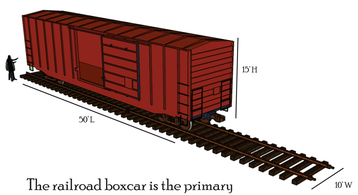
Statement of Intent

Based on the knowledge that the City of Fargo may reroute the Great Northern Railway, I propose to repurpose the former railway as a multifunctional greenway. By creating a greenway masterpan and then illustrating details of the plan, I will demonstrate the potential benefits of a greenway to Fargo and North Dakota State University. Among these benefits is a safe passageway for students and citizens of Fargo and a year-round recreational facility offering, in addition to cycling and walking, cross-country skiing, running, ice skating, and picnicking.

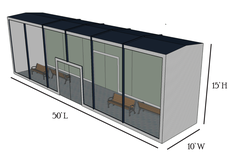
Design Goals

- Create a safe, multifunctional greenway that provides first-class linear recreation and increases mobility.
- Create more comfortable microclimates along the greenway through the use of shelterbelts.
- Create an inviting, connected, memorable nature-based corridor for recreation and commuting.
- Connect, enhance and interpret surrounding neighborhoods to bring people together.
- Provide a safe and interesting passageway for runners, pedestrians, and cyclists to utilize.
- Form a visual connection between North Dakota State University's main and downtown campuses. Create a sense of place by designing custom details that are consistent throughout the entire site.
- Create spaces that promote public art and cultural events (i.e. skating, 5k starting line, etc.).

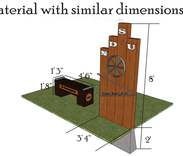
The boxcar is a simple form that provides rythm in the landscape by means of linear repetition.



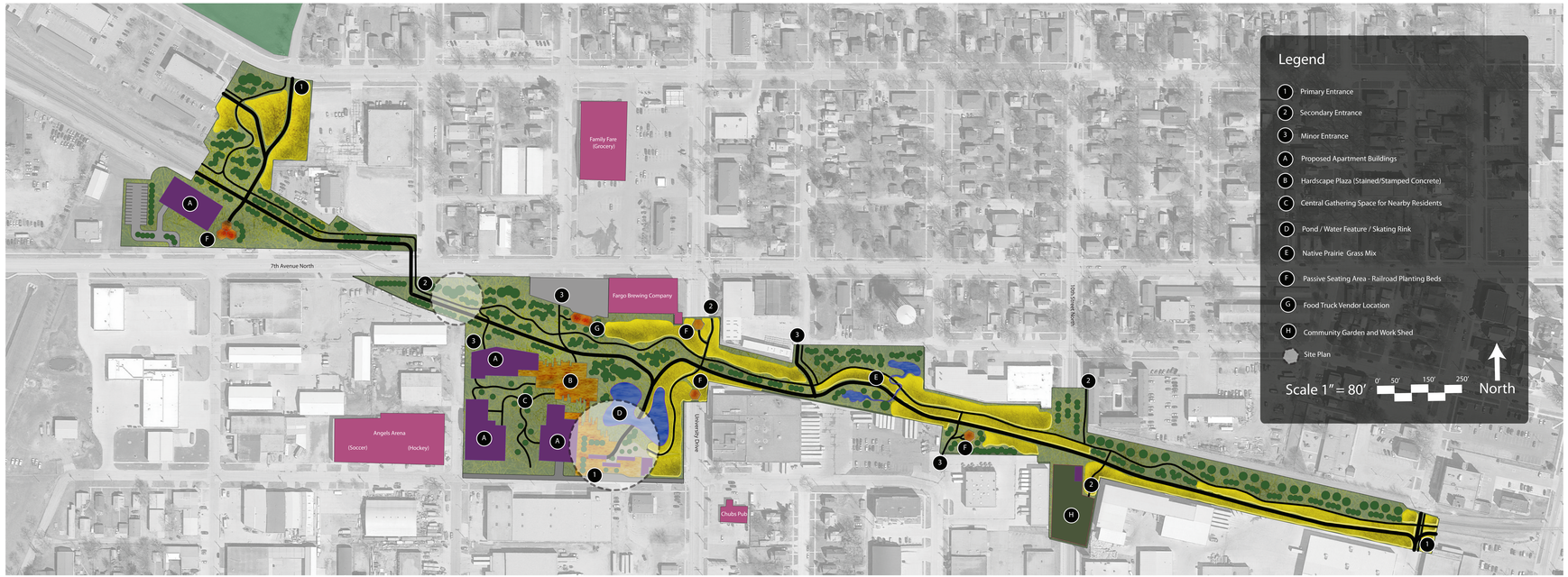
The railroad boxcar is the primary inspiration for the design of the buildings.



Custum benches and signage are constructed using material with similar dimensions to railroad timbers.



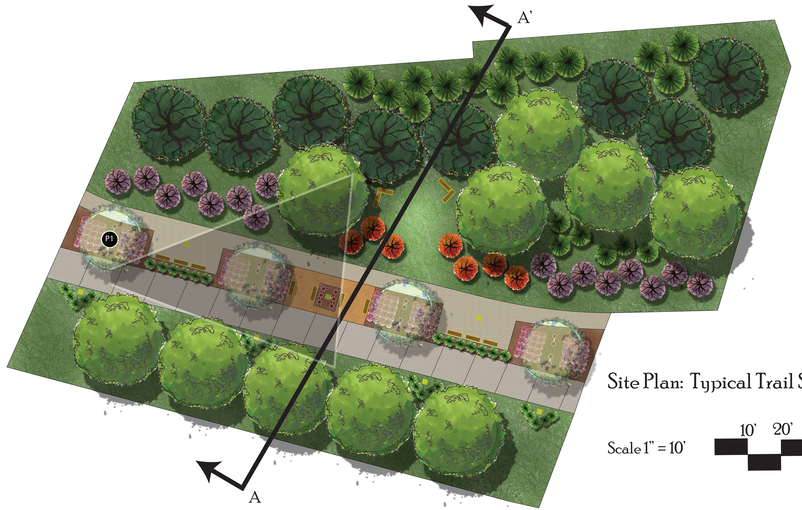
Master Plan



P1 Typical view along the Great Escapeway.

P2 The bikeshare in an urban plaza located on the greenway node along University Drive and 5th Avenue.

P3 View facing North towards the proposed pond and pedestrian bridge.

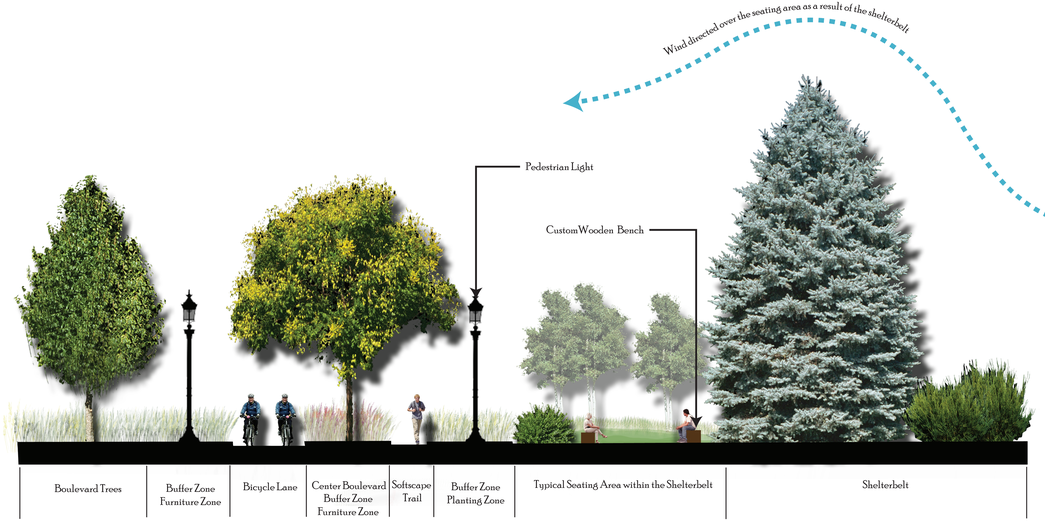


Site Plan: Typical Trail Segment

Scale 1" = 10'

10' 20' 30'

North



Section A – A' | Typical trail section along the Great Escapeway.

Scale 1" = 10'

10' 20' 30'

Plant List

Drought Tolerant Bunchgrasses

Hard (Festuca brevipilla) - fescue

Agropyron desertorum 'Nordon' – crested wheatgrass

Koeleria macrantha (ledeb.) schult. – prairie junegrass

Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal' – switchgrass

Drought Tolerant Sod-forming grass

Buchloe dactyloides – Buffalograss

Ornamental Grasses

Calmagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' – Feather Reed grass

Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue' – Blue Fescue

Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues' – Little Bluestem

Shelter Belt Plants (Shrubs and Trees)

Physocarpus opulifolicus – Ninebark

Syringa meyeri 'Palibin' – Lilac

Syringa vulgaris – Common Lilac

Cornus stolonifera – Redosier Dogwood

Populus deltoides – Cottonwood

Populus tremuloides – Quaking Aspen

Paper Birch – Betula Papyrifera

Acer saccharinum – Silver Maple

Quercus macrocarpa – Bur Oak

Ulmus americana 'Minneapolis Park' – American Elm

Tamarack Larix laricis – American Larch

Picea pungens – Colorado (Blue) Spruce

Boulevard/Plaza Trees

Tilia americana 'boulevard' – Boulevard Linden

Gymnocladus dioicus – Kentucky Coffeetree

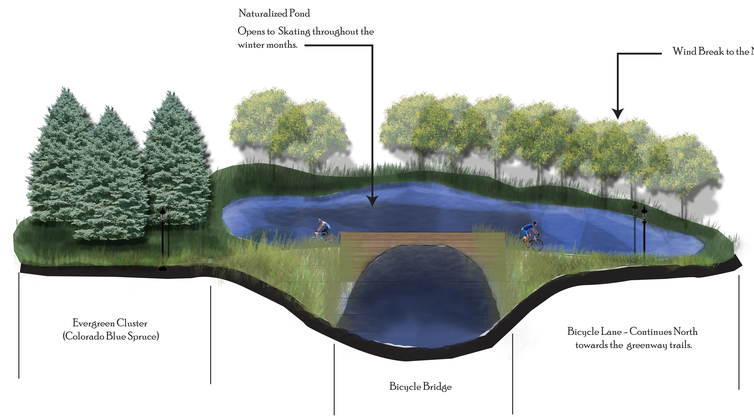
Malus x 'Spring Snow' – Crabapple

Site Plan: Urban Node (Transportation Hub)

Scale 1" = 20'

10' 20' 30'

North



Section B –B' | Section of the proposed pond and pedestrian bridge

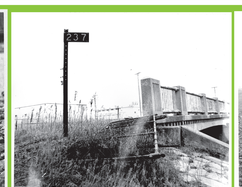
This section displays the relationship between the proposed pond and the bicycle lane. The bridge should be designed and constructed to allow bicyclists to cross over the water in order to reach the bus station, bicycle share station, and cafe.

Scale 1" = 10'

10' 20' 30'

Great Escapeway: Connecting North Dakota State University to Downtown Fargo

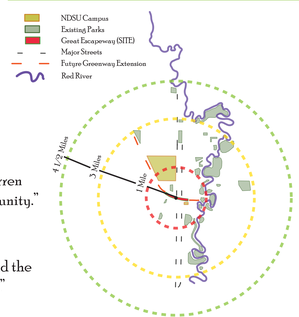
Robert Latham | North Dakota State University | Landscape Architecture | Spring 2015



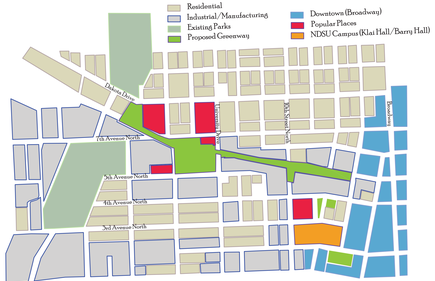
"Places that seem the most barren often provide the most opportunity."

"It is important to consider both the context of the site and the current state of the site itself..."

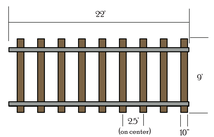
Proximity to Parks in the F-M Area



Neighborhood Zones

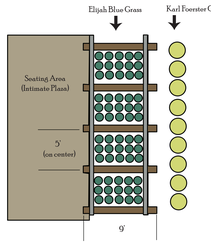


Typical Railroad Dimensions



Palimpsest.

Wooden timbers and steel beams can be used in the construction of site furniture and sculptural elements to remind visitors of the railroad that previously ran through the site. The dimensions of the newly constructed planters should reflect those of the typical railroad dimensions.

It is worth considering that creosote – a mixture of chemicals used to treat railroad timbers and utility poles in order to prevent them from rotting – is toxic to both people and various plants. Meaning it is not feasible to reuse the exact same timbers that are currently on the railroad. All materials must be creosote free.

Railroad Planting Bed