



PLANTING A SLOPE: RESTORING A COASTAL SAGE SCRUB HABITAT

RIVKAH SPOLIN
UCLA EXTENSION: LANDSCAPE DESIGN 5
PROJECT 2: SLOPE PLANTING
SPRING 2020

Photo courtesy of Barbara Kus, USGS, Western Ecological Research Center

Located in Thousand Oaks, CA near Wildwood Regional Park, the site - at the intersection of West Janss Road and Lynnmere Drive - is surrounded by single family homes. As part of a development tract, the slopes were stripped bare, depriving the soil of necessary means of erosion control as well as the local wildlife of their native habitat. Being part of this suburban area, the slopes are also experienced by people - and their dogs - walking through the neighborhood, in addition to people in cars driving past them. As such, it was the aim of the project to not only restore the native Coastal Sage Scrub habitat to a natural appearance, but to also make the design appealing to passerbys and gradually bridge the gap between the two seemingly-opposing surrounding environments.

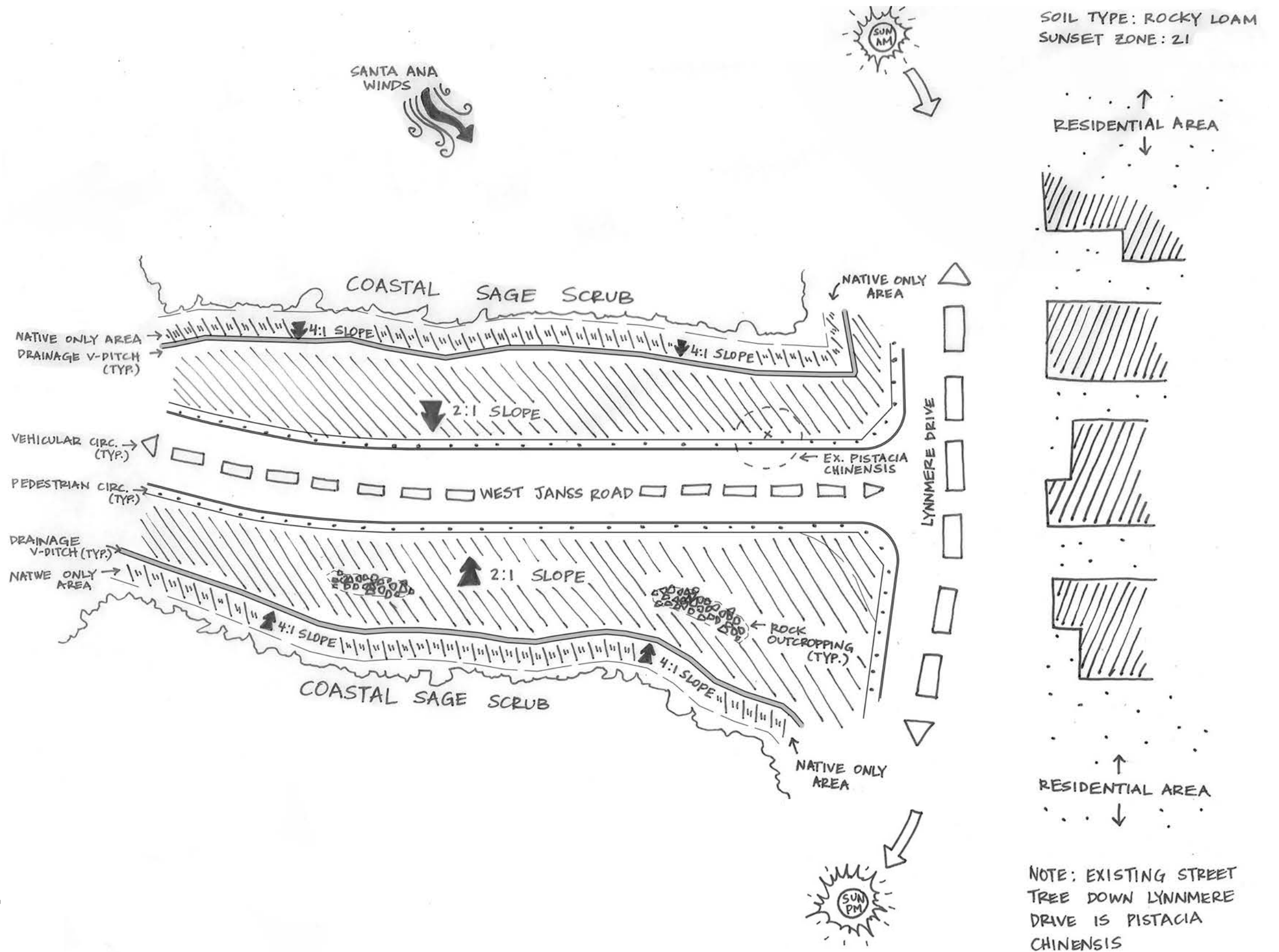
With this in mind, care was taken to choose nearly all native plants, including many that attract wildlife. Coastal Sage Scrub *only* plants were hydroseeded in Mix #2 along the upper portion of the 2:1 and 4:1 slope areas to transition to the restoration zone. Hydroseeding also served the function of stabilizing the slopes quickly, and several plants were chosen for their functional purposes - such as nitrogen-fixing - as well as their aesthetic qualities.

The exception to the mostly-native rule was where the site met the sidewalk; Chinese Pistache was chosen as a street tree to match those on Lynnmere Drive, and low-lying plants Gray Lavender Cotton and Myoporum were strategically placed along the edges for a more pedestrian and residential-friendly design.

Overall, however, the aesthetic of the design follows large swaths of plant species to create an undulating rhythm of colors and textures that are layered upwards to draw the eye up along the slope, and ultimately, toward the design's ultimate priority: the Coastal Sage Scrub Ecosystem.

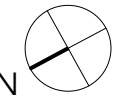
DESIGN NARRATIVE & SITE ANALYSIS

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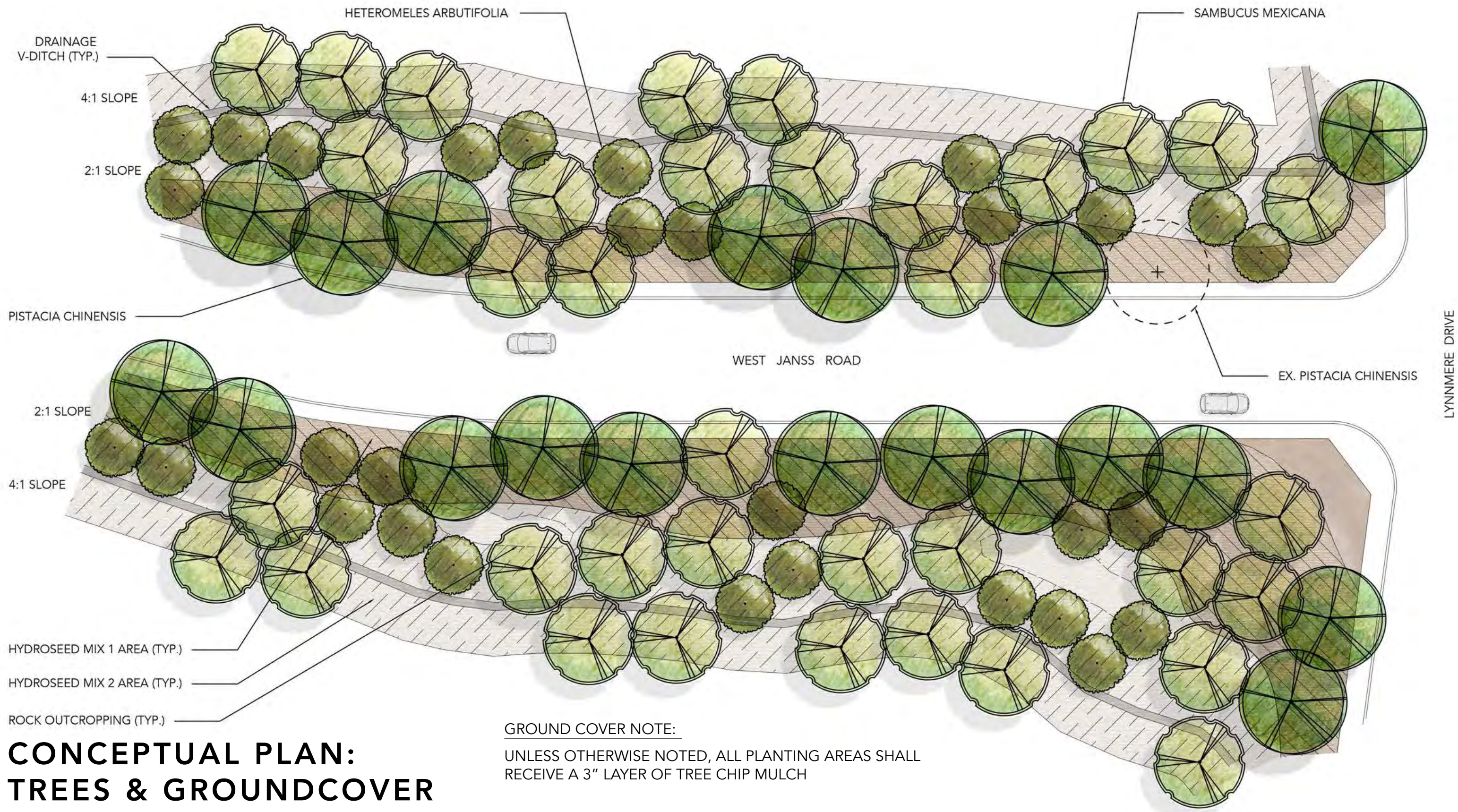


NOTE: EXISTING STREET TREE DOWN LYNNMERE DRIVE IS PISTACIA CHINENSIS

0' 60' 120' 240'



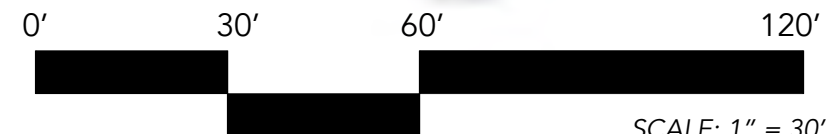
SCALE: 1" = 60' PAGE 2 of 7



GROUND COVER NOTE:

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PLANTING AREAS SHALL RECEIVE A 3" LAYER OF TREE CHIP MULCH

CONCEPTUAL PLAN: TREES & GROUNDCOVER



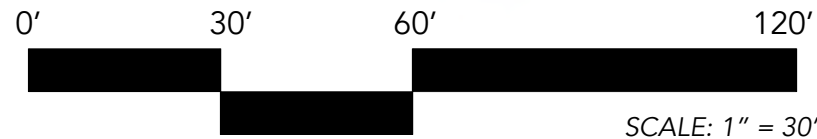


GROUND COVER NOTES:

1. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PLANTING AREAS SHALL RECEIVE A 3" LAYER OF TREE CHIP MULCH
2. REFER TO PLANT PALETTE FOR GROUND COVER PLANT SPACING

CONCEPTUAL PLAN: SHRUBS

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HYDROSEED MIX #1

*Stipa pulchra /
Nasella pulchra*
Purple Needlegrass
H: 1-3'
W: 2'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 15%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

Lupinus bicolor
Miniature Lupine
H: 0.5-1.5'
W: 1'
WUCOLS: Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

Eriogonum fasciculatum
California Buckwheat
H: 1-3'
W: 1-4'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 5%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #2

Salvia mellifera
Black sage
H: 3-6'
W: 3-5'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

*Leymus condensatus /
Elymus condensatus*
Giant Wild Rye
H: 3-5'
W: Spreading
WUCOLS: Low
Amount: 15%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

Acmispon glaber
Deer Weed
H: 1.5-3'
W: 3'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 15%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #2

Eriogonum fasciculatum
California Buckwheat
H: 1-3'
W: 1-4'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #2

Opuntia littoralis
Coast Prickly Pear
H: 3'
W: Spreading
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

Eschscholzia californica
California Poppy
H: 1-2'
W: 1-2'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #1

Dichelostemma capitatum
Blue Dicks / Wild Hyacinth
H: 1.5-2'
W: 1-2'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 10%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #2

Artemisia californica
California Sagebrush
H: 1-8'
W: 4'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native



HYDROSEED MIX #2

Acmispon glaber
Deer Weed
H: 1.5-3'
W: 3'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Amount: 20%
Native

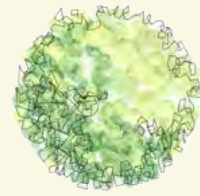
PLANT PALETTE: HYDROSEED MIXES



Pistacia chinensis
Chinese Pistache
H: 25-35'
W: 25-35'
WUCOLS: Medium



***Fremontodendron*
'Pacific Sunset'**
Flannel Bush
H: 12-15'
W: 12-15'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



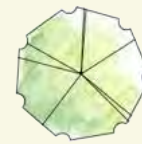
Rhus integrifolia
Lemonade Berry
H: 3-10'
W: 3-10'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



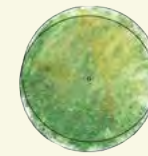
Sambucus mexicana
Blue Elderberry
H: 20-30'
W: 20-30'
WUCOLS: Low
Native



Adenostoma fasciculatum
Chamise
H: 3-10'
W: 3-6'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



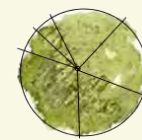
Romneya coulteri
Matilija poppy
H: 6-8'
W: 6-8'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



Heteromeles arbutifolia
Toyon
H: 15-20'
W: 15-20'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



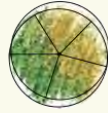
Opuntia prolifera
Coast Cholla
H: 8-10'
W: 1-5'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



Salvia 'Poza Blue'
Grey Musk Sage
H: 3-6'
W: 3-6'
WUCOLS: Very Low
Native



PLANT PALETTE: TREES & SHRUBS



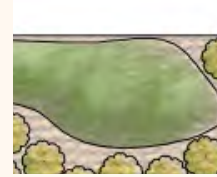
Mimulus aurantiacus
 Sticky Monkey Flower
 H: 3-4.5'
 W: 3-4.5'
 WUCOLS: Very Low
 Native



Dudleya caespitosa
 Coast Dudleya
 H: <1'
 W: <1'
 WUCOLS: Very Low
 Native
 *Note: Plant 12" O.C.



Santolina chamaecyparissus
 Gray Lavender Cotton
 H: 1-2'
 W: 3-4'
 WUCOLS: Low



Myoporum parvifolium 'Putah Creek'
 Creeping Myoporum
 H: <1'
 W: 10-15'
 WUCOLS: Low
 *Note: Plant 18" O.C.

PLANT PALETTE: SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER