

REVEALING A CULTURAL GREENWAY

CELEBRATING THE EDISTO NATCHEZ-KUSSO TRIBE

THE EDISTO NATCHEZ-KUSSO GREENWAY

RIDGEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

DALTON BURBAGE
LARC 4550
DR. MARY G. PADUA
DECEMBER 3, 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & DESIGN NARRATIVE:

Revealing A Cultural Greenway: Is a greenway design project located in Ridgeville, South Carolina along the historical Edisto River that focuses on celebrating and revitalizing the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Native American Tribe's connection to the Edisto River. The Edisto Natchez-Kusso Greenway not only focuses on the tribe itself but, reconnecting the entire local communities that utilize the Edisto River.

The goal of this project was to educate and celebrate the the rich history and culture of both the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe and the local community that revolves around the Edisto River. Connecting Edisto River communities to points of interests along the Edisto River, including Givhans Ferry State Park, public river access points, historical and cultural sites through a greenway. Actively celebrating and enhancing that relationship to the Edisto River dating back to the 1700's to present day. Designing a greenway that highlights and uncovers the natural environment and historic culture of the region. Reestablishing ecotourism to the Edisto River and introducing recreational amenities that have been lost over time through proactive living.

The key design element for the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Greenway was finding the middle ground between designing a system that completely benefits the Natchez-Kusso Tribe while also, benefiting the local communities without "placemaking". The Edisto River is a natural flowing body of water that both the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe and the local community take pride in. This greenway celebrates the Edisto River by providing new public river access and reconnecting to the existing public river access. It is key to inform the greenway users of the both the Edisto River and the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe. By using interpretive signage along the greenway educated and communicates a sense of place that pays homage to the Edisto Natchez-Kusso heritage.

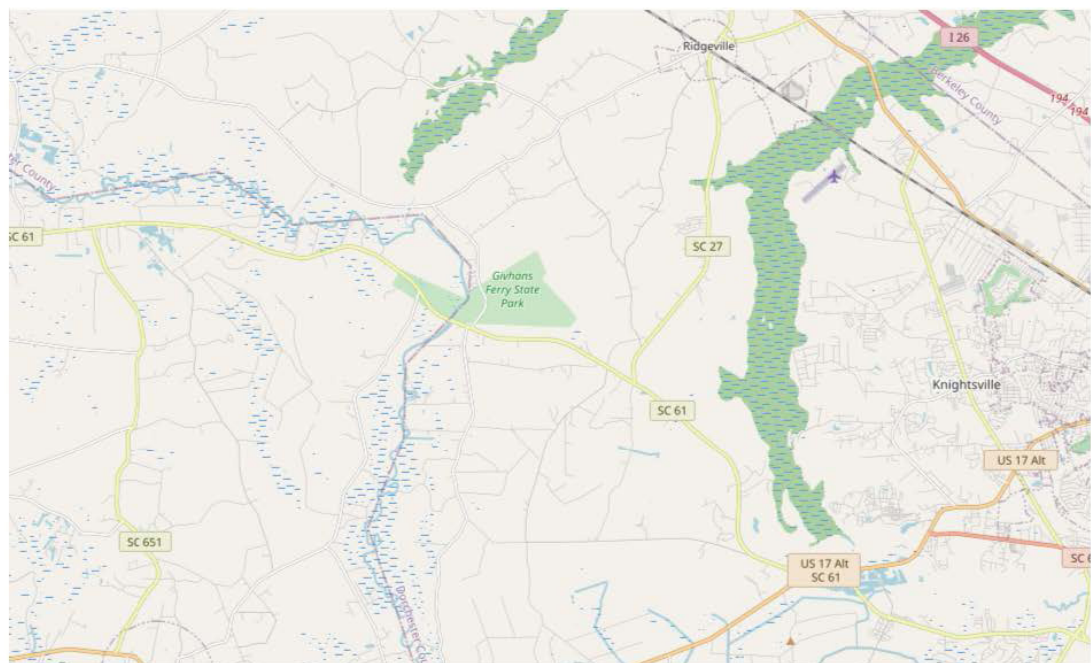
PROJECT REFLECTIVE NARRATIVE:

When this project came to finalization, I found myself reflecting on the design process and the joy I found in designing a landscape that would directly affect the community it was designed for. I think the most important lesson I learned was how to design a project that compliments the existing Edisto River while also positively impacting the Native American community. Over the last couple of years, I have studied Walter Hood's design process and how he creates landscapes that avoid placemaking. I already had a connection to this project due to it being in my hometown but, creating a new relationship with people like Sabrina Creel of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe enhanced my design.

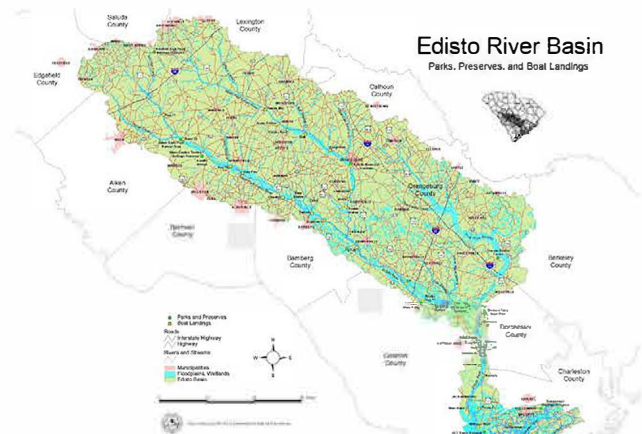
Throughout the three meetings I had with her and other council members I learned so much more about the culture of the tribe and the important role the Edisto River has on their day-to-day life. Talking to members of all ages and how my greenway design established new public river access and enhanced the existing access points. Knowing that my project would allow a man of the age of 65 to take his grandson fishing to the same fishing hole along the Edisto River that his grandfather took him was all the reason to put my all into this project.

I found the most challenging design aspect was creating a greenway that found the balance between positively celebrating the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe while also proactively impacting the Edisto River communities. I think with more time I would've loved to have a in person meeting with the tribal council to get more feedback on a finalized project. Also, creating more perspective renderings that highlight the sense of place along the greenway. Overall, this greenway project was by far my best project as a student at Clemson University and is something that I look forward pursuing in the professional field. Lastly, I think the profession of landscape architecture needs a push towards designing for rural small towns and places like the Edisto River and I hope to have achieved that with the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Greenway.

REGIONAL SITE ANALYSIS:



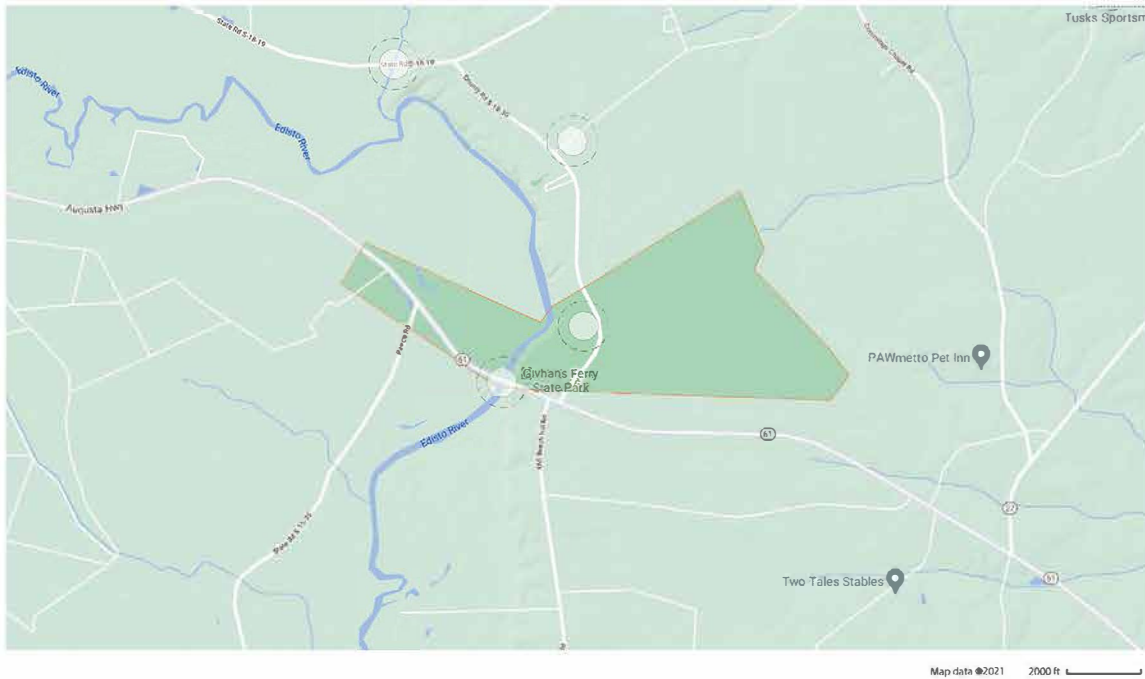
EDISTO RIVER EXISTING CONDITIONS:



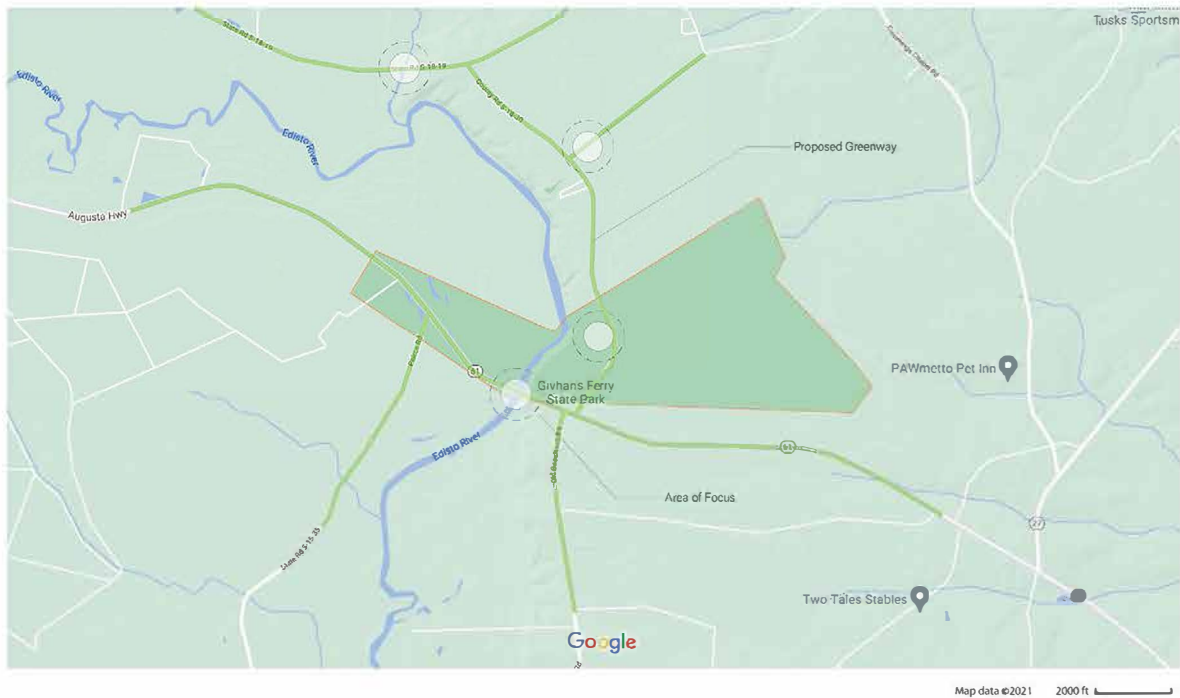
GIVHANS FERRY STATE PARK ANALYSIS:



KEY SITE POINTS DIAGRAM:



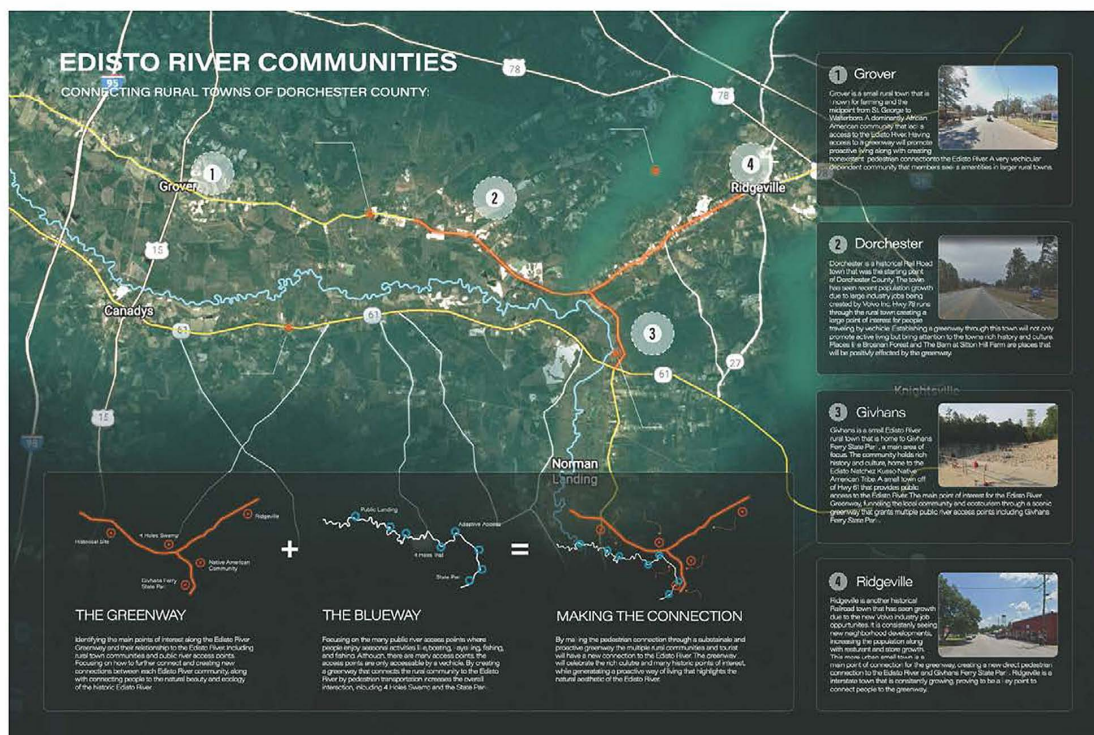
SITE CIRCULATION ANALYSIS:



INTERM PRESENTATION
BOARD 1:



INTERM PRESENTATION
BOARD 2:



EXPLORING A CULTURAL GREENWAY

THE EDISTO RIVER GREENWAY

PAWmetto Pet Inn

PROJECT GOALS & CONTRIBUTIONS:

Focusing on how the proposed Edisto River Greenway will positively directly affect Dorchester County and the local, low income community. Establishing areas of interest that the local community uses to access the Edisto River and how to make them more accessible. Locating areas where accessibility becomes difficult due to flooding and water levels.

Providing an efficient way to generate revenue for Givhans State park, and Dorchester County by identifying the natural ecosystem and environment of the Edisto River to establish a design that protects and celebrates. Preserving the culture and rich history within the area by connecting the Givhans Ferry State Park, to the local community in a more safe and efficient way, identifying how visitors will access the site, whether it's via boat, car, bicycle, walking, etc.

REVEALING A CULTURAL GREENWAY
THE EDISTO RIVER CORRIDOR

Project Statement:
Connecting Edisto River communities to parks of interests along the Edisto River, including Shawnee Ferry State Park, adds five access points, historical and cultural interpretation, a greenway. A district that focuses on the rich history and culture that the Edisto River holds and the regional relationship between communities that actively use and celebrate the Edisto River dating back to the 1800s to present day. Creating a greenway that honors and celebrates the natural environment and historic values of the region.

The Edisto River Greenway will generate economic opportunities and revenue for the different local communities it travels through. Reestablishing connections to the Shawnee Ferry State Park and connecting the other communities that have been lost over time through greenway. Enhancing existing and connecting new income and economic wealth to the greenway, that encompasses discovering the natural history and history of the Edisto River.

Project Map:
The map shows the Edisto River and its tributaries, with numbered sections 1 through 4. Key locations include Grover, Canadys, Ridgeville, and Norman Landing. The map also shows the Edisto River and its tributaries, with numbered sections 1 through 4.

Dorchester County Data Visualization:
The visualization shows various statistics for Dorchester County, including population, education, and housing. It includes a bar chart for population, a pie chart for education, and a bar chart for housing. The data is presented in a clear and concise manner, making it easy to understand.

Edisto Natichaz - Kusso Tribe
The Kusso tribe are believed to be the SC native and are documented in accounts from 1805-1806. The Kusso were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Kusso, and the Kusso were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Kusso. The Kusso were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Kusso. The Kusso were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Kusso.

Yemassee Indian War
During the Yemassee Indian War, the SC native and are documented in accounts from 1805-1806. The Yemassee were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Yemassee, and the Yemassee were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Yemassee. The Yemassee were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Yemassee. The Yemassee were granted land in the Edisto River valley for the Yemassee.

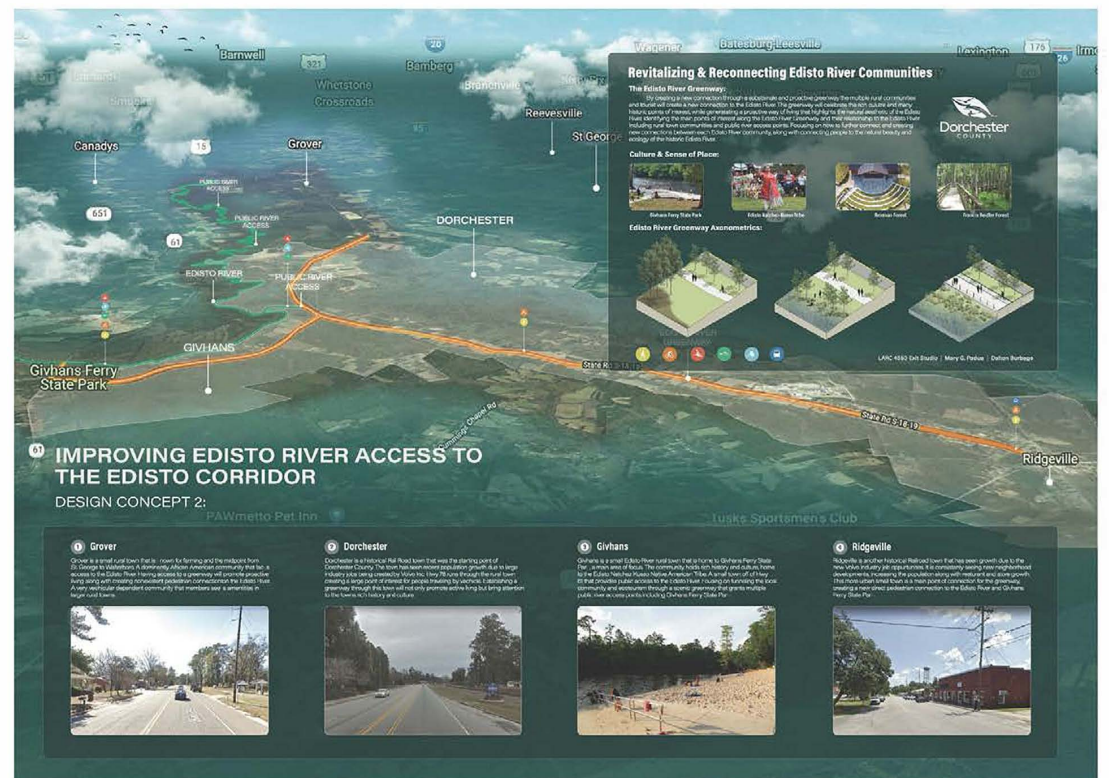
Philip Githan
Philip Githan was a prominent figure in the Edisto River valley. He was a prominent figure in the Edisto River valley. He was a prominent figure in the Edisto River valley. He was a prominent figure in the Edisto River valley. He was a prominent figure in the Edisto River valley.

Githans Ferry State Park
Githans Ferry State Park is a historic site in the Edisto River valley. It is a historic site in the Edisto River valley. It is a historic site in the Edisto River valley. It is a historic site in the Edisto River valley. It is a historic site in the Edisto River valley.

MIDTERM PRESENTATION
BOARD 2:



MIDTERM PRESENTATION
BOARD 3:



MIDTERM PRESENTATION BOARD 4:



The Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina

Heritage & Culture:

The Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of SC is a non profit 501 (c3) organization and also a non-profit, charitable organization under the name of Four Holes Indian Organization, Edisto Tribal Council Inc. They are a state recognized tribe and are currently seeking Federal Recognition. Their "reservation" is the "Four Holes" area in Dorchester County and the "Creelstown" area of Colleton County. The tribe is based on genealogy, they have over 600 enrolled members and over 1,500 members that are not certified members. Every Thursday a class is held at the Old Robert Davidson Center at 113 Tee Pee Lane Ridgeville, SC at 7:30pm. The classes alternate, learning the Natchez language one week and then crafts the next. The Natchez-Kusso Tribe value the sense of sacredness and pride that the Edisto River provides their community. The sense of equality and helping other runs deep in the core of the community.



Challenges:

- Seeking Federal Recognition is an ongoing struggle.
- The struggle for equality in healthcare and public education.
- Preserving culture and heritage, along with the unique sense of place the Edisto River provides.
- Government funds to build a new facility for tribal government along with a place for educational classes for the public.
- Holding on to traditional tribal land along the Edisto River that is increasingly being privately obtained, leading to less public river access for the community.



Project Statement:

Connecting Edisto River communities to points of interest along the Edisto River, including Givhans Ferry State Park, public river access points, historical and cultural sites through a greenway. A design that focuses on celebrating the rich history and culture of The Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe and their relationship to the Edisto River. Actively celebrating and enhancing that relationship to the Edisto River dating back to the 1700's to present day. Designing a greenway that highlights and uncovers the natural environment and historic culture of the region. Providing a sense of place that relates to the Native American heritage while creating a pure experience for the everyday user. The Edisto River Greenway will generate economic opportunities and revenue for the different rural community it travels through. Reestablishing ecotourism to the Edisto River and introducing recreational amenities that have been lost over time through proactive living. Ultimately uplifting and connecting low income communities within Dorchester County through a greenway that encourages discovering the natural beauty and history of the Edisto River.



1 Grover



2 Dorchester



3 Givhans



4 Ridgeville

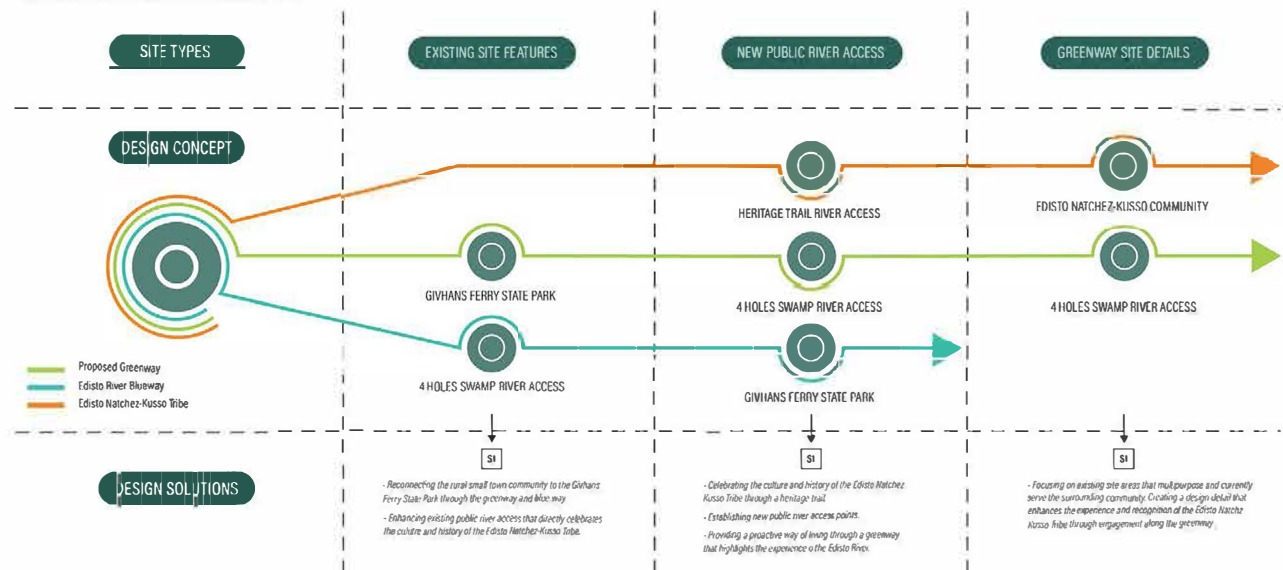


Dorchester County Demographic:

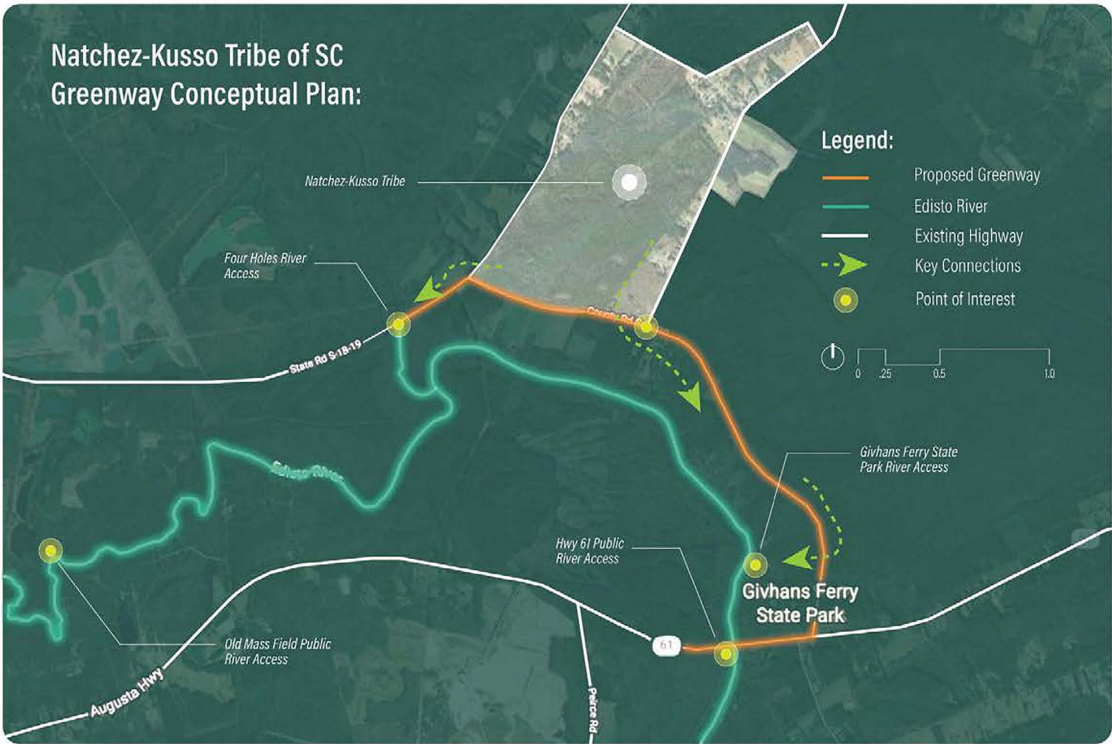


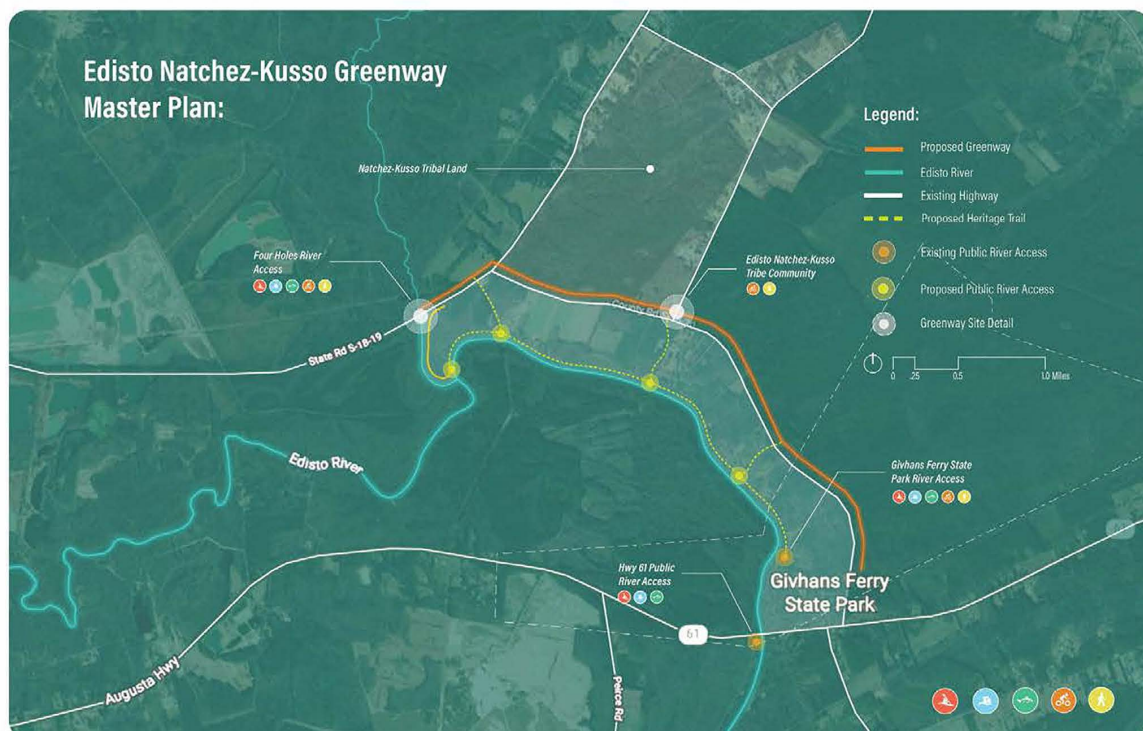
LARC 4550 Exit Studio | Mary G. Padua | Dalton Burbage

GREENWAY DESIGN CONCEPT

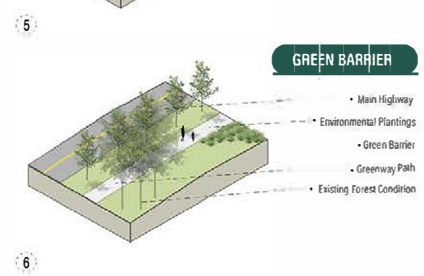
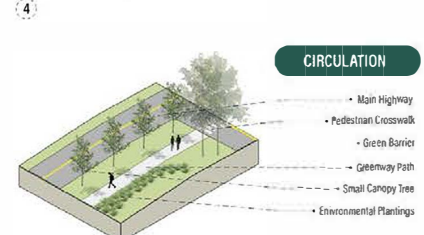
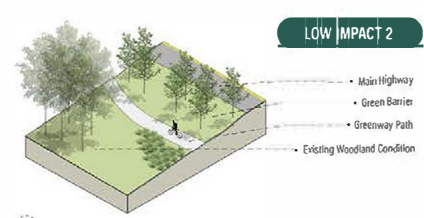
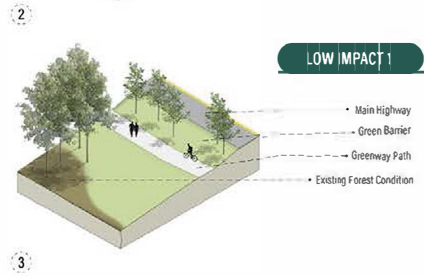
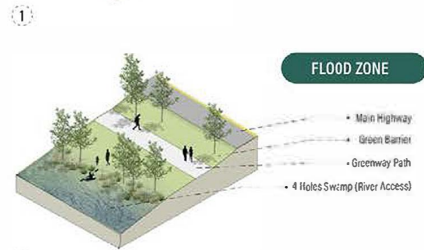
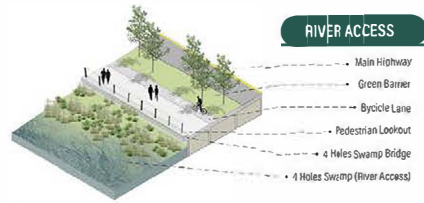


GREENWAY CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM

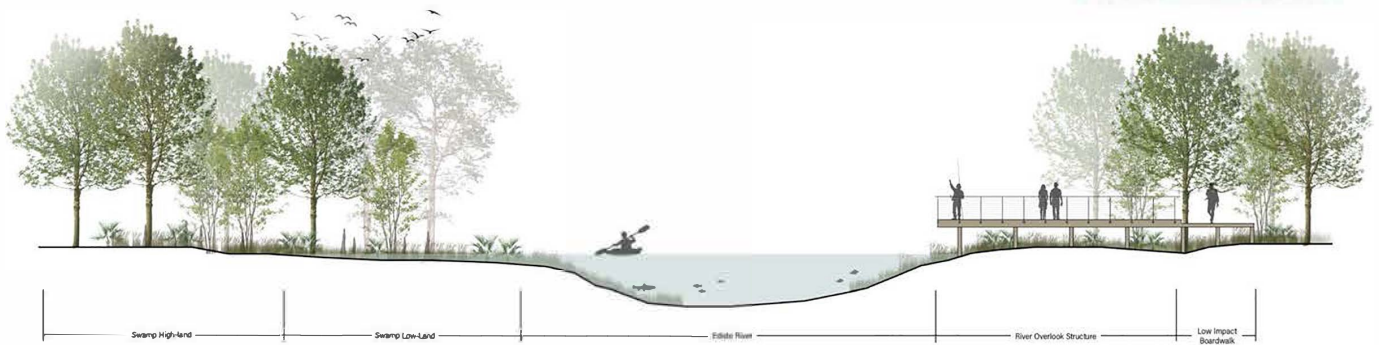




EDISTO NATCHEZ-KUSSO
GREENWAY AXON DIAGRAMS:



EDISTO RIVER BOARDWALK SECTION



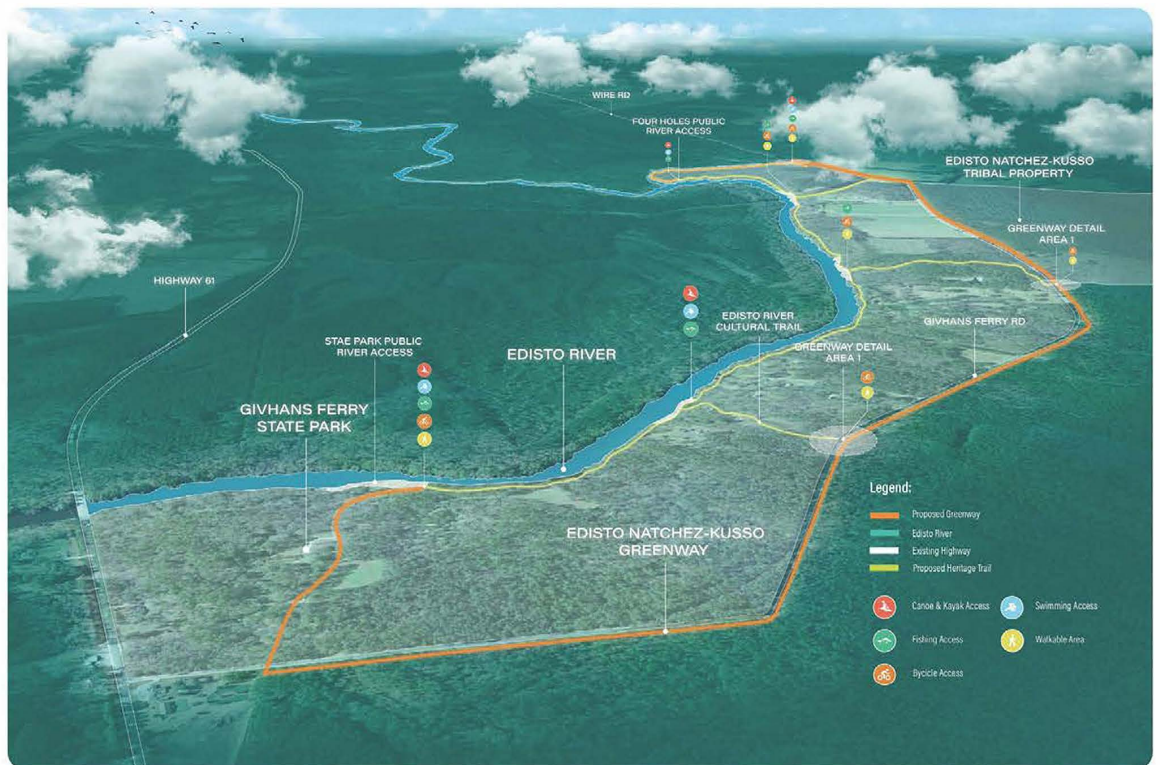
GREENWAY PERSPECTIVE 1:



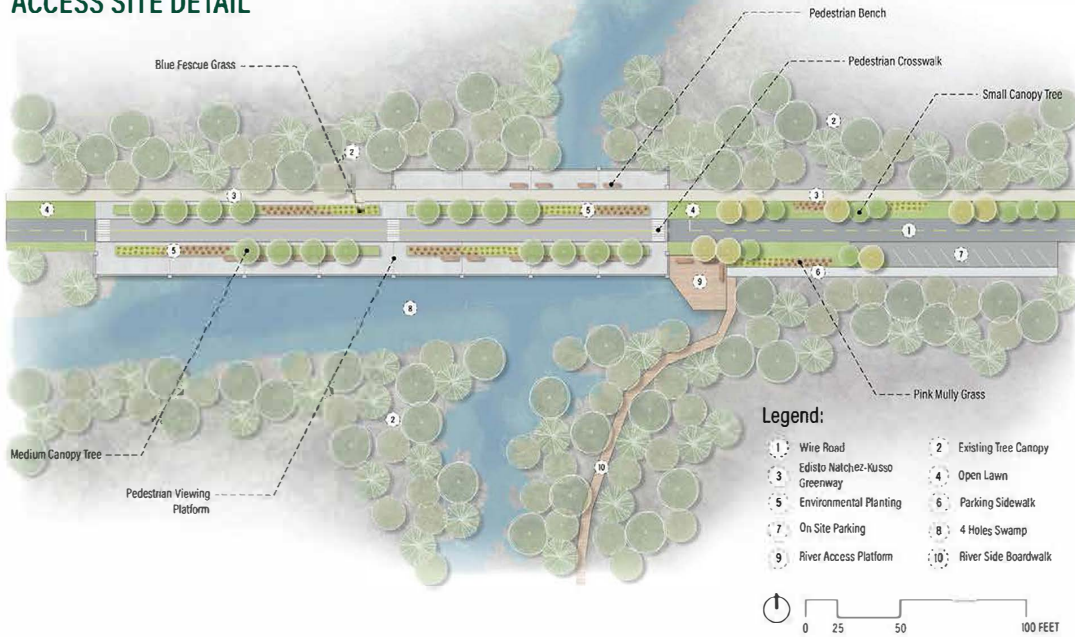
GREENWAY PERSPECTIVE 2:



GREENWAY BIRDS EYE VIEW DIAGRAM:



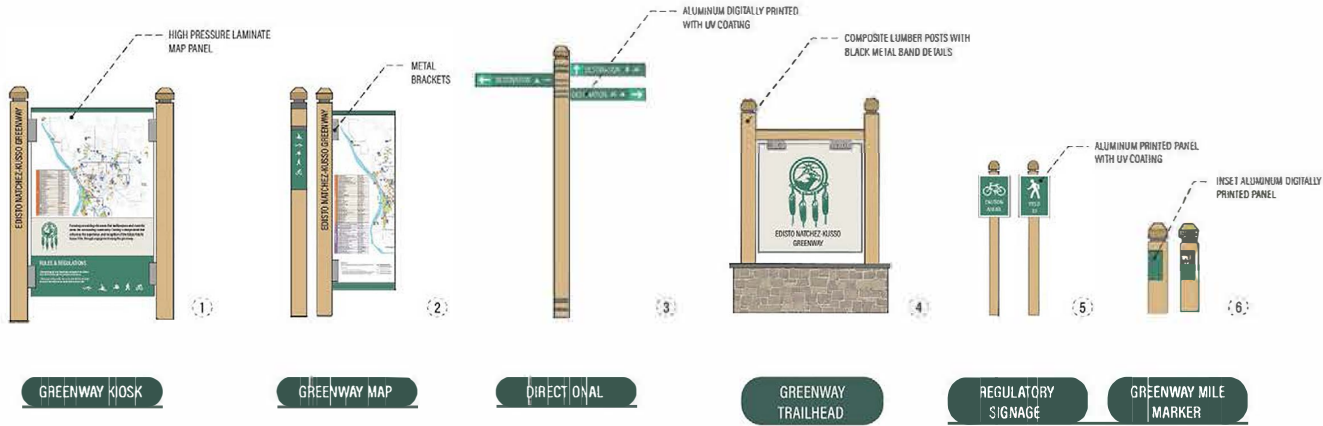
4 HOLES SWAMP PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS SITE DETAIL



EDISTO NATCHEZ-KUSSO COMMUNITY ENTRANCE SITE DETAIL

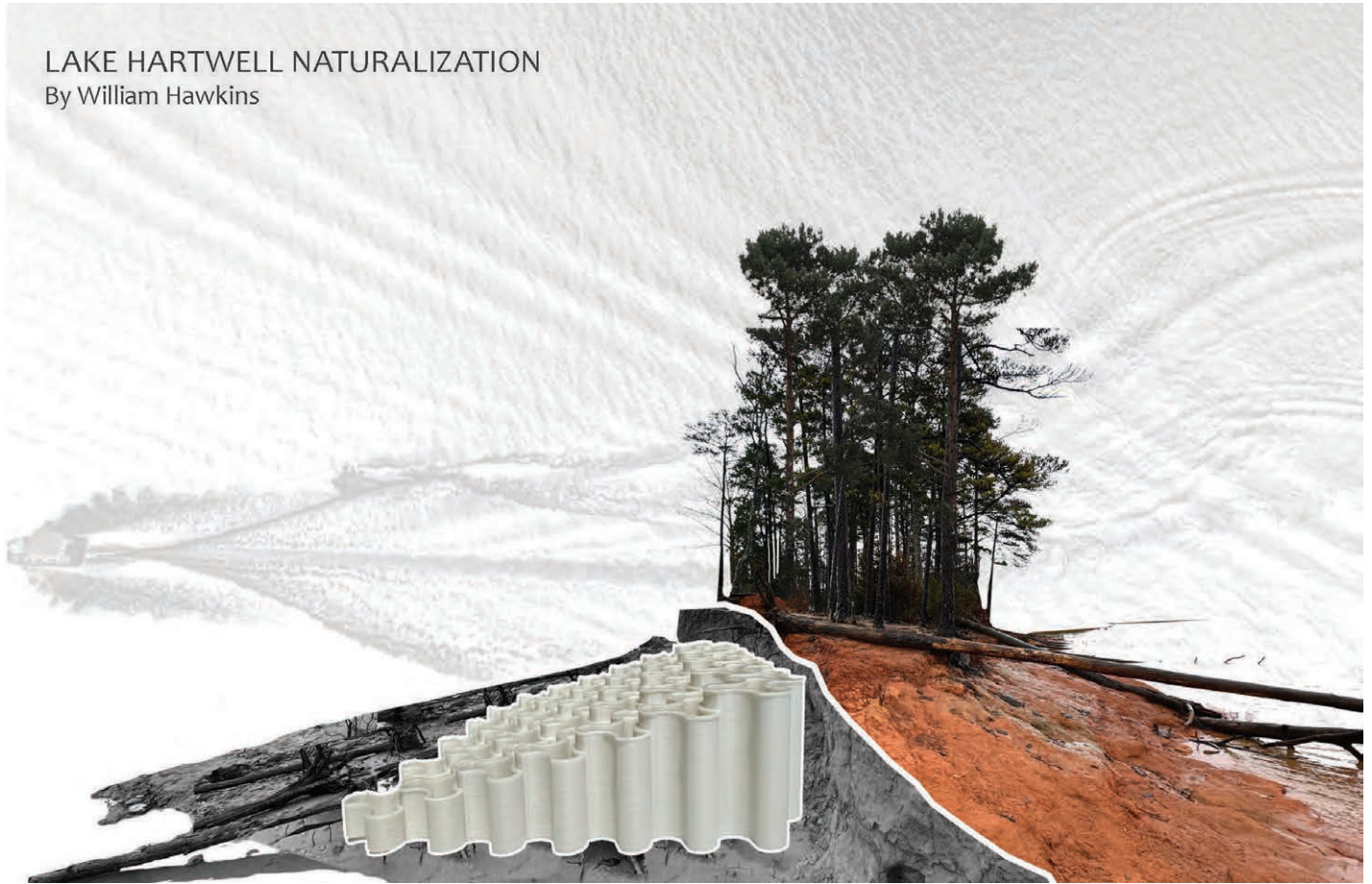


EDISTO NATCHEZ-KUSSO GREENWAY SIGNAGE

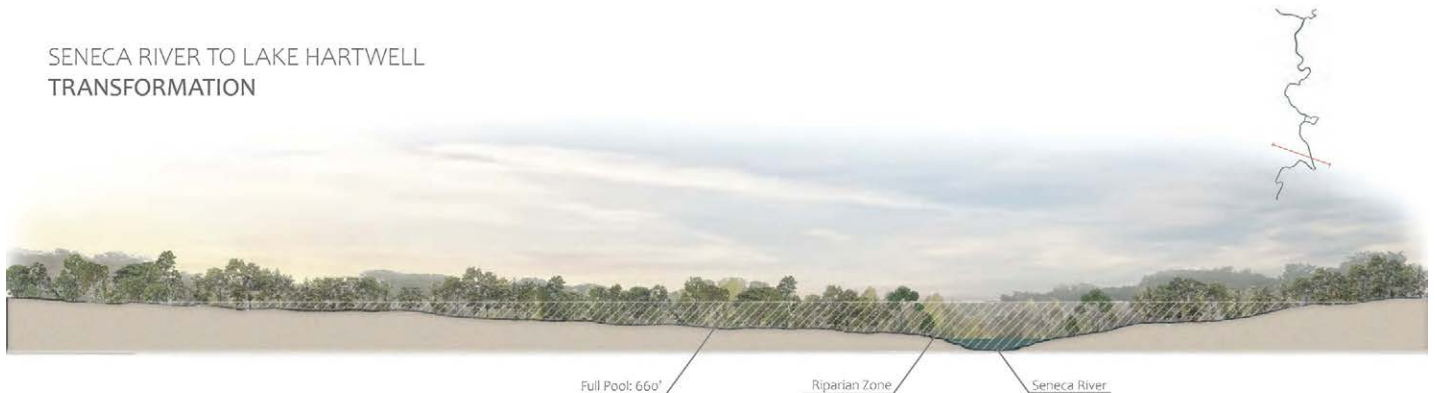


LAKE HARTWELL NATURALIZATION

By William Hawkins

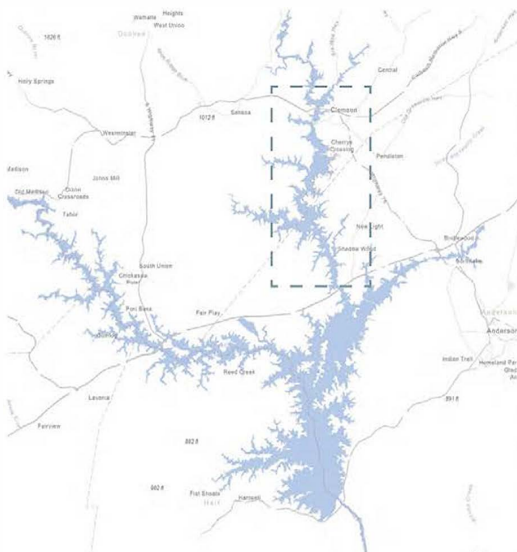


SENECA RIVER TO LAKE HARTWELL TRANSFORMATION





LAKE HARTWELL REGION OF INTEREST



LARC 4550 LA EXIT

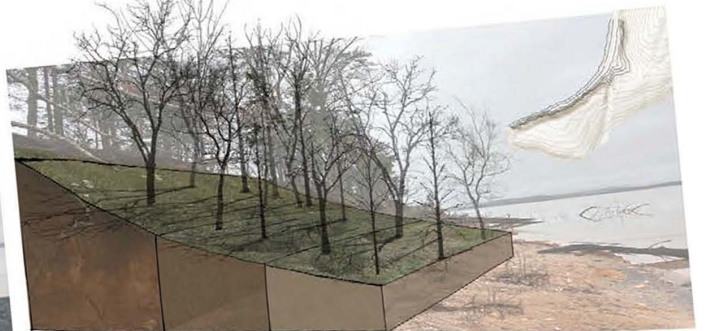
E T
BLA



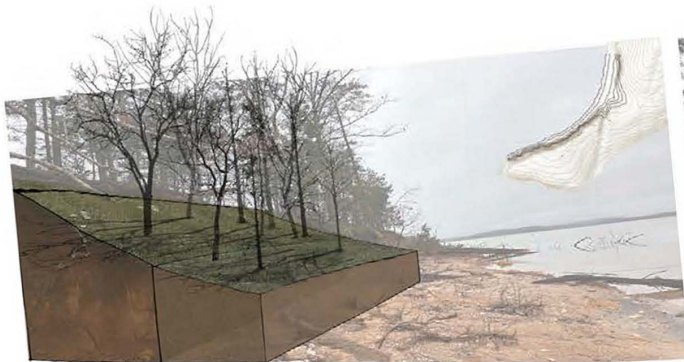
LAKE EDGE EROSION CONTINUANCE



1994



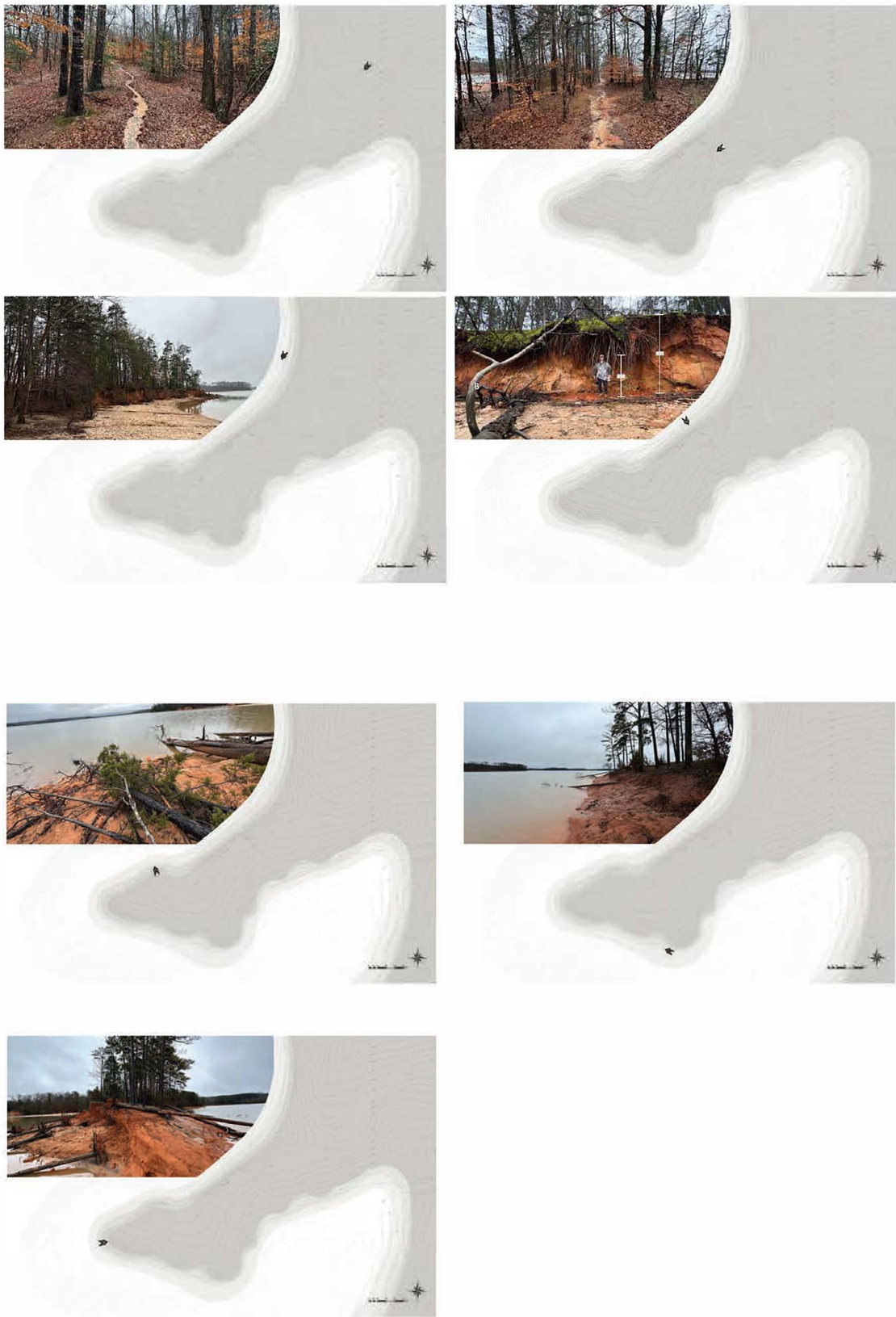
2005



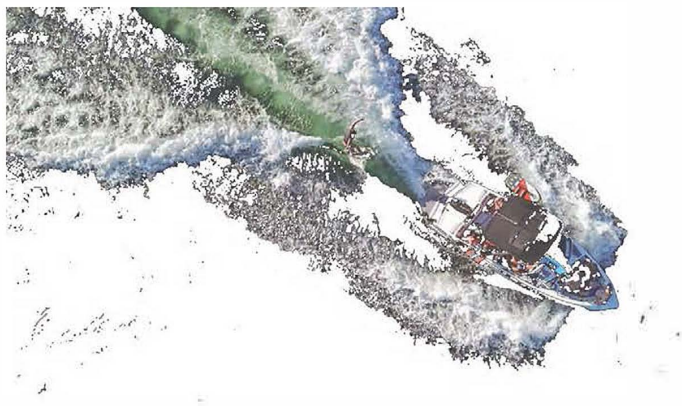
2012



2023



WATER LEVEL FLUCTUATION



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE WAKE BOAT

Wake boats are exceptionally destructive if operated without care. Tanks in these boats take on thousands of pounds of water. Coupled with powerful motors pointing their propeller at a downward angle, the boats produce strong, high energy wakes. For this type of boat to operate without causing erosion, it needs to maintain a distance of at least 1,000 feet from the shore. The wake boat produces waves 2-3 times higher, total wave energies 6-9 times larger, and maximum wave powers of 6-12 times larger than non-wakesurf boats.



CURRENT PRACTICES IN EROSION MITIGATION



TETRAPOD

Tetrapods are concrete armor units specially engineered to control water erosion. They are a modern design of the conventional rip rap. The weight and interlocking design of tetrapods work effectively against extreme weather conditions, dissipating the force of the harsh waves in the ocean and protecting from soil runoff in fresh water. They are a long lasting and durable option for water erosion control methods and take time to crack and dismantle.



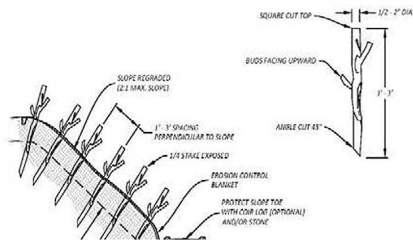
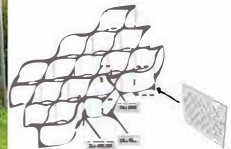
TESSELLATION PLANTERS

The hexagon is unique in shape due to its ability to be interchangeable when tessellated with other hexagons. This can be useful in terms of arrangement strategies as well as reuse and flexibility. However, what it lacks in comparison to the tetrapod is the ability to conform to sloped surfaces, which would require possible cut and fill to ensure the hexagonal shapes are upright for the most precise pairing. The hexagonal shape can still be stacked and organized vertical as well as horizontal, giving a much neater look than the tetrapod.



GEOCELLS

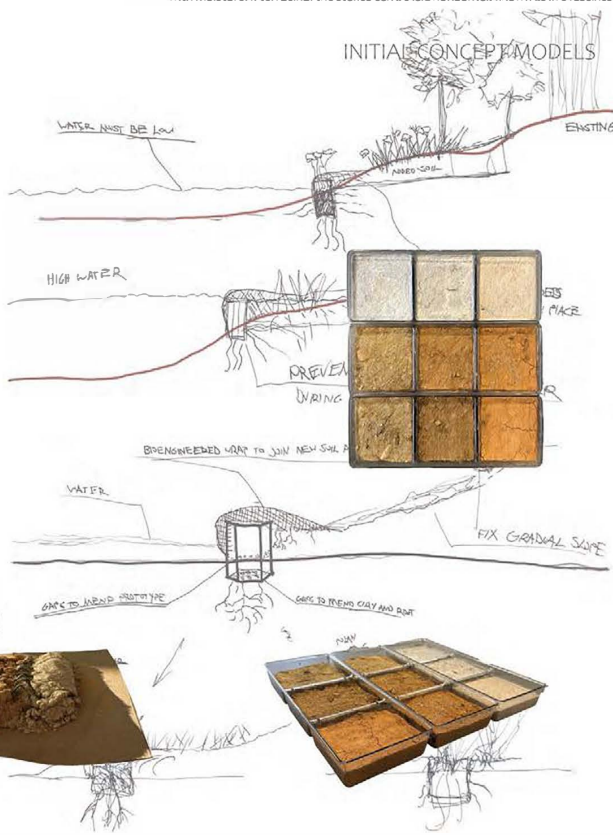
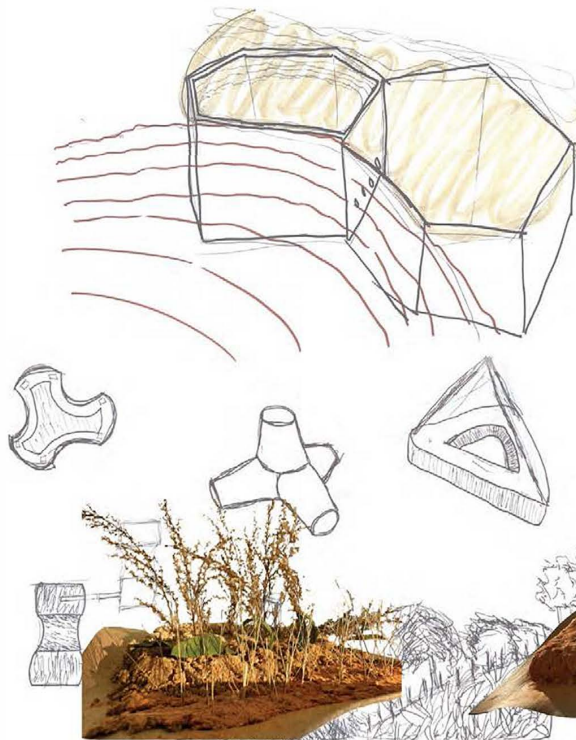
Cellular confinement systems (CCS), also known as geocells, are widely used in construction for erosion control, soil stabilization on flat ground and steep slopes, channel protection, and structural reinforcement for load support and earth retention. There are various types of geocells used depending on the slope of installation and location of installation but all tend to be made out of polyethylene (HDPE). The Dine Locker system is a common slope enhancement solution that improves stability as well as plant and root growth.



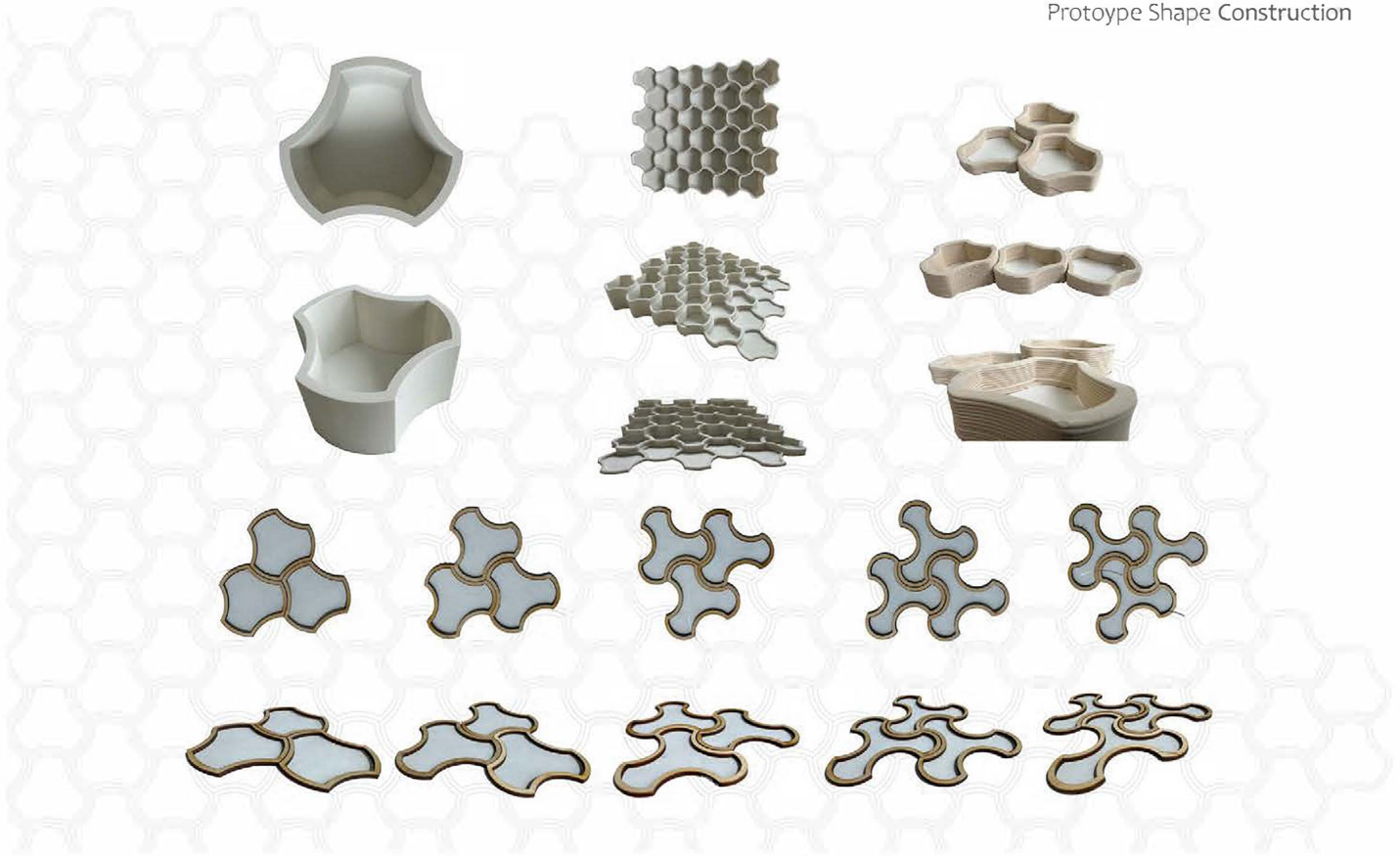
LIVE STAKES

Live stakes are living but dormant, vegetative cuttings, usually one to two inches in diameter and one to three feet tall, capable of quickly rooting in moist soils to provide slope stabilization. They ultimately create a living root mat to stabilize soil by reinforcing and binding soil particles together. They can be applied in eroded, steep and rocky terrain but tend to do best in damp soil. Common species to use for live staking include willows and dogwoods as they prefer wet soils and do best with moisture. If terracing, the stakes can be laid horizontal, known as live fascines.

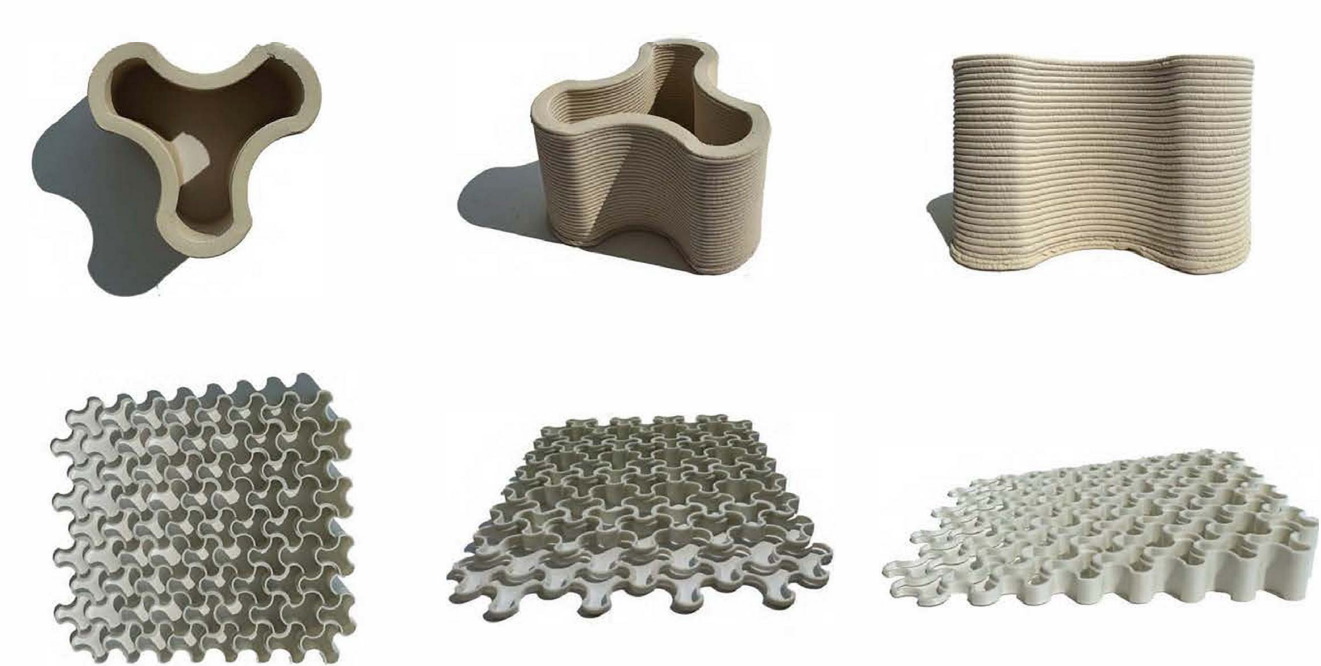
INITIAL CONCEPT MODELS

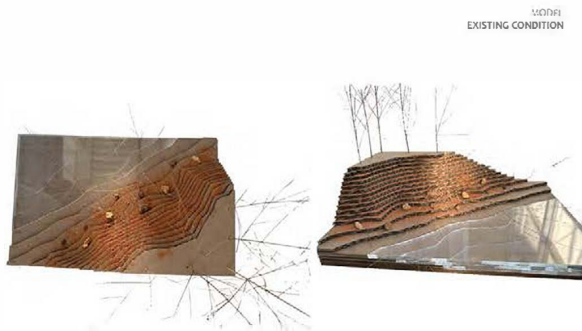


Prototype Shape Construction



FINAL SHAPE FOR BIOSTABILIZER





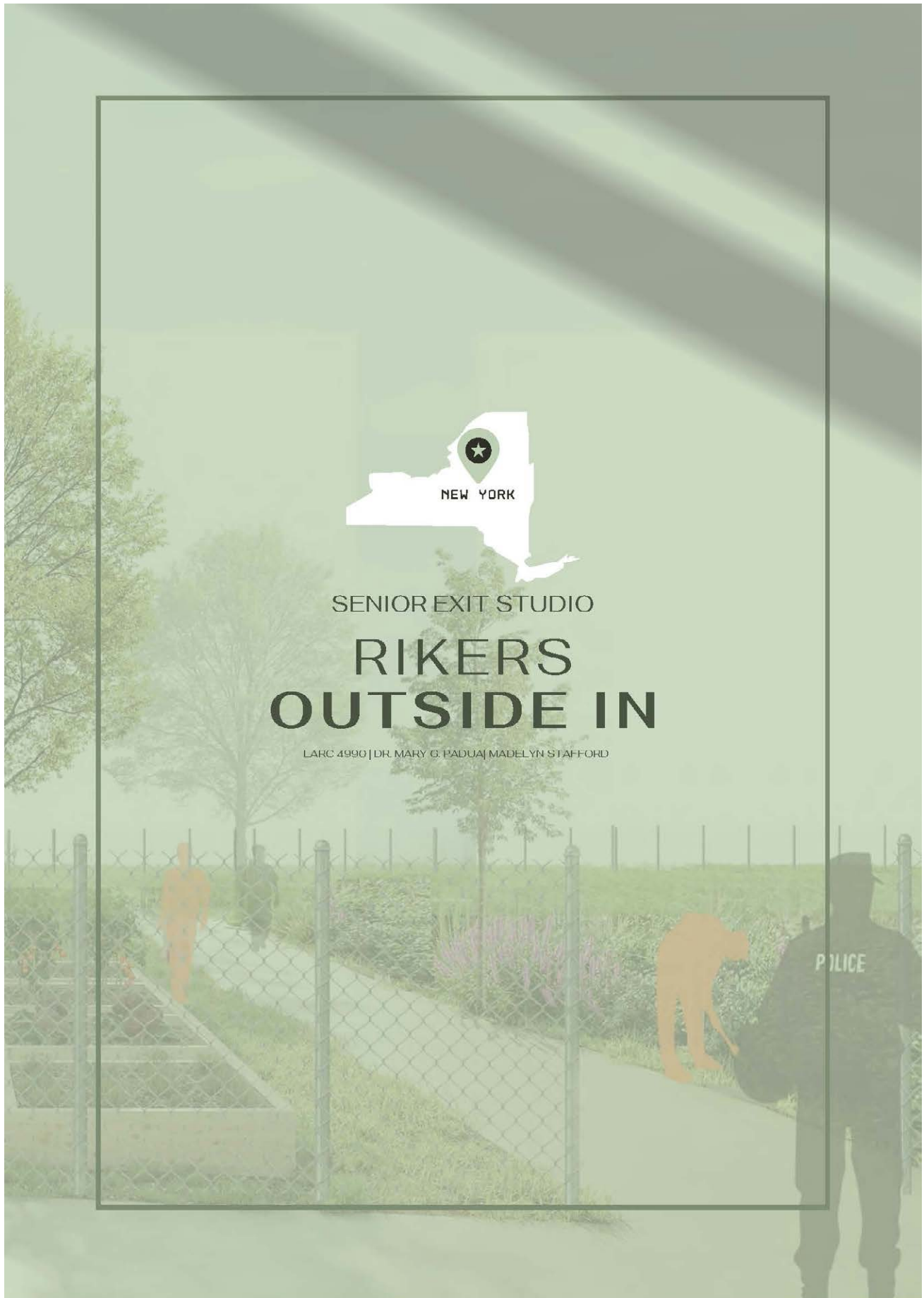


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 Research
 - 02 Analysis (Interim)
 - 03 Conceptual Stage (Midterm)
 - 04 Pre- Final
 - 05 Final Deliverables
-

THE RESEARCH



The History of Riker's Island

1861

A Dutch family was the first to own it, allowing the 9th New York Infantry to use it as training grounds during the Civil War

1922

NYC was banned by the courts from dumping garbage in the ocean, so Riker's Island was chosen as the next best place.

1932

Riker's Island Correctional opened

Why Rikers?

Due to the jail's inmate violence and accusations of prisoner abuse and neglect, the past New York City Mayor voted to close the Jail Complex on Riker's Island

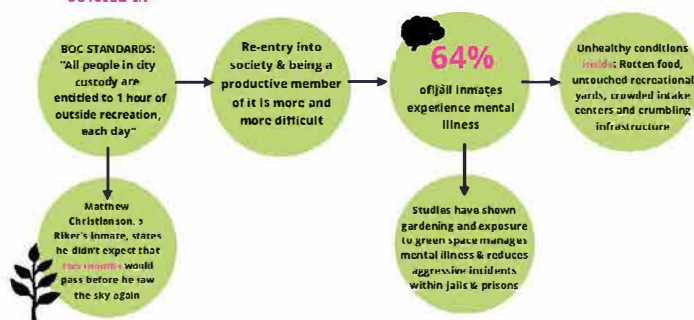
To further understand how our current jail designs affect inmates' re-entry into communities & to create a universal design method/prototype for correctional facilities to follow in order to maintain the basic needs of humans and emphasize the need for green

RIKERS ISLAND BRONX, NY

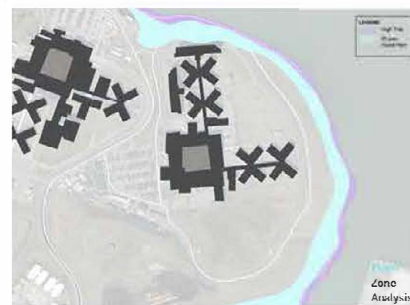


Re-imagining Rikers

"OUTSIDE-IN"



PRECEDENT

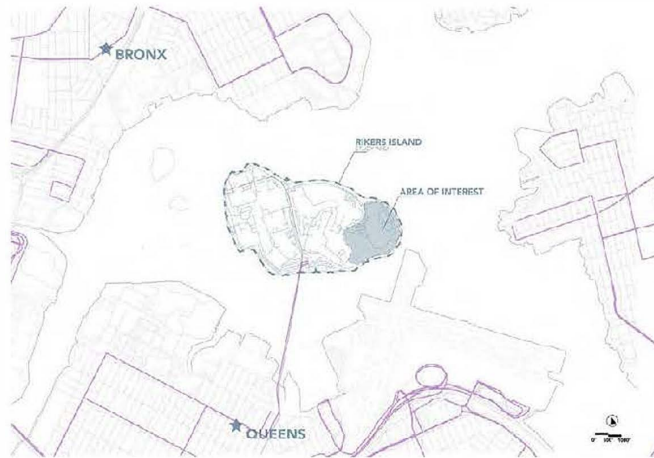


AN INITIAL
UNDERSTANDING
OF RIKERS'
EXISTING
CONDITIONS

GOALS

- Underlining what the future impact of improved prison design on society could have
- Approaching prison design using urban design strategies
- Focusing design on the re-entry of inmates back into the real world and mimicking everyday outdoor experiences

INITIAL ANALYSIS



Average Daily Population
Inmates and Employees



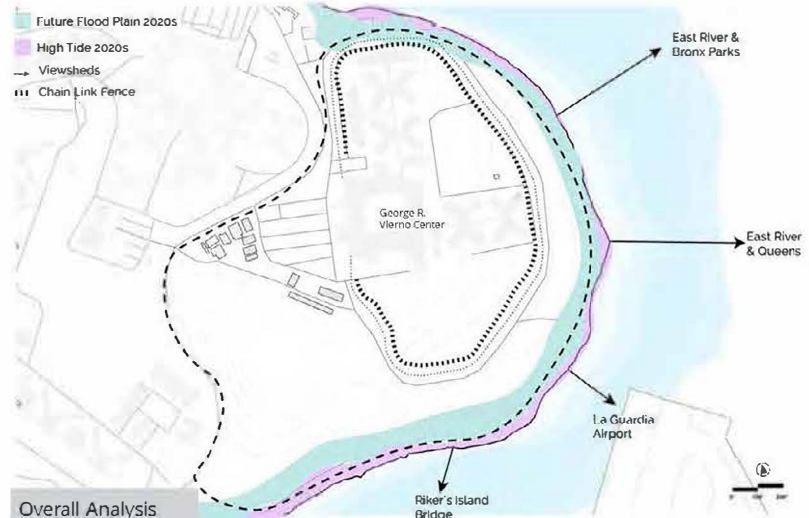
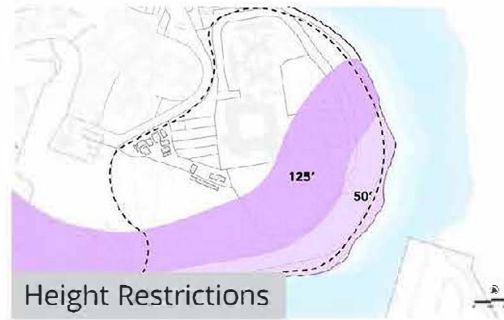
Average Length of Stay
for inmates not discharged to NYSDOS



Average Daily Visitors
Inmate's Family & Friends



An analysis of both the inmates and surroundings of Riker's Island



RE-IMAGINING RIKERS

NATURALIZE
EDGE
CONDITION

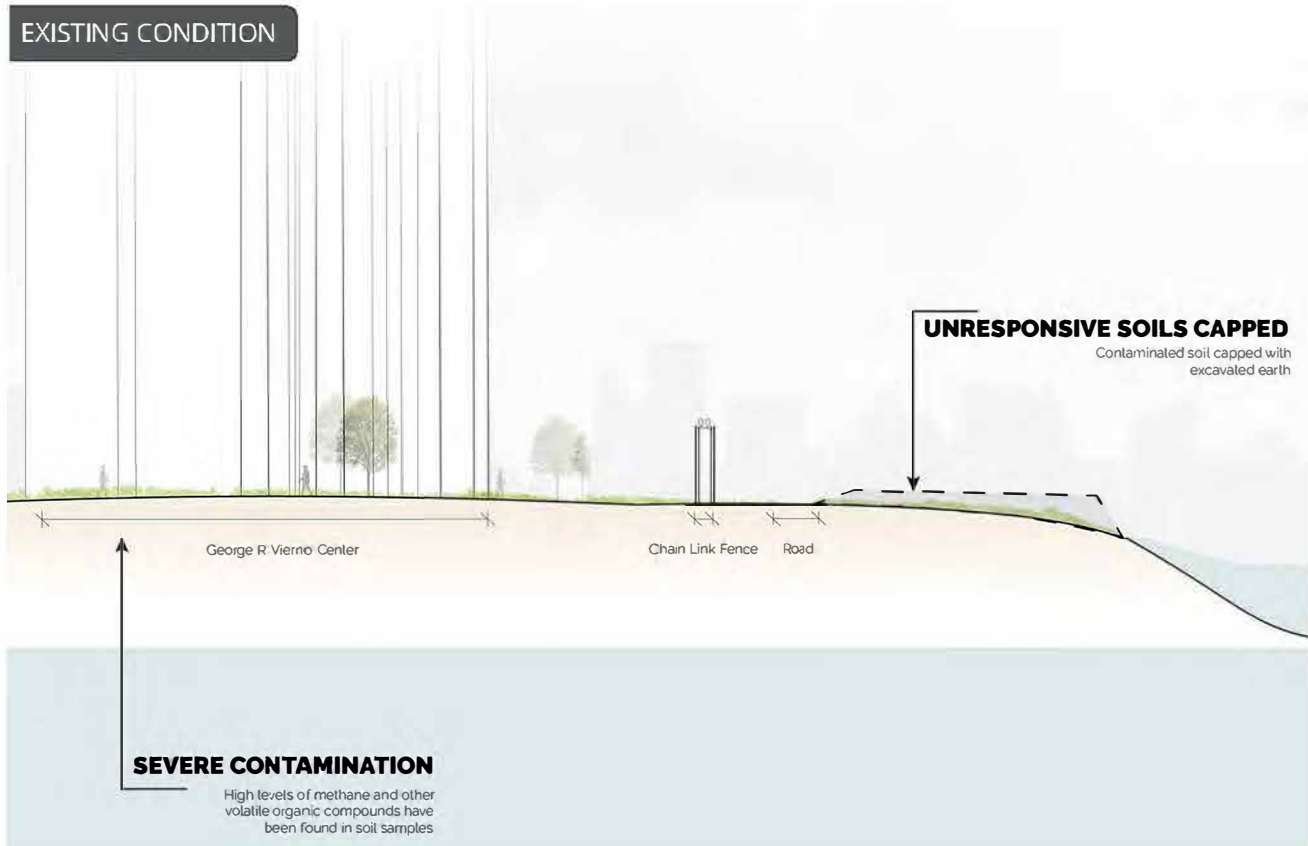
SOIL
CAPPING

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Re-imagining the prison environment through an ecological and human restorative process



EXISTING CONDITION



CONCEPTUAL STAGE

MIDTERM

AN ECOLOGICAL RIKERS

EXTREME
CAPPING

MINIMAL
INMATE
CIRCULATION

LEGEND

- Project Scope
- Proposed Circulation/Path
- Proposed Fence
- MEADOW
- Mixed Woodlands
- Wet Woods
- Grassland
- Turf
- Grove
- Proposed Tree



Mixed Woodlands



Meadow | Wet & Dry



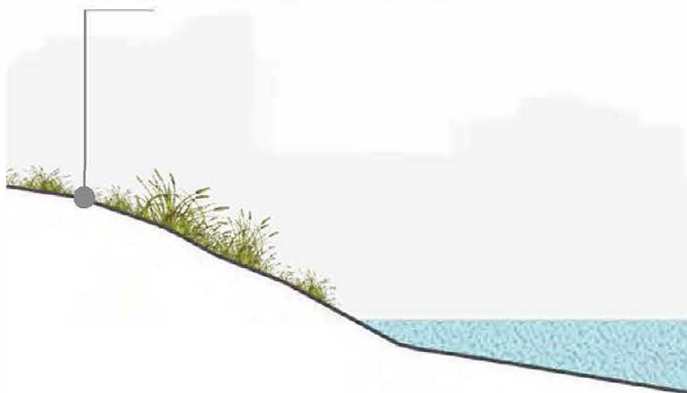
Majority of space is devoted to natural areas

A coastal buffer of wetlands and mixed woodlands implemented to better tolerate storm surge intensity

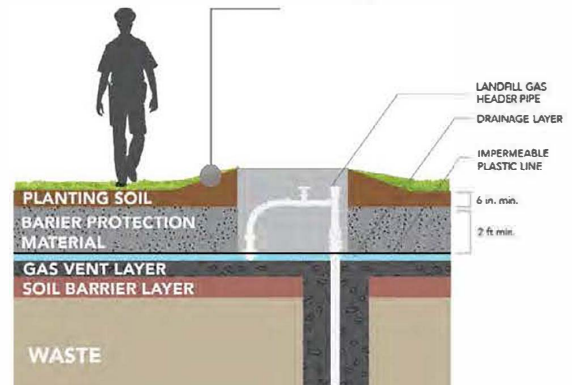
Hardy species with low maintenance requirements are to be selected for their ability to uptake methane and other contaminants, sequester carbon & reduce erosion and runoff

Proposed Edge Condition

Naturalized Edge Condition



Landfill Capping



CONCEPT 1

A HUMAN-CENTRIC PRISONS

CONNECTIVITY & PEDESTRIANIZED

INMATE PROGRAM FOCUS

LEGEND

- Project Scope
- Proposed Circulation/Path
- Proposed Fence
- Meadow
- Mixed Woodlands
- Wet Woods
- Grassland
- Turf
- Grove
- x Conservatory Gardens
- Proposed Tree
- Proposed Security Building
- Restoration & Heavy Soil Capping



Central Park Mimicry



French Style North Garden



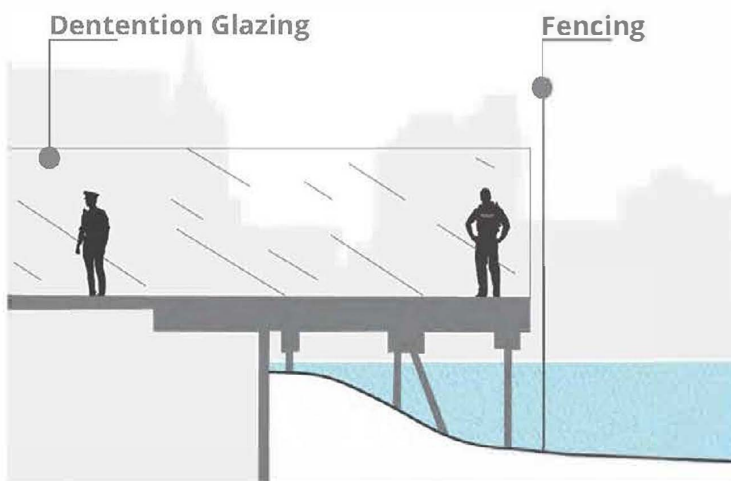
Italianate Center Garden



English Style South Garden

A mixed use approach focused on connectivity and pedestrianization at the forefront for inmates
Change in site programming to better facilitate inmates re-entry into society
Mimics "real world" movement and activities

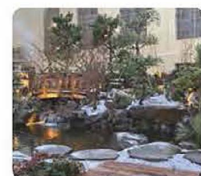
Proposed Edge Condition



Haren Prison | EGM Architects



Oregon State Penitentiary Garden | Kurisu



CONCEPT 2

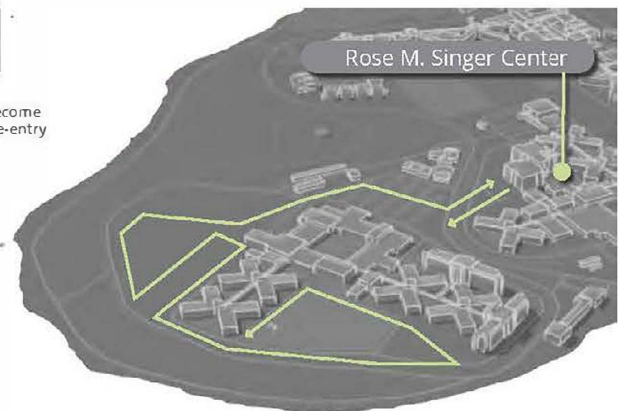
A MORE CONNECTED RIKERS

CONNECTIVITY
BETWEEN
FACILITIES

SOCIAL
PROGRAM
FOCUS



Proposed Edge Condition



Naturalized Edge Condition
with Reconstructed Sea Wall



Halden Prison | Eric Møller Architects



CONCEPT 3

FINAL

RIKERS OUTSIDE IN

A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DESIGN PROTOTYPE
CREATED TO HELP MAINTAIN THE BASIC NEEDS
OF HUMANS AND EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR
GREEN IN THESE MARGINALIZED SPACES



415 Acres → 29 Acres

EXISTING CONDITIONS

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

Inmates and Employees

4,389

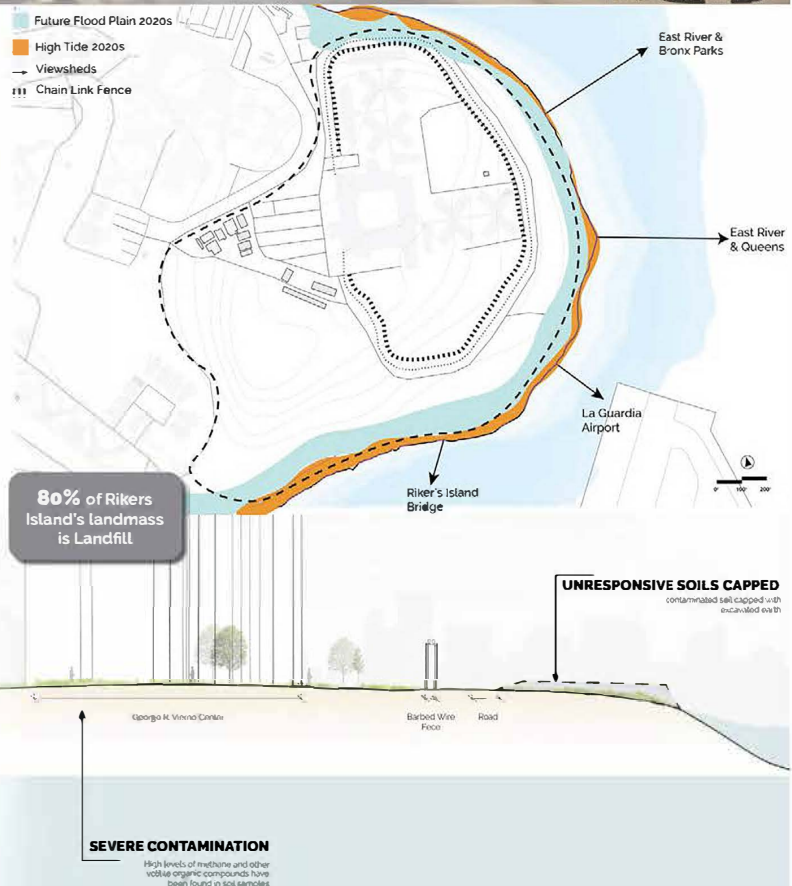
AVERAGE DAILY VISITORS

Inmate's Family & Friends

203

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

for inmates not discharged to NYSDOS



RIKERS OUTSIDE-IN

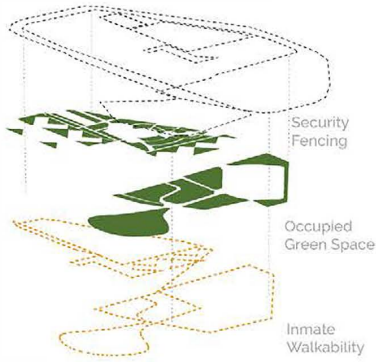
MADLYN STAFFORD | CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

BRONX, NEW YORK

SENIOR EXIT STUDIO | DR. MARY PADUA | LARC 4990

LARC 4550 LA EXIT PROJECT
BLA

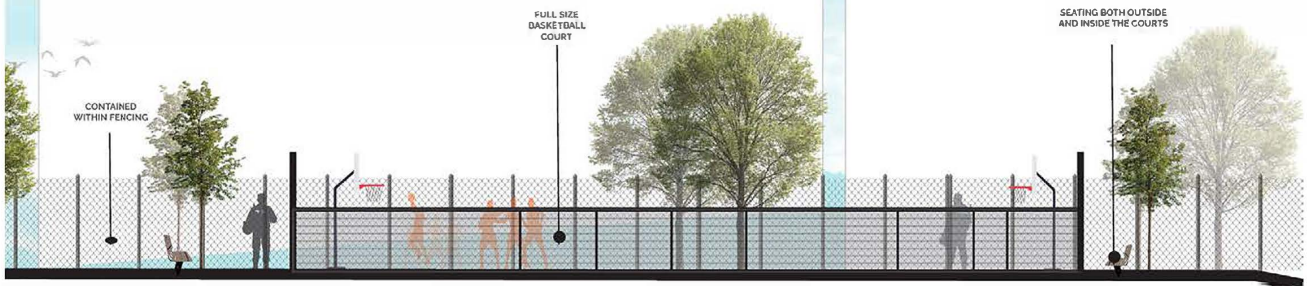
MOVEMENT AND LIMITATIONS OF INMATES



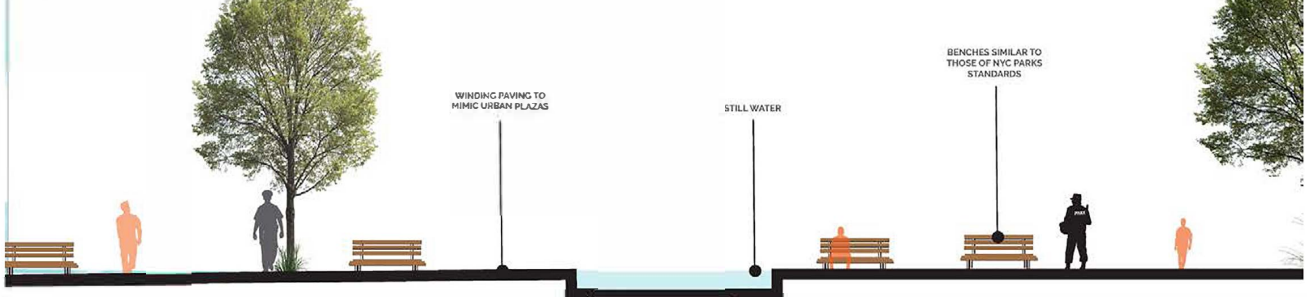
MATERIALITY



RECREATION



URBAN POCKET



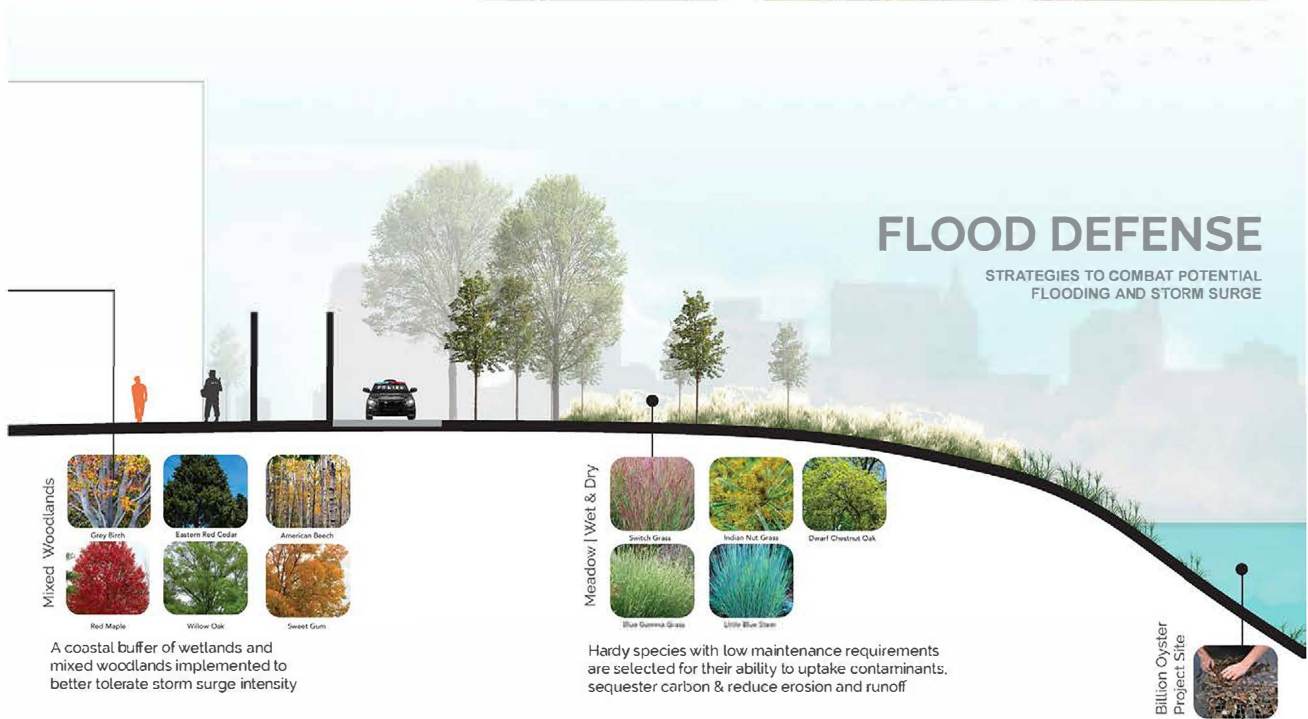
RIKERS OUTSIDE-IN

MADELYN STAFFORD | CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

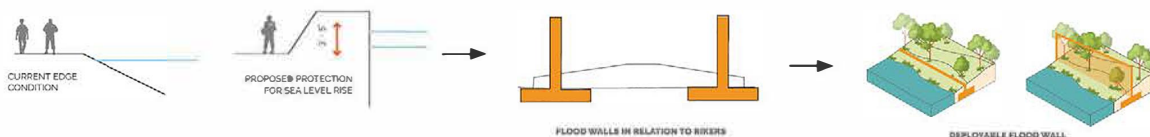
BRONX, NEW YORK

SENIOR EXIT STUDIO | DR. MARY PADUA | LARC 4990

A CLOSER LOOK INTO A MORE HUMANE RIKERS...



INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY



RIKERS OUTSIDE-IN
MADELYN STAFFORD | CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

BRONX, NEW YORK
SENIOR EXIT STUDIO | DR. MARY PADUA | LARC 4990

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Rikers Outside In: Project Investigation

Dr. Mary G. Padua | Senior Exit Studio

Madelyn Stafford

Rikers Island is a jail complex based in New York City, specifically located on an island in the East River between Queens and the Bronx. What was once a military training ground and landfill site for the city, is now known as one of the world's largest and most inhumane correctional institutions. The complex has a capacity to hold around 7,000 inmates and is used to house pretrial detainees, inmates serving short sentences, and those awaiting transfer to state or federal prison, so a majority of its inmates are released back into society. There is a very controversial history surrounding the violence, systemic abuse, and neglect of inmates at Rikers. There has been a growing movement to close the jail complex and replace it with smaller, more humane facilities that would be borough based, but I wanted to explore how the existing site could become a design prototype created to help maintain the basic needs of humans and emphasize the need for green in these types of marginalized spaces. Having been built by its inmates, Rikers was envisioned as a self-sustaining facility, with inmates meant to work 8-hour days farming, making clothes, baking, and performing other work for the city; we can quickly see the opportunity to repurpose Rikers Island to its original purpose.

Amongst all of the violence and abuse going on within Rikers correctional facilities, there are serious environmental issues posed outside of Rikers Island. Having once been the site of New York City's waste, about eighty percent of Riker's Landmass is considered to be landfill, resulting in combustion of methane and contamination of its soils. It has been one of the most significant sources of methane emissions in the city. These combusting pockets of gas in the soil have also created instability within the foundations of many of the facilities on site. With the further investigation of how other sites like Freshkills Parks in Staten Island incorporate landfill caps within their design, I can create a basis and the first stepping stone for combatting the methane on site.

Beyond the issue of the soil, is the height restrictions due to Rikers Island's close proximity to LaGuardia Airport. This restriction states that no structure on the island can rise above 150 feet and the southern portion of the island that sits closer to the runways is subject

to more stringent height requirements. Though these pose restrictions on structures, there are no restrictions put on the height of plantings. With the island falling within very harmful sound levels, it was important that I understood any restrictions with height as a riparian buffer for both sound and storm surge protection along the edge condition was something I knew I had to incorporate. Flood and Storm surge defense was another component that would need to be addressed as resiliency is something Manhattan is currently combating and actively working towards achieving. Through much investigation, I knew that I would want to propose both a planting strategy and infrastructure strategy. The planting strategy focuses on implementing a coastal buffer of both wetlands and mixed woodlands to better tolerate storm surge intensity and also more hardy species with low maintenance requirements that are able to uptake contaminants like methane while reducing erosion and runoff. An infrastructure strategy would implement berm and deployable flood walls along the edge conditions.

With much exploration and investigation, I designed more human centric and ecological spaces. Much of my focus was on fostering the re-entry of inmates back into society through connectivity and pedestrianization of the site by mimicking real world movement and activities. Inmates tend to keep to themselves or be sent to isolation, limiting their social practice but by creating richer opportunities and spaces that encourage positive collaboration and communication, inmates ultimately become better prepared for re-entry into society and are less likely to fall back into the system.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY

Rikers Outside In: Reflective Essay

Dr. Mary G. Padua | Senior Exit Studio

Madelyn Stafford

My exit studio project this semester explored how a very inhumane correctional facility in New York City could become the design prototype for other correctional facilities to help maintain the basic needs of humans and emphasize the need for green in these marginalized spaces. I dived into understanding what mental effects the space had on both the inmates and workers of Rikers Island, the environmental issues on the site, and how it impacted its users, as well as created a resiliency plan. I am very proud of how the project came out and excited to reflect on the different phases and strategies I took when researching, designing, and presenting this project. I will specifically touch on lessons learned, what I would've done differently, time management, and the impact of the overall project investigation on my knowledge and understanding.

Throughout the semester, there were a lot of learning curves that I can now reflect on. One of the first lessons I learned later in my project was the importance of setting an end goal or task items for research. Research has always been super important and exciting to me, so I can get a little carried away or so deep into it that I lose time to design or understand more analytics of the actual site. It's important we know our site but it is just as important to establish what exactly you are looking for so that you can check it off a list and move on to the next steps. The second lesson I learned was just how many constraints a site can have. Having interned for a firm in New York City for almost a year now, I have a pretty good understanding of the range of constraints a project site could have, but I was not expecting Riker's Island to have as many as it did. It was very overwhelming when I was first researching and looking into GIS data, and I definitely started to feel a bit defeated in that there may be no reason in designing Riker's Island because some of the constraints seemed like things you just wouldn't be able to get around. I simply took it as a challenge, and I'm glad I didn't steer myself away from understanding them all, even if I couldn't address them all. Another thing I noticed during reviews was the importance of telling a story through layout and graphics. For the first two presentations, I struggled with figuring out how I wanted to show the concepts, constraints, etc., but once I

GREEN SWAMP CORRIDOR: CONNECTING PEOPLE, WATERFOWL, & WETLANDS

SUMTER, SC
AUSTIN PETERS
LARC 4550
DR. MARY G. PADUA, RLA
DECEMBER 4, 2021

1

PROJECT NARRATIVE

THE GREEN SWAMP CORRIDOR: CONNECTING PEOPLE, WATERFOWL, & WETLANDS PROJECT, IS A SITE LOCATED IN SUMTER, SC, AND FOCUSES ON CONNECTING THE PUBLIC WITH WILDLIFE, WATERFOWL, AND WETLAND HABITATS. THE SITE IS 67 ACRES, ALTHOUGH 12 ACRES MAKE UP THE MAIN FOCUS OF DESIGN; AND IS LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF SUMTER, SC. THIS SITE NEIGHBORS THE GREEN SWAMP WITH SWAN LAKE IRIS GARDENS AND FITS WITHIN THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN OF FUTURE SHOT POUCH GREENWAY CONNECTION. THESE FACTORS COMBINED WITH ITS CURRENT RECREATIONAL USES FOR FISHING AND BIRD WATCHING MADE THIS LOCATION A PERFECT CANDIDATE. THE GOAL FOR THE SITE CAME FROM THE CITY'S MAKE UP OF MANY INTERSECTING SWAMPS THROUGH IT ALONGSIDE THE CONSISTENT DEMAND FOR DEVELOPMENT AS POPULATIONS INCREASE.

WITH THIS IN MIND I BEGAN MY RESEARCH AT A REGIONAL LEVEL, STUDYING ATLANTIC WATERFOWL FLYWAY POPULATION STATISTICS, SC DEMOGRAPHICS, AND THE STATE'S WETLANDS AND CONNECTIONS TO THE SITE. WHILE STILL RESPECTING THE ACTION OF HABITAT CONSERVATION I BEGAN TO RESEARCH THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW IMPACT INTERACTION WITH THESE DIVERSE SOUTH CAROLINA BLACK WATER ECOSYSTEMS. I APPROACHED THE GOAL OF CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH WILDLIFE THROUGH REPURPOSING THE ALREADY DEVELOPED AREAS ONSITE, STRATEGICALLY PLANNING CIRCULATION WITHIN THE FORESTED AREAS, AND CREATING INNOVATIVE AND LOW-IMPACT PATH SYSTEMS.

THE FINAL MASTER PLAN INCLUDED AN UPDATED COMMON AREA THAT IMPROVED THE CURRENT SITE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS, WHILE ALSO FOCUSING ON THE MAIN GOAL THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONGSIDE A METHODOICAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATIVE PATH STRUCTURES WITHIN THESE ECOSYSTEMS.

2

PROJECT REFLECTION

THE TOPIC OF WILDLIFE, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED DUE TO MY CONSISTENT INVOLVEMENT IN IT. WITH THAT BEING SAID, THE COMBINATION OF THIS PROJECT'S GOAL AND LOCATION, IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT AND TREATED AS A REAL POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO MY HOMETOWN COMMUNITY. AS I BEGAN MY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS I REALLY BEGAN TO REALIZE HOW MANY OF THESE BEAUTIFUL ECOSYSTEMS ARE INTERTWINED WITHIN THE CITY OF SUMTER THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS NO IDEA ABOUT, WHICH LEAD ME TO THE GOAL OF NOT ONLY CONSERVING THESE AREAS , BUT CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO INTERACT WITH THEM.

I FEEL THAT THE PROJECT WAS PUSHED TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION TO THE GOAL, AS WELL AS CREATING A SITE THAT BUILDS ALONGSIDE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. WHILE I FEEL THE CIRCULATION OF THE SITE WAS EFFICIENT, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO IMPROVE THE ACCESS OR CIRCULATION WITH THE SITE'S SURROUNDINGS. ONE OTHER THING I THOUGHT WAS EFFECTIVE WAS THE ATTEMPT AT INNOVATIVE PATH STRUCTURES, ALTHOUGH I WISH I WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEM TO THE POINT OF MODELS TO HELP DETERMINE FLAWS IN EACH DESIGN.

OVERALL, I FEEL THAT THIS WAS AN ENJOYABLE PROJECT TO FINISH MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE WITH AND I GENUINELY APPRECIATED DR. PADUA PUSHING EACH OF US TO GET OUR PROJECTS TO THIS LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING.

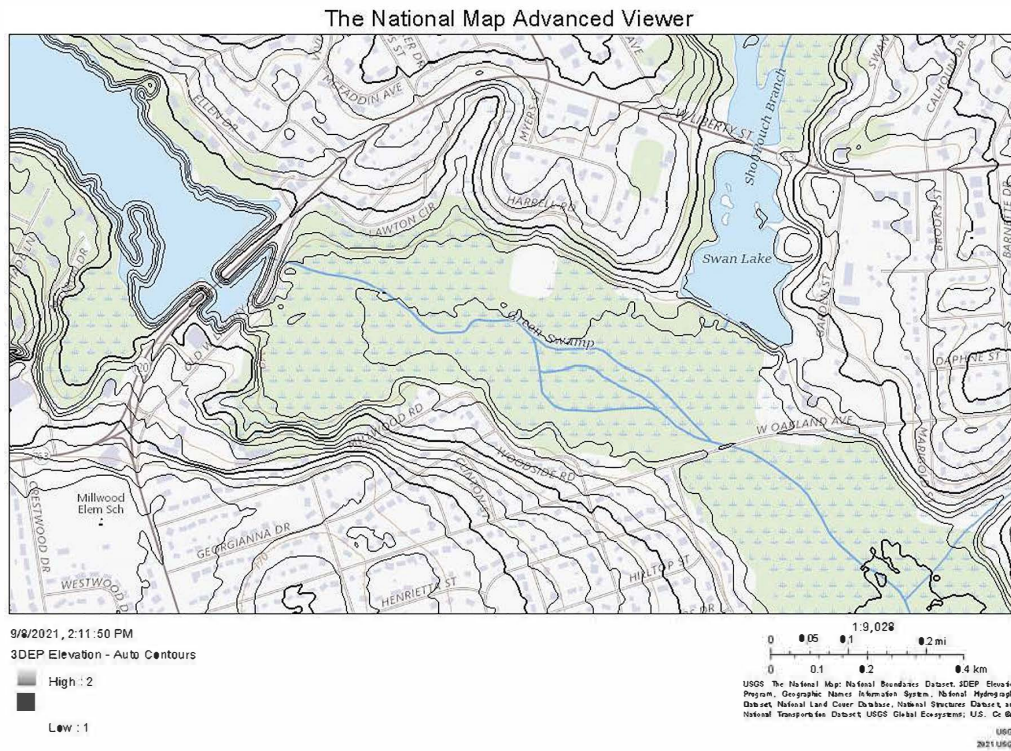
3

CITY MASTERPLAN FUTURE PLANS



4

SITE ELEVATION STUDY



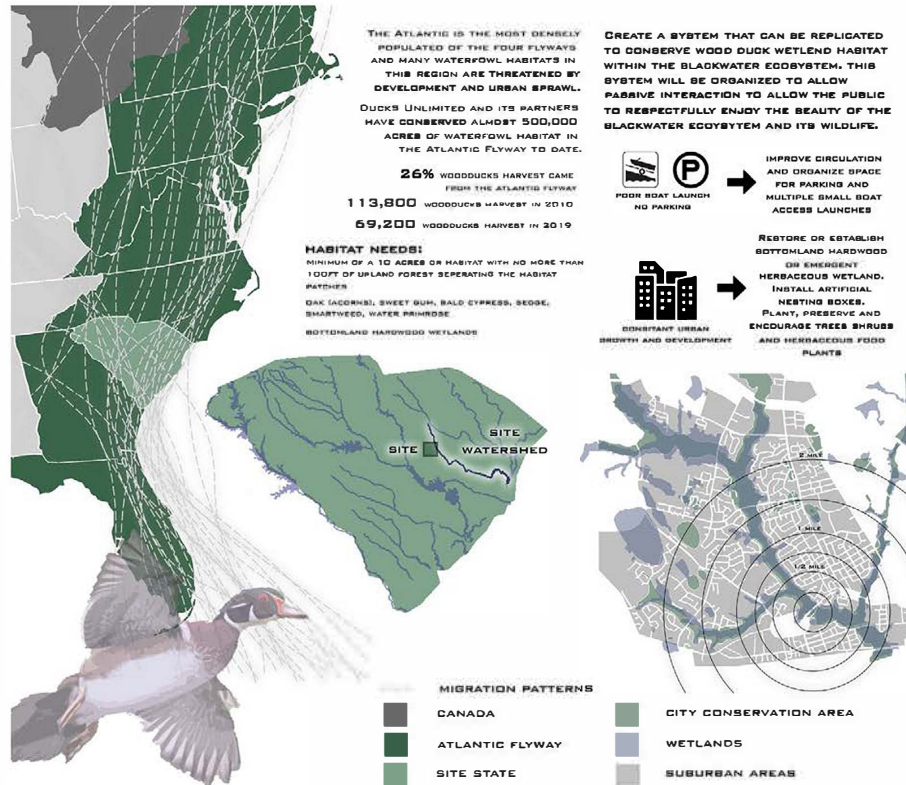
5

SITE AERIAL STUDY



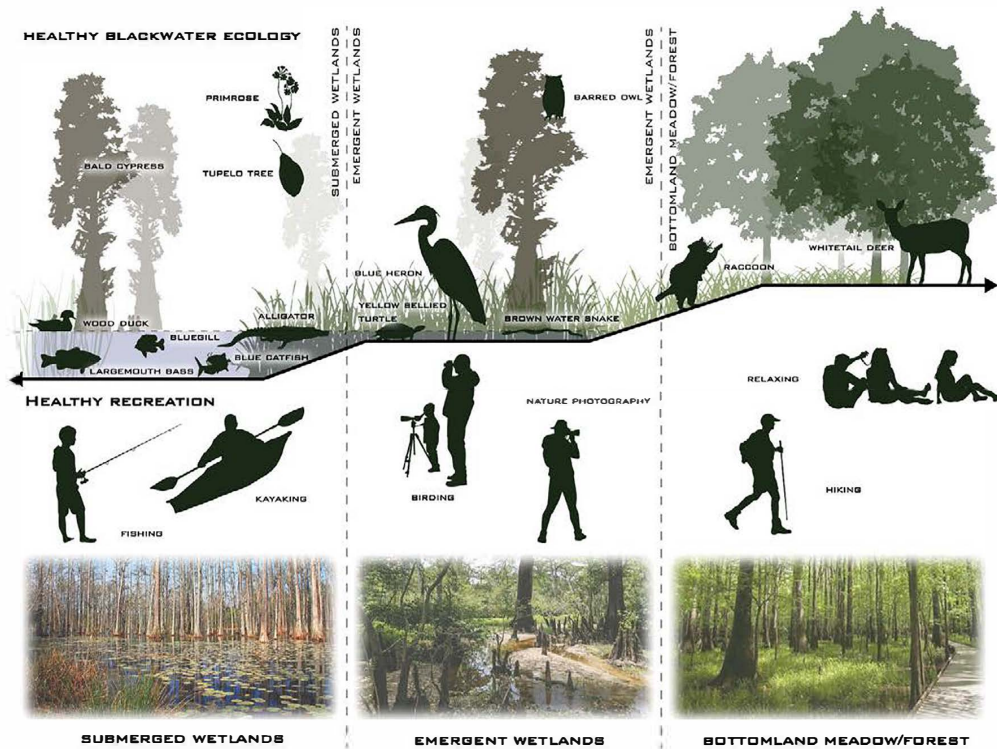
6

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



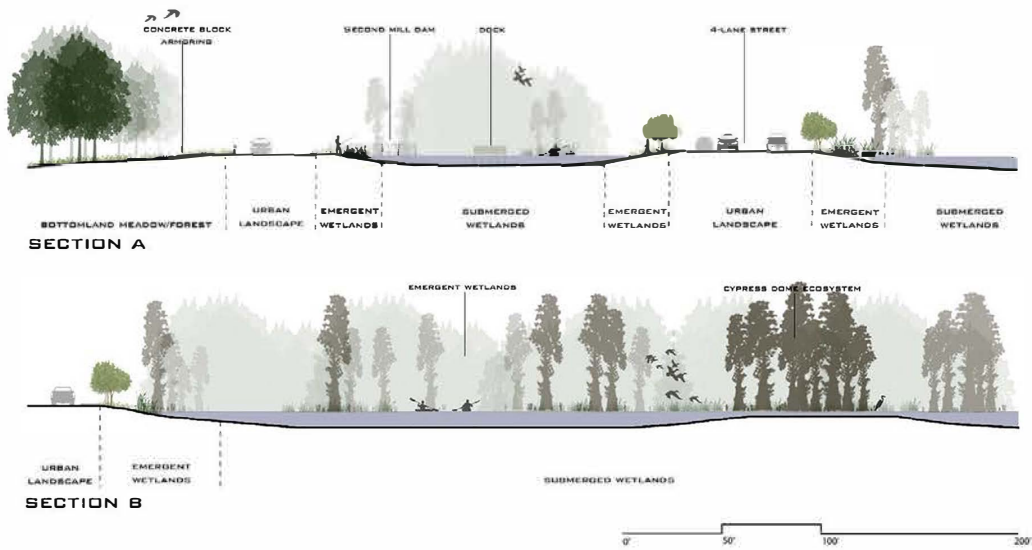
7

SITE ECOSYSTEM ANALYSIS



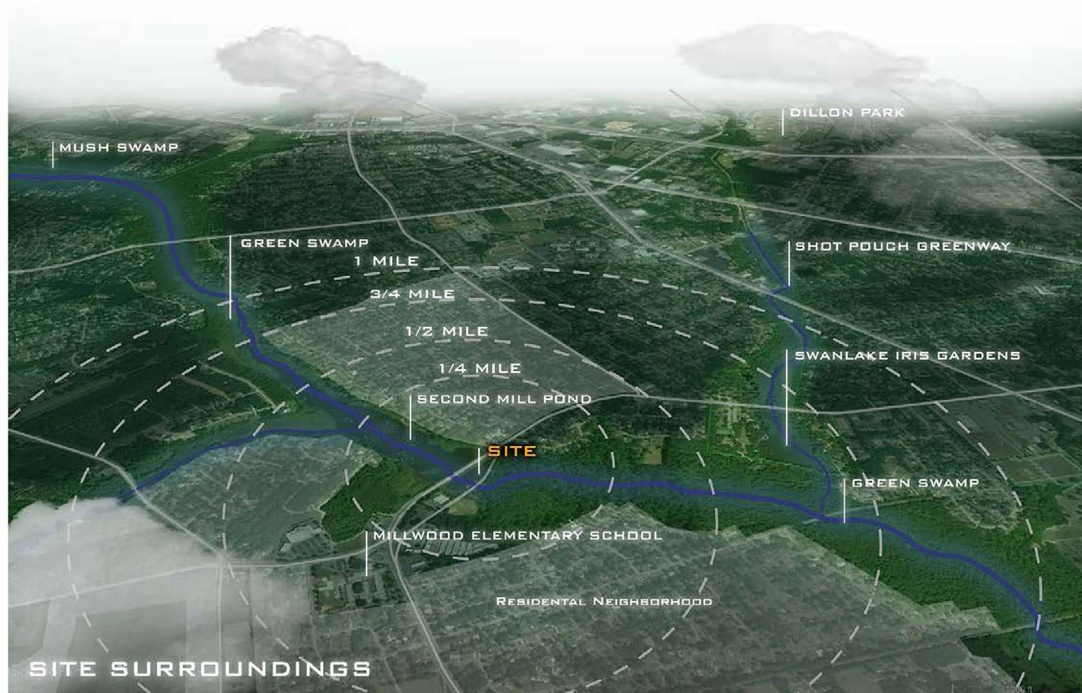
8

SITE ANALYSIS SECTIONS



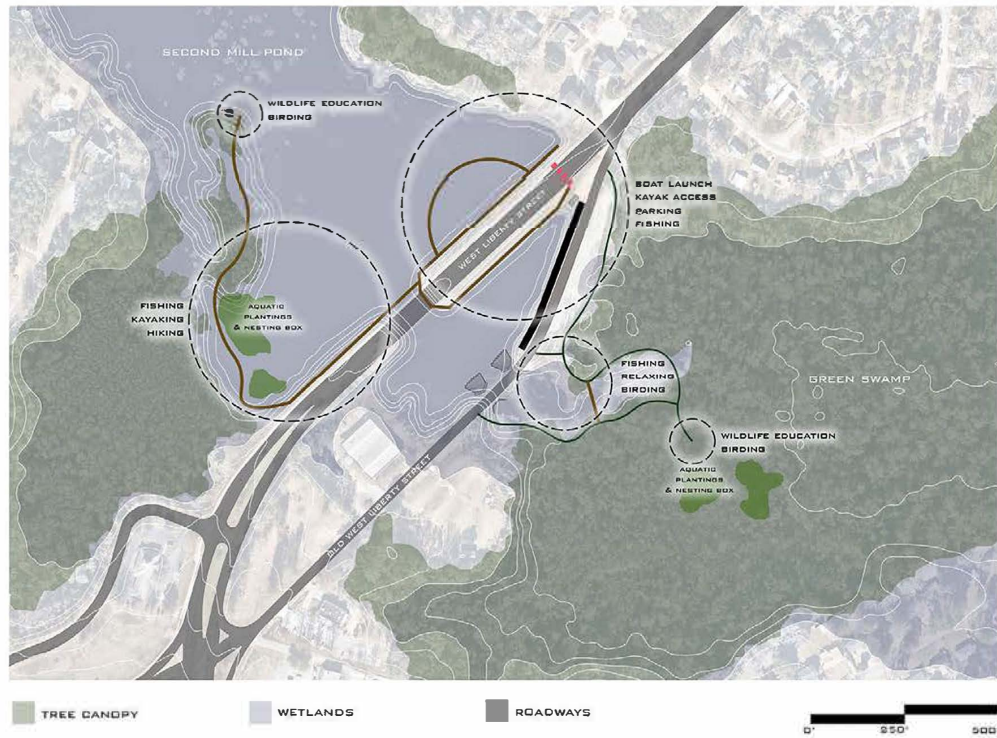
9

SITE SURROUNDINGS ANALYSIS



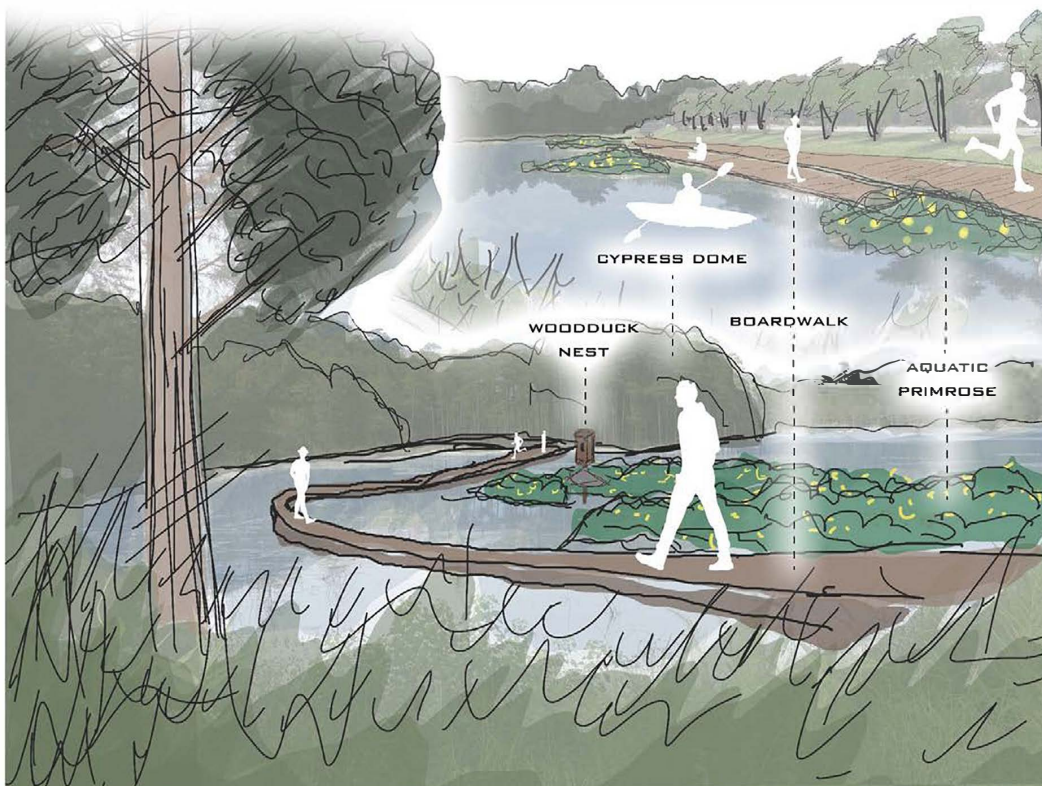
10

SITE CONCEPT PLAN



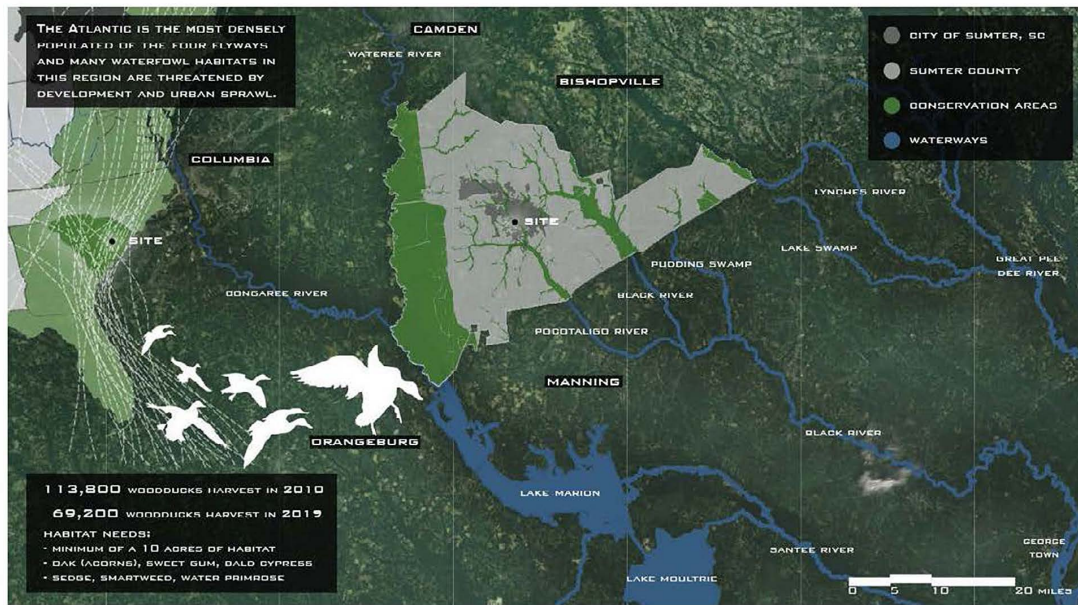
1 1

SITE CONCEPT PERSPECTIVES



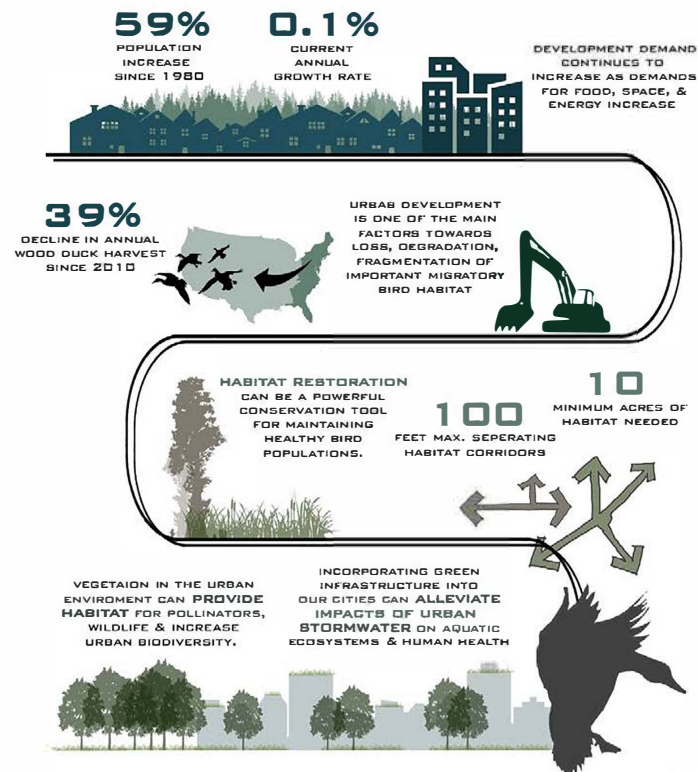
1 2

REGIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



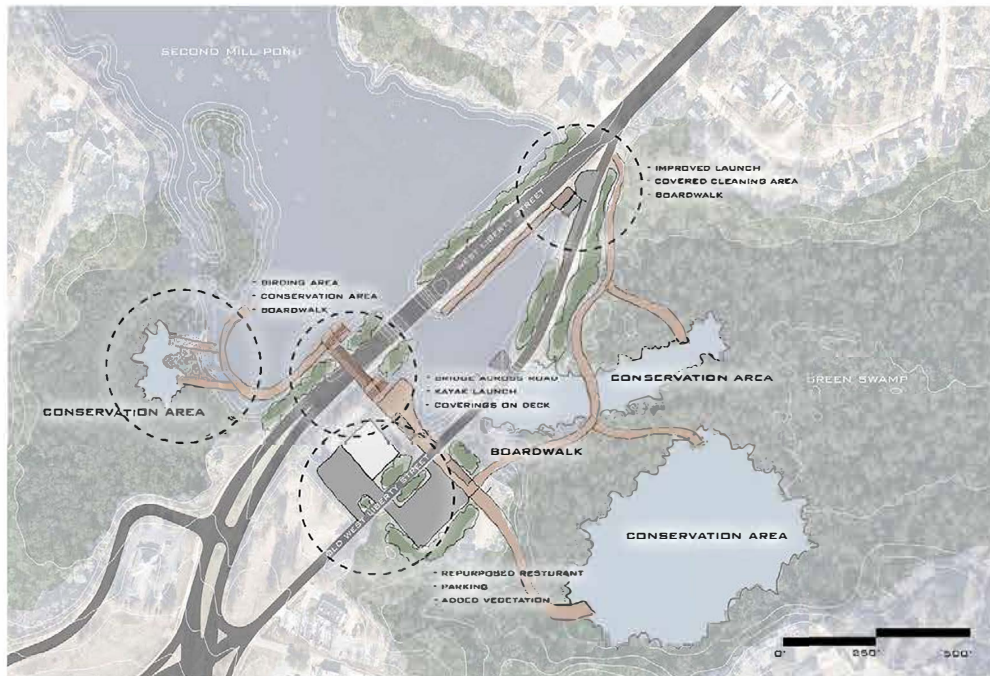
13

PROJECT PROBLEM AND SOLUTION PROPOSAL



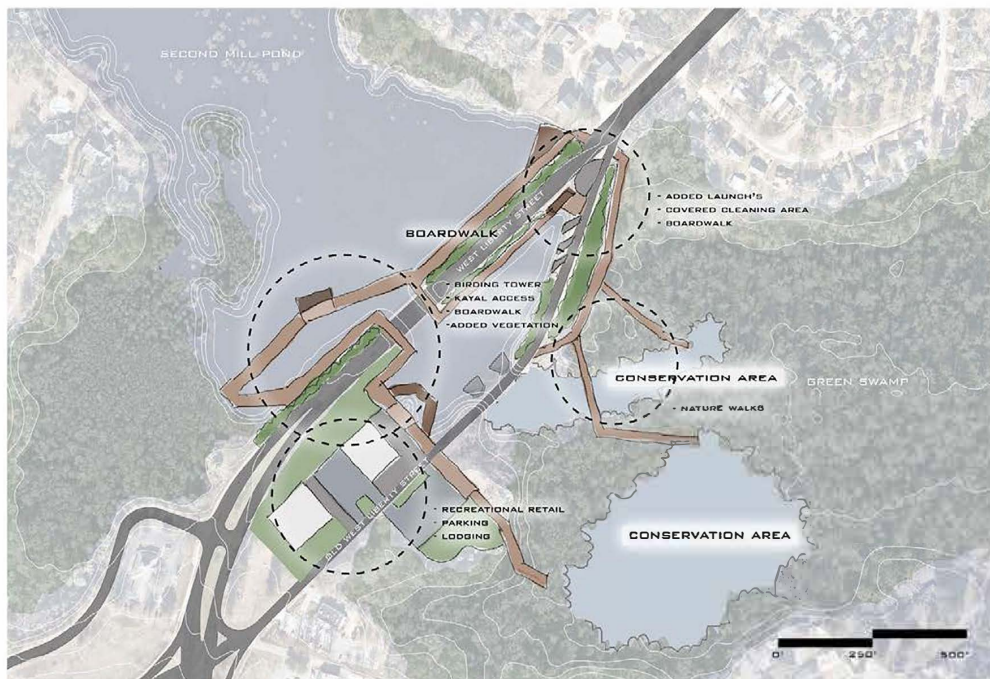
14

SITE PLAN (CONCEPT 1)



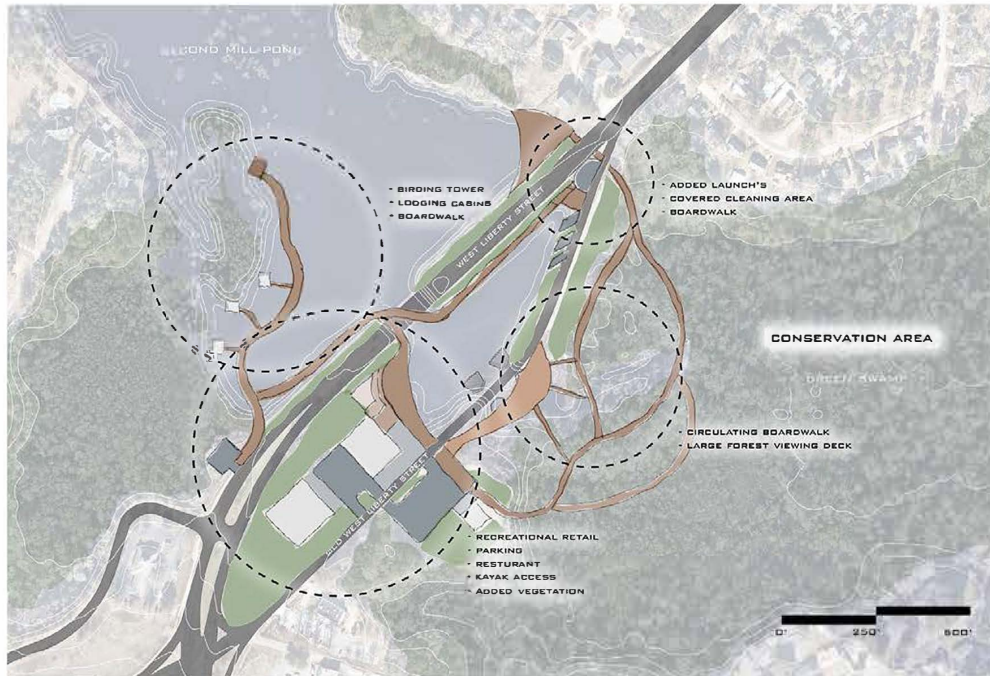
15

SITE PLAN (CONCEPT 2)



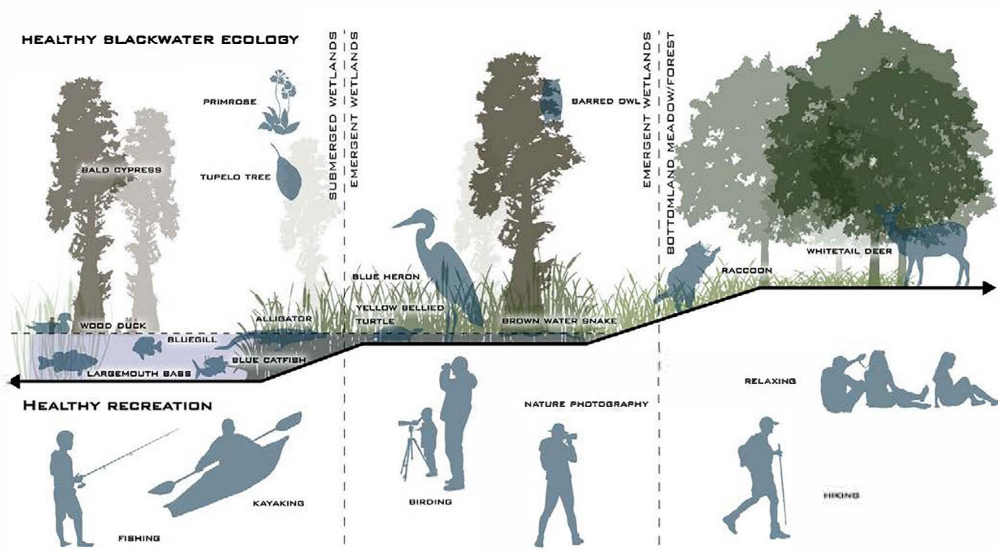
16

SITE PLAN (CONCEPT 3)



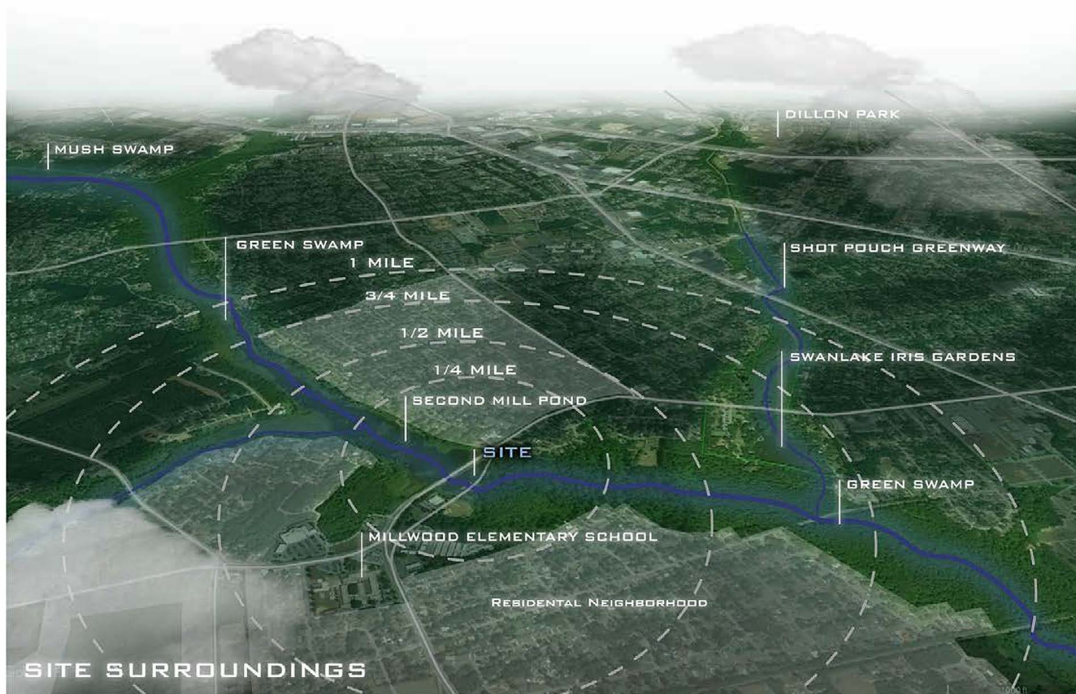
17

SITE ECOSYSTEM ANALYSIS REFINED



18

SITE SURROUNDINGS ANALYSIS REFINED



19

SITE MASTER PLAN



MASTER PLAN

20

RECREATION AREA SECTION ELEVATION



21

CREEK CROSSING PERSPECTIVE



22

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PERSPECTIVE



23

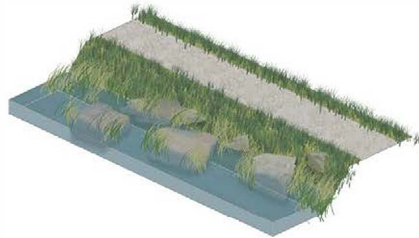
LOW-IMPACT PATH STRUCTURES MODEL SECTION



24

NATURAL PATH MODEL

NATURAL PATH



MATERIALS

GRAVEL
EDGING
ROCKS/BOULDERS

LOCATION

LAND
SHALLOW CREEKS

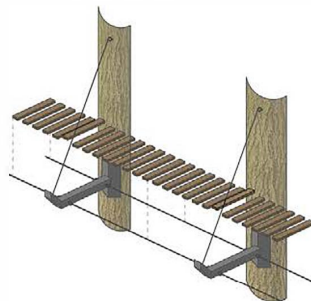
ELEVATION

FIXED

25

CABLE STRUCTURE PATH MODEL

CABLE STRUCTURE PATH



MATERIALS

WOOD
CABLE
FABRICATED STRUCTURE
STAINLESS STEEL HARDWARE

LOCATION

LAND
WATER

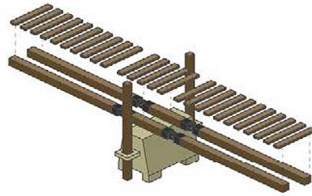
ELEVATION

ADJUSTABLE

26

PLASTIC STRUCTURE PATH MODEL

PLASTIC STRUCTURE PATH



MATERIALS

WOOD
MOLDED PLASTIC
COATED FABRICATED HARDWARE
STAINLESS STEEL HARDWARE

LOCATION

LAND
WATER

ELEVATION

ADAPTABLE

27

PATH SYSTEM PLAN

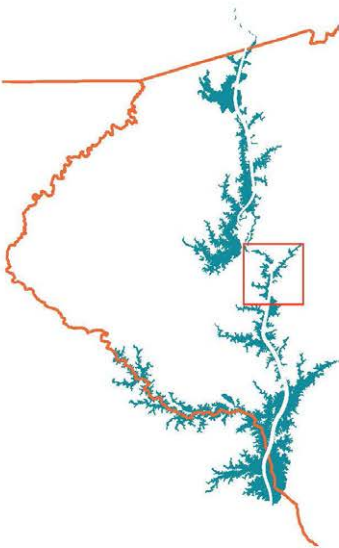


28



ESO LEVEE PARK
EXIT STUDIO SPRING 2024
RACHEL SNIDER

HISTORICAL RIVER MAPPING
1951



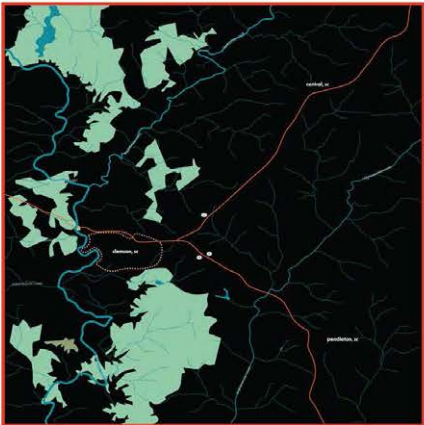
HISTORICALLY SENECA RIVER RAN THROUGH THIS AREA OF SOUTH CAROLINA, RUNNING ACROSS HIGHWAY 123 AND ADJACENT TO CLEMSON. SOUTH CAROLINA AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. ALSO IN CLOSE PROXIMITY IS THE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, AN AREA DESIGNATED BY CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND USE. WHAT USED TO BE A RIVER IS NOW LAKE HARTWELL, A MAN MADE LAKE USED TO REGULATE THE NEARBY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.



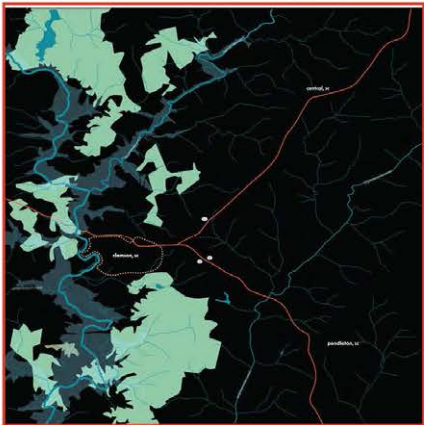
SENECA RIVER



CLEMSON, SC & HWY 123/26/78

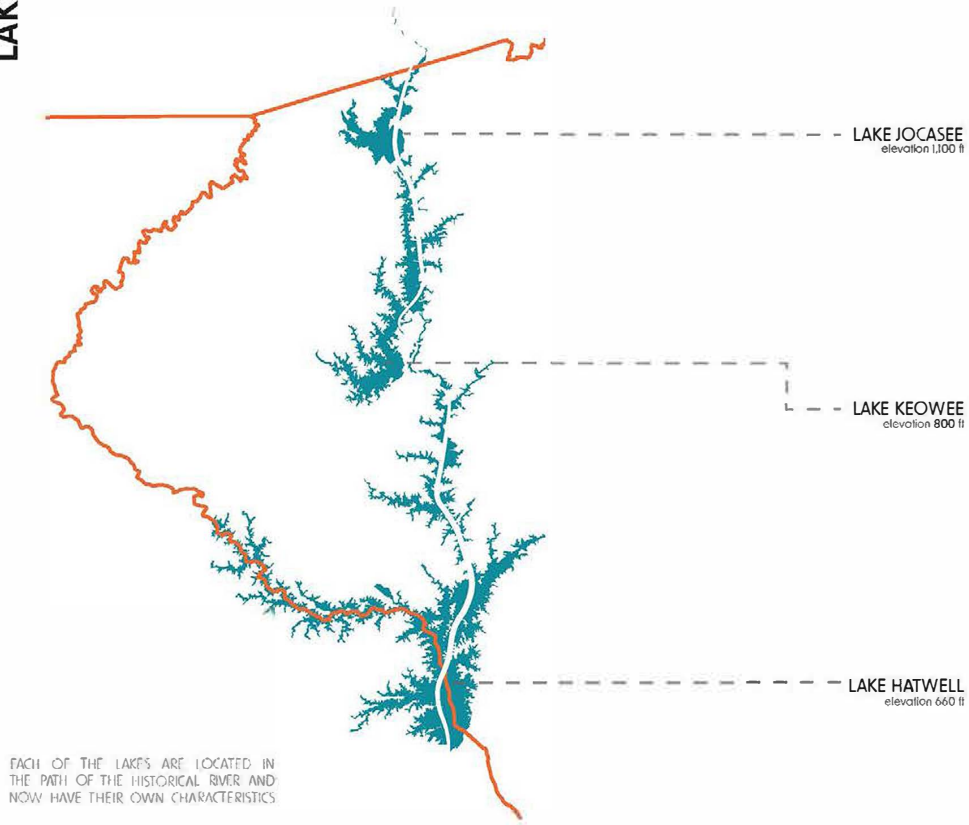


EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

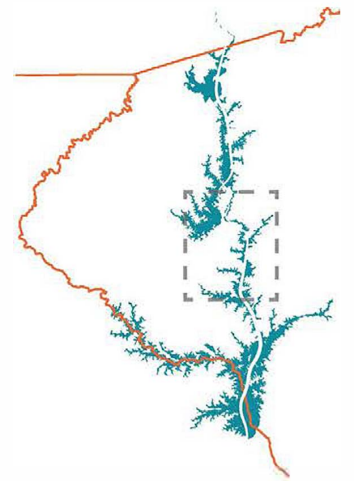
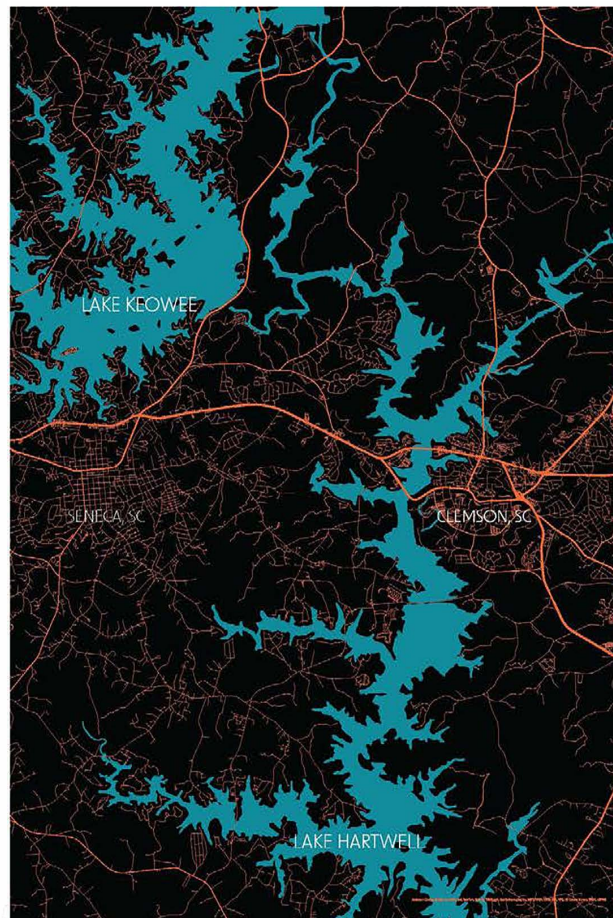


LAKE HARTWELL OVERLAY

CURRENT CONDITIONS LAKES



PROJECT CONTEXT SENECA AND CLEMSON, SC



CLEMSON, SC IS LOCATED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF LAKE KEOWEE AND LAKE HARTWELL

PROJECT CONTEXT LEVEES



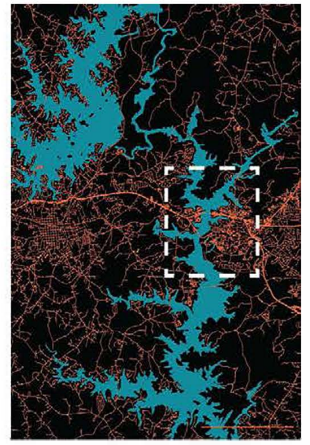
ESO LEVEE
length - 2,000 ft



ROWING DOCK LEVEE
length - 2,875 ft



GOLF COURSE LEVEE
length - 1,700 ft



ALONG THE PERIMETER OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY THERE ARE A SERIES OF LEVEES THAT ACT AS A PATH FOR MANY RUNNERS AND WALKERS. THIS LEVEE IS CONNECTED BUT SOME MAY NOT KNOW IT IF THEY ARE NOT LOOKING FOR IT. THERE IS OPPORTUNITY TO CAPITALIZE ON THESE CONNECTIONS BY MAKING THEM MORE CLEAR, SAFE, AND ACCESSIBLE.

PROJECT CONTEXT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



THE PROJECT SITE IS LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE FAMOUS ESSO CLUB, A POPULAR PLACE TO EAT, MEMORIAL STADIUM, WHERE CLEMSON PLAYS FOOTBALL, AND DOWNTOWN. THIS PROXIMITY TO POPULAR AREAS MEANS THE SITE WILL BE UTILIZED AND HAS POTENTIAL TO BE A MORE POPULAR DESTINATION.

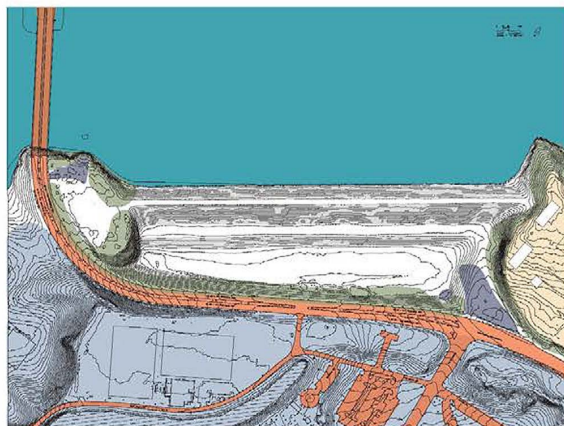
SITE INTENTORY

ESSO LEVEE



THE NATURE OF THE SITE IS EXTREMELY LINEAR WITH LARGE EXPANSES OF SPACE THAT PROVIDE INTERESTING VIEWS AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO FRAME THOSE VIEWS

WITHIN AND AROUND THE SITE ARE EXISTING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS WALKING RUNNING, ROTC TRAINING AND FISHING. AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, THIS SITE IS ALREADY IN RECREATIONAL USE, SO THE CHALLENGE IS TO ADD TO A SPACE WITHOUT TAKING AWAY FROM ITS CURRENT AND NATURAL APPEAL

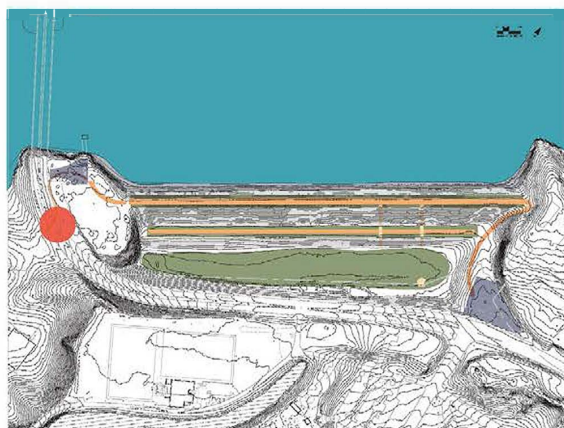


SURROUNDING SITE



WATCH SUNSET

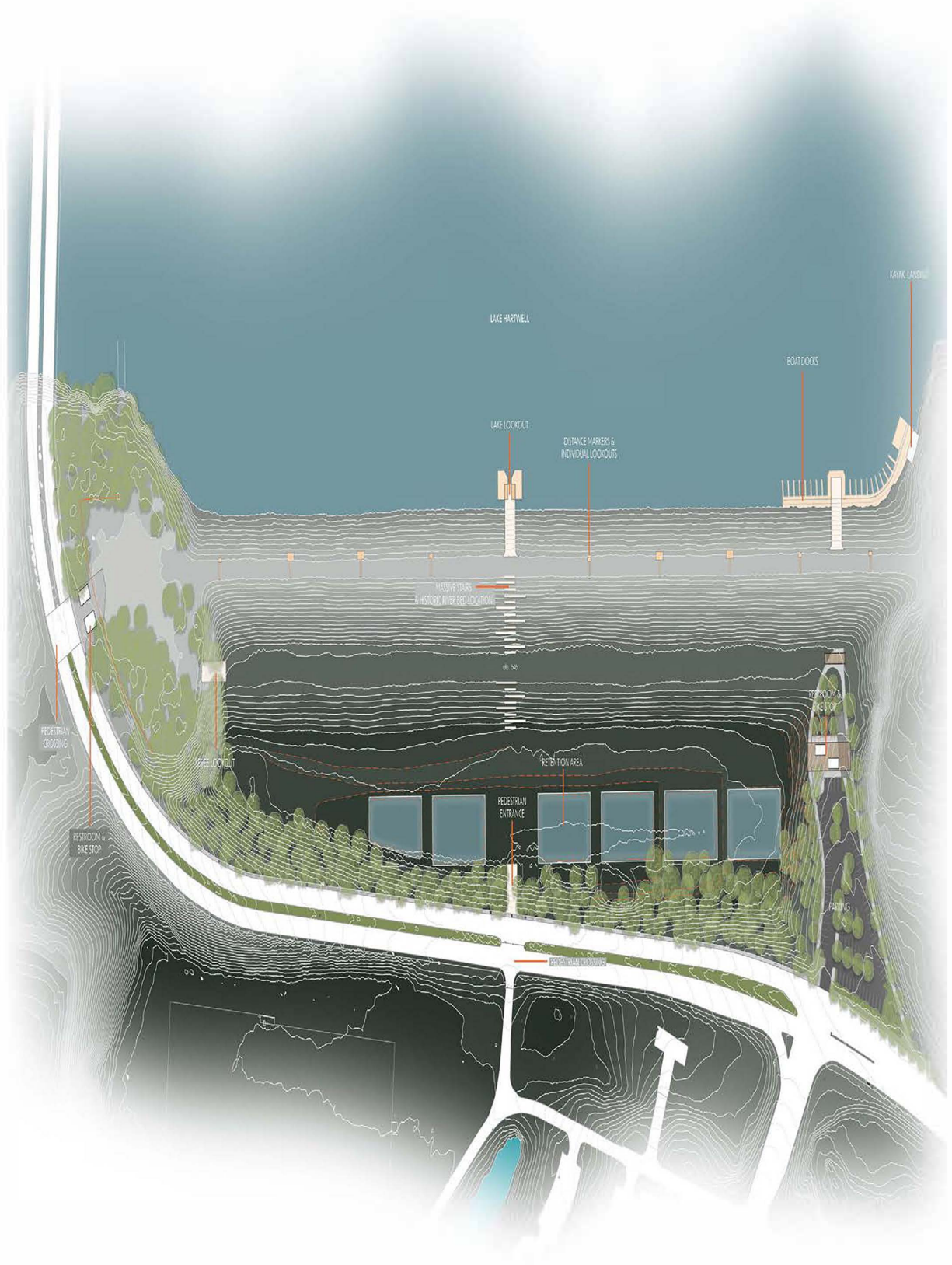
ANGER



WITHIN SITE

ESSO LEVEE PARK MASTER PLAN

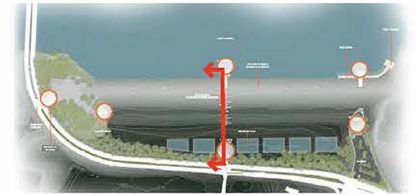
EXISTING DIKES AROUND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ARE HEAVILY UTILIZED BY STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND ATHLETES AS A PLACE TO WALK AND WORK OUT. HOWEVER THAT IS ALL THAT HAPPENS THERE. ALSO, THIS SITE HAS A HISTORY AS IT IS IN PLACE IN ORDER TO KEEP CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FROM GOING UNDER WATER. HISTORICALLY THERE WAS A RIVER THAT RAN DIRECTLY THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE SITE. THIS SITE HAS SO MUCH POTENTIAL AND HAS A STORY TO TELL. THIS PROJECT WAS DONE IN HOPES OF MAINTAINING THE SITE'S EXISTING CHARACTER AND DRAW, WHILE ALSO EMPHASIZING THOSE ASPECTS WITH SIMPLE, YET LARGE INTERVENTIONS.



ESSO LEVEE PARK SECTIONS & STRUCTURES

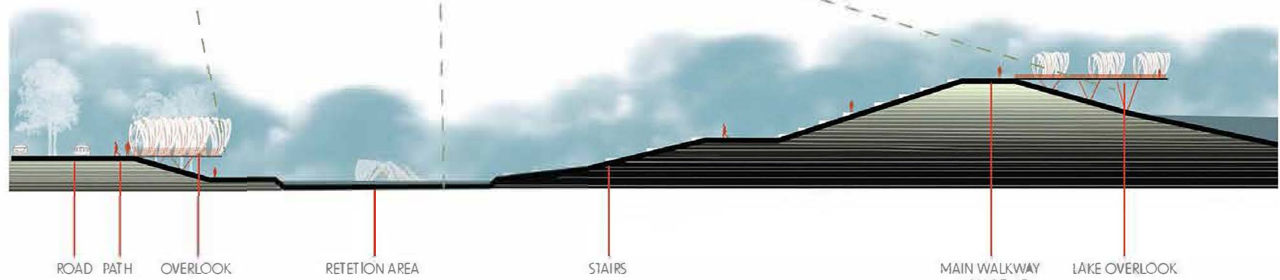
STRUCTURES

LARGE SCALE STRUCTURES INTENDED TO PROVIDE A VIEWPORT FOR PEDESTRIANS TO SEE THE SITE IN A NEW WAY. THEY DIRECT VISITORS' EYES TOWARDS THE LINEAR NATURE OF THE SITE AND TO THE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE LAKE.

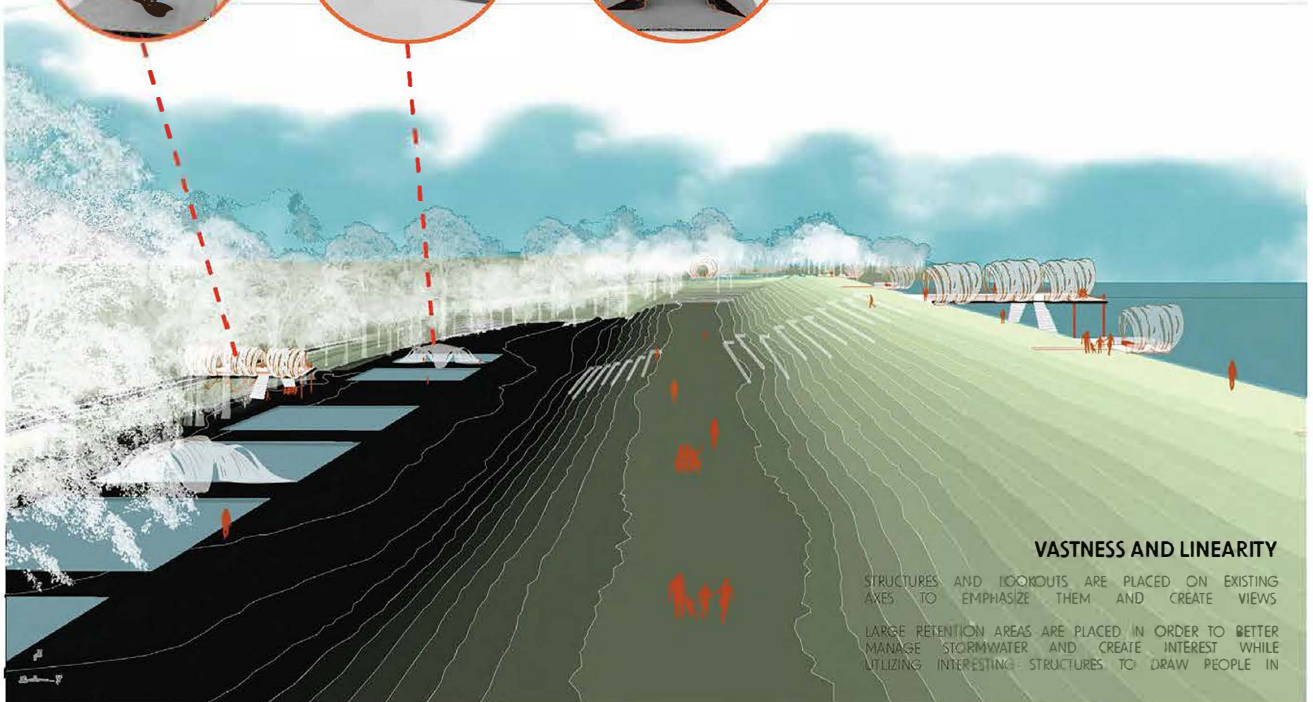


ROAD TO LAKE

A NEW PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE FROM THE ROAD TO THE SITE THAT BRING PEOPLE IN FROM A NEW Vantage POINT THAT IS CENTERED ON THE LAKE LOOK OUT. LARGE SCALE STAIRS ARE LOCATED WHERE THE HISTORIC RIVER BED USED TO RUN. THESE LARGE SCALE STAIRS RESPOND TO THE SIZE OF THE SITE.



ESSO LEVEE PARK PERSPECTIVE

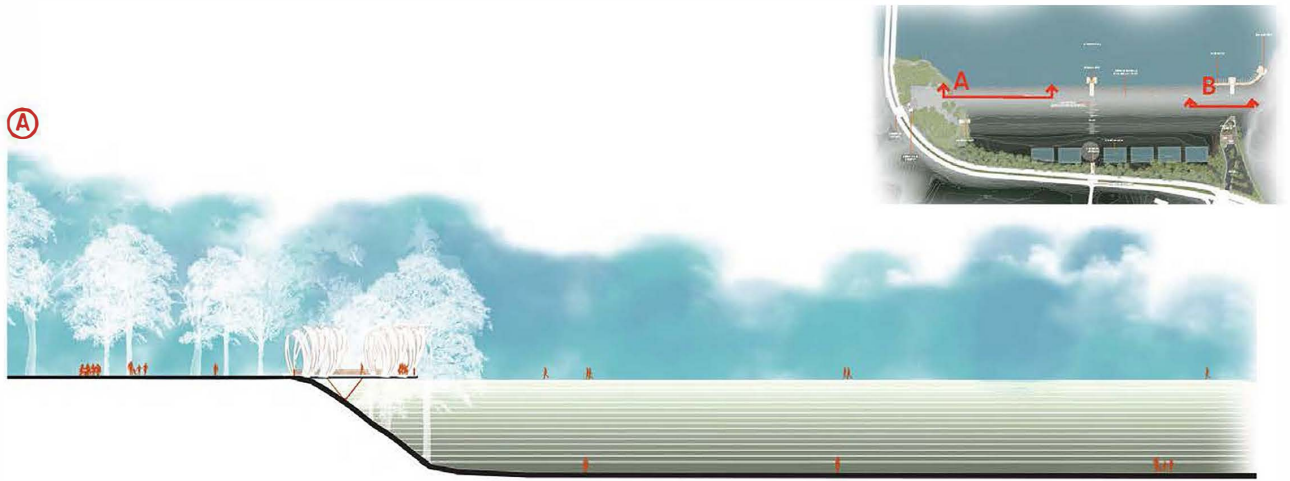


VASTNESS AND LINEARITY

STRUCTURES AND LOOKOUTS ARE PLACED ON EXISTING AXES TO EMPHASIZE THEM AND CREATE VIEWS.

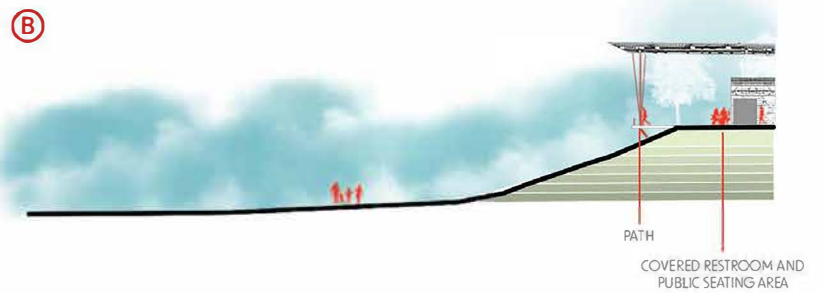
LARGE RETENTION AREAS ARE PLACED IN ORDER TO BETTER MANAGE STORMWATER AND CREATE INTEREST WHILE UTILIZING INTERESTING STRUCTURES TO DRAW PEOPLE IN.

ESSO LEVEE PARK SECTION



SECTIONS

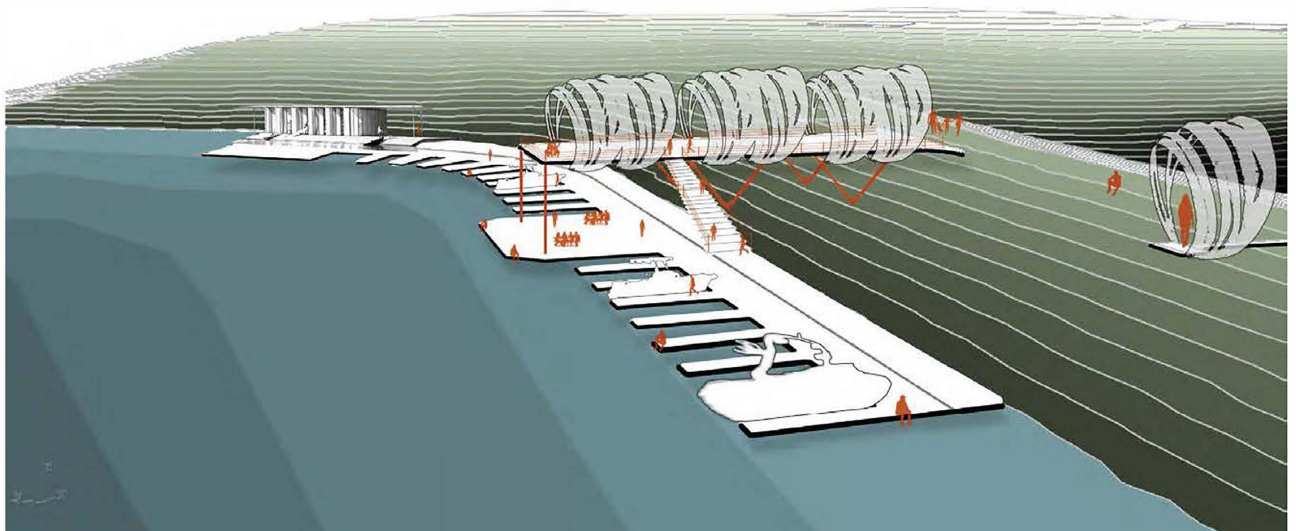
A SERIES OF NODES THAT CAPITALIZE EMPHASIZE ON SITE VASTNESS AND LINEARITY. THESE AREAS PROVIDE VIEWS OF THE SITE AND LAKE



ESSO LEVEE PARK PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVE | BOAT DOCK AND KAYAK SHELTER

BOAT DOCKS AND KAYAK SHELTER AREA ALLOW THIS PART OF THE SITE TO BE A PLACE OF WHERE PEOPLE CAN COME BY WATER TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE SITE ITSELF AND THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

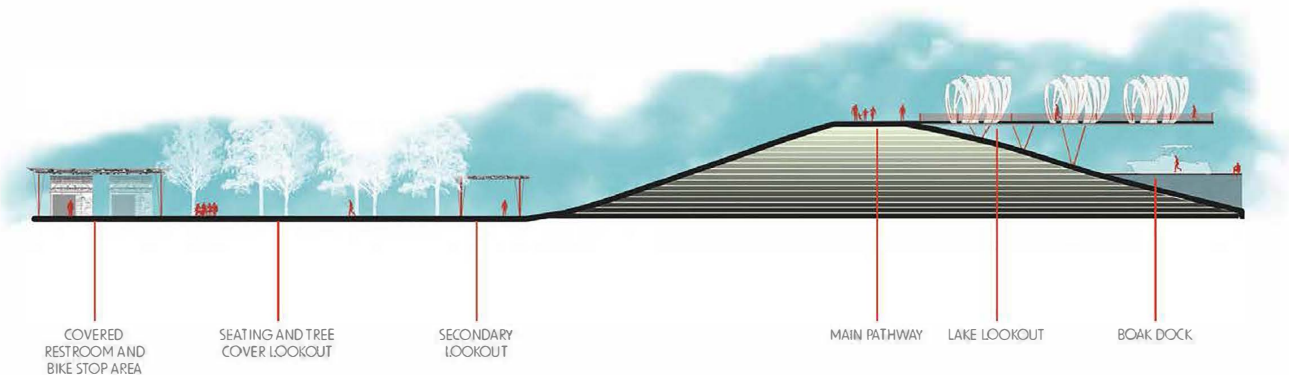


ESSO LEVEE PARK

SECTION

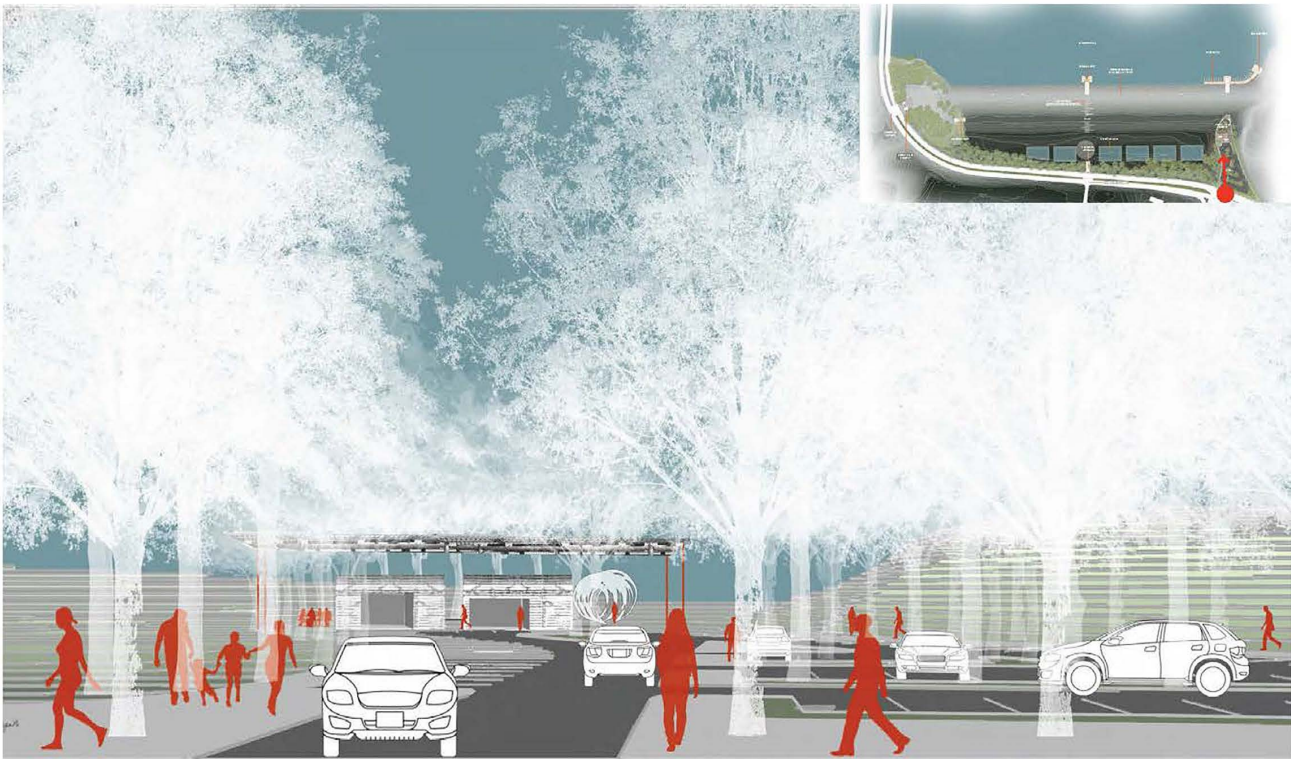
SECTION | RESTROOM AREA TO BOAT DOCK

THE RESTROOM AND SEATING AREA AREA IN LINE WITH THE LOOKOUT AND BOAT DOCK AREA THIS STEMS FROM THE LINEAR NATURE OF THE SITE WITH SEVERAL LINEAR AXES ALREADY EXISTING ON THE SITE. FROM THE SEATING AND RESTROOM AREA SPECTATORS CANNOT SEE THE WATER BUT THE LOOKOUT IS VISIBLE THIS WILL SPARK INTEREST AND GIVE REASON TO GO UP THERE AND FULLY EXPERIENCE THE SITE.



ESSO LEVEE PARK

PERSPECTIVE



PERSPECTIVE | NEW PARKING ENTRANCE

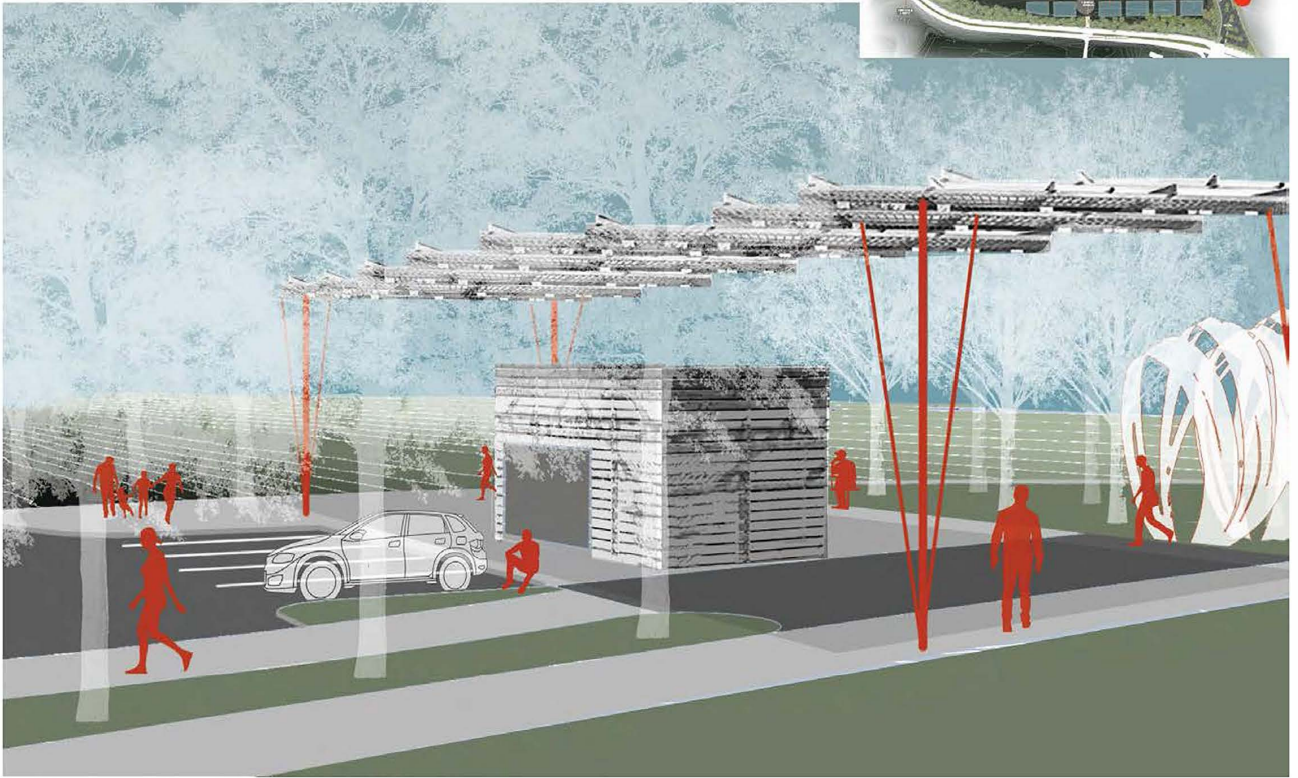
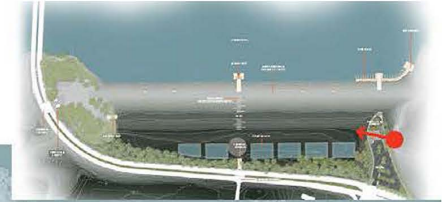
NEWLY DESIGNED PARKING LOT INVITES VISITORS TO A MORE ORGANIZED AND POINT

ESSO LEVEE PARK

PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVE | RESTROOM AND SITE ENTRANCE

A FORMALIZED ENTRY WITH A RESTROOM AND BIKE STOP WITH COVERED AREA FOR SITTING AND DOING PASSIVE ACTIVITY. THIS IS THE NEW DROP OFF AREA FOR VISITORS AS WELL



ESSO LEVEE PARK

RETENTION AREAS

SHRUBS



JAPANESE ACUBA
ACUBA JAPONICA



SWEETSHRUB
CALYCANTHUS FLORIDUS



INKBERRY HOLLY
ILEX OPACA

TREES



RIVER BIRCH
BETULA NIGRA



FLOWERING DOGWOOD
CORNUS FLORIDA



AMERICAN HOLLY
ILEX OPACA

GRASSES



SWEETFLAG
ACORUS GRAMINEUS



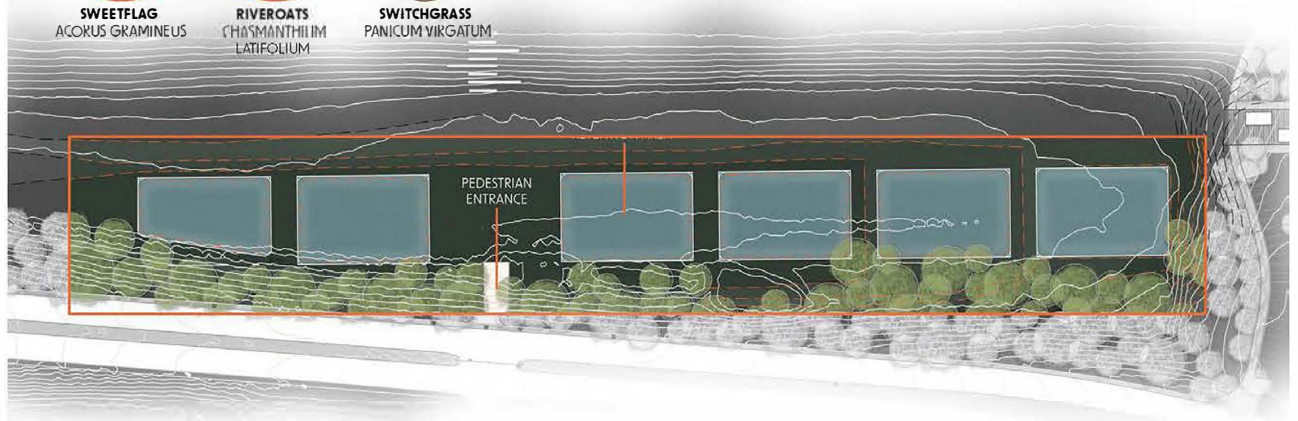
RIVEROATS
CHASMANTHIUM LATIFOLIUM

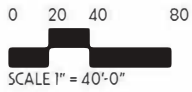


SWITCHGRASS
PANICUM VIRGATUM

RETENTION AREAS

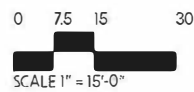
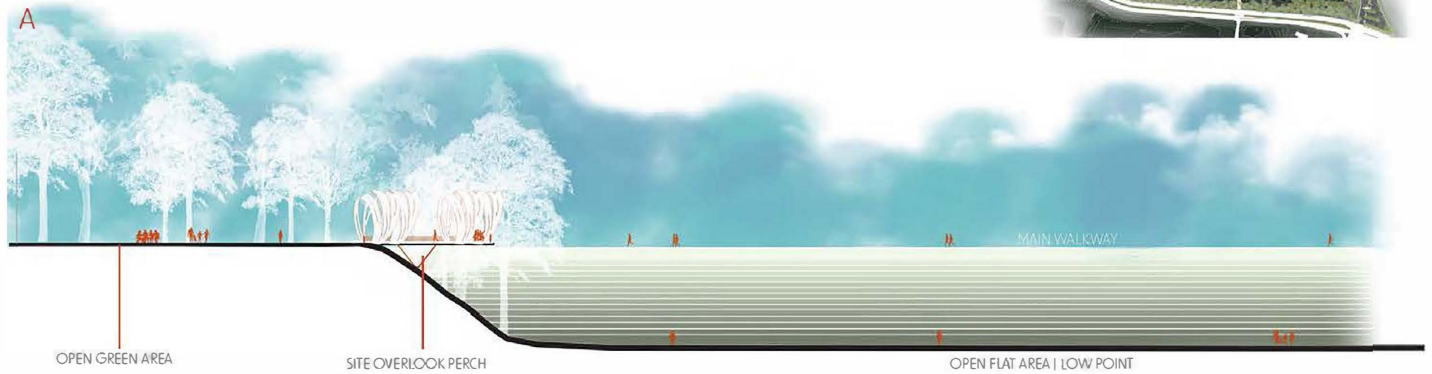
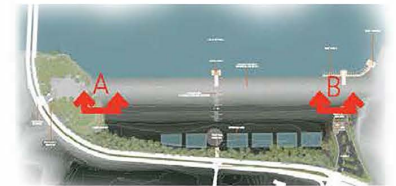
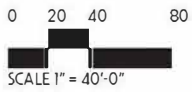
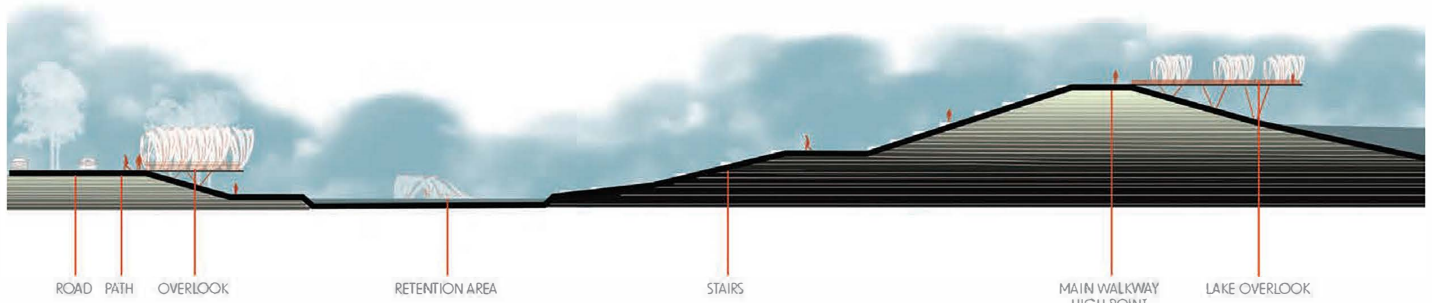
LARGE SCALE RETENTION AREAS WILL ALLOW THE SITE TO HAVE BETTER STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY TO THE SITE



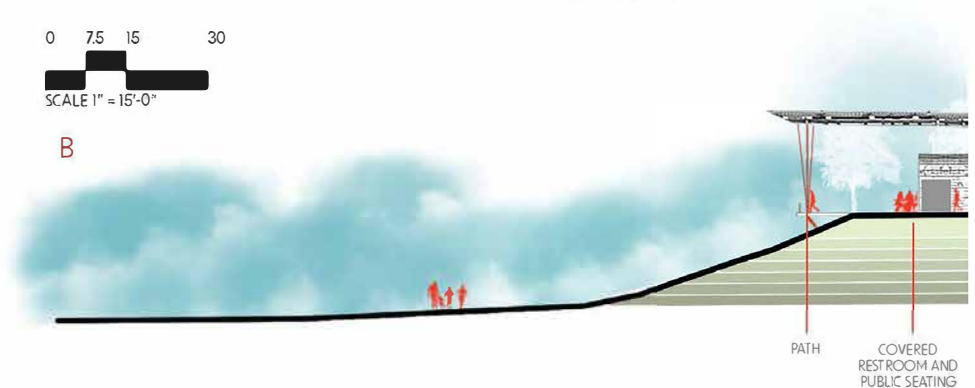


ROAD TO LAKE

A NEW PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE FROM THE ROAD TO THE SITE THAT BRING PEOPLE IN FROM A NEW VANTAGE POINT THAT IS CENTERED ON THE LAKE LOOK OUT
LARGE SCALE STAIRS ARE LOCATED WHERE THE HISTORIC RIVER BED USED TO RUN, THESE LARGE SCALE STAIRS RESPOND TO THE SIZE OF THE SITE



B

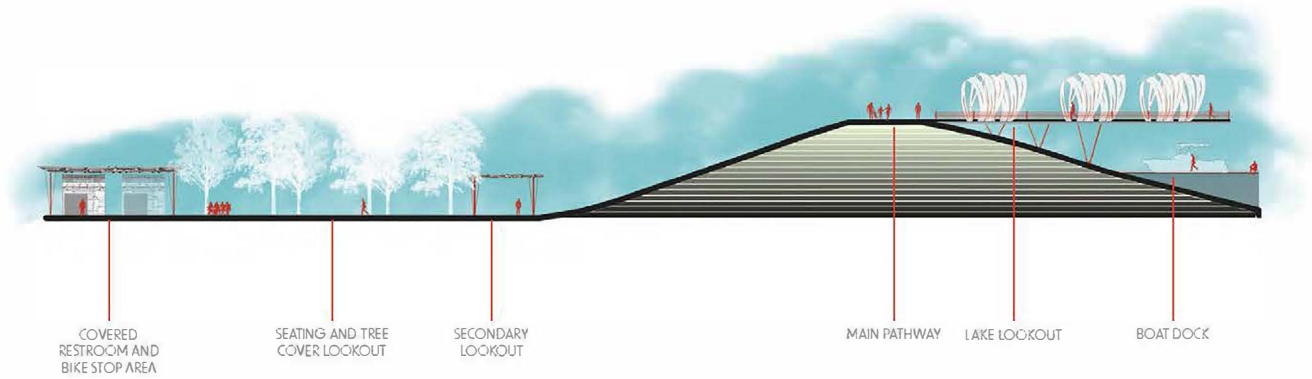


SECTIONS

A SERIES OF NODES THAT CAPITALIZE EMPHASIZE ON SITE VASTNESS AND LINEARITY. THESE AREAS PROVIDE VIEWS OF THE SITE AND LAKE

SECTION | RESTROOM AREA TO BOAT DOCK

THE RESTROOM AND SEATING AREA ARE IN LINE WITH THE LOOKOUT AND BOAT DOCK AREA. THIS STEMS FROM THE LINEAR NATURE OF THE SITE WITH SEVERAL LINEAR AXES ALREADY EXISTING ON THE SITE. FROM THE SEATING AND RESTROOM AREA SPECTATORS CANNOT SEE THE WATER BUT THE LOOKOUT IS VISIBLE. THIS WILL SPARK INTEREST AND GIVE REASON TO GO UP THERE AND FULLY EXPERIENCE THE SITE.



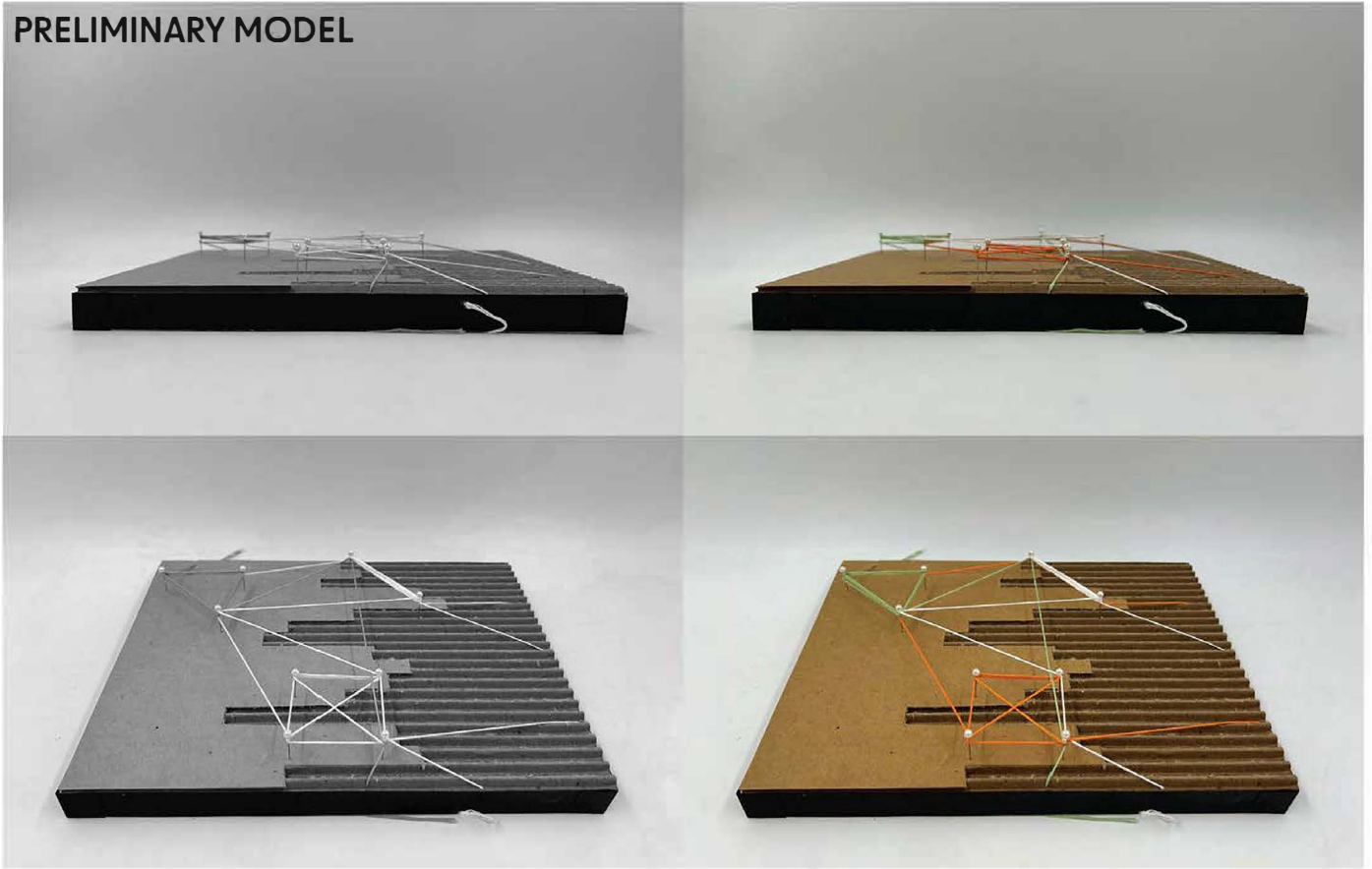
ESSO LEVEE PARK

MODEL DOCUMENTATION

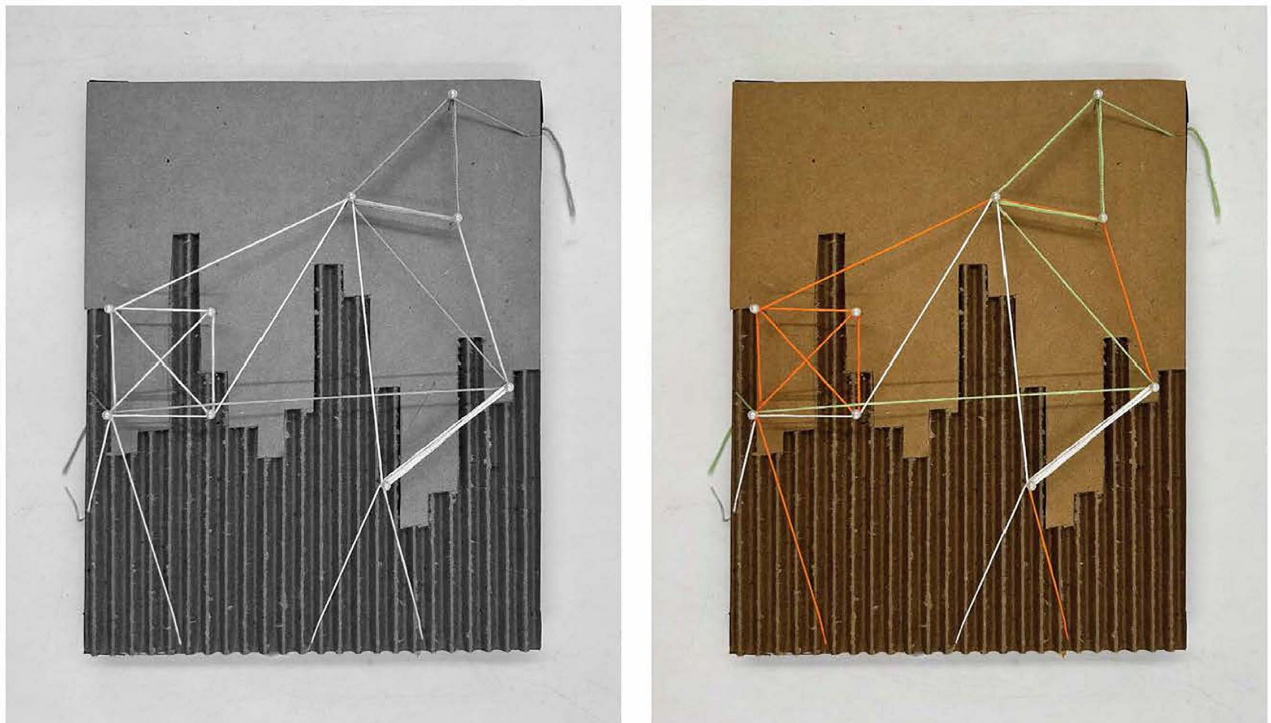
RACHEL SNIDER

EXIT STUDIO SPRING 2024

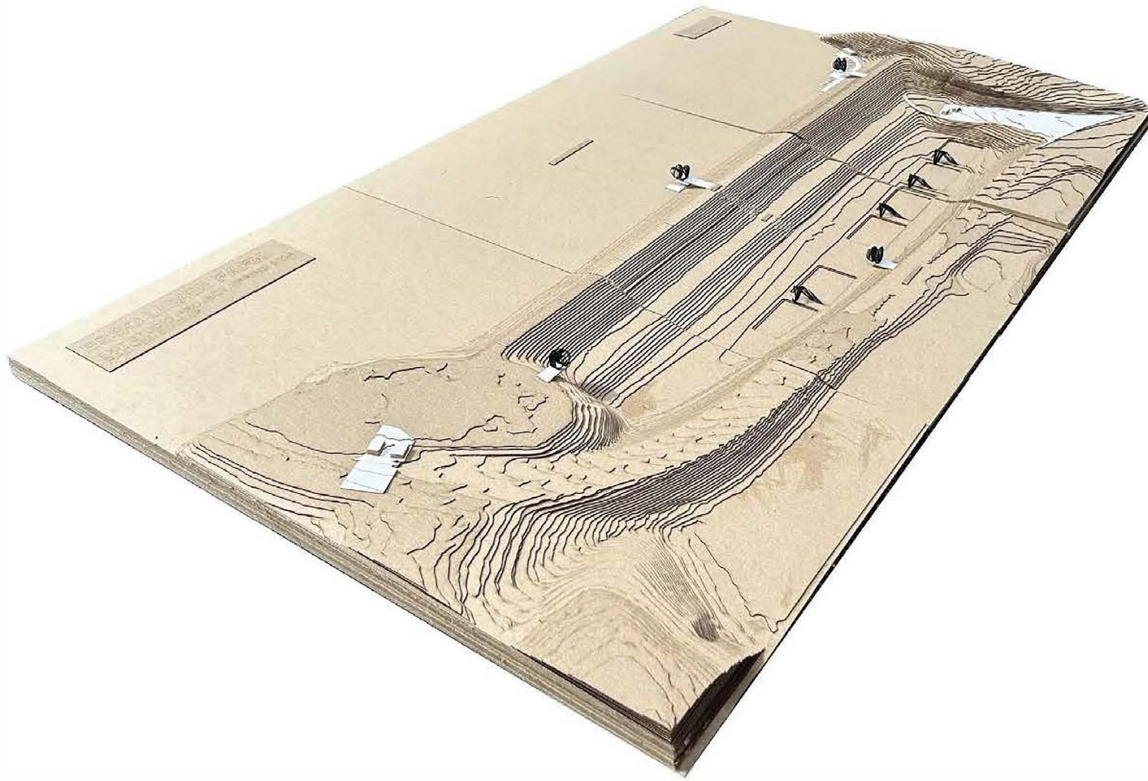
PRELIMINARY MODEL



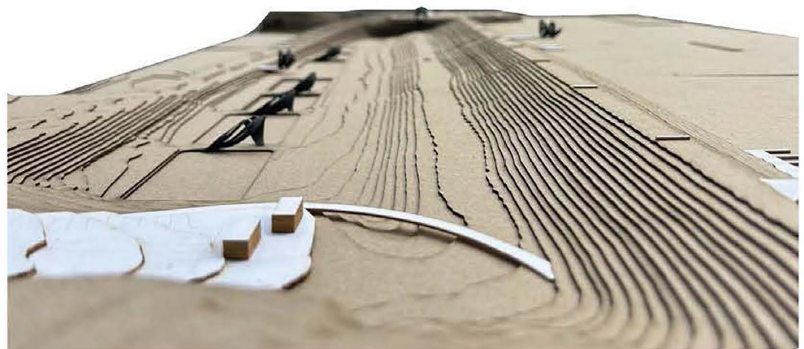
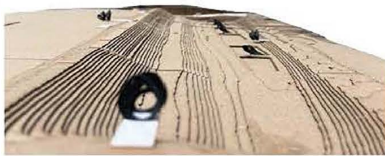
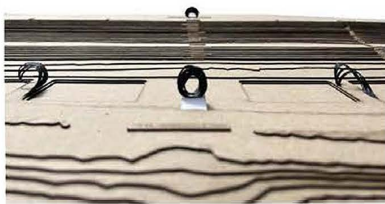
PRELIMINARY MODEL



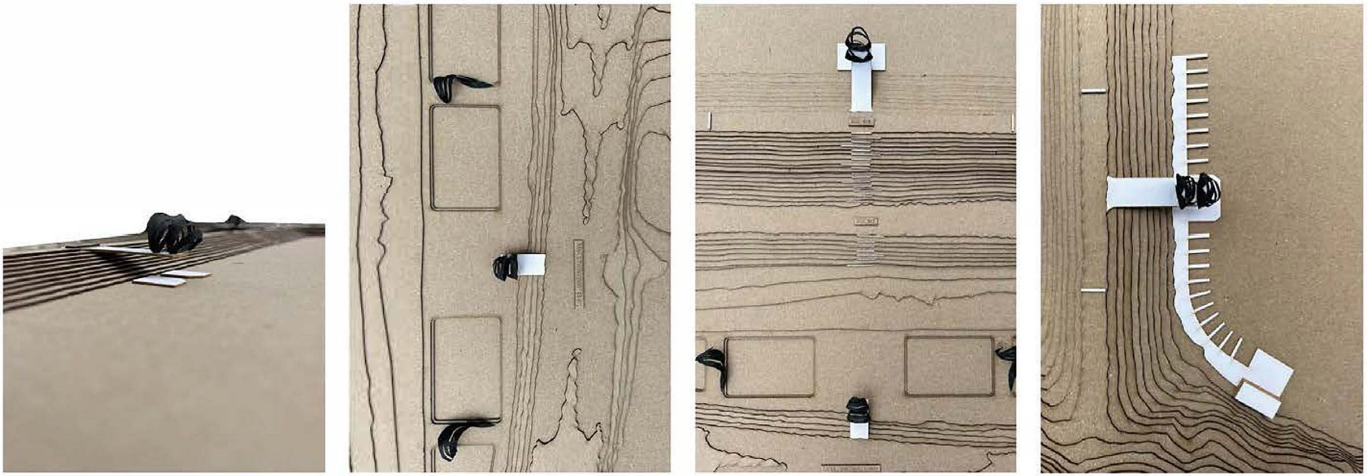
FINAL MODEL



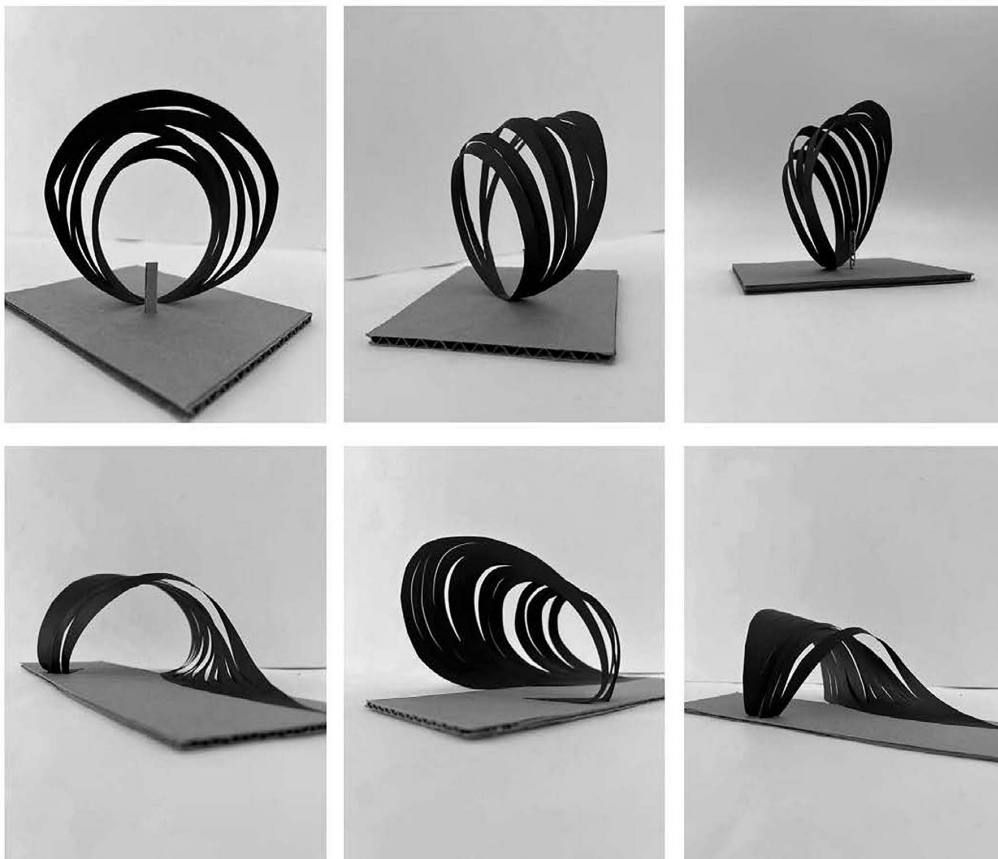
FINAL MODEL

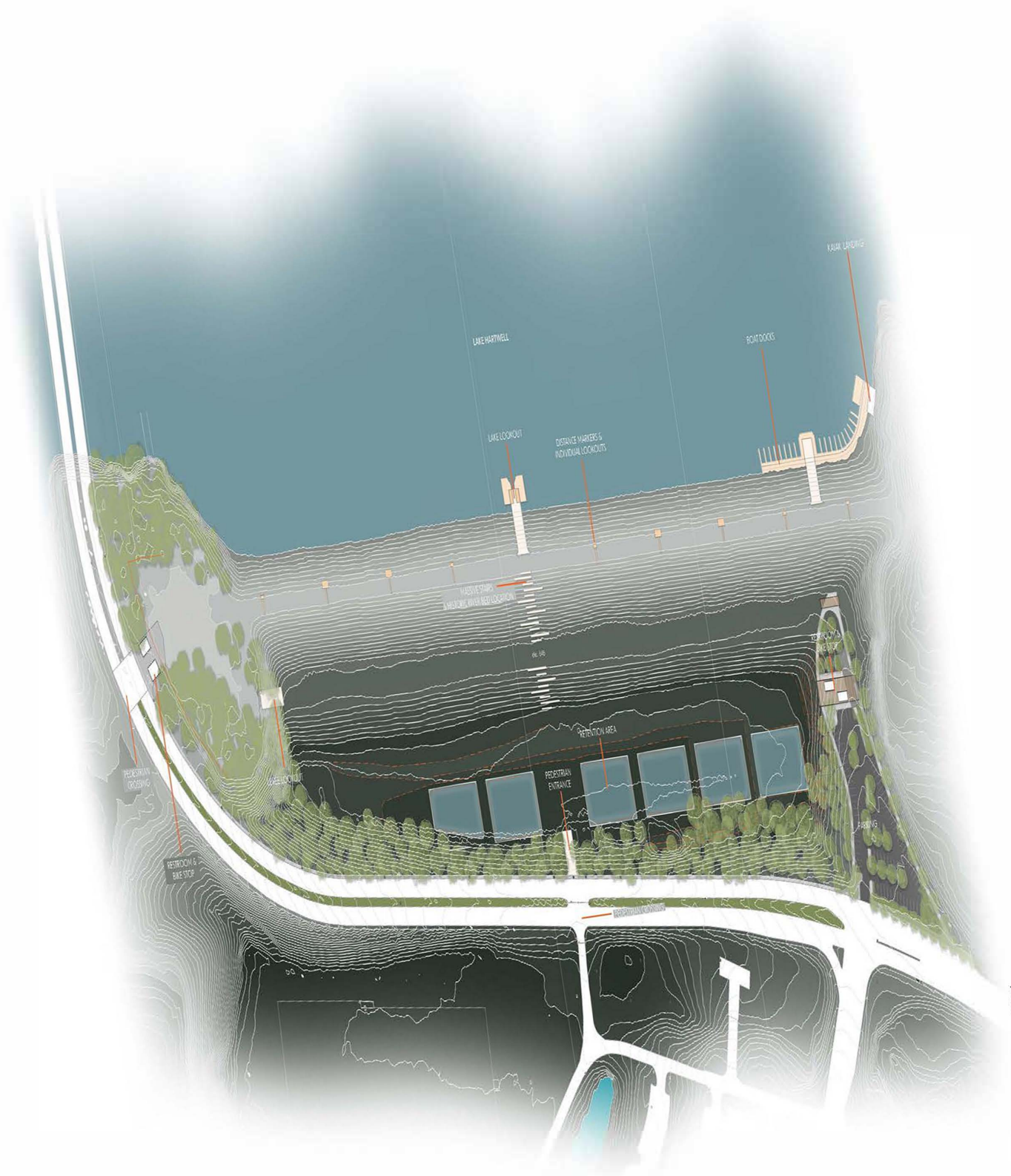


FINAL MODEL



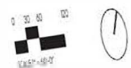
STRUCTURE STUDY





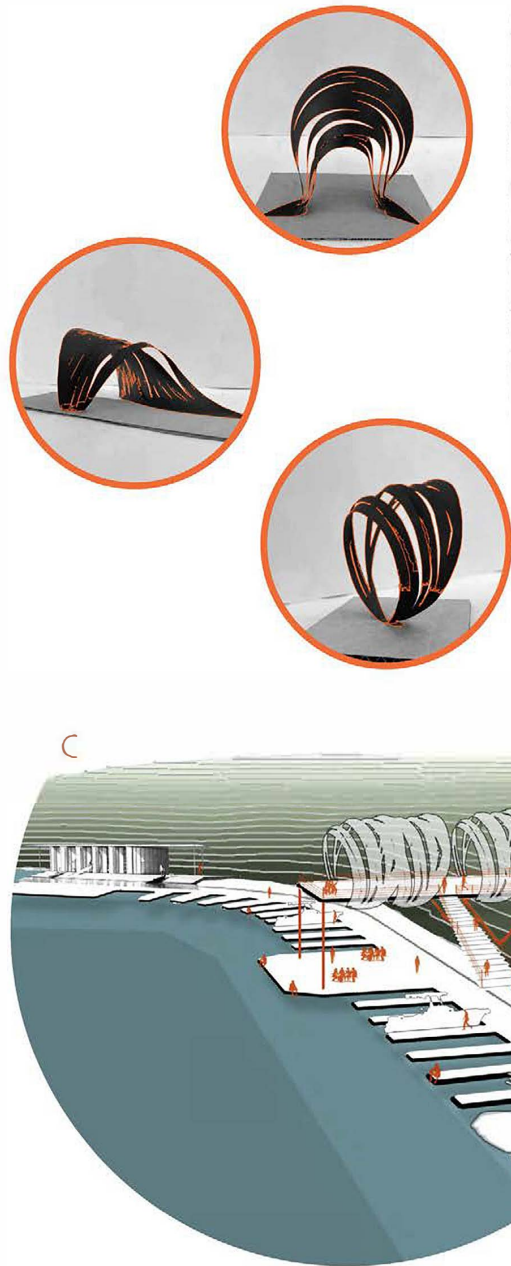
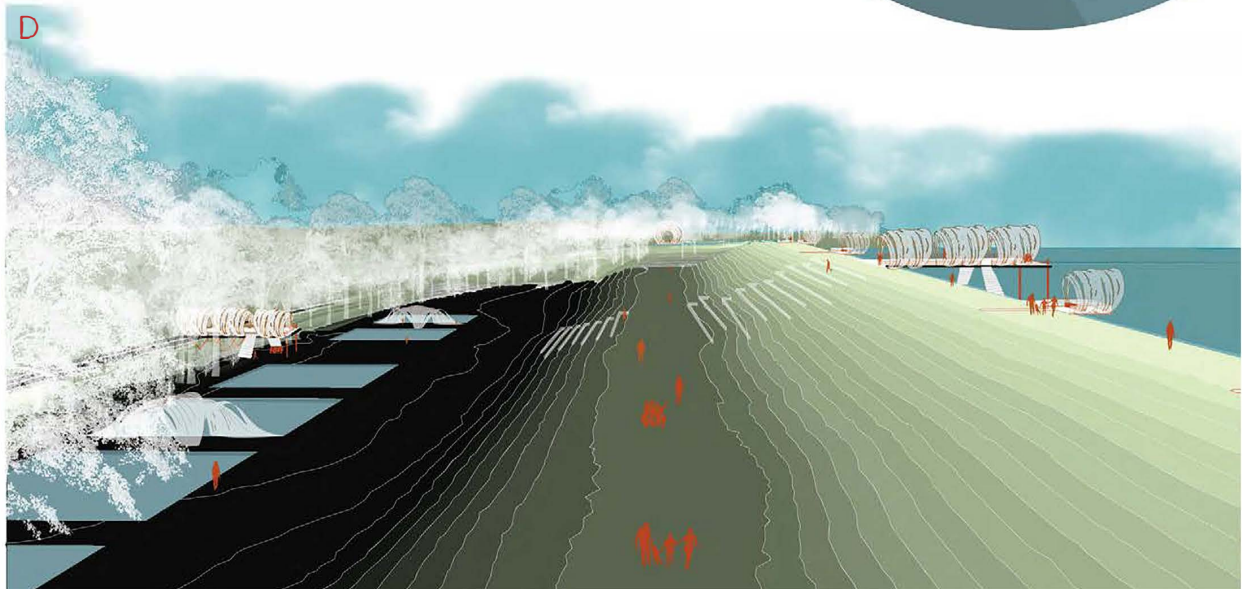
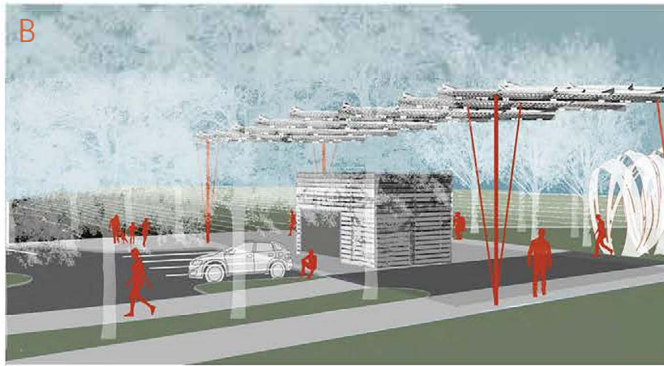
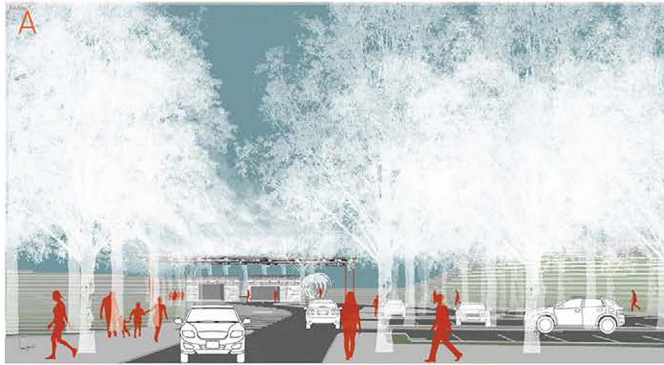
ESO LEVEE PARK MASTER PLAN

SITE REIMAGINED WITH SIMPLE SITE LOOK OUTS AND RETENTION AREAS THAT EMPHASIZE SITE MAGNITUDE AND VASTNESS, CREATING A NEW EXPERIENCE AND TELLING THE STORY OF THE SITE. STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT ARE MASSIVE AND INTEND TO CREATE VIEWPORTS TO SEE THE SITE ITSELF AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, ALLOWING VISITORS TO TRULY CAPTURE THE SITE AND ITS VASTNESS.



RACHEL SNIDER | SPRING EXIT STUDIO 2024

ESSO LEVEE PARK PERSPECTIVES



RACHEL SNIDER | SPRING EXIT STUDIO 2024

STUDENT WORK MEDIUM

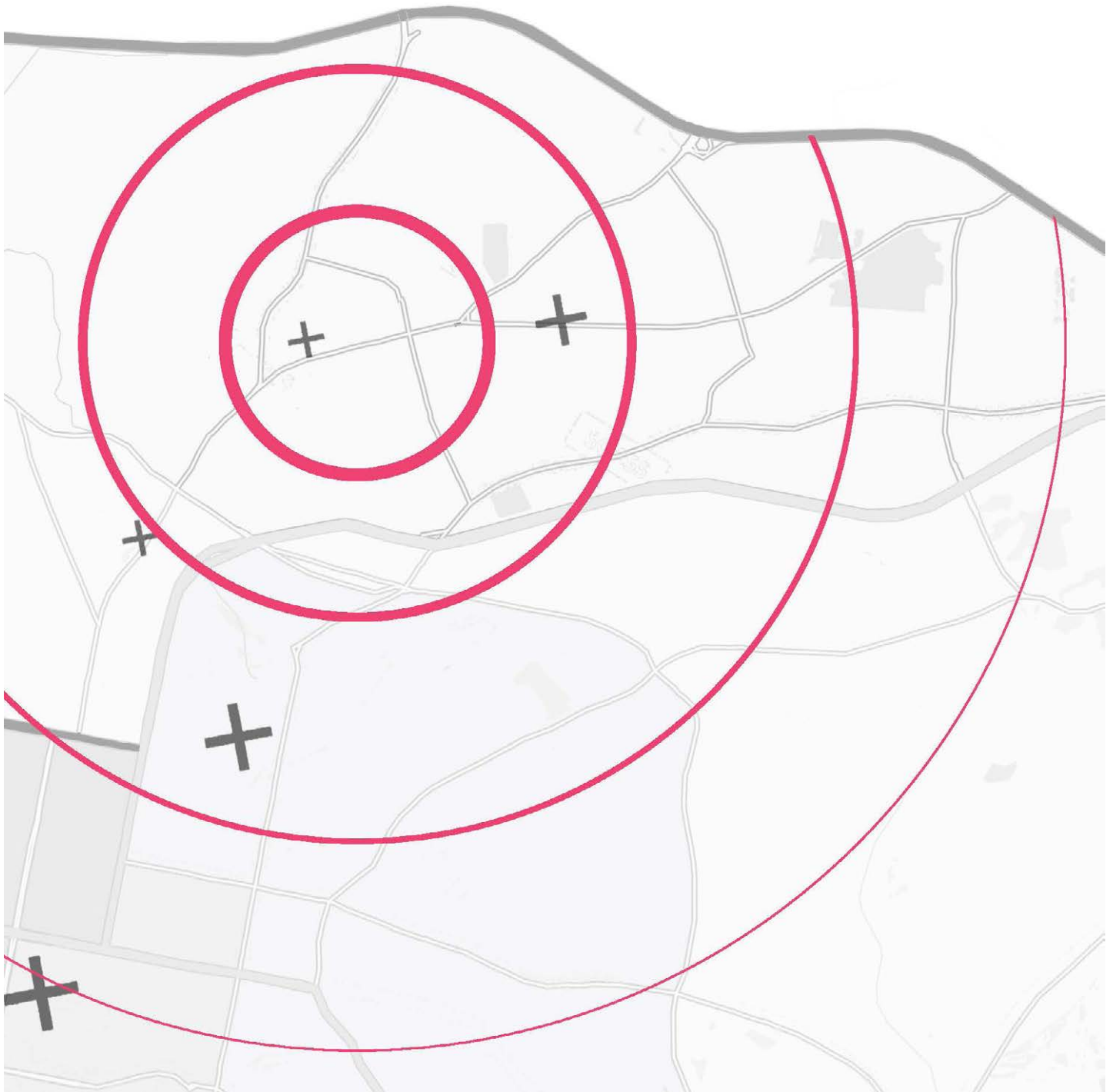
Revenant Backbone: an exhaustive vitalization of North Main

John Carter

LARC 4550 Exit Studio

Dr. Mary G. Padua, RLA

14 December 2022



Content

Initial Investigation

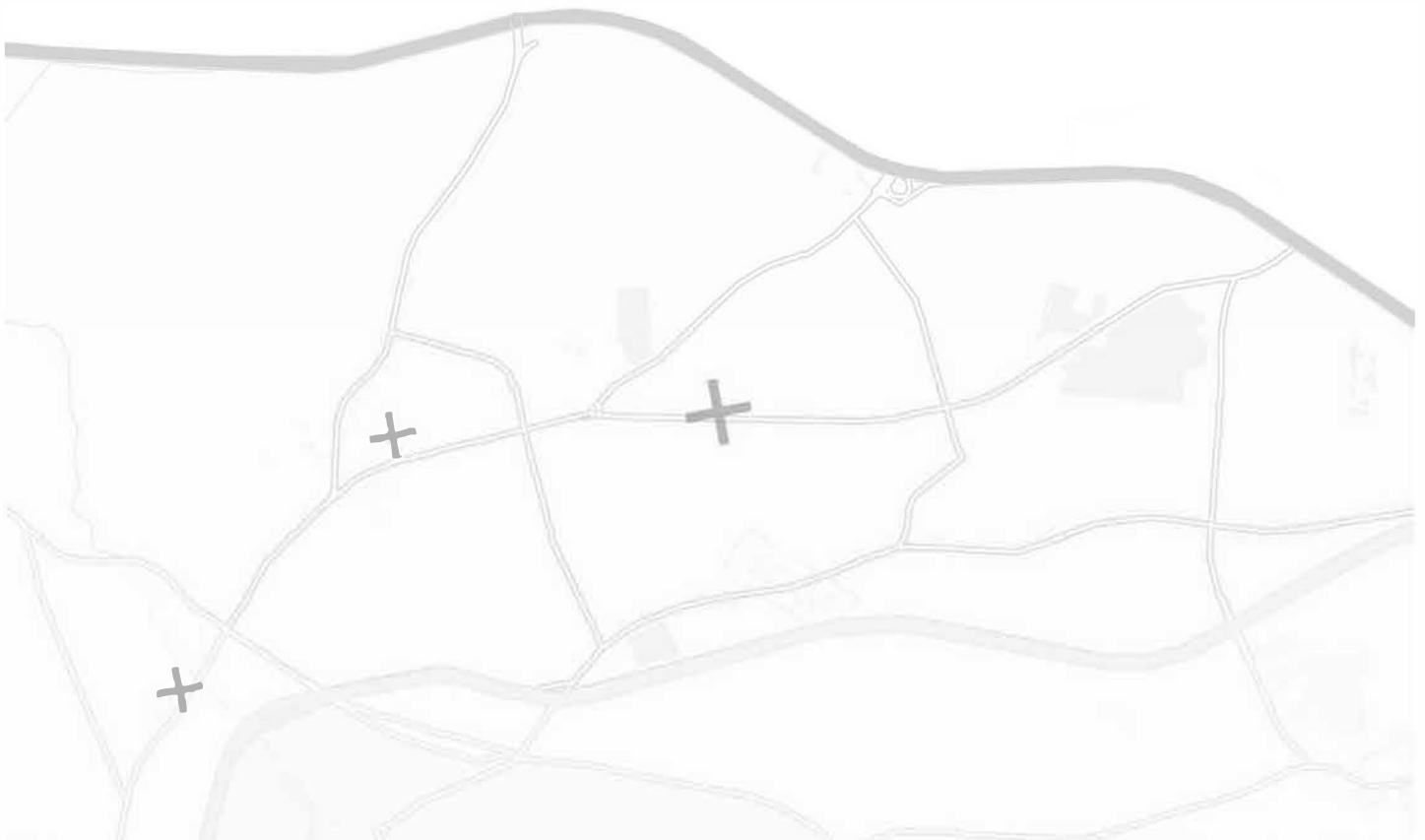
location
research
precedent

Design Development

interim
mid term
process

Final Production

final boards



Initial Investigation

Project Location



The project is located in Columbia, South Carolina along the North Main Street Corridor. The final design began at Hyatt Park and concluded at Columbia College. Shown above is the project site's relation to the rest of Columbia. The primary entry node of the site is illustrated by the red circles labeled "project area."

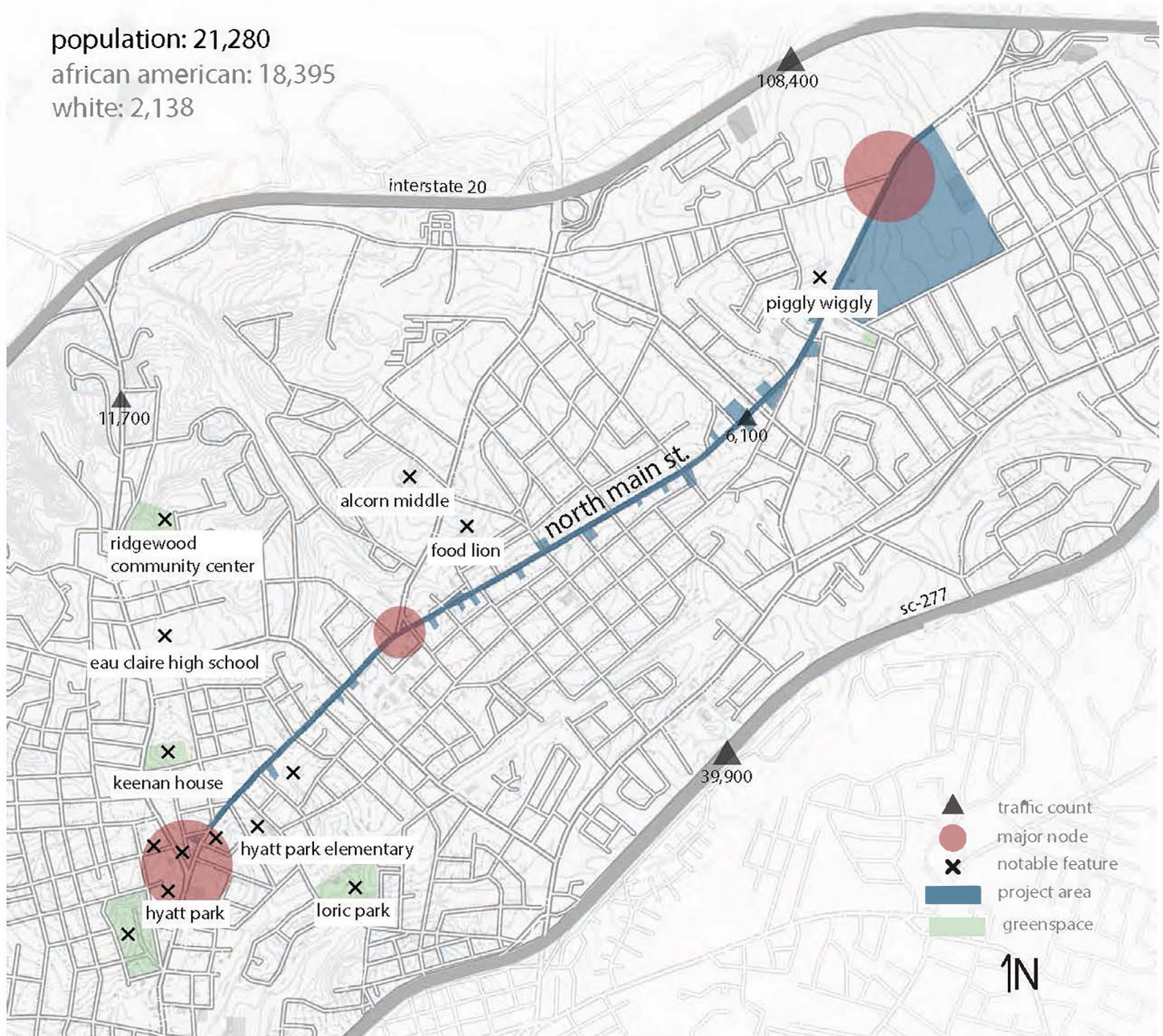
Initial Investigation

Project Location

population: 21,280

african american: 18,395

white: 2,138



The original project scope encompassed a span of North Main Street from Hyatt Park to the Mason Road intersection. Three primary nodes are located within this stretch, as well two grocery stores, two schools, and a fire department. Nearby traffic counts were also researched in order to identify any opportunity regarding lane reduction along North Main Street. North Main is currently a 35 mph four lane road. However, the traffic counts of similar nearby roads are much higher than that of North Main. North Main is a comparatively low travelled road with opportunity to host a streetscape project.

Initial Investigation

Research

zoning



- multi-family residential
- single family residential
- industry
- commercial
- school
- rural
- north main street

bus stops



- on-site bus stop
- off-site bus stop

existing / future projects



- completed revitalization project
- planned revitalization project
- north main street

sun movement



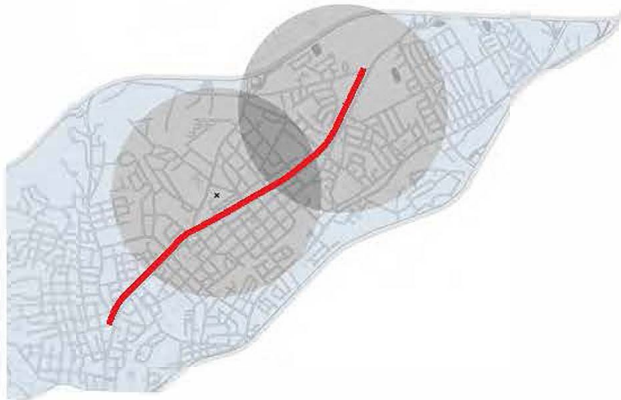
- sunrise
- sunset
- sun path
- north main street

Zoning reveals existing land uses which is an important consideration for a streetscape. Bus travel is the most popular mode of transport for the community and will need to be continually considered. Revitalization has begun at different areas of the community, but there is no connectivity between these projects.

Initial Investigation

Community Challenges

food insecurity



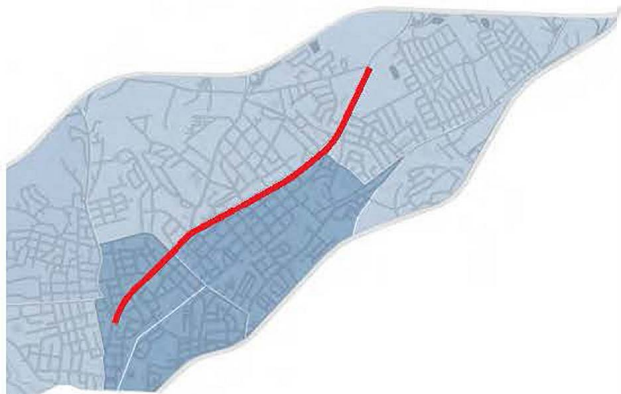
— north main street
 light blue USDA food desert
 grey within 1 mi. of grocery store

high poverty



— north main street
 dark blue highest
 light blue lowest

high crime



— north main street
 dark blue highest
 light blue lowest

lack of greenspace



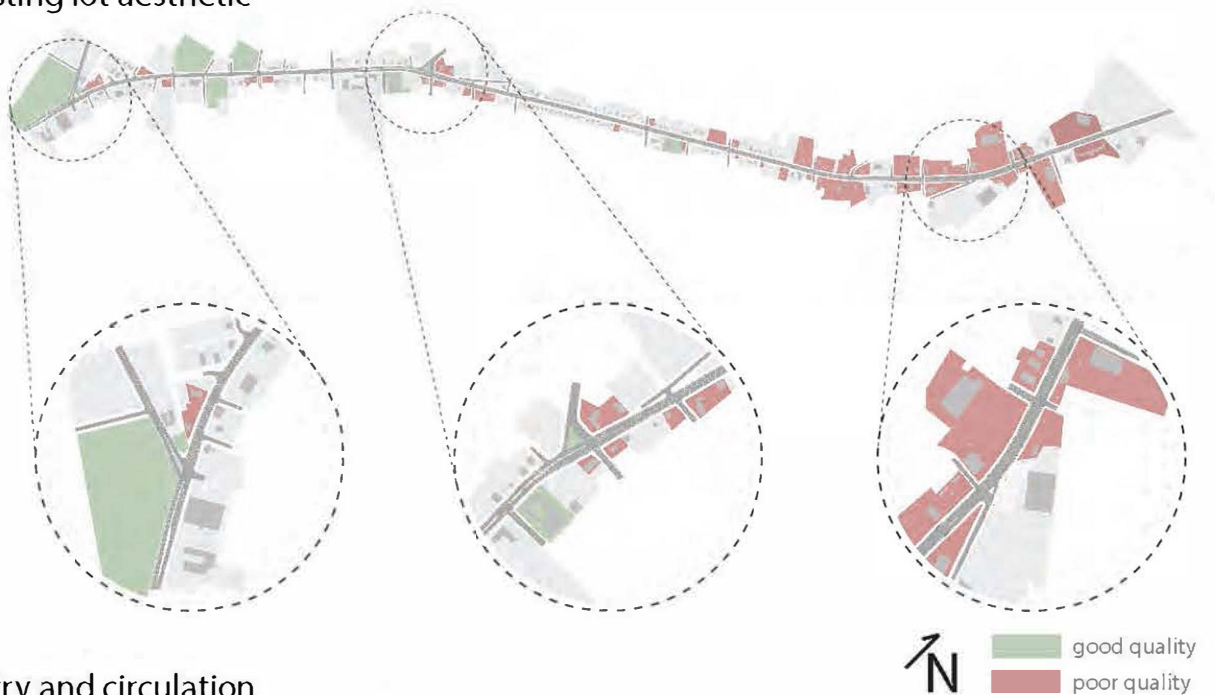
— north main street
 dark blue greenspace
 grey within 1 mi. of greenspace

The North Main community currently experiences many challenges. Residents have a lower income than 77% of the US population. Their crime index of 482 is considered much higher than average. Over half of North Main's residents have little access to grocery stores and/or greenspace. However, all of these issues can be mitigated through Landscape Architecture.

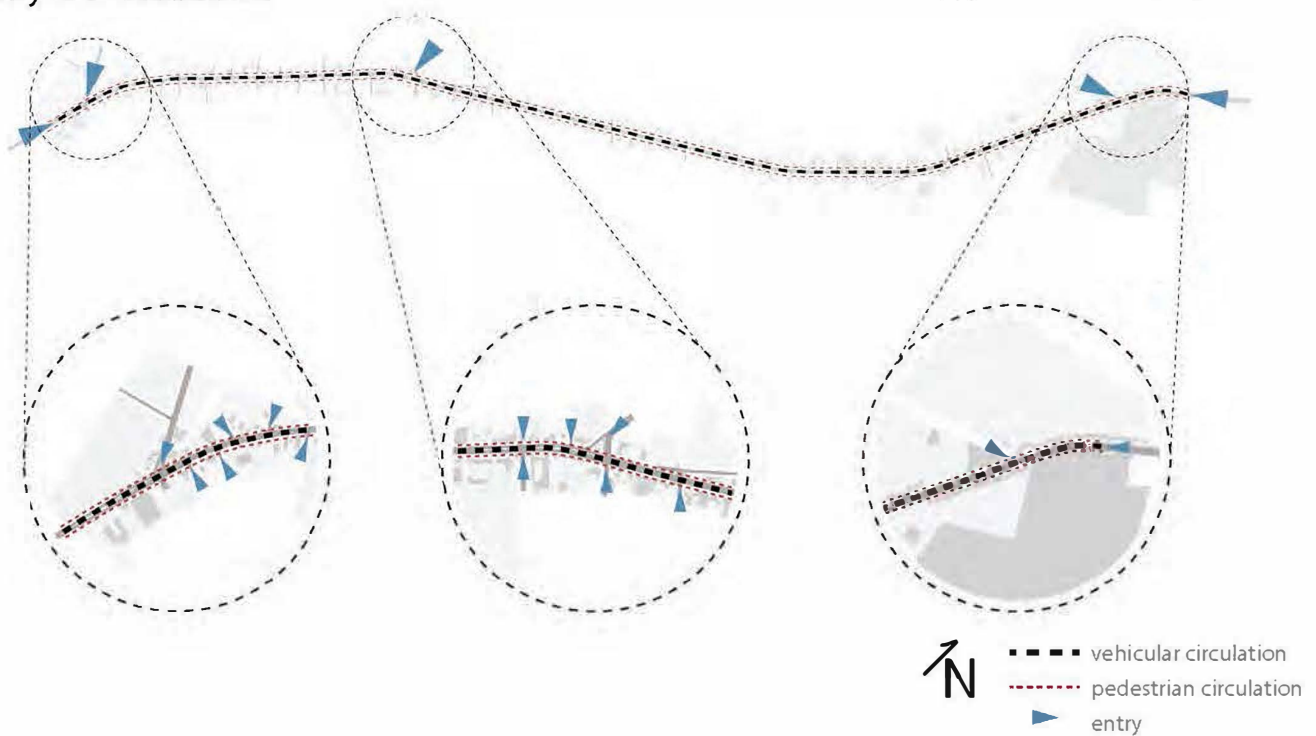
Initial Investigation

Existing Street Condition

existing lot aesthetic



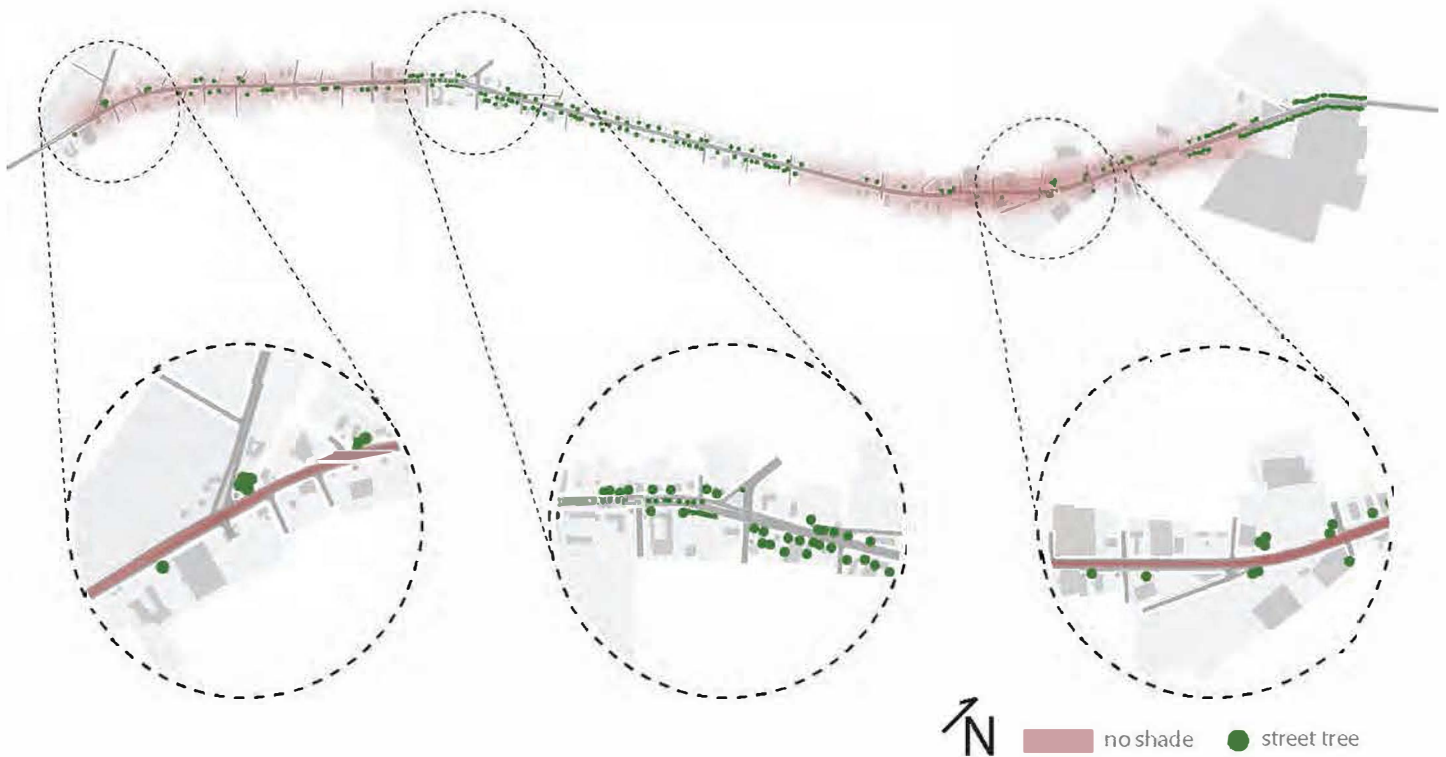
entry and circulation



The first diagram illustrates the aesthetic value of the street adjacent lots. The northeastern span of the road has a plethora of delapidated structures, poor lighting, and little greenery. The second diagram illustrates modes of transportation and main entry points.

Initial Investigation

Existing Street Condition



The existing streetside environment is very harsh and sunny, as shown in the first illustration. Its not comfortable to walk or bike the street which deters people from North Main and its businesses. The existing road and right of way dimensions are illustrated above as well. There is generally 88 feet of right of way throughout the project site.

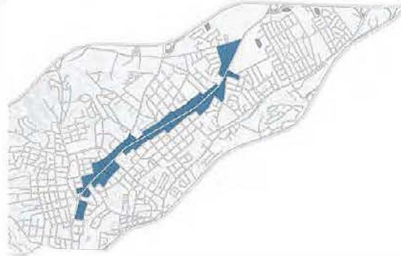
Design Development

Interim

phase 1



phase 2



phase 3



The project was originally separated into three phases. The first phase involves streetscape and node development. The second includes the further design of properties adjacent to North Main. The third phase involves the replanning of a neighborhood in the community.



sustainable growth



connectivity



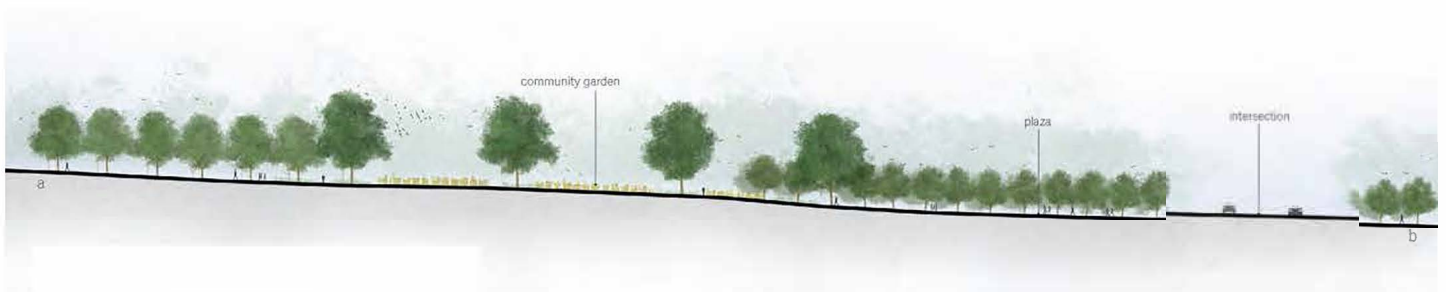
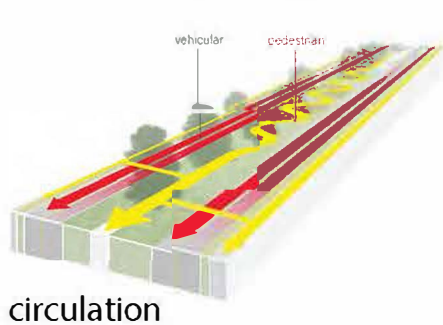
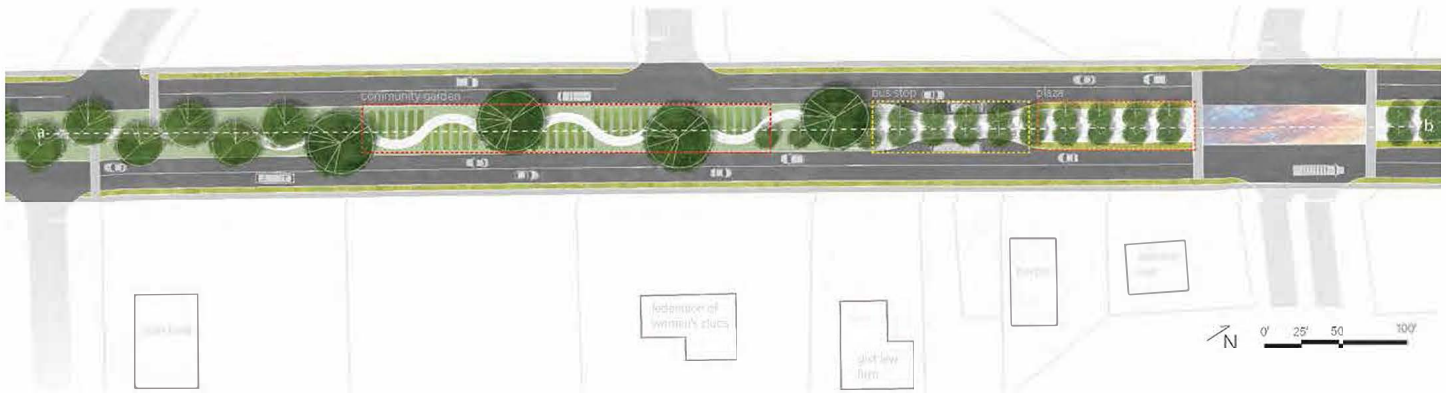
healthy living

The original concept contained the goals of creating sustainable growth, connectivity, and healthy living. Sustainable growth relates to a landscapes ability to provide the community with an identity and framework that will sustain. Connectivity to resources through improved travel options will better advantage residents. Lastly, healthy living pertains to the designs goal of creating more access to recreation, organic produce, and employment opportunities.

Design Development

Mid Term: Alternative 1

site plan

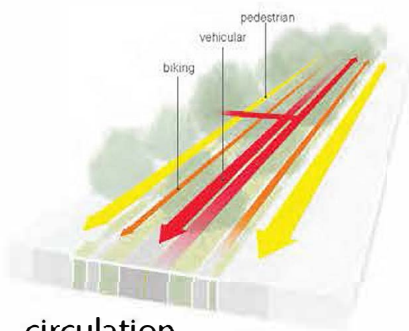
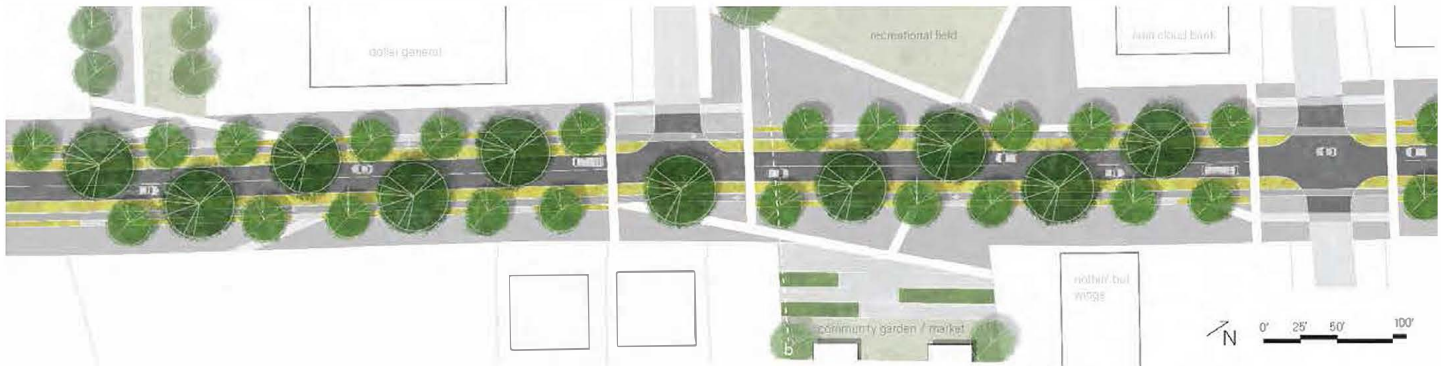


Design alternative 1 proposes a median streetscape, or linear park, concept. This would be especially effective in residential areas, as users would stay further from the houses and yards of others. This concept does however make interaction with adjacent businesses and properties more difficult for pedestrians. The linear park is a more secluded space that creates an outdoor haven in the middle of North Main Street.

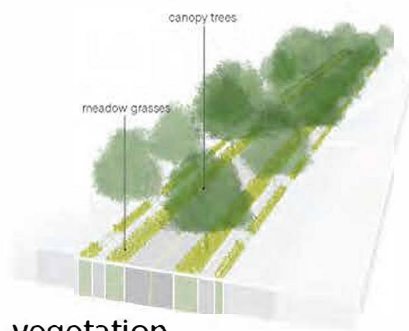
Design Development

Mid Term: Alternative 2

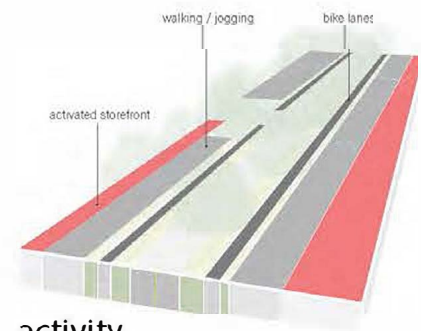
site plan



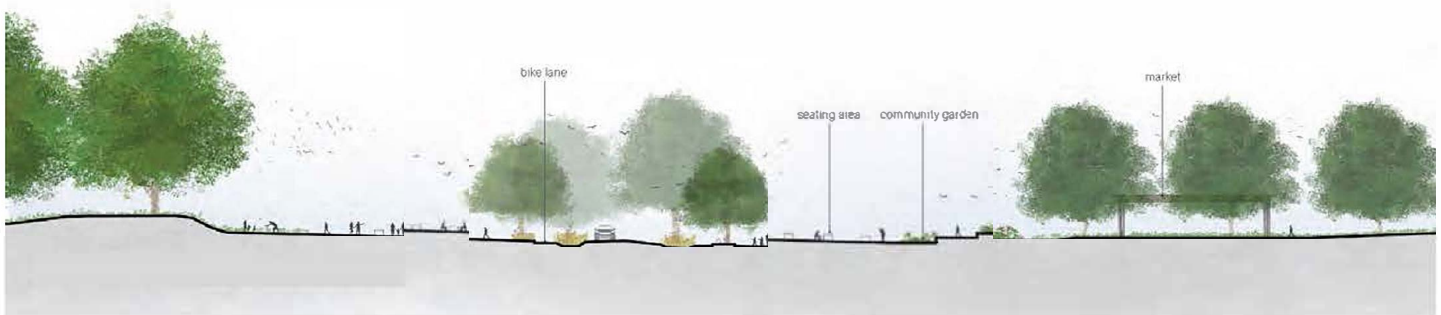
circulation



vegetation



activity

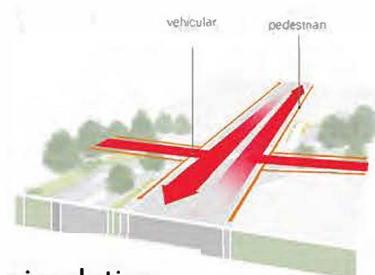


Alternative 2 proposes an exterior streetscape to better activate the spaces adjacent to North Main. The concept aims to weave the street and surrounding businesses together to create a connective and cohesive streetscape. This concept was ultimately chosen for further development during the final project phase.

Design Development

Mid Term: Alternative 3

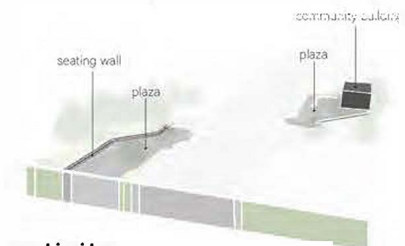
site plan



circulation



vegetation

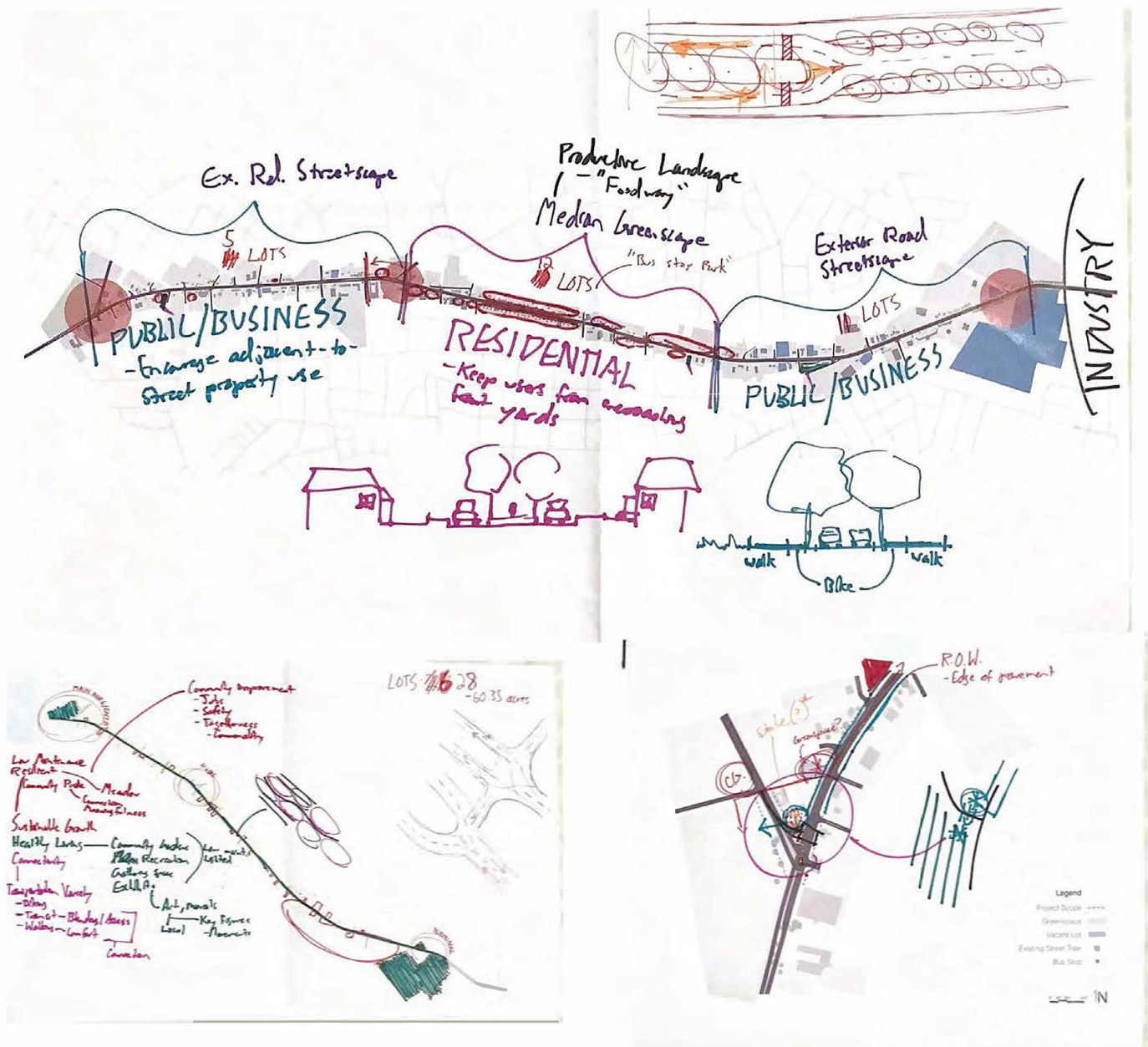


activity



Rather than focussing on the entire street, Alternative 3 focuses on intersections. Creating thresholds at each intersection will draw people into the community. This concept focuses on creating gateways into the community as a starting block for future streetscape development. This concept was also further developed during the final design phase.

Design Development Process



These are simple conceptual drawings during the final design phase of this project. Extensive thought was placed on how to divide the land uses of the space, as well as creating functional circulation patterns and intersections.

Final Production

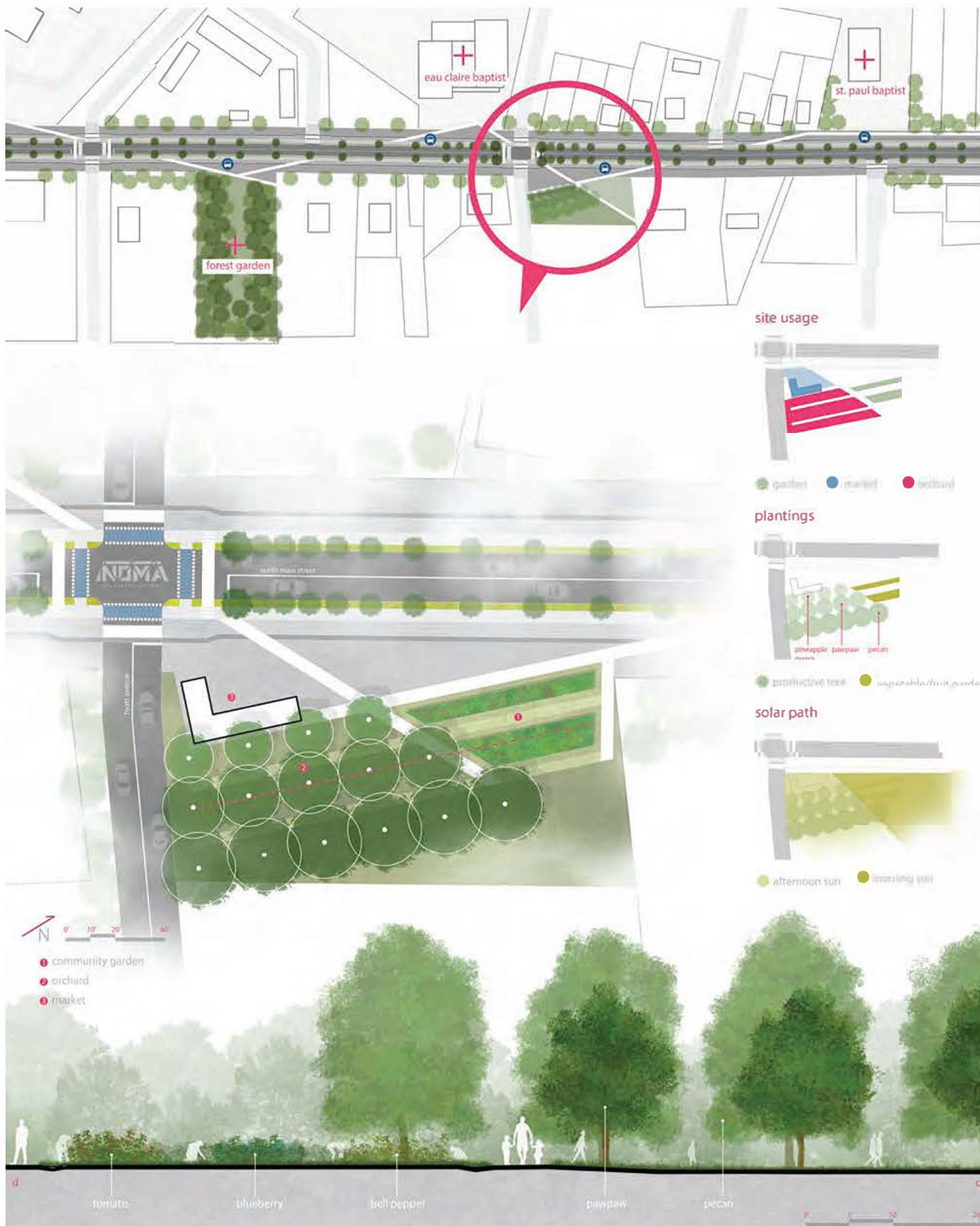
Board 1



The final product focused mostly on alternatives 2 and 3. An exterior streetscape was designed throughout the site, along with intersections and vacant street adjacent lots. This first board features the replanning and design of the main entry threshold across from Hyatt Park. This space is now more organized, functional, and provides for community use.

Final Production

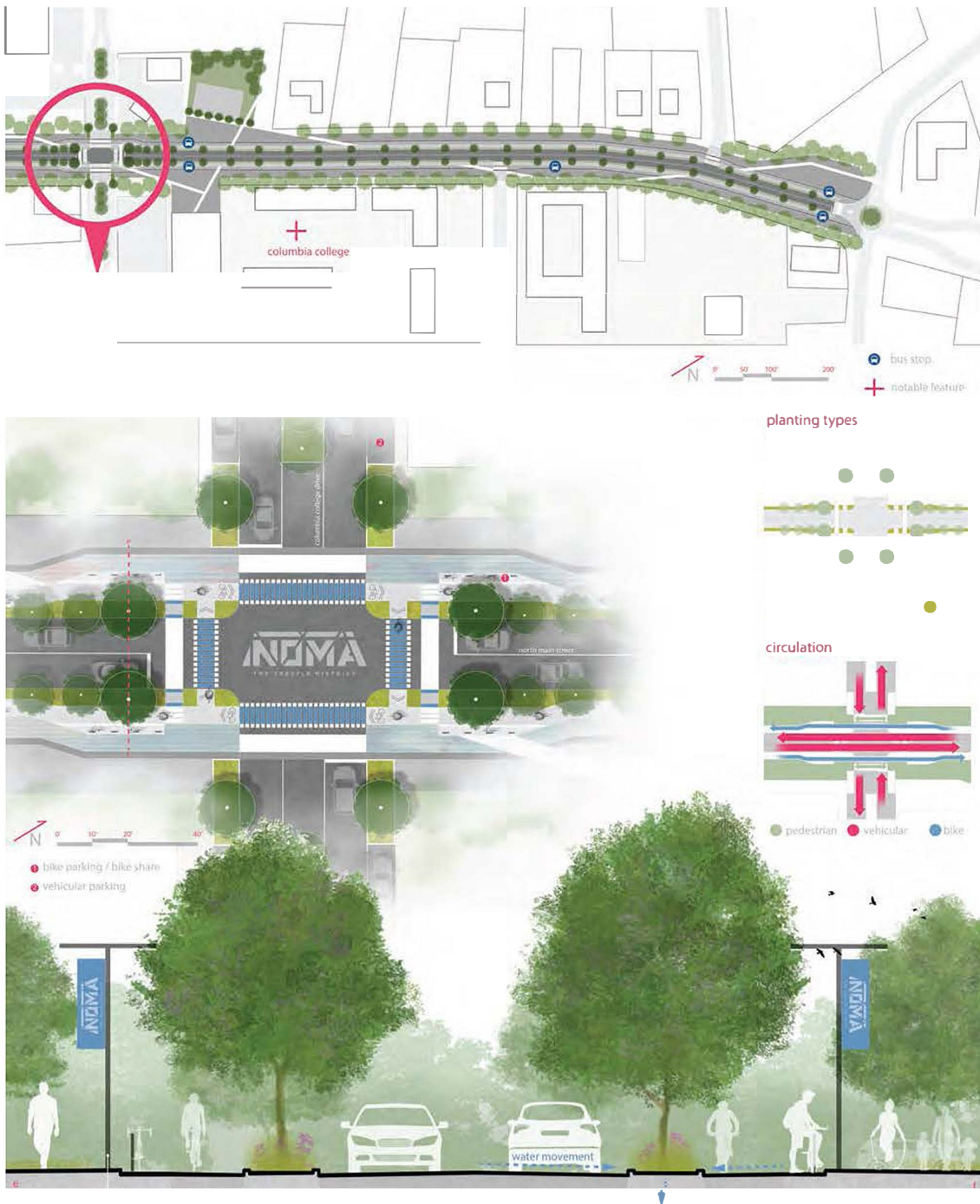
Board 2



The second board details the section of streetscape that focuses on agricultural benefit for the community. To mitigate the community's food security issue, community gardens, forest gardens, and orchards are implemented. Markets and plazas will also allow community members to buy and sell their fresh produce from one another.

Final Production

Board 3



The final board details the typical intersection design of the streetscape. The bike and pedestrian lanes have their own crosswalk for maximum function and safety. Vegetation helps create a comfortable environment while managing stormwater. Lighting is also emphasized at intersections to allow safe activity through all times of day.

John Carter

LARC 4550

Dr. Mary G Padua, RLA

14 December 2022

Project Investigation: Revenant Backbone

My project, titled “Revenant Backbone,” investigates a potential streetscaping project along North Main Street in Columbia, South Carolina. North Main encompasses approximately five linear miles beginning in downtown Columbia and concluding at an intersection with Interstate 20. The final project scope focusses on a one-mile segment of the road, stretching from Hyatt Park to Columbia College. This particular span of North Main was selected due to the enduring decline of its adjacent community of Eau Claire. The Eau Claire neighborhood experiences a plethora of developmental and societal obstacles, including food insecurity, high crime, poverty, and vacancy. “Revenant Backbone” creates a structure for the sustainable development of the North Main and Eau Claire communities for both the present and future.

The investigation begins with the analysis of North Main’s adjacent communities and their current and future needs. The existing Eau Claire population of 21,280 residents is 78% African American. African Americans are unfortunately disadvantaged in the large majority of US cities and towns. A 2021 report from McKinsey Global Institute concluded that the average Black American earns 30% less than the average White American. Nearly 20% live in a food insecure household and are additionally three times more likely (than White Americans) to live in a “nature deprived” environment (Stewart, et al.). These disparities are seemingly amplified along the North Main corridor. As previously mentioned, Eau Claire experiences long standing challenges that have continuously impeded its development. Eau Claire residents experience a

lower average income than 77% of the US population. A crime index of 300 is considered higher than the US average; North Main has an index of 482. 62% of the community is further than one mile from a greenspace and 64% are further than a mile from a grocery store, identifying them as a food desert. The aesthetics of the existing streetscape present further confrontations to development. Very few street trees exist, making the roadside environment uncomfortable and harsh. The corridor additionally contains 22 vacant or delapidated lots that equate to poor aesthetic and environments for crime. The North Main community desperately needs a significant and sustainable solution to better assist its current and future residents toward a healthier, more advantageous, lifestyle. The project investigation further reveals the current living habits of North Main's residents. Travel by bus is most common within the community as many residents either do not own cars or do not use them. In order to best serve this population, a better organization and aesthetic of existing bus stops is imperative. Additionally, providing structure for other modes of transportation (biking, walking) will encourage both connectivity and exercise.

The research and assessment of community needs leads to the development of a streetscaping and adjacent lot development project. The wide array of societal obstacles requires a sizeable space for developmental aid. Rather than placing a new park in a singular location, a streetscape will reach more areas of the community, and thus will allow more access to the space and its benefits for community health. The mile long streetscape project will optimally design the street and adjacent property, including vacant and underused lots. The low maintenance implementation of urban agriculture, infrastructure for comfortable and safe biking and pedestrian activity, spaces for community engagement, and recreation will provide a backbone for the resurgence of this underserved community.

The final investigative process involved the location and study of appropriate precedent. Precedent played an expanded role in this particular investigative process due to my unfamiliarity with the project type. By investigating the works of Sasaki, Walter Hood, and others, I was able to develop an understanding for streetscape and neighborhood planning. Further research into AASHTO and other street design standards provided guidance for more specific design features including intersections, bike lanes, and general road layout.

In conclusion, the project investigation for “Revenant Backbone” was unlike anything I have experienced during my undergraduate studies. My unfamiliarity with the project type made the project more challenging and worthwhile. I was able to solidify the importance of research and its differing scopes. Overall, my Exit Studio project investigation was a rewarding and worthwhile experience that has undoubtedly made me a better designer.

Work Cited

Stewart, Shelley, et al. “The Economic State of Black America: What Is and What Could Be.” *McKinsey & Company*, McKinsey Global Institute, 14 July 2022, <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/diversity-and-inclusion/the-economic-state-of-black-america-what-is-and-what-could-be>.
John Carter

LARC 4550

Dr. Mary G Padua, RLA

14 December 2022

Project Reflection: Revenant Backbone

My project, titled “Revenant Backbone,” presented me with obstacles I had yet to experience. My greenness to streetscaping and planning projects made this a terrific learning experience that required extensive problem solving. The project opened my mind to new research and investigation methods and allowed me to establish an appreciation for a design scope I was unfamiliar with. “Revenant Backbone” was a valuable project as it greatly expanded my knowledge and forced me into a new challenge each and every day.

To brief the final project result, a one-mile streetscape and adjacent lot development project will mitigate the long-standing challenges of North Main’s communities while raising the aesthetic and general value of the street itself. The streetscaping includes reorganized road layouts and intersections, bike lane implementations, comfortable pedestrian space, street greening, and plazas. The project scope additionally includes the extensive redesign of the lot adjacent to Hyatt Park and Monticello Road. This space was reorganized and designed for improved functionality and community value. An additional five lots adjacent to North Main Street were further designed to host community gardens, forest gardens, plazas, and recreational spaces. These lots are currently abandoned or otherwise vacant. “Revenant Backbone” creates an environment for community health and future development.

My project investigation revealed the needs of a community and the best way for landscape architecture to mitigate them. The project required the large-scale research of multiple communities to understand their habits, needs, and activities. For a project with such a large scope, I learned the value of comprehensive research. My research seemed to find the design solution for me. Each community need requires a unique solution. Once I figured out the needs it was a simple matter of finding effective landscape-oriented solutions to those issues. My final

project solidified the requirement for thorough research and analysis in order to discover a proper design solution.

My project type furthermore presented me with an opportunity to explore a sector of Landscape Architecture I was unfamiliar with. The challenges presented by streetscape design were unprecedented for me and presented many design challenges I found very interesting, albeit occasionally frustrating, to solve. The concept of a linear design itself created plenty of ponderance. Designing a space that users need to enjoy yet continuously move through is an interesting investigation. Creating a pedestrian experience while considering how traffic, vehicular speed, lighting, material, plantings, and more effect that experience presented an interesting topic of thought. Further, understanding the optimal function and importance of intersections required an incredible amount of time to figure out. I was able to examine how lane width, curb radius, and materiality effect the speed of traffic and coinciding pedestrian activity. Understanding sight triangles, crosswalk standards, and on street parking added to my design learning. The wide variety of design scopes and challenges made “Revenant Backbone” the perfect project for me. A challenge makes for an enjoyable and rewarding design experience. My unfamiliarity with the project type required extensive creative problem solving that I am fortunate to have participated in. My exit studio project taught me so much and allowed me to delve into a sector of landscape architecture I knew nothing about.

If I had more time to perform this project, I would simply expand it. I could easily work on this project for a year and quite possibly longer. More specifically, materiality has always been an interest of mine and I would have enjoyed exploring specific materials and their usage and advantage to this particular project. Materiality can tell a story, contribute to sustainability and natural processes, command land use and activity, and much more. I would also like to

generally expand the project scope. The challenge of performing a design along the full North Main corridor, as well as additional planning within its surrounding neighborhoods would be compelling. The project's intent is to provide a backbone of development that will expand into the rest of the community and effect more areas over time. I would heavily enjoy expanding the streetscape into smaller streets that branch off of North Main and infiltrate the specific communities more extensively. A system of green streets that contributed toward sustainable community development, all branching from one main greenway would be an incredible project to work on. Lastly, I would like to do more research on gentrification and ways to mitigate it. I did tons of research already, yet I was presented with few solutions. Finding a way to build up a declining community yet preserve its existing population is a difficult yet inspiring investigation. I will continue to research gentrification and how it can be planned against throughout my career.

To personally critique my work, investigation, design process and final presentation is an important reflective process. Generally speaking, my research and analysis was adequate. I learned that streetscaping and planning projects require a more extensive and comprehensive approach to research. Without proper investigation, these projects can be quite ineffective. Concerning my final design, the product could have been more cohesive. The streetscape was split into three sections with different focusses. The first section focused on community engagement, followed by agriculture and recreation. This was generally effective as it provided for the needs of different areas that were still easily accessible for all users. However, there was a nothing to pull the design together. A better development of a holistic concept would unite the design and provide it with a more comprehensive identity. My final presentation needed to show the existing conditions of the site, which it did not. The jury was unable to comprehend the

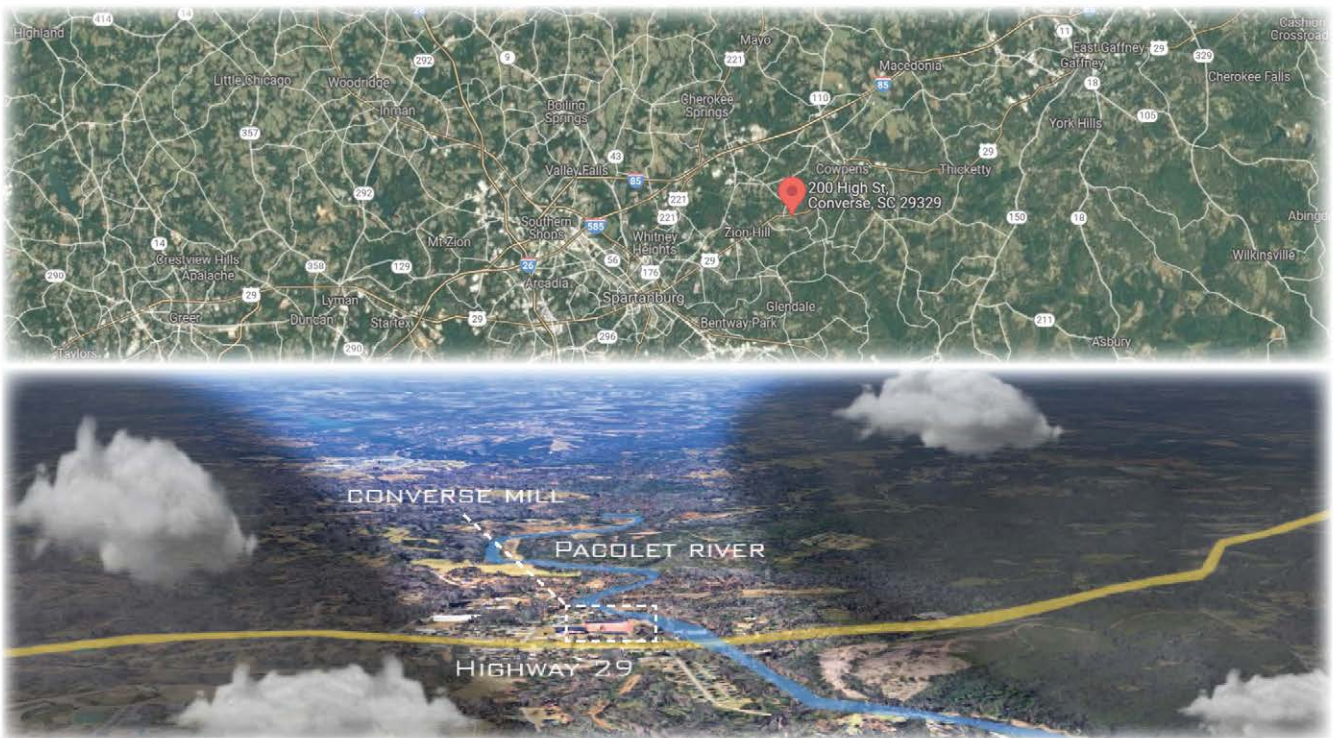
extent of work and the true change it would bring to the community. I also should have included a long-term plan or vision to the community, albeit if I had more time. This is by no means a short-term project and finding a way to illustrate the future projection and benefit of the design to the community would better justify it.

In conclusion, I had an extremely valuable learning experience while conducting my Exit Studio project. I was able to investigate a new sector of Landscape Architecture that presented a new set of obstacles. The project never got dull or boring because a new challenge seemed to come to light each day. Overall, “Revenant Backbone” was a terrific project to work on because it allowed me to experience a new sector of Landscape Architecture that challenged me each and every day.



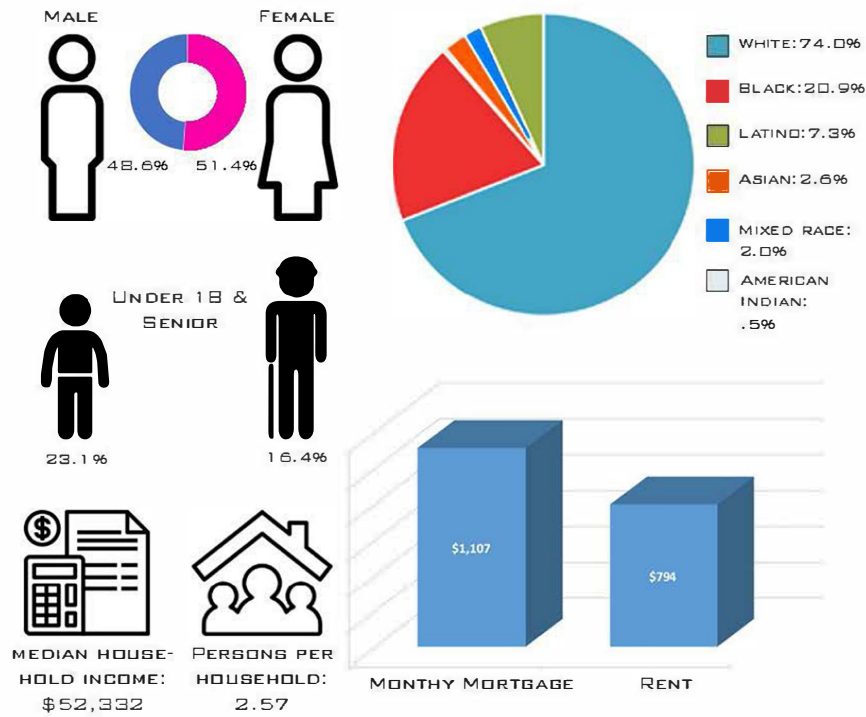
CONTEXT MAP

2



SPARTANBURG DEMOGRAPHIC POPULATION: 319,785

3

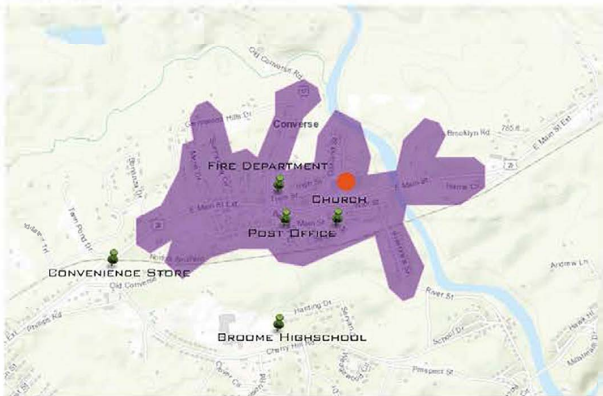


SITE ANALYSIS

VIEWS AT GRADE



PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (15 MIN WALK)

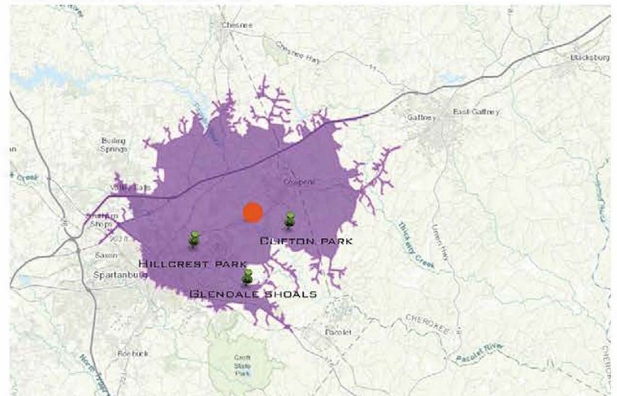


4

TOP FLOOR MILL VIEWS



PARKS WITHIN 15 MINUTE DRIVE



SITE PROPOSAL



PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN



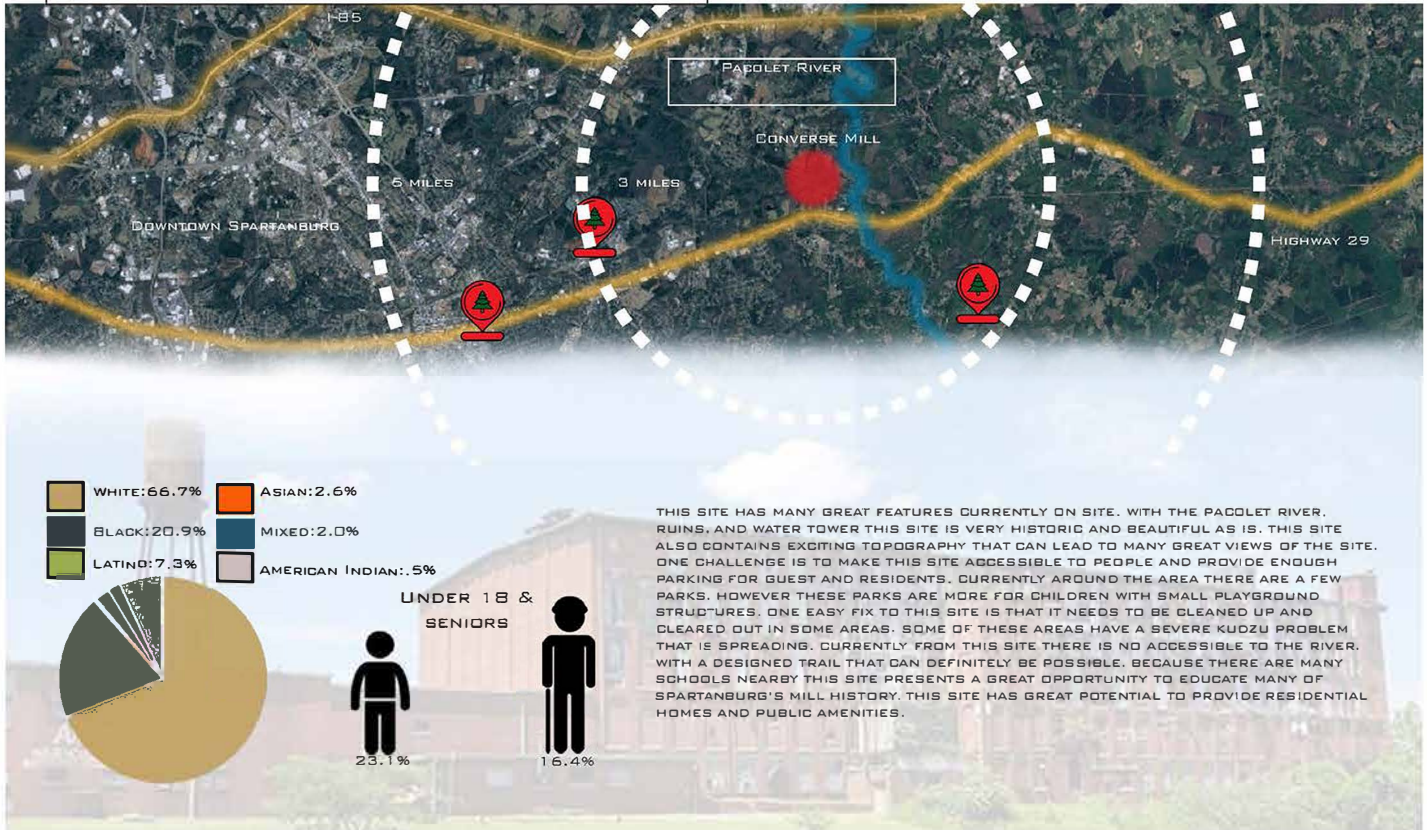
SITE FEATURES

6



SURROUNDING AREA

7



CONCEPT 1: HISTORIC TRAIL

8

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONCEPT IS TO CELEBRATE THE RUINS DESTROYED BY THE FLOOD BY RE-PURPOSING THEM AND BY LEARNING ABOUT THEIR HISTORY. THIS CONCEPT INCLUDES A WALKING TRAIL THAT GOES THROUGH THE RUINS AND BY THE RIVER AND DAM. THIS TRAIL IS SHORT AND SHOULD BE MORE OF A PASSIVE SPACE TO LEARN THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF CONVERSE



CONCEPT 2: AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS

9

CONCEPT 2 IS TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE CONVERSE / SPARTANBURG AREA. WITH SPARTANBURG BECOMING A BOOMING CITY RENT IS SKYROCKETING. THIS DESIGN ALSO PROVIDES THEM WITH SITE AMENITIES LIKE A OUTDOOR PATIO SPACE FOR DINNING, SMALL SHOPS INSIDE. A GATHERING SPACE FOR EVENTS, ETC.



CONCEPT 3: RECREATIONAL COURTS

10

CONCEPT 3 IS TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC PARK FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THIS PARK WILL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE WALKING TRAIL GIVES ACCESS TO THE RIVER FOR FISHING AND WATER PLAY.



IMAGERY BOARD



MASTER PLAN



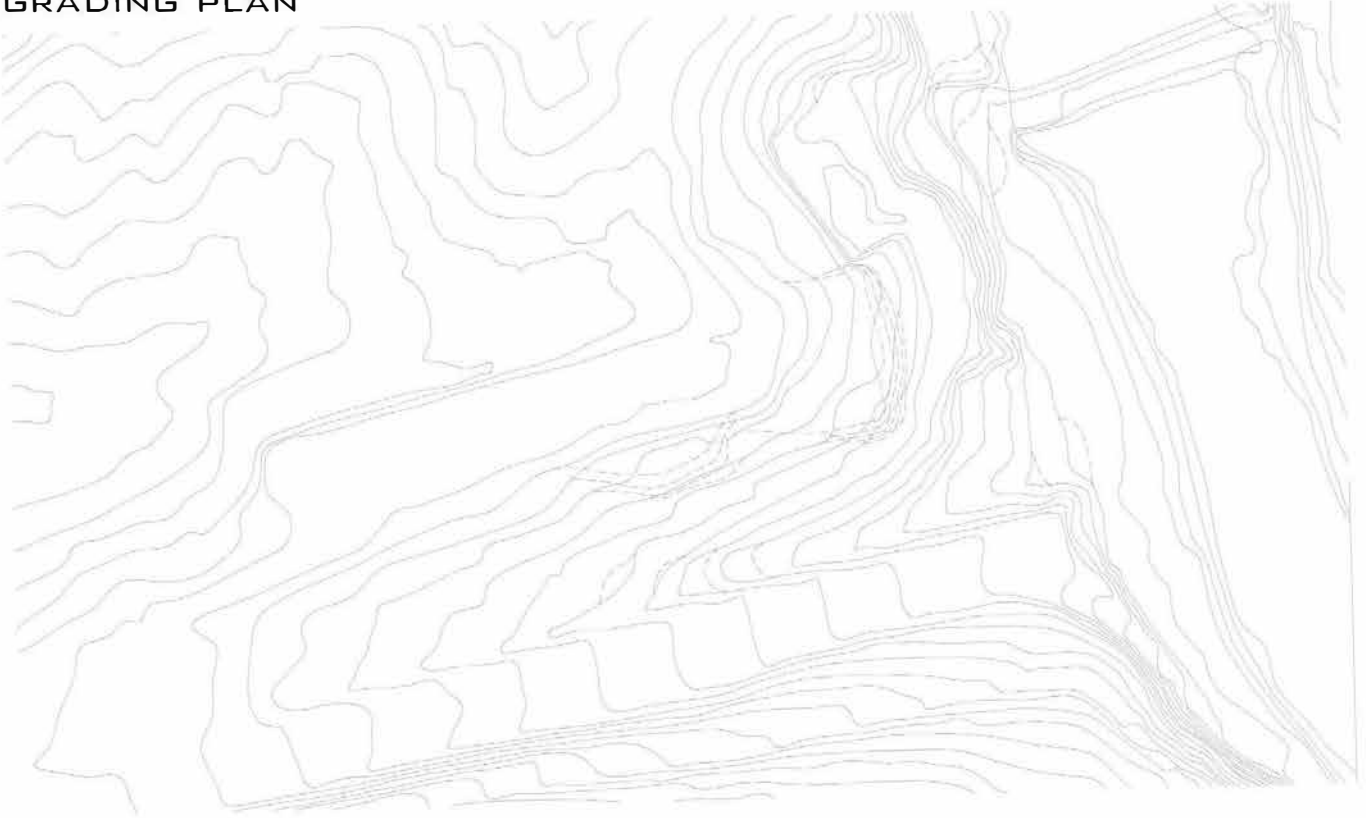
SUMMARY

THE FIRST TASK IN MIND WAS TO MAKE THE SITE ACCESSIBLE AND MAKE ENOUGH PARKING FOR ITS GUEST AND RESIDENTS. BECAUSE CONVERSE MILL HAS AMAZING TOPOGRAPHY THAT GIVES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HIGH POINT VIEWS. AT THE TOP OF THE SITE (THE MILL) IT IS VERY POSSIBLE TO GET VIEWS OF THE PACOLET RIVER AND ITS HISTORIC DAM THROUGH SELECTED CLEARING IN THE WOODED AREA ON THE SITE. WITHIN THE WOODED AREA OF THE SITE THERE ARE BRICK PILES AND SOME REMNANTS OF RUINS OF WHAT WAS THE LARGEST TEXTILE MILL OF 1899. SMALL AMOUNTS OF GRADING WAS DONE TO PLACE THE RECREATIONAL COURTS, PATIO AREA, AND TO MAKING THE HISTORIC TRAIL ADA ACCESSIBLE. BECAUSE OF THE HISTORIC TRAIL THE RIVER IS NOW EASILY ACCESSIBLE. THE GOAL OF THIS DESIGN IS TO BRING THE HISTORIC MILL BACK INTO THE SPOT LIGHT BY HIGHLIGHTING ITS HISTORY, PROVIDING AMENITIES, AND LIVING TO THE CONVERSE AREA.

LEGEND

- A GUEST / RESIDENT PARKING
- B RESIDENT PARKING
- C CONVERSE MILL
- D PATIO AREA
- E TENNIS COURTS
- F BASKETBALL COURT
- G RUINS
- H TRAIL HEAD
- I PERGOLA
- J STONE RETAINING WALL
- K DAM
- L RIVER BANK

GRADING PLAN



SECTIONS



SECTION 1

SECTION 2

SECTION 3



MILL AND RECREATION

15

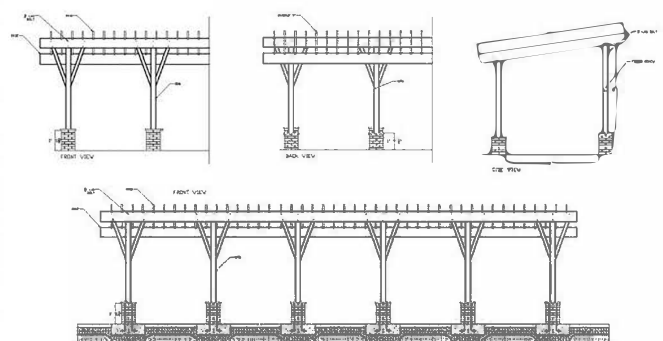
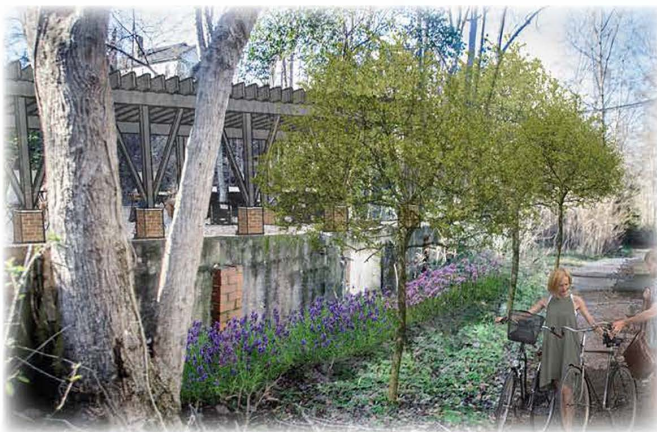
WHILE THE MILL IS USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES ITS SURROUNDINGS ARE FULL OF AMENITIES. THE BOTTOM FLOOR OF THE MILL COULD BE A PLACE FOR SMALL SHOPS OR A CAFE THAT THE PUBLIC CAN USE. THE PATIO AREA WOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE CAFE AND IT IS A PLACE TO SIT DOWN AND ENJOY A SMALL MEAL OR A COFFEE. BECAUSE THE NEARBY PARKS ARE MOSTLY FOR SMALL KIDS AND PLAYGROUNDS, THE SIDE OF THE MILL PROVIDES PUBLIC RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS. THIS PROPERTY ALSO HAS A LOT OF OPEN SPACE FOR A PICNIC OR POP-UP FARMERS MARKETS ON THE WEEKENDS.



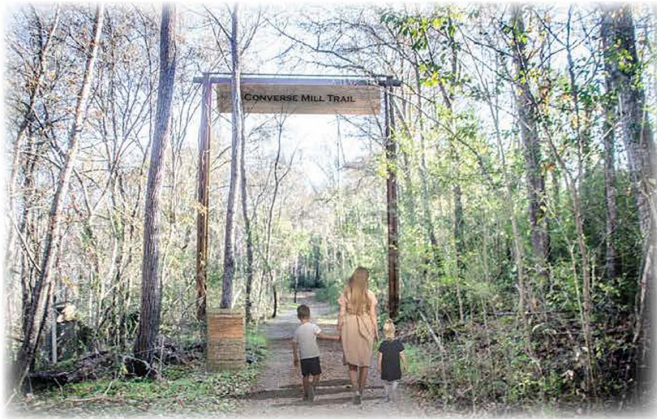
PERGOLA

16

THE PERGOLA IS BUILT ON TOP OF THE CONCRETE SLAB THAT WAS ONCE A BUILDING APART OF THE MILL BEFORE THE FLOOD DESTROYED IT. THIS AREA IS A PLACE TO SIT DOWN AND RELAX AND ENJOY THE VIEW OF THE PACOLET RIVER AND THE ORIGINAL DAM THAT WAS BUILT IN 1899. THE PERGOLA IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE ON THE HISTORIC TRAIL THAT IS ALSO ADA ACCESSIBLE. THE PERGOLA IS CONSTRUCTED WITH TREATED LUMBER AND BRICKS THAT REMAIN FROM THE RUINS IN THE AREA.



THE HISTORIC TRAIL IS A WALK WAY TO EDUCATE AND RELIVE THE GLORY DAYS OF THE MILL. WITHIN THE WOODED AREA LIES A THE REMAINS OF A BUILDING, BRICK PILES, AND RUINS THAT WERE MADE FROM THE FLOOD. FURTHER DOWN THE TRAIL THERE IS A PERGOLA TO STOP AND ENJOY THE VIEWS FROM. AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE TRAIL IS THE LARGE STONE RETAINING WALL, PACOLET RIVER, AND THE DAM. THIS AREA IS A GREAT PLACE TO PLAY IN THE WATER AND EXPLORE WHAT NATURE HAS TO OFFER.



Project Narrative

This site has many great features currently on site. With the Pacolet River, ruins, and water tower this site is very historic and beautiful as is. This site also contains exciting topography that can lead to many great views of the site. ●ne challenge is to make this site accessible to people and provide enough parking for guest and residents. Currently around the area there are a few parks, however these parks are more for children with small playground structures. ●ne easy fix to this site is that it needs to be cleaned up and cleared out in some areas. Some of these areas have a severe kudzu problem that is spreading. Currently from this site there is no accessible to the river, with a designed trail that can definitely be possible. Because there are many schools nearby this site presents a great opportunity to educate many of Spartanburg's mill history. This site has great potential to provide residential homes and public amenities.

The first task in mind was to make the site accessible and make enough parking for its guest and residents. Because converse mill has amazing topography that gives opportunities for the high point views. At the top of the site (the mill), it is very possible to get views of the Pacolet river and its historic dam through selected clearing in the wooded area on the site. Within the wooded area of the site, there are brick piles and some remnants of ruins of what was the largest textile mill of 1899. Small amounts of grading was done to place the recreational courts, patio area, and to making the historic trail ADA accessible. Because of the historic trail the river is now easily accessible. The goal of this design is to bring the historic mill back into the spot light by highlighting its history, providing amenities, and living to the converse area.

Project Reflections

●ver the course of exit studio, I have learned a lot about the process of design and myself as a designer. Unlike my internship, because I was so close to the site I have to visit it a lot more than I would at the office. This gave me a much better understanding of the site and its layout.

●ne thing that was different from this project compared to other projects I have worked on was the extreme topography. This made it challenging to place down structures and making paths ADA accessible but it did make for some great views and landforms. Some additional work that I would of liked to include given more time would be more detailing of the site and the structures that I designed. Also I would of looked at more city ordinances to make the site up to city code. Some things that I thought turned out very successful in my project was the sections that I made. The sections not only showed the amenities in the site but also my grading and the extreme topography the site had. Another success part of the project was the pergola that I designed. I created a construction detail of the pergola that showed how it was made, dimensions, and material choices. ●ne thing that I would have done differently would be to try to show more detail to the open area of my site. In my opinion, it could have been more than just an open area with trees and benches. ●verall, I felt very proud of my project. I feel like my design was demonstrated well through my board and graphics. I really enjoyed working on a project in my home tome.

DUNCAN PARK EDUCATIONAL FOREST

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

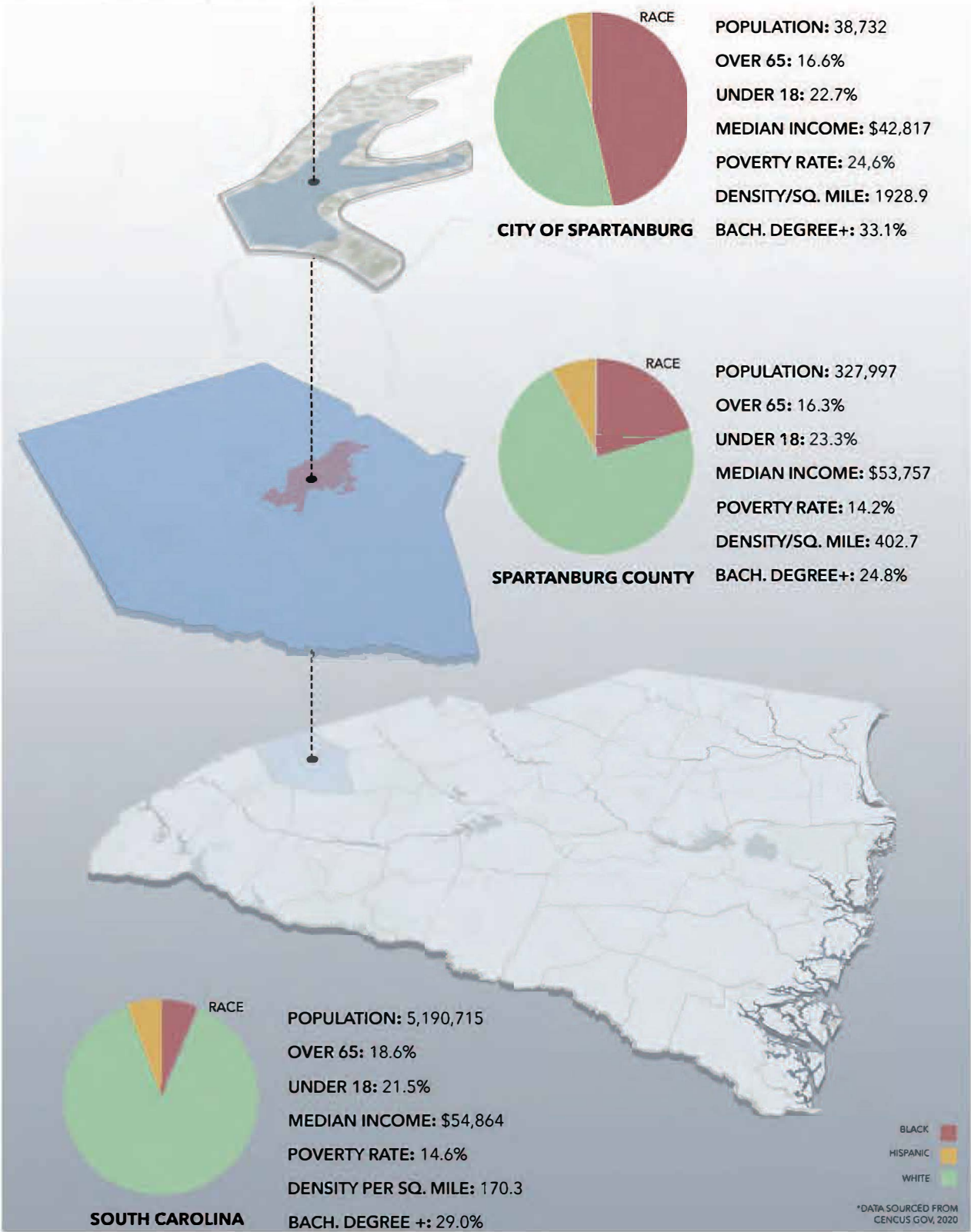


Anna Grace H. Ritchie
Clemson University | LARC 4550 | December 14, 2022
Instructor: Dr. Mary G. Padua RLA

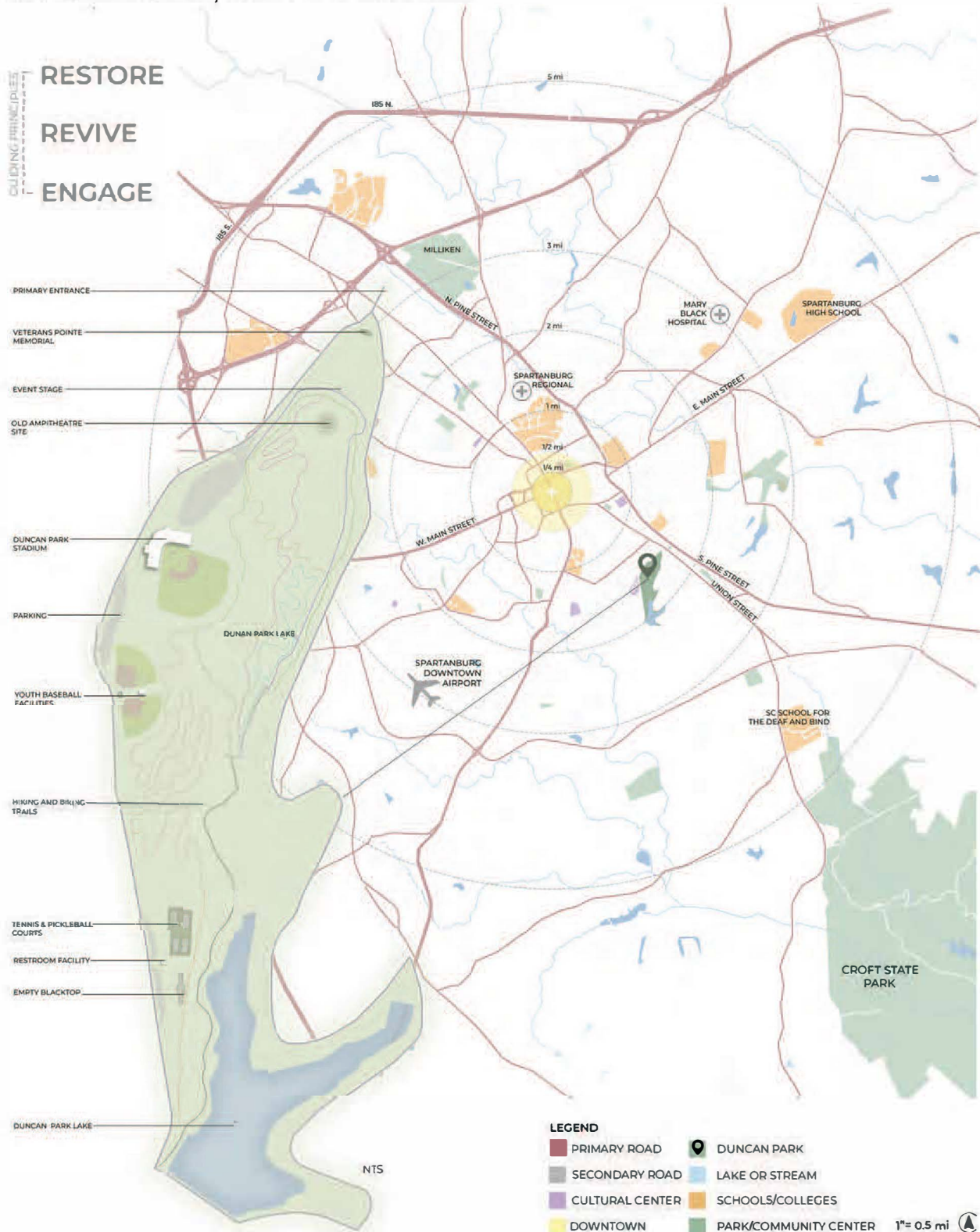




**DUNCAN PARK REVITALIZATION
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**



DUNCAN PARK REVITALIZATION SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



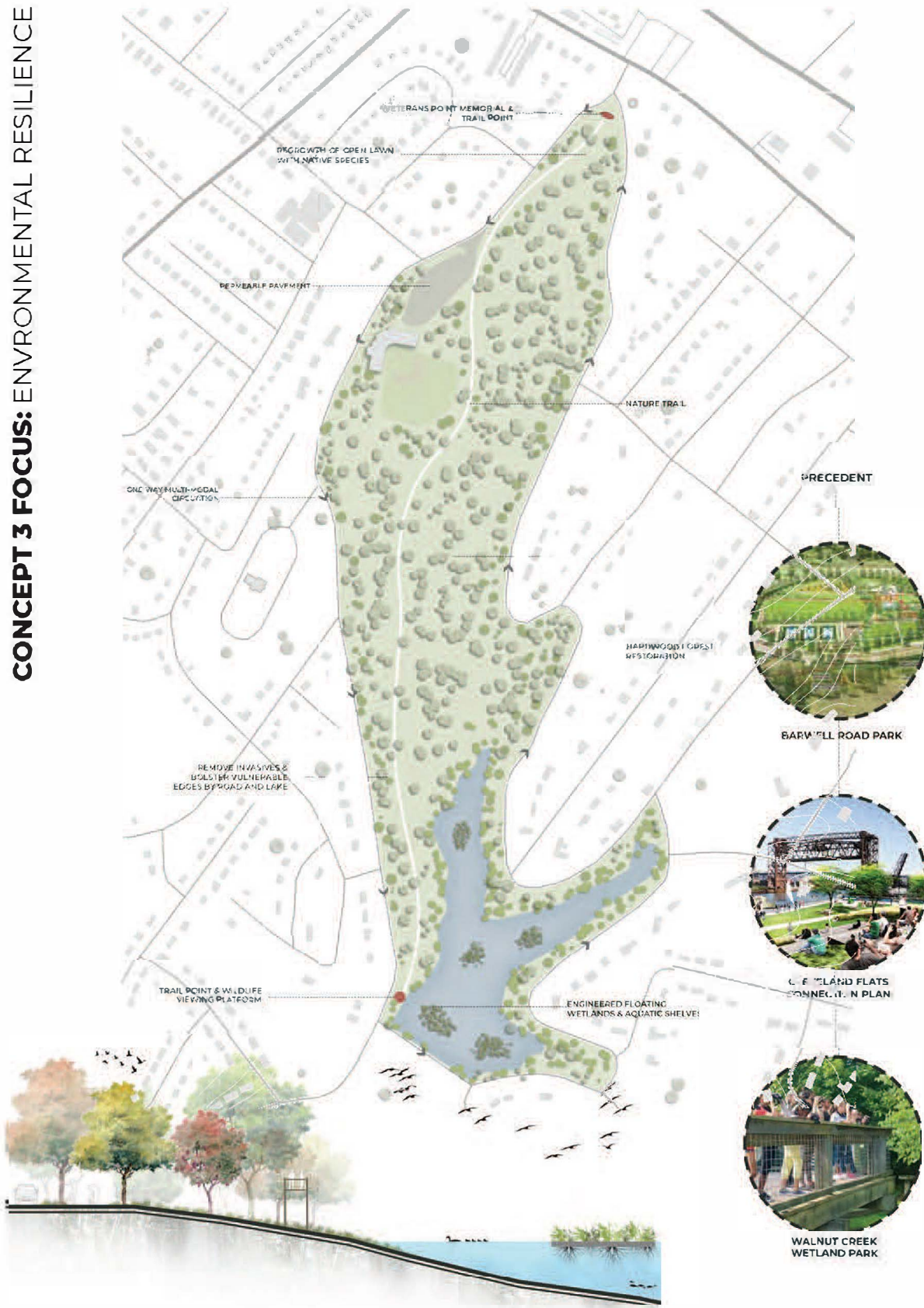
CONCEPT 1 FOCUS: EDUCATION



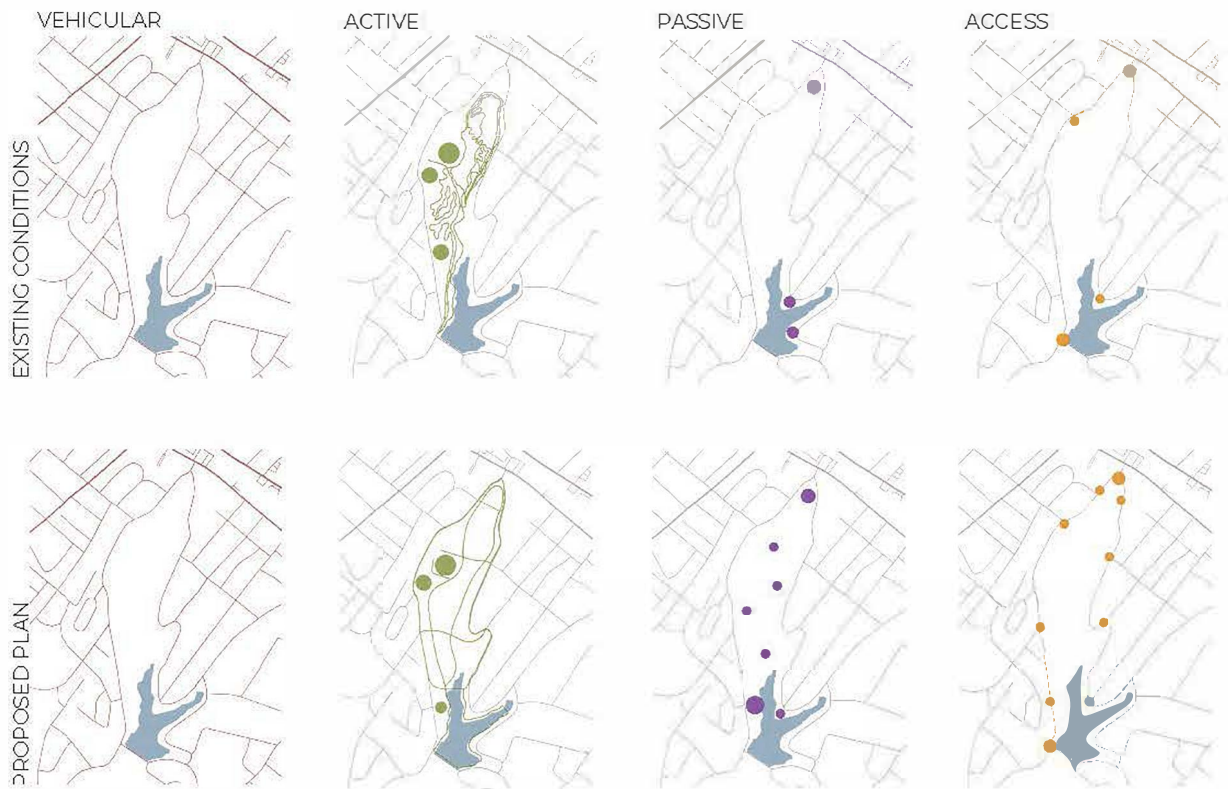
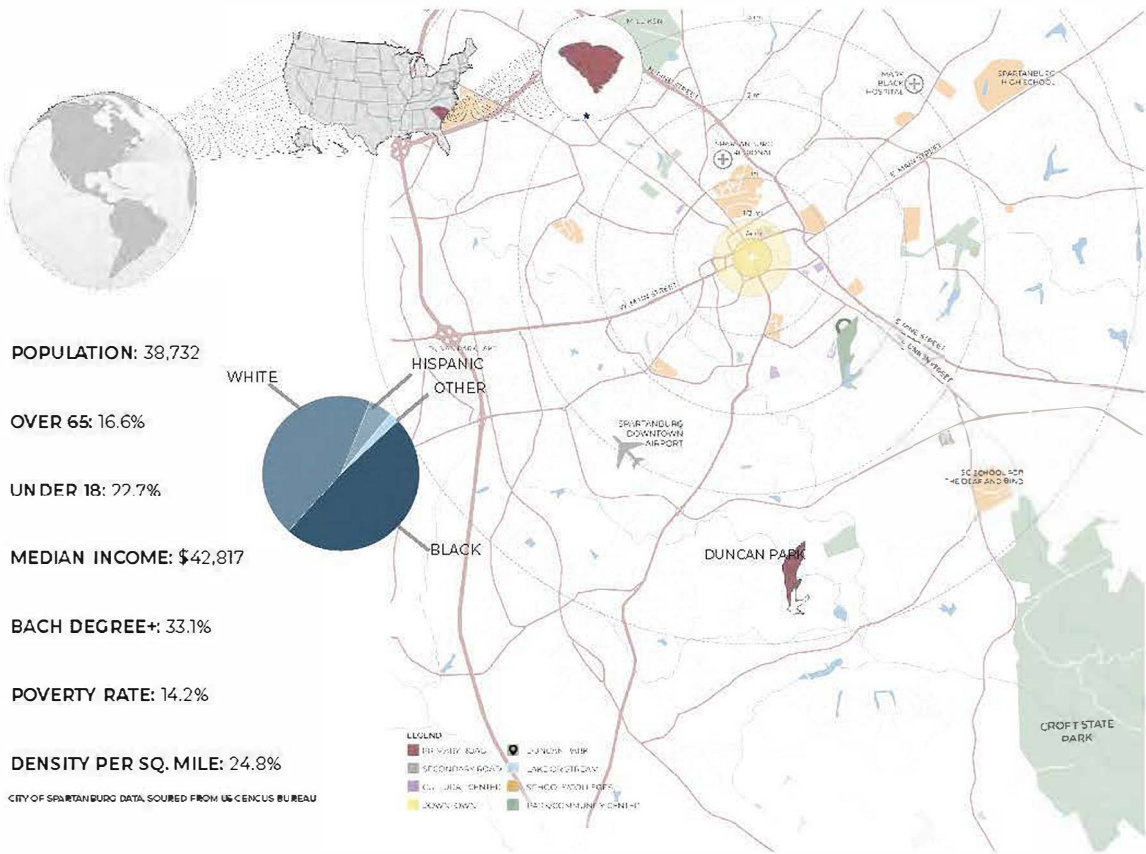
CONCEPT 2 FOCUS: RECREATION



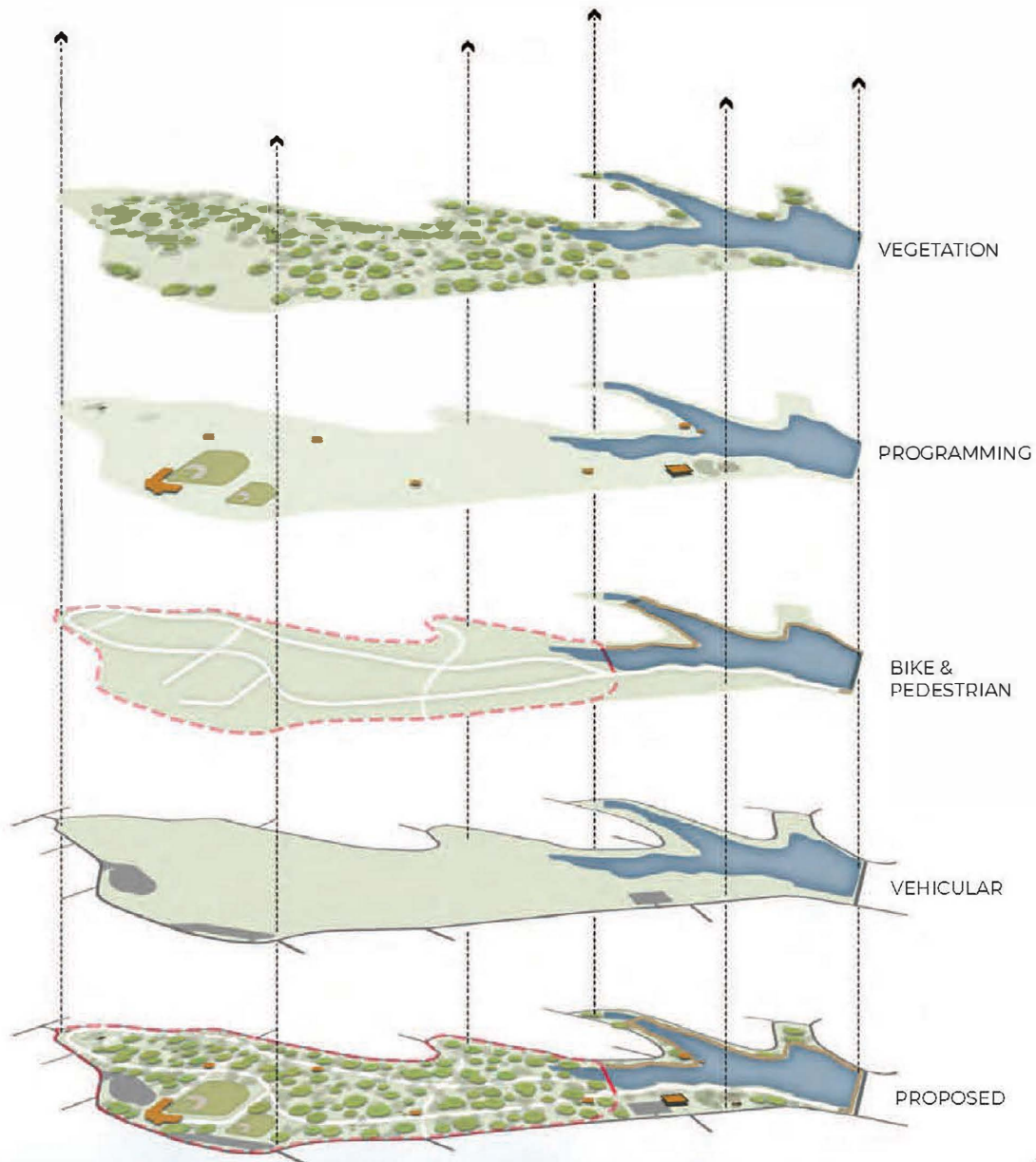
CONCEPT 3 FOCUS: ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE



DUNCAN PARK EDUCATIONAL FOREST SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



SITE INTERVENTIONS



MASTER PLAN



Anna Grace Ritchie

Dr. Mary G. Padua, RLA

LARC 4550

December 14, 2022

Duncan Park Educational Forest: Investigative Study

Located in the heart of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Duncan Park remains a hidden gem of the Hub City. The nearly one hundred acre park is tremendously rich in local history as well as ecological value as it is the largest park in the City of Spartanburg and holds one of the only public lakes. In 1923, this property, roughly three hundred acres in total, was given to the city for one dollar by the children of David R. Duncan, who originally purchased the land in 1874. One of the family's only request was that at least eleven acres of the land be left for public use, while the rest would be subdivided and developed. The park and surrounding neighborhood would later be known as Duncan Park.

Three years after the city acquired the land, Historic Duncan Park Stadium was built, which would later host some of baseball's most significant figures such as Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, and Tom Glavine, to name a few. Duncan Park Stadium holds the title of the oldest minor league baseball stadium in the State of South Carolina and is listed on National Park Service National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Spartanburg architect, Frank Collins, the stadium holds the true and timeless character of an early twentieth century baseball stadium. A partnership between the city and Spartanburg School District 7 has brought new life to the stadium as the Spartanburg High School Vikings baseball teams and little league use the stadium and its facilities. This stadium is a fixture in not only Duncan Park and the City of Spartanburg,

but in the history of baseball in the United States. For this reason, it remained an essential element in each step of the design process.

In 1935, nearly ten years after the building of the stadium, Duncan Park Lake was built as a project under Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Project Administration (WPA). Shortly later that lake was used by soldiers for amphibious vehicle training during World War Two. The lake later served the community as a place for fishing, swimming, and boating. These activities have since been prohibited by the city, but the lake remains a beautiful focal point for the park and neighborhood.

Today the park is most popular among nearby residents but overall, the quality and condition of the facilities and trails is poor. While there is a large number of unkept trails within the northern end of the park, there are no sidewalks or trails around the lake or park as a whole. On the roadway surrounding the lake, speeding cars, poor lighting and the absence of sidewalks hinder local users and visitors from walking and biking safely in the neighborhood. As a whole, this park holds tremendous potential to serve Spartanburg in a host of ways, but specifically in this project in the areas of education and recreation.

A major goal of this project is to create a park that is accessible and useful for surrounding neighbors while simultaneously capitalizing on this property and an educational recourse for Spartanburg students. By providing recreation opportunities for the community at large and creating spaces for students that make learning fun, this site could serve Spartanburg in a unique way that cannot be compared to any other park in the area. In terms of education, ideally, Duncan Park would be used by school systems to provide students with in-person examples and lessons about content that they learn in the classroom. These lessons could be taught in the Education and Community Center, by the water at the pedestrian bridge, walking the

trails through the forest or in one of the five education tree houses. Each tree house focuses on a different topic (local history, horticulture, ornithology, entomology, and aquaculture), and are each strategically placed within the park. Simultaneously, the improved and added circulation and recreation opportunities would allow more individuals to experience Duncan Park through biking and walking trails, community gardening, fishing, boating, and spending time with their family and friends at the Education and Recreation Center.

In conclusion, it is important that the Duncan Park Educational Forest serve as a dynamic, unique, and functional asset for Spartanburg.

Duncan Park Educational Forest: Reflection

The history and future of Duncan Park is a topic that is very dear to me as a native of Spartanburg, and I am so thankful for this opportunity, through exit studio, to learn more about its rich history and explore the multitude of opportunities that are possible to enrich the lives of those who visit Duncan Park. This studio has stretched me and challenged me in ways I had not experienced in past studios. One of the biggest reasons for this is the inherent challenge in determining the direction of my project on my own. All other studios have very specific guidelines for the project that help guide us along the way. However, while this posed as a challenge it also posed as a great opportunity to learn and grow in new ways for my final semester.

Overall, I am pleased with the concept and direction of my project. I believe it successfully combines my interests in education and recreation. By working on site level I was able to take a wide look at the site as a whole including circulation, which was one of the largest issues facing the

park. However, if I had more time there are several aspects of the project I would have liked to further investigate. Specifically, circulation relating to entrances and expanded into the city, programming and layout of the treehouses and education center and riparian edge restoration.

Circulation is one of the most important elements of this project. I would have liked to take a closer look at how my two circuit system would work in actuality and how they could tie into existing and proposed circulatory systems, such as the Mary Black Rail Trail, in Spartanburg. One of the goals for this project was to create more opportunities for residents of the neighborhood to access the park in more ways than are available now. This would include developing the three proposed lateral entrances in more detail as well improved pedestrian walkways throughout neighboring streets. In addition, I would develop new signage and branding for the park including wayfinding along trails and at vehicular and pedestrian entrances and educational signage along trails and in the tree houses. I would like for this branding, as well as materiality throughout the site, to reflect the character of the Historic Duncan Park Stadium. For example, using lots of light washed wood to reflect the grand stand in the park, the deep forest green in the stands, and the beautiful lamp posts that were original to the stadium.

Next, I really would have enjoyed exploring educational programming throughout the site, specifically the Education and Recreation Center and the five tree houses. I am very interested in studying experiential education and its impacts on children's education. By getting more site specific for my project I could have look at what elements could have been added to enhance outdoor play and outdoor education. Ideally, I would have investigated programming in each of the five tree houses more. The idea for the tree houses came from the summer camp I grew up going to and working at for three summers during college. I learned so much there as a camper but even more there as a staff member. It was so interesting to watch kids learn and grow

so much in two weeks without even knowing it because to them it was just fun. However, the camp is set up in such a way that creates a safe a playful environment to learn new skills, all while feeling like play. Near Wolfe Lake on the property is what is known as the Nature Tree House. It is a magical place for campers because there is a big slide to exit the structure and twinkle lights hanging from the ceiling, hammock to hang out in underneath and a beautiful view of the lake. However, the primary purpose of the treehouse is to act as the home base for the nature activity where campers learn about the flora and fauna of Western North Carolina. Then they get to go look at what they have learned about with their own eyes down by the lake or on a trail through the forest. It has been such a privilege to watch kids learn so much through this method. That experience prompted the thoughts on how Duncan Park could be transformed into an educational tool for my community. This investigation would include creating curriculum for suitable various age groups on the topics of local history, horticulture, aqua culture, ornithology, and entomology of the upcountry of South Carolina. In terms of site planning and the details of the tree houses, I would like to look at how to make the trails and entrances ADA accessible so that anyone can go there to learn and have fun.

Finally, if I had more time to work on this project, I would like to take a deeper look at the possibilities of environmental and habitat restoration on the site, specifically on the riparian edge. All these ideas for what could be done with the park are fun to develop and workshop, but they are not very useful if natural environment, which makes the site special, continued to deteriorate without any meaningful intervention. An element to this investigation would taking detailed and throughout inventory of the plant and animal species on the site and studying the water quality of the lake. This would help to make informed decisions on what kinds of interventions could help improve its environmental resilience.

This semester I learned very much about my approach to design and the way I think though solving problems. If I could go back, I would be more aware of my time management, because I think, in part, that is what kept me from producing more work that is at the level of which I am capable. However, I am still very proud of my product for Duncan Park Educational Forest and I am looking forward to taking the skills that I have learned in this program into the professional world.

Anna Grace Ritchie

Mary G. Padua, RLA

LARC 4550

December 14, 2022

Duncan Park Educational Forest: Reflection

The history and future of Duncan Park is a topic that is very dear to me as a native of Spartanburg, and I am so thankful for this opportunity, through exit studio, to learn more about its rich history and explore the multitude of opportunities that are possible to enrich the lives of those who visit Duncan Park. This studio has stretched me and challenged me in ways I had not experienced in past studios. The one of the biggest reasons for this is the inherent challenge in determining the direction of my project on my own. All other studios have very specific guidelines for the project that help guide us along the way. However, while this posed as a challenge it also posed as a great opportunity to learn and grow in new ways for my final semester.

Overall, I am pleased concept and direction of my project. I believe it successfully combines my interests in education and recreation. By working on site level, I was able to take a wide look the site as whole including circulation, which was one of the largest issues facing the park. However, if I had more time there are several aspects of the project I would have liked to further investigate. Specifically, circulation relating to entrances and expanded into the city, programming and layout of the treehouses and education center and riparian edge restoration.

Circulation is one of the most important elements of this project. I would have liked to take a closer look at how my two-circuit system would work in actuality and how they could tie

into existing and proposed circulatory systems, such as the Mary Black Rail Trail, in Spartanburg. One of the goals for this project was to create more opportunities for residents of the neighborhood to access the park in more ways than are available now. This would include developing the three proposed lateral entrances in more detail as well improved pedestrian walkways throughout neighboring streets. In addition, I would develop new signage and branding for the park including wayfinding along trails and at vehicular and pedestrian entrances and educational signage along trails and in the tree houses. I would like for this branding, as well as materiality throughout the site, to reflect the character of the Historic Duncan Park Stadium. For example, using lots of light washed wood to reflect the grandstand in the park, the deep forest green in the stands, and the beautiful lamp posts that were original to the stadium.

Next, I really would have enjoyed exploring educational programming throughout the site, specifically the Education and Recreation Center and the five tree houses. I am very interested in studying experiential education and its impacts on children's education. By getting more site specific for my project I could have look at what elements could have been added to enhance outdoor play and outdoor education. Ideally, I would have investigated programming in each of the five tree houses more. The idea for the tree houses came from the summer camp I grew up going to and working at for three summers during college. I learned so much there as a camper but even more there as a staff member. It was so interesting to watch kids learn and grow so much in two weeks without even knowing it because to them it was just fun. However, the camp is set up in such a way that creates a safe a playful environment to learn new skills, all while feeling like play. Near Wolfe Lake on the property is what is known as the Nature Tree House. It is a magical place for campers because there is a big slide to exit the structure and twinkle lights hanging from the ceiling, hammock to hang out in underneath and a beautiful view

of the lake. However, the primary purpose of the treehouse is to act as the home base for the nature activity where campers learn about the flora and fauna of Western North Carolina. Then they get to go look at what they have learned about with their own eyes down by the lake or on a trail through the forest. It has been such a privilege to watch kids learn so much through this method. That experience prompted the thoughts on how Duncan Park could be transformed into an educational tool for my community. This investigation would include creating curriculum for suitable various age groups on the topics of local history, horticulture, aqua culture, ornithology, and entomology of the upcountry of South Carolina. In terms of site planning and the details of the tree houses, I would like to look at how to make the trails and entrances ADA accessible so that anyone can go there to learn and have fun.

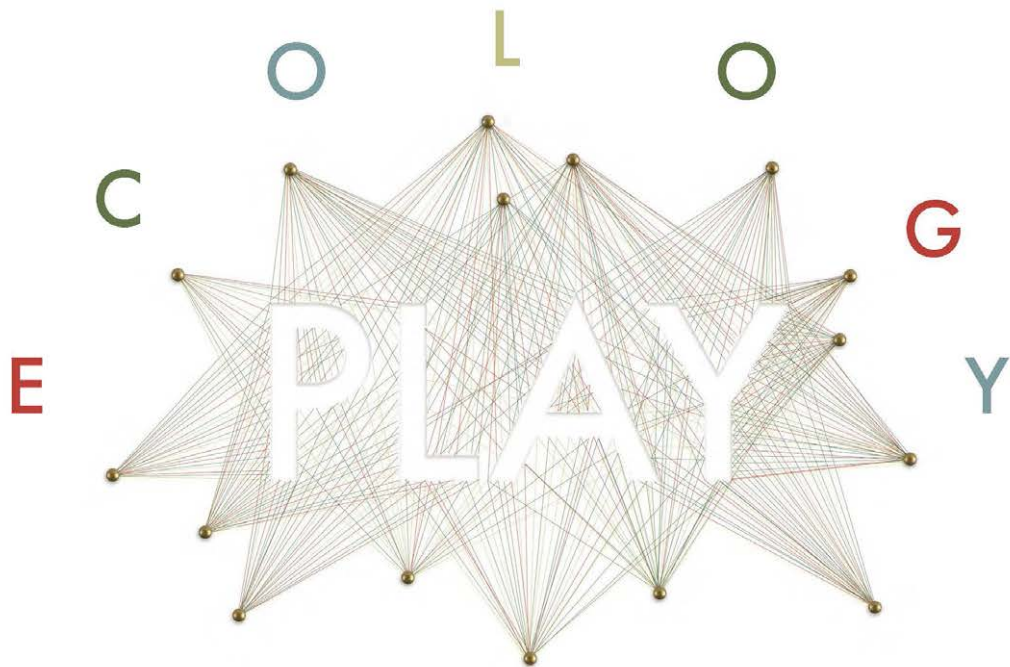
Finally, if I had more time to work on this project, I would like to take a deeper look at the possibilities of environmental and habitat restoration on the site, specifically on the riparian edge. All these ideas for what could be done with the park are fun to develop and workshop, but they are not very useful if natural environment, which makes the site special, continued to deteriorate without any meaningful intervention. An element to this investigation would taking detailed and throughout inventory of the plant and animal species on the site and studying the water quality of the lake. This would help to make informed decisions on what kinds of interventions could help improve its environmental resilience.

Over the course of this semester, as well as my entire time in this program, I have learned so much about my approach to design and the way I think through solving problems. If I could go back, I would be more aware of my time management, because I think, in part, that is what kept me from producing more work that is at the level of which I am capable. However, I am still

very proud of my product for Duncan Park Educational Forest, and I am looking forward to taking the skills that I have learned in this program into the professional world.



MORGAN SISK
LARC 4550



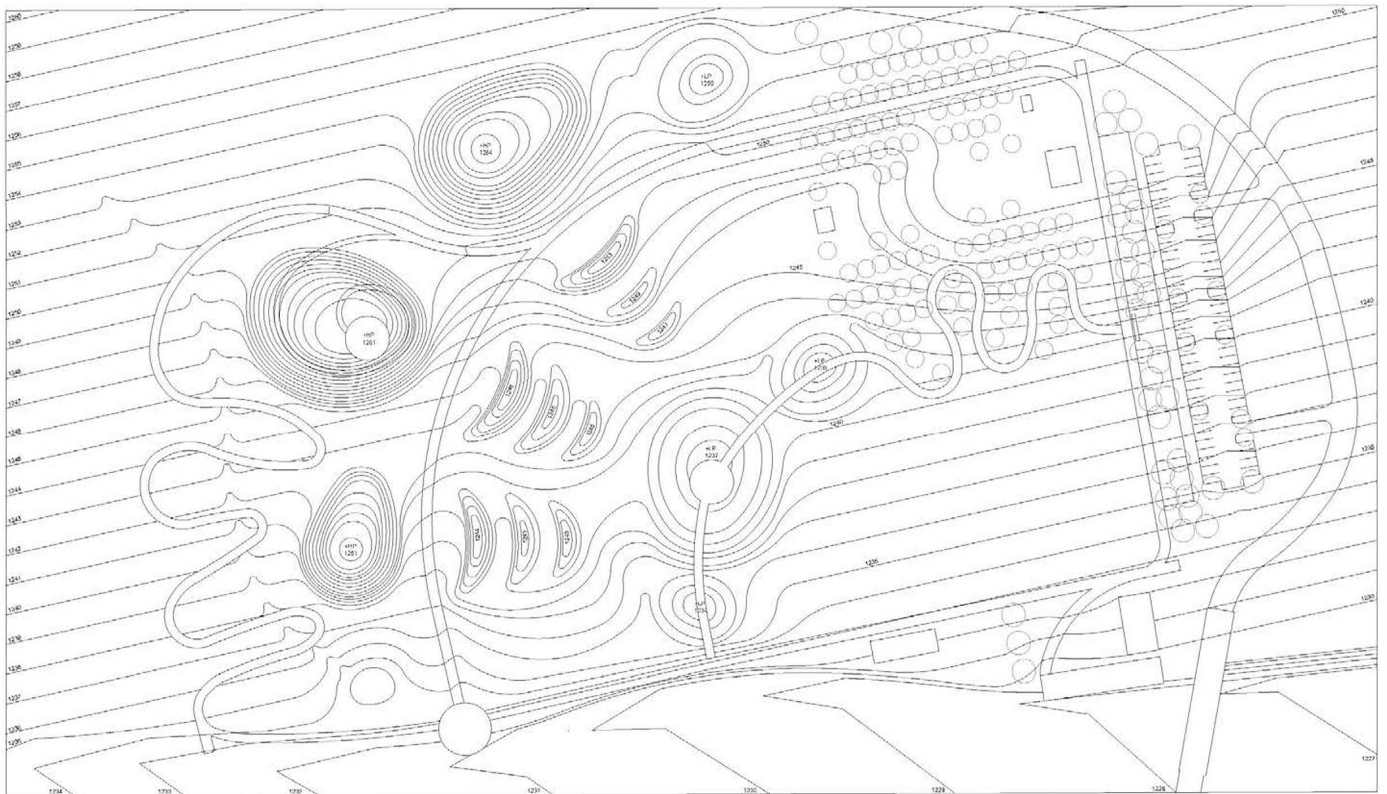
GOAL: FOSTER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS
AND NATURE BY WEAVING TOGETHER **PLAY** + **ECOLOGY**

Master Plan

Ellijay River

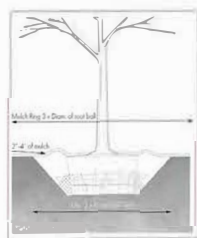
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

1. Mound Overlook
2. Forest Boardwalk
3. River Overlook
4. Wavefields
5. Mountain Bog Overlook
6. Picnic Shelter
7. Water Access
8. Restrooms and River Outfitter
9. Lawn
10. Pinson Barn
11. Apple Orchard
12. Stoge

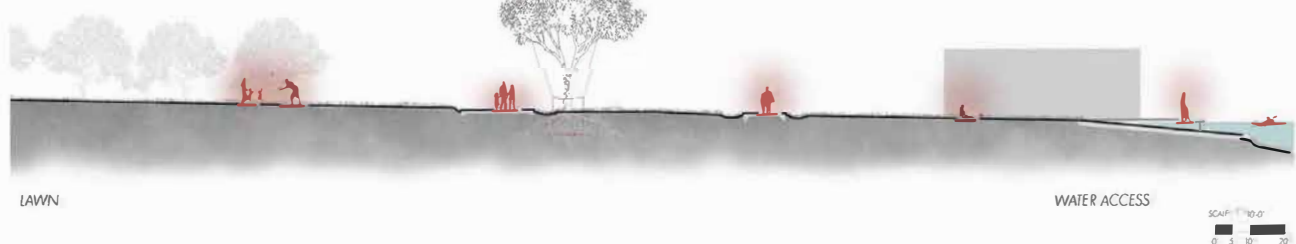




The section is cut through the majority of the site starting in the forest and ending at the Ellis River. Through this section, you can see the change in topography and different habitats created. The human relationship in how the site is used and the ecological relationships throughout different habitats are highlighted here.



THE BIG IDEA: WEAVING PLAY - ECOLOGY
GOAL: Foster the relationship between humans and nature by weaving together play and ecology.

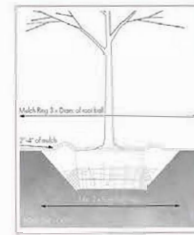


HARRISON PARK



1. **WETLANDS**
Wetlands are found in low-lying areas, often near water bodies. They are characterized by water-saturated soil and the presence of wetland plants.

ELLIWAY CHARACTER



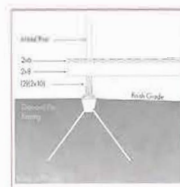
2. **WETLANDS**
Wetlands are found in low-lying areas, often near water bodies. They are characterized by water-saturated soil and the presence of wetland plants.



LAWN



3. **WETLANDS**
Wetlands are found in low-lying areas, often near water bodies. They are characterized by water-saturated soil and the presence of wetland plants.

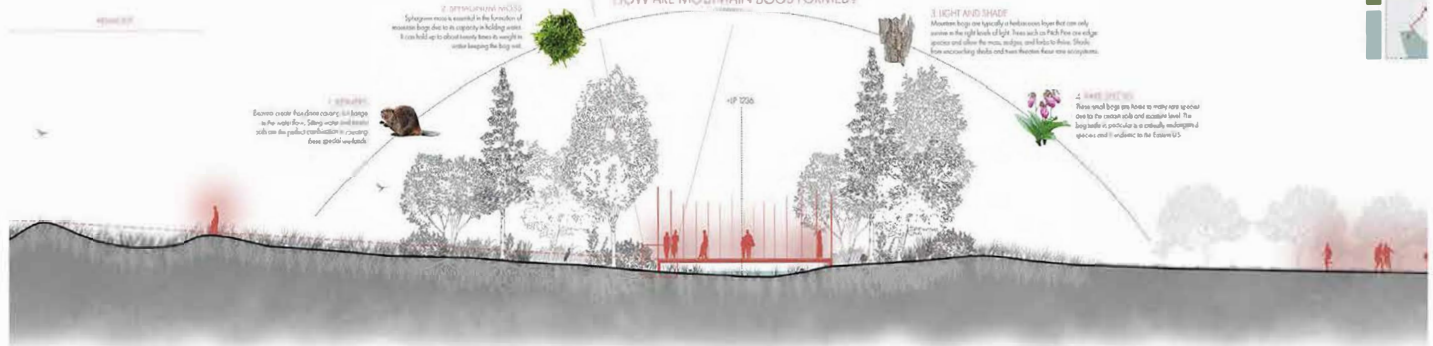


GEORGIA MOUNTAIN BOGS



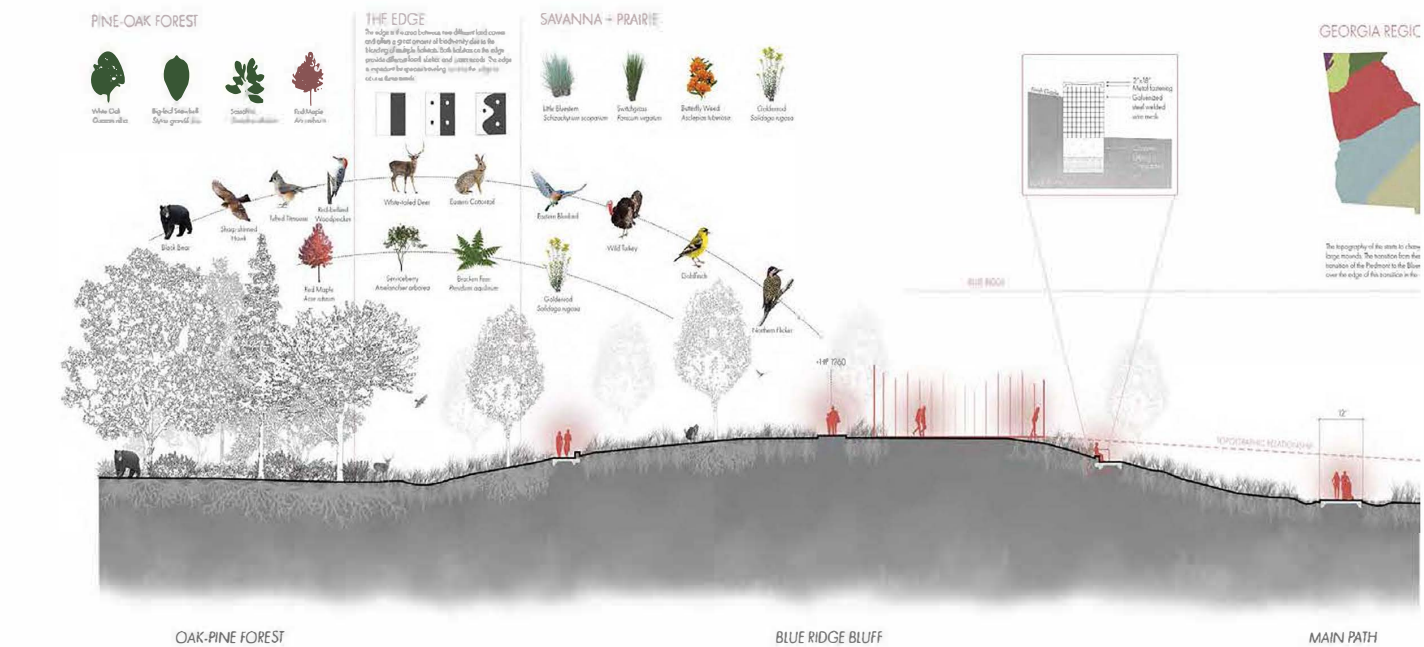
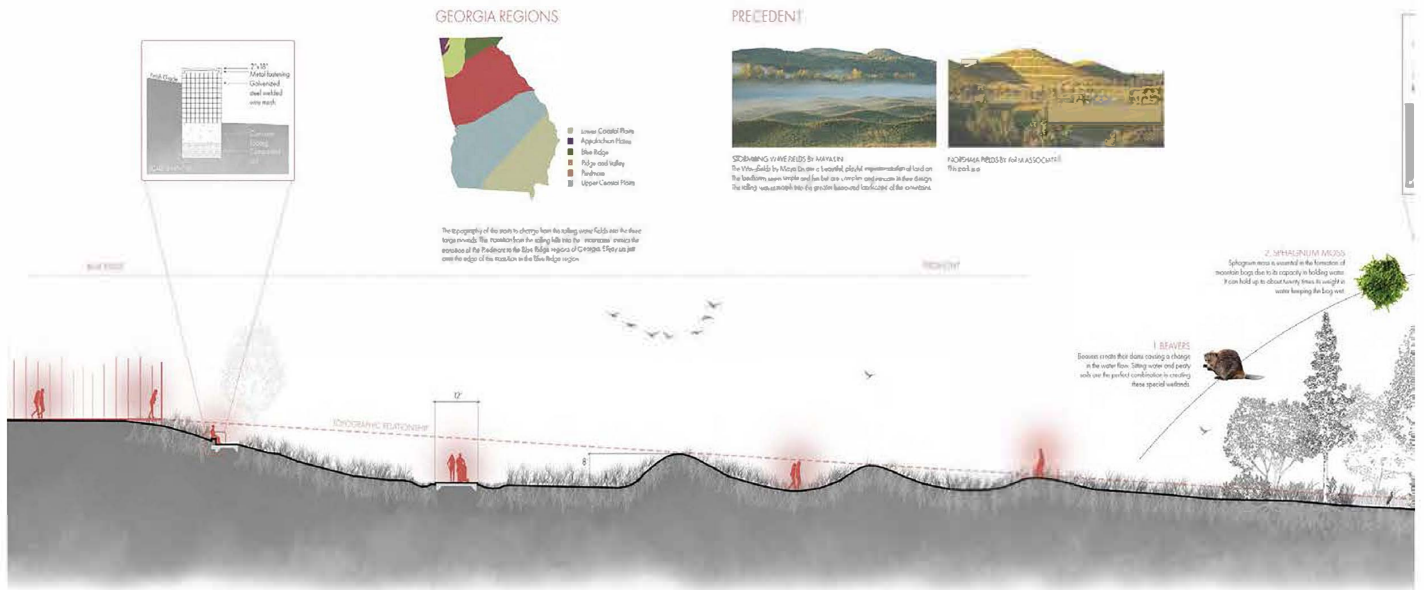
Mountain bogs are found in low-lying areas, often near water bodies. They are characterized by water-saturated soil and the presence of wetland plants.

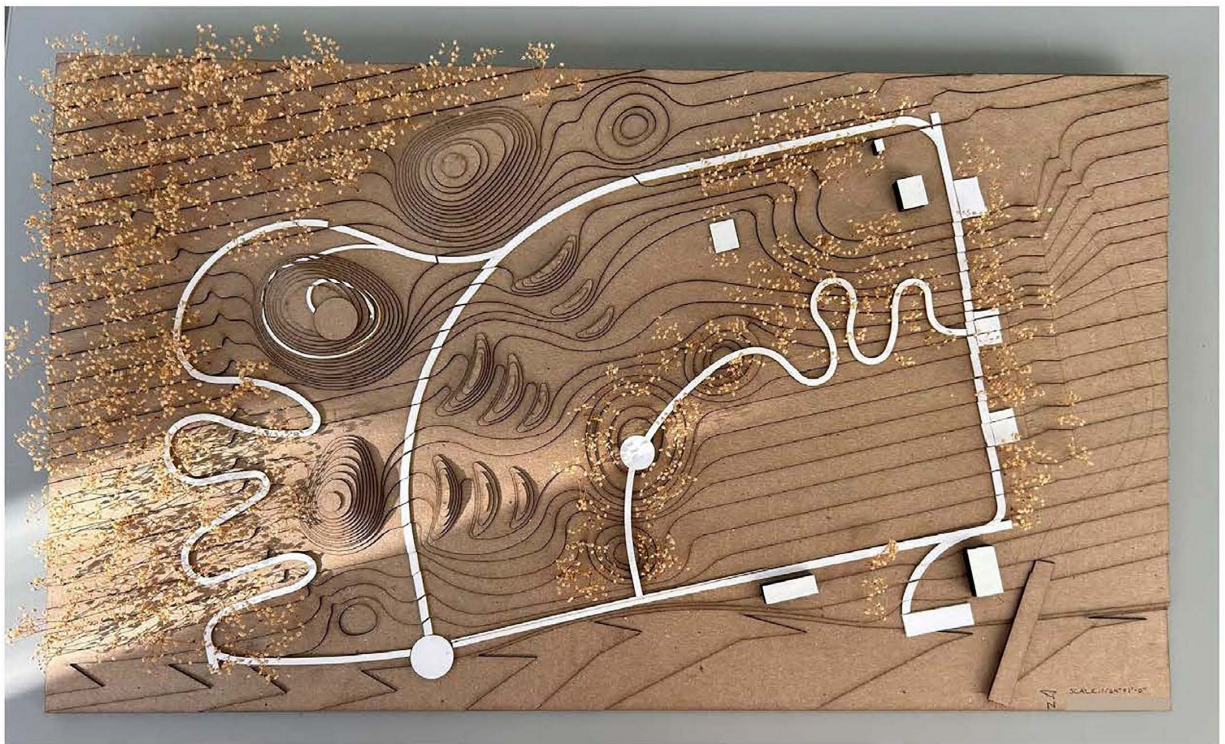
HOW ARE MOUNTAIN BOGS FORMED?



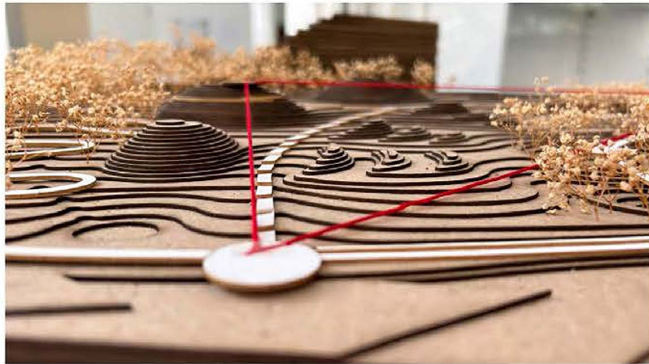
AVE FIELDS

MOUNTAIN BOG BOARDWALK





Site Model



View from River Overlook Deck



View from Bog Overlook Deck



View from Pinson Barn to Mounds



View of Pinson Barn + Orchard to Blue Ridge Bluff



View along Woodland Boardwalk