

2023

ASLA  
ohio

Professional + Student Awards

2023

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Board of Directors

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WELCOME

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Presidential Letter

On behalf of The Ohio Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), it's my great honor to announce the 2023 Ohio Chapter ASLA Professional and Student Award Winners. This year, the Ohio Chapter ASLA received a total of 31 Professional and Student Award submissions. After careful consideration and deliberation of each Professional submission, our jury awarded 1 Award of Excellence, 2 Honor Awards, 3 Merit Awards, and 1 Special Recognition. Our select Executive Committee Jury reviewed the Student submissions and awarded 1 Student Award of Excellence, 1 Student Honor Award and 1 Student Merit Award. Congratulations to the 2023 Ohio Chapter ASLA Award Winners! It is truly a humbling and inspiring experience to see such transformative and innovative work that is coming out of Ohio.

With an endeavor as complex and as meaningful in running a statewide professional association, it truly takes a village to ensure that each member of the Ohio Chapter ASLA (OCASLA) can tangibly feel the value of their personal, professional, and social investment in this organization. None of what you see here on these pages would be possible without the countless hours of service that the OCASLA Board of Directors dedicated throughout the year.

It is their commitment to this organization that continues to advance the mission of ASLA, making Ohio one of the greatest places to work, collaborate, and grow as a profession of visionaries, innovators, and leaders in our industry. It has been an incredible pleasure serving alongside such a passionate and committed group of people. It is because of my fellow Executive Committee members' hard work and tireless effort that Ohio continues to lead the way and serves as a model to chapters across the country. I cannot thank them enough for the talents, unique perspectives, and individual personality they bring to this organization.

The awards not only provide a chance for us to honor and celebrate the great achievements in design, collaboration, research, communication, and built work that our colleagues have produced. But they serve as snapshot in time of how landscape architecture has evolved in shaping landscapes and connecting communities in service of a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future.

It is with profound gratitude and immense pride that Ohio Chapter ASLA's Board of Directors serve the landscape architects of Ohio. It is through your continued support that we are able to achieve great things together.

David Wilson, ASLA  
President

Chapter Representatives

**Chris Watkins, ASLA**  
Emerging Professional Chair  
REALM Collaborative

**Nicholas Bockerstette, PLA, ASLA**  
Marketing / Website Chair  
EDGE

**Pat Beam, PLA, ASLA**  
Ohio Landscape Architects Board  
CLARB Ohio Representative  
Beam Designs, LLC

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GPD Group

**Jerry Smith, PLA, FASLA**  
Ohio Chapter Climate Action Leader Representative  
SMITH | GreenHealth Consulting, LLC

**Andre Banerjee, ASLA**  
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**Kari Hiatt, PLA, ASLA**  
Buckeye Section Member-at-Large  
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Bayer Becker

**Kelly Coffman, PLA, ASLA**  
Western Reserve Section Member-at-Large  
Cleveland Metroparks

**Megan Nericci, ASLA**  
Buckeye Section Chair  
EDGE

**Ryan Geismar, PLA, ASLA**  
Miami Section Chair  
Human Nature

**Jeremy Hinte, ASLA**  
Western Reserve Section Chair  
GPD Group



## IN MEMORIAM Norman Booth, FASLA

Norman K. Booth, 75 of Columbus, OH and Pentwater, MI passed away peacefully on April 3, 2023, in his home in Columbus. He attended Syracuse University and the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture. He received a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1972.

He married Gail C. Zink in August 1986. Together through their marriage, they enjoyed many happy hours traveling, attending their Ohio and Michigan gardens, and kayaking lakes and rivers in western Michigan.

Norman spent most of his professional career teaching landscape architecture at The Ohio State University. He attained the rank of Full Professor and served as Head of the Section of Landscape Architecture from 1996 to 2003, retiring in 2004. During his teaching career, he authored three landscape architecture textbooks. He was honored in 1999 by being designated a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects. He enjoyed being in nature, especially hiking and photography.

Norm was the consummate educator. He was passionate about landscape architecture and devoted his professional life to sharing that passion with friends, colleagues, and especially students. He cherished his interaction with countless inquisitive minds. He was especially eager, patient, thoughtful, and supportive during one-on-one desktop critiques. He will certainly be missed and forever be a memorable influence in our lives.



## IN MEMORIAM John Bentley, FASLA

Optimistic, engaging, freethinking, creative, lover of nature – those were among the qualities of internationally known landscape architect John Alden Bentley, who passed away peacefully March 26, surrounded by family in his Cincinnati home.

Bentley, 82, was born in New York City and grew up the youngest of three boys in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His father, Alden Cody Bentley, was a pilot who died in 1942 – 15 months after John was born – while testing a B-26 aircraft during World War II. He was raised by his mother, Marion Windisch Bentley, the granddaughter of Conrad Windisch, founder of Windisch-Mulhauser Brewery, Cincinnati's second biggest brewery in the late 1800s and one of the largest in the U.S.

Bentley was a graduate of the Fay School and Tabor Academy, both in Massachusetts. In 1962, he earned his undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from Penn State, one of the nation's leading universities in the field, and in 1964, a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Michigan.

At the age of 27 with the firm Sasaki Strong Associates, his first significant undertaking was as Project Manager for La Ronde, the extensive entertainment complex that is now the only remaining portion of the Expo '67 World's Fair in Montreal.

During his nearly 50-year career in Cincinnati, Bentley founded several firms, including Bentley Koepke, Inc., mentored many in his field, and created and executed landscape design for the Cincinnati region's most prominent and award-winning projects including the Procter & Gamble World Headquarters Gardens & Plaza, Piatt Park, the Hamilton County Courthouse, Great American Ballpark, the Cincinnati Public Library Main Branch and numerous others.

He was a fellow with the American Association of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the highest honor in the profession. He was also a former President of the Ohio Chapter of ASLA, former President of the Ohio Landscape Architecture Examining Board, and associate member of the AIA, Cincinnati Chapter. His civic involvements in Cincinnati included being Indian Hill Green Areas consultant for 42 years and a founding board member of Green Umbrella. He was also a member of the Ohio Arts Council founding advisory group, the Cincinnati Association, the Cincinnati Preservation Association advisory board, the Ohio River Development Commission advisory board, Clean Cincinnati, Cincinnati Beautiful, Urban Forestry Board, Friends of Cincinnati Parks Board, and the Village of Mariemont Architectural Review Board. He was a vestry and session member of Indian Hill Church and a member of both the Civic Garden Center and the Cincinnati Nature Center.



## Legislative Affairs Update

The legislative affairs committee has had another busy year, putting equal efforts into on-going legislation and events, as well as laying the groundwork for a more nuanced approach to political advocacy in future years.

The chapter held its seventh annual Statehouse Day, with guest speaker Shannon Himes of the Ohio Landscape Architects Board. With 20 attendees and 9 legislator meetings, including one with the House Majority Director of Policy, the event continues to grow in attendance and impact.

In March, Senate Bill 56 became law. This bill, which limits indemnification for design professionals, was supported by OCASLA and passed with bipartisan support. This bill ensures that design professionals can only be asked to indemnify a public authority for liabilities incurred from their own scope of work. Senator Blessing, the bill's sponsor, and a licensed professional engineer said "design professionals, as a matter of basic fairness, should not be asked to contractually indemnify and/or defend another party for losses that the designer did not cause, cannot insure against, and were caused by factors beyond the designer's control.

OCASLA has also been tracking a few applicable bills for movement within the Statehouse. Senate Bill 64 attempts to reduce the use of eminent domain to take farmland. However, the bill's language is expansive in its effort to reduce the use of eminent domain, and takes specific at trails, greenways, and other pedestrian facilities such as crosswalks. The bill's passage may mean that eminent domain could not be used for the construction of trails and greenways, and critically, that no pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, etc.) could be implemented on any project that utilized eminent domain to acquire property. The chapter opposes this bill as written and has expressed interest in working together with the bill's sponsor to revise the language to avoid any unnecessary limitations on landscape architecture work.

In September, the House's Occupational Licensure Review of the Ohio Landscape Architect's Board was held. Executive Director Shannon Himes testified for the State and Local Government Committee; providing a background for the operations and purpose of the board, and an outline of landscape architecture for those representatives who may not be familiar with the professional. A recommendation from the Committee on any potential changes to the board is expected in the next few months. OCASLA will continue to closely track this process.

On the federal level, the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act has been reintroduced in the House by Representative Ruben Gallego and the Senate by Senator Sherrod Brown. After collaboration with Senator's Brown's staff, the bill was revised to include language specifically recommended by OCASLA. Lastly, a Political Action Committee has been established to better support the advocacy for landscape architecture in Ohio. Other design professional organizations have been using Political Action Committees. Political advocacy has long been a point of emphasis for Ohio's landscape architects. With your support, we achieved several recent successes:

- Lobbying the Ohio General Assembly for passage of a bill creating lien rights for landscape architects
- Lobbying ODOT to add landscape architects to the agency's Construction and Materials Specifications Manual
- Lobbying the Board of Building Standards to revise the definition of design professionals to include landscape architects.

But much work still needs to be done. The formation of the Landscape Architects of Ohio P.A.C. will add a new tool to our ability to make Ohio a great place to practice landscape architecture and efforts to promote it will take center stage in 2024.



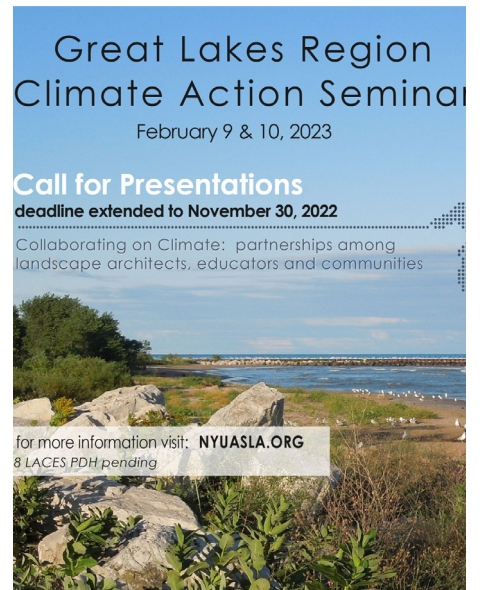
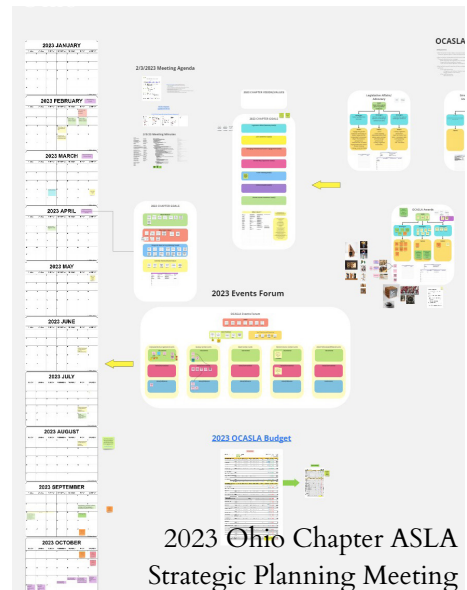
## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

In 2023, the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee made strides in creating a more equitable profession of landscape architecture in Ohio. After a multi-year long process, Ohio will now be able to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into the list of acceptable subject matter for health, safety, and welfare continuing education credits in Ohio, which consist of 75% of the required credit hours. The Ohio Landscape Architects Board voted to approve the DEI HSW credits in May of 2021. On September 1st of 2023, the code revision was officially filed.

Collaborating with the Center for Architecture and Design in Columbus, Ohio, the committee designed, implemented and tested many iterations of design curricula. Through many tests and iterations, the committee created a lesson plan for educators to use. The submitted entry, Designing with Diversity, introduces participants to landscape architecture through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The lesson plan was one of the winners of the 2022 Future Landscape Architects of America Curriculum Challenge. The lesson plan

is available for public use and accessible through the Ohio Chapter website.

In September, the second annual Centering Diversity Summit took place at the Knowlton School. The theme of this year's summit was JEDI in Action; encouraging our community in Ohio to identify and set collaborative initiatives in action to further our goal of a more diverse and inclusive profession within Ohio. The summit consisted of a panel discussion and two workshop sessions. During the last workshop session, participants laid the groundwork for working groups that address various topics, such as K-12 engagement and advocacy. Participants identified goals and action items for these working groups as a way to break down the larger topic of Diversity and Inclusion into manageable pieces. The next step is formally establishing the working groups, with the expectation that the summit will be a forum for all of these working groups to report back to the larger Ohio community on their annual progress.



# AWARDS CATEGORIES + LEVELS

## AWARD CATEGORIES:

### GENERAL DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category must be built.

Typical entries include: Public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential—see residential category); historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; design for transportation or infrastructure; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution; design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers.

### GENERAL DESIGN - NOT CONSTRUCTED

Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.

Typical entries include: Public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential—see residential category); historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; design for transportation or infrastructure; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution of the overall presentation graphics (plans, sections, 3-D renderings, etc); design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers.

### PLANNING + ANALYSIS

Recognizes: The wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architectural design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.

Typical entries include: Urban, suburban, rural, or regional efforts; development guidelines, transportation planning, town planning, or campus planning; plans for recovery or reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning in relation to legislative or policy initiatives or regulatory controls; cultural resource reports; cultural and natural resources protection, conservation, or historic preservation planning; and more.

Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of the analysis and planning efforts; context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; likelihood of successful implementation; and value to the client, the public, and other designers.

### COMMUNICATIONS + RESEARCH

Recognizes: Achievements in communicating landscape architecture works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and the lesson value to an intended audience. Research identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for the profession.

Typical entries include: Print media, film, video, audio, CD, or DVD formats; online communications; interpretive design; exhibition design; and more. Research includes scientific research on topics related to the practice of landscape architecture; investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more.

Criteria: The jury will consider the effectiveness of message presentation, the innovation in approach or delivery, and the value to the intended audience. For research, the jury will consider how the research is framed; the context and resources of the study; the methods of inquiry; the results of investigation; and the lesson value of the research conclusions to the field at large.

### RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category must be built.

Typical entries include: Single or multifamily residential projects; activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation, or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; historic preservation, rooftop gardens; and more.

Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution; context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers.

### STUDENT

Recognizes: Collaborative work by landscape architecture students with students from allied and/or complementary disciplines, including those in landscape architecture and other design fields; as well as individual student work. Student entries are not required to be built. (Student must be currently enrolled or recent Spring 2022 graduate)

Typical entries include: Landscape architecture projects that meet the criteria within the categories of General Design, Residential Design, Planning and Analysis, and Communications and Research brought about through collaborative/individual efforts.

Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution of the overall presentation graphics (plans, sections, 3-D renderings, etc); design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability.

## AWARD LEVELS:

### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Recognizes excellent professional achievement in projects that epitomize the ingenuity, originality and functionality of the profession of landscape architecture.

### HONOR AWARD

Recognizes superior professional achievement in projects that embody the creativity, imagination and practicality of the profession of landscape architecture.

### MERIT AWARD

Recognizes meritorious professional achievement in projects exhibiting outstanding achievement in the profession of landscape architecture.

### Honorable Mention

Recognizes a singular project achievement exhibiting extraordinary ingenuity in the profession of landscape architecture.

# AWARDS JURIES

Ohio ASLA Professional Awards Jury



**Beka Sturges**  
Principal - Reed Hilderbrand



**Clifford Benjamin Herring**  
Principal Designer - PAADG Studio



**Keiko Tsuruta Cramer**  
Principal - WRT Design



**Mary Lydecker**  
Principal - Hargreaves Jones



**Mitch Glass**  
Lecturer, Department of Landscape Architecture |  
City & Regional Planning - Cornell University

Ohio ASLA Student Awards Jury



**Jerry Smith, FASLA**  
Climate Action Leader Representative  
Ohio Chapter ASLA



**Chris Watkins**  
Public Relations Representative  
Ohio Chapter ASLA



**Heather Weilnau**  
Miami Section Member-at-Large  
Ohio Chapter ASLA

# AWARD WINNERS



**14**  
**Award of Excellence**  
Riverside Crossing Park | MKSK



**20**  
**Honor Award**  
Elevating Alum Creek | AECOM



**24**  
**Honor Award**  
Hilton Head Mid Island Park | MKSK



**28**  
**Merit Award**  
East-West Corridor Bus Rapid  
Transit Study | AECOM



**30**  
**Merit Award**  
The Cincinnati Black Music Walk  
of Fame | The Kleingers Group



**32**  
**Merit Award**  
Vision for the Valley | OHM Advisors



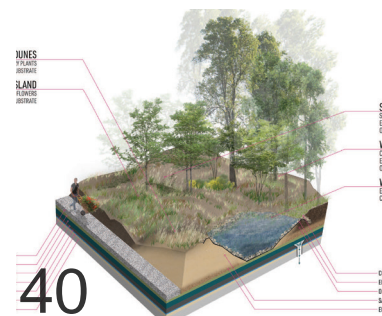
**34**  
**Honorable Mention**  
Garden of 11 Angels | LAND studio



**36**  
**Student - Award of Excellence**  
The Last Drop: Decentralizing Water  
Infrastructure for a Dry Future |  
Yu-Ming Hsu



**38**  
**Student Honor Award**  
Tree Stories: Community-Driven  
Design to Expand Cleveland's Urban  
Tree Canopy | Morgan Mackey



**40**  
**Student Merit Award**  
Green Recolonization | Saba  
Tajali



**42**  
**Ohio Medal**  
Virginia "Jennie" L. Russell



# AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

DESIGN CONSTRUCTED

## MKSK Riverside Crossing Park

*Dublin, Ohio*

The scenic Scioto River and the historic core of Dublin are invaluable community assets and provide the context for expanded civic space within the heart of the community. The Bridge Street District master plan called for a signature park along the Scioto River that would provide high value park frontage for the planned Bridge Park development and all of Dublin. Riverside Drive was relocated to the east to make room for the park along the riverfront bluff. The Landscape Architect led a multidiscipline design and engineering team from master planning through implementation of the new Riverside Crossing Park in the heart of the city's Historic District.

The park design was driven by a desire to create a signature park and community space for all of Dublin that integrates historic and new, natural, and modern. The west side of the park is envisioned as a more naturalized area with connections to the Indian Run greenway, Scioto River access, and trail systems. The east side is elevated outside of the floodplain and includes more programmed amenities, with areas for public gatherings and cultural events, a pavilion building, seasonal outdoor ice skating, rock climbing, seating areas, two dynamic water features, planting beds, and scenic river overlooks. Rough rubble limestone below the plaza level recalls the historic past that echoes in the limestone walls and buildings of the downtown Historic District, while the modern lines of the granite featured in the fountains and plazas connect to the newer Bridge Park Development aesthetic.

The Pavilion building marks the park with a modern architectural element, complete with space for gathering, comfort facilities, shade, a fireplace, and green roof. Below the Pavilion lies an underground garage space for park maintenance personnel and storage.

The main gathering Plaza provides space for the community to gather around one of the two calming water features under the shade of the honey locust and elm trees. The brick plaza is a space for programmed events and casual use. A small boulder scramble offers another space for children to play. Custom granite and wood benches integrate Ohio native plantings and offer seating and lounging in a social format. Adjacent to the Plaza, the Great Lawn offers a flexible space for passive / active recreation and electrical and water connections for large-scale events. The second, more dramatic water feature, is located at the lowest point on the site and greets visitors as they step off the pedestrian bridge onto the east landing plaza. Visitors can sit on adjacent amphitheater style seating to relax and enjoy the sounds of cascading water and children frequently find themselves in the shallow pool cooling off.

The new Riverside Crossing Park brings recreational activities, river access, and open space to the Dublin Bridge Street District. The Park has become an important part of the broader system of regional parks, linking the park to these assets through extensive bike/pedestrian trail linkages, canoe/kayak access points, and scenic natural connections.





# HONOR

## PLANNING + ANALYSIS

### AECOM

# Elevate Alum Creek

Columbus, Ohio

The transformational vision for the Alum Creek Corridor is set within one of the most racially diverse riparian corridors in Central Ohio, with a unique history and past marked by both oppression and liberation. This waterway, and several sites along it, served as stations for the underground railroad and enslaved people fleeing the South. At the beginning of the twentieth century, many of these neighborhoods were thriving, self-governed black towns, but like many neighborhoods across the nation, were devastated by discriminatory policies that enabled infrastructure to slice through communities.

‘Elevate Alum Creek’ acknowledges this history and identifies interventions that address the impacts of infrastructure barriers while reconnecting to the creek’s ecology to create amenities for surrounding communities. An equity toolbox and four key priorities are woven throughout the vision plan, based on feedback from local stakeholders.

1. Elevating and enhancing green and blue assets along Alum Creek to better serve human and ecological health.
2. Elevating the history of Alum Creek, including its role as a significant route to freedom from slavery.
3. Elevating community-serving institutions and enhancing the connections between residents and resources by proposing authentic opportunities to co-create the future.
4. Elevating opportunities for local employment and economic mobility while incentivizing development that does not lead to displacement.

Five catalytic sites were selected along Alum Creek based on the historical, cultural, social, ecological, and investment assets that could be leveraged. These sites include the Westerville-Otterbein Oxbow, Westerville-Alum Creek Trail Connector, KIPP Columbus Outpost, the Historic Hanford Village District, Franklin Park Conservatory and Bexley Canopy Walk, and the Three Creeks Metro Park.

A significant project site is the reimagined Historic Hanford Village District. The plan establishes this area as a vibrant, expanded community that protects the existing community from displacement, increases stock of affordable housing, reconnects the community to neighborhood amenities, and removes parts of the interchange that divided the community to reestablish connectivity. The plan imagines a “village square” surrounded by entrepreneurial businesses, maker spaces, and culinary incubators created by the African American residents of the Near East Side. This district includes several remnants of the industrial past with potential to transform into community-serving, iconic open spaces. Driven by the ideas of Near East neighborhood partners, this site could be transformed with an infusion of art including murals by local artists, film screenings, fashion shows, and markets showcasing makers in the community.

‘Elevate Alum Creek’ strives to inspire new ideas and bring the community together to co-create a resilient and thriving watershed. It is an evolving vision and resource for the future growth of central Ohio.

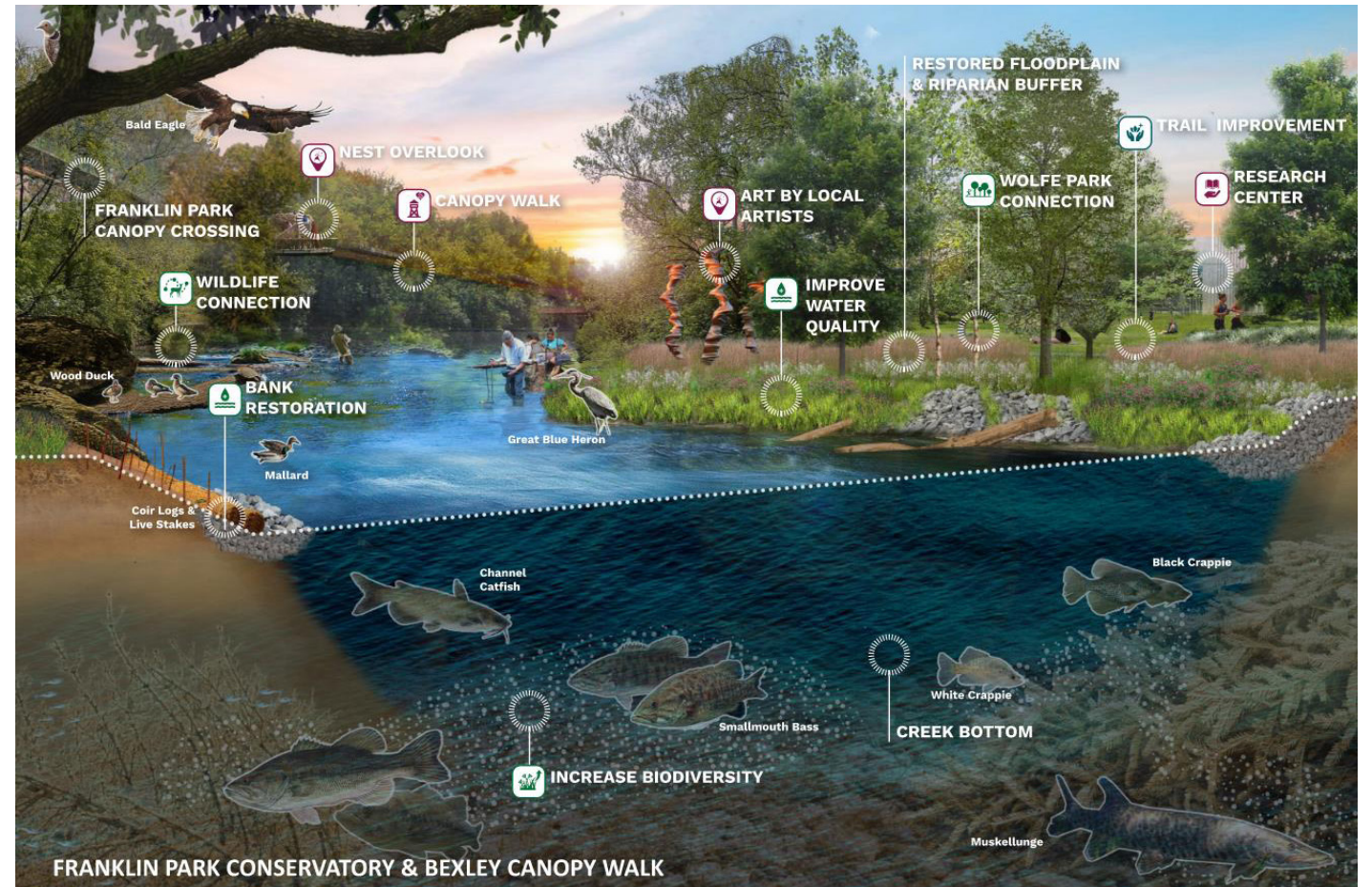
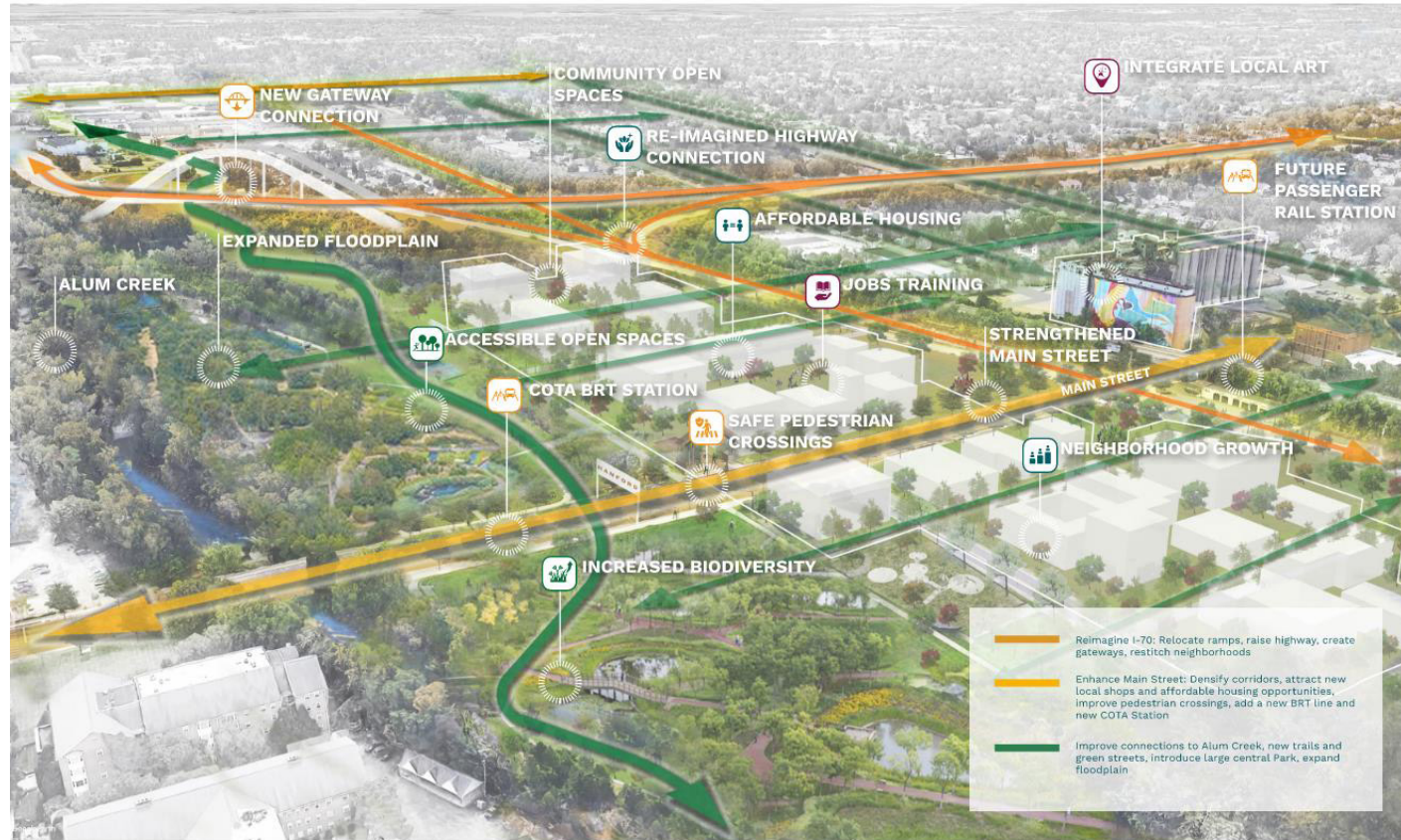


### WESTERVILLE-ALUM CREEK TRAIL CONNECTOR

"Activate the corridor, bring people to it, create cohesive experience and identity." – Metro Parks



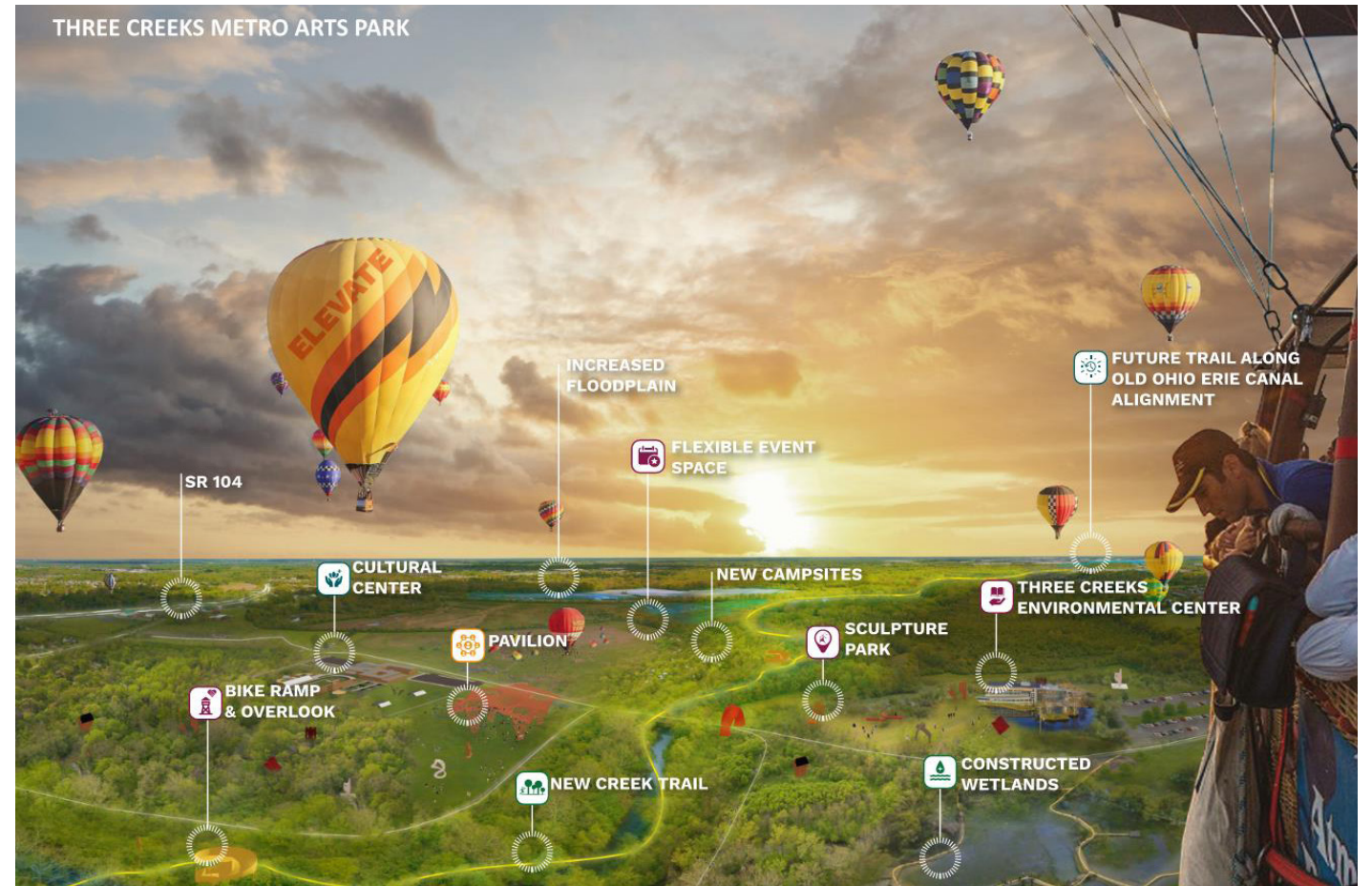
**HISTORIC HANFORD VILLAGE DISTRICT**



**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY & BEXLEY CANOPY WALK**



**HISTORIC HANFORD VILLAGE DISTRICT**



**THREE CREEKS METRO ARTS PARK**

# HONOR

DESIGN NOT CONSTRUCTED

MKSK  
**Hilton Head Mid Island Park**  
*Hilton Head Island, South Carolina*

The consultant team, led by the Landscape Architect, conceptualized a park master plan that celebrates the unique natural and cultural heritage of the site. Using input gathered from the public at an on-site “Open Park Day”, stakeholder meetings, and the Town of Hilton Head Island’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a detailed program list was developed and plan options were explored. While there were many ideas generated, the priority became creating a well-connected passive park with robust features focused on the site’s historic context and environmental stewardship.

The now Town-owned parcel called the Mid-Island Tract is a former golf course with mature tree growth between the fairways. This existing landscape represents a manipulated landscape far removed from a natural condition. The site will be returned to a more natural state through a variety of techniques starting with the landform. Existing man-made lagoons are interconnected with pipes and isolated, discouraging water movement and promoting green algal growth on the water surface. Additionally, the natural waterway that drains the site and upstream properties was straightened, resulting in steep sides and persistent erosion. Strategic re-grading of the site will interconnect the existing water bodies allowing natural flushing of the site, alleviating water quality issues, and providing a more resilient landscape. The site’s ability to store stormwater will be increased to better recharge the subgrade aquifer -- a key component of the Town’s water supply. With refreshed landforms in place, selective tree removal and tree plantings will provide a varied and natural landscape, breaking up the stretches of open fairway on the former golf course site.

The park has five distinct program zones. The Active Play area is where recreational sports, games, and children’s activities are focused. The Heart of the Tract includes signature park facilities and is centralized - connecting all program zones. In the Eco-Park, minimal facilities are proposed, and the focus will be placed on naturalizing and restoring the landscape.

The Cultivated Landscape Zone showcases the native and adapted plants of the Lowcountry through a series of gardens. The Island Heritage zone is where the rich history of the site is celebrated. The Mid-Island Tract and Hilton Head Island is a storied landscape—from its original Native American inhabitants to the site of conflict during the Civil War and the home of freed slaves and their descendants known as the Gullah people. A portion of the Mid-Island Tract is earmarked for the new construction of a Native Islander church, which will be located adjacent to the Historic Union Cemetery.

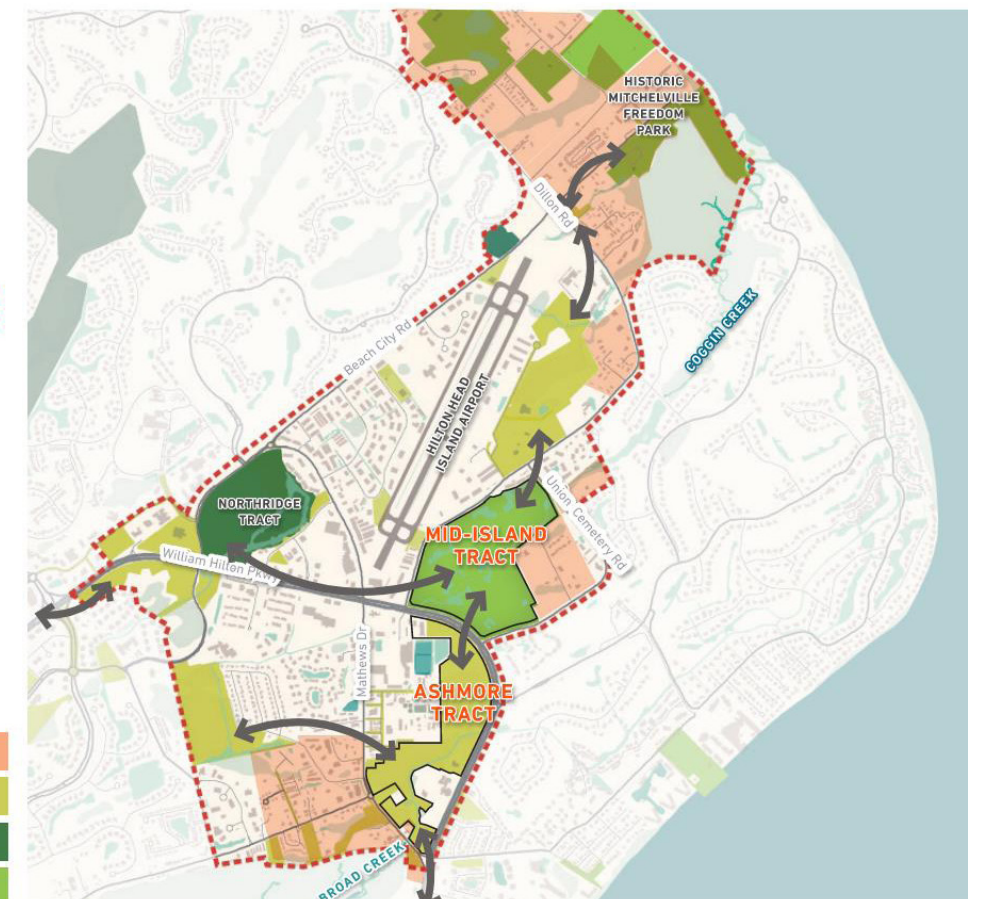
The ambitious plan for Mid-Island Park will provide a civic anchor to the Mid-Island District, connecting residential neighborhoods and important commercial retail centers. Mid-Island Park is thoughtfully designed to be accessible and well-connected to the larger Hilton Head Island greenway system. The new park facility will provide a much-needed public place for the community to come together and reinvigorate the Mid-Island District.



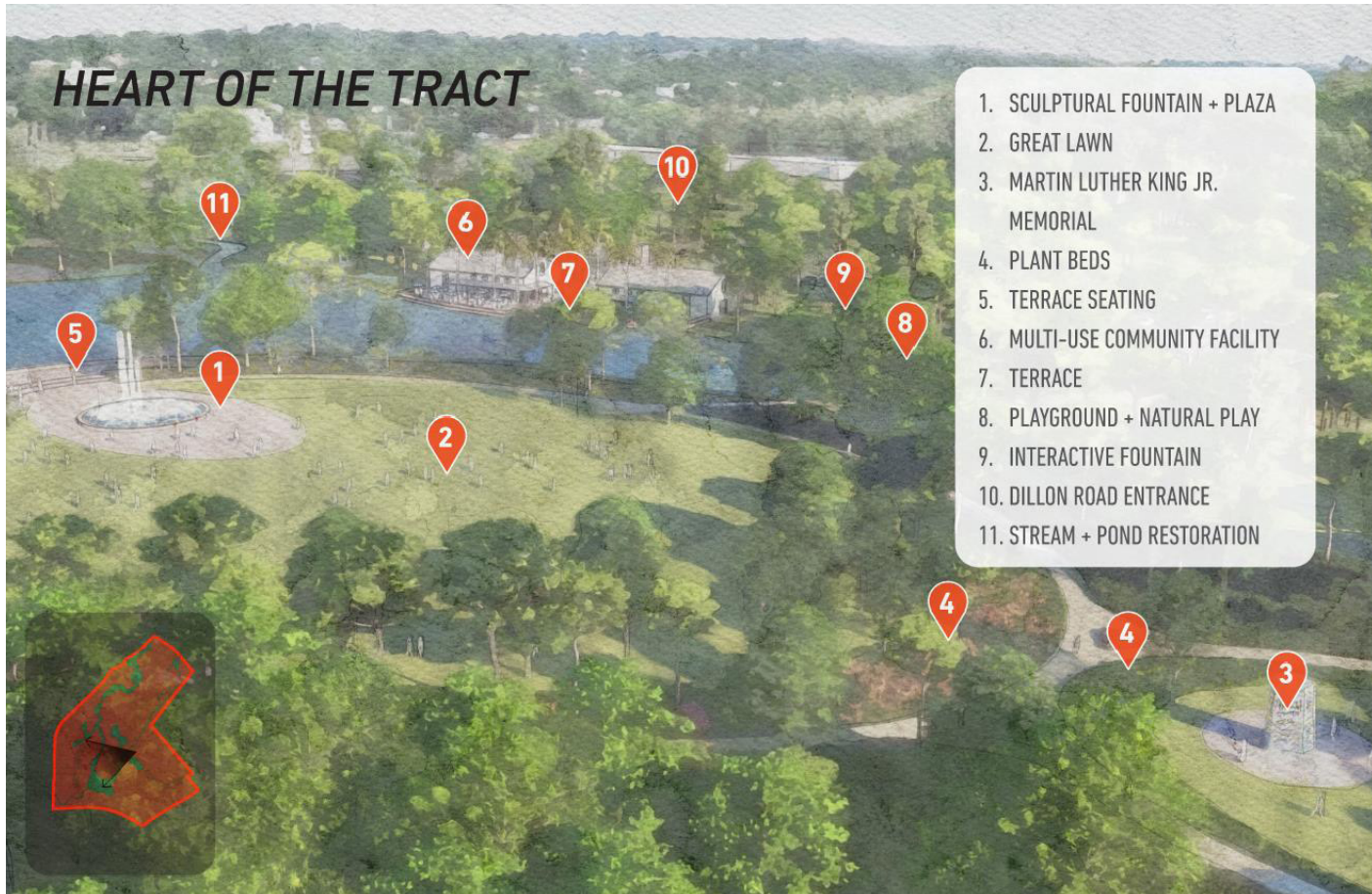
## CONTEXT & CONNECTIVITY



- Historic Neighborhood
- Town Owned Land
- Hilton Head Land Trust
- Park

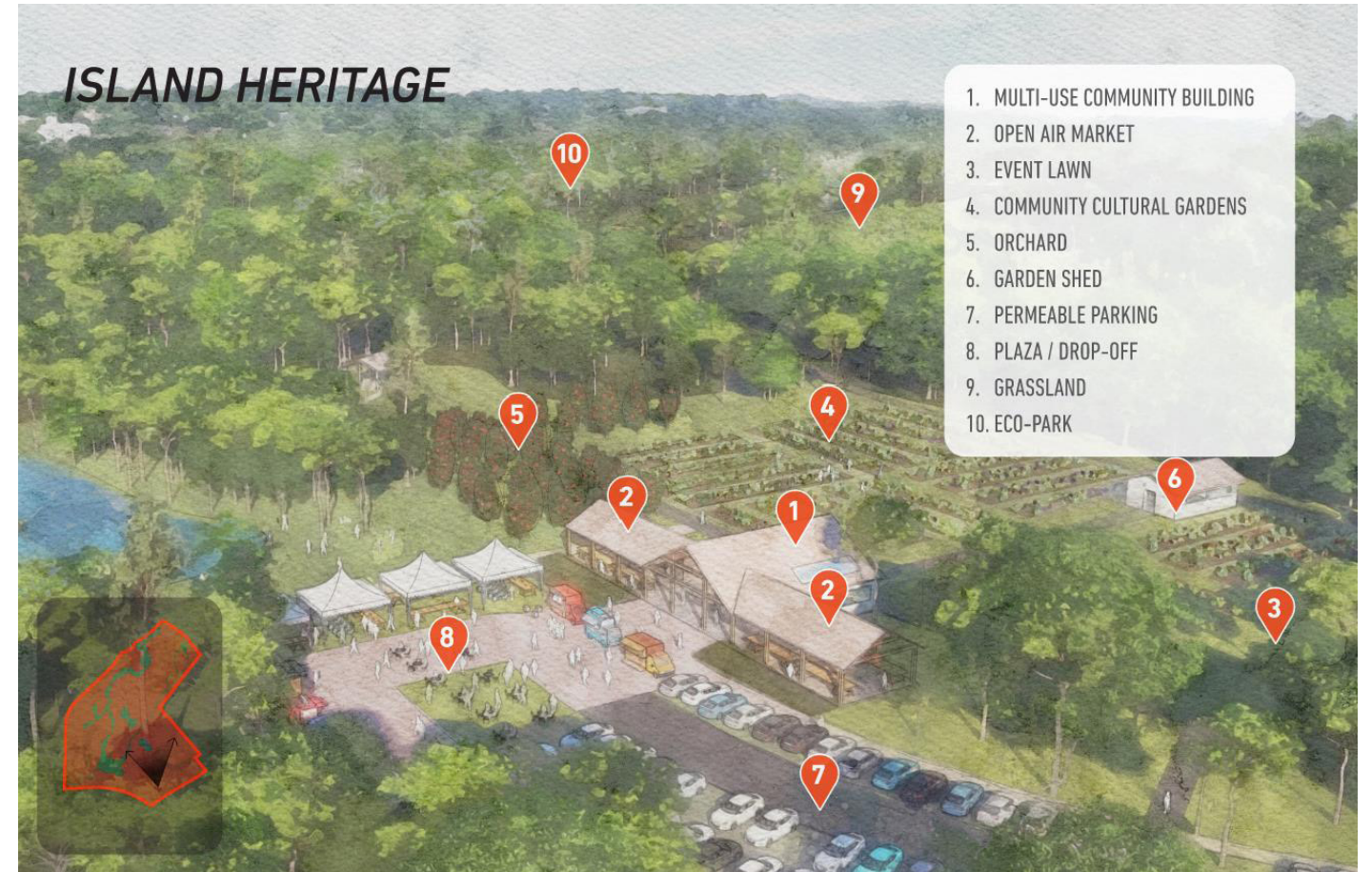


## HEART OF THE TRACT



1. SCULPTURAL FOUNTAIN + PLAZA
2. GREAT LAWN
3. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL
4. PLANT BEDS
5. TERRACE SEATING
6. MULTI-USE COMMUNITY FACILITY
7. TERRACE
8. PLAYGROUND + NATURAL PLAY
9. INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN
10. DILLON ROAD ENTRANCE
11. STREAM + POND RESTORATION

## ISLAND HERITAGE



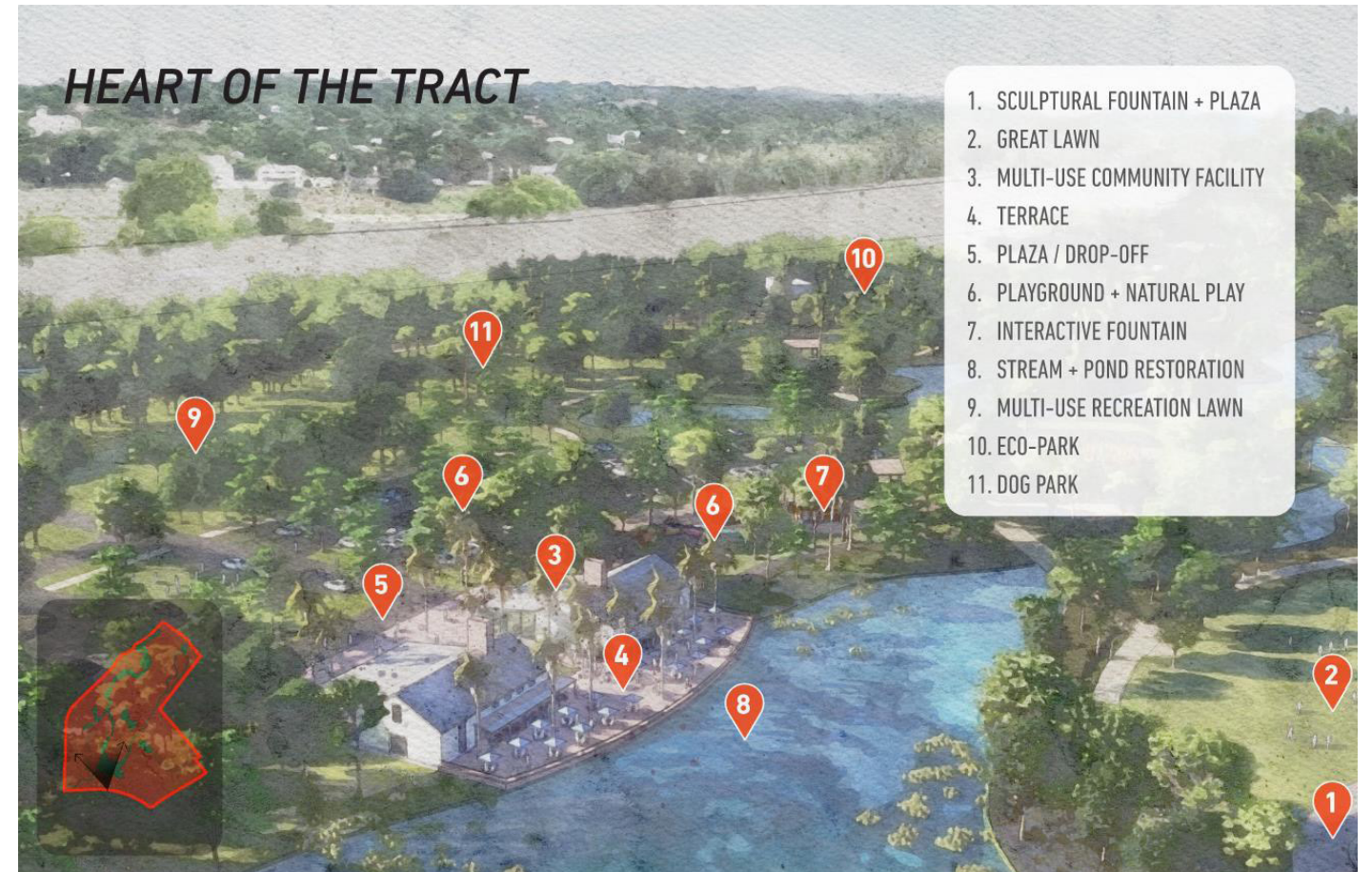
1. MULTI-USE COMMUNITY BUILDING
2. OPEN AIR MARKET
3. EVENT LAWN
4. COMMUNITY CULTURAL GARDENS
5. ORCHARD
6. GARDEN SHED
7. PERMEABLE PARKING
8. PLAZA / DROP-OFF
9. GRASSLAND
10. ECO-PARK

## ECO-PARK



1. CANOPY WALK
2. PERFORMANCE GROVE
3. ECO-PARK
4. MULTI-USE TRAIL
5. STREAM + POND RESTORATION

## HEART OF THE TRACT



1. SCULPTURAL FOUNTAIN + PLAZA
2. GREAT LAWN
3. MULTI-USE COMMUNITY FACILITY
4. TERRACE
5. PLAZA / DROP-OFF
6. PLAYGROUND + NATURAL PLAY
7. INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN
8. STREAM + POND RESTORATION
9. MULTI-USE RECREATION LAWN
10. ECO-PARK
11. DOG PARK

# MERIT

PLANNING + ANALYSIS

## AECOM East-West Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Study

Columbus, Ohio

The City of Columbus is the fastest growing city in the Midwest as of the 2020 U.S. Census with approximately 910,000 residents and over 1 million jobs. Columbus currently holds the rank of 14th largest city in the nation by population, and Central Ohio is projected to grow by more than 800,000 people by 2050.

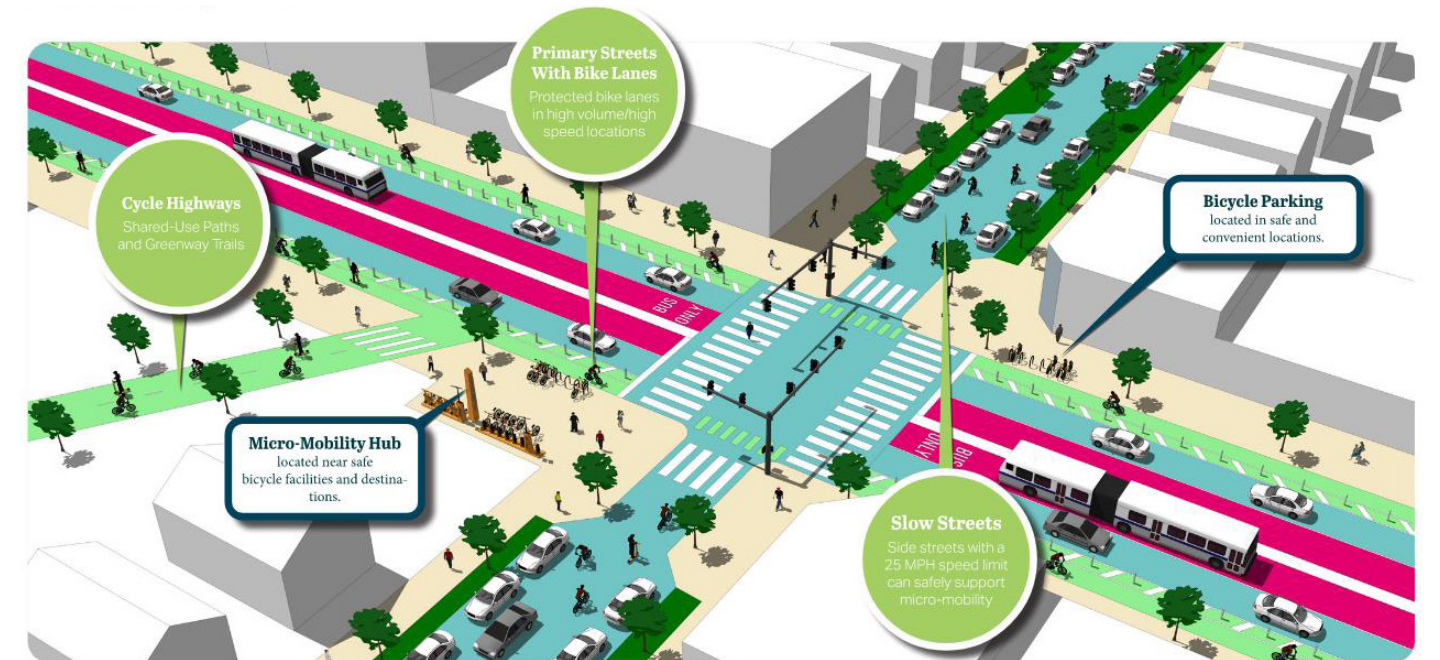
The East Main Street and West Broad Street Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study is part of the LinkUS Mobility and Growth Initiative: a vision of creating a unified and connected mobility system to strategically address rapid growth and development in Columbus. The initiative seeks to provide a complete mobility system along key regional corridors, including HCRT, technology solutions, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and land use changes. It is also part of a larger mobility initiative formed through a partnership between Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). The partnership's goal is to address growth, affordability, and opportunity gaps in the community by expanding mobility options including public transportation, sidewalks, bikeways, and trails throughout the Central Ohio region.

The corridor spans more than 20 miles from Prairie Township to Reynoldsburg and is comprised of 2 BRT lines. The West Broad Street BRT Corridor spans 9.6-miles and will include 17 stations between Downtown Columbus and Prairie Township, OH. The transit service will operate in mixed traffic for 4.3 miles and a dedicated guideway for 5.3 miles. The East Main Street BRT Corridor spans 13.5-miles long and will serve 19 stations between Downtown Columbus and Reynoldsburg, OH.

The East Main BRT line will operate in a dedicated guideway for 9.9 miles and mixed traffic for 3.6 miles. The guideway and mixed traffic segments will feature large stations with level boarding, off-board fare collection, access for people with disabilities, and transit signal priority to reduce BRT travel times.

The East-West BRT Corridor and associated station design will support improved connectivity within and beyond the corridors, catalyzing new equitable development and infill projects. The BRT corridor will improve access to and from housing, community services, employment centers, and entertainment venues with comfortable, safe, and accessible public transportation for historically underserved communities along the corridor. The study included the development of guidelines for station typologies, station shelter design, station amenities, micro-mobility hubs, and context-sensitive design solutions. The design established five station typologies, each with two sizes, which allows the stations to adapt to the varying roadway and development conditions along the corridor. These typologies were based on roadway configuration, right of way limits, ridership, shelter size, bus length, bus approach direction, universal access, coordination with bicycle infrastructure, and adjacent land use context.

The overall corridor plan will serve as the public's main point of interface with the West Broad and East Main BRT system. The design seeks to create a convenient, safe, and user-friendly transit experience while also reflecting the unique flavor and character of each community through the integration of community placemaking and community inspired public art.



# MERIT

DESIGN CONSTRUCTED

## The Kleingers Group The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame is a momentous and culturally significant addition to Cincinnati that exemplifies the city's embrace and celebration of diversity. It not only exudes a profound reverence for the artistic brilliance of black musicians but also serves as a demonstration of unity for the city's extraordinary black community. Its immersive experiences, evocative light shows, and soulful soundtrack create a living testament to the power of music and the indelible mark that local black musicians have had on the music industry and the entire world.

This captivating space serves as a tourist attraction, prominent landmark, engaging public park, interactive experience, and lively gathering spot, but more than that, its significance extends beyond a static display. It serves as a living, breathing homage to the visionaries who carved their names into music history – their names etched into the pathway, guiding you through the space and the extraordinary history they forged.

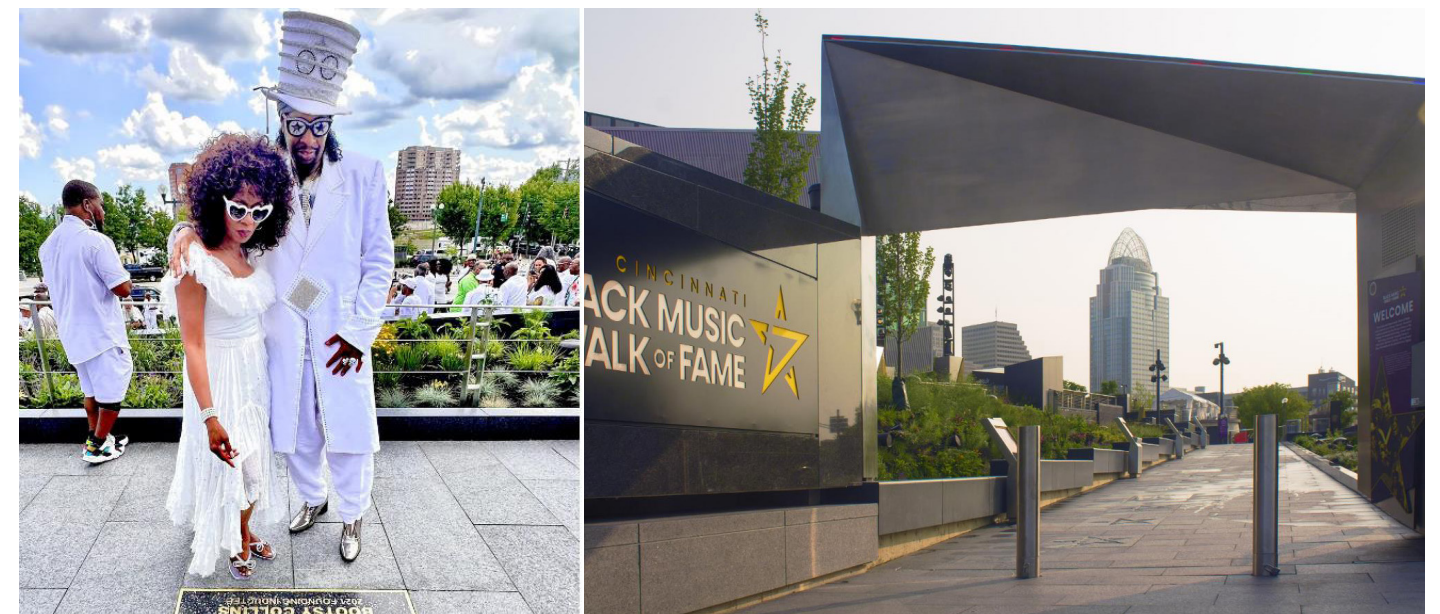
As the sun sets, a remarkable transformation occurs as the Walk comes to life with a captivating light show. The air becomes charged with soulful rhythms, accompanying the dazzling dance of lights accentuating the trees and black granite hardscape. An enchanting symphony of colors illuminates the night, saturating the space with a whimsical ambiance that captivates the senses and invites all to participate in the celebration of black music.

The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame will create a meaningful and everlasting impact on the city, offering a unique opportunity to cultivate new traditions centered around its annual induction ceremonies. These ceremonies will unite the community in commemorating past legends and usher in the talents of the present, ensuring the legacy of the honored musicians will live on.

It was critical for the Walk to seamlessly integrate with Smale Riverfront Park, becoming a harmonious extension of The Banks' contextual fabric. As visitors move through the space, they will experience a seamless flow between the thrilling immersion of the Walk and the vibrant urban landscape surrounding it.

The park's landscape design captures the essence of a native meadow through a carefully crafted plant community. Ornamental grasses provide a structural framework while flowering perennials and bulbs interspersed throughout create vibrant pops of color that add rhythm and multi-seasonal interest to the landscape. The groundcovers play a unifying role, connecting the elements and creating a patchwork understory layer.

The thoughtful integration of nature into the design enriches the entire experience, immersing visitors in a living tribute to the music's natural roots. The harmonious combination of design elements brings a sense of serenity and joy, further reinforcing the Walk's role as a cherished place for reflection, celebration, and the shared appreciation of art. In this awe-inspiring space, the soul of Cincinnati finds its true rhythm – the melody of unity, the harmony of diversity, and the power of music – and the Black Music Walk of Fame will serve as a catalyst for similar projects to be brought to life across the country.



# MERIT

## PLANNING + ANALYSIS

### OHM Advisors

# Vision for the Valley

Cleveland, Ohio

The Cuyahoga River Valley is a vibrant urban landscape with a strong industrial heritage, driving an annual \$3.5 billion river corridor economy. Its evolution into an urban center has resulted in business, industrial, residential, entertainment, and recreational users all desiring specific, sometimes conflicting, uses. Cleveland has long recognized the need for a unified plan ensuring that traditional shipping activity can coexist safely with these multiple burgeoning water and land uses, while aligning all interests, equitably and environmentally.

The City of Cleveland, Cleveland City Planning Commission, Cleveland Metroparks, the Port of Cleveland, Flats Forward, and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency collaborated to create the “Vision for the Valley” plan that balances both river- and land-based uses, and outlines a vision for future growth in the study area, extending from the river’s mouth at Lake Erie, eight miles south to Harvard Avenue, including the neighborhoods on both sides. The project team created and evaluated all planning process decisions and strategies through a purpose lens focused on supporting and protecting natural resources, promoting equity and inclusion of all voices, and striving for safe, healthy engagement with the river and lake.

Creating this complex vision over 18 months hinged on breaking down traditional barriers and divisions among agencies, organizations, businesses, and community members to work toward a common goal. It required investigating and understanding a wide set of corridor- and constituent-related variables including industrial and commercial maritime use and its relation to recreational boating, redevelopment opportunities and constraints, natural feature restoration and protection, and regional recreation opportunities.

The development of equitable and fully inclusive recommendations required focusing on public input from neighborhoods and populations whose voices were historically neglected in past planning and development efforts. The project team employed a multitude of in-person and virtual outreach and engagement tactics, many of which had to be implemented nimbly within the sudden challenges of the global pandemic. The resulting plan is rooted in public interactions with 1000+ citizens and 200+ stakeholders who offered thousands of ideas underpinning the plan’s recommendations.

Organized into the categories of land use, mobility & connectivity, water safety & access, public space, environment & nature, and marketing & branding, the plan offers recommendations applied to the entire study area and to four key focus areas within the study area that present optimal growth opportunities. The 14 environmental recommendations include an environmental zoning overlay, tax incentives to restore riparian landscapes, invasive species management, environmental benchmarking and data collection to increase biodiversity, fish habitat creation, and public education around the effects of climate change and resiliency.

The plan sets the course for focused investments in the valley for the next 20 years. Early buy-in for successful implementation arose even before the plan’s adoption, and over 34 recommendations have either already realized success or are being acted upon, including Design Guidelines, Lakeview Terrace Master Plan, Lakeview Connects Area Plan, Bedrock Riverfront Master Plan, Columbus Road Vision Plan, Zaclon River Landing, and boating safety educational signage, to name a few.



# HONORABLE MENTION

DESIGN CONSTRUCTED

## LAND studio Garden of 11 Angels *Cleveland, Ohio*

The Garden of 11 Angels is a story of both unspeakable trauma and the unwavering determination of a community to create a lasting memorial that honors the victims of violence while providing healing through a reimagined landscape.

In 2009, the bodies of eleven women were discovered buried around a house located near the corner of E123rd Street and Imperial Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. The tragic events that unfolded made national news and drew an unfortunate spotlight on an already overburdened community.

At first, efforts were made to form a coalition representing the victims and survivors' families, local places of worship, elected officials, the community development corporation (CDC), city administration and nonprofit entities to create a memorial in the victim's honor. The loosely formed coalition attempted to raise the necessary funds to make a physical memorial a reality. There were gatherings, and ceremonies, and vigils, but soon the years began to go by without any discernible action.

Beginning in 2014, a local land conservancy became involved in championing the creation of the memorial space as the house where the tragedies occurred was demolished and properties located adjacent were slowly taken down one by one. Eventually, 8 lots in total were left vacant, serving as an open wound to the surrounding neighborhood and the families who continued to hold out hope. The conservancy planted trees and maintained the lots as best as they could. Eventually the councilman and CDC representing the neighborhood become embroiled in political wrongdoing and subsequently convicted under federal charges. This left the ownership of the 8 parcels in doubt.

All of this led to early 2020, when the conservancy teamed up with a design-focused non-profit to create new concepts and landscape schemes for the memorial space, taking the original architectural drawings as inspiration, and incorporating the additional five parcels into a broader greenspace design. The design intent was to honor the initial vision as much as possible while creating a little over 32,000 square feet of park space. The design added flowering trees, shrubs and perennials in addition to an infinity symbol shaped plaza that draws visitors into a space of quiet and contemplative reflection. Multiples of eleven in the form of tree clusters and paving patterns were used to honor the memories of the victims literally every step of the way.

The resultant efforts pulled together a village of dedicated designers and builders, led in large part, by Black-owned businesses and practices. A monument company provided the stone memorial which the names of the 11 Angels were inscribed along with a scripture passage and an excerpt from Maya Angelou's iconic poem "And Still I Rise".

The conservancy, in partnership with a new CDC that started servicing the neighborhood in 2020, secured the vacant parcels and consolidated the lots. The conservancy led the fundraising effort and obtained the investment needed to build the project. It took over 12 years, but in the end, the Garden of 11 Angels was dedicated on November 6, 2021.



# STUDENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Yu-Ming Hsu

## The Last Drop: Decentralizing Water Infrastructure for a Dry Future

The Ohio State University

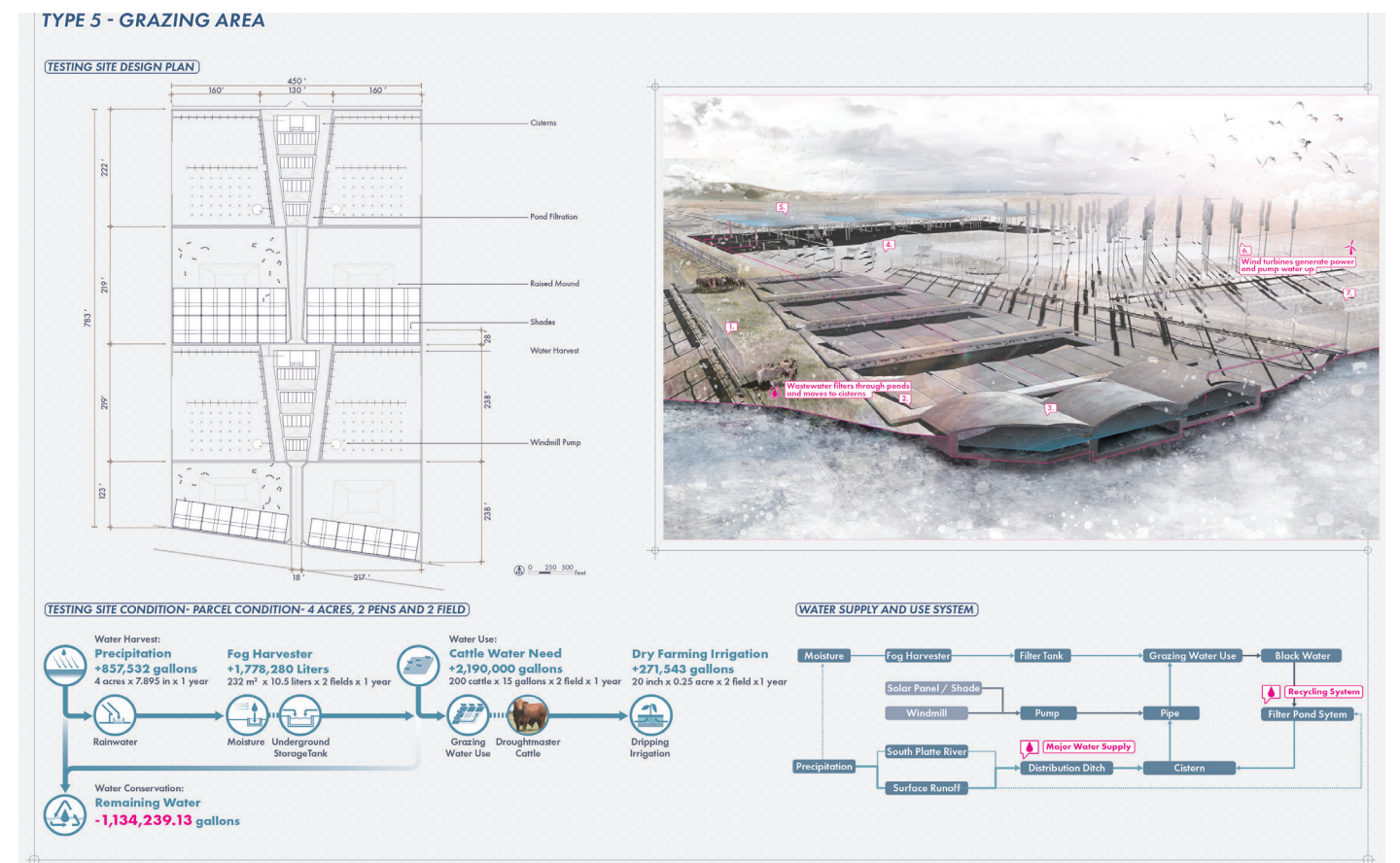
Society is shaped by water. The accessibility of water profoundly determines the relationships between countries and continents. The instability of the water supply can hold the balance between peace and war. High water-stressed regions have long struggled in water conflicts. The United States, especially in the West, is now facing similar concerns.

Climate change and population growth exacerbate the unstable hydrological conditions across the Colorado River Basin. The federal government plays a crucial role to manage water allocation between the seven Colorado River basin states; however, the unstable water supply resulting from climate change seems likely to bring about the systematic collapse of this hydro-power structure. Most susceptible, and the first to be affected, is the headwaters in Colorado. Decreasing snow pack and increasing population make Northeastern Colorado and the South Platte River basin vulnerable to these uncertainties. The Northern Water Conservancy District, which functions as a public agency organizing most of water in this headwater area, is risky because of its monopolistic control.

Eighty percent of precipitation comes from the west slope of the continental divide; transmountain water supports the eighty percent of the Colorado population to the east. This imbalance leads to a fragile hydrological system. In calculating vulnerability scores from local land use, water consumption rates, and water accessibility, Weld County, Colorado shows particularly high vulnerability due to its high amount of cropland and downstream location.

The water management regime in Weld County has transformed from pre-colonial decentralization to transitional systemization, to contemporary centralization. This centralizing water management is less responsive to water scarcity and infrastructure without power in a dry future. Kersey, Colorado is located in Weld County at the confluence of the Poudre and South Platte Rivers. According to the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit, in extreme conditions, Kersey will only receive 7.895 inches of rainfall annually. Kersey thus becomes an optimal site to imagine how water infrastructure could function in the absence of centralized state power in a dry future.

Five different types of land use serve as testing sites for envisioning a futuristic hydrological system. These typologies successfully maximize water efficiency and conservation. Different water techniques integrate and rejuvenate the leftover infrastructure. People cooperate and communicate with each other. A new horizontal and reciprocal relationship replaces traditional top-to-bottom water management. Water systems are organized based on the value of water conservation. Water bodies and waterways map out a seasonal migration pattern in response to extreme heat. Rotational grazing benefits drought resilience. The new water system in Kersey brings a promising prototype to the world in the dry future. The landscape comes together, stands out, and fits in.



# STUDENT HONOR

Morgan Mackey

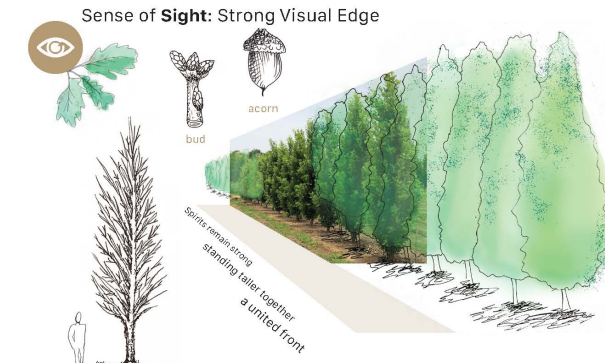
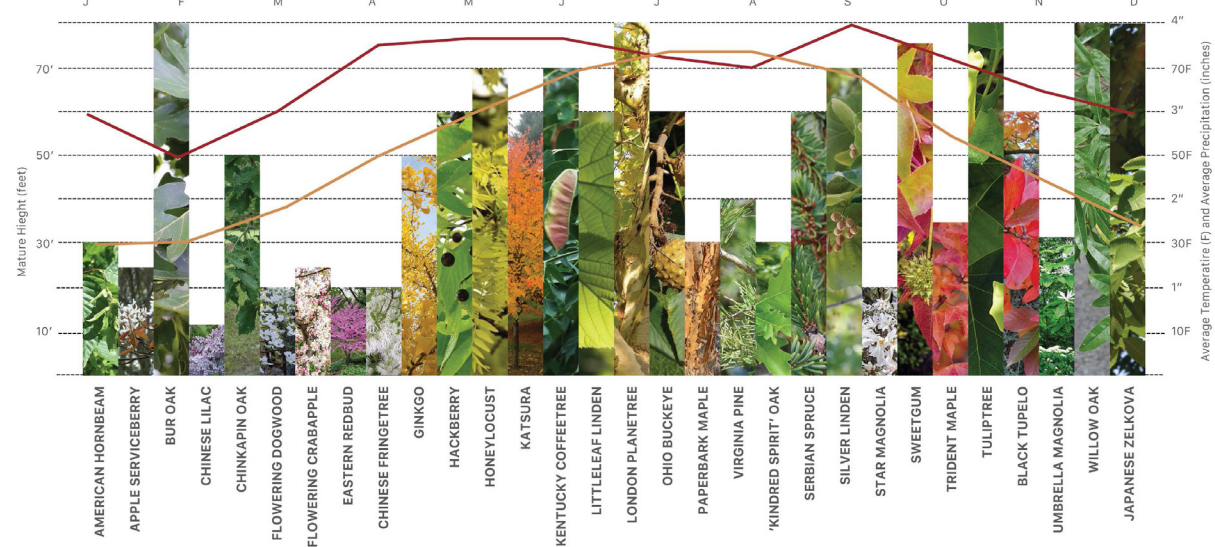
## Tree Stories: Community-Driven Design to Expand Cleveland's Urban Tree Canopy

Kent State University

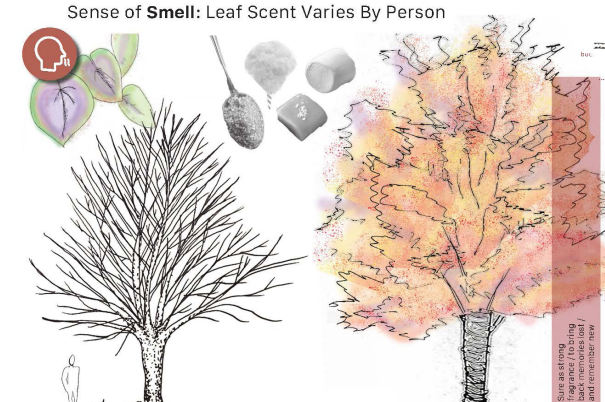
While efforts are underway to restore Cleveland to its status as "The Forest City", including regular updates to the Cleveland Tree Plan and the revival of Cleveland's Urban Forestry Commission, sustainable, equitable change requires a network of neighborhood forestry strategies. Trees contribute to a high quality of life for residents by encouraging healthy outdoor lifestyles, decreasing the urban heat island, reducing the likelihood of crime, and increasing nearby property values. The Buckeye-Kinsman neighborhood is an important link in Cleveland's urban forest and can expand its tree benefits through the utilization of vacant lots.

Historically, the Buckeye-Kinsman neighborhood was anchored by churches and schools that served the area's high population density, which has declined by over half since 1930. The site of Lafayette School, once an important central gathering area and now a grassy lot, presents the opportunity to create a new community space and expand the urban tree canopy, within a larger network of repurposed vacant lots.

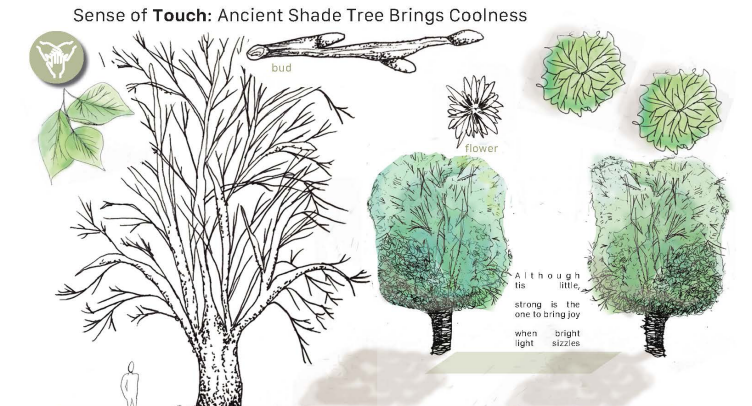
The concepts for the Lafayette School site and vacant lot network were formed for and by community members. Two public meetings were held during the semester at a local community development organization, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, in partnership with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The school site design anchors a network of lots programmed for active, passive, and natural uses that help protect the existing tree canopy and better serve community members. A "Neighborhood Tree Walk" encourages pedestrians to explore the area along pre-determined routes, starting at either the school site or a local park and learning about important trees. The concept for the former school allows the site to host food truck events and performances as well as daily activities with an orchard, gardens, and destination playground. Developed through community input, the concept builds on the neighborhood's history, increases the local benefits of urban trees, and brings life back to a historic community space.



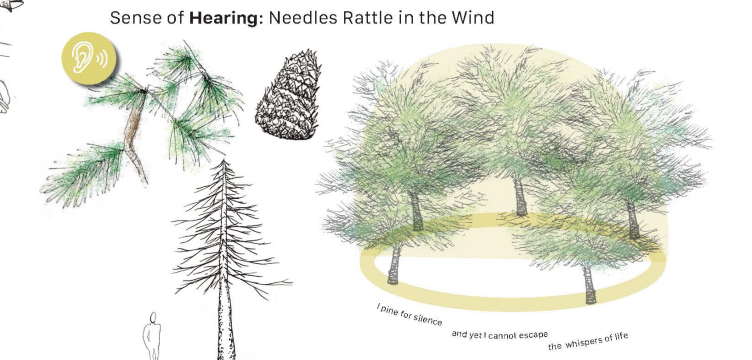
Kindred Spirit Hybrid Oak as 'Edge'  
quercus bicolor x quercus robur 'fastigiata'



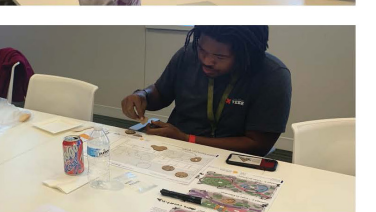
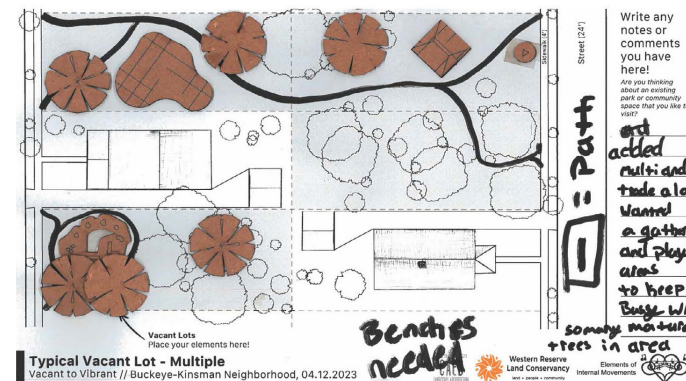
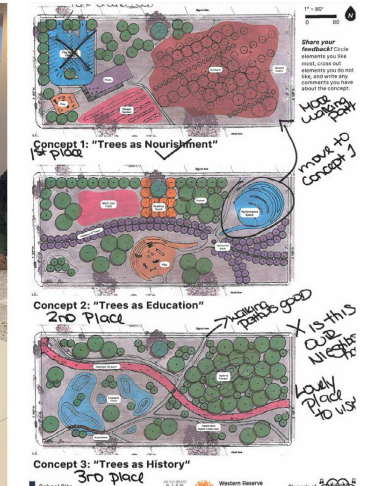
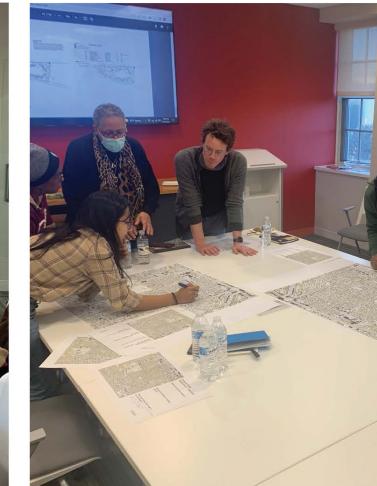
Katsura as 'Specimen'  
cercidiphyllum japonicum



Littleleaf Linden as 'Threshold'  
tilia cordata



Virginia Pine as 'Enclosure'  
pinus virginiana



# STUDENT MERIT

## Saba Tajali Green Recolonization Kent State University

West of Chicago's downtown lies a diversified and expanding area called the West Loop. Due to the neighborhood's proximity to the Loop, several dining and shopping options, and the university campus, the population and housing demand in this area have increased.

The Green Recolonization project addresses ecological challenges arising from this Growing change in the neighborhood with a considerable look at accessibility and connectivity. The landscape design was done based on the architectural form of the proposed housing and commercial buildings, as shown in the site plan, and the design was tried to be synchronized with it.

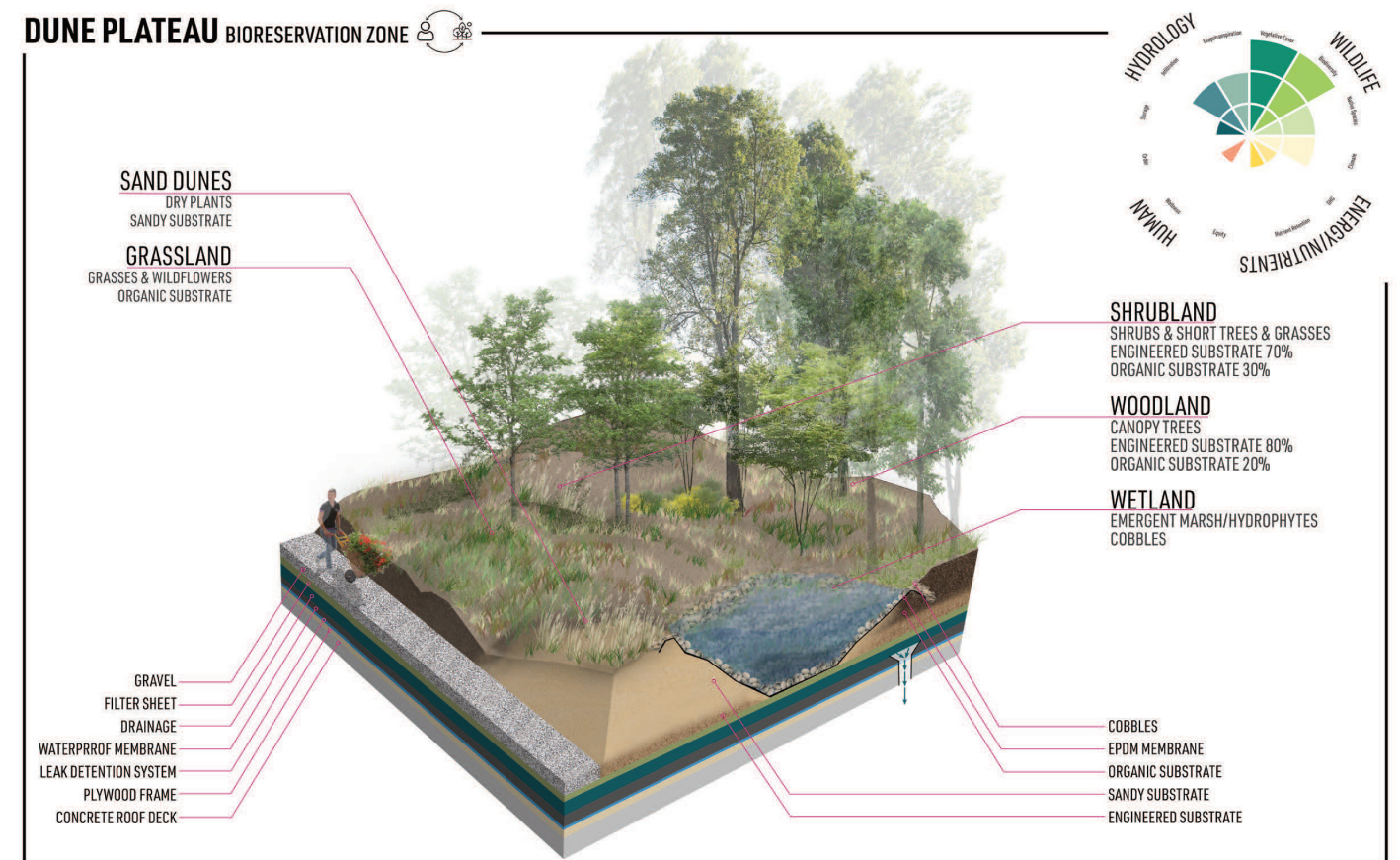
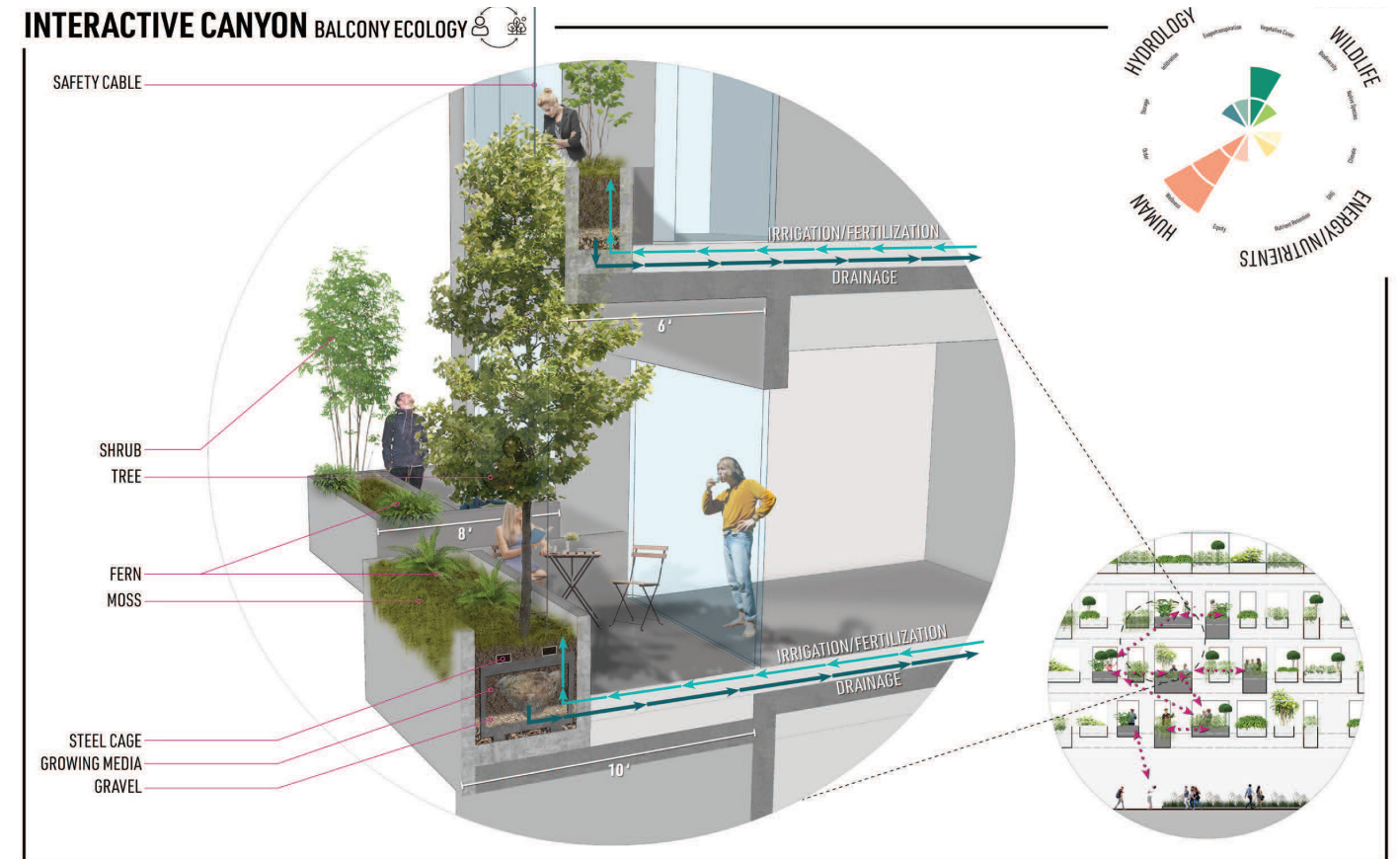
The design has been done in two blocks in the area of West Adam Street and Van Buren Street, which shows landscape design and green architecture in different forms and ecologies. These typologies are classified into three categories on the scale of each residential unit as green terraces, each residential complex with green roofs, and the scale of the neighborhood in public open spaces.

- The strategies based on site analysis that led to the design include:
- **Accessibility:** Providing urban vertical and horizontal accessibility
  - **Connection:** Increase connection between residents and their neighborhood.
  - **Utilize Water:** Use water for place-Making and ecological services
  - **Canopy Coverage:** Increase tree canopy coverage

According to the climate of this region and the state of Chicago, ecologies are named the following:

1. **Interactive Canyon:** The canyons and how they are formed based on water flow inspire this section—utilizing water in people's everyday landscape as fountains and indirectly in choosing the plants' pallet, reminiscent of the presence and importance of water. This section provides an enjoyable environment for the residents with its green terraces. While most irrigation supply for green terraces is from rain and runoffs, these micro gardens within each unit provide pleasure moments for the residents and encourage them to interact with their neighbors.
2. **Dune Plateau:** The Dune Plateau is designed as a bioreservation zone at the top of a flat roof in the center of the site. This part is defined as a semi-public space, and only the complex's residents can use it. The primary purpose of this plateau is to allow native species to grow and be preserved, which most of it will be done through pollination. Different substrates have been used in this plateau, and the amount of engineered soil is controlled. The arrangement of roof layers is based on drainage and insulation needed according to the climate.
3. **Urban Cliff:** This section is inspired by the cliffs in this region to achieve vertical and horizontal accessibility and is located in the site's southern part, mainly used for commercial purposes. Urban Cliffs connect bike lanes on the north and south sides of the site and provide other public transportation access to bus/train. This section offers a favorable pedestrian walk by increasing the canopy coverage, which is chosen based on the region's climate.

Finally, with the strategies, this proposed design will increase the resiliency of the ecosystem, as well as humankind.





# OHIO CHAPTER ASLA MEDAL

## Virginia "Jennie" L. Russell

*FASLA*

The Ohio Chapter Medal is the highest honor the Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects may bestow upon a landscape architect whose lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession have had a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of the public and the environment.

Professor Emerita of Landscape Architecture at the University of Cincinnati, Virginia L. Russell has accomplished unparalleled achievements over her lifetime that continue to have lasting impact on the welfare of the public and our environment.

Her contributions to academia as teacher, researcher, and service provider for over 30 years has directly influenced countless students and faculty and indirectly many more through her publications, mentorship, and expertise as a registered landscape architect and Accredited Green Roof Professional.

These contributions alone merit recognition, but her achievements and contributions to the profession have also been recognized by ASLA Council of Fellows in its awarding her Fellow recognition in 1997.

Jennie is not one to shy away from leadership and taking the reins. From her role as chair of the international Green Roof Professionals Committee to her role as national vice-president of ASLA to her local role as mentoring the UC Beekeeping Club, she brings passion to every course she takes.

One of her most proud achievements was her establishment of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Cincinnati. As Founding Director of Landscape Architecture at the University of Cincinnati, she tirelessly crossed over the many hurdles over nine years along the way to achieve the creation and entry of the initial class of 2017 to the MLA Program. If that was not enough, she continued to also create the Master of Science in Landscape Architecture Program.



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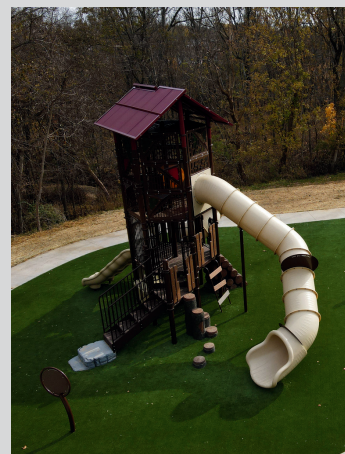


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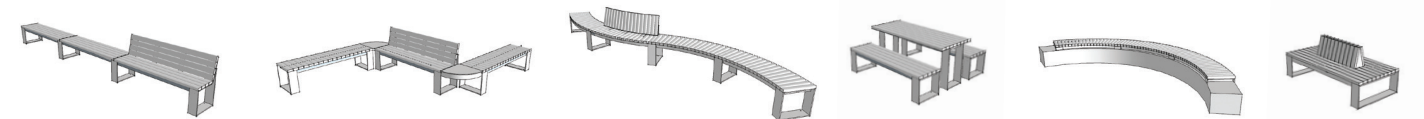


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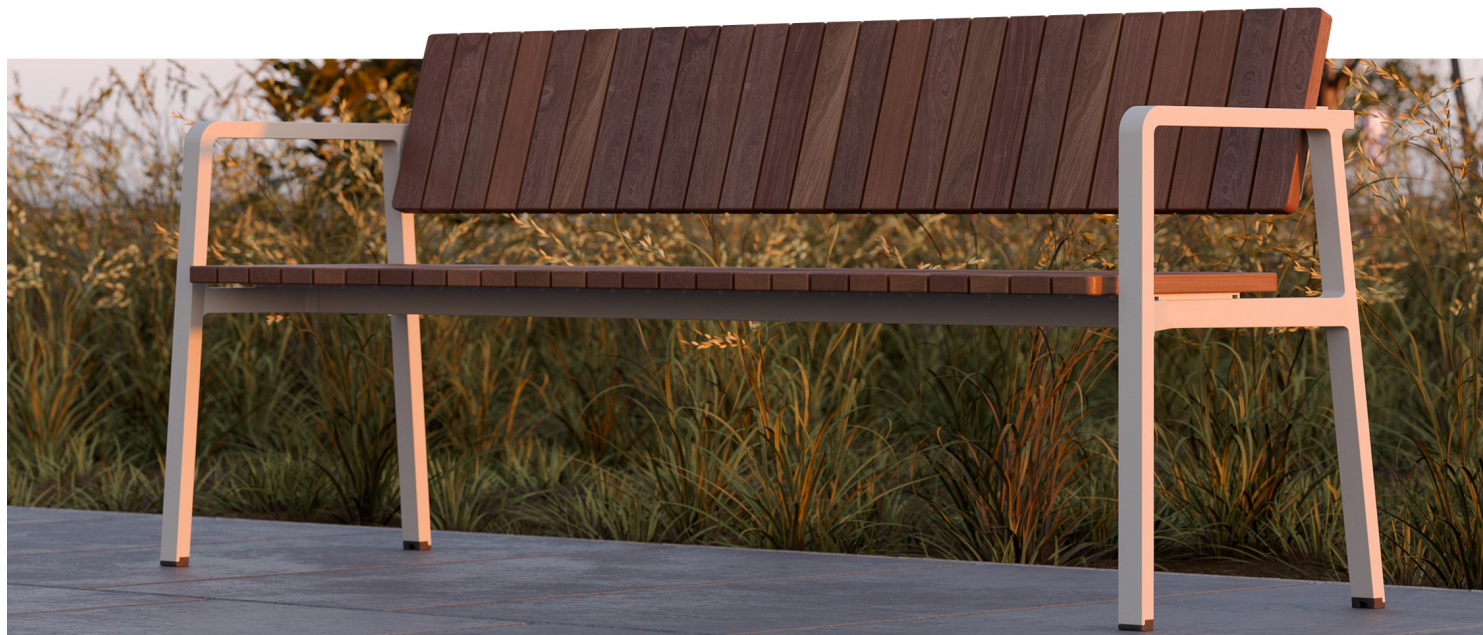
4x8x2-3/4 Shade 36 Red Sunset  
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