

ASLA ohio

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2024

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WELCOME

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Presidential Letter

As is our yearly tradition, and on behalf of The Ohio Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects (OCASLA), it is my distinct pleasure to announce the 2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Professional and Student Award Winners!

This year, OCASLA received a total of 41 Professional and Student Award submissions. After careful consideration and deliberation of each Professional submission, our distinguished jury members awarded 1 Award of Excellence, 3 Honor Awards, 6 Merit Awards, and 1 Honorable Mention. Our select Executive Committee Jury awarded 2 Student Honor Awards and 2 Student Merit Awards.

In an effort to expand our award categories this year, our Climate Action committee created the Ohio Chapter ASLA Green Ribbon Award. The Green Ribbon Award is a new accolade that honors projects showcasing a commitment to future-oriented design in the areas of climate mitigation, climate resiliency, biodiversity, environmental equity, or environmental advocacy. The professional awards jury selected one project to receive this inaugural distinction.

We hope to continue to evolve our award categories in the future to acknowledge the wide range of projects, firms, and leaders who make up our diverse profession and create a positive and lasting impact through their work each and every day.

With that said, it has been an incredible honor to serve the OCASLA board as Chapter President over these past two years. From Annual Meetings in Cleveland and Columbus, to Educational sessions in Toledo and Cincinnati, Awards Galas, Statehouse and Federal Advocacy Days, many section events, expanding the Executive Committee, student and young professional engagement and everything in between. We were able to achieve meaningful and impactful accomplishments thanks in large part to an entire village of supporters: you, our valued members, our amazing sponsors, our accredited academic institutions, our professional allies, and the many people who make up our wonderfully talented, innovative, and diverse landscape architecture ecosystem.

I stand on the shoulders of giants. Those whom I have had the immense pleasure to serve alongside and those who have paved the way before me. My deepest gratitude goes out to each and every one of the OCASLA officers who have dedicated their time, efforts and passions to our Executive Committee. I have learned so much from you and you have made my job all that easier.

I could not be happier and prouder to pass the Chapter President 'baton' off to Doug Boyer. The Chapter - and its future - could not be in more capable or competent hands.

Congratulations to the 2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Award Winners!

David Wilson, ASLA
President

Chapter Representatives

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

Gordon Ngo, ASLA
Emerging Professional Representative

John Sloan, ASLA
HALS Ohio Chapter Liaison
GPD Group

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Buckeye Section Member-at-Large
GPD Group

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Buckeye Section Chair
MKSK Studios

Katherine Kelleher, PLA, ASLA
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AECOM

Heather Weinau, PLA, ASLA
Miami Section Member-at-Large
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Miami Section Chair
Kimley-Horn

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

Jeremy Hinte, PLA, ASLA
Western Reserve Section Chair
OHM Advisors

Tom Ludwig, PLA, ASLA
Western Reserve Section Chair - Elect
Davey Resource Group

YEAR IN REVIEW



OSU Graduation Dinner



2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Annual Meeting + Vendor Expo



2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Annual Meeting + Vendor Expo



Statehouse Lobby Day



2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Annual Meeting + Vendor Expo



Kent State CUDC Graduation Dinner



Miami Section Happy Hour



2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Strategic Planning Meeting



2024 Speaker Happy Hour



University of Cincinnati Graduation Dinner



Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Presentation and Walking Tour



2024 Ohio Chapter ASLA Annual Meeting + Vendor Expo



Western Reserve - Fairview Park High School Career Fair



Statehouse Lobby Day

Legislative Affairs Update

Over the past year, the legislative affairs committee has diligently advocated for licensure and worked to make Ohio a great place to practice landscape architecture.

Last September, the House conducted an Occupational Licensure Review of the Ohio Landscape Architect's Board. Executive Director Shannon Himes provided testimony before the House State and Local Government Committee, outlining the Board's operations, its purpose, and offering an overview of landscape architecture for representatives unfamiliar with the field. This spring, Himes testified again before the Senate Government Oversight Committee, receiving enthusiastic support from the Senate chair. The Chapter submitted a letter of support to the Committee to acknowledge the hard work done by the Ohio Landscape Architect's Board and their invaluable contributions to the practice of Landscape Architecture in Ohio.

In February, the Chapter held its eighth annual Statehouse Day, with guest speakers Curtis Williams – President/CEO of the Franklin County Land Bank, Shannon Himes – Executive Director of the Ohio Landscape Architects Board, and Jeannie Williams – ASLA Past President. The event, attended by 23 participants, included meetings with 8 legislators' offices to advocate for state bills promoting economic development.

In May, the Chapter took part in ASLA's National Statehouse Day, engaging with staff from the offices of Senator JD Vance and Senator Sherrod Brown, and advocating for two pieces of national legislation. The first bill, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act (SB 722), proposes allowing 529 plans to cover post-secondary credentials, making any costs associated with licensure or continuing education expenses eligible. The second bill, the Water Infrastructure

Sustainability and Efficiency Act (WISE), proposes increasing Clean Water State Revolving Fund investments for nature-based solutions from 10% up to 20% without additional expenditure.

Currently, the committee is focused on ensuring that jurisdictions comply with the previous Board of Building Standards ruling, which designated landscape architects as registered design professionals. This summer, we successfully petitioned the Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services to update their Site Development and Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications to include landscape architects as eligible applicants. We are also reviewing the permitting processes in Cleveland and Cincinnati to ensure they meet compliance standards.

Additionally, the Chapter is actively monitoring legislation that could impact our industry. One notable bill, House Bill 327, would require landscape architecture firms to use E-Verify for all employees, imposing an unnecessary burden on firms to track employee work status for an issue affecting few. In August, the committee sent letters of opposition regarding HB 327 to all members of the Senate General Government Committee.

Although it has been a busy year, there is still much to accomplish. If you are interested in joining the Legislative Affairs Committee or have information on relevant legislation, please reach out. For more ways to get involved at the national level, visit the ASLA iAdvocate website. It offers information on current national campaigns, project funding opportunities, state legislation, government internships for students, and guidance on finding your legislators.



Big Darby Creek Site Walk

Climate Action Update

The Climate Action and Biodiversity Committee worked hard in 2024 to generate understanding and appreciation for how we can improve Ohio's native ecosystems and mitigate the negative impacts of Climate Change as Landscape Architects. Under the leadership of the newly elected Vice President for Climate Action and Biodiversity, Isabella Bertolini, the committee is working to implement the goals outlined in the ASLA Climate Action Plan and its vision for 2040. These goals include restoring ecosystems, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and significantly reducing embodied and operational carbon emissions. The Climate Action Plan aims to deliver substantial economic benefits through measurable ecosystem services, health co-benefits, carbon sequestration, and the creation of green jobs. Additionally, it seeks to address climate injustices, empower communities, and ensure a more equitable distribution of climate investments.

The committee has been active in organizing educational events to promote these objectives. In April, the Climate Action and Biodiversity Committee partnered with Ohio ASLA's Buckeye Section and MAD Scientists Associates to host an educational site walk at the Big Darby Floodplain Restoration project in Franklin County. This event highlighted the transformative potential of ecological restoration in mitigating flood risks and preserving habitats for native species.

In early June, the committee hosted the third Great Lakes Regional Climate Action Seminar virtually, in collaboration with regional state chapters, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York Upstate. The seminar, themed "Design for Biodiversity: Landscape Architecture's Role in Protecting and Regenerating Ecosystems Across the Great Lakes," featured nine presentation teams and a keynote address by Keith Bowers, president of Biohabitats. Topics included rewilding Lake Erie's waterfront, the impacts of CHEER's investments in Cleveland, and bird-safe design strategies for Great Lakes cities.

This year, the committee is excited to introduce the first ever OCASLA Green Ribbon Award, which honors projects demonstrating a commitment to climate mitigation, resilience, biodiversity, environmental equity, and advocacy. This new accolade aims to set higher standards for climate-focused design and encourage firms across Ohio to push the boundaries on how we can achieve the goals set up in the ASLA Climate Action Plan.

Looking ahead, the Climate Action and Biodiversity Committee plans to continue collaborating with Ohio ASLA's section leaders to host educational events and offer resources on social media and other online platforms to enhance the visibility of their climate action goals. They also intend to work closely with other state chapters to strengthen our collaborative efforts towards the common goal of mitigating climate change in our practice.

AWARDS LEVELS + JURIES

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.

OHIO ASLA GREEN RIBBON

A new accolade that honors projects showcasing a commitment to future-oriented design in areas of climate mitigation, climate resiliency, biodiversity, environmental equity, or environmental advocacy. The Green Ribbon will be awarded to one project which has been submitted to either the General Design: Constructed or Residential Design categories.

OHIO ASLA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS JURY



Brie Hensold
Principal & Co-Founder
Agency Landscape + Planning



Bryan Hanes
Founding Principal
Studio Bryan Hanes



Lucinda 'Cindy' Sanders
CEO and Partner
OLIN



Terry Schwarz
Executive Director - Cleveland
Urban Design Collaborative



Marc Miller
Assistant Professor
Penn State University

OHIO ASLA STUDENT AWARDS JURY



David Wilson
Ohio ASLA President
LAND Studio



Doug Boyer
Ohio ASLA President-Elect
EDGE



Megan Meyer
Ohio ASLA Secretary
EDGE



Maci Nelson
Ohio ASLA Juror
LAND Studio

OHIO CHAPTER ASLA MEDAL



James E. Hiss

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.

James (Jim) Hiss is a Faculty Emeritus at The Ohio State University, Emeritus Principal of EDGE, a 2004 Fellow of the ASLA and a Past-President of OCASLA. Jim served as a Professor of Landscape Architecture at The Ohio State University, where he taught for 25+ years. In addition to his dedicated tenure of in-class teaching, Jim authored works that were influential to the education of many Landscape Architecture students at OSU and beyond.

Jim retired from full-time teaching in 2003 to become a founding partner of The EDGE Group. He was the glue that brought together the team, consisting of former student Eddie George, with 6 local practitioners. Over the next decade, Jim provided leadership, design expertise and mentorship for EDGE, helping grow it into the company it is today. With 30+ employees over 3 offices, EDGE recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and continues to implement a design excellence set by Jim. Even after “retiring” for the second time, Jim has continued to be a presence in the office, working part-time to pass down his knowledge to multiple generations of professionals.

Those who have had the privilege of knowing Jim know him as a teacher, colleague, mentor, friend and more. Above all, his abilities as a landscape architect, his humility, passion, and genuine care for others have had a lasting impact on so many within the landscape architecture community and beyond.

OHIO ASLA PROFESSIONAL + STUDENT AWARDS



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Ohio Chapter Medal
James E. Hiss



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Award of Excellence/
Green Ribbon Award
Glass City Metropark
SmithGroup



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Honor Award
Doan Brook Restoration
STIMSON



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Merit Award
Poindexter Village Museum and
Cultural Center
REALM Collaborative



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Merit Award
Sharon Centre Playground
MKSK



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5th Avenue Streetscape
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AECOM



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MKSK



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Student Merit Award
Test Radiation Memorial, Marking
a Journey through Time
Armita Chitsaz

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

GREEN RIBBON AWARD

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

SmithGroup

Glass City Metropark

Toledo, Ohio

The Glass City Metropark in Toledo, Ohio transforms underutilized industrial land into a place of connection: Connection to nature, history, community, and the Maumee River. Inspired by the emergence of an urban forest on this created land and former industrial site, the team looked to natural systems to inform the design language.

Acknowledged as a regional attraction but designed first and foremost as a local park for residents of the historically underserved East Toledo neighborhoods. Extensive public engagement was done to shape the program of the park into what it is today. The people of Toledo had a vision for this park, and the design team brought their vision to life.

Home to a coal-fired power plant for nearly a century, much of the site was covered in fly ash several feet deep, requiring restoration on more than 50 acres before the soils could support natural plantings. Over time, the project will reestablish more than 27 acres of upland grasses, 17 acres of forest and 3,200 feet of shoreline habitat, naturalizing 80 percent of the park. Integrated into the new park are a series of terraced natural stormwater basins that collect, detain, and treat stormwater runoff from the park and an adjacent new residential development. The design also imported 30,760 cubic yards of Maumee River dredge material for beneficial re-use within the planting and forest establishment areas. The client is committed to a long-term plan that cultivates habitat and landscape over time in the living lab of an active park.

Built amenities account for 20 percent of the park, supporting a diverse array of recreational pursuits and interests that emerged from community engagement efforts. The public's choices reflected a desire for water, winter, and discovery play—a robust play experience distributed throughout the park and focused on creating a more challenging play experience than typical playgrounds.

This 70-acre park contains three miles of accessible trails, a reimaged marina, water access points, recreated natural habitats, event lawn, and iconic events pavilion with accessible green roof plaza. Visitors also enjoy an ice-skating ribbon and pond, discovery play nodes, a Maumee River inspired water play area, fishing spots, public art, picnic shelters, cabanas, and a Market Hall including a restaurant and beer garden.

The wide range of activities connect visitors with nature, encourage healthy lifestyles, interpret the region's heritage, and contribute to the overall quality of life in Toledo. On a site that once produced electricity, Glass City Metropark brings a new kind of energy to East Toledo and the banks of the Maumee River.





HONOR

PLANNING + ANALYSIS

STIMSON Doan Brook Restoration

Shaker Heights & Cleveland Heights, Ohio

It's a watershed moment.

Doan Brook flows through Cleveland, Ohio, into Lake Erie, through several urban communities and shapes the landscape and identity of the region. In 1852 the brook was dammed as a part of the Shaker Center family woolen mill, creating Horseshoe Lake to power the operation. The mill was soon abandoned, and the surrounding landscape was transformed by suburban development, parkways, and a series of disconnected parks. Due to the evolution of the unmaintained dam, the environment has suffered and the dam has become a public hazard. The lake impoundment became clogged with sediment and invasive plants continues to degrade the environmental value.

Despite these challenges, we saw an opportunity.

Our plan turns a 6-acre park into a 60-acre park, aimed at developing a landscape that integrates cultural and environmental requirements and amenities. Through extensive public engagement, including interactive workshops, walking tours, pop-up events, and web surveys, we worked with the surrounding communities to develop a comprehensive vision for the new park. Area residents shared a strong desire for a landscape that highlighted the native plant communities of Ohio and allowed direct access to the waterway itself.

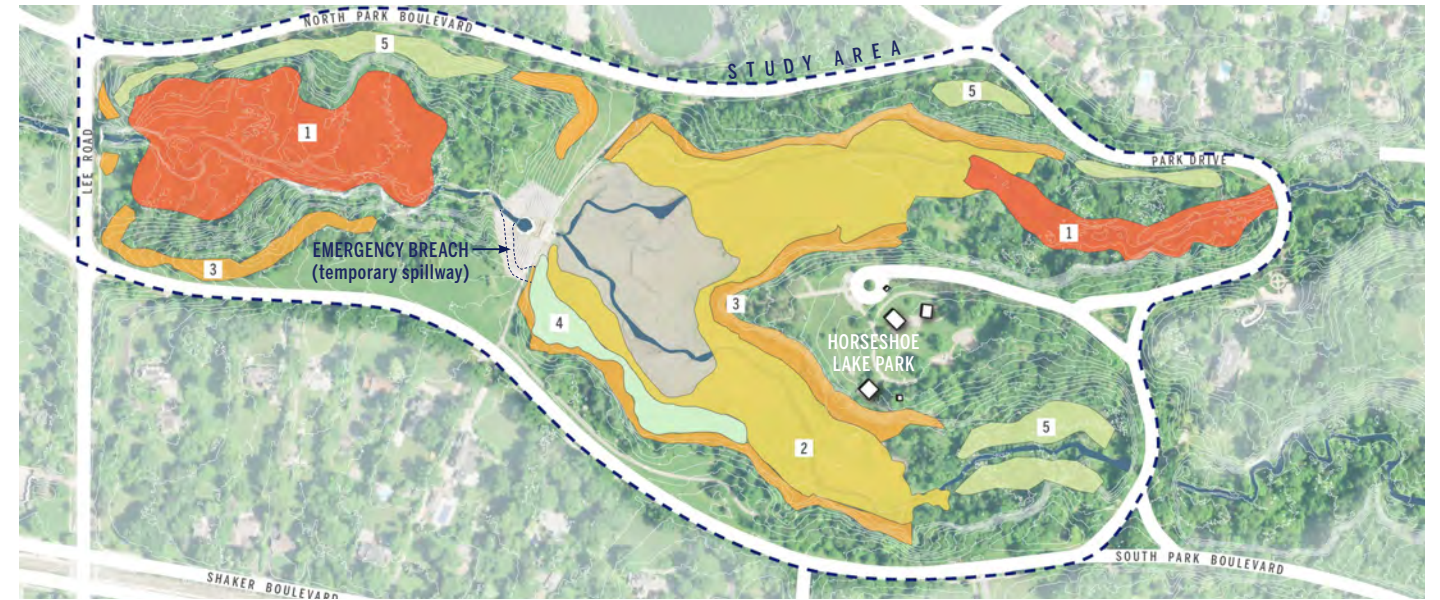
Using community feedback and site history as a guide, our framework plan developed an extensive system of circulation allowing diverse ways for interaction with the park and riparian landscape including bridges, boulder crossings, brook overlooks,

pollinator gardens, a sensory garden, and an ambitious nature play area in the heart of the park.

Throughout the rest of the park, upland forests will be managed for invasive species and transitioned back to a healthy native forest through careful long-term management of these resources. New hillside meadows will provide a transition between the floodplain and upland areas, creating a rare pollinator habitat in this dense urban landscape and striking seasonal displays.

The central area of the park is built around a series of constructed wetlands located at all major stormwater outfalls from the surrounding communities. These wetlands, built with sediments salvaged from the former lake-bed, will filter and clean untreated stormwater from over a hundred acres of urban streets before it enters the restored Doan Brook. These wetlands are also designed to be highly dynamic, transforming with each new storm event into a new hydric landscape. They will create rich habitats and display some of the most distinctive native plants of the region, including buttonbush and highbush blueberry. Even in a 100-year storm event, these floodplain zones will spread out and slow down flood water and the park will remain open to the public, allowing visitors to observe the effects of urban hydrology and the understand the larger ecological forces at play in the region.

In its role as active hydrological urban infrastructure and ecological refuge, this plan creates a park experience that celebrates regional history and ecology and is dynamic, educational, and dramatically different with every visit.



Manage waterway sediment
to accommodate the project program
in a cost effective way



Develop a comprehensive landscape plan
that integrates ecological, cultural, & recreational
amenities throughout the 60-acre study area



HONOR

DESIGN - NOT CONSTRUCTED

MKSK Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens North Star Master Plan

Columbus, Ohio

The consultant team, led by the Landscape Architect, conceptualized a gardens-forward master plan that lays out a big and bold vision for the Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens for the next 25 years, aligned with the future of greater Columbus. Through community, stakeholder, leadership and staff conversations, the Master Plan process uncovered a collective vision to address both the current needs and future aspirations of the Conservatory. The priority from this vision was to transform the Conservatory and garden into a premier botanical garden destination.

The process began with the planning team working with a Core Team made up of Conservatory and Board leadership. The Core Team was integral to the Master Plan, facilitating the planning process, providing access to needed information, and managing logistics and outreach. The Master Plan was also supported by a Steering Committee that guided and advised the Landscape Architect, providing feedback and ideas to ensure that plan content was reflective of Conservatory and community needs. Together with the team, the client group reviewed concepts, strategies, and recommendations and helped to create the final Master Plan. In tandem with the stakeholder process, the team also performed an analysis of three key pillars of the Master Plan vision: Horticulture, Experience and Community. This further helped to reinforce the goals of the Conservatory and its North Star Master Plan to: Inspire a Connection to Nature, Create Life Enhancing Experiences, and Cultivate a Belonging for All People.

Central to this bold new Master Plan was an organizing philosophy to be “Gardens Forward.” This heralds a bold new era that expands the focus of the Conservatory to a diverse array of permanent indoor and outdoor gardens, highlighting the year-round beauty of native and ecological plantings, as well as becoming a destination where Columbus residents come for a meaningful experience of indoor and outdoor cultural and natural events. This strategy aims to redefine the Conservatory as the hub of botanical art, ecological understanding, and cultural engagement for the Columbus community.

In addition to the “Gardens Forward” vision, the Master Plan develops strong and lasting connections between the adjacent Franklin Park, neighborhood and the City of Columbus. By reorienting the visitor experience, the Master Plan creates a centrally organized park that provides the opportunity to enhance, activate and connect Franklin Park and the Franklin Park Conservatory to create a seamless, high-quality experience for all visitors.

The ambitious plan for Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens will provide a horticultural and civic gem for the City of Columbus, by connecting the community to a destination of fun, discovery, learning and interaction, with year-round botanical and experiential appeal.





HONOR

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

Designing Local Tuttle Park

Columbus, Ohio

Tuttle Park is an existing community park located north of the Ohio State University campus. The park is surrounded by university housing as well as a densely populated neighborhood. The west edge of the park is the Olentangy River and much of the park is in floodplain. Because of the diverse population of the surrounding neighborhood as well as the international student body of the Ohio State University, the park has numerous user groups and subsequent activities including cricket, futsal, basketball, softball, student gatherings, and various passive uses.

The project was initiated in 2018 with the full design process commencing in 2019. Public engagement was completed just before the pandemic. Two community open houses were held to generate public input and design feedback. One open house focused on the overall design of the park and a second open house was tailored specifically to skatepark users. The community engagement process resulted in changes to the design program and park layout, which strengthened the overall design. Renderings and other graphics were produced to communicate the final design to the public and the local Area Commission.

The final site plan included removal of two softball fields and regrading of a large lawn area for use as a dedicated cricket field. The central activity area of the park is designed to be a hub of social interaction with a shelter, basketball court, and numerous amenities. Futsal is a popular local sport for children and adults. The existing futsal court was reconstructed and is now heavily used as one of only a few dedicated futsal courts in the city. The adjacent

tennis courts can also be utilized for futsal during peak times. An existing concrete staircase was demolished and an embankment was regraded to create an ADA-compliant pathway leading from the parking area to the main part of the park. This significantly improved the accessibility of the park as well as reduce maintenance demands.

An existing mural wall was deteriorating rapidly. The general contractor repaired the concrete wall and the original mural artist repainted damaged areas. Site furnishings were placed in front of the wall to deter people from using it for rebounding practice.

The skatepark included an innovative process. The landscape architect designed the infrastructure for the skatepark including drainage, grading, lighting, etc. A specialized firm constructed the skatepark through a design-build process after the other components of the park were substantially complete. The skatepark has become a welcoming community space for numerous types of uses including BMX, rollerblading, rollerskating, and various styles of skateboarding. Lighting, seating, and other amenities support skatepark use in the evening and throughout the year.

The physical appearance of the park is dramatically improved, resulting in an improved public perception of the park and more community pride. The park has strong and consistent daily visitation throughout the year. The project demonstrates how strong community engagement can be coupled with a relatively modest construction budget to achieve dramatic results.





MERIT

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

MKSK Canton Centennial Plaza

Canton, Ohio

Beginning in 2014 with several newly completed projects, most significantly the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Village, the city has generated tremendous momentum by creating new commercial activity, residential growth, and entertainment experiences. However, investment in a central public space had not occurred. The Canton Centennial Plaza project establishes a central green space for the community and a regional destination for visitors. The project is an important building block in creating a vibrant downtown with the ability to generate day-to-day activities and host major events. It will serve as the “city square” for the entire community and provides a memorable landmark for all visitors.

The design process focused on utilizing the history and character of the existing site as the foundation for the design, in conjunction with Canton’s relationship with the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a sister site for commemorative events. Market Avenue serves as

the front door to the plaza, with major gateways established at the intersections of 3rd and 4th Streets. A simple yet elegant steel structure, called the Centennial Pavilion, anchors the public space and encompasses an event lawn for approximately 5,000 guests. An integrated stage component, accent LED lighting, a high-definition video screen and audio/WiFi system are incorporated into the pavilion design. On the axis with the pavilion is the iconic stainless-steel Rotunda sculpture. Inspired by the rotunda of the original Hall of Fame building, the new Rotunda sculpture gracefully suggests the form of a football and establishes memorable landmark for downtown. Other amenities include a café / restroom building with a green roof, an interactive mist garden, a social garden, and a variety of other themed garden experiences. A simple, yet diverse planting palette was established to reinforce the city’s desire for an iconic space, while providing for 4-season interest.



MERIT

RESIDENTIAL

Environmental Management, Inc.
Contemporary Retreat in Old Worthington
Worthington, Ohio

The comprehensive landscape renovation of this residential property began with an architectural renovation and garage addition which called for an adjacent outdoor space complete with a pool, lounge and dining area, and an outdoor kitchen. As the renovated architecture exhibited a blend of both traditional and modern elements, it was logical that the planned outdoor living space should be consistent with this.

Through merging contemporary clean-lined geometries with a rich palette of hardscape materials, the outdoor living space and pool area became an extension to the architectural aesthetic of this Old Worthington residence. Large-format porcelain pavers surround a pool and spa centerpiece in a consistent running bond pattern. The pattern of the pavers erode and separate as they extend outward toward the rear yard and a decorative crushed bluestone chip aggregate fills the void space between these pavers. An outdoor kitchen and custom granite fire pit feature, surrounded by a fitted-joint granite veneer retaining wall, anchor the opposing ends of the pool deck.

These principal themes established in the hardscape permeated through to the planting design. Linear arrangements and repetition of plant material near the house gradually transitioned to a more free-form and natural appearance as it encroached upon the rear lot line. Formal rows of arborvitae, hydrangea, hakone grass and liriopie transitioned to an informal mixture of serviceberry, fragrant sumac, chokeberry, viburnum, yew, fern, and geranium.



Perhaps the most vital element of the landscape was the preservation of a century-old oak tree which towered precariously close to the pool and pool deck area. Through careful air-spading, selective root pruning, dead-wooding, and fertilizations the project team ensured the continued success of the tree before, during and after the construction phase. To further accentuate the presence of the oak tree, granite steps ascended to a lawn panel “alter” from the pool deck below.



MERIT

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

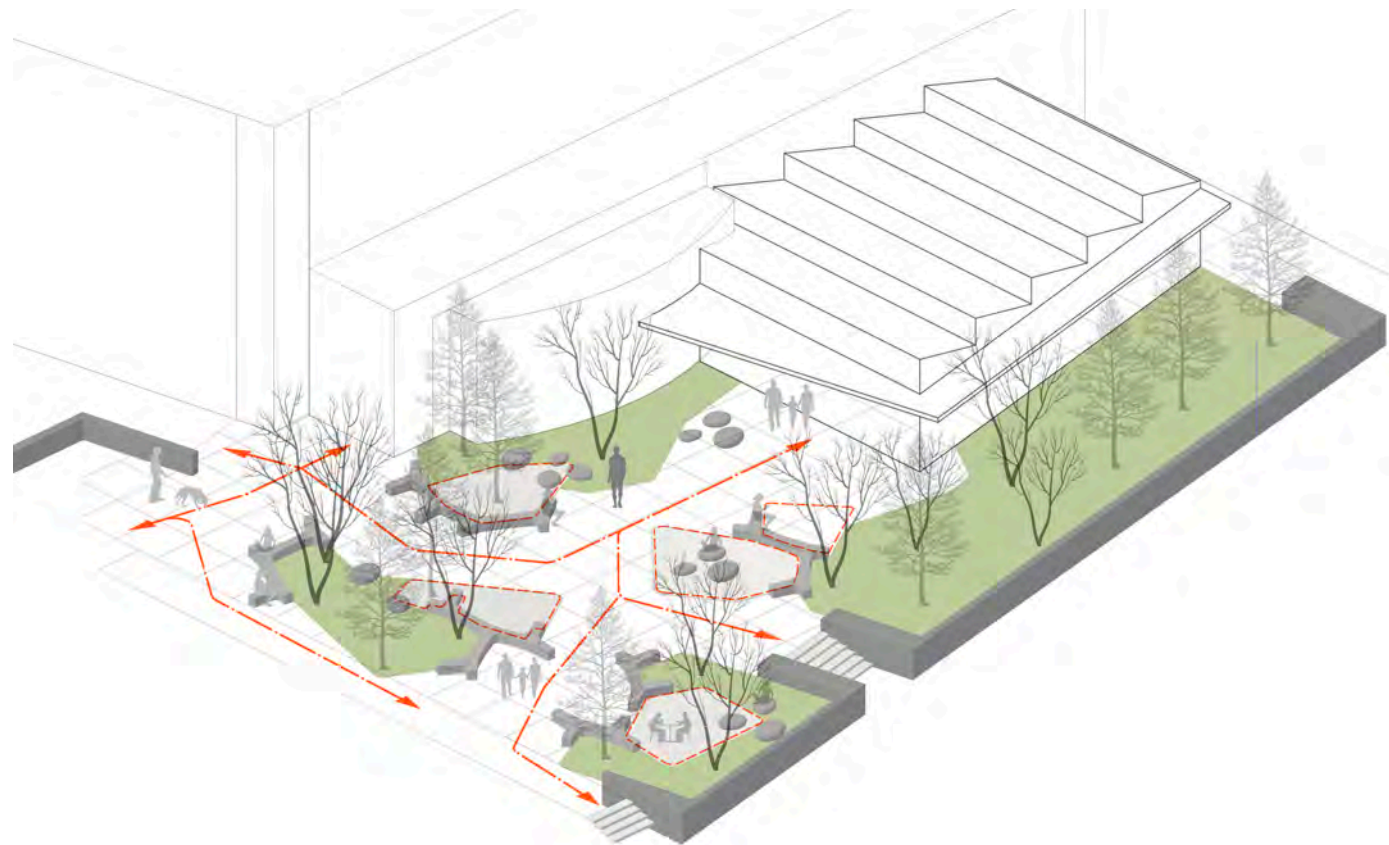
IMPLEMENT

Daley Family Pavilion & Terrace

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Located at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, the Daley Family Pavilion Terrace Garden project transformed a nondescript campus plaza defined by edge-to-edge concrete into a casual and flexible event space and on-campus retreat. The design reduced overall amount of paving and added both permeable paving and landscape beds as green infrastructure. The principal organizing element of the space is a collection of “twig” benches

that create dynamically formed gathering spaces allowing large or small groups to gather while also inviting individual refuge. The gardens plant palette is simple but highlights numerous native plant alternatives to ornamental plants commonly found in residential and commercial landscapes.



MERIT

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

OHM Advisors

Holden Arboretum Staircase

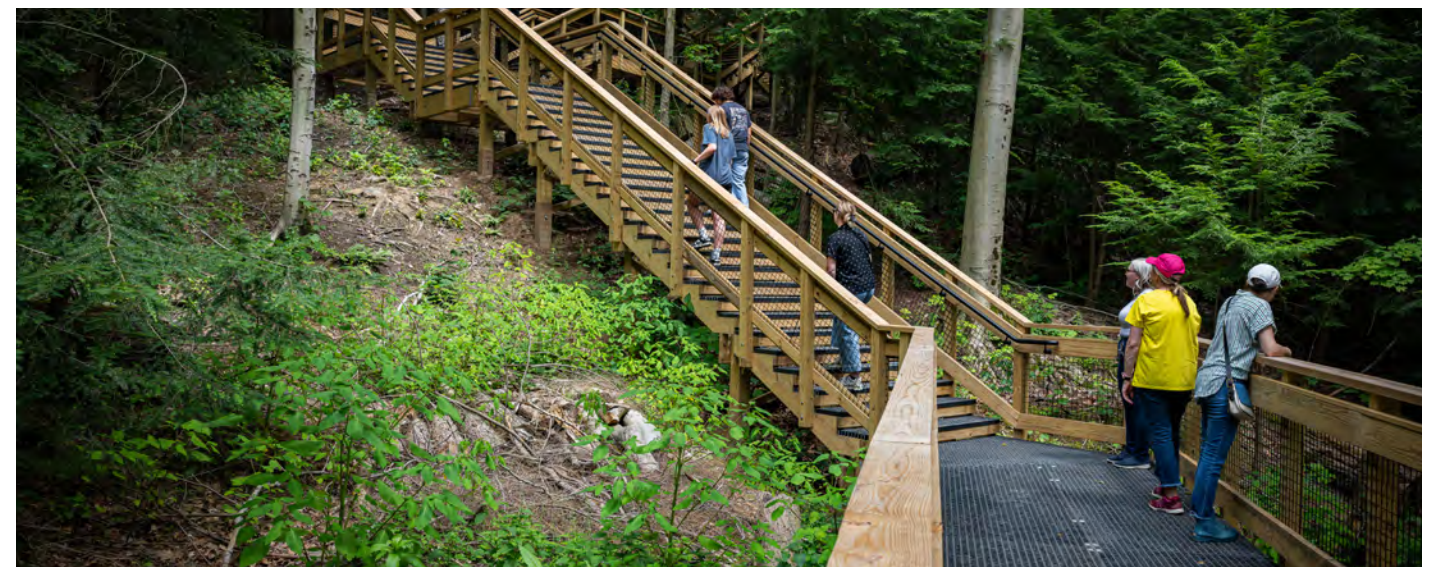
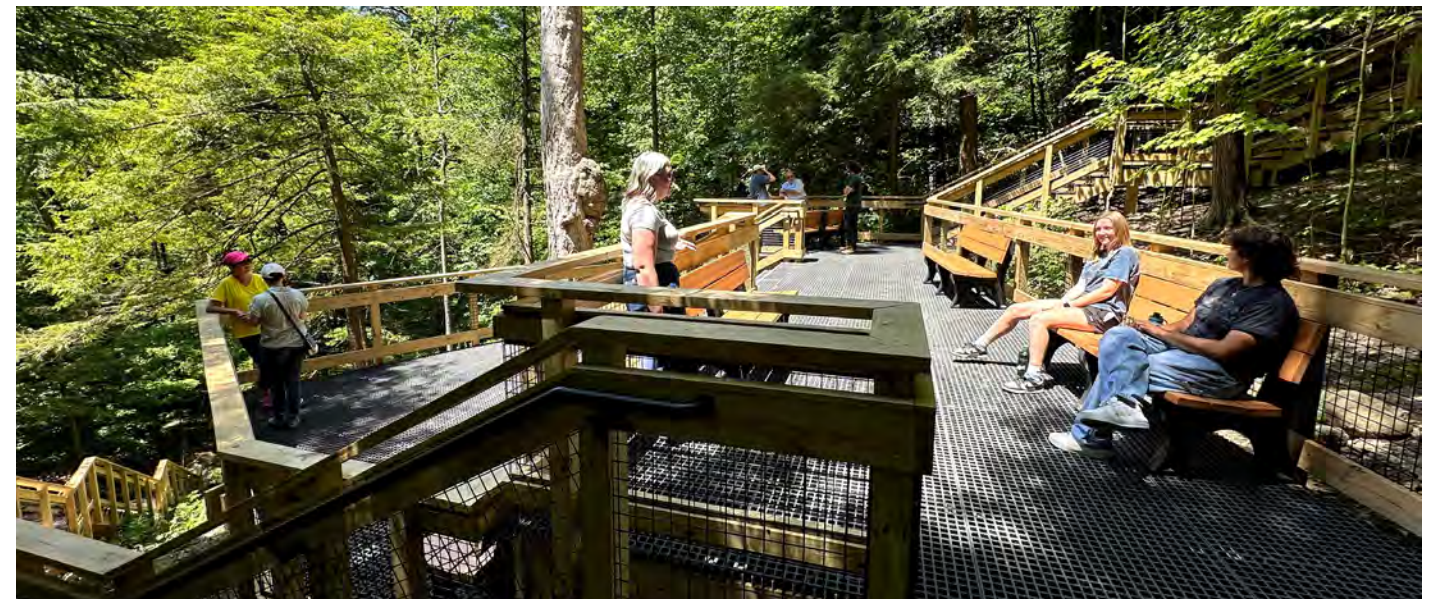
Kirtland, Ohio

Just thirty minutes from downtown Cleveland, the Holden Arboretum is an expansive botanical garden and living museum of nature on 3,500 acres across Lake and Geauga Counties, where miles of trails traverse vibrant gardens, woodlands, meadows, and water. As an offshoot to its 2022 Comprehensive Master Plan, the Holden Forests & Gardens (HFG) desired to enhance the visitor experience of the garden's natural Pierson Creek Valley preservation and education ecosystem by reimagining the hiking trail network through new trails, staircases, and bridge structures.

The first phase of improvements consists of reimagining two hillside staircases, both with distinct intentions, but with a design approach respectful of the native ecosystem in creating a user experience. The "South" trail staircase is closest to the main gardens and traverses a 61' total elevation (122 steps). It is frequented by educational programs teaching about the Pierson Creek ecosystem, so the design intends a gathering space halfway up the staircase for recovery and reflection. The structure alignment is informed by the existing canopy utilizing mature shade trees as features, with the intention to not only traverse the valley hillside but experience it.

The "North" trail staircase is further away from the main gardens and encouraged for users of the longer hiking trail. It is a more strenuous experience following the hillside more closely with minimal landings and traversing a total elevation of 79' (158 steps). The staircase structure is woven through the hemlocks as it meanders down the upper hillside, traversing to each flat area while respecting the existing canopy. The sense of adventure is enhanced as the last set of stairs appears endless upon approach: this stretch follows the hillside with no landings, hugging the Pierson Creek valley.

The Pierson Creek Valley is the garden's nature preserve and is inaccessible to vehicular traffic, meaning the staircases were required to be designed and constructed sustainably, with minimal construction equipment and construction disturbance to the ecosystem. To alleviate long-term damage to the local ecosystem, the sustainable design approach utilized fiber reinforced plastic grating as the walking surfacing to allow sunlight to the forest floor, allowing for underlying ecosystem below to flourish. Together, the new staircases add to the arboretum's immersive experiential opportunities for visitors to explore plant, tree, and animal life up close and personally with a sense of wonder for the world around them.



MERIT

PLANNING + ANALYSIS

REALM Collaborative

Poindexter Village

Museum and Cultural Center

Columbus, Ohio

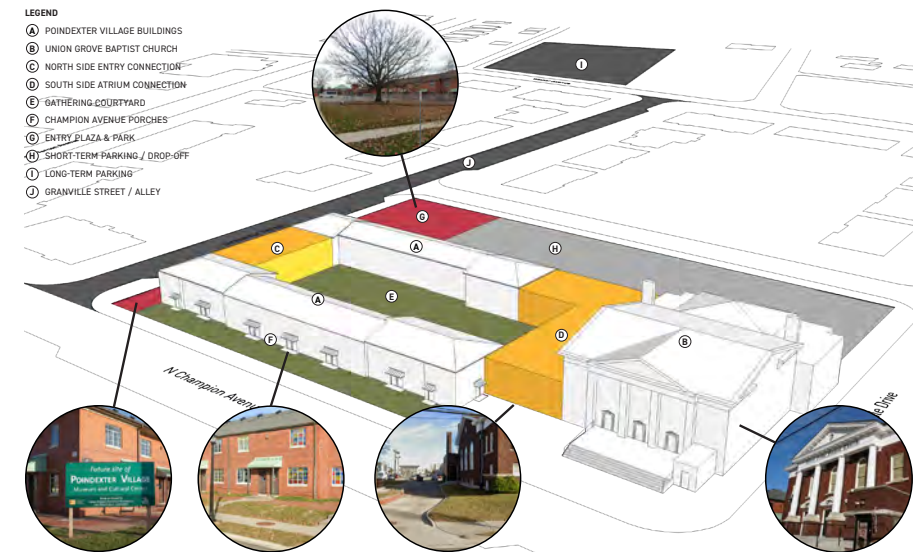
In the historic King-Lincoln Bronzeville neighborhood of Columbus, the Ohio History Connection and the design team embarked on an ambitious and culturally significant project: the Poindexter Village Museum and Cultural Center. This endeavor aimed to honor the legacy of Poindexter Village as one of the nation's first affordable housing projects for a historically African American community, while providing spaces to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the neighborhood for many years to come.

For generations Poindexter Village was a place where neighbors looked after one another and elders were revered and respected. As the years wore on, the neighborhood began to decline as its residents struggled with the pressures of disinvestment, racially unfair public policy, and the systemic inequities that disproportionately impact communities of color. While there was a coordinated and passionate effort by some to keep the Village intact, 33 of the 35 original buildings were torn down in 2013 by the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Ms. Reita Smith, a local resident, led a coordinated effort of community elders to help save and preserve the two remaining buildings from the wrecking ball in 2014. She courageously lobbied Columbus City Council to take control of the site and the two historic buildings in the hopes of future rehabilitation into a museum. Ms. Smith has since founded the James Preston Poindexter Foundation (JPPF) and currently serves on the board of directors, where for over a decade she has built momentum and kept her dream for a nationally recognized museum alive.

Ms. Reita's lobbying efforts paid off as Columbus City Council helped acquire and transition the site to the Ohio History Connection (OHC) in 2017. The spirit of the Village will live on as the 59th historic site in Ohio, but minimal progress in the transformation to a museum and cultural center has occurred for almost a decade. To gain momentum, OHC reached out to the design team in 2023 to facilitate a visioning process that might kick start further development on the site with a series of organized workshops with over 25 participants to understand the community's values, hopes, and aspirations for the future campus. This groundwork ensured the project would not only commemorate the past, but also resonate with contemporary needs and future aspirations. Consensus was carefully built over a period of months amongst the key stakeholders: City of Columbus, Ohio History Connection and the James Preston Poindexter Foundation.

Building upon the feedback from the workshops and museum interpretive plan, the vision plan considers the addition of Union Grove Baptist Church as a historically significant operating black church, and a broader connected Heritage Trail that will bring a greater sense of identity and improved public realm experience to the historic neighborhood fabric. →The Visioning Study has helped to identify priorities for the Poindexter Village Museum & Cultural Center project as we envision the future of African American history and culture in Ohio.



MERIT

DESIGN - NOT CONSTRUCTED

MKSK

Sharon Centre Playground

Sharon Woods, Sharonville, Ohio

We all need to reconnect with nature, place, and other people... period. As Landscape Architects we understand that there is too often a tendency for playgrounds to be off-the-shelf and uninspired in their design and implementation. While we have continued to strongly believe that play should encompass adventure, discovery, and risk/reward qualities, the last few decades are evidence that our communities have experienced a much-needed reconnection to nature and ecology. Inspiring books like Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods* in 2005 for example, emphasized a back-to-nature movement to reconnect children with the outdoors. Nature play and natural play spaces have worked their way into the language of schools and neighborhoods, and the bar is continually being raised to design and construct more thoughtful and ecologically sensitive play spaces for children and people of all ages and abilities. This was the challenge for the new Sharon Centre Playground.

The location for the new playground is within Sharon Woods park in northwest Cincinnati, adjacent to the Sharon Centre museum and auditorium. The picturesque Sharon Creek meanders through the contoured landscape covered with dappled shade from the large Oak, Maple, and Sycamore shade trees that provide canopy and habitat for a variety of wildlife. This existing landscape setting provided immediate context and inspiration for the overall design approach and development of potential themes for the new play experience.

In addition to a thorough investigation of the site's current conditions, the Landscape Architect hosted several engagement events that centered around children and families in a "build your

own playground" interactive exercise. The interaction with the children and design team in addition to the ideas generated by the children, provided the Landscape Architect with valuable input regarding the program of spaces, types of play experiences, and the relationship with the surrounding landscape and natural features including Sharon Creek located adjacent to the preferred site for the new play space.

Taking cues from the meandering creek corridor and the variety of wildlife habitats that occupy the park, the Landscape Architect led design team explored several conceptual approaches including the abundant crawfish mud chimneys found along the streambanks, the karst topography along the banks of the stream and the cascading waterfalls along its reach, and the bird population that use Sharon Creek as a migratory route and establish their nests in the large trees canopies throughout the corridor.

These ideas were shared with the public through meetings and online questionnaires for input and preference. The preferred approach was a blend between the karst topography and the canopy habitats of insects and birds that float above the landscape surface. The resulting concept for the new Sharon Centre Playground provides a play area that meanders through the woodland much like the adjacent Sharon Creek. Additionally, the flowing form of the play space weaves through the existing tree canopy to avoid adversely impacting the root zones of the large shade trees that provide its unique setting – promoting an authentic and unique play experience for all ages and abilities.



HONORABLE MENTION

DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED

AECOM

5th Avenue Streetscape Improvements

Youngstown, Ohio

The Fifth Avenue Reconstruction Project builds on over 15 years of planning and coalition efforts by the City of Youngstown and its project partners to build a vision for a new knowledge-based economy that physically, economically, and socially leverages Youngstown's medical, educational, and technological assets, while also establishing a revitalized sense of place. The City's historic transportation network was specifically designed around an industrial economy that developed to accommodate the ease of delivery for rail and large trucks with the goal of efficiently transporting and distributing goods. The Fifth Avenue project is focused on shifting the infrastructure to be centered around people.

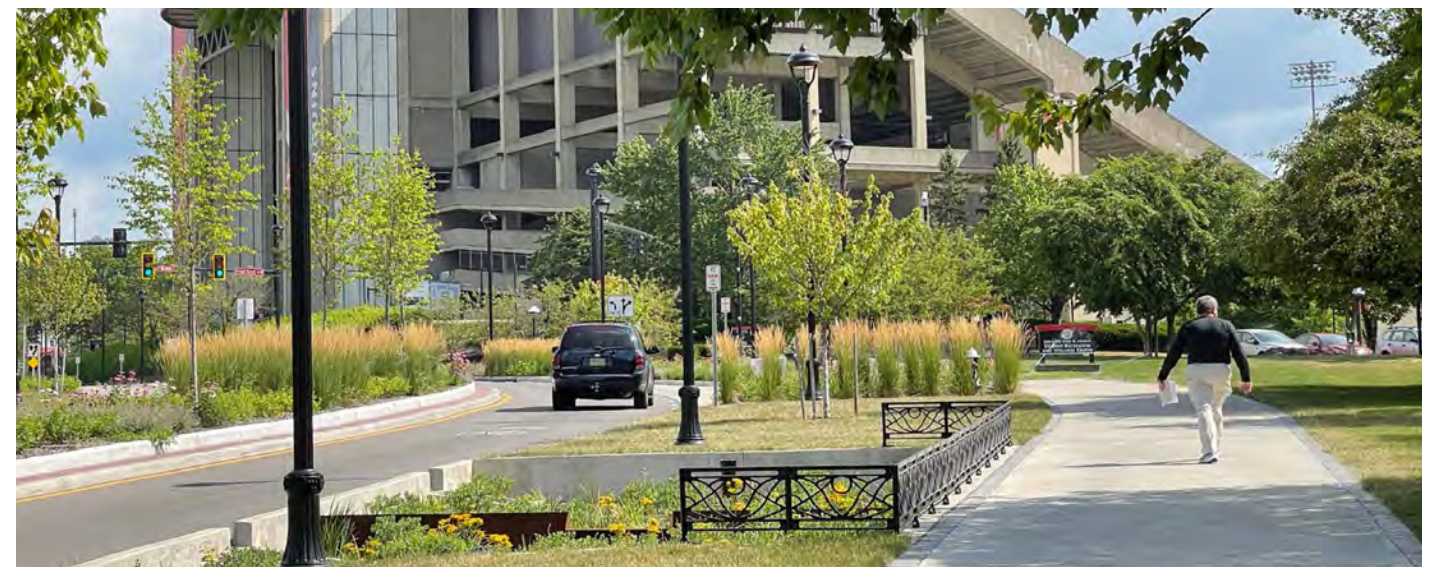
Although physically adjacent, Youngstown State University and the City evolved during the industrial boom without a strategically planned relationship. Though industry has long abandoned the city center, the lack of convenient physical relationships between the City and YSU remained. This project dramatically reframes the perception of the roadway to all users by downsizing the road width to be proportional to the actual traffic demand by removing 4 of the 6 lanes of pavement. The removed pavement is reallocated to address the large pedestrian connectivity gap along the Fifth Avenue corridor.

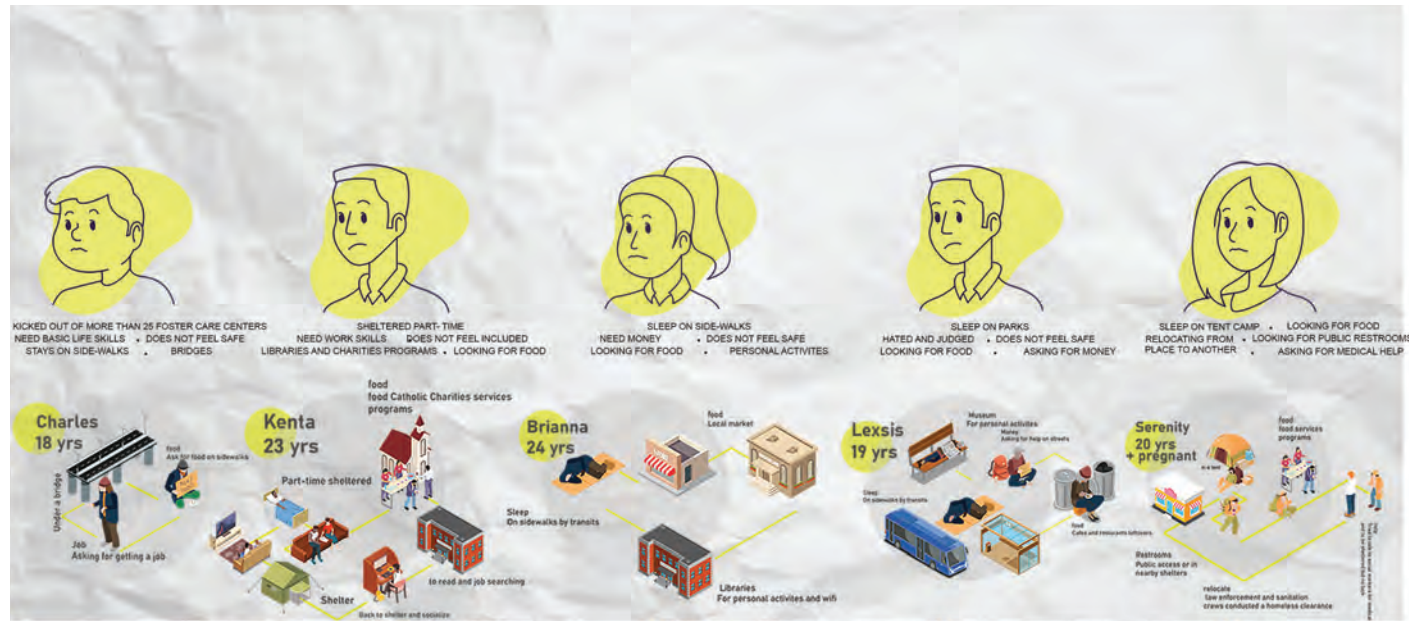
It is important to note that a large percentage of the population in downtown Youngstown does not have access to a vehicle. Like many older cities, Youngstown has an established road and sidewalk network, but one that is fragmented and in need of repair and recapitalization. The Fifth Avenue Reconstruction Project directly responds to these social and infrastructure needs with an integrated investment in the public realm that includes new transit stations, bike facilities, widened sidewalks, shared-use paths, green infrastructure, landscaping, street furnishings, and safer crosswalks.

The combination of these improvements facilitates circulation and synergy between the economic and social anchors of Youngstown's new economy.

The rebranded corridor features expanded pedestrian nodes defined with clay brick pavers, wide planting beds that provide a roadway buffer, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, and decorative black iron fencing around terraced bioretention cells. Eight transit mini-hubs featuring sleek, contemporary shelters have been constructed along the corridor. A new self-driving autonomous shuttle will be piloted on the corridor in 2024, the first of its kind in Youngstown. Additionally, the transit stops will serve 3 existing Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) bus routes with a fleet of buses equipped with front-mounted bicycle racks. WRTA is also in the process of implementing a system-wide, real-time passenger information system that was planned for in the design of the transit mini-hubs. With the installation of nearly 1-acre of terraced bioretention cells, the City will have an additional 22,000 cubic feet of stormwater storage volume.

This Fifth Avenue reconstruction has become a template for establishing a city-wide approach to green and complete streets. Previously an intimidating barrier for pedestrians, the revitalized street is now the connective tissue that is spurring new infill development. The dramatic transformation of the corridor from a road into a distinct place is a prominent example that illustrates the value of integrated transportation design.





Aya Kesseko

Student Honor

Comfort for All while Climate and Homeless Populations Rise

Kent State University

The research focuses on the youth aging out of foster care as this transaction is problematic, and many individuals end up being homeless at this young age. As designers and planners, we can impact designing welcoming, temporary, and flexible spaces to

highlight the issue. This crisis is complex, but utilize a vacant block for a specific project duration, help provide mobile services (food, medical, hygiene.. etc.), and then move to another site as needed.

Roosbeh Kholdani

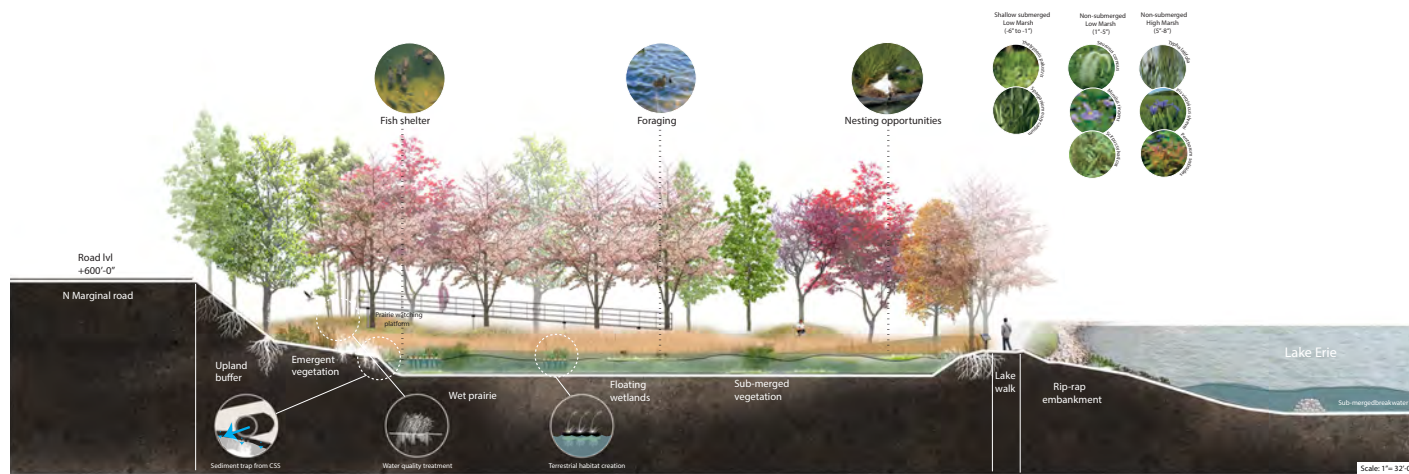
Student Honor

Transparency in Tribute, A Journey through Cincinnati's Memorial

University of Cincinnati

The project aims to design a memorial for the Cincinnati Radiation Experiment, paying homage to victims and their families while shaping a physical representation of their involvement. Rooted in respect for the past and community engagement, it envisions

a timeless space commemorating the event and its impact. Prominently visible and easily accessible, the memorial seeks to dignify each victim through individual recognition..

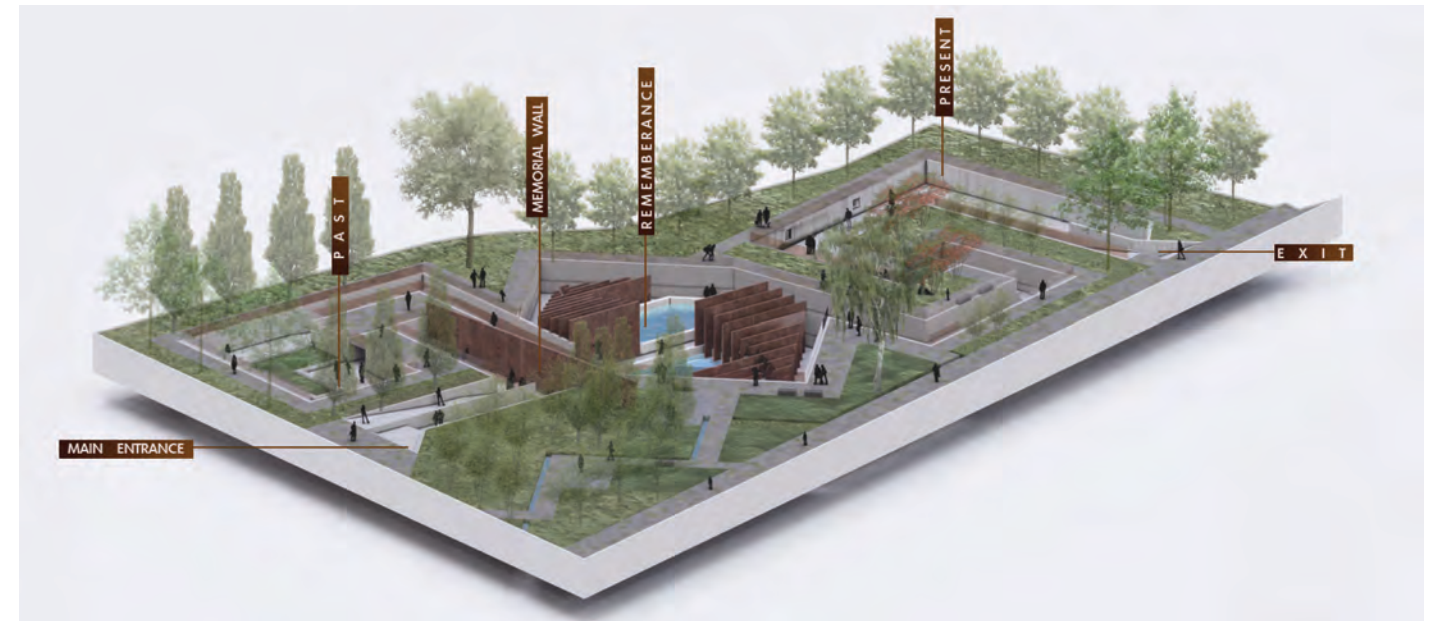


Asmita Dahal
Student Honor
Lake Erie Marginal Freshwater Park

Kent State University

Marginal Freshwater Park located in the Giddings Brook watershed addresses urban environmental issues from combined sewer overflow outlets on lakeshore using marshes, swales, and wetlands for natural filtration, sediment retention, and habitat creation. This ecological buffer improves water quality by replacing 90% of hardened shorelines with vegetation enhancing fish habitats,

attracting migratory birds and reducing storm wave impact. It connects community to lakefront with bike trails and elevated overlooks from marginalized neighborhoods offering immersive nature experiences.



Armita Chitsaz
Student Merit
Test Radiation Memorial,
Marking a Journey through Time

University of Cincinnati

The project aims to design a memorial for the Cincinnati Radiation Experiment, paying homage to victims and their families while shaping a physical representation of their involvement. Rooted in respect for the past and community engagement, it envisions

a timeless space commemorating the event and its impact. Prominently visible and easily accessible, the memorial seeks to dignify each victim through individual recognition..

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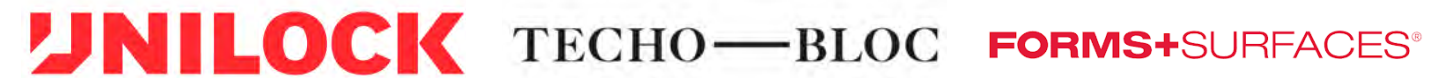
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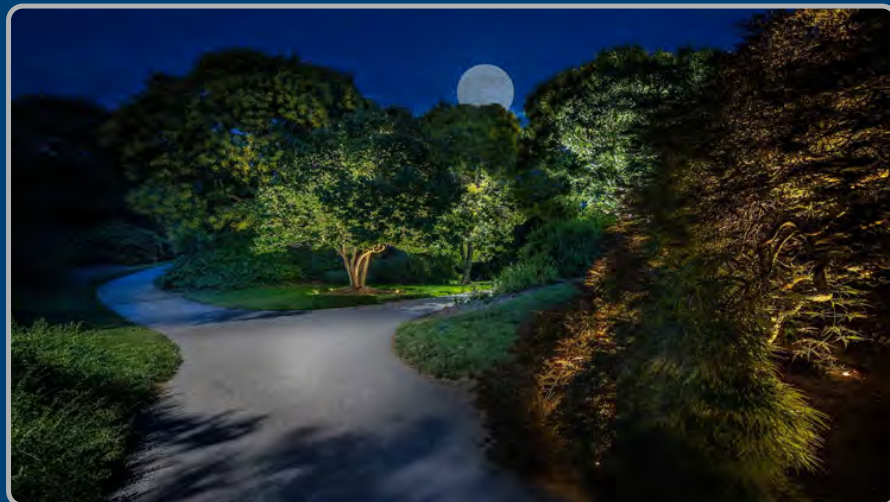


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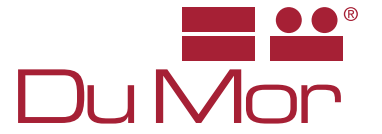
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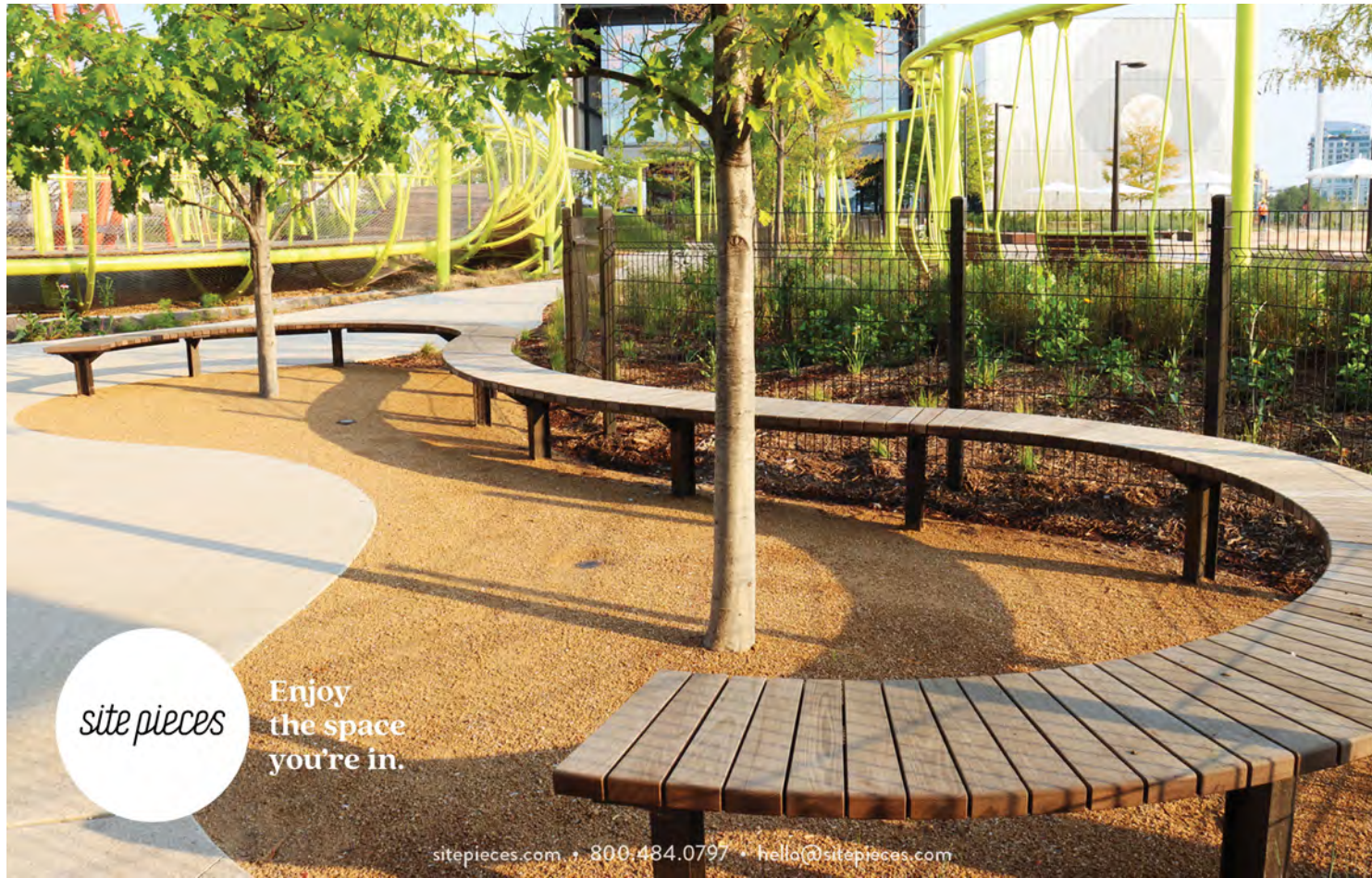
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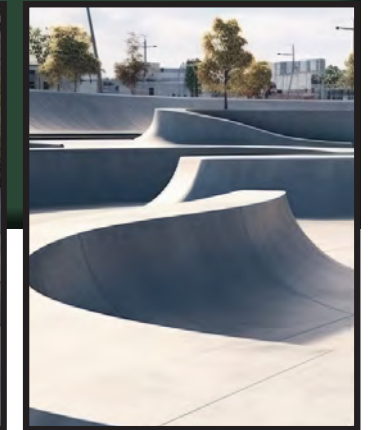
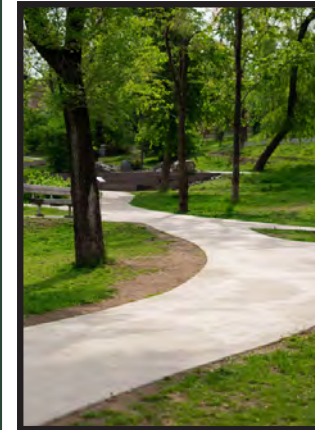
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