

Creating a Vision

Module 10 - Garden Ecology
Lesson 3: Creating a Vision for the Garden



Why is it important to create a Vision?

1. Since you are transforming an area that may have other elements on it currently you need to see the area as it will be, using the Vision as your road map.
2. Engaging students on participating in the decision making process of deciding which types of gardens will go into their space with a collective vision that ties everything together is a very profound experience.
3. Students see that the parts of a garden become the whole. Use the pages following that showcase the Ballona Discovery Park gardens project, to highlight the power of a Vision to see a garden go from beginning to completion.
4. The Vision is the ultimate statement of intention. It will provide a blueprint for you and your students to see the garden through to completion.

GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Ballona Discovery Park



GARDEN VISIONS (Concept)

Discovery Park is a 1.7-acre open-air science and cultural center, designed to engage and educate visitors about the Ballona Watershed. This museum without walls was conceived by the Friends of Ballona Wetlands and its principal partners Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and Playa Vista.

Discovery Park also benefitted from the guidance of Gabrielino/Tongva partners and other local stakeholders. It celebrates and honors the natural and cultural history of the Ballona Wetlands and its native peoples, bringing knowledge of an important ecosystem into people's daily lives. Sited at the base of the Westchester Bluffs near the restored riparian watercourse that flows to the Freshwater Marsh, the new Ballona Discovery Park is positioned to summon a connection between people and nature as it did with the Tongva people who flourished here centuries ago.

A primary element of Discovery Park is the Watershed Walk, which shows visitors the path water travels through Los Angeles' urban watersheds from the mountains to the sea. Visitors "walk the walk" and take away a new appreciation of the watershed and an understanding of their own vital role in its health and wellbeing.

The Tongva culture is represented through a number of interpretive elements, notably by a rope and wood representation of a Ki (house) that also serves as a resting and educational gathering spot for students and visitors. Educational programs have been developed by the Friends of Ballona Wetlands and LMU CUREs to explore the times, tides and transformations of the Ballona Wetlands.

This new park is destined to become a key trailhead for exploring the Ballona Wetlands.

GARDEN VISIONS (Elements)

- 1) Watershed Walk
 - A. Source/ Urbanscape (Mountains)
 - B. Freshwater Marsh
 - C. Saltwater Marsh
 - D. Mud Flats
 - E. Lagoon
 - F. Dunes and Ocean
- 2) Amphitheater (will hold 40 adults or 100 children)
- 3) Ki (House)
- 4) Ti'at (Plank Boat)
- 5) Native Gardens
- 6) Nooks
 - 4 Nooks along Watershed Walk facing Bluff Creek
- 7) Trellis Entry
- 8) Willow Tunnel
- 9) Retaining Wall and Bench
- 10) Picnic Benches
 - 4 Picnic Tables (with 8 Benches)
- 11) Entrances



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Ballona Discovery Park

BALLONA DISCOVERY CENTER



LEGEND	
KEY TO IDENTIFY COMPONENTS	
(A)	ENTRY TRELLIS
(B)	SOURCE / URBANSCAPE
(C)	FRESHWATER / ESTUARY
(D)	SALTWATER MARSH
(E)	MUDFLAT / TIDAL ZONES
(F)	OCEAN / SAND DUNE
(G)	RI
(H)	GATHERING PLACE
(J)	BALLONA OVER TIME

SITE PLAN - PHASE 1

Levin & Associates, Architects

GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Ballona Discovery Park

Before:



After:



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Ballona Discovery Park



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Ballona Discovery Park



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Pollinator Garden



Preparing the site



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Pollinator Garden



Staging the Plants



GARDEN VISIONS

Example: Pollinator Garden



Results 5 months later

