

Urban Laboratory >

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Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture

Professors

Jonathan Kline & Rami el Samahy

Fall 2008

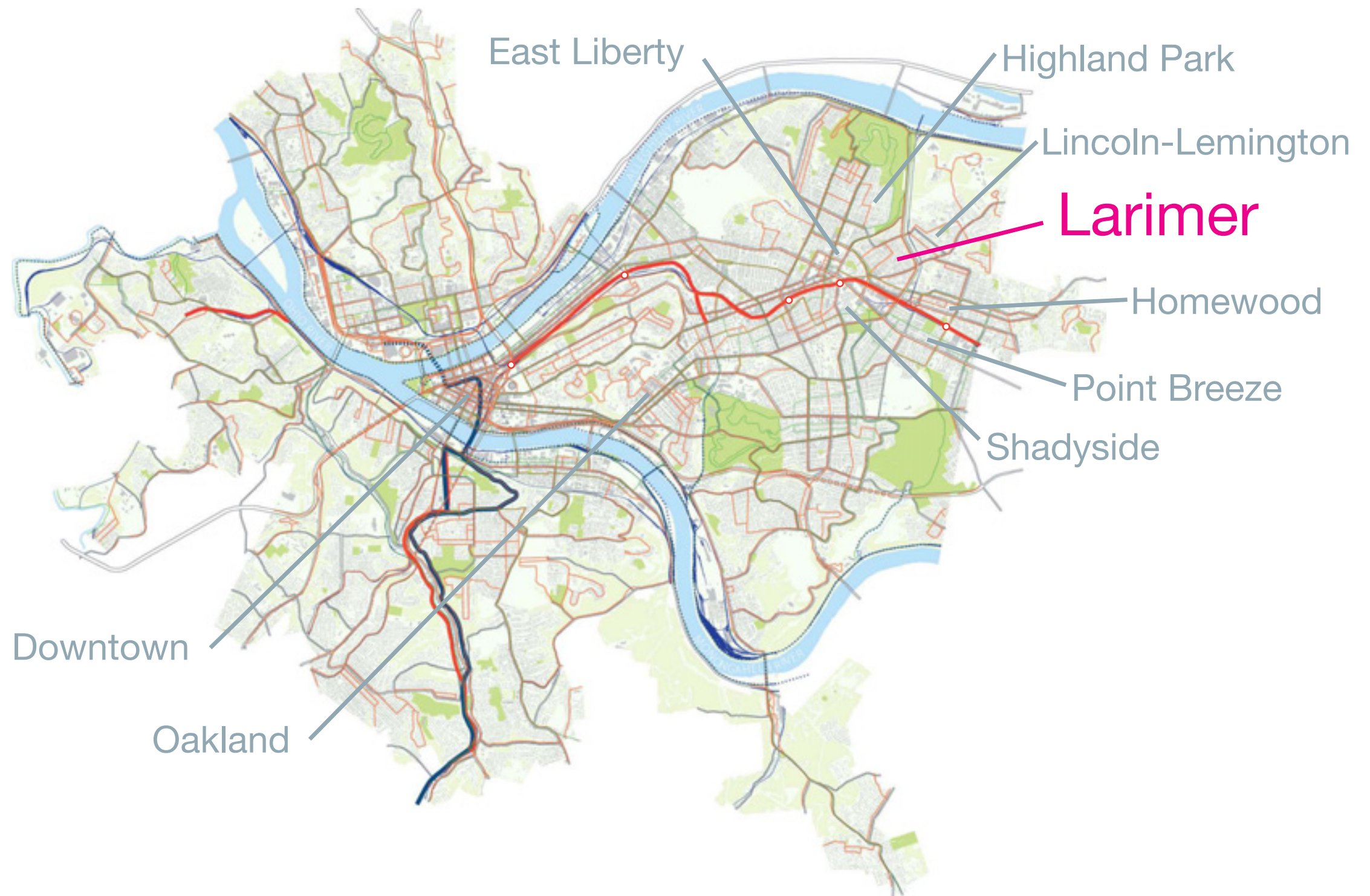
> The Urban Laboratory is a studio based outreach program in Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture. Each fall, teams of students work with community members to craft innovative design visions for a neighborhood in the Pittsburgh Region.



Larimer Studio >

This fall the Urban Laboratory has collaborated with the Pittsburgh community of Larimer. This historic neighborhood sits in the center of Pittsburgh's vibrant and resurgent East End. Over the last twenty years Larimer has remained cut-off from the success of the surrounding communities, suffering from extreme vacancy, disinvestment and concentrated poverty.

This studio has explored how physical urban design strategies could address this situation to reimagine and revitalize Larimer.



Collaborating with two major community organizations, East Liberty Concerned Citizens and The Kingsley Association, and working with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, our students have examined two radically different approaches to how the neighborhood could evolve over the next 40 years.

Process >

Three phases over one semester

Analysis - Frameworks - Projects

Process >

Analysis

Community Meeting I: September 23

Urban Design Frameworks

Community Meeting II: October 14

Urban Design Project

Community Meeting III: December 9





Larimer Base Comments:

Yellow (OPPORTUNITY):

1. Empower greening
2. Empower greening
3. Redevelopment ahead
4. Level land
5. Opportunity
6. G Tech development
7. New green business start-up
8. Trade school
9. HOYA
10. Charter school
11. Shoe Storz
12. Deli & restaurant
13. Park or green space
14. Empower Green
15. Dream Shops
16. Green space corridor
17. New jobs Larimer Ave.
18. Housing
19. Green jobs where Auburn Towers was
20. Bar/ super club
21. Thomas Building
22. HOYA
23. Possibility of a few small businesses
24. Green development mixed businesses
25. Commercial activity/advertisement
26. Man vacant lots, gardens and green spaces
27. Jobs when complete green up
28. Business development, jobs, Iron City uniform
29. Dance studio
30. Restaurant, artists, manufacturing
31. Funky artsy eclectic
32. Pedestrian/bike/mass transit transport

Purple (WEAKNESSES):

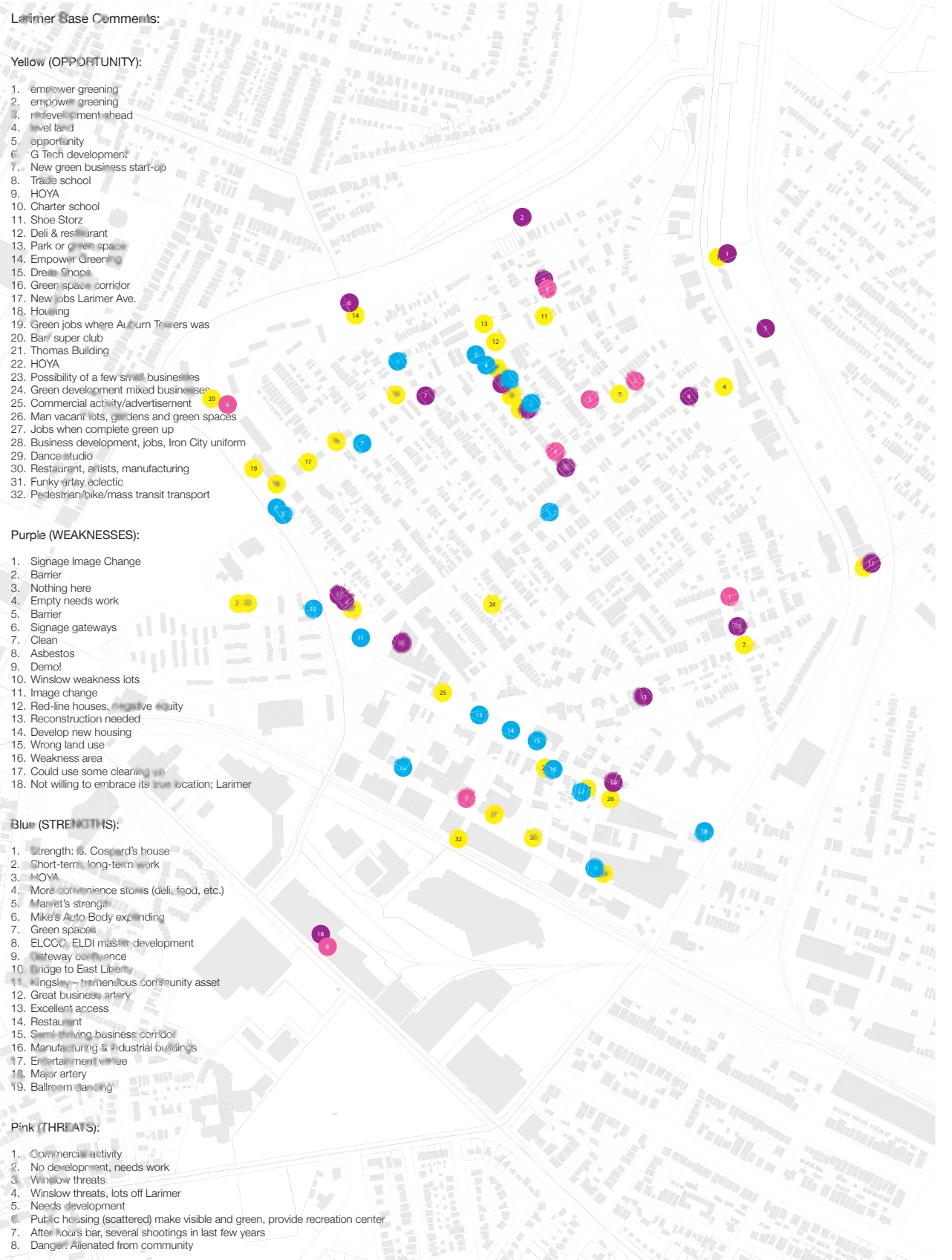
1. Signage Image Change
2. Barrier
3. Nothing here
4. Empty needs work
5. Barrier
6. Signage gateways
7. Clean
8. Asbestos
9. Demo!
10. Winslow weakness lots
11. Image change
12. Red-line houses, negative equity
13. Reconstruction needed
14. Develop new housing
15. Wrong land use
16. Weakness area
17. Could use some clearing up
18. Not willing to embrace its true location; Larimer

Blue (STRENGTHS):

1. Strength: St. Cosperd's house
2. Short-term, long-term work
3. HOYA
4. More convenience stores (deli, food, etc.)
5. Marvett's strength
6. Mike's Auto Body expanding
7. Green space
8. ELCCO ELDI master development
9. Gateway convenience
10. Bridge to East Liberty
11. Kingsley - tremendous community asset
12. Great business artery
13. Excellent access
14. Restaurant
15. Strong driving business corridor
16. Manufacturing & industrial buildings
17. Entertainment venue
18. Major artery
19. Ballroom dancing

Pink (THREATS):

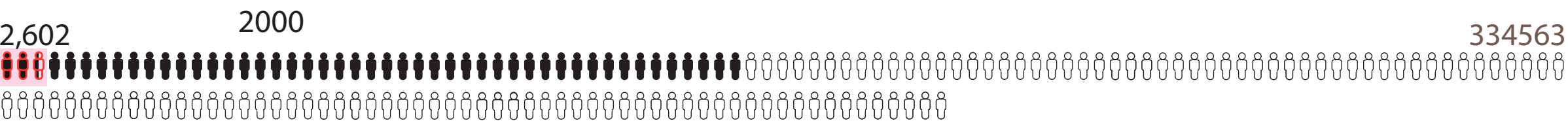
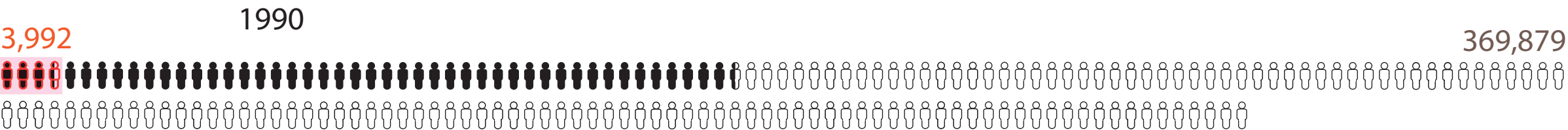
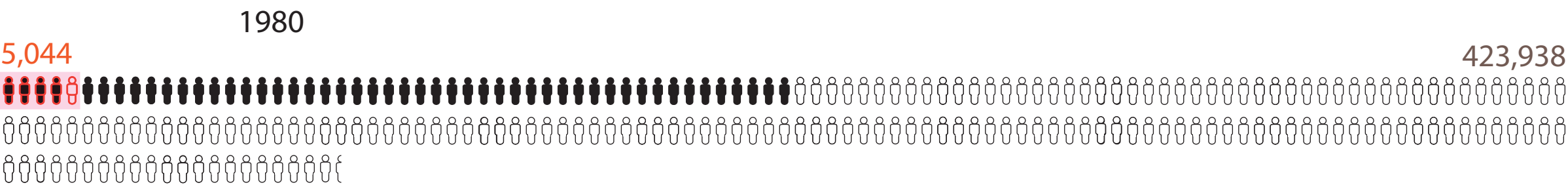
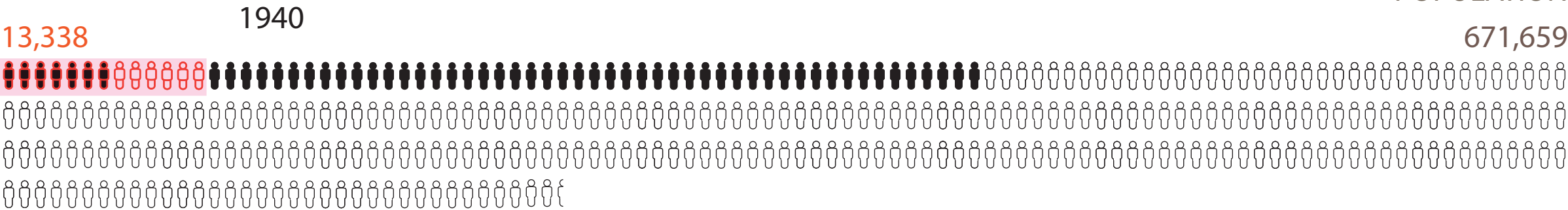
1. Commercial activity
2. No development, needs work
3. Winslow threats
4. Winslow threats, lots off Larimer
5. Needs development
6. Public housing (scattered) make visible and green, provide recreation center
7. After hours bar, several shootings in last few years
8. Danger: Alienated from community



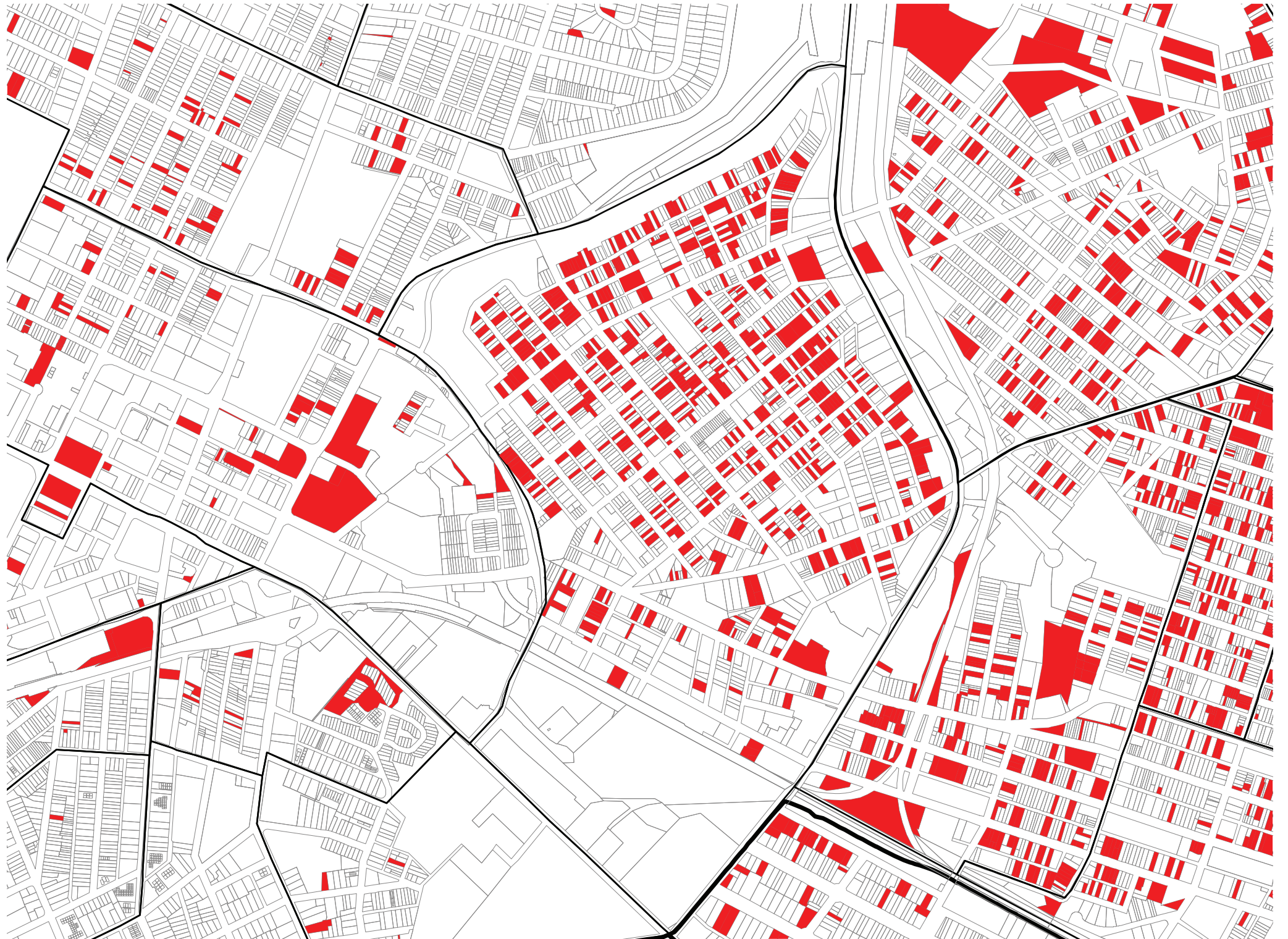
A Radically Smaller Population

LARIMER
POPULATION

PITTSBURGH
POPULATION



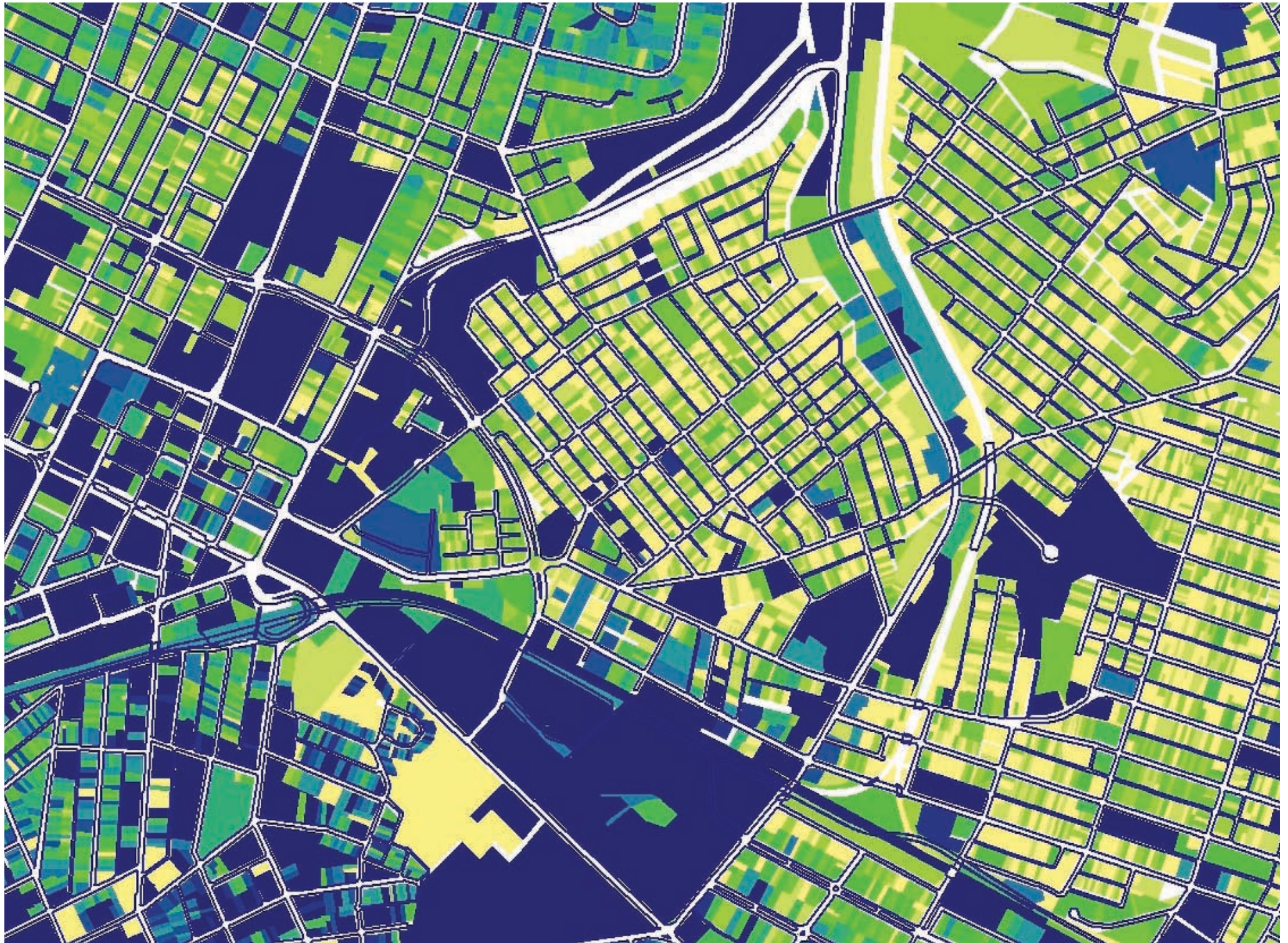
Concentrated Vacant Land



Abundant Green Space



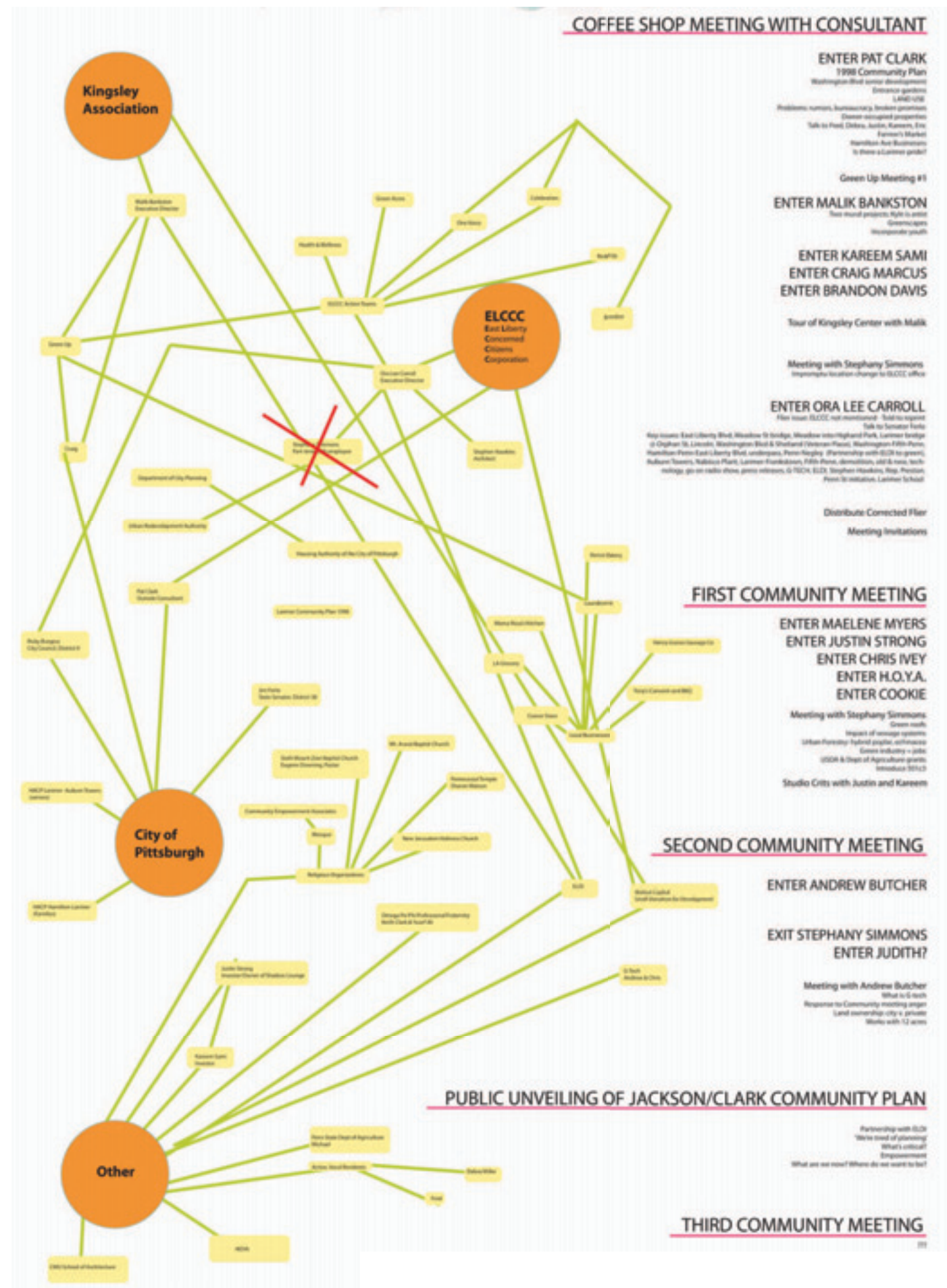
Depressed Property Values



Isolating Edge Conditions



A Complex Social Infrastructure



Create job training programs for both older residents and the youth

Need family friendly establishments

Create a commercial corridor that densifies businesses, make a main street

Lack of access to basic goods + services

Establish mixed-use buildings: upper level residential businesses and lower level businesses

Want to be responsible for own development

Larimer School needs to be redeveloped or demolished, could be a large development

Create recreational facilities to give youth something to do (after-school programs, jobs mowing lawns, etc.)

Need for summer education/activities

Get control of overgrown vacant lots with planned landscapes

Fix neglected sidewalks – perception of Larimer as dumping ground

Permeable materials to replace broken streets/sidewalks to help with storm water runoff

High speed traffic on Negley Run and Washington Blvd., used as a bypass

Improve communication between community and city

City owns lots but doesn't take care of them – need city to do things like employ youth to maintain lots

Educate members of community about regulations/process governing development

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Create a library to give people public asset, something to do, enhance education

Adult literacy center, better parents – better kids

Give youth a voice

Green jobs

Green buildings

Increase community participation through communal events

Upgrade image of neighborhood

Create community center/heart in a public space

Avoid the the “Huxtable syndrome”

Create destination/large catalyst to draw people to neighborhood

No signage distinguishing entrance into Larimer, need for vibrant gateways

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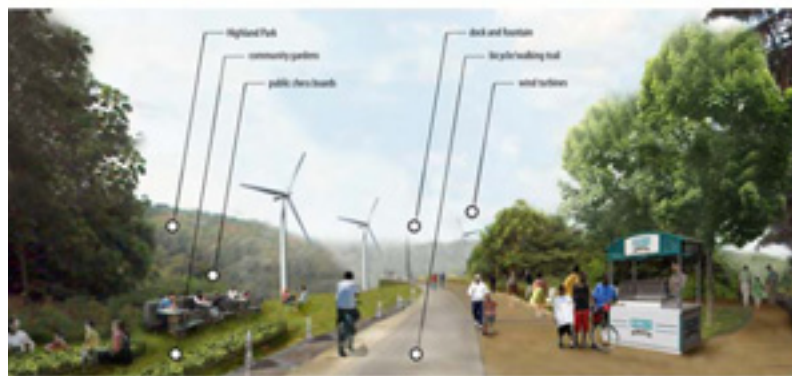
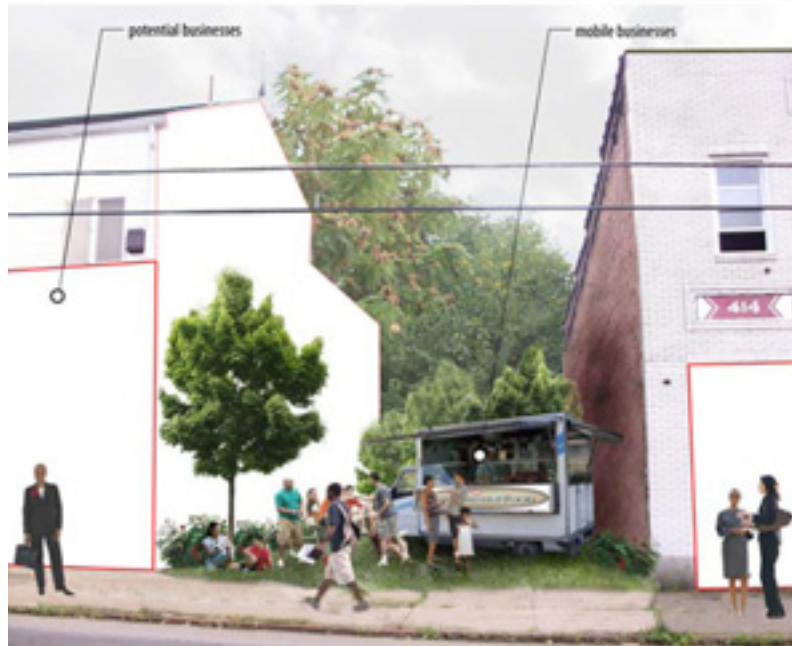
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Urban Design Project

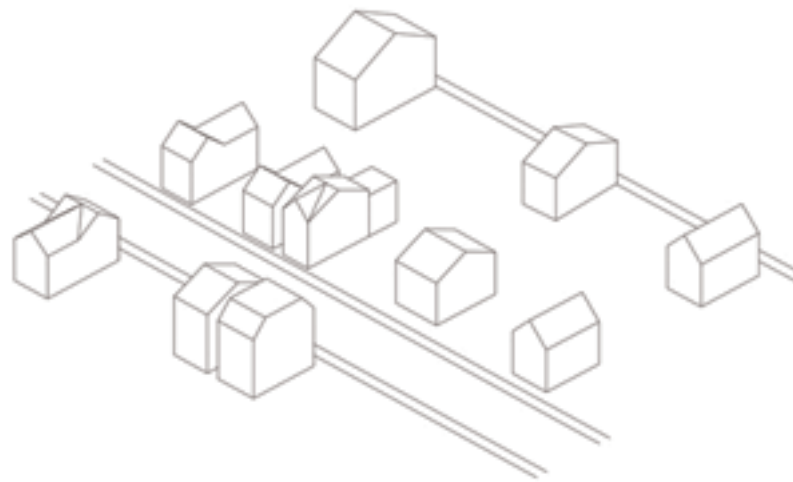
Community Meeting III: December 9



Framework I



Framework 2



existing conditions



opportunities



Framework 3

Phase 5 - Orchard Production and Refinement

Extend Urban Farm

Consolidate existing small scale plot farming into viable orchards

Apple Cider Processing and Distribution

KEYS

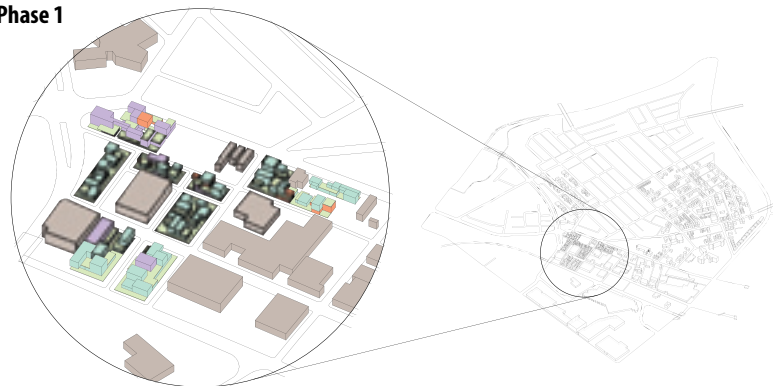
- Pedestrian Road
- Minor Car Routes
- Outdoor Built Space
- Small Scale Farming on Vacant Lots
- Phase 1 Infill Area
- Phase 2 Infill Area
- Phase 3 Infill Area
- Phase 4 Infill Area
- Phase 5 Infill Area



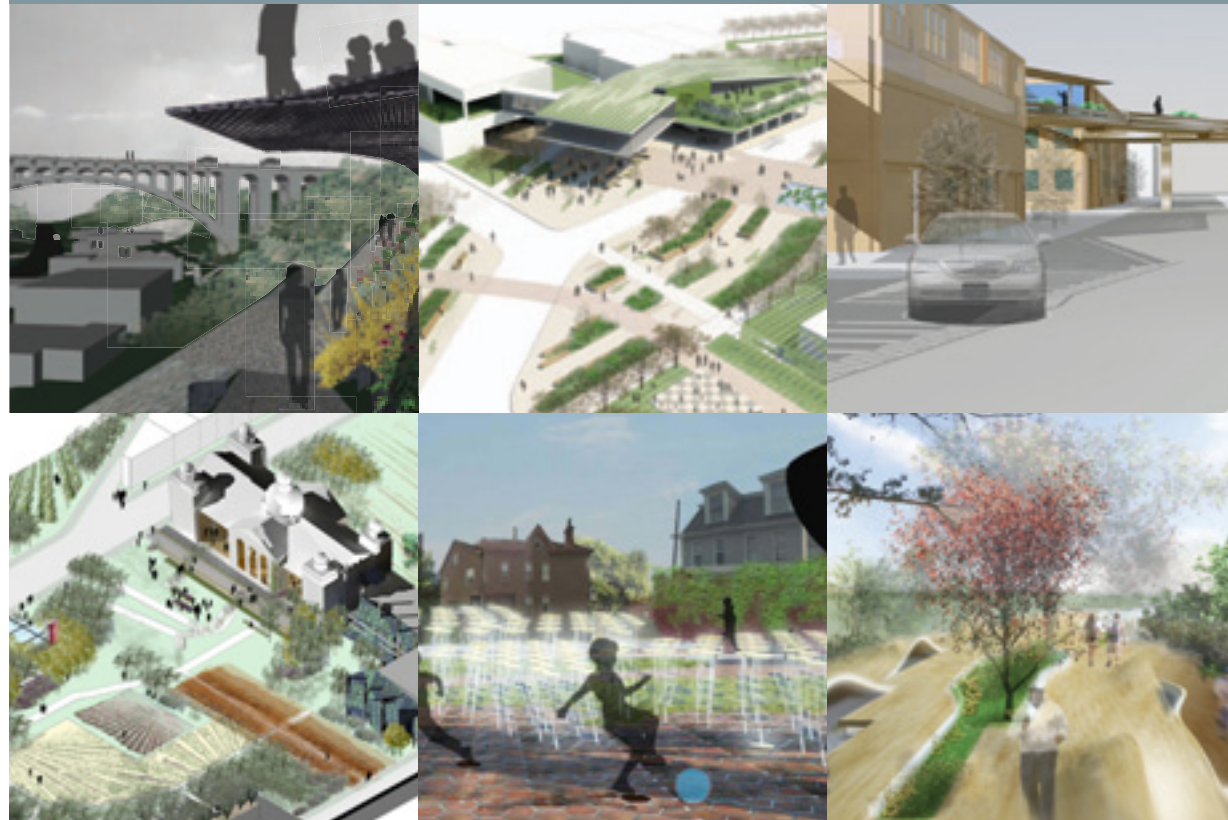
23 Orchard Development
24 Field and Pasture Expansion
25 Apple Cider Processing



Phase 1



Process >



Analysis

Community Meeting I: September 23

Urban Design Frameworks

Community Meeting II: October 14

Urban Design Project

Community Meeting III: December 9

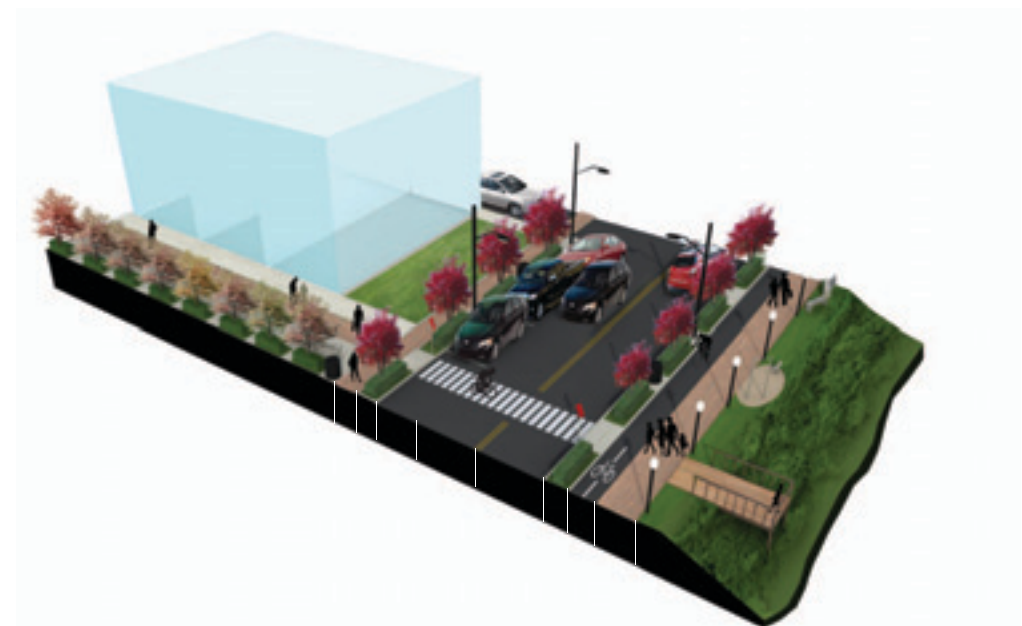
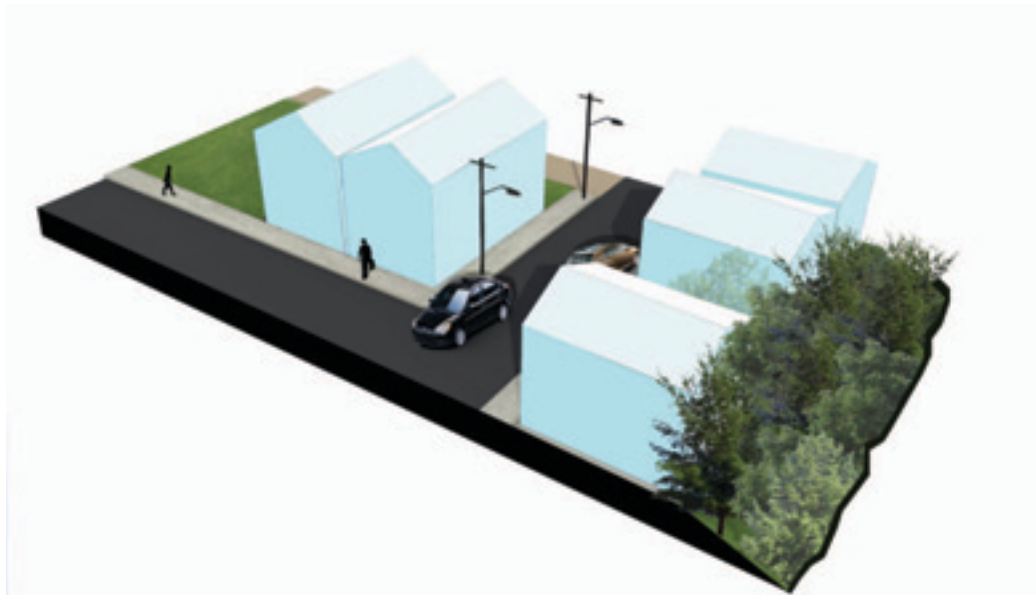
Recommendations >

Two Revised Framework Options
& 12 Projects

Framework 1 + 2

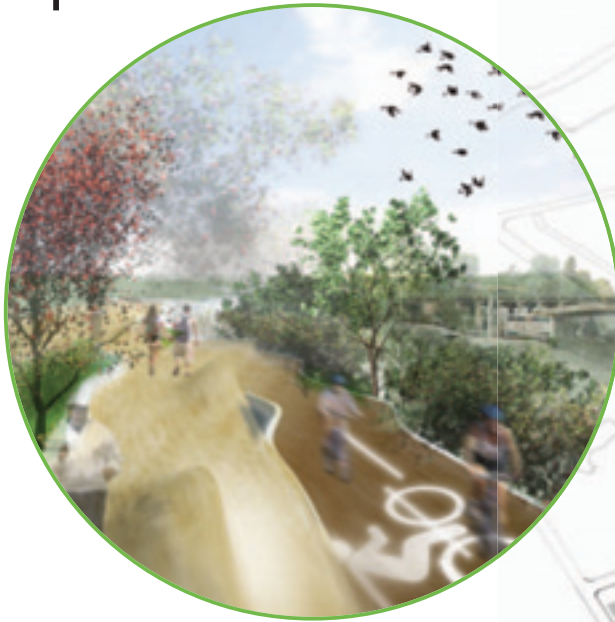
The Promenade

Alison Schloemer, Diana Miller, Tim Thianthai & Christian Wagner



New Parks & Greenspace on the Edge

Transform vacant edges to a promenade park



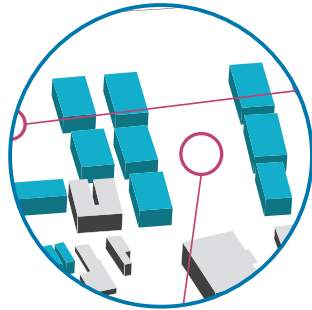
Transform vacant spaces to pocket parks



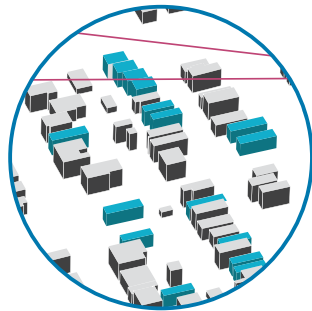
t spaces

New Housing & Green Space in the Middle

Build 30 new mixed-income apartments



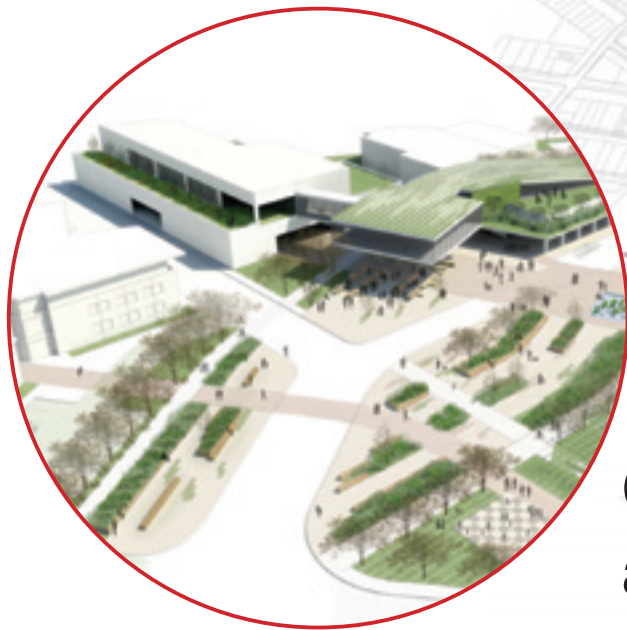
Build 124 new single family houses



Connect new housing to greenspaces

New Road, Transit & Trail Connections to the City

Create a new promenade road and trail



Create a new Larimer busway stop and Frankstown gateway



Growth over Time

Demolish vacant edge housing

Clean up and green up vacant lots



1-5 Years

Entry signage for new promenade

New infill housing in core area

Landscaping transforms the edge into a continuous greenscape

Roundabouts slow traffic at bridges



5-10 Years

New multifamily housing with close access to promenade amenities

Recreational arena for neighborhood and nearby schools

Designated pedestrian paths connect a new network of green spaces

Bike paths and new green spaces create regional connections to parks



10-20 Years

New roads connect neighborhood
core to promenade edge

Pedestrian street along East
Liberty Blvd. enables connections
between neighborhoods

Market and community center
establishes Larimer as a destination

Bus stop increases accessibility



20-40 Years

Framework 3 City + Farm

Taryn Humphrey



Consolidate the Neighborhood



Over time relocate all housing to the south-east side of Larimer to create a vibrant sustainable neighborhood

Create an Urban Farm



Reorganize the empty land to create a working farm & park for the community and city

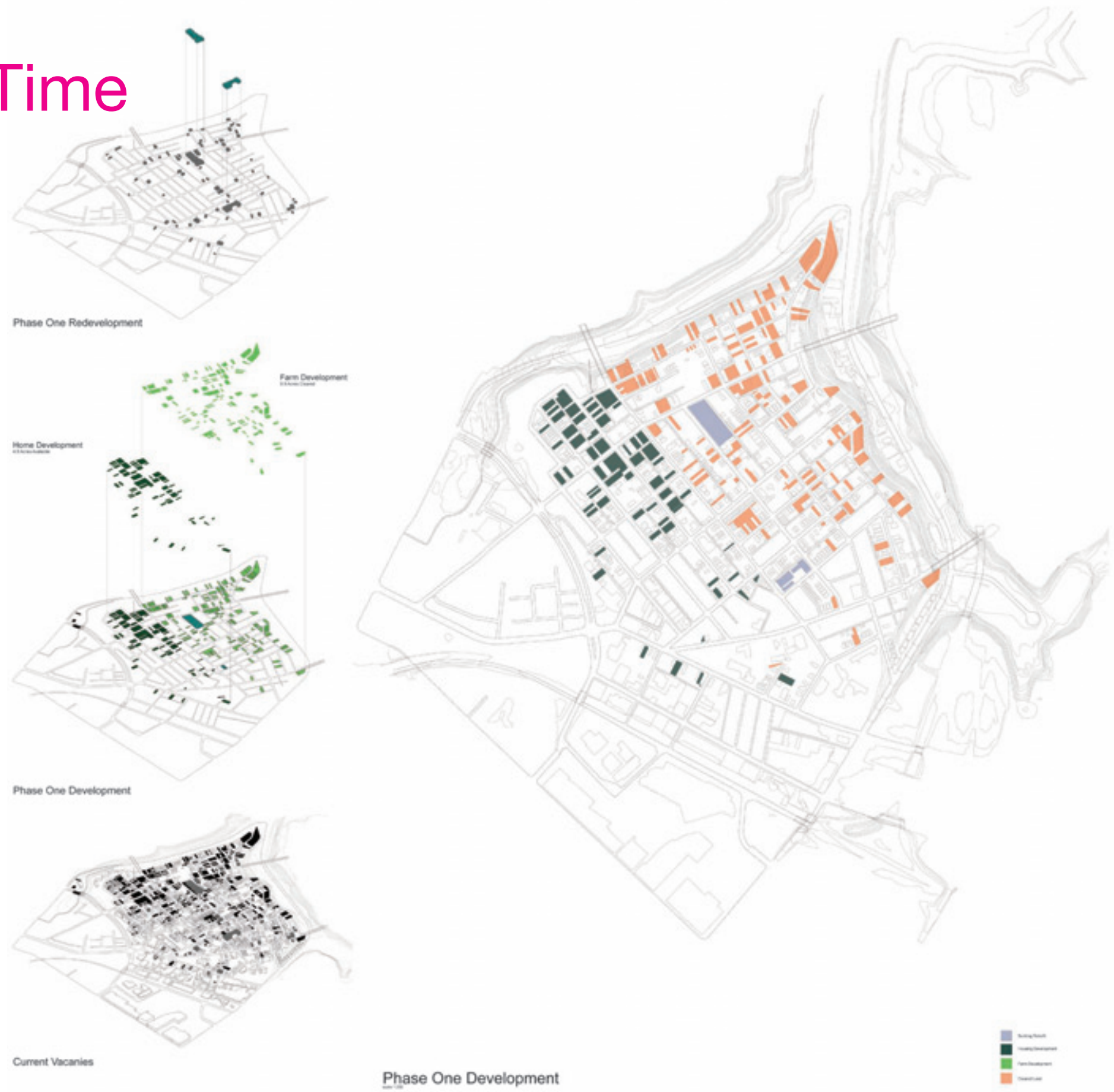
Growth over Time

New farming

Land assembly

New housing

1-5 Years

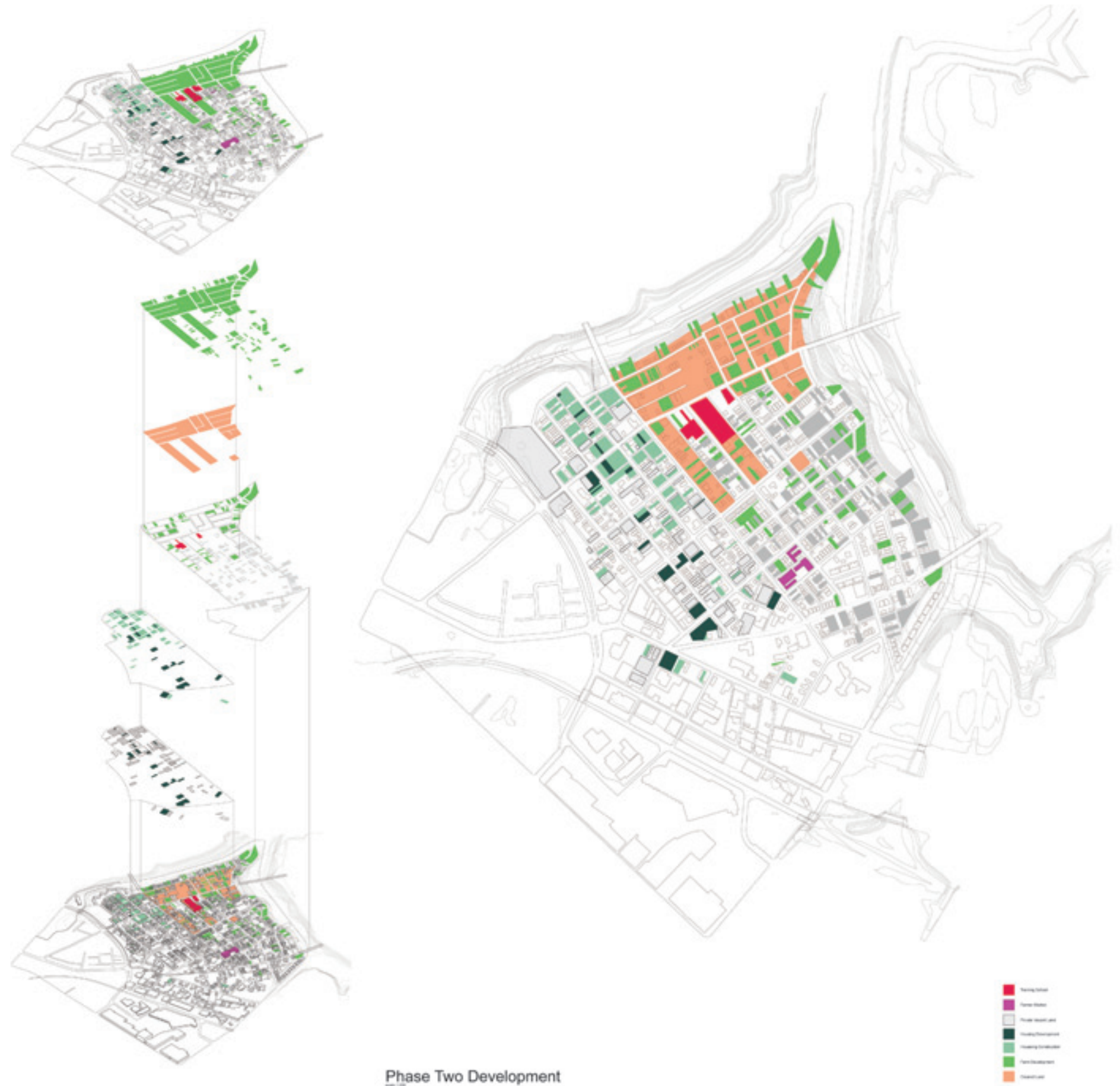


New farming

Land assembly

New housing

5-10 Years

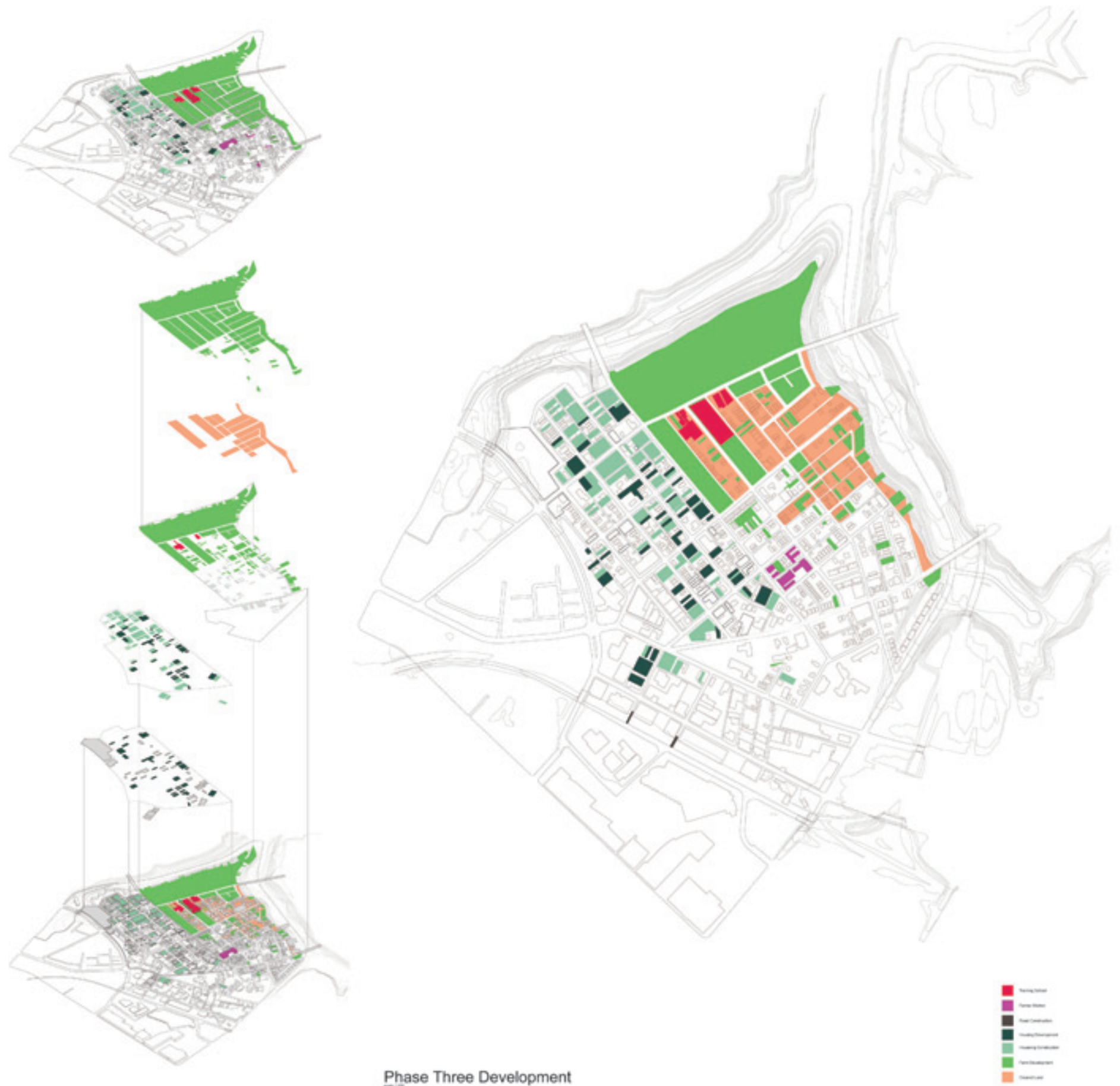


New farming

Land assembly

New housing

10-20 Years

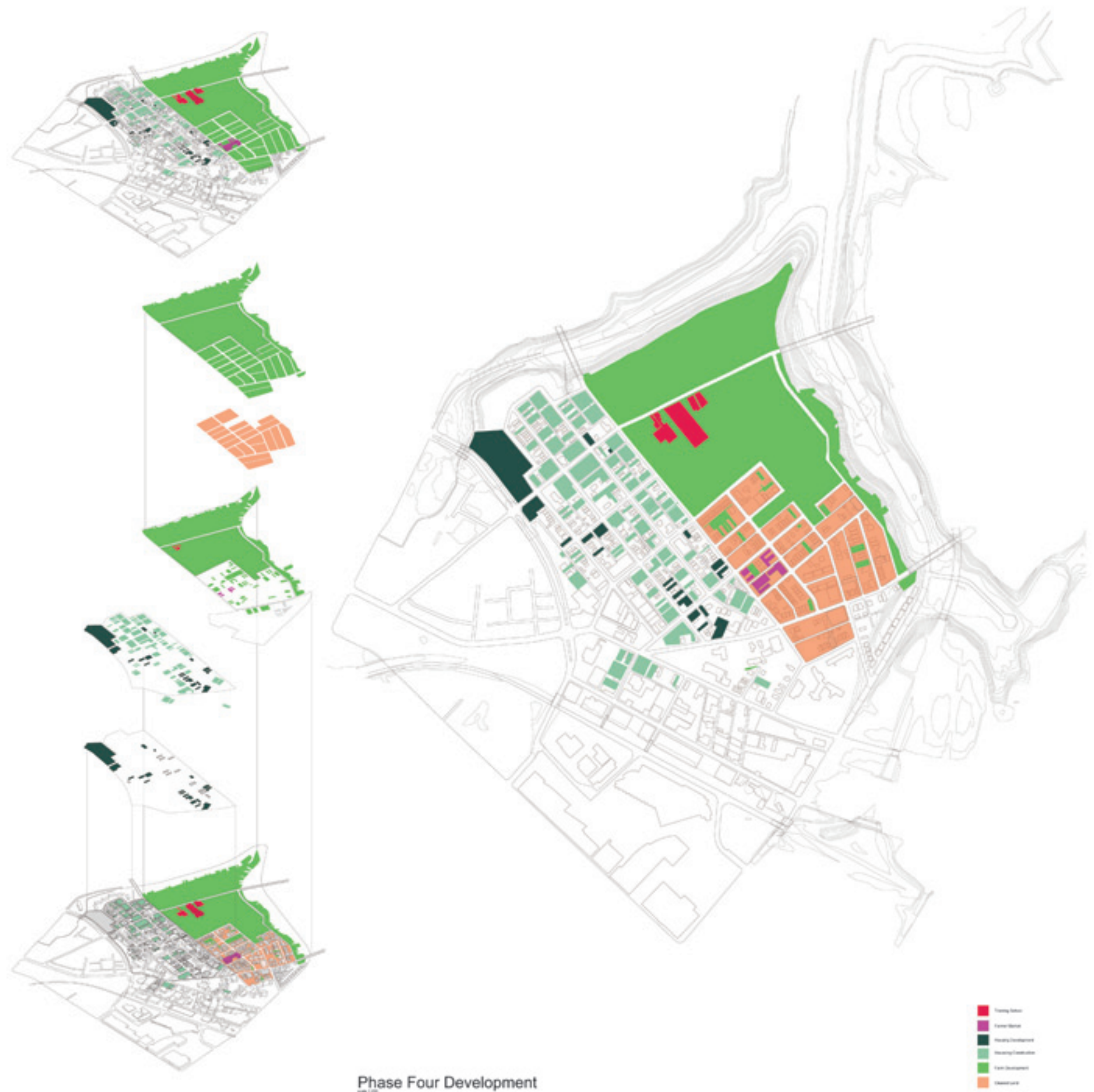


New farming

Land assembly

New housing

20-30 Years

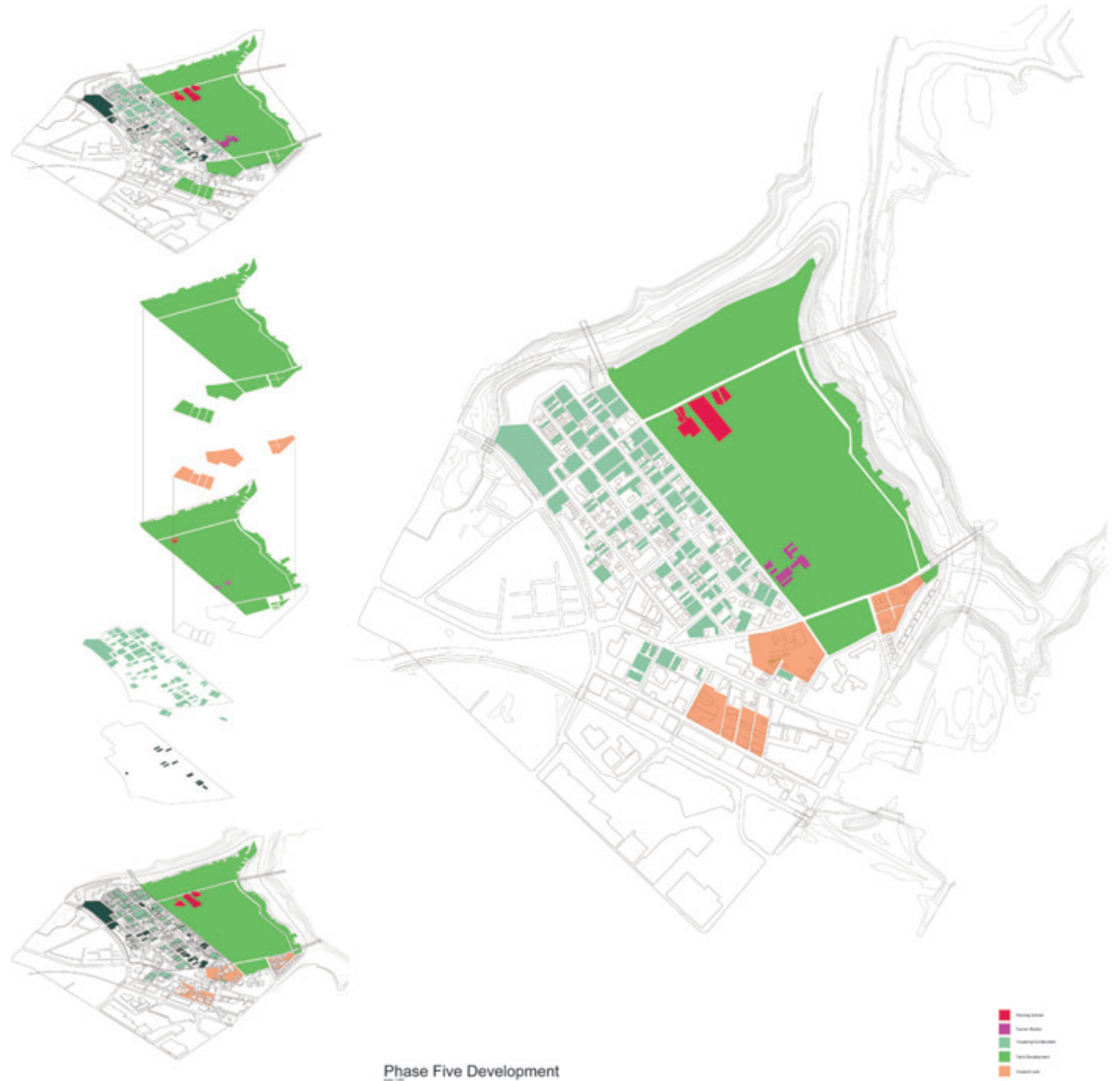


New farming

Land assembly

New housing

40 Years



Framework Comparison

Nicole Graycar

Promenade

GREENSPACE USE



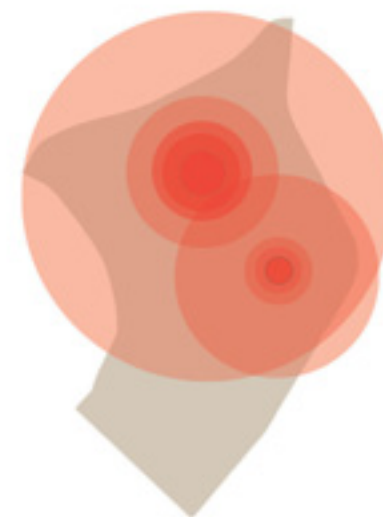
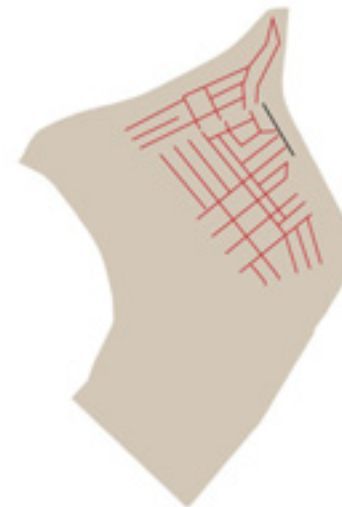
INFRASTRUCTURE



JOB CREATION



City + Farm



Promenade

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION



RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION



City + Farm



Youth Center, Market & Plaza

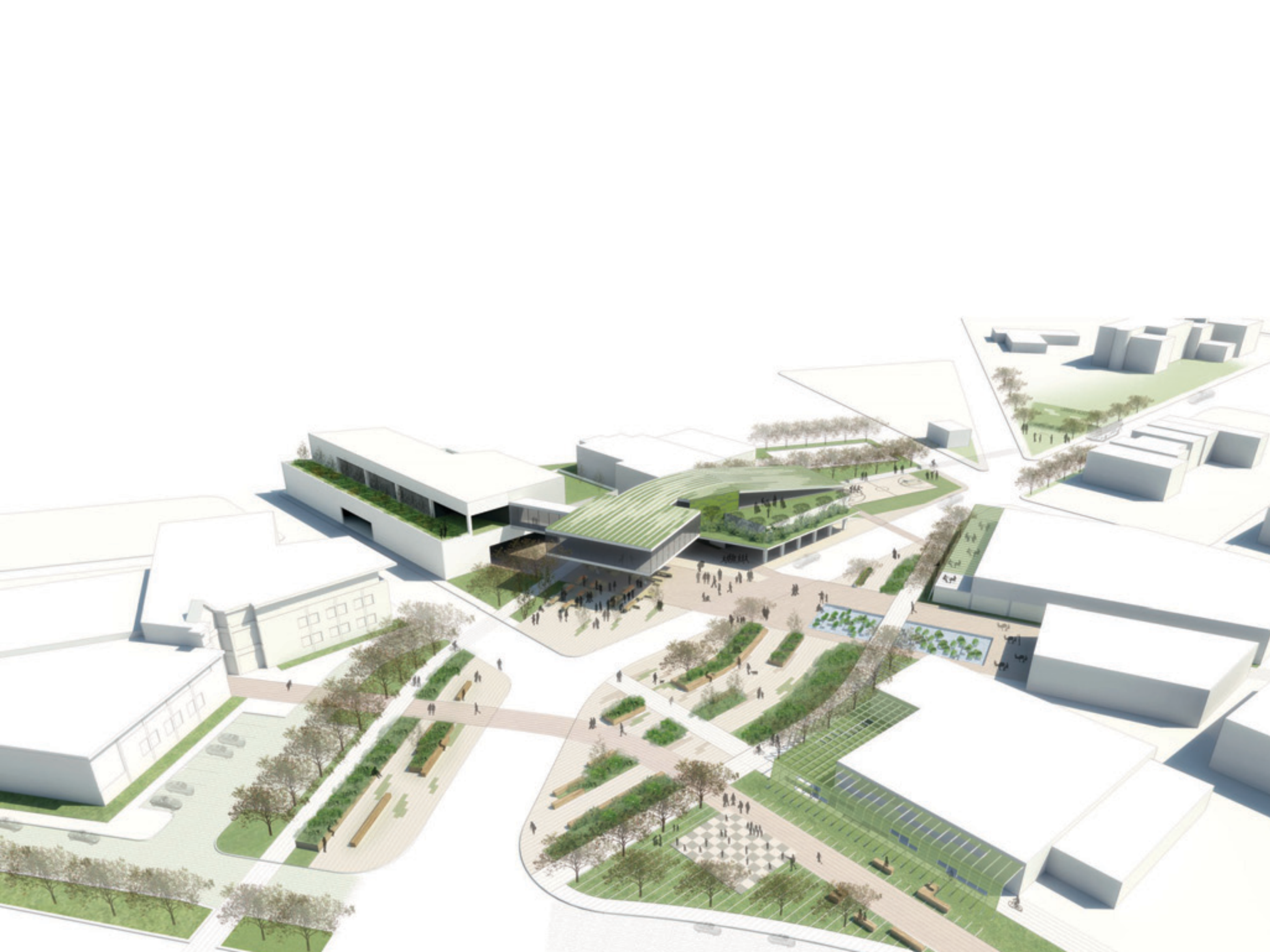
Blake Lam & Diana Lui

Youth Center, Market & Plaza

Blake Lam & Diana Lui

JOB * **BUSINESS** * **DEVELOPMENT** * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * **INFRASTRUCTURE** *
TRAFFIC * **PUBLIC POLICY** * **PUBLIC SAFETY** * **EDUCATION** * **IDENTITY**









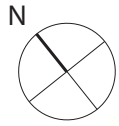
Green Jobs Training Center

Saovanee Sethiwan

Green Jobs Training Center

Saovanee Sethiwan

JOB * BUSINESS * DEVELOPMENT * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * INFRASTRUCTURE *
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AGRICULTURE FIELD

LARIMER AVENUE

Section B

YOUTH CENTER

PARKING GARAGE

AGRICULTURE FIELD

PLAYGROUND

PARKING

MAXWELL WAY

TRAINING CENTER

TRAINING CENTER

LOBBY

CAFE

GREENHOUSE lounge

RESEARCH GREENHOUSE

WINSLOW STREET

OUTDOOR SEATING

TRAINING FARM

OUTDOOR TRAINING AREA

RESEARCH GREENHOUSE

TRAINING FARM

AGRICULTURE FIELD

TRAINING STORAGE AND AMMENITIES

Section A









Farmers' Market

Jameson O'Donnell & Caitlin Olivo

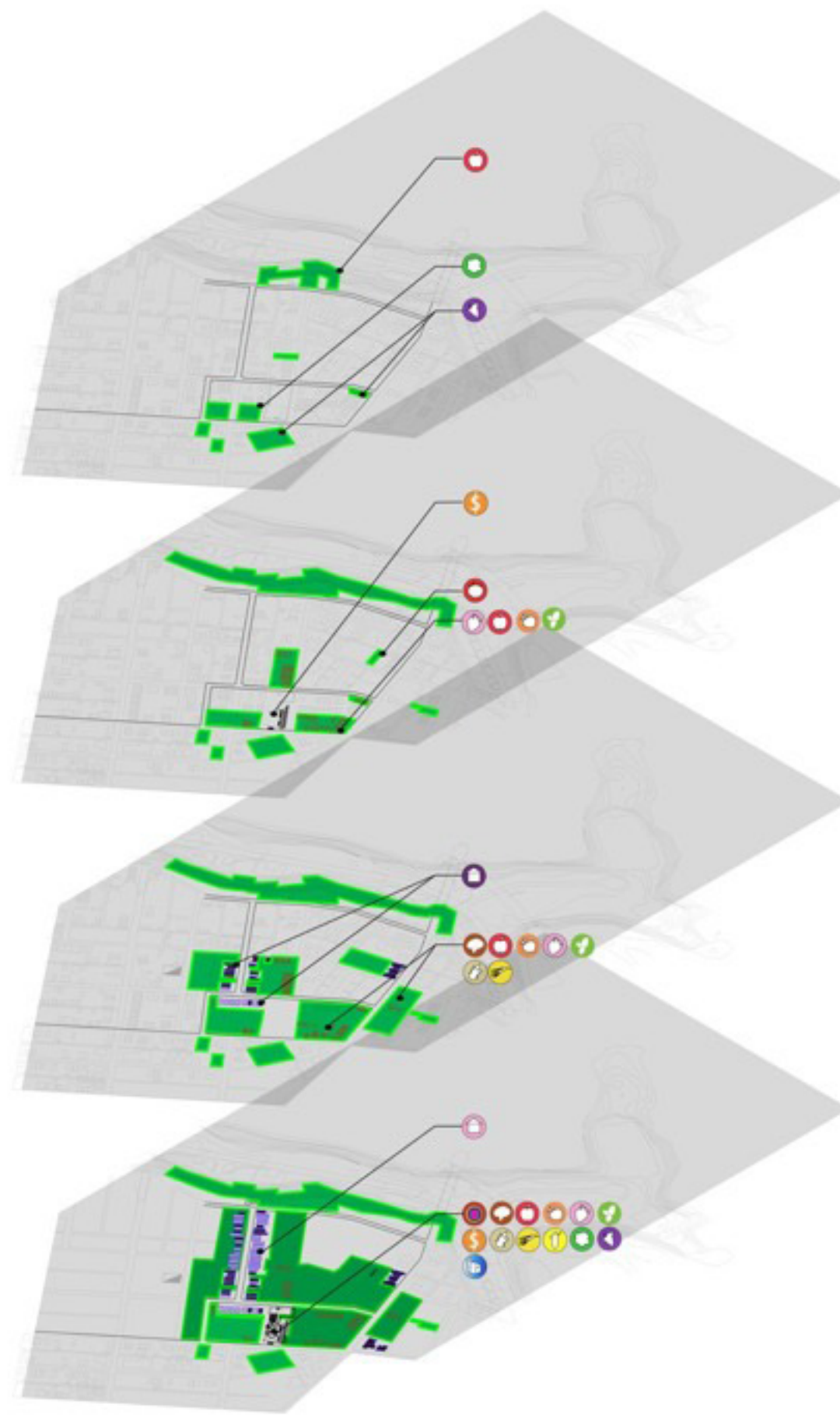
Farmers' Market

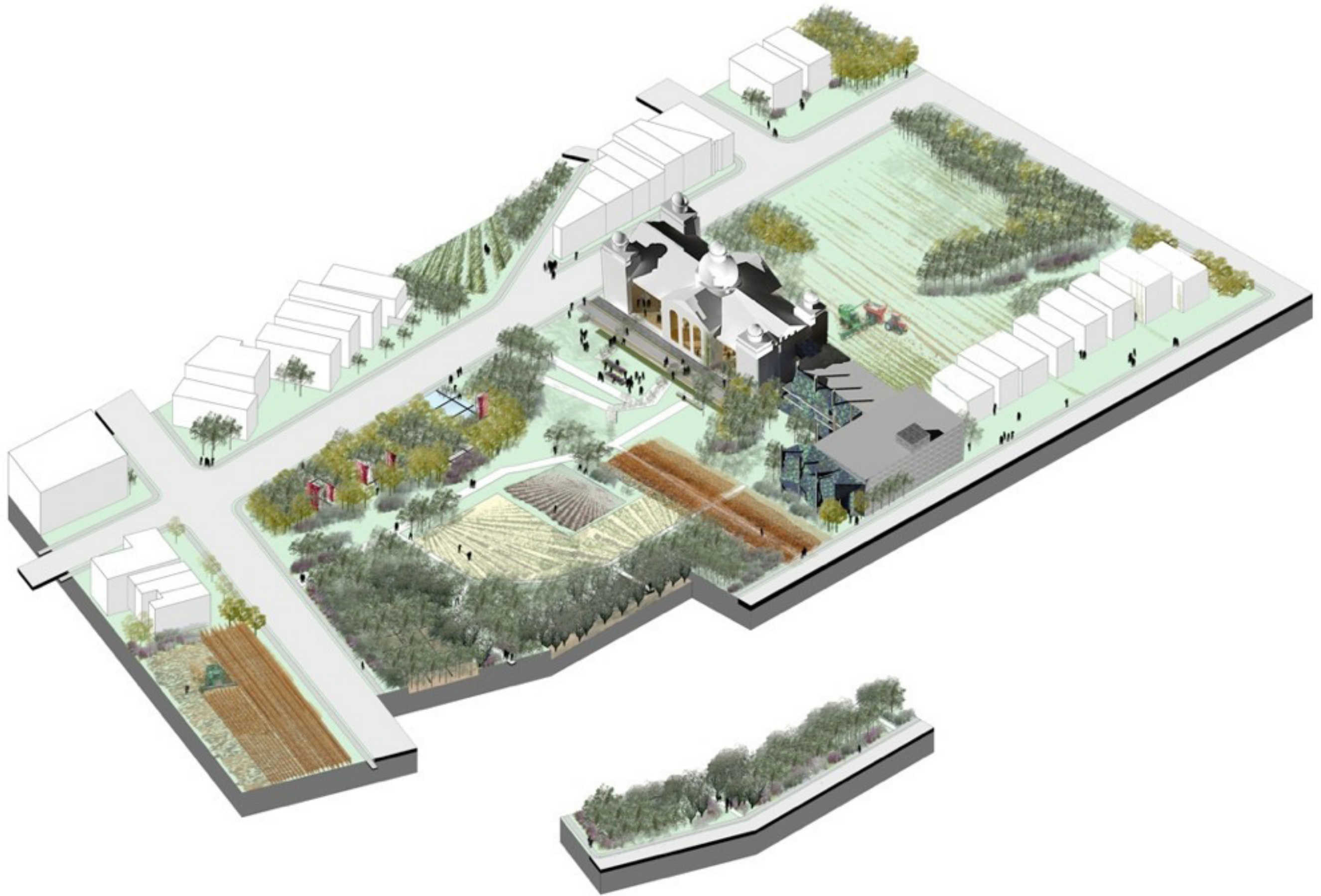
Jameson O'Donnell & Caitlin Olivo

JOB * **BUSINESS** * **DEVELOPMENT** * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * **INFRASTRUCTURE** *
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Green Housing

Stephanie Fonticoba & William Small

Green Housing

Stephanie Fonticoba & William Small

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TRAFFIC * **PUBLIC POLICY** * **PUBLIC SAFETY** * **EDUCATION** * **SUSTAINABILITY** * **IDENTITY**



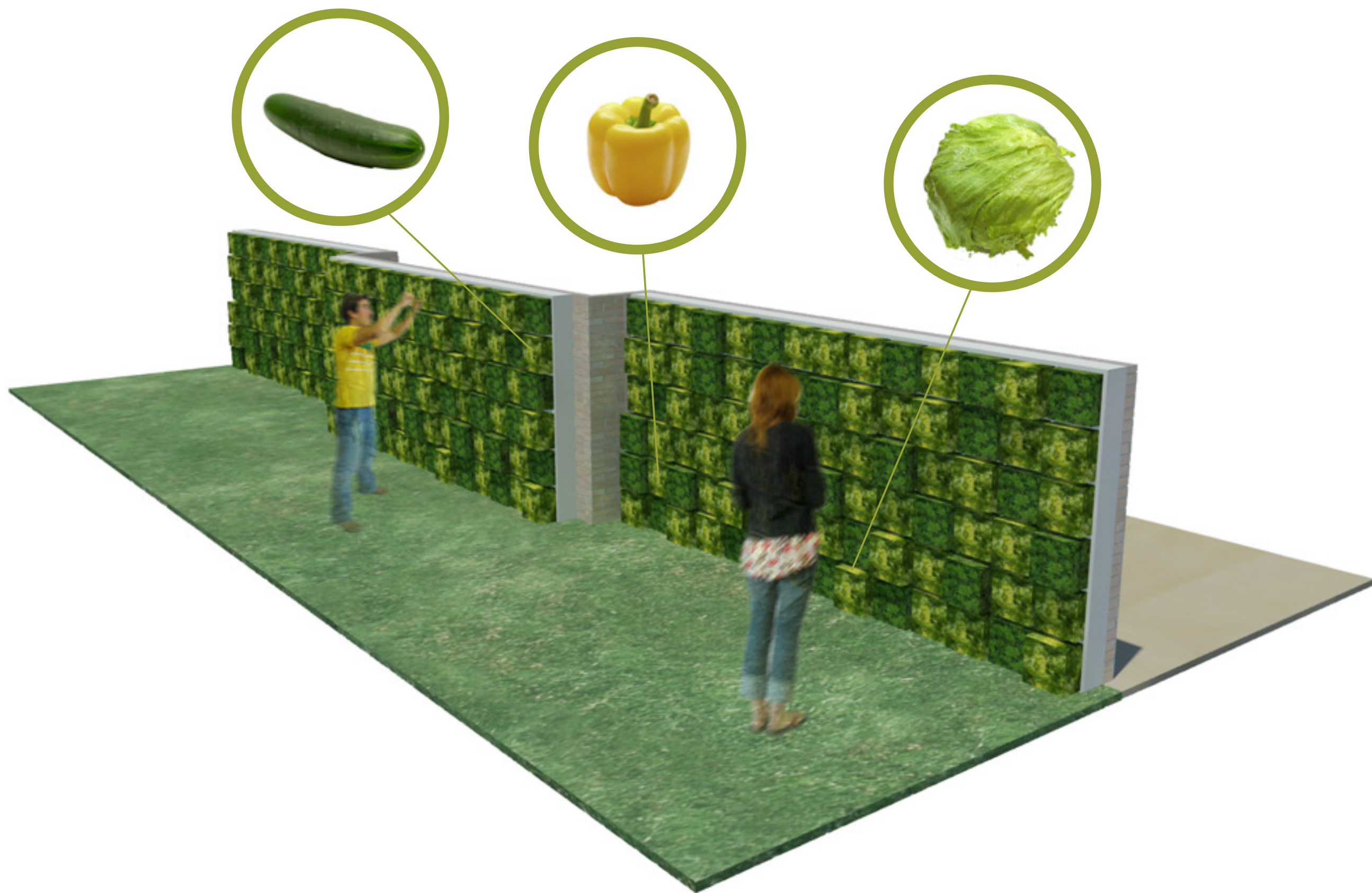












Consolidated Housing

Braxton Satterfield & Phillip Talley

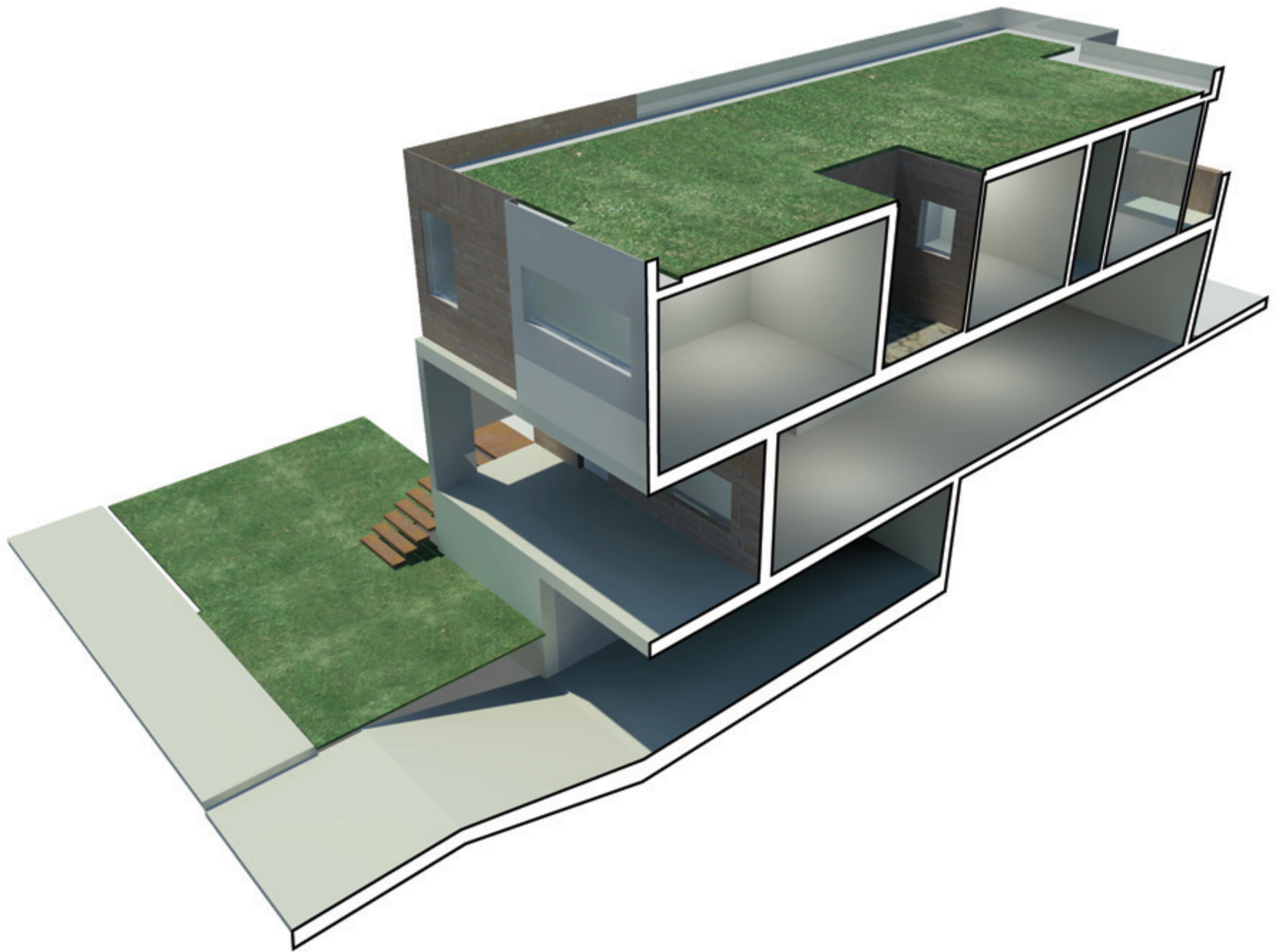
Consolidated Housing

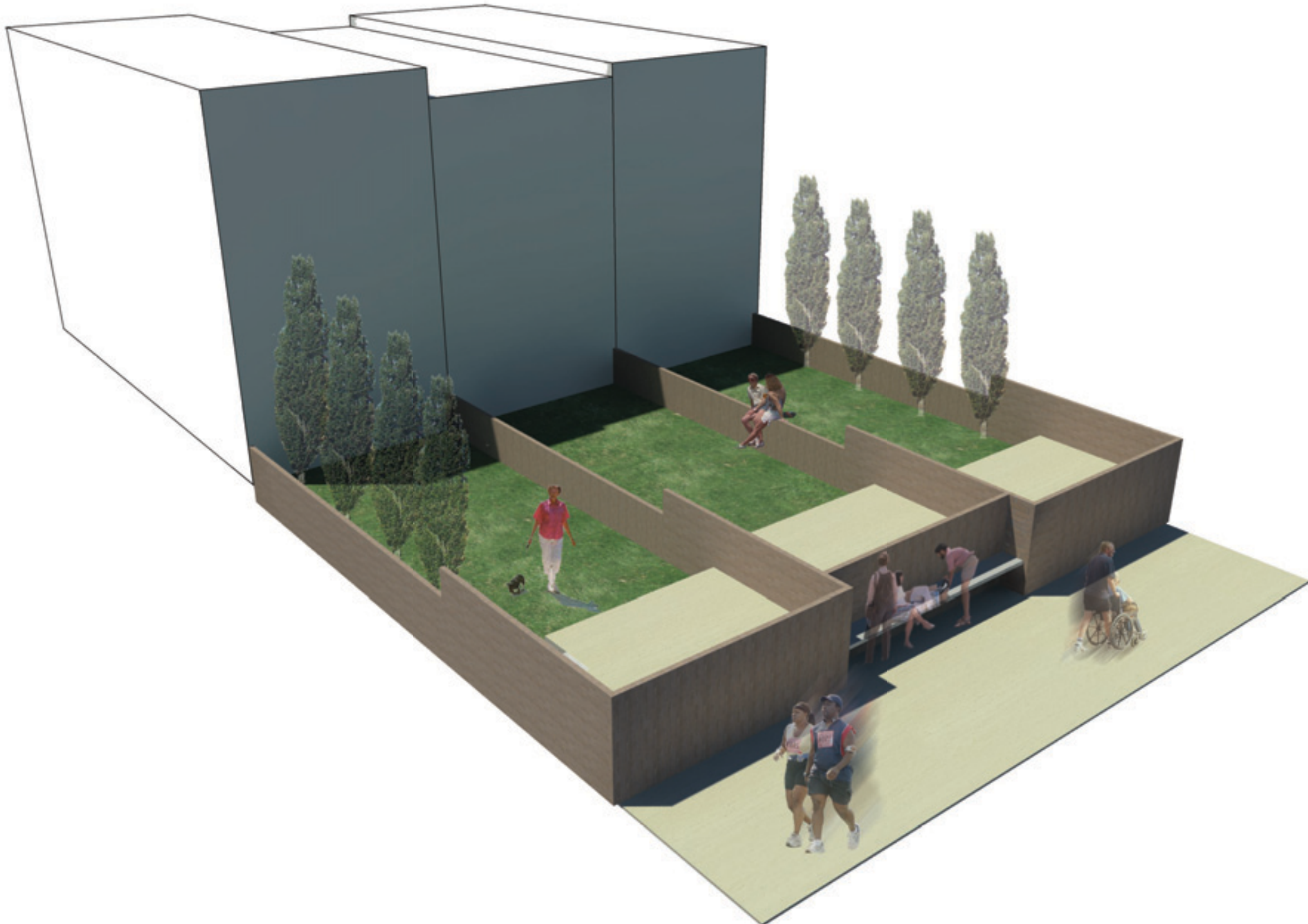
Braxton Satterfield & Phillip Talley

JOBS * **BUSINESS** * **DEVELOPMENT** * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * **INFRASTRUCTURE** *
TRAFFIC * **PUBLIC POLICY** * **PUBLIC SAFETY** * **EDUCATION** * **SUSTAINABILITY** * **IDENTITY**









Connecting to the Busway

Dan Kang & Tae Yeob Kim

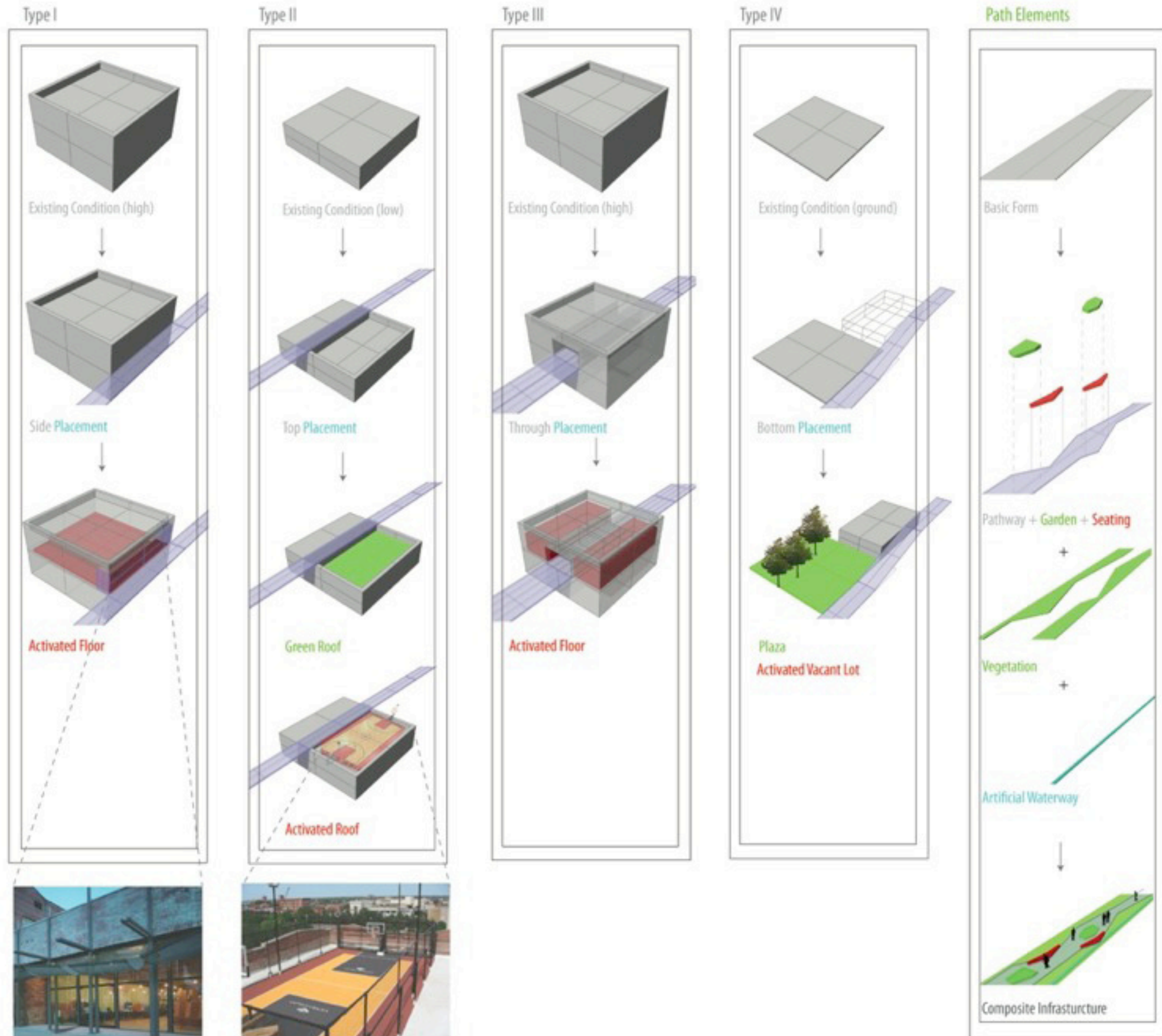
Connecting to the Busway

Dan Kang & Tae Yeob Kim

JOB * **BUSINESS** * **DEVELOPMENT** * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * **INFRASTRUCTURE** *
TRAFFIC * **PUBLIC POLICY** * **PUBLIC SAFETY** * **EDUCATION** * **SUSTAINABILITY** * **IDENTITY**



infrastructure typologies







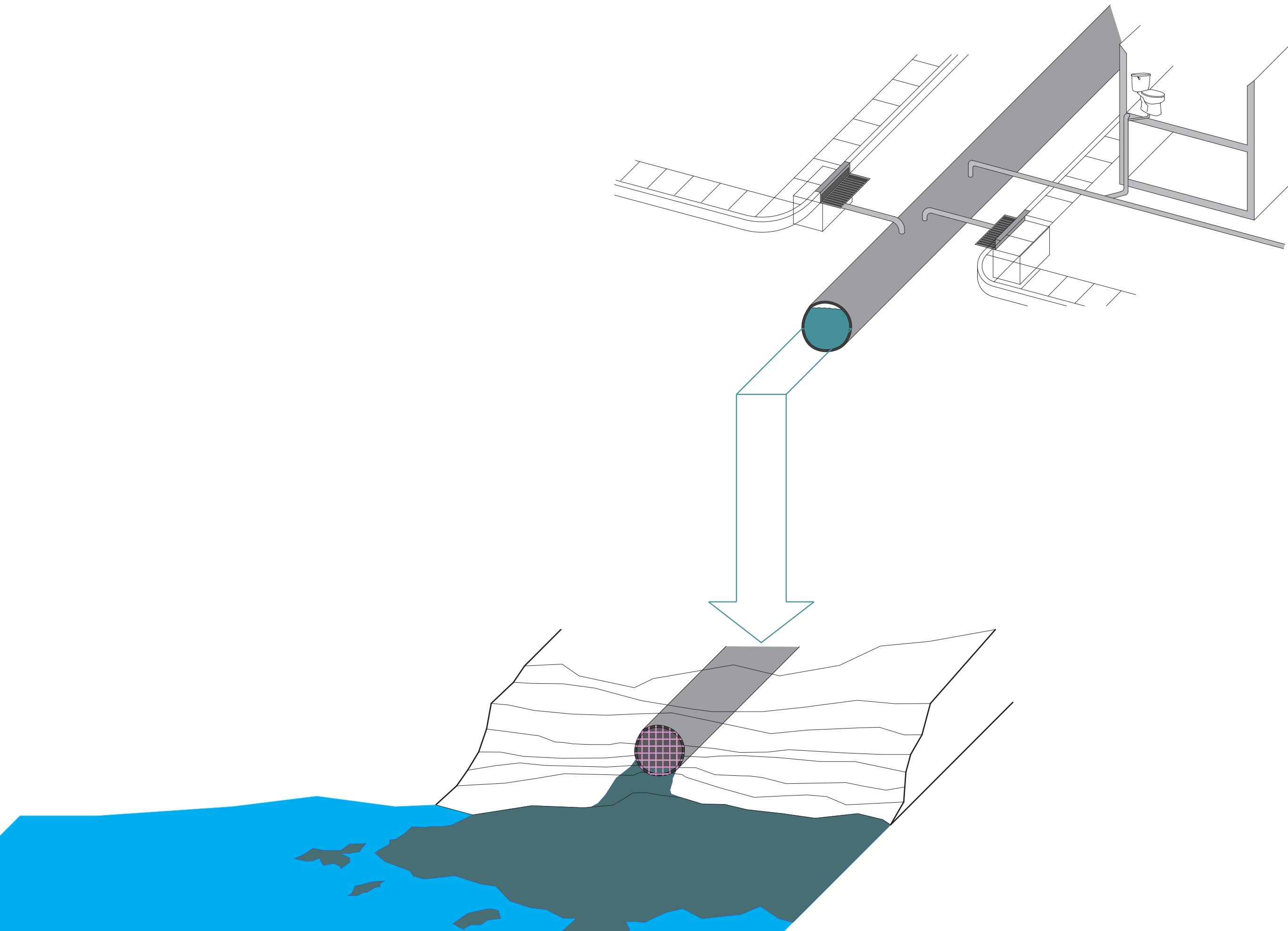
Harvesting the Rain

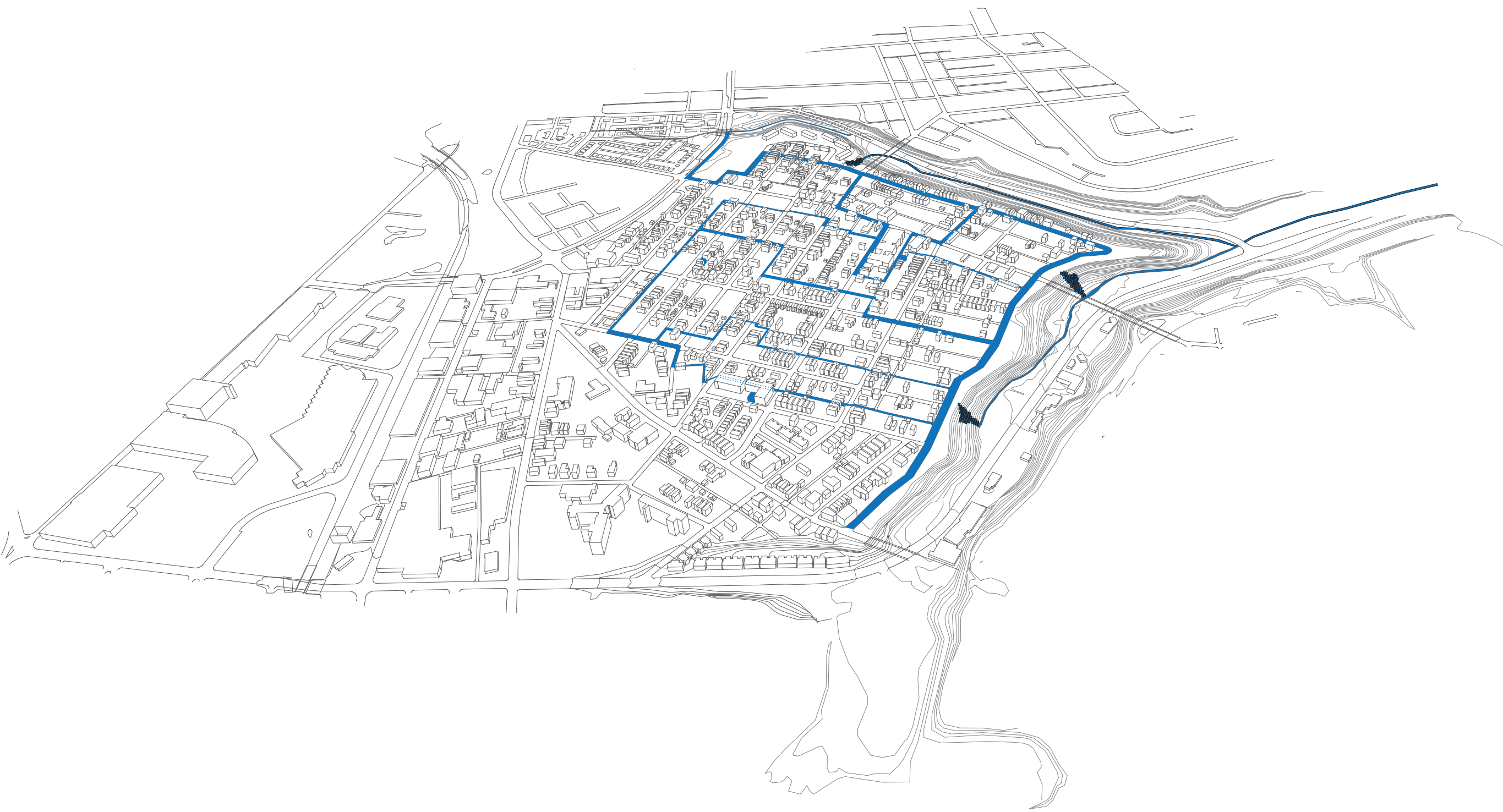
Marc Manzke & Jonathan Tolbert

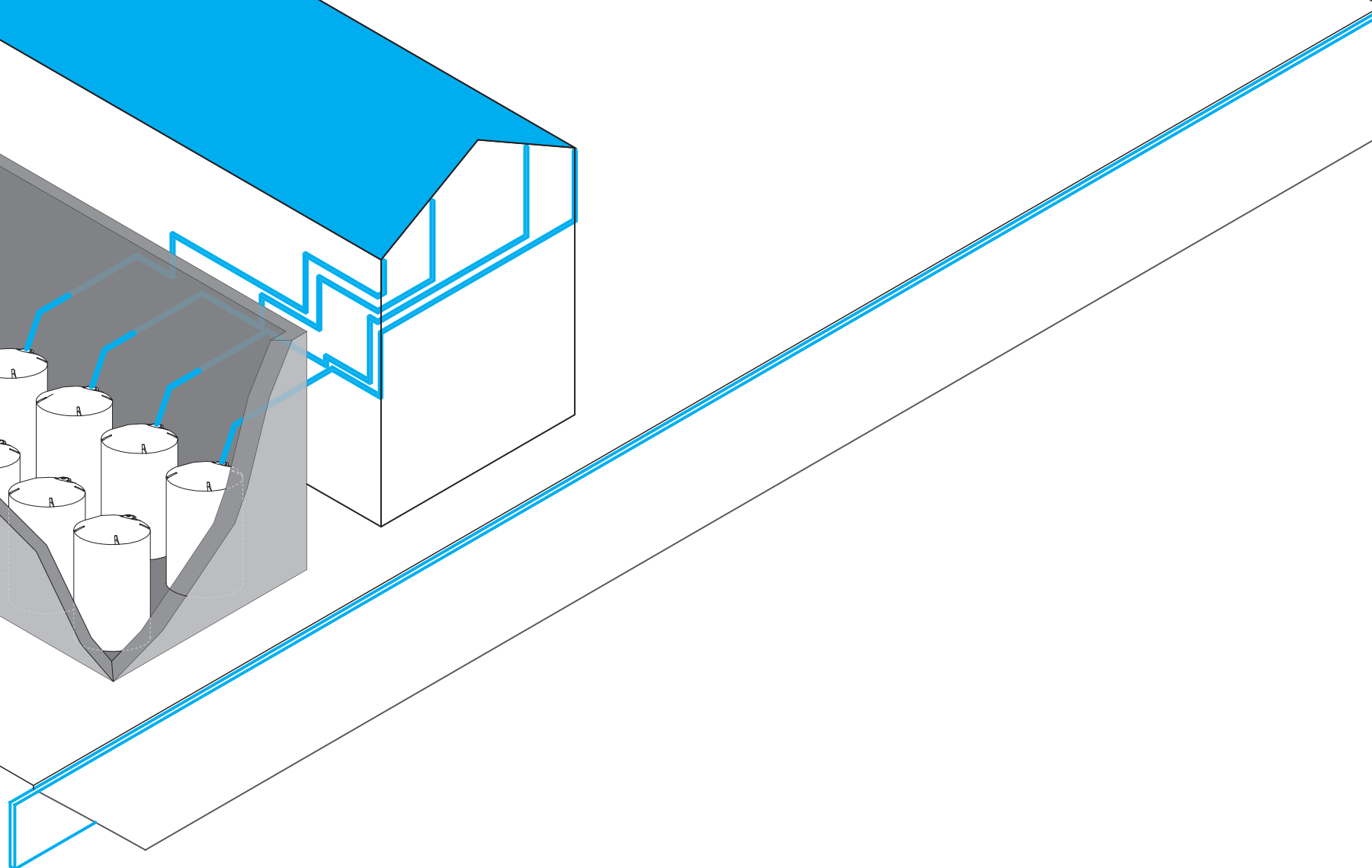
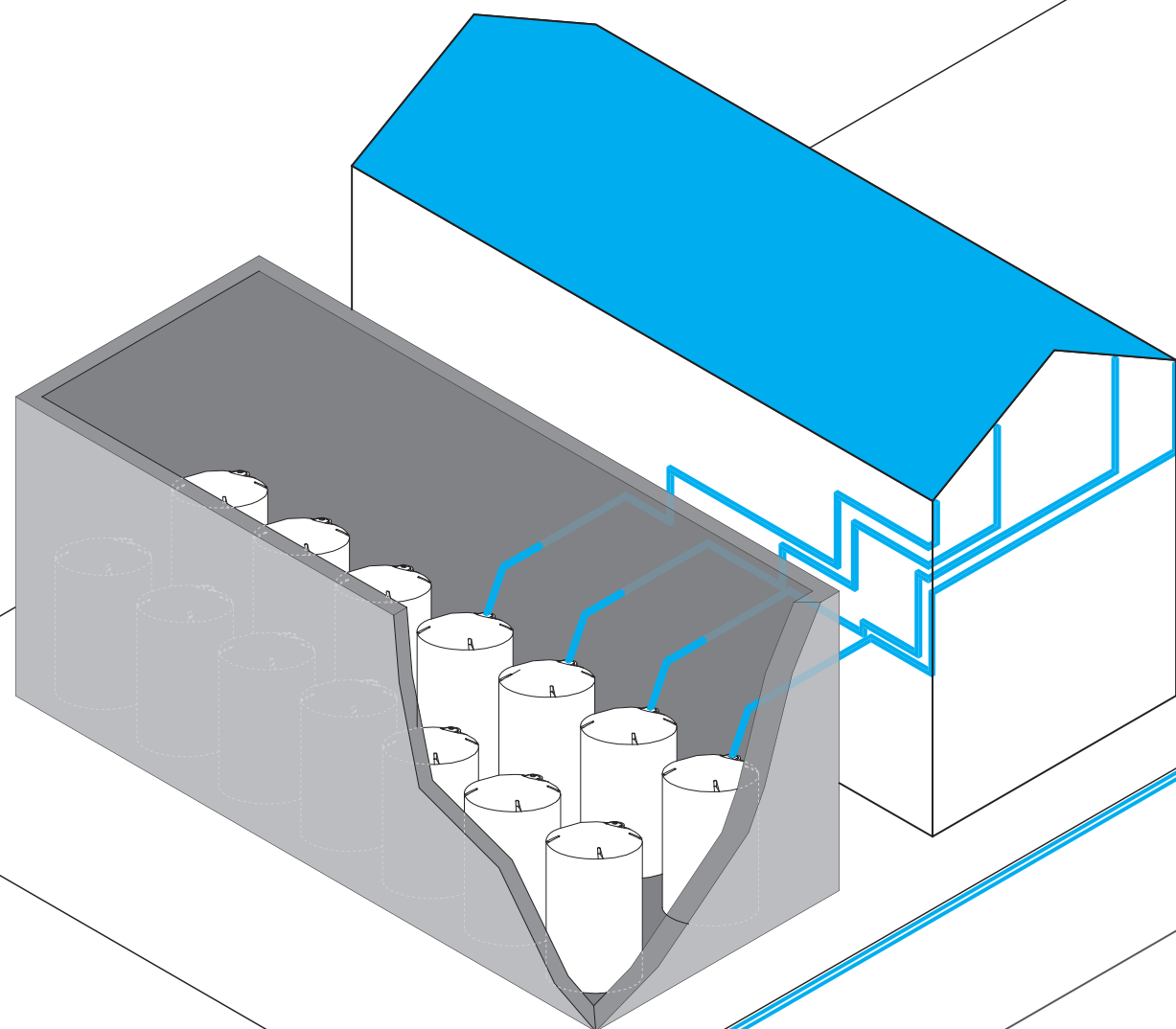
Harvesting the Rain

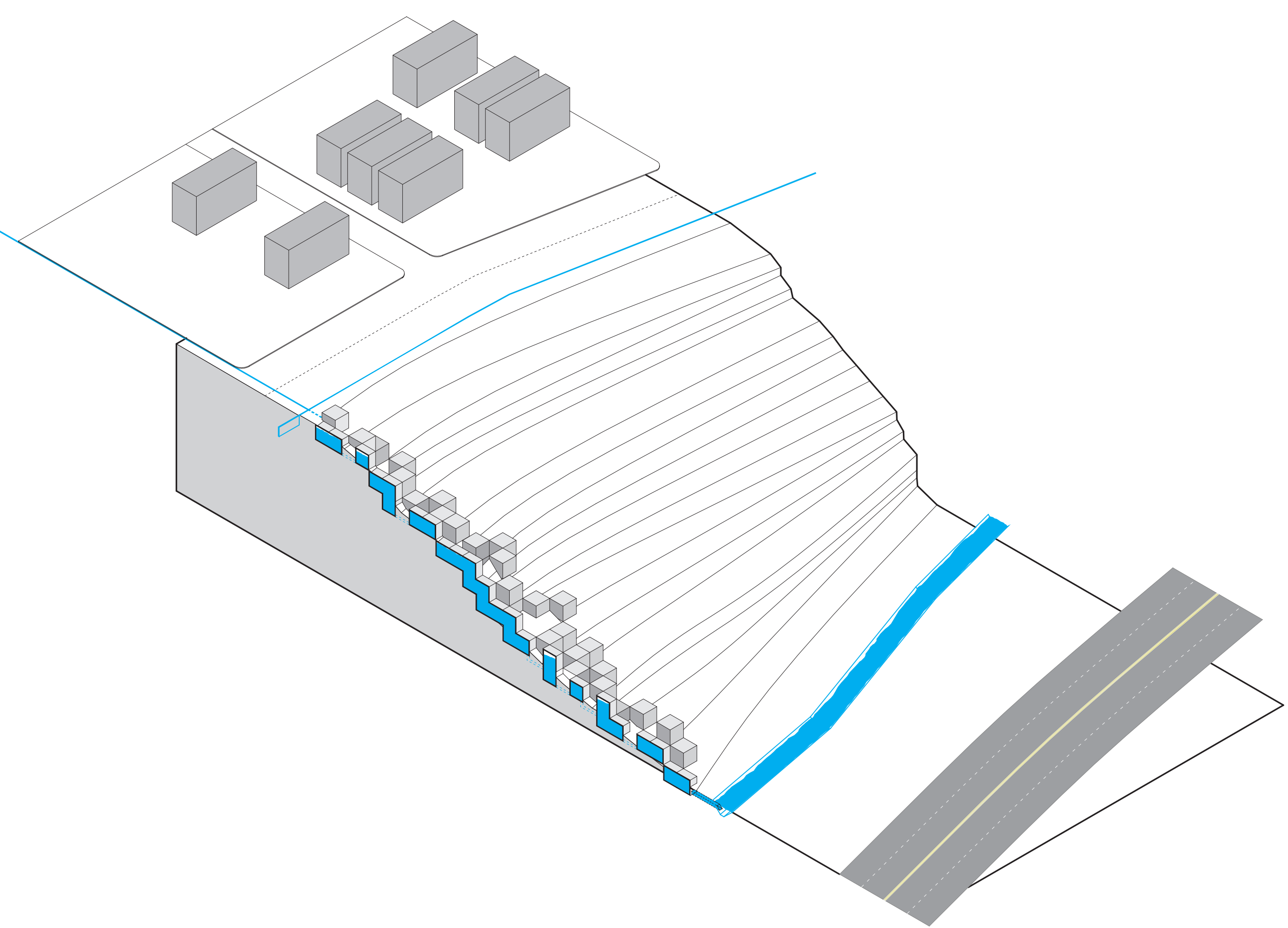
Marc Manzke & Jonathan Tolbert

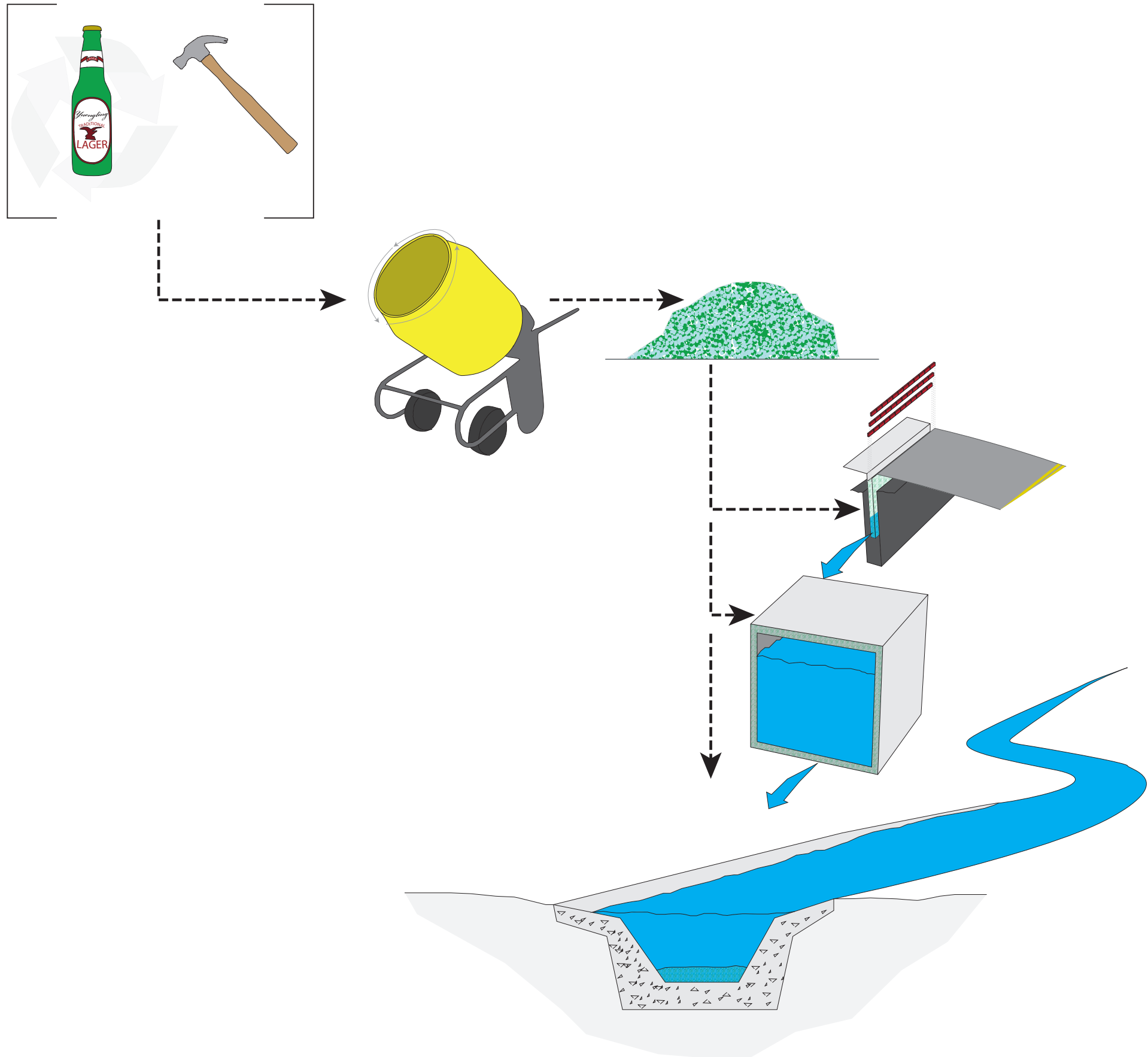
JOBS * **BUSINESS** * **DEVELOPMENT** * **ACTIVITIES** * **VACANT LOTS** * **INFRASTRUCTURE** *
TRAFFIC * **PUBLIC POLICY** * **PUBLIC SAFETY** * **EDUCATION** * **SUSTAINABILITY** * **IDENTITY**

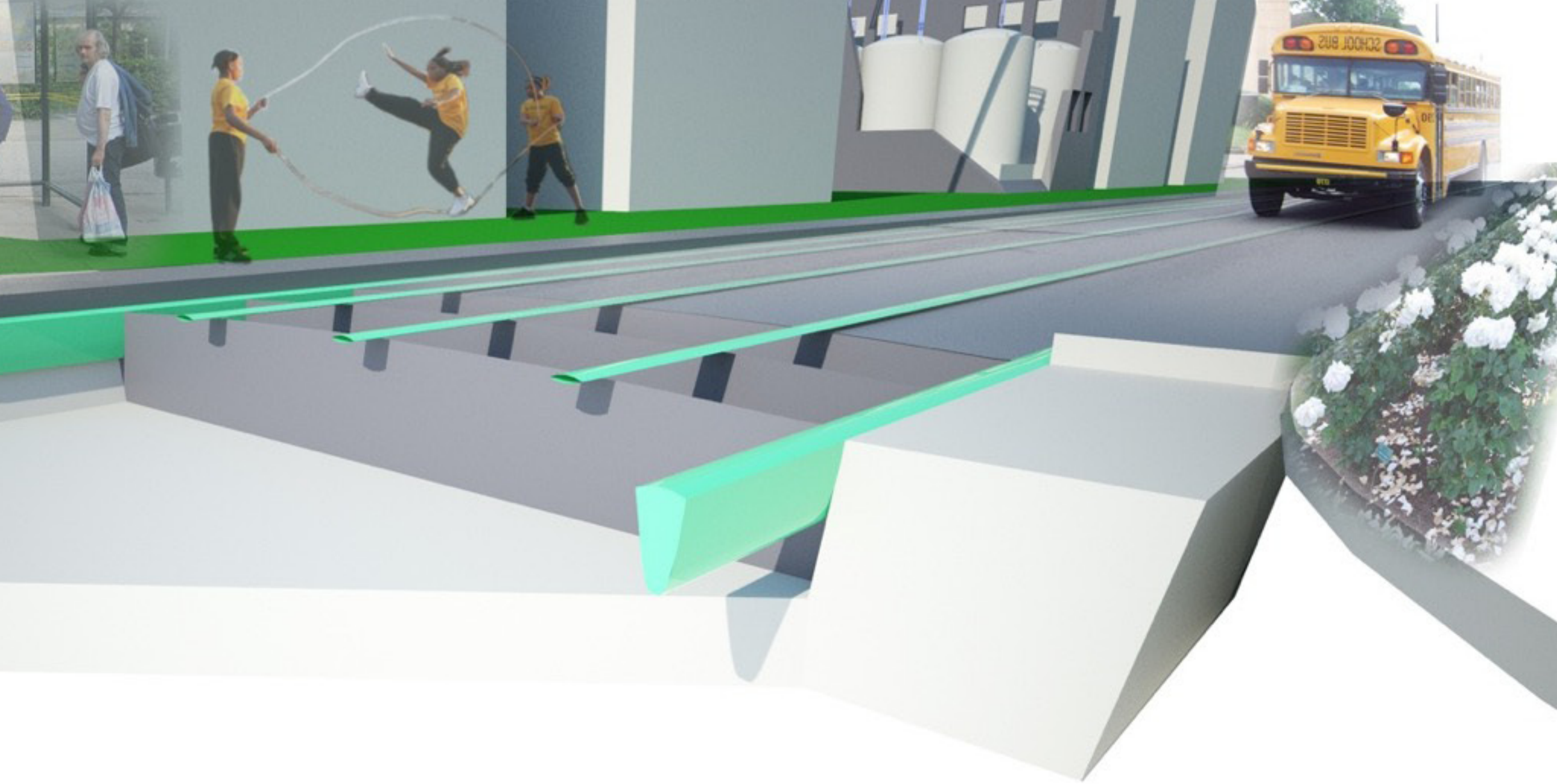


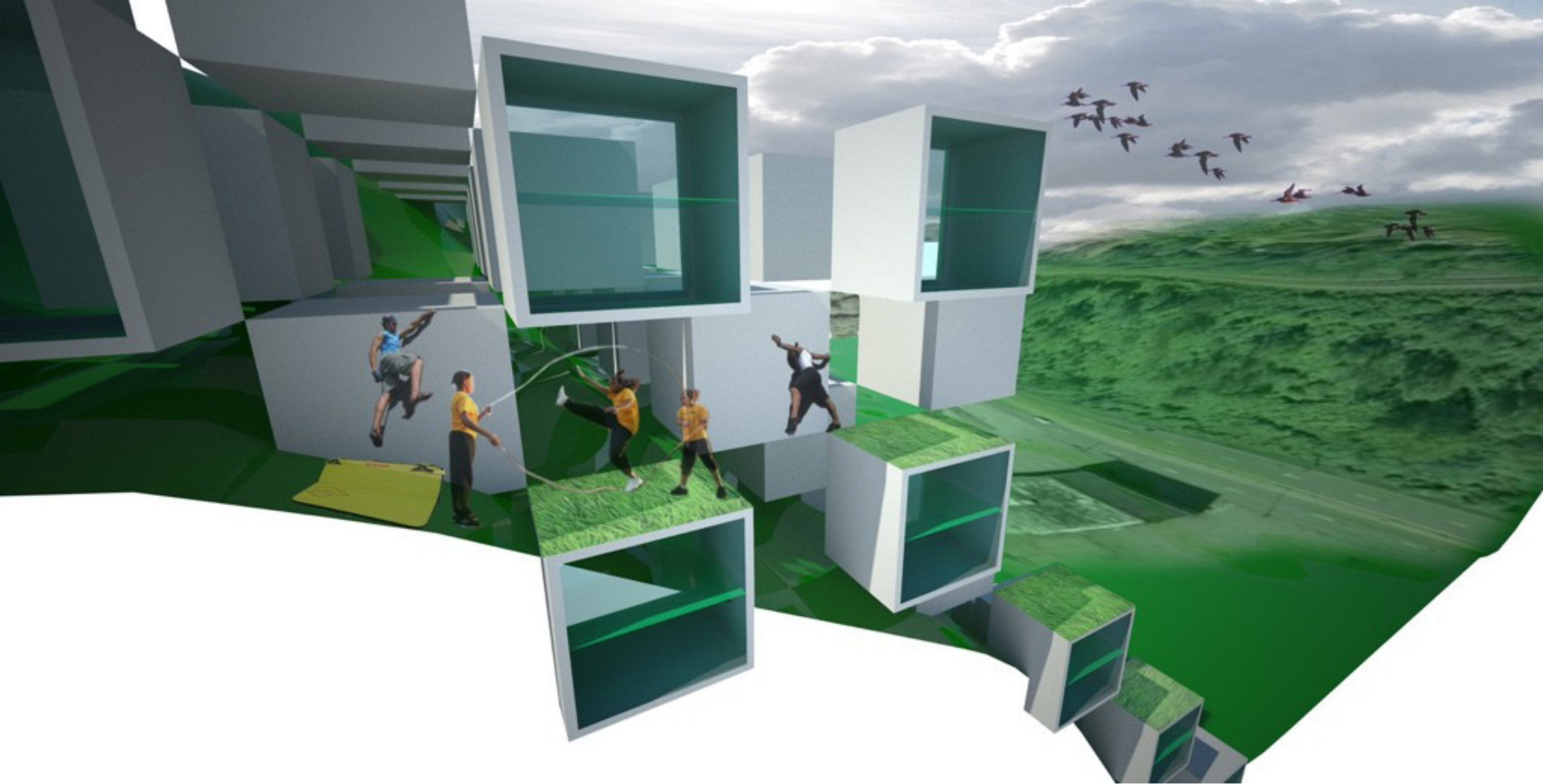












Farmscape

Taryn Humphrey

Farmscape

Taryn Humphrey

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Redevelopment



Phase One Development



Current Vacant Land

Phase One Development 5-10 years

Scale 1:250

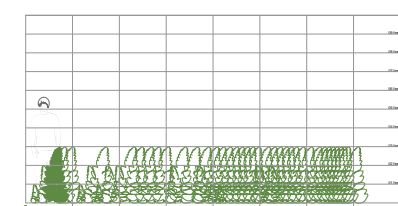
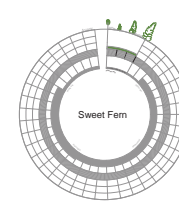
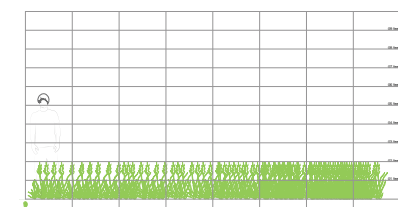
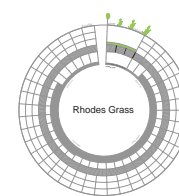
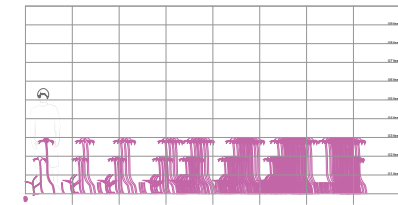
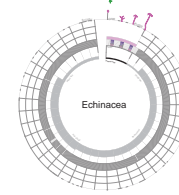
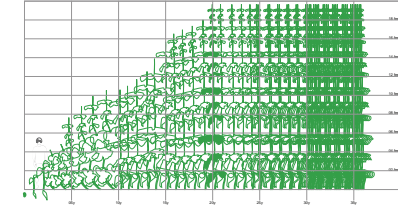
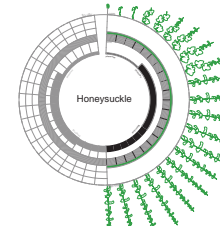
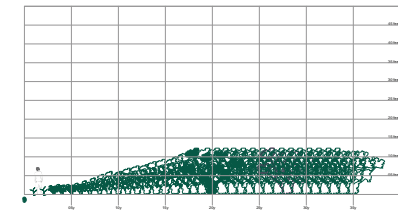
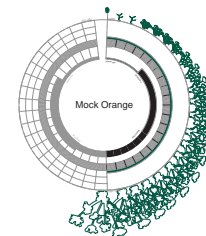
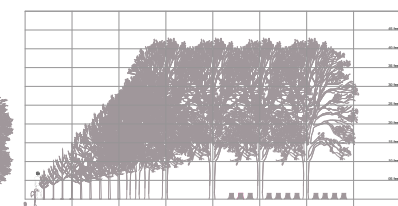
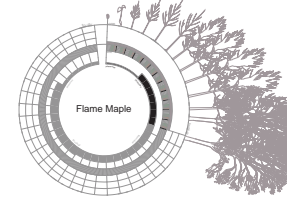
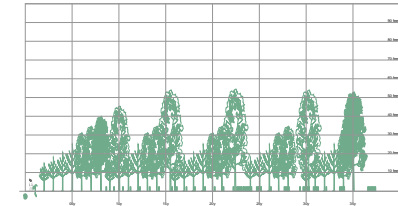
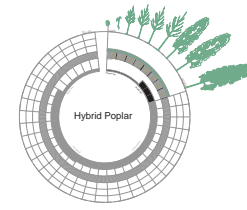


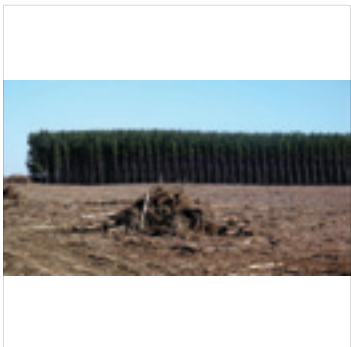
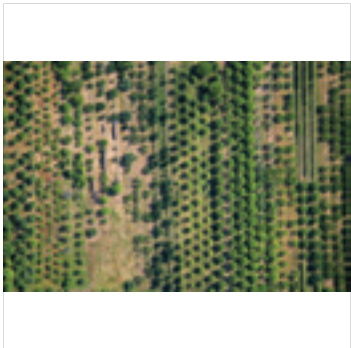
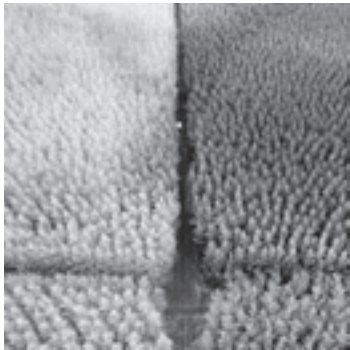
- Building Retrofit
- Housing Development
- Farm Development
- Cleared Land



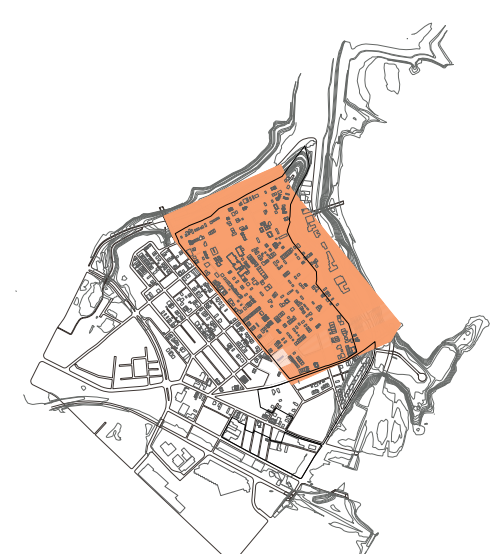
Echinacea Pathways

Proposed Grade Changes





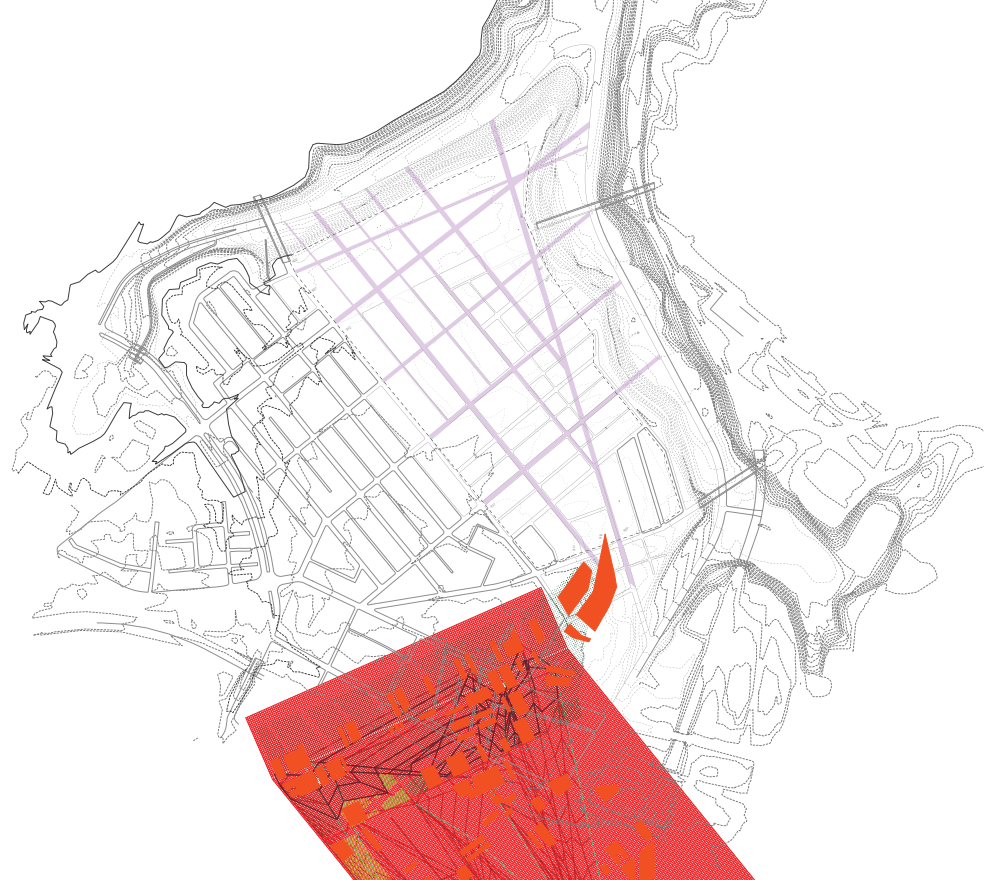
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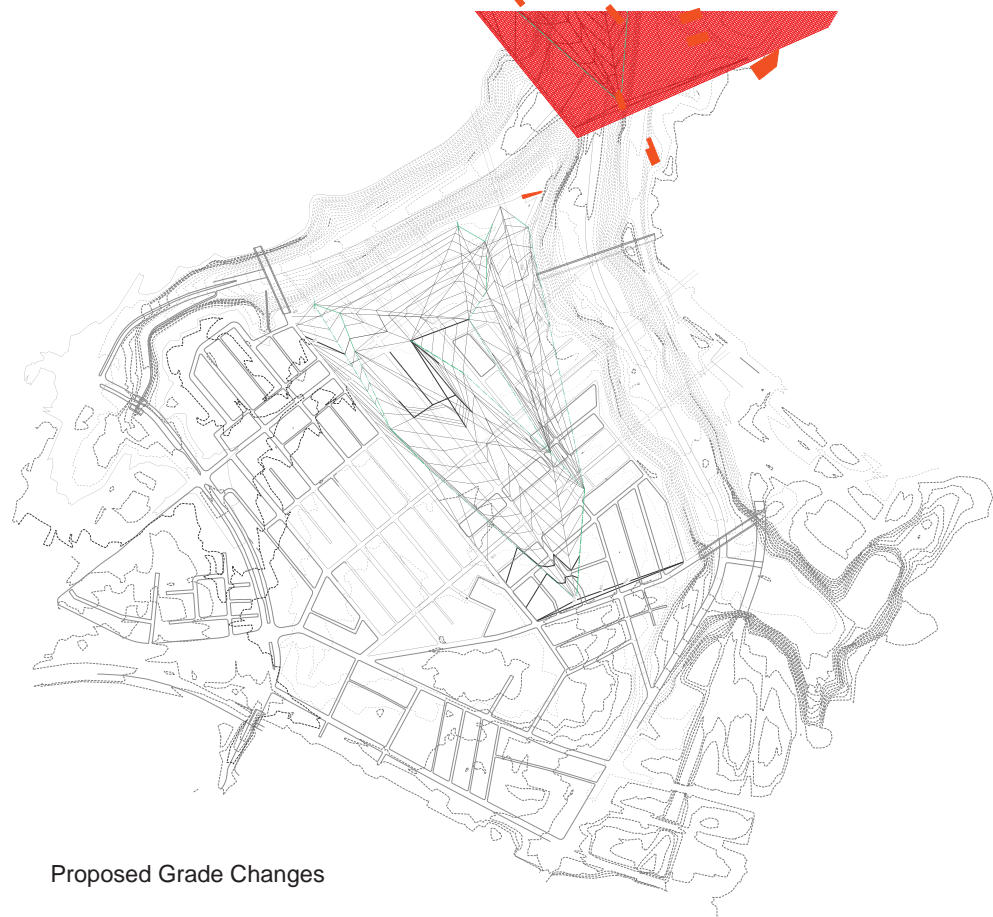
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Echinacea Pathways



Proposed Grade Changes

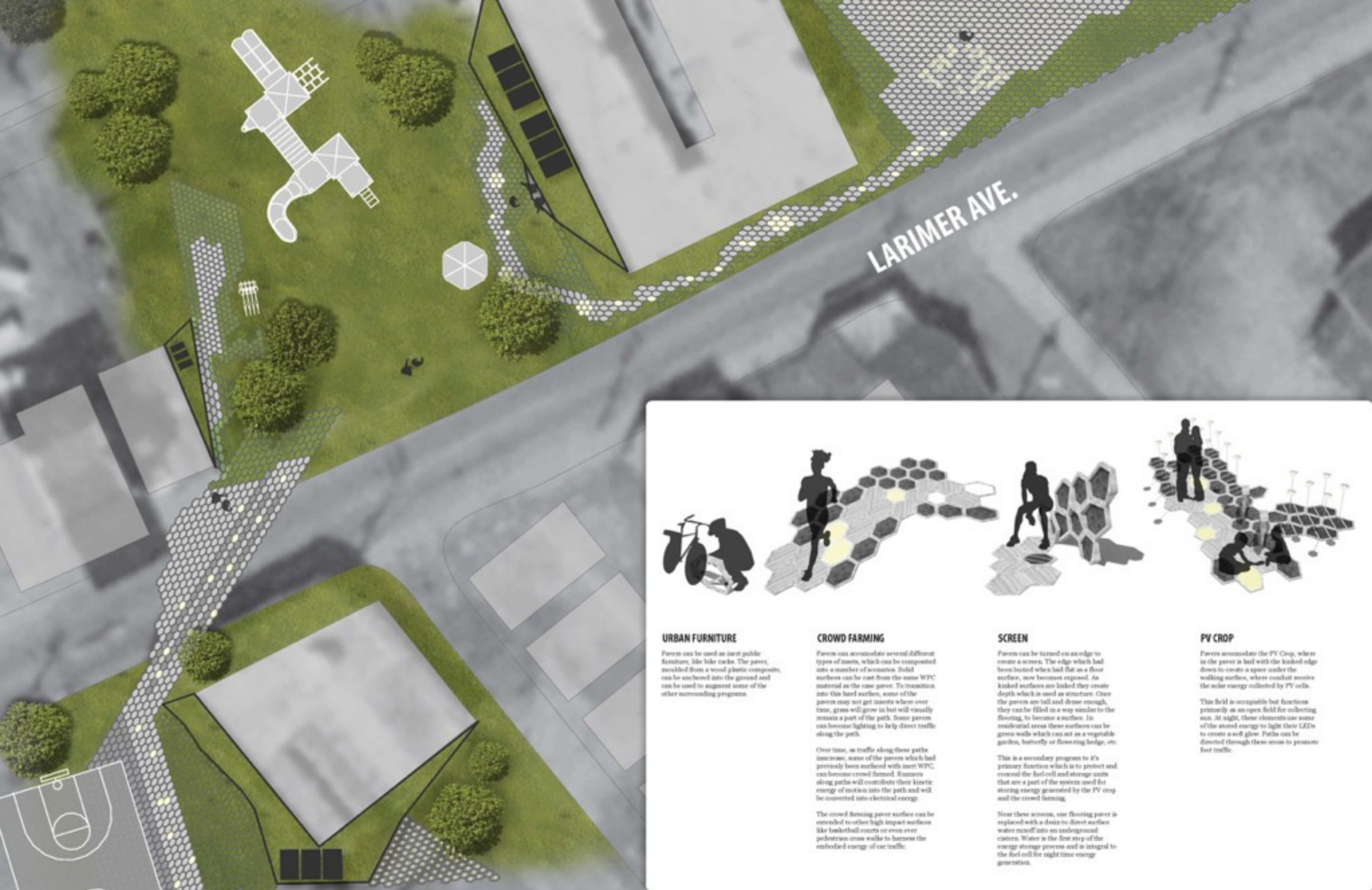
Greenenergy

Kristina Ricco & Frederique Turnier

Greenenergy

Kristina Ricco & Frederique Turnier

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URBAN FURNITURE

Pavers can be used as inert public furniture, like bike racks. The paver, moulded from a wood plastic composite, can be anchored into the ground and can be used to augment some of the other surrounding programs.

CROWD FARMING

Pavers can accommodate several different types of users, which can be composed into a number of scenarios. Solid surfaces can be cast from the same WPC material as the case paver. To transition into this hard surface, some of the pavers may not get inserts where over time, grass will grow in but will visually remain a part of the path. Some pavers can become lighting to help direct traffic along the path.

Over time, as traffic along these paths increases, some of the pavers which had previously been surfaced with inert WPC, can become crowd formed. Runners along paths will contribute their kinetic energy of motion into the path and will be converted into electrical energy.

The crowd farming power surface can be extended to other high impact surfaces like basketball courts or even over pedestrian cross walks to harness the embodied energy of our traffic.

SCREEN

Pavers can be turned on an edge to create a screen. The edge which had been buried when laid flat as a floor surface, now becomes exposed. As kinked surfaces are linked they create depth which is used as structure. Once the pavers are tall and dense enough, they can be filled in a way similar to the flooring, to become a surface. In residential areas these surfaces can be given walls which can act as a vegetable garden, butterfly or flower ring hedge, etc.

This is a secondary program to it's primary function which is to protect and conceal the fuel cell and storage units that are a part of the system used for storing energy generated by the PV crop and the crowd farming.

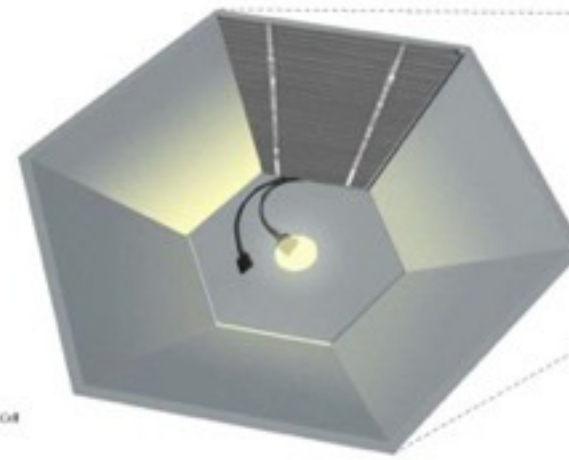
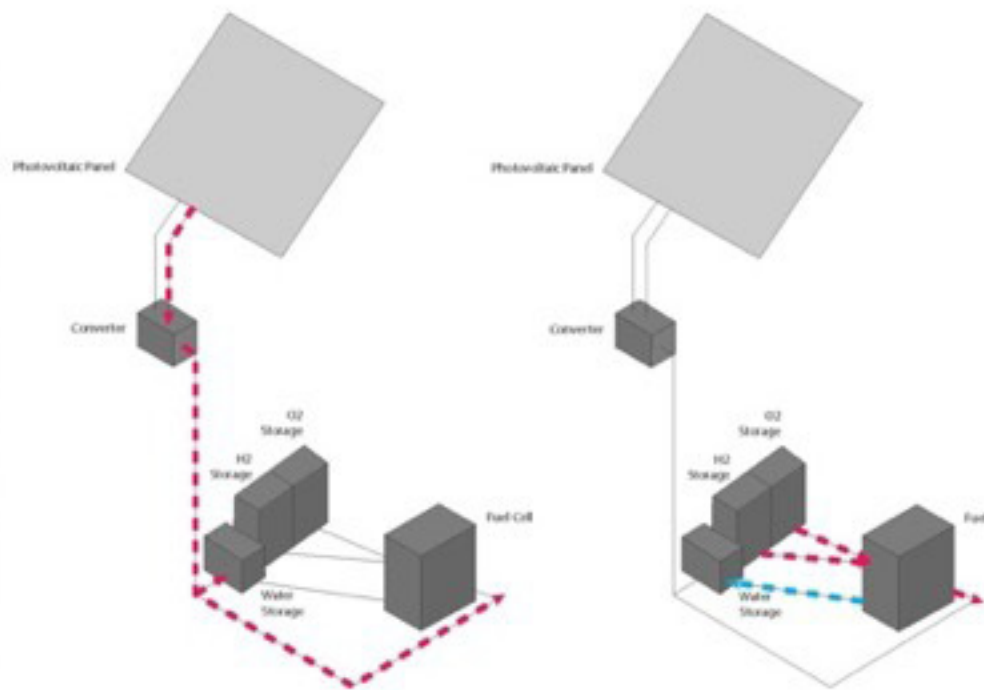
Near these screens, one flooring paver is replaced with a drain to direct surface water runoff into an underground cistern. Water is the first step of the energy storage process and is integral to the fuel cell for night time energy generation.

PV CROP

Pavers accommodate the PV Crop, where in the paver is laid with the kinked edge down to create a space under the walking surface, where conduct receive the solar energy collected by PV cells.

This field is occupiable but functions primarily as an open field for collecting sun. At night, these elements use some of the stored energy to light their LEDs to create a soft glow. Paths can be directed through these areas to promote foot traffic.

ARTIFICIAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS

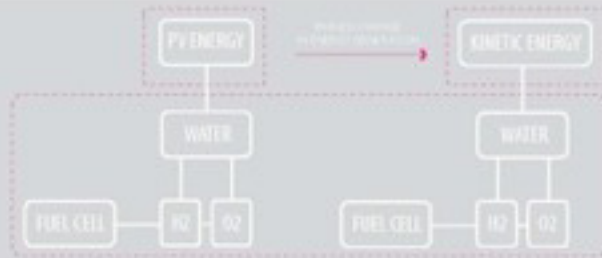
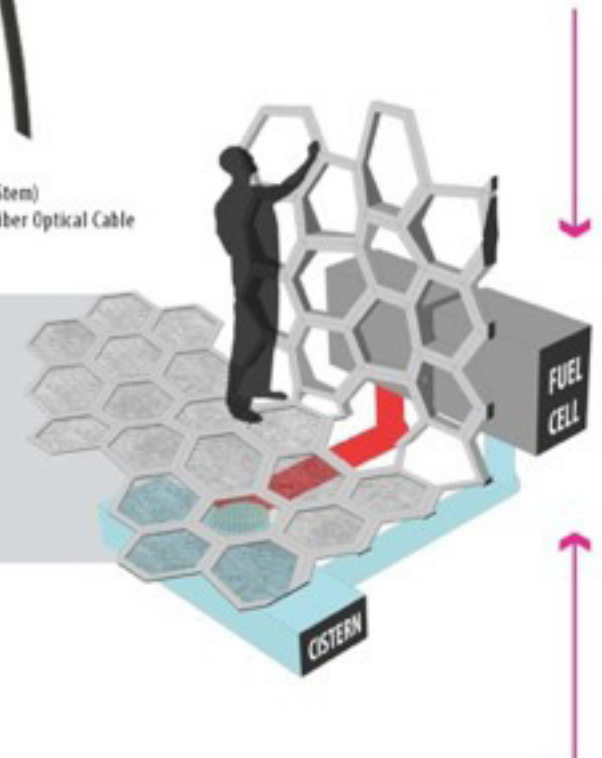


(Head)
1 Photovoltaic Surface
5 Reflective Surfaces

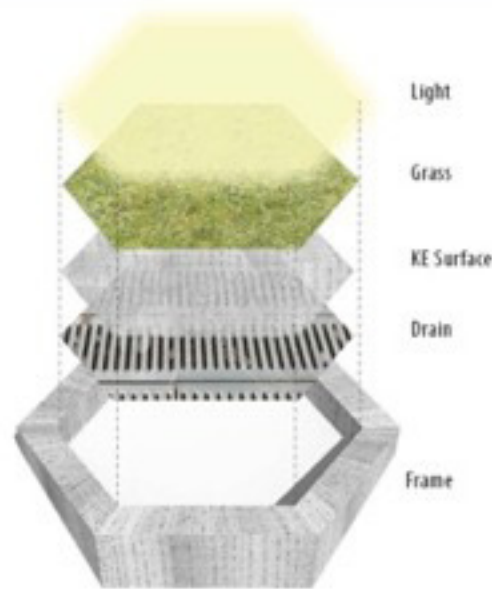
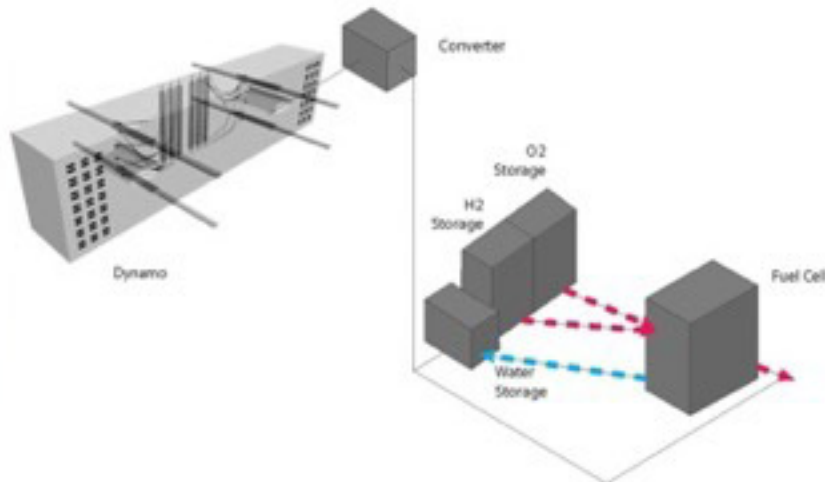


(Stem)
Fiber Optical Cable

Photovoltaic CROP



CROWD FARMING



Transition
Frame



Elongated
Frame

Kinetic Energy PAVER





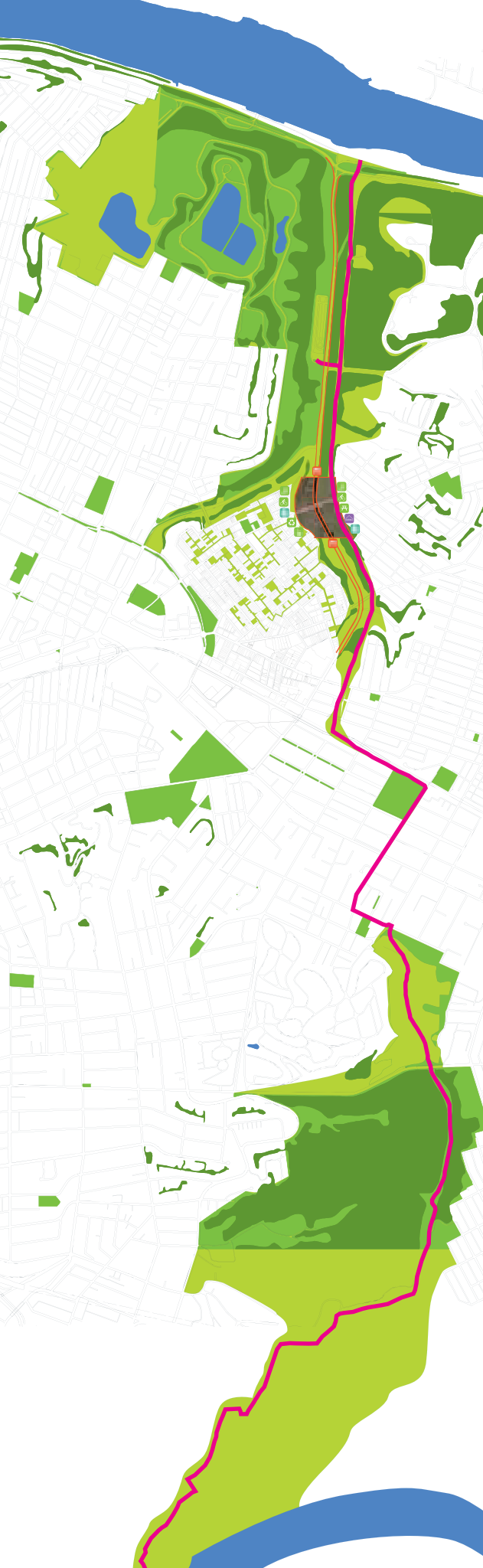
Greening the Slopes

Louisa Jauregui & Anne Riggs

Greening the Slopes

Louisa Jauregui & Anne Riggs

JOB * BUSINESS * DEVELOPMENT * ACTIVITIES * VACANT LOTS * INFRASTRUCTURE *
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Imagining Softscapes

Noramon Bodhidatta & Xianghua Wu

Imagining Softscapes

Noramon Bodhidatta & Xianghua Wu

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primary path

wooded street entrance

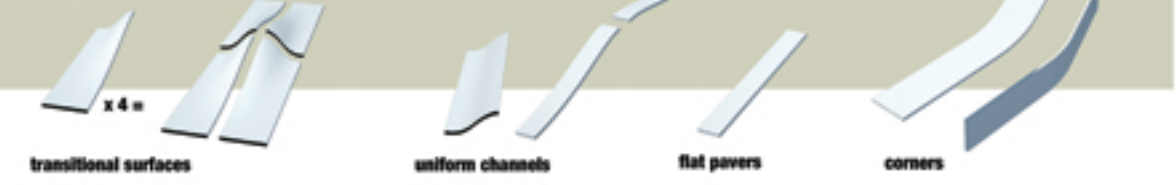
cascading watercourse

upper level watercourse

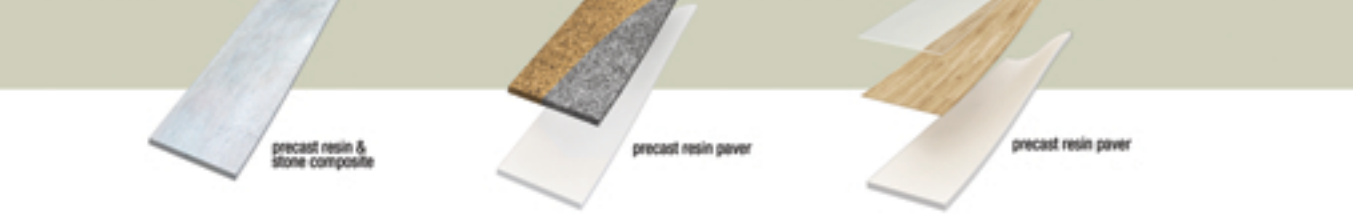
lower level deck

sculpture grove

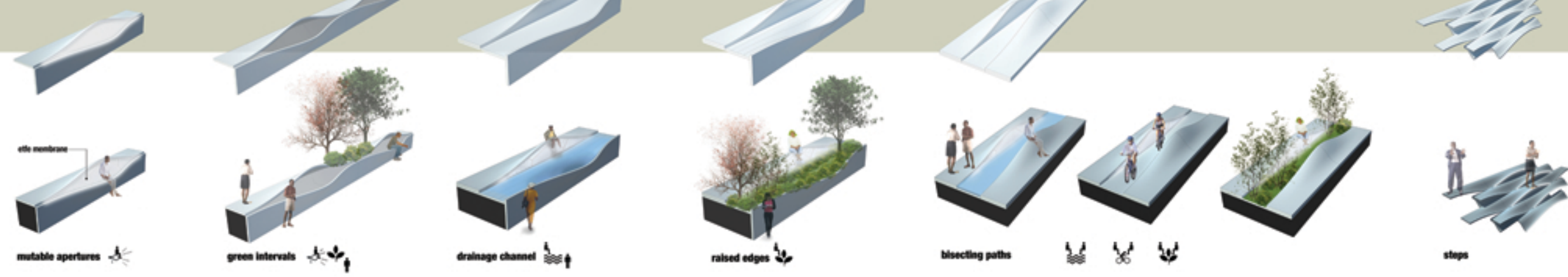
fragments



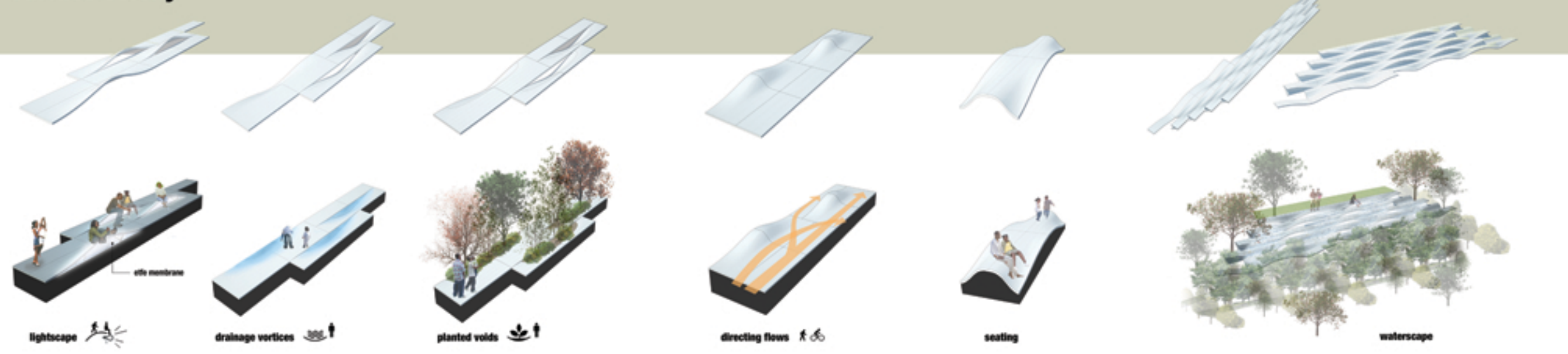
treatments



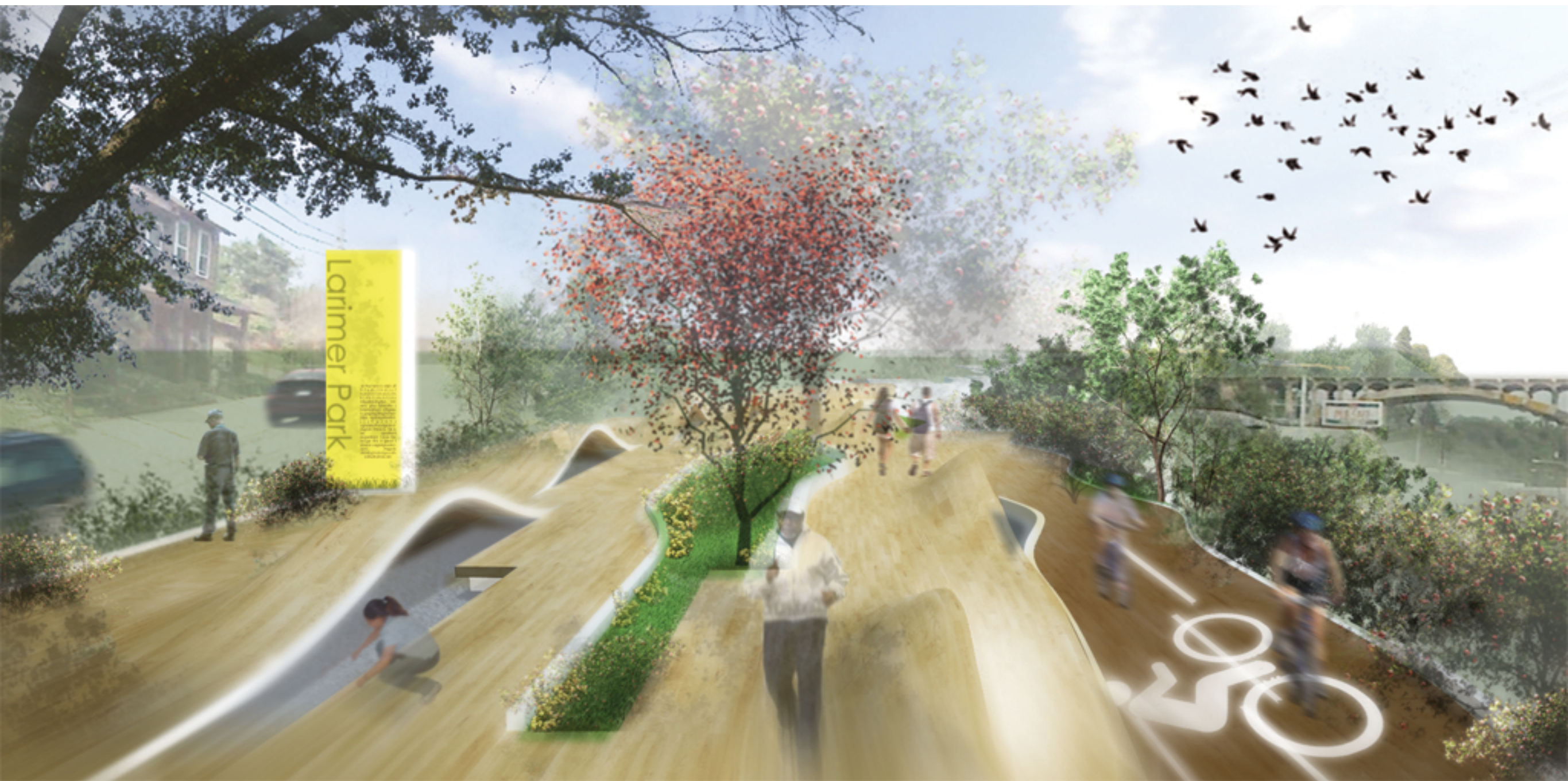
boundaries



surface colony







What Next?