

# GUIDING THE FUTURE



## A BOLD VISION FOR TRANSFORMATION

The Master Plan initiative was undertaken to allow the Silver Lake community and City of Los Angeles to consider repurposing this historically significant and iconic piece of urban infrastructure for public use. For nearly two years, the City of Los Angeles worked in partnership with the community to develop a vision for the future of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex which includes a total site area of approximately 127 acres; with 33 acres of land for public use, 83 acres of water, and 11 acres for LADWP use. The result is a Master Plan and guiding document that reflects the aspirations of the community to create a unique park which balances and blends urban wilderness with recreational spaces. It is a testament to what we can do when we work together.

**David Ryu**  
Councilmember, District 4  
City of Los Angeles

*"The Silver Lake Reservoir Master Plan incorporates the natural beauty of the Silver Lake area, the native wildlife habitat, and opportunities for education. As we move forward with implementation of the Master Plan, community feedback and engagement will continue to drive and shape our work."*

**Mitch O'Farrell**  
Councilmember, District 13  
City of Los Angeles

*"This has been a unique opportunity to envision a treasured piece of public infrastructure into a newly designed park with the community driving the process. That has led to a focus on wildlife habitat and water quality, including passive recreational elements that will encourage visitors to explore and value the local flora and fauna."*

# VISIONING & GOALS

## KEY THEMES

The following Key Themes were established through the extensive community outreach process and guided the development of the Master Plan.



**ENJOYING NATURE**  
The park should be a place to sit by the water, walk through a woodland or wetland, and observe wildlife.



**FAMILY-FRIENDLY**  
The park should create spaces for children to play and learn about their environment.



**WELLNESS**  
The park should be a place to walk and run, but also offer spaces to sit, relax, and find peace.



**EDUCATION**  
The park should have an education center offering a range of classes and outdoor-based programs.



**COMMUNITY**  
The park should be a place where the neighborhood comes together for shared experiences.



**WATER ACCESS**  
The park should offer opportunities to be at and on the water.

## MASTER PLAN GOALS

- 01 Create a clear, bold design that repurposes the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex to a public park
- 02 Preserve and enhance the unique character of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex
- 03 Create a public amenity with safe and varied access
- 04 Balance active and passive uses
- 05 Balance wildlife habitat with human uses
- 06 Create a design that is implementable and can be partially funded through grants and other public sources
- 07 Allow for continued and future LADWP operations and access

# BALANCING USES

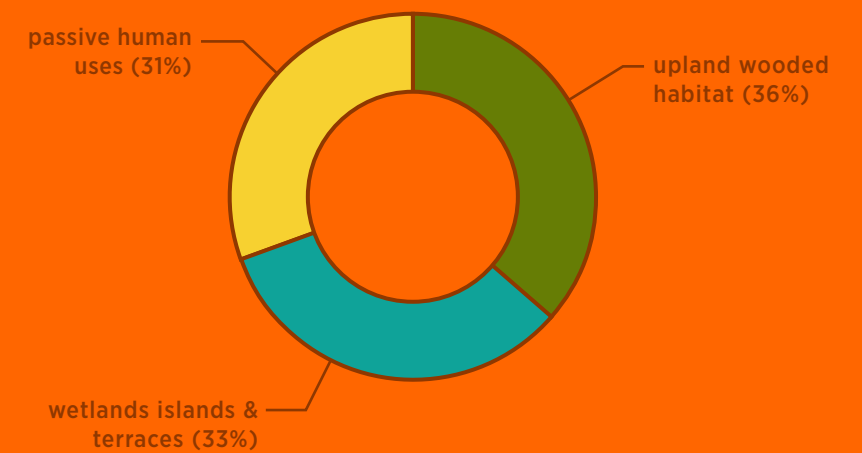
## BLENDED SPACES

Based on input throughout the Master Plan process, the community expressed a clear desire for a park that balances habitat enhancement and expansion with human uses.



When habitat is disappearing and species populations are diminishing at alarming rates, reintroducing wilderness into our cities offers a means to offset habitat losses and demonstrates how we can coexist with wildlife in our urban environments. In response, the Master Plan design interweaves systems of ecology, water, and education into a balanced whole. These visible forms of sustainability help portray the Silver Lake community and the City of Los Angeles as leaders in water resource management and in the stewardship of urban wildlife.

The Master Plan balances the space allocated to human uses with that of existing wooded habitat and new wetland habitat to create a cohesive whole.



# THE PROCESS

This Master Plan evolved through a uniquely collaborative process integrating extensive community and stakeholder input and frequent progress reviews with City departments and the Council Districts. The process included five large community workshops and eight focused meetings with the project's Stakeholder Working Group to garner public feedback at all critical stages in the Master Plan development: Analysis; Visioning and Programming; Master Plan Alternatives; Preferred Master Plan; and Final Master Plan. The Master Plan reflects the vision and interests of the community who live near the Complex and visit it frequently.

The format of the Community Workshops varied from presentations and break out discussions on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons to an open reservoir walk at the SLRC. Due to Covid-19, the final Community Workshop was held virtually in the form of online videos and an online questionnaire which was supplemented with paper copies for those without computer access. These diverse approaches maximized opportunities to capture community input as well as give the neighborhood a chance to experience the power of the water bodies inside the fence. Community Workshops were attended by **1,570 community members** and generated **8,478 questionnaire responses**.

Year	Workshop	Purpose	Approx. Attendees	Questionnaire Responses
2019	01 INTRODUCTION	purpose... OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES	approx. 220 attendees	questionnaire RESPONSES 172
	02 ACTIVITIES & USES	purpose... VISIONING NATURE / BEAUTY, EDUCATION, WATER ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL / GATHER / EAT, ARTS / CULTURE, HEALTH / WELLNESS, SPORTS / GAMES / PLAY	approx. 600 attendees	questionnaire RESPONSES 1432
2019	03 DESIGN ALTERNATIVES	purpose... present THREE DESIGN alternatives	approx. 450 attendees	questionnaire RESPONSES 2986
2020	04 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	purpose... PREFERRED alternative	approx. 300 attendees	questionnaire RESPONSES 2966
	*VIRTUAL* 05 DRAFT MASTER PLAN	purpose... PRESENT DRAFT MASTER PLAN	approx. 1,500 video views at the time the questionnaire closed	questionnaire RESPONSES 922 <small>*4 paper questionnaires</small>



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hundreds of community members who attended our community workshops. Your time, dedication and input were invaluable in crafting the master plan design.

## SLRCMP

please visit <https://eng.lacity.org/slrcomp-home> to learn more about the project!

As covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.



# SILVER LAKE RESERVOIR COMPLEX MASTER PLAN

## IVANHOE OVERLOOK

As a smaller and somewhat isolated water body, Ivanhoe Reservoir presents the opportunity to become a Living Laboratory – a testing ground for establishing wetland habitat in the new park and understanding the effectiveness of constructed wetland terraces and islands for improved water quality and new aquatic habitat.

The design of Ivanhoe Overlook takes advantage of open views to the south of the Ivanhoe Reservoir and includes the following features to support the Living Laboratory:

- Observation Deck
- Shade Pavilion / Outdoor Classroom
- Wetland Habitat Terraces and Floating Islands
- Footpaths with Observation Platforms



## EUCALYPTUS GROVE

The Eucalyptus Grove is currently a wooded area predominantly planted with Eucalyptus trees of varying age and health. The Master Plan proposes to replant this zone over time to enhance and restore its upland habitat value. All walkways throughout the Eucalyptus Grove will include low habitat fencing to protect sensitive habitat areas.

In addition to the woodland restoration, the following features are also planned as part of the Eucalyptus Grove:

- Overlook
- Wetland Habitat Terraces and Floating Islands
- Promenade
- Seating Terraces and Observation Platform

## EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

One of the best ways for humans to carefully and responsibly coexist with urban wildlife is through education.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 01 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM<br>water quality monitoring & water microorganisms | 05 california fresh water wetlands            | 09 west coast pollinators and stormwater gardens                             |
| 02 recirculation for water quality at spillway                          | 06 geology of Ivanhoe Canyon                  | 10 EDUCATION CENTER<br>classes & citizen science station                     |
| 03 california native oak woodland                                       | 07 pacific flyway and migratory birds station | 11 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM<br>california native oak woodland, living with wildlife |
| 04 pacific flyway and migratory birds station                           | 08 wetland plant communities and amphibians   |  |

## THE EAST & WEST NARROWS

The East and West Narrows are the narrowest sections of the site and run along the south edges of the Silver Lake Reservoir embankment. The primary feature of these linear corridors is the Promenade which includes overlooks and terraces at strategic locations to maximize views across the reservoir or to habitat islands.

Key Features of the West Narrows include:

- Seating Terraces
- Promenade

Key Features of the East Narrows include:

- Seating Terraces
- Fitness Circuit
- Overlook



## THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN

The new Park is conceived as a hybrid infrastructure that amplifies the use of the reservoir water bodies to attract and sustain wildlife, connect with nature and neighbors, and educate. The Master Plan design was inspired in great part by its rich history and narrative from a freshwater marsh and intermittent pond within Ivanhoe Canyon to a significant and iconic piece of Los Angeles water infrastructure.

The proposed Master Plan design consists of a series of seven overall park zones stitched together by a 2.5-mile, tree-lined Promenade. The zones include: The Meadow, The Knoll, Ivanhoe Overlook, Eucalyptus Grove, East and West Narrows, and the South Valley.



## THE SOUTH VALLEY: SILVER LAKE RECREATION CENTER

Anchored on the corner of Van Pelt Place and Silver Lake Boulevard, a new Multi-Purpose Building / Community Center, which will house one indoor basketball court, creates a welcoming entrance. Additional features of the South Valley include:

- Outdoor Plaza
- Relocated Basketball Court
- Relocated Play Field
- Renovated and Expanded Dog Park
- Picnic Area



## EDUCATION CENTER

The Education Center design includes small indoor and outdoor teaching and assembly spaces, where the unique opportunity of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex – the re-establishment and management of a healthy ecosystem within the context of an urban park – can be introduced, discussed, and studied by visitors of all ages.

The Center contains two interior classrooms. The classrooms are approximately 1,400sf and 1,000sf and can accommodate 50 to 35 people. The Center also contains a 180sf office for staff, storage rooms of 195sf and 100sf adjacent to each classroom, and public restrooms, which are directly accessible from the Promenade.



## THE KNOLL

The Knoll is a large hill offering expansive views over the reservoirs and Meadow, and includes 8.3 acres of woodland. The Master Plan proposes to enhance its upland, wooded character by proposing a replanting strategy, implemented over time, to increase species diversity and improve its overall habitat value.

The majority of the Knoll will be protected, restored California woodland habitat with the following features that allow limited access to enjoy the Knoll's views and support environmental education:

- Environmental Education Center - including a floating Dock for Guided Ecological Tours
- Universally Accessible Walking Trail with Wildlife Fences
- Shade Pavilion / Outdoor Classroom
- Seating Terraces

## KEY FEATURES by the numbers

<b>2.5 mile</b> PROMENADE	<b>5.5 ac</b> OPEN LAWN	<b>1.5 ac</b> GARDENS	<b>0.6 ac</b> SEATING TERRACES	<b>0.3 ac</b> PICNIC GROVE
<b>3.0 miles</b> PATHS & TRAILS		<b>1.3 ac</b> DOG PLAY	<b>0.3 ac</b> PLAY FIELDS & COURTS	<b>0.2 ac</b> PLAZAS
			<b>0.2 ac</b> PLAY	

## THE MEADOW



The Meadow is currently the community heart of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex. The Master Plan proposes to reconfigure and expand the existing Meadow's open lawn and shade trees to create unique views of the reservoirs and provide opportunities for people to interact with the water's edge.

Silver Lake Lawn extends from Silver Lake Boulevard down approximately nine feet in elevation to the water's edge, providing unobstructed, panoramic views out to the water. Terminating at a series of small walkways interwoven within wetland terraces, visitors are offered an immersive experience of the Park's new wetland ecologies. Floating wetland islands are located offshore, supplementing the wetland terraces with protected habitat for waterfowl. Primary features of the Meadow include:

- Great Lawn
- Silver Lake Lawn
- Pollinator Meadow and Rain Gardens
- Tree-lined Promenade
- Picnic Grove
- Informal Play Walk
- Seating Terraces
- Wetland Habitat

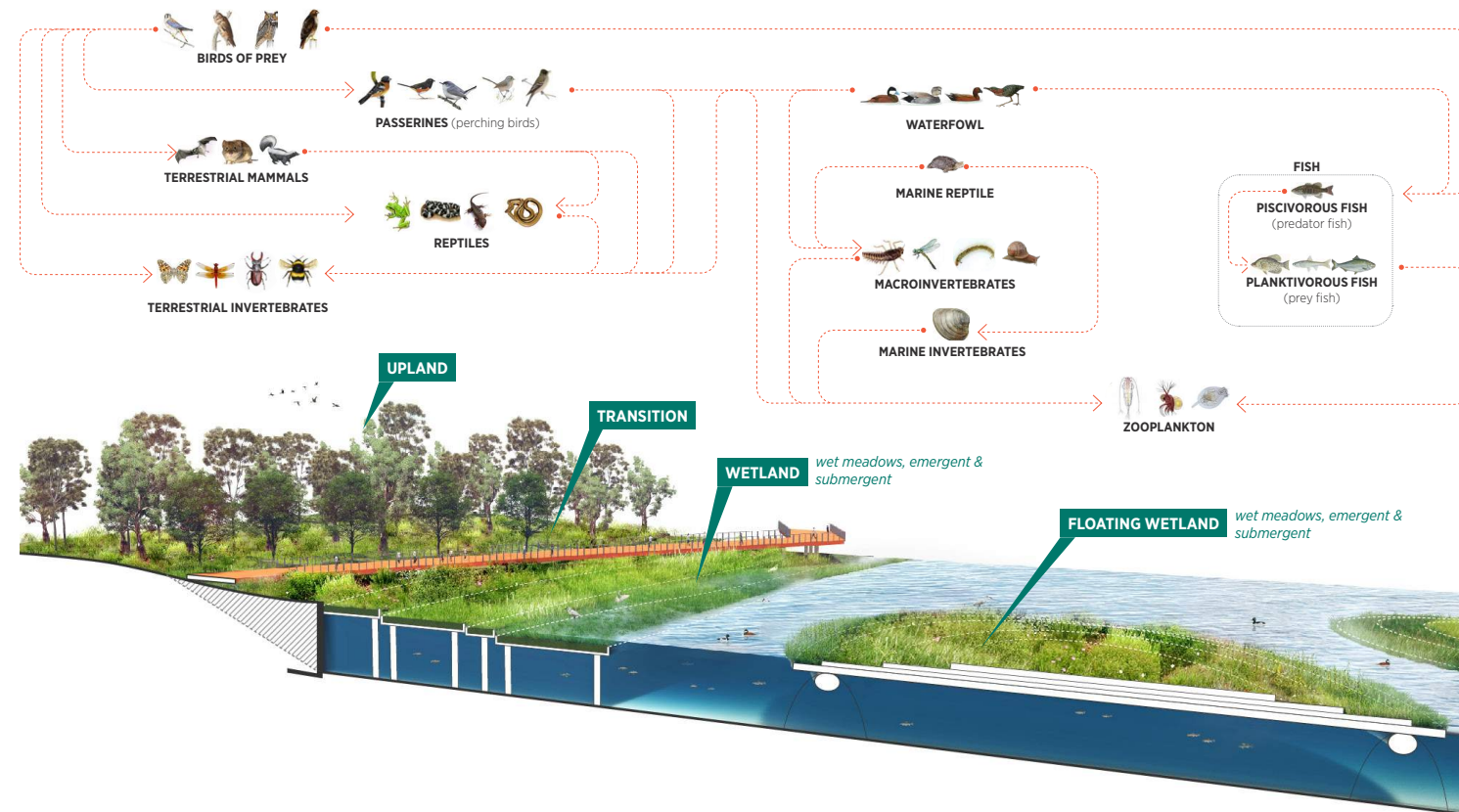


## HABITAT ENHANCEMENT & EXPANSION

Until recently, the Complex has been managed as a sterile reservoir to support the drinking water needs of Los Angeles. Its habitat value is moderate, and most significantly, it lacks food resources for birds and small terrestrial species. To remedy this, the Master Plan design focuses on increasing habitat diversity and introducing a food web, particularly for local and migratory waterfowl. The range of habitats proposed in the Master Plan will support an increasingly diverse array of birds, fish, amphibians, invertebrates, and other aquatic species. To provide this biodiversity, the Master Plan design maximizes the habitat value of existing wooded areas and creates new transition and wetland habitats.

total of **23 ACRES** reserved for habitat

**12 ac** UPLAND HABITAT + **04 ac** TRANSITION HABITAT + **07 ac** WETLAND HABITAT



## PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION

As long-term documents, Master Plans typically guide planning and implementation of community goals for 10 to 20 years. Master Plans are implemented once adopted by City Council and concurrence of the Mayor, environmental clearance, detailed design, permitting, and a park operator is identified. Implementation typically occurs in phases and in accordance with funding.

Eight potential stand-alone projects within the Master Plan design have been identified for construction phasing and fundraising. They are graphically shown with no implied order of priority.

Based on prior experience, each phase is estimated to take approximately 18- to 24-months to construct. Depending on funding, these phases can be constructed individually or collectively.

