

TONGVA PARK + KEN GENSER SQUARE

Water Features | James Corner Field Operations with Fluidity

Each of the three water features within Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square share a strong connection to the site's historic "arroyo wash" landscape and are carefully integrated into park topography. Connected by a single runnel, the features expand in scale, activity level, and sound as they flow downhill toward the ocean. The features also reinforce sustainability by making use of biological filtration and closed, potable water systems.

The Springs

The rectangular garden in front of City Hall has been transformed into a vibrant water installation, a stately cascade of overflowing trays containing mildly swirling flows from low, bubbling springs suspended above lushly planted water gardens. Responding to the architecture of the building, the gridded water trays reflect City Hall's central windows. All the trays flow westward toward Main Street and Tongva Park. The design's tilt toward the sunlight—and its numerous points of delicate, sound-generating springs and falls—provide a carefully scaled, charismatic experience reflective of Santa Monica's special identity.

Water Bay

A scooped out bay along the central path of Tongva Park is the backdrop of a grandly proportioned waterfall sequence. The sparkling falls are framed above by the crest of the bay and its surrounding plantings, and below by the fountain's water garden reception pool. A scattering of large boulders in front of the garden pool provide a visually delightful barrier, offer casual seating, emphasize a relaxed informality, and suggest—with the falls—the site's geological "arroyo wash" theme.

Ocean Gateway Water Feature

The primary entrance into the park at Ocean Avenue is defined by the presence of a lengthy and dynamic water feature. The fountain is comprised of a curvilinear band of white-water steps and a line of terraced reflection pools animated by low, arching jets aimed to the west. The arching jets flex in rhythmic patterns reminiscent of the ocean's waves, while the entire fountain's form is oriented to engage and reflect the setting sun's glow. The sound of water mitigates the sound of traffic along Ocean Avenue.

At night each water feature is internally illuminated by warm-white LEDs that enhance the flow of water and cast light onto their surrounding spaces.

