



## Separation of the City and the River

enhancing Lowertown through the revitalization of St. Paul's industrial waterfront

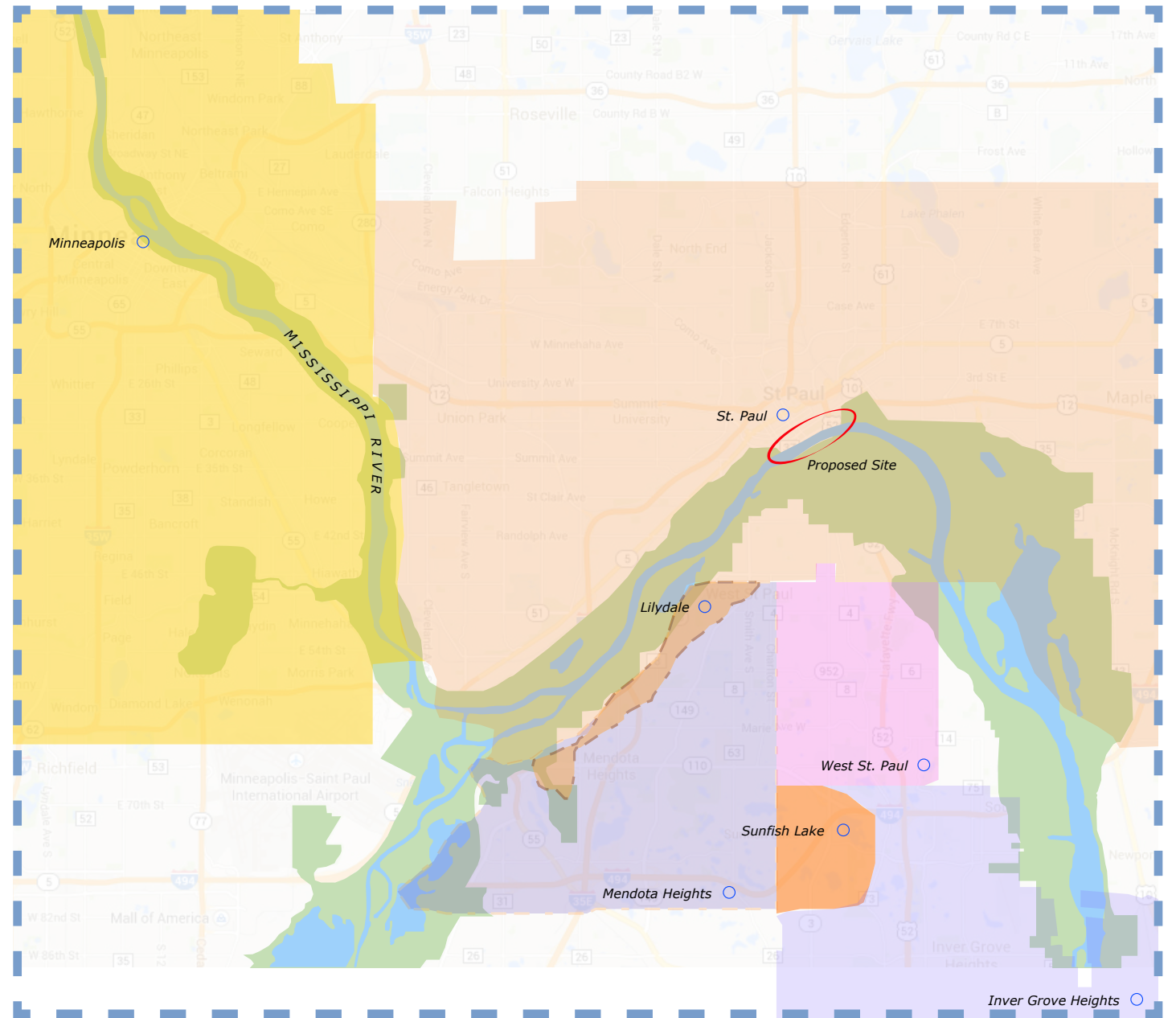
Patrick O'Keeffe.

Jay Kost.

John Harper.

LA 572.

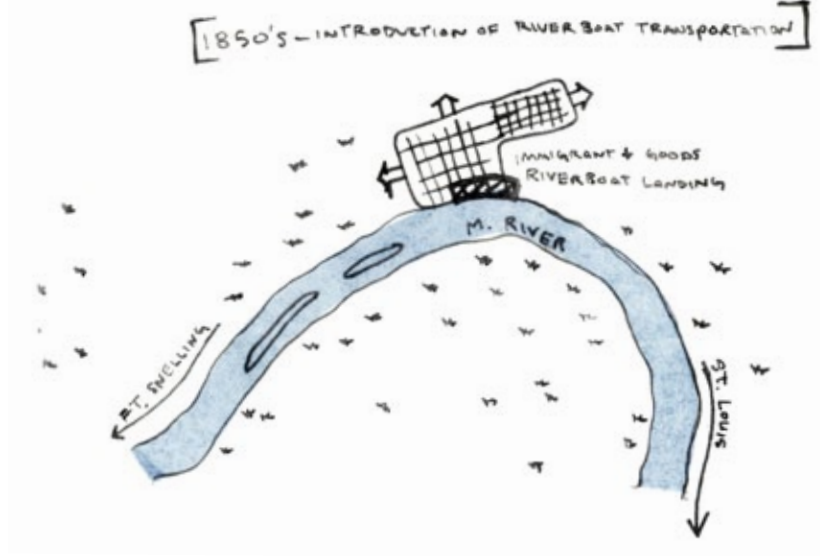
spring 2015.



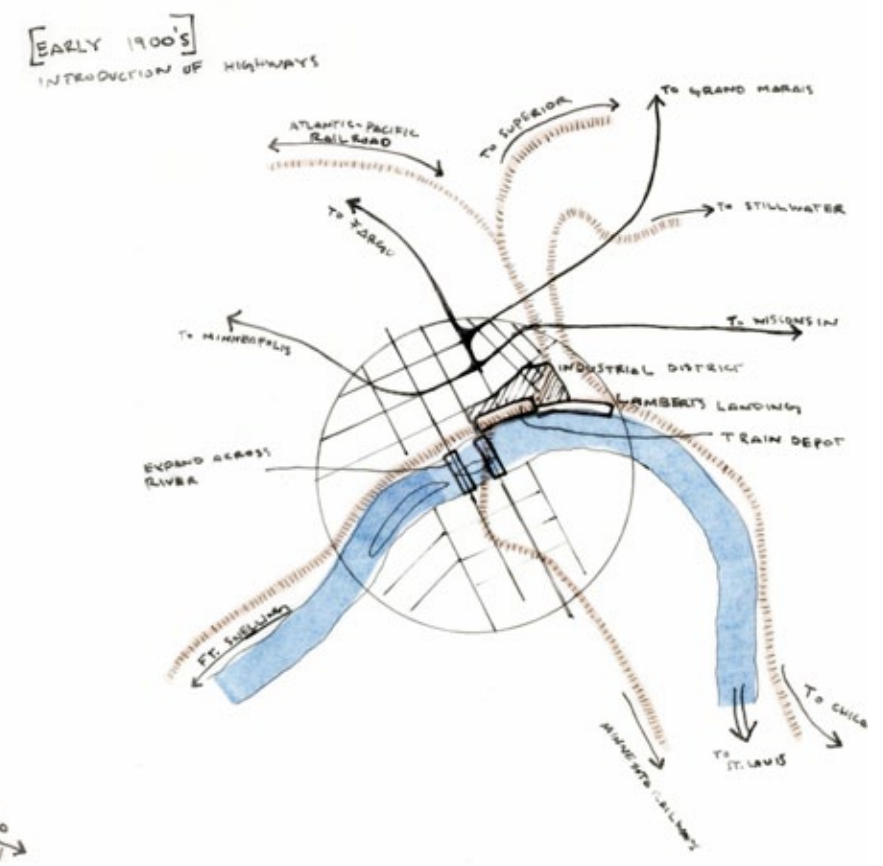
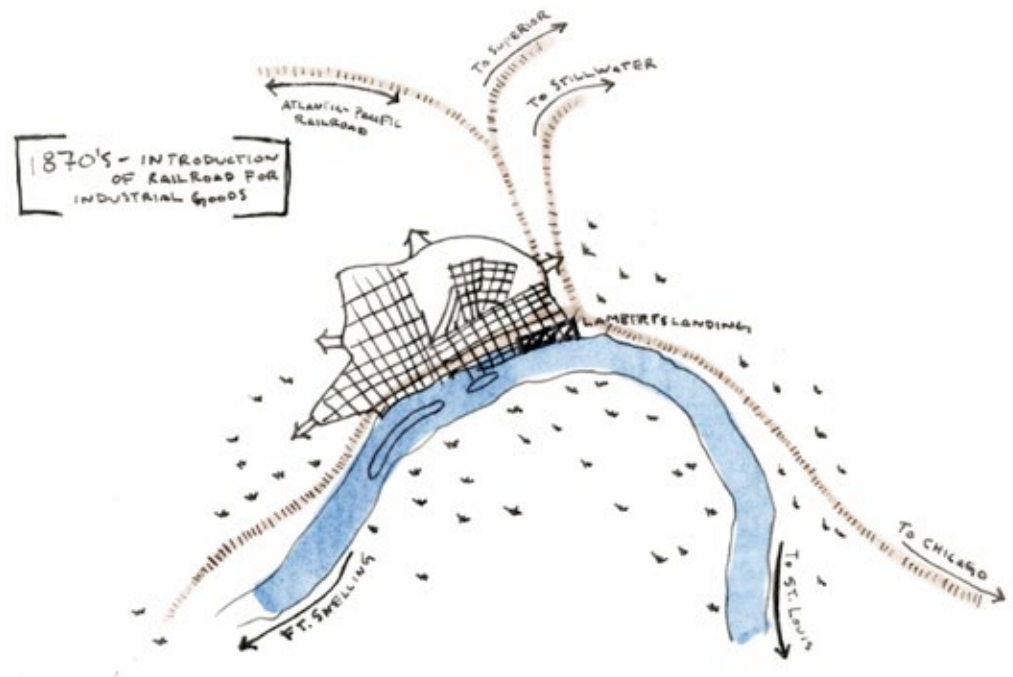
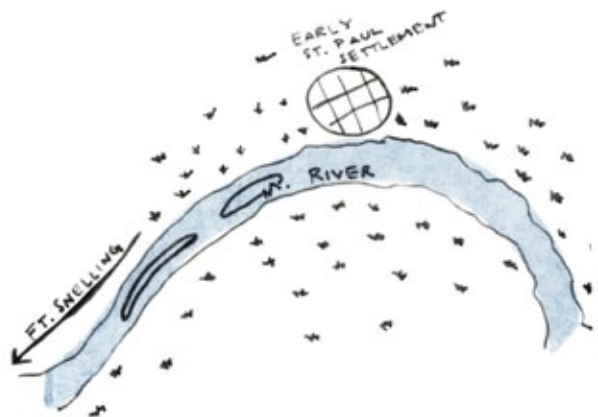
site location



[1]



[EARLY 1800'S]



[2]



site current issues



site current issues

The Lower Landing Riverfront Park in St. Paul, Minnesota, will provide public access to the derelict industrial riverfront of the neighborhood. As a result, the rejuvenation of this deteriorating space will provide Lowertown with a spatially defined and interactive waterfront destination, thereby enhancing the quality of life within the area.

“Water is the best edge a city can have. It creates at the same time a barrier and a sense of unlimited space. It reflects by night and cools by day. Waterfront is any city’s most valuable asset”

[ Specter, 1974].

- Increase views and access to the Mississippi River
- Create opportunities for active and passive water recreation
- Define Lower Landing Riverfront Park as a destination for a variety of users
- Maximize use of outdoor spaces, year-round, for visitors to enjoy and come back to
- Maintain the unique and historic character of Lowertown within the park





Allegheny Park, located on the southern shore of the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a linear waterfront park that creates a connection, linking the larger systems of the city, nature, and industrial context of the site itself.

The final design solution expanded on the site's existing limitations, utilizing each feature, highlighting them and integrating them seamlessly into the end product.

[3]

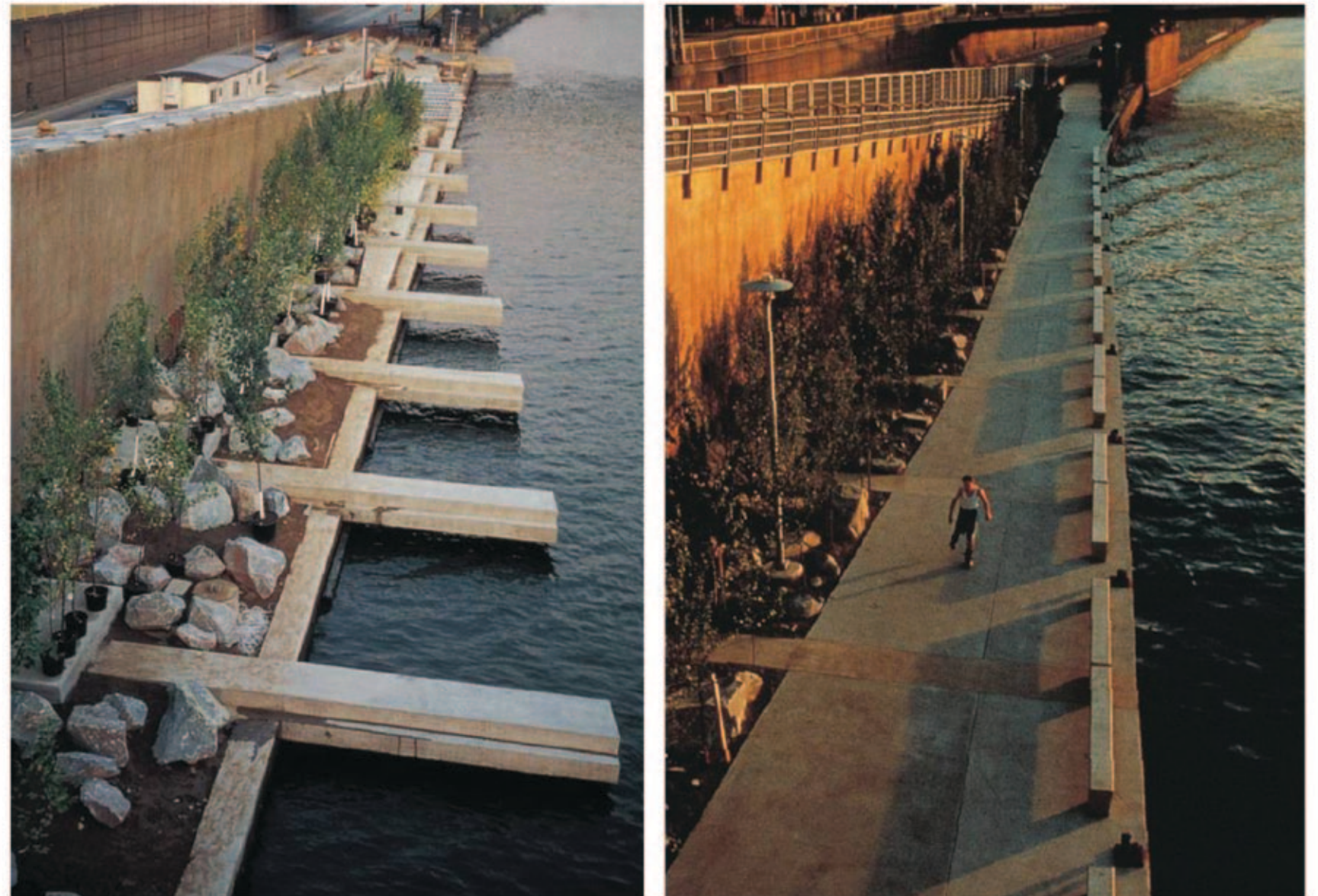
Project Name: Allegheny Riverfront Park

Location: Southern Shore, Allegheny River, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Construction Completed: Lower tier- 1998; Upper tier- 2001

Size: 4,000- foot long linear strips; 50- foot wide maximum on upper level, 15- foot wide cantilevered lower tier

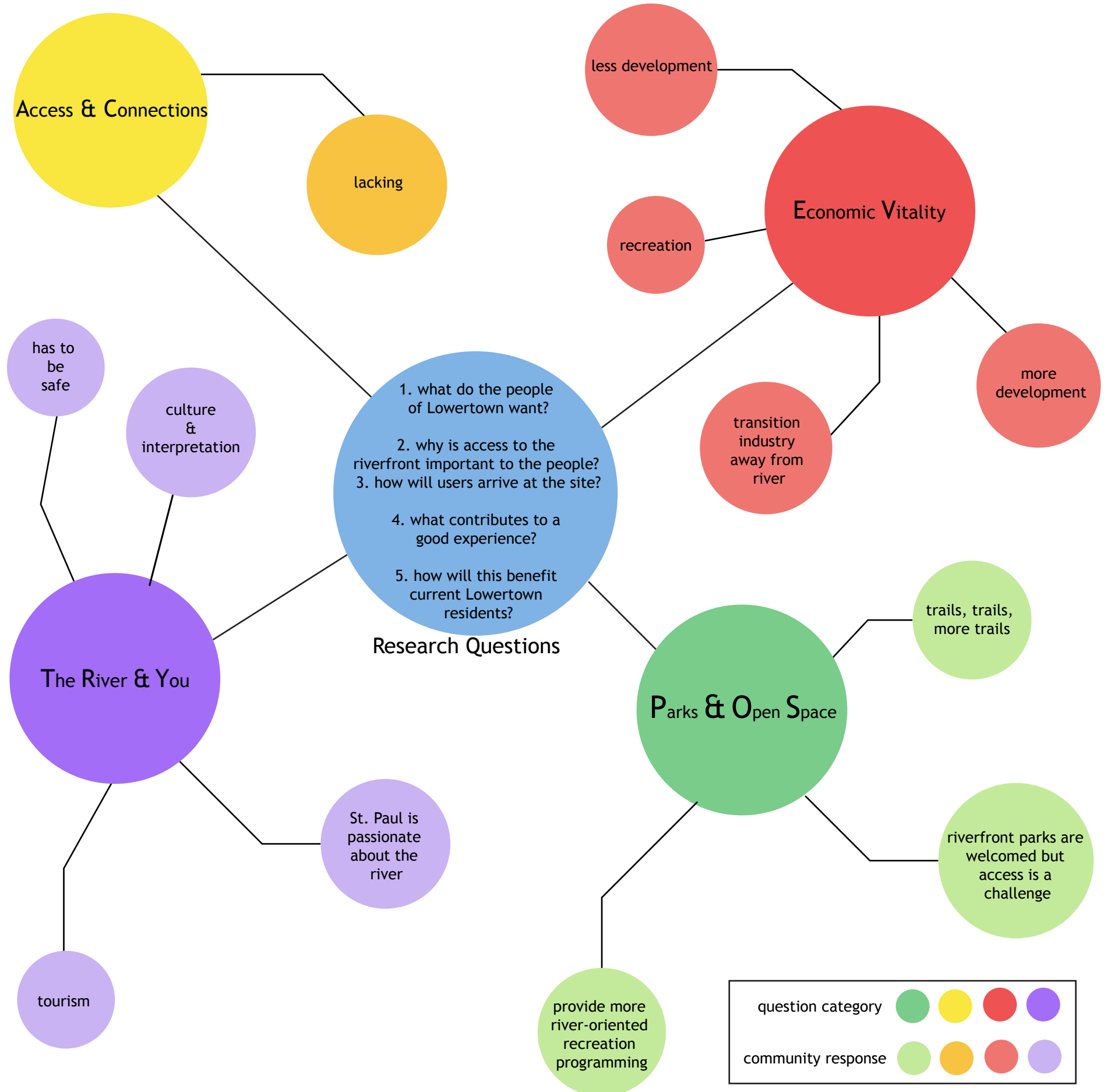
Landscape Architect(s): Michael Van Valkenburgh, Laura Soland, & Matthew Urbanski/ MVVA



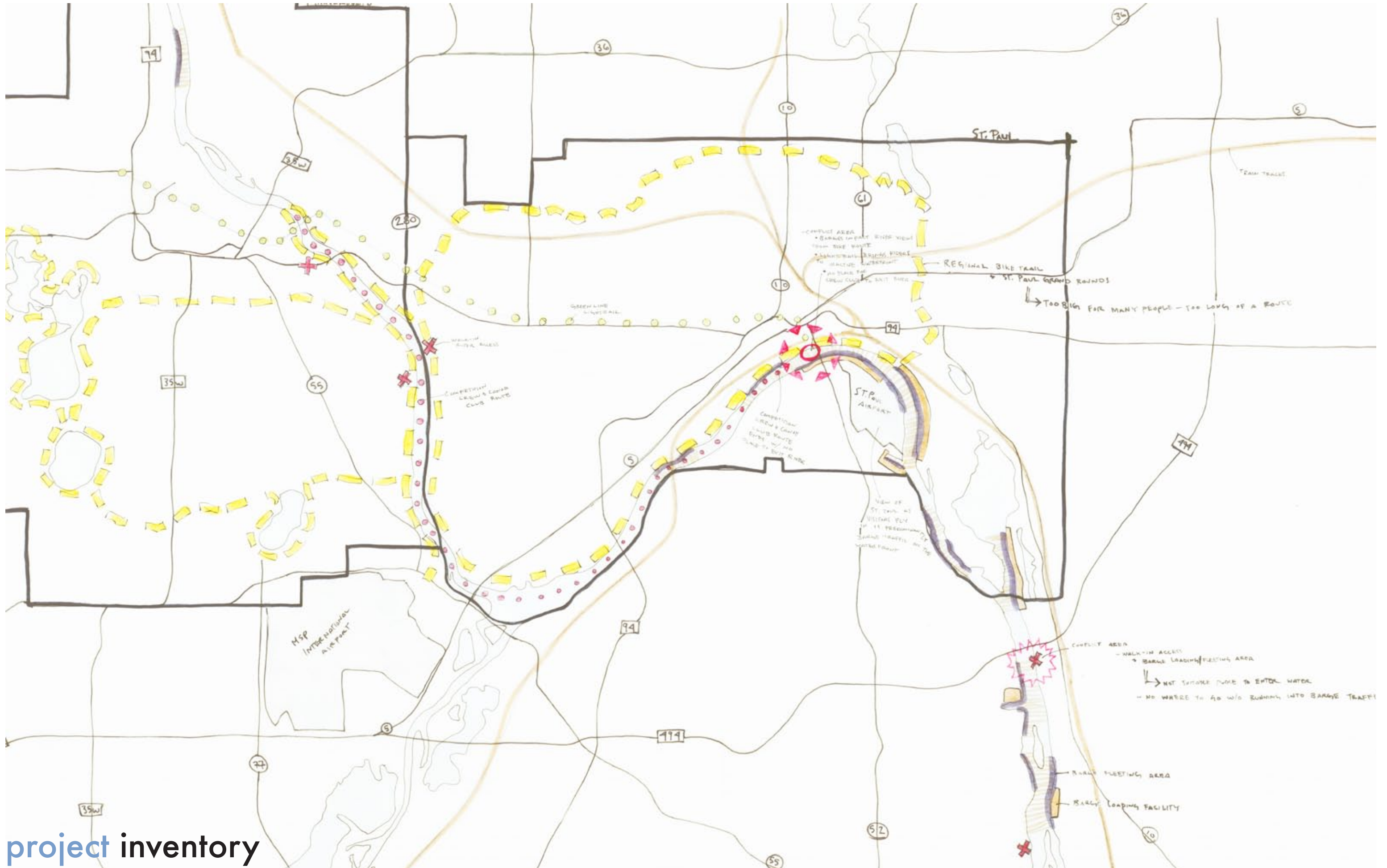
[4]

# Themes of Public Feedback

- wildlife and nature contribute to our quality of life. St. Paul is passionate about this river
- river corridor needs a higher standard of care/maintenance
- link people to nature
- recreation
- safe pedestrian and bike connections are needed
- connections to river corridor from downtown & neighborhoods are lacking
- transition industry and airport away from river
- provide more river-oriented programming & facilities for: canoes/kayaks, fishing, camping, trails, and birding
- riverfront parks are great but accessing them is challenging
- access and connections is the top issue
- culture and interpretation are important to the river
- need better wayfinding
- river corridor has to feel and be safe
- barges and industry are part of river heritage and attraction

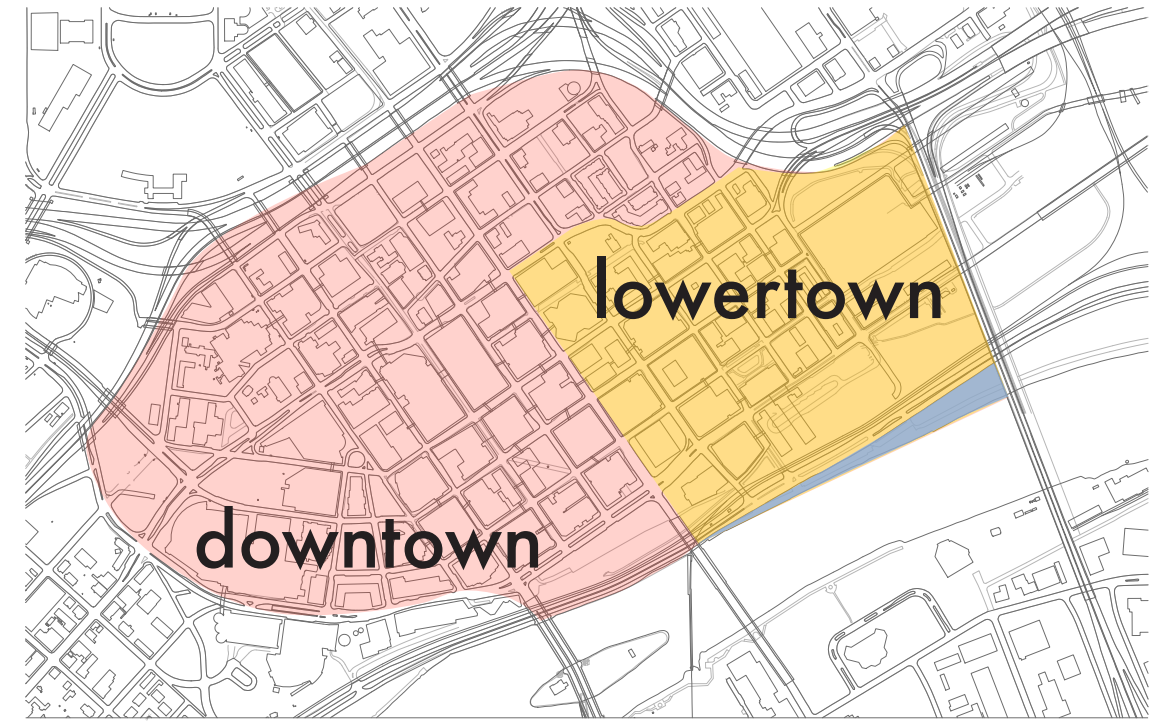








- Lowertown
- commercial
- green space
- multi-family residential
- parking
- Lower Landing Riverfront Park Site



- Lowertown boundary
- residential
- direct route to Site
- green space
- elevated rail deck





The strongest open spaces, “Can promote community investment, educate citizens about the environment, contribute to a city’s unique character, and link surrounding buildings to create a sense of place”

[Garvin, 1997].

Open spaces are essential components of successful urban cores because of the opportunities they provide, which impact and influence the overall experience of a place.

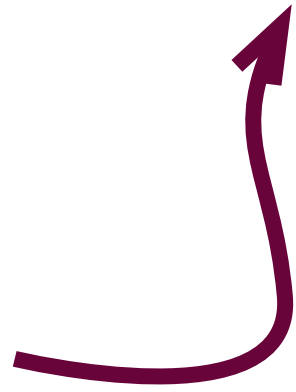


- **Urban and Natural Transition:** integrate the urban and natural settings
- **Recreation Opportunities:** provide increased opportunities for passive and active recreation
- **Connections:** develop and establish visual and physical connections between the Lowertown neighborhood and the adjacent riverfront
- **History:** maintain the historic character of place

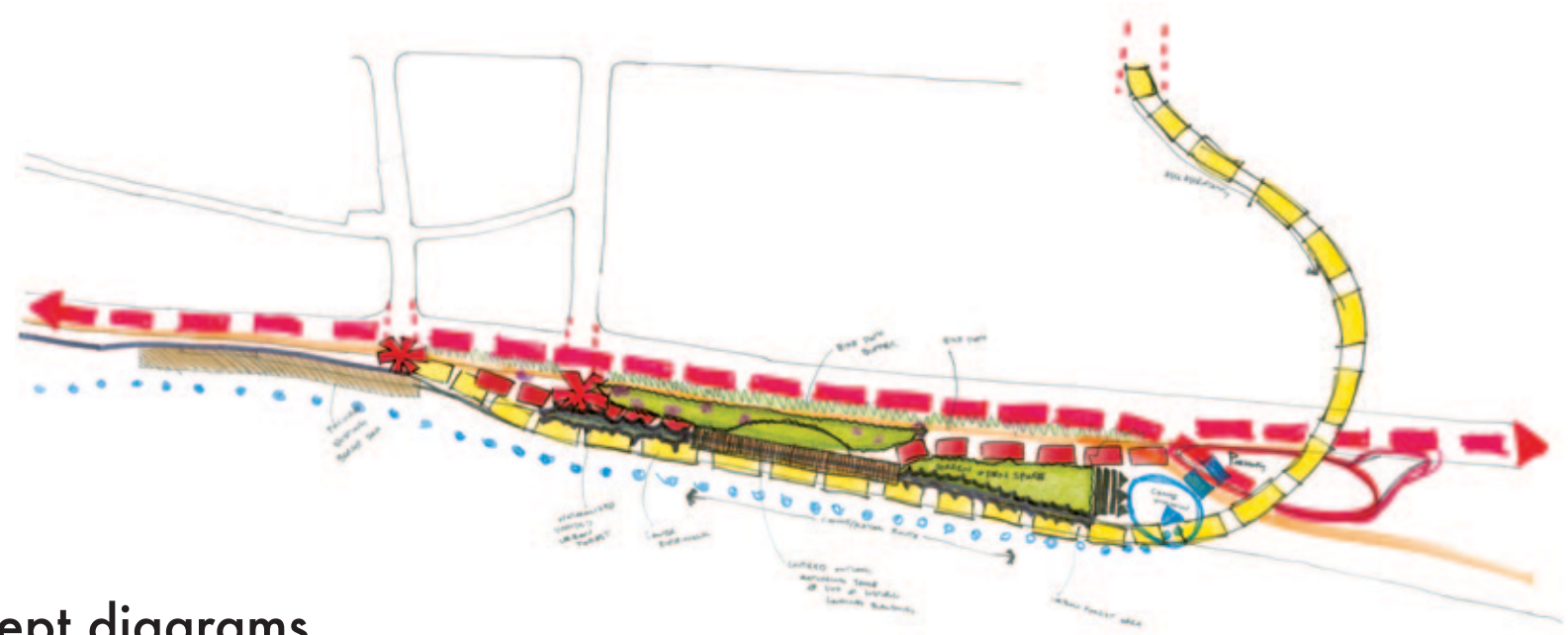
- Urban and Natural Transition ●
- Recreation Opportunities ●
- Connections ●
- History ●

- parking
- riverwalk
- green open space
- local art/sculpture
- bridge/tunnel
- urban hypernature forest
- native planting beds
- kayak/canoe walk-in access
- historic gathering space
- seating areas
- bike path
- barge/steamboat parking

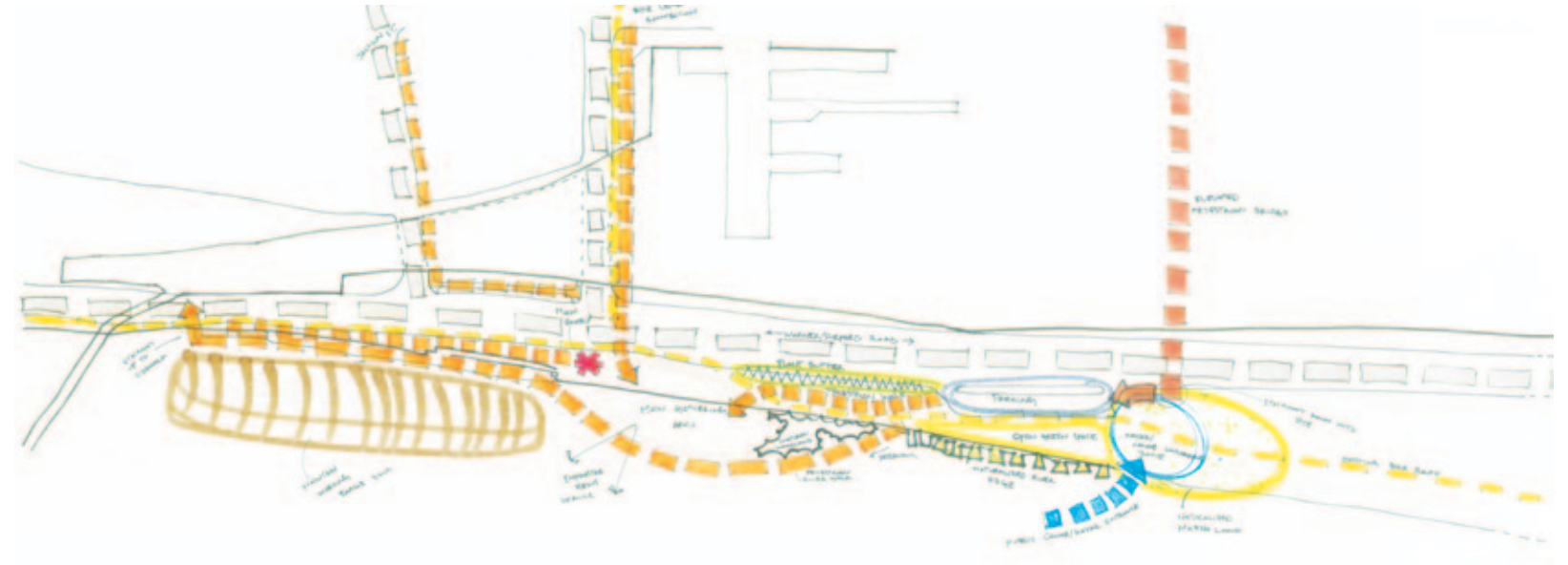
curvilinear pedestrian bridge



site concept diagrams



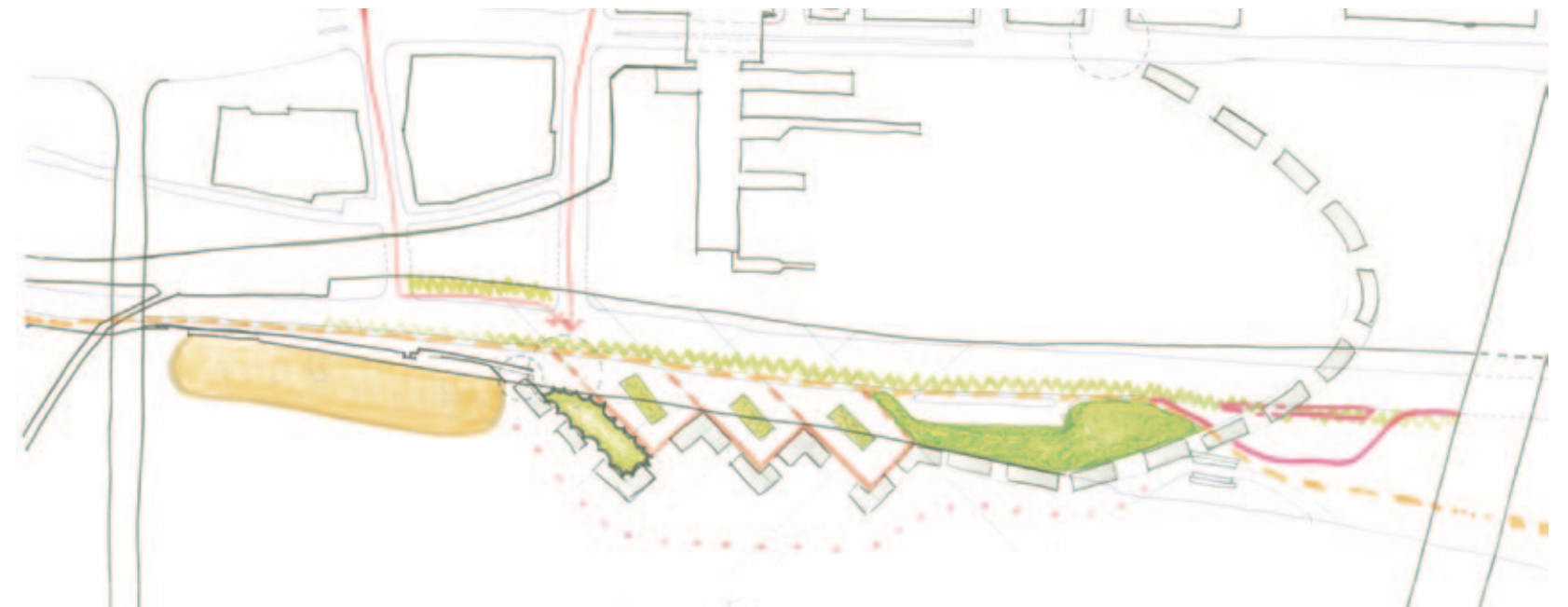
straight pedestrian bridge

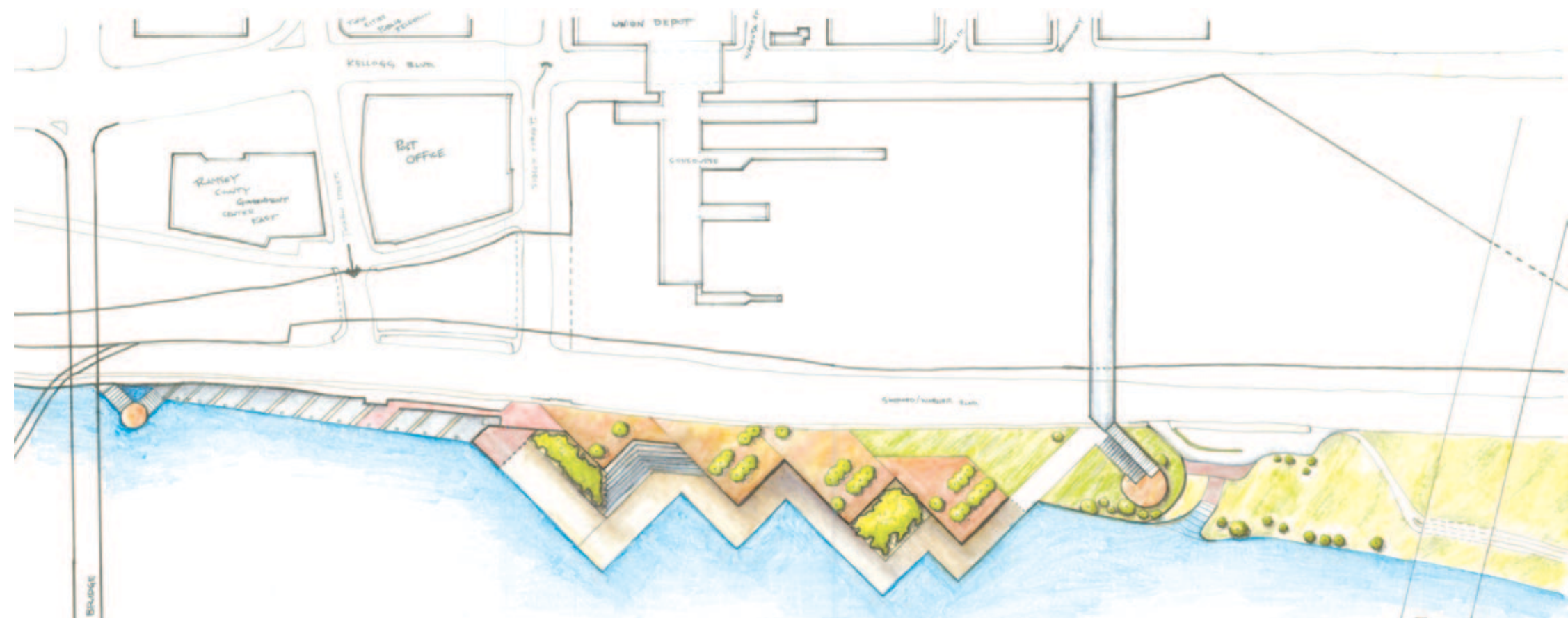
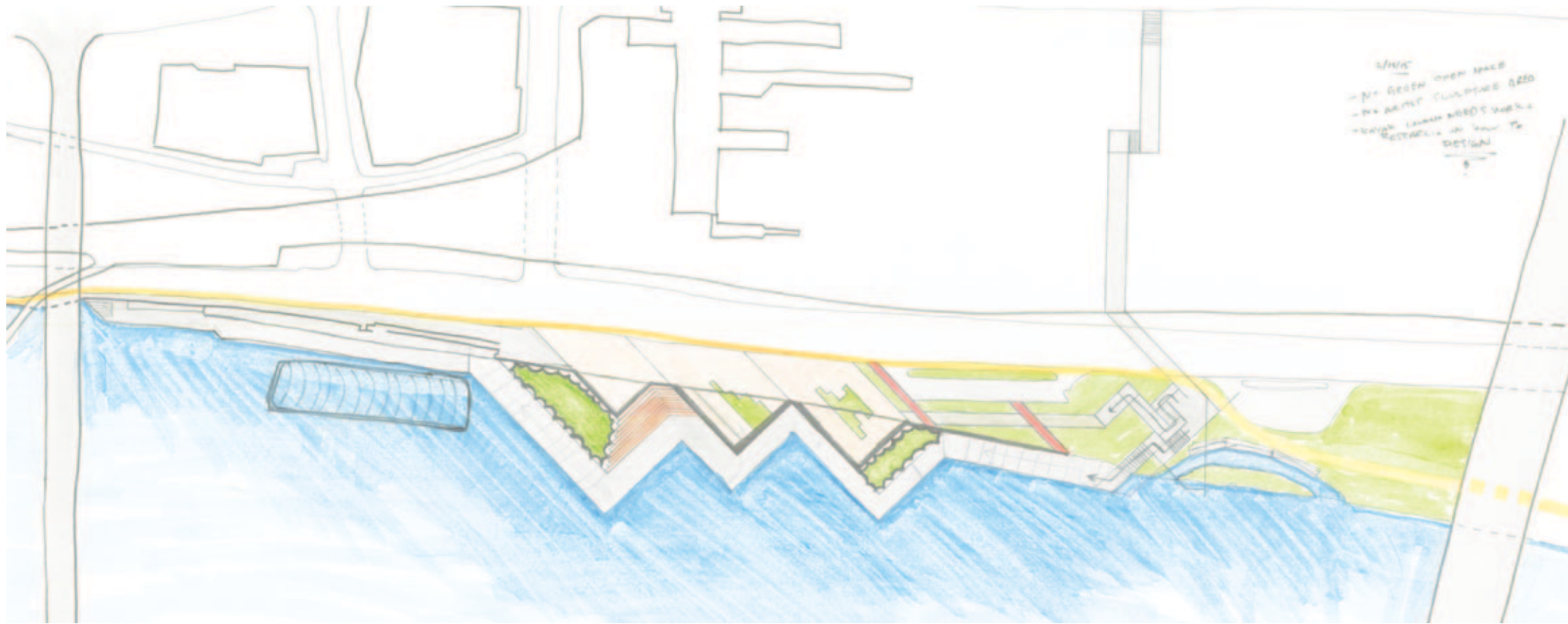


hybrid form

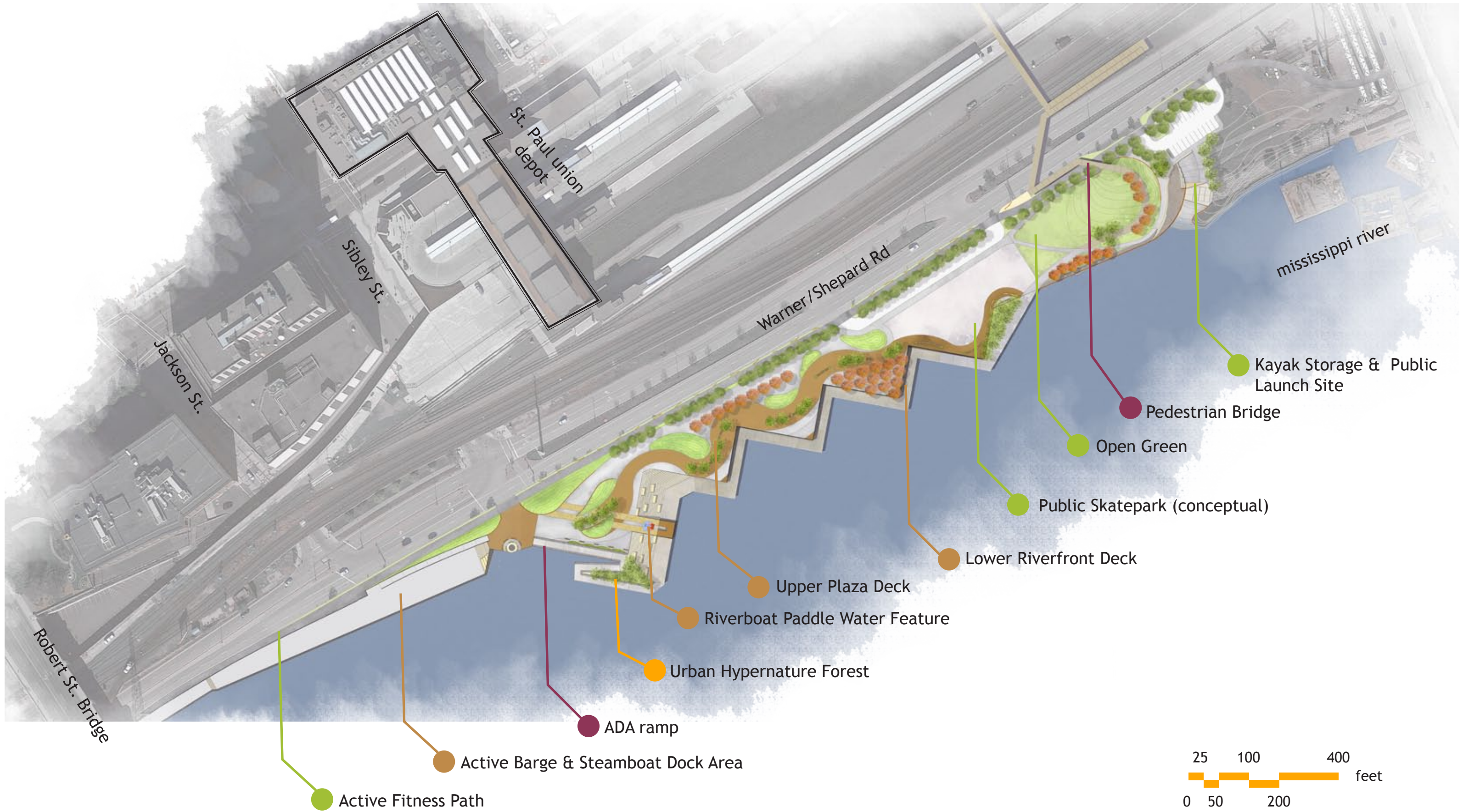


design development





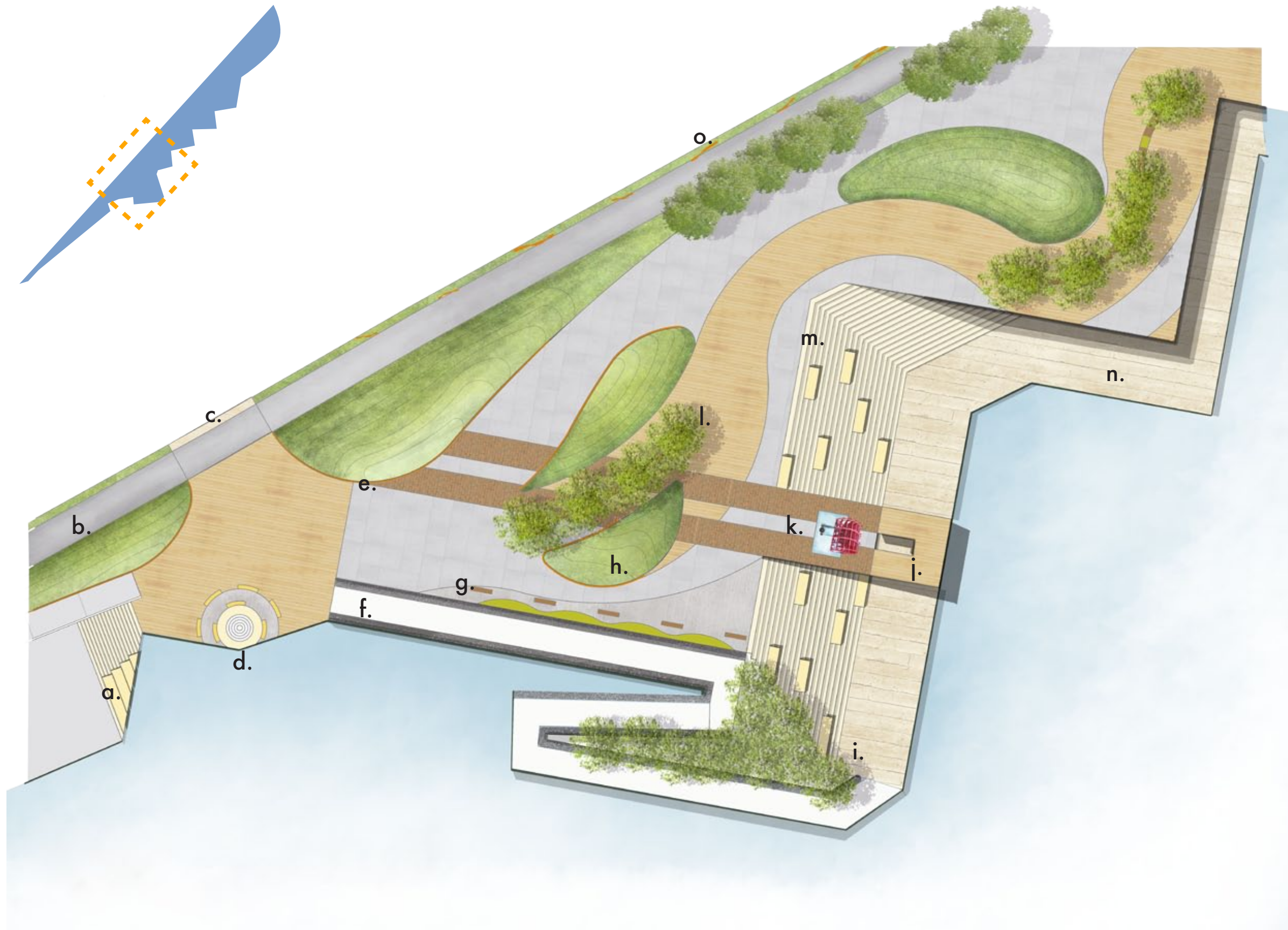
design master plan development



design master plan

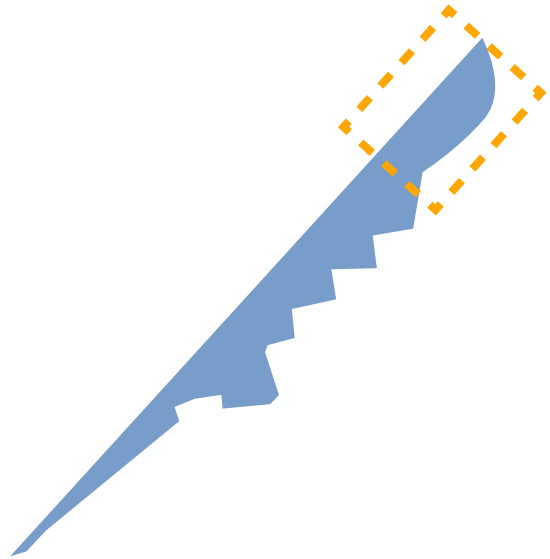


design master plan

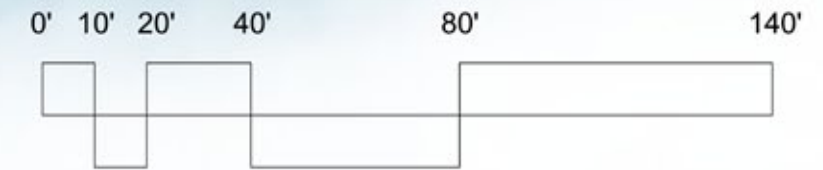


- Ⓐ large stone step seating
- Ⓑ active fitness path
- Ⓒ main site entrance
- Ⓓ enclosed metal fire sculpture
- Ⓔ rail track retaining wall
- Ⓕ ADA concrete ramp
- Ⓖ wood bench seating
- Ⓗ grass mounds
- Ⓘ urban hypernature forest
- ⓷ elevated wood deck outlook
- Ⓚ riverboat paddle water feature
- Ⓛ river birch clump plantings
- Ⓜ riverfront steps
- Ⓝ lower riverfront deck
- Ⓞ segmented rail track sculpture walls

design site plan | main entrance

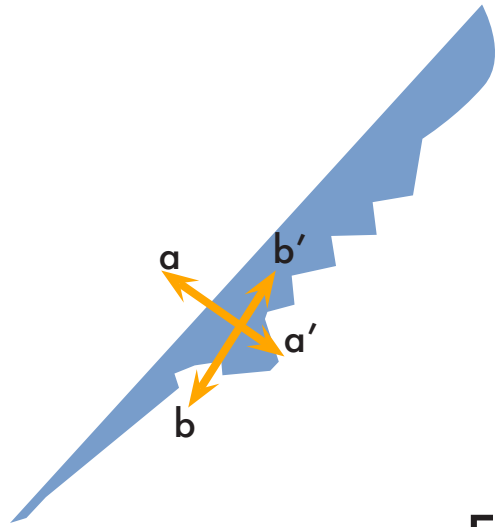


- Ⓐ pedestrian bridge
- Ⓑ segmented rail track sculpture wall
- Ⓒ active fitness path
- Ⓓ bicycle pump/lock station
- Ⓔ wooden truss bridge overpass
- Ⓕ open green
- Ⓖ crushed trap rock gravel path
- Ⓗ corten steel retaining walls
- Ⓘ crushed gravel plaza
- ⓵ kayak storage structure
- ⓷ public kayak/canoe launch
- ⓸ public parking lot

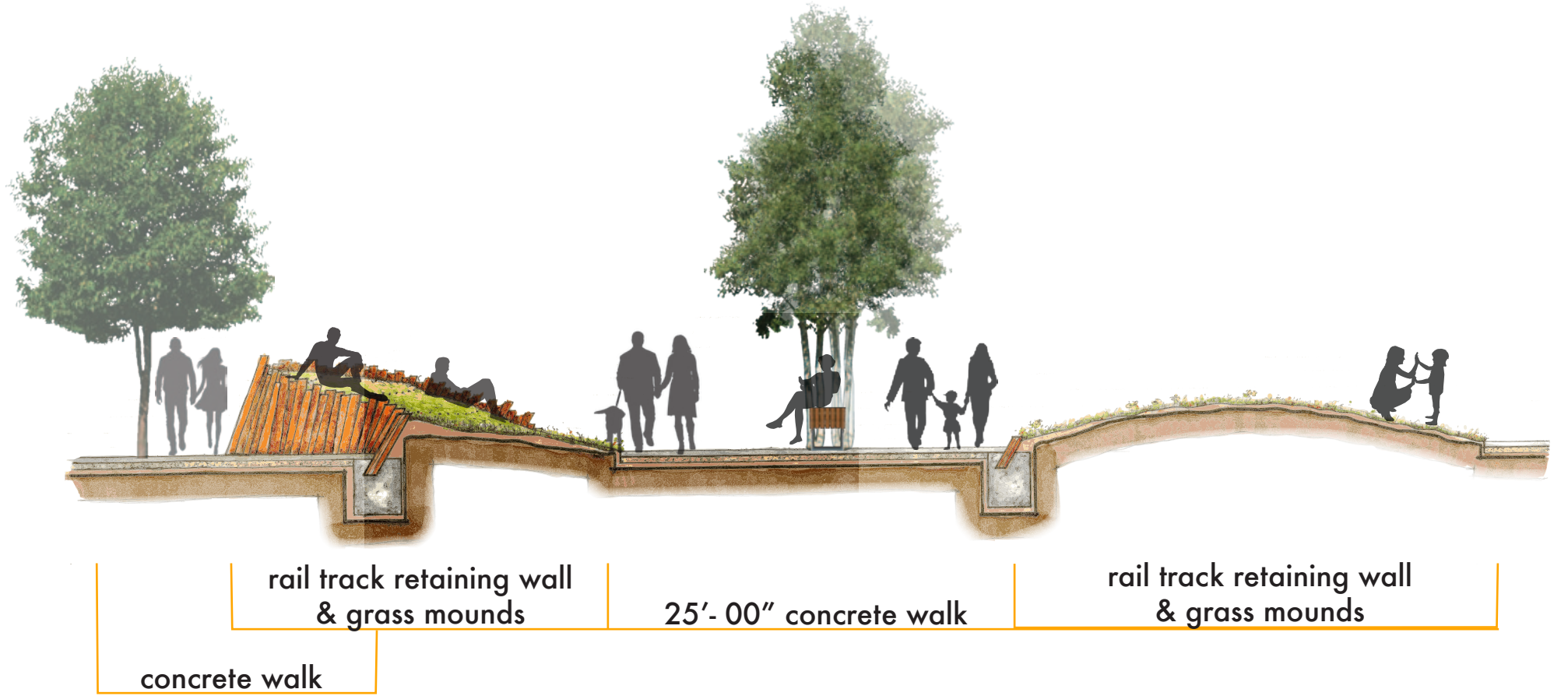


design site plan | kayak entry & open lawn

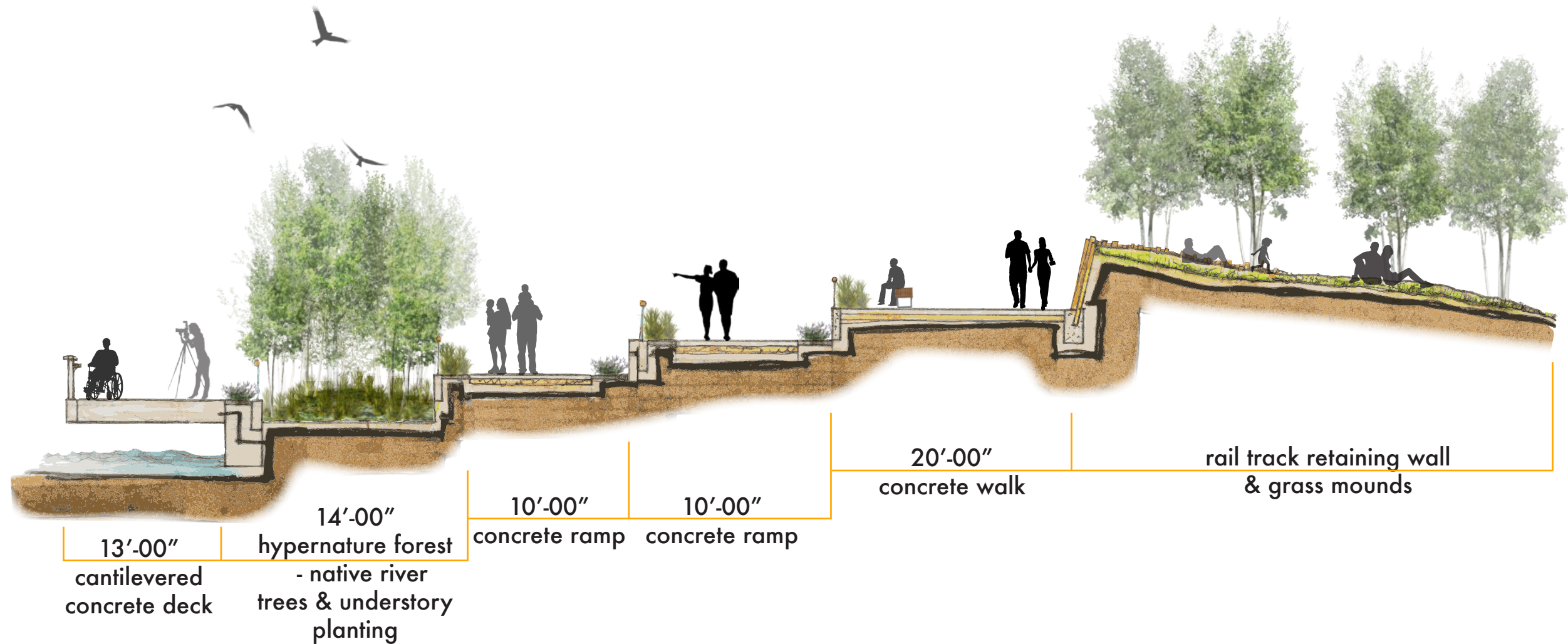


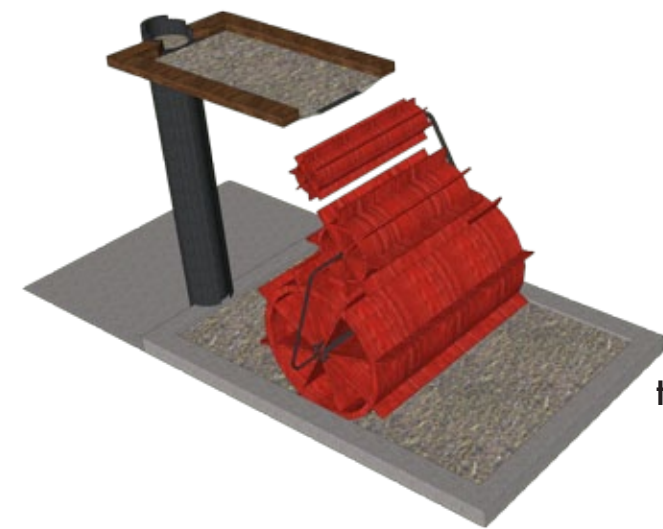


Entrance Section a - a'



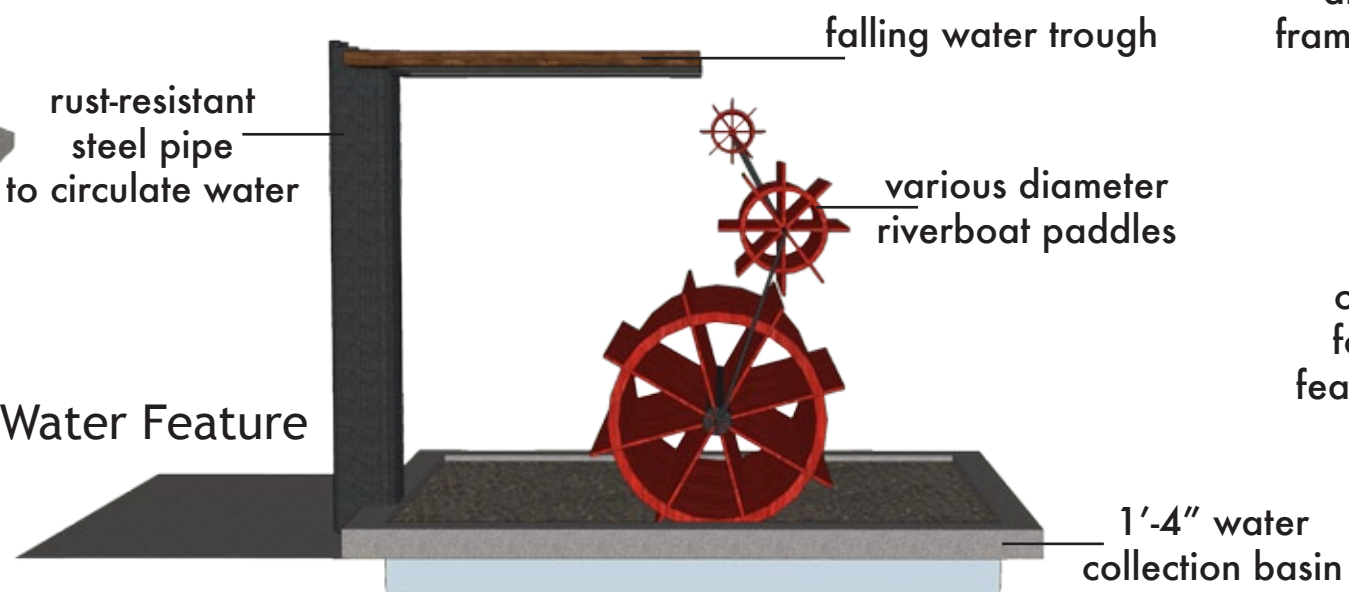
Ramp Section b - b'





rust-resistant steel pipe to circulate water

Conceptual Riverboat Paddle Water Feature



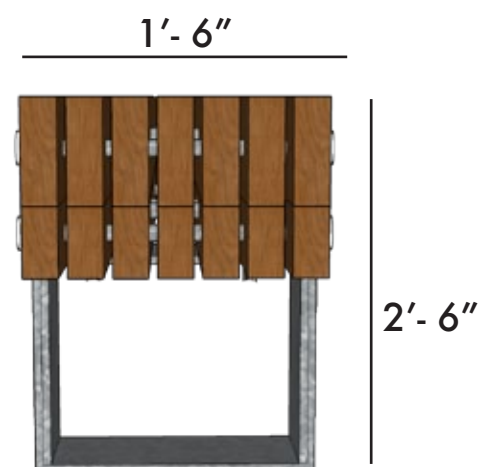
falling water trough

various diameter riverboat paddles

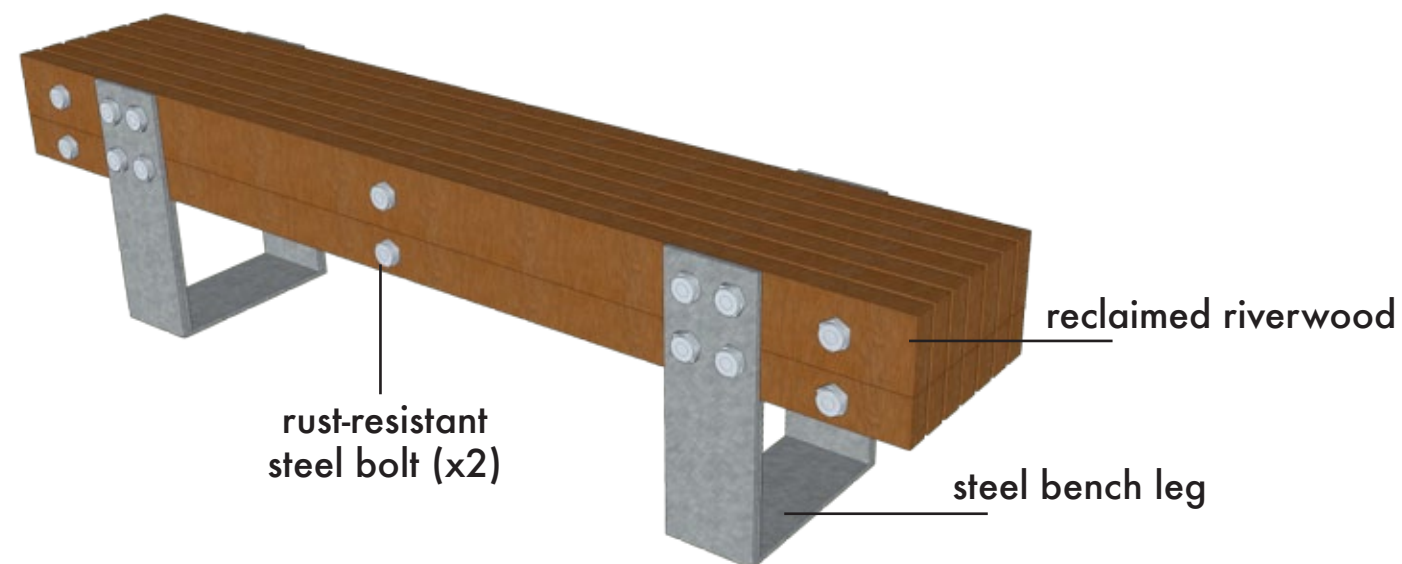
1'-4" water collection basin

corten steel panel \* attached to steel frame with fasteners

cut out to allow for interior light feature to illuminate through



Wood and Steel Industrial Bench

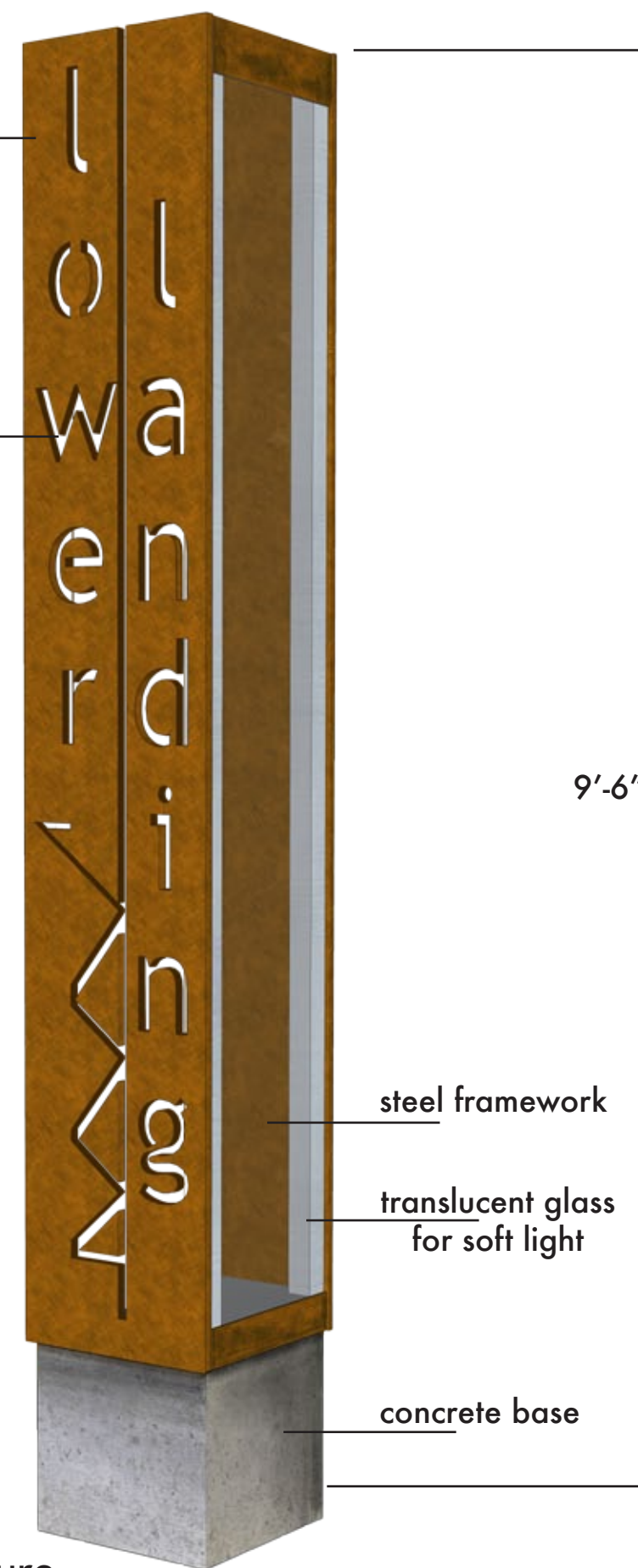


reclaimed riverwood

rust-resistant steel bolt (x2)

steel bench leg

design details



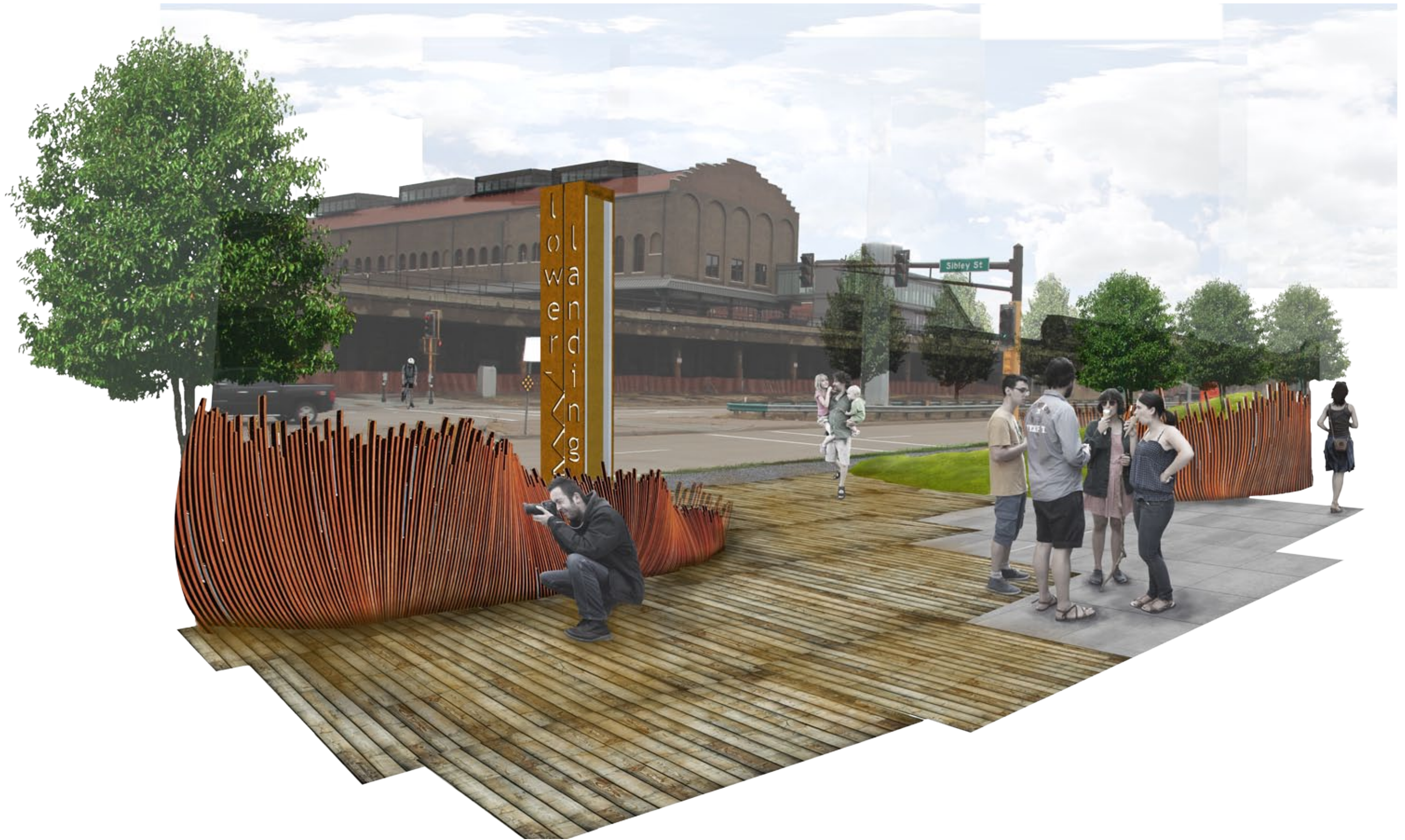
9'-6"

steel framework

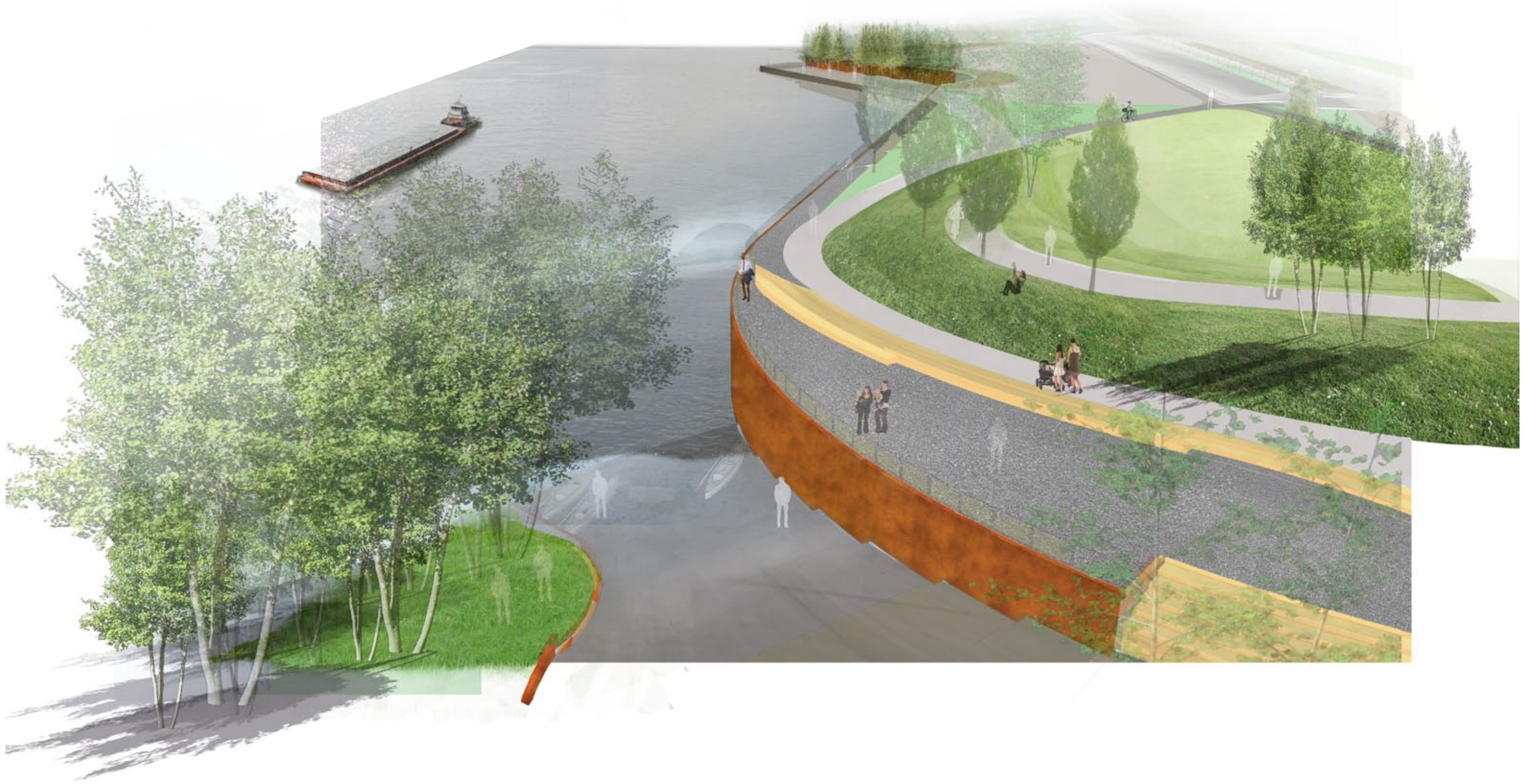
translucent glass for soft light

concrete base

Lower Landing Entry Light feature



design perspective | site entrance



design perspective | kayak launch

A successful public waterfront space must:

- 1 | provide physical access to and alongside the riverfront
- 2 | provide visual access, enabling onlookers to see glimpses of the space from outside of it
- 3 | sensitive, design-friendly seating areas, both in terms of size and bulk
- 4 | a barrier-free setting

[Breen, 1994]

Lower Landing Riverfront Park Project Goals:

**Urban and Natural Transition:** integrate the urban and natural settings

**Recreation Opportunities:** provide increased opportunities for passive and active recreation

**Connections:** develop and establish visual and physical connections between the Lowertown neighborhood and the adjacent riverfront

**History:** maintain the historic character of place

conclusion | linking theory and design

- [1] <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/521d6b88e4b04edb6613c/52378d48e4b001e2061f18b8/52378e43e4b0ad20f99f4f6d/1379372625550/1898+L+ower+Landing.jpeg?format=750w>
- [2] <http://static.squarespace.com/static/521d6b88e4b04edb6613c/5252125fe4b05f3f01558776/5252127ce4b0841120ff9e5d/1381110735564/1936%20Lamberts%20Landing%20Lowertown.jpg?format=750w>
- [3] <http://ballistamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/MVVA-Allegheny-Riverfront.jpg>
- [4] [https://disturbingpleasures.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/allegheny\\_riverfront\\_drawings-02.jpg](https://disturbingpleasures.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/allegheny_riverfront_drawings-02.jpg)