



Image 1

Existing conditions showing seasonal variations along the Santa Clara River and uninviting facilities at the Hanson Property. Giant Reed (*Arundo*) invades the waterways, summer trails exist without destinations, signage is minimal and partially hidden by shrubs, and the gate deters rather than invites public access.

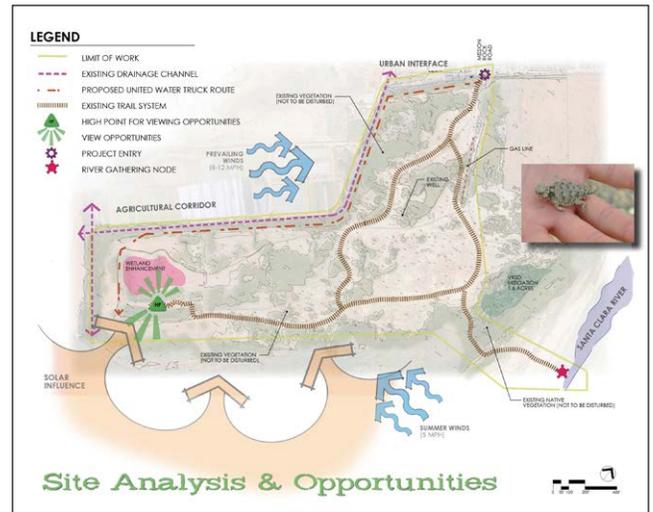


Image 2

Significant existing vegetation and wildlife (like the Horny Toad) need to be protected while also providing for improved trails, interpretive elements, parking areas, and gathering zones. Existing gas line, well, water truck route, and drainage also needs to be protected.



Image 3

As noted in the legend the programming goals for the site are extensive with the main priority of providing educational opportunities for K-12 students. The landscape architect developed of a cost-effective accessible trail system through the specification of a soil binder which will work with existing on-site material, resulting in significant cost savings for the client. The redirected funds allow for other improvements like gabions filled with on-site rock providing river bank niches for educational programs.

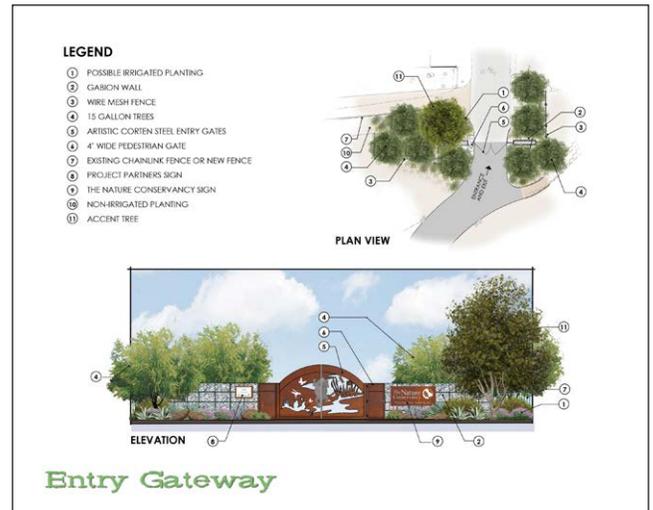


Image 4

The main entry gates, inspired by the local habitat, is artistically designed to represent the dry land environment on the left and riparian environment on the right. A Horny Toad sculpture at the center of the gates came about by the landscape architect's discovery of this memorable little reptile during initial site visits. Corten steel gates, gabions filled with river rock found on-site, and native plant species will create an inviting entry experience.

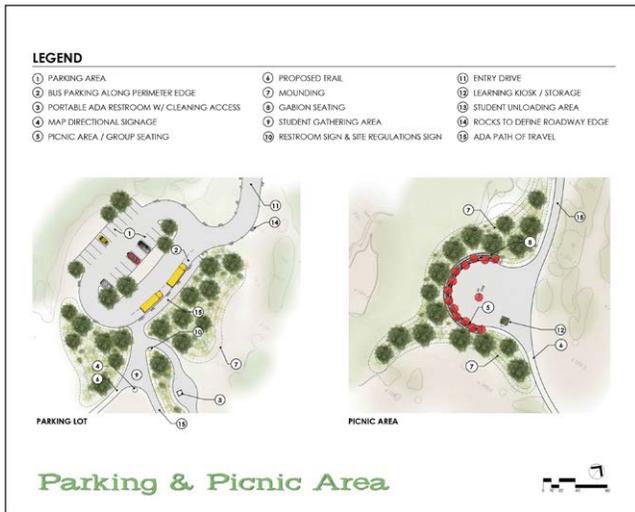


Image 5

The clients requires that the entry road and parking lot remain native soil; no asphalt or defining permanent header is allowed to denote vehicular limits. In order to keep costs down the landscape architect suggested using rock and boulders found on site to define these spaces. Please note that the site is not open to the public and will be used by appointment only as directed by the client.

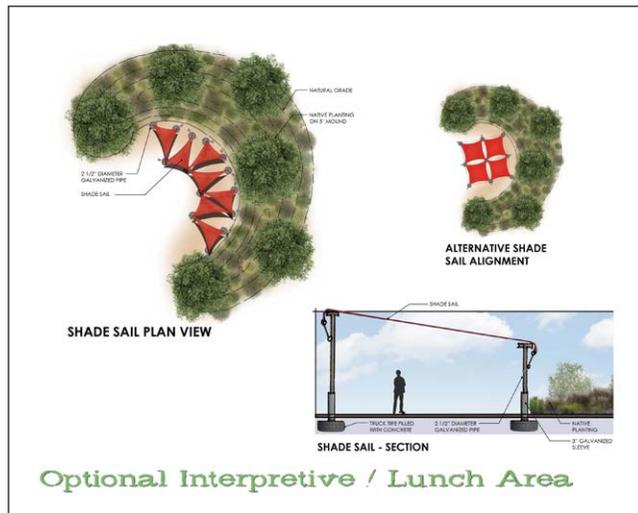


Image 7

An alternative shade solution derived from the landscape architect's youth in playing tetherball. The client required shade systems without permanent footings. This solution is a custom system which one person can assemble using light weight awning or porous camouflage shade material. By draping the material over a 12" diameter disc welded to the top of the aluminum post, the material can be tethered to the post with a simple bungee system and locking clip, and the post can be lifted and set into sleeve.

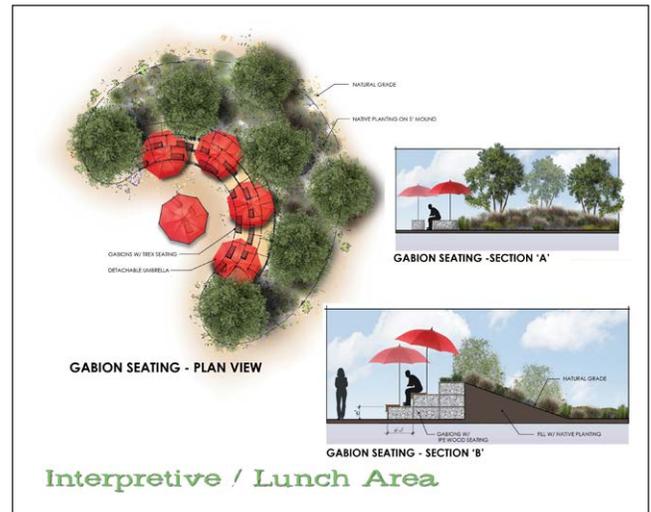


Image 6

Creating protections from sun and wind which can withstands seasonal river torrents was an interesting challenge. The solution came in enhancing niches formed during the time the site was used as a gravel operation. Mounds created by the previous mining owners will provide some shelter when combined with gabions; creating cove-like formations backing up to the river which can take the full force of flood events. In this alternative, simple sleeves through the gabions at varying locations allow for shade umbrella mobility. Umbrellas will be taken down and stored on site each day.

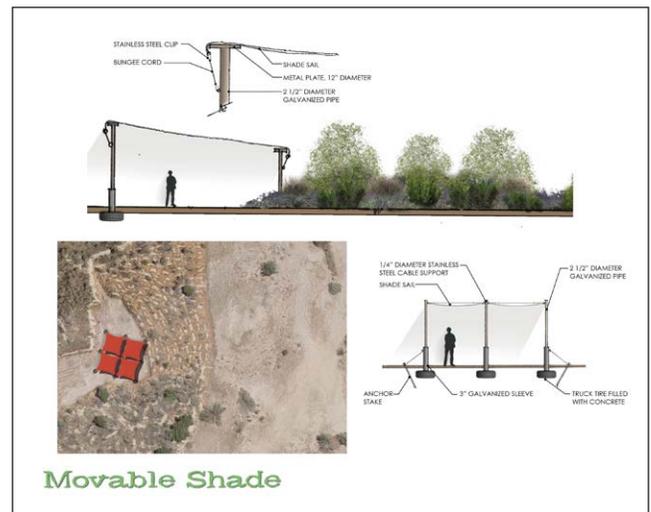


Image 8

With this low-tech shade system, Nature Conservancy staff can create temporary shade for seasonal programs.

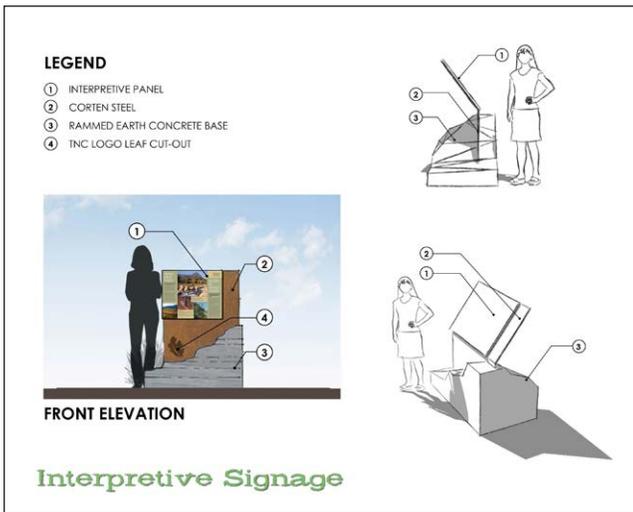


Image 9

Interpretive panels and bases were designed with the ability to be scooped up with a backhoe if needed and moved to high ground during flooding events. Bases are made of concrete with an eroded earth finish.

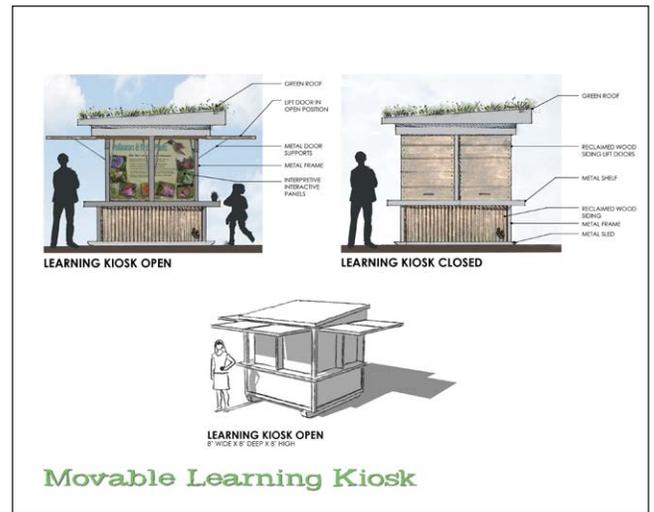


Image 10

Another custom design feature developed by the landscape architect specifically for mobility. A metal frame welded to a metal skid plate is designed to withstand being dragged across the gravel river bottom by attaching a chain in two corners of the frame. Outer finishes of recycled wood veneer and doors that are lockable allow for all weather conditions. The kiosk is also designed to hold umbrellas and other materials to be used by docents. A green roof rain garden provides students with additional learning opportunities.