



Stockler Corridor

Trail and Bike Path Design Concept

December 2004

Presented by:



BALDWIN HILLS
CONSERVANCY

Baldwin Hills Conservancy
3578-C Eastham Drive
Culver City, CA 90232



CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION

California State Parks Foundation
3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2003
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Prepared for:



Dept. of Parks and Recreation
1925 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302

Prepared by:



EDAW, Inc.
3780 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 250
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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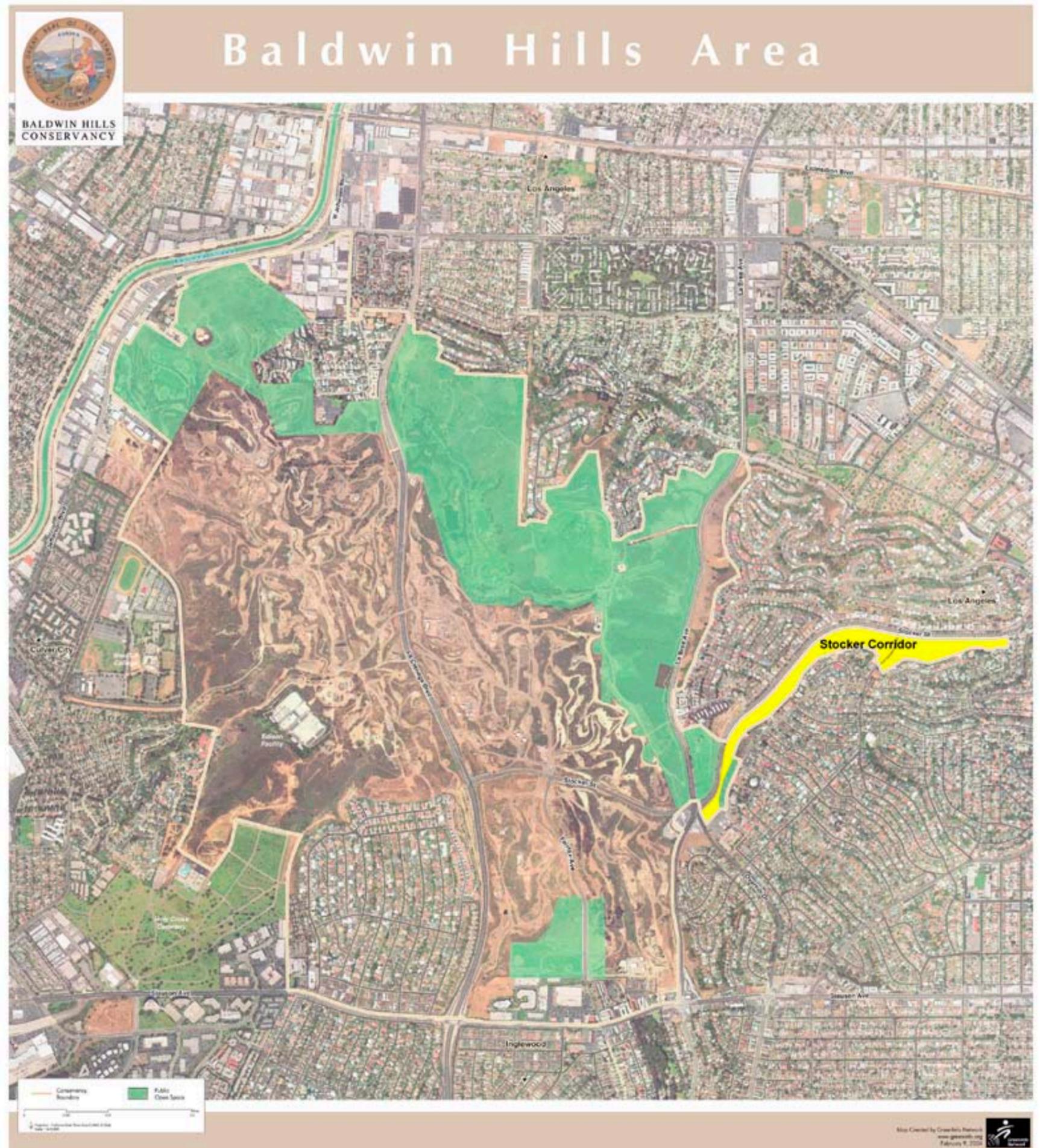
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Stocker Corridor is a critical open space connection linking the eastern end of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's (BHC) planning territory to Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA). The Corridor stretches one mile from Presidio Drive to the Five Points Intersection (Stocker Street, La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive). A 17 acre portion of this corridor, adjacent to Valley Ridge, is privately owned and is yet to be acquired. Currently, pedestrians use the street along Stocker as an exercise route to and from KHSRA and its five miles of existing trails. The 33-acre Trail and Park project will provide a safe and beautiful landscaped route to the larger park while enhancing neighborhood access and utility of the existing open space. Partnering with the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF), the BHC has co-funded a community planning and site design process to expand public access to local state park land. (http://bhc.ca.gov/documents/Stocker_Corridor.pdf)

The BHC and CSPF assembled the Stocker Corridor Steering Committee, consisting of community members and local government representatives, to issue a Request for Qualifications from design firms, review submissions, and select the most qualified consultant team. EDAW, Inc. was chosen to lead the conceptual design initiative to explore alternatives for the conversion of Stocker Corridor into a linkage park. Upon completion of the draft conceptual plan, the Steering Committee reviewed the designs and made its final recommendations. Now, the BHC and CSPF will submit the conceptual design to California State Parks for further review and implementation. Funding for the future park will be provided by California State Parks and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.





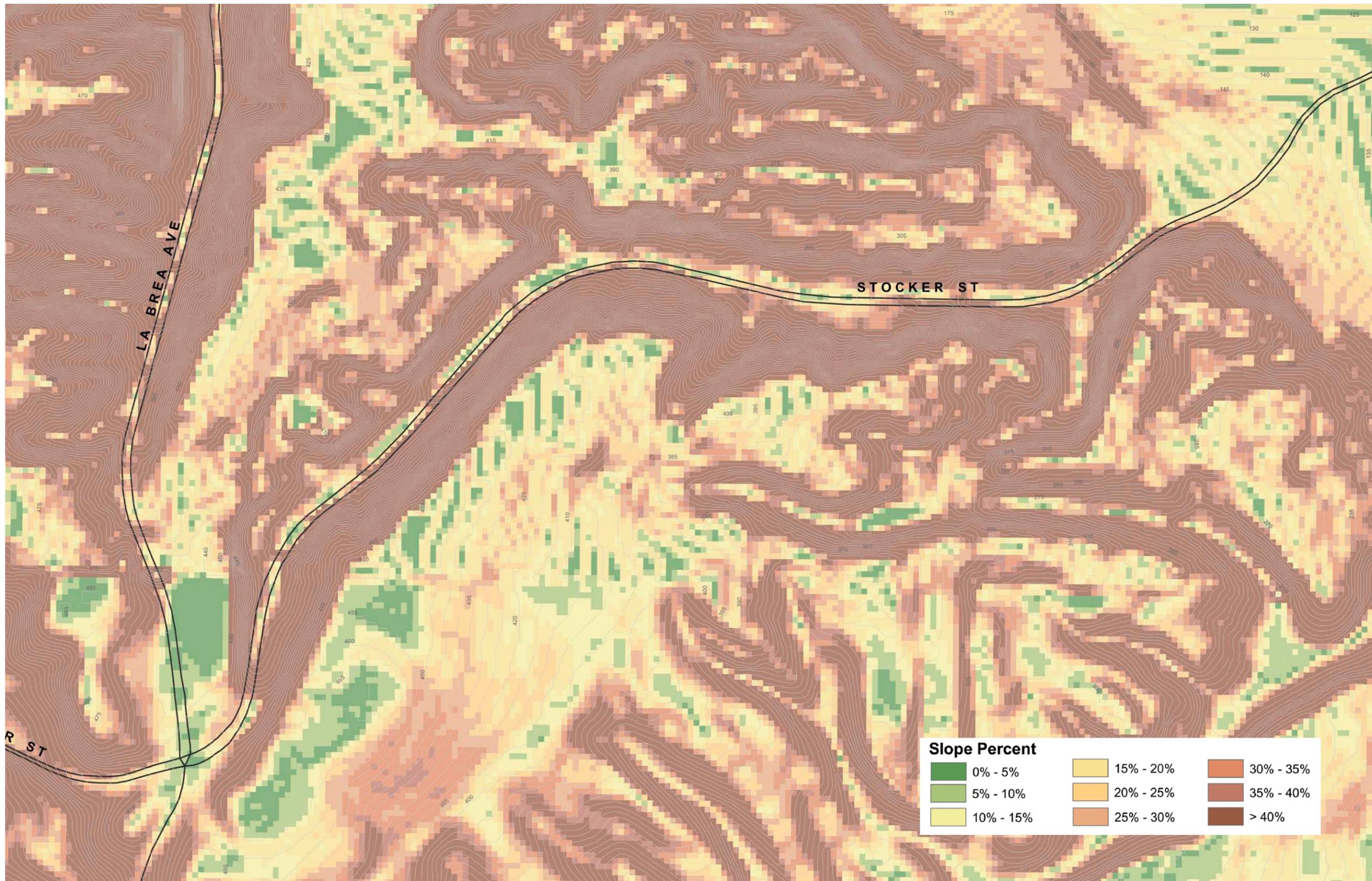
Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

Existing Site Conditions



EDAW

October, 2004



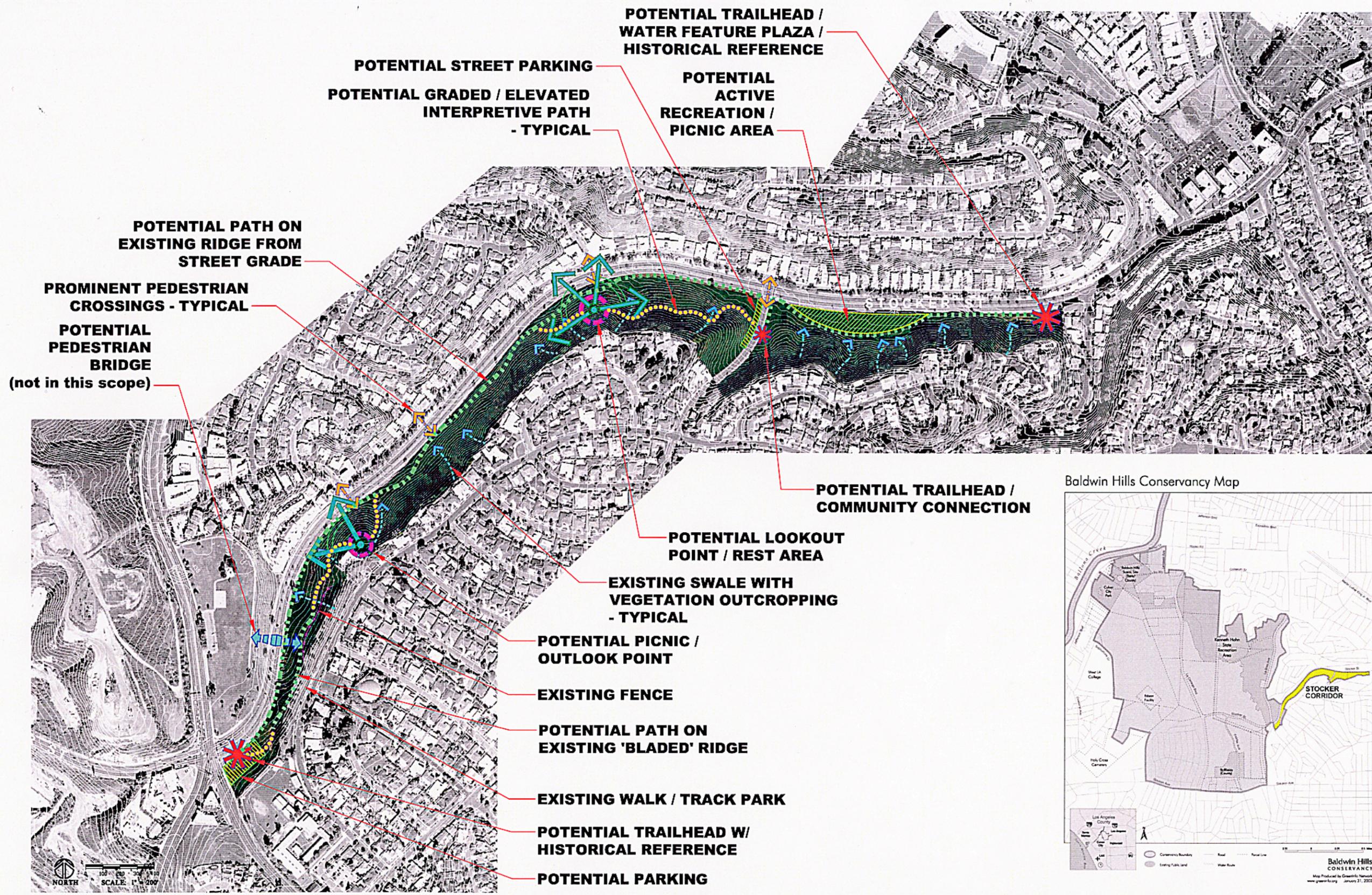
NORTH
SCALE: 1" = 200'

Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

Site Slope Analysis



October, 2004



Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

Site Analysis



2.0 PUBLIC OUTREACH

2.1 OBJECTIVE

The goal of the outreach program was to reach the broadest range of impacted stakeholders and project neighbors and, most importantly, to obtain their feedback about key elements of the proposed project.

To accomplish this goal, a public outreach consultant, Paladin Associates, LLC, was added to the project team. With the assistance of Paladin Associates, the consultant team presented program elements and illustrative graphics to local elected officials and community organizations in preparation for public workshops. A wide range of tools, including written collateral materials, newspaper advertisements, web-based information dissemination, and radio spots were used to attract as many participants as possible to the two public workshops. Workshop participants were encouraged to share their opinions regarding the conceptual plans through public testimony, Q&A sessions, one-on-one discussions, e-mail, and written questionnaires.

2.2 ELECTED OFFICIALS

Public officials in the greater Los Angeles area play a pivotal role in the management and success of activities within their respective jurisdictional boundaries. Paladin Associates identified both elected and appointed officials whose jurisdictions were either impacted by the Stocker Corridor project, or who expressed an interest in its development. Meetings with these officials provided insight into community dynamics, as well as guidance on focusing the community outreach plan to achieve maximum effectiveness. Public official meeting and discussion participants included:

1. State of California Senator Kevin Murray
2. State Assembly Speaker Emeritus Herb Wesson
3. Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
4. City of Los Angeles Councilman Bernard Parks
5. State of California Assembly Member-elect Karen Bass
6. Los Angeles City Councilman Martin Ludlow (discussion only)

2.3 STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

The consultant team conducted a series of meetings with select members and/or leaders of key stakeholder organizations that have historically demonstrated a high level of involvement in the Stocker Corridor area. The primary objective of these meetings was to disseminate information effectively so as to engage the respective community constituent bases. A secondary objective was to enlist support for the project. Meetings were held with representatives of the following organizations:

1. United Homeowners Association
2. Baldwin Hills Homeowners Association
3. Community Advisory Committee for the Crenshaw 8 Redevelopment Project Area

Other organizations were informed and advised of the project, including:

1. Baldwin Village Gardens Association
2. Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council

2.4 PUBLIC OUTREACH

After preliminary meetings with community officials and stakeholder organizations, the consultant team executed a multi-media strategy to inform the community at large of upcoming public workshops. In order to reach the widest audience and keep local residents aware of the public workshops, the following information conduits were employed:

1. Local newspaper advertisements
 - a. "The Wave"
 - b. "L.A. Watts Times"
2. Flyer postings
 - a. Key street intersections
 - b. Parks (e.g. Kenneth Hahn State Park, Jim Gilliam Park, Ingold Park, Rancho Cienega Park)
 - c. Community gathering places (e.g. Simply Wholesome restaurant, Magic Johnson's Starbucks)
3. E-mail meeting notification blast
4. Direct telephone conversation with select Block Club Captains
5. Website posting (Baldwin Hills Conservancy website)
6. Public official community network notification
7. Home Owner Association and community based organization direct notification to their membership

2.5 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND COMMENTS

Two public workshops to inform the community of the scope of the proposed project and engage them in the design process were held September 18, 2004, and October 7, 2004, at Jim Gilliam Park and the Foundation for the Junior Blind, respectively. To ensure the project's planning process was truly a community dialogue that included area residents, business members, and public officials, these meetings were held at locations chosen for their accessibility to various local constituencies. Both workshop sites are recognizable community meeting places, and are within a short distance of the project site.

The following Design Concept presentations reflect the suggestions of community participants. The Program Elements (3.1) reflect the site amenities that were initially presented in the workshop. The site amenities and activities shown in grey are the elements that were removed from original concept plans due to a majority opinion of the outreach responses. Recurring comments included the desire for trailheads with small seating areas for outdoor education, rest areas and drinking fountains, and historical references. Comments also reflected the desire for only limited parking and no large gathering spaces or on-site restrooms. Public opinion also helped guide the conceptual design of trailheads, rest areas, on-site parking and the trail itself. These design concepts are shown in the following presentations (3.2 - 3.7).

3.0 Design Concept

3.1 PROGRAM ELEMENTS (sheet viii)

EDAW identified probable site amenities during the site analysis that formed the Program Elements list. This list, along with sketches and images to illustrate the amenities, was available at the public outreach meetings to gather public comments and opinions regarding the individual program elements. These comments and opinions helped refine site amenities to best reflect public opinion. The site amenities and activities shown in grey are the elements that were removed from original concept plans due to public responses.

3.2 TRAILHEADS (sheet ix,xii)

Two conceptual trailheads begin and end the Stocker Corridor trail and bike path at the west and east ends of the trail. These trailheads welcome in trail patrons with historical reference and trail guide signage. They also provide seating for uses such as outdoor classrooms and nature appreciation groups. (see sheet xii for sign locations, historical marker concept and integrated seating / welcome sign concept. All concepts for directional and interpretive signage are subject to California State Parks signage standards.)

3.3 TRAIL & BIKE PATH (sheet x,xii)

The Stocker Corridor trail and bike path design provides for a moderately challenging trail system tailored to suit experienced and novice trail patrons. Steep inclines blanced with relatively flat transitions are relieved by two rest / view areas that provide limited seating and are positioned to capture the best views from Stocker Corridor (see 3.4).

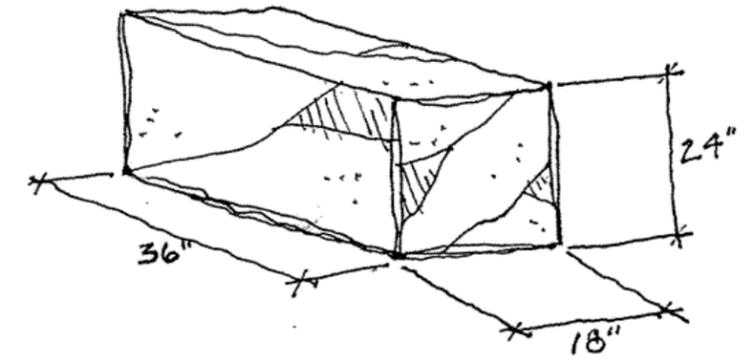
The conceptual trail and bike path design shows the trail being surfaced by two shades of compacted, decomposed granite to help separate walking patrons from those on bikes. The steep cross-slope allows for only minimal trail width; therefore, intermediate signs should be placed at steepest sections to caution bikers to ride slowly. (see sheet xii for conceptual sign locations. All concepts for directional and interpretive signage are subject to California State Parks signage standards.)

The trail is designed with multiple entry / exit points to allow patrons the opportunity to access or exit the trail at various locations. These access points can also provide emergency access. The Trail's location also allows for the possible connection to the existing Ruben F. Ingold Park.

3.4 REST / VIEW AREAS (sheet xi,xii)

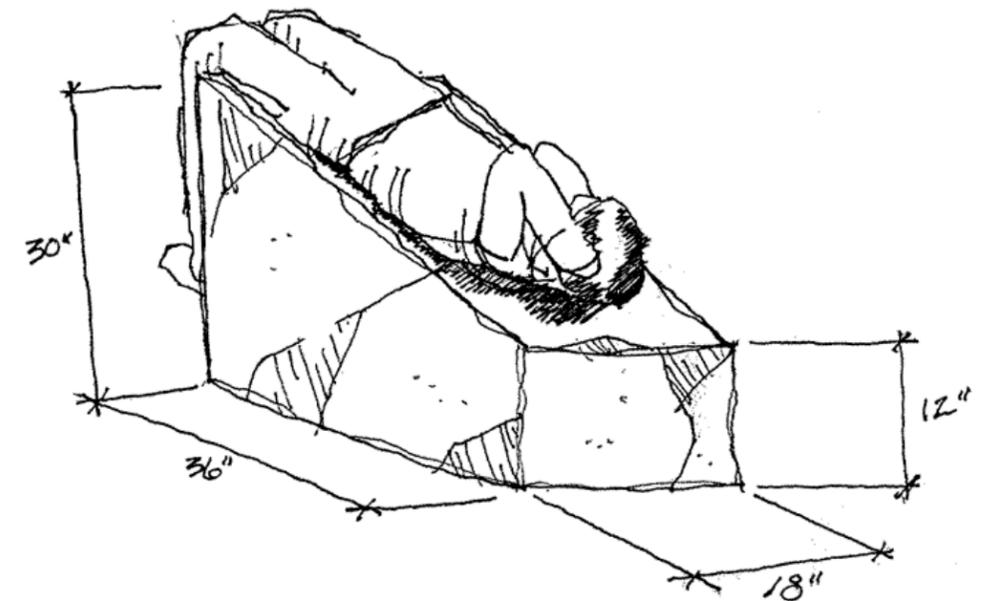
Two small seating areas are conceptually located along the trail system to allow patrons a break in the path to rest. These areas are positioned at pleasant view areas and allow patrons to avoid hikers and bikers while enjoying the scenery. These areas also provide a nice location for informational signage. Information regarding local flora and fauna would be an educational addition. (All concepts for directional and interpretive signage are subject to California State Parks signage standards.)

The seating in these areas should be constructed of natural materials. The images on sheets ix and xi show example projects with boulders being used as seating. These same materials can be used to provide basic exercise equipment. Angled stone benches can easily serve as a platform for push-ups and sit-ups. Information regarding the use of such exercise benches should be incorporated into the signage in these areas.



3.5 Parking (sheet xii)

Limited parking is shown conceptually at three different locations along Stocker Corridor. Access at these parking locations would be restricted access for maintenance and emergency vehicles only. Each location allows for two vehicles, except for the parking off of La Brea, which provides space for up to five vehicles. This location might occasionally provide parking for vehicles other than maintenance and emergency vehicles.



The surface of these parking areas should be constructed of a pervious material or a soil stabilizer with turf surface, such as 'Grass-Pave2,' to minimize storm water run-off and to maximize green space.

ACTIVE RECREATION

Jogging (as part of multi-use trail)
 Running (as part of multi-use trail; not a track)
 Biking (multi-use trail)
 Fitness Stations (multi-use trail)

PASSIVE RECREATION

Walking / Hiking
 Picnicking (small groups only)
 Outdoor Barbeque
 Frisbee
 Kite Flying
 Children's Nature-Oriented Play Area
 Playground Equipment
 Bird Watching
 Group Gatherings / Functions (outdoor event space)

GENERAL SUPPORT FACILITIES

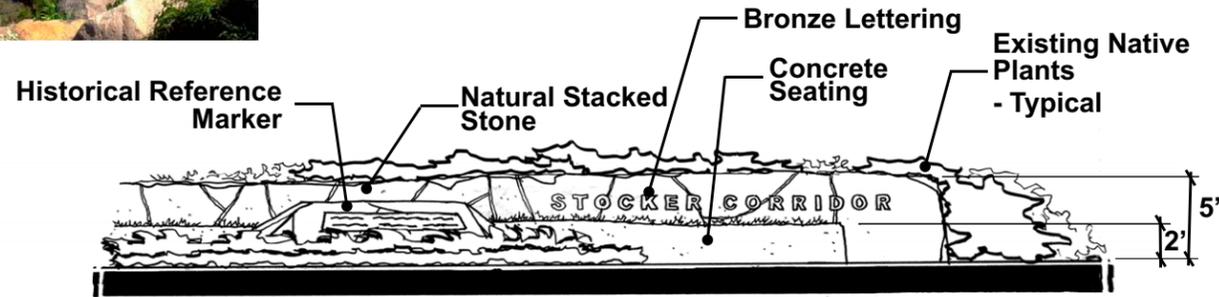
Restrooms
 Parking (on turf, for maintenance and security)
 Lighting
 Drinking Fountains
 Fencing
 Security Cameras, Emergency Call Buttons, etc.
 Recycling Station
 Composting Station
 Wastewater & Stormwater Natural Treatment

CULTURAL / HISTORICAL / EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETIVE

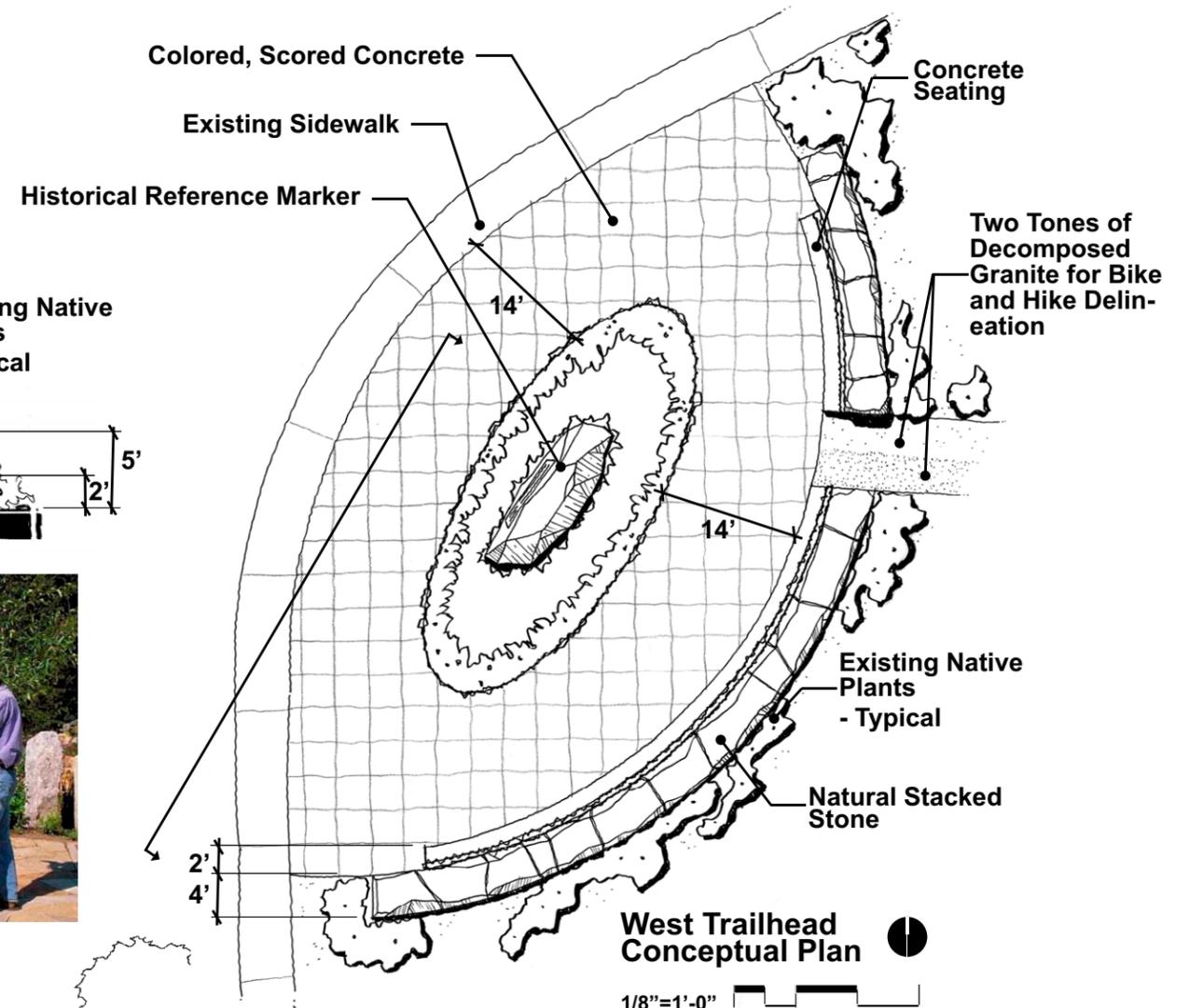
Natural Systems / Habitat Restoration (flora & fauna)
 Amphitheatre
 Community History
 Early History (Native American, geological, etc.)
 Native Plants Restoration
 Environmental Education
 Children's Discovery Center
 Various sustainability demonstration projects
 Naturalized Water Feature (water treatment? bird watching?)
 Information Kiosks / Interpretive Panels, Displays, Signs
 Outdoor Classrooms / Music / Storytelling / Drama
 Outdoor Education / Seminars

Note:

The site amenities and activities shown in grey are the elements that were removed from the project's Conceptual Program Elements due to a majority opinion of the outreach responses.



Conceptual Plan
1/4"=1'-0"



West Trailhead
Conceptual Plan
1/8"=1'-0"



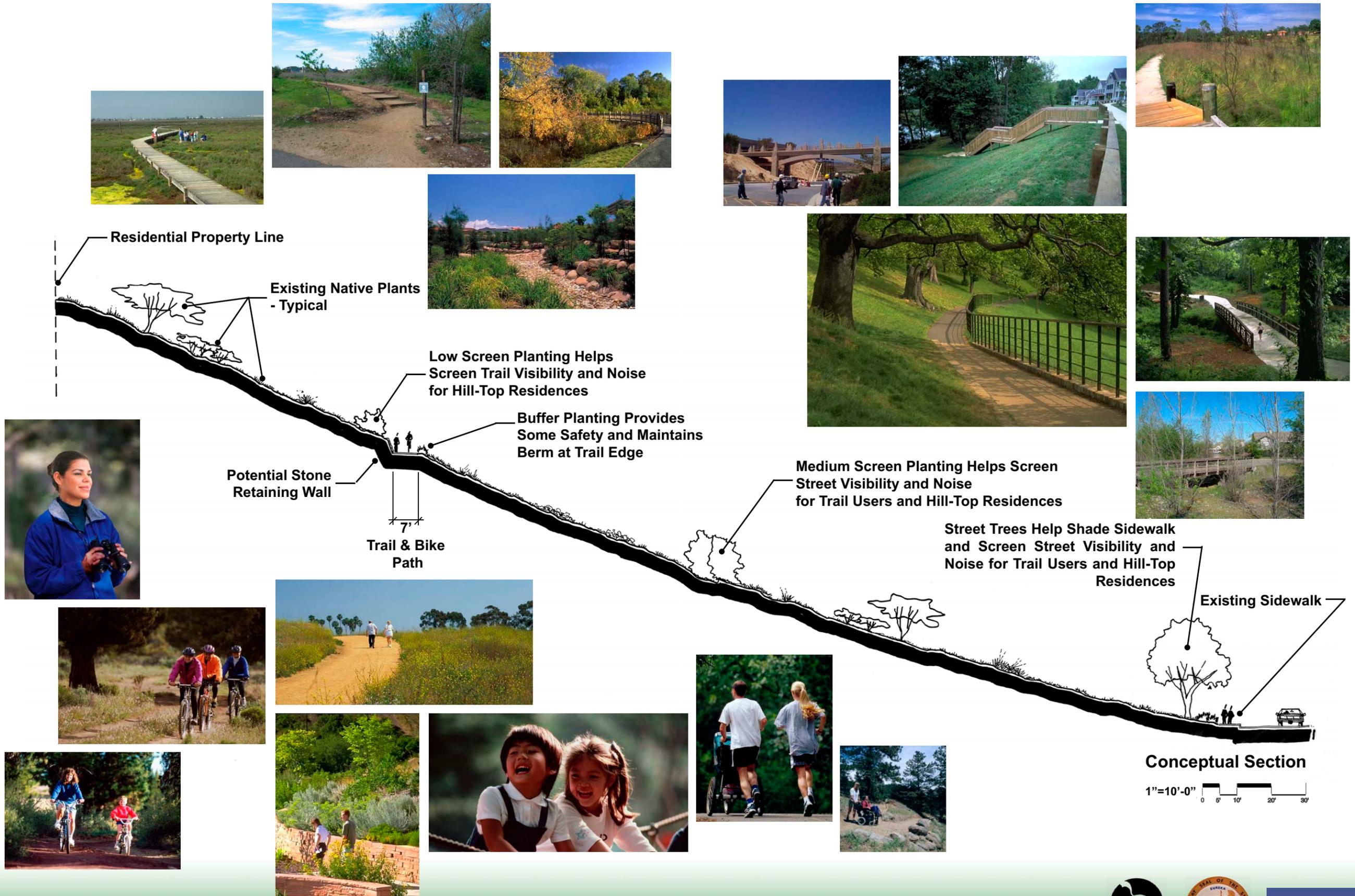
East Trailhead
Perspective Sketch

Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

Conceptual Trailheads



November, 2004

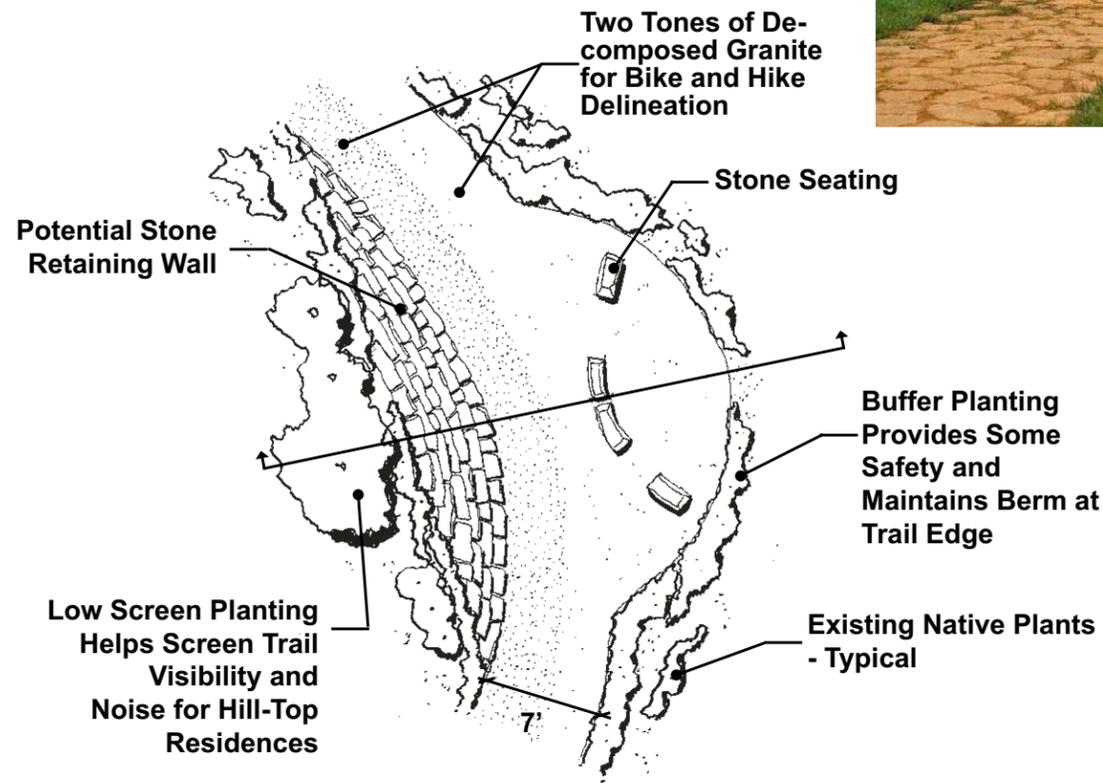


Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

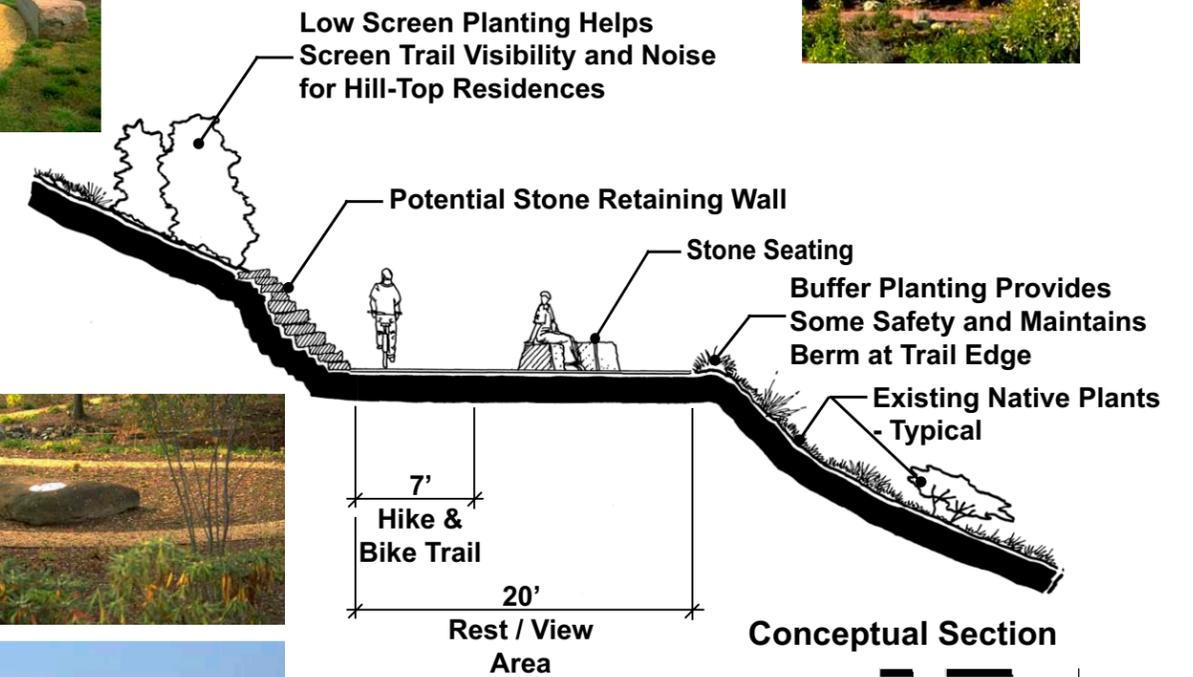
Conceptual Trail & Bike Path



October, 2004



Conceptual Plan
1/4"=1'-0"



Conceptual Section
1/4"=1'-0"



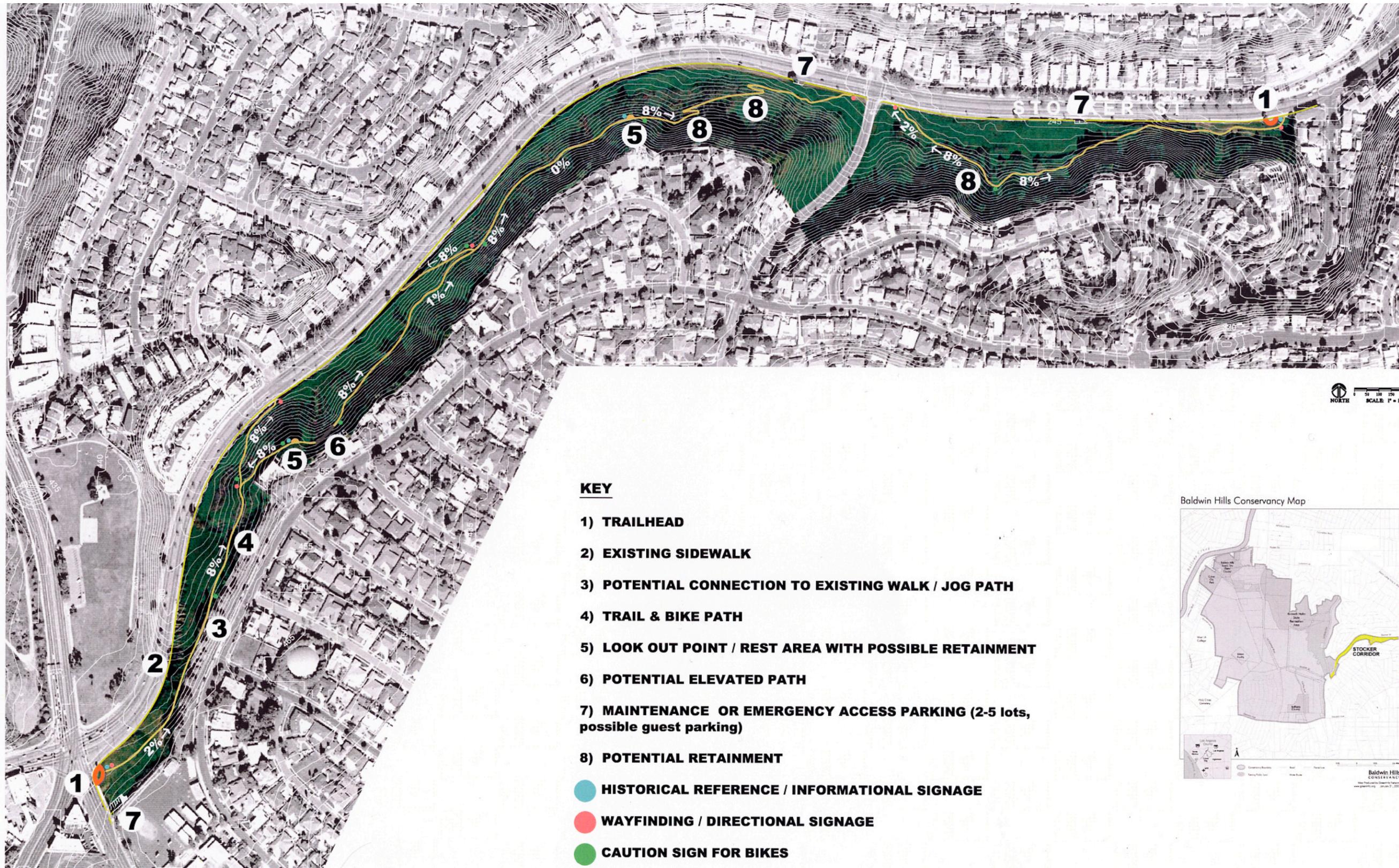
Stocker Corridor
Los Angeles, CA

Conceptual Rest/View Areas



EDAW

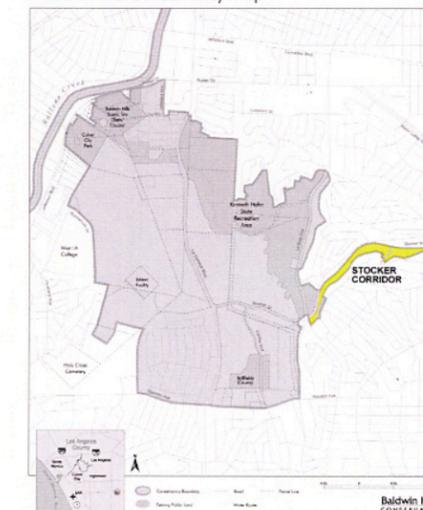
November, 2004



KEY

- 1) TRAILHEAD
- 2) EXISTING SIDEWALK
- 3) POTENTIAL CONNECTION TO EXISTING WALK / JOG PATH
- 4) TRAIL & BIKE PATH
- 5) LOOK OUT POINT / REST AREA WITH POSSIBLE RETAINMENT
- 6) POTENTIAL ELEVATED PATH
- 7) MAINTENANCE OR EMERGENCY ACCESS PARKING (2-5 lots, possible guest parking)
- 8) POTENTIAL RETAINMENT
- HISTORICAL REFERENCE / INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- WAYFINDING / DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- CAUTION SIGN FOR BIKES

Baldwin Hills Conservancy Map



4.0 VEGETATION

4.1 VEGETATION DESIGN

Where visibility of the trail and trail patrons is a concern from neighboring residential areas, screening vegetation can be planted to minimize this visibility. However, the screening vegetation should not screen the positive views from the residential areas. Native species should be used at all times for screening purposes on Stocker Corridor.

Vegetation can also be used to provide security and limited access from the trail to the residential areas. California Wild Rose would be a good native species choice to plant on the uphill side of the trail to discourage access to and from the trail and residential areas.

4.2 RE-VEGETATION INTRODUCTION

The existing Stocker Corridor property contains native, nonnative, and invasive plant material. There are some coastal scrub, annual grasses, and riparian woods such as Sagebrush, Coyote Brush, Elderberry, Sunflower, Rye, and Arroyo Willow. Invasive species, which typically occur in groupings and include Tree of Heaven and English Ivy, should be addressed as they will likely overtake native species. The issue of re-vegetation has to be reviewed carefully on such a steep site, as the vegetation helps maintain the grade and prevents erosion.

An important first step for the re-vegetation effort will be to develop key goals and objectives for the project, particularly re-vegetation relevant to bike trail implementation, erosion control, control invasive plant species, and desired plant establishment success criteria. Further, the trail construction should be integrated with the re-vegetation footprint to minimize hillside erosion.

The re-vegetation efforts should include the following:

- Minimizing the disturbance of and retaining appropriate native vegetation
- Scheduling construction to minimize soil exposure during the rainy season
- Re-vegetating and mulching denuded areas
- Minimizing concentrated water flow and diverting runoff away from denuded slopes or critical areas
- Minimizing slope steepness and length by using benches, terraces, contour furrows, or diversion ditches as appropriate; and
- Monitoring and inspecting sites frequently and correct problems promptly.

To minimize erosion throughout Stocker Corridor water should be controlled at its source (e.g., at the top of the hillside) and/or directed to and dissipated to appropriate collection points. In addition, vegetation can also be effective above steep slopes, where it intercepts precipitation, reducing both runoff and excess infiltration. Slope drains and culverts can be an effective way of channeling rainfall through pipes and away from the hillside to an appropriate collection point.

The hillside re-vegetation approach could include the following; a detailed discussion of each step of

a suggested revegetation approach follows:

1. Preserve existing native shrubs and grass areas
2. Remove nonnative shrubs (and trees) where desired
3. Control invasive, nonnative weeds / grasses where desired within the project area
4. Prepare and re-create non-eroding soil conditions
5. Provide temporary erosion control measures for steep slopes
6. Conduct grass seeding
7. Conduct plant establishment, maintenance, and adaptive management

For Stocker Corridor, further and detailed study should be conducted by a team of specialists including a soil scientist, geotechnical engineer, hydrologist, and native grass specialist to analyze site conditions and prepare specific prescriptions for a re-vegetation program that is consistent with project goals and objectives.

4.3 RE-VEGETATION APPLICATION

1. Preserve existing native shrubs and grass areas

Existing native shrubs and grasses should be identified and retained wherever possible. These plants / areas should be delineated, protected, and preserved during construction using orange protection fencing.

2. Remove nonnative shrubs (and trees) where desired

Where desired, nonnative shrubs (and trees) could be removed by way of clearing and grubbing; at all times, these efforts should not compromise the integrity of the soil/hillside stability.

3. Control invasive, nonnative weeds/grasses where desired within the project area

Stocker Corridor appears to be a ruderal grassland hillside with an abundance of nonnative seeds colonizing within the project area. Invasive, nonnative weeds/grasses can be controlled where desired within the project area by way of hand pulling, mechanical methods, and herbicide treatments. These efforts should be conducted in the spring, summer, and fall without compromising the integrity of the soil/hillside stability. Temporary seeding may be needed to protect sites that must remain exposed during the winter and to create organic matter for the soil until all invasives are controlled. The seeding should be a low-cost cover crop of annual grasses or clovers tailored to specific site soil conditions and can be applied using broadcast methods.

4. Prepare and re-create non-eroding soil conditions

The site soil conditions should be prepared for seeding by way of tilling to 2- to 6-inch depth. For steep slopes, appropriate soil conditions for native and non-invasive nonnative species can be re-created by integrating organic mulch/compost (the biological decomposition and stabilization of organic materials by microorganisms under aerobic [in the presence of oxygen] conditions). The organic mulch/compost also facilitates erosion control and weed suppression.

Compost can be used as an immediate, temporary erosion and sediment control, and can be contained by filter berms and placed as compost beds on top of existing soil on steep slopes. The berms manage storm water run-off and retain sediment from above the slope, as well as retain runoff and sediment

from the slope itself. The compost bed controls slope erosion by reducing water flow velocity and the volume of sediment coming off of the slope. Compost can also be incorporated as a soil amendment or topsoil blend to improve soil structure. Both practices help establish a protective vegetation cover, which provides long-term erosion and sediment control. Vegetation established in compost beds is better able to endure extreme climatic conditions compared to vegetation planted in soil that receives commercial fertilizer as a sole nutrient source. It is important to analyze the nutrient (N, P, K and other micronutrients), pH and soluble salt content of the compost before selecting and establishing its application rate for erosion and sediment control. Therefore, the compost prescriptions should be tailored to specific site conditions.

5. Providing temporary erosion control measures for steep slopes

For steep slopes, biotechnical approaches that provide temporary erosion control can be considered. Examples of such approaches include coconut fiber (coir) mats, biologs (coir rolls), and wattles that use live materials that will increase in strength over time. The coconut fiber (coir) mats can strengthen the slopes with the application of reinforced earth embankments in which mats of coconut fiber are placed in horizontal layers (or lifts) and then packed with soil; this approach allows for maintenance and revegetation of steep slopes. Biologs (coir rolls), wattles, and other energy dissipation methods can reduce runoff velocity on long or steep slopes.

6. Conducting grass seeding

Re-vegetation can consist of native and non-invasive nonnative grass seeding. Specific seed mixes should be developed to meet site conditions. The areas to be seeded should have a firm seed bed which has previously been roughened by scarifying, disking, harrowing, chiseling, or otherwise worked to a depth of at least 4 inches on soil or 2 inches on intact rock surfaces. Seeding should be conducted in fall, before November 1. Before seeding operations, slopes should be prepared by tractor before seeding operations; the seed bed will be prepared before the start of seeding. Seed can be broadcast by hand or by mechanical spreader onto the prepared soil surface and lightly harrowed by a hand or mechanical rake. Following seeding and pending the compost materials, straw mulch may be blown over the seeded areas and tractor walked or tugged in with a mulching roller or crimper that punches the mulch in the ground to a depth of approximately two inches. Additionally, following seeding (and mulching if used), tackifier consisting of vegetable-gum based soil stabilizer should be applied.

7. Conducting plant establishment, maintenance, and adaptive management

After grass seeding is complete, plant establishment, maintenance, and adaptive management should be conducted at the project site. These efforts include weed control, watering (if necessary), possible reseeding, and success monitoring. A specific maintenance plan should be prepared to address materials, timing and execution relative to weed abatement and the protection and establishment of desired plant species. During establishment of newly-planted vegetation and until success criteria are met, weed control should be performed as needed to minimize competition with emerging native species and to reduce the potential for weed species to produce seeds which may invade re-vegetation areas. Seeded areas that are not meeting re-vegetation success criteria should be reseeded with a similar or adapted seed mix to the one originally broadcast. Re-vegetation areas should be monitored regularly for the presence of key invasive species; if found, the invasive species should be removed using herbicide applications and/or manual methods. Based on monitoring data and conclusions and to meet the project goals and objectives, adaptive management should be implemented incorporating modified approaches for erosion control, invasive species control, and establishment of desired plant species.

A preliminary seed mix for the Stocker Corridor Hillside re-vegetation efforts could include the following species:

| Botanical Name | Common Name |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> | California Buckwheat |
| <i>Lupinus albus</i> | Bush Lupine |
| <i>Nassella cernua</i> | Nodding Needlegrass |
| <i>Nassella pulchra</i> | Purple Needlegrass |
| <i>Salvia leucophylla</i> | Dwarf Coastal White Sage |
| <i>Salvia microphylla</i> | Baby Sage |
| <i>Zauschneria californica</i> | California Fuchsia |



5.0 Conclusion

5.1 DISCLAIMER

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through a Contract with the BHC pursuant to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002 (Proposition 40). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the BHC, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation of use.

5.2 REFERENCE

Baldwin Hills Conservancy
 3578-C Eastham Drive
 Culver City, CA 90232
 310 558-5593

California State Parks Foundation
 3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2003
 Los Angeles, CA 90010
 213 380-9980

EDAW, Inc.
 3780 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 250
 Los Angeles, CA 90010
 213 368-1608

Paladin Associates
 10940 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1600
 Los Angeles, CA 90024
 310 443-4167

