

# CHAPTER 5

## MASTER PLAN

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## 5.1 Master Plan Overview

From its beginnings as a marshy pond within the natural hydrological system of Ivanhoe Canyon to its transformation into an iconic, man-made urban water body, the evolutionary trajectory of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex (SLRC) has been that of infrastructure. Building upon this narrative, the Master Plan design envisions the new Park as a hybrid infrastructure that blends urban wilderness with human uses, where traces of its history are made visible in the contemporary expressions of the community's aspirations.

The Master Plan proposes to introduce freshwater wetlands and aquatic habitat for the first time in over 100 years, an ecology that was slowly erased to meet the needs of a growing Los Angeles, and restore remnant woodland habitat from the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Woven within these bold environmental ambitions are places for the community to connect with nature and one another.

The Master Plan design was developed in concert with a robust, year-long community process that included five large Community Workshops and eight focused meetings with its Stakeholder Working Group. Details of this process and development of the Master Plan design can be found in Chapter 04.

**Figure 5-1** Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Master Plan Aerial View



## KEY THEMES

The following Key Themes, or goals, were established through the extensive community engagement 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.



### Wellness

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



### Community

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



### Family-Friendly

The park should create spaces for children to play and learn about their environment.



### Education

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



### Water Access

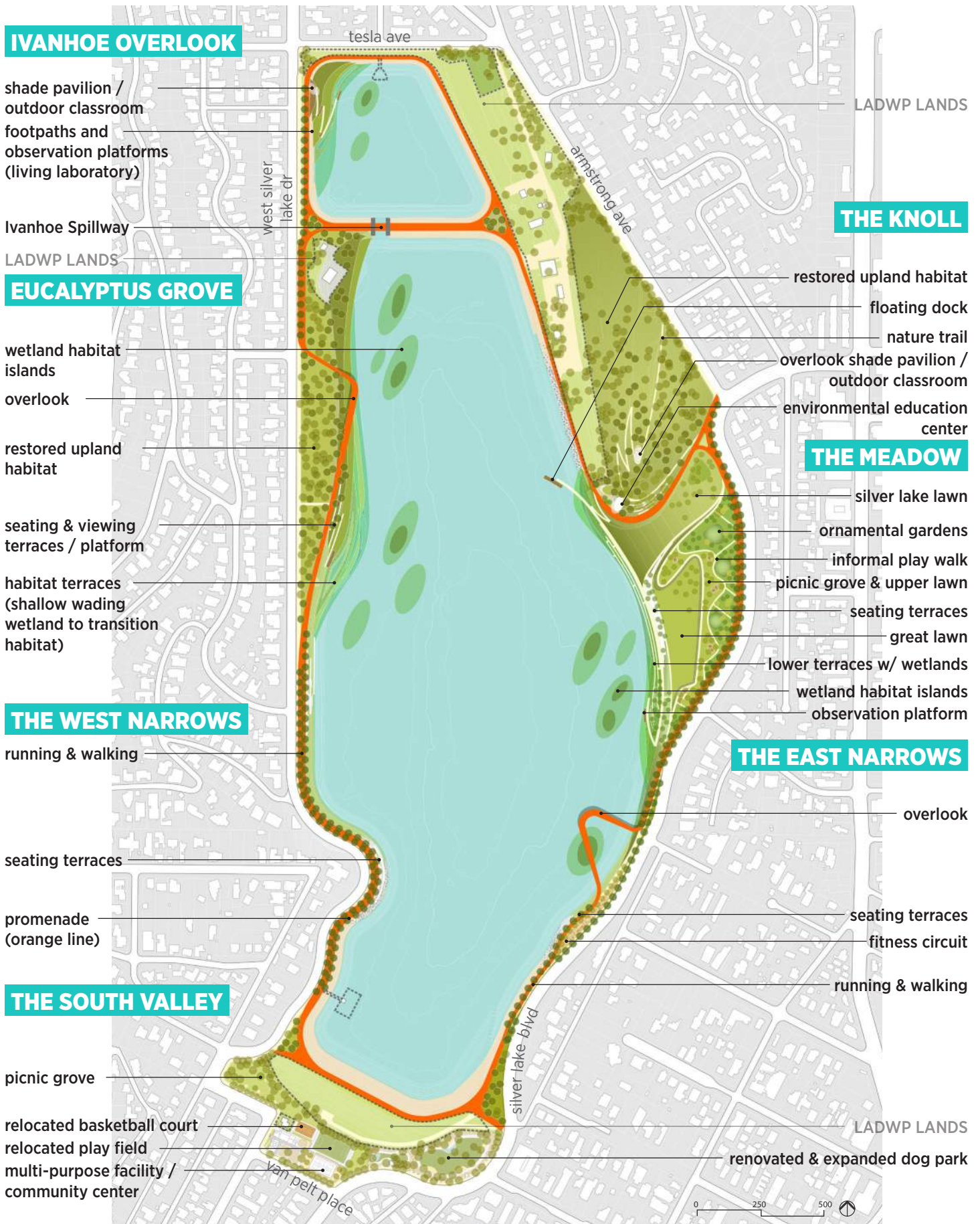
The park should offer opportunities to be at and on the water.

## 5.2 Park Zones

The proposed Master Plan design consists of a series of seven overall park zones stitched together by a tree-lined Promenade as shown in Figure 5-2. These zones include:

- The Meadow
- The Knoll
- The Ivanhoe Overlook
- The Eucalyptus Grove
- The East and West Narrows
- The South Valley

Figure 5-2 Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Master Plan



### 5.2.3 The Meadow

The Meadow is currently the community heart of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex. The Master Plan proposes to reconfigure and expand the Meadow's existing open lawn and shade trees. To enhance the unique views of the reservoirs and vary the experiences for people to interact with the water's edge, several elevation changes are incorporated in the new design.

A large, gently sloping lawn, Silver Lake Lawn, extends out from Silver Lake Boulevard and 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.

Along Silver Lake Boulevard, a wide, tree-lined Promenade connects to Ornamental Gardens, welcoming visitors into the Meadow with spaces for strolling and sitting. The Gardens will be a mix of native and regionally adapted, water wise (or drought tolerant) plants with an emphasis on pollinator species. Within the gardens are a series of depressions, or dells, which will function as rain gardens during winter months. Adjacent to the Gardens is an expansive Picnic Grove and informal play walk lined with interpretative, integrative elements such as berms and depressions that offer passive spaces for gathering and play.

A second flat, Great Lawn is set 5 feet below the Picnic Grove. This elevation change creates another unique experiential relationship to the reservoir, occupying a liminal zone between the top of the embankment and the water. Generous terraces with shade trees navigate the remaining elevation change between this lawn and the water's edge, providing ample, shaded seating with panoramic views of the open reservoir. These intersect with habitat terraces to the south and a small footpath leading to an observation platform. The design intent is to balance the cut and fill earthworks to execute these elements such that no off-haul or import of soil is required. See Figure 5-4 for a design plan of The Meadow.

*Although the Meadow area is shown to be within a DSOD restricted zone, this designation is out of date and proposed improvements will not require additional review and approval.*



**Figure 5-3** The Meadow Aerial View

Figure 5-4 The Meadow Detailed Plan







**view A** Right inside the park at Silver Lake Boulevard, a gently sloping lawn with shade trees opens up views to Silver Lake Reservoir and brings visitors down to the water’s edge. Sheltered between The Knoll and a grove of trees, Silver Lake Lawn is a perfect place for relaxing, finding peace, and enjoying nature.



**view B** An informal play walk featuring berms to climb and hang out on meanders between the Picnic Grove and Ornamental Gardens planted with a mix of natives and species adapted to southern California’s climate. The Ornamental Gardens feature plants for pollinators including migratory butterflies.



**view C** An small entry plaza near the intersection of Silver Lake Boulevard and Earl Street doubles as an overlook onto the Great Lawn and wetland terraces and islands. This shaded area of prospect offers a place for quiet reflection or meeting neighbors for a walk through the park's miles of paths and trails.



**view D** The end of sloped Silver Lake Lawn gives way to a series of seating platforms perched above wetland terraces and islands. Small footpaths into the wetlands provide moments of immersion to learn about wetland plant communities, amphibians, and the other small aquatic wildlife they support.

### 5.2.2 The Knoll

The Knoll is a large hill within the Complex and is comprised of 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.

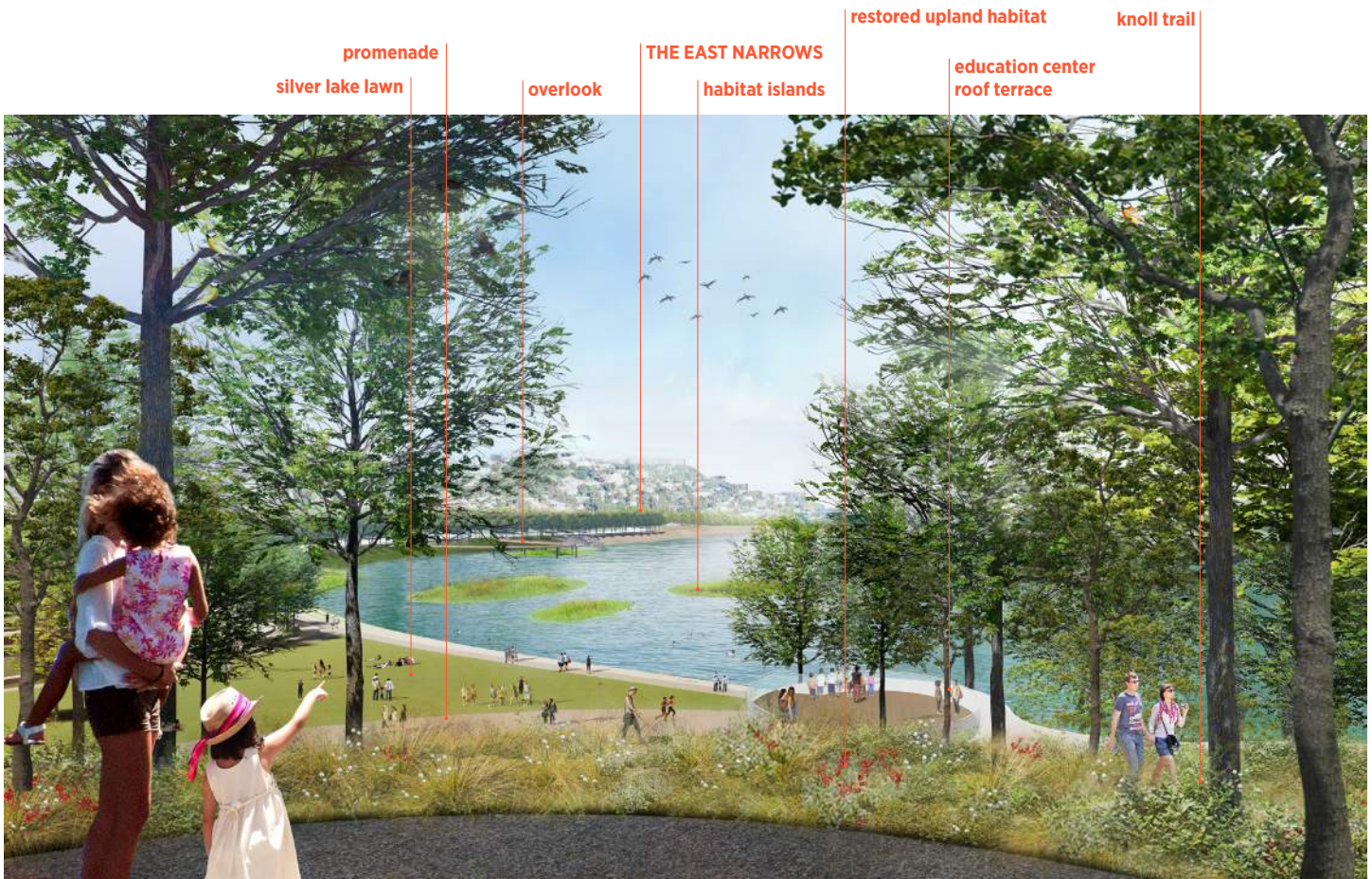
With an elevation change of 45,' The Knoll offers expansive views over the reservoirs. Universally accessible nature trails lead up its slopes from the Meadow and Armstrong Ave to a promontory with small shade pavilion and seating area that offers a peaceful place to rest and enjoy the views. Additionally, this area can be used for educational purposes to host small groups of students. To protect wildlife and keep people out of sensitive areas, habitat fences are provided along all the nature trails. All sensitive habitat areas will be closed at night. See section 5.6.5 and Chapter 06 for more information on habitat fences.

A small portion of The Knoll on its southern face is regraded to heighten its form and accommodate small seating terraces facing the Meadow. The Promenade wraps around its base, connecting the Meadow to the proposed Education Center along its western edge. The Environmental Education Center is tucked into The Knoll landscape overlooking the reservoir. The Center is connected directly to the reservoir via a universally accessible pathway that leading down to a floating dock which allows hands-on education and the possibility for guided kayak or canoe tours by ecologists. See Figure 5-5 for a design plan of The Knoll.

The design intent is to balance the cut and fill earthworks such that execution of these elements requires no off-haul or import of soil.



Figure 5-5 The Knoll Detailed Plan



**view A** At the top of the Knoll, a small promontory under a shade pavilion creates a moment to pause and enjoy expansive views of the reservoir and park through a restored southern California native woodland and across Silver Lake Lawn to habitat islands. Here, the interwoven ecological and cultural systems of the park are understood. The pavilion will double as an outdoor classroom associated with the Education Center which includes a small roof terrace observation platform.

### 5.2.1 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 new wetland habitat in the Complex and understanding the effectiveness of constructed wetland terraces and islands on water quality and aquatic habitat.

The design of Ivanhoe Overlook takes advantage of open views to the south of the Ivanhoe Reservoir with an observation deck extending out over wetland terraces which step down to the water. Small footpaths through these terraces lead to observational platforms that can be used for on-going monitoring and testing to inform how habitat is managed throughout the Complex. Complimenting the wetland terraces are two floating wetland islands.

A small shade pavilion with integrated seating provides a sheltered space for outdoor education or community gathering. Interpretive signage educates visitors about the operations of the Living Laboratory and its ecologies. See Figure 5-6 for a design plan of this area.

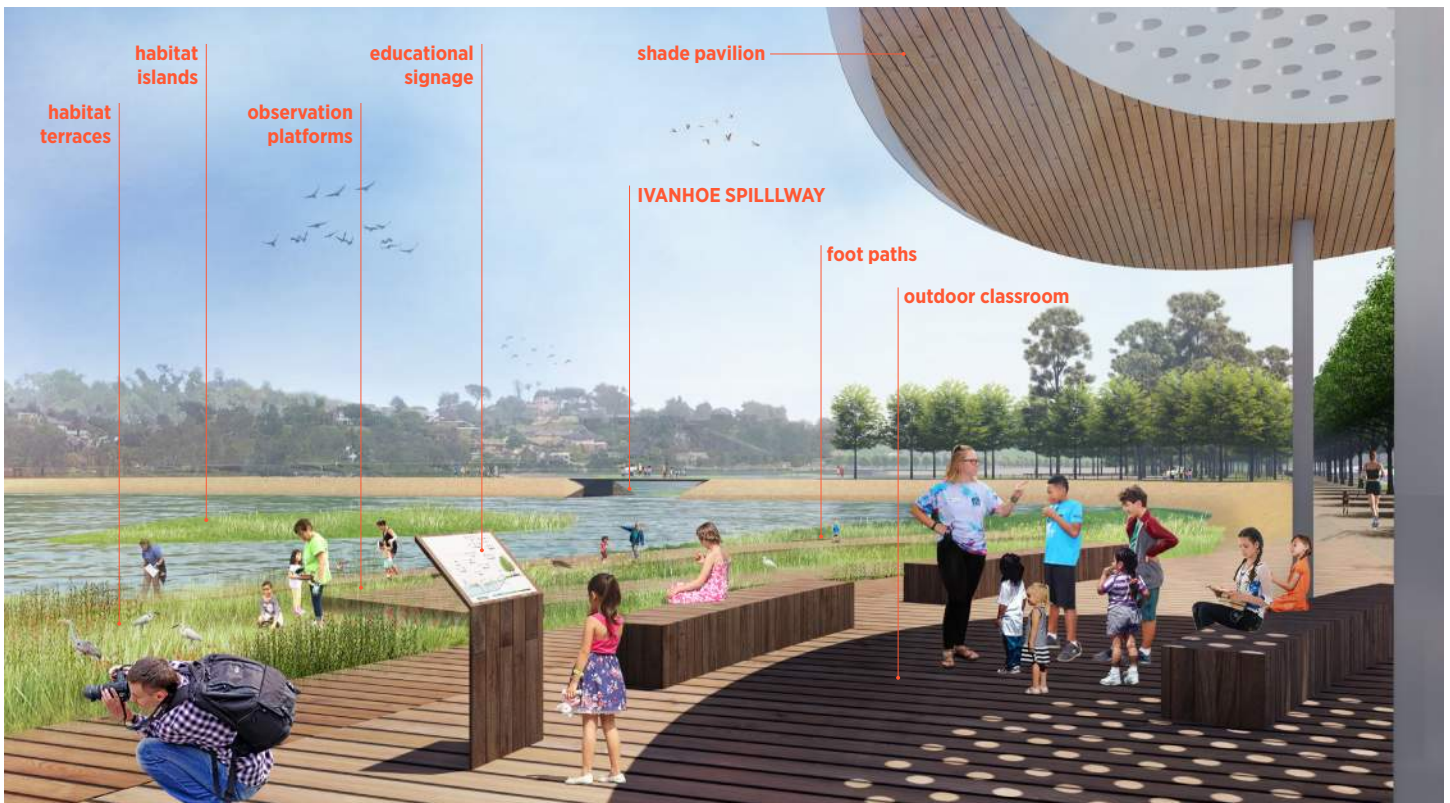
An existing Inlet Tower located on Ivanhoe Dam will remain in place and operational. Construction within the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) boundary will require additional review and approval.

Figure 5-6 Ivanhoe Overlook Detailed Plan





**view A** A small boardwalk brings research and academic collaborators and students through and into wetland terraces where plant community and aquatic species establishment as well as water quality can be monitored and studied.



**view B** A wood deck platform at the northwest edge of Ivanhoe features a shade pavilion and integrated seating which functions as gathering space and outdoor classroom. Interpretative signs will provide information about wildlife and updates on research and monitoring activities, keeping the community connected to the park's ecosystem function and management.

### 5.2.5 The 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. See section 5.6.5 and Chapter 06 for more information on habitat fences.

At the edge of Eucalyptus Grove, habitat terraces stretch out beyond the existing embankment edge creating a gradient of upland, transition, and wetland ecologies. A large overlook extends out over these terraces, offering a unique perspective to observe the new wetland habitat and a prime place for birdwatching. At the overlook, interpretive and educational signage will be included. Floating islands are added adjacent to the Eucalyptus Grove to further enhance this area's biodiversity and provide protected habitat for foraging and nesting. Figure 5-7 provides a design plan of these features and elements.

The design intent of this area is to balance a portion of cut and fill to create the habitat terraces, supplemented by pile supported landscape structures. Within the DSOD area, fill may be required to build the habitat terraces.

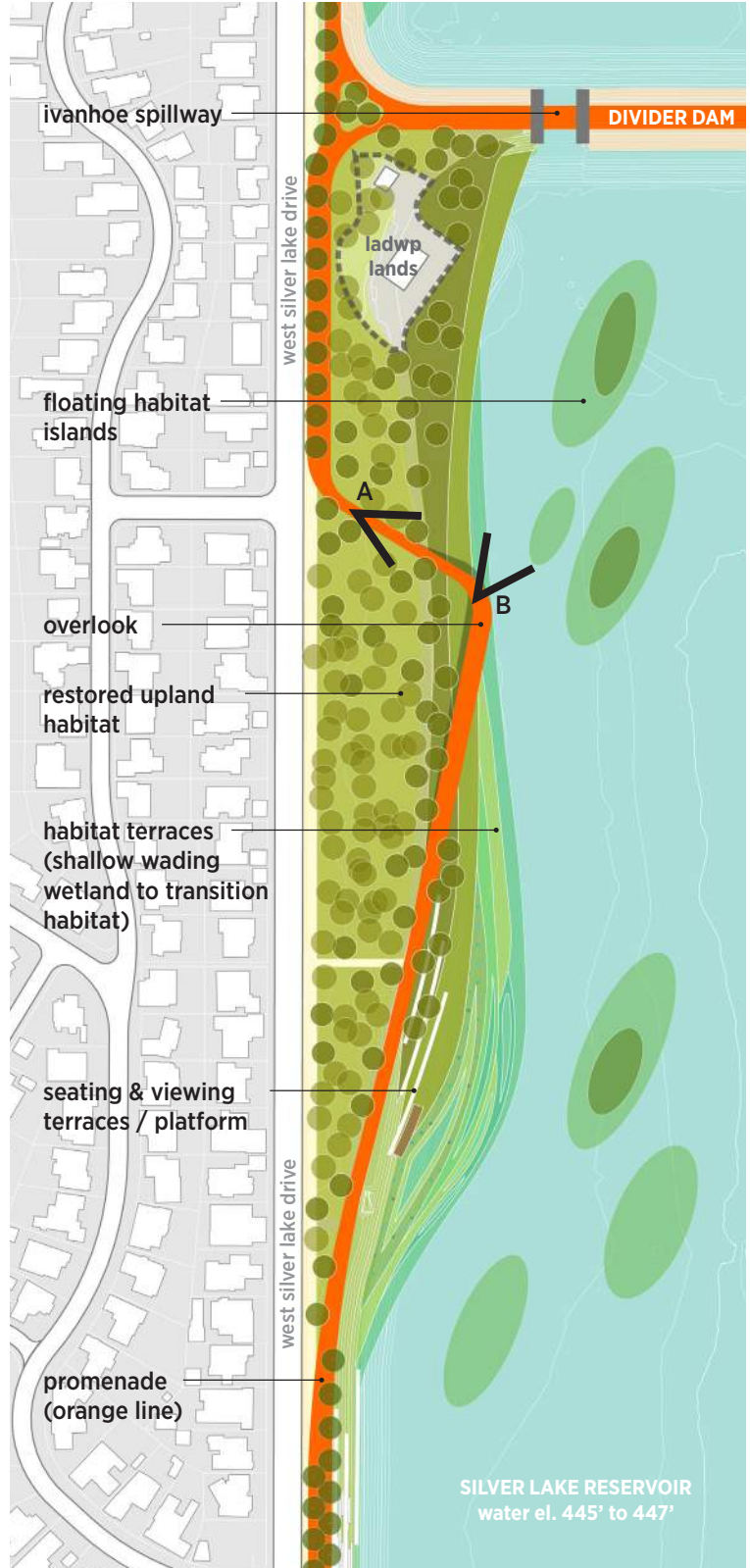


Figure 5-7 The Eucalyptus Grove Detailed Plan



**view A** The Promenade narrows where it crosses into the Eucalyptus Grove to minimize its footprint. The walkway is edged with habitat fences to protect wildlife and the restored native woodland plant community. It connects to an overlook beyond.



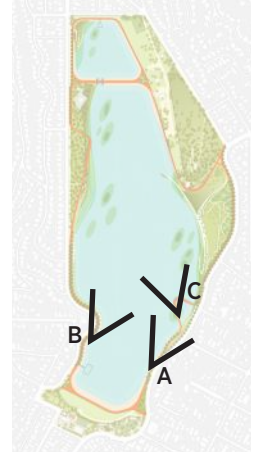
**view B** At the overlook, both wetland terraces and islands can be observed providing a superb location to learn about their habitat value and water quality function as well as the migratory waterfowl they support. This overlook is also equipped with free telescopes for bird watching and classes.



### 5.2.4 The East and 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 seating terraces at strategic locations to maximize views out and across the reservoir or to habitat islands.

On the East Narrows (Views A and C) along Silver Lake Boulevard a varying 3- to 4-foot grade separation from the road to the top of the embankment allows for a continuous seat wall to be added to the Promenade. There are also low, historic concrete walls along these road edges which will be recognized and incorporated into the Promenade design. Where the Promenade widens along the East Narrows, a fitness circuit is proposed, creating a connection to the Recreation Center. To amplify views across Silver Lake Reservoir to the San Gabriel Mountains in the distance, an elevated bridge swings out over the water and above a habitat island.



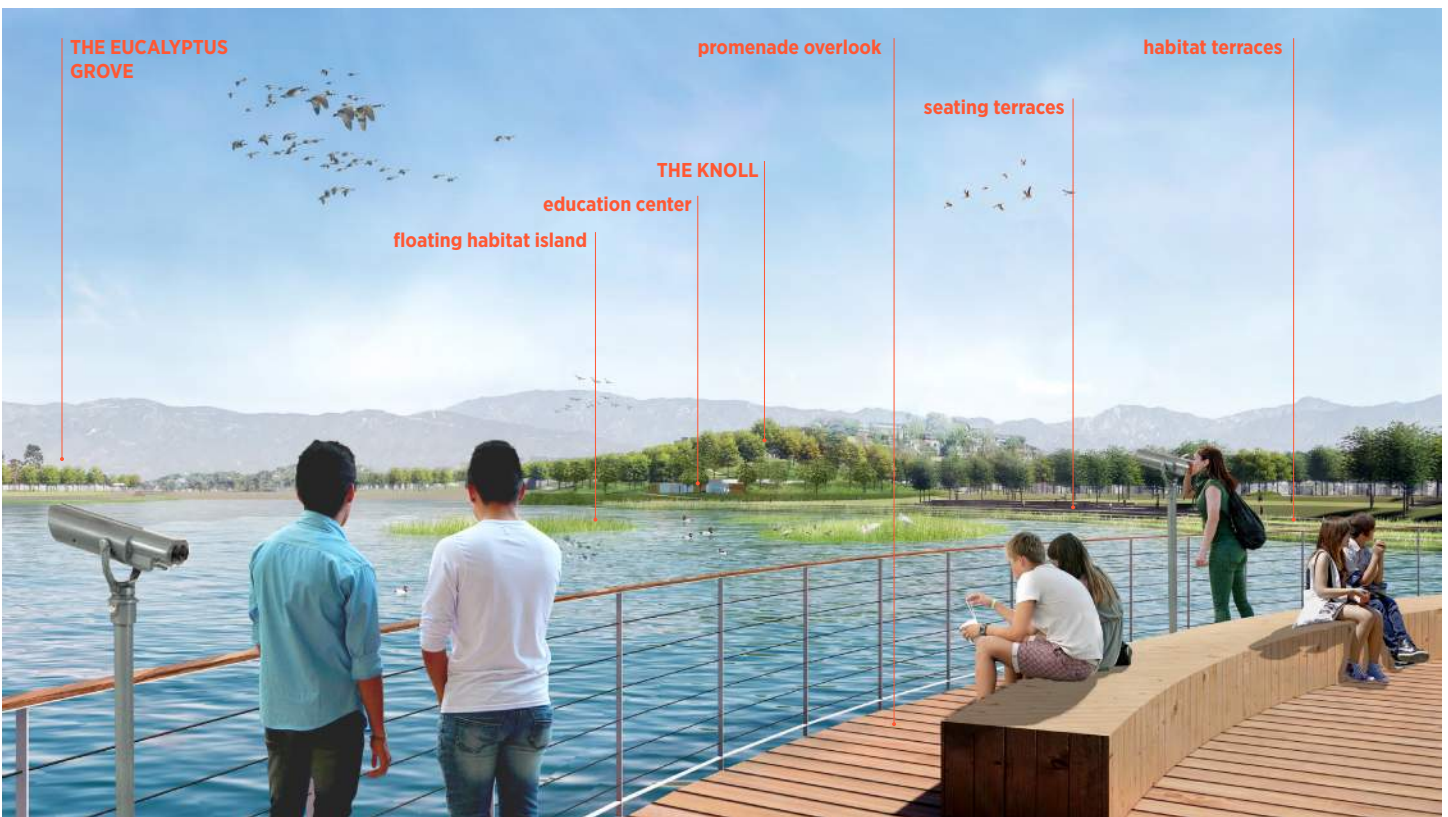
The West Narrows (View B) include seating terraces embedded into the embankment to provide seating for people to get to the water's edge and enjoy the expansive reservoir views. An allée of trees along the Promenade provides much needed shade and shelter.



**view A** Where the land between the reservoir and Silver Lake Boulevard widens, the Promenade incorporates a fitness circuit which is a connection to and extension of the Recreation Center in the South Valley. Small seating terraces step down the embankment slope creating a perfect perch for taking in amazing views and spectacular sunsets.



**view B** Stepped seating with coastal scrub gardens along the Promenade at West Silver Lake Boulevard offer sweeping views across the reservoir to the Knoll and Meadow.



**view C** An overlook bridge projects visitors out over the reservoir, offering views north across the water to the San Gabriel Mountains in the distance. With integrated seat walls and equipped with free telescopes, the overlook offers a great location for bird watching classes as well as observing seasonal migratory patterns.

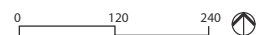
### 5.2.6 The South Valley: The Silver Lake Recreation Center

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 to the Recreation and Parks area. An outdoor plaza with shade trees and both integrated and movable seating, connects the existing Recreation Center and playground to the new facility. To accommodate this new building, the existing basketball court and playfield are relocated to the north of the Multi-Purpose Facility. The existing picnic area is relocated to the west sloping lawn and additional trees are incorporated to provide shade.

The dog play area is expanded and renovated to include two separate spaces for both small and large dogs. The area is re-graded, and materials are updated from decomposed granite to synthetic turf – a more durable surface to accommodate the high use of these spaces. Integrated seating, benches and shade structures allow dog owners a place to sit and relax while their dogs play. See Figure 5-8 for a design plan of this area.

Minor reconfiguration improvements to the Recreation Center will be included to provide additional office and storage space. Both the new facility and proposed modifications to the existing Recreation Center are discussed further in Section 5.4 Buildings & Structures.

Figure 5-8 South Valley Detailed Plan





**aerial** This bird’s-eye view shows the new Multi-Purpose Facility which anchors the southeast corner of the Recreation Center and relocated recreation field and basketball court.



**view A** The existing dog parks for large and small dogs are expanded and receive a major upgrade which includes durable artificial turf with play hills as well as new seating and shade trees and structures.

## 5.3 Spaces, Uses, and Activities

A balanced combination of spaces is needed to create a successful, multi-functional park. At the SLRC, these spaces will support a range of activities and uses based on the preferences of the community.

The most prominent community space is the Meadow. Here a 3.4-acre area of existing lawn and shade trees has been expanded to approximately 7.5 acres comprised of two lawn areas. These new flexible lawns can support a myriad of activities from the simplicity of cloud watching to large community events such as outdoor movies. At the lawn's edge, 12,000sf of picnic grove spaces provide a focal point for friends and family to gather next to 1.5 acres of ornamental gardens. Along Silver Lake Boulevard 8,000sf of the Promenade can accommodate regular or occasional farmer's markets.

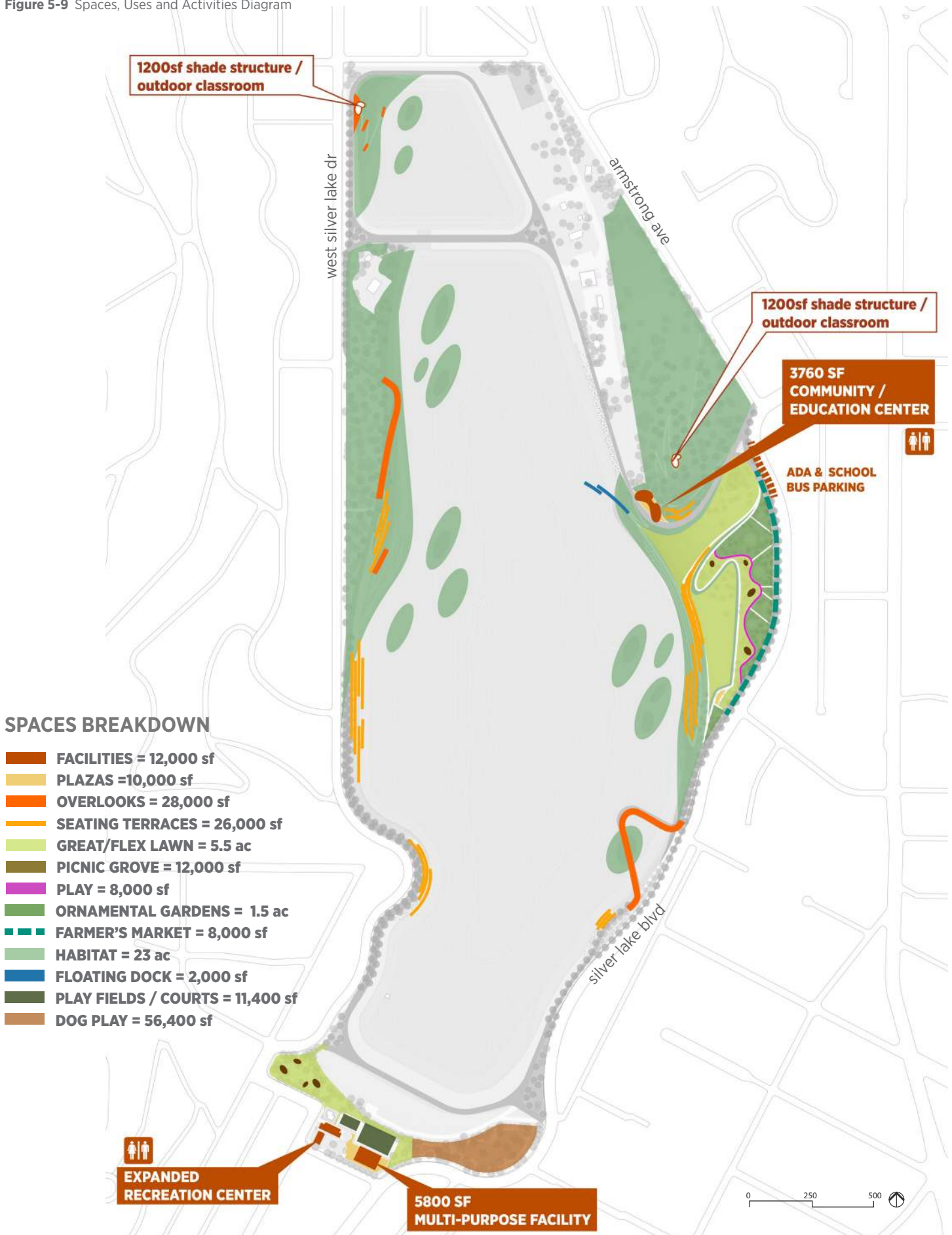
Distributed throughout the Complex, along the water's edge are 26,000sf of seating terraces for wildlife observation, sunset viewing, or spending time with friends and neighbors. Allowing more heightened views of wildlife, the reservoirs, and regional hills and mountains are 28,000sf of overlooks ranging from large bridge-like walkways to small, intimate platforms. To support the educational goals of the Master Plan, a 3,760sf education center and two 1,200sf shade pavilions which can double as outdoor classrooms are located at the Ivanhoe Dam and The Knoll. A small floating dock is proposed next to the education center to facilitate experiential, ecological-focused learning.

At the existing Silver Lake Recreation Center, several new and renovated spaces are planned. To offer more community programs and supplement its sports programs, a new 5,800sf multi-purposed building is proposed along with 11,400sf of relocated play fields and courts and 56,400sf of renovated and expanded dog play.

The largest proposed spaces within the Master Plan design are for habitat and wildlife. A total of 23 acres of the complex are dedicated to the restoration of existing upland and creation of new transition and wetland habitats. A thorough discussion of these spaces is provided in Chapter 06 Park Sustainability.

In sum, the Master Plan design includes a total of 33 acres of new useable space including 10 acres for active and passive recreation representing a 185% increase over what is currently offered at the Meadow. See Figure 5-9 for a breakdown of the spaces described above.

Figure 5-9 Spaces, Uses and Activities Diagram



## 5.4 Buildings & Structures

Four modest new structures will be constructed at strategic locations around the new Park to complement the daily activities of the park, provide assembly spaces for specific community activities, and offer shelter from the sun and rain. As visitors walk along the Promenade, these architectural nodes will help orient people and promote a sense of safety in the public open space. A sensible distribution of amenities is allocated to these structures with an emphasis on environmental education. In the South Valley, a new building will address the programmatic needs of a thriving Recreation Center.

### 5.4.1 Architecture Concept

The three structures located within the Complex proper, an Education Center and two Shade Pavilions, have been envisioned as an architectural ensemble that relate in form to the new floating habitat islands proposed by the Master Plan and the mid-century modern architecture of the Silver Lake neighborhood. The scale of these structures is tuned to the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood, while their construction is commensurate with durable, long-lasting public facilities. Their architectural expression is contemporary and relies on natural materials to blend into the surrounding landscape. As an ensemble, the three structures add coherency to the hierarchy of the Park, creating places of pause and connection to nature as well as one another.

The goals of the Master Plan include the highest degree of environmental quality. The climate of Los Angeles requires precise sustainable strategies that generate an energy-efficient, cost-effective, and meet City standards.



**aerial** The Knoll wraps around, over, and through the Education Center creating a seamless transition between landscape and architecture.

Figure 5-10 Education Center First Floor Plan

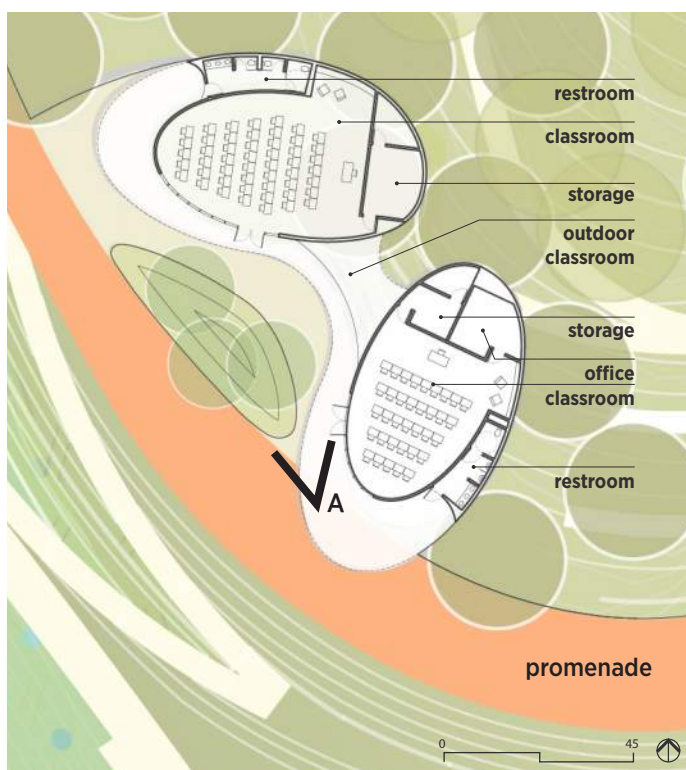
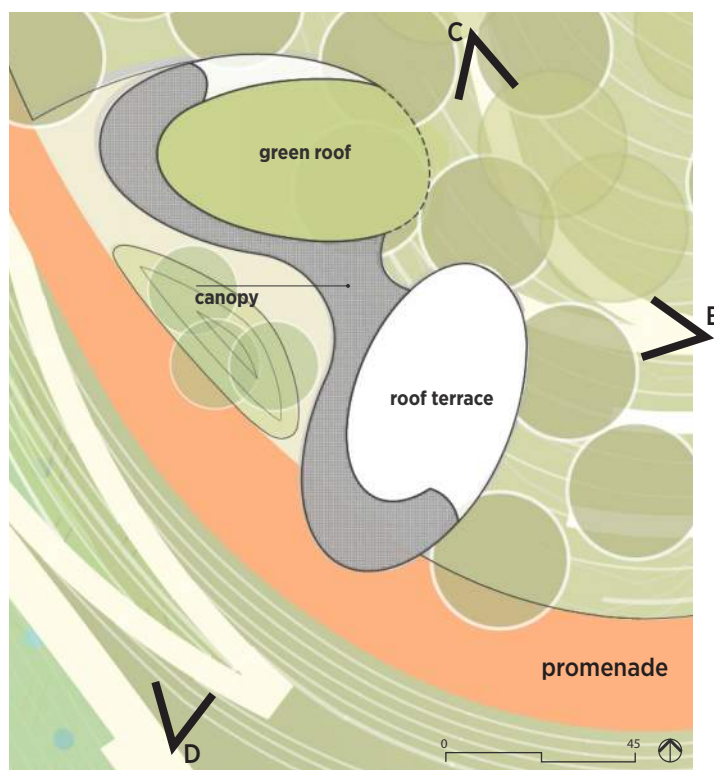


Figure 5-11 Education Center Roof Plan



## 5.4.2 Education Center

The Master Plan design includes an Education Center at the base of The Knoll, overlooking Silver Lake Reservoir. Located along the Promenade, adjacent to the Silver Lake Lawn, and easily accessible from Silver Lake Boulevard, the Education Center consists of a residential-scale building and seating terraces that are integrated in the topography of The Knoll and oriented to embrace views of the water.

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. It is meant to complement the educational space that is the Complex itself, a place where people can gather at the start and end of their visit, including school children on a field trip as part their environmental curriculum.

As shown in Figure 5-10, the Center contains two interior classrooms with a view of the water through a partially glazed, operable facade that open the teaching spaces to the exterior. The large classroom is a little over 1,400sf and can sit 50 people. A slightly smaller classroom is approximately 1,000sf with a capacity of 35 people. The Center also contains a 180sf office for staff, and storage rooms of 195 and 100 square feet adjacent to each classroom. Public restrooms, which are directly accessible from the Promenade, serve the Park as a whole.

The roof of the Education Center (Figure 5-11) is both a landing point along the path leading to the top of The Knoll, with a roof terrace overlooking the reservoirs and an extension of the landscape with a green roof connected to The Knoll's western slope. The Knoll envelopes the building, sliding through an opening between the two classrooms, creating a small, shaded amphitheater at the heart of the facility.

A shade canopy protects the amphitheater and extends over a plaza fronting the Education Center, creating a comfortable place for people to congregate on their journey around the Complex. The landscape of The Knoll spills onto the plaza in the form of a berm planted with native woodland trees.

As a education tool and demonstration feature, it is particularly important that the new Center be built to be environmentally sustainable. The building is clad in recycled wood, and optimizes natural ventilation, daylighting, and rainwater harvesting while minimizing heat island effects with shade trees.





**view A** The architecture provides an indoor/outdoor experience with sliding glass panels that open up to allow the classrooms to extend out into the landscape. The Knoll landscape cascades between the two classrooms with small seating terraces incorporated.



**view B** Moving up through The Knoll landscape, a path peels off to connect to the roof terrace of the education center providing a place of pause and lookout as well as a gathering space for outdoor education.



**view C** Moving down from the top of the Knoll, expansive views are framed by a dense tree canopy out and over the education center to the reservoir.



**view D** From the base of Silver Lake Lawn, a layering of vegetation leads from the waters edge, to the Promenade, and up to The Knoll. The education center sits within The Knoll and blends into the landscape.

### 5.4.3 Shade Pavilions

At the top of The Knoll, a shade pavilion shelters a promontory with a stunning view of the Silver Lake Reservoir, and a glimpse of the Education Center roof below. This pavilion is an amenity for all visitors climbing to the top of The Knoll, the highest point of the reservoir complex. It is also an extension of the Education Center as an outdoor classroom space for a group of 20 to 30 people providing shade and seating. A second pavilion is located at the Ivanhoe Overlook, another opportune place for visitors and students to gather during their excursion to the Complex. The pavilion is designed and positioned as a gateway to footpaths that descend through new wetland terraces and down to the Ivanhoe Reservoir where visitors will be able to touch the water and observe the flora and fauna up close.

The oval forms and materials of the shade pavilions are born out of the architecture of the Education Center, of which they are satellites.

### 5.4.4 Multi-Purpose Facility

Master Plan analysis identified a need for expanded facilities at the Silver Lake Recreation Center to better meet the needs of the community. A central piece of the Recreation Center expansion is the addition of a new Multi-Purpose Facility to replace the existing undersized gymnasium, which will become dance and art studios.

The proposed 5,800sf facility is located at the corner of Silver Lake Boulevard and Van Pelt Place and frames a new, intimate plaza at the heart of the recreation campus. Wrapping around the free-standing Multi-Purpose Facility, the plaza provides an inviting entrance from Van Pelt Place at mid-block and at the corner of Silver Lake Boulevard. Large windows face the street and offer views of the activities inside. The building can be entered from the east and the west through wide, glass roll-up doors that can remain open on most days of the year.

Its simple architecture is designed to fit well in the context of the existing recreation center with its traditional Spanish style. The new building has a gabled weathering steel roof with a rust color similar to the clay tiles of the existing building. The facade is clad in wood and the underside of the timber roof structure is exposed inside and outside as it cantilevers over the entry plazas to provide shade and weather protection for continuous seat walls facing the relocated play field to the north and the street to the south. The new building is conceived to be environmentally sustainable by using recycled, renewable, and local materials and optimize natural ventilation and daylighting.

The building is sized to support a variety of programming amenities including an elementary school basketball court of 74 feet by 42 feet. The north side of the court will be lined with three rows of seating risers. Its built-in sports equipment will include retractable basketball hoops, a volleyball net on removable posts doweled into the floor, demountable indoor soccer nets and an electronic scoreboard. In addition to housing youth sports activities, the Multi-Purpose Facility can be used as an assembly space for various community events and as a polling station. See Figure 5-13 for a design plan of the Silver Lake Recreation Center improvements.



**view A** Around the new Multi-Purpose Facility, an outdoor plaza welcomes the community from Van Pelt Place and connects to the existing Recreation Center and Playground.

### 5.4.5 Existing Recreation Center Upgrades

The existing Recreation Center needs an expansion and remodel to respond to the increasing neighborhood demand for youth activities. The new Multi-Purpose Facility will allow the South Valley to work contiguously with the SLRC in terms of programming and neighborhood life.

The exterior of the existing building will be preserved and repainted while its interior will be remodeled to create new spaces. The windows and doors may have to be replaced to meet current energy code requirements, and the building structure may have to be upgraded to meet current seismic code. Four glass skylights, approximately 4 feet by 8 feet, will be added to the roof of the existing gymnasium in order to be repurposed.

The south wing of the building will be devoted to administrative functions and services. It already contains restrooms, which will be upgraded, and the existing meeting room will be used for staff offices. The north wing will be almost entirely devoted to new and improved activities. With the addition of the larger Multi-Purpose Facility, the existing high-bay gymnasium will be transformed into a series of activity spaces. A mezzanine will be added, served by a new exterior stair and elevator, to house a new Art Studio which will overlook a new two-story tall Dance Studio below, with resilient wood flooring, mirrors and ballet bars. The kitchen will be relocated under the mezzanine and improved with new counters, cabinets and equipment. Next to the kitchen will be to a new Game Room. The space vacated by the kitchen will be converted into a storage room. See Figures 5-14 and 5-15 for conceptual sections of the proposed space reallocations.

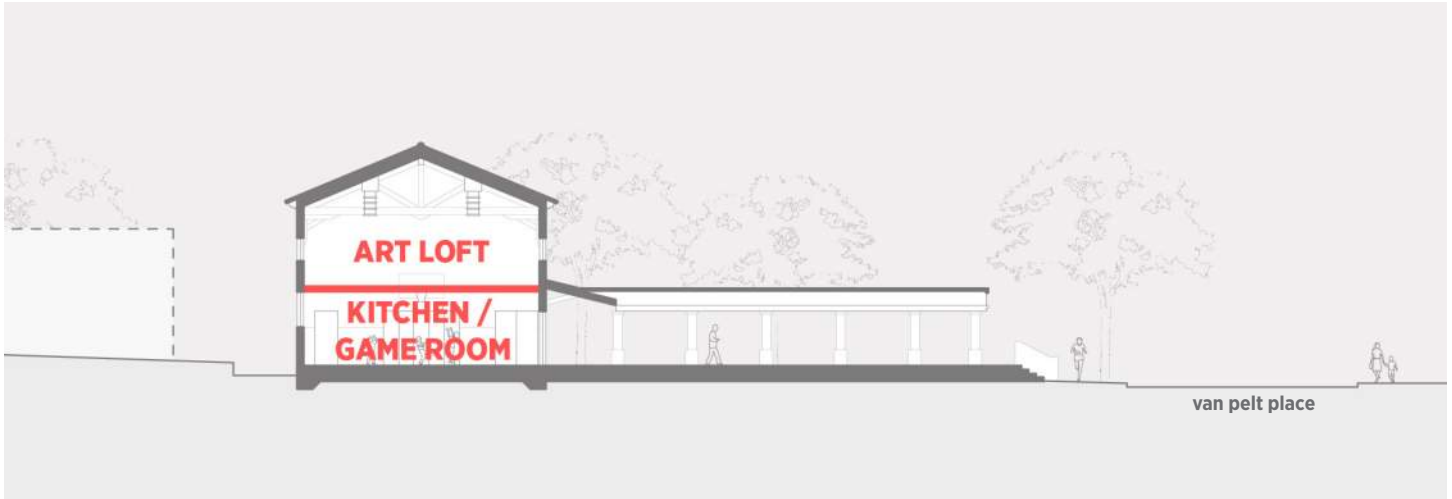


Figure 5-14 Proposed North-South Section through Recreation Center

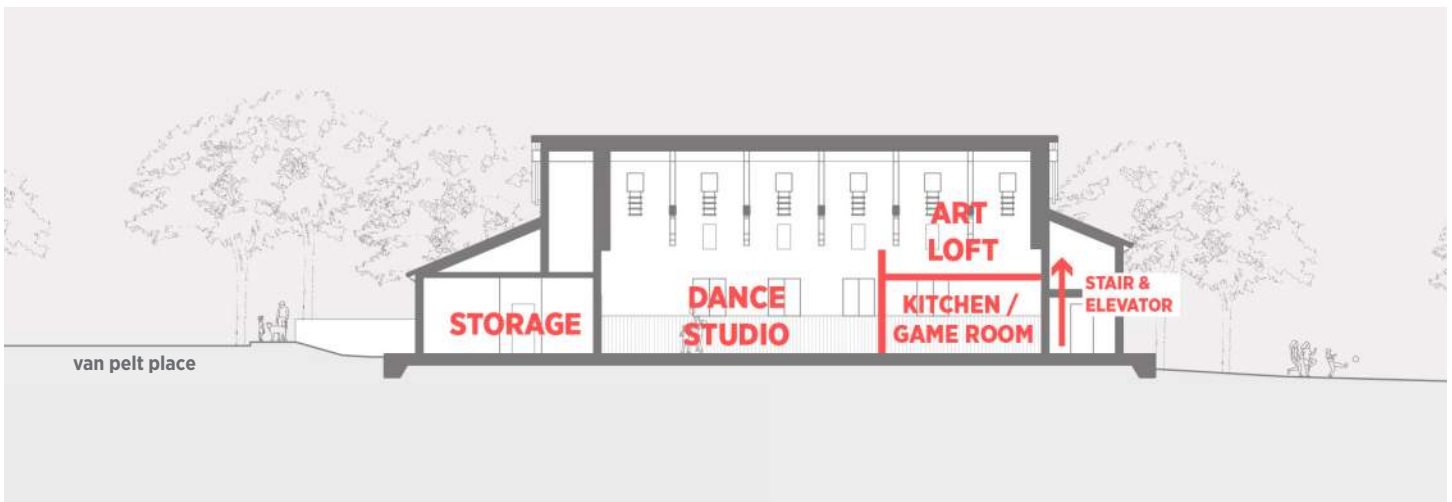


Figure 5-15 Proposed East-West Section through Recreation Center

## 5.5 Historic-Cultural Monument Designation Analysis

As noted in Chapter 02, the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex is designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM No. 422) and subject to the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance and consequent compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards).

These Standards consider the impact of proposed alternations to a historic property on its character defining features. The proposed Master Plan design was evaluated against the Standards for compliance. Note, not every Standard will apply to every aspect of a given project, nor is it necessary to comply with every Standard to achieve compliance. Below is a summary of a more detailed analysis located in the Master Plan Report Appendices.

- Standard 1.** *A property will be used as it was historically or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.*  
The proposed site plan complies with Standard #1 because the new use will require minimal change to the defining characteristics of the property and its environment. The reservoirs will remain large open bodies of water and other character defining land uses such as the Knoll and Eucalyptus Grove will be preserved overall. Features and spaces that will be substantially altered do not date from the period of significance and are therefore not character defining. These include the Silver Lake Meadow.
- Standard 2.** *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*  
The proposed site plan complies with Standard #2 because the historic character of the property will be retained and preserved overall. Character-defining features that will be altered as part of the Master Plan design include the embankments and perimeter paths of the Ivanhoe and Silver Lake Reservoirs which will not diminish the historic character of the complex overall.
- Standard 3.** *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.*  
The SLRC Master Plan has developed conceptual designs that comply with Standard #3. New features will be adequately differentiated as new by their design, modern assembly, and hardware. They will not create a false sense of historical development.
- Standard 4.** *Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.*  
The proposed site plan complies with Standard #4, as none of the changes to the Complex since 1953 have acquired significance in their own right.
- Standard 5.** *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*  
The proposed site plan complies with Standard #5 because distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the property will be preserved. Features and finishes that will be removed generally

consist of utilitarian and common materials, such as the concrete and asphalt paving at the embankments and perimeter paths. Although Ivanhoe and Silver Lake Reservoir embankments will be altered, neither is an example of distinctive construction techniques.

**Standard 6.** *Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.*

The proposed site plan complies with Standard #6 to the extent feasible. The replacement of missing historic features is not proposed and the only deteriorated historic features that will be removed and replaced are the mature trees located throughout the complex that have reached the end of their natural lifespans.

**Standard 7.** *Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.*

The proposed site plan complies with Standard #7 because no treatments that would cause damage to historic materials are proposed.

**Standard 8.** *Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.*

The proposed site plan complies with Standard #8 because there are no known archeological resources within the Complex.

**Standard 9.** *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*

The proposed site plan complies with Standard #9. New construction is properly located within the complex and because of the variations in the topography and the overall scale of the complex, new features, including three proposed new structures will not dominate the complex's significant view sheds. New features and structures are modest in massing, size, and scale as well as differentiated from the old by their modern design and assemblies.

**Standard 10.** *New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

The proposed site plan complies with Standard #10. New additions and related new construction are freestanding. Therefore, if removed at a later date, the essential form and integrity of the Complex and its environment would be unimpaired.

When reviewed against the Standards, the proposed Master Plan design complies with the intent and guidance set forth.

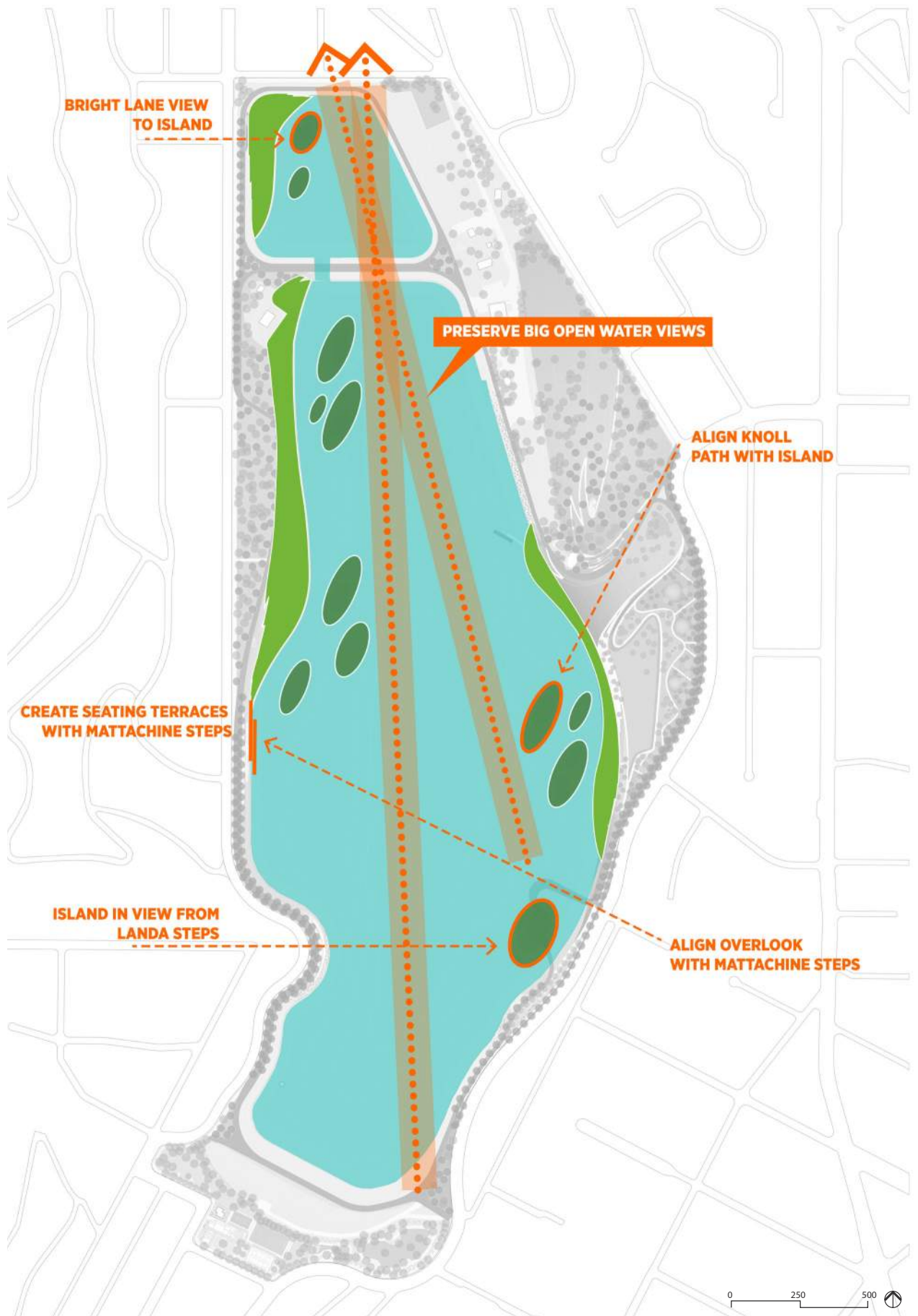
The Master Plan design was inspired in great part by its rich history from a freshwater marsh and intermittent pond within Ivanhoe Canyon to a significant and iconic piece of Los Angeles water infrastructure. It is with measured attention that traces of this evolutionary trajectory are made visible in the contemporary expressions of the complex's vision and future.



## PRESERVING VIEWS

As noted in Chapter 03, views within and around the SLRC are varied from small, layered views to large, significant views across the water bodies to the surrounding mountains. Elements in the Master Plan design are located to preserve these big, open water views while creating visual interest and connections between the neighborhood and the proposed park. Two big open water views were identified which should be preserved as shown in Figure 5-16 and for which the floating wetland habitat islands anchorages will need to accommodate. Smaller, but significant relationships between Park elements and the surrounding neighborhood are also depicted in Figure 5-16.

Figure 5-16 View Diagram



## 5.6 Park-Wide Systems

The Complex will be defined by several overlapping park-wide systems integral to its character and function. These systems create the common threads that link the Park's diverse spaces and landscapes together, and provide a unique overall identity specific to the Silver Lake Community. Frameworks have been developed at a Master Plan level for the following park-wide systems: Planting, Circulation, Lighting, Embankment Edge, and Fencing and Guardrails.

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## 5.6.1 Planting

The planting design for the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex is founded on the community's aspirations to connect with nature and maximize habitat for wildlife. It is also aligned with the City's New Green Deal goals of increasing tree canopy and protecting native biodiversity.

The planting palettes in the following pages draw inspiration from the rich riparian and foothill landscapes of Southern California and represent an intersection of four distinct regional ecological zones: southern oak woodland, riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and freshwater wetland. The Park's planting approach expresses this rich ecological intersection throughout eight planting zones ranging from gardens within the Promenade, Ornamental Gardens, and the Embankment to habitat areas.

All habitat plant communities will be comprised of native species representative of the above regional ecologies to support wildlife foraging and nesting. The garden areas will be a combination of native and drought tolerant species appropriate to the Los Angeles region to provide visual and seasonal interest within the Park and provide a plant palette adapted to climate change.

In combination, the native and non-native plantings will represent a significant horticultural collection with educational opportunities to foster partnerships with arboreta, botanical gardens, and universities. Lawn is used sparingly and strategically distributed where needed to support multi-function cultural and recreational uses. See Figure 5-16 for a plan of the planned planting zones.

Figure 5-17 Planting Diagram



**LEGEND**

- PROMENADE
- PICNIC GROVE
- ORNAMENTAL GARDENS
- DELL RAIN GARDENS
- LAWN
- EMBANKMENT / SLOPES
- UPLAND
- TRANSITION
- WETLAND



**PLANTING ZONE: Promenade Sample Palette**

The design intent for the Promenade planting is to define this corridor as a singular element as it wraps around and through the Park. A single tree species should be specified for this element that provides shade, is native or adapted, uniform in habit, and medium to fast growing. The Promenade trees will be planted in linear rows. The understory of the promenade should be planted with a palette that reflects a native coastal scrub ecology, is pollinator positive, and is suitable as ornamental planting and infiltrating stormwater runoff from the Promenade. A sample palette of plants for the Promenade is provided below.

**TREES**



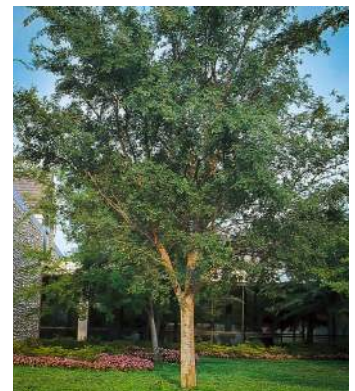
**Alamo Sycamore**  
*Platanus mexicana 'Alamo'*



**California Sycamore**  
*Platanus racemosa*



**Pasadena Oak**  
*Quercus engelmannii*



**Drake's Chinese Elm**  
*Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake'*

**SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER**



common name	scientific name
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefoium</i>
Tufted Hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>
Bush Sunflower	<i>Encelia californica</i>
Elk Blue California Gray Rush	<i>Juncus patens 'Elk Blue'</i>
Dwarf Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia 'Breeze'</i>
Deer Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>
White Sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>
Cleveland Sage	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>

### PLANTING ZONE: Picnic Grove Sample Palette

Planting for the Picnic Grove should be a simple palette with a mix of medium to large, deciduous and evergreen trees punctuated with a smaller, flowering accent tree. Trees should be planted in loose groupings to create a diversity of sun and shade in this area. The understory is envisioned as a no-mow grass blend tolerant of foot traffic. A sample palette of plants for the Picnic Grove is provided below.

#### TREES



**Coral Gum**  
*Eucalyptus torquata*



**Modesto Ash**  
*Fraxinus velutina var. glabra*



**Torrey Pine**  
*Pinus torreyana*

#### SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER



No mow grass blend



**PLANTING ZONE: Ornamental Gardens**

The design intent for the Ornamental Gardens is to provide a mix of native and adapted species with high pollinator and wildlife value as well as a seasonal diversity. Trees should be a blend of deciduous and evergreen species of varying size. The understory is proposed as a meadow of drought-tolerant grasses and succulents to provide year round interest. This meadow is punctuated by a series of depressions, or Dells, that will function as rain gardens and planted with native, pollinator positive, flowering species to provide a burst of seasonal color. A sample palette for the Ornamental Gardens is provided below.

**TREES**



Arbutus  
*Arbutus x 'Marina'*



Catalina Ironwood  
*Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp asplenifolius*



African Sumac  
*Rhus lancea*



Tipu Tree  
*Tipuana tipu*

**SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER**



- | common name               | scientific name                          |
|---------------------------|--|
| Foxtail Agave             | <i>Agave attenuata</i>                   |
| Twin-flowered Agave       | <i>Agave geminiflora</i>                 |
| Shaw's Agave              | <i>Agave shawii</i>                      |
| Purple Three-Awn          | <i>Arista purpurea</i>                   |
| Blond Ambition Blue Grama | <i>Bouteloua gracilis blond ambition</i> |
| Tufted Hairgrass          | <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>            |
| California Poppy          | <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>          |
| Red Yucca                 | <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>             |
| Bull Grass                | <i>Muhlenbergia emersleyi</i>            |
| Deer Grass                | <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>               |

**DELL RAIN GARDENS**



- | common name          | scientific name                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Paprika Yarrow       | <i>Achillea millefolium 'Paprika'</i> |
| Doug Iris            | <i>Iris douglansiana</i>              |
| Sticky Monkey Flower | <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>            |
| Hummingbird Sage     | <i>Salvia spathacea</i>               |
| Woolly Blue Curls    | <i>Trichostema lanatum</i>            |

**PLANTING ZONE: Lawn**

The lawns are intended to be flexible spaces with a mix of sun and shade provided by large shade trees tolerant of some irrigation needed for the lawn grass. Trees should be a blend of medium to large, deciduous and evergreen species chosen for their stature and seasonal color. They should be planted in loose groups of single and mixed species. The lawn species must be suitable to sun and shade conditions, hardy, and tolerant of high foot traffic. A sample palette for the Lawns is provided below.

**TREES**



Evergreen Ash  
*Fraxinus uhdei*



Blue Jacaranda  
*Jacaranda mimosifolia*



California Sycamore  
*Platanus racemosa*



Big Leaf Maple  
*Acer macrophyllum*

**LAWN**



turf grass  
hybrid bermuda grass

**PLANTING ZONE: Upland**

Trees in the Upland habitat zone should be a mix a native, deciduous and evergreen trees of varying sizes selected for their wildlife and biodiversity value. The understory is intended to be comprised of a drought-tolerant, native species indicative of a woodland / coastal scrub ecotone. A high proportion of these plants should be fruiting species to provide wildlife food resources as well as nesting habitat. A sample palette for the Uplands habitat zone is provided below.

**TREES**



**Western Redbud**  
*Cercis occidentalis*



**Western Hackberry**  
*Celtis reticulata*



**Catalina Ironwood**  
*Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius*



**California Sycamore**  
*Platanus racemosa*



**Torrey Pine**  
*Pinus torreyana*



**Catalina Cherry**  
*Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii*



**Coast Live Oak**  
*Quercus agrifolia*



**Pasadena Oak**  
*Quercus engelmannii*



**Cork Oak**  
*Quercus suber*

**SHRUBS & GROUND COVER**



common name

- Lester Rowntree Manzanita
- John Dourley Manzanita
- Coyote Bush
- Flannel Bush
- Toyon
- Shrub Oak
- California Coffeeberry
- Lemonade Berry
- Hummingbird Sage
- Mexican Elderberry

scientific name

- Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Rowntree'
- Arctostaphylos* 'John Dourley'
- Baccharis pilularis*
- Fremontodendron californicum*
- Heteromeles arbutifolia*
- Quercus berberidifolia*
- Rhamnus californica*
- Rhus integrifolia*
- Salvia spathacea*
- Sambucus mexicana*

**PLANTING ZONE: Transition**

Plants in the in the Transition habitat zone should be a blend of native species indicative of an ecotone between upland and wetland ecologies. The trees should be a mix of deciduous and evergreen species of varying sizes selected for their wildlife and biodiversity value. A high proportion of the understory plants should be fruiting species to provide wildlife food resources as well as nesting habitat. A sample palette for the Transition habitat zone is provided below.

**TREES**



**White Alder**  
*Alnus rombifolia*



**Bigberry Manzanita**  
*Arctostaphylos glauca*



**Fremont Cottonwood**  
*Populus fremontii*



**Red Willow**  
*Salix laevigata*

**SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER**



common name

- California Sagebrush
- Coyote Brush
- Seep Willow
- Bush Sunflower
- California Buckwheat
- Monkey Flower
- White Sage

scientific name

- Artemisia californica*
- Baccharis pilularis*
- Baccharis salicifolia*
- Encelia californica*
- Eriogonum fasciculatum*
- Mimulus spp*
- Salvia apiana*

## PLANTING ZONE: Wetland

Plant species in the Wetlands habitat zone should be indicative of the three wetland sub-types communities planned in the Park and for their wildlife value. These plants should comprise a range of sizes to create a diversity of nesting opportunities and appropriate for creating aquatic habitat. A sample palette for the Wetlands habitat zone is provided below by sub-type.

### WET MEADOW



common name	scientific name
Field Sedge	<i>Carex praegracilis</i>
Tufted Hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>
American Bistort	<i>Bistorta bistortoides</i>
Wire Rush	<i>Juncus balticus</i>

### EMERGENT



common name	scientific name
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>
Tule Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>
Common Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>

### SUBMERGENT



common name	scientific name
Coon's Tail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>
Duck Weed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
Pond Weed	<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>

## PLANTING ZONE: Embankment / Slopes

Plant species used to replace the existing embankment edge and on other steep slopes in the Park should be native, coastal scrub species suitable for up to 2:1 slopes. These plants should be moderately low-growing and also offer wildlife and pollinator value. A sample palette for the embankment and slopes is provided below.

### SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVER



#### common name

California Sagebrush  
Dwarf Coyote Bush  
Buffalograss  
California Buckwheat  
Hummingbird Sage

#### scientific name

*Artemisia californica*  
*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point'  
*Buchloe dactyloides*  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum*  
*Salvia spathacea*

## 5.6.2 Circulation

A hierarchy of pedestrian paths provide universal access throughout the Complex which includes: The Promenade, the Primary Paths, and the Secondary Paths. Connections to the Park from the surrounding neighborhood were informed by the existing bus stop locations along West Silver Lake Drive (201) and Glendale Boulevard (92) as well as the existing pedestrian pathways in the neighborhood. This network is depicted by Figure 5-18.

To allow for universal access to park amenities as well as accommodate larger group education programs, an accessible vehicle and bus parking location has been identified at the corner of Silver Lake Boulevard and Armstrong Avenue. To create safe points of entry into the Park, new pedestrian-activated flashing beacon crossings are proposed along Silver Lake Boulevard and West Silver Lake Drive (Figure 5-18). The pathways described below are intended to be pedestrian only with bike circulation around the perimeter.

### THE PROMENADE

The Promenade is a 2.5-mile continuous walking / running loop connecting all the park zones to one another and the reservoirs. The Promenade is envisioned as both place and connector. On average, it will be 25-feet wide with generous seating and 5-foot wide ornamental planting bands along its edges. These will double as rain gardens during winter months. At a minimum, the Promenade will maintain a 15-foot clear pathway for LADWP maintenance and operations. See Figure 5-19 and it's related conceptual sections for more information on the Promenade design.

### THE PRIMARY PATHS

The primary paths are a minimum 10-foot width and connect major destinations and link edges (at street intersections) to the Promenade.

### THE SECONDARY PATHS

The smallest pathways at 6-feet in width, secondary paths will provide casual circulation within the gardens, terraces, and habitat areas.

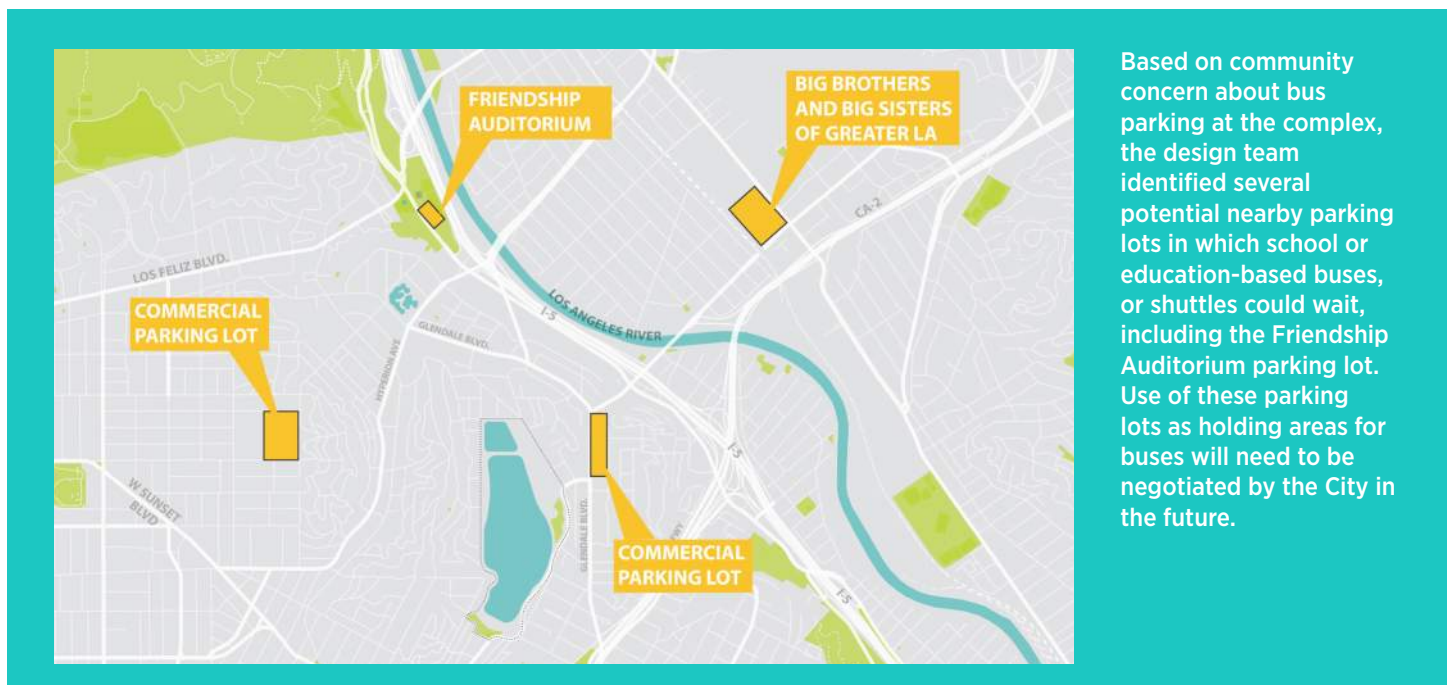


Figure 5-18 Circulation Diagram

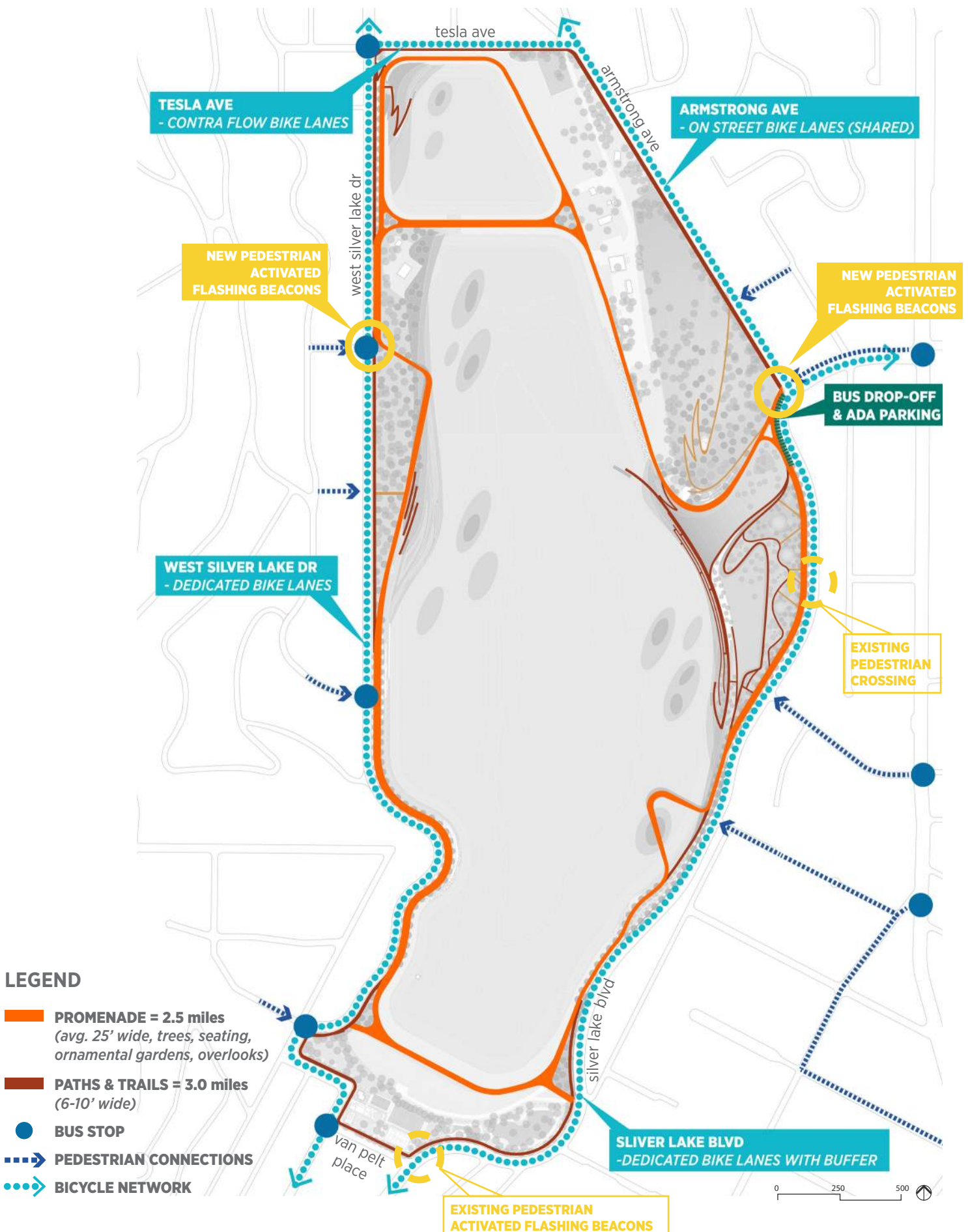
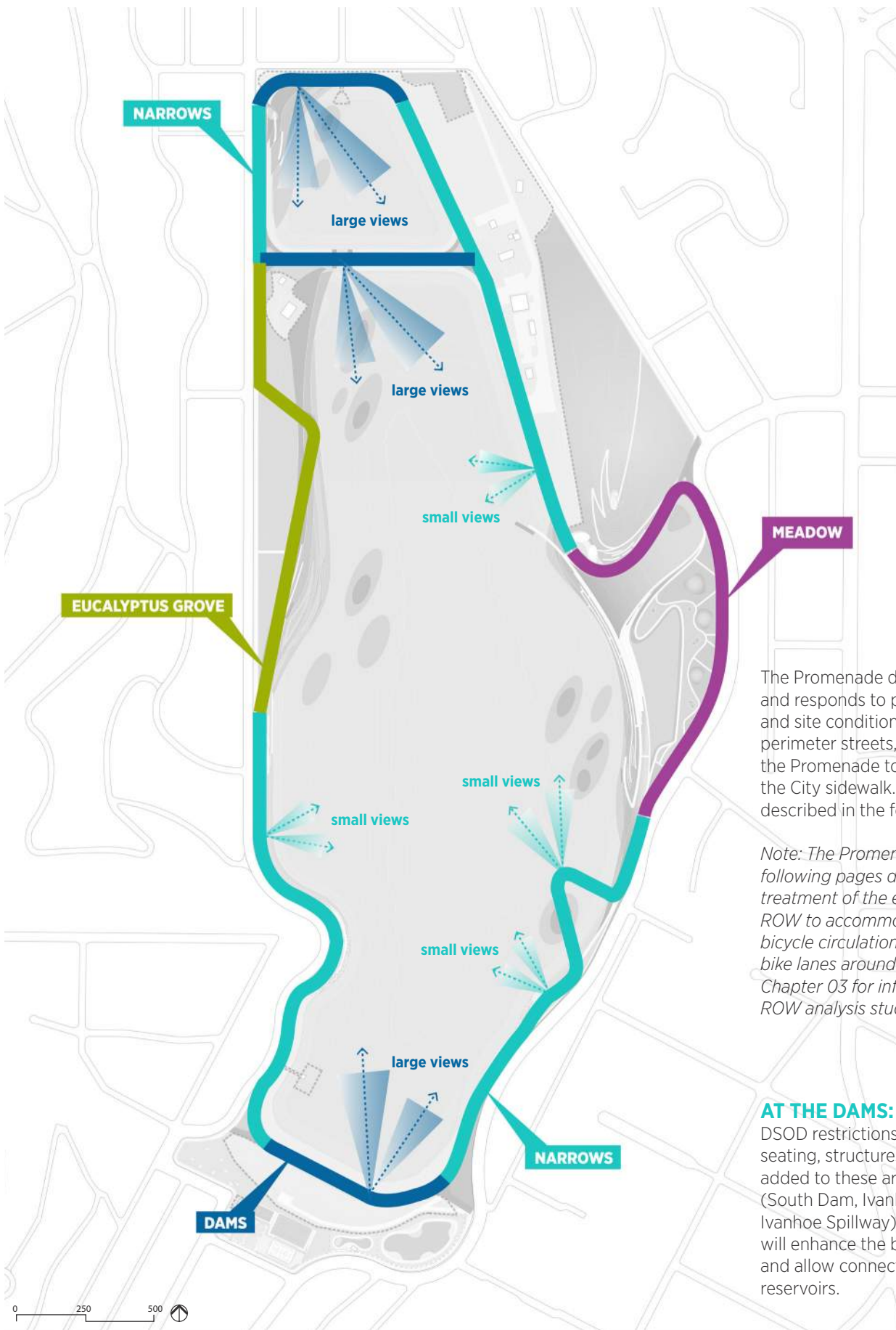




Figure 5-19 Promenade Diagram



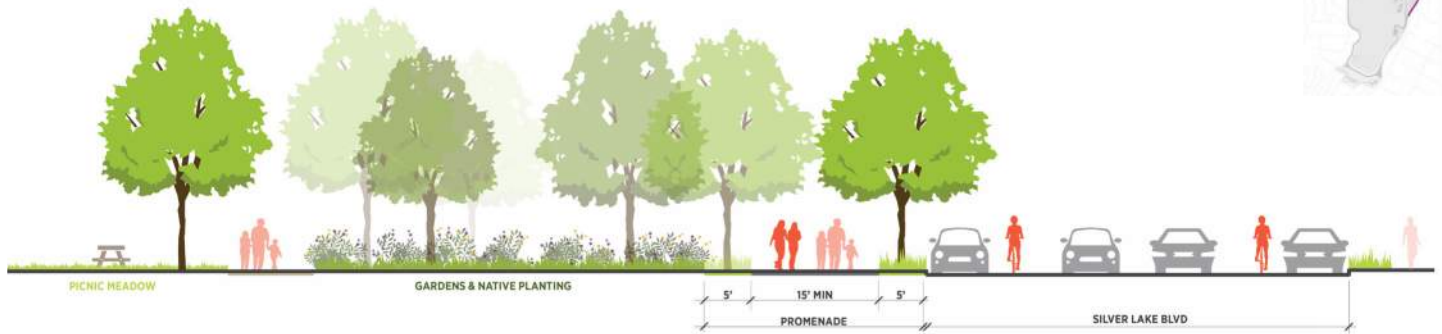
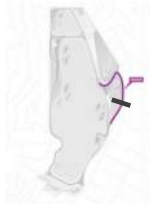
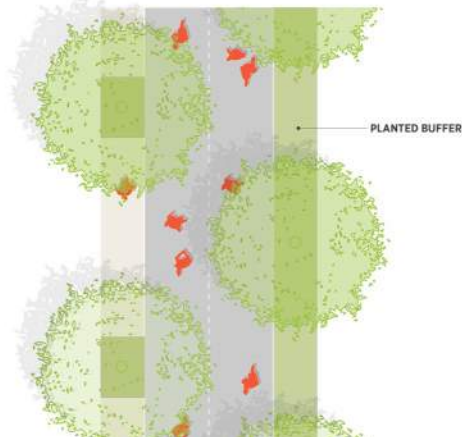
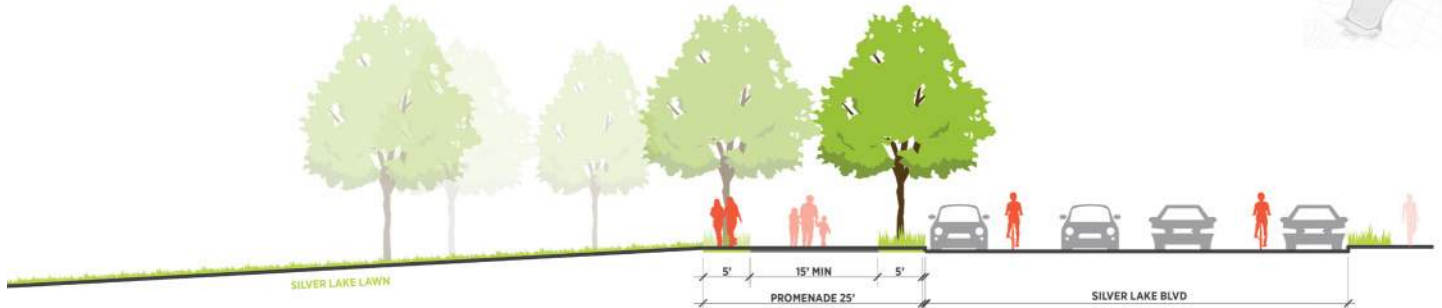
The Promenade design is flexible and responds to park spaces and site conditions. Along the perimeter streets, the intent is for the Promenade to also function as the City sidewalk. These changes are described in the following pages.

*Note: The Promenade sections on the following pages depict an idealized treatment of the existing streets ROW to accommodate improved bicycle circulation and dedicated bike lanes around the complex. See Chapter 03 for information on street ROW analysis studies.*

**AT THE DAMS:**  
 DSOD restrictions do not allow for seating, structures or planting to be added to these areas. At the dams (South Dam, Ivanhoe Dam and the Ivanhoe Spillway), the promenade will enhance the big open views and allow connections across the reservoirs.

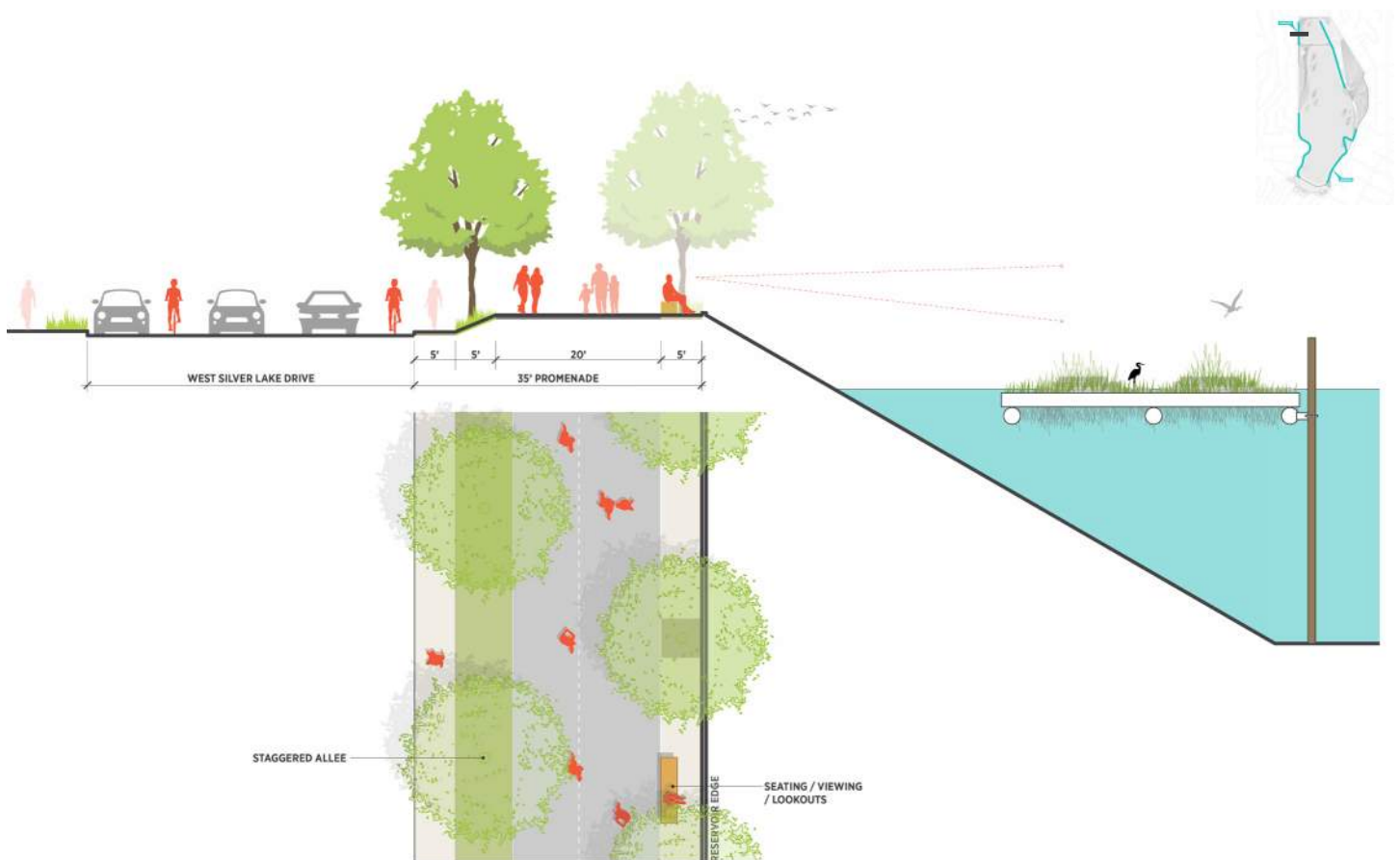
### WITHIN THE MEADOW

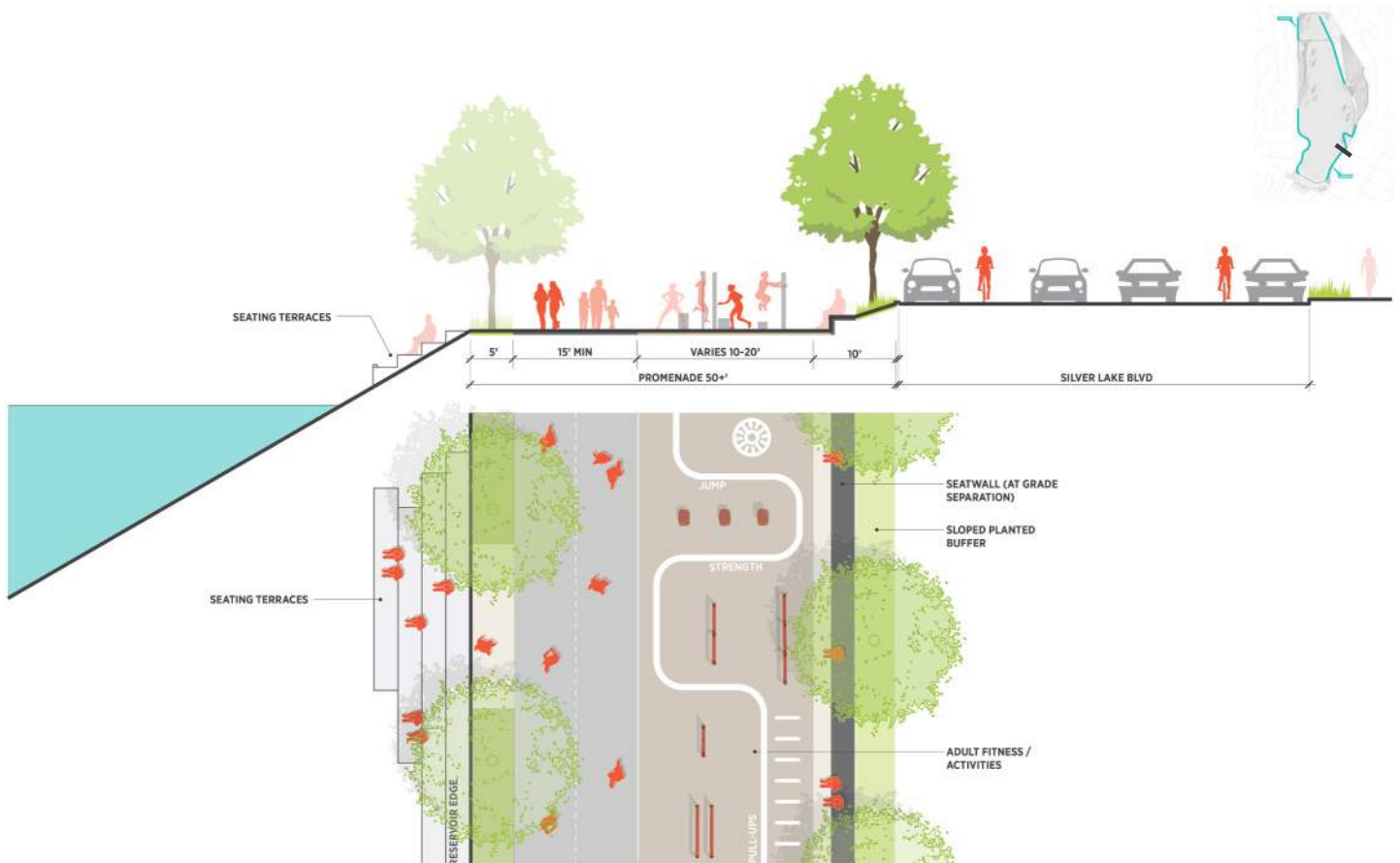
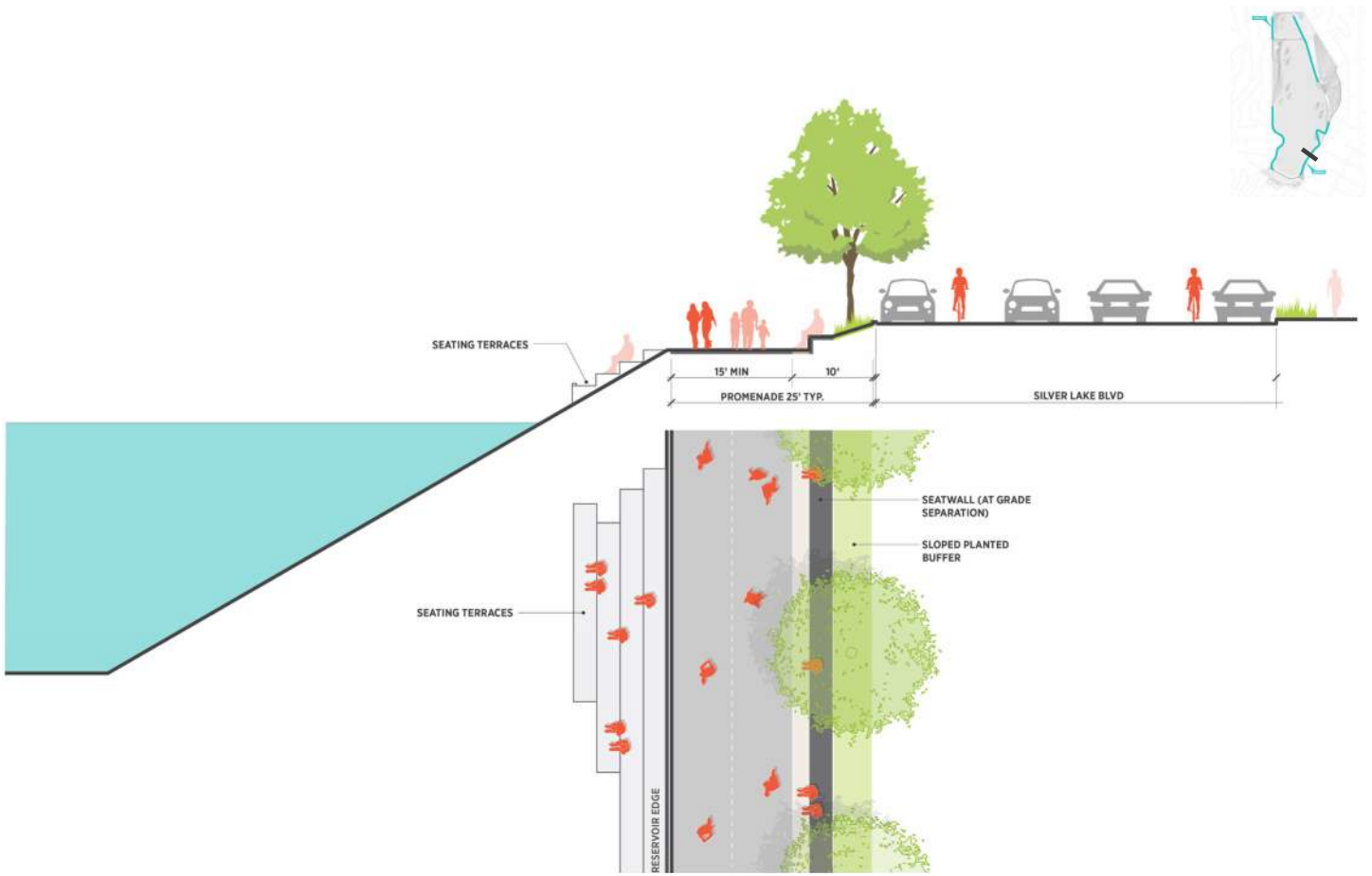
At the Meadow, the Promenade runs along Silver Lake Boulevard before turning west to follow the base of The Knoll. The clear path remains consistent at 15-feet with 5-foot bioswale buffers on either side. An allée of trees planted within the bioswales line both sides of the promenade.



### WITHIN THE NARROWS

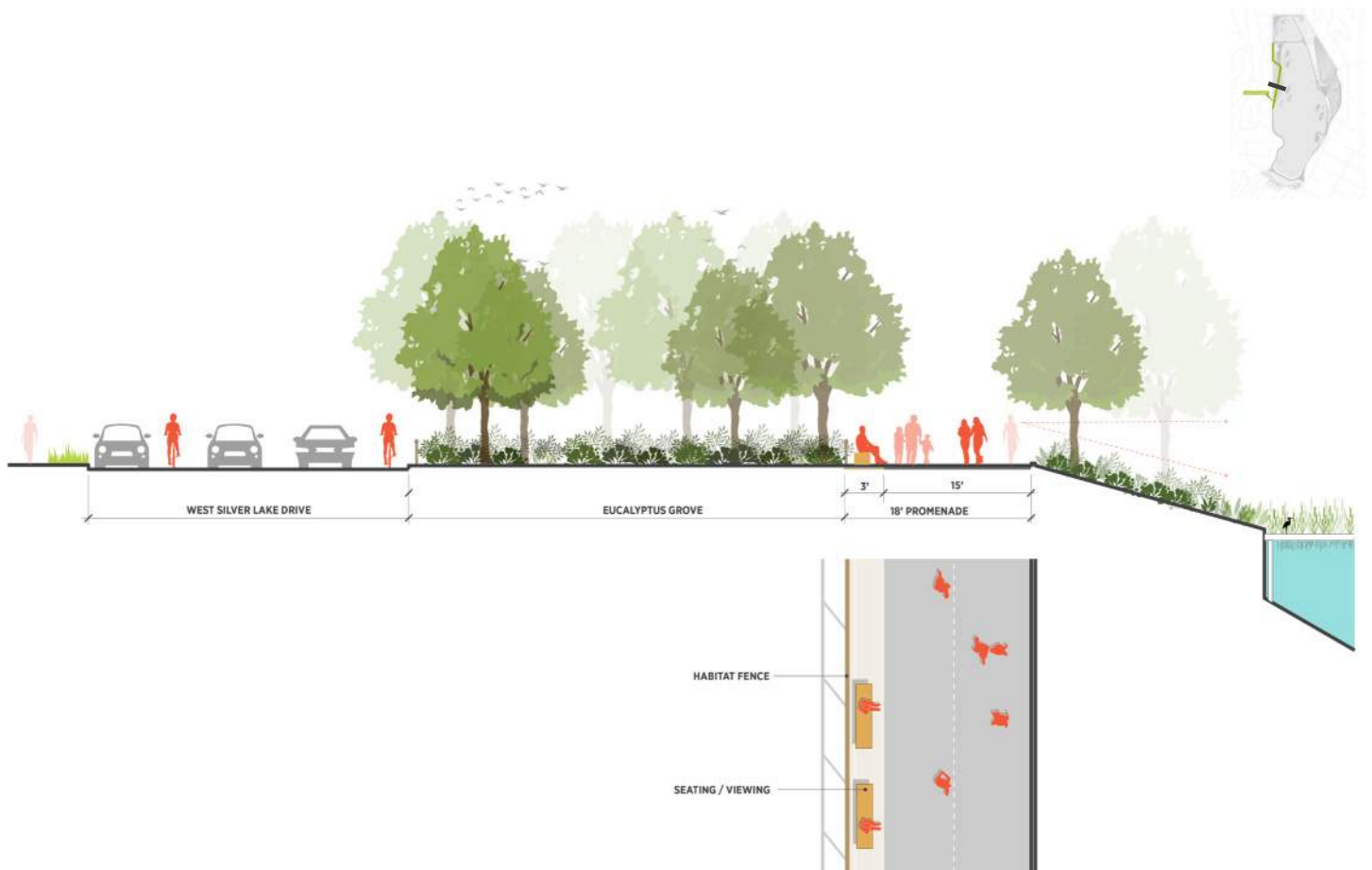
At the narrowest locations within the site, the Promenade emphasizes inward views of the water and makes space for small overlooks and terraced seating. On the southwest end, a grade change between Silver Lake Boulevard and the reservoir allows for a small seat wall to be integrated acting as a buffer between the Promenade and the road. Where it widens, a small exercise circuit is incorporated. The clear path is 15-feet at its narrowest and 20-feet at its widest in this section.

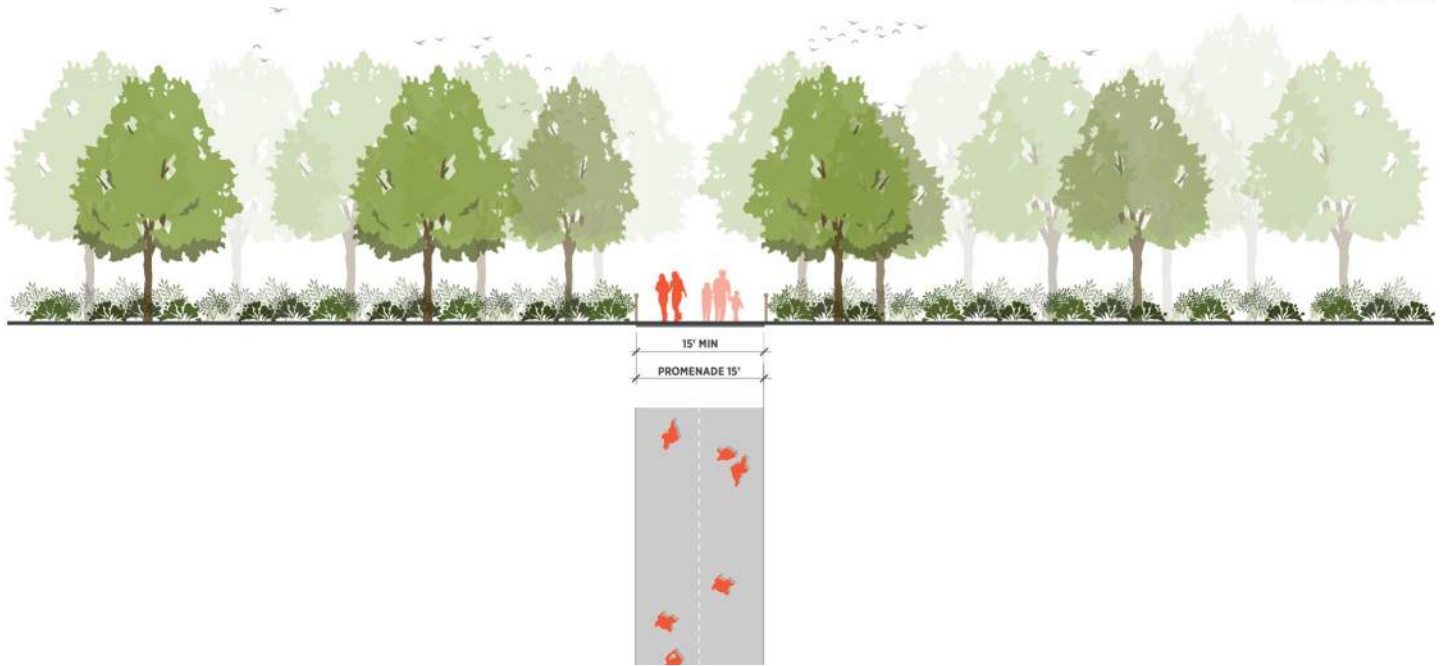




### WITHIN THE EUCALYPTUS GROVE

Within the Eucalyptus Grove, the Promenade is designed to have minimal impact on the restored habitat. At the south end of the Eucalyptus Grove, the Promenade leaves the road and follows the embankment edge to an overlook. Here it is 25-foot wide with a seating band which provides a buffer between the Promenade and habitat area. As it returns to the road from the overlook, crossing through the Eucalyptus Grove, it narrows to 15-foot wide with habitat fences on either side to provide maximum protected habitat. At the north end of the Eucalyptus Grove, a 7-foot bioswale planting strip and trees buffer pedestrians from the street.





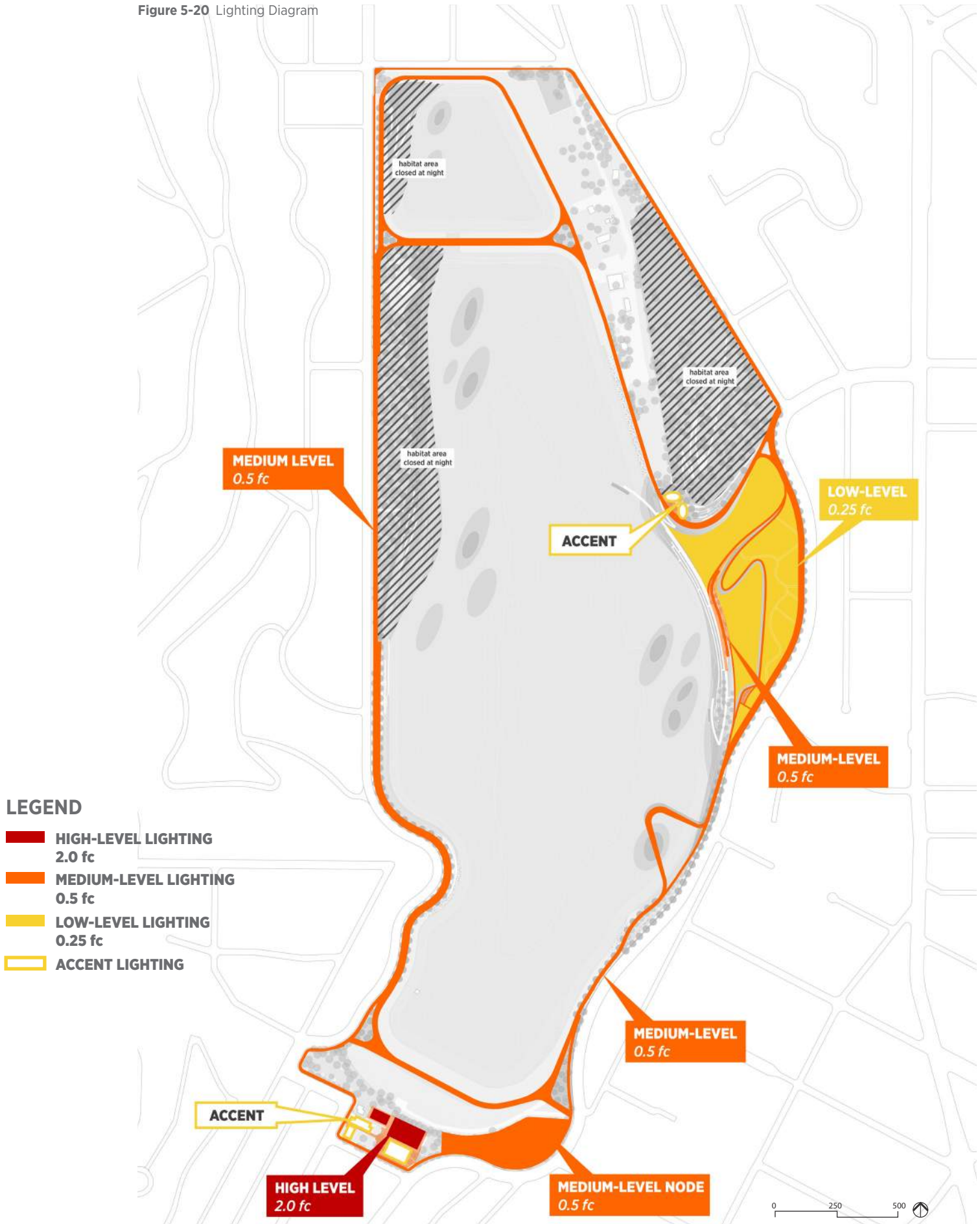
### 5.6.3 Lighting

An overall objective for the Master Plan is to create a comfortable, safe and secure nighttime environment.

The intent of the design is to compose a nighttime environment with a lighting system that is appropriate to the site's context-driven pressures and create a desired state of supplemental layered light. The net beneficial impacts include improved visibility, greater sense of security, comfort, reduced glare and light trespass, night sky views, reduced clutter during the day, and conserved energy when maintained by responsive management.

The Park will have a clear hierarchy of lighted spaces and connective paths. High Level lighting (+2 fc) is planned for active recreation areas in the South Valley. A Medium Level of lighting (0.5 fc) is proposed along the Promenade, on select Primary Paths and within the seating terraces at the water's edge. A Low Level of lighting (0.25 - 0.5fc) will be introduced along many of the Primary and Secondary Paths to provide circulation to and between the neighborhood and the Park in areas such as the lawns and picnic grove. No lighting is planned for Secondary Paths within habitat areas or in areas that are not intended to be used at night. Figure 5-20 Lighting Diagram depicts proposed lighting levels for the Park.

Figure 5-20 Lighting Diagram



**LEGEND**

- HIGH-LEVEL LIGHTING**  
2.0 fc
- MEDIUM-LEVEL LIGHTING**  
0.5 fc
- LOW-LEVEL LIGHTING**  
0.25 fc
- ACCENT LIGHTING**



### 5.6.4 Embankment Edge

The embankment edges around the reservoirs have changed significantly over time from gentler unpaved earthen slopes to steep paved surfaces.

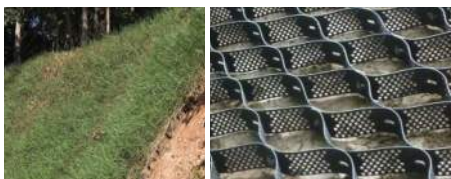
Ivanhoe Reservoir was resurfaced 25 to 29 years ago with concrete paving and is in good condition. The edges are smooth, beige in color, and have a small curb at the edge of the embankment. Silver Lake Reservoir is paved with 3-inch asphalt and is in poor condition. Around the reservoir, large cracks have been filled in and repaired over time and sporadic vegetation emerges from within the voids. An inconsistent 6" curb is located along some of the embankment edge.

The Master Plan proposes three different edge treatments for the embankment that respond to site conditions and the proposed design, working together to create a unique visual experience. These are described below and depicted in Figure 5-21.



#### Resurfacing

Within the DSOD jurisdictional areas, embankment edges will be resurfaced with smooth concrete (similar to Ivanhoe Reservoir).



#### Green Edge

To soften the embankments, edges outside the DSOD jurisdictional areas and those that are related to habitat terraces are planted with low, native groundcovers over a geoweb on the 2:1 slope. For more information on plant species, refer to Section 5.6.1.



#### Riprap

Riprap is proposed in the transitional areas between the Green Edge and Resurfacing. Large boulders will be embedded within the 2:1 slope as well.



#### People Terraces

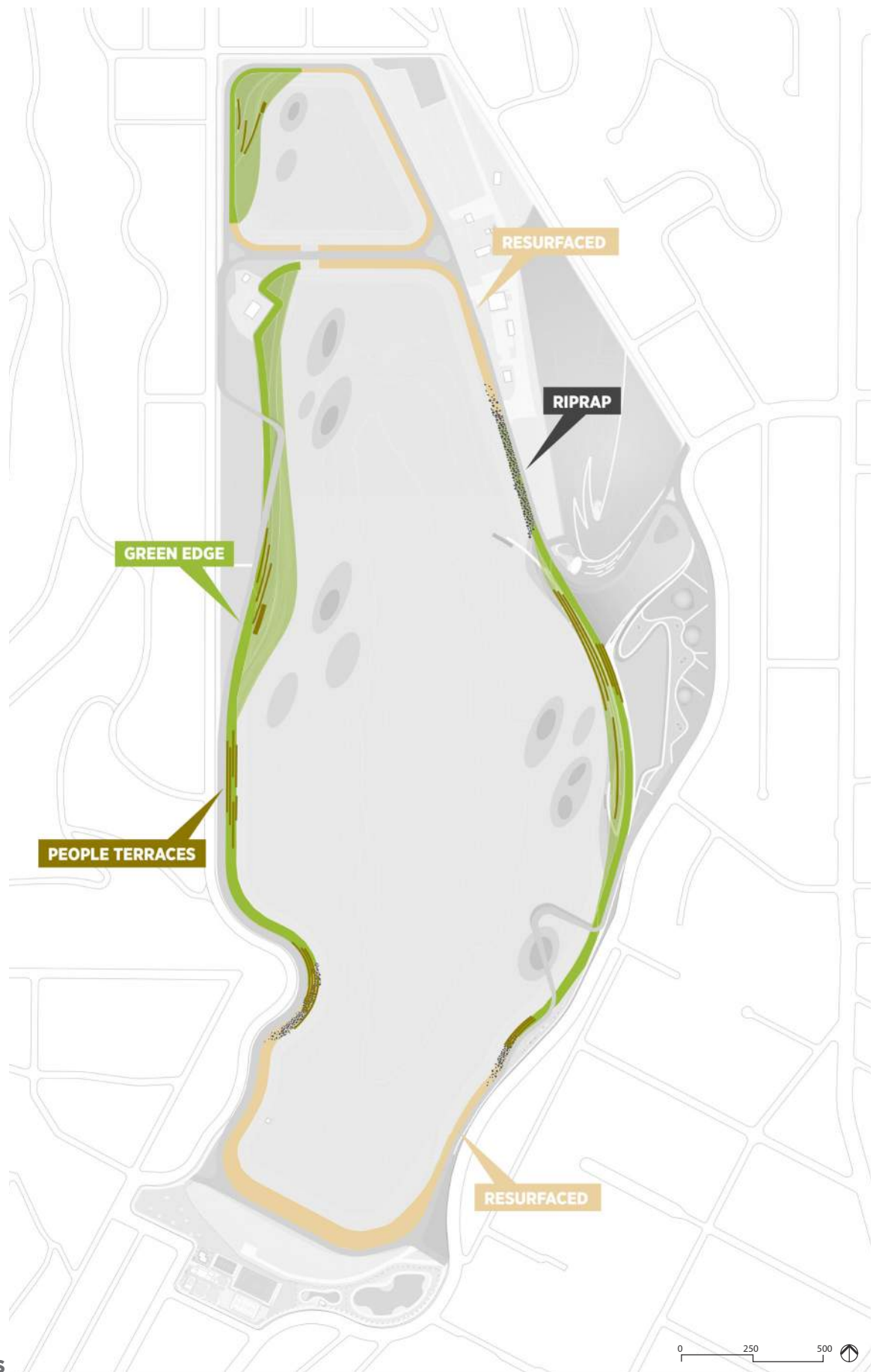
People terraces are embedded into the embankments at key locations throughout the reservoir including the East and West Narrows and the Eucalyptus Grove.

### SAFETY OF EMBANKMENT EDGES:

The proposed design removes the steep, slippery surface of the existing reservoir to the maximum extents possible and replaces it with a combination of soft vegetation, riprap, and seating terraces to minimize risk of people getting in the water.

The Master Plan recommends that a consistent curb of 6- to 12-inches be maintained around the edge of the reservoir to provide a visual barrier between the walking path and edge of slope. Wherever possible, it is also recommended there be a 5-foot buffer between the path and this edge.

Figure 5-21 Embankment Edge Diagram



### 5.6.5 Fences and Guardrails

Based on prior neighborhood surveys, recommendations by the design team’s biologist, and documented best practices for wildlife management, the project team recommends removing the perimeter fence and strategically replacing it where needed to secure LADWP lands, protect habitat, and protect people. The perimeter fence should be removed overtime in phases and in coordination with future park operations plans as various zones of the park design are constructed. See Figure 5-22 for a conceptual plan of where fences and guardrails are proposed for the Park.



#### LADWP Fence

LADWP will need to secure areas around the SLRC for its operations and to ensure safety of the public and employees. These include a large area on the east side of the site in which most of LADWP’s facilities and structures are located, north Ivanhoe Dam, Silver Lake Dam, and an area on the west side of Silver Lake Reservoir associated with a gateway structure and regulator station.

These spaces will be secured with a 8-foot high, continuous fence with gates as needed for access by LADWP. The fence design should follow best practices for wildlife-friendly fence design and be highly visible to birds to minimize risk of collisions. The fence design should provide a minimum 6” clear zone at the bottom for small mammals to pass through. There should be no elements that could injure or trap wildlife.



#### Habitat Fence

As described in Chapter 06 Park Sustainability, tall fences can be dangerous to wildlife, causing injury or death, and can block wildlife from accessing vital food, nesting, and water resources. The Master Plan recommends installing wildlife-friendly, habitat fences along all pathways within protected habitat areas. The habitat fences will be designed to allow unobstructed travel by birds and mammals to and from the SLRC. The Master Plan recommends a 3-foot high, open rail fence with untreated wood posts and rails. Where walkways enter protected habitat areas, swing gates at each end will be included to close these walkways at night and during nesting season if needed.



#### Guardrail

Where the two overlooks project out over Silver Lake Reservoir, 42-inch galvanized steel guardrails with wood top rails will be installed according to current California Building Code.

Figure 5-22 Fences and Guardrails Diagram

