

Interpretive Elements

Adding Interest and Value to Trails



Presented by:
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Tim Millington
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What Is Interpretive Design?

Interpretation is a communication process designed to reveal the meaning and relationships of cultural and natural heritage to the public...

Interpretation Adds Interest and Value

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Feathers and foam

Feathers and Foam
Listen for the loud whistles of black oystercatchers... watch for cormorants diving into the water—you will see birds among the rocks, tide pools, and surf at Laguna Point. Keep watching and discover how ocean birds make a living along this rocky coast.

great blue heron
(*Ardea herodias*)
Great blue herons can be found around Laguna Point. A heron is a large wading bird with long legs and a long neck. It usually stands in shallow water, waiting for a fish to jump out. It then strikes with its long neck and its sharp beak.

black turnstone
(*Arenaria interpres*)
Watch for these birds and waders through spring. Black turnstones have dark backs and white underparts. When they land, they often bob their heads up and down.

leucis airy
(*Phalaropus lobatus*)
Also known as leucis and white-necked airy, leucis airy is a small wading bird. It has long legs and a long neck. It usually stands in shallow water, waiting for a fish to jump out. It then strikes with its long neck and its sharp beak.

Look-out Behind!
You'll never hear spring at Laguna Point until you've heard birds in search of work.

sharp-shinned hawk
(*Accipiter velox*)
These birds can be seen at Laguna Point. They are fast and agile. They usually hunt for small mammals and birds.

surf scoter
(*Melanitta perspicillata*)
Surf scoters can be seen at Laguna Point. They are large, dark birds with a distinctive white patch on their necks. They usually feed on shellfish and other marine life.

black oystercatcher
(*Haematopus bachmani*)
Watch for these birds along the rocky coast. Black oystercatchers have long legs and a long neck. They usually feed on shellfish and other marine life.

western gull
(*Larus occidentalis*)
Western gulls are common at Laguna Point. They are large, white birds with a distinctive black cap. They usually feed on shellfish and other marine life.

glaucous-winged gull
(*Larus glaucopterus*)
Glaucous-winged gulls are common at Laguna Point. They are large, white birds with a distinctive black cap. They usually feed on shellfish and other marine life.

osprey
(*Pandion haliaetus*)
Ospreys can be seen at Laguna Point. They are large, dark birds with a distinctive white patch on their necks. They usually feed on fish.

Revealing the “Genius Loci” or Spirit Of Place, the Message on Interpretive Panels Offer Education and Content That Invest the Public in a Trail's History and Significance.



Interpretation Adds Interest and Value

Interpretive Panels Inspire Stewardship In Trail Users By Reinforcing Awareness of Natural and Cultural Resources.



Interpretation Adds Interest and Value

Well Designed Sign Programs Can Foster and Demonstrate Community Pride In Local Heritage.

Interpretation Adds Interest and Value



Interpretive Signage is Self-Sustaining in that it Can Provide a High-quality User Experience Without the Need for Onsite Staff or Extensive Facilities Maintenance.

Interpretation Adds Interest and Value



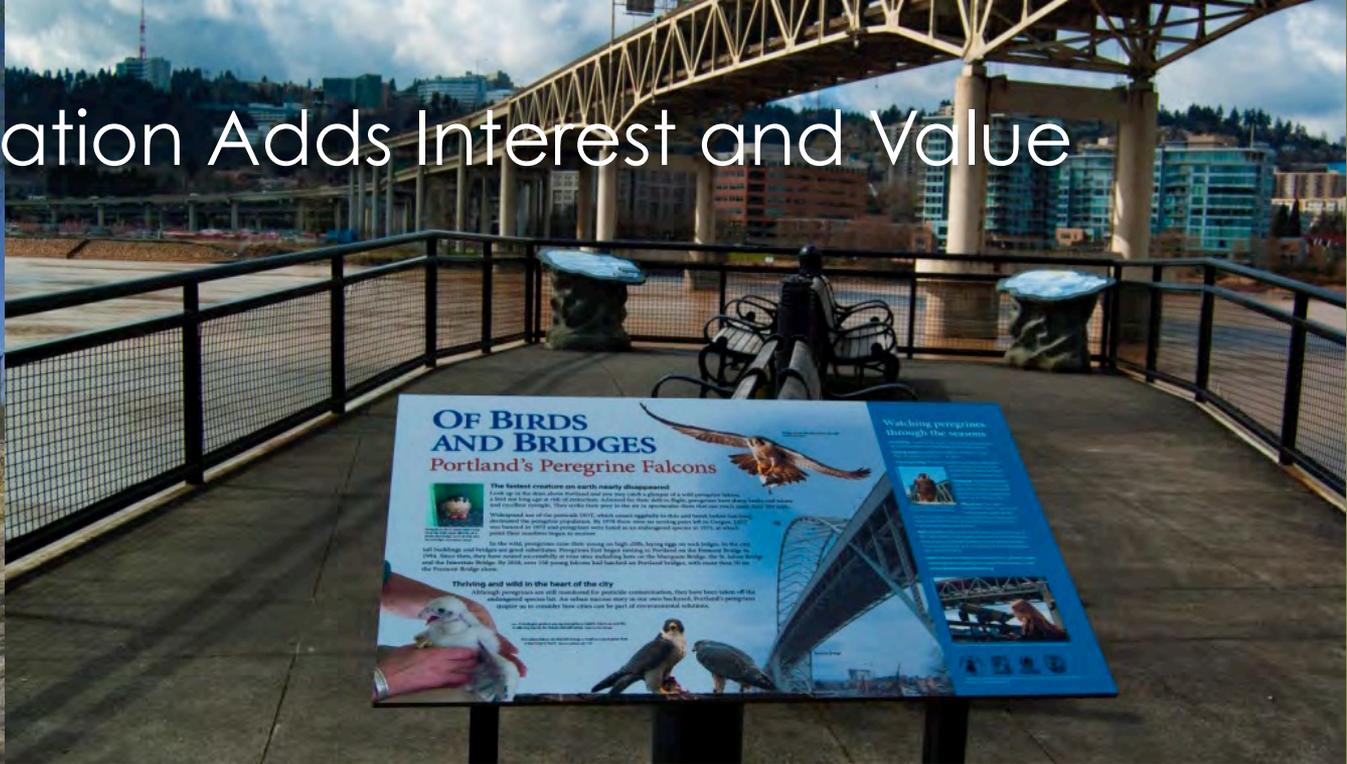
They offer a Consistent Message to Multiple Users at Any Given Time, Can Be Observed At The Users' Convenience, and Are Accessible at Any Time of The Day.



Interpretation Adds Interest and Value

Interpretive Signs Enhance The User Perception of a Trail Site, City, Or Region By Calling Attention to The Unique History and Identity of a Trail offering Users a Better Appreciation of The Surroundings and Local Lore.

Interpretation Adds Interest and Value



Engaging Interpretive Signs and Exhibits Can Become Destinations Unto Themselves.

Agency Goals and Process
Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Agency Goals and Process

Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements



- Intended Purpose
 - Transit, Destination, Connectivity, Education, Protection of Biological, Cultural, Historical Assets
- Establish a Clear Mode of Use
 - *Foot, Mountain Bike, Horses, OHV, Multi-Use, Dogs.*

Agency Goals and Process

Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Create a Project Description to Meet Trail and Interpretive Elements Goals:

- Change Use Patterns
- Environmental Conservation
- Education
- Habitat Protection
- Public Health
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Agency Goals and Process Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Navigation of the Environmental Process:

- Regulatory Influence
- View as an Opportunity
 - *Biologic Study, Cultural Records Search, National Archeological Database.*

Agency Goals and Process

Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Assembly of Design Team:

Biologist, Archaeologist, Paleontologist, Local Native American Tribes, Cities, CADFW, USFWS, Historians, Graphic Arts, Landscape Architects.

Agency Goals and Process

Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Conduct Research
About the Site:

Libraries, Museums, Colleges, Internet, Tribal Leaders, Biological Opinions, Cultural Records Search.

Agency Goals and Process Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Determine Points of Interest
Appropriate Trail Length:

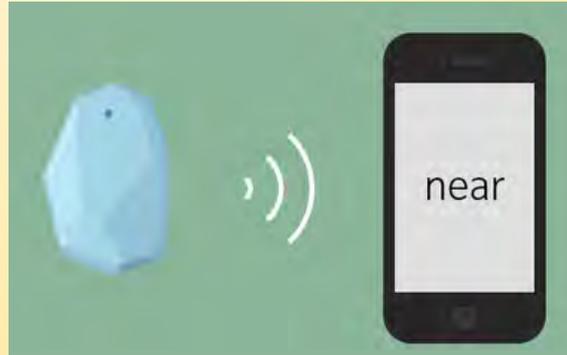
- Features to Emphasize, and Plan Out Stops:
Theme Throughout, Be Consistent, Match
Design to the Site.

Agency Goals and Process

Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Adoption of Emerging Technologies:

- Use of QR Codes
- Beacons - Geo Fence (30-150')



Agency Goals and Process Initial Trail Design Interpretive Elements

Determine Points of Interest
Appropriate Trail Length:

- Interpretation Extends Beyond The Trail and It's Regional Implications

Discovery and Analysis – What is Unique

Identify & Integrate Interpretation Opportunities



- Flora
- Fauna
- Historical
- Cultural Artifacts
- Regional Context
- Sounds
- Geological
- Hydrological

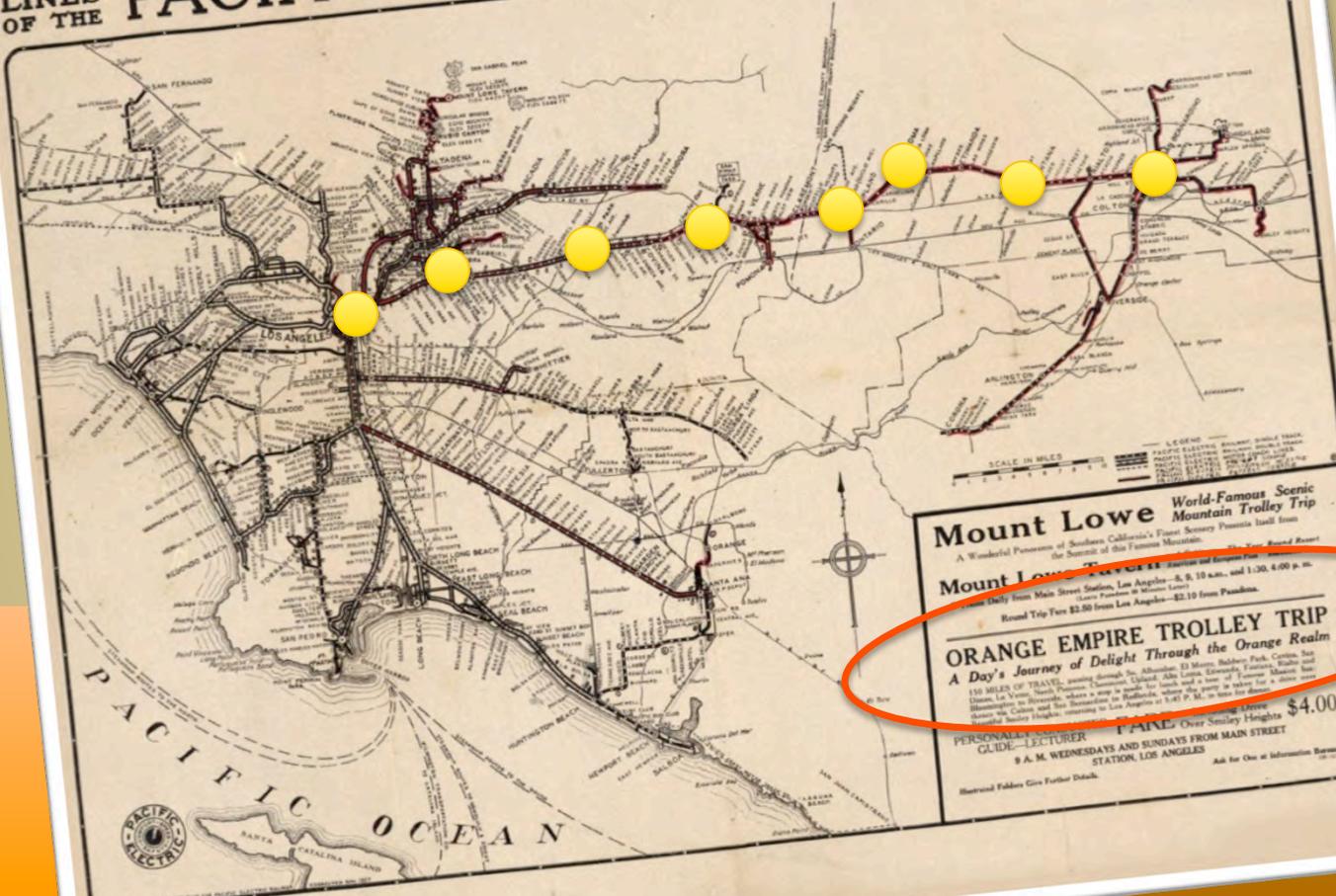
Interpretive Implementation Strategies

Interpretive Implementation Strategies



- Maximize The Use of Each Trails Unique Natural, Historical, Cultural Features
- Connect The Dots Among The Features and Trail
- Map a Graphic Representation of Interpretive Opportunities Along The Route
- Narrow The Focus of The Story – What Stands Out, What Fades Away

LINES OF THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Mount Lowe *World-Famous Scenic Mountain Trolley Trip*
 A Wonderful Panorama of Southern California's Finest Scenery Presently Available from the Summit of this Famous Mountain.
Mount Lowe *WEEKLY* - *Excursion and Sunday*
 Leaves Daily from Main Street Station, Los Angeles - 5, 9, 10 a.m., and 1:30, 4:00 p.m.
 (Leave Pasadena at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.)
 Round Trip Fare \$2.50 from Los Angeles - \$2.10 from Pasadena.

ORANGE EMPIRE TROLLEY TRIP
A Day's Journey of Delight Through the Orange Realm
 110 MILES OF TRAVEL, passing through the Abundant El Monte, Balboa Park, Corona, San Dimas, La Verne, South Pasadena, Claremont, Upland, San Luis Obispo, Fontana, Redlands and Huntington to Riverside, where a walk and a boat on a lake and a boat on a river and a boat on a lake and San Bernardino to Redlands, where the party returns for a drive to Orange, the Corona and San Bernardino to Los Angeles at 1:45 P. M. in time for dinner.
 PERSONALLY CONDUCTED BY **FRANK** Over Sunday Highways **\$4.00**
 GUIDE-LECTURER
 9 A. M. WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS FROM MAIN STREET STATION, LOS ANGELES
 Ask for One at Information Bureau



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Interpretive Implementation Strategies

- Consider The Impact of Drawing Attention to Fragile Resources
 - *Will Bringing Attention to Them Do More Harm Than Good?*
- What Is The Potential For Vandalism
 - *How Does That Inform Your Approach?*
- Storyboard The Route
 - *Interpretive Locations at Appropriate Intervals.*
- Consider Suitable Materials
 - *For The Environment and For The Signs.*
- Create a Unified Motif
 - *Tie The Elements Together.*

Putting it All Together – The Graphic Process

The Design Process – Putting it All Together

Messaging

- 7th – 9th Grade Reading Level
- Relevant to Smart Phone, Digital Generation
- Interpretive Not Instructional
- Cultural Compatibility

Graphics

- Attention Getting
- Tell The Story Visually
- Color and Design Compliment The Trail
- Adds to Understanding of Message
- Spacing
- Less Is More
- Allow Space For Visual Interpretation

Size

- Appropriate For Space
 - *Don't Overwhelm, Don't Disappear*
- Consider Not Only The Panel, But The Mounting and How All of it Relates and Affects The Graphics

Typography

- Clear and Concise
- Serif Or Sans Serif Are O.K.
- Avoid Italics, Bold, Overly Decorative – Script
- Limit to 2 – 3 Fonts
- Agency Style and Guidelines
- ADA Legibility

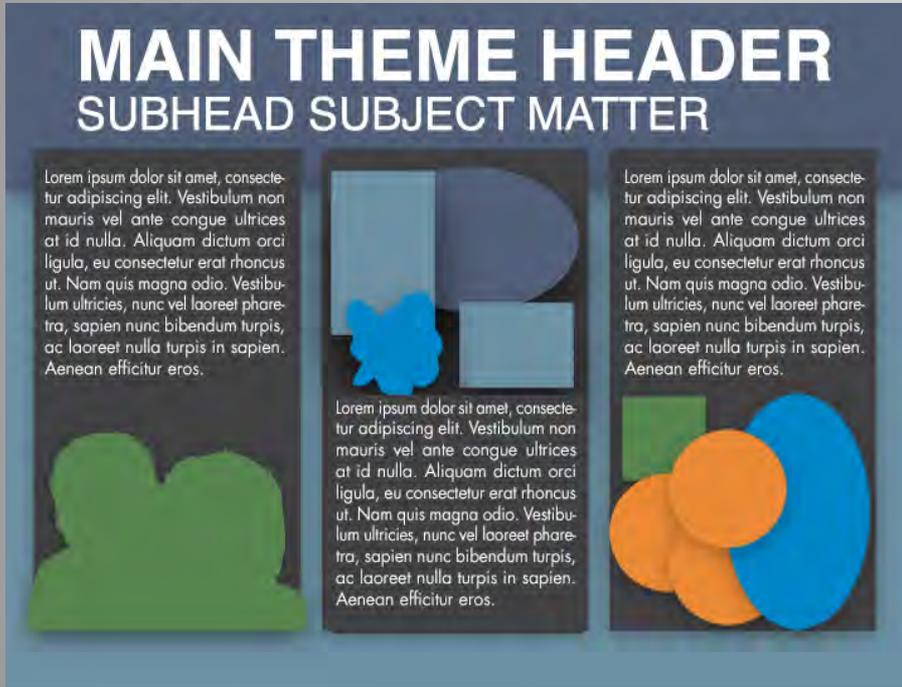
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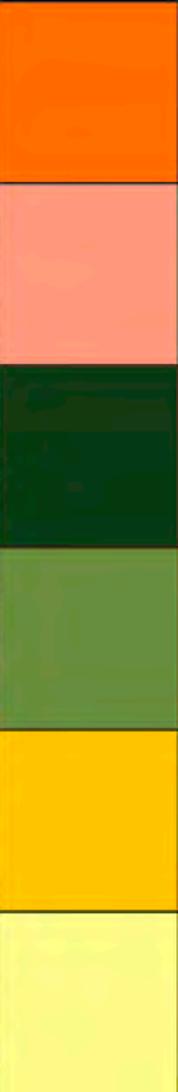
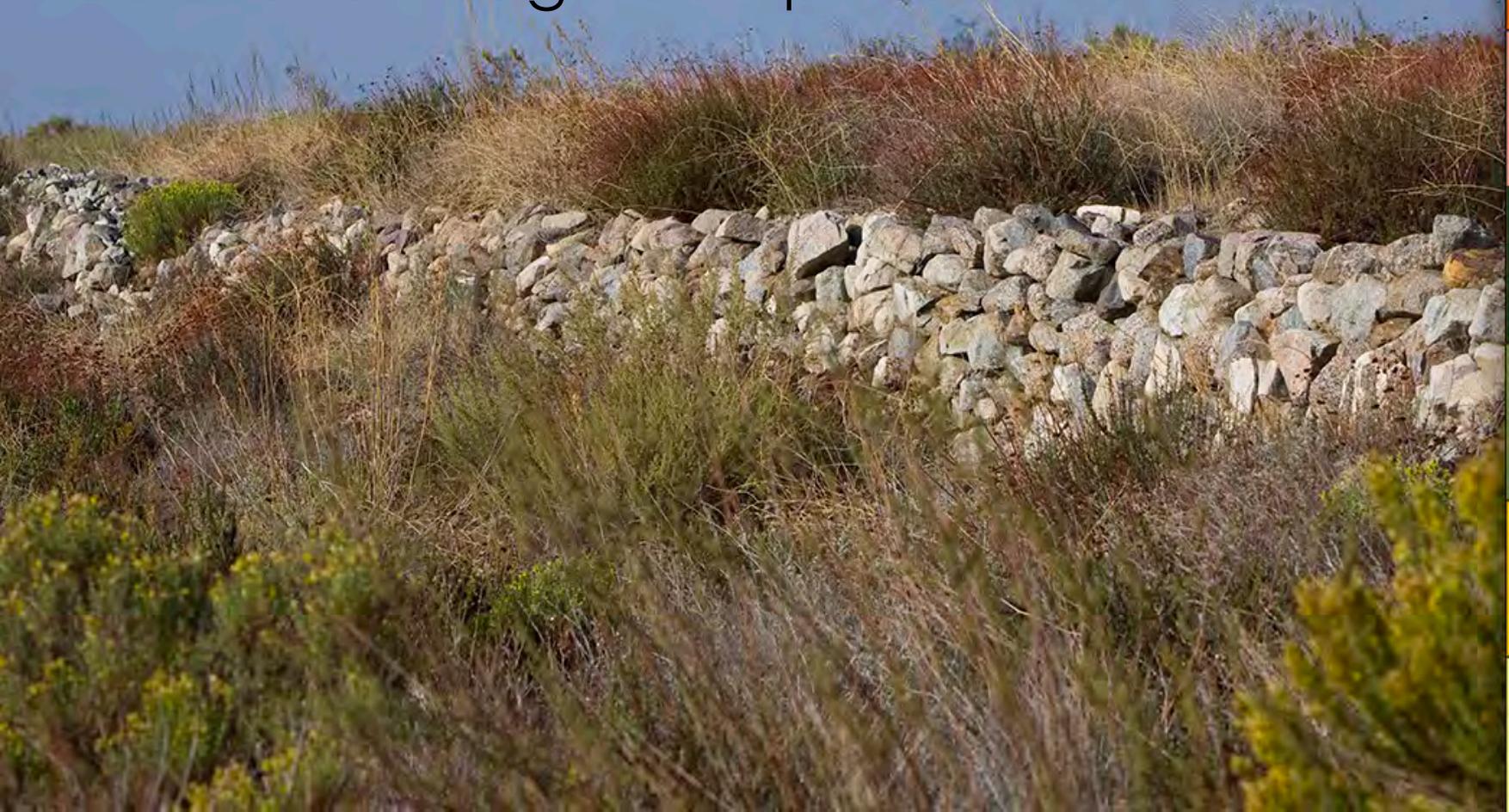
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Color and Design Compliment the Trail



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Typography

ABC ABC

You want type that is easy to read with little to no visual distortions. Too many times using bold mistakes emphasis for legibility. Clean, concise faces are best.

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Typography

ABC ABC

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North Etiwanda Preserve



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North Etiwanda Preserve



- Established 1998
- 762 acres of County Land
- Freeway mitigation, open space preservation
- 3.2 Miles of Primary Trail with extensions
- Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub plant community
- Remnants of Historic Settlements, Water Management and Aboriginal Groups
- Trail and Historical Site





CHAPARRAL WHITE-THORN



CHAMISE



OLD WELL/PUMPING DEVICE



DAY CANYON SPRINGS



WILD GRAPE AT NATURAL SPRING SEEP



EARLY SETTLEMENT CABIN RUINS

EAST ETWANDA CANYON



EAST ETWANDA CANYON WASH

DAY CANYON STATION



ENSTRIG PINES FOR SHADE/SHELTER



VIEWS TO VALLEY BELOW

SYCAMORE WASH - HIGHLIGHTING PLANT SPECIES AND ADAPTATIONS TO FIRE AND DROUGHT



WHITE SAGE



POISON OAK



OUR LORD'S CANDLE



RABBIT BRUSH



BLACK SAGE



NARROW-LEAVED YERBA SANTA



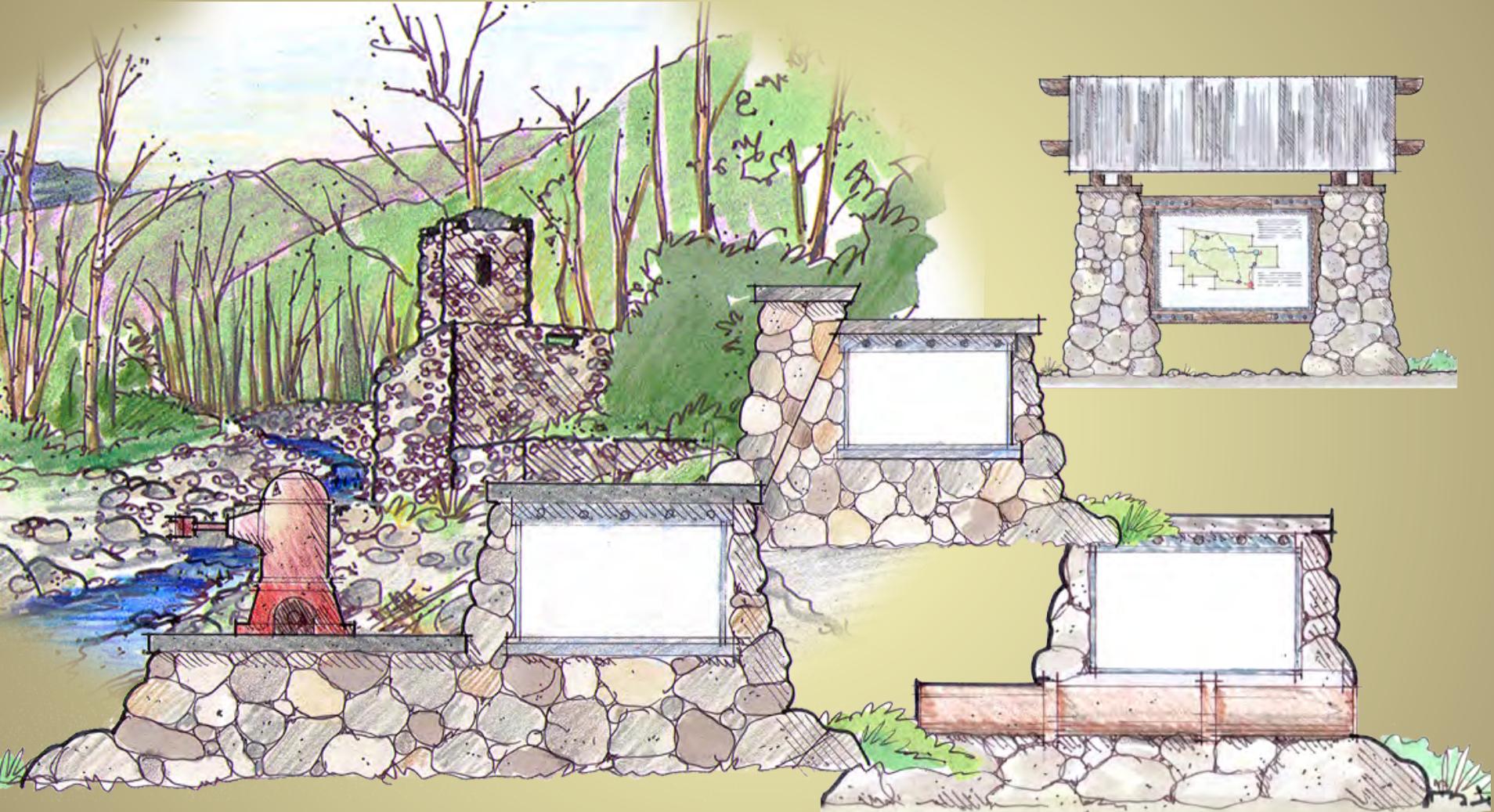
CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

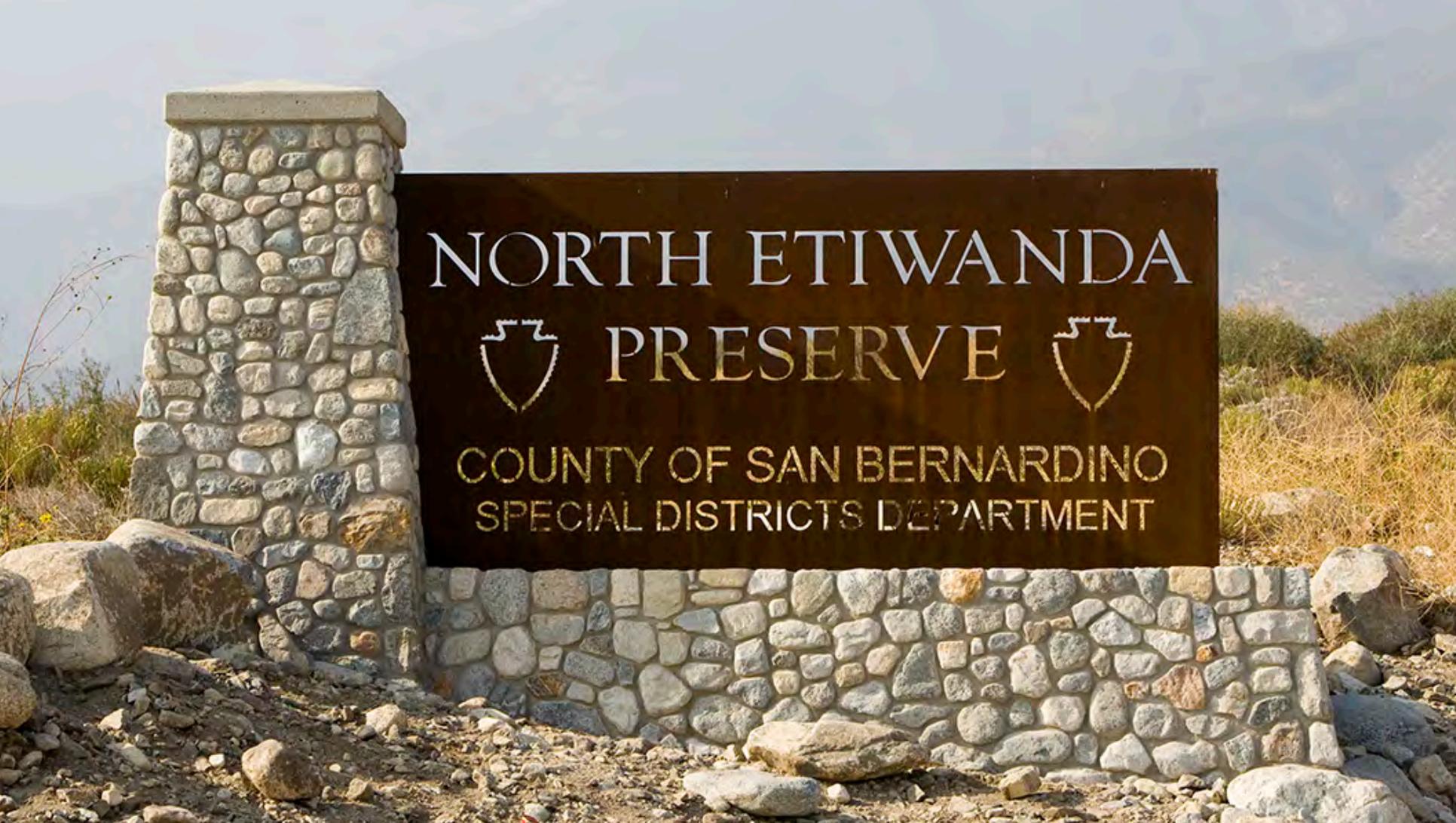
AQUADUCT PIPE SYSTEM



TRAILHEAD TO ETWANDA PRESERVE





A stone pillar on the left and a stone wall at the base of the sign.

NORTH ETIWANDA



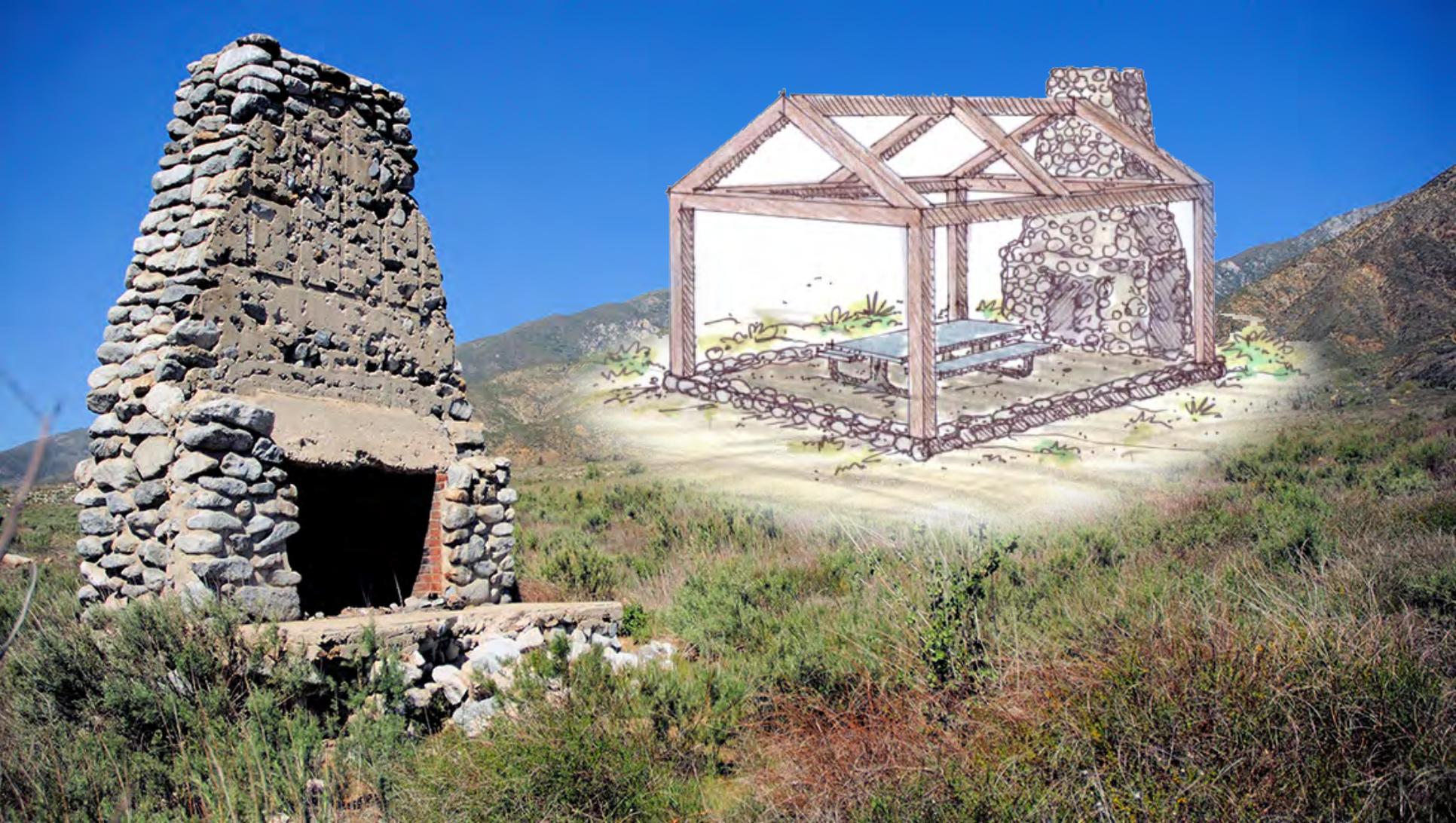
PRESERVE



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SPECIAL DISTRICTS DEPARTMENT











Cucamonga Basin #6



Cucamonga Basin #6





- PLANT COMMUNITIES:**
- Wetland Plant Community
 - Riparian Plant Community
 - Existing Riparian Plant Community
 - Riverside Sage Scrub Plant Community

FEATURE LEGEND:

- 1 Existing water structure
- 2 Existing water structure
- 3 Low-flow riparian tree structure
- 4 Existing surface and perimeter ditches
- 5 Existing surface water with 10' depth restriction
- 6 Existing surface water with 10' depth restriction
- 7 Existing surface water with 10' depth restriction
- 8 Wetland riparian tree structure
- 9 Wetland riparian tree structure
- 10 Wetland riparian tree structure
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Cucamonga Basin #6

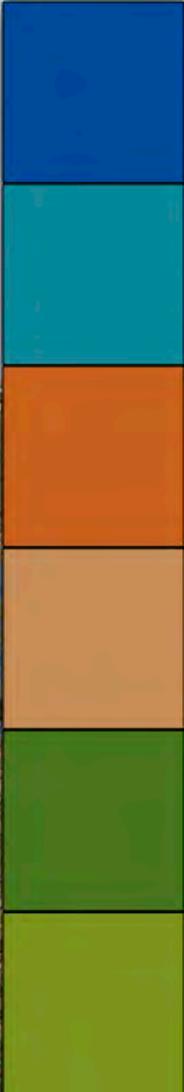
Conceptual Master Plan

- 67 acre flood control basin
- Riparian & wetland habitats
- Plant Habitat Trails
- Water Use & Conservation
- Habitat Restoration



Cucamonga Basin #6

Conceptual Master Plan





Rails to Trails – Rialto Leg



Interpretive features:

- ±2 Miles of Mixed Use Trails
- Educational & Discovery Panels
- Themed Gardens
- Architectural Accents







Celebration Park Ontario, CA



Interpretive Highlights:

- World Mediterranean Garden
- California Natives Garden
- Heritage Rose Garden

Armstrong Rose Garden

John C. Armstrong arrived in California in 1889. He began by growing Eucalyptus and Olive trees on three lots he purchased in 1898 from Andrew Chaffey at D Street and Euclid Avenue for \$112.00 each. Armstrong Nurseries became one of Ontario's first landmarks.



It was in the early part of the 20th Century that Armstrong Nurseries introduced a series of roses sourced from around the world. Soon after, they began a research and development department, becoming an internationally recognized hybridizer of famous rose varieties including the Chrysler Imperial and the Charlotte Armstrong – named after his first wife. The Charlotte Armstrong won the All American Rose Honors (AARS) in 1941, and would later become the official flower of the City of Ontario.

A deep pink hybrid tea, the Charlotte Armstrong Rose was a breakthrough in her day because of her long classic buds, her large lovely flowers, and her ease of growth. She has literally thousands of descendants; in fact most American roses of today have this time-honored beauty somewhere in their lineage.



The Charlotte Armstrong
(AARS)

The Mediterranean Gardens of CALIFORNIA

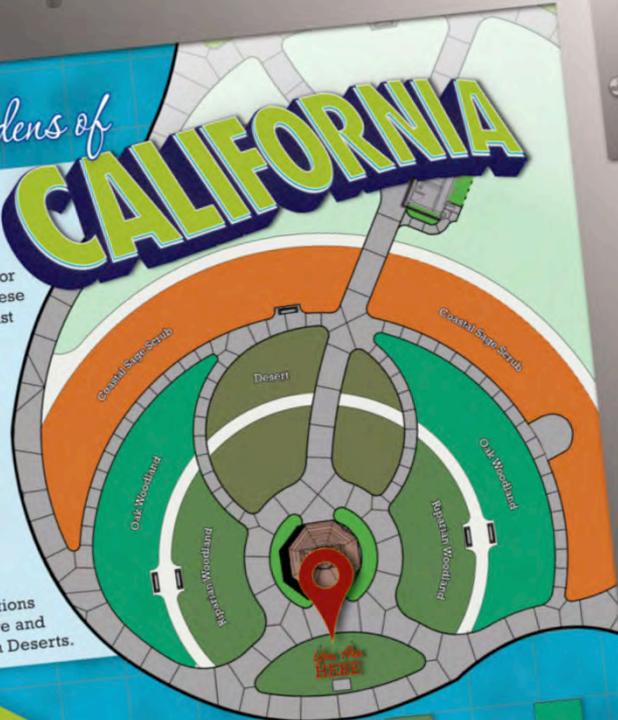
There are four main Mediterranean climates in areas around California and each feature unique plant communities.

Coastal Sage Scrub is recognized for aromatic and drought tolerant plants. These include sagebrush, buckwheat, coast brittlebush, and golden yarrow.

Riparian Woodlands are found along permanent and seasonal rivers and streambeds.

Oak Woodland habitats occur on north-facing slopes where there is less sunlight.

Desert Shrub plants have adapted to the harsh dry conditions of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts.



Riparian Woodland
Oak Woodland
Desert Habitat
Coastal Sage Scrub

World Mediterranean Gardens

Many plants from Mediterranean regions from around the world are very adaptable to Southern California. Mediterranean climates are found in five areas around the world: the Mediterranean Basin, Chile, South Africa, Australia, and Mexico/California. The Mediterranean climate occurs in areas influenced by the ocean breezes and is known for hot dry summers and cool, wet and mild winters.

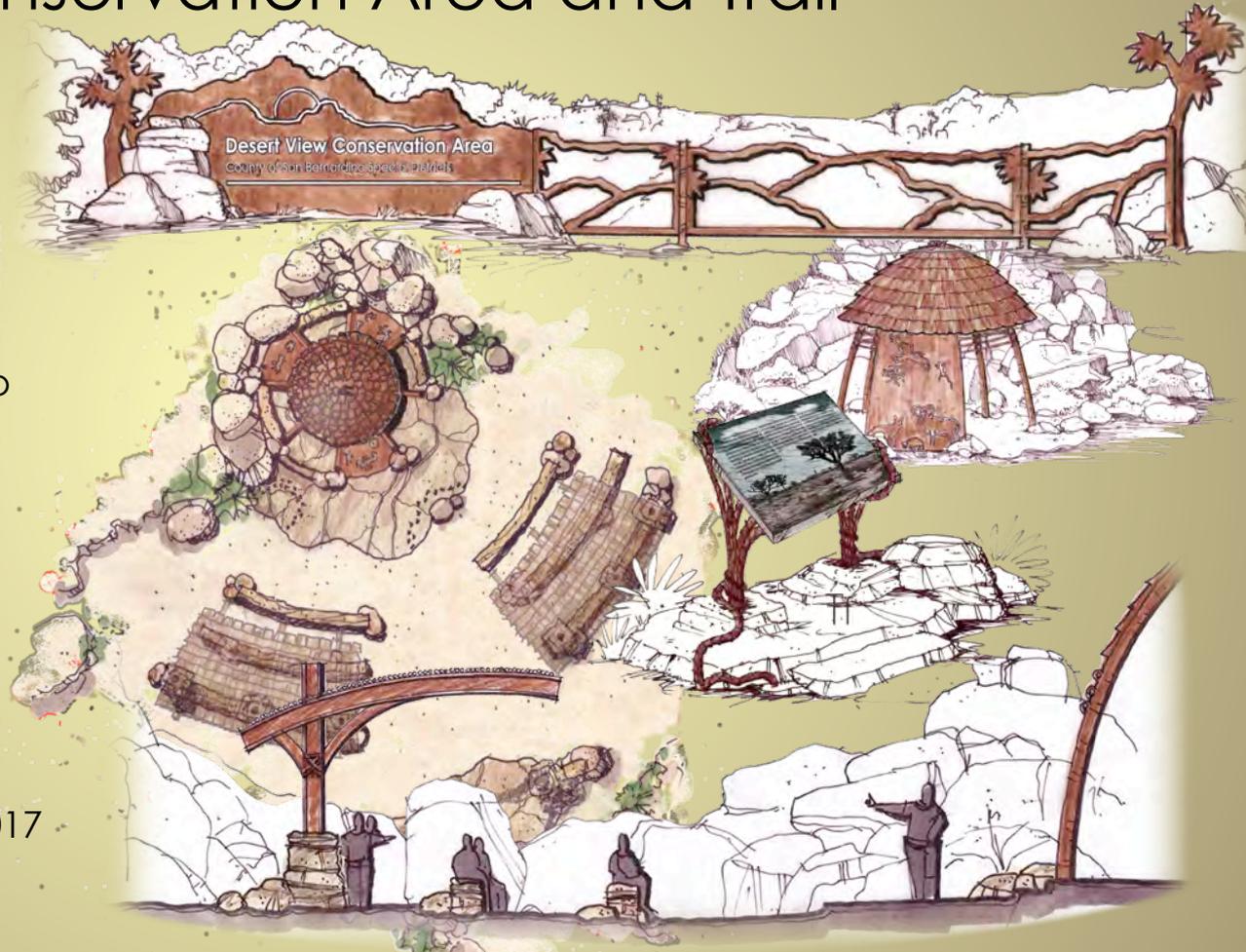
The great weather, like we have here in California is one of the reasons so many people around the world enjoy living in Mediterranean climates



Community Conservation Area and Trail - Joshua Tree

- ±640 acres
- County Regional Park.
- Home to a Fragile Desert Ecosystem.
- Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship
- Native, Historical Cultural Unique and Sensitive Habitats.
- Integrated approach to Secure Funding via Conceptual Design and Advocacy

Funding Acquired 2015
Groundbreaking Expected 2017





Thank You

Open Discussion and Questions



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