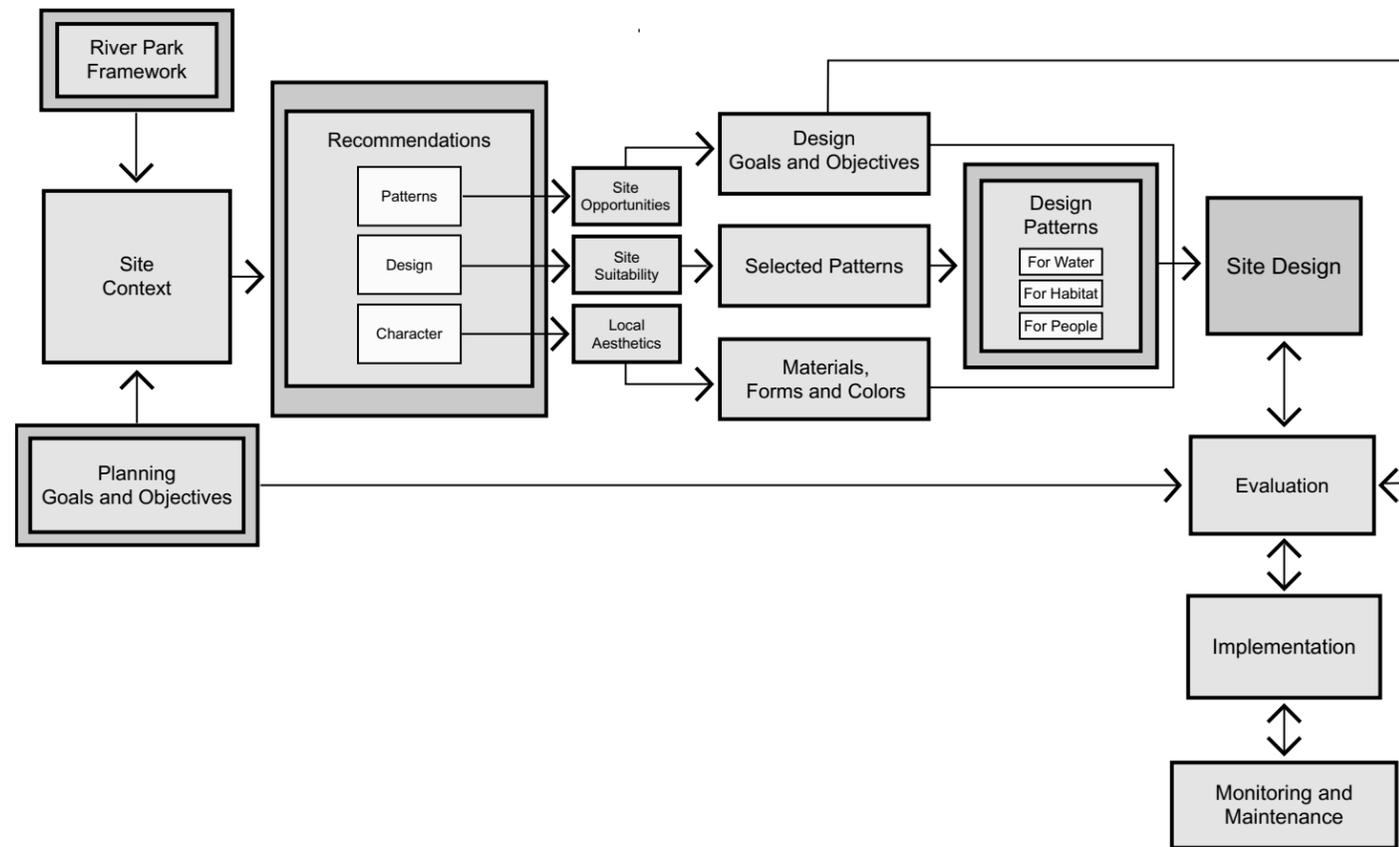


## Site Design



Site Design Process Flowchart

## SITE DESIGN

Understanding the San Diego River Park as a whole is only the beginning of actualizing the river park. It is the design of individual sites and easements for parks and trails that will bring this park into reality. This chapter summarizes how the conceptual plan can be applied to site designs and provides three examples to illustrate this process and begin the actualization of the San Diego River Park.

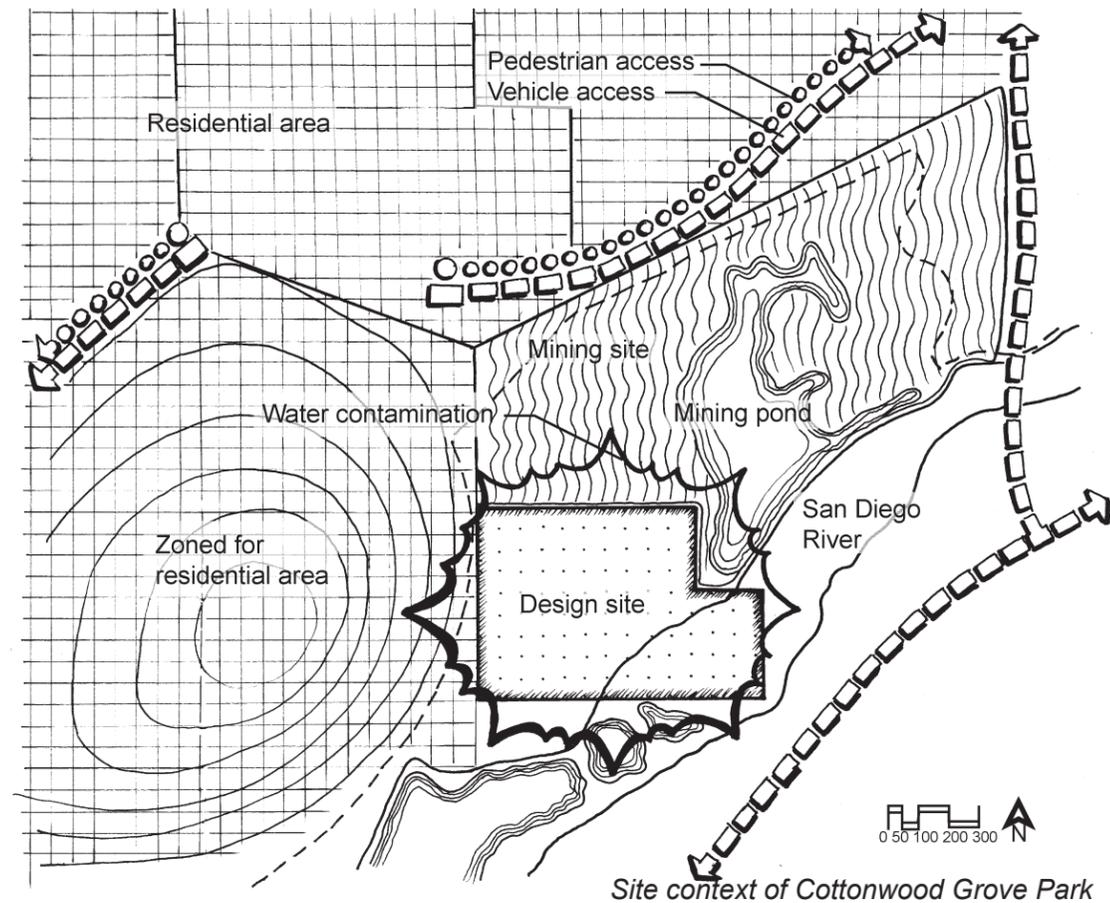
### PROCESS

The design process for individual sites within the river park is a process involving gathering data about site context, analysis of this data based on the recommendations provided in this document, the development of goals and objectives, and the intuitive process of design. The recommendations described for each reach of the river park provide design

guidance of individual sites within that reach. With a thorough understanding of the site context, the recommendations for the appropriate reach can be applied to help guide the design of individual parks within the river park. An analysis of site context with regard to Design Recommendations leads to the generation of Design Goals and Objectives. An analysis of site context with regard to Pattern Recommendations and Design Goals and Objectives leads to the selection of specific Design Patterns for use in design. An Analysis of the site context with regard to Character Recommendations and selected patterns informs the selection of materials, forms and colors. The individual site design is then created through a creative process including the development of a design concept for the site based on this guidance.

### SELECTED DESIGNS

To illustrate the application of the River Park Design Patterns, three typical sites within the proposed park were chosen for detailed design consideration. These sites together show the diverse character and possible functions of the proposed river park. Individually, they demonstrate how the unique opportunities and needs of different sites within the river park can be addressed through the application of appropriate design patterns. The three sites can be seen as pieces adding to and forming the greater whole of the river park, while at the same time each site, at a small scale, captures the nature of the entire San Diego River Park.



## Cottonwood Grove Park, Lakeside

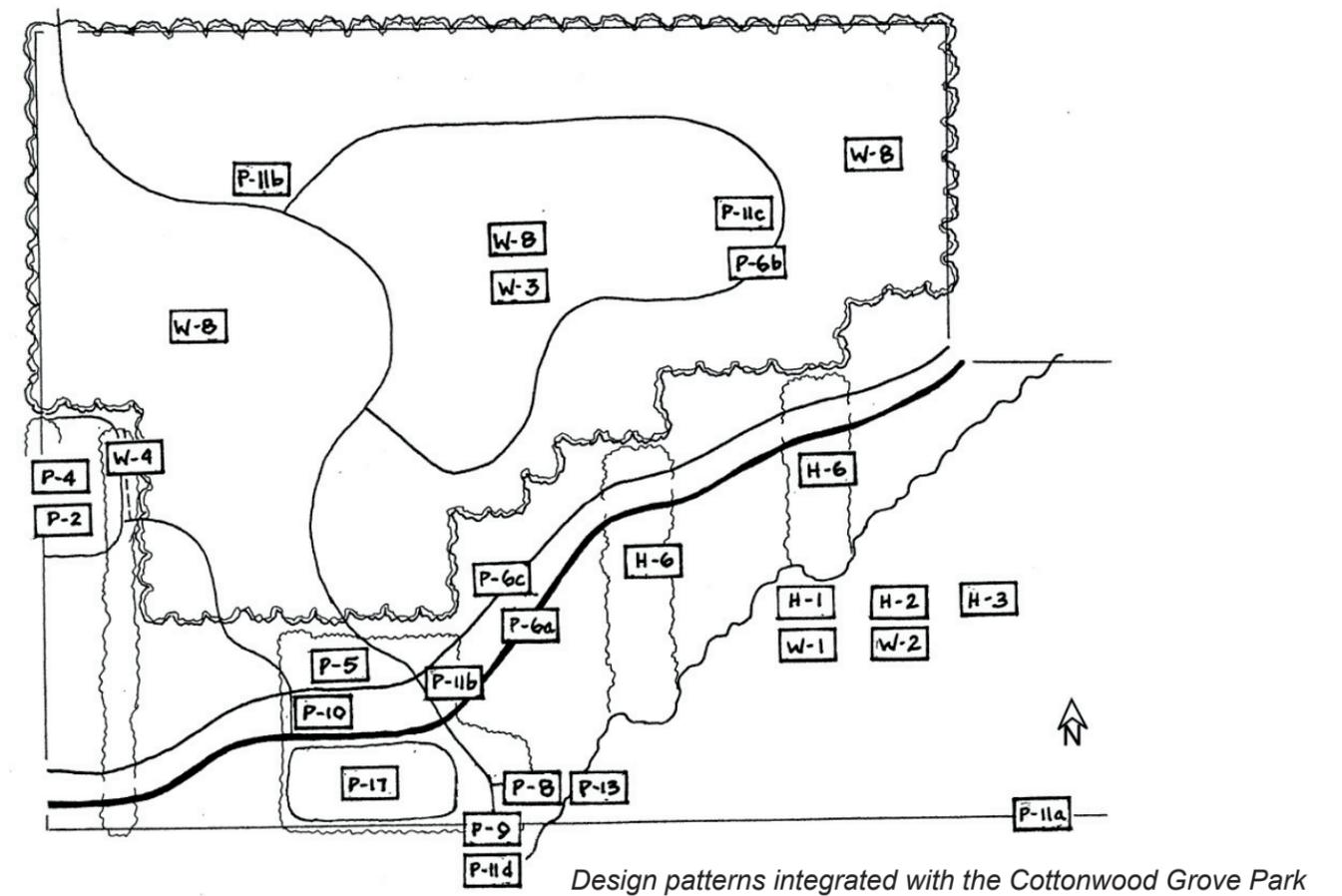
Located near the Santee city border at the western edge of the Lakeside reach, the proposed Cottonwood Grove Park will serve as a gateway to the river trails and parks in the Lakeside area. Featuring a grove of native cottonwood trees working to clean the contaminated groundwater at the site over time, echoing the site's past use as a water treatment area, this park will create a striking visual landmark in the local landscape.

### Site Context

The site is situated on the north bank of the San Diego River, between the local landmarks of "tank hill", proposed for future residential development, and a sand mining operation in its final phase, proposed for future river park or indus-

trial development. Open land to the north of the site is also proposed for future residential development. Two unused water treatment tanks remain on the site, but no other structures are present. The groundwater in the area, located approximately twenty seven feet below the surface, is believed to be contaminated with MTBE, as well as nitrates and iron magnesium. No road access currently exists to the site, with only a dirt trail leading from the end of Riverside Drive into the site. A proposed multiuse trail will cross the site, linking the Santee portion of the river park with the Lakeside portion, and an existing trail, just north of the site connects to the Eucalyptus Hills to the north. The site is flat and bare of most vegetation with much evidence of off-road

vehicle activity, except in the southeast corner where the land slopes down to the river and riparian habitat flourishes. Popular fishing and river access areas lie just to the south of the site along weirs in the river. The entire site is within the one hundred year flood plain. This area was identified as an opportunity for increasing access along the river during a community workshop, and constraints identified included lack of legal access to the river.



*Design Goals and Objectives*

Based on the site context and Design Recommendations for Lakeside found in Chapter Four, the following list of goals and objectives were prepared for this park:

**Celebrate the river’s cultural resources**

- Design to reflect the agricultural heritage of Lakeside

**Support natural stream processes**

- Maintain permeable surfaces within the park to prevent increases in runoff entering the river and decreases in groundwater infiltration
- Prevent further development within the floodplain by creating a park which does not include buildings or large structures
- Prevent deterioration of water quality in the river by preserving ripar-

ian habitat and utilizing vegetated swales adjacent to parking and equestrian areas

- Improve groundwater through the process of phytoremediation
- Take advantage of opportunities to educate the public about groundwater quality issues and provide an opportunity for local schools, colleges or universities to study the phytoremediation process

**Preserve and enhance riparian habitat**

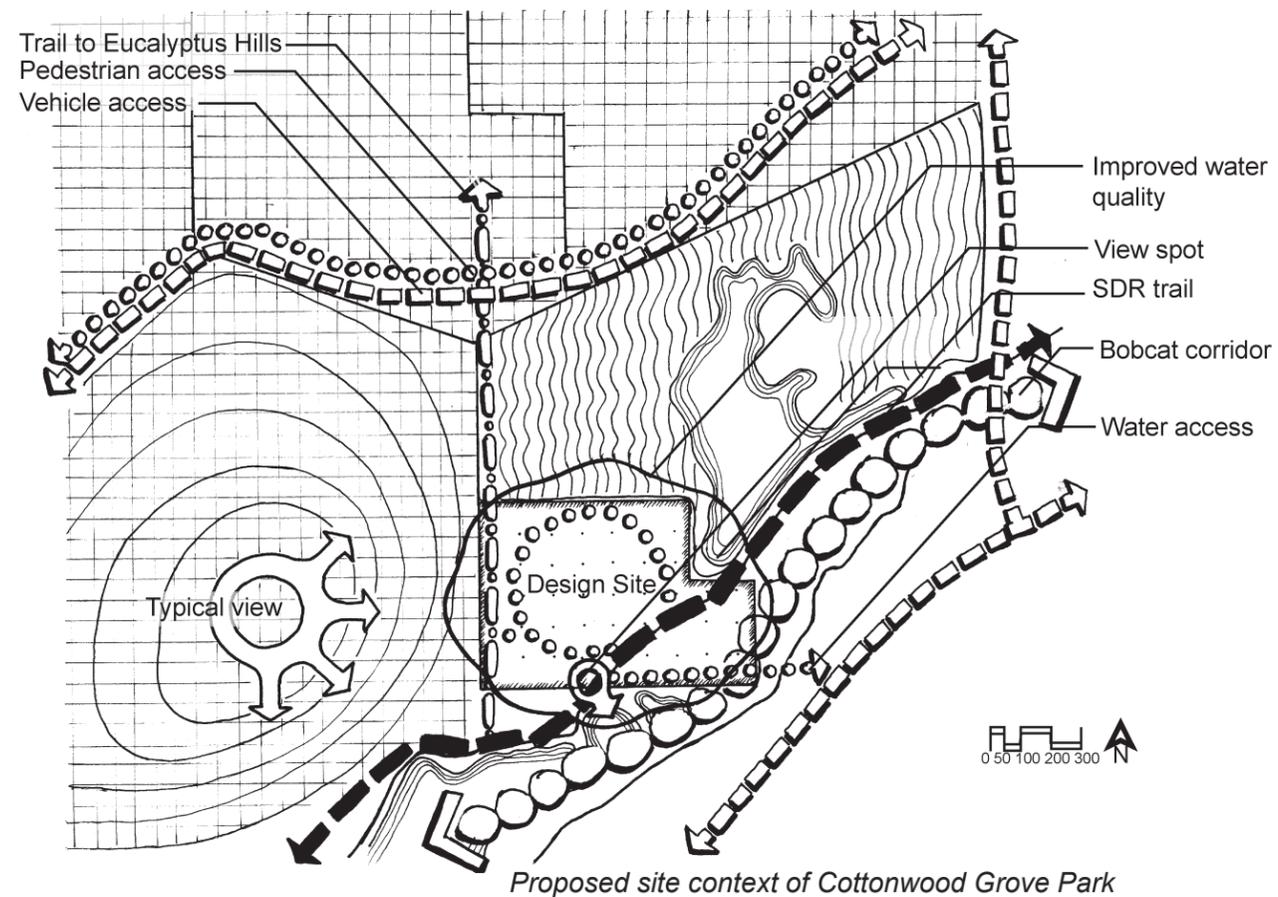
- Enhance existing habitat by preserving habitat in the riparian corridor and restoring native habitat adjacent to the river
- Maintain connectivity for habitat and bobcats through the site
- Design for appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife

- Provide interpretive signage about the natural history of the river

**Provide recreational opportunities**

- Create a link in the continuous San Diego River Park Trail along the length of the river
- Connect to the trails to Eucalyptus Hills and Santee
- Preserve open space for public access

*Selected Design Patterns, Materials, Forms and Colors*  
 Design Patterns for use at this site were selected through an analysis of the Design Patterns appropriate to Lakeside and the Design Goals and Objectives based on site context. The patterns chosen for use were: Stream Meanders (W-1), Bank Restoration (W-2), Infiltration



Zones (W-3), Vegetated Swales (W-4), Habitat Restoration (H-1), Habitat Corridor (H-2), Bobcat Corridor (H-3), Native Landscaping (H-6), Bicycle Facilities (P-2), Parking (P-4), Horse Facilities (P-5), San Diego River Park Trail (P-6a), Spur Trails (P-6b), Horse Trails (P-6c), View Spots (P-8), Water Access (P-9), Kiosks (P-10), River Signage (P-11a), Directional Signage (P-11b), Interpretive Signage (P-11c), Regulatory Signage (P-11d), Benches (P-17), Picnic Areas (P-17).

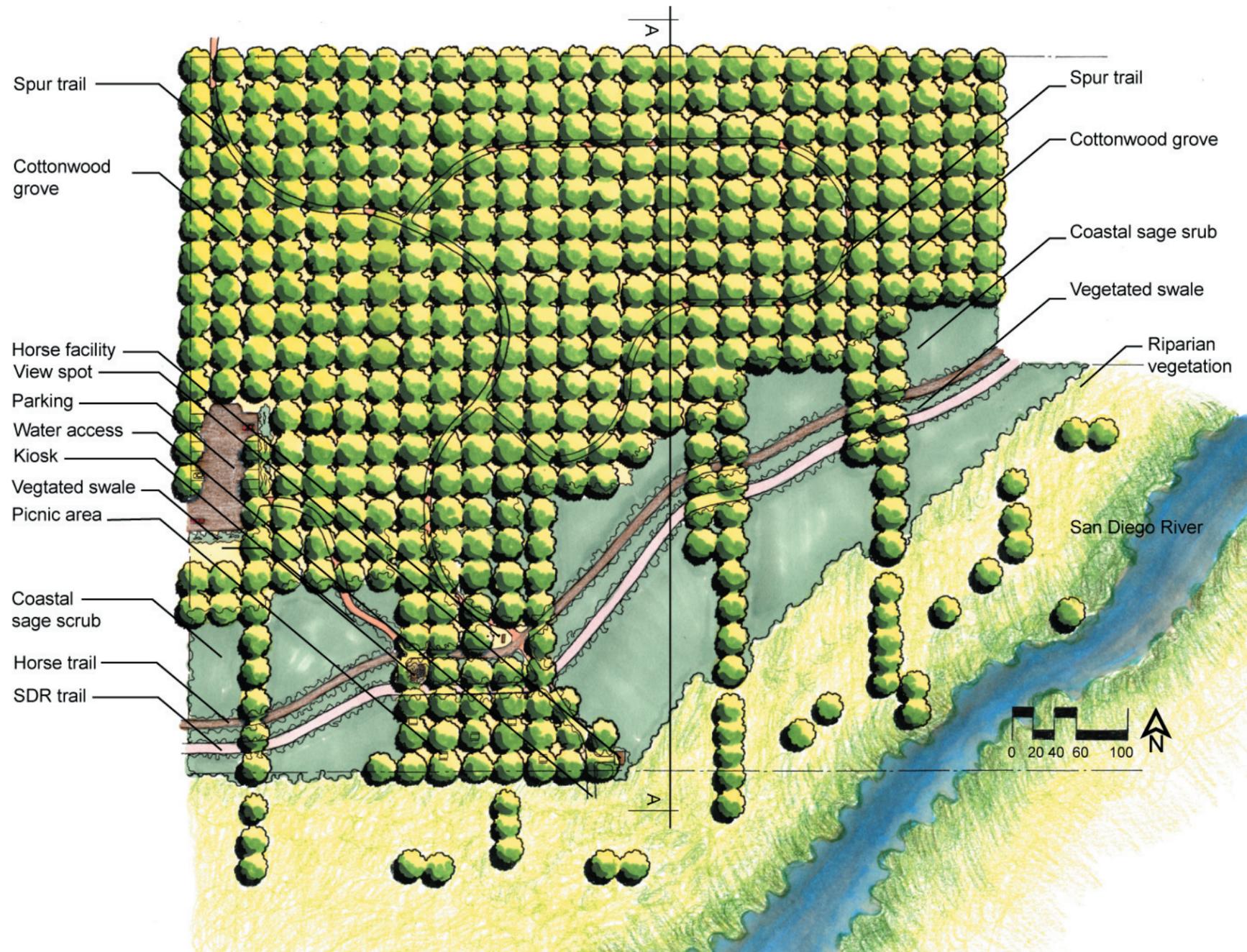
Materials, forms and colors were influenced by the local aesthetics of the area and the chosen design patterns include smooth boulders from the surrounding hills and metal from the industrial influence of sand mining operations. Forms include the historical grid of agriculture

and the organic forms of the river. Colors reflect the natural surroundings with sycamore shades of pale brown and light green and reflect the industrial character with rust tones.

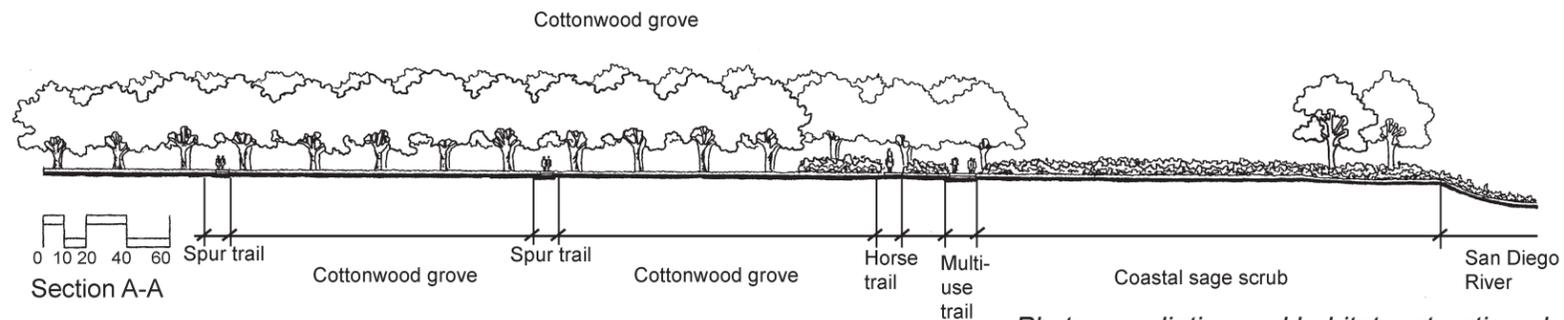
#### *Design Concept*

The primary feature of Cottonwood Grove Park will be the cottonwood grove itself. The grove, in the form of a grid, forty feet on center, reflecting surrounding local grids created by both agriculture and residential development, will be using the process of phytoremediation to remove toxins from the groundwater beneath the site. The deep reaching roots of the cottonwoods will be able to penetrate into the contaminated groundwater supply, and the fast paced metabolism of the cottonwoods will allow them draw up and store the toxins, over time leading to

cleaner local groundwater. Test wells will be installed and monitored to document the effectiveness of the treatment. This process offers the opportunity for school and community involvement in the ongoing monitoring of the site, and offers an excellent opportunity for public education about groundwater contamination and the benefits of low-cost phytoremediation.



*Cottonwood Grove Park Site Design*



*Phytoremediation and habitat restoration elements*



*Buffered equestrian and bicycle trails provide Santee and Lakeside residents convenient access to the river*

### *Cottonwood Grove Park Design*

The proposed cottonwood grove is located on the northern portion of the property, leaving the southern portion of the property adjacent to the river more open and natural. Existing riparian habitat will be maintained and enhanced through restoration providing a wildlife corridor suitable for the movement of bobcats through the area. A wooden deck on the edge of the riparian area provides a view spot for the observation of birds and other wildlife. Interpretive signage shows common birds, lizards and snakes that might be seen at the park.

Adjacent to the riparian habitat, native Diegan coastal sage scrub will be reestablished to increase habitat and to serve as a buffer to the riparian habitat areas. A twelve-foot paved pedestrian and bicycle path, a portion of the San Diego River Park Trail, will traverse through the buffer area east to west, linking proposed trails through Santee and Lakeside. A parallel, eight-foot wide, compacted earth equestrian trail is provided on the north side of the pedestrian and bicycle trail, keeping trail widths narrower to discourage the establishment of brownheaded

cowbirds which parasitizes the nest of the endangered least Bell's vireo.

An eight-foot wide, compacted earth trail runs through the site, south to north, and links to water access opportunities located just south of the park, past a family picnic area located within the buffer and shaded by cottonwood trees, up through the cottonwood phytoremediation grove, and connecting to an existing trail to the Eucalyptus Hills. Six-foot compacted earth side trails meander



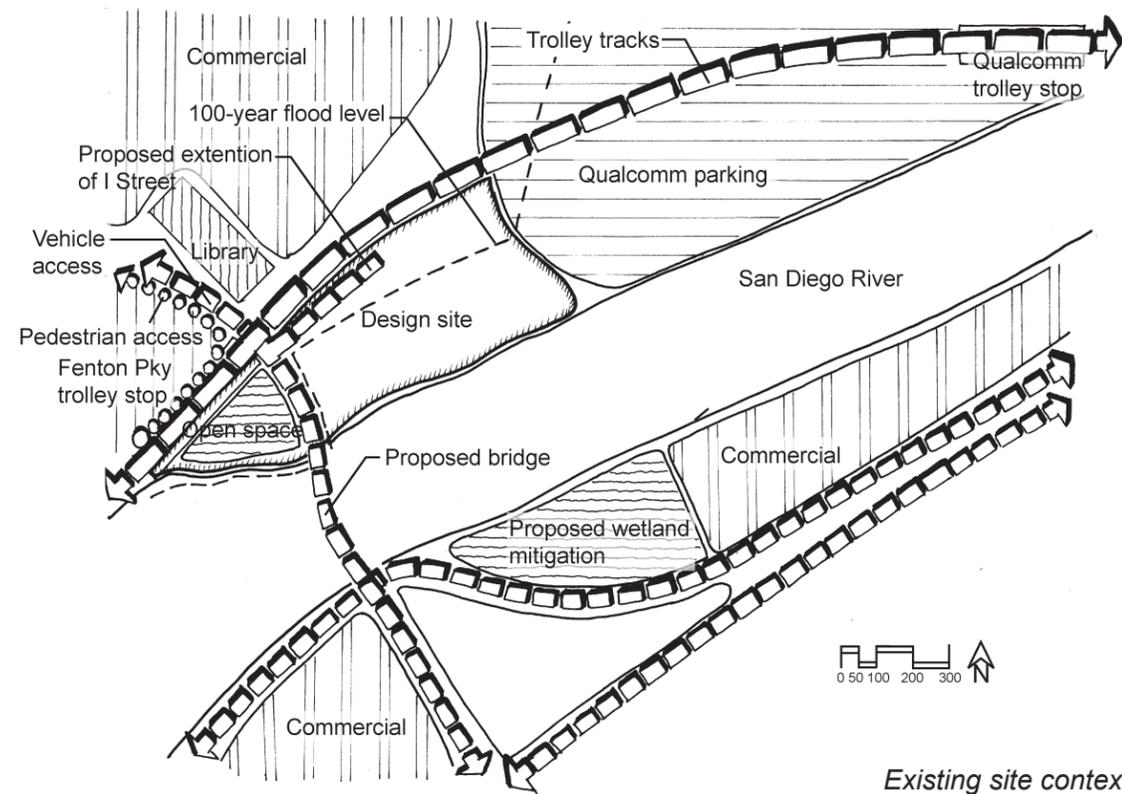
*Bird's eye view looking east at Cottonwood Grove Park*



*Trail leading to kiosk and node of the park*

through the grove and link to a parking area accommodating eighteen vehicles. The compacted earth of the parking area is sloped to catch runoff in a vegetative swale to cleanse it of car related contaminants before it enters the river or groundwater.

Centrally located, where the east to west and south to north trails intersect, a kiosk provides park rules, maps, space for community postings and information about the phytoremediation project. Permanent structures or buildings such as a maintenance center or restrooms are not provided at this site because of its location within the one hundred year floodplain.



## Mission City River Park, Mission Valley

Located directly across from the Mission Valley branch of San Diego Public Library and adjacent to the Mission City trolley stop, the proposed Mission City River Park offers great opportunities for recreation and community education. Featuring a maintenance center with a native plant nursery, a sculpted earth amphitheater located within an area of seemingly flood-carved earthen mounds, and recreational fields for active sports, the park will provide the opportunity for the people in Mission Valley to learn about and enjoy the environment of the San Diego River.

### Site Context

Mission City River Park will be located on the proposed extension of I Street, from the Fenton trolley stop to Qualcomm Stadium. The design area

includes an area proposed for a park and ride for the trolley stop, a large practice field no longer used for football practice, and the portion of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot south of the trolley tracks. A new road is proposed along the northern edge of the site, and a bridge is proposed to cross the river here along an extension of Mission City Parkway. Groundwater in the area is highly contaminated with MTBE because of leakage from storage tanks located northwest of Qualcomm Stadium, but at the site, the contamination is located sixty- to ninety-feet below the surface and below a level appropriate for phytoremediation. As part of environmental mitigation for the proposed bridge, a reconstructed wetland is proposed directly across the river from the site. This site was identified in a community workshop as providing an oppor-

tunity for a park, and the Qualcomm parking lot was also identified as a design opportunity.

### Design Goals and Objectives

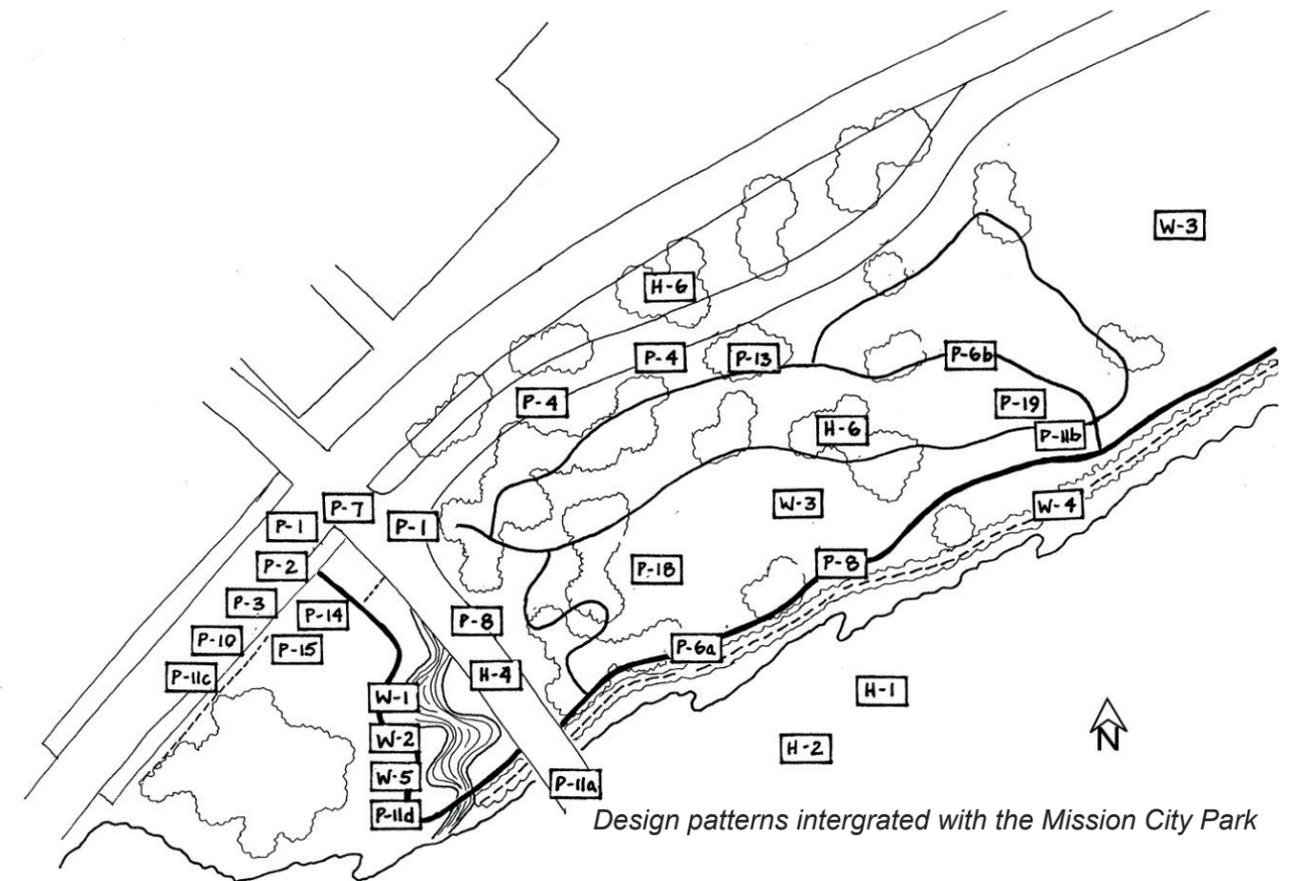
Based on the site context and Design Recommendations for Mission Valley found in Chapter Four, the following list of goals and objectives were prepared for this park:

#### Celebrate the river's cultural resources

- Connect people with the landscape history of Mission Valley

#### Support natural stream processes and recognize the natural flooding process

- Naturalize a concrete storm drain channel to restore the free flowing nature of a minor tributary and to increase groundwater infiltration.



Design patterns intergrated with the Mission City Park

- Increase permeable surfaces within the park to decrease runoff entering the river and increase groundwater infiltration
- Prevent further development within the floodplain by creating a park with buildings located outside of the floodplain
- Prevent deterioration of water quality in the river by preserving riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for recreational fields and utilizing vegetated swales adjacent to parking and impermeable surfaces
- Educate the public about the relationship between increased runoff and increased flooding

**Preserve and enhance riparian habitat**

- Enhance existing habitat by preserving habitat in the riparian corridor and restoring native habitat adja-

- cent to the river
- Maintain connectivity for habitat through the site and provide for wildlife to cross under the proposed bridge
- Design for appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife
- Provide opportunities and facilities for the public, including school groups, to learn about the restoration process

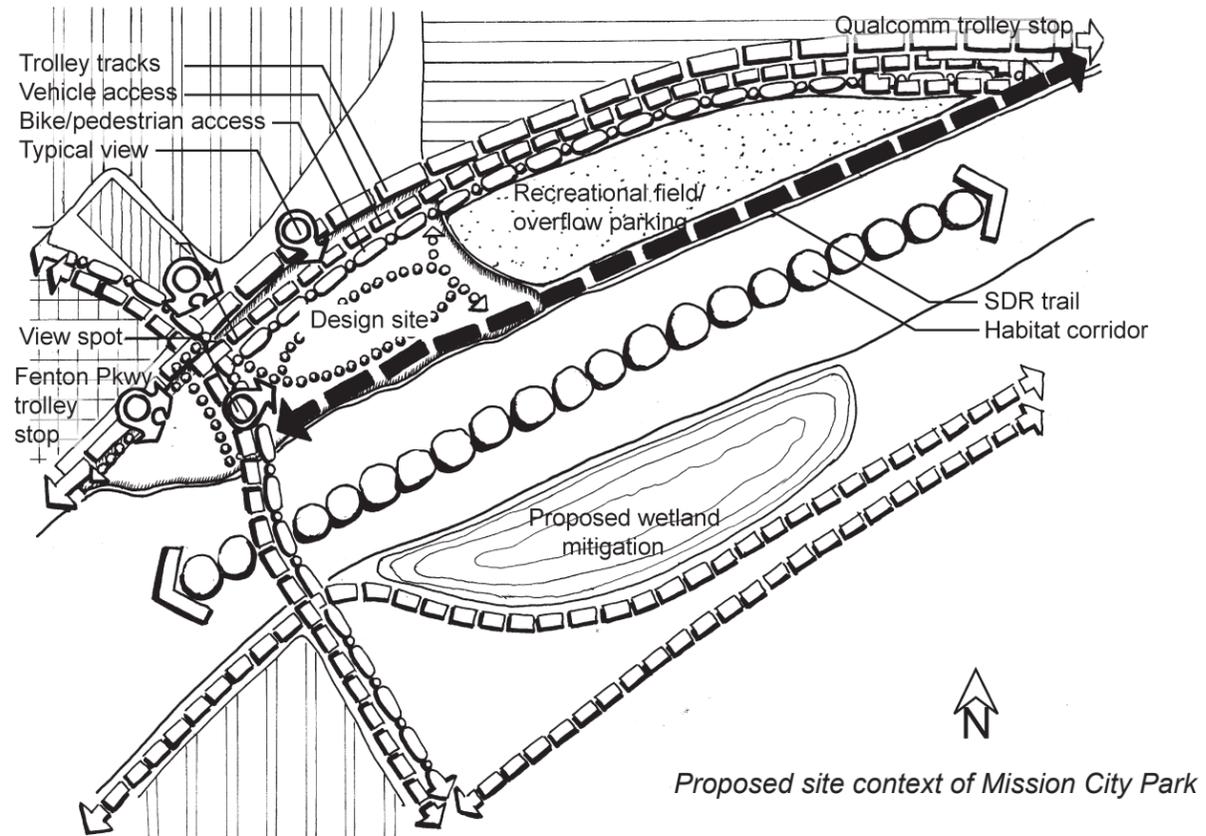
**Provide recreational opportunities**

- Create a link in the continuous San Diego River Park Trail along the length of the river
- Provide for the active recreational space with a playing field and passive recreation space with a strolling park
- Preserve open space for public access
- Design for a sense of safety

- Provide signage at the river crossing and include a pedestrian overlook on the river

*Selected Design Patterns, Materials, Forms and Colors*

Design Patterns for use at this site were selected through an analysis of the Design Patterns appropriate to Mission Valley and the Design Goals and Objectives based on the site context. The patterns chosen for use were: Stream Meanders (W-1), Bank Restoration (W-2), Infiltration Zones (W-3), Vegetated Swales (W-4), Detention Basins (W-5), Habitat Restoration (H-1), Habitat Corridor (H-2), Wildlife Underpass (H-4), Native Landscaping (H-6), Access points (P-1), Bicycle Facilities (P-2), Public Transit Access (P-3), Parking (P-4), San Diego River Park Trail (P-6a), Spur Trails (P-6b), Road Crossings (P-7),



Proposed site context of Mission City Park

View Spots (P-8), Water Access (P-9), Kiosks (P-10), River Signage (P-11a), Directional Signage (P-11b), Interpretive Signage (P-11c), Regulatory Signage (P-11d), Benches (P-13), Restrooms (P-14), Maintenance Centers (P-15), Amphitheaters (P-18), Art (P-19).

Materials, forms and colors were influenced by the local aesthetics of the area and the chosen design patterns, and include the materials of broken concrete, glass and ceramic tiles, reflecting the impact of flooding on the built landscape. Forms include the grid of the maintenance center reflecting urbanization and organic forms of carved landscape representing the river's flooding capacity. Colors include willow and clear blues.

### *Design Concept*

This park acknowledges and celebrates the river's natural flooding process. Located in an area with frequent flooding, the strolling area of the park imitates the form of sand bars that would have once been located in the river channel. Providing unique sculpted earth form, the park will draw people to contemplate the river's relationship to the local landscape. Benches and an informal amphitheater that appear to have been carved from the sandbars provide opportunities for seating, viewing the river, outdoor education and performances. To provide shade and to help improve groundwater quality, native riparian cottonwood trees are included for their phytoremediation potential even though the contaminated groundwater may be beyond the reach of their roots. A large balcony from the second floor of the Mission Valley

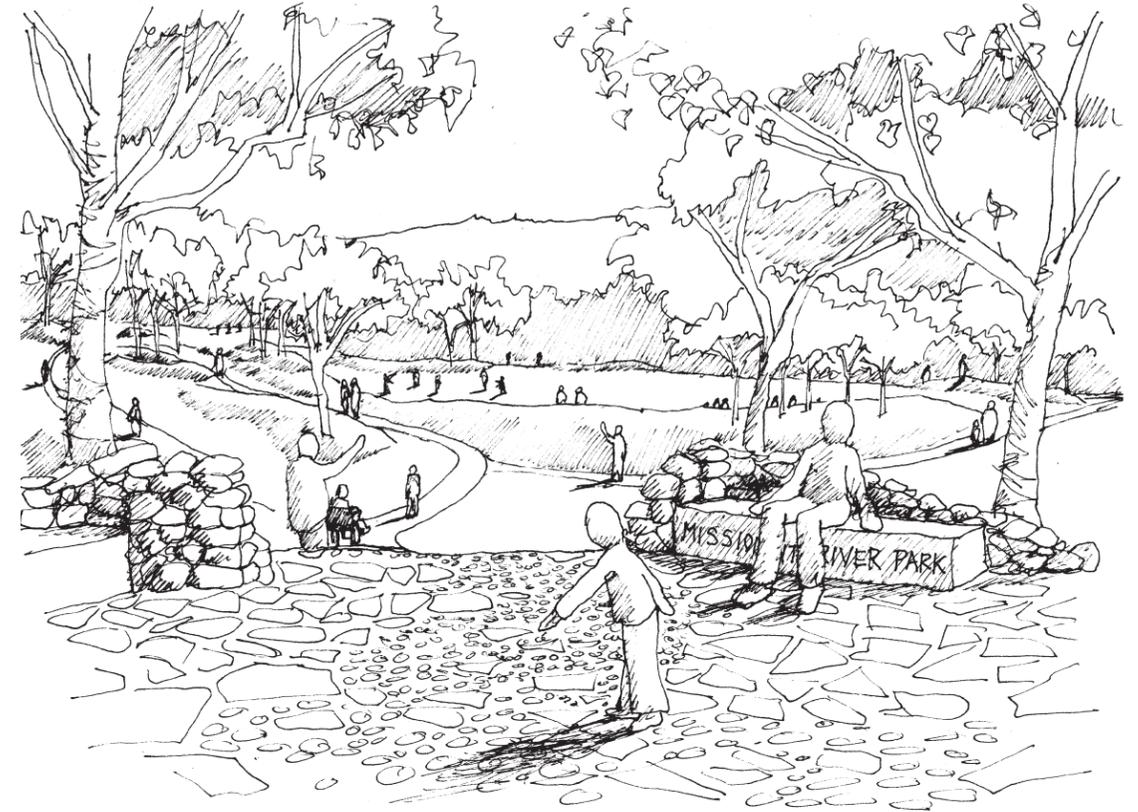
Branch of the San Diego Public Library will provide a striking overhead perspective of the park.

Because of its location adjacent to the newly completed library, education is a key component of this park design. The amphitheater is part of the educational programming, and another is the maintenance center and nursery located on the portion of the site that lies above the one hundred year flood plain. The center will provide propagation facilities for use by park employees, local community groups and school groups. These facilities can be used to propagate the local native plants of the river for use in restoration and landscaping projects. Educational components can also be incorporated at the trolley stop adjacent to the center. Commuters and people passing by can learn about the restoration efforts of the river park.

To recognize the role of runoff in flooding of the San Diego River, two elements are proposed to make runoff processes more apparent. Just west of the proposed bridge is a storm drain outlet. In the construction of the bridge, the drain location is to be extended downriver, obscuring the location where the runoff water enters the river. The design of this park proposes to leave the drain in place, and to create a meandering course for the water, creating a stream environment to aerate and filter the water before it enters the river. Signage could identify the source of the water and help educate the public about flooding issues. To illustrate ways in which runoff can be reduced, a portion of the parking for Qualcomm Stadium could be converted to turf recreational fields. The fields could be used for parking on game days and for community activities at other times. Providing increased areas for infiltration can reduce runoff. Again, signage could educate the public about potential flood reduction through reducing impervious surface areas.

#### *Mission City River Park Design*

The western portion of the site, adjacent to the Fenton trolley stop, is higher and outside of the one hundred-year floodplain, and will be the site of the maintenance center. The maintenance center will have a storage building, a shaded outdoor workstation, and plenty of room for compost storage and growing plants. The straw bale storage building, constructed with local, volunteer labor will have a vegetated green roof to demonstrate the runoff reducing and aesthetic qualities of this technology. The workstation and planting areas will be fenced for security, with plenty of room allowed for group activities and educational gatherings. Limited parking is provided for drop-off and access to this facility. Native riparian and Diegan coastal sage

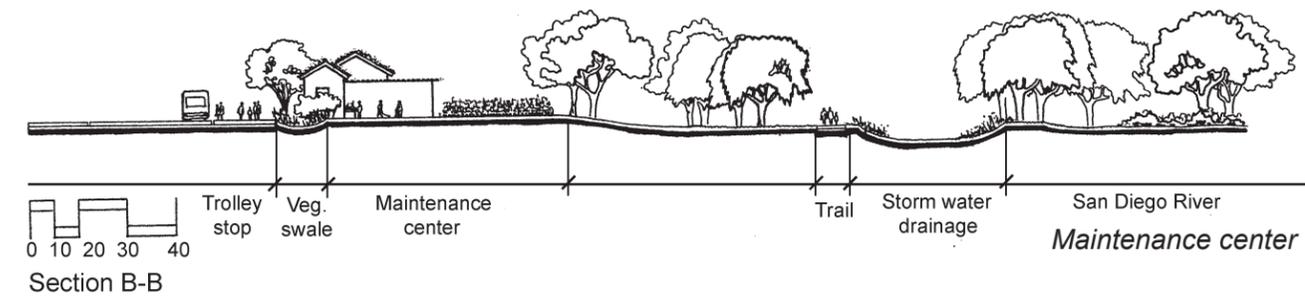
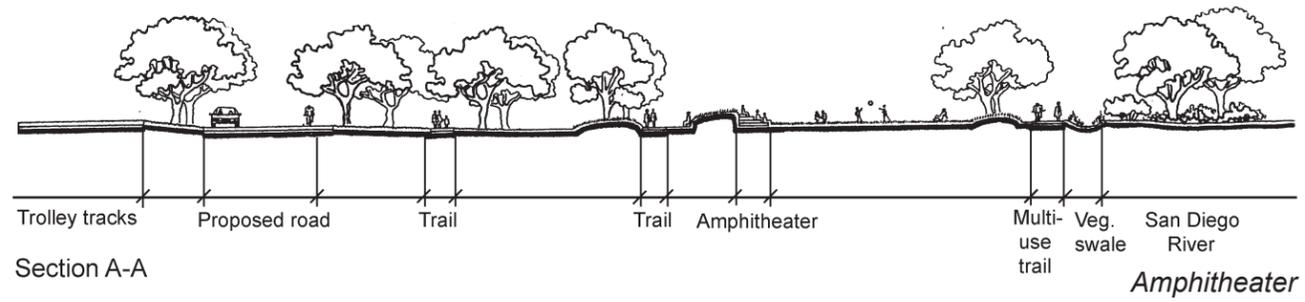


*Children enjoy the embedded tile mosaic at the entrance to the park*

scrub habitat is maintained and enhanced along the western side of the maintenance center, allowing both the natural landscape and the maintenance center that supports it, to be viewed from the trolley. Interpretive signage can be provided at the trolley stop illustrating the restoration process. Adjacent to the maintenance center on the east, an existing storm drain channel, currently flowing in a concrete lined channel to the river, will be restored to a more natural stream channel meandering its way through boulders to the river, aerating and filtering the water as it travels. A compacted earth pedestrian trail, with interpretive signage telling about runoff reduction strategies, follows the shaded, tree-lined stream bank.

The proposed Mission City Parkway Bridge separates the maintenance center from the rest of the park. This design proposes to raise the height of this bridge to allow the streamside pedestrian path to pass under and connect to trails in the strolling area. A pedestrian overlook is also proposed to allow people crossing the bridge to stop and enjoy the riparian views.

Park visitors driving to the park will have street-side parking along the proposed I Street extension, and bicyclers will be provided with bicycle facilities including bike lockers at the trolley stop platform.





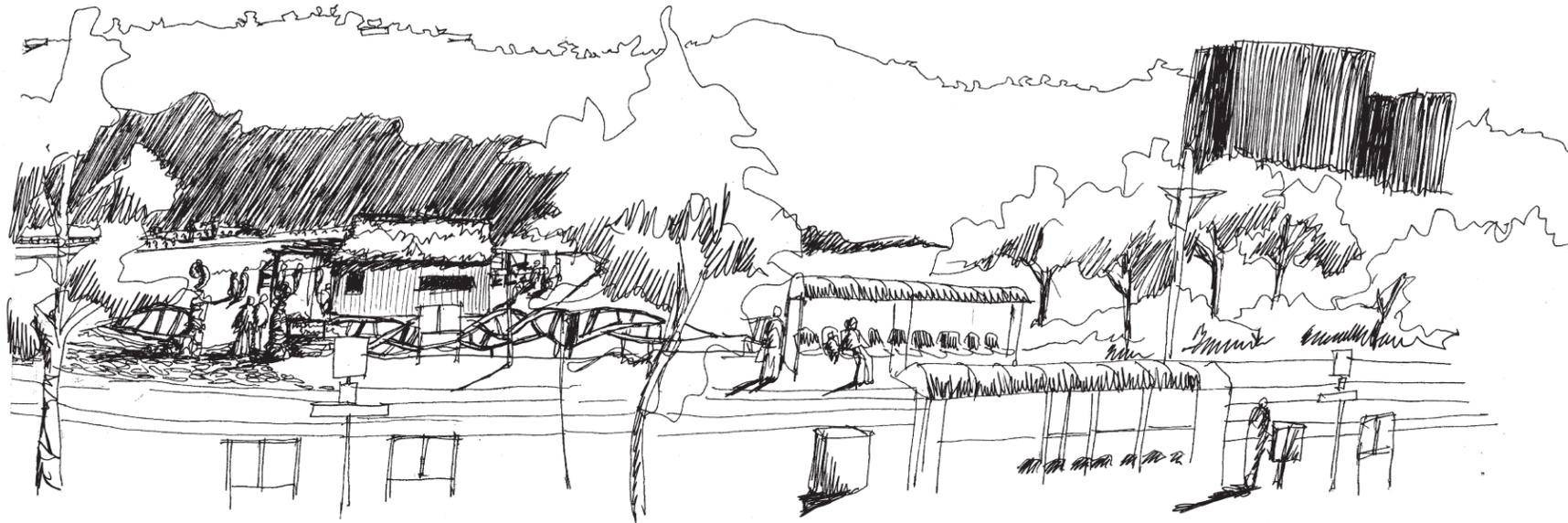
To guide park visitors from the trolley stop, library and street-side parking to the strolling area park entrance, street crossings and sidewalks will be marked by inlaid broken concrete. The broken concrete, which is both recycled and aesthetically interesting, gives reference to the potentially destructive flooding power of the river in this area and allows for increased groundwater infiltration verses conventional paving.

The sidewalk and crosswalks lead visitors to the entry plaza from which the strolling park below can be viewed. A tile mosaic, embedded in the plaza sur-

face, reflects the landscape history of Mission Valley and connects park visitors with the history of the area. From here, paths lead down into the park. The paths follow carved out areas between berms planted with low growing native sages, cottonwoods and sycamores. The berms are low, with most being three feet or lower, to maintain openness and a sense of safety within the park. At resting areas and view spots, benches are carved out and set within the berms. Two taller berms, one supporting the amphitheater seating, give variation and carve out a larger gathering area in the southern portion of the site. The amphitheater seats

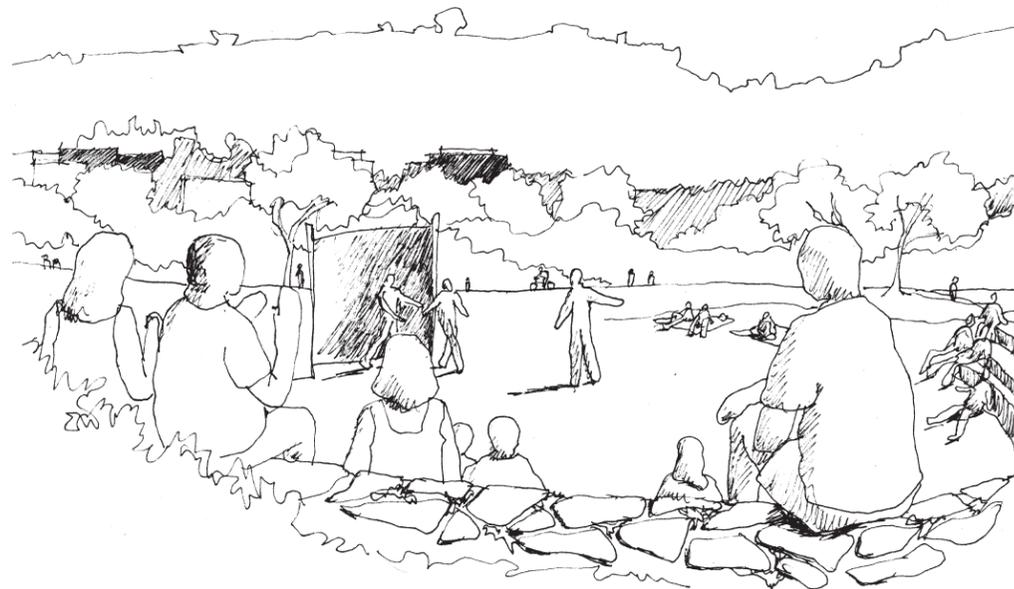
are embedded with tile mosaics reflecting the entry plaza and celebrating the site's connection to the San Diego River. A small turf lawn is proposed for this area to support gathering and activities associated with the amphitheater.

The amphitheater itself seats up to 75 people in an informal setting, with east views into the park and Qualcomm Stadium beyond, and south toward the river. Trees shade some of the seating, which can be used by individuals and small groups when not being used by larger groups or educational gatherings.

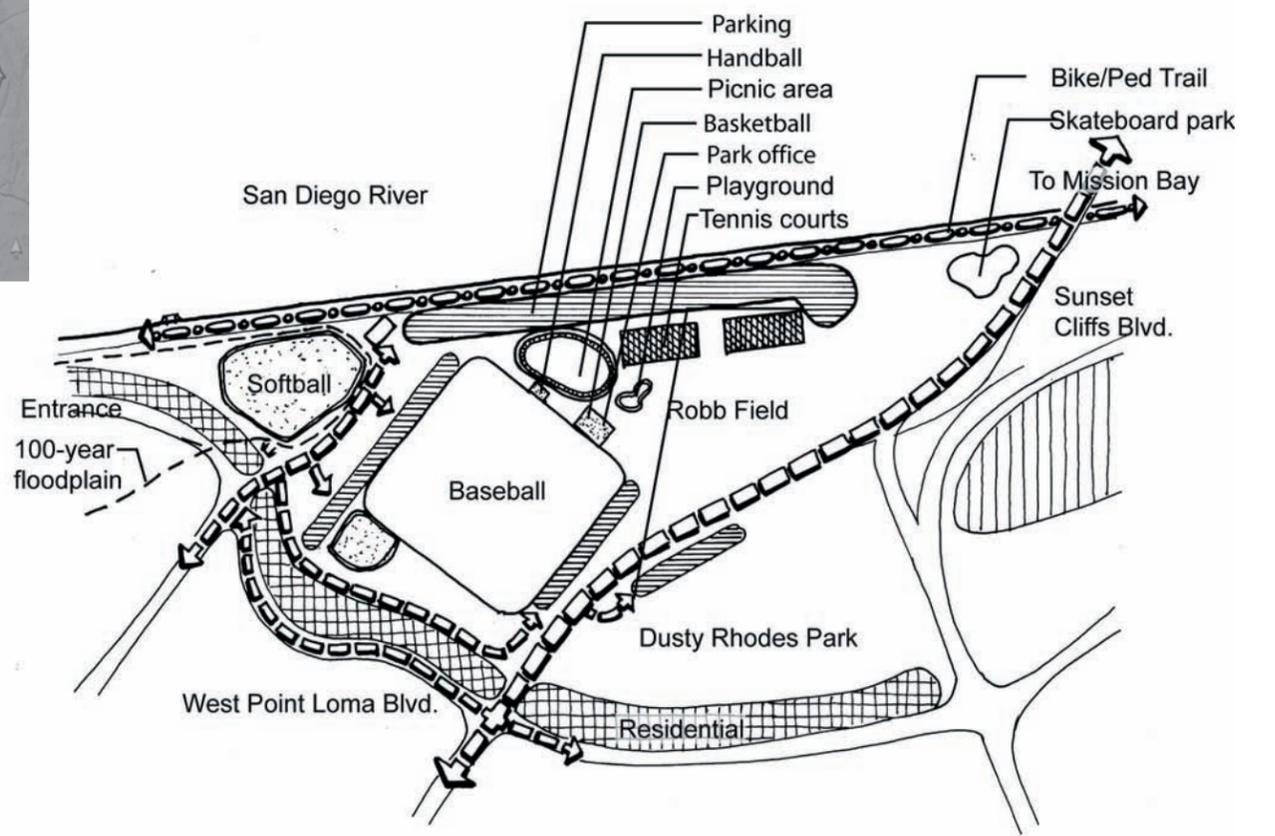


*Panorama of Mission City library, Qualcomm Stadium, Mission City River Park, the maintenance center and trolley stop*

The San Diego River Park Trail, a twelve-foot wide paved multiuse trail, passes along the southern edge of the site adjacent to the river. It provides connection to the recreational fields proposed for the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot. These fields can provide areas for active sports, gatherings, festivals and overflow parking on game days. Interpretive signage can describe the process of replacing the asphalt with turf, and the associated benefits to the river. A park and ride facility can also be located here for access to the Qualcomm trolley stop.



*Families and schools groups enjoy the bermed amphitheater with the San Diego River as its backdrop*



Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park context

**Robb Field Recreation Center and Dusty Rhodes Park, Estuary**

Robb Field is located between the San Diego River estuary to the north and Dusty Rhodes Park just across Sunset Cliffs Boulevard to the south, but remains isolated without strong connections to either. A redesign of this area can provide much stronger connections to the river, acknowledging and celebrating its presence, while maintaining all of the recreational spaces and activities within the parks. The redesign features a pedestrian bridge linking the parks and marking their location, a day-lighted storm drain running through a reconstructed stream bed to cleanse the water before it reaches the river, picnic areas and recreational fields with views of the river, and increased parking.

*Site Context*

Robb Field is a popular, active sports park located in the community of Ocean Beach. Current park facilities include recreational fields, a football field, horse-shoes, a soccer field, and tennis courts. Sports activities include basketball, flag football, soccer, indoor soccer, rugby, softball, tennis and weightlifting. Robb Field Skateboard Park, a public facility with fee-based entry, is also located within the park. Along the northern edge of the park, an asphalt multiuse trail, identified in a community workshop as providing an opportunity for improvement, passes between the park and the channelized slope of the San Diego River. Multitudes of birds, including the federally-endangered, light-footed clapper rails and California least terns, congregate in the estuary below. Parking is concentrated along the south side of the multiuse

path in a long narrow lot, and additional parking is provided to the south of the softball fields.

Dusty Rhodes Park, a part of Ocean Beach Recreation Center and just across the major thoroughfare of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, is less programmed for specific activities. The large grass field is used for many diverse activities including lacrosse, Frisbee, soccer, rugby and dog shows. Although very close to Robb Field, no pedestrian access is currently available across the busy street. Because of river channelization, these parks lie beyond the one hundred-year floodplain except for a small area in the northern edge of Robb Field.



*Enjoying the riverfront is enhanced by a meandering trail, native vegetation and passive areas for sitting and birdwatching*

### *Design Goals and Objectives*

Based on the site context and Design Recommendations for Mission Valley found in Chapter Four, the following list of goals and objectives were prepared for this park:

#### **Celebrate the river's cultural resources**

- Connect people with the estuary's historic meandering form by using it for inspiration to guide the placement of the riverside path

#### **Support natural stream processes**

- Replace paved parking lots to increase permeable surfaces within the park to decrease runoff entering the river and increase groundwater infiltration
- Prevent deterioration of water quality in the river by preserving

riparian habitat, promoting good management practices for recreational fields and utilizing vegetated swales adjacent to parking and impermeable surfaces

- Provide a stormwater treatment demonstration area to educate the public about the effect of runoff on the estuary's water quality

#### **Preserve and enhance riparian and estuary habitat**

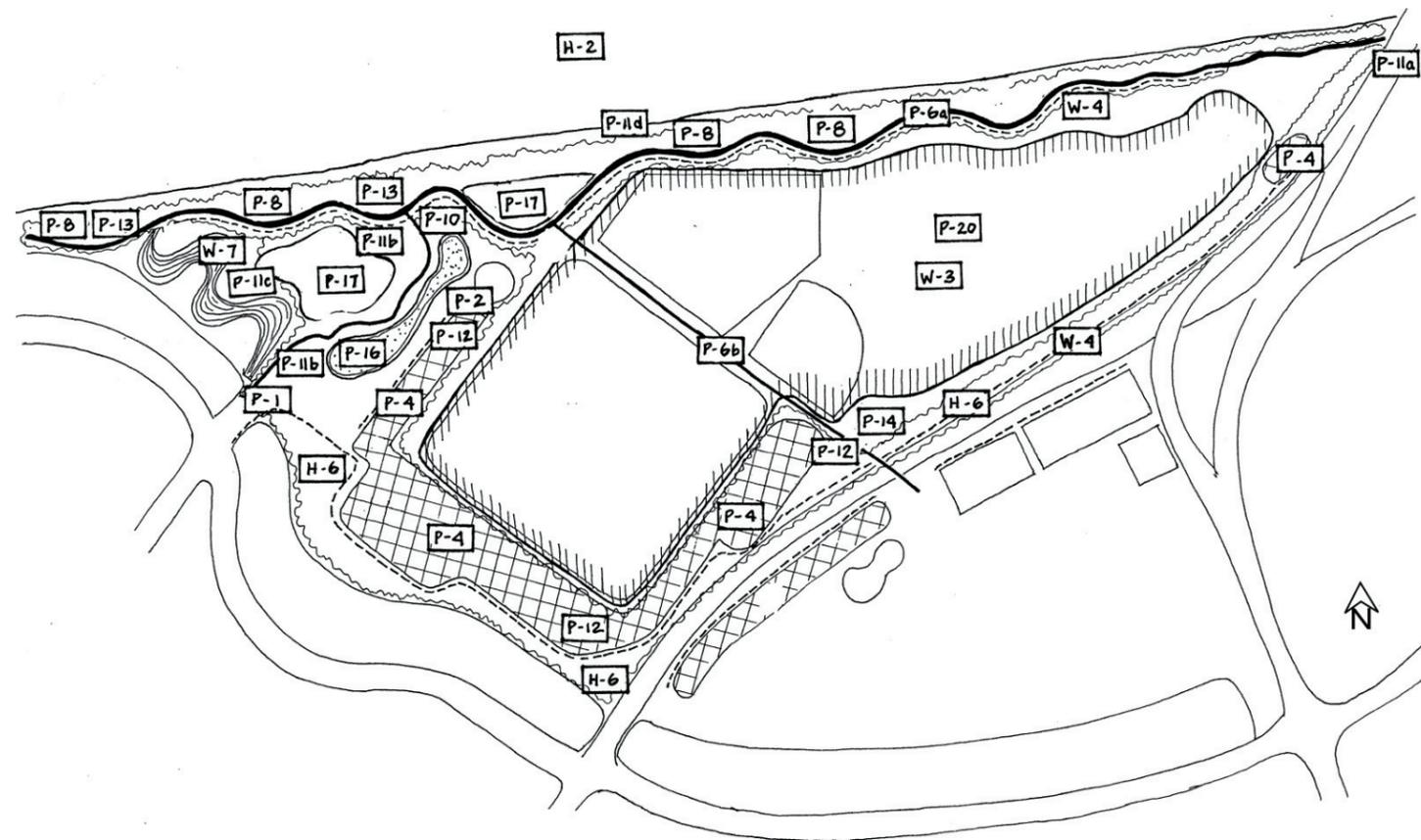
- Enhance existing habitat by preserving habitat in the riparian corridor and restoring native habitat along the river channel edge
- Maintaining connectivity for habitat through the site
- Designing for appropriate integration of recreation and wildlife by programming the least impacting

activities adjacent to sensitive estuary habitat

- Provide opportunities for public education about estuary birds through interpretive signage

#### **Provide recreational opportunities**

- Create a link in the continuous San Diego River Park Trail along the length of the river
- Maintain the same amount of active recreational space while providing additional opportunities for passive recreation
- Design for a sense of safety by maintaining wide open views
- Provide a connection from the river to Dusty Rhodes Park



*Design patterns integrated with Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park*

*Selected Design Patterns, Materials, Forms and Colors*

Design Patterns for use at this site were selected through an analysis of the Design Patterns appropriate to the estuary and the Design Goals and Objectives based the site context. The patterns chosen for use were: Infiltration Zones (W-3), Vegetated Swales (W-4), Stormwater Treatment Areas (W-7), Habitat Corridor (H-2), Native Landscaping (H-6), Access Points (P-1), Bicycle Facilities (P-2), Parking (P-4), San Diego River Park Trail (P-6a), Spur Trails (P-6b), View Spots (P-8), Kiosks (P-10), River Signage (P-11a), Directional Signage (P-11b), Interpretive Signage (P-11c), Regulatory Signage (P-11d), Lighting and Emergency Phones (P-12), Benches (P-13), Restrooms (P-14), Playgrounds (P-16), Picnic Areas (P-17).

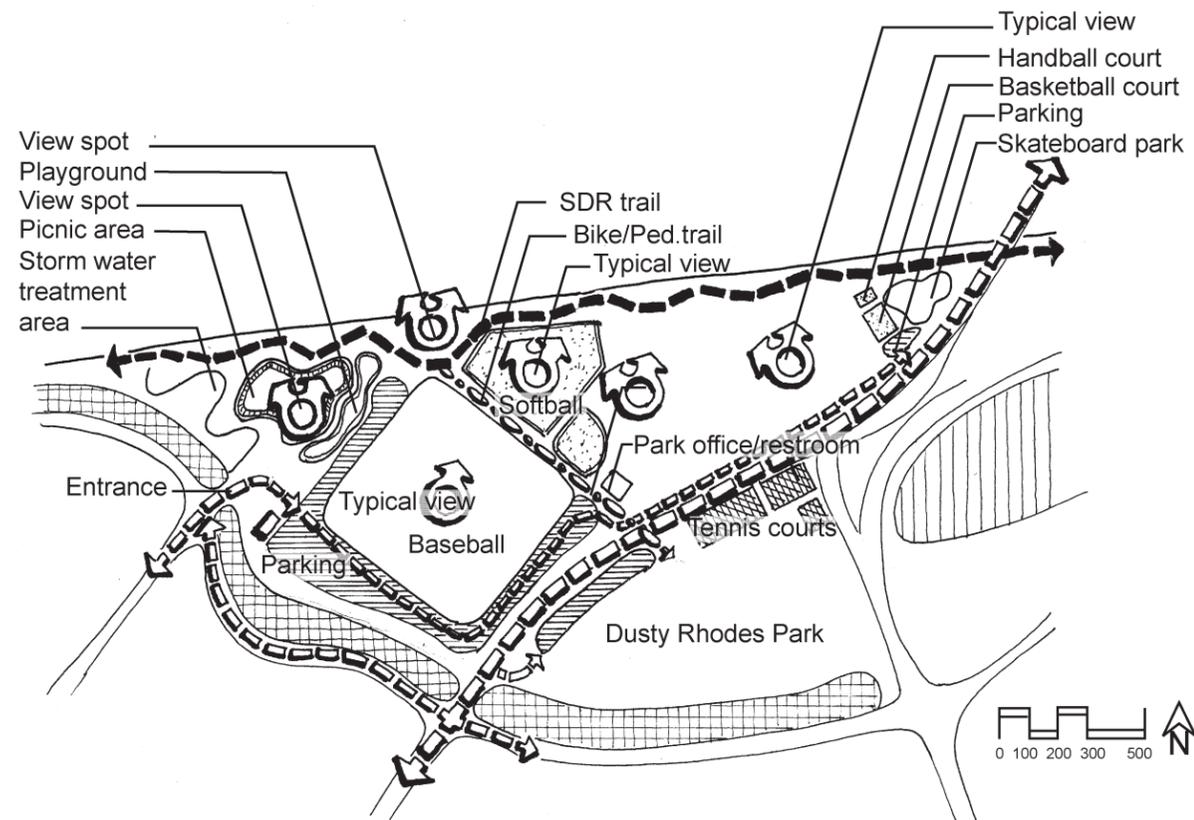
Materials, forms and colors were influenced by the local aesthetics of the area and the chosen design patterns include sand and driftwood reflecting the ocean environment. Forms reflect the alluvial flow of an unchanneled river. Colors are washed hues and sky blue.

*Design Concept*

Reconnecting Robb Field to its surroundings, including the natural environment of the San Diego River and the adjacent Dusty Rhodes Park, while maintaining all existing activities within the parks, is the primary aim of this design. Robb Field's location adjacent to the estuary of the San Diego River provides an unexplored opportunity to recognize and celebrate the river. Located at the mouth of the river, this park could become a jewel of the river park system, a final river destination

along a roughly twenty-mile park.

By opening up the riverfront of the park, park users will be able to appreciate and enjoy the river environment. The riverfront is currently lined with fenced-in tennis courts and parking lots, giving the impression that this is the back of the park. Moving the straight multiuse path inward and allowing it to meander alongside the river, will create areas where native Diegan coastal sage scrub vegetation can be reestablished along the river's edge. Pockets are formed where people can sit in the shade and admire the abundant waterfowl that congregate. Moving the tennis courts from where they currently screen out views of the river from the park, will open up wide views to the river from the heavily used recreational fields. Creating a pedestrian link between



*Proposed context of Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park*

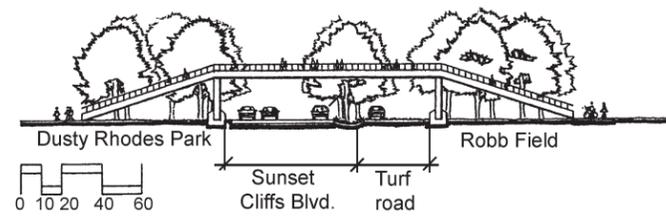
the parks with a bridge that can provide a landmark for the parks, will allow for easy access between the facilities, and will facilitate improved access to the river from local neighborhoods.

Another opportunity exists to not only recognize the parks connection to the river, but to also enhance it. A storm sewer runs under the northwestern corner of the park, releasing its urban runoff water directly into the estuary. If a portion of the drain water were allowed to flow along the surface in a reconstructed drainage, a stormwater treatment area could be developed in which urban runoff, locally polluted by contaminants such as fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and gasoline, could be cleansed and filtered by natural vegetation. The area would not be large enough to cleanse and

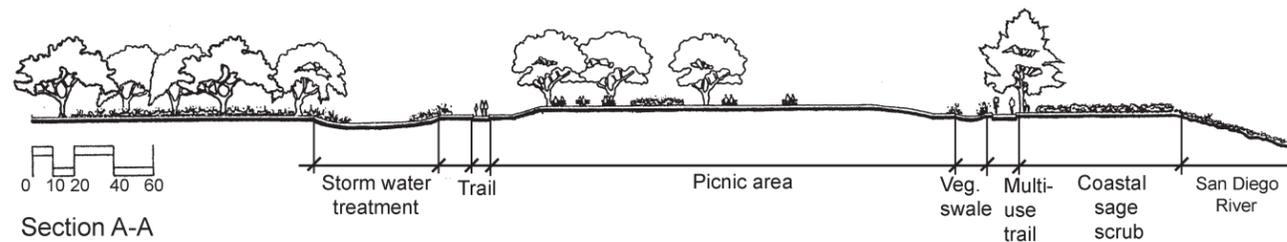
filter all the water from the stormwater sewer, but a portion could be directed into the treatment area, allowing bypass directly into the river during high intensity storm events. This area could then become the focus of a new family picnic area with views out to the river as well as to the recreational fields, and the public could be educated about the pollution found in stormwater runoff, its effects on the river environment, and techniques to reduce the contamination. Although its location within the floodplain requires the periodic removal and replacement of soils and vegetation to avoid concentrated pollution from entering the river in flood events, the high profile and public access to this site makes this demonstration project highly valuable.



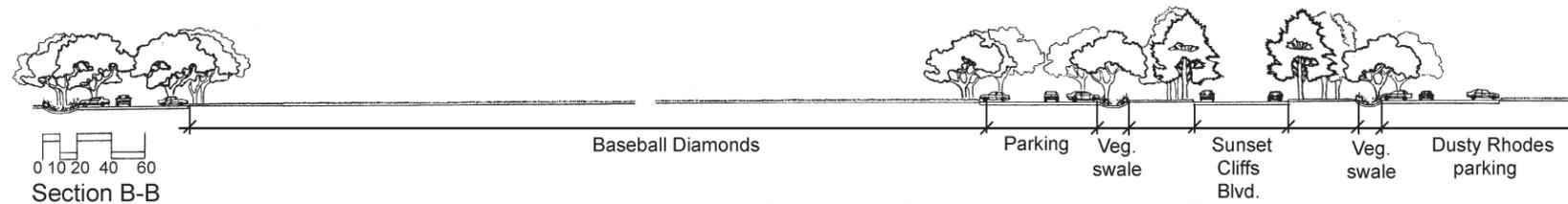
*Robb Field Recreation Center and Dusty Rhodes Park Site Redesign*



Section C-C *Pedestrian bridge to link the two parks*



Section A-A *Stormwater treatment and picnic areas*



Section B-B *Recreational field and turf road at Robb Field; buffered parking at Dusty Rhodes Park*

### *Robb Field Recreation Center and Dusty Rhodes Park Design*

The Robb Field, Dusty Rhodes Park redesign rearranges existing park activities and facilities within these parks to increase both riparian habitat and connections to the river. All existing activities are maintained within the two parks, and increased opportunities to enjoy the estuary are created.

The Robb Field park entrance from West Point Loma Boulevard will be improved with the addition of sidewalks and street trees. A new park sign, reflecting the

coastal and riparian influences, marks the transition into the park.

Entering the park from the west, the San Diego River Park Trail, a paved twelve-foot-wide multiuse trail, meanders along the river edge, reflecting the natural water flow through the estuary. Shady pockets created by torrey pines along the meandering path provide increased habitat and also quite locations for bird watching and picnicking along the river's edge. Vegetative swales line the southern edge of the path, providing runoff catchment for the park.

On the northwest edge of the park, a new riparian environment and stormwater treatment area rich with western sycamores, willows, and native rushes creates a beautiful setting for picnicking while also serving to clean and filter the urban runoff. Interpretive signage, located along the streamside path, details how the filtration system works and highlights some of the park's native plants and wildlife. The adjacent picnic area, in a cool oak-shaded area, sits atop a low hill, providing views of the estuary and beyond. A planted area in the center is filled with flowering native shrubs. Playgrounds, located east



*The water treatment area provides a great opportunity for the park users to learn about sustainable water treatment and the estuary's unique habitat*



*Families play at the riverfront playground*

of the picnic area, provide ample play space for children of varying ages. Play equipment reflects the park's location by using organic forms reflective of the riparian and coastal environment.

Parking has been consolidated away from the river's edge into the southwest corner of the park, providing convenient access to picnicking, playgrounds, softball and recreational fields. Vegetative swales catch excess runoff from the compacted earth parking lots. A storage area is provided here for dumpsters with easy access to the park entrance.

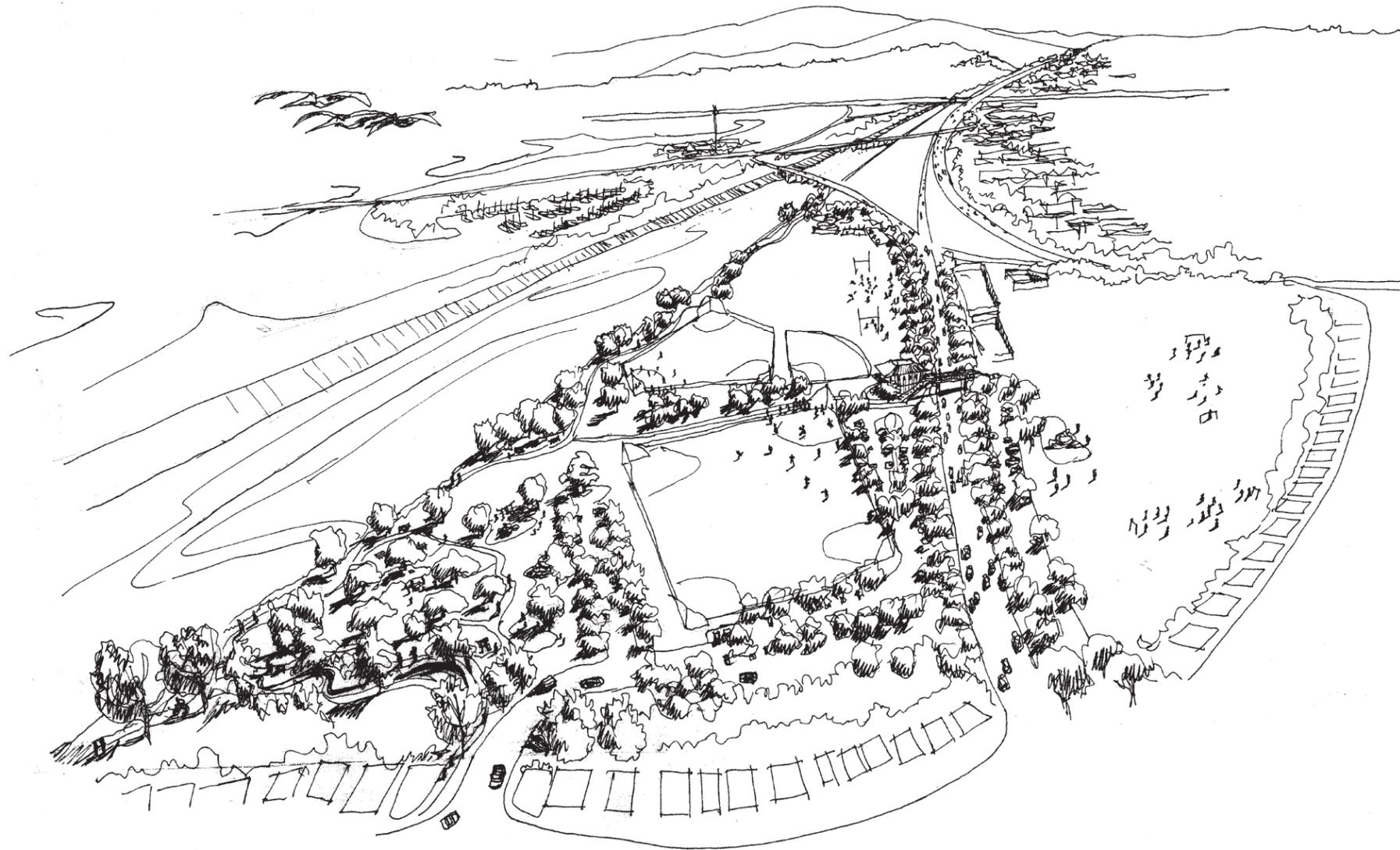
Exiting the southeastern parking lot corner, a green turf access road, reinforced with turf blocks to allow for automobile traffic, provides access to skate

park parking. The green road, lined with torrey pines, also provides a buffer from Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. Skate facilities remain in their current configurations at the eastern edge of the park. Basketball and handball courts are located adjacent to the skate park.

The existing recreation fields have been opened up to the river through the relocation of the existing tennis courts, providing play areas with open views of the San Diego River. Adjacent to the open play areas, softball and baseball fields have been relocated, consolidating these activities into one central location. A two-story structure is proposed to provide park staff office space, fitness equipment and meeting facilities. The green roof structure will demonstrate improved

infiltration strategies to the many park users. Eucalyptus trees removed to create new softball fields will be used to build benches for the park.

At this central location, pedestrian and bicycle access has been provided to Dusty Rhodes park via a new bridge. The bridge provides the opportunity of signage welcoming visitors to Ocean Beach and the two parks, and will provide a clear landmark along a busy traffic corridor. Dusty Rhodes Park has expanded parking, relocated tennis facilities, and plenty of turf areas for a wide range of activities.



*Bird's eye view looking east at Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park*

