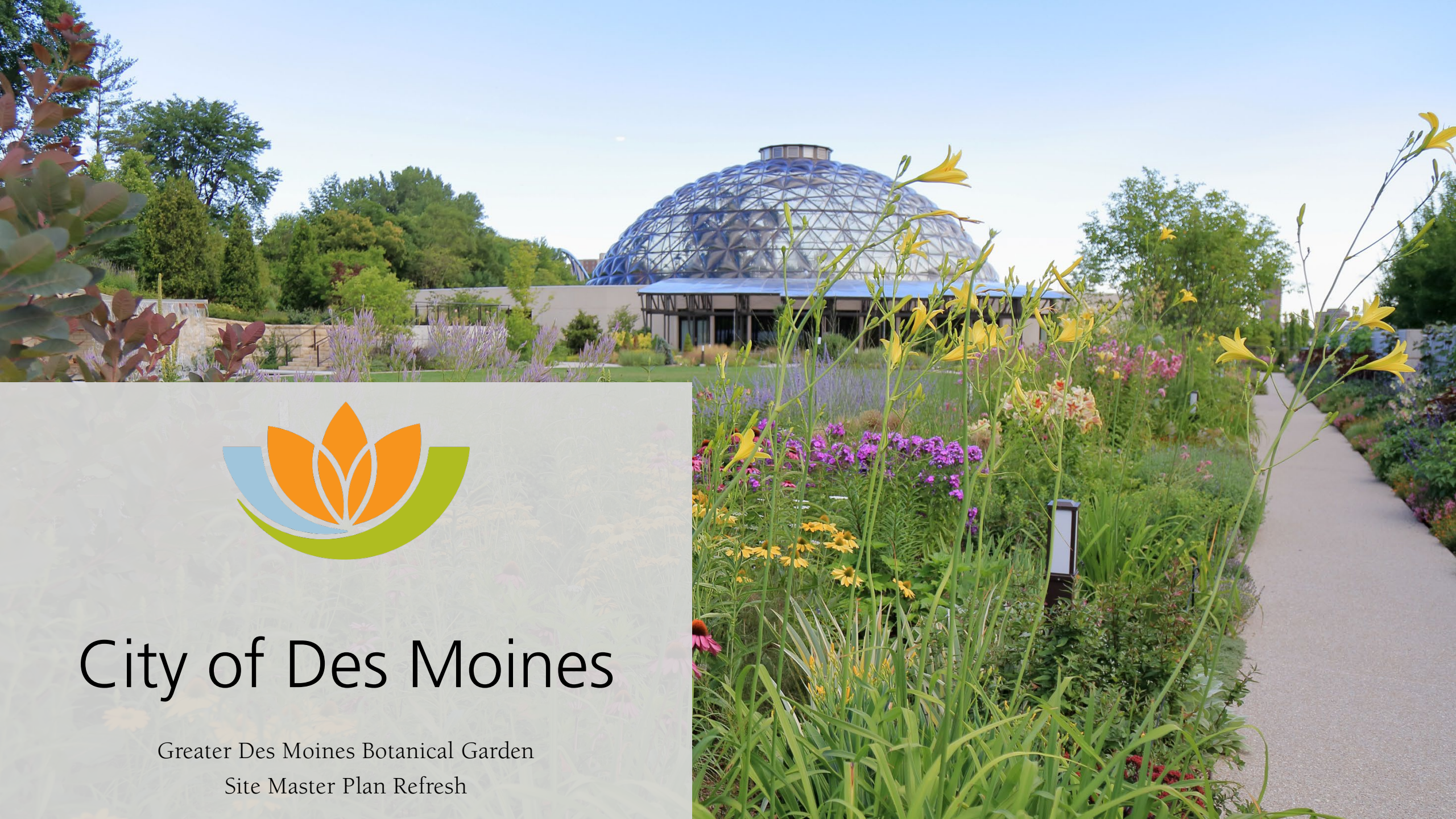


City of Des Moines

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Site Master Plan Refresh

Agenda

- Mission and Why
- History
- Vision Plan – 2012
- Current State
- Site Master Plan Refresh
- Next Steps
- Cost Estimates – Schematic Design Phase Only
- Summary and Actions

Mission and Why

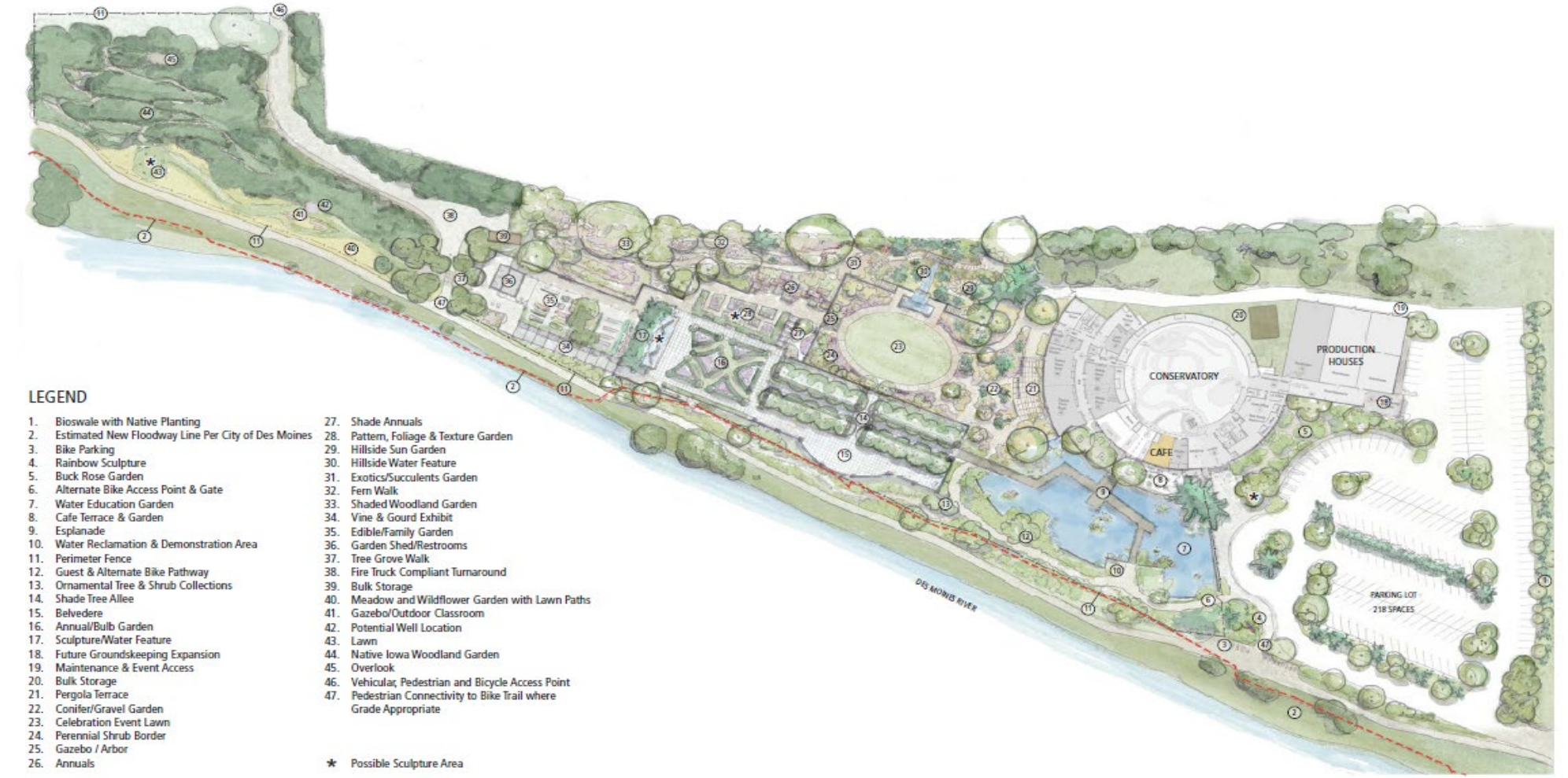
Exploring, Explaining and Celebrating the World of Plants

- Why?
  - Embrace plants and people through longer visits and more exhibits
  - Complement the greater Des Moines cultural offerings
  - Incorporate the river and riverfront into our guest experience
  - Meet the diverse needs of our changing audiences
  - Engage bicyclists and pedestrians using the John Pat Dorian Trail
  - Collaborate with DMWW to expand community education for water and plants
  - Increase sustainability of the Garden
  - Expand horticulture assets and outdoor experiences

History

- 1929 — Idea of a horticultural facility in Des Moines conceived
- 1969 — Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Center 501(c)(3) forms
- 1979 — December 15 Grand Opening of Des Moines Botanical Center (the Center)
- 2004 — Des Moines Water Works assumes management of facility
- 2008 — Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center Leaders and supporters envisioned a new future for the Center; a major cultural and educational destination
- 2012 — June 11, 2012 the Des Moines City Council approves the Garden's Master Plan after moving through the committee approval process(s) of Urban Design Review, Planning and Zoning, and Parks and Recreation
- 2013 — The Garden assumes the leadership, operation and future development of the 14-acre site
- 2015 — The Garden completes Phase 1 of the Master Plan
- 2019 — Riverfront Development Authority and the Garden discuss MOU to transfer stewardship of the Robert D. Ray Asian Garden
- 2020 — The Ruan Reflection Garden is complete and open to the public

Vision Plan – 2012



LEGEND

1. Bioswale with Native Planting
2. Estimated New Floodway Line Per City of Des Moines
3. Bike Parking
4. Rainbow Sculpture
5. Buck Rose Garden
6. Alternate Bike Access Point & Gate
7. Water Education Garden
8. Cafe Terrace & Garden
9. Esplanade
10. Water Reclamation & Demonstration Area
11. Perimeter Fence
12. Guest & Alternate Bike Pathway
13. Ornamental Tree & Shrub Collections
14. Shade Tree Allee
15. Belvedere
16. Annual/Bulb Garden
17. Sculpture/Water Feature
18. Future Groundskeeping Expansion
19. Maintenance & Event Access
20. Bulk Storage
21. Pergola Terrace
22. Conifer/Gravel Garden
23. Celebration Event Lawn
24. Perennial Shrub Border
25. Gazebo / Arbor
26. Annuals
27. Shade Annuals
28. Pattern, Foliage & Texture Garden
29. Hillside Sun Garden
30. Hillside Water Feature
31. Exotics/Succulents Garden
32. Fern Walk
33. Shaded Woodland Garden
34. Vine & Gourd Exhibit
35. Edible/Family Garden
36. Garden Shed/Restrooms
37. Tree Grove Walk
38. Fire Truck Compliant Turnaround
39. Bulk Storage
40. Meadow and Wildflower Garden with Lawn Paths
41. Gazebo/Outdoor Classroom
42. Potential Well Location
43. Lawn
44. Native Iowa Woodland Garden
45. Overlook
46. Vehicular, Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Point
47. Pedestrian Connectivity to Bike Trail where Grade Appropriate

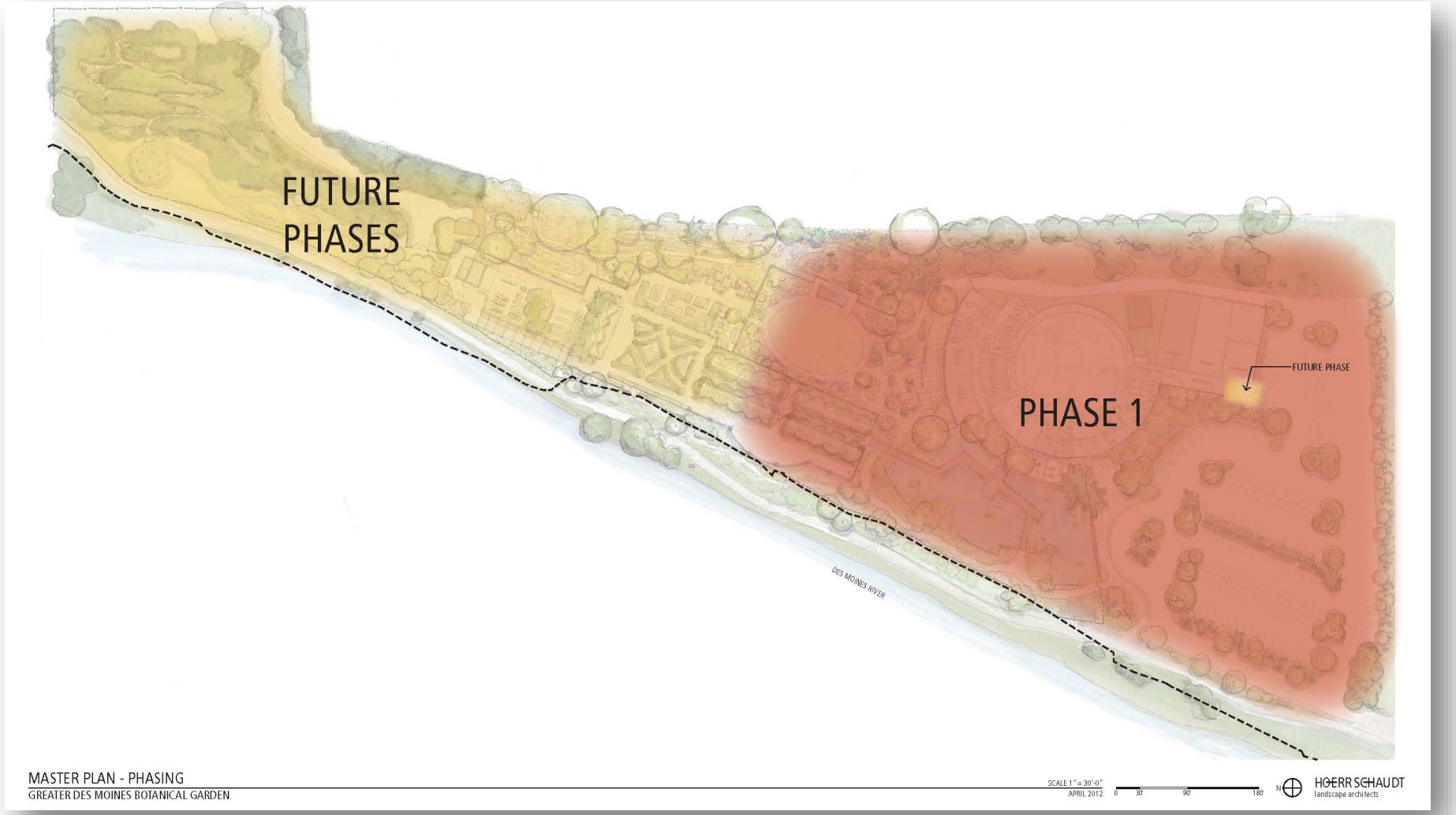
★ Possible Sculpture Area

MASTER PLAN
GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

MAY 2012 0 30' 90' 180'

HOERR SCHAUDT landscape architects

Vision Plan – 2012



Current State

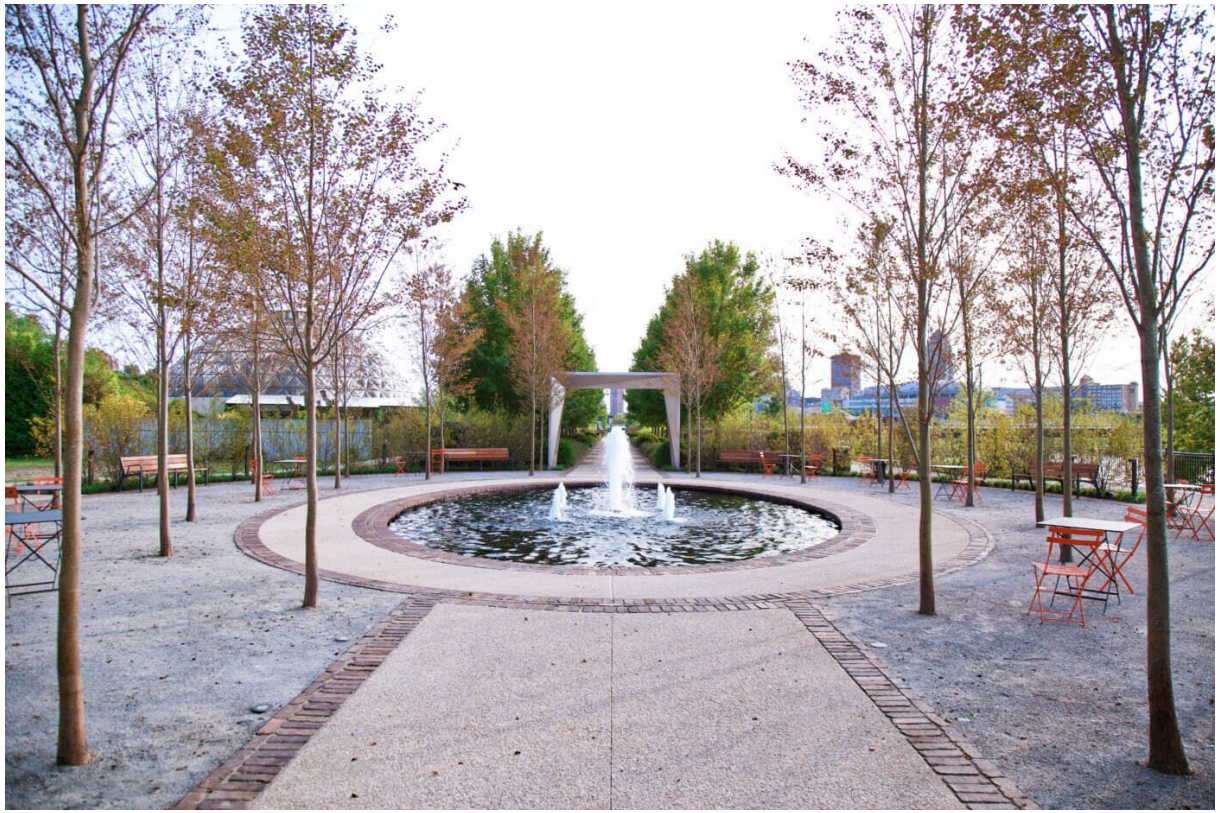
Ruan Reflection Garden

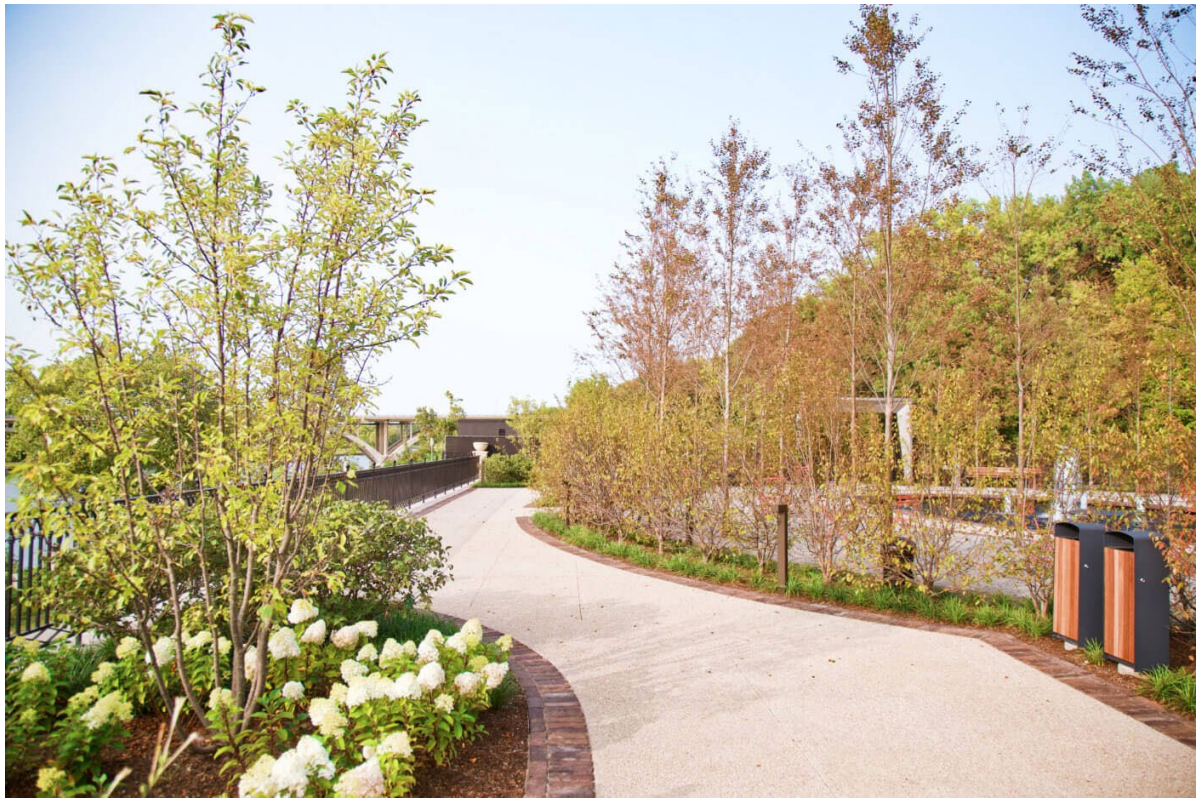
- Transformed from Annual Bulb Garden and Water Feature
- Opened to the public August 2020

Robert D. Ray Asian Garden

- Riverfront Development Authority, Asian Alliance and the Garden
- MOU to transfer stewardship targeted June 2021

Current State – Ruan Refection Garden





Current State – Robert D Ray Asian Gardens

Current State

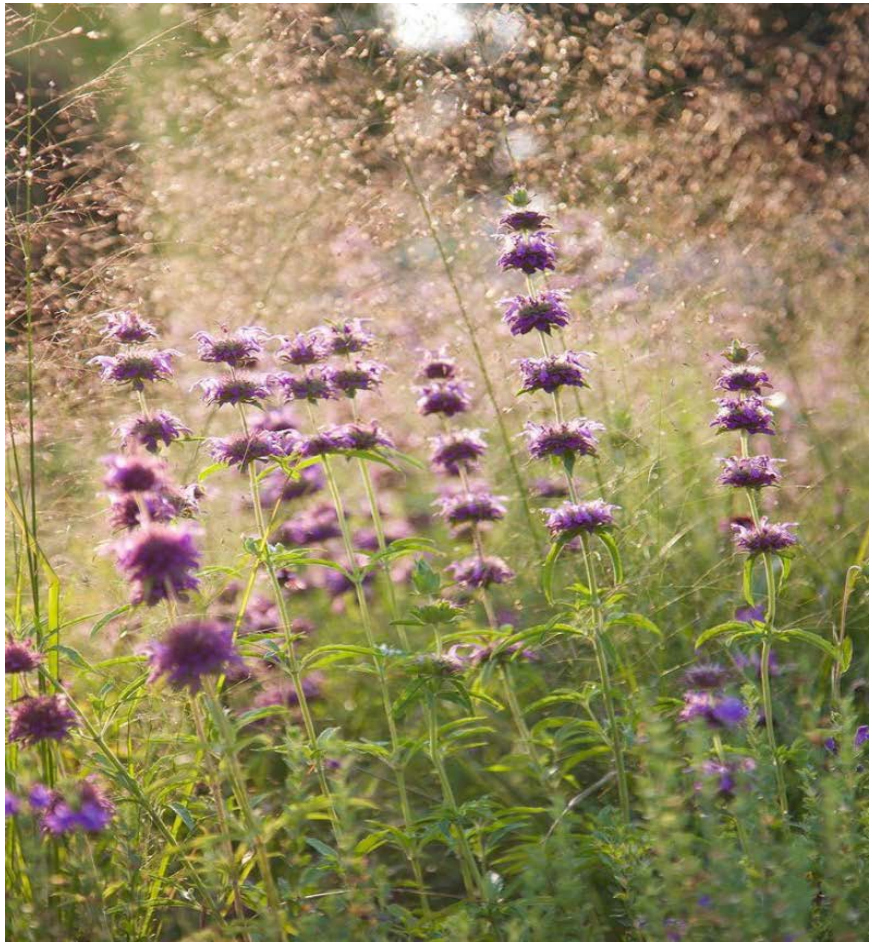
Dry Meadows Garden

- Transforming from Edibles Garden
- Uses Sculpture Feature from Vision Plan 2012
- Artist selected in collaboration with the DM Public Art Foundation

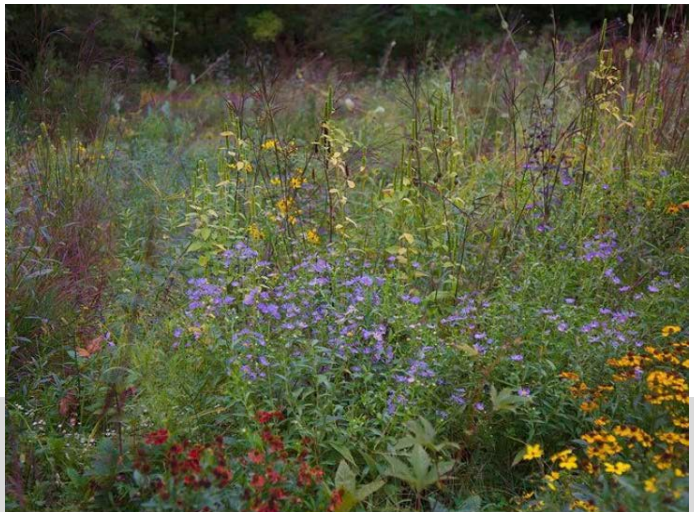
Current State – Dry Meadows Sculpture Feature

JUANJO NOVELLA

Current State – Dry Meadows Garden



PLANNED OPENING SUMMER 2021



Dry Meadows Garden

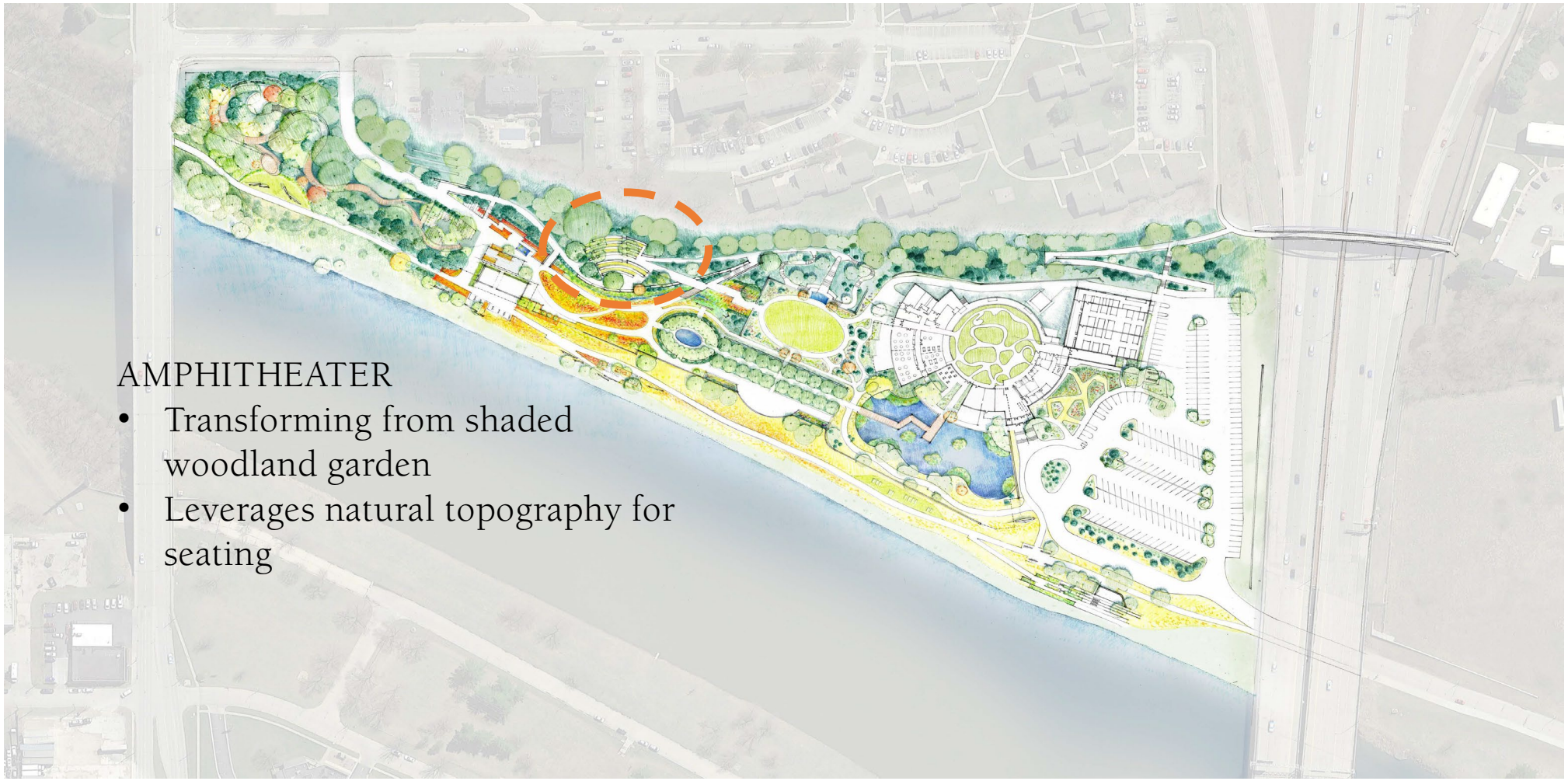
- Horticulturists with the Garden will curate an exclusive seed mixture
- Self-seeding annuals
- Education and outreach through HortEcology™

Site Master Plan Refresh

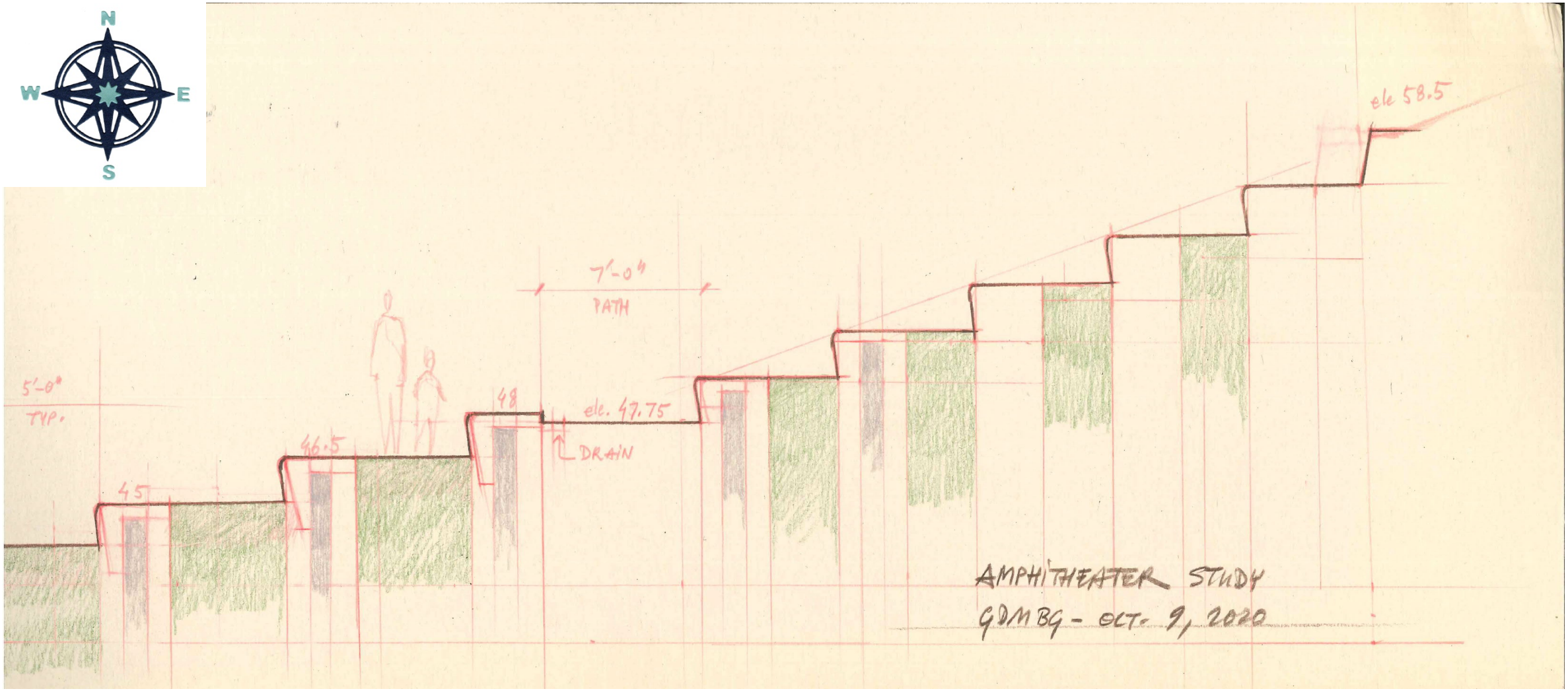
Key Updates by Area

- Amphitheater
- River Café and Plaza
- Willow Garden
- Canopy Walk and Treehouse
- River Trail
- Connection to Pedestrian Bridge
- Conservatory Renovations

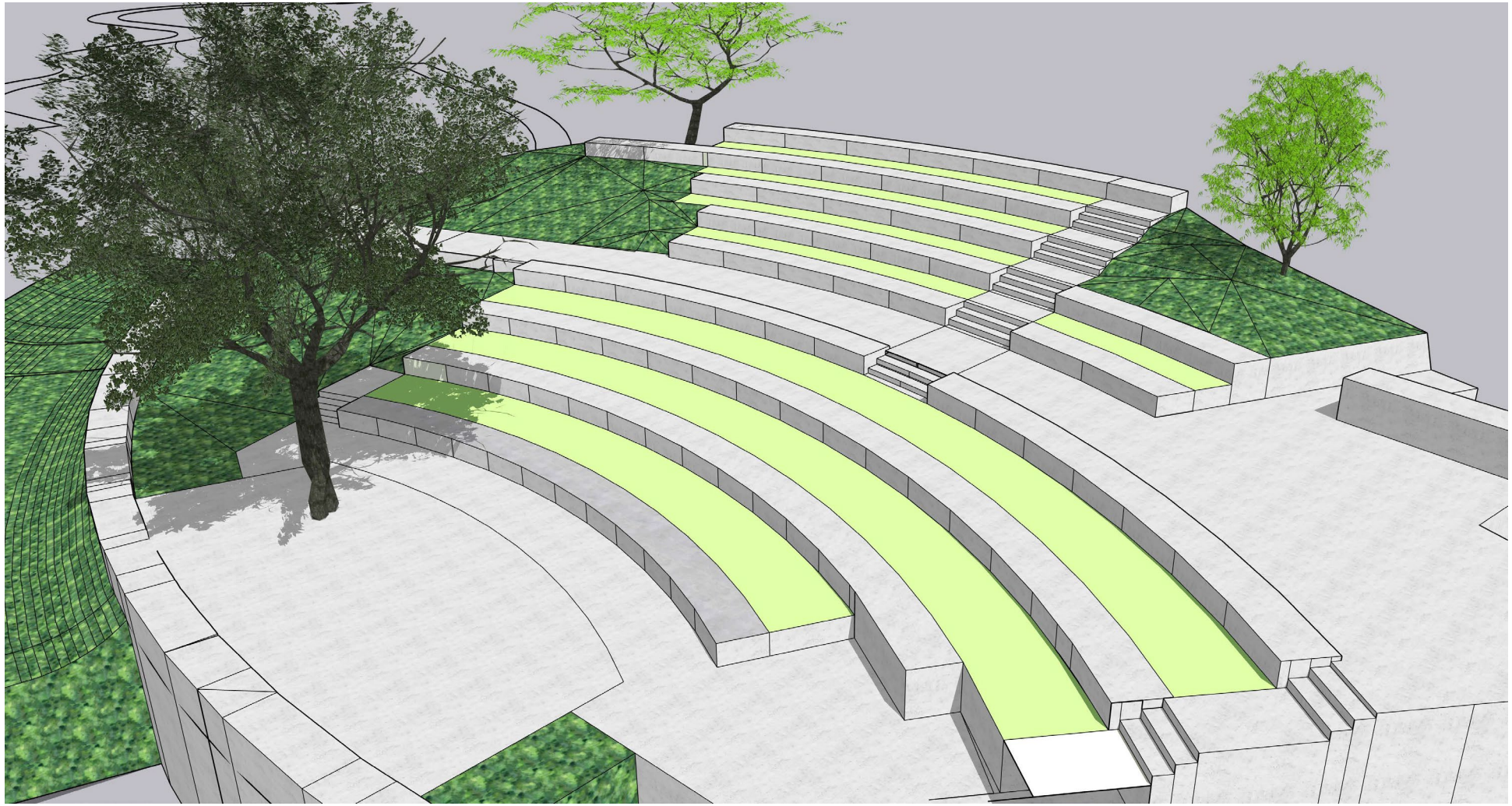
Site Master Plan Refresh - Amphitheater



Site Master Plan Refresh - Amphitheater



Site Master Plan Refresh - Amphitheater



Site Master Plan Refresh - Plaza

RIVER CAFÉ AND PLAZA

- Transforming from Observation Tower and Restrooms
- Features include café, restrooms, storage for services
- Elevated gardens for access and interactions

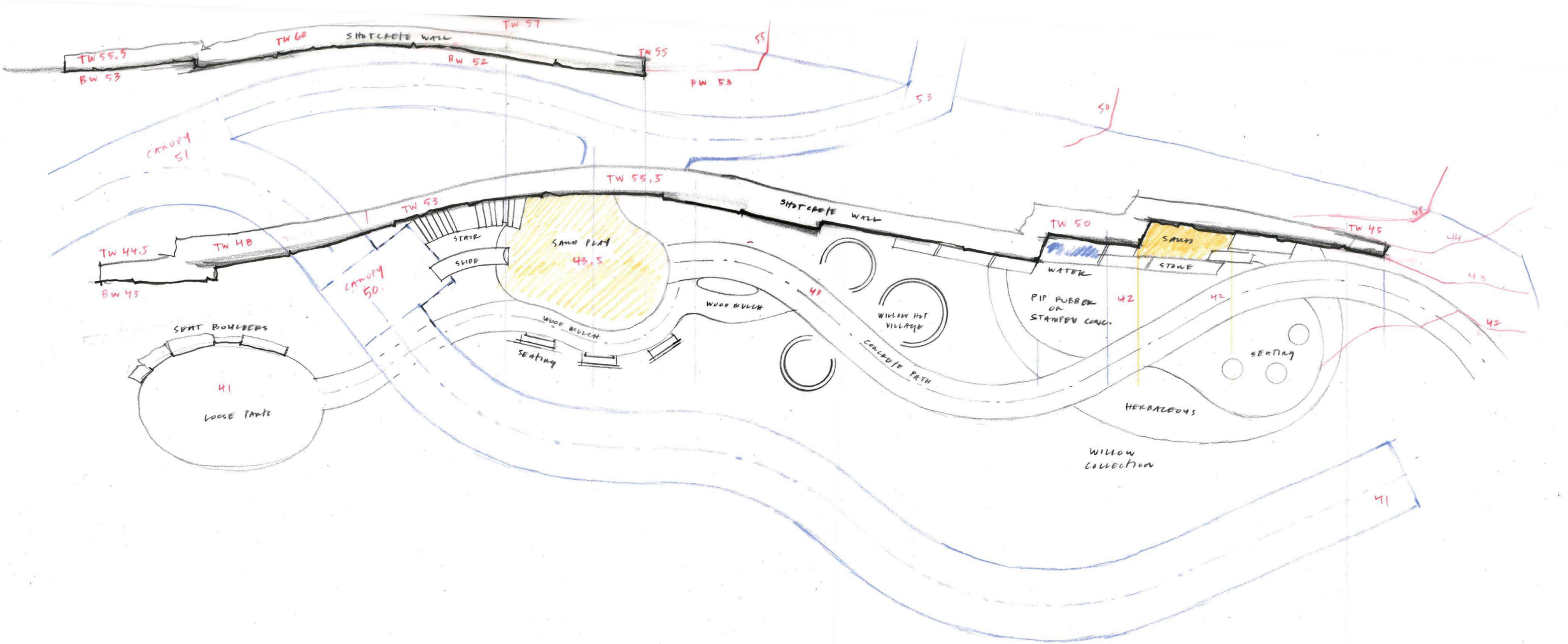
Site Master Plan Refresh - Plaza

Site Master Plan Refresh – Willow Garden

WILLOW GARDEN

- Transforming from Meadow and Wildflower Garden with lawn paths
- Intimate, immersive garden space
- Features include hidden, found and discovered spaces of our childhood
- Immerse in plants, explore and play within
- Sand and water play areas for young children

Site Master Plan Refresh – Willow Garden



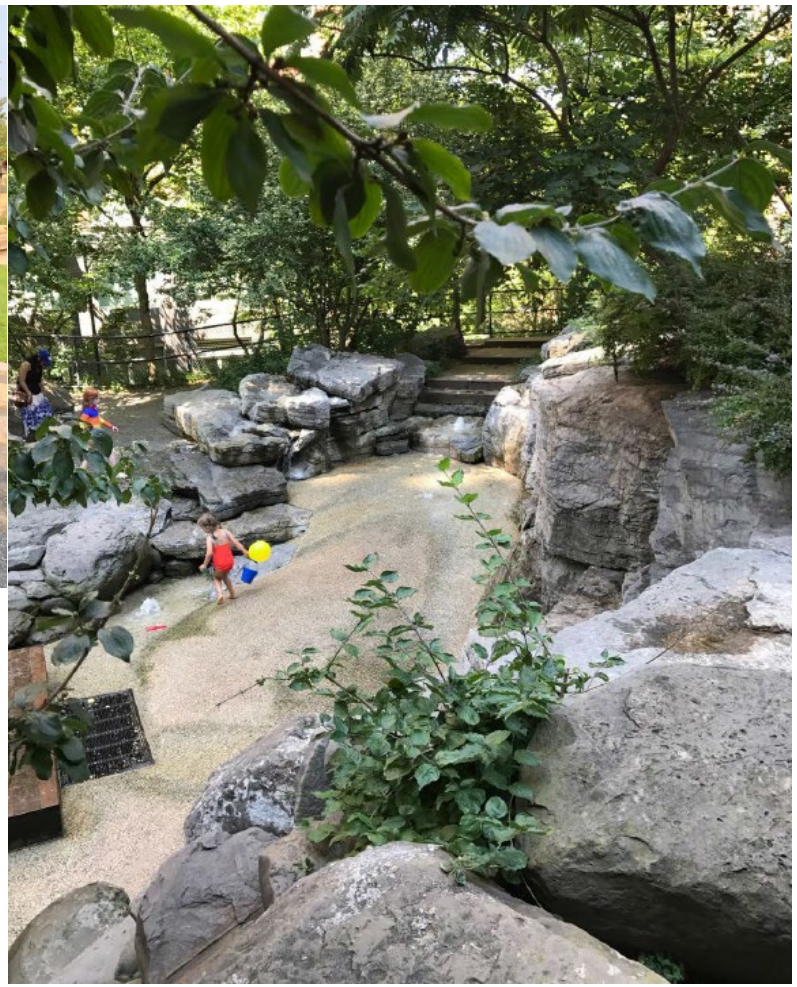
Site Master Plan Refresh – Willow Garden

Hidden, found and discovered spaces

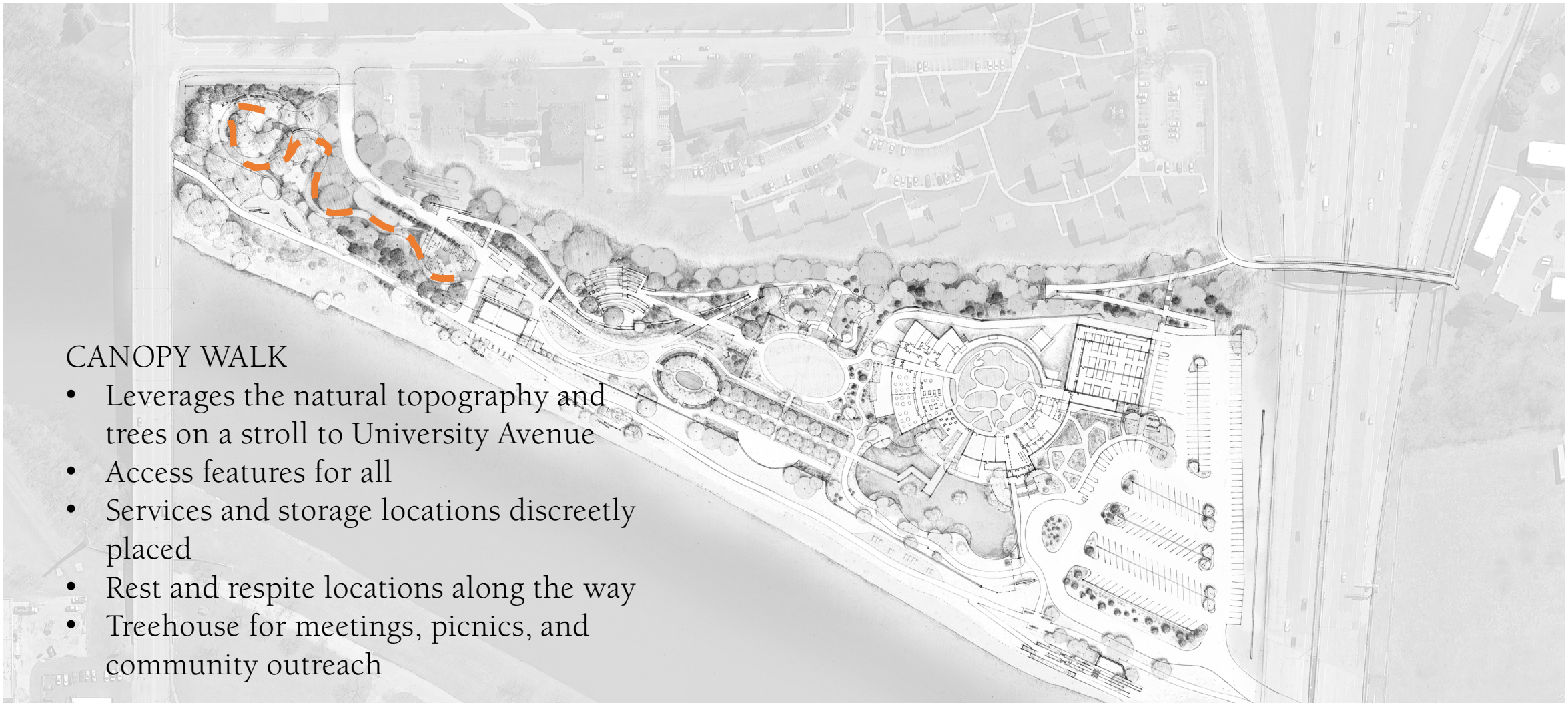
Immerse in plants, explore and play within

Sand and water play areas

Unique garden gathering spaces



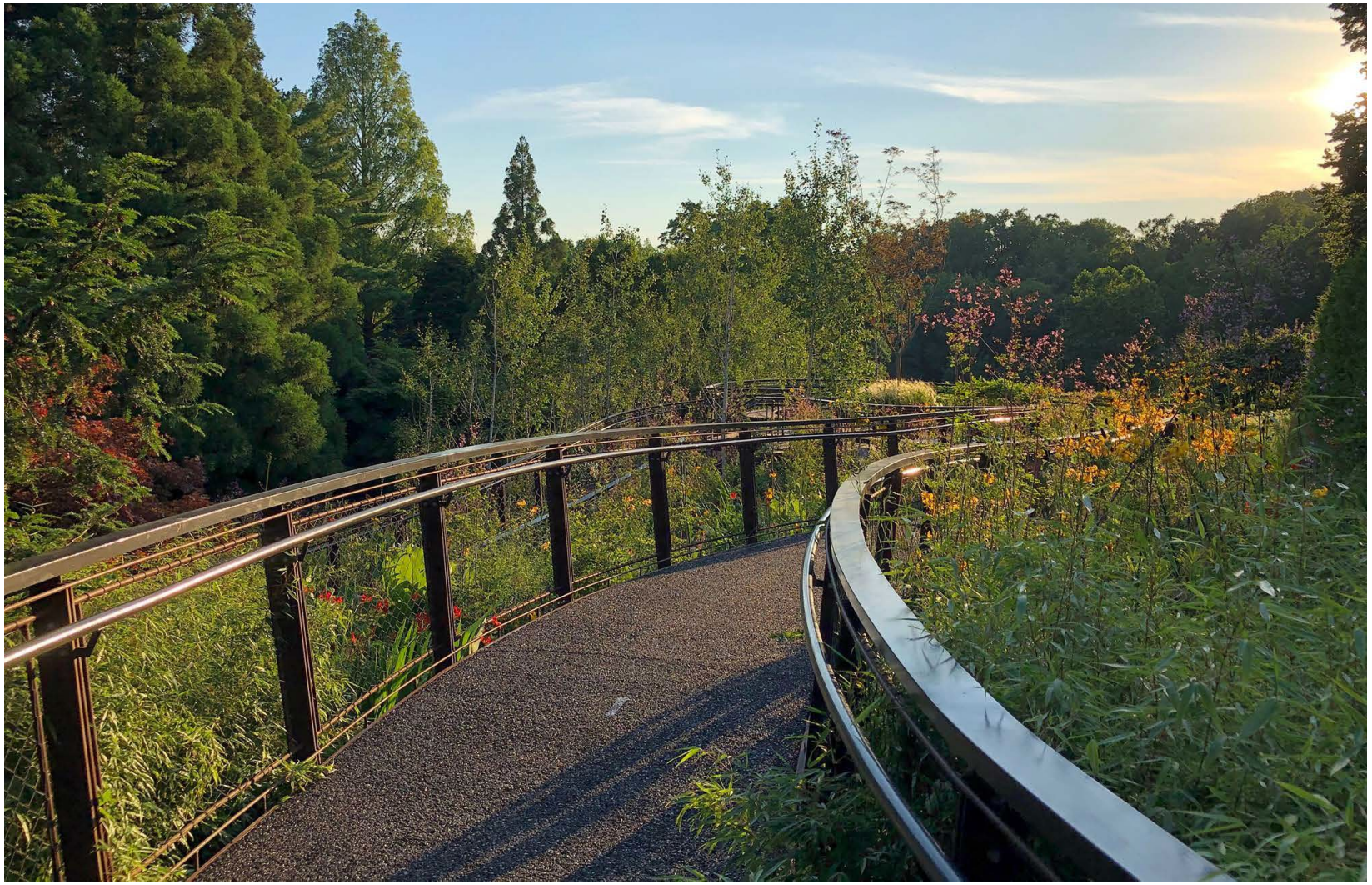
Site Master Plan Refresh – Canopy Walk



CANOPY WALK

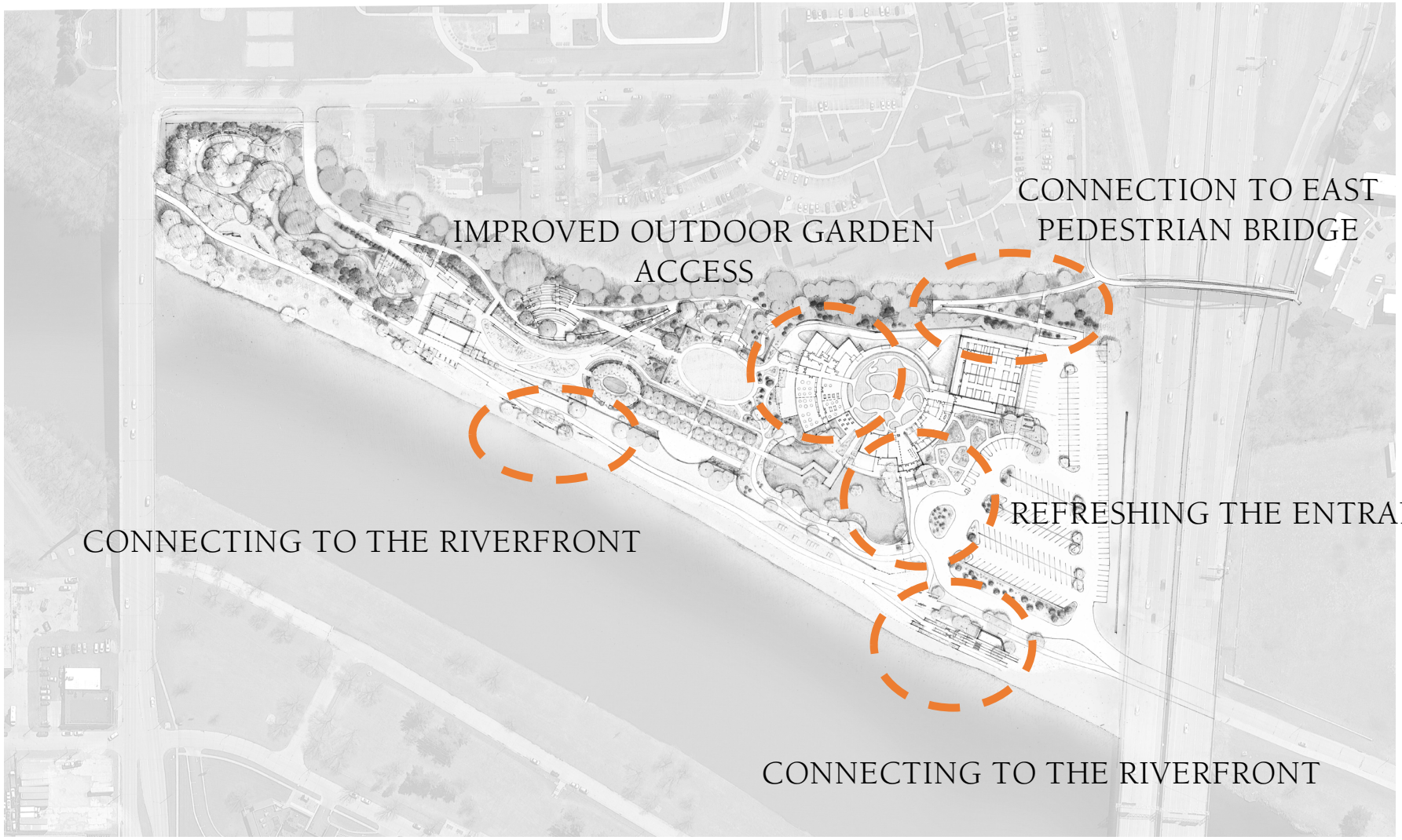
- Leverages the natural topography and trees on a stroll to University Avenue
- Access features for all
- Services and storage locations discreetly placed
- Rest and respite locations along the way
- Treehouse for meetings, picnics, and community outreach

Site Master Plan Refresh – Canopy Walk



Site Master Plan Refresh – Canopy Walk

Site Master Plan Refresh – Phase 1 Updates



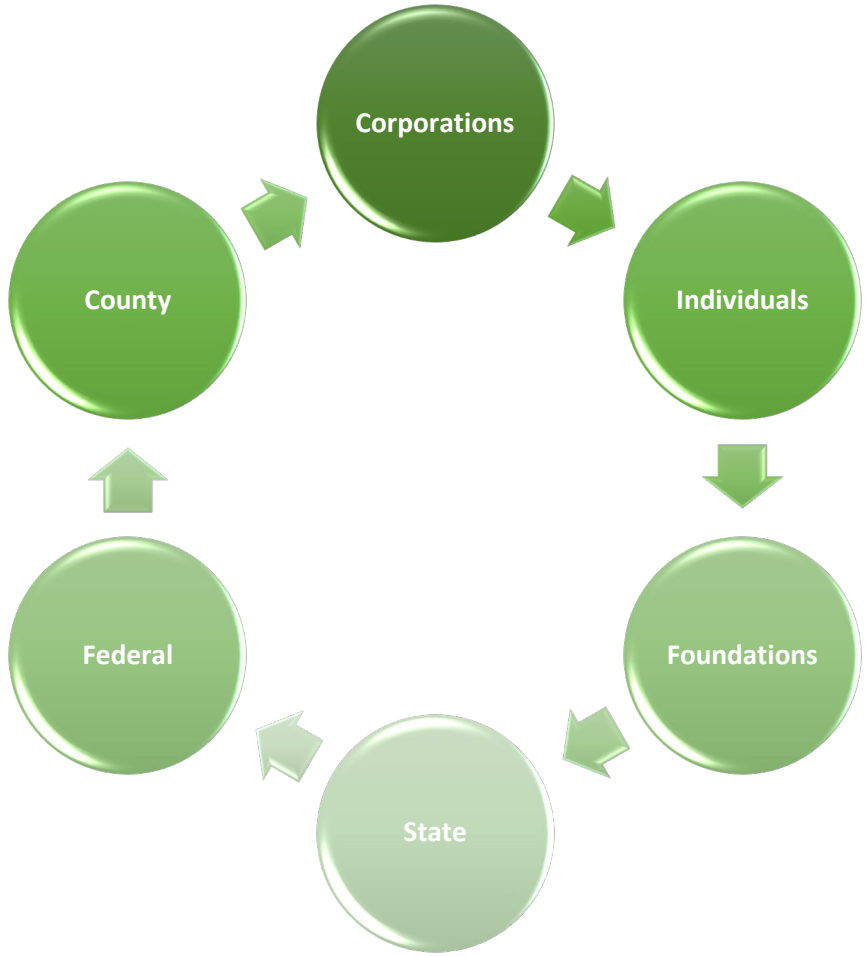
Cost Estimates – Schematic Design Stage Only

- Range of expected investment

  $17.0 to $23.0 million

- To date fundraising activities have not begun

- Fundraising considerations



Summary and Actions

- Questions?
- Boards and Committee Actions
  - Urban Design Review Board
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Planning and Zoning – pre-application process
- City Council