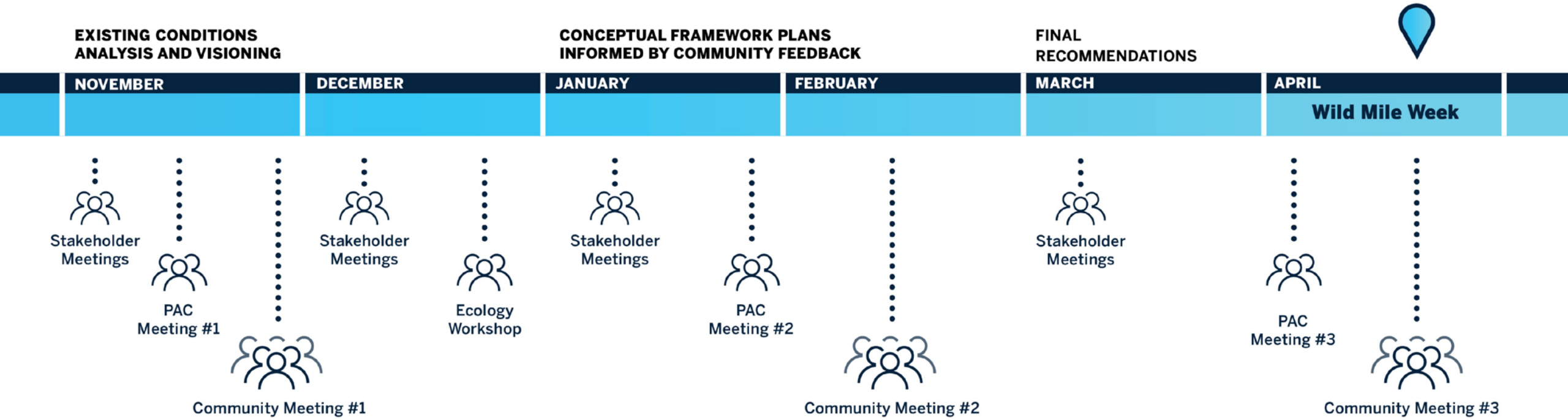
Wild Mile Community Meeting #3

April 25, 2019


Photo Credit J.Curtis Waltz, Aerialscapes Inc.
wildmile
chicago

Where we're at



Engagement Summary

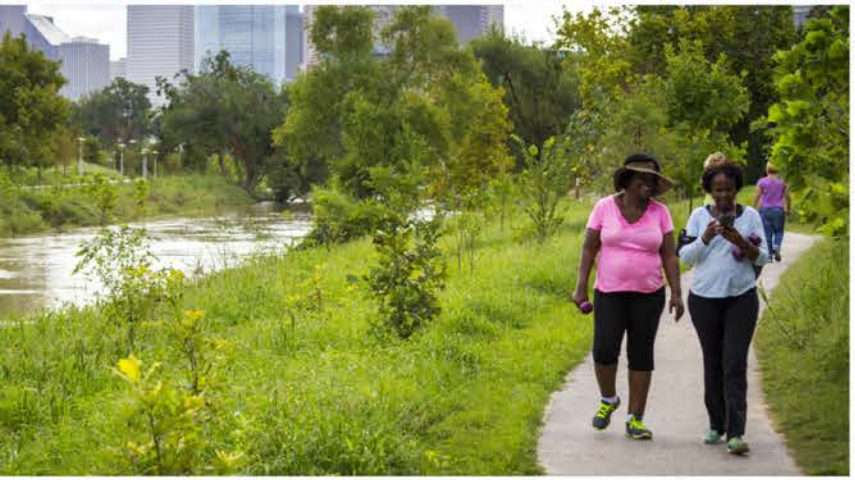
- Team Kayak and Canoe Trips
- Walking the Wild Mile
- Classroom Activities
- Meeting with Adjacent Property Owners
- Stakeholder Meetings (7)
- Ecology Design Workshop
- Near North Small Group Workshop
- Plan Advisory Committee Mtgs (3)
- Community Meetings (3)
- Wild Mile Week Events!

Agenda

- Wild Mile Vision
- Implementation
- Questions

A Vision for the Wild Mile





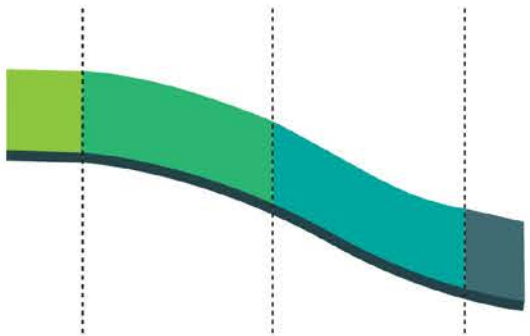

Principles

1. **Put wildlife first.**
   - Create and expand habitat
   - Foster immersive nature experiences
   - Enhance and restore the riparian and emergent landscapes
   - Create dog amenities away from habitat
2. **Connect people with nature.**
   - Promote partnerships with local instiutions that coordinate educational, cultural and recreational programming
3. **Expand public access.**
   - Improve and create additional access points
   - Paths closest to and/or in the river should be designed and designated for pedestrians
   - Create designated bike routes seperate from the pedestrian boardwalks
4. **Design a cohesive experience.**
   - Create a sense of place for Chicago residents of all ages and backgrounds
5. **Lead the world.**
   - Promote innovation and experimentation to inspire holistic thinking around ecology and urbanism
6. **Create a place for everyone.**
   - Integrate a variety of spaces open to the public year-round, for a range of ages and abilities

A Strategy for Urban Wildlife

Concept Expanding edges

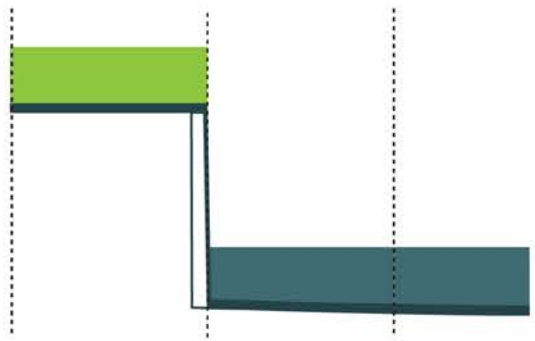
then



upland riparian emergent aquatic

natural river edge

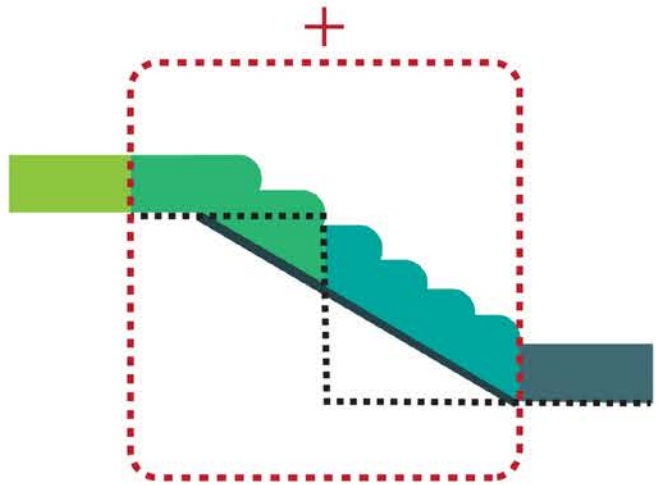
now



upland aquatic

channelized river edge

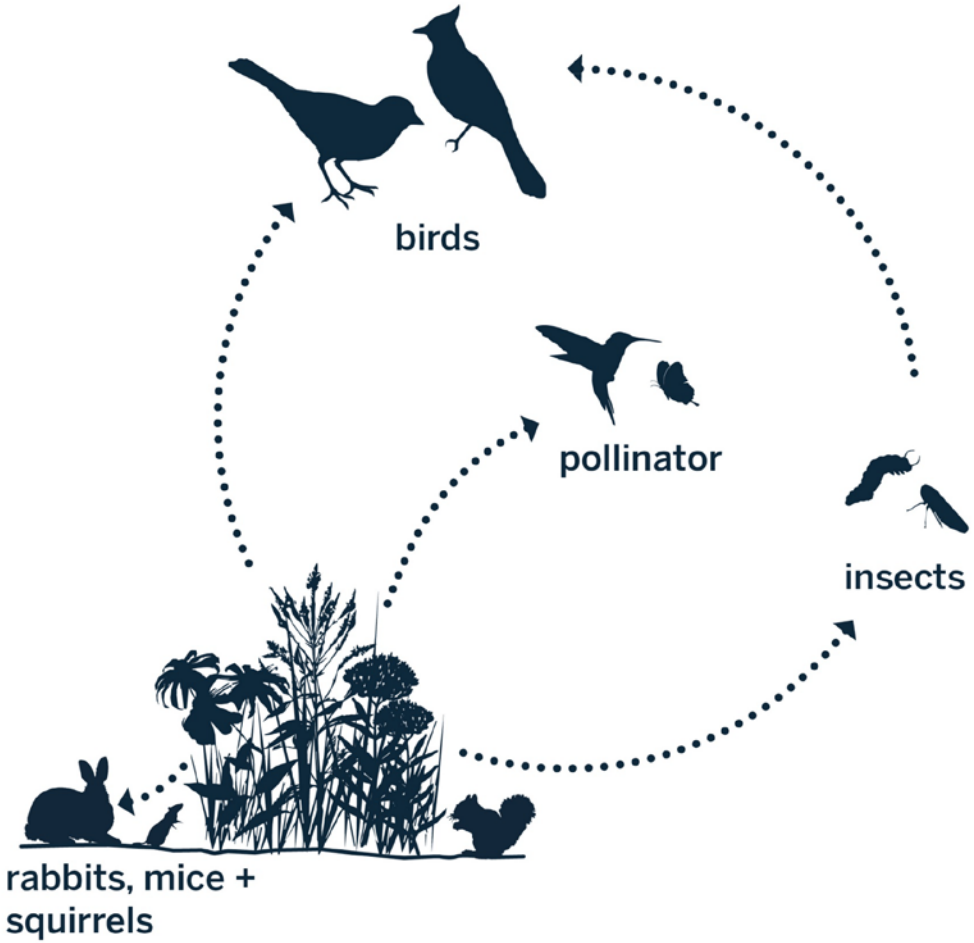
future



upland riparian emergent aquatic

* bring back nature
* reintroduce the lost zones

Food Web Upland Zone



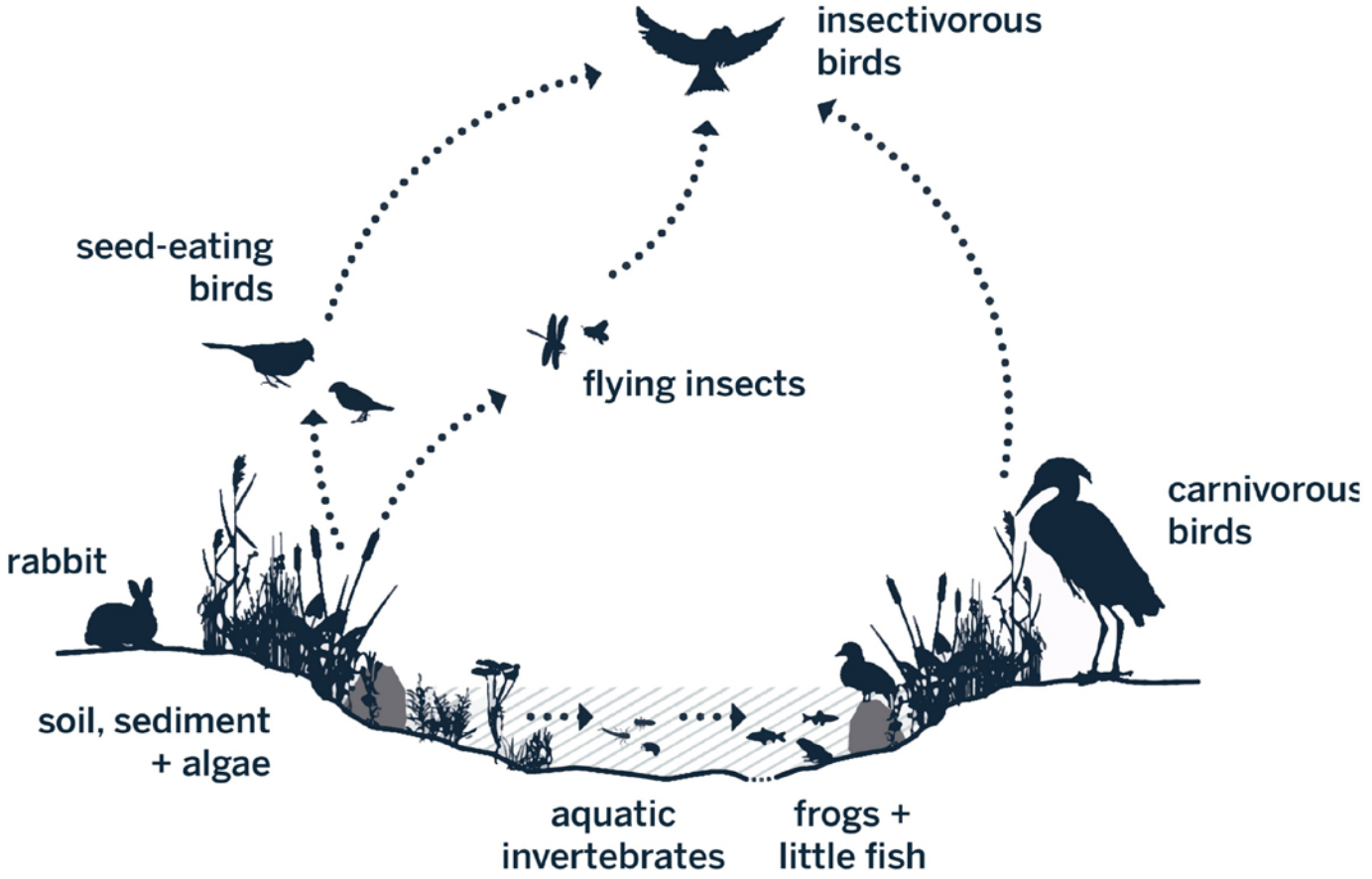








Food Web Riparian and Emergent Zones



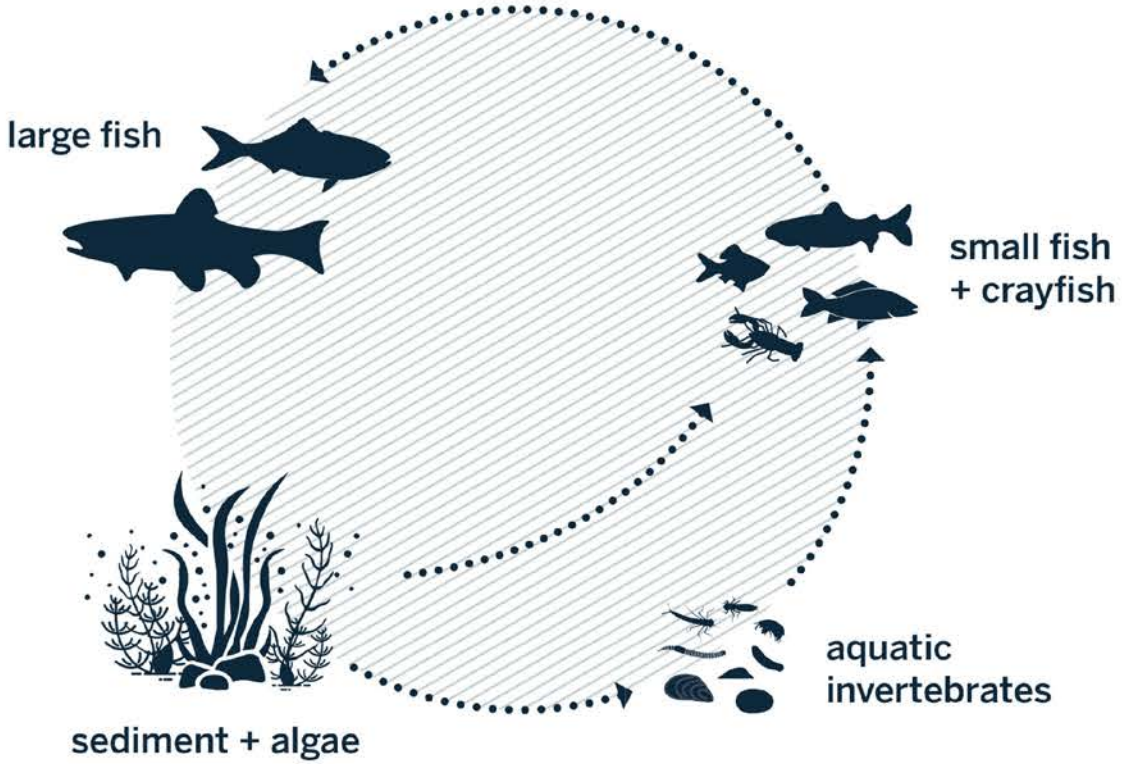








Food Web Aquatic Zone





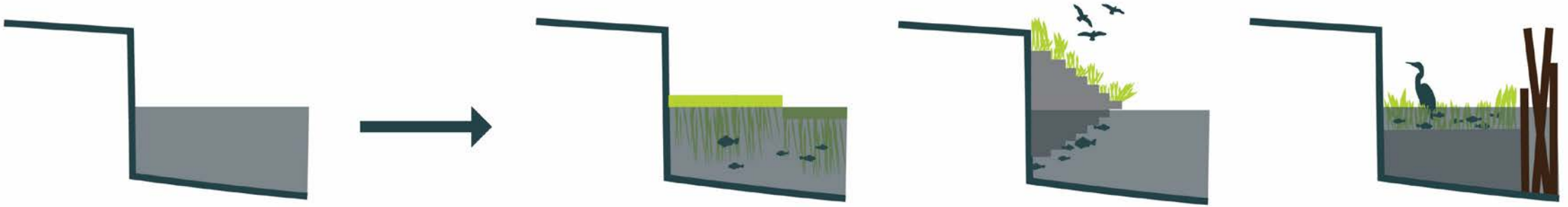






Concept Add habitat value to the edge

1 vertical wall



floating habitat

textured habitat fixed to wall

shallow water habitat

2 eroded shoreline

rocky habitat installation

terraced habitat

shallow water habitat

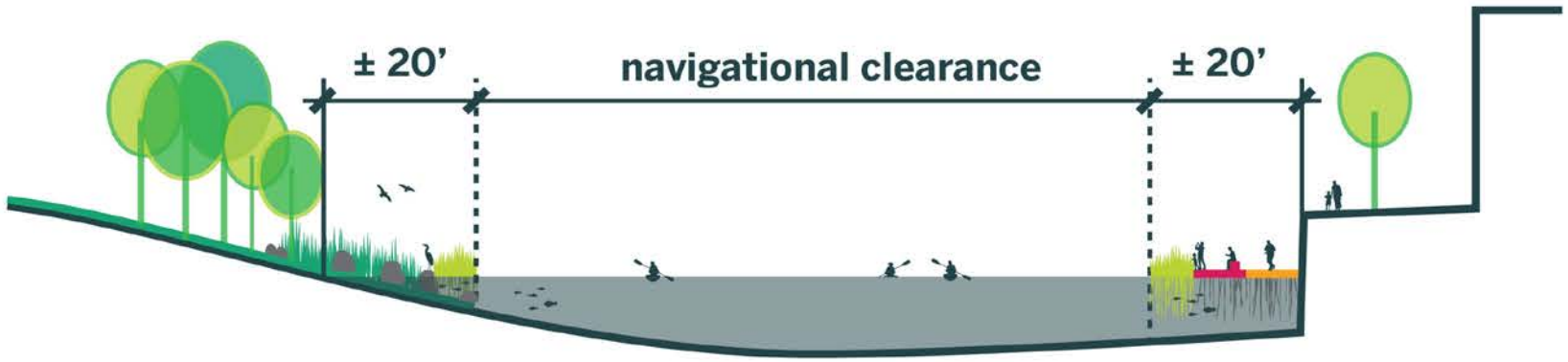
Habitat + Plant Species Matrix

*Not full document.

New Habitat Type	Existing Edge Type[1]	Plants[2]	Target Animals[3]	Key Food Webs[4]	Time to Install (months)[5]	Potential Issues[6]	Rough Cost[7]	Rank[8]
Floating (Fixed to Existing Edge)								
Floating Pollinator Garden	a,b,d,e,h	P, E	Flying insects (bees, flies, butterflies, beetles); spiders; hummingbirds; songbirds	plant > invertebrates > bats, birds; plant (fruit, seeds) > small mammals, birds; plant roots > small fish, crayfish	0-3	C	Raft cost	1
Floating Wetland	a,b,d,e,h		Flying insects (bees, flies, butterflies, beetles); spiders; songbirds	plant > terrestrial invertebrates > bats, birds; plant > aquatic invertebrates > fish/turtle plant > turtle plant > muskrat	0-3	C	Raft cost	1
Floating Amphibian Pond and Garden	a,b,d,e,h	E, S Also, open water with pebble bottom	plant (fruit, seeds) > small mammals, birds;	Plant > tadpoles Plant > invertebrate > frogs, toads, salamanders	0-3	C	Raft cost	1
Mussel trays (flow through connectors between planted rafts)	a,b,d,e,h	S	Native mussels (aquatic insects will colonize)	Plankton > mussels (filter feeders) aquatic insects > frogs, dragonfly nymphs; adult flying insects > bats, birds, frogs, adult dragonflies	0-3	C	Raft cost	1
Multi-Species Haul-out Raft (with outriggers for turtles to climb on)	a,b,d,e,h	S, E short plants only; nothing tall enough to hide a heron	Turtles; frogs, perching birds; ducks.	Key function for turtles and frogs is basking. Turtles and frogs will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.), and fish. Perching birds (herons, cormorants) eat fish and crayfish. Ducks eat aquatic vegetation and small aquatic invertebrates.	0-3	C	Raft cost	1
Floating Trees	a,b,d,e,h	D (trees)	Songbirds; insects	plant > invertebrates > birds/bats; Plant > birds	0-6	C	2 (Nick?)	1
Turtle Snags (away from shore but tethered to existing edge)	a,b,d,e,h	None	Painted turtle, map turtle, other native turtles; frogs	Key function is basking. Turtles and frogs will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.), and fish.	0-3	---	Use fallen logs from arboretum, parks (labor cost)	1
Curtains /Hula Skirts[9]	i	None (algae will naturally colonize the skirts)	Aquatic invertebrates, small fish, crayfish, tadpoles	algae > invertebrates, tadpoles, small fish > fish/crayfish > aquatic birds heron, cormorant)/turtles	included with floating walkways	---	$0.40 LF for knotless mesh 14" deep	1
Bird Perches	a,b,c,d,e,f	None	Birds (kingfisher, cormorant, herons, raptors, songbirds)	Key function is perching. Kingfisher may dive for fish from the perch; prefers horizontal structure over middle of stream	0-6	---	Design-dependent	2
Fish Habitat Beneath Floating Rafts	1,2,4	No plants; cubbies, pipes, or other structure attached to bottom of floating gardens	Fish (resting, spawning, rearing)	Key function is shelter. Fish will eat algae, aquatic invertebrates (worms, snails and clams, larval insects, crayfish and other crustaceans, etc.) and other fish.	0-3	---	Design-dependent ($50 minimum)	1
Fixed to River Bottom								
Submerged Sheetpile or Gabion (with clean sand/gravel behind)	a,b,d	S, E	Fish, mussels, aquatic invertebrates in nearshore sand/gravel shallows	plant > invertebrates > bats, birds; plant (fruit, seeds) > small mammals, birds; plant roots > small fish, crayfish	0-6	A	plus sand/gravel fill; design-dependent; > $5,000	2

Expand Public Access

Concept Clear Zones



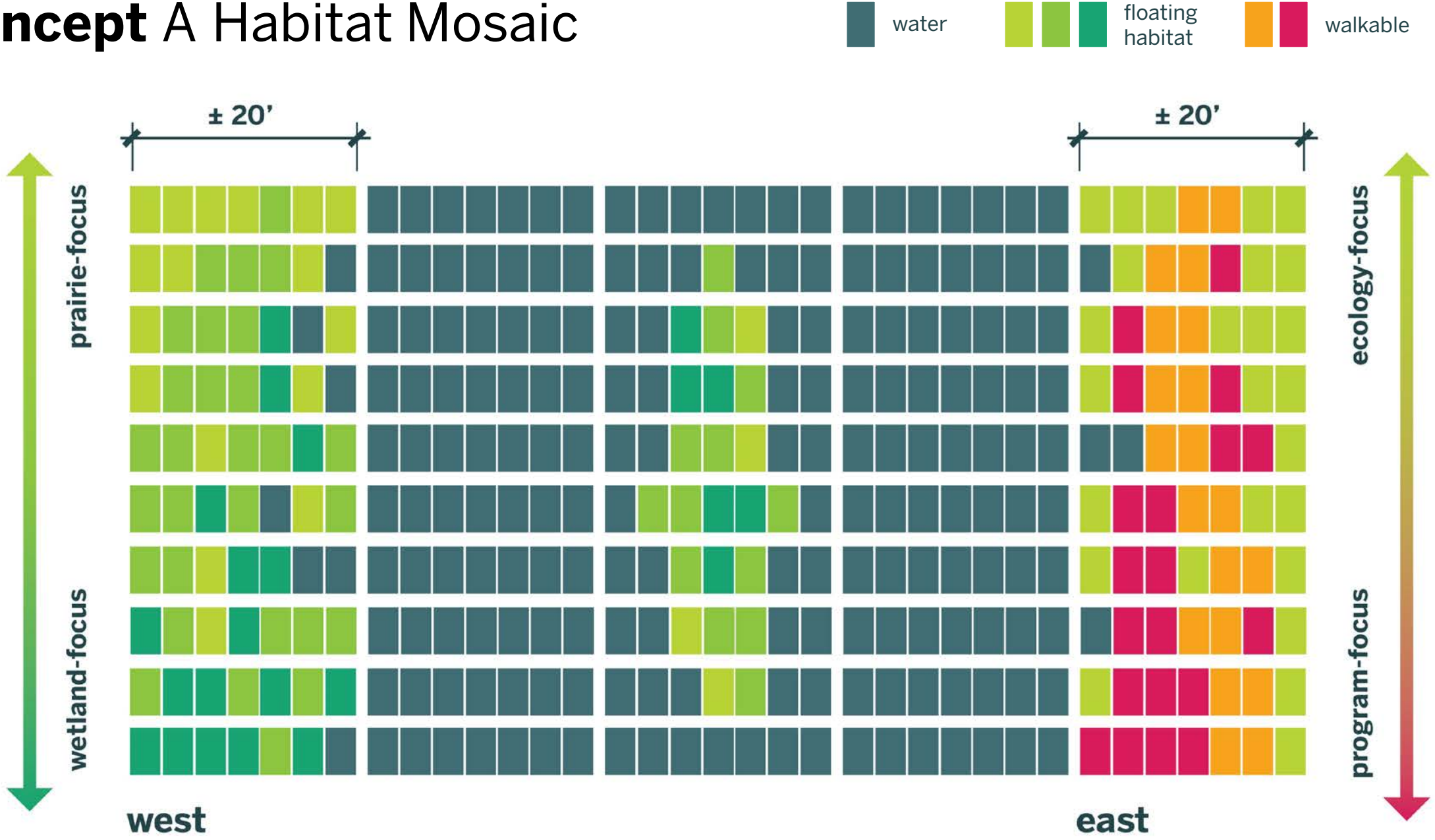
shelter	reproduction	food
± 0'-20'	± 0'-20'	± 0'-20'

west = wildlife

habitat	pathway	program
± 0'-12'	± 8'	±0-12'

east = trail

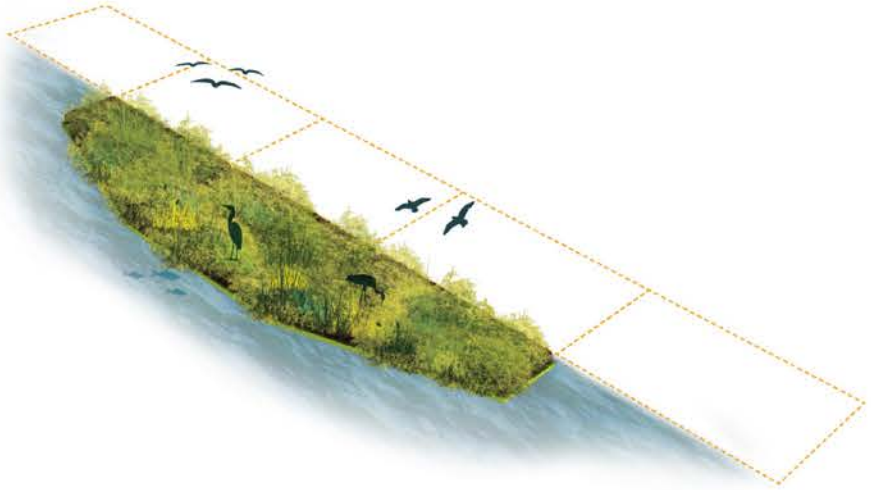
Concept A Habitat Mosaic



Habitat Components

floating habitat

Floating Habitat Raft

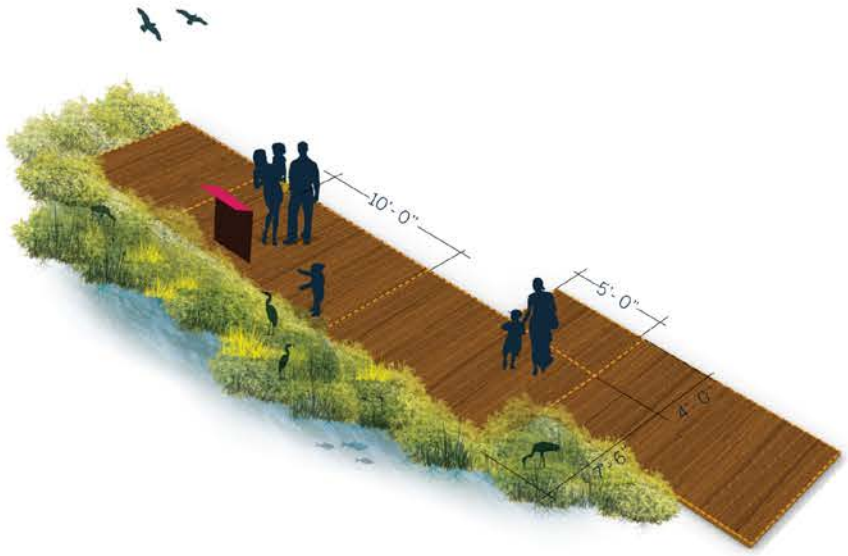


Floating Tree Raft

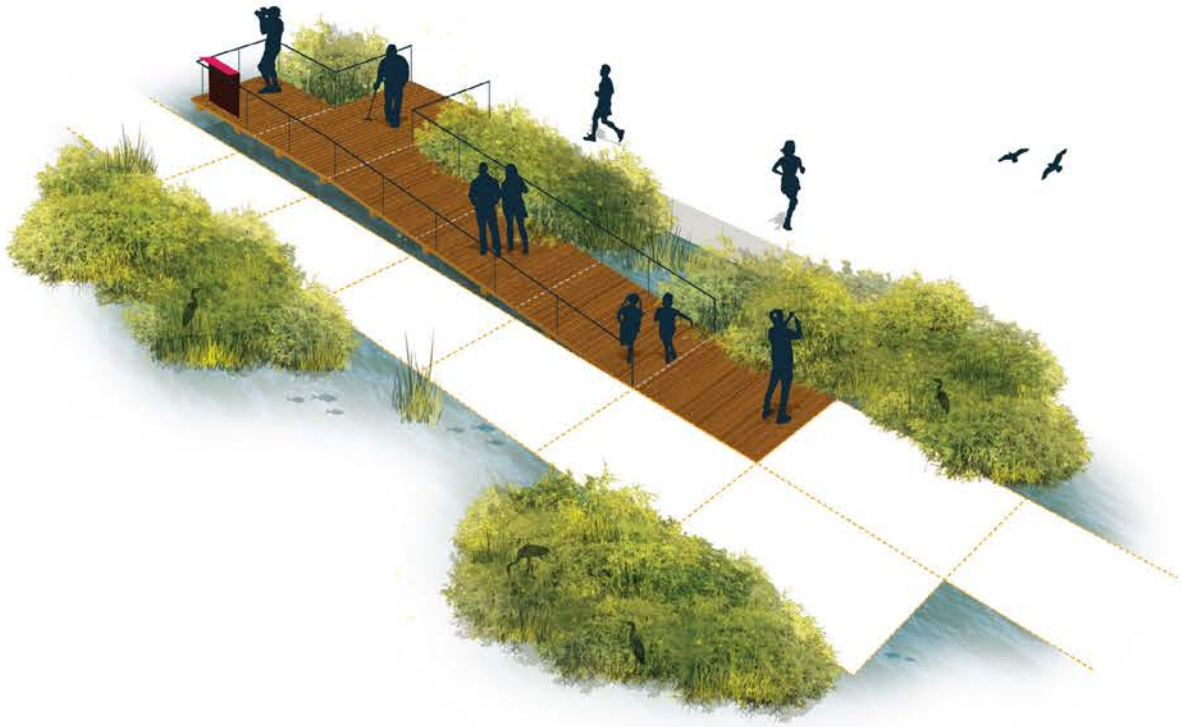
Trail Components

walkable

Continuous Platform



Access Ramp



Trail Components

walkable

Overlook

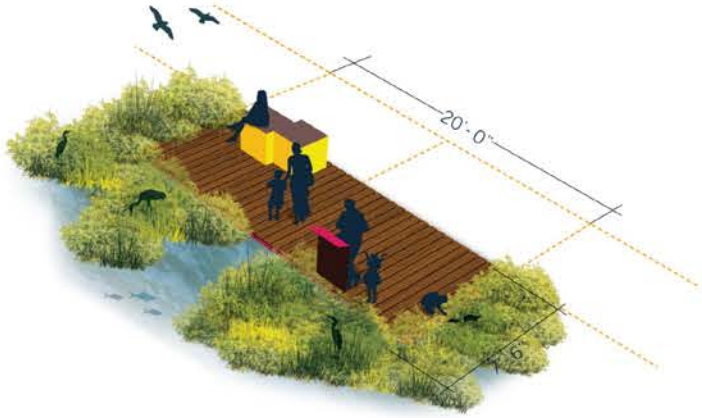
Gathering Steps

Trail Components

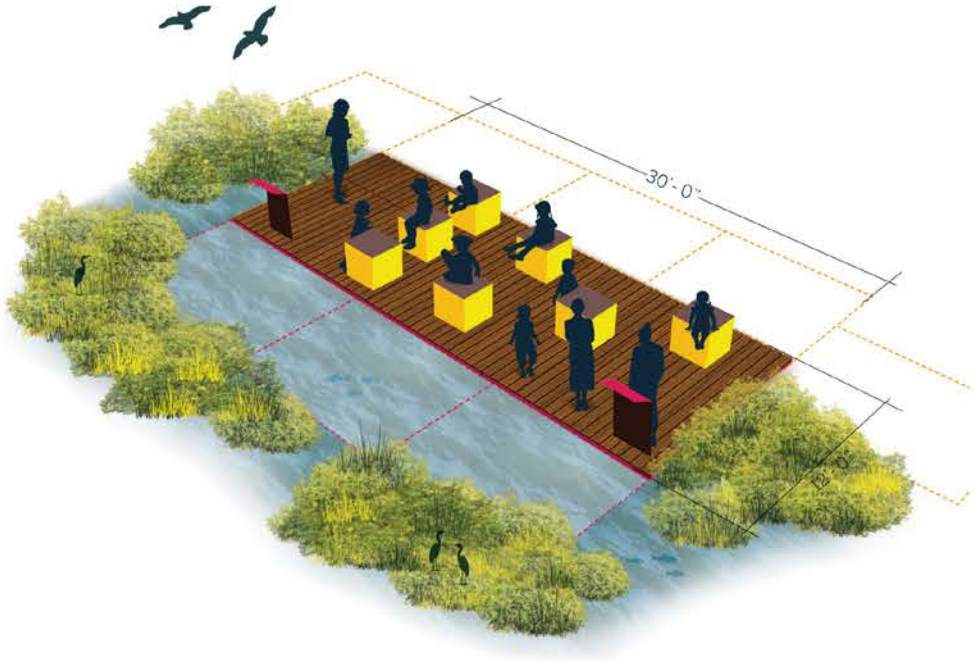
walkable

Viewing Pier (S)

Activity Platform (M)



Gathering / Classroom Platform (L)

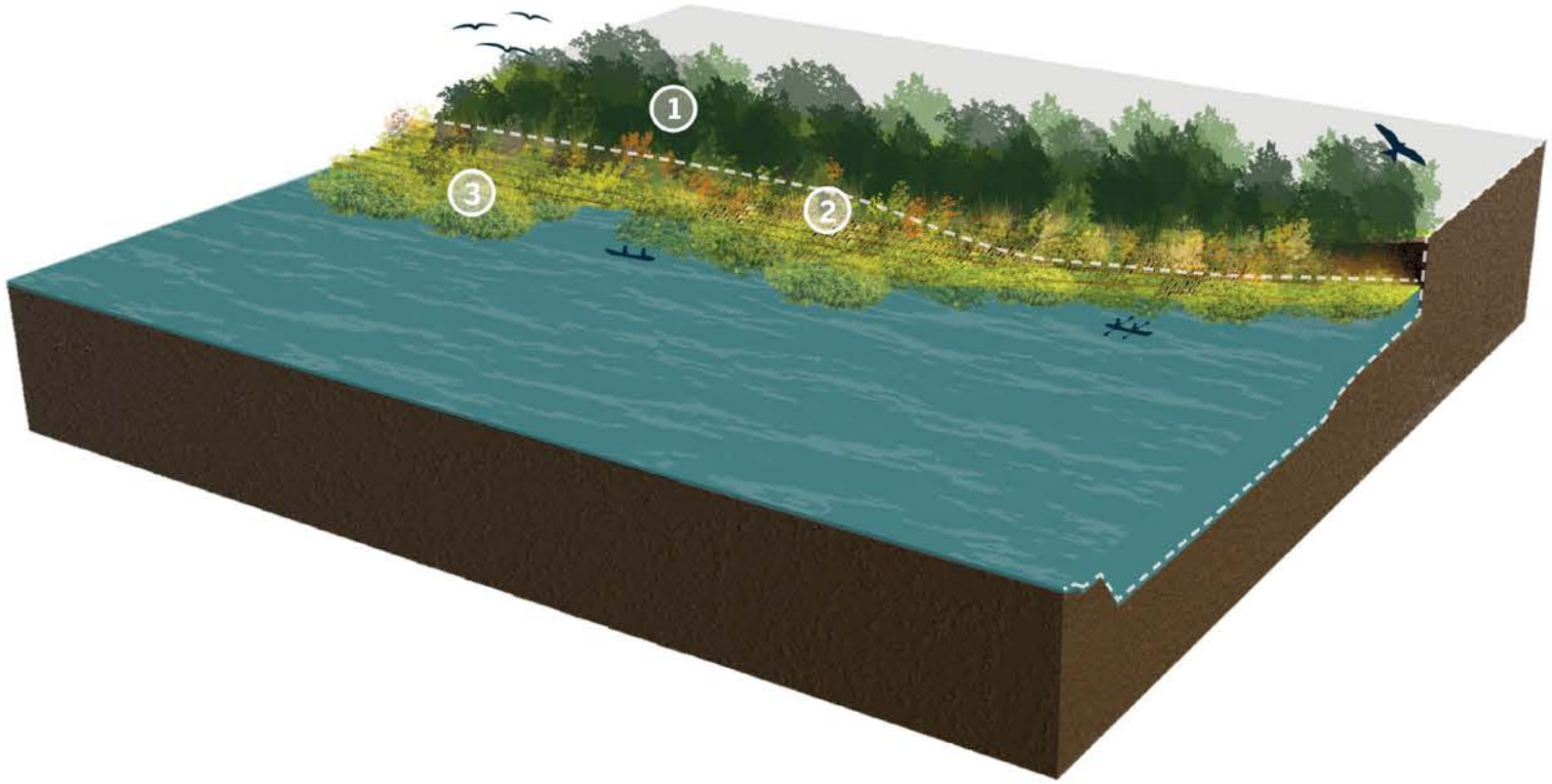


Connect People with Nature

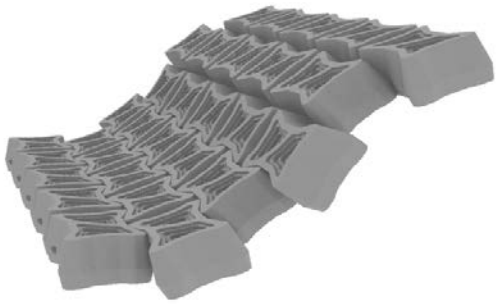
Natural Edge at Cherry Street

Component Configurations

1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Slope stabilization with terraced geogrid and plantings or articulated concrete mattress*
3. Floating habitat rafts



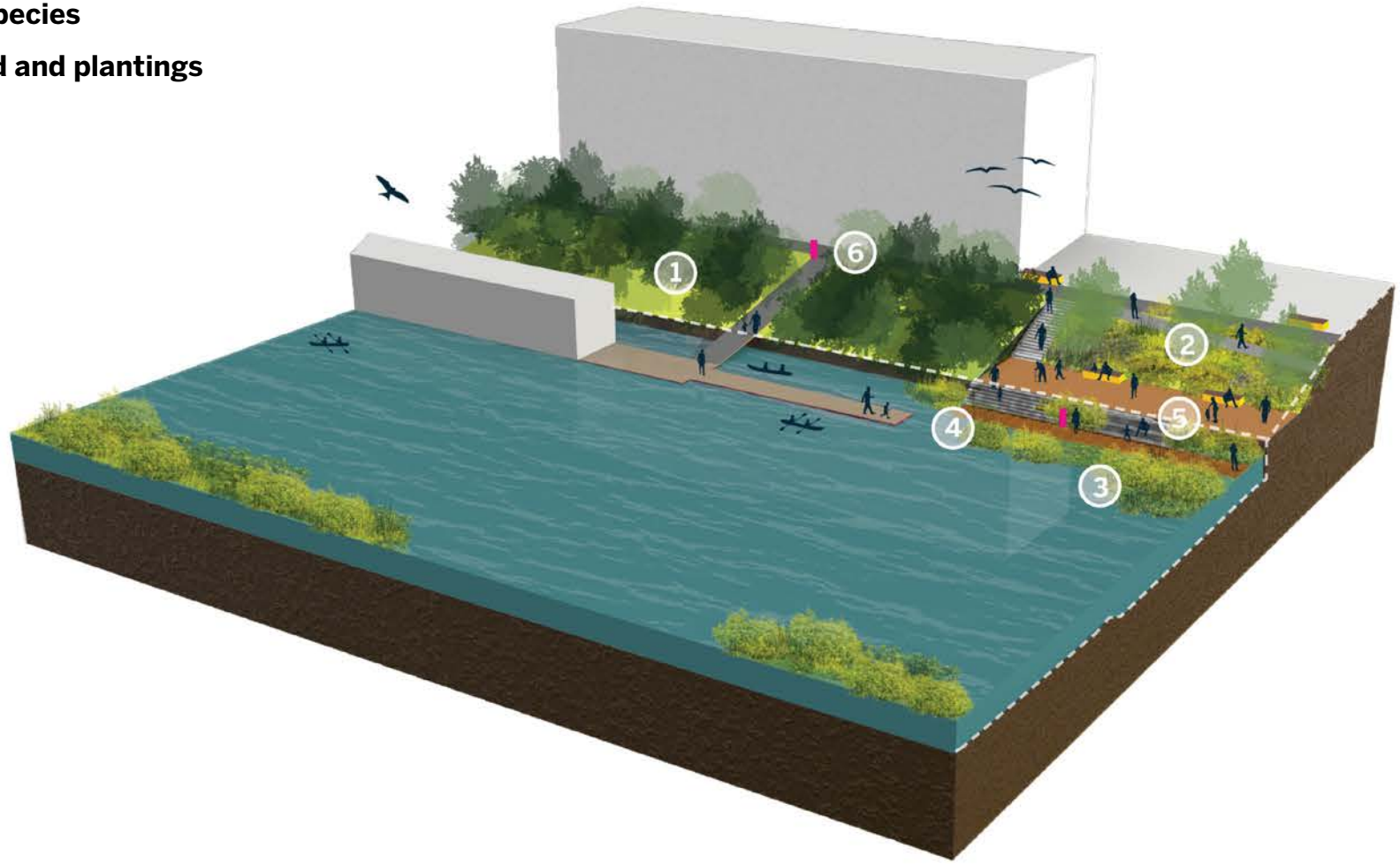
*ECOncrete



Weed Street

Component Configurations

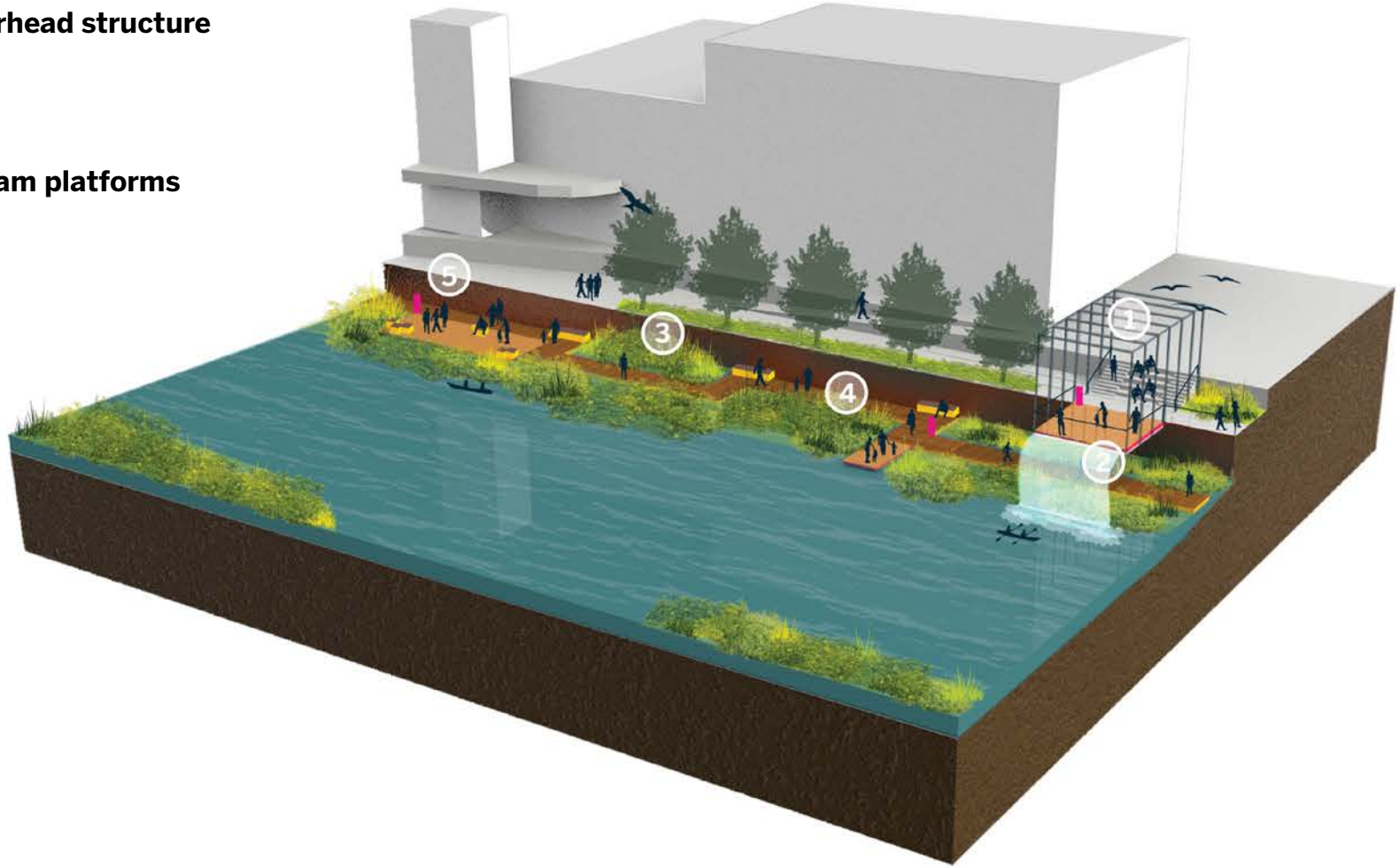
1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Slope stabilization with geogrid and plantings
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Program platform
5. Floating porous concrete steps
6. Interpretive signage



Whole Foods Edge / Blackhawk

Component Configurations

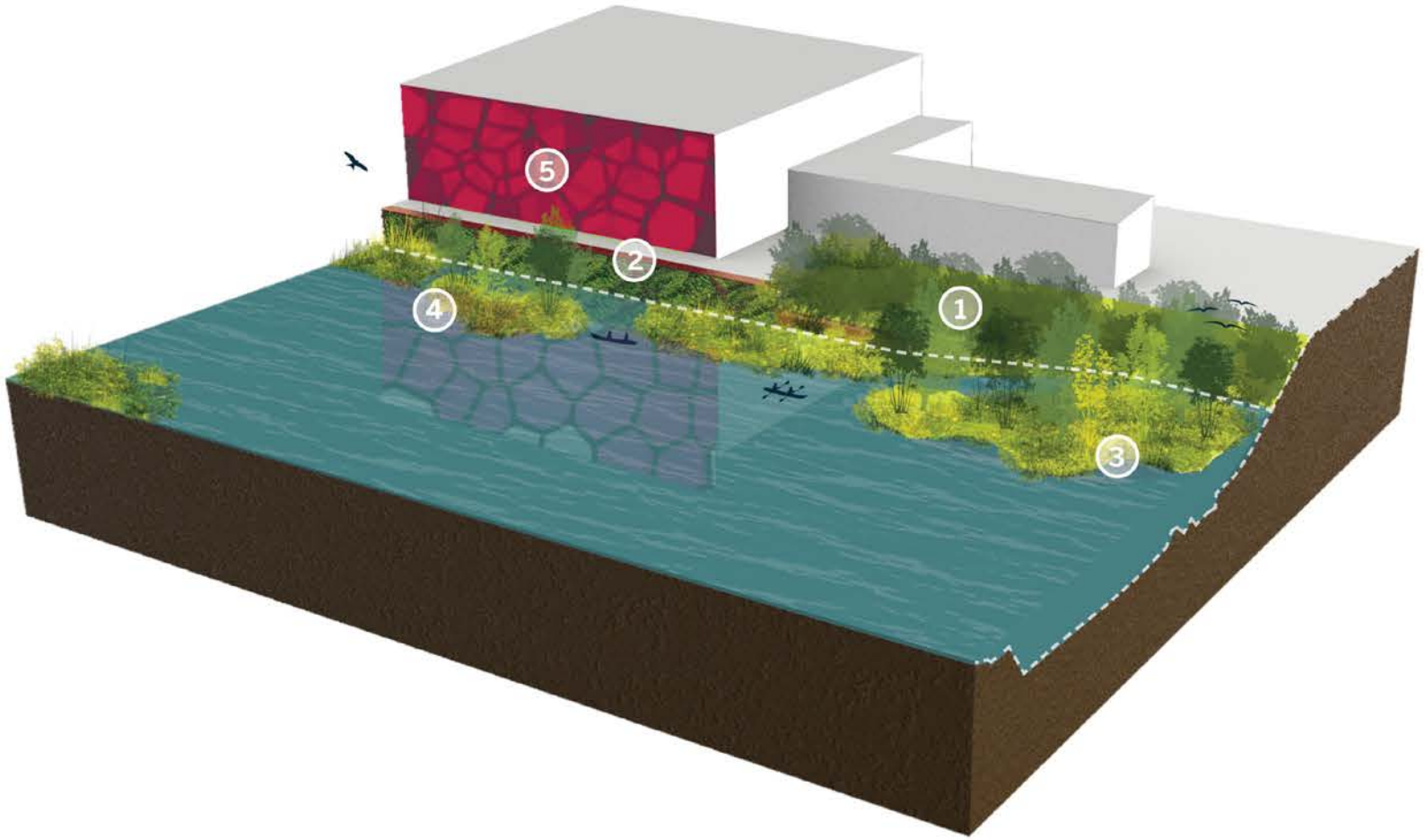
1. Cantilevered platform with overhead structure
2. Aeration waterfall
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Continuous pathway and program platforms
5. Interpretive signage



Waste Management Edge

Component Configurations

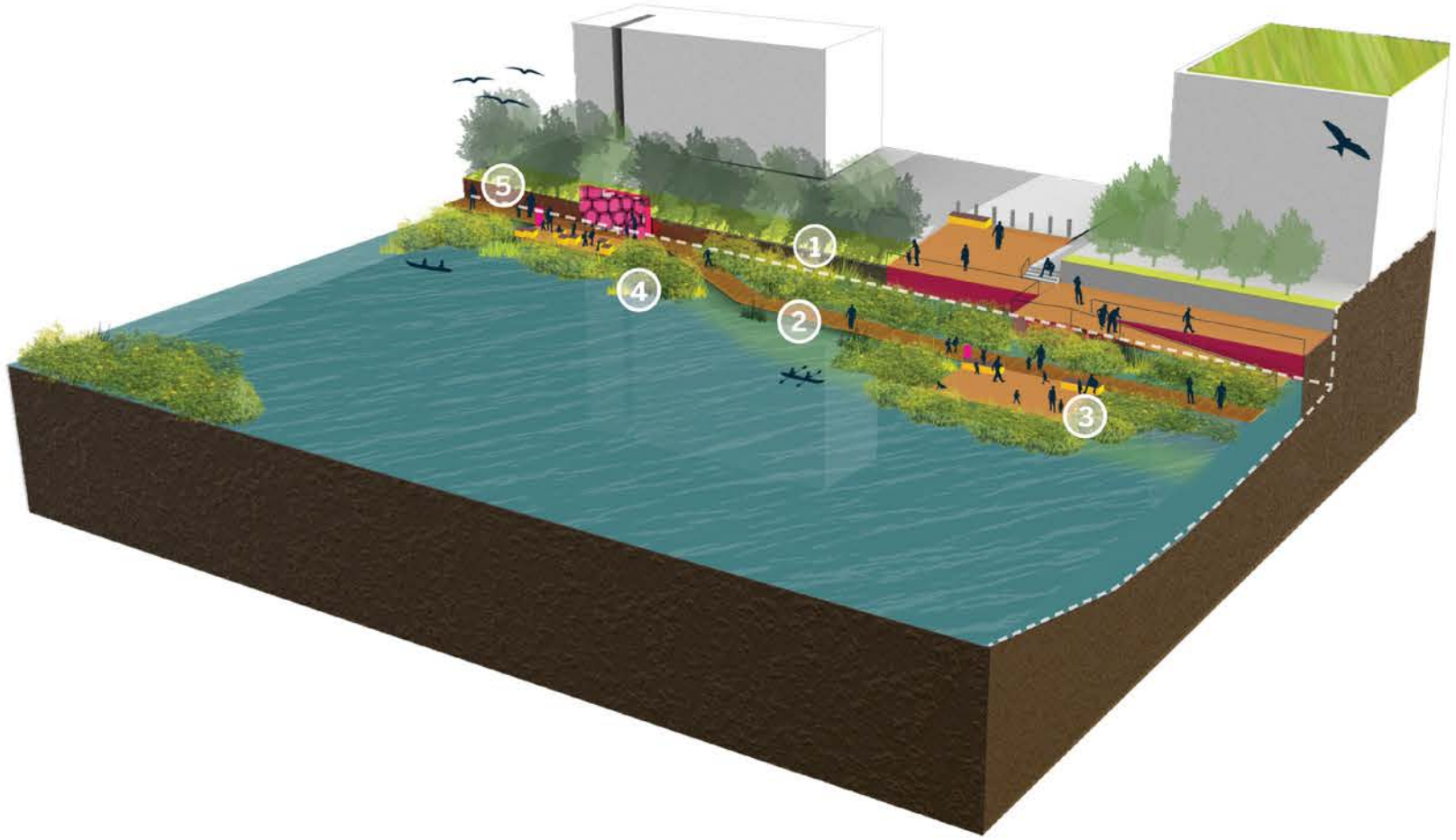
1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Sheet pile wall planters
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Floating trees
5. Mural



Eastman Street / REI

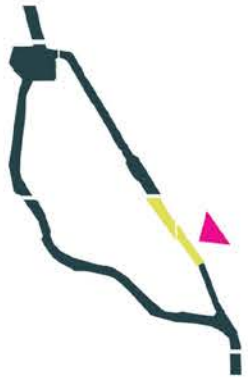
Component Configurations

1. Selective clearing of invasive species
2. Continuous pathway
3. Program platforms
4. Floating habitat rafts
5. Interpretive signage

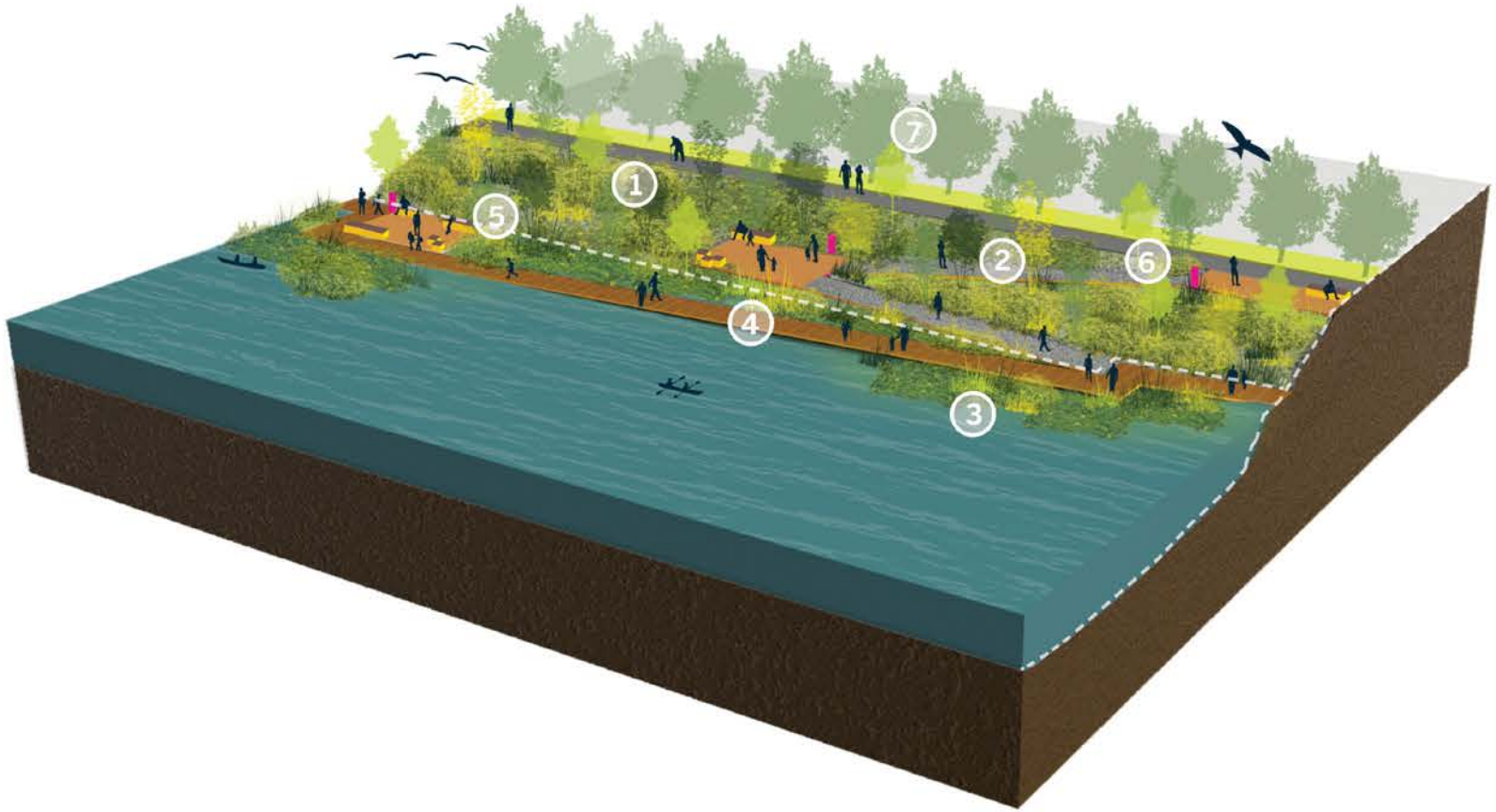


Hobbie Street Cove

Component Configurations



1. Slope stabilization with geogrid and plantings
2. Stabilized gravel pathways
3. Floating habitat rafts
4. Continuous pathway
5. Program platforms
6. Interpretive signage
7. Native trees along Riverwalk



Create a Place for Everyone

A Strategy of Connectivity

A Place for Wildlife

North Ave.

Eastman St.

Division St.

Hobbie St.

Chicago Ave.

habitat

A Place for Walking and Strolling

River-level Pedestrians

North Ave.

northern loop

Eastman St.

Division St.

Hobbie St.

southern loop

Chicago Ave.

near term loops
river level pathway

A Place for Biking

Street-level Cyclists

North Ave.

Cherry St.

Eastman St.

The Shop at REI

Kingsbury St.

Division St.

Division St.

Hobbie St.

Halsted St.

Chicago Ave.

bike greenway loops

bike parking

A Place for Paddling

Kayakers and Boaters

North Ave.

Eastman St.

Division St.

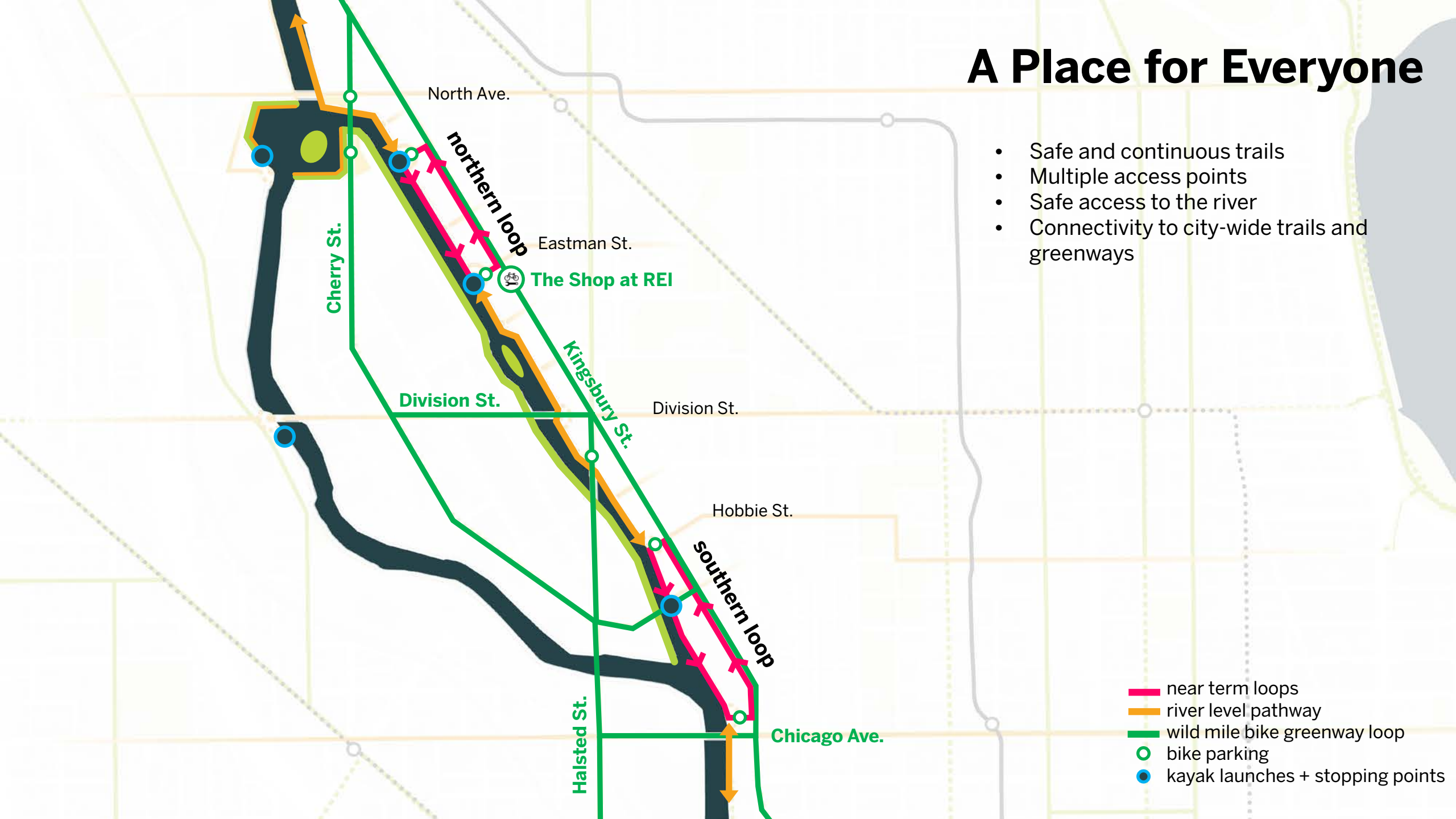
Hobbie St.

Chicago Ave.

kayak launches + stopping points

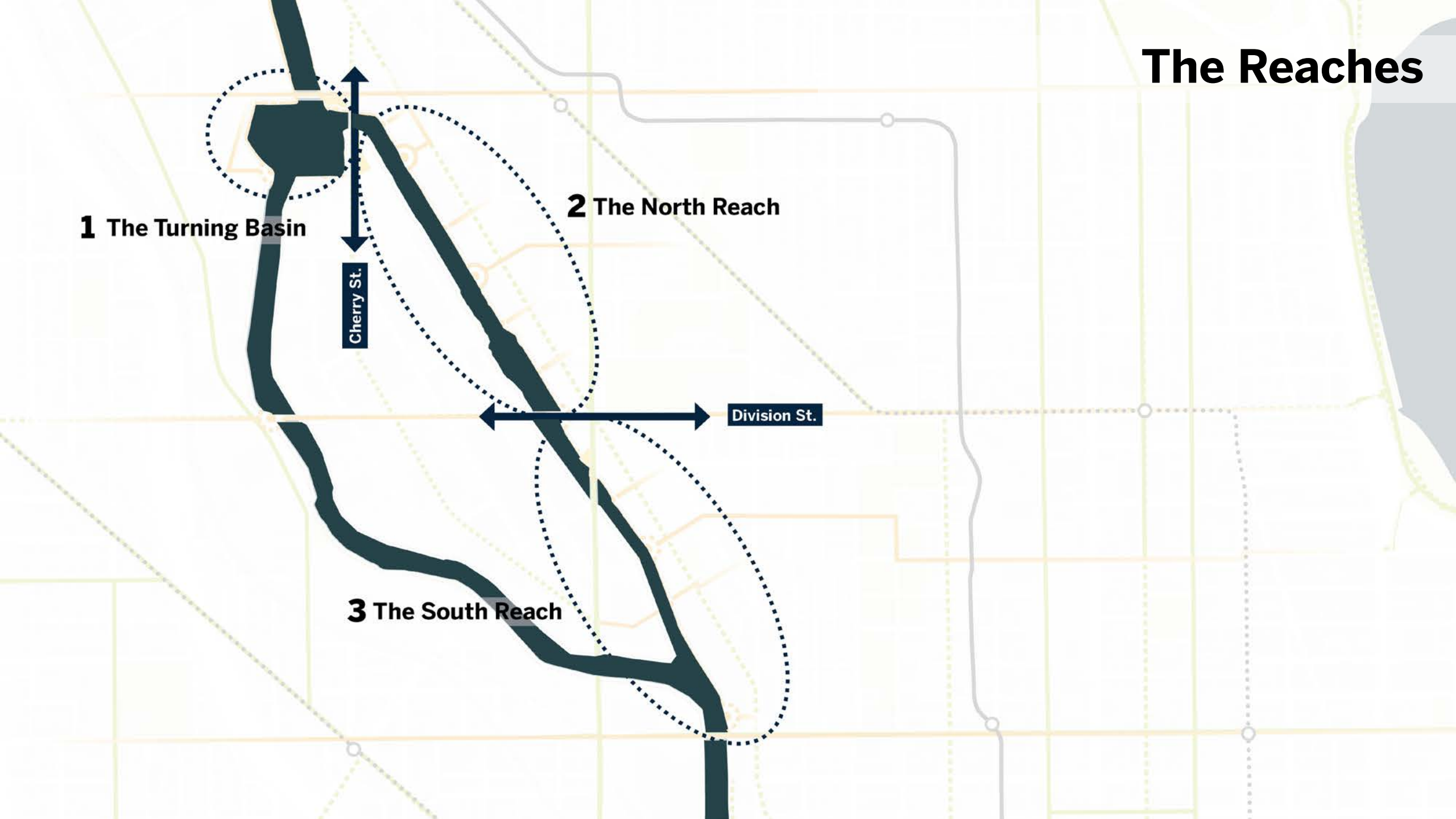
A Place for Everyone

- Safe and continuous trails
- Multiple access points
- Safe access to the river
- Connectivity to city-wide trails and greenways

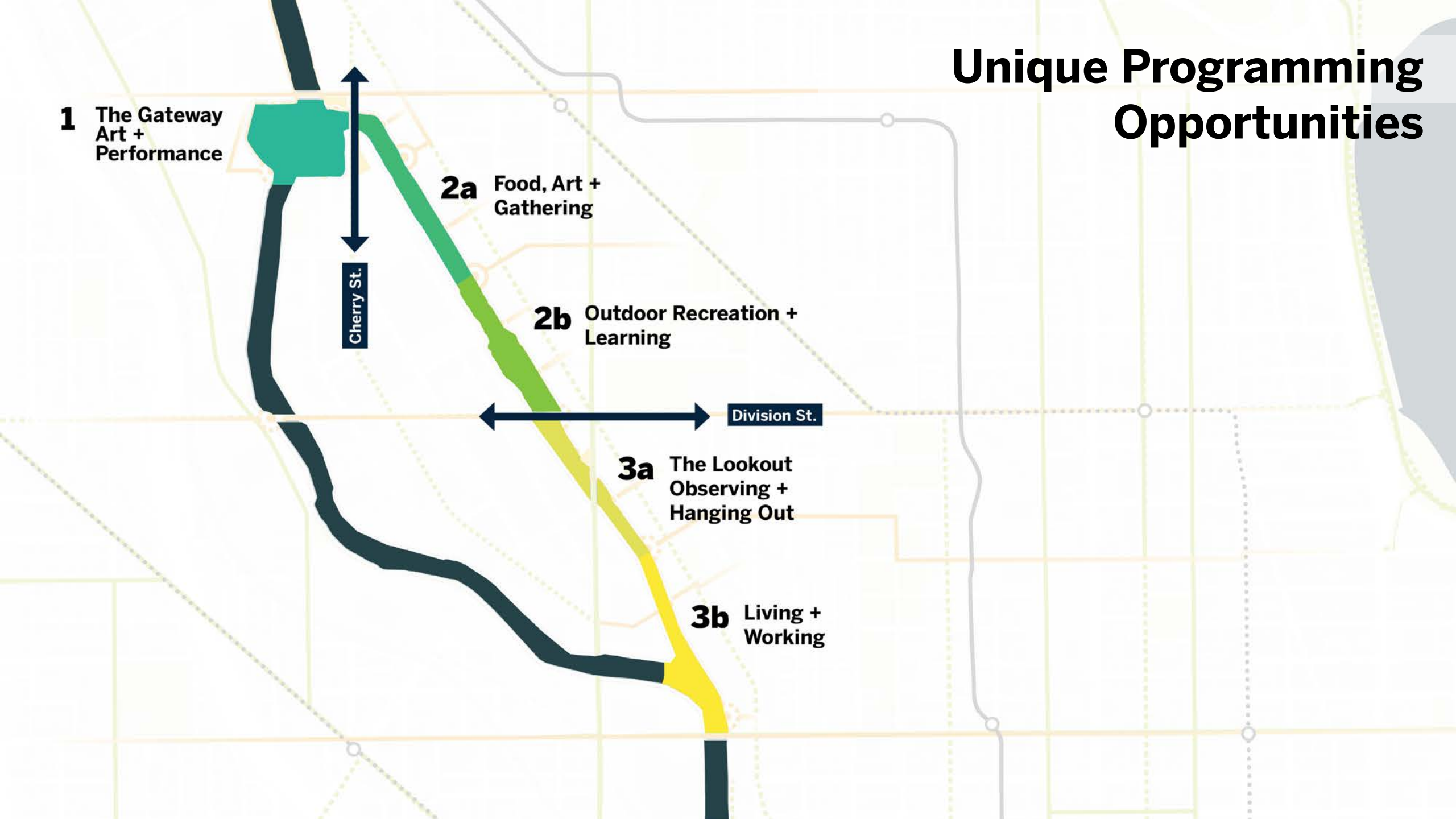


Design a Cohesive Experience

The Reaches

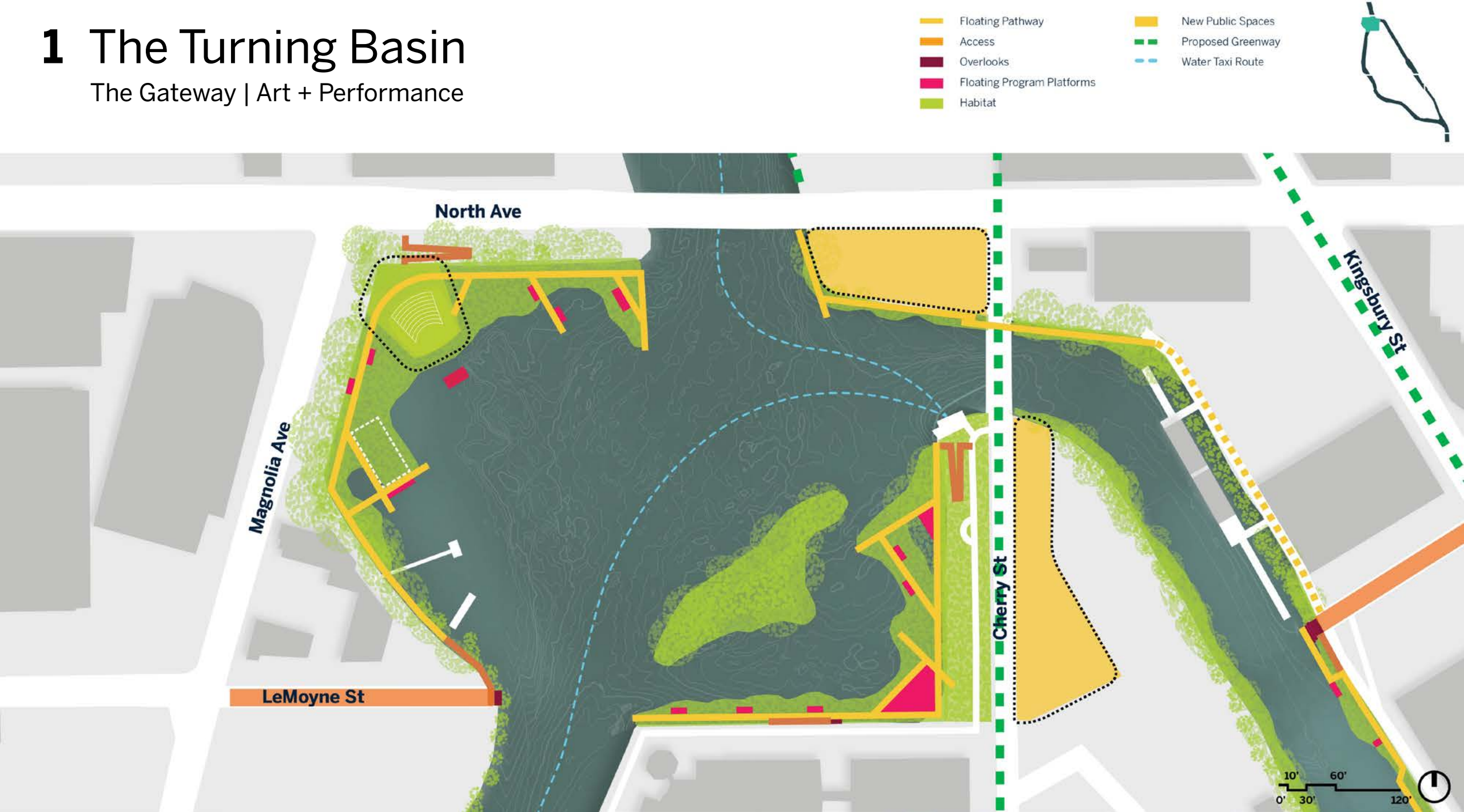

1 The Turning Basin
2 The North Reach
3 The South Reach
Cherry St.
Division St.

Unique Programming Opportunities



1 The Turning Basin

The Gateway | Art + Performance



1 The Turning Basin

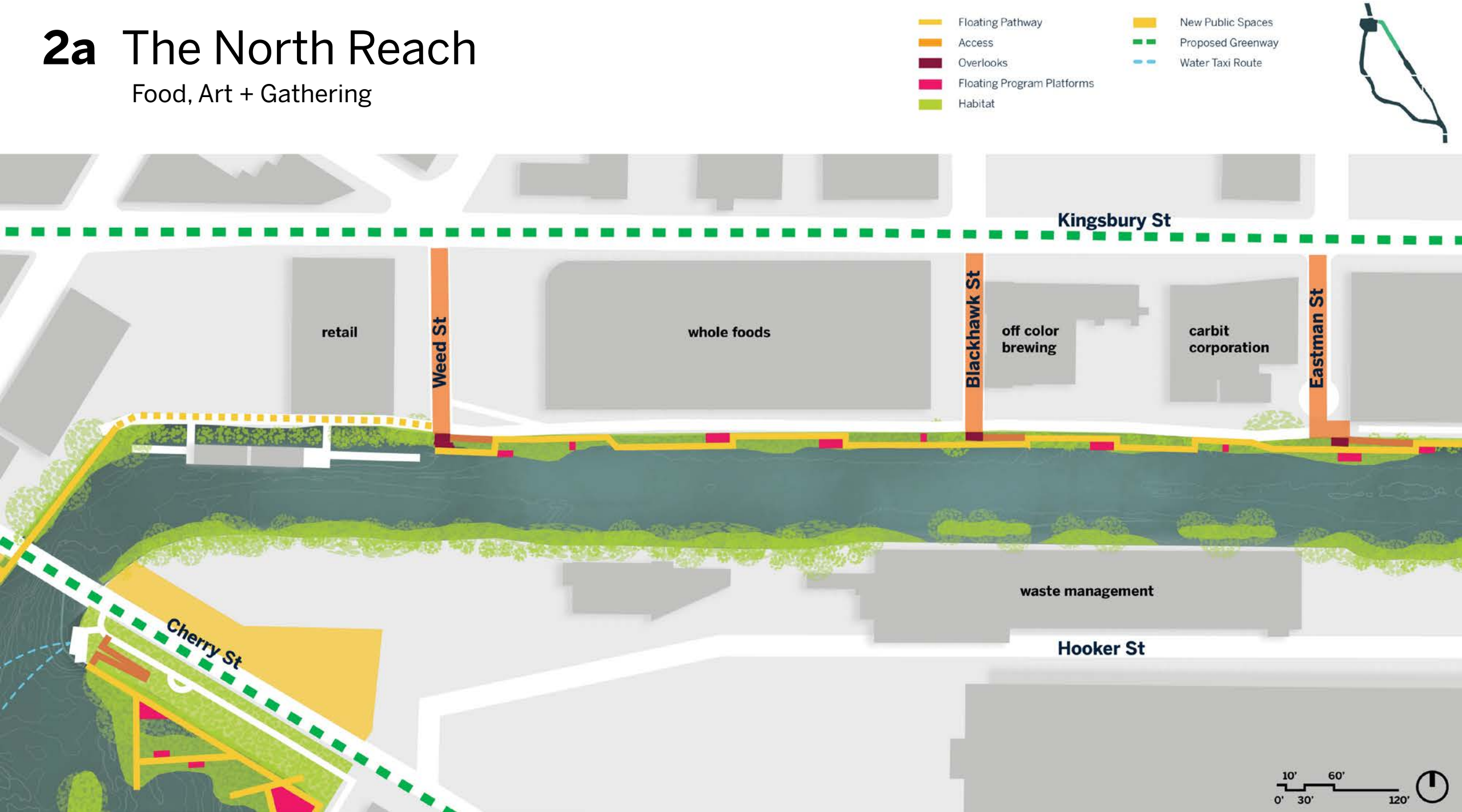
Existing

1 The Turning Basin

Proposed

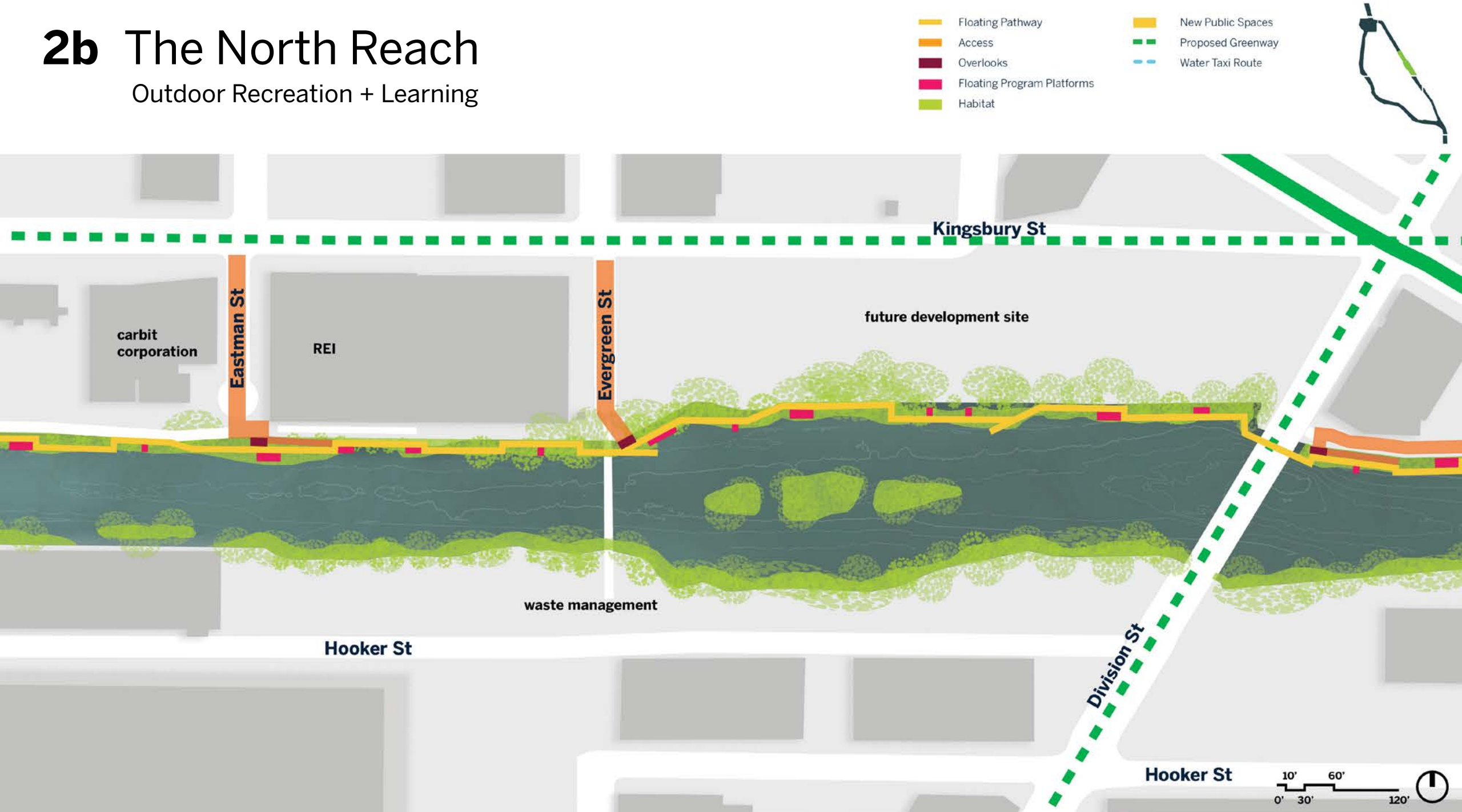
2a The North Reach

Food, Art + Gathering



2b The North Reach

Outdoor Recreation + Learning



2 The North Reach

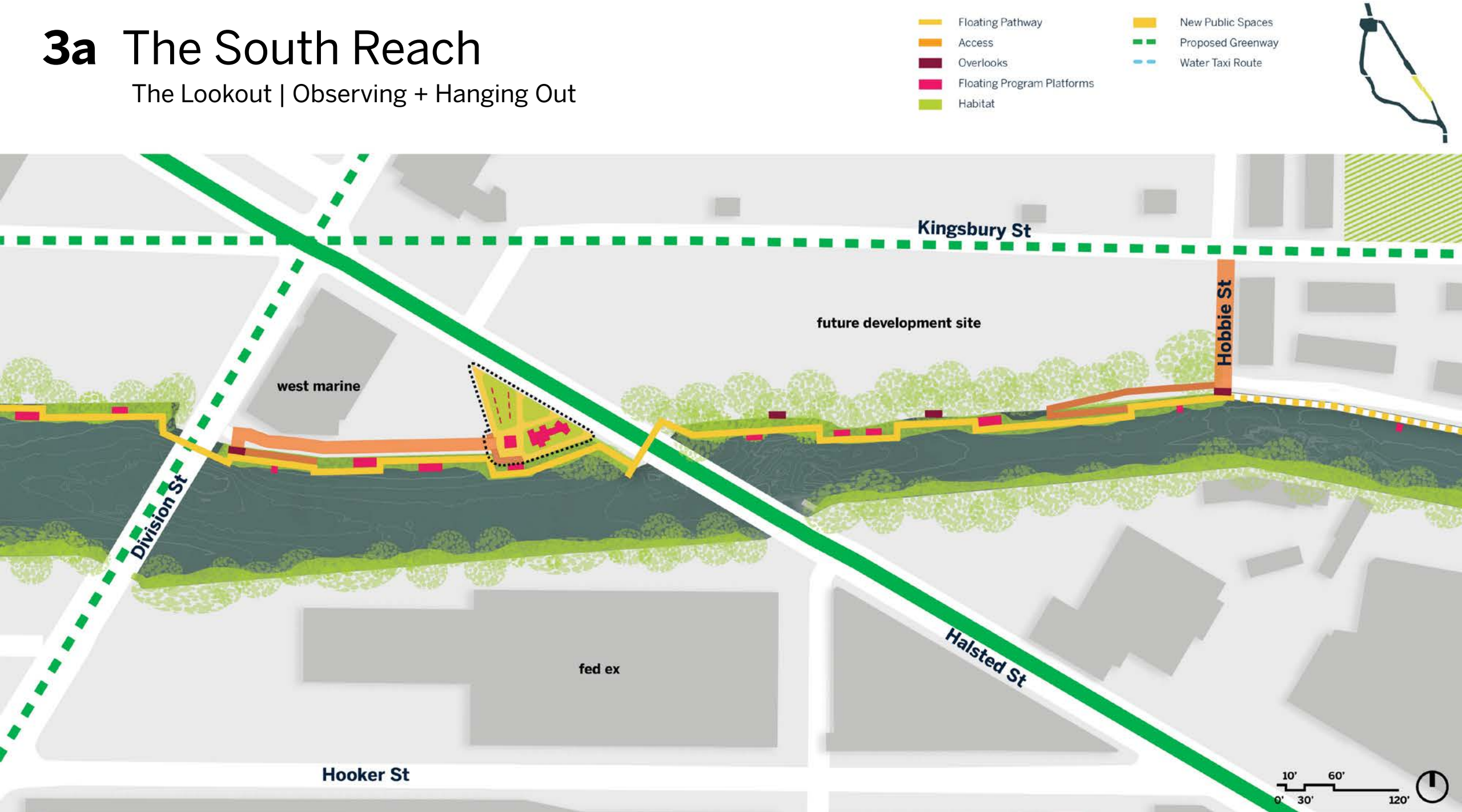
Existing

2 The North Reach

Proposed

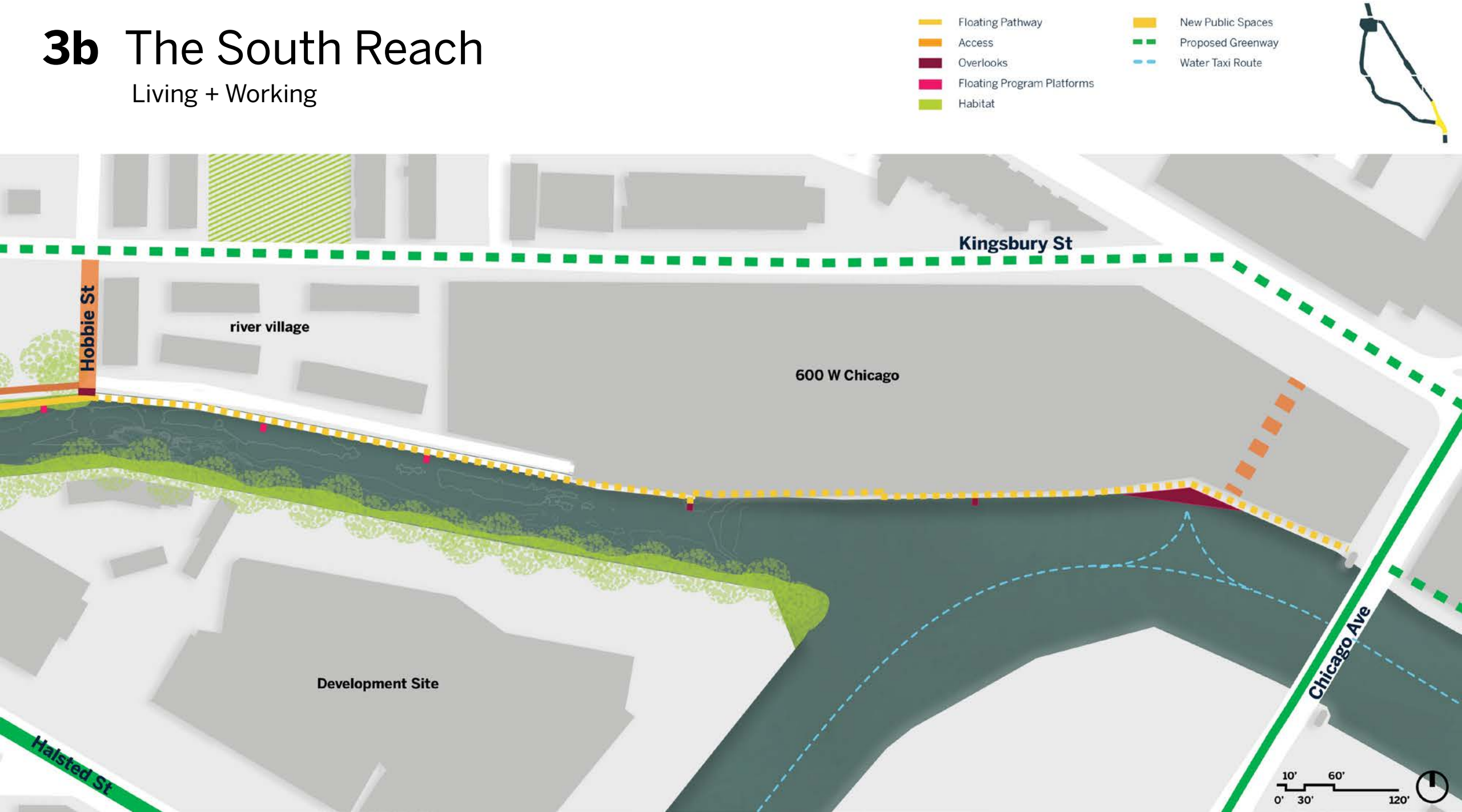
3a The South Reach

The Lookout | Observing + Hanging Out



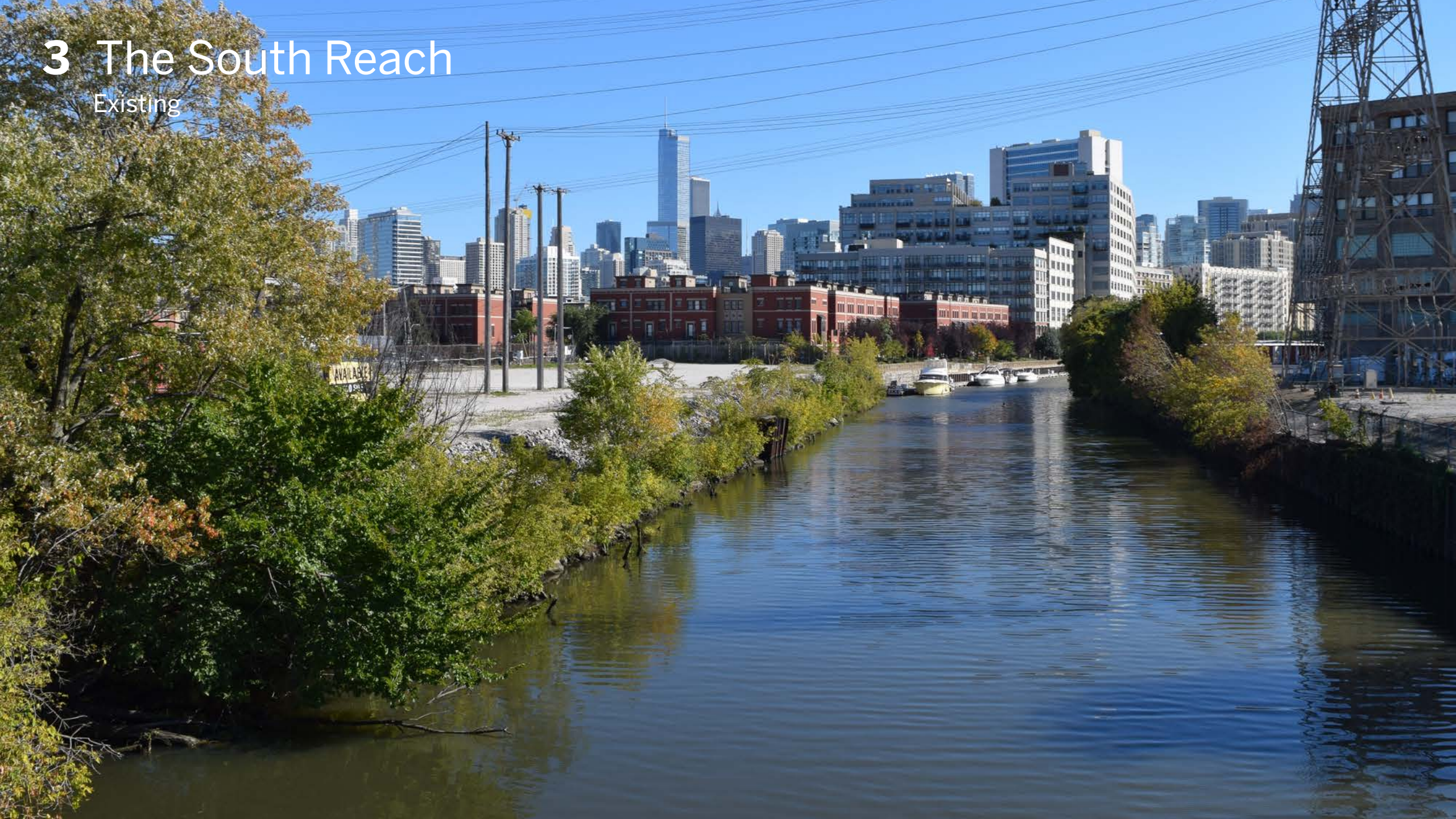
3b The South Reach

Living + Working



3 The South Reach

Existing



3 The South Reach

Proposed

Implementation

How to Build the Wild Mile

The Wild Mile Implementation Process

1 **Design**

2 **Permission + Permitting**

3 **Fundraising**

4 **Installation**

project lifetime

Programming + Engagement

Maintenance + Stewardship

The Wild Mile starts as a collection of community managed spaces ...

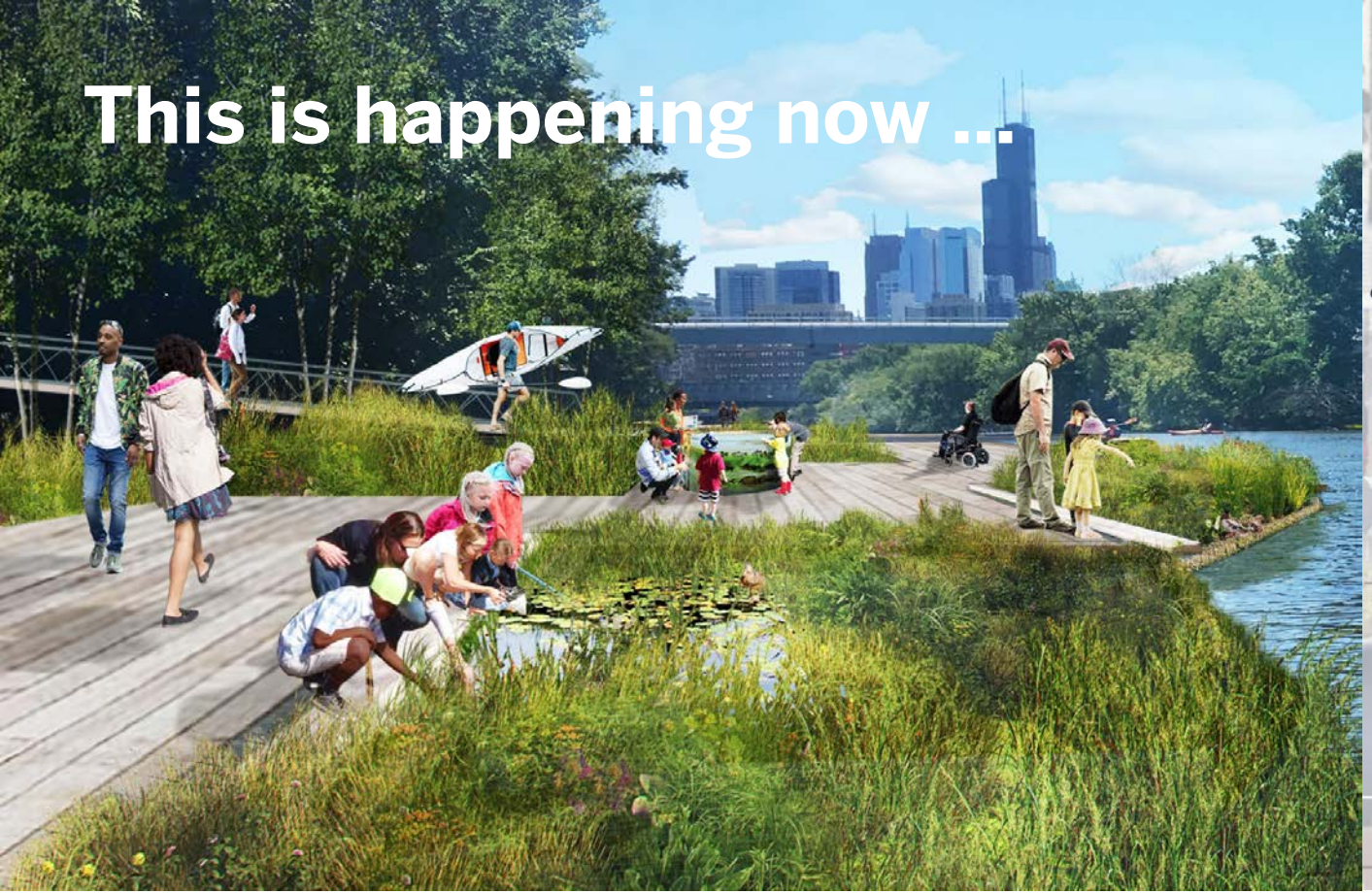
... The Wild Mile will grow into a coordinated program with more structured governance

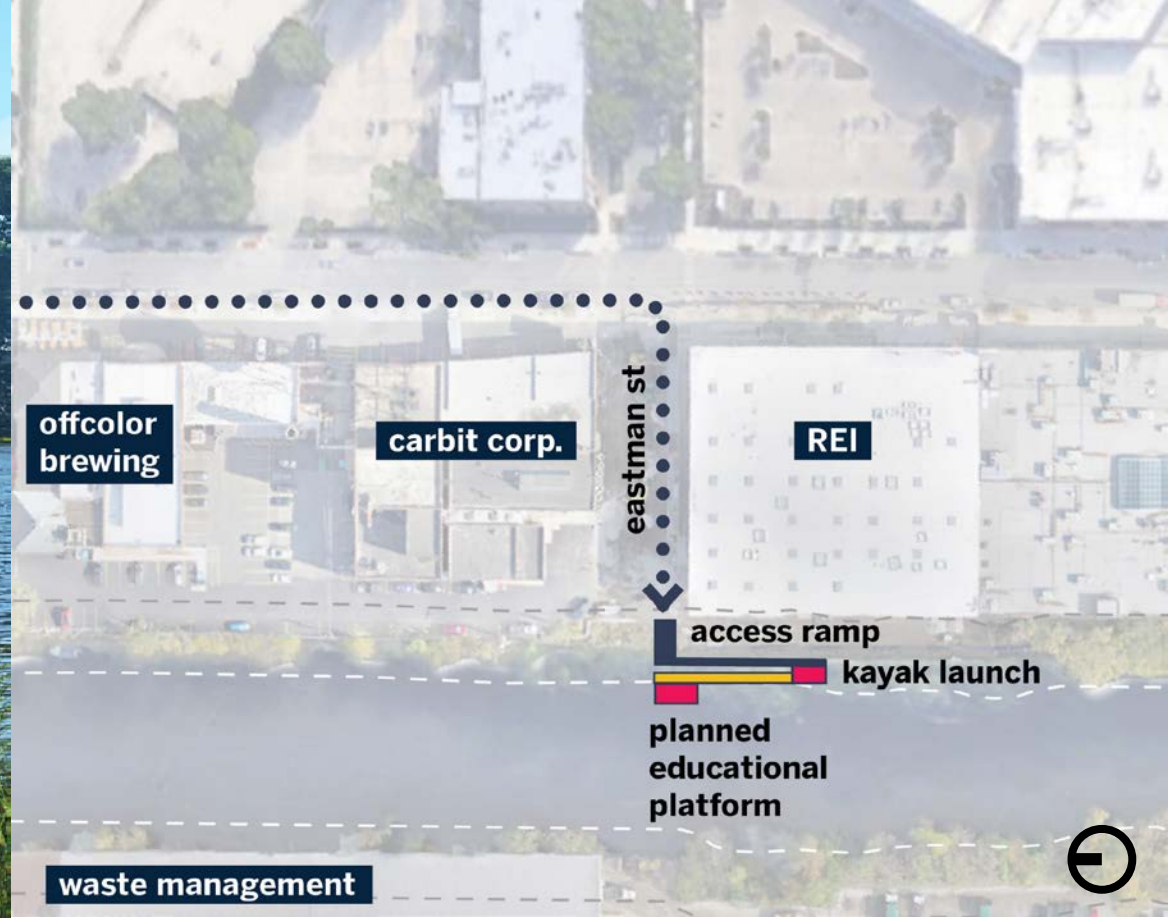
Neighborspace, Urban Rivers, and Near North Unity working with...

- **Groupon on river cleanup day**
- **Whole Foods on Wild Mile art display**
- **Waste Management on habitat installs**
- **REI on educational activity**
- **Other events and efforts**

There will be a shared responsibility to program and manage the Wild Mile

This is happening now ...





Wild Mile Learning Dock

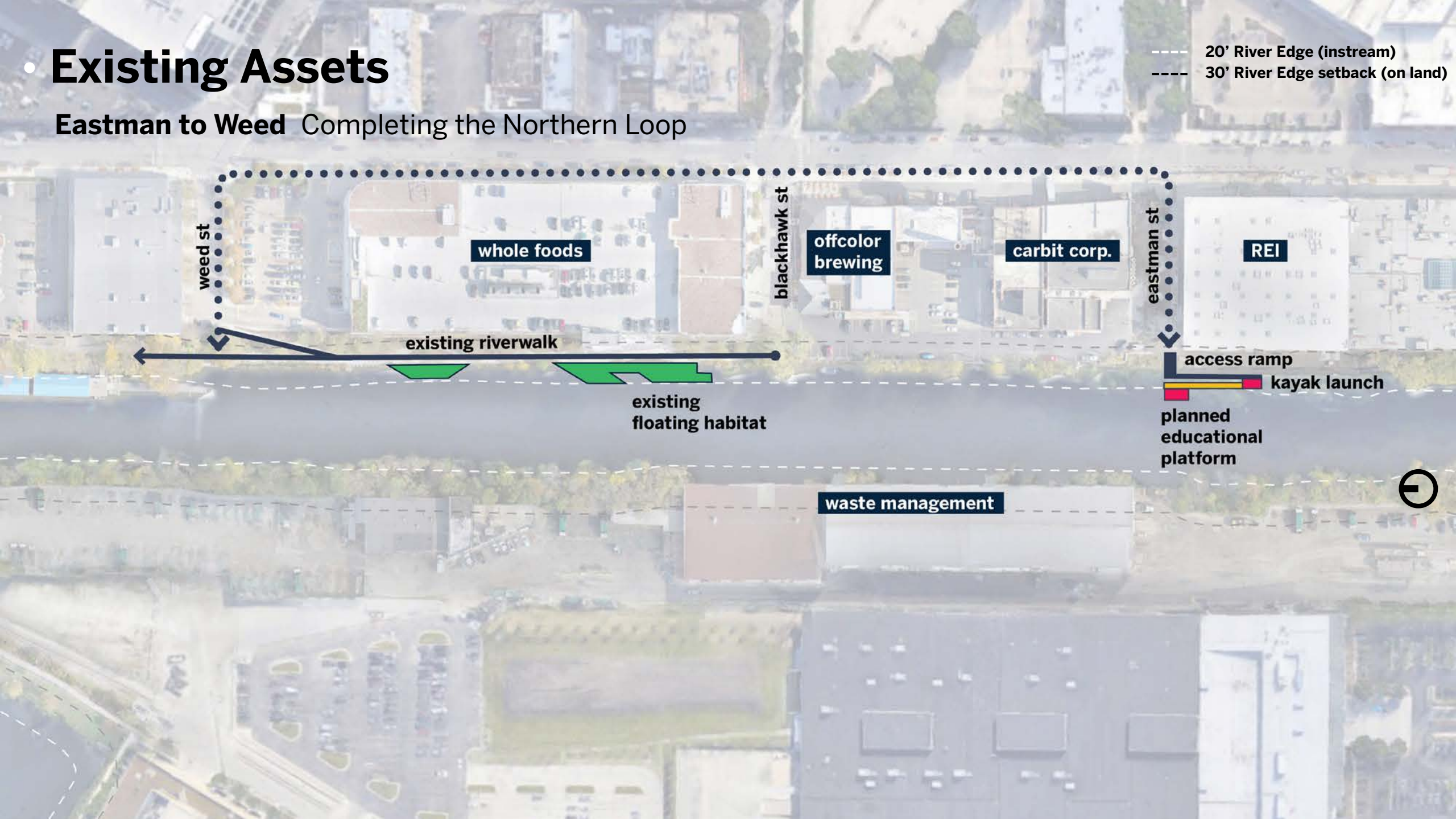
- NeighborSpace/Urban Rivers/ Near North Unity
- Building off the new REI ramp and kayak dock
- Summer 2019 installation
- Welcome community engagement to help with programming and setting up stewardship

Growing the momentum...

- Urban Rivers Habitat Installations
- Whole Foods Riverwalk
- New REI Riverwalk
- New Eastman Street Wild Mile Access Point
- Planned Educational Program Platform at Eastman Street

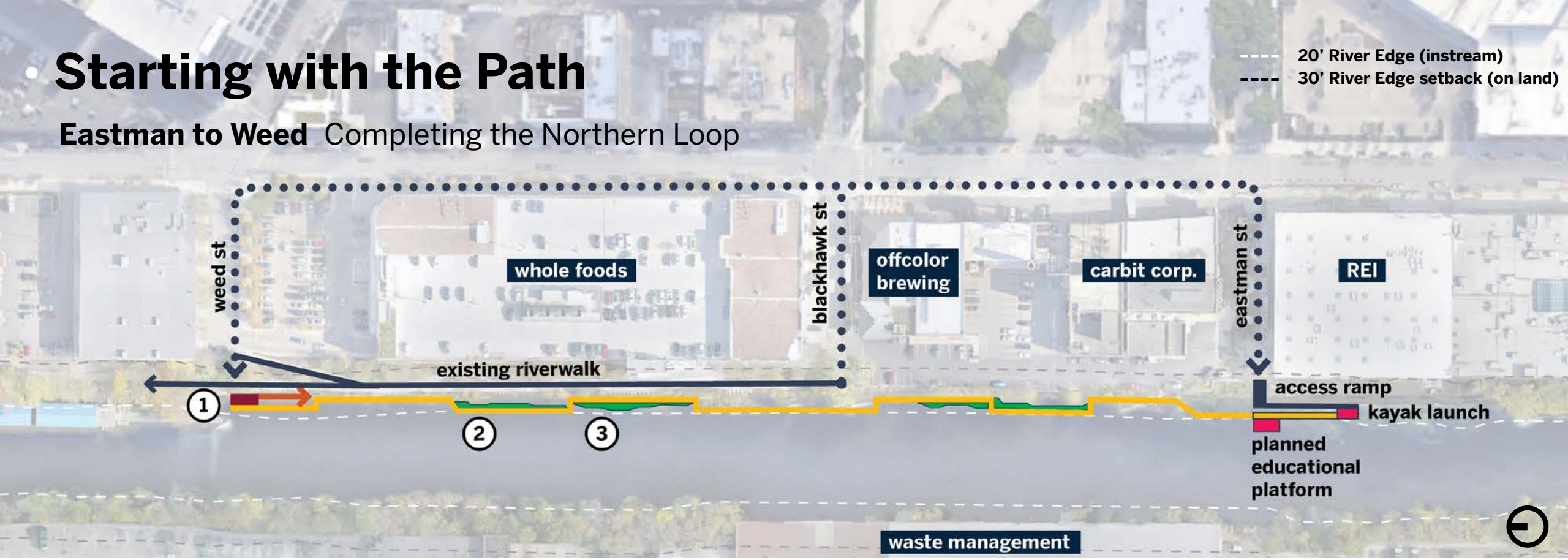
Existing Assets

Eastman to Weed Completing the Northern Loop



Starting with the Path

Eastman to Weed Completing the Northern Loop

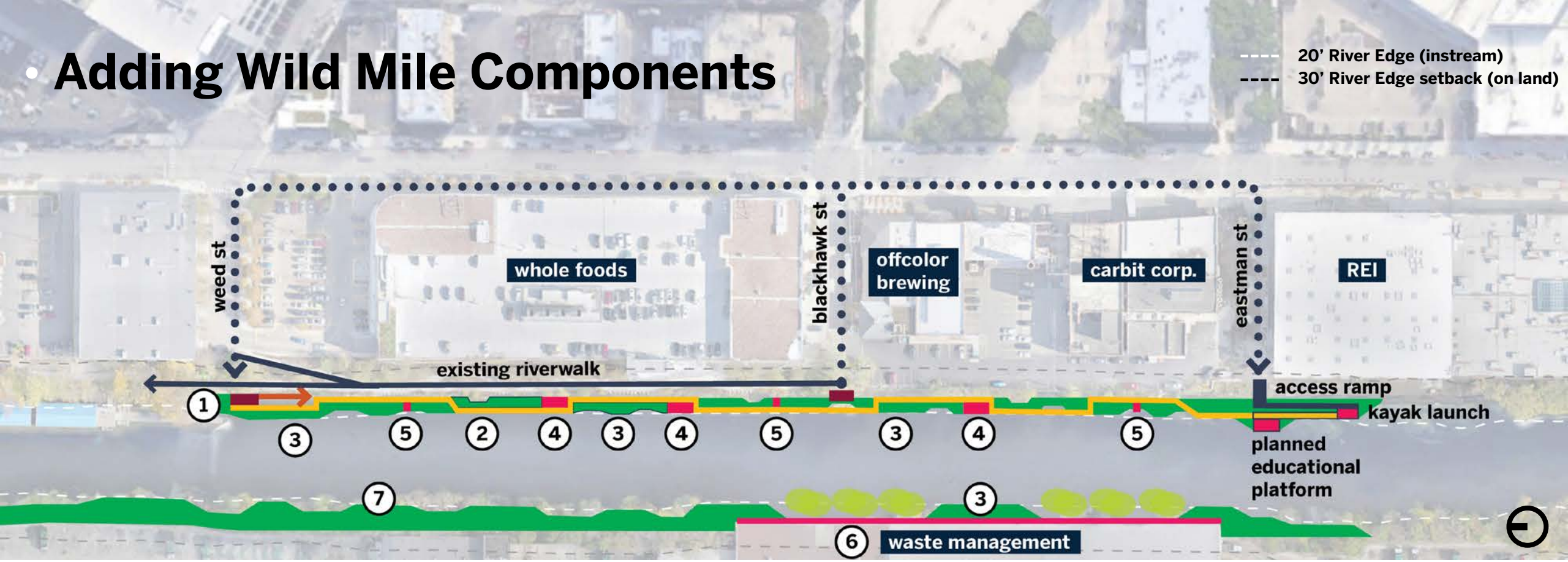


1. Weed Access Point
2. Continuous Walkway from Eastman to Weed
3. Floating Habitat

- **Floating path cost is approximately $1.3 - $1.5 M**
- **Recommend Open Space Impact Fees to fund starting path**

floating pathway
floating program platform
floating habitat
access point
access ramp
existing

Adding Wild Mile Components



1. Weed Access Point
2. Continuous Walkway from Eastman to Weed
3. Floating Habitat
4. Program Platforms
5. Viewing Pier
6. Mural
7. Floating Habitat and Naturalized Shoreline

- **Leverage private funds for add on floating islands and program platforms**

floating pathway
floating program platform
floating habitat
access point
access ramp
existing

Building the Wild Mile Vision

- Draft Wild Mile Framework Plan can be downloaded from **www.wildmilechicago.org**
- Presentation materials to be kept on display at Near North Unity Leslie Hall
- Media to contact Chicago Department of Planning and Development
- Follow updates on the website **www.wildmilechicago.org**
- Contact Information – Sign up for continued involvement
- Continued coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers

Lead the World

Wild Mile Week (April 22nd - April 27th)

- **Wild Mile Book Display**
  April 15th - April 27th
  Near North Branch Library, 310 W Division

- **Earth Day River Clean Up with Groupon**
  Monday, April 22nd, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
  600 W. Chicago Ave Lobby

- **Whole Foods Social with We All Live Here**
  Tuesday, April 23rd, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm
  Whole Foods Market, 1550 N. Kingsbury St.

- **Wild Mile Community Meeting #3**
  Thursday, April 25th, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm
  Cornerstone Center, Leslie Hall, 1111 N. Wells St.

- **Wendella Boat Tour**
  Friday, April 26th, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
  Chicago Water Taxi-North Avenue

- **Wild Mile Canoe Trip with Kayak Chicago**
  Saturday, April 27th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
  Kayak Chicago, 1501 N. Magnolia Ave.

- **Hands-on Garden Activity with REI and Urban Rivers**
  Saturday, April 27th, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
  REI 905 W. Eastman St.

- **The Original Earth Day River Cruise with Wendella and Friends of the Chicago River**
  Monday, April 22nd, 11:30am-1:30pm
  Wendella Boats, 400 N. Michigan Ave.

discussion

Visit wildmilechicago.org