

# Latta Place



Mecklenburg County,  
North Carolina

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





Beauty

**Cultural Landscapes**

Trauma

# Site Context & History

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Mountain Island Lake

Relocated Historic Barn

Relocated Historic Barn

● Replica Enslaved People's Cabin

● Original Meat House

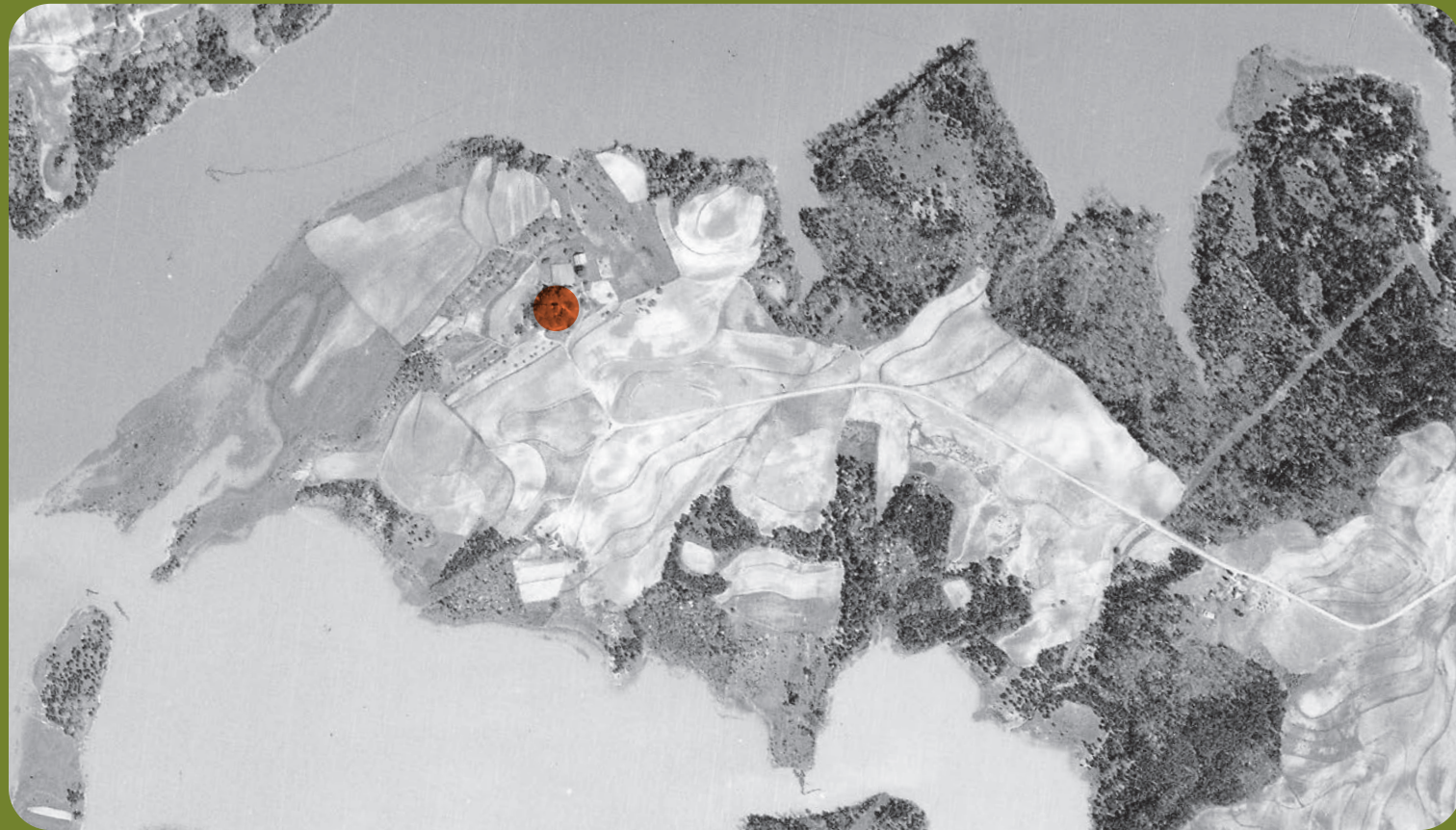
● Replica Kitchen House

**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

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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



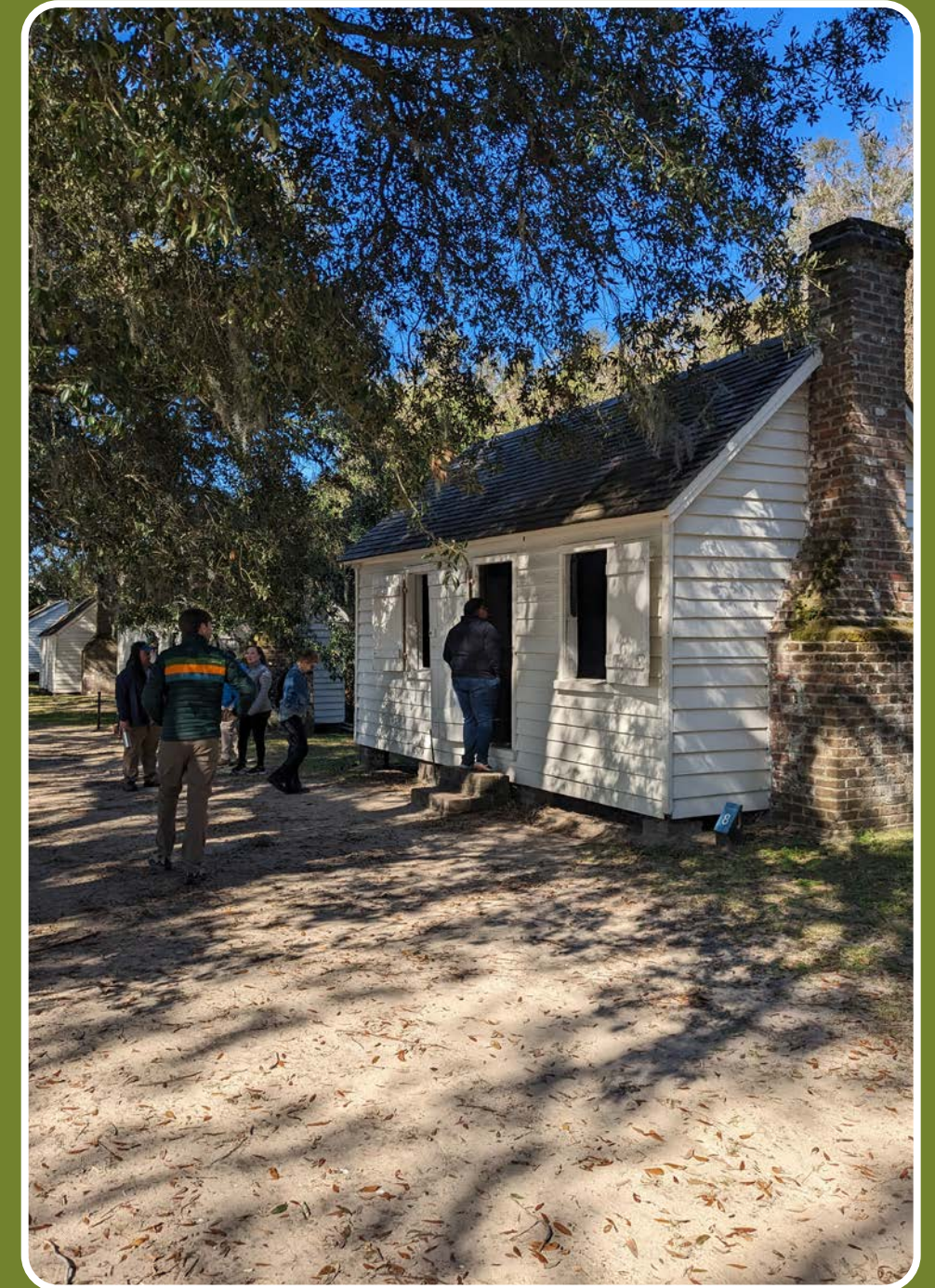
# Understanding the Context



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

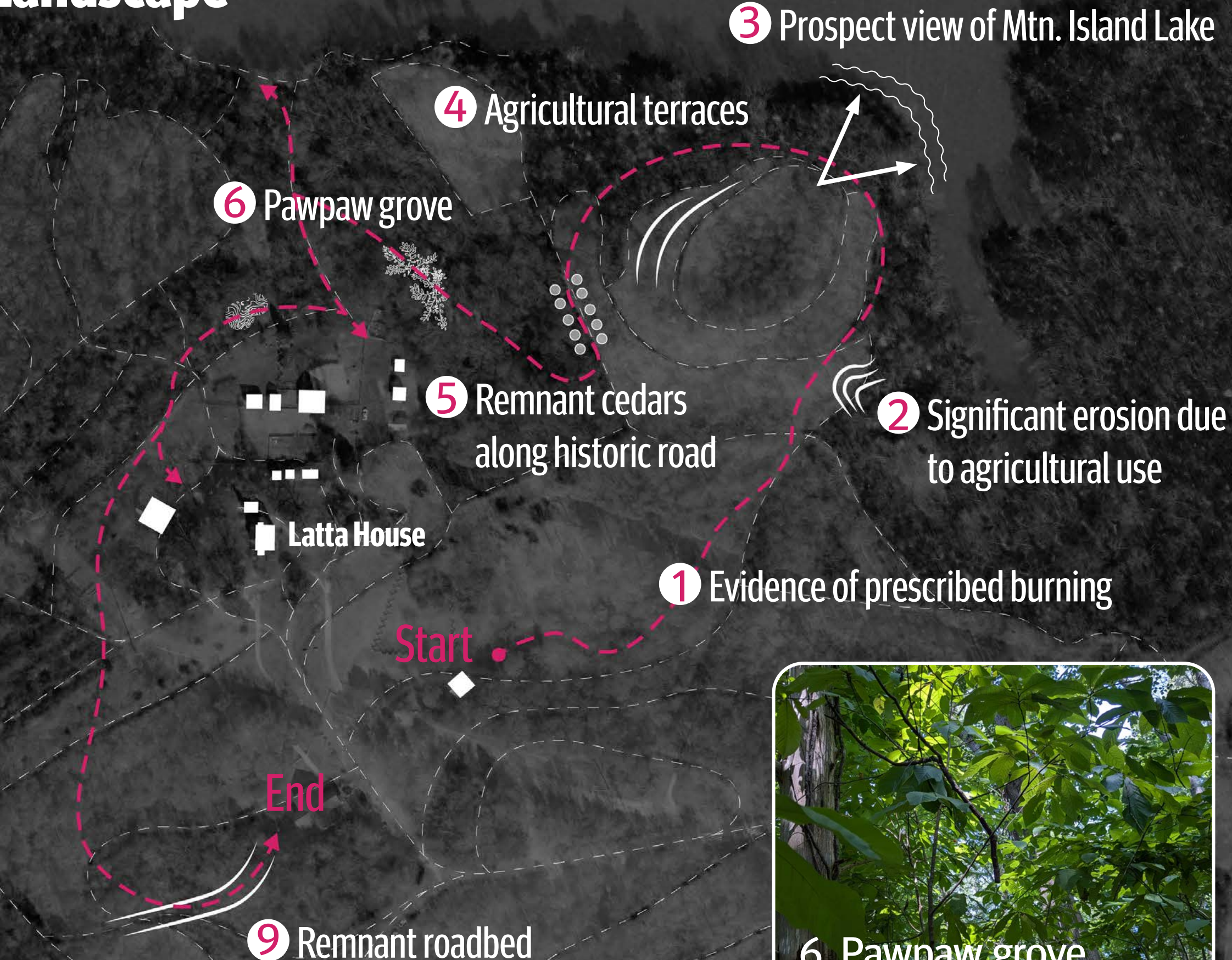
Initial Draft Submission



September 4, 2024

# Understanding the Landscape

## Site Walks

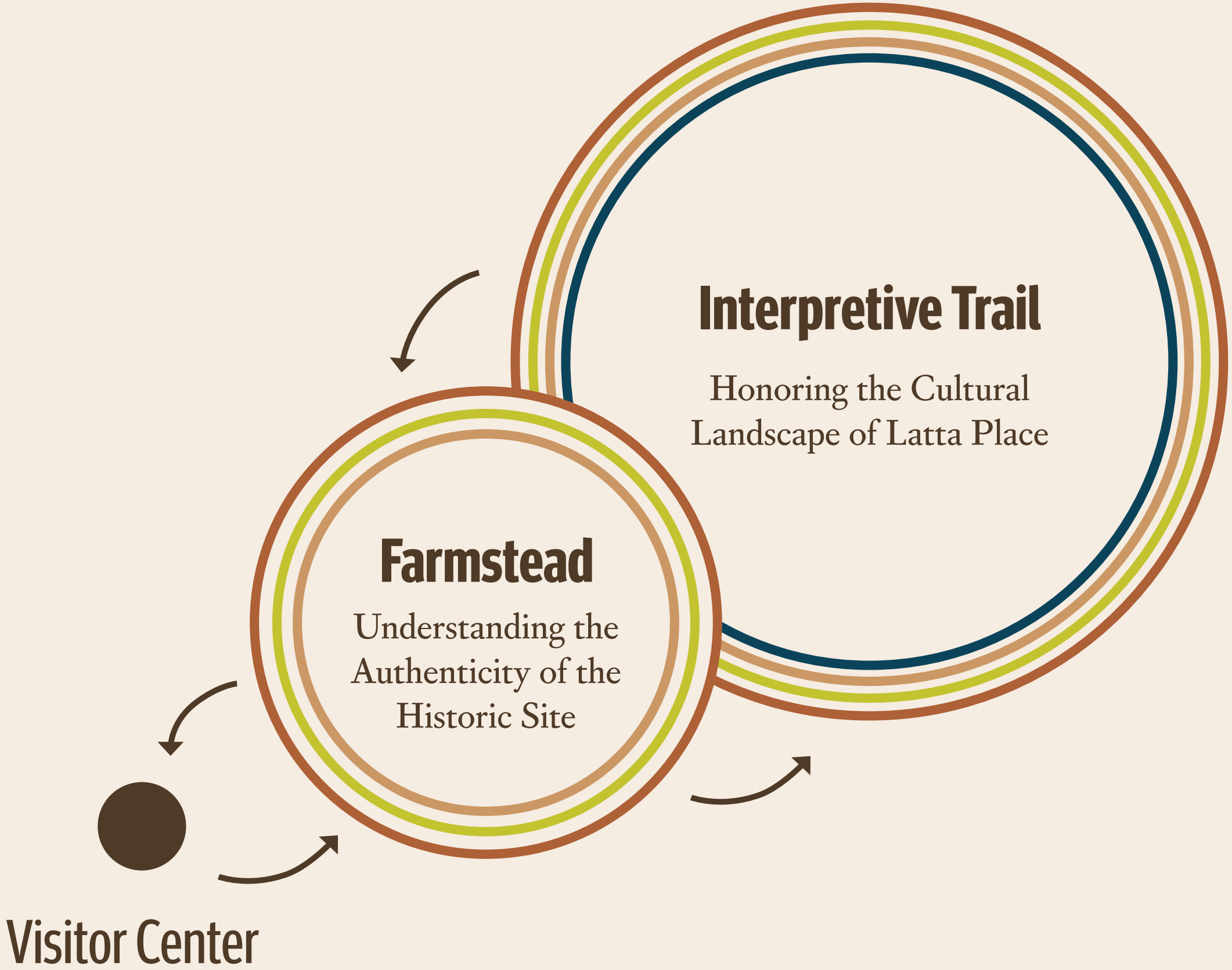




**Design**

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# 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



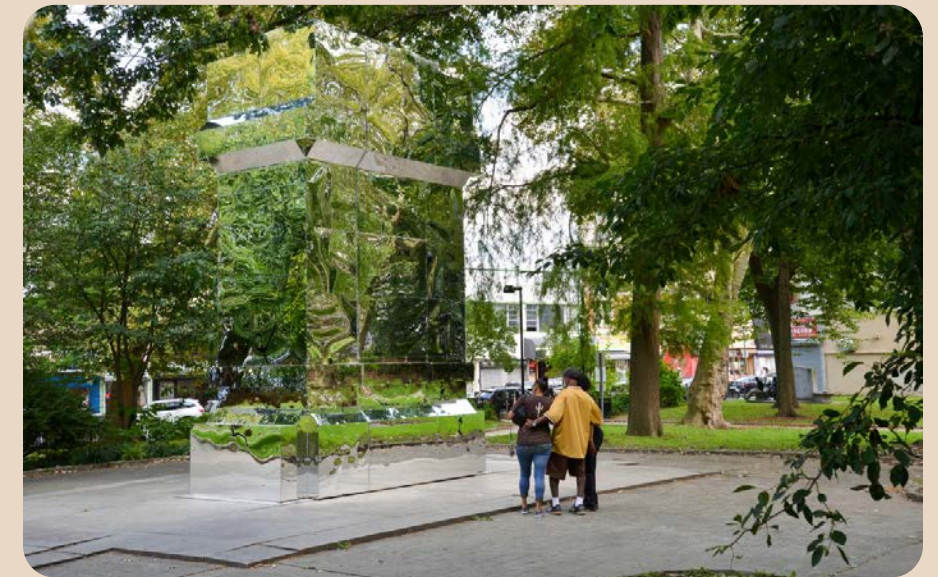
All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society

Engage the Nature Preserve



Confluence Project, Maya Lin

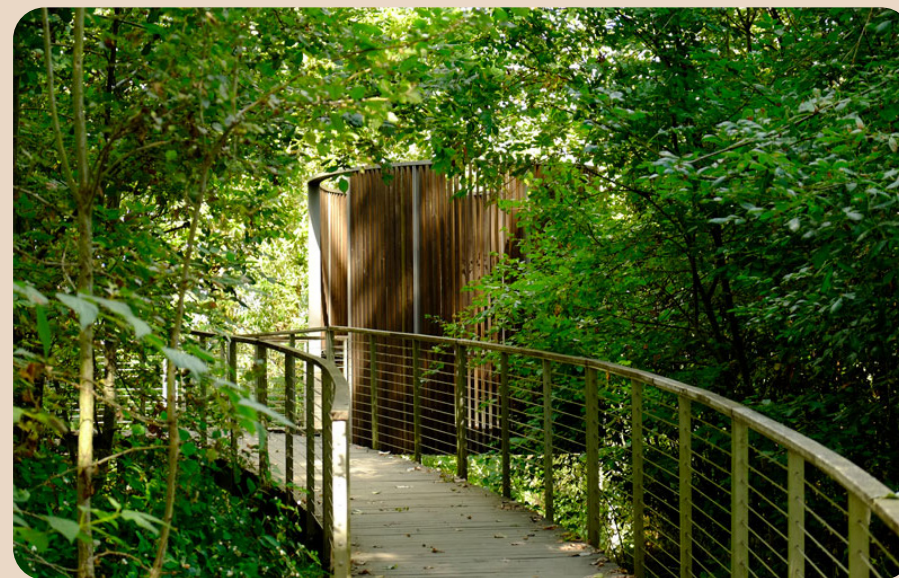
Reposition the Cultural Narrative  
of Memorials & Monuments



“The Battles Is Joined” by Karyn Olivier



All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society

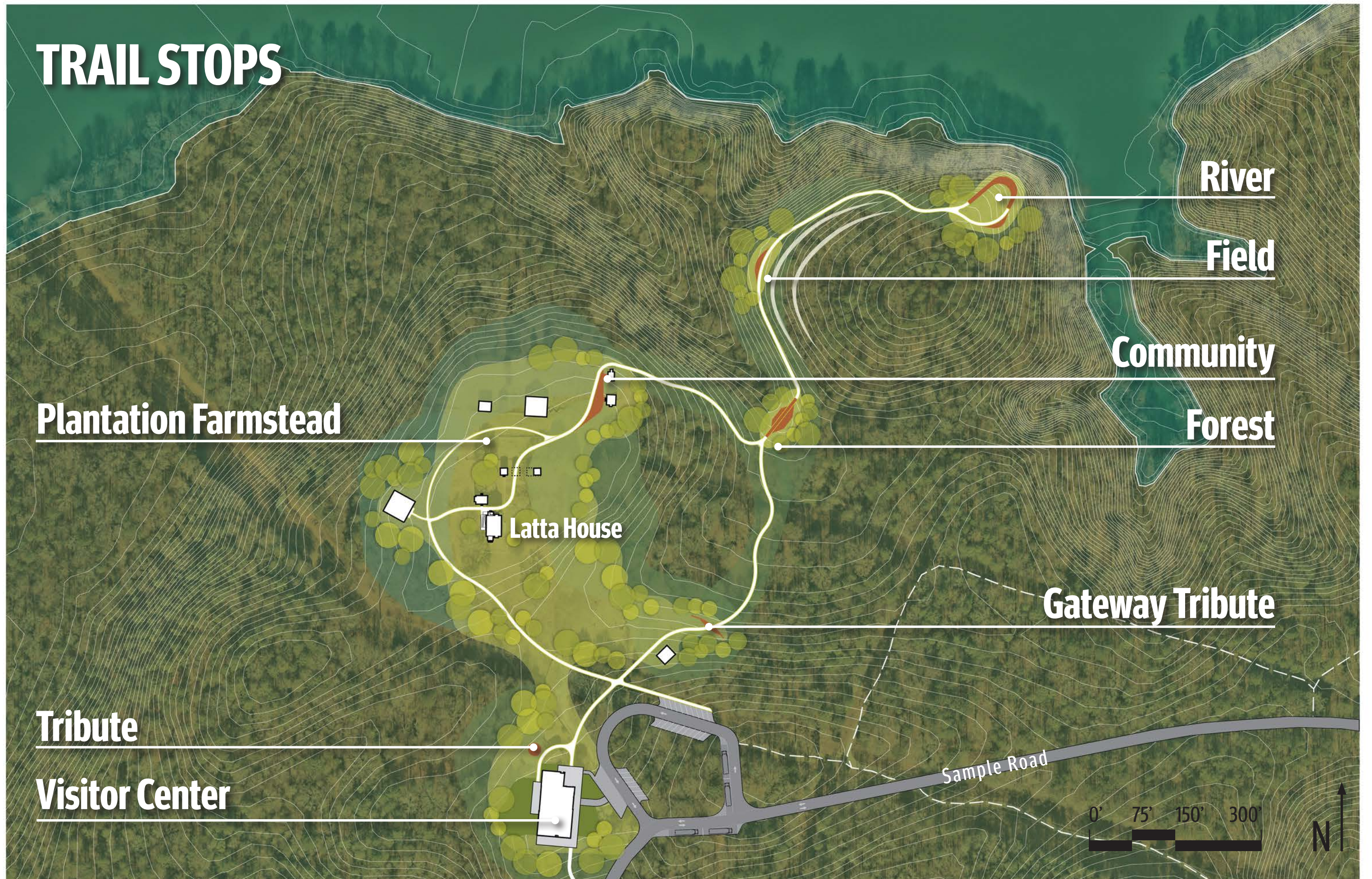


Confluence Project, Maya Lin

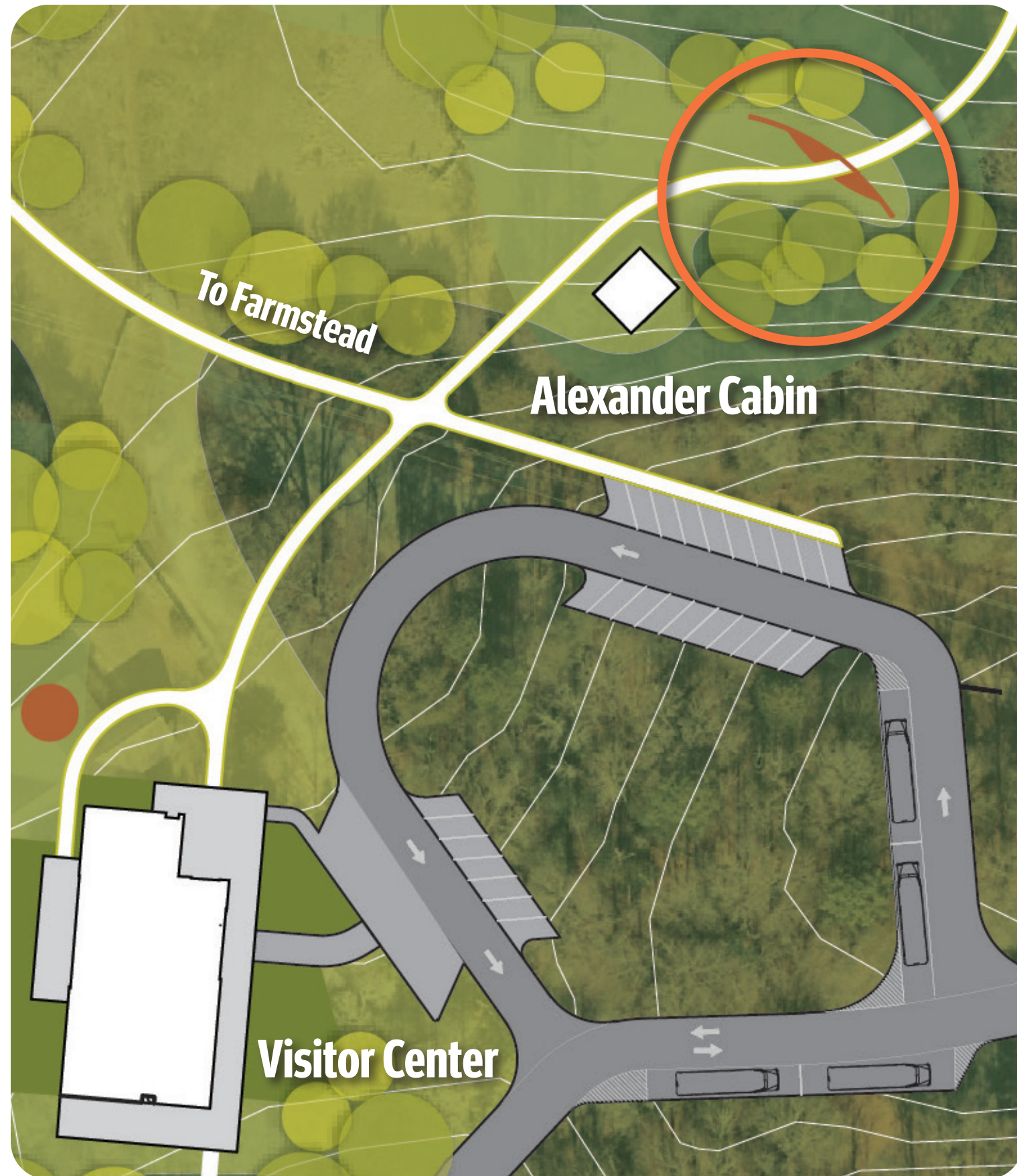


“If They Should Ask” by Sharon Hayes

# TRAIL STOPS



# TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE SITE



# TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE

Granite Walls

Fruit Trees

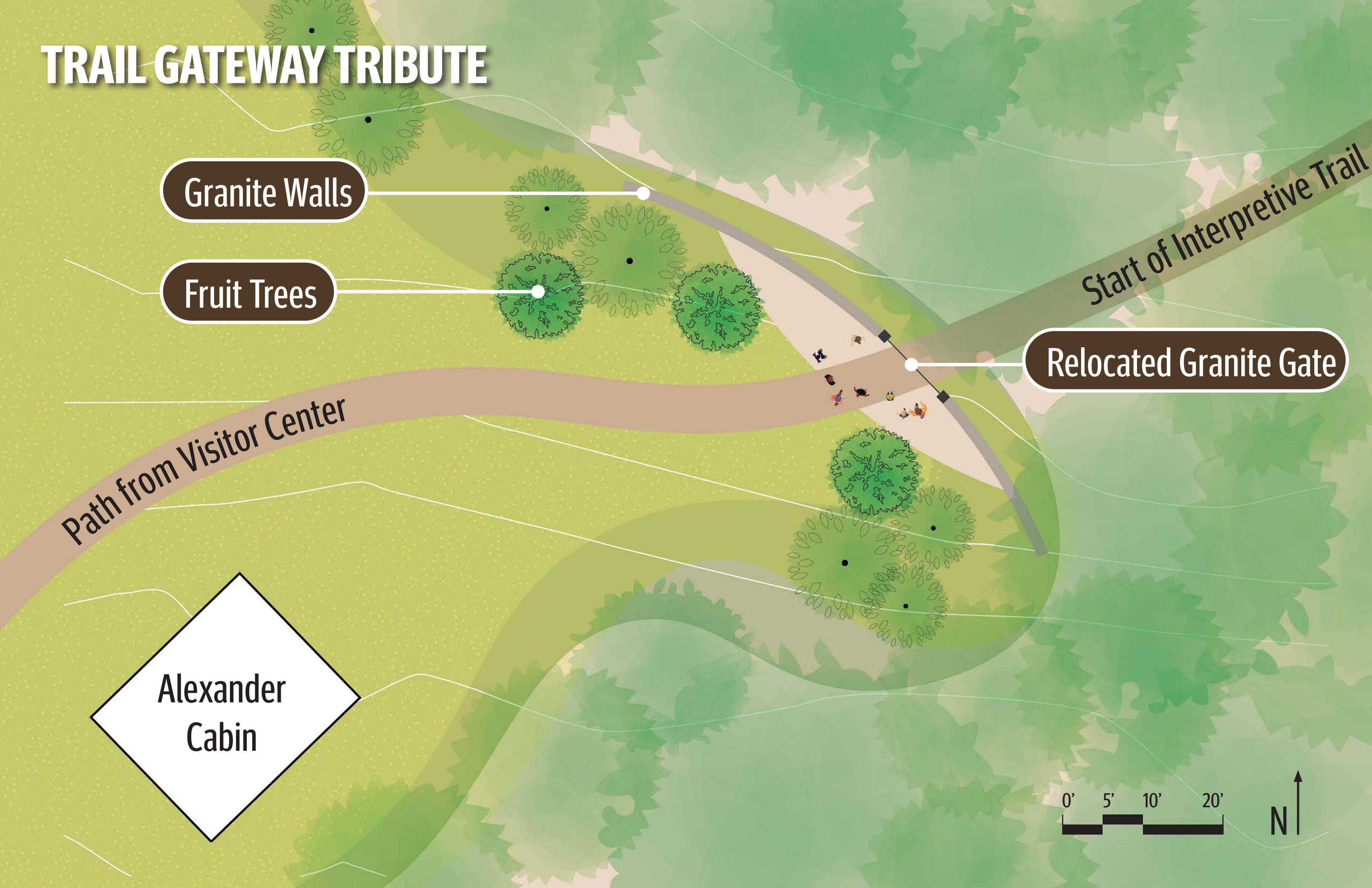
Path from Visitor Center

Alexander  
Cabin

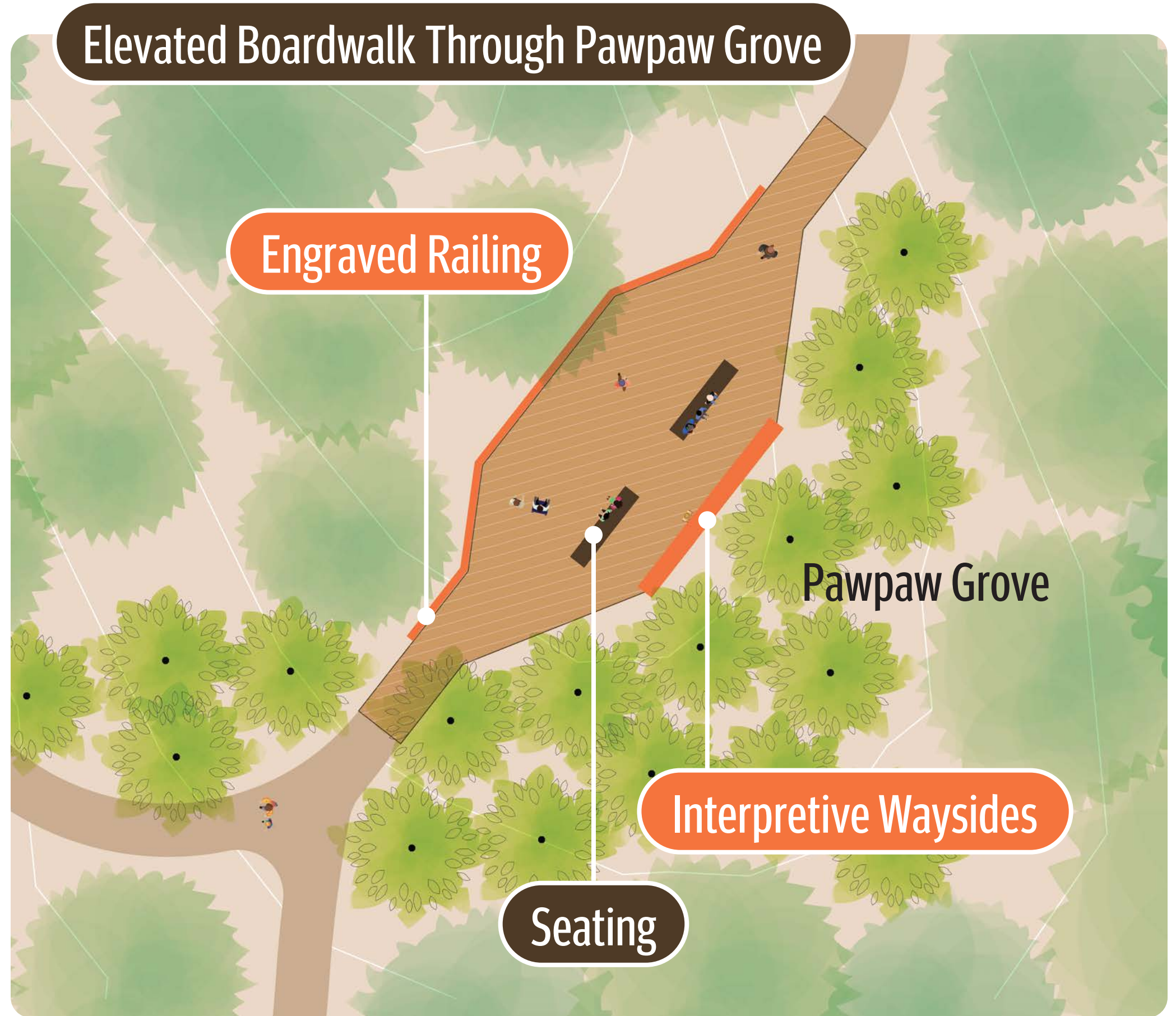
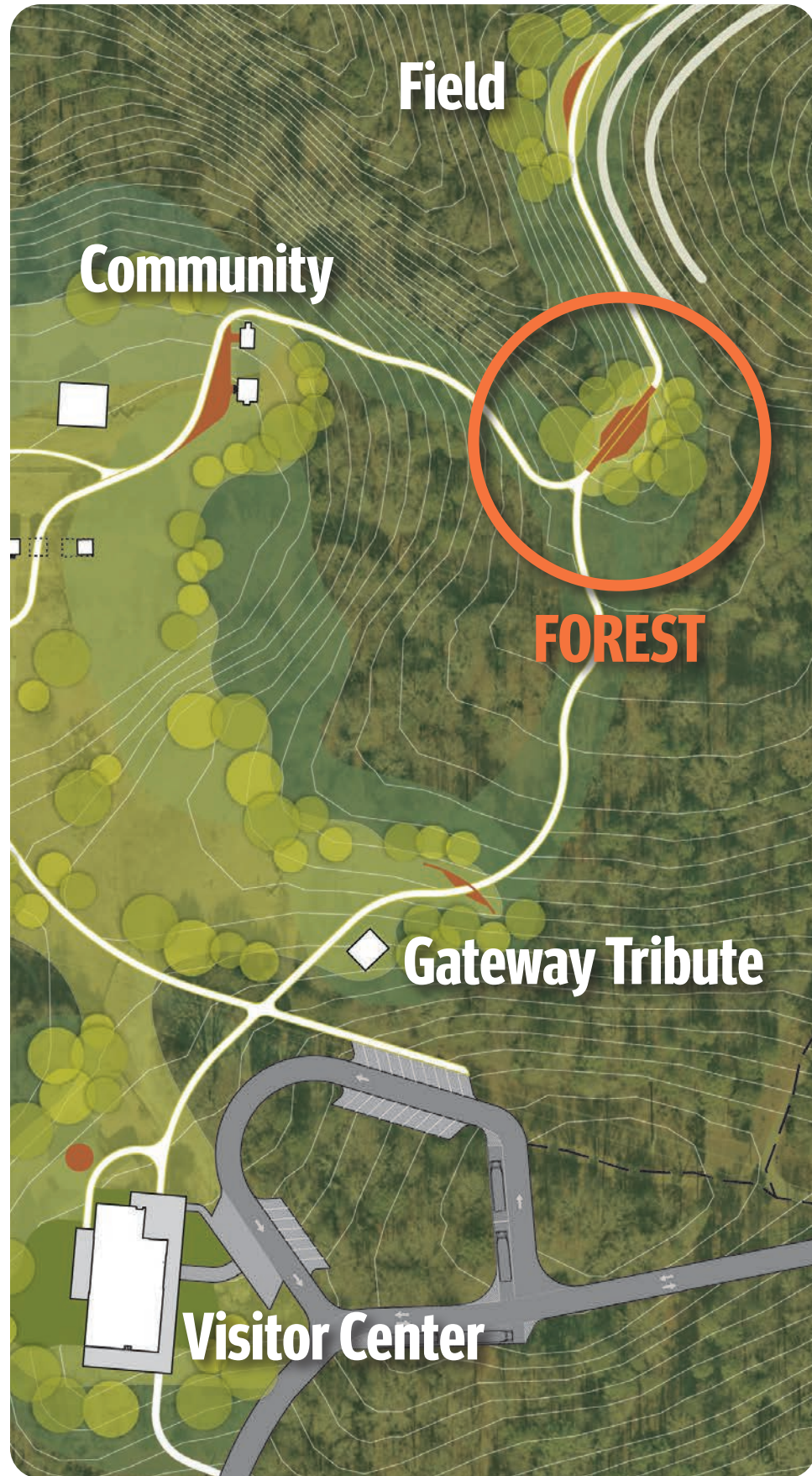
Start of Interpretive Trail

Relocated Granite Gate

0' 5' 10' 20'



# FOREST TRAIL STOP



# EXISTING SITE



# DESIGN PRECEDENTS

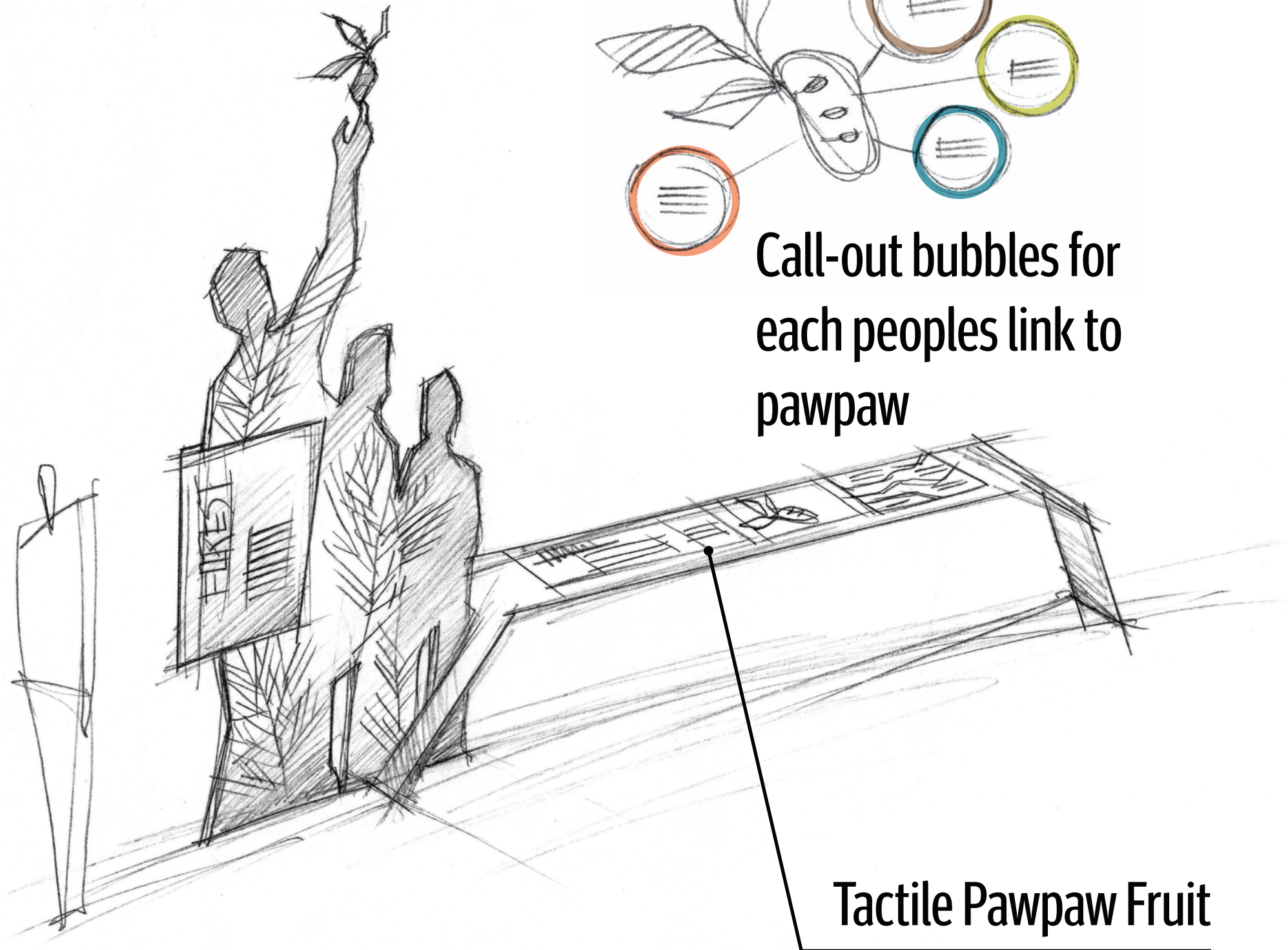




# FOREST INTERPRETATION



Call-out bubbles for each peoples link to pawpaw



Tactile Pawpaw Fruit

## INTERPRETATION THEMES

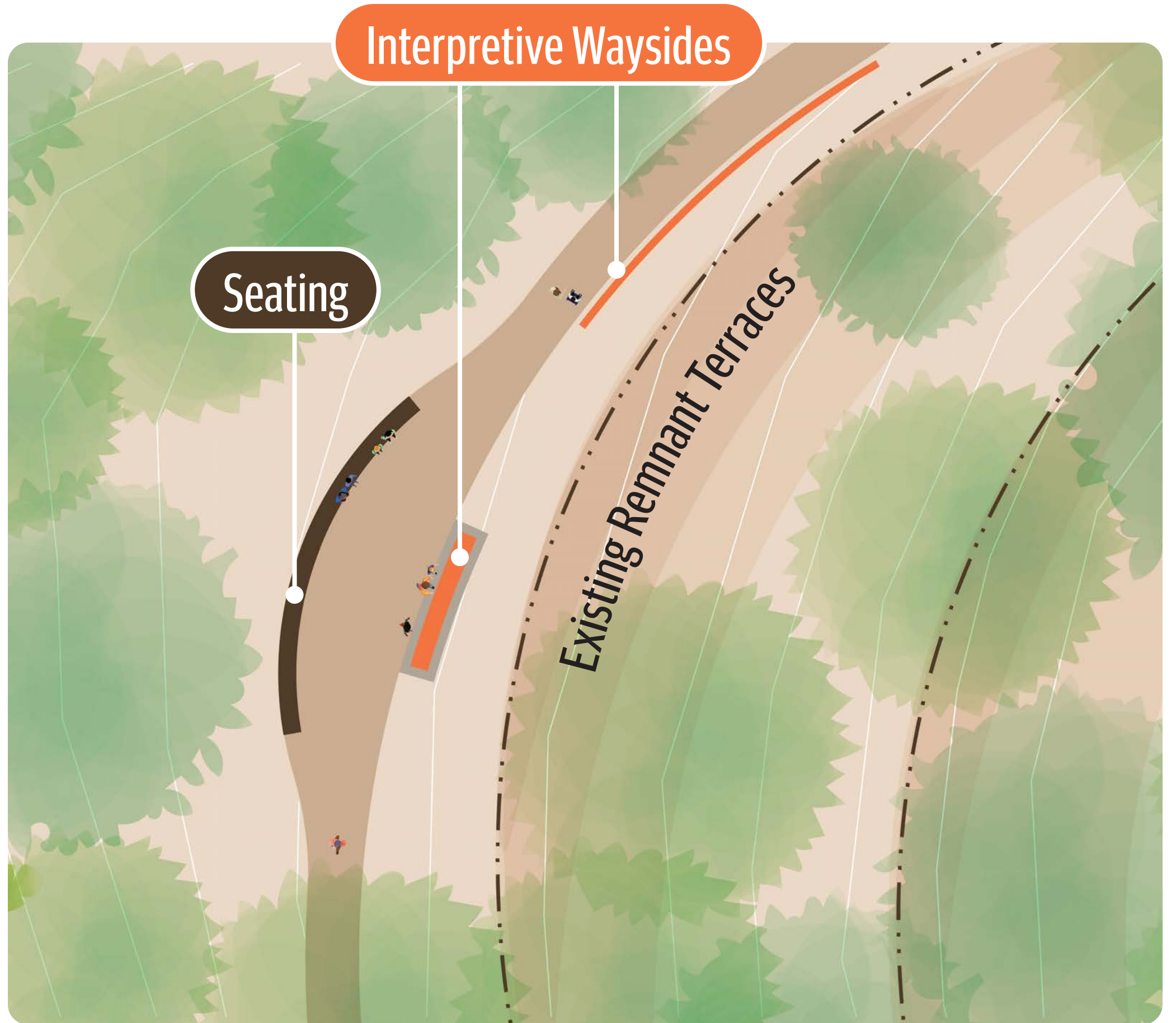
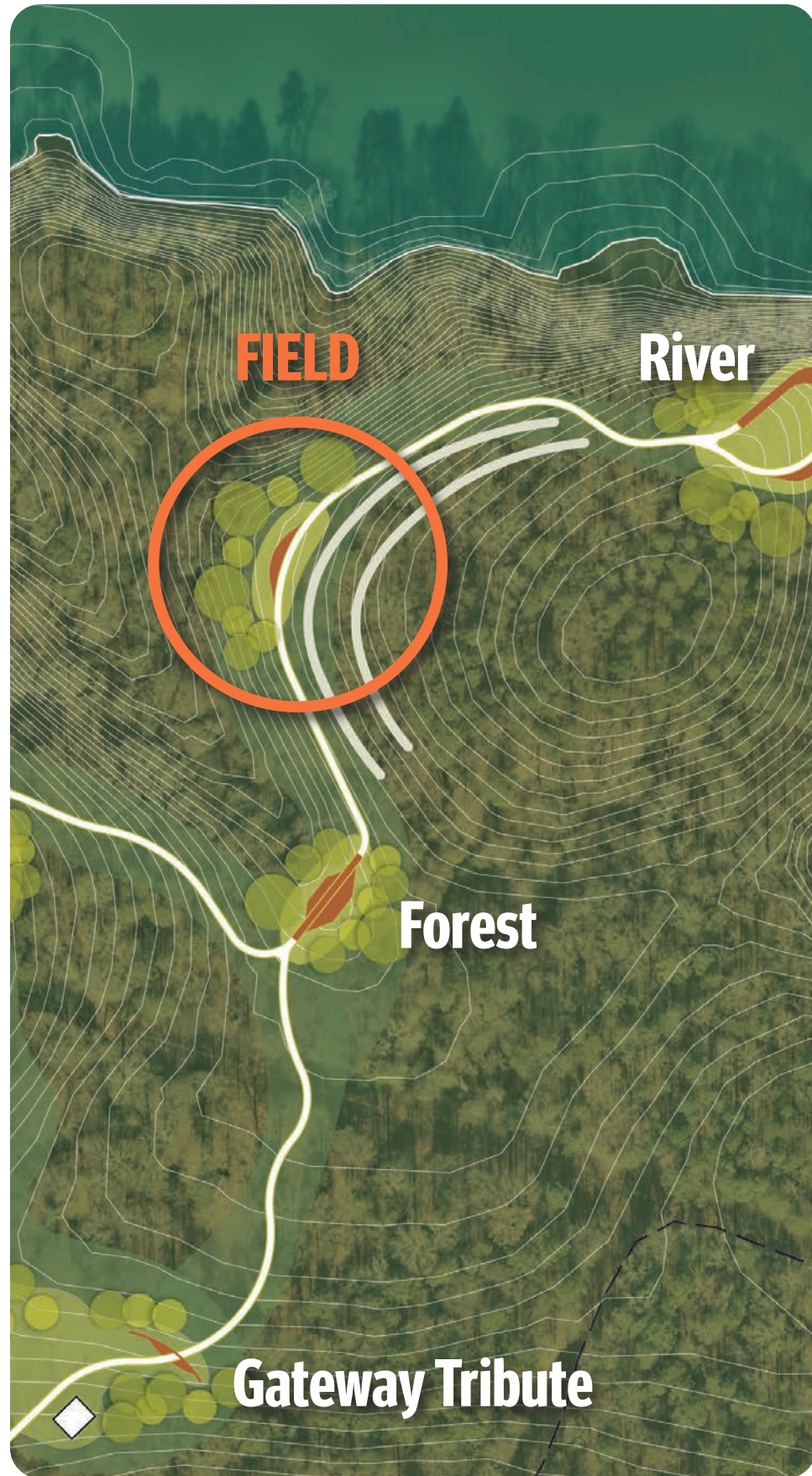
Indigenous: Ethnobotany & forest stewardship

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

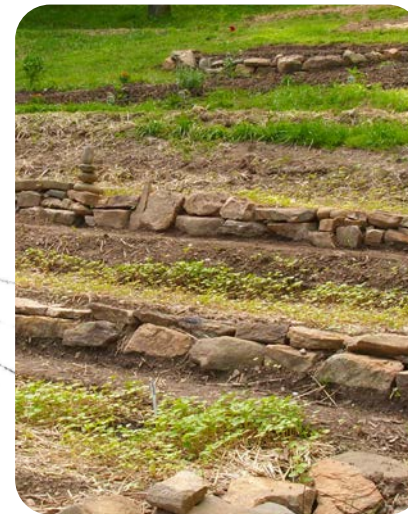


# FIELD INTERPRETATION



Etched Image on Glass  
Aligns with View of Terraces

Tactile Terrace



## INTERPRETATION THEMES

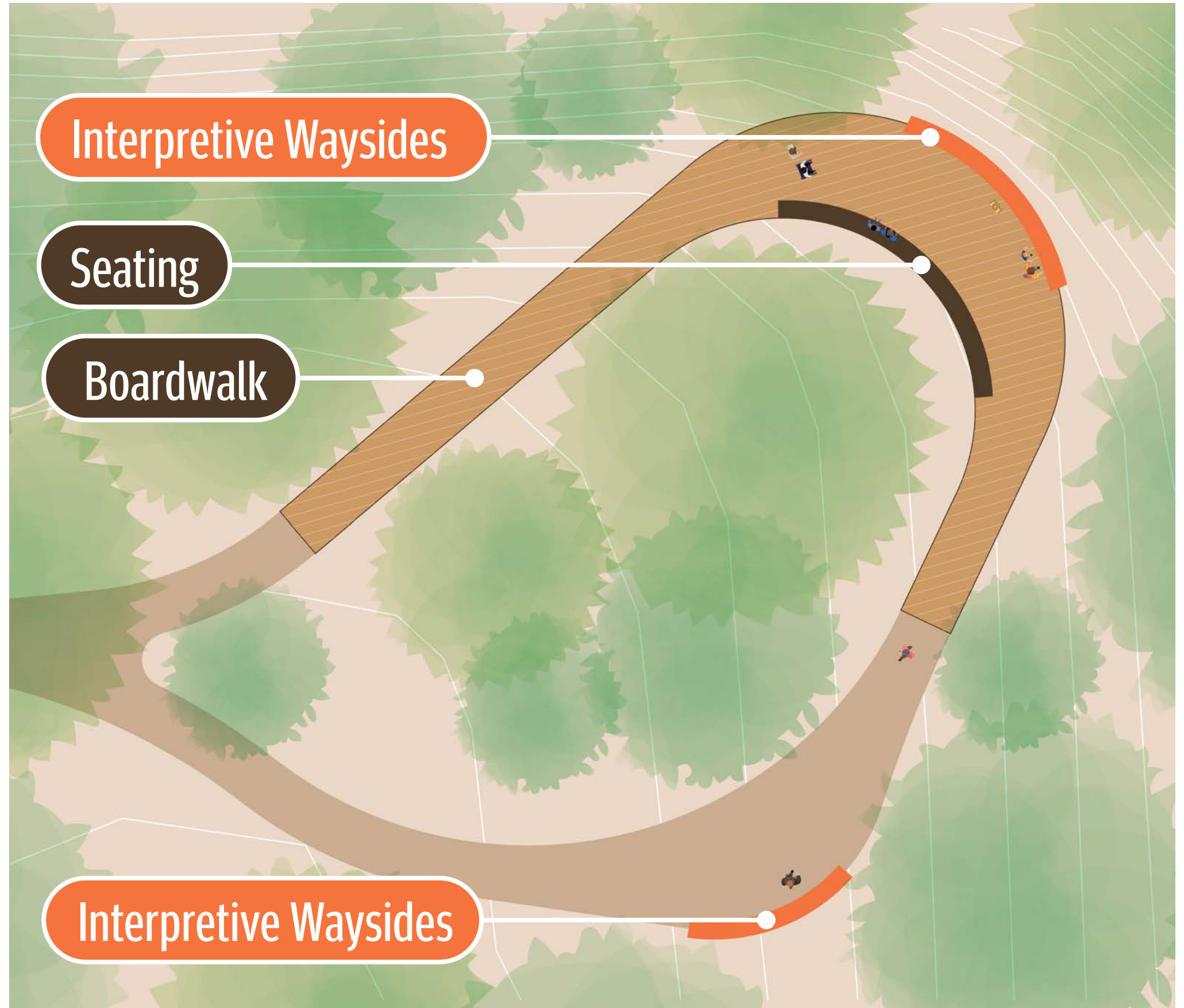
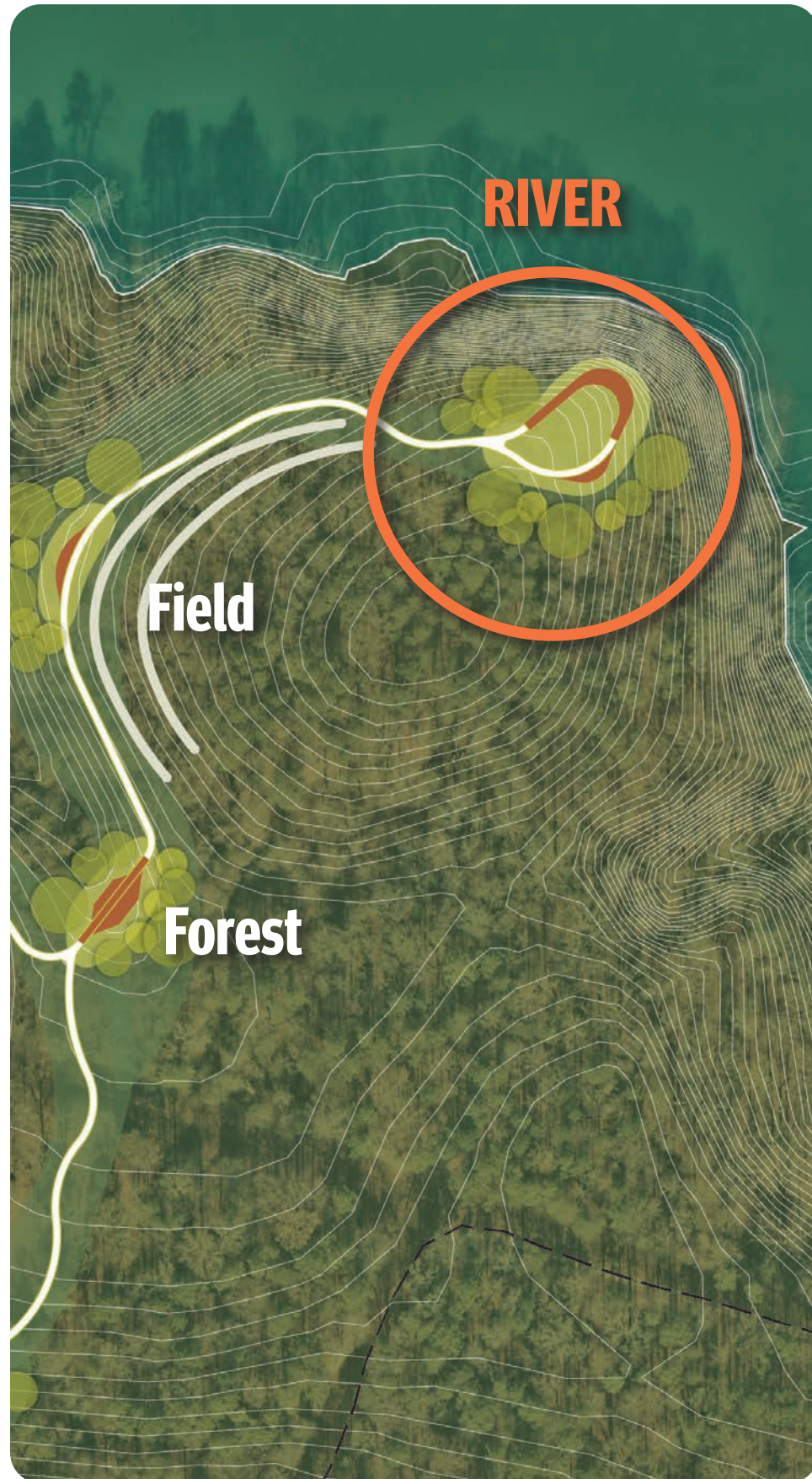
Indigenous: Agricultural Practices

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

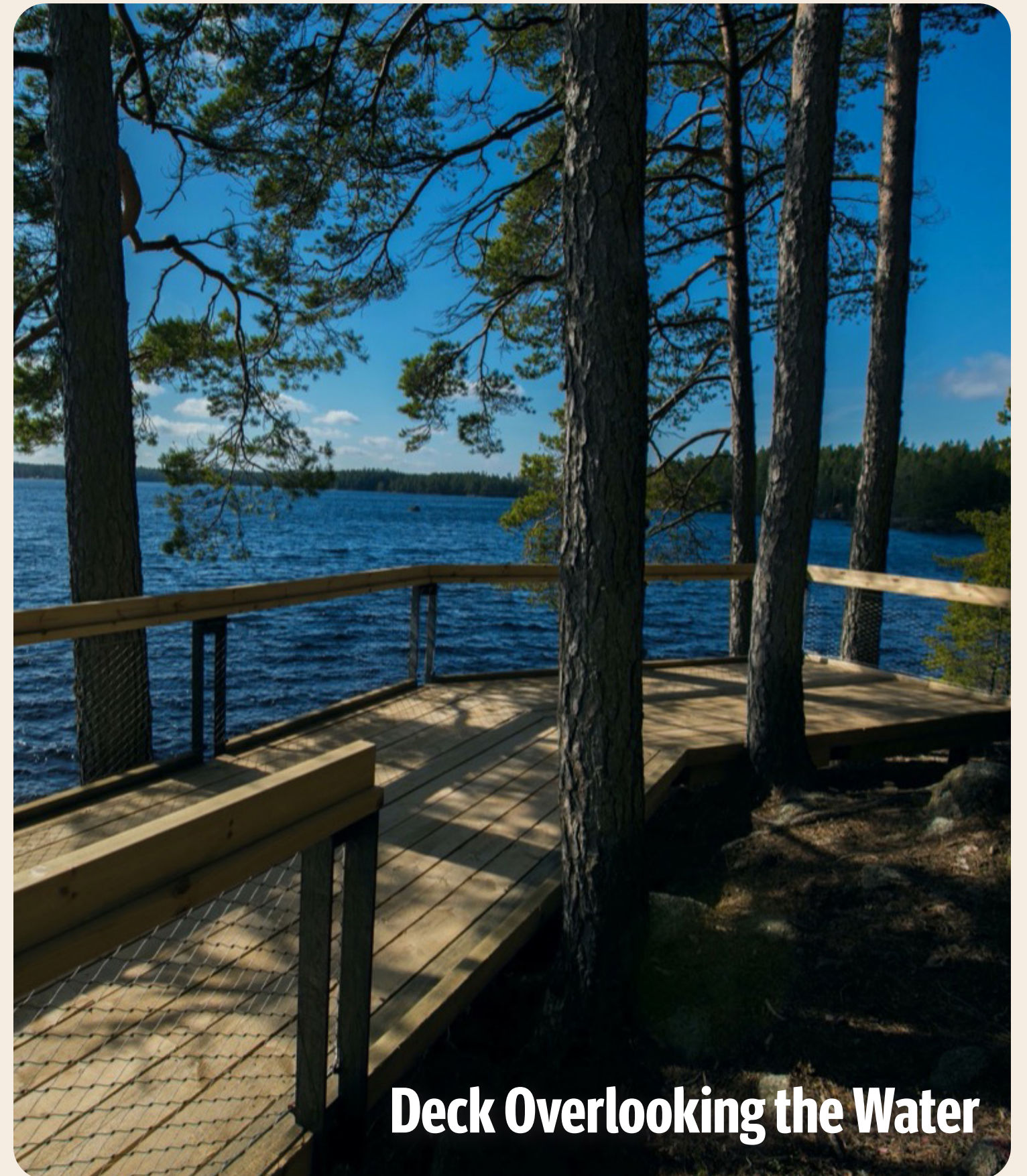
# RIVER TRAIL STOP



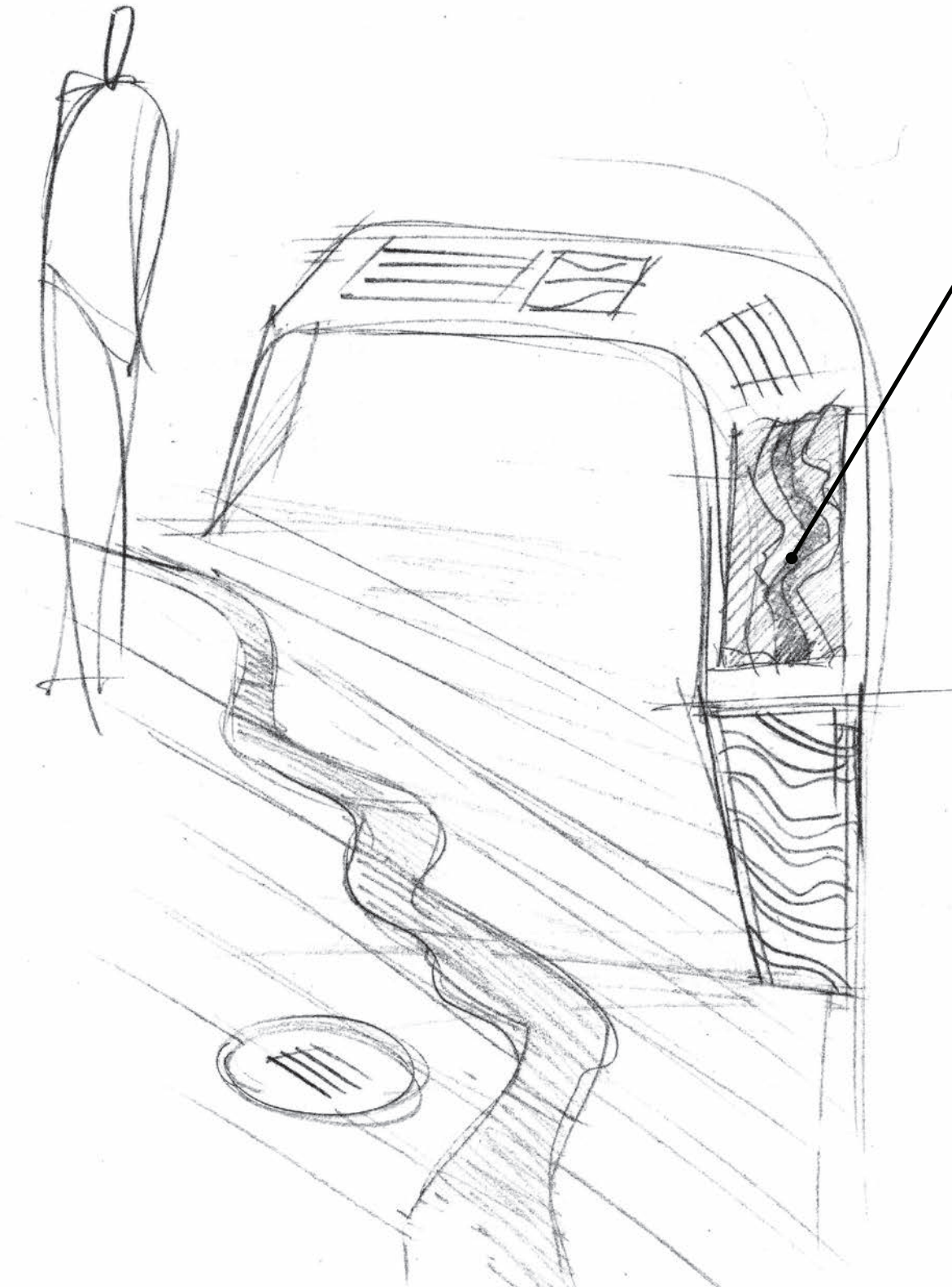
# EXISTING SITE



# DESIGN PRECEDENTS



# RIVER INTERPRETATION



Tactile Topographic Map  
of Catawba River & Mtn.  
Island Lake



## INTERPRETATION THEMES

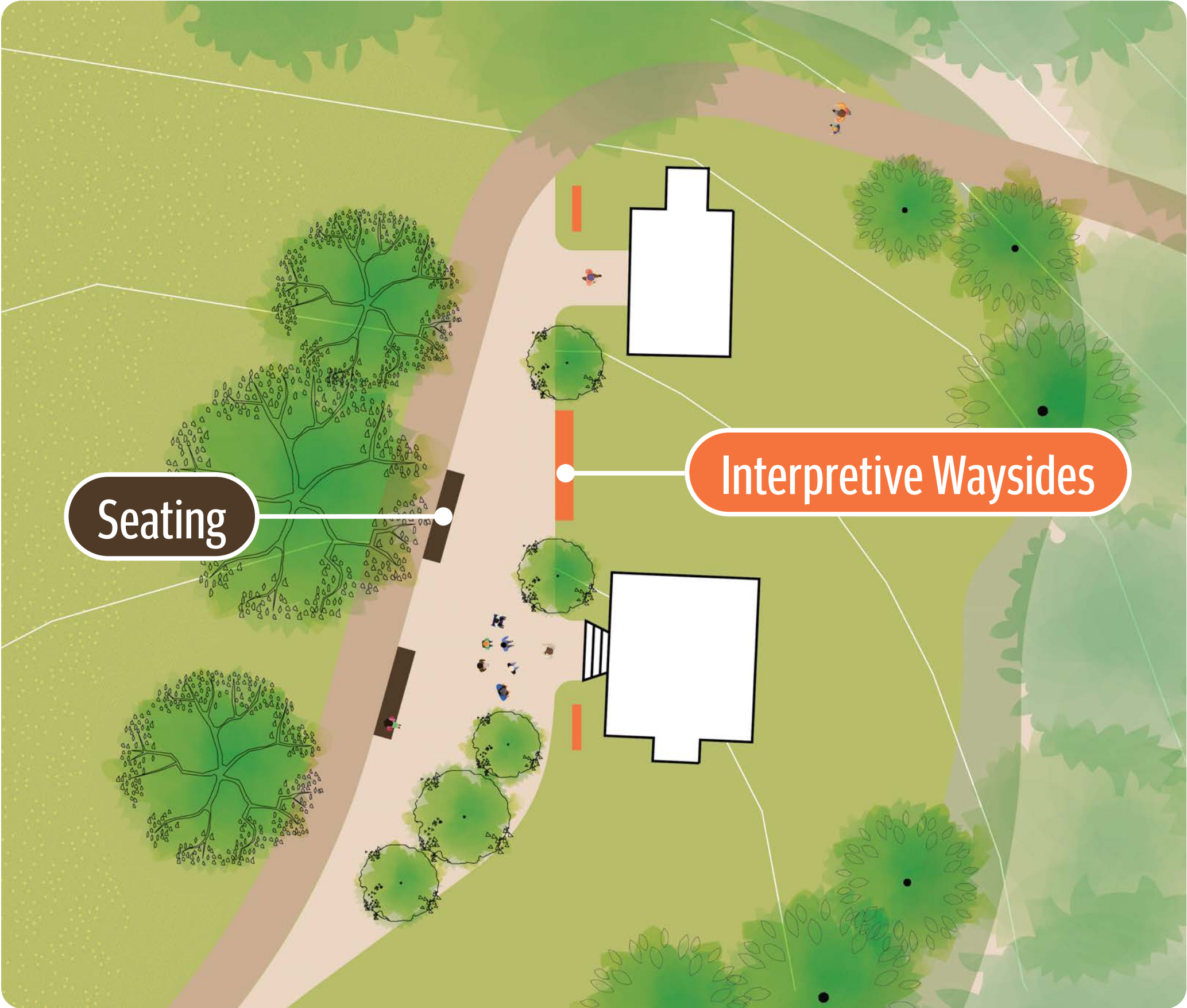
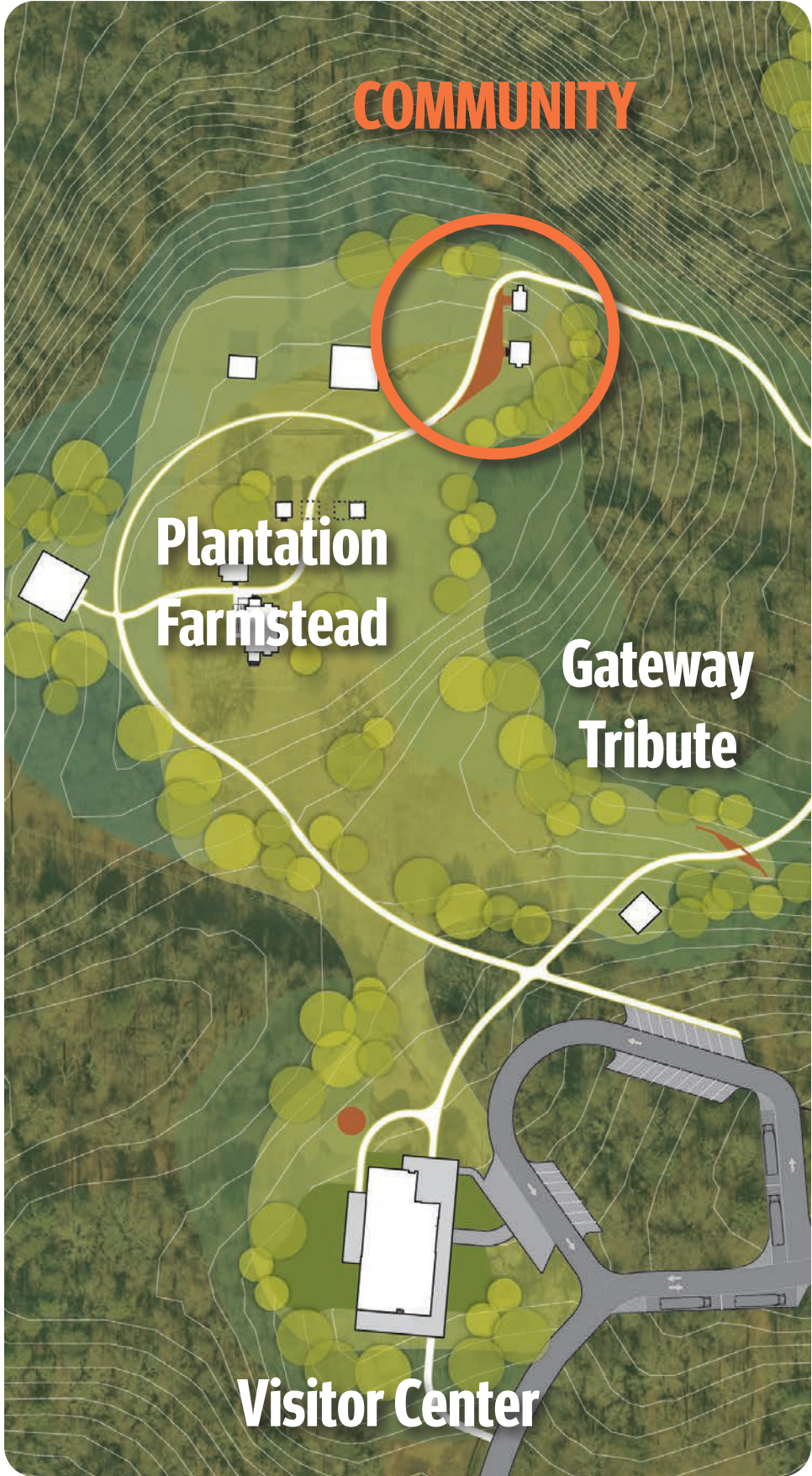
Indigenous: Lower  
Catawba River Valley  
Civilization

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

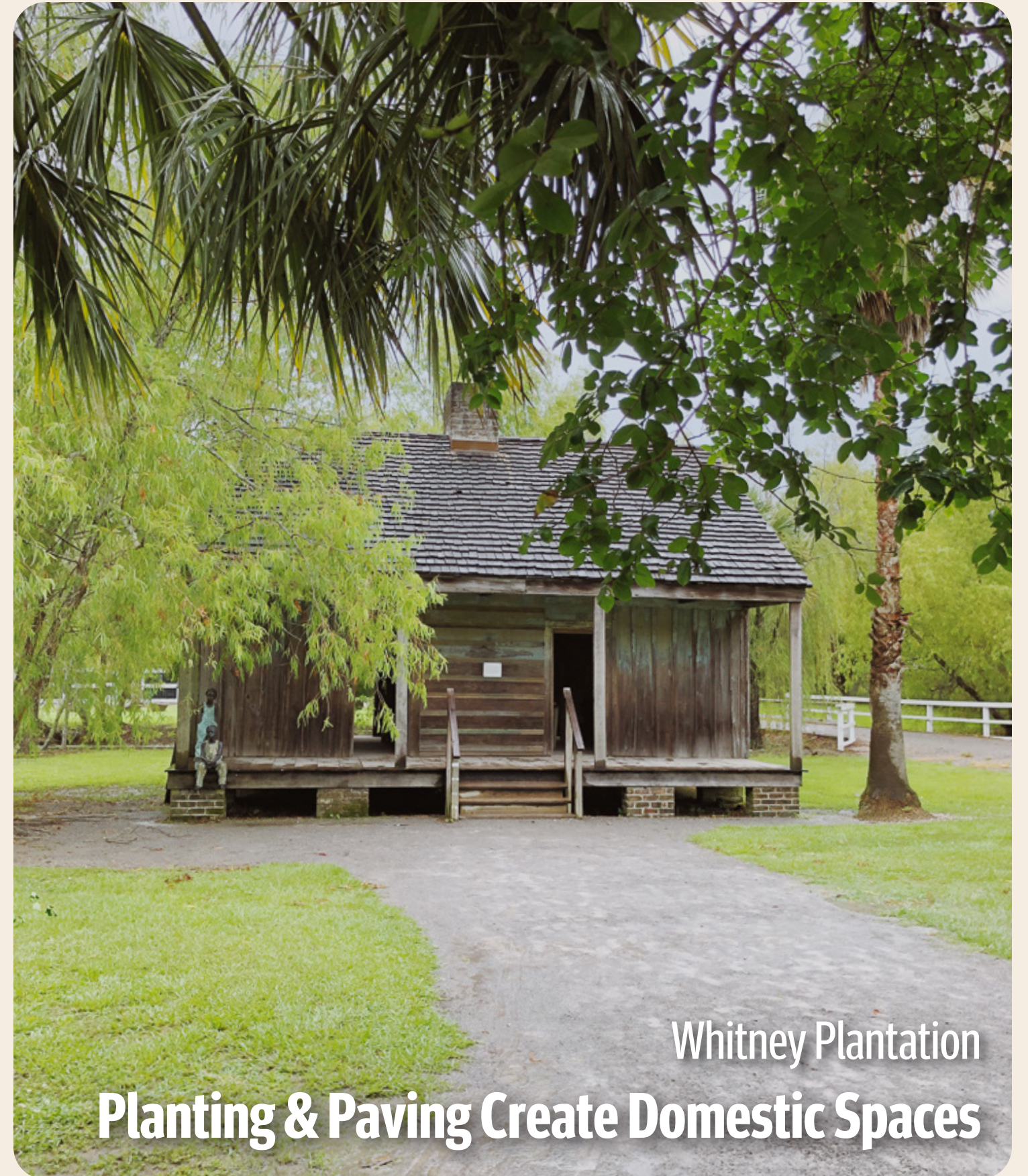




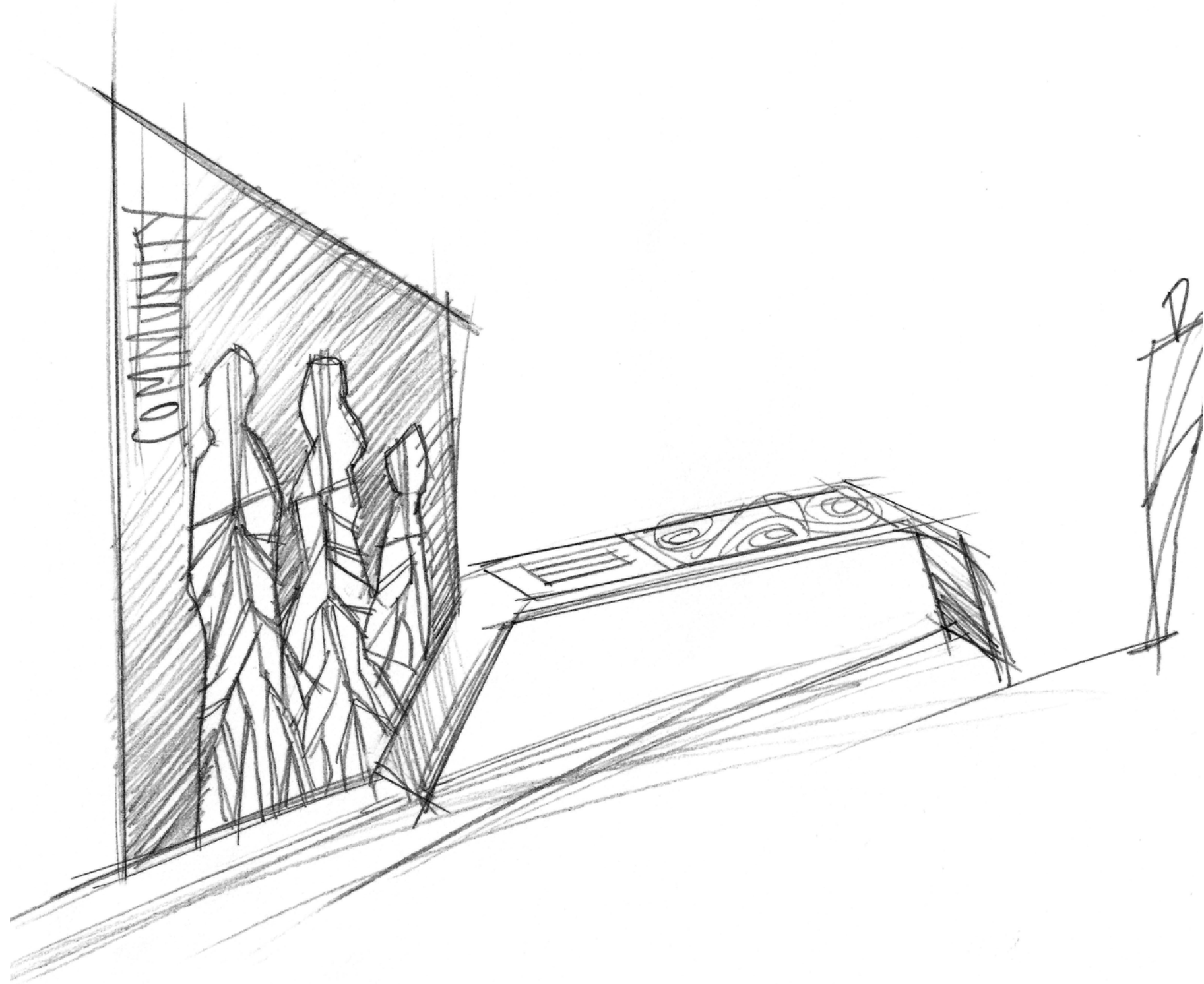
# EXISTING SITE



# DESIGN PRECEDENTS



# COMMUNITY INTERPRETATION



## INTERPRETATION THEMES

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Indigenous: Family Life & Culture

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Enslaved: Home & Family Life of the Enslaved

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# PLANTATION FARMSTEAD

Relocated Historic Barns

Replica Enslaved Peoples' Cabin

Replica Yeoman's Cabin

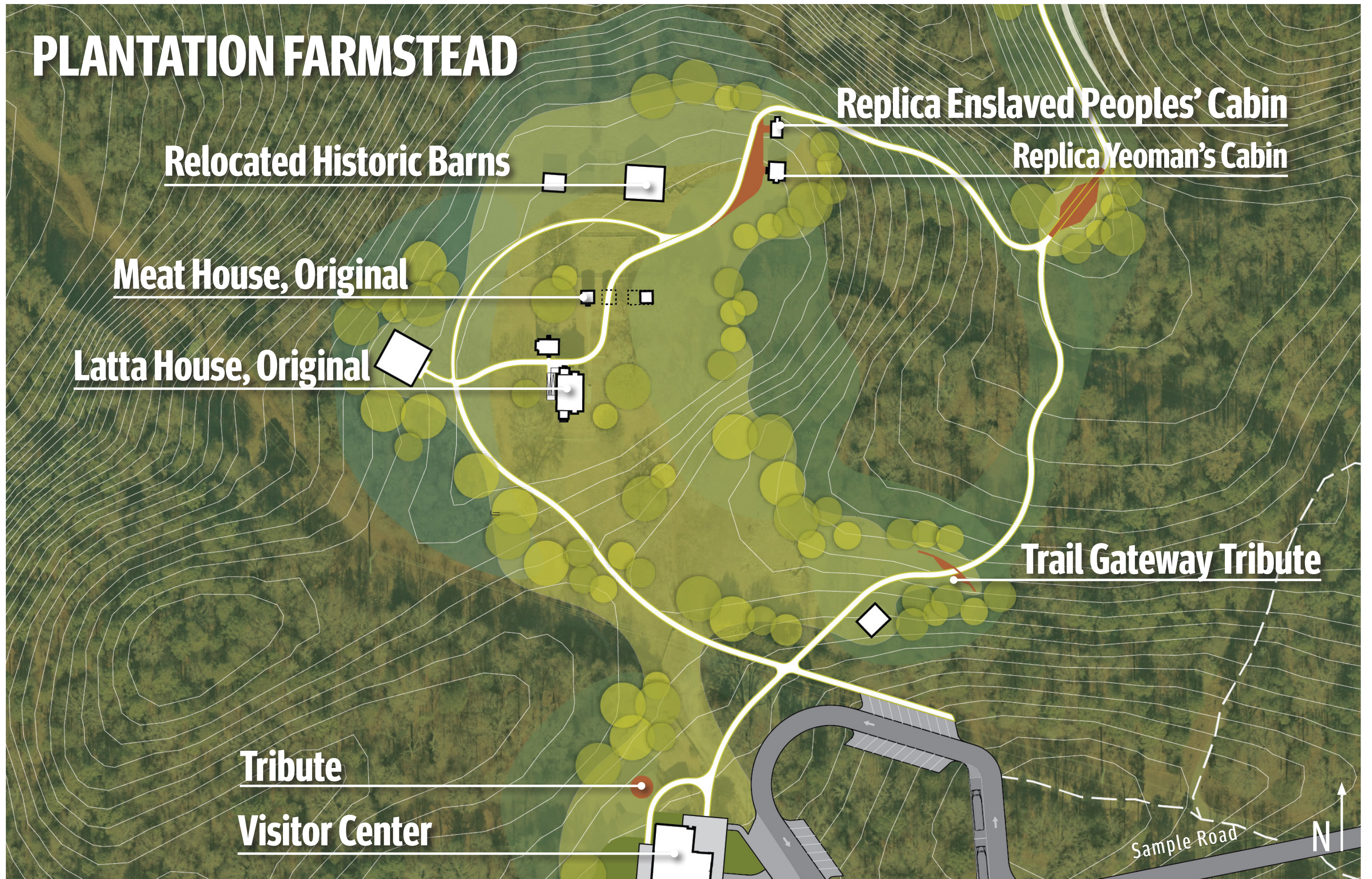
Meat House, Original

Latta House, Original

Trail Gateway Tribute

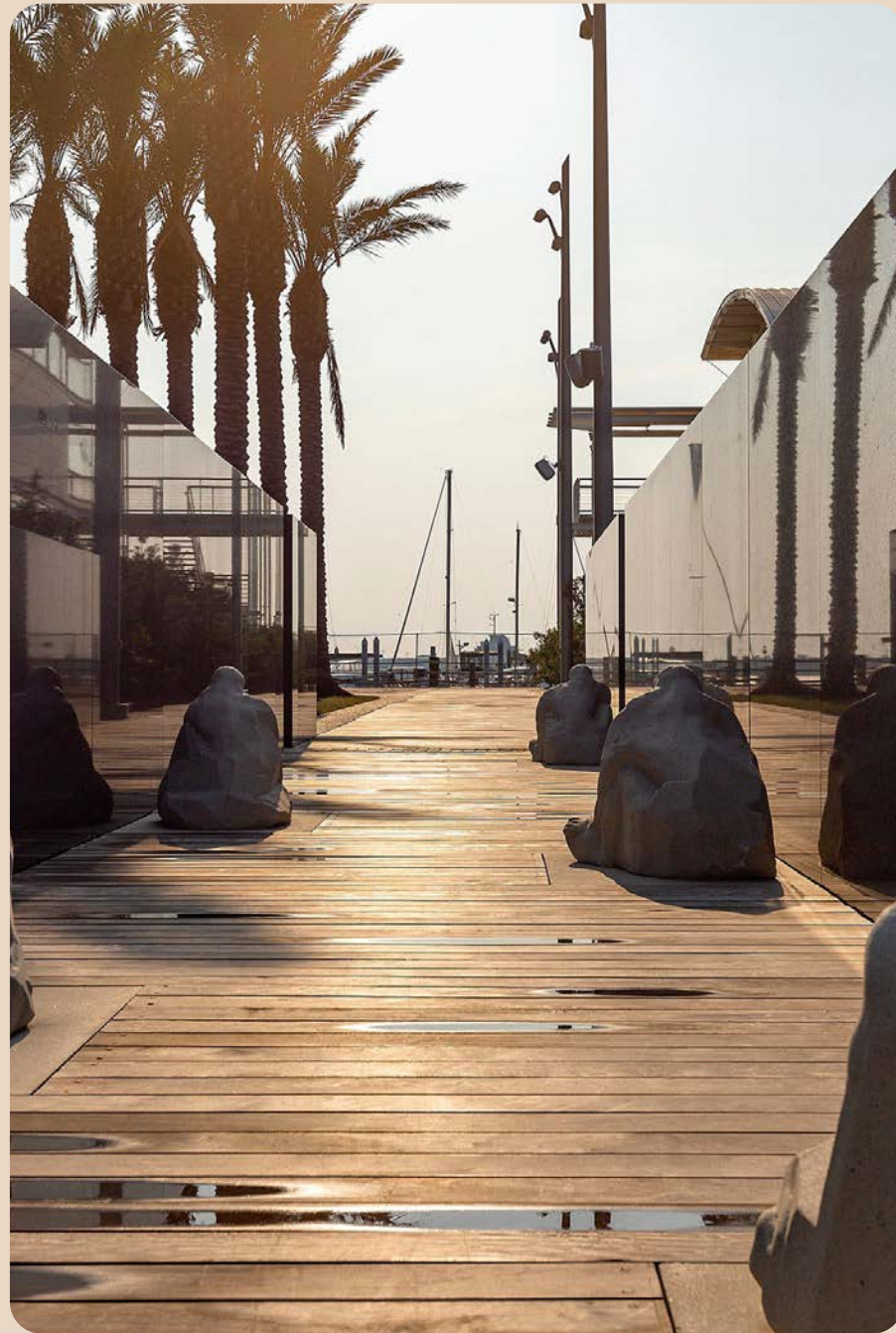
Tribute

Visitor Center



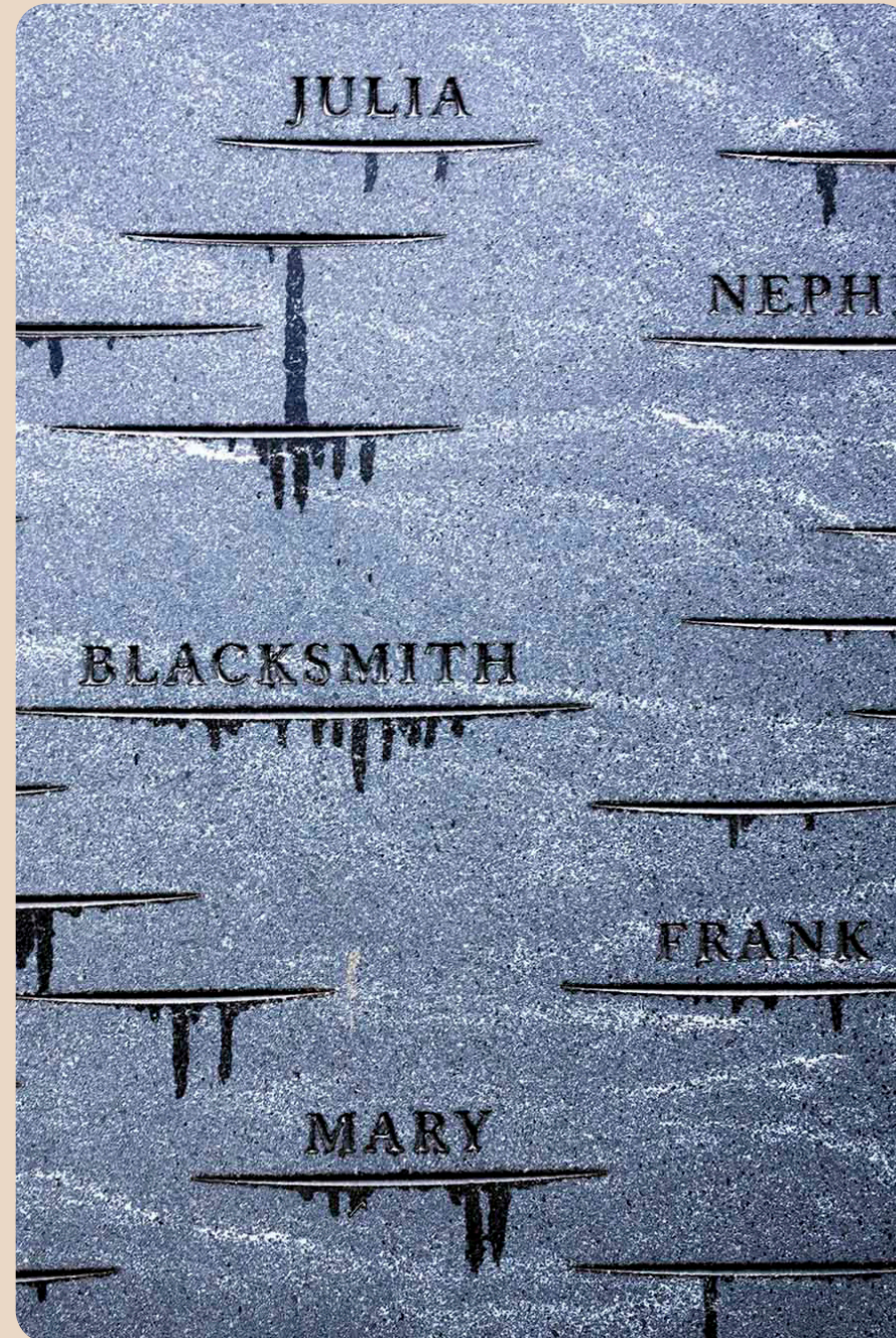
# A Tribute to the Enslaved at Latta Place

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

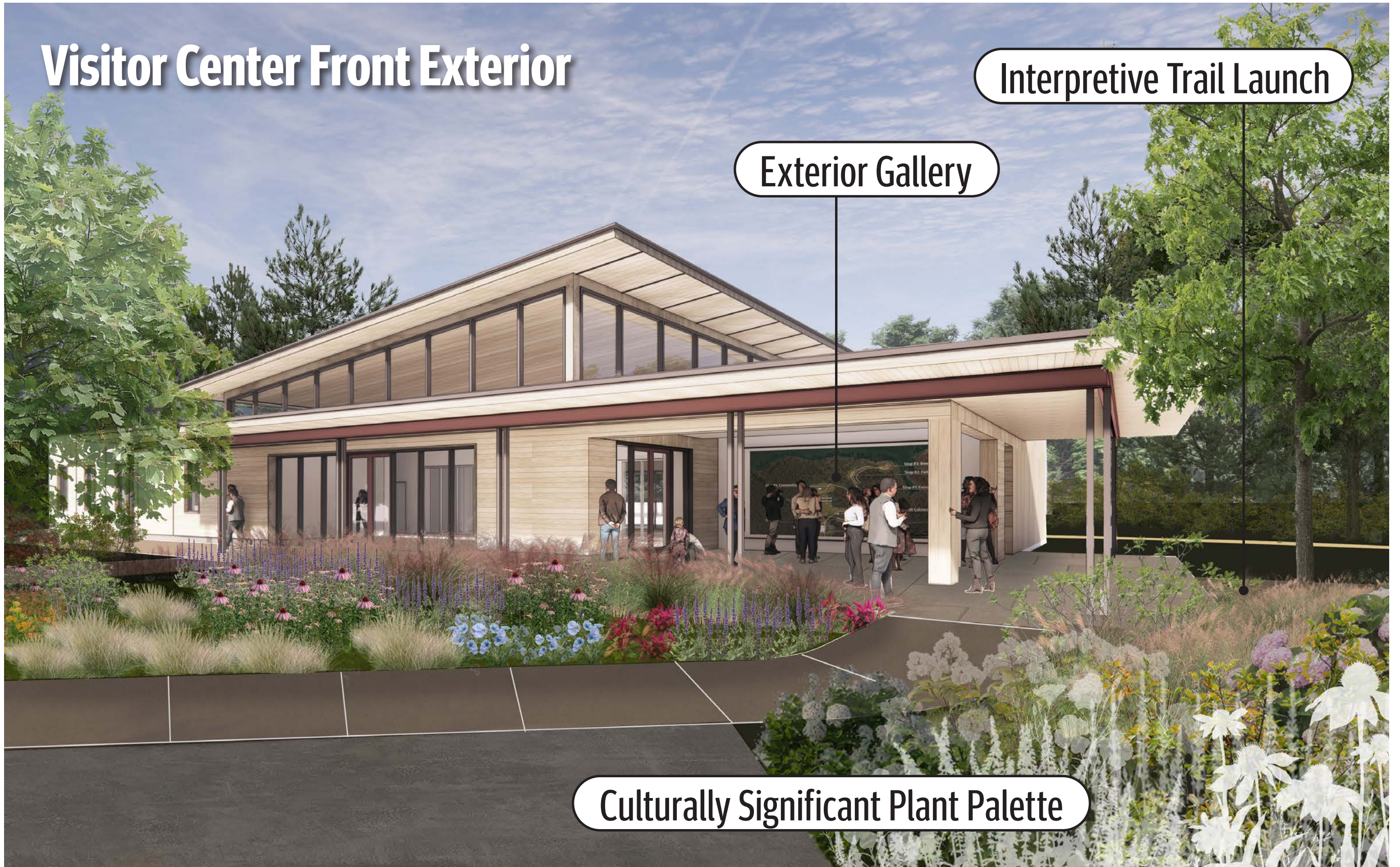
# **Design: Visitor Center**

# 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





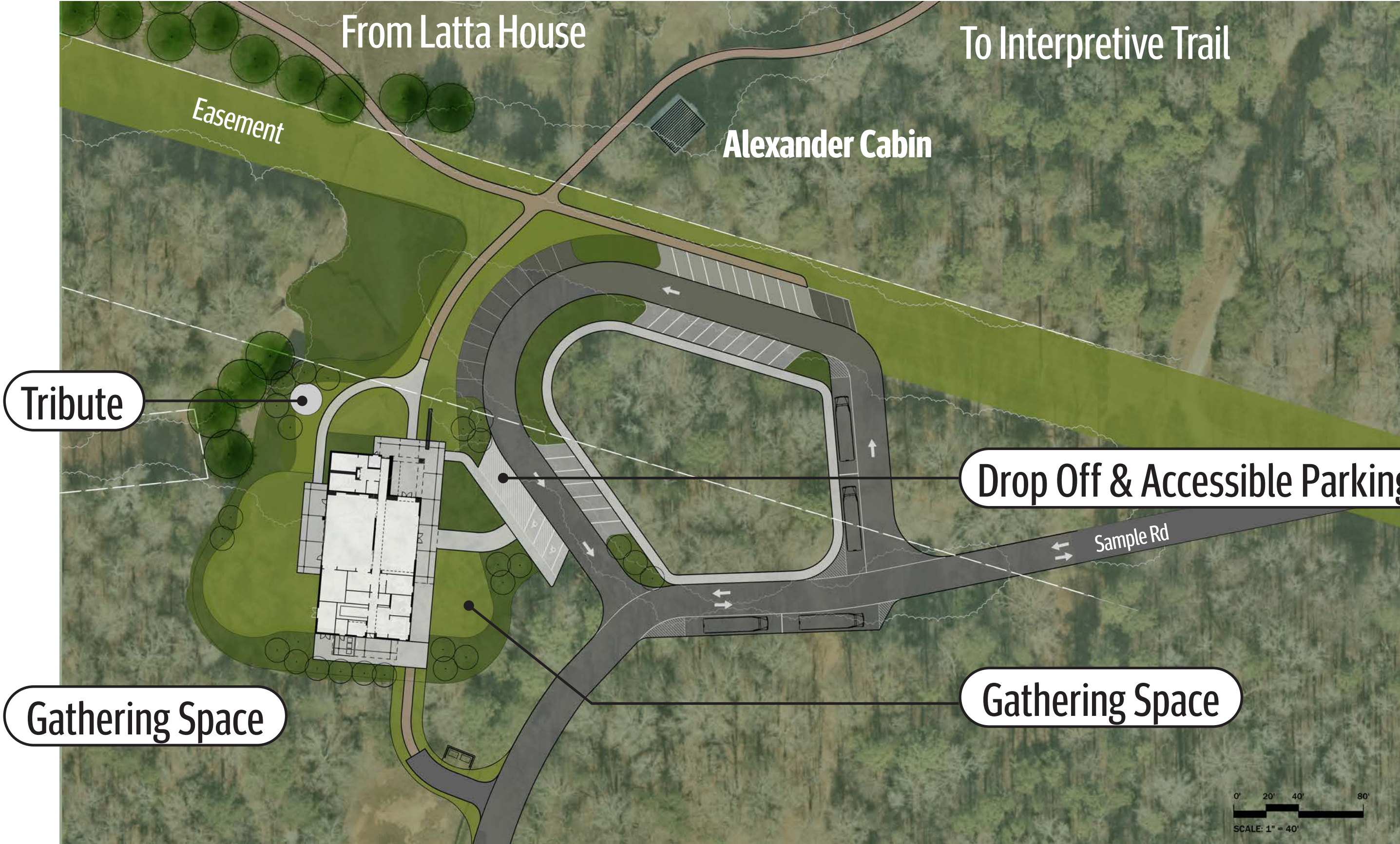
# Visitor Center Community Room

Porch & Gathering Space

Multipurpose Space for Events, Lectures, etc.



# Visitor Center Site Plan



# Anticipated Timeline

Jan 2025

Jul 2025

Jan 2026

Jul 2026

**Design**

**Construction Documents, Permitting & Approvals**

Present - Late 2025

**Construction**

Late 2025 - 2026

# Latta Place

River

Field

Community

Forest

Plantation Farmstead

Latta House

Gateway Tribute

Tribute

Visitor Center

Sample Road

