

Project Statement 400 words

A large, circular oculus in a suspended canopy celebrates the place where Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River join. Suspended in air from four pylons on both sides of the river, the monumental shade and solar canopy forms a dynamic and unified urban space currently split by the river. Stainless steel cables and canopy fabric are visually lightweight and ephemeral while iconic in stature, in the spirit of the former San Jose electric light tower. This landmark destination celebrates natural and urban systems coming together at the new heart of downtown San Jose and Silicon Valley.

Water and shade enhance the site's natural features by helping to cool the hot and dry climate of downtown that is becoming dramatically more urban. At the ground, the park is activated through water fountains, a café on both the east and west sides with outdoor seating among trees. A viewing platform 180 feet above the ground near the top of the tallest of the supporting pylons occurs at the southwest corner of the park. The tower houses an elevator and stair that allow visitors access to a sweeping view of the city, landscape and park below. It also presents a monumental gateway sign of the project's name in Morse code, with a nod to the valuable developments of coding in Silicon Valley.

The park features seven new fountains for public enjoyment and recreation. Each fountain celebrates the confluence of water at the site through translations of technological innovations of Silicon Valley, such as integrated circuitry, that form programmed patterns of water movement with lighting. Water can be programmed as jets, bubblers, mist or fog in choreographed displays or through interaction with the public and can be modulated to synchronize with natural, seasonal variation of water flow.

The overhead shade canopy suspends an illuminated ring floating 80 to 90 feet above the confluence and low intensity decorative downlights in constellations of circuitry patterns. Path lighting is achieved through bollards and pole lights. Solar collection on the canopy will meet zero net energy needs for fountain power and lighting, and atop café roofs to meet building needs. The canopy will be designed to minimize bird nesting while allowing migration through the site.