MASTER PLAN
DESIGN SUMMARY

SPACES, USES AND ACTIVITIES
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 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.

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.
SPACES BREAKDOWN

- **FACILITIES** = 12,000 sf
- **PLAZAS** = 10,000 sf
- **OVERLOOKS** = 28,000 sf
- **SEATING TERRACES** = 26,000 sf
- **GREAT/FLEX LAWN** = 5.5 ac
- **PICNIC GROVE** = 12,000 sf
- **PLAY** = 8,000 sf
- **ORNAMENTAL GARDENS** = 1.5 ac
- **FARMER’S MARKET** = 8,000 sf
- **HABITAT** = 23 ac
- **FLOATING DOCK** = 2,000 sf
- **PLAY FIELDS** = 11,400 sf
- **DOG PLAY** = 56,400 sf

1200sf shade structure / outdoor classroom

3760 SF COMMUNITY / EDUCATION CENTER

EXPANDED RECREATION CENTER

5800 SF MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

MASTER PLAN DESIGN SUMMARY
**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.

**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.
**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.

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 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 pushes through and small seating terraces are 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 the 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.
**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.

**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 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.
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.
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.
Proposed north-south Section through Recreation Center

Proposed east-west Section through Recreation Center
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.

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 design is intended to 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 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 recreation uses. See the Planting Diagram on the next page for a plan of the planned planting zones.
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 in the Circulation Diagram.

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.

**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-foot 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 Promenade Diagram 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.

Based on community concern about bus parking at the complex, the design team identified several potential nearby parking lots in which school or education-based buses, or shuttles could wait, including the Friendship Auditorium parking lot. Use of these parking lots as holding areas for buses will need to be negotiated by the City in the future.
LEGEND

- PROMENADE = 2.5 miles
  (avg. 25’ wide, trees, seating, ornamental gardens, overlooks)

- PATHS & TRAILS = 3.0 miles
  (6-10’ wide)

- BUS STOP

- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS

- BICYCLE NETWORK

Circulation Diagram

TESLA AVE - CONTRA FLOW BIKE LANES

ARMSTRONG AVE - ON STREET BIKE LANES (SHARED)

WEST SILVER LAKE DR - DEDICATED BIKE LANES

SLIVER LAKE BLVD - DEDICATED BIKE LANES WITH BUFFER

BUS DROP-OFF & ADA PARKING

SLRCMP

MASTER PLAN DESIGN SUMMARY

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The Promenade design is flexible and responds to park spaces and site conditions. 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.

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-feet 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-feet 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.
**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 fc) will be introduced along many of the Primary Paths and select 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. The Lighting Diagram depicts proposed lighting levels for the Park.
Embankment Edge
The embankment edges around the reservoirs have changed significantly 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 the Embankment Edge Diagram.

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.

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.
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 over time in phases and in coordination with future park operations plans as various zones of the park design are constructed. See the Fences and Guardrails Diagram for a conceptual plan of where fences and guardrails are proposed for the Park.

LADWP Fence

There are four areas within the SLRC which will need to remain secure for LADWP’s continued operations. 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 gatewell structure and regulator station.

These spaces will be secured with a 6- to 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

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.