SOUTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY NATURE PLAN:
Connecting People and Nature for a Sustainable Ecology

McMillen Inc. and Occidental College for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains / Dr. Isaac Brown

South Los Angeles County, CA

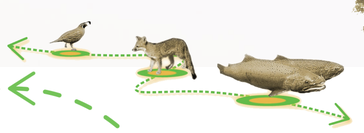
The South Los Angeles County Nature Plan is a regional spatial plan and implementation strategy to advance, coordinate, and expand upon existing related efforts. Core goals include supporting land conservation and connectivity, biodiversity and watershed stewardship, and nature access and environmental quality for underserved communities.

The plan can guide a more connected and nature-based network of natural areas and urban landscapes that optimize multiple benefits, coordinate between sites, guide investments, and inform new policies. Once realized, this plan will demonstrate how every site, no matter how developed or natural, can play a unique role in supporting ecological sustainability and community enrichment by connecting people and nature.

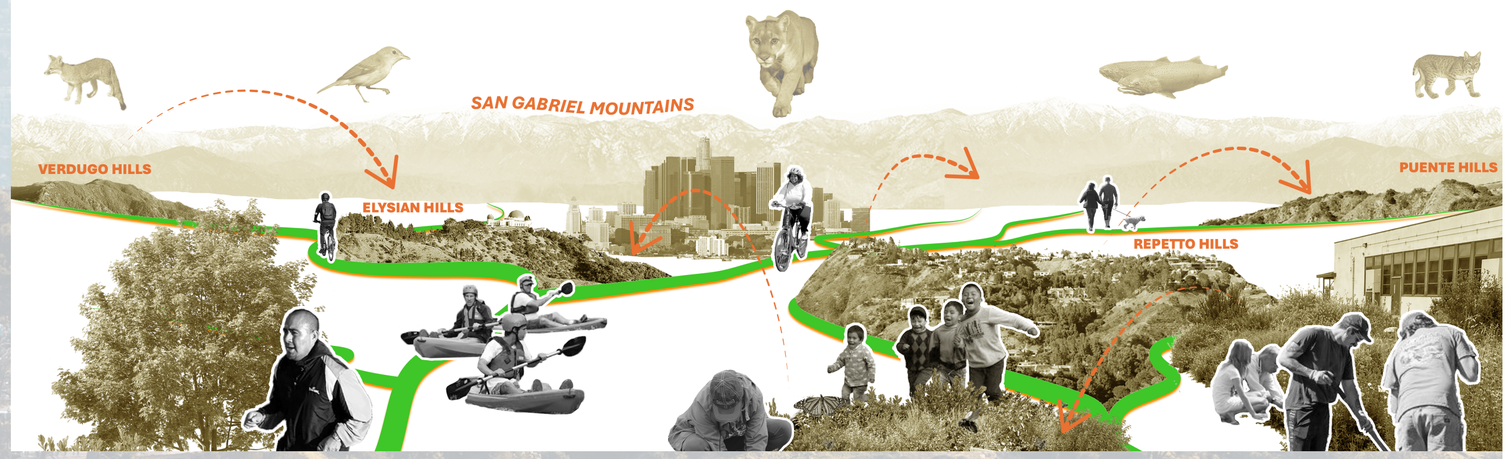
This ongoing project is strongly influenced by Professor Nassauer's and a broad body of work from the SEAS community, including the following features. The Los Angeles Subregional Ecotopes provide a spatial framework that combines landform, microclimate, and biotic characteristics, key building blocks of ecosystems and biodiversity, to differentiate subregional planning units. Despite intensive development within much of the plan area, these units serve as an ecological foundation and knowledge gateway to connect all places with nature. Like the Los Angeles Biodiversity Indices and Sustainability Plans that preceded it, the Nature Plan focuses on a transdisciplinary audience, providing accessible language and visually appealing format to engage both technical and nontechnical audiences.

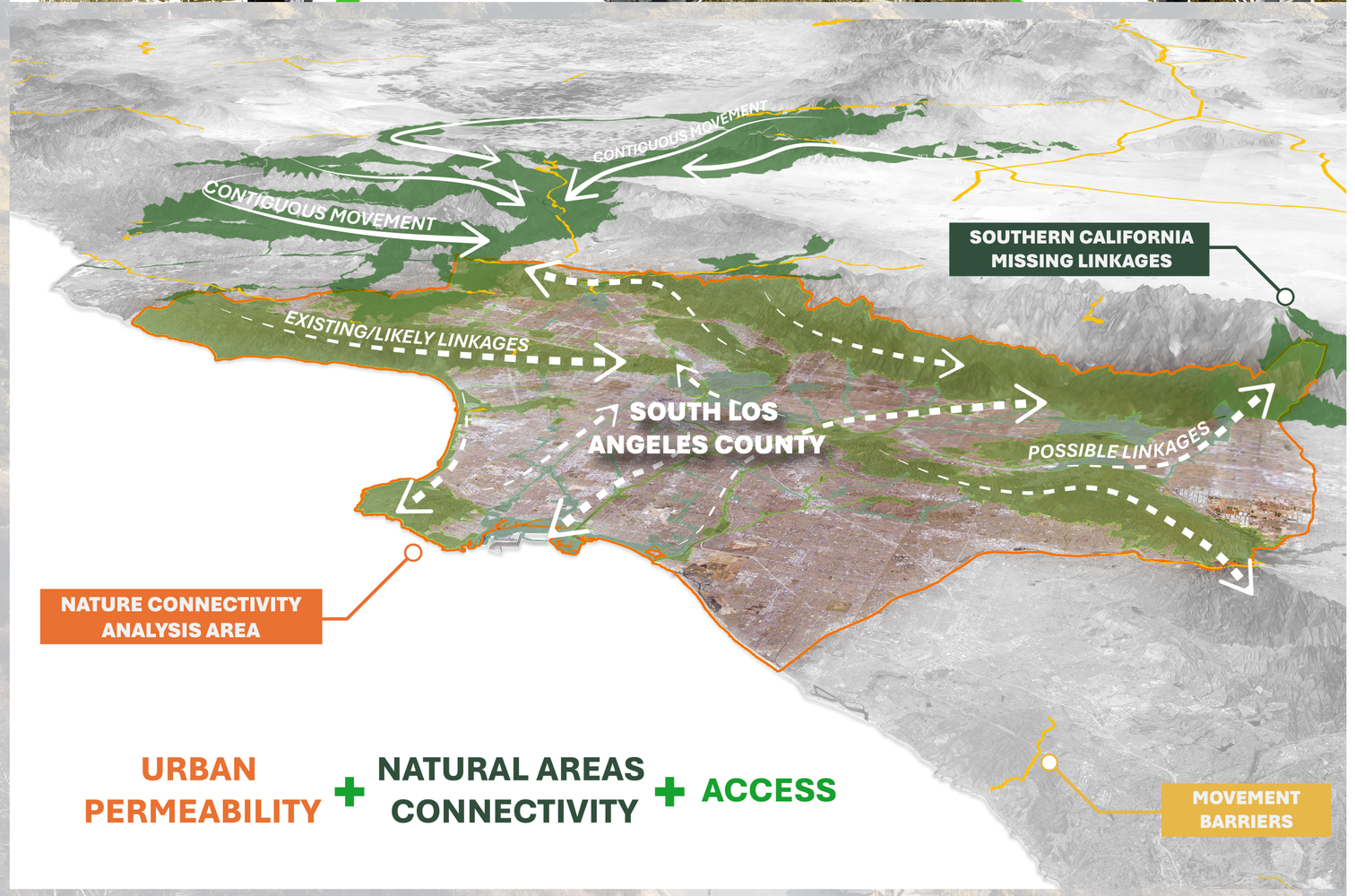
At its core, the project blends central messages of two SEAS professors: the late Professor Emeritus Burton V. Barnes's "you gotta know the territory" and Professor Nassauer's "cues to care". Connecting people and ecology through cues to care is key to fostering stewardship, and fully knowing the ecology of a territory is key to solving complex ecological challenges. Cities are just beginning to formally steward urban ecology comprehensively and the practice promises new nature-based opportunities to address urgent climate driven changes to the ecology of cities. Further, cues to care and the aesthetics of sustainable urban ecosystems may also be integral to the next generation of urban equitability and community enrichment, presenting an opportunity to accelerate a virtuous cycle toward regional ecological sustainability.



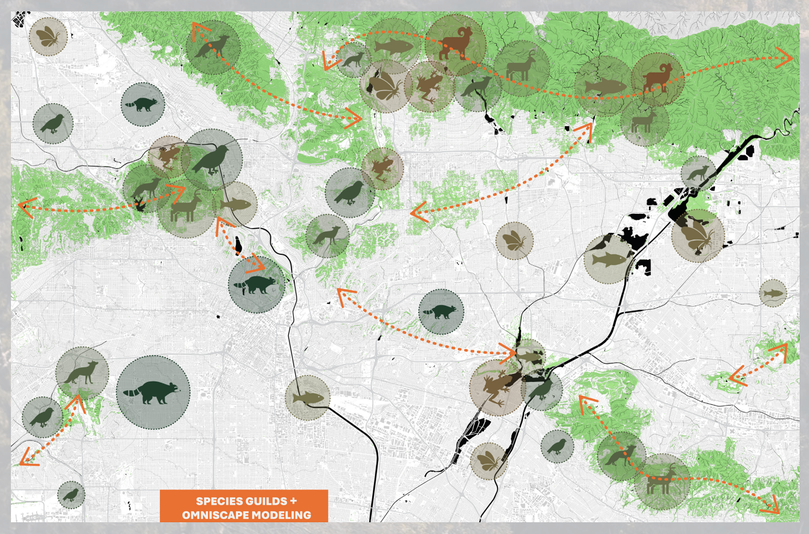


NATURE + PEOPLE + CONNECTIVITY





URBAN PERMEABILITY + NATURAL AREAS CONNECTIVITY + ACCESS



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