



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 fractured neighborhoods, now be viewed as the most promising prospect to provide relief to those seeking open space. 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 infrastructure that perform both socially and ecologically, neighborhoods become reconnected and natural resources better managed. Since the freeway is already part of the inventory of publicly-owned land, embedding park space with environmental systems above becomes a more cost effective strategy. The result is an existing infrastructure that is transformed to intertwine many community needs with multiple ecological functions. The Hollywood example demonstrates not just a concealment of the freeway, but a strategy that integrates and enhances the driving experience while providing the community with open space that is culturally relevant and socially attentive.

Context

The Fluctuating Freeway Park is proposed to be built over the 101 Freeway from Hollywood Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard. A mile in length, it will provide 44 acres of park space in the heart of the historic neighborhood. Like all great urban neighborhoods, Hollywood's strong and diverse community needs a grand stage for the free and uninhibited practice and evolution of its local culture. However, the current state of the 101 freeway and the fragmentation it generates inhibits the movement of people and flow of information vital to such an evolution. For a rapidly growing community struggling to reassert its true identity, the proposed park can be the mechanism that reconnects one side of the city to the other, providing a central location for the public interaction and exchange that defines a flourishing community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

90068
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

90028
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

90027
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

90038
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

90029
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

90004
Population: 11,111
Density: 2,000/sq mi
Median Age: 34.1
Median Income: \$32,500
Population Change: +1,100
Density Change: +100/sq mi
Median Age Change: +1.0
Median Income Change: +\$1,000

Cultural Expression

Like most of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, the Hollywood community reveals a broad multi-cultural diversity. However, the diversity in this community demonstrates a concentration of varying peoples both in age, ethnicity, race and religion, which converge and interact. To celebrate this, the vision of the plan is to capture this urban richness and put in on display. The programming proposes a flexibility of spaces to allow for the transition of different activities and celebrations.

Ecological Connection

Understanding the natural cycles of rainfall in the Los Angeles region, the focus of the natural ecology is to harness storm water for functional and aesthetic uses. As such, water capture strategies are employed not only to recharge aquifers, but to also define important edges of the park and create a relationship with the park participant.

Community Integration

Public spaces like can not exist in a vacuum, but instead as an integrated part of the community both physically and socially. To accomplish this, activity and spatial form of the park extends beyond its boundaries. The proposal seeks to establish a pedestrian-emphasized circulation spine and related network that ties the community with the park. The corridor is an environmental and social conduit as it harnesses the existing fluctuations of the neighborhood.

Multi-modal Navigations

As a result of existing conditions, nodes of multiple functions define conditions and areas of intense activity. The plan for the freeway park is to organize and channel such convergence into vital intersections or nodes of activity. What would otherwise be viewed as breaks in the park, the strategy seeks to use these opportunities to hinge the park together and enhance the participants' public experience.

PATH NETWORK

directs circulation within the park and beyond reinforcing pedestrian nodes and paths through the community

VIEW DECKS and PLATFORMS

provide opportunities to visually connecting park patrons with the natural and urban context

WATER CHAIN

employs strategies to capture and reprocesses water during the rain season becomes dry bed path during drought

AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM

combines the functions to enhance air quality around freeway with the playfulness that encourages park interaction

HABITAT AND NATIVE PLANTS

adapts local ecological characteristics to have performative abilities within the community

RAINFALL + SHEET FLOW

Annual Rainfall
44 acres = 14,000,000 gallons

STREET CONGESTION

Westbound - Eastbound
Northbound - Southbound
Exit Ramp
Congestion Points
101 Freeway Park

EXISTING/POTENTIAL LINKAGE

Crossing Park Street
Active Commercial Street
Potential Commercial Street
Passive Commercial Street
Civic Street
Community Street
Potential Commercial Linkage
Potential Civic Linkage
Potential Community Linkage

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN

View towards Downtown from 'landscape machine' platform

View towards park surface void from under freeway

View of bicycle path fluctuating along freeway

View from freeway meadow and 'landscape machine'

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