

HAZELWOOD GREEN RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

OCTOBER 2020

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION WORKSHOP
SUMMARY REPORT



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Almono LP



environmental
planning & design



H.F. LENZ
COMPANY



Cycle
Forward
Multi-modal Creativity and Planning

PROJECT PLANNING-DESIGN TEAM:



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1	PAGE 04
OVERVIEW	
SECTION 2	PAGE 06
DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL DESIGN FEATURES	
SECTION 3	PAGE 16
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT SUMMARY	
SECTION 4	PAGE 18
PLANS, SECTIONS AND ENLARGEMENTS	
SECTION 5	PAGE 30
WRAP-UP	
APPENDICES	PAGE 32
PROJECT LEADERSHIP TEAM	
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Background

Greater Hazelwood is a neighborhood that has long been separated from its riverfront. The Hazelwood Green Community Collaboration Workshop, held October 15-17, 2020, is an early step in a longer journey towards implementing a Master Plan that restores riverfront access and reimagines the neighborhood's river edge. The property owner, Almono LP, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) have partnered to facilitate the master planning process, made possible by a grant to PEC from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), as well as matching funds from Almono LP. The completed Master Plan is expected to be accepted by DCNR in the summer of 2021. The Master Plan will be grounded in both the neighborhood's and Almono's desire to return public access to the riverfront. Public engagement and outreach efforts are intended to be informative and inclusive and with a keen focus on raising awareness and collecting public thoughts and feedback. The engagement plan includes three events intended to engage the riverfront's future stewards and constituents – once early in the project during the Concept Design Phase (the workshop), and two additional times later in the project.

In advance of the Workshop, the Planning-Design Team began by compiling data on existing conditions, analyzing access and ownership challenges, and cataloguing existing site features to better understand the site and its potential opportunities and challenges. Once the Planning-Design Team thoroughly understood the site and had knowledge of its realities, attention was turned to reaching out to the public to identify community aspirations, uses, activities, and design. Additional visions and desires were gauged using online and paper surveys in an effort to understand what features are important to the community related to the redevelopment of the riverfront.

Community Collaboration Workshop

The Community Collaboration Workshop was the third step in bringing together what was learned about the site through mapping and cataloging people's aspirations from the survey. The Workshop

included a series of informal collaborative engagements which enabled the Planning-Design Team to take community members' thoughts and ideas and apply them to a place as a means of evaluating their long-term feasibility.

Desired Outcomes of the Workshop

Prior to the Workshop, nearly 300 online and paper-based survey responses were received, stakeholder interviews were conducted, and community organizations were engaged to generate interest. The three-day Workshop incorporated that previous feedback (particularly the survey results), heard new ideas brought forth at the Workshop, and evaluated the feasibility of those ideas.

The Workshop was designed to be iterative in nature, with a variety of public events scheduled throughout the three-day period. Each of these events was planned and hosted in accordance with a Covid-19 plan. Concerns and aspirations shared by community members on the first day informed design schemes drawn and shared on the second day. Reactions to those schemes then informed refined schemes shared during the concluding presentation on the third day.

In the end, the ideas were integrated with the riverfront site and tested via two different schemes. This approach would allow the various ideas to be evaluated based on their success in creating a great public space or reducing/limiting the viability of other uses and design features. **The schemes presented here are not set in stone, rather they are viewed as malleable starting points or conversation starters. They are merely a reflection of the public input received to date. A desire to "mix and match" and reposition design features or amenities was expressed by various Workshop participants and is expected to occur as part of the master planning process.** Some preferred design features, elements, or components can be picked from one scheme and integrated into the other scheme, but other design features are tied to the specific geographic location of the feature and have synergistic relationships. After testing these schemes and gathering further feedback the best aspects of the designs will be combined in the Master Plan, which will be presented to the public in the Winter 2020 and early Spring 2021.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCT 15TH THURSDAY
5:00 - 7:00 PM - Neighborhood Pop-Up Event*
 Stop by Neighborhood Pop-Up Event location* to share your thoughts and ideas on the future of Hazelwood Green.
7:30 - 8:00 PM - Community Social
 Come share your goals and discuss for what you want the riverfront to become. You are welcome to come and go as your schedule permits. Bring the young ones in your life, children's activities will be part of the evening.

OCT 16TH FRIDAY
3:00 PM - Public Preview
 Call a sneak peek of the Planning-Design Team's initial ideas for the riverfront.
5:30 - 8:00 PM - Public Open House
 Come see 2 different iterations of the riverfront and tell us what parts of the design you prefer. You are welcome to come and go as your schedule permits. Bring the young ones in your life, children's activities will be part of the evening.

OCT 17TH SATURDAY
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Public Meeting
 It's Day 3, and it's time to showcase all the feedback we have received to date. The project team will present their ideas and preliminary concepts for further review and discussion. There will be three (3) different presentation areas for participants to choose from.

All events other than Neighborhood Pop-Up Event will be held at The South Porch of Mill 19, 4501 Lytle Street.
 *Thursday's Neighborhood Pop-Up Event will be held at The Hazelwood Initiative Parking Lot, 4901 Second Avenue.

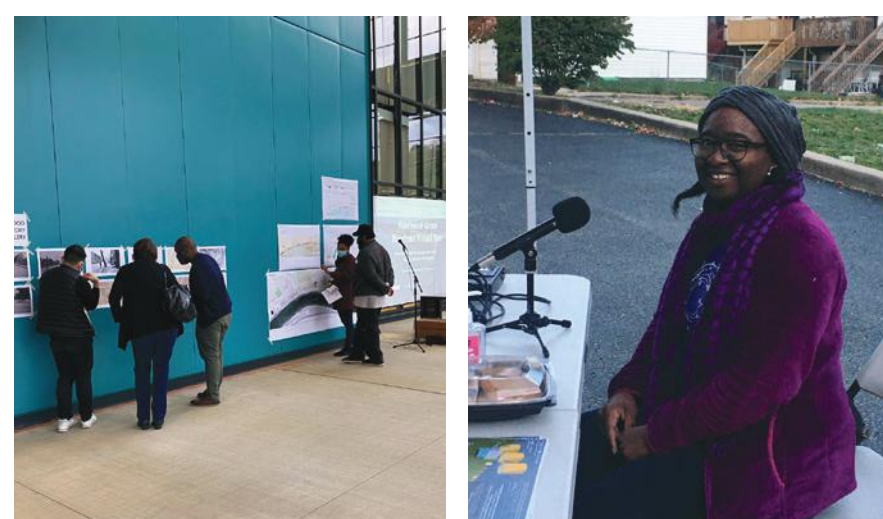
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: REGISTER ONLINE
 Visit www.hazelwoodgreen.com/riverfront or Call 412-918-6563

FREE On-Street Parking

PROJECT PARTNERS: Almono LP, PEC

PROJECT PLANNING-DESIGN TEAM: environmental planning & design, H.F. LENZ COMPANY, Cycle Forward

HELP US SHAPE THE HAZELWOOD RIVERFRONT BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
 Oct 15th - Oct 17th 2020



3-DAY WORKSHOP PHOTOS

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL DESIGN FEATURES


As was previously noted, the early stage of the planning and design process focused on gathering facts about the riverfront and identifying key opportunities and design challenges. Some of the important insights learned to date include the locations of potential site access from the neighborhood, the proximity of the trail corridor, and river destinations that may help to shape the riverfront’s future transformation. There are also existing challenges which could limit improvements, such as the narrow width of the site, existing stormwater uses, safety concerns, commercial water traffic, etc.

The Advisory Committee worked with the planners and designers to develop a series of riverfront planning and design goals guided by the site’s overall principles to Advance Human Well-Being, Inspire Innovation, Regenerate the Ecology, and Create Resilient Places. During the Community Collaboration Workshop, community members also gave feedback and responded to these goals.

HAZELWOOD GREEN PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ **PRINCIPLE 1**
ADVANCE HUMAN WELL-BEING
- ▶ **PRINCIPLE 2**
INSPIRE INNOVATION
- ▶ **PRINCIPLE 3**
REGENERATE THE ECOLOGY
- ▶ **PRINCIPLE 4**
CREATE RESILIENT PLACES

RIVERFRONT PLANNING - DESIGN GOALS



View the riverfront as a ‘common ground’ where people come together to socialize, recreate and recharge.

Create an inclusive place where users of all abilities and interests can enjoy the space with full accommodation and sense of belonging.

Allow the land and water’s ability or capacity to support development to guide the riverfront’s long-term uses and activities.

Consider the site’s water resource as equally important as its land resource in the planning and design process.

Leverage the riverfront’s unique qualities in length, industrial structures and regional juxtaposition to create a distinct and authentic place.

Transform the environment by mending the impacts of past industrialization through innovative interventions.

Reveal and celebrate the riverfront’s cultural and historical significance to Western Pennsylvania and world culture.

Create a multi-use and multi-modal link along the riverfront that attracts both local residents/workers and international visitors to the nearby Great Allegheny Passage.

Overcome the riverfront’s physical constraints by finding synergies and ways for uses, activities, and infrastructure investments to cohabitate.

Use the riverfront as a place to support and promote physical, social, mental, and spiritual wellness.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS’ COMMENTS



Through a series of stakeholder interviews and the collection of more than 300 public surveys, the Planning-Design Team identified a list of activities and amenities, as well as a set of concerns that needed to be addressed as part of the initial concepts. The elements that were strongly expressed by the stakeholders and the public include:

- Need for community gathering spaces
- Desire for more trails and connections to the neighborhood
- Water access and enjoyment
- Opportunities for art, nature, and history appreciation
- Activities and places that encourage food tasting and dining

In addition to the input received to date, a series of issues or concerns was also expressed/indicated by workshop participants. These include:

- Safety at railroad crossing
- Safety on the water
- Visibility and security during the day and night
- Speed of traffic on a trail
- Accessibility for people with limited mobility

Built on the synthesis of the site feasibility and public feedback, the Planning-Design Team further translated the community preferences into additional design features that take into consideration spatial requirements, ecological functionality, practicality of structural/existing conditions as well as physical solutions to address concerns. For example, man-made archipelagos (floating islands) were conceptualized and integrated into the schemes as a means of creating a protected, safe harbor for water activities and to improve the ecology of the river edge and fish habitat. In the following pages, a set of introduced design features will be briefly analyzed from the standpoint of infrastructure, circulation, spatial requirements, as well as capital investment, revenue generation potential, and operation/management at this very early phase.

SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

Please select up to three (3) most desirable **PASSIVE** activities you would be interested in doing along the Hazelwood Green Riverfront.

	CITY 123	NEIGHBORHOOD 84	SENIOR 24	YOUTH 61
Answer Choices	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES
Club and Games	4.0%	7.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Casual Play	17.0%	22.0%	16.0%	20.0%
Music/Art Appreciation	52.0%	52.0%	50.0%	52.0%
Water Recreation	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Photography	13.0%	5.0%	14.0%	10.0%
Relaxing / Socializing	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
Light Reading	20.0%	18.0%	20.0%	18.0%
Walking/Conversations	16.0%	15.0%	4.0%	9.0%
Walking and Gathering	12.0%	10.0%	10.0%	12.0%
Teaching/Class	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

Please select up to three (3) most desirable **ACTIVE** activities you would be interested in doing along the Hazelwood Green Riverfront.

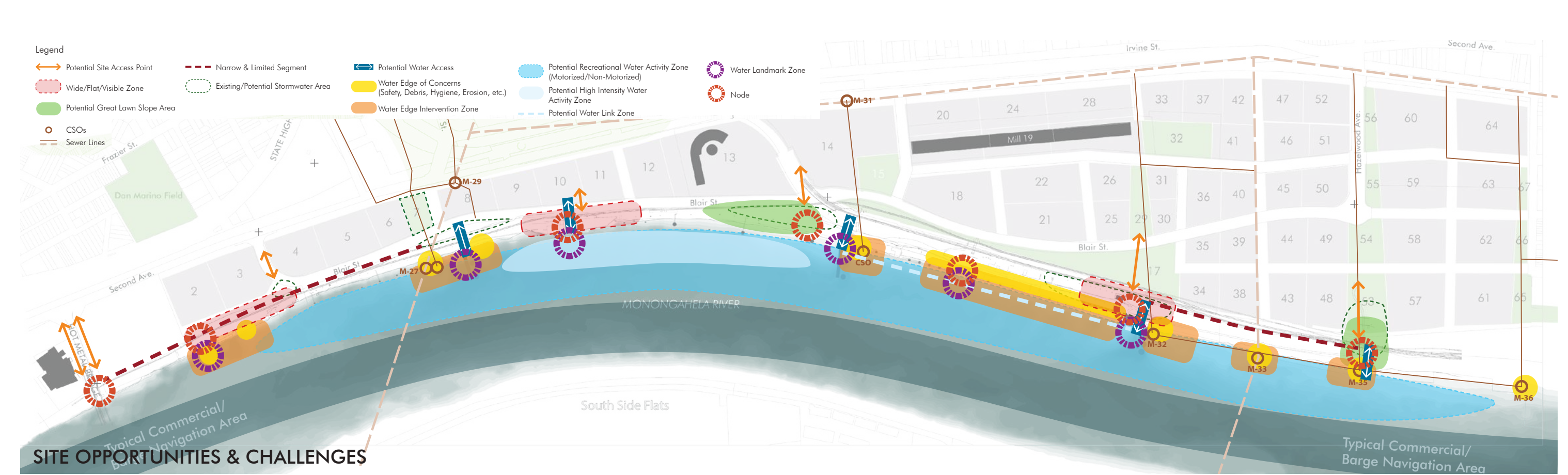
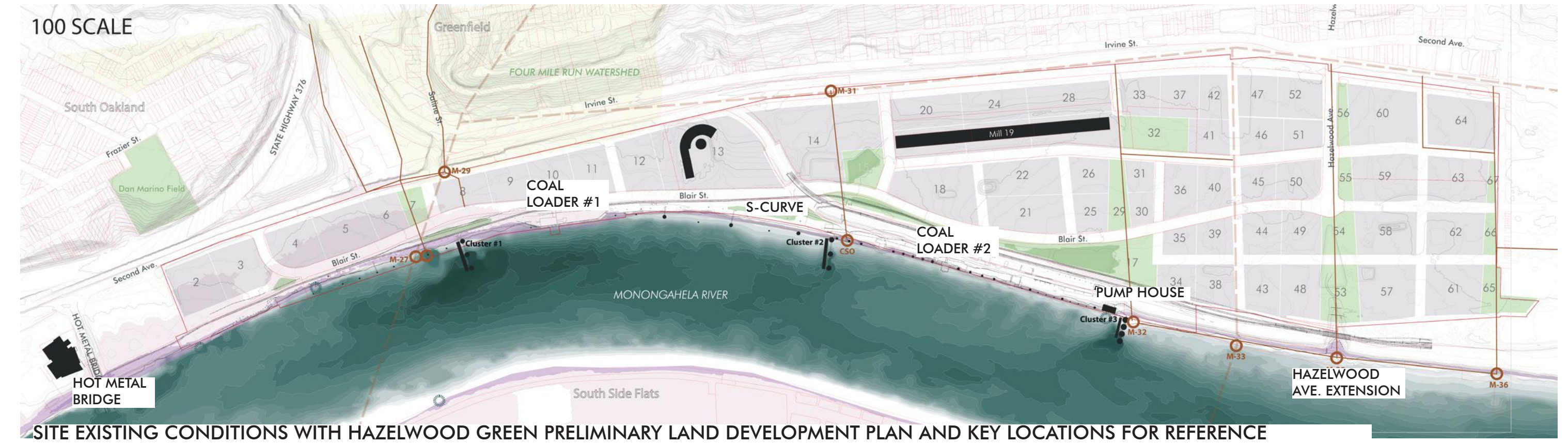
	CITY 123	NEIGHBORHOOD 84	SENIOR 24	YOUTH 61
Answer Choices	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES
Boating	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Walking/Jogging	25.0%	25.0%	45.0%	22.0%
Climbing	11.0%	11.0%	0.0%	10.0%
Exercise Sports	1.0%	1.0%	4.0%	10.0%
Fishing	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Kayaking / Canoeing	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	14.0%
Local Events	20.0%	40.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Swimming	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Water Skiing / Waterboarding	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.0%
Water Sports	10.0%	11.0%	10.0%	14.0%

Please select up to three (3) of the most **DESIRABLE AMENITIES** you would like to see provided along the Hazelwood Green Riverfront.

	CITY 123	NEIGHBORHOOD 84	SENIOR 24	YOUTH 61
Answer Choices	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES
Cafe	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
Play Area	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Overlooks	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Parklet	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Plaza	24.0%	10.0%	10.0%	14.0%
Restroom	20.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Art	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Parking	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Respective Signage	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Industrial Artifacts	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

Which **INDUSTRIAL ARTIFACTS** would you like to see repurposed on the riverfront? Please select all that apply.

Loading Chute	Coal Loader Platforms 37%	Coal Loader	Water Discharge Structure
Giant Bulkhead Wall	Metal Shed	Mooring Cell Cluster 46%	
Piers 44%	Pump House 64%	Storage Pile 66%	



POTENTIAL DESIGN FEATURES

Potential riverfront design elements include both land- and water-based amenities. Each with a purpose and ability to complement one another, these elements reflect the ideas of those living within Greater Hazelwood as well as those living in other parts of the City of Pittsburgh as gathered through surveying, stakeholder interviews, and discussions at scheduled gatherings.

The following exploration highlights potential riverfront ideas, necessary supporting considerations, the benefits and the trade-offs that need balanced for the various elements to be realized. Throughout the idea-building process, there has been consistent attention to what exists and to what opportunities are ahead. Among the amenities considered were:



A **Plaza** is a paved and landscaped area where people can gather, socialize, and host small to large scale events. People regarded this amenity as highly important in their survey responses. This area can host food trucks and community events and be a focal point for the neighborhood, however, because the site is fairly narrow and sloping there are only a couple of flat locations where a larger plaza can be physically accommodated. The widest flat ground on the site is approximately 80' across, the average width is 50' and at the site's narrowest only 30' across. This area also needs to be convenient to get to and needs a means of vehicular access to support it. It will need utility hook-ups to increase its flexibility and universal access so all members of the community can reach it.

Art/Nature Discovery is the canvas or backdrop of the site's design and is located all along the entire riverfront. This design feature is the most flexible and to some degree is the foundation stone of the park from which other design features can pop. There really are not many challenges associated with this design feature.



A **Great Lawn** is a level or gently sloping lawn and is a way to provide people an opportunity for gathering places, a desire expressed by the input to date. It is a location where spontaneous activities can happen and is suitable for river gazing, sunbathing, sitting, talking, and people watching. This design feature allows for flexibility because the lawn can either be flat or have a gentle slope. The most important benefit is that this design feature adds green space to the park's design, but the site is so narrow it is difficult to achieve and is only possible in a few locations.



A **Play Space** is an opportunity to create authentic and site-inspired children, teenager, and young adult play spaces on the site. It also represents an opportunity for collaboration and involvement with community artists to make an exceptional play area for children that is not duplicative with what the neighborhood already has and is a celebration of the history, cultural and environmental meaning of the place. It is best to locate this use in an area with high visibility. The benefit of a play space is its active use by the neighborhood which has a robust younger population. The challenges of a play space are its convenient access, safety, and consideration of the existing industrial structures and steep drop-offs of the site.

A **Multi-Use Linear Plaza** is a narrow but flexible paved public space that could potentially allow for shared space between low-volume rail and pedestrians. Additional analysis is underway, but this design solution could provide a different vision for this area of the park and is similar to precedents in other parts of the country and abroad where train/trolley use and pedestrian use coexist in the same space. The challenge with this solution is pedestrian safety and the signalization for the train, whether through lighting or other means. The benefit of this design solution is that we are able to have more usable space.



Overlooks are areas for a person to obtain a view or lookout. The riverfront has a substantial number of industrial artifacts along the water's edge that could provide a place where people can experience the riverfront by viewing the river, city, and surrounding area. There are a lot of unique items along the riverfront that people are interested in and want to view. Universal accessibility is imperative at these locations so that they can be enjoyed by people with mobility issues.

OCTOBER WORKSHOP REPORT

An **Adventure Trail** as envisioned for the riverfront could be a narrow, paved path that allows bikers, hikers, and adventurous pedestrians to access the upper slopes of the riverbank. This part of the design is a gesture at rewinding the landscape and allowing users to feel that they are on a trail in nature. The challenge with this design feature is creating slopes that are stable and durable enough to support frequent use. Most importantly the adventure trail has certain “challenge” portions where users can experience a more physically intense recreation opportunity.



HAZELWOOD GREEN RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

A **Multi-Purpose Boat House** can be home for future rowing anticipated along the Greater Hazelwood riverfront. Although water-related, a land-based Boat House could host multiple uses such as ground-level boat storage and an upper level boat-building academy. Foremost, with an ever-increasing need in the rowing community for meeting space, a Boat House can also provide a civic/community place near the river’s edge. Access and safety needs of pedestrians and vehicles are important whether it is for a rowing team’s 80-foot shell, trucks and trailers that require significant turn-around movements or other accommodations.



WATER-ORIENTED ELEMENTS

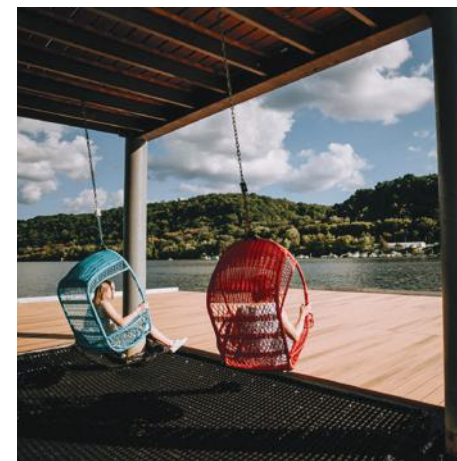


A **Marina** could welcome seasonally-docked and visiting boats. Revenue generated from slip rental proceeds could cover the cost of construction and also support ongoing maintenance needs elsewhere along the riverfront. Supportive design needs include a vehicle drop-off area. The balance between public access and private space is one that needs to be carefully considered when evaluating a marina.

A **Kayak Launch** is an appealing, low impact way to get riverfront visitors to experience the river. Because vehicle access to kayak launches is common, access from street-level to the water’s edge will require specific coordination in achieving universal accessibility. A limited number of locations along the riverfront could accommodate this type of access without a more sizable investment.



A **Floating Pool** is a swimming pool placed within a barge and anchored in the river itself. Allowing people to safely swim on the river, a floating pool can be connected by gangways and docks to the land. Several supporting items are necessary: access to utilities, direct connection to the shoreline, a drop-off area for service and maintenance as well as a location to anchor the facility. This element would satisfy something in high demand within the neighborhood. In general recreation planning terms, a population of 20-30,000 is typically needed to support a pool. In attaining this level of support, a floating pool would need to be marketed to both the immediate area and to the larger region. Guests traveling a distance require consideration for needed allocated parking.



A **River Hammock** is a quiet respite from other land or water activities. With the water directly below, lounging on a hammock secured to docking material is a unique way to experience the water. This modest investment requires docking and access to be in place. The hammock’s design will determine the level of universal accessibility that can be achieved.



A **Floating Stage** can extend the Park’s ground plane into the river. Accessibility design along with anchoring/mooring to something durable will shape the scale and size of this year-round installation. A surface water stage highlights the water plane’s advantages without deterring or reducing stormwater capacity. In maintaining viability, a management structure will program the space so that it is distinguished from other stage venues along the Three Rivers.

An **Archipelago** provides a protective area for kayakers and other paddlers from motor operated boats on the Monongahela. This strand of man-made islands would also provide opportunities for regenerative design and encourage a water destination immersing people within the river in a safe manner. The creation of fish habitat and shade structure are balanced with positioning this island cluster to construct needed pilings outside of the navigation channel.



An **Elevated Walkway** topping and spanning existing mooring cells and piers could provide riverfront park visitors with an unparalleled viewing experience of the Pittsburgh skyline. The route could expand universal accessibility to at least 0.8 miles of the riverfront and realize design that is something authentically Pittsburgh. Investigation into the existing structures’ weight-bearing loads will be necessary. This pursuit is more ambitious than the floating stage and is anticipated to require additional pilings into the river because of the mooring cells’ current spacing



A **Breakwater** creates a safe harbor where there is calmer water not as influenced by boat traffic and the resulting wake. The breakwater concept reinforces what many have expressed in the design process: people want to be on the water to try new things but fear the water’s roughness. A River “Room” comprised of a constructed linear formation that responds to the River’s varying depth (6’-19’) gets affixed to one of the mooring cells while creating fish habitat and shade structure. Because each of these River Rooms are long and water depths vary, engineering will be necessary to implement this concept safely and effectively.



A **Floating Walkway** is an alternative, on-the-water path riverfront park users can enjoy. Encompassing a concrete dock with additional pilings, these structures can be used in tandem with existing mooring cells to create a linear walkway on the water. This river surface structure enables park users to stroll while also creating an energy dissipater to protect the shoreline. The walkway’s location should consider areas where the greatest amount of fly ash exists as such slopes have eroded over time. Depending upon the route desired, the walkway could link some or all of the floating islands.

SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT SUMMARY

After evaluating the opportunities and challenges presented by the current conditions found along the riverfront and identifying potential design features that people have expressed interest in seeing developed, the Planning-Design-Team created a development concept summary. The development concept summary served as a tool that enabled the Planning-Design Team to explore different design ideas and to evaluate the potential design features' spatial and functional relationships. This matrix outlines the design variables (features) and lists

by scheme which features are represented by the design.

We captured the thoughts and wishes of the survey, the project's Advisory Committee, and the workshop participants using the public feedback on Day 1 of the Workshop. The concept summary ultimately served as the Planning-Design Team's guide in testing out alternative combinations and design treatment strategies for different key areas on the project site.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT SUMMARY WORKING NOTES

Design Variables	Scheme 1	Design Variables	Scheme 2
Location: Hazelwood Avenue	Ground D. Hub: community room, info center, restrooms P.S. plaza new lawn	Location: Hazelwood Avenue	path leathouse / new lawn
Location: Pump House	stay with light indoor programs, e.g. kayaking kayak launch, info, restrooms (small vertical) we different launch, get up to river.	Location: Pump House	Ruins, outdoor viewing deck only water sports concessions
Location: Coal Loader #2 (with steel platform)	per weather kayak launch.	Location: Coal Loader #2 (with steel platform)	Hub: indoor community space, boat house and plaza, and restroom restroom recreation space
Location: S Curve	Great lawn and kiosks style restroom stormwater in tanks	Location: S Curve	Hub: indoor community space, boat house and plaza, and restroom restroom recreation space
Location: Coal Loader #1 (with giant bulkhead wall)	Marina drop off	Location: Coal Loader #1 (with giant bulkhead wall)	pool - close to me
Area: Water Room #4	kayak / islands (river walk floating)	Area: Water Room #4	
Area: Water Room #3	safe water, edge kayak / pool	Area: Water Room #3	Aquatic center water trail, suspended!
Area: Water Room #2	pool marina Elevation for drop off kayak launch	Area: Water Room #2	adventure sports center + water walk water park floating island stage
Area: Water Room #1	islands? floating bridge	Area: Water Room #1	
Access(es)	Create accesses in strategic points	Access(es)	Open up edge with Blair Street, make as porous as possible
Marina		Marina	
Narrow Segments	Linear but separated uses	Narrow Segments	Integrated multi-use corridor

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT SUMMARY FOR BOTH SCHEMES

Design Elements/Variables	Scheme 1
Location: Hazelwood Avenue Hub	Restore connection, info center, restrooms, kayak launch, boat house
Location: Pump House	Outdoor viewing deck, connection through parcel 17+29, aerial connection to Cluster #3
Location: Coal Loader #2 (with steel platform)	Playground (2) levels. Accessible level at top level, river access level at lower level, connection to floating walkway
Location: S Curve	Kayak launch, 'Great Lawn', kiosk style restroom, swimming pool, stormwater in tanks, trail and floating connector
Location: Coal Loader #1 (with giant bulkhead wall)	Multi-purpose plaza (food truck, yoga, gathering space)
Area: Water Room #4	Kayak launch
Area: Water Room #3	Floating islands, Floating walkway (20-25' wide)
Area: Water Room #2	Swimming pool, kayak launch, location for drop-off
Area: Water Room #1	Marina
Access / Entry Points	"Embarcadero"/urban promenade design treatment, make as porous to pedestrians as possible
Mon-Con RR Corridor	Develop a multiuse bike-ped-rail corridor; similar surface treatment as a streetcar landscape; gates on the rail corridor entrance/exits with LED warning strips for bikes-peds
Ecological Restoration	Use the floating islands in strategic areas along the toe of slope to introduce vegetation and create aquatic habitat; incorporate rain gardens and bio swales for storm water management



Design Elements/Variables	Scheme 2
Location: Hazelwood Avenue Hub	Plaza connector, Ramble, info center, restrooms, kayak launch, boat house, floating barge with swimming pool/ splash area/ bath house, river landing
Location: Pump House	Concessionaire (kayak/paddleboard), cultural center, restroom
Location: Coal Loader #2 (with steel platform)	Terrace/ Overlook, river hammock/swings, adventure trail with skate park and pump track
Location: S Curve	River Trail Center, concession, restroom, food truck, multi-purpose court
Location: Coal Loader #1 (with giant bulkhead wall)	Adventure sports action plaza with bbq area
Area: Water Room #4	River Aquatics and Learning Center, Floating barge swimming pool, bath house, spray park, deck and kayak launch
Area: Water Room #3	Elevated 'water walk' (15-16' wide) and floating island archipelago
Area: Water Room #2	Elevated water walk and floating island archipelago; floating stage
Area: Water Room #1	Elevated water walk and floating island archipelago
Access / Entry Points	Create strategic access points
Mon-Con RR Corridor	Maintain the rail access separate from bike-ped; strategically add bike-ped crossings and have LED warning lights just of these crossings
Ecological Restoration	Remove 2,000' l.f. of flyash; lay back the slope and reforest the river edge; use rain gardens and bio swales for storm water management



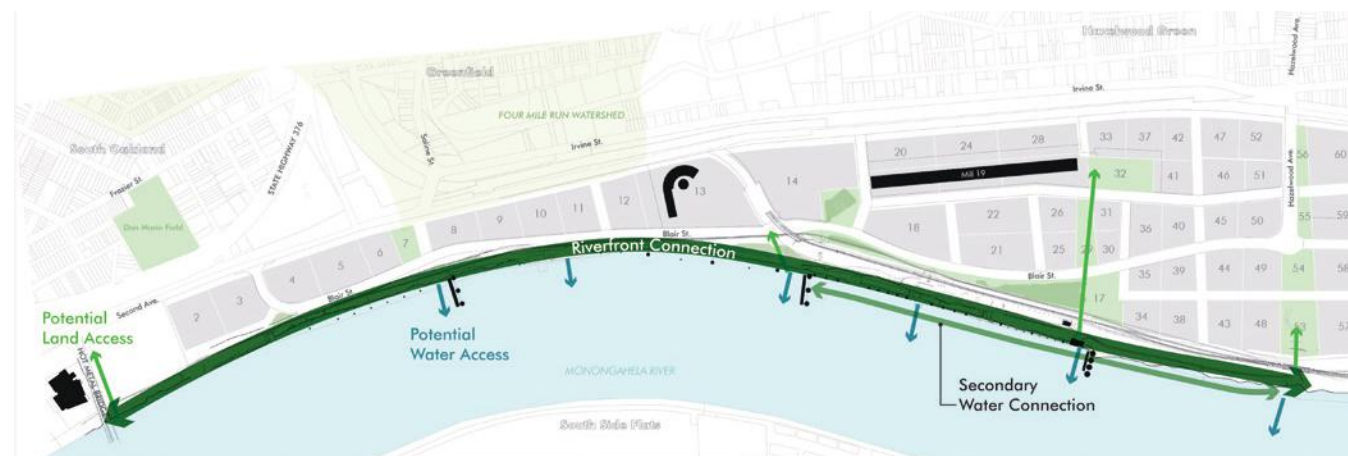
SECTION 4: PLANS, SECTIONS AND ENLARGEMENTS

The Planning-Design Team developed two schemes that were used on Day 2 of the Workshop to share possible features with participants. The main idea of both schemes was to restore riverfront access and connection to the public. A general description of each scheme follows:

SCHEME 1

This collection of design elements emphasized the lateral connectivity on land and negotiates the narrower sections of the site using a multi-use linear plaza promenade strategy. The purpose of this scheme focused on resolving the connectivity challenges on land. From the downstream area of the site to the S-Curve (see p.7 Key Locations for Reference), a widely paved corridor or linear plaza would integrate the existing railroad, bike path, and pedestrian walkway into a single wide space. This promenade was envisioned to have a "porous" interface with Blair Street and allow park users to access the street via continuous accessible connections or a series of steps and ramps. From the S-Curve to the restored Hazelwood Avenue extension, the site would be linked by two pathways, one on-land and one that would be floating on water. The floating walkway would allow for a series of islands that will be an opportunity for regenerative ecology and provide a unique aquatic experience. The on-land pathway transforms the heavily paved

site into a series of art and natural discovery gardens, with seating and sightseeing space. Finally the design had several key programming elements along its spine which include: a sloping lawn at the S-Curve with a floating pool, a renovated Pump House with an outdoor viewing deck, an aerial pedestrian crossing from the Pump House area through parcel 17 and 29 connecting to the proposed Hazelwood Plaza, and a multi-purpose Boat House with community event spaces at the restored Hazelwood Avenue extension. In both schemes, we assumed that the Hazelwood Avenue access will be restored and extended to the riverfront public space; and an assumption was made that the current stormwater retention area would be moved to underground systems to create public space on the surface, based on the stakeholder interview discussion with the City of Pittsburgh City Planning Department.



SCHEME 1 CONNECTION DIAGRAM

SCHEME 2

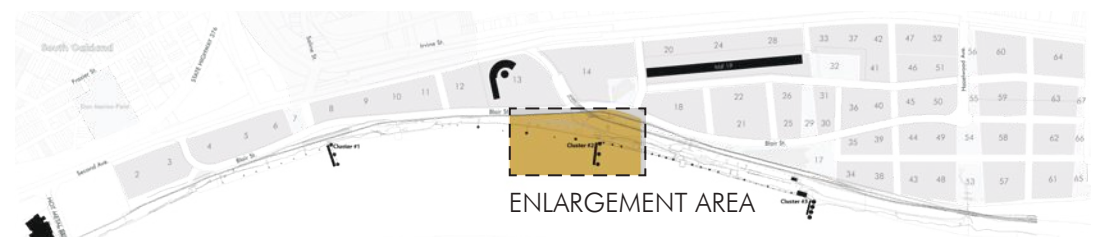
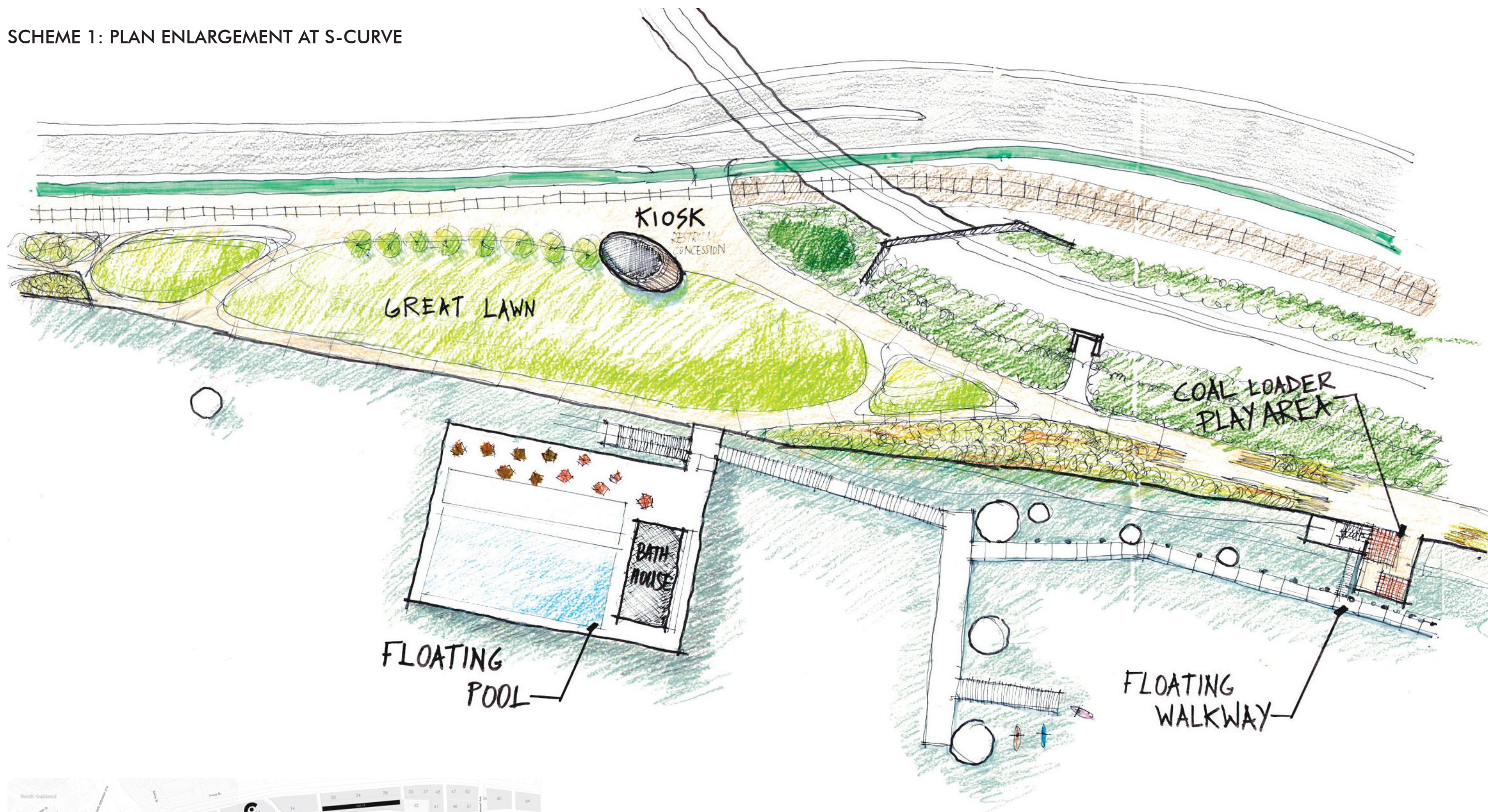
This alternative design explored a different connecting solution (elevated walkway) to deal with the extreme width limitation at the downstream segment which continues to have the Mon-Con railroad in operation. In the upper stream segment, this scheme made a bold move to restore the existing fly ash slope for long-term ecological mitigation, continuing the elevated walkway strategy to allow the re-grading of the fly ash slope within restricted space. Utilizing the existing river piers and dolphins, an elevated walkway was proposed to be a "Promenade on Water." This assumed minimum disturbance of the existing railroad condition. The elevated walkway would be connected back to the site at critical points where wide enough to create quality public space. Site access to Blair

Street occurred at wider nodes along the site and throughout other planned road extensions. The main nodes were the Coal Loader #2 plaza, the S-Curve, and the restored Hazelwood Avenue extension. From the S-Curve to the Pump House, existing fly ash slope was rehabilitated to allow for a restorative planting area. Similar to the first design, this scheme utilized amenities that anchor the site and integrate it with the community. Some of the key site amenities are a river aquatics learning center, a Boat House with community event space, repurposed Pumphouse with educational uses, river trail center with comfort stations, and an archipelago of floating islands for plant and bird habitat.

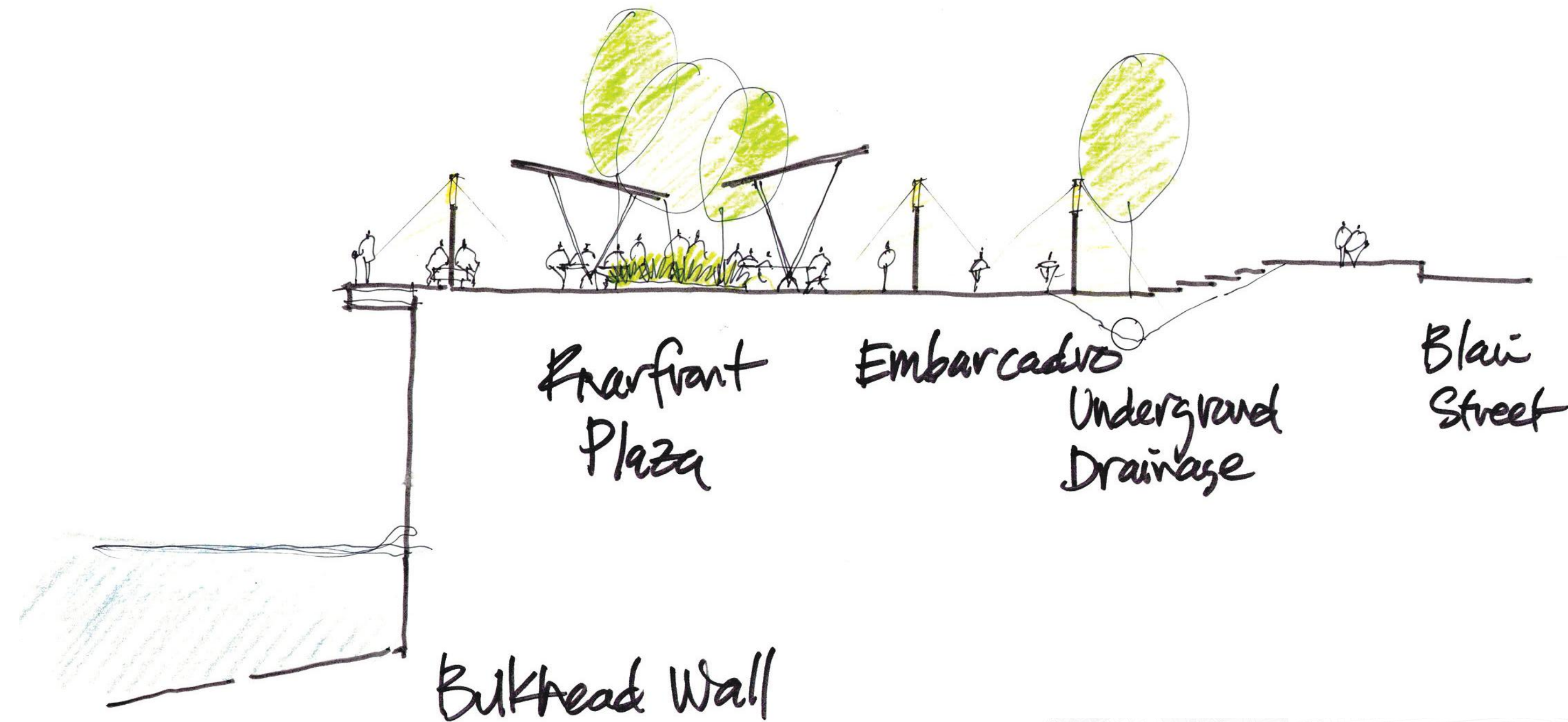


SCHEME 2 CONNECTION DIAGRAM

SCHEME 1: PLAN ENLARGEMENT AT S-CURVE



SCHEME 1: CONCEPTUAL SECTION OF MULTI-USE LINEAR PLAZA

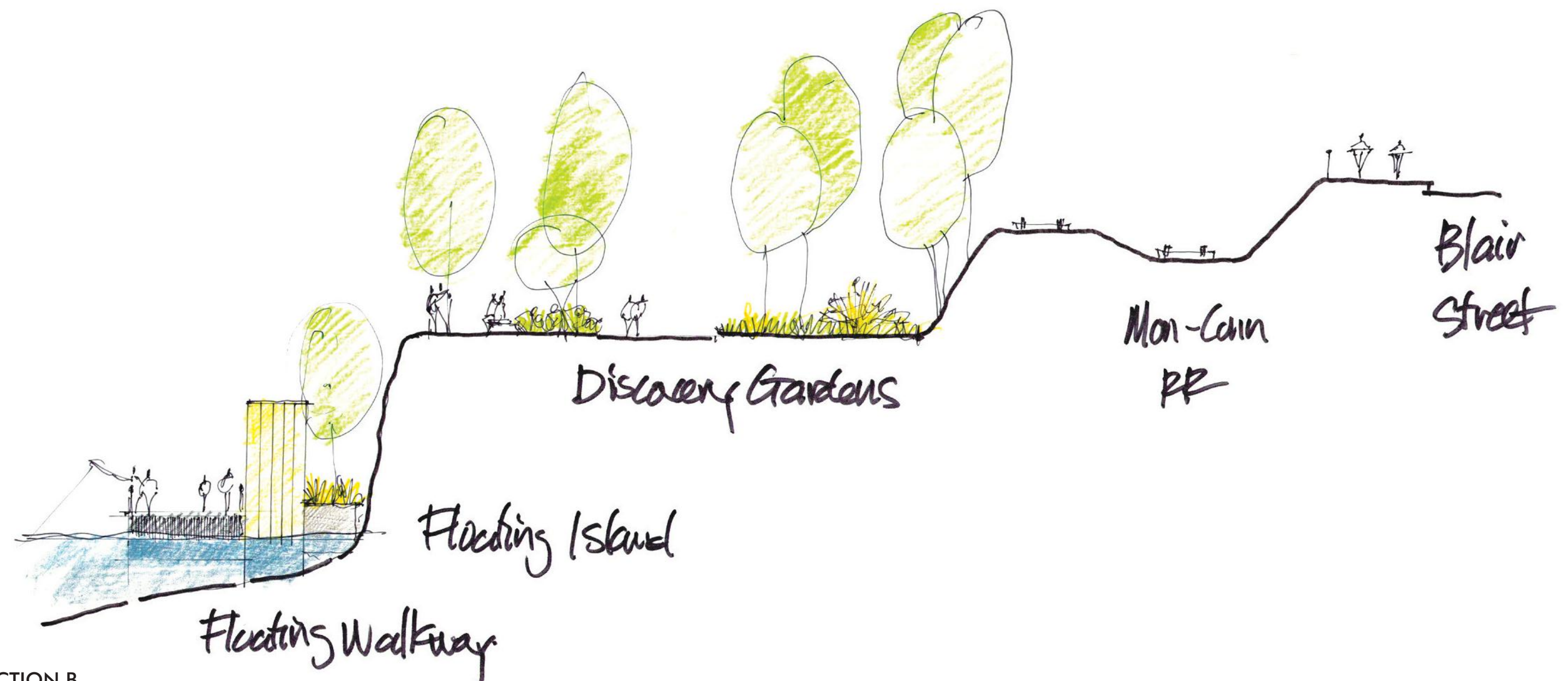


SECTION A

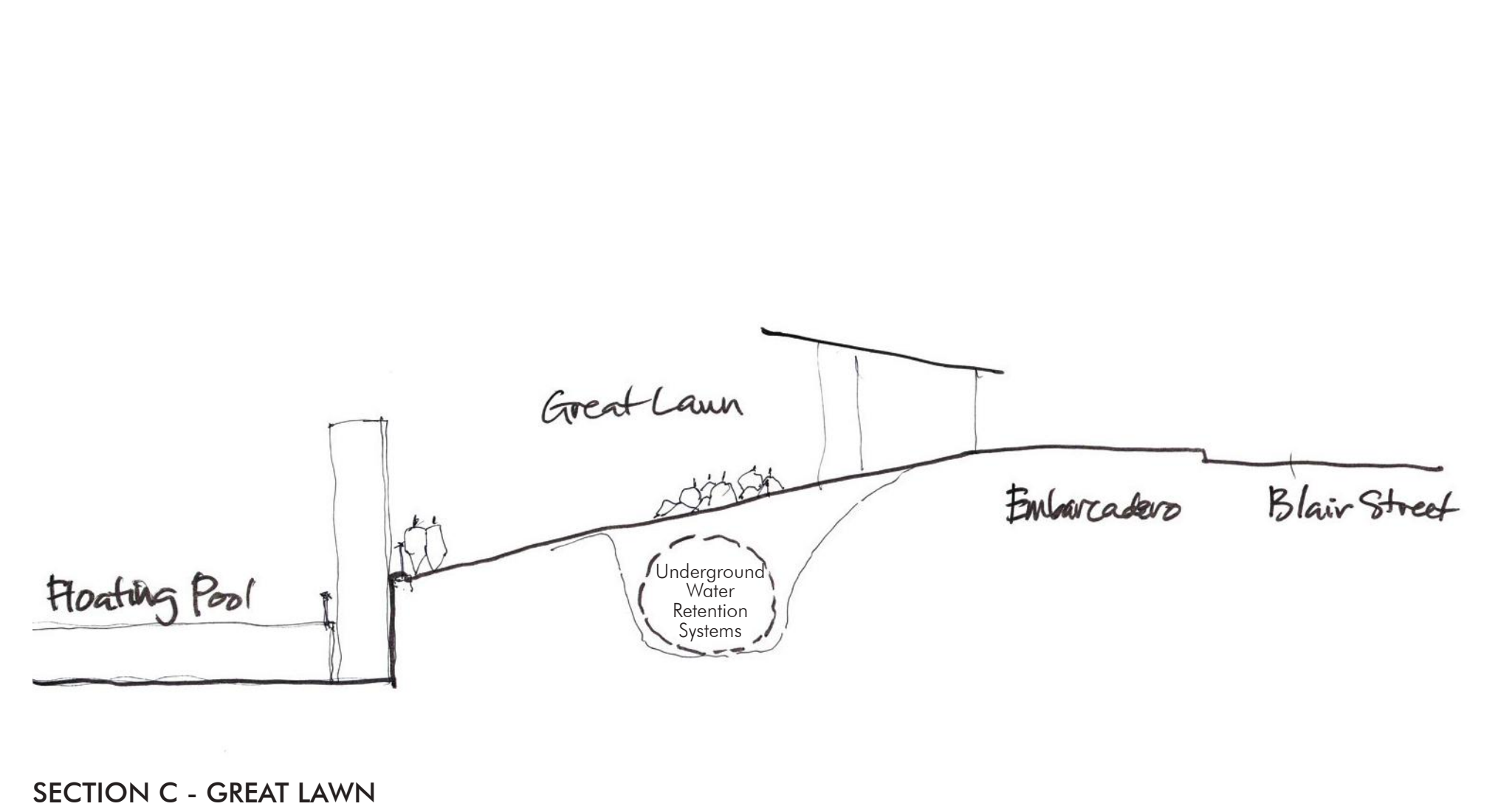
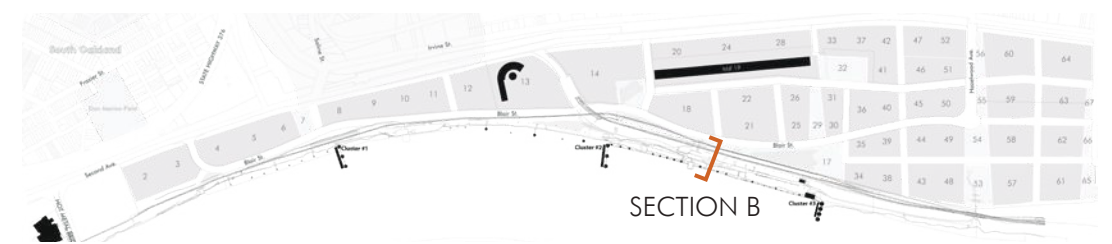


SCHEME 1: CONCEPTUAL SECTION OF ART/NATURE DISCOVERY GARDEN AND FLOATING WALKWAY

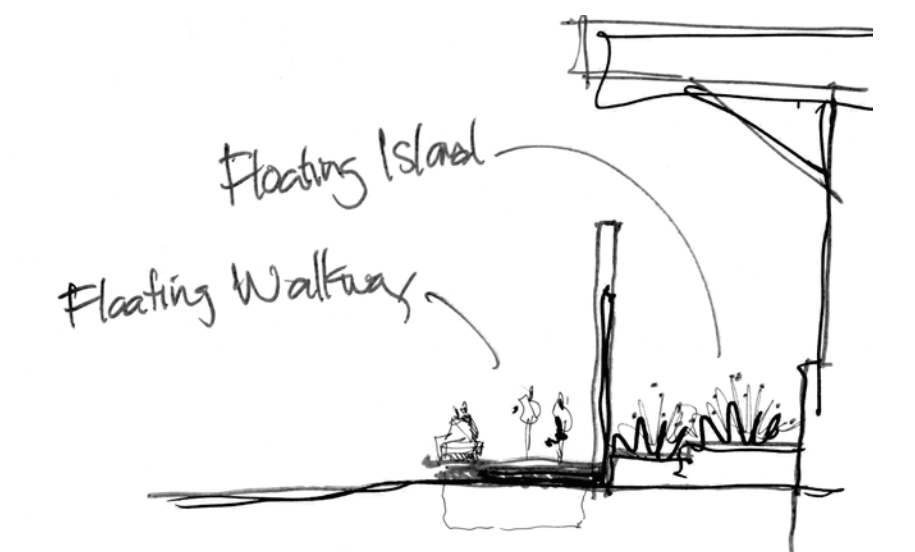
SCHEME 1: ADDITIONAL CONCEPTUAL SECTIONS



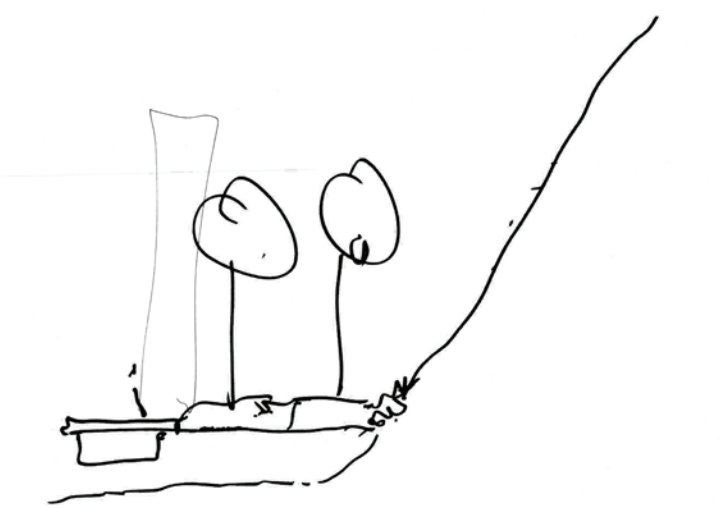
SECTION B



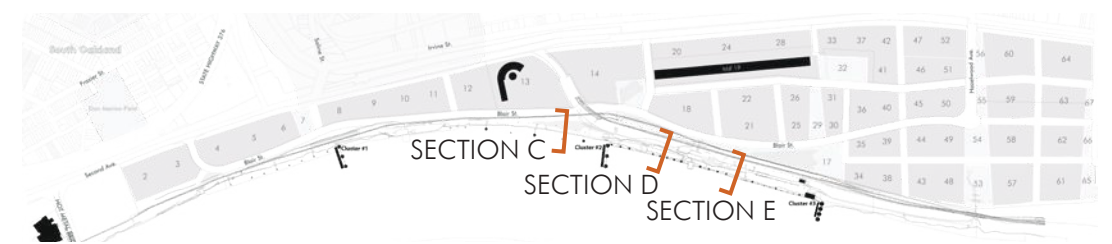
SECTION C - GREAT LAWN



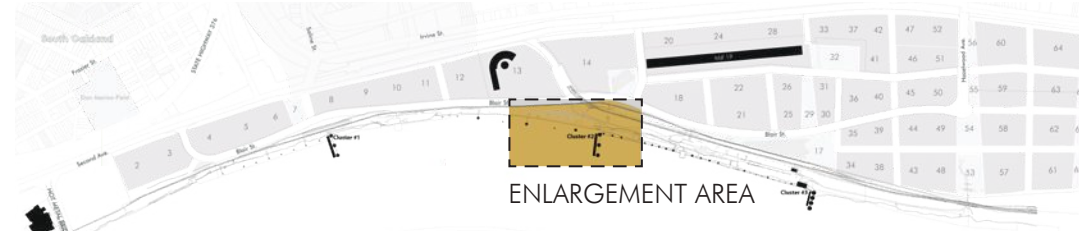
SECTION D - COAL LOADER#2 AREA



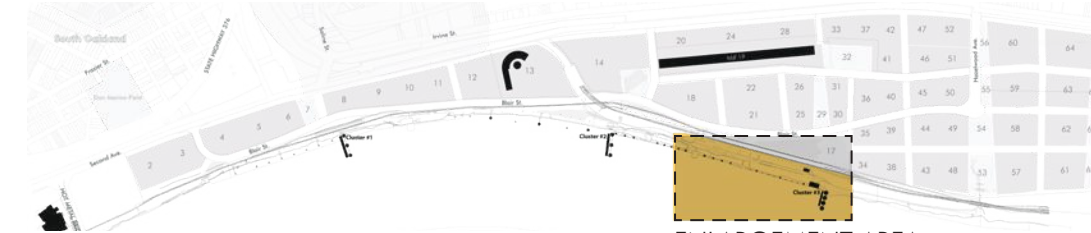
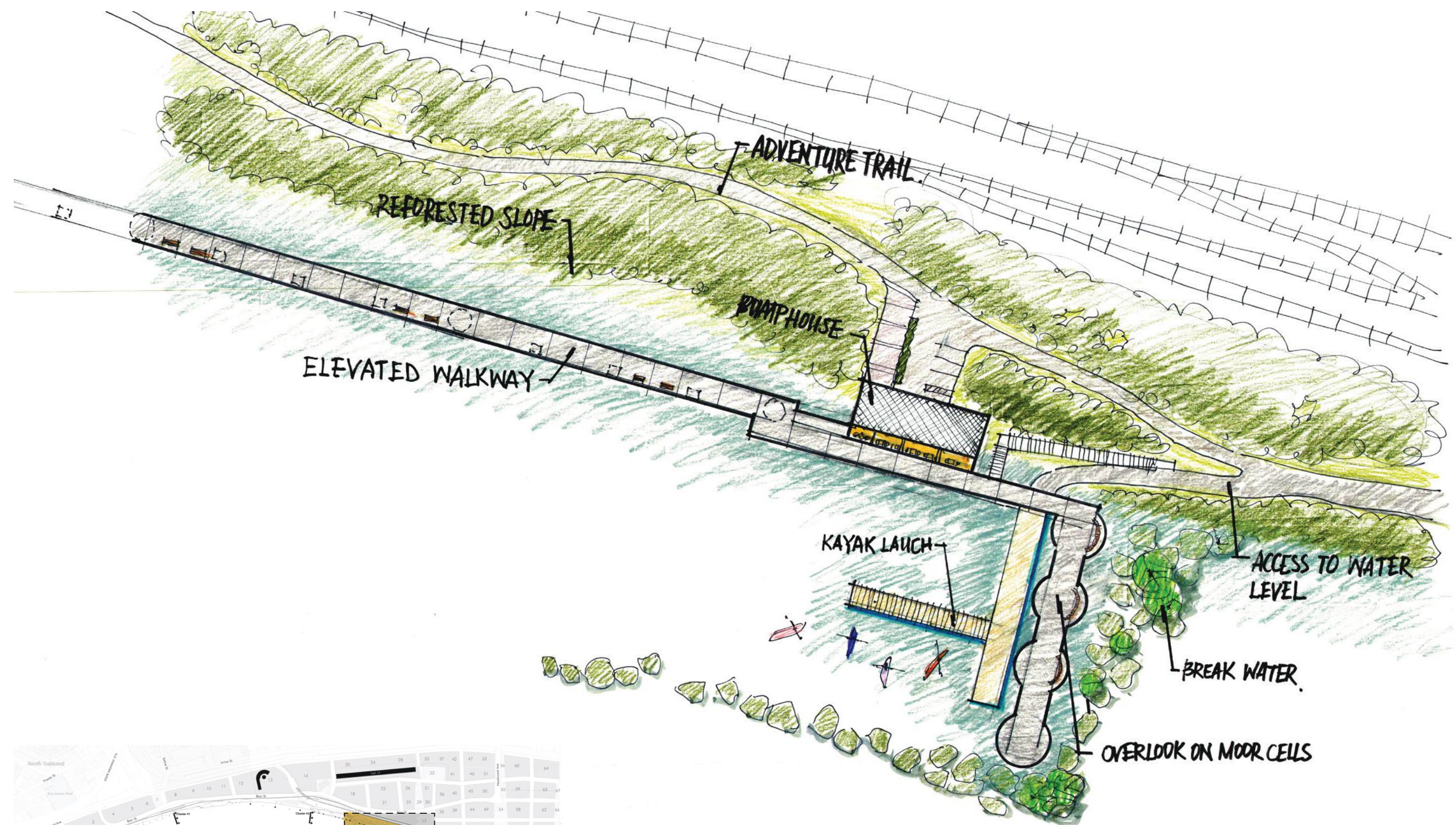
SECTION E - FLY ASH SLOPE AREA



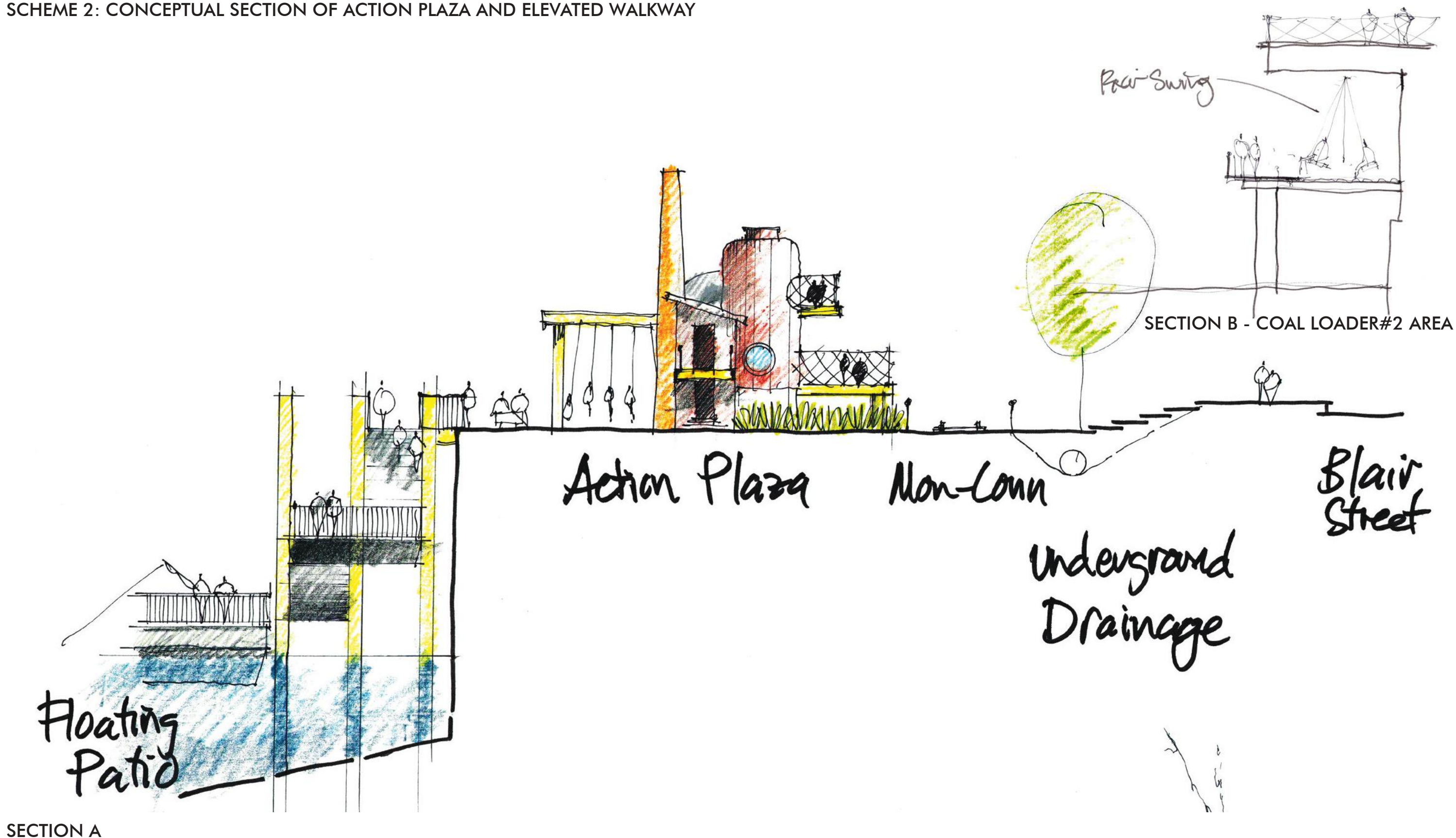
SCHEME 2: PLAN ENLARGEMENT AT S-CURVE



SCHEME 2: PLAN ENLARGEMENT AT PUMP HOUSE

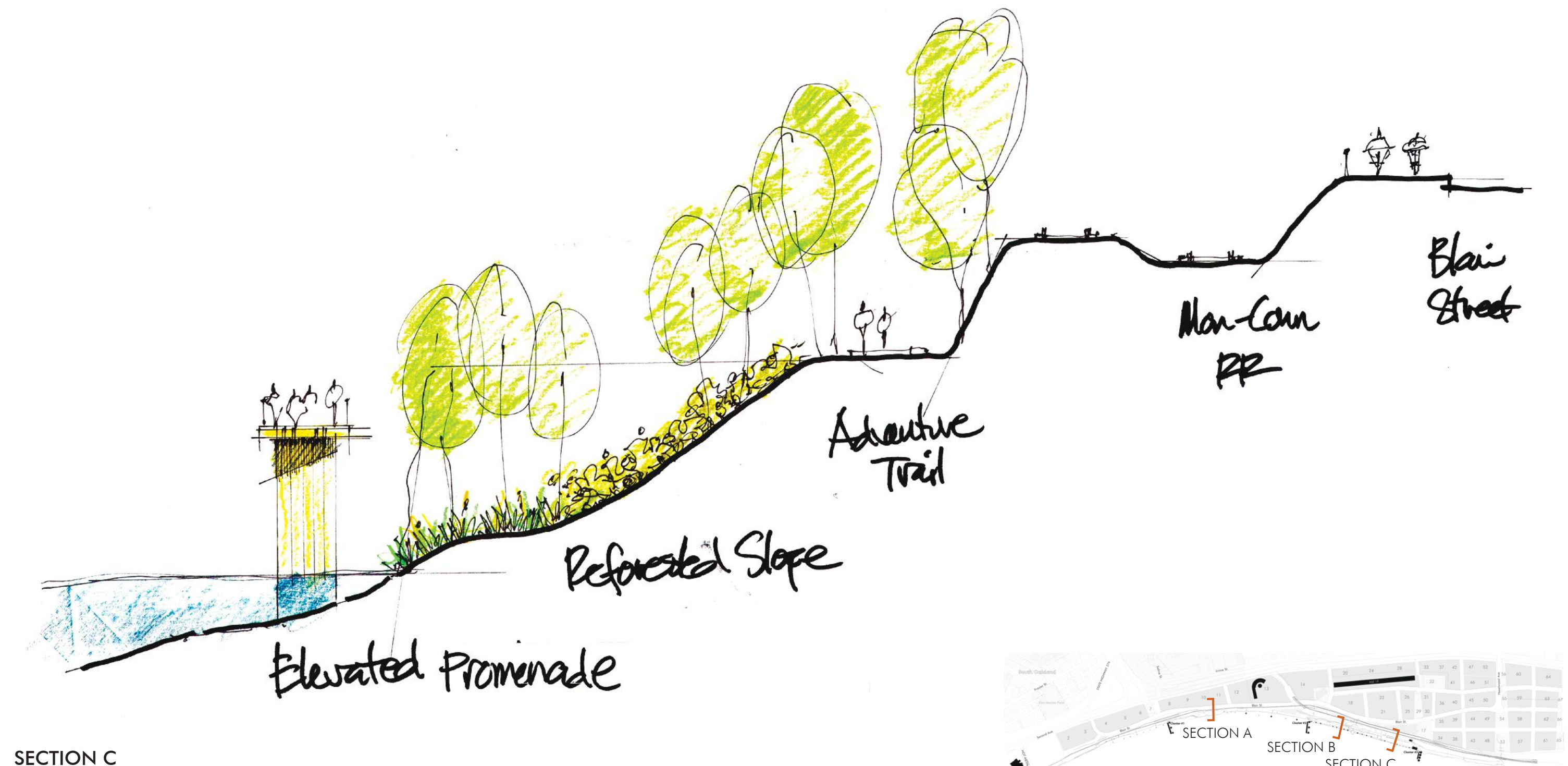


SCHEME 2: CONCEPTUAL SECTION OF ACTION PLAZA AND ELEVATED WALKWAY



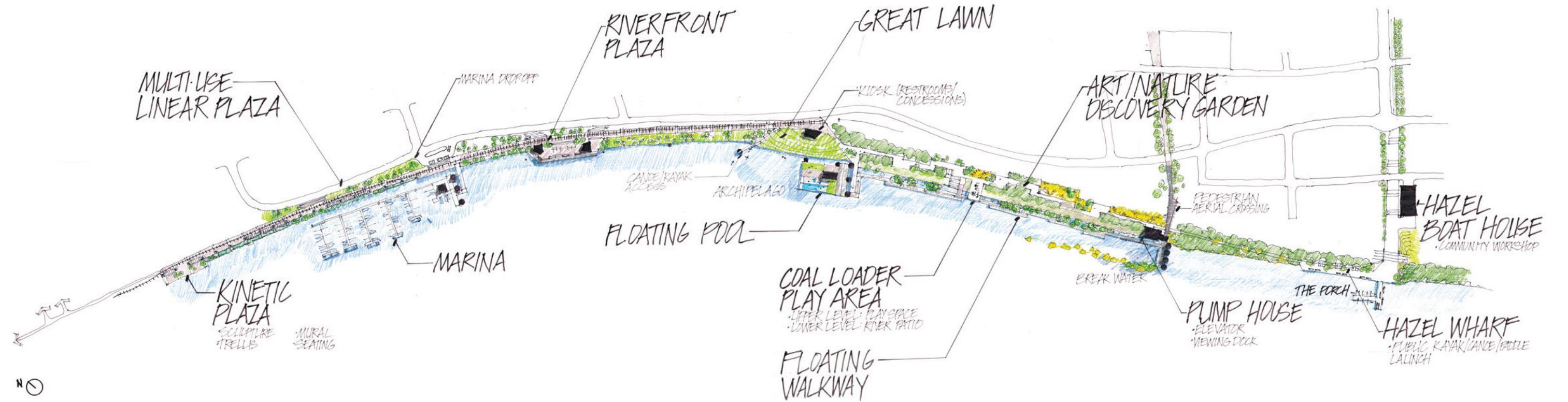
SECTION A

SCHEME 2: CONCEPTUAL SECTION OF THE REFORESTED FLY ASH SLOPE

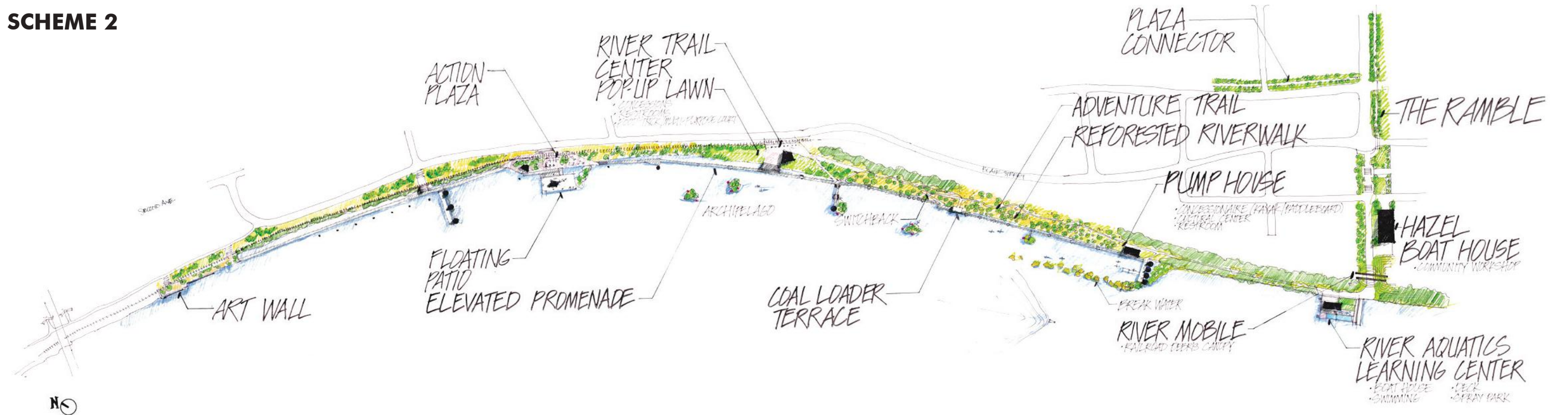


SECTION C

SCHEME 1



SCHEME 2



SECTION 5: WRAP-UP

Key Takeaways

The development of a Master Plan is complex. The ideas generated during the Community Collaboration Workshop and the various reactions garnered through the engagement process have been exceptionally informative and pointed. While there is merit to each and every idea and design feature that was explored and tested, some resonated with the participants more than others. Conversely, some of the ideas were ‘lightning rods’ – drawing quick reaction and criticism. After the Planning-Design Team examined the test combinations of design features, all ideas and their resulting reactions, whether positive or negative, were essential in understanding “what could be.”

Most importantly, what was learned through the three days of the Workshop will be helpful to the Planning-Design Team, the Project Leadership Team, and the Advisory Committee as they begin to further evaluate and weigh the feasibility/practicality of the initial ideas. Ultimately, this collective perspective will integrate a variety of design features or solutions from the various initial schemes in a quest to create the most exciting, authentic, sustainable, and equitable public space possible along the Greater Hazelwood neighborhood’s riverfront.

The community reaction or feedback related to the schemes created during the Workshop saw some design features receive enthusiastic support from the community. These elements were:

- art installations
- art and nature discovery features
- a special event space at the S-Curve

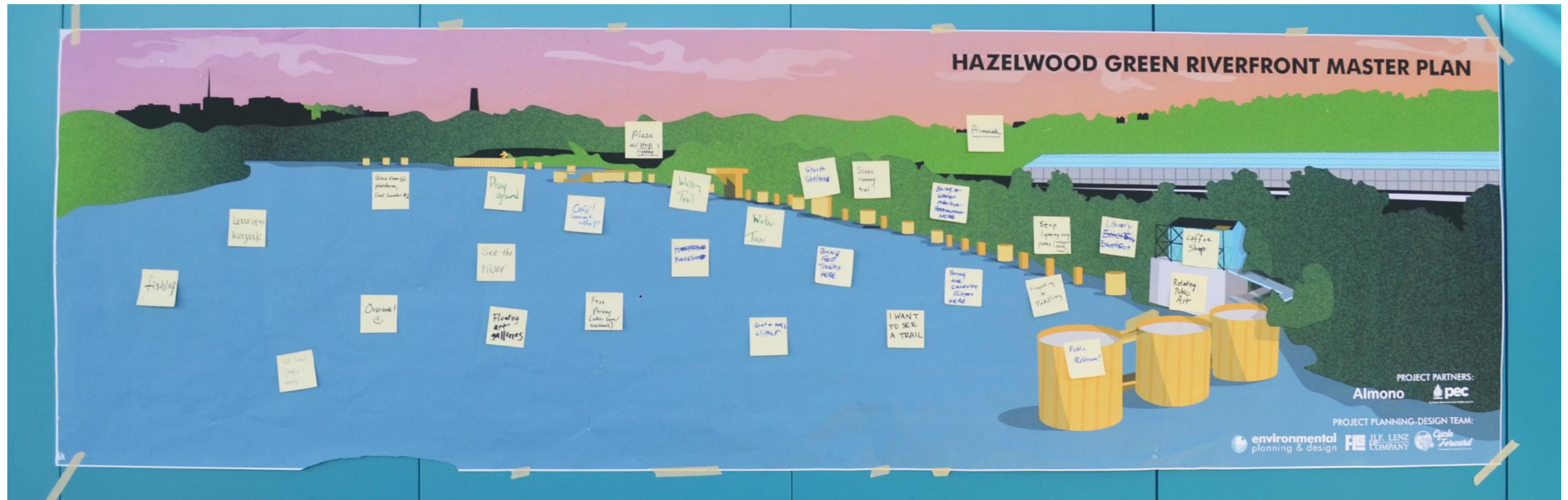
- aerial pedestrian connectors from the riverfront to the Plaza
- water access
- a Hazelwood Avenue connection
- community event spaces

Some elements had mixed feedback from the community regarding feasibility, cost, and operational concerns. Those included:

- the elevated and floating walkways
- the floating pool
- the multi-use linear plaza
- the marina

Next Steps

With the conclusion of the Workshop, the project enters a second period of design. In this period the design ideas tested to date will be adapted, refined, and integrated into a more cohesive representative scheme. This effort will span the Winter months and will be the basis for a second wave of public engagement and input. Additional engagement with the Greater Hazelwood neighborhood and key project stakeholders is also expected to occur in this time-period. We anticipate that the second wave of public engagement will occur late February and mid-March 2021. Stay tuned!



COMMUNITY COMMENTS

OCTOBER WORKSHOP REPORT

APPENDICES

PROJECT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Grace Evans
Richard King Mellon Foundation (Almono LP)

Brian Hill
Richard King Mellon Foundation (Almono LP)

Danielle Robins
U3 Advisors

Rob Stephany
The Heinz Endowments (Almono LP)

Todd Stern
U3 Advisors

Davitt Woodwell
Pennsylvania Environmental Council

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ose Akinlotan
Pittsburgh Department of City Planning

Valerie Beichner
Venture Outdoor

JaQuay Carter
Greater Hazelwood Historical Society of Pittsburgh

Darla Cravotta
Allegheny County

Grace Evans
Richard King Mellon Foundation (Almono LP)

Matt Galluzzo
Riverlife

Divya Rao Heffley
Office of Public Art

Allison Jones
Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Sean Luther
Innovative PGH

Kelsey Ripper
Friends of the Riverfront

Danielle Robins
U3 Advisors

Terri Shields
Greater Hazelwood Community Collaborative

Rick Siger
Carnegie Mellon University

Paul Supowitz
University of Pittsburgh

Rob Stephany
The Heinz Endowments (Almono LP)

Todd Stern
U3 Advisors

Sonya Tilghman
Hazelwood Initiative

David White
Healthy Ride

Gavin White
Pittsburgh Park Conservancy

