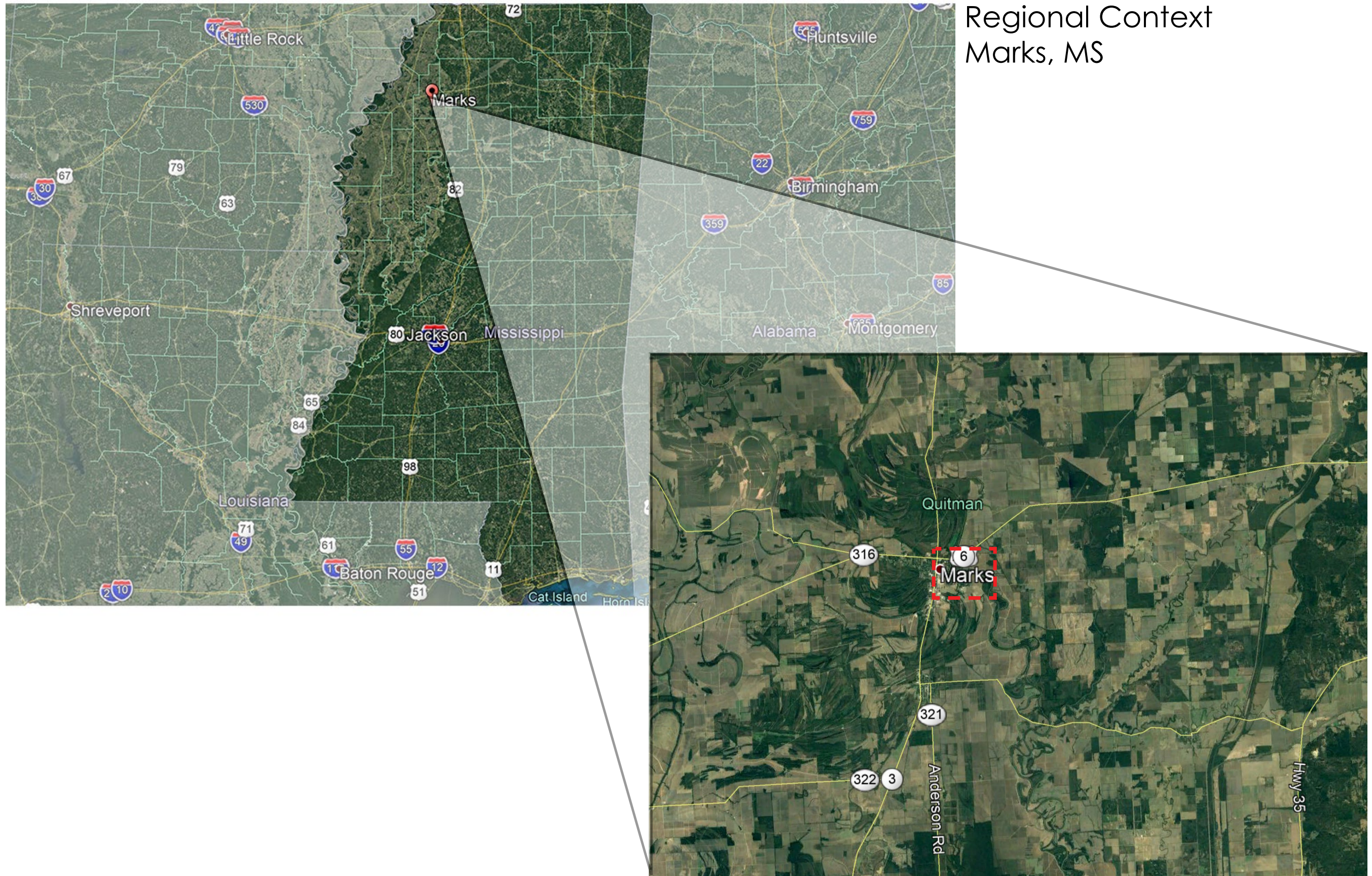

Mule Train Park

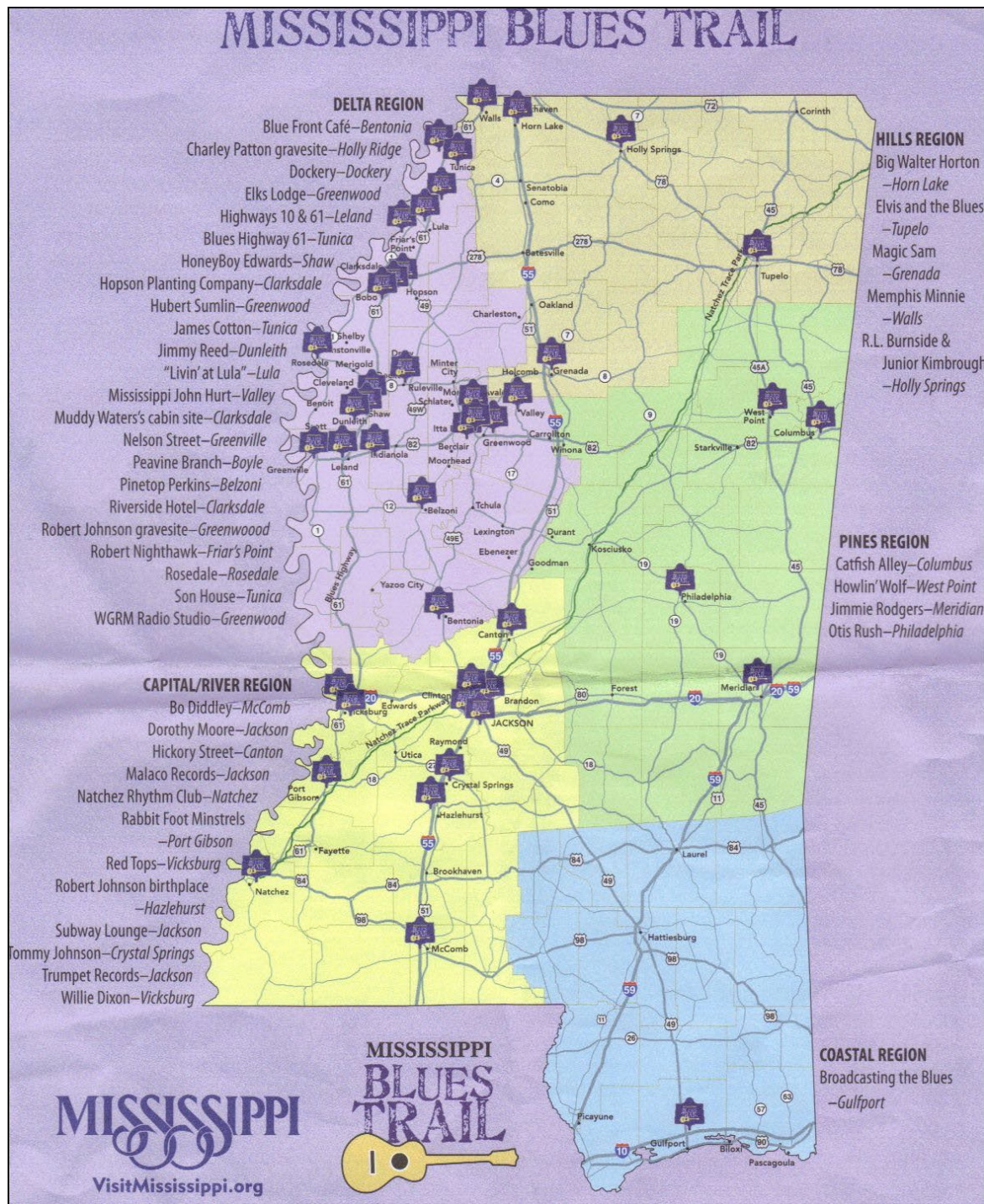
By Ryan Sanchez

LA 8545

April 20, 2021

Regional Context
Marks, MS





The Mississippi Blues Trail tells stories using interpretative signage and images of bluesmen and blueswomen. The signage tells stories about how things were where they lived and the times in which they existed- and continue to exist- influenced their music. The trail goes through depots to cemeteries, clubs to churches, and cotton fields to city streets.

Quitman County Music

Marks, MS, although not currently on the Mississippi Blues Trail, has a festival called the Mules and Blues Fest. Centered on the 1968 historical event of the 'Mule Train', which kicked off the Poor Peoples' Campaign to Washington, DC. This festival links the established Delta Blues and the Mississippi Freedom Trail (to the right). The Mules and Blues festival showcases the North Delta regions, historical treasures, music, literature, art, and their southern cooking skills.



Charley Pride
Sledge, MS



John Lee Hooker
Grew up in Vance, MS



Earl Hooker
Quitman County, MS



James Edward "Snooky"
Pryor
Lambert, MS



Johnny Billington
Crowder, MS



Albert "Sunnyland Slim"
Luandrew
Vance, MS



IN SOME OF THE SOUTH'S DARKEST MOMENTS, THE ACTIONS OF BRAVE CITIZENS SHONE BRIGHTEST.

Some of their stories are well known: Medgar Evers, a tireless fighter against segregation who was assassinated outside his family home; Amzie Moore, a businessman whose ideas helped inspire 1964's Freedom Summer; Fannie Lou Hamer, a voting rights activist who said civil rights was her life's calling. Other names are less familiar but equally important, like Aaron Henry, a pharmacist and leader of the early 1960s Clarksdale boycott campaign, and Clyde Kennard, a pioneer in efforts to desegregate higher education.

The courageous efforts of all of these individuals, and many more, are remembered today through markers along the Mississippi

Freedom Trail, which welcomes visitors to walk in the paths taken by heroes striving for racial equality. Mississippi's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement included defining moments that happened throughout the state, from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visits to towns in the Delta and Coastal regions, to James Meredith's 1962 arrival on the University of Mississippi campus and a sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter in 1963. Each of these initiatives was a step toward justice. Exploring them anew in the 21st century is an enlightening odyssey.

TRAIL MARKERS

| CAPITAL/RIVER | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| BOMBINGS IN JEWISH COMMUNITY | JACKSON |
| C.C. BRYANT | MCCOMB |
| CAPITOL RALLY | JACKSON |
| COFO CENTRAL OFFICES | JACKSON |
| GREYHOUND BUS STATION | JACKSON |
| JACKSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY SIT-IN | JACKSON |
| JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY | JACKSON |
| MADISON COUNTY MOVEMENT | CANTON |
| MEDGAR EVERS HOME | JACKSON |
| TOUGALOO COLLEGE | JACKSON |
| WLBT-TV | JACKSON |
| WOOLWORTH'S SIT-IN | JACKSON |
| COAST | |
| BILOXI BEACH WADE-IN | BILOXI |
| CLYDE KENNARD | HATTIESBURG |

TRAIL MARKERS

| DELTA | |
|---|---------------|
| AARON HENRY | CLARKSDALE |
| AMZIE MOORE HOME | CLEVELAND |
| "BLACK POWER" SPEECH | GREENWOOD |
| BRYANT'S GROCERY | MONEY |
| FANNIE LOU HAMER | RULEVILLE |
| MARKS MULE TRAIN & POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN | MARKS |
| THE REVEREND GEORGE LEE | BELZONI |
| T. R. M. HOWARD | MOUND BAYOU |
| UNITA BLACKWELL | MAYERSVILLE |
| WILLIAM CHAPEL | RULEVILLE |
| HILLS | |
| CARPENTERS FOR CHRISTMAS | BLUE MOUNTAIN |
| MARCH AGAINST FEAR | HERNANDO |
| RUST COLLEGE | HOLLY SPRINGS |
| UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | OXFORD |

The Mississippi Freedom Trail is an ongoing project with markers continuously added. For more information and complete list of trail markers, visit visitmississippi.org.

64 | VISIT MISSISSIPPI | VisitMississippi.org | 1.866.SEE MISS (733.6477)

Civil Rights History in Marks

After two visits (1966, 1968) to Marks, MS., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. determined the need for a second Poor Peoples' Campaign to help end the poverty in America. Dr. King was shocked at the number of poor families and impoverished schools in Marks. Dr. King orchestrated the launch of the campaign to Washington, DC. Starting from Marks using mules and wagons to enhance the theme. After Dr. King was assassinated in April 1968, his lieutenants decided to go on with the plan for the campaign. Ralph David Abernathy, Andrew Young, James Bebel, and Willie Bolden came to Marks to organize the march. The Mule Train headed out on May 13, 1968 from Marks to Atlanta where they boarded a train to Washington, D.C.



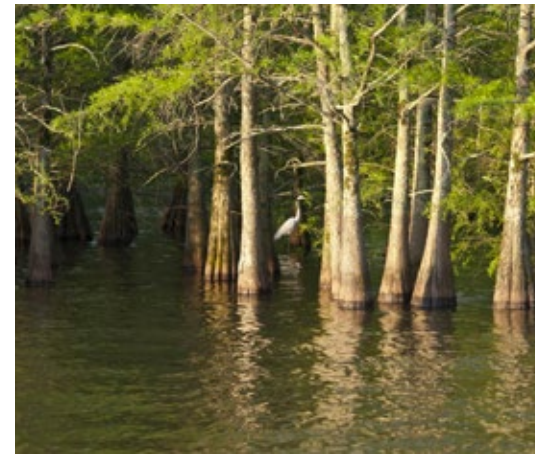
Photographs by Dr. James Goldman

In 2009, the U.S. Congress created the Mississippi Delta National Heritage area to foster, preserve, perpetuate, and celebrate the Delta's heritage through different col-labs of sustainable economic development. Quitman County was given this distinction along with other counties. Quitman County is also part of the Mississippi Freedom Trail. In 2011, Marks was selected to receive a marker to honor the Mule Train's legacy.



Iconic Delta Landscape

The Mississippi River Delta has an extreme diverse ecological landscape, this area consists of a number of wildlife habitats and vegetation. The Delta region is a rich resource and contains some of the most unusual areas in the United States. The Delta includes marshlands, swamps, bottomland hardwood forest, and coastal flatwoods. Focusing more on the bottomland hardwood which is native to the park location, this type of landscape use to cover 60 million acres in the Southern part of the United States. Today, that acreage is about one-half of total coverage due to factors like urbanization and farming.



Design Problem

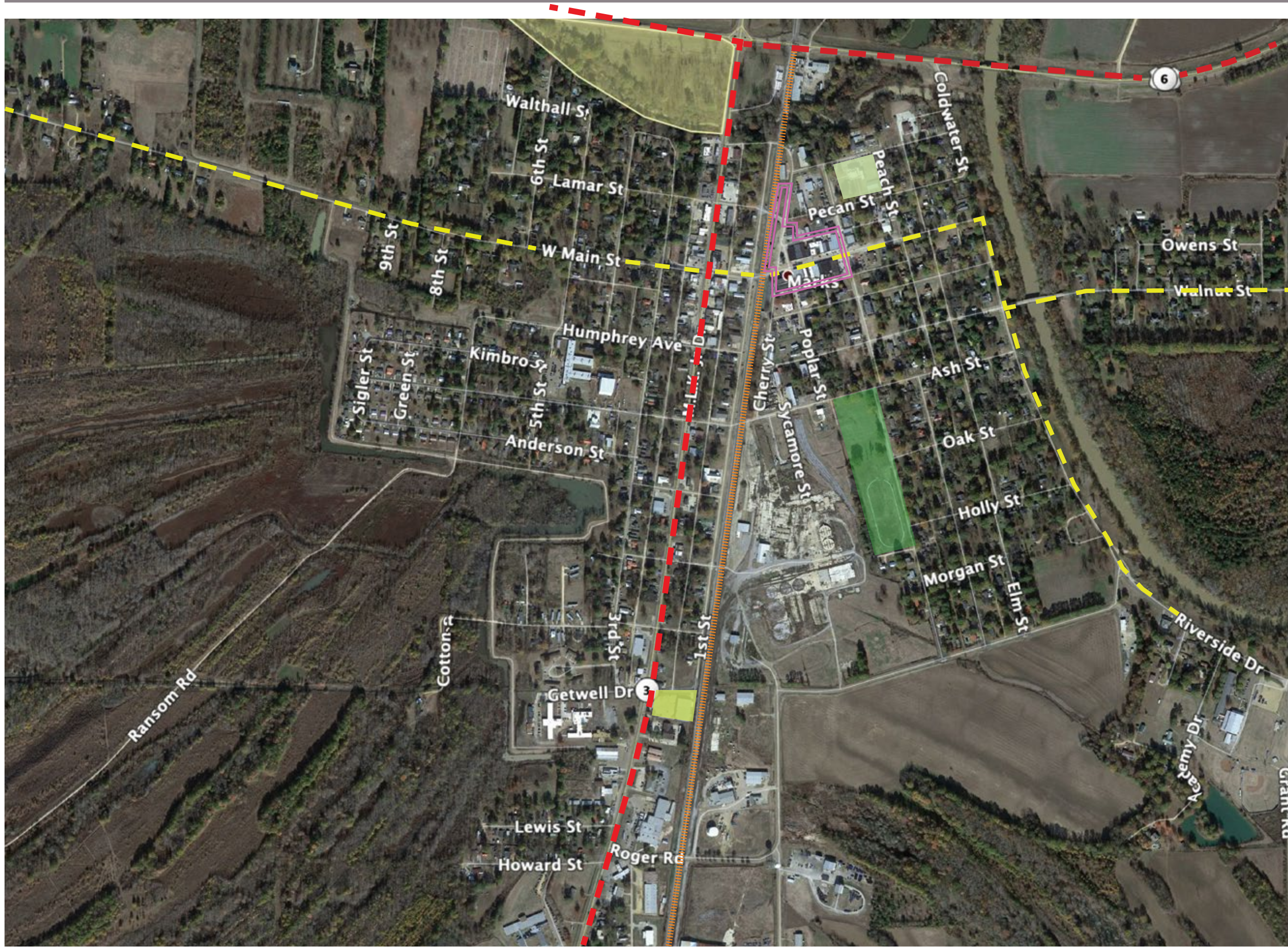
The community of Marks wanted a park design that connected the community but also provided a space for future tourists. A place that could be used for small gatherings but has the opportunity to house larger seasonal events like the Mules and Blues Festival. The city of Marks does not have the finances to put a lot of money into a project. Being mindful of that, and with the help of the Quitman County Economic & Tourism Director, Velma Wilson, can assist with narrowing down the important design elements. The community wanted a trail system, a play area for children, and educational signage throughout the park. Preserving existing plant species while proposing others and providing a permanent water feature was also task mentioned.

Community Survey

A small survey was conducted with the help of Velma Wilson and the community of Marks, MS. Asking them what type of educational opportunities they'd like to see, certain elements that promote family activities, and a space that can be used for local events.

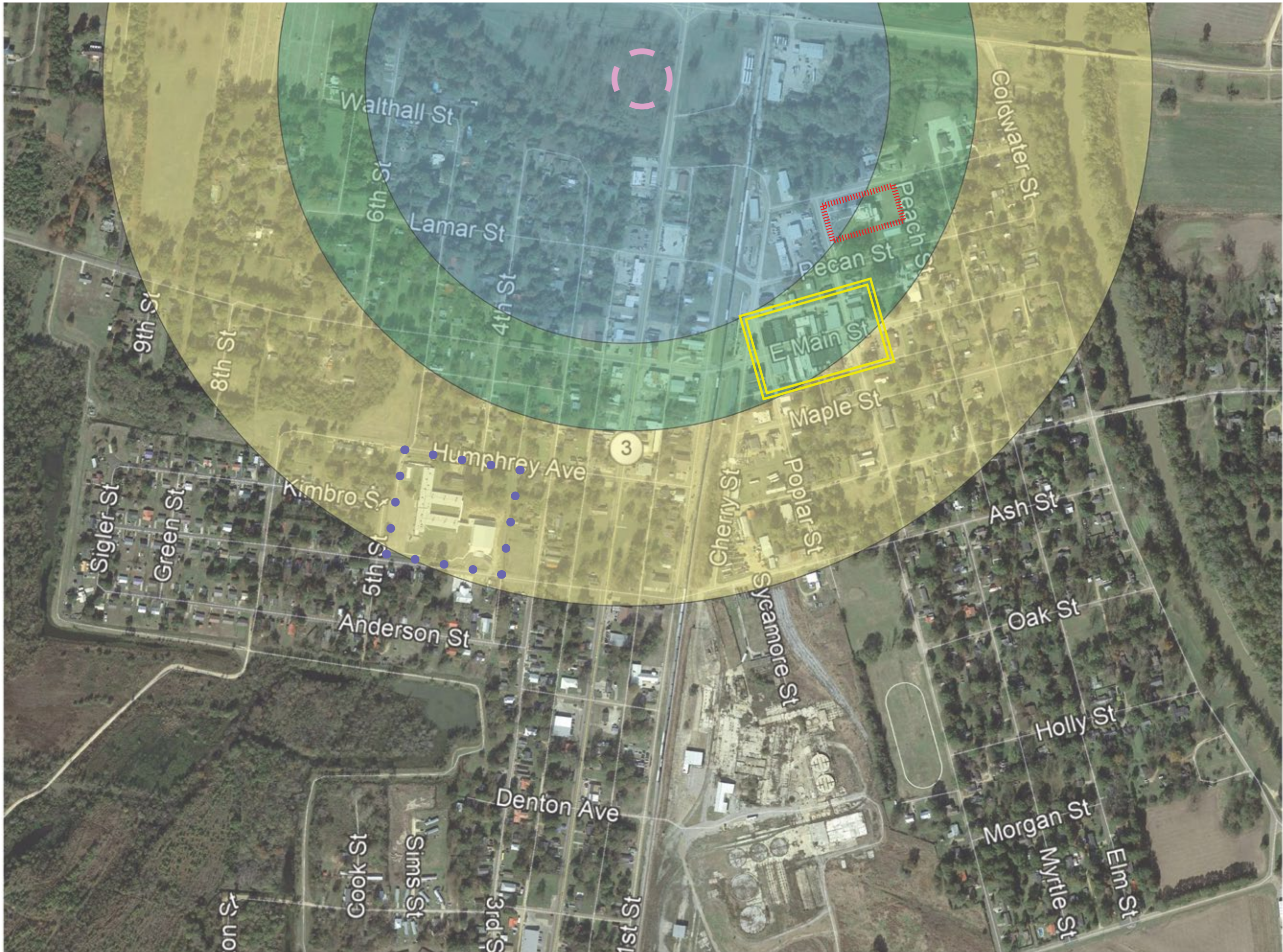
- Walking Trails
- Educational Signage
- Interpretative Signage
- Play Space
- Retention Water Feature
- Enhanced Plantings
- Modifying Existing Site Elements
- Stage Relocation/ Event Space & Overload Parking
- Trailhead for Existing 'Marking the Mule' Trail





Legend

- - - Highway 6
- - - Highway 3
- - - Secondary Main Streets
- - - Illinois Central Railroad
- Downtown Hubble
- Project Site
- Open Space Park
- Courthouse
- Grocery Store



Legend

- 1/4 Mile radius
- 1/3 Mile radius
- 1/2 Mile radius
- Courthouse
- Downtown
- Park
- Marks Middle School



Legend

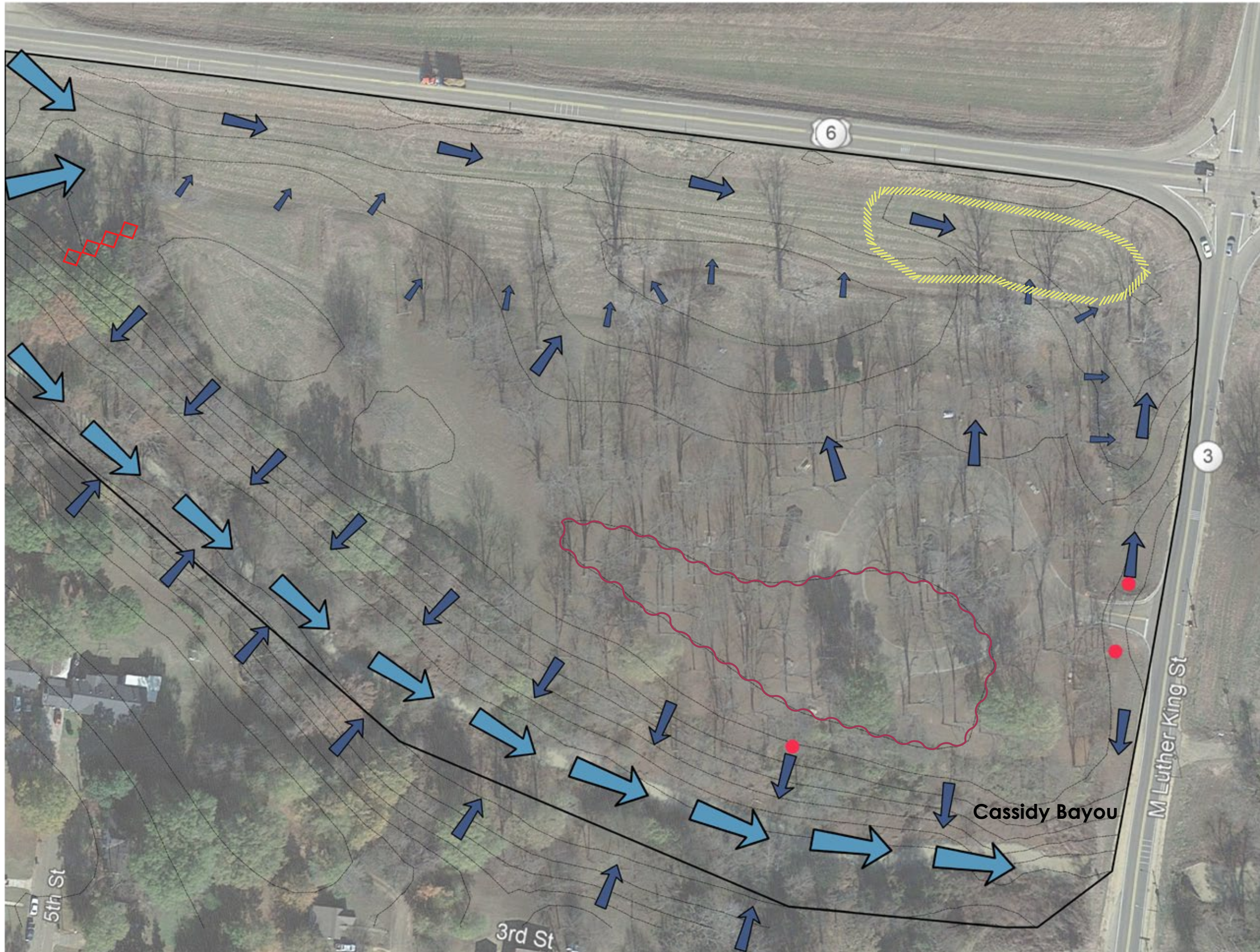
-  Main Route to Downtown
-  Alternative Route to Downtown
-  Commercial Use
-  Residential



Legend

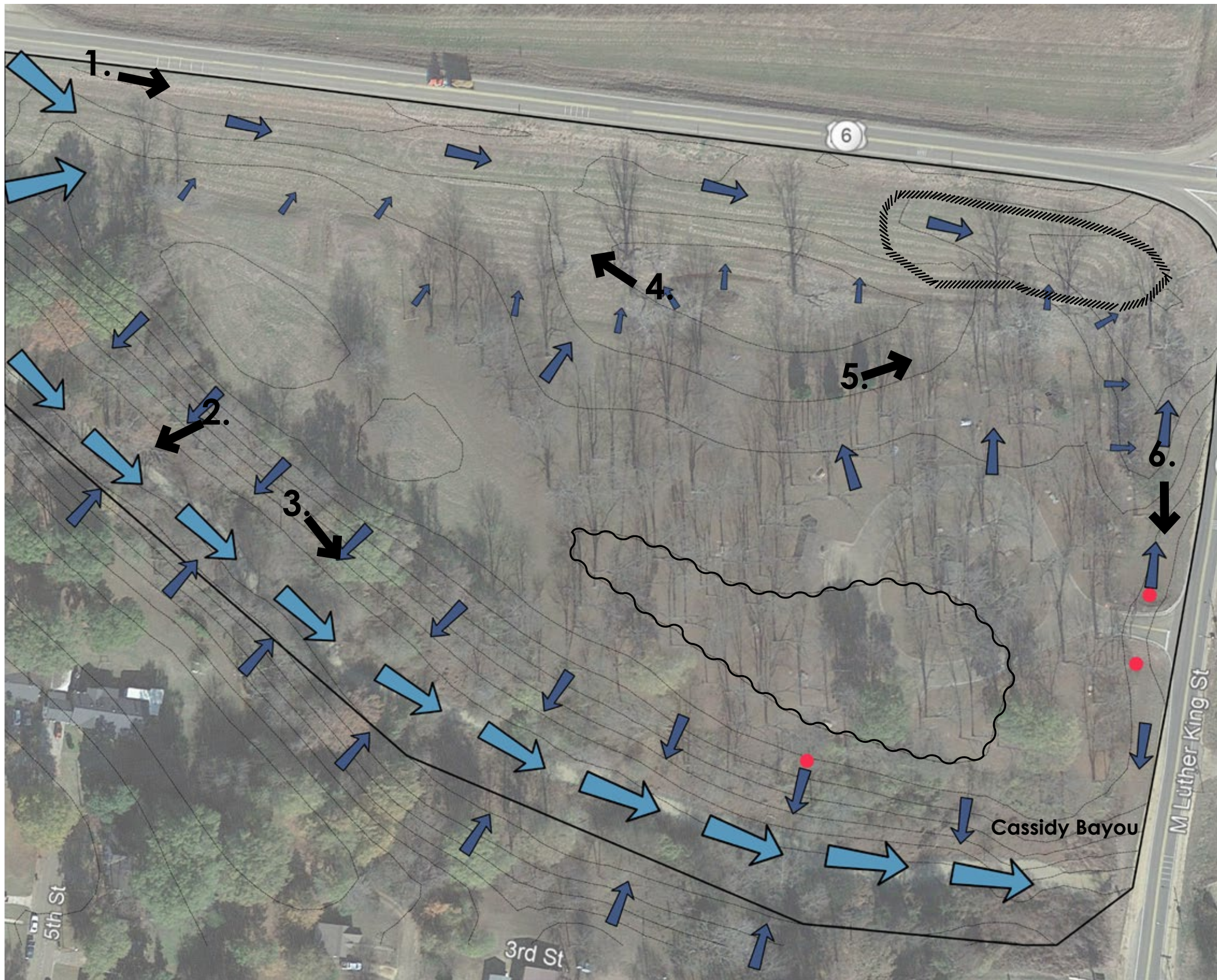
-  Cassidy Bayou
-  Coldwater River

The main water feature in Marks, MS is the Coldwater River and the Cassidy Bayou. The Cassidy Bayou starts from multiple tributaries just North West of West Marks, flowing into the Coldwater River. The Coldwater river flows into the Little Tallahatchie River between Lambert, MS and Crowder, MS.



Legend

- ◇◇◇◇ Erosion
- High Point
- ▨▨▨▨ Low Point
- Drain Inlet





Legend

- Open Turf
- Mature Hardwoods-Pecan, & Cherrybark Oak Community
- Riparian Area-Privot, Cypress, Hackberry, Sycamore, Pecan, Buttonbush, Hibiscous, and Native Bamboo





Source: landscapeperformance.org

Precedent Study

Boneyard Creek Restoration, Champaign, IL

Description

Boneyard Creek is a channelized and engineered waterway flowing through Champaign, IL and draining much of the city, including the University of Illinois campus. Flooding and poor water quality prompted the city and University to take action. This portion was the 2nd phase of a 7 phase redevelopment plan. This phase restored the curvilinear alignment of the original state of the waterway using natural stone and terraces to control erosion. This detention basin provides a 100-year flood protection while being an attractive park that links the downtown with open space, trails, and pedestrian walks.

Critical Dimensions

Designer

Hitchcock Design Group

Location

Second Street Basin
Champaign, IL 61820

Size

10 acres

Project Type

Park

Climate

Humid continental

Budget

10.7 million

Previous Land Use

Park/Open Space

Completion

2010



Source: landscapeperformance.org



Source: landscapeperformance.org

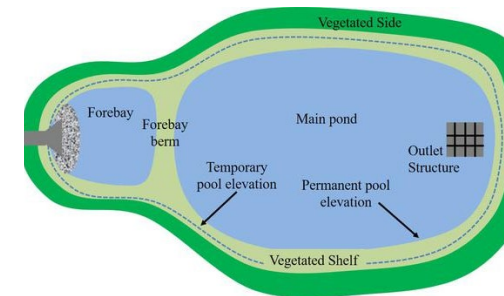
Concept Statement

Mule Train Park provides a welcoming community space for locals and tourists alike. Situated along an old bayou at the entrance to town, the park reinforces the sense of place that is unique to the Mississippi Delta. This concept utilizes the existing land and vegetation to enhance the park's usability and provide multiple benefits to the community. **For instance, the plan envisions a wet pond along Highway 3 to capture and filter pollutants from the roadway, while also providing a recreational centerpiece for the park. Moreover, the plan improves visitor access to the nearby bayou. This allows visitors to experience the iconic Delta landscape, while establishing a future greenway trailhead, connecting Mule Train Park with Downtown Marks.**

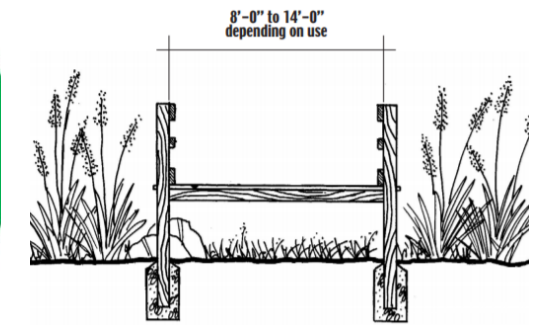
Precedents



Section of a trail in wooded area, using a permeable surface that reduces cost.



Plan view graphic of the functionality of a wet pond.



Section of boardwalk, the idea is to be used in an interpretative area.



Utilizing a Mule Wagon as a visual statement that symbolizes the civil rights movement in Marks.



Including educational signage throughout the park or in selective areas.



Natural play elements wooden climbers, steps, springs, etc.



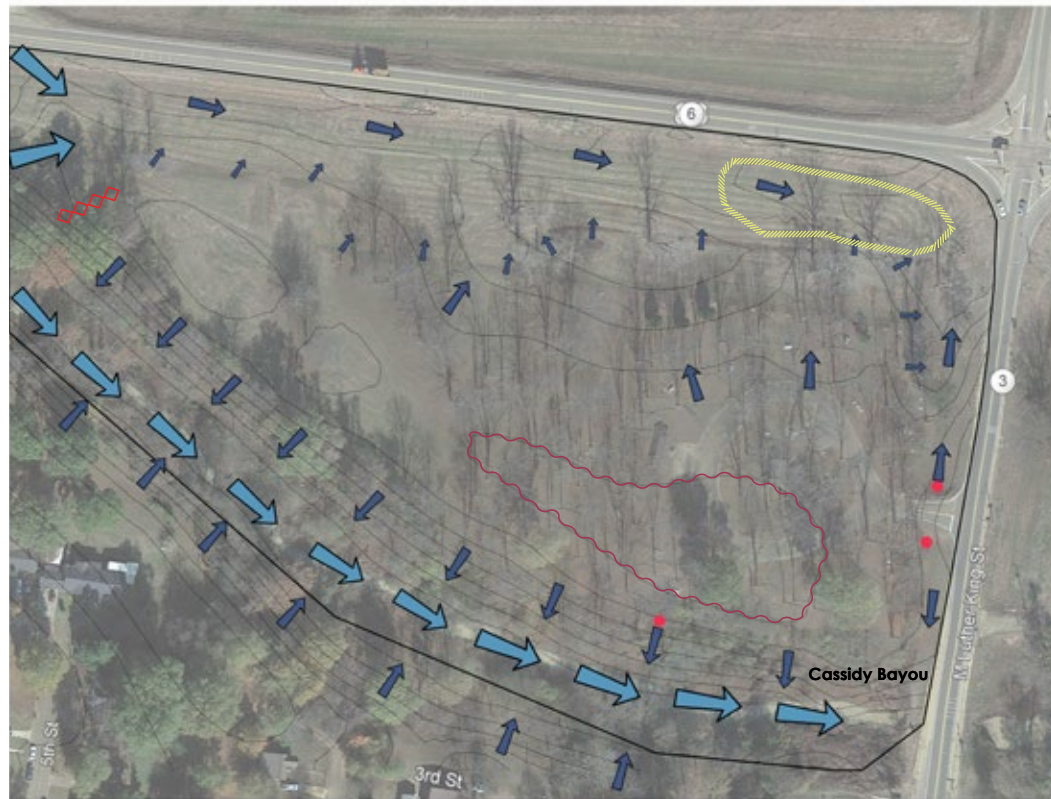
Functional Diagram



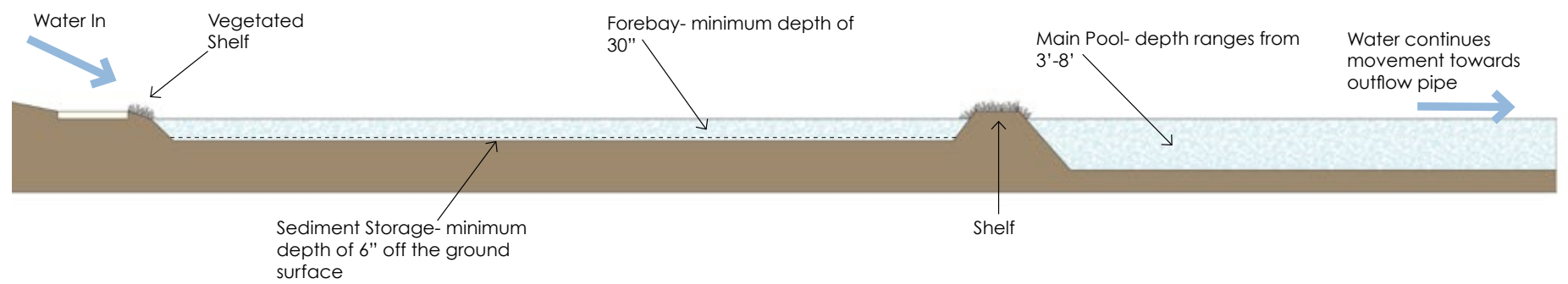
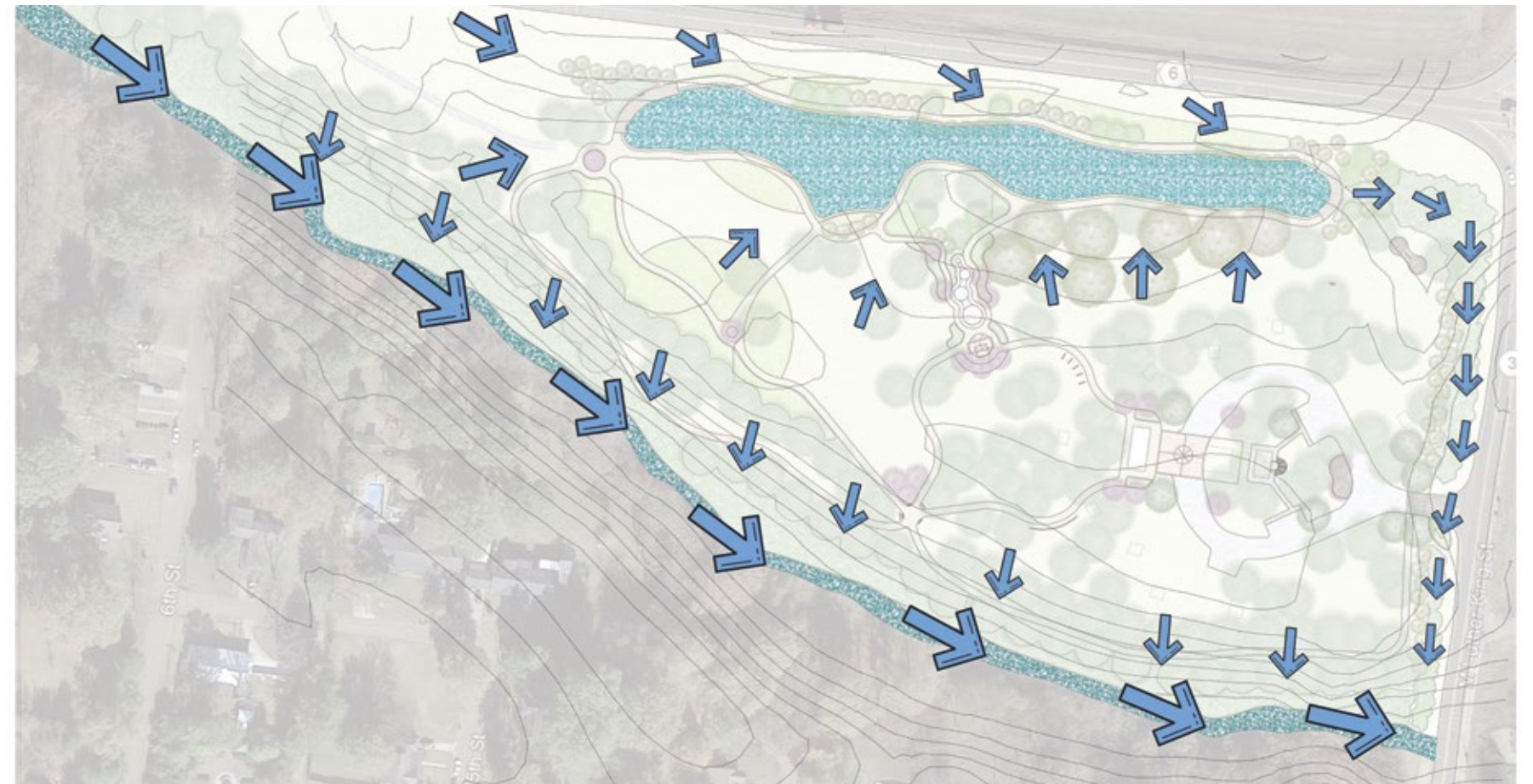
The idea here is incorporating interpretative signage with pedestrian circulation.



The thought is to incorporate the historic musicians who are native to Quitman County by using local artwork.



- Legend**
- Erosion
 - High Point
 - Low Point
 - Drain Inlet



Bald Cypress



Black Willow



Eastern Cottonwood



Buttonbush



Arrowwood Viburnum



River Oats



Pecan



Cherrypark Oak



Bald Cypress



Sugarberry



Sycamore



Eastern Redbud



Black Willow



Eastern Cottonwood



Bald Cypress



Swamp Chestnut Oak



Deciduous Holly



Boxelder



Hibiscus



Native Bamboo



Buttonbush



Beautyberry



Buttonbush



American Sweet Olive



Mountain Laurel



Arrowwood Viburnum



Native Azelea



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Winterberry Holly



Virginia Sweetspire



Groundsel Bush



Preserved Riparian Area

Preserved Pecan Community

Constructed Wet Pond



Small-mouthed Salamander



Pickerel Frog



Snapping Turtle



Mississippi Green Water Snake



Diamondback Water Snake



Little Blue Heron



Bald Eagle



Prothonotary Warbler



Kentucky Warbler



Pileated Woodpecker



Barred Owl



Rusty Blackbird



Tricolored Heron



Wood Thrush



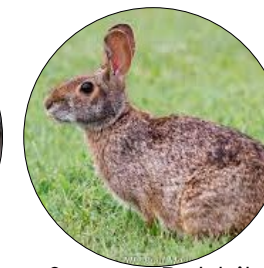
American Woodchuck



Little Brown Bat



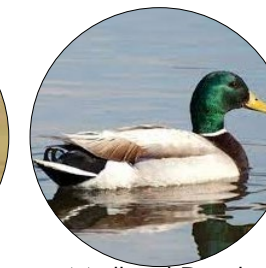
Squirrel



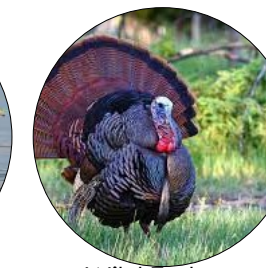
Swamp Rabbit



Wood Duck



Mallard Duck



Wild Turkey



White Tailed Deer

Existing Site Elements



Existing Site Elements



Existing Site Elements

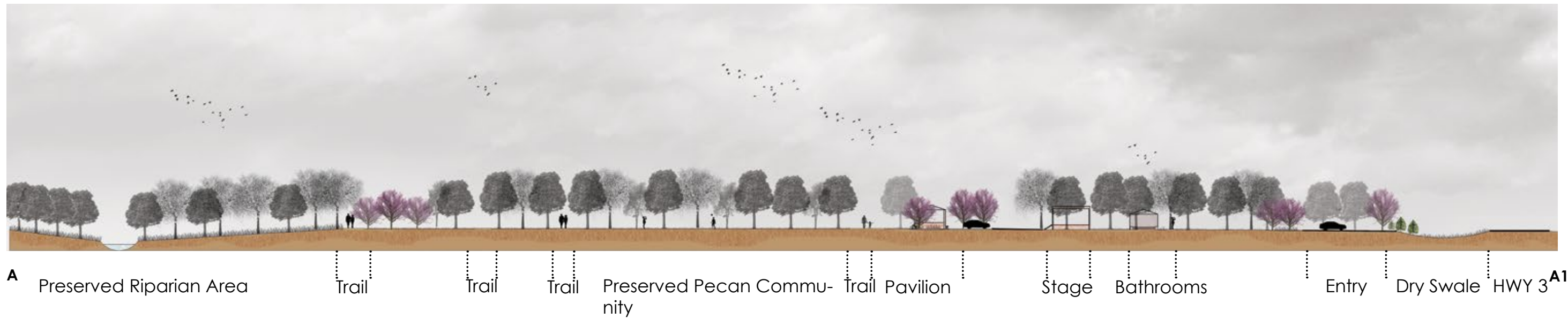




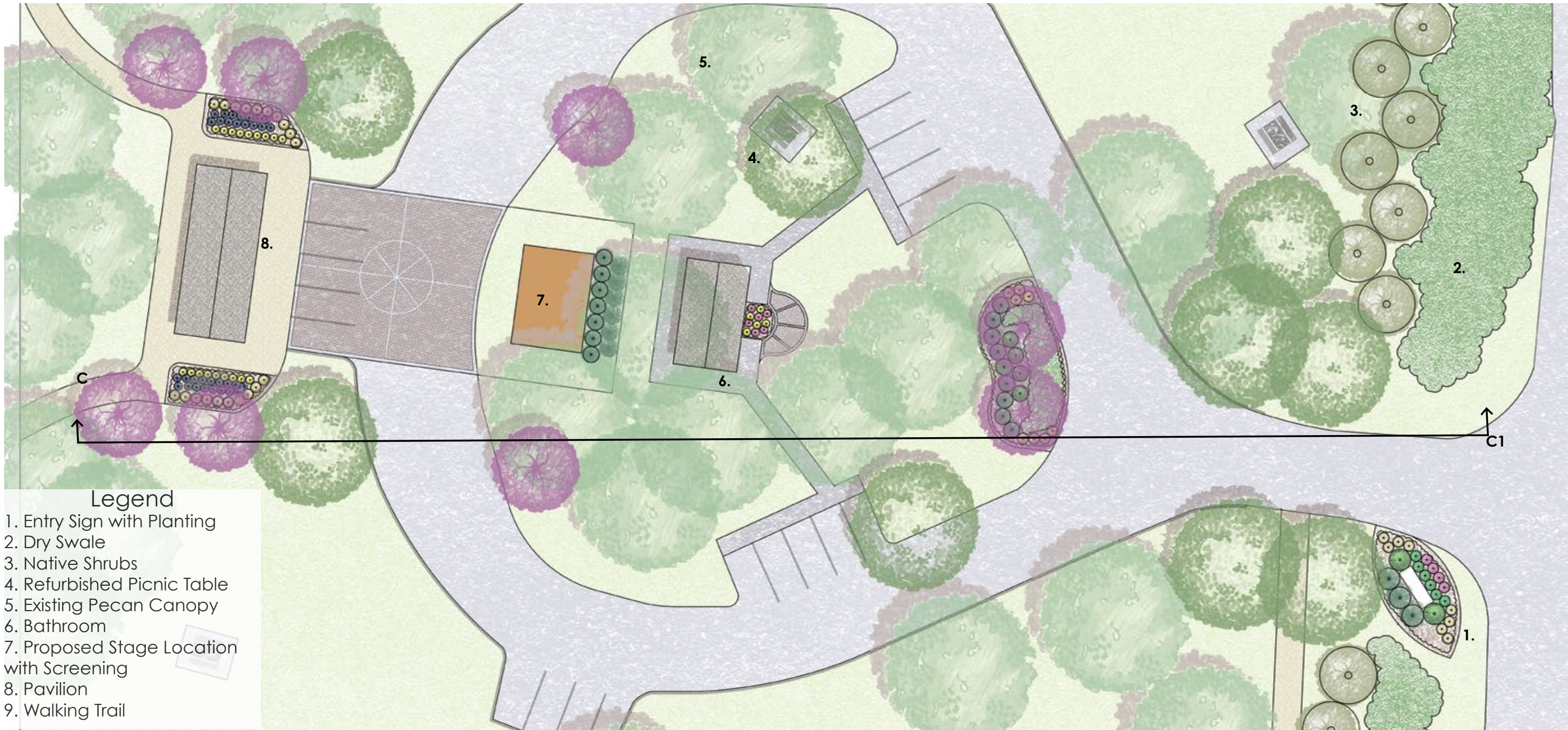
Legend

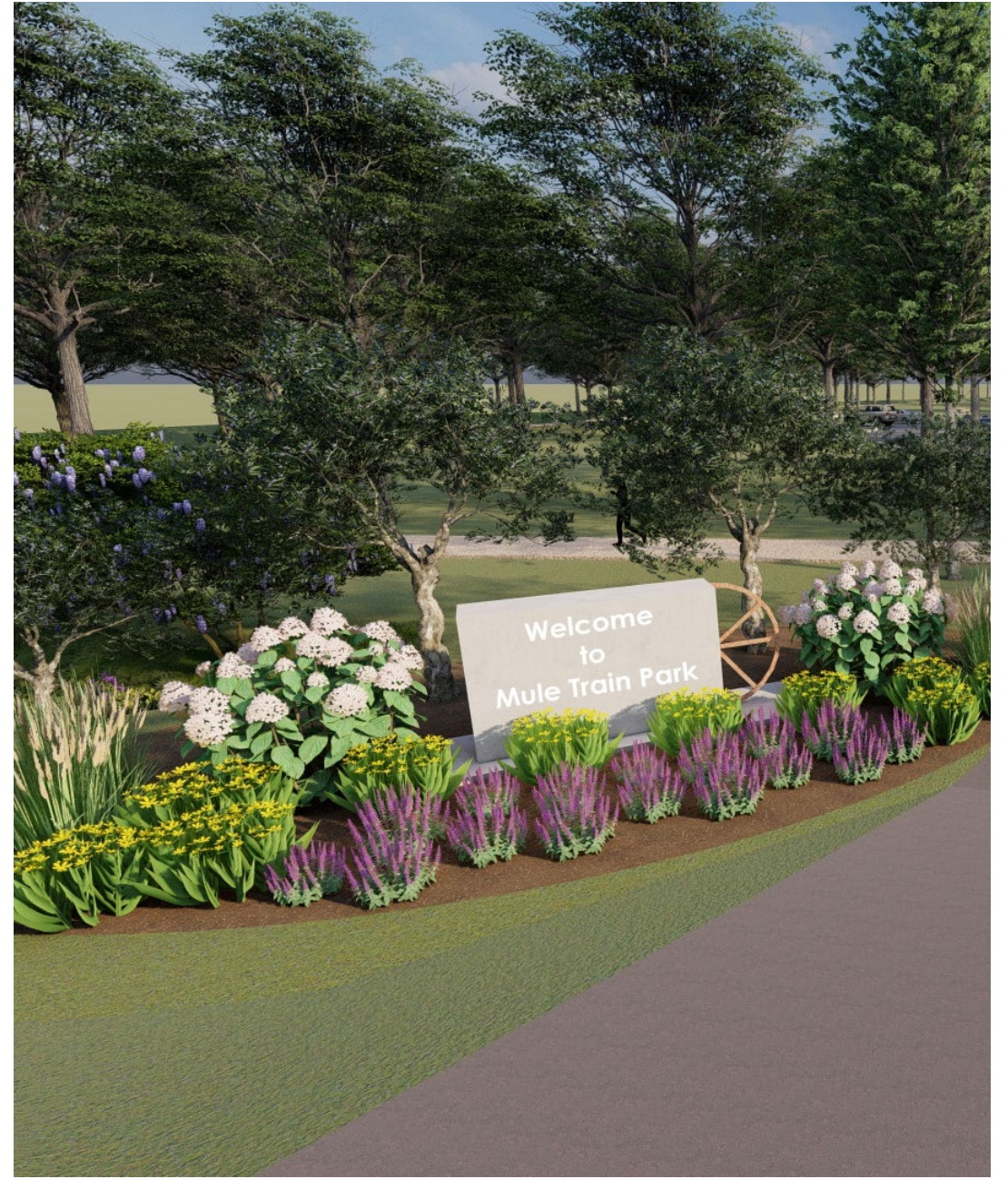
- 1. Event Overload Parking
- 2. Boardwalk
- 3. Wet Pond
- 4. Pedestrian Trail
- 5. Play Area
- 6. Interactive Mural
- 7. Local Art Work
- 8. Educational Hub
- 9. Overhead Structure
- 10. Existing Pavilion
- 11. Stage Location
- 12. Existing Restroom
- 13. Entry Planting Bed
- 14. Marks Town Entry Sign
- 15. Park Entry Sign
- 16. Constructed Wetland
- 17. Existing Riparian Area
- 18. Cassidy Bayou
- Enlarged Plans

0' 25' 50' 100'
1"=50'



These two full site sections cut through the West - East, and the North - South. The goal of these were to show the topographic change of the site as well as the proposed elements (rendered) compared to existing.







- Legend**
- 1. Shade Structure
 - 2. Natural Playground
 - 3. Seat-wall
 - 4. Walking Trail
 - 5. Wet Pond



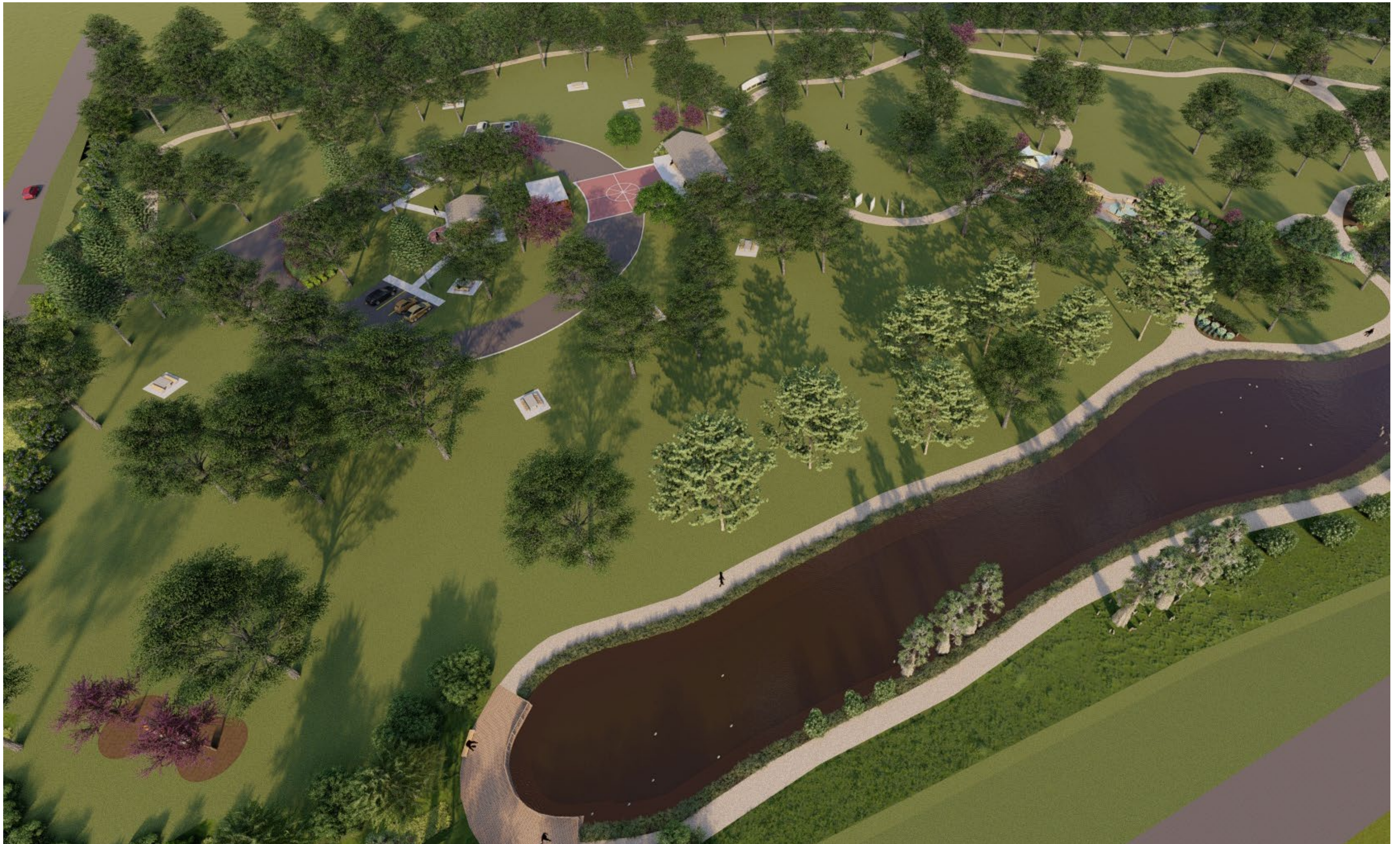
D Shade Structure

Natural Play Area

Native Plantings

D1















The End