

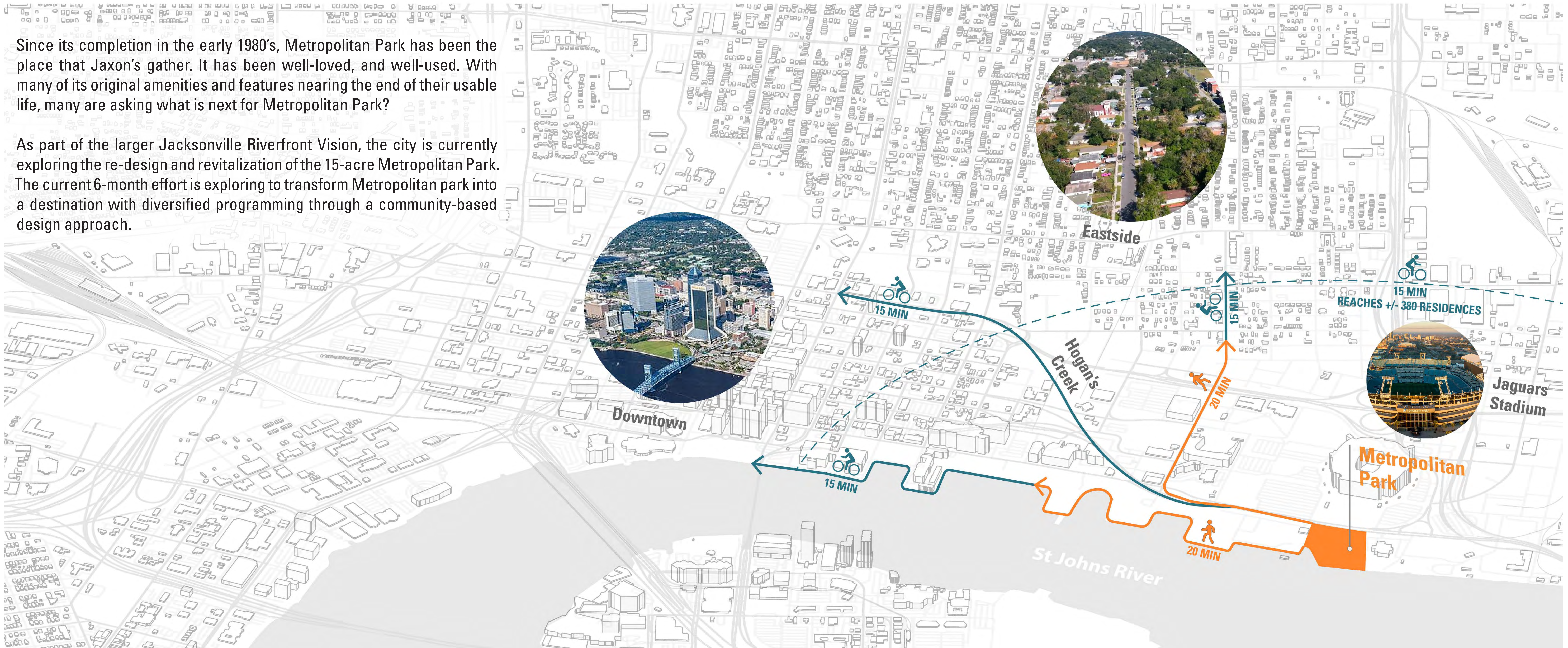
REVITALIZING METROPOLITAN PARK

Project Intro

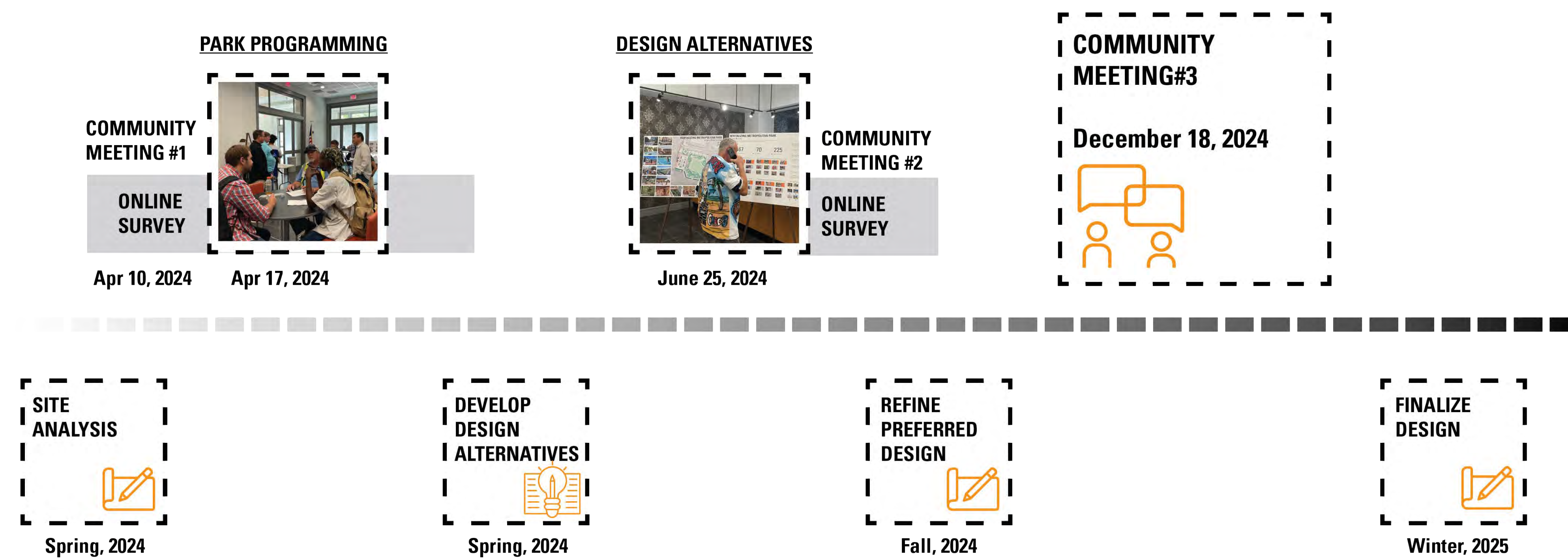


Since its completion in the early 1980's, Metropolitan Park has been the place that Jaxon's gather. It has been well-loved, and well-used. With many of its original amenities and features nearing the end of their usable life, many are asking what is next for Metropolitan Park?

As part of the larger Jacksonville Riverfront Vision, the city is currently exploring the re-design and revitalization of the 15-acre Metropolitan Park. The current 6-month effort is exploring to transform Metropolitan park into a destination with diversified programming through a community-based design approach.



Project Process



Currently there are three distinct park experiences, the Bay Street Corridor, the Central Lawn, and the Riverfront.

REVITALIZING METROPOLITAN PARK

Community Meeting Recap



Community Event #1 - April 17th

The design team held the first community open house on April 17th and hosted an online survey where participants gave feedback on the future of Metropolitan Park.

67

■ IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

70

■ MAP COMMENTS

225

■ COMPLETED SURVEYS

Community Event #2 - June 25th

The design team held the second community open house on June 25th and hosted an online survey where participants gave feedback on the design alternatives of Metropolitan Park.

90+

■ IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

68

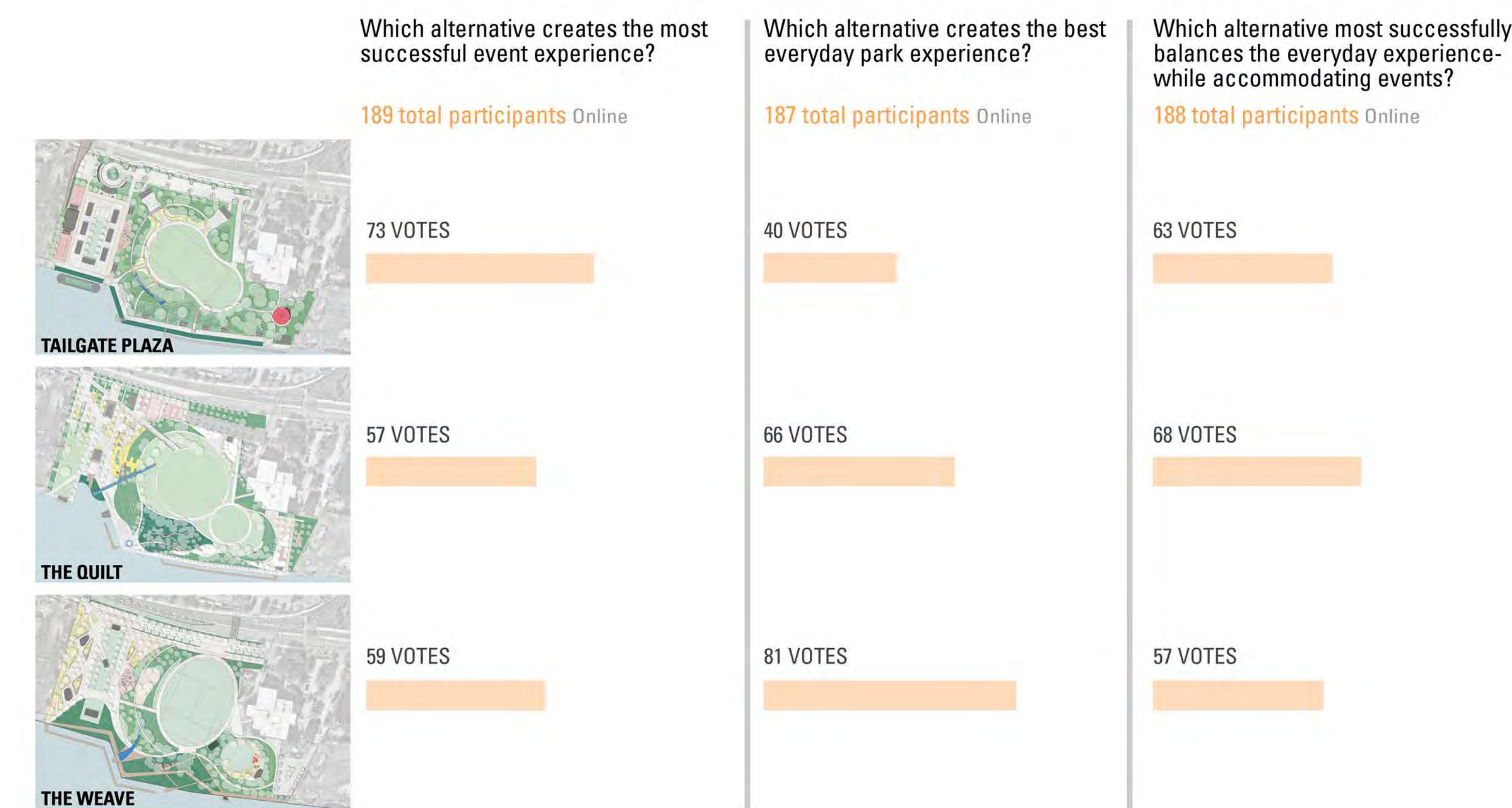
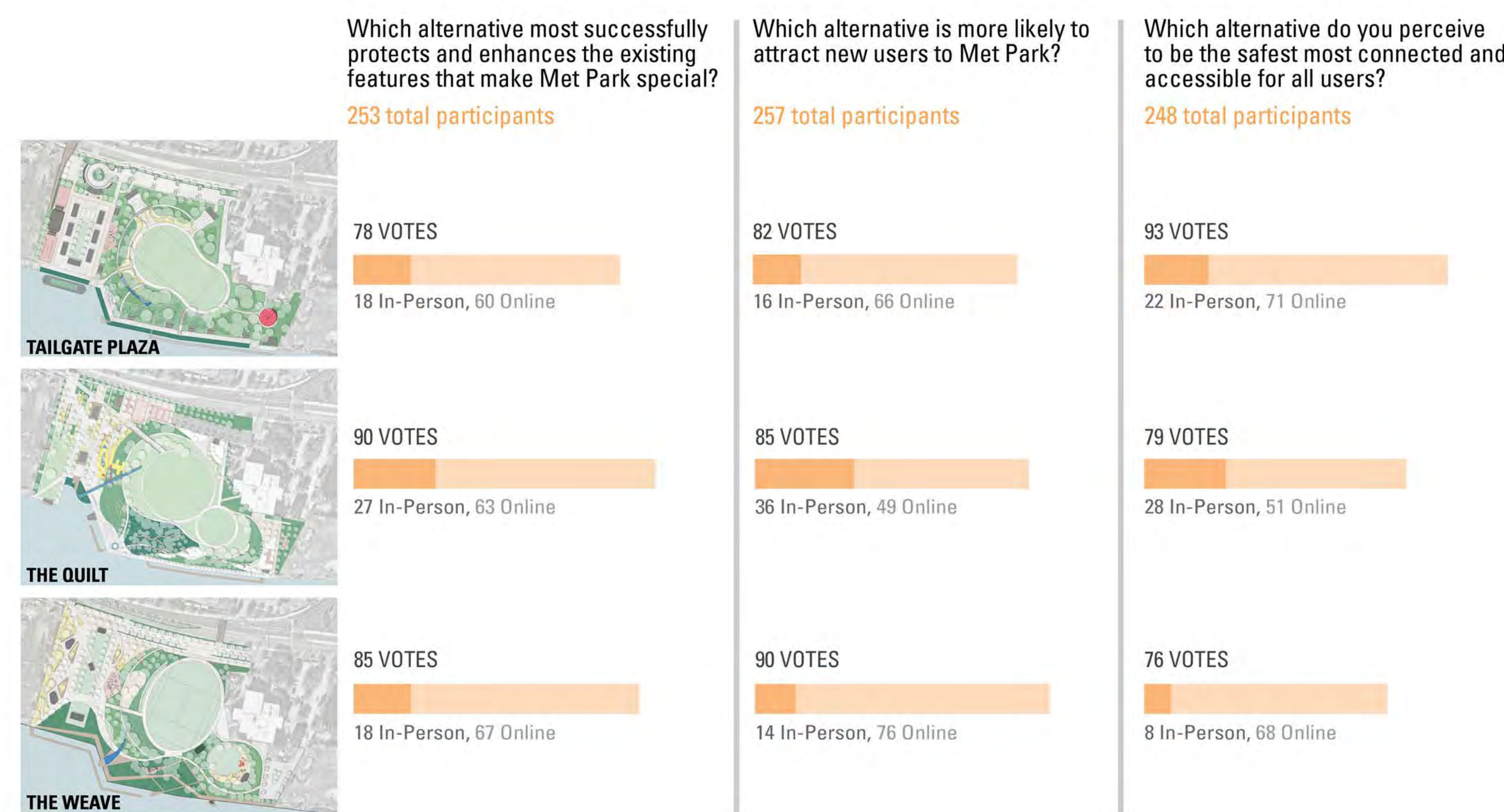
■ WRITTEN COMMENTS

191

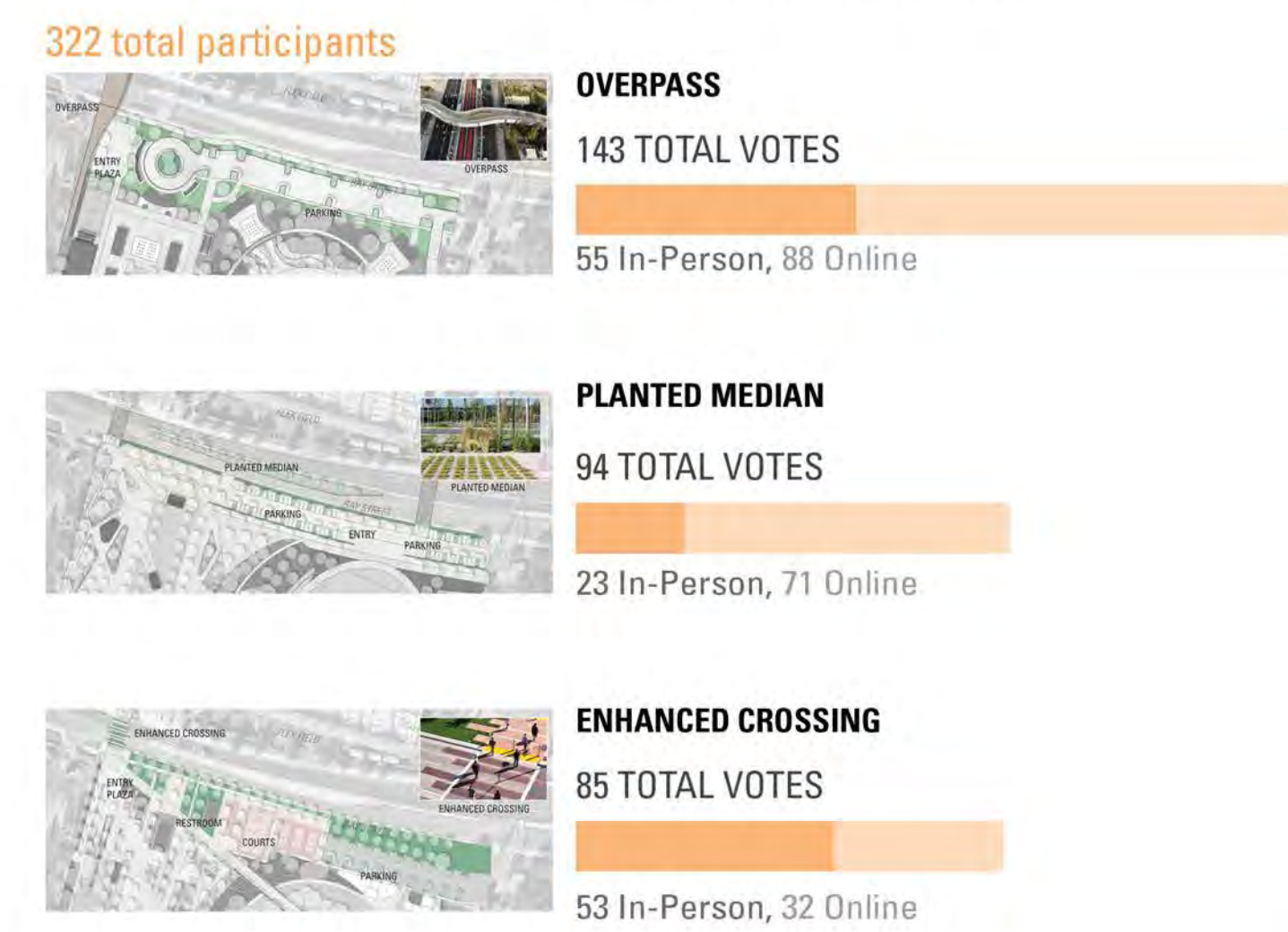
■ COMPLETED ONLINE SURVEYS

26%

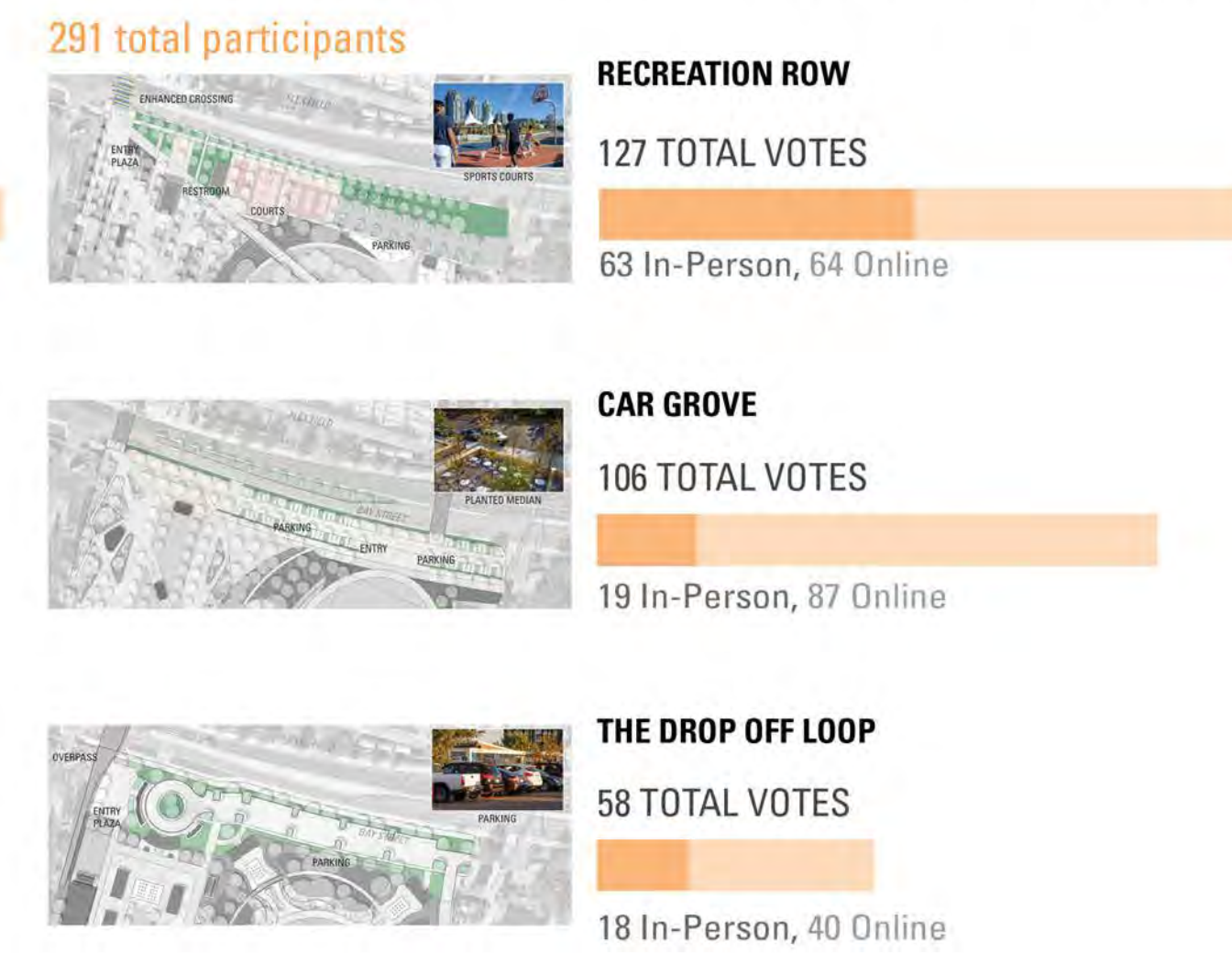
■ ATTENDEES TOOK THE FIRST SURVEY



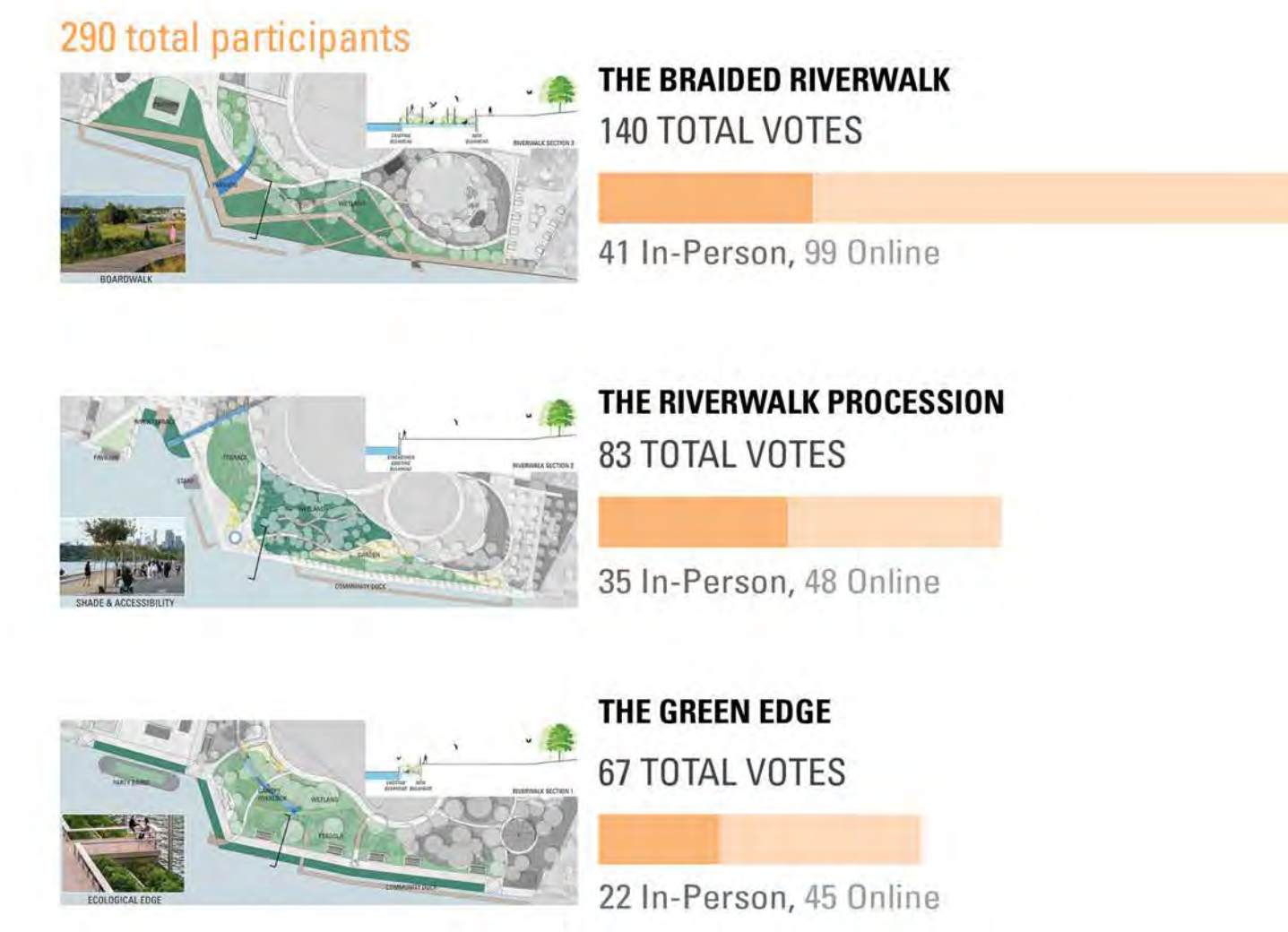
□ Which approach to enhancing connectivity across Bay Street do you most prefer?



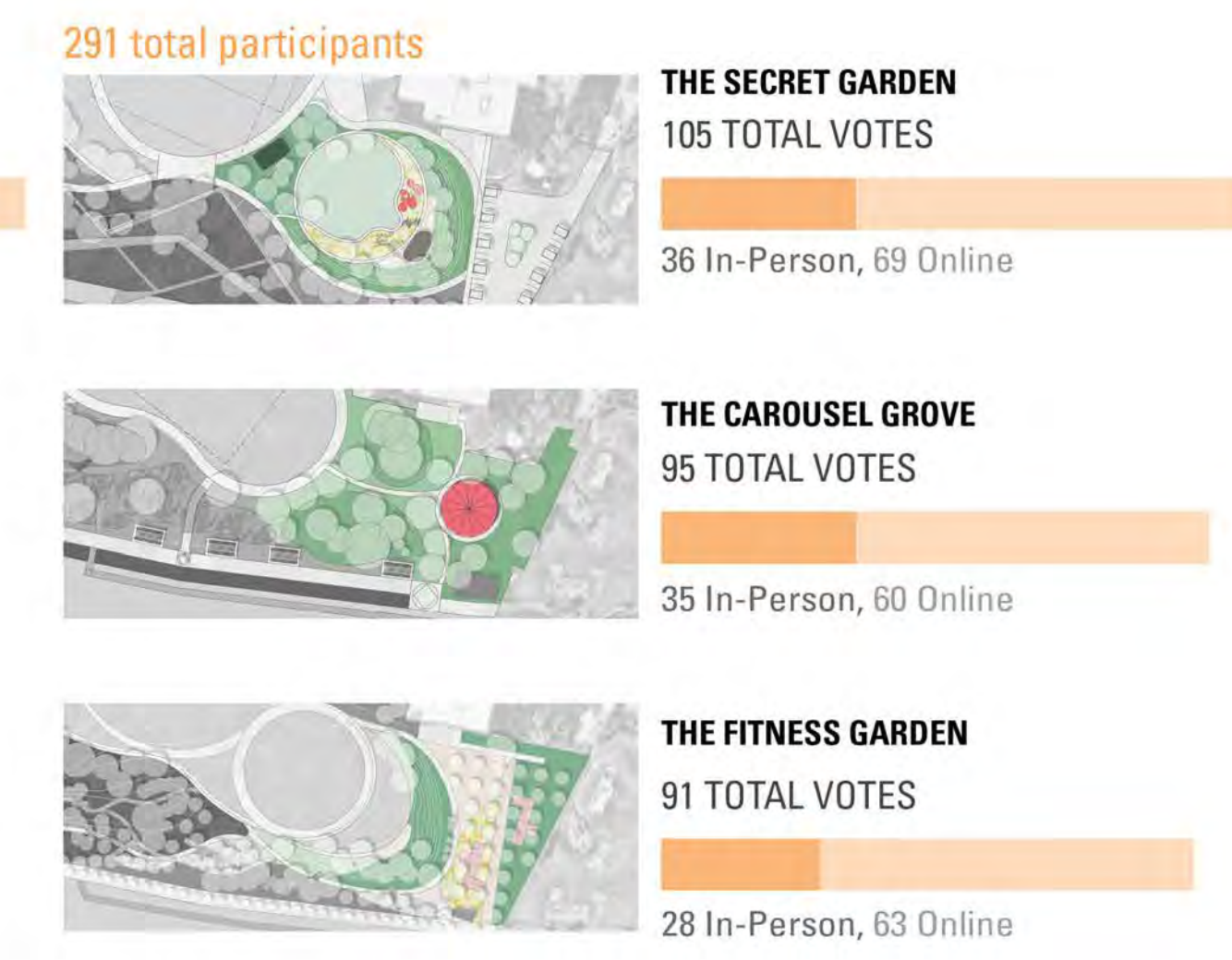
□ Which park approach to activating Bay Street makes Met Park more visible and accessible?



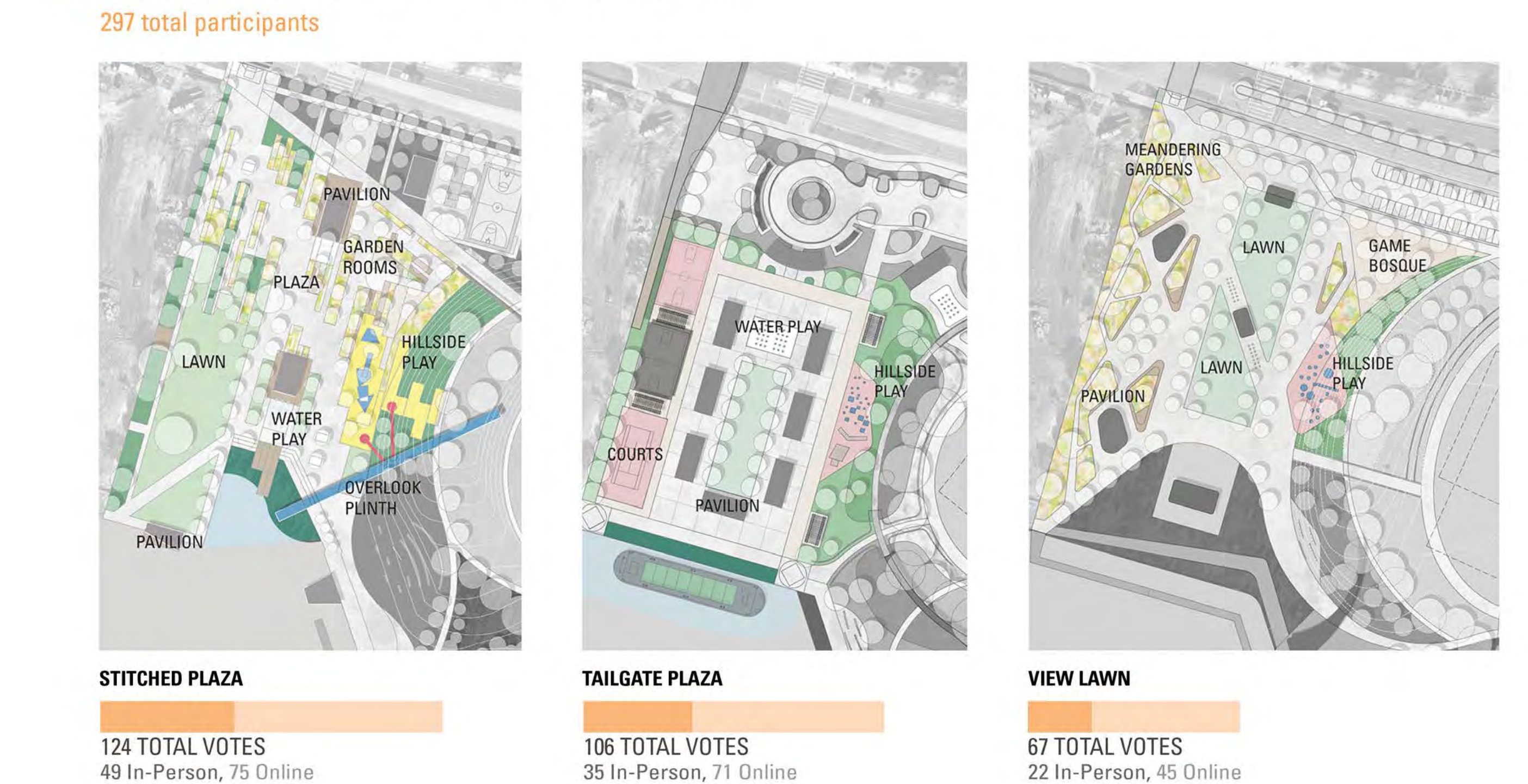
□ Which riverwalk experience is most preferred?



□ Which garden experience is most preferred?

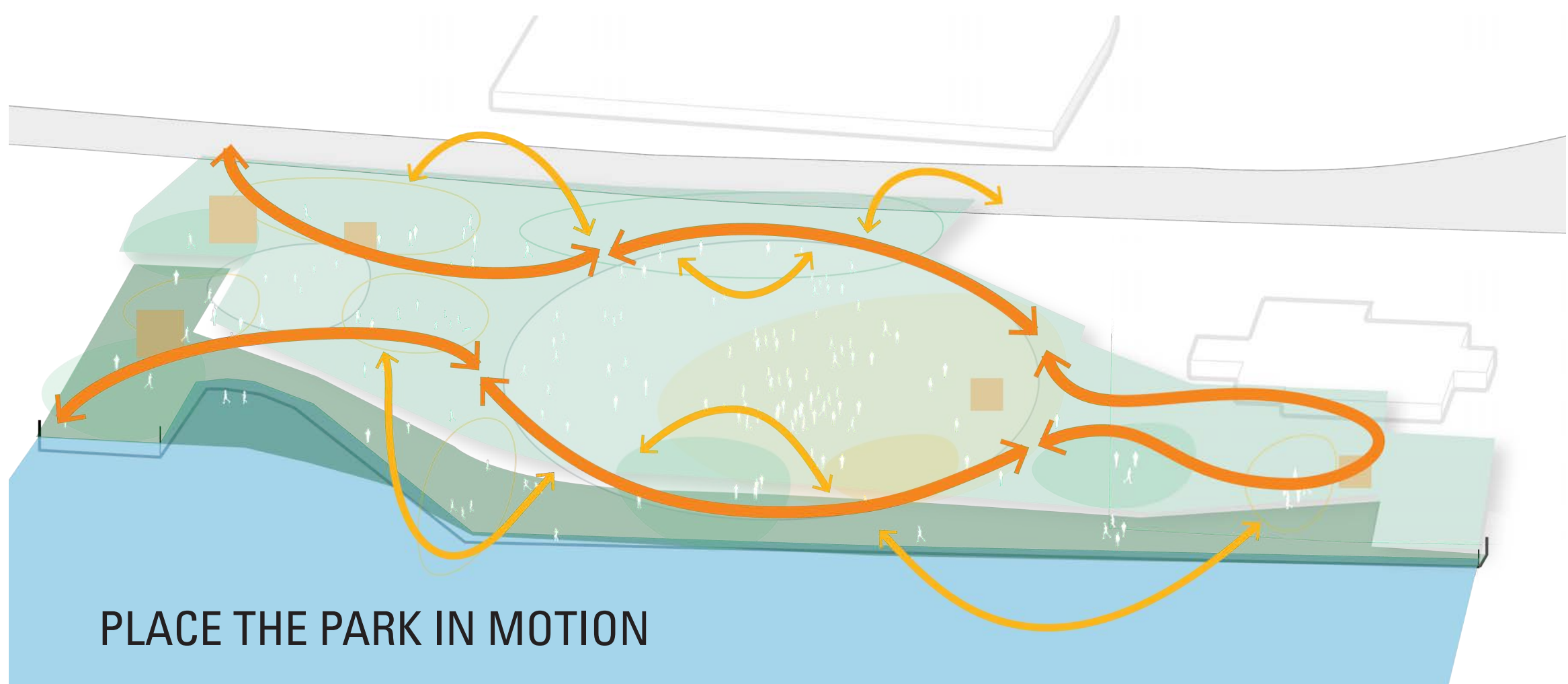
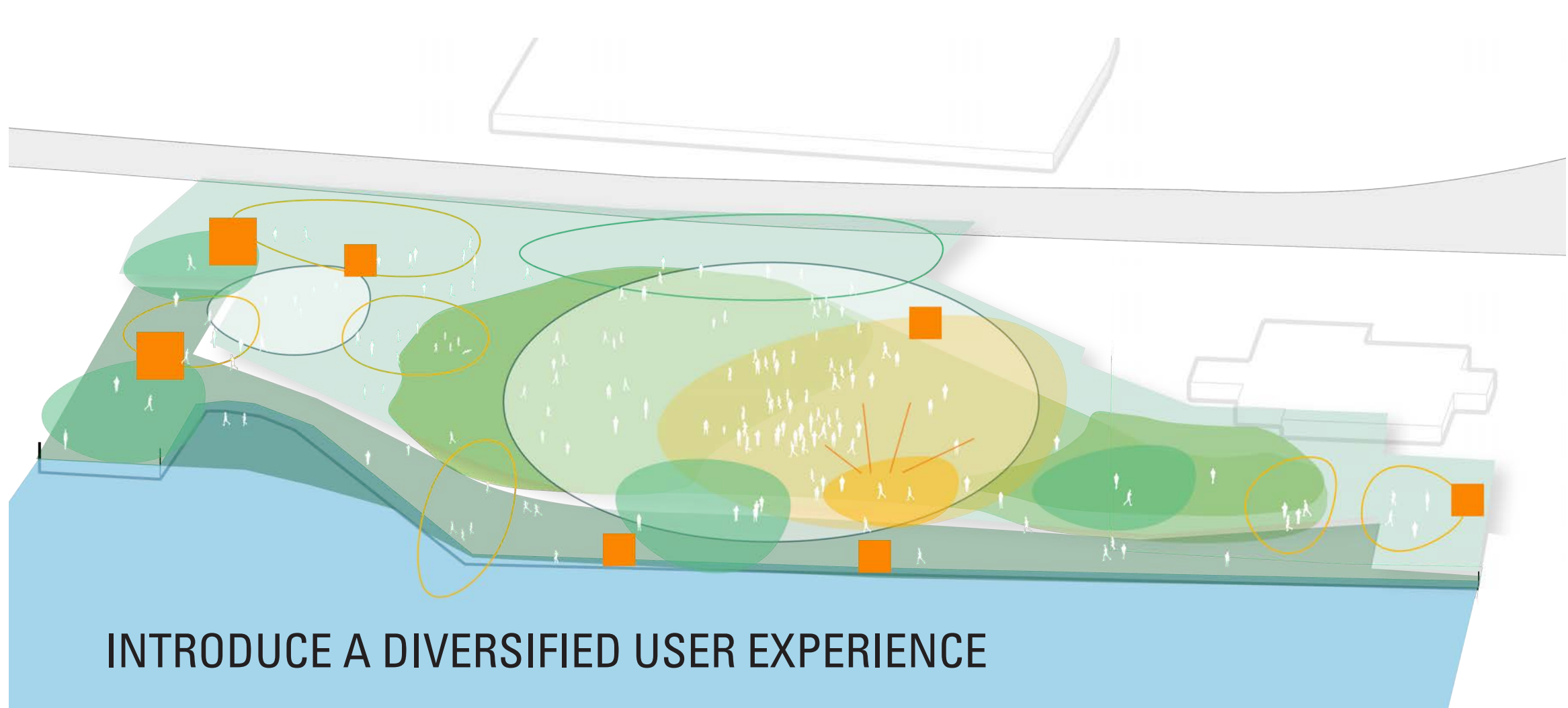
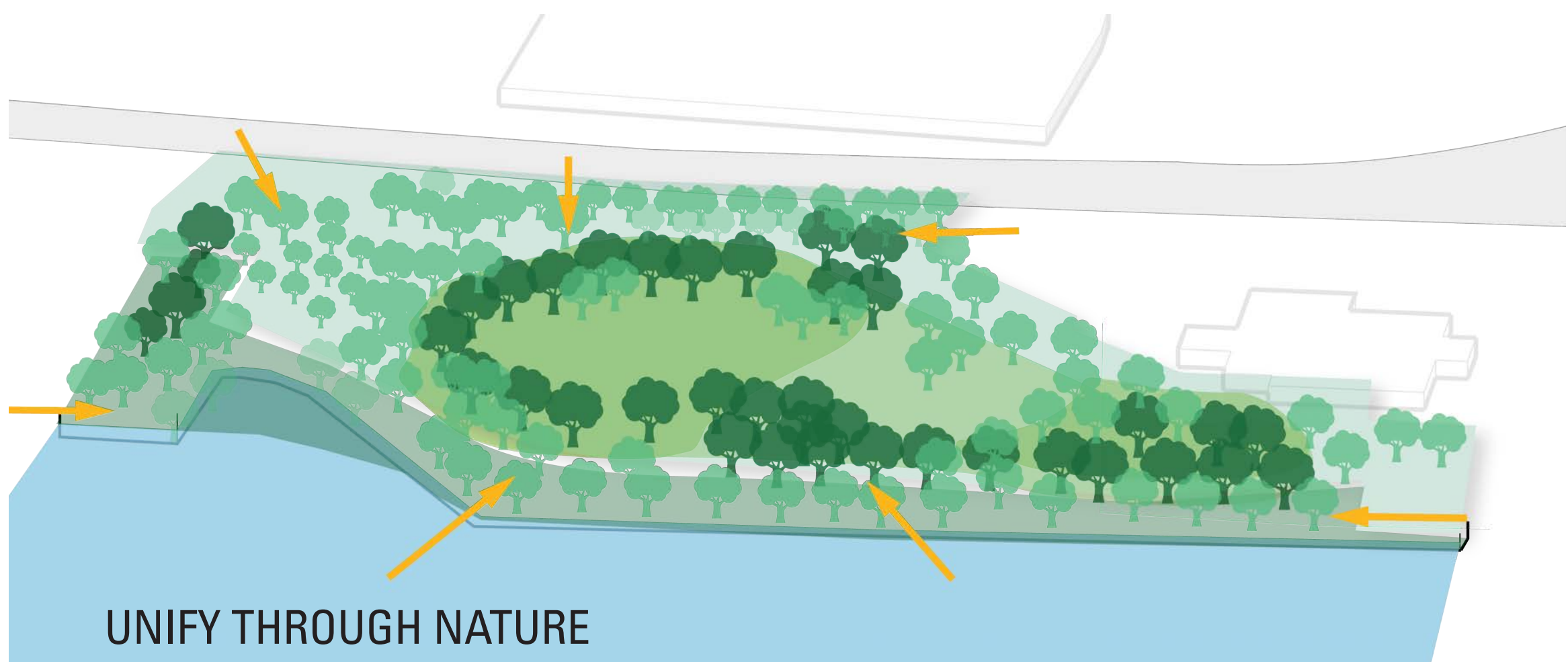
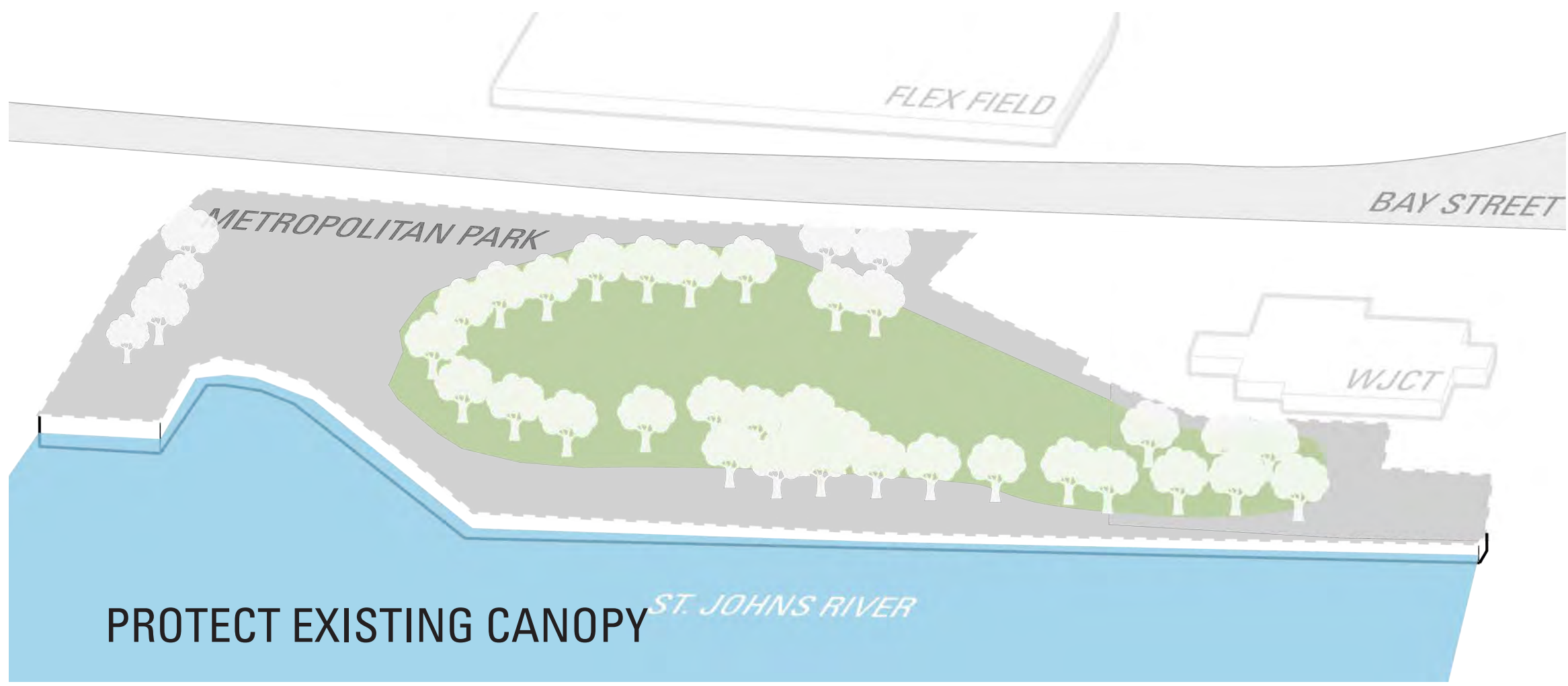
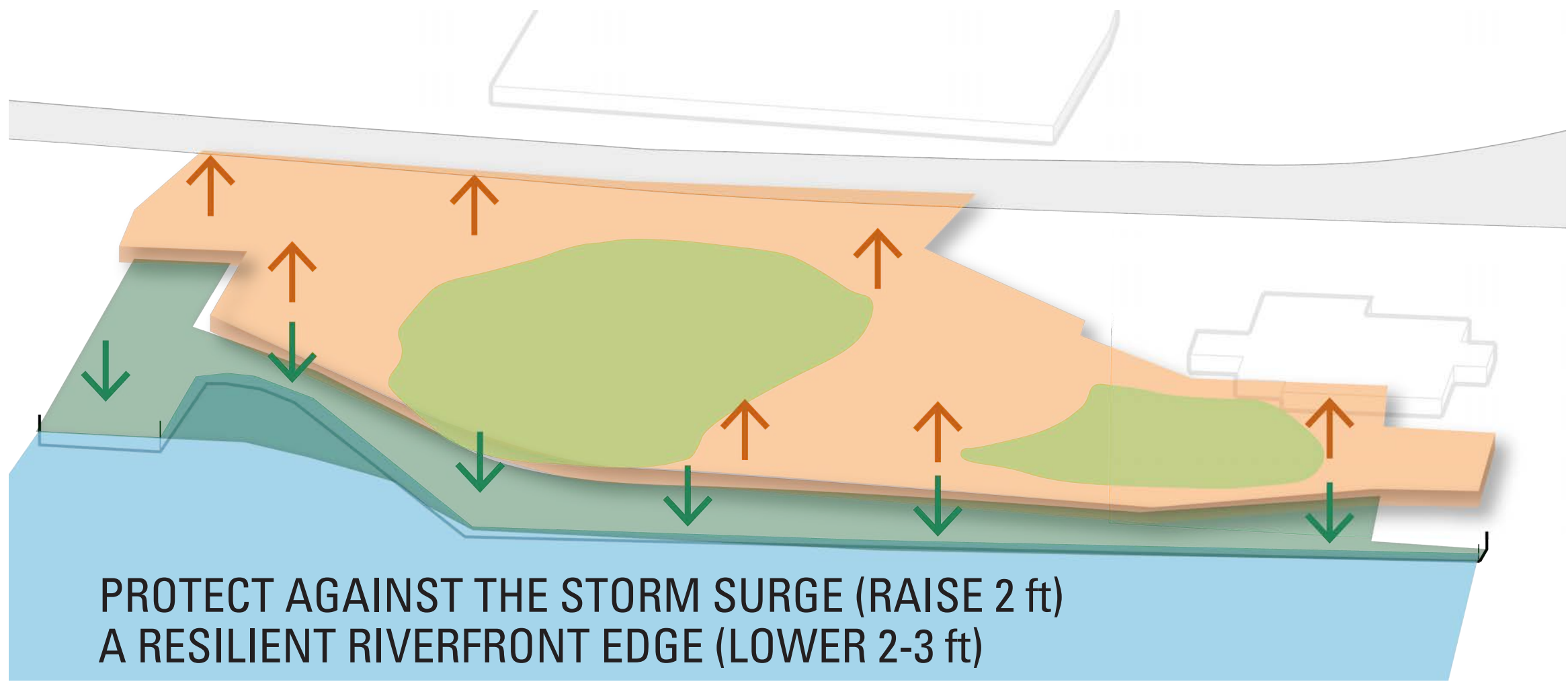
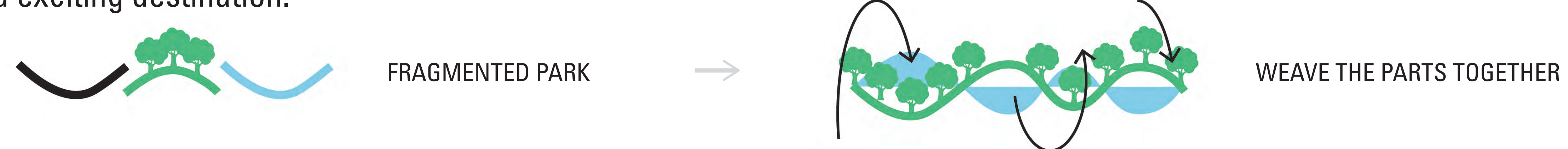


□ Which plaza experience is most preferred?



PROPOSED DESIGN CONCEPT

Inspired by the Gullah Geechee tradition of Basket Weaving, the proposed design pays homage to the many descendants residing in the Out East neighborhood. The proposed design weaves together a series of geometries and spaces to unify the highly fragmented existing park. By enhancing the overall ability of the park to host large and small scale events, enhancing and expanding the programs offered within the park, and creating places to gather for groups of all sizes, the park will offer all users a comfortable and exciting destination.



The project proposes enhancements and extensive plantings along Bay Street to make it a park-like experience. With 60 new parking spaces integrated within a grove of trees the "Parking Grove" creates a unique, well-shaded flexible parking experience, that easily converts to accommodate tents, vendors, and food trucks during events and larger festivals. The "Parking Grove" will also create a comfortable shaded tailgating experience for game days.

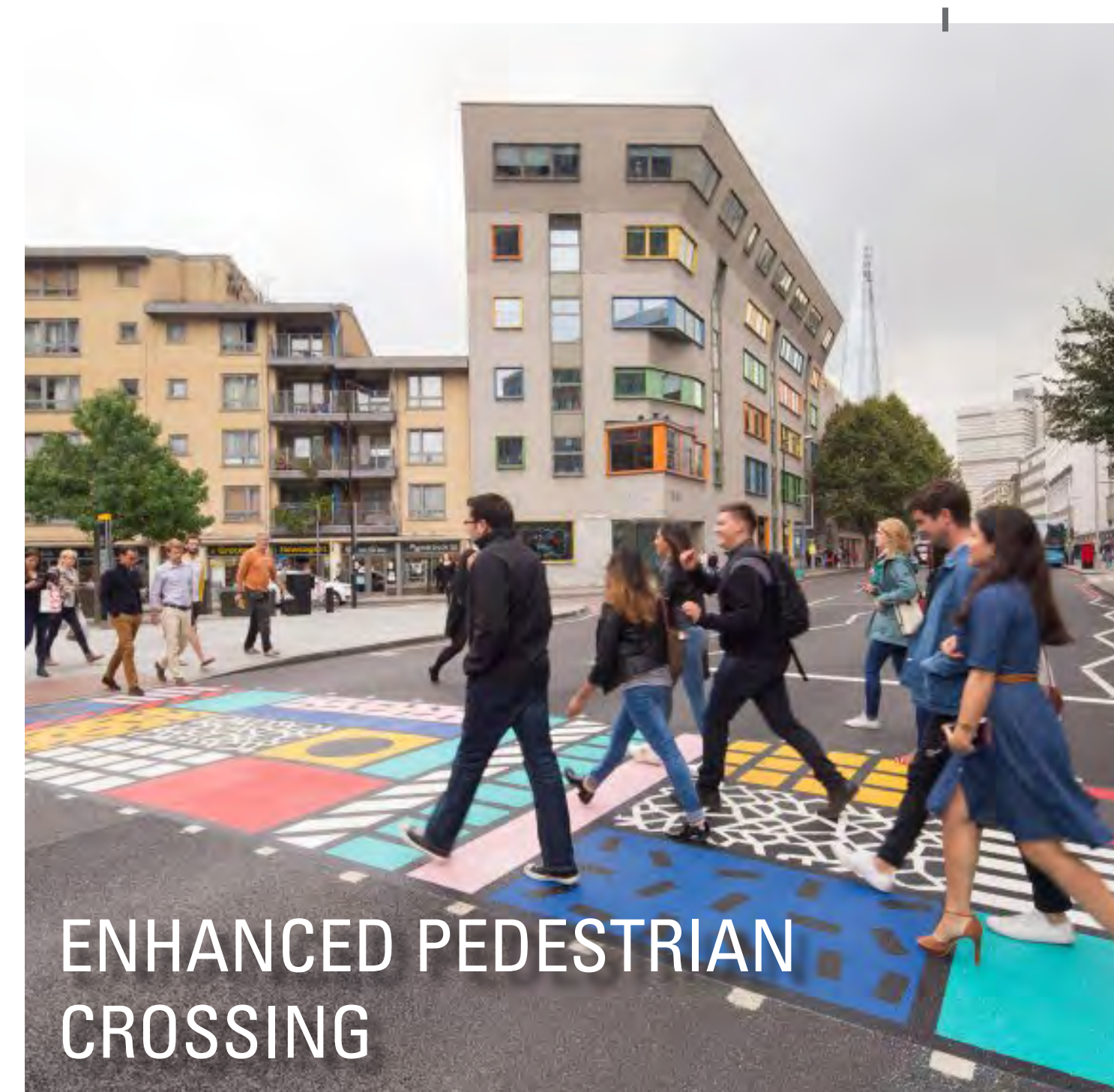
PARKING GROVE



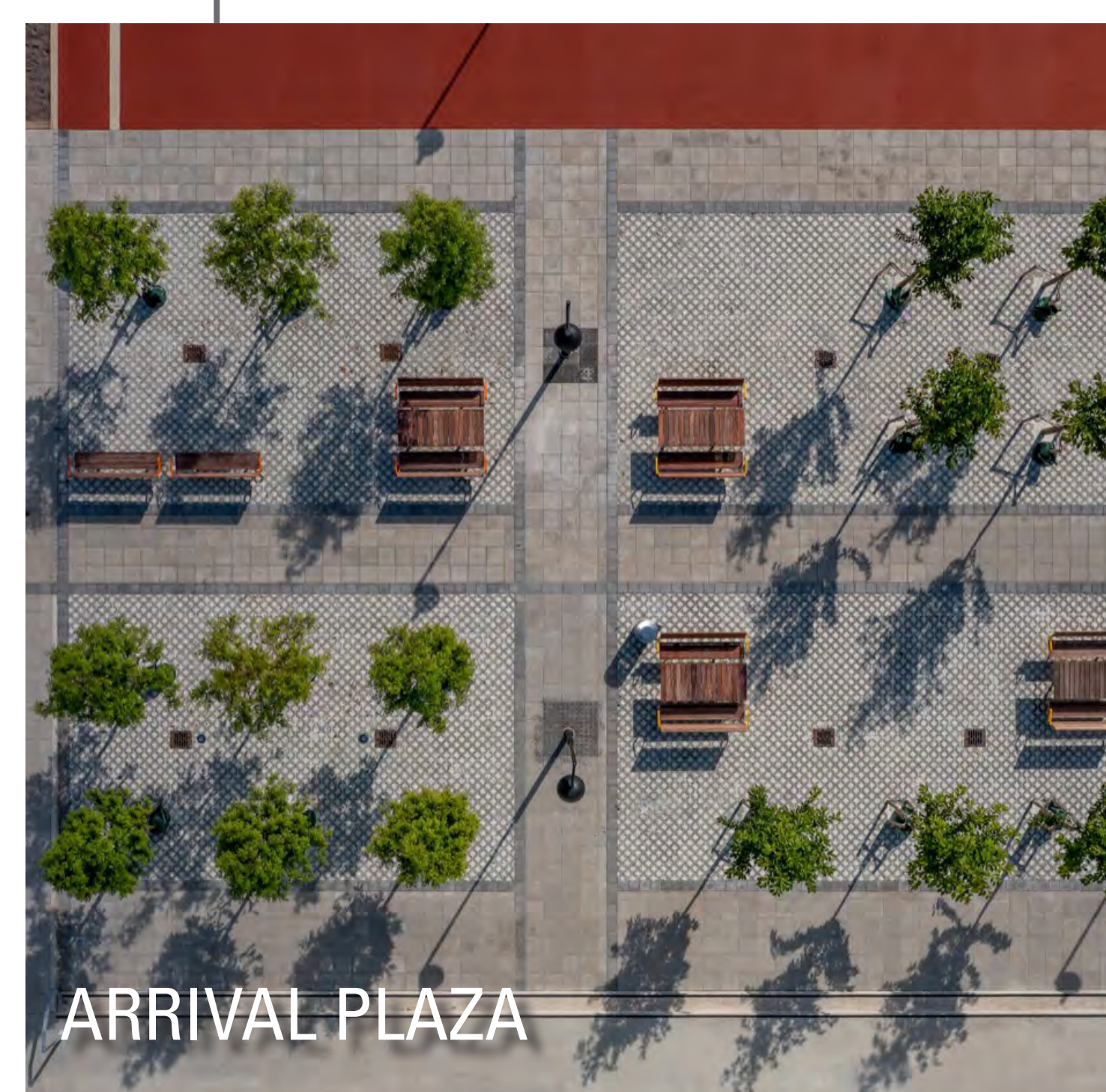
1 Right in right out from Bay Street:
Daily parking among grove of trees



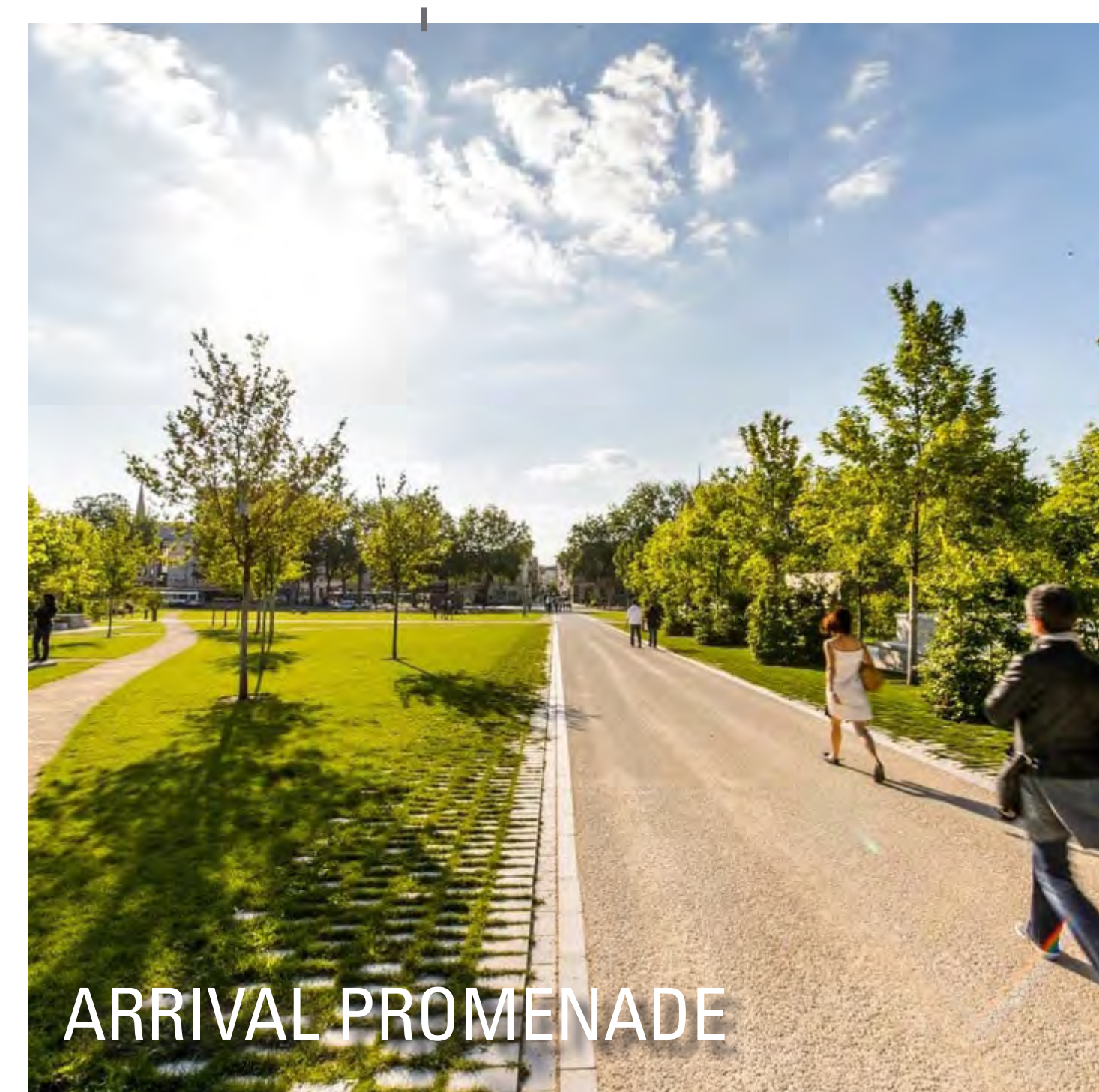
2 Provide space for food trucks and vendors during event days



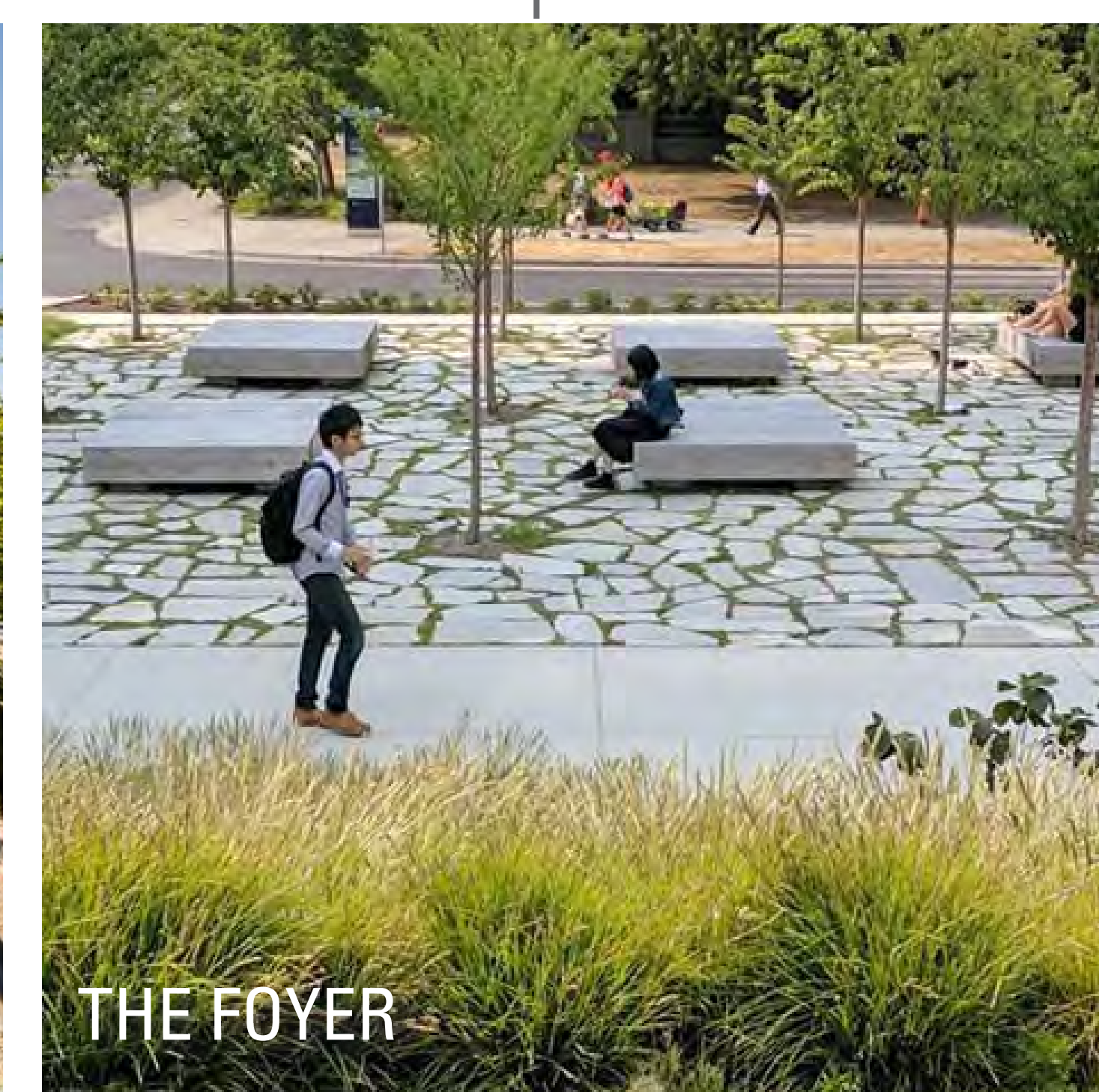
ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



ARRIVAL PLAZA



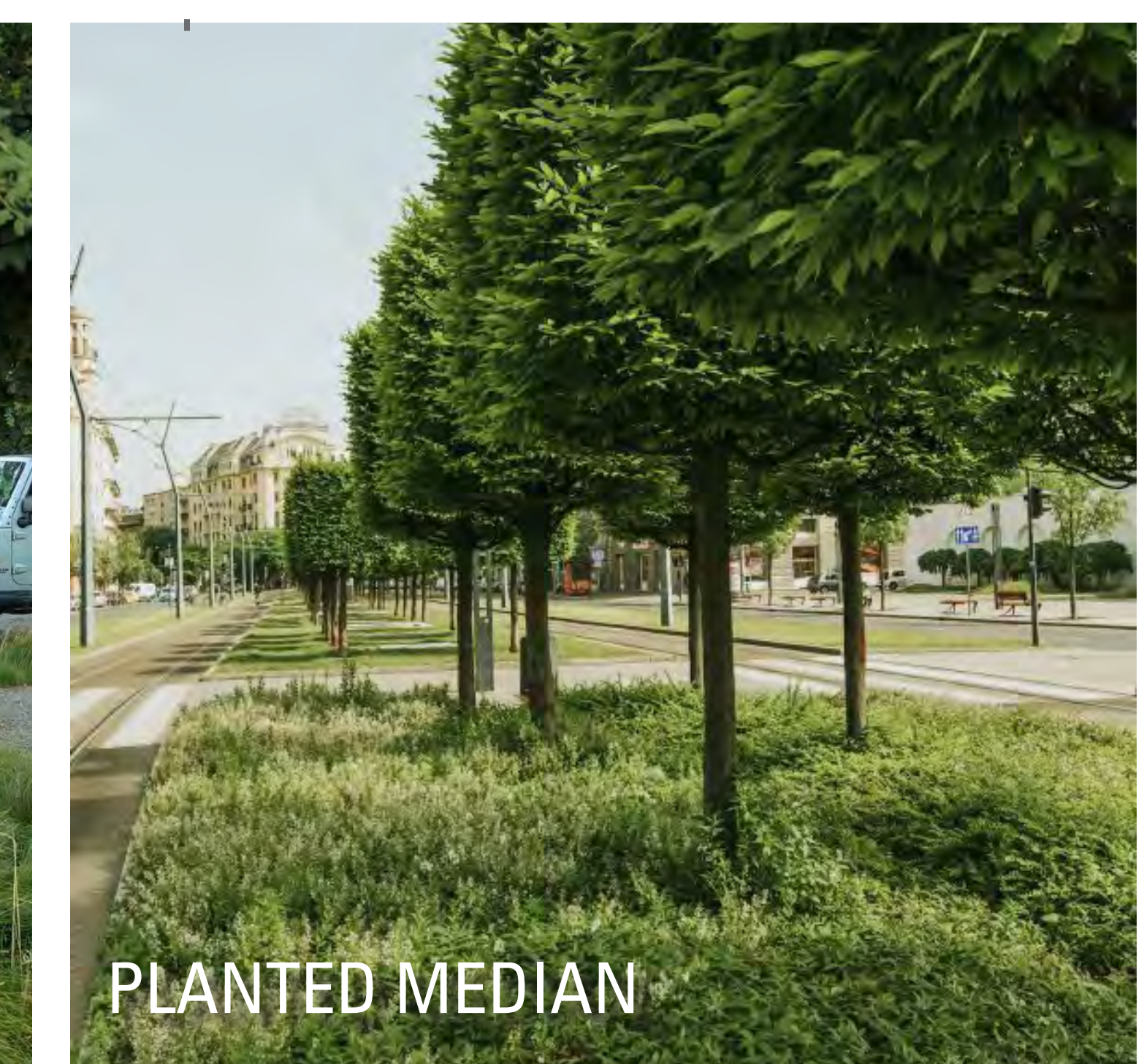
ARRIVAL PROMENADE



THE FOYER



PARKING GROVE



PLANTED MEDIAN

Tailgate Plaza features a balance of both large flexible spaces and more intimate garden moments. Visitors have the option to enjoy the plaza and lawn area perfect for hosting small events. Or to explore the Ramble which features intimate garden rooms, picnic areas, and a hillside play feature.

TAILGATE PLAZA



TAILGATE PLAZA



1 The arrival sequence into Metropolitan Park from the Stadium north of Bay Street immerses users in a naturalized setting, with a variety of park amenities and features at their disposal.



2 At the core of Tailgate Plaza, a large water play zone will weave its way around a mature existing live oak. With a large Performance Pavilion anchoring it to the west, a small picnic pavilion to the east and a playscape and lawn nearby, Tailgate Plaza will be the most active and vibrant area of the park.

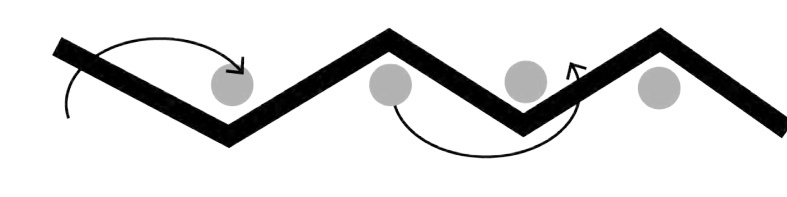


3 By preserving the mature Live Oak and supplementing it with allees of large trees on each side ample shade creates an ideal setting for daily water play, while the flexibility to turn off the water feature and host events in the space, ensures a vibrant and active core to the larger Tailgate Plaza.

PAVILION CONCEPT



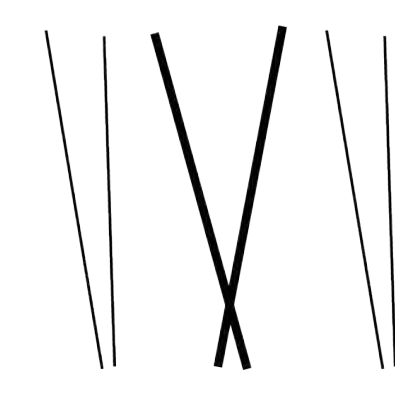
WEAVE



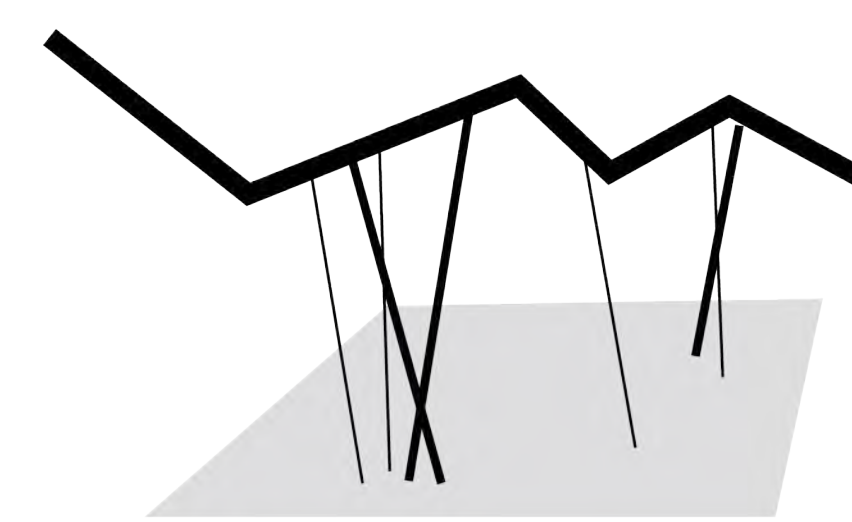
UNFOLD



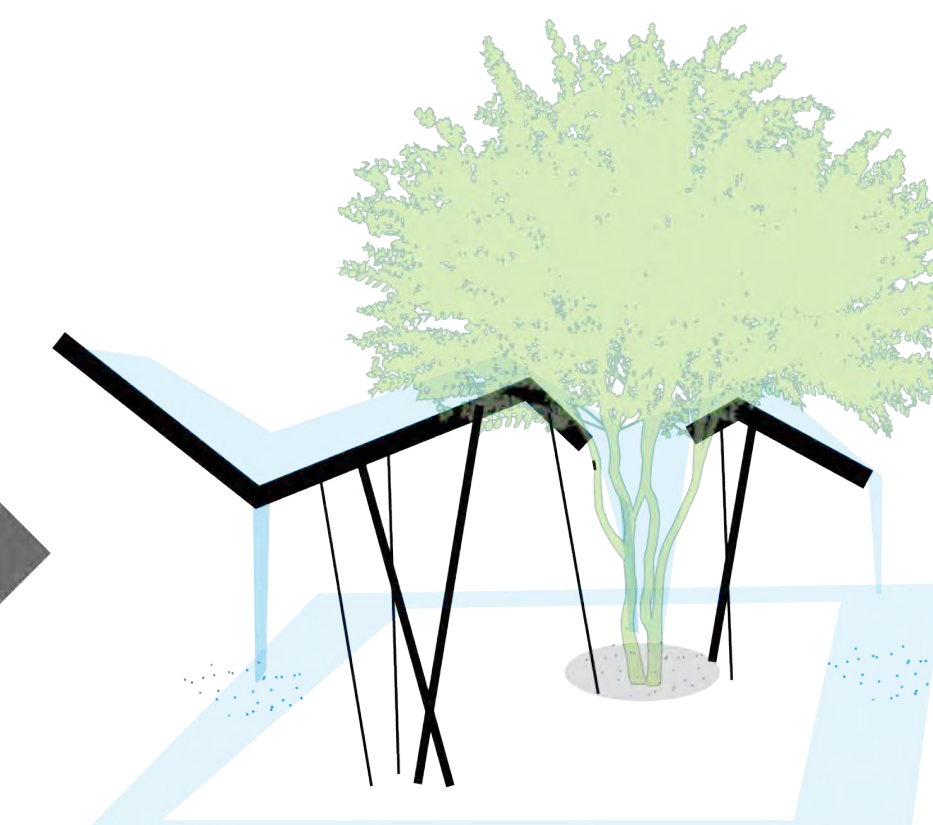
CREPE MYRTLE GROVE



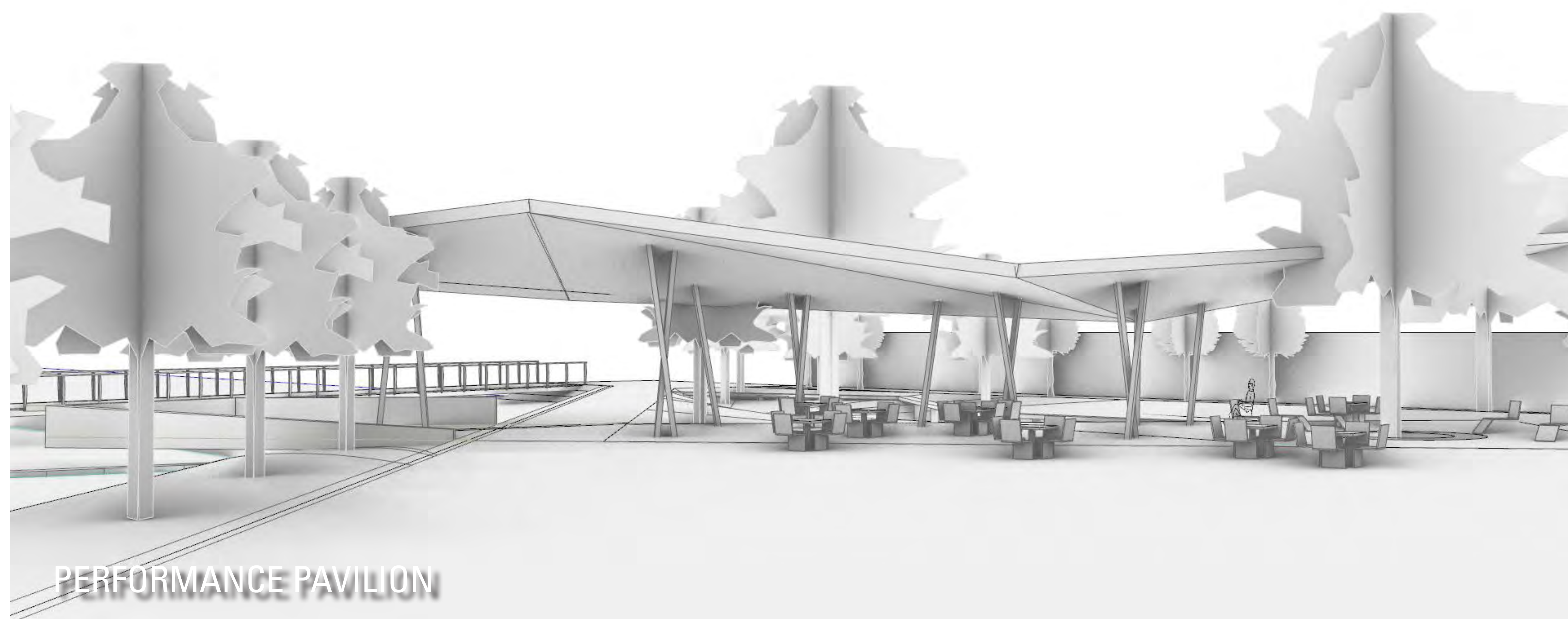
TRUNK



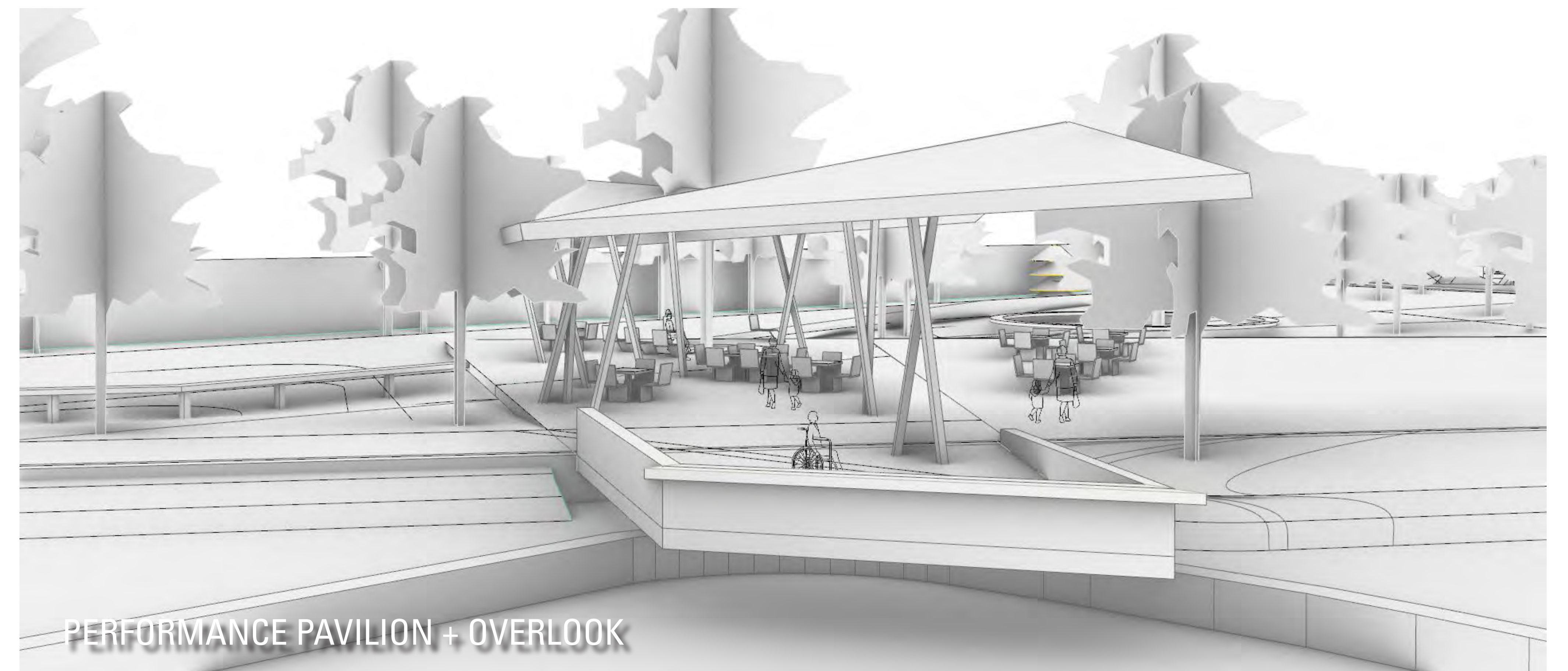
CREATE A SPACE



WEAVE WITH NATURE



PERFORMANCE PAVILION



PERFORMANCE PAVILION + OVERLOOK

The Performance Lawn is a pure ellipse. It has been shifted north to allow greater visibility and access from Bay Street for events and day to day use. It offers opportunities for a variety of field sports and is large enough to accommodate events up to 13,000 people.

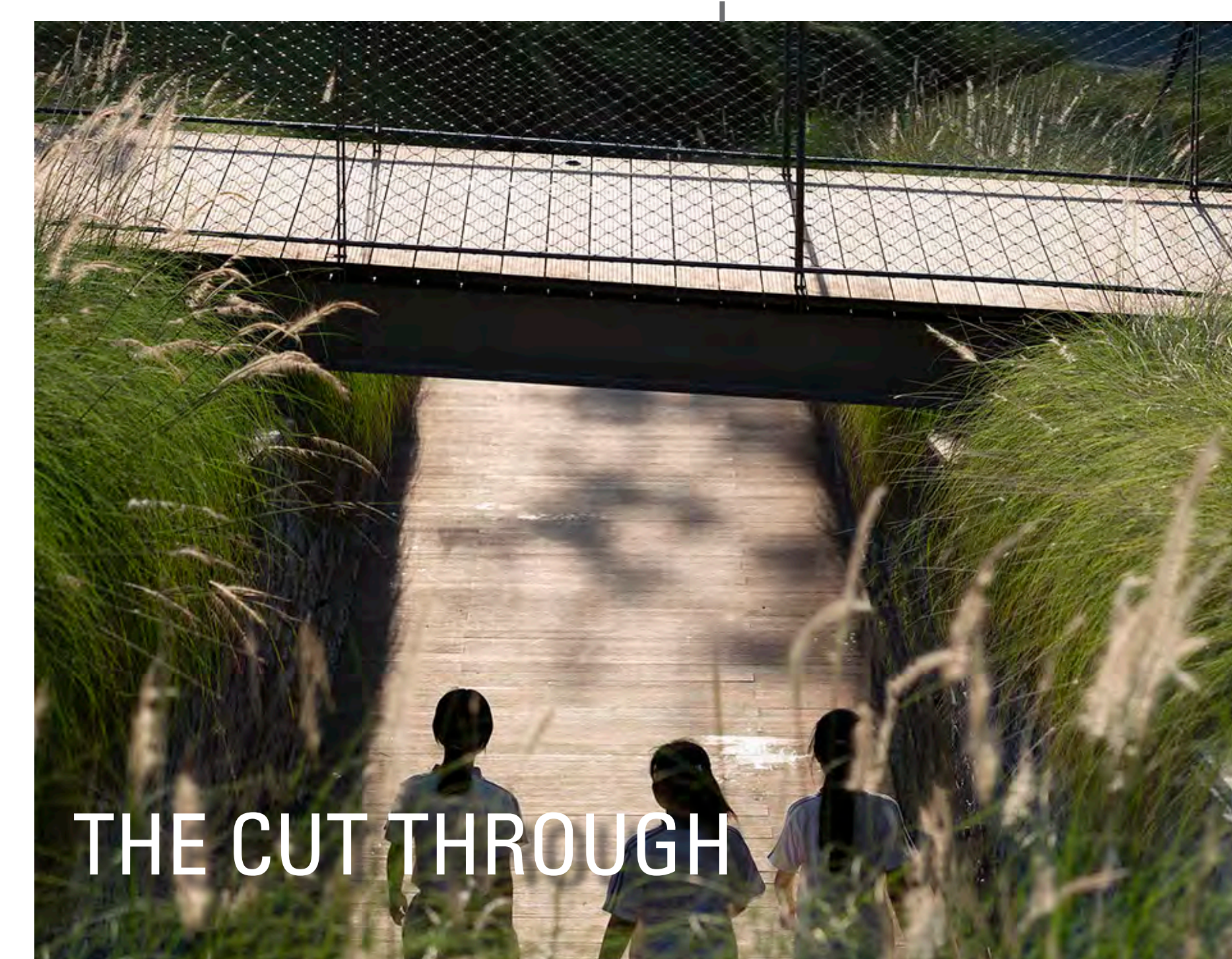
PERFORMANCE LAWN




1 Daily activity & Flexible lawn sports



2 Host city wide event or community activity



THE CUT THROUGH



VIEW MOUND



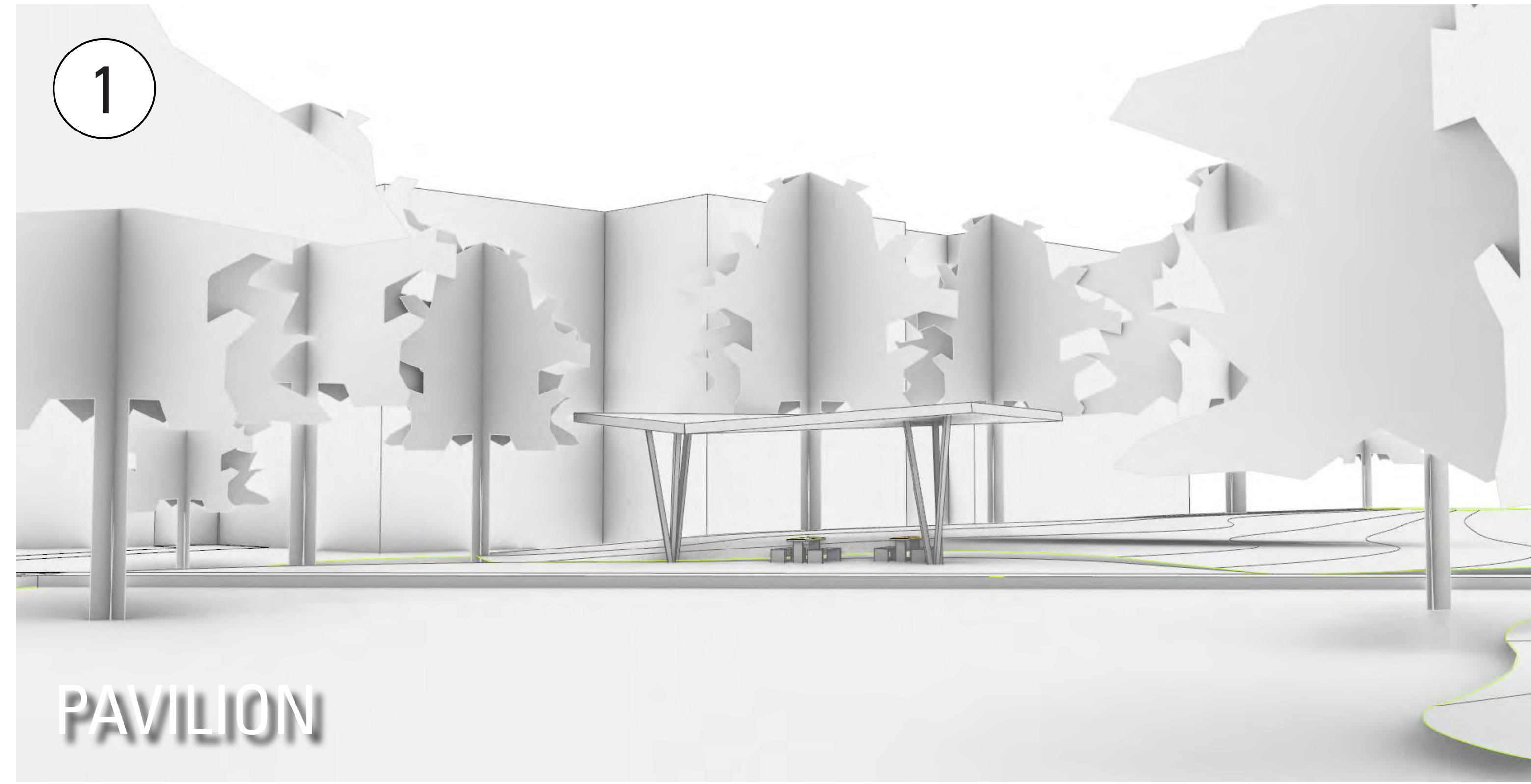
THE FOYER

“DISCOVERY GREEN” features a small lawn with a planted hill side interwoven with art and informal play features. Several picnic areas are nestled under a canopy of trees within a rolling landscape. “Tucked” behind a grove of relocated Live Oak Trees, Discovery Green is a perfect location for visitors to pause and enjoy a shaded park experience slightly off of the beaten path.

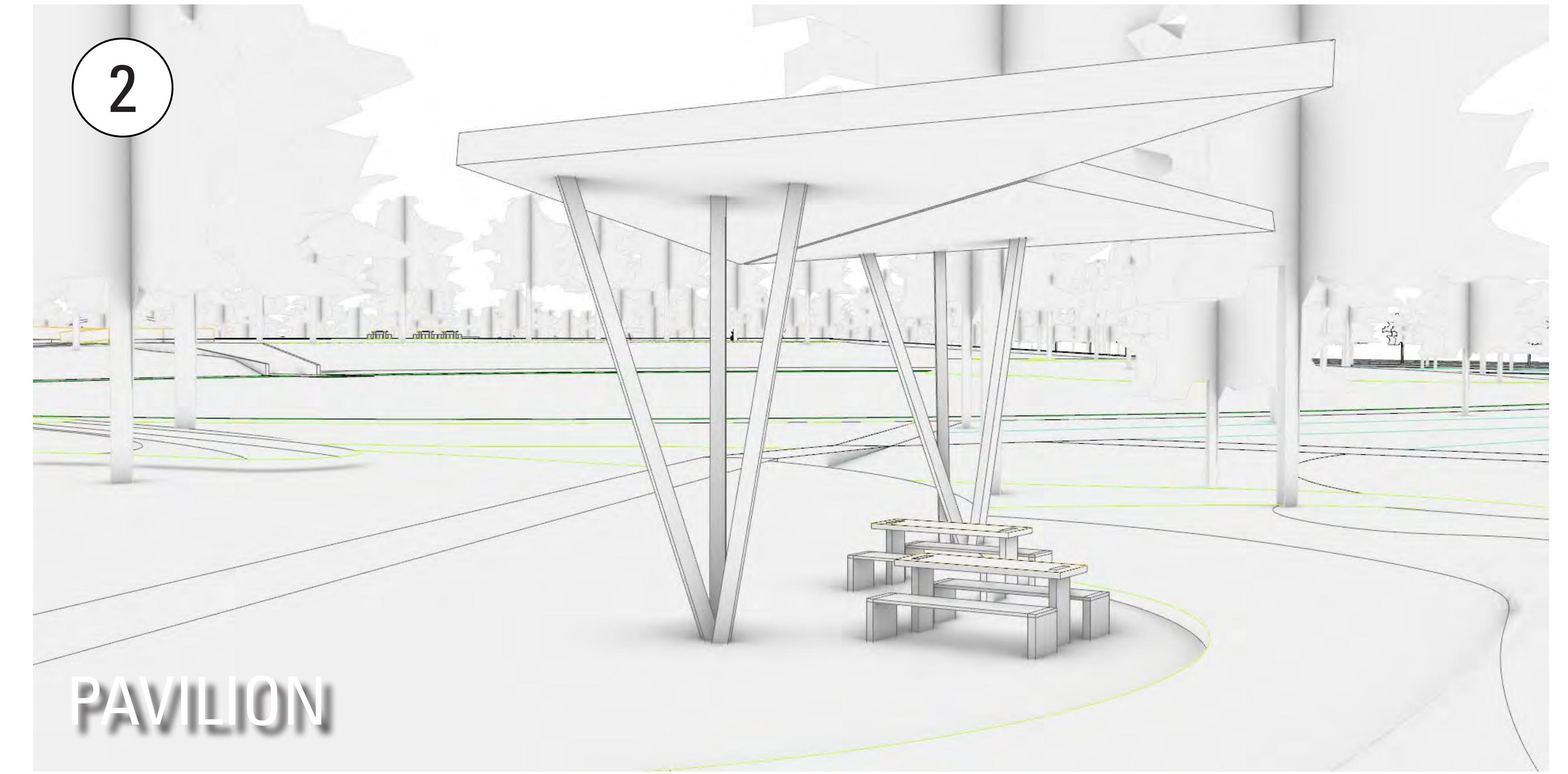
DISCOVERY GREEN



HIDDEN LAWN WITH A PAVILION



PAVILION



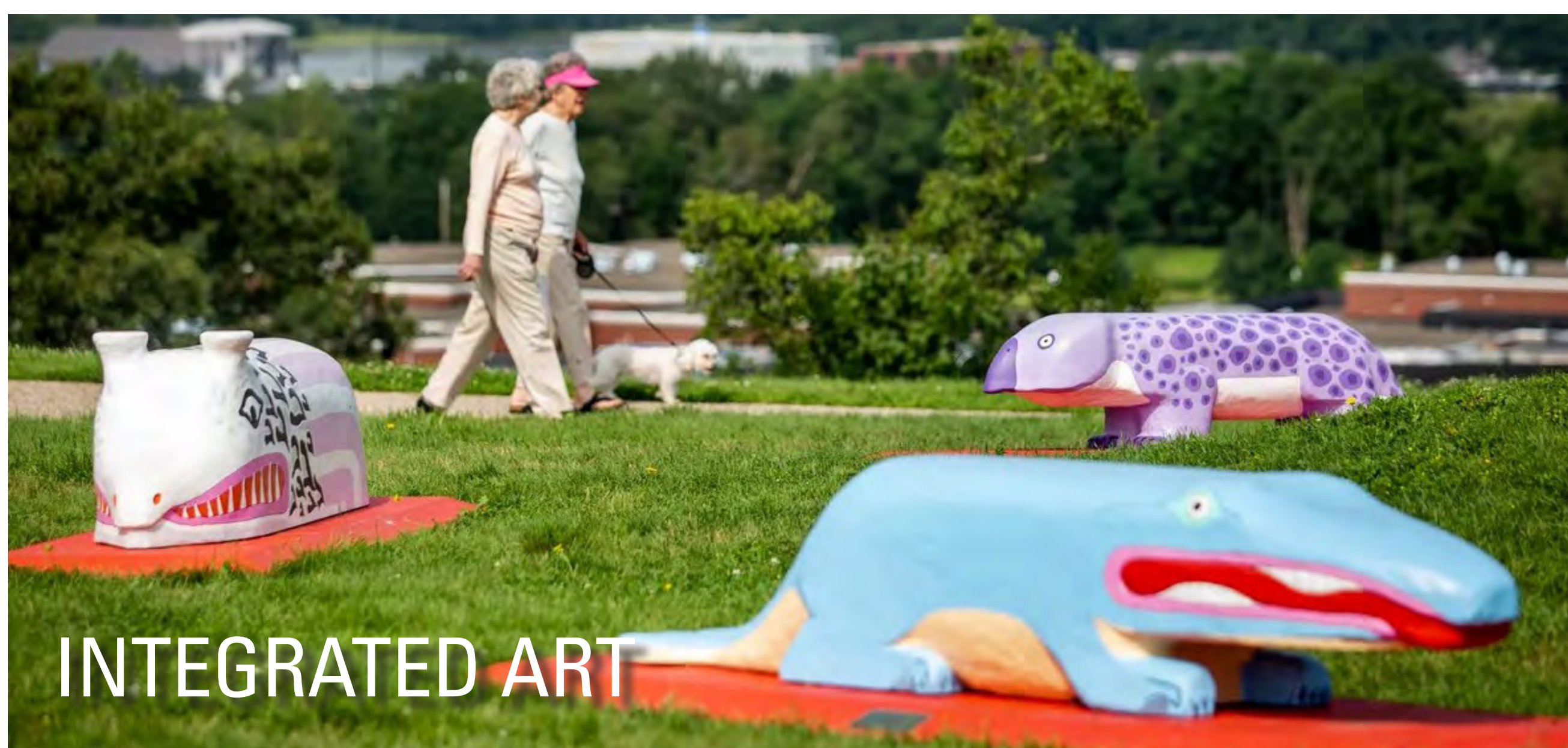
PAVILION



PICNIC AREA



EXPLORATION PLAY

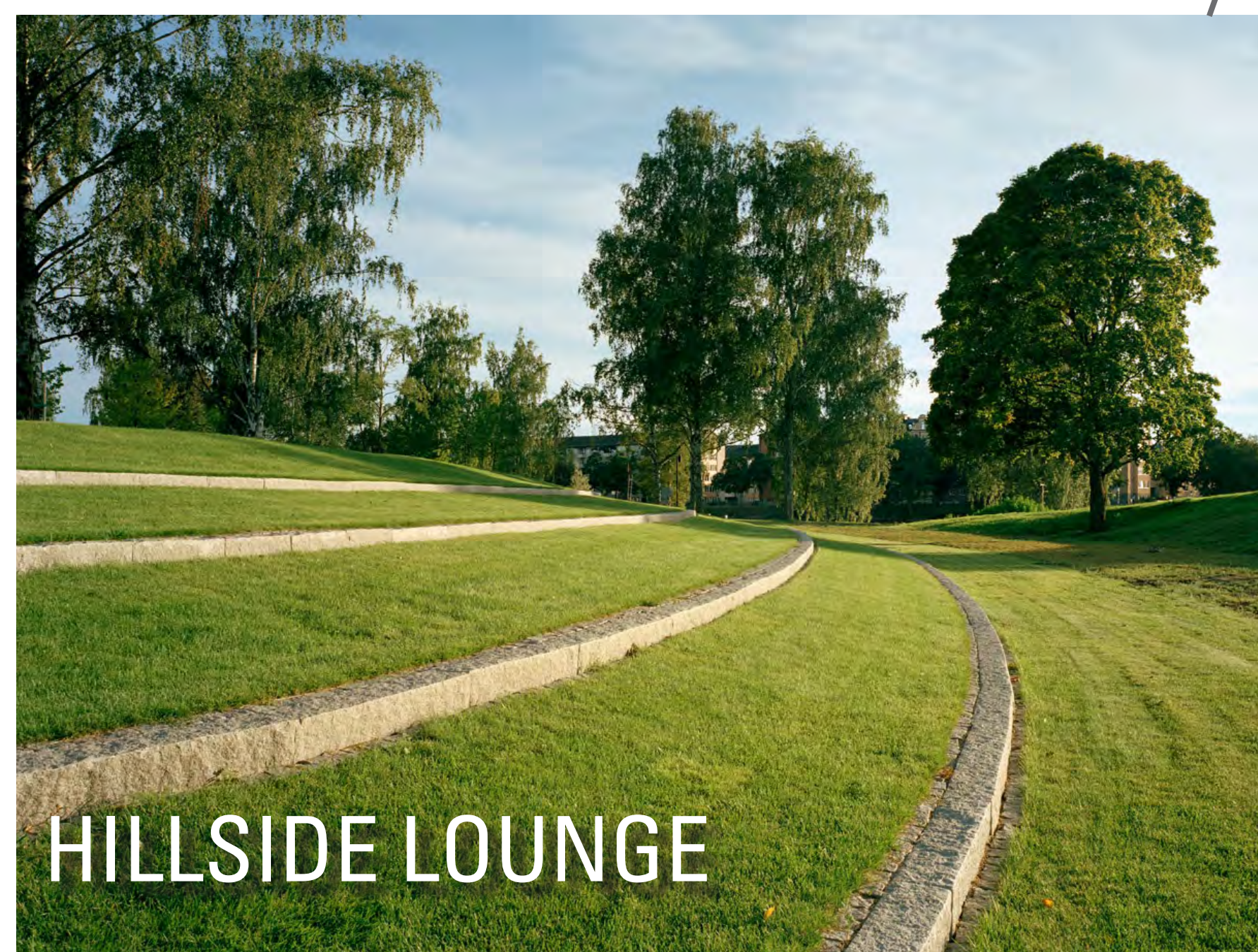


INTEGRATED ART



The Braided Riverwalk is a highly unique experience along Jacksonville's Riverwalk. It boasts a vast naturalized landscape below a weaving system of boardwalks, elevated walks, seating areas and an expanded community dock. It acts as a resilient sponge protecting the park during large storm events and a place to capture and treat storm water.

BRAIDED RIVERWALK



HILLSIDE LOUNGE



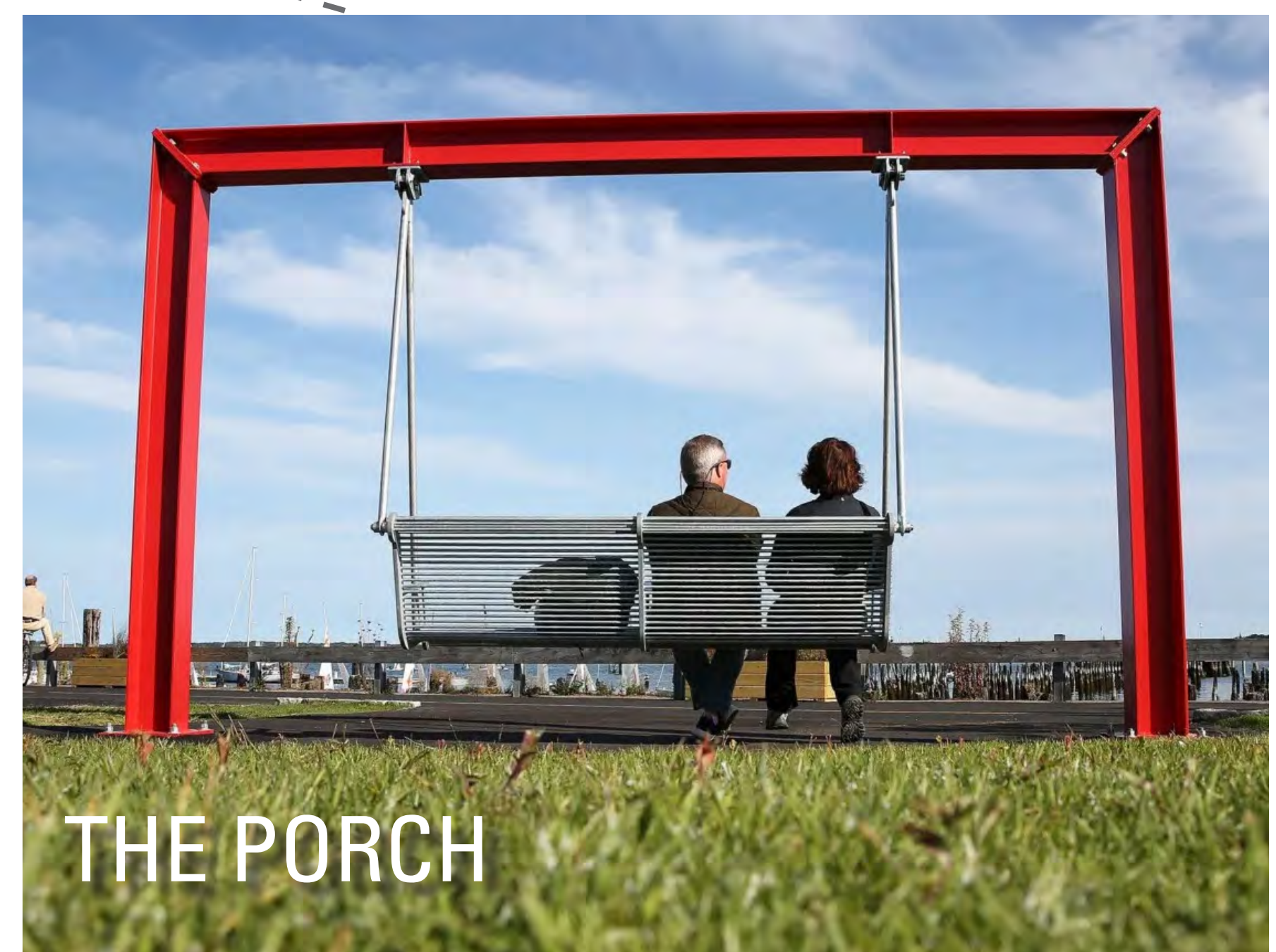
CANOPY WALK



THE CUT THROUGH + CANOPY WALK



BOARDWALK



THE PORCH

1 Walking along the Canopy Walk amongst the tree tops, you will arrive at the highest point in the park with splendid views upstream along the St. Johns River, and downstream with distant views of the Jacksonville skyline.

BRAIDED RIVERWALK




Ecological planting field with Boardwalk:
Looking east from the Canopy Walk

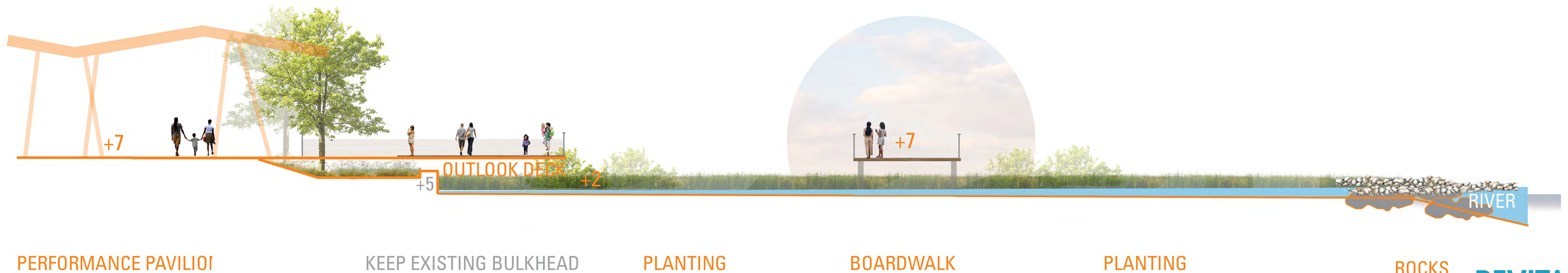


Downtown City View:
Looking west from the Canopy Walk

2 Section



3 Section



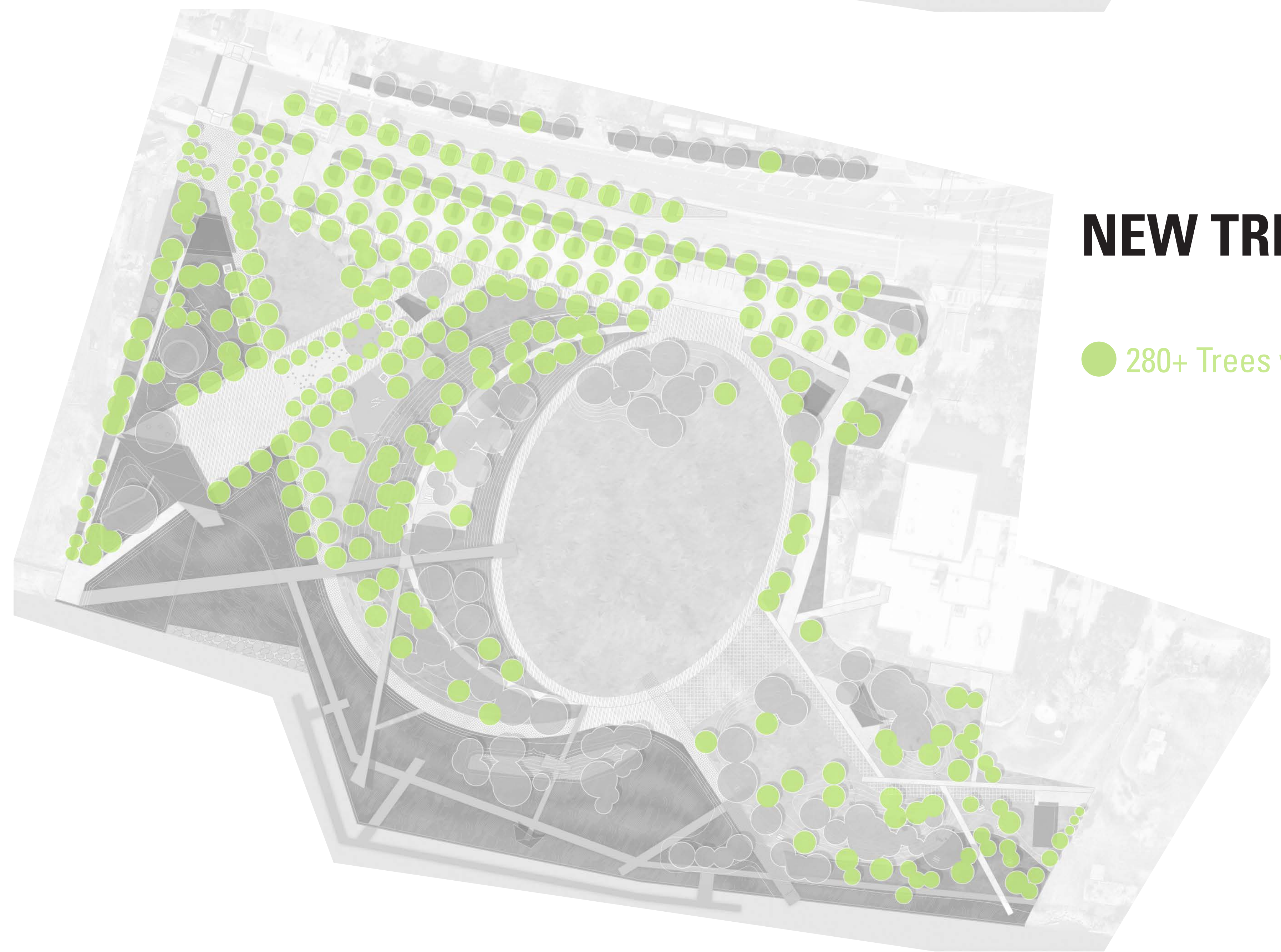
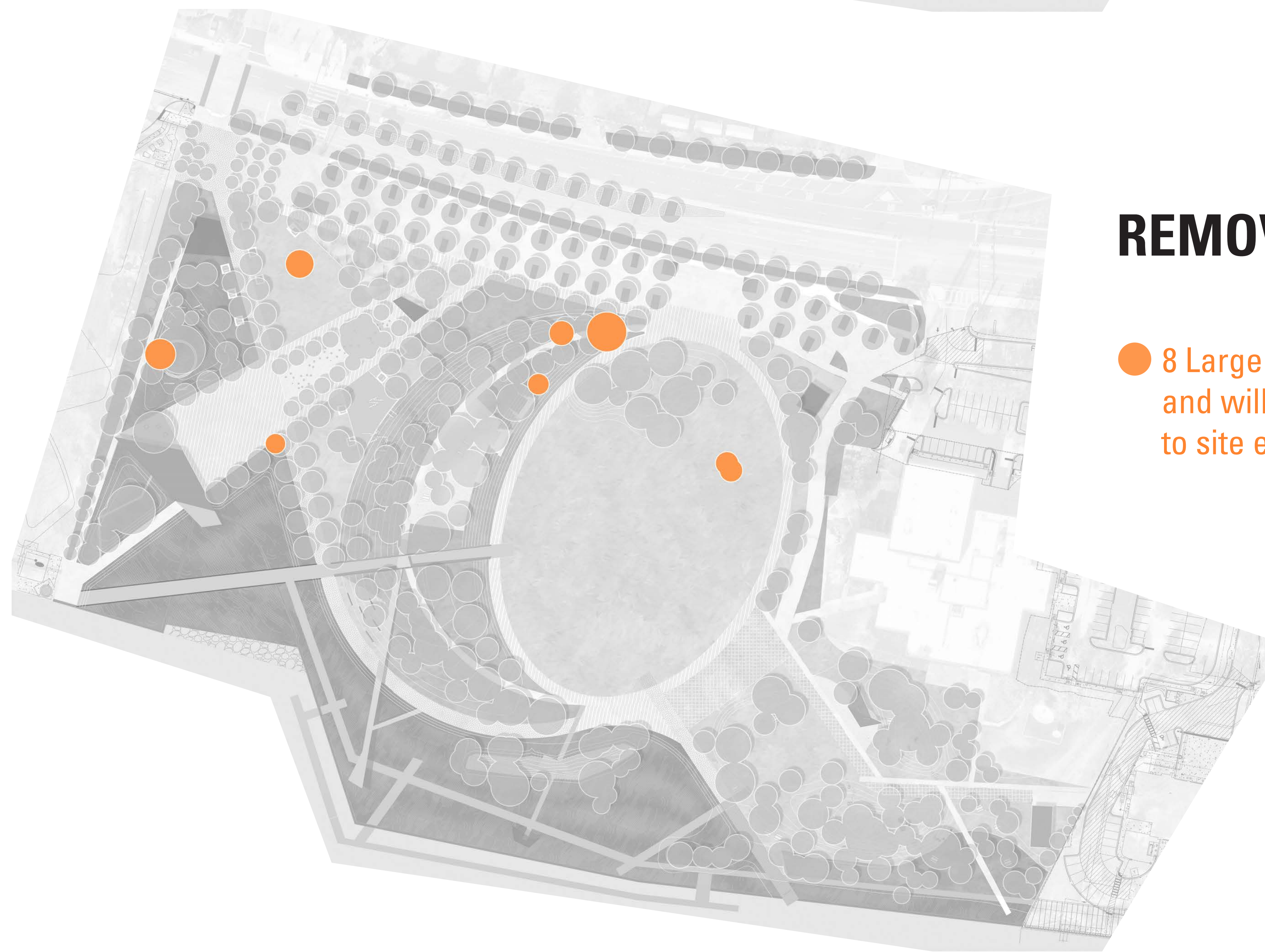
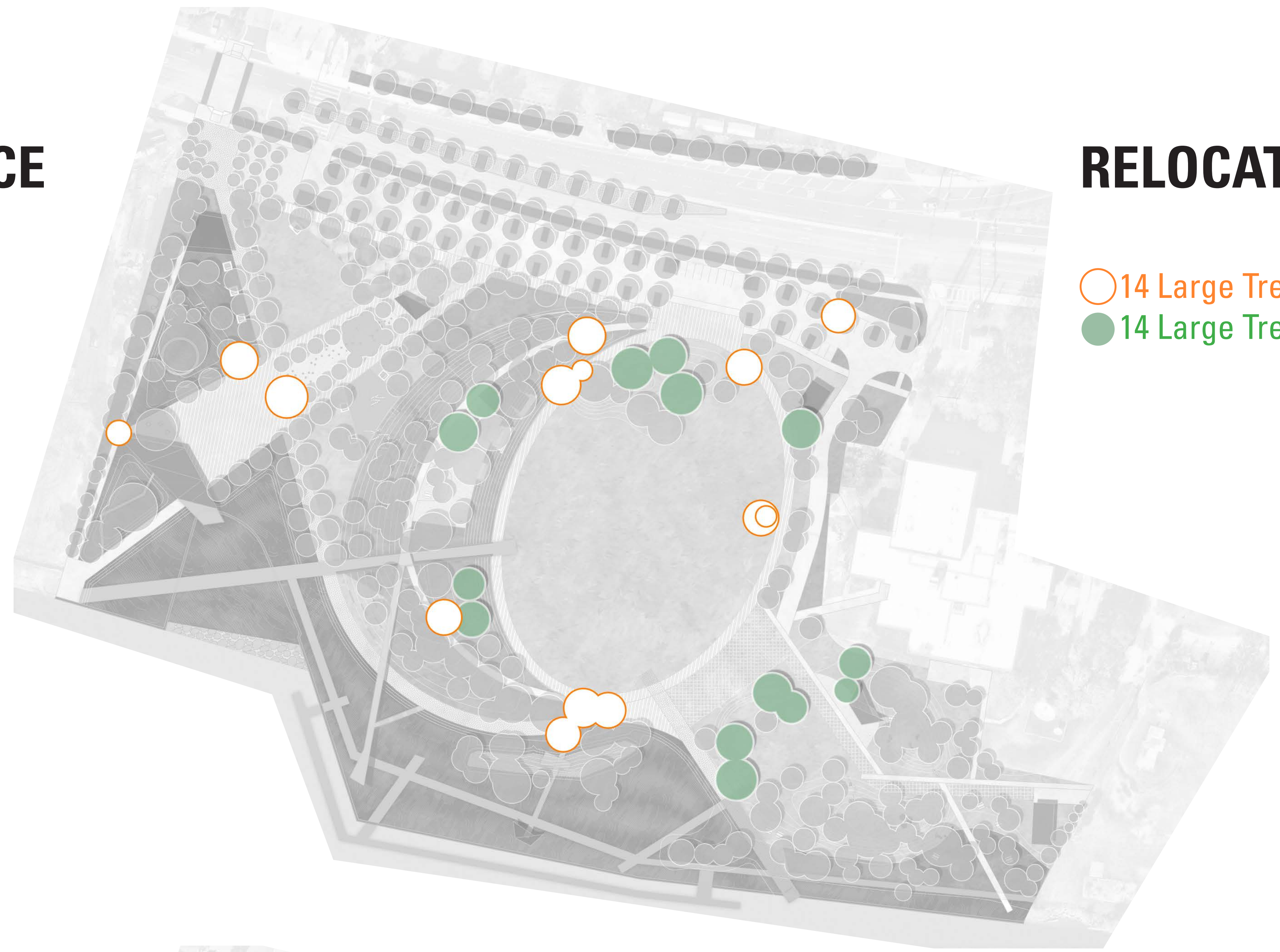
The existing tree canopy is one of the most beloved features of Metropolitan Park. As the design team has refined the proposed design, care was taken to protect existing trees where feasible, relocate matures trees as feasible, and to limit the removal of any healthy mature trees.

The biggest impact to the existing tree canopy is a result of the need to make the park more resilient by raising the overall grade by two feet. In spite of this major change to overall park elevation the proposed design limits mature large tree removal to approximately 8 trees, 14 trees being relocated, and 64 large trees protected in their existing locations.

*The large trees include: Live Oak, Laurel Oak, Maple, Cypress, Pine, Cedar.

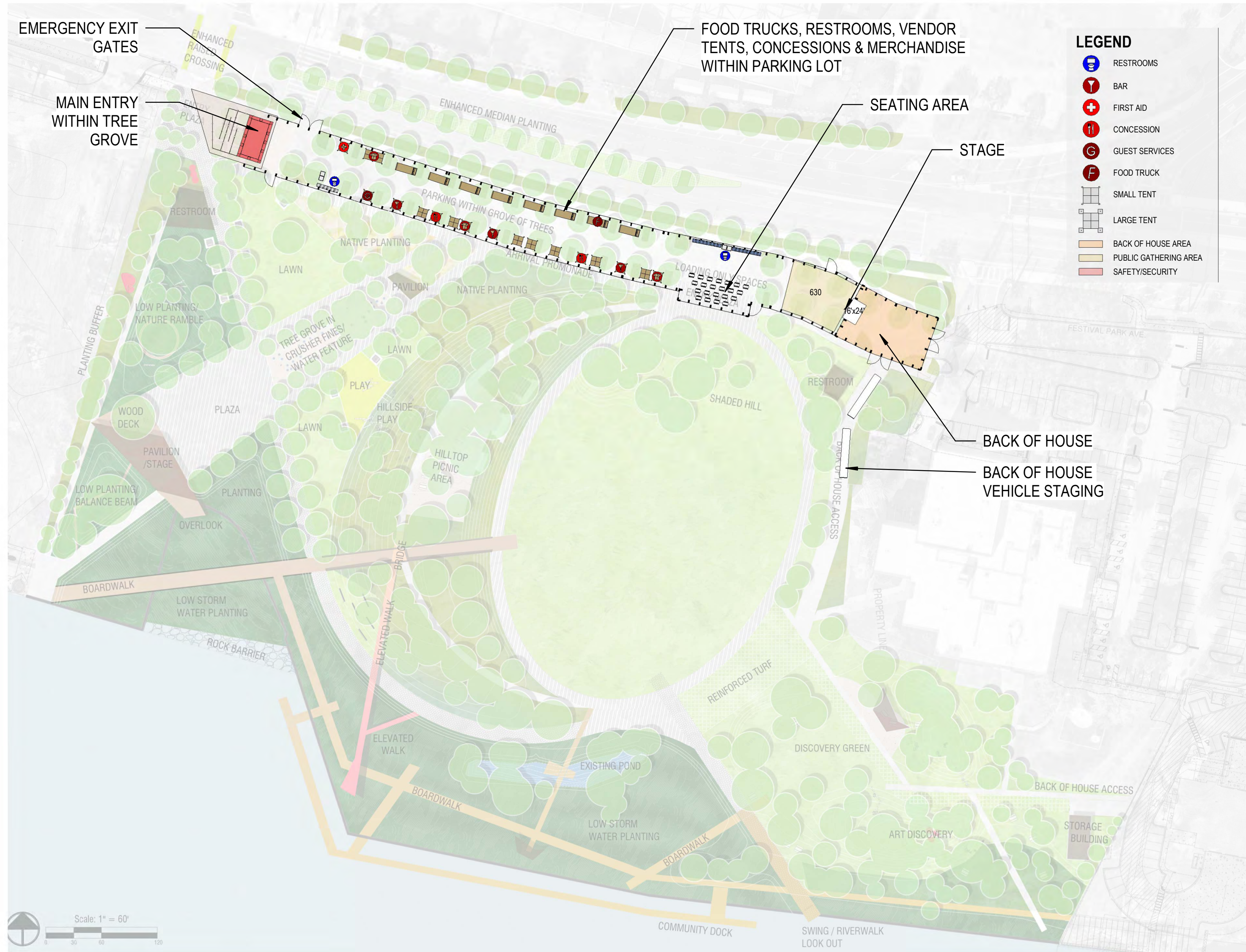
REVITALIZING METROPOLITAN PARK

Tree Canopy Potential Impact



REVITALIZING METROPOLITAN PARK

Event Capacity

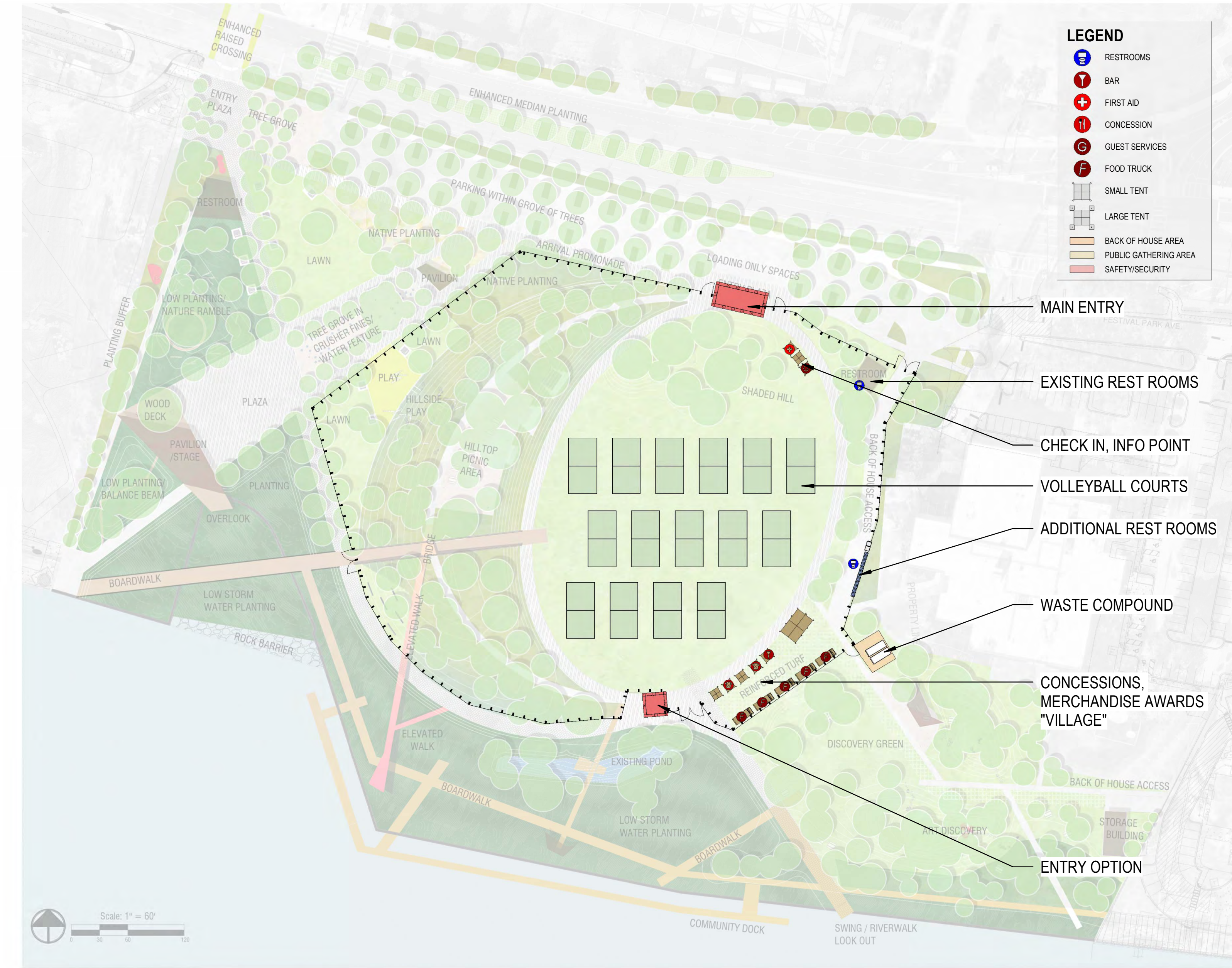


PARKING GROVE EVENT

Met Park has the opportunity to have a small event similar to a farmers' market, or fan activation area that stays within the parking lot, allowing the remainder of the park to be enjoyed as usual.

Food trucks, vendor tents, bars and merchandise tents space themselves out between the tree grove and within the parking spaces. The Foyer area could be enclosed and contain temporary restrooms and large seating area to enjoy their food and drinks while having a view to the stage. The stage area allows for up to 600 people to gather and enjoy the music up close, while still having area behind the stage for any back of house needs to operate the event.

This event could either be enclosed with fence as shown to make it more private, or allow for free flow between the rest of the park and the parking lot.

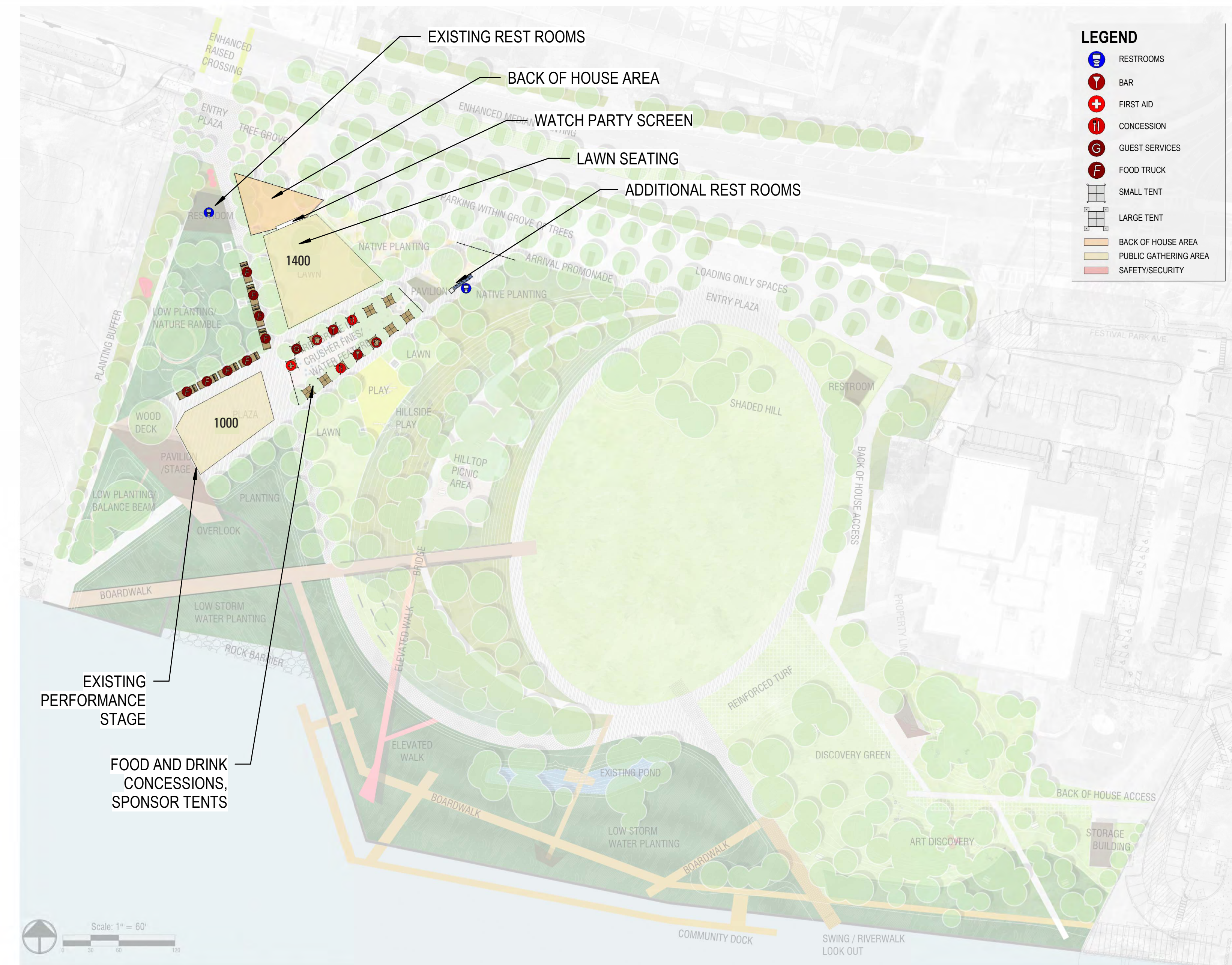


LAWN ONLY EVENT

As event size requirements grow there is ample space on the lawn itself to host events such as a volleyball tournament or concert with 10,000 of your closest friends.

As shown in the diagram multiple grass volleyball courts would fit on the great lawn to easily have multiple teams playing at once. Upon entering there is space to have your first aid and check in tents prior to hitting the courts. Reinforced turf and hardscape off the lawn provides space to create a concession, merchandise and awards village for guest and players to visit throughout the day. The access road could be utilized for additional restrooms and back-of-house operational elements.

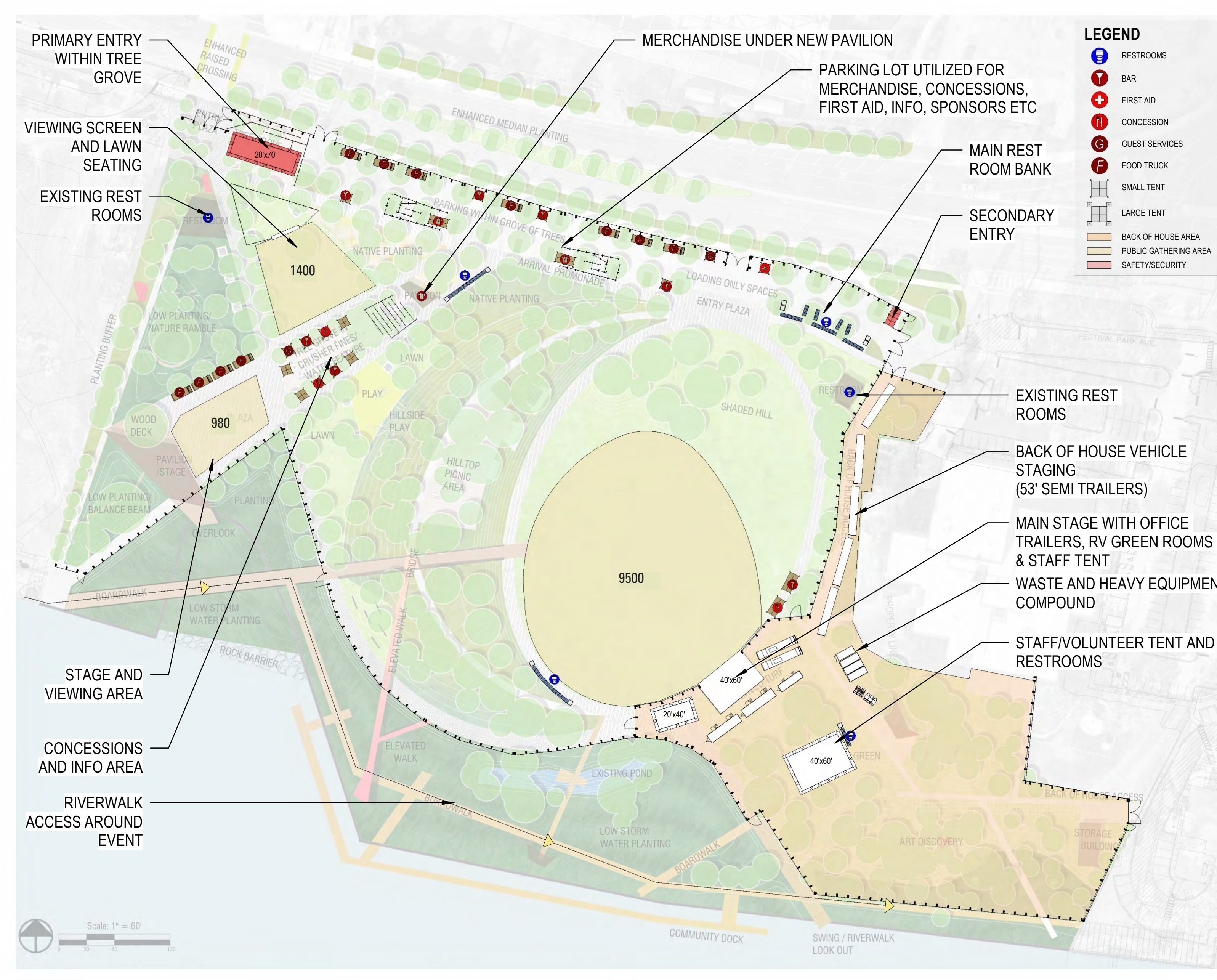
A secondary entry location at the bottom of the lawn is also possible should anyone arrive from the riverfront. Similar to other areas of the park this event is shown enclosed with fence allowing movement across the lawn and to watch the event from the hillside, but without fencing people could flow freely from different areas of the park to check out what's happening and stay for the final match.



PERFORMANCE PAVILION AREA EVENT

Utilizing the existing pavilion and areas surrounding it, there is the opportunity to setup events similar to a watch party, small concert, farmers market or all three of these items together without utilizing any of the main lawn. Small tents tuck between trees that could be home to bars, concessions, merchandise, general information and first aid. There is space for food trucks to line along the main pathways just to the side of the pavilion and near both the lawn with a watch party and to the pavilion where there could be music, performances, or pep rally.

This scenario shows this area open to the rest of the park for free flow movement in and out of the event but could be fenced off to become more private with temporary fence if desired.



FULL PARK EVENT

Combining all elements and zones allows for multifaceted events to come to Met Park. This could be multiple stages of different sizes and artists, large food festivals broken up in different zones, or having a mix of both. The parking lot would be the main thoroughfare for all things concessions and merchandise to a large bank of temporary restrooms before heading to the lawn for the main event.

For event setup just off of the lawn is a large open area that allows for multiple stage locations options depending on the artist desires and reinforced turf can support all the back of house operations from production trailers, artist RVs, staff and catering tents even allowing for heavy equipment storage and a waste compound. A wide back of house access road provides room to stage trucks for both setup and tear down.

At this scale of an event the park would need to be enclosed with fence for security and to keep the event to ticket holders only. While the event is taking place there is still an opportunity to pass by on the riverwalk without being forced into a dead end once the riverwalk extends further past the park as future developments begin.