

An aerial photograph of the Los Angeles coastline and city grid, showing the Pacific Ocean on the left and the city's urban layout extending inland. The image is partially obscured by a light blue rounded rectangle containing text.

# SCWP Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation - Findings

## Upper Los Angeles River Watershed

### WSP & LACGC

ULAR Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting – January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025





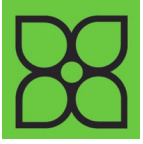
Los Angeles Community Garden Council image

## Project Lead



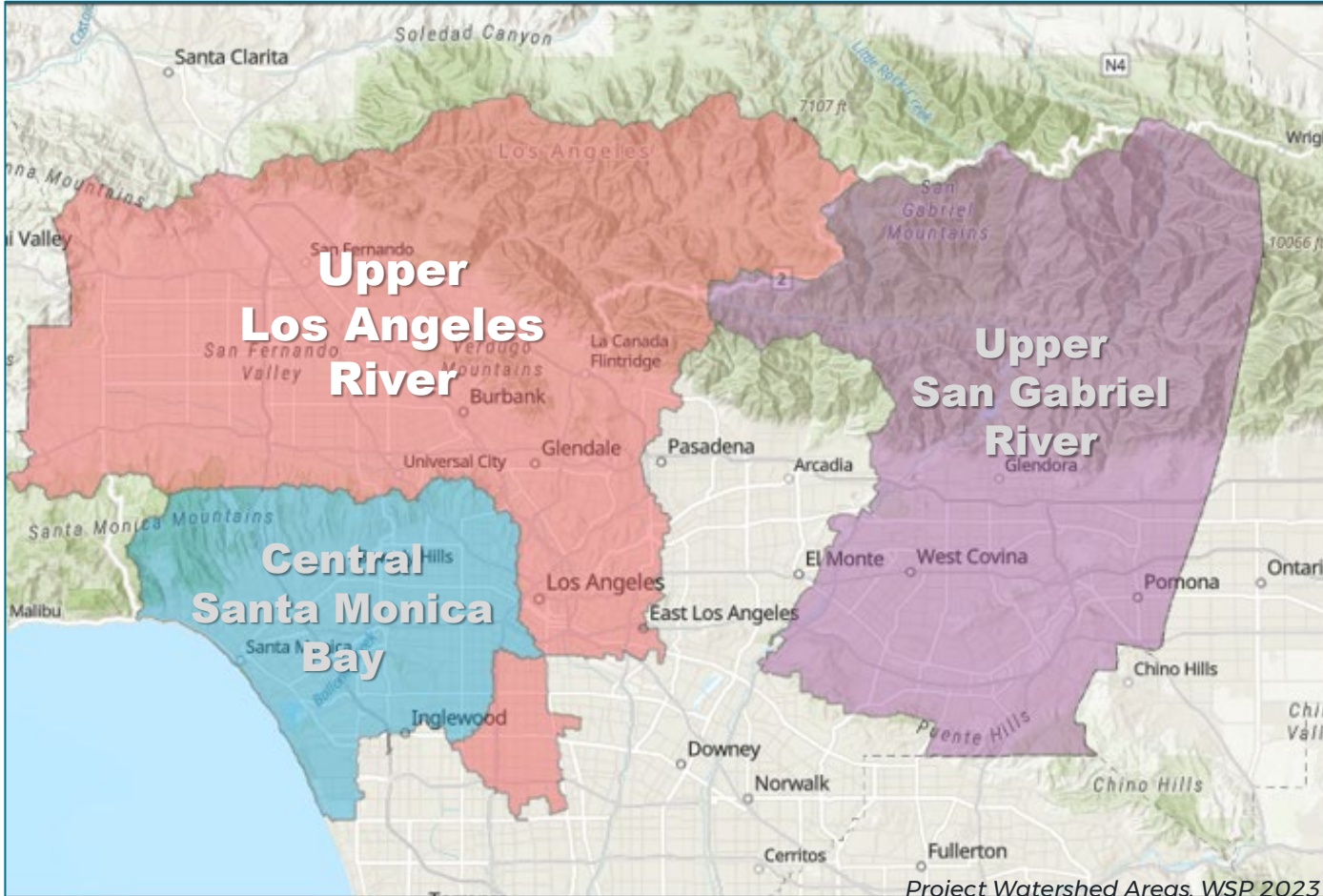
- 501( c )3 non-profit organization
- Manages 42 community gardens across the County
- Advisory services
- Workshops
- Community organizing assistance





## Project Objective

SCW Program funded the study in **three (3) watershed areas.\***



**Identify Opportunity Gardens –**  
within the designated watersheds

**Select Gardens –** Develop criteria  
for selection

### Objectives

- Identify conditions for potential stormwater capture
- Engage with gardeners to understand potential needs & opportunities

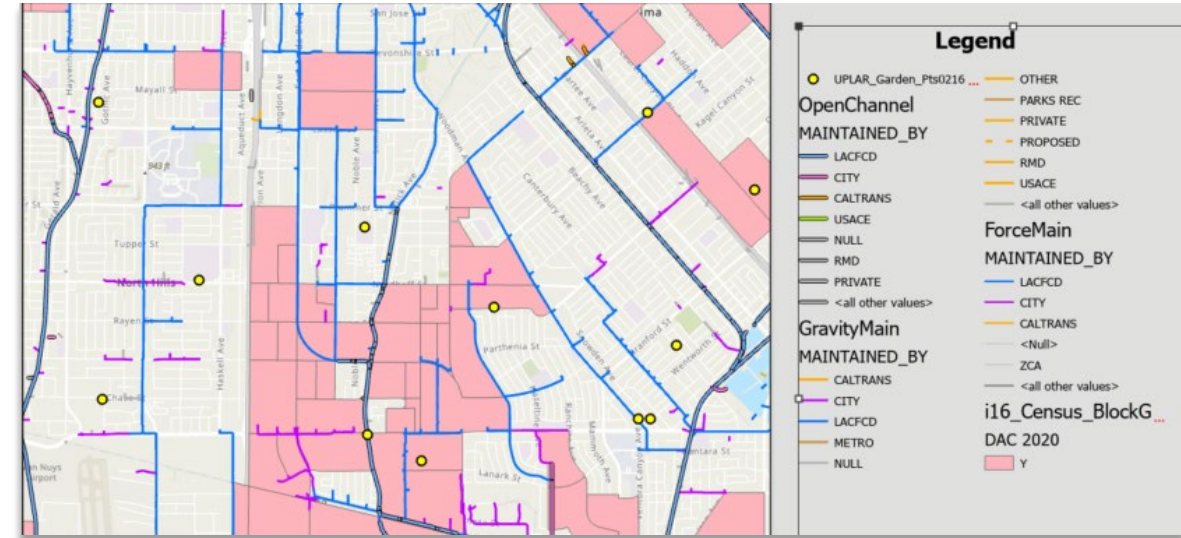
\*Watershed areas as identified and funded by the program





# Project Phase I – Identify & Early Engagement

## Data Sources

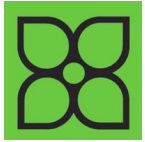


Project Watershed Areas, WSP 2023



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Project Phase I – Identify & Early Engagement



**SAFE CLEAN WATER** **Los Angeles COMMUNITY GARDEN COUNCIL** **wsp**

**¡Emocionante oportunidad para su jardín comunitario!**

Los Angeles Community Garden Council recibió fondos a través de la Medida W del Condado de Los Angeles - Programa de Agua Limpia y Segura para realizar tres investigaciones de cuencas hidrográficas, conocidas colectivamente como el Proyecto de Investigación de Captura de Aguas Pluviales de Jardines Comunitarios. La Investigación identificará y evaluará el potencial de los jardines comunitarios para implementar las mejores prácticas de gestión de aguas pluviales. La Investigación dará como resultado diseños conceptuales de captura de aguas pluviales para tres (3) jardines comunitarios, uno para cada cuenca. Estos diseños se pueden usar para solicitar la financiación de subvenciones propias de los jardines para apoyar la obtención de permisos y la implementación.

¿Interesado en aprender más? Regístrese para asistir a una de estas sesiones informativas:

**Sesión 1 - Viernes, 14 de julio a las 10:00 am**  
Enlace de registro:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8tZ0vf-sqj8rH9z0s0IK-D02D3nC2fQnM7o>

**Sesión 2 - Miércoles 19 de julio a las 18:00**  
Enlace de registro:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/mtqz0rG9IZPHI\\_BVVsI9TQB\\_IHR7z](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/mtqz0rG9IZPHI_BVVsI9TQB_IHR7z)

Si tiene preguntas o desea obtener más información, comuníquese con el Gerente de Proyecto, Kayla Kelly-Slatten en [kayla@kksstrategies.com](mailto:kayla@kksstrategies.com).



**Exciting Opportunity for your Community Garden!**

The Los Angeles Community Garden Council was awarded funding through the Los Angeles County Measure W - Safe Clean Water Program to conduct three watershed investigations, known collectively as the Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation Project. The Investigation will identify and assess the potential for community gardens to implement stormwater best management practices. The Investigation will result in conceptual stormwater capture designs for three (3) community gardens, one for each watershed. These designs can then be used to apply for the gardens' own grant funding to support permitting and implementation.

Spring 2023 - Winter 2024

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out to the Project Manager, Kayla Kelly-Slatten at [kayla@kksstrategies.com](mailto:kayla@kksstrategies.com).

Community garden is interested in learning the project and how to get involved, and one of the following information sessions:

Session 1 Date:  
Session 1 Registration Link:

Session 2 Date:  
Session 2 Registration Link:



Phase 1

## -Information Sessions

Flyers developed and distributed to contacts and sessions were held to introduce the project and foster interest.

## -Interest Forms

Gauged interest and begin to collect general information about the gardens.

## -Continued Conversations

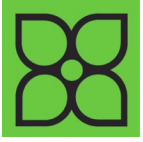
One on one sessions were held.

## -Scheduled Site Visits

To continue assessing the site and understand garden needs.

Phase III

Phase IV



# Project Phase II - Filter

## INITIAL LIST OF CRITERIA USED TO FILTER GARDEN SITES

Based on publicly available data collected during identification phase.

CRITERION	DEFINITION	FILTER
Type	Type of Garden	Is the garden classified as a Community Garden, Farm, or School Garden
LACSDS Proximity (ft)	Proximity to existing drainage infrastructure (ft)	Site in proximity of 100 feet or less of a LA County Storm Drain
Estimated Average Well Depth	Estimated Average Well Depth depending on wells within 3 miles form site.	Sites with an average well depth of 10 ft or more
WMP/EWMP	Falls within an Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP)?	YES
Hydrologic Group - Dominant Condition	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Hydrologic Group - Dominant Condition	Garden site is either: Null, A, B (Null = site is primarily categorized as urban land, and actual soil characteristics may vary)
NRCS drainage Class	NRCS Drainage Class is well drained (to help with the null of the Hydrologic group)	Filtered to only show sites considered "well drained"
Agency Type	Agency type created to help sort the various agency name (owners) into categories for filtering.	Filtered to only show type is either municipality, Null, County, or School district. Most community gardens fall withing one of these categories.
Impaired Water Body Or Watershed	is in an impaired water body or watershed	is in an impaired water body or watershed



## Project Phase II - Filter

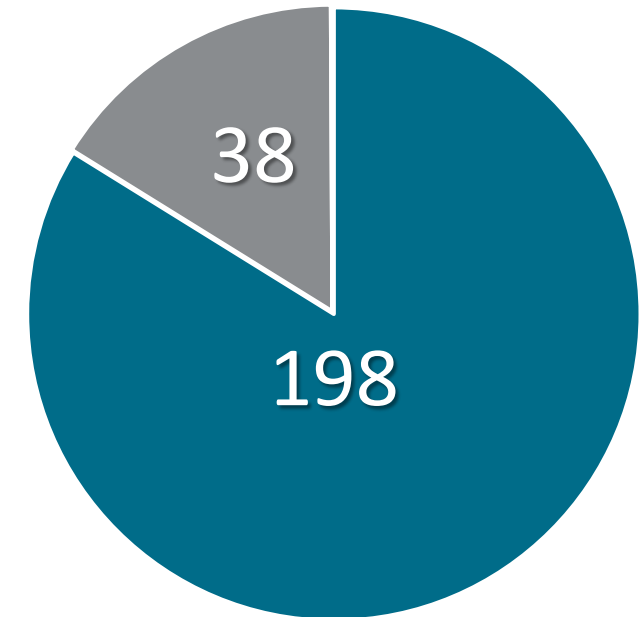
Site Name	Type	City	DAC Status
Pueblo De Los Angeles Continuation	School Garden	Los Angeles	Yes
Verdugo Park Community Garden	Community Garden	Glendale	No
Parkman Gardens	Community Garden	Woodland Hills	No
Carpenter Community Charter	School Garden	Studio City	No
William Mulholland Middle School	School Garden	Lake Balboa	No
Eagle Rockdale Community Garden	Community Garden	Los Angeles	No
Geneva Gardens	Community Garden	Glendale	No
Glassell Park Community Garden	Community Garden	Los Angeles	Yes
Granada Hills Salad Bowl Garden Club	Community Garden	Granada Hills	No
Palmer Park Community Garden	Community Garden	Glendale	No
Orcutt Ranch Horticultural Center Rancho Sombra Del Roble	Community Garden	West Hills	No
Sepulveda Garden Center	Community Garden	Encino	No
El Cariso Park Community Garden	Community Garden	Sylmar	No
Jefferson Elementary (Glendale)	School Garden	Glendale	No
Network For A Healthy California	School Garden	Van Nuys	No

## Initial Screening Process

**ULAR** screening results:

**19%** of gardens were filtered using the criteria

**Top 15** sites were selected for further analysis.



**# of Garden Sites filtered**





## Project Phase III – Refine

Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Potential Locations
Infiltration Basins	-
Detention Basins	-
Detention w/ SSF Wetlands	-
Constructed SF Wetlands	-
Underground Storage/tanks	On site under garden beds
Hydrodynamic Separators	On site if drainage inlets exist on sight
Channel Naturalization	-
Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns - By the building/underground	By building/underground
Bioretention Cells - On site	On site
Vegetated Swales	Perimeter of garden and park area
Green Roofs	On roof of structures
Porous/ Permeable Pavements	Parking space and walkways.
Gross-Solids Removal Devices (GSRDs)	-
Media Filters	-
Catch Basin Inserts	-

### List of BMPs considered for each site.

This included Regional and Distributed BMPs and potential locations were identified prior to site visit. During the site visits opportunities, constraints, and BMP placement was discussed.

Mostly distributed BMPs that service the garden were recommended due to limited knowledge of the larger parcels that the gardens are located on.





## Project Phase III – Refine

### Desktop Study:

Identify site characteristics for the feasibility and placement of a stormwater capture **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**.

### One on One Engagement:

Verify the gardens are still active and location within the parcel.

Are they interested in participating?

Additional needs?

Prep for site visit.





## Project Phase III – Refine

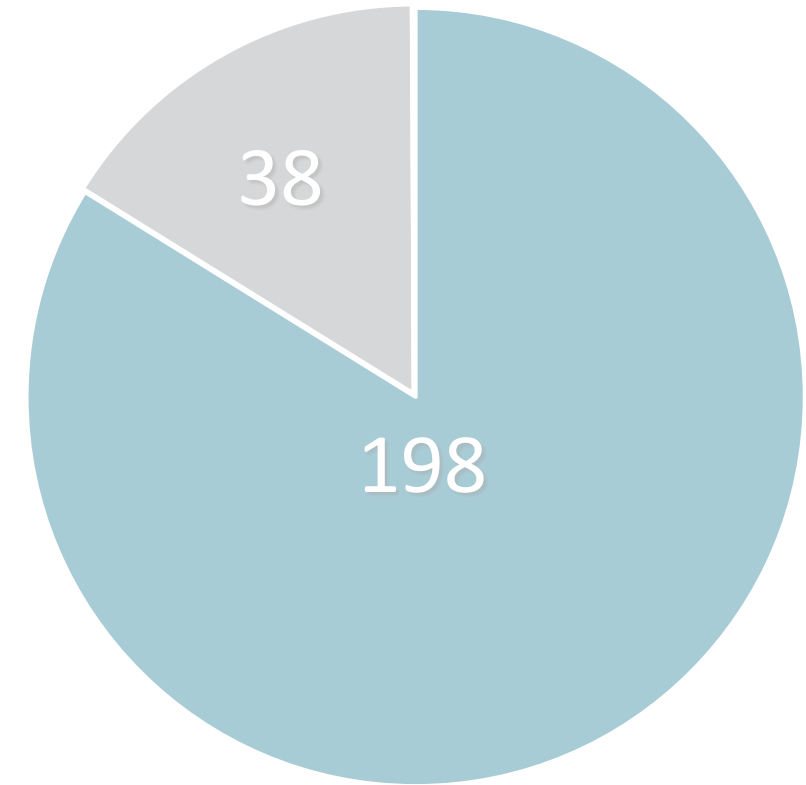
### ULAR selection results:

19% of gardens were filtered using the criteria

Top 15 sites were selected for further analysis.

6 sites responded, but only 4 had site visits conducted.

Site Name	Type	DAC Status	LACGC
Parkman Gardens	Community Garden	NO	NO
Glassell Park Community Garden	Community Garden	YES	YES
Granada Hills Salad Bowl Garden Club	Community Garden	NO	NO
El Cariso Park Community Garden	Community Garden	NO	NO
Jefferson Elementary-Glendale	School Garden	NO	NO
Eagle Rockdale Community Garden	Community Garden	NO	NO



# of Garden Sites filtered





# Project Phase IV – Collaboration & Engagement



Phase I

## -Information Sessions

Flyer developed and distributed to contacts and sessions were held to introduce the project and foster interest.

## -Interest Forms

Gauge interest and begin to collect general information about the gardens.

Phase III

## -Continued Conversations

One on one sessions held.

Phase IV

## -Scheduled Site Visits

Continue assessing the site and understand garden needs.





## Site visits - ULAR



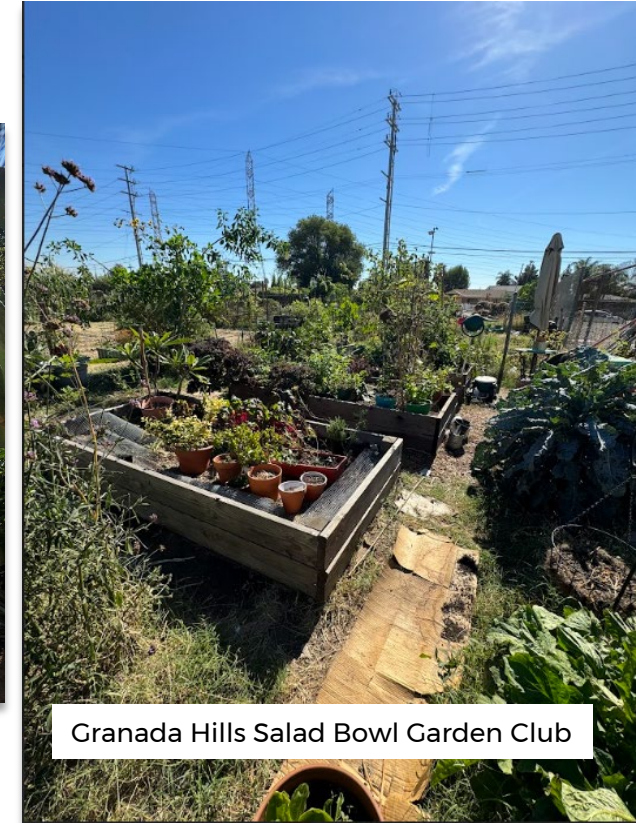
Glassell Park Community Garden



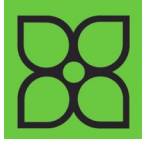
Parkman Community Garden



El Cariso Regional Park Community Garden



Granada Hills Salad Bowl Garden Club



# Project Phase IV – Collaboration & Engagement

## ULAR selection results:

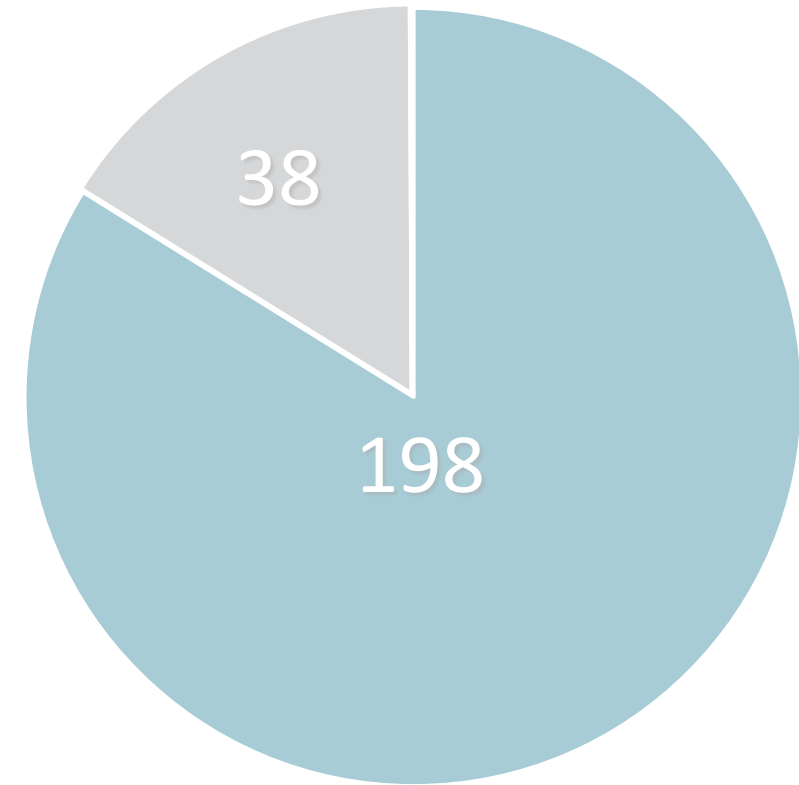
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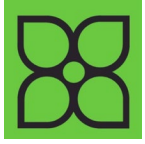
2 selected for case studies

Site Name	Type	DAC Status	LACGC
Parkman Gardens	Community Garden	No	No
Glassell Park Community Garden	Community Garden	Yes	Yes
Granada Hills Salad Bowl Garden Club	Community Garden	No	No
El Cariso Park Community Garden	Community Garden	No	No
Jefferson Elementary-Glendale	School Garden	No	No
Eagle Rockdale Community Garden	Community Garden	No	No

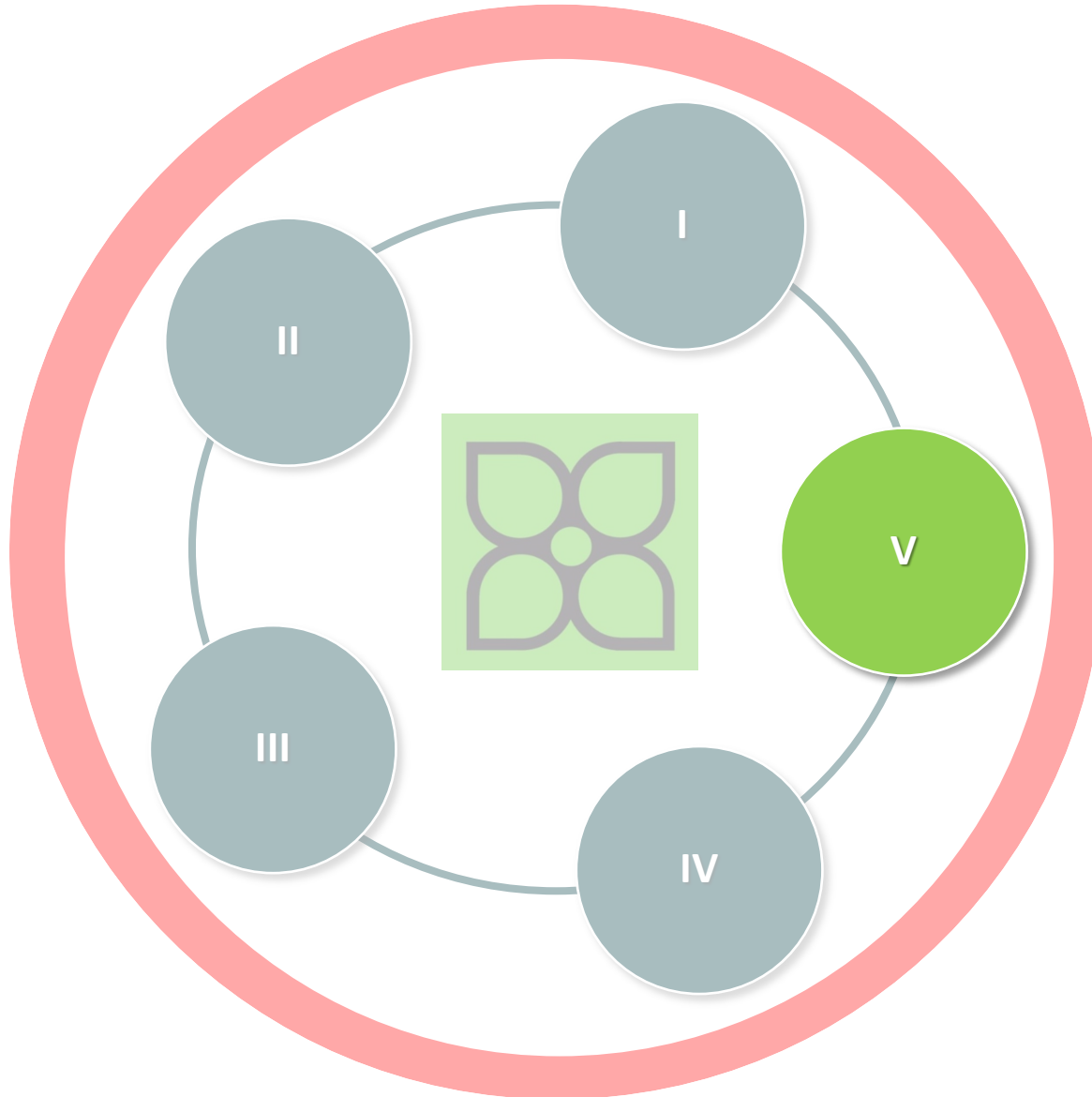


# of Garden Sites filtered





# Project Phase V – Summarize



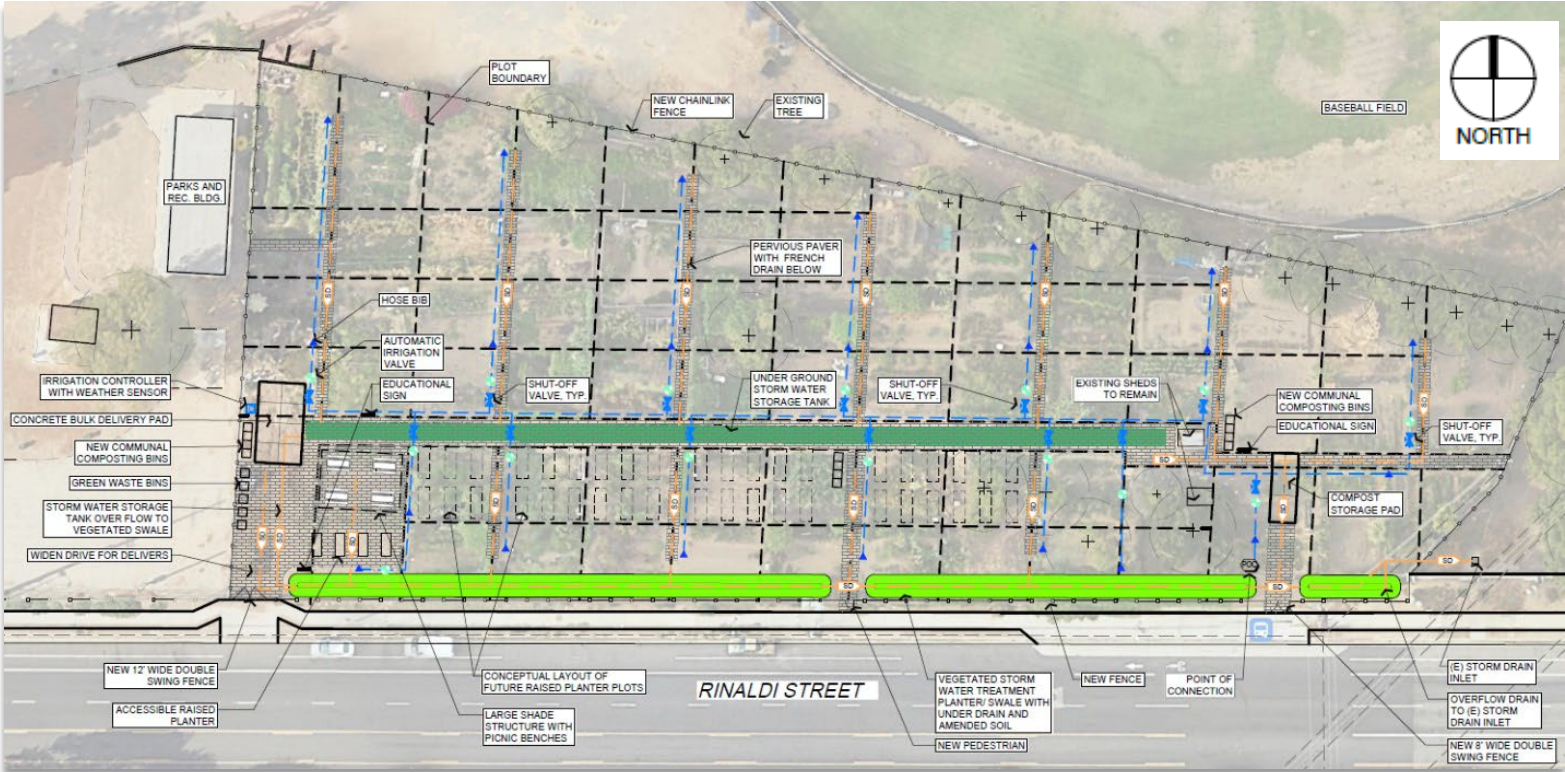
## V : Summarize

### Select Gardens









- **One (1) garden** was selected for each watershed
  - Each site had a concept report drafted summarizing the data collected through out the phases and the recommended BMPs selected for the site.
  - Site layout, rendering, bi-lingual fact sheets, and information to support the process of the applying for Technical Assistance.



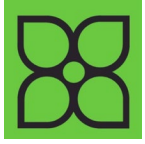
# Project Phase V – Summarize (Granada Hills)



## Proposed Enhancements:

-  Pervious Pavers with French Drains.
-  Underground Storage Tank
-  Vegetated Stormwater Planter/Swale
-  Smart Irrigation System
-  Educational Signs
-  Shade Structure
-  New Fencing
-  Composting Bins



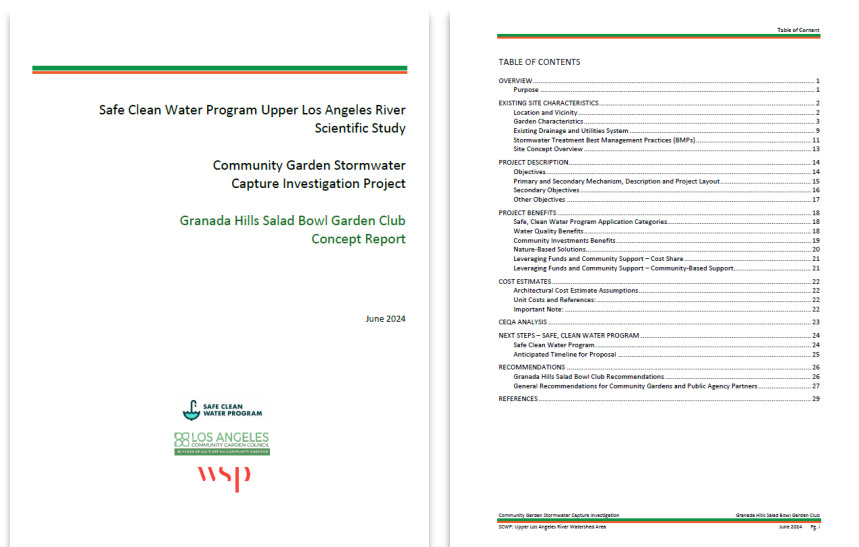


# Project Phase V – Summarize (Granada Hills)





# Project Phase V – Summarize



## Attachments and additional documents provided per site included:

- Site Layout
- Renderings
- High Level cost estimate
- High Level CEQA analysis
- Preliminary Data List
- One-Page Fact Sheet (Bi-Lingual)
- SCWP Technical Assistance Information
- List of Potential Funding Sources

Conceptual Report\*

Technical Assistance

Feasibility Study

Construction/Implementation

\*Study did not include implementation.





# Thank you

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LACGC: Kayla Kelly-Slatten (PM) - [kayla@kksstrategies.com](mailto:kayla@kksstrategies.com)

Safe Clean Water Program - [safecleanwaterla.org](http://safecleanwaterla.org)

LACGC - [lagardencouncil.org](http://lagardencouncil.org)