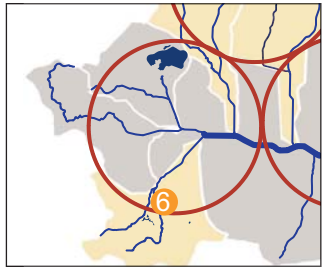
SMMC
Agenda Item 14
03-21-08

Arroyo Calabasas at Ventura Boulevard



Attachment
MRCA Agenda Item XII
August 15, 2008

While currently easy to miss, this site is a gateway to Los Angeles, the SMMNRA, and is the terminus of Ventura Boulevard, the San Fernando Valley's venerable cross-valley roadway. The design concept is to knit together several small parcels close to Ventura Blvd to create an alternative urban runoff system. The design captures water and minimizes runoff into Arroyo Calabasas by utilizing a series of swales and detention areas. Bulb-outs that double as stormwater interceptors and neighborhood gathering spots are proposed along with a creek side trail and a stormwater friendly parking lot retrofit.

Swale vegetation would be both wet and dry, extending the excellent job already done by Caltrans on the small parcel at Valley Circle. That said, to the extent possible this site should provide a new BMP model for Caltrans to consider. It is recommended that big trees, such as oaks and sycamore be planted. Existing vegetation in yards and along Arroyo Calabasas functions as local habitat patches and should be extended.

Conceived as a neighborhood amenity, the small stormwater interceptors would include neighborhood seating areas, wet planting areas, and an informational kiosk that could explain on-site stormwater management and LARNWR habitat issues. Given its utility as neighborhood space one goal is to keep the "cleanest" water on the north side of Ventura, closest to the areas that residents would use.

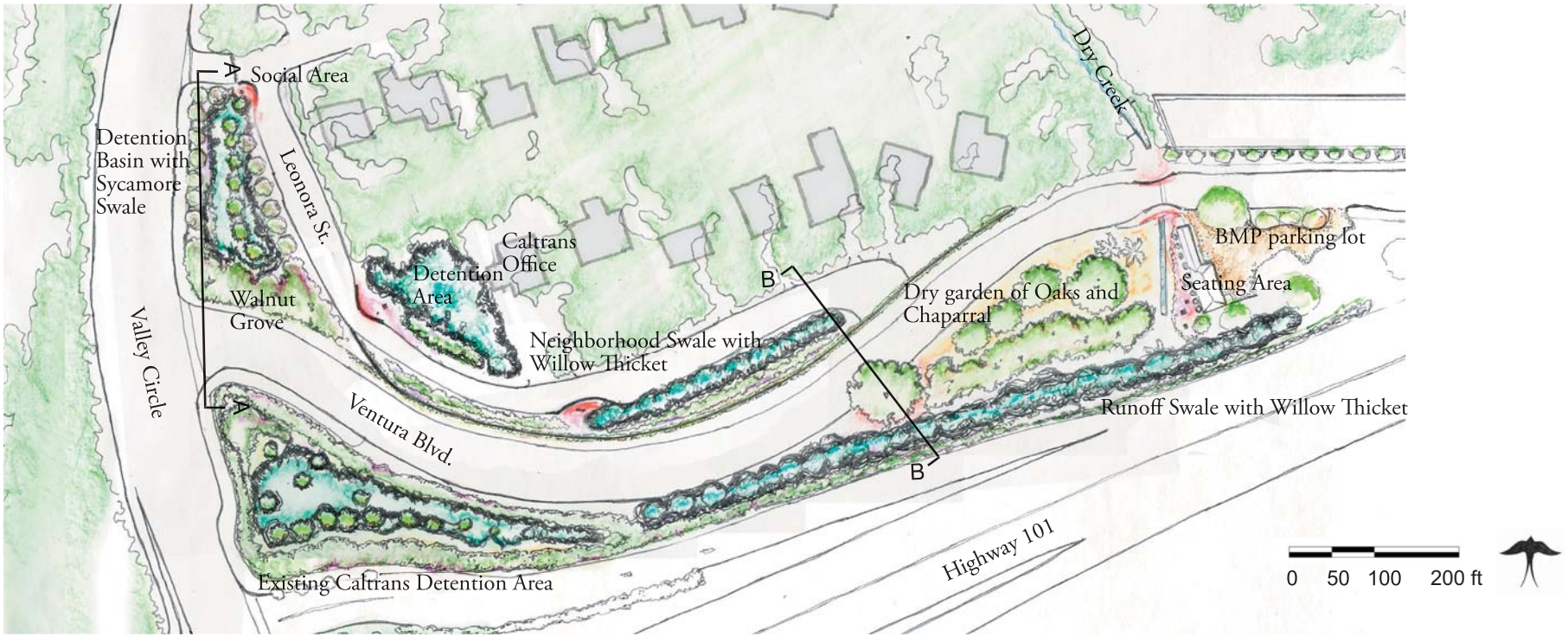
Capitalizing on the strong sense of community in this area, it is also proposed that MRCA engage with nearby residents to do neighborhood habitat certification and possibly gate the neighborhood's primary entrance. Other long term proposals include irrigating with greywater and leasing parcels to a nearby nursery in exchange for plant propagation.

4.6 acre site

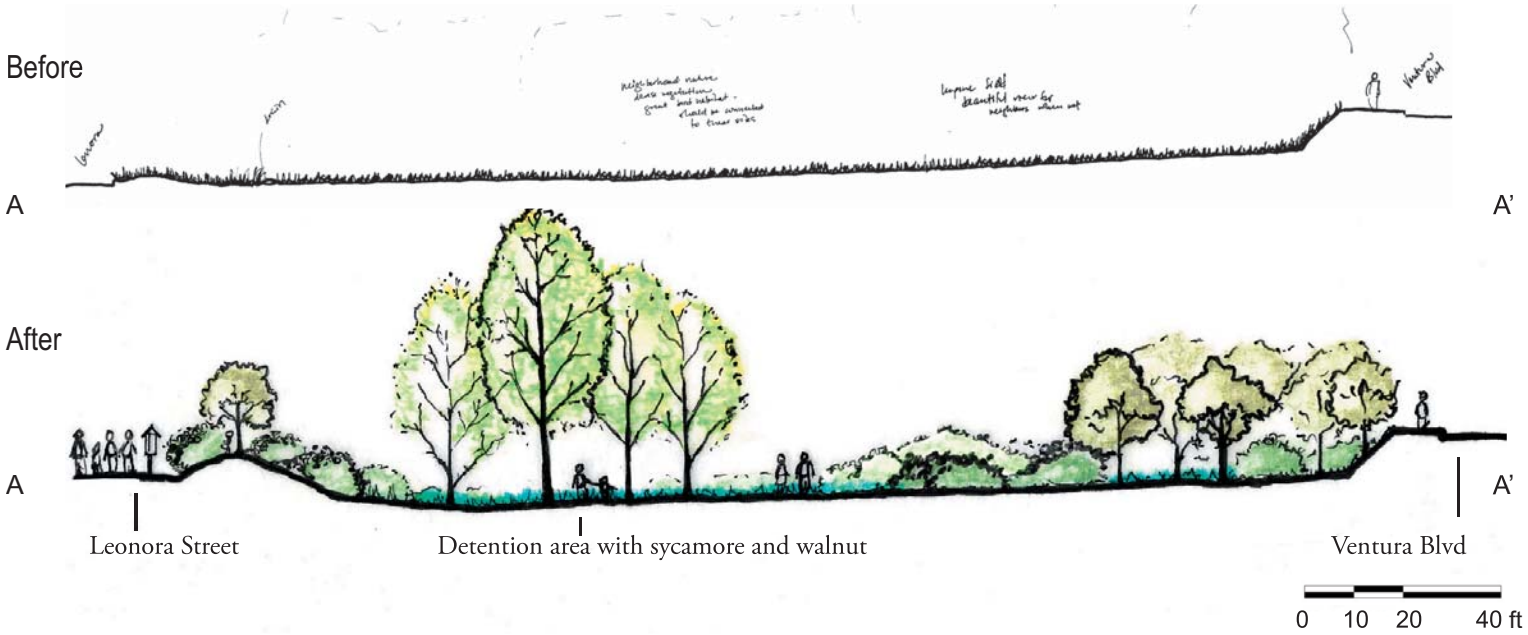
Sloped area
Water
Flat areas
Significant vegetation
Direction of surface flow
Points of potential access

0 75 150 ft

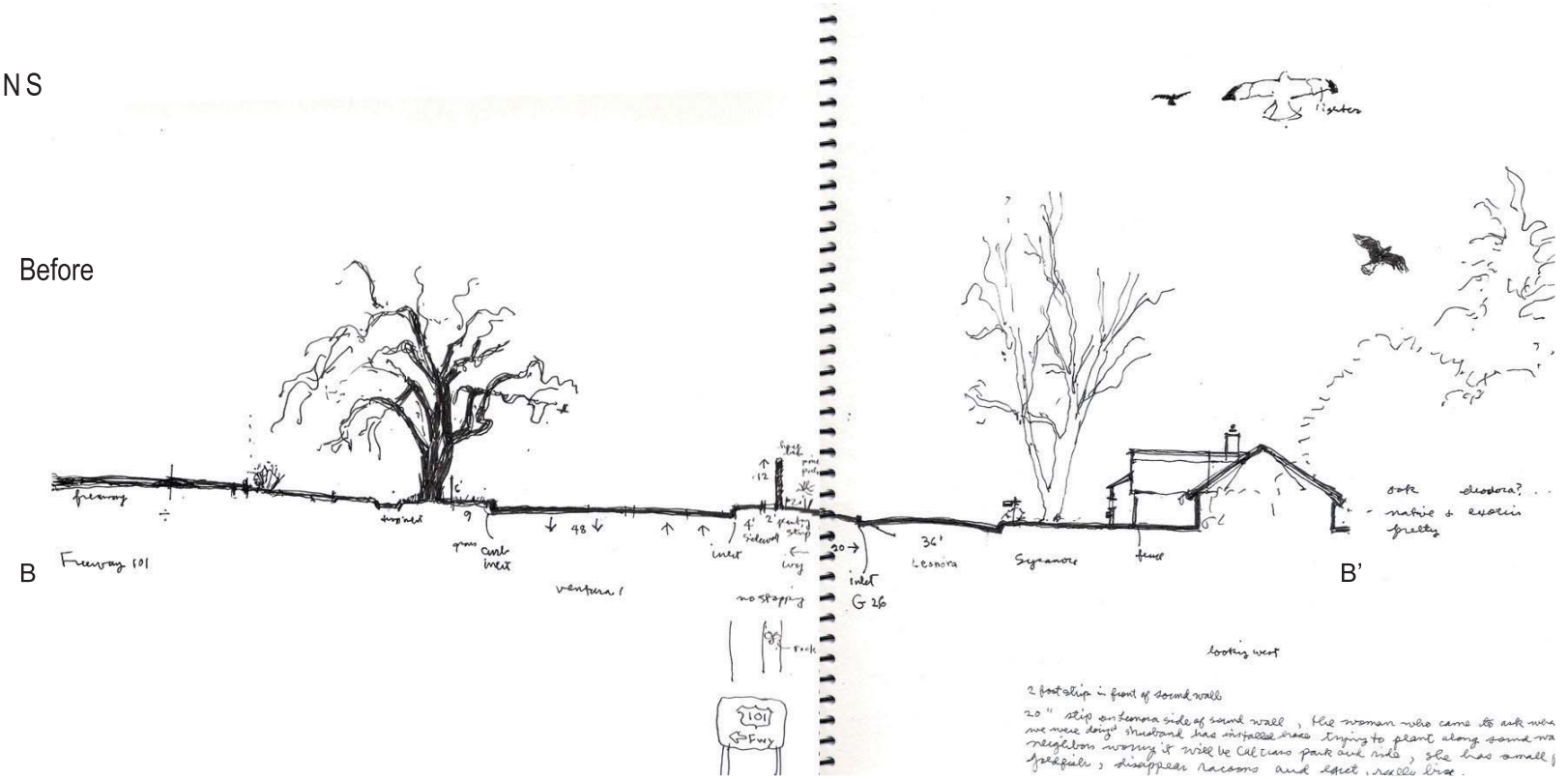
CONCEPTUAL PLAN



SECTIONS



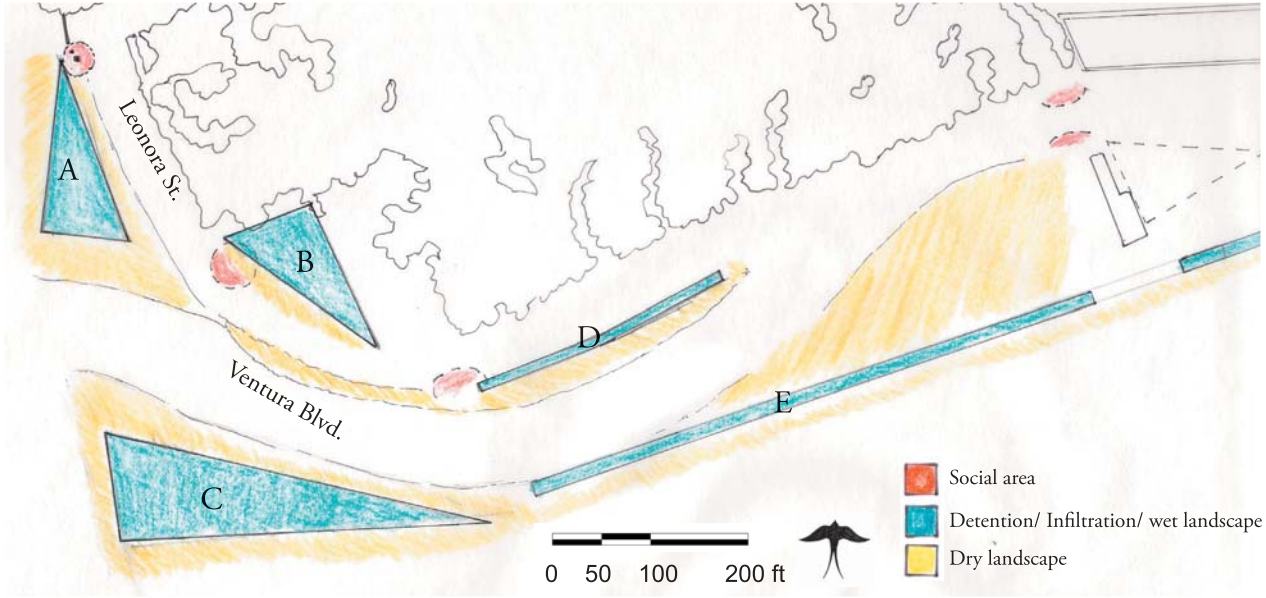
Before



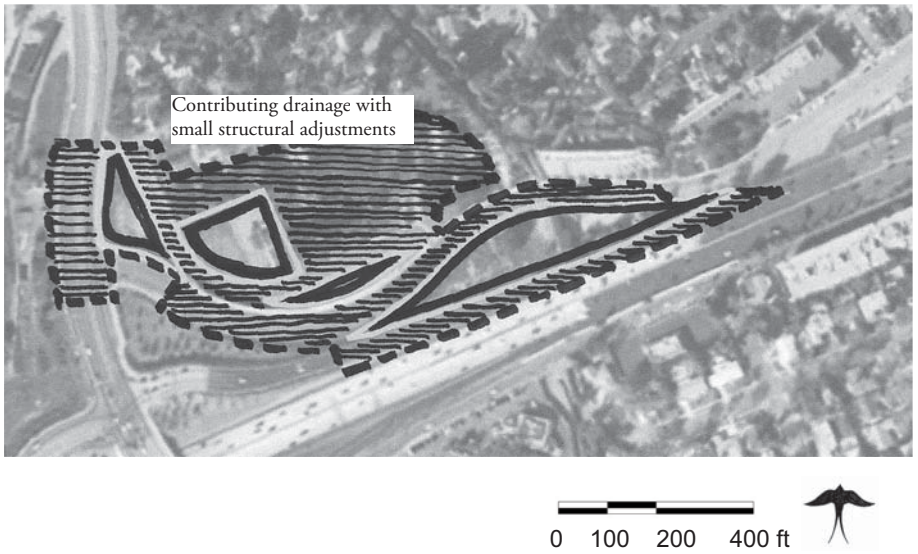
After

0 25 50 ft

STORMWATER TREATMENT



WATER AVAILABILITY



TREATMENT CAPACITY

A. Detention capacity: 12,000 cu ft
B. Detention capacity: 13,520 cu ft
C. Caltrans detention capacity: unknown

Total detention capacity: 25,520 cu ft (.58 ac-ft)

D. Catch and clean swale capacity: 4,140 cu ft
E. Catch and clean swale capacity: 9,180 cu ft.

Total swale capacity: 13,320 cu ft

A test case for knitting together leftover fragments of land, this site can also serve as a new BMP model for Caltrans. Management partnerships with neighbors and adjacent businesses are also proposed.