Development of the Nature Co-Lab: Sustainable design for mixed use purposes

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Stakeholder: Cully Nordby
Sage Hill & The Boneyard

Sage Hill:
→ **4 acre plot** in the northwest corner of the UCLA campus hosting the only California native habitat in West LA south of Sunset Blvd
→ students & faculty have been using this space for research & conservation

The “Boneyard”
→ **vacant lot** in the southwest corner of Sage Hill
→ previously used as a storage space for past construction projects
**Our Goal**

Formalize the ‘Boneyard’ into a multi-purpose space: “Nature Co Lab” for research, restoration, and recreation to complement the native California habitat of Sage Hill.

*How to create an informed plan for the redevelopment of ‘the Boneyard’ into a mixed use space?*

**Objectives:**

- Research best practices for the development and management of a native reserve.
- Collaborate with the UCLA community and administration to construct a shared vision for redevelopment.
Methods

On-Campus Surveying:
- Future programs at the CoLab
- Features needed to support these programs
- Design an informed rendering for the Nature CoLab using responses

Create a Final Report
- Develop comprehensive report for Sage Hill Task Force
- Incorporate suggestions from outreach interviews

Best Practices Assessment:
- Interview other universities that maintained similar mixed-use and outdoor spaces
- Interview focused on: History, management, rules, challenges, and accomplishments
- Combined results into a mini-report
On-Campus Survey Results

UCLA Demographics

What school or division are you affiliated with?

- Social Sciences, Life Sciences: 24.6%
- Life Sciences, Physical Sciences: 16.8%
- Humanities, Life Sciences: 10.1%
- Other: 3.1%
- Physical Sciences: 5.3%
- Social Sciences: 32.4%
- Humanities: 7.6%

What best describes your affiliation with UCLA?

- Campus visitor: 0.9%
- Freshman: 15.1%
- Staff/Administrator: 28.9%
- Graduate Student: 4.0%
- Senior: 24.0%
- Alumni: 0.9%
- Sophomore: 23.6%

Perspective on Sage Hill

Count of What is your experience with Sage Hill:

- I have been there between 1 and 3: 6.7%
- I have been there more than 3 times: 15.1%
- I have heard of it, but have never: 20.0%
- I have never heard of or visited it: 29.3%
- I have been there many times: 1.8%

On a scale between 1 - 5 how important is it that UCLA has a natural area on campus that supports native California ecosystems? (1 being not important, 5 being very important)
On Campus Surveying Results

### Programming & Activities

- Outdoor classroom and education space
- Study and meeting space for students and student groups
- Support recreation in Sage Hill area
- Enjoy as a natural space

### Features

- Work + picnic tables
- Simple seating
- Cleared Space
- Compost Toilet
Best Practices Results

**General Information**
- Accessible Hours
  - Reservation Required: 9.1%
  - Daily Dusk - Dawn: 18.2%
  - Daily 8am-5pm: 36.4%
  - 24 Hour Access, 24/7: 36.4%

**ADA Accessible**
- Unknown: 41.7%
- No: 33.3%
- Yes: 25.0%

**Rules & Maintenance**
- Rules
  - Typical UC rules: 3.1%
  - Dogs on leashes: 3.1%
  - Stay on path: 3.1%
  - No Drones, Bikes, Boards: 6.3%
  - Research Projects Require Approval: 15.6%
  - No Disruption of Species: 12.5%
  - No Public Events: 3.7%
  - No Pets: 9.4%
  - No Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons: 15.6%
  - No Littering: 12.5%
  - No Open Fire: 9.4%

- Who maintains the area?
  - Horticulturists: 8.7%
  - Paid Staff/Managers: 17.4%
  - Staff Director: 13.0%
  - Student/Faculty Volunteers: 34.8%
  - Student Employees/Interns: 26.1%
Best Practices Results

Most Common Programing
- Research
- Classes
- Native Habitat Restoration
- Vegetable Gardening
- Education Workshops
- Private Events

Most Common Facilities Provided
- Signage
- Amphitheater
- Benches
- Gazebo
Barriers & Challenges

- Establishing **communication with Non-UCLA officials**
- **Boundary dispute** with UCLA Capital Programs
- **Time sensitivity** due to changing administrative personnel
- **Difficulty recruiting architecture student** for rendering
- Present Final Report to the UCLA Residential Life
- Deliver Final Report to the Sage Hill Task Force
- Finalize for Approval
- Future Maintenance:
  
  Faculty Chair
  → Head of programming and oversite
  Paid Student Position (work study and part time)
  → Oversee daily maintenance, fundraising, events, and programming
  Sage Hill Ranger in giving tours and classes on the area
  Student Volunteers restoration & maintenance
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