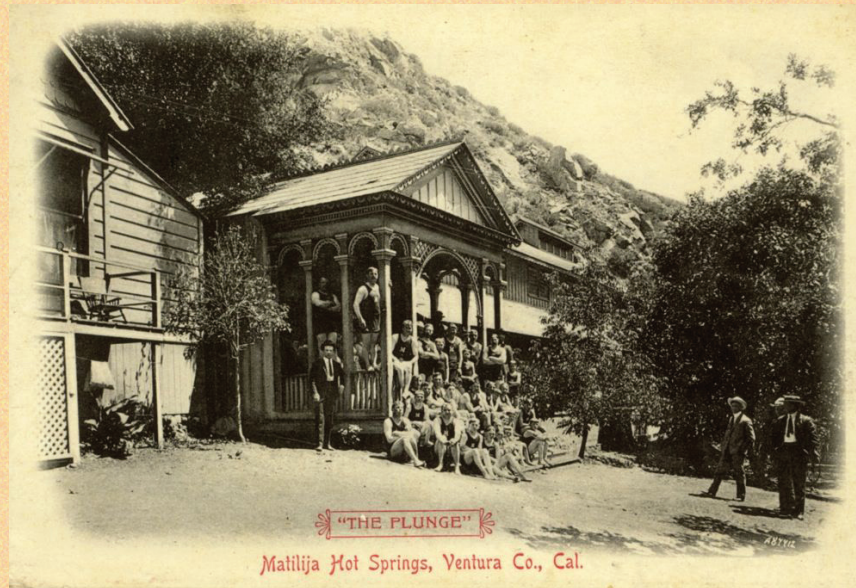


Revival of the Matilija Sanctuary Health Spa



"THE PLUNGE"

Matilija Hot Springs, Ventura Co., Cal.

By
Tyler Erickson

Revival of the Matilija Hot Springs Health Spa, a conceptual redesign of an early 20th century "Health Spa" which will serve as an interpretive / educational center informing visitors of the historical and environmental significance of the site.

A Senior Project / Thesis
Presented to the Faculty of the
Landscape Architecture Program
University of California, Davis
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for the Degree of
Bachelors of Science of Landscape Architecture

Accepted and Approved by:

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by
Tyler Erickson

Abstract

This project is focused on the reuse of a currently out of commission hot springs resort located in Ventura County near the city of Ojai, California. This property was recently purchased by Ventura County and is now supervised by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District in connection with a dam removal project currently taking place about a quarter mile upstream of the project site (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, 2011). The removal of this dam (the Matilija Dam) has been in the planning phase for over a decade now and in recent years plans for the project have been accepted by the county. Unfortunately this project has been a slow process due largely to lack of funds and support. As final part of the rivershed restoration effort it has been suggested that a recreational and interpretive trail system be created to promote tourism the beautiful Matilija Creek and educate the public of the benefits gained from the restoration effort (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2004).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my committee members, Professor Elizabeth Boults and Professor Emily Shlickman, for their help and support through the course of this project. In addition I would like to thank our senior project advisor Professor Steve Wheeler for the time he has dedicated to overseeing and guiding the progress of our projects.

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Introduction

This design offers a perspective on how a dilapidated historical hot springs resort can be utilized to serve as an interpretive and educational visitor center and trail head for the hot springs and surrounding restored landscape.

The design is to develop a conceptual master plan for the Matilija Hot Springs property as the location for a visitor center and trail head for a recreational and interpretive trail system, including detailed site plans for specific areas of intervention. The site is rich with history corresponding to the period from 1887 to present. During this time the property has changed its purpose and function yet has retained key elements from the different periods of use.

Site History

The Matilija Hot Springs are located in Ventura County California 6 miles Northwest of the City of Ojai. This site was a resort open to the public for many years but has been closed to the public for almost forty years. The site is a historic landmark for the Ojai Valley, being created in 1887. It was one of several hot spring resorts that were created in the valley just before the turn of the century, and was claimed to be able to cure all kinds of ailments. This site was the longest operating hot springs in the county of Ventura. This resort was one of the original destination locations located in the Ojai Valley. It is a mountain health resort located roughly 1/8th of a mile downstream of the Matilija Dam (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, 2011).



Fig. #1

Site History

Prehistoric Land Use in the Region

By 1000 C. E. the coast of southern California, approximately 7000 square miles, from what is modern day San Luis Obispo south to Malibu Canyon and the Channel Islands was inhabited by the Chumash (pronounced “Choo • mahsh”) Indians. Historically the Chumash were a hunting and gathering people of egalitarian values (S. Malinowski, A. Sheets, J. Lehman & M. W. Doig (Eds.), 1998). They were a very spiritual people believing that all of life is affected by supernatural energy. This energy was controlled by supernatural beings which manifest themselves through celestial bodies and natural forces. One could gain the favor of these beings through performing specific ritual practices (Walker & Hudson, 1993).

The Chumash, like all native people, depended entirely on the land around them for survival. Their techniques developed over many years. As such they developed a great understanding of the uses and benefits of the plants they encountered on a daily basis, from creating tools for collecting food to healing ailments, all in order to improve their overall quality of life.



Far Right: Fig. #2

Right: Fig. #3



Site History

Prehistoric Land Use in the Region

The Matilija Creek was inhabited by the Chumash Indians, namely the Ventureño Chumash. The largest settlement of Chumash along the Matilija creek was located a quarter mile downstream from the site of the hot springs. No artifacts to date have been found on the site itself but this is believed to be because of the flooding that has occurred on site over the past 200 years (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, 2011).

Though no artifacts have been found specifically at the site it is believed that these springs were held as a sacred place, the waters of which were believed to have healing powers. Accounts of such a spring known as “Urine of the Deer” was located just north of Ventura and it is possible that the hot springs in the Matilija canyon were used in a similar fashion. When a member of the family became ill the leader would visit the springs giving offerings and prayers to the gods and the water was then collected and brought back to the ill person for them to drink (Hudson & Walker, 1993).

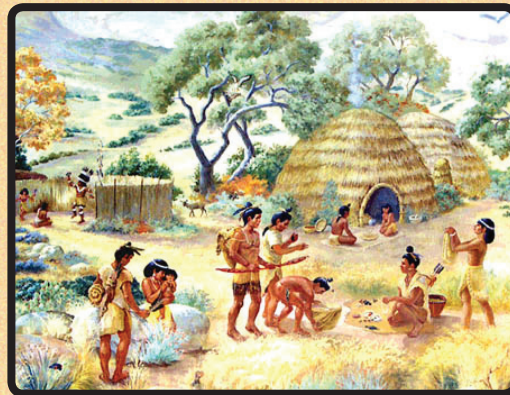


Fig. #4



Fig. #5

Site History

Early Settlement (1887-1946)

The hot springs were first used by settlers in the Matilija Creek in 1871. The original location of the resort was several miles up the creek but that location was flooded in 1884 and was rebuilt down stream, at the present day site, in 1887. The site has had several different owners, first and most notable was Abram W. Blumberg, known as the “founder of Nordhoff (Ojai)” because he constructed the first hotel in the small town. At its peak of operation, the resort was capable of housing over 100 guests with additional camping space and included a federal post office that functioned as a general store after 1916 (“Management Plan for Matilija Hot Springs” 1-15).

The resort is in a secluded canyon a few miles north of the nearest city (Ojai) and the only way of arriving was by stagecoach, because of this it was not uncommon for visitors to stay for extended periods from a week to a month or two. With the increasing availability of motor vehicles during this period the average stay became shorter and more frequent (Huckins, 2012).



Fig. #6



Fig. #7



Fig. #8

Site History

Early Settlement (1887-1946)

The property was nationally advertised as being a perfect getaway for recreation and relaxation. So popular was the resort at the early part of the 20th century that it was reported as having upwards of 500-1000 visitors on several season opening events. People were drawn here for such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bathing in different mineral pools and drinking of mineral waters (Huckins, 2012).



Fig. #9



Fig. #10



Fig. #11

Site History

Early Settlement (1887-1946)

These mineral pools were thought to have healing powers. Balneology or the “Taking of the water” is the practice of using natural mineral water to treat disease and ailments (Lund, 2009). In this respect the waters were valued by settlers for uses similar to that of the native Chumash. The waters at Matilija Hot Springs were touted as being capable of healing people who are “stiff-jointed, rheumatic and gouty, or affected with skin diseases, etc.” (Huckins, 2012).



Fig. #12



Fig. #13

Site History

Public County Park (1946-1988)

During 1946-47 the Matilija Dam was constructed 1/8th mile upstream of the Matilija Hot Springs for the purpose of flood control and local drinking water supply. It is believed that the property was purchased because of insurance purposes for the dam construction. The close proximity of the dam to the hot springs had a huge impact on the recreation in the canyon, where as from the years of 1901-1946 the hot springs property covered 400 acres and was the site of a number of hot spring pools and campsites, the site was now limited to the 9.2 acres it is currently comprised of. The Matilija Hot Springs functioned as a Ventura county park from 1953-88. The site was declared a cultural landmark by the Cultural Heritage Board of the County of Ventura (Ventura County Landmark No. 25) in 1972. The property was county owned from 1946 to 1988 and operated as a county park as well as a mineral springs health spa, during which time visitors were only able to use the site in a day use capacity. (Huckins, 2012).



Fig. #14

1984 Brochure of Matilija Hot Springs (front)

ACCOMMODATIONS
Due to limited accommodations at the Spa we will be happy to make reservations at near by resorts, camping areas, fine hotels or inns, or Qai.

RECREATION
The Matilija Hot Springs is situated in the beautiful Qai Valley on the edge of Los Padres National Forest... an ideal headquarters for hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, golf, tennis or just a much needed rest and relaxation. The beach and water sports are only 20 miles away at Ventura. We are just 75 miles away from Los Angeles.

RATES

Baths	\$ 2.50
Jacuzzi Whirlpool Baths	\$ 3.50
By Appointment in Advance	
Massage with Bath	\$15.00
Hydro-Therapy	\$15.00
Reflexology with Bath	\$10.00

(All prices subject to change)

BATH HOUSE HOURS
Matilija Bath House is open the year 'round from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening appointments - 646-7667

ADDITIONAL SERVICES
Other services at Matilija Hot Springs include a picnic area with barbecue facilities. We hope that your visit to Matilija will be enjoyed by every member of your family.
Bill and Marjorie Olliver Owners.

Matilija Hot Springs
And Health Center
QAI, CALIFORNIA 93023

Chief Matron

Maricopa Hwy. 33, 6 miles N.W. of Qai in Ventura County
PHONE (805) 646-7667

"Health Spa of the Chumash Indians"

A WORLD OF HEALTH AND PLEASURE waits for you at Ventura County's only Health Spa. Plan a visit in the very near future to Matilija Hot Springs, the Spa of the Chumash Indians in days gone by. The natural hot mineral waters from Mother Nature's formula of 26 different minerals are piped to our bath house where skilled and trained attendants are on duty to serve you every need.

Recommended by many leading physicians, osteopaths, psychiatrists, and chiropractors who realize the value of this type of therapy either after medication or prior to same. Many testify to their beneficial powers and their effect on arthritis and related diseases, high blood pressure, sore muscles and joints, relaxation, or just the everyday need for general physical reconditioning and improvement.

SERVICES AT MATILIJIA

JACUZZI WHIRLPOOL BATH units have been added to the famous rejuvenating mineral waters of Matilija. The Jacuzzi aerates the surging thermal water and puts that extra vitality into your bath.

MASSAGE must supplement your conventional or whirlpool bath to obtain the maximum benefit from the thermal waters.

REFLEXOLOGY — We have added the service of Reflexology, a particular form of Compression Massage. The foundation theory of this work has been built up entirely on the opinion of practicing physicians who have observed the remarkable results obtained by manipulation through the nerve endings of the soles of the feet.

OUTSIDE POOLS are open during the warmer season. An Olympic size swimming pool as well as a special children's pool is very popular at a nominal fee.

Right: Fig. #15

Site History

Health Spa (1988-2008)

As a result of complications with the property insurance the county sold the property in 1988 and from then until 2004 the site functioned as a weekend retreat “Hosting yoga, dance, clothing optional, and spiritual and New Age retreats”. It was sold once again in 2004 and functioned as a personal private retreat in addition to being rented out upon request and remained that way until 2008 when the property went up for sale and the county purchased it in connection to the restoration effort taking place in the creek (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, 2011; Huckins, 2012).

Present Use (2008-)

The site has been closed to the public because of the dilapidated stated of most of the buildings on site and the issues of liability if someone were to be injured. There is a caretaker of the property living in the residence building who’s presence there keeps trespassing and vandalism to a minimum. It is a goal of the county to determine which buildings are of historical importance to the City of Ojai and the County of Ventura and to either repair the buildings to bring them back up to code or to permanently seal certain buildings because of liability issues (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, 2011).



Fig. #16



Fig. #17

Matilija Dam

In 2008 the property was purchased by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District in connection with the restoration of the Ventura River. A major part of the restoration is the removal of the Matilija Dam. The dam originally was intended to hold 7,020 acre feet of water but this holding capacity has been reduced to less than 500 acre feet as a result of sediment depositions from the upstream reaches. It is estimated that 6 million cubic yards of mostly silt have been deposited behind the dam, silt that would otherwise have been deposited along the down stream reaches of the watershed to the coastline. As a result the coastal riparian habitat of the Ventura River has slowly been degraded over the past 60 years due to this shortage of natural deposits, most notably at the estuary of the river where river banks are continuously eroded by the incoming tide. This has deprived the coastline of Ventura of large volumes of silt and gravel which in addition to promoting erosion has degraded beach front recreational opportunities such as bird watching and surfing (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2004).

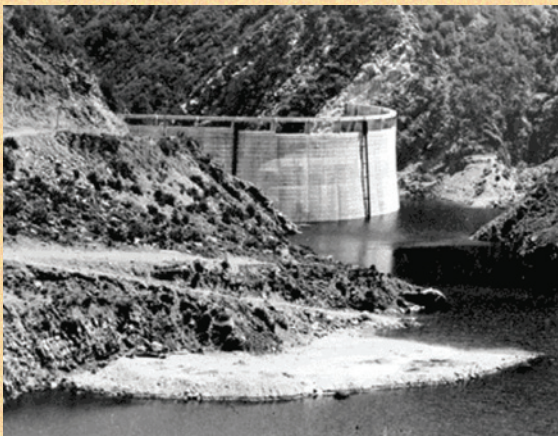


Fig. #18



Fig. #19

Matilija Dam

Historically over 3,000 Steel Head Trout would spawn in the Ventura River annually, but in recent years numbers of recorded fish have dropped below 200 placing them at high risk of extinction. The Matilija Dam is a main contributing factor to the decline of this species in the Ventura River. The transport of gravel and small silt that would have deposited along river banks has been restricted by the dam. The dam has also blocked a large portion of prime spawning habitat for a now endangered population of steelhead trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, totaling about 17.2 miles of river. This inaccessible portion represents roughly over 50 percent of the populations prime spawning habitat. This is very significant because in the southwestern United States riparian habitat has declined 90 – 98 percent (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2004).

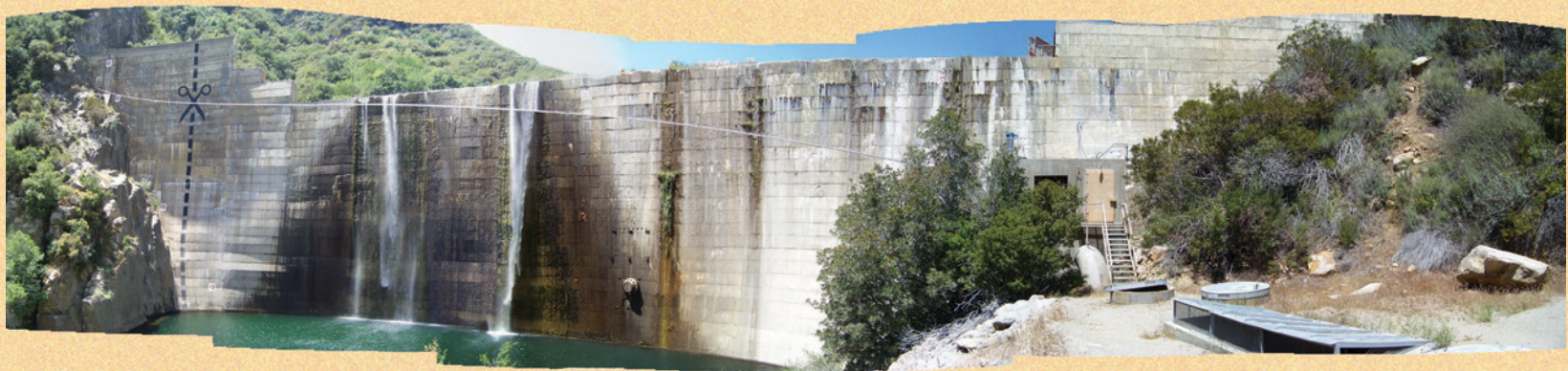


Fig. #20

Case Studies

Sukinanik'oy Garden

Located within the grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is a garden created with the goal of preserving knowledge of the native Chumash culture. In addition to presenting information to museum visitors the gardens are used for small educational groups from surrounding middle schools and high schools. The site includes horticultural specimens significant to the daily life of Chumash in the Santa Barbara region, each with a small informational sign depicting the native uses of the specific species.

The site includes a small conference building used for educational seminars and a staging area for events, a native Chumash plant palette, a stone amphitheater, an open oak grove area, as well as several more secluded seating areas. All of which include interpretive signage covering topics of plant use to the structure and importance of riparian habitat in California landscapes (A guide to, 2011).



Fig. #21

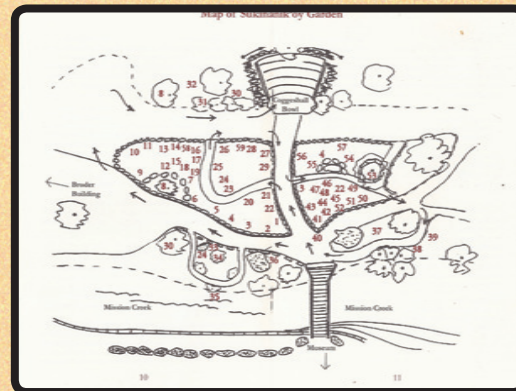


Fig. #22



Fig. #23

Case Studies

Sukinani'oy Garden

Every month or every other month a basket weaving group of native Chumash descendants meet and hold basket weaving workshops using traditional methods and materials where techniques are shared and perfected. The materials are not gathered on-site but rather from wild areas around Santa Barbara where native people are allowed to forage for supplies for native practices (Timbrook, 2013)

The gardens was designed by Jan Timbrook , Curator of Ethnography at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.



Fig. #24



Fig. #25



Fig. #26

Case Studies

Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area

Located in Santa Clara, California this site design was conceived with the intention of educating visitors to the Santa Teresa County Park of the historic use of the site. The design goal was to create a system of interpretive spaces with the aim of educating visitors of the historic use of the site and the change in use over time. This design integrates several historical sites that are known to have been used during the different time periods to create a transect through time (Steinmetz, 2009).

Major Design Goals:

- Convey the importance of the presence of water on the site to the development of the area.
- Represent the changing site use over time.
- Provide multi functional educational spaces

Time Periods Portrayed:
Ohlone Indians / Settlement / Rancho Californio

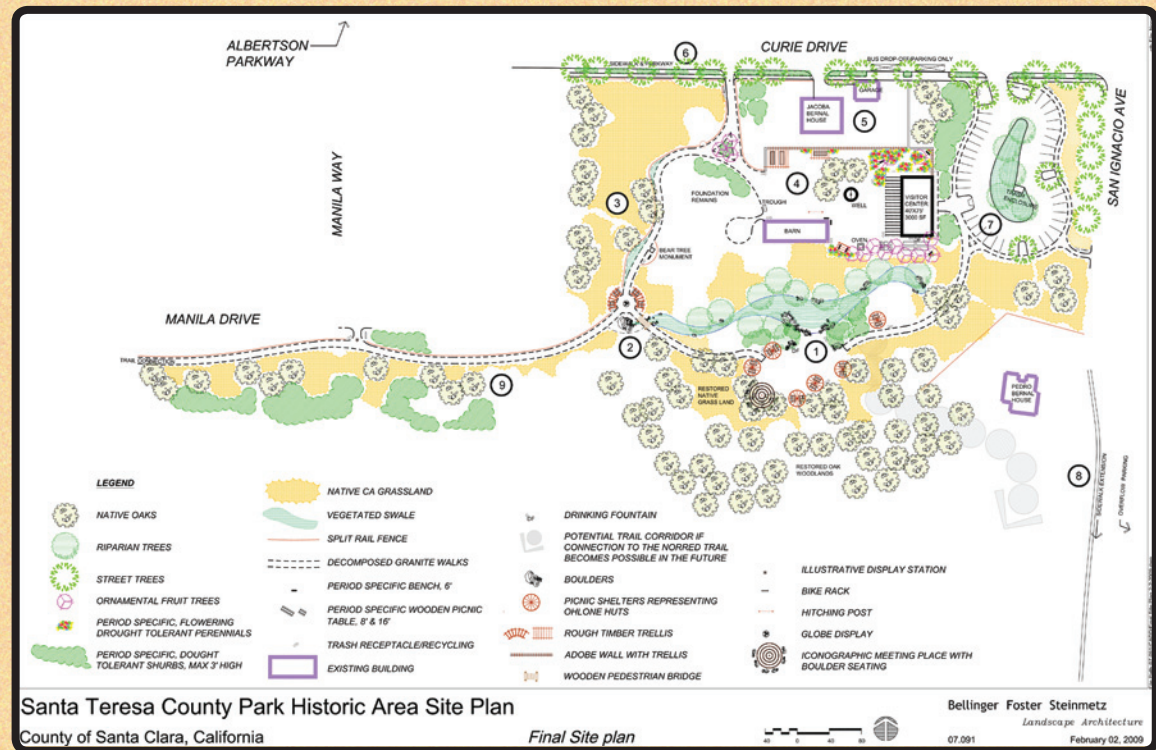


Fig. #27

Case Studies

Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area

This park design is successful in integrating the separate areas of the site and showing the change of use through time by analyzing how the site was used during each time period and integrating them into a cohesive space that visitors are able to easily interpret.

The theme of water is conveyed to visitors along the path by creation of a vegetated swale along the native Ohlone site, a small recirculating rock water feature at the early settlement site, and a well at the Rancho Californio site. These features each help to allow for a more holistic understanding of how the land was used during each period (Steinmetz, 2009).

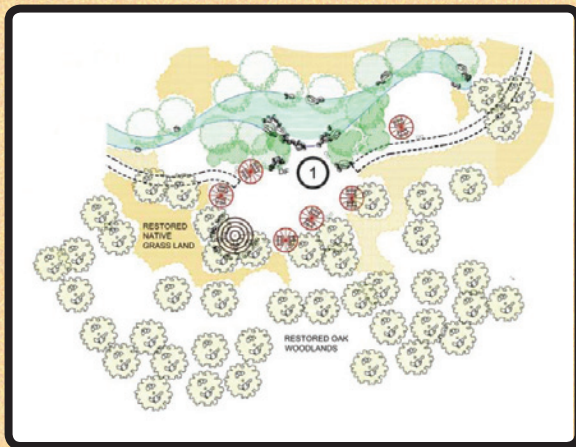


Fig. #28



Fig. #29

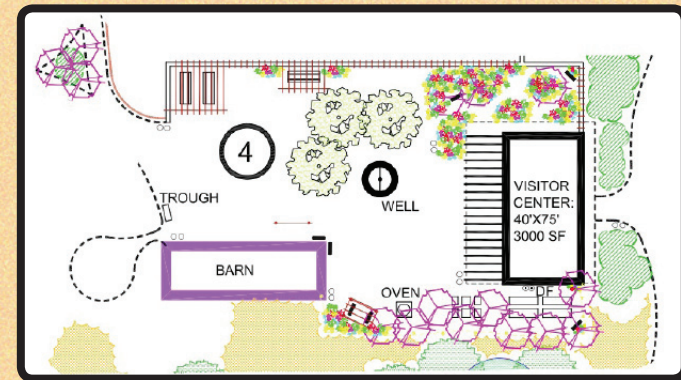


Fig. #30

Case Studies

Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area

The design is successful in creating areas that are multi-functional by creating different seating spaces using period relevant elements for visitors to relax and gain understanding of the site through placement of interpretive design and signage. These spaces range from clustered boulder seating to a lecture hall within a proposed visitor center.

Another successful aspect to the design is the improvement of existing habitat. This is a benefit to the surrounding landscape (oak woodlands and grasslands) and animals that live there as well as a tool for interpretation. By returning the site to a more natural state visitors will gain a more complete understanding of the site.

Designed by Bellinger Foster Steimetz Landscape Architecture for Santa Clara County Parks.



Above: Fig. #31

Right: Fig. #32



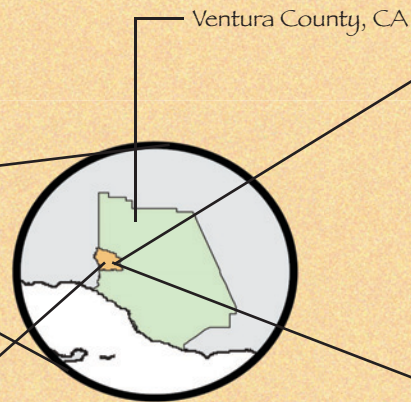
Fig. #33

Site Analysis

Context



Fig. #34



Matilija Watershed

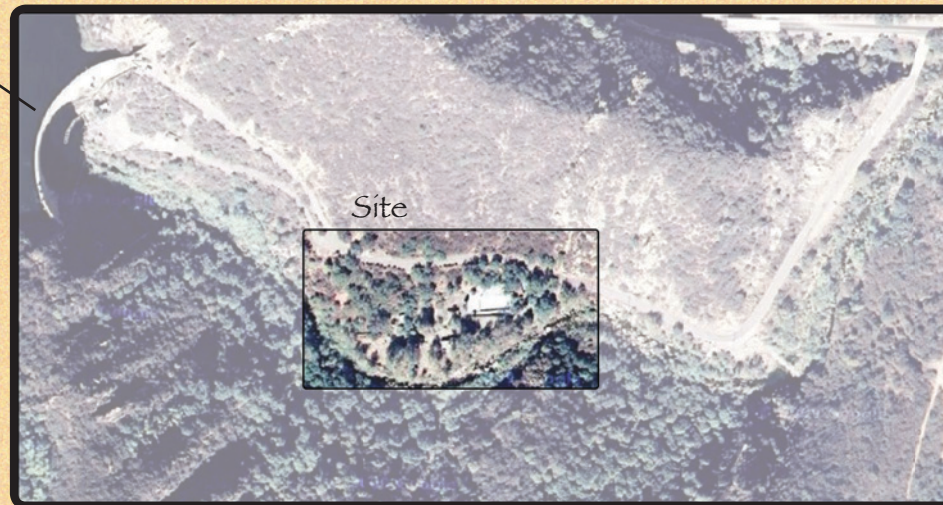
Fig. #35



Highway 33

Fig. #36

Matilija Dam



Site

Fig. #37



Site Analysis

Topography

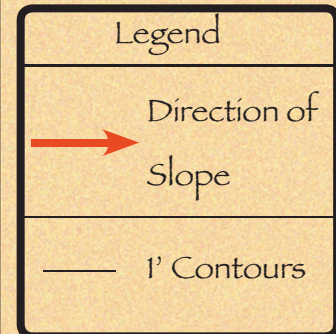
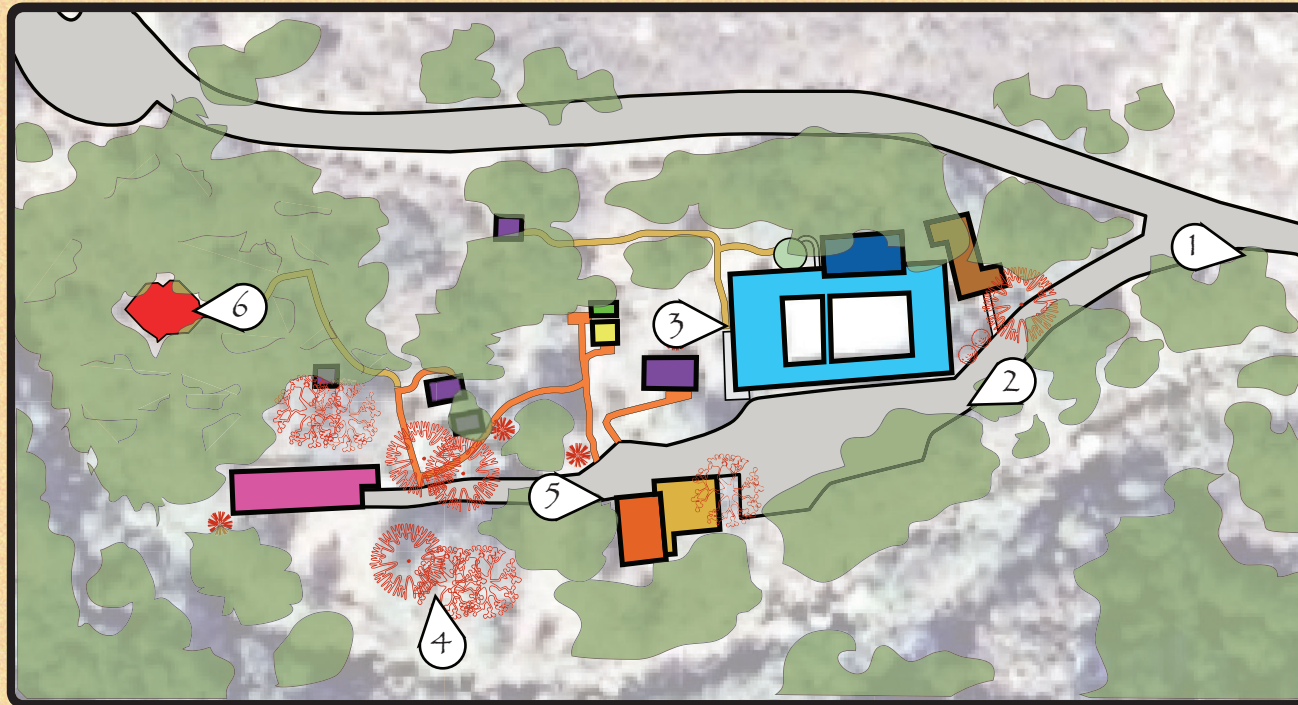


Fig. #38

Site Analysis

Site Inventory



Numbered points correspond to panoramic views which can be found on the following two pages.

Fig. #39

Legend

- Pool	- Residence	- Road	- Native Oak Canopy
- Bath House	- Cabins	- Restroom	
- Post Office	- Storage Shed	- Stone Paved Path	
- Dance Hall	- Yurt Platform	- Non-native landscape trees	
- Viewing Deck	- Pool House		

Site Analysis

Site Inventory

Numbered views correspond to locations depicted on the previous page.

① 2-Lane Entry Road



Fig. #40

② Entry into site



Fig. #41

③ Pool Area



Fig. #42

Site Analysis

Site Inventory

4 Lawn Area



Fig. #43

5 Post Office



Fig. #44

6 Viewing Platform



Fig. #45

Site Analysis

Structures of Historical Significance

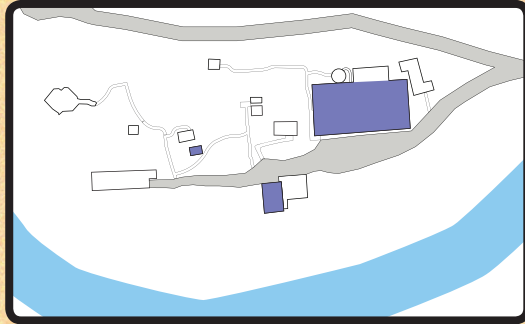


Fig. #46

1902: Surviving Structures:

- Historic Post Office / General Store
- Pool / Plunge
- Historic Cabin

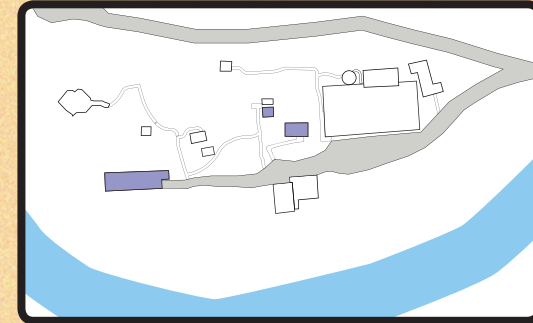


Fig. #47

1920: Surviving Structures:

- Bathhouse
- Restroom Cottage
- Guest Cabin

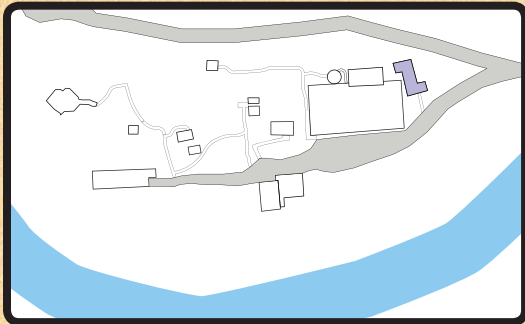


Fig. #48

1940/50s: Surviving Structures:

- Residence

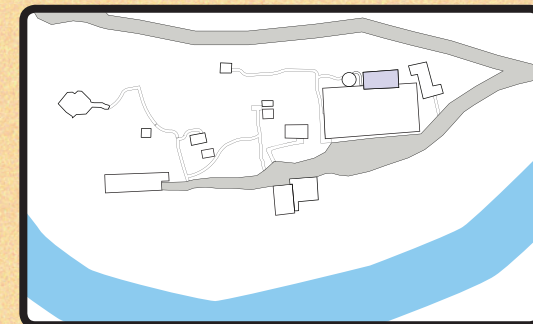


Fig. #49

1969: Surviving Structures:

- Pool House

Site Analysis

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Context

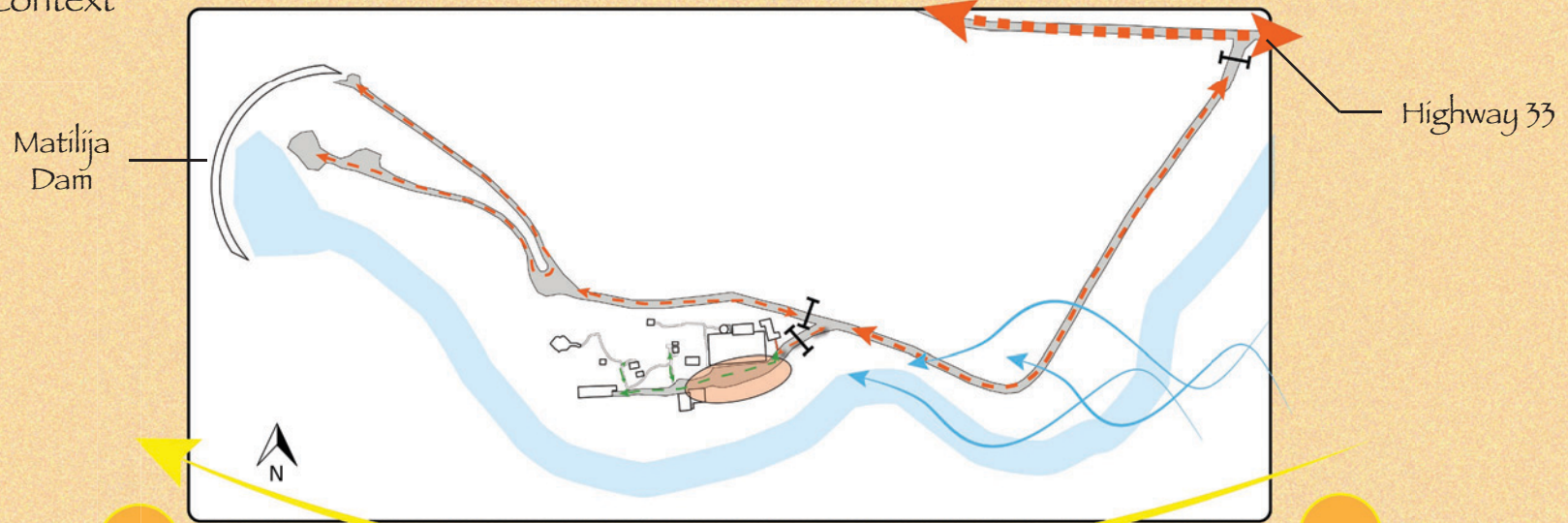


Fig. #50

The site is located within a narrow canyon, off of Highway 33 six miles Northwest of the city of Ojai, having only one route of access by way of a two lane road. Currently this road is only accessible to the resident looking after the property and employees of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

Legend	
->	- Vehicle
->	- Pedestrian
~	- Winds
○	- Parking
↙	- Solar Orientation
█	- Matilija Creek
⊥	- Gate

Site Analysis

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Site

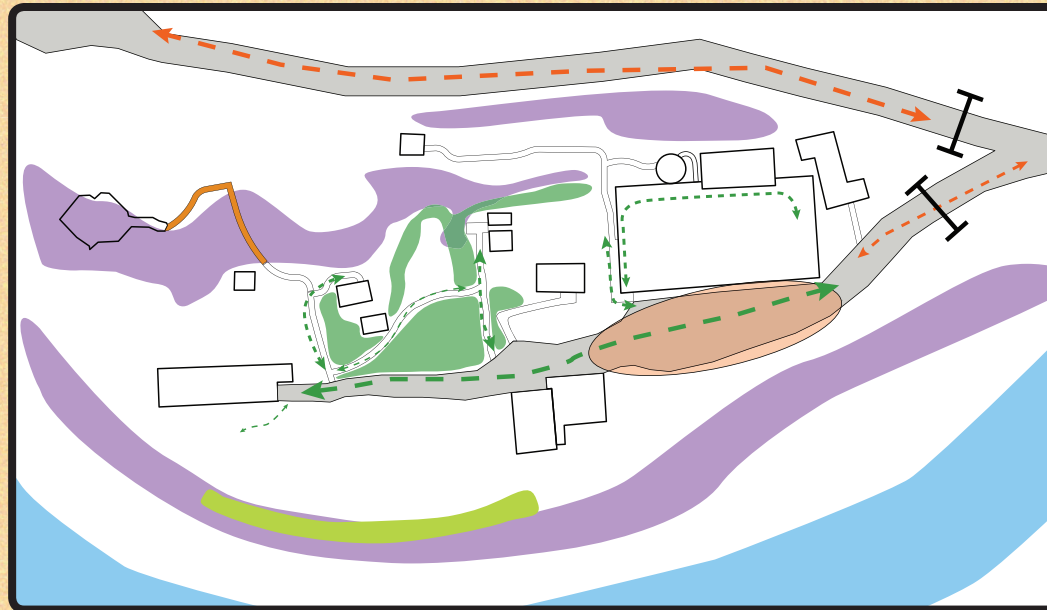


Fig. #51

Legend	
- Vehicle	- Matilija Creek
- Pedestrian	- Gate
- River Access	- Steep Terrain
- Parking	- Areas of concentrated non natives
- Inaccessible Stairs	
- Pathway	

Existing Site Conditions

Habitat Type



Fig. #52

-  Coast Live Oak Forest
-  Riparian Habitat
-  Park Landscape Area
-  Non-native landscape trees to remain on site

Non-native plantings are most heavily concentrated along the northern, uphill side of the Park Landscape Area. With exception to the trees identified above all non-native landscaping will be removed and replaced with a native planting palette.

Park Landscape Area

The Park Landscape area is the region of the hot springs that served as the main grounds of the resort. Around the late 1930s the then owner of the property began introducing exotic trees and plants to the resort in an attempt to create a more tropical atmosphere. This was a common trend among health spring resorts in California.

One major goal of the intervention is to return the site as closer to the native habitat, but at the same time it is important to maintain the character and integrity of the historic resort.

In 2012 an arborist report was completed which evaluated the condition of older trees on the property that may be of historic value. 15 trees were evaluated and rated. Using this information and considering the placement of the trees on site the trees to remain were identified.

Master Plan

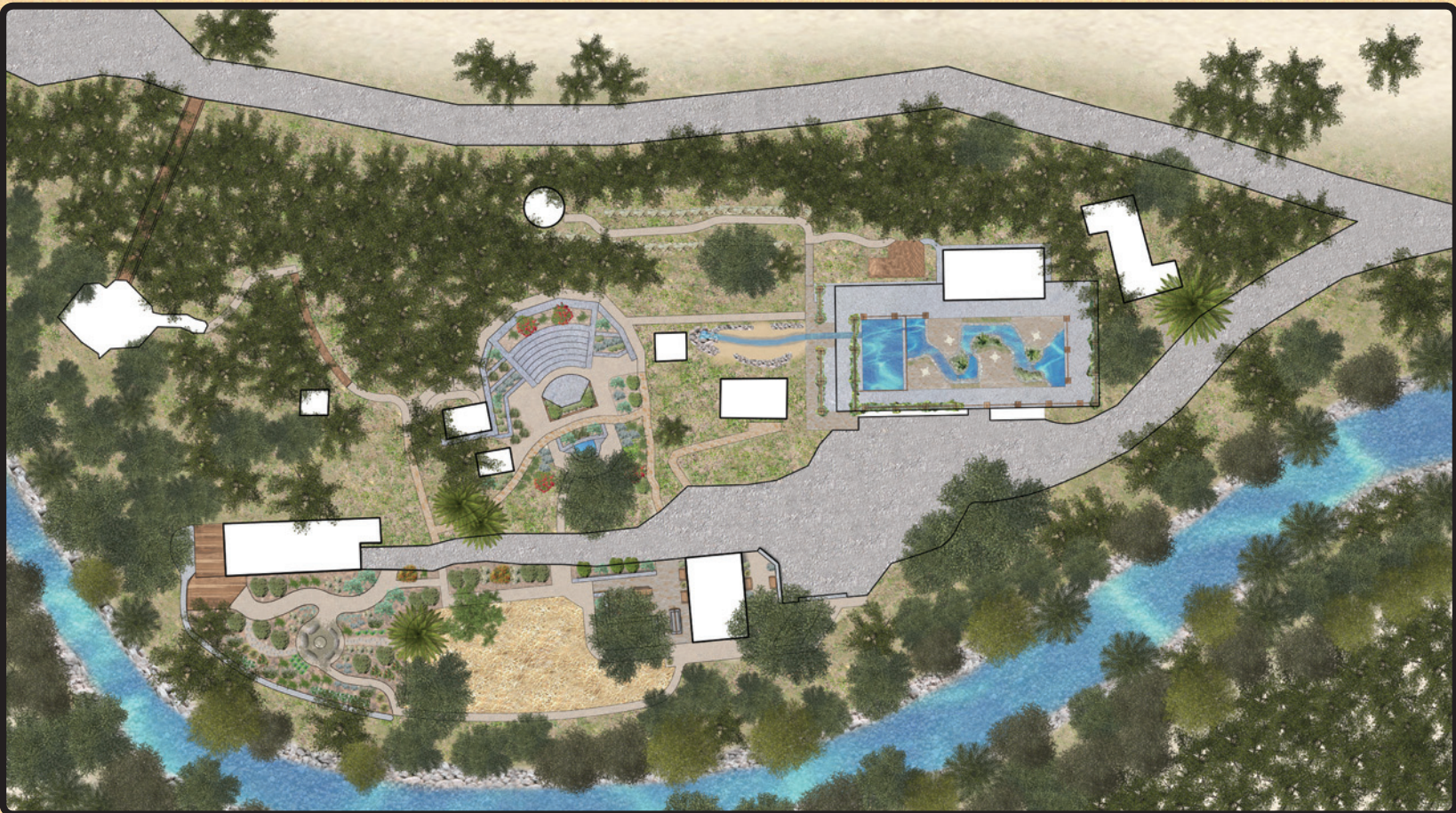


Fig. #53

DESIGN

Master Plan

Hiking Trail

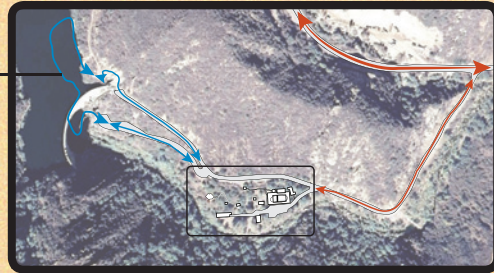
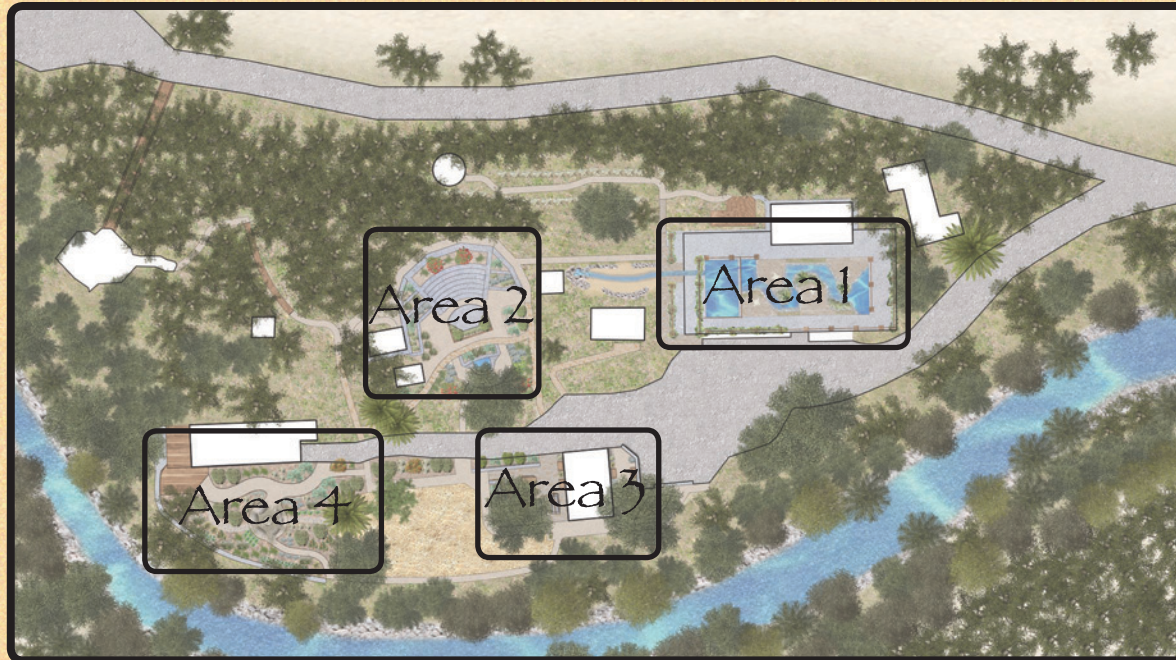


Fig. #54

This conceptual reuse of the historical site aims to allow the site to function similar to the way it did during its first stretch as a county park (1953-88). The smaller cabins are to be refurbished yet remain inaccessible to the public, being used as storage space. The more significant extant buildings are to be reused for historical and interpretive spaces. In addition an amphitheater will be constructed to host small performances or educational seminars.

Area 2
-Amphitheater

Area 4
-Chumash
gardens /
picnic space



Area 1
-Reuse of
historic plunge/
pool

Area 3
-Interpretive
center/ group
picnic area

Fig. #55

Pool / Plunge



Scale:

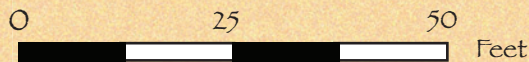


Fig. #56

This plunge / pool is the oldest landmarked pool in California being built in 1902. The pool has not been filled since 1987 when the property went from county to private ownership. The decking surrounding the pool is deteriorating in certain areas and it was estimated by a pool specialist within the last two years that to bring the pool to working condition it would cost over \$3 million, which is a price tag the county cannot afford. A main factor in this steep figure is the pool has always drained directly into the nearby creek and would require an entirely new³³

Pool / Plunge

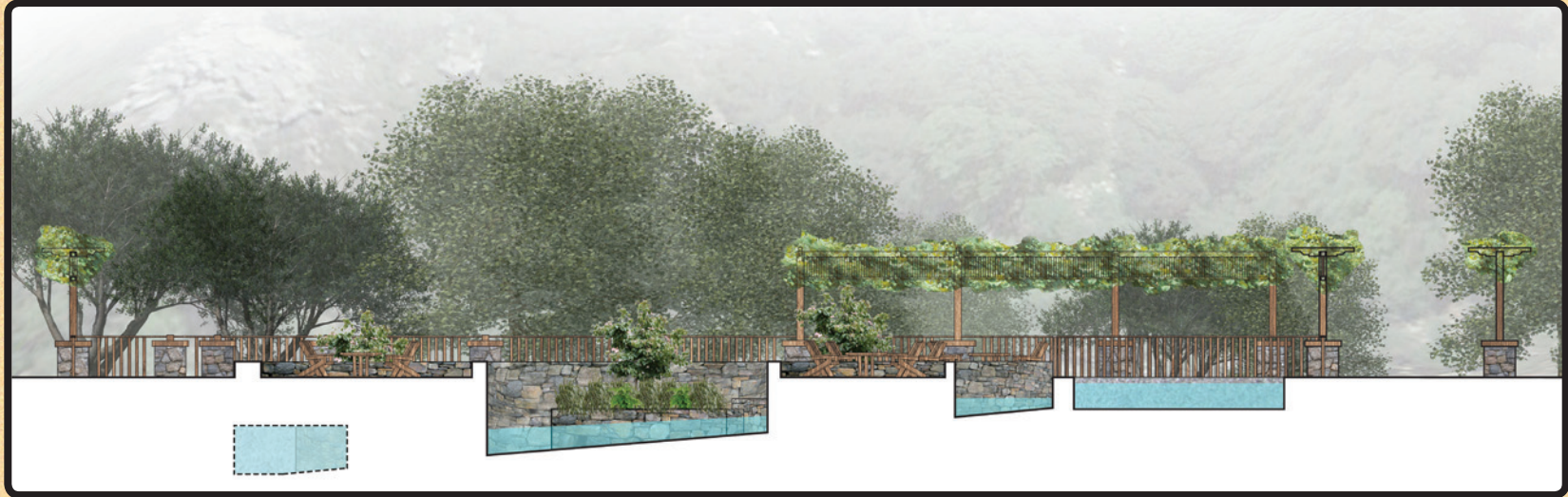


Fig. #57

drainage system.

The Pool is to serve as a pleasant patio seating area. Around the perimeter of the deck area an arbor mimics the “grand pavilion” that entirely enclosed the area during the period when the site was considered one of the top resorts in the county until it was destroyed by a fire in 1924. The decking around the pool will be repaired and retaining wall patio space and planting areas will be constructed along the interior leaving a narrow channel down the center of the reservoir. Planters contain native riparian species. Interpretive signage will be placed around the patio informing visitors of the history of the hot springs during the early settlement and county park time periods as this site was the main attraction during this time period.

Pool / Plunge

This channel will be fed by spring water from the recreated spring play area located on the west side of the pool where it enters the pool in the shallow end. Water then flows into the recreated stream within the reservoir and meanders through the gravels and stone pools until it reaches a deeper pool at the far end and is allowed to utilize the existing drainage of the pool to be released back into the Matilija Creek.

The reuse of this space as a mock riparian area breaths new life into the space both literally and figuratively. As a county park the pool was filled with chlorinated water and drained a few times a year directly into the nearby creek undoubtedly having negative effects on the creek ecosystem. The spring water is direct from the source and stored in a small tower on the near hillside. This water would normally flow directly into Matilija Creek and would have no negative effects on the environment if allowed to utilize the existing drainage.

Out flowing water draining to the nearby Matilija Creek by way of existing pool drainage.

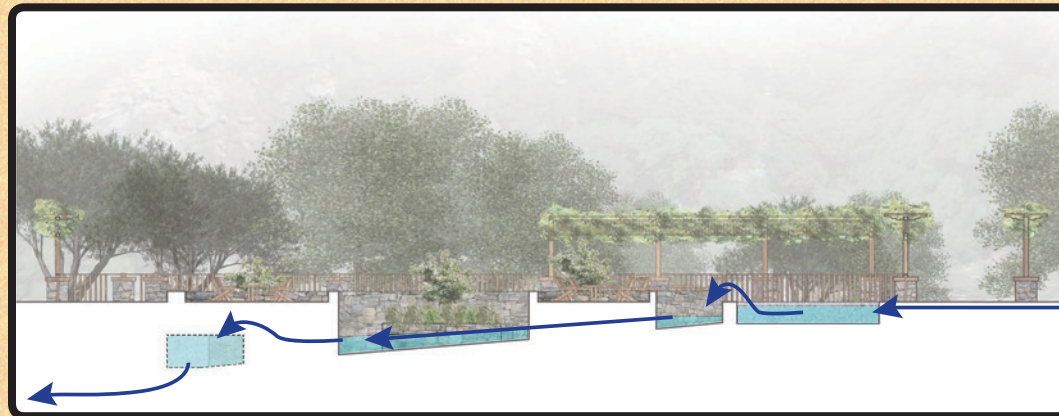
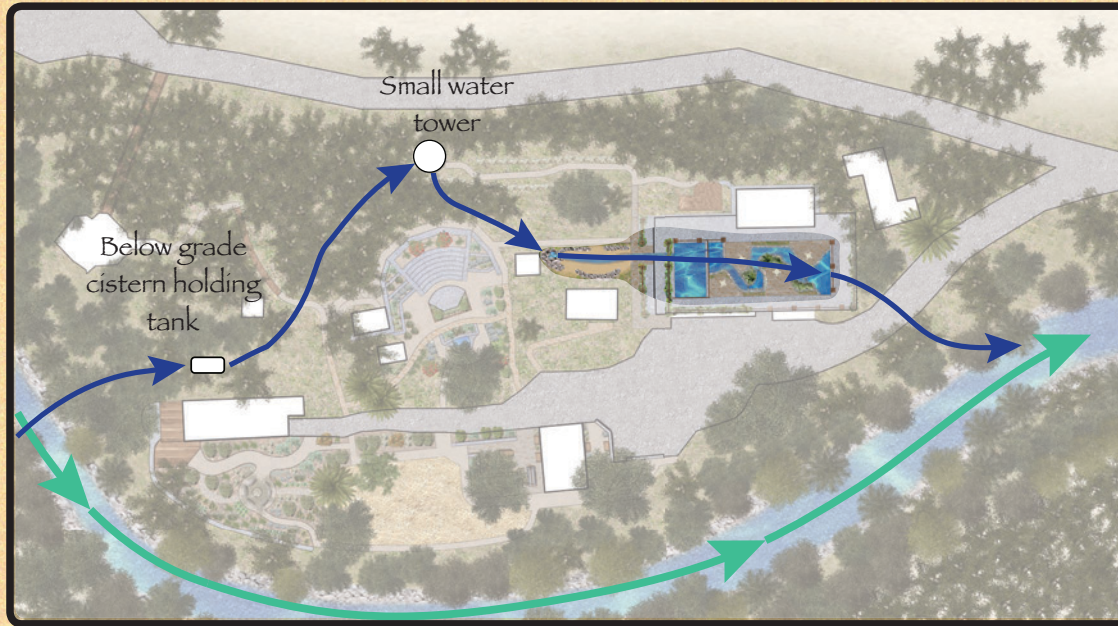


Fig. #58

Water flows through the created channel collecting in several pools providing an inviting setting for park visitors.

Cold Spring Water Flow





Legend	
	Path of cold spring water
	Flow of Matilija Creek

Fig. #59

Currently a spring located on the far side of the creek is used as a supplemental water source for landscape planting areas. This spring is used as the source for the pool seating area. A below grade storage cistern is placed on the

north side of the bath house, this water is then pumped to a water tower which has been placed on the foundation of a removed cabin building which is of no historical significance. Water is from this tower gravity feeds a recreated spring and flows through a sandy play area framed by boulder seating. Water flowing from this “spring” feeds the pool channel and eventually is allowed to drain to Matilija Creek. Water from this tower is used for supplemental landscape irrigation during significantly dry periods.

Amphitheater

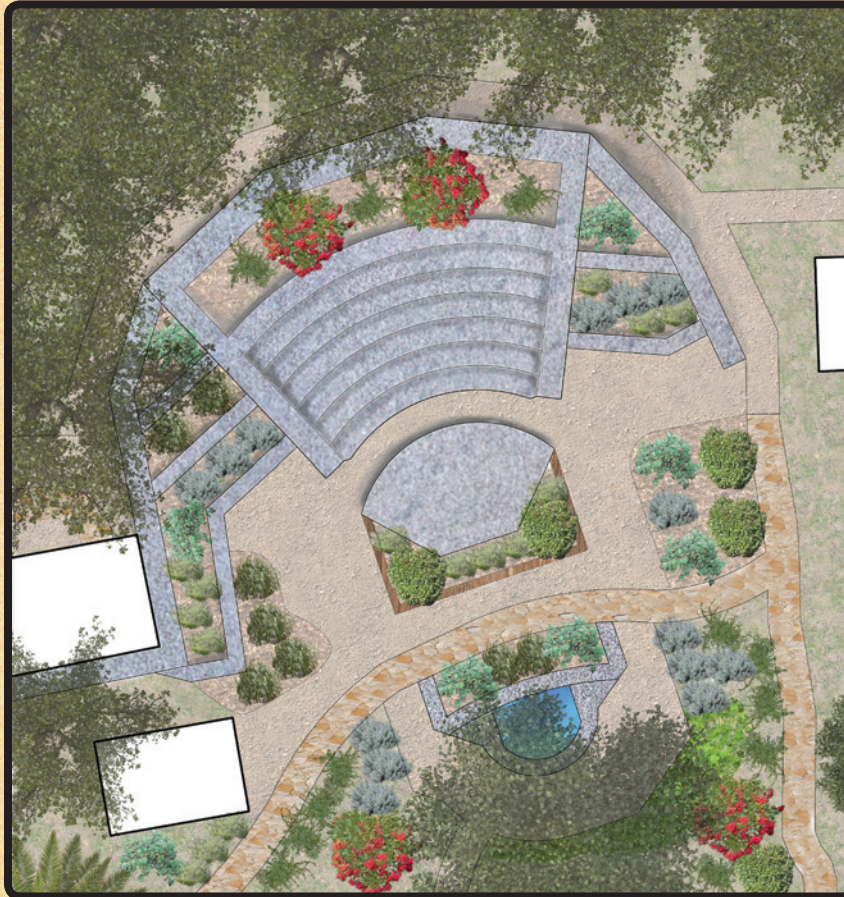


Fig. #60

Scale:



The amphitheater serves as a gathering space nestled against the hillside. The non-native vegetation is removed and the area is replanted with a native plant palette. This space allows for performances and educational seminars.





A smaller more intimate space is located directly south of the amphitheater. This space provides a quiet seating space and water feature reusing the original porcelain hot tubs that have been cast aside and left on the edge of the property.





Interpretive signage in the amphitheater area informs visitors of the restoration of the Ventura River as well as plants native to the oak woodland habitat.

Area 2

Amphitheater Planting Palette

Fig. #61

Map Symbol	Plant Name
	White Sage - <i>Salvia apiana</i>
	Laurel Sumac - <i>Malosma laurina</i>
	Manzanita - <i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>
	Toyon - <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>

Map Symbol	Plant Name
	California Sagebrush - <i>Artemisia californica</i>
	Black Sage - <i>Salvia mellifera</i>
	Foothill Gooseberry - <i>Ribes quercetorum</i>
	Giant Wild Rye - <i>Elymus condensatus</i>

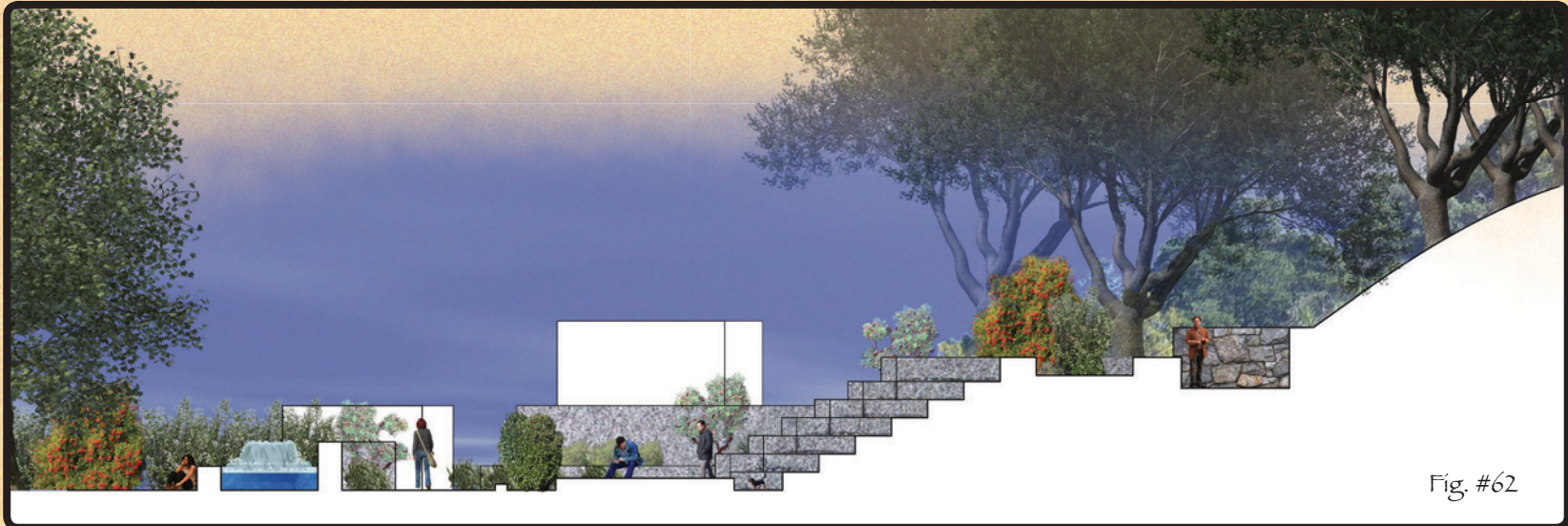
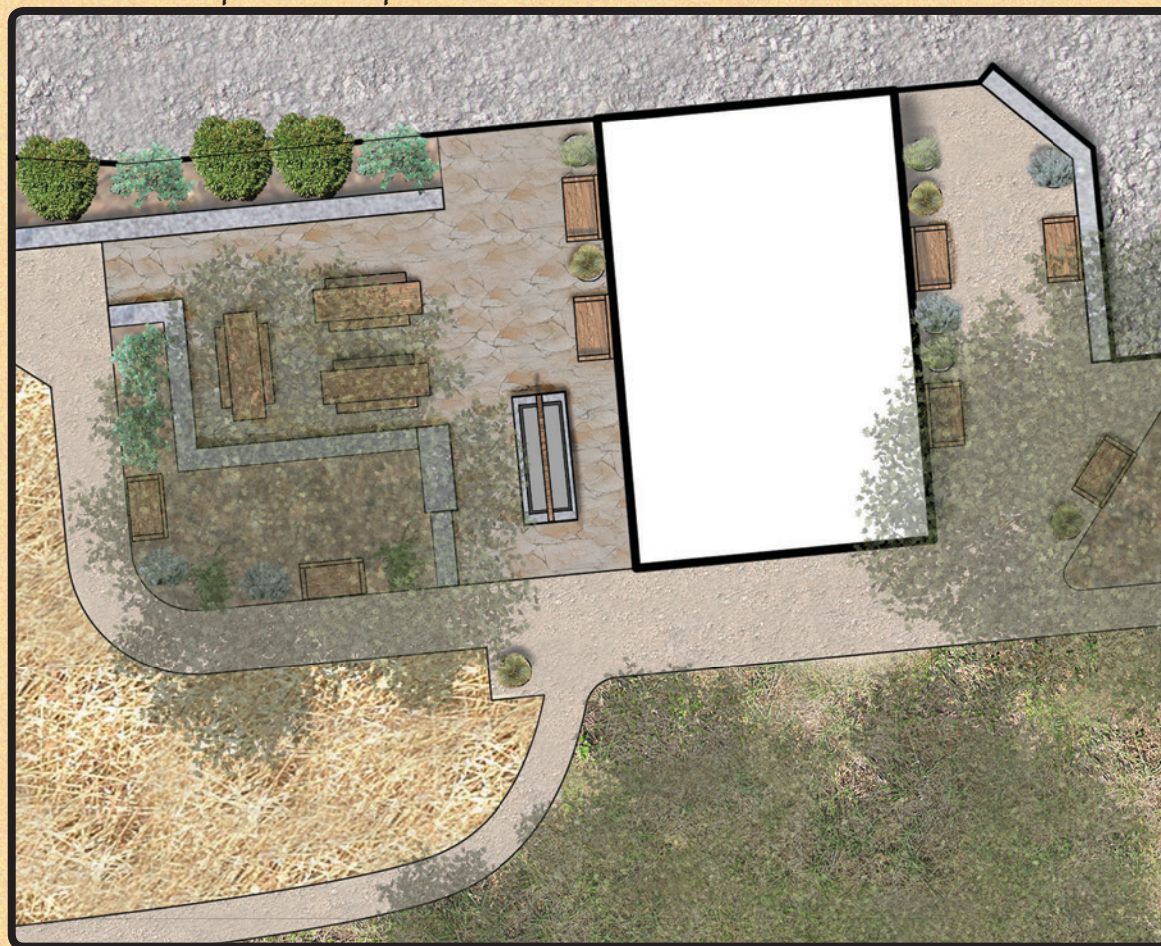


Fig. #62

Interpretive Center / Group Picnic Space



Scale:








Fig. #63

Interpretive Center / Group Picnic Space

The location of the historic post office is reused as a learning center for the site. The damaged east wall has been repaired and the interior cleared out and retrofitted with a small classroom space. The grounds around the building have been converted into a decomposed granite and flagstone patio space. This area is used as a patio to welcome visitors as they enter the site. The patio area to the west of the post office includes several large picnic tables and a barbecue pit with adjacent counter space. The plantings used are native to the region.

Planting Palette

Map Symbol	Plant Name
	White Sage - <i>Salvia apiana</i>
	Laurel Sumac - <i>Malosma laurina</i>
	Manzanita - <i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>
	Black Sage - <i>Salvia mellifera</i>
	Chapparel Yucca - <i>Yucca whipplei</i>


Map Symbol	Plant Name
	California Sagebrush - <i>Artemisia californica</i>

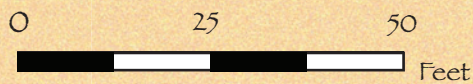
Fig. #64

Chumash Gardens / Picnic Space



Fig. #65

Scale:









This space located, on the south side of the bath house, serves as a Chumash native planting garden and rock seating area. Trails consist of decomposed granite as well as a stepping stone path.

A small deck has been constructed on the south west end of the bath house overlooking the riparian forest directly adjacent to the site.

Interpretive signage in the gardens will give provide information on the use of different plant species by the Chumash people affording visitors with a new perspective and more holistic understanding of the connection of native people to their surrounding landscape.

Chumash Gardens / Picnic Space
Chumash Gardens Planting Palette

Map Symbol	Plant Name
	White Sage - <i>Salvia apiana</i>
	California Sagebrush - <i>Artemisia californica</i>
	California Buckwheat - <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>
	Greenbark Ceanothus - <i>Ceanothus spinosus</i>
	Creek Clematis - <i>Clematis Ligusticifolia</i>
	Laurel Sumac - <i>Malosma laurina</i>








Map Symbol	Plant Name
	Lupine - <i>Lupinus spp.</i>
	Manzanita - <i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>
	Three-leaved Sumac - <i>Rhus trilobata</i>
	Black Sage - <i>Salvia mellifera</i>
	Soap Root - <i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>
	Toyon - <i>Heteromeles Arbutifolia</i>
	Chapparral Yucca - <i>Yucca whipplei</i>
	Coast Live Oak - <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>

Fig. #66

Chumash Gardens / Picnic Space

Chumash Plant Use

The following are examples of what type of information is presented on signage throughout the native gardens area. Signage will be placed on small placards located next to the species the information pertains to.

Manzanita - *Arctostaphylos* spp.

The berries were collected in the summer and crushed into a meal which was eaten raw during the winter months.

Chumash would treat the irritation of poison oak by applying water left over after boiling manzanita berries to the effected area (Timbrook, 2007).

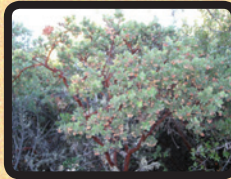


Fig. #67

California Sagebrush - *Artemisia californica*

Branches were hardened in a fire for the making of fore shafts of composite arrows.



Fig. #68

To treat headache leaves were either tied to the head or rubbed between the hands while submerged in water and the head and hair were then wetted.

It was believed that boiling the leaves and inhaling the steam could mitigate the effects of paralysis.

Upon the death of a village member large amounts of branches were piled around the individual's house as a disinfectant and burnt to fumigate the residence. Relatives would wash their hands in water that branches had been soaking in order to purify themselves (Timbrook, 2007).

Chumash Gardens / Picnic Space

Chumash Plant Use

Coast Live Oak - *Quercus agrifolia*

Oak trees played a large role in the daily life of the Chumash people. The acorns were collected, dried, pulverized with a pestle (stone or wood club shaped instrument) in a stone mortar to create an acorn meal. This meal was cooked using heated slabs of soap stone to create a mush which was a key element of their daily diet. Of the oak species found within the Chumash range the coast live oak was considered to be the best tasting and produced the best tasting mush. Other uses included threading acorns through the tip and worn as a necklace, chewing acorns and spreading the paste on the face as a type of sun block, as well as baiting traps for small animals (Timbrook, 2007).

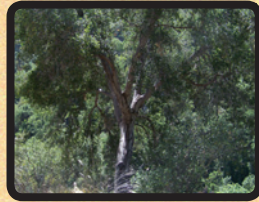


Fig. #69

Toyon - *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

The fruits from the Toyon are a traditional food of the Chumash. These berries were either toasted over hot coals until they turned white or left out to cook in the sun until they turned black. They were then crushed and mixed with water and set out for an additional 3 - 10 days, after which time they were eaten.



Fig. #70

The wood from Toyons were used to make arrows for hunting and spears for fishing, as well as pestles for grinding berries and nuts, walking sticks, war clubs, and cradle frames. The wood was preferred for use as ceremonial offerings as the wood lasted for long periods of time in the ground without decaying (Timbrook, 2007).

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