

# NICKEL PLATE

NICKEL PLATE TRAIL MASTER PLAN 2040



## For the Community, By the Community

### Nickel Plate Trail Master Plan 2040 Unveiled

Last fall the Nickel Plate Trail Master Planning Committee, comprised of Fishers residents and community leaders, engaged the community to hear what you would like to see on the trail.

The committee's vision: to create a whole new kind of public space, a destination not just for the community but by the community. Committee co-chairs John Weingardt (Council Member) and Amanda Welu (Resident & Co-Founder of DelvDesign) encouraged people to be bold, be original, and be heard. You answered! The City received over 1,500 individual ideas through in-person meetings, pop-up open houses, think tanks, and online surveys. Ideas poured in from everyone — students, teachers, neighborhood groups, business leaders, artists, entrepreneurs and fitness enthusiasts. Thanks to all who shared your bold and original ideas.

In February, the Committee unveiled a Draft Master Plan that brings these ideas together for the Nickel Plate Trail in Fishers. Residents were invited to provide further input online and at various forums, including neighborhood meetings, City Council, Park Advisory Council, Fishers Advisory Plan Commission, Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, and the Fishers Art & Culture Commission. Comments from the public were incorporated into the final master plan presented in this document. While the trail is planned to be built in the next few years, this long-range master plan provides a framework for design and experience that can be implemented over time.

Mayor Scott Fadness has called transforming the trail a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the city to create a world-class public amenity. It is about building a vibrant city and a place that will attract a talented workforce and encourage young families and businesses alike to choose Fishers as home. Since announcing the Nickel Plate Trail in Fishers, more than \$250 Million of private investment has been announced adjacent to the trail from Hub & Spoke to First Internet Bank's new downtown headquarters. These investments in the heart of the City's new Art & Cultural District are important to sustaining Fishers in the long-term as a smart, vibrant and entrepreneurial city.

### History and Summary

#### Fishers History:

In the late 1800's, the Nickel Plate Railroad was built in Central Indiana, connecting communities, people and goods in a whole new way. In the 1870's, railroad owners announced a stop was being added in southern Hamilton County, just east of the White River. Upon hearing this, an entrepreneur by the name of Salathiel Fishers saw an opportunity and purchased land near the stop. He incorporated the area as a new town, and "Fishers Switch" was born where downtown Fishers is now located. 'Switch' was a common railroad term that denoted a location where people could board the train or switch trains. It also referred to the switch in tracks, a switch in direction. Switch was dropped from the town's name in the early 1900s, and Fishers remained. The history of Fishers began with a train stop 150 years ago. Today we have an opportunity to embrace our past and look to the future as we create a whole new kind of experience on this same corridor with the Nickel Plate Trail project.

#### Neighborhood Engagement:

In addition to a robust public engagement process and online outreach, the planning committee provided outreach to individual homeowners along the trail. Through a mailer to residents and HOA's the planning committee team was able to garner great interest in participation in the process and feedback on the master plan design. Many front porch and backyard discussions helped the planning team to better understand the trail's impact on the local neighborhood residents. As a result of this process, plans were adjusted to ensure active uses were located away from residential adjacencies and that appropriate screening measures and programs would be put in place where needed as part of a city grant program.

#### Master Plan Highlights:

Emerging themes from community input guided the Master Plan development and include:

- A Trail for all
- Celebrating what is uniquely Fishers
- Health and wellness
- Connecting to community
- Design with nature
- A place for innovation and technology
- Safety and privacy
- History and heritage of Nickel Plate line

The Master Plan illustrates what is possible and desired for art, technology, lighting, safety and placemaking. The plan identifies future parking and shared parking opportunities and makes recommendations for a grant program for residents who live adjacent to the trail for buffering as desired.

#### What's Next:

Construction is expected to begin on the Nickel Plate Trail in Fall 2019, with the first phase to include downtown Fishers from approximately 106th Street to 126th Street, with a pedestrian tunnel under 116th Street. Follow progress at [www.fishers.in.us/tracktotrail](http://www.fishers.in.us/tracktotrail).



# FISHERS

WHAT IS THE FISHERS IDENTITY?



The background of the slide features a photograph of several hands holding a white sign with blue text that reads "I WANT MILES OF". The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting. The hands are positioned around the sign, and the overall tone is collaborative and positive.

# SMART

**A PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE**

# VIBRANT

**A COMMUNITY WITH A STRONG IDENTITY AND SENSE OF PLACE**

# ENTREPRENEURIAL

**A ENVIRONMENT THAT EMBRACES CREATIVITY AND CHALLENGES THE STATUS QUO**



# THE ESSENCE

WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF THIS PROJECT?

The background of the slide is a photograph of an outdoor cafe or restaurant. Several people are seated at tables, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The scene is bright and sunny, with large windows in the background showing a cityscape. The text is overlaid on this image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**We are developing a plan that will transform the City.**

**The Trail will provide city residents and visitors an attraction like no other in central Indiana**

**We are creating opportunities to discover the City, improve pedestrian circulation networks to downtown, interact with art, experience inspired innovation, promote wellness, attract entrepreneurs and future development.**

# 21 YEARS

THIS IS A 21 YEAR VISION MASTER PLAN.

This plan is a vision plan. The plan should be used to understand the potential of the trail, what the trail aims to achieve for the City of Fishers, and outline generally what activities should be placed where in the future as funding becomes available. The plan is still flexible and will change over time as the project implementation phase evolves.





The Nickel Plate Trail Committee hosted and led online engagement, and extensive face-to-face meetings to solicit design input for the trail from the community.

**1500+ VOICES**

public art butterflies music birding local art bike rental free!  
commuter rail community gardens digital screens/interface ninja course  
snowmelt snow melt cameras murals  
bike hotel delight dog bags water fountains educational bridges and tunnels at crossings  
lighting and safety center lines pocket parks elevated transit  
greenway good for runners train preserve history and culture  
scooters spur trails outdoor patios good for cyclist scavenger hunt  
fitness stations dog parks pop-up retail train car exhibit benches security cameras  
encouraging words dark skies parking ART!  
natural shade safe intersections keep the rails performance  
geocaching robots safety world webcams privacy  
bike repair native plants screening discovery police buttons fitness  
access points zip lines school co-op playgrounds free! like the Monon roller blading  
yoga simple & quiet level surface rails with trails hammocks

# IDEAS METRICS

Feedback received from the “I want 4.5 Miles of \_\_\_\_\_?” campaign provided community input including a desire to incorporate art and history, provide fitness and wellness opportunities, create community gathering spaces, plan for needed functional requirements, and highlight technology and innovation.





# DISCOVERY PHASE EMERGING THEMES:

**A Trail for all**

**Design with nature**

**Celebrating what is uniquely Fishers**

**A place for innovation and technology**

**Health and wellness**

**Safety and privacy**

**Connecting to community**

**History and heritage of NPRR**



# FRAMEWORK



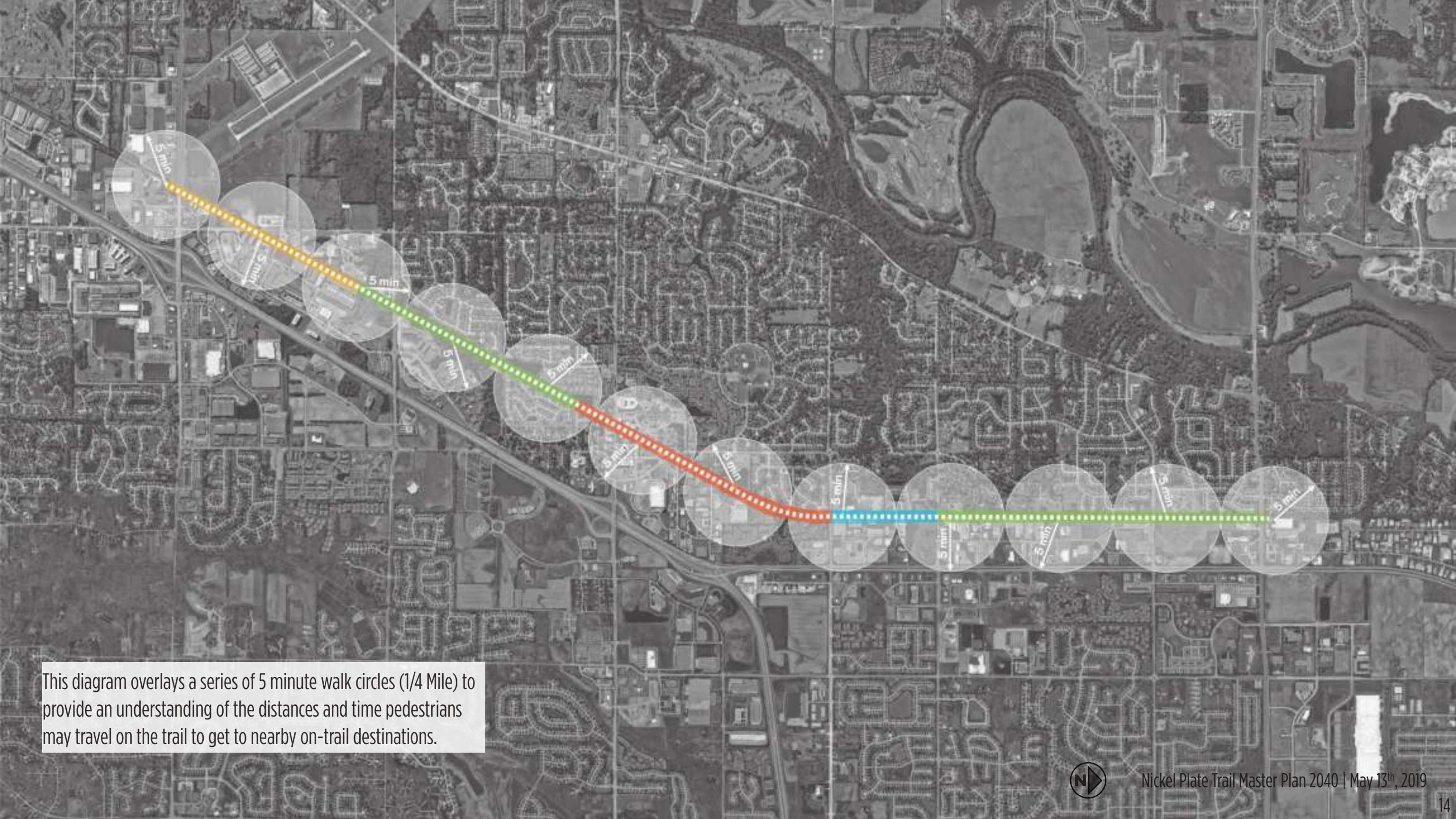


The trail corridor cuts through several types of land use areas within Fishers. This plan and diagram outlines what uses along the trail may be appropriate given adjacent existing land uses, which include residential, multifamily housing, industrial, and commercial.

Makerspace + Innovation		Nature + Park		Downtown Active Core			Wellness Zone		Park + Education	
Scooter Track	Eclectic	Nature	Passive	Walkable	Stroll	Tech	Health	Recreation	Connection to Nature	Trail
Extreme Sports	Experimental	Escape	Play	Downtown Connection	Attractions	Innovation	Wellness	Fitness	Green	Education
Chair Lift	Ecological	Serene	Historic	Restaurants	Art	Incubator	Active	Program	Park	Escape
Play	Demonstration	Quiet	Museum	Retail	Evening Out	Drone Zone	Exercise	Group Space	Screening	Passive







This diagram overlays a series of 5 minute walk circles (1/4 Mile) to provide an understanding of the distances and time pedestrians may travel on the trail to get to nearby on-trail destinations.





The trail will likely see many different types of mobility, each with a differing purpose. Many may walk to nearby destinations, while others may choose to use the trail as a running or biking circuit, while some may utilize the trail as a route from home to work.



1 mile walk to Downtown Core

1 mile walk to YMCA

2 mile walk

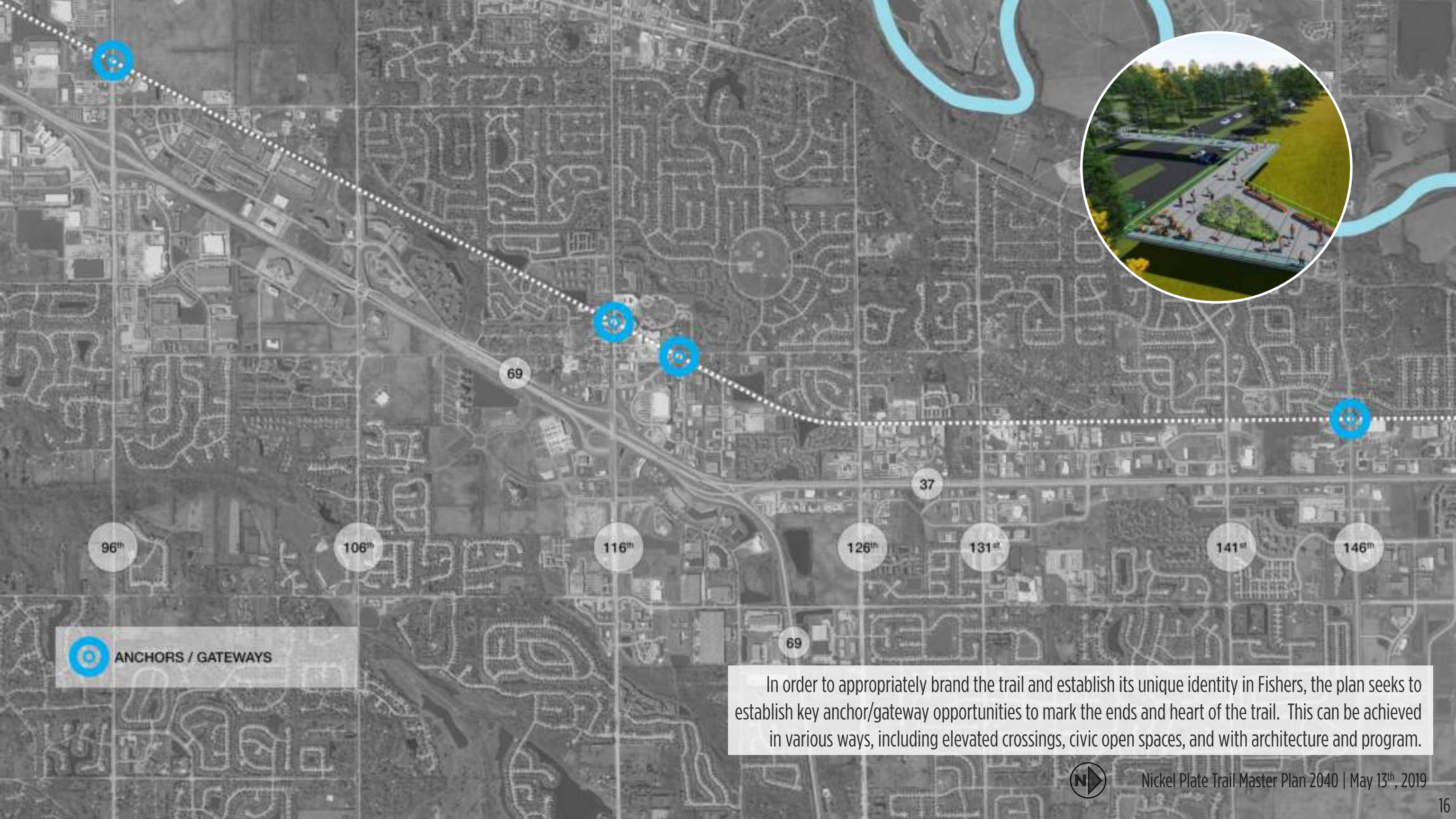
5 mile jog


11 mile bike ride

5.4 mile scooter ride (mobility)





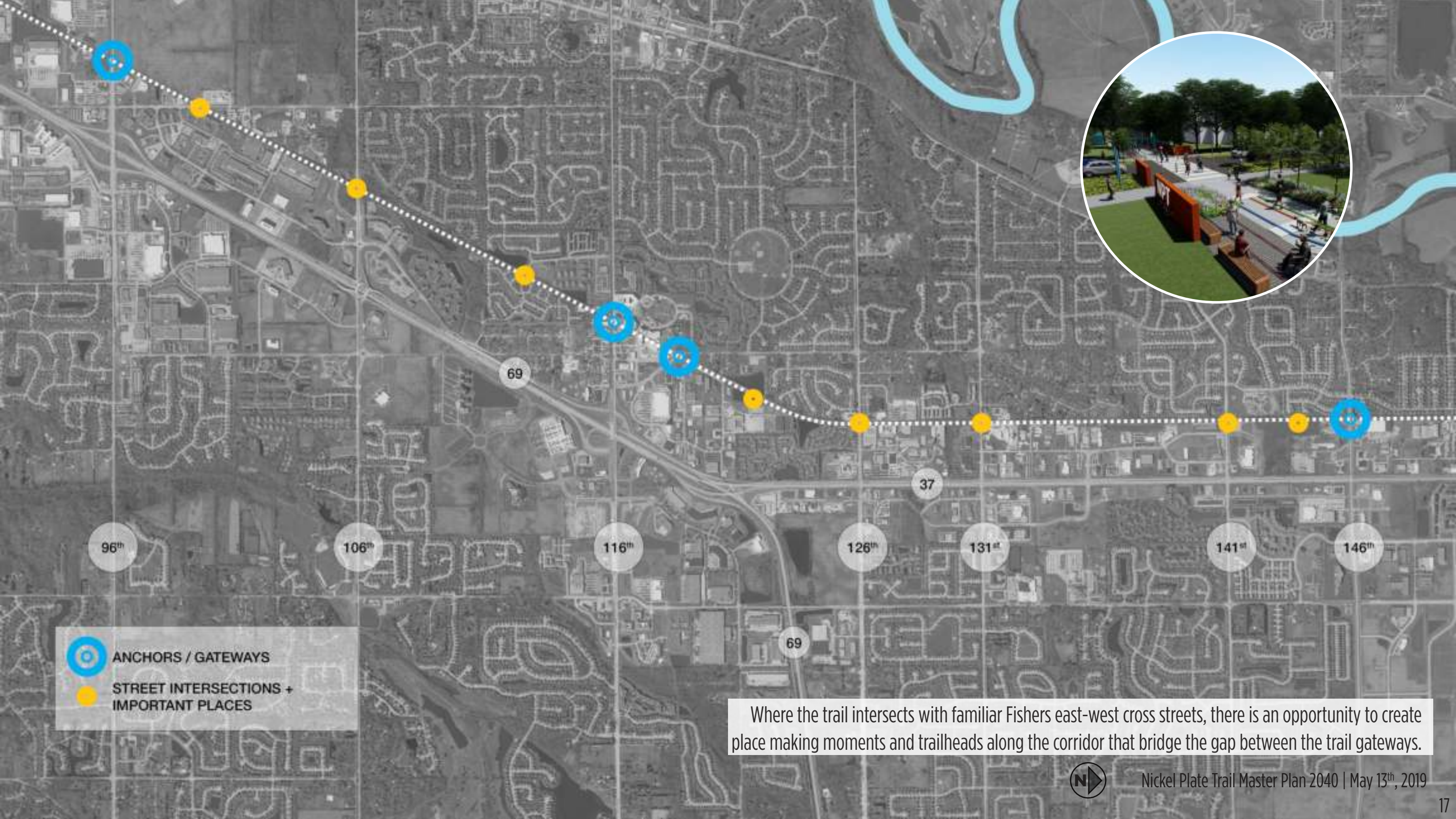




 ANCHORS / GATEWAYS

In order to appropriately brand the trail and establish its unique identity in Fishers, the plan seeks to establish key anchor/gateway opportunities to mark the ends and heart of the trail. This can be achieved in various ways, including elevated crossings, civic open spaces, and with architecture and program.







-  ANCHORS / GATEWAYS
-  STREET INTERSECTIONS + IMPORTANT PLACES

Where the trail intersects with familiar Fishers east-west cross streets, there is an opportunity to create place making moments and trailheads along the corridor that bridge the gap between the trail gateways.











Small trail nodes comprised of varied and simple design interventions like a small shelter, a seating area, an information kiosk, or a bike repair station help to create continued activity along the trail and moments for community building where neighbors can convene and catch up.







-  ANCHORS / GATEWAYS
-  STREET INTERSECTIONS + IMPORTANT PLACES
-  NODES
-  TRAIL DESTINATION

Trail destinations are opportunities to create specific draw to areas on the trail that may have a desired focus , such as a Fishers visitor center, or a downtown social gathering spot, or an education center.



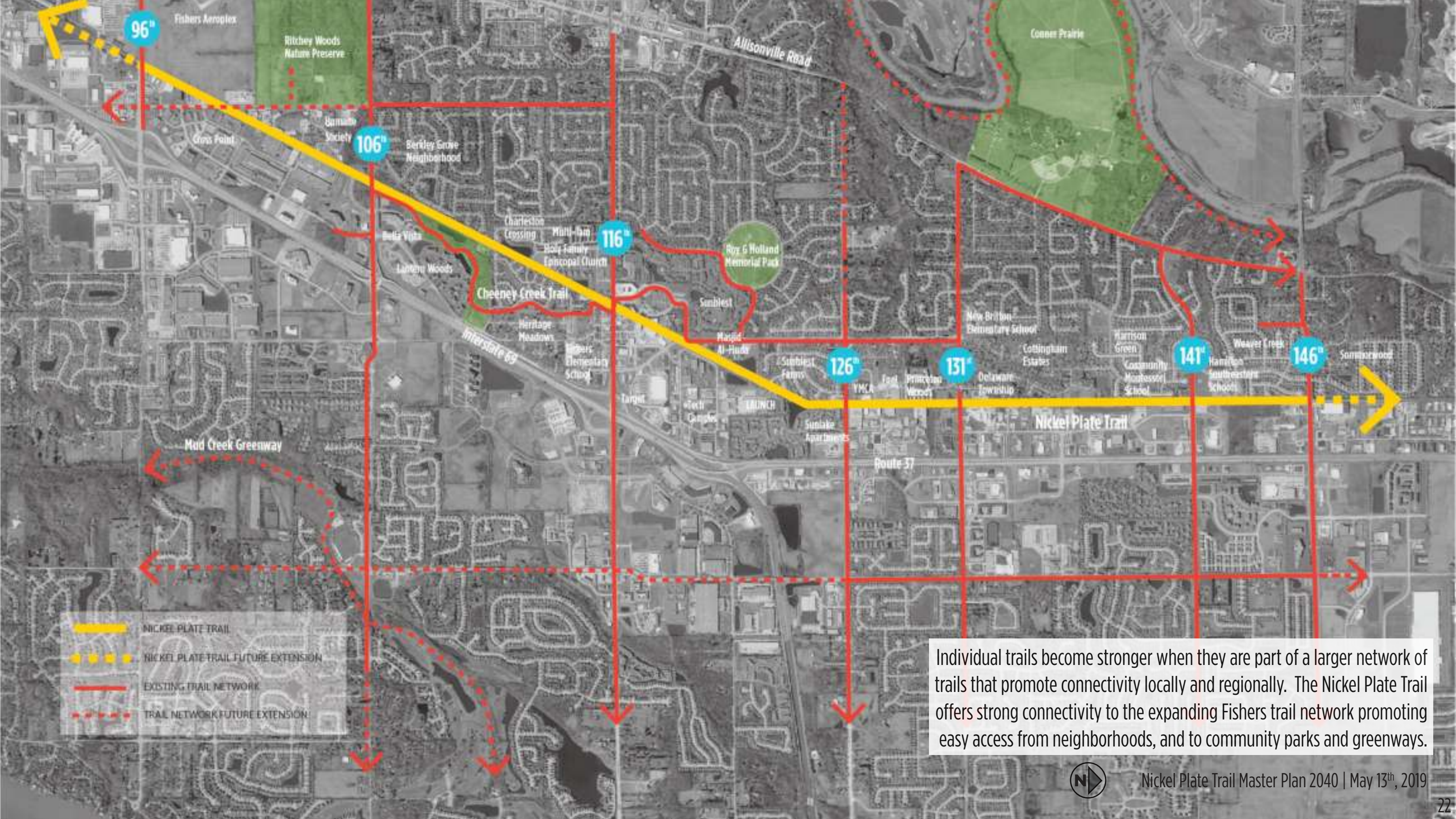
# VISION



The Master Plan extends from 96th Street to 146th Street and will become a community amenity that connects the City of Fishers to people, places, and innovative ideas.





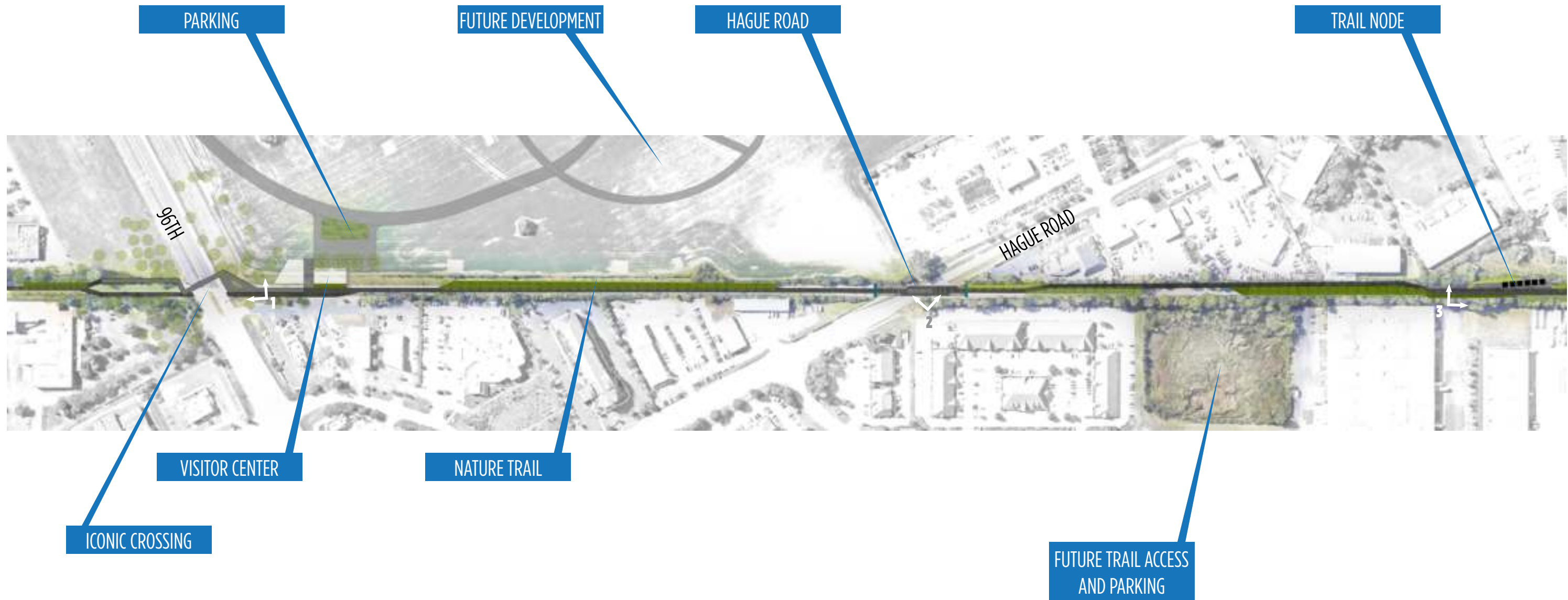


- NICKEL PLATE TRAIL
- - - - - NICKEL PLATE TRAIL FUTURE EXTENSION
- EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK
- - - - - TRAIL NETWORK FUTURE EXTENSION

Individual trails become stronger when they are part of a larger network of trails that promote connectivity locally and regionally. The Nickel Plate Trail offers strong connectivity to the expanding Fishers trail network promoting easy access from neighborhoods, and to community parks and greenways.









Given the proximity to the airport, The 96th Street gateway has a unique opportunity to be a functional crossing, but also a place where people gather as spectators to watch planes come and go. The space is designed to be more than a bridge; it can be a new attraction and destination within Fishers.



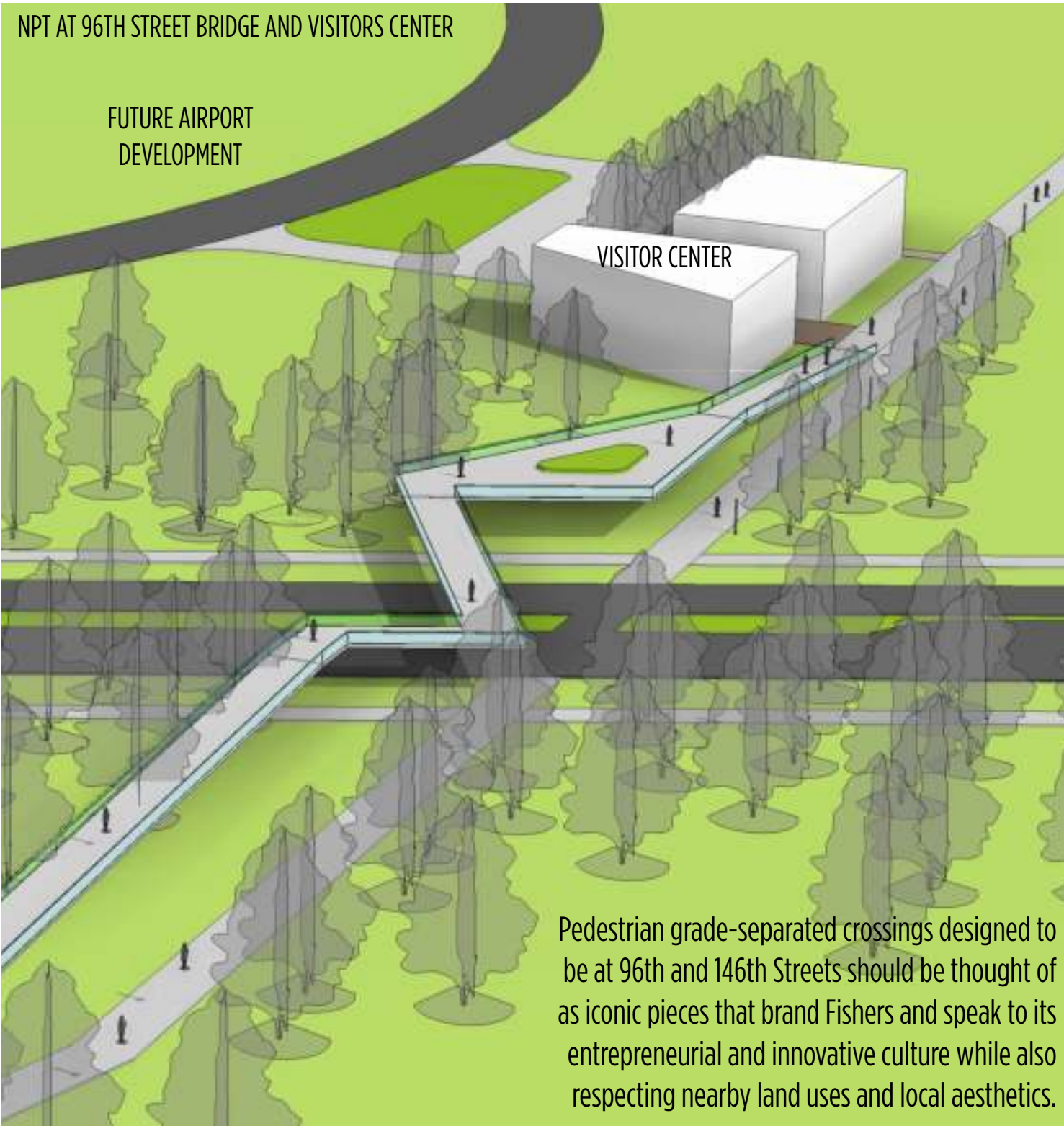
**Iconic Crossing and Viewing Deck - View 1**



INNOVATIVE AND MEMORABLE DESIGN



NPT AT 96TH STREET BRIDGE AND VISITORS CENTER



ICONIC BRIDGE ARCHITECTURE



Pedestrian grade-separated crossings designed to be at 96th and 146th Streets should be thought of as iconic pieces that brand Fishers and speak to its entrepreneurial and innovative culture while also respecting nearby land uses and local aesthetics.

**Precedent Imagery**



All at-grade crossings will implement landscape, lighting, pavement striping, bollards, and crossing signals to maximize safety and create a pedestrian friendly environment.



**Hague Road Crossing - View 2**



Integrated LED pavement technology fed by real-time trail and traffic sensors alert drivers and trail users when approaching crossings.

INTERSECTION  
LANDSCAPE

LIGHTING

COBBLE PAVING

HAGUE ROAD

SAFETY BOLLARDS

LED  
CROSSING  
WARNING

**Hague Road Crossing**



Trail crossings can be opportunities for place making, branding and incorporation of art and history.



## Hague Road Crossing





PLACE MAKING



GATEWAY



This trail is about more than movement of people, it's also about civic leisure, community building, showcasing innovation, and respecting the history of place.

LED PAVING



A typical trail node that includes a resting area, seating, shelter, lighting, pet provisions, bike repair, and landscape screening. In residential areas, trail nodes will occur on the side of the trail opposite residential property.

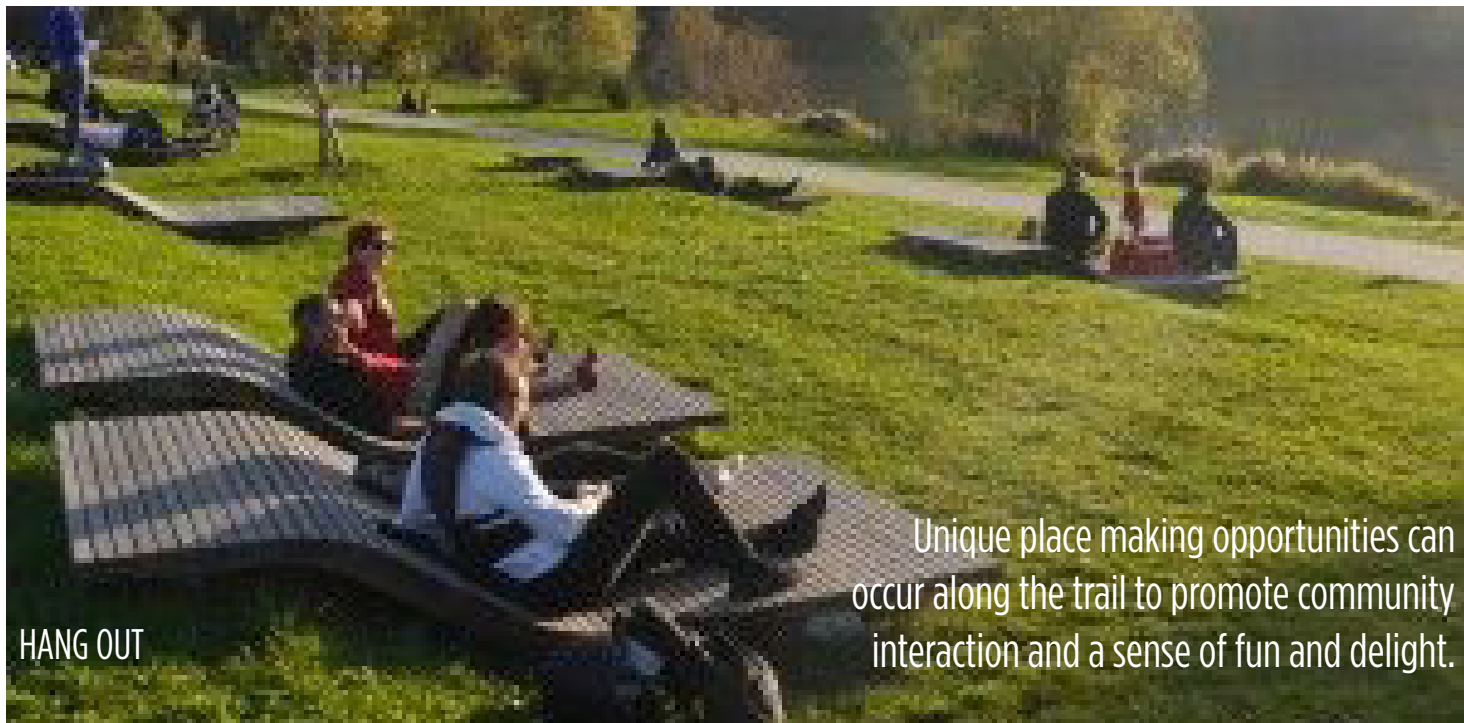


**Trail Node - View 3**





TRAIL HEAD, INFORMATION, WATER, REST ROOMS



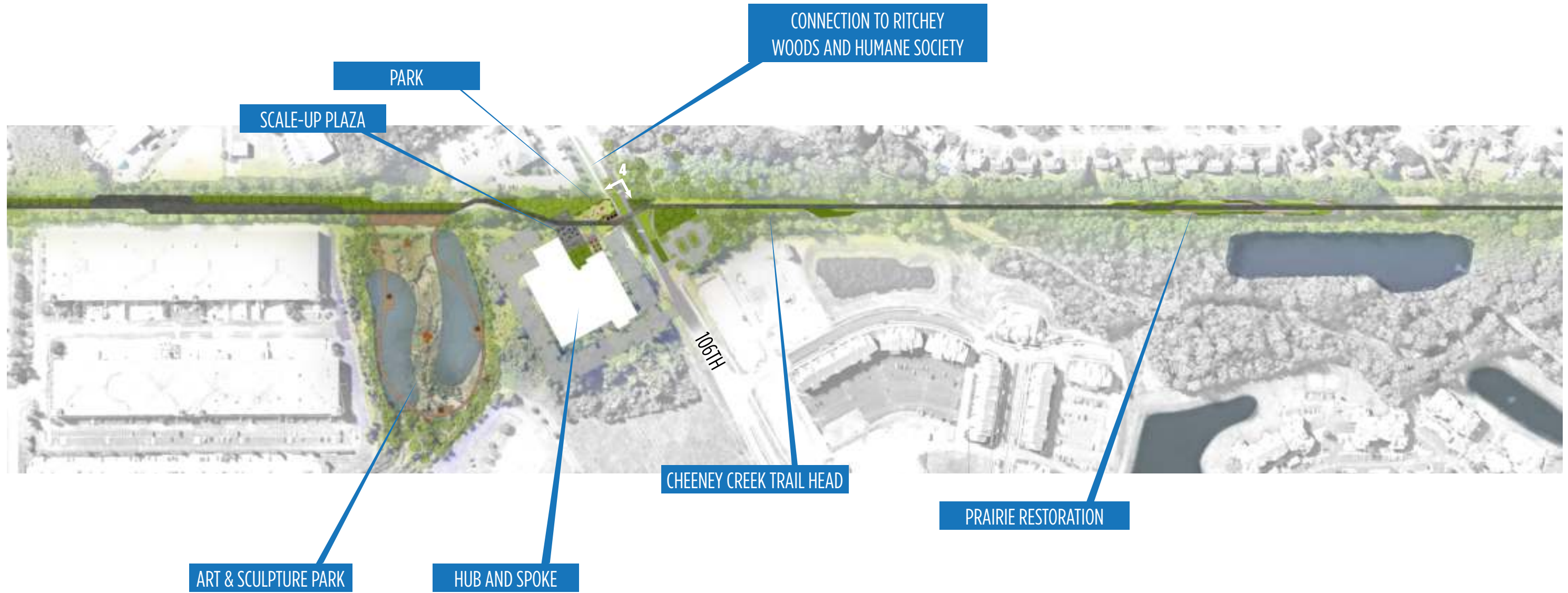
HANG OUT

Unique place making opportunities can occur along the trail to promote community interaction and a sense of fun and delight.



DELIGHT





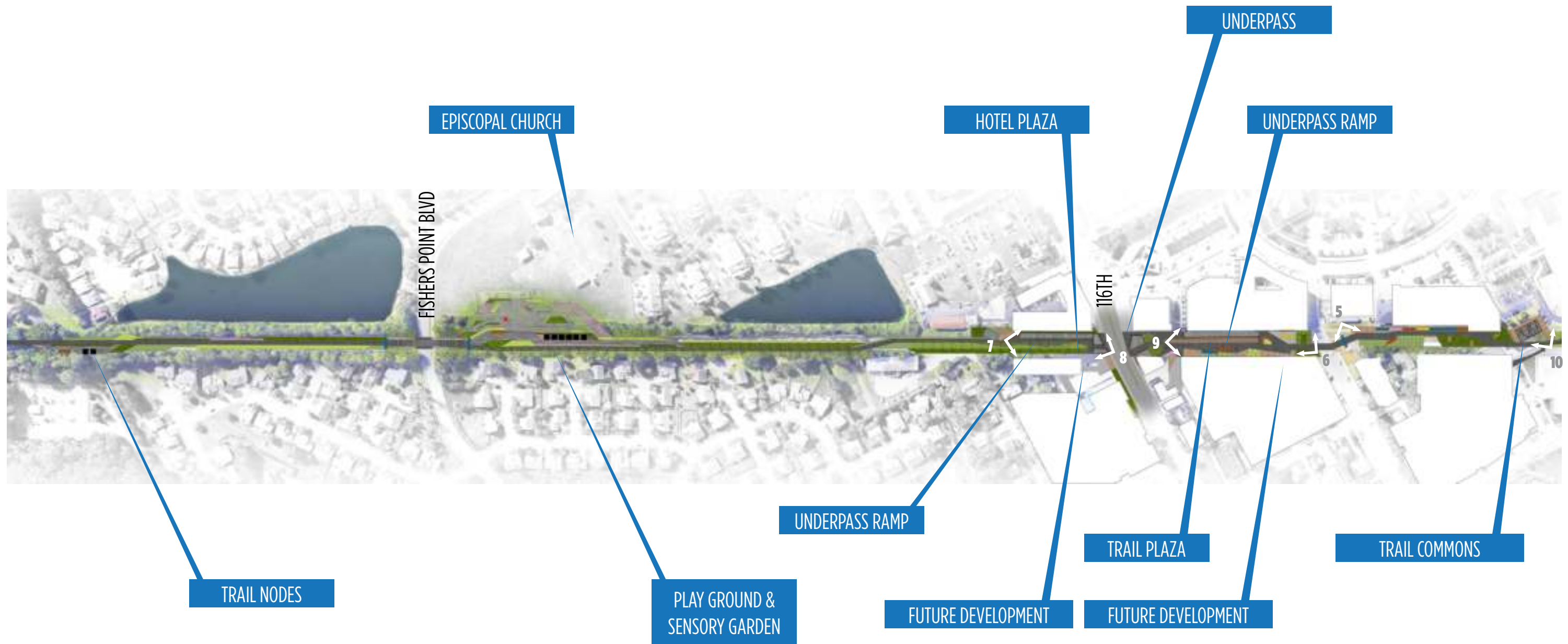




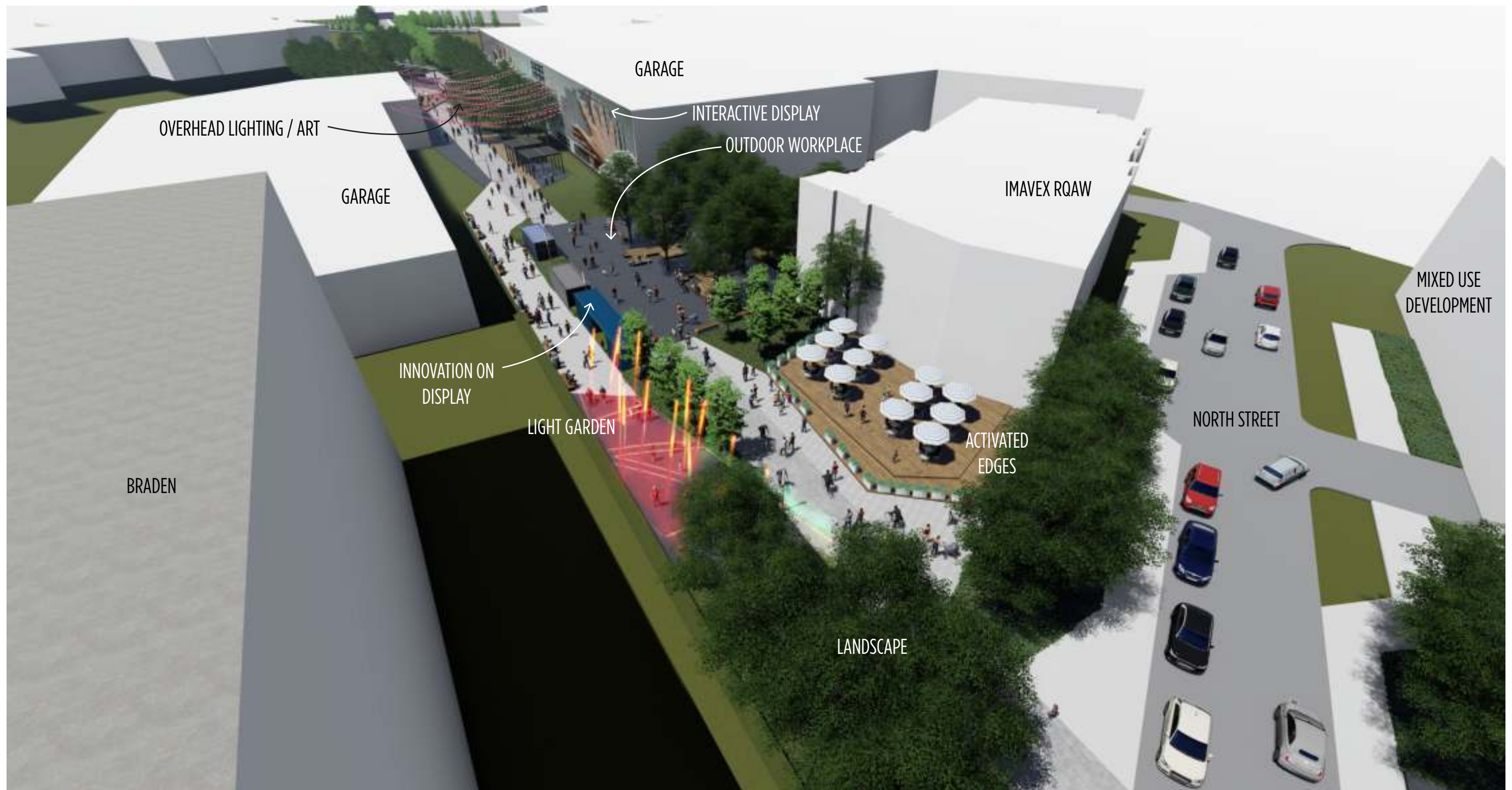
The trail intersection at 106th can be thought of comprehensively with the new Hub and Spoke facility and the Cheeny Creek trail head to create a park, garden, and maker's plaza that showcase the uses of the new development.

**NPT and 106th - View 4**









**Downtown Core - View 5**





**Downtown Core - View 6**





FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

LANDSCAPE

LIGHTING

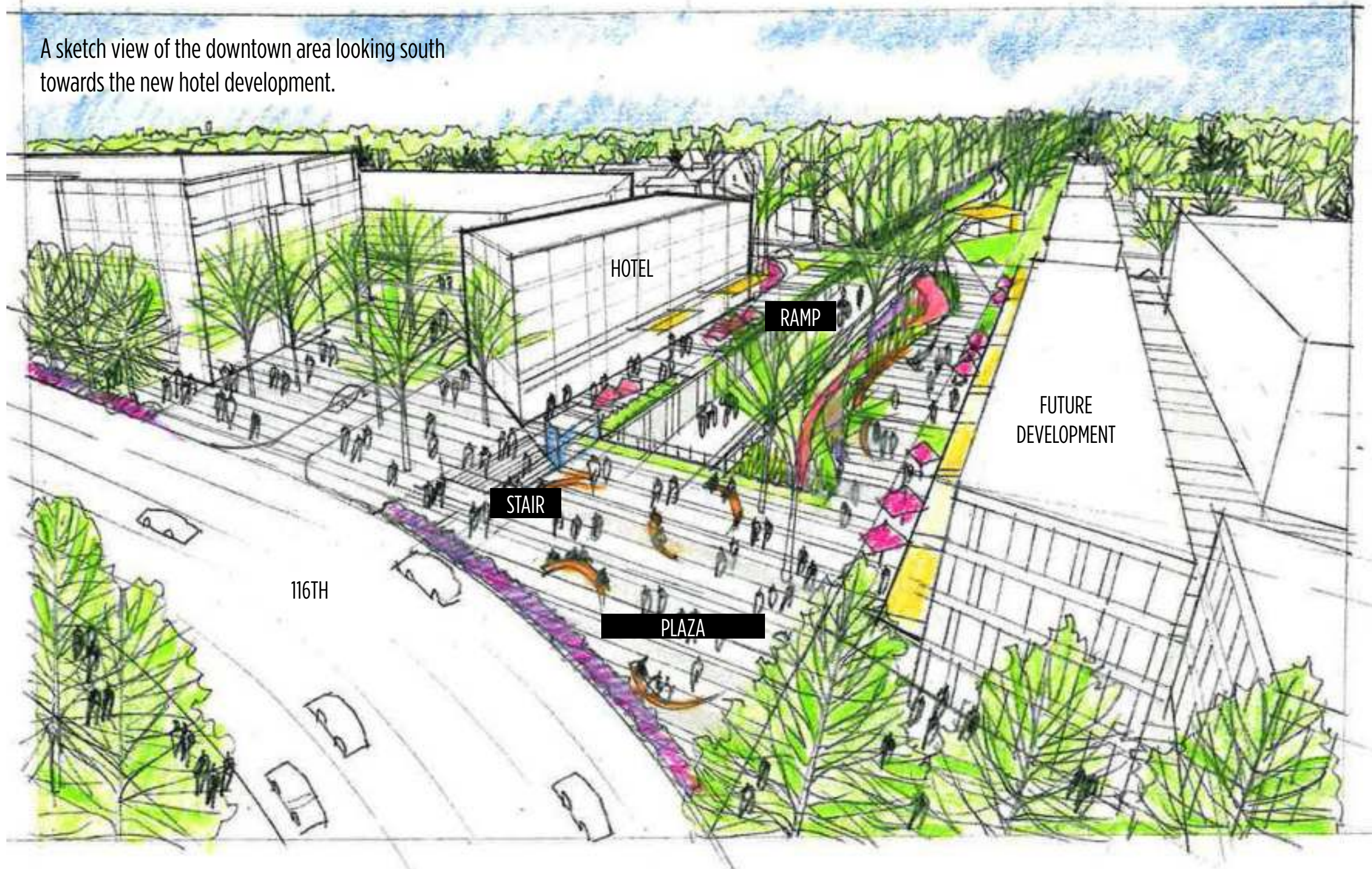
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

TRAIL

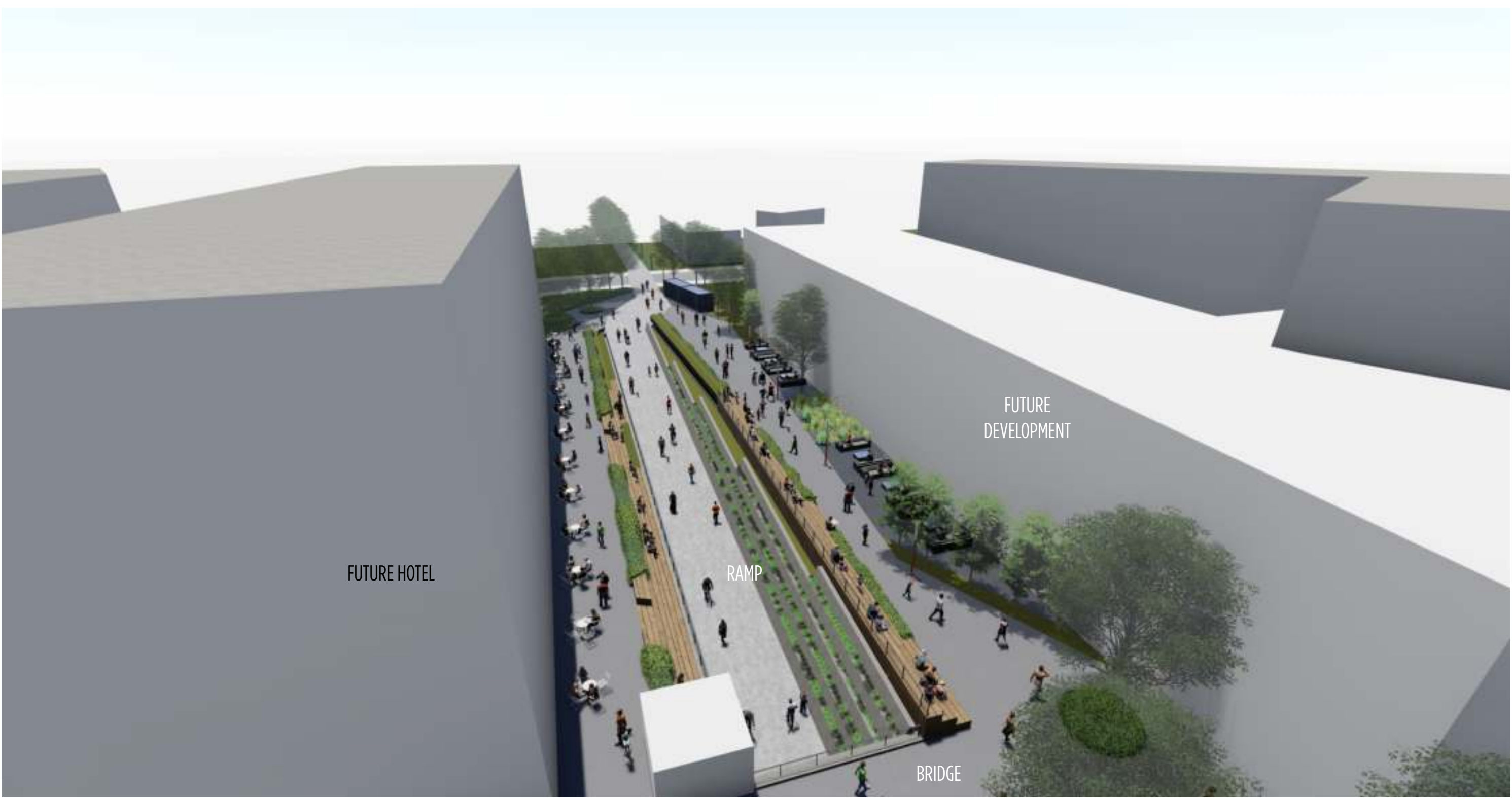
STADIUM SEATING



A sketch view of the downtown area looking south towards the new hotel development.







**Downtown Core - View 8**





FUTURE HOTEL

ART / BRANDING WALL

BATTERED GREEN WALL

TRAIL





STATION

MIXED USE  
DEVELOPMENT

RAMP

SLOPED  
GREEN WALLS

CROWD-SOURCED  
LED WALL

TRAIL

**Interactive Tunnel Walls - View 9**





**Downtown Core**



Programmatic uses of this area should include community gatherings, after dinner strolls, lunches and happy hours, games, rotating art installations-all activities that attract people and the entrepreneurial workforce to the city.





PLATFORM SPACES



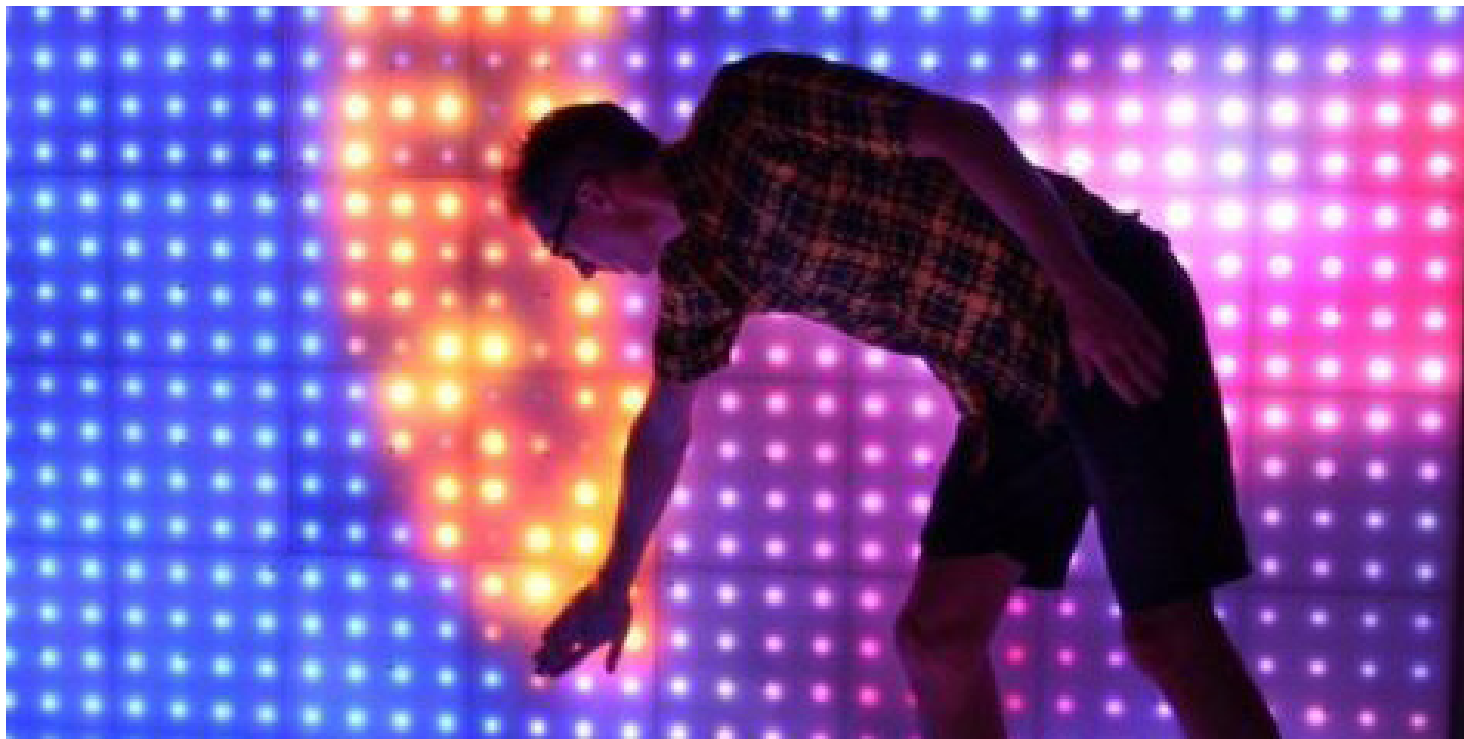
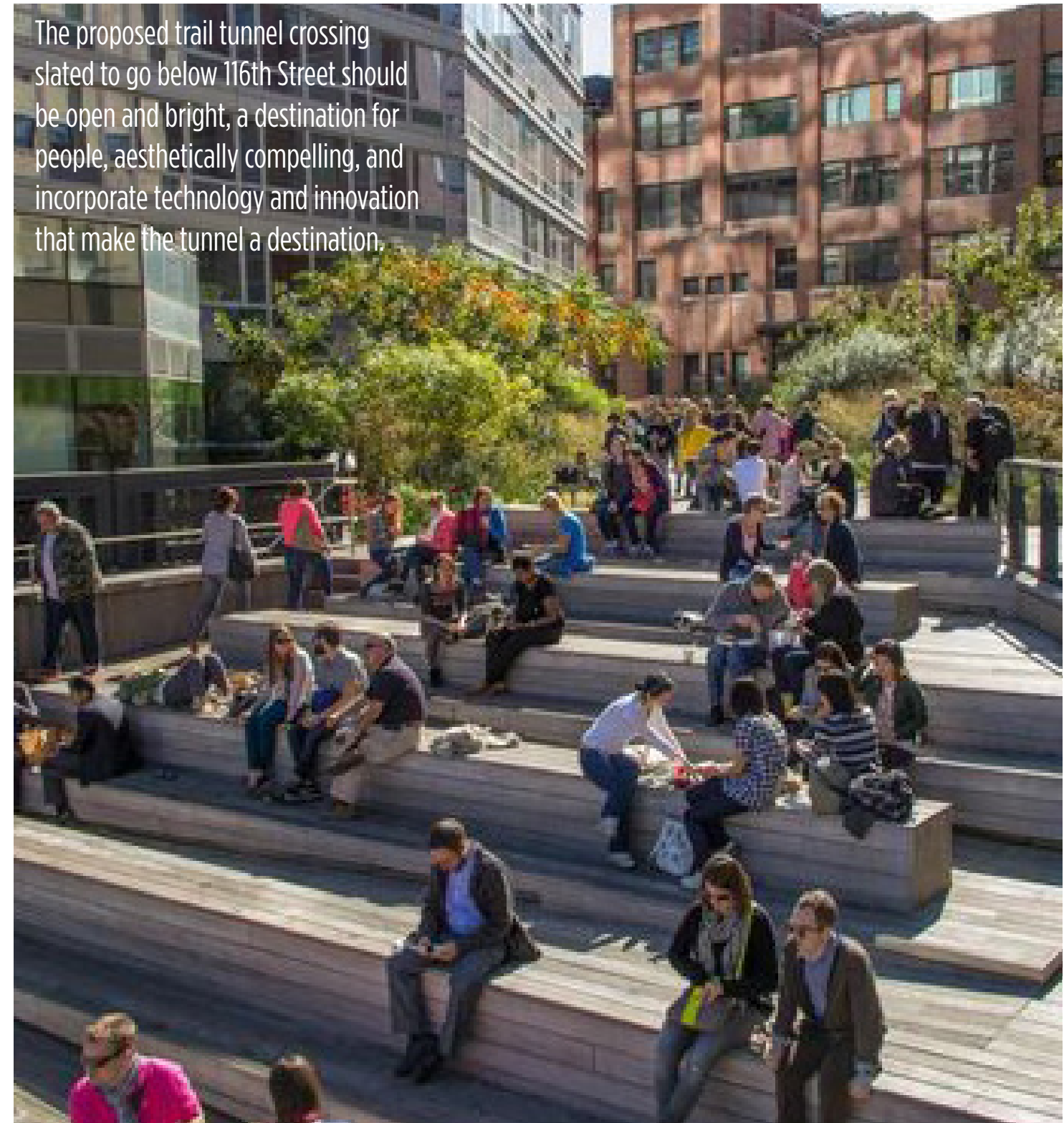
COVE







The proposed trail tunnel crossing slated to go below 116th Street should be open and bright, a destination for people, aesthetically compelling, and incorporate technology and innovation that make the tunnel a destination.







A view looking southwest towards the Cultural Commons displays a wooden stage for outdoor performances and a seating and hammock zone for relaxation and spill out from the nearby library and businesses.

**NPT Commons - View 10**



This area of the trail presents a great opportunity to incorporate art and sculpture, lighting, and community hang out spaces.

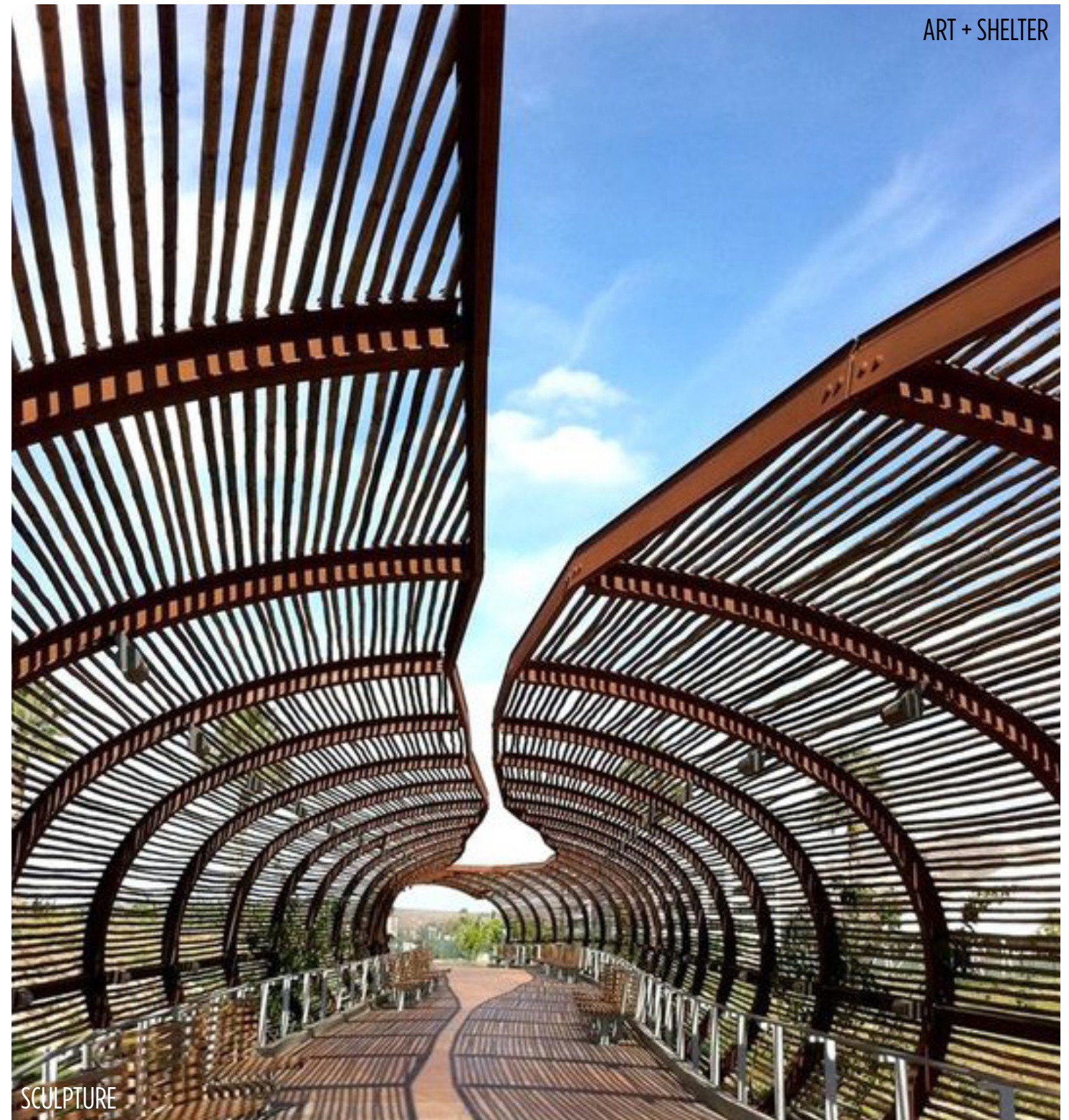


GATHERING SPACES



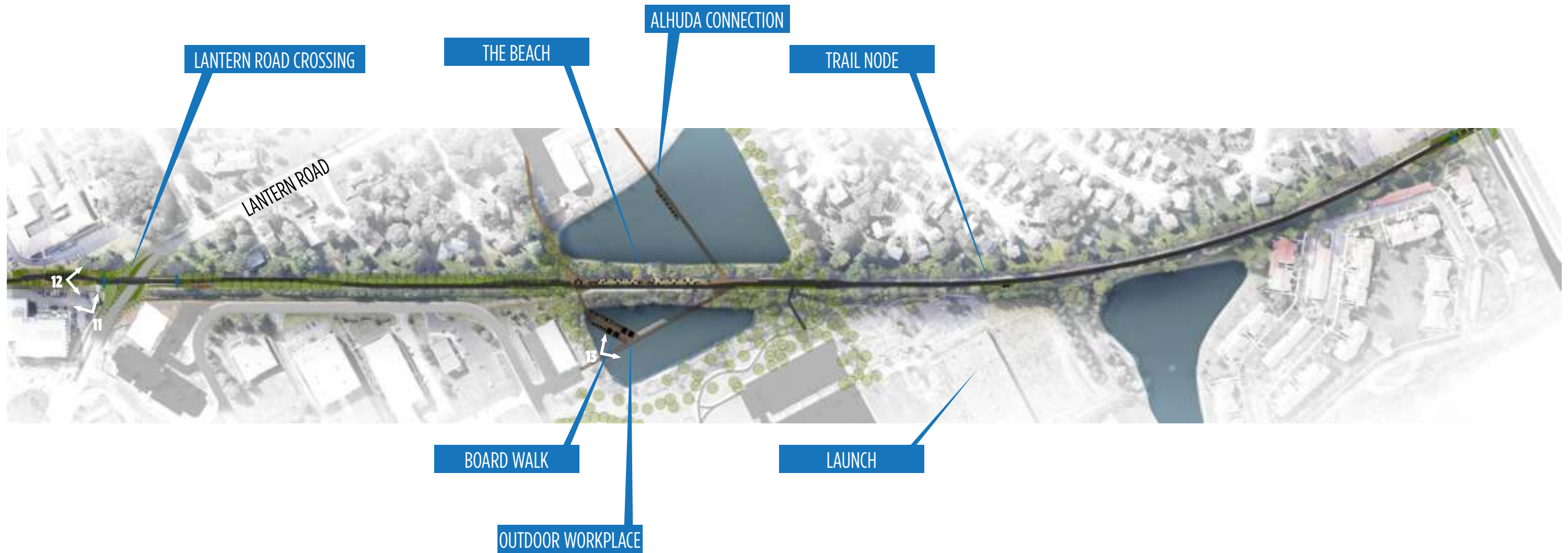
INNOVATIVE SPACES

ART + SHELTER



SCULPTURE





Throughout the Master Planning Process, several entities approached the city with enthusiasm for the proposed trail. Schools, religious institutions, newly proposed developments, business parks, landowners, companies and local businesses have reached out to the planning committee seeking opportunities to better connect with the trail to enhance their own properties and help to support the vibrant and walkable civic environment the trail aims to create. Through these local partnerships, the planning team has been able to plan for how to solve parking, access, and activation challenges.





CULTURAL COMMONS

LIBRARY

A view looking west towards the library and the Cultural Commons displays opportunities for art, outdoor reading and maker spaces, and performance.

CONNECTION TO LIBRARY

LIBRARY COMMONS

SCULPTURE

INNOVATION COVES

MEYER NAJEM

TRAIL



A view looking north along the trail at the library



**Outdoor Work Place - View 12**



Taking advantage of the connection to water and the adjacent Fishers Tech Campus, the “beach” provides an outdoor work environment for hackathons, or focus space with a connection to nature.



**The Beach at Launch Fishers: Innovation on Display - View 13**



HAMMOCKING



Unique amenities like a beach, over-water hammocks and seating create a destination near the Fishers Tech Campus.

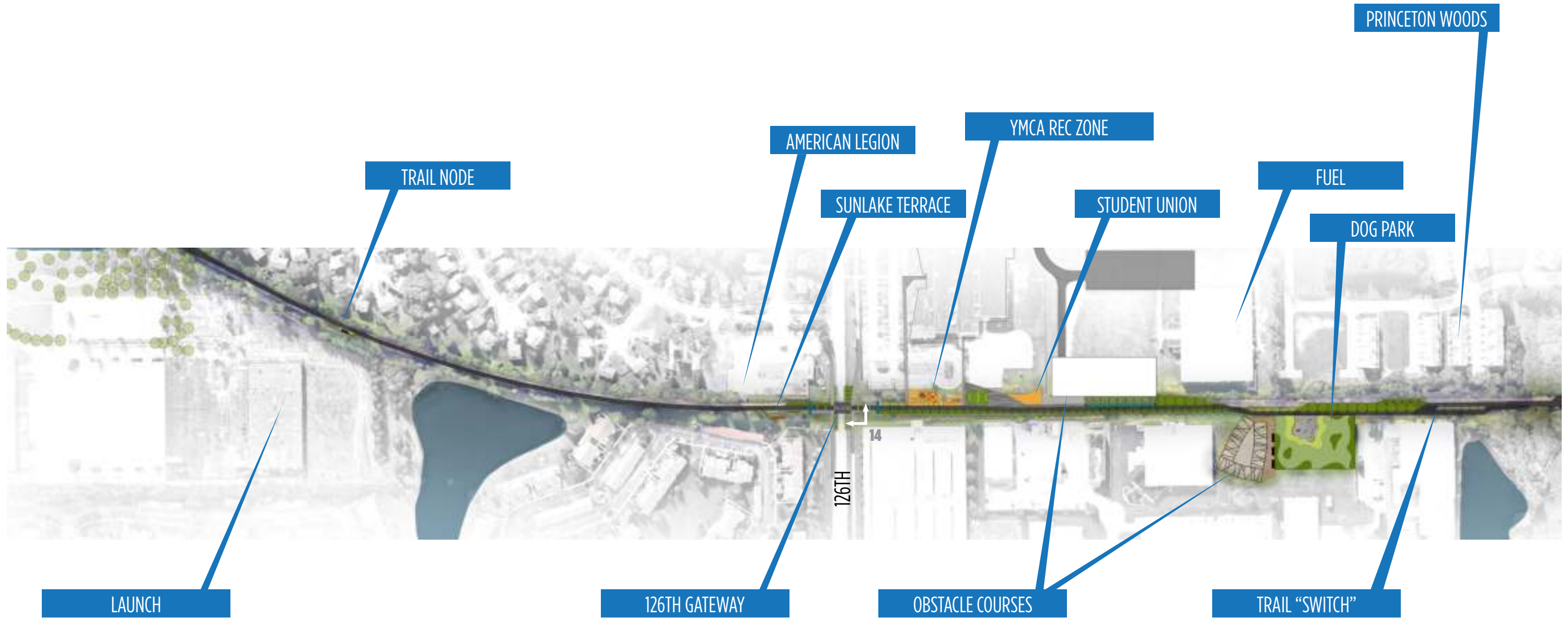


MEET-UP ENVIRONMENT



SEATING







An example of a typical trail crossing and the components required for successful placemaking: safety, trail branding, wayfinding and integration of art, and NPRR history.



**NPT and 126th - View 14**

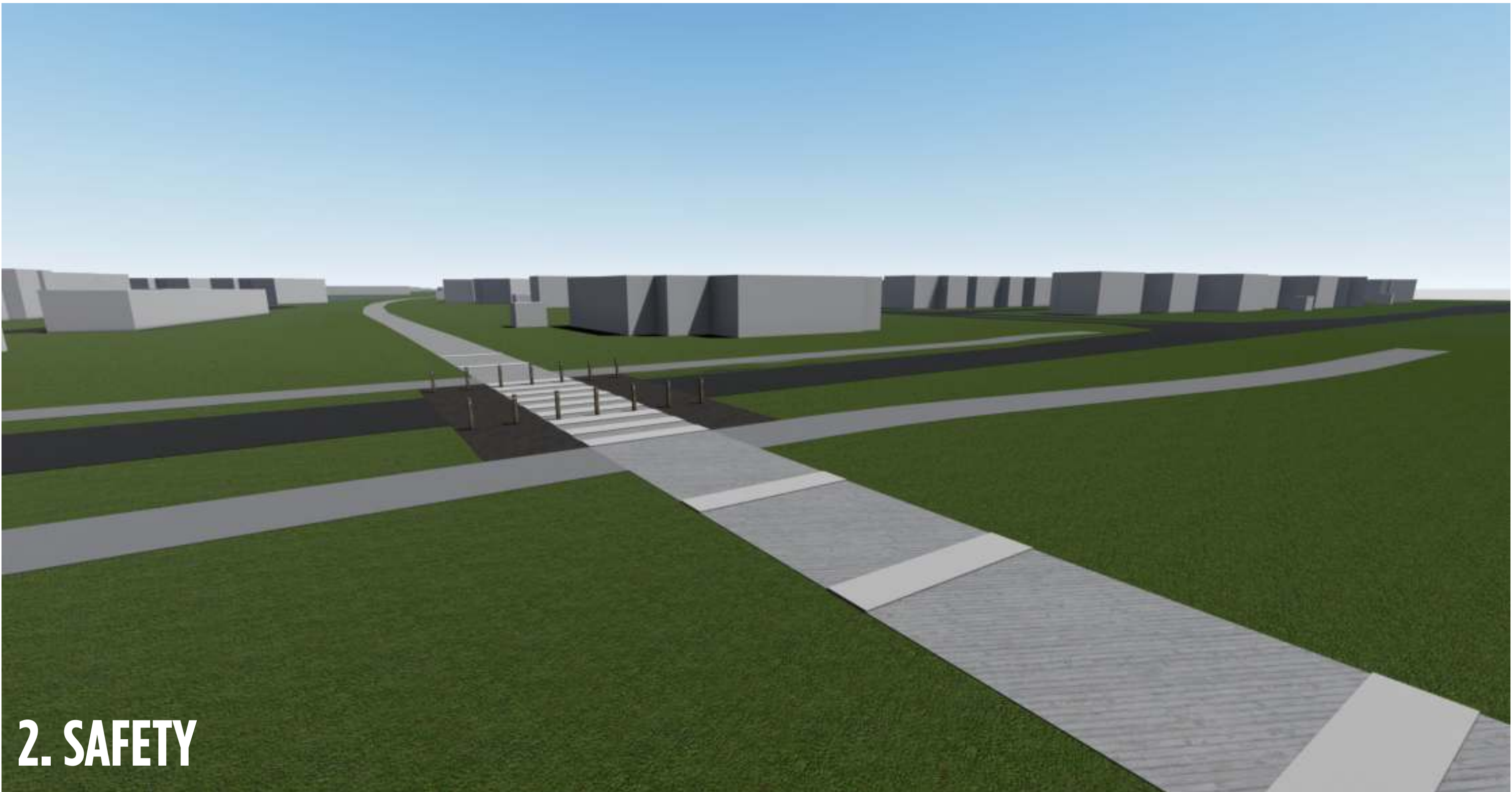




# 1. PATHWAY

**NPT and 126th**





## 2. SAFETY





# 3. PLACEMAKING





# 4. AMENITY ZONES





# 5. LIGHTING

NPT and 126th

Nickel Plate Trail Master Plan 2040 | May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019





# 6. BRANDING

NPT and 126th





# 7. WAY FINDING

**NPT and 126th**

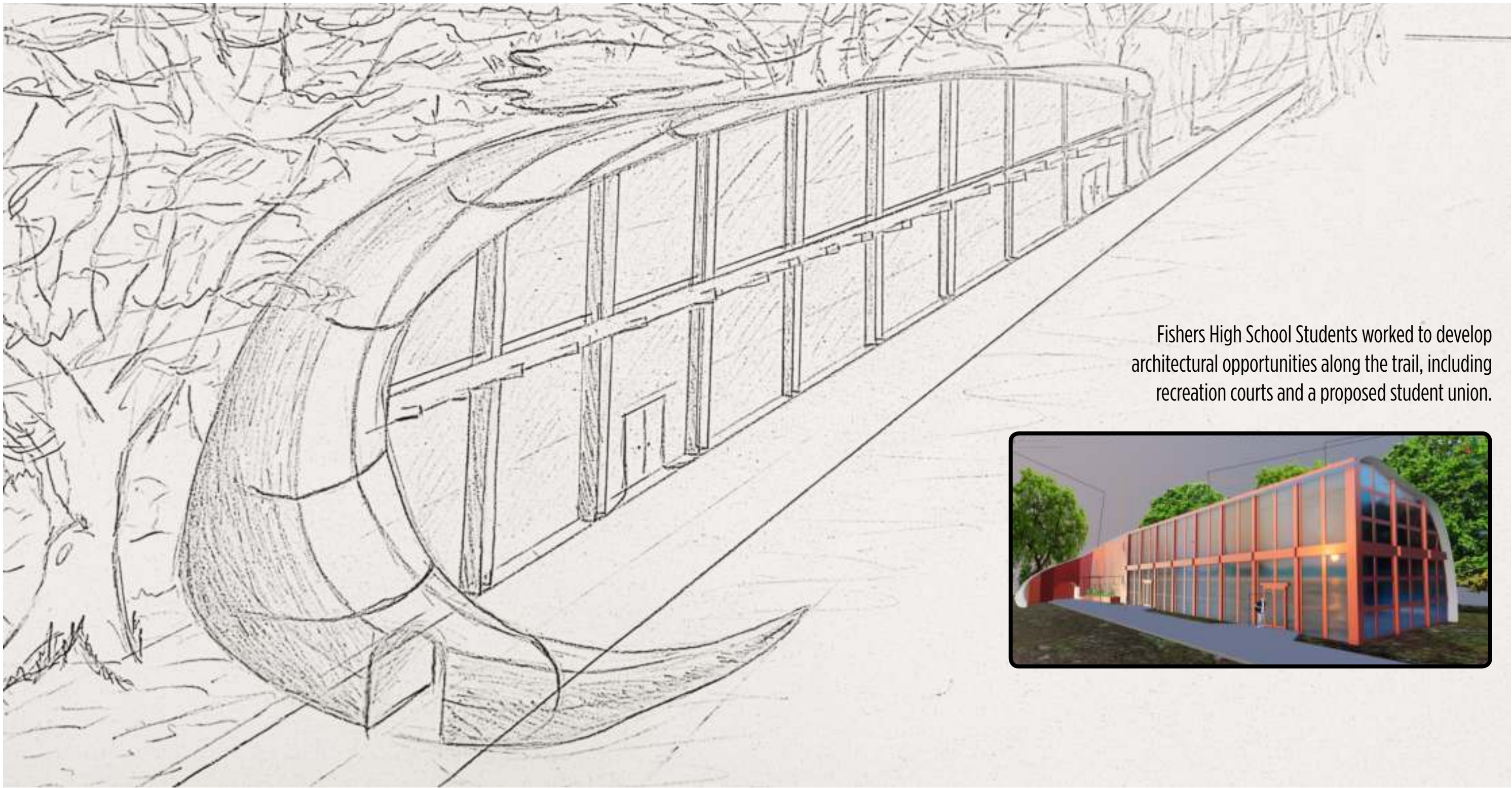




# 8. HISTORY

**NPT and 126th**

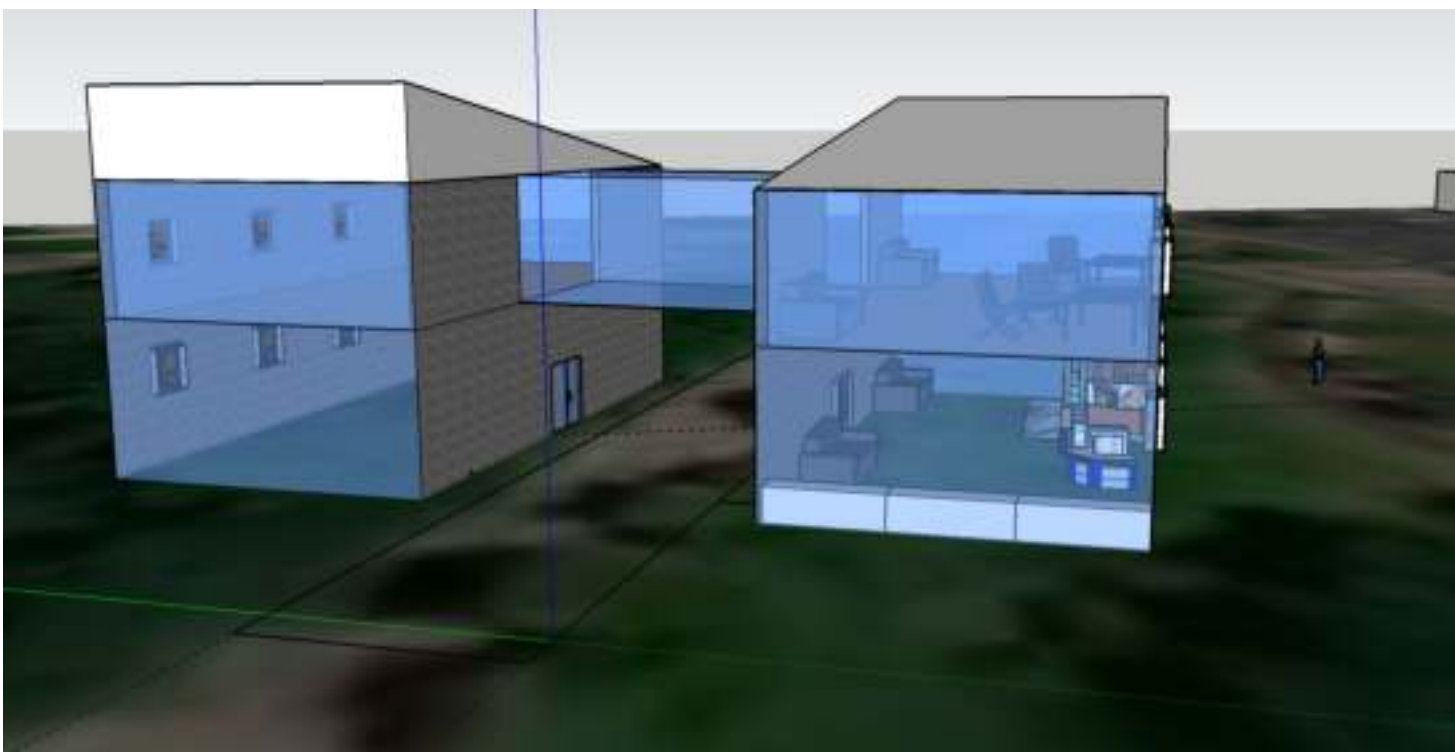
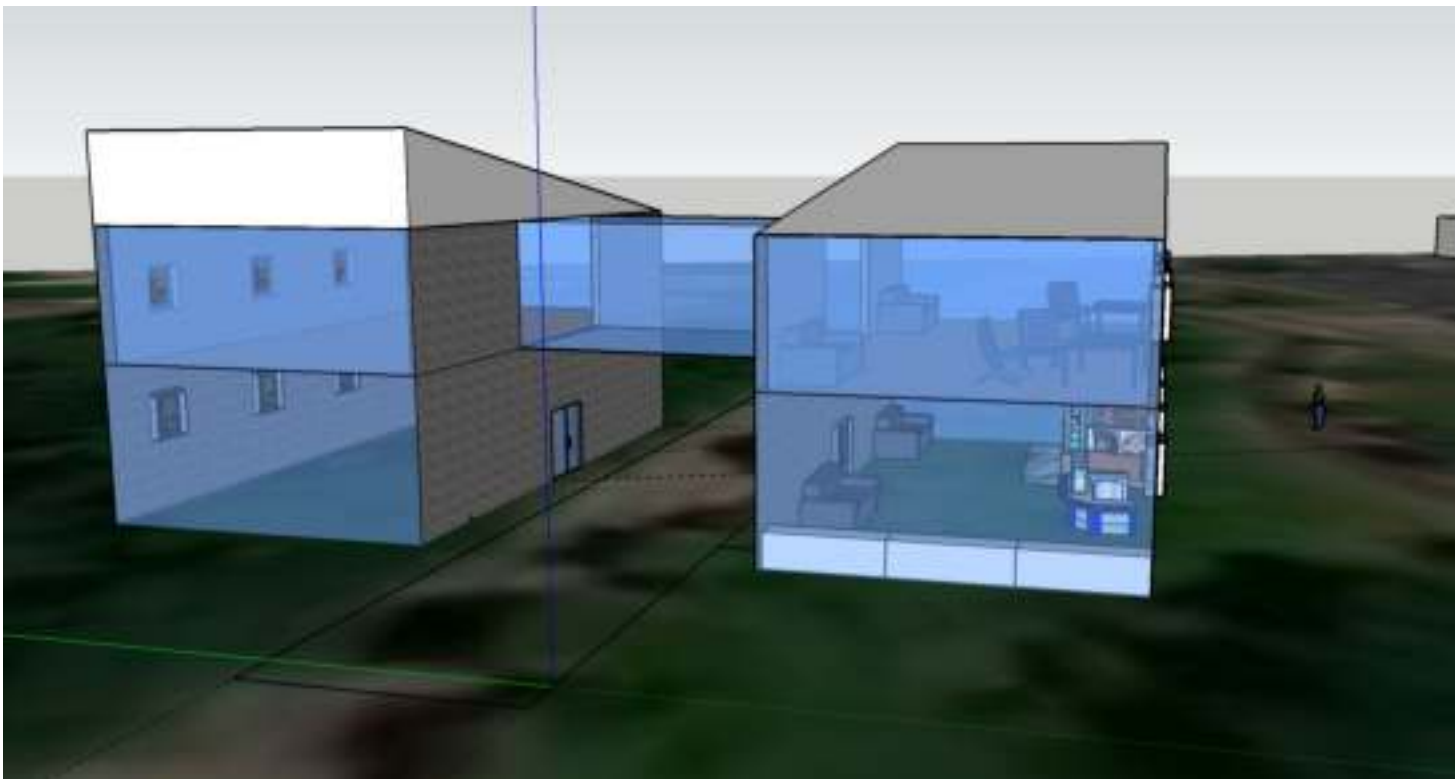




Fishers High School Students worked to develop architectural opportunities along the trail, including recreation courts and a proposed student union.







**Fishers HS Student Work**



This sketch view of the YMCA campus looking southwest illustrates opportunities for playgrounds, outdoor fitness classes, a student union and an obstacle course.







OUTDOOR FITNESS



HAMMOCKING



ACTIVE PLAY



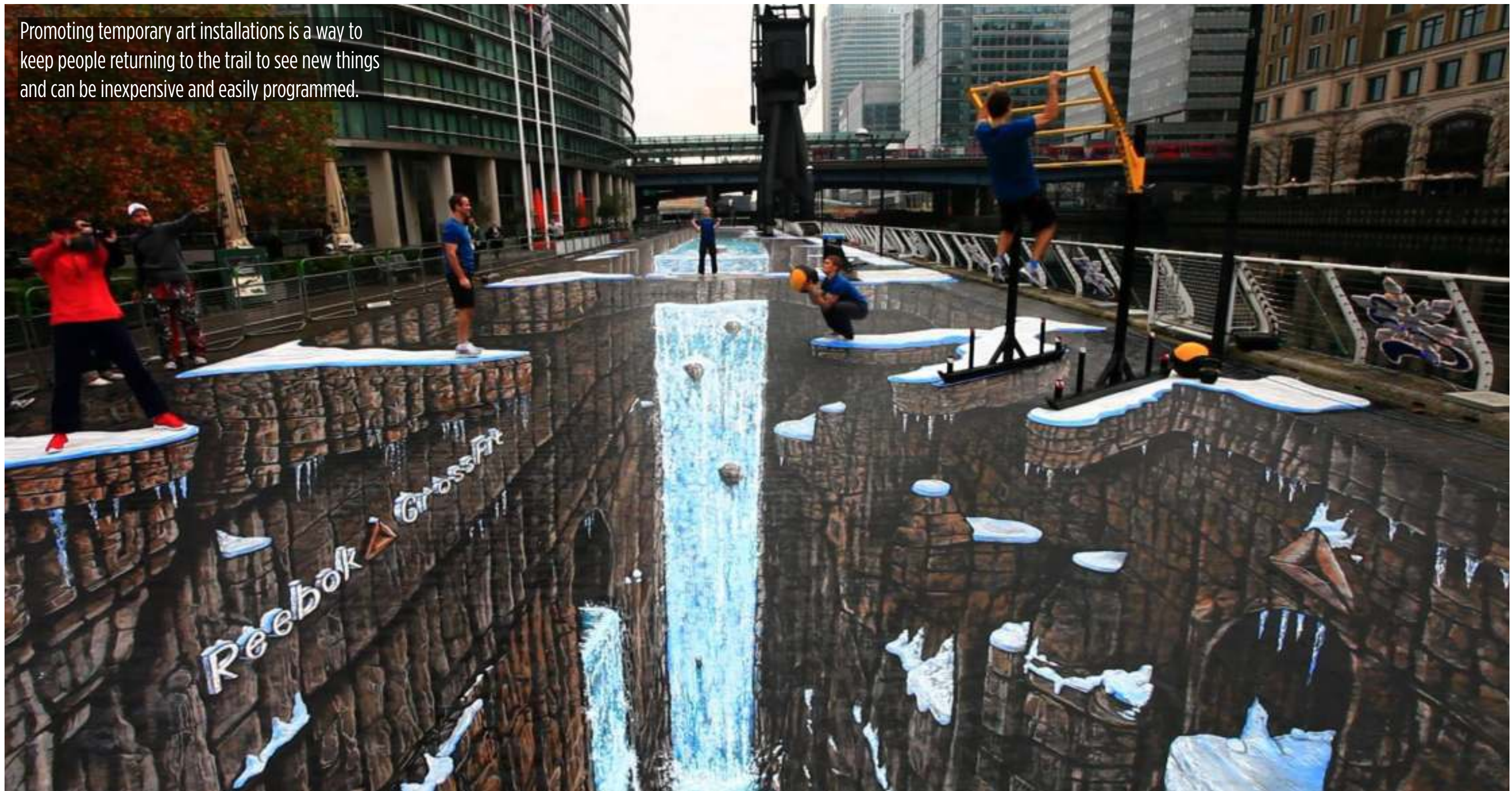
OBSTACLE COURSE

Inspirational precedent imagery for what may occur at the YMCA campus along the trail.

Nickel Plate Trail Master Plan 2040 | May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

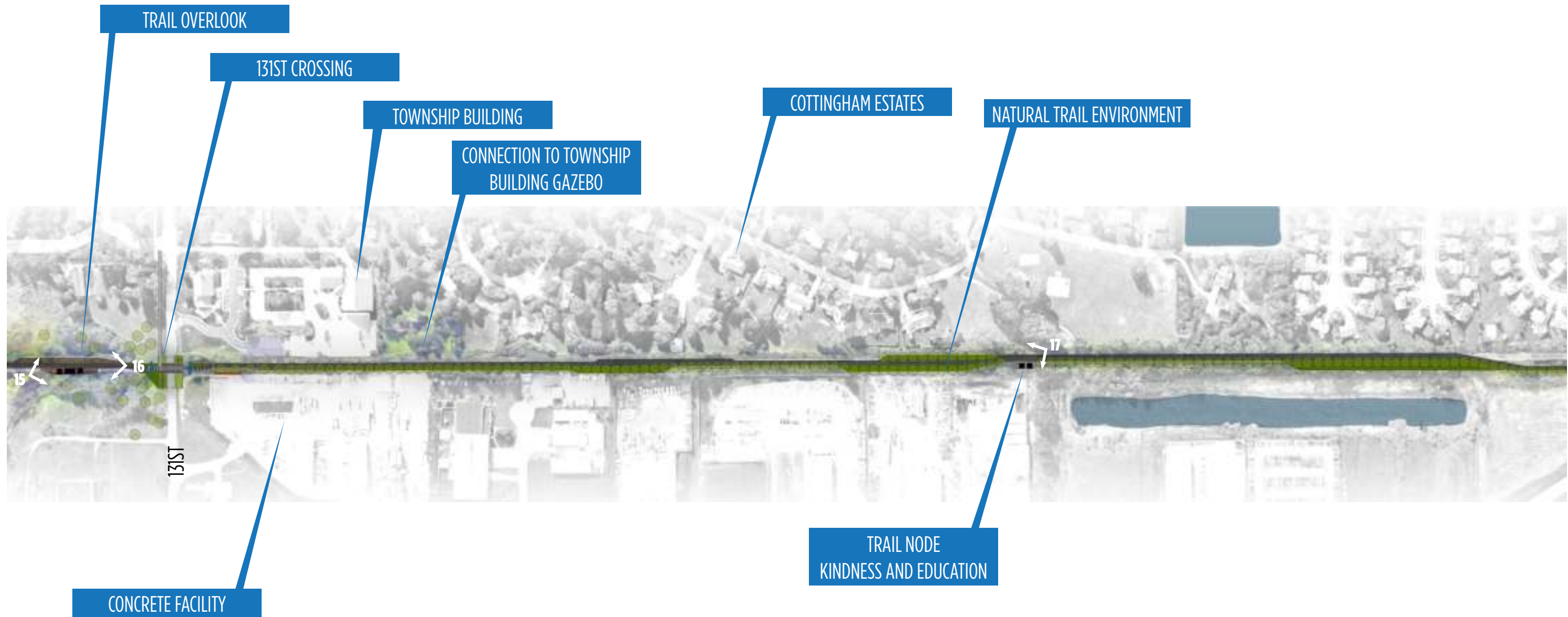


Promoting temporary art installations is a way to keep people returning to the trail to see new things and can be inexpensive and easily programmed.



**Fishers HS Student Work**









An example of a trail node that occurs in an area with significant grade change.

TRAIL

DECK

PAVILION

GRADE  
CHANGE

NATURAL VEGETATION



An example of a 3D chalk art temporary installation along the trail.



**Trail Overlook + Temporary Art - View 16**



# LEARNING EXHIBITS

Welcome to Learning Exhibits! Along the trail you will find 21 different exhibits. Learn about what the students of HSE Schools are learning. If you explore 5 exhibits and take the quizzes and get all the questions right and your under 18 you get %20 percent off your meal at this month's sponsor!

This Month's Sponsor:  
The Nickle Plate!





The team worked hard to include student work. Here are examples of learning opportunities and kindness rock placements suggested by Fishers Students.



TRAIL CURRICULUM

PAVILIONS

TRAIL

KINDNESS ROCK

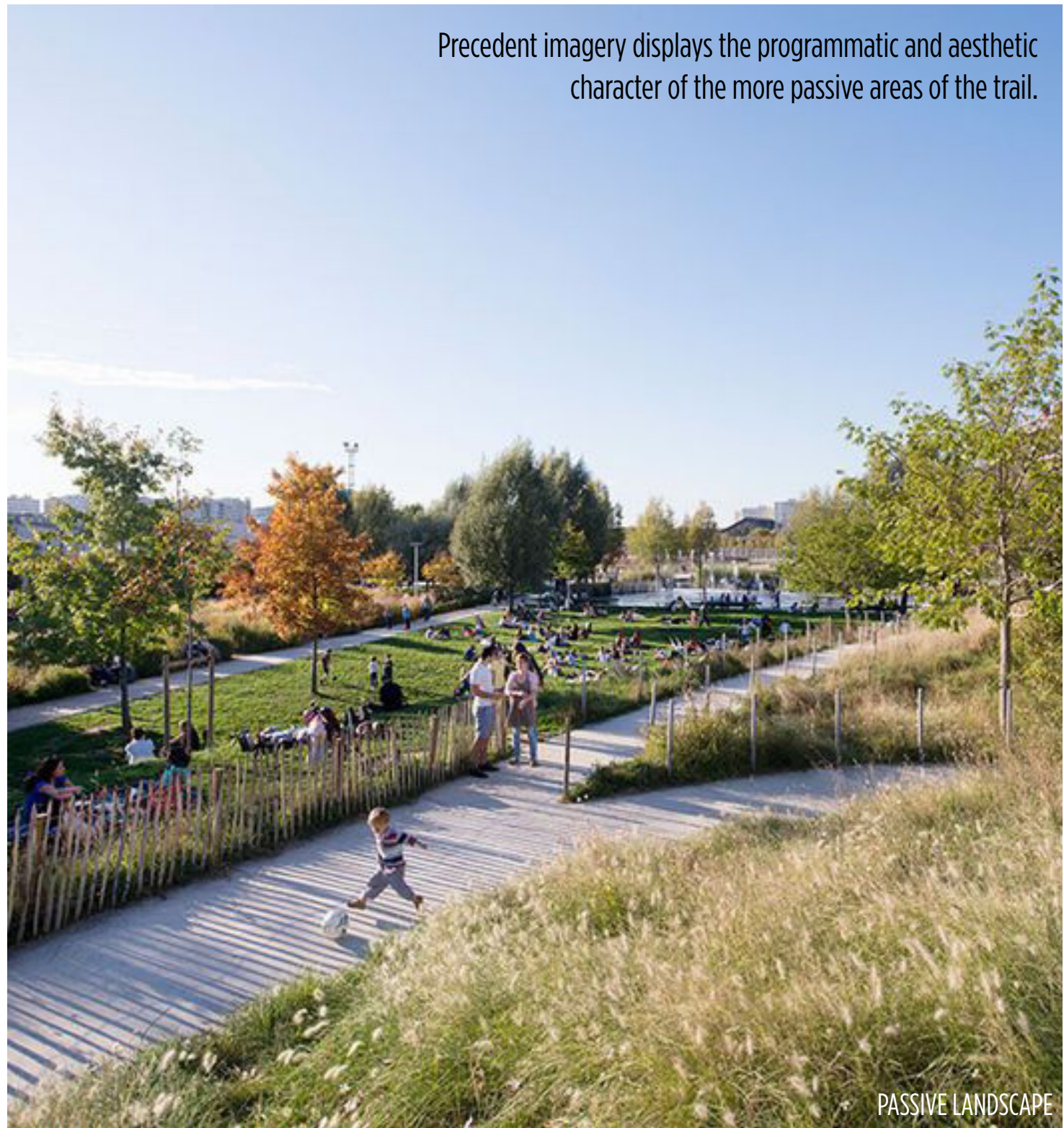




PLACE



TRAIL ENVIRONMENT



Precedent imagery displays the programmatic and aesthetic character of the more passive areas of the trail.

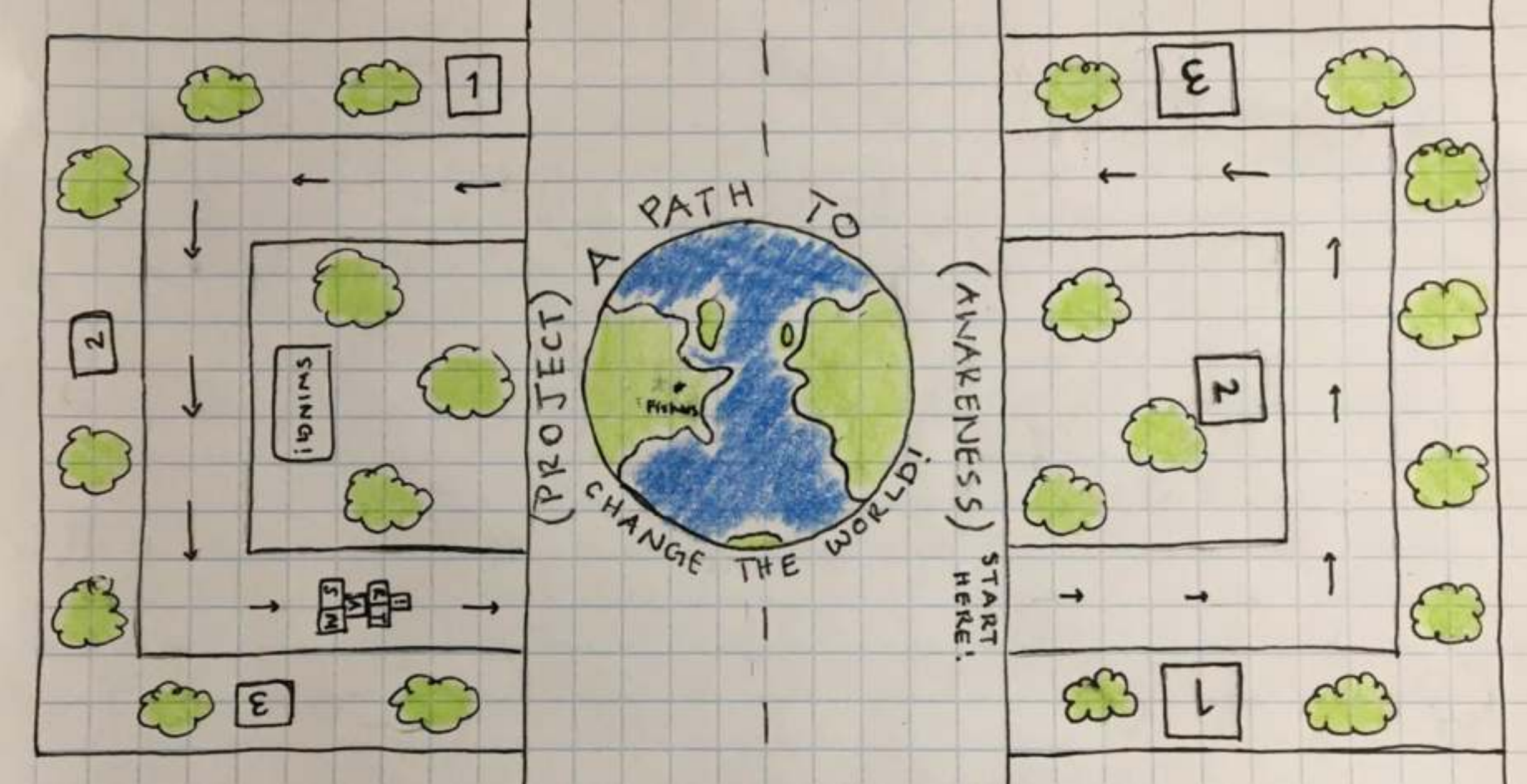
PASSIVE LANDSCAPE







The Path to Change the World project was a student idea based in creating a platform for people to voice personal concerns and seek support from others in Fishers and from around the world who may be facing similar challenges.







**A Path to Change the World - View 18**



A sketch looking north along the trail displays the opportunity for a learning pavilion structure, treetop learning tree houses, art walls, and an outdoors education center.





While some of the areas along the trail are activated, almost 80% of the trail is a simple pathway that maintains existing natural buffer plantings.



**Trail Natural Areas - View 19**



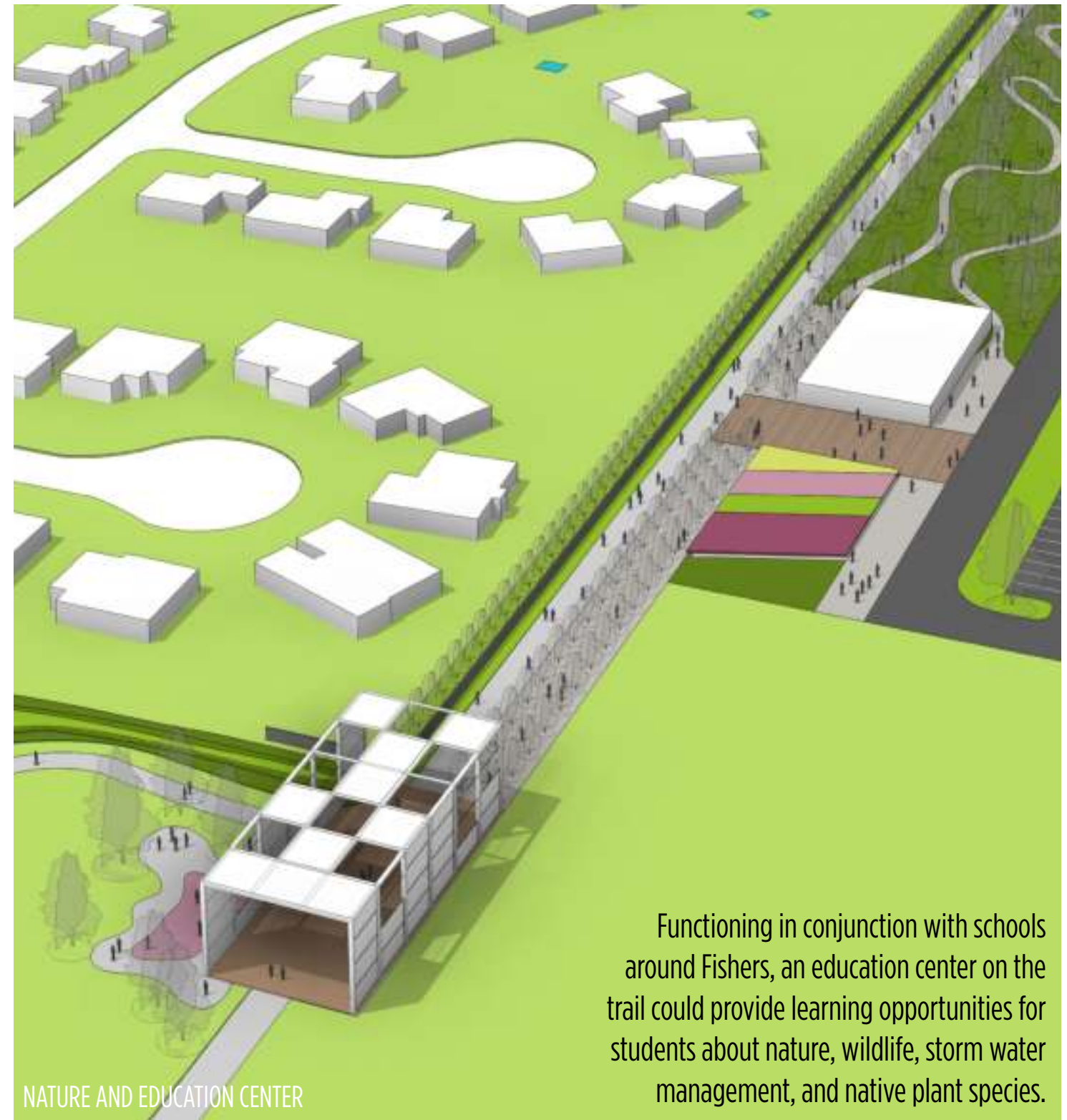


OUTDOOR LEARNING



NATURE AND EDUCATION CENTER

## Connection To Nature And Education



NATURE AND EDUCATION CENTER

Functioning in conjunction with schools around Fishers, an education center on the trail could provide learning opportunities for students about nature, wildlife, storm water management, and native plant species.



# FUNCTION





96th Street to Cheeney Creek Trail

LEGEND:

- Lighting - every 100'
- Trash and Recycling - every 200'
- Public Restrooms
- Safety Phone
- Bollards
- Fire / Emergency Access



Fishers Point Boulevard to Fishers Tech Campus



126th Street to 146th Street

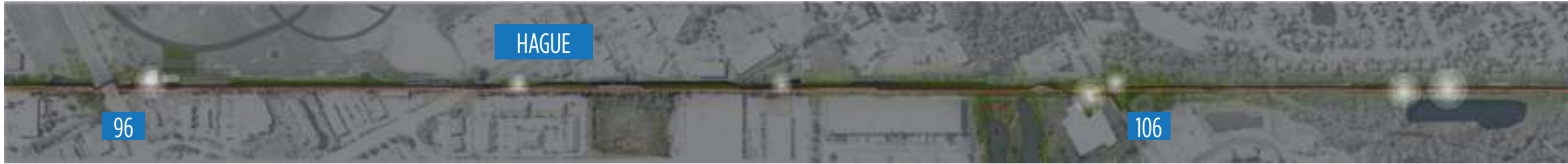
Lighting fixtures spaced at 100' apart. Fixtures will be pedestrian pole lights within the downtown area of the trail. Outside of the downtown area, lighting will be low-level path lighting, solar powered and motion activated.

Emergency phones will be placed every ¼ mile along the trail and will be marked with mile markers that correspond to the East West streets in Fishers. This system will allow first responders to quickly and easily locate where help is needed.

## Lighting, Safety, Restrooms









96th Street to Cheeney Creek Trail

LEGEND:

Power and Data 

Wifi Hub 



Fishers Point Boulevard to Fishers Tech Campus




126th Street to 146th Street





96th Street to Cheeney Creek Trail

LEGEND:

City-Installed  
Screening  
Vegetation 



Fishers Point Boulevard to Fishers Tech Campus



126th Street to 146th Street





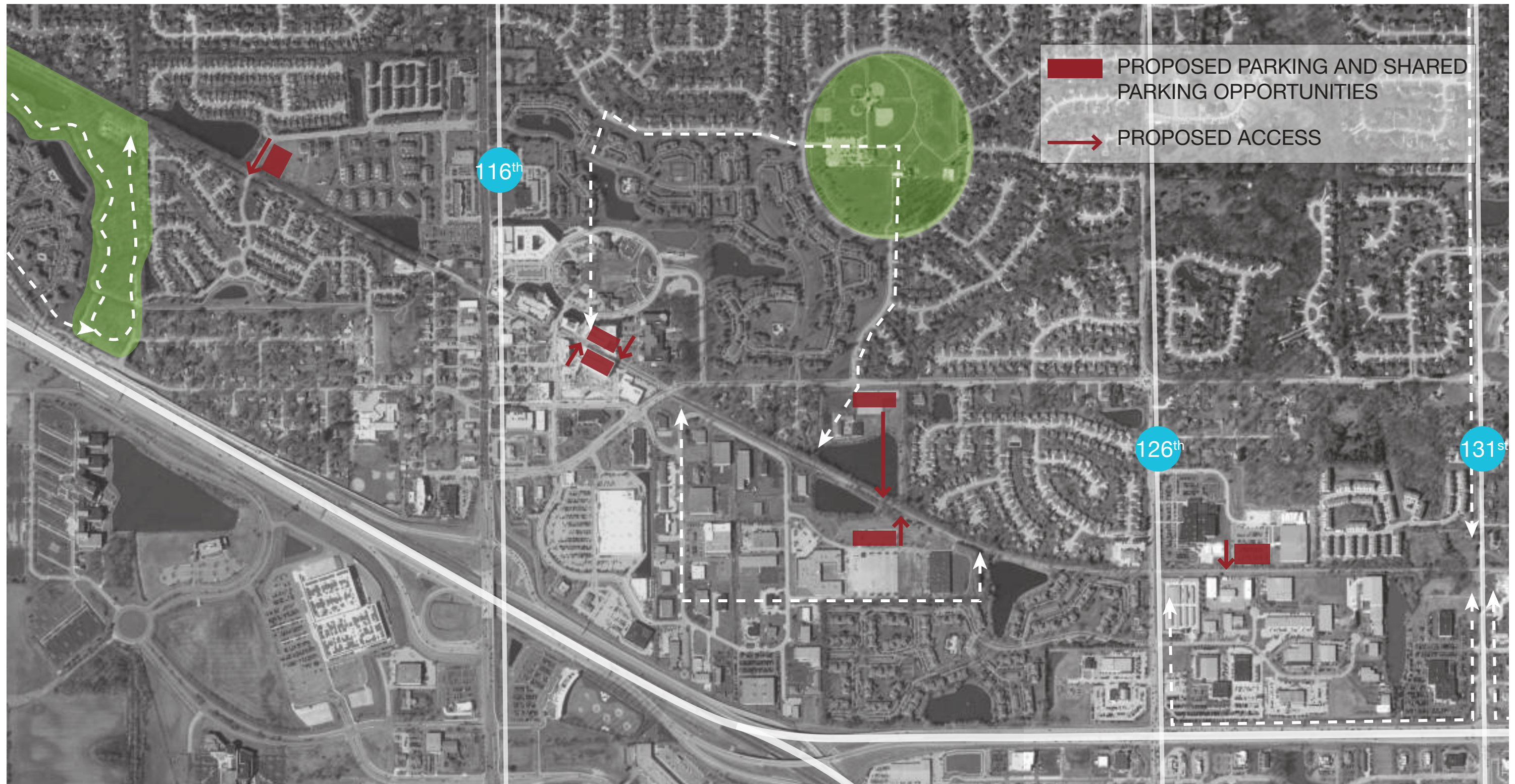
- PROPOSED PARKING AND SHARED PARKING OPPORTUNITIES
- PROPOSED ACCESS

Seeking shared parking opportunities and various trail access points will save costs on trail parking needs, and reduce pressure on neighborhood parking and access concerns.

## Parking and Access







**Parking and Access**







## Parking and Access





## Precedent Image Credits

Brian Brosmer - Fishers photographs  
MXT Studio – Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge  
Grupo Aranea – Twisted Valley  
Esrawe + Cadena – La Musidora  
WES Landscape Architecture – Esterwegen Memorial  
Studio Roosegaarde – Van Gogh Path  
3XA - Plac w Górze Puławskie  
In Situ Architectes Paysagistes – Rochetaillee banks of the Saone  
Toues Les Jours – 21 Balancoires  
Tidbit Food Farm and Garden Portland  
Townshend Landscape Architects – Granary Square  
Sasaki - The Lawn on D Boston  
OSLO – Rooftop Park Bulwark Sint Jan  
Townshend Landscape Architects – Lewis Cubbit Park  
BingZhan architecture design so, ltd – Xi'an Qingyue demonstration area  
Copley Wolff Design Group – Assembly Row  
Group A – BP Rotterdam Refinery  
Sensacell Inc. Lights  
Field Operations – The High Line  
TCL – Northern Plaza, Monash University Clayton  
Robert Kutner – Dos Lagos Heart & Amphitheater  
RS+ - Redevelopment of the eastern shore of Paprocany Lake  
Claude Cormier – Sugar Beach  
National Fitness Campaign – Parklab Fitness Court  
West 8 – Governor's Island  
Carve Landscape Architecture – Osdorp Oever  
Numen – Floating Landscapes  
3D Joe and Max – Reebok Crossfit  
Topiaris – Tagus Linear Park  
Studio Bryan Hanes – The Rail Park  
DesignGroup – Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
Studio Arthur Casas, Atelier Marko Brajovic – Brazil Pavilion  
Kompan – Bloqx Playground  
Niva Landskapsarkitektur – The Vartan Ferry Terminal

**Special thanks to the students of Fishers High School,  
New Britton Elementary School, and Harrison Parkway  
Elementary that contributed ideas, drawings, and models.**