

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK 2.0

A Park for the 21st Century

Project Statement:

Neighborhood Park 2.0 demonstrates how strategic design interventions and infrastructure improvements can enliven public space. The new design creates places where people can gather and strengthens their relationship to nature.

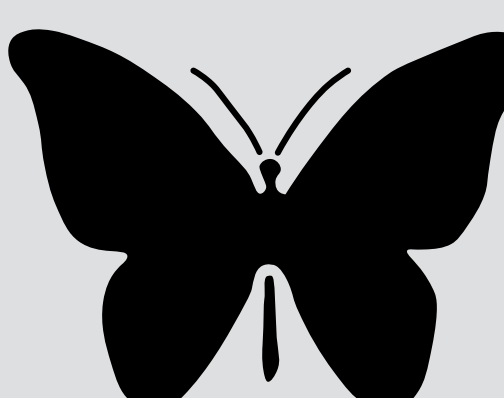
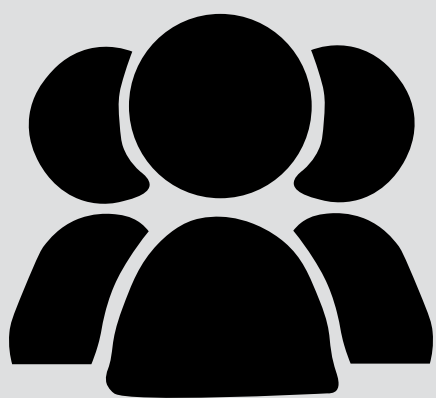
Neighborhood Park is also a call for change that acknowledges the challenges of the past while doing more to support community cohesion, active mobility options, and healthy watershed solutions. In doing so it sets aside past narratives and embraces a new, supportive and nurturing environment.

Principles:

- A park for all ages
- A park of diverse passive and recreational activities
- An open and accessible park
- A park for people
- A connected park
- A park for gathering
- A park for solitude
- A restorative park
- A park that honors its unique form and place
- A park for learning
- A park for health

Foundation for Change:

Historically white, racist community	Historically vehicularly focused	Historically channelized streams
Now diverse, multi-cultural community	Now interest in walking and bicycling	Now interest in restoring hydrologic functions



Goals + Objectives:

Create Places to Gather	Support Walking and Biking	Celebrate Natural Processes
Flexible Spaces	Accessible pathways	Stormwater infiltration
Programmable Spaces	Safe Street Crossings	Habitat
Interactive Spaces	Increased connectivity	Shade
		Interactive Spaces



Photo: Yoga class and moveable chairs at Bryant Park, New York, NY

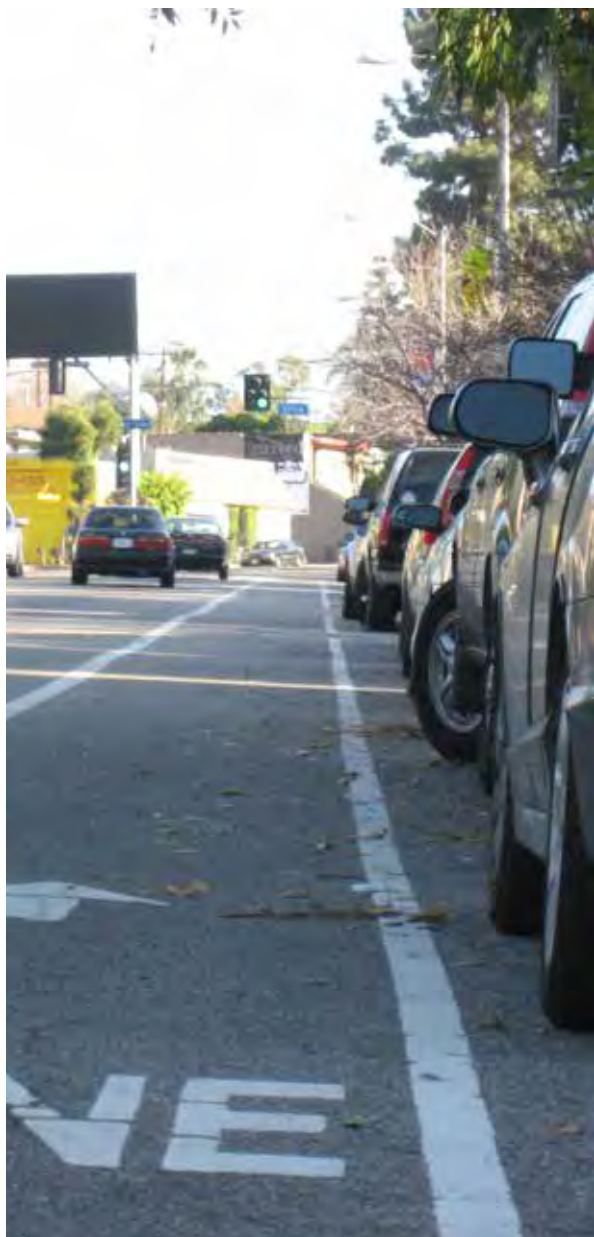


Photo: Bicycle lane, Los Angeles, CA



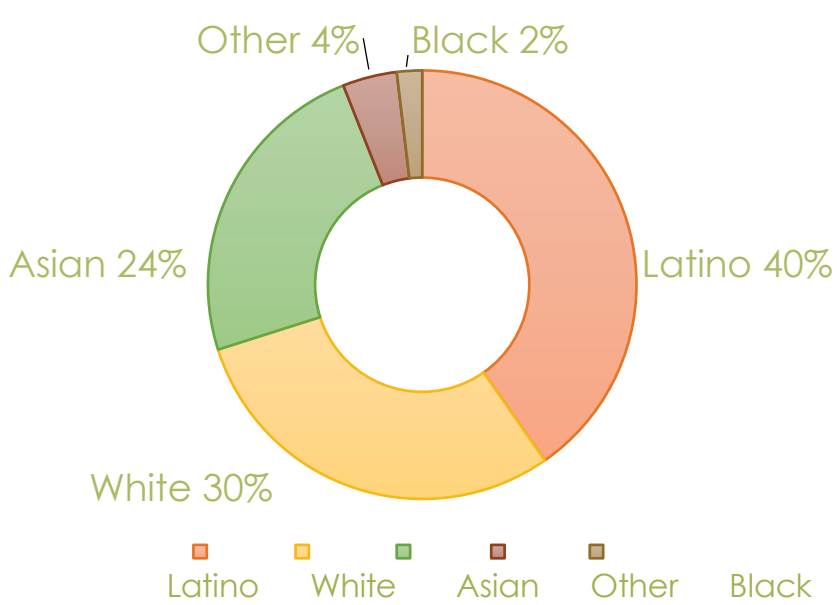
Photo: Deukmejian Wilderness Area, Glendale, CA

Yosemite Recreation Center is a 10 acre neighborhood park located in Eagle Rock, a community in the northeast area of the City of Los Angeles. The park provides the local community with a range of indoor and outdoor recreational activities. The recreational activities are located in the northern end of the park which is relatively flat. The southern end which is nestled into the hills includes an outdoor amphitheater built as a WPA project in the 1930's. This southern end extends up 90' to an expanse of naturalized area that is frequently used by hikers. The abutting naturalized area is part of Occidental College and includes Mt. Fiji, which is the highest point of the campus.

The Eagle Rock Junior/Senior High School is immediately

to the east of the park. La Roda Drive provides access to both the school and the park. The area immediately to the north and west of the park is exclusively residential. A few commercial uses can be found at the intersection of Yosemite and Townsend but the area's primary commercial settings are along Colorado, Eagle Rock, Figueroa and York Boulevards.

A total of 7,500 people live within 1/2 mile of the park. Therefore, a significant number of people live within a short walk of the park.



<http://maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/>



Neighborhood Setting

Site Plan

The focus of the area proposed for Neighborhood Park 2.0 is contained within the boundary line illustrated in the plan to the right. The project area does not include changes to the hillside areas with the exception of the new circular trail and viewing platforms on the eastern hillside.

The plan includes both passive and recreational areas. The public commons will become a place for sports games - both formal and informal - as well as programmed activities such as movie nights, food truck events, dance and yoga classes. A new cafe creates a gathering spot for all ages.

The area in red highlights the new circulation flow. This pathway serves multiple purposes. For some it will provide functional connectivity from their home to the school. For others it will become a place to meet friends and stroll. Others will enjoy sitting alongside the path and watching the variety of activities that are taking place in the park. Active persons will seek out the new stair trail and viewing platforms and enjoy both the workout and the views. The top of the hillside today does include an informal trail that connects with the trails on the Occidental College campus and it is hoped that overtime this connection could be made formal and thus extend access to nature and an increased physical workout.

Legend

- Trees
- Street Trees
- Lawn
- Play Courts
- Cafe Tables
- Grasscrete
- Bench Seating
- Existing Buildings
- New Buildings
- Park Boundary
- Project Boundary
- Pathways



Yosemite Entry Area

Butterfly Garden at Yosemite Entrance



Entry at Playscape Area



The new butterfly garden in the entryway will encourage residents and visitors to stroll into the park to see what other delights await them. The children's playscape area immediately inside the park provides an enclosed play space that encourages active and creative play that draws on a child's sense of curiosity and desire for exploration. The image in the lower left highlights the fence style which while offering the security of an enclosed space provides ample visibility between the playspace and the park at large. The new ball court allows space for friends to gather and cheer on the players. The public commons is immediately accessible and will draw users to it whether for a picnic, a dance class or a pick-up soccer game. The park is designed to encourage users during the evening to take advantage of cooler hours especially during hot summer and early fall days.

- Plant Lists:
- Butterfly Garden**
- Ceanothus minimum*, California lilac
 - Encelia californica*, California sunflower
 - Eriogonum var.*, California buckwheat
 - Festuca idahoensis*, Idaho fescue
 - Salvia var.*, Sage
- Habitat Garden**
- Calliandra eriophylla*, fairy duster
 - Ceanothus 'Skylark'*, California lilac 'Skylark'
 - Galvezia*, Baja bush snapdragon
 - Ribes*, currant
- Playscape Area**
- Baccharis salicifolia*, Mulefat
 - Cercis occidentalis*, Western redbud
 - Chilopsis linearis*, Desert Willow
 - Juncus spp*, Rush
 - Muhlenbergia rigens*, Deer grass

Plan Detail of North End

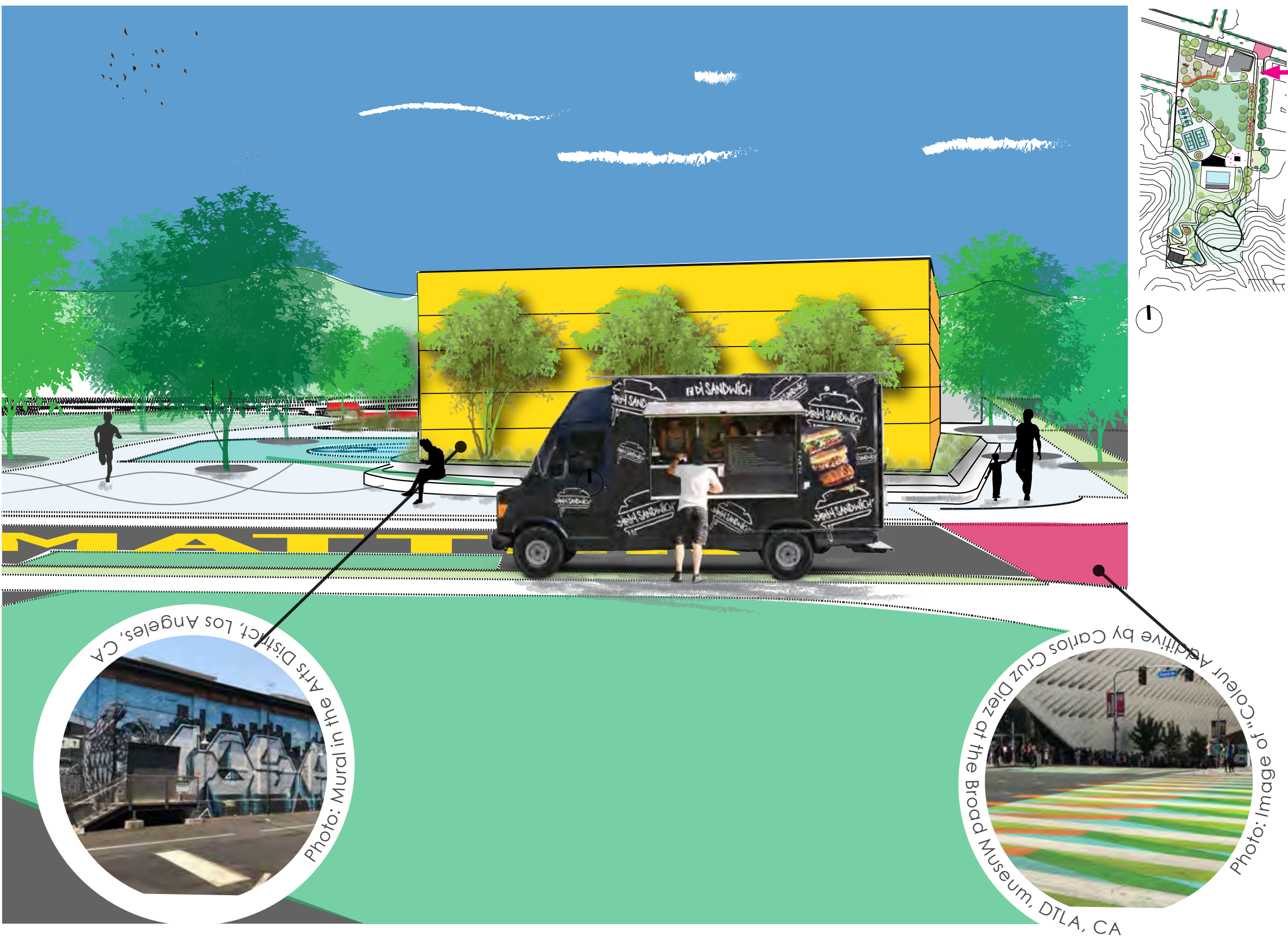


View of Playscape Area



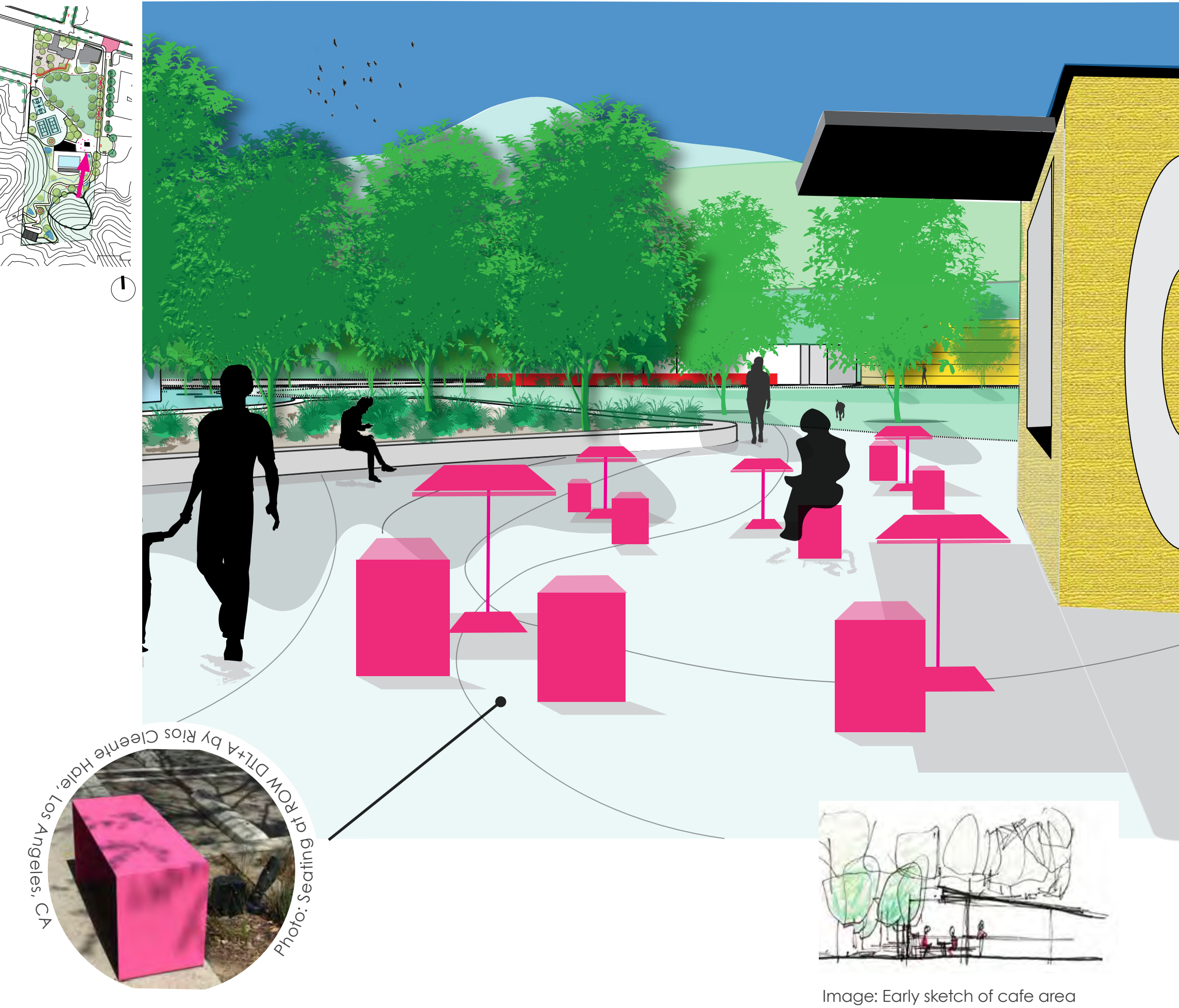
La Roda Entry Area/Green Street

Entrance at La Roda



The new artistic scramble crosswalk and bold mural on the side of the gym will draw attention to the park and encourage users to visit. The new seating around the gym and accessible entryway along La Roda will facilitate users to move comfortably between the school and the park. La Roda's new design as a green street will include grasscrete in the on-street parking areas. A new Black Lives Matter graphic in the new narrower roadway roadway area will serve to further amplify the roadway as a multi-purpose space where pedestrians and bicyclists belong as well as cars. Cars will intuitively move slower and more cautiously in this new slow street area.

View north towards Public Commons



La Roda Green Street



The new entry plazas off of Addison Way and at the terminus of La Roda serve as gateways into the park. The cafe area includes bright pink and moveable tables and chairs where one can sit alone or in a group. The cafe area is nestled next to a grove of trees and native plants that provides shade and shelter while still providing views towards the public commons as well as the pool and play court areas. The plaza immediately adjacent to the terminus of La Roda can serve as a gathering place as well as a natural drop off location for visitors coming to the park. The new restroom and poolhouse provide amenities for the park visitor as well.

View north towards Cafe + Commons



Southern End

Southern End of Nature Trail

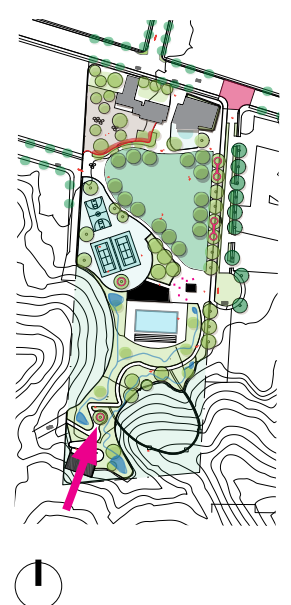


Image: Early sketch of stair/trail

Plant List:
Bioswale Area
Baccharis salicifolia, Mulefat
Cercis occidentalis, Western redbud
Chilopsis linearis, Desert Willow
Juncus spp, Rush
Muhlenbergia rigens, Deer grass

Section/Elevation towards Theater



0' 15' 30' 60' 90'
Scale 1" = 30'

Plan View

In this southernmost portion of the park visitors can experience a variety of settings, views and events. This area, nestled between two hillside areas embodies the very essence of a nurturing valley. The slopes offer a sense of enclosure while simultaneously offering views northwards towards the open valley floor below.

The new ADA accessible pathway seamlessly connects the active recreational areas of the park with the more sedate, natural hillside areas. In this new space users can take delight in the abundance of native habitat that fills the new bioswale area. Visitors too will learn the role of a watershed in both conveying and retaining rainfall and the value of offering unpaved areas that support stormwater infiltration. The new pathway links visitors to the new stair trail where they can enjoy a strenuous workout or a leisure climb. Either approach will reward the user with views northwards to the San Gabrile Mountains.

Visitors will also find it easy to use the pathway to connect to the newly renovated amphitheater at the southern end of the park or to Campus Road and Occidental College.

New programming at the amphitheater will allow visitors to experience a local, artisan-based theatrical event or a speaker series focused on current events or topics of local interest or concern. The amphitheater also serves as an inviting destination as a place to meet friends or enjoy a quiet, contemplative moment where one can enjoy the surrounding nature.

Plan of Southern End



View towards Wetland

