

# Disconnect to Reconnect

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Using Architecture and Master Planning to aid in personal connection with nature

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# Thesis Question

- Can architecture be used to reconnect people with nature on a basic level without the use of personal technology?



# Introduction and History





# Abstract

- Technology is rooted in our society from a very young age, everywhere you look a child has some electronic device in their hands, impacting their lives. This is not necessarily a good thing for development and presents an opportunity for improvement. Architecture is a possible way to address this problem using programming and construction of buildings to build a connection with oneself and disconnect from technology. By looking at similar buildings and researching new ideas this can be investigated. The Wellness Retreat proposes a way to disconnect from technology and reconnect with yourself, providing spaces for all types of people from all walks of life. After a stay at the Wellness Retreat you will leave with a sense of self and less reliance on technology in our daily lives.





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# History

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- Before technology, to learn something you had to either have someone teach you that already knew the subject or activity or use trial and error yourself to find the answer. We are losing this element in the modern development of our youth. In the recent years, our obsession with technology as a distraction for children and youth has come into question about how beneficial it really is for us, both old and young. Since we have everything at our fingertips, learning is not really occurring, and this makes us as a society collectively more dependent upon technology. Throughout history we have learned from our surroundings and maybe it is best to get back to that again.



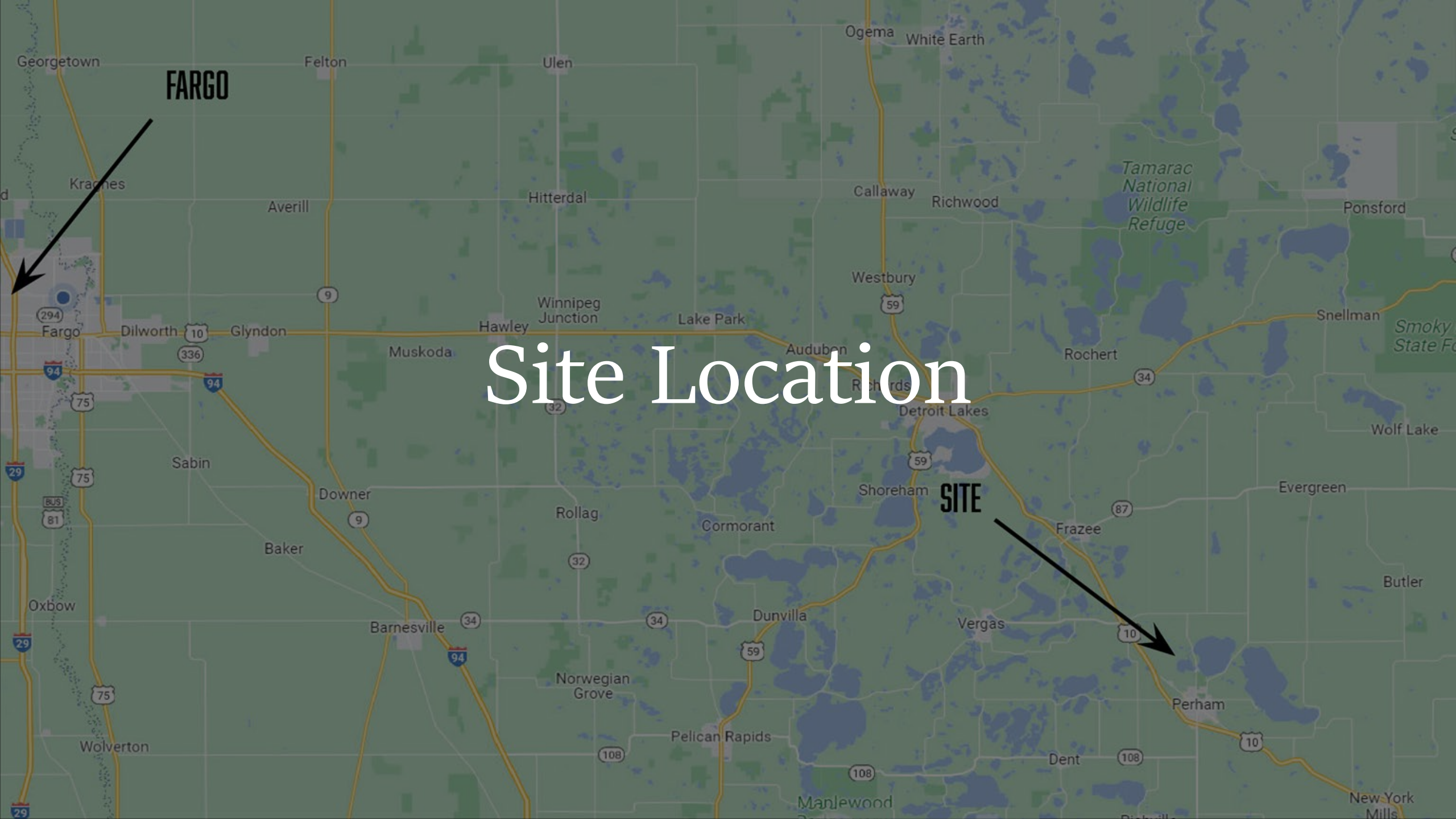


# My Experience with the Site

- I grew up less than 5 miles from this place. A place that I visited quite often during my teenage years through participation in the local boy scout troop. I spent many nights in a tent on these grounds and completed my eagle scout project on the hillside of little pine lake. It is a place I cherish and wish more people could experience.







**FARGO**

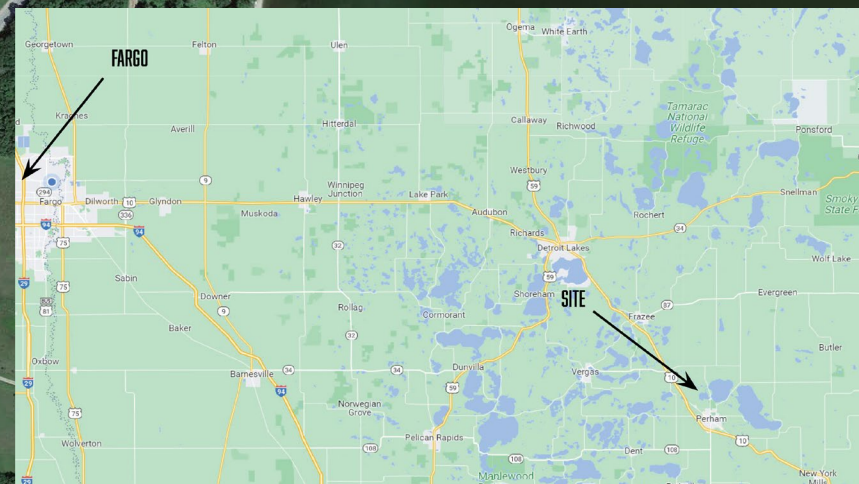
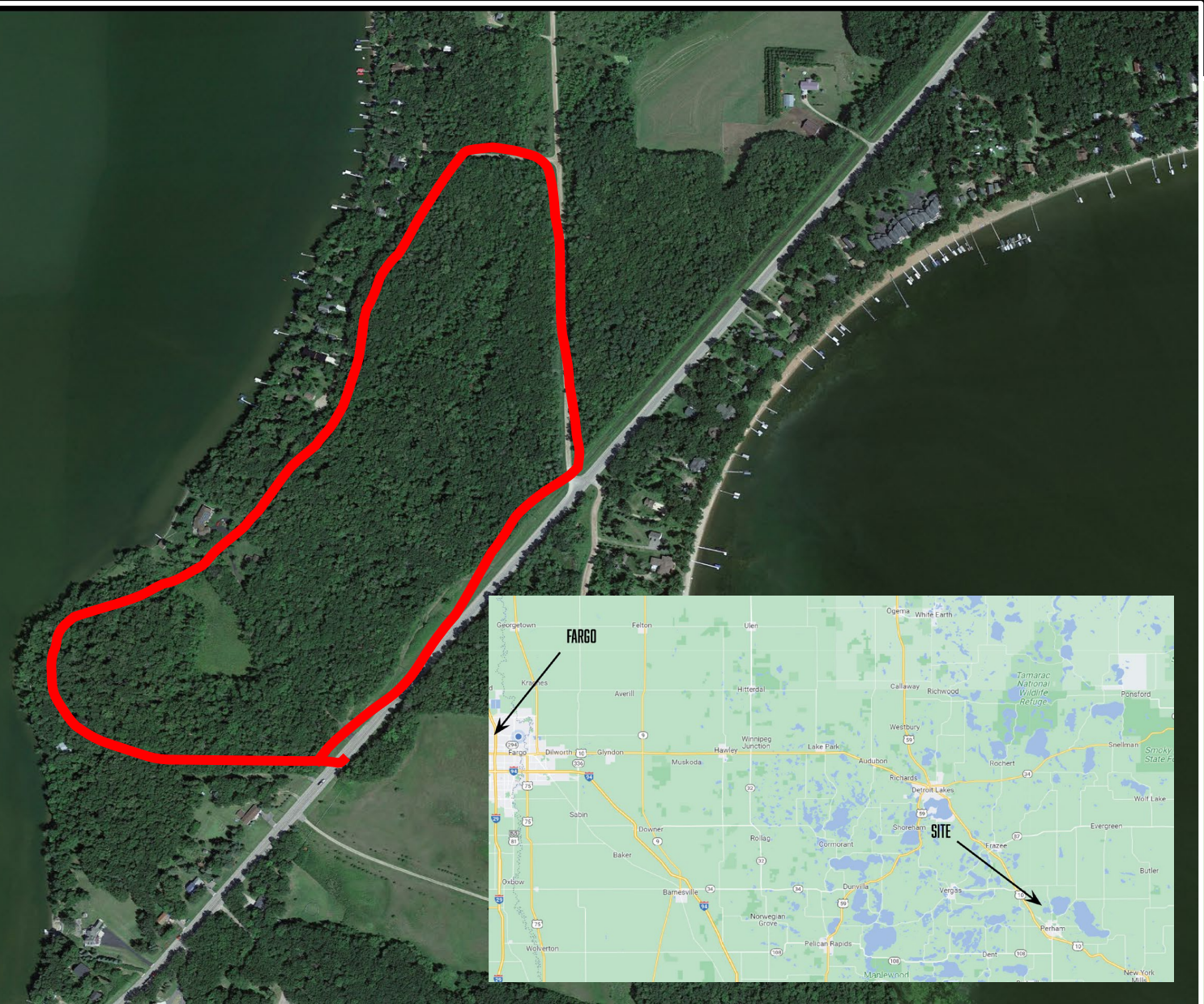
**Site Location**

**SITE**





LITTLE PINE LAKE, PERHAM MINNESOTA

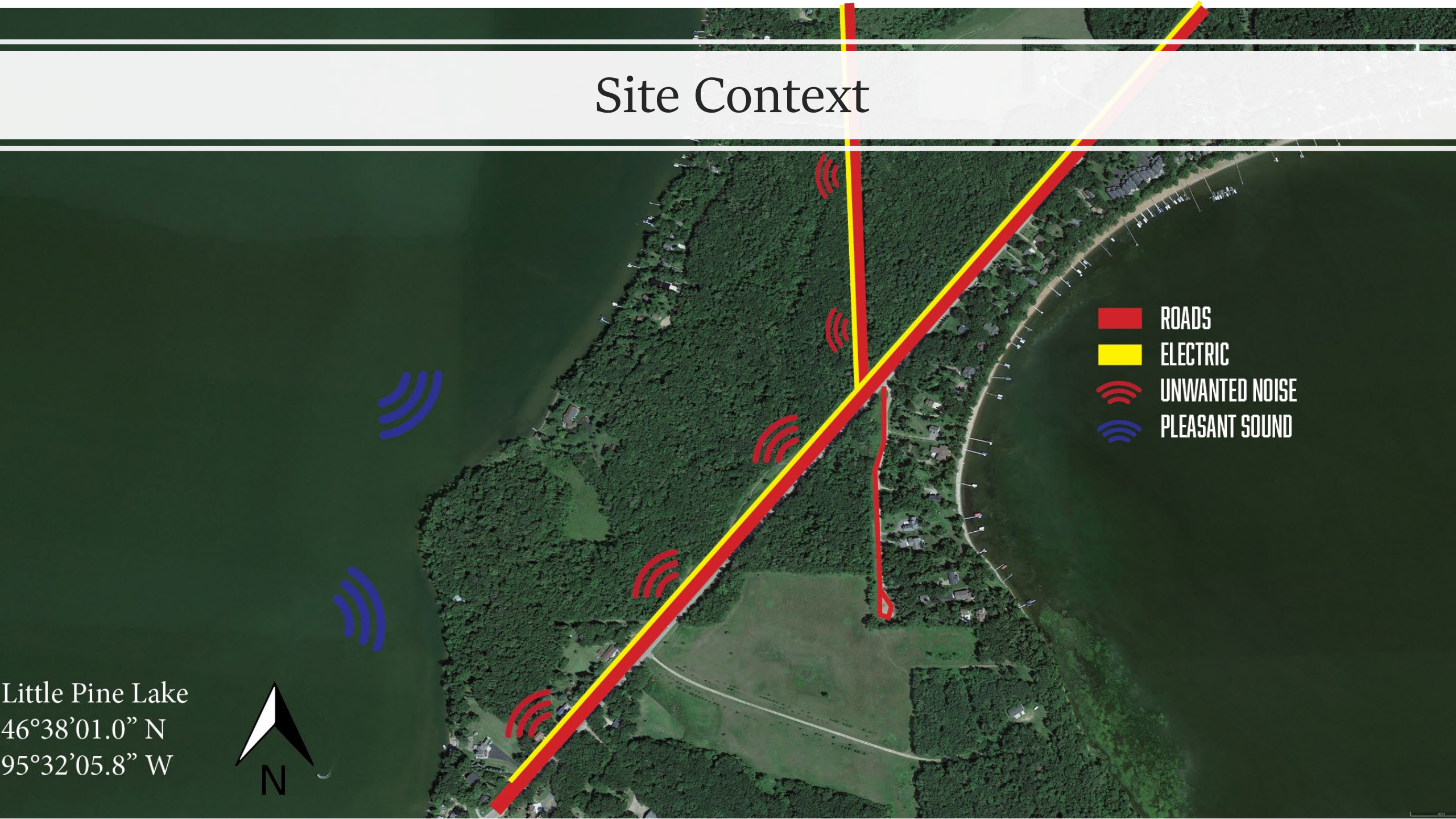


Little Pine Lake  
46°38'01.0" N  
95°32'05.8" W





# Site Context



- ROADS
- ELECTRIC
- UNWANTED NOISE
- PLEASANT SOUND

Little Pine Lake  
46°38'01.0" N  
95°32'05.8" W







# Project Elements

Master planning of programmed spaces

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- Great Hall
- Eatery
- Lodging
- Outdoor Activities
- Programmed Activities





# Design Process



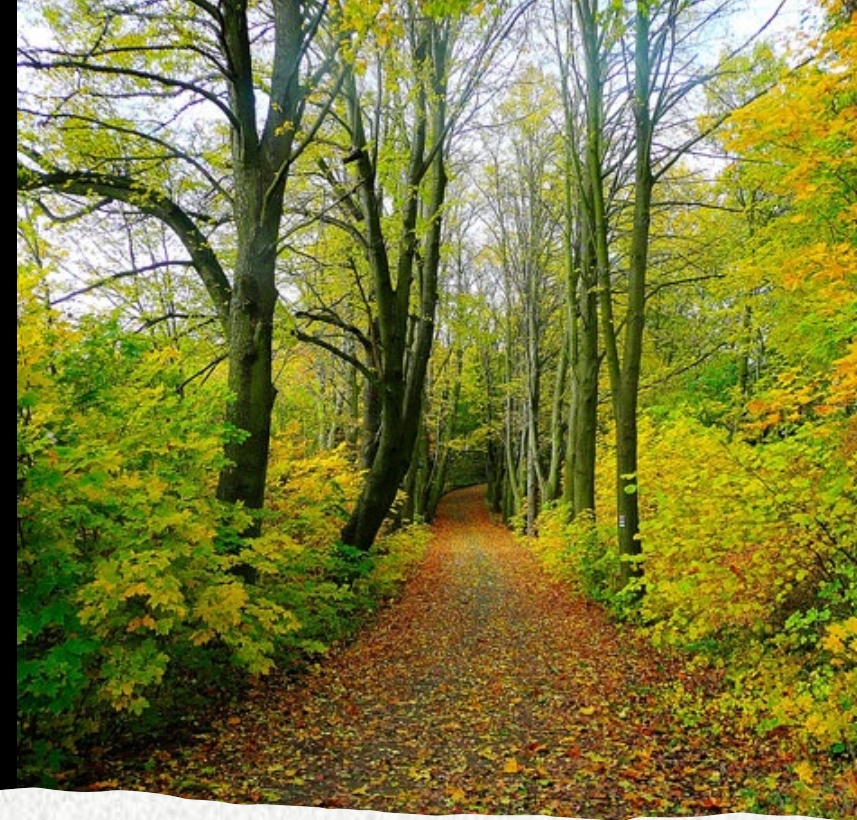




Inspiration







Design Inspiration



# Connection with nature

- The goal was to create a series of buildings that felt like they were engrossed in nature while also still enjoying the luxuries of the built environment. In having these structures spaced across dozens of acres we can then use the pathways and circulation to get these people back connected to nature seamlessly. Additionally providing outdoor activity spaces is beneficial to the user to promote more time spent in nature than they normally would in transition from one building to another.







## Connection with nature through materials

- We can create a connection to nature indoors if we incorporate the use of materials that could be found on the site, many instances of decorative wood, stone, plants and some heavy timbers.

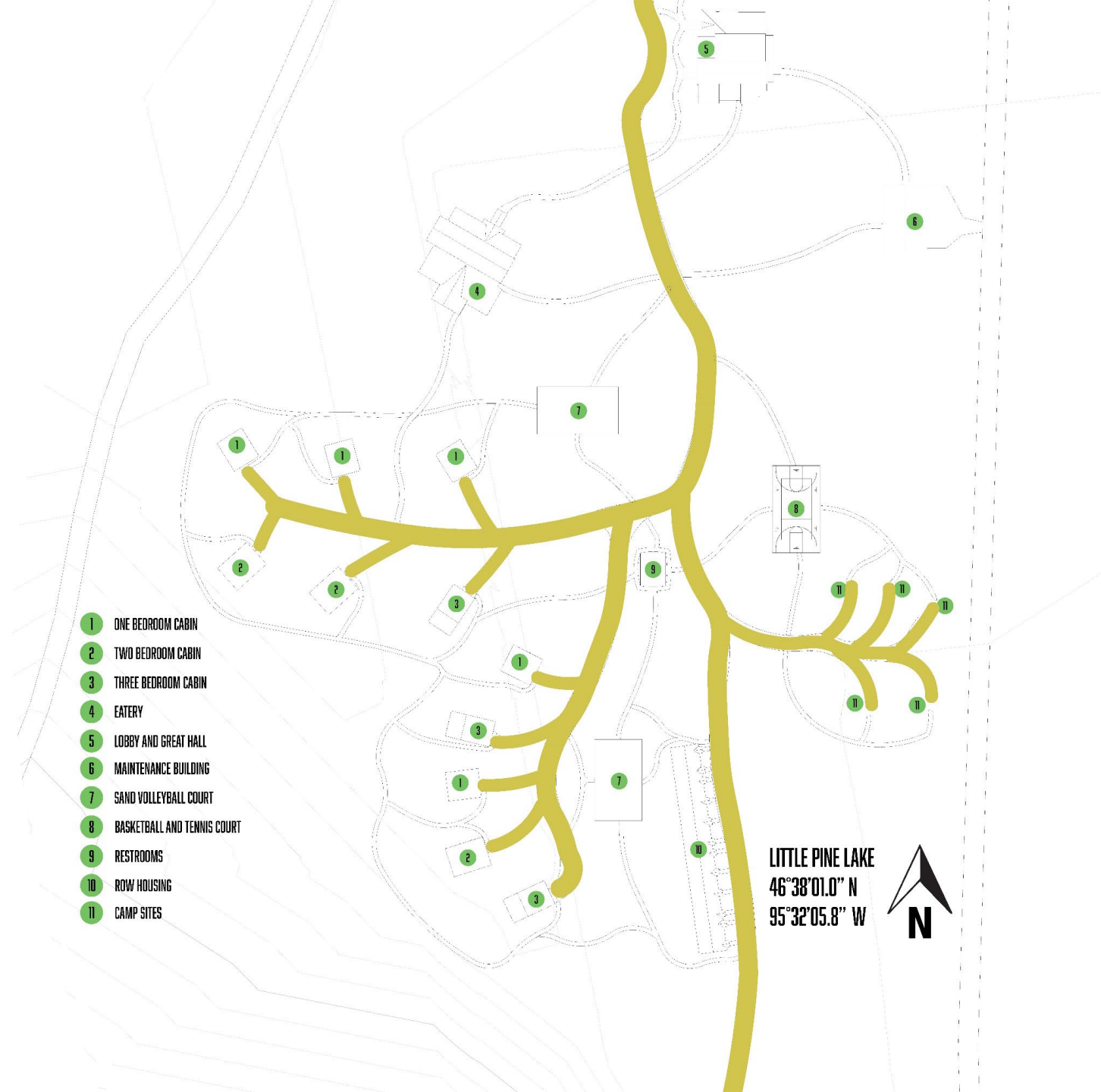
# Design Solutions

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Master Planning, Great Hall, Eatery, Guest Lodging

# Master Planning

- Tree like design
- Create community like spaces at each branch
- Incorporate different lodging within each branch
- Continue branch like design throughout the rest of the site to the south and west.



# Great Hall







Great Hall



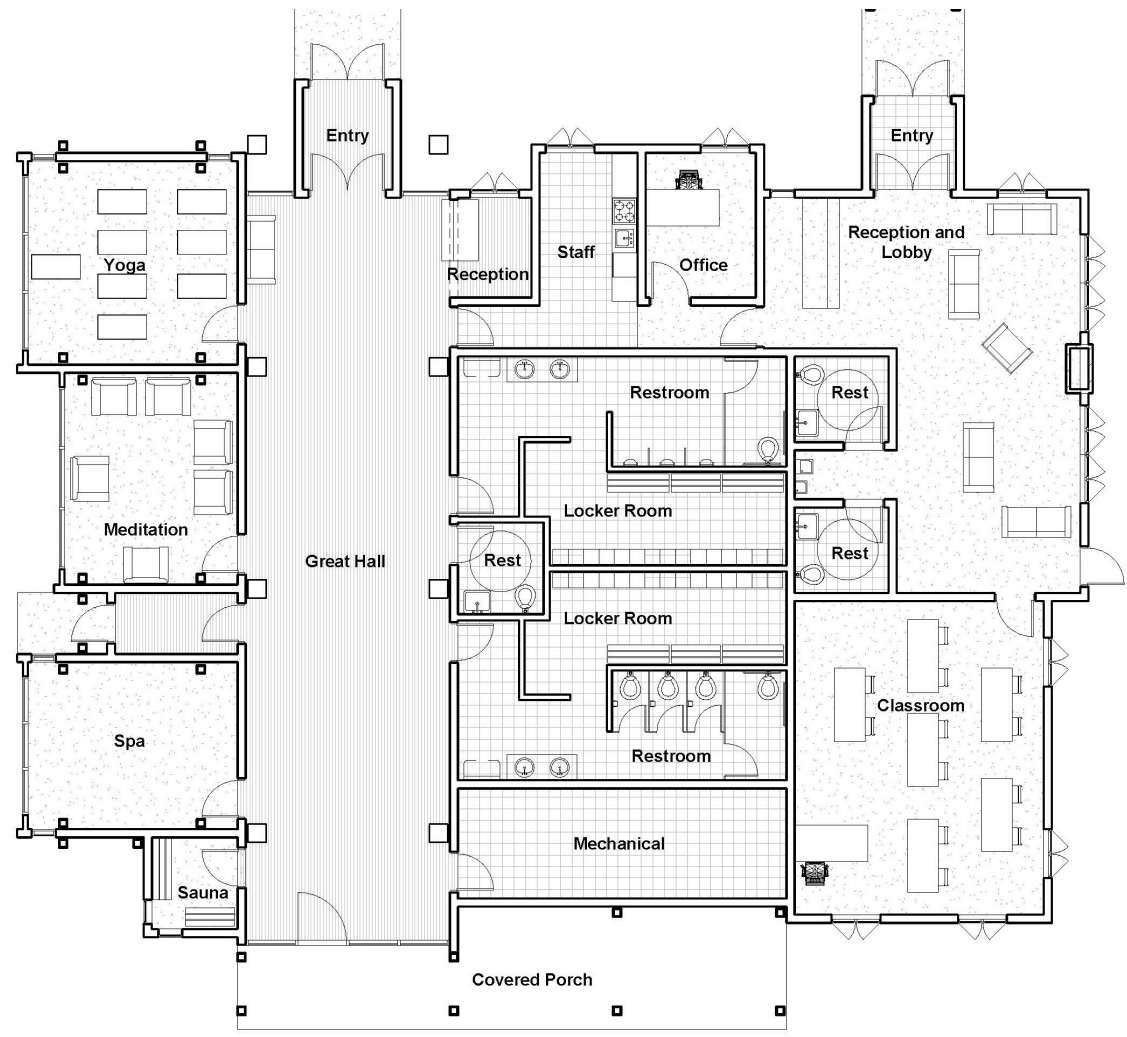


# Great Hall





# Great Hall Floor Plan



# Eatery







Eatery



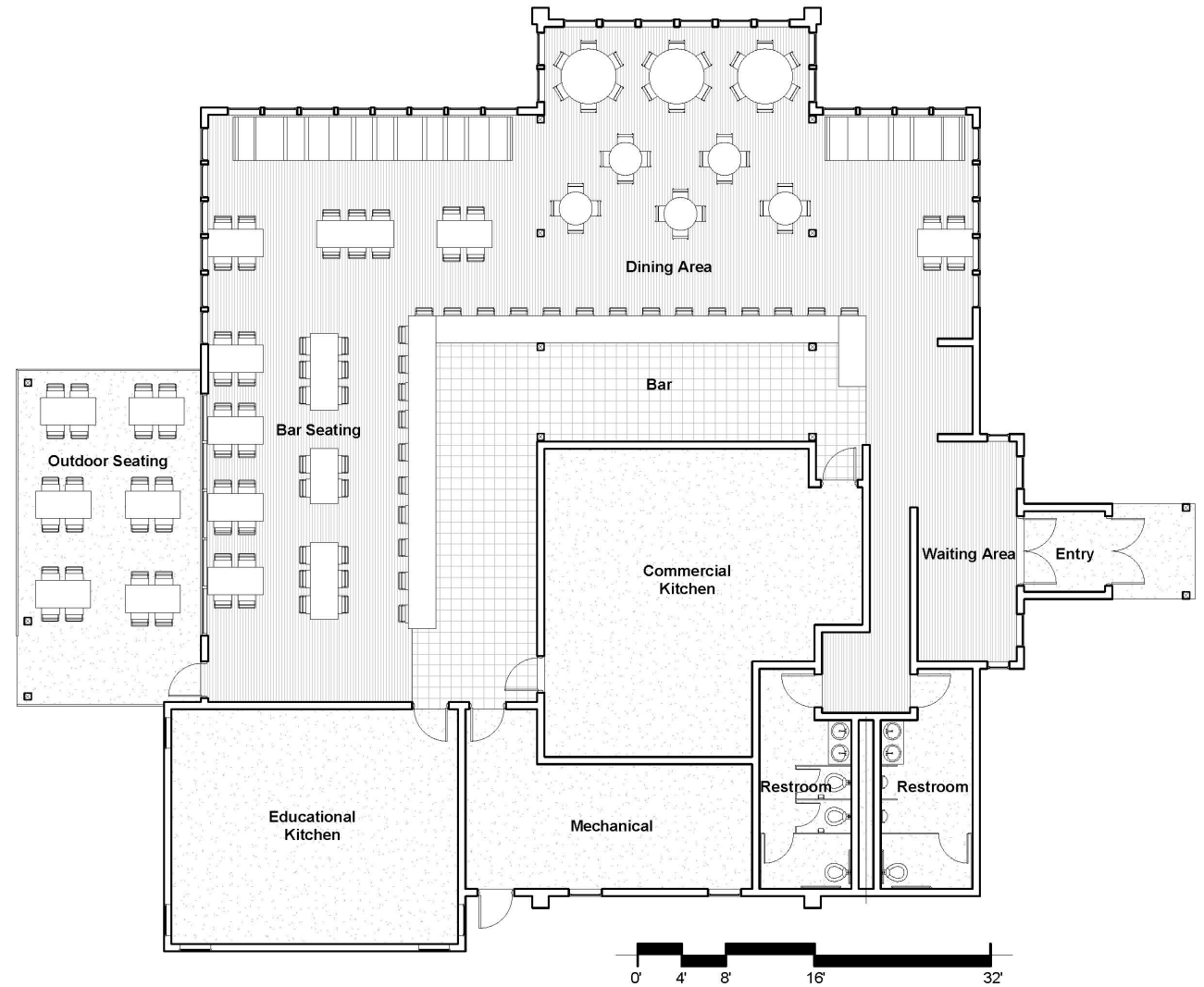


Eatery



# Eatery Floor Plan

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# Cabins

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# One Bedroom Cabin

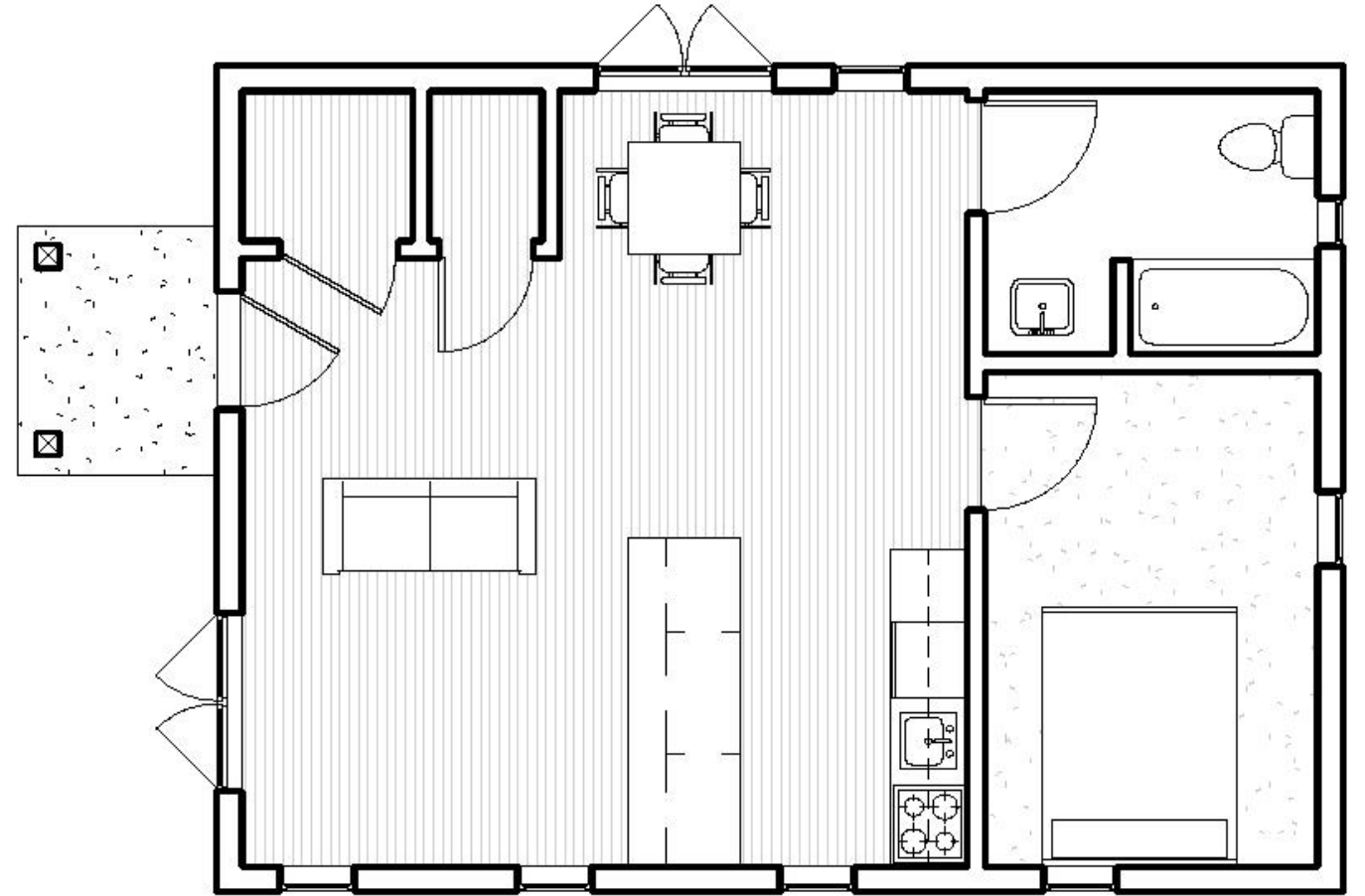
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# One Bedroom Cabin Floor Plan

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# Two Bedroom Cabin

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# Two Bedroom Cabin Floor Plan

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# Three Bedroom Cabin





# Three Bedroom Cabin Floor Plan

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# Outdoor Spaces

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- Pergolas
- Firepit gathering areas
- Picnic Shelters
- Seating
- Reflection clearings
- Lakeshore firepits



# User Experience



# Outdoor Activities



Basketball



Sand Volleyball



Hiking



Tennis



Canoeing



Kayaking



Fishing



Swimming



Yard Games



Snowshoeing



Cross Country  
Skiing



Skating





# Programmed Activities

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- Yoga
- Meditation
- Spa
- Sauna
- Spirit-free mixology
- Artisan culinary instruction
- Health and wellness classes



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# Materiality

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Wood

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Natural Stone

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Quartz Counters and Sills

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Butcher Block Tabletops

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Heavy Timber

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Concrete





Questions?