

Project Statement

We have reimagined this urban park as a space to celebrate Silicon Valley's history of cultural innovation as well as its natural ecology, where visitors and community members can connect with each other and with their place in the natural world. A combination of iconic and intimate interventions, with a network of pathways and connectors between them, will expand this site's sense of place to one which spans the river and bridges the distinct neighborhoods that surround it.

The west side of the project site is anchored at its center by a helix-shaped structure, its commanding vertical presence denoting this site as a shared space for convergence and collaboration at the heart of Silicon Valley's urban center. Two ascending pathways meet at an elevated platform with views of San Jose's skyline and the motherboard-inspired layout of the park's pathways below. Delicately illuminated with net-zero approaches and woven with climbing plants, linework in the pathways' railing invokes the early computer hardware first developed here. This place-based combination of living and nonliving materials makes for an ever-evolving icon that is a visual wonder by day and night. A network of circuit-inspired pathways direct visitors from the site's many adjacent destinations, through swaths of native plants and grasses, to the base of the helix and to two sunken amphitheaters that bookend the site. These assembly squares serve as open venues for performance, activism, socializing, and as spaces to linger amidst the park's urban nature, safely outside of the delicate riparian corridor.

The eastern edge of the project site will be lined by a tunnel of hanging garden canopies which creates a semi-enclosed space for visitors to become immersed within the structures and living systems of the park itself. Employing the same combination of materials as the helix structure across from it, native vines will climb the motherboard-inspired lines and lighting as they grow, strengthening the visual shield from the adjacent highway while providing daytime shade and evening illumination. The flex space below the structure is wide enough to facilitate movement along the length of the park while allowing ample space for public seating, programmed events, or other placemaking interventions.

Celebration of this community's legacy of innovation and collaboration on a global scale requires not one iconic structure, but a network of iconic interventions. Where these rivers converge, so too shall nature and technology, so too shall diverse communities and their ideas.