### CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER GREENWAY STUDY

FOR THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

GEORGIA PLANNING ASSOCIATION
FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2nd, 2019





#### THE WATERSHED







## THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS GREENWAY STUDY



#### PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM









#### **DESIGN TEAM**

#### SCAPE









DR. NA'TAKI OSBORNE JELKS, MPH

**DR. RICHARD MILLIGAN** 

# CHATTAHOOCHEE WORKING GROUP SUB-AREA COMMITTEES COMMUNITY MEMBERS



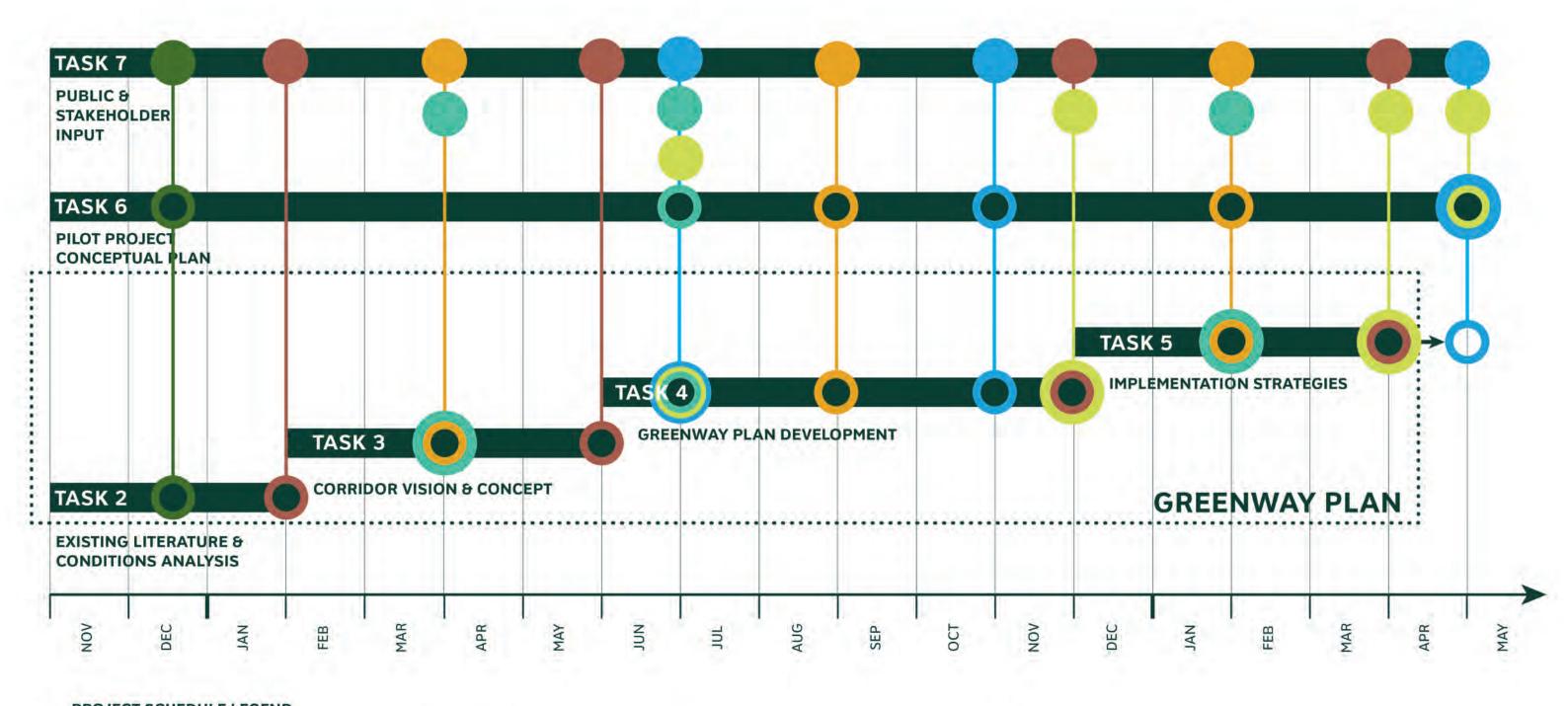
#### CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER GREENWAY PLAN

- Envision one seamless and fully functional public realm along the Chattahoochee River
- Create a new inclusive vision for the River's future that will raise public awareness
- Improve connections and access and identify potential for greenspace and park development
- Build on a legacy of ecological conservation and protection
- Guide investment in the region

#### **PILOT SITE**

- Embrace the spirit of the greenway study and develop a concept-level design for a 1.5 mile local trail in Cobb County
- Opportunity to test proposals against permitting agencies

#### PROJECT SCHEDULE

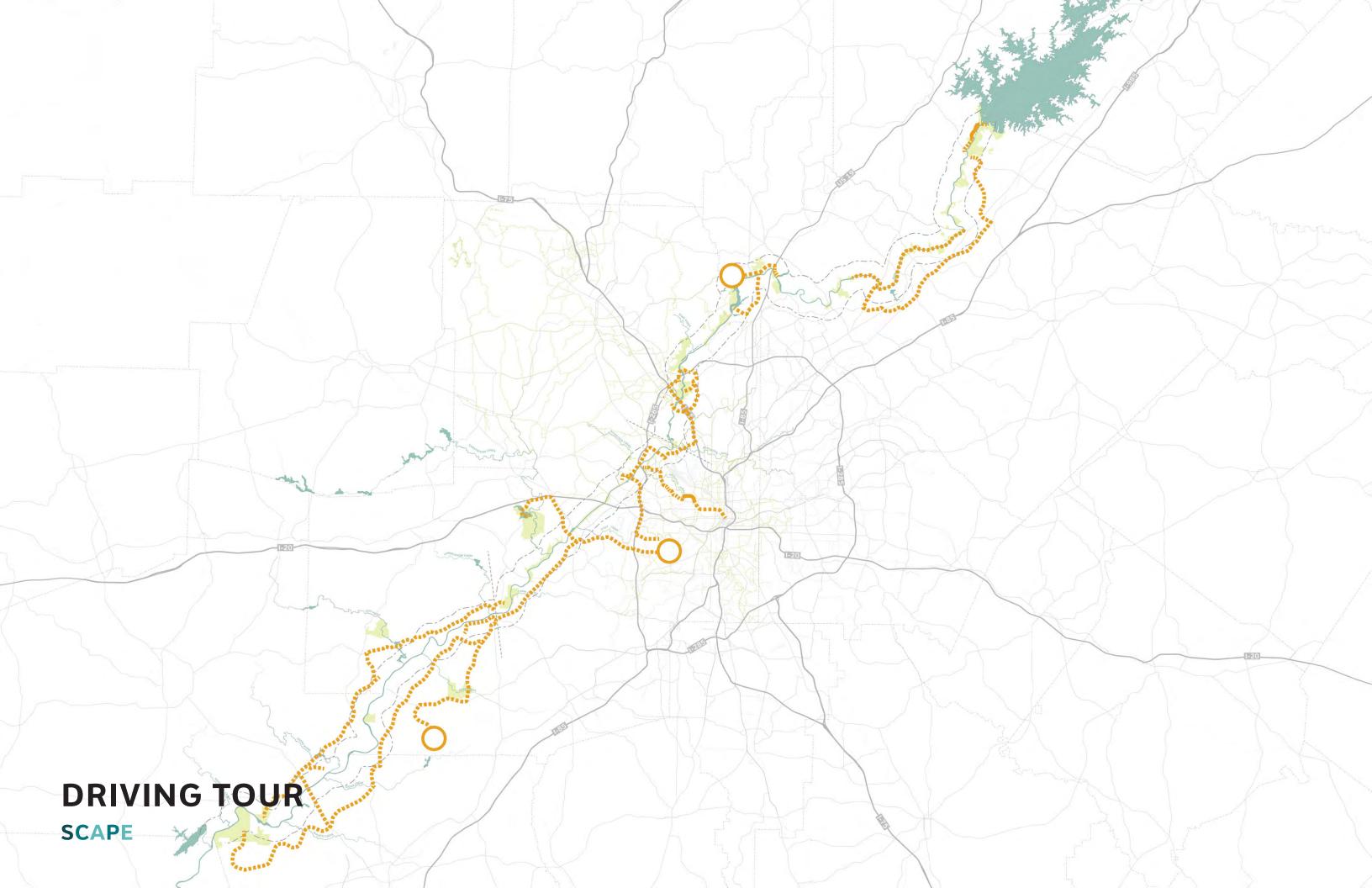


#### **PROJECT SCHEDULE LEGEND**





#### DRIVING TOUR



#### STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS





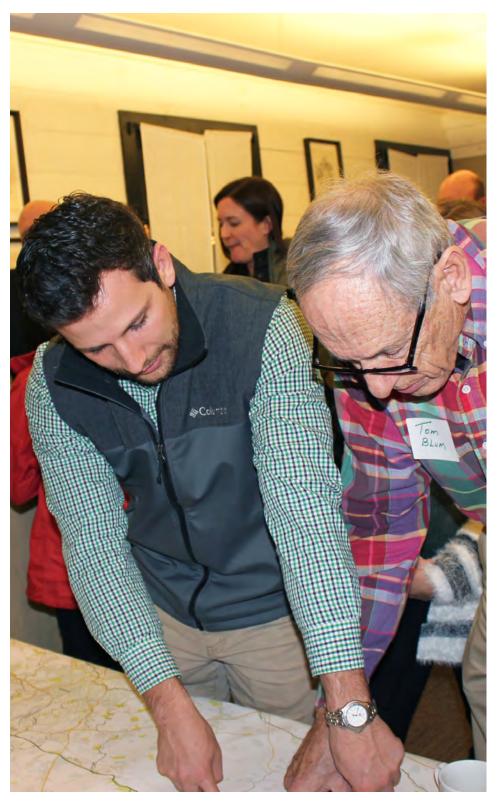




#### **PUBLIC MEETINGS - MAPPING EXERCISE**





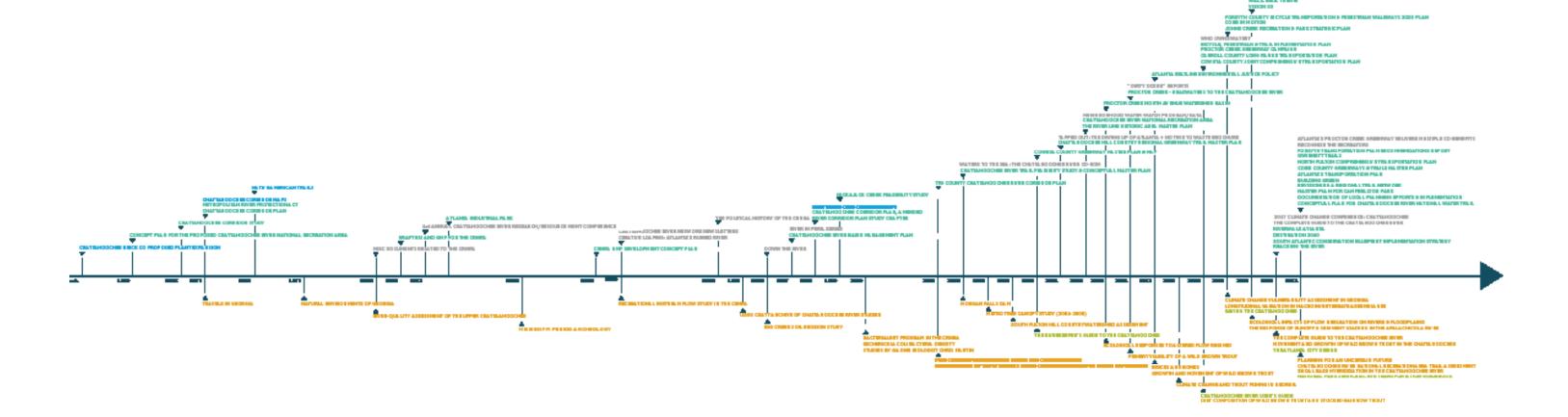


#### PUBLIC MEETINGS - MODEL EXERCISE









#### **LEGEND**

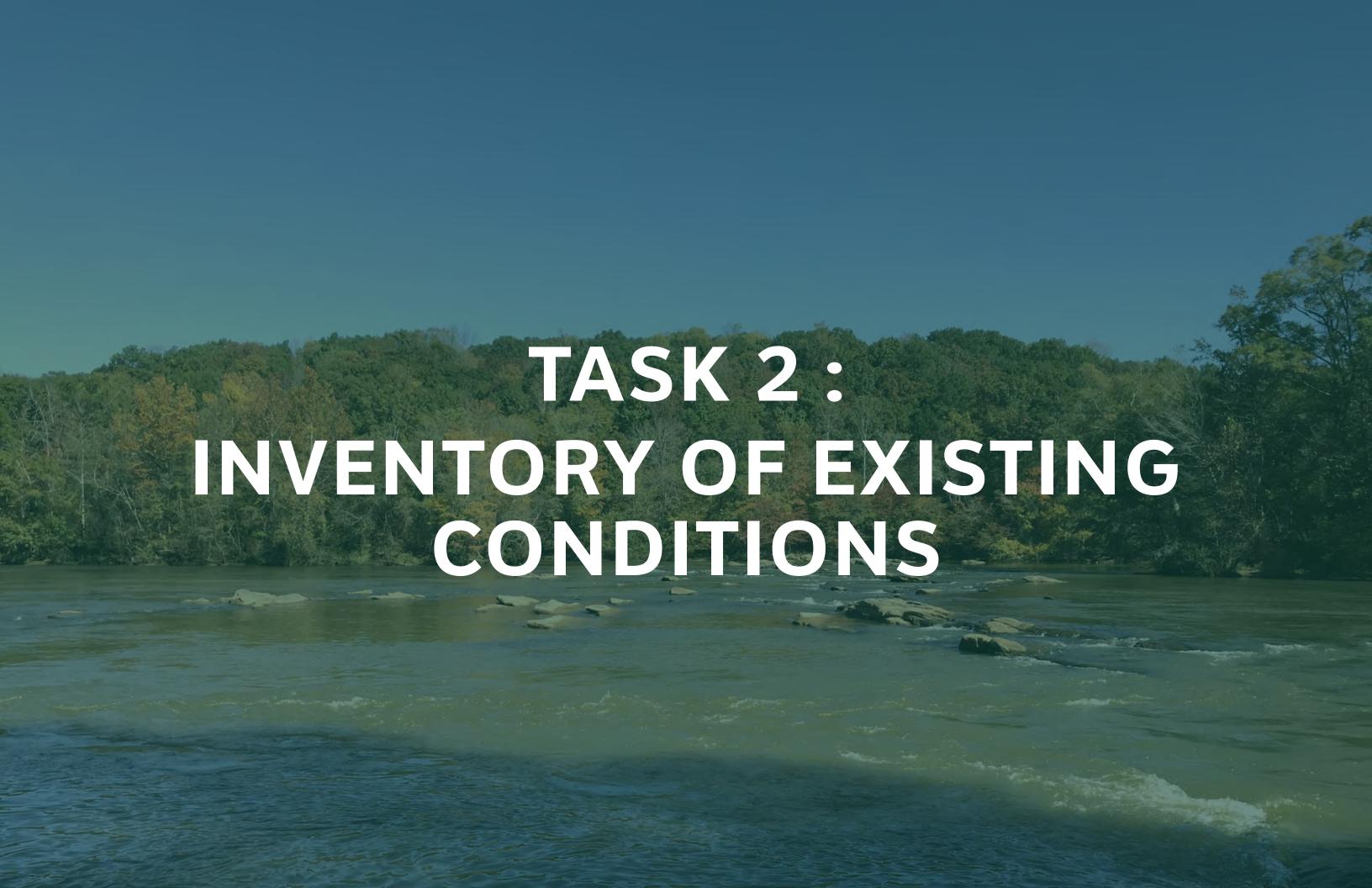
- ARTICLES & PAPERS
- **BOOKS**
- **▶ PLANS & STUDIES**
- MAPS
- ▶ OTHER

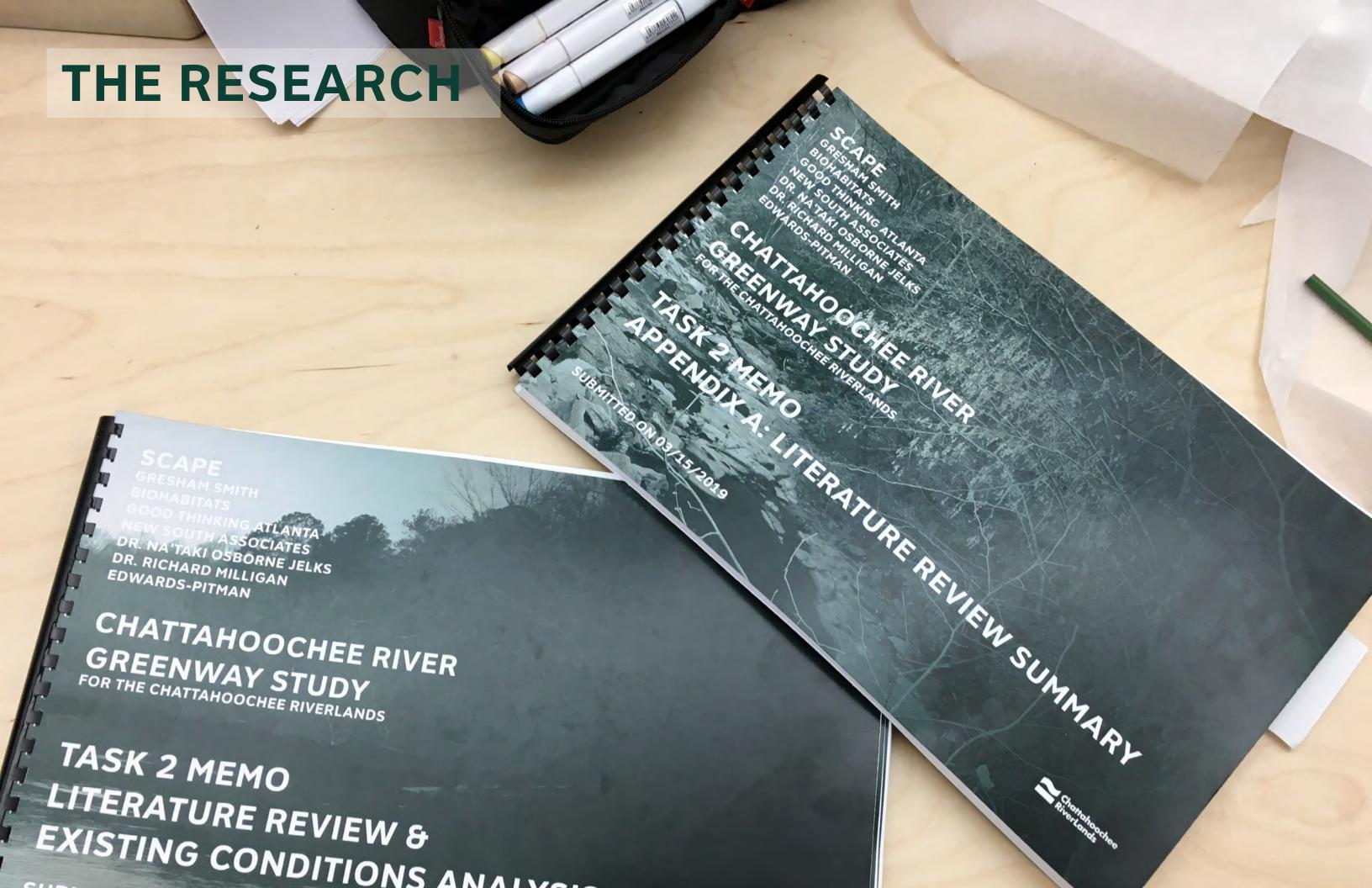


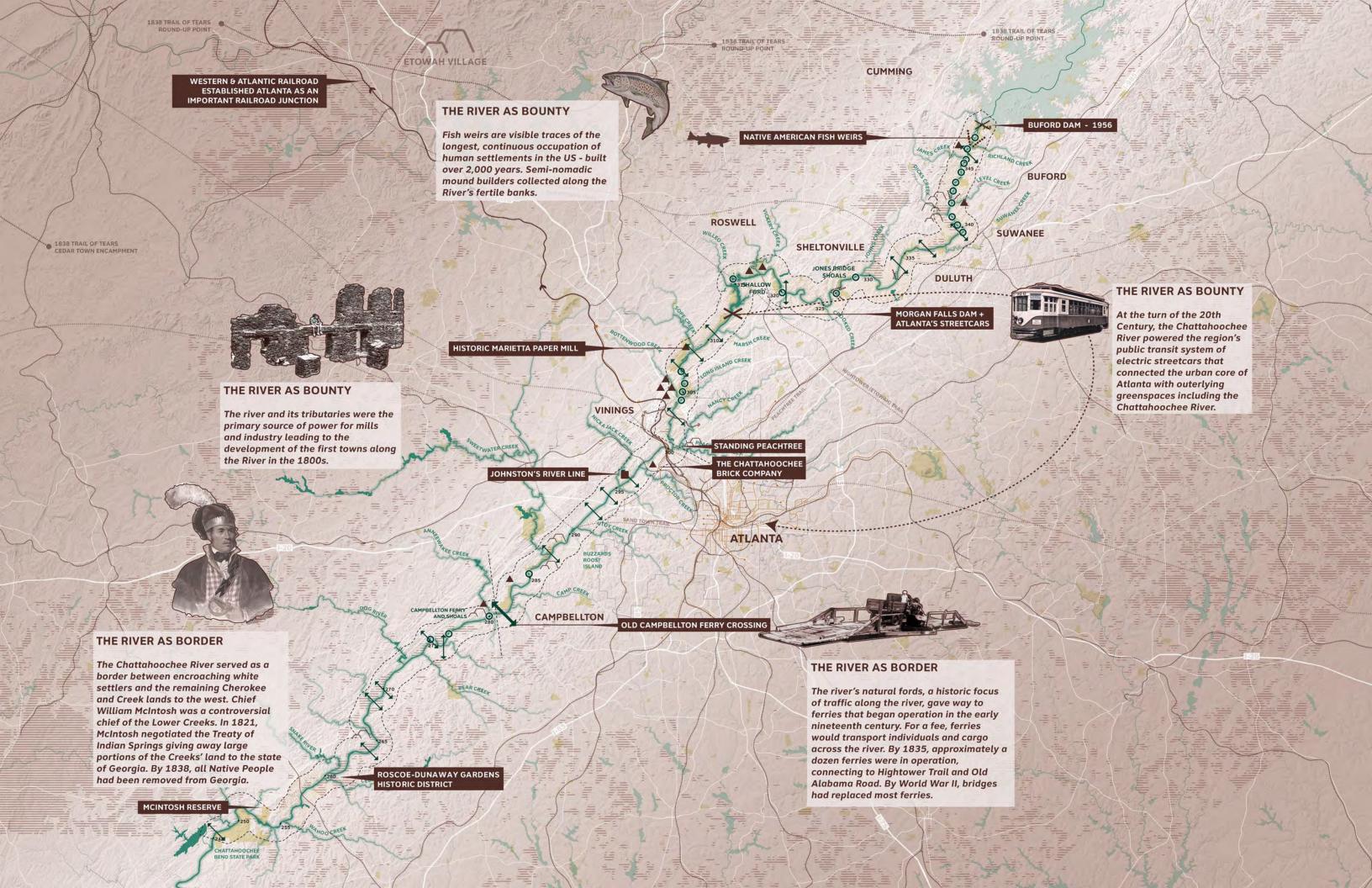




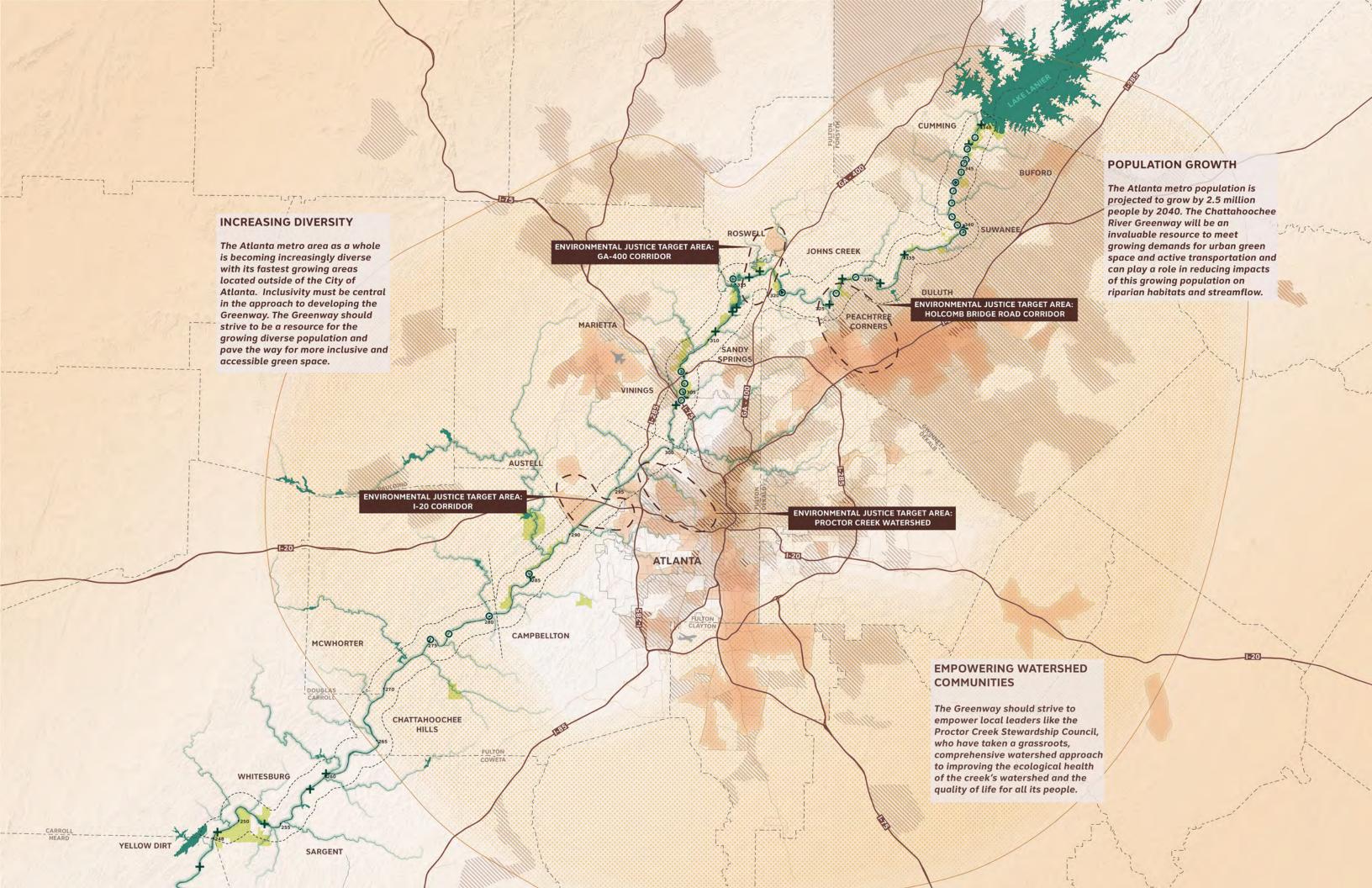


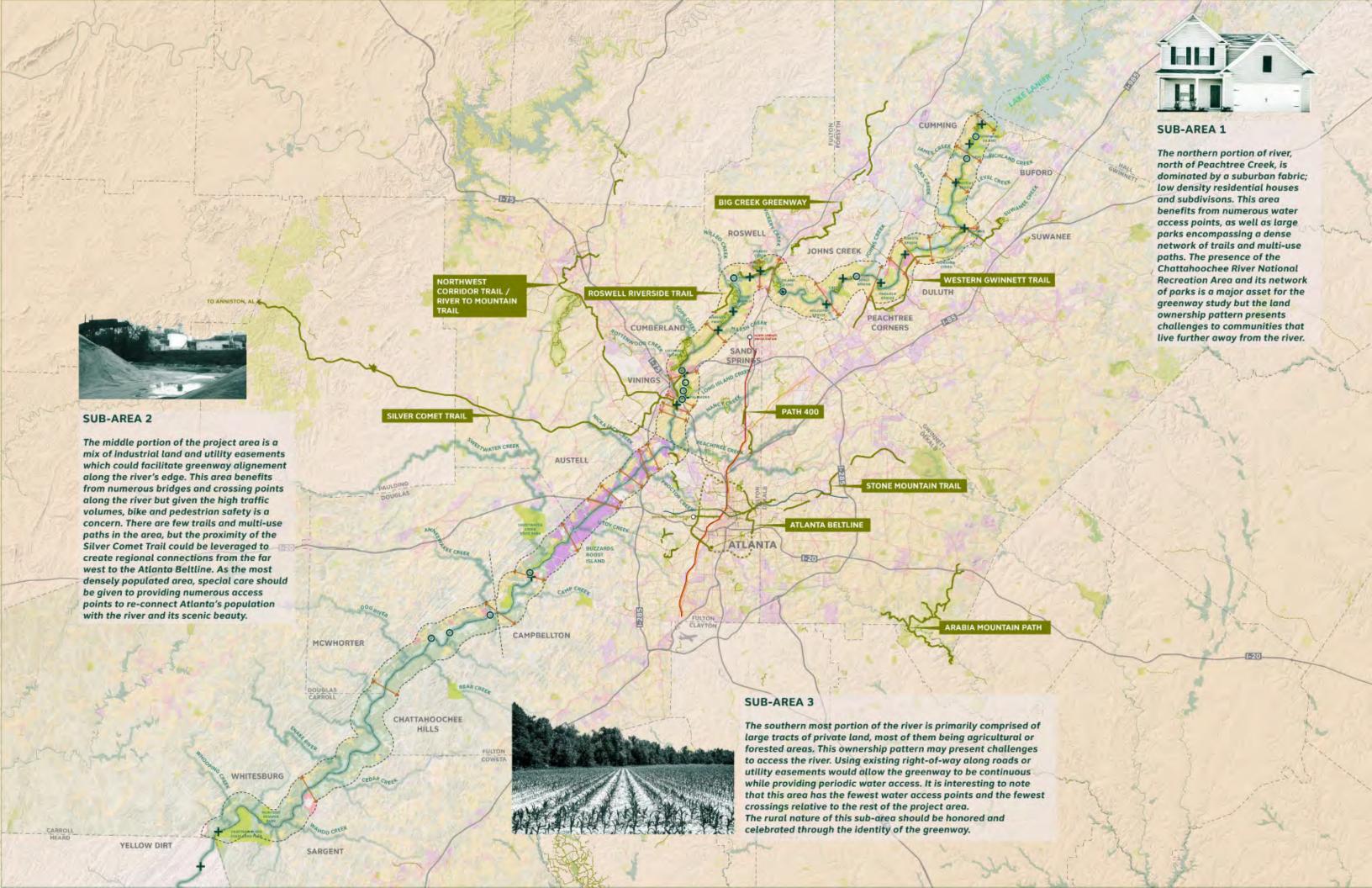






#### A COSMOPOLITAN ECOLOGY The Chattahoochee River supports a thriving recreational fishing economy and healthy populations of native and introduced species. The construction of Buford Dam in the 1950s created cold water conditions capable of supporting the most southern **RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT RANGE** trout fishery in the United States. Rainbow The construction of Buford Dam cooled the river trout are regularly stocked in the upper enough to support trout habitat in the upper reaches of the Chattahoochee. As the river flows portion of the river, while brown trout downstream, it becomes increasingly warm, which confines the cold water fish to Sub Area 1. stocking efforts have been so successful, they now have a self-sustaining population. Cooling of the river, combined with water quality issues, once devastated the native fish population. Water quality has since greatly improved in recent years and native species like shoal bass are being reintroduced through breeding and restocking programs. ORGAN FALLS trout fishery. The river water is relatively cold and clean but fluctuating and pulsing dam releases can WATER QUALITY Water quality has significantly improved in recent years but the health of the Chattahoochee is largely dependent on the health of its tributaries. Water quality is impaired by the impacts of upstream urbanization, including runoff, sedimentation SWEETWATER CREEK and disconnection of floodplains. **SHOAL BASS RANGE** An endemic species, shoal bass were once present throughout the Chattahoochee but now only found in its tributaries. Recent restoration efforts have been made to bring the fish back to the river. As a warm water species, the barrier of Morgan Falls Dam combined with cooler water upstream, confines its reintroduction to Sub Area 2 and 3. SUB-AREA 2 Despite being the most urban Sub-Area, there is still a wildness around the river that provides recreational opportunities close to the city. The legacy of combined sewer overflows affect e. coli levels near Atlanta but recent upgrades have significantly improved water quality. Morgan Falls Dam is a physical barrier for aquatic connectivity but has also become a hot spot for fishing and bird watching. It is the most highly controlled portion of the river and supports a large **ECOLOGY CONNECTIVITY** Sub Area-3 has large tracts of intact forests along the river. The area provides an ecological corridor and connectivity along the river that extends to an even larger regional network. This area also contains some of the healthiest supporting tributaries of the Chattahoochee including Sweetwater Creek and Dog River. Tributary WATER USE health is important for the overall health of the river. The Chattahoochee is a valuable resource. The river and Lake Lanier provide about 70% of metropolitan Atlanta's drinking water. As a Sub-Area 3 is the most rural of the sub areas. Ecological connectivity is high and there is significant intact forest habitats connecting to an even larger relatively small river supporting a large regional network further south. The distance from dams results in a more natural water flow but water quality is still heavily influenced by urbanization and upstream runoff. population, the river is heavily relied upon by metropolitan Atlanta.



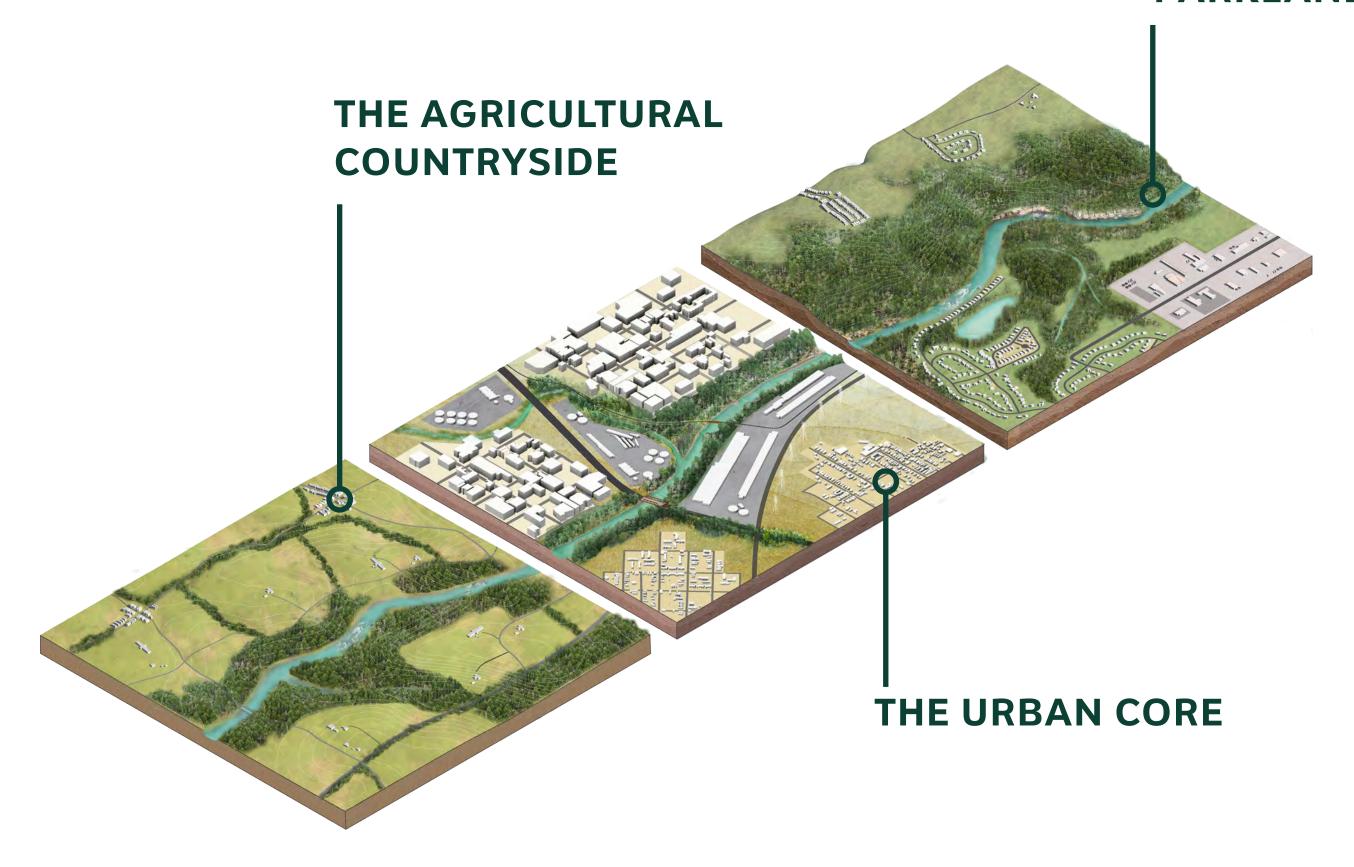


## IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT WITH THE RIVER!

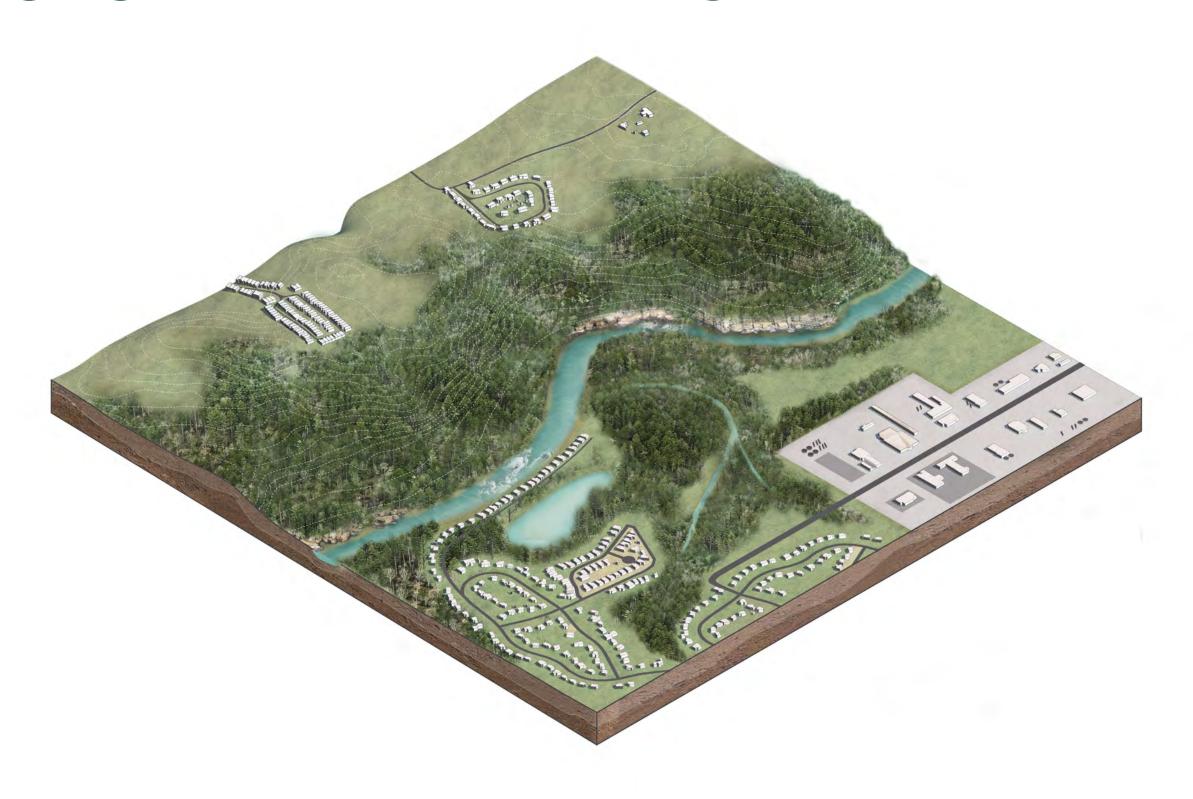


#### THE RIVERLANDS

#### THE SUBURBAN PARKLANDS

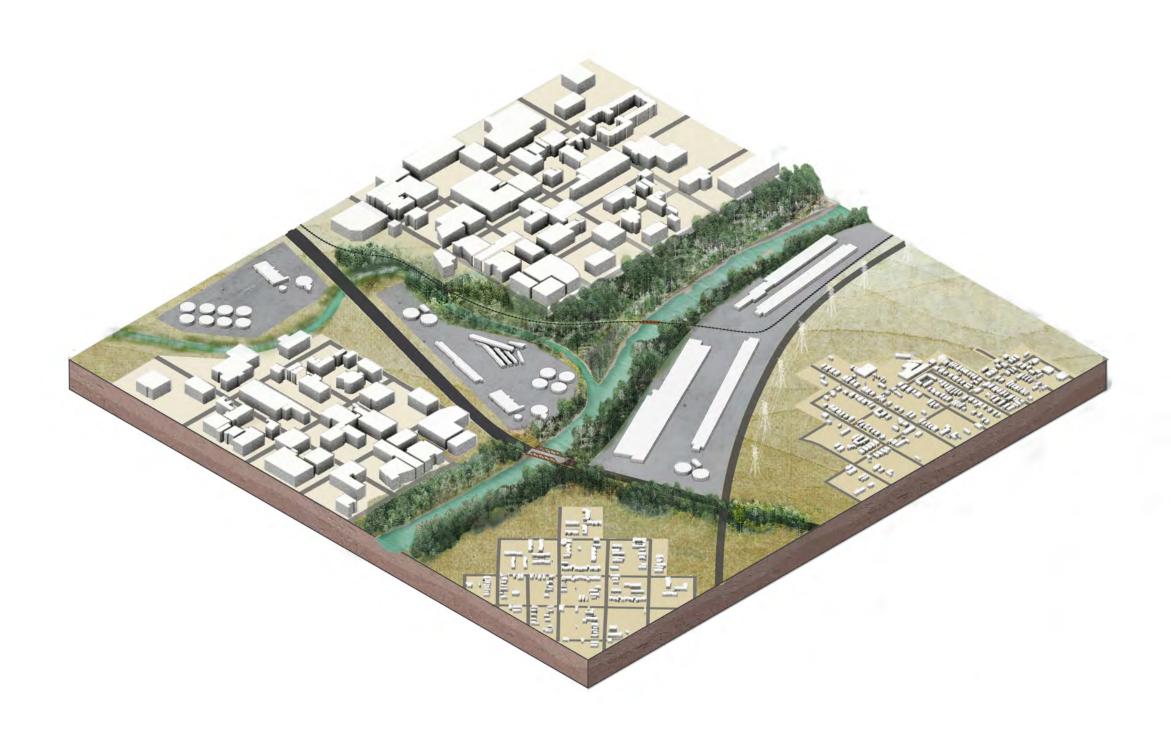


#### THE SUBURBAN PARKLANDS





#### THE URBAN CORE



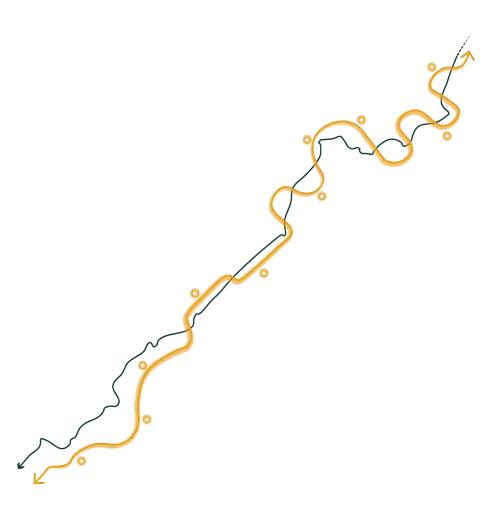


### THE AGRICULTURAL COUNTRYSIDE

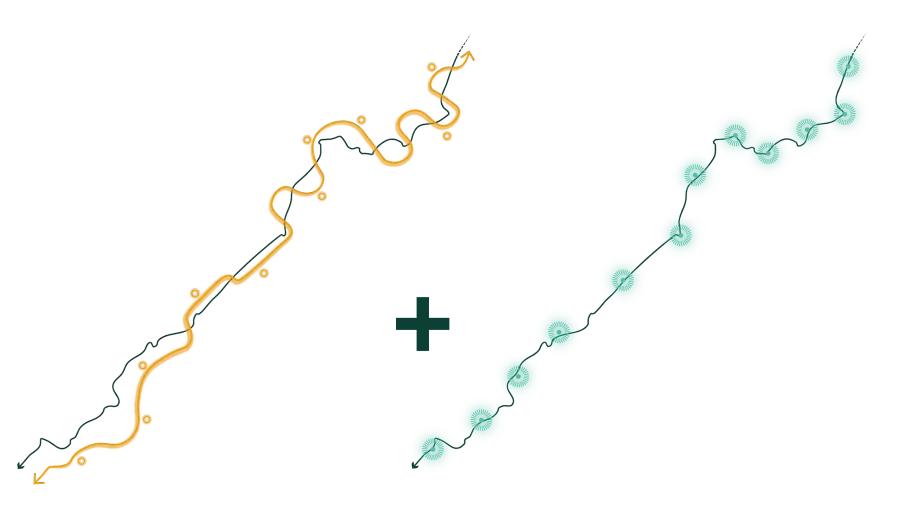




### RIVERLANDS VISION

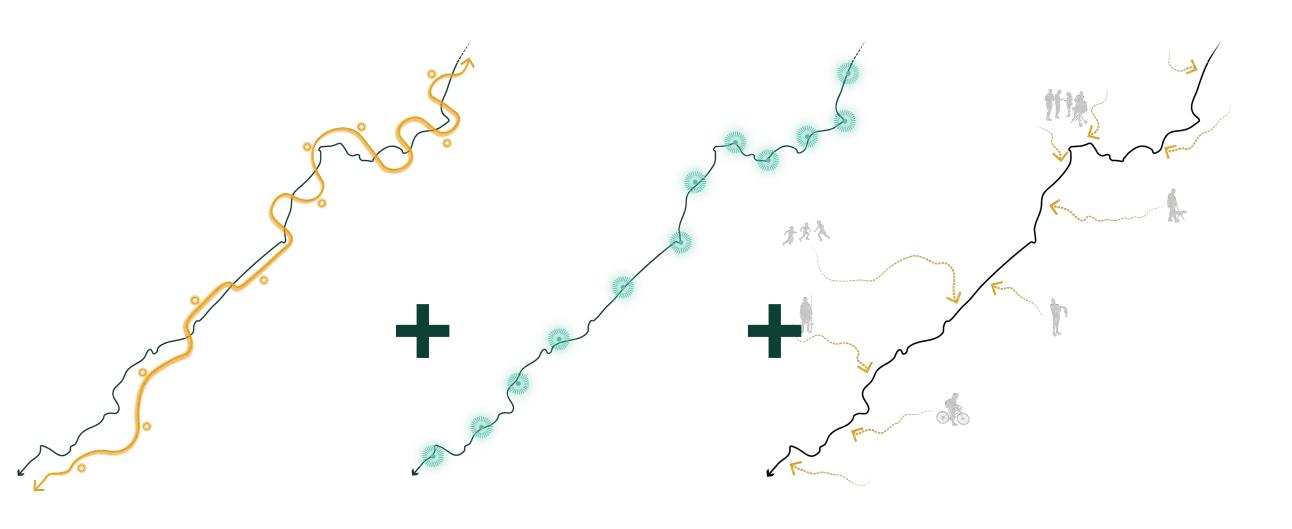


**GREENWAY** 



**GREENWAY** 

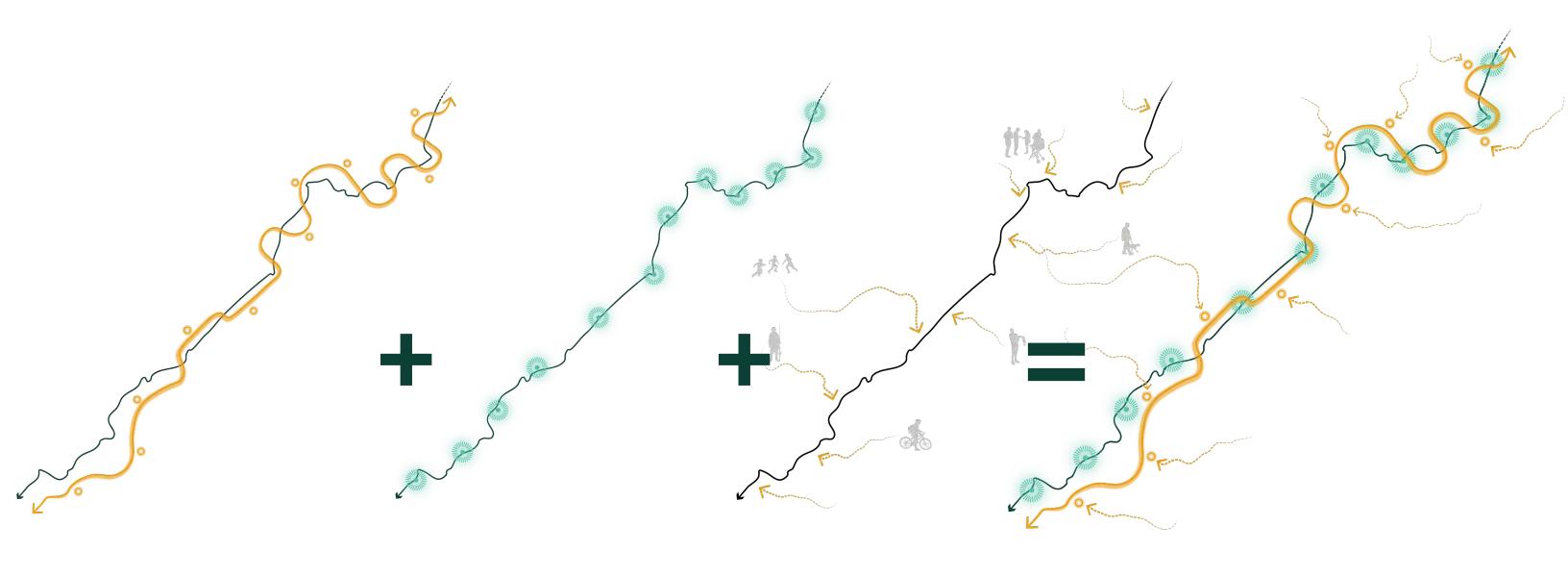
**BLUEWAY** 



**GREENWAY** 

**BLUEWAY** 

TRIBUTARY TRAILS



**GREENWAY** 

**BLUEWAY** 

TRIBUTARY TRAILS

**THE RIVERLANDS** 

### PROJECT GOALS

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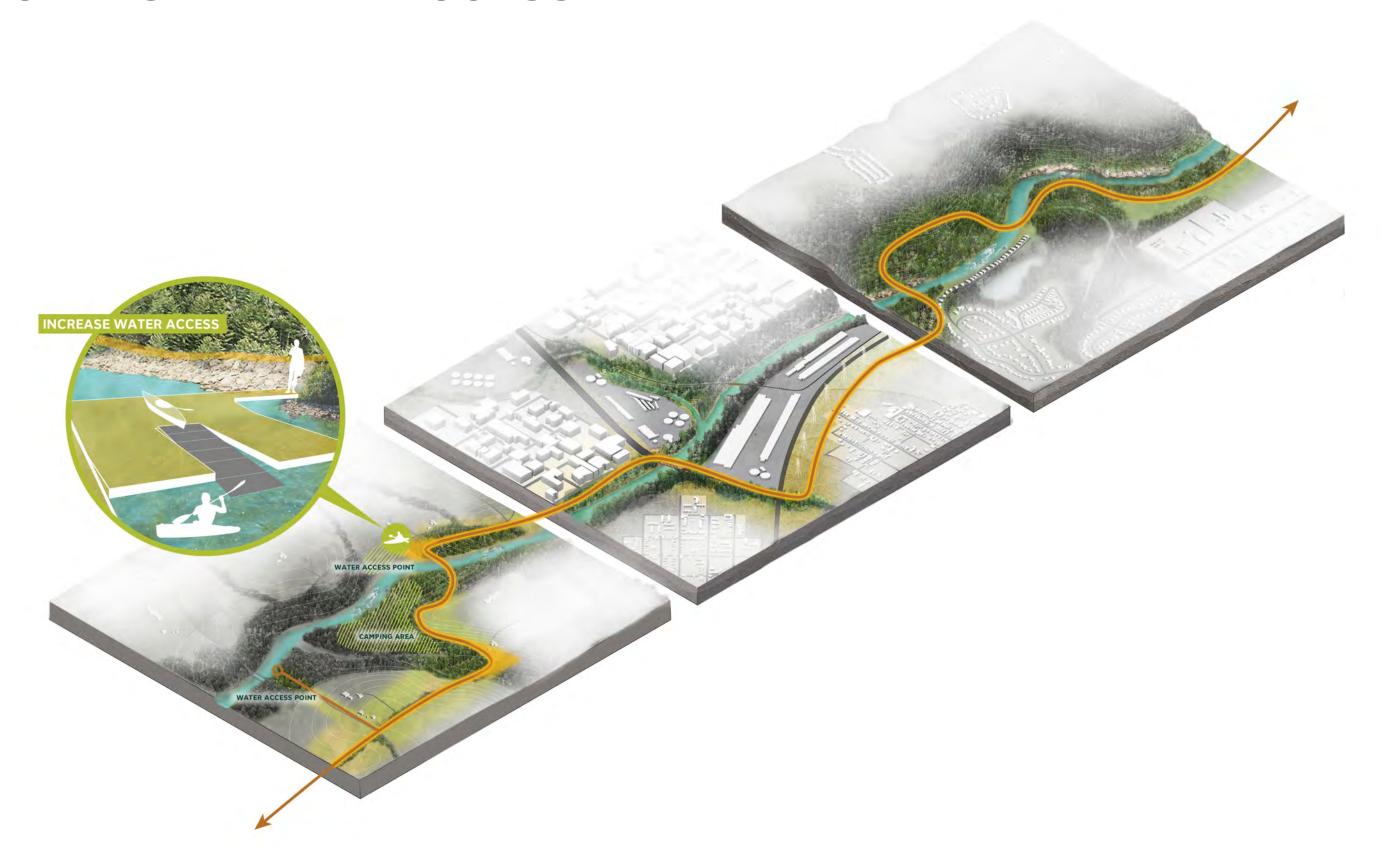
A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

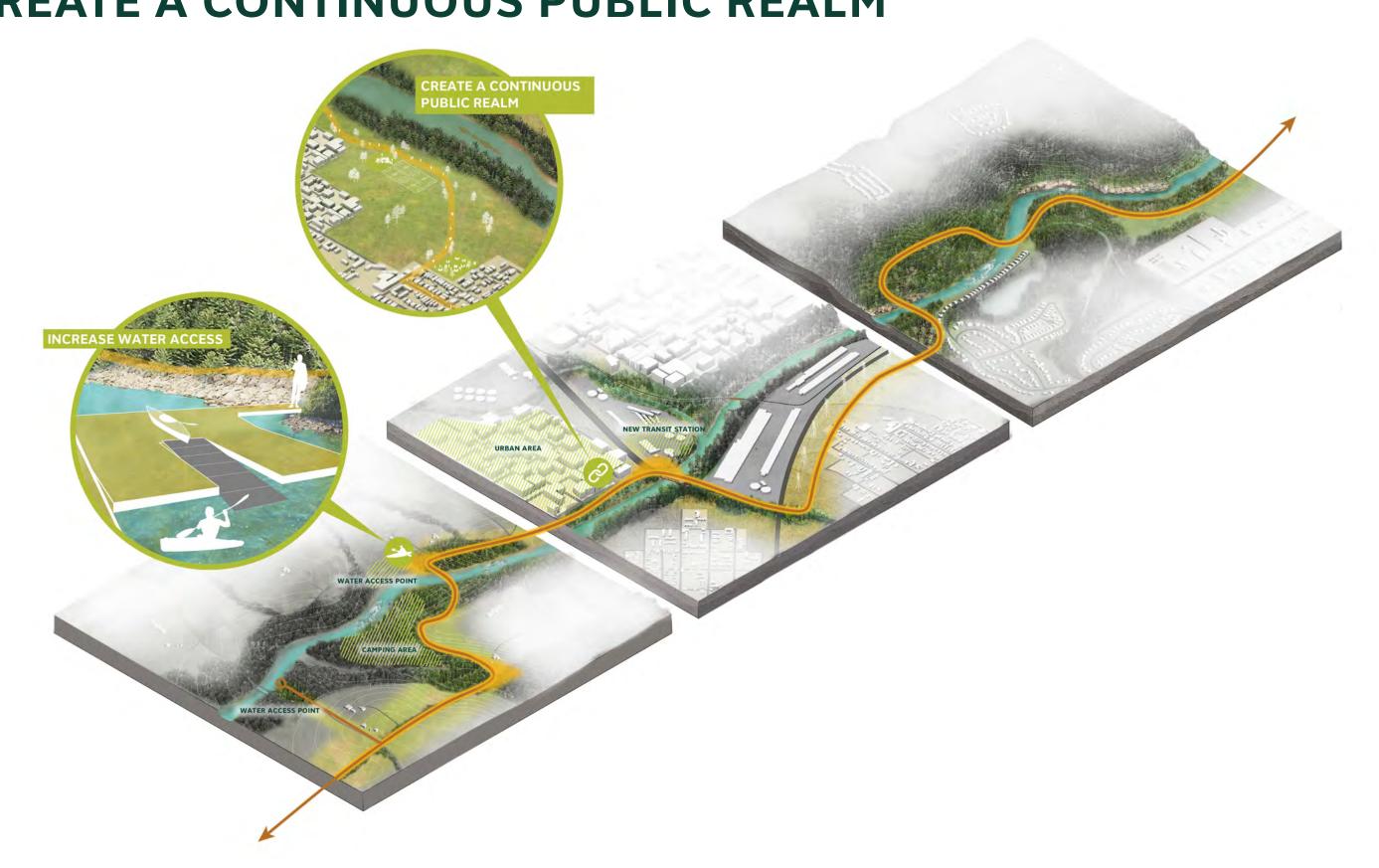
AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE

A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

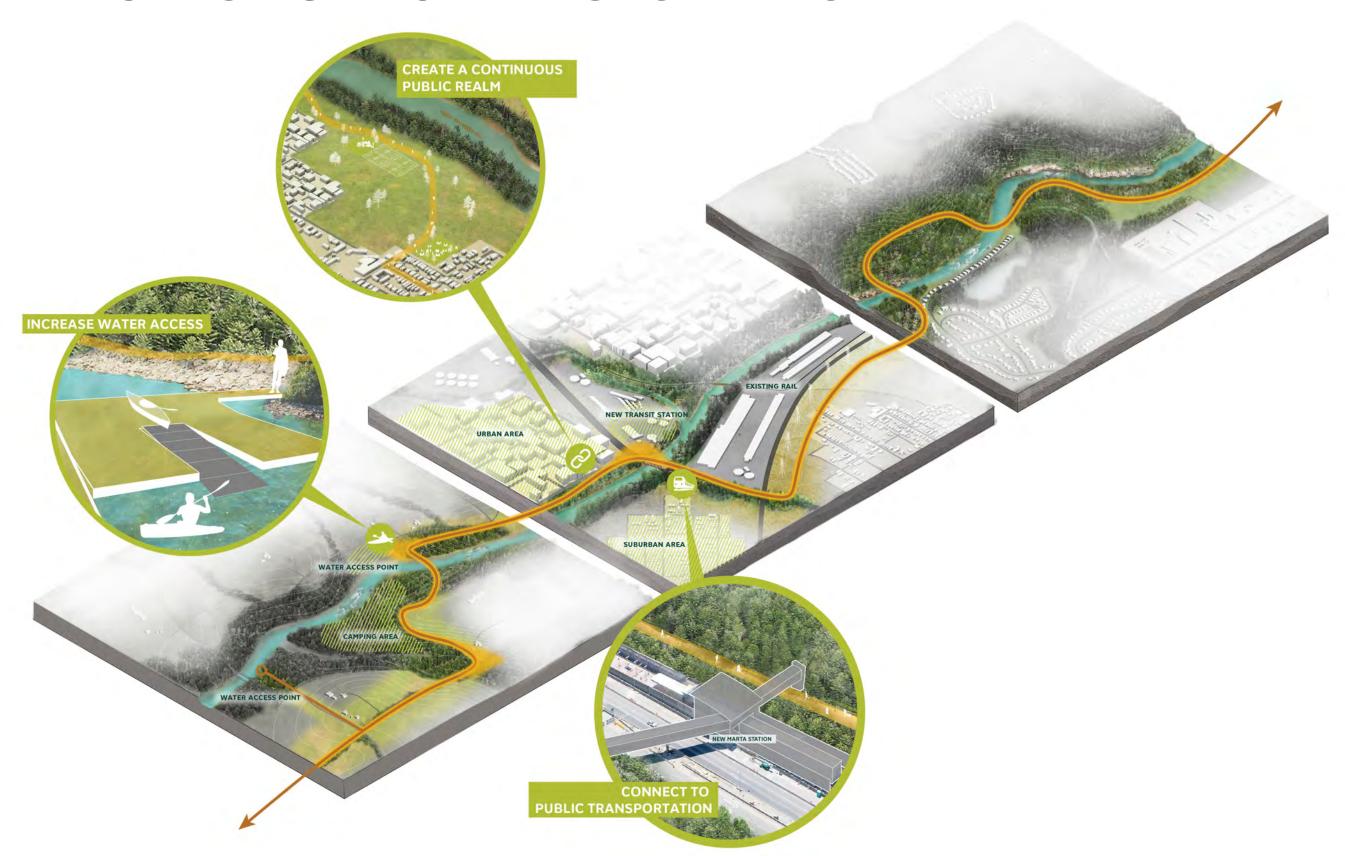
### **INCREASE WATER ACCESS**



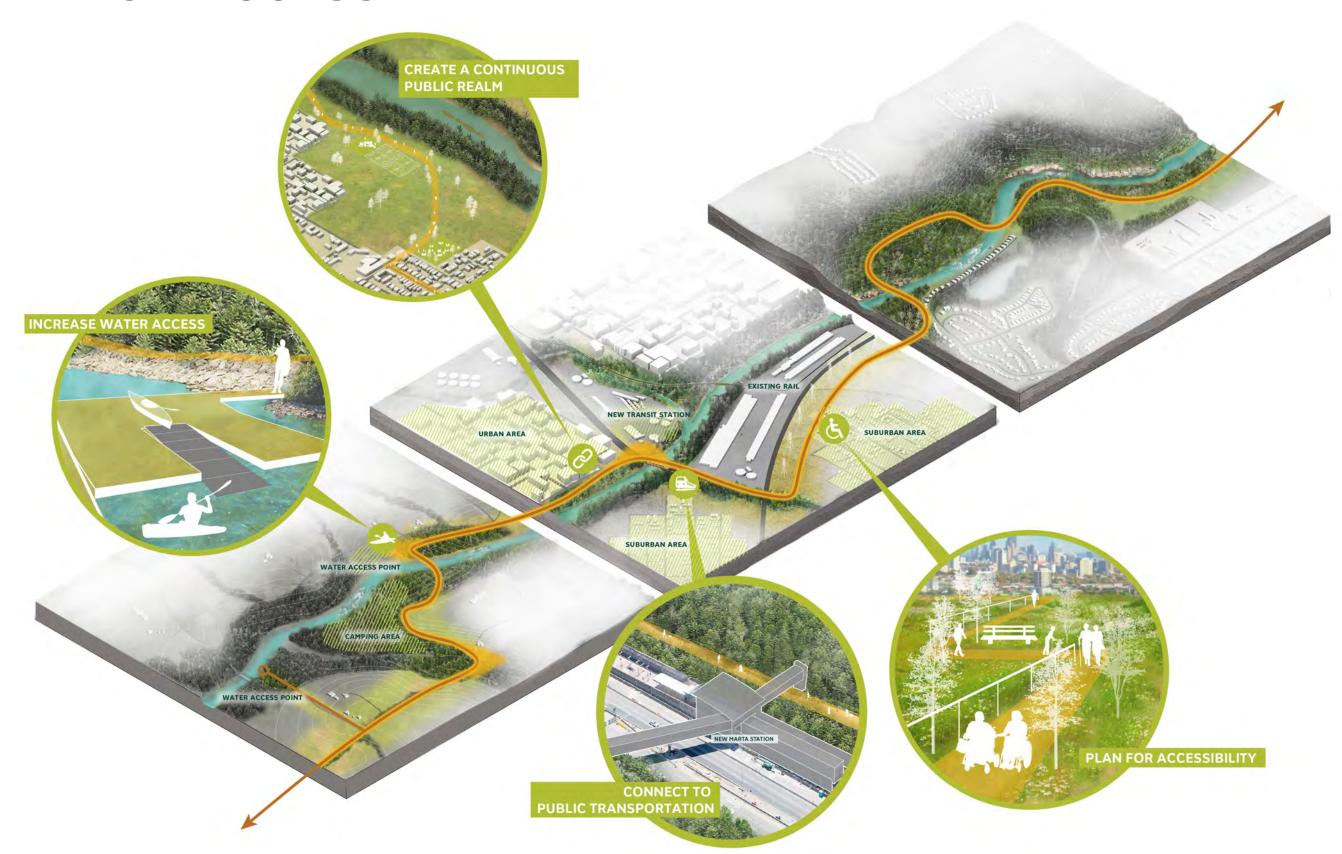
### A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR CREATE A CONTINUOUS PUBLIC REALM

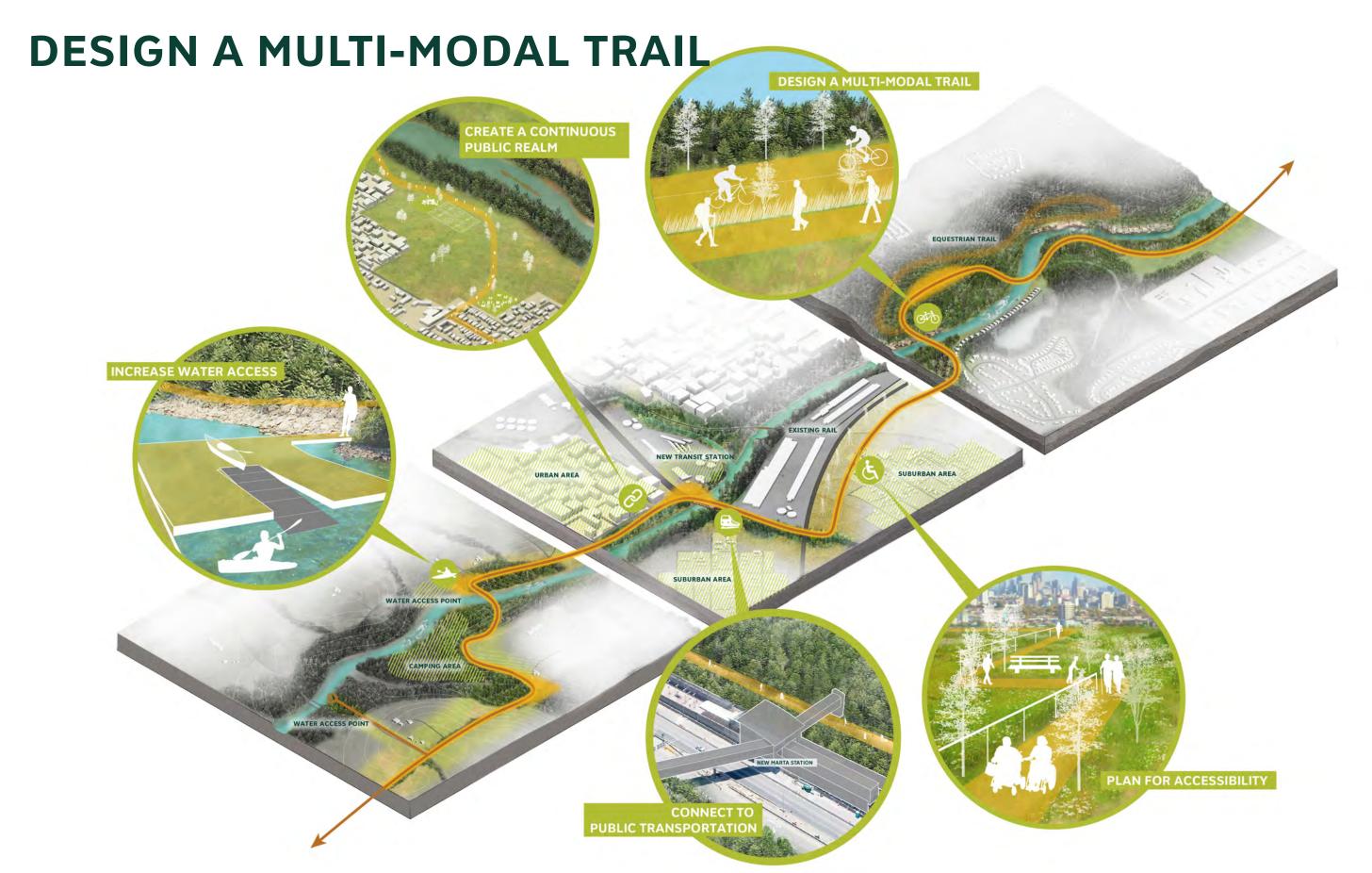


### **CONNECT TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**



### PLAN FOR ACCESSIBILITY





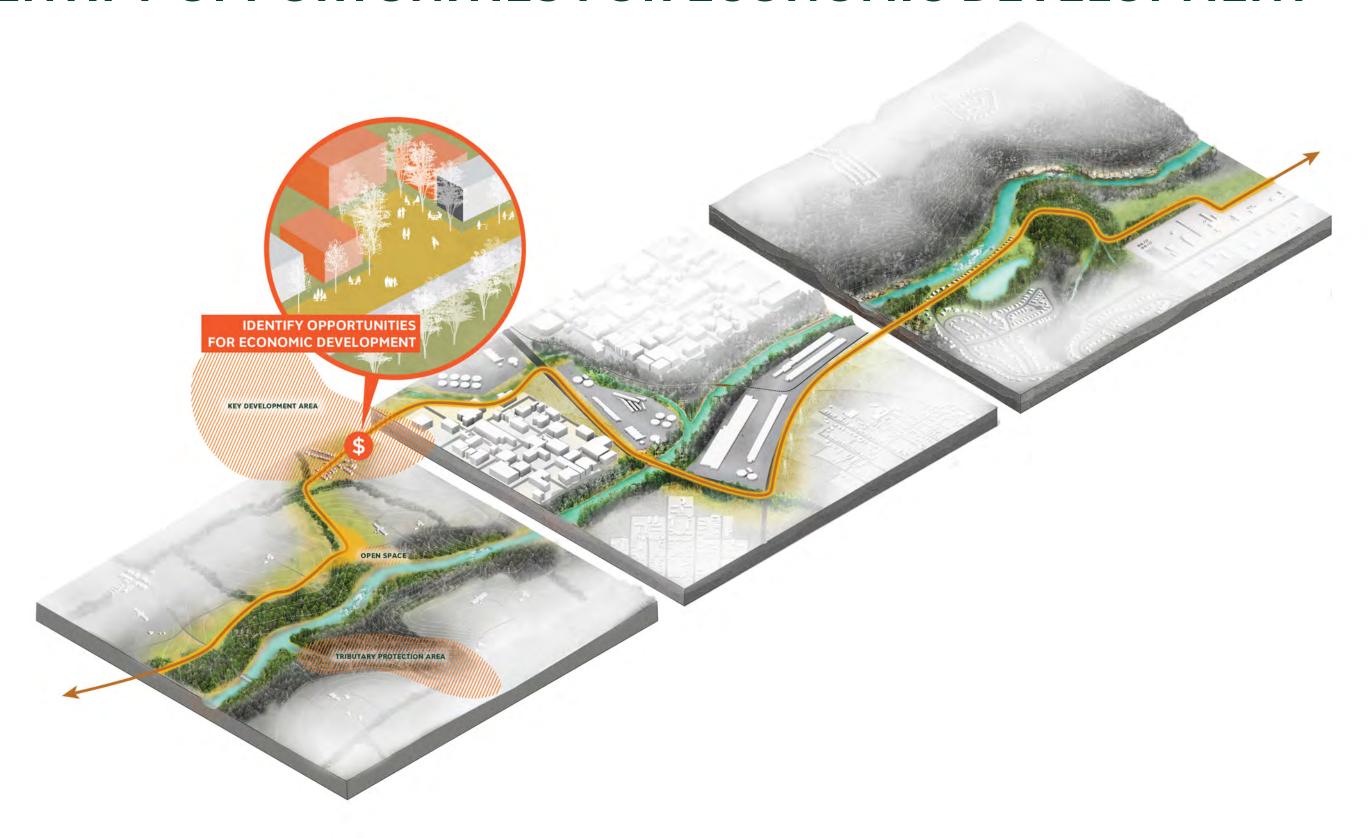
PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY ON LAND AND WATER



### A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

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### **IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

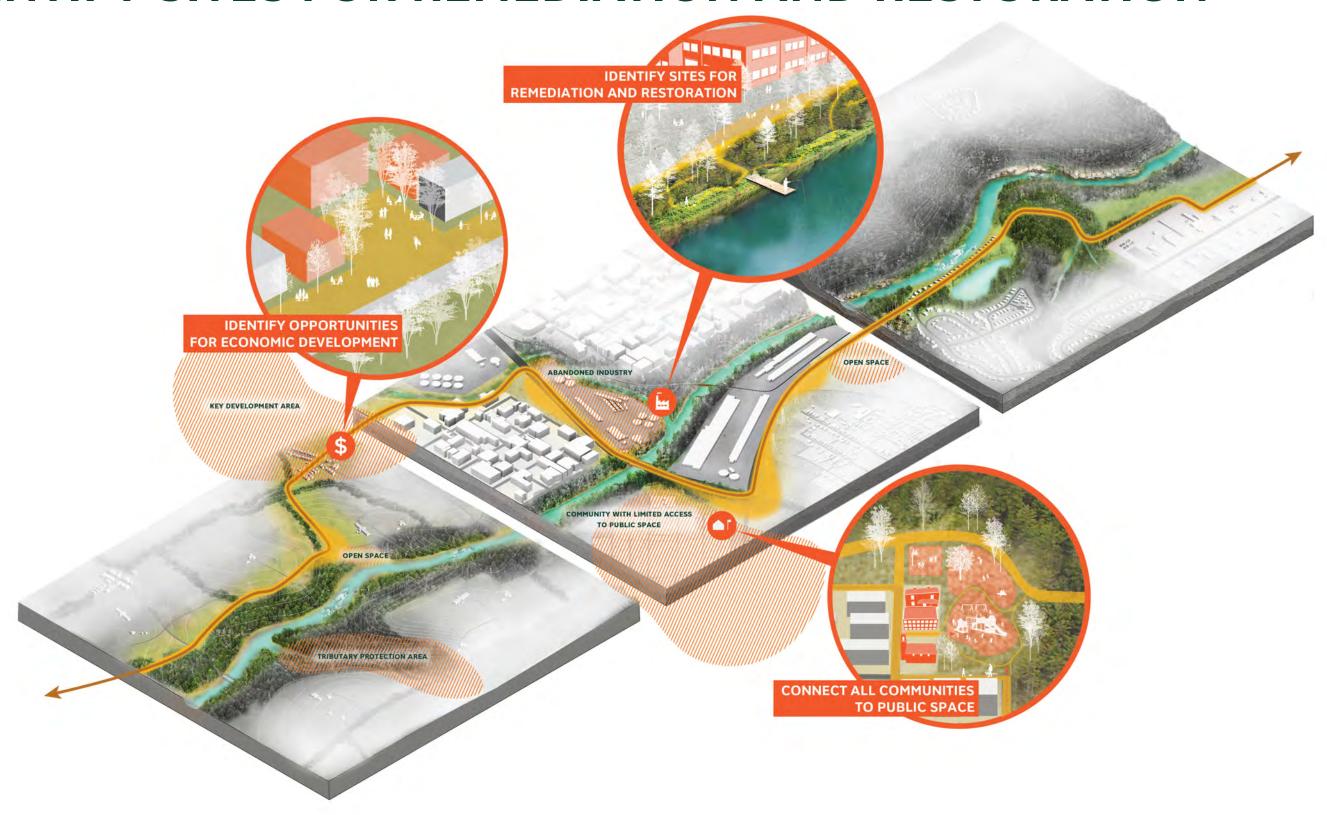


### A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL CONNECT ALL COMMUNITIES TO PUBLIC SPACE



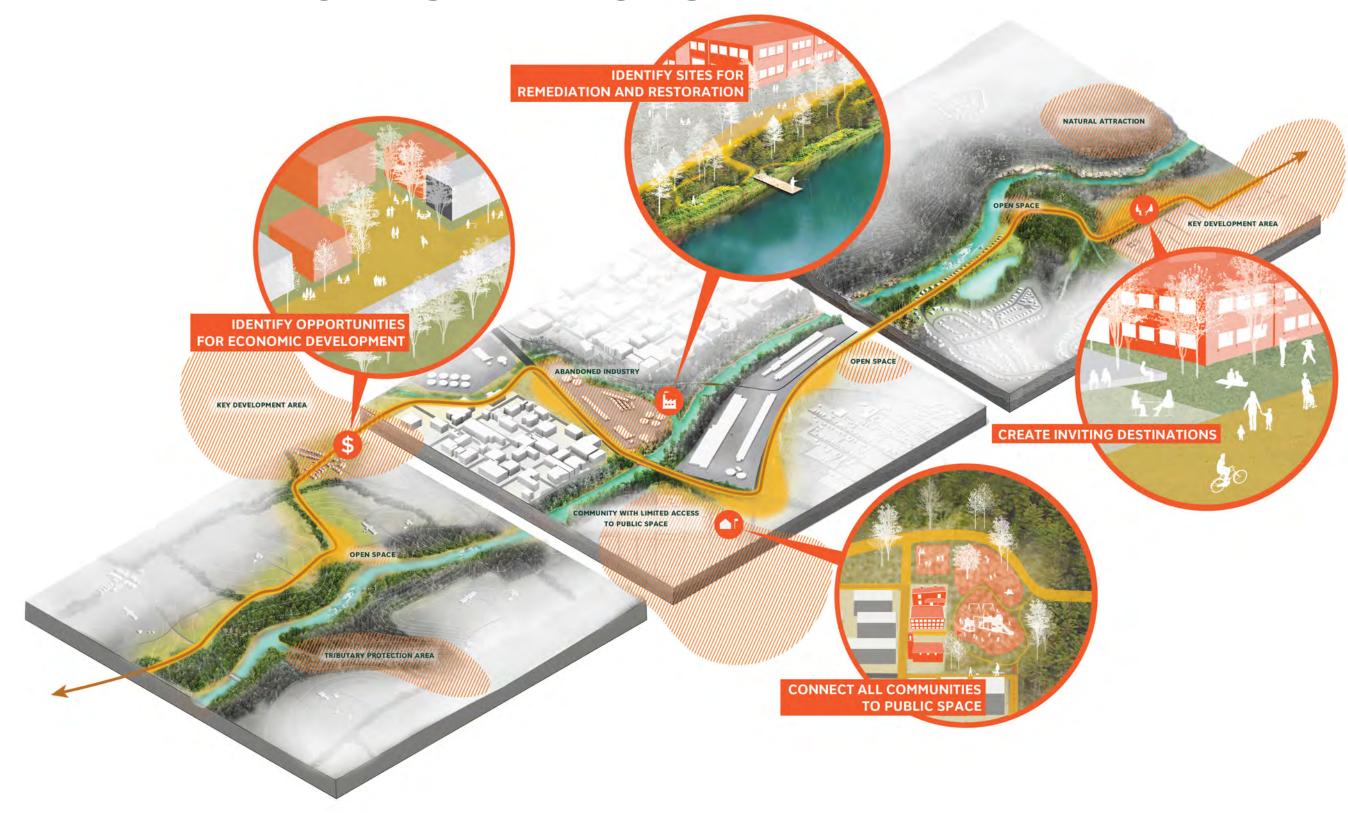
### A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

### **IDENTIFY SITES FOR REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION**

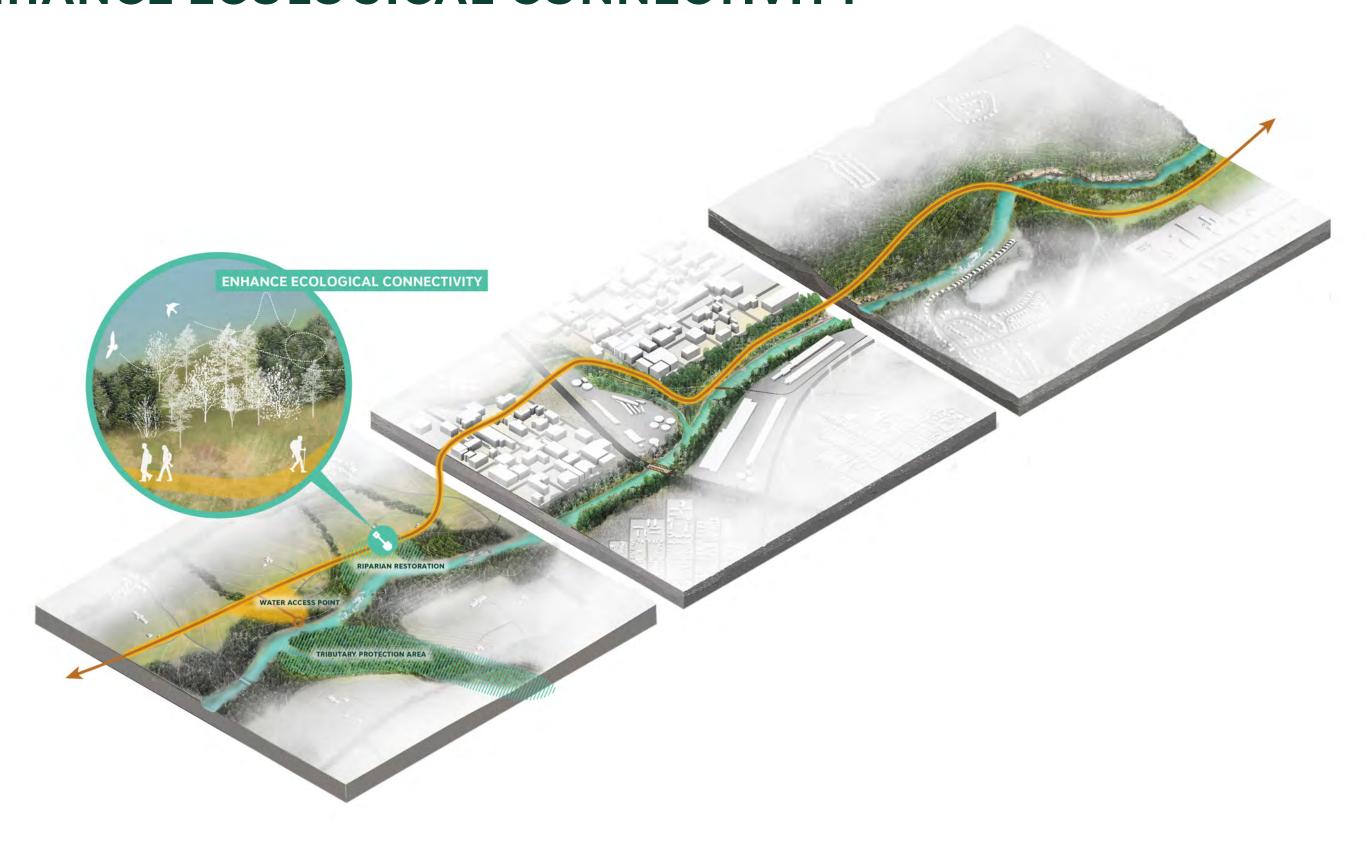


### A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

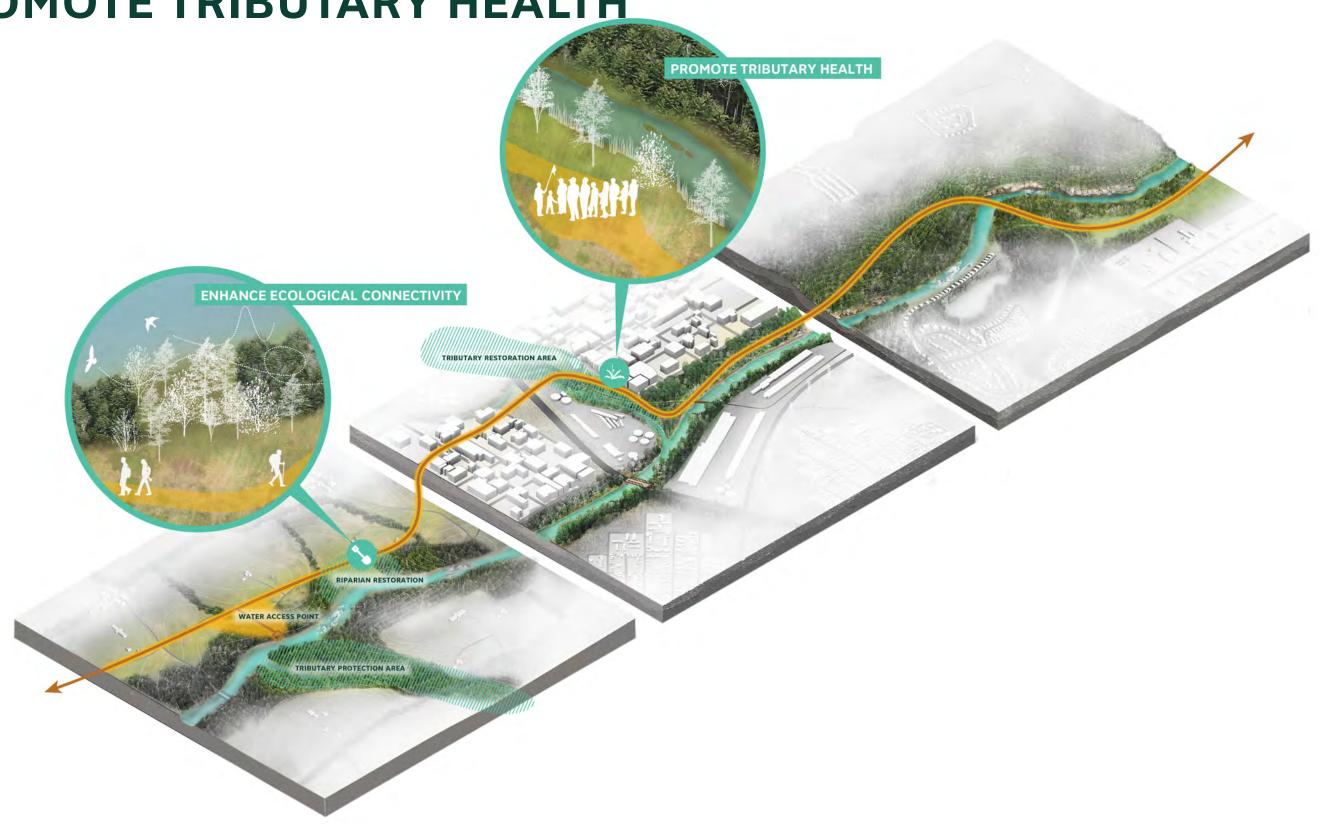
### **CREATE INVITING DESTINATIONS**



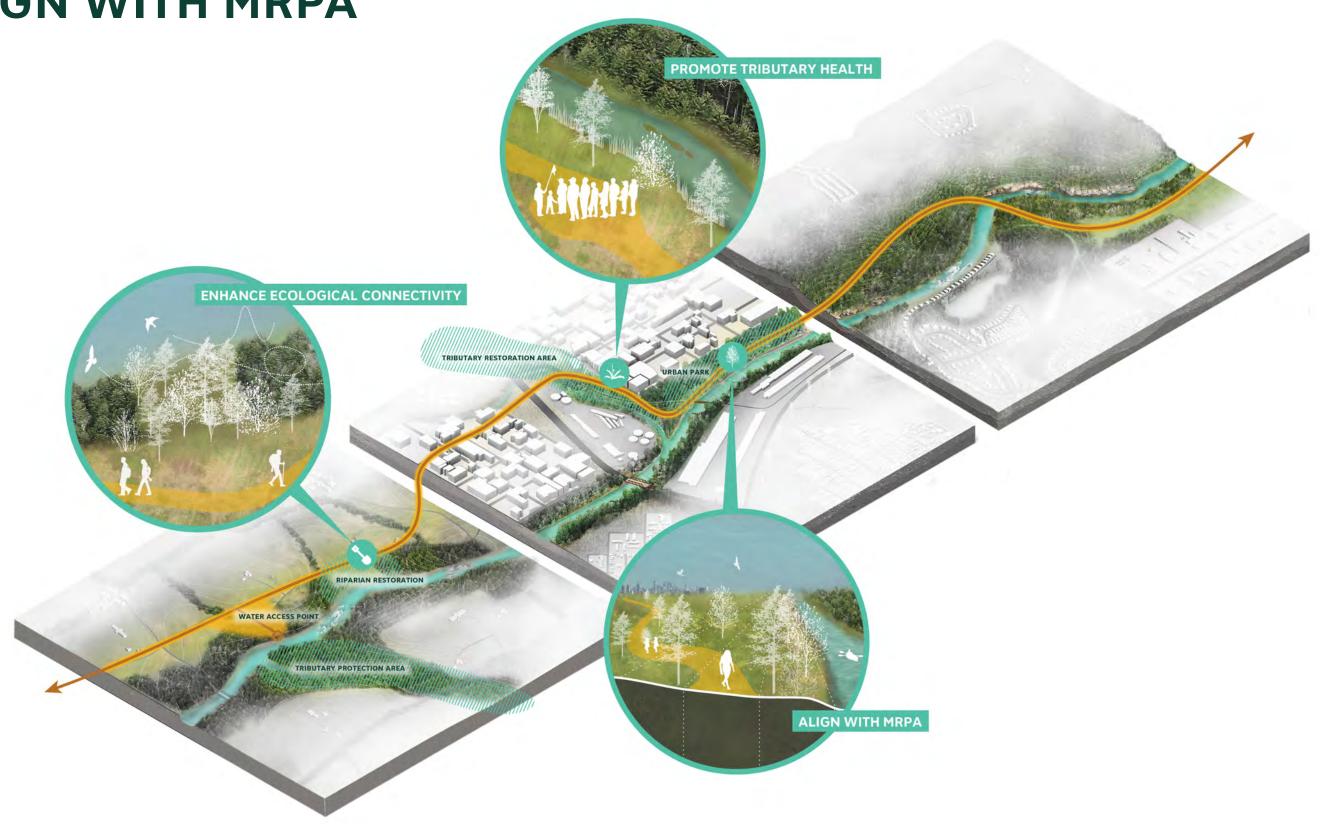
### AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE ENHANCE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY



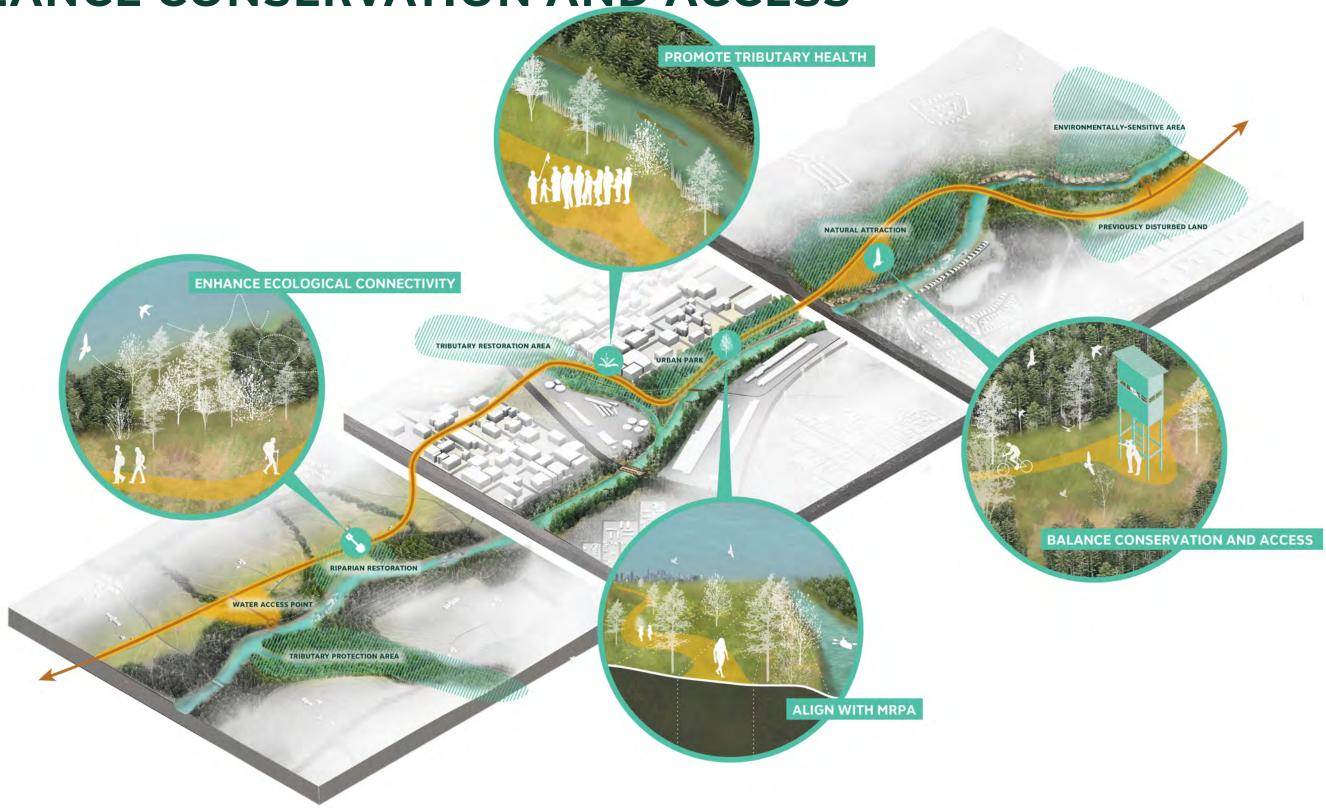
PROMOTE TRIBUTARY HEALTH



**ALIGN WITH MRPA** 

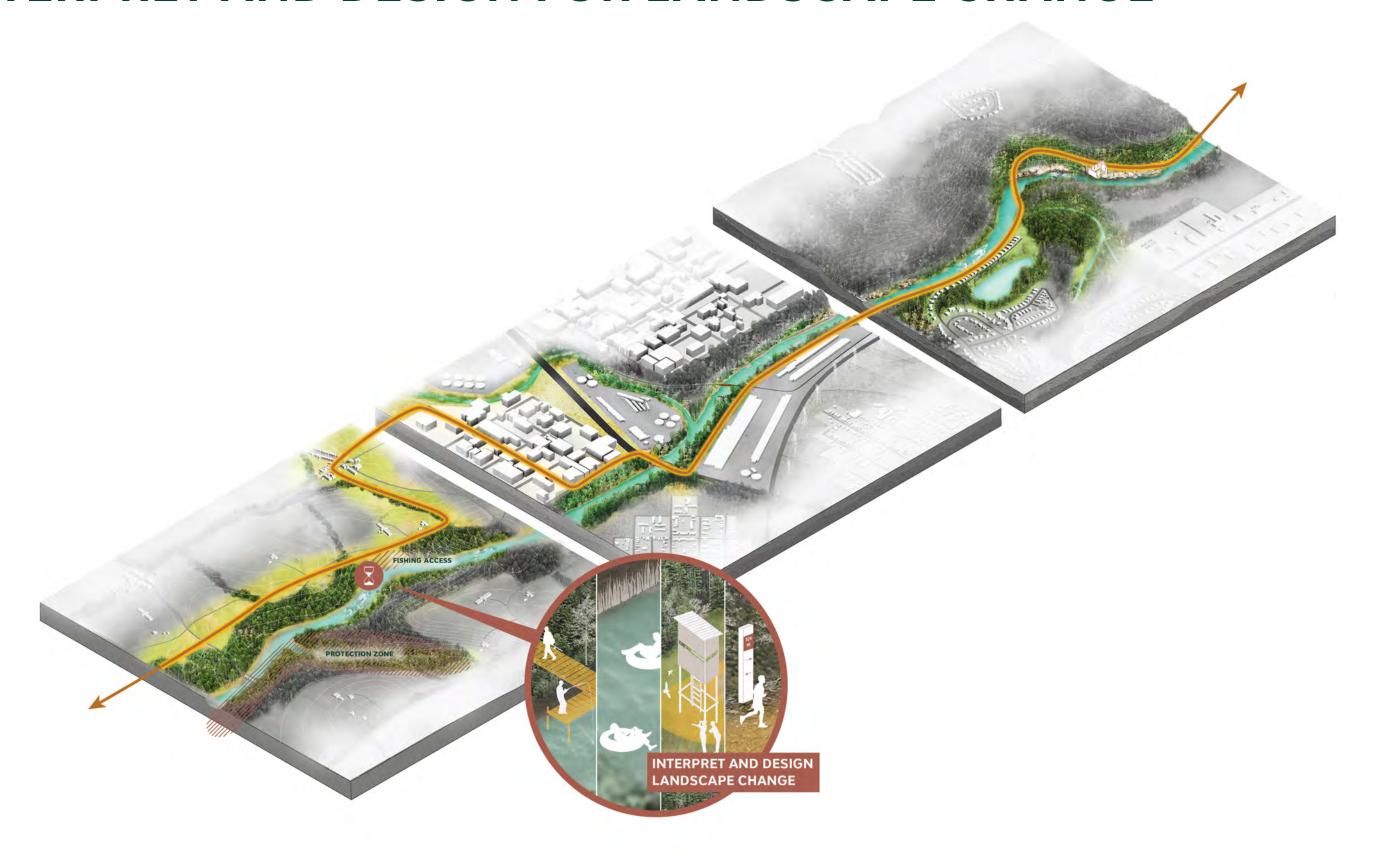


**BALANCE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS** 

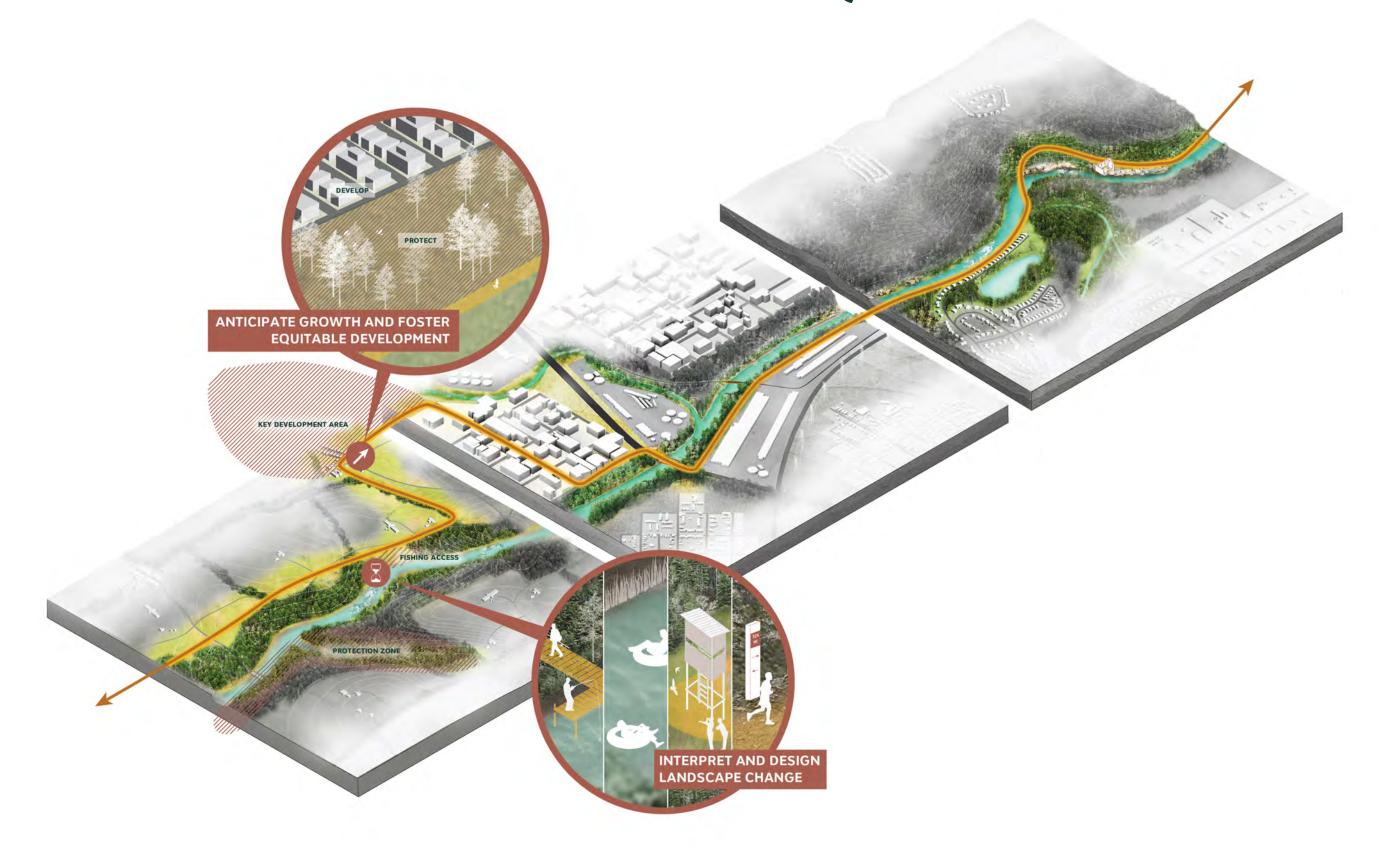


# A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

### INTERPRET AND DESIGN FOR LANDSCAPE CHANGE



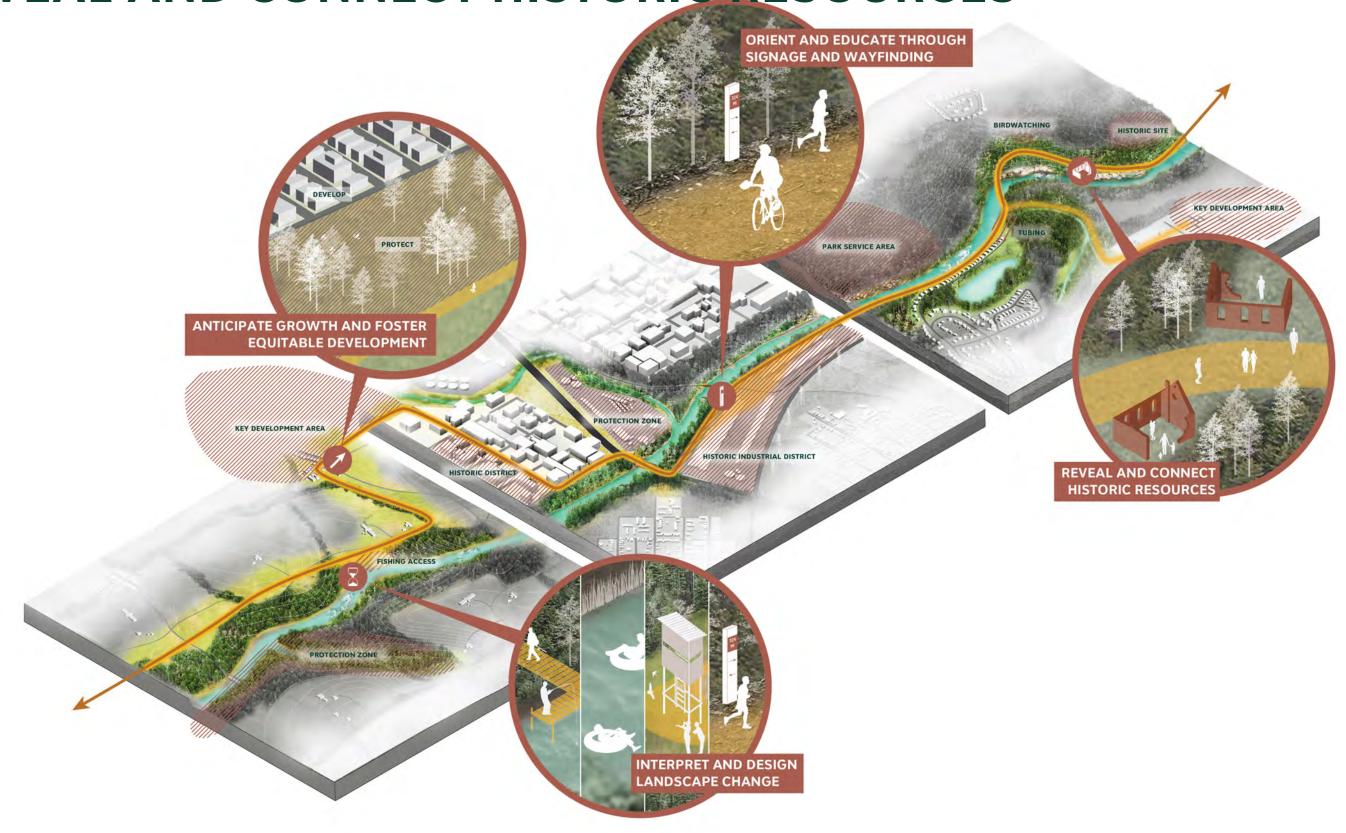
### ANTICIPATE GROWTH AND FOSTER EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT



ORIENT AND EDUCATE THROUGH SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

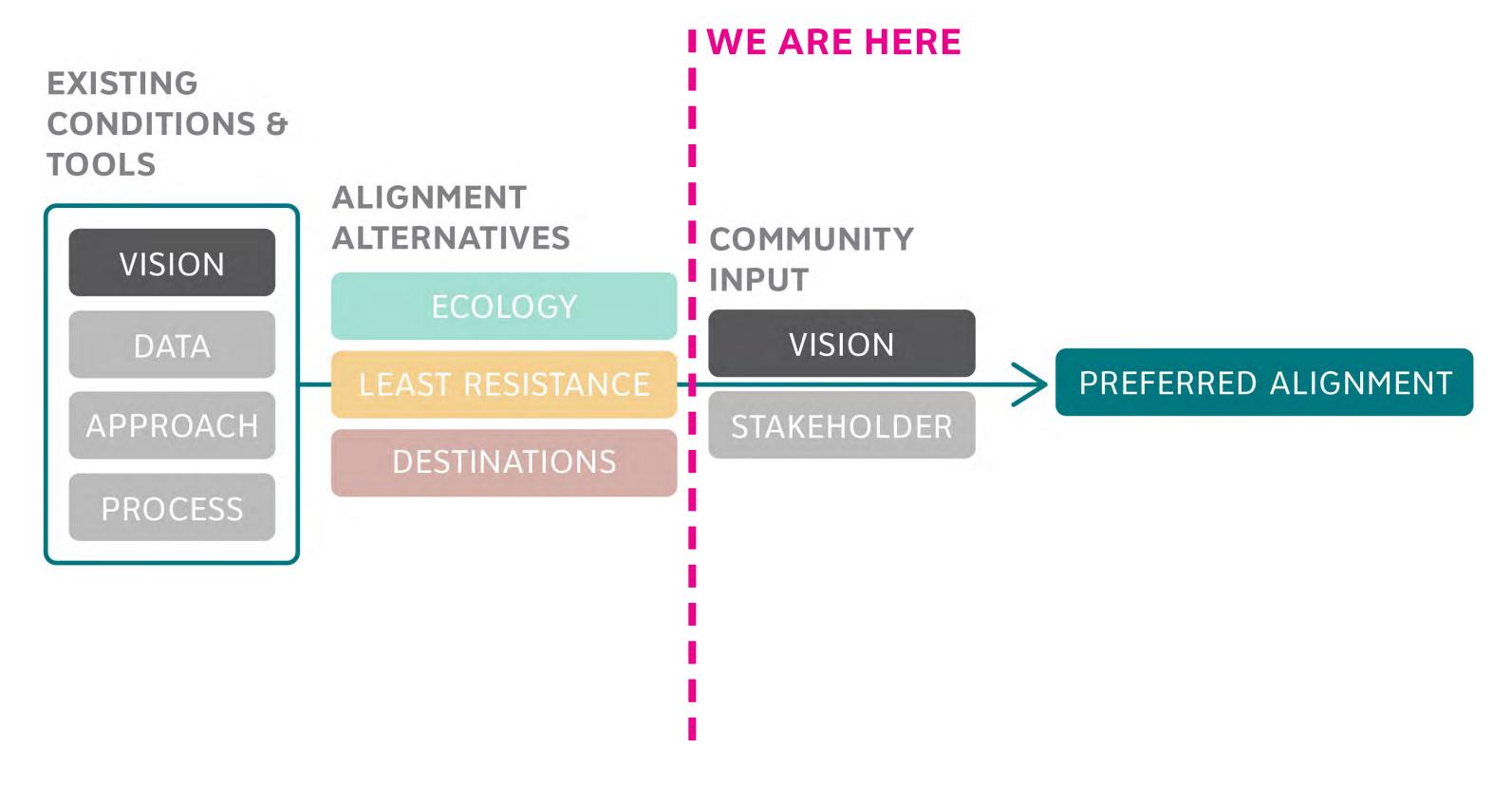


REVEAL AND CONNECT HISTORIC RESOURCES



# TASK 4: ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES DOCUMENT

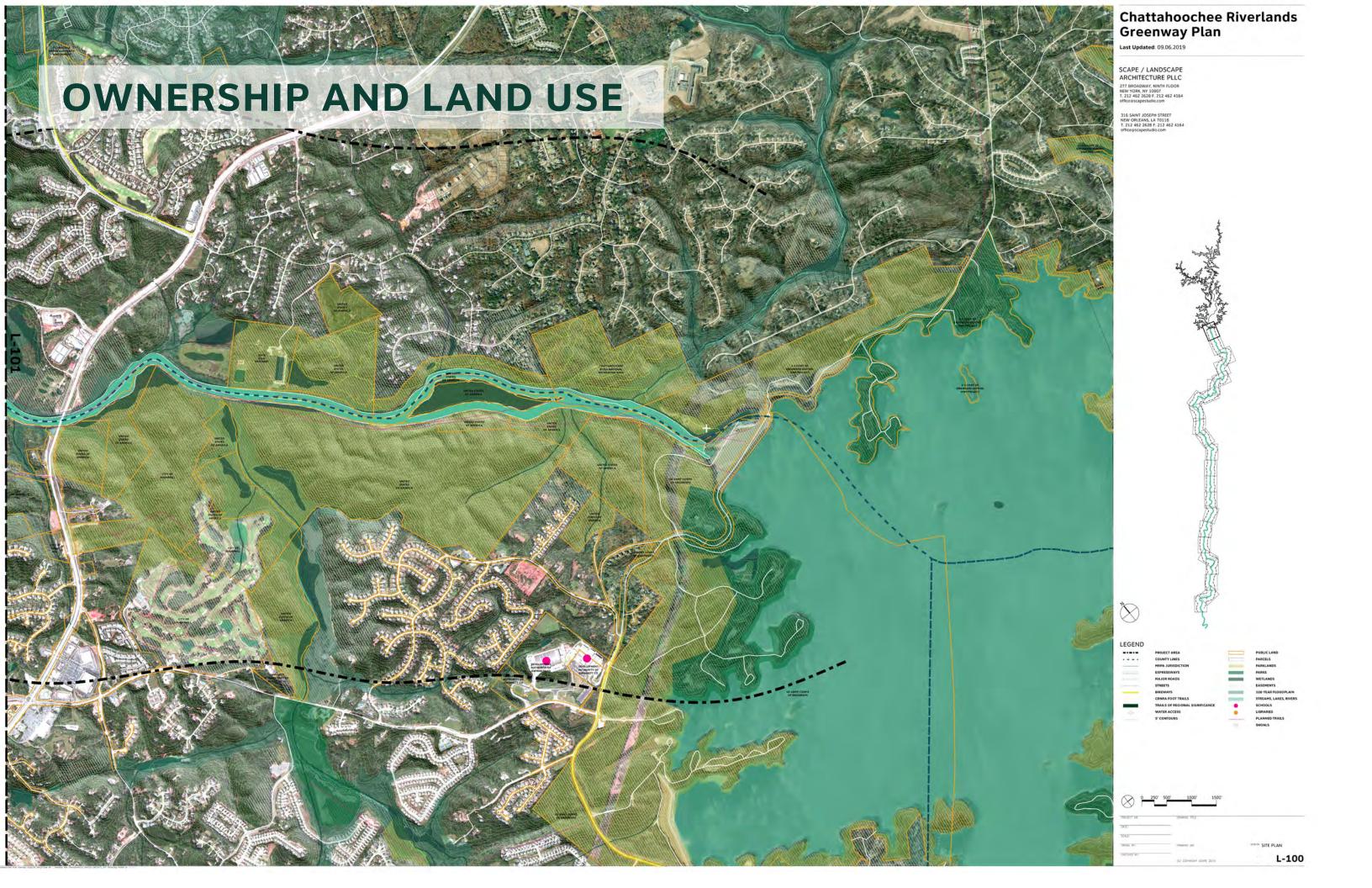
### **ALIGNMENT PATHWAY**

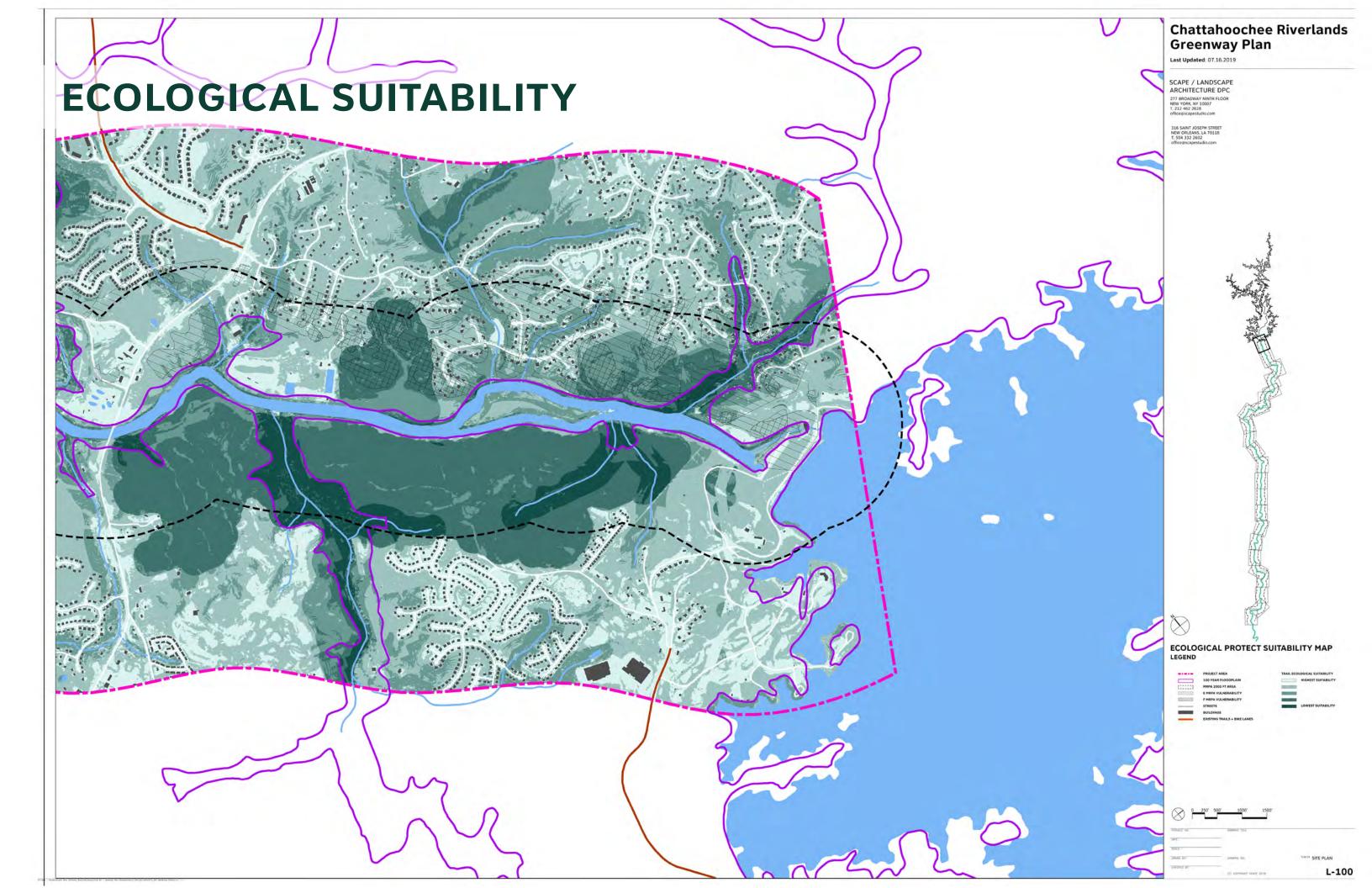


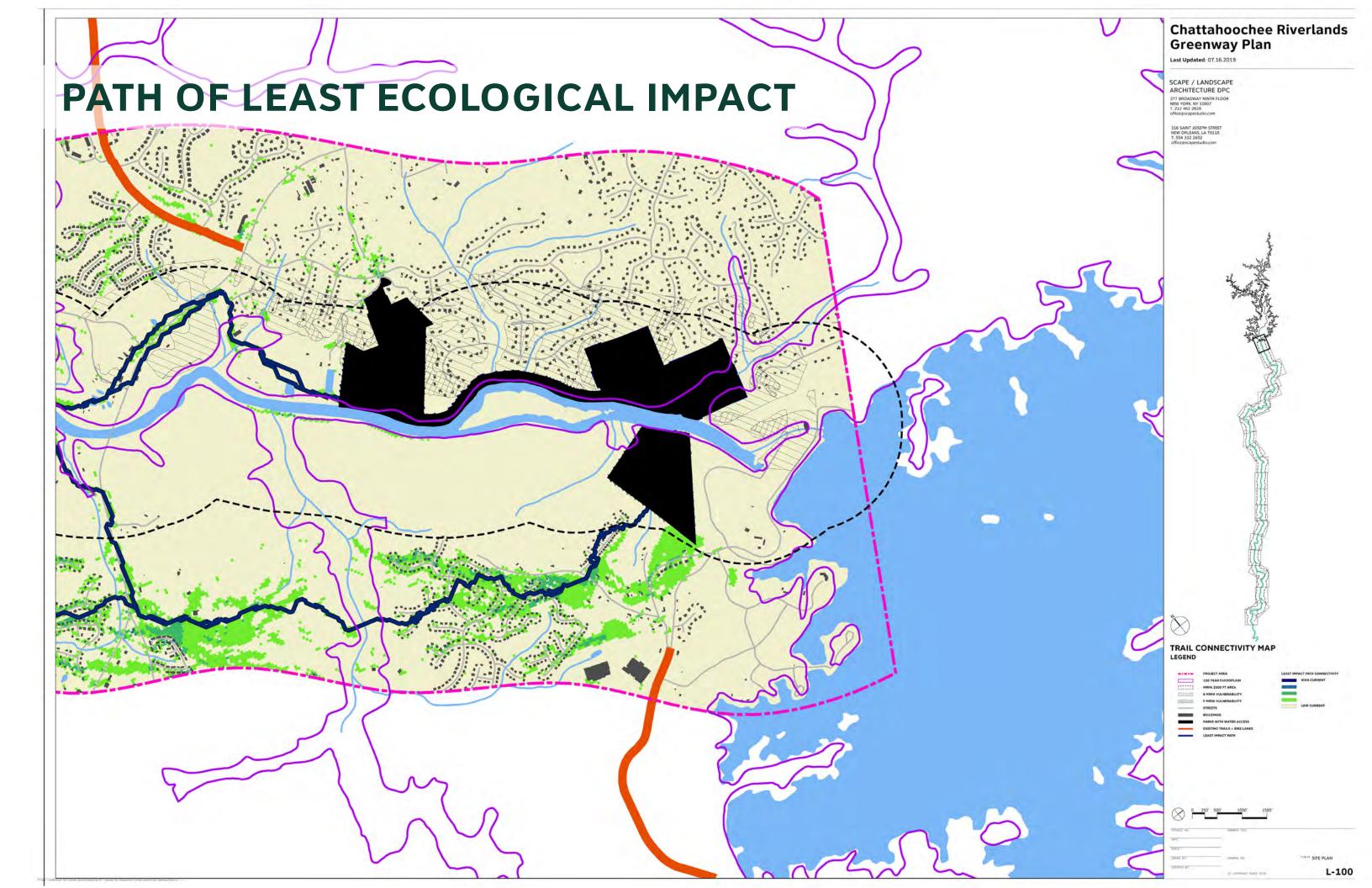


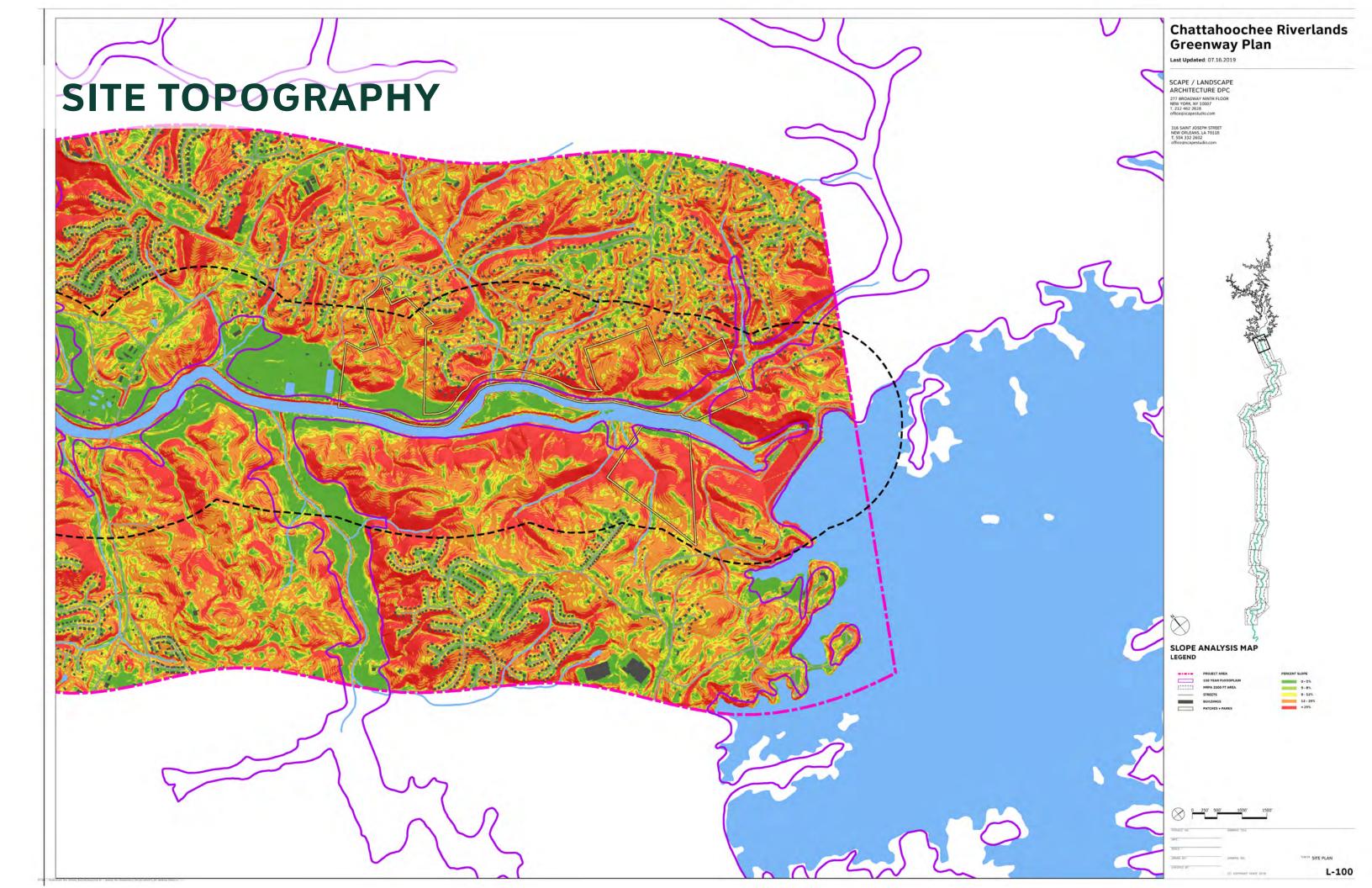


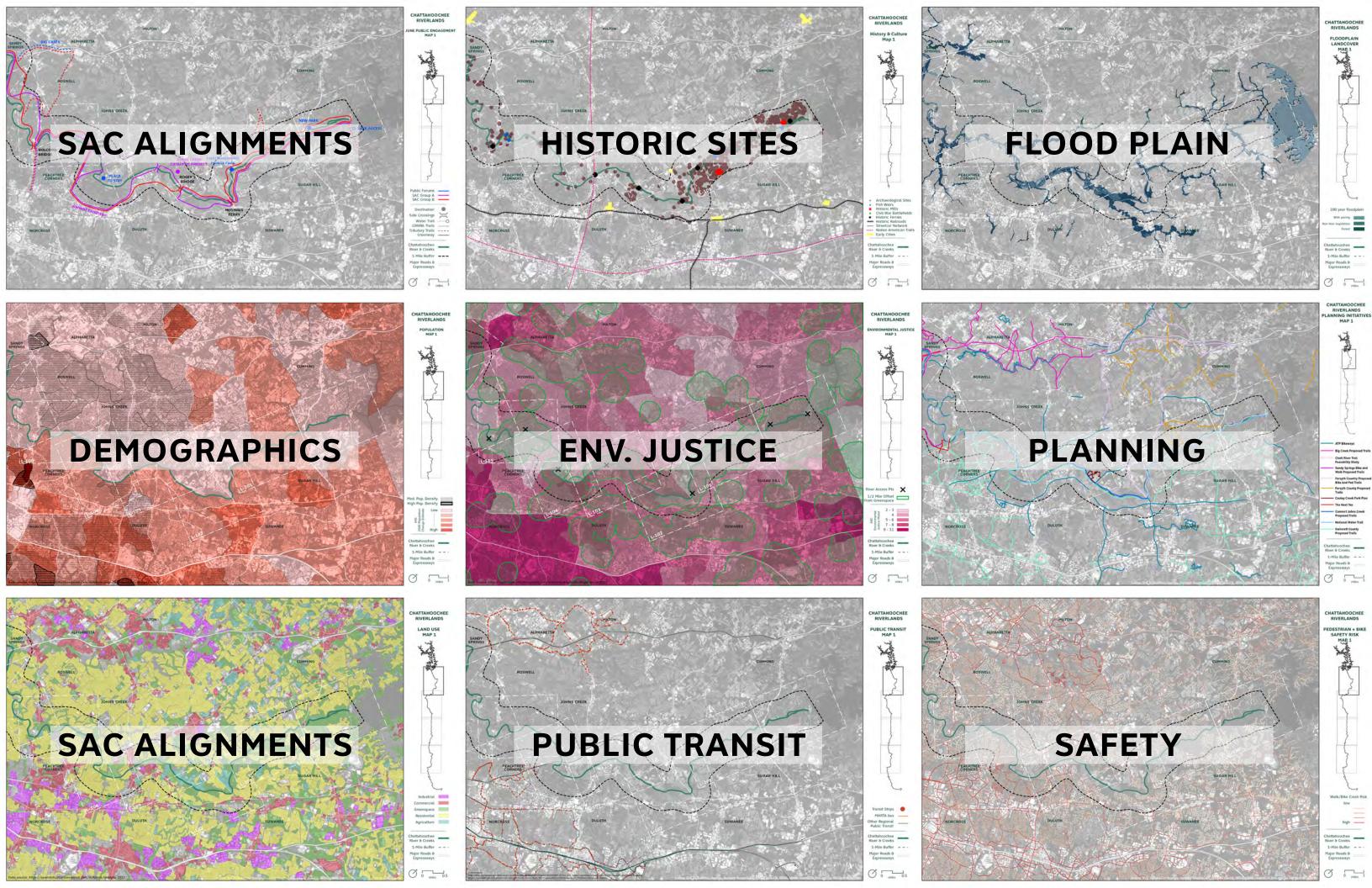






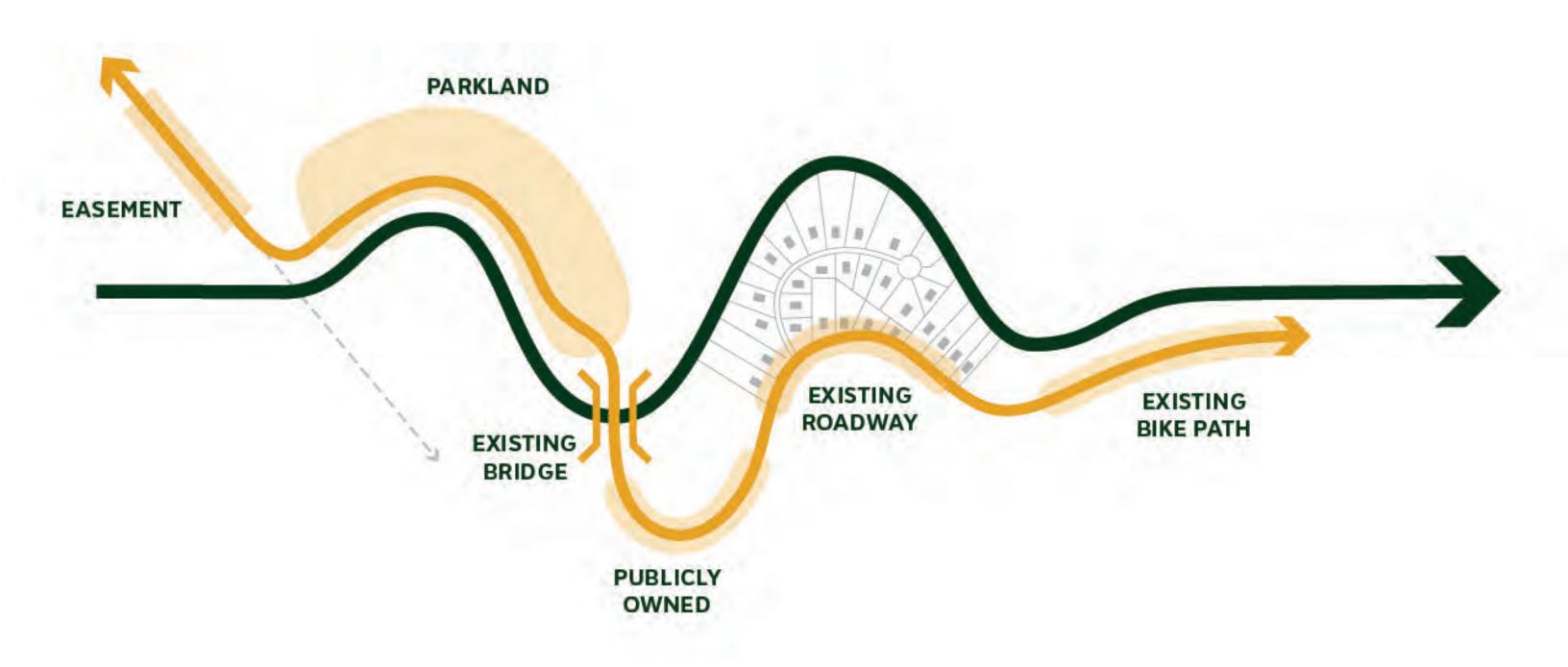








## PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE





#### PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE

- Avoids Privately Owned Parcels

- Utilizes Existing Trails, Easements and Pathways

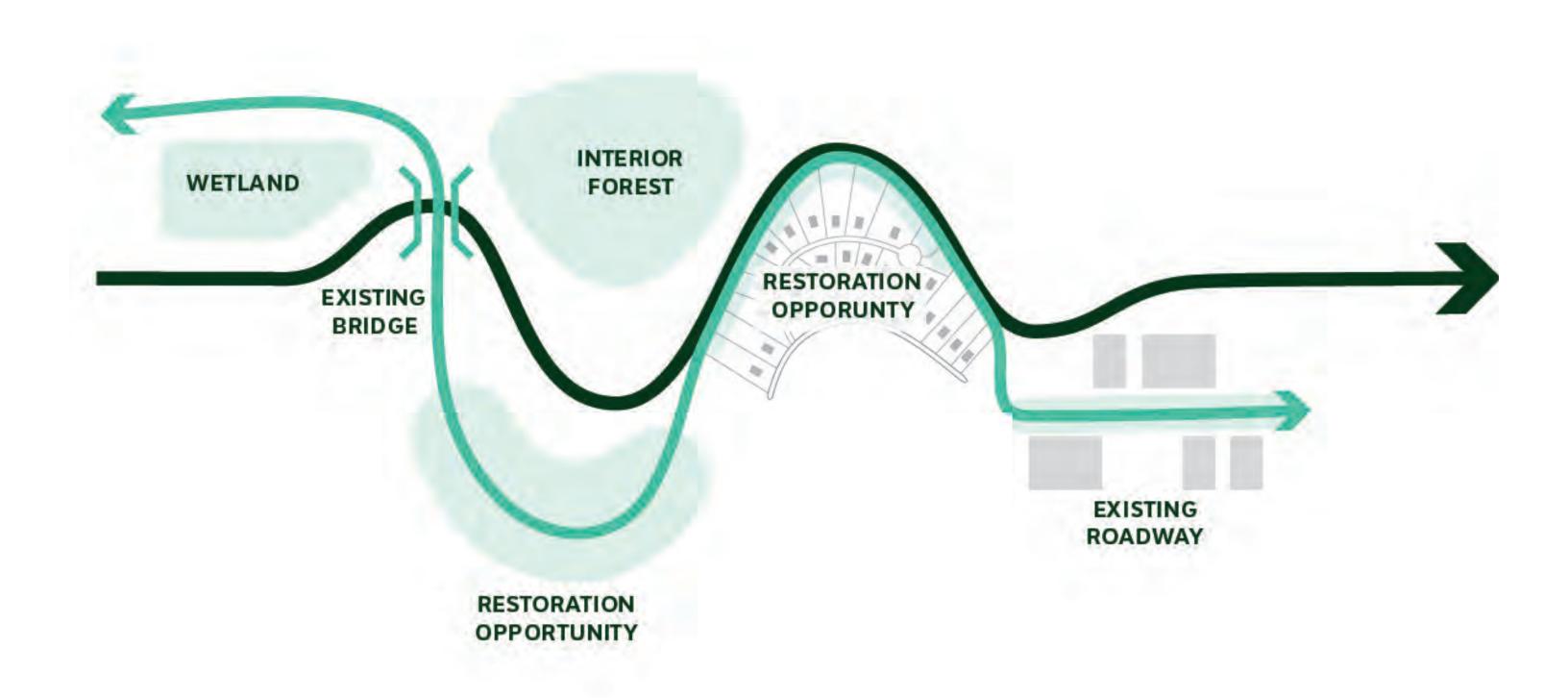
- Existing Bridge Crossings

- Aligns to Existing Roadway Networks





### PATH OF LEAST ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS





#### PATH OF LEAST ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

- Minimizes Impacts to Ecologically sensitive areas

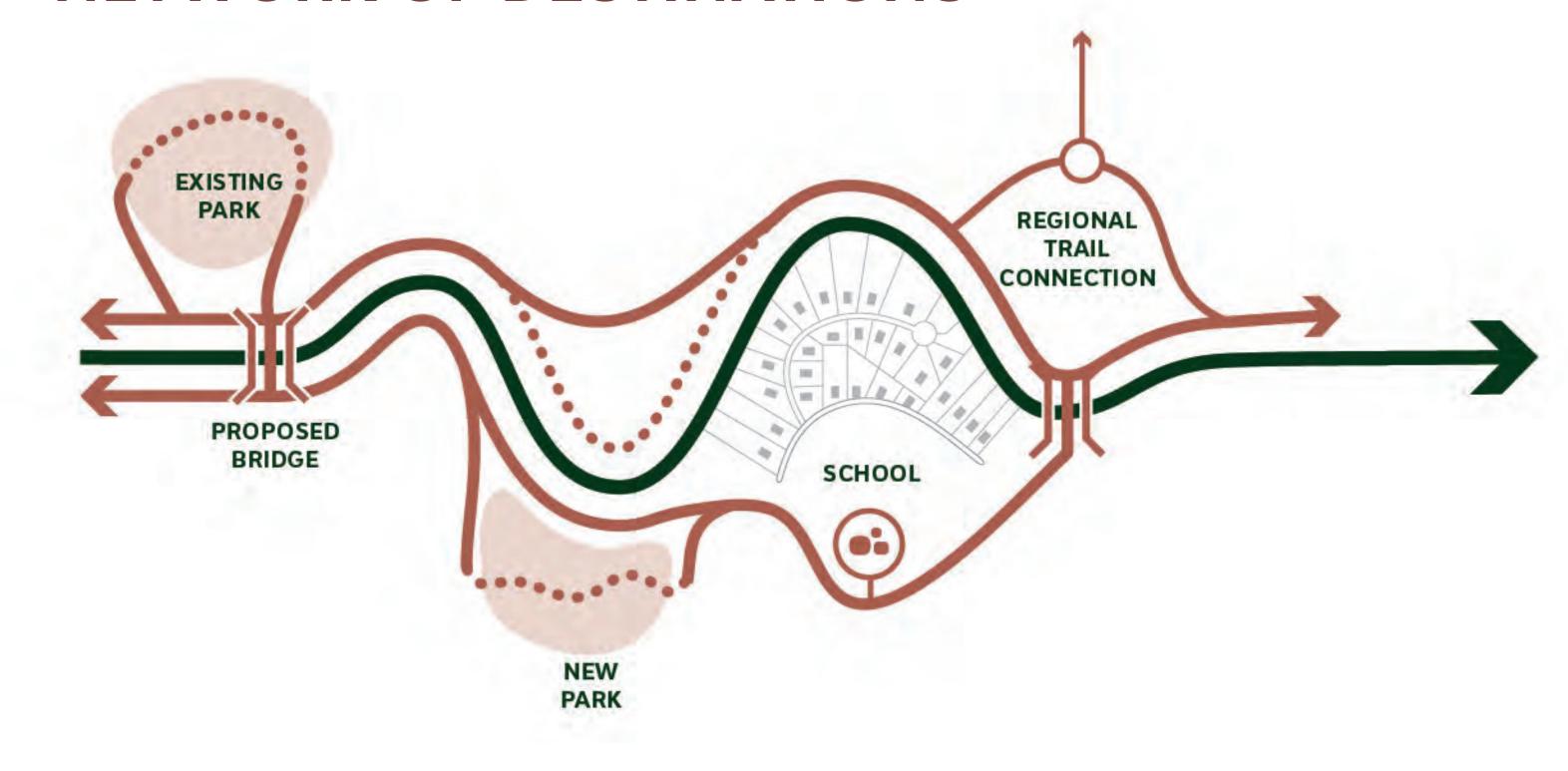
- Minimizes Forest Fragmentation

- Avoids fragile wetlands and flood prone areas





### **NETWORK OF DESTINATIONS**



#### **NETWORK OF DESTINATIONS**

- Network of Priority Destinations or Nodes

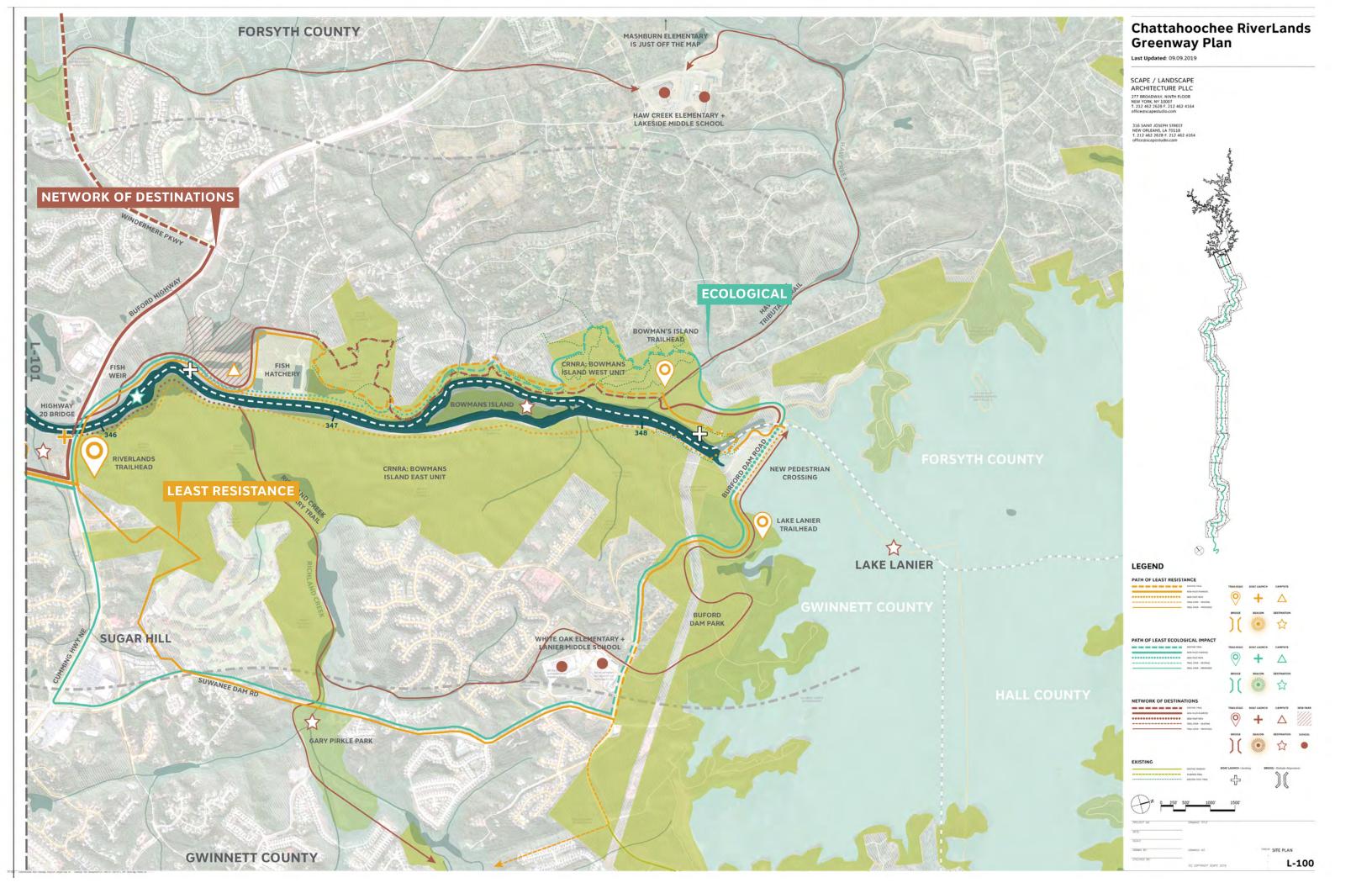
- Prioritize Access for All

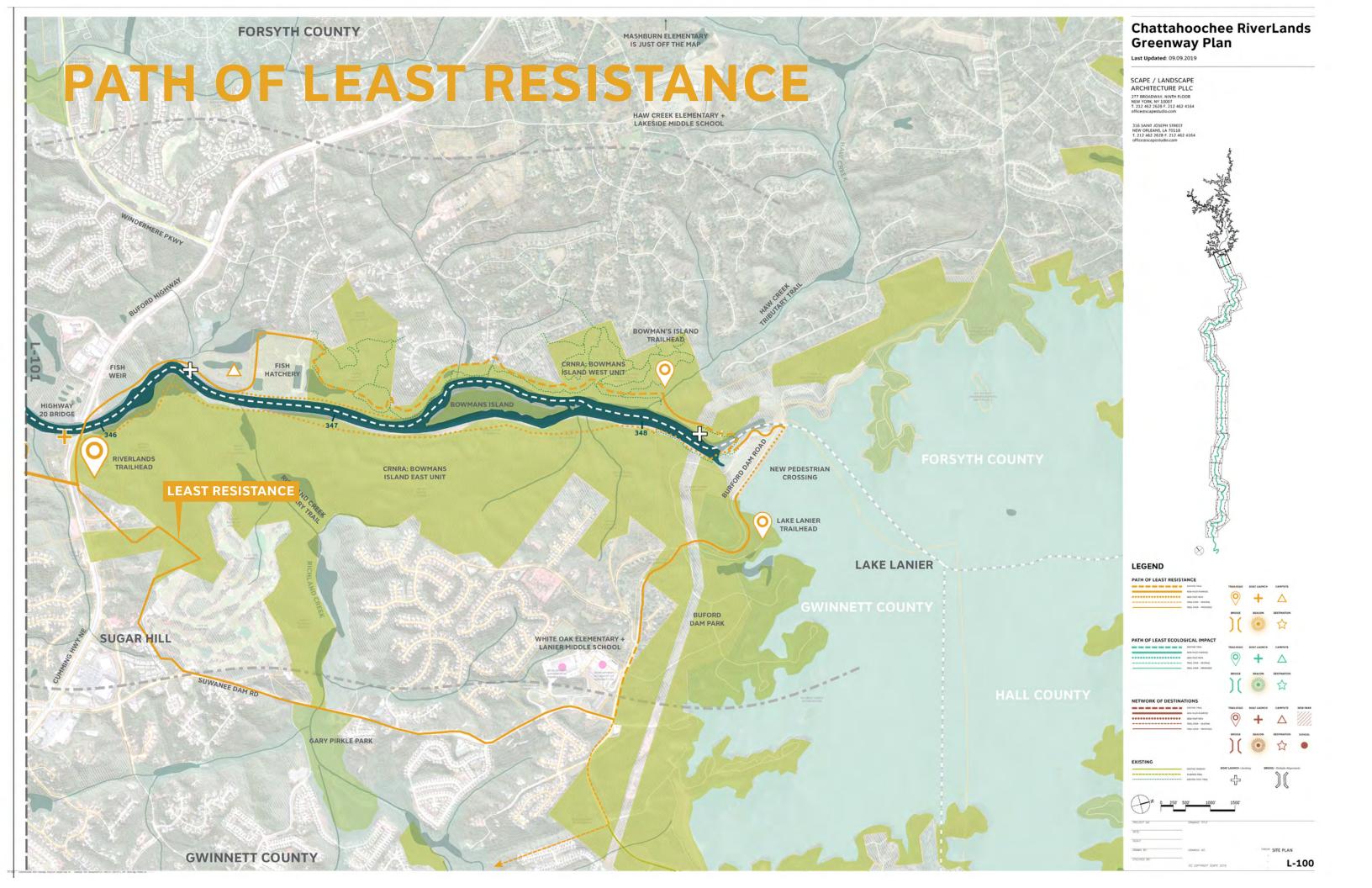
- May be More "Urban in Nature"

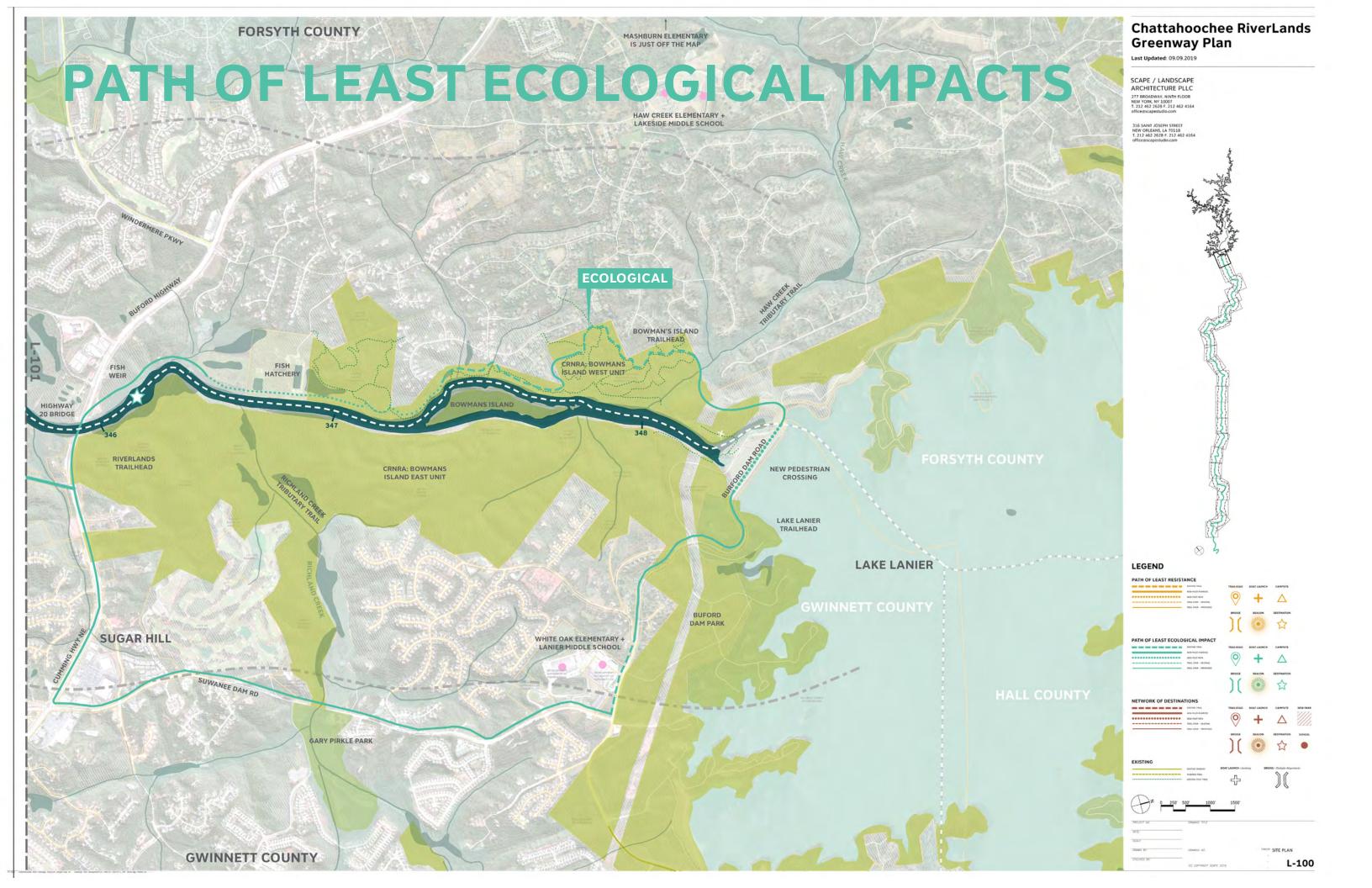
- Often, Further Away From the River's Edge

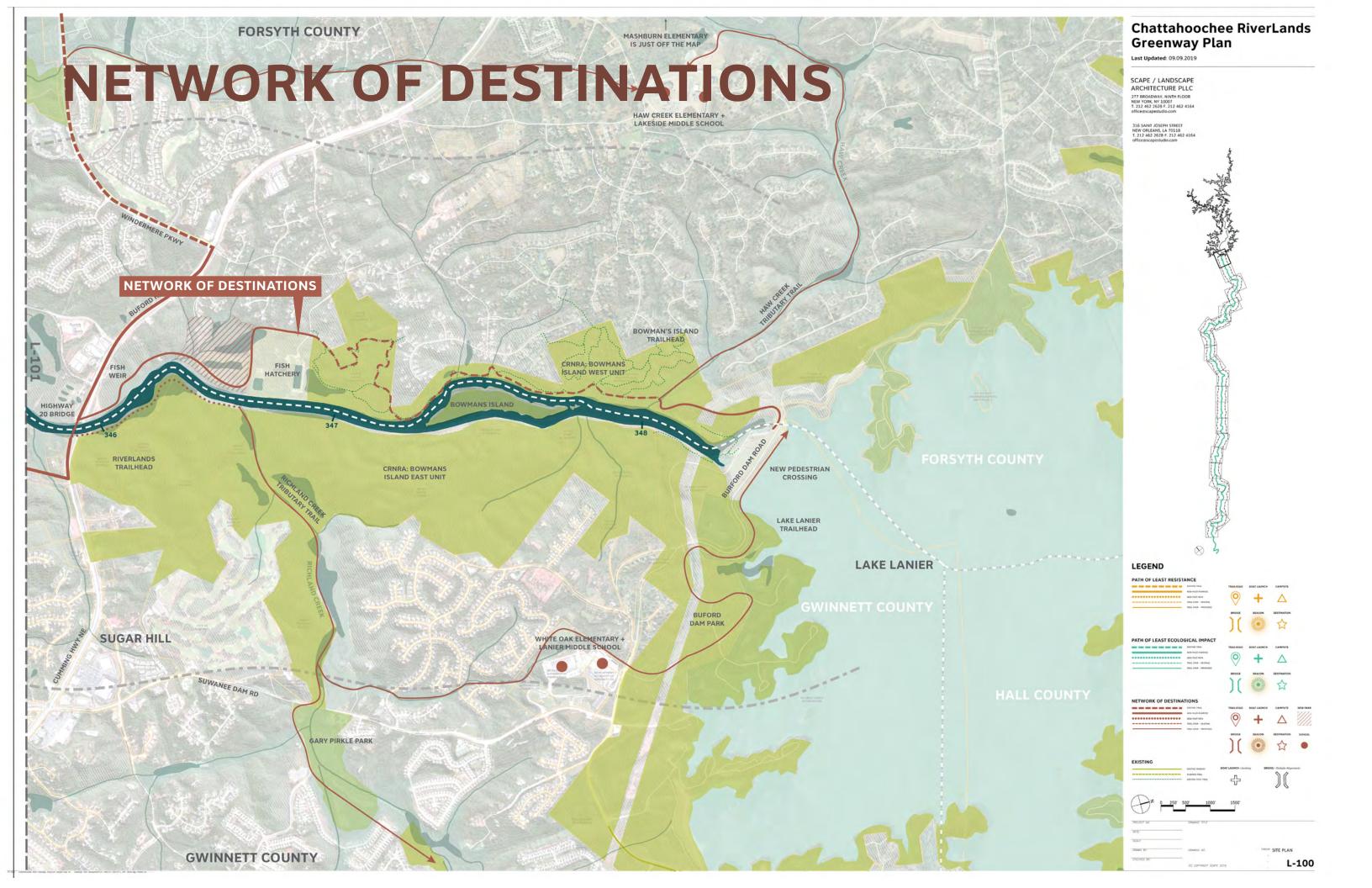












#### WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM



#### **River Stories**

EXPLORE MAP



#### **HISTORY & CULTURE**

Explore how the historic and contemporary relationships between the River, its resources, and the growth and development of the region will shape the design of the Greenway



#### **ECOLOGY & HABITAT**

See how the riparian corridor and tributary connections of the Chattahoochee River provide valuable green space for people and support the plants and wildlife that are the foundation of its ecological health



**DOWNLOADS:** 





# THANK YOU!