

Latta Place



Mecklenburg County,
North Carolina

Agency Landscape + Planning
Perkins & Will
Kimley-Horn Associates
The Design Minds
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McIntosh Poris Architects
Kofi Boone



Today's Agenda

- **Site Overview & Historic Context**
- **Public Process Recap**
- **Design Process & Research**
- **Design**



Beauty

Cultural Landscapes

Trauma

Care Guidelines

This process is new. We will discuss topics that are hard, and there is not a standard methodology or fluency. We will give each other grace, space and care in this context and collectively sit with discomfort and ambiguity.

- Give Grace to the Gravity
- Understand Community and Nuance
- Promote Physical Care
- Create More Space and Time
- Regular Cadence of Reflection
- Communicate Clearly



Site Context & History



**Located within the
Latta Nature Preserve
in Huntersville**

Latta Nature Preserve

Kayak Access

**Quest Nature
Center**

Latta Place

**Waterfront
Access Parking**

**Carolina Raptor
Center**

**30-minute drive from
uptown Charlotte**



Mountain Island Lake

Relocated Historic Barn

Relocated Historic Barn

● Replica Enslaved People's Cabin

● Original Meat House

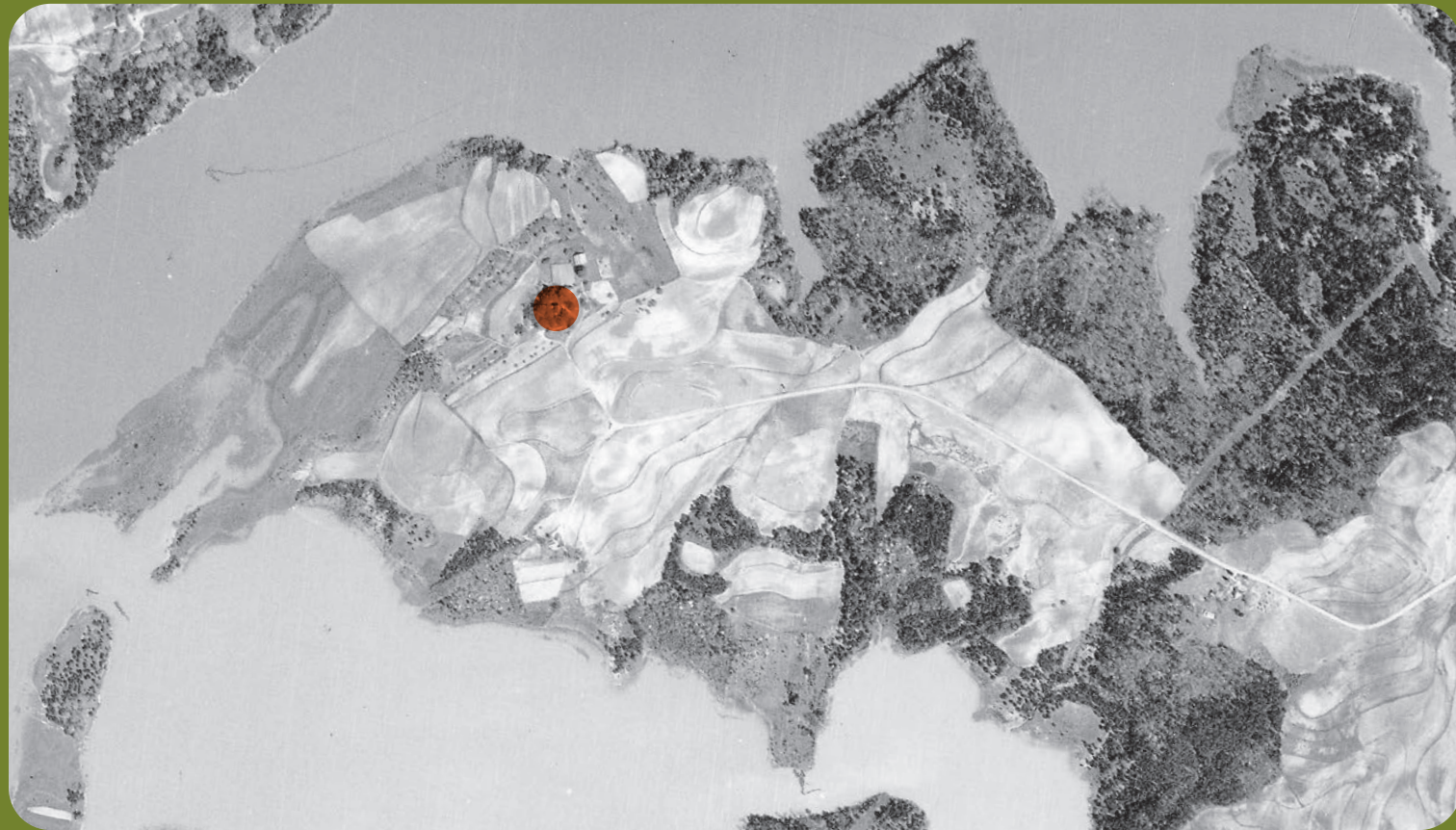
● Replica Kitchen House

**Historic plantation
built in 1800 along
the Catawba River**

Original Latta House
Built 1800



Latta House



1938



1978



1700

1800

1900

2000

Indigenous Peoples Catawba, Cherokee, and other Piedmont Nations

1759 Catawba population decimated by small pox from European colonists

1840 Treaty of Nations Ford, Catawba Nation forcibly moved west



1700

1800

1900

2000

Indigenous Peoples Catawba, Cherokee, and other Piedmont Nations

Landowners Thompson, Hayes, Latta, Harry, Sample

1800 Latta House and Plantation Built

1922 Sample Family deeds Latta Place to Duke Power

African Americans Enslaved Africans, Tenant Farmers, Artisans

1764 Slavery introduced to Charlotte Mecklenburg

1863 Emancipation Proclamation

1850 39% of Mecklenburg County is enslaved

1896 Plessy v Ferguson upholds Jim Crow laws in the South



1700

1800

1900

2000

Indigenous Peoples Catawba, Cherokee, and other Piedmont Nations

Landowners Thompson, Hayes, Latta, Harry, Sample

African Americans Enslaved Africans, Tenant Farmers, Artisans

Stewards Latta Place, Inc., Duke Power, Mecklenburg County Park & Rec

1923 Catawba River dammed for hydropower

1981 Mecklenburg County opens Latta Nature Preserve

Public Process Overview





Civility Localized

Civility Localized

Grounding Event Panelists: Kofi Boone (moderator), Wali Cathcart, Delphine Sellars

Latta Place Mission Statement

TRUTH – TRANSPARENCY – COMPASSION – TRANSFORMATION – UNITY

We believe it is our duty to tell the truth.
We resolve to practice transparency in all that we do.



Civility Localized

What We Heard From the Community

Feedback Collected at Latta Place Grounding Event and Public Input Online Survey

- History of Slavery at Latta
- History of Indigenous
- Agriculture
- Nature
- Other

Site tours & historic interpretation from the perspective of the enslaved

Memorial to the enslaved people of Latta Place

Research on the history of slavery in Mecklenburg County

Site tours & historic interpretation from the perspective of Indigenous peoples

Quiet spaces for reflection

Event space for public programming & descendant gatherings

Enslaved burial grounds at Latta - identify location & commemorate (write-in)

Demonstration crop field



Prioritize the Perspectives of the Enslaved and the Indigenous

Feedback Collected at Latta Place Grounding Event and Latta Place Partners

“I never really contemplated how dominant the big house is, it’s hard to soften that.”

“The realities of the fact that some people do not come to this location for that historic narrative, but they are in our proximity, we can put bits and pieces to bring them closer to our mission objectives.”

There is consensus behind de-centering Latta House

“Expand option seems to open up a mind blowing number of potentials we haven’t been concentrating on when looking at the site today, but **does solve a lot of issues with flexibility**, more room, more flex. Intriguing not to crowd historic section with lots of interpretive elements”

“I really like the idea of somehow visitors allowing visitors to envision that the site was very different - indigenous to plantation to today. [I like] the potential it gives us to **activate the site in a way that meets the needs of a lot of different people and I think we need to provide people with choices.**”

“There are some people that don’t want to visit the house at all. **Maybe over time people would feel more comfortable with visiting the historic site** eventually.”

There is strong support for an interpretive trail at Latta Place

There is interest in a tribute to the enslaved people of Latta Place

“My preferred option. I like the ability to tell more narratives through the expansive trail.”



Design Process & Research



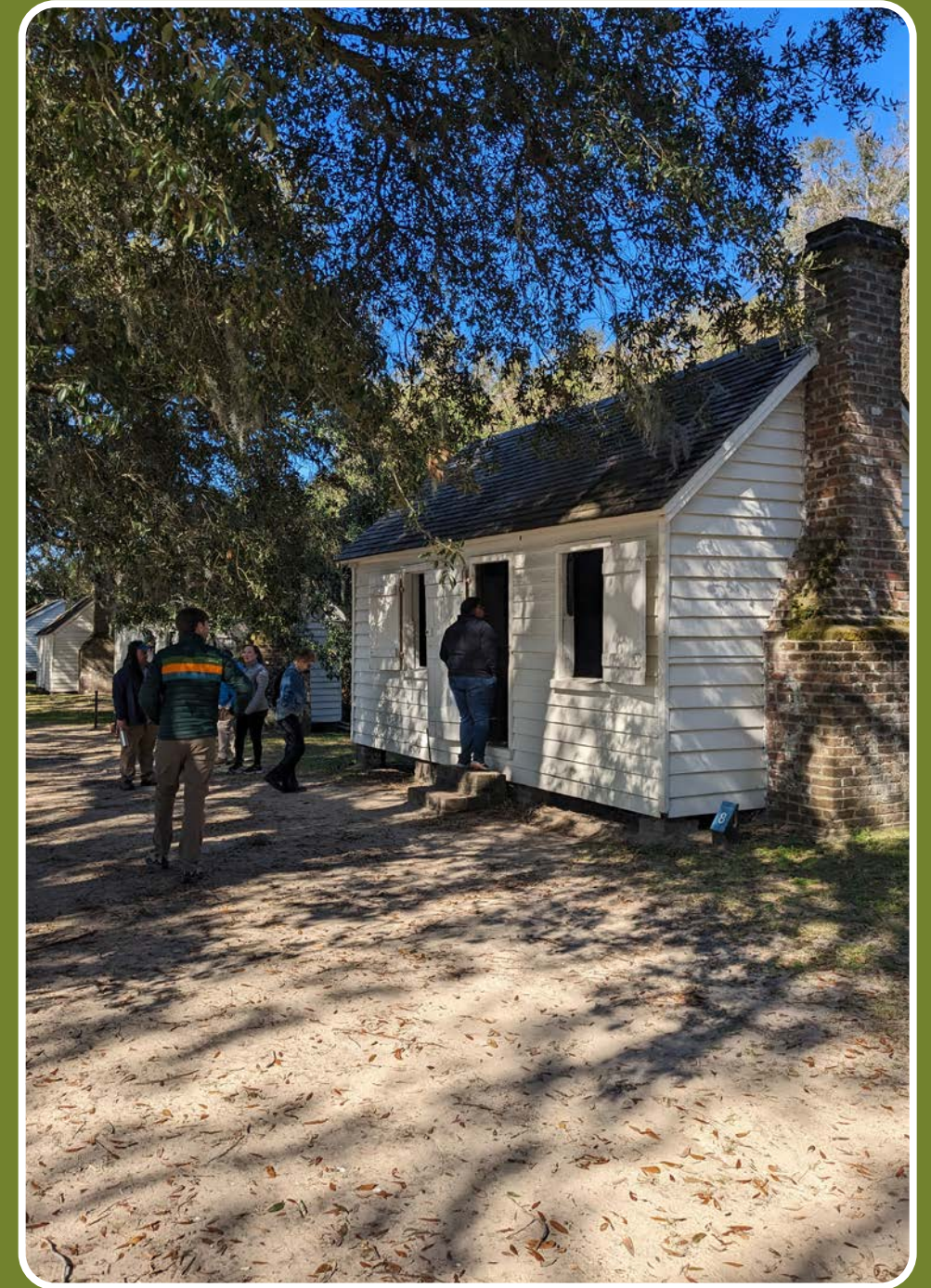
Understanding the Context



Drayton Hall
Charleston, SC



Middleton Place
Charleston, SC



McLeod Plantation
Charleston, SC

Understanding the Landscape

Site Analysis, Historic Images & Cultural Landscape Assessment



**LATTA PLACE HISTORIC SITE
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT**

Initial Draft Submission



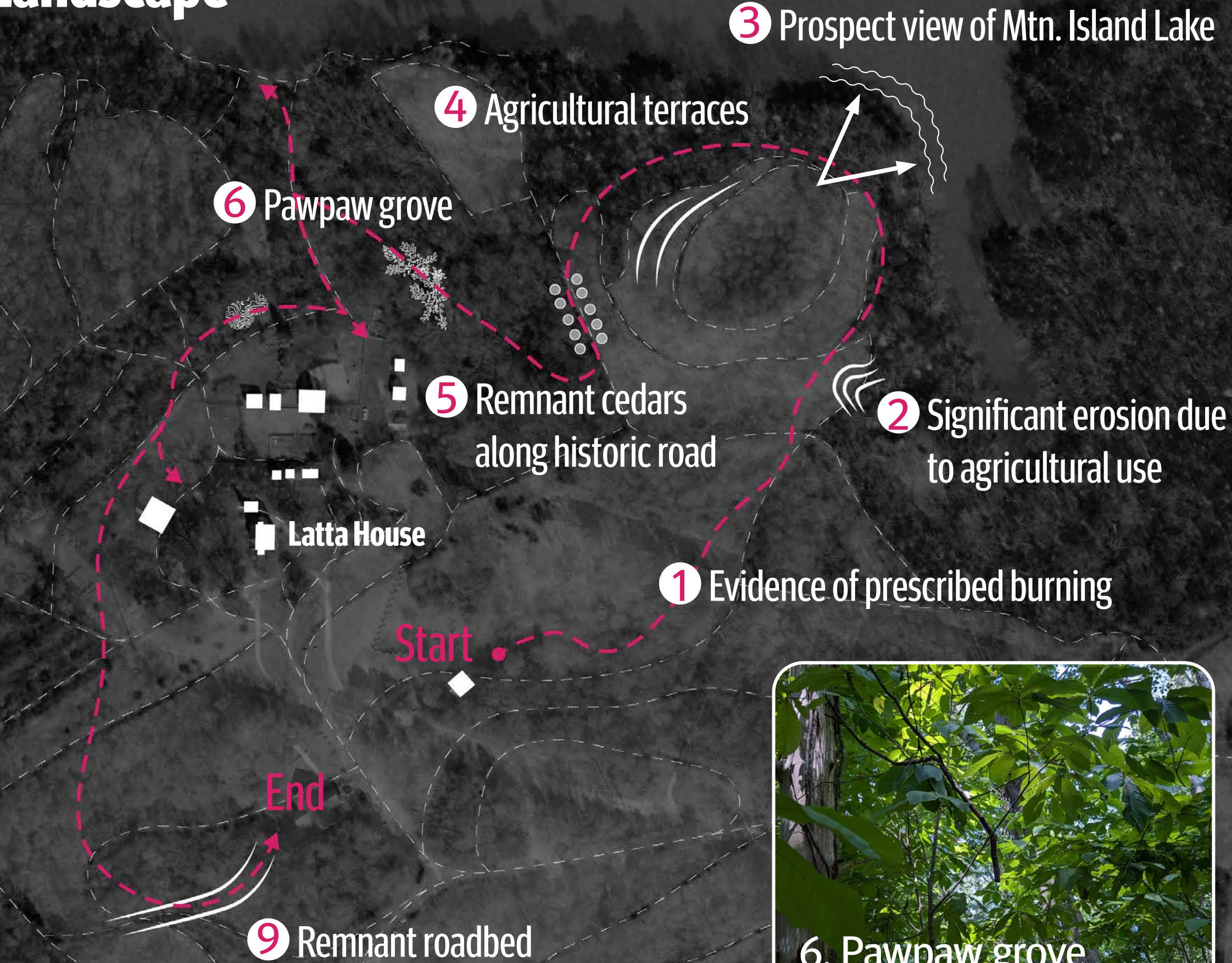
September 4, 2024

July 18, 2024



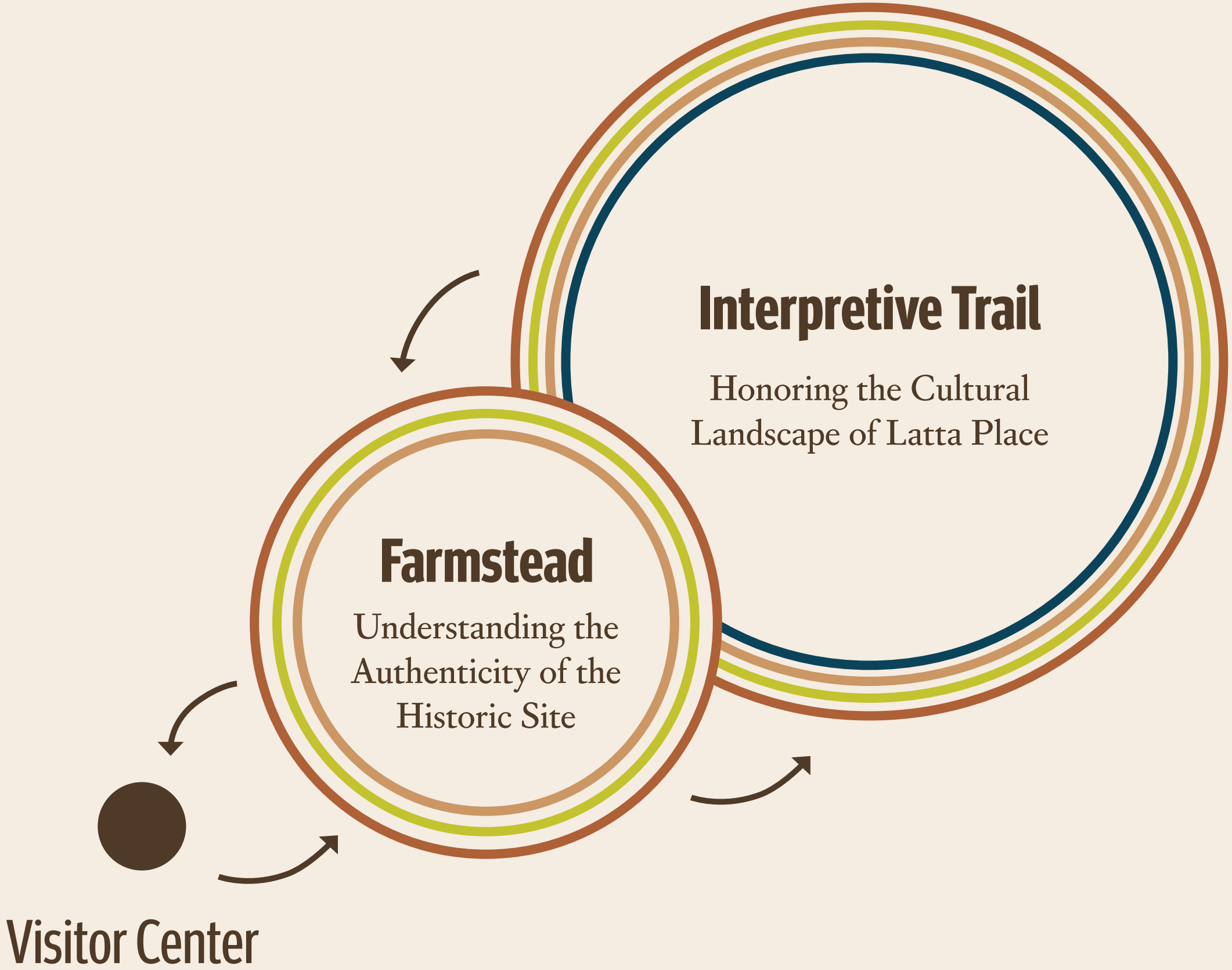
Understanding the Landscape

Site Walks



Design

Uncovering the Entangled Stories of Latta Place



The peoples and cultures that have shaped Latta Place

Indigenous

Catawba, Cherokee, and other Piedmont Nations

Landowners

Thompson, Hayes, Latta, Harry, Sample

African Americans

Enslaved Africans, Tenant Farmers, Artisans

Stewards

Latta Place, Inc., Duke Power, Meck Park & Rec

What Can an Interpretive Trail Bring to Latta Place?

Create a Rich Experience
for All People



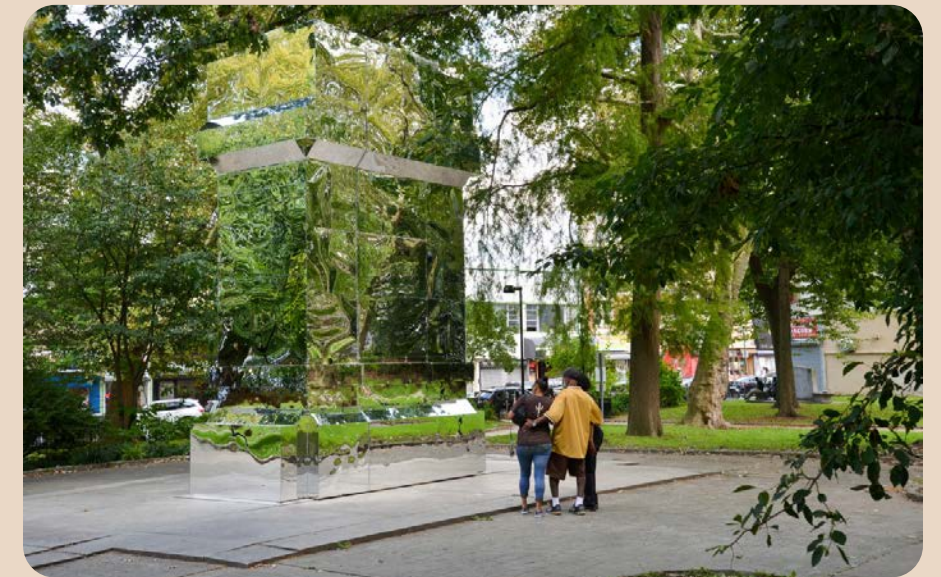
All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society

Engage the Nature Preserve



Confluence Project, Maya Lin

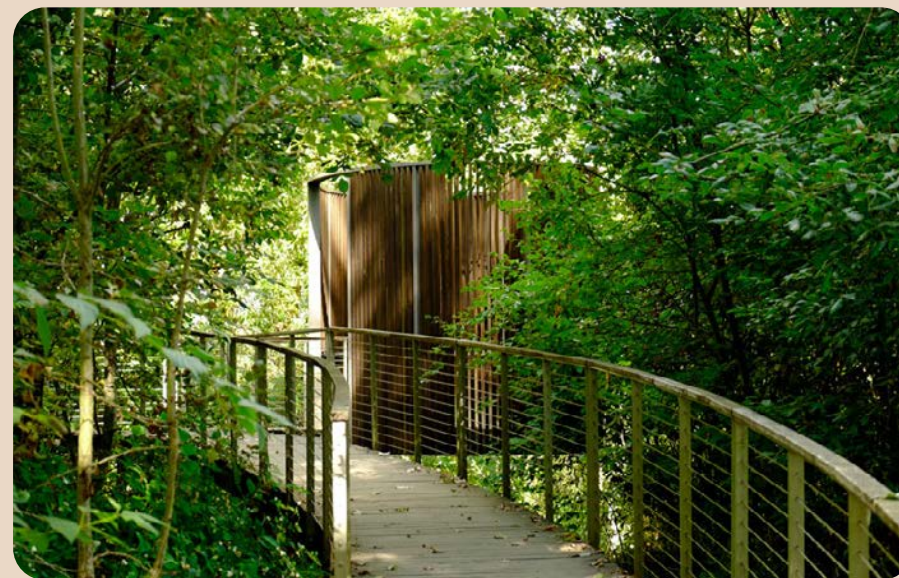
Reposition the Cultural Narrative
of Memorials & Monuments



“The Battles Is Joined” by Karyn Olivier



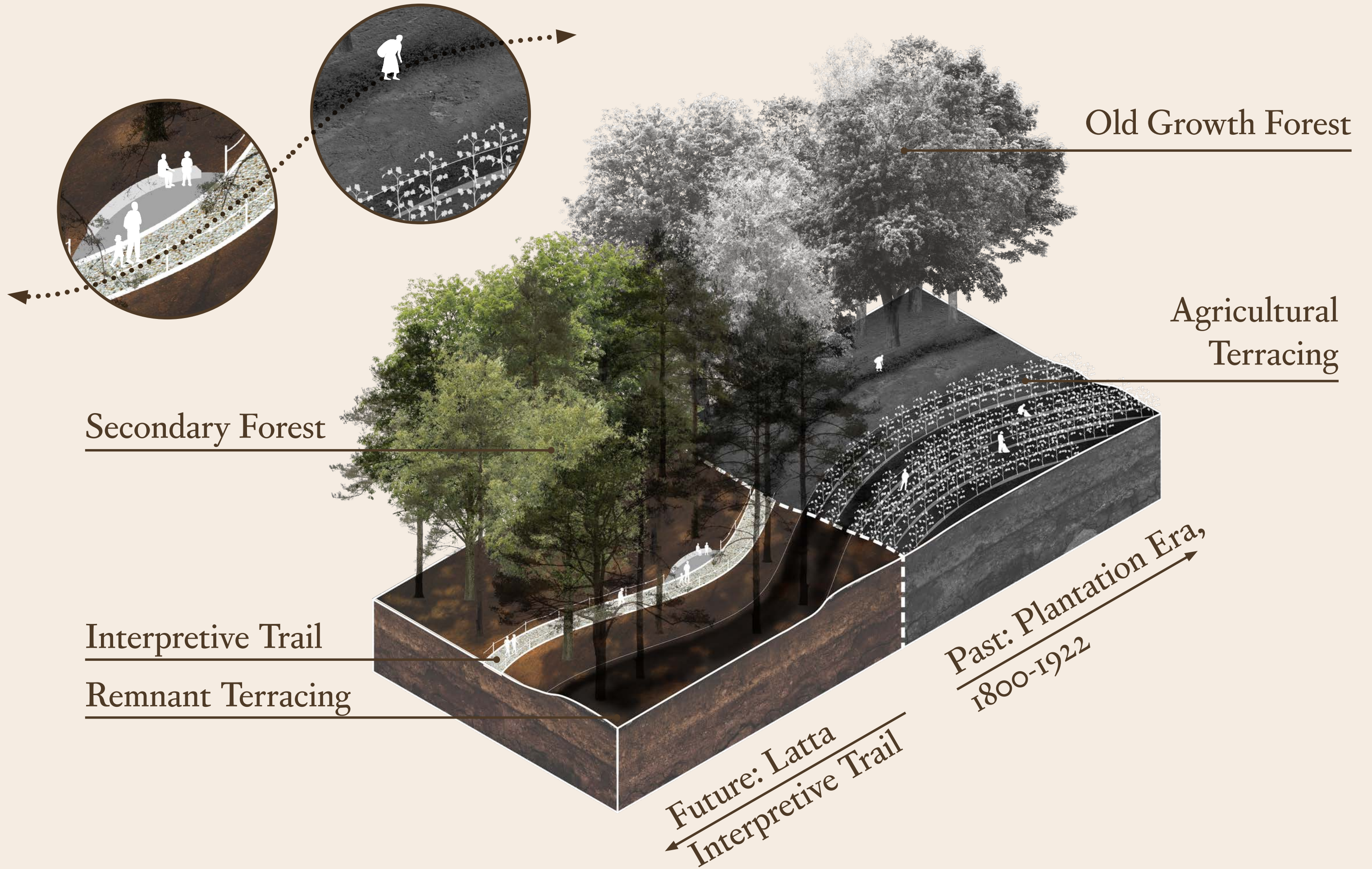
All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society



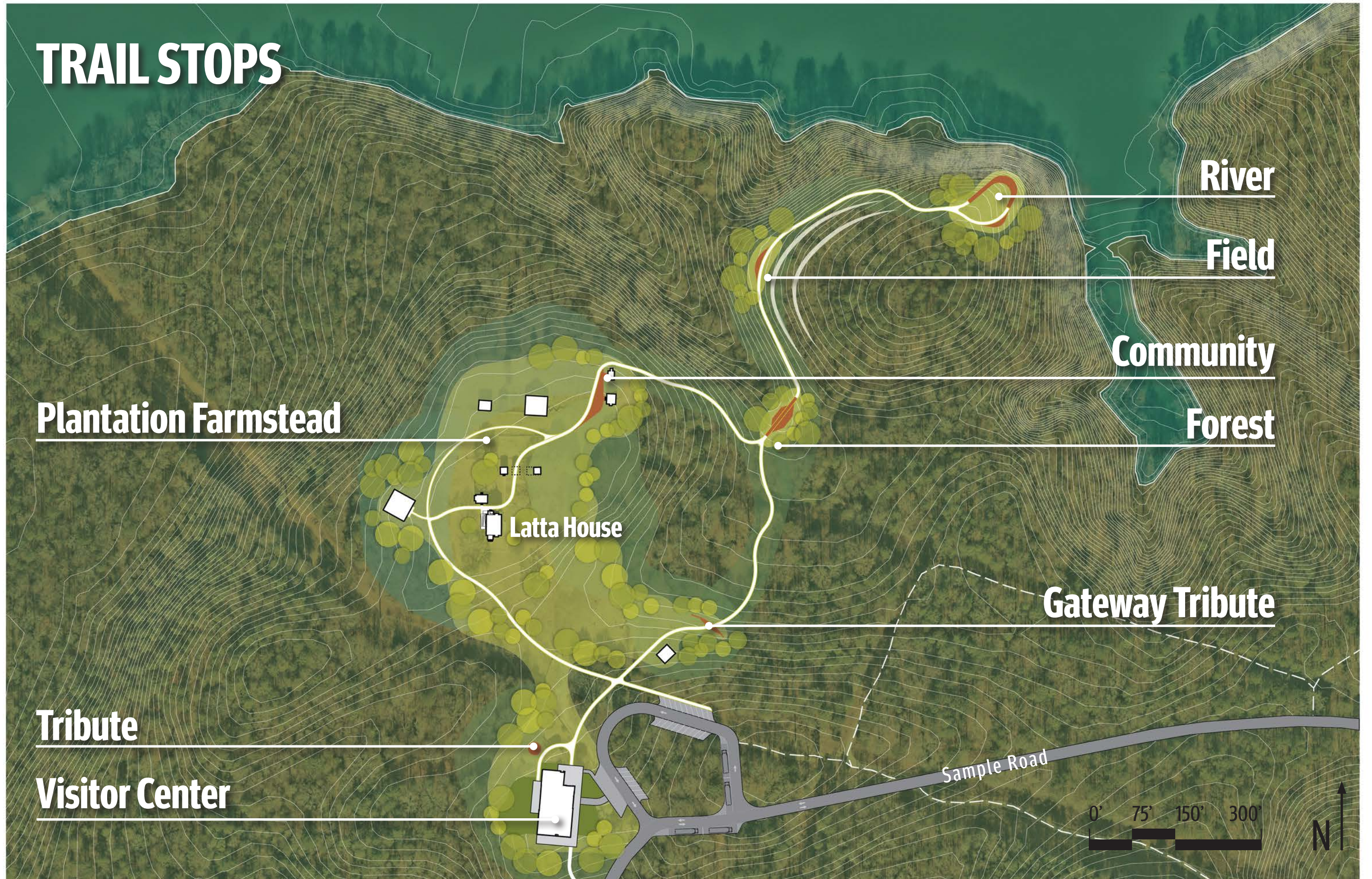
Confluence Project, Maya Lin



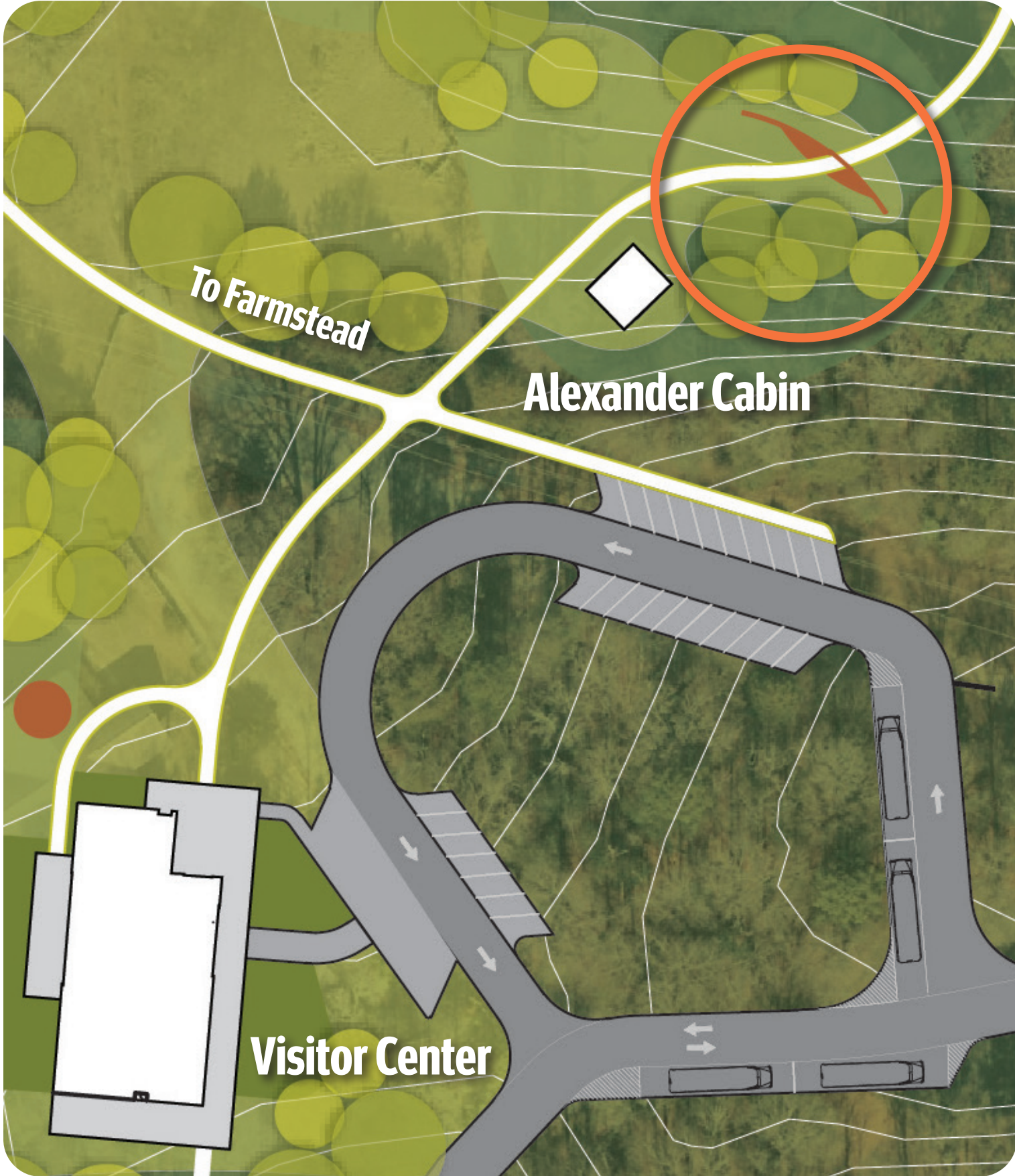
“If They Should Ask” by Sharon Hayes



TRAIL STOPS



TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE SITE



Existing Clearing Near Alexander Cabin

TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE

Granite Walls

Fruit Trees

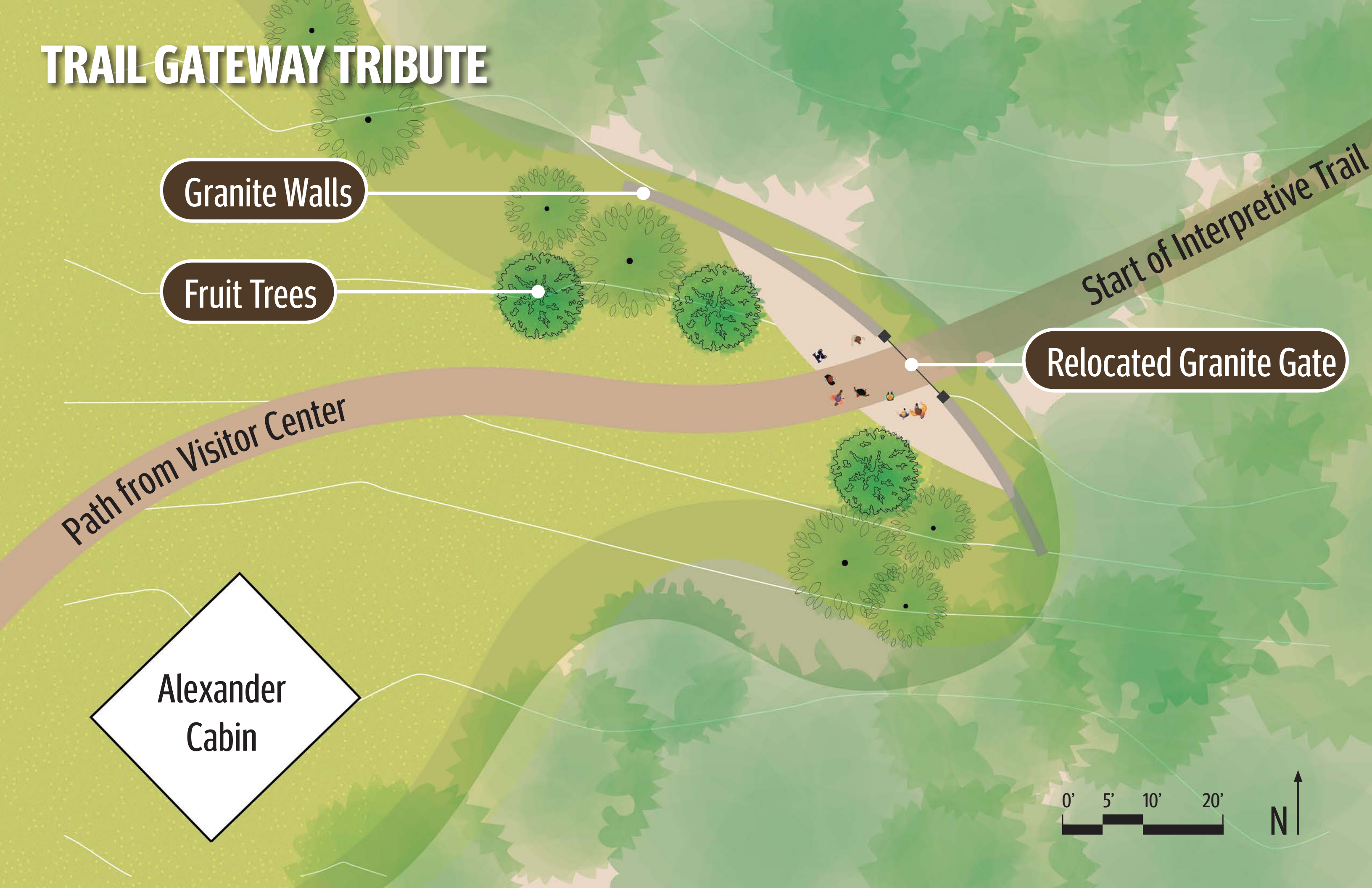
Path from Visitor Center

Alexander
Cabin

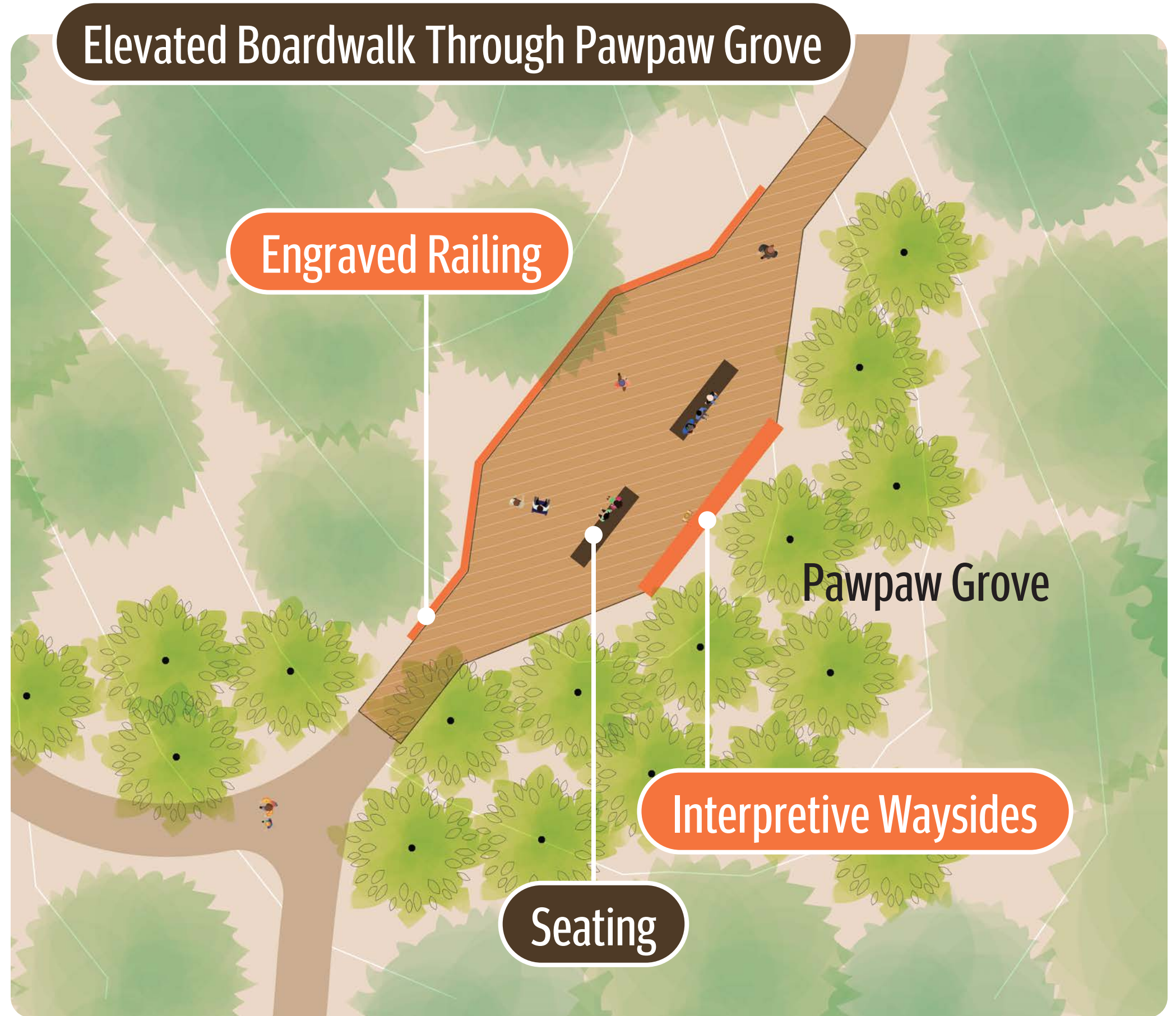
Start of Interpretive Trail

Relocated Granite Gate

0' 5' 10' 20'



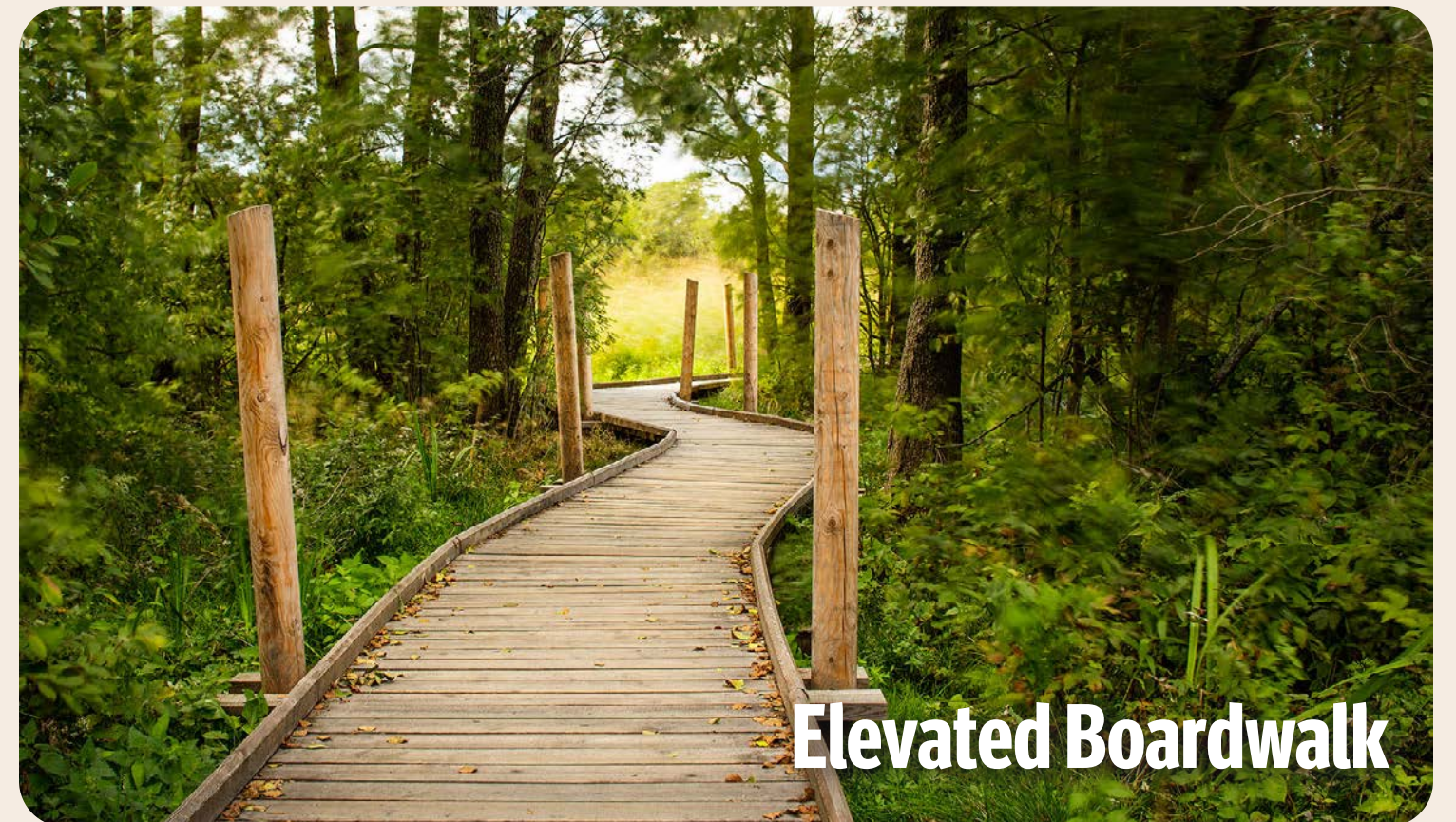
FOREST TRAIL STOP



EXISTING SITE



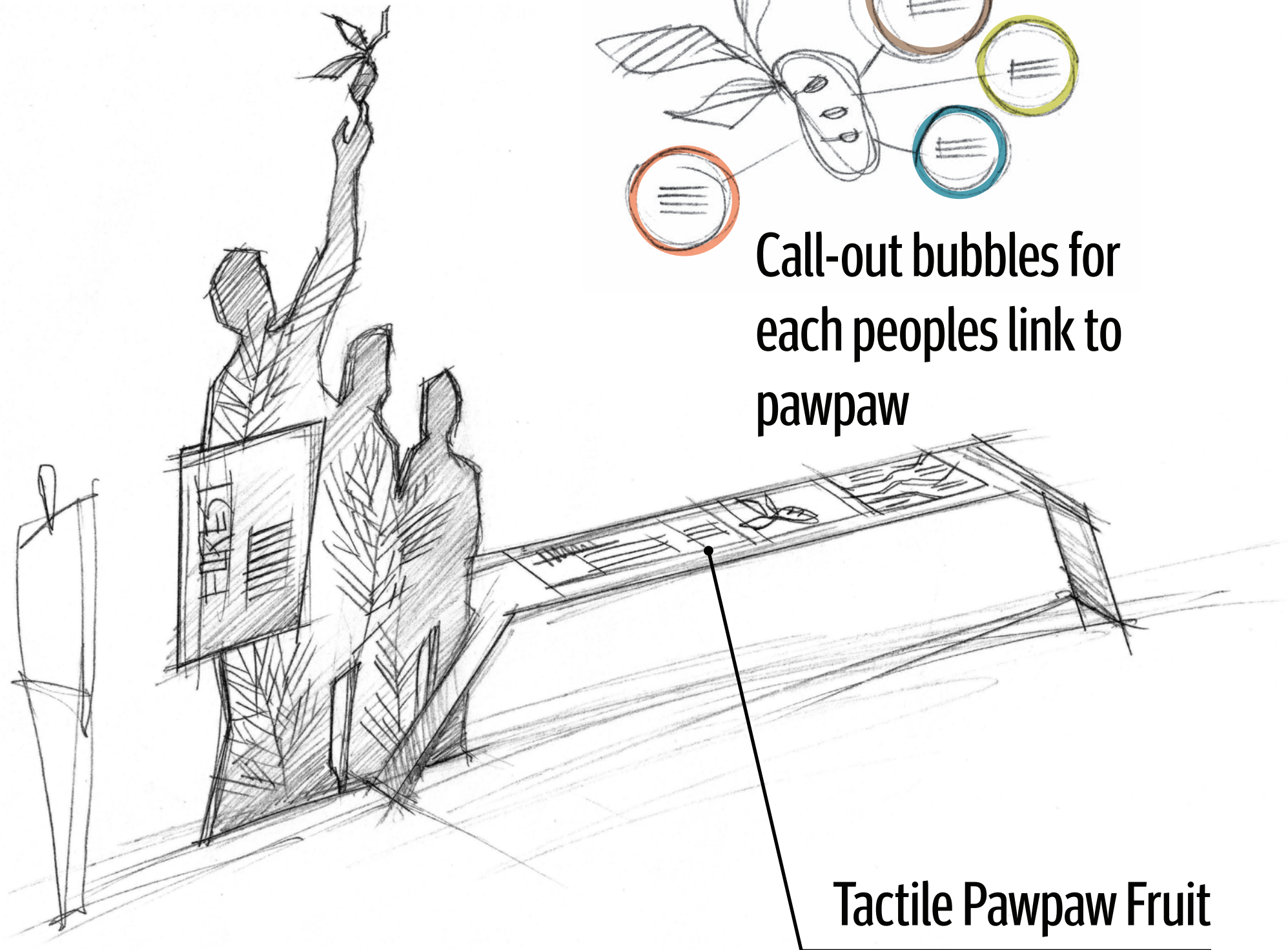
DESIGN PRECEDENTS



FOREST INTERPRETATION



Call-out bubbles for each peoples link to pawpaw



Tactile Pawpaw Fruit

INTERPRETATION THEMES

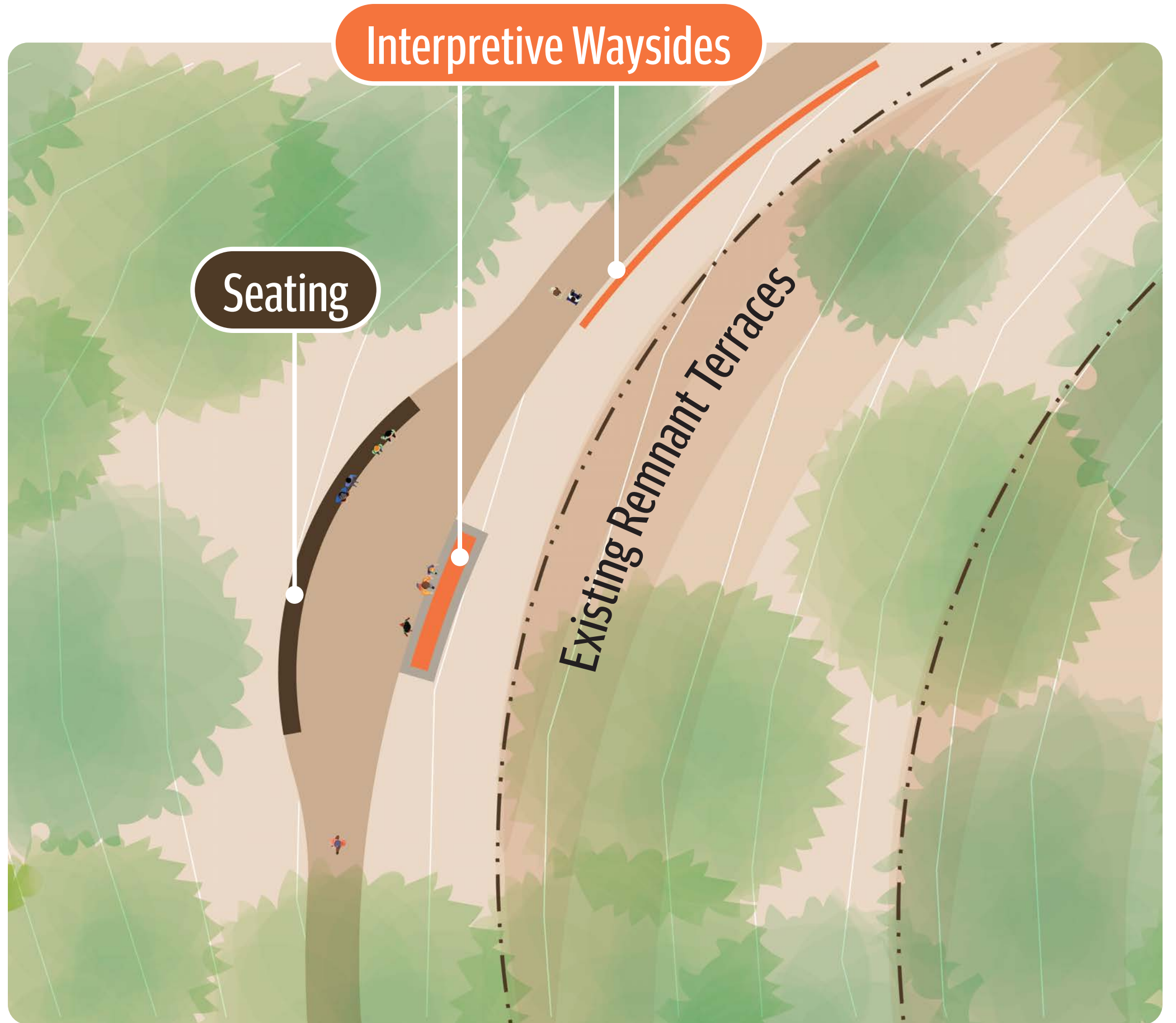
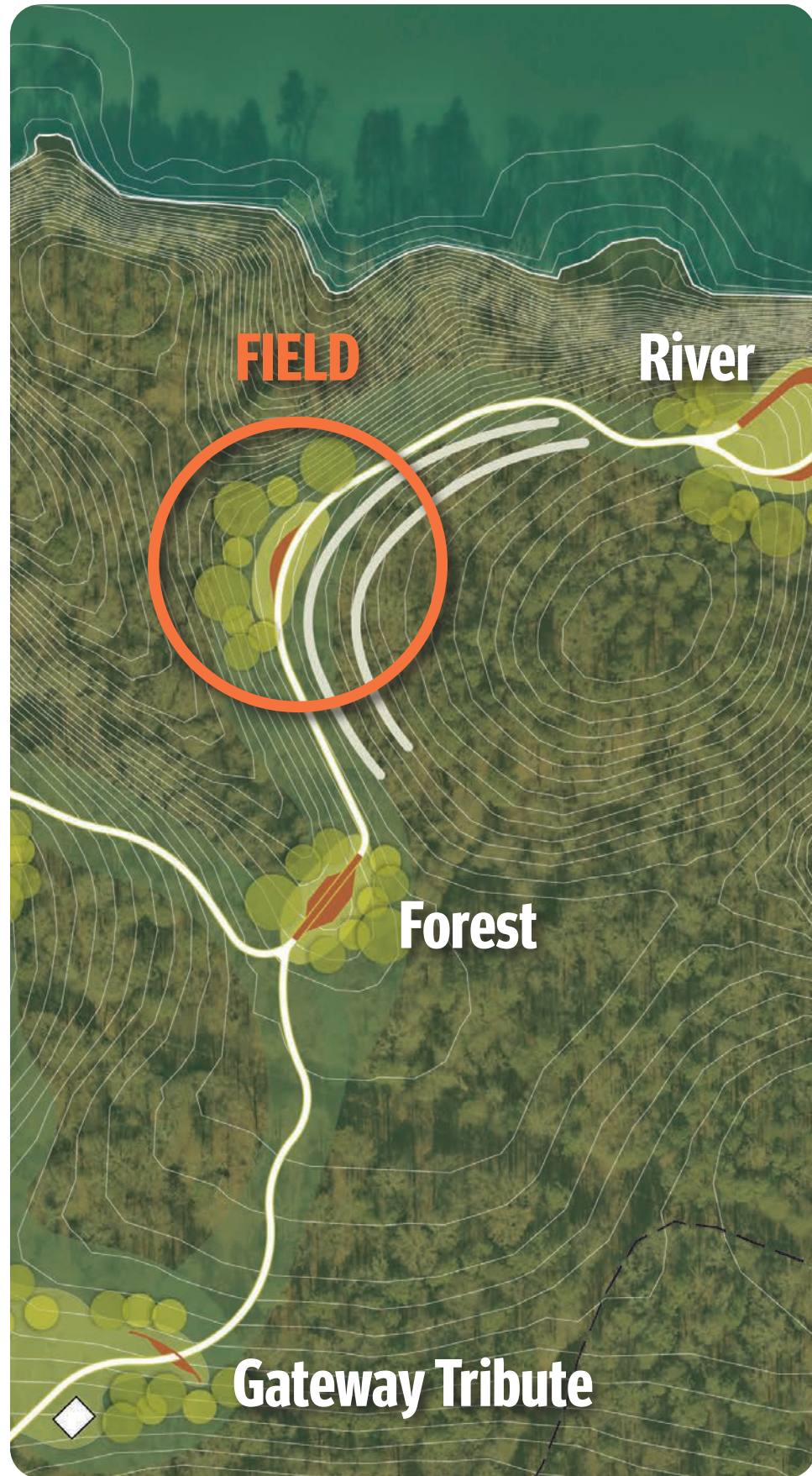
Indigenous: Ethnobotany & forest stewardship

Settlers: Clear-cutting forest for plantation landscape

Enslaved: Relationship of the enslaved to the forest

Stewards: Latta Nature Preserve & secondary forest

FIELD TRAIL STOP



EXISTING SITE



DESIGN PRECEDENTS

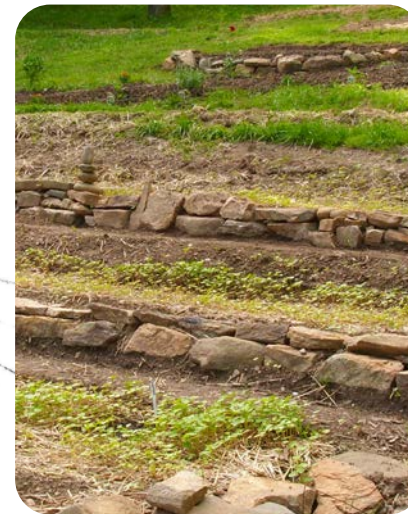


FIELD INTERPRETATION



Etched Image on Glass
Aligns with View of Terraces

Tactile Terrace



INTERPRETATION THEMES

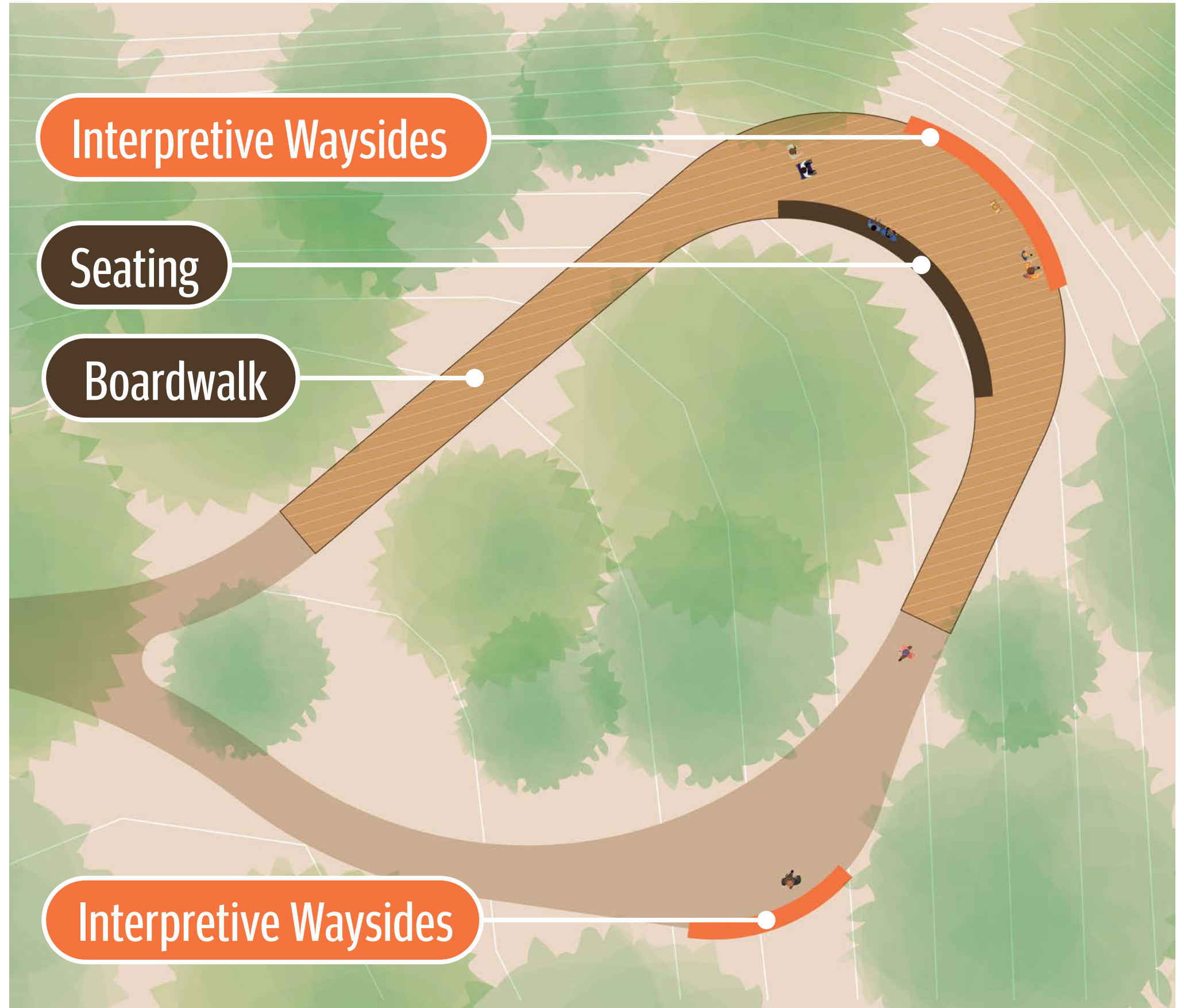
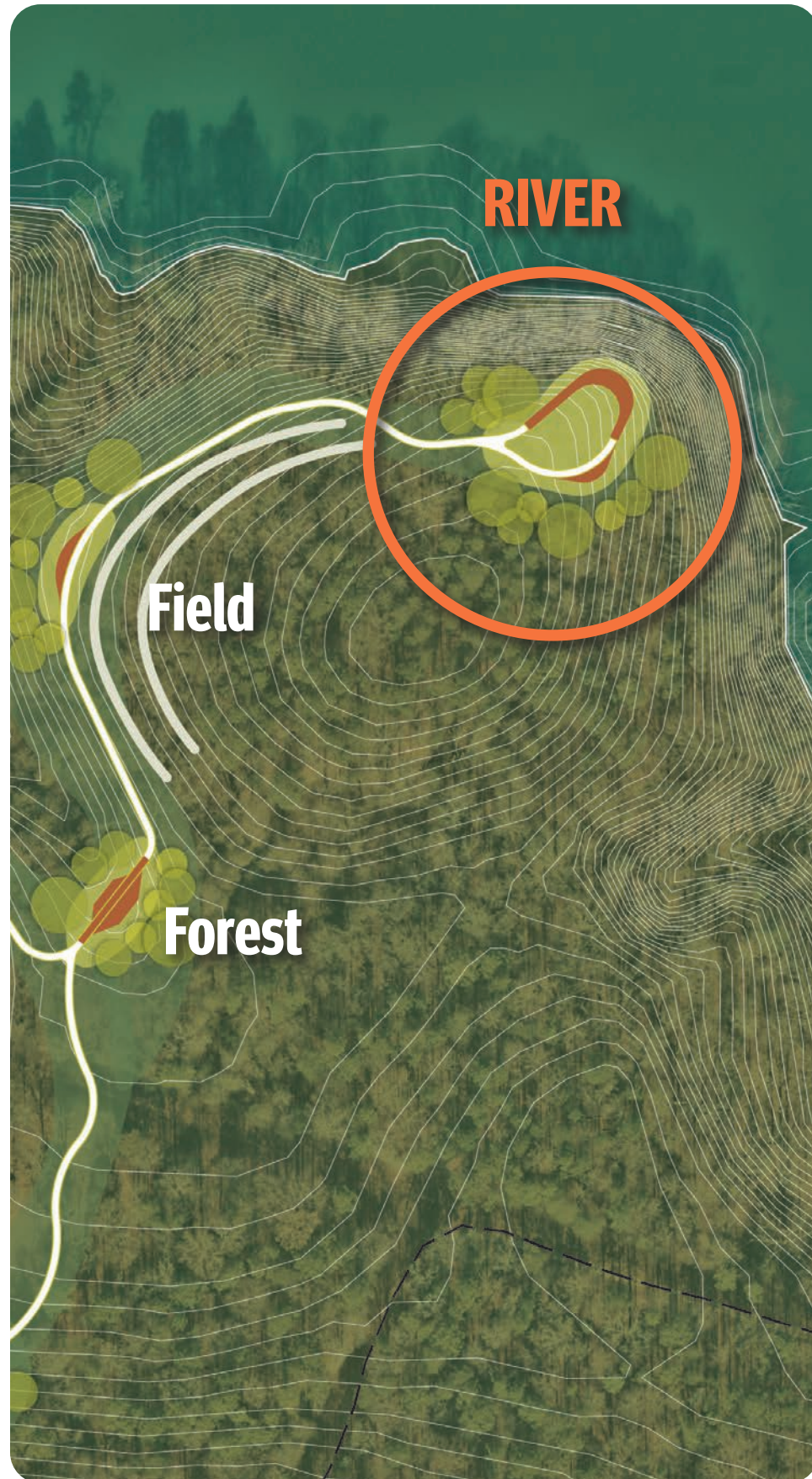
Indigenous: Agricultural Practices

Settlers: Terracing for Soil Conservation After Cotton Plantation Monoculture

Enslaved: Relationship of Tenant Farmers to the Plantation Landscape

Stewards: Ongoing Efforts to Conserve Remnant Terraces

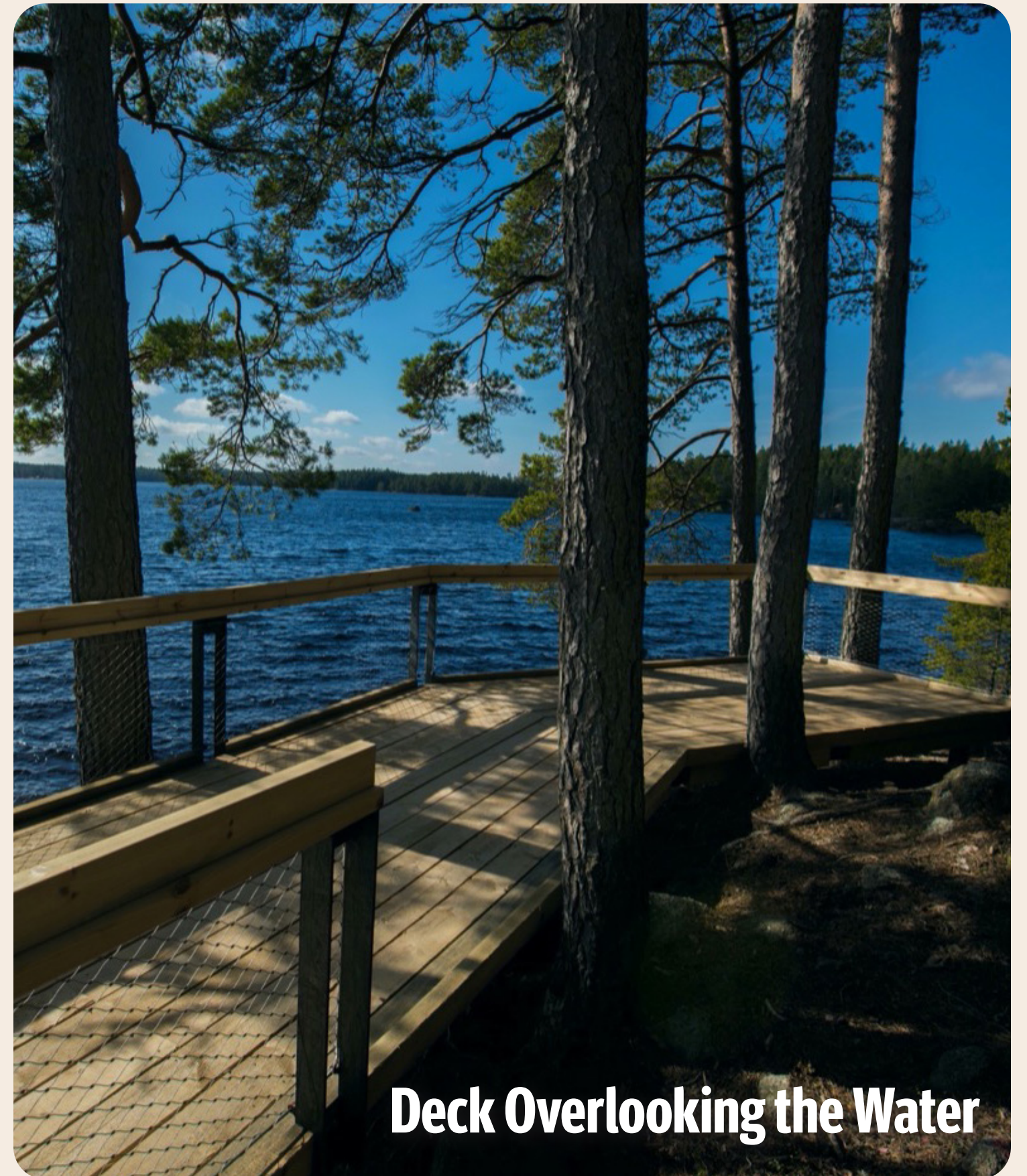
RIVER TRAIL STOP



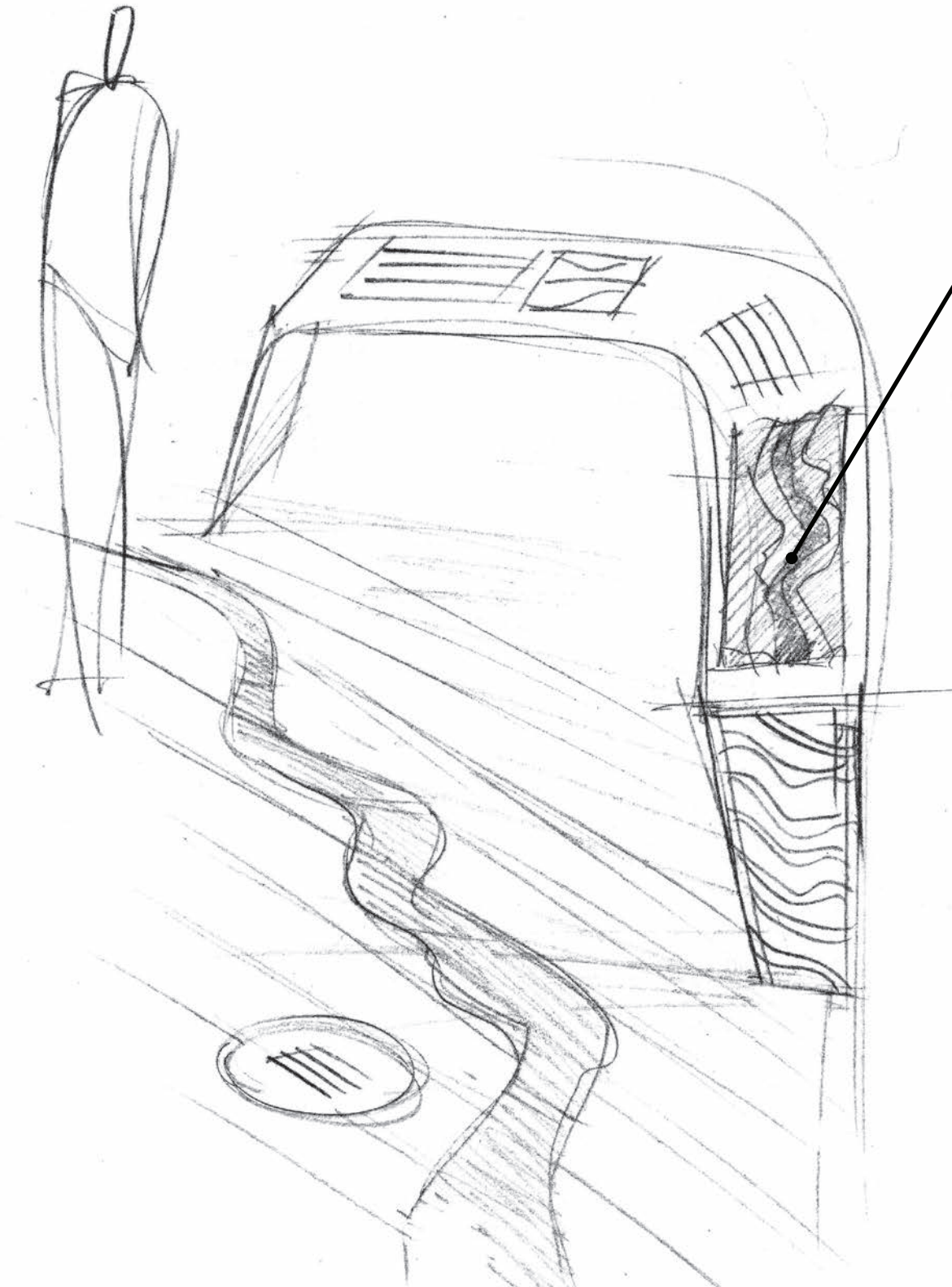
EXISTING SITE



DESIGN PRECEDENTS



RIVER INTERPRETATION



Tactile Topographic Map
of Catawba River & Mtn.
Island Lake



INTERPRETATION THEMES

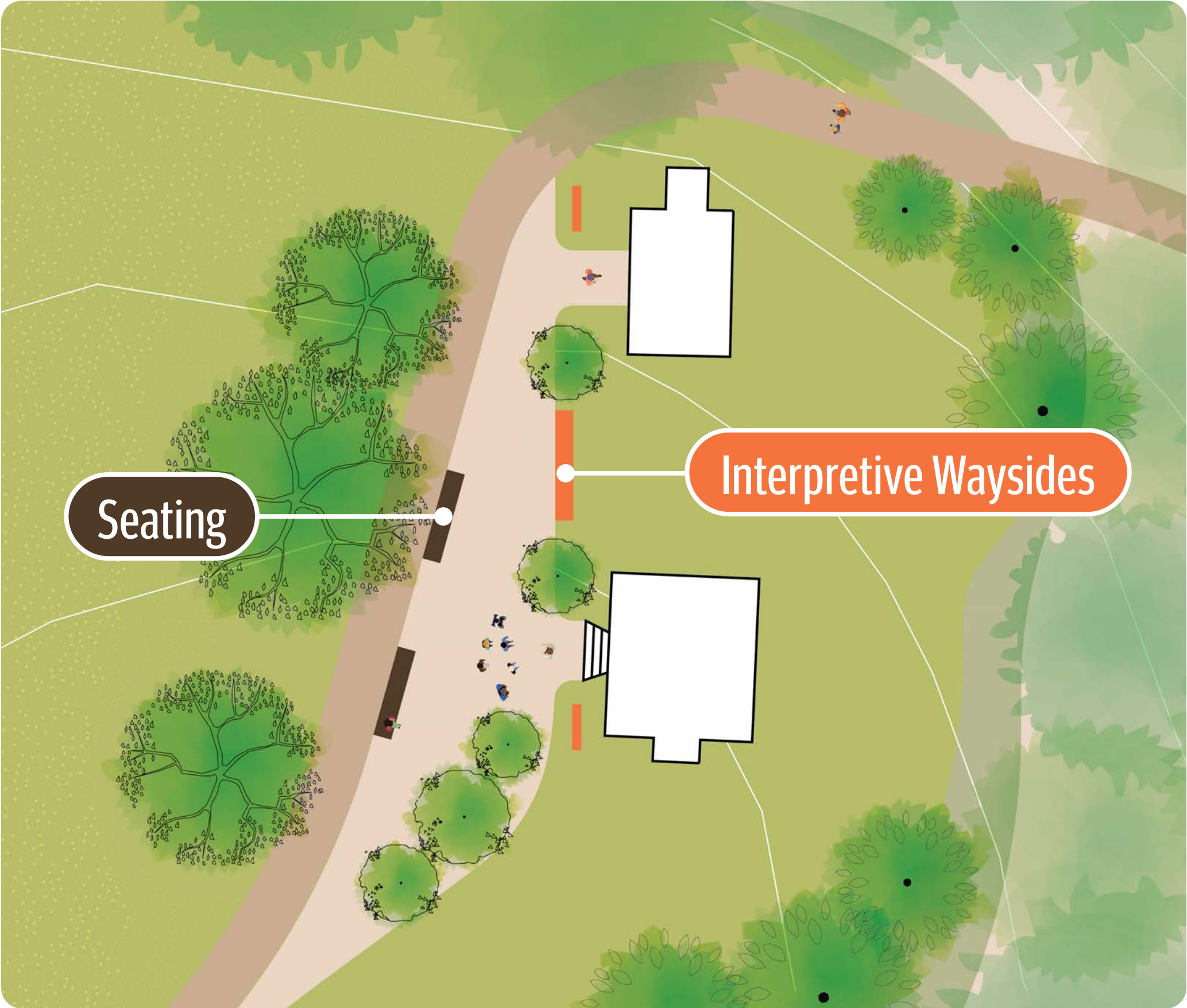
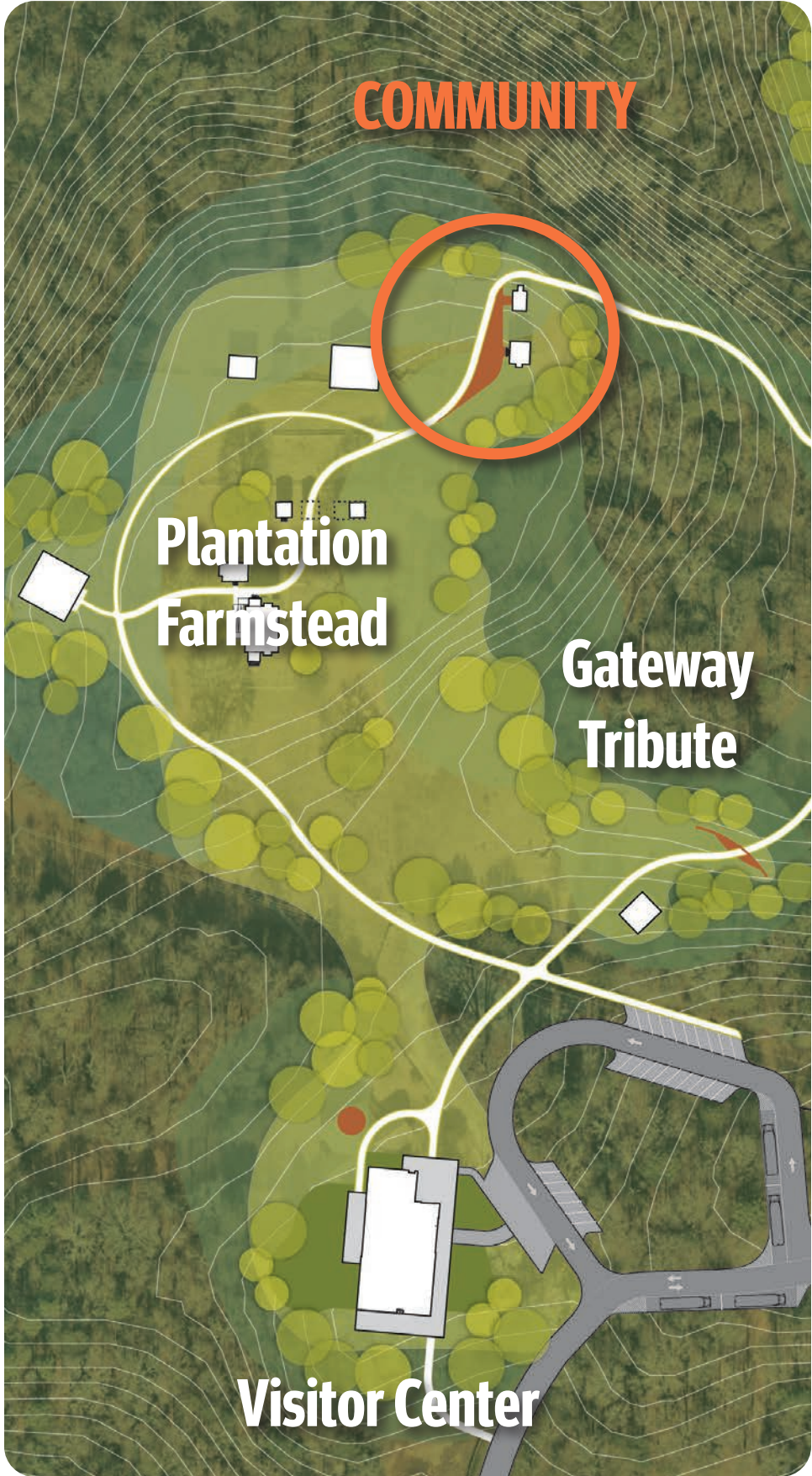
Indigenous: Lower
Catawba River Valley
Civilization

Settlers: Plantation's
Relationship to the River

Enslaved: Relationship
of Enslaved & Tenant
Farmers to the River

Stewards: Damming the
Catawba River, Mountain
Island Lake

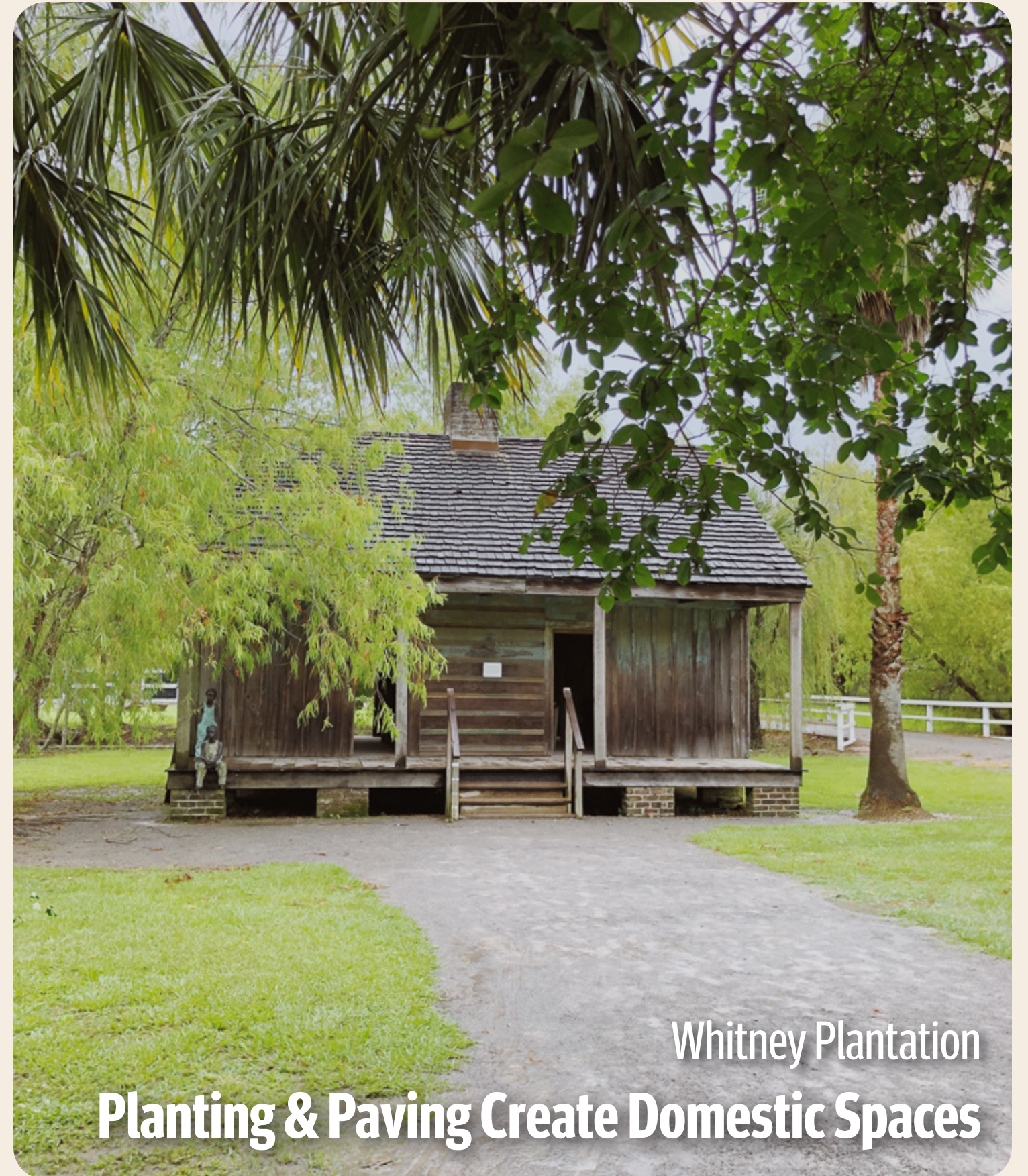
COMMUNITY TRAIL STOP



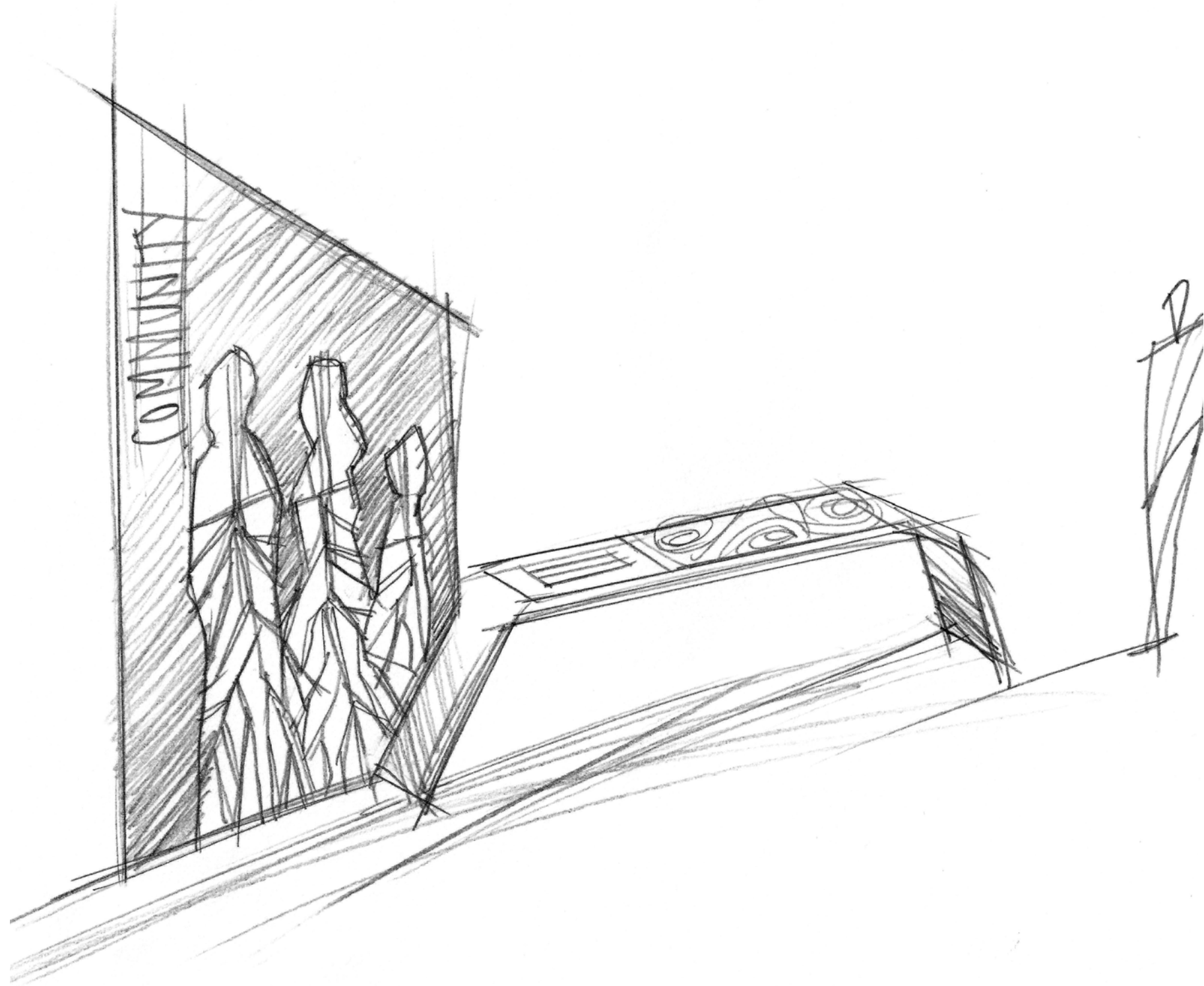
EXISTING SITE



DESIGN PRECEDENTS



COMMUNITY INTERPRETATION



INTERPRETATION THEMES

Indigenous: Family Life & Culture

Enslaved: Home & Family Life of the Enslaved

PLANTATION FARMSTEAD

Relocated Historic Barns

Replica Enslaved Peoples' Cabin

Replica Yeoman's Cabin

Meat House, Original

Latta House, Original

Trail Gateway Tribute

Tribute

Visitor Center

Sample Road

N

Wheelchair Accessible Pathways

Programmatic Planting

Interpretive Signage for Self-Guided Tours



Latta House

Design: Visitor Center

Visitor Center Front Exterior

Interpretive Trail Launch

Exterior Gallery

Culturally Significant Plant Palette



Visitor Center Floor Plan



Visitor Center Lobby

Exit to Exterior Gallery & Trail Launch

Community Space

Interpretive Exhibition Space

Main Entrance



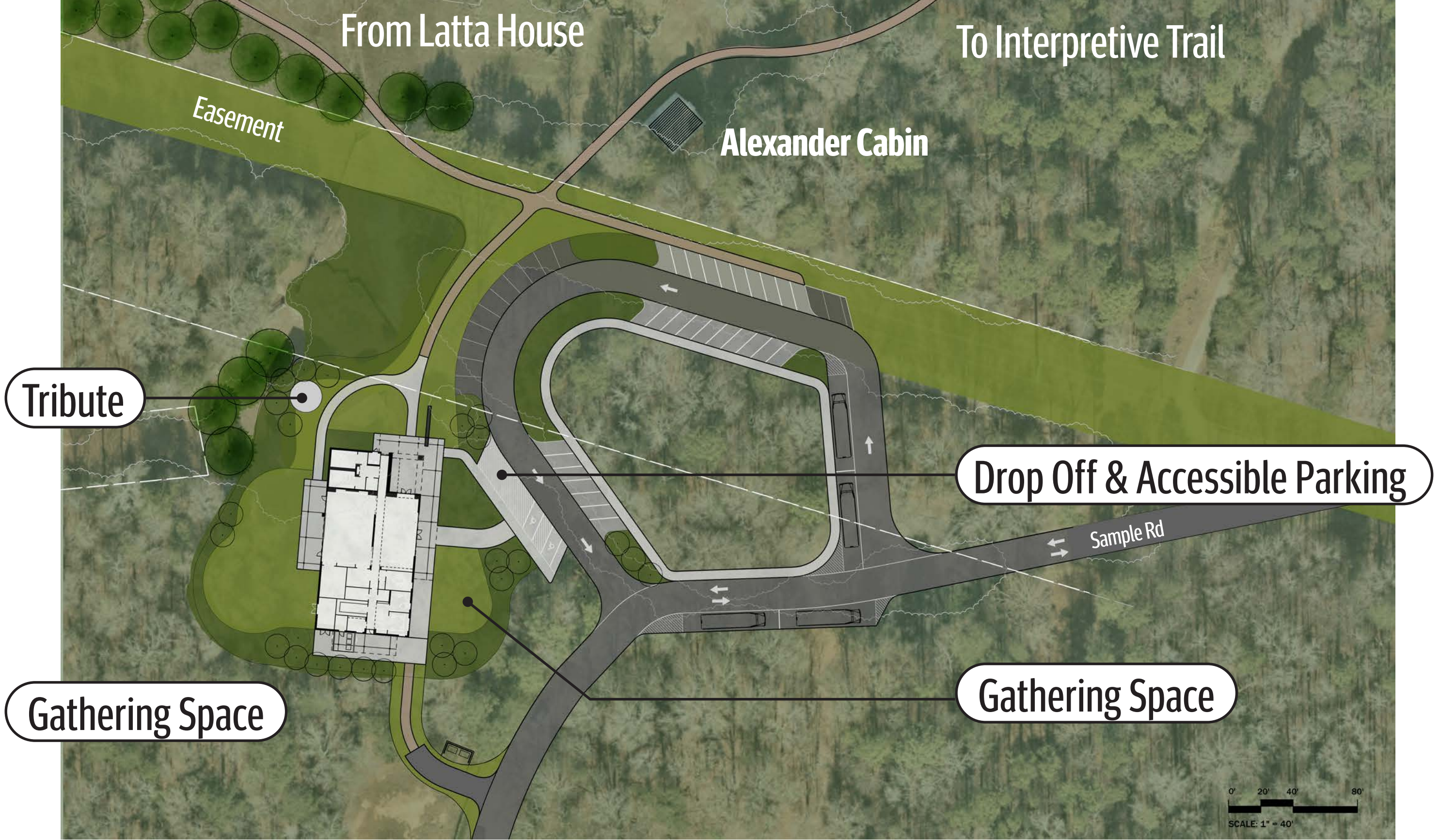
Visitor Center Community Room

Porch & Gathering Space

Multipurpose Space for Events, Lectures, etc.



Visitor Center Site Plan



From Latta House

To Interpretive Trail

Easement

Alexander Cabin

Tribute

Drop Off & Accessible Parking

Sample Rd

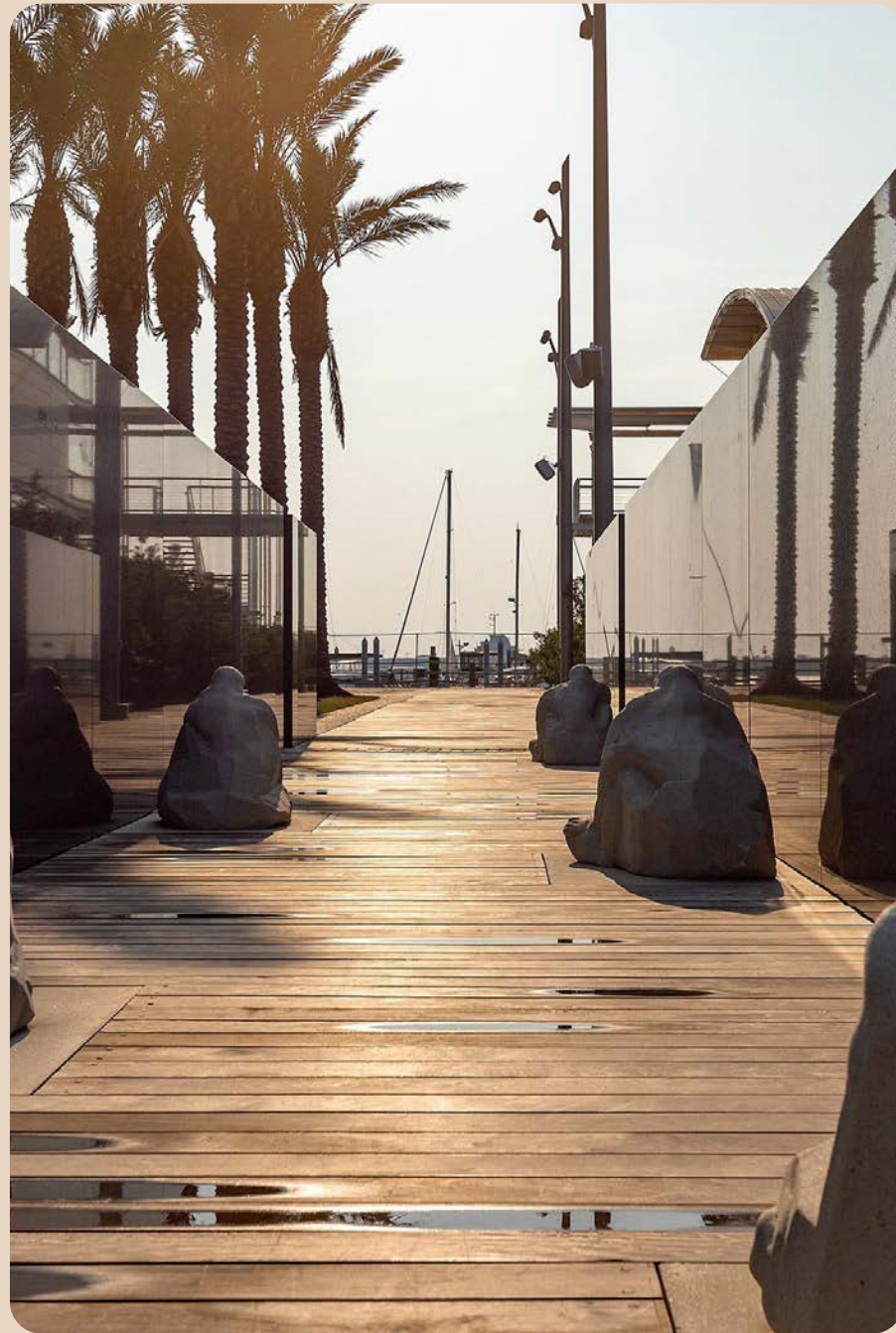
Gathering Space

Gathering Space

0' 20' 40' 80'
SCALE: 1" = 40'

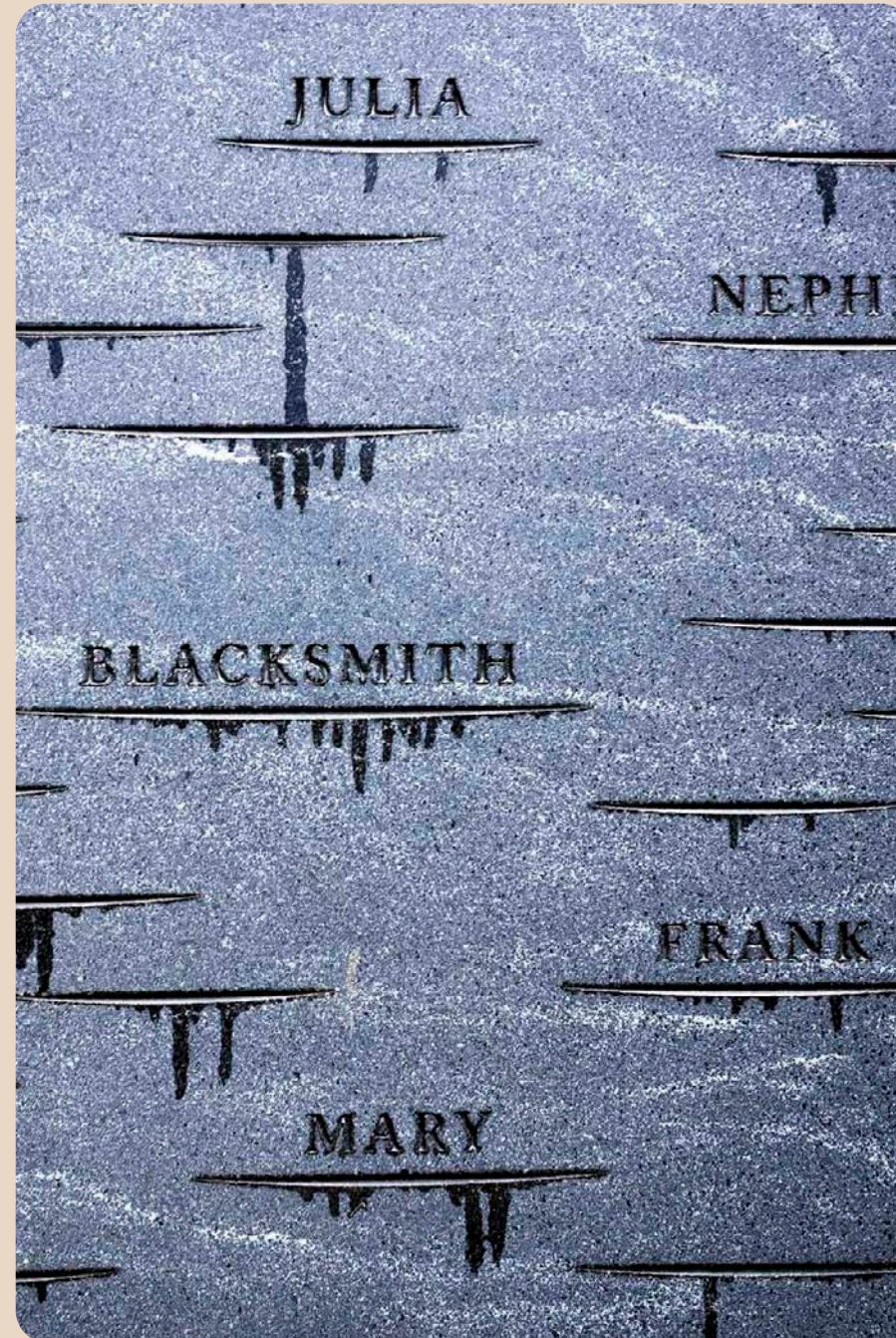
A Tribute to the Enslaved at Latta Place

Quiet space for reflection



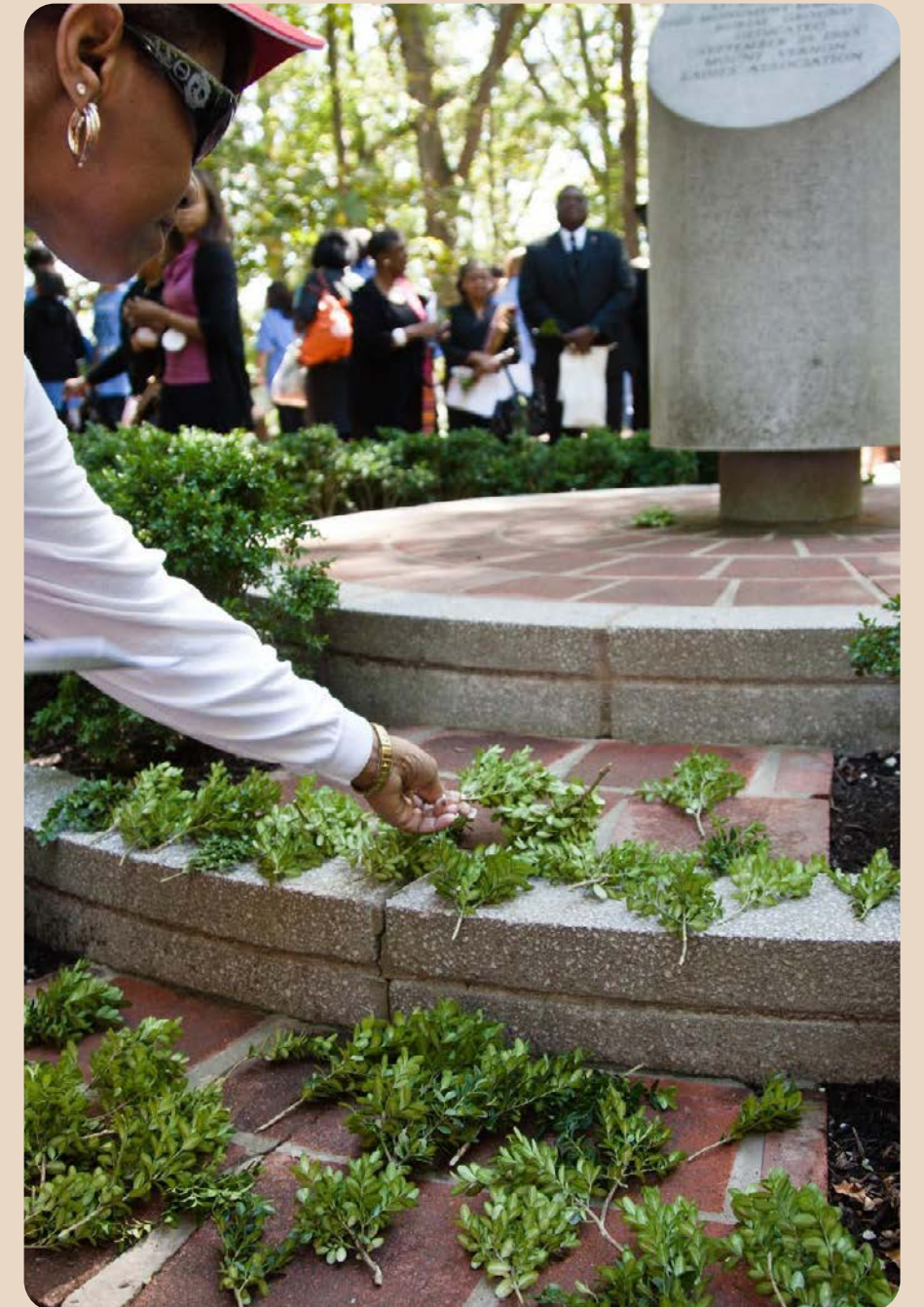
International African American Museum

Honor the 65 people who were enslaved at Latta



UVA Monument to Enslaved Laborers

Place for gathering & healing



Mount Vernon Slave Memorial

Anticipated Timeline

Jan 2025

Jul 2025

Jan 2026

Jul 2026

Design

Construction Documents, Permitting & Approvals

Present - Late 2025

Construction

Late 2025 - 2026

County Staff Contact Information

Bert Lynn, Director of Capital Planning

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Chris Matthews, Natural Resources Division Director

980-722-2404

Karen Weston-Chien, Project Manager

704-575-4947

Darneka Waters, Park Planner

980-722-2291



Latta Place

River

Field

Community

Forest

Plantation Farmstead

Latta House

Gateway Tribute

Tribute

Visitor Center

Sample Road

