

## I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The department of Urban Studies and Planning (USP) is requesting site endorsement for the Roger's Community Garden (RCG) located in the Open Space Preserve (Urban Forest) southeast of the La Jolla Playhouse and Dance Building and south of Ché Café (Figures 1 & 2).

Garden activities have been occurring in this location for many years. Starting in 2005 Campus Planning began accepting requests for site approvals to allow for garden space within the Open Space Preserve (Urban Forest). The approved gardening activities included planting, harvesting, and cultivating of vegetables/fruits, and other associated activities.

The garden provides an opportunity to explore community based gardening; these efforts have been very successful. However, site impacts to the Open Space Preserve have increased over time and the garden has added several overhead structures, and activities not supported by current land use and University policies.

Impacts to the Open Space Preserve have included, tree removals, addition of vehicle access roads, and compacted soils. Under the 2018 Long Range Development Plan, expansion of facilities and or new facilities or structures in the Open Space

Preserve are strongly discouraged and efforts should be made to reduce development footprints and replenish the Urban Forest to enhance the integrity of this open space. Consistent with previous site approvals, limited gardening and food growing is allowed in the Urban Forest, but overhead structures, tree removals and access roads are not compatible nor allowed within this land use.

Over the past year, staff from UC San Diego Resource Management and Planning (RMP), the USP department and student volunteers have worked collaboratively to bring the garden into conformance so that the good work being done on the site could continue within a newly proposed site approval. This included removing trash, debris, and unpermitted structures. The proposed approval would be granted to the department of Urban Studies and Planning.

## II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since its installation, the RCG has been a student-led garden that provides a gathering place for interactive cooperative activity, community building, service-learning, social and environmental education, and recreation for campus and community members. The main function of the garden has been to teach and provide a space for students, staff, and faculty to grow herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. The RCG is

in alignment with a Strategic Plan goal to be a live-learn-play campus and welcoming destination for students, staff, faculty and the community.

The new proposal seeks to create a consistent, formal, and sustainable approval and management process for the garden so it can continue to thrive. The proposal would also consolidate garden activities to allow for the reforestation of the Open Space Preserve (Urban Forest) as a distinct feature of this part of the campus. Efforts have already begun to plant trees in areas adjacent the proposed garden boundary. Reforestation will strengthen the Open Space Preserve as a functional and attractive landscape element.

The USP department would provide oversight and help manage site administration, ensuring that activities remain consistent with the approved use. The USP department will work with campus staff, student volunteers and faculty advocates to create protocols which ensure, safety, site maintenance, and governance.

### III. PROJECT SITE

RCG is located in the Open Space Preserve (Urban Forest) southeast of the La Jolla Playhouse and Dance Building and south of Ché Café (Figures 1-3).

### IV. PLANNING PARAMETERS

The 2018 Long Range Development Plan identifies this area as part of the Open Space Preserve and specifically part of the Urban Forest. In these areas, the University seeks to introduce a diversity of tree species. Torrey Pines would be most appropriate at more prominent public entries where space allows but other trees native to the Mediterranean, Australia and California should also be planted. Future expansion of existing facilities and new facilities will be restricted in these areas and efforts should be made to reduce building footprints and replenish the Urban Forest to enhance the integrity of this open space.

The following analysis is based on a 13,000 square foot fenced garden space. As proposed, the RCG is consistent with campus land use plans and the principles contained in the campus' overarching planning and design documents. Growth or expansion of this facility in this location however, would not be supported.

#### Relationship to 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP)

The RCG would be consistent with the predominant land use of the Urban Forest. However, expansion e.g. roads (paved or unpaved), paved pedestrian access, and overhead structures are inconsistent and are not allowed in this land use.

## **Relationship to 1989 UC San Diego Master Plan Study (MPS)**

The RCG is consistent with the 1989 UC San Diego Master Plan Study.

## **Relationship to 2015 UC San Diego Open Space Master Planning Study**

The RCG is consistent with the 2015 UC San Diego Open Space Master Planning Study. Outdoor places, such as community gardens, foster stewardship and interaction.

## **Relationship to 2021 UC San Diego Historic Grove & Urban Forest Land Use Guidelines (HGUF)**

The RCG is consistent with the 2021 HGUF.

## **V. PLANNING EXCEPTIONS**

The approved area (Figure 3) includes approximately 13,000 square feet of fenced space for gardening activities including planting, outreach and education. The approved activities include gardening, and associated activities. Composting can be done on site but should be mainly limited to on-site material only. Expansion of these activities outside of the fenced area is not supported. The site must be kept clean and well maintained,

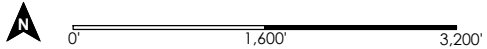
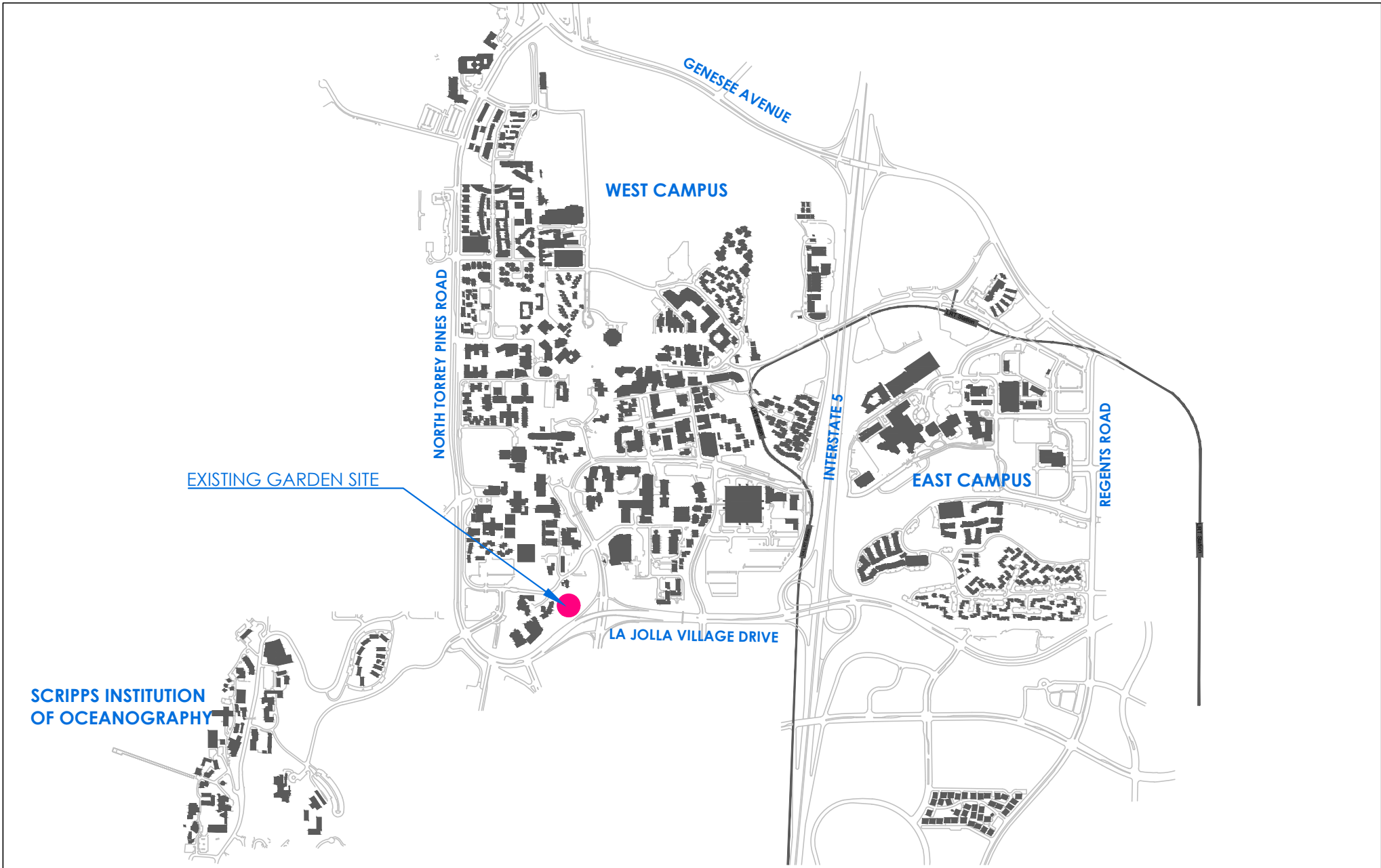
and free from debris. All tools and equipment must be stored out of public view.

Any additional site improvements, if proposed would need to be reviewed per existing campus process. Site modifications such as tree removal, overhead structures, pedestrian/vehicle paths, and live animals are not allowed.

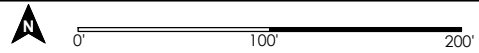
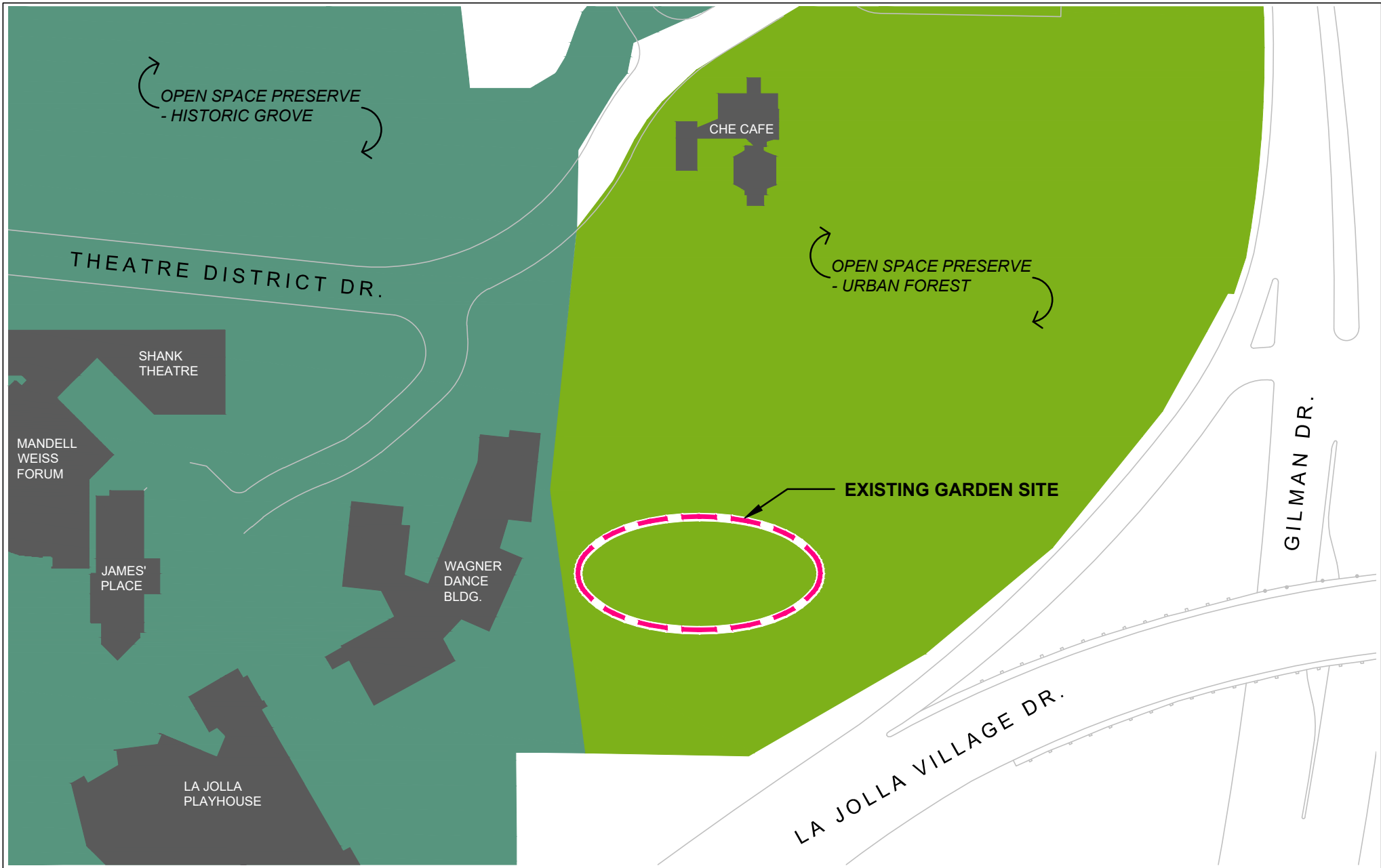
Three overhead structures currently exist within and immediately adjacent to the site and directly support the garden use. These include one greenhouse at the eastern boundary, one hoop house at the western boundary and one concrete shed just outside of the fenced garden to the north of the site. These structures have been reviewed by Facilities Management for structural soundness and may remain with necessary repairs.

## **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to review and endorse the site for the Roger's Community Garden.



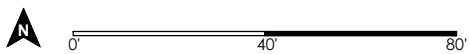
**Roger's Community Garden**  
Figure 1 - Campus Site Location Map  
10/06/2021



**Roger's Community Garden**

Figure 2 - Site Map

10/06/2021



**Roger's Community Garden**  
 Figure 3 - Existing Site Elements

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