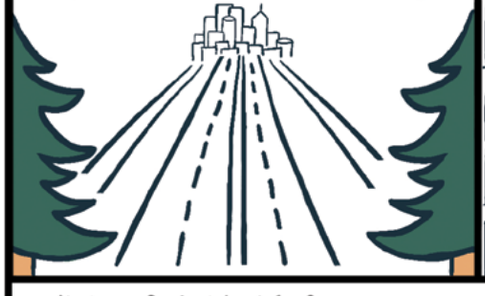
THE MORE I LOOK, THE MORE I SEE

BY AMANDA LEIGH SMITH

The city often feels like this...

Rigid. Busy. Structured. Crowded.



Nature feels like it's far away.

Separated from my day-to-day.

I didn't notice nature all around me until one day, I had no choice...

Fire and smoke made it hard...

... to see anything else.

Like a heavy blanket...

...it covered the city.

EVERYTHING WAS DARK.

I could only see what was right in front of me.

Looking down, I happened to see something...

I decided to take a closer look...

... and discovered a whole world of detail I had never seen before.

Where did the leaf come from?

I felt curious, so I looked up.

I saw a bird and bugs...

...and the more I looked...

...the more I saw.

I had so many questions.

Location-Front yard
Date-1-10-25
Weather-Smoke clearing, windsw, Temperature-75°
Today I saw a leaf. It was green and had pointy tips. The texture was thick & you can see the veins. It looked like
Saw a cool beetle too!!
Pointed tips
Dark Green

I started to write and draw my observations.

I found a community that helped me with some answers.

What plants?

What bug?

What flower?

What tree?

What bird?

What species?

@citynature_9032
Just learning but excited for urban ecology.

• 6 OBSERVATIONS

• 3 IDENTIFIERS

•NOTIFICATIONS

•oakgirl_23- Hey! Cool oak gall observation

•I_luv_bugs- I think that beetle is a three lined potatoe beetle

•Birds_4_life- Scrub Jays are the best!

But I still had so many more questions...

What if I saw the city like this...

...because I wasn't looking closer.

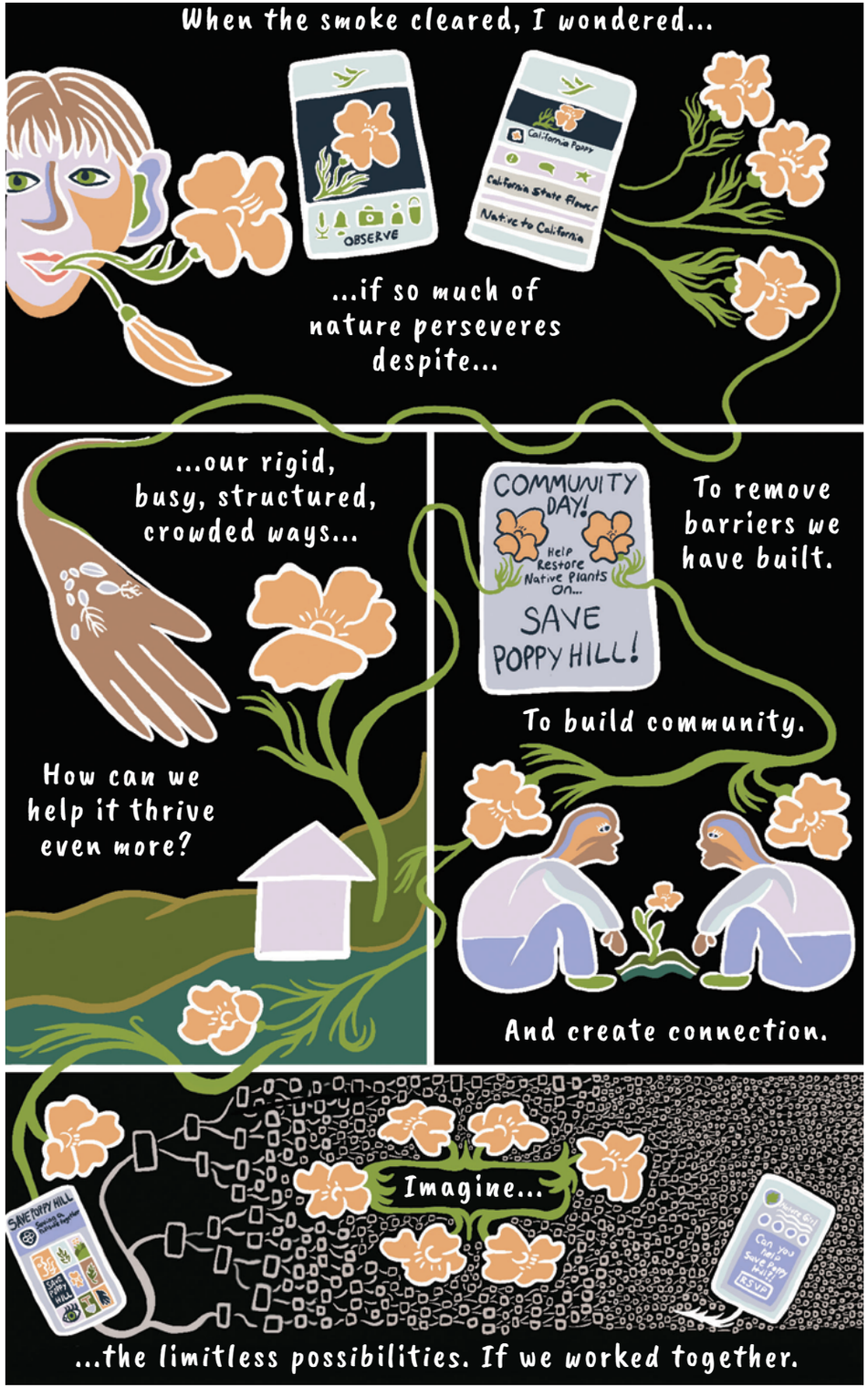
By looking and seeing, I started to love.

By loving, I wished to know more.

There was so much to learn...

HOW TO GROW NATIVE PLANTS

...and so much to share.


When the smoke cleared, I wondered...
OBSERVE
California Poppy
California State flower
Native to California
...if so much of nature perseveres despite...
...our rigid, busy, structured, crowded ways...
How can we help it thrive even more?
COMMUNITY DAY!
Help Restore Native Plants On...
SAVE POPPY HILL!
To remove barriers we have built.
To build community.
And create connection.
Imagine...
SAVE POPPY HILL
Can you help Save Poppy Hill?
RSVP
...the limitless possibilities. If we worked together.

What if by caring and connecting to all life, we could form a network of change?
From me to you to the entire world.
Together we can form a new way of living.
One that doesn't see our city and nature as separate.

Through observation, admiration, education, inclusion, and connection...
METRO
METRO
METRO
METRO
COMMUNITY GARDEN
...together we can create a city that makes space for all life.

Nonprofit Spotlight

For each of our free eBooks, the storytellers select a local nonprofit to highlight. The creator of "The More I Look, The More I See" chose Ascot Hills Park.

From the Creator

"I chose AscotHillsPark.org as my nonprofit to highlight because this park gets to the heart of what my story is about. Ascot Hills is on land degraded by cattle ranching in the 1800s. It was then closed to the public and used by LADWP until 2006 when it reopened for public use. It now provides critical open green space for northeast and east LA, some of the most park-poor areas in the city. Work to restore the land is ongoing through volunteer work days, usually second Saturdays each month."

--Amanda Leigh Smith,
Creator of "The More I Look, The More I See"

You can read about and donate to
Ascot Hills Park here.

Debuting January 2027!

Preorder the physical book:
OAKTREECOMICS.COM

© 2026 Oak Tree Comics | oaktreecomics.com | @oaktree_comics