

A Vision for the Future



BLUE HERON
NATURE PRESERVE

Atlanta, GA | November 16, 2021 | Perkins&Will

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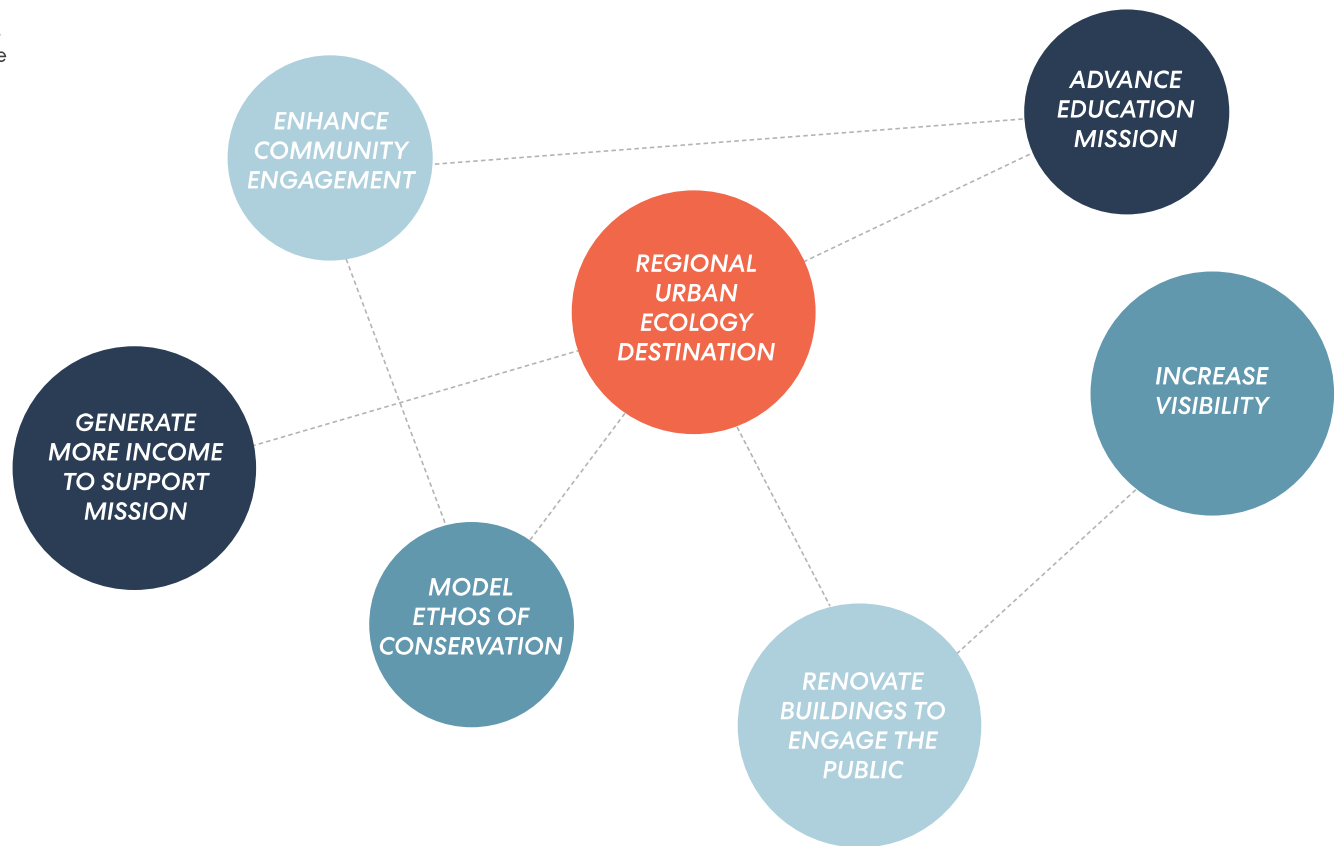
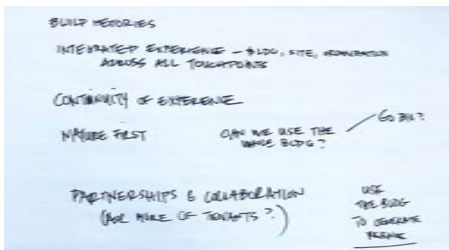
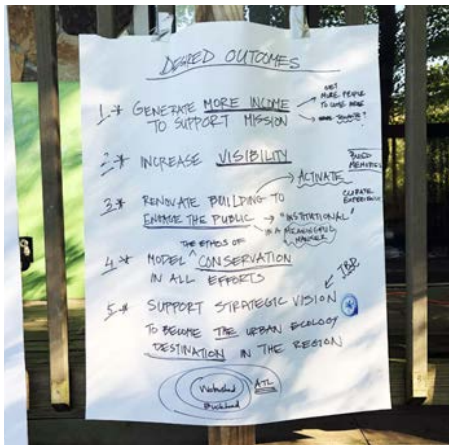


About this Plan

On October 2, 2020 the Perkins & Will design team led three Visioning Sessions (morning, afternoon, and virtual) with key stakeholders of The Blue Heron Nature Preserve. The purpose was to engage staff, board members, and volunteers in activities and discussion in order to understand their goals, vision, opportunities and preferences for the future of the preserve. In addition, the discussion was framed to hear what was not working currently and being aware of risks as we proceed. Overall, the session was formatted to provide insight and direction as the program, planning, and design of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve continues to evolve. Through these sessions we were able to synthesize various viewpoints and priorities into succinct long & short term goals which informed the following 20 year Vision Plan.

Desired Outcomes

To begin the charrette, participants were asked to define outcomes that they expected to come out of the charrettes. Each charrette verified the previous charrettes list and where appropriate added their own to the list. These desired outcomes provided waypoints to guide the discussion.



Top Themes

1. **Generate more income to support mission.**
 - Get more people to come, generate income through new public programs within the building.
 - Goal is to be a multi-generational educational environment to further the understanding of nature. A fusion of recreation and institution.
 - Seniors + Retirees are an under-embraced audience at the Preserve.

2. **Increase Visibility.**
 - Tenants:
 - Future tenants should align with Blue Heron's mission in order to further the ethos of conservation within the community while also generating revenue.
 - Future tenants could be partners & collaborators in order to help generate revenue for the Preserve.

3. **Renovate buildings (Main building and field center) to engage the public.**
 - "Institutional", curated experience
 - A meaningful manner.
 - Multi Sensory: Touch, feel, sight.
4. **Model the ethos of conservation in all efforts.**
 - Ensure longevity.
 - Leadership within field.
5. **Support strategic vision: To become The Urban Ecology Destination, in the region.**
 - Watershed area -> Buckhead -> Atlanta.

6. **Advance educational mission.**
 - Conservation (important point)
 - Art
 - Research (Field Center)
 - History
7. **Help define us and express our identity and uniqueness.**
 - Enhance guest experience (In an integrated manner).



BLUE HERON

NATURE PRESERVE



20 Year Vision

EDGES

 1 LAKEMOORE DRIVE TO ROSWELL ROAD

 2 RICKENBACKER DRIVE NORTH

PATHS

 1 LAKE MORE OVERLOOK

 2 NANCY CREEK BRIDGE

 3 WOODLAND LOOP CONNECTOR

NODES

 1 MAIN ENTRANCE

 2 MAIN BUILDING & DISCOVERY DECK

 3 COMMUNITY GARDENS

 4 RICKENBACKER DRIVE CONNECTOR

 5 LAKEMOORE DRIVE CONNECTOR

 6 FIELD RESEARCH CENTER



Enlarged Site Plan

- ① Primary Gateway
- ② Blue Heron Lantern
- ③ Discovery Deck
- ④ Wetland Boardwalk
- ⑤ Branded Crosswalk
- ⑥ Canopy Boardwalk
- ⑦ Bridge Over Nancy Creek
- ⑧ Future Connection



Enlarged Site Plan

- ⑧ Community Garden
- ⑨ North Pedestrian Bridge
- ⑩ Secondary Neighborhood Entrance
- ⑪ Field Research Center





**“Blue Heron is
beauty preserved!”**

Site | Gateway Entrance

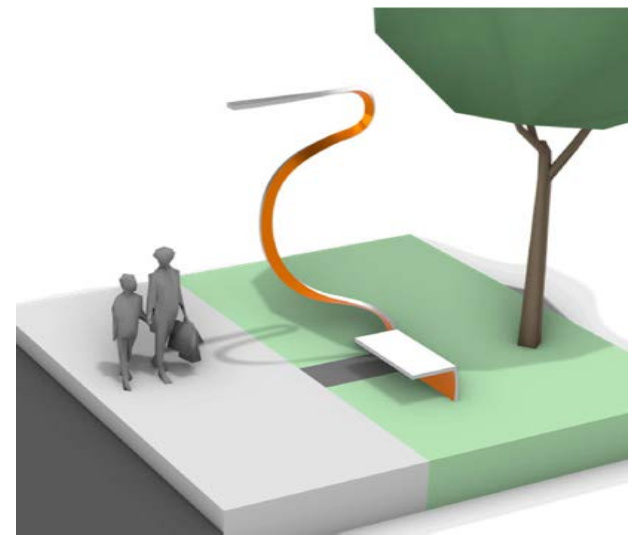
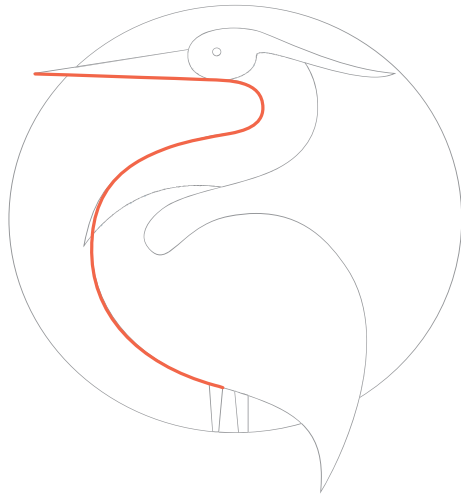
Gateway Entrance



- ① Landscaped Road Interface
- ② View of Branded Deck
- ③ Monumental Gateway Experience
- ④ View to Nancy Creek Crossing

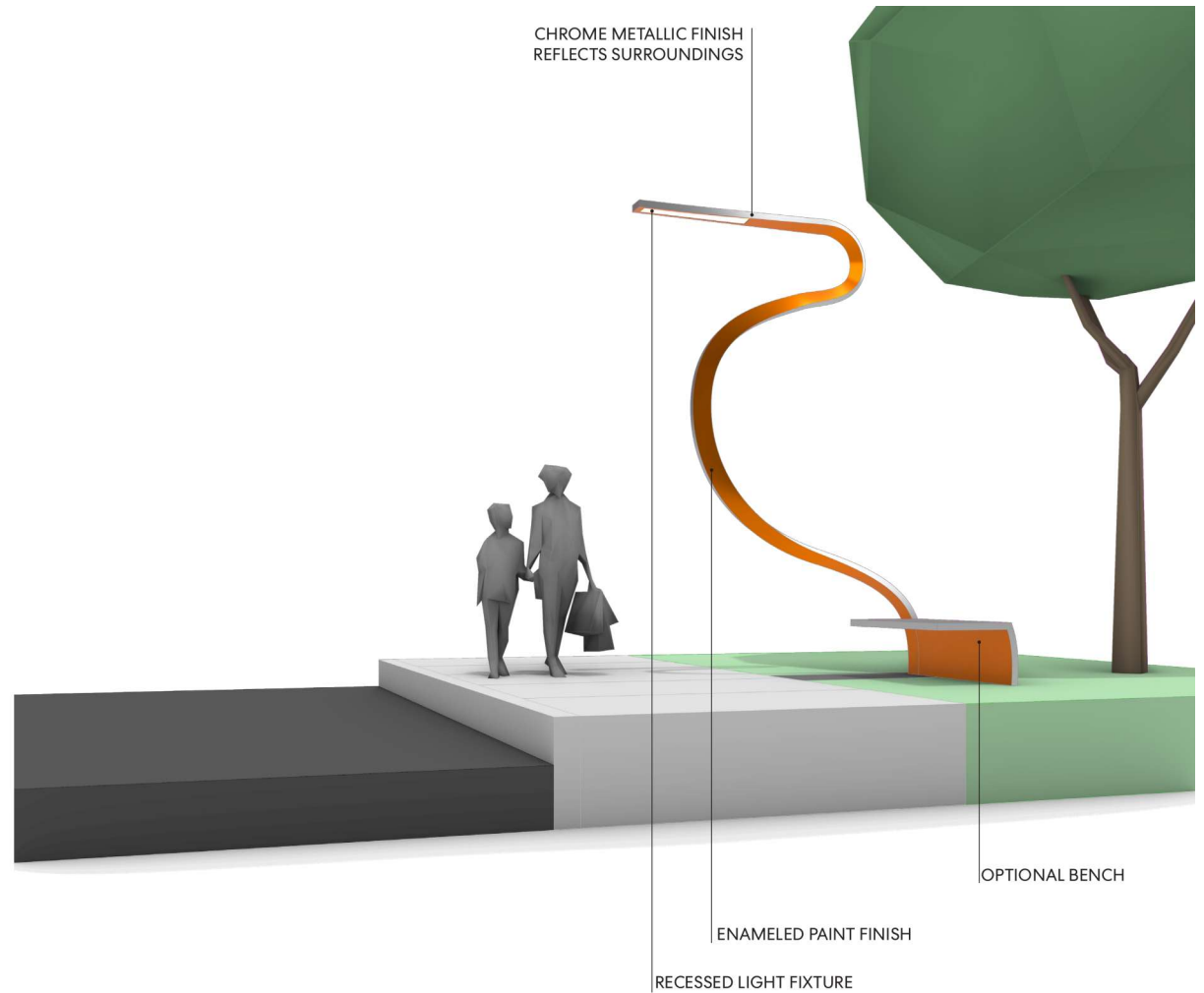
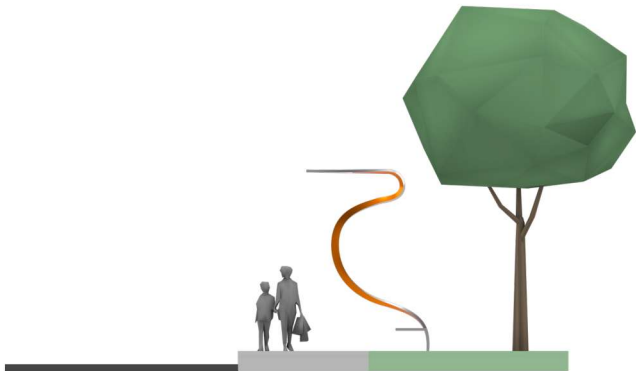
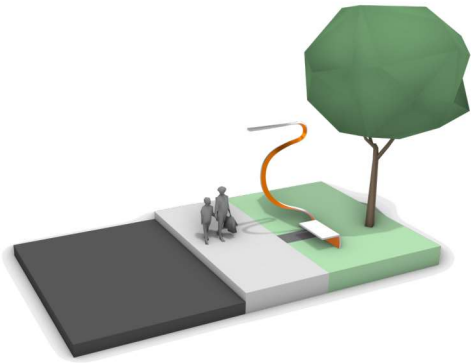
Gateway Brand Expression

Taking inspiration from the Blue Heron logo, a series of heron-like sculptures will line the street, undulating in scale and culminating in a gateway entrance experience for greater brand presence along busy Roswell Road.



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Roswell Road Plant Palette

A robust selection of drought tolerant, low-growing native plants (less than 3 foot height). It is recommended that plants be grouped as large masses for visual impact and ease of maintenance.



Butterfly Weed



Grama Grass



Texas Sedge



New Jersey Tea



Sixteen Candles Summersweet



Dark Pink Guara



Gembox Inkberry



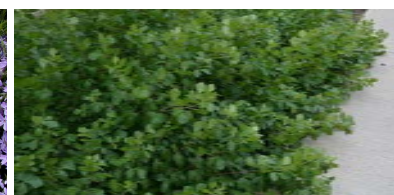
Little Henry



Shenandoah Switchgrass



Thrift



Gro Low Sumac



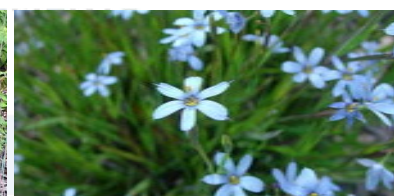
Goldsturm Black Eyed Susan



Wild Petunia



The Blues Little Bluestem



Suwanee Blue Eyed Grass

Roswell Road Plant Palette

A robust selection of drought tolerant, low-growing native plants (less than 3 foot height). It is recommended that plants be grouped as large masses for visual impact and ease of maintenance.



Shrubs

Gro Low Sumac- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro Low'
Maryland Dwarf American Holly- *Ilex opaca* 'Maryland Dwarf'
Top Hat Dwarf Blueberry- *Vaccinium* 'Top Hat'
Little Henry Itea- *Itea virginica* 'Little Henry'
Sixteen Candles Summersweet- Sixteen Candles Clethra
New Jersey Tea- *Ceanothus americanus*
Gembox Inkberry- *Ilex glabra* 'Gembox'

Perennials

Butterfly Weed- *Asclepias tuberosa*
Goldsturm Black eyed Susan- *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'
Thrift- *Phlox subulate* (multiple cultivars)
Suwanee Blue Eyed Grass- *Sisyrinchium* 'Suwannee'
Wild Petunia- *Ruellia humilis*
Wood's Blue Aster- *Aster novi-belgii* 'Wood's Blue'
Dark Pink Gaura- *Gaura* 'Belezza Dark Pink'

Grasses

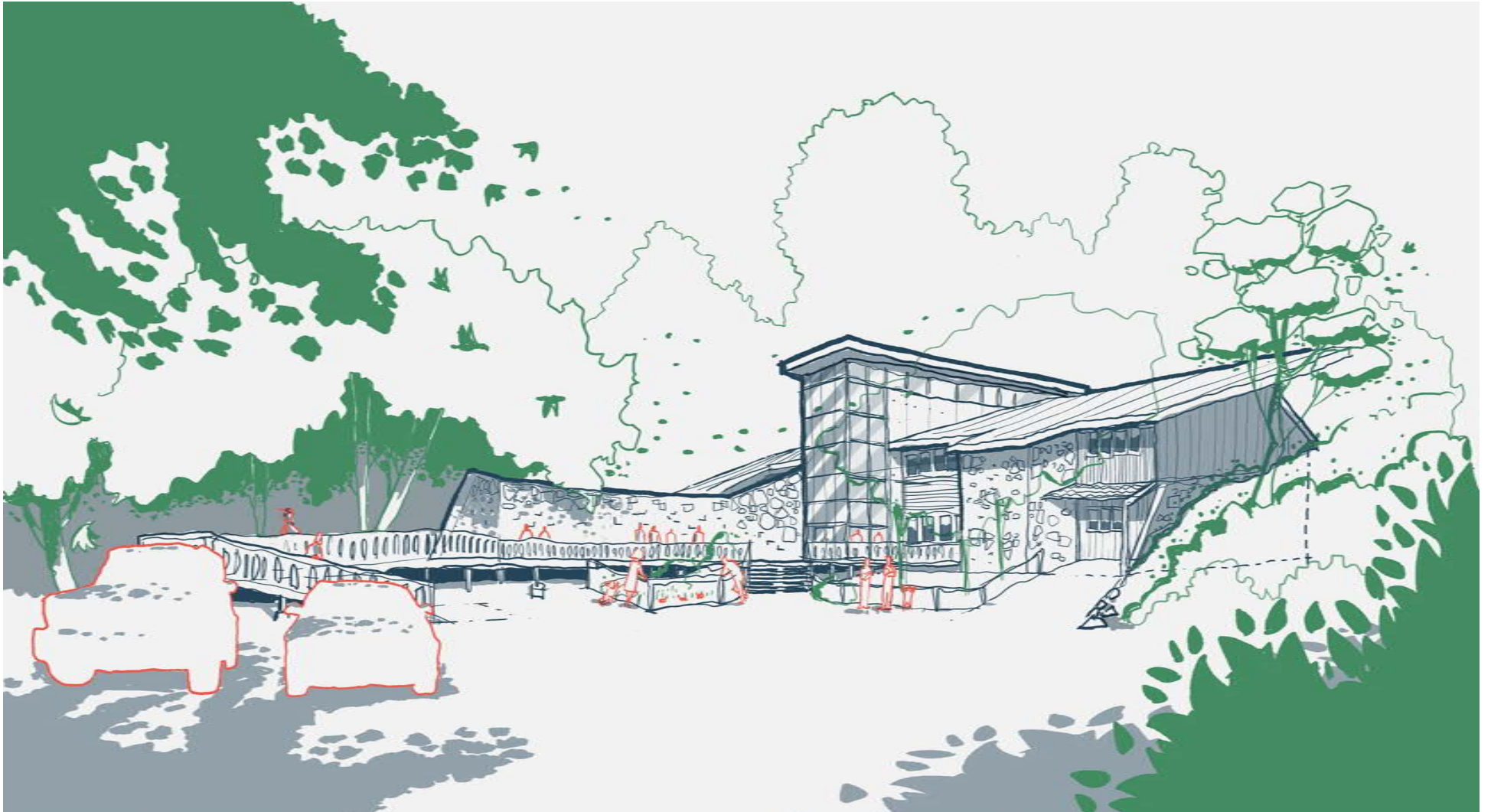
Texas Sedge- *Carex texensis*
Grama Grass- *Bouteloua gracilis*
Shenandoah Switchgrass- *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'
The Blues Little Bluestem- *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues'
Black Mountain Bluestem- *Andropogon ternarius* 'Black Mountain'

A blue-tinted photograph of a dense forest. Several large, light-colored umbrellas are suspended from the trees, creating a canopy effect. The umbrellas are arranged in a scattered pattern across the upper and middle sections of the frame. The background is filled with the intricate patterns of tree branches and leaves, creating a sense of depth and a hidden oasis.

**“It’s so natural.
A hidden oasis.”**

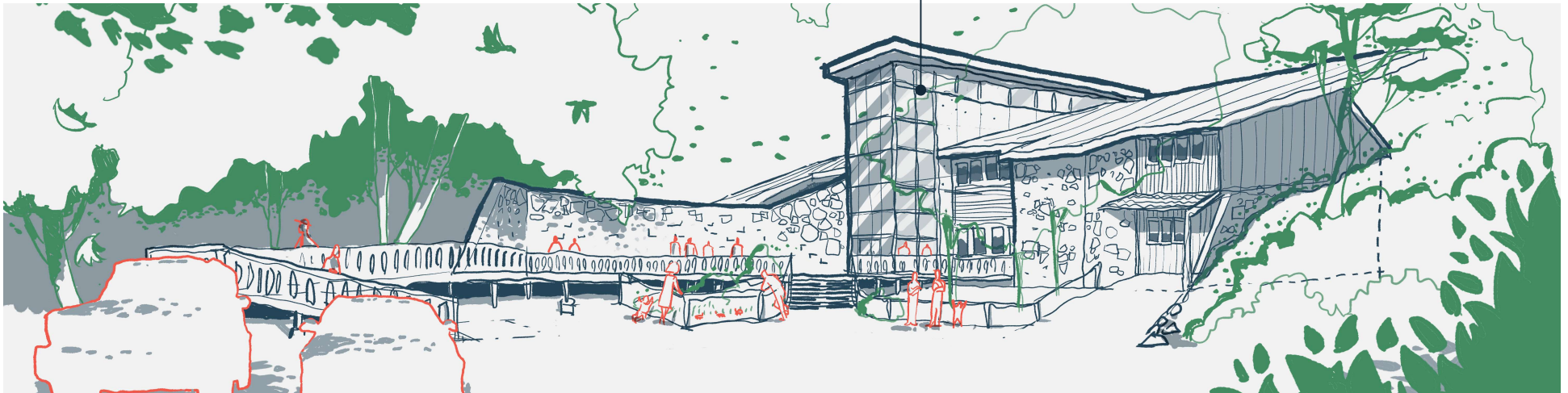
Blue Heron Lantern & Discovery Deck

Blue Heron Lantern



Blue Heron Lantern

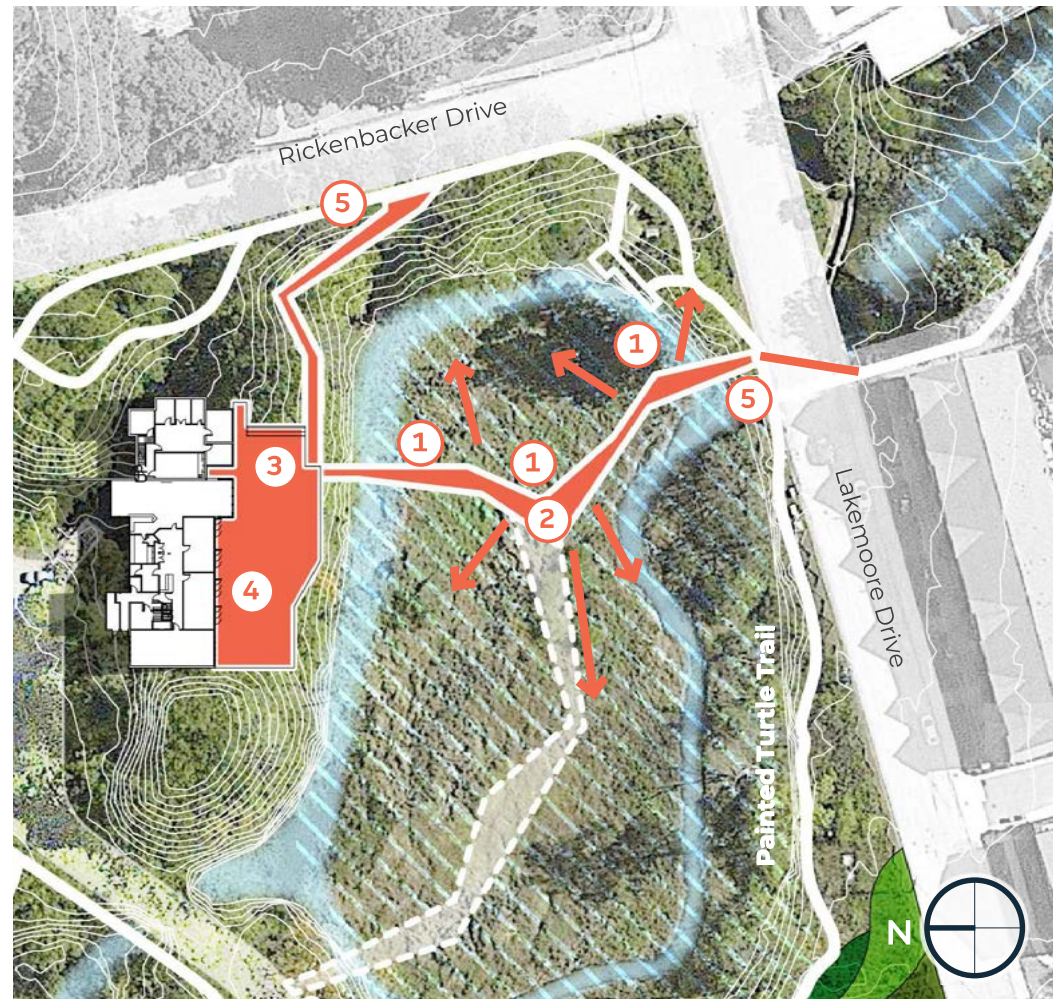
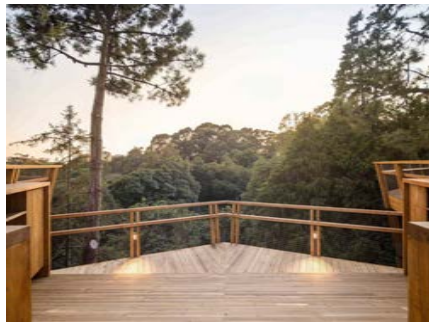
2-Story Entrance
using Bird-friendly Glass



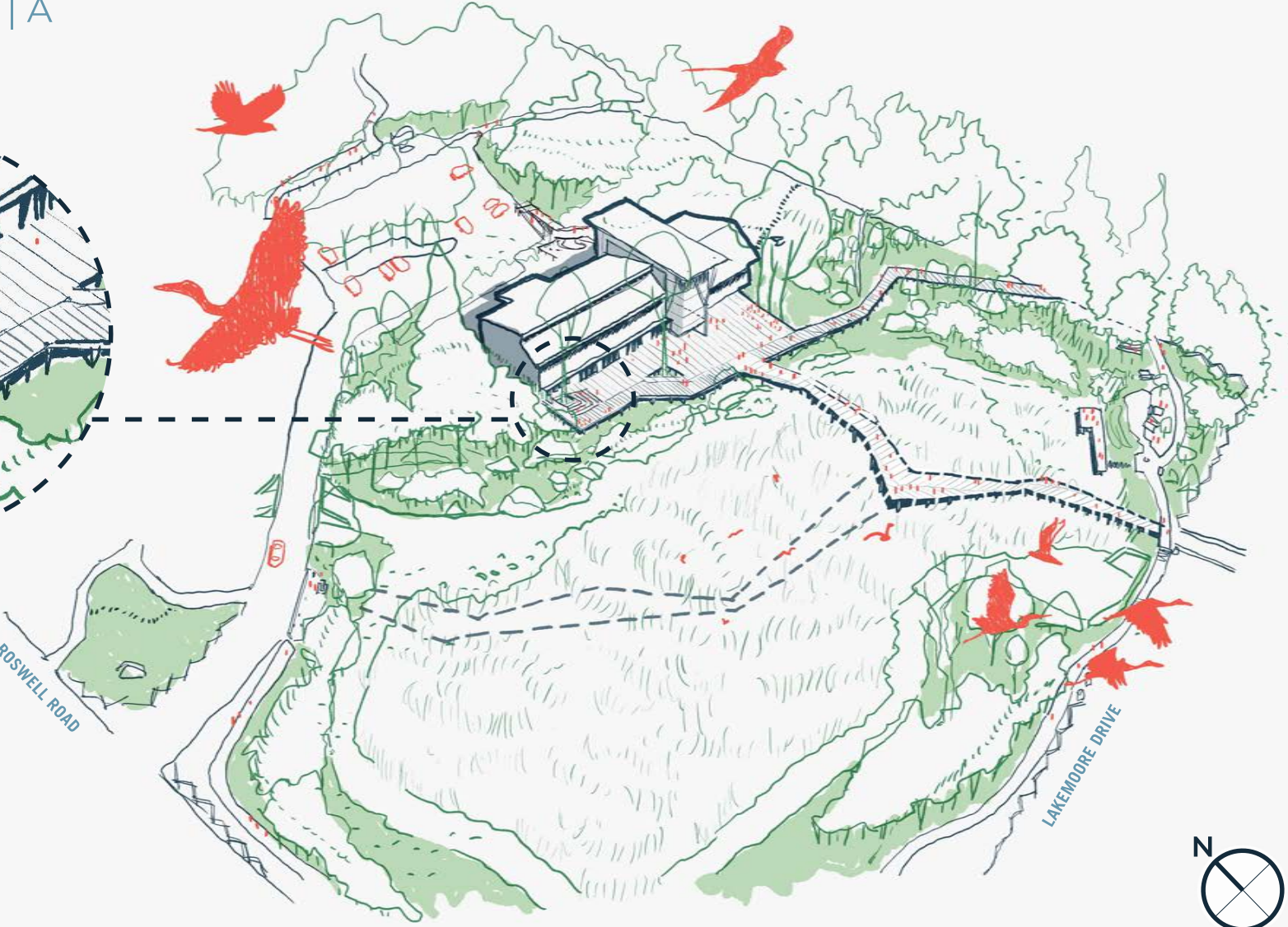
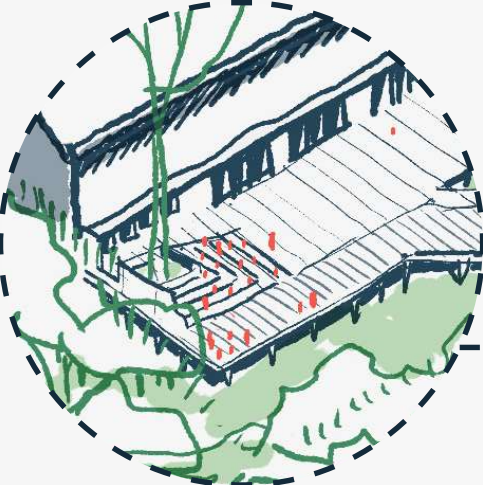
Discovery Deck

Open, Inviting, Connection to Water, Balances activation and preservation

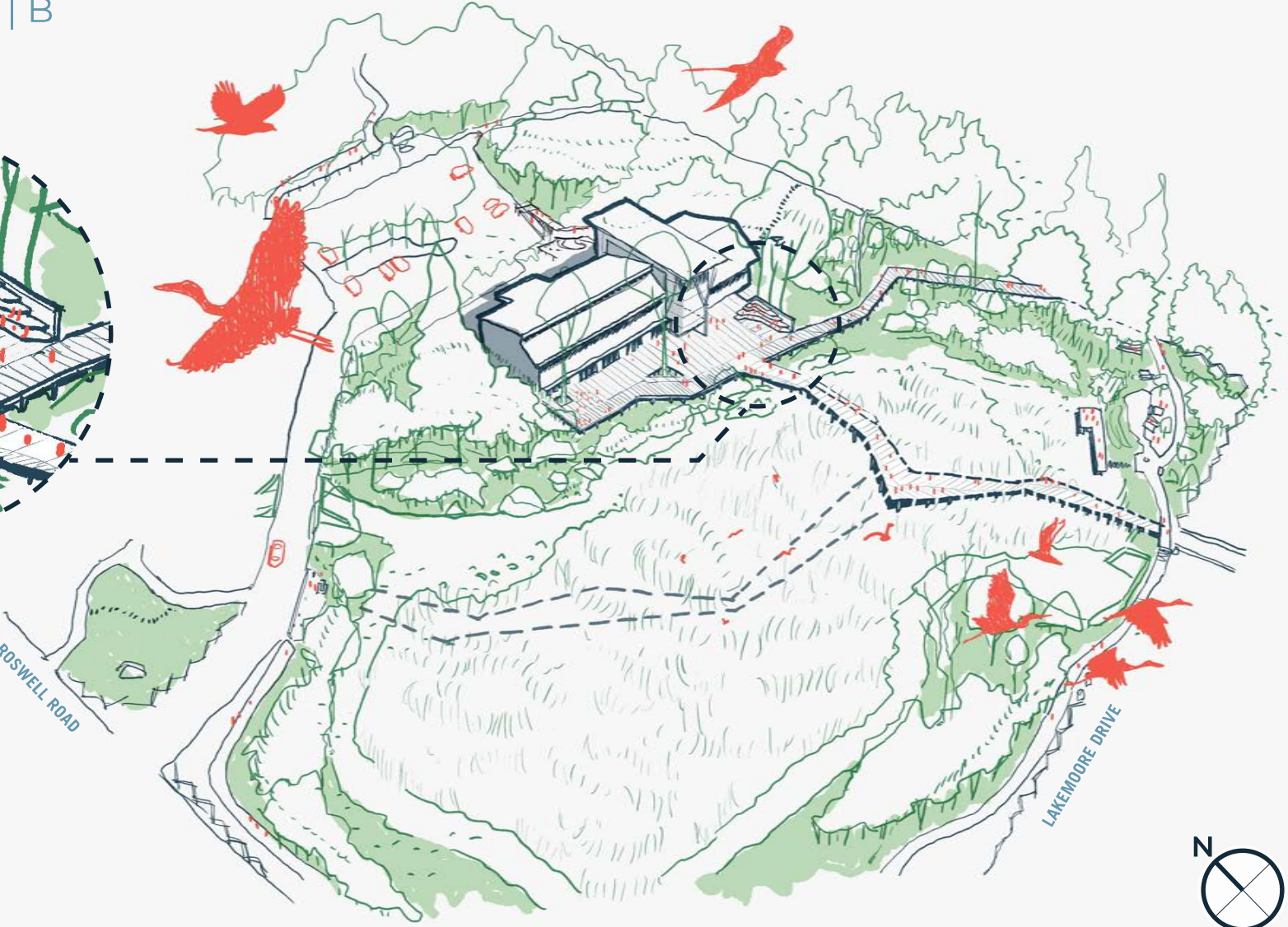
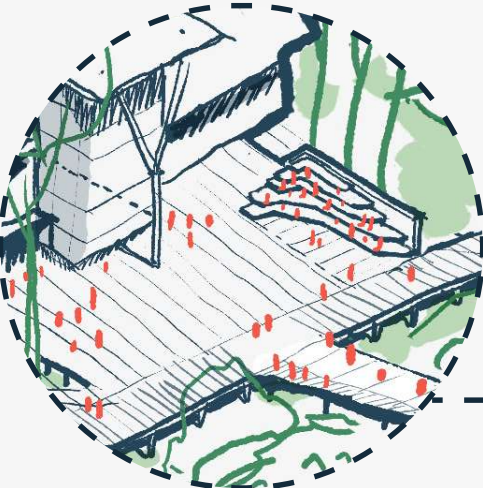
- ① Viewing opportunity in area of respite
- ② Discovery Deck
- ③ Educational Area
- ④ Multi-functional Outdoor Event Space
- ⑤ Potential Security Points



Discovery Deck | A



Discovery Deck | B



ROSWELL ROAD

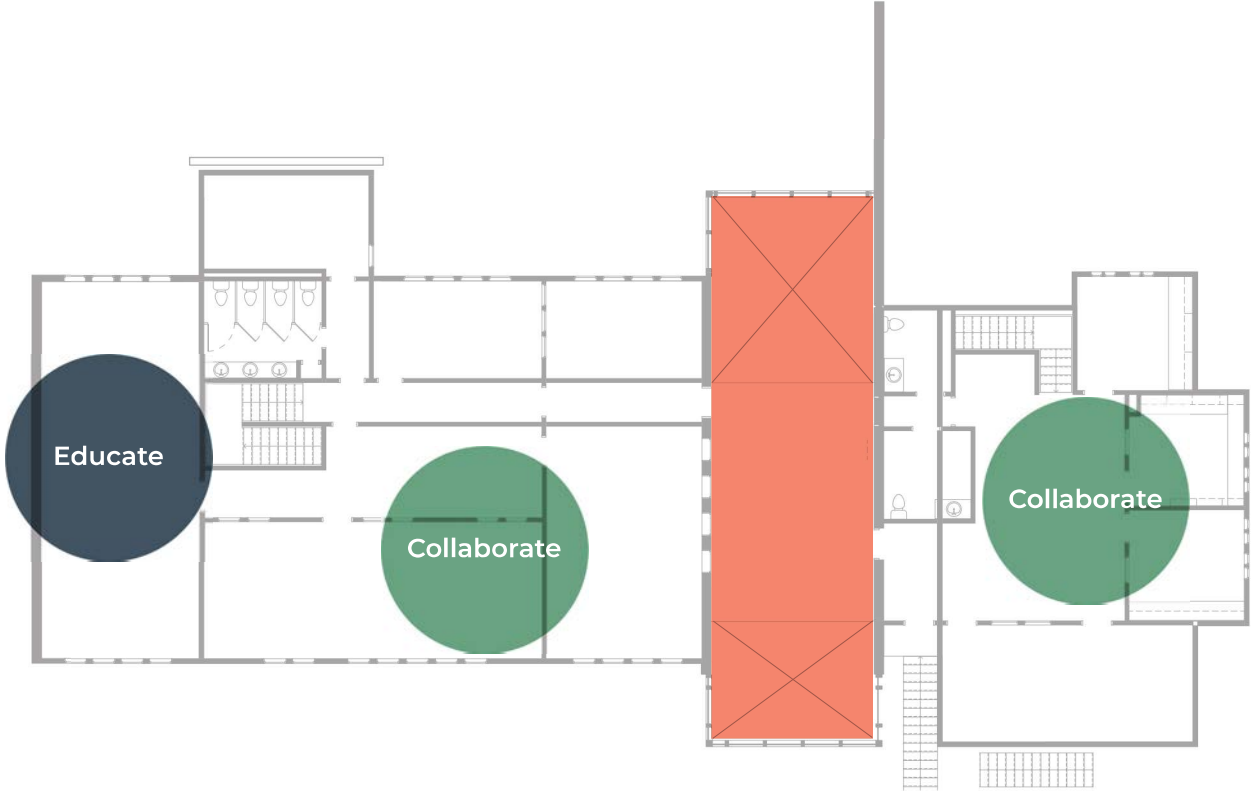
LAKEMOORE DRIVE



Floor Plan | Level 1



Floor Plan | Level 2



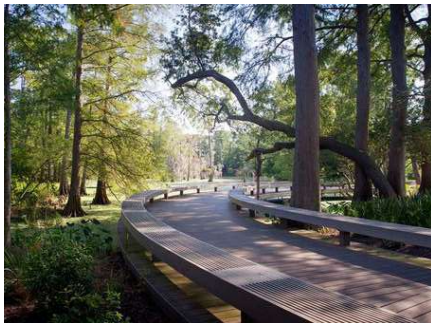
Lakemoore Drive Connection

- ① Walkway Branding Opportunity
- ② Vertical Branding Opportunity



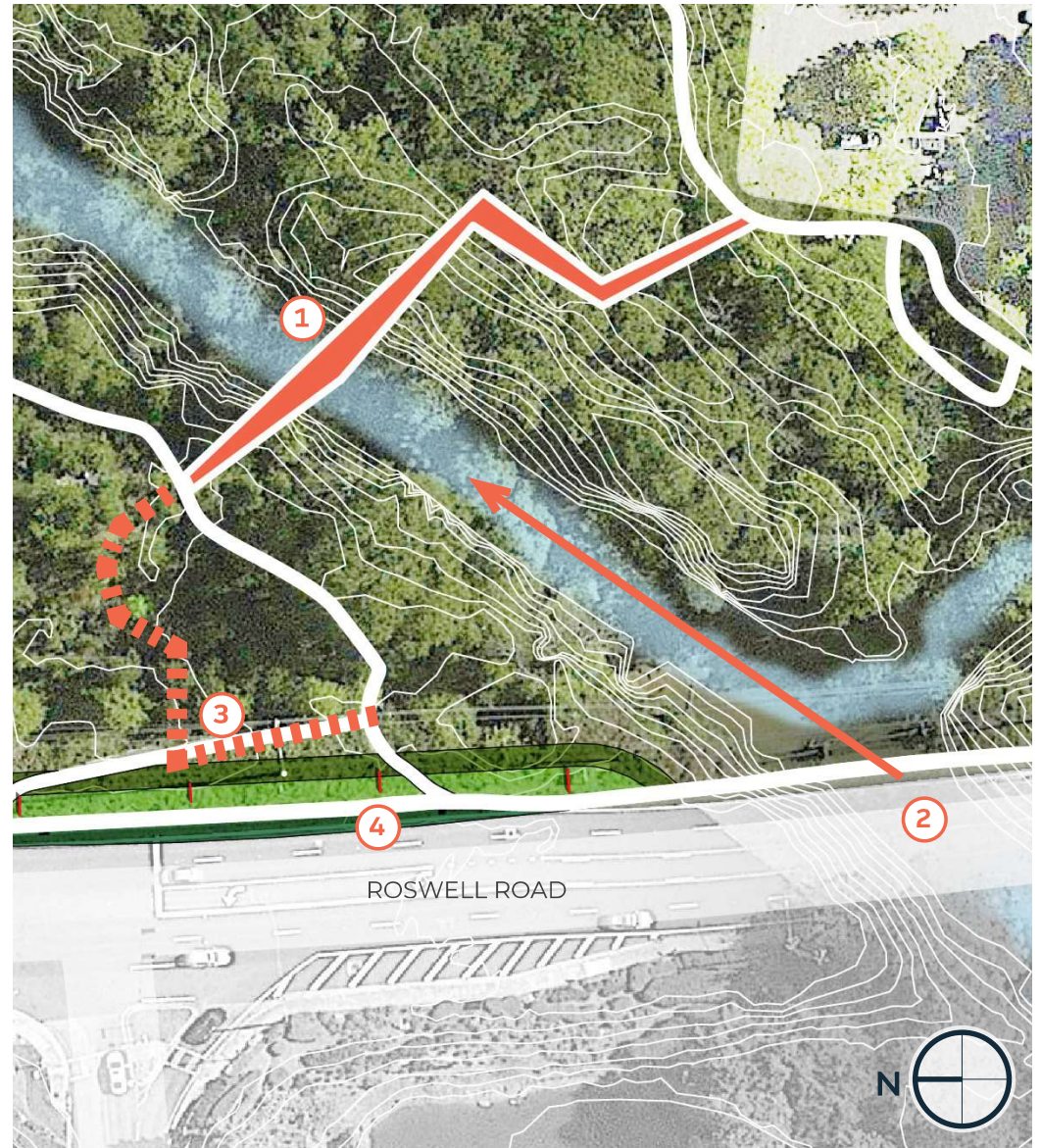
Rickenbacker Drive Connection

- 1 Discovery Deck
- 2 Wetland Boardwalk
- 3 Canopy Boardwalk



Nancy Creek Crossing

- 1 Pedestrian Footbridge
- 2 Branding Perspective
- 3 Loop existing trail back to New Bridge away from Roswell Rd.
- 4 Continuous Branding



A photograph of a person's hand holding a small plant with a root ball. In the background, a woman is smiling in a garden setting. The entire image has a blue tint.

**“I love the serenity that
Blue Heron provides in
the middle of the city.”**

Community Garden

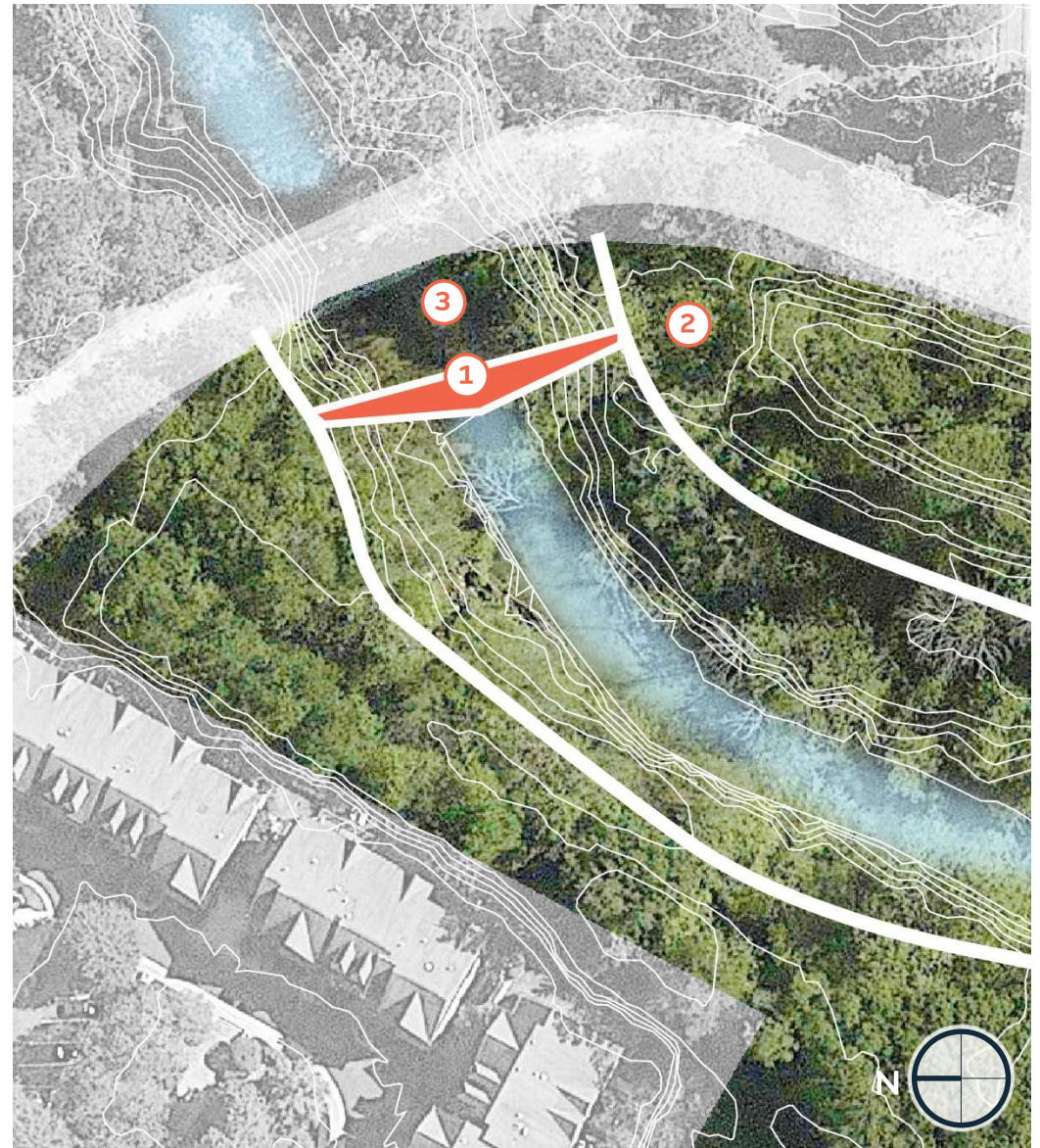
Community Garden

- 1 Repair rainwater collection cistern and provide connection to center of gardens
- 2 Community Garden Expansion
- 3 Garden of The Hungry Expansion



North Bridge

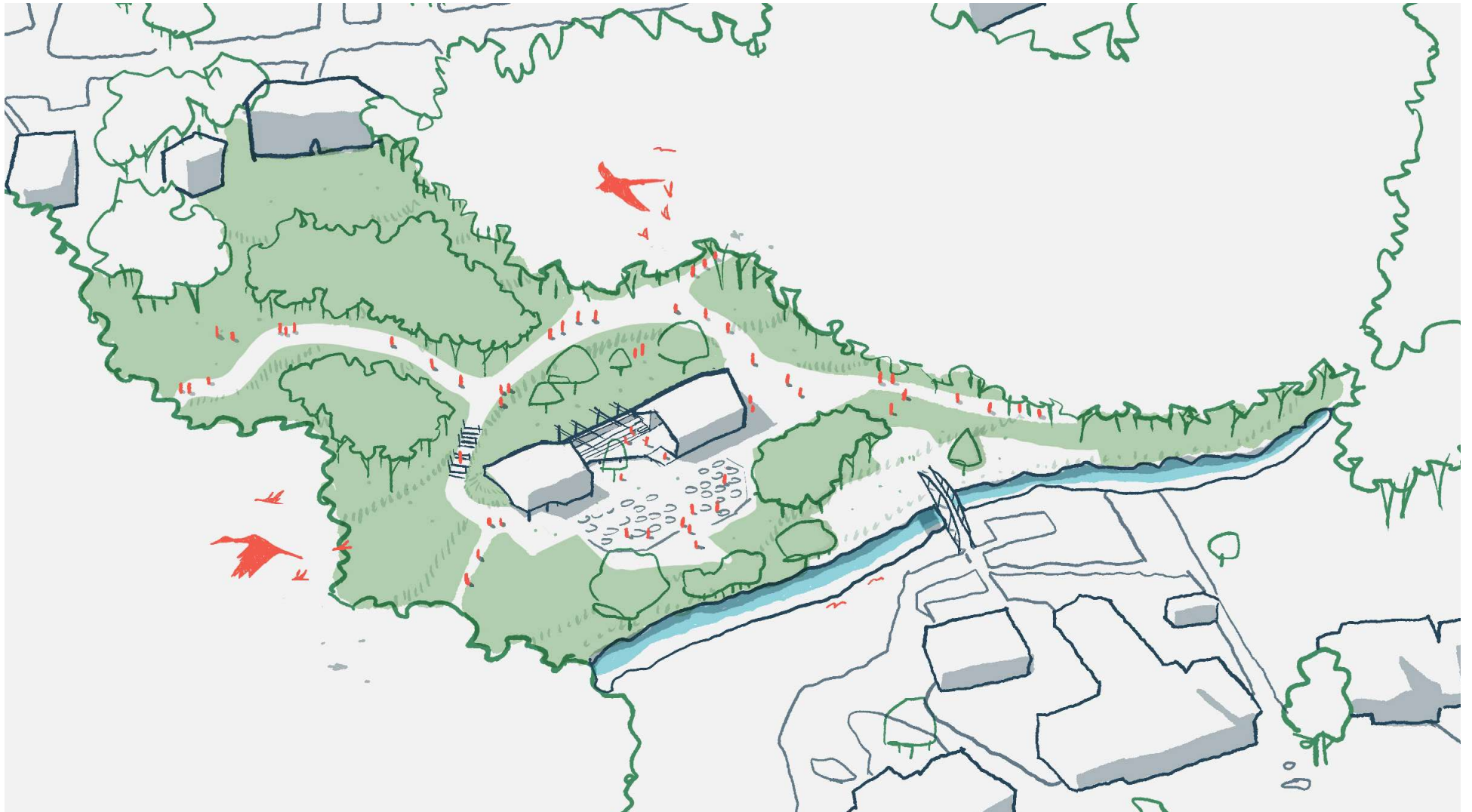
- ① New Pedestrian Bridge
- ② Reading Nook/Play Area
- ③ Maintain open Area for Child Creek play



“Blue Heron continues to educate children on how to take care of nature.”

Field Research Center

Field Research Center



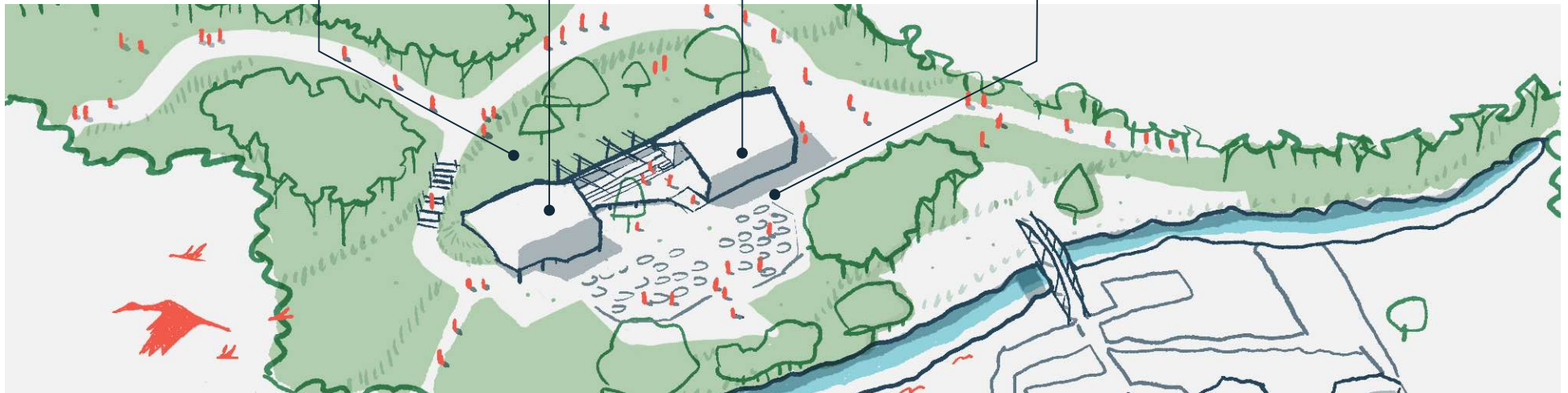
Field Research Center

Rehab Existing Garden

Solar Panel Incorporation

Indoor & Outdoor Labs with Outdoor Education & Event Space

Install & maintain paths around mesocosms



Thank you.