

A watercolor illustration of a park scene. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and a woman in a yellow dress walk away from the viewer. A wooden boardwalk with a railing leads towards a bridge. People are walking on the boardwalk, including a woman with a stroller and a person in a wheelchair. In the background, there are trees, a wetland area with water and reeds, and a building. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Wetlands Preserve Park Community Conversation

March 7, 2023

Nature + Health

- Mental
- Physical
- Social

Outdoor Activities

Combine Nature with Exercise or Mental Stimulation

Physical Activities



Hike in a forest, state park or national park



Run or ride on a greenway bike path



Walk through a park



Bike to work



Golf



Take up birding

Mental Activities



Tend a garden



Take your work outside



Go fishing



Meditate outdoors



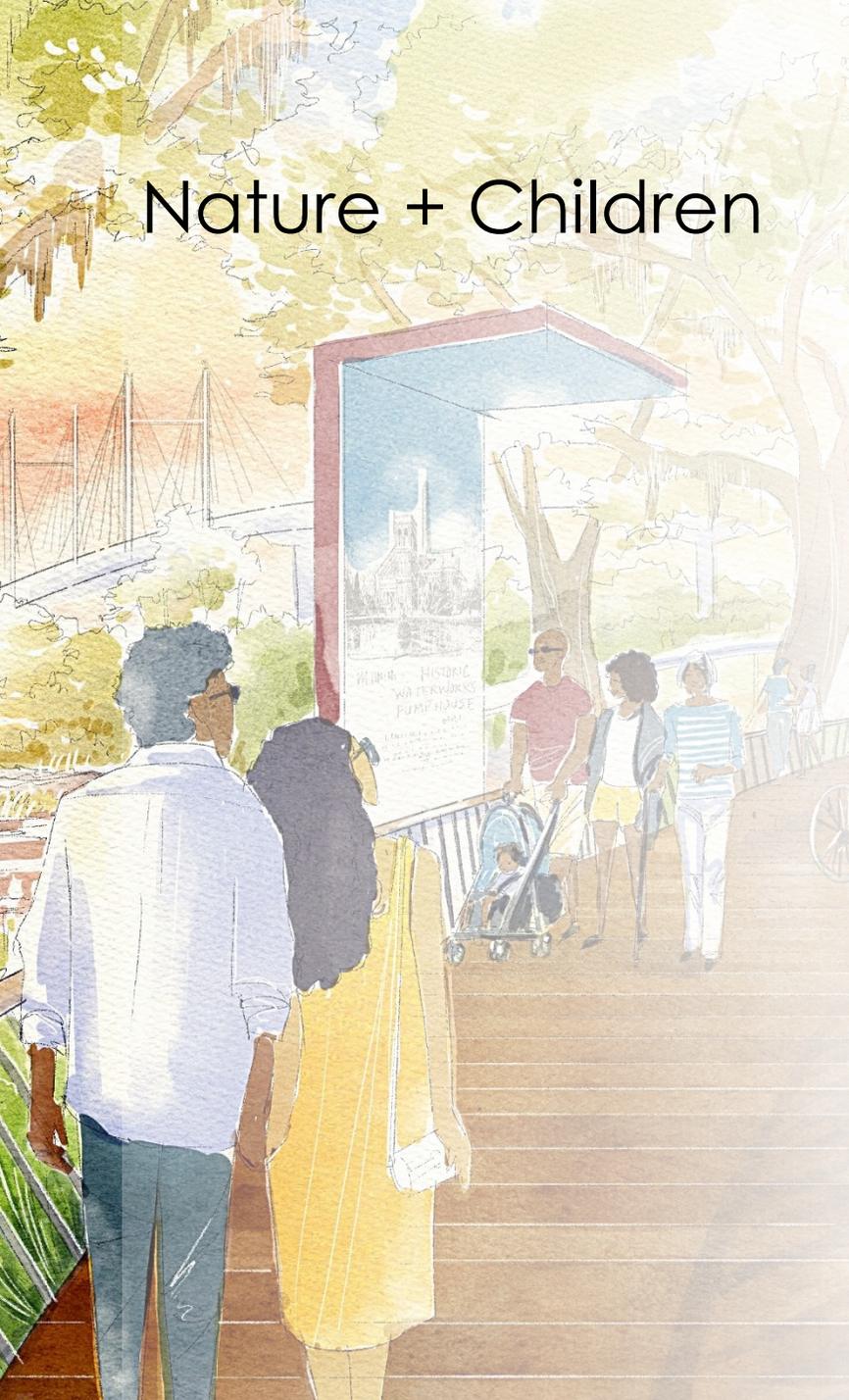
Picnic in a park



Relax outdoors, instead of inside



Nature + Children



HEALTHY BABIES

Nature exposure for mothers can promote:



BETTER FETAL GROWTH³



HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS^{1,2,3}

NATURE CONTACT IS

especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels^{2, 3, 4}

HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS

Time spent in bright sunlight can:



5,6,7



8

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY^{11,12}

REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY¹³

OUTDOOR PLAY

increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence⁹

Children are better able to cope with stress when they live near trees and other greenery.^{15, 16}

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Learning in nature can support:



IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS^{17, 20}



REDUCED STRESS¹⁷
ANGER^{18,19}
AND AGGRESSION^{18,19}

How Do You
Connect With
Nature?



The Vision

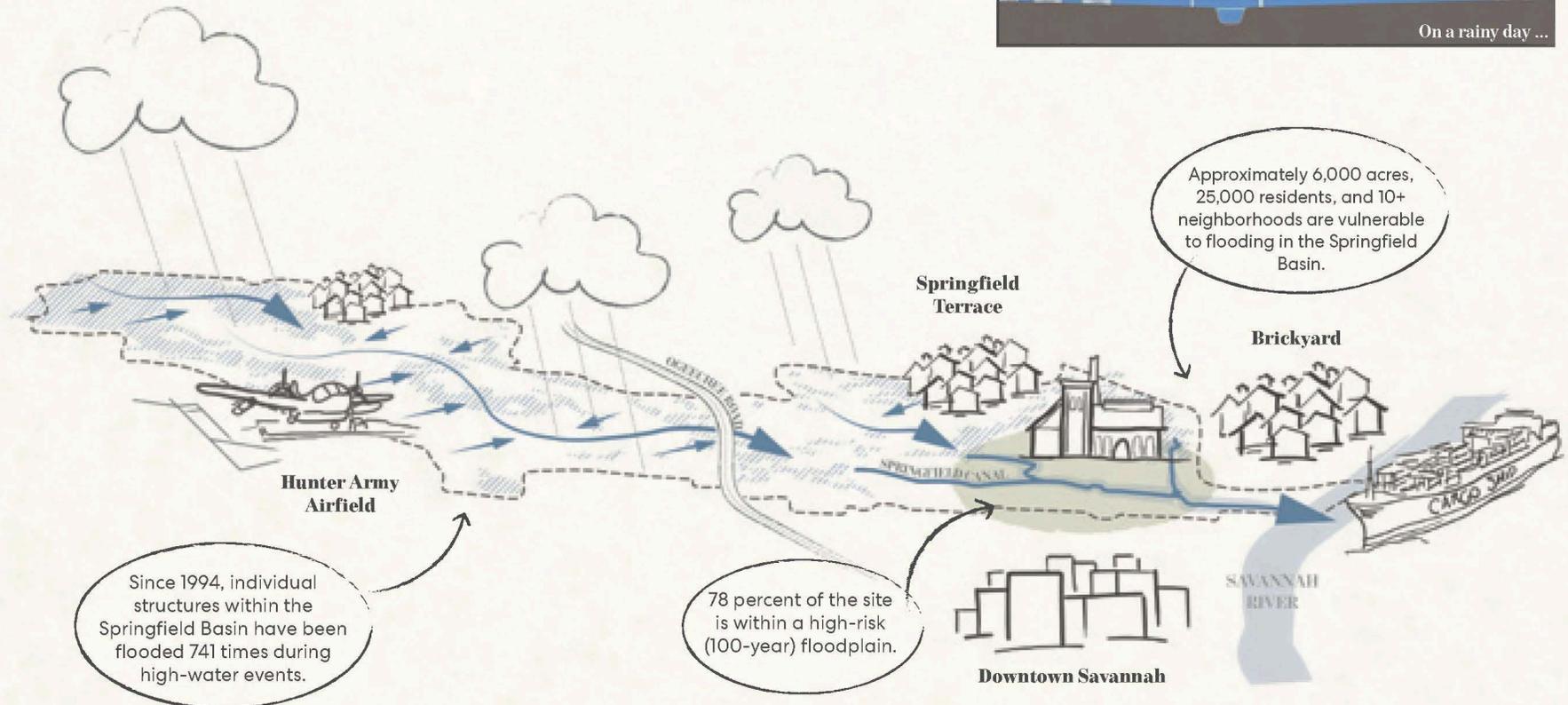


The Springfield Basin

The Springfield Canal receives water from throughout the Springfield Basin and as far south as the Hunter Army Airfield. The Canal District's stormwater system therefore performs essential conveyance and resilience functions for the entire City of Savannah.

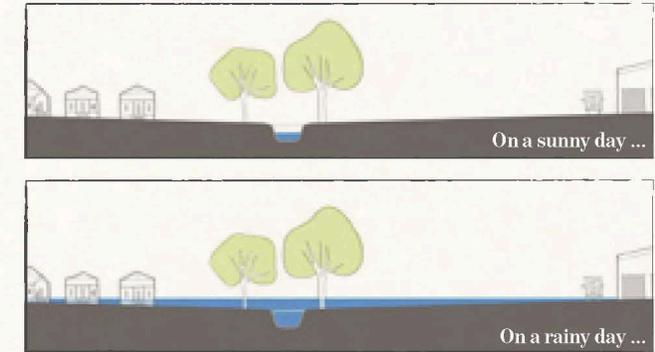
The Canal District is a flat, low-lying area within the greater Springfield Basin. As water flows into the Springfield Canal from many directions across the Basin's large area, it stalls and collects in the District's 100-year floodplain. The stormwater infrastructure needs to convey the water to the Savannah River and out to the Atlantic Ocean, but it doesn't.

On a rainy day in the Canal District, water often accumulates faster than it can flow toward the river. It pools in the floodplain, as in a bathtub with a slow drain. The section of the Springfield Canal in the new District is just too narrow to manage the volume of water flowing through the floodplain. The water backs up into the streets and surrounding neighborhoods, exposing these communities to overwhelming environmental risk.



The Springfield Canal Today

Water is the biggest driver of the Canal District Master Plan. The Canal District is vulnerable to the social, economic, and environmental stresses of repeated and extreme flooding.



Floodplain Mitigation

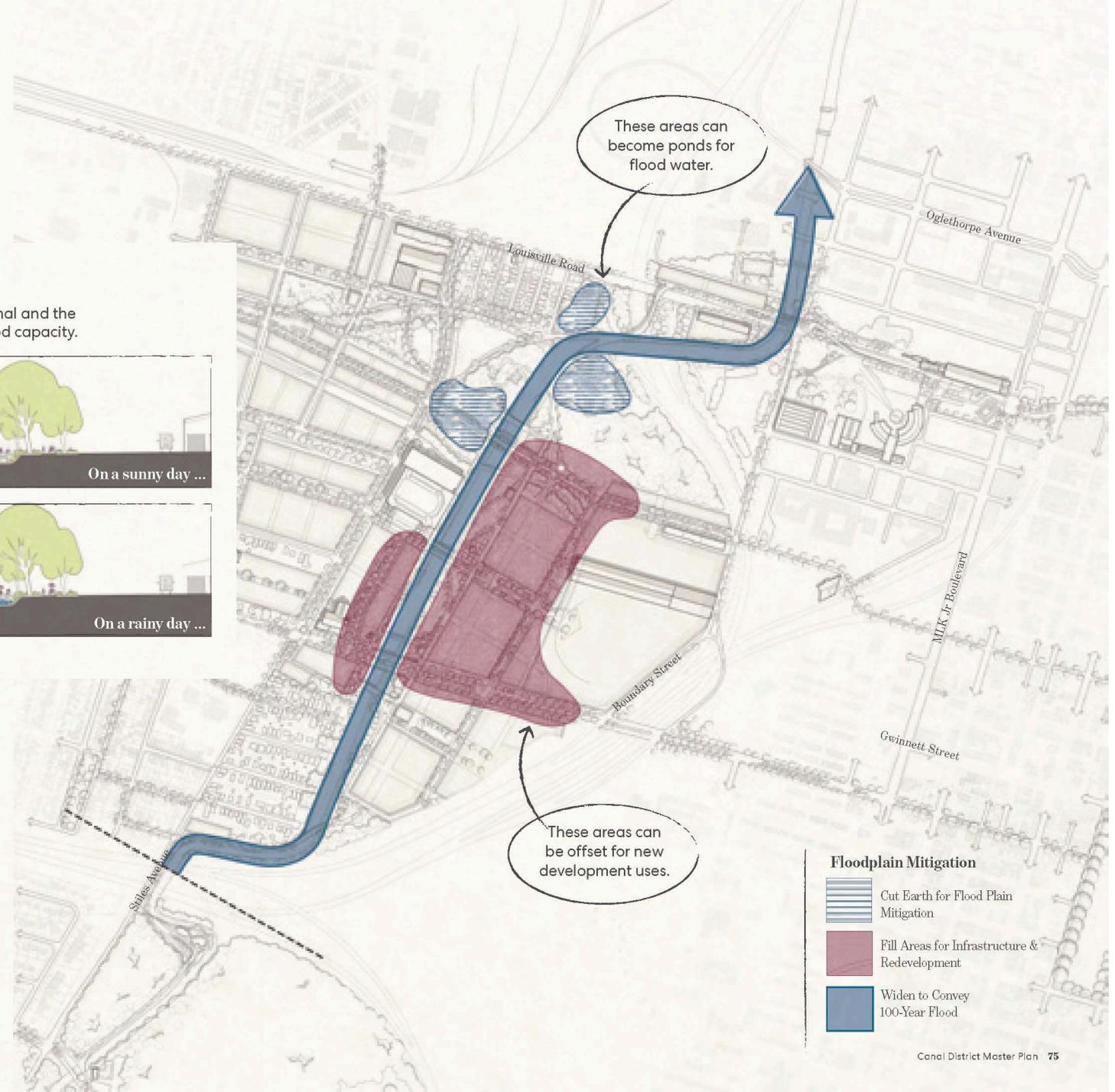
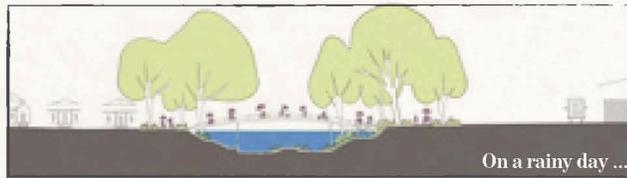
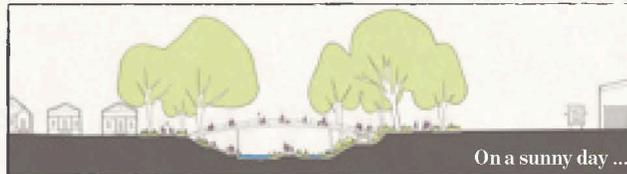
The Canal District needs to manage the rise and flow of water more effectively to develop and grow. Making space for water and the desire growth can bring out the natural features of the landscape to their greatest advantage.

The development of the Canal District will require mitigation of the Springfield Basin floodplain, and mitigation greater will require the redistribution of water throughout the area. The Springfield Canal must be widened to convey water to the Savannah River, and larger spaces will be needed for basins that can effectively mitigate the floodplain under average or extreme conditions.

Studies conducted in the course of this master-planning process identified both areas positioned for redevelopment and areas for potential floodplain mitigation. These studies prioritized the use of City-owned land to absorb flood water, directing it away from neighborhoods and private property. On City-owned land, these stormwater ponds will become functional and aesthetic features in wetland nature preserves.

A District Prepared to Flood

The goal is to design the Springfield Canal and the District to accommodate 100-year flood capacity.



Floodplain Mitigation

-  Cut Earth for Flood Plain Mitigation
-  Fill Areas for Infrastructure & Redevelopment
-  Widen to Convey 100-Year Flood

Open Space Framework

Lowcountry features can assist filtration and contribute to the stormwater management that makes possible a new network of community amenities that support daily and seasonal activities.

This Plan proposes a comprehensive open space framework, including a range of new parks as well as improvements to existing public spaces, such as Bowles C. Ford Park. Creation of a Canal District path network should improve access and connections for the surrounding neighborhoods, the City, and the larger region.

Wetland Preserve Park

The Springfield Canal and the water it distributes shape the look and feel of the Canal District. The construction of wetland preserves can work as ecological anchors in two locations: where water moves into the District from the south and where it flows out to the north. Wetland nature preserves use natural systems, ponds, and constructed wetlands to absorb and clean stormwater. A series of low-impact trail networks and stations would connect people to nature and create opportunities for educational and recreational spaces.

Canal Park

A grand new civic park adjacent to the Arena is the proposed civic core of the Canal District. Intended to be the most urban public space in the District, the Canal Park would be lined on all sides with residences and new destinations.

Promenades

These linear pathways will connect people from within the neighborhoods to the Canal Park, the Savannah Arena, and the heart of the Canal District.

Neighborhood Parks

Smaller-scale parks should be introduced into the Canal District neighborhoods. These new spaces welcome healthy community activities, such as outdoor play and picnics. An evaluation of existing amenities in surrounding parks should follow adoption of this Master Plan, and upgrades should then be done in accordance with the recommended Community Benefits Framework.

Bowles C. Ford Park

Celebrated by many neighborhood residents, Bowles C. Ford Park is a community asset that was never fully built out. It should connect to the greater park system and receive care and maintenance at the standard of parks Citywide. Linked to the planned Tide to Town Trail, it can become a City anchor just south of the District.



Types of Parks

- Wetland Preserve Park
- Neighborhood Parks
- Bowles C. Ford Park
- Promenades
- Civic Parks
- Planned Trail Network

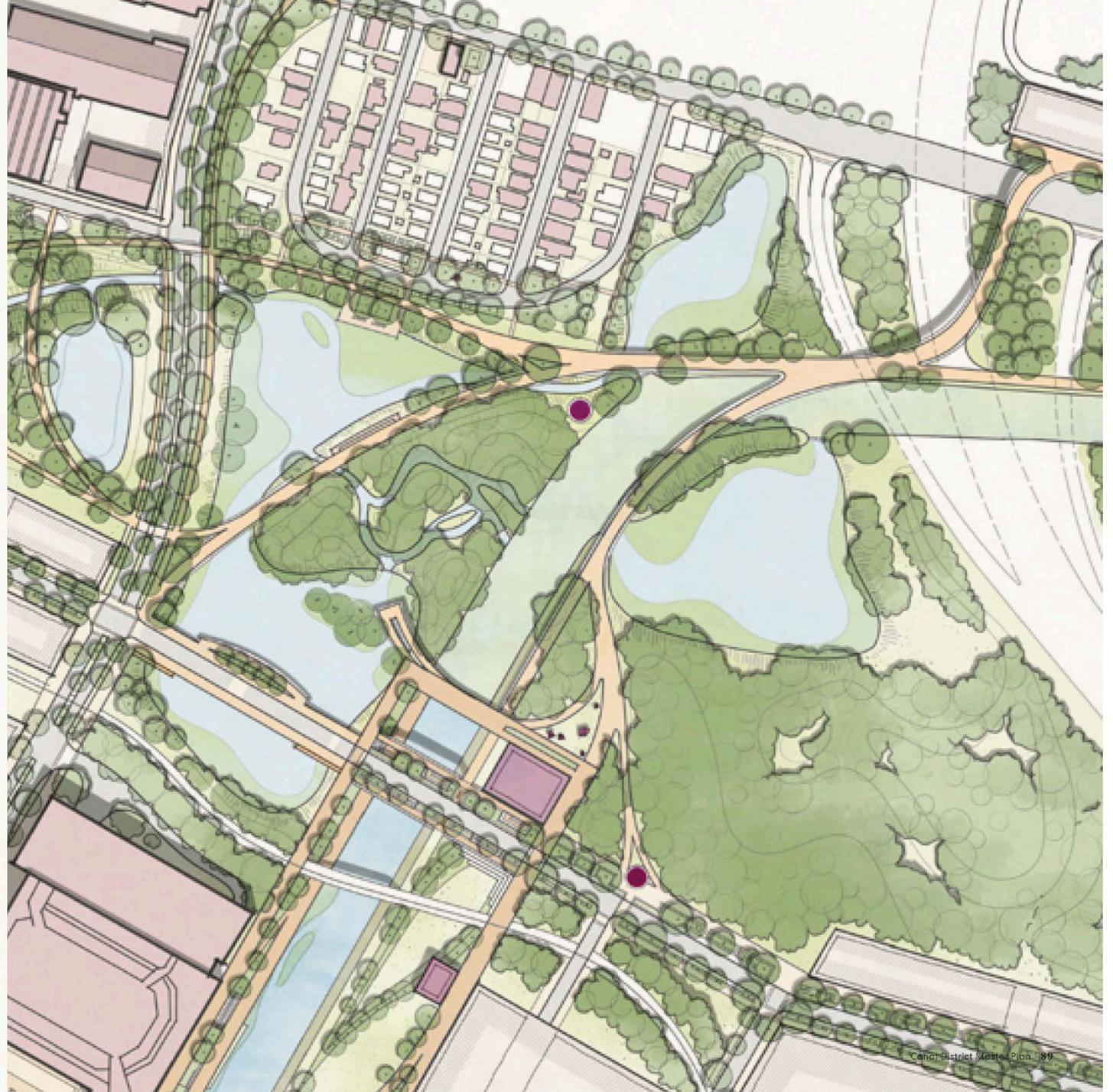
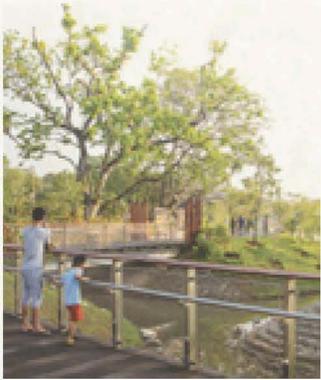
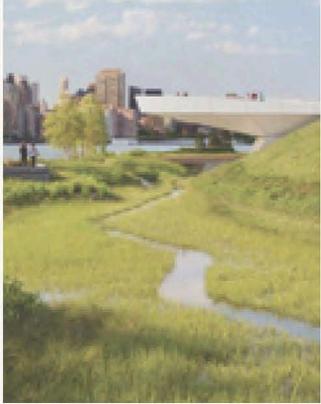
Public Space Tool

Wetland Preserve Park

Expanding vital ecosystems can contribute to stormwater management and translate into beautiful natural settings for walking, observing wildlife, and taking in Lowcountry sounds.

"Generally speaking, my excitement is the green space that will surround the canals."
— Resident, Savannah

Natural landscapes can be varied to create a range of observational and interactive Lowcountry experiences.



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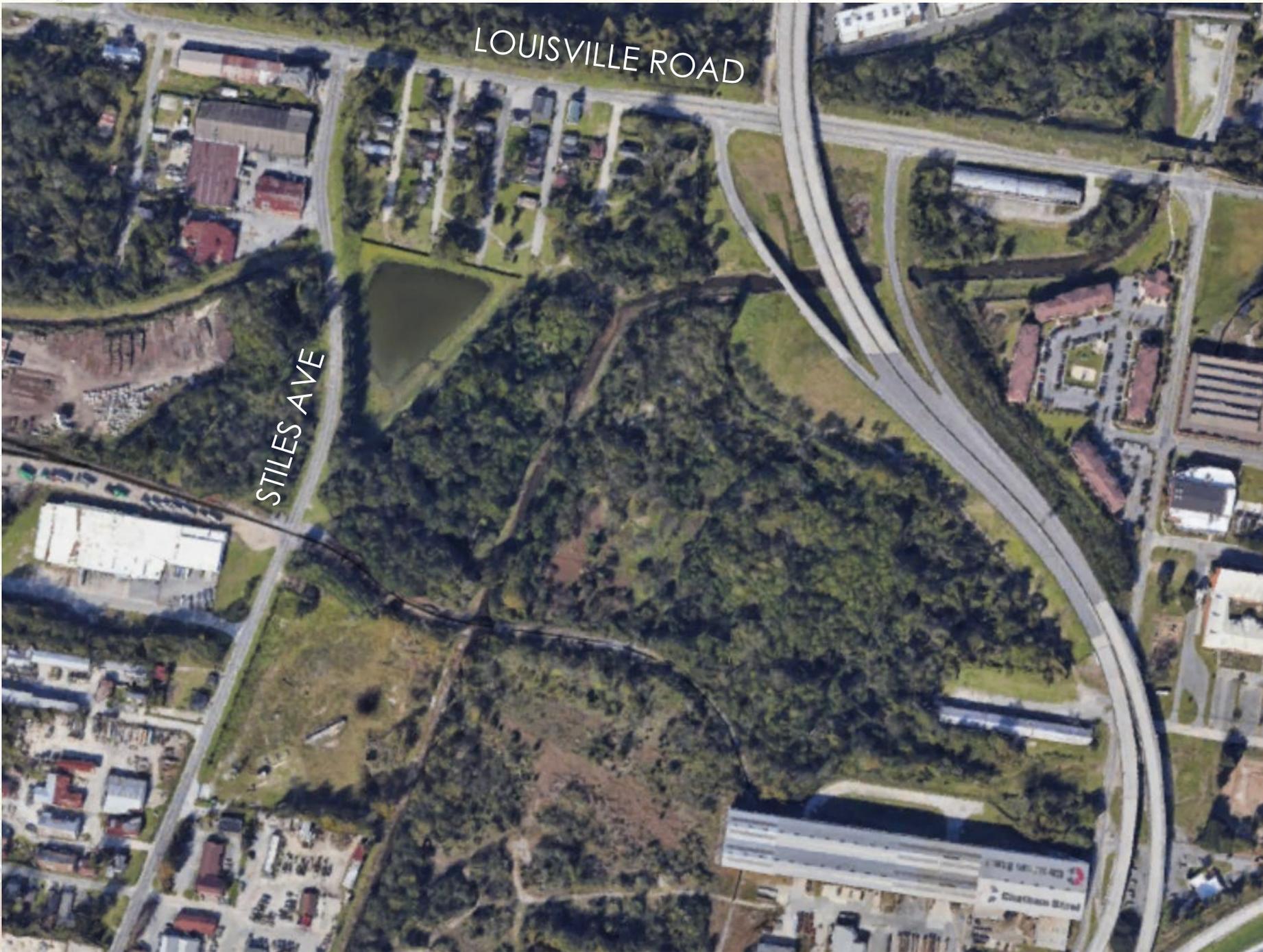


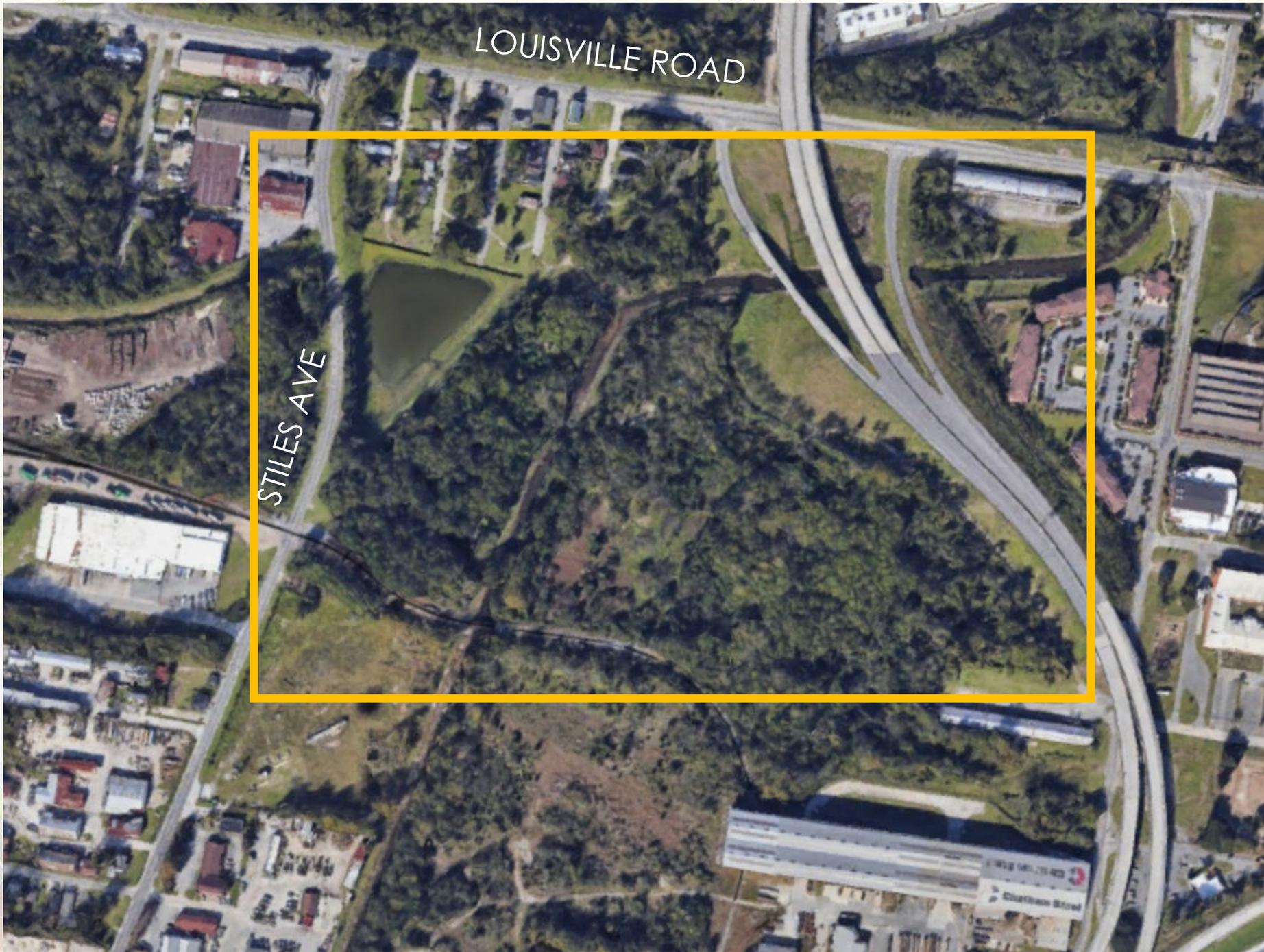
The Vision

Expanding vital ecosystems can contribute to stormwater management and translate into beautiful natural settings for walking, observing wildlife, and taking in Lowcountry sounds.

The Site







LOUISVILLE ROAD

STILES AVE





STILES AVENUE

SPRINGFIELD CANAL

LOUISVILLE ROAD

GA-25

ARENA

PARKING LOT



STILES AVENUE

LOUISVILLE ROAD

GA-25

SPRINGFIELD CANAL

RAIL BED

ARENA

PARKING LOT





STILES AVENUE

LOUISVILLE ROAD

GA-25

WETLANDS

SPRINGFIELD CANAL

RAIL BED

ARENA

WETLANDS

PARKING LOT

WETLANDS



STILES AVENUE
ACCESS

RAIL BED

ARENA

PARKING LOT

WETLANDS

TRAIL LOCATION

SPRINGFIELD CANAL

WETLANDS

1/2 MILE TRAIL LOOP

WETLANDS

LOUISVILLE ROAD

GA-25

ACCESS

A watercolor illustration of a park scene. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and a woman in a yellow dress walk away from the viewer. To their right, a wooden boardwalk leads up a slight incline. A man in a red shirt pushes a stroller, and a woman in a white top and yellow shorts walks beside him. Further up the boardwalk, a person in a wheelchair is visible. In the middle ground, a woman in a white shirt and dark pants walks a brown dog, while a woman in a red dress walks a black dog. A child in a blue shirt is playing with a ball. In the background, there is a building with a sign that reads "HISTORIC WATERSIDE PUMPHOUSE" and a large tree on the right. The scene is set in a park with many trees and a body of water in the distance.

The Design Themes



TRAIL SURFACES



GRAVEL

BOARDWALK

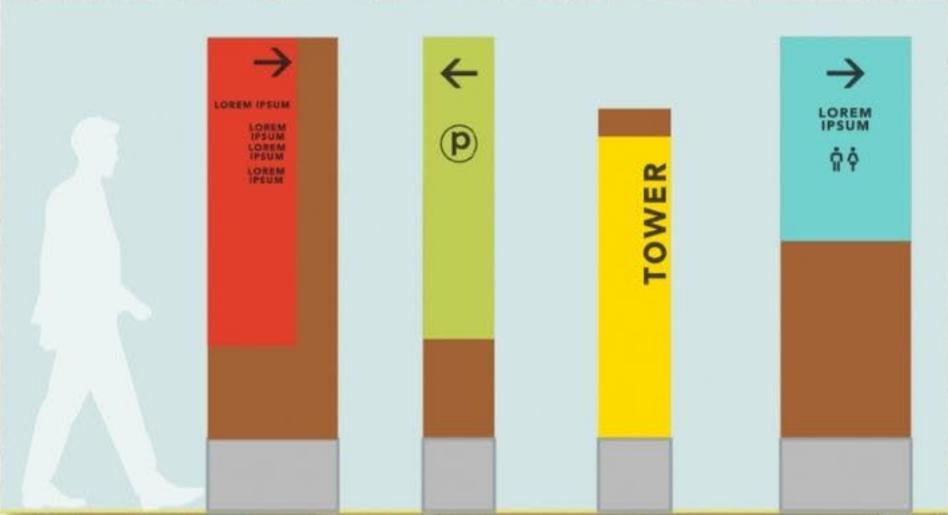
DESIGN #1: FLORA AND FAUNA



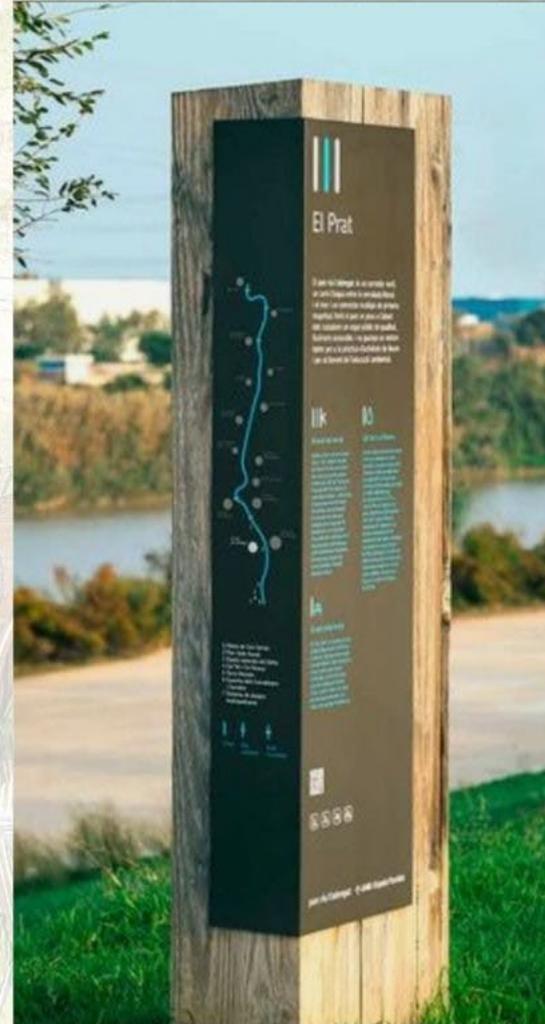
**VIBRANT COLOR
PALLETTE**



DESIGN STYLE: TOTEM
MATERIAL: COLORFUL SIGN, WOOD, CONCRETE BASE



TOTEM EXAMPLES



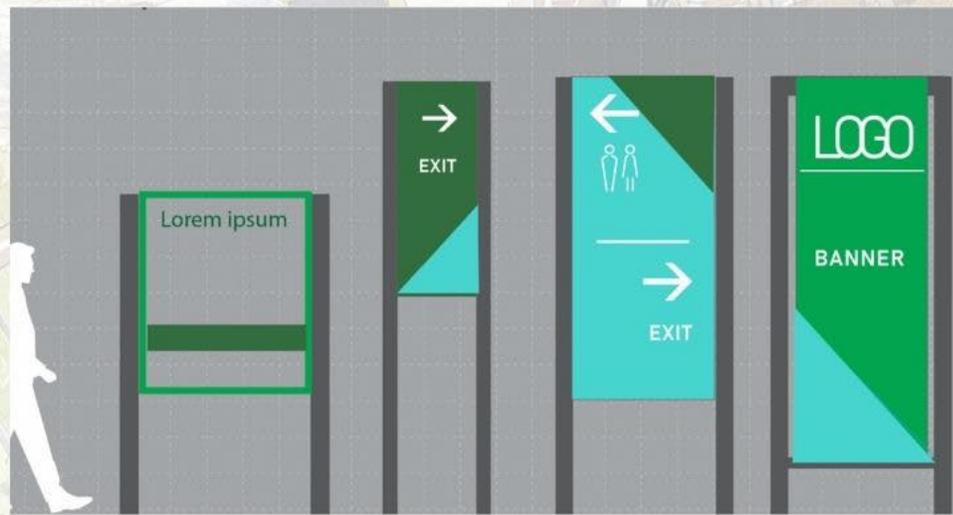
DESIGN #2: WETLANDS AND WATER



**COLOR PALETTE
EARTHY**



**DESIGN STYLE: TWO-POLE BANNER
MATERIAL: METAL WITH COLORED BANNER**



TWO POLE SIGNS



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

**DESIGN STYLE:
TRANSPARENT BANNER**

**MATERIAL:
POLYCARBONATE GLAZE
WOOD OR METAL POLES**



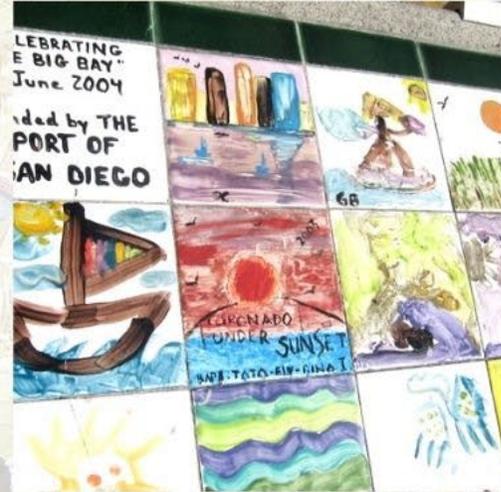
INTERACTIVE EDUCATION



NODES



AMENITIES - ENGAGEMENT BENCHES



ACTIVITIES





Now...let's hear from you!

A watercolor illustration of a park walkway. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and a woman in a yellow dress walk away from the viewer. In the middle ground, a man in a red shirt pushes a stroller, and a woman in a white top and yellow shorts walks. To the right, a woman in a blue and white striped shirt walks. In the background, there are large trees, a wooden walkway, and a historical marker with a picture of a building. The sky is a mix of yellow and blue.

Stations

- Master Plan (Patrick Graham)
- Design Themes (Erin Clay)
- Educational Elements (Stella Wiggins)
- Neighborhood Nodes (Tanya Mandel)

Floaters: Nick Deffley, Bridget Lidy,
Denise Grabowski, Armand Turner

