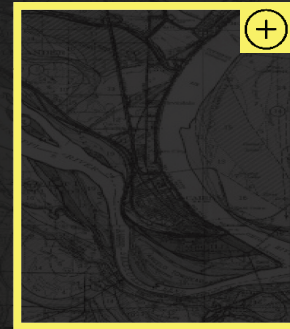


confluence+

A Vision of Growth, Sustainability and Hope
for the Small Town of Cairo, Illinois





How can architecture help to revitalize the dying, small town of Cairo, Illinois?



contents



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Intro

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Proposal

Key Concepts





small towns, so what?



46 Million



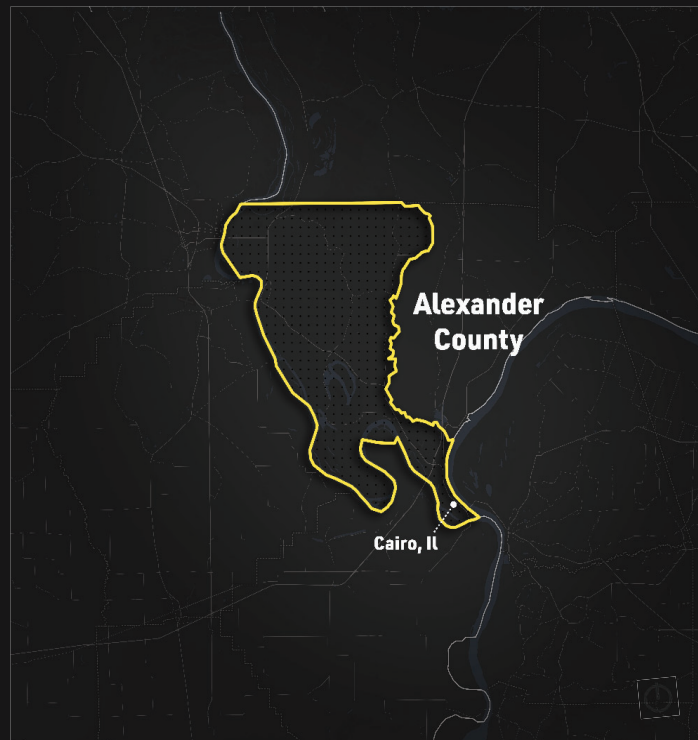
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CAIRO



cairo, il?+



location





Cairo, IL

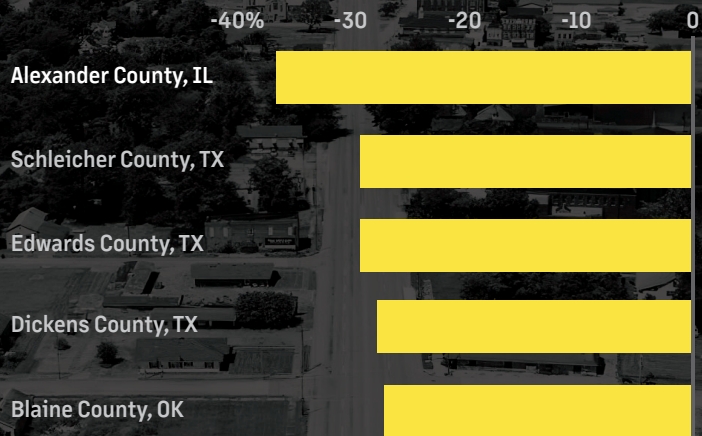
Mississippi River

Ohio River



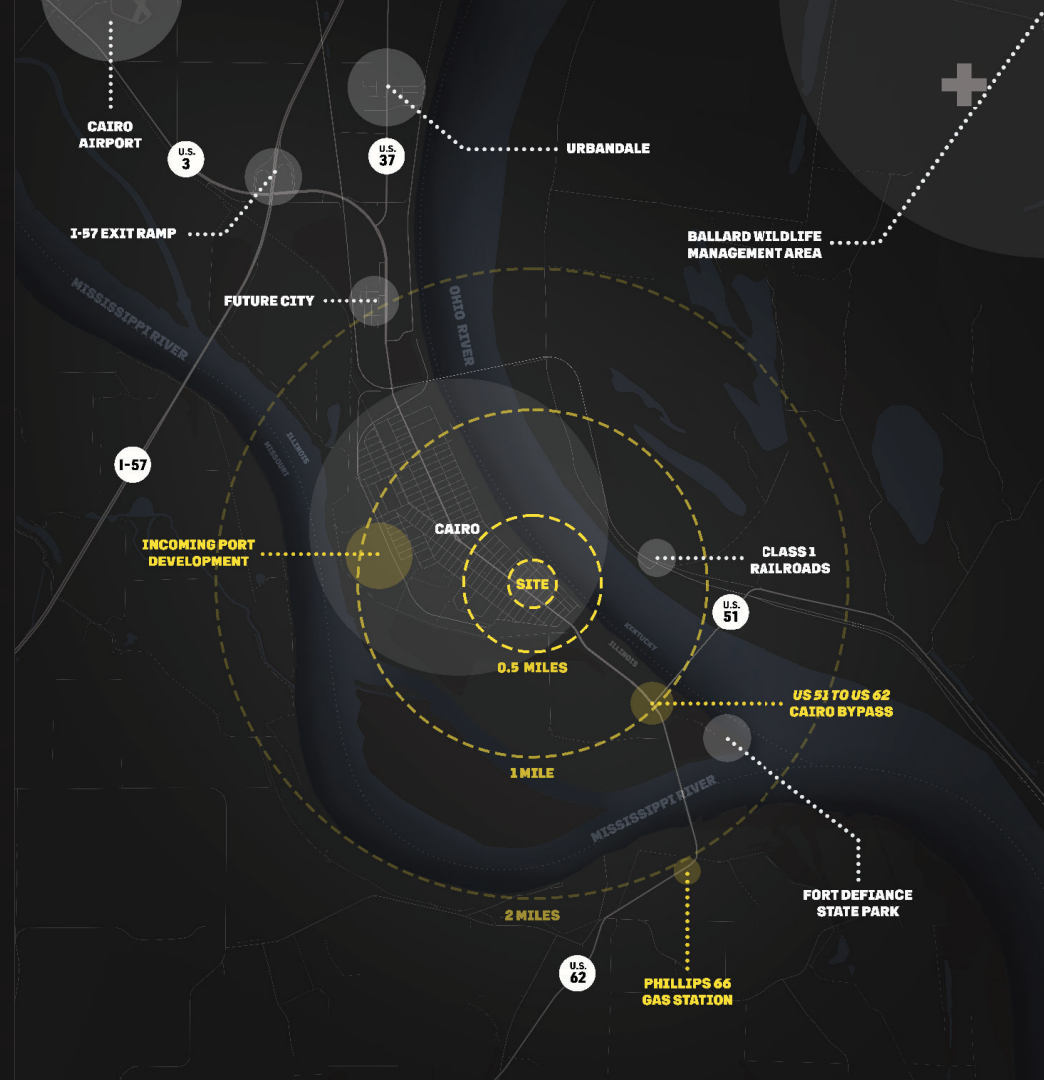


Counties by largest population percentage loss, 2010 to 2020



local issues

- **Housing Crisis**
- **Food Insecurity**
- **Economic Desert**
- **No Tourism Infrastructure**
- **Severe Urban Blight**
- **Disconnection from River**
- **Crime**
- **Gap in Technology + Education**
- **Lack of Positive Identity**





housing crisis

- ***Elmwood, McBride***
- ***Connell F. Smith Building***
- ***100s of Familes Displaced***



SHEMWELL'S BARBECUE



BRIAN YEMM



food desert

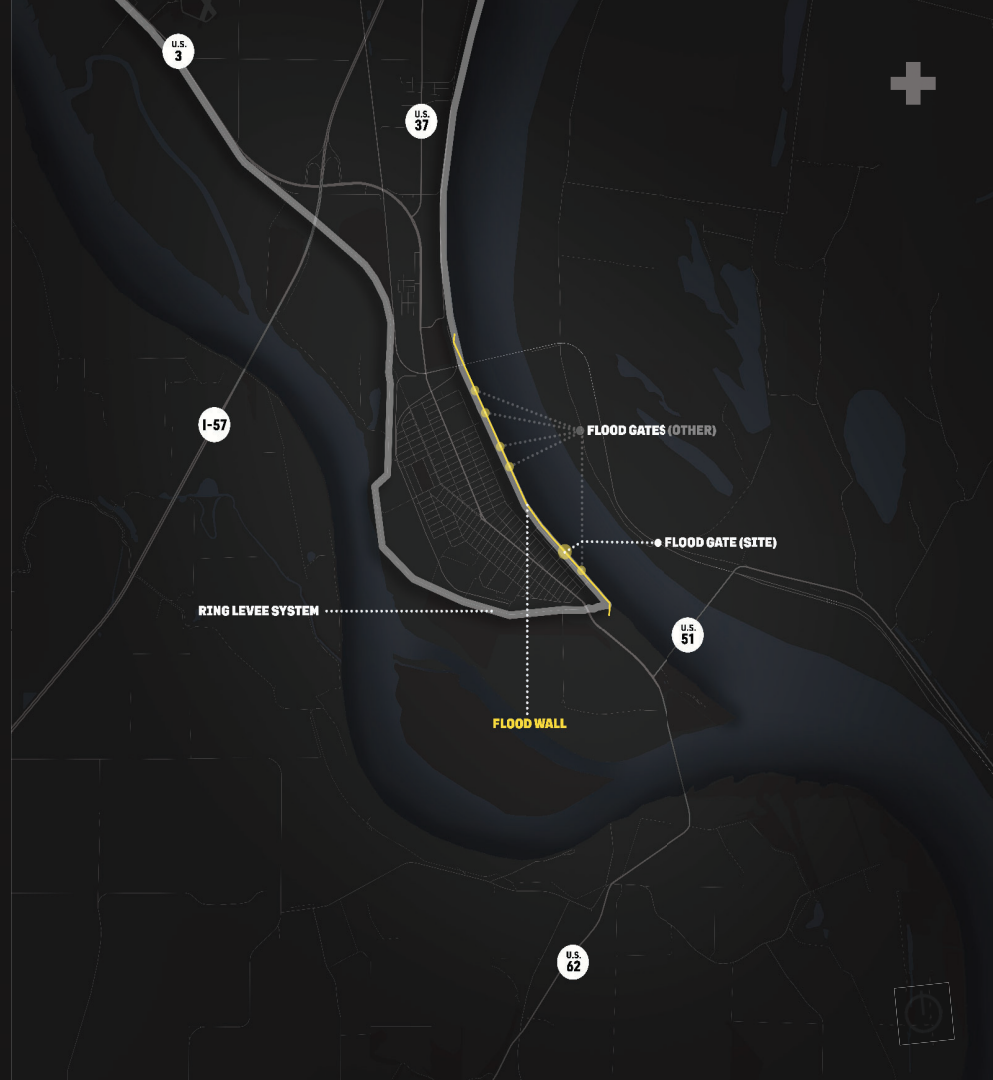
- **No Grocery Store**
- **Long Commutes (33+ min.)**
- **Single Restaurant (BBQ)**





river disconnect

- *Flood Wall*
- *Flood Gate*
- *Levee System*
- *Safe, but disconnected*



change is coming

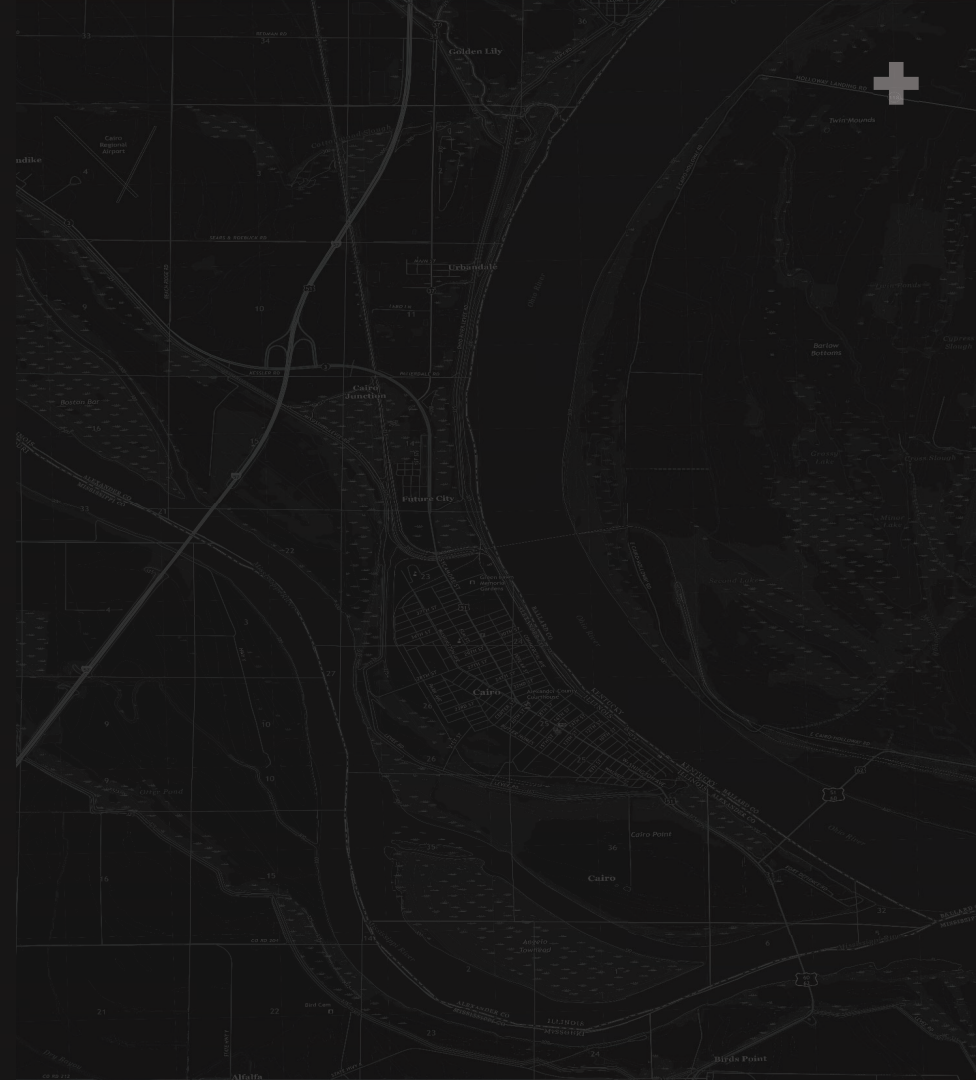
- *Incoming Port Development*
- *'Rebuild Illinois' Capital Plan*
- *\$40 Million Committed*
- *A Focus on Green*
- *\$100+ Million Economic Activity*



climate analysis



- ***Humid-Subtropical***
- ***Hot, Humid Summers***
- ***Considerable Rain***
- ***Mild Winters***





FAMOUS

STOP

BLANCK CENTER



How can architecture help to revitalize the dying, small town of Cairo, Illinois?



research



Small town decline

Economic struggles + overdependence
Population loss from urban migration
Aging Population
Lack of Investment

Understanding the Stigma

Gentrification + displacement of residents
Lack of Community Engagement
Unthoughtful design + solutions
General lack of knowledge of proposals

Small Town Revitalization

Mixed-use development
Green infrastructure
Walkability + bike-friendly design
Economic diversification

Contextual Design

Respect for local context + character
Balancing innovation with preservation
Use of local materials + building techniques
Focus on community needs + preferences

Mixed-Use

Multiple uses in a single development
Promote walkability + reduce reliance on cars
Supporting economic vitality + diversification

Sustainable Design

Green building design + materials
Renewable energy
Reduce environmental impact
Create healthy + livable environments

New Urbanism

Walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods
Strong sense of community
Reduce reliance on automobiles
Promote sustainable transportation

Sustainable Urbanism

Socially-sustainable urban areas
Green infrastructure, energy, transportation
Reducing environmental impact of design

EPA Smart Growth

Effectively managing urban growth
Sustainable + environmentally responsible
Reduce urban sprawl
Compact, walkable, mixed-use communities
Emphasis on collaboration

Main Street Approach

Community-based economic revitalization
Preserve historic buildings + local character
Emphasis on small businesses
Emphasis on community involvement in process

Placemaking

Community-based planning + design
Emphasis on vibrant + accessible spaces
Mixed-use development + green infrastructure

Transformative Placemaking

Values interconnectivity + engagement
Emphasis on vibrancy + inclusivity
Focus on economic + community development
Holistic, people-first approach to growth

Historical Context of Cairo

Lewis and Clark history
Civil War Union outpost
Dark history of racism and violence
Decline of mining and river port industries
Devastation from floods
Ongoing economic + social challenges

Revitalization of Greensburg, Kansas

Emphasis on green, sustainable design
Prioritize community involvement
Economic diversification
Revitalization of downtown area

Moorhead, Minnesota Masterplan

Emphasis on mixed-use + walkability
Green infrastructure + transportation
Focus on community engagement

takeaways



takeaways



Diverse Economy

Contextual Design

Sustainable is the future

Mixed-Use

Walkable + Bikeable

Compact development

Interconnected Layout

Inclusive Planning

Avoid Gentrification

Identity = Important

Create Town 'Center'

Community Engagement

Introduce Density

Green Design + Materials

Preserve Heritage

Cairo = Rich History

Mixed-Income Housing

Economic Resilience



design goals

1. address critical needs+

2. promote tourism-based economy+

3. focus on downtown+

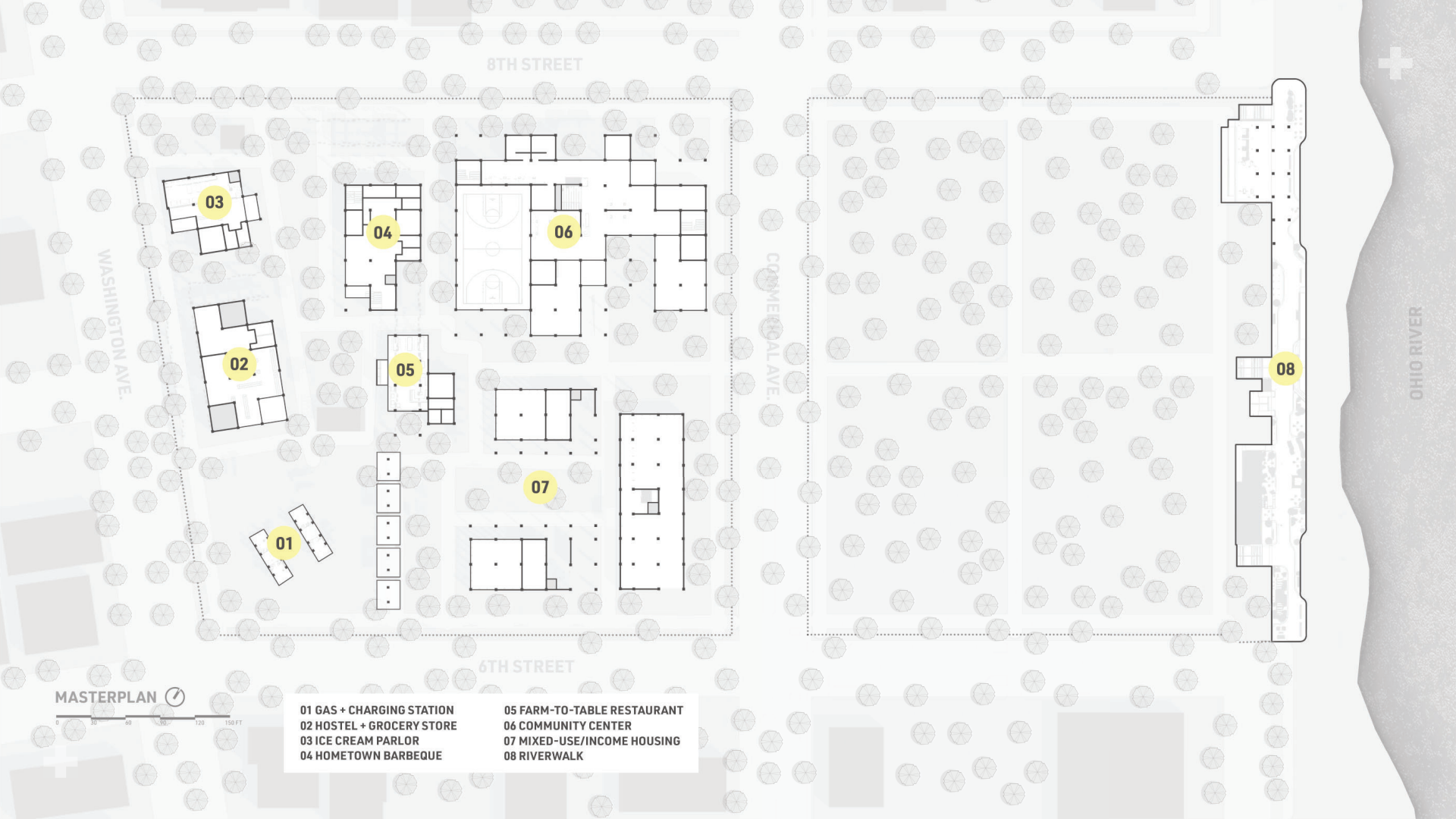
4. promote walkability + foster interactions+

5. reconnect the community+



New + Hope

Envisioning a Brighter Future for Cairo, Illinois



8TH STREET

WASHINGTON AVE.

COMMERCIAL AVE.

OHIO RIVER

6TH STREET

MASTERPLAN



0 30 60 90 120 150 FT

- 01 GAS + CHARGING STATION
- 02 HOSTEL + GROCERY STORE
- 03 ICE CREAM PARLOR
- 04 HOMETOWN BARBEQUE
- 05 FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANT
- 06 COMMUNITY CENTER
- 07 MIXED-USE/INCOME HOUSING
- 08 RIVERWALK



future + proof

Addressing Current Needs + Considering Future Growth



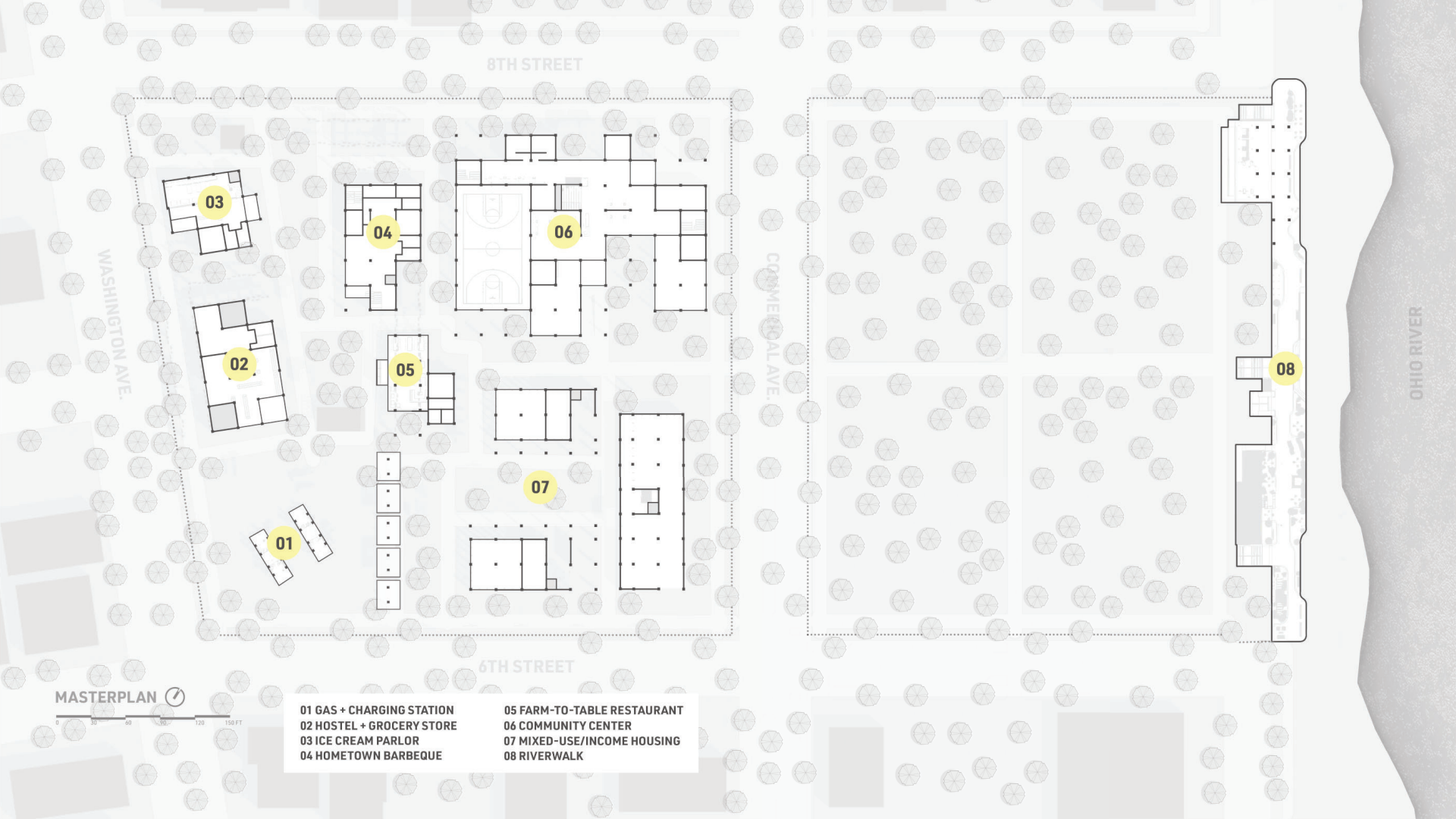
CAIRO, ILLINOIS

fuel + serendipity
Interactive Fuel Canopies



biophilic + haven

Seamless Experience With Nature



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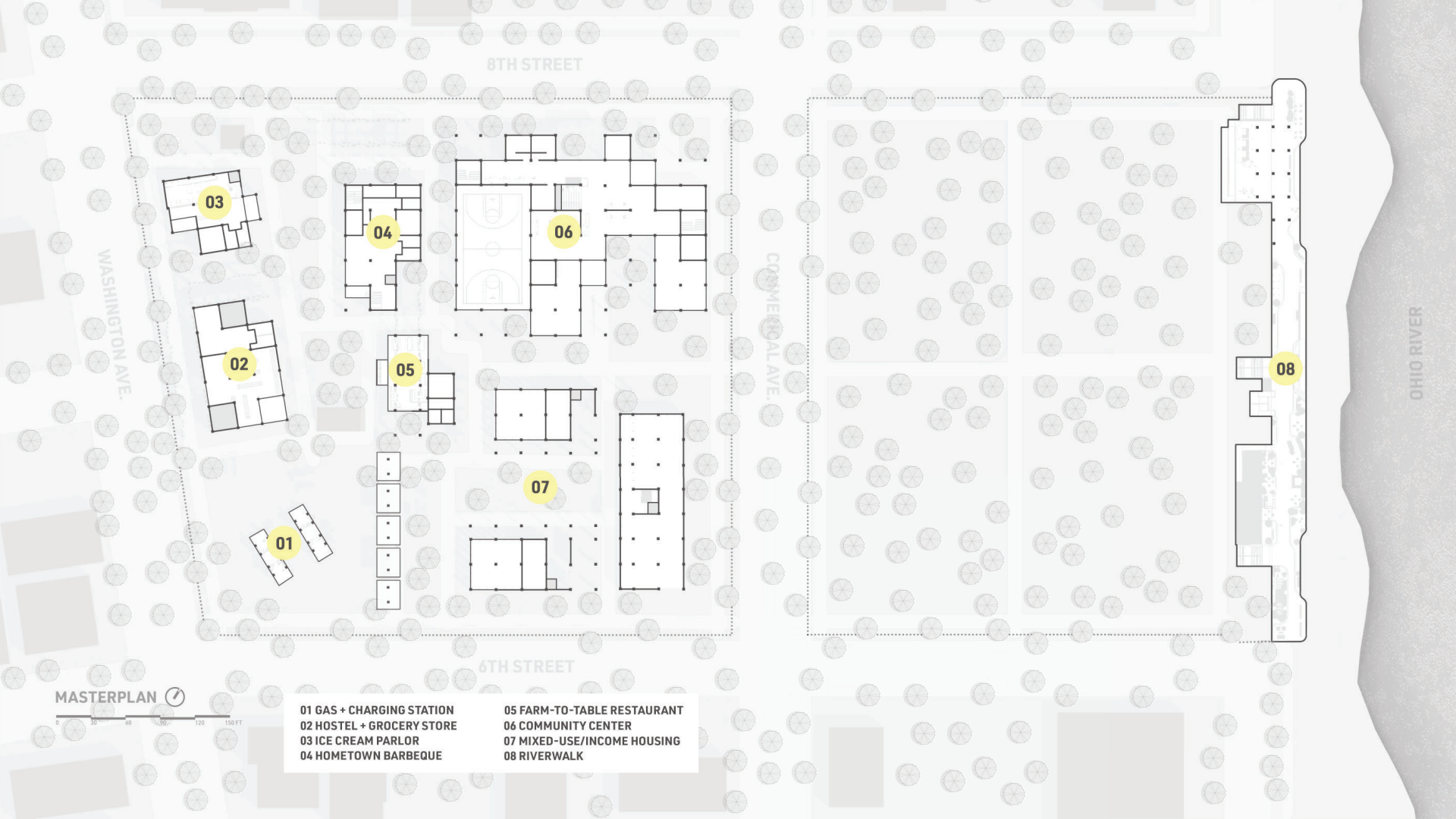
CAIRO, ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS CAIRO, ILLINOIS

gather + socialize

FoodWalk + Town Square





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sustainable + contextual

Farm to Table Restaurant



dine + discover
Vibrant, Mixed-use Downtown



community + living
Housing Courtyard



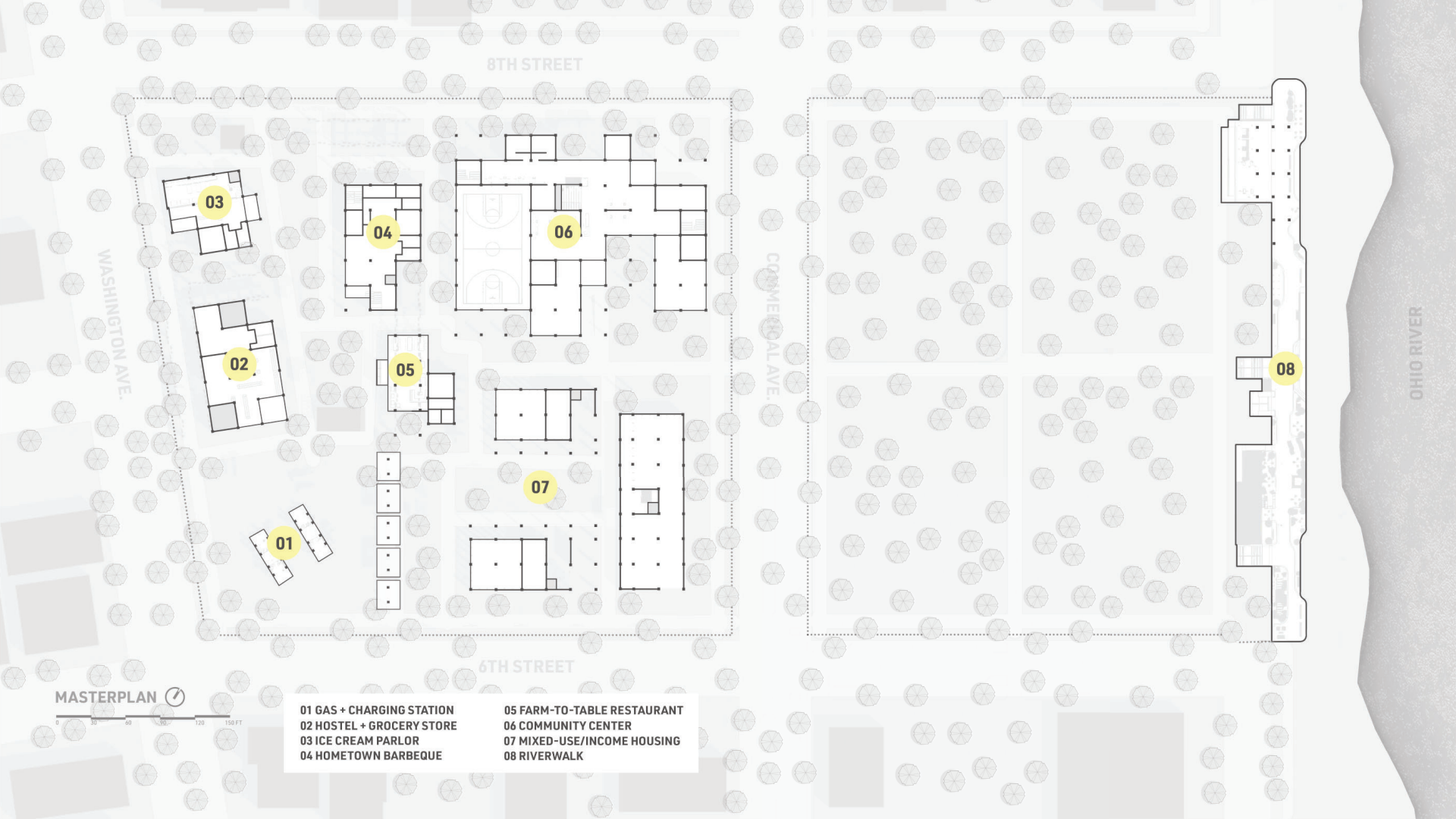


neighborhood + home

Mixed-Income Housing



small + town
Innovative Solutions of Traditional Concepts



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train + play
Community Center + Multipurpose Court



health + growth

Community Center + Library + Business Incubator



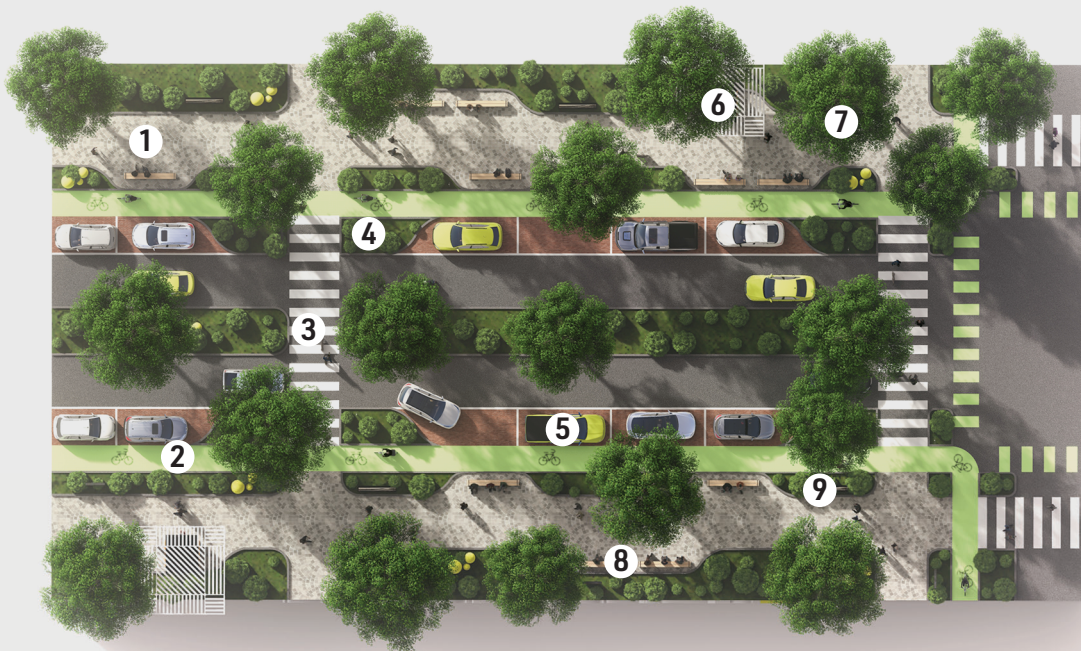


street design+

complete + streets

Elevating the Pedestrian Experience





- ① Extra Wide Sidewalks
- ② Dedicated Bike Lanes
- ③ Protected Crosswalks
- ④ Chicanes + Bioswales
- ⑤ Streetside Parking
- ⑥ Flexible Canopy Areas
- ⑦ Bike Storage
- ⑧ Spaces for Seating + Art
- ⑨ HistoryWalk Exhibits

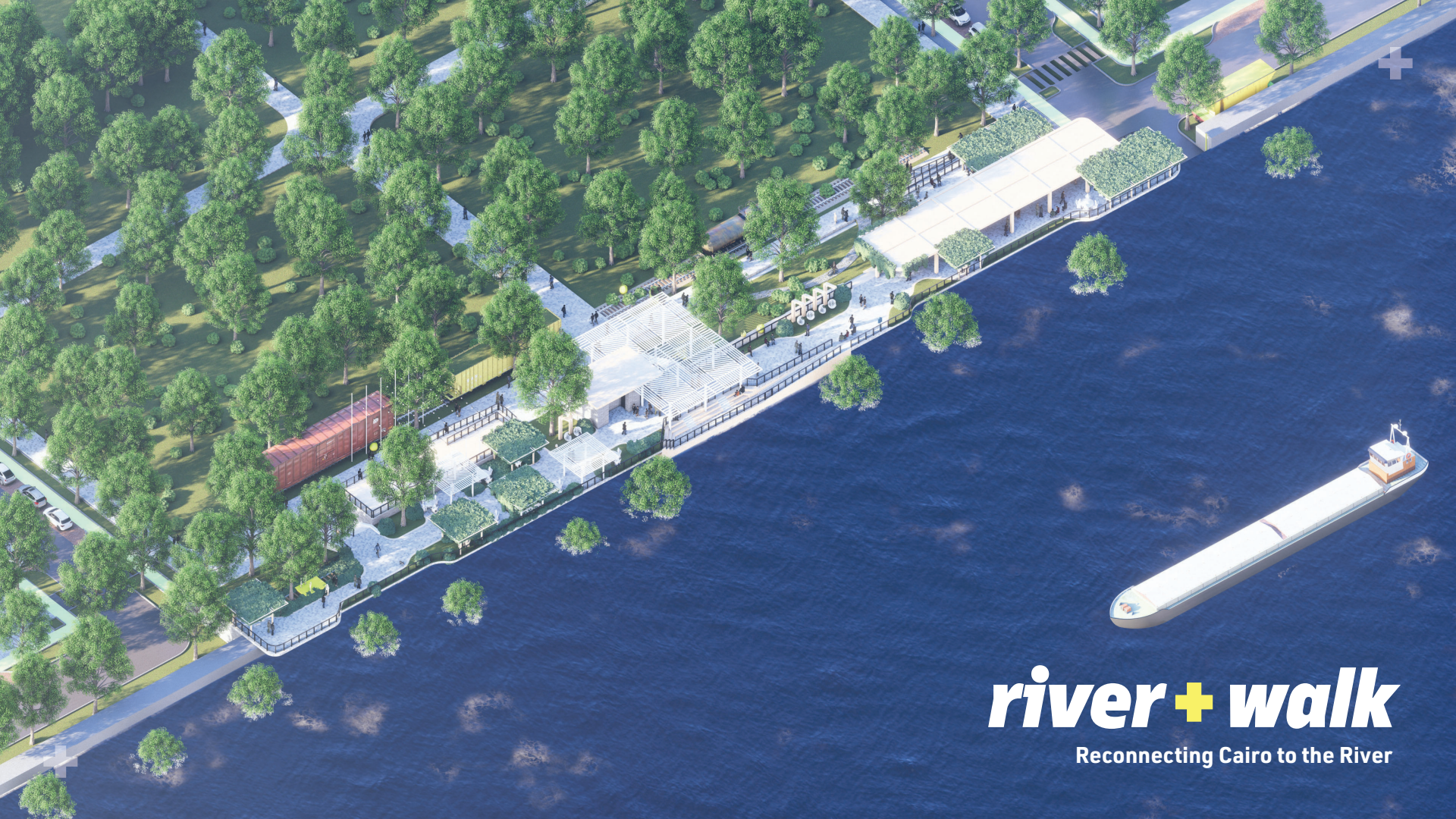


complete + *streets*

Elevating the Pedestrian Experience



walkable + livable
Reimagined Streetscape



river + *walk*

Reconnecting Cairo to the River



flood + resilience

Elevated Riverwalk Upon Existing Floodwall

- 1 Existing Floodwall
- 2 Observation Areas
- 3 Riverwalk Market + Outdoor Dining
- 4 Restrooms + Elevators
- 5 Riverside Amphitheater
- 6 Nature Area + Bike Trail

- 7 Interactive Seating
- 8 Community Pavilion
- 9 Existing Flood Gate + Boat Ramp
- 10 ADA Ramps

river + walk
Community-Focused + Inclusive Spaces





fun + engage
Riverwalk (During Flood)



movement + rest

Riverwalk Market



movement + relax
Riverwalk Market



journey + heritage


Railcar Park + HistoryWalk



learn + observe

River Lookout Area + HistoryWalk



- 
- 1. address critical needs+**
 - 2. promote tourism-based economy+**
 - 3. focus on downtown+**
 - 4. promote walkability + foster interactions+**
 - 5. reconnect the community+**



thank you+

questions, comments, etc.