

ecotone studios

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE URBAN DESIGN



FIRM PROFILE



Firm Profile

Ecotone Studios is a landscape architecture and urban design practice based in Los Angeles, California. The firm was formally founded in 2011 and provides professional services to public agencies, non-profit organizations and private-sector clients for a wide variety of project types and scales. With a broad range of experience and education in landscape architecture, urban design and graphic communication, Ecotone Studios is proficient at finding inventive, comprehensive solutions to the complex design challenges found in contemporary built environments.

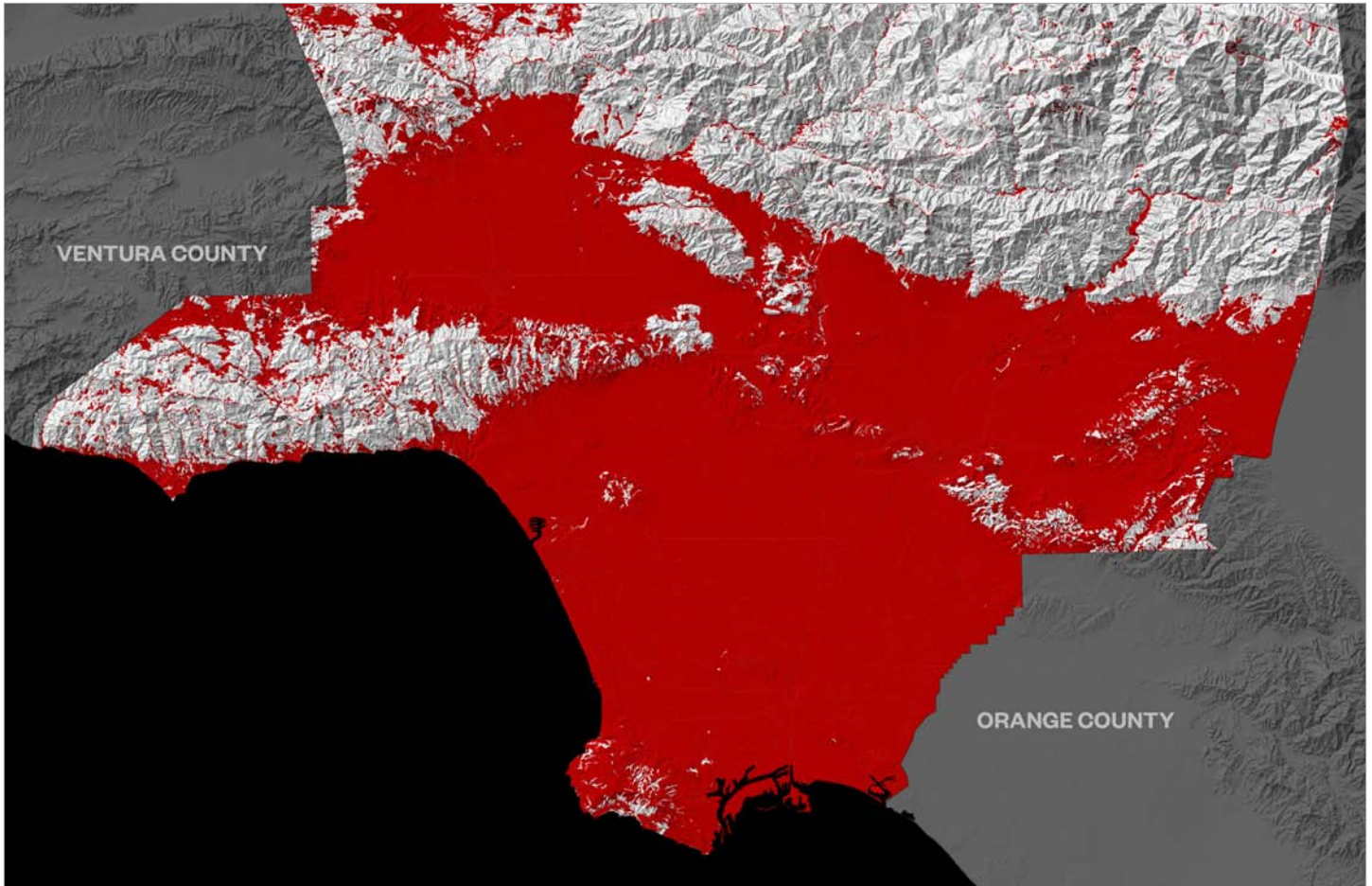
Our Approach

We place a primary emphasis on collaboration with clients and within multi-disciplinary design teams. While modest in size, the firm has the motivation and resources to respond to each project uniquely and to expand accordingly through a network of collaborators from a diverse range of fields. We embrace a design approach that values culture, infrastructure, economy and ecology as equally integral components of a dynamic, performative living system. Through our research and design work, we hope to bridge the philosophical divide between urban and wild and aspire to move toward a more thoughtful and inclusive land ethic.

Certifications

(LBE) Local Business Enterprise
(SLB) Small & Local Business
(SBE) Small Business Enterprise (Harbor, MWD)
(VSBE) Very Small Business Enterprise (Harbor)
(MBE) Minority Business Enterprise (Application in progress/certification pending)
(DBE) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (Application in progress/certification pending)

PHILOSOPHY



About the Image

The map above represents a graphic depiction of *human* and *natural* systems as they currently exist in Los Angeles County. The red zone highlights areas that have been significantly altered by human intervention. This development area includes residential, commercial, municipal, institutional and industrial areas as well as infrastructure such as flood control, transportation and a variety of open space typologies. Areas beyond the red zone remain relatively wild and ecologically intact. Though this binary presentation is a gross oversimplification of a vastly complex reality, it is not a stretch to conclude that the functioning ecosystems once present in the red zone have been significantly degraded, if not eliminated by development that was informed by a dualistic world view. It is our mission to blur this metaphorical red zone of exclusivity and to reinsert ecosystem services into the human environment.

Our Philosophy

At our core, we believe in the beauty, ingenuity and deceptive simplicity of natural systems. We see each project site as an integral component in a system of green infrastructure rather than an isolated island of beautification. We subscribe to a land ethic that is informed by an ecological curiosity and a belief that every project site, imaginary or physical, presents an opportunity to reconnect people to the places they inhabit. The benefits of frequent and meaningful contact with the living world around us have been famously documented in books such as *Last Child in the Woods* (Richard Louv) and *Bringing Nature Home* (Douglas Tallamy). The idea that urban life is somehow separate from the natural world is a notion we reject. Our goal is to operate from a perspective of respect for that which sustains us. Even in the harshest, most inhospitable urban environments, we see opportunities to bring people close enough to nature to forget that it is “separate” and consider it their own.

LIST OF SERVICES



Professional Services Ecotone Studios offers the following professional services to public and private sector clients:

Landscape Architecture Urban Design

- Design Consulting
- Master Planning
- Conceptual Design
- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Construction Documentation
- Construction Specifications
- Bid Negotiation
- Construction Phase Services
- Community Outreach

Graphic Communication

- Signage & Wayfinding
- Data Mapping & Visualization
- Project Identity
- Project Visualization
- Document Preparation & Layout
- Project Narratives & Writing
- Community Outreach Materials

Product Design

- Outdoor Furniture
- Urban Accessories
- Habitat Structures
- Rainwater Collection

Ecosystem Services

As a by-product of our design and planning efforts, we hope to promote ecosystem services, functions essential to ecological vitality and our own quality of life. Ecosystem services include the sequestration of carbon dioxide, mitigation of the heat-island effect, reduction in energy use through passive heating and cooling, filtration of pollutants in air and water, infiltration of stormwater and replenishment of aquifers, prevention of soil erosion, provision of wildlife habitat, and the provision of food sources. By accounting for and encouraging ecosystem services, we are confident our clients will find the resulting work to be extraordinary on a myriad of levels.

KEY STAFF

Joshua Link ASLA, PLA, LEED AP PRINCIPAL

Email: j.link@ecotonestudios.com
Office: (323) 739-6054
Mobile: (626) 862-6774



Experience	2011 -	Ecotone Studios (Los Angeles, CA) Ballona Creek Greenway Plan (Los Angeles, CA) Colorado Boulevard Vision Plan (Los Angeles, CA) Compton Creek Trail, Phase III (Compton, CA) Floodplain Concentricity (Drylands Design Competition) Keck Graduate Institute Master Plan (Claremont, CA)
	2006 - 2010	Mia Lehrer + Associates (Los Angeles, CA) Citywide Community Needs Assessment (Los Angeles, CA) Compton Creek Earthen Bottom Enhancement Feasibility Study Compton Creek / Gateway Towne Center Design Study Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan Los Angeles River Connectivity Study Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Los Angeles Riverfront Park, Phase II Los Angeles State Historic Park Competition Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot Pacoima Wash Vision Plan (Sylmar, CA) Peck Park Canyon (Los Angeles, CA) South Los Angeles Wetland Park Tri-City Park (Placentia, CA) Vista Hermosa Natural Park (Los Angeles, CA)
	2005 - 2006	Jeffrey Gordon Smith Designs (Los Osos, CA)
	2005	Rios Clementi Hale Studios (Los Angeles, CA)
	2004	Kammeyer & Associates (Corona, CA)

Education	2006	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
	2004	Landscape Architecture Program Santa Chiara Centro di Studio, Castiglion Fiorentino, Arezzo, Italy

Accreditations & Affiliations

Registered Landscape Architect (California License # 5503)
American Society of Landscape Architects
LEED Accredited Professional
California Native Plant Society
Landscape Ethic Committee (Council for Watershed Health)
Urban Applications (an affiliate of Materials & Applications)

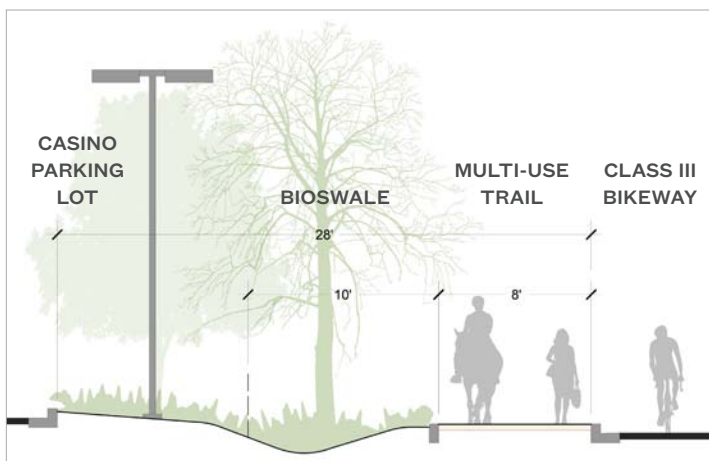
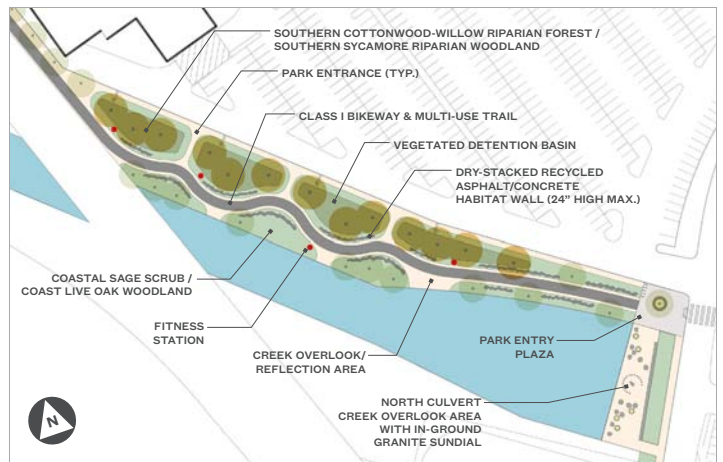
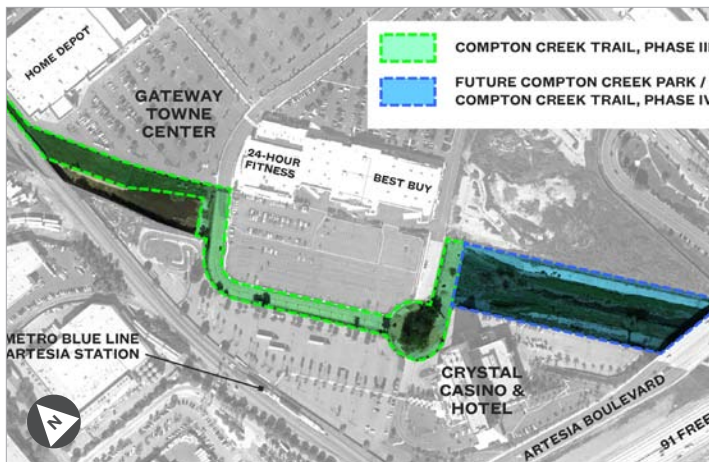
PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Compton Creek Trail, Phase III

COMPTON, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2013
SITE: 0.5 Miles
CLIENT: City of Compton
MRCA
TEAM: Ecotone Studios
LSA Associates, Inc.
SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Project Visualization
Community Outreach

This critical link in the Compton Creek Trail system traverses a highly urbanized corridor between the recently constructed Gateway Towne Center and the Crystal Casino and Hotel. Ecotone Studios worked with staff from the City of Compton and members of the Compton Creek Task Force to develop a conceptual design for a greenway that includes continuous multi-use trail, a Class I bikeway, a linear park, an outdoor classroom and two creek overlook areas that, when constructed, will create an interconnected green corridor that emphasizes the prominence of Compton Creek and provides transportation alternatives for communities to the north and south. A creek-adjacent “complete street” will bridge a complex gap in the trail system and will include the development of a generous bioswale to treat stormwater runoff from adjacent parking lots, a multi-use trail and a Class III bike route. The proposed linear park also includes generous areas for stormwater detention and, along with the rest of the proposed project, includes a recommended plant list comprised entirely of locally native plant species.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Ballona Creek Greenway Plan

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2011

SITE: 8 Miles

CLIENT: SMBRC

TEAM: Restoration Design Group
Ecotone Studios
ALTA Planning + Design

SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Project Visualization

Combining grassroots site investigations with long term visioning, the Ballona Creek Greenway Plan generated design concepts for enhancing the aesthetics, water quality, habitat, and public access of Ballona Creek, an eight-mile perennial creek in Los Angeles, California. Six specific site designs explore the short-term and long-term potential of the creek and adjacent properties with different land uses. Three sites were selected for additional design development in a later phase. The project grew out of a Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force Subcommittee, in which participants walked, documented, and brainstormed designs for the entirety of Ballona Creek.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Compton Creek Earthen Bottom Feasibility Study

COMPTON, CALIFORNIA

- COMPLETED:** 2010
- SITE:** 2.5 Miles
- CLIENT:** Council for Watershed Health
- TEAM:** Mia Lehrer + Associates
Restoration Design Group
- SCOPE:** Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Project Visualization
Document Preparation & Layout
Community Outreach

Initiated by the Council for Watershed Health, the Compton Creek Earthen Bottom Enhancement Feasibility Study explores the potential for hydraulic, ecological, and recreational enhancements and will provide guidance for future projects to be implemented along the approximately 2.5 mile multi-jurisdictional earthen-bottom segment of Compton Creek. The study was driven by the goal of transforming this urban flood control channel into a vital open space network supported by a continuous greenway system including wetland, riparian and upland habitat, pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trails, outdoor classrooms, promenades, and integrated best management practices.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Mission College East Campus

SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2011

SITE: 15 acres

CLIENT: LACCD

TEAM: Mia Lehrer + Associates
Cannon Design
Psomas Engineering

SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Design Development
Construction Documents

As a critical feature of an ambitious Master Plan completed in 2007, the East Campus at Los Angeles Mission College adds significant acreage to the existing main campus less than one mile to the west. Both the new Health, Fitness and Athletics Complex and the Center for Math & Science have received LEED Silver Certification, are thoughtfully integrated into the surrounding landscape and provide panoramic views of the campus. A large plaza with seating areas shaded by native sycamore and oak trees serves as the anchor of the East Campus and includes a passenger drop-off zone and a large area dedicated to bicycle parking. An amphitheater adjacent to the main plaza provides an elevated, unobstructed view of Pacoima Wash and the San Gabriel Mountains beyond. A second smaller plaza adjacent to the Center for Math and Science includes an interactive water feature and vine structures that will eventually envelope the space in a curtain of green foliage. Stormwater is captured on the site by landscaped detention basins that remove pollutants from parking lot runoff before it percolates into the aquifer below.



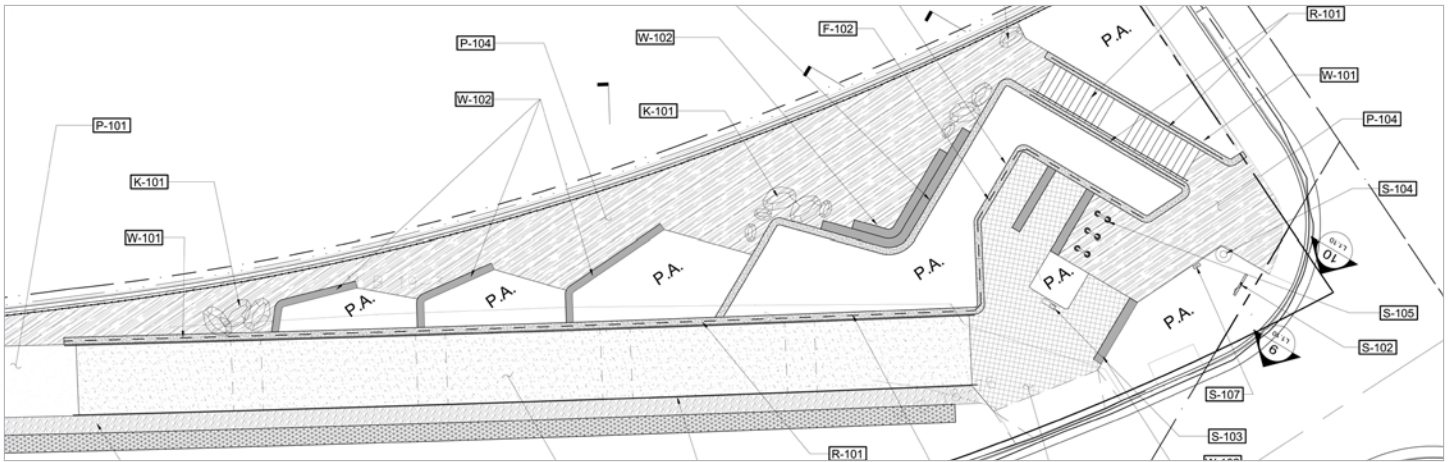
PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Riverfront Park, Phase II

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2014 (projected)
SITE: 1.25 Miles
CLIENT: City of Los Angeles
TEAM: Mia Lehrer + Associates
VCA Engineers, Inc.
SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Design Development
Construction Documents
Signage & Wayfinding

The Los Angeles Riverfront Park is comprised of three separate reaches located directly adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Studio City. This is the second phase of an ongoing effort to create a continuous trail system that extends along the River on either bank to create a network for alternative transportation, recreation, and habitat. All three proposed reaches would utilize existing maintenance right-of-ways to create accessible public open space for local residents who, in many cases, already utilize these areas for recreation. Proposed improvements include enhanced paving, indigenous planting, interpretive signage, and the addition of pocket parks wherever space allows. Shaded seating areas provide for quiet views across the River and areas for rest after a brisk jog or bike ride. With the construction of these projects, plans for revitalization and improved River connectivity in the region will be well underway and three more pieces will be added to the Los Angeles River trail network.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2011
SITE: 33 Acres
CLIENT: City of Los Angeles
TEAM: Tetra Tech, Inc.
Mia Lehrer + Associates
SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Design Development
Construction Documents
Signage & Wayfinding
Project Visualization

The Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot renovation is one of the several Proposition O Clean Water Bond projects that will remove trash and other pollutants from urban runoff before discharging it into the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The new parking lot includes best management practices that will improve water quality and create a more welcoming first impression for park visitors. Features include bioretention cells between parking rows, a variety of permeable paving surfaces, native and drought-tolerant plant species and the addition of numerous shade trees. A central pedestrian promenade connects the Los Angeles Zoo to the Autry National Center and includes custom concrete benches, energy efficient lighting, recycling receptacles and educational signage describing the sustainable strategies utilized throughout the parking area. The renovated parking lot provides easy access to bicycle paths and public transportation and places a primary emphasis on pedestrian safety and mobility.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Pacoima Wash Vision Plan

SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2011

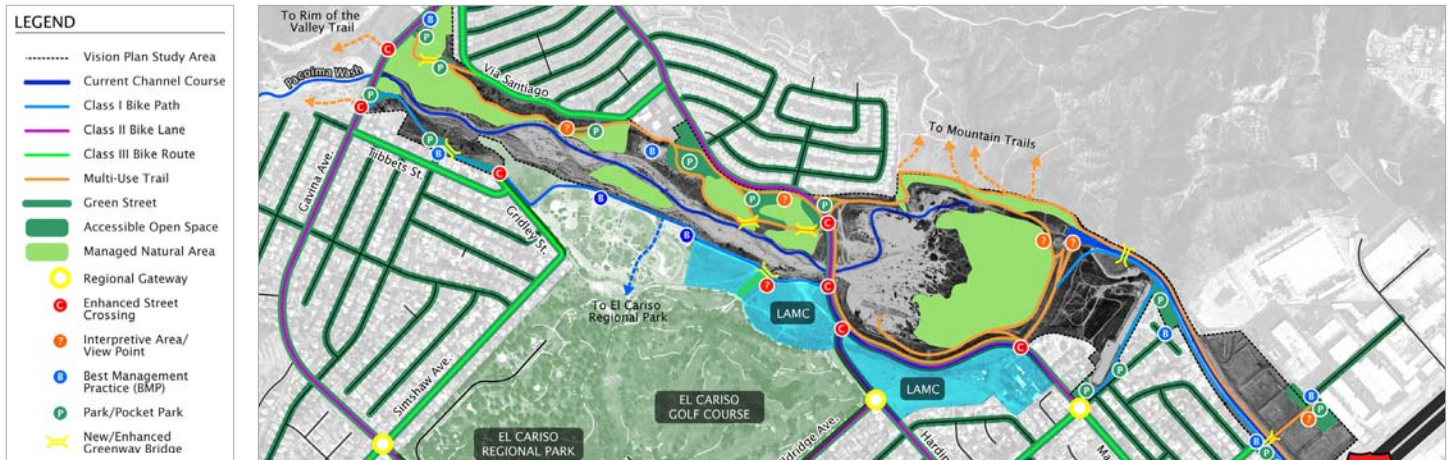
CLIENT: Pacoima Beautiful MRCA

SITE: 2 Miles

TEAM: Mia Lehrer & Associates

SCOPE: Conceptual Design
Project Visualization
Project Narrative
Community Outreach

The Pacoima Wash Greenway Vision Plan outlines a strategy for creating a broad trail network that would connect urbanized areas of Sylmar, Pacoima, and San Fernando with mountain trails to the north. The project area is varied and is broken down into three distinct zones: (1) the upper reach, a naturalized earthen-bottom creek containing existing habitat areas and surrounded by suburban and rural land uses, (2) the debris basin, a flood control structure managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and (3) the lower reach, characterized by a trapezoidal concrete channel. Enhancement efforts would include the implementation of a continuous bikeway (on the west-bank of the wash), a multi-use trail (on the east-bank of the wash), pocket parks, and integrated best management practices such as vegetated swales and the addition of vegetated infiltration basins at street-ends in urban areas.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2007
SITE: 32 Miles
CLIENT: City of Los Angeles
TEAM: Tetra Tech, Inc.
Mia Lehrer + Associates
Civitas, Inc.
Wenk Associates
SCOPE: Project Visualization
Mapping

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) represents a milestone achievement for the City of Los Angeles in its visionary scope: coalescing diverse stakeholders around a revitalization agenda that would transform 32 miles of concrete-lined channel into public green space in the heart of one of America's most populous cities. The LARRMP was developed to address four major goals: [1] enhance flood storage and slow flow velocities to enable reintroduction of vegetation; [2] enhance water quality through regional-scale stormwater treatment at River confluences, and localized treatment terraces at storm drain outfalls; [3] enhance public access within the channel via terraces and ramps, small pocket parks and ponded areas; and [4] restore riparian ecosystems. Public workshops, which included education on watersheds and sustainability, played a major role in informing the planning process and identifying priority areas and issues.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Vista Hermosa Natural Park

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2008

SITE: 10.5 Acres

CLIENT: City of Los Angeles
LAUSD
MRCA

TEAM: Mia Lehrer + Associates
KPFF Consulting Engineers

SCOPE: Schematic Design
Design Development
Construction Documents

Located near the heart of Downtown Los Angeles, Vista Hermosa Natural Park is the first public park built in this densely populated area in more than one hundred years. Developed in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Los Angeles, the park adds serenity, biological diversity and recreation opportunities to a critically underserved community. Designed as an urban watershed demonstration project, the park incorporates meadows and biofiltration swales that filter stormwater before it enters a subterranean cistern where water is collected for on-site irrigation use. Other sustainable features include the use of permeable paving for parking lots and pathways, the utilization of living roofs and natural lighting for buildings on site, and an abundance of native vegetation grouped into habitat types including oak woodlands, meadows, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub. Serving a densely populated residential area, the park offers multiple recreation amenities including walking trails, picnic grounds, an outdoor amphitheater, a FIFA-regulation soccer field and a children's adventure area.



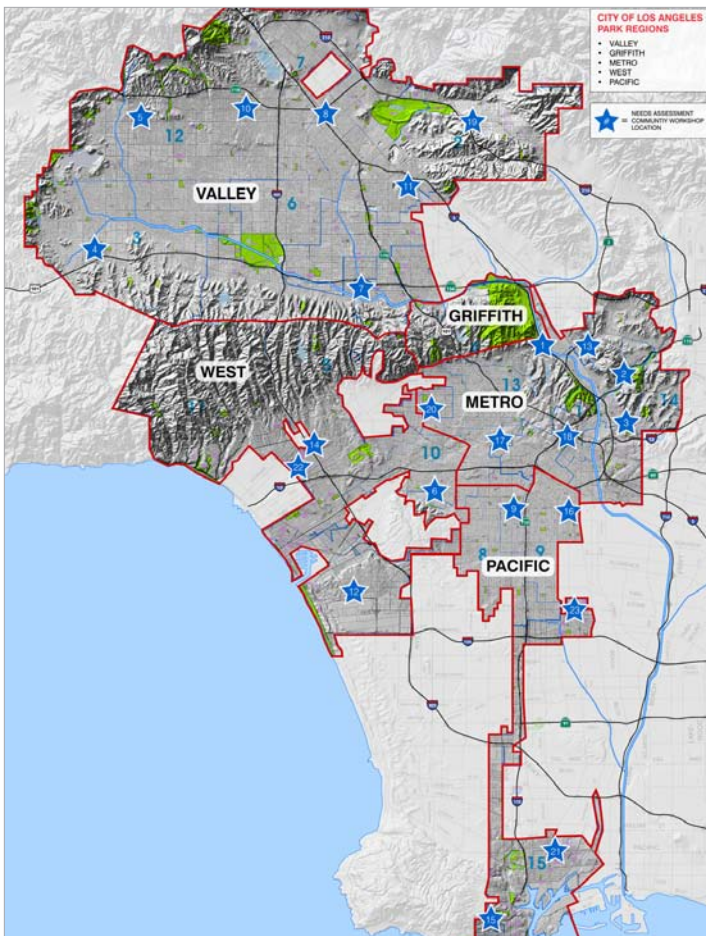
PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Citywide Community Needs Assessment

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMPLETED: 2011
SITE: N/A
CLIENT: City of Los Angeles
TEAM: Mia Lehrer + Associates
Pros Consulting
The Robert Group
SCOPE: Community Outreach
Graphic Communication
Document Preparation & Layout

As the first step toward developing a Citywide Park Master Plan and a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the Department of Recreation and Parks conducted a recreational Needs Assessment encompassing the entire City of Los Angeles. A primary component of the project involved a broad community outreach effort that included twenty-three (23) community workshops, an online survey, and surveys conducted by mail. From Pacoima to San Pedro, Woodland Hills to Boyle Heights, the project team received comments and concerns and from an incredibly diverse range of residents. By gathering, assessing and analyzing information regarding current and future recreational needs, the project team identified key issues affecting park usage and included these findings in a Final Report with detailed recommendations and conclusions supported by an Action Plan for the Department. The objective of this process was to develop strategies to help prioritize and address the tremendous challenges the Department faces in the years ahead.



CONTACT



Mailing Address 2272 Colorado Boulevard #1366
Los Angeles, California 90041

Office (323) 739-6054

Inquiries info@ecotonestudios.com

Website www.ecotonestudios.com

Blog blog.ecotonestudios.com