“agriCulture” a new growing and community gathering space
MAIN ELEMENTS

The following elements are detailed in order of priority based on the workshops conducted with the Willowood Community during the summer and fall of 2021.

The design follows the logic of “Form Follows Need + Wonder” as conveyed by the young workshop participants. The narrative ideas revolve around “rainbows and sunflowers.” Sunflowers are manifested in the color that runs through the design (yellow) and the triangle as an abstracted sunflower petal. The rainbow is abstracted into the form of the Pavilion as a welcoming gateway, the arch of the Pollinator Boardwalk, and through the multi-colored patterns that will color the picnic tables, stage mural, and other elements.

The primary motif of all the elements is the triangle as a strong structural shape, a modular shape that can stand alone or form a field (the Pavilion) or a composite shape (Picnic Tables) and a dynamic form (Planters) allowing for both movement around the planters, and stillness between them.

01 STAGE

The stage creates an anchor for the use and programming of the community space. The stage is located in the north-west corner of the site against the masonry wall to make use of an otherwise hard to use corner. The stage takes the shape of an equilateral triangle with a planter at the top providing a visual backdrop for activity. The stage is made of a wood and metal deck that steps up three levels to accommodate both informal play and group performances. The stage is ADA accessible for the first two levels by two integrated ramps.

Materials: wood (black locust) and epoxy coated metal with stainless steel hardware

Program: informal play, performances, presentations, movie nights

Maintenance: The main frame of the deck is painted tube steel, with wood decking in between. The primary material of the deck is Black Locust which is a naturally rot, fire, and insect resistant fast growing hardwood native to North America that does not require any sealing or treatment. The deck is designed to be modular for easy replacement of worn decking pieces. Every spring and fall, the wood should be brushed free of any debris, and washed with a moderate spray of water followed out any treatment for years to come.

02 PAVILION

The pavilion defines the primary gathering space for a variety of activities from birthday parties to workshops to movie nights. During the day and summer months, the pavilion provides shade by its open frame, further augmenting the sun by seasonal shades attached to integrated hooks. The triangle shape of the pavilion responds to the three sides of the site: to the south, the pavilion opens to the Willowood community and provides a recognizable landmark; to the north-west, the pavilion orients the audience to the stage; and to the north-east, the pavilion helps to define smaller scale nooks for rest and play. The three vertical supports of the pavilion are anchored into the stage and planters of the design as an integrated part of the overall architecture. The play of the triangular motif creates a sound structure as well as providing shade and an interesting play of light.

Materials: wood (black locust) and galvanized metal (with galvanized fasteners); wood pavers as the ground cover

Program: workshops, parties, eating together, audience for performances

Maintenance: The main structure of the pavilion is galvanized metal that does not require maintenance. The substructure is black locust wood joists that can be replaced as needed, but should also last without any treatment for years to come. The structure should be checked for any wear every spring.

03 PLAYSSPACE

The play area for toddlers and young kids is located within the existing Community Garden perimeter to be centrally located for activities in both the community garden area and in the new gathering space. The playscape recreates a community garden in miniature with four “garden beds” featuring different materials and wooden vegetables that can be planted, hidden, and “grown.” Other features include a Stick Fort on one end, and a stump circle on the other. The enclosure should be secure yet friendly, made from rope. The schematic design of the playspace is open to modification, especially depending on the participation of local artists. Other elements can include: pollinator hotels, little art library.

Materials: All materials and finishes should be natural with minimal processing: wood sticks, natural wood, mulch, wood stumps, and rope.

Program: free play; community garden make believe, crafts

Maintenance: The wooden vegetables are meant to be recreated each Spring with help from a local artist or arts organization. The Stick Fort can also be recreated each Spring. The stumps can be replaced as needed.

NARRATIVE + EXAMPLES

- The main structure of the pavilion is galvanized metal that does not require maintenance. The substructure is black locust wood joists that can be replaced as needed, but should also last without any treatment for years to come. The structure should be checked for any wear every spring.
04 PICNIC TABLES
The picnic tables follow the triangular motif, allowing for small intimate gatherings around individual tables, and also for larger gatherings when tables can be assembled into a large hexagonal shape. The picnic tables are constructed from tube steel and black locust with hinged benches allowing for the variety of configurations. The natural location for the picnic tables is directly below the Pavilion in a variety of configurations as shown on page XX. The tables are designed to be painted as a mosaic of cultural textures, then lacquered with a water-based UV protectant sealer.

Materials: wood (black locust) and epoxy-painted metal
Program: lunch, parties, workshops, crafts
Maintenance: The Picnic Table murals are meant to be re-done every 2-3 years as part of an art project led by a local artist or team. Prior to repainting the tables and benches, any loose hardware should be re-tightened, and any damaged boards replaced. Use sheet A20X for cutting dimensions. Note that the hardness of Black Locust necessitates predrilling.

05 PLANTERS
A variety of built-in, integrated planters comprise the containers for a safe, robust, and differentiated food forest comprising of berries, vegetables, herbs, and perennial plants for pollinators. There are three primary types of built-in planters: along the north wall and integrated with the stage and stage ramps; along the west wall, and creating nooks for seating; and along the east fence creating a playful edge and separation to the community garden area. The pollinator plants are not in a container since there are no edible planting here.

Materials: wood (black locust) and metal
Program: informal play, performances, movie nights
Maintenance: The main material of the deck in Black Locust which is a naturally rot and insect resistant fast growing hardwood native to North America that does not require any sealing or treatment. The deck is designed to be modular for easy replacement of worn decking pieces. The main frame of the deck is painted tube steel, with wood decking in between. Every spring and fall, the wood should be brushed free of any debris, and washed with a moderate spray of water. Identify any pieces of wood that need to be replaced. Touch-up paint of metal frame as needed during fair weather of 60-75 degree temperature.

06 POLLINATOR BOARDWALK
The Pollinator Boardwalk is located just outside the existing community gardens where a gardener has already planted native plants for pollinators. The area leads to the new gathering space and serves as a welcoming zone with a meadow of native perennials for butterflies and other pollinators, as well as a whimsical boardwalk and viewing deck. The arched boardwalk helps to define this narrow strip of grass between the community garden and the street, yet also frames the new community space as part of the greater Willowood Garden community. To this end, a painter mural crosswalk is proposed which would lead to the existing playground, as well as help slow down vehicular traffic.

Materials: wood (black locust) and metal
Program: sitting, meeting, flower viewing
Maintenance: Every spring and fall, the wood should be brushed free of any debris, and washed with a moderate spray of water followed by sweeping with a stiff bristled broom. Identify any pieces of wood that need to be replaced and replace with the same or new stainless steel screws. Note that the hardness of Black Locust necessitates predrilling.

07 SHADES
Like deciduous trees grow leaves that provide more shade in the summer, so the Pavilion is equipped to have seasonal shades that can be developed with artists: either one large shade, or many smaller shades can be accommodated.

Materials: fabric
Program: n/a
Maintenance: seasonal, temporary

OTHER ELEMENTS
• MURAL
• TRASH-CAN
• GARDEN STORAGE CABINET
• LIGHTING - type and location
• STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING - stage, pavilion - drawing review
MODULAR PICNIC TABLES
PROJECT INFO

The proposed project is a community gathering and growing space for the families at Willowood Gardens. The site is Gloucester Housing Authority space next to existing community garden plots managed by Backyard Growers at 22 Willowood Ave.

Project Area: 4,565 square feet
Total Area: 6,182 square feet including 1,617 square foot existing garden

SHEETS

T001 TITLE SHEET
A101 PLOT PLAN
A201 STAGE
A202 STAGE/PLANTER DETAILS
A203 PAVILION
A204 PAVILION
A205 PAVILION
A206 PLAYSPACE
A207 PLANTERS
MOWING PLAN
5'-0" MIN RADIUS