

Safe **PARKing**

Everyone's Parking Lots in Los Angeles Parks

Arch 698 Final Research Project

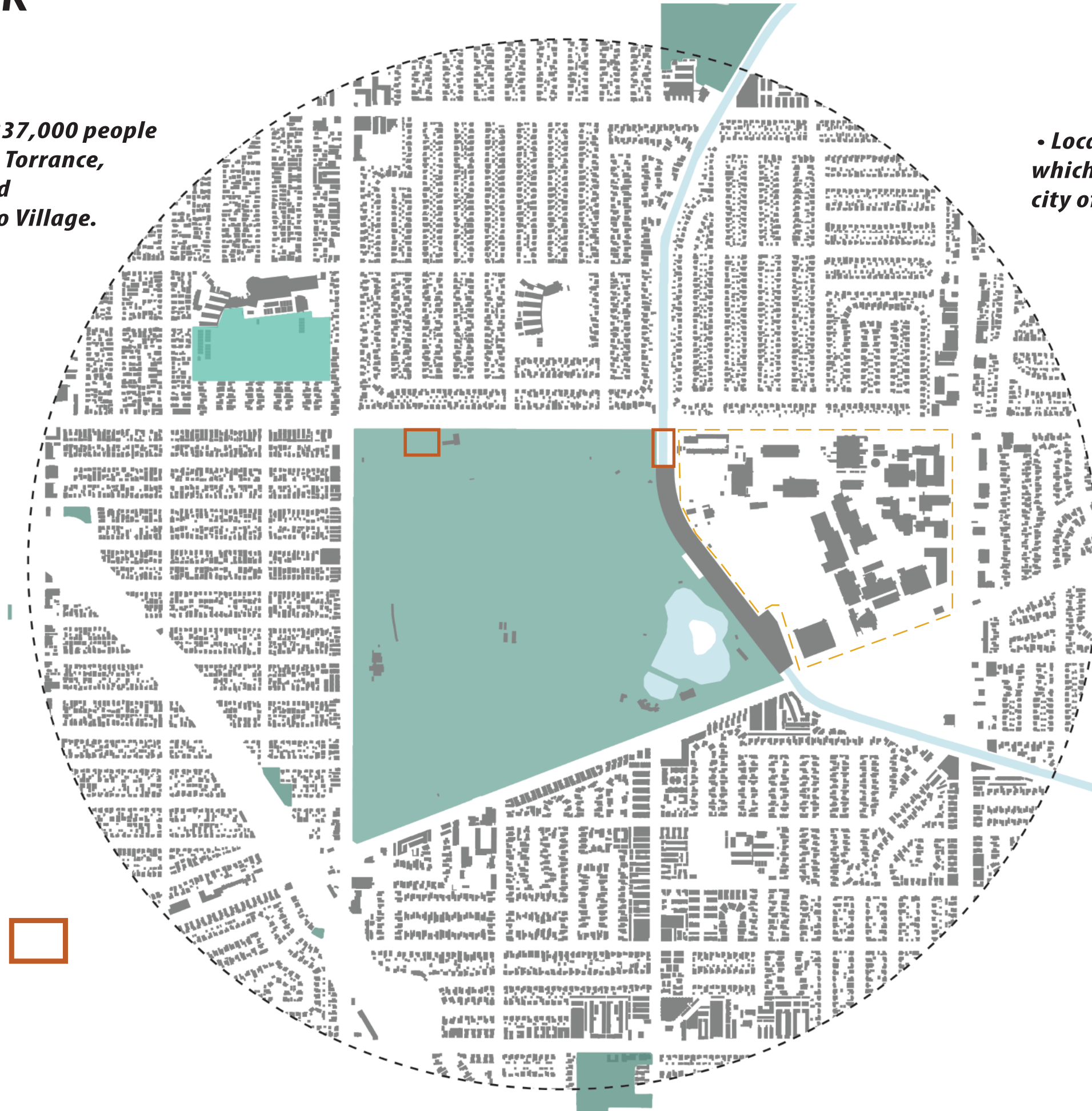
2020 Fall

Yiqian Lin

Alondra Park

• Serves approximately 237,000 people in the cities of Lawndale, Torrance, Gardena, Hawthorne, and unincorporated El Camino Village.

• Locates in El Camino Village, which is an unincorporated city of Los Angeles County.



• El Camino Community College sits east of the park across the channel.

• Lack of resources for unsheltered population.

• The Dominguez Channel runs next to Alondra Park.

• Two current unsheltered encampments on site.



Issue

Space

LA County REC & PARK Dept + El Camino College

+ According to a *Student Campus Climate Survey* by El Camino College in 2018, 13 percent of the student has experienced or is experiencing homelessness, many of them lives in their car.

+ A recent decision on overnight forbid community college to have overnight parking on campus, forcing many unhoused students that live in their car to relocate.

Policy

Parks Dept + LADPW + El Camino College

Positive:

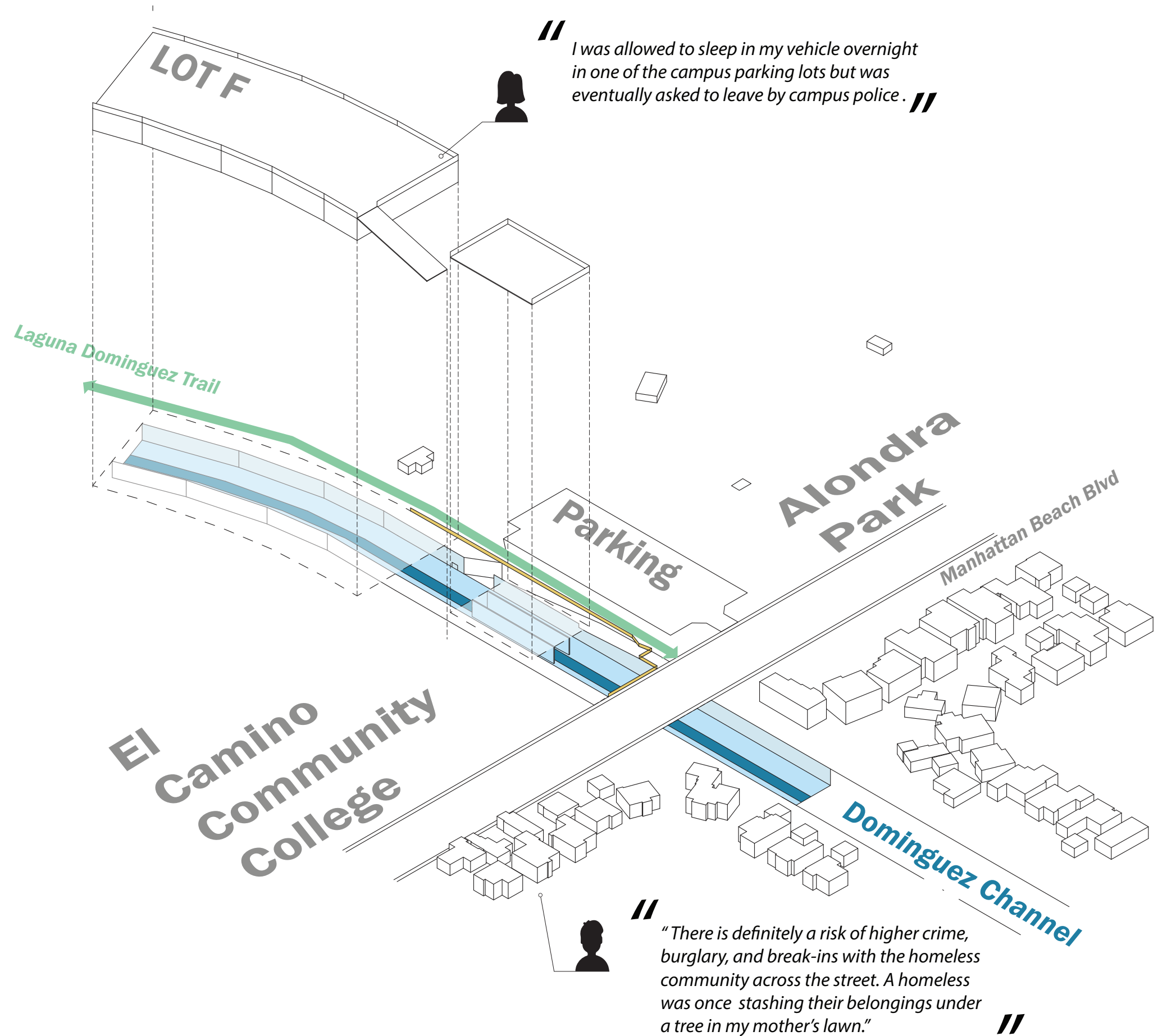
+ LA parks board recently approved Pallet Structures for unhoused in 3 parking lots of city owned parks.

+ LADPW values activities in dealing with homelessness issue. For example, they suggest actions to “coordinate with homeless agencies to address homeless issue” quarterly as one programs in a project of Dominguez Channel Master Plan, and has a high estimate in cost to it.

+ AB 302: A bill in process, which would mandate community colleges to allow homeless college students the ability to park on campus parking lots overnight.

Negative:

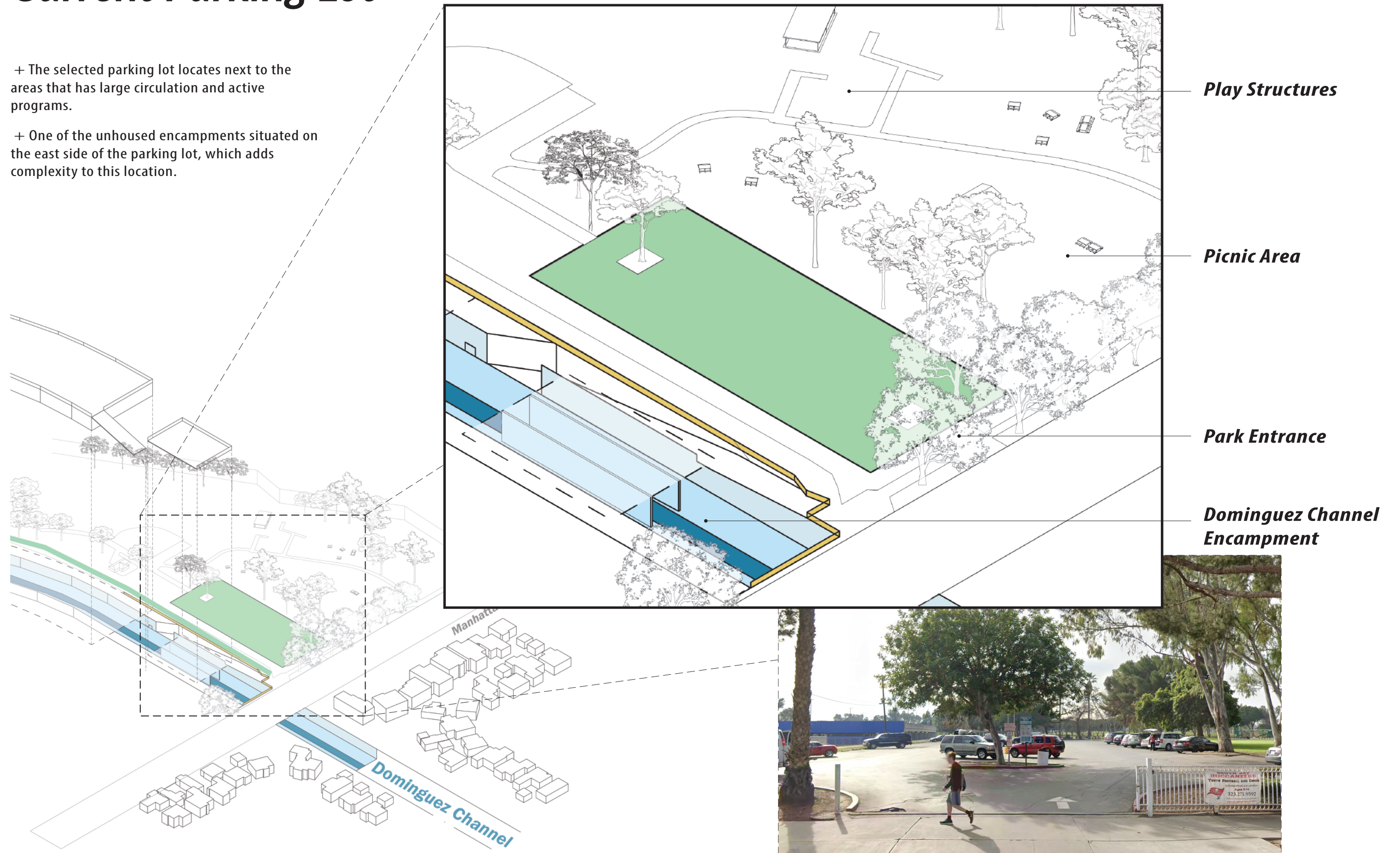
+ In Los Angeles, the current law prohibits Vehicle dwelling at any time within 500 feet of a school, park, preschool, or daycare facility.



Current Parking Lot

+ The selected parking lot locates next to the areas that has large circulation and active programs.

+ One of the unhoused encampments situated on the east side of the parking lot, which adds complexity to this location.



Play Structures

Picnic Area

Park Entrance

**Dominguez Channel
Encampment**



Current Models

Safe Parking



Signage



Amenities

Signage

Parking Lots Improvement



Local Middle School Students

Senior Housing Parking Lots



Housed and Unhoused

Elevated Structures

Spatial Strategy

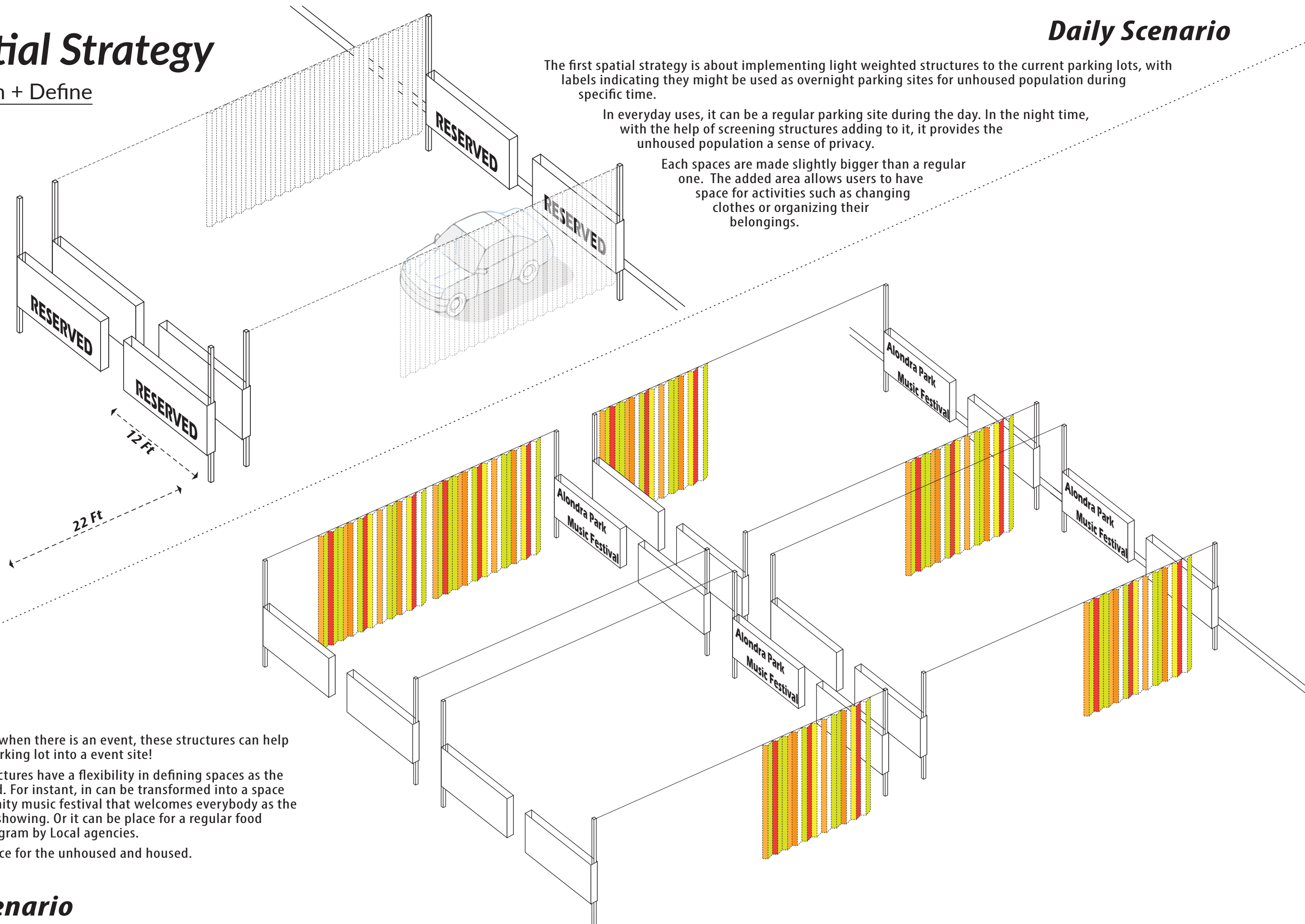
Screen + Define

Daily Scenario

The first spatial strategy is about implementing light weighted structures to the current parking lots, with labels indicating they might be used as overnight parking sites for unhoused population during specific time.

In everyday uses, it can be a regular parking site during the day. In the night time, with the help of screening structures adding to it, it provides the unhoused population a sense of privacy.

Each spaces are made slightly bigger than a regular one. The added area allows users to have space for activities such as changing clothes or organizing their belongings.



At a day when there is an event, these structures can help to turn a parking lot into a event site!

The structures have a flexibility in defining spaces as the host desired. For instant, in can be transformed into a space for community music festival that welcomes everybody as the diagram is showing. Or it can be place for a regular food sharing program by Local agencies.

It is space for the unhoused and housed.

Event Scenario

Spatial Strategy

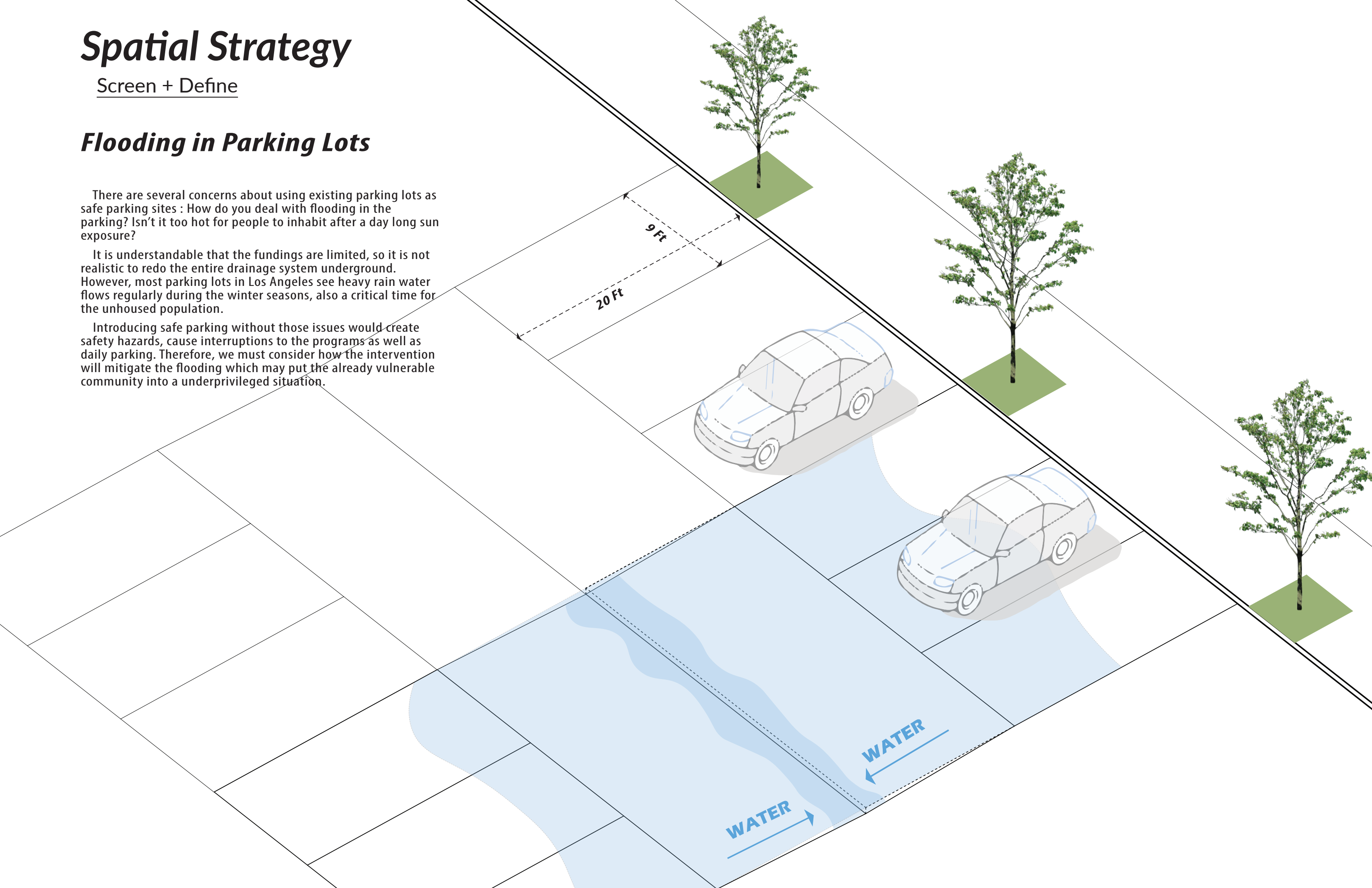
Screen + Define

Flooding in Parking Lots

There are several concerns about using existing parking lots as safe parking sites : How do you deal with flooding in the parking? Isn't it too hot for people to inhabit after a day long sun exposure?

It is understandable that the fundings are limited, so it is not realistic to redo the entire drainage system underground. However, most parking lots in Los Angeles see heavy rain water flows regularly during the winter seasons, also a critical time for the unhoused population.

Introducing safe parking without those issues would create safety hazards, cause interruptions to the programs as well as daily parking. Therefore, we must consider how the intervention will mitigate the flooding which may put the already vulnerable community into a underprivileged situation.



Spatial Strategy

Screen + Define

Trees will be maintained by and credited to users of those spaces.

The edging helps storm water drain to the planting.

Trees providing vertical shade.

Escape from winter time flooding.

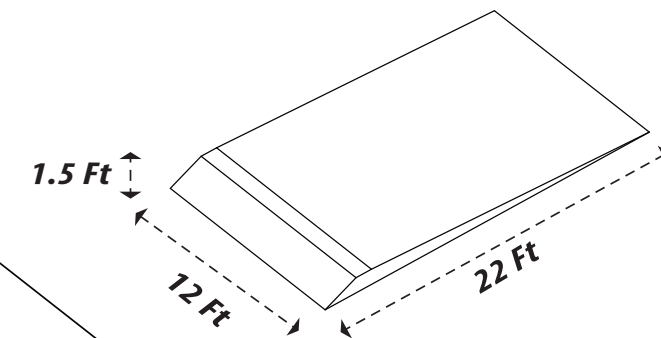
WATER

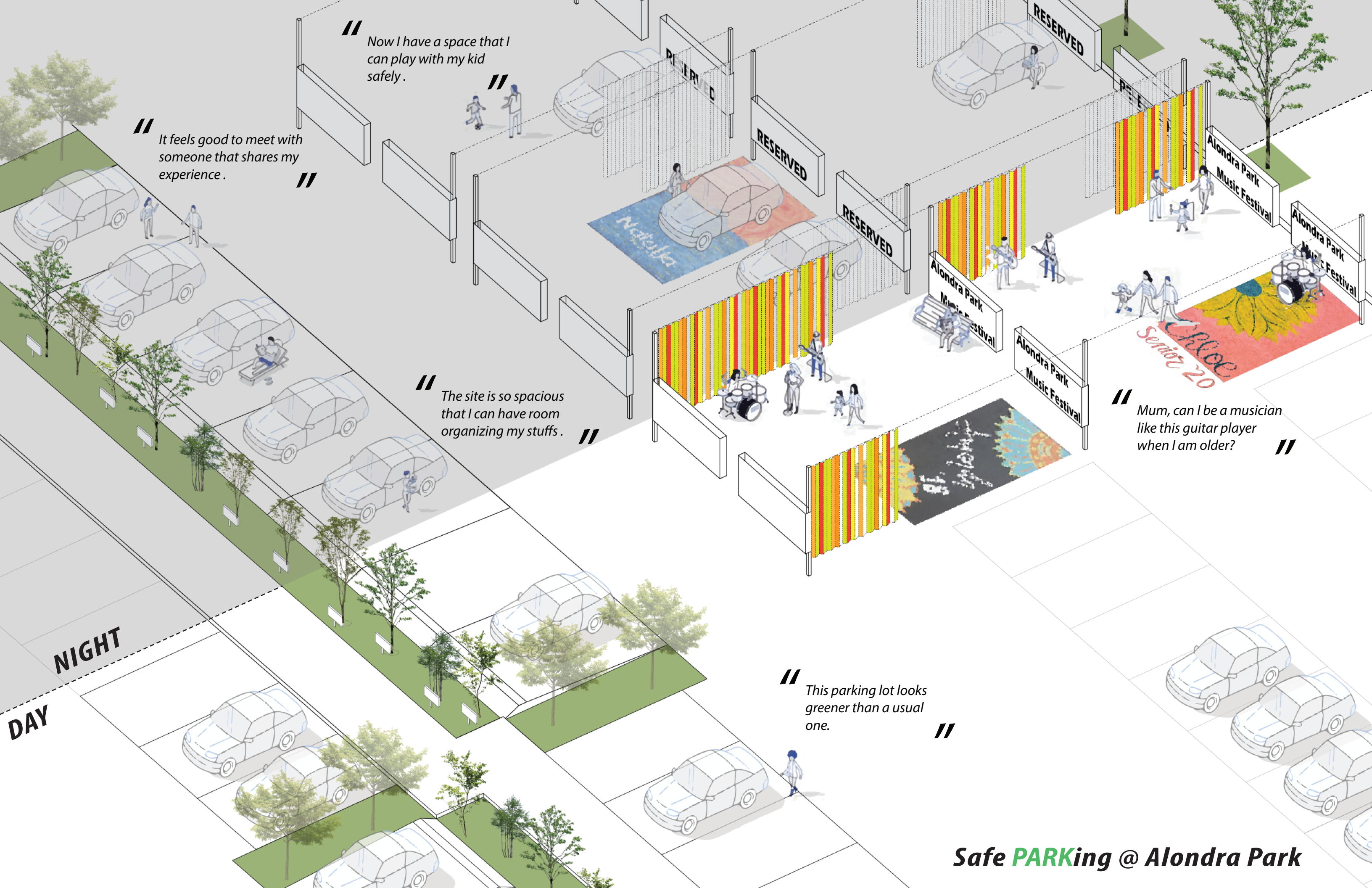
The Ridge

"The ridge" is a solution targeted at flooding issue as well as helping to capture some storm water during the event.

"The Ridge" rises about 1.5 feet from the surface. It can be made from as temporary as a piece of steel or as permanent as a cast in place concrete structure. The surrounding planting area provides spaces for trees that will act as vertical shading, also increases the permeability. The structures itself and the permeable planting bed together lower the risk of flooding in the safe parking site.

The housed community can also have input to the program by adopting a newly planted trees that benefit both parties.





// It feels good to meet with someone that shares my experience.

// Now I have a space that I can play with my kid safely.

// The site is so spacious that I can have room organizing my stuffs.

// Mum, can I be a musician like this guitar player when I am older?

// This parking lot looks greener than a usual one.

DAY
NIGHT

Safe PARKing @ Alondra Park