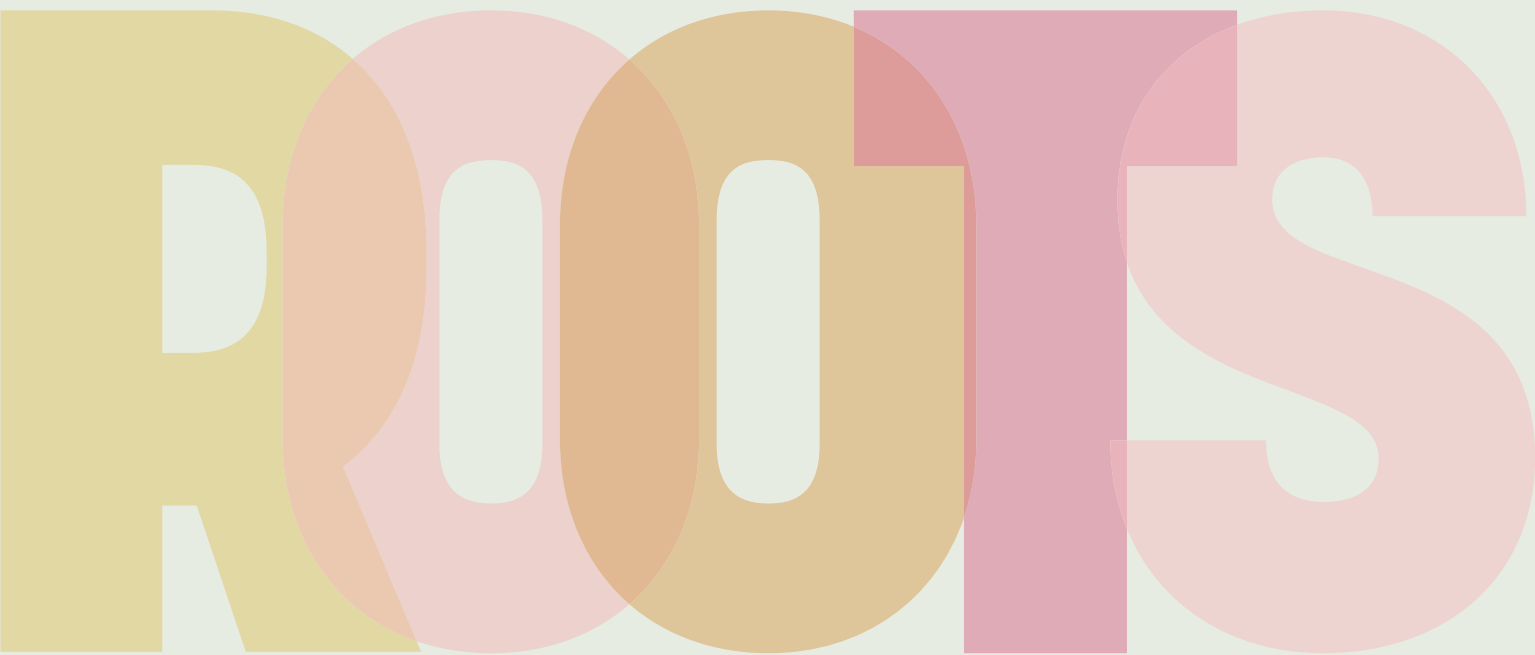




BATON



ROOTS

BATON ROOTS ART FARM

MASTER PLAN REPORT

November 2021

BATON ROOTS ART FARM at BREC Howell Community Park

Master Plan Report
November 2021

The Walls Project

Casey Phillips, Executive Director

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Kris Palagi, Co-PI

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Consulting Artist

Faheem Majeed





Baton Roots Main Partners:
(see end for full list of partners)



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THANK YOU

Props:

The Baton Roots master planning process was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts through the Our Town grant program. This report represents the combined efforts of many individuals and organizations. Baton Roots especially thanks our partners at BREC including Superintendent Corey Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Planning Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Brandon Smith, Andrea Roberts, Angela Harms, Brett Wallace, Rhett Butler, and RaHarold Lawson. Main Baton Roots program supporters include BREC, Healthy BR, Geaux Get Healthy, Southern University Ag Center, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge Green, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA, BCBS Louisiana Foundation, Humana Foundation, Wilson Foundation, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Aetna/CVS, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, Rotary Club, Build Baton Rouge, ExxonMobile, EBRPHA, the American Heart Association, Louisiana 4-H Foundation, Lynne Pisto, and Jennifer and Sean Reilly.

Faheem Majeed was the principal consulting artist on this project and was instrumental throughout the planning process. He worked with students and faculty at Louisiana State University through several courses during the 2020-2021 academic year to guide them through design development. These included architecture students in ARCH 5001 and 7006, landscape architecture students in LA 3002 and 7041, and civil engineering students in CE 4260. Supporting faculty include Kathleen Bogaski, Nicholas Serrano, Tara Street, Soo Jo, Kris Palagi, and Clint Willson. The final content of this report was created by research assistants during summer 2021 including Joshua Crawford, Peyton Mahoney, Adam Miller, Dylan Roth, and Shade Winfrey.

Thank you to everyone who joined steering committee meetings including: Aieta Davis, Angela Harms, Andrew Holmes, Alexis Moon, Andrea Roberts, Ann Tillage Beatra Wilson, Bruce Williams, Katherine Bray-Simons, Brandon Smith, Brett Wallace, Cynthia Roche, Chelsea Morgan, Chloé Wiley, Carl E. Motsenbocker, Courtney Scott, Connor DeLoach, Chris Tyson, Cynthea Corfah, David Beach, Donald Tekautz, , David Summers, Edy Addison, Ernesto R Johnson, Faheem Majeed, George Bell, Geno McLaughlin, Helen Frink, Jan Ross, J Daniels, Jared Hymowitz, Kate Mattox, Katie Pritchett, Kitty Pheney, Kelli R. Rogers, Lauren Hebert, LaMont Cole, Lois Smyth, Luke St John, Manny Patole, Mary Bergeron, Girard Melancon, Matthew Johnson, Molly Brown, Pat Leduff, Ebonie Mathews, Renita Marchall , Rhett Butler, RaHarold Lawson, Robert Seemann, Rodney Hart, Nikesha L Rodrigue, Reed Richard, Sandra Bethea, Sherreta Harrison, Samuel J. Corso, Samuel Parsons, Traci Birch, Troy J. Broussard, Stephanie Elwood, Thomas Donley, Mason Phillips, Travis Hutchins, Ty McMains, Tracy Smith, Theo Richards, Tristi Charpentier, Tasha Saunders, Tara Street, William L Douglas.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE WALLS PROJECT

According to the 2020 Map the Meal Gap Study, over 60,000 people in this parish struggle to keep food on the table and often do not know where their next meal is coming from. Currently, one-third of EBR residents, who are chronically food insecure, do not qualify for nutrition assistance programs, leaving local pantries and nonprofits as the only option to access essential foods. Baton Roots focuses on improving health outcomes for all city residents, helping alleviate food insecurity, and providing workforce development opportunities in a community burdened by unemployment and underemployment. What started as a single-seeded vision has sprouted and spread across city food deserts to provide access to fresh produce and food security for residents needing it most. Baton Roots helps: (1) increase amounts of fresh produce with community farms open for public harvest ; (2) teaches community members and residents to properly and successfully grow produce. In addition to input from hundreds of community members and grant partners at the NEA, BREC, LSU Art + Design, CSS, and artist-in-residence Faheem Majeed; we could not have done this work without the vision of Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and the HealthyBR/ Geaux Get Healthy team and the generous support of Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, Humana Foundation, Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation, Capital Area United Way, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, HealthyBlue, Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, Aetna Louisiana, Lynne Pisto and our incredible partners at Southern University Ag, LSU Ag, 4-H Louisiana, Build Baton Rouge, the American Heart Association, TopBox, WHLC Architecture, BR Green, plus the Walls Project board of directors and program leadership team. Thank You All!



BATON ROOTS SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Over the past three years, Baton Roots has distributed tens of thousands of pounds of food to community members throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. We've instructed hundreds of educational sessions and worked with residents to develop communal knowledge about growing our own food here in Louisiana. We are so grateful to receive this Planning Award from NEA to solidify the vision for Baton Roots and to house our program at BREC's Howell Community Park. We are excited to use the incredible work in this document to push our farming efforts forward, not for ourselves, but for the neighbors of the farm and larger community. We know how urban agriculture education and learning about food can bring people together, and we are so excited for these recommendations for Baton Roots to bring even more people into our program's home and further our collective learning. Our vision is to help repair the food system and bring fresh food access to all residents of East Baton Rouge Parish. This aspirational document shows the path to completing this mission and we admire all the hard work, attention to detail, and dedication required to create this master plan. Thank you again for all involved and we will see you on the farm!





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This master plan report for the Baton Roots farm and public art program at BREC Howell Community Park contains guidelines for the Walls Project to consider as it develops these initiatives over the next 1-5 years. Any organization which seeks to truly serve its community must remain agile to take advantage of opportunities as they arise and adapt as the community grows. These recommendations begin with this in mind, and propose areas for improvement without being confined to exactly how those improvements look. The report is not meant to be a prescriptive site design, but instead is a compendium of ideas to help frame future development. Although it includes a diagrammatic site plan, this serves to provide a legible spatial orientation for proposed ideas more than a finalized ground plan. What gets built in the end will be a collaboration between Baton Roots, BREC, and the community.

This report begins by explaining several site conditions which are important to consider when making future plans for Baton Roots: hydrology, circulation, and site vegetation. The recommendations then center around four main goals: 1) expanding the concept of public art programming from object oriented art to temporary and performance art, 2) creating pavilions for education and food distribution, 3) a visiting artist-in-residence program to work with the community and create a public art program, and 3) a Yard Lab where the public and professional artists can work to create art.

JANUARY 2021

JANUARY

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 1

Introductions and Project Orientation

STUDIO: CLASSES BEGIN

Orientation and Site Investigations*Team Meetings on Zoom*

FEBRUARY

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 2

Site Findings

STUDIO: RESEARCH AND IDEATION

Analysis and Preliminary Designs

MARCH

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 3

Midterm Design Reviews

STUDIO: DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Midterm Student Presentations

April

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 4

Final Student Presentations

STUDIO: FINAL DESIGN

Final Design

MEETING 3

CSS REPORT PRODUCTION

Development



Final Report Cover
CSS FINAL REPORT
Presentation

OPMENT

MAY



AUGUST 2021

NG COMMITTEE MEETING 4

ent Presentations

O: PRODUCTION
RESENTATION

ign Presentations







BACKGROUND



BATON ROOTS BEGINNINGS

history and programs



Baton Roots

Community Farm at Howell Park

Taking a holistic approach to community health, Baton Roots at BREC Howell Park envisions a world in which locals are deeply rooted to the food they consume. Our community farm brings access to healthy foods and agriculture education to an area burdened by poverty, low-performing schools, crime, and unemployment. Infusing public art with fresh food access, Baton Roots works to improve quality-of-life, public safety, and economic development through year-round agriculture, health, and arts programming. Our hands-in-the-dirt approach works with communities to bring the freshest and healthiest food grown in a visually stimulating and eco-friendly environment.



Baton Roots began at Howell Park with the Harmony Garden planter boxes, which were built as part of the 2019 MLK Festival of Service, hosted annually by the Walls Project. Using treated lumber and corrugated metal panels, volunteers constructed 18 planter boxes.

Baton Roots Programs



Mental Health and gardening join forces on Wellness Wednesday, an initiative in partnership with Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome's *Geaux Get Healthy*. Pictured above is a yoga session at the Harmony Intergenerational Garden led by Nikky Scott of the Yoga Noir Project.



Hustle & Grow is a youth-focused training initiative. Through hands-on learning, teens and young adults learn the skills needed to manage urban farms and become the champions of fresh food for themselves and their neighbors. Since its inception, this program has expanded to three local high schools.



The Harmony Intergenerational Garden serves as a neighborhood gathering space where community members of all ages and abilities can get their hands dirty and reap the harvest of an abundance of fresh foods.



Baton Roots offers cooking demonstrations with farm-fresh produce through the American Heart Association. This provides participants an opportunity to try new foods and inspires them to take home to their own kitchens.



FOODPRINT

locating baton roots reach in town

Baton Roots Garden Initiatives

Baton Roots has been expanding their footprint throughout Baton Rouge, focusing on the northern area of town. This map illustrates the scope of their influence, spanning across East Baton Rouge Parish and beyond.

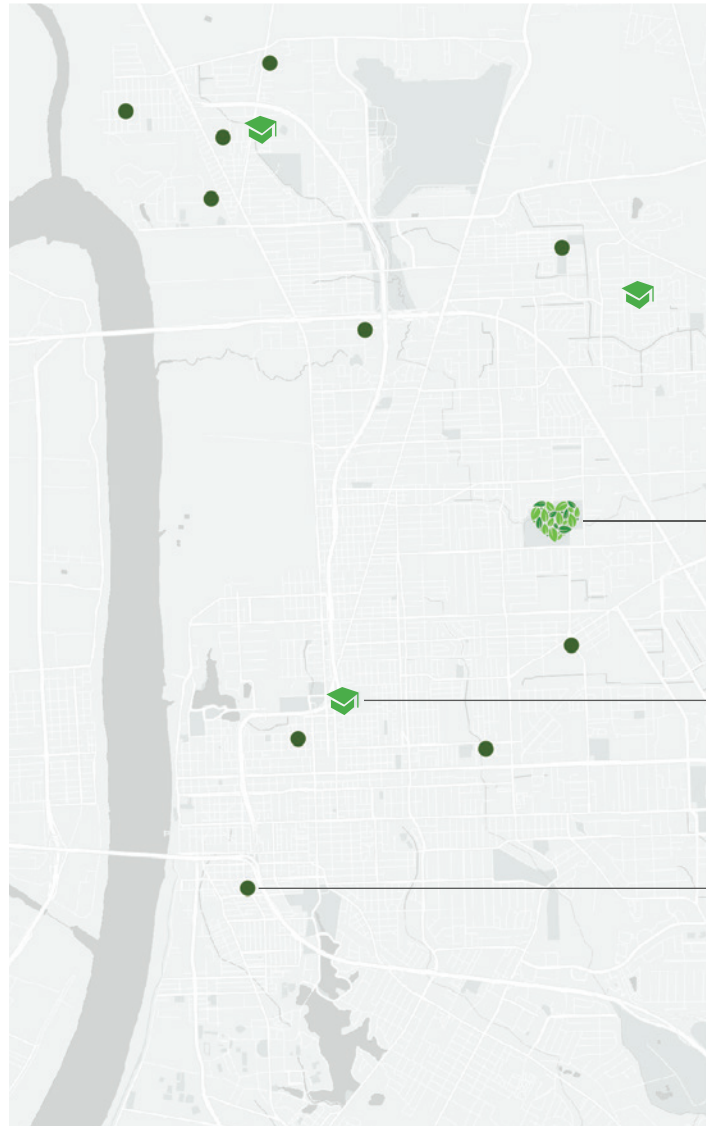
EBRPHA Sites

Phase 1:

Monte Sano (3002 E. Mason Ave)
Sharlo Terrace (4915 Alvin Dark Ave)
Capitol Square (700 N. 17th St)
Kelly Terrace (999 Rosenwald Rd)
Ardenwood (1957 N. Ardenwood)
Turner Plaza (4546 North St)

Phase 2:

Scotlandville (10666 Scotland Ave)
Wood Plaza (9990 Ave J)
Clarksdale (801 Swan Ave)
River South (1428 Thomas Delpit)
Zion Terrace (5958 CadillacSt)



Main Campus



High Schools



Residential



BATON ROOTS MAIN CAMPUS

5509 Winbourne Ave.

Est. 2019
4.0 acres total
1.5 acres cultivated
18 raised beds



SCHOOL SITES

Locations:
- Central High
- Scotlandville High
- Glen Oaks High



RESIDENTIAL SITES

Phase 1: 44 Raised Beds
Phase 2: 9,100 sqft
11 sites Total



BREC NETWORK

recent history and future plans

The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) is the agency that connects people to parks and nature in East Baton Rouge Parish with a system that has more than 180 parks including a unique mix of facilities, which mirror the history and rich natural resources in south Louisiana.

This includes a state-of-the-art observatory, a swamp nature center located in the urban core, an equestrian park, the Baton Rouge Zoo, a performing arts theatre, an arboretum, a botanical garden, a water park with the only surfing simulator in the state, five golf courses throughout the parish and an expansive 30,000-square foot concrete extreme sports park.

Throughout its history, BREC has taken seriously its responsibility to improve the health, safety, environment and quality of life for all citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish. Since 2004, BREC has constructed community parks, dog parks, a family-sized Aquatics Center, a growing off-road greenway trails system, fishing ponds, larger playgrounds and procured two mobile recreation units to serve play deserts in the area (BREC.org).

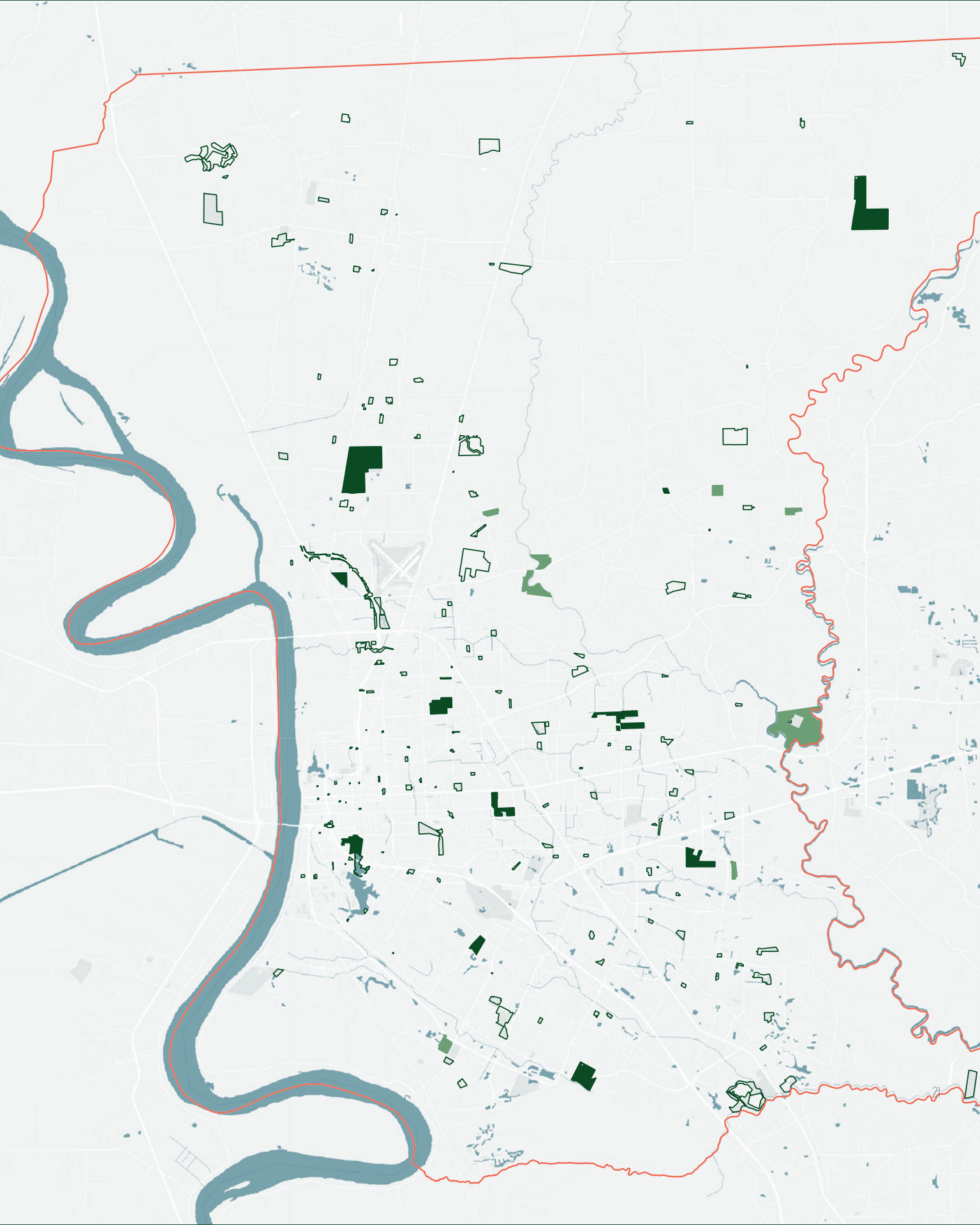
LEGEND

Community Park 

Neighborhood Park 

Special Use Facility 

Conservation Area 





HOWELL COMMUNITY PARK

recent history and future plans

Howell Community Park is part of BREC, the park and recreation agency that operates over 180 facilities throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. Howell Park is a community park, which serves a wider audience than neighborhood parks due to their broad range of facilities. Community parks are designed to engage the whole family for an entire day.

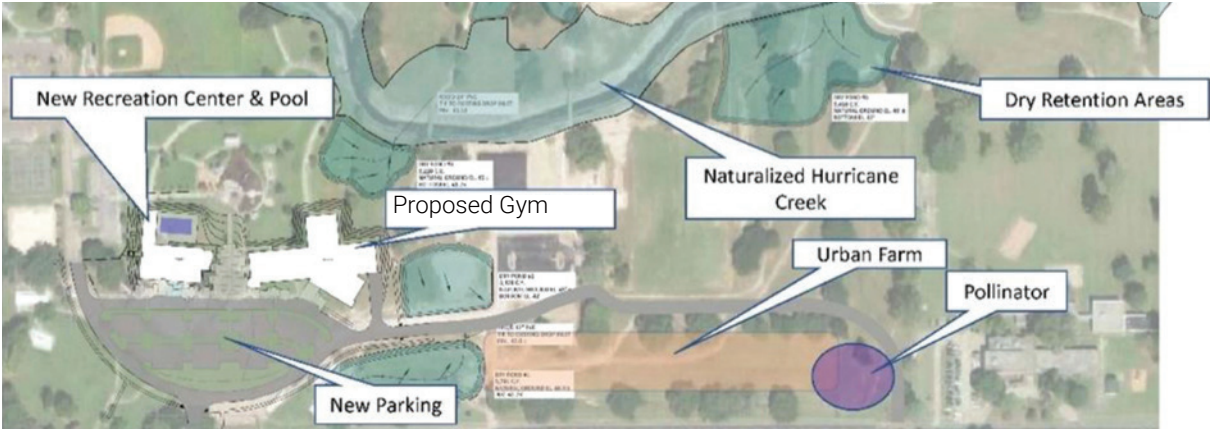


In 2015, the 74-acre Howell Golf Course within BREC's Howell Community Park was proposed to be re-purposed and integrated into the overall active and passive recreational park to become one large 115-acre community park. BREC conducted an extensive community outreach effort to prepare a new park master plan in 2015, which includes a lagoon, playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, basketball courts, a Recreation Center, and a network of pedestrian paths. The first phase of this plan that is presently built includes two parking lots, the multi-purpose field, two basketball courts, a playground, and the top half of the lagoon.

The southern half of the Howell Park master plan has been updated to include Baton Roots and the new Recreation Center. Construction on the recreation center is presently underway and will be a major new attraction for the area. It will include a 130-car parking lot that features permeable paving and other sustainable stormwater management strategies.

New dry retention areas next to Baton Roots and along Hurricane Creek have been excavated to provide soil for the recreation center foundations. These retention areas are planned to help mitigate stormwater and, combined with a re-naturalized Hurricane Creek, will showcase sustainable stormwater management design.

South Park Plan



2015 Master Plan







OPPORTUNITIES



SITE ANALYSIS

design decisions guide

Hurricane Creek

One of main drainageways for Baton Rouge, currently channelized with potential to re-naturalize

Naturalized area

Areas that aid in slowing stormwater runoff through infiltration, often with the use of native species

Underutilized Space

Numerous spaces adjacent to parking lot have potential for programmatic expansion

Naturalized area

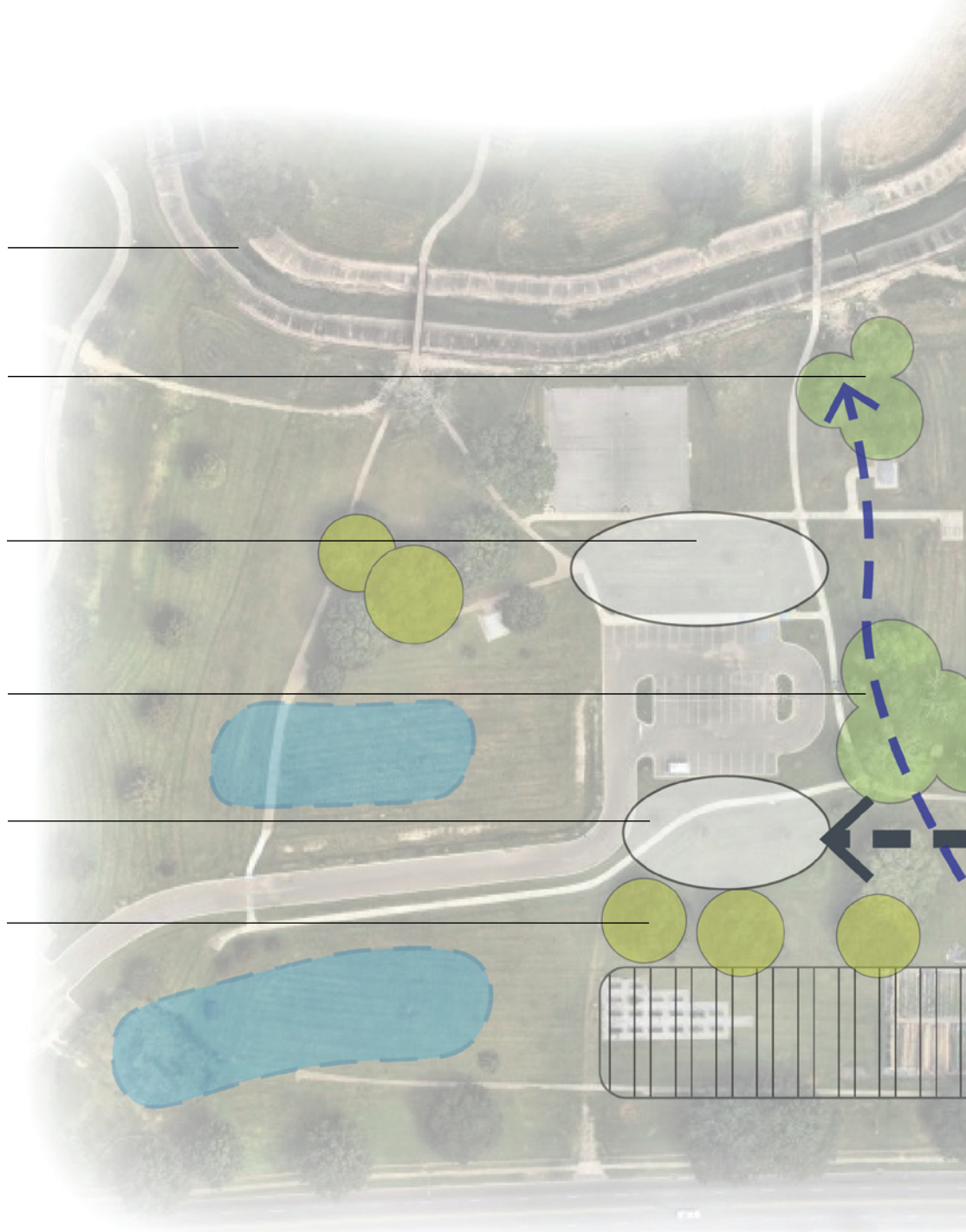
Native trees growing in a swale that separates parking lot and rec field; defines space and creates character

Possible pavilion locations

Connects parking lot access to Baton Rouge program area

Live oaks to be preserved

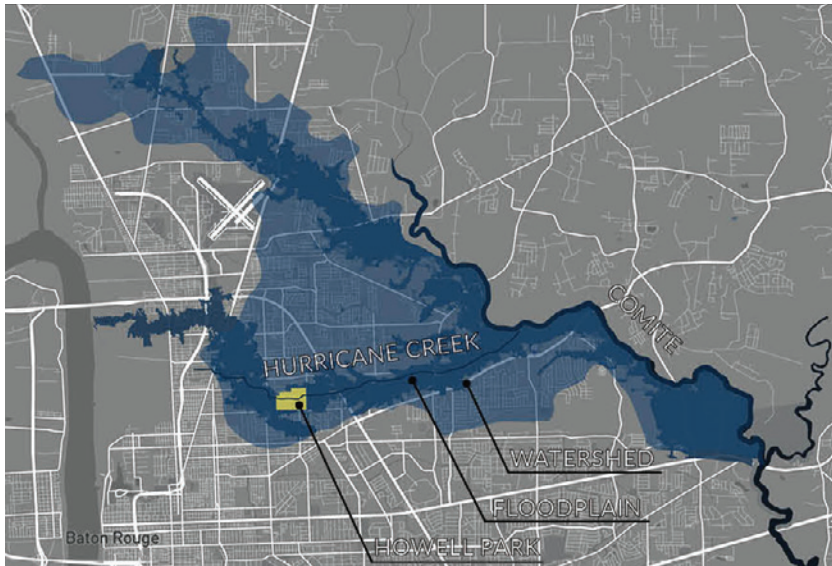
In healthy condition and create a sense of place for the site



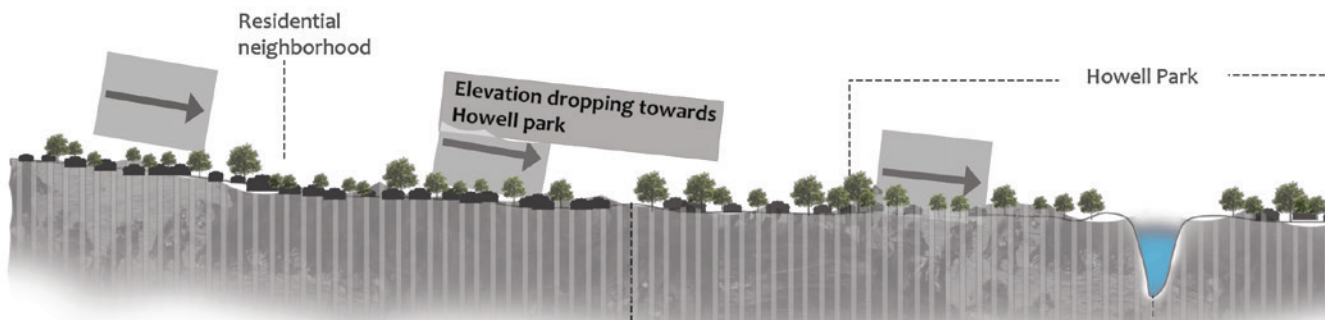


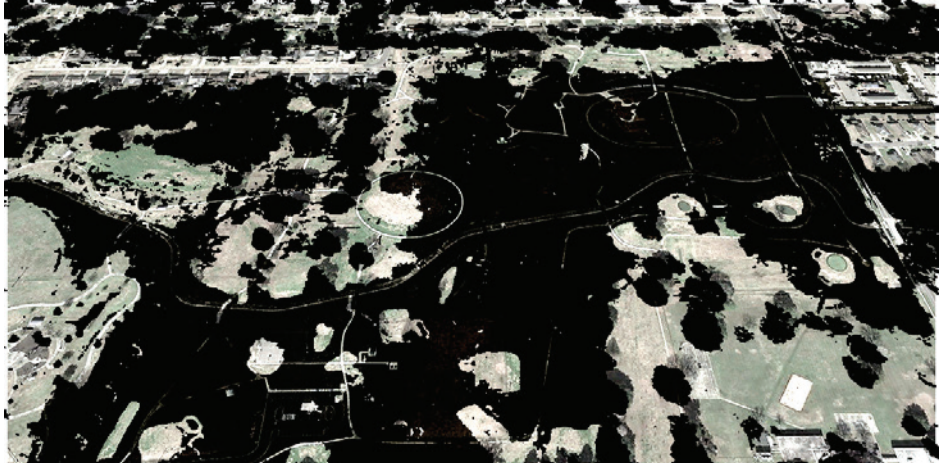
CONTEXT HYDROLOGY

hurricane creek micro-watershed

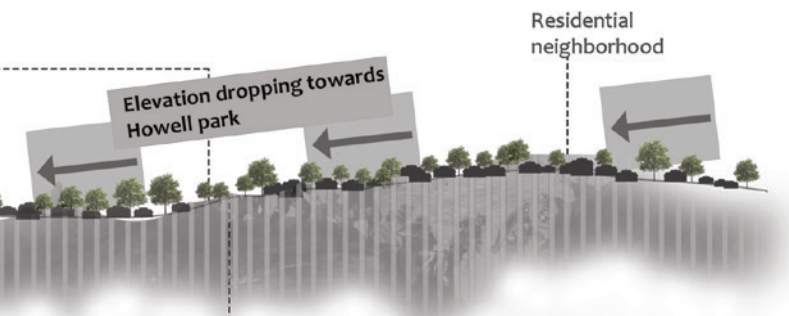


Howell Park is situated within the 100-year flood plain on the banks of Hurricane Creek, one of three main stormwater drainage outlets for Baton Rouge. Currently channelized, Hurricane Creek has insufficient capacity to handle stormwater runoff of the heavily-paved surrounding area during significant rain events. Baton Roots has an opportunity to demonstrate how artful stormwater management strategies can beautify the landscape while also increasing flood-disaster resiliency of the community.



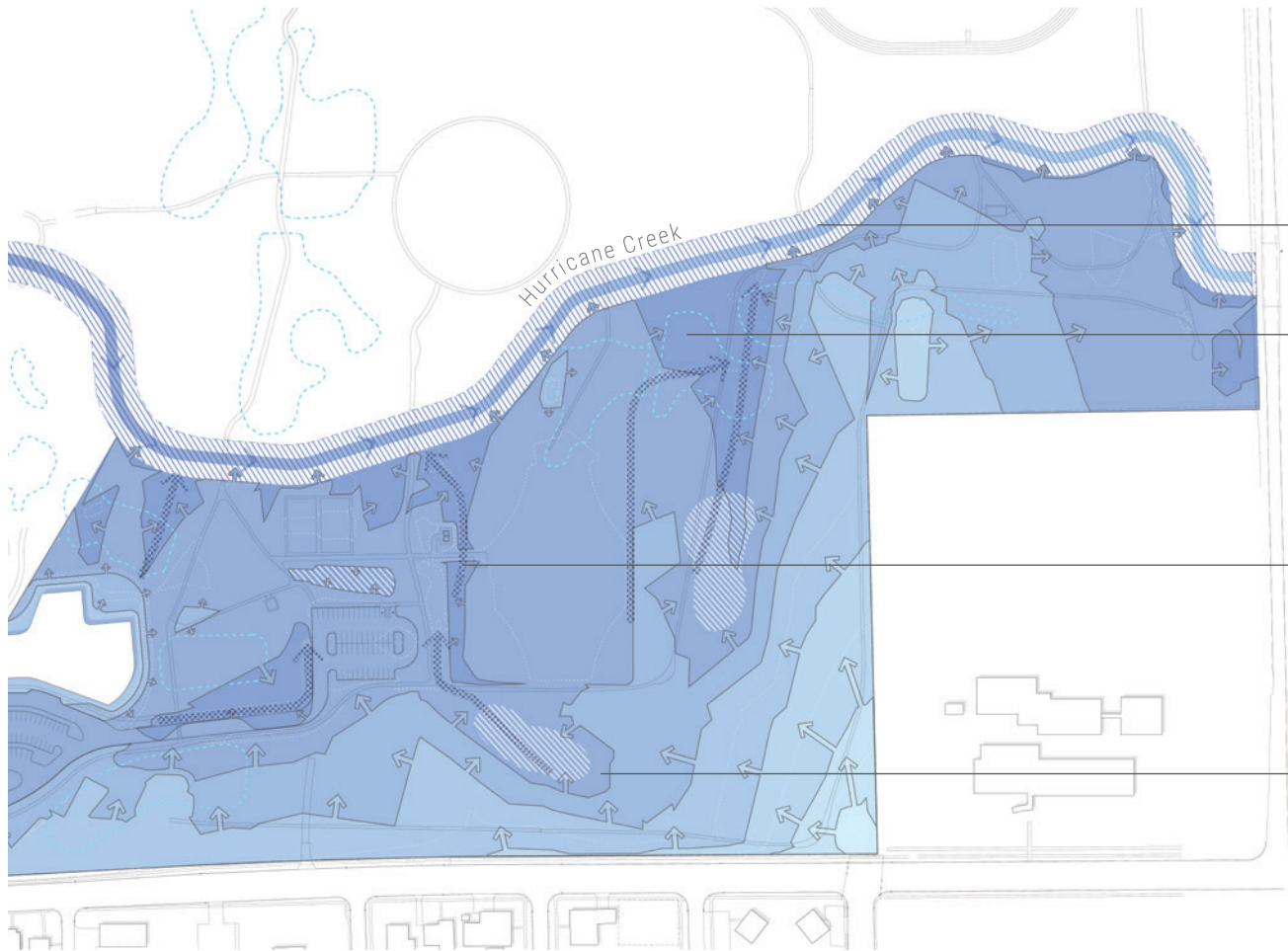


Howell Community Park is in the 100-year floodplain for Hurricane Creek. The historic flooding of August 2016 demonstrates how the creek would normally behave without human-built infrastructure, which ultimately failed under the unusual stormwater quantity and caused the creek to spill over into its natural floodplain.



Context Hydrology Section

Hurricane Creek drains the surrounding area, which slopes down towards Howell Community Park, causing the park to receive a large amount of the watershed's runoff. Without proper storm water management, Howell Park will continually flood.



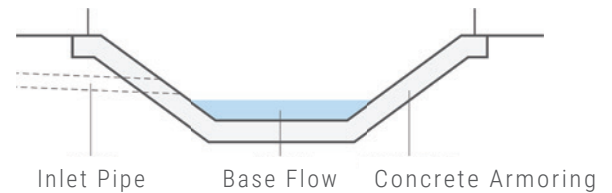
Surface Drainage

The southern half of Howell Community Park has a high point at its southeastern corner, sloping down quickly from Winbourne Avenue to low points on the southern and eastern sides of the athletic field. Shallow swales on either side of the field direct water to Hurricane Creek and act as a natural impediment to pedestrian circulation. Poor site grading, clay soils, and the location on the tributary results in waterlogged soils, erosion along Winbourne Ave., and overwhelmed drain inlets.

Hurricane Creek

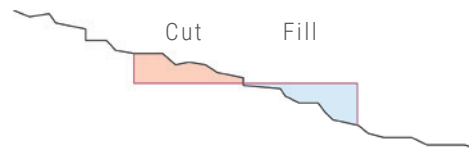


Hurricane Creek Section Cut



Functions as the primary watershed of northern Baton Rouge. Proposals to naturalize creek's edge to better handle flooding, create habitat and connect both sides of the park.

Excavation



Using cut and fill method to create water detention areas, building up land, and reduce flooding all without bringing any external soil to the site.

Surface Drainage



Impervious vs Perviousness



- 28.69% impervious area within Hurricane Creek Watershed.
- Existing drainage ditches can be converted to bioswales where appropriate
- Soils with low permeability act as guides on where to locate green infrastructure
- Steep slope along southern edge of site lends itself to green infrastructure system too slow and detain storm water.

High vs Low



Existing runoff flow patterns offer insight into how to work with the existing topography. Designing a sustainable stormwater management plan involves using the natural features to strengthen the design.



CIRCULATION

bus route, bus stops, and pedestrian paths



Bus Route 20 6:00-10:00
Bus Route 22 12:00-9:00
Bus Route 23 12:00-9:00
Weekends 12:00-9:00

Bus Route 20
Runs from the CATS
Terminal on 22nd St
to the Earl K. Long
Transfer Center

Bus Route 23
Runs from Earl
K. Long Transfer
Center to Citi Place

Bus Route 22
Runs from Florida
Avenue and Airline
Hwy to Downtown



Context Map of Surrounding Area

The map below illustrates the surrounding CATS bus routes and sidewalks adjacent to Howell Park. The bike path within the park is a proposed trail to be developed as part of the East Baton Rouge Parish Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.



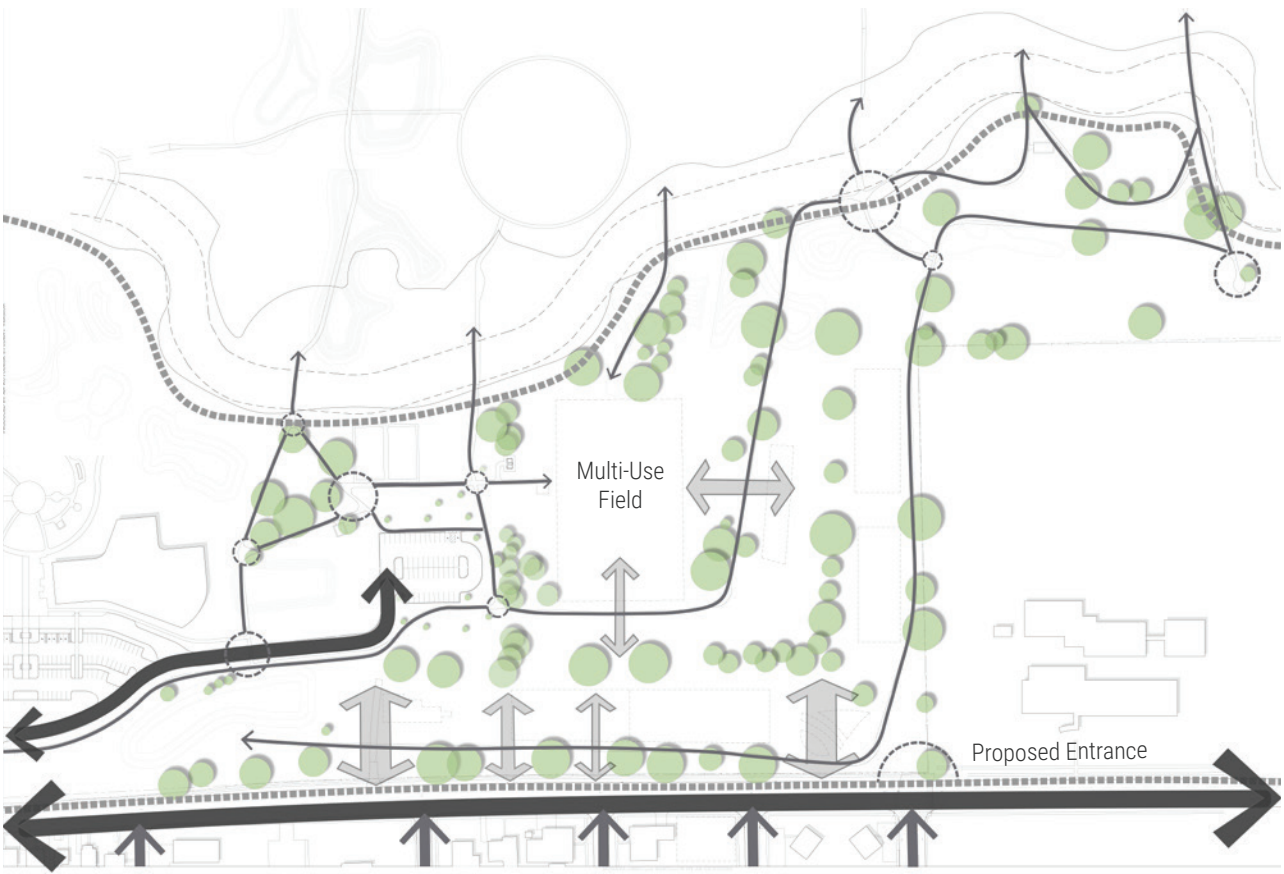
Greenway and Bike Lanes

The recently concluded East Baton Rouge Parish Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan designates a trail to follow along Hurricane Creek and bike lanes along both Winbourne Avenue and East Brookstown Drive.



Bus Stops

They exist in theory, as a sign on the road shoulder. They lack any provisions, protection, or furnishings for users waiting on a bus. Increased use of this stop should be expected with further development of Howell Park. Shade structures and benches should be provided.



Legend

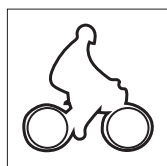
- Nodes
- Paths
- Spatial Views
- Roadways
- Bike



Nodes



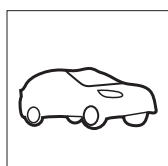
Nodes are points on a pathway where two different paths intersect. These points impact a higher traffic of people due to the multi-directionality of the pathways, making it an ideal place for site utilities such as artful benches and street lamps.



Spatial
Connections



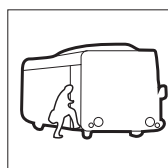
Spatial connections within a site are important to consider because of the impacts it has on one's sensory experience. Due to its history as a golf course, the spatial connections created in the site frame views of vegetated corridors to block certain parts of the park.



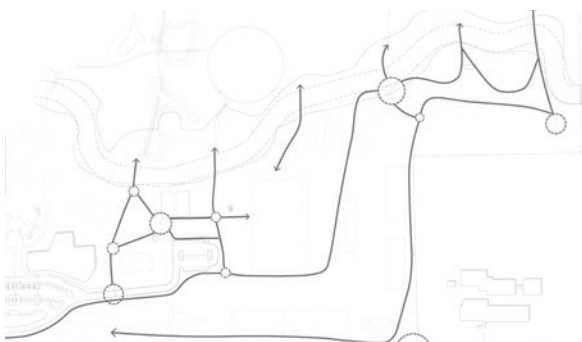
Vehicular



The site currently has one main vehicular entrance to the existing parking lot, as well as a service entrance located near Harmony Gardens. A proposed road bisecting the park would allow for more efficient access into the park.



Paths



The existing pathways on site were originally designed for a golf course, so many of their forms echo the historic fairways. In order to retrofit these paths, proper care would need to be taken in order to ensure ADA accessibility. Cures for existing barrier to accessibility at Howell Park are addressed in BREC's 2019 system-wide ADA Transition Plan.



SITE VEGETATION

design implications and analysis

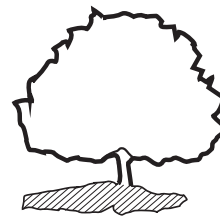
Trees are a defining element of the Louisiana landscape. They have obvious benefits like providing shade, defining space, and creating aesthetic character, but they are also critical players in the local ecosystem. Consider that trees:

- provide food and habitat for urban wildlife
- absorb and evapotranspire rainwater
- sequester carbon and produce oxygen
- cool the air
- stabilize and aerate soil

Not all trees are created equal. Native trees provide more environmental benefits than introduced species, and older trees perform exceedingly higher than young trees. Many of the trees existing on site are over fifty years old, and it is important to preserve as many of them as possible.

Shade Trees

Shade trees are characterized based on their mature size and the shade they provide for pathways and gathering spaces. Most of the existing shade trees define corridors and act as borders for the holes on the golf course. Additionally, they block noise from Winbourne Avenue, as well as reduce the heat that comes from the road and traffic.



Live Oaks

The live oak, *Quercus virginiana*, is an intrinsic part of Louisiana's identity and culture. This species has its own typology since it is most commonly found as a specimen in Howell Community Park. The live oak also has not reached full maturity at the site, and will continue to branch out to provide shade and intimate spaces for the community.



Conifer Clusters

Conifers are characterized by their fruiting bodies, foliage, and tree structure, yet they also provide shade. Additionally, most of the conifers in the park help to define spatial features throughout the winter months, maintaining foliage when the shade trees lose their leaves. The conifers are mostly clustered into groves along the corridors as well as the citrus farm.





Shade trees include:

- Quercus nigra
- Platanus occidentalis
- Celtis laevigata
- Carya illionoinesis
- Acer rubrum
- Liquidambar styraciflua



Conifers include:

- Pinus echinata
- Pinus taeda
- Pinus glabra
- Taxodium distichum
- Juniperus virginiana

Existing Vegetation Diagram







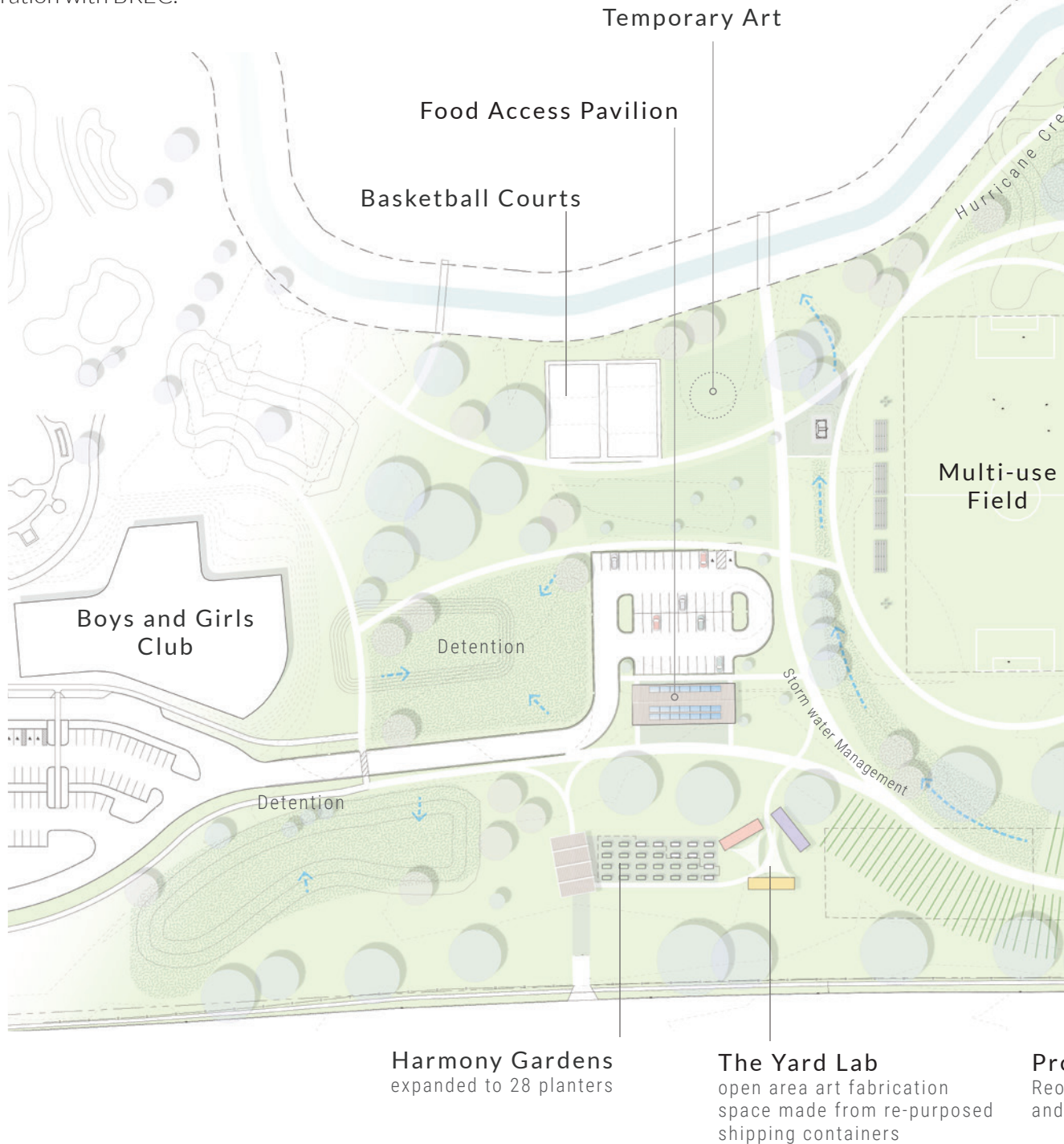
RECOMMENDATIONS



MASTER PLAN

site design

This plan presents one potential design solution. It is provided for illustrative proposes only, to give organization to more specific ideas on the following pages. Ultimate plan design should be created in collaboration with BREC.





**Naturalized Detention area
and Wildlife Habitat**
Mitigate flooding and
create micro habitat

Production Fields

Temporary Art

Existing Citrus Grove

Arts Pavilion
Ideal location for pavilion on site.

Temporary Art
Opportunity for temporary art display.

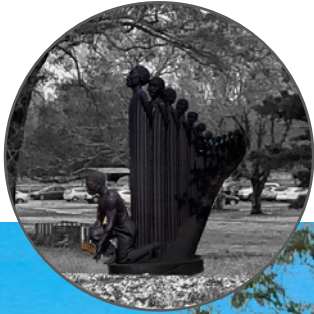
Production Fields
Organized to follow path
to optimize drainage

**Pollinator and Urban Habitat
Gardens**
Integrated path network and planting
approach

View from Pollinator Gardens facing west. Illustrating path connection with the Yard Lab and production plots with temporary art installations by Faheem Majeed.



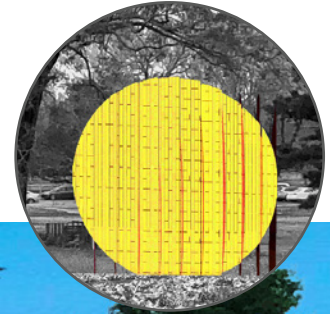
'The Harp'
Augusta Savage



'Wind Sculpture (SG) I'
Yinka Shonibare



'Mirage'
Christina Vega/Pablo Fontangordo



Production Plots

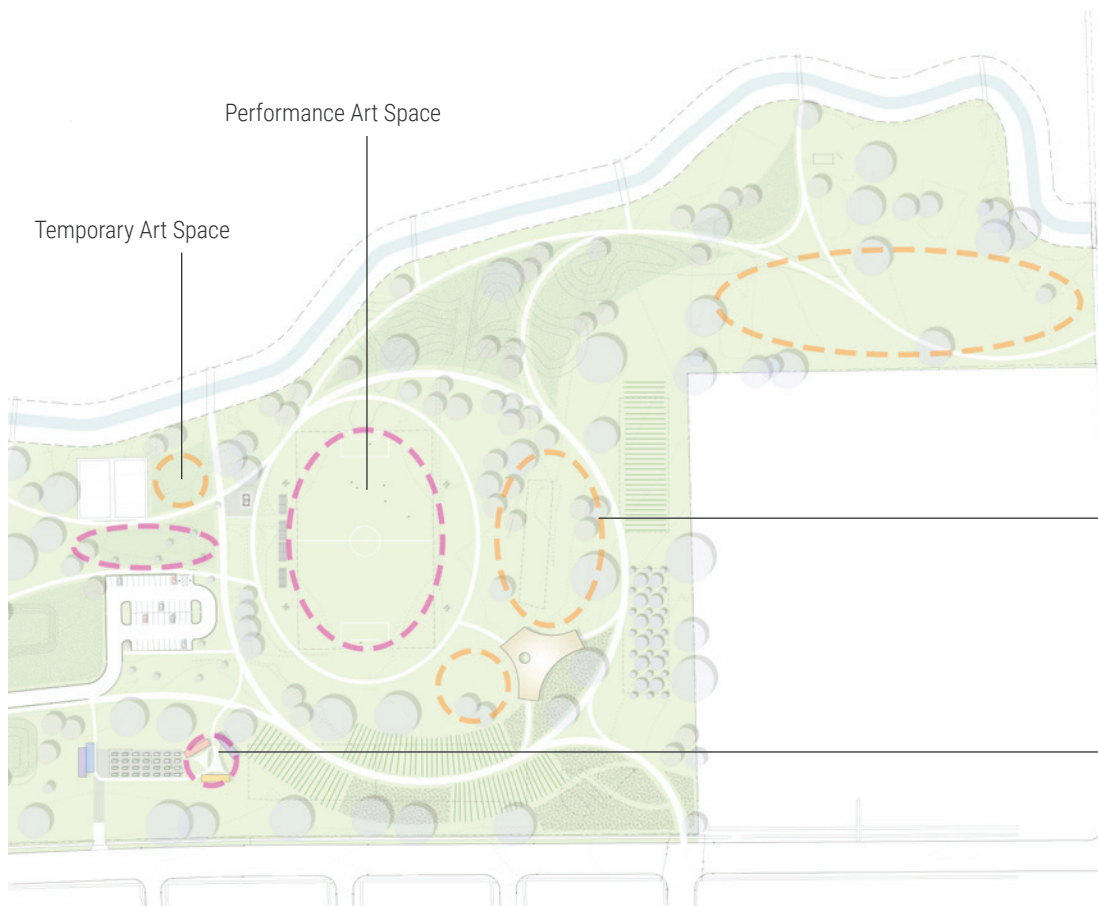
Help educate public about
heathy eating and sourcing
produce



ART SPACES

temporary and performance spaces introduction

Agriculture is an inherently temporal program. Outdoor public art, however, often has a greater connotations of permanence or monumentality. This shouldn't be the case at Baton Roots. In a culture deeply steeped with festivals, dancing, and other events, an art park should be a place for temporary and performance art rather than the monumentality of more traditional visual arts. Baton Roots is a stage for happenings, not a pedestal for objects.



Site Alternatives

Temporary Installation Precedent



The Floating Museum is an art collective that travels from space to space to install temporary projects throughout the city of Chicago. Howell Park has the ability to become an installation site for local artists or for an artists-in-residence to utilize a space for community outreach through art.

Cultural Transit Assembly - 2018-2019
Designed by: Faheem Majeed
Location: Green Line, Chicago

Performance Art Precedent



Shacks and Shanties is a project by artist Faheem Majeed, which utilizes found materials on site to create spaces for expression and gatherings. Local community members and artistic groups can gather to watch performances, have meetings, or showcase various art forms.

Shacks and Shanties
Designed by: Faheem Majeed
Location: Southside, Chicago

Spaces for temporary art are not leftover bits after organizing the more permanent features of the landscape. They should be a thoughtfully planned network of locations that provide a variety of conditions for artists to engage and visitors to experience. Spaces for temporary art should be more than a blank canvas to receive an intervention, but should inspire creativity through adjacencies, occupation, and community.

Storm King Art Center



Storm King Art Center in Orange County, New York, complements its permanent display with special exhibitions and installations. Exhibitions include loans from artists, private collectors, galleries and museums, as well as works from the permanent collection.

The Crisis - 2019
Designed by: Rashid Johnson
Location: Orange County, New York

Serpentine Gallery



The Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, London, annually hosts an artist or design firm to design and build a temporary outdoor pavilion in a designated site. These pavilions address different problems set by the gallery, and respond to site constraints. The Serpentine Gallery installation is a very popular annual cultural event in London and considered one of the most prestigious annual architectural commissions.



Serpentine Pavilion - 2012
Designed by: Herzog and de Meuron + Ai Weiwei
Location: Hyde Park, London



Serpentine Pavilion - 2016
Designed by: BIG
Location: Hyde Park, London



PERFORMANCE SPACES

process and perspective

Louisiana culture might best be described through the events and celebrations that organize our calendar, from Mardi Gras parades and music festivals to crawfish boils and impromptu stepping competitions. Baton Roots should provide spaces for performance arts alongside locations for the more inert visual arts. Stages are an obvious start, but audience engagement is particularly crucial in Louisiana where second lines grow in time and space where bounce music is energized through call-and-response. These will be spaces where the community gathers to become a part of the performance, dancing along with the artists and finding its own voice through musicians.



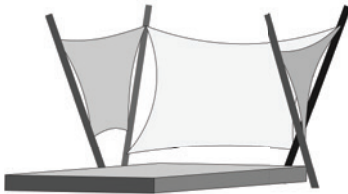
Step 1 of the Performance Art Process. This rendering shows the preliminary stage north of the proposed pavilion site in an open area.

Phased Implementation

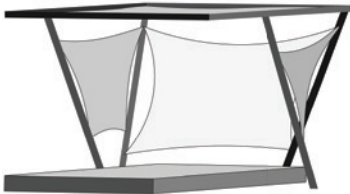
1. Stage



2. Background



3. Cover



Homewood Central Park - Birmingham, Alabama



Theatre in the Wild - Ping Che, Hong Kong



Soundforms (Inflatable Theatre) by Flanagan Lawrence

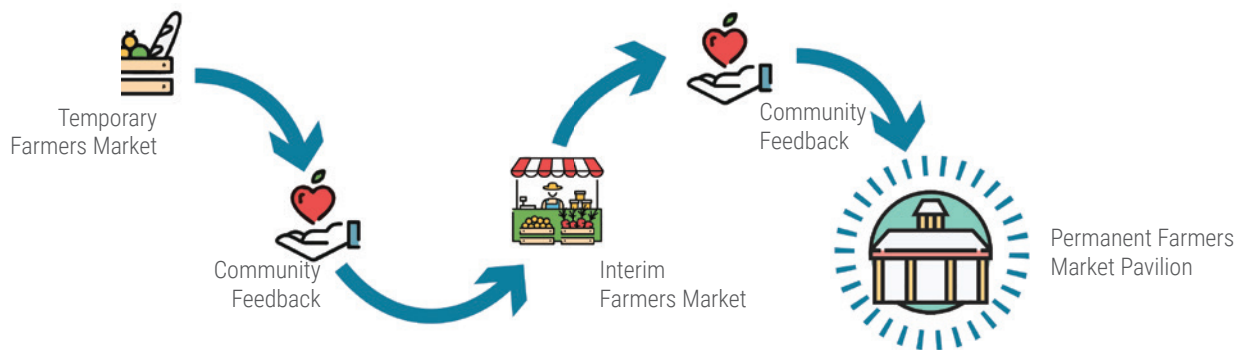


FARMERS MARKET

analysis and precedents

The “Living With” Approach

The “living with” approach is a phased approach to building a market pavilion that allows for Baton Roots and the community to try several alternatives before investing large amount of resources on a final structure. This allows for greater community involvement in the design through formal (survey) and informal (observational) feedback at each phase. Each installation can also be an educational opportunity to develop programming as well as evolving into another long term use on site.



Tactical Approaches Low-cost approach using recycled materials..

Shacks and Shanties



Designed by Faheem Majeed, temporary sculptures constructed from found materials intended to create sustainable relationships in neighborhoods.

Re-purposed Planter

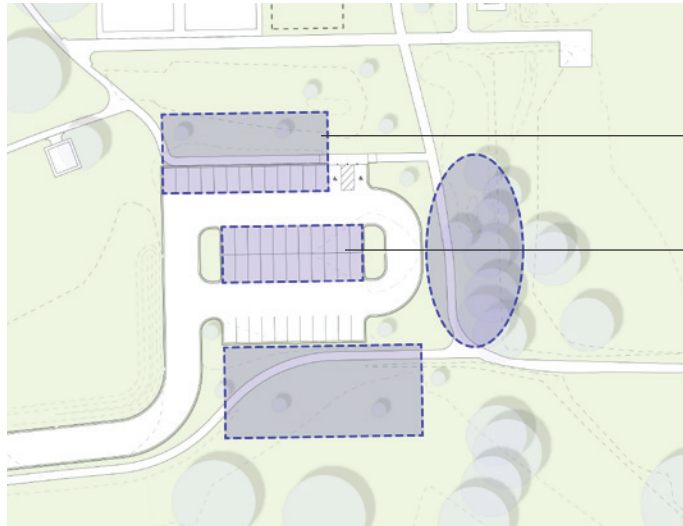


An easy and low-cost way to bring individual style and color into a space, as well as educate the public about up-cycling everyday objects.



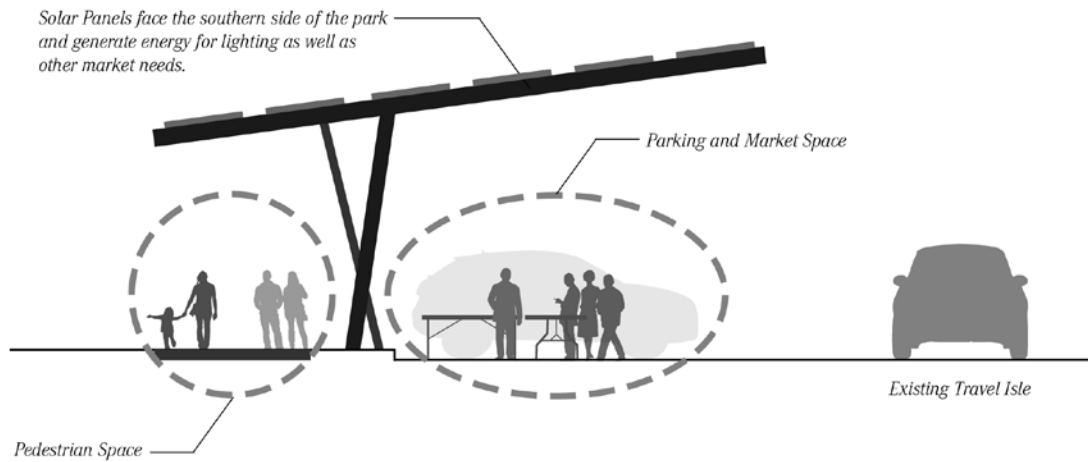
The proposed location of the market on site is in the small parking lot area near the Baton Roots community garden area, where nearby residents can learn how to grow and harvest their own fresh produce. The farmers market itself has opportunities to be sustainable, by incorporating solar energy, recyclable materials, green roofs, and water collection systems in efforts to reduce the urban heat island effect. These elements will aid in facilitating a culture that is more mindful of its members health and wellbeing.

The idea for an interim farmers market is to build a structure that can accommodate a weekend market, but also function as a long-term asset for BREC. Parking lot shade structures covered with photo-voltaic panels are an ideal amenity for park visitors and could showcase electric-vehicle charging stations.

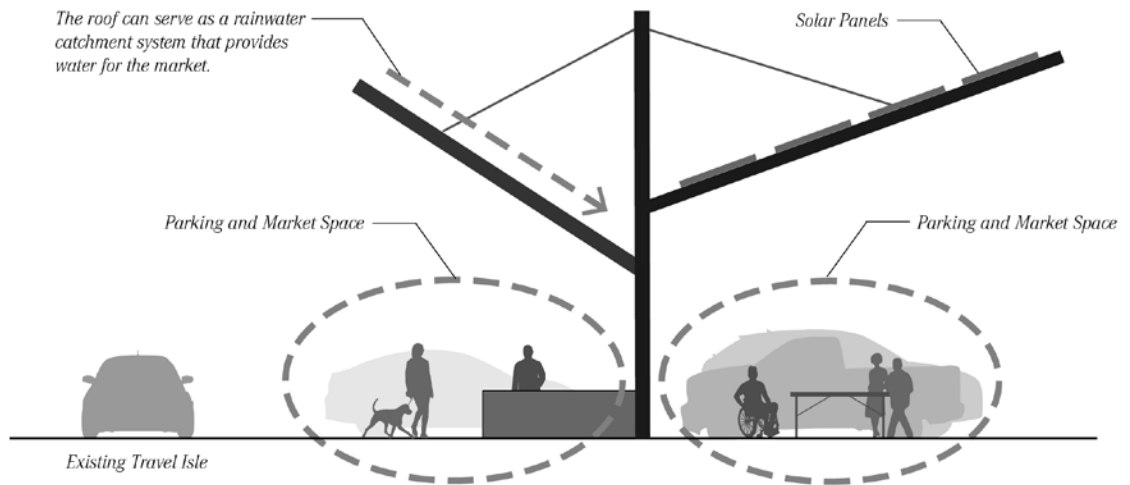


Building a structure over a parking area can not only cool off vehicles during the summer, but also serve as a farmers market space. This parking lot in Overland Park, Kansas, converts parking into a farmers market every Wednesday. Sellers can pull up on the side and pedestrians can walk through the center aisle.

Parking Lot Edge Concept



Parking Lot Center Concept

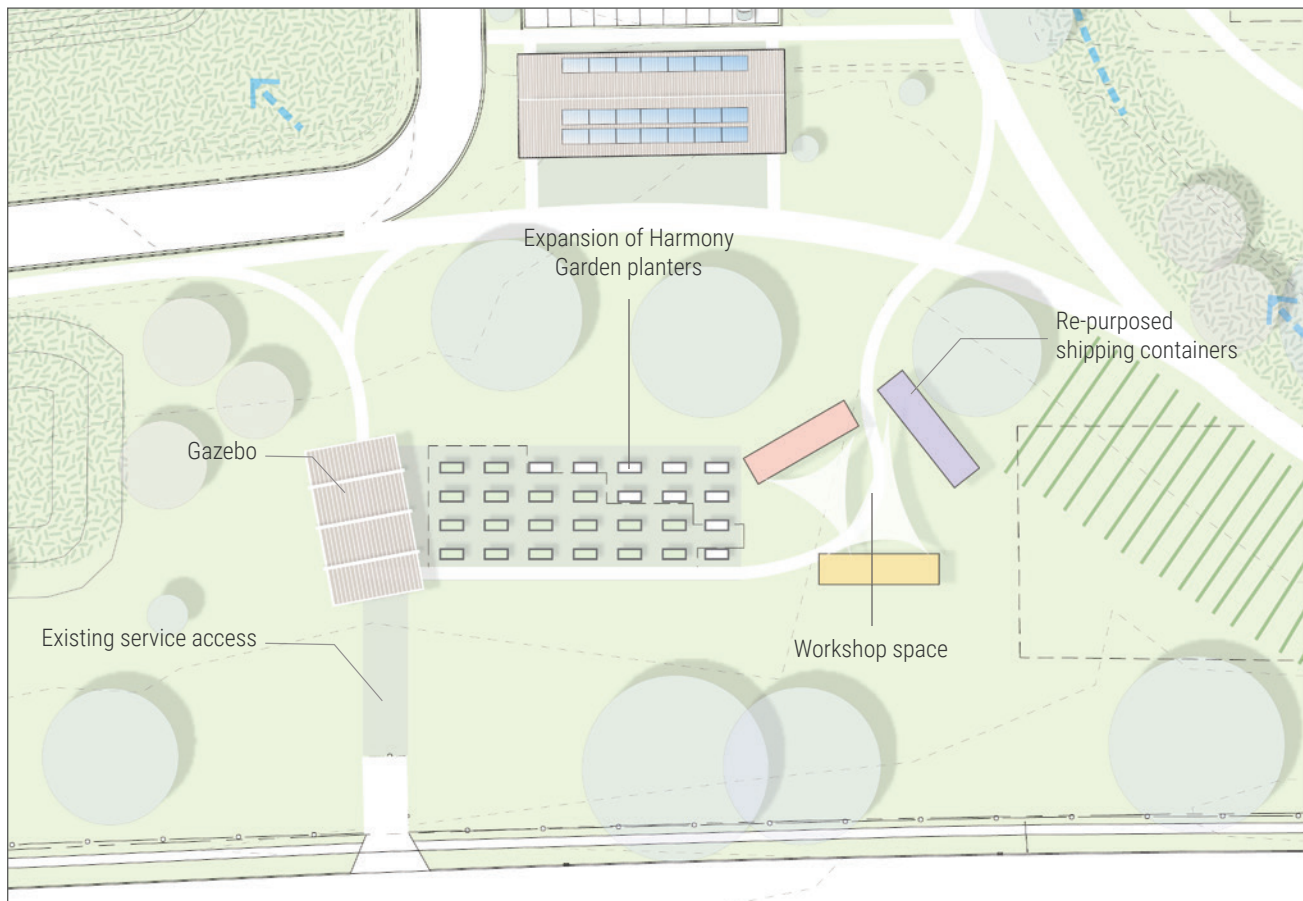




THE YARD LAB

precedents and location

The Yard Lab is a maker-space for projects that cross the boundaries between art, agriculture, and handcraft. Located between harmony gardens and the growing fields, the Yard Lab space is defined by several enclosed structures (perhaps modified shipping containers) for tool and equipment storage and shaded by a floating roof. This configuration allows for a phased approach, starting with one or two structures that can be modified as resources allow and eventually growing into a village of workshops. The space can at first be shaded by a textile canopy designed by an artist, but eventually replaced by a butterfly roof with photovoltaic cells to capture rainwater and harvest solar energy.



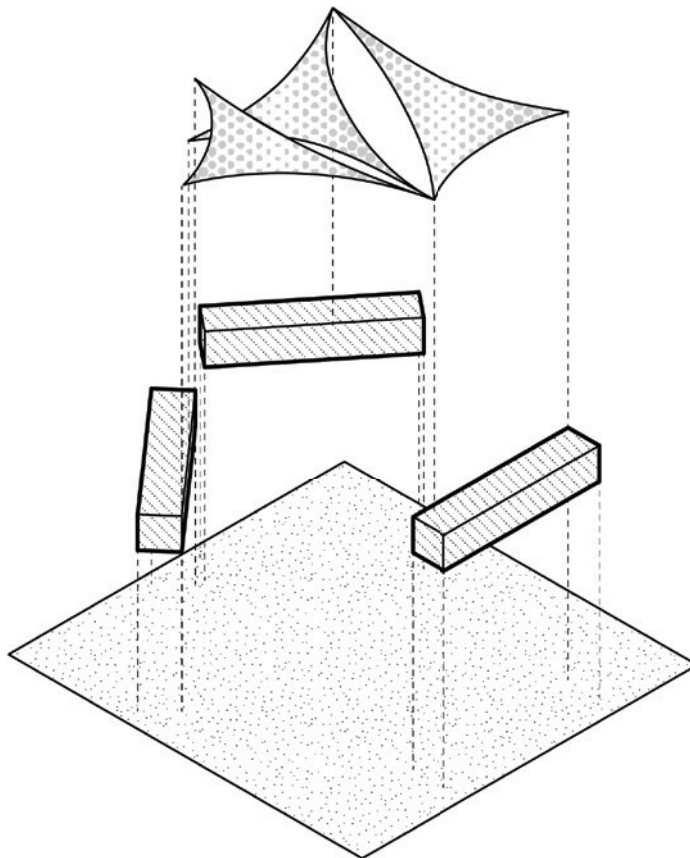
Precedents:



Alisios Shopping Mall by IASO



Hunting Cabin by Yamamar Design



Ceiling:

Sailcloths create a unique canopy above while casting shade and reducing temperature for people beneath.

Walls:

Re-purposing shipping containers to serve as flexible workshop sheds which help to define space.

Ground:

First step. Designating open space for the creation of community or artist led projects.

View into potential yard organization. Demonstrating flexibility of space.



Re-purposed shipping containers organized for indoor-outdoor workspace and storage for projects

Woodworking



Welding



Ceramics





ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

howell park

Baton Roots should host two annual residencies, one artist-in-residence and one farmer-in-residence. These residents will be charged with running each respective program at Baton Roots, supported by permanent staff. This arrangement would allow the senior program manager to focus on program growth and development while also bringing fresh ideas to Baton Roots.

The residencies will be mutually beneficial. They should be occupied by emerging professionals with enough experience to share their knowledge with participants, but early enough in their career to benefit from the experience working with the community.

The artist-in-residence will set up their studio in the Yard Lab. They are tasked with developing a year-long art program for the community as well as furthering their own work. The community art program should be intergenerational and dynamic. They will also be responsible for at least one temporary installation at Baton Roots, and giving one public lecture during the year.

The farmer-in-residence will lead all agricultural programming that happens at the Howell Park location. They will ideally develop a theme for the year that complements and expands the regular production schedule and brings new experiences to the community. Examples might include a focus on historical indigenous crops, integrated pest system management solutions, or expanded trials of traditional crops.







PAVILION

KEY CONCEPTS

Comprehensive Architecture Studio - LSU School of Architecture



PAVILION



ART



ACCESS



STORMWATER



FARMING



OUTREACH

Engaging the Material

For the Spring 2021 semester, the School of Architecture's Comprehensive studios focused on a single architectural design project, a facilities building for BatonRoots Community Art Farm.

To facilitate the engagement of over 30 student projects, an Architecture Studio companion book functions as a catalog of six Key Concepts. Each Key Concept begins with a "Family-Tree" which identifies areas of discussion. Within each family, several students' projects have been selected to introduce the

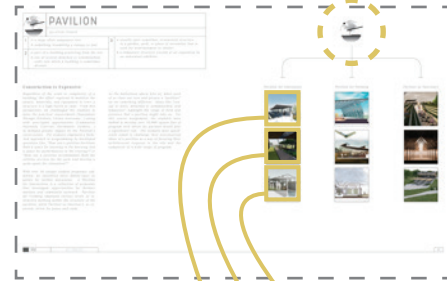
wide breadth of ideas regarding the Family topic. From there, the reader is prompted to discover each students' work in greater depth within in the third chapter. The graphic layout of the Key Concepts (diagrammed on the opposite page) demonstrates the logic and ability to cull out specific interests from the schematic to resolved details. In this document, we present the questions proposed by the architecture students when consider the design of the Pavilion.

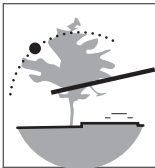


Family Tree

Selected Work

Full-Presentation
in Studio Companion





PAVILION

pa·vil·ion [noun]

1	<i>a: a large often sumptuous tent b: something resembling a canopy or tent</i>	3	<i>a: usually open sometimes ornamental structure in a garden, park, or place of recreation that is used for entertainment or shelter b: a temporary structure erected at an exposition by an individual exhibitor</i>
2	<i>a: part of a building projecting from the rest b: one of several detached or semidetached units into which a building is sometimes divided</i>		

Construction is Expensive

Regardless of the scale or complexity of a building, the effort required to mobilize the people, materials, and equipment to erect a structure is a high hurdle to clear. From this perspective, we challenged the students to mine the practical requirements (Equipment Storage, Kitchens, Unisex restrooms...) along with unscripted opportunities (Community Outreach, Exercise, Storm water Gardens...) to demand greater impact by the Pavilion’s construction. The students employed a Both/And approach to programming by developed questions like, “How can a pavilion facilitate Both a space for learning in the morning And a space for performances in the evening?” or “How can a pavilion accommodate Both the utilities services for the park And develop a quite space for relaxation?”.

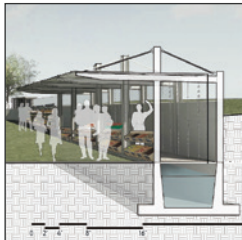
Reflecting on the broad range of proposals, we identified three family-types as points for further discussion. A Pavilion for Interactions is a collection of pro-

posals that investigate opportunities for farmers markets and community outreach. Pavilion for Framing employed various levels of interactive farming within the structure of the pavilion, while Pavilion as Sanctuary, as expected, strove for peace and calm.

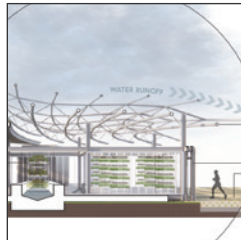
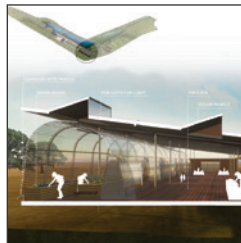
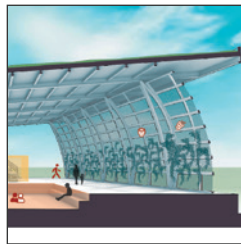
As the definitions above hint at, when each of us close our eyes and picture a “pavilion” we see something different. Ideas like “canopy or tents, detached or semi-detached, and temporary” highlight the range of form and presence that a pavilion might take on. For this course assignment, the students were tasked to develop over 10,000 square feet of program with which the pavilion would play a significant role. The students were specifically asked to challenge their preconceived ideas of a pavilion as a way of focusing their architectural response to the site and the complexity of a wide range of program.



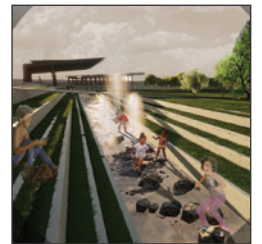
Pavilion for Interactions

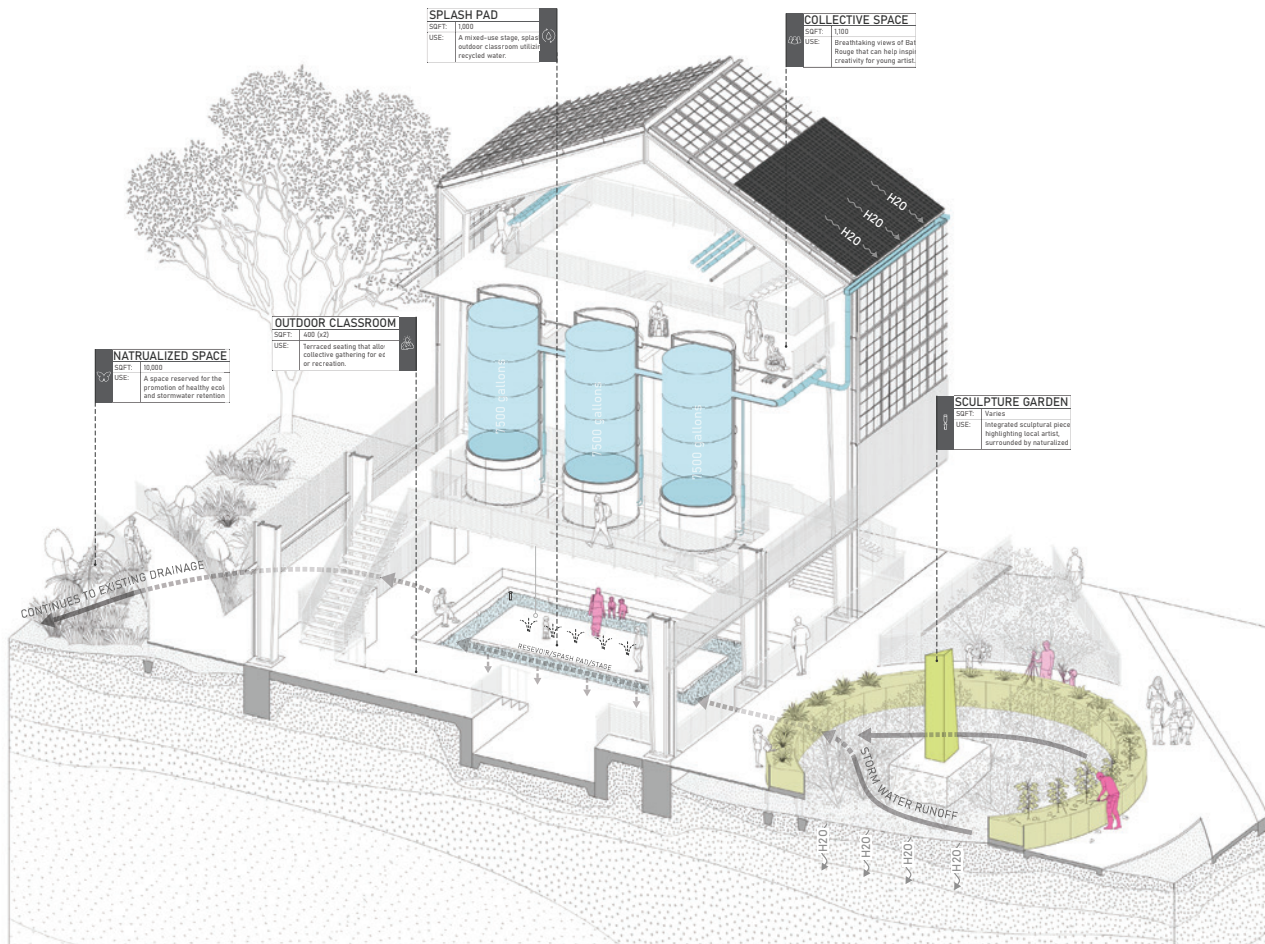


Pavilion for Farming



Pavilion as Sanctuary



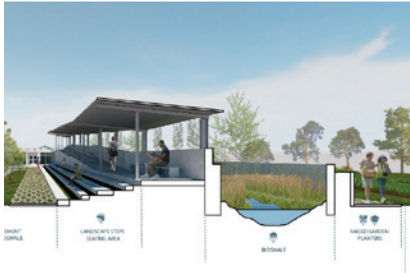
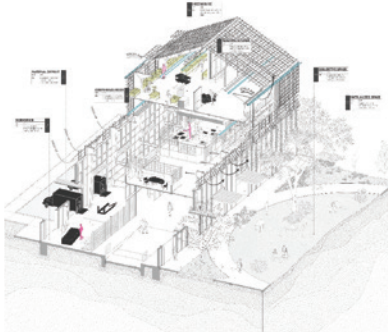

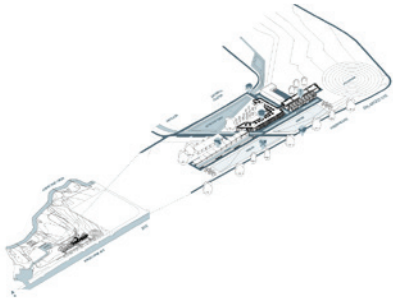
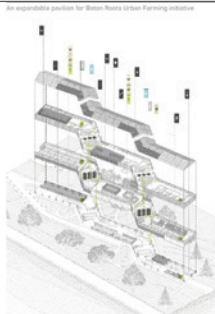
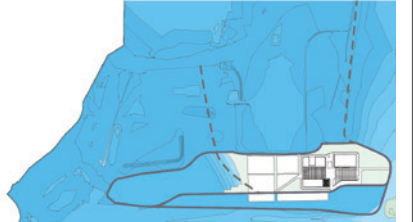


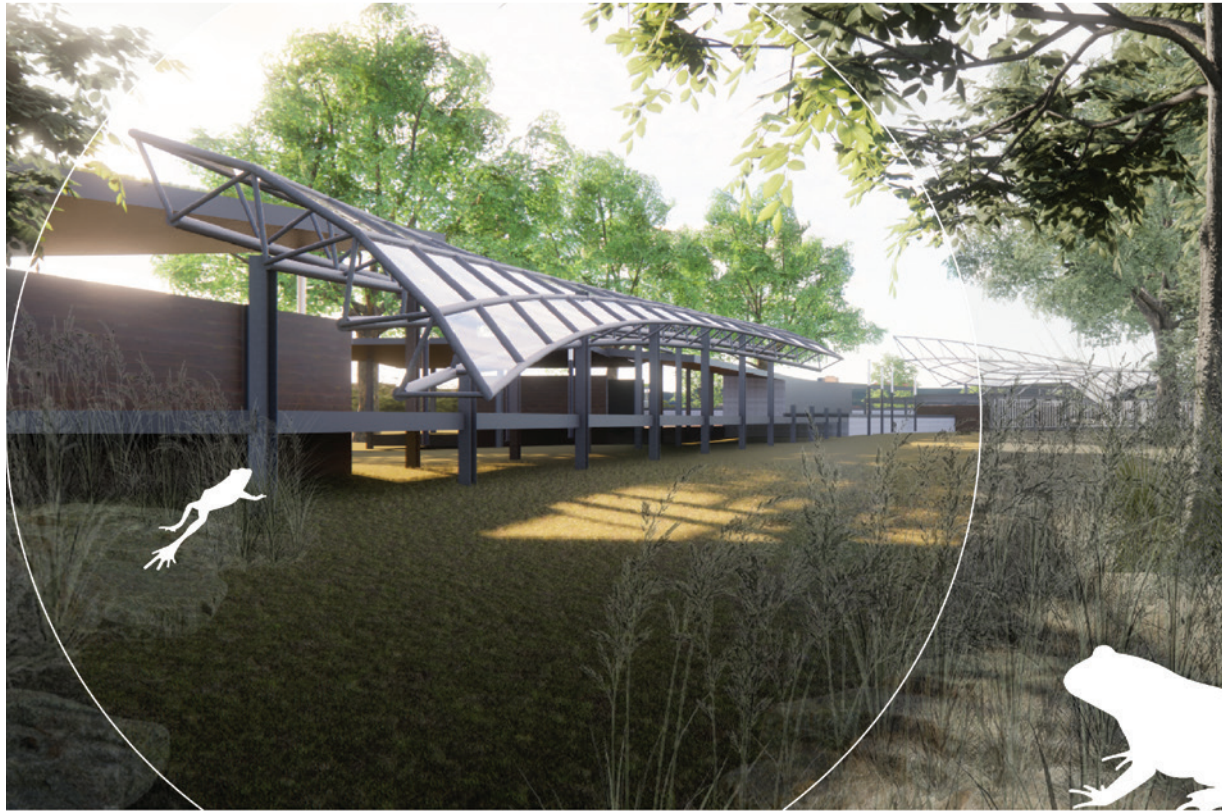
Axonometric Diagram by Dylan Roth

These three projects focus their pavilions on the interactions of people who don't know one another. Unique experiences between a consumer and vendor (whether an Art or Farmers Market) or a community member and outreach volunteer (Baton-Roots, FrontYard Bikes, and others) are developed through the design of covered stalls, the topography, and open space.

Ferguson Cochran positioned storage boxes and terraced seating along a circulation path to incite interactions. Dylan Roth paired city-scale recycling, indoor farming, and small community spaces into a large multi-functioning warehouse. While, Patrick Ikner set two linear stalls facing each other to activate an open space between them.



Howell Community Park	waste[USE]-full	Adapting for the Community
		
Student		
Ferguson Cochran	Dylan Roth	Patrick Ikner
Full Project in Chapter 3		
catalog. 026 - 027	catalog. 012 - 013	catalog. 044 - 045
Context		
		
Project Goals		
<p><i>"The first section of the site is the social pavilion for community members to gather with the options to have food trucks, outdoor tables, an outdoor classroom area, a farmer's market, or food storage lockers."</i></p>	<p><i>"Waste[use]-full is an exploration into the development of a fully autonomous urban food hub distribution center for Baton Roots' Urban Agriculture initiative. The form of the building is conceived as a single linear extrusion, a simple pavilion divided into three sections and tweaked slightly to produce exciting architectural moments and opportunities for encounter"</i></p>	<p><i>"Thinking of the future potential of this community center; community fridges are thought of as a solution for people who do not have the time or means the grow & develop crops on-site."</i></p>
<p><i>Linear Pavilion, Public Lockboxes, Raised Public Path</i></p>	<p><i>Linear Pavilion, Urban Food Hub, Storm water Harvesting</i></p>	<p><i>Structurally Integrate Art, Open Market Stalls,</i></p>



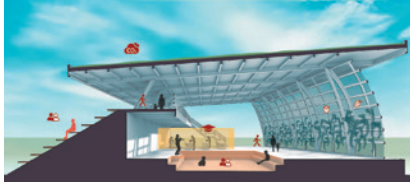

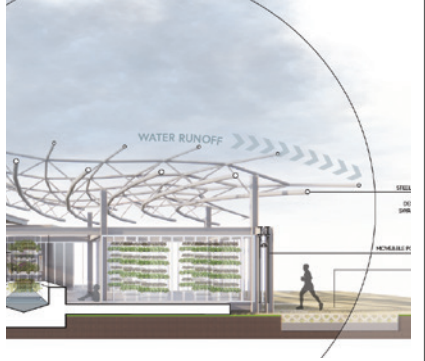
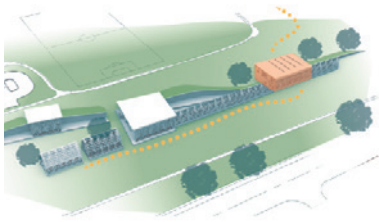
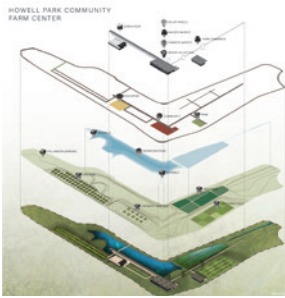
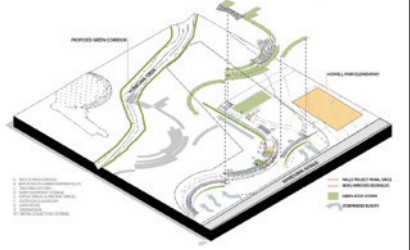
Section Perspective by Tuan Nguyen

As indoor farming has become more accessible, urban communities have increased opportunities to engage the produce they consume. At various scales, these projects examine the experience that indoor farming strategies can have on the experience of a space.

To filter the harsh sun, David B. Howell incorporated vertical farming into the south façade of his pavilion. Not only does the farming structure provide

shade but allow community members out for a walk through the park to freely pick fresh okra and other vine-vegetables. With a restrained palette of industrial components, Hailey Rodrigues developed a open air pavilion with only a metal shed-roof and a barrel greenhouse. To create interest, Tuan Nguyen took a more aggressive approach by developing a gallery of vertical farming under a dynamic greenhouse roof system.



The Pavilion	Howell Park Community Farm Center	Howell Bio Corridor
		
Student		
David B. Howell	Hailey Rodrigue	Tuan Nguyen
Full Project in Chapter 3		
catalog. 054 - 055	catalog. 028 - 029	catalog. 018 - 019
Context		
		
Project Goals		
<p><i>"Fruit vines growing on a wire mesh structure providing a secondary benefit creating a double skin wall reducing direct sunlight & reducing interior temperatures."</i></p> <p><i>"A Teaching Kitchen for lessons on how to prepare and cook fresh produce grown in the gardens."</i></p> <p><i>Storm water Management, Green Infrastructure, Community Outreach</i></p>	<p><i>"People of all ages can learn all about food: where it comes from, how to grow it in different ways, how to harvest it, how to cook it, and how to compost it to grow it again. The Community Hub is a centralized space on the site that houses a large pavilion to hold farmer's and maker's markets or community and school events."</i></p> <p><i>Storm water Management, Green Roof, Community Education + Outreach</i></p>	<p><i>"The project takes into consideration the ecological factors of the proposed Green Corridor that runs through the site as well as water runoff/retention, soil typology, existing trees/greenery to inform the overall form of the building to start to enclose the components that are attempting to solve to problems presented by the urban contextual elements."</i></p> <p><i>Bio Corridor, Connection to Local Schools, Iconic Steel Structure</i></p>



Rendering by Steven Mills

Focusing contemporary society's need for peace-of-mind, these project attempt to solve programmatic issues while curating a sense of calm within Howell Park.

Composed along an elegant storm water walkway, Morgan Bourgeois sets a dramatic roof form for community member to retreat from the sun and

rain. Steven Mills tucks an ephemeral roof structure deep into the site, pulling away from Windourne ave and facing the setting sun. By developing a berm from larger storm water site manipulation, Hanna Simpson creates powerful yet controlled roof forms over a seemingly natural amphitheater.



Baton Roots	Baton Roots Community Farm	Howell Park Growth Center
		
Student		
<i>Morgan Bourgeois</i>	<i>Steven Mills</i>	<i>Hannah Simpson</i>
Full Project in Chapter 3		
<i>catalog. 040 - 041</i>	<i>catalog. 062 - 063</i>	<i>catalog. 030 - 031</i>
Context		
		
Project Goals		
<p><i>"The swale acts as a place where kids can play and learn in a natural setting. The aim is to create an emphasis on observing, touching, playing with and learning about plants, animals, water, and land-forms."</i></p>	<p><i>"The structure, which is located next to an elementary school, is placed on the site to embrace the axis connected the school to the creek at the opposite side of the park. Students at the elementary school will have a separate, private entrance to the structure, allowing for secure access to the structure and site."</i></p>	<p><i>"Right now, the site has many areas that are constantly flooded, rendering it unusable for Baton Roots to grow on it. The addition of the detention pond and soil reduces flooding and raises the grade of the site creating more usable land to grow."</i></p>
<p><i>Public Reflection Space, Storm water Infrastructure, Open Farmers Market</i></p>	<p><i>Enclosed Public Space, Natural Materials, Water Access</i></p>	<p><i>Flexible Public Space, Storm water Management, Space-Frame Structure</i></p>





SITE DETAILS



SITE FURNISHINGS

artful approaches to site furnishings

Site furnishing are an opportunity to take normal budget items and engage artists to create unique features that become part of our everyday lives. With a little supplemental funding from arts organizations, the cost of artist-commissioned site furnishings does not need to be significantly higher than many options from leading manufacturers. Creating unique site furnishing might even be something the artist-in-resident does as part of their community programming at the Yard Lab, which could teach youth valuable fabrication skills and provide a valuable outlet for creative activity.

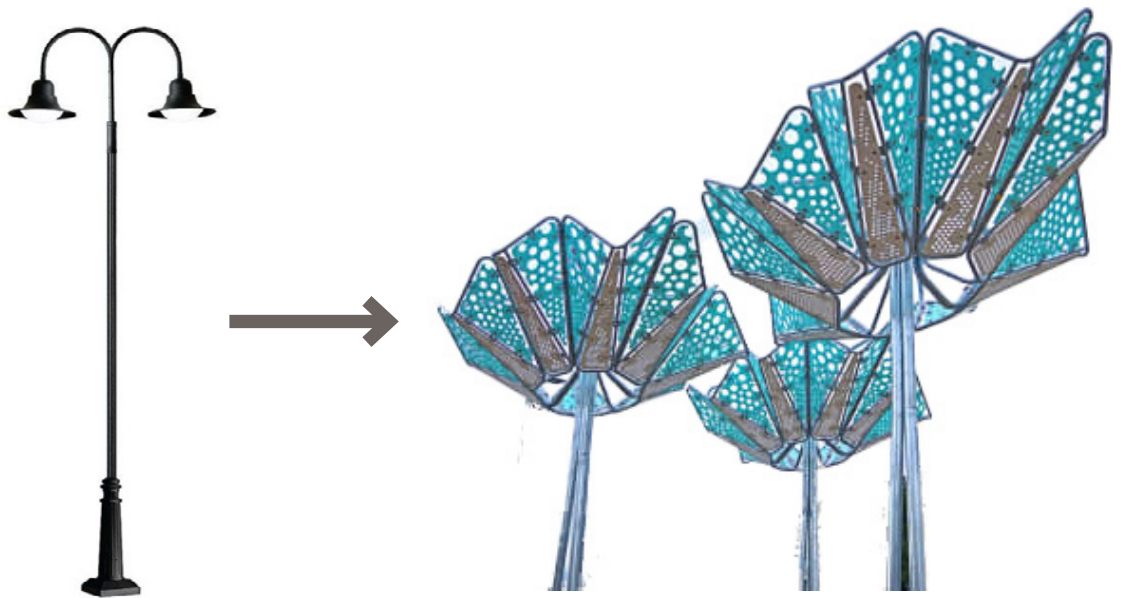


Benefits:

- Functional

Benefits:

- Supports the local economy
- Creates a sense of place within the park
- Helps artists showcase their talent
- Encourages creativity in the community



Light fixtures are great examples of allowing artists to create unique infrastructure that serves more than just a functional purpose. Light fixtures can be boring and useless during the day, but by creating sculptural forms, with the same amount of money, the light fixtures can create aesthetic value during the day time, and at night.



Benefits:

- Functional
- Structural



Benefits:

- Supports the local economy
- Allows an expression of culture



HARMONY GARDEN RAISED BEDS

alternative planters to consider

Raised planter beds have the potential to become an iconic feature central to Baton Roots' identity. Current ones are generally good looking, but similar to many generic plans available in the average do-it-yourself book or blog. Baton Roots should work with artists, BREC, and local manufacturers to design and develop a unique planter box that it can use at Howell Park and satellite locations in the future. Imagine a Baton Rouge peppered with iconic Baton Roots planter boxes...where residents are constantly reminded of the availability of fresh foods and of the important work Baton Roots does.



A successful planter should...



Reinforce Identity

Harmony Gardens is an opportunity to celebrate the culture of Baton Roots, Howell Park, and the surrounding community. While functional, the current planters lack the culture of the surrounding area. Using recycled concrete from the Hurricane Creek channel is a good example of showcasing the history within the park.



Create spaces

Organizing the layout of planters is an important detail that could benefit the overall design of the site. Creating spaces within Harmony Gardens helps make it a more comfortable, artful destination within the park. This relates to not only the physical spaces created, but the sensory spaces as well.



Be Accessible

Universal Accessibility is a key factor when considering planter designs. An accessible planter requires a maximum height of 3' with the top of the growing medium being no less than 2' from the rim of the planter. The base aggregate used is also an important consideration for wheelchair accessibility; porous concrete and certain deconstructed granites are good choices.



PLANTS IN THE PARK

plant communities and usable palettes



The people of Louisiana and across the American South have a long tradition of making out of materials harvested from the landscape. Baton Roots and BREC could incorporate native plants with known uses in handcrafts for use in future projects.

To the left is Janie Luster holding some palmetto leaves and a basket she made, which was featured in the *Woven Histories: Houma Basketry* exhibit at the New Orleans Museum of Art (2014), in the collection of Mercedes Whitecloud.

Programmatic Plantings

Plants can also be used for medicinal, cooking, and programmatic functions. Below is a list of plants that are growable to the area and can be used for those functions:



- *Lavandula* spp., lavender
- *Sabal minor*, dwarf palmetto
- *Myrica pennsylvanica*, bayberry
- *Laurus nobilis*, bay laurel
- *Arundinaria gigantea*, bamboo
- *Carya illinoensis*, pecan
- *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem
- *Illicium verum*, star anise
- *Aloe vera*, Aloe
- *Allium sativum*, garlic
- *Melissa officinalis*, lemon balm
- *Salix nigra*, black willow
- *Solidago altissima*, goldenrod
- *Ficus carica*, fig
- *Diospyros virginiana*, persimmon
- *Morus alba*, mulberry
- *Saccharum officinarum*, sugarcane
- *Prunus caroliniana*, cherry laurel
- *Callicarpa americana*, beauty-berry
- *Salvia rosmarinus*, rosemary
- *Betula nigra*, riverbirch
- *Viburnum dentatum*, arrowwood
- *Salvia officinalis*, sage
- *Citrus reticulata*, satsuma
- *Crataegus opaca*, mayhaw
- *Vaccinium corymbosum*, highbush blueberry
- *Abelmoschus esculentus*, okra
- *Luffa acutangula*, gourd
- *Sechium edule*, mirliton
- *Ipomoea batatas*, sweet potato



Gourds can be harvested for food, and the outer shells can be used for a variety of products and art pieces. Gourds are commonly used for bird houses, with many people making a collection of houses for birds such as the purple martin, swallows, woodpeckers, and bluebirds. Another common item is pottery, which can be sold at the local farmers market.



Willow trees such as the black willow are native to Louisiana and thrive in wet soils. These willows also provide beautiful branching patterns that can be used to create sculptures and small shelters, as well as getting youth involved in learning about plants and art.



The palmetto hut is an indigenous structure common to the gulf south, most prominently in Louisiana and parts of Florida. Traditionally a rounded or 4-sided structure with walls to the ground, this is an example of a modified construction that could use useful at Baton Roots.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

harnessing wind and solar energy

Vertical Wind Turbines

Vertical turbines are more sculptural compared to their conventional windmill counterparts. This design is also safer for birds and bats, cheaper and easier to maintain, and takes up less space. Vertical turbines can also be placed closer to one another, creating positive feedback and helping to propel each other during low winds.

Vertical-Axis Wind Turbine - 2016
Location: Hartnell College, Salinas, California



Wind Trees

This design is an aesthetically pleasing approach to producing green energy. It uses micro wind turbines to capture wind velocity of a wide range of speeds, with different sizes based on energy needs. There is also the option of adding solar panel petals to maximize harnessing efficiency.

Wind Tree - 2013
Designed by: New World Wind
Location: Paris, France





Sologic's eTree design harnesses solar energy providing WiFi and electricity for anyone sitting on the bench beneath its shade. Depending on the configuration of the eTree, a drinking fountain and a water trough for pets can also be incorporated into design instead of a bench, making this design a standard that can be used throughout the park.

Solar eTree - 2014
Designed by: Sologic
Location: Zikhron Ya'akov, Israel



Beautiful light sculptures can also serve an important ecological purpose: emitting UV lights help farm-pollinating bugs (like butterflies, moths, etc.) reproduce more frequently.

Love Bug Motels - 2001 - Ongoing
Designed by: Brandon Ballengee
Location: Central America



In addition to UV lights, artistic hive boxes can help pollinator populations along with planting varieties of local flowers, attracting the best winged-farmers.

Pollinator Skyrise - 2017
Designed by: Christine Baeumler, Amanda Lovelee, and Julie Benda
Location: Saint Paul, Minnesota

On behalf of the Walls Project, LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio , LSU College of Art + Design faculty, and artist-in-residence Faheem Majeed we would like to thank everyone who has generously supported the Baton Roots master planning process over the past nine months. We greatly appreciate your time and insight. Many thanks to each of you, and special thanks to the National Endowment of the Arts, BREC, Mayor-President Broome, HealthyBR, Build Baton Rouge, and all the community partners who have contributed to this planning process.

Come Join us at Baton Roots!

