



# *land & life*

**A GUIDE TO THE LANDSCAPING AT  
GREAT PARK NEIGHBORHOODS**



## a place to dig deep

There's a lot more than you think at Great Park Neighborhoods. Dig a little deeper, you'll see a rare community where people live, learn, play and find new inspiration as they bask in the region's wondrous natural beauty.

Exquisite nature, it's all around you, everywhere you look. Out on the greenbelt and winding trails, adorning quiet streets and courtyards or enhancing our dynamic outdoor gathering spaces. With over 7.5 million square feet of sustainable landscaping, and approximately 7,000 trees planted, we are continuously cultivating a resource-conserving environment, one that's equally as inviting to our residents as it is for the plant and animal species that dwell here.



*Pavilion Park*



Pavilion Park

## our approach

We believe that nature knows best. The vision for landscaping at Great Park Neighborhoods is inspired by natural patterns and native species. And we paid careful attention to how the built environment is balanced with the biosphere. For example ... grand heritage trees, replanted from the former El Toro Marine Base, provide much needed shade for community gathering spaces. Native vegetation lining the Bosque is arranged not in an ornamental way, but how nature would do it — seeds blown by the wind create clusters of the same plant, whereas seeds that hitch rides on animals grow farther apart and away from places where people gather. Another big focus was to design open spaces and view corridors that frame and celebrate our community's glorious views — of Mount Baldy and the Modjeska and Santiago Peaks along the nearby Saddleback Mountains.

“Letting nature do its thing” not only honors our origins, it ties the neighborhoods together, reduces our carbon footprint and creates environments where physical and social wellness are promoted for the good of all.



Cadence Park

## the amoeba plan

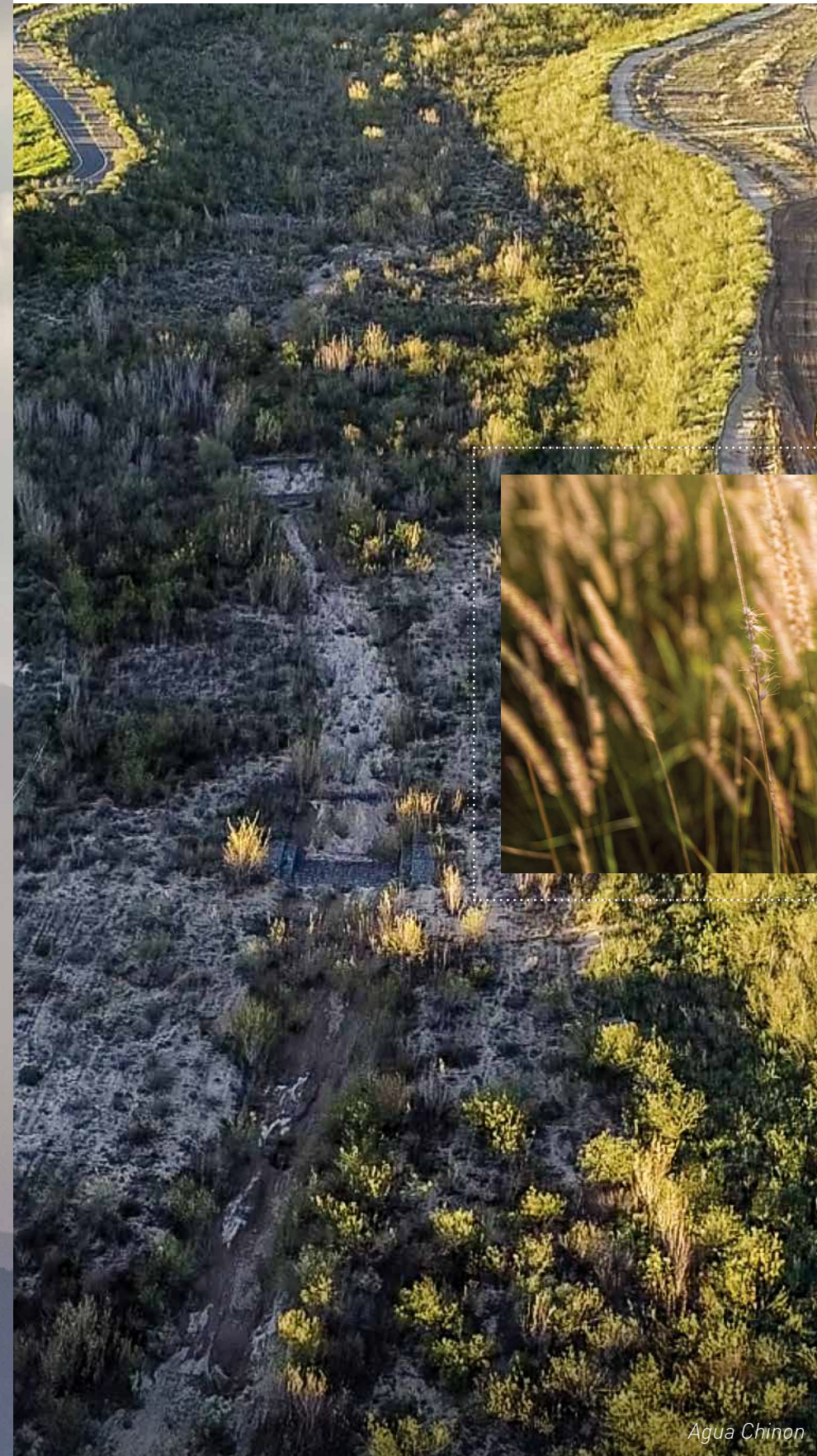
This complex design approach is built on the notion that the plant and animal species native to an area make that place unique, like no other location in the world. So we dove into understanding the plants, animals and landforms specific to this region and worked to create a careful transition from the ornamental planting approach of the surrounding area, moving toward a native-species-focused palette. Great efforts were made to select and arrange plant families to support the area's living organisms, to increase biodiversity and to elevate the health and wellbeing of native animals.

We believe biodiversity and a focus on natural habitats bring a more robust and healthier ecosystem to our communities, which in turn improves the health of residents by providing windbreaks, shade for hot days and all-important water conservation.

## conserving *natural* habitats

We have constructed a protected wildlife corridor on the eastern edge of Great Park Neighborhoods, giving animals a path for safe passage between the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana mountains and Orange County's wild coastal terrains.

Bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, gray foxes, wrens and the endangered California gnatcatchers are just a few of the unique species found here.



*Agua Chinon*



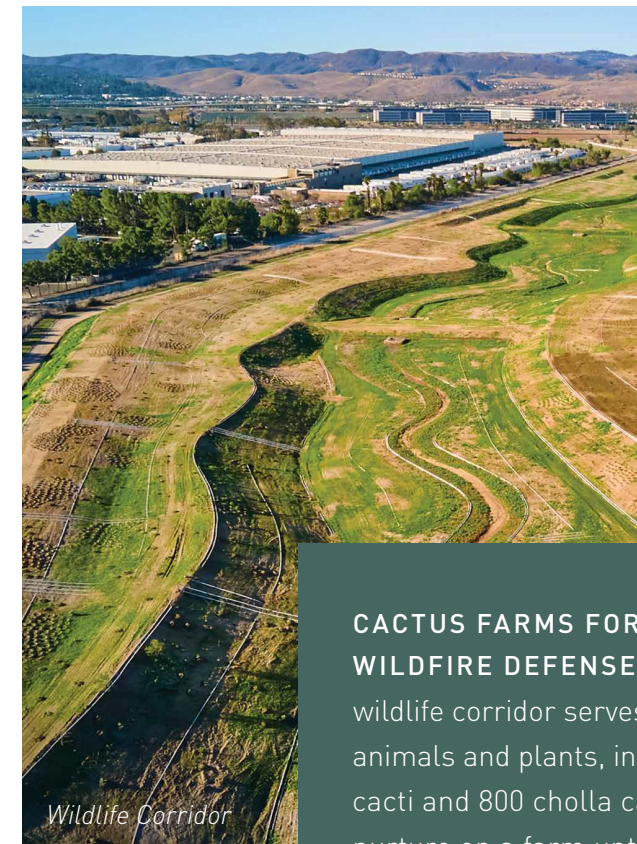
**AGUA CHINON** For two and a half miles, this urban stream and riparian corridor flows from its headwaters in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains through the City of Irvine. Serving a dual purpose of mitigating climate change and reusing recycled runway material from the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, the 15-foot-wide concrete aqueduct provides a resilient ecosystem for oak and willow trees, elderberry, wildflowers, riparian grasses and plant species, as well as native birds and raptors.



**WHILE EXPLORING GREAT PARK NEIGHBORHOODS**, look closely for the hundreds of rescued heritage trees replanted throughout our landscape. We felt these towering beauties — first planted in the 1940s on the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station — were worth saving. The process of boxing, transporting, nourishing and replanting full-grown trees (weighing many tons each) was no simple process. But the effort was well worth it. Because for years to come, these trees will enhance community wellbeing by producing clean oxygen, providing shade for common spaces, and rooting us to the natural history of Irvine.

## long live H<sub>2</sub>O

We can't exist without water. It's a precious natural resource. And as California's ongoing crisis persists, we must all do our part supporting conservation. As landscapers, our work starts with understanding supplies — how shifts in climate are depleting our rivers, reservoirs and snowpack. Once we know this, we can adapt, turning to water-smart techniques, such as drought-resistant plantings and controlled drip irrigation. Both of which are used in our community for the livelihood of our landscape today, and for the health of generations to come.



*Wildlife Corridor*

### CACTUS FARMS FOR WILDFIRE DEFENSE

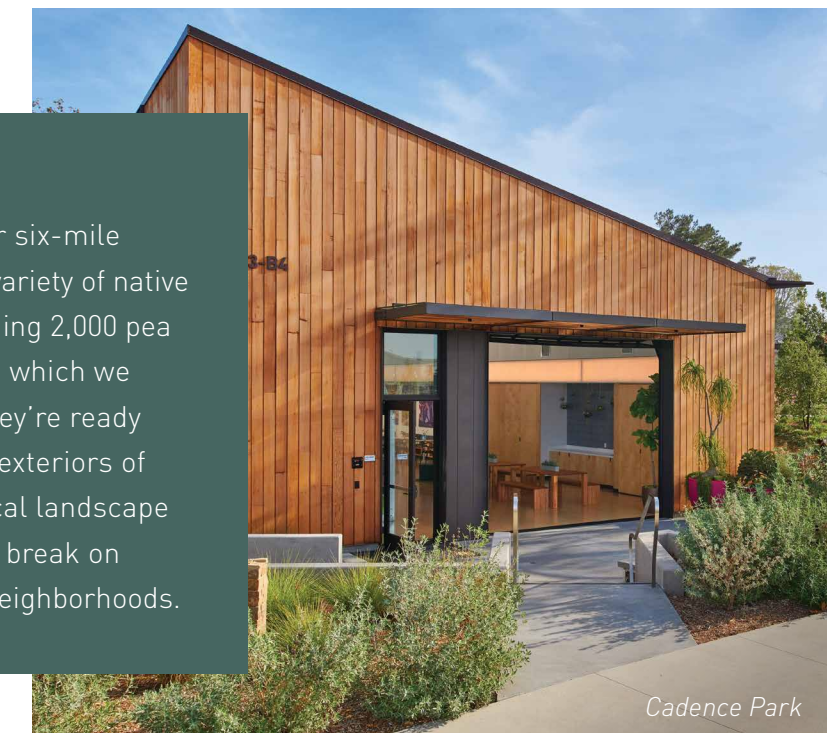
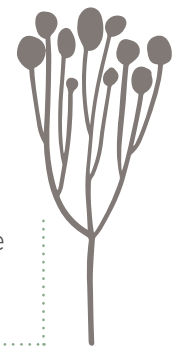
Our six-mile wildlife corridor serves a variety of native animals and plants, including 2,000 pea cacti and 800 cholla cacti, which we nurture on a farm until they're ready for replanting. The tough exteriors of these cacti protect the local landscape by providing a natural fire break on the edges of Great Park Neighborhoods.



*Parasol Park*

### DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPES

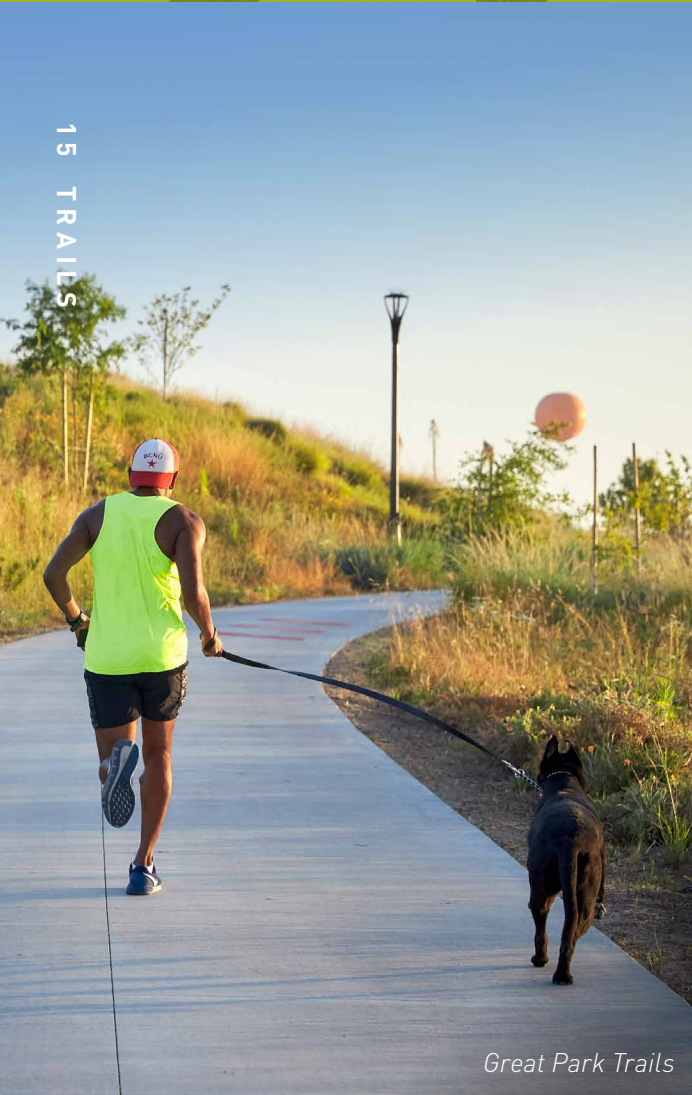
Sustainable, drought-tolerant landscapes aren't a trend for us. They've been a basis for our vision from the very beginning. We use a mix of native plants, ranging from dwarf coyote brush and sagebrush to blue gamma grass, and composted mulch layers to keep our community spaces happy, hydrated and growing. And to keep our four-legged friends happy, we use artificial turf in dog parks where natural grass simply can't keep up.



*Cadence Park*

### HEAT ISLAND REDUCTION

In warmer months, communities like ours with buildings, roads and other structures absorb the sun's heat, causing daytime temperatures to rise. These "heat islands" can be dangerous and costly, so to tackle this challenge we've replanted mature heritage trees, which offer shade and cool the air through evapotranspiration. The noble Parasol Pine is a great example of this — a tree too large to move, so we built a park around it. The many large heritage trees lining our streets and common areas are examples of this method as well.



Great Park Trails

The Bosque at Great Park Trails

### the winding way

Stretching through the Upper Bee and Bosque areas of the Great Park Trails, you'll find one and a half miles of multi-use trails surrounded by a complex and layered landscaped natural habitat ecosystem, where in the winter and spring seasons, you'll see a burst of bird activity, insect life and local flowers in seasonal bloom.



*nature in our neighborhoods*

Beacon Park



Pavilion Park

**PAVILION PARK**

Known for its crystalline greenhouse and verdant gathering space, which are found beneath a canopy of Western sycamores and elms, plus a host of local plantings, this harmonious place soothes the soul and encourages social interaction.



Solis Park

**RISE**

With immersive garden spaces balancing body and mind, and an open-air deck overlooking the Santa Ana mountains, outdoor areas in this neighborhood offer a serene, meditative feel that is reflected in our landscaping design.

**SOLIS PARK**

Bordering open space, the wildlife corridor and Agua Chinon, Solis Park is full of lush, deciduous trees, native vegetation, flowers and shaded gathering areas inspired by the region's mountainous landforms.



Rise



Novel Park

**NOVEL PARK**

An unexpected place with its own hanging pod garden and grand heritage trees replanted from the old El Toro Marine base. Where pathways are lined with brush and there are two dog parks with grassy knolls for you and your pet to play on.



Cadence Park

**CADENCE PARK**

This vibrant community center has its own quirky character with landscaped pathways weaving around an outdoor sculpture garden. New growth, upright juniper and heritage trees within the park provide shade and create an inviting atmosphere.



Cadence Park



Beacon Park



**BEACON PARK**

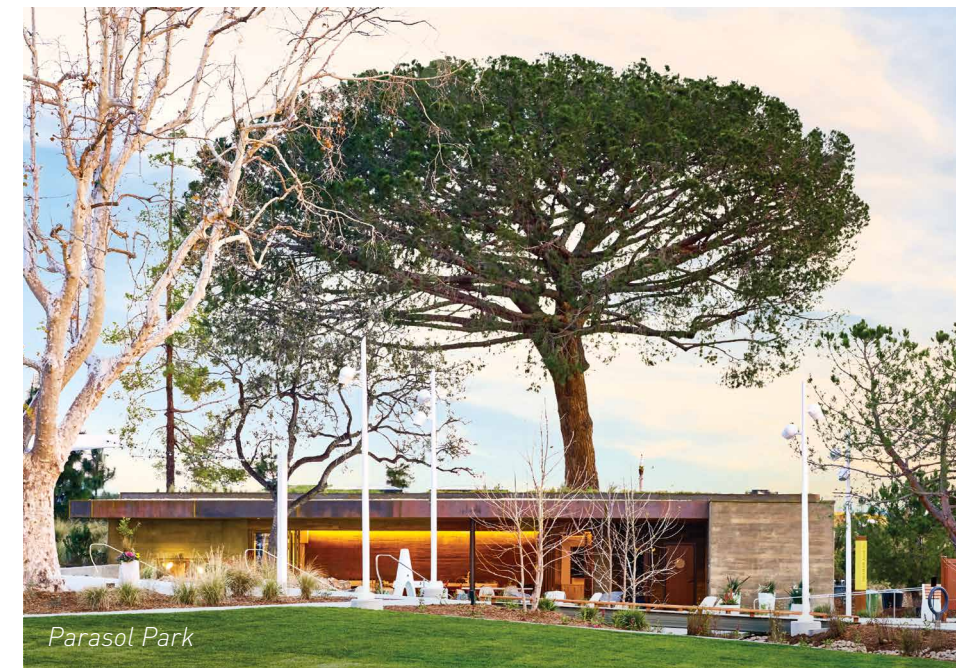
Look for the 500-square-foot treehouse in the center of the park. It's tucked between impressive, old Jacaranda trees. Look for wild grass plantings, yarrow and Texas sage as well — they're both native flowers found in Southern California.

**PARASOL PARK**

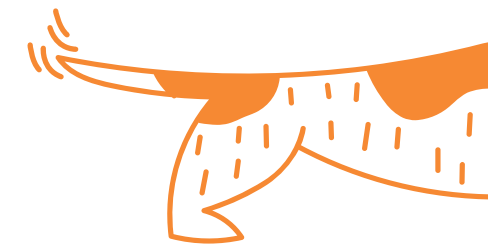
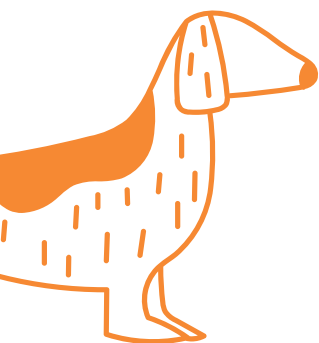
Recognized for the 75-foot-tall Stone Pine it's nestled beneath, the park itself includes a mix of flowering trees, pollinator gardens, ornamental native plant collections, xeriscaped beds and a community greenhouse.



Novel Park



Parasol Park





## our future growth

Looking forward, we know the commitment of a single community can make a real difference. And over the coming years, we will be steadfast in our efforts, bolstering biodiversity while conserving water and protecting precious natural habitats. We're taking our cues from nature itself — doing what's best for the local and regional ecosystems of Irvine and Southern California. We want to leave a small footprint and a big impact. That's the power of plants and people working together.





*Love the land*

Spend an afternoon under a heritage tree, explore trails and knolls,  
and bask in our native grasses and greenery. This land  
is our shared legacy. And when we treat it well, life is better.

**GREAT  PARK**  
NEIGHBORHOODS

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