

TONGVA PARK + KEN GENSER SQUARE

Lighting Design | James Corner Field Operations with HLB Lighting Design

As dusk turns to night the sculptural forms and woven pathways of Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square welcome visitors in a soft, warm light that responds to the three-dimensionality of the site. Layers of light, much like stratification in an “arroyo wash,” rest lightly upon the site and are revealed as one ascends to the hilltops. Because safety and environmental sensitivity are important considerations, shielded highly-efficient LED and HID luminaires have been placed throughout the Park and Square.

The primary pathways have a simple light pole that frames the visitor’s experience without competing with views. An integrated control system will turn off non-essential lighting after closing hours, conserving energy.

Garden Hill provides diffuse lighting from glowing bollards that enhance the presentation and experience of the surrounding seasonal planting. Under-bench lighting creates intimate moments at the seating alcoves where pedestrians can rest and enjoy the subtly illuminated specimen trees.

Discovery Hill uses smaller versions of the primary pathway pole for continuous lighting along the paths and play areas.

Observation Hill uses only low-level lighting to preserve natural views and prevent glare downward. A large illuminated tree grove at the top of the hill provides a comfortable place for respite and reflection and is visible beyond the park. The overlook decks feature small embedded colored uplights in a starry-night-like pattern, providing a signature element for the park.

Gathering Hill’s large lawn and seating terraces are lit from accent lights on tall poles located behind the seating in order to provide a flexible open space conducive to communal activities and small performances.

At Ken Genser Square allées of trees and the fountain are subtly lit and frame the view towards City Hall. The renovated City Hall facade lighting highlights the historic structure, creating a focal point to enhance the nighttime civic character of the Square.

