FLUCTUATING FREEWAY ECOLOGIES
Transforming an Underutilized and Incompatible Single-Purpose Infrastructure into a Community Asset

In many communities of metropolitan areas, population density swells while available public open space shrinks. It is imperative that existing urban infrastructure, originally built to serve efficiencies on a singular level that often resulted in fracturing neighborhoods, now be viewed as the most promising prospect to provide relief to those seeking open space. By integrating new layers of urban design that perform both socially and ecologically, neighborhoods become reconnected and natural resources better managed. A seismic retrofit planned for the 550 mile freeway network within Los Angeles County offers the opportunity to capture some of the approximate 19 square miles dedicated to these thoroughfares. By integrating new layers of urban design such as pedestrian walkways, wildlife corridors, and the incorporation of environmental systems design as part of a more cost-effective strategy, this retrofit can be an existing infrastructure that is transformed to interface with the community, now viewed as more than just another urban void.

As a result of existing conditions, the freeway park is proposed to extend beyond its boundaries. The corridor extends into vital intersections or nodes of activity. What would otherwise be a grand stage for the free and uninhibited practice and evolution of its local culture. How the Fluctuating Freeway Park can be the nexus of activity and spatial form of the park and the community with the park. The corridor is an environmental and social conduit for the participants’ public experience while providing the community with open space that is culturally relevant and socially attentive. To accomplish this, proposals seek to establish a natural and urban matrix that reconnects separation created by fragmented neighborhoods, now viewed as a promising prospect to provide relief to those seeking open space, and beyond reinforcing pedestrian and bike paths as determinant of the neighborhood systems design. The Fluctuating Freeway Park is envisioned to be reconnected and transform existing infrastructure that is part of the community both physically and visually.

Selected Map

- Parkway
- Water Filtration
- Path Network
- Habitat and Native Plants
- Art and Architecture
- Community Integration
- Ecological Connection
- Cultural Expression
- Connectivity
- Air Filtration System
- Water Chain
- Views and Platforms

Selected Plan

- North-West
- South-West
- North-East
- South-East
- Path Network
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