developing design solutions. All workshops were held at the NLBCC. See (Section 5.4).

Design Workshop One



Key Questions - Committee Meeting Three

What sites are most appropriate for the project?

What are the opportunities and constraints for each site?

TABLE 5.13 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Three

Key Questions - Committee Meeting Four

What does advocacy look like?

Are there any opportunities to build on public land?

How can we move forward with advocacy?

TABLE 5.14 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Committee Meeting Four

Key Questions - Design Workshop One

Where should improvements be located throughout the neighborhood?

What are the priority programming elements that should be included in the neighborhood vision plan?

TABLE 5.15 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Design Workshop One

Left. Using Participatory Techniques to Generate Design Alternatives

Right. Table Set-Up for Design Workshop Activity



Key Questions - Design Workshop Two

How can the project sites be improved using the selected program elements?

Where should the elements be located?

TABLE 5.16 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Design Workshop Two

Key Questions - Design Workshop Three

What are the differences and similarities between the design alternatives?

What design features should be developed further?

Which design features should remain as they are?

Which design alternative most accurately reflects the community's intentions for the project site?

TABLE 5.17 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Design Workshop Three

Key Questions - Design Workshop Four

What are the details that the community would like to incorporate into the final concept designs?

What is the community's preference for next steps for the project in the short-term?

TABLE 5.18 Jackson Park – Key Questions for Design Workshop Four

The first design workshop was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. As a result of canvassing efforts and ongoing support from the steering committee members, there were a total of 12 residents in attendance. The goal for the first workshop was to work with residents to map community priorities for making improvements that addressed: accessibility, beauty, public health, environmental health, and safety (**Table 5.15**).

Design Workshop Two

The second design workshop was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 with 13 residents in attendance. This workshop followed the steering committee meeting where committee members identified five project sites. The purpose of workshop was to work with residents to create conceptual design alternatives for the each of the five sites (**Table 5.16**).

Design Workshop Three

The third design workshop was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 with 14 residents in attendance. The purpose of the third workshop was to have community members select their preferred design alternative and make suggestions for how the design could be improved (**Table 5.17**).

Design Workshop Four

The fourth design workshop was held on April 4, 2017 with 12 residents in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was

to work with community members to refine the details of the concept designs and to discuss the next steps for the build project that would occur during the final project phase (**Table 5.18**).

5.2.6 BUILD DAYS

Build days were used at the end of the community outreach and engagement phase as well as during the final project implementation phase. The purpose of build days was to work collectively with community members to make immediate improvements to their neighborhood. Prior to build days, the team would develop construction documents based on community designs, and would work with steering committee members to create a list of construction materials and build day tasks. **Appendix C** includes all construction documents used for both the initial and final build day projects. Build days occurred over consecutive days, typically on weekends, and involved activities such as clean-up, wood-cutting, site preparation, installation, planting, and painting. See (**Section 5.4**).

Initial Build Days

The build day for the initial project phase took place on December 10, 2016 in Jackson Street Park with different community members participating at various times throughout the day. Community members and the project team focused on sanding and painting wood surfaces, mixing and pouring

Below. Community Members Work Collectively to Mix Concrete for the Initial Build Day





Above. Community Members Participate in a Variety of Activities for the Final Build Days

concrete, and assembling the initial build project. The purpose of the initial build days was to generate momentum for the project, engage community members, and establish local ownership over neighborhood improvements.

Project Removal

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) informed the 606 Studio that the city had made a decision to remove the initial build project from Jackson Street Park. The project team was told that PRM would review structural drawings to determine if the build project was in compliance with city standards. However, prior to submission, the city attorney deemed the project a hazard to the community and the project was removed on May 5, 2017.

Final Build Days

There were five final build days held at the Orange Avenue commercial area (Table 5.19). A total of 21 community members were involved, with the highest level of attendance occurring on the last day. Final build days one and two focused on site preparation with the primary activities including demolition, debris removal, and soil amendment. On build day three, the team worked with community members to install infiltration trenches, while build day four focused on constructing planter boxes. Build day five centered on installing plant material and participating in a kick-off barbecue event.

Final Build Project Dates

Friday, May 12, 2017

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Friday, May 19, 2017

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Saturday, May 26, 2017

TABLE 5.19 Jackson Park – Final Build Project Dates

5.3

NEIGHBORHOOD INVENTORY RESULTS

5.3.1 INVENTORY OVERVIEW

Conducting a neighborhood inventory provided a foundation for ensuring plans were reflective of community-specific issues. The inventory topics were based on the results of the community meetings, interviews, outreach efforts, and design workshops. Using content analysis techniques, the team identified patterns in community responses to determine the key neighborhood issues. The team used data mining, GIS mapping, and field observations to complete the inventory. The results yielded design implications that the team used to guide the goals and objectives of the final neighborhood vision plan.

5.3.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

It was important to determine the demographic characteristics of the project area to ensure the community was representative of the other neighborhoods in the Lower LA River Corridor (**Table 5.20**). It also enabled to the team to verify that steering committee members were representative of the neighborhood population.

TABLE 5.20 *Jackson Park
Demographic Comparison*

STUDY REGION	BLACK	ASIAN	WHITE*	2+	OTHER	HISPANIC*	BELOW POVERTY	MEDIAN INCOME
Jackson Park	13%	26%	27%	5%	25%	45%	19%	\$49,000
Lower LA River Corridor	10%	7%	41%	4%	36%	75%	22%	\$44,500
Gateway Cities	8%	8%	47%	4%	30%	68%	17%	\$54,800

* Per U.S. Census Data, Hispanic includes both White and Non-White Hispanic demographics. White includes both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White. The total can be greater than 100%.



MEET THE PEOPLE OF JACKSON PARK

HATTIE HERRING

The paramedics arrived quickly while 65-year-old Hattie Herring was still non-responsive. Hattie was in the ictal phase of a seizure, while a group of panicked neighbors scrambled to shove tables and make room. Twenty minutes later, the seizure was over and Hattie was awake and answering questions from the paramedics. The residents, all of whom had gathered at the NLBCC for a design workshop, were relieved to know that their neighbor and friend would be okay.

For over fifteen years, Hattie Herring has been a vital and energetic member of the Jackson Park community. That Tuesday evening in mid-March, she took time out of her busy schedule (and in spite of various health concerns) to work with her fellow residents to refine design alternatives for selected sites in their neighborhood. Hattie attended both steering committee meetings and design workshops throughout the course of the year, and her dedication was crucial to the success of the project.

Outside of her work with *Collective Efforts*, Hattie volunteers with the Long Beach Democratic Club and the Martin Luther King Democratic Club, which both focus on increasing awareness of issues affecting low-income and African American residents in the North Long Beach area. She was also a member of Beta Pi Sigma, which is a sorority of professional women that seeks to inspire civic engagement, provide scholarships, and promote projects that benefit local communities. Hattie worked in advertising for both the Long Beach Press-Telegram and the Long Beach Unified School District, which enabled her to establish a magazine devoted to increasing awareness of issues that are important to the local African American community.

Hattie finds the time and energy to do all this while caring for her granddaughters, whose mother and father both work full-time. Spending time with family has always been important to Hattie. Her father had 13 children and, as the second oldest among them, Hattie was expected to help raise her siblings while both parents worked. This spirit of selflessness and devotion to family is still one of Hattie's most defining characteristics.

As a student at Cal State Long Beach, Hattie studied under Congressman Alan Lowenthal, the U.S. Representative for the 47th District. She earned her degree in Community Clinical Psychology, a major that she created because she believed that Freudian psychology, with its cultural basis in central Europe, did not always apply to African-Americans. Frustrated with the lack of application to her own community, Hattie petitioned the psychology department and created her own major.

Hattie was drawn to *Collective Efforts* because she supported the door-to-door canvassing approach that the team used to recruit community members, and she knew firsthand that small incremental improvements had the power to build momentum and create substantial change. She saw the project as an opportunity to create change in the neighborhood of Jackson Park. Hattie was a source of strength throughout the project, and her support and enthusiasm for community advocacy inspired others to embrace the collective mindset. Participatory design projects such as *Collective Efforts* would not be possible without the dedication and support of community members like Hattie Herring.

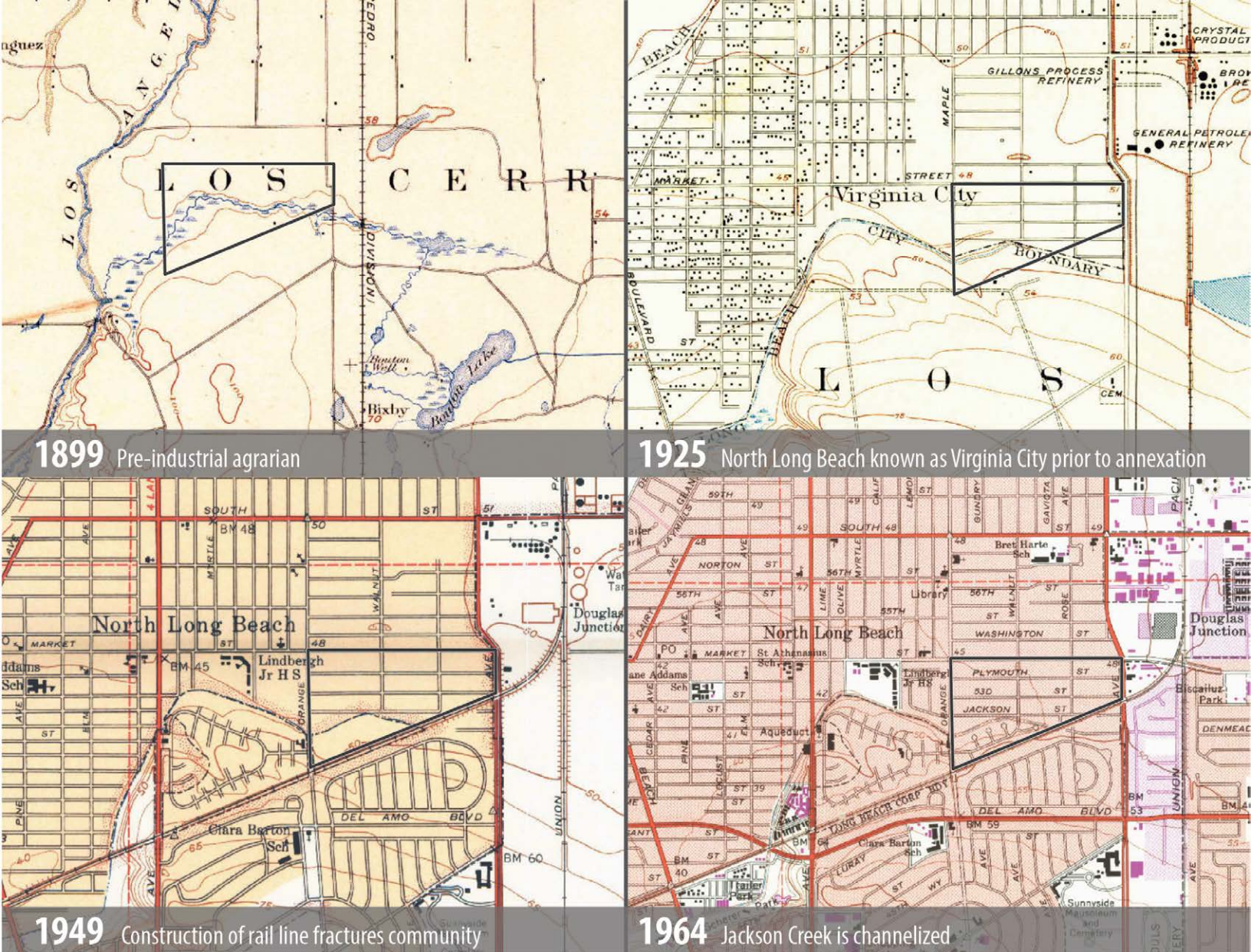


FIGURE 5.2 USGS Topographic Maps Illustrating Evolution of Jackson Park Neighborhood

5.3.3 HISTORIC CONTEXT

Until the early 1900s, the area that would become Jackson Park was comprised of forests and farmland, especially asparagus, sugar beet, and dairy farming (LBDT, 1907). In 1907 the Jackson Park Land Company secured land for residential development and carved 50-foot by 170-foot subdivision lots (LBDT, 1907). Jackson Park was once part of Virginia City before it was annexed into the City of Long Beach. The area evolved into a working class neighborhood between 1925 and 1949 when the Union Pacific Railroad laid track leading from the military reservations north of the Port of Long Beach to the City of Los Angeles. The railway cut through the southern boundary of the neighborhood and separated the community from those south of the railroad tracks. Jackson Creek was channelized in 1964, which further divided its small neighborhood and defined its geographic context (**Figure 5.2**).

Defining Jackson Street Park

Jackson Street Park is important to the identity of the neighborhood. Throughout the project the name of the neighborhood became a significant topic of discussion and it was decided early on to refer to the neighborhood as *Jackson Park*. However this created confusion when trying to refer to the actual park. To make it clear, *Jackson Park* is used to refer to the neighborhood, *Jackson Street Park* is used to refer to the park itself.



5.3.4 NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

During meetings and workshops the Jackson Park community often expressed that they did not feel as though their neighborhood had a central identity. Some residents stated that Jackson Street Park reflected the identity of the community, but had trouble characterizing the identity of the park. The park lacks basic amenities such as seating, shade, or defined recreation areas. In general, residents reported that the space felt neglected and under-utilized. Residents felt a strong connection to the park, but agreed it needed to be improved in several ways before it accurately reflected their collective identity.

Other residents thought the commercial malls along the periphery of the neighborhood defined the community identity. Residents explained that because these commercial areas were prominently located at the entrances to the neighborhood, they felt familiar. However, these areas also lacked amenities and community gathering spaces. Residents were being welcomed home each day by unwelcoming public and commercial landscapes, which inherently shaped their perception of the neighborhood.

The prevalence of public art was positive in the neighborhood. The murals, more so than parks and open spaces, reflect the culture and vibrancy of community members.

Left, top to bottom. Commercial Area at Market Street and Orange Avenue; Mural Under the Railroad Corridor Bridge



5.3.5 SAFETY & SECURITY

Issues

Residents felt that the Jackson Park neighborhood was unsafe, primarily with respect to pedestrian safety, delinquent behavior, and a lack of lighting (**Table 5.21**). Walnut Avenue and Market Street are the two major streets in the neighborhood where residents feel excessive vehicle speeds threaten pedestrian safety (**Figure 5.4**). Residents reported delinquent behavior and criminal activity was observed regularly in the neighborhood, although crime statistics for the Jackson Park crime reporting district (CRD) indicate the neighborhood reports less criminal activity than average (**Figure 5.3 and 5.5**). The perceived lack of safety and security in the neighborhood presents an issue because residents are less likely to use public spaces, which in turn has the potential to actually make them less safe. The perceived lack of safety is partly due to the lack of lighting in Jackson Street Park (**Figure 5.6**). The neighborhood streets are well-lit, but the lack of lighting in the public park makes residents feel uncomfortable.

Opportunities and Constraints

Walnut Avenue and Market Street both present opportunities for reducing vehicle speeds and improving pedestrian safety. Speed bumps, painted crosswalks, stop signs, and traffic lights are all design features community members identified as potential strategies for addressing this issue. Reducing the number of traffic lanes while adding landscaped medians and bulb-outs strategically along these streets could slow traffic. These improvements would also provide environmental opportunities for treating runoff and mitigating pollution.

With respect to Jackson Street Park, there are opportunities for providing additional lighting and surveillance cameras. However, unless there are changes to the design of the park as well that encourage residents to take ownership of the space, instances of delinquent behavior may still be an issue. Programming areas where residents have felt unsafe for long periods of time is challenging. Focusing on strategies to connect different landscape improvements will be important for increasing the use of public spaces in the neighborhood.

Safety & Security Issues	
Pedestrian Safety	Residents felt that cars drove through the neighborhood too fast
Delinquent Behavior	Residents made note of drug-use, graffiti, and loitering
Lack of Lighting	Inadequate lighting made residents feel unsafe

TABLE 5.21 Jackson Park – Safety & Security Issues

Crime

Number of Crimes Committed

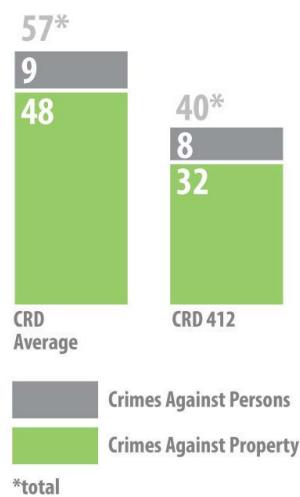


FIGURE 5.3 Jackson Park Crime Reporting District (CRD) 412 Compared to CRD Average for 2013 through 2016

Right. The Pedestrian Experience along Market Street makes Residents Feel Uncomfortable



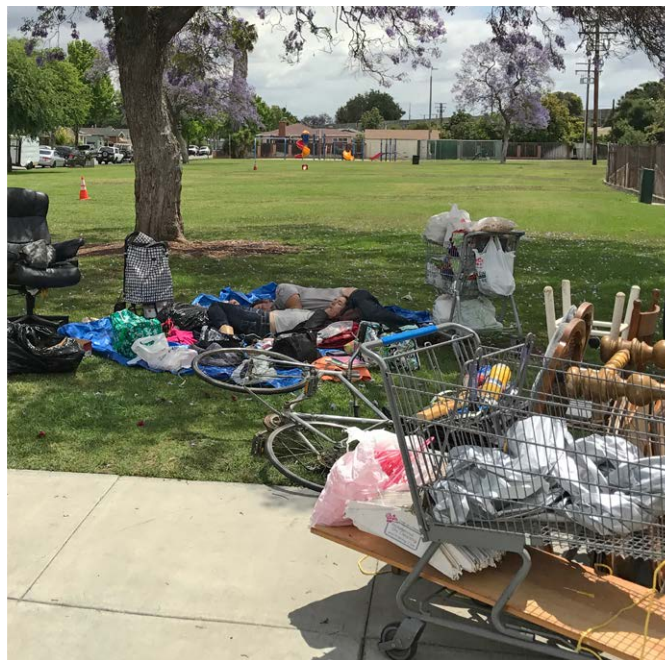
FIGURE 5.4 Jackson Park – Vehicle Speeding and Pedestrian Safety Concerns





FIGURE 5.5 Jackson Park – Reports of Delinquent Behavior

From left to right. Loitering Makes Residents Feel Uncomfortable; Lack of Lighting in Jackson Street Park; Remnant Landscape Between Homes and Rail Corridor Attracts Delinquent Behavior; Graffiti and Litter Influences Perception of Safety and Security



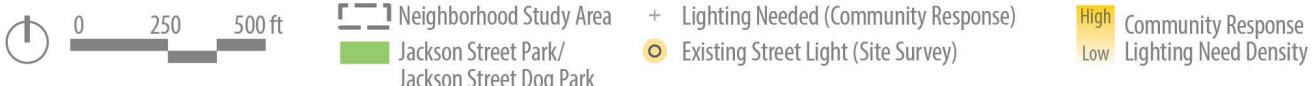
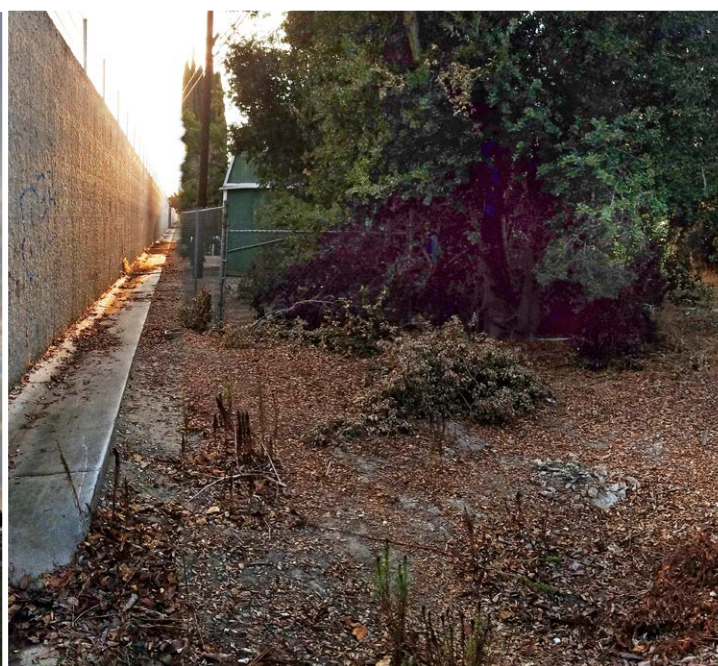


FIGURE 5.6 Jackson Park – Existing and Desired Lighting Locations



5.3.6 SEATING AREAS

Issues

Community members were concerned that Jackson Street Park lacked seating, especially in areas where residents congregate, such as at the children’s playground or under several of the more centrally located shade trees. Community members either sit on the lawn or bring their own chairs if seating is required at a park event. The lack of available seating in other public or semi-public spaces in the neighborhood, such as the dog park, at bus stops or within commercial areas, was not cited as a concern by community members (**Figure 5.7**).

Opportunities and Constraints

There are various opportunities throughout the neighborhood to provide seating that would have multiple benefits for the surrounding community. Seating in commercial areas could provide community members with public gathering spaces and potentially increase patronage to local businesses. Small individual benches could be placed along sidewalks and throughout parks to provide residents with a place to stop and rest. Clustered seating throughout Jackson Street Park would be ideal for accommodating social gatherings. Jackson Street Dog Park and the playground in Jackson Street Park should have benches to allow for supervision. The two biggest challenges of providing seating is to ensure that it will not create comfortable places for loitering, and that the design and placement will serve residents while adhering to city standards.

Below, left to right. Neighborhood Playground without Seating; Residents Sitting on the Grass; Jackson Street Dog Park’s Only Bench; Bus Stop Bench on Orange Avenue

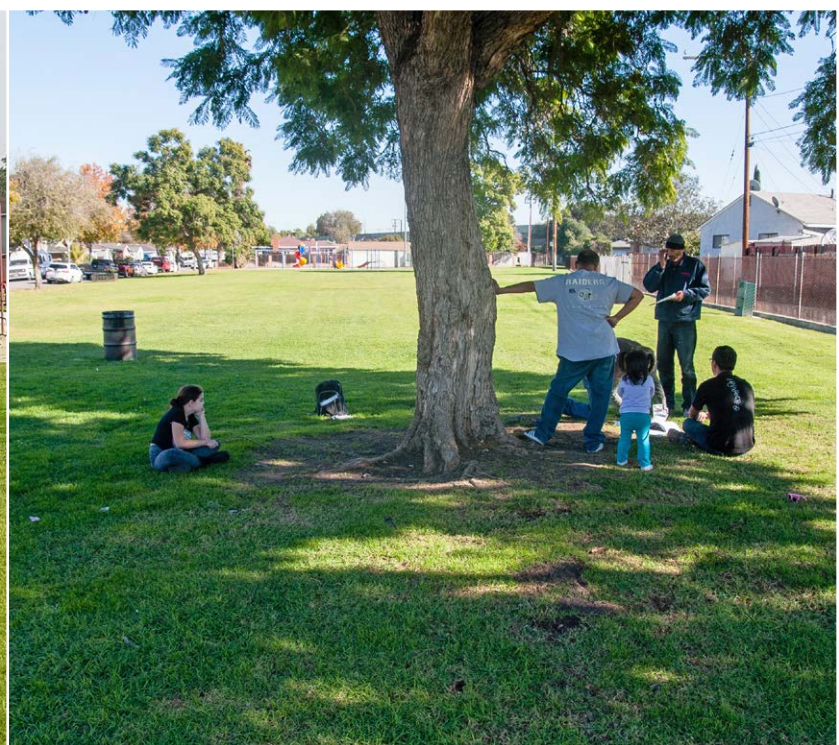




FIGURE 5.7 Jackson Park – Seating Inventory





Above. Broken Swing in Jackson Street Park

5.3.7 FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Issues

Community members reported that the broken swings in the children's playground in Jackson Street Park have not been repaired for several years. They also noted that streets and sidewalks were not being regularly maintained and cracks and potholes were common. The project team noted that these elements are in highly visible locations and tend to be seen by residents on a day-to-day basis. Other spaces that seem to be in need of maintenance include various landscapes between the rail corridor and neighborhood residences. However, residents did not seem to be as concerned with the maintenance of these areas because they do not visit these spaces regularly (**Figure 5.8**).

Opportunities and Constraints

There are opportunities for incorporating street and sidewalk repairs into renovation plans for the major streets in the neighborhood where proposed traffic calming measures would occur.

5.3.8 WASTE DISPOSAL

Issues

Jackson Park residents are concerned about the amount of trash and litter they observe in the neighborhood. This problem emanates from a variety of sources, including commercial areas

Right. Deteriorating Asphalt is Common in the Jackson Park Neighborhood



FIGURE 5.8 Jackson Park – Facility and Infrastructure Maintenance





FIGURE 5.9 Jackson Park – Waste Disposal Problem Areas





Above. Areas with Low Visibility Tend to Invite Littering

that do not properly dispose of trash, homeless encampments, and illegal trash disposal. Trash is concentrated in areas with low visibility, particularly along the channelized creek, and areas where homeless encampments tend to be located (**Figure 5.9**).

Opportunities and Constraints

Adding trash cans throughout the neighborhood is not prohibitively expensive, but trash cans can be stolen or vandalized and there are maintenance costs associated with emptying them regularly. Neighborhood associations could be developed and could address waste disposal issues through community-led clean-up days, but these can be frustrating if littering continues to be a problem.

Another strategy for addressing this issue is activating neglected spaces to increase the visibility of areas that are vulnerable to litter. This includes providing more amenities and opportunities for recreation to promote increased use of public spaces. Involving community members in the design process can encourage residents to become local stewards of their community spaces.

Left. Residents Associate Homeless Encampments with Excessive Trash and Debris

5.3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Issues

The project team observed flooding in the neighborhood during the winter months. Residents indicated flooding is most commonly observed in the western portions of Jackson Street Park and the intersection of Jackson Street and Orange Avenue. Residents were mostly concerned about how flooding and excessive runoff would carry trash and debris into local waterways. Community members reported seeing trash in the Jackson Creek drainage channel, which has negative environmental implications. Noise and air pollution are present in the neighborhood, but residents were not as concerned about these issues.

Opportunities and Constraints

Jackson Street Park has adequate space for constructing features such as rain gardens and bioswales. These features could be used to clean, detain, and infiltrate stormwater. Design solutions to improve stormwater quality must be paired with solutions aimed at addressing the waste and disposal issues in the neighborhood. Excessive trash and debris will end up in infiltration areas and cause maintenance to become more expensive. There sufficient space to consider naturalizing a portion of Jackson Creek, which could invite a closer connection between residents and the water feature. By interacting with the creek, residents can become more aware of seasonal water flows and local pollution sources.

Below, left to right. Inside the Jackson Creek Channel; Trash and Debris at the Edge of Jackson Creek



5.3.10 AESTHETICS

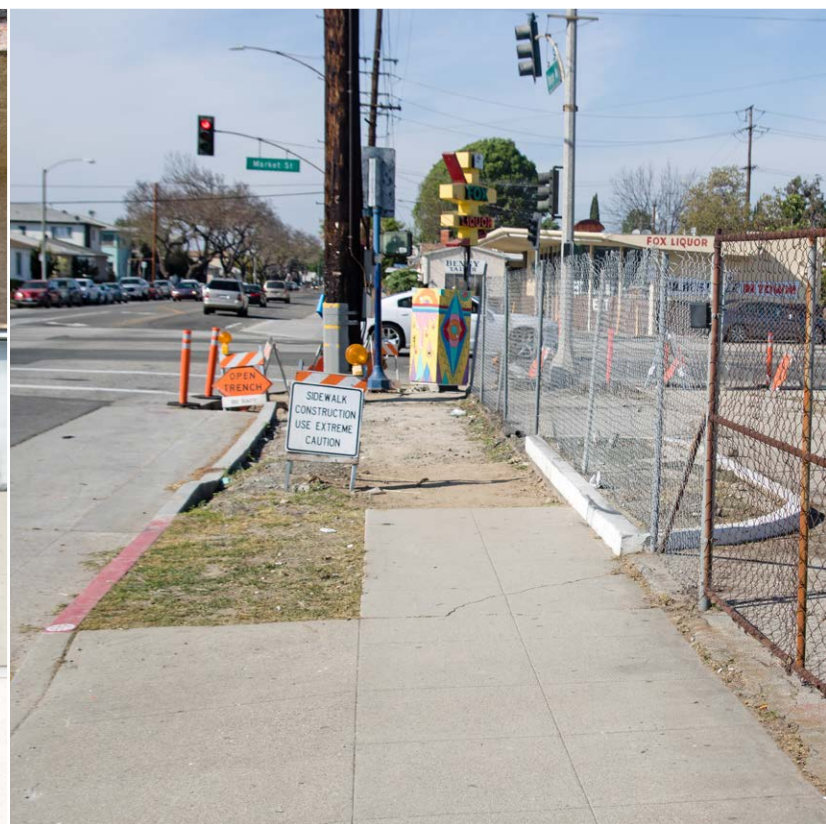
Issues

Residents expressed a desire to improve the aesthetic quality of public spaces in the neighborhood. Concerns are primarily related to maintenance issues and a general sense of neglect that residents associate with several neighborhood areas. Community members expressed concern about the unmaintained landscapes around the housing projects and apartment complexes along the perimeter of the neighborhood. The prevalence of trash, abandoned furniture, and potholes negatively impact the aesthetic experience of the neighborhood. There are also a number of vacant lots and abandoned areas that community members say are an eyesore.

Opportunities and Constraints

Many of the areas that residents identified as the least aesthetically pleasing were located on private property, both commercial and residential. There is potential to build a partnership with local business and property owners to make landscape improvements. This type of partnership would likely bring about change with less risk of a project being stymied by public permitting processes. Involving business owners in the community development process could encourage them to become more invested in the community and to become better landscape stewards. Landscapes surrounding commercial properties are opportunities for integrating green infrastructure such as living walls and infiltration areas.

Below, left to right. Abandoned Deli on Orange Avenue; Sidewalk at Orange Avenue Vacant Lot



5.3.11 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Issues

Residents identified a need for more recreation opportunities in the neighborhood. Jackson Street Park has open space, but insufficient programming elements. Residents are able to play informal soccer, but there are no facilities available for any organized sports. Community members indicated there was sporadic use of the playground, which they felt was due to a lack of shade, seating, and functional play equipment. The playground was also geared toward toddlers, which limited its use by other age groups. Residents were concerned that the lack of recreation opportunities for youth and teens would make these younger community members more likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

Opportunities and Constraints

There is adequate space in Jackson Street Park to incorporate some of the community-identified priority recreation opportunities. Aside from youth recreation facilities, residents were most interested in having jogging and walking paths through Jackson Street Park. This type of facility would provide opportunities for a wide variety of user groups. Residents suggested that having the walking path around the perimeter of the park could preserve the interior for active recreation. They also felt the increased circulation would allow residents to keep a close watch over the park, especially in areas along the edge of Jackson Creek.

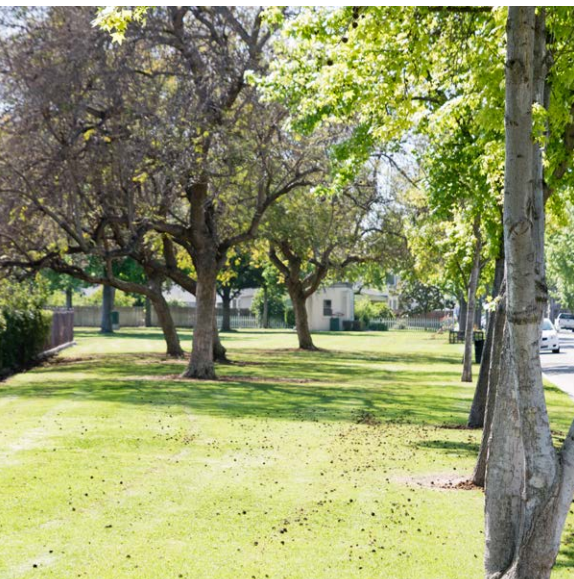
Below. Soccer is the Primary Form of Recreation in Jackson Street Park



PAST AND FUTURE PROJECTS IN JACKSON PARK	DESCRIPTION
Jackson Street Park	Existing 2.6-acre linear park completed in 1968 with playground and large open grass areas
Jackson Street Dog Park	Existing 0.14-acre dog park built in February 2015; Park was not well-used due to lack of amenities
Orange Avenue Bikeway	In progress dedicated bike lane along Orange Avenue; Part of the City of Long Beach <i>Bicycle Master Plan</i>
Union Pacific Railroad Embankment	Proposed plan to make improvements along the Union Pacific Railroad landscape easement
Market Street Improvements	Proposed plan to improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure and connect Market Street to the LA River Bikeway

TABLE 5.22 *Past and Future Projects in Jackson Park*

Below, top to bottom. Open Grass Area in Jackson Street Park; Jackson Street Dog Park



5.3.12 PAST AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Jackson Street Park

Jackson Street Park is an existing 2.6-acre linear park that is centrally located in the neighborhood. The park is bisected by Walnut Street, and park amenities include a children’s playground, large open grass areas, shade trees, and trash cans. Park development began in 1966 and the project was completed in 1968 (PRM, n.d.). The playground was redeveloped in 1996 using funds from the LA County Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Act of 1992 (PRM, n.d.).

Jackson Street Dog Park

Jackson Street Dog Park is a 0.14-acre dog park that includes perimeter fencing, decomposed granite surfacing, a drinking fountain, two tree planters, logs and boulders, a bench and waste bag dispensers. The park was completed in 2015 in response to community members expressing concern over the condition of the area. The site was previously vacant and a popular place for loitering, illegal waste dumping, and other delinquent behavior. Community engagement strategies identified a dog park as the best use for this space. The undesirable conditions improved in the area, but the park is not frequently used. Residents indicate this is due to a lack of shade, plants, and amenities in the park.

Orange Avenue Bikeway

A dedicated bike lane along Orange Avenue is part of the City of Long Beach *Bicycle Master Plan*. Orange Avenue is part of the city’s Next Steps Backbone Bike Facilities program, a system of bike paths that will run across the entire city from the northern boundary to the coast and from the eastern boundary to the LA River. This purpose of the plan is to provide a backbone for



Above. Orange Avenue Bike Lane Construction

future connections and close gaps in Long Beach’s bike facilities network. The bike path was being constructed while the project team was working in the Jackson Park neighborhood.

Union Pacific Railroad Embankment – Security Camera Installation & Landscape Improvements Project

Union Pacific Railroad lines run along the southern edge of the neighborhood and a vacant land easement runs adjacent to the rail corridor. A proposed landscape improvement project included plans to hydroseed drought-tolerant and native plant material on the embankment from Del Amo Boulevard to Atlantic Avenue (DDS, n.d.). This is only a small segment of the railroad corridor and is located outside the project area. The same plans include a proposal to install security cameras at 17 locations along the corridor, some of which will be in the Jackson Park neighborhood. Security cameras would be concentrated in areas where the railroad intersects with major surface streets (DDS, n.d.). The project was proposed in 2012, but has not been implemented.

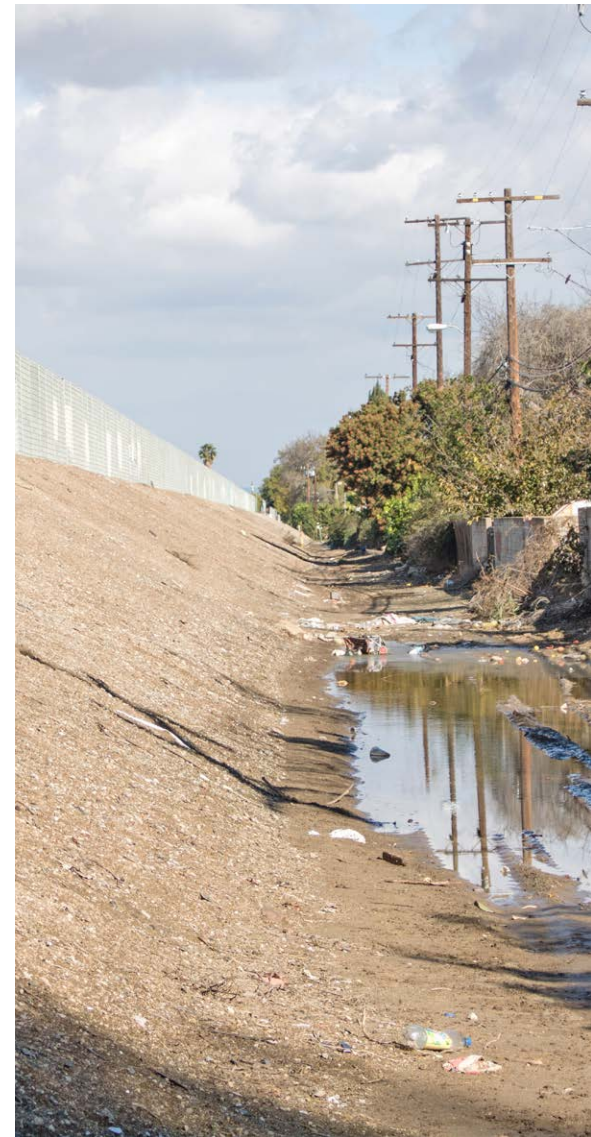
Below. Typical Railroad Embankment

Market Street Improvements

A green streets assessment study was done to evaluate potential improvements along Market Street including creating a direct connection to the LA River Bikeway from Market Street. The emphasis of the plan is improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

Long Beach Infrastructure Investment Plan

Jackson Street Park was mentioned in the City of Long Beach *Infrastructure Investment Plan* as one of the parks that is being considered for park improvements (DPW, 2016). There is no timeline for the implementation of improvements.



INVENTORY TOPIC	FINDINGS
Demographics	The neighborhood is representative of other communities in the focus area.
Historic Context	Jackson Park is situated on former farmland and military housing.
Neighborhood Identity	There is no defined neighborhood identity aside from the relationship to the existing linear park.
Safety and Security	Residents feel unsafe due to a lack of speed bumps, signs and poor lighting.
Seating Areas	There is little seating throughout the neighborhood.
Facility and Infrastructure Maintenance	Infrastructural repairs on roadways and playground equipment are needed.
Waste Disposal	A lack of trash receptacles and inconsistent maintenance results in the accumulation of garbage.
Environmental Concerns	Flooding and stormwater quality are primary concerns for community members.
Aesthetics	The absence of an overall aesthetic makes the neighborhood appear unattractive.
Recreation Opportunities	A lack of recreational programming has resulted in sporadic park use.
Past and Future Projects	Potential investment in infrastructure could restore the neighborhood.

TABLE 5.23 *Jackson Park – Neighborhood Inventory Results*

5.3.13 DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

Based on the neighborhood inventory results, the project team identified several considerations that supplemented the design process by providing context for community-identified landscape improvements (**Table 5.23**). The design implications also guided the development of specific objectives for each of the final concept designs.

The neighborhood vision plans should reflect the diversity of the community and emphasize a strong neighborhood identity. This involves prioritizing improvements in Jackson Street Park and in areas near key neighborhood entrances since these spaces were identified as being most important to community identity. These areas also present the greatest opportunity for implementing multi-benefit green infrastructure.

The neighborhood vision plan should focus on improving street conditions in the neighborhood. This includes lighting additions, traffic calming strategies, wider sidewalks, and more pedestrian amenities. Residents also expressed a strong desire for various types of seating, especially in Jackson Street Park. In general, all designs should aim to improve the sense of safety and security in the neighborhood, largely through the implementation of community-identified programming and facilities that encourage residents to use and take ownership of public spaces.

5.4

DESIGN PROCESS AND RESULTS

Collective Efforts consisted of three project phases: Community Outreach and Engagement, Neighborhood Vision Planning, and Final Project Implementation. The following section documents the objectives, process, and results for each phase.

5.4.1 PHASE ONE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the community outreach and engagement phase was to build an organized base of residents interested in improving the landscape in the Jackson Park neighborhood. The team used canvassing, community meetings, a steering committee meeting, and build days to complete the phase objectives (Figure 5.10 and Table 5.24).

Canvassing

The project team developed a series of pitches to introduce themselves and the project to community members within the Jackson Park neighborhood. Canvassing efforts were supplemented with colorful bilingual fliers and brochures that

Phase One Objectives
Develop community outreach and engagement strategies
Learn about community priorities and concerns
Identify and recruit interested community members
Engage community members with initial build project

TABLE 5.24 *Jackson Park – Phase One Objectives*

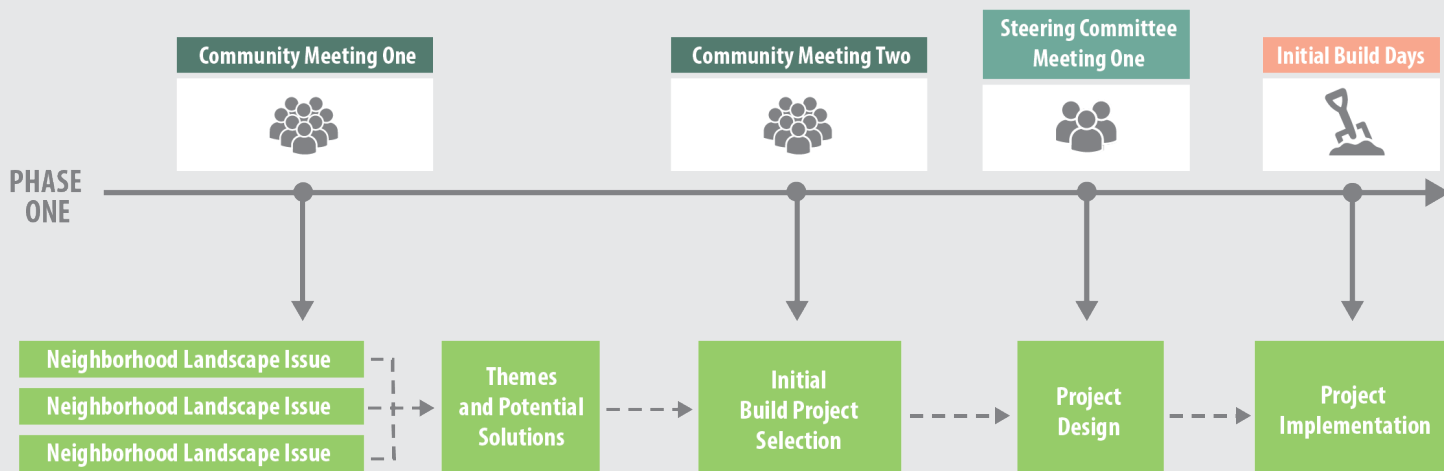


FIGURE 5.10 *Jackson Park – Phase One Process*



Above, left to right. Canvassing in Jackson Park; Canvassing Flier

Collective Efforts

LAST YEARS' TEAM: COURTYARD PAZA DESIGNED AND BUILT BY COMMUNITY OF CUDAP

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIE

LAST YEARS' TEAM: MURAL PROJECT DESIGNED AND PAINTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CITY OF BELL

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT AT OUR FIRST MEETING:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2016 @ 7:00PM
HOSTED AT:
NORTH LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Help us find out how we can make the community of North Long Beach safer, healthier, and empowered through design of community driven sustainable environments, parks, and gathering spaces.

OUR GOALS:

- Constructing A Neighborhood Committee
- Conduct Design Workshops

detailed the types of water quality improvements the team was encouraging, why those improvements were important, and how residents could get involved (**Appendix C**). The team split into two groups and went systematically along each street in the neighborhood, using aerial maps of the entire project area to catalogue canvassing results.

The project team spoke directly to residents and learned what was important to them about their neighborhood. By opening up a dialogue with residents the team addressed questions such as funding the selection of Jackson Park as a focus area, and benefits to the neighborhood. The team approached 298 homes, obtained 56 email addresses and 43 phone numbers, and recruited six community members to join the project. Canvassing continued on throughout the rest of the outreach and engagement phase. Refer to **Section 5.2.1** for a list of canvassing dates.

Community Meeting One: ***Generate Ideas for the Initial Build Project***

The team began the first community meeting by introducing the project goals and objectives. Each person introduced himself or herself and briefly spoke about his or her background, their relationship to the neighborhood, and motivations for attending. The project team briefly explained the process of public participatory design and reiterated that the goal of this meeting was to develop ideas for the initial build day project. Community members split into two groups for a brainstorming

exercise where they listed neighborhood features that they either liked or disliked (Appendix C). The groups generated ideas for potential solutions to the identified issues (Table 5.25). The project team distributed photographs of example projects that were similar to the solutions they identified and reflected a viable scope of work for the initial build days. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the next steps for the project and which days or evenings would be most convenient for the next community meeting. The project team worked with residents to identify five themes that summarized the improvements they hoped to see in the neighborhood: accessibility, beauty, safety, comfort, and health.

**Community Meeting Two:
Review Options and Vote on Initial Build Project**

After a brief ice-breaker exercise where each person spoke about their most memorable park experience, the project team reiterated the criteria for a successful initial build project. Next, the community members were divided into two groups and they mapped areas of the neighborhood where the themes developed in the first meeting could be addressed. Community members expanded the list of potential projects to include a dance pad, fence mural, and playground repairs. Each community member voted for his or her top three improvements.

After two rounds of voting, the community determined they wanted to build benches. However, it was important to select alternative projects in the event that resources or materials were not available to complete the benches on the build day. The two alternative projects were either: installing trash cans and dog waste bag dispensers; or organizing a neighborhood tree planting event. Refer to Appendix C for detailed results of the neighborhood mapping exercise and voting totals.

**Steering Committee Meeting One:
Finalize Designs for Initial Build Project**

After the second community meeting, the project team asked meeting attendees on an individual basis if they would like to join a steering committee to be involved in making key decisions throughout the project. Six community members offered to be a part of the steering committee.

The project team had their first steering committee meeting at Jackson Street Park and presented committee members with photographs of potential options for the bench design. The project team and steering committee members then discussed what materials would be needed, what tools would

Potential Initial Build Projects
Walking trail
Lighting
Dog waste bag dispensers
Dog park divider for small/big dogs
Tree planting
Benches
Exercise equipment
Picnic tables
Bike racks

TABLE 5.25 Jackson Park – Initial Build Project Options

Below. Meeting Participants Voted for Initial Build Project





Above. Steering Committee Members Met on Site to Finalize Bench Designs

be required, and how they could get power for the saws and water to mix the concrete. Based on what the committee decided, the project team created construction drawings with exact specifications for the benches and a list of materials that would be needed.

Steering committee members with the most construction experience reviewed the documents and had the opportunity to make revisions until two final designs were chosen (Figure 5.11). The project team spoke with each committee member on an individual basis to discuss whether to initiate the permitting process considering the short time frame for completing the initial build project. The project team communicated that the benches could be designed to be easily removed if necessary, but still built to be sturdy and resistant to wear and tear. The steering committee decided to move forward with construction without going through the permitting process because they recognized the immediate benefit of the benches to the community.

The steering committee chose to build two benches at the toddler’s playground, which had no seating for parents. They chose to build a third bench around the base of a centrally located tree in a popular area of the park. A number of steering committee members offered to provide and store tools and materials for the build days. Refer to Appendix C for the final construction documents for the initial build project.

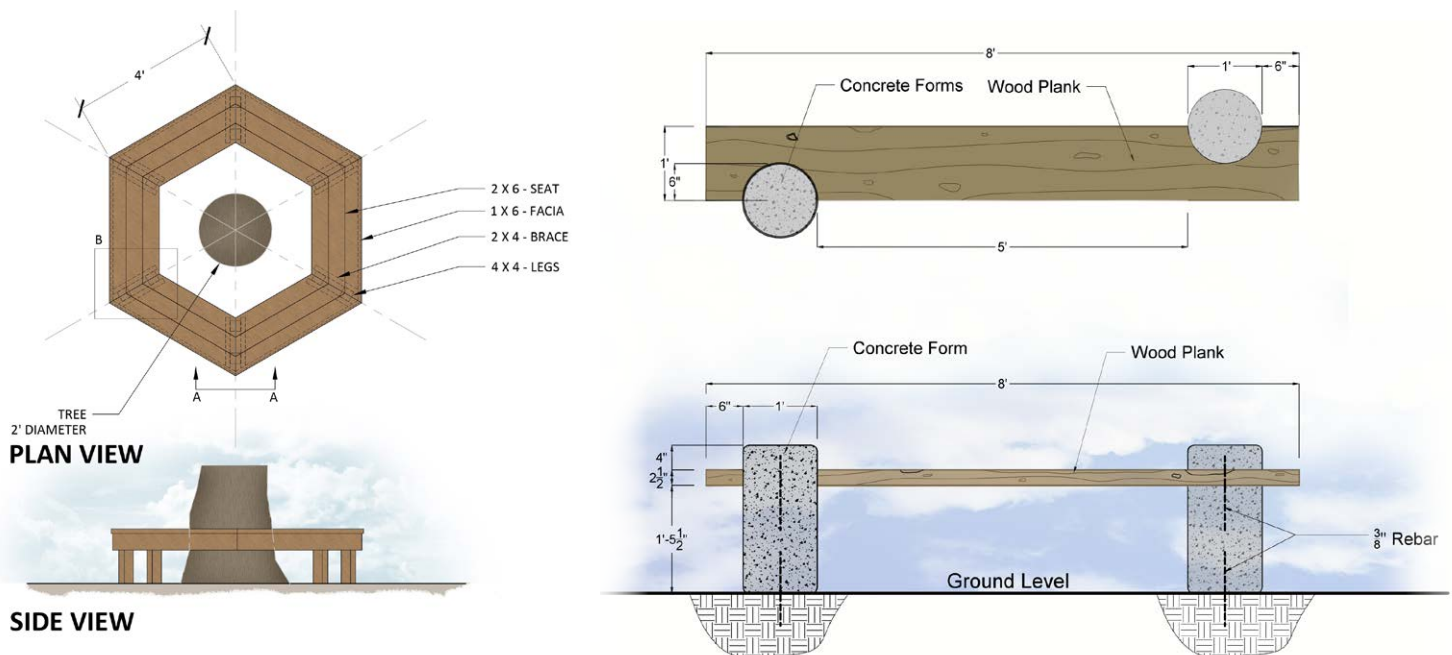


FIGURE 5.11 *Concept Designs for Initial Build Project*

Initial Build Days Project Implementation

Once the project team secured the crucial construction materials such as wood and concrete, they contacted steering committee members and other meeting participants to ask for help storing materials and providing things such as chairs, tools, and power cords. One community member offered to store wood and concrete, another provided her backyard for sanding and staining wood, while a third offered to run water and power from his home.

The project team and community members spent one full day constructing the three benches. Everyone took turns participating in different aspects of construction, and worked together to complete the project before sunset. The following day, the project team visited the park, removed the concrete forms around the benches near the playground and stress-tested the benches for stability and sturdiness. The following day one of the Jackson Park community members contacted the project team to let them know that park visitors were already using the benches, especially the one that wrapped around the tree.

Right. Jackson Park Initial Build Days: Construction and Completed Benches

Below. The Initial Build Days Engaged Residents and Generated Long-term Momentum for the Project





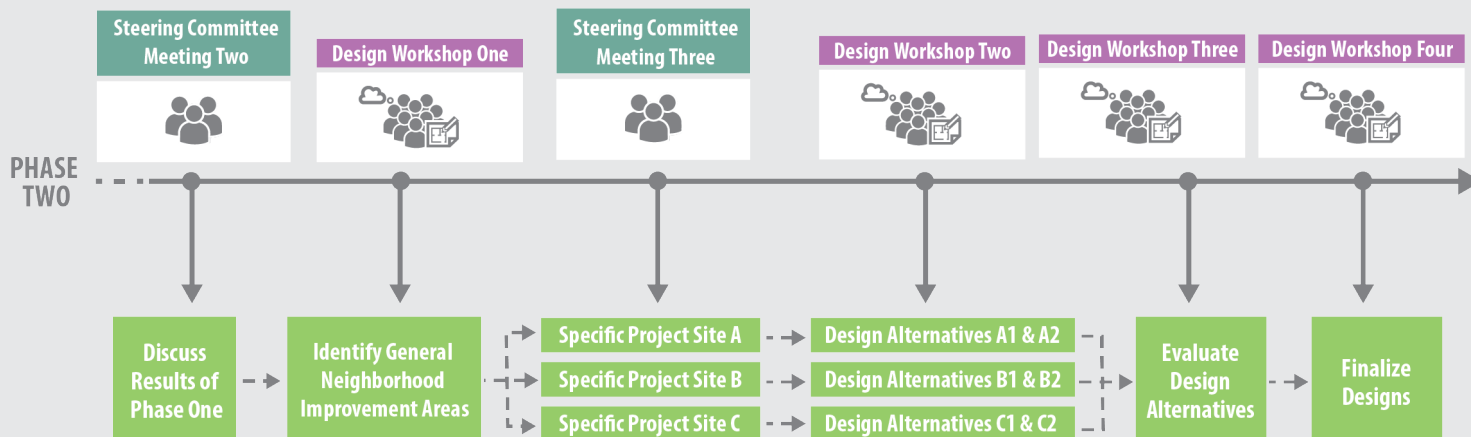


FIGURE 5.12 Jackson Park – Phase Two Process

5.4.2 PHASE TWO: NEIGHBORHOOD VISION PLANNING

The purpose of the second phase was to develop community-based designs for three to six sites within the project area that would collectively constitute the Neighborhood Vision Plan. The team used canvassing, steering committee meetings, and community design workshops to complete the phase objectives (Figure 5.12 and Table 5.26).

Steering Committee Meeting Two *Discuss Results of Phase One and Plans for Phase Two*

The neighborhood vision planning phase began with a steering committee meeting. The project team handed out a meeting packet to each committee member that included an agenda, neighborhood analysis maps, a work plan for the upcoming weeks, exemplary images of master plans and concept plans, a project calendar, and an outline of the strategy for the first design workshop.

Meeting with the steering committee at the start of the vision planning phase provided an opportunity to assess what had been accomplished thus far and prioritize the agenda for the upcoming community design workshops. Committee members were comfortable sharing the successes and challenges of the outreach and engagement phase, and discussed how they felt about participating in the initial build days. In general, committee members felt motivated to continue participating in the project and were encouraged by community use of the benches.

Phase Two Objectives
Solidify committee of community leaders
Adapt community outreach and engagement strategies
Inventory neighborhood conditions based on community priorities
Facilitate community design workshops

TABLE 5.26 Jackson Park – Phase Two Objectives

Design Workshop One

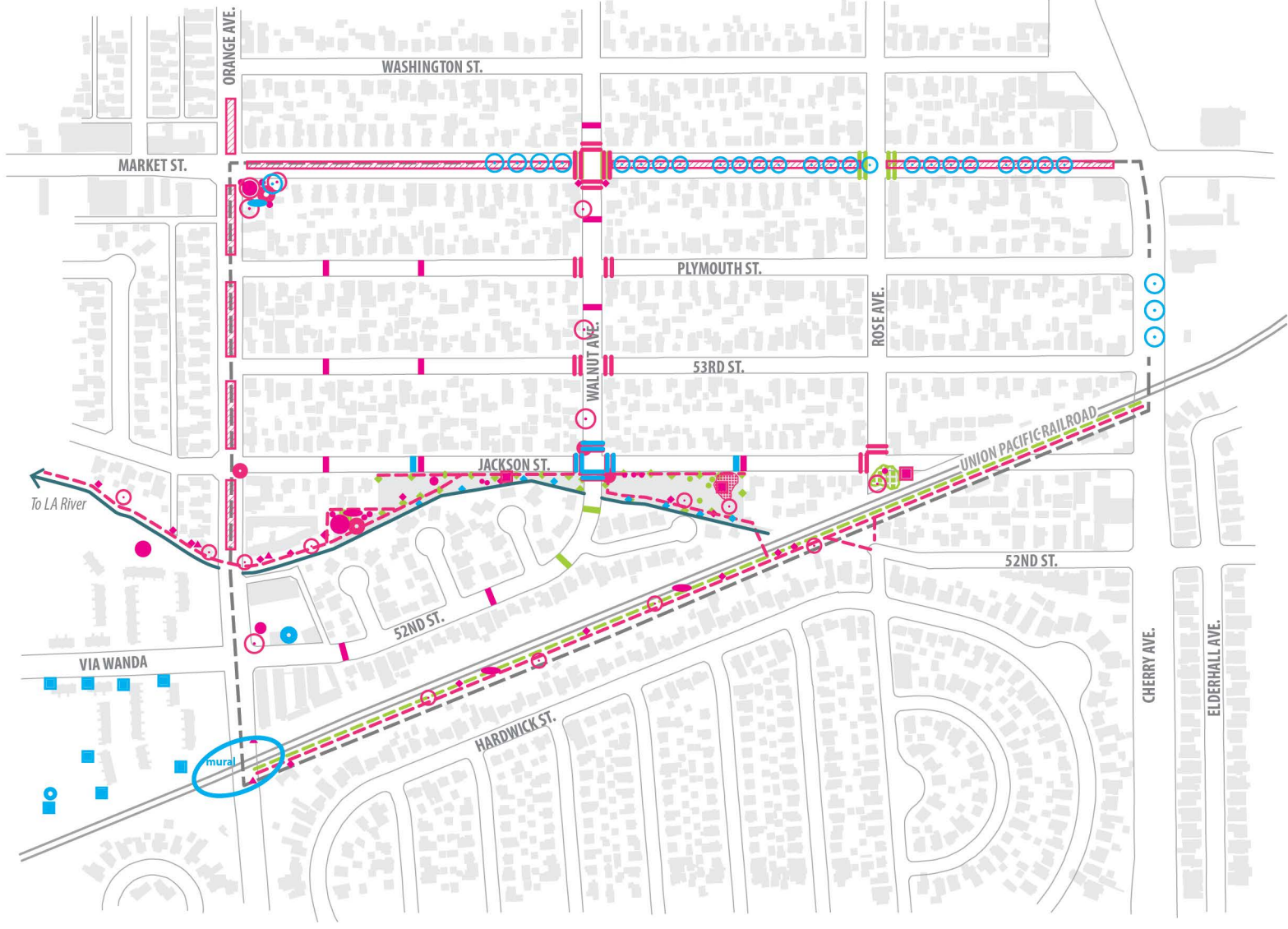
Identify General Neighborhood Improvement Areas

The first design workshop began with a steering committee member welcoming workshop participants using a slide presentation to review the goals of the project and what had been accomplished during the outreach and engagement phase. Then, using the five categories of improvements that were identified during the first phase (accessibility, beauty, public health, environmental health, and safety), community members were asked to write additional improvement ideas on post-it notes and attach them to a mounted board next to the appropriate theme. Community members split into three groups and were asked to map the location of their improvement ideas on large 24 inch by 36 inch aerial photographs of the neighborhood. They used color coded stickers and markers to represent different types of improvements.

Each group presented their results, articulating their specific ideas and reasoning for selecting different areas for neighborhood improvements. A councilmember's representative at the workshop indicated many of the improvements residents were discussing were being addressed in future plans for the neighborhood. The project team aggregated the workshop results to illustrate general areas where community members were interested in making improvements (**Figure 5.13**).

*Below. Community Members
Prepare to Identify Neighborhood
Improvement Areas*





Neighborhood Boundary

Group 1 Mapped Improvements

- Trees
- ◆ Lights
- Signage
- Play
- Habitat
- ▬ Crosswalk
- ▬ Speed Bumps
- Mural

Group 2 Mapped Improvements

- Trees
- ◆ Lights
- Signage
- Play
- Seating
- Picnic
- Garden
- ▬ Path/Trail
- ▬ Crosswalk
- ▬ Speed Bumps

- ▨ Landscaped Median
- ▨ Shade
- Habitat

Group 3 Mapped Improvements

- Seating
- ◆ Lights
- Play
- ▨ Shade
- ▬ Path/Trail
- ▬ Crosswalk
- ▬ Speed Bumps

FIGURE 5.13 Aggregated Results from Neighborhood Improvement Mapping Exercise



Steering Committee Meeting Three Identify Specific Project Sites

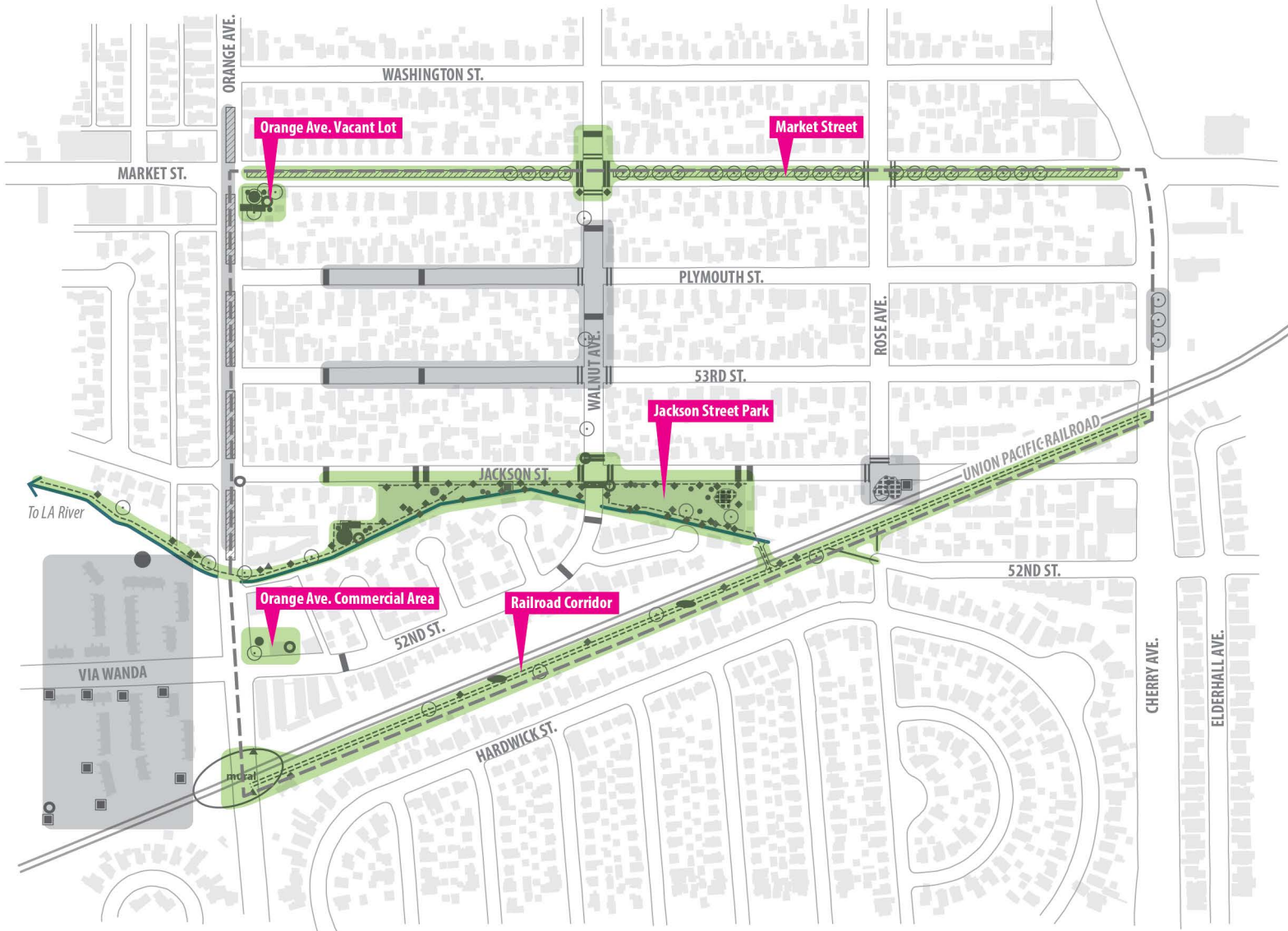
Based on the composite map that was created as a result of the first design workshop, the project team identified 11 general areas where community members wanted to concentrate the landscape improvement projects. The team presented these results to the steering committee and facilitated a discussion about the benefits and potential of making improvements to each of the various sites. Based on this discussion, each committee member voted for his or her top five priority sites.

Since only three of the six steering committee members had attended the first workshop, this provided the opportunity for those who were there to explain the results to those who were unable to attend. New ideas were introduced into the discussion, and by the end of the meeting the committee had reached a consensus about which five sites would be prioritized for improvements (**Table 5.27** and **Figure 5.14**).

Opposite. Workshop Participants Present Mapping Exercise Results

TABLE 5.27 Summary of Priority Projects

PRIORITIZED PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION
Market Street	Market Street is a 0.54 mile roadway that forms the northern boundary of the neighborhood, running from Orange Avenue to Cherry Avenue, and is owned by the City of Long Beach. Community members identified that this street presents safety, environmental, and public health concerns. Community-identified improvement projects included planting street trees, adding center street medians, painting crosswalks, and installing smart traffic lights and school crossing signage.
Orange Avenue Vacant Lot	The 0.2 acre vacant lot at the corner of Market Street and Orange Avenue is privately owned. Currently the site is covered in broken concrete and weeds. The site was once a gas station so any improvements to this area would require soil remediation before amenities could be safely installed. Suggested improvements included creating a meadow with drought-tolerant plantings, seating, and a neighborhood welcome sign.
Jackson Street Park	Jackson Street Park is a 2.6 acre park owned by the City of Long Beach. Community members identified that the park presents both environmental and public health concerns and needs additional programming and beautification. Community members wanted to add lighting, a jogging path, a community garden, exercise areas and additional playground equipment for children other than toddlers.
Orange Avenue Commercial Area	The commercial area covers 1.1 acres and includes several locally-owned businesses and a large asphalt parking lot. Community members indicated that the site would benefit from beautification efforts. Environmental improvements include bioswales, trench drains, planter boxes, increased drought-tolerant vegetation, and shade.
Railroad Corridor	The railroad corridor is 0.6 mile stretch of utility easements and elevated railroad tracks running along the southern boundary of the neighborhood. The corridor is owned by the City of LA, the City of Long Beach and the Union Pacific Railroad. Trash and homelessness in the corridor present significant environmental issues. Community design improvements included adding bicycle trails, a land bridge, murals, rain gardens, seating and planting areas.



- Neighborhood Boundary
- Priority Improvement Site
- Improvement Site

Mapped Improvements

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------------------|
| Trees | Seating | Path/Trail | Landscaped Median |
| Lights | Picnic | Crosswalk | Shade |
| Signage | Garden | Speed Bumps | Habitat |
| Play | | | |

FIGURE 5.14 Five Prioritized Project Sites in Jackson Park



Design Workshop Two

Generate Conceptual Design Alternatives for Selected Sites

Community members were divided into four groups. The project team provided each group with scaled base maps of the sites and scaled cut-outs of different design elements such as trees, pathways, and benches. Participants could also use colorful markers and stickers or inspirational photographs to represent design ideas.

The design activity was divided into three stages to maximize efficiency. Stage one consisted of a 20 minute design session with two groups focusing on the vacant lot and the other two on the commercial property parking lot. Stage two was a 20 minute session that focused on two groups creating alternatives for the railroad corridor and Market Street respectively. The final session consisted of merging the groups into two teams that each focused on designing Jackson Street Park for 25 minutes. After the workshop, the project team combined and distilled the concepts developed by the residents to create clearly communicated design alternatives that could be presented during the third design workshop.

Below. Workshop Participants Used a Variety of Tools and Materials to Represent their Design Ideas



Design Workshop Three

Evaluate Design Alternatives

This workshop took place over two evenings due to a health emergency that caused the first evening to end early. During the first evening, the project team presented the refined design alternatives that were created based on the results of the second design workshop. The group began by evaluating the two alternative designs for Jackson Street Park. Community members split into two groups and worked amongst themselves to select the alternative they preferred. Once each team made a selection, they discussed their adjustments to the plans.

The second evening of design workshop three took place a few days later. Community members split into four groups and were assigned to one of four corresponding numbered tables. Each group had five minutes to evaluate and choose between the two design alternatives laid out at the assigned table. Then the groups had 15 minutes to make any necessary adjustments to the preferred alternative. The groups rotated tables and went through the same process for another set of designs. The groups presented their work at the end of the workshop, and each participant voted for three projects that they hoped to see implemented in the near future.

Ensuring each set of alternatives was reviewed by two different groups made the process more collaborative and encouraged discussion among workshop participants. The railroad corridor was the only site where only one alternative was selected. This was primarily due to the limited set of programming options for the narrow and linear site.

Design Workshop Four

Finalize Designs

This workshop used an open house format with all five site designs displayed either on easels or mounted on the wall. The project teams provided snacks and sparkling cider to celebrate the hard work of workshop participants. The project team allocated 30 minutes for residents to review the concept drawings and make additional adjustments. The project team listed questions next to each plan to help guide discussion among the residents as they reviewed the plans.

The sites of the priority projects that were identified at the third workshop were investigated in greater detail and the team reached out to property owners to gauge their interest in

Below, top to bottom. The Project Team Interpreted Results from Workshop; Community Members Present Evaluation of Design Alternatives





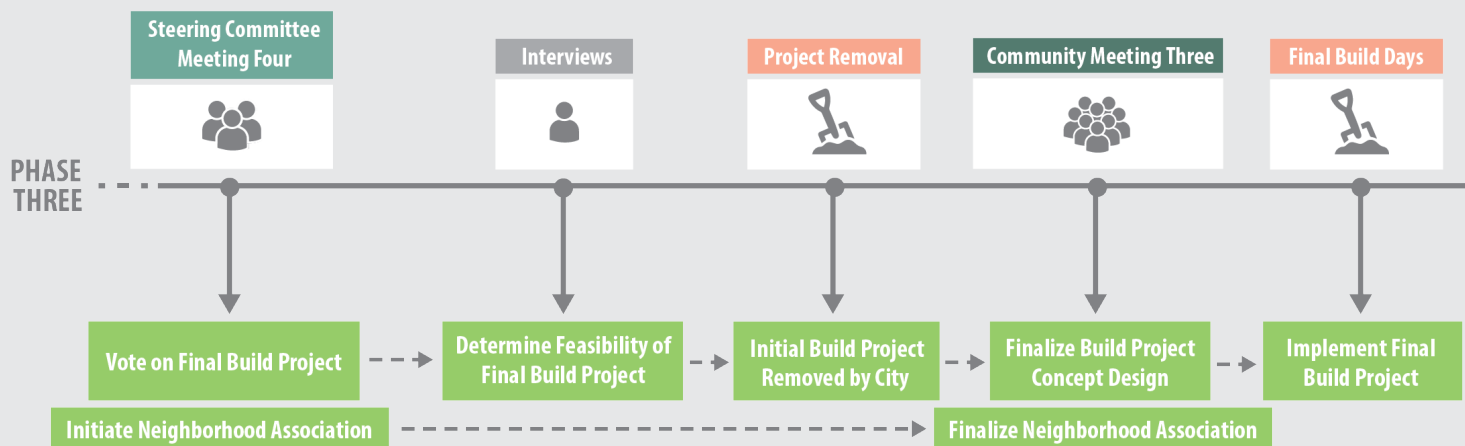
Above. The Project Team Presented Final Concept Drawings and Facilitated Discussion to Further Refine the Designs

the project. The results of this outreach were presented during the fourth workshop. Based on this presentation, the group determined it would be necessary to focus on projects on private land. Obtaining permits to complete a project on public land would not be feasible within the time frame of the project.

Attendees decided making improvements to the Orange Avenue commercial area would be the most feasible of all the projects (**Table 5.28**). However, residents were also passionate about making improvements to Jackson Street Park, so the group discussed the potential to create a long-term strategy to implement these plans. The group was divided between doing a build project or developing a long-term improvement plan for Jackson Street Park, so the steering committee met to make the final decision.

PROJECT OPTION	DESCRIPTION	EVALUATION
Vacant Lot	Clean-up and implement site remediation and beautification strategies. Install seating, shade, bioretention areas, and neighborhood signs.	Owners requested an unfeasible lease agreement. Remediation of the former gas station site would require significant funding and municipal coordination.
Railroad Corridor	Install a bike path along the Union Pacific Railroad easement to connect existing bicycling connections. Install a land bridge, rain gardens, solar lighting and seating to activate the space.	Easements in the site created a complicated path to municipal approval. Residents agreed the project was worthwhile but felt that less administratively complex projects were preferable.
Market Street	Install vegetated street medians, bulb-outs, and biofiltration elements to calm traffic and remove pollutants from stormwater runoff.	City improvements for Market Street were already in the planning stage. Residents agreed that other sites should be prioritized.
Jackson Street Park	Install community programming opportunities such as pathways, exercise areas, soccer fields, and playground equipment. Implement ecological improvements.	Community members overwhelmingly preferred this site for making immediate improvements, but city agencies would not support community-build projects in the park.
Jackson Park Action Plan (Final Selection)	Establish a neighborhood association to work collaboratively with city agencies to implement future neighborhood improvements.	Residents were enthusiastic about forming an association in addition to completing a final build project.
Orange Avenue Commercial Area (Final Selection)	Install vegetated bioswales, trench drains and planters to infiltrate and remediate stormwater runoff and ease heat-island effects associated with excessive hardscape.	The project was located on private land and did not require approval. Community members recognized the potential of this site to address community priorities.

TABLE 5.28 *Jackson Park – Final Build Day Project Evaluations*



5.4.2 PHASE THREE: FINAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of the final project phase was to resolve the concept designs and complete a final build project that reflected the goals and priorities of the neighborhood vision plan. The Jackson Park community also elected to establish a neighborhood association during this time so community members could continue working together to improve the neighborhood. The project team used steering committee meetings, interviews, and build days to achieve the phase objectives (Figure 5.15 and Table 5.29). The team was also required by the city to remove the benches that were completed during the first project phase, which impacted the final outcome of the project.

Steering Committee Meeting Four Vote on Final Project Implementation

The project team facilitated a discussion with steering committee members to determine whether to move forward with either a final build project in the Orange Avenue commercial area or a strategy for community members to work with the city to bring improvements to Jackson Street Park. Steering committee members voted to move forward with both and decided to initiate a formal neighborhood association to enable them to work more effectively with the city. They voted to include community members from the entire Bret Harte area, an adjacent neighborhood just north of Market Street, because many of these community members attended workshops and events and actively use Jackson Street Park.

FIGURE 5.15 Jackson Park – Phase Three Process

Phase Three Objectives
Identify range of potential projects for final build days
Evaluate options with community and develop plans for construction
Construct final project with community members
Identify strategy for long-term implementation of vision plan

TABLE 5.29 Jackson Park – Phase Three Objectives

Interviews

Determine Feasibility of Final Build Project

The project team used interviews to help refine the designs for the final build project to ensure they met the needs of the business and property owners and were compliant with city rules and regulations. The project team interviewed the property owner of the land where community members had chosen to construct the final build project. The team introduced themselves and the project, then presented a proposed site plan and construction schedule that outlined specific project details and deadlines. The project team also consulted the Long Beach Department of Building and Permits (LBDBP) to assess if they would need permits to complete the final build project.

The interview with the business and property owners allowed the team to understand concerns and opportunities related to the site. The property owners were concerned about trees reducing visibility into and out of the parking lot and about losing parking spaces. The project team presented this information to community members and discussed changes to the plan that would address the property owner's concerns. After meeting with staff at the LBDBP, the project team confirmed that the build project did not require permitting.

Below. Project Team Members Listened to Concerns of Local Business Owner



Project Removal

During this time, the city informed the project team that the benches completed during the first phase of the project did not conform to city standards constructed without a permit. The city attorney determined the benches were a hazard and a liability and therefore would need to be removed. The city removed the benches shortly after sharing this news with the project team. Community members expressed frustration over the project removal, and the project team discussed the event at a community meeting. The 606 Studio faculty met with city representatives to clarify the intent of the project and identify potential strategies for working more collaboratively in the future.

Community Meeting Three

Finalize Neighborhood Association and Build Project Design

The project team organized a final community meeting to discuss the process of establishing a neighborhood association and refine the final build project design. The team also wanted to provide community members with the opportunity to share their thoughts about the bench removal and how they felt it impacted the overall project.

The project team researched and presented the parameters for establishing a neighborhood association, which included defining a geographic boundary, selecting an association name, defining member roles, setting meeting dates and times, documenting contact information, and identifying the association's mission. The team then revisited the details of the final build project, and discussed how the plans could be revised to address the property owner's concerns. After reviewing the final construction calendar, community members signed up for days and tasks based on their availability and interest in different construction activities. The meeting closed with an open discussion about the implications of the bench removal.

Below. Community Members Selected their Preferred Tree for the Final Build Project





Above, from top to bottom. Cutting Asphalt; Rototilling the Soil; Installing Irrigation

Despite their initial frustration, community members felt that the initial build project fulfilled its purpose of engaging residents and generating momentum for the project. They viewed the establishment of the neighborhood association as a testament to the project's success. Since the initial build project had fulfilled its purpose, community members were interested in moving forward instead of dwelling on the loss of the benches. Attendees decided they wanted the new neighborhood association to develop an inclusive long-term strategy that would embrace collaboration with city agencies to develop plans for improving the neighborhood. They preferred this strategy over the potential alternative of appealing the bench removal and potentially creating an adversarial relationship with the city.

Build Days: *Implement Final Build Project*

Based on the results of the final community meeting, the project team revised the final build project designs and determined the materials and tasks that would be required to complete the construction (**Figure 5.16**). The project team developed a construction calendar to keep track of the numerous tasks that would be involved (**Table 5.30**). The build project was split into two improvement areas, which helped the team distribute tasks and determine where to allocate tools and materials. Construction activities were scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays to be more convenient for community members. Community members generally signed up for tasks such as planting and painting, while the project team handled the more intensive and specialized tasks such as cutting asphalt and installing irrigation. Each build day ended with the project team cleaning up the site to ensure no tools or materials were left out and no trenches or potential hazards were exposed overnight.

The final build project was completed successfully in a total of five days over a series of three weekends. The first build day involved cutting asphalt in the locations of the proposed planting areas and trench drains for both improvement areas. The project team rented an asphalt cutter to complete the task, and used the second build day to remove and dispose of the asphalt in a rented dumpster. Once the asphalt was removed from improvement area one, the project team amended the soil and installed the new drip irrigation system.

The second weekend focused on Improvement Area 2. During the third build day, the project team removed and disposed of the asphalt and invited community members to help remove soil to accommodate the trench drains. Participants dug down

CONSTRUCTION TASK	DAY				
	Friday, May 12, 2017	Saturday, May 13, 2017	Friday, May 19, 2017	Saturday, May 20, 2017	Saturday, May 27, 2017
Preparation (Improvement 1 & 2)					
Measure and draw lines for asphalt cut					
Cut asphalt					
Clean up site					
Stage 1: Corner landscape planter preparation. (Improvement 1)					
Dumpster arrives*					
Remove asphalt**					
Amend and prepare soil**					
Install irrigation					
Clean up site					
Remove and/or store tools and equipment					
Stage 2: Infiltration trench at I'm Famous Market (Improvement 2)					
Dumpster arrives*					
Remove asphalt from Improvement 2 area**					
Remove soil to required depth**					
Install gravel					
Clean up site					
Remove and/or store tools and equipment					
Stage 3: Planter Boxes (Improvement 2)					
Cut and stain wood for planter boxes					
Assemble wood planters					
Add soil to planters					
Clean up site					
Remove and/or store tools and equipment					
Stage 4: Planting (Improvement 1 & 2)					
Space plant trees in corner planter					
Space and plant shrubs in corner planter					
Plant planter boxes					
Test irrigation system					

* To be located unobtrusively as to not block flow of traffic or parking during construction.

** No open trenches will be exposed overnight or left unsupervised.

TABLE 5.30 Jackson Park Final Build Project Construction Schedule

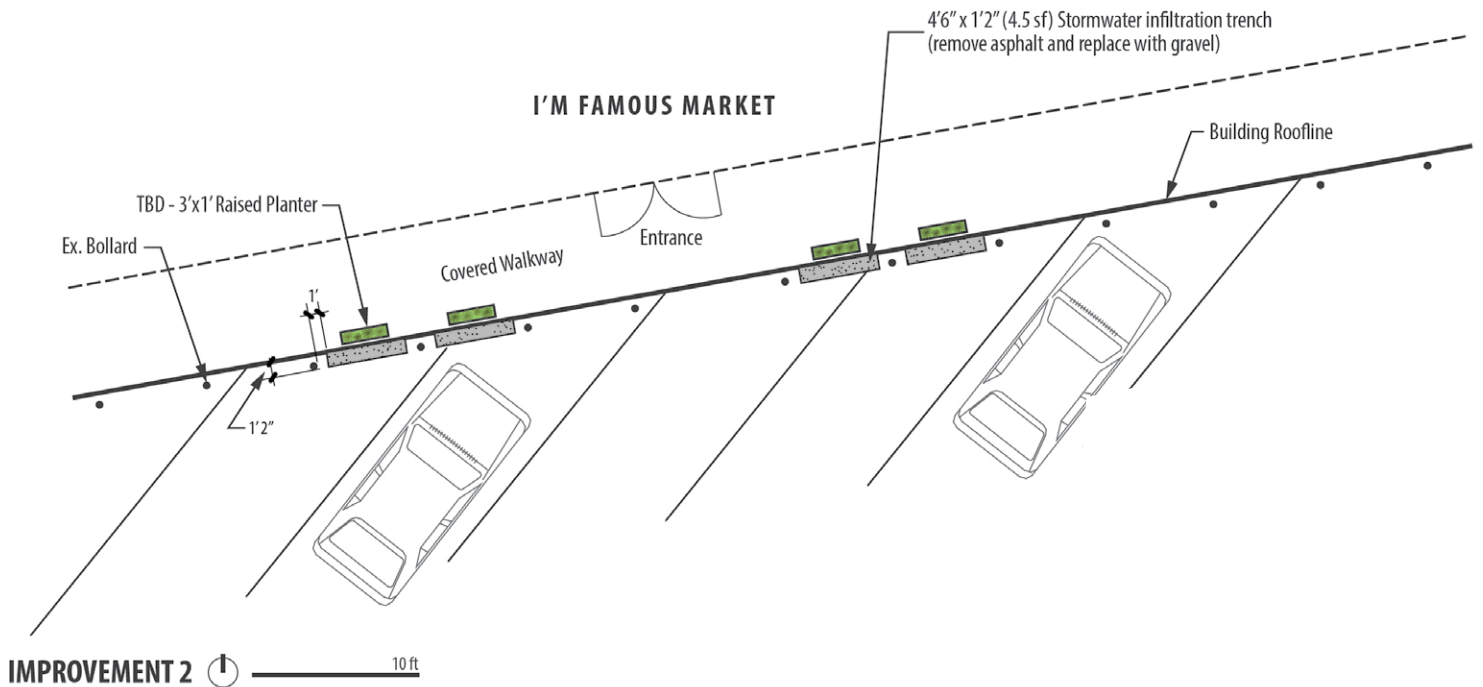
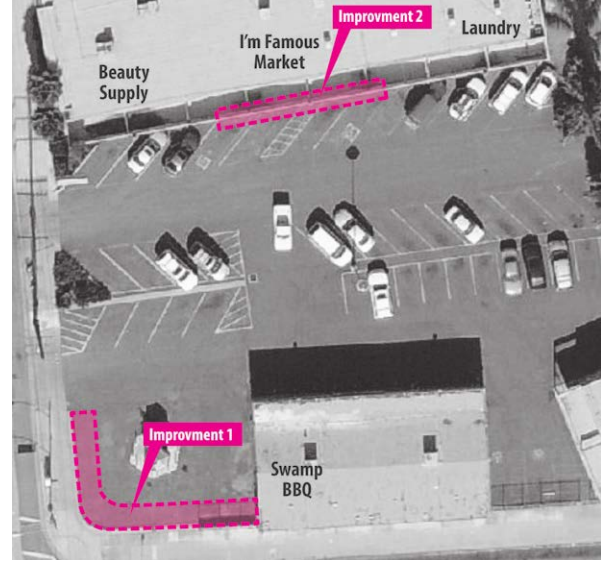
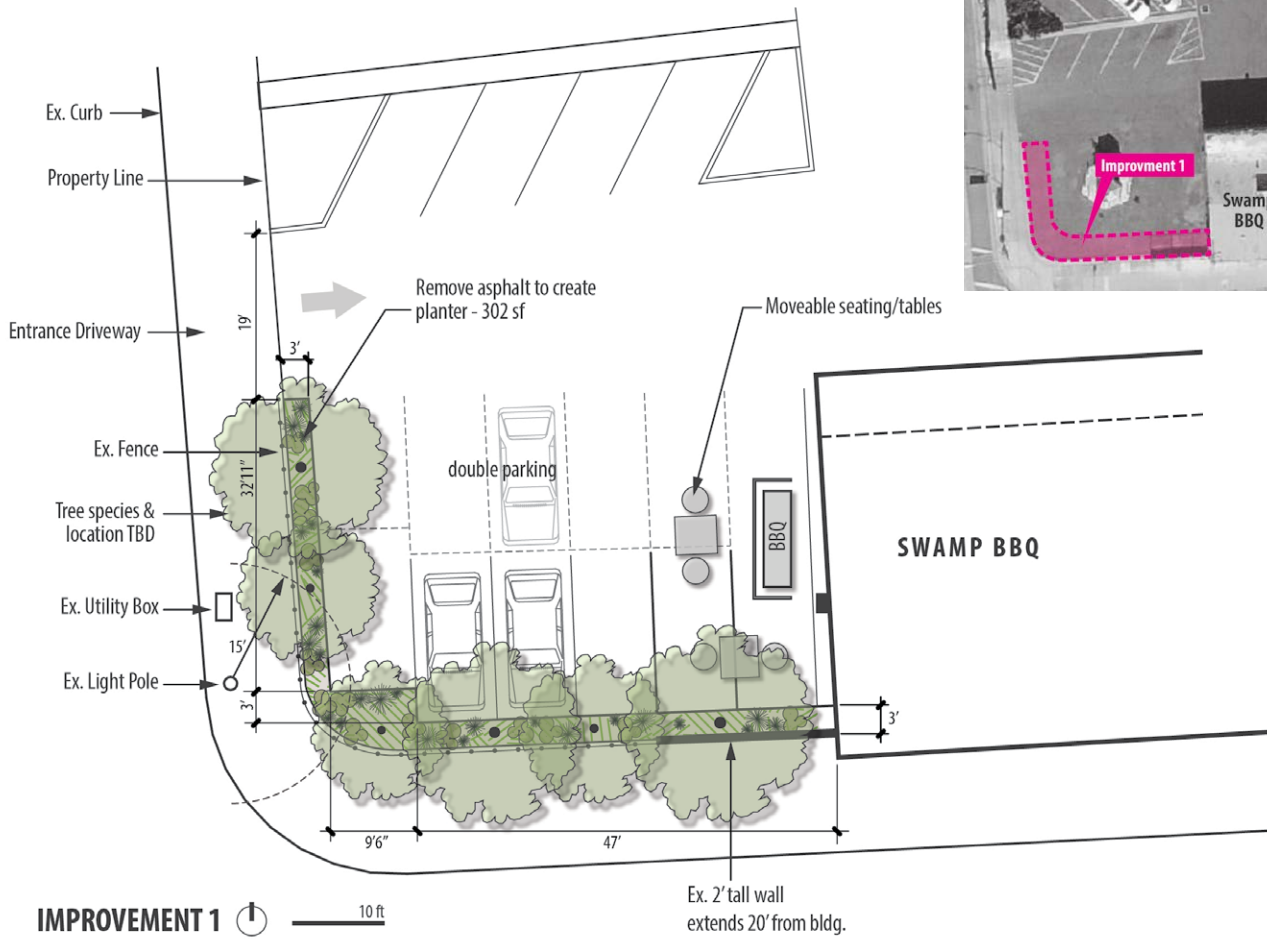


FIGURE 5.16 Final Build Project – Concept Plan

to a 30-inch depth to allow for proper drainage. The bottom 20 inches of the trench were filled with larger 3-inch stones, while the next 8 inches were filled with pea gravel. A plastic grid with porous geotextile fabric was added on top to help stabilize the top layer of pea gravel. Prior to the fourth build day, the project team measured and cut wood and assembled a series of planter boxes to be installed in Improvement Area 2. During the fourth build day, community members participated in priming and painting the planters using colors that matched those used in the surrounding commercial area. Once the painting was complete, participants filled the planters with potting soil.

The third weekend had only one build day. The project team coordinated with local business owners to set up a fun event





for participants to enjoy food, music, and beverages while completing the planting for both improvement areas. Two local business provided music, complimentary barbecue, and artisan lemonades. Many new families and community members were drawn to the festivities and wanted to help with the planting.

Throughout the build days, participants were able to see directly how removing the asphalt and installing plants and infiltration trenches was going to help water infiltrate and provide environmental benefits while also adding beauty to the neighborhood. The final project ended with the property owner and local business owners reviewing the completed work and congratulating the team on a job well done.

*Final Jackson Park
Build Days*



5.5

JACKSON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD VISION PLAN

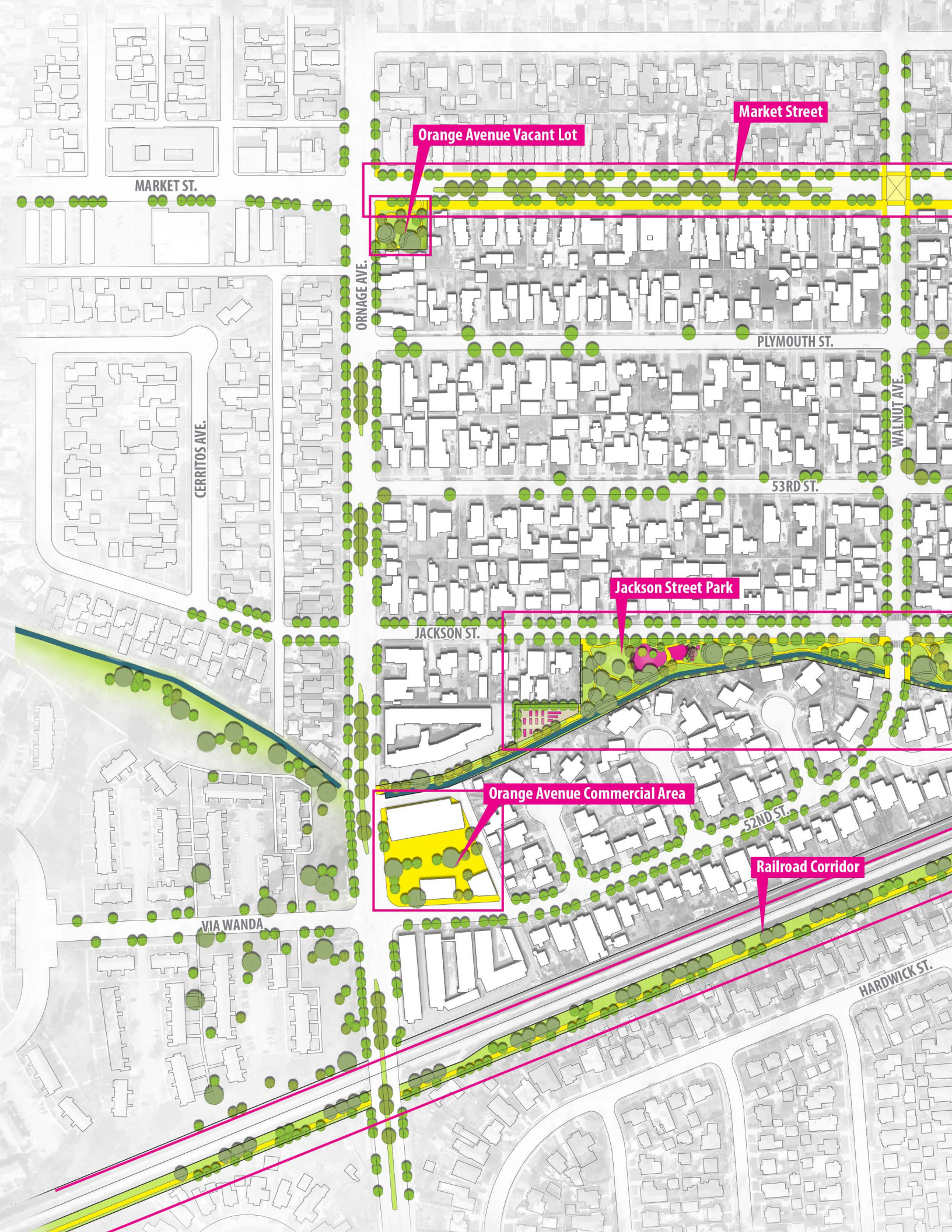
Working class urban neighborhoods, such as the Jackson Park neighborhood in North Long Beach, often serve as reminders of the short reach of municipal services; yet, by speaking with a collective voice, they hold the potential for life-changing community transformation. A neighborhood vision plan conceptualizes and weaves together a collection of improvements to address those opportunities. The Jackson Park plan reflects specific community priorities while meeting the *Collective Efforts* goal of developing multi-benefit projects that address recreational, environmental and social needs. Community meetings, design workshops, steering committee meetings, and the neighborhood inventory process guided the development of the neighborhood vision plan. The plan is comprised of five site-specific projects (**Table 5.31**). The following sections detail the objectives and key design features for each of the site designs.

Below. Residents Envisioned More Murals Throughout Their Neighborhood



NAME	EXISTING CONDITION	PROPOSAL
Jackson Street Park	A centrally located 2.6-acre linear open green space with limited programming. A toddler playground is situated at the eastern edge of the site. It lacks shade and seating and requires maintenance. The park currently has no pathways for pedestrian use nor seating, its only lighting is from nearby street lamps.	Use the extensive green space for programming improvements. Address social needs by installing a picnic area, a second playground for older children, a multi-use pad for exercise, and bench seating. Improve public and environmental health by creating a jogging path, increasing tree canopy coverage and adding rain gardens and traffic calming measures at busy intersections.
Market Street	A noisy 0.54-mile multi-lane roadway with sparse tree canopy coverage and unsafe pedestrian pathways. A lack of crosswalks, traffic buffers and seating at public transportation hubs make the site uninviting for pedestrians and a collection point for trash and debris.	Improve public and environmental health by adding street trees, a landscaped median, and stormwater infiltration basins. A painted bicycle lane, widened sidewalks, bulb-outs and a mural crosswalk with a four-way traffic light can help address safety concerns.
Orange Avenue Vacant Lot	A highly visible entry site to the neighborhood covered with broken concrete, trash and weeds and enclosed by a chain link fence. Once a gas station, the 0.19-acre site needs remediation before any improvements can be implemented.	Transform the site. Make it a point of pride with public art, safety bollards and neighborhood identity signage. Install improvements such as an infiltration basin with drought-tolerant plants, pre-cast benches, LED lighting, a low wall and an adventure play area with shade.
Railroad Corridor	The site is a 15-foot wide easement spanning more than a half-mile between Cherry and Orange Avenues. It lies 18-feet below a compacted slope, and is separated by a sound wall from rail traffic and a three foot easement from existing homes. The corridor is lined with trash, has poor drainage and is a gathering place for the homeless.	Address public and environmental health concerns by connecting a 12-foot multi-direction bicycle pathway to the existing LA River Bikeway. Add stormwater infiltration and landscaped buffers to reduce noise and pollution. Install seating with solar lighting, trash receptacles and a gated pocket park to activate the space.
Orange Avenue Commercial Area	A 1.12-acre strip mall consisting of several locally-owned businesses. A neighborhood bellwether, the site offers potential for improvement but a lack of shade and vegetation, and excessive hardscape and issues with vandalism, trash and homelessness keep it from becoming a rallying point for the neighborhood.	Invigorate the site with neighborhood identity signage and building facade murals. Add shade and environmental improvements by planting trees and creating stormwater bio-swales and infiltration basins. Activate open spaces with lighting, seating and shade structures.

TABLE 5.31 *Overview of Jackson Park Projects as Determined by Participants*



MARKET ST.

Orange Avenue Vacant Lot

Market Street

ORANGE AVE.

PLYMOUTH ST.

WALNUT AVE.

53RD ST.

CERRITOS AVE.

Jackson Street Park

JACKSON ST.

Orange Avenue Commercial Area

52ND ST.

Railroad Corridor

VIA WANDA

HARDWICK ST.

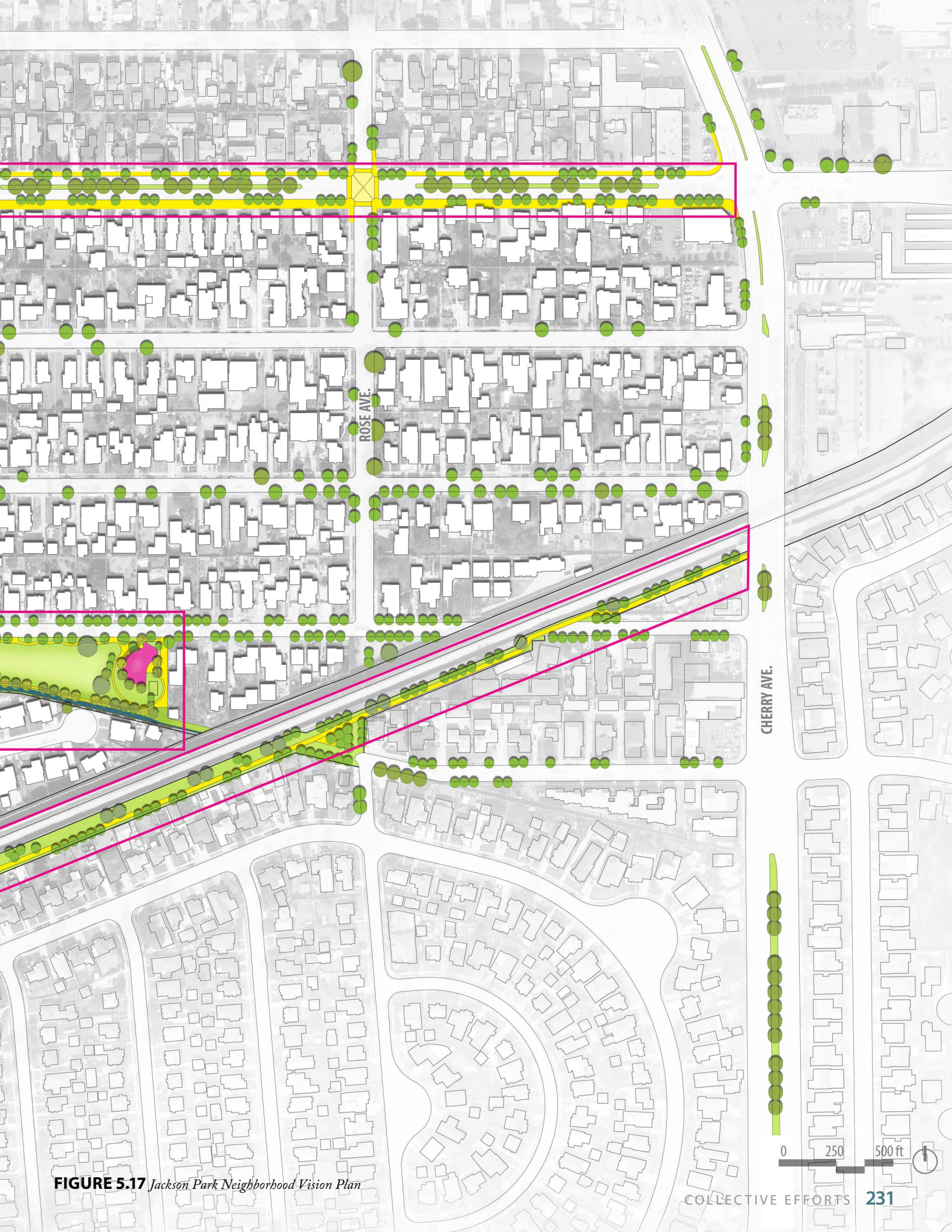


FIGURE 5.17 *Jackson Park Neighborhood Vision Plan*

JACKSON STREET PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Jackson Street Park is a 2.6-acre open green space with few programming elements. It is linear in shape and is situated centrally within the neighborhood. It is underused and sits vacant most days and all evenings. A dilapidated toddler playground lies at the eastern edge of the site and lacks shade, seating and sufficient maintenance. The park currently has no shrubs or seating, few trees, and no pathways or lighting for pedestrians. Homelessness, littering, dumping, vandalism, and drug use combine to make residents feel unsafe in the space.

DESIGN FEATURES

Design elements reflect a pastoral or naturalistic style with an emphasis on green infrastructure improvements. Because the park is centrally located and widely accessible, the community felt strongly about preserving and enhancing its character and green spaces, yet they understood that improvements were necessary to meet community needs and make the space user-friendly.

Design Objectives

Add programming for children, adults and seniors

Activate the park by providing safe areas to congregate and access pathways

Provide seating options with beautification elements to make the park attractive to residents

Add native vegetation and trees for shade

Improve environmental and public health

Use stormwater management strategies to infiltrate runoff

Increase pedestrian safety with traffic calming measures

TABLE 5.32 Jackson Street Park – Design Objectives



Left to right, top to bottom. Litter and Trash Accumulate in Neglected Area of Jackson Street Park; Channelized Creek with Chain Link Fence Barrier; Utility Easement Between the Park and Orange Avenue; Existing Toddler Playground Structure

Opposite. Unprogrammed Open Space Dominates the Park Landscape



DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Multi-purpose Pad	A multi-purpose pad provides space for events and sports for local youth and older residents. This flexible space can accommodate an array of activities including dance, yoga and exercise classes. It can also serve as an area for local theater and provide space for community events.
Community Garden	Community gardens located at the eastern side of the park will activate a space known to attract unwanted activities and improve public health by giving residents the opportunity to grow healthy low-cost fruits and vegetables.
Playground (Ages 5 to 12)	A second playground for children ages 5 to 12 will help provide appropriate developmental support for grade school aged-children.
Walking/Jogging Paths	Walking/jogging paths can offer residents a place to run without traffic hazards and provide seniors and children with a safe place to walk.
Picnic Area	Ample picnic areas will provide space for neighborhood special events and large family gatherings.
Bench Seating	Bench seating would make the park user-friendly for seniors by offering spaces to sit and rest. Seating also activates the space and makes it less attractive to vandals and drug users.
Shade Structures	Shade structures will make the park a place for quiet reflection and respite and help keep visitors cool and reduce average temperatures, especially during hot summer months.
Trees	Adding more trees and increasing canopy coverage of the park will help sequester carbon and slow stormwater runoff while simultaneously providing shade and protection for park visitors.
LED Lighting	LED lighting can provide safer access to the park. Lighting the park during the evening can help discourage drug use and criminal behavior. Motion detectors can reduce power consumption.
Naturalized Creekbank	A naturalized creekbank can help residents identify more closely with the LA River. Breaking down one side of the concrete channel will allow stormwater to infiltrate and provide improved river function and aesthetics.
Traffic Calming	Installing speed bumps in major roads provides increased safety benefits for pedestrians and vulnerable populations such as seniors and children.

TABLE 5.33 *Overview of Jackson Street Park Design Features as Determined by Participants*



- 1 Community Garden
- 2 Path (extends west to Orange Avenue)
- 3 Seatwall (typ.)
- 4 Shade Structure (typ.)
- 5 Multi-purpose Pad
- 6 Playground (ages 2 to 5 years)
- 7 Picnic Area with Shade Structure
- 8 Naturalized Creekbank

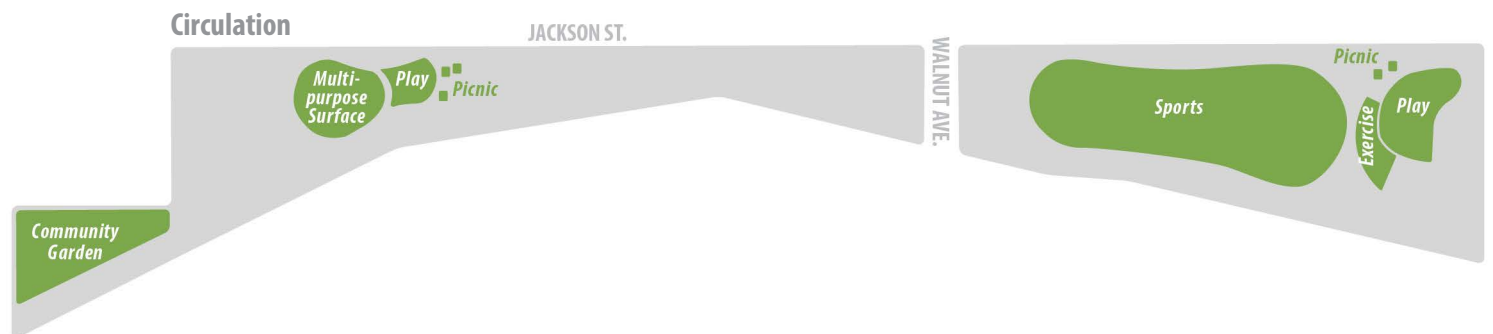
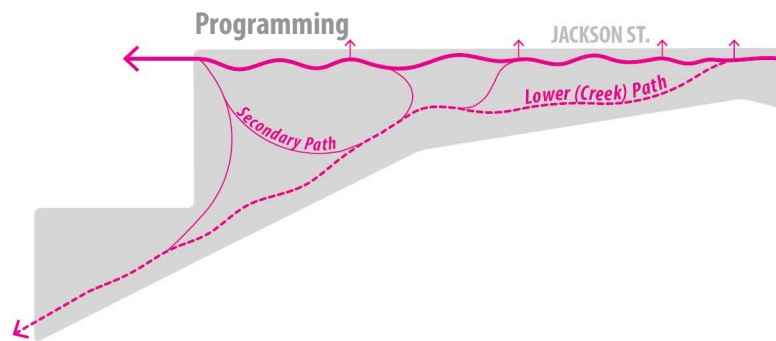
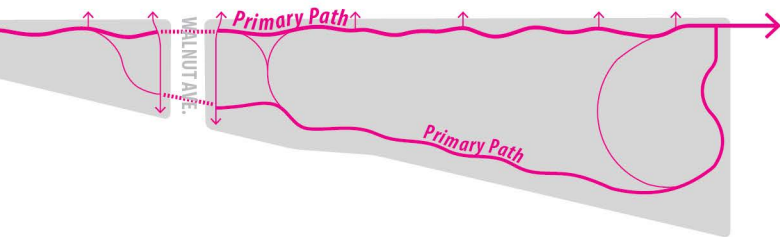


FIGURE 5.18 Jackson Street Park – Concept Plan and Program, Circulation, and Hydrology Diagrams

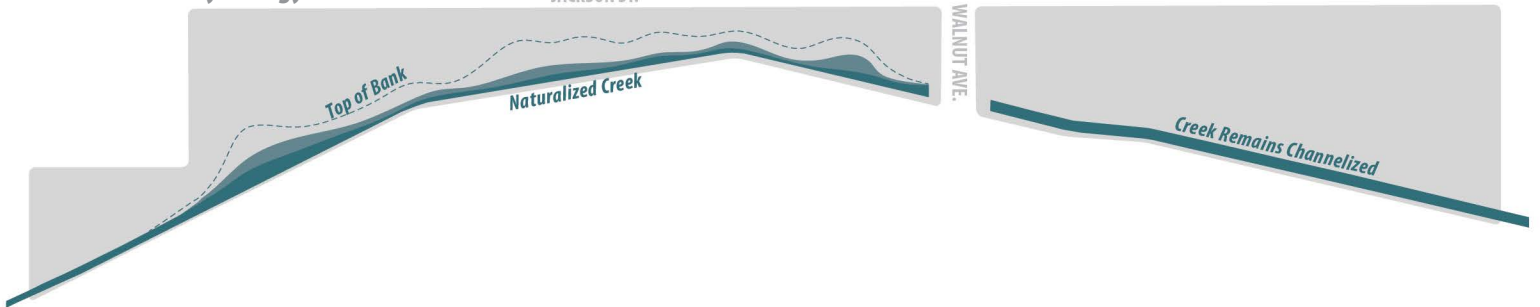


- 9 Four-Way Stop & Crosswalks
- 10 Painted Pedestrian Table
- 11 Existing Channelized Creek
- 12 Lawn
- 13 Low Berm
- 14 Playground (ages 6 to 12 years)
- 15 Exercise Area

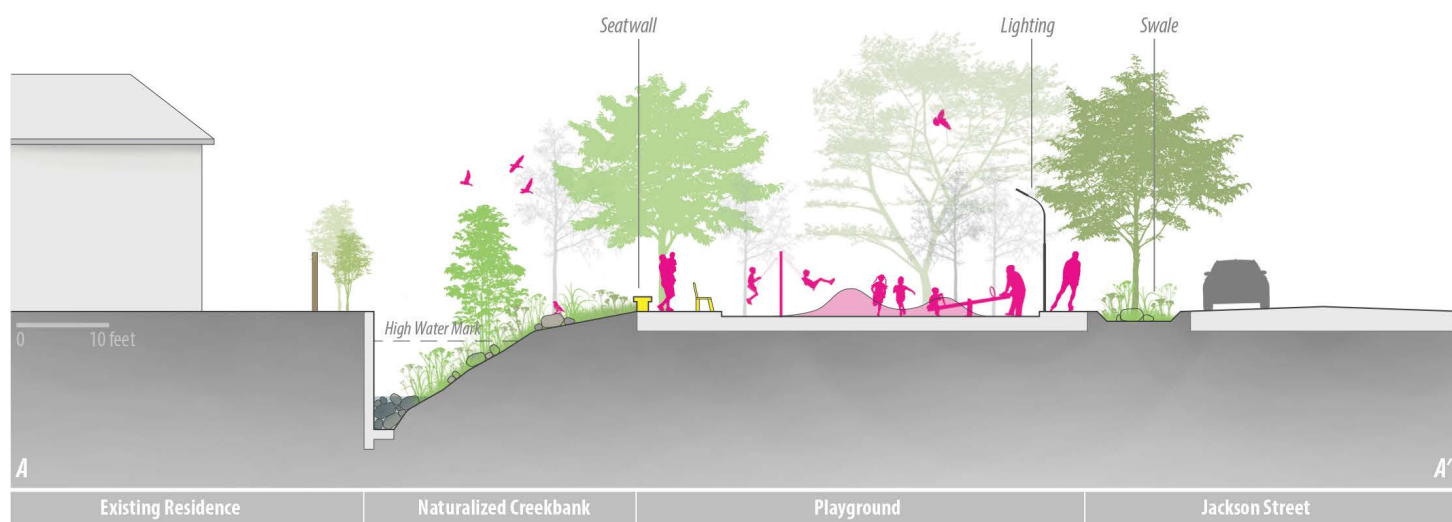


Hydrology

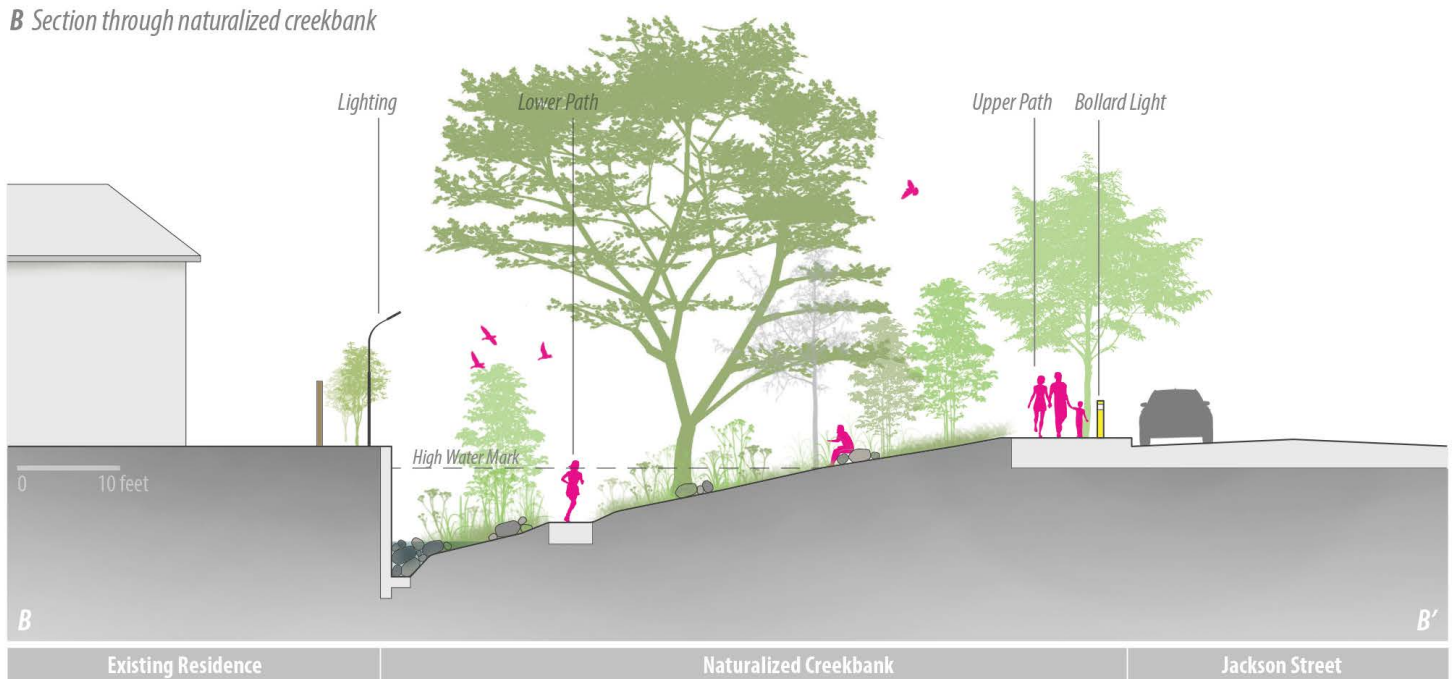
JACKSON ST.



A Section through the steep creekbank



B Section through naturalized creekbank



C Section through channel and lawn

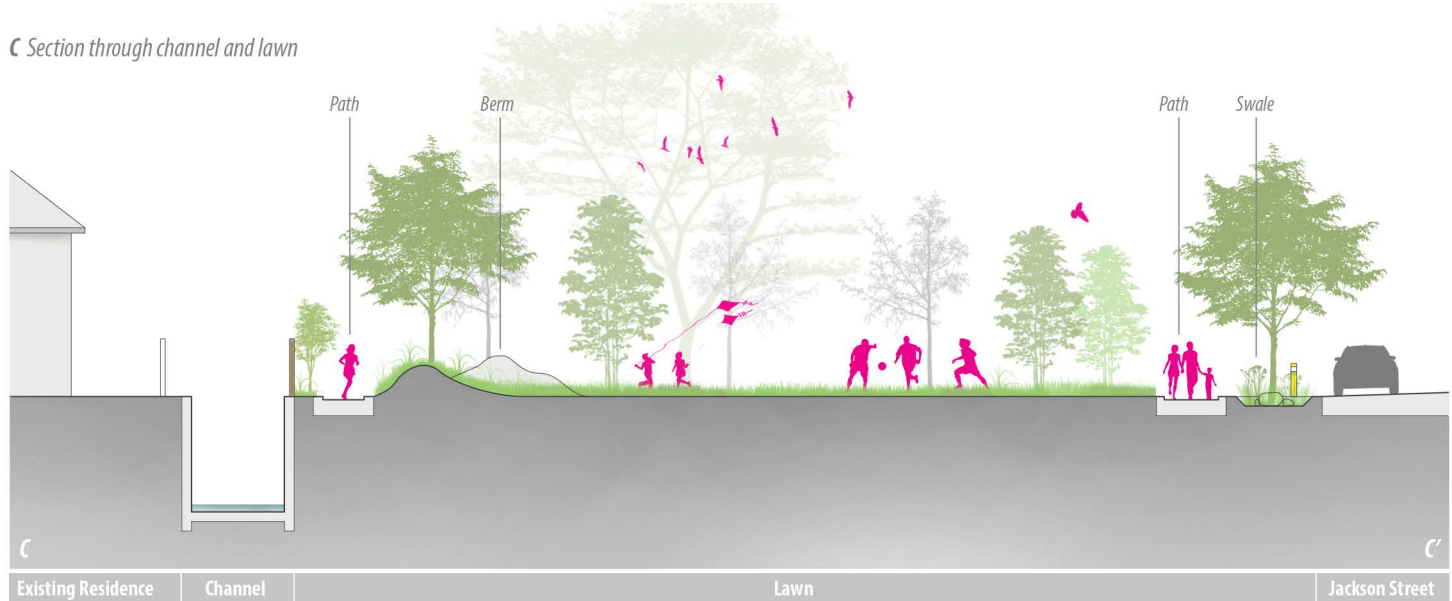


FIGURE 5.19 Jackson Street Park – Sections A, B, and C

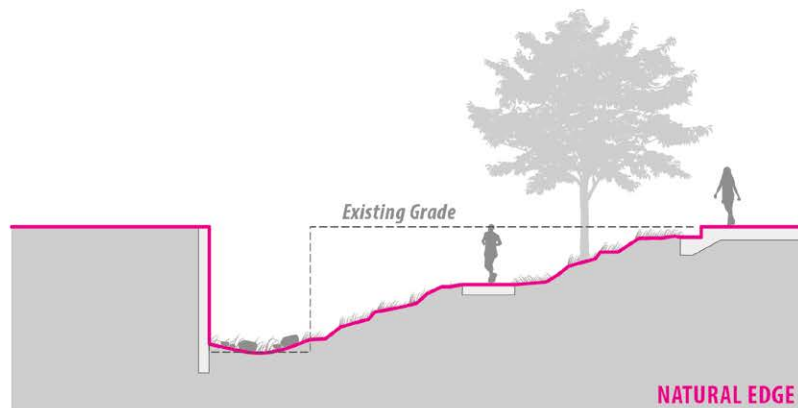
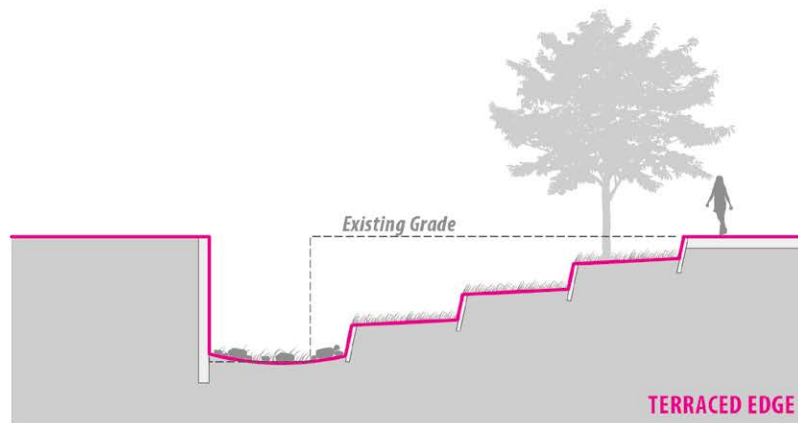
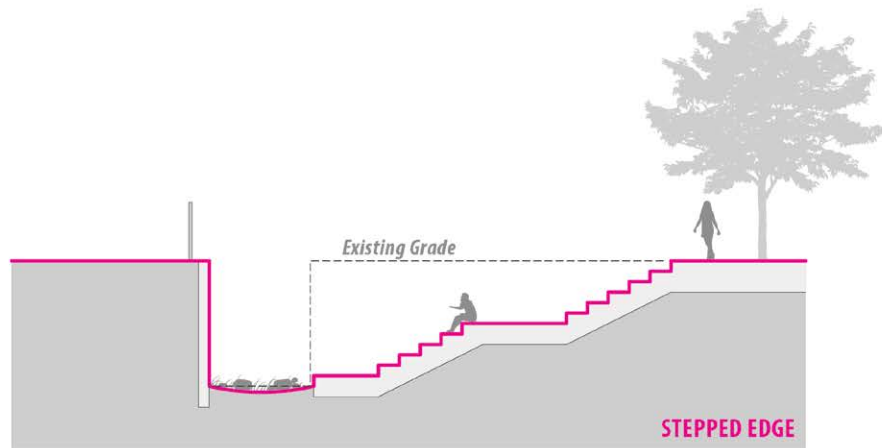
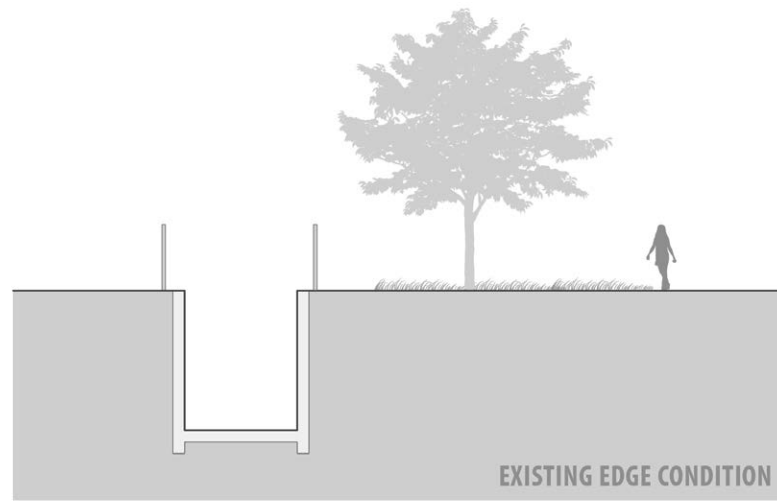


FIGURE 5.20 Jackson Street Park – Naturalized Creekbank Typologies

MARKET STREET

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Market Street is a noisy 0.54-mile multi-lane roadway with sparse tree canopy coverage and narrow pedestrian pathways that are often blocked by utility poles and fire hydrants. Speeding vehicles along the roadway present health concerns related to noise and air pollution. A lack of crosswalks, traffic lights, traffic buffers and seating at public transportation hubs make the site uninviting for pedestrians. The street and front yards of residents along Market Street become collection points for wind-blown trash and debris.

DESIGN FEATURES

Community members identified the 0.54 miles of Market Street between Orange and Cherry Avenues as a priority space for design due to their concerns regarding speeding traffic and unsafe pedestrian pathways. Community members added trees to provide more shade. Their design choices emphasized a naturalistic style that would offset the excessive hardscape and commercial zoning elements along the route. The community-led design address safety factors, accessibility and environmental health and is grouped into two defining categories: green infrastructure and pedestrian-friendly smart street initiatives.

Design Objectives

Improve public access by widening paths along and across Market Street

Address environmental conditions by reducing flooding during storms

Beautify the landscape with native trees and shrubs

Improve safety on Market Street by introducing traffic calming measures

TABLE 5.34 Market Street – Design Objectives

Below, left to right. Residents are Uncomfortable Crossing Wide Open Intersections; Utility Poles Often Obstruct the Sidewalk; Multiple Lanes of Traffic with No Median or Bike Path

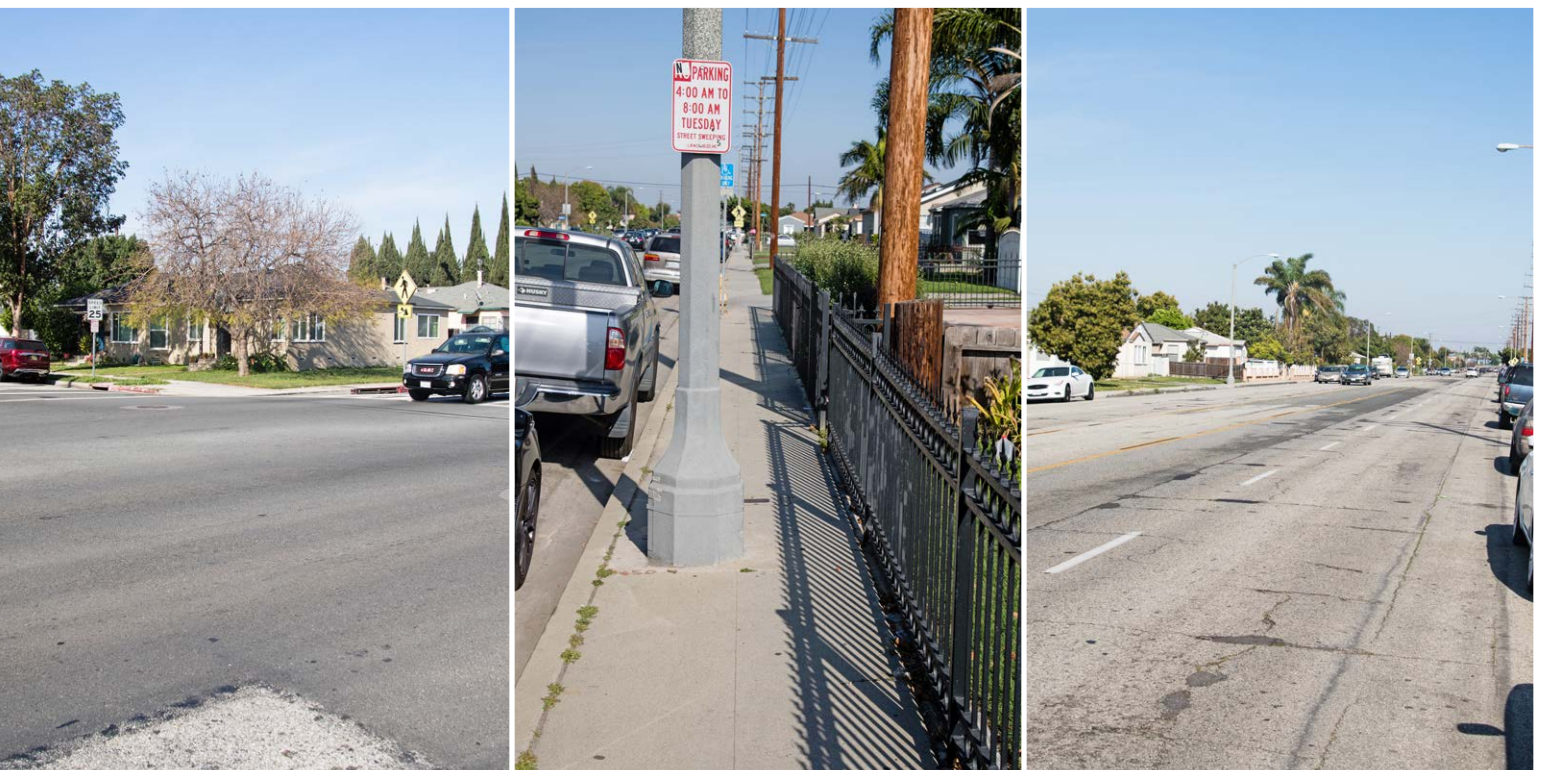
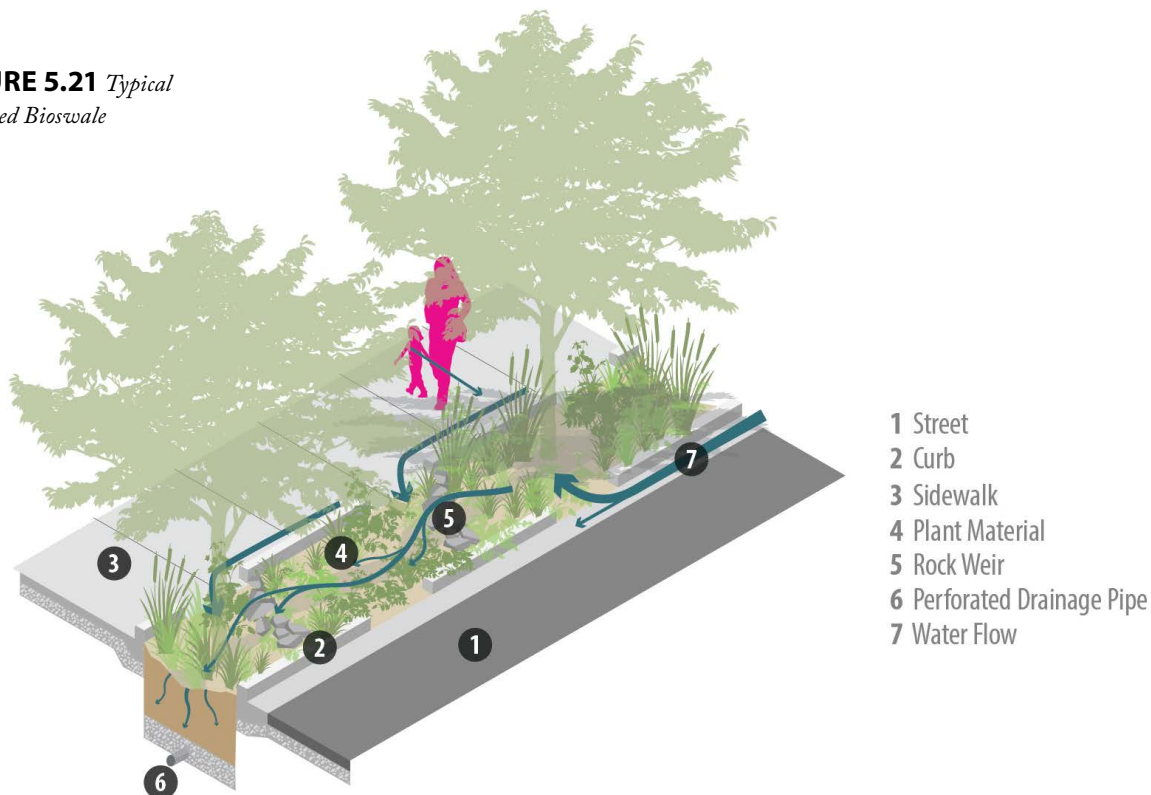


FIGURE 5.21 *Typical Proposed Bioswale*



DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Tree Canopy Additions	Tree canopy provides shade and reduces noise pollution. Street trees aid in carbon sequestration and rainwater infiltration.
Bioswales	By using phytoremediating plants in bioswales, infiltration and stormwater quality will be improved.
Landscaped Medians	Landscaped medians will help calm traffic and reduce urban heat island effect. During storms, water infiltrates into the median, reducing flooding and traffic accidents.
Mid-Block Painted Crosswalks	Mid-block painted crosswalks provide safe crossing points for pedestrians and aid sensitive users by reducing the distance between protected street crossings.
Painted Bicycle Lanes	Painted bicycle lanes will help calm traffic and provide a buffer between pedestrians and vehicle noise.
Bulb-outs	Bulb-outs will help calm traffic by narrowing travel lanes. Bulb-outs also activate the space and provide opportunities for neighbors to congregate and socialize.
Four-way Traffic Lights	Four-way traffic lights help slow traffic by providing a visual reminder that pedestrians are in the same space as vehicles.
LED Lighting	LED lighting can make Market Street a safer place for pedestrians. Lighting the street during the evening can help increase visibility. Motion detectors can reduce power consumption.
Widened Sidewalks	By widening sidewalks to 12 feet, pedestrian access is improved and a buffer is created between homes and car and truck traffic.

TABLE 5.35 *Overview of Market Street Design Features as Determined by Participants*

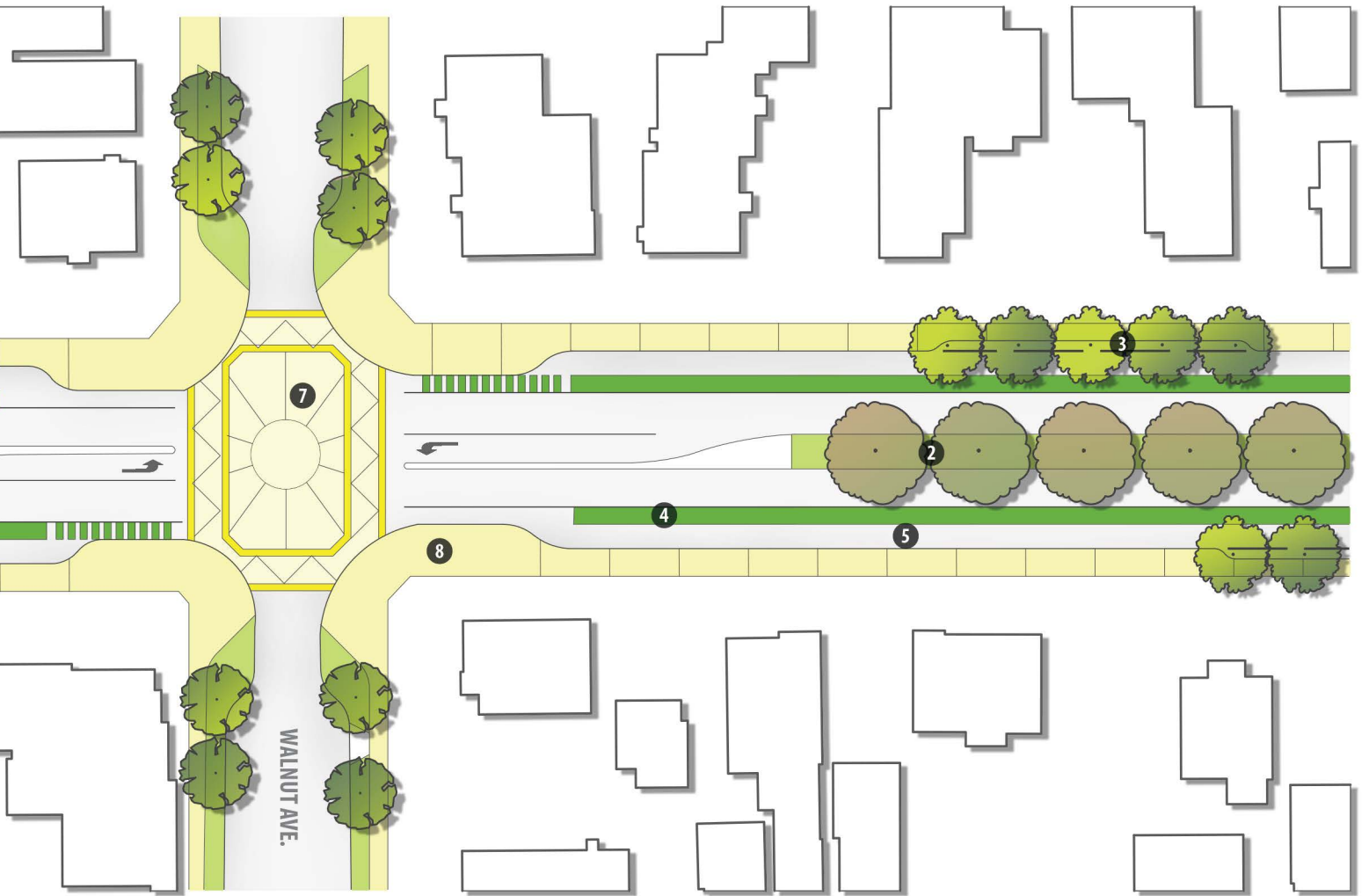


- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 Mid-Block Protected Crosswalk | 3 Stormwater Infiltration Basin | 5 On-Street Parking | 7 Mural Crosswalk & Four-way Traffic Light |
| 2 Landscaped Median | 4 Painted Bike Lane | 6 Widened Sidewalk | 8 Bulbout |

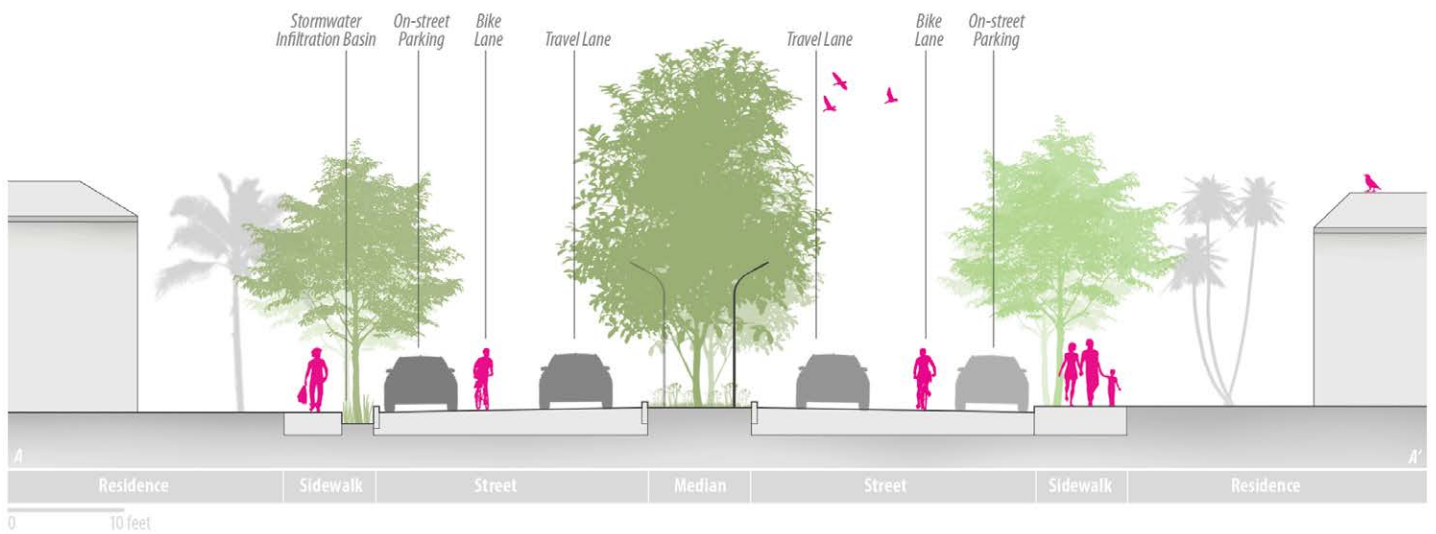


Key Map

FIGURE 5.22 Market Street Improvements – Concept Plan and Section



A Section through Market Street



ORANGE AVENUE VACANT LOT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The 0.19-acre vacant lot at Orange Avenue and Market Street is a very visible point of entry and speaks to the overall conditions in the neighborhood. A one-time gas station, it sits behind a rundown chain-link fence. The lot is covered in weeds and broken concrete, warped and slumping from subsidence. Wind-blown trash accumulates in the graffiti sprayed fencing. A thorough soils and geological analysis should be conducted prior to construction.

DESIGN FEATURES

As a gateway into the Jackson Park neighborhood, this vacant lot can transform the neighborhood. The community designed the 0.19-acre space in a woodland style reminiscent of the forested farmlands that existed during the 19th century. The design focused improvements on beauty, environmental health, public health and accessibility.

Design Objectives

Provide a gateway into the neighborhood

Identify the Jackson Park neighborhood with signage

Cleanse and infiltrate stormwater

Create a space safe from vehicles with bollards and low fencing

Develop programming and amenities for sensitive populations with special needs such as seniors and children

TABLE 5.36 *Orange Avenue Vacant Lot – Design Objectives*



Left, left to right, top to bottom. Past Contamination Presents a Challenge to Developing the Site; Adjacent Businesses are Vacant; Adjacent Residential Homes

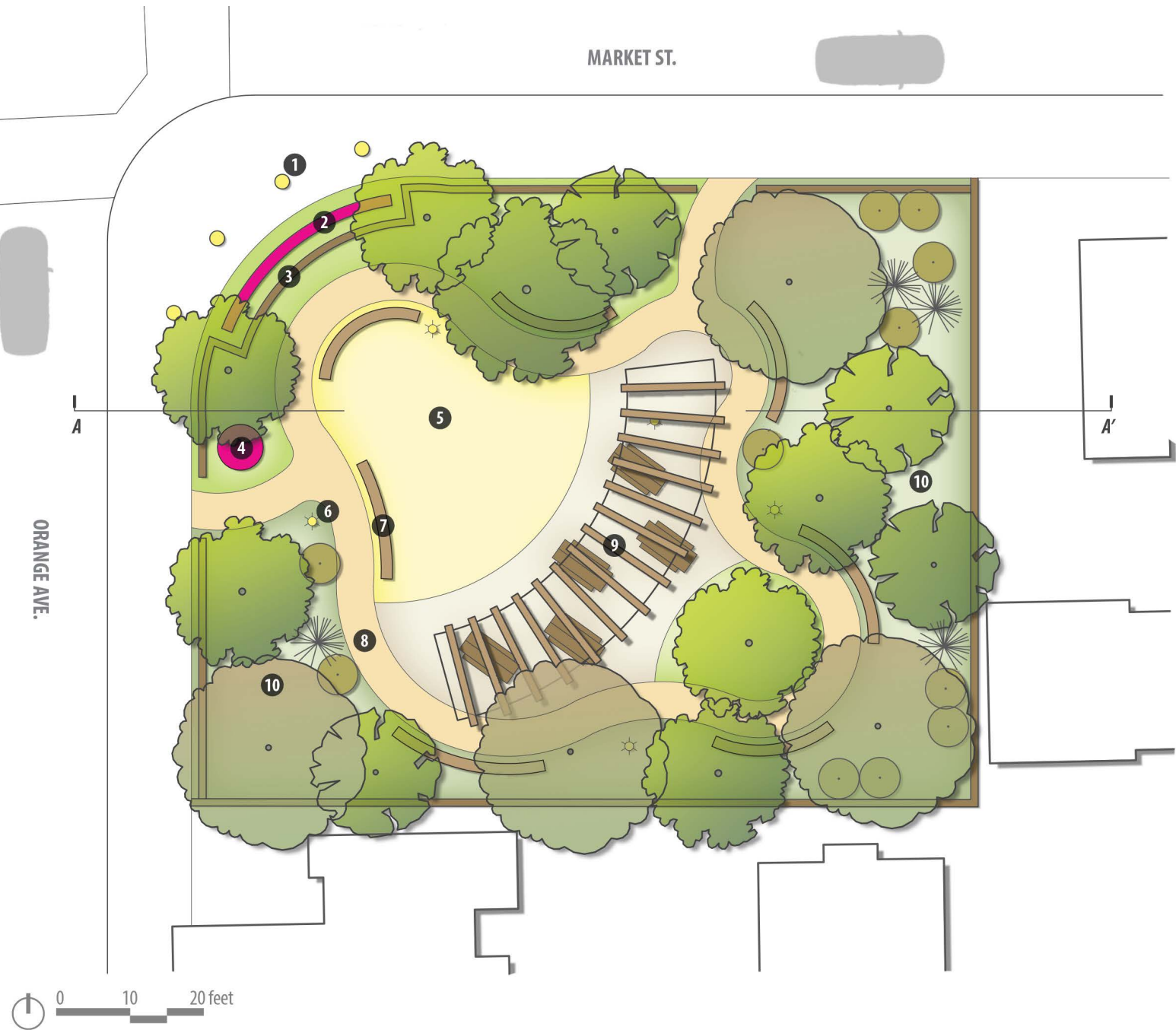


Opposite. Community Members Dislike that the Orange Avenue Vacant Lot is at the Entrance to their Neighborhood



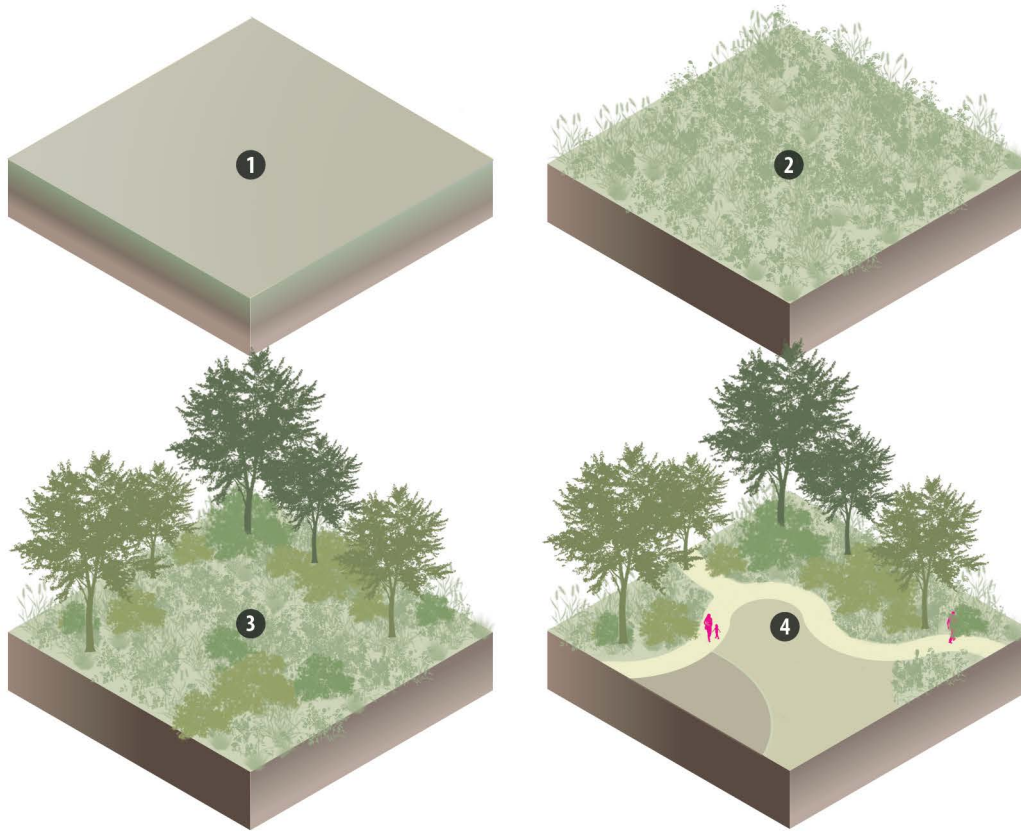
DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Site Remediation	A site remediation process should be initiated. Figure 5.23 describes the four major steps for remediation and cleansing of the site.
Adventure Playground (Children Ages 5-12)	An adventure playground provides age-appropriate developmental growth activities for grade school children and pre-teens.
Shaded Picnic Area	A shaded picnic area will help activate the space and serve as a gathering area for special events.
Precast Concrete Benches	Pre-cast concrete benches with back rests will provide a comfortable space for sensitive populations, such as seniors, and lunch for local workers.
Wooded Area	Evergreen trees provide shade and screening from residences, traffic and noise.
Multiple Pedestrian Access Points	Having multiple pedestrian access points provides ease of movement in and out of the park and offers access for police and fire personnel in case of emergency.
Low Barrier	An entry sign will identify the neighborhood and aid in creating a sense of identity.
Bollards (with LED Lights)	Bollards provide a barrier to vehicles and help calm traffic by acting as a visual buffer between the busy intersection and pedestrians.
Decomposed Granite Paths	Decomposed granite paths provide safe access for pedestrians with low maintenance requirements and stormwater infiltration capacity.
Public Artwork	Public artwork offers a unique glimpse into the neighborhood and distinguishes it from adjacent areas. Residents feel pride in artwork as it reflects the community.
Infiltration Basin	Infiltration basins treat and capture stormwater. Because the site is located in a busy intersection, high levels of pollution from street runoff can be re-mediated by native plants.
Educational Signs	Educational signs will inform residents of the importance of stormwater infiltration and benefits of native plants to wildlife and the local environment.
LED Lighting	LED lighting is a low cost and efficient solution to increase visibility in the neighborhood. Residents feel that improved lighting will also make the intersection safer.

TABLE 5.37 Overview of Orange Avenue Vacant Lot Design Features as Determined by Participants



- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Bollards | 3 Low Fence | 5 Adventure Play Area | 7 Bench (typ.) | 9 Picnic Area with Shade Structure |
| 2 Neighborhood Identity Sign | 4 Neighborhood Identity Public Art | 6 LED Light (typ.) | 8 Decomposed Granite Path | 10 Infiltration Basin with Native Plants & Educational Signage |

FIGURE 5.23 Orange Avenue Vacant Lot – Concept Plan



1 Clear Site

2 First Succession Remediation

Annual Wildflowers and Grasses:
Brassica juncea - Indian Mustard
Sorghastrum nutans - Indian Grass
Helianthus annuus - Sunflower

3 Second Succession Remediation

Trees and Shrubs:
Populus spp. - Poplars
Salix spp. - Willows
Helianthus annuus - Sunflower

4 Site Developed

A Section

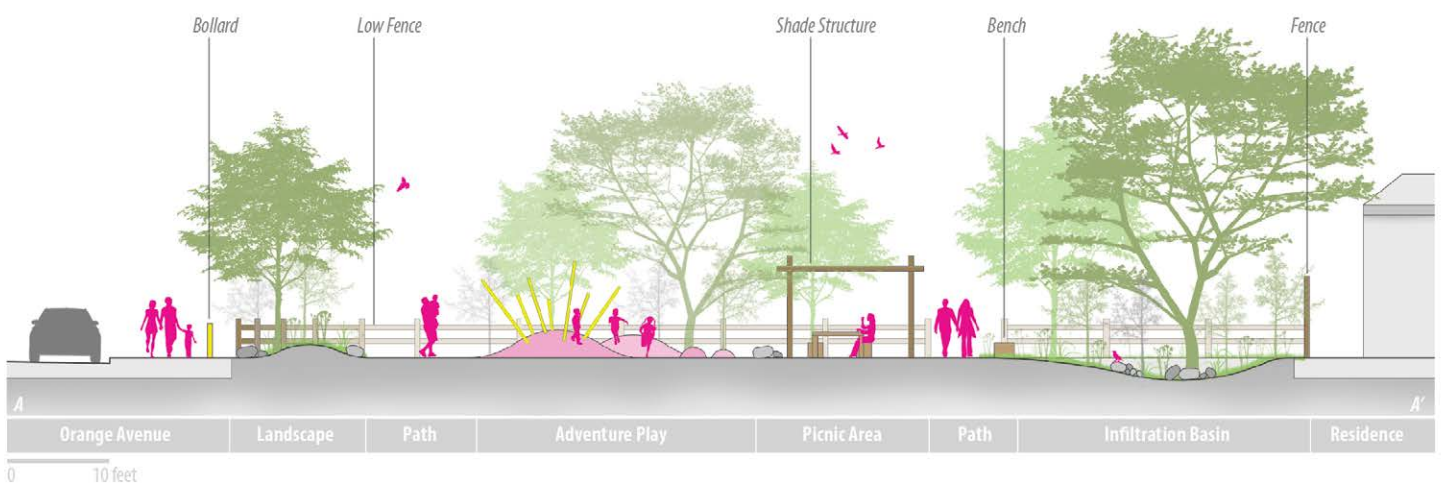


FIGURE 5.24 Orange Avenue Vacant Lot – Section Elevation and Site Remediation Strategy

RAILROAD CORRIDOR

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Union Pacific Railroad corridor is a 15-foot wide easement spanning the half-mile between Cherry and Orange Avenues. It lies 18-feet below a compacted slope, and is separated by a sound wall from rail traffic and a three foot easement from existing homes. The corridor is covered with dirt, weeds and trash. During rain events it floods due to heavy clay soils and has become a gathering place for the homeless.

DESIGN FEATURES

The railroad corridor bisects and separates two residential neighborhoods. A 12-foot multi-direction bicycle pathway can link to the existing LA River Bikeway and bridge the gap between neighborhoods. Adding stormwater infiltration areas and landscaped buffers can reduce noise and fine particle pollution from diesel train engines. Seating with solar lighting, and trash receptacles at a gated pocket parks in the corridor will help activate the space and address isolation, homelessness and neglect. Design choices reflected a recreational style that emphasized access, strategic and community features.

Design Objectives

Activate space and reduce homeless use

Improve drainage and infiltration without adding excessive maintenance requirements

Increase recreation and tie into existing neighborhoods

Develop amenities to make the space more attractive to residents

TABLE 5.38 *Railroad Corridor – Design Objectives*

Below. Flooding, Trash, Debris, and Graffiti in the Railroad Corridor Easement

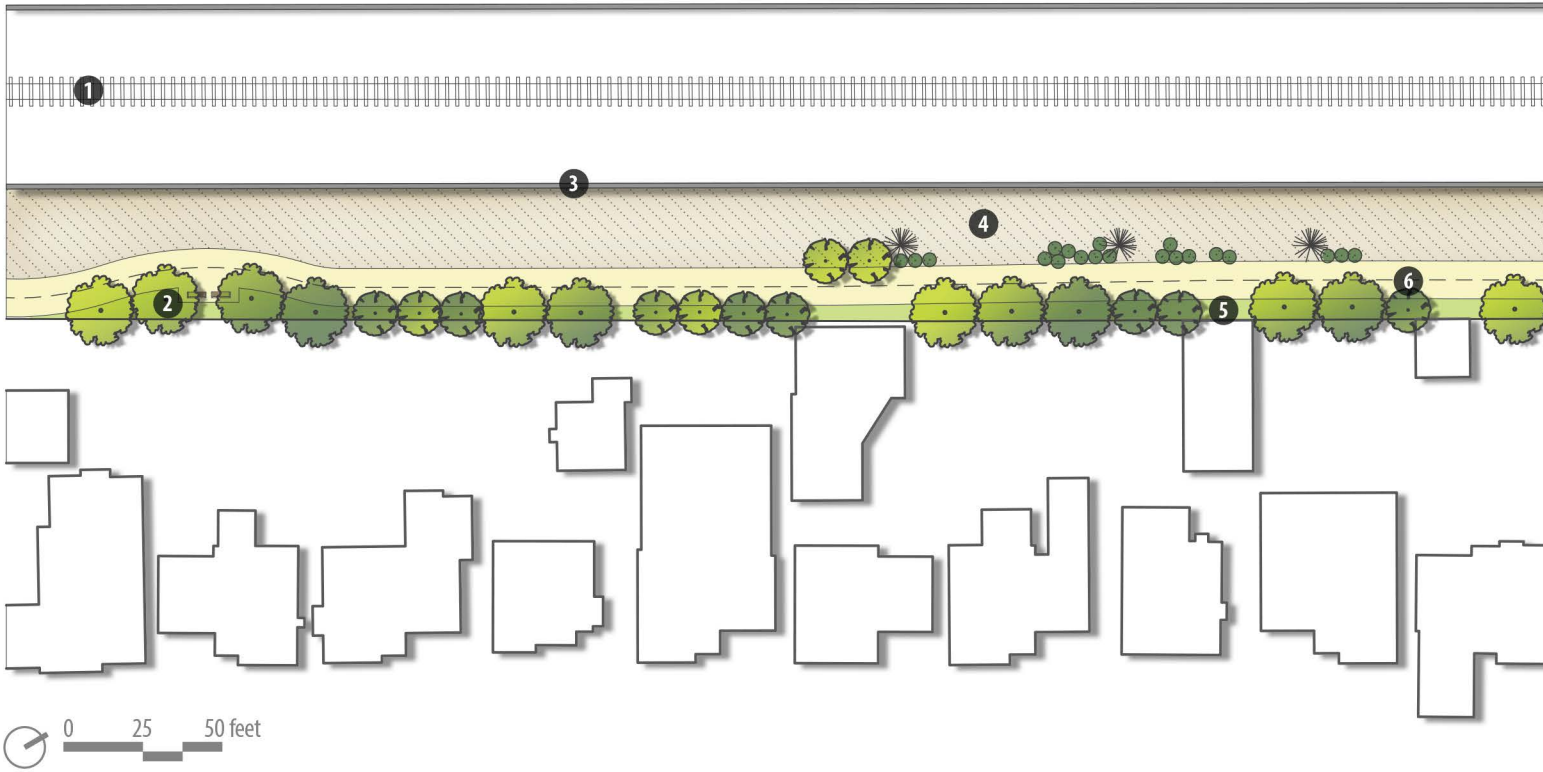




Above. Barriers Along the Railroad Corridor

DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Bicycle Connection to the LA River Bikeway	A two-way bicycle pathway can alleviate isolation by connecting Jackson Park to pathways on Shoreline Village Drive and Orange Avenue.
Pocket Park	A pocket park in the E. Hardwick neighborhood can connect residents and activate the space. Active spaces are less attractive to the homeless. It can also support business development through snack shops, bicycle repair facilities, etc.
Embedded Solar Ground Lights	Embedded solar reflectors in an eco-friendly bio-composite bike path increase visibility and safety for both cyclists and pedestrians.
LED Solar Overhead Lighting	LED solar overhead lighting can be a deterrent to the homeless and drug users. It will increase the perception of safety and make spaces more attractive to residents.
Stormwater Infiltration Basins	Stormwater infiltration basins will help reduce flooding, treat stormwater and create microclimates with ecological benefits.
Benches	Benches offer respite and relaxation for all users.
Tree Canopy	Trees provide shade for users, sequester carbon, and help infiltrate rainwater. Tree canopies block noise and pollution from diesel trains, providing benefits to the residents living just south of the easement.
Murals	Murals provide a visual cue to motorists to slow down because cyclists may be near.

TABLE 5.39 *Overview of Railroad Corridor Design Features as Determined by Participants*



- 1 Union Pacific Railroad Track
- 2 Rest Point with Benches
- 3 Existing Soundwall
- 4 Existing Slope
- 5 Landscape Buffer
- 6 Bicycle Trail (Two-way)
- 7 Trail Access/Pocket Park
- 8 Stormwater Infiltration Basin

A Section through Railroad Corridor

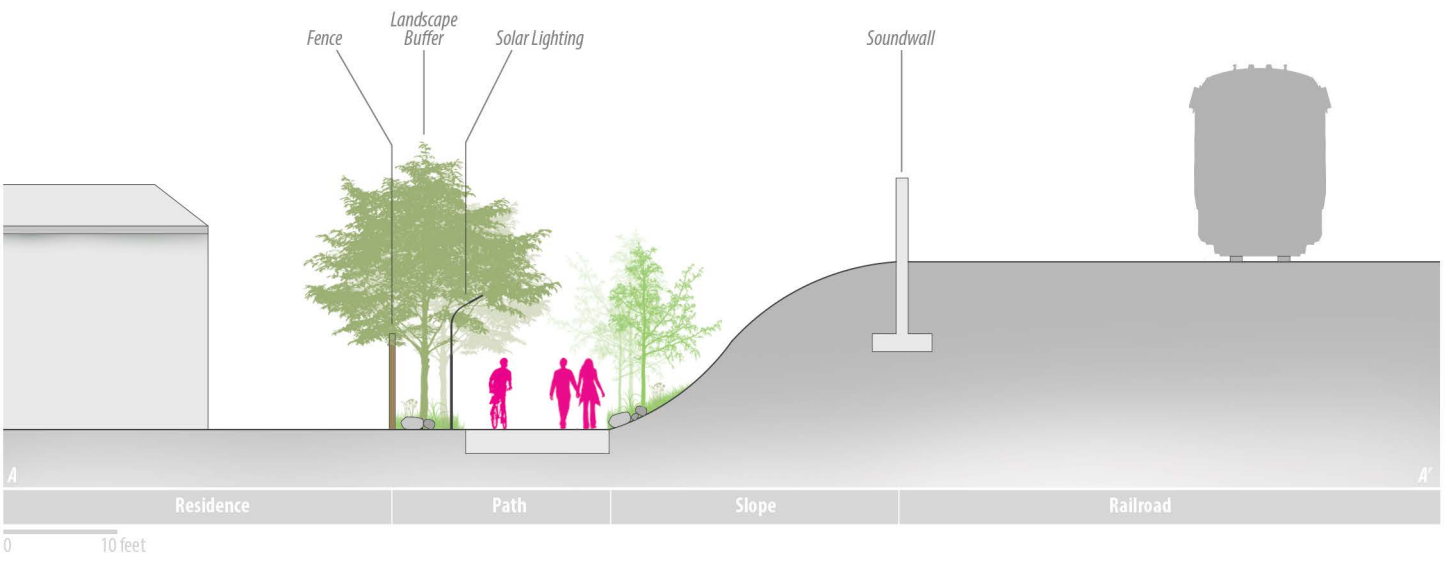


FIGURE 5.25 Railroad Corridor – Concept Plan and Section

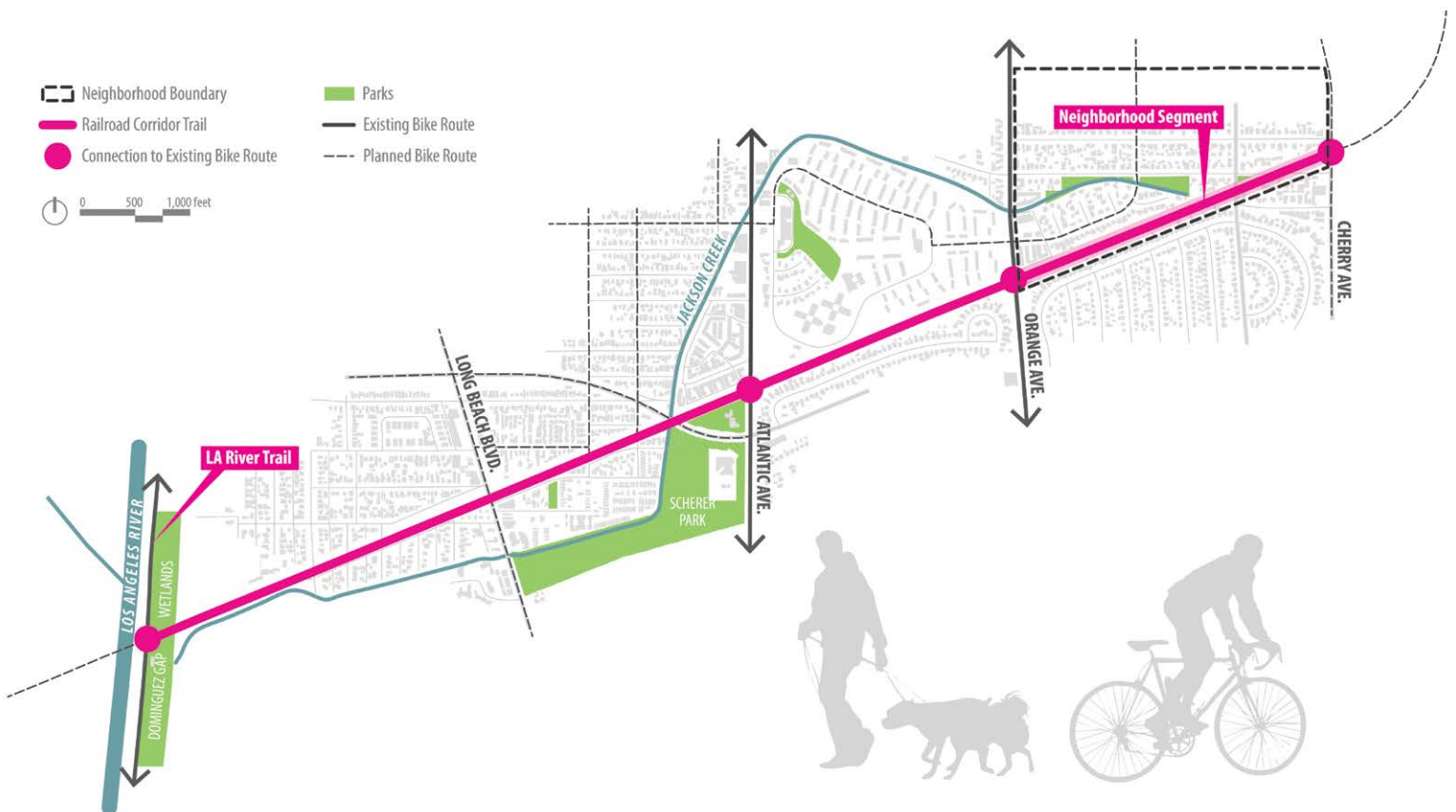


FIGURE 5.26 *Open Space Connection Diagram*

ORANGE AVENUE COMMERCIAL AREA

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The 1.12-acre site consists of several locally-owned businesses, including a laundromat, a nail salon, a market and a barbecue restaurant. The site is predominantly hardscape - asphalt, commercial buildings and sidewalk. It is situated at the southwestern access point to the neighborhood and offers significant potential for improvement. The lack of shade and vegetation, and issues with vandalism, trash and homelessness keep the space from becoming a rallying point for the neighborhood.

DESIGN FEATURES

Community members introduced design elements they felt would improve the aesthetics of the site while making it more amenable to residents. A variety of improvements were considered and included in the plan; however, during the implementation of the final build project, some of these features were modified to accommodate the wishes of local business and property owners. The design features in the plan represent the community's interests, and includes shade trees, infiltration areas, additional seating, and planters. Residents embraced the idea of incorporating features that provide both environmental services and social benefit.

Design Objectives

Strengthen community ties to local businesses

Remove excessive hardscape to allow for infiltration of stormwater and runoff

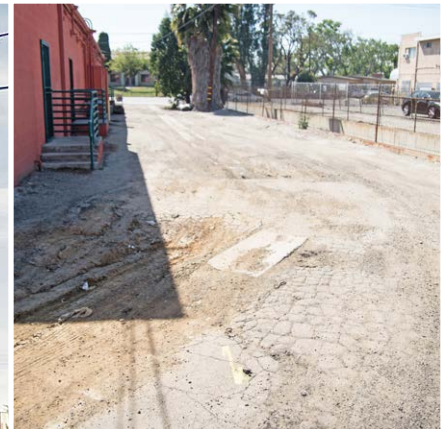
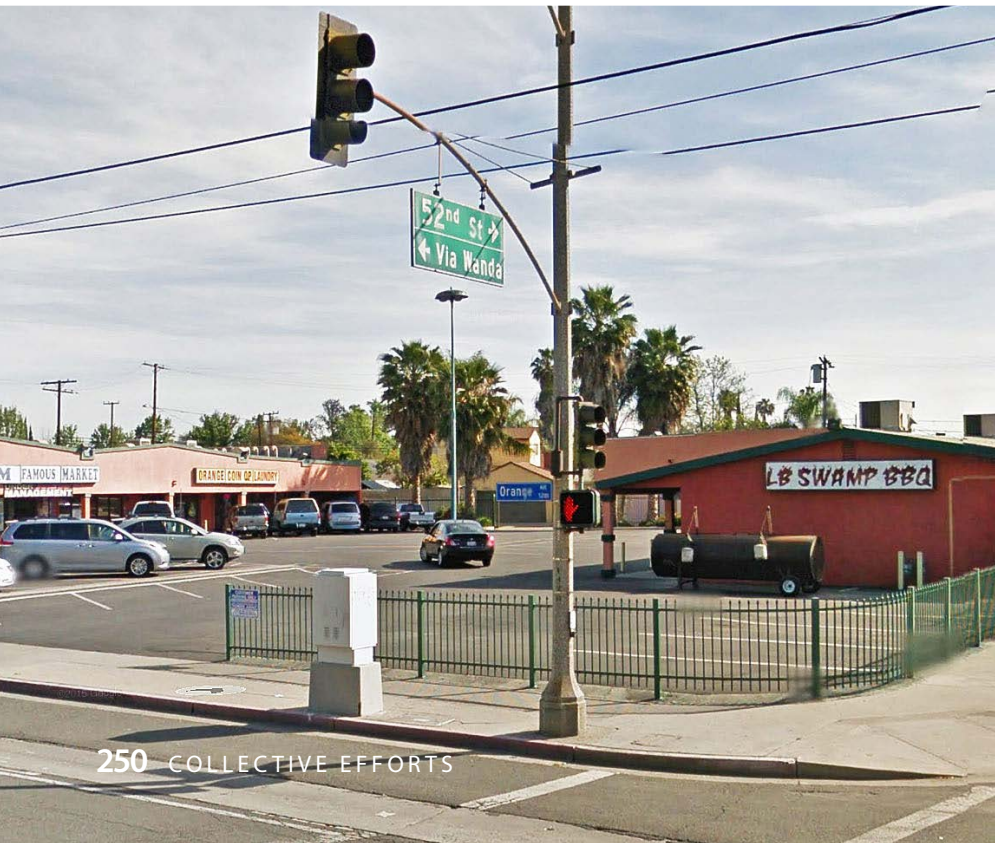
Beautify entrance to neighborhood

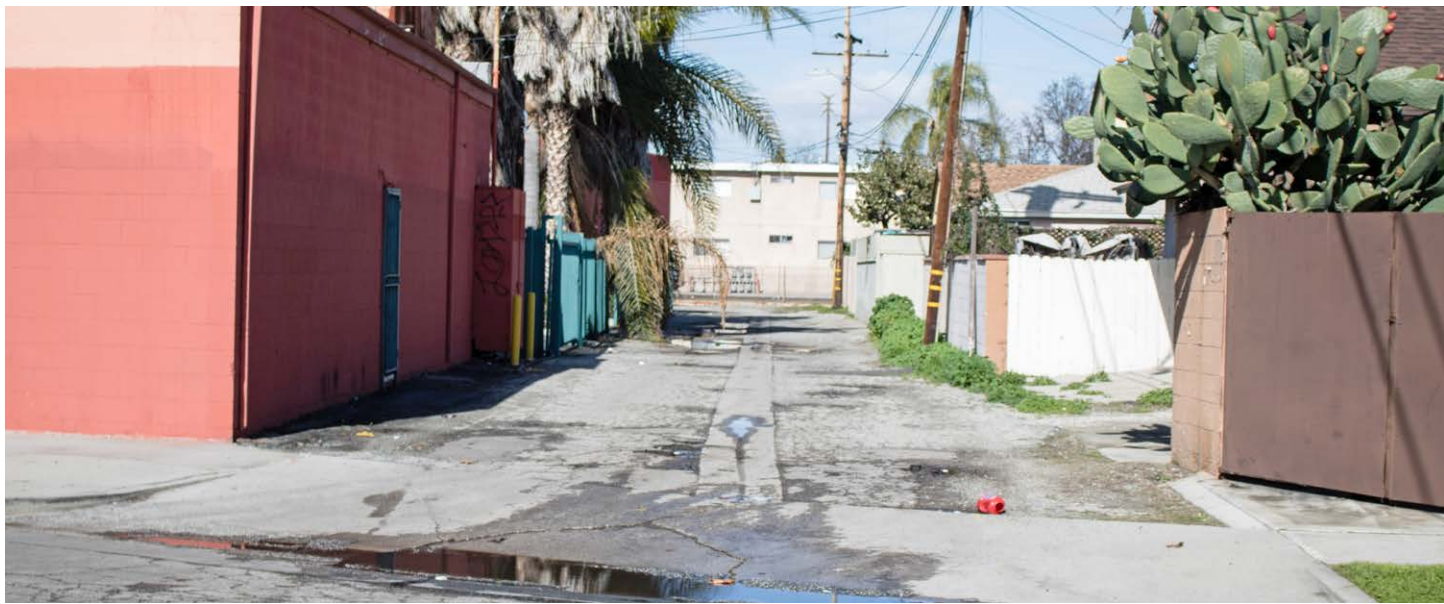
Develop amenities to make the space more attractive to residents

Incorporate new amenities without negatively impacting the available parking for local businesses

TABLE 5.40 *Orange Avenue Commercial Area – Design Objectives*

Below. Excessive Hardscape and Underutilized Open Space Defines this Entrance to the Neighborhood





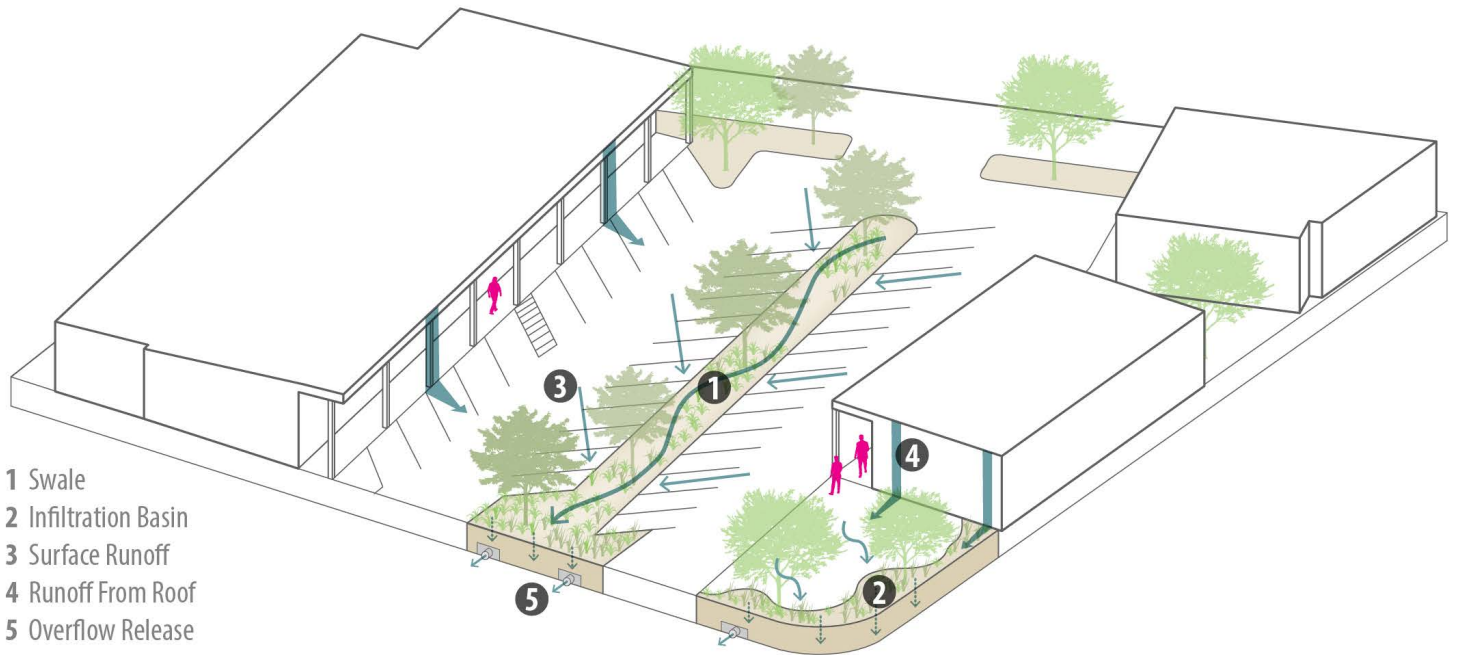
Above. Residents Indicated Additional Lighting and Planting Areas Could Make the Back Alley Feel Safer

DESIGN FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Trench Drains	By filling two trenches with large stones and pea gravel, the community addressed recurrent flooding along the north side of the site. Using porous geotextile fabric to keep the gravel from shifting helps preserve the aesthetic of the feature.
Shaded Dining Patio	Canopy shade structures provide a more comfortable atmosphere for diners and help activate the space. Canopies are low maintenance, provide protection from UV rays, and help reduce the heat island effect.
Infiltration and Phytoremediation	Drought tolerant vegetation with phytoremediation traits helps treat stormwater during heavy rain events. Breaking up the asphalt also provides infiltration opportunities and reduces heat island effect.
Overhead Solar Lighting	Overhead solar lighting increases site visibility and helps reduce drug use and homeless activity on site. Additional police surveillance should also be considered.
Murals	Murals create a sense of the community and showcase the neighborhood's character and history. Colorful murals create a more visually appealing landscape and can help develop collective community identity.
Identity Signs	Identity signs set a boundary for the neighborhood and can become a point of pride for residents. Efforts to identify a collective consciousness can help improve community spirit.
Educational Signs	Educational signs help explain the value of stormwater infiltration and treatment. Residents can learn about the role trees and vegetation play in offsetting the effects of excessive hardscape.

TABLE 5.41 *Overview of Orange Avenue Commercial Area Design Features as Determined by Participants*



FIGURE 5.27 Orange Avenue Commercial Area – Concept Plan



- 1 Swale
- 2 Infiltration Basin
- 3 Surface Runoff
- 4 Runoff From Roof
- 5 Overflow Release

A Section through Parking Lot

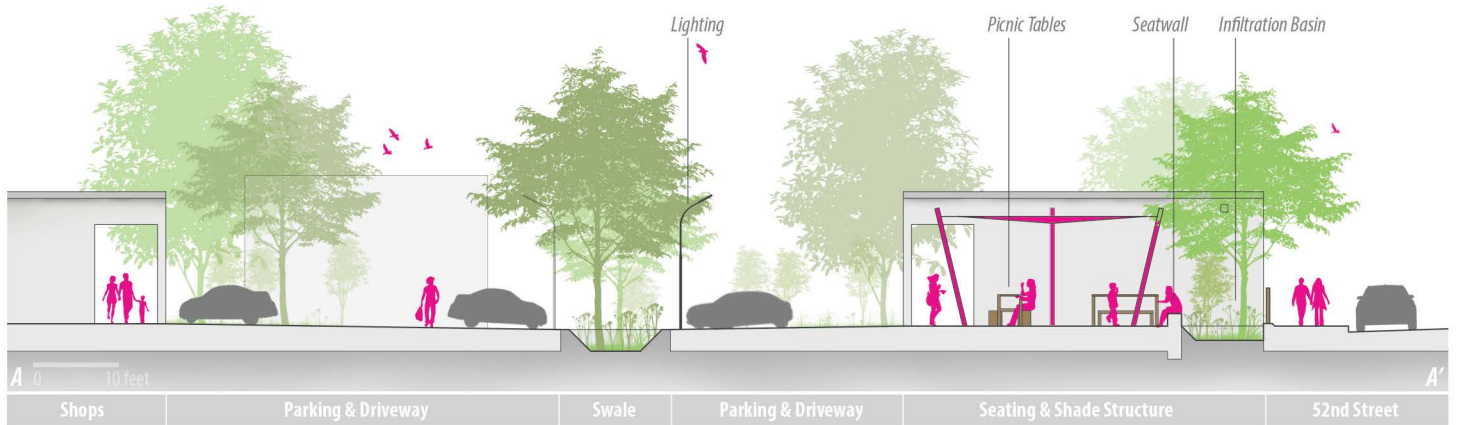


FIGURE 5.28 Orange Avenue Commercial Area – Section and Flow Diagram





06 LESSONS LEARNED

6.1

INTRODUCTION

Implementing participatory design-build strategies is a challenging, yet worthwhile, endeavor. Each stage of the process involves a different set of tools and requires designers to be adaptable and responsive to changing site conditions, political will, client needs, and community perspectives. The complexity of this approach is something that can only be taught through a hands-on approach to learning, which makes challenges inevitable.

Throughout the development of *Collective Efforts*, the project teams made note of specific challenges and documented the effectiveness of their response. Following the completion of the project, these lessons were organized into categories to help future designers. While some of the lessons can be generalized to all participatory design work, it is important to note that some lessons might be specific to this project as a result of the unique perspectives of individual investigators and the particular conditions of the neighborhoods. The audience should consider their specific situation and context when identifying appropriate strategies.

Table 6.1 summarizes the key tips that future designers can use to guide projects with a similar scope of work. The remainder of the chapter references these takeaways, but also documents the experiences that informed the learning process for each team and for this year's 606 Studio as a whole.

CATEGORY	LESSONS LEARNED		
Community Outreach and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify meeting location and date before initiating canvassing outreach. • Develop a clear understanding of project goals before going door-to-door. • Ask relevant questions to engage residents in a conversation and build a relationship. • Collect phone numbers as well as email addresses to enable direct contact with residents for later outreach. • Use alternative outreach methods such as social media and newsletters but do not rely on them for meeting attendance. • Call residents and develop relationships with them to ensure continued engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, identify a local meeting location early in the organizing process. • Find a private space that is consistently available at a regular time where it is easy to set up tables and chairs. • If you are having trouble finding a location, ask residents if they know of a place where they feel comfortable meeting. • Be flexible. There are always creative solutions if there are no ideal locations. • Use key questions to keep meetings and workshops focused on the design goal. • Be aware of group dynamics and find ways to encourage everyone to participate. • Encourage attendees to show up on time, but be prepared for latecomers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to adhere to the agenda, but allow time for open discussion. • Create a more formal meeting setting to encourage participants to show up on time and adhere to the agenda. • Think carefully about the order of activities and how they might encourage or discourage people from participating. • Imagery is helpful for communicating goals and intentions to participants. • Outreach material can reflect the personality of the organizing team and community members. • Be brief. Use packets as a tool to support the meetings and outreach, but they should not be the main focus.
Inventory and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin regional inventory as early as possible, preferably before community outreach. • Ensure the inventory creates an argument for the community work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use community meetings, interviews, and field observations to inform inventory focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-reference inventory results with final designs to ensure designs are responsive to community priorities.
Working with Local Agencies and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve several youth organization members to accommodate inconsistent attendance and ensure representation. • Keep in contact with staff of local agencies and organizations to maintain communication and accountability throughout the process. • When working with disadvantaged populations, recognize that young adults may not be comfortable working in their home neighborhoods. • Recognize and accommodate the complex home-work-school lives of youth partners. • Build mentor-mentee relationships with youth partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify leaders to support your efforts. • Be aware that organizations may not represent overall community demographics. • Avoid letting organizations take control of your bottom-up organizing efforts. • To maximize impact, choose neighborhoods without existing associations. • Identify city agencies that are open to the idea of community-based work prior to beginning the project. • Establish open and direct lines of communication as early as possible without potentially jeopardizing the momentum of the community efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve residents in the conversation with city agencies as much as possible to demonstrate community will. • Keep records of all correspondence with city and council representative. • Follow-up all phone and in-person conversations with city staff and council representatives (and their staff) with emails documenting the content of the discussion as well as the times, date, and location.
Design Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the number of exercises to ensure community members do not become weary and disengaged. • Listen to peoples' reactions as they engage with designs to understand how they perceive their neighborhood and the project site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a variety of cut-outs and tools to make the designs as interactive as possible. • Start with smaller sites to make it easier for participants to learn to think spatially. • Provide inspirational imagery and ask people to find their own images to encourage a wide range of design alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that residents tend to prioritize safety over aesthetics, design, and ecosystem services. • Provide examples, diagrams, and images to explain design features.
Build Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow residents to direct the activities. • Have a variety of activities available that people can work on simultaneously. • Always have water and snacks available. • Start construction early to avoid heat and fatigue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify projects on private land early in the design process to ensure there are options for construction if public spaces are unavailable. • Choose highly visible locations to promote the project and recruit new participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider creating a third-party community-based group that is not affiliated with an established agency to address accountability.

TABLE 6.1 *Key Tips for Future Participatory Design-Build Projects*

6.2

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

6.2.1 CANVASSING

Door-to-door canvassing, the primary strategy for recruiting residents, was new to the majority of the 606 Studio members. The team received canvassing training prior to conducting the initial outreach, but it is impossible to fully prepare organizers for the real-world experience. As a result, both teams adapted their canvassing approach as the project evolved, which impacted recruitment in unforeseen ways.

During the initial outreach, team members found it difficult to articulate the goals of the project, which made it hard to communicate their intent to residents. As team members became better oriented to the project goals, the canvassing became easier, but the teams still experienced difficulties adapting to the responses of individual residents. A pitch that effectively engaged one resident might be ineffective with another. Eventually, the teams realized the nuances of building relationships with residents through taking the time to ask questions that encouraged people to talk openly about themselves and their neighborhood.

Canvassing Tips

Identify meeting location and date before initiating canvassing outreach.

Develop a clear understanding of project goals before going door-to-door.

Ask relevant questions to engage residents in a conversation and build a relationship.

Collect phone numbers as well as email addresses to enable direct contact with residents for later outreach.

TABLE 6.2 *Canvassing Tips*



Left. Canvassing in South Wrigley

The type of communication impacted how involved people were in the project. Some residents responded to emails, but the teams had greater success with phoning residents to extend personal event invitations. This approach took more time and effort, but the resulting stronger relationships made community members more likely to remain involved in the project.

The studio members were often surprised by canvassing results. In some cases, residents who expressed a strong interest in the project would fail to become actively involved. In other cases, seemingly disinterested residents would become project leaders, and people who regularly committed to attend meetings would be absent. This created apprehension about the strategies used to get people involved. The only consistent solution was persistence and continuing to build relationships with community members.

Ongoing Recruitment Tips

Use alternative outreach methods such as social media and newsletters, but do not rely on them for meeting attendance.

Call residents and develop relationships with them to ensure continued engagement.

TABLE 6.3 *Ongoing Recruitment Tips*

6.2.2 ONGOING RECRUITMENT

Although canvassing was the primary strategy for recruitment, both teams used alternative recruitment methods. The South Wrigley team used fliers distributed to local businesses, and some participating community members posted event information on social media platforms. Social media did not seem to result in higher rates of attendance. The Jackson Park team also submitted event information to local newsletters, which resulted in a few new meeting attendees. In general, these strategies were unpredictable because there was no way to engage directly with potential attendees.

Meeting Time and Location Tips

If possible, identify a local meeting location early in the organizing process.

Find a private space that is consistently available at a regular time where it is easy to set up tables and chairs.

If you are having trouble finding a location, ask residents if they know of a place where they feel comfortable meeting.

Be flexible. There are always creative solutions if there are no ideal locations.

TABLE 6.4 *Meeting Time and Location Tips*

6.2.3 MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The teams found that meeting time and location had an impact on meeting attendance. Both teams called dozens of local businesses, restaurants, and religious facilities to identify meeting locations for the two neighborhoods. A local church in North Long Beach agreed to provide a space for the Jackson Park meetings, which set a consistent location, day, and time. The meeting room was private, which provided a more formal setting, and made it easier to set up tables and chairs in a way that effectively facilitated group activities.

The South Wrigley team was unable to identify a meeting location that met similar criteria. Available spaces were either completely booked, not open during the desired hours, too far away, too small, or the owners were unable to host the events. A few community members suggested meeting in a local park on the weekends. This worked well during the warmer months



Above. Jackson Park Meeting Room Set-up

and provided a relaxed and conversational context for the meetings. During the winter months, the team negotiated with a local coffee shop to stay open after-hours to accommodate the meetings. The coffee shop was a popular destination for local residents, but there was often background noise and the furniture was sometimes ill-suited for meeting activities. The times for the meetings also fluctuated based on requests from meeting attendees, which confused some residents and may have discouraged them from participating.

6.2.4 MEETING FACILITATION

Initially, both teams facilitated meetings using similar activities aimed at answering similar questions. As the projects progressed, facilitation strategies shifted to respond to the specific needs and priorities of each community. The primary challenge that arose for both groups was identifying strategies for making sure all participants had an opportunity to share their opinion. If one resident was dominating the activity or discussion, other community members became discouraged. Team members engaged quieter participants by spending extra time with them during activities or offering to meet separately with them one-on-one.

For South Wrigley, the number of meeting attendees fluctuated and local neighborhood politics influenced the direction of the meetings, which meant the team had to be flexible in their facilitation approach. Initially the team prepared a strict agenda, but community members were often in favor of an open discussion format. In some cases, community members did not want to participate in certain activities so the team made adjustments to respond while still achieving the goals of the meeting.

Meeting Facilitation Tips

Use key questions to keep meetings and workshops focused on the design goal.

Be aware of group dynamics and find ways to encourage everyone to participate.

Encourage attendees to show up on time, but be prepared for latecomers.

Try to adhere to the agenda, but allow time for open discussion.

Create a more formal meeting setting to encourage participants to show up on time and adhere to the agenda.

Think carefully about the order of activities and how they might encourage or discourage people from participating.

TABLE 6.5 *Meeting Facilitation Tips*

Eventually, the team adopted an open discussion format, which made meetings more difficult to facilitate, but allowed different insights and more organic connections between neighbors.

Potentially as a result of the more formal setting and the consistent times, the Jackson Park team had greater success with set agendas for the meetings. Wrigley's less formal settings meant a structured agenda did not seem appropriate.

Both teams found that the order of activities impacted the outcome. Starting with an activity that asks people to vote can impact the next activity by skewing perceptions. Starting with exercises that are challenging can discourage participants and make them less likely to participate fully in other exercises.

Outreach Material Tips

Imagery is helpful for communicating goals and intentions to participants.

Outreach material can reflect the personality of the organizing team and community members.

Be brief. Use packets as a tool to support the meetings and outreach, but they should not be the main focus.

TABLE 6.6 *Outreach Material Tips*

6.2.5 OUTREACH MATERIAL

The teams created different outreach materials because of individual team members and responses from community members. Both teams used information packets to guide meetings, but the South Wrigley team found that participants were more likely to use pages with images. As a result, the outreach materials for South Wrigley were simple, colorful, and filled with images, which community members said they preferred.

The Jackson Park team found that a combination of text and images was helpful for keeping meetings on track. Their outreach materials contained lots of information as well as images, and were more formal in appearance. This worked well for their community, and demonstrates how different outreach materials can be equally successful.

Below. Outreach Material

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

HELP US IMPROVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF JACKSON PARK

OUR GOALS:
Help us prioritize needs in the Jackson Park neighborhood that will help us in designing a series of projects for Phase II of the **Collective Efforts Project**.

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT AT OUR NEXT MEETING:

7:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th 2017
HOSTED AT:
NORTH LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1115 E Market Street, Long Beach, CA 90805
Long Beach, CA

OUR MISSION

- Build a local committee
- Improve outdoor community spaces
- Parks, murals, benches, trees

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Attend the next meeting!
- Encourage others to get involved!
- Attend the next work day!

contact info:
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Marinna Wagner

A COLLABORATION OF:
CONTACT US:
AARON ACKERMAN, KEVIN MAYNARD, LUIS PEDRAZA
(909) 362-0227

6.3

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

6.3.1 BENEFITS OF AN ISSUE-DRIVEN APPROACH

The 606 Studio used an issue-driven approach to conduct inventory and analysis at both the regional and neighborhood scale. In both cases, this approach allowed the teams to focus on those issues that were most relevant to the project area. The resulting inventories had depth and complexity because time was spent intensely studying and analyzing key issues. This provided a much stronger foundation for the specific neighborhood vision plans and the project as a whole. This approach is appropriate for community-based design because the detailed inventories more accurately reflect community priorities.

6.3.2 REGIONAL INVENTORY

The regional inventory helped the 606 Studio define the importance of *Collective Efforts*. Investigating the regional context of the project made it easier to understand why various conditions exist in the LA River Corridor and the Gateway Cities, and why community-based design for public spaces is crucial for making improvements in these areas. The primary challenge for conducting regional inventory, aside from the nature of data mining and graphic representation, was having to conduct the inventory and community design workshops simultaneously.

Regional Inventory Tips

Begin regional inventory as early as possible, preferably before community outreach.

Ensure the inventory creates an argument for the community work.

TABLE 6.7 *Regional Inventory Tips*

Below. Willow Street Tidal Estuary Adjacent to South Wrigley



Right. Corps Members Help South Wrigley Team with Neighborhood Inventory.



Neighborhood Inventory Tips

Use community meetings, interviews, and field observations to inform inventory focus.

Cross-reference inventory results with final designs to ensure designs are responsive to community priorities.

TABLE 6.8 *Neighborhood Inventory Tips*

6.3.3 NEIGHBORHOOD INVENTORY

The neighborhood inventory was a powerful tool for understanding the issues that were most relevant to residents. It allowed team members to investigate the concerns that were brought up at meetings, and learn more about community perceptions of the neighborhood, local quality of life, and physical landscape issues. Participatory exercises presented inventory topics that would not have been included in a traditional inventory, such as social gathering spaces, light poles, and trash cans.

Team members felt that certain relevant inventory topics may have been omitted, but decided that using an issue-driven approach was important for creating conceptual designs that are strongly tied to community priorities, thus encouraging greater community buy-in. If these plans are adopted for construction, additional relevant inventories such as soil composition, municipal easements and infrastructure, and pollution concentration levels would be conducted.

6.4

WORKING WITH LOCAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

6.4.1 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The partnership with the CCLB led to the selection of the two neighborhoods where the project took place. The teams worked with four CMs to identify neighborhoods that met project criteria, with the intent of providing CMs with the opportunity to give back to the neighborhoods where they had grown up.

Partnering with a local organization and focusing on neighborhoods that were personally significant to members expedited the neighborhood selection process by reducing neighborhood options. This allowed the teams to achieve a broader scope of work in a shorter amount of time, and working with local youth community members helped bridge the gap between team members and residents. Working with CMs also provided the opportunity to mentor potential environmental stewards and expose them to the community organizing process. The organization also provided laborers for the Jackson Park build days.

Working with the CCLB also presented unexpected challenges. Most notably, taking an approach to neighborhood selection that identified neighborhoods with the greatest need and a supportive political climate might have increased the impact of the project. The CMs were not always available for field work, making coordination difficult. Disadvantaged youth have a number of outside pressures that limit their capacity to stay committed to a long-term project.

At the start of the project, one of the CMs was not interested in working in his home neighborhood because he was trying to avoid violence. This limited the number of potential neighborhoods for the South Wrigley team. Expanding the criteria to include more neighborhoods might have resulted in the selection of a different neighborhood with no existing associations, a more clearly defined boundary, and a greater variety of potential project sites.

Tips for Working with Youth Organizations

Involve several youth organization members to accommodate inconsistent attendance and ensure representation.

Keep in contact with staff of local agencies and organizations to maintain communication and accountability throughout the process.

When working with disadvantaged populations, recognize that young adults may not be comfortable working in their home neighborhoods.

Recognize and accommodate the complex home-work-school lives of youth partners.

Build mentor-mentee relationships with youth partners.

TABLE 6.9 *Tips for Working with Youth Organizations*

Opposite. Corps Members Engaged in Various Stages of the Project



6.4.2 NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Jackson Park did not have any neighborhood organizations or associations when the project began. As a result of *Collective Efforts*, the community formed an association to support future landscape improvements in the neighborhood. This addresses one of the intended objectives of the project, which was to leave in place a committee or group of community leaders to enact change after the departure of the project teams.

South Wrigley had two separate neighborhood organizations that were in disagreement with one another throughout the project. Typically a neighborhood with multiple associations would not be selected for a community-based design project, but doing so highlighted some of the reasons why this can be a challenge. Specifically, involved residents indicated the neighborhood associations were not entirely representative of the demographics of the community. The lack of representation within the organizations meant their neighborhood improvement priorities often were inconsistent with those of other residents at community meetings and design workshops. The disagreements between the two organizations complicated work in the neighborhood.

Many community members did not want to be involved in neighborhood politics due to the disagreements between the associations, but felt they would not be able to enact change unless both organizations were involved. Ideally, the team would have found a way to include both organizations at the start of the project with the goal of encouraging collective ownership of the neighborhood.

Tips for Working with Neighborhood Organizations

Identify leaders to support your efforts.

Be aware that organizations may not represent overall community demographics.

Avoid letting organizations take control of your bottom-up organizing efforts.

To maximize impact, choose neighborhoods without existing associations.

TABLE 6.10 *Tips for Working with Neighborhood Organizations*



Left. Students and Corp Member Attend Wrigley Association Meeting

Right. Jackson Park Benches
After Removal



Tips for Working with City Agencies

Identify city agencies that are open to the idea of community-based work prior to beginning the project.

Establish open and direct lines of communication as early as possible without potentially jeopardizing the momentum of the community efforts.

Involve residents in the conversation with city agencies as much as possible to demonstrate community will.

Keep records of all correspondence with city and council representatives.

Follow-up all phone and in-person conversations with city staff and council representatives (and their staff) with emails documenting the content of the discussion as well as the time, date, and location.

TABLE 6.11 *Tips for Working with City Agencies*

6.4.3 CITY AGENCIES

Prior to working on *Collective Efforts*, the majority of the 606 Studio had little to no experience working directly with city staff, especially in the context of community organizing. Team members were apprehensive about engaging residents without speaking to city council members or staff, however it was understood that this is the nature of bottom-up participatory design methods. City involvement at the start might have inhibited the teams' ability to be responsive to community priorities and needs. Input from the city could have influenced the perceptions of the neighborhoods, which would have made it more difficult to create neighborhood-scale plans that directly reflected the unique characteristics and priorities of the communities.

The teams had every intention of working with representatives from the city, but assumed staff would be available for consultation on a timely basis. Without open and direct lines of communication between the teams and the correct city representatives, miscommunication was inevitable. Residents struggle with this problem as well: it is often difficult to identify the correct city representatives to approach about a neighborhood issue.

The team regrets not building a positive working relationship with the city of Long Beach at an earlier stage of the project, but it is unclear if collaboration would have positively impacted the project results. For the 606 Studio members, responding to the concerns of the city was a valuable learning experience for understanding how participatory design fits within the context of more traditional approaches to community development. The primary lesson learned from this aspect of the project was the importance of researching the existing political environment prior to beginning work. The project would have been better implemented in an area that was more receptive to community-based planning and design efforts, where council members and their staff would have felt more comfortable integrating the project into existing city plans.

6.5

DESIGN PROCESS

6.5.1 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Engaging community members in the design process requires careful planning. The teams needed to set up activities in a way that allowed all participants to be involved, and had to learn to act as facilitators of the design process as opposed to designers. It was important for team members to keep an open dialogue with residents to help translate desires into design solutions. Team members asked participants why they were drawn to certain design elements to understand residents' motivations and desired outcomes. The teams learned that it was valuable to encourage discussion between residents since their shared experience could inspire new design ideas.

Both teams found group dynamics influence the design process. If one person dominated the activity and took control of placing elements, the design was less likely to reflect the group. When groups were more inclusive, the designs tended to be more creative and inspire deeper conversation about improving the neighborhood. Facilitators should try to create balanced groups and intervene with prompts to encourage involvement from all group members.

For Jackson Park, the team struggled to keep participants engaged during some workshops since their neighborhood had several project sites. Participants became weary after 90 minutes. Facilitators should minimize the amount of content in each workshop to reduce fatigue.

Community Participation Tips

Limit the number of exercises to ensure community members do not become weary and disengaged.

Listen to peoples' reactions as they engage with designs to understand how they perceive their neighborhood and the project site.

TABLE 6.12 *Community Participation Tips (Design Process)*



Left. Participatory Design Workshop Activity

Participants were often late for South Wrigley meetings, which made it difficult to facilitate group activities. The team was able to place people in groups as they arrived, but late additions required perpetually reintroducing the activities. Some residents refused to participate in designing one of the original project sites because they were uncomfortable with its program. The team learned that sometimes it is appropriate to encourage people to participate, and sometimes it is better to allow people to direct their attention to other activities.

Materials and Graphics Tips

Provide a variety of cut-outs and tools to make the designs as interactive as possible.

Start with smaller sites to make it easier for participants to learn to think spatially.

Provide inspirational imagery and ask people to find their own images to encourage a wide range of design alternatives.

TABLE 6.13 *Materials and Graphics Tips*

6.5.2 MATERIALS AND GRAPHICS

Participants tended to be more comfortable using cut-outs and small scaled movable landscape elements for designs (instead of markers or pens). The South Wrigley team provided construction paper and scissors so residents could make their own cut-outs. The team also used three-dimensional figures for many of the design elements. This helped community members understand the scale of the designs better, but also made it more difficult for the team to transport the designs after the workshop. Design elements had to be re-drawn onto the basemap to preserve the designs.

The Jackson Park team had residents attach inspirational imagery directly to the base map, which many residents favored over having to draw the elements. This approach made it difficult to translate design ideas into concept designs since the images were not to scale and residents could over-program a space. However, the energy and creativity generated was a positive contribution to the designs.

Design Education Tips

Be aware that residents tend to prioritize safety over aesthetics, design, and ecosystem services.

Provide examples, diagrams, and images to explain design features.

TABLE 6.14 *Design Education Tips*

6.5.3 DESIGN EDUCATION

The teams discussed social and environmental aspects of the designs with participants. Residents generally understood basic concepts such as water infiltration, using trees to mitigate pollution, and using plants to improve aesthetics and control hillside erosion. However, when these concepts conflicted with other priorities such as safety and security, most residents prioritized safety over environmental considerations.

For instance, the Jackson Park build project included planting trees. The property owner understood the environmental value of the trees that shaded the pavement and filtered pollution, but prioritized their potential impact on visibility (and therefore safety). The property owner insisted upon using palm trees, which provide little to no environmental benefit but improve aesthetics and maintain visibility.

6.6

BUILD DAYS

6.6.1 MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES

Project teams often underestimated the cost of materials and the amount of time that construction would take because of a lack of experience with construction projects. Students quickly learned to be flexible and understand that there will most likely be tools and materials that do not end up working the way they were intended. Similarly, guidelines are important, but procedures should be flexible to accommodate changes in the plan.

6.6.2 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Working with community members to construct projects was both challenging and rewarding. One of the key challenges was coordinating the various construction tasks to ensure community members were always engaged in an activity. Activities that were most suitable for residents included: sanding/drilling wood, pouring concrete, painting, digging, and planting. Activities that were not appropriate for most residents included: cutting wood, saw-cutting asphalt, installing irrigation systems, or other activities that required heavy equipment or specific knowledge and expertise.

It was important to make sure that resident tasks were manageable and could be completed within the designated amount of time. Tasks that were more complicated or required more time were best done in shifts. At the end of

Materials and Procedures Tips

Assume a trip to the hardware store will be needed on build days.

Overestimate project costs.

TABLE 6.15 *Materials and Procedures Tips*

Community Participation Tips

Allow residents to direct the activities.

Have a variety of activities available that people can work on simultaneously.

Always have water and snacks available.

Start construction early to avoid heat and fatigue.

TABLE 6.16 *Community Participation Tips (Build Days)*



Left. Community Members Help During Initial Build Days

Right. Community Members Help During Final Build Days



the community build days, residents felt a sense of pride and accomplishment that lasted well after the projects were completed. The benefit of constructing the benches early in the project was that team members got to experience how residents who participated in construction took ownership of the amenities. Residents who took part in the initial build days were often the most committed throughout the remainder of the project, demonstrating that small build projects can encourage project momentum and engage community members.

Location Tips

Identify projects on private land early in the design process to ensure there are options for construction if public spaces are unavailable.

Choose highly visible locations to promote the project and recruit new participants.

TABLE 6.17 *Location Tips*

Agency Accountability Tips

Consider creating a third-party community-based group that is not affiliated with an established agency to address accountability.

TABLE 6.18 *Agency Accountability Tips*

6.6.3 LOCATION

All of the build projects took place in areas that were highly visible to the surrounding neighborhood. This encouraged other residents to inquire about the project and provided a recruitment opportunity. Even when the initial built projects were being removed, residents engaged the team in discussions about the political process for creating local landscape improvements.

In hindsight, the teams should have sought out private property for the potential build project options. There are many private landscapes that are also highly visible to the public that are ideal opportunities for creating multi-benefit infrastructure. Neighborhood-scale plans should include a number of projects that vary in size and scope and several should be on private land.

6.6.4 AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY

The construction of the initial build projects, as well as miscommunication between city agencies and project teams, had an unexpected impact on the project. The results do not undermine the efficacy of community-based landscape improvements, but rather suggest a different approach. One such strategy may be to separate the participatory design-build project from the university or funding organization.

6.7

CONCLUSION

The goal of *Collective Efforts* was to use participatory design to simultaneously assess and build the capacity of river-adjacent communities to develop neighborhood-scale landscape improvement plans that bridge the gap between local and regional planning efforts surrounding the LA River. Over the course of nine months, the Studio conducted regional and local inventories and collaborated with residents to complete design-build projects and create conceptual plans for a total of nine sites. The designs range in scope and scale from pathways that connect residents to the LA River, to a skate park, to a neighborhood park that symbolizes the community's identity. Each design embraces multi-benefit infrastructure that would improve quality of life for residents and provide environmental services. The results of this project demonstrate that these communities can engage in participatory design and create a vision for their neighborhood that reflects their unique neighborhood character while embracing regional environmental goals.

While river-adjacent communities may demonstrate capacity to engage in these types of projects, the question is now how public agencies will be able to integrate participatory strategies on a broader scale to support their existing community development initiatives. To accomplish an ambitious goal such as revitalizing the LA River, individual cities will need to coordinate with one another and develop plans that protect the interests of river-adjacent communities while supporting regional goals.

Without neighborhood-specific plans and a participatory process that empowers residents, protecting community interests will be difficult. Currently, the use of genuine participatory design is foreign to many agencies and more evidence is needed before the method can be readily adopted. It is the responsibility of planning and design professionals to demonstrate that a participatory approach is viable and can benefit public agencies if implemented correctly. Once organizers have developed greater capacity for fostering cooperative relationships with public agencies and have demonstrated the potential of participatory design, the planning and design profession as a whole can begin to embrace the reality of local communities while revitalizing one of the region's greatest ecological assets.

Opposite. Students, Community Members, and Corps Members Work Through Project Challenges







07 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1

APPLYING THE LESSONS LEARNED

The 606 Studio developed a series of policy and design recommendations based on the experience of working in different capacities with community members and local agencies. Through the application of the participatory design framework, the team discovered there are a number of barriers that slow the efficacy of the community organizing process, including the local political climate as well as the willingness and capacity of residents to engage in the development of neighborhood improvements. The project also revealed how limited government resources strain the ability of public agencies to support community-based projects. *Collective Efforts* identifies strategies to support the community organizing and design-build process. The recommendations are organized based on the entities they are directed at, such as educators, public agencies, and local businesses. Each section explains the benefits of these recommendations and how they emanate from lessons learned.

7.1.1 EDUCATORS

Incorporate community-based projects into K-12 academic curriculum to promote civic engagement at a young age.

The teams had difficulty recruiting younger community members (aged 35 and below) to join the project. These residents would often express interest and agree to attend events, but were often absent. Integrating community-based project into K-12 curriculum would teach younger residents the value of community development efforts. In practice, this might involve working with students to design and construct projects on their own campus. Students could also partner with local entities to implement design-build projects within the community.

Encourage local community-based non-profits to partner with schools to create community resources.

The teams would have liked to partner with local schools to engage more youth community members. Local K-12 schools (and universities) can be a valuable resource for community engagement projects. Combining school resources with non-profit expertise can result in greater benefits to the community.

Integrating community-based projects into K-12 curriculum would teach younger residents the value of community development efforts.

Combining school resources with non-profit expertise can result in greater benefits to the community.

The complicated and onerous process of acquiring permission to do public projects can discourage people from enacting change.

By creating an environment where community members feel comfortable asking for improvement in their neighborhoods, city agencies can undermine conflict with local communities.

Right. Inviting Residents to be Involved in Development Efforts can Help Cities Build Stronger Relationships with Community Members

7.1.2 PUBLIC AGENCIES

Expedite the permitting process for small-scale community-based projects.

The complicated and onerous process of acquiring permission to do projects on public land can discourage people from enacting change. The protracted and difficult process often required for a permit encourages the use of alternative (unapproved) construction. While standards and permits are in place to ensure public safety, special provisions could allow expedited permitting of small community-designed projects, and the city could provide flexible guidelines for materials and safety considerations. Allowing for temporary, or easily removable, installations could also have the benefit of allowing city agencies to test new design solutions.

Be active in the community to demonstrate a willingness to build a relationship with residents.

In both neighborhoods, residents expressed a feeling that their local representatives did not care about what happened to them or their neighborhood. They cited never seeing the representatives in the neighborhood or hearing about opportunities to meet with them. By creating an environment where community members feel comfortable asking for improvements in their neighborhoods, city agencies can work more collaboratively with local communities and allocate government resources more effectively. City agencies should actively invite residents to attend events and workshops, and provide a variety of dates, times, and activities to capture the greatest number of attendees.

Collective Efforts

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

LAST YEARS' TEAM: COURTYARD PAZA DESIGNED...

LAST YEARS' TEAM: MURAL PROJECT DESIGNED AND PAINTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CITY OF BELL.

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT AT OUR FIRST MEETING:

Help us find out how we can make the community of North Long Beach safer, healthier, and empowered through design of community driven sustainable environments, parks, and gathering spaces.

Encourage communities to form neighborhood associations, leading to increased social capital.

In Jackson Park, no formal neighborhood association existed. Residents who had lived alongside one another for years and who felt similar grievances had never felt encouraged to meet with one another to discuss their concerns. Neighborhood associations provide a strong foundation for building local social capital, which resonates strongly with communities attempting to improve their quality of life. Social capital is a powerful predictor of many social goods such as health, happiness, economic prosperity, quality schools, safe neighborhoods, and responsive governments. By promoting the value of neighborhood associations, cities can gain an effective tool to remain aware of the needs of their constituents.

Make grants and grant writing resources available to community groups.

Most residents had little to no idea what grants and funding sources were available for their neighborhood. The team contacted a local neighborhood resource center, which provided information on one grant program, but had no information on other grants that might be available to community members. For low-income communities, the prospect of assembling a grant application for community improvements may be daunting. However, limited government funding makes grants a critical part of improving under-served neighborhoods.

Cities should provide information and resources regarding available grants, and assist community members with completing grant applications. Cities should help groups navigate the complicated grant writing process and help them identify sources of funding for their project. By investing in improved grant accessibility, cities can take advantage of outside funding sources for community-based projects.

Target remnant public and private landscapes as opportunities for developing multi-benefit green infrastructure.

While in some cases community members identified vacant lots that could be redeveloped, there were also opportunities for creating community spaces in remnant areas such as excess parking lot space, railroad easements, excess road right-of-ways, and street medians. The teams recognized the value of these areas to provide social and environmental amenities, especially in dense urban neighborhoods.

By creating an environment where community members feel comfortable asking for improvements in their neighborhoods, city agencies can undermine conflict with local communities.

By investing in improved grant accessibility, cities can take advantage of outside funding sources for community-based projects.

Development can target small left-over remnant landscapes that can still provide tremendous social and environmental benefits.



Above. Remnant Landscapes present Opportunities for Creating Multi-Benefit Projects that Provide Environmental Services while Addressing Social and Recreational Needs

By adopting new strategies for conducting outreach, existing organizations can become more representative of their communities and acquired more support for proposed projects.

Large, undeveloped parcels of land are often unavailable and expensive to acquire. However, improvement projects can target small left-over remnant landscapes that can still provide tremendous social and environmental benefits. Agencies should conduct an inventory of remnant landscapes that are on private property and provide incentives and resources for private land owners to make improvements that provide infrastructure for environmental services and the public good.

7.1.3 NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Adopt and promote participatory design methods to ensure neighborhood development reflects community priorities.

The neighborhood of South Wrigley had two community associations that were not representative of community demographics and therefore did not accurately reflect the interests of the community as a whole. By adopting new strategies for conducting outreach, existing organizations can become more representative of their communities and attain more support for proposed projects.

Neighborhood organizations will often send out email reminders and fliers to existing members, but may not actively seek out new participants. This can limit the member base and create a neighborhood ‘in group’ that can dominate the decision making process for community development. Neighborhood organizations should use participatory methods to recruit new members regularly and involve the broader community in the decision making process. This would include the use of brainstorming exercises, group activities, and strategies for ensuring all participants have the opportunity to express their opinions. Neighborhood organizations could use participatory design methods to identify potential improvements in the neighborhood and make recommendations to city agencies. The associations could partner with local agencies, non-profits, and schools to make proposed projects more inclusive.



Left. Private Land can also be Retrofitted to Provide Social and Environmental Benefits

7.1.4 POLICY-MAKERS

Hold private developers accountable for providing social and environmental amenities.

Both neighborhoods had very few social gathering spaces and expressed discontent with many of the pedestrian right-of-ways in front of local commercial areas. Private developers are benefiting directly from the surrounding community and should be responsible for providing amenities to support their well-being. Examples of social and environmental amenities include: benches, shade, vegetation, public art, alternative energy sources, passive cooling, stormwater management infrastructure, and graywater re-use infrastructure. The city can utilize partnerships with private entities to bolster their inventory of community amenities. By providing social amenities, developers can build stronger relationships with residents.

Require high-end developers to redirect revenue for community development efforts in low-income areas.

As a result of the regional evaluation of socio-economic conditions of the Upper and Lower LA River Corridor, the team recognized high-end development was encroaching on communities in locations where the river was being revitalized. The team was concerned that if this development pattern continued, low-income communities would be at risk of displacement. Aside from providing social amenities within

The city can utilize partnerships with private entities to bolster their inventory of community amenities.

LA River revitalization efforts put low-income communities at risk of displacement.

their own projects, high-end developers should be required to redirect a portion of their revenue to community-based projects that involve outreach and engagement in low-income areas.

7.1.5 LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

Local business owners can improve their land to contribute to neighborhood beautification.

Be an active participant in community development.

Local business owners are a part of the community and should be engaged in development efforts. They have the power to make improvements on private land that can contribute to neighborhood beautification with or without government funding. Business owners can crowd-source local resources to make improvements, and city agencies can provide guidelines to direct these efforts. Creating a relationship with residents could also increase local patronage and help sustain small local businesses. These business owners can also contribute to the community development process by accommodating community meetings and partnering with neighborhood groups to provide food and other resources.

7.1.6 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Landscape architects can significantly increase their impact by getting involved in politics.

Get involved in local government to support participatory community development initiatives.

It is important to have people working in local government who are familiar with the community organizing and participatory design process. Without internal support, unconventional methods are likely to be met with opposition. Few people join the profession of landscape architecture with the intention of being involved in politics, but the domain of the profession is inherently political. Public plazas, city streets, and community parks are all places where our interactions with others shape the perceptions of our culture and the society we live in. Understanding how to cultivate these spaces makes the landscape architectural perspective valuable in the political realm. Having more representatives from the profession active in politics would help governments be more responsive to community-based initiatives.

The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) should call landscape architects to action. The campaign should illustrate how and why members of the field need to get involved in local government. Professionals who understand participatory methods and who have experience in organizing should work to build relationships with city agencies to advocate for participatory design.

7.2

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

In conclusion, these recommendations are aimed at creating a political environment that is responsive to local needs and conducive to equitable development. They also highlight an underlying need for all entities to work collaboratively to achieve common goals. The more agencies, organizations, and private entities are able to work together to address public issues, the more effectively resources will be used. By restructuring the dynamic to fully include residents' voices and promote collaboration, development can more effectively address the needs and priorities of community members.

Actively engaging residents in the development process can lead to greater community buy-in and more resilient landscapes that residents care for in the long-run, ultimately reducing maintenance costs and minimizing project failure. The participatory process is not limited to the profession of landscape architecture. Participatory methods are cooperative and inclusive strategies that produce results that represent the collective interest. Applying these methods across a wide range of agencies and disciplines would tremendously benefit both communities and all entities involved. **Table 7.1** summarizes the variety of ways that public and private groups can modify their approach to encourage community engagement.

Below. Community Building in Action



GROUP	RECOMMENDATIONS
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate community-based projects into K-12 academic curriculum to promote civic engagement at a young age. • Encourage local community-based non-profits to partner with schools to create community resources.
Public Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the permitting process for small-scale community-based projects. • Be active in the community to demonstrate a willingness to build a relationship with residents. • Encourage communities to form neighborhood associations, leading to increased social capital. • Make grants and grant writing resources available to community groups. • Target remnant public and private landscapes as opportunities for developing multi-benefit green infrastructure.
Neighborhood Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and promote participatory design methods to ensure neighborhood development reflects community priorities.
Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold private developers accountable for providing social and environmental amenities. • Require high-end developers to redirect revenue to community development efforts in low-income areas.
Local Business Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant in community development.
Landscape Architects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in local government to support participatory community development initiatives.

TABLE 7.1 *Project Recommendations*







08 RESILIENCY TOOLKIT

8.1

WHAT IS A RESILIENT LANDSCAPE?

Collective Efforts defines a ‘resilient’ landscape as one that is able to sustain its function over time and under stress. With limited resources to continually rebuild our environment, it is important our landscapes are built to withstand and adapt to the changing conditions around them. The 606 Studio developed a ‘Resiliency Toolkit’ to provide guidelines for public agencies and community organizations who are interested in taking a more strategic approach to the long-term durability and sustainability of public landscapes.

The Toolkit identifies three key components for discussing landscape resiliency: landscape stressors, landscape elements, and landscape relationships. Stressors are conditions that a landscape must be able to endure and adapt to over time, such as extreme weather conditions or vandalism. Landscape elements are the individual design components such as plant materials or site furnishings. Landscape relationships describe where things are placed on a site and how they relate to one another.

To use the Resiliency Toolkit, an organization or agency would determine which landscape stressors are most relevant to their project and use the corresponding criteria to select material and spatial relationships to achieve their project goals. Recommendations are organized into general categories of the following landscape elements: plant material; site furnishings such as benches, trash cans, and picnic tables; and landscape facilities such as soccer fields, basketball courts, and trails. The categories are broad to allow agencies to adapt the recommendations to reflect their standards. Local organizations can use the Toolkit to more effectively conceptualize designs for resilient landscapes.

STRESSOR	PLANT SELECTION CRITERIA	SITE FURNISHINGS CRITERIA	FACILITIES CRITERIA
Misuse and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris can be easily removed • Uncomfortable to the touch • Maintains visibility into the site • Resistant to damage by humans • Tolerant of soil compaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages users to dispose of trash • Spray-paint resistant • Discourages ‘urban camping’ • Discourages skating or grinding • Difficult to damage • Easy to clean • Easy to repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be easily damaged • Ability to withstand regular cleaning • Easy to repair • Spray-paint resistant • Lack of hidden or low visibility areas
High Levels of Human Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to tolerate occasional impact from adjacent activities • Will not injure users • Deep root system (trees) • Slow growing trees • Fast recovery time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Easy to replace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Deep footings
Changing Use Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transplant-friendly • High branching shade trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Adaptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Easily converted to new use
Weather Extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can withstand seasonal flooding • Deep roots • Low fuel potential • High water content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Can be tethered instead of fixed in place • Easily replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Easily repaired • Deep footings
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective at sequestering carbon • Provides shade • Able to filter and/or remove pollutants from contaminated air and water • Drought-resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Low-energy consumption • Reduces impacts of pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Promotes infiltration

TABLE 8.1 *Criteria for Selecting Resilient Landscape Design Elements*

8.2

LANDSCAPE STRESSORS

There are a number of different factors that can impact a landscape and cause stress to landscape elements over time. The 606 Studio identified the following five common landscape stressors to create the framework for the Resiliency Toolkit: Misuse and Abuse, High Levels of Human Use, Changing Use Patterns, Weather Extremes, and Climate Change. Design recommendations for different stressors may be contradictory. It is important to identify which issues are most pertinent to the project in order to prioritize recommendations.

MISUSE AND ABUSE

Misuse and abuse are some of the most common challenges facing our landscapes. These include litter, vandalism, and graffiti. In certain areas, the tendency for a landscape element to be used by the homeless could also be considered a form of misuse. When a landscape experiences the impact of these stressors, the ability of that landscape to provide services to the surrounding community is greatly reduced. The primary considerations for designing landscape elements that can withstand these types of stressors include: locating elements so they are less likely to be vandalized, selecting durable and abuse-resistant materials, and choosing design features to reduce the likelihood of misuse and abuse.



Graffiti and Trash in Neighborhood

HIGH LEVELS OF HUMAN USE

High levels of human use are an issue for landscapes in densely populated areas. These landscapes must be able to tolerate high volumes of foot traffic, extended periods of use, and/or minimal recovery time. Design elements must have redundancy to accommodate the number of users and allow maintenance. Landscape over-use on a regular basis is not sustainable. The primary considerations for designing a landscape to be resilient to high levels of human use include the use of: durable materials, protecting sensitive landscapes, and maintenance.

CHANGING USE PATTERNS

Landscapes must be resilient to the changing leisure and recreation preferences of the surrounding population. Without the ability to adapt to these changes, a landscape may become irrelevant and underutilized. The primary considerations for designing a landscape to be resilient to changing use patterns include the use of: elements that have multiple functions, and materials that make it easier to transition the use of a landscape.

WEATHER EXTREMES

Extreme weather events include earthquakes, fire, and flooding, which can have a devastating impact on the landscape. Landscapes are more resilient to these stressors when green infrastructure is available. The primary considerations for designing a landscape to be resilient to weather extremes include the use of: damage-resistant and adaptable materials that are easy to clean/repair, landscape elements that function as support systems during extreme weather events, and elements that are tethered rather than fixed in place.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change caused by urban contaminants and pollutants impacts landscapes by creating incremental temperature and rainfall changes. Contaminants and pollutants can negatively impact the soil, water, and air quality in a landscape. Landscapes are resistant to urban contaminants and pollution-related impacts when they have vegetated buffers or swales to filter and remove particulates from the air and water from surrounding urban areas. Landscapes are also more resilient to climate change when they contribute to urban cooling. The primary considerations for designing a landscape to be resilient to climate change include the use of: construction materials with minimal environmental impact, plants that are effective at treating pollution, and shade trees that maximize cooling effect on the surrounding landscape.



Top to bottom. Dense Crowd in Public Space; Flooded Park

8.3

LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS AND TOOLKIT FEATURES

The key to creating resilient landscapes is identifying strategies for creating multi-functional landscape elements. This requires being creative about the source of materials, being aware of how elements will be used by different people, creating responsiveness to a variety of environmental conditions, and considering the potential ways an element can be recycled or re-used. A landscape that is well-used and supported by the surrounding neighborhood will be more resistant to degradation over time. Making these considerations prior to construction will help maximize the benefit of capital investment, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and increase landscape resilience.

The Resiliency Toolkit is organized into tables that include selection criteria and design recommendations for three categories of landscape elements: Plant Material, Site Furnishings, and Facilities. The following section describes these elements, and how to use the Toolkit to navigate the tables. Landscape elements do not have to meet all selection criteria to be appropriate for the site, and additional selection criteria may be necessary depending on specific site conditions. Agencies and organizations should select the criteria that is most relevant to the site. Sample images are provided to illustrate some of the design recommendations.

Examples of Resilient Landscape Elements





PLANT MATERIAL

Selecting the appropriate plant material has the potential to improve the safety and visibility of a site, reduce maintenance costs, and provide environmental services. The selection criteria provided in the Toolkit are just examples of the many factors designers should consider when choosing a plant palette. Designers should be aware that considerations for drought-tolerant and fire-resistant plant material contradict one another. Public agencies should adapt these recommendations to their specific sub-region so organizations and associations have access to an approved plant palette.



SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings are crucial for providing the amenities that define the success of a park. Aside from determining the aesthetics of site furnishings, designers must be aware of how amenity characteristics will impact use, functionality, durability, and maintenance. Government agencies should use this framework to organize construction standards and provide sample drawings of approved resilient site furnishings.



FACILITIES

Facilities require substantial investment and should be designed carefully to ensure they will be well-used and easily maintained over the long-term. Facilities include amenities such as sports fields, multi-purpose courts, playgrounds, and trails. They typically support recreational uses and require more space allocation than site furnishings and planting areas. The criteria for selecting facilities are similar to those provided for site furnishings. Agencies and organizations should consider updating standards to provide more options for creating multi-purpose facilities.



Achillea spp.



Agave spp.



Carex diivulsa



Cycas circinalis



Ulmus parvifolia



Pittisporum spp.

PLANT MATERIAL

STRESSOR	SELECTION CRITERIA	PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS	LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS
Misuse and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris can be easily removed • Uncomfortable to the touch • Maintains visibility into the site • Resistant to damage by humans • Tolerant of soil compaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American century plant (<i>Agave americana</i>) • California grey rush (<i>Juncus patens</i>) • Dragon tree (<i>Dracaena draco</i>) • Beavertail cactus (<i>Opuntia spp.</i>) • Red yucca (<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>) • Sago palm (<i>Cycas circinalis</i>) • New Zealand flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trashcans near pedestrian amenities to avoid trash accumulating in planting areas. • Select cans with lids/covers. • Locate ‘uncomfortable’ plants in areas of low-visibility to discourage homeless encampments or site vandalism. • Suspend amenities over soil. • Locate amenities in areas with compacted soil.
High Levels of Human Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to tolerate occasional impact from adjacent activities • Will not injure users • Deep root system (trees) • Slow growing trees • Fast recovery time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavenly bamboo (<i>Nandina domestica</i>) • Mock orange (<i>Pittosporum spp.</i>) • Hopseed bush (<i>Dodonea viscosa</i>) • Yarrow (<i>Achillea spp.</i>) • Berkeley sedge (<i>Carex divulsa</i>) • Carrotwood tree (<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>) • Camphor tree (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting areas should be out of the way of pedestrian desire lines to avoid trampling. • Use barriers (fences) or functional protection (seat walls) around trees and planting areas. • Locate sensitive plants behind resilient plants. • Be redundant with plantings. • Place slow growing trees near pathways to reduce likelihood of sidewalk damage. • Use views to strategically direct movement. • Increase depth and quality of subsurface material to improve plant recovery time. • Place vegetation, boulders, or other features at path edges to reduce off-trail impacts.
Changing Use Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transplant-friendly • High branching shade trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camphor tree (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>) • Rosewood tree (<i>Tipuana tipu</i>) • Chinese evergreen elm (<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>) • Southern magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>) • Sago palm (<i>Cycas circinalis</i>) • American century plant (<i>Agave americana</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use portable planters so planting can easily be removed to accommodate new uses. • Use plants that respond well to transplanting in planting areas that may need to be converted to a different use. • Plant edges with high branching shade trees to leave open spaces for flexible use.
Weather Extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can withstand seasonal flooding • Deep roots • Low fuel potential • High water content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American century plant (<i>Agave americana</i>) • California grey rush (<i>Juncus patens</i>) • Jade plant (<i>Crassula ovata</i>) • Bird of paradise (<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use plants suitable for firebreaks around buildings that are vulnerable to fires. • Use plants and trees with deep roots on slopes to help prevent erosion. • Locate trees and vegetated areas to reduce storm volumes and velocity, remove particulates, and detain water.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective at sequestering carbon • Provides shade • Able to filter and/or remove pollutants from contaminated air and water • Drought-resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London plane tree (<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>) • Pine trees (<i>Pinus spp.</i>) • Oak trees (<i>Quercus spp.</i>) • California grey rush (<i>Juncus patens</i>) • Deergrass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>) • Yarrow (<i>Achillea spp.</i>) • Toyon (<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>) • Hollyleaf cherry (<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant trees along streets and near other pollution sources such as industrial areas. • Plant trees to shade asphalt, concrete, and other hardscaped areas to promote urban cooling. • Shade impermeable materials with tree canopy to remove particulates and prevent temperature increase in urban runoff.

TABLE 8.2 Resilient Plant Material – Criteria and Recommendations

SITE FURNISHINGS

STRESSOR	SELECTION CRITERIA	MATERIAL RECOMMENDATIONS
Misuse and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages users to dispose of trash • Spray-paint resistant • Discourages 'urban camping' • Discourages skating or grinding • Difficult to damage • Easy to clean • Easy to repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use anti-graffiti paint on vulnerable surfaces. • Use spray paint resistant surfaces. • Concrete is the most reliable material for resisting vandalism. • Stainless steel is preferred over powder coated steel. It is easier to clean and will not chip. • Aluminum is a lightweight metal alternative. • Sustainably harvested hardwood timber is a durable alternative with a softer aesthetic. • Laminated glass and vitreous enamel (VE) are vandal resistant solutions for signs and shelters. • Materials with textured or uneven surfaces are less attractive for graffiti. • Avoid unsealed porous surface materials because they are more difficult to clean.
High Levels of Human Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Easy to replace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete is durable and can withstand high volumes of foot traffic. • Stainless steel is preferred over soft metals such as copper or aluminum. • Sustainably harvested hardwood timber is a durable alternative with a softer aesthetic. • Pavers or other materials can warp and shift as a result of high traffic volumes, but will be less likely to crack and can be easily replaced. • Granular materials can be easily replenished.
Changing Use Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Adaptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aluminum is a lightweight material for movable furniture. • Use pavers on walking surfaces since they can be easily removed if the space must be converted to a different use in the future. • Modular materials in general will be easy to remove. • Avoid using poured in place concrete. • Copper and other soft metals can be easily recycled for re-use. • Granular materials are easy to remove and recycle.
Weather Extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Can be tethered instead of fixed in place • Easily replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy duty composite wood does not absorb heat like most metals or moisture like most wood so this is a good option for meeting both criteria. • Use natural-colored paints and concrete to avoid heat gain without causing glare. • Durable water resistant powder coating can help site furnishings withstand periodic floods. • Avoid highly flammable materials in areas that are prone to fire. • Permeable materials can help elements be resistant to flooding. • Modular materials can be easily replaced if damaged in extreme weather events. • Granular materials can be easily replenished and will not cause excessive damage to infrastructure if they become dislodged in an extreme weather event.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Low-energy consumption • Reduces impacts of pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manufacturing of concrete and steel has a large carbon footprint. • The carbon sequestered by sustainably harvested hardwood timber remains in furnishing material. • Chemical-based paints and stains should be avoided because they may chip or leech and contaminate soils and groundwater. • Avoid plastics and other materials that may off-gas in hot weather. • Use recycled materials whenever possible.

TABLE 8.3 *Resilient Site Furnishings – Criteria and Recommendations*

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Involve community members in selection and design of landscape elements to encourage ownership and discourage vandalism.
- Provide sufficient trash cans with high trash capacity and a cover/lid.
- Trash cans should be easily identifiable and user-friendly to encourage use.
- Tether design elements in place to prevent theft.
- Define edges of picnic areas so users have clear sense of which trash belongs to them.
- Create modular design elements so individual pieces can be easily replaced.
- Reduce linear surfaces to limit attractive areas for sleeping or skating/grinding.
- Attach periodic raised inserts to linear elements to prevent sleeping and skating.

- Create wide pathways (10' to 15') to distribute use over a larger area.
- Be redundant with site furnishings to prevent over-use of any one item.
- Place protective barriers around sensitive landscape features.
- Anchor design elements in place to prevent damage.
- Create modular design elements so individual pieces can be easily replaced.
- Create several access points to prevent crowding and high-impact near any one entrance.
- Increase depth of subsurface materials (gravel, sand, soil) to improve the material's ability to withstand regular impact over time.

- Create modular design elements that can accommodate a variety of uses.
- Use movable furniture that can allow for flexible programming.
- Simplify construction methods so the furnishing can be easily removed.
- Use movable planters or bollards to define temporary spaces.
- Analyze trends in technology, leisure patterns, and user preferences.
- Create versatile designs that appeal to a variety of users.

- Tether design elements to avoid being swept away in a flood.
- Consider multi-functional site furnishings that provide functional amenities on a regular basis but also serve a purpose in extreme weather conditions -- a bench redirects overflowing stormwater runoff away from buildings or a depressed seating area that doubles as a retention basin.

- Use Best Management Practices while installing site furnishings.
- Consider multi-functional site furnishings that incorporate features such as solar panels.
- Design site furnishings so they are obviously recycled to encourage others to do the same.
- Consider multi-functional site furnishings that incorporate features such as solar panels or water channels that direct runoff into planting areas.
- Create designs that can be easily broken down into salvageable parts to be recycled.

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS

- Place vulnerable elements in highly visible locations (near paths and entrances) or areas with ongoing surveillance.
- Place items that need regular maintenance close to access roads.
- Place trash cans close to social gathering areas and entrances.

- Place items that require regular maintenance close to access roads.
- Ensure enough space between furnishing for 3' (min.) circulation.
- Keep furnishings out of pathways.
- Provide seating that faces toward open spaces so users feel protected and can people watch.
- Provide bike racks near entrances and social spaces to prevent users from locking bikes to trees or fences.
- Use amenities, materials, and topography to manage human movement patterns.

- Provide a sufficiently large open space for flexible programming.
- Arrange furnishings so there are a variety of spatial experiences available for different user demographics.

- In areas that are susceptible to earthquakes or fires, keep furnishings away from trees or other things that could fall and injure users or damage the amenity.
- Carefully select and locate elements in flood prone areas.
- Create an open buffer between elements and fire prone areas.
- Use boulders or plant material near site furnishings to reduce water velocity and force.
- Locate paths, seating, and trash cans at higher elevations to allow use after floods.

- Place items that need regular maintenance close to access roads.
- Provide seating and shade near public transportation stops.
- Provide shade over social gathering spaces.
- Place trash cans near seating to encourage use and prevent debris from polluting local water sources.
- Provide recycle bins next to trash cans.

FACILITIES

STRESSOR	CRITERIA	MATERIAL RECOMMENDATIONS
Misuse and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be easily damaged • Ability to withstand regular cleaning • Easy to repair • Spray-paint resistant • Lack of hidden or low visibility areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use anti-graffiti paint on vulnerable surfaces. • Use graffiti-resistant surfaces and materials. • Concrete is the most reliable material for resisting vandalism. • Stainless steel is preferred over powder-coated steel. It is easier to clean and will not chip. • Avoid unsealed porous surface materials, which are difficult to clean.
High Levels of Human Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Redundant • Deep footings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete is durable and can withstand high volumes of foot traffic. • Avoid using pavers or other materials that can warp and shift as a result of high traffic volumes. • Consider using synthetic turf to reduce maintenance costs. • Durable powder-coating is less likely to chip over time. • Avoid using sand on play surfaces because the sand will get tracked onto play equipment and degrade surfaces more quickly. • Avoid using dirt trails because they will erode more quickly.
Changing Use Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves multiple functions • Easy to remove • Easy to recycle • Easily converted to new use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pavers, gravel, or decomposed granite on walking surfaces since they can be easily removed if the space must be converted to a different use in the future. • Modular materials in general will be easier to remove. • Avoid using poured in place concrete. • Lightweight plastics, metals, and composite woods are easy to move around.
Weather Extremes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable • Rot-resistant • Will not overheat • Will not impair slope stability • Low albedo • Easily repaired • Deep footings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy duty composite wood does not absorb heat like most metals or moisture like most wood. • Use natural-colored paints and concrete to avoid heat gain without causing glare. • Durable water resistant powder-coating can help site furnishings withstand periodic floods. • Avoid flammable materials in areas that are prone to fire. • Permeable materials can help elements be resistant to flooding. • Granular materials can be easily replenished and will not cause excessive damage to infrastructure if they become dislodged in an extreme weather event.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will contribute to urban cooling • Locally sourced • Promotes infiltration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manufacturing of concrete and steel has a large carbon footprint. • Non-reflective sands, finishes, and materials should be used whenever possible. • Chemical-based paints and stains should be avoided because they may chip or leech and contaminate soils and groundwater. • Avoid plastics and other materials that may off-gas in hot weather. • Use recycled materials whenever possible. • Use porous surfaces where possible to encourage infiltration.

TABLE 8.4 Resilient Landscape Facilities – Criteria and Recommendations

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Involve community members in selection and design of landscape elements to encourage ownership and discourage vandalism.
- Use barriers around facilities to discourage use during evening hours.
- Lock facility amenities in a storage facility overnight to prevent theft.
- Anchor facility amenities to prevent theft.

- Make sure sufficient circulation is provided around facilities to encourage use of paths.
- Be redundant with facilities to prevent over-use of any one item.
- Provide a variety of facilities to accommodate a variety of users.
- Hire a consultant to assess the carrying capacity of landscape facilities.
- Consider a paid-entry system for parks with major facilities.
- Encourage programming for facilities during off-peak hours and to allow recovery time.
- Increase depth of subsurface materials (gravel, sand, soil) to improve a facility's ability to withstand regular impact over time.
- Manage programming to allow vegetation/grass to recover.

- Create modular facilities that can accommodate a variety of uses – e.g., skate park features that can be assembled during the day and put away when necessary.
- Simplify construction methods so facilities can be easily removed.
- Create versatile designs that appeal to a variety of users.
- Make facility features easy to remove if necessary - basketball hoops, soccer goals, etc.
- Create multi-purpose facilities that serve multiple sports/activities.

- Consider multi-functional facilities that also serve a purpose in extreme weather conditions – e.g., a skate park or special events/picnic area that detains water during a heavy storm and releases it slowly over time.

- Use Best Management Practices during construction of facilities.
- Consider multi-functional facilities that incorporate features for dealing with stormwater runoff – e.g., a recessed soccer field that functions as a bioretention area during storm events.
- Grade facilities to direct stormwater toward infiltration areas.

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS

- Landscape facilities are less vulnerable to vandalism and graffiti than other landscape elements, so it is acceptable to prioritize visibility of site furnishings.
- Ensure maintenance vehicles have clear path to facilities.
- Install surveillance equipment near landscape facilities.

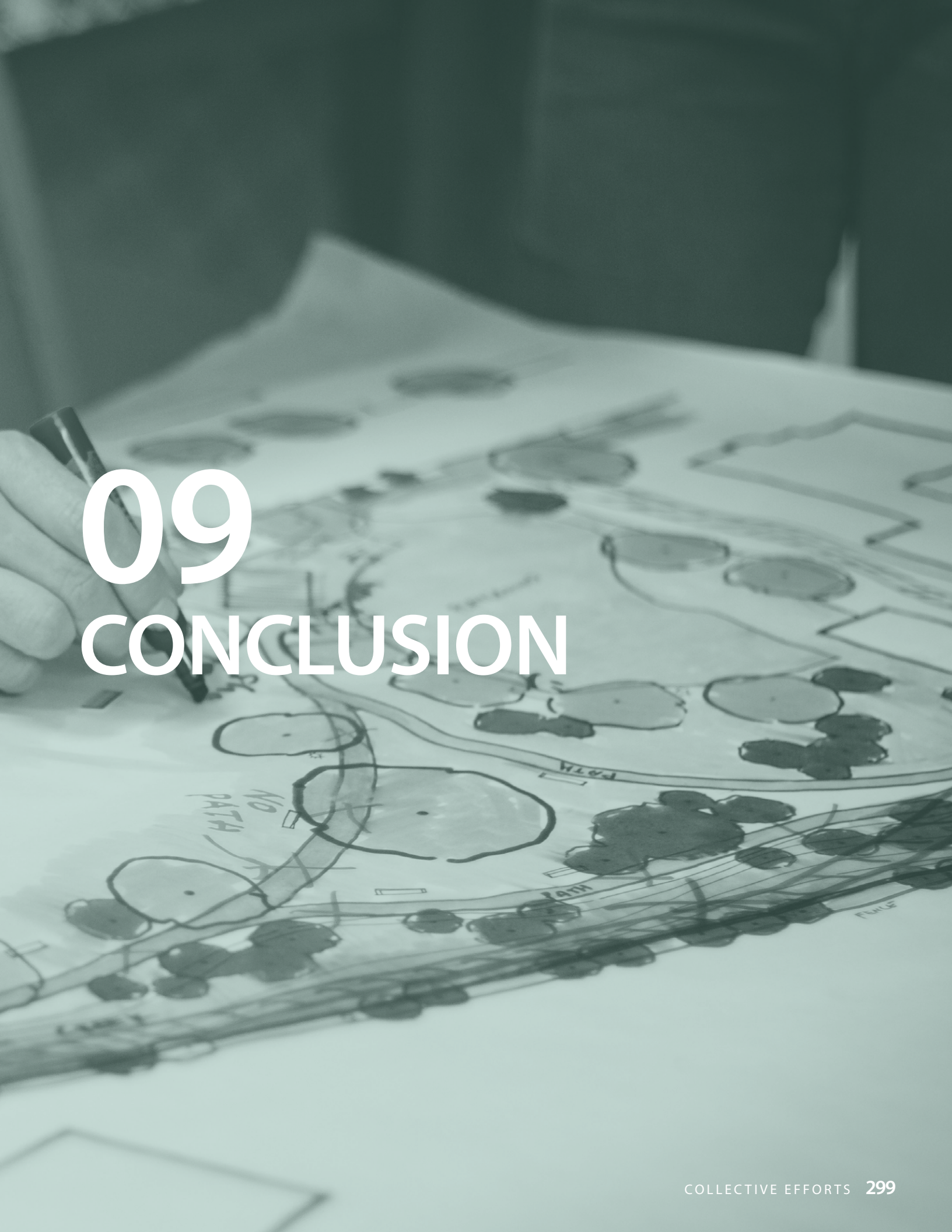
- Provide seating near landscape facilities to accommodate users (especially near playgrounds).
- Place protective barriers (that do not reduce visibility) around playgrounds to ensure safety of children.
- Keep facilities that require lighting away from residential edges.
- Create vegetated buffer around playing fields to create separation from adjacent streets and programming.
- Cluster compatible uses.
- Use topography and boulders to control and manage impacts on landscapes surrounding facilities.

- Provide a sufficiently large open space for flexible programming.
- Cluster facilities to facilitate re-programming.

- Facilities that require large open spaces can be used as fuel break areas to help defend nearby furnishings and buildings.
- Hire a consultant to perform a geotechnical survey to ensure facilities are sited correctly.
- For facilities near fire prone areas, schedule controlled burns in the surrounding landscape to prevent damage to facilities.
- Use topography and terracing around facilities to detain storm water flows.

- Provide shade over facilities whenever possible, especially over hard or dark surfaces.
- Locate adequate facilities throughout a neighborhood to encourage residents to walk or bike to recreation destinations.
- Design facilities to accommodate as much planting as possible around the perimeter to provide shade and help sequester carbon.
- Trees near facilities should have deep root systems to avoid damage to playing surfaces.





09 CONCLUSION

9.1

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE LOWER LA RIVER CORRIDOR

Over the last decade, cities around the world have shown renewed interest in reclaiming urban waterfronts as a means of revitalizing public space and developing multi-functional green infrastructure for social and ecological benefits (Batten, 2012). The Los Angeles metropolitan area, home to 15 million residents, and its relationship to the LA River, is one such example. Once a tapestry of meandering streams, arroyos, and washes, today the LA River is an inaccessible, fully engineered flood-control system with much of its original ecological function lost (Gumprecht, 1999). Plans for the river's revitalization have emerged over the past 20 years, ranging from complete floodplain restoration to the creation of waterfront development, parks, and wildlife habitat (Fletcher, 2008).

While these proposals provide a broad vision for the river's future, they do not necessarily include provisions for the specific needs of individual communities. With this in mind, the first step toward the sustainable revitalization of the river requires building social and economic capacity in disadvantaged areas, specifically along the Lower LA River. Doing so will encourage residents to champion local improvements that fit within the context of existing master plans while reflecting their own community-specific interests, thereby increasing the environmental, social, and economic resilience of river-adjacent neighborhoods.

Collective Efforts builds on the momentum to revitalize the LA River, largely emanating from the master planning efforts of the City of Los Angeles, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and regional river development organizations. This project presents an alternative approach that concentrates on neighborhood-scale interventions that address community-specific needs for open space improvements. Focusing on the Gateway Cities, with an emphasis on a two-mile



corridor surrounding the LA River, *Collective Efforts* utilized participatory design methods to work closely with residents to generate concept plans for a variety of inter-connected neighborhood sites. The project teams also engaged community members in designing and building small immediate projects. Informed by local knowledge at each step, this approach inventoried existing conditions to address community-specific needs in neighborhoods that are typically under-served by conventional top-down planning efforts. The documentation of this approach serves as a model for participatory design that can be applied in similar communities throughout the region.



Over a series of nine months, the 606 Studio engaged two Gateway Cities communities in a participatory design-build process. Through the ongoing collaboration between project teams and residents, each community successfully generated neighborhood vision plans that embodied the goals of the regional planning efforts surrounding the LA River while addressing community-specific issues. *Collective Efforts* resulted in a total of nine community-designed projects and the creation of one neighborhood association committed to implementing neighborhood landscape improvements in the long-term. Throughout the process, community members were engaged in a dialogue about the role of landscapes in their neighborhoods and the potential for collaborative projects to strengthen the community's capacity to make improvements.



Implementing participatory design-build strategies is a challenging, yet worthwhile, endeavor. Each stage of the process involves a different set of tools and requires designers to be adaptable and responsive to changing site conditions, political will, client needs, and community perspectives. One of the objectives for *Collective Efforts* was to work with community members to create plans for multi-benefit infrastructure that addressed social needs while providing environmental services. This inherently represents a partnership between design professionals, agencies, organizations, and community members where the design experts take on the role of facilitators to integrate their understanding of regional environmental priorities with the priorities and interests of local residents. This partnership is integral to the sustainable development of neighborhoods in the LA River corridor and the key to building resilient communities.



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Site
Selection
Master
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SC#2
ID Site +
Projects

Creating
Concept
Plans

APPENDIX A

SC#2
- engaging SC
evaluating
the concepts

Evaluating
Alternatives

Review
Draft
Plans

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ABOUT THE 606 STUDIO

The 606 Studio is the capstone project of the landscape architecture graduate program at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The 606 Studio has nearly 45 years of award-winning service work focused on helping municipalities, non-government organizations, community organizations, and other agencies to solve complex problems resulting from relationships between human and natural systems. The 606 Studio projects apply advanced methods of analysis and design to address significant issues concerning resources of both the physical and social environment, with broad implications that go beyond project site boundaries.

ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Dr. Lee-Anne Milburn

Dr. Lee-Anne Milburn FASLA, Professor of Landscape Architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Dr. Milburn researches issues related to sustainability, water quality and quantity, energy consumption and the energy-water nexus, active and alternate transportation, human capacity through outdoor physical activity, land conservation and stewardship, and physical design's impact on the urban heat island (and related problems). Her other primary area of research is specific to landscape architecture: the research culture of landscape architecture, relationship between research and design, and distributing and communicating research to the design professions. Her teaching interests are directly related to her scholarly concerns: sustainable design, healthy communities, and site-scale design to affect human activity. Dr. Milburn has a B.F.A., an M.L.A., and a Ph.D. in Rural Studies-Environmental Design and Rural Development.

Steve Rasmussen Cancian

Steve Rasmussen Cancian, Lecturer, Department of Landscape Architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Steve leads Shared Spaces, a community-based participatory design firm. His practice combines organizing, facilitation and design to enable people to participate in every step of creating places that resonate with their experience, desires, community and culture. At all scales, from the neighborhood bench to the community specific plan, he seeks to collaborate with communities to create improvements that serve current residents without catalyzing gentrification. He has published research on historic design build methods and leads a youth design build project. He conducts training on participatory methods and cultural and gender bias in design. Before studying landscape architecture, Steve was a community and political organizer for 13 years. He has a B.A. in American History from Columbia University and an M.L.A. from the University of California, Berkeley.



Dr. Weimin Li

Dr. Weimin Li ASLA, Graduate Coordinator, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Dr. Li specializes in advanced geoprocessing modeling, high resolution remote sensing imagery processing and 3D landscape construction, and their application in a wide range of landscape design and planning practices. In addition to Geodesign, Dr. Li also researches the environmental and social impacts of contemporary landscape design and planning on different dimensions of sustainability and quality of life in urban settings, including stormwater management, urban green space, wildlife habitat conservation, multi-modal transportation, and neighborhood justice. Dr. Li's teaching echoes her research interests and includes introductory and advanced GIS, intermediate landscape design, environmental analysis and advanced ecosystematic landscape design. Dr. Li has a B.S. in Urban and Resource Planning, an M.S. in Physical Geography, and a Ph.D. in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

ABOUT TEAM SOUTH WRIGLEY

Kristen Gill

Kristen graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2009 with her degree in Zoology. She began her career in the field by becoming a zoo keeper in San Diego, California. She also worked part-time in the horticulture department at the zoo which inspired her to pursue a degree in landscape architecture. This field allows her to combine her love of plants and animals by offering a wide range of environmental-focused careers. She works for a firm that does zoological and conservation design.

Kristin Misa Sullivan

Kristin (Misa) graduated from Occidental College with a degree in Urban and Environmental Policy with an emphasis on community organizing. For her undergraduate thesis, she chose to investigate a topic related to how the design of public spaces can influence how we feel about ourselves and how we relate to others. A faculty adviser introduced her to the topic of landscape architecture, which was largely what prompted her application to attend Cal Poly Pomona. Regardless of where she ends up, Kristin hopes her work will have a positive impact on the world around her, and is looking forward to being able to use the principles of landscape architecture to address social, environmental, and political issues throughout the Southern California region.

Lila Takwa

Lila earned her Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Syria. After moving to California she decided to study landscape architecture, as it is more connected to nature. In the future she hopes to go back to Syria to share and implement participatory design and community engagement, as it is not common there. She plans to examine the current state and use of existing public open spaces, their correspondence to people's needs, and how they can play a therapeutic role in a war zone and in refugee camps.

ABOUT TEAM JACKSON PARK

Aaron Ackerman

Aaron Ackerman received a B.S. in City and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and graduated with a Master of Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 2017. He was the recipient of a 2016 ASLA Student Merit Award, the 2016 California Landscape Architectural Student Scholarship Fund, and during his tenure, was named as the department's Outstanding Graduate Student for his academic achievements and leadership. Prior to pursuing landscape architecture, Aaron worked six years in urban and environmental planning where he discovered his interest in design of the built environment and its impact on community and social resiliency. Given these interests, Aaron is focused on exploring and evolving landscape architecture's civic role, including large and small-scale community-based design of the public realm. Aaron's approach to design seeks to promote ecological principles among built, social, and natural environments, while celebrating the beauty of community.

Kevin Maynard

Kevin Maynard received a B.A. in Sociology from Hamilton College and graduated in 2017 with an Masters of Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His graduate work exposed him to a wide variety of projects from urban pocket parks to bicycle corridors in central Italy, to massive intermodal transportation facilities, such as the SCIG Project in Long Beach, California, for which his team received an ASLA Merit Award in 2016. He brings enthusiasm and a wealth of experience to the burgeoning field of landscape architecture. His background in rehabilitating homes and writing for television provides a wide variety of skills that he integrates with his present work at Regenerative Design Studios in San Pedro, California. He assists colleagues with ecological restorations, planting and irrigation design and safe bicycle pathways. He credits the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona for helping refine his skill sets for application to landscape architecture.

Luis Pedraza Cardozo

Luis obtained a Bachelors of Fine Arts (with an emphasis in graphic design) and a Minor in Advertising from California State University, Fullerton in 2009. He worked as a graphic design consultant for 3 years working on corporate identity, branding and print design. He also spent time at Orange Coast College studying horticulture and developed a knowledge and interest in plant identification, management and care and learned the fundamental principles of landscape and planting design. There he developed a passion for the landscape and was an avid volunteer at local community gardens, plant sale events, and participated in community and student-led projects. His experience in design and interest in the landscape led him to pursue a graduate degree in landscape architecture. His interests lie in ecological design, urban design, green infrastructure and environmental inequality in communities across the Southern California region.

An aerial photograph of a construction site, overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. The image shows a large, rectangular concrete slab in the foreground, with various construction materials and equipment scattered around it. In the background, there are more construction materials and a large, irregularly shaped concrete structure. The overall scene is a busy construction site.

APPENDIX B

SOUTH WRIGLEY

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- 346** B.26 Project Selection Workshop: Willow Entrance Park Design
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- 347** B.28 Project Selection Workshop: South Cressa Park Design



*"Everybody can be
GREAT,
because anybody
can serve"*

*"Todos pueden ser
GRANDIOSOS,
porque cualquiera
pueden servir"*

-DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.



*Build it Better Together
Juntos Hacerlo Mejor*



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

Build it Better Together

ESFUERZOS COLECTIVOS

Juntos lo Hacemos Mejor



ABOUT US SOBRE NOSOTROS

- We are students from Cal Poly Pomona
• Somos estudiantes de Cal Poly Pomona
- We are working with :
 - Local youth from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB)
 - Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
 - You!
- Estamos trabajando con :
 - Jovenes locales de la Conservation Corps de Long Beach (CCLB)
 - Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
 - y Usted!



OUR MISSION NUESTRA MISIÓN

- Build a local committee
• Crear un comité local
- Improve outdoor community space:
 - Parks, murals, benches, trees, etc.
- Mejorar los espacios publicos de la comunidad:
 - Parques, murales, bancos, árboles, etc.



City of Cudahy, Carniceria Milagro, 2016: Before



City of Cudahy, Carniceria Milagro, 2016: After

HOW YOU CAN HELP CÓMO PUEDES AYUDAR

- Attend the next meeting!
• ¡Asistir la próxima reunión!
- Get to know your neighbors!
• ¡Conocer los vecinos!
- Encourage others to get involved!
• ¡Animar á otros que participen!
- Attend the next work day!
• ¡Asistir el próximo día de trabajo!

Contact info:

Kristen Gill, Misa Sullivan, Lila Takwa & Marina Wagner

CollectiveEffortsWest@gmail.com
(562)277-1384

B.1 Bilingual Trifold Brochure



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

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Lila Takwa
Marinna Wagner



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Kristen Gill
Misa Sullivan
Lila Takwa
Marinna Wagner

B.2 Business Cards



City of Cudahy, Carniceria Milagro, 2016: Before and After

ABOUT US

- We are students from Cal Poly Pomona
- We are working with :
 - Local youth from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB)
 - The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
 - You!

OUR MISSION

- Build a local committee
- Improve outdoor community space:
 - Parks, murals, benches, trees, etc.

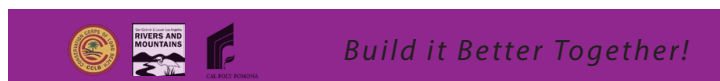
HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Attend the next meeting!
- Encourage others to get involved!
- Attend the next work day!

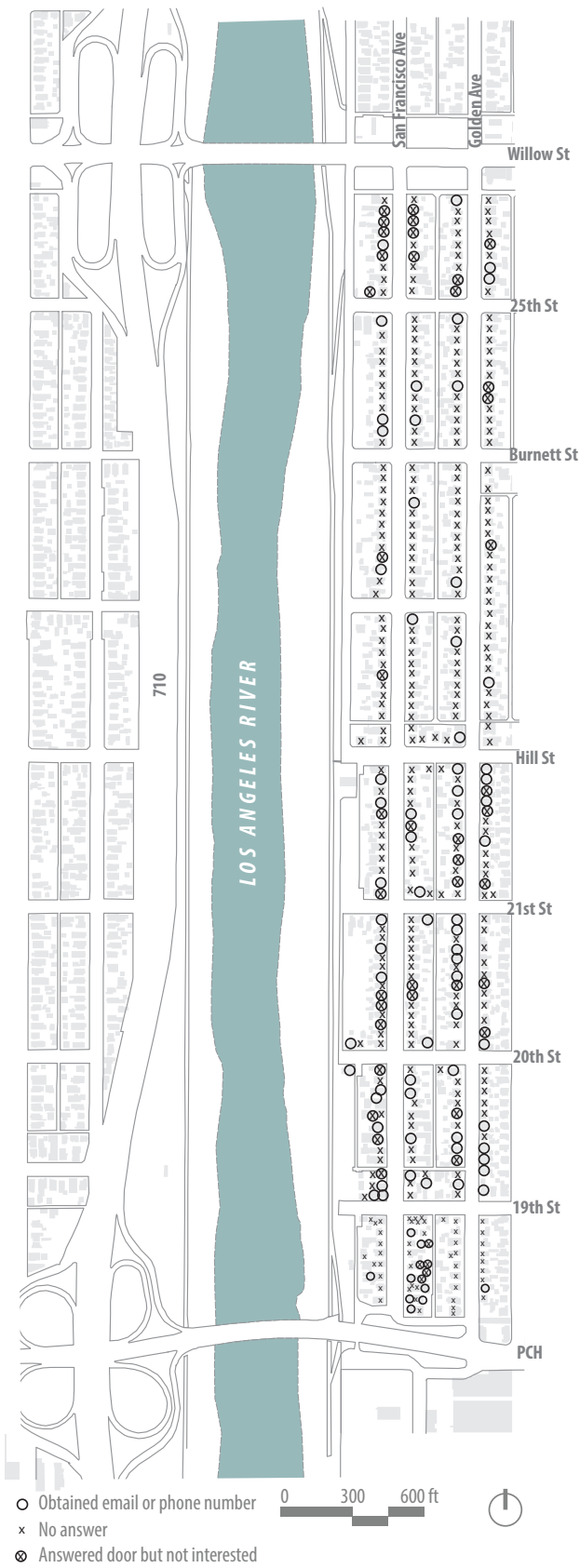
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(562)277-1384



B.3 Canvassing Flyers



B.4 Canvassing Map



KICK OFF MEETING AGENDA

Location: Long Beach Islamic Center
Date: Thursday, November 10th
Time: 7:00 PM
Attendance: South Wrigley Community Members, CCLB Members, Cal Poly Pomona 606 Studio Team

Agenda Items

1. Introductions	7:00 - 7:15
2. Project Description	7:15 - 7:30
3. Getting to know South Wrigley	7:30 - 7:50
4. Brainstorming Solutions	7:50 - 8:10
5. Potential Projects	8:10 - 8:20
6. Next Steps	8:20 - 8:30



OUR PURPOSE IN SOUTH WRIGLEY

Welcome to the first neighborhood committee meeting!

Collective Efforts is a community driven, participatory design project intending to build parks and public spaces in the South Wrigley neighborhood of Long Beach. Guided by Landscape Architecture students from Cal Poly Pomona and members of the Long Beach Conservation Corps, this project focuses on the concerns of local residents and their priorities for improving their neighborhood. Over the next year, we will work together with residents of South Wrigley to design and build community space projects. We will develop and build one short-term project, and one long-term project:

Small Short-Term Project

- Simple Project – build a bench, or a small garden, plant trees, or paint a mural
- To be built over the course of two days
- Immediate impact in the community
- Built by December 2016

Long-Term Projects

- Conduct neighborhood analysis and research
- Identify possible project locations
- Design 3-6 community space projects
- Build one project by June 2017
- Acquire long-term funding for remainder of projects
- Empower local resident



Build it Better Together!



Build it Better Together!



YOUR INVOLVEMENT

We are asking community members to get involved in any way they can.

1. Let your voice be heard!

Attend meetings. At the start of next year, we will be conducting community workshops to gather community concerns, identify project locations, and ask community members to share their ideas for improving the neighborhood.

2. Become a community leader!

You can be part of a neighborhood committee for the project, leading in the decision making process, and representing your friends and neighbors throughout the project.

3. Help build a project!

Volunteer to participate on one of our project building work days. This can range from hands-on construction to donating supplies, or bringing food for everyone to enjoy.



City of Cudahy, Carniceria Milagro, 2016: Before



City of Cudahy, Carniceria Milagro, 2016: After



CRITERIA FOR A GOOD WORKDAY PROJECT

A good workday project should:

- Be highly visible to neighborhood residents – so it will be noticed and attract additional participants
- Be easy to maintain within the resources of the group
- Be possible to complete in one or two 3-hour Saturday morning sessions (not including prep work done by studio members, CMs, et al.)
- Require no more than \$400 worth of materials
- Not require a permit or be something members are uncomfortable doing without a permit

Examples of a good workday project:

- Planting 2-6 trees at the neighborhood or river entrances
- Installing 1 or 2 benches at key corners or vista points
- Building a 4' x 6' planter community garden
- Painting a mural

Factors contributing to a good workday project:

- Clear organization with defined leadership and defined roles for participants
- Materials should be assembled and prepared beforehand
- Food and water should be made available for participants
- Comfortable atmosphere should be created – examples include: providing safety equipment, music, child-care for parents with younger children



Build it Better Together!



Build it Better Together!

B.5 Community Meeting Handout 1

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



WORK DAY PROJECT EXAMPLES



Build it Better Together!

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



WORK DAY PROJECT EXAMPLES



Build it Better Together!

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



WORK DAY PROJECT EXAMPLES



Build it Better Together!

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



WORK DAY PROJECT EXAMPLES



Build it Better Together!

B.5 Community Meeting Handout 1 (continued)



B.7 Community Meeting One: Brainstorming Results

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN A SHORT-TERM PROJECT

- Visibility**
If a project is highly-visible we are more likely to attract interest and gather support for the long-term projects we will work on next year.
- Maintenance**
The project we choose should be easy to maintain within the resources of the group or require no maintenance after it is completed.
- Timing**
With only one week until the official build-day we should be able to get together all the necessary resources and complete the project within our given time-frame.
- Cost**
Ideally materials for the project will be donated. However, if purchases are necessary they should not exceed \$400 in total.
- Politics**
Ideally the project will not require any city permits or special permission that we are unable to get within a week. However, the project could also be something that people are comfortable doing without permission, even if it would typically require such a thing.
- Location**
The project should be located between PCH and Willow, and between Golden Ave and the LA River unless the neighborhood committee agrees to extend the project beyond these bounds.



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

- Half-Court Basketball**
There is a basketball hoop at the end of 19th street adjacent to Cressa Park. A potential project would be to replace the hoop and paint lines on the street to accommodate half-court basketball.
- Clean-Up Day**
The committee could select a park or open space area for us to 'clean-up'. This could involve picking up trash, installing trash cans, removing dead plants, or anything else that would be specific to the selected area.
- Informational Signs**
Help create awareness in the neighborhood by creating signs about things like: ways to use less water, wildlife in the area, etc. We would select something to create signs about and install them at different places throughout the neighborhood.
- Entrance Signs**
There is already an entrance sign at the corner of Golden and PCH. The committee could decide to replicate or create a new sign at the corner of Golden and Willow.
- River Access Signs**
Bold signs with directions might make it easier for people to find the river. The project could also be about creating entrance signs at the two access points in the project area.
- Traffic Calming**
Painting a crosswalk or a street mural are examples of ways that we can slow traffic on a neighborhood street. If there are particular areas where you feel traffic speeds too high we can consider using these strategies to create safer streets.
- Tree Planting Along the River**
There is a lot of space along the river where trees could potentially be located. The committee would select exactly where and how many trees would be planted.



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

- Painting Utility-Boxes**
Utility boxes are often eyesores in a community. Painting them is one way to add color and art to the neighborhood streets. We would identify where they are located and how we would want to paint them.
- Neighborhood Benches**
Well-placed benches can create opportunities for neighbors to talk to one another. Clustering short benches provides the same social experience without inviting people to sleep on them. The committee would decide where to put the benches, how many to install, and what they will look like.
- Neighborhood Mural**
At the corner of Golden and Willow there are blank walls at Chee Restaurant and the auto-body shop that could potentially serve as mural locations. The group would agree on a location (either here or elsewhere in the neighborhood), seek permission from the business owners, and come up with a design for the mural.

POTENTIAL LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Landscape Improvement Projects**
There are a number of spaces at the corner of Willow and Golden that could benefit from re-landscaping as a strategy for beautifying the entrance to the neighborhood. These include: Chee Restaurant, the Liquor Store, and the un-used plot of land along PCH. The community could work together to design one or all of these new landscapes and select one to install next June.
- Dog Park**
Dog Parks provide residents with a space to let their dogs socialize and be off the leash. They also provide good social opportunities for residents themselves. The community could pick a location and design a dog park to be installed in June.



B.8 Community Meeting Two: Handout

NAME OF PROJECT	PROS	CONS
Traffic Calming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safer for kids and bikers - Safer for parked cars - Less accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More speed bumps needed south to Willow Street
River Access Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brings people to river - Bigger more visible signs - Creative signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are already river access and bike signs - Not necessarily
Neighborhood Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to be visible - Wrigley has multiple sides - Design component
Half Basketball Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's already there - Place for local kids to play - Easy to meet time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise - Loitering
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes public use - Can memorialize benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide range of costs - Permanence - Graffiti - Upkeep - Promotes loitering
Murals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance area - Employ local artists - Creates landmark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graffiti (need a graffiti protection finish) - Subject matter appeal - No enough time to design
Tree Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees are good - 15 gallons, not smaller - Right tree for location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to be watered and cared for first 2 years - Can be broken if too small - Not enough time to get trees
Utility Box Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local artists - Get younger people involved - Beautify neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graffiti - Not enough time to design

B.9 Community Meeting Two: Pros and Cons Exercise

ITEMS	VOTE 1	VOTE 2
1. Half-Court Basketball	<u>6</u>	6
2. Clean-Up Day	1	
3. Informational Signs	0	
4. Entrance Signs	2	
5. River Access Signs	2	
6. Traffic Calming	3	
7. Tree Planting	2	
8. Painting Utility Boxes	2	
9. Neighborhood Benches	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
10. Neighborhood Murals	2	

B.10 Community Meeting Two: Small Project Selection Results

PROJECT 1 RESOURCES		
What do we need?	Where do we get it?	Who is in Charge?
Solar lights - cap concrete	Food?	
Tools	Stan, Tim, and Ed	Ed
Scrap wood / scrap concrete	Home Depot, Anthony	
Composite material		
Shovel		
Drawings and designs		
Locations	Specifics	Quantities
*Willow and garden?	Under Tree	
Kaboom Park		
Sun-build IVR	Saturday, 11 am, Coleen	

B.11 Community Meeting Two: Small Project Build Day Resources List

- Notes:**
1. Contractor shall furnish all labor, tools, equipment, materials, transportation, and perform all operations necessary and incidental to proper execution and completion of all site concrete work in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications.
 2. All drawings are tools for construction and may not indicate an accurate account of underground utilities and unforeseen obstacles and/or irregularities. The Landscape Architect shall not be responsible for any discrepancies as a result of unforeseen elements.
 3. Contractor shall acquaint himself with all site conditions. He shall take necessary precautions to protect existing site conditions. Should damage be incurred, this Contractor shall repair damage to its original condition or furnish and install equal replacement at his own expense.
 4. Aggregate for regular weight concrete shall be hard, durable, uncoated, washed, graded, cleaned and screened, crushed rock or gravel conforming to Quikrete manufacturer's guidelines.
 5. Proportioning and mixing of cement, aggregate, admixture and water to attain required plasticity and strength shall be in accordance with Quikrete manufacturer's guidelines.
 6. Forms shall be constructed accurately to dimensions, plumb, all radii shall be true to form and true to line and grade.

Context Map



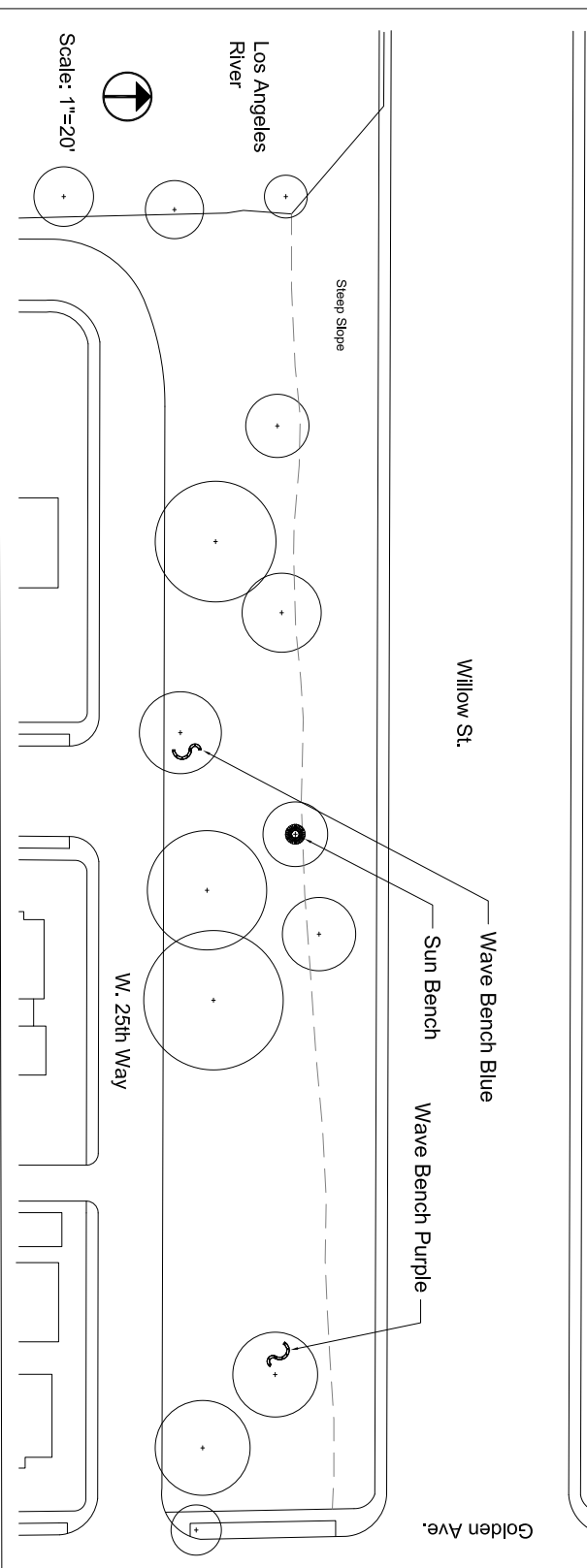
Sun Bench



Wave Bench



- Index:**
- Sheet L-00 Context and Overview
 - Sheet L-01 Sun Bench Details
 - Sheet L-02 Wave Bench Details

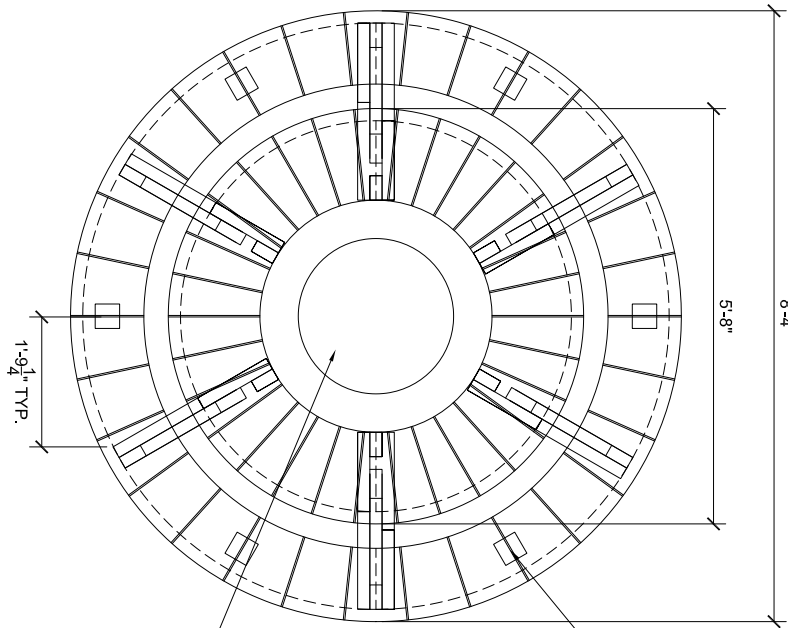


PROJECT TITLE: South Wrigley Build Day Project DATE: 4/28/2017 SHEET: L-00 OF: 1	THESE PLANS OR DRAWINGS ARE PROPERTY OF: Cal Poly Pomona Department of Landscape Architecture 606 Studio	DRAWN BY: Kaitlin Gill, Kaitlin Sullivan, Lita Takwa California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Department of Landscape Architecture 606 Studio 3801 W. Temple Avenue Pomona, CA 91768	THESE PLANS OR DRAWINGS ARE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED, COPIED, OR OTHERWISE TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM.																																																																																																			
	Context And Overview		<table border="1"> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table>																																																																																																			

B.12 Construction Documents (Benches)

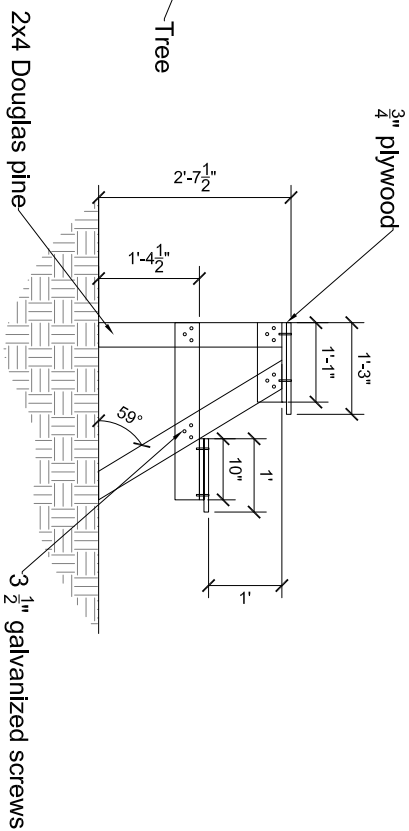
PLAN VIEW

1-1/2" = 1'0"



SIDE VIEW

1-1/2" = 1'0"



- NOTES:
1. DUE TO THE UNEVENNESS OF THE GROUND AROUND THE TREE, BENCH LEGS TO BE CUT ON SITE TO ADJUST
 2. 4x4 PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER ADDED FOR EXTRA TURN POINT. TO BE CUT ON SITE TO ACCOMMODATE GROUND LEVEL
 3. TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN TWO HALVES THEN PLACED AROUND TREE
 4. ALL SURFACES EXCEPT PRESSURE TREATED WOOD TO BE FINISHED WITH 2 LAYERS OF BEHR EXTERIOR PAINT

PROJECT: South Wrigley Build Day Project
 DATE: 4/28/2017
 DRAWING: Sun Bench Details

DESIGNED BY: Kaitlyn Gill, Kaitlin Sullivan, Lita Takwa
 DRAWN BY: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
 Department of Landscape Architecture
 656 Studio
 3801 W. Temple Avenue
 Pomona, CA 91768

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B.12 Construction Documents (Benches) (continued)

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE
FOR DATES AND
PROJECT
INFO!

HELP DESIGN & BUILD NEW PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN SOUTH WRIGLEY!

Learn more about the Collective Efforts project, or register for the upcoming design workshop at:
www.CollectiveEffortsSW.wixsite.com/site



*Join us for the next community design workshop and share your ideas for how we can make improvements to South Wrigley. This can be anything from public artwork to a new park! We will be constructing something **DESIGNED AND BUILT BY YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS** by the **END OF JUNE 2017**. This is a great way to meet new people and have a lasting impact on the community!*



This project is brought to you by a team of landscape architecture students from Cal Poly Pomona, please feel free to contact us with questions:

CollectiveEffortsWest@gmail.com
(562)277-1384

Kristen Gill, Misa Sullivan, Lila Takwa

BUILD IT BETTER TOGETHER!

B.13 Design Workshops Flyer

NEIGHBORHOOD WANTS/NEEDS

- Aesthetic improvements
- Sense of welcome to the neighborhood
- Safe place for dogs
- Education about local wildlife
- Landscape improvements
- Improved safety measures
- Trash clean up
- Buffer from freeway noise
- Access to river
- Recreational opportunities
- Wayfinding
- Traffic calming measures
- Conversation Areas



Build it Better Together!

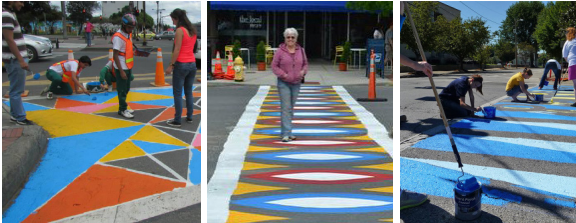
B.14 Committee Meeting One: Reference Sheets

SAFETY

Lighting



Traffic Calming

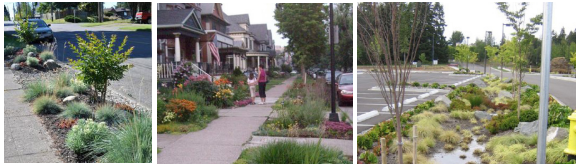


Surveillance



ENVIRONMENTAL

New Landscape Plantings



Flood Control



Educational/River Signs



Trees

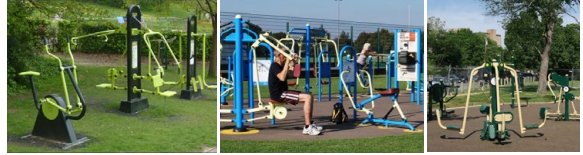


RECREATION

Dog Park



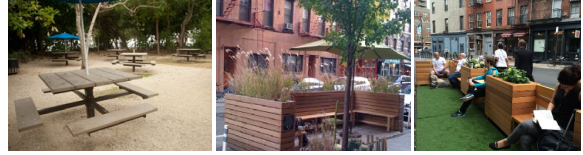
Exercise Equipment



Half-Court Basketball

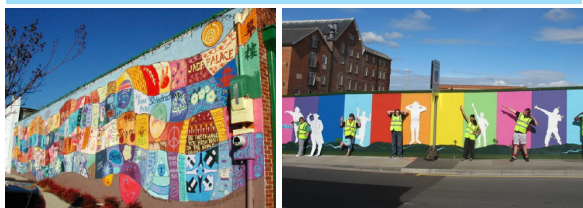


Seating Areas



AESTHETICS

Public Art



Trash Clean-Up



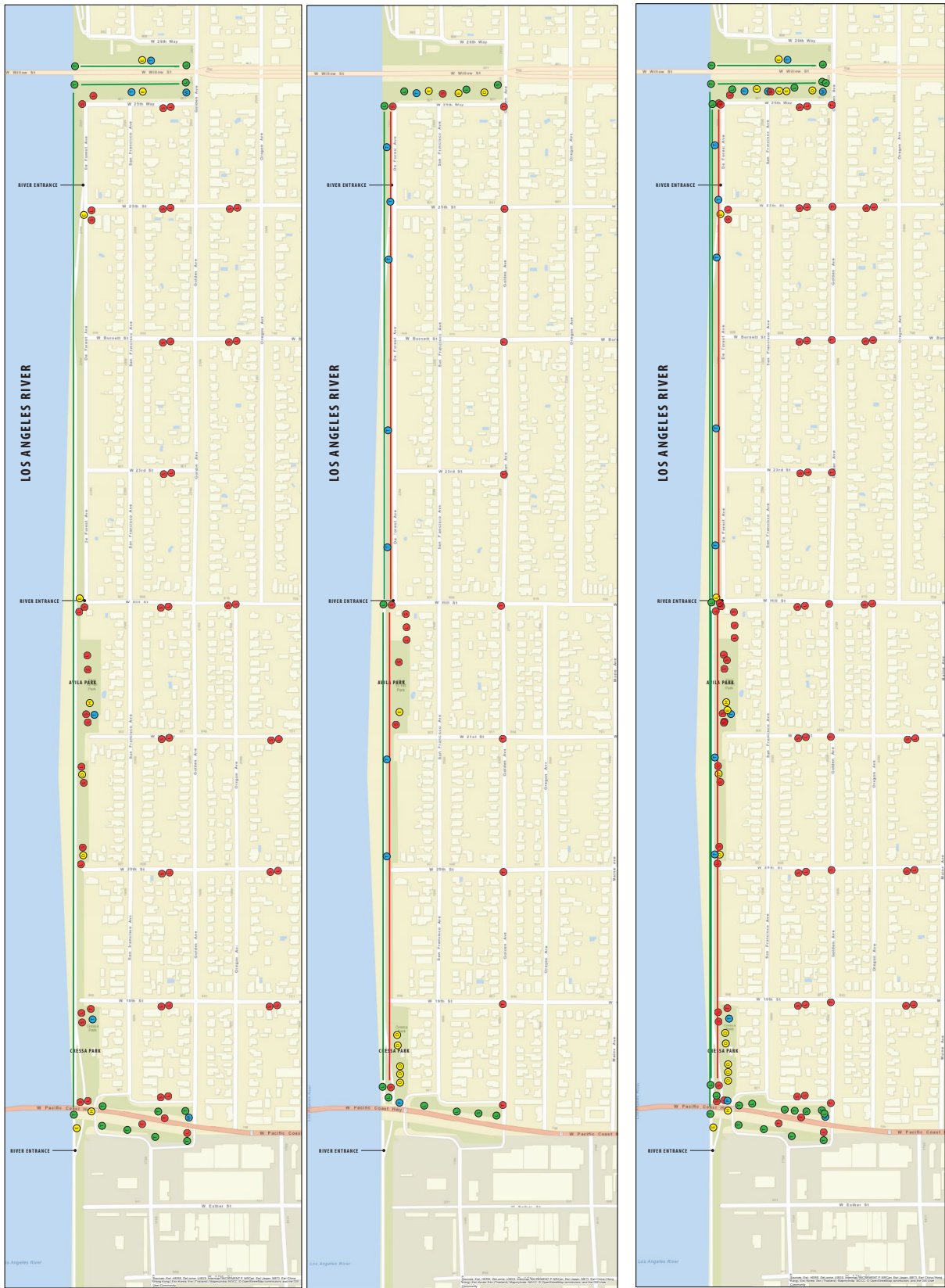
Welcome Sign



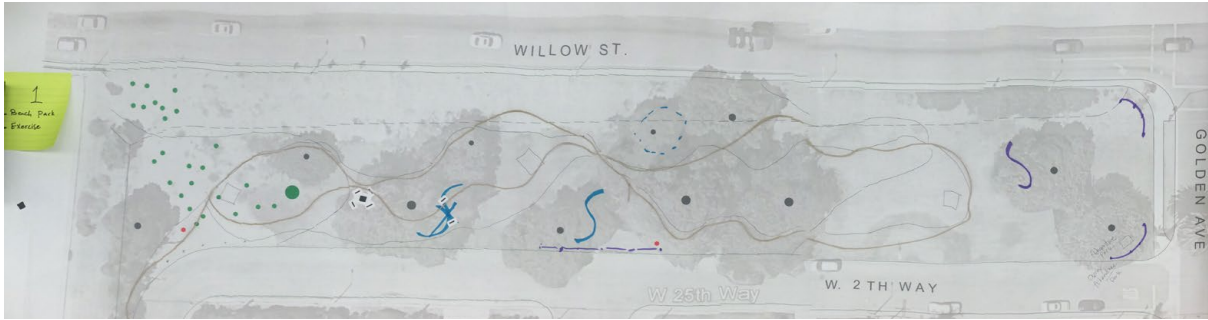
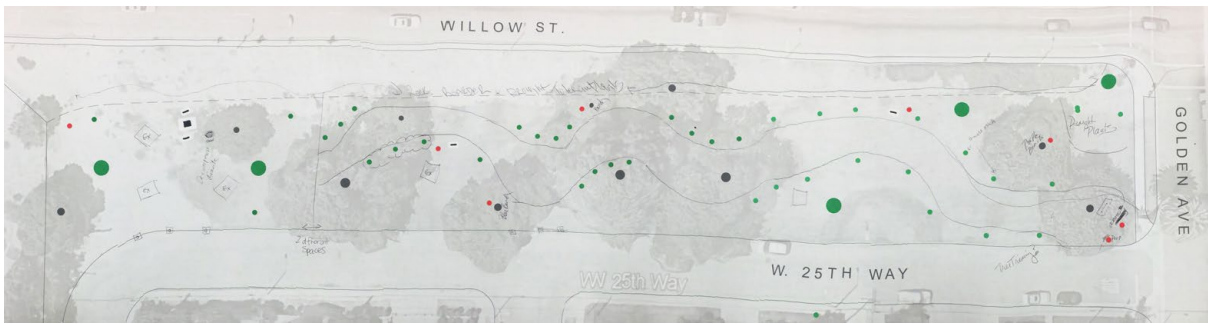
B.15 Design Workshop One: Reference Sheets

ITEMS	VOTE
Lighting	5
Traffic Calming	1
Surveillance	4
Dog Park	<u>8</u>
Exercise Equipment	5
Half-court Basketball	1
Seating Areas	0
New Lanscape Planting	5
Flood Control	0
Signs	0
Trees	6
Public Art	5
Trash Clean-up	3
Welcome Sign	2

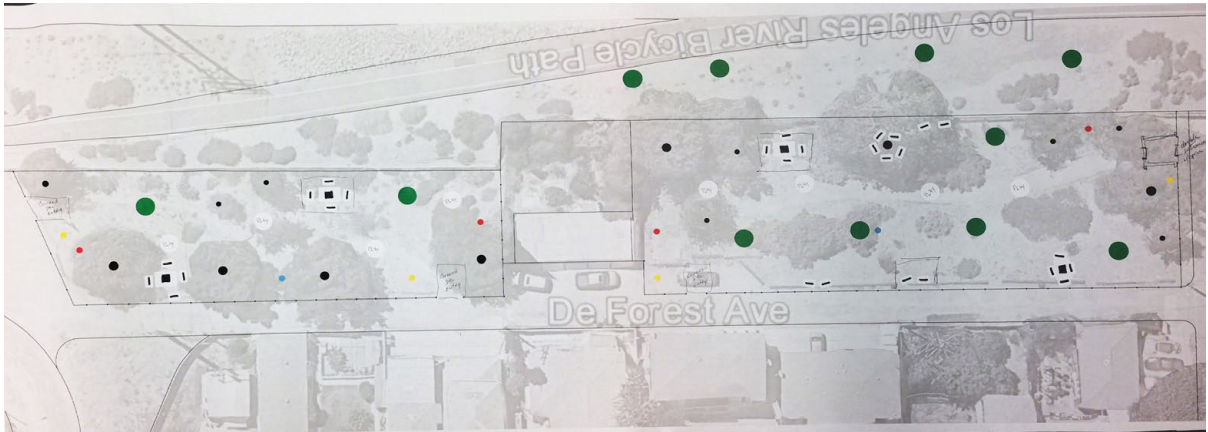
B.16 Design Workshop One: Voting Results



B.17 Design Workshop One: Mapping Exercise Results



B.18 Design Workshop Two: Willow Entrance Park Design Alternatives



B.19 Design Workshop Two: Dog Park Design Alternatives

PLANTED AREAS SHOULD...

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Have a clear "Wrigley" identity (a simple, straight-forward plant palette) | | Be a diverse collection of numerous plant species |
| Be primarily for aesthetics and neighborhood greening | | Serve more than purpose like cleaning water or providing shade |
| Feature a variety of "California-friendly" plant species | | Include only California native plant species |
| Have lots of colorful flowers | | Be filled with mostly greenery |
| Include lots of gravel and boulders | | Use mostly spreading groundcovers and shrubs |

STREET TREES SHOULD BE...

Tall Short

Evergreen OR Deciduous

What shape should they have?

PARK TREES SHOULD BE...

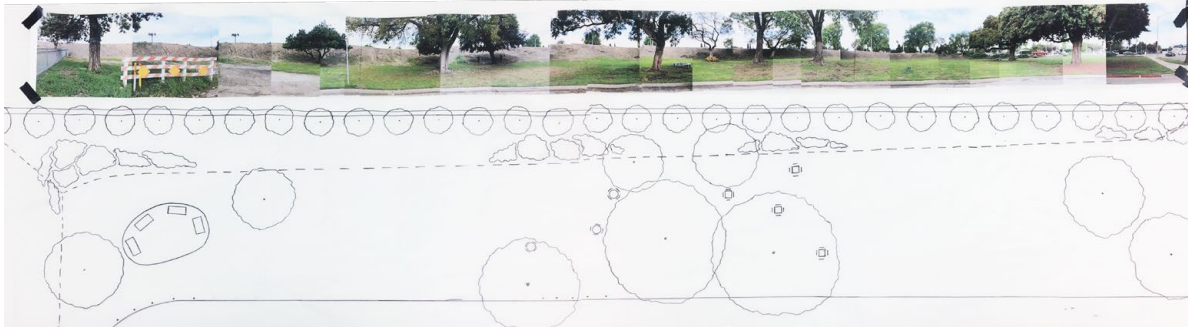
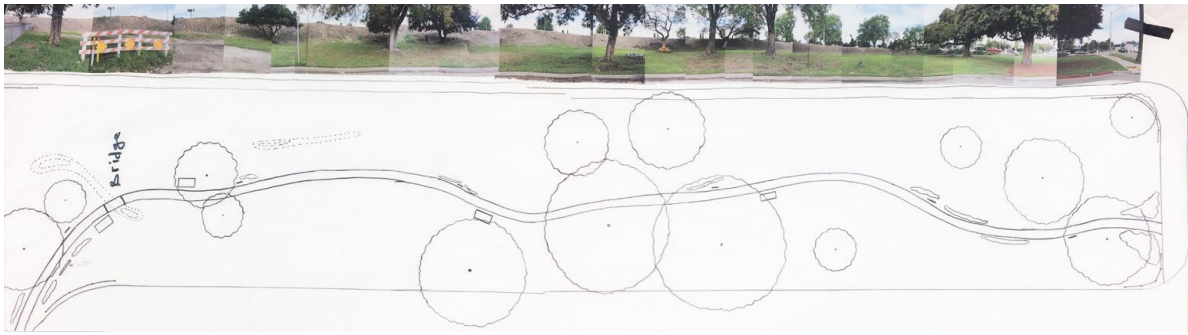
Tall Short

Evergreen OR Deciduous

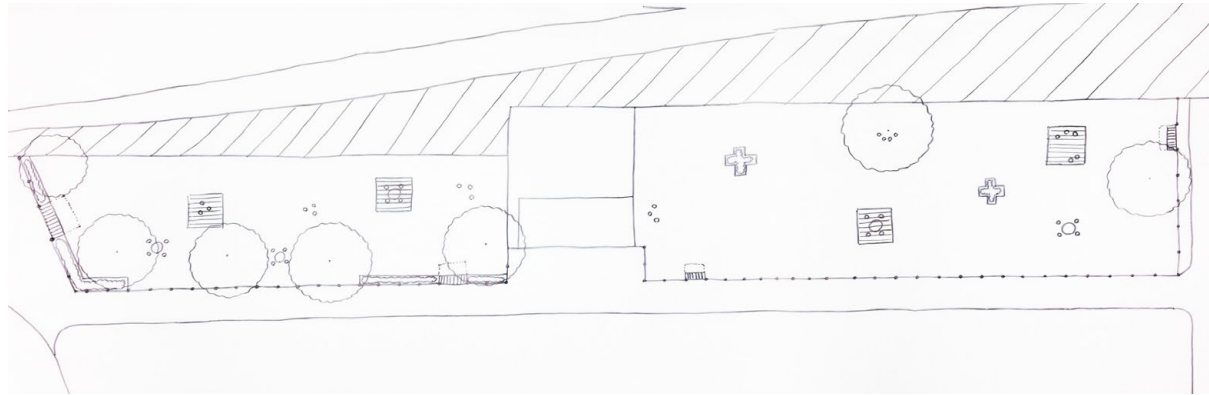
What shape should they have?

WRITE NOTES ON BACK →

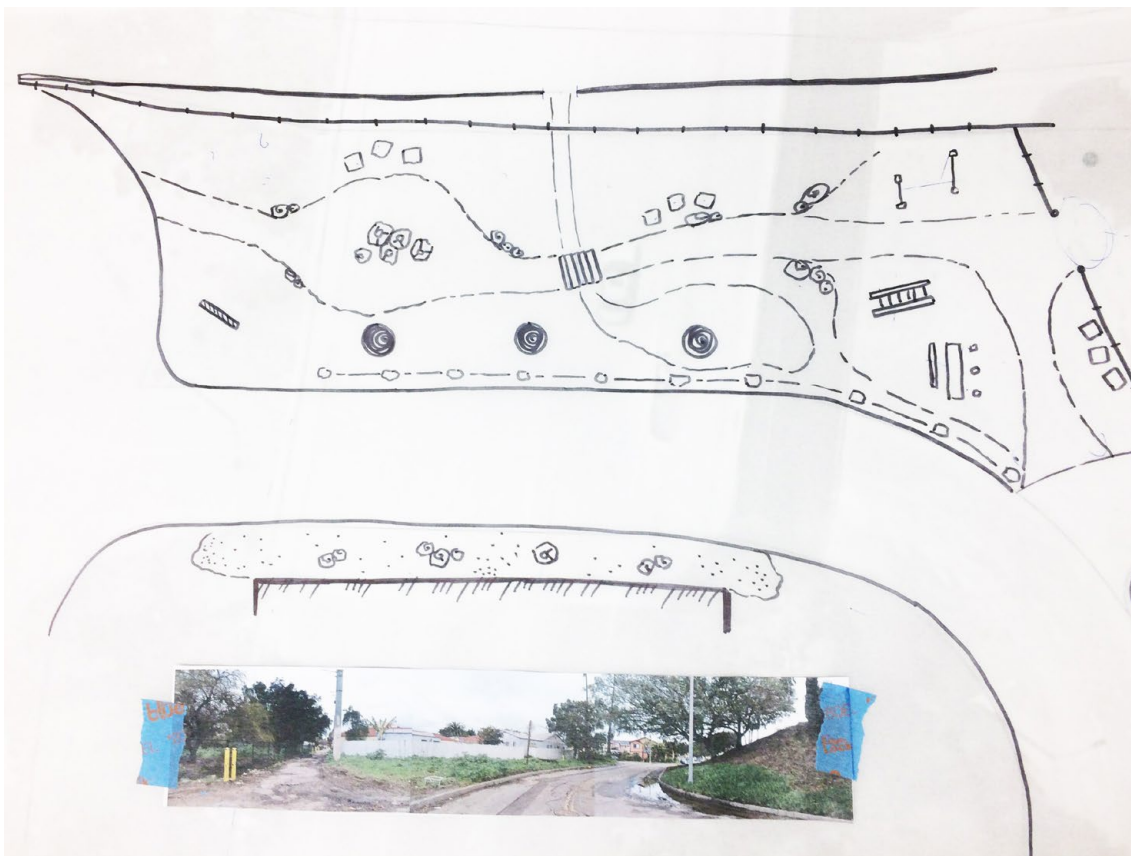
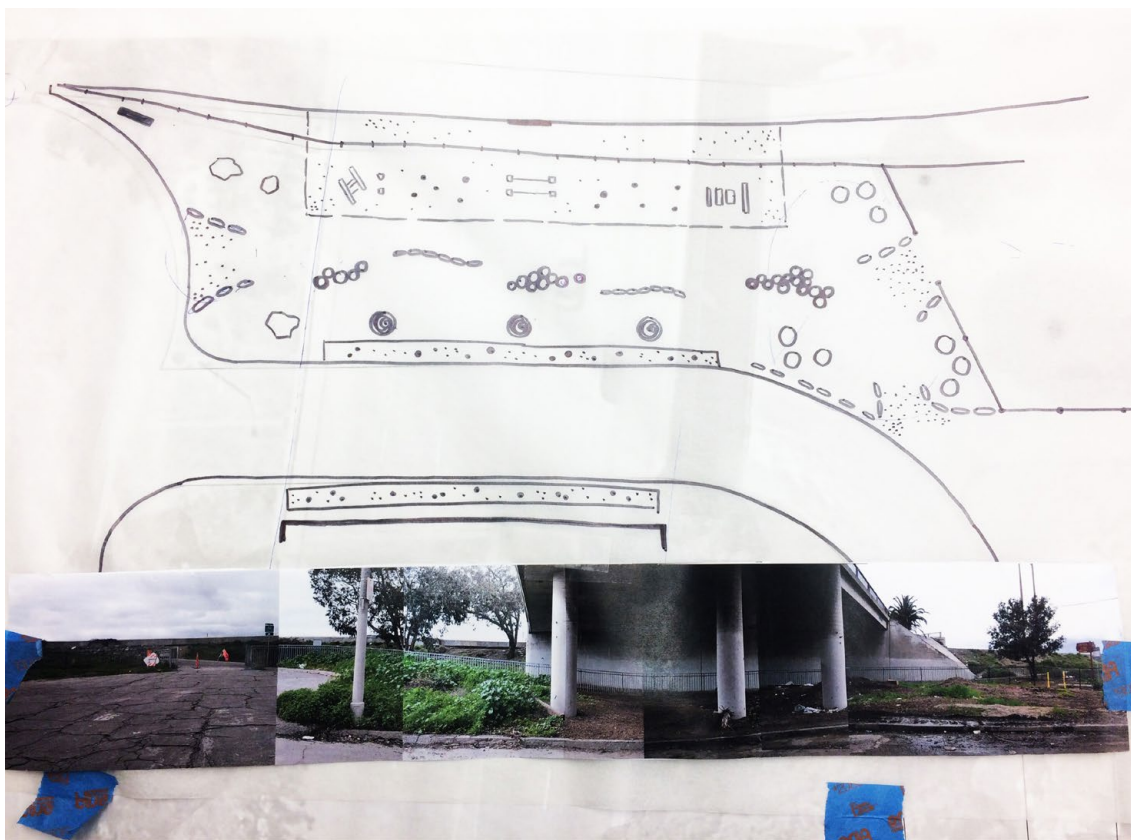
B.20 Design Workshop Two: Landscape Improvements Alternatives



B.21 Design Workshop Three: Willow Entrance Park Alternatives



B.22 Design Workshop Three: Dog Park Design Alternatives



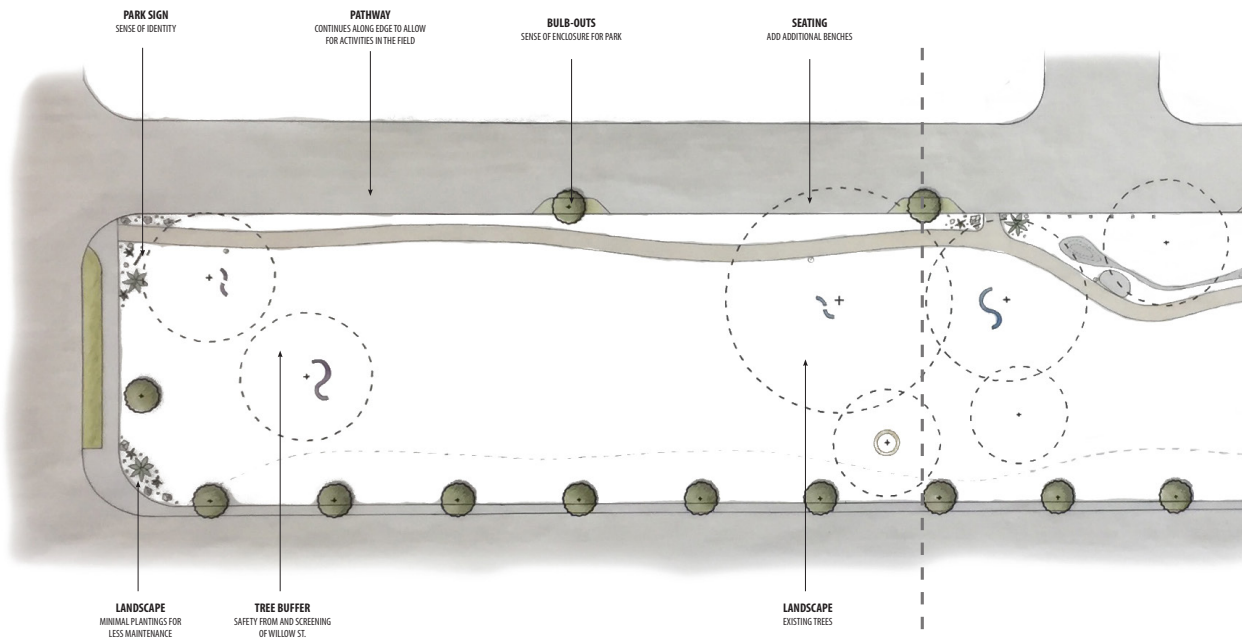
B.23 Design Workshop Three: PCH Underpass Design Alternatives

OPTION 1	Votes	OPTION 2	Votes
Curvy path	<u>6</u>	No path	3
Swale interacting with path	<u>8</u>	Stormwater hidden	0
Exercise equipment spread out	<u>6</u>	Exercise equipment clustered	2
Benches	<u>6</u>	Picnic area	2
Plants along path	<u>6</u>	Plants on slope	3
Trees throughout	0	Tree buffer on willow	<u>9</u>
Entrance sign on 25th	<u>5</u>	Entrance sign on willow	3
Fencing	<u>7</u>	No fencing	1

B.24 Design Workshop Three: Voting Results (Willow Entrance Park)

OPTION 1	Votes	OPTION 2	Votes
Big dog one side/ small dog other side	<u>5</u>	Dog side/ park side	4
Tables and benches everywhere	<u>6</u>	Tables in park/ benches in dog park	2
Shelters	2	Open	<u>4</u>
Seating scattered	1	Seating on edges	<u>9</u>
Raised planters	0	No plants in dog side	<u>9</u>
No new trees	0	New trees	<u>8</u>
No pathway	4	Pathway in the park	<u>5</u>
No basketball	1	Basketball	<u>8</u>

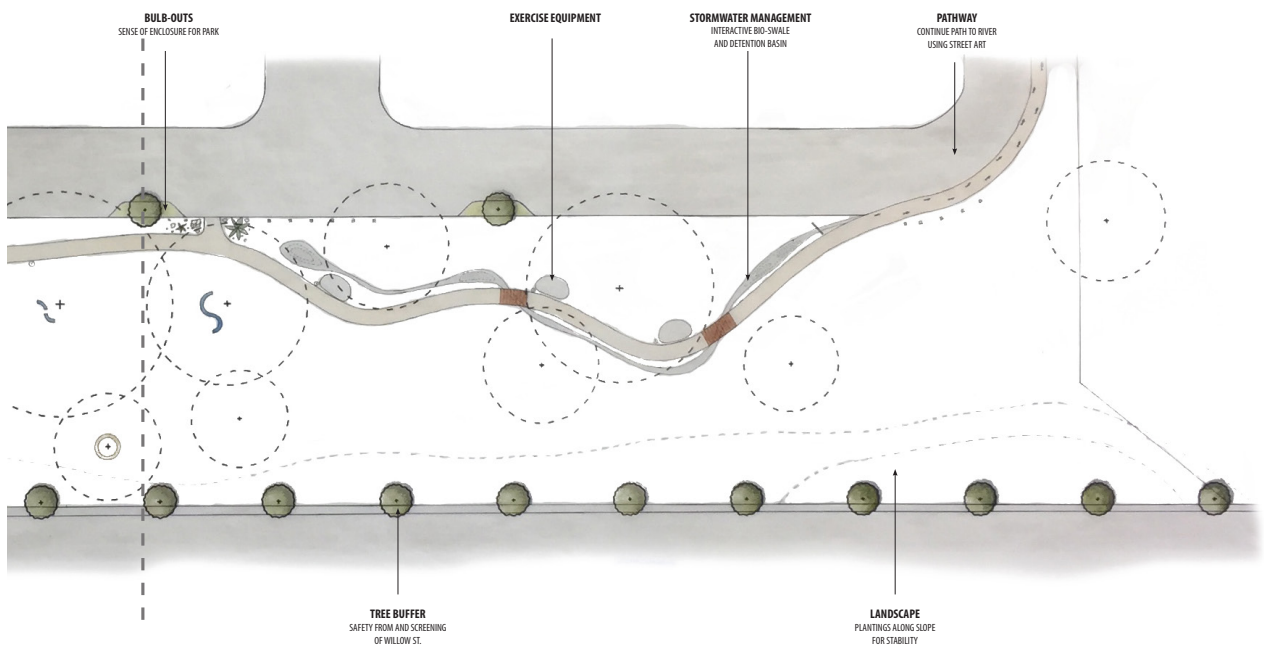
B.25 Design Workshop Three: Voting Results (Cressa Park)



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

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WILLOW ENTRANCE PARK

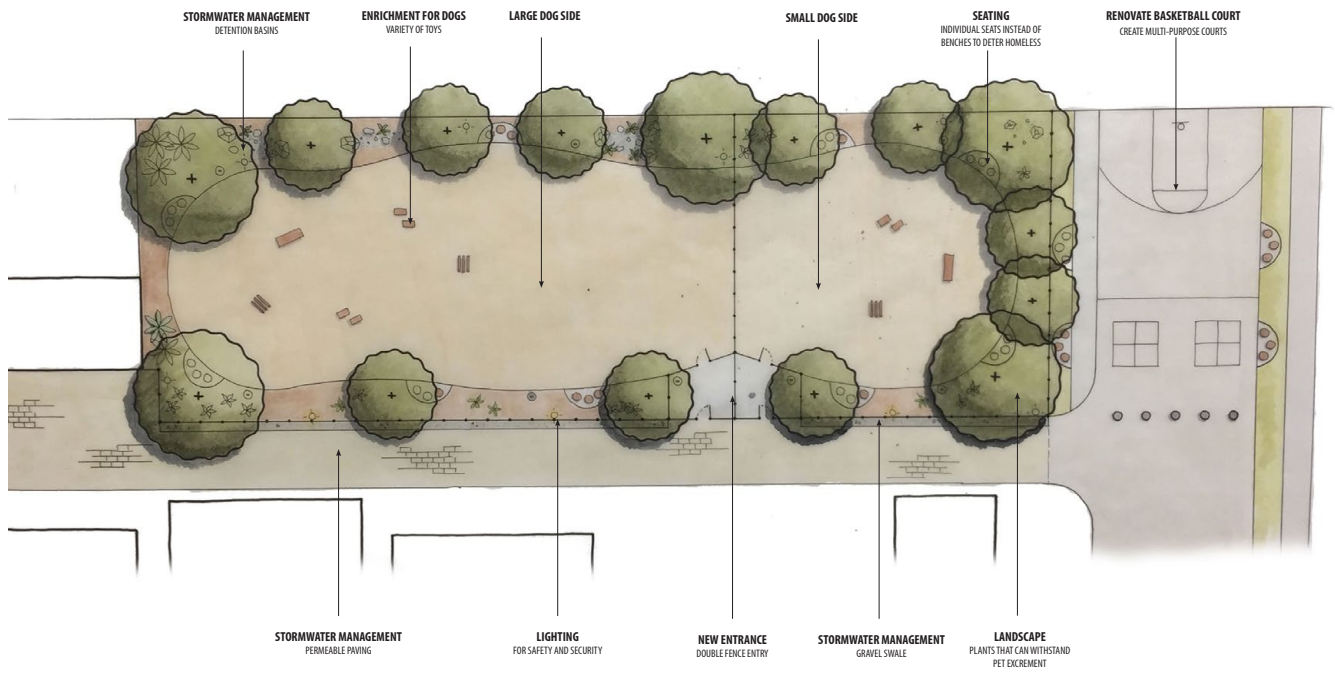


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WILLOW ENTRANCE PARK

B.26 Project Selection Workshop: Willow Entrance Park Design

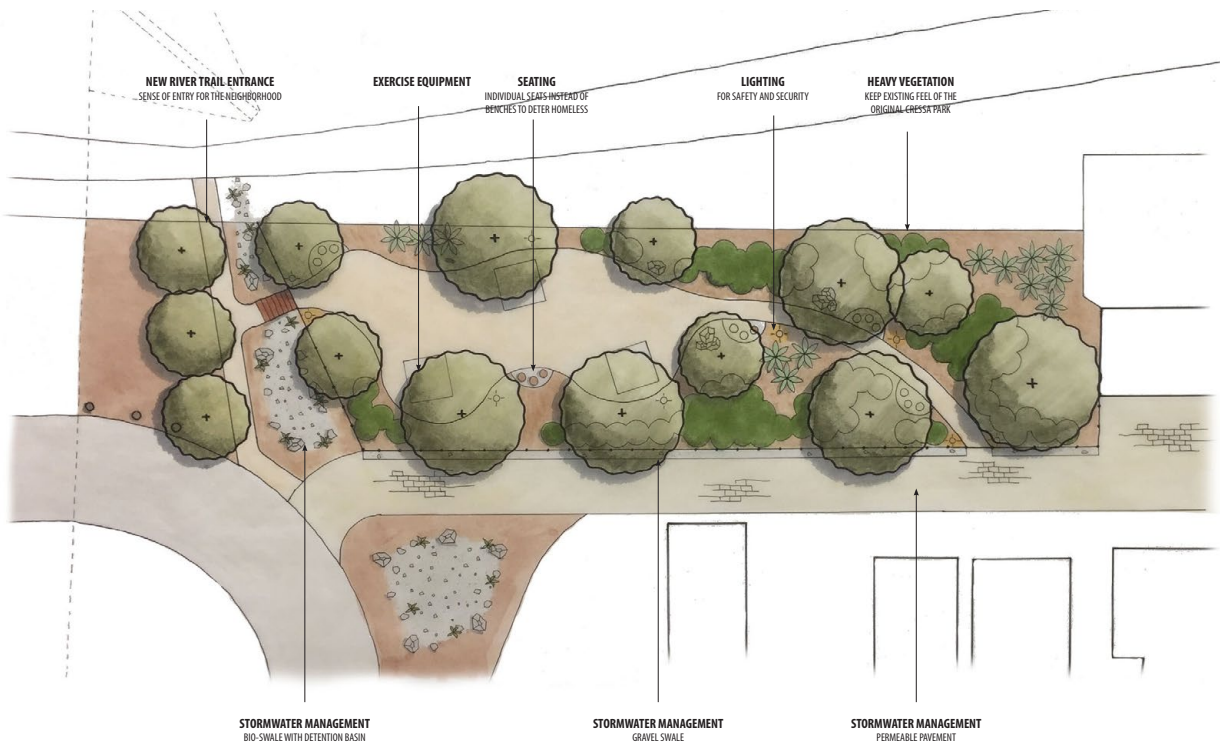


COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CRESSA PARK NORTH

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B.27 Project Selection Workshop: North Cressa Park Design with the Half

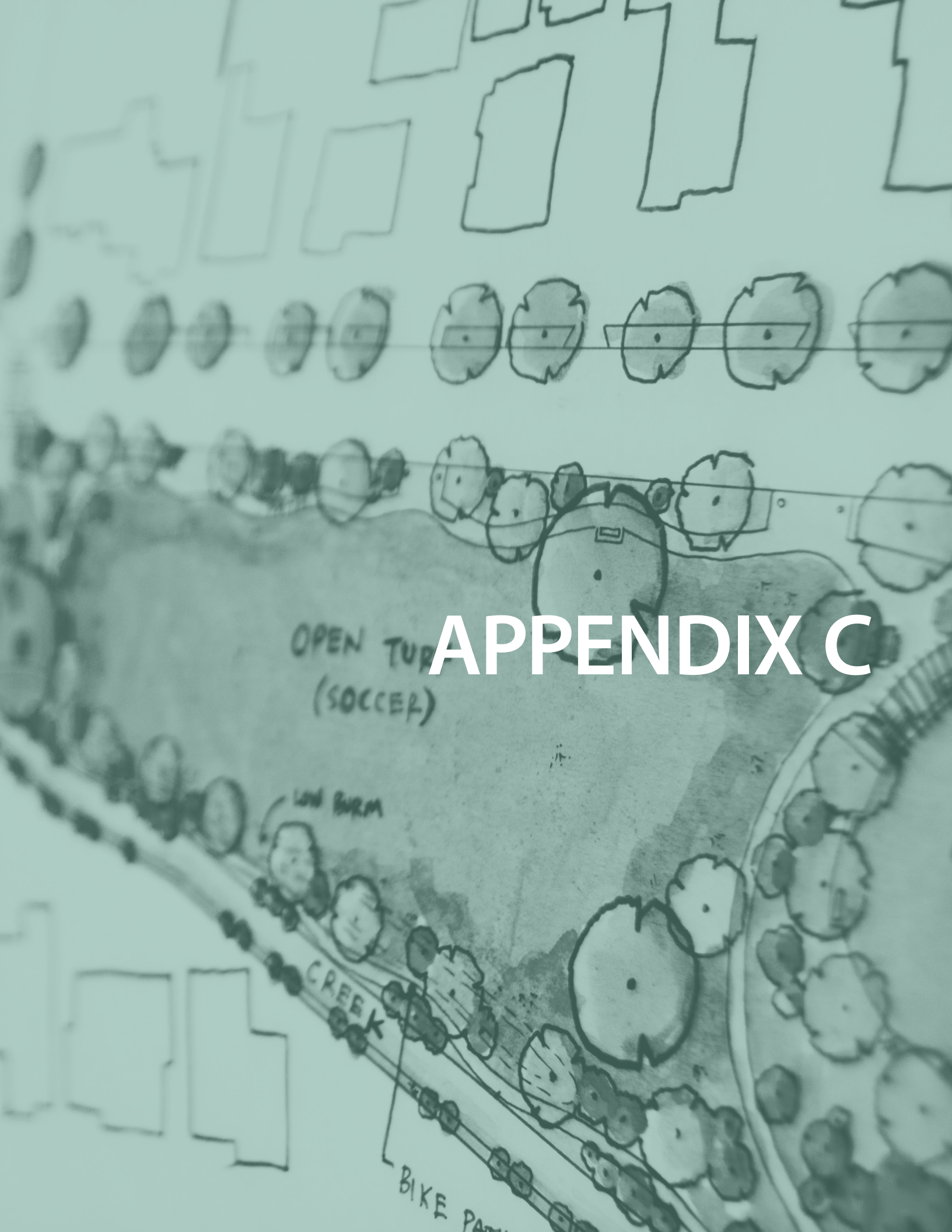


COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CRESSA PARK SOUTH

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B.28 Project Selection Workshop: South Cressa Park Design



APPENDIX C

JACKSON PARK

- 350** C.1 Canvassing Bilingual Brochure
- 351** C.2 Business Cards
- 351** C.3 Canvassing Flyer
- 352** C.4 Maps Used While Canvassing
- 352** C.5 Community Meeting One: Neighborhood Pros and Cons
- 353** C.6 Community Meeting Two: Likes/Dislikes/Solutions
- 353** C.7 Community Meeting Two: Neighborhood Improvement Themes Board
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- 354** C.9 Community Meeting Three: Small Project Resource List
- 355** C.10 Community Meeting Three: Bench One Design
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- 358** C.16 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Vacant Lot
- 359** C.17 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Railroad Corridor
- 360** C.18 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Market Street
- 360** C.19 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Commercial Area Parking Lot
- 361** C.20 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Jackson Park
- 361** C.21 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Railroad Corridor
- 362** C.22 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Vacant Lot
- 363** C.23 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Market Street
- 364** C.24 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Swamp BBQ
- 365** C.25 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Jackson Park
- 365** C.26 Design Workshop Three: Spring Build Voting Results
- 366** C.27 Design Workshop Four: Site Information Matrix
- 366** C.28 Design Workshop Four: Second Spring Build Voting Results
- 367** C.29 Design Workshop Four: Final Design for Swamp BBQ



what is Collective Efforts?

Collective Efforts is a team project created by Cal Poly's 606 Studio.

This project will bring local community residents, youth, and professionals together to identify opportunities for environmental improvement along the Los Angeles River's Gateway Communities.

¿que es Collective Efforts?

Los esfuerzos del Collective Efforts es un proyecto creado por 606 Studio de Cal Poly.

Este proyecto traerá los residentes locales de la comunidad, los jóvenes y los profesionales juntos para identificar oportunidades de mejorar el medio ambiente de comunidades al rededor del río de Los Angeles.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS:

What to get involve? Join us!

Thursday, November 17th, 7pm
'Jackson Park Neighborhood Committee Meeting'

Location:
North Long Beach Christian Church
1115 E Market St
Long Beach, CA 90805

Please email us or call us for more information.

or visit our page:

www.facebook.com/collectiveeffortsnorth

CAL POLY POMONA



606 Studio
Department of Landscape Architecture



collective
efforts:



building resilient communities
haciendo comunidades resistentes

Aaron Ackerman
Kevin Maynard
Luis Pedraza
collectiveeffortsnorth@gmail.com
(909) 362-0227

**links
river**

why does it matter?

- creates safer neighborhoods
- improves water quality
- links neighborhoods to the river
- connects families to parks
- develops community leaders

¿por qué eso importa?

- crea vecindarios más seguros
- mejora la calidad del agua
- une los barrios al río
- conecta a las familias a los parques
- desarrolla líderes de la comunidad

what is our focus?

Help us in finding open space and community improvement opportunities in Jackson Park neighborhood!

Ayúdanos a encontrar oportunidades abiertas de espacio y mejorar la comunidad en Jackson Park!

how can you help?

- get kids involved
- mentor and train local youth
- attend meetings
- spread the word
- have fun!

¿como puedes ayudar?

- involucrar a los niños
- guiar y formar a la juventud local
- asistir a las reuniones
- difundir la palabra
- ¡que te diviertas!

**public
design**

what's the plan?

- tell us what needs to improve
- learn what's important to you
- conduct interviews
- hold community meetings
- create steering committees

¿cuál es el plan?

- decimos lo que necesita mejorar
- aprender lo que es importante para usted
- realizar entrevistas
- celebrar reuniones de la comunidad
- crear comités de dirección

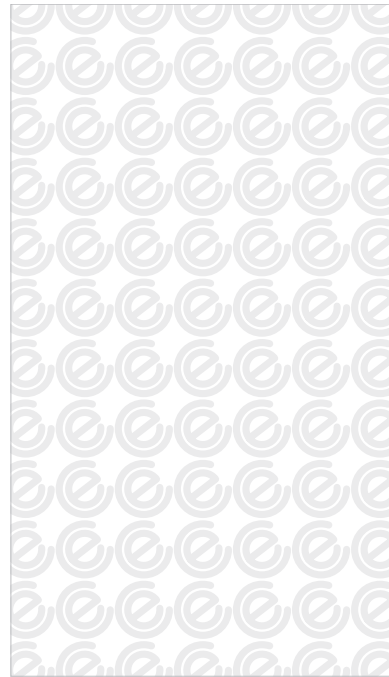
C.1 Canvassing Bilingual Brochure



Collective Efforts

Building Resilient Communities
Se habla español

Aaron Ackerman
Kevin Maynard
Luis Pedraza
909-326-0227
collectiveeffortsnorth@gmail.com



C.2 Business Cards

606 STUDIO | DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | CAL POLY POMONA

Collective Efforts

LAST YEARS' TEAM: COURTYARD PAZA DESIGNED AND BUILT BY COMMUNITY OF CUDAHY.

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

LAST YEARS' TEAM: MURAL PROJECT DESIGNED AND PAINTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CITY OF BELL.

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT AT OUR FIRST MEETING:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2016 @ 7:00PM

HOSTED AT:
NORTH LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1115 E Market St, Long Beach, CA

Help us find out how we can make the community of North Long Beach safer, healthier, and empowered through design of community driven sustainable environments, parks, and gathering spaces.

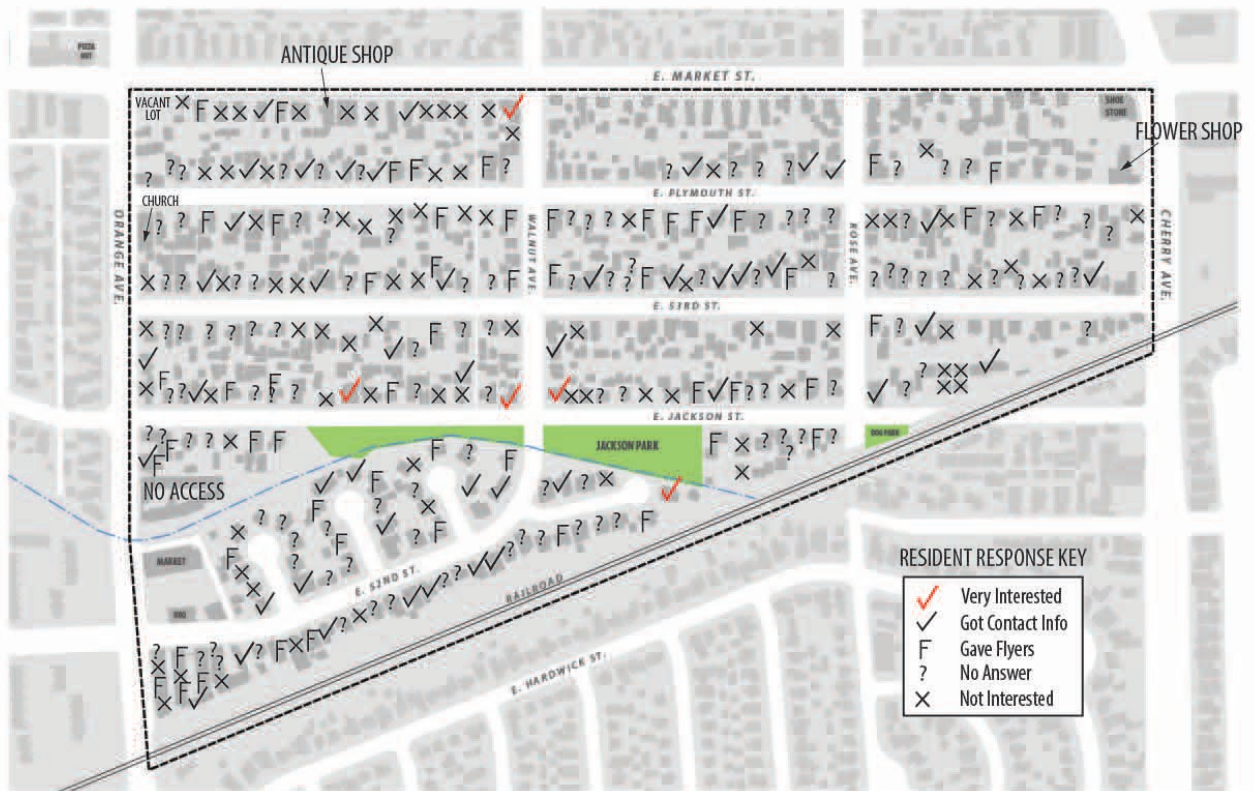
OUR GOALS:

- Constructing A Neighborhood Committee
- Conduct Design Workshops
- Facilitate Stakeholder Engagements
- Create Community Build Projects

CONTACT US:
AARON ACKERMAN, KEVIN MAYNARD, LUIS PEDRAZA
(909) 362-0227
COLLECTIVEEFFORTSNORTH@GMAIL.COM
Facebook: www.facebook.com/collectiveeffortsnorth

A COLLABORATION OF:

C.3 Canvassing Flyer



C.4 Maps Used While Canvassing

PROS	CONS
Quiet	Sidewalk unevenness
Diversity	Poor road conditions
Good Canopy Coverage	Not enough to do in Jackson Park
	Lots of loiters in the park
	Lighting issue

C.5 Community Meeting One: Neighborhood Pros and Cons

ITEMS	VOTE
Trash Cans	4
Poop Bag Dispensers	6
Benches	7
Plant Trees	4
Fence Mural	0
Path in Park	2
Dance Space	1
Exercise Equipment	0
Picnic Table	0
Bike Racks	0
Repair Swing	1

C.8 Community Meeting Three: Small Project Selection Results

BUILD DAY RESOURCES		
What	Where	Who
Redwood/Cedar	Cal Poly	Dark wood/weather proof
Fasteners/Bolts/Nuts	Juan	
Saws	Juan/Omar	
Shovels		
Cement		
Paint/Stain		
Tables	Tracy	
Easy Up	Juan	
Which Tree to Place Bench		
Staging	Tracy	

C.9 Community Meeting Three: Small Project Resource List

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #3

7:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd 2017

HOSTED AT:
NORTH LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1115 E Market Street, Long Beach, CA 90805



A COLLABORATION OF:



CONTACT US:

AARON ACKERMAN, KEVIN MAYNARD, LUIS PEDRAZA
(909) 362-0227

COLLECTIVEEFFORTSNORTH@GMAIL.COM

Facebook: www.facebook.com/collectiveeffortsnorth

Join us March 22nd in creating change and strengthening the community of Jackson Park. This is your opportunity to come see some of the designs the community created for spaces around the neighborhood. Come join us in evaluating and building off these incredible ideas the communities came up with! Be active agents of change in your neighborhood!

C.12 Design Workshop Flyer



C.13 Design Workshop One: Priority Mapping Exercise Results



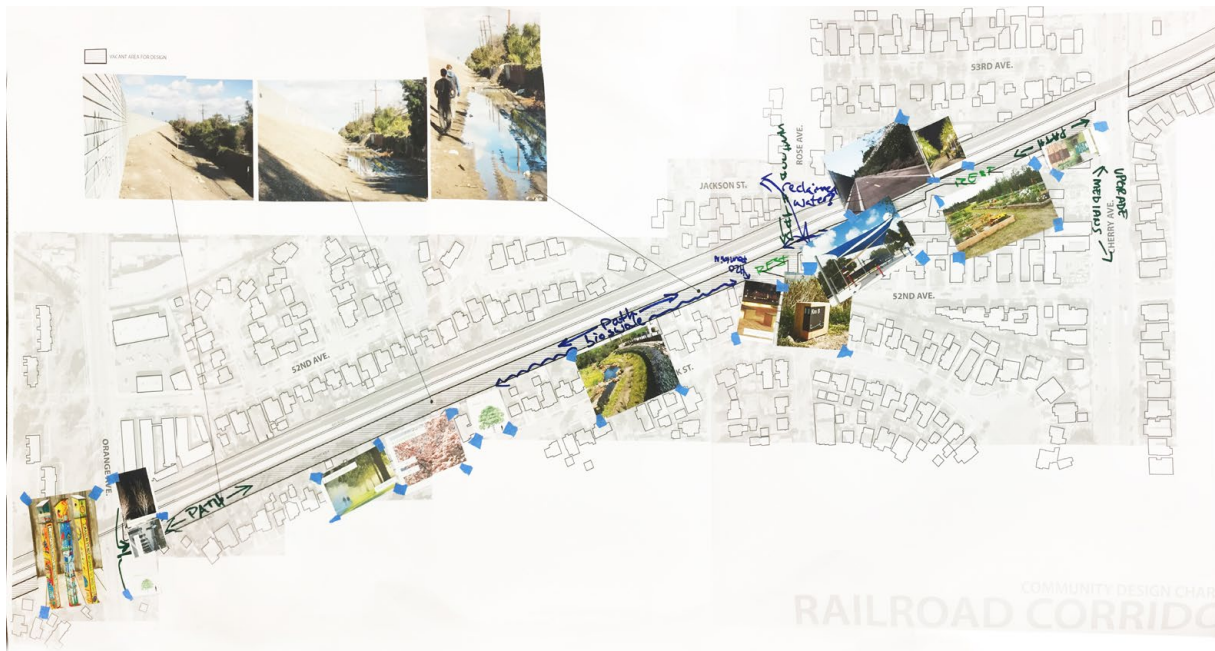
C.14 Design Workshop One: Defining Potential Projects Map



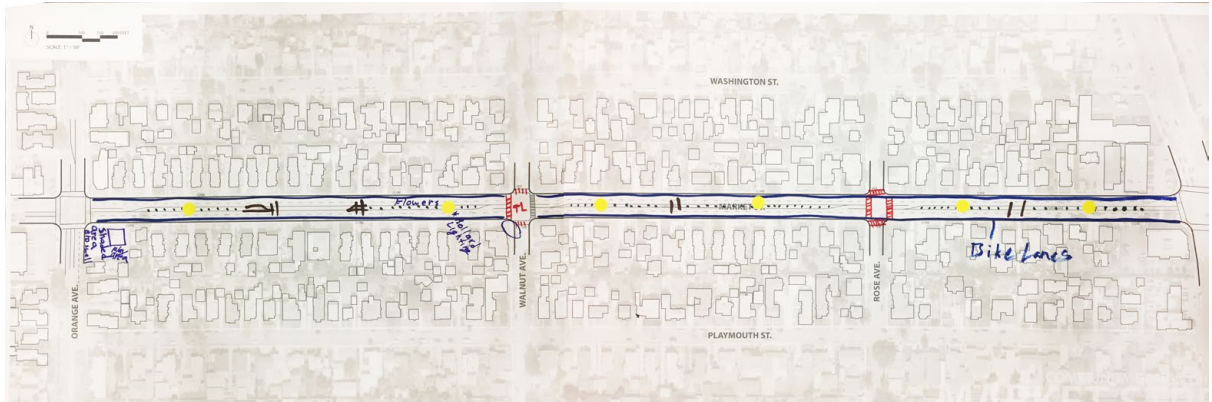
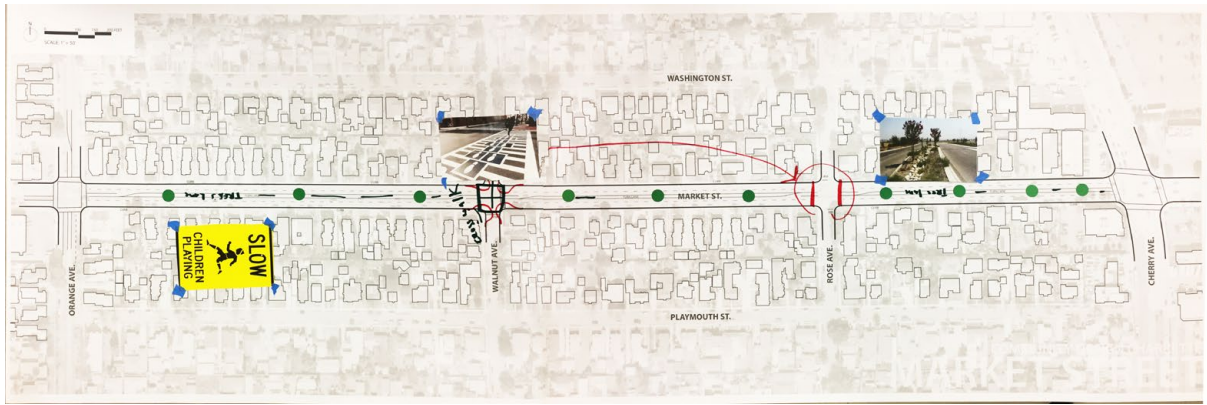
C.15 Design Workshop One: Identifying Priority Projects Map



C.16 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Vacant Lot



C.17 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Railroad Corridor



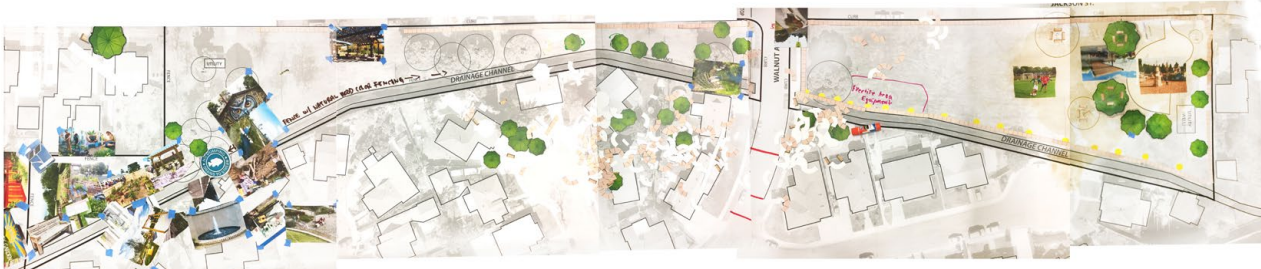
C.18 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Market Street



C.19 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Commercial Area Parking Lot



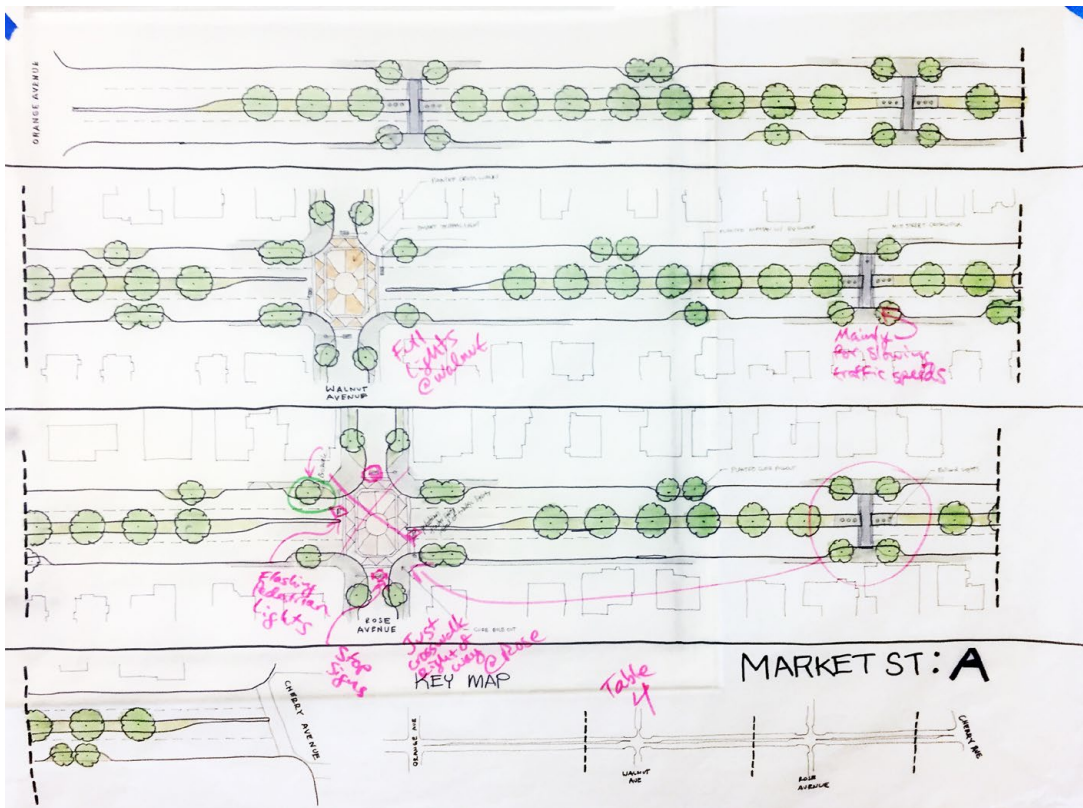
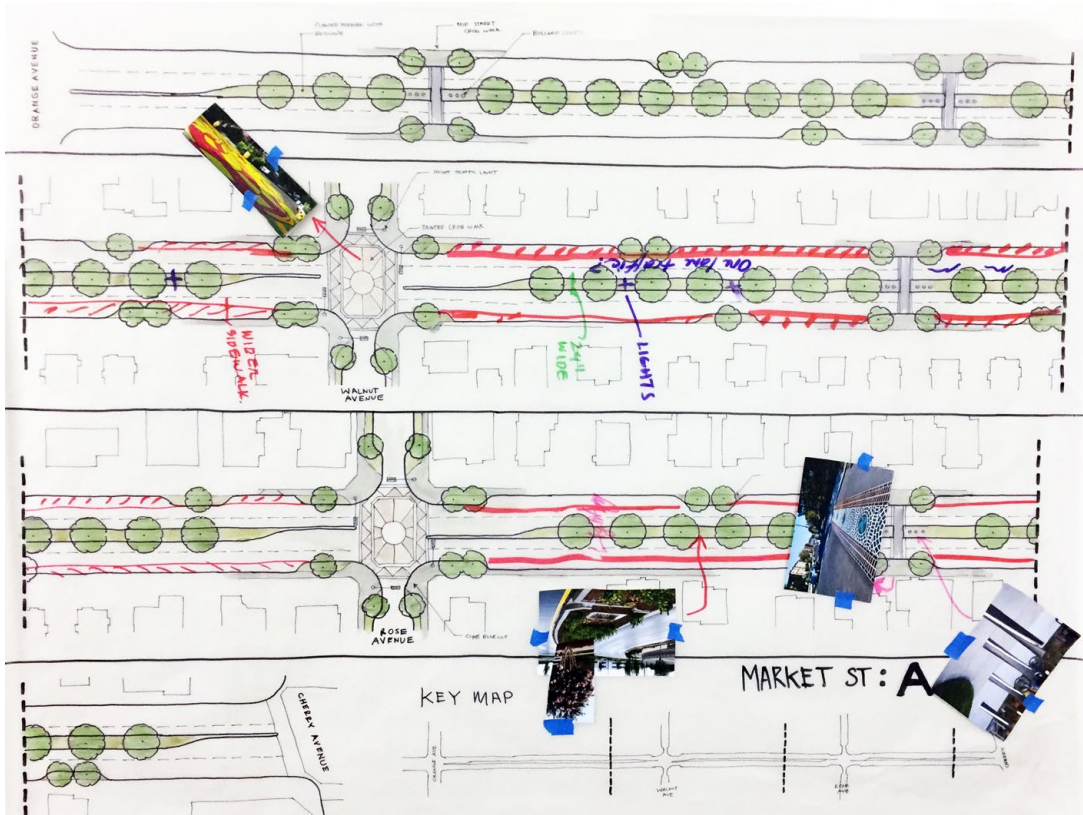
C.20 Design Workshop Two: Design Alternatives – Jackson Park



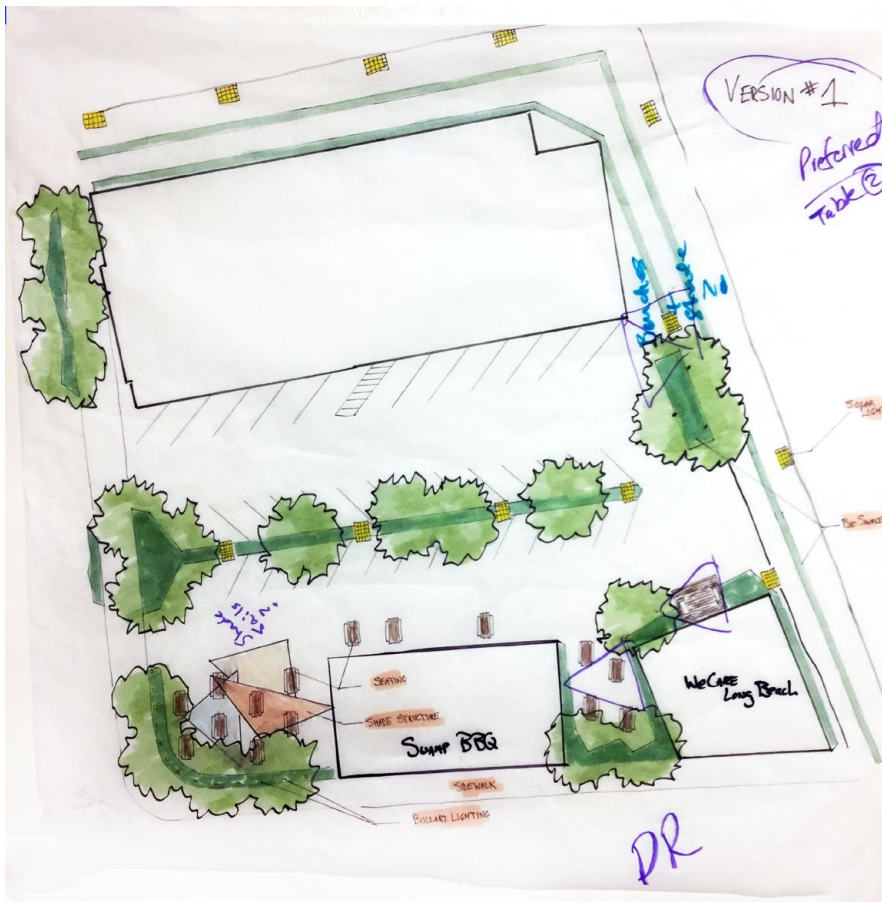
C.21 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Railroad Corridor



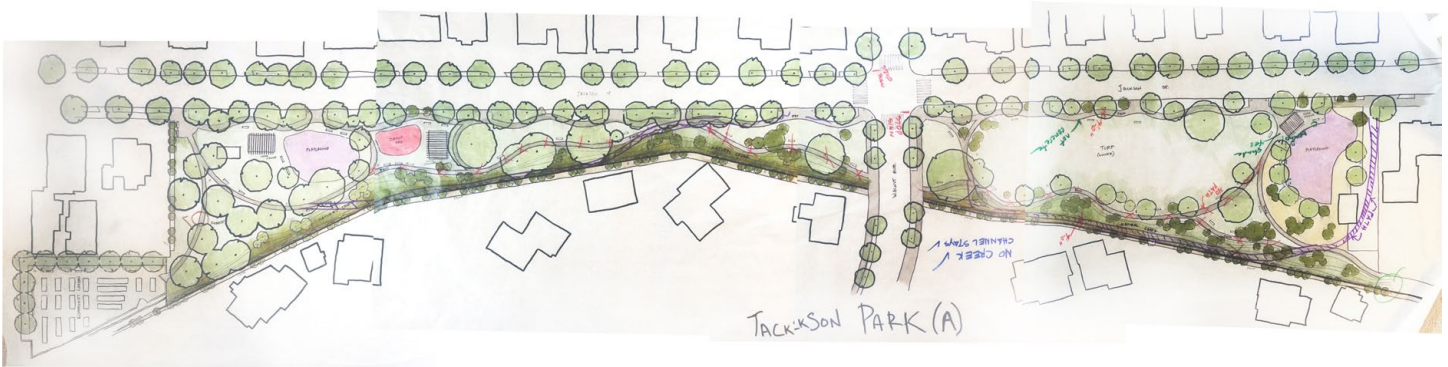
C.22 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Vacant Lot



C.23 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Market Street



C.24 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Swamp BBQ



C.25 Design Workshop Three: Aggregate Design – Jackson Park

Priority Build Projects	
Sites	Votes
Jackson Park	9
Vacant Lot	3
Market Street	7
Swamp BBQ Lot	4
Railroad Corridor	4

C.26 Design Workshop Three: Spring Build Voting Results

Priority Build Projects			
Sites	Owner	Update	Implications
Jackson Park	City of Long Beach (Parks, Rec., & Marine)	- No immediate build - \$50,000 City investment over next 3-7 years	- Not a build site - Possible advocacy project for city improvements
Vacant Lot	City of Long Beach (Public Works)	- City to install traffic signal @ Market and Walnut - Build project not supported	- Not a build site - Possible advocacy project
Market Street	City of LA/City of Long Beach	- City to install planting and security cameras on segment between Orange/Atlantic - Public ownership could delay possible build project	- Possible build site
Swamp BBQ Lot	Private	- Build Day is supported by Councilman and local business (Swamp BBQ) - Reaching out to owner - No clean up necessarily	
Railroad Corridor	Private	- Owner open to leasing property - Possible contamination on site - Excessive clean up (remove concrete \$\$) - Site would need to be made safe	- Possible build site - Require more money and site preparation depending on project - Small beautification project

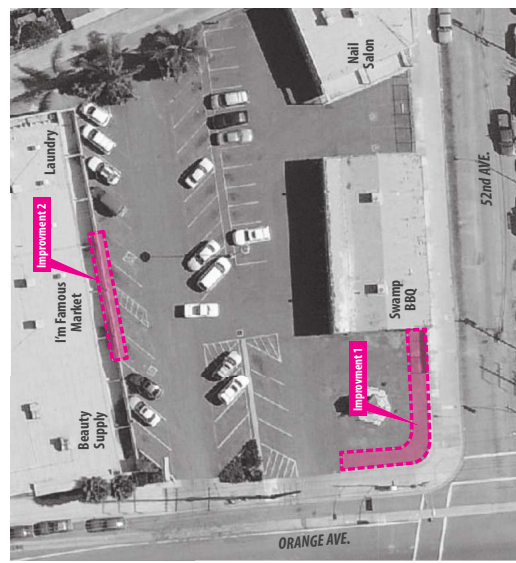
C.27 Design Workshop Four: Site Information Matrix

Priority Next Steps			
Sites	Version	Original Vote	New Vote
Jackson Park	A	10	4
Vacant Lot	B	4	0
Market Street	A	8	0
Swamp BBQ Lot	B	4	6
Railroad Corridor	A/B	4	0

C.28 Design Workshop Four: Second Spring Build Voting Results

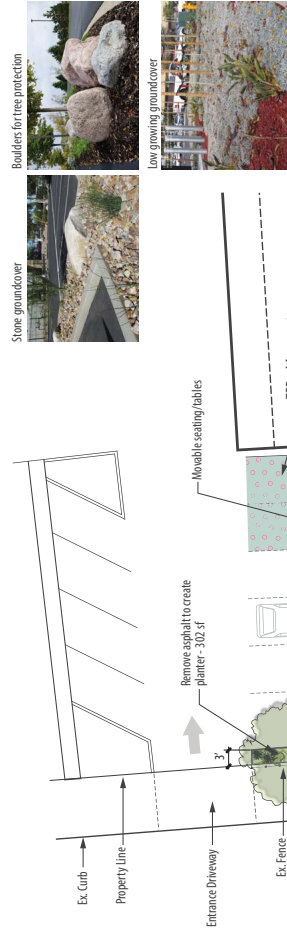


LOCATION MAP



SITE MAP

COLLECTIVE EFFORTS / CAL POLY POMONA / STUDIO 606



Stone groundcover



Boulders for tree protection



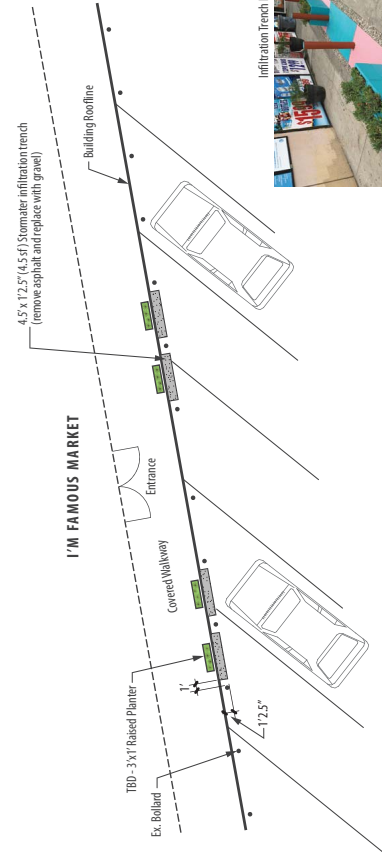
Low growing groundcover



IMPROVEMENT 1

Ex. 2' tall wall extends 20' from bldg.

0 10 ft



IMPROVEMENT 2

0 10 ft

Infiltration Trench Example



C.29 Design Workshop Four: Final Design for Swamp BBQ

APPENDIX D

MISCELLANEOUS

KICKOFF MEETING AGENDA

Location: CCLB Environmental Education Center
Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016
Time: 9:00 am
Attendance: CCLB Members, Cal Poly 606 Studio Team

Agenda Items

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Meet the Team + Question & Answer | 9:00 - 9:15 |
| 2. Canvassing Training | 9:15 - 10:00 |
| 3. Neighborhood Mapping | 10:00 - 10:30 |
| 4. Neighborhood Tours | 10:30 - 11:30 |
| 5. Canvass | 11:30 - 12:00 |
| 6. LUNCH! | 12:00 |



COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
CAL POLY POMONA | 606 STUDIO

KICKOFF MEETING ACTIVITIES!

Mapping Exercise

1. Place a **BIG DOT** ● sticker on the block where you **LIVE**
2. Place a **SMALL DOT** ● sticker on the areas where your **FRIENDS LIVE**
3. Place a ★ sticker on the **SCHOOLS** you have attended
4. Draw a **green circle** around areas where you like to be **OUTDOORS**
5. Draw a **blue line** along any **ROUTES** that you normally take
6. Draw an **orange circle** around place where you like to **EAT**
7. Draw a **red circle** around areas where you may not feel **SAFE**
8. Draw a **yellow circle** around areas where you see lots of **PEOPLE**
9. Draw a **pink circle** around the place where you access the **RIVER**

Canvass Training

- Smile when someone answers the door
- You have 30 seconds to explain what we are doing
- Ask a questions so the person has a chance to talk to you
- Ask if you can count on them to attend the first meeting



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KICKOFF MEETING

CORPS MEMBERS JOB DUTIES

- ↳ Attend canvassing works days
- ↳ Talk to your community about the project
- ↳ Encourage friends and people you meet to get involved
- ↳ Become leaders by helping to run community meetings
- ↳ Find out something new about your neighborhood
- ↳ Sketch or write about the places that are important to you in your neighborhood
- ↳ Share your ideas with the team



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CAL POLY POMONA | 606 STUDIO

D.1 CCLB Kick-off Meeting Agenda and Meeting Packet





DESIGN WORKSHOP

- ① Swamp BBQ & Vacant Lot 20 mins
- ② Market Street + Railroad Corridor 20 mins
- Jackson Park 20 mins
- Note for Priority Projects 5 mins
- ⑥ Next Steps 5 mins

Cherry Ave



EXIT

ORANGE AVE

YESW #2



ABOUT COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

Collective Efforts (2017) focuses on disadvantaged river-adjacent neighborhoods in the Lower Los Angeles River Corridor. Over a series of nine months, the 606 Studio engaged two Gateway Cities communities in a participatory design build process. Through the ongoing collaboration between project teams and residents, each community successfully generated neighborhood vision plans that embodied the goals of the regional planning efforts surrounding the LA River while addressing community-specific issues.

Collective Efforts resulted in a total of nine community-designed projects and the creation of one neighborhood association committed to the long-term implementation of neighborhood landscape improvements. Throughout the process, community members were engaged in a dialogue with the project teams and with each other about the role of landscapes in their neighborhoods and the potential for collaborative projects to strengthen each community's capacity to make improvements.