Reducing Water From External Sources
Early History

1886 Eaton Plan
First official plan for "Los Angeles Park." Designed by City Engineer Fred Eaton. Informal design with gravel pathways, plots of grass, and flower beds shaped like stars and crescents. Benches were lined up along the walkways. In the center of the park was a bandstand where concerts were held on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. In a 1904 revision to the park layout of some of the walkways and planting areas were changed and trees were planted around the bandstand.

1931 Parkinson Plan
Designed by architect John Parkinson in 1910. This design was a more formal, beaux arts plan with classic walkways, a central fountain, lush plantings, and ornamental corner balustrades. The perimeter walkways from the original design were maintained. In 1918 the name of the park is changed to Pershing Square in honor of World War I hero General John J. Pershing. In 1931 architects John and Donald Parkinson update the plan while constructing the Title Guarantee and Trust Building.

1994 Legoretta Plan
The design features two plazas. The upper plaza has an orange grove and a courtyard where the historic statues are displayed. The lower plaza features a large fountain and bell tower. Design is inspired by Mexican architecture and folk art. Despite rave reviews and high hopes that the new square will usher in a new era for downtown, the success of the project is short-lived. The square continues to suffer from many of the same problems it had previously. It continues to be a draw for homeless people. In the early 2000s the City of Los Angeles develops a variety of activities, including a summer concert series and ice skating in the winter. With the ongoing evolution of downtown and new populations moving into residential projects, there is a new and pressing need for the revitalization of the square.
Near the corner of Sixth and Olive Street is the Arroyo de los Reyes, which floods during the rainy season and creates a public nuisance.

Around 1864, the municipal zanja, which brings water to homes from the river, is constructed through the park near Fifth Street.

The Municipal “zanja” no. 8 carried water through the park from 1864 until the turn of the century.

The Municipal “zanja” no. 8 is diverted to an underground pipeline system, now abandoned, and runoff is now collected by other storm drain lines.
Existing Site

2012

Site Observations:

- Pungent smells from human and pet waste
- Unwelcoming environment
- Space feels too enclosed
- Unsafe
- Increase in undesirables
- Pedestrians traverse square to get from point A to point B
- Drainage in DG and planting areas is poor
- Statues hidden (out of sight)
- No line of sight from street level
- Efforts to increase public use is short-lived again
Existing Site

Patterns

Water Flows

Circulation

Adjacencies
In looking at past design and studying existing circulation and water flow patterns, I have incorporated the 160's design with other elements to make it more sustainable as well as designing towards water capture to become a self-sustaining park. The water run-off that is captured will be used for irrigation on site. This will contribute in the reduction of water intake from the Colorado River. Removing all existing walls and providing line of sight across the park will make it a more inviting public space.
Proposed Design

PERSHING SQUARE
Downtown Los Angeles

SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"

Lawn Area/Open Space
Amphitheater
Cistern
Gateway + Bus Stop
Path
Statue

HILL STREET
6TH STREET
OLIVE STREET
5TH STREET
Proposed Design - sections/elevations/enlargements

PERSHING SQUARE
Downtown Los Angeles

Scale: N.T.S.

SIDEWALK & SWALE ENLARGEMENT
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

SIDEWALK & SWALE
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

KEYMAP
Scale: N.T.S.
Proposed Design - sections/elevations

SECTION A-A
Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"
Proposed Design

Design Elements:
- On-Site water capture for irrigation purposes
- Usable safe public space
- ‘First-Flush’ swales (retention and detention)
- Water-wise plant material
- Drip irrigation
- Street to street line of sight clearance
- Seating areas
- Accommodate seasonal activities
- Shade areas
- Integrate ‘Arroyo de los Reyes’ into design
- Water feature
- Address circulation needs
- Enhance bus stop locations
Proposed Design - Plant Palette

Agave
Manzanita
Festuca
Carex
Ceanothus
Berberis
Aeneum
Nassella
Muhlenbergia
Eriogonum
Penstemon
Senecio
Mimus
Eschscholzia
Water Calculations

Existing Water Usage

![Existing Water Usage Graph]

Proposed Water Usage

![Proposed Water Usage Graph]

Maximum Applied Water Allowance

![Maximum Applied Water Allowance Graph]

Estimated Total Water Use

![Estimated Total Water Use Graph]
Water Calculations

Water Capture Zone

Water Usage (post captured water)

ETWU + Run-Off (total = 1,889,939 gal./yr.)

- ETWU (60%)
- Run-off Contribution (40%)

1,133,939
755,976