Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

MRCA is a local government public entity established in **1985** pursuant to the Joint Powers Act. The MRCA is a local partnership between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which is a state agency established by the Legislature, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District both of which are local park agencies established by the vote of the people in those communities.

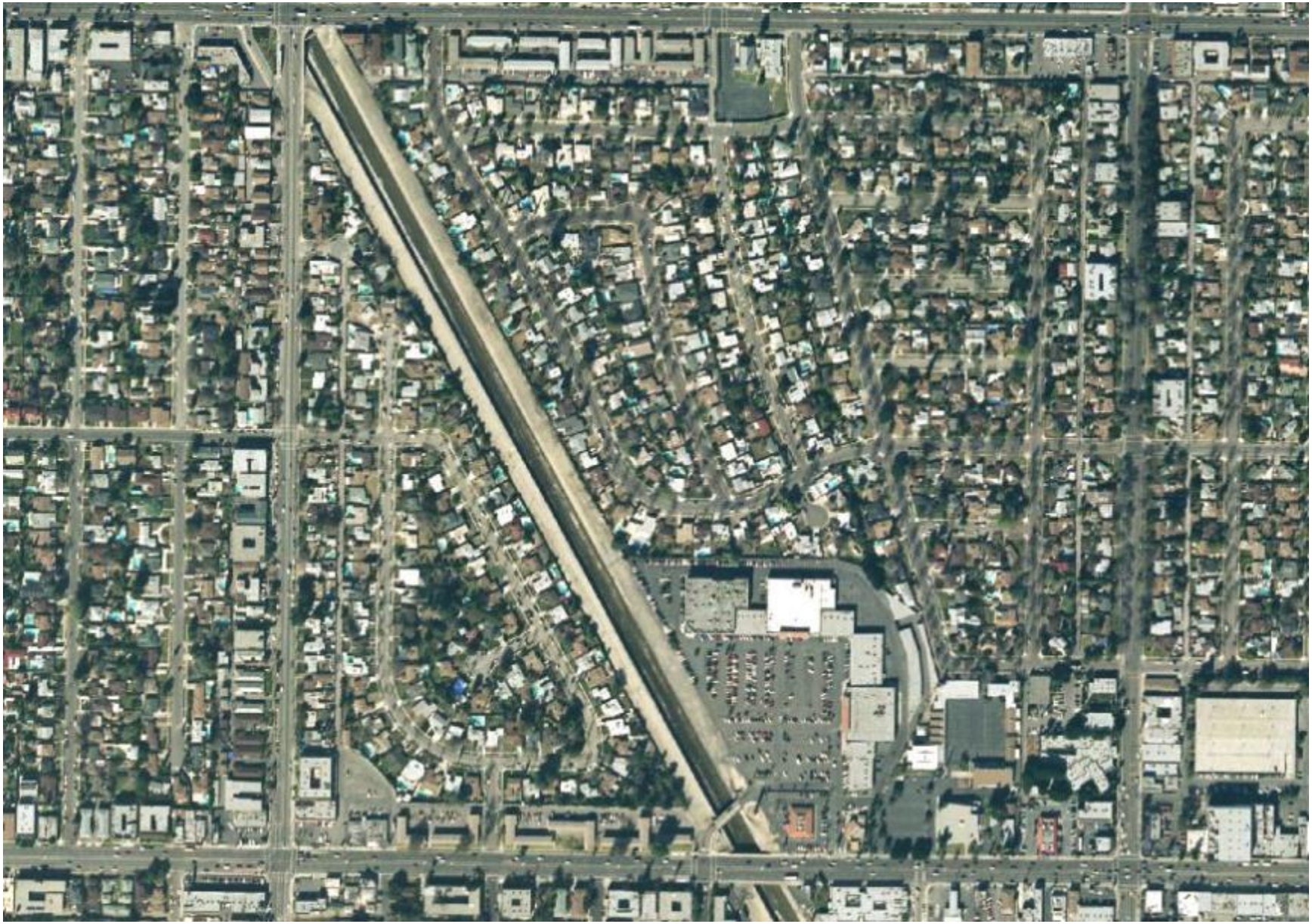
The MRCA is dedicated to the **preservation and management of local open space and parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat.** The MRCA manages and provides ranger services for over 70,000 acres of public lands and parks that it owns and that are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or other agencies and provides comprehensive education and interpretation programs for the public.

MRCA Urban Projects and Watershed Planning Division

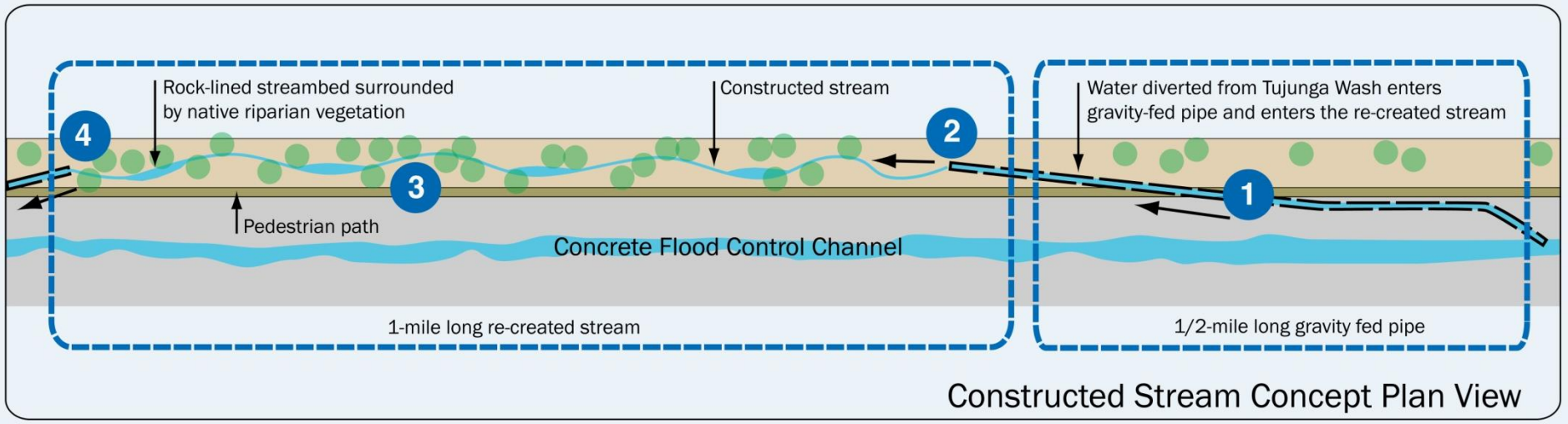
28% of all Californians live in Los Angeles County

Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration

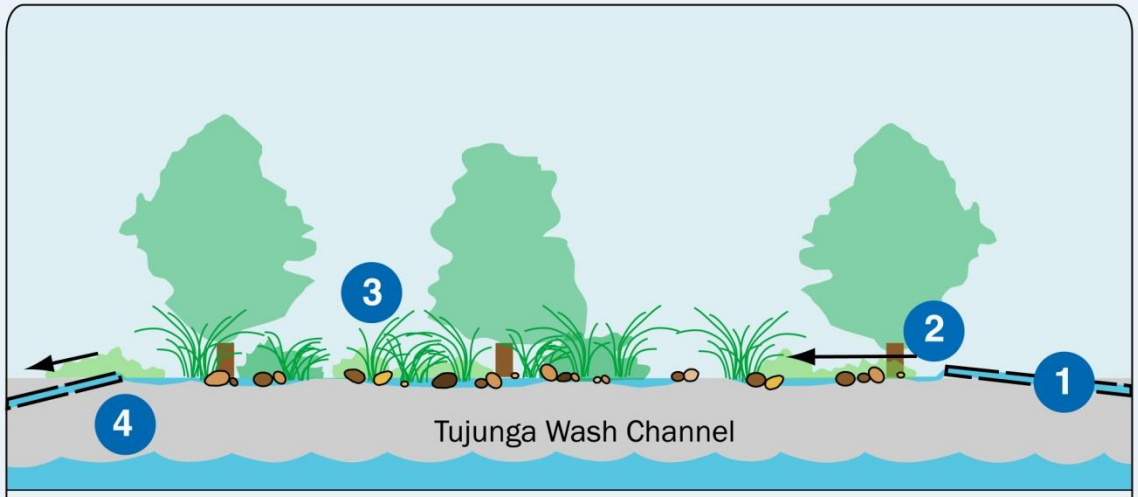
Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration



HOW THE TUJUNGA WASH STREAM RESTORATION WORKS



Constructed Stream Concept Plan View



Constructed Stream Section View

1. Dirty stormwater and irrigation runoff is diverted from the Tujunga Wash flood control channel. The water enters a half-mile long gravity-fed pipe where up to 25 cubic feet of water traverses the pipe each second on a journey to the new stream.

2. The water exits the pipe and enters the constructed stream-bed where it flows through a rocky channel with riparian (stream-side) plants. As the water flows through each section of streambed, it becomes progressively cleaner. Much of the water filters downward and replenishes the aquifer.

3. The year-round moisture of the stream supports a unique set of plants and animals only found in riparian habitat. This new ecosystem will grow and evolve.

4. Water that reaches this end of the constructed stream has been cleansed by a one-mile-long stretch of rocks, sand, and roots. For now, its journey ends and a second pipe returns the clean water to the flood control channel to make its way to the Los Angeles River and, eventually, the ocean.

Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration

1 mile long linear greenway

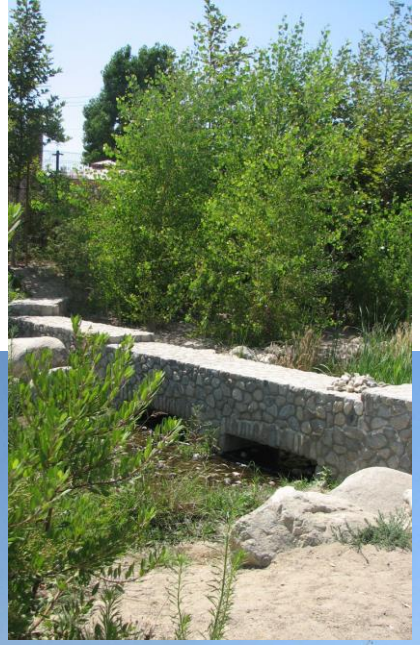
Diverts and collects 325,000 gallons/day from Tujunga Wash (1.18 billion gallons/yr)

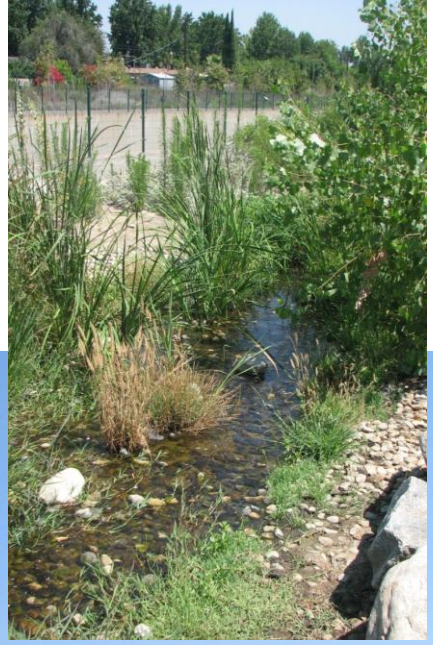
Infiltrates 15,857,790 cubic ft (362 acre ft) of water per year.

Sustains 724 households annual water needs

Partnership with Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).

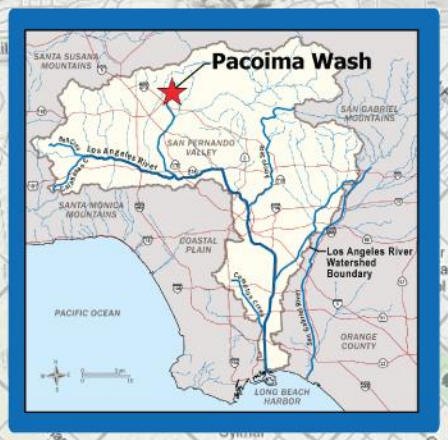
The U.S. Army Corps is replicating this project upstream. This can be replicated all over Los Angeles County.





Pacoima Wash Bikeway

Linking Urban Communities to the Mountains



Sylmar (City of Los Angeles)

1.05 miles

City of San Fernando

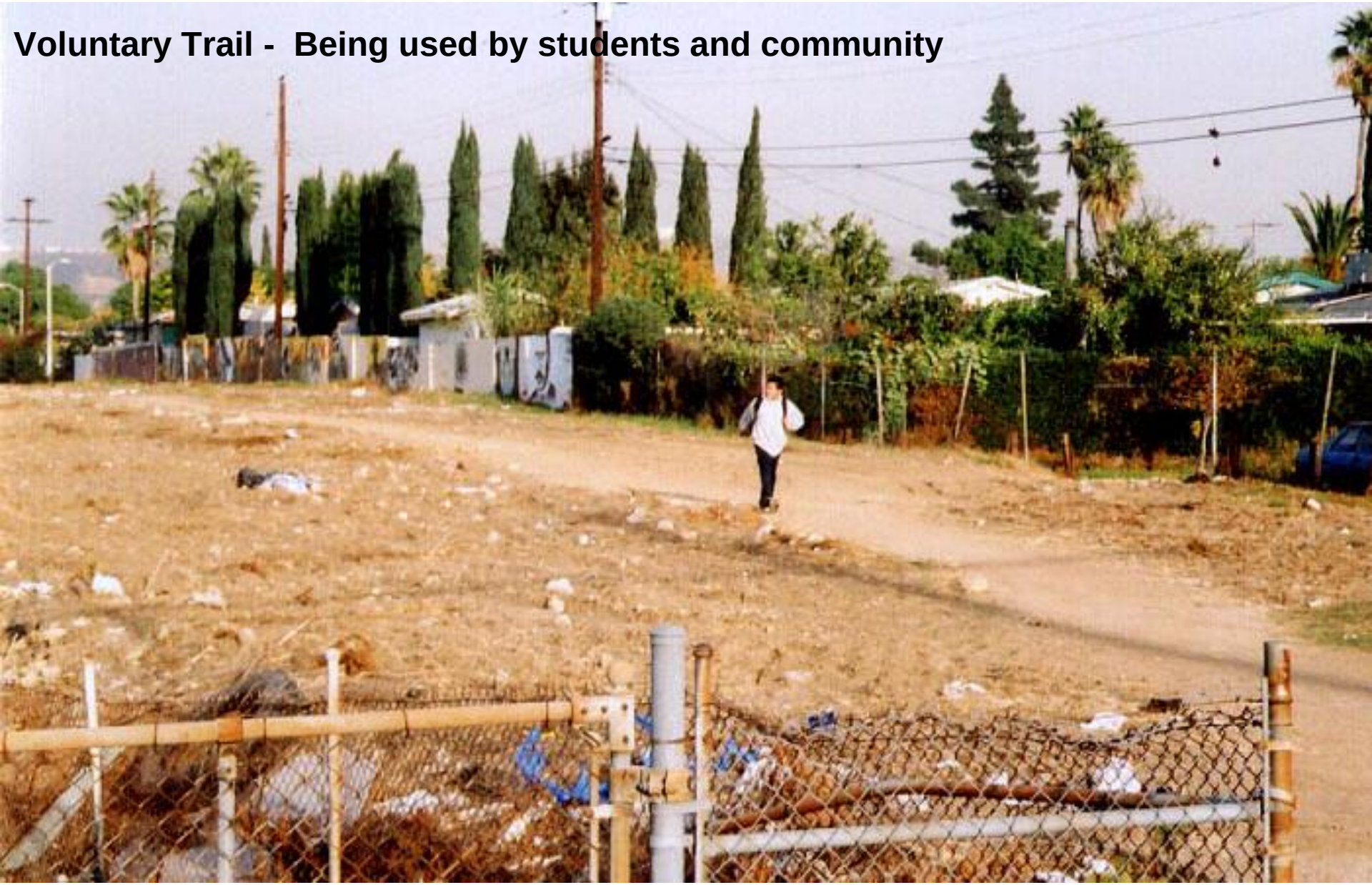
Pacoima Wash

1.6 miles

Pacoima (City of Los Angeles)

.6 miles

Pacoima Wash – Existing Conditions



Pacoima Wash – Existing Conditions

Pacoima Health / Parks

- 48% Child Obesity Rate (3 times the county average)
- 20% Asthma
- 6% Diabetes
- 54-acres of parks per 1,000 residents
- Ideal ratio of parks to population would be 600 acres of park space to 1,000 residents

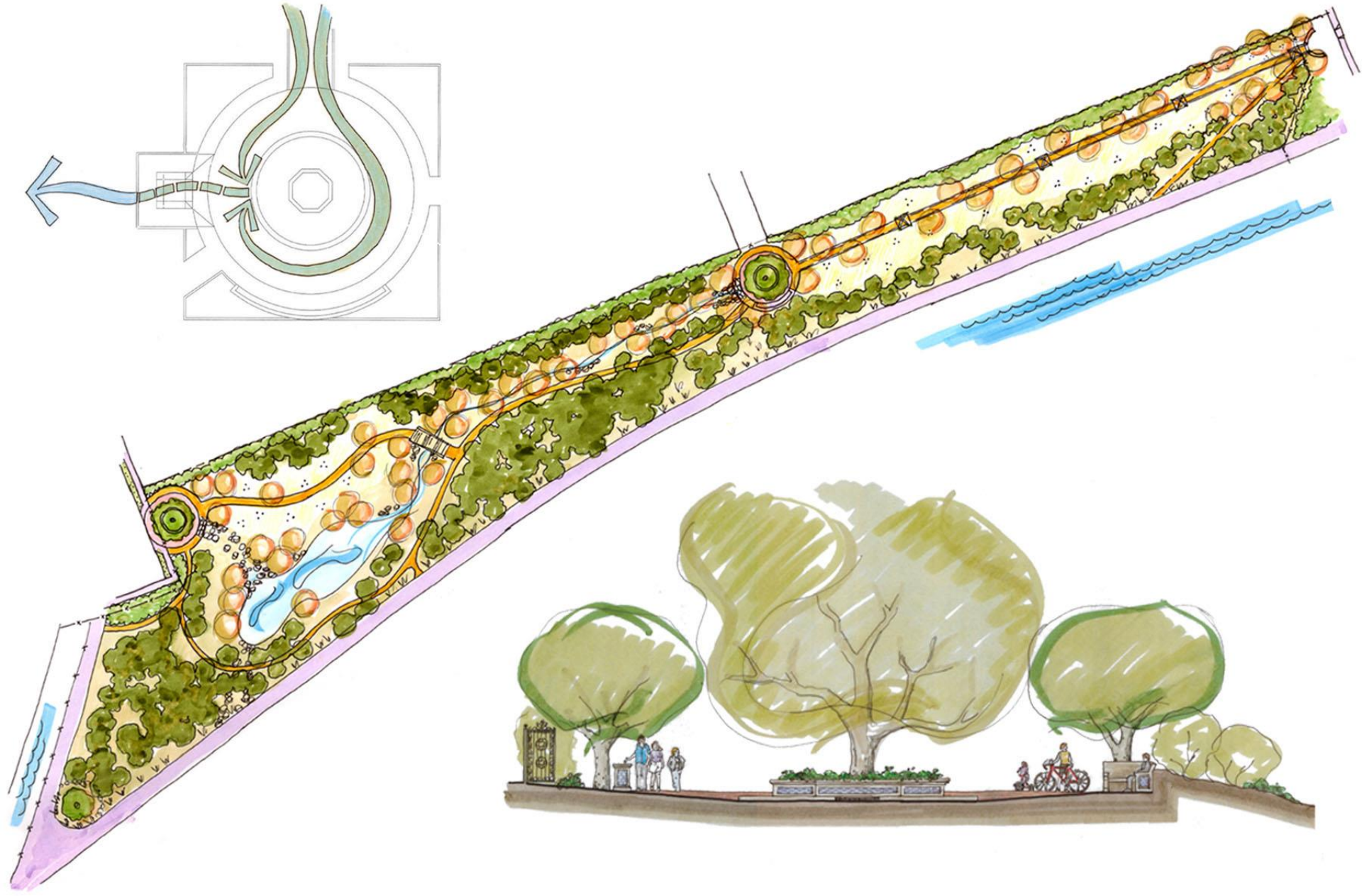
Vision

Vision

Vision

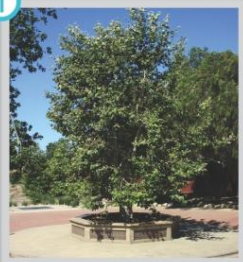
Pacoima Wash Natural Park

Pacoima Wash Natural Park - Design



Stormwater BMPs

1



Placitas
Water runs off the street and into the placita, which is specially shaped to slow down the water. Trash and sediment settles to the brick and is later swept away by a street cleaner.

2

Trash and Debris Guards
The screen over the drain in the placita traps any trash or debris from flowing with the water into the underground sediment vault.

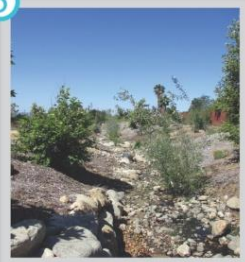
3

Bypass Drains
A nearby drain allows any overflow water to also trickle into the sediment vault. The drain is surrounded by native plants that act as a natural filter for trash.

4

Screens and Sediment Vaults
The water flows from the placita and the bypass drain into the sediment vault, passing through three filtering screens before entering the arroyo and flowing into the basin.

5



Arroyo and Infiltration Basin
The arroyos are lined with infiltration fabric, sand, gravel, and boulders. This system cleans the water a final time before it is absorbed, recharging the ground water.

Located along the Pacoima Wash, the park cleans water from over 33 acres before it flows to the Los Angeles River and southern California's beaches. The park's green technology to improve water quality also provides recreation and habitat.

Before

After

Challenges of Implementation

- Funding and timing
- Maintaining consensus by City Council and public; momentum, direction
- Sharing the Load--Joint effort between the City, MRCA and the County to secure Federal and State Funds
- Partnerships can address: lack of staffing, funding, direction
- Operations, Maintenance and Programming
  - Recreation and Community Services
  - Los Angeles Unified School District-Student Volunteers
  - County of Los Angeles

Pacoima Wash Natural Park

Benefits

(5-acre site)

Public Access

- Improve existing and create new access

Manage and Treat **Stormwater** Runoff

- Collects and Treats 33-acres of urban runoff.
- Stores 7.98 acre ft. = 2,600,294 gallons of water per year.

Ecosystem and **Habitat** Restoration

- Increase capacity for wildlife movement
- Create habitat for wildlife with native plants

Recreation

- Provide open space in residential neighborhood
- Health benefits

Education- Opportunities for learning by exposure to nature