

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





Mountain Island Lake

Relocated Historic Barn

Relocated Historic Barn

• Replica Enslaved People's Cabin

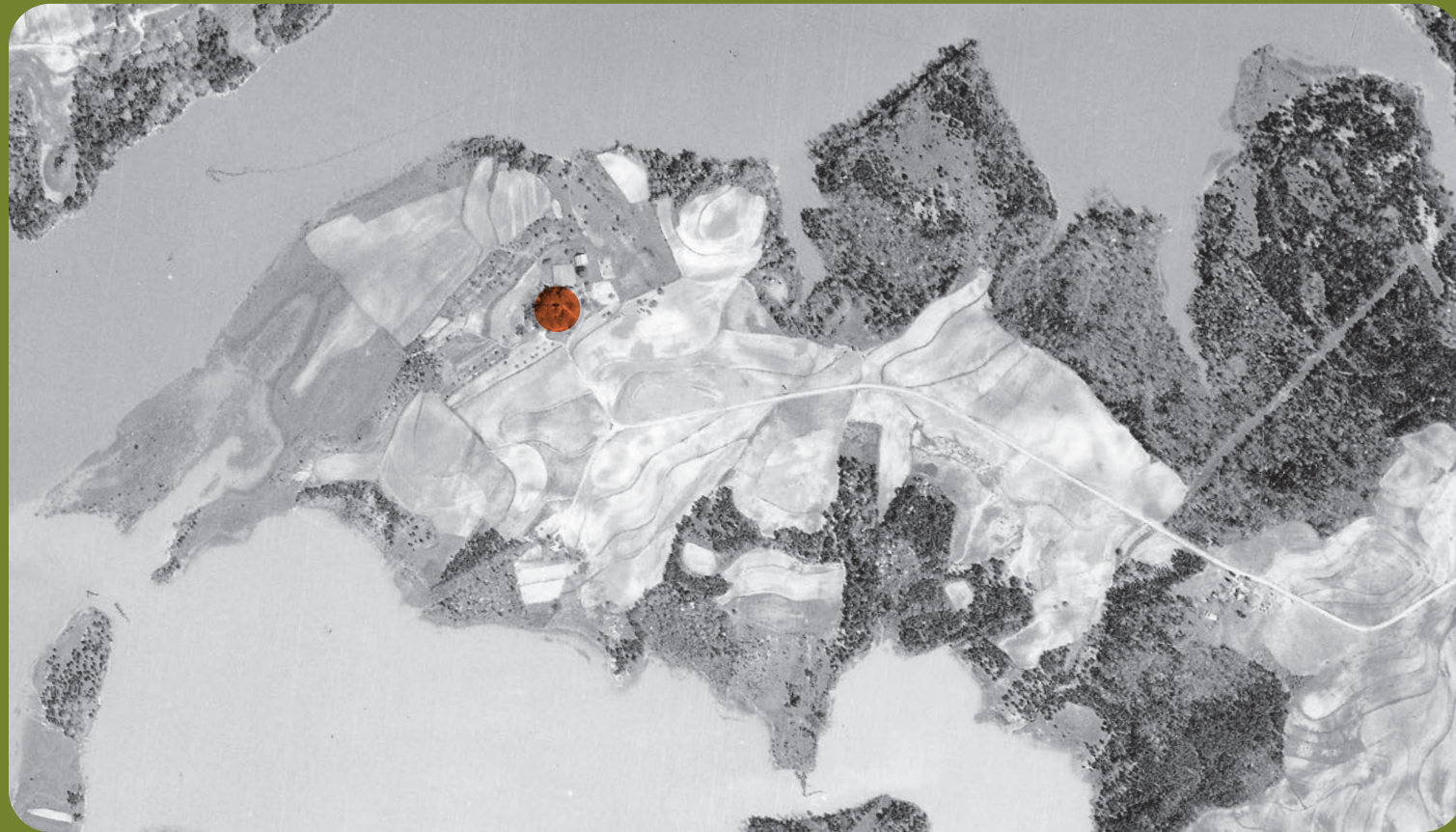
**• Original
Meat House**

• Replica Kitchen House

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

Original Latta House
Built 1800

Latta House



1938



1978



1700

1800

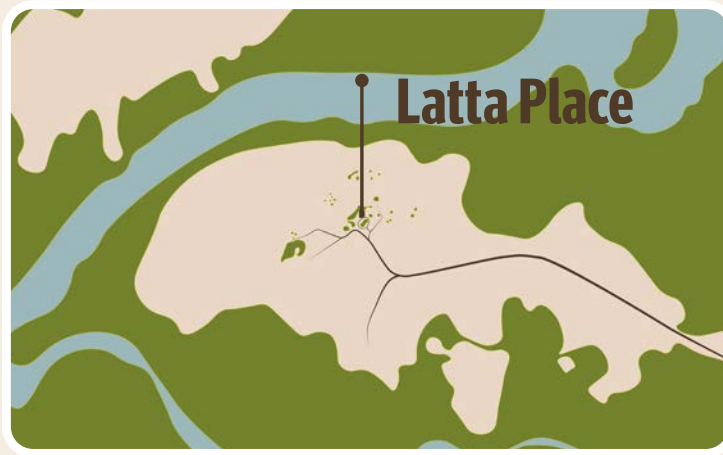
1900

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

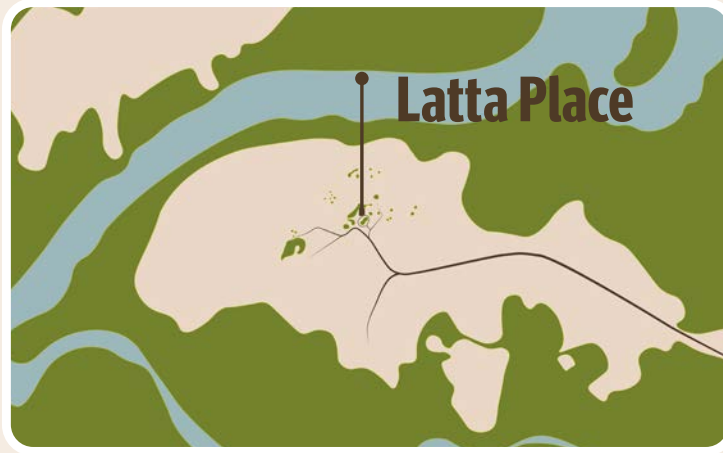
1850 39% of Mecklenburg County is enslaved

1863 Emancipation Proclamation

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





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.



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

"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."

"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"

There is strong support for an interpretive trail at Latta Place

"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.**"

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

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



Design Process & Research



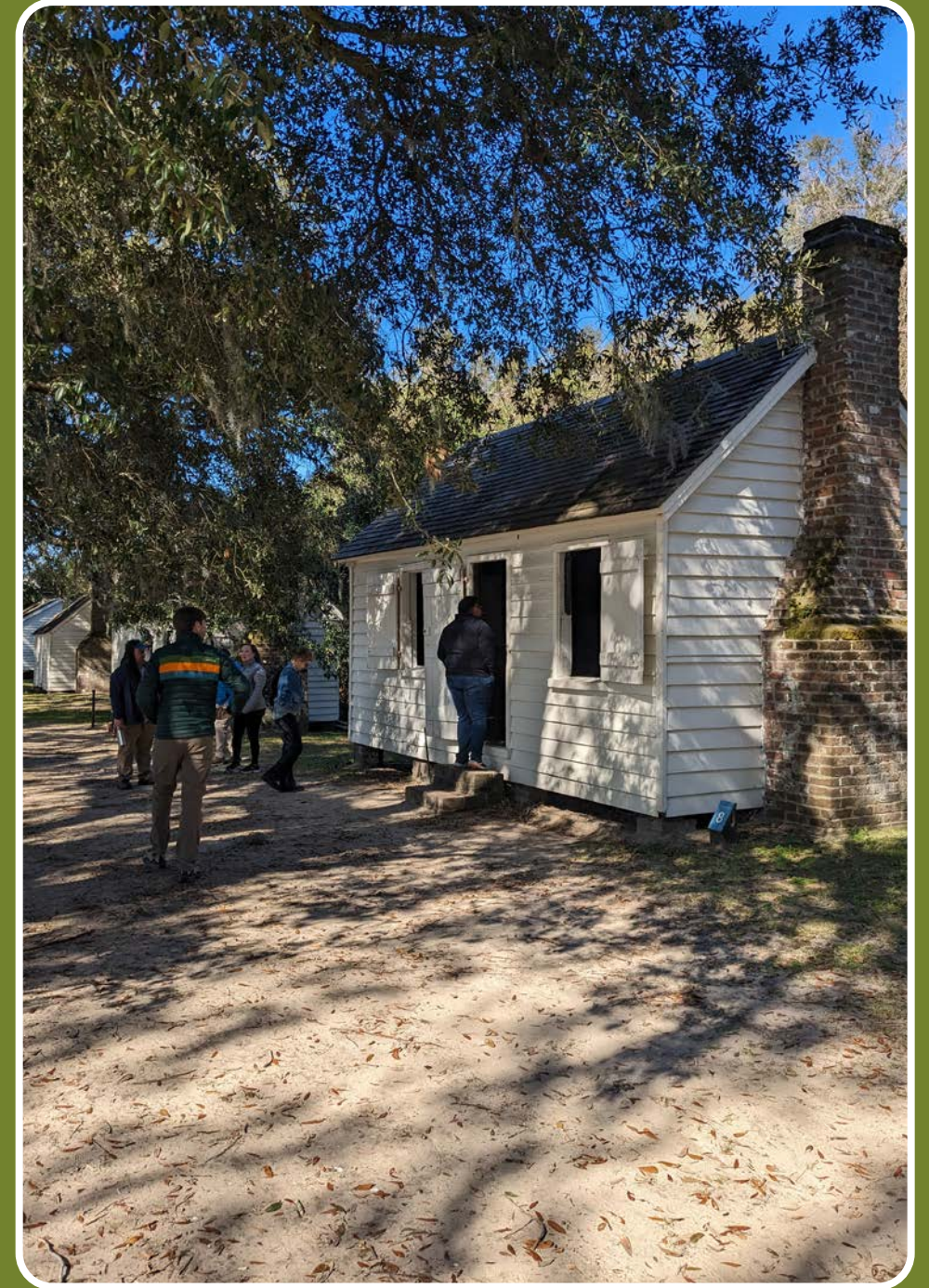
Understanding the Context



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

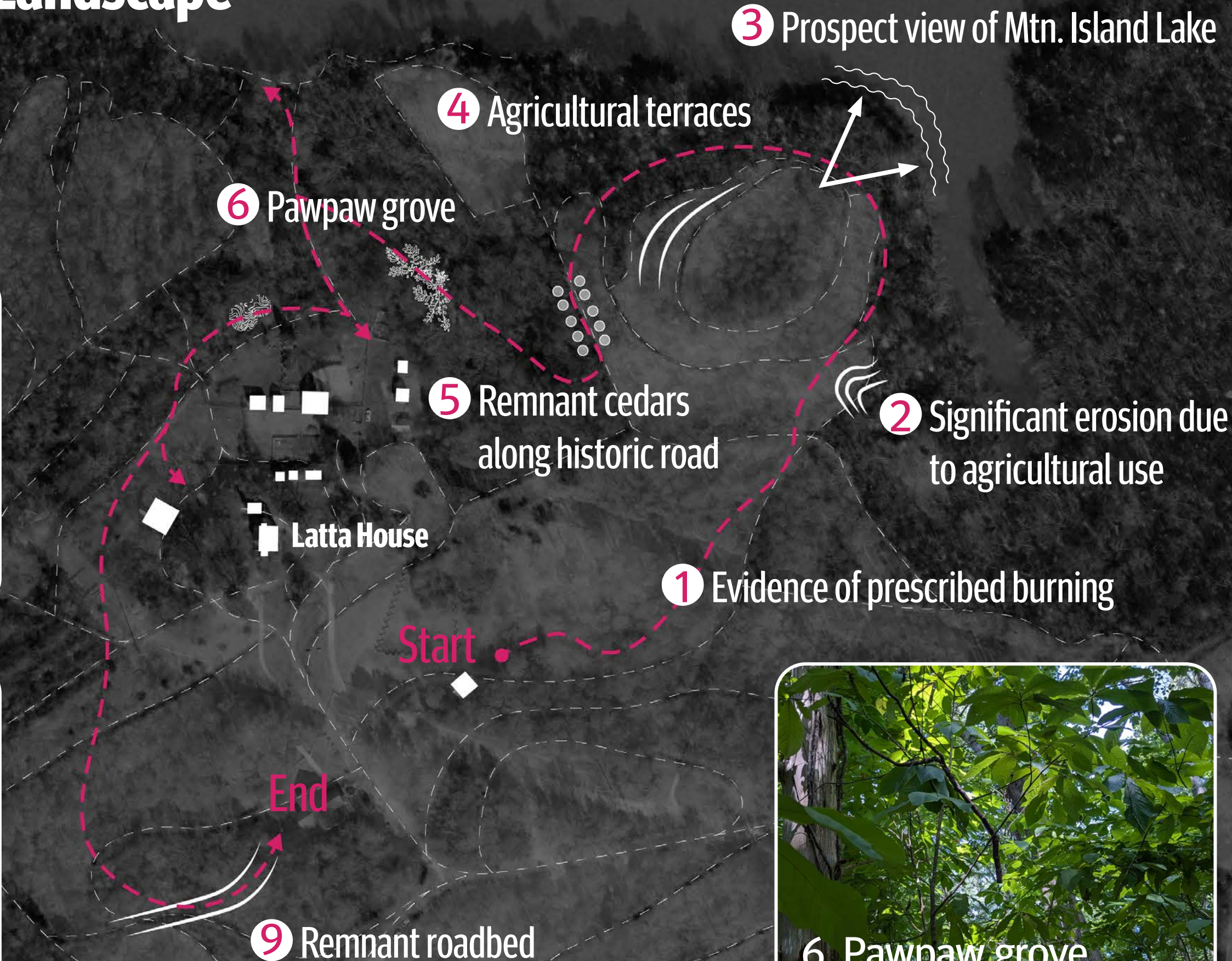
Initial Draft Submission



September 4, 2024

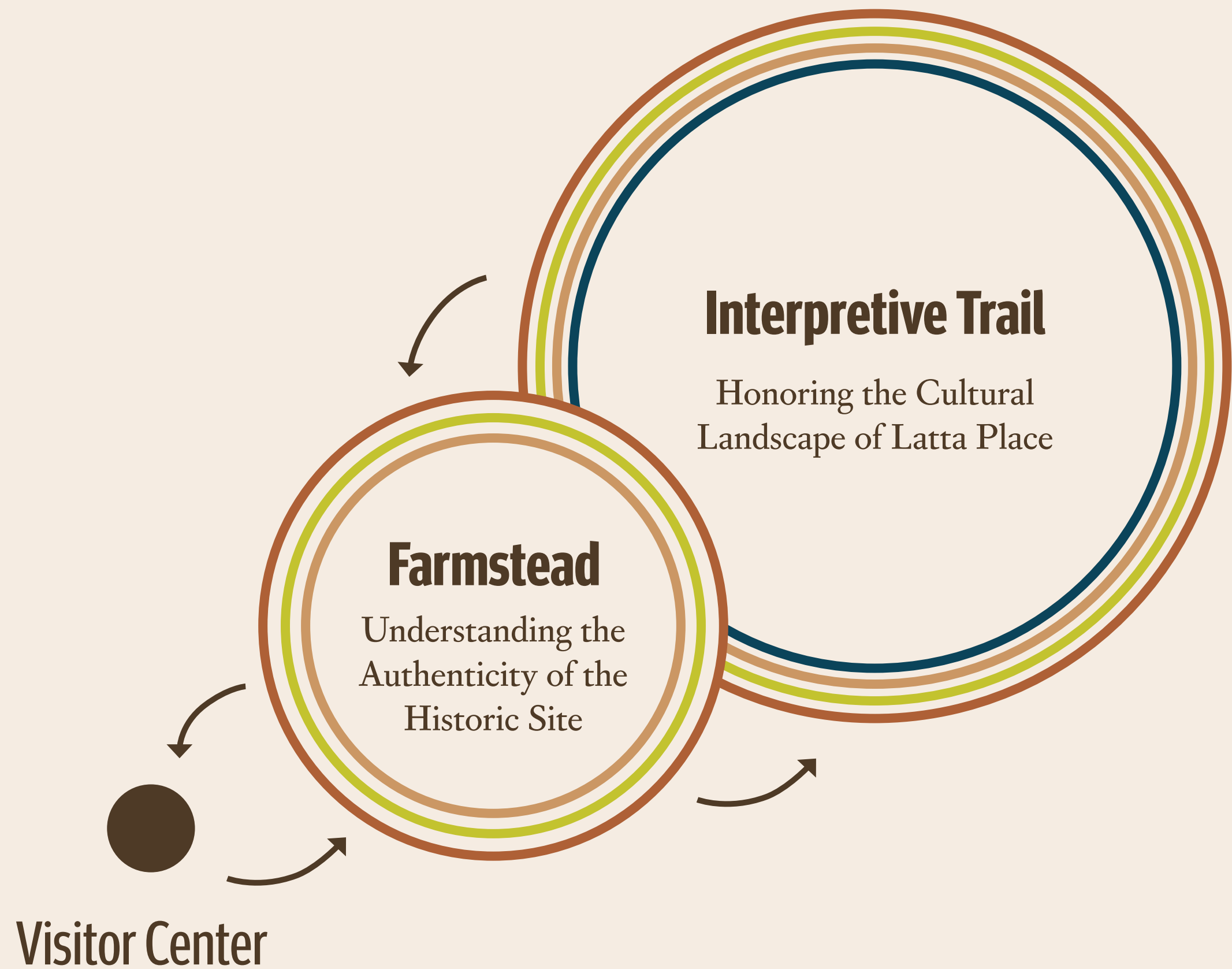
Understanding the Landscape

Site Walks



Design

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



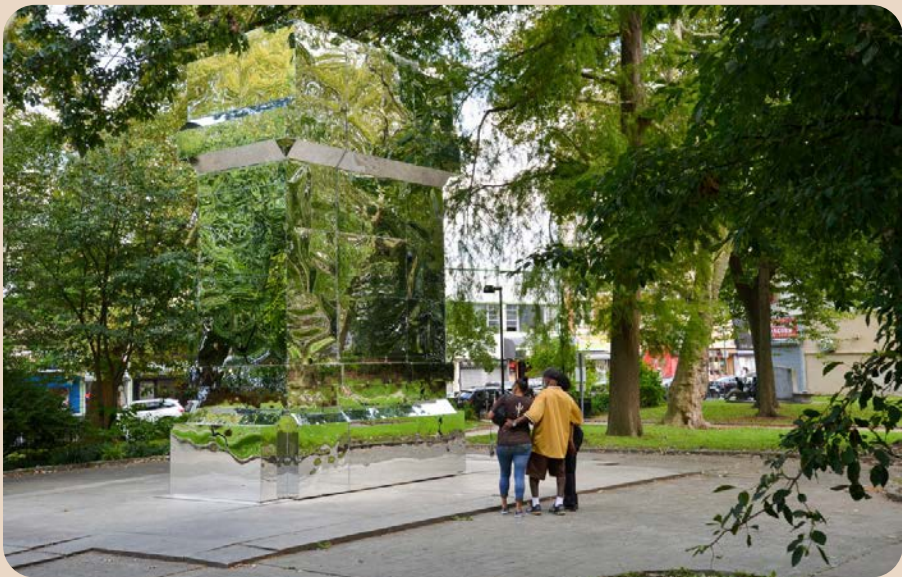
All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society

Engage the Nature Preserve



Confluence Project, Maya Lin

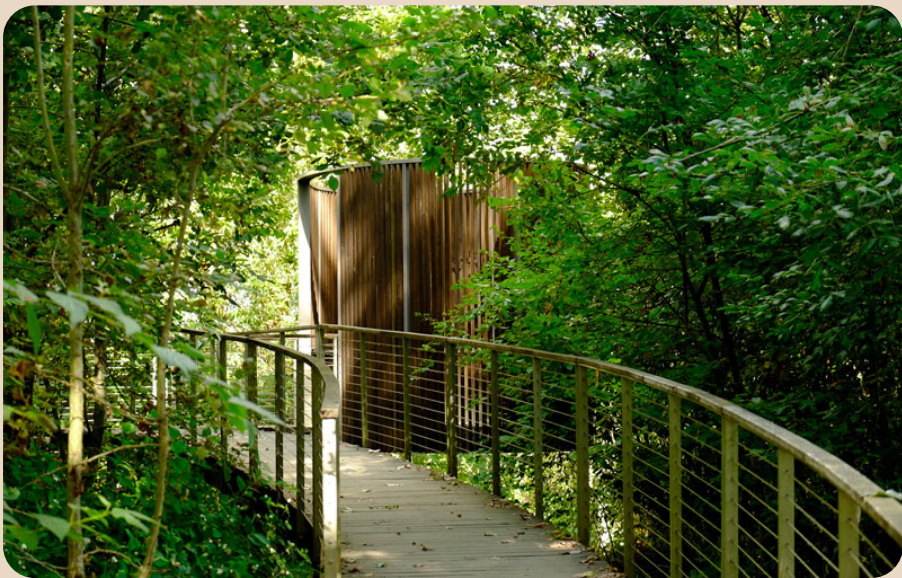
Reposition the Cultural Narrative
of Memorials & Monuments



“The Battles Is Joined” by Karyn Olivier



All Persons Trail, Mass Audubon Society

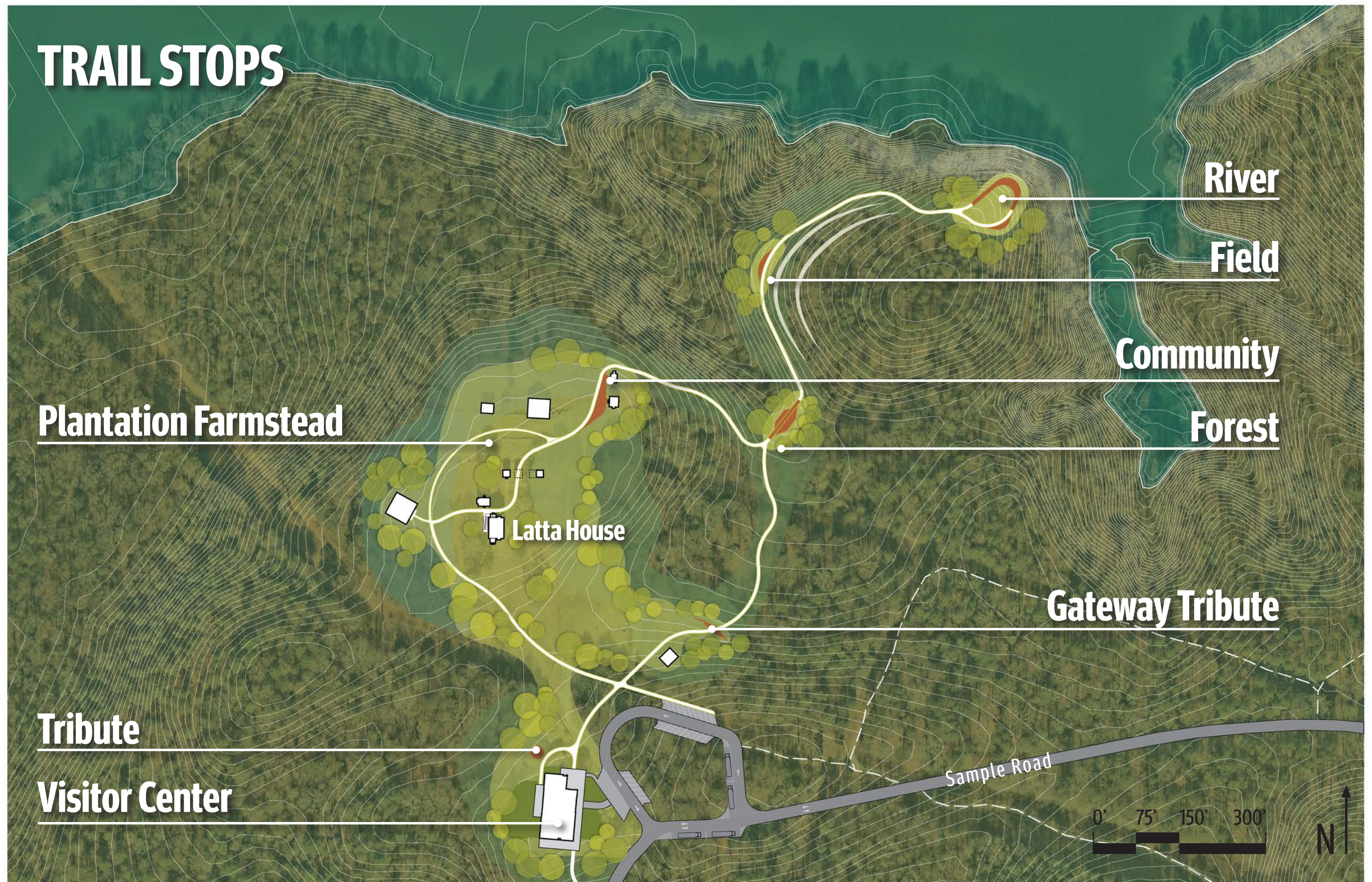


Confluence Project, Maya Lin

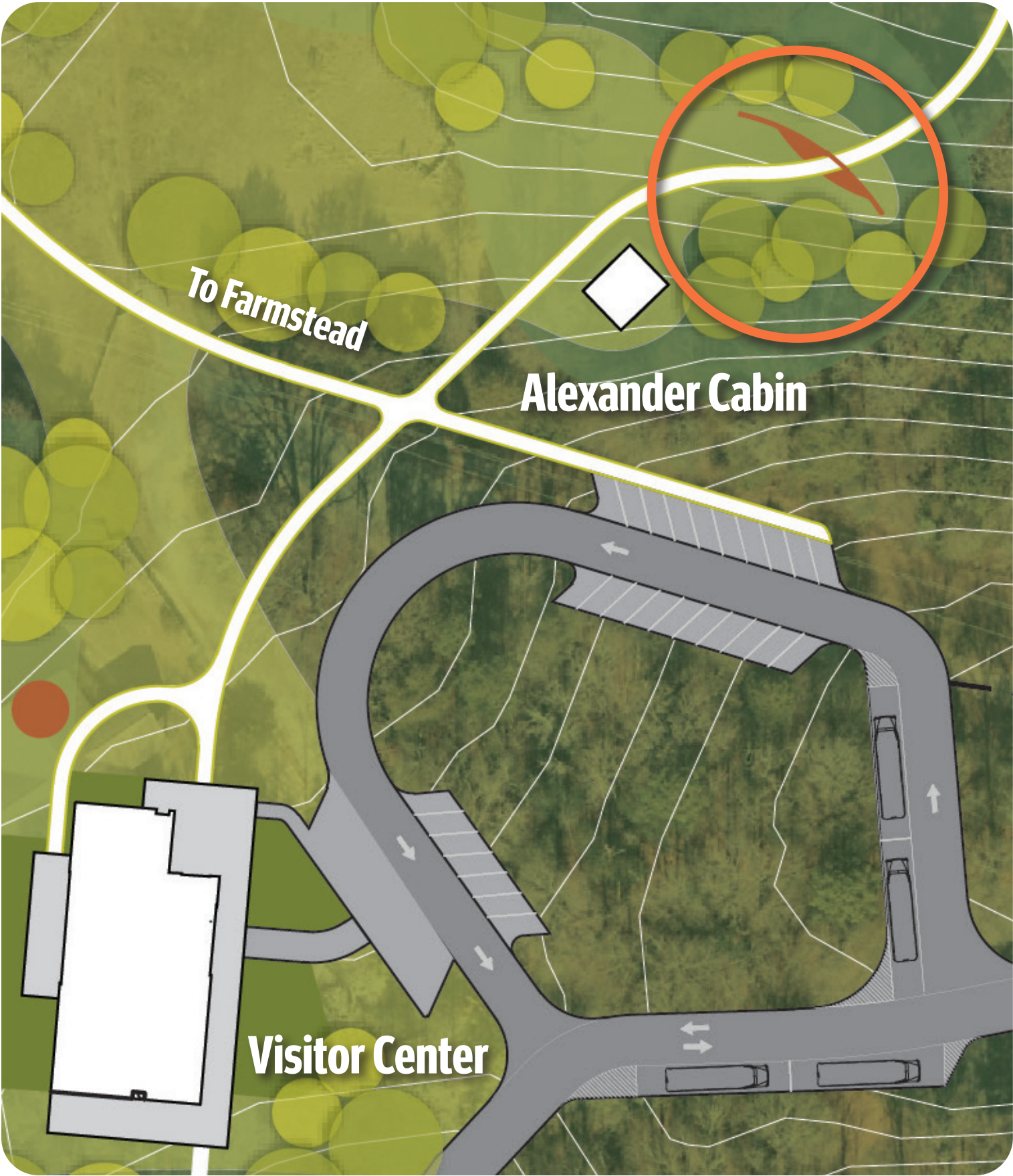


“If They Should Ask” by Sharon Hayes

TRAIL STOPS



TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE SITE



Existing Clearing Near Alexander Cabin

TRAIL GATEWAY TRIBUTE

Granite Walls

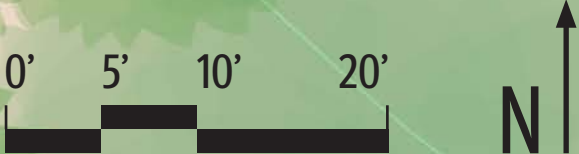
Fruit Trees

Relocated Granite Gate

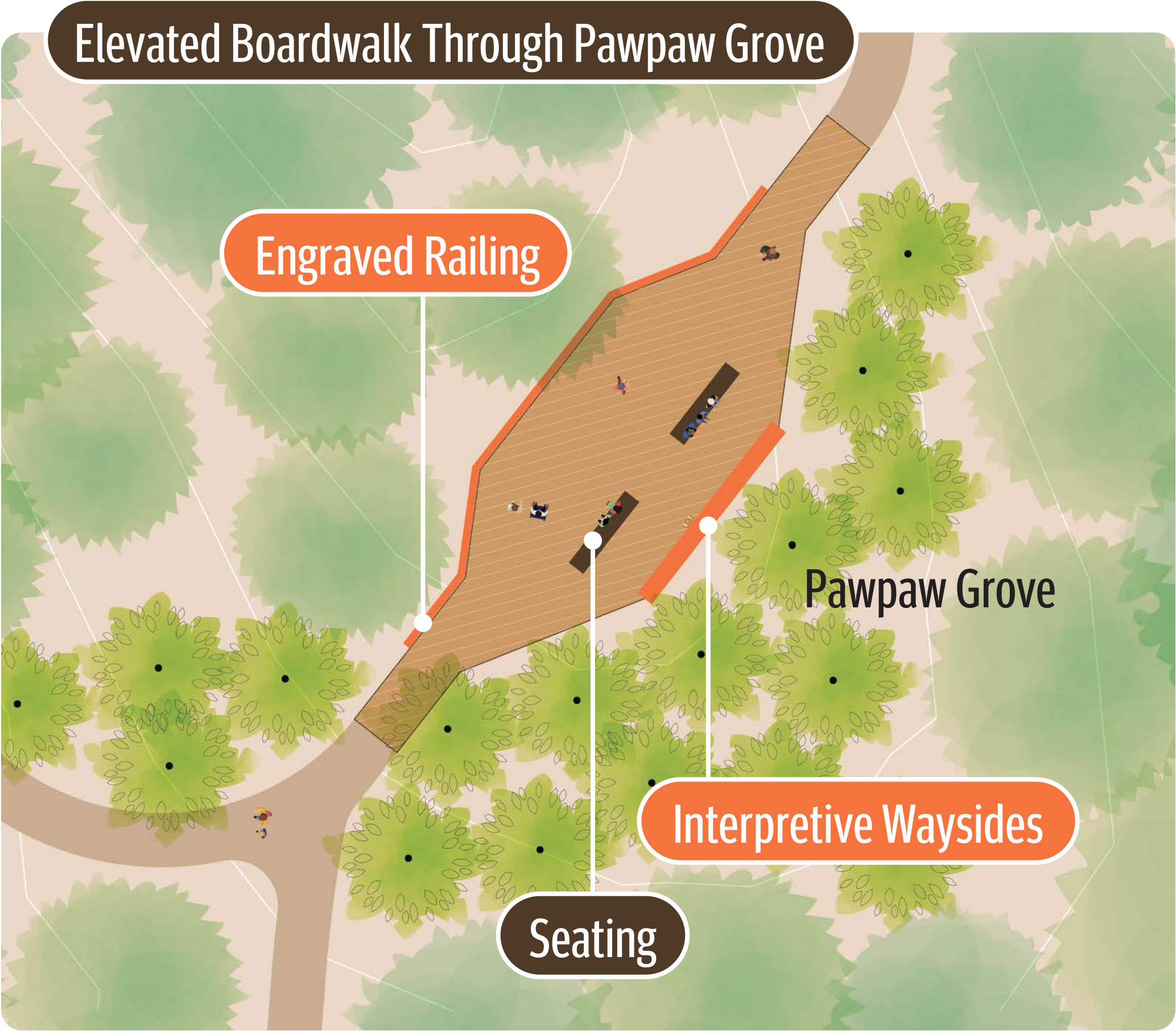
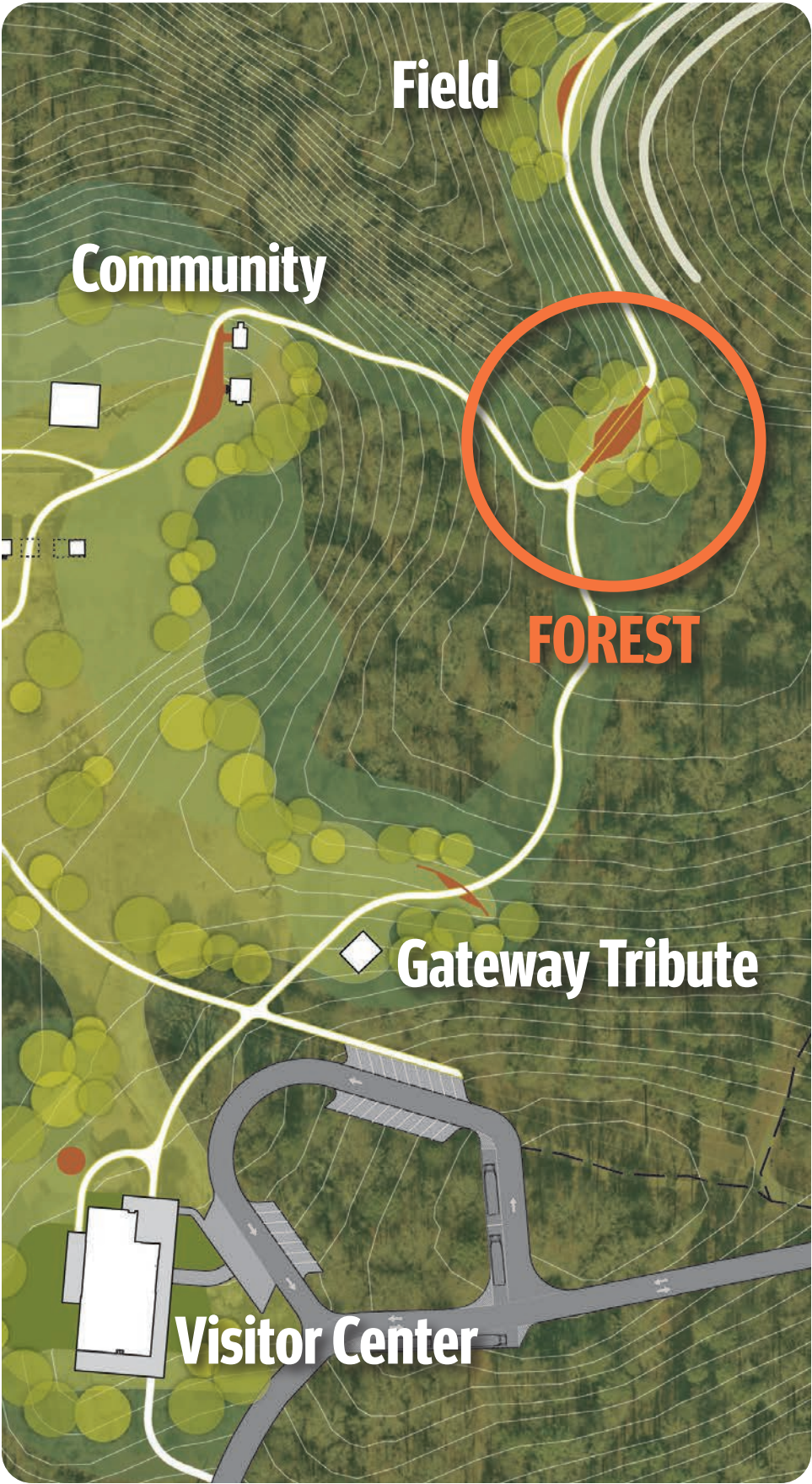
Path from Visitor Center

Alexander Cabin

Start of Interpretive Trail



FOREST TRAIL STOP



EXISTING SITE



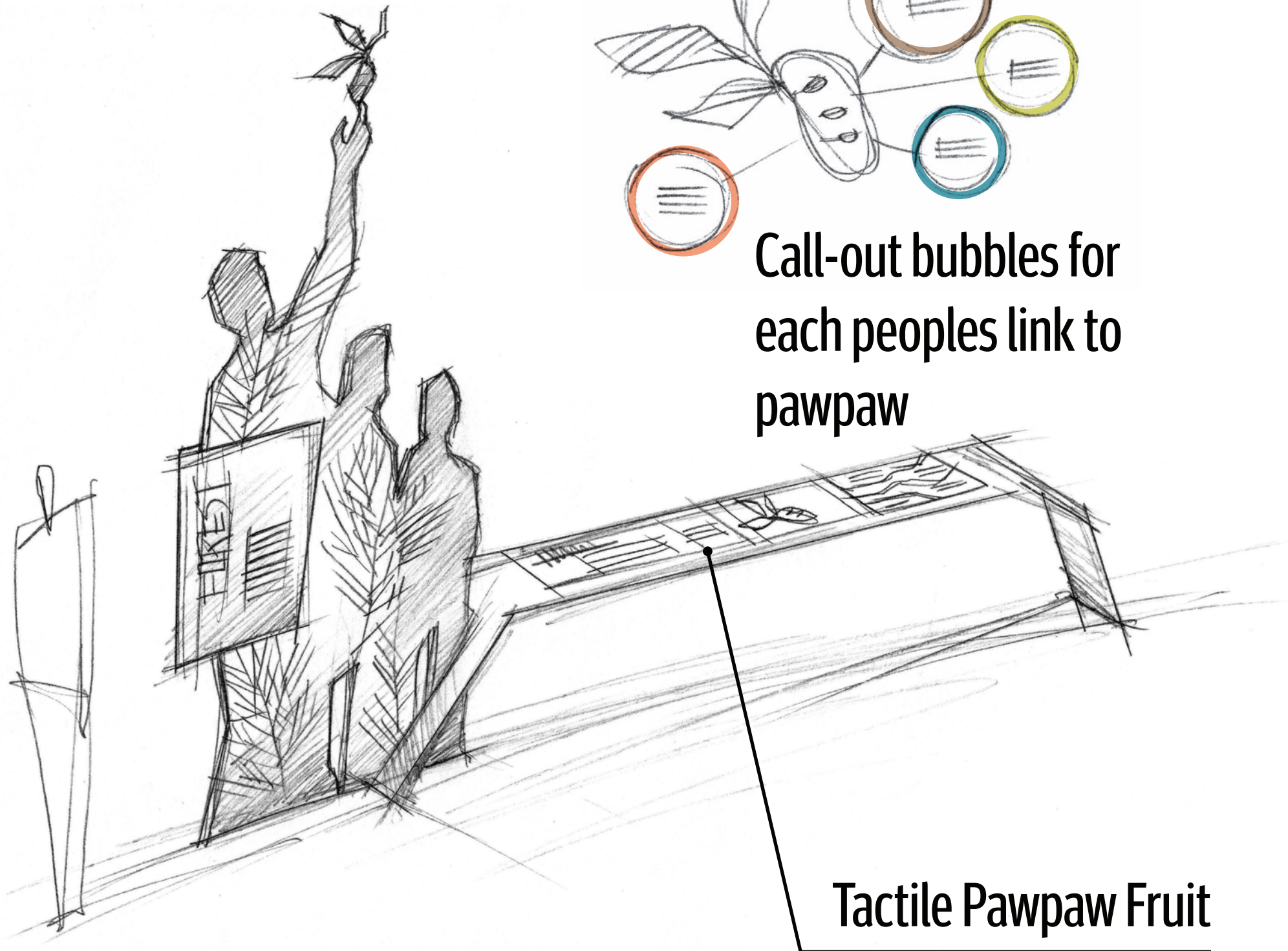
DESIGN PRECEDENTS



FOREST INTERPRETATION



Call-out bubbles for
each peoples link to
pawpaw



Tactile Pawpaw Fruit

INTERPRETATION THEMES

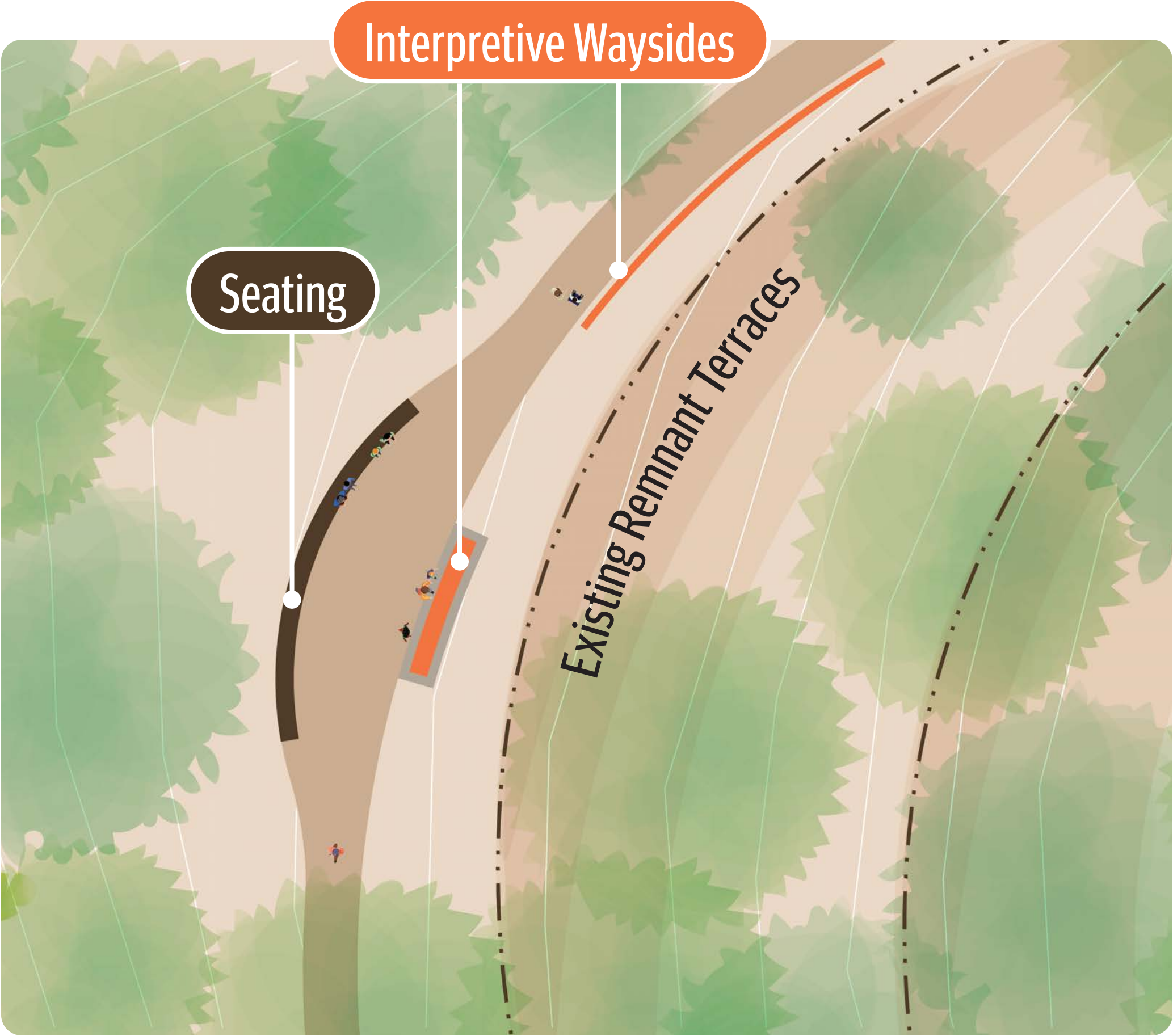
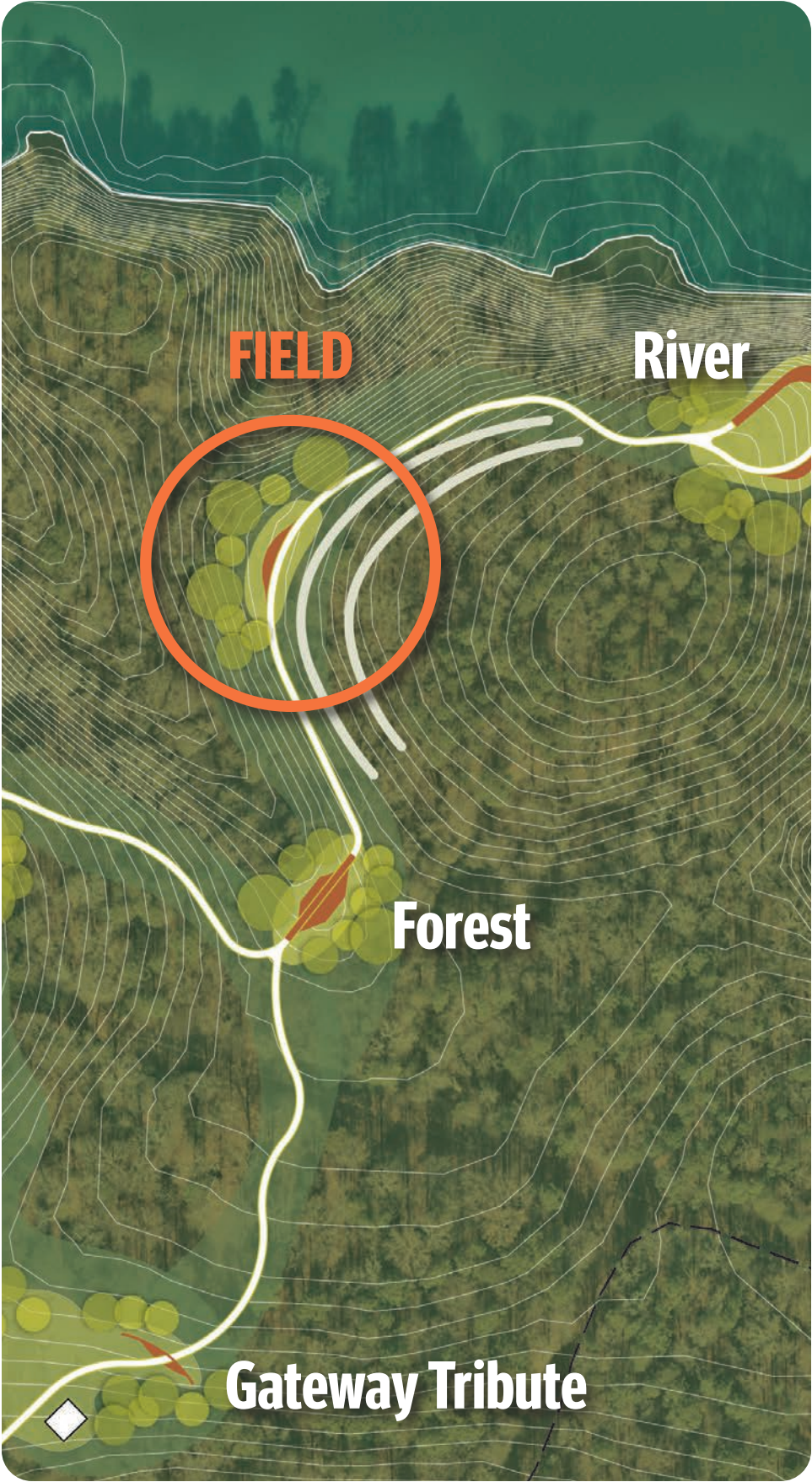
Indigenous: Ethnobotany
& forest stewardship

Settlers: Clear-cutting
forest for plantation
landscape

Enslaved: Relationship of
the enslaved to the forest

Stewards: Latta Nature
Preserve & secondary
forest

FIELD TRAIL STOP



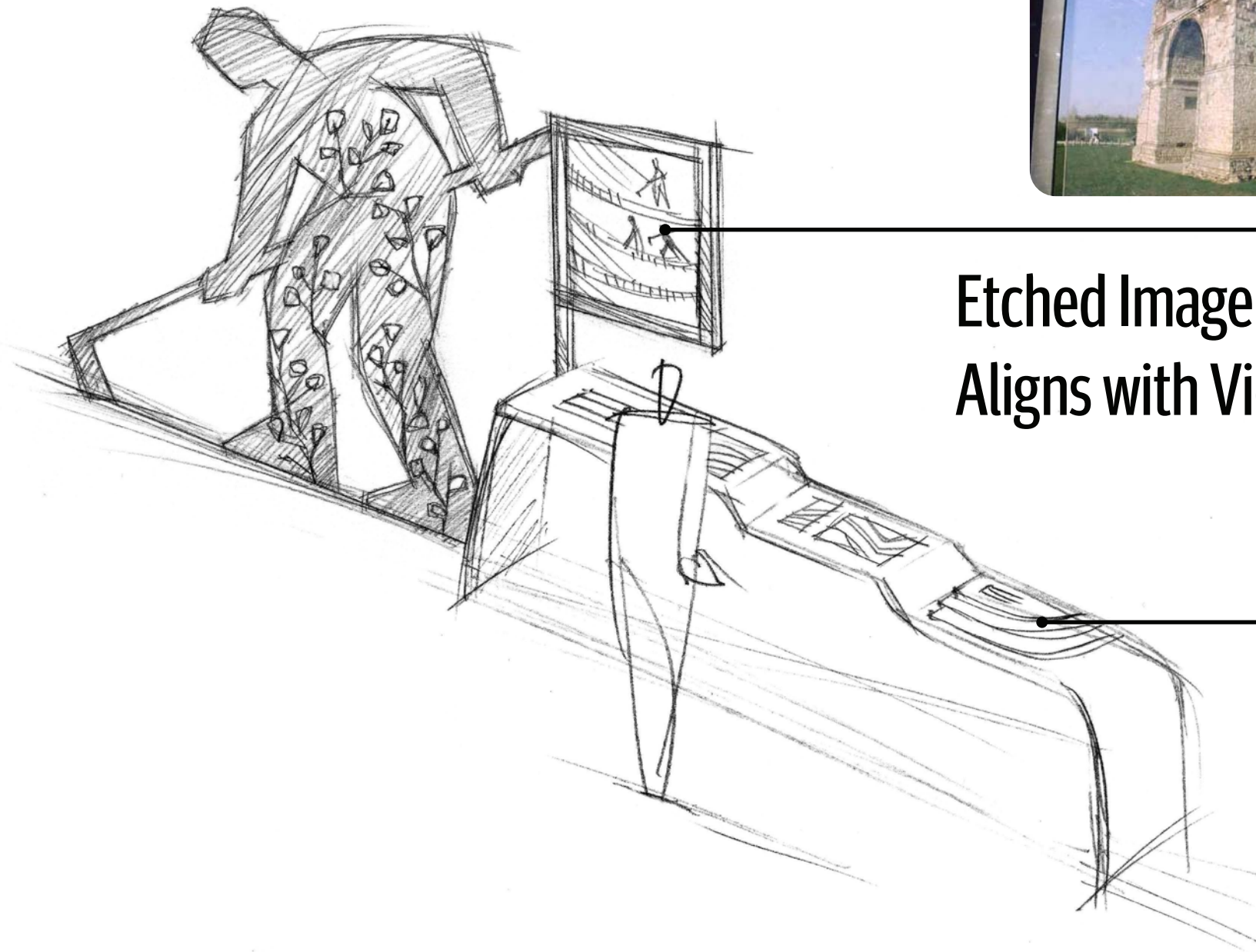
EXISTING SITE



DESIGN PRECEDENTS

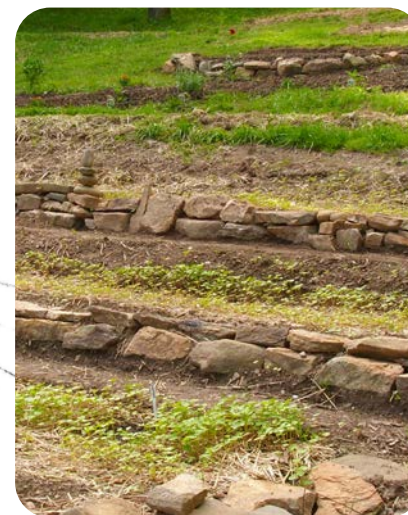


FIELD INTERPRETATION



Etched Image on Glass
Aligns with View of Terraces

Tactile Terrace



INTERPRETATION THEMES

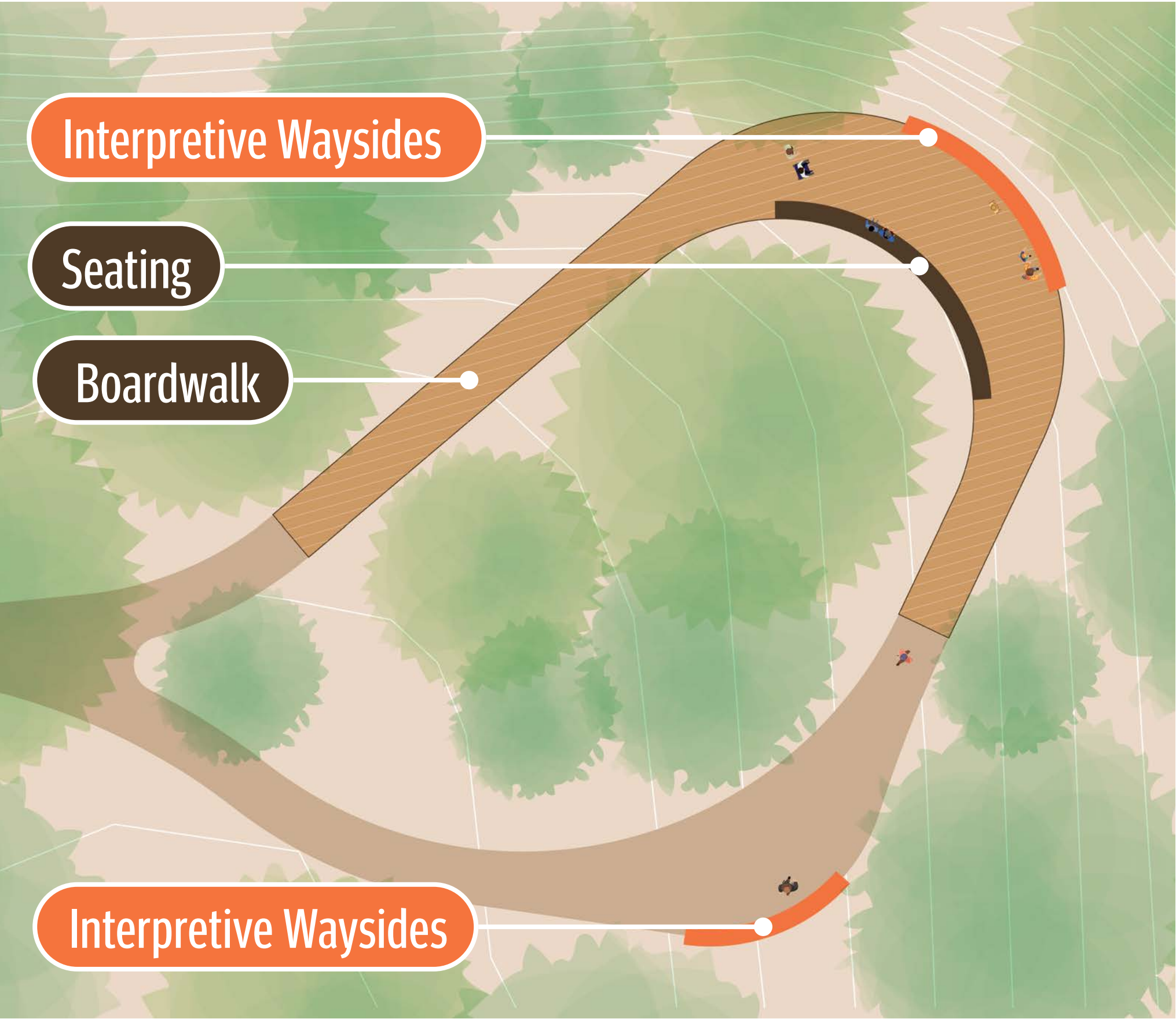
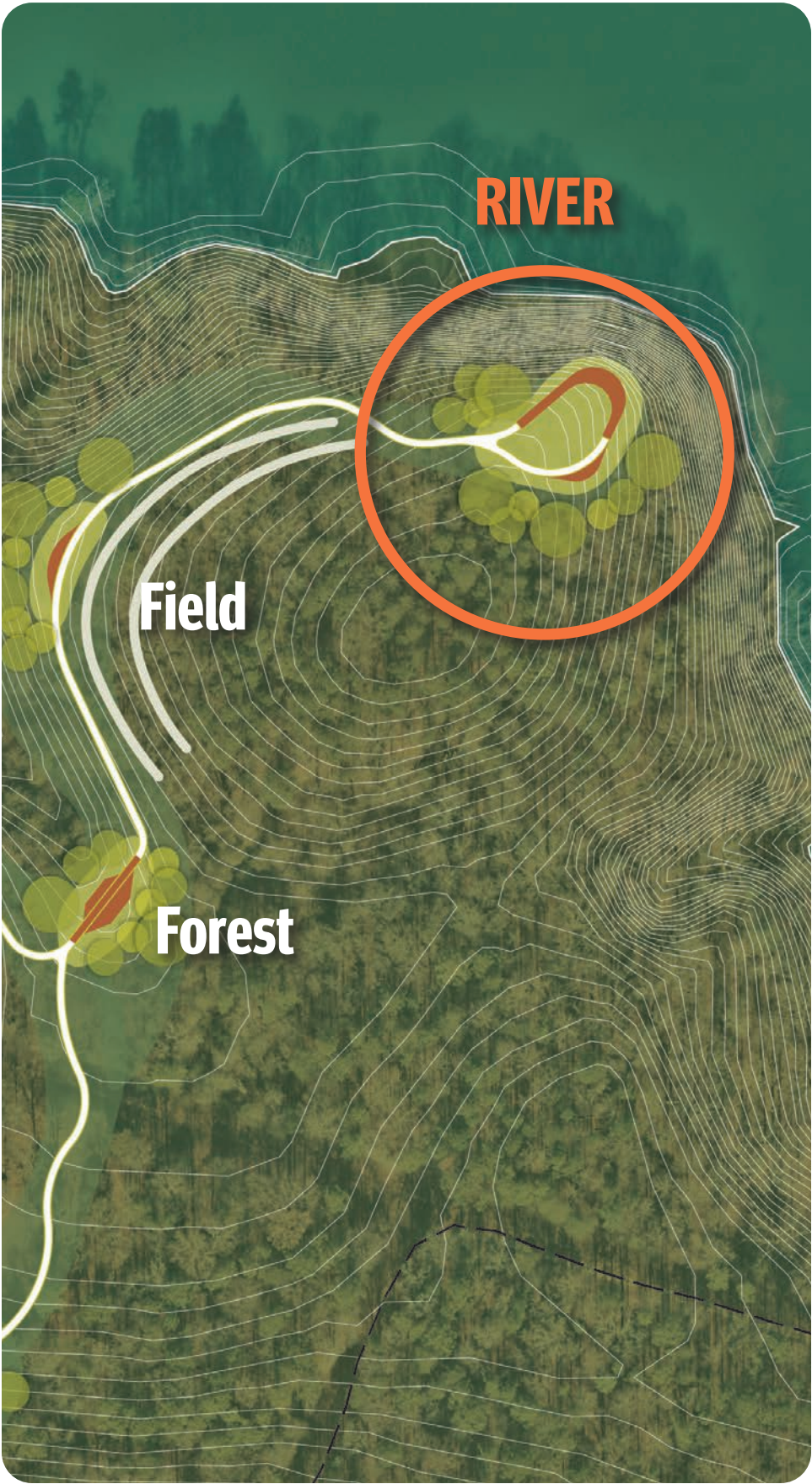
Indigenous: Agricultural
Practices

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

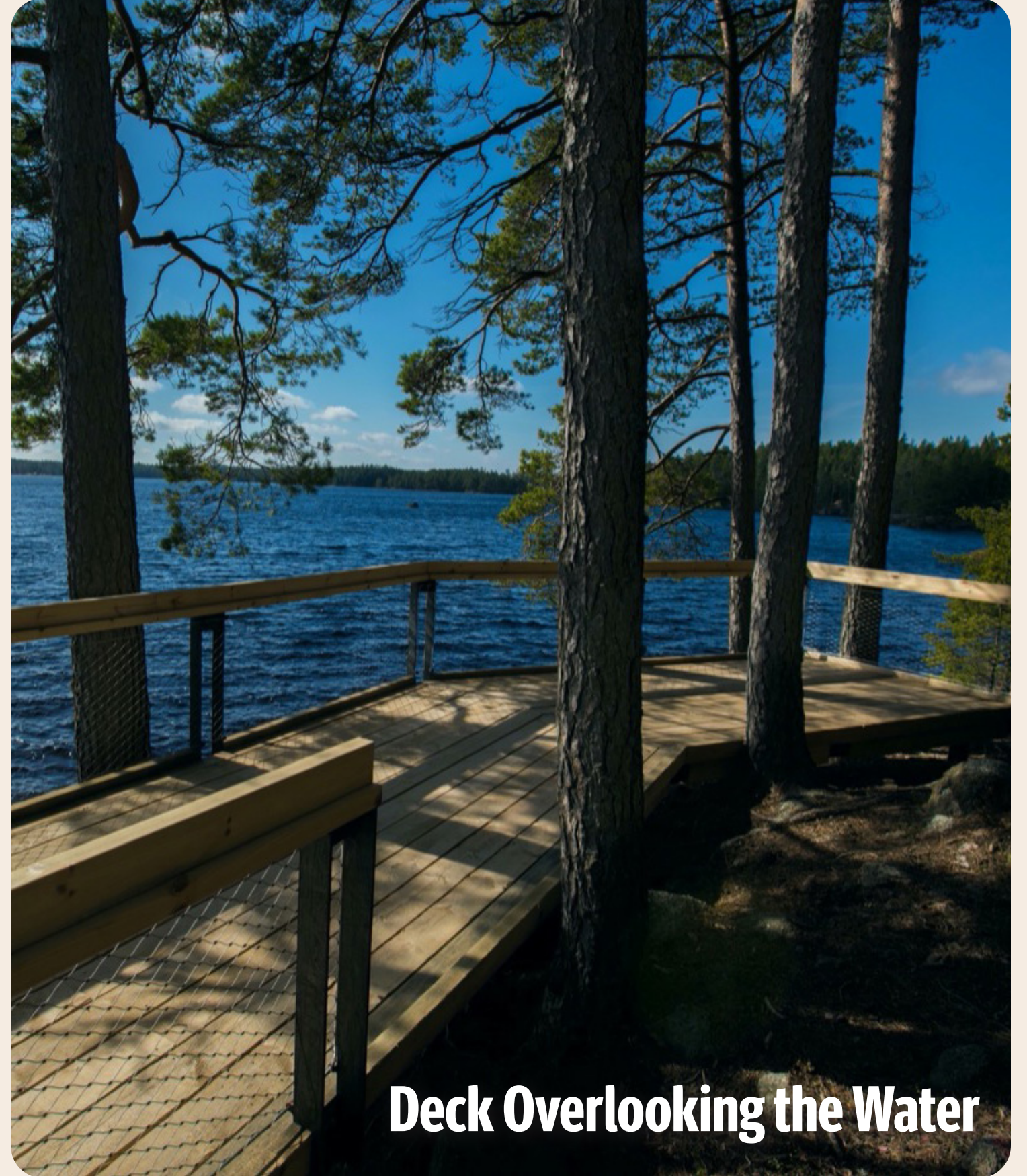


EXISTING SITE



Prospect Over Mountain Island Lake

DESIGN PRECEDENTS



Deck Overlooking the Water

RIVER INTERPRETATION

Tactile Topographic Map
of Catawba River & Mtn.
Island Lake



INTERPRETATION THEMES

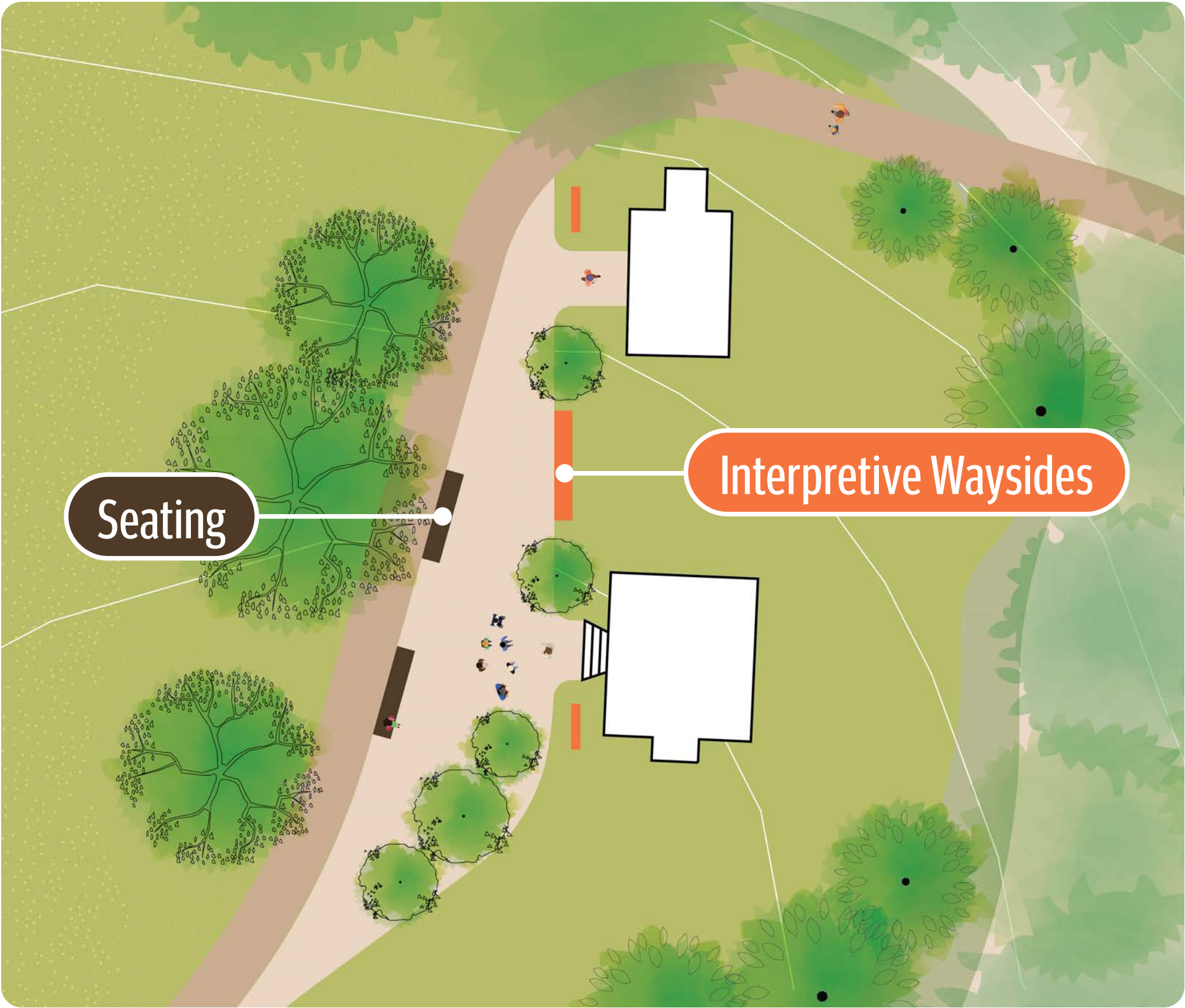
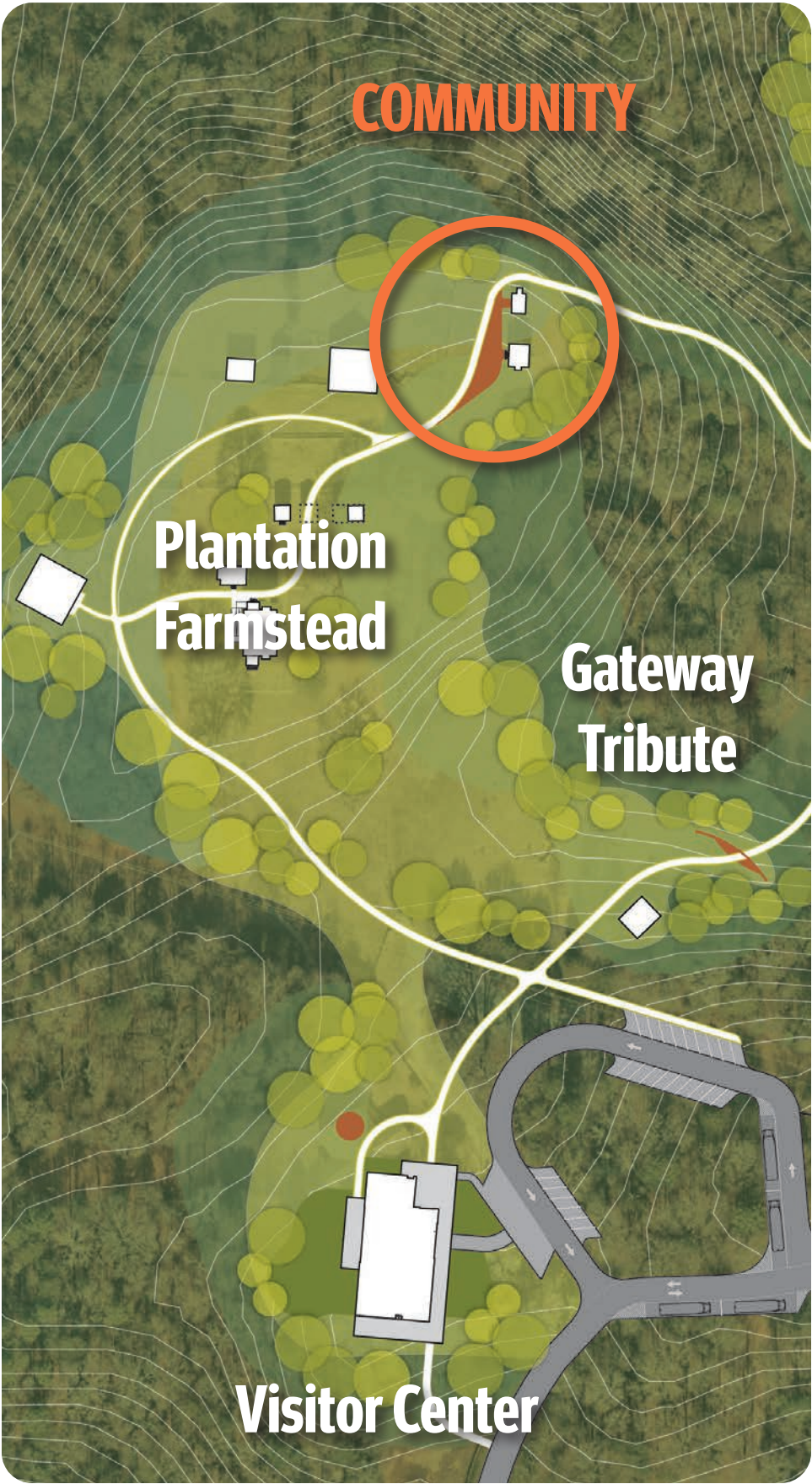
Indigenous: Lower
Catawba River Valley
Civilization

Settlers: Plantation's
Relationship to the River

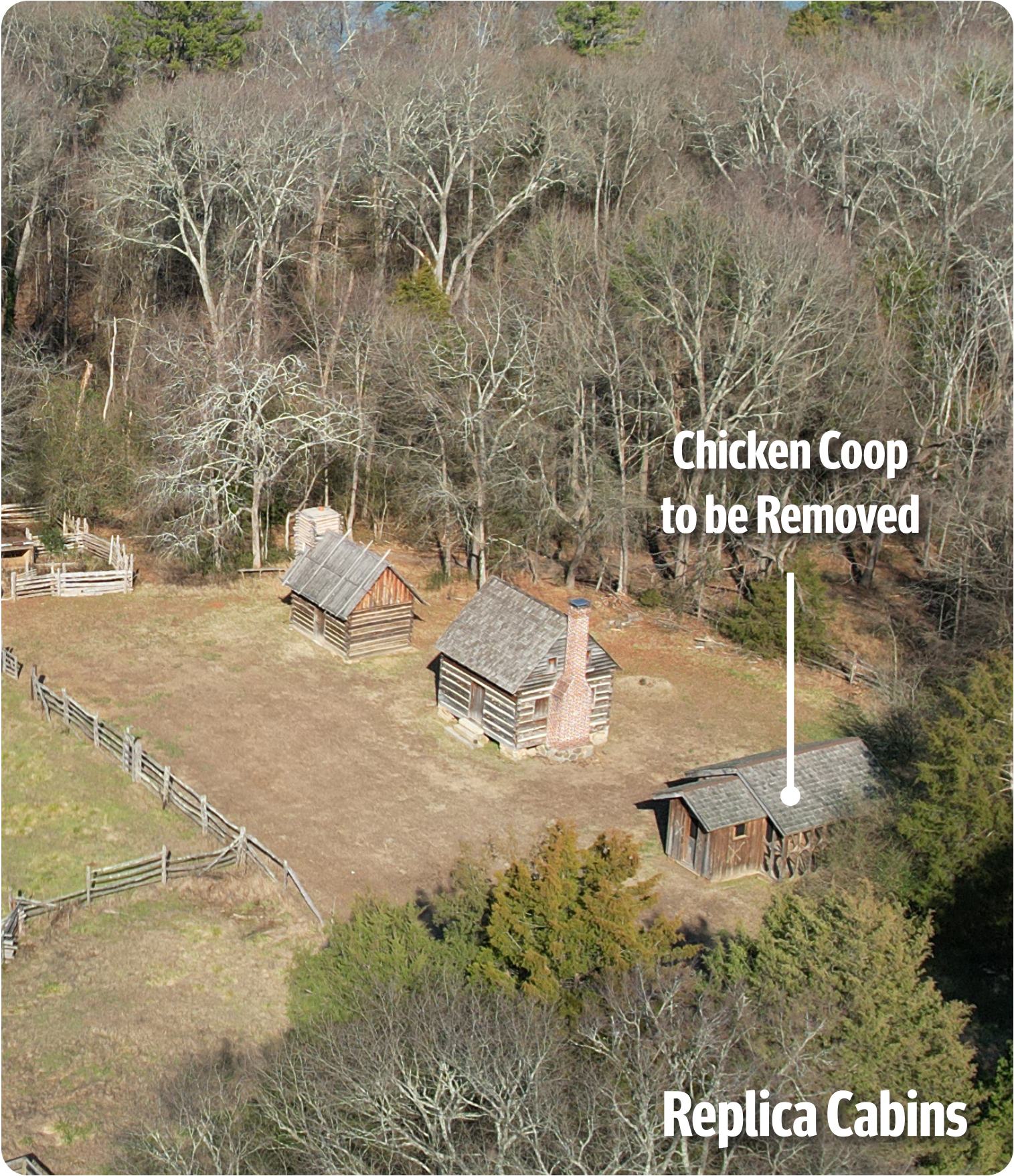
Enslaved: Relationship
of Enslaved & Tenant
Farmers to the River

Stewards: Damming the
Catawba River, Mountain
Island Lake

COMMUNITY TRAIL STOP



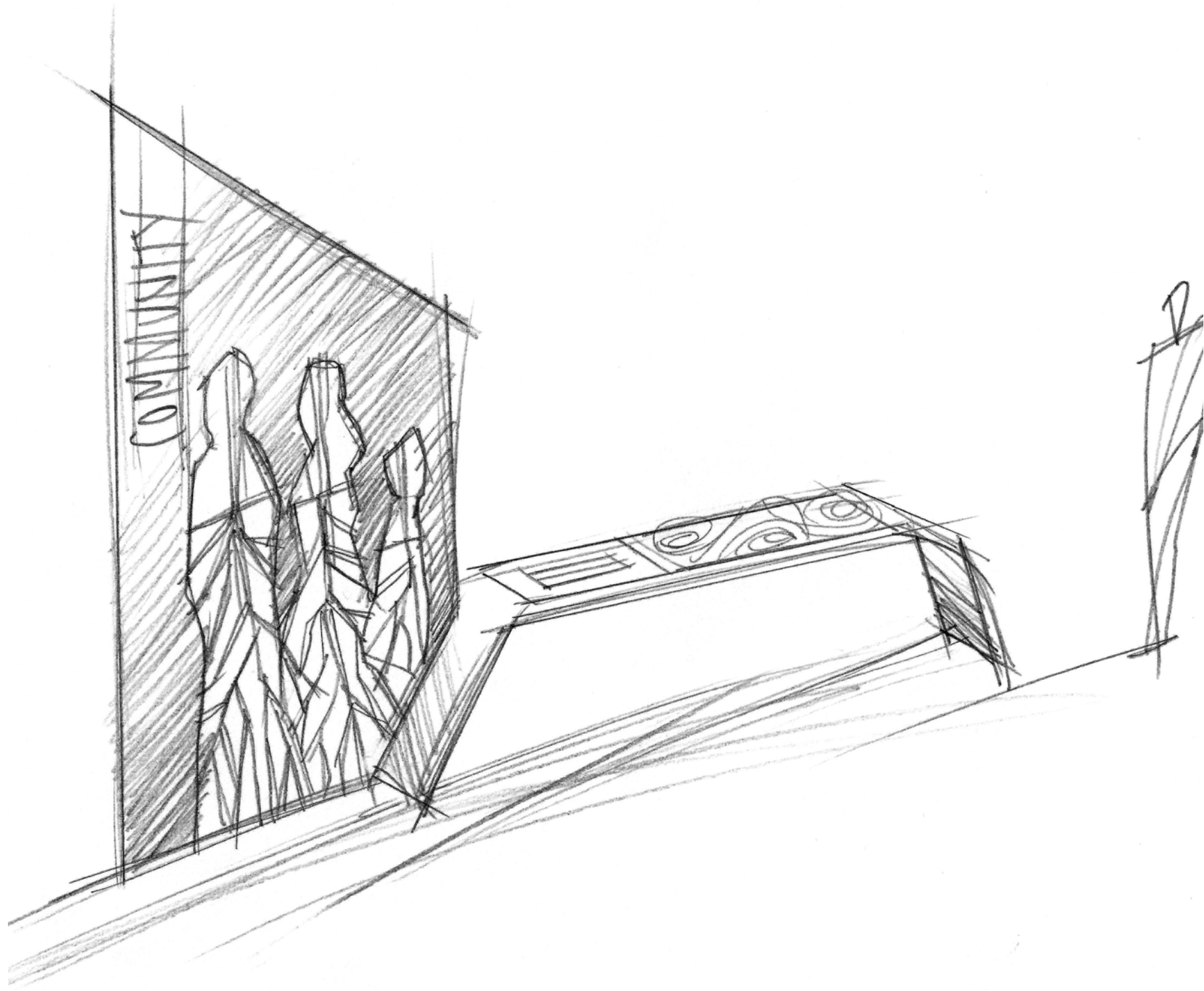
EXISTING SITE



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

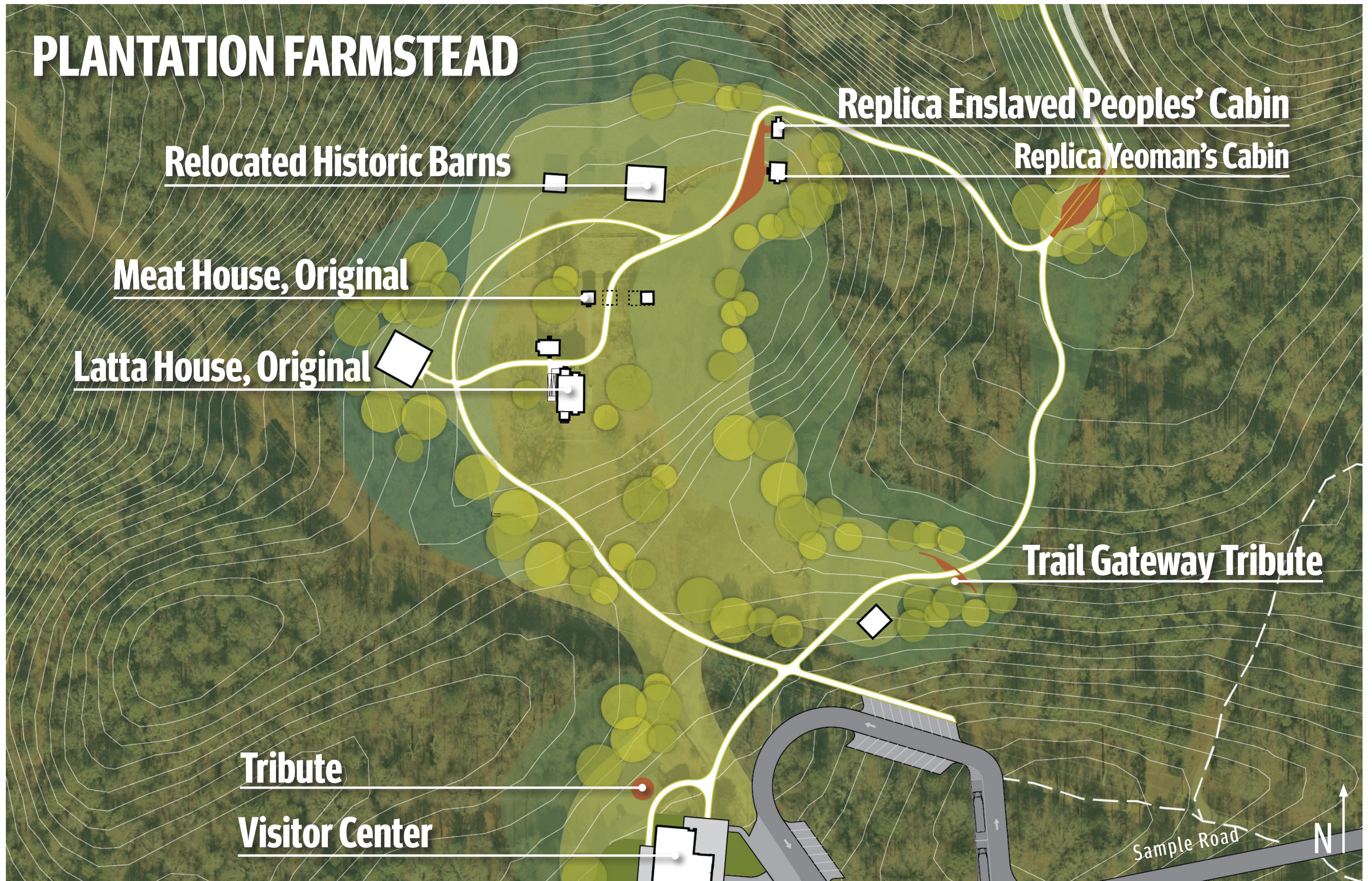
Trail Gateway Tribute

Tribute

Visitor Center

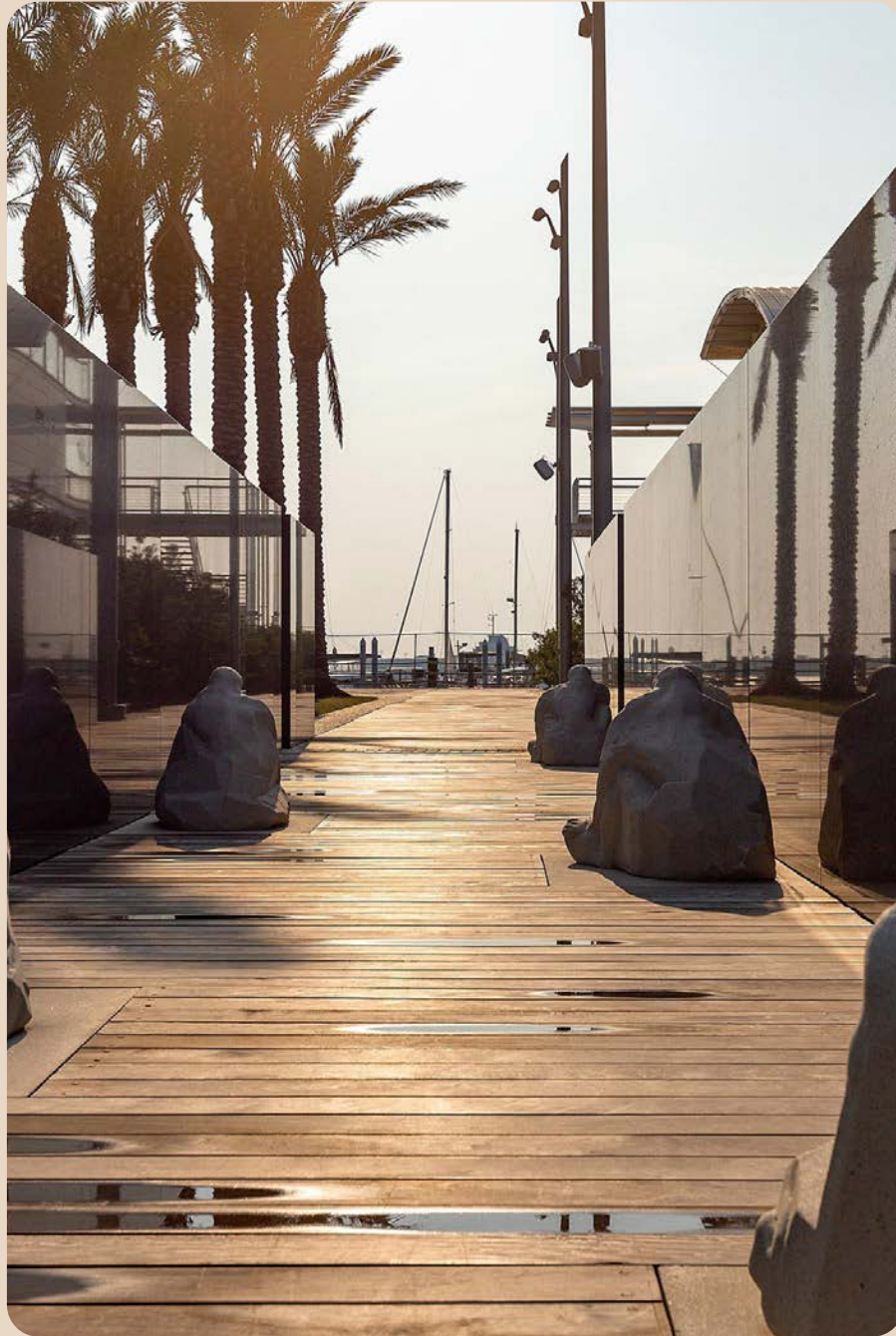
Sample Road

N



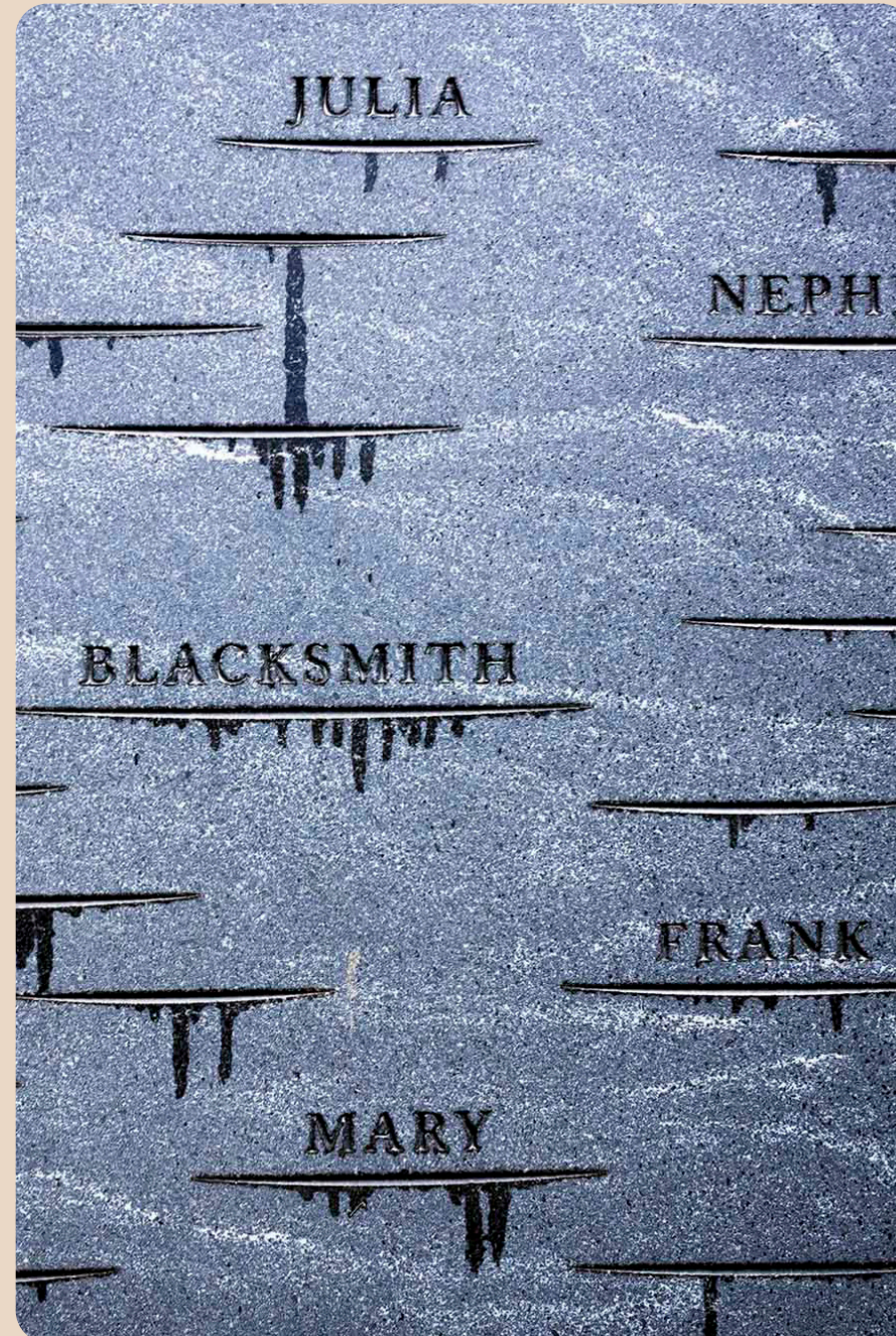
A Tribute to the Enslaved at Latta Place

Quiet space for reflection



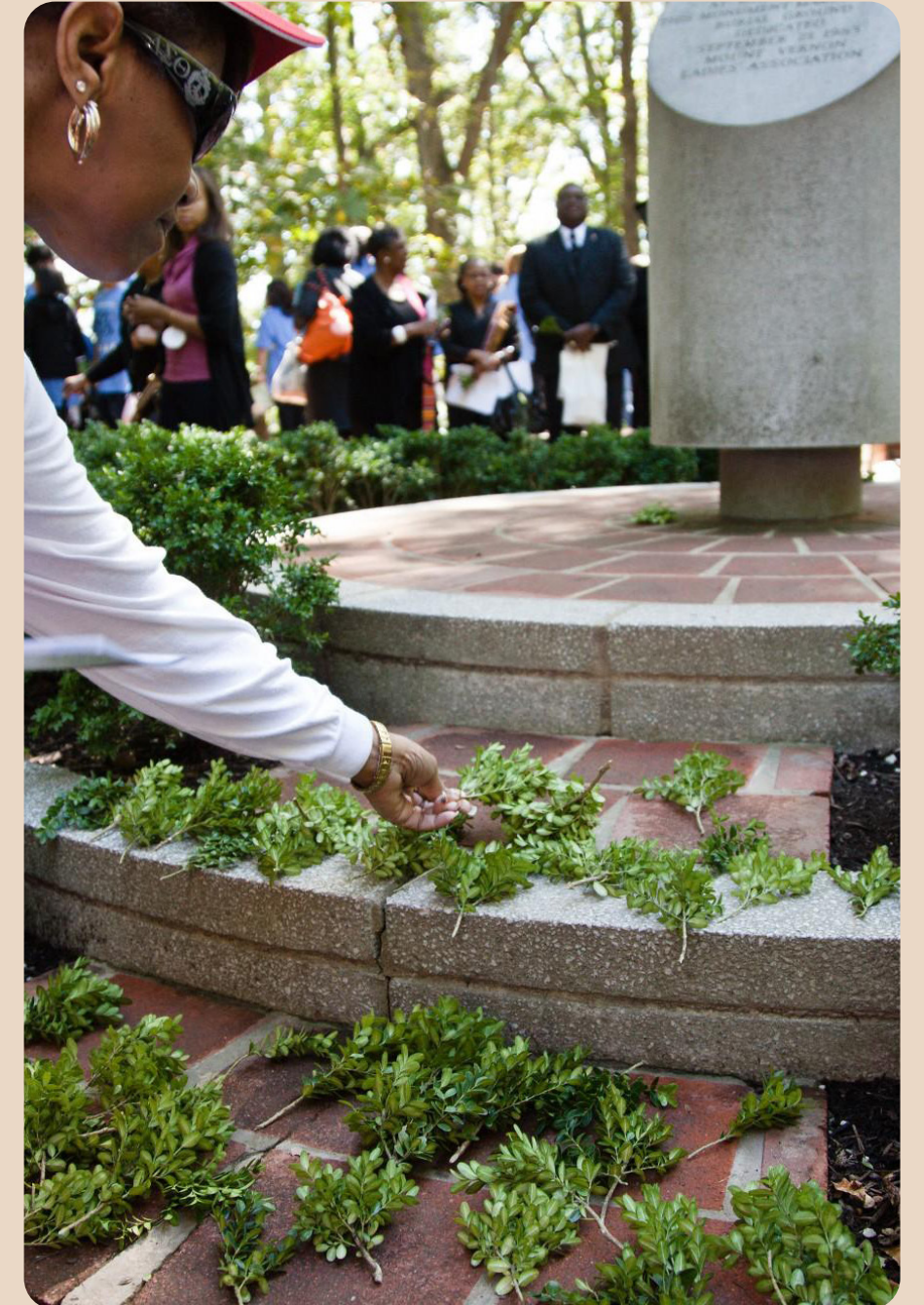
International African American Museum

**Honor the 65 people who were
enslaved at Latta**



UVA Monument to Enslaved Laborers

Place for gathering & healing



Mount Vernon Slave Memorial

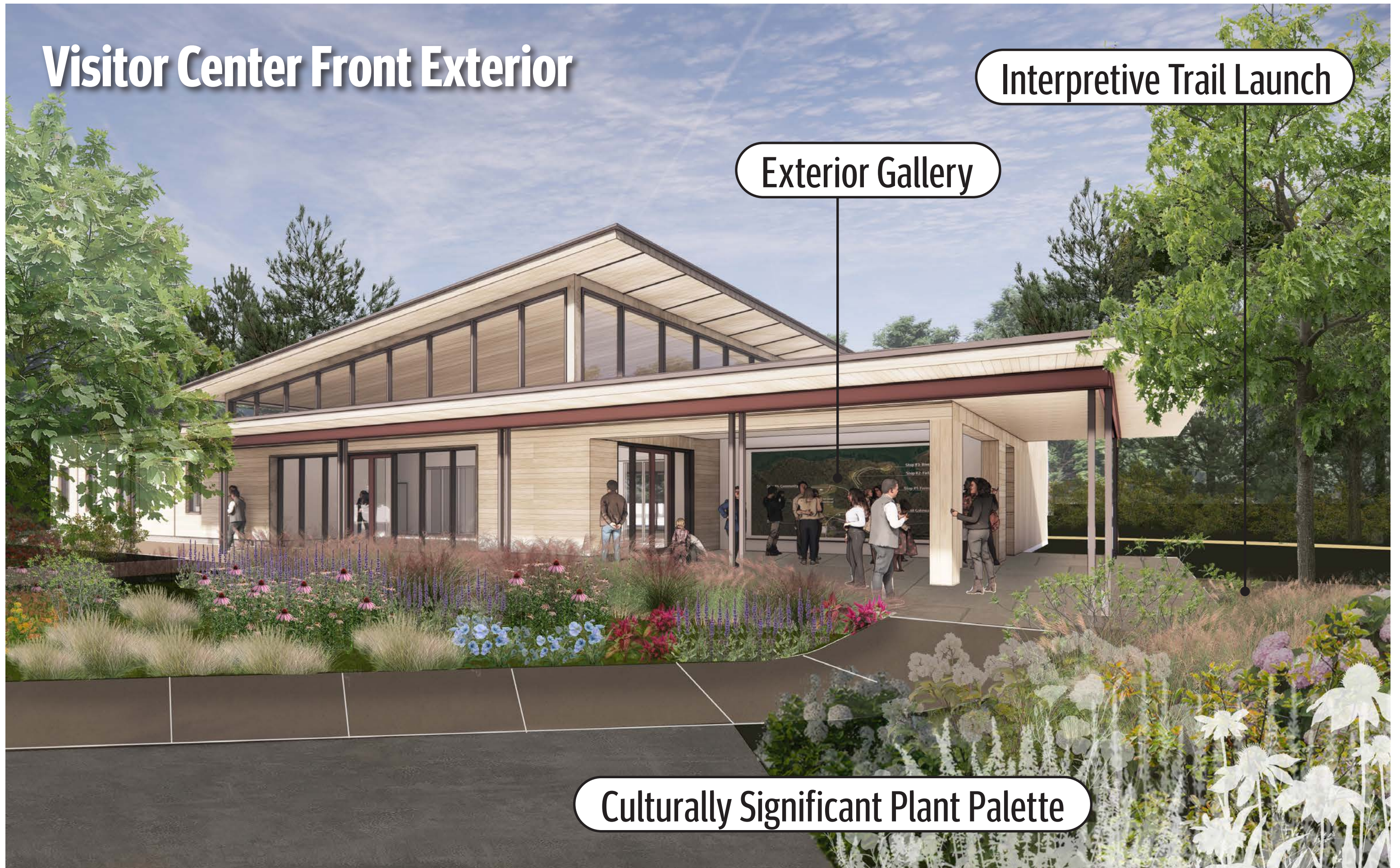
Design: Visitor Center

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



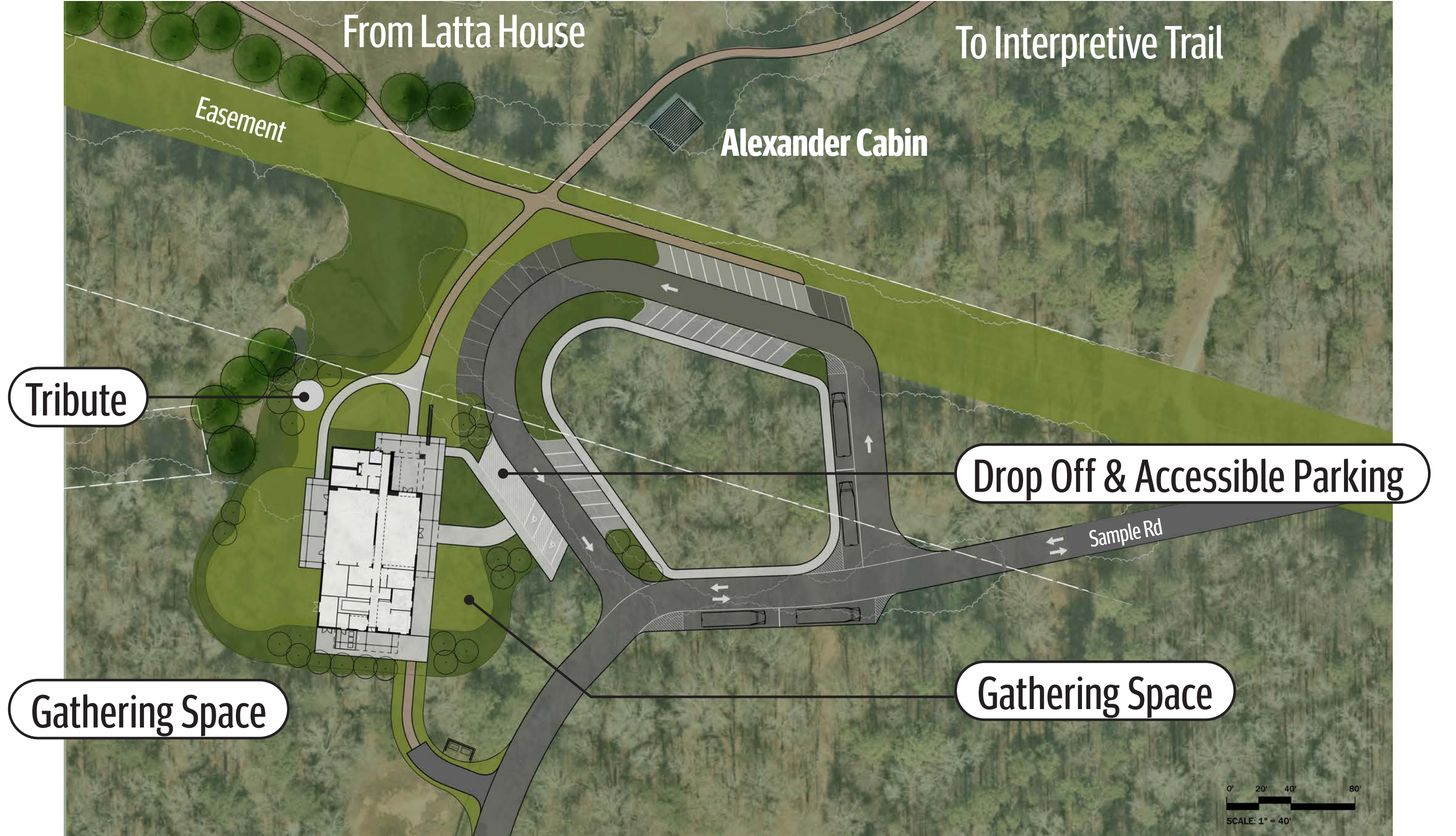
Visitor Center Community Room

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

0' 75' 150' 300'

N

