

# #1

# PROJECT CONTEXT

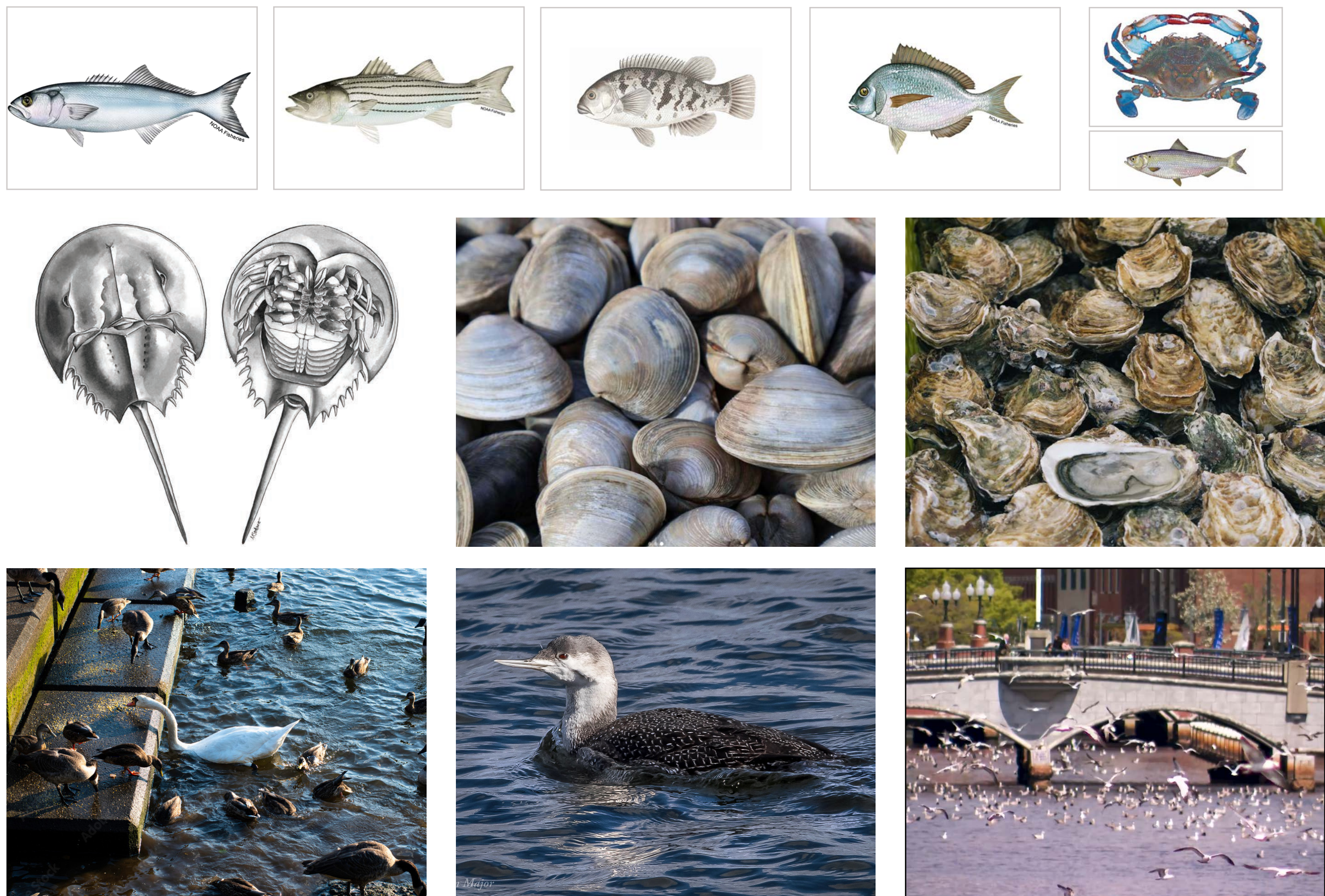
## WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

The City of Providence is continuing the conversation on the **Riverwalk Resilience Project** to revitalize and enhance Waterplace Park and the adjacent Riverwalks with sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Building from our first meeting, we are refining ideas to improve connectivity, accessibility, placemaking, and programming to foster sustainable growth for the downtown area.

**Your input remains essential in shaping the future of the park and Riverwalk to ensure the public spaces are accessible, inclusive, safe and vibrant.**

Please visit each of the boards and share your ideas with the team!

## MARINE LIFE

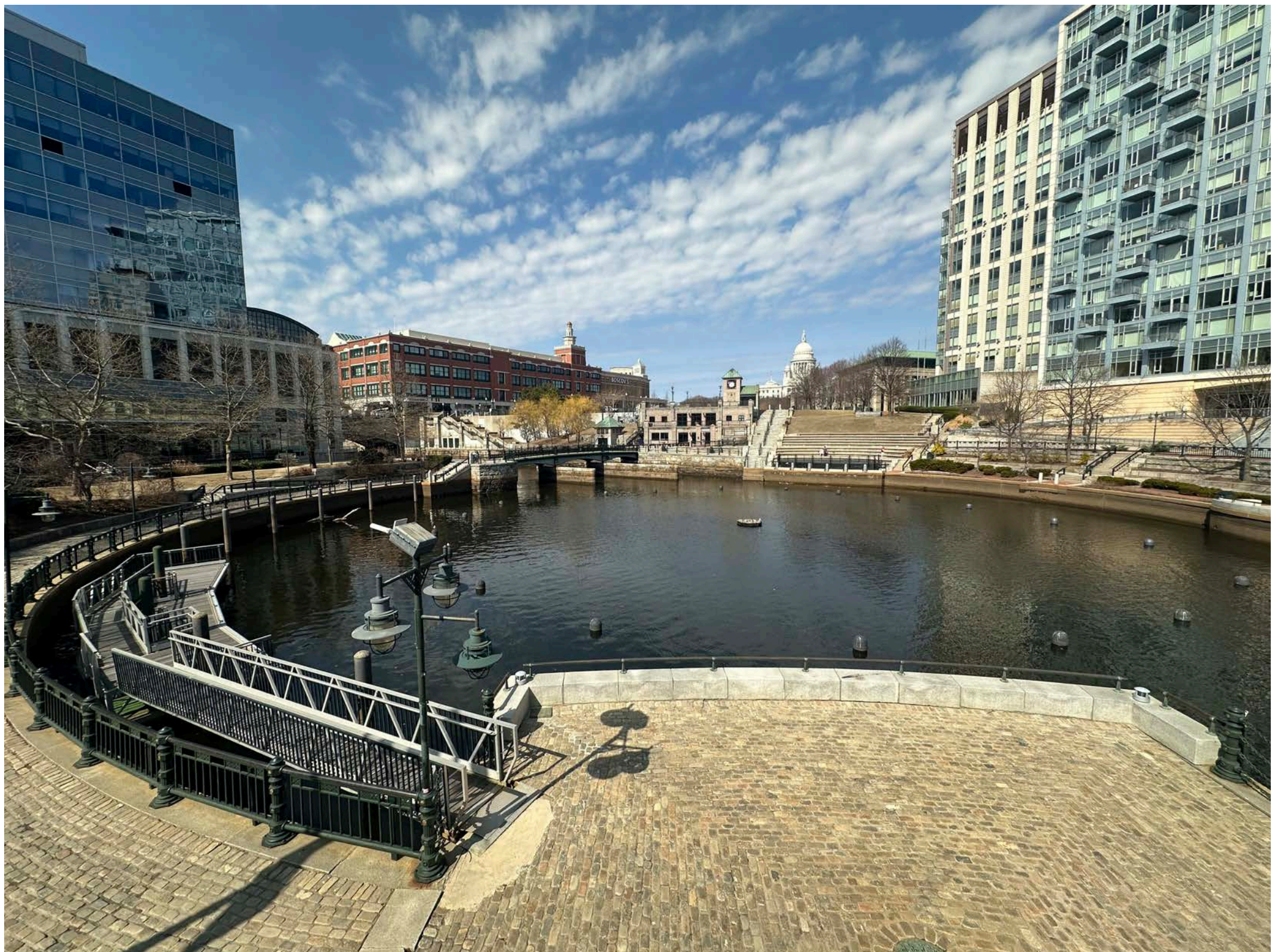
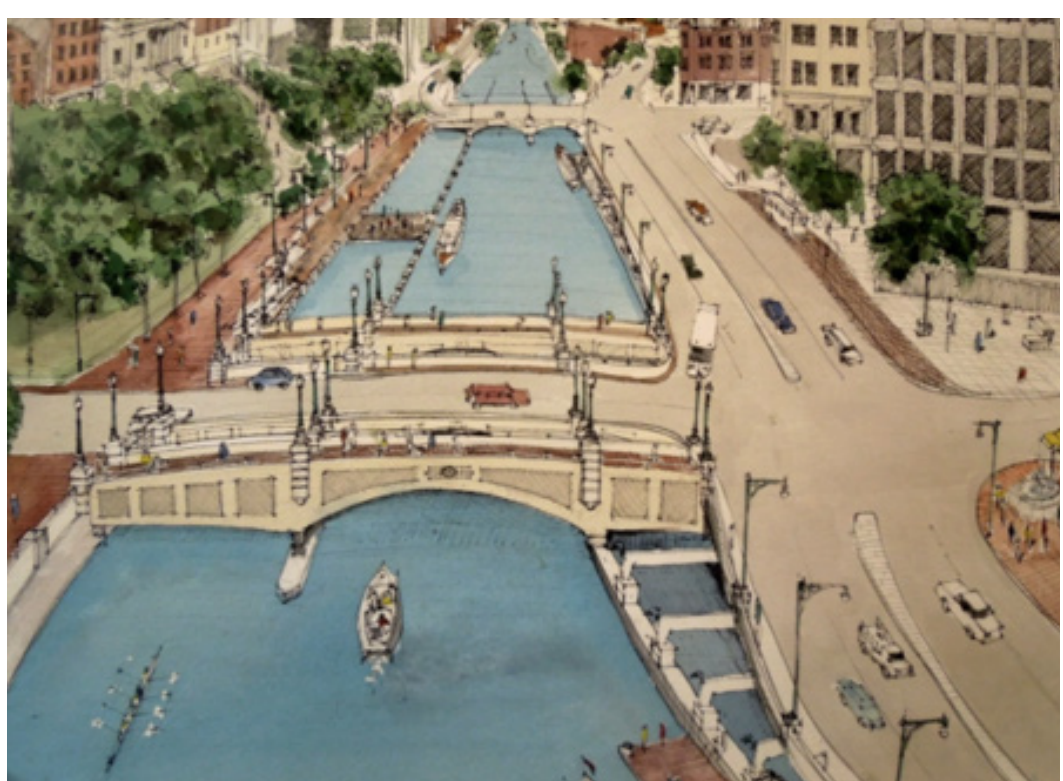


The Woonasquatucket River is an important ecological corridor and provides a habitat for a diverse mix of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians.

- Would you be interested in seeing more marine life?
- Should this project create habitats to support marine life?

**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.

## OLD AND NEW ARCHITECTURE



The Woonasquatucket River Basin has been revitalized into an urban landscape that integrates ecological restoration, public green spaces, and flood resilience efforts. The 1995 Riverwalk restoration played a key role in reconnecting the city to the river through paths, bridges, and public spaces.

- How would you like to see old and new architecture manifested on the site? For example, how much should be preserved from the existing architecture, and how much should be newly introduced?

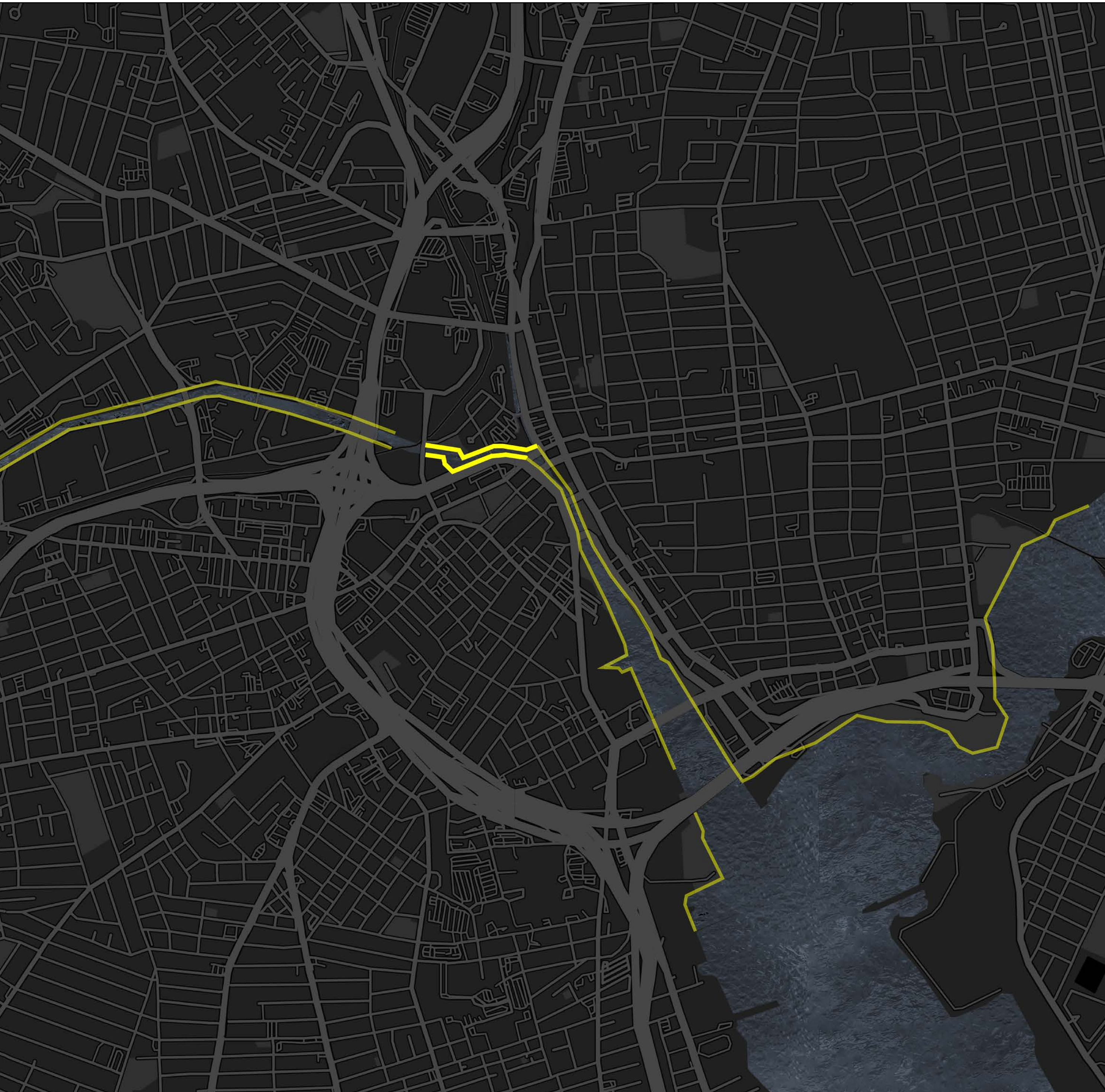
**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.

## DREAMING OF AN UNINTERRUPTED RIVERWALK NETWORK

The community has long dreamed of a connected and accessible Riverwalk, making it easier for everyone to follow and enjoy the river throughout the city. While some portions remain challenging to navigate—especially for people with disabilities—this design aims to improve connections and overall experience.

- Are you interested in a better connected Riverwalk network? How would it benefit your life?
- What challenge do you currently face in accessing or enjoying the Riverwalk and public spaces?

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the Sticky Notes provided to share your thoughts here.



## HISTORY MILESTONES

Spanning centuries of transformation, the history of the Woonasquatucket River traces its evolution from Indigenous settlements to industrialization, urban renewal, and modern cultural landmarks.



1400's



1636



1818



1880



1903



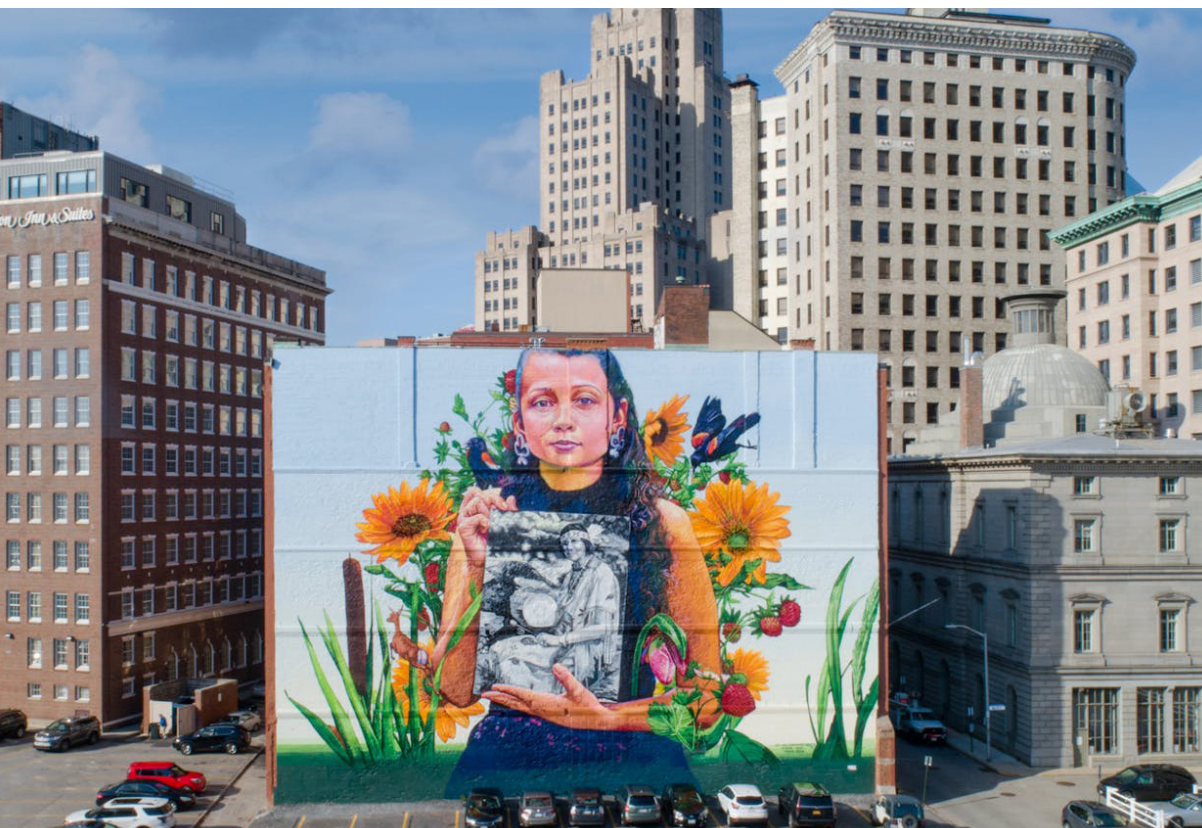
1983



1999



2000



2018



2024

**Which periods of history would you be interested in seeing the architectural design resonate with?**

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the dots to identify which periods of history you would be interested in seeing the architectural design resonate with. Our team will use your responses to inform the selection of architectural styles and materials in the next stage of design.



# #2

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## OVERVIEW

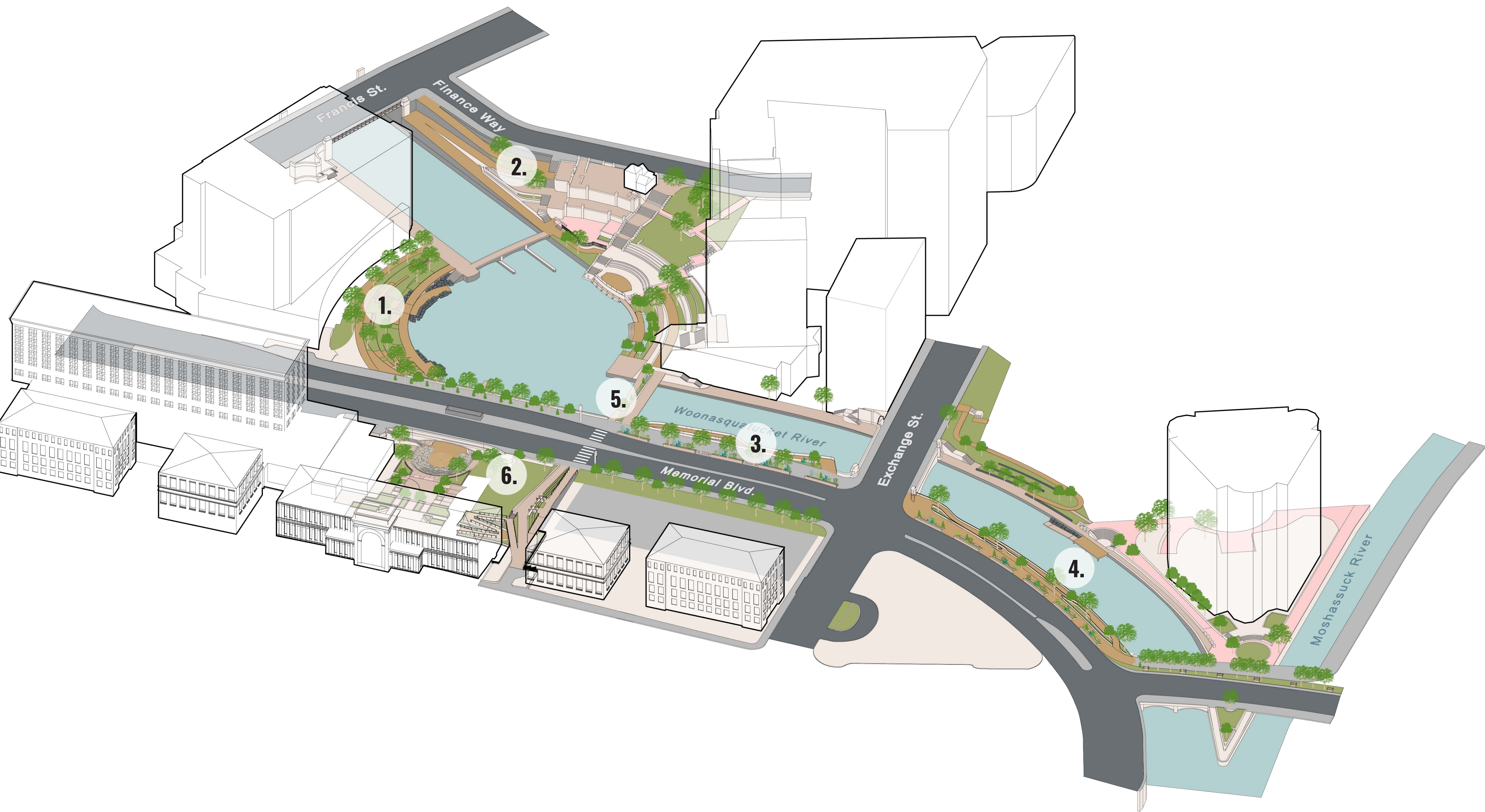
This board presents the project’s key themes, the current design, and new vs. old perspectives. We welcome your feedback on the current design.

## CURRENT DESIGN

Key components of the project are identified below.

- 1. Elevated Riverwalks + Kayak Launch in Waterplace Basin
- 2. Elevated Rivewalks + Accessible Connection to Steeple & Finance
- 3. Elevated Riverwalks on South Side of River + Resilient Riverwalk Materials on North Side of River + Wider Sidewalk on Memorial Boulevard
- 4. Elevated Riverwalks on South Side of River + Resilient Riverwalk Materials on North Side of River + Complete Streets Improvements on Steeple Street & Memorial Boulevard
- 5. Elevated Pedestrian Bridge + Memorial Boulevard Crosswalk
- 6. Downtown Connector Accessible Walkway from Exchange Terrace to Memorial Boulevard

COMMENTS: Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.



## MEEETING WATERS

Following a deep dive into the history, geology and current urban context of the city, the team recognizes that, despite changing over time, the basin and surrounding area have continuously served as a place of gathering where:

- Humans meet Humans
- Humans meet Nature
- Nature meets Nature

We are proposing to celebrate the revitalization of the area with a new theme extracted from its true character: **"Meeting Waters"**



## RESILIENT REWILDING

Our plan is to raise the Riverwalks above tidal flooding, protect downtown Providence from river flooding, re-wild the river banks with more trees and ecological habitats, repair and refresh existing infrastructure that needs a little love, and create compelling reasons for people to come to the Riverwalks every day- so this can be a safe and accessible place for folks to meet, enjoy nature, and celebrate our community.

COMMENTS: Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.



## OLD VS NEW

These views explore the old and new perspectives of the river, showing its current state alongside the reimagined elevated Riverwalk pathways. Selection of materials, colors, and final contours of architecture will be developed in the next phase.

**DIRECTIONS:** Use a post-it note to contribute to the final design by indicating your preferences for materials, colors, experiences, perception of visibility vs privacy, etc.





# #3

# PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVATION

## OVERVIEW

At this board, we invite you to explore the activities and experiences envisioned for the space. Let us know which ones excite you and where you see opportunities for improvements or potential challenges.

## DOT EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place a **green dot** if you like the activity or experience
- Place a **red dot** if you think it could be improved or has challenges

- Which image best represents how you would like to interact with the site?
- What types of activities or experiences would make this space more inviting and useful for you?

**DIRECTIONS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.

## PROGRAM USES



## ACTIVITIES



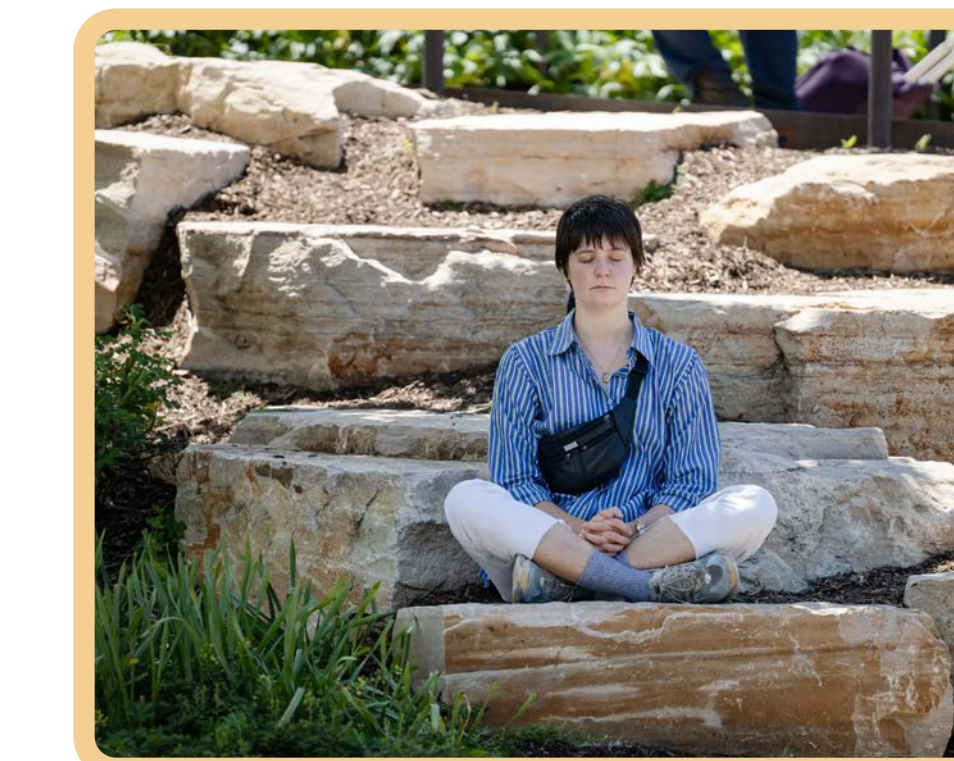
Food & Venue Anchor



Play



Adult Exercising



Mental Health



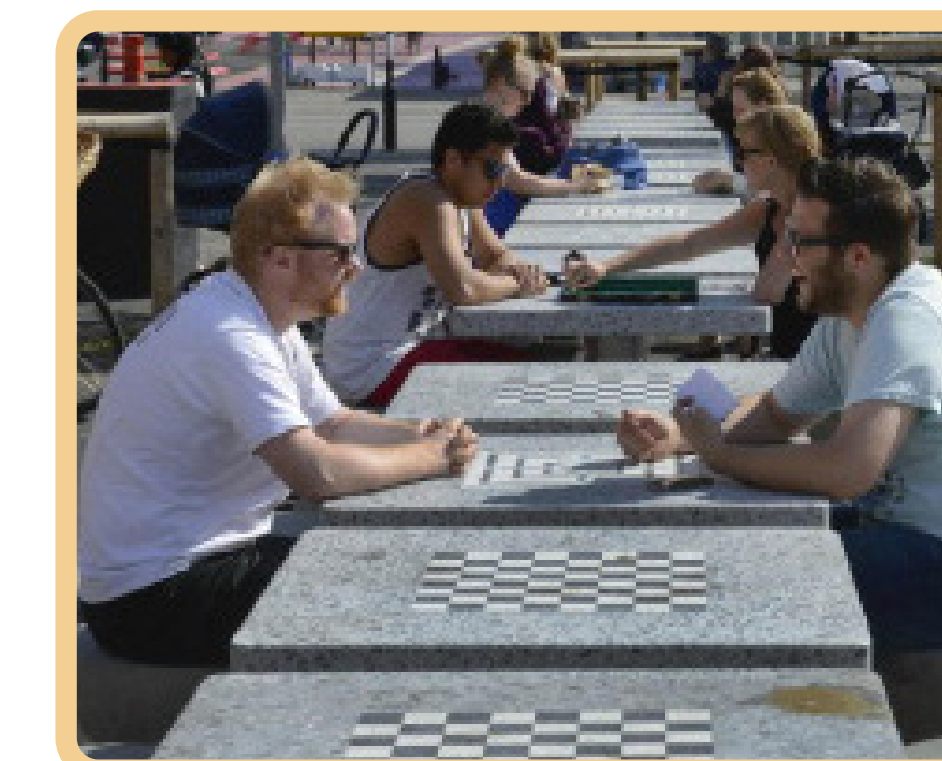
Food Vendors



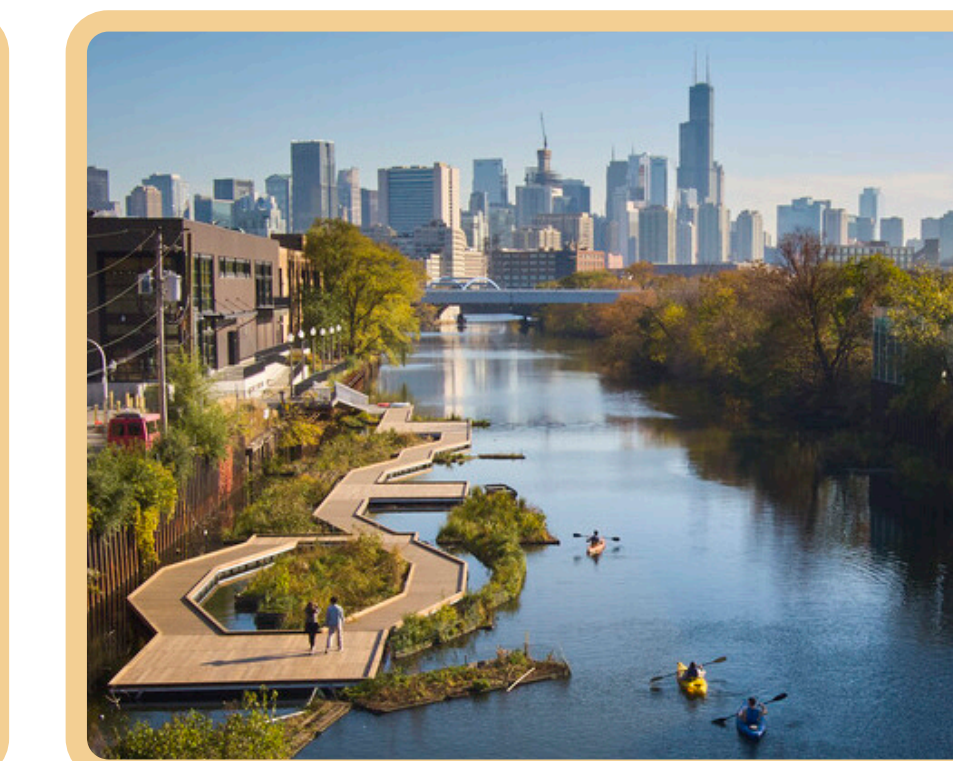
Floating Stages



Pop-Up Beer Garden



Chess



Floating Wetland



Projection on the Water



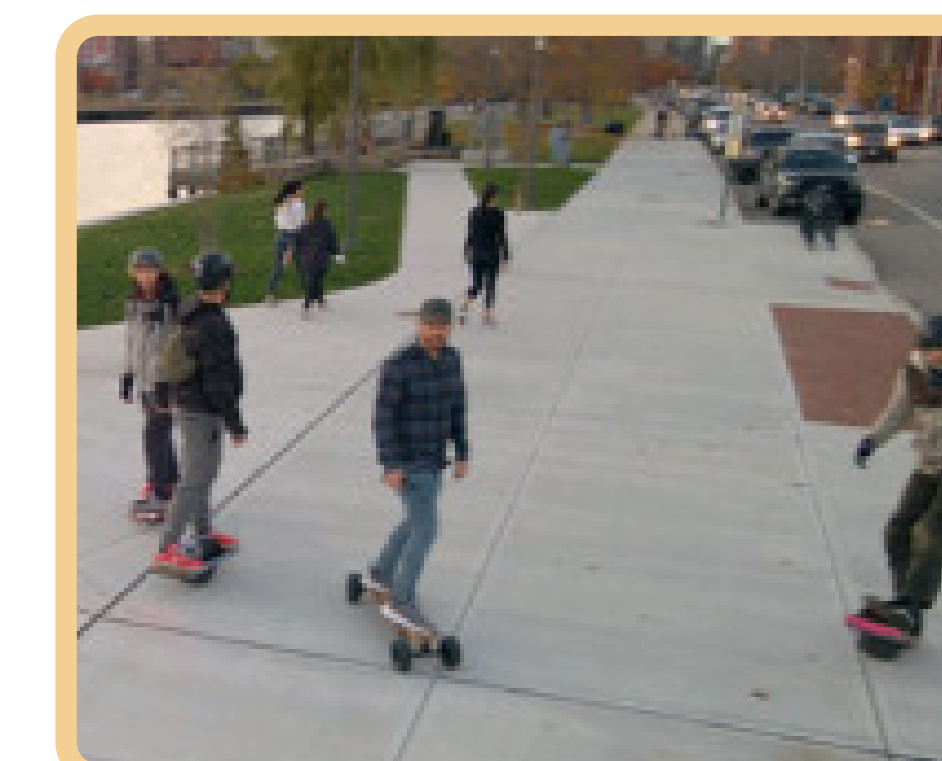
Gondolas



Waterpark Stage Event



Urban Waterside Projection

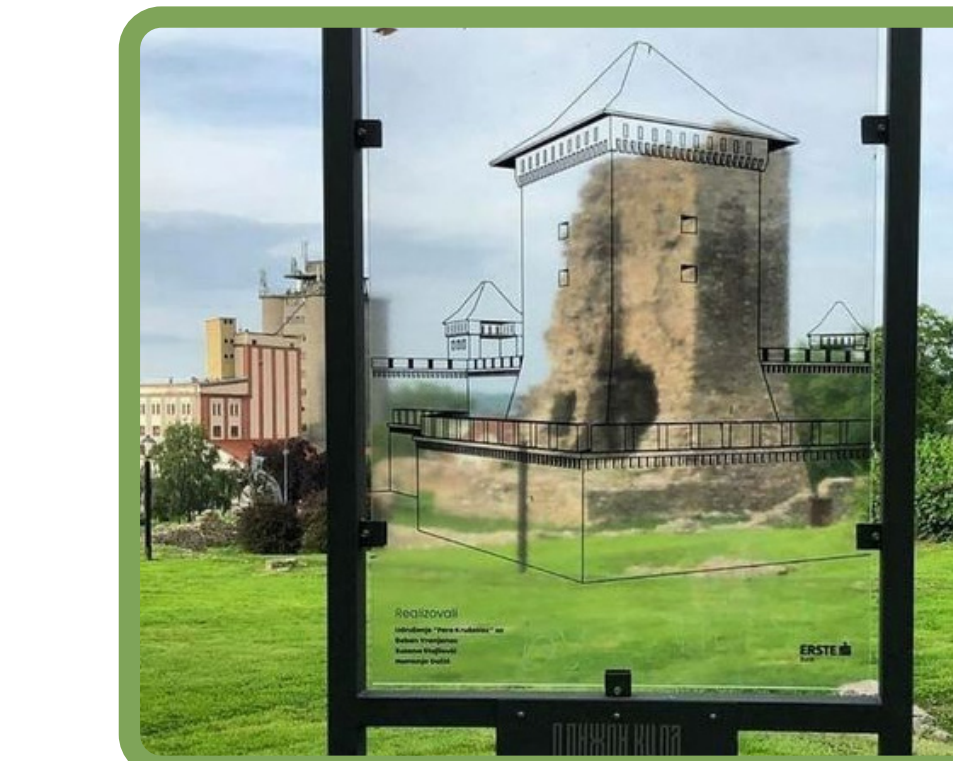


Skating



Informal Event Gathering

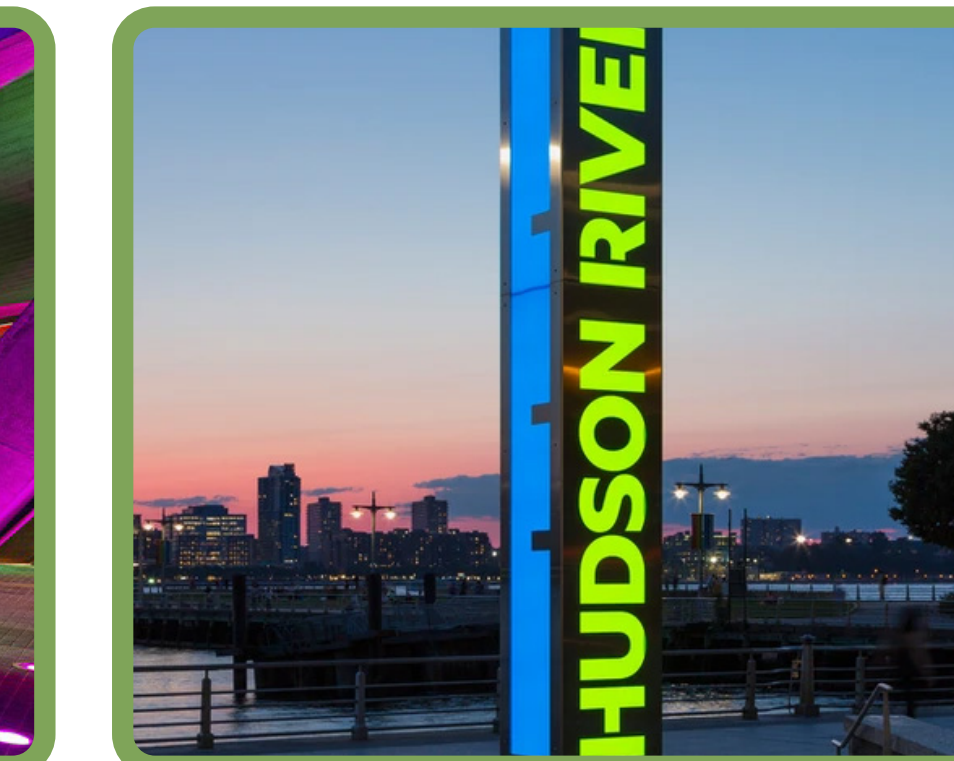
## EXPERIENCES



Viewfinder



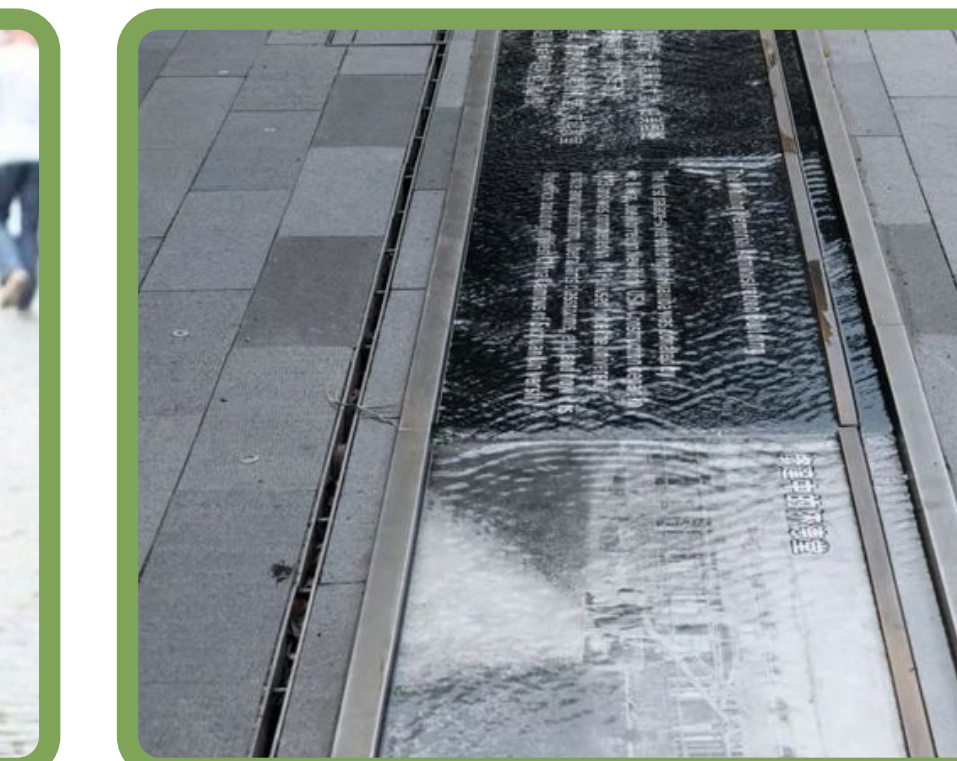
Tunnel Lighting



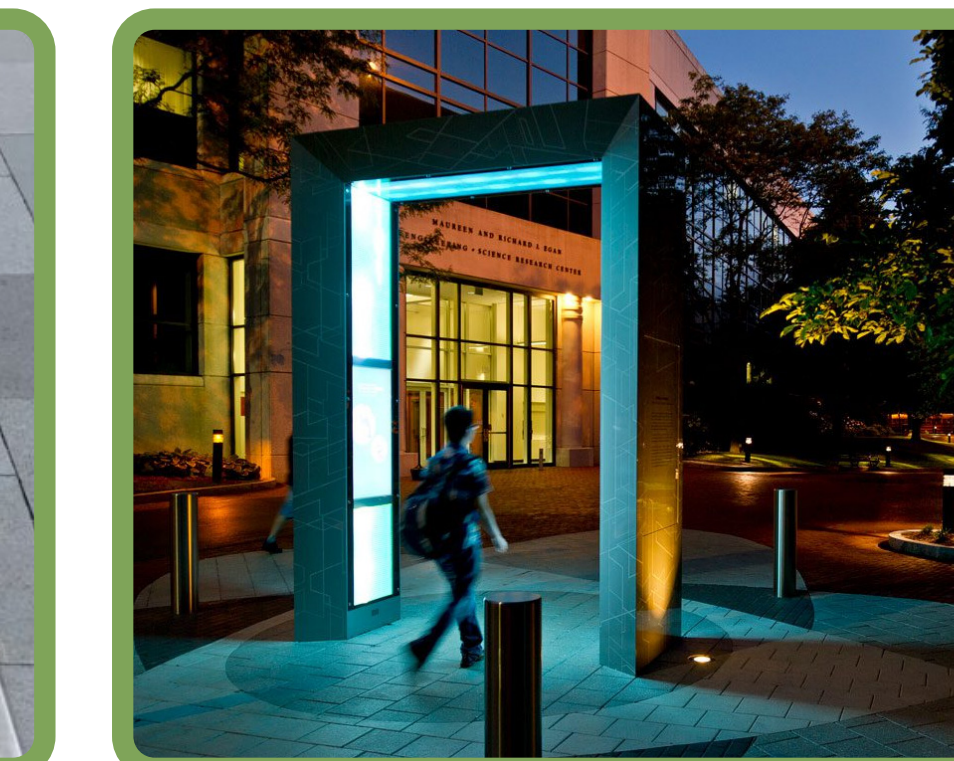
Beacon



Digital Viewfinder



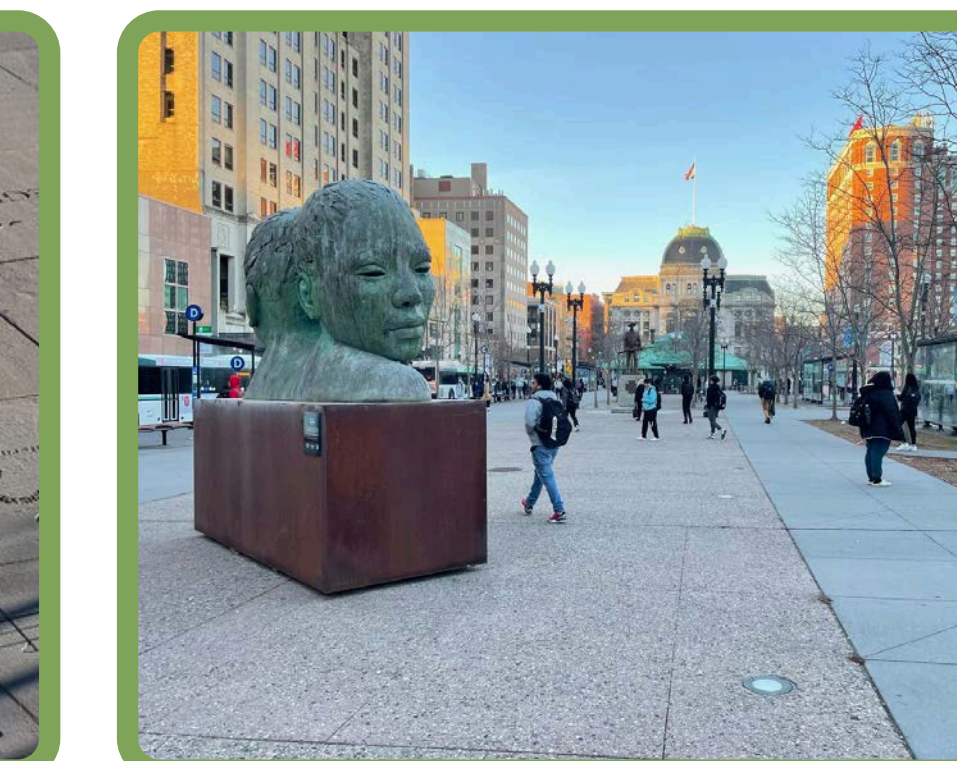
Wayfinding & Signage



Threshold



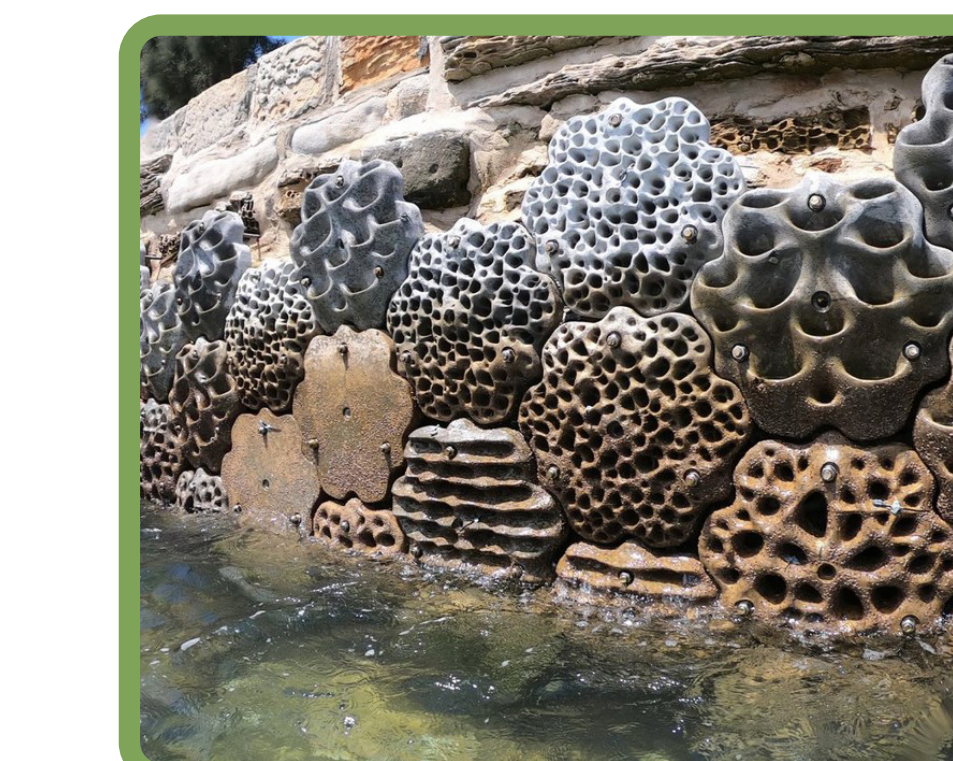
Inscriptions



Public Art



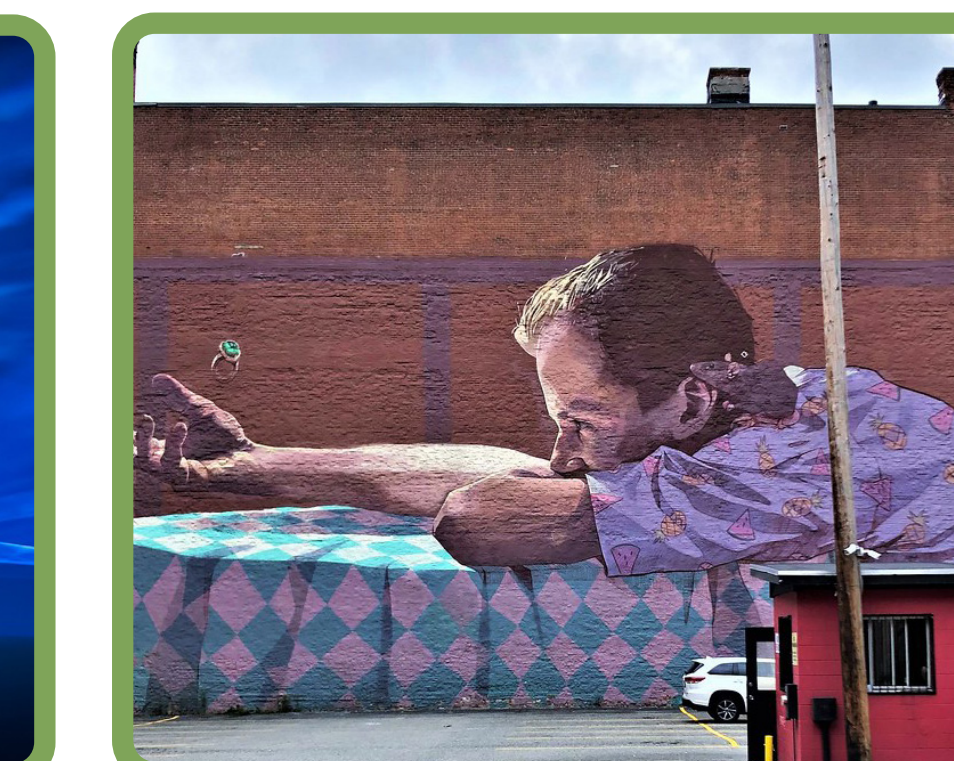
Wayfinding & Signage



Bioremediation



Daily Basin Activation



Mural



Kayak



#3.5

# SOUNDSCAPING AND LIGHTING

## OVERVIEW

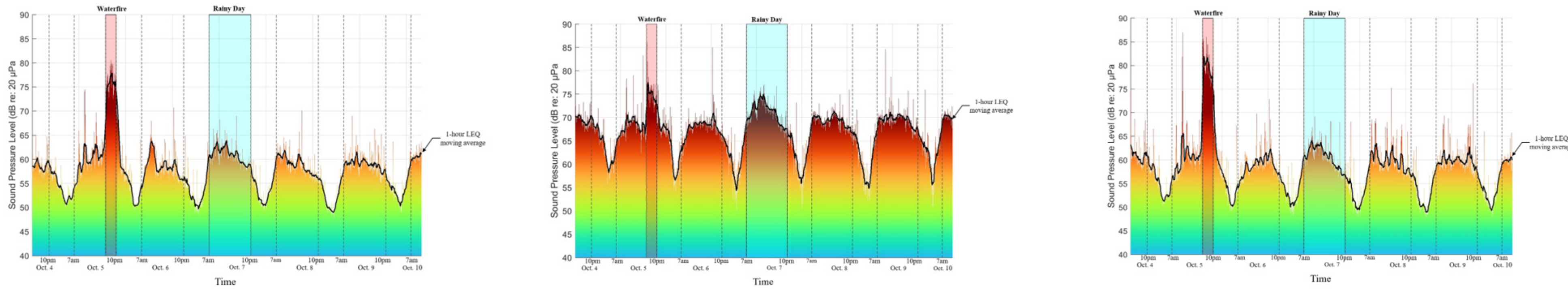
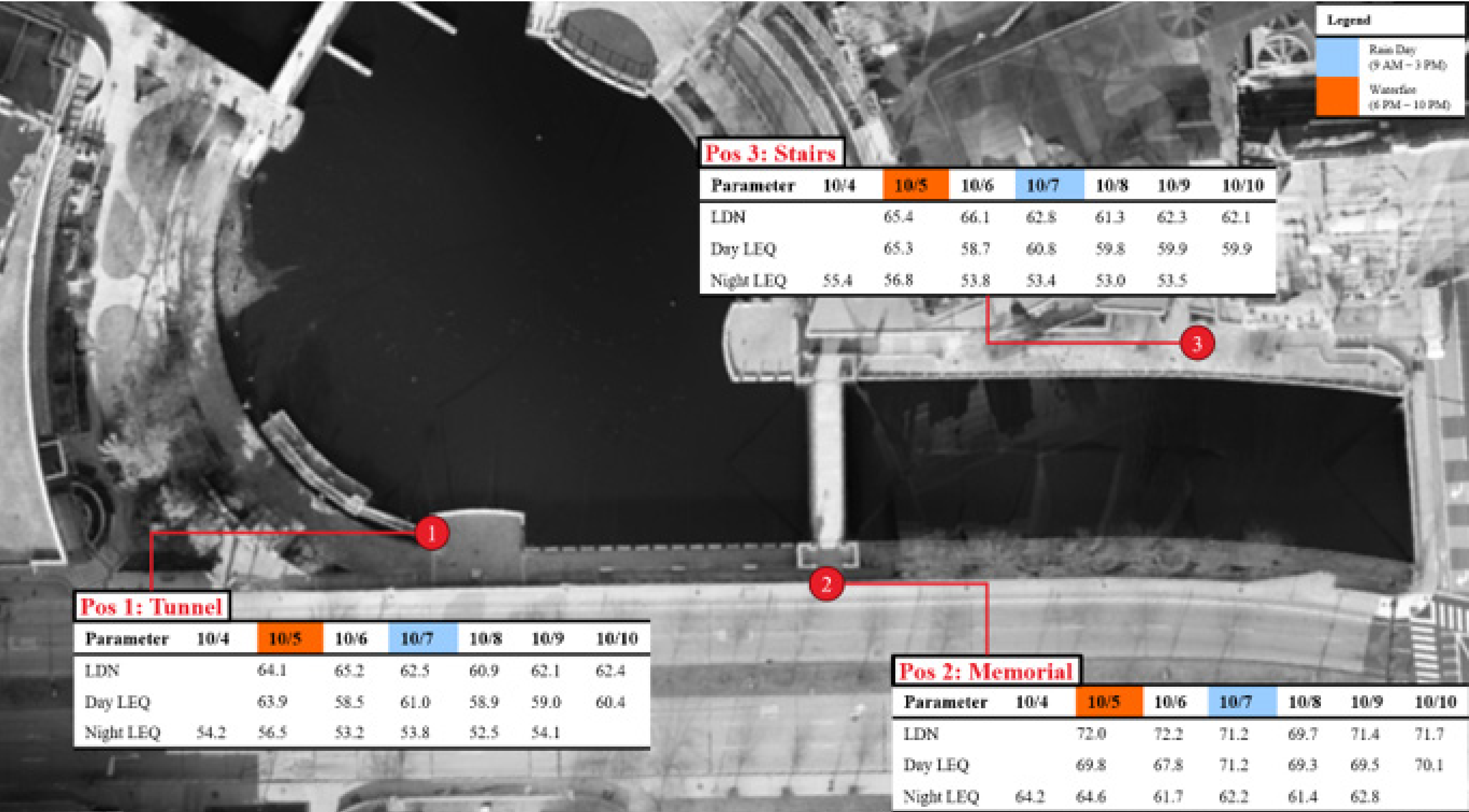
At this station, we invite you to share your thoughts on lighting and noise levels and how they may impact your experience along the river.

### SOUNDSCAPING

This section explores soundscaping, mapping areas where sound levels rise across the site and showcasing how different barriers can influence noise levels.

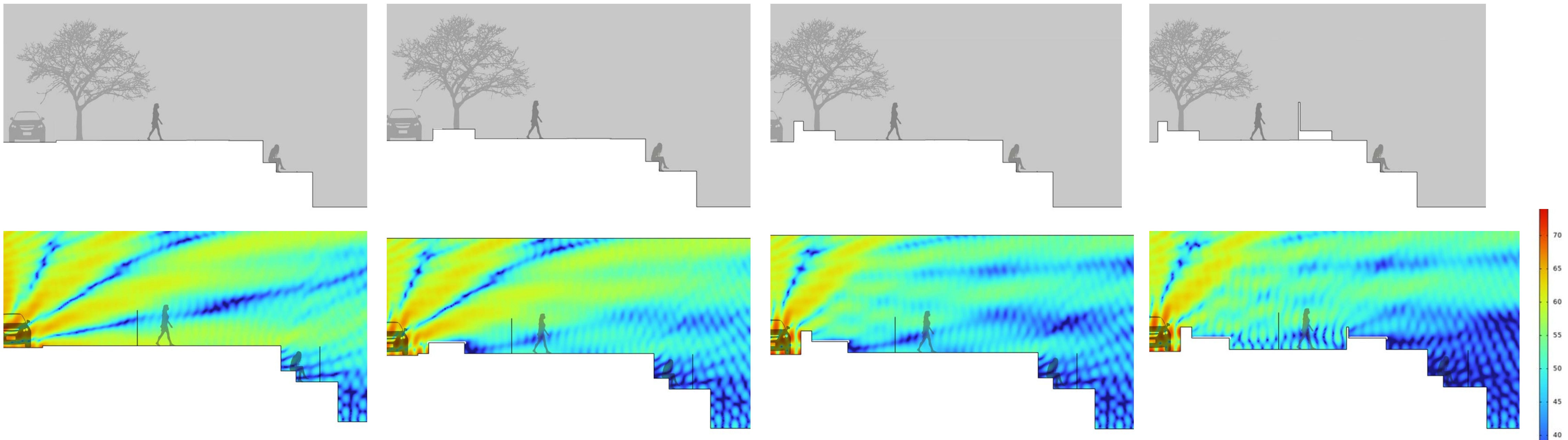
Existing noise levels recorded on site over a week in October 2024, which included a Waterfire event and a rainy day, typically noisier. For reference, a casual conversation between 2 people averages around 65dB.

- Are there any noises that might make the Riverwalk less enjoyable for you?
- What sounds would you like to hear in this space?



Section study to mitigate traffic noise from Memorial Boulevard towards the Riverwalks. The design tests the effectiveness of the tree planters, low solid walls, and floor elevation differences to reduce traffic noise levels.

**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts below.



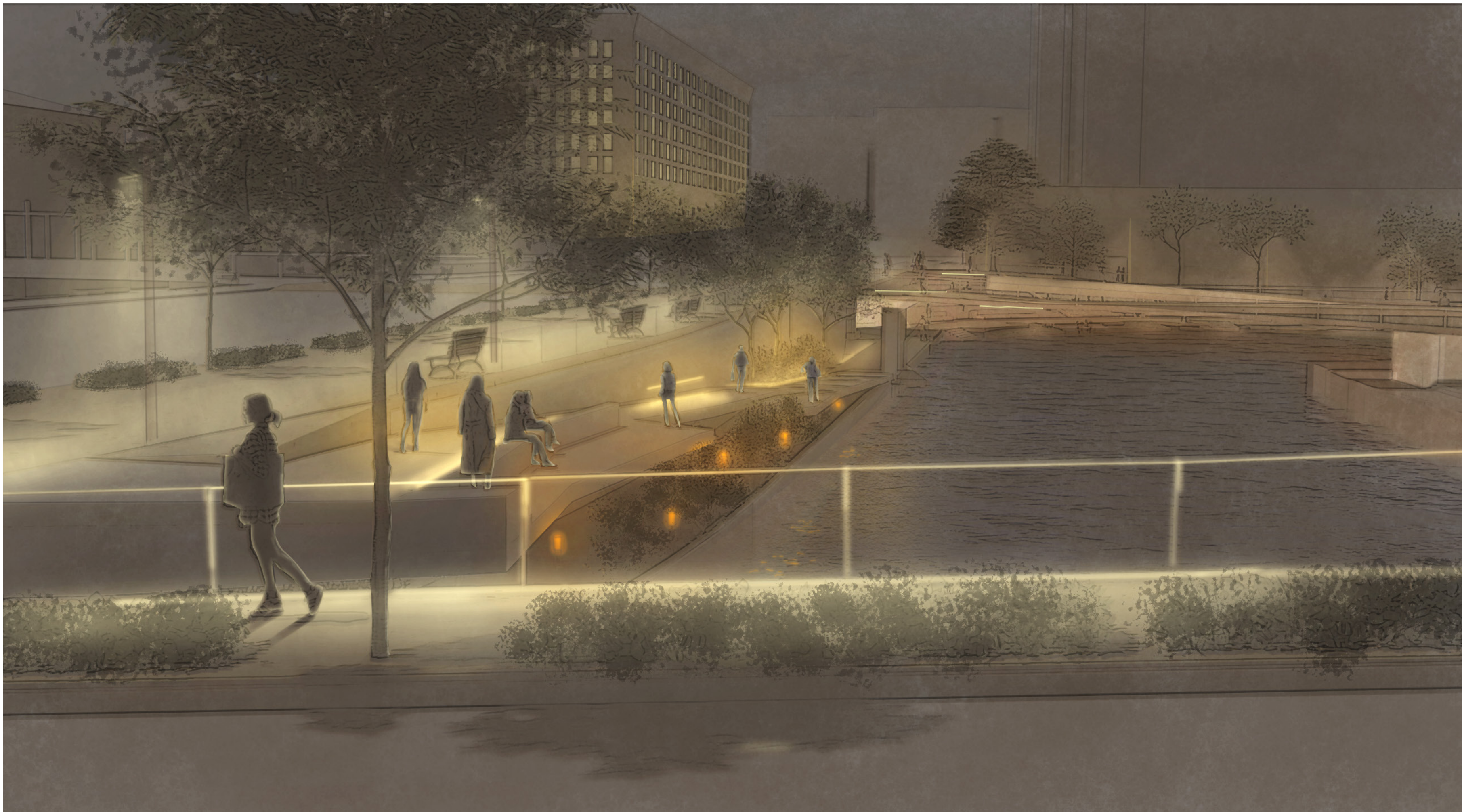
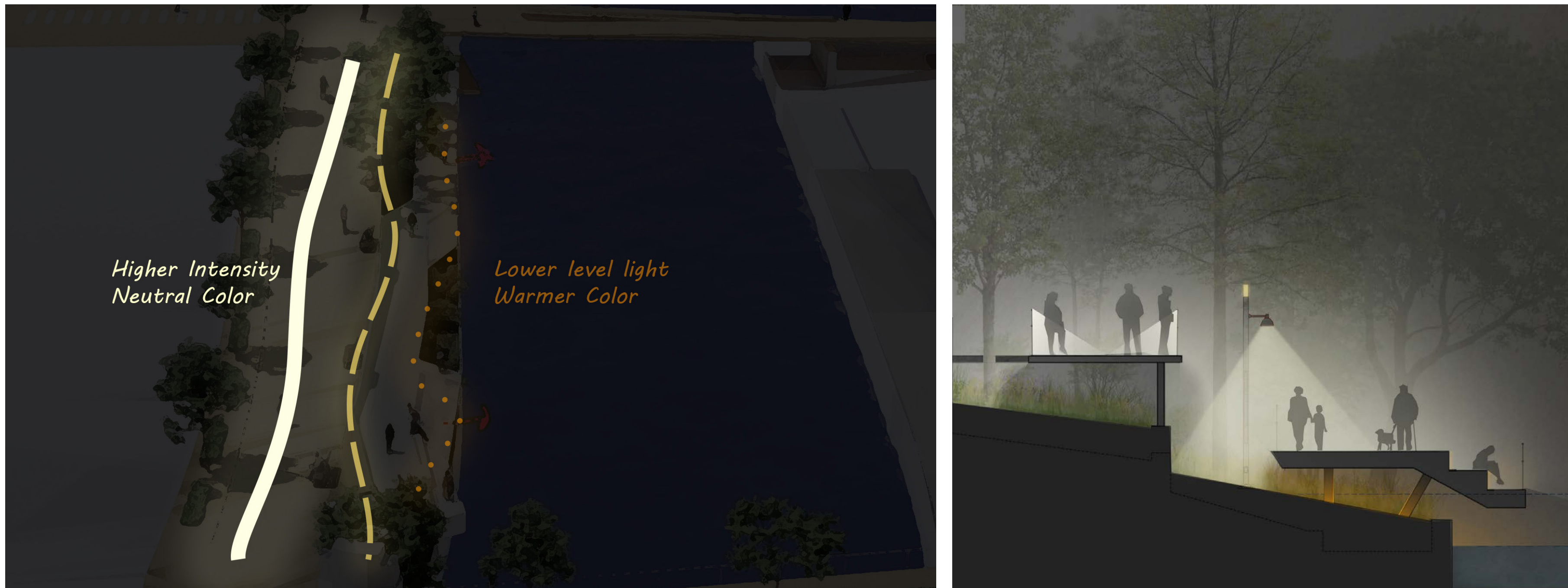
### LIGHTING

Inspired by the theme “Meeting Waters,” the lighting design mirrors water’s movement, adapting to different speeds and rhythms. Light will shape a safe, vibrant Riverwalk at night while respecting the environment. A flexible system will adjust to events and evolving needs. Near the streetscape, bright, uniform lighting will enhance pedestrian flow and energy. Closer to the water, softer, lower-density lighting will ensure safety while preserving the natural habitat, creating a tranquil and immersive atmosphere.



- What role do you think lighting should play in this environment?
- Does this type of lighting make the space feel more inviting?

**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts below.





# #4

# ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

## OVERVIEW

This board invites you to share your thoughts on improving pedestrian access, mobility, and connectivity across various routes.

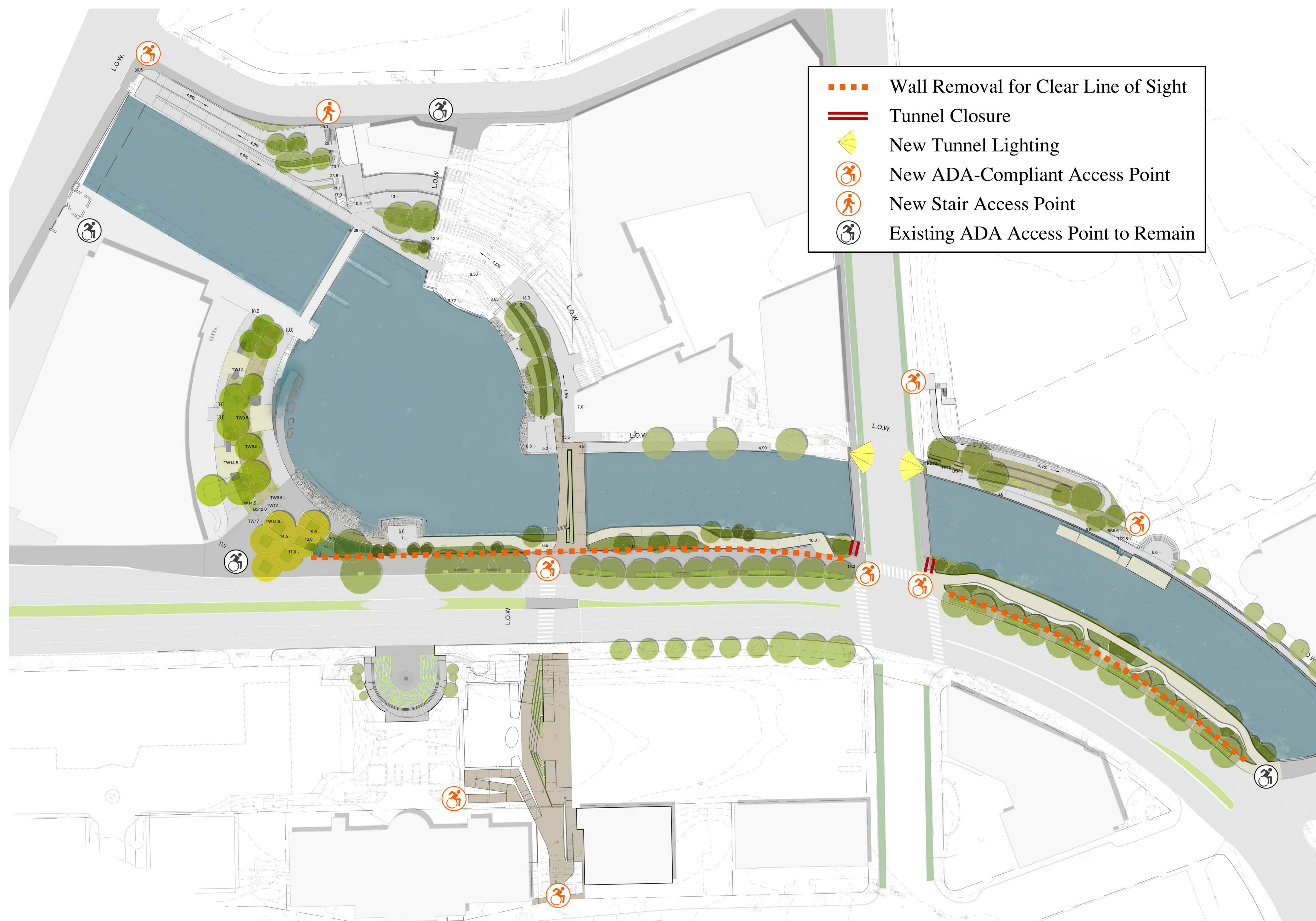
## SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE WALKWAYS

Our approach to Access and Mobility centers the principles of “Safety by Design”: increased foot traffic, clear lines of sight & appropriate lighting, and well-marked entrances and circulation routes. The design strives to increase daily foot traffic to and through the Riverwalks to increase safety of the area, to increase visitors for frequent events, and to increase opportunities for social and economic activities in the area.

Universal Design practices are also incorporated to provide equal access to experiences along the river for all visitors, regardless of physical abilities.

• What routes through the Riverwalk would you be most excited about?

**DIRECTIONS:** Place a dot in areas along the Riverwalk where you would prefer to access.

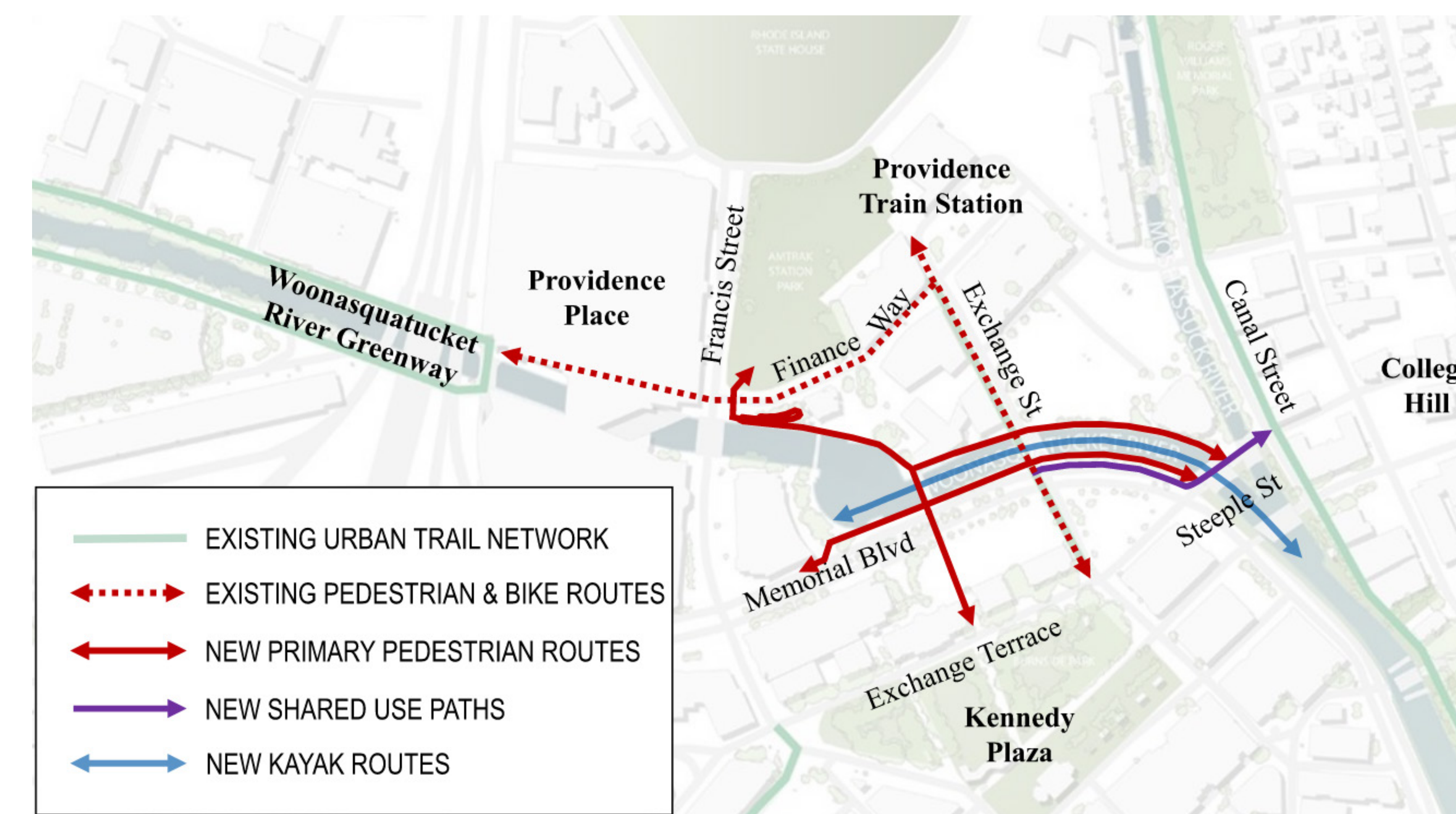
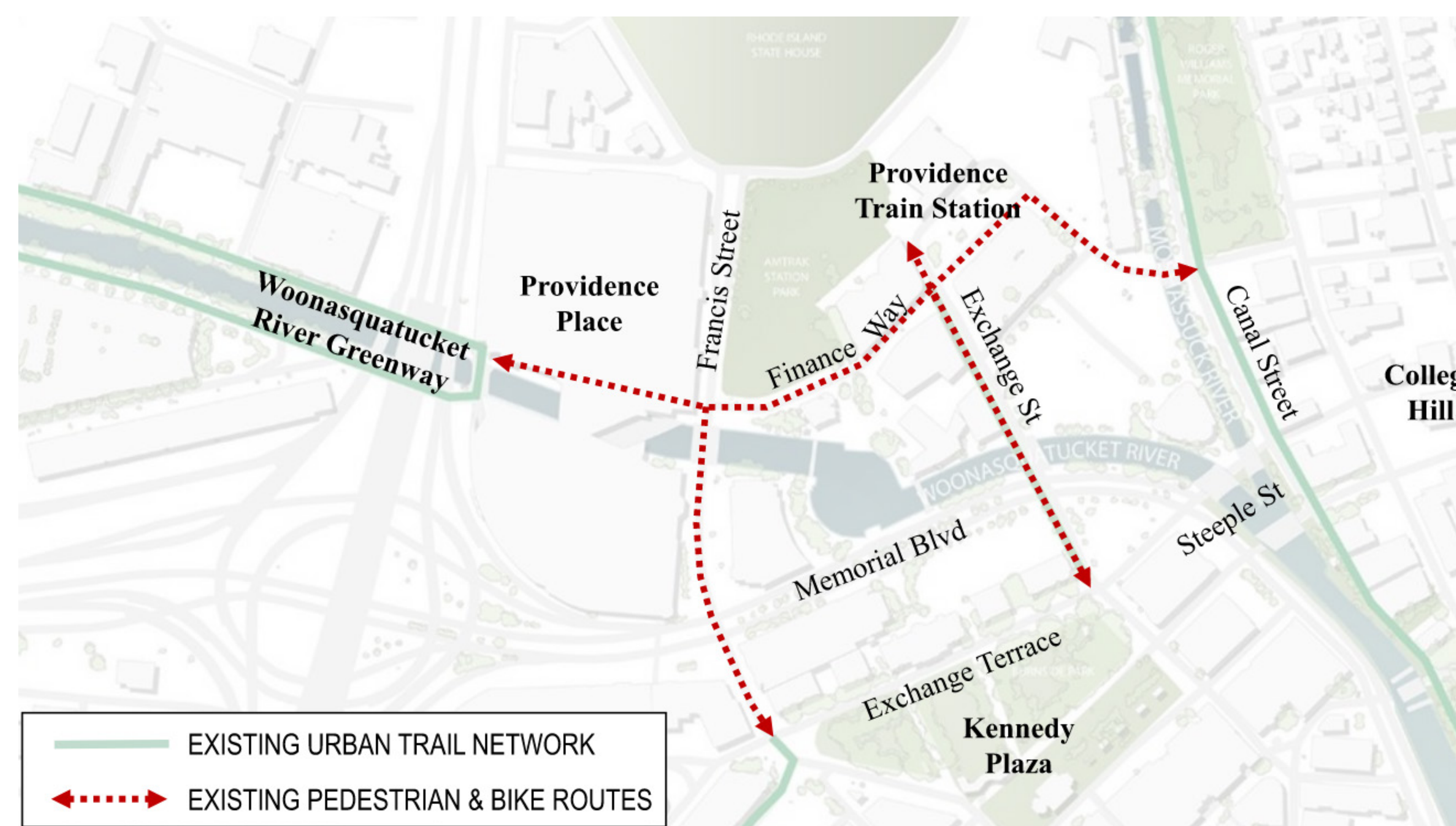


## CHANGING BEHAVIORS: PEDESTRIAN, BIKE, AND KAYAK ROUTES

We’ve heard from many residents that they tend to avoid walking through the Riverwalks - instead using Finance Way, Exchange Street, or Francis Street to walk or bike through the area. The project aims to increase daily foot traffic to Waterplace Park and along Riverwalks by creating shorter and more desirable routes to and from the surrounding businesses, transit hubs, and neighborhoods. Increasing pedestrian traffic within the park is critical to improving safety and enabling successful year-round events.

• How many days a year do you walk along the Riverwalks?

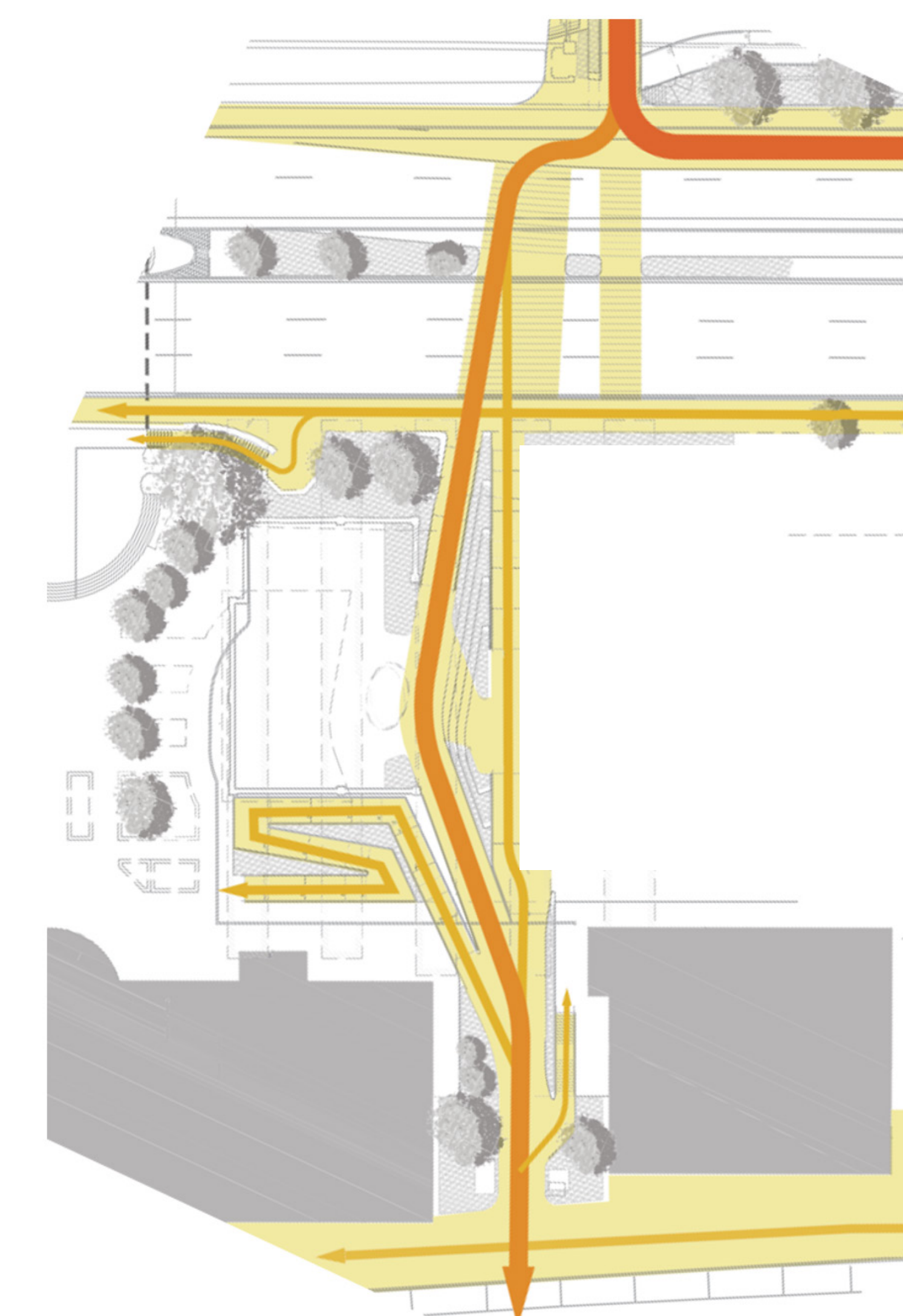
**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note to tell us what would make you want to walk along the Riverwalks more often.



## WATERPLACE BRIDGE, MEMORIAL BOULEVARD CROSSWALK, AND DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR

As the Ws are raised out of the floodplain, the Waterplace Pedestrian Bridge will also be rebuilt. This presents an opportunity to connect the bridge to a newly widened and enhanced promenade along Memorial Boulevard, linking directly to a safe new pedestrian route via the Downtown Connector walkway to Kennedy Plaza.

**COMMENTS:** Use a post-it note and add your thoughts of the design here.





# #5

# CONNECTION TO NATURE AND WATER

## OVERVIEW

At this board, we invite you to explore how reconnecting to nature and water can create a more resilient and inviting riverfront.

## DOT EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place a **green dot** if you like the activity or experience
- Place a **red dot** if you think it could be improved or has challenges

## PLANTING AS PLACEMAKING

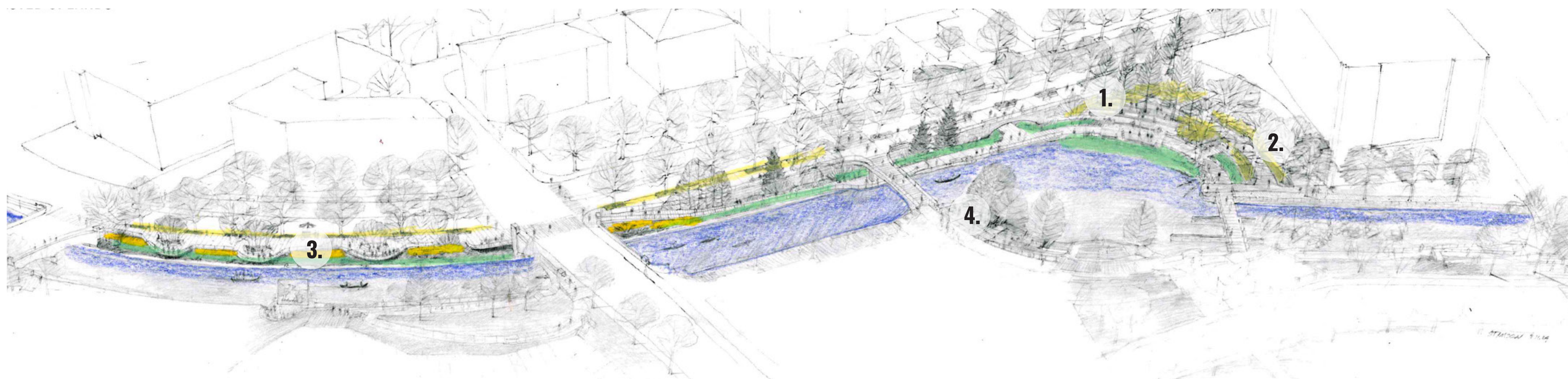
### 1. LARCH TERRACE

Grand spires of native larch signal a gateway and gathering area at the basin.



### 2. UPLAND FOREST

Shady canopy with a low under-story emulating New England's historic fire-managed forests.



### 3. RIPARIAN EDGE

Bringing the Woonasquatucket River's native flora back to the Riverwalk.

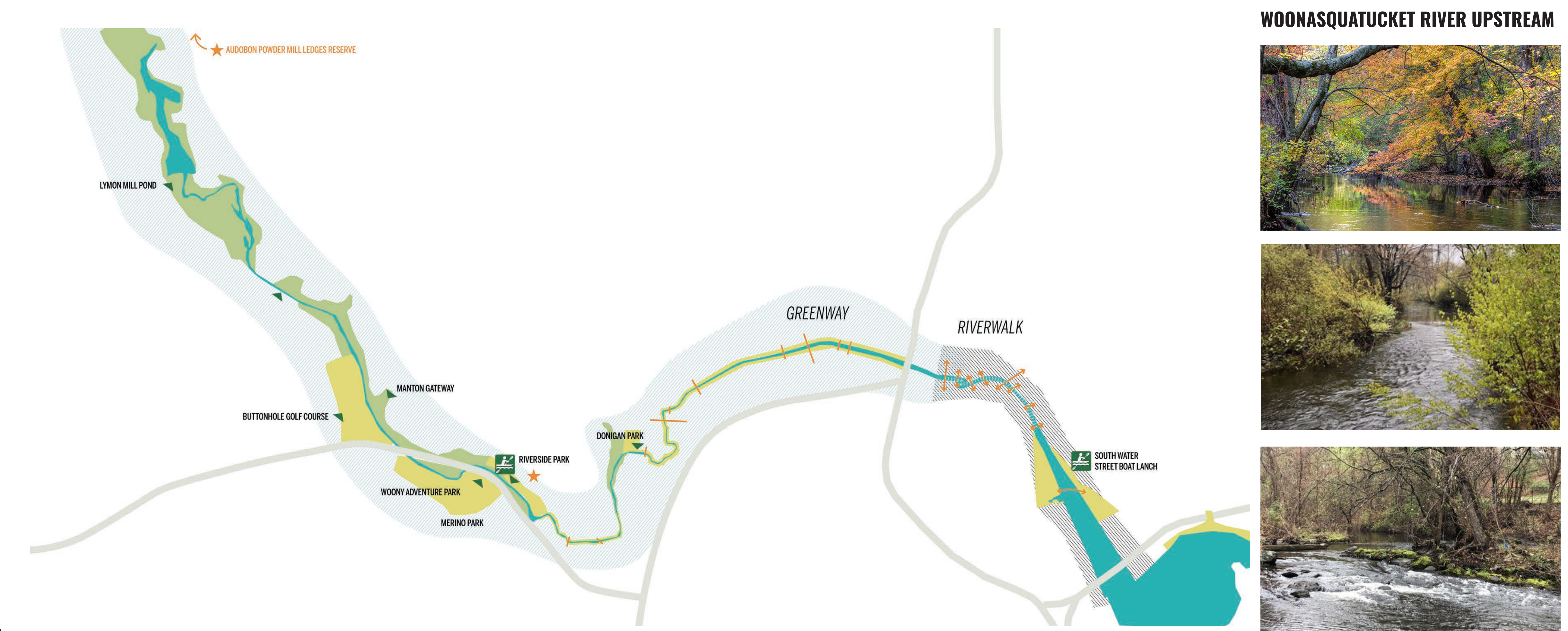


### 4. COASTAL SHRUBLAND

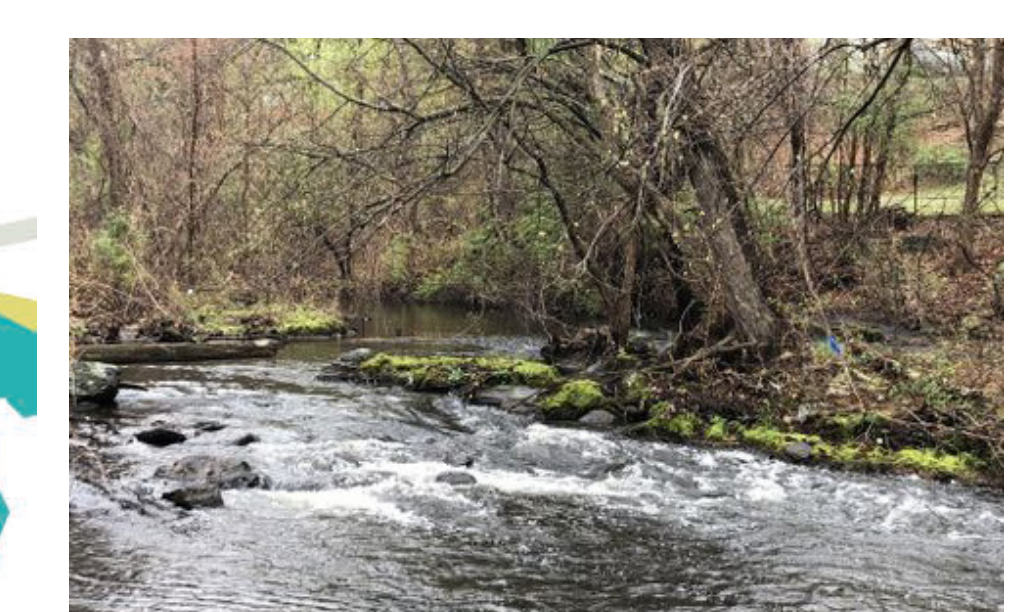
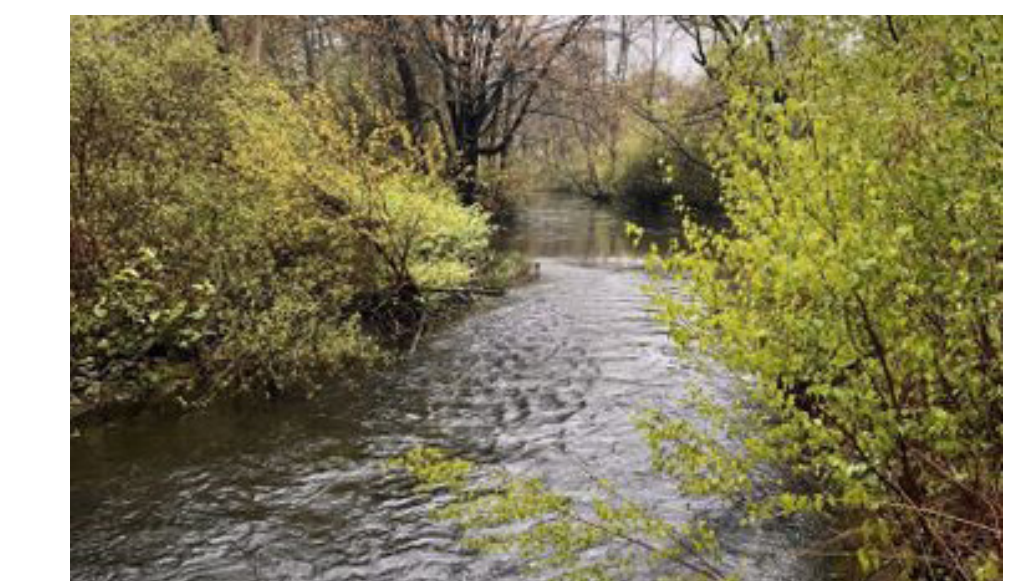
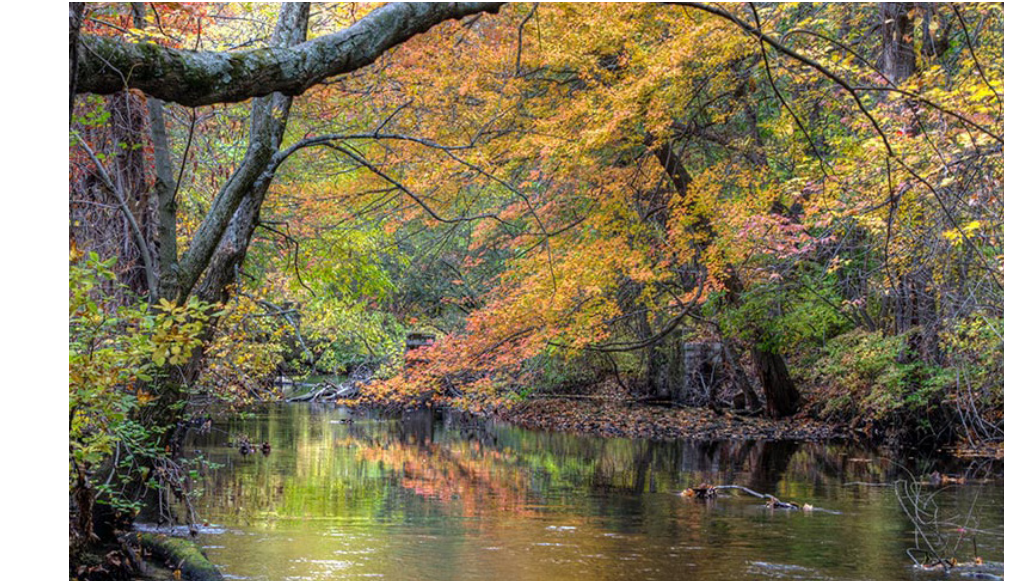
Rhode Islands shoreline character at the water's edge.



## WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER GREENWAY



### WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER UPSTREAM



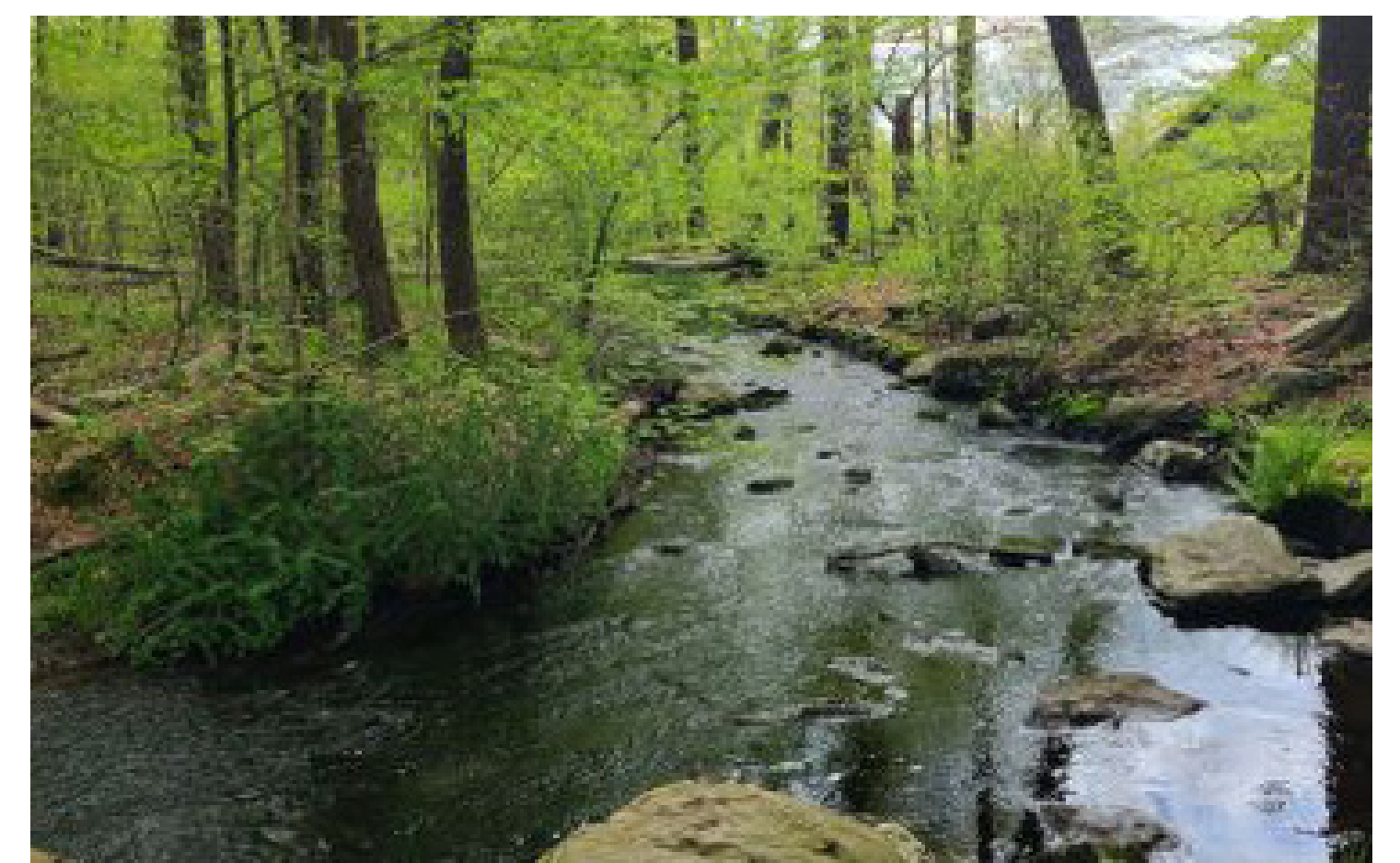
## RIVER RECREATION

Kayaking is already a popular activity in the river, new kayak launches provide more infrastructure allowing easier access to participate in this activity.



## INSPIRED BY RHODE ISLAND'S DIVERSE LANDSCAPES

### WOODLAND RIVER / STREAM



### WET MEADOW / FEN



### TIDAL MARSH



### ROCKY SHORE



## BUILDING ON A NETWORK OF REWILDING EFFORTS

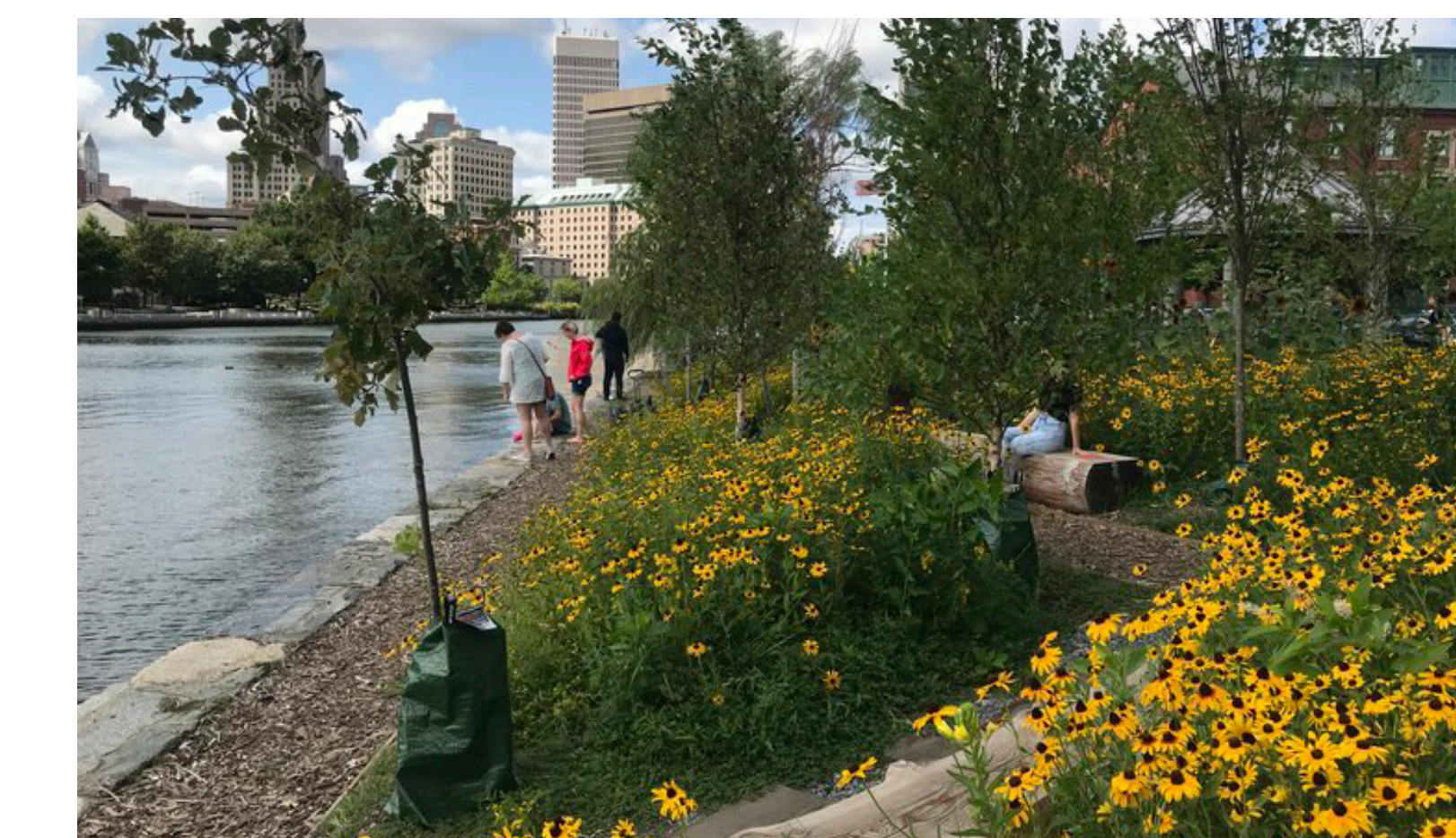
### ROGER WILLIAMS FLOATING WETLAND



### LIVING EDGE



### LIVING EDGE



### WOONASQUATUCKET GREENWAY





# #6 RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

## OVERVIEW

At this station, we invite you to explore how the project sustainability goals guide the design approach to balancing flood resilience, water access, ecosystem health, urban mobility, energy consumption, and waste reduction.

## PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The project aims to demonstrate Providence's commitment to providing sustainable spaces for our community. The sustainability goals identified below are being incorporated in the project's design.

• Which of these Sustainability Strategies is most important to you?

COMMENTS: Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.



- Permeable surfaces
- Green infrastructure
- Water-efficient plants
- Riverbank naturalization



- Bike Storage
- Equitable Access
- Increase boat storage
- Connection to nature



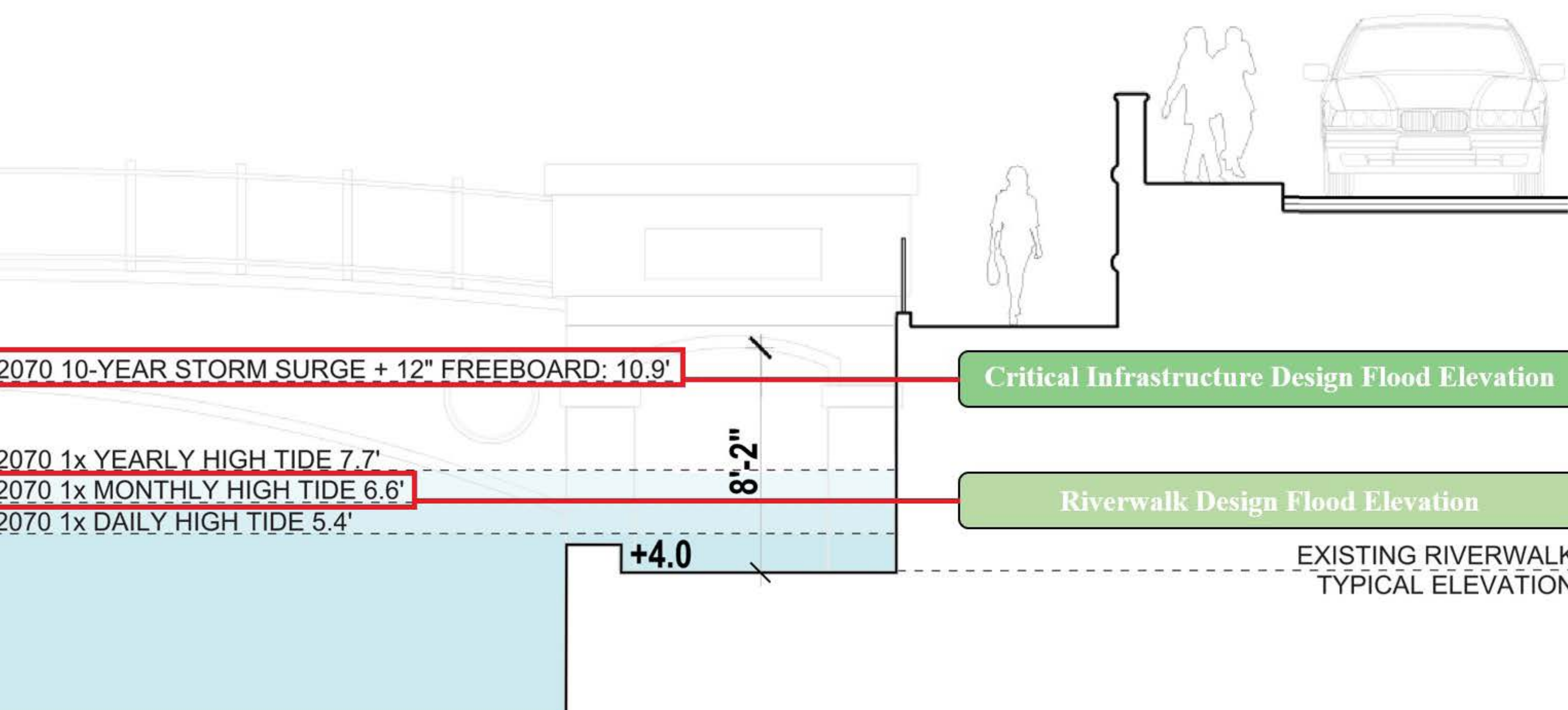
- Utilize renewable energy when feasible
- Temporary (event) energy resources



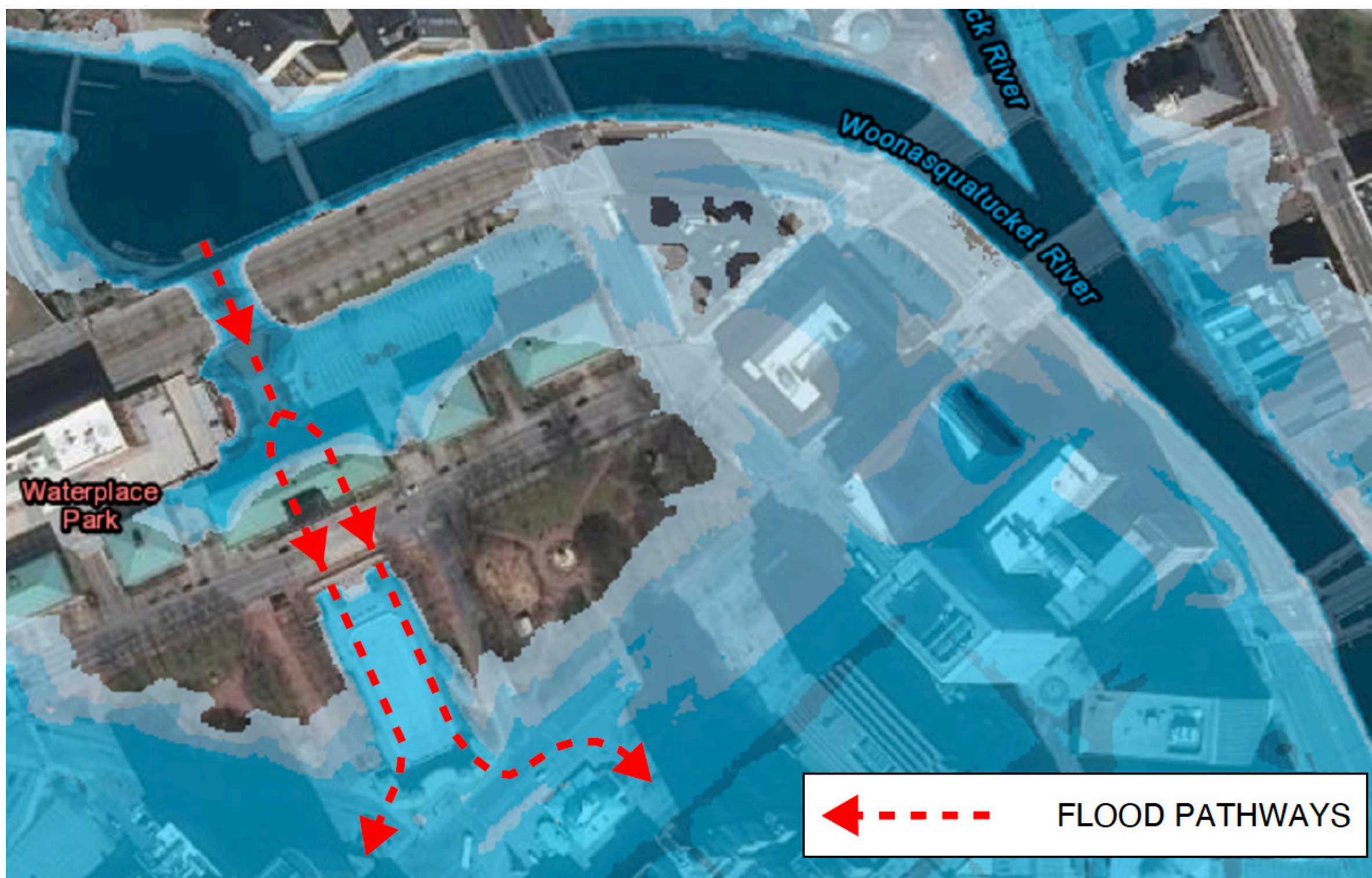
- Recycling/needle bins
- Waste diversion plan
- Material reuse
- River debris management

## PROTECTING DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE AND WATERPLACE PARK

Today, our Riverwalks experience monthly flooding from high tides. By 2050 tidal flooding will submerge the Riverwalks every day, and flooding from the river will put inland properties in Downtown Providence at risk.



Notes:  
-Sea Level Rise Projections Based on NOAA 2022 High Curve.  
-All Elevations are NAVD88.

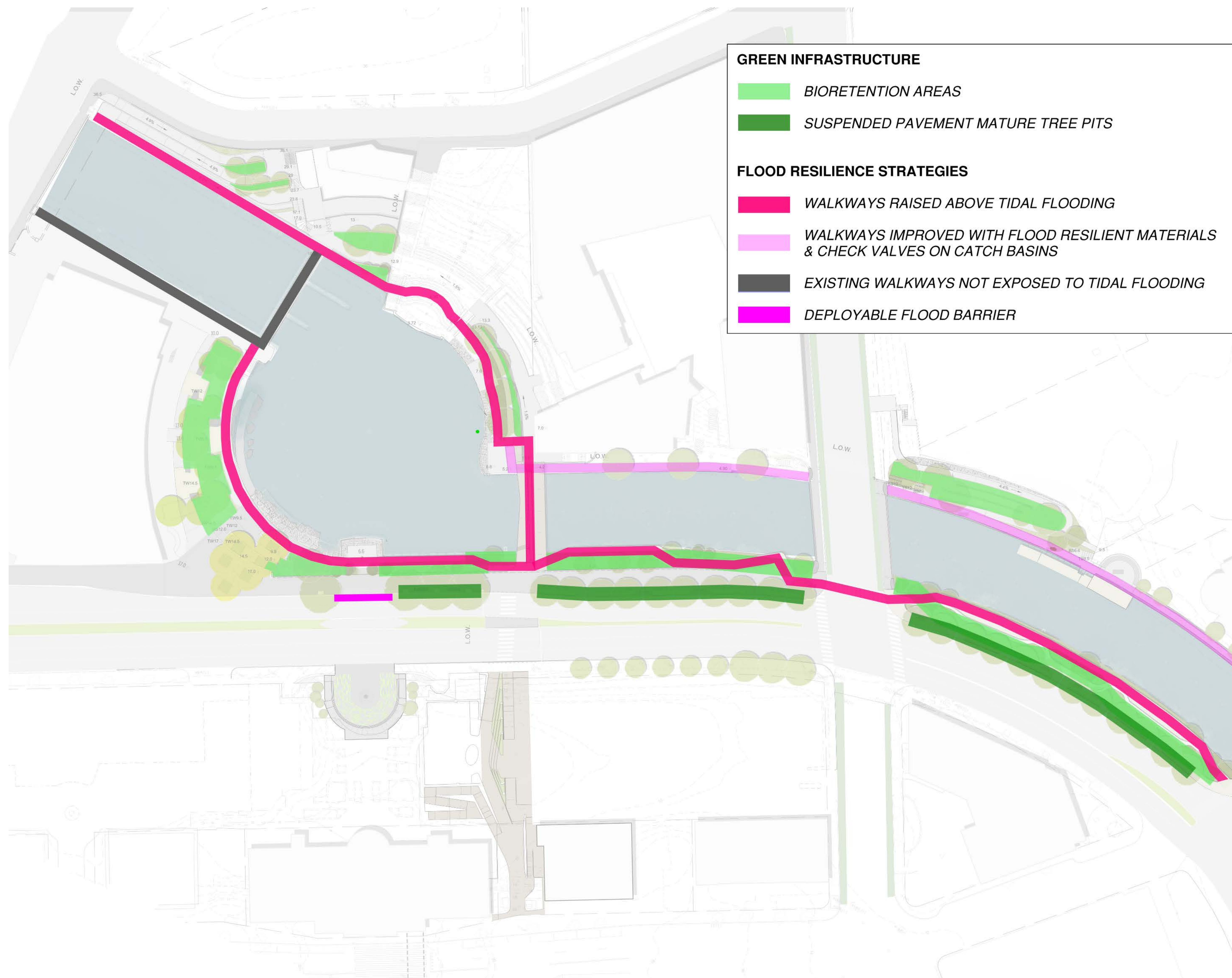


## FLOOD RESILIENCE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

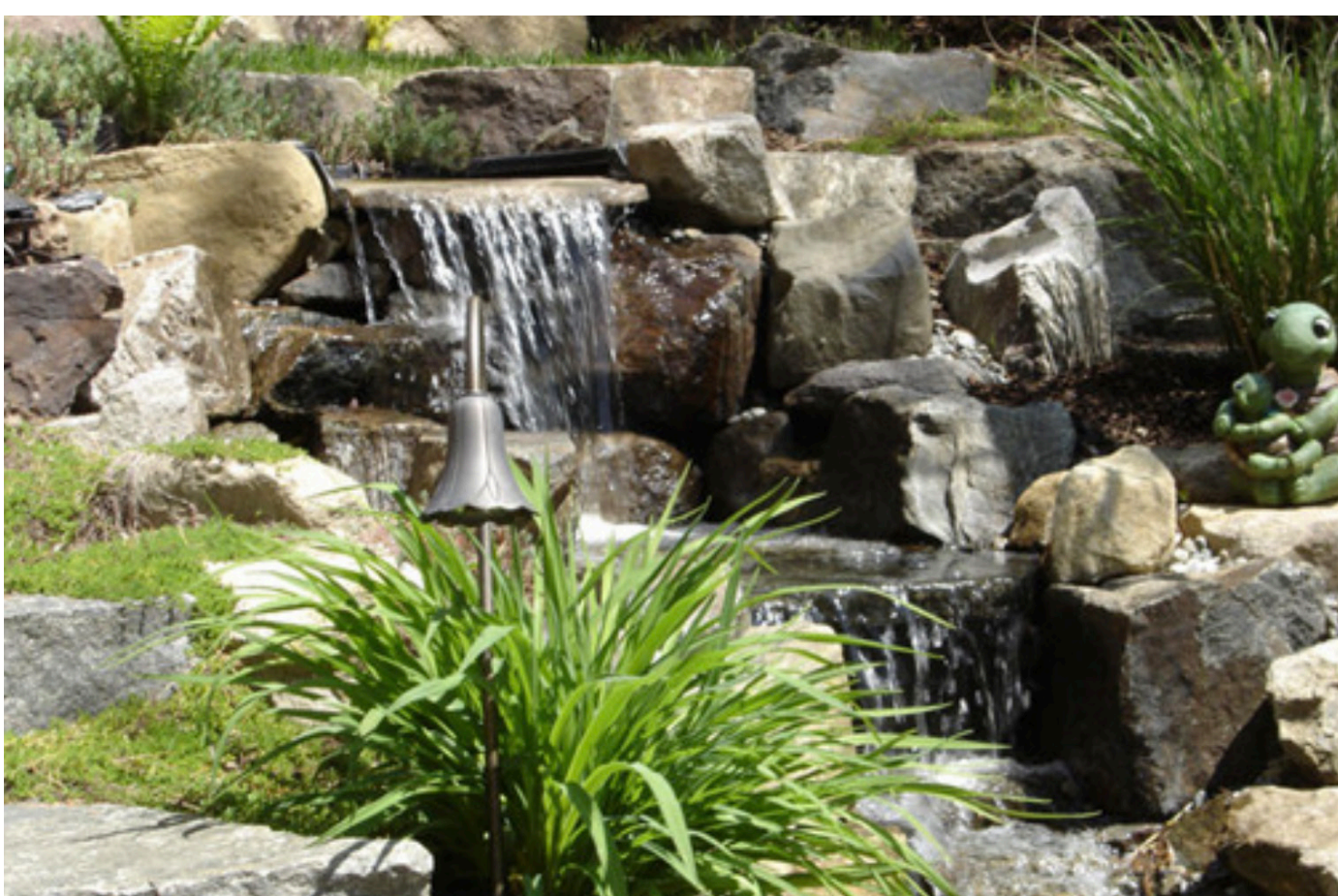
We plan to raise the Riverwalks along the basin and along the south side of the river, while reusing the structure beneath the new walkways as a planting bed for new vegetation that will provide shade, reconnect the river's wildlife habitats, and remove pollutants from stormwater flowing to the river. Riverwalks along the north side of the river will be improved with flood resistant materials, and check valves that will prevent floodwaters from backing up out of catch basins. A flood barrier will also be installed in the tunnel beneath Memorial Boulevard to protect inland properties from flooding.

- Where have you seen flooding along the Riverwalk?
- What concerns do you have about flooding of the Riverwalk, adjacent properties, or Downtown Providence?
- Which types of green infrastructure are most appropriate along the Riverwalk?

COMMENTS: Use a post-it note and add your thoughts here.



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: IMPROVING WATER QUALITY, HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, HEALTH AND WELL BEING, & URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT



DAYLIGHTING STORM RUNOFF



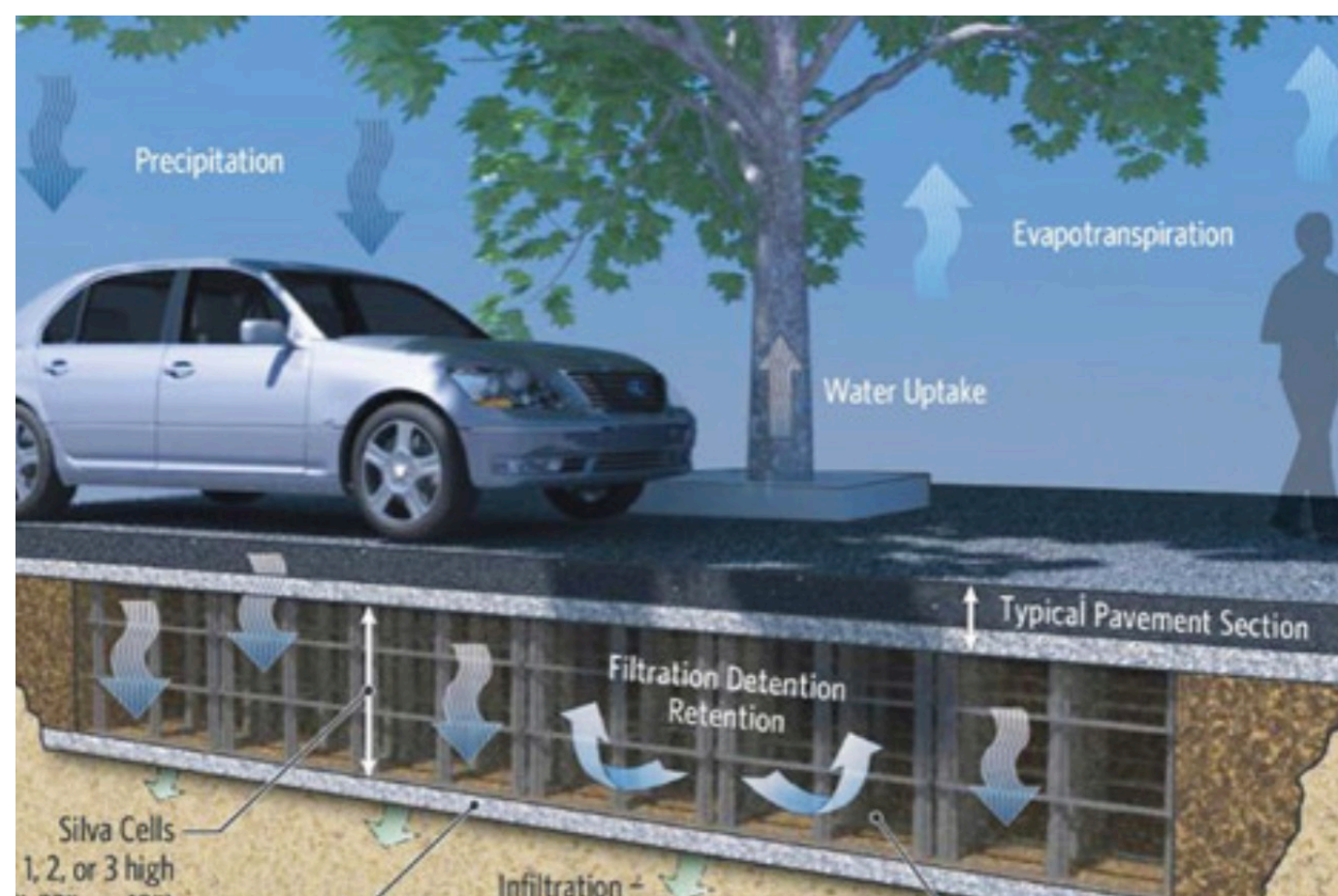
WATERFRONT MARSHES AND MEADOWS



UPLAND BIORETENTION



UPLAND BIORETENTION



MATURE URBAN TREE GROWTH