CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN

OCTOBER 2017

Prepared for

GEORGETOWN HERITAGE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GEORGETOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Prepared by

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
GEORGETOWN CANAL PLAN
AGENDA

5:15 Check-In begins

6:00 Welcome - Georgetown Heritage

6:05 Introduction - National Park Service

6:15 Canal Plan Presentation - James Corner Field Operations

6:45 Open House Instructions

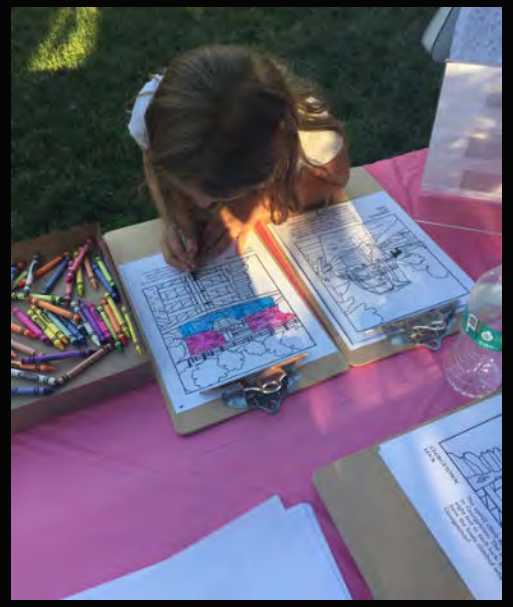
6:50 Open House Canal Plan Stations

7:55 Closing Remarks

8:00 Meeting Adjourns. Additional conversation

8:15 Departure

Georgetown Heritage
A Community Organization



✓ **Our Goals**

Interpretation + Education + Preservation + Revitalization

Georgetown Canal Plan
A Partnership to Create a Concept Design

Restore, revitalize, and reimagine the one-mile section of the C&O Canal in Georgetown

- Working Together:
  - National Park Service
  - Georgetown Heritage
  - Georgetown Business Improvement District
  - DC Office of Planning

Vision for the Georgetown Canal Plan

Design a sustainable, maintainable, ecologically sensitive, safe and accessible urban place that serves a diverse group of users.

Celebrate and respect the park's historic character and sense of place.

Provide active and passive recreational opportunities, essential services, events and programs.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Established on January 8, 1971 to *"preserve and interpret the historic and scenic features of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and to develop the potential of the canal for public recreation..."*

Nationally Significant: 19th Century American Transportation and Engineering

- 74 canal locks
- 11 aqueducts
- 240+ culverts
- 3,118 ft Paw Paw Tunnel
- 1 Incline Plane

1828 Construction Began

1850 Construction Completed in Cumberland

1924 Navigation Ends

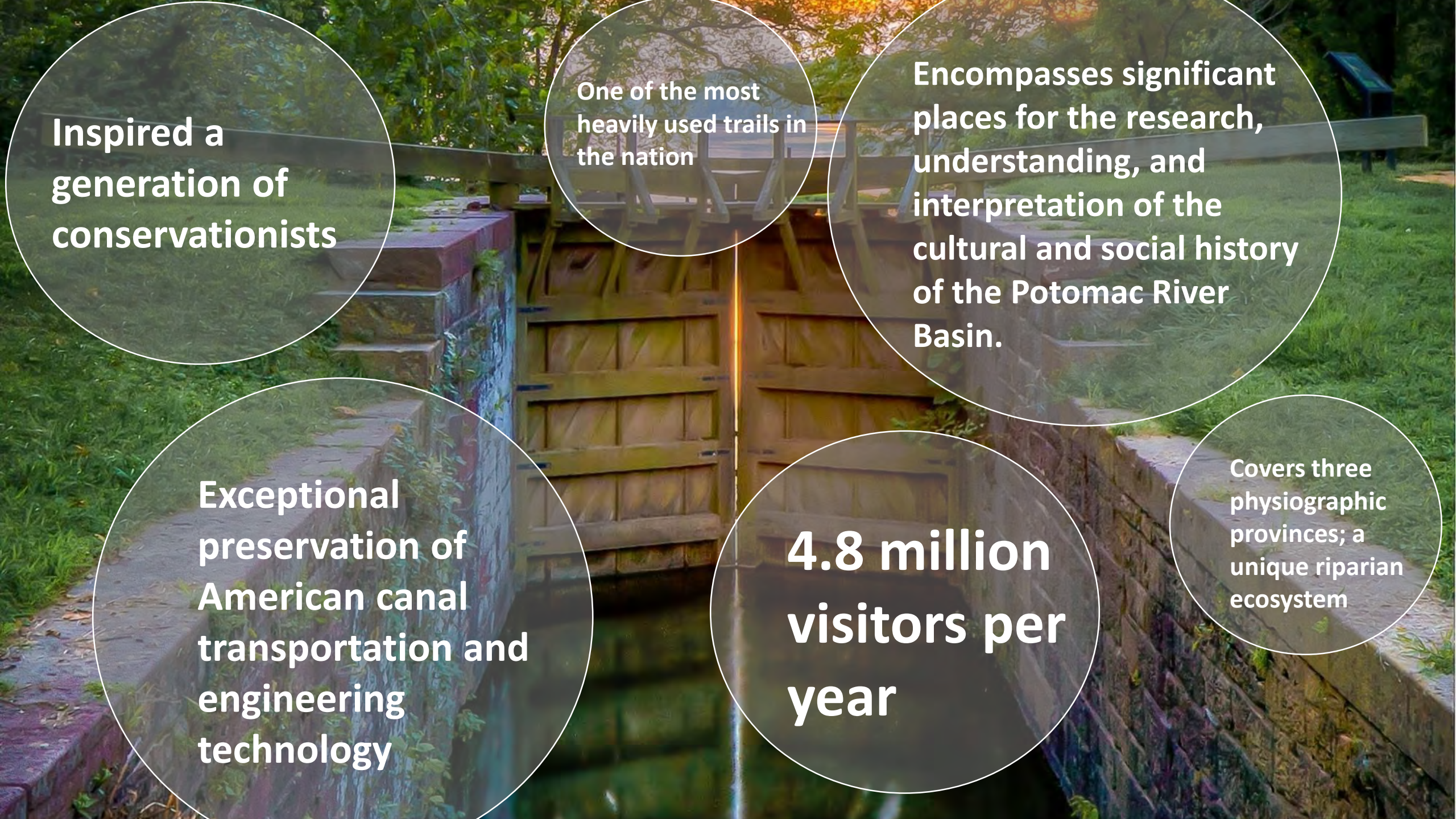
1938 U.S. Government Acquires

1961 National Monument

1971 National Historical Park

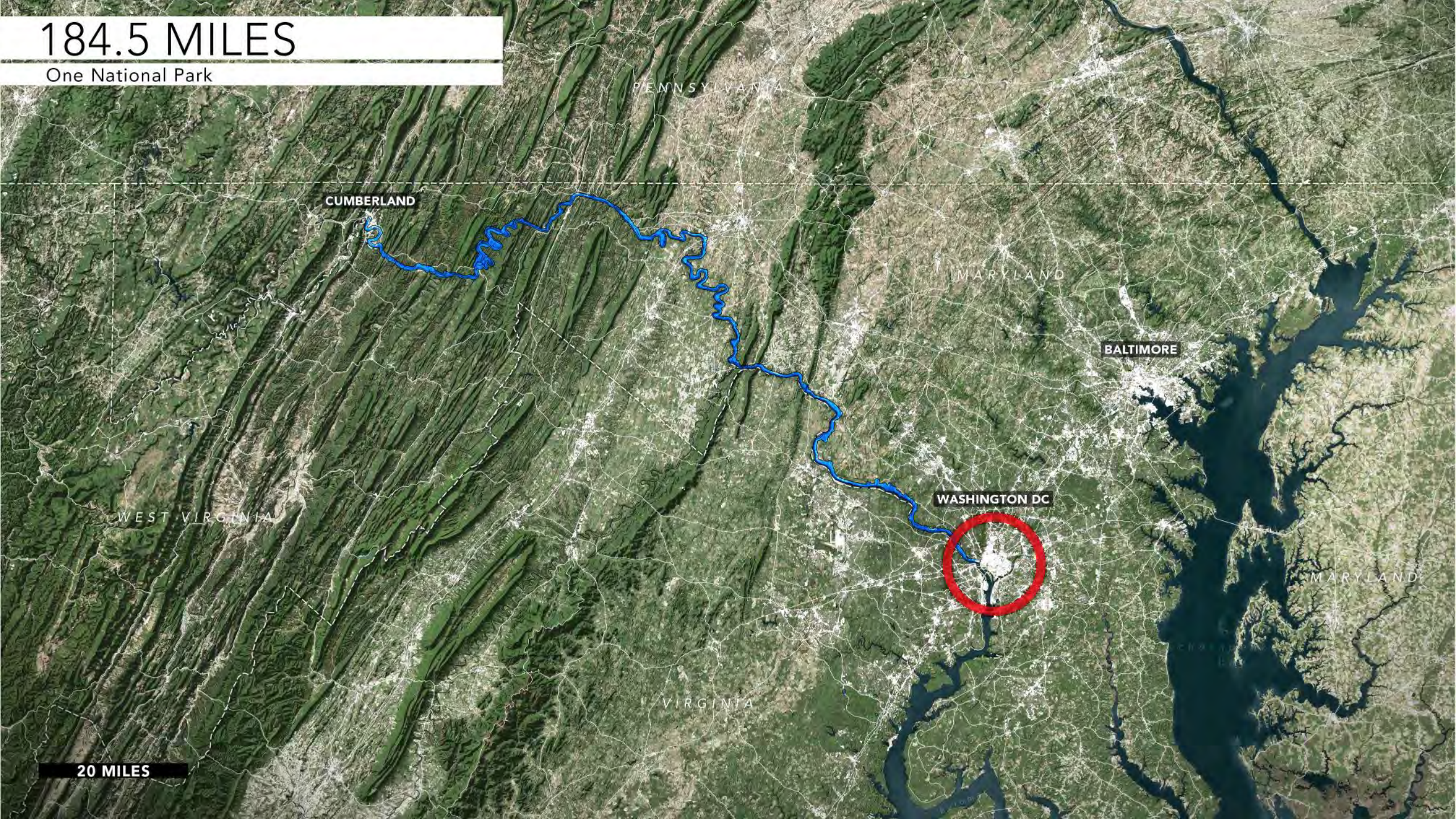
Many Layers of Significance

Commerce
Military
Ethnic Heritage
Architecture
Conservation & Recreation
Agriculture
Industry & Commerce
Transportation
Community Development
Recreation
Archaeological Importance


Inspired a generation of conservationists
One of the most heavily used trails in the nation
Encompasses significant places for the research, understanding, and interpretation of the cultural and social history of the Potomac River Basin.
Exceptional preservation of American canal transportation and engineering technology
4.8 million visitors per year
Covers three physiographic provinces; a unique riparian ecosystem

184.5 MILES

One National Park



The C&O Canal: A Continuous Corridor

The Mules Tread Here

Environmental & Historic Preservation Laws and Procedures

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

NEPA

NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the impacts of their proposed activities, programs, and projects on the environment.

NPS, in cooperation with Georgetown Heritage, Georgetown BID and the D.C. Government, have initiated work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be integrated with the Section 106 process.

Alternatives will be presented during the NEPA process and will be updated to reflect stakeholder and agency feedback.

Public input on the Alternatives is an important part of the NEPA process. The Project Team is seeking your feedback on the concept alternatives presented tonight. The Alternatives will be revised based on your suggestions and will be analyzed in the EA.

SECTION 106 OF THE NHPA

Section 106 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions ("undertakings") on historic properties.

Requires consultation to seek, discuss, and consider the views of "consulting parties" who are invited to participate in the process.

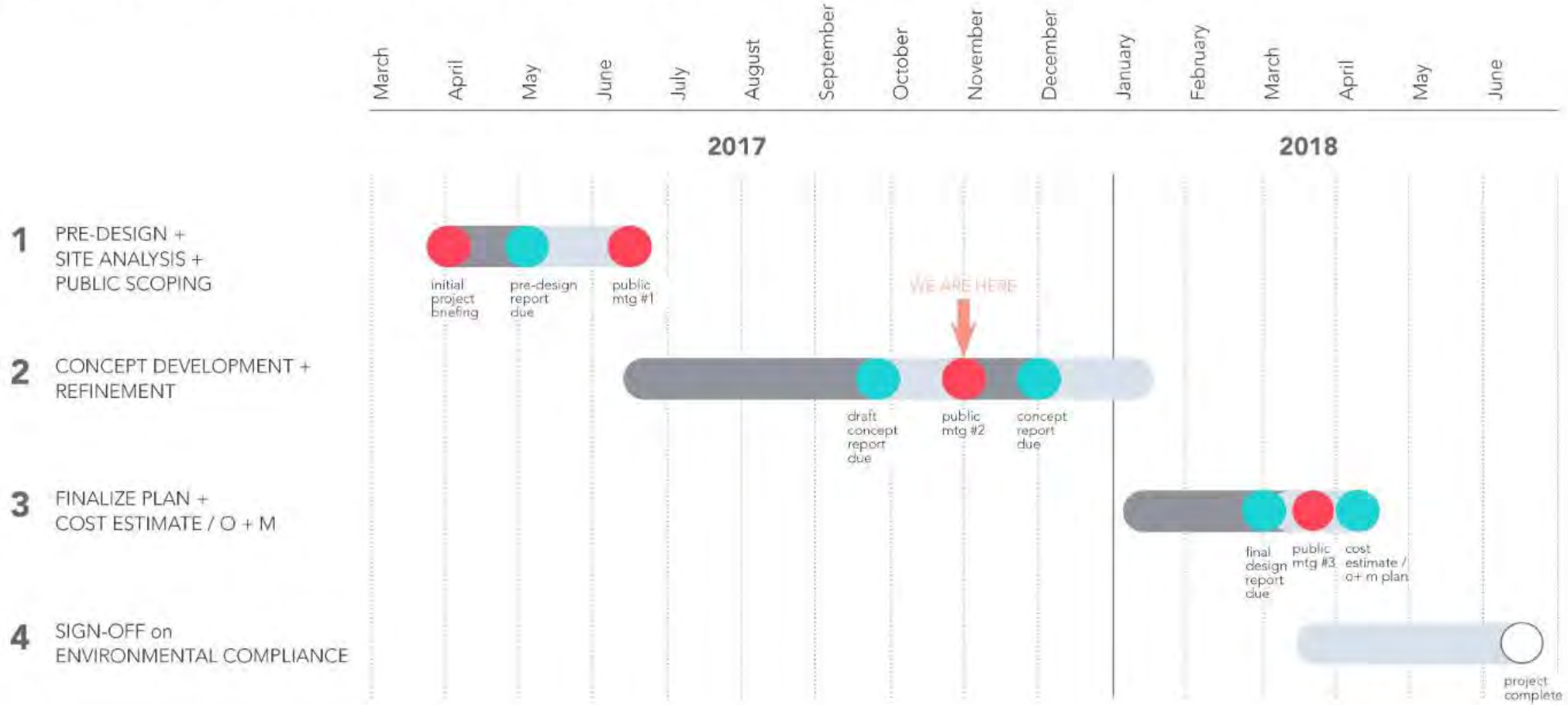
Consulting parties participate through a series of meetings to:

- IDENTIFY historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects;
- ASSESS adverse effects on historic properties; and
- RESOLVE those adverse effects through avoidance, minimization, and mitigation strategies.

NEPA & SECTION 106 PROCESS

STEP 1 - SCOPING	Initiate Section 106 Process Gather Information on Existing Conditions & Historic Properties Identify Issues to Evaluate in Planning Process
STEP 2 - DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES	Develop Viable Project Alternatives that Meet Purpose and Need Identify and Assess Impacts on Significant Cultural Resources Determine Environmental Impacts
STEP 3 - CONSULTATION	Evaluate Adverse Effects Develop Resolution Strategies for Adverse Effects
STEP 4 - PREPARE EA	EA will Evaluate Environmental and Cultural Impacts and Outline Mitigation Strategies Release EA to Public for a 30-Day Comment Period
STEP 5 - CONCLUSION	Review and Respond to Public Comments Prepare NEPA Decison Document (FONSI or NOI) Conclude Section 106 Process (MOA or PA)

16-MONTH CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

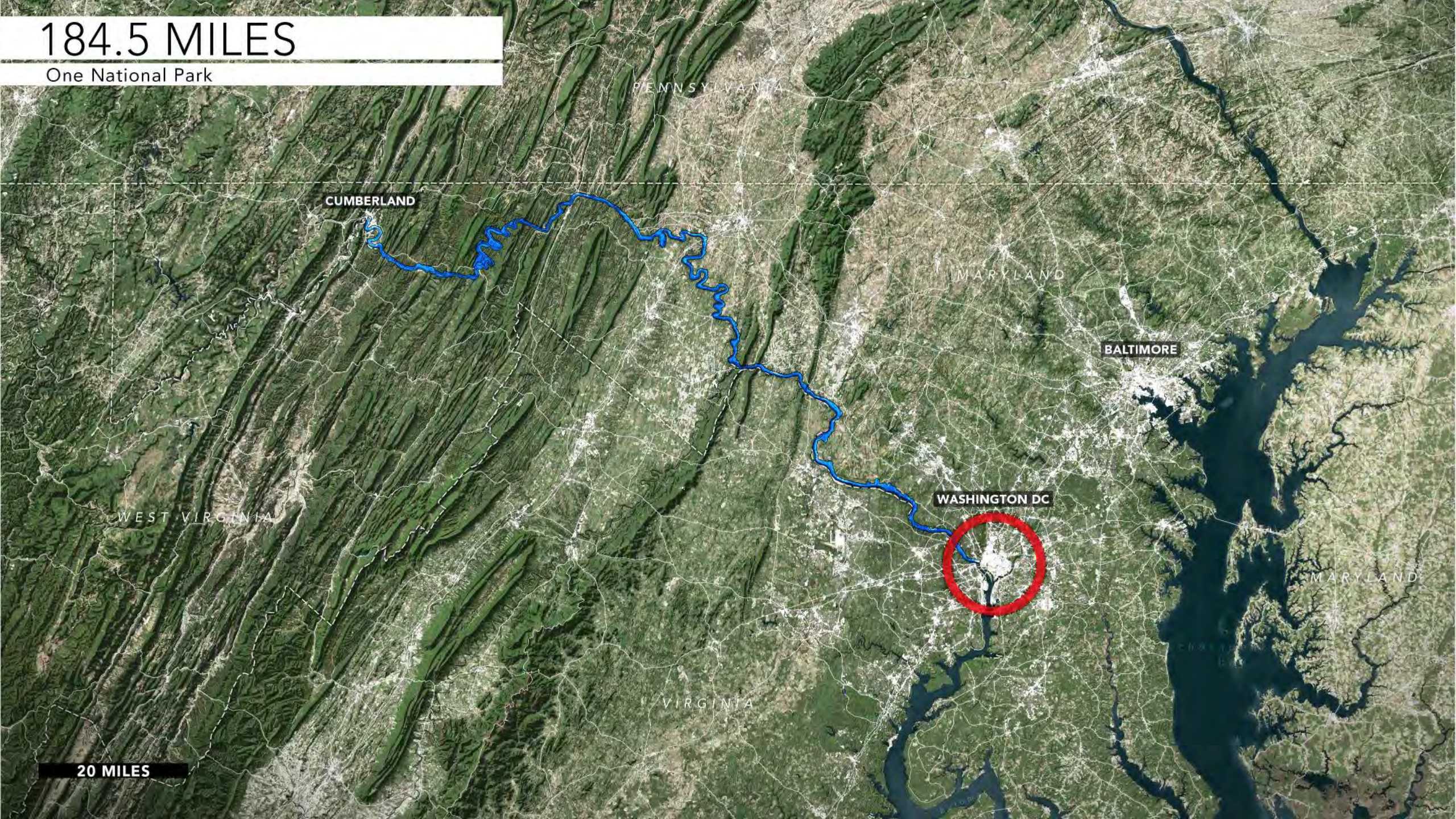


- working period
- review period
- deadline
- public meeting / agency coordination

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

184.5 MILES

One National Park



184.5 MILES

Five Physiographic Regions · One National Park

184.5 MILES

One National Park

GEORGETOWN

FLETCHER'S COVE

GREAT FALLS

OLMSTED ISLAND

HARPER'S FERRY

LOCK 10

LOCK 21

CUMBERLAND

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

MILE ONE

Historic Urban Fabric

A WORKING CANAL LANDSCAPE

BOATS

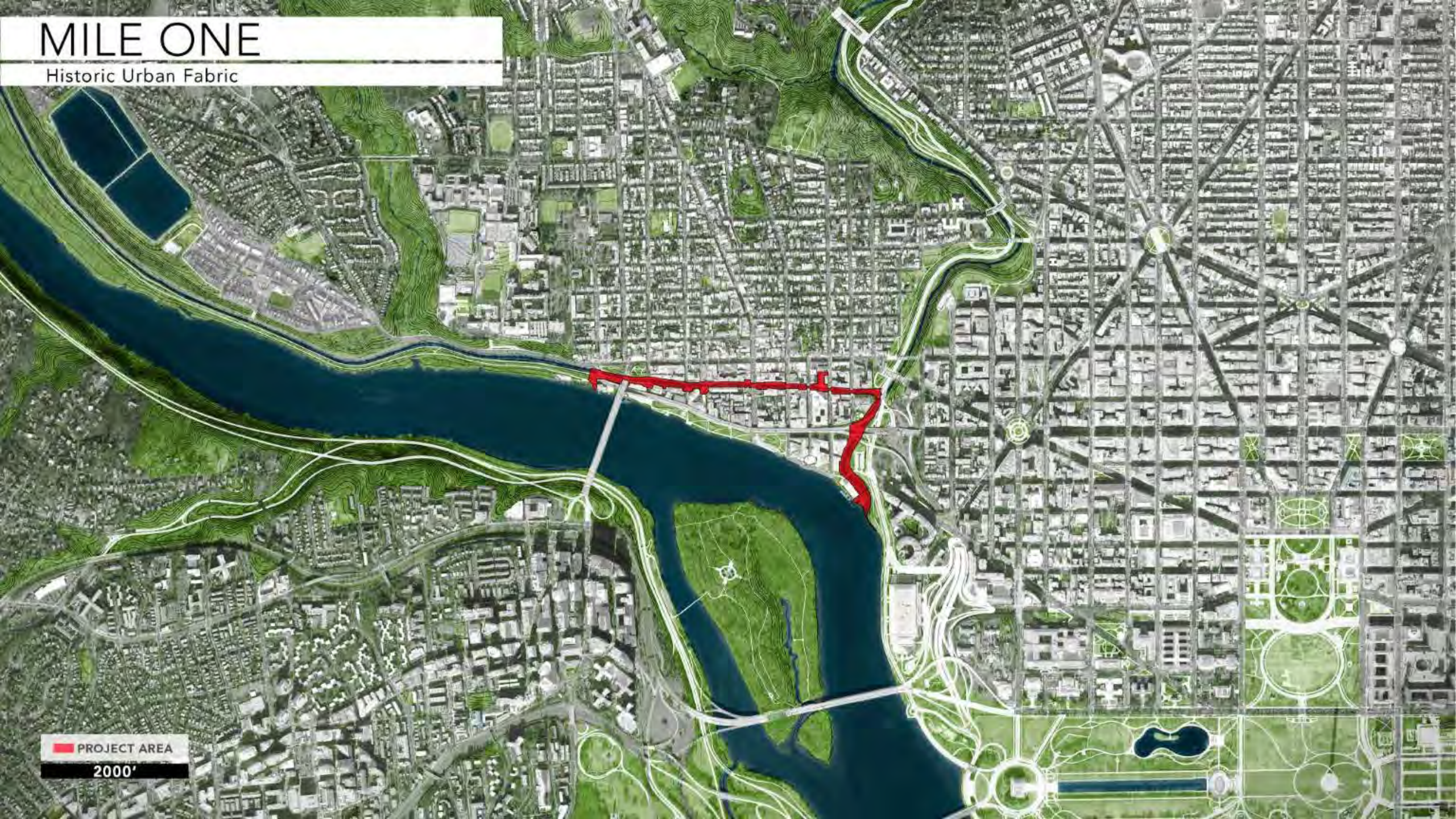
MULES

LOCKS

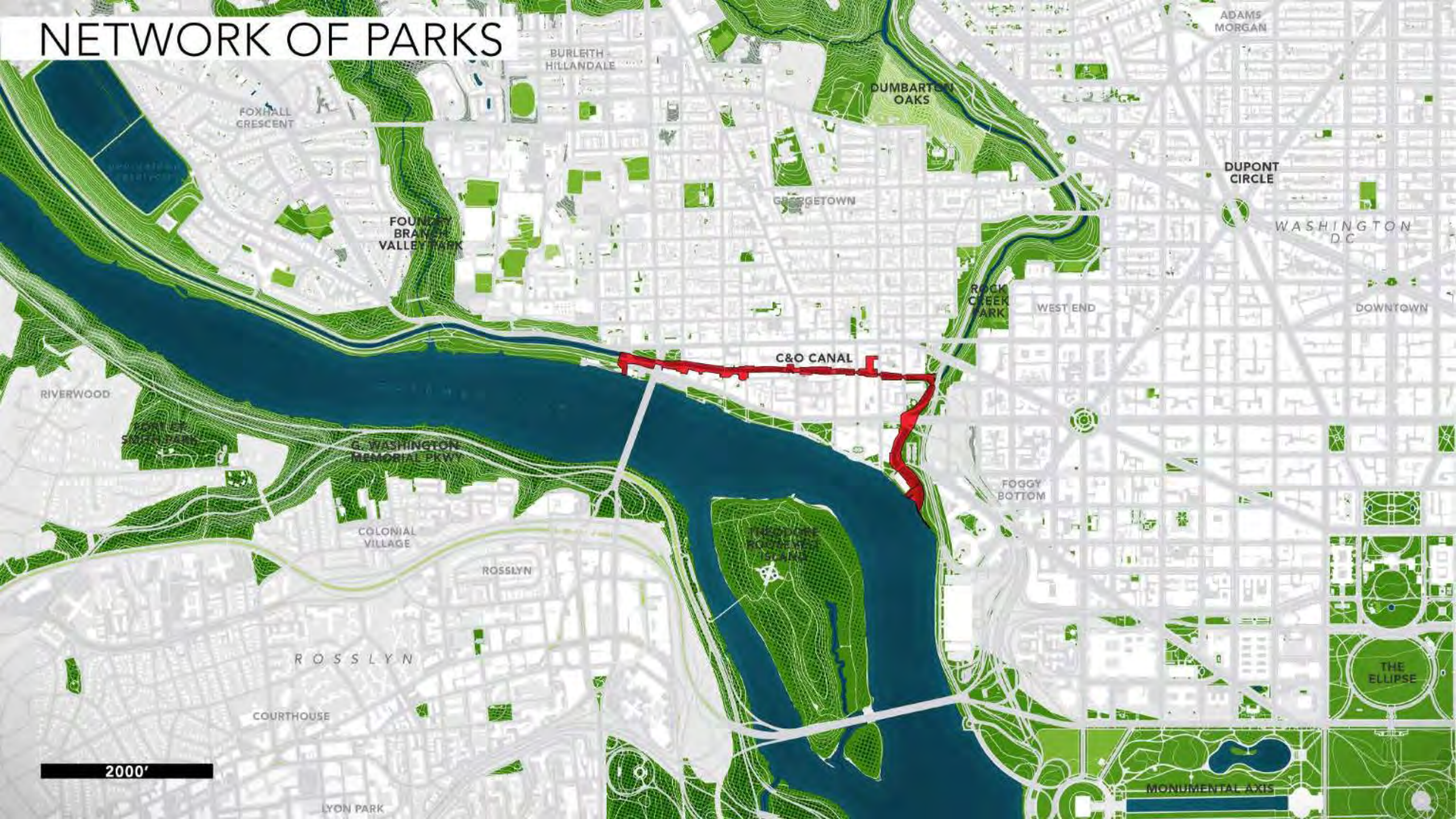
JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

MILE ONE

Historic Urban Fabric



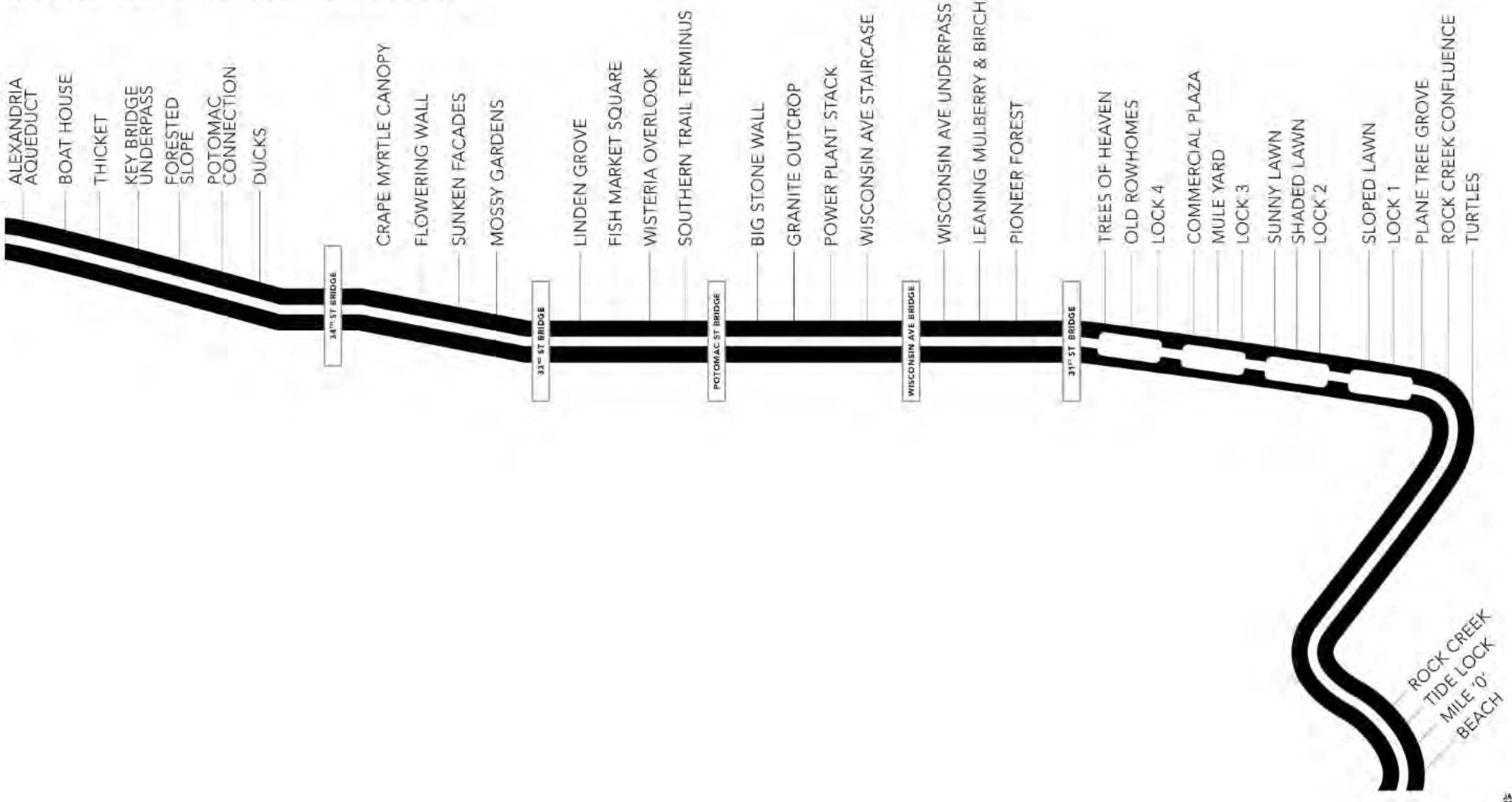
NETWORK OF PARKS



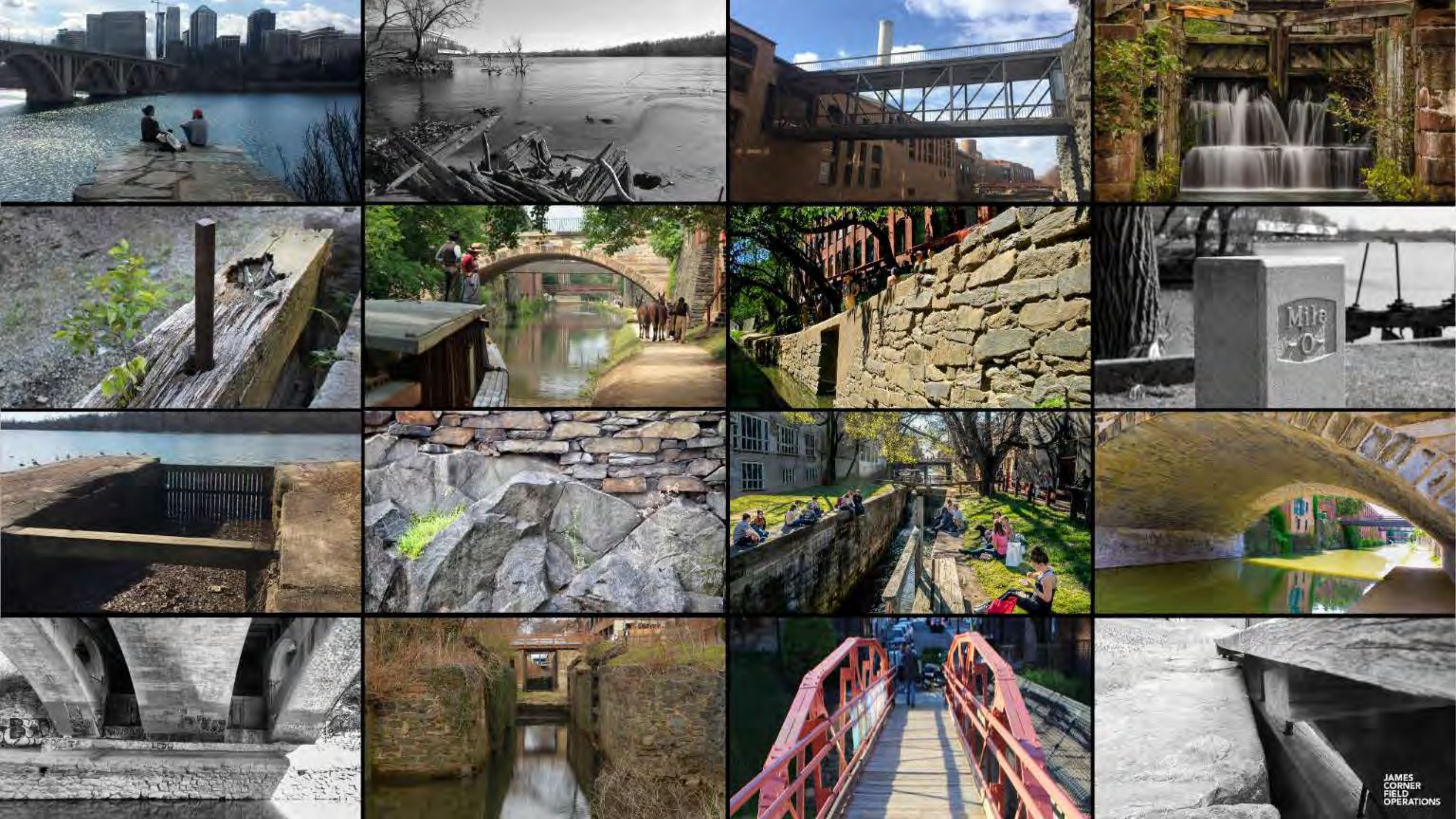
MILE ONE

Restoring the C&O Canal's Vibrancy in Georgetown

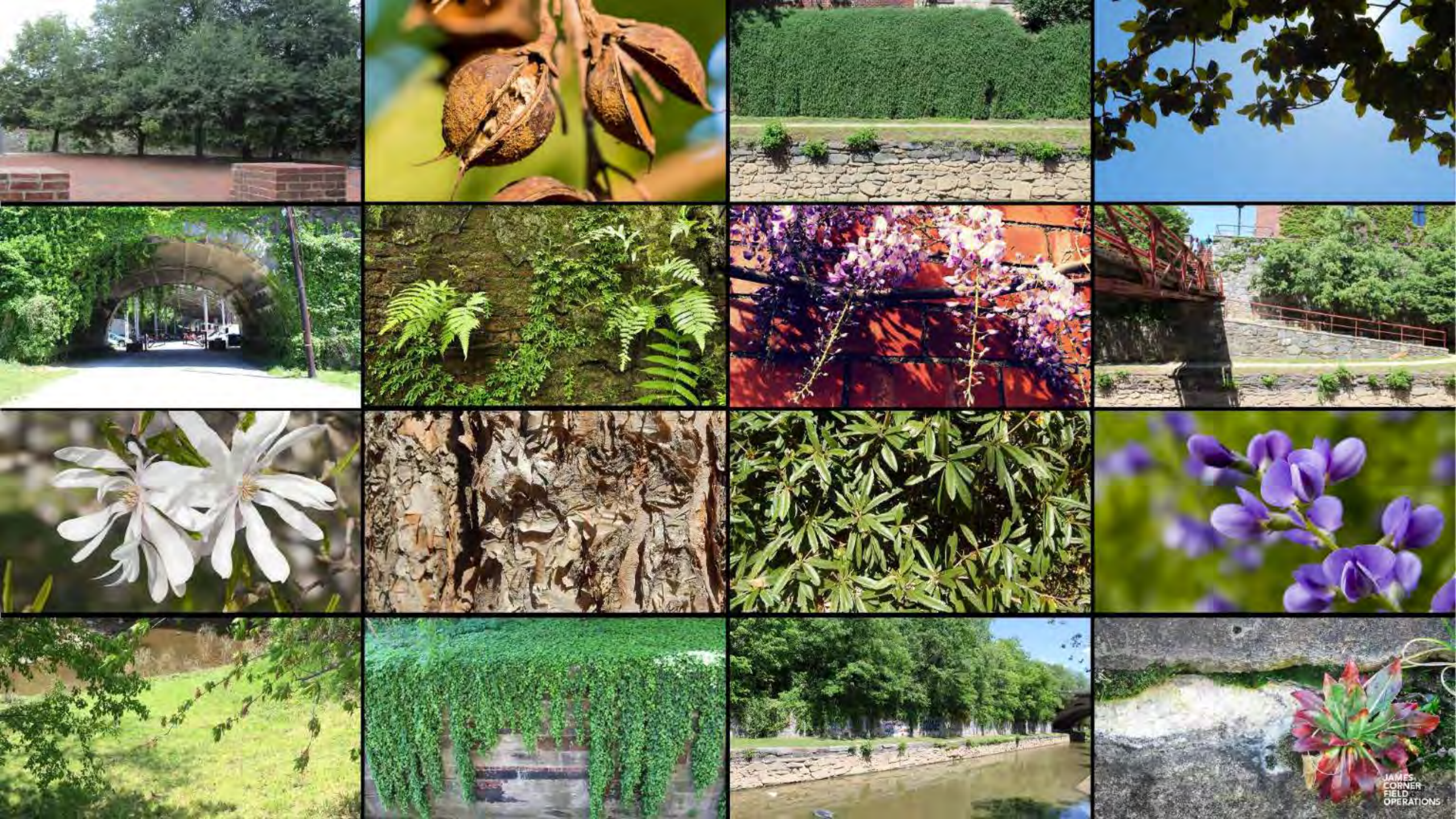
SITE EXPERIENCES



JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS



JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS


JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

10
USES
SITE MAKE
THEMES
USES

WHAT WE HEARD

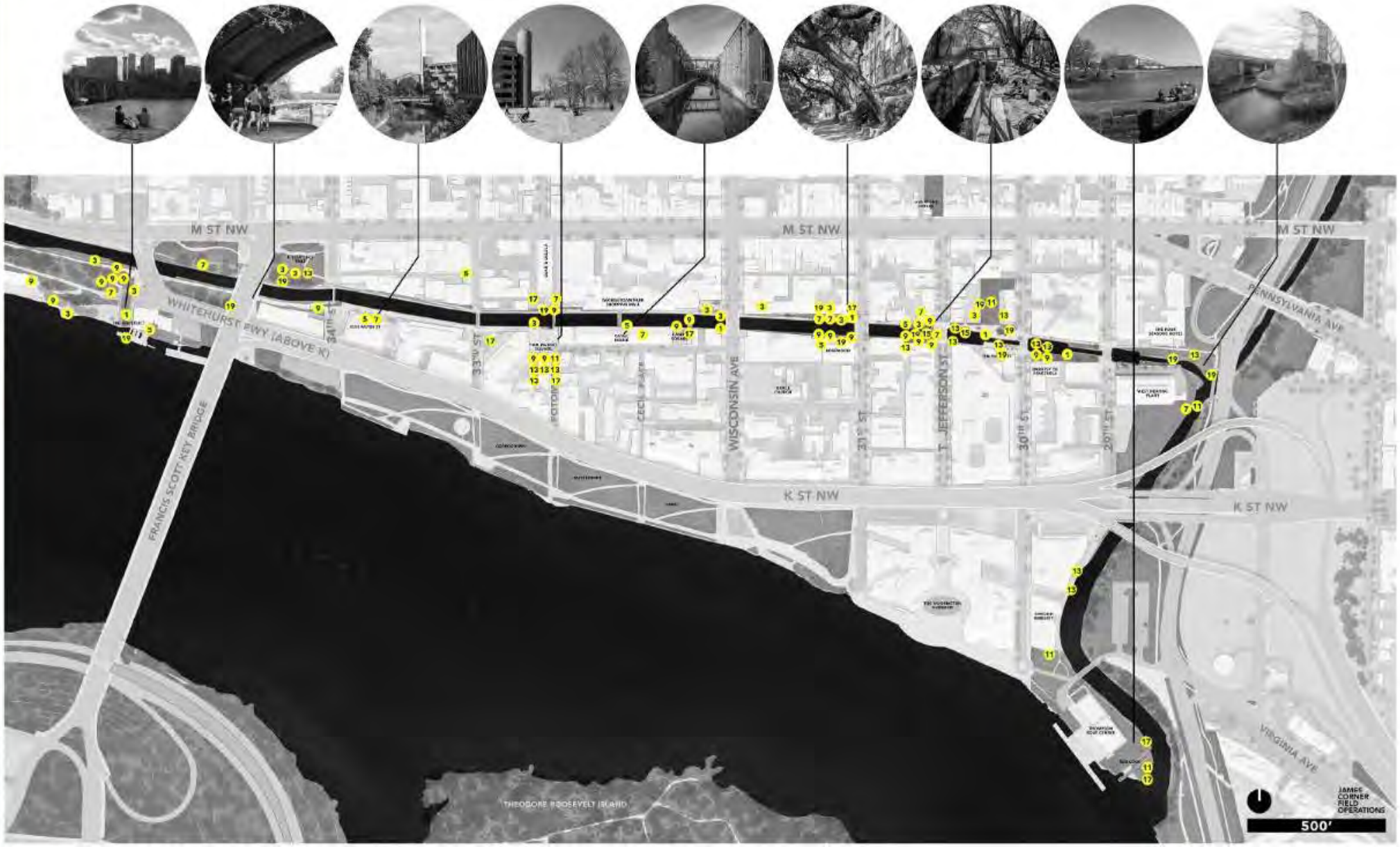
Previous Public Meeting

WHAT DO YOU
LOVE

?

WHAT WOULD YOU
TRANSFORM

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN



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CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN

The areas around the Locks and the Aqueduct

Strolling

The great views of the potomac

Love the shade of the Trees.

There used to be small music gatherings on the canal.

A quick escape to nature

Loved the live performaces

The sense of history

Bring them back!

I love the sound of running water.

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

WHAT WE HEARD

Previous Public Meeting

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LOVE

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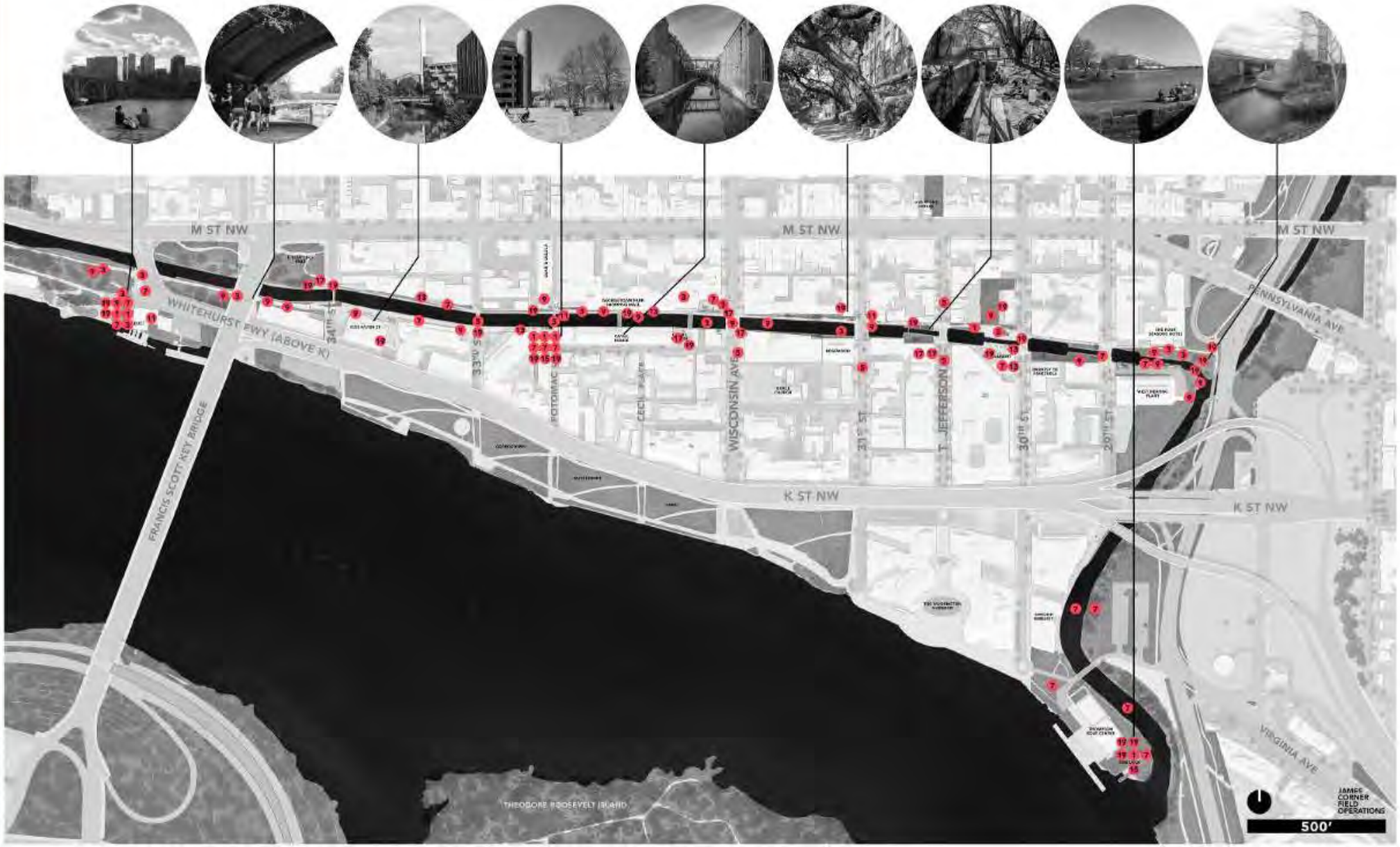

WHAT WE HEARD

Previous Public Meeting

WHAT DO YOU
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WHAT WOULD YOU
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CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL
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A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN

The areas around Mile Marker 0, Fish Market Square, and the Aqueduct

Accessibility

Who is going to maintain this?

Add more seating

Great place, but needs programming

Increase the diversity of uses on the canal.

Need sensible lighting.

Incorporate Canal with Rock Creek Park.

We need to better explain the site's rich history.

Encourage cylcists to use Water St. rather than the Towpath

Need to connect to Capital Crescent Trail.

Encourage cylcists to use Water St. rather than the Towpath

I miss the sound of running water.

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

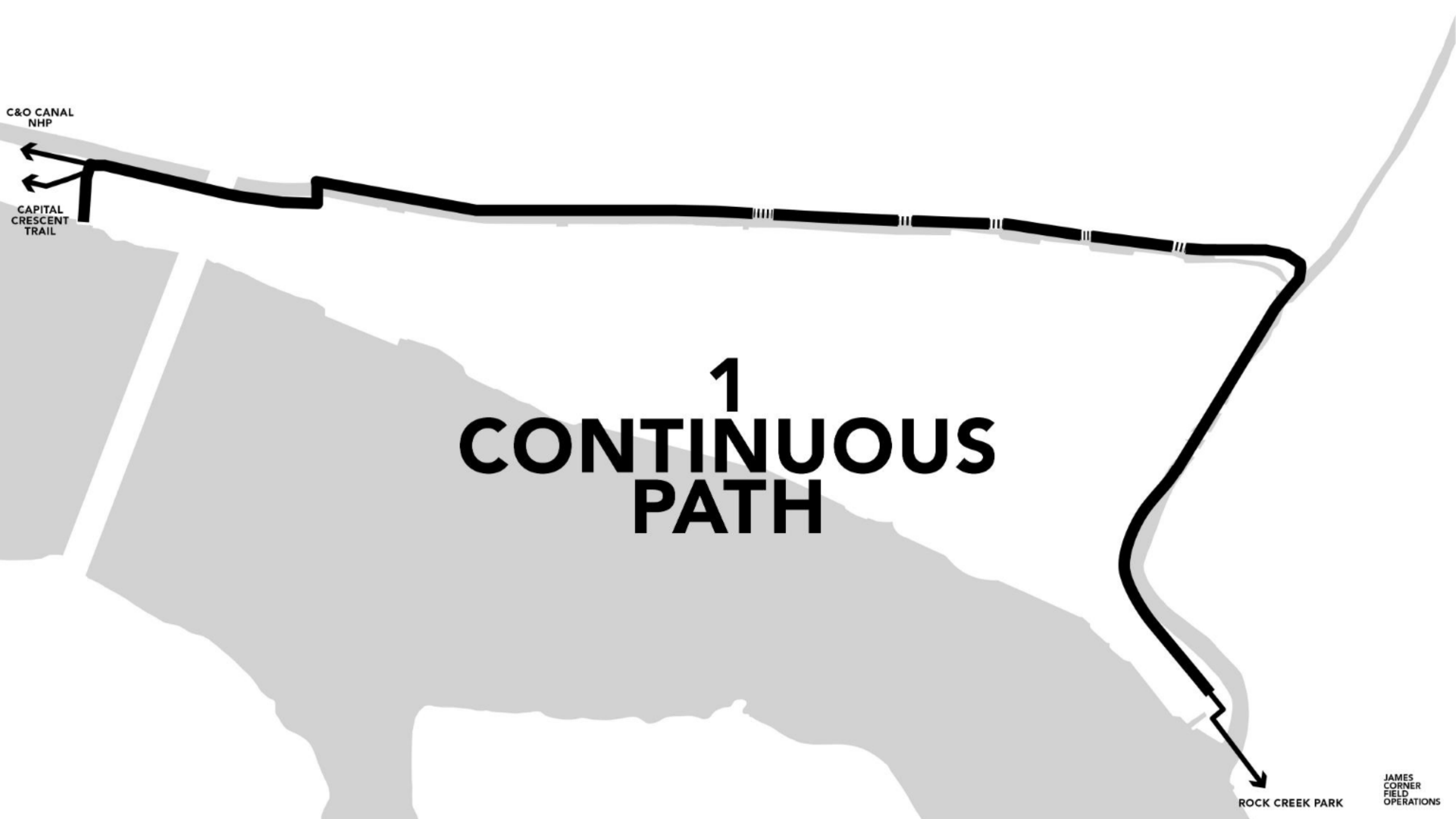
DESIGN FRAMEWORK

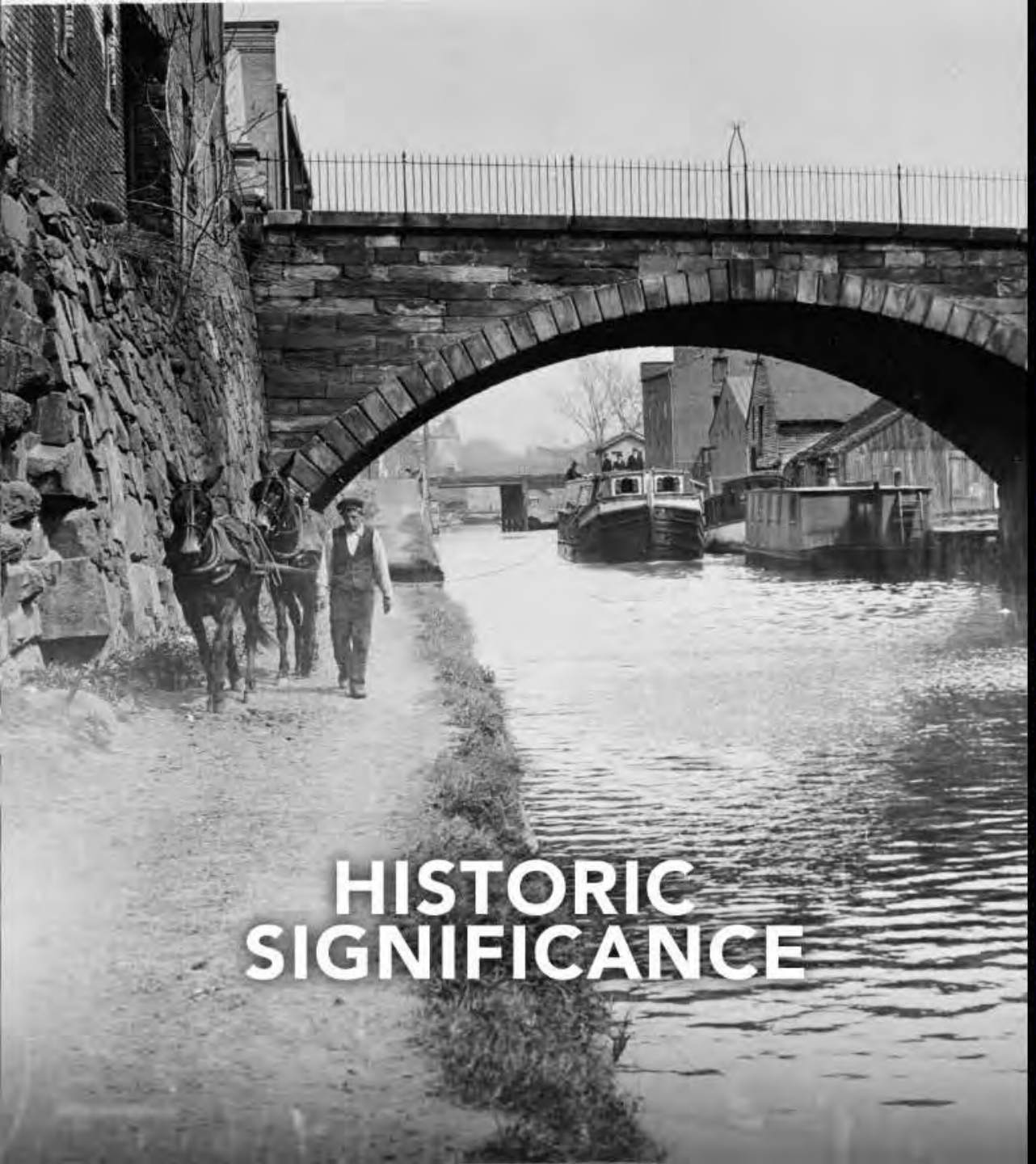
1
Continuous Path

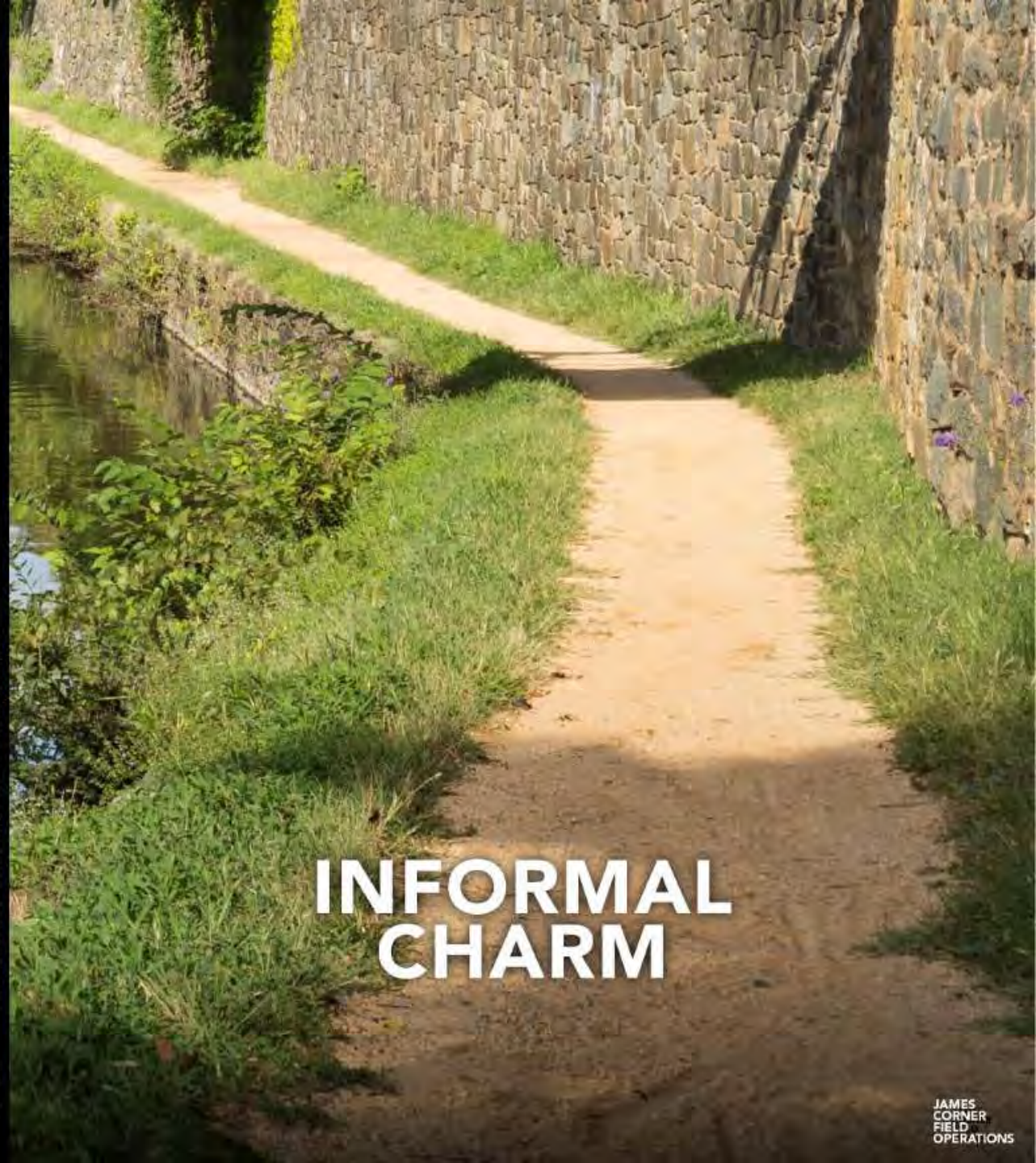
8
Landscapes

5
Gateways

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS


C&O CANAL NHP
CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL
1
CONTINUOUS PATH
ROCK CREEK PARK
JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS





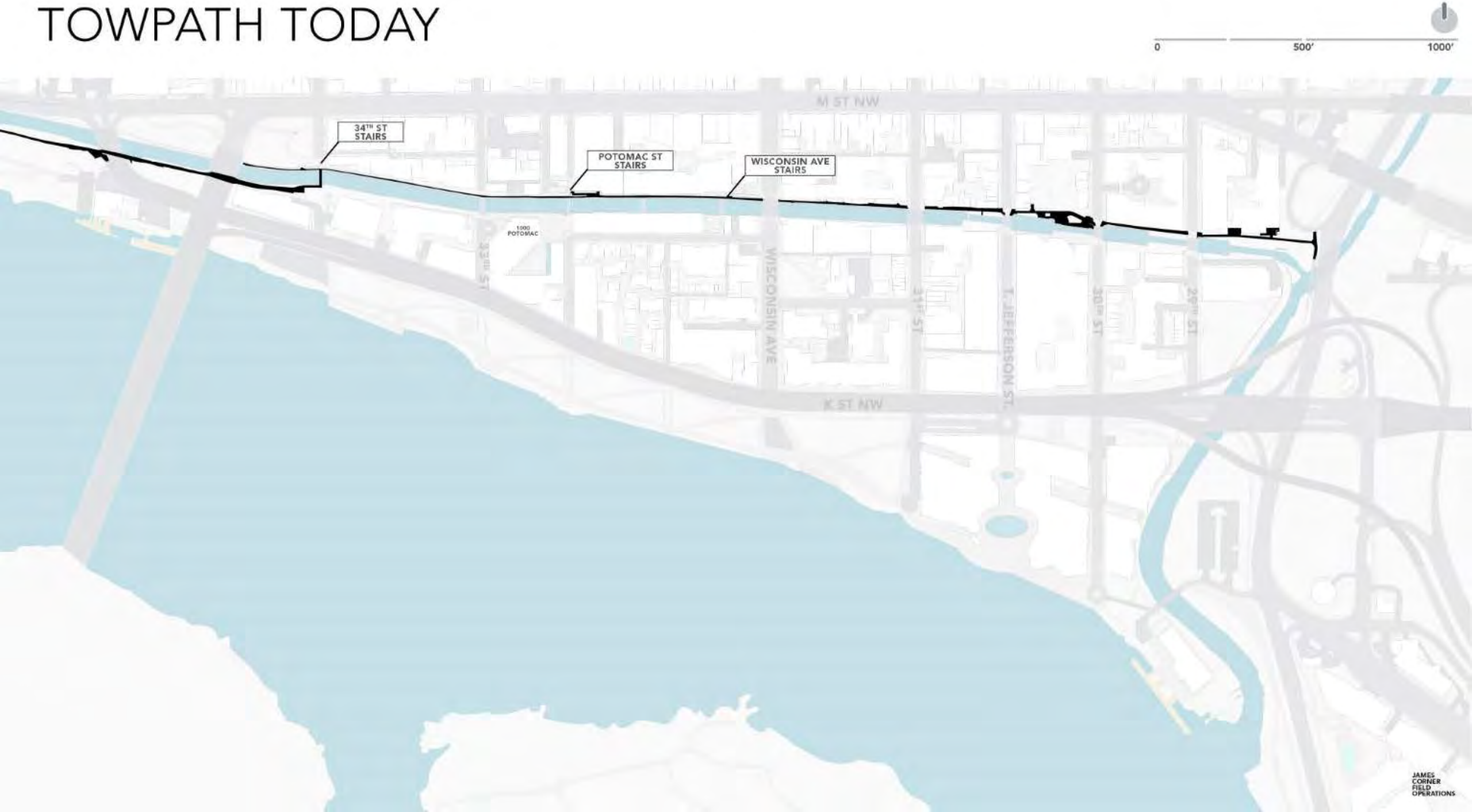
JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

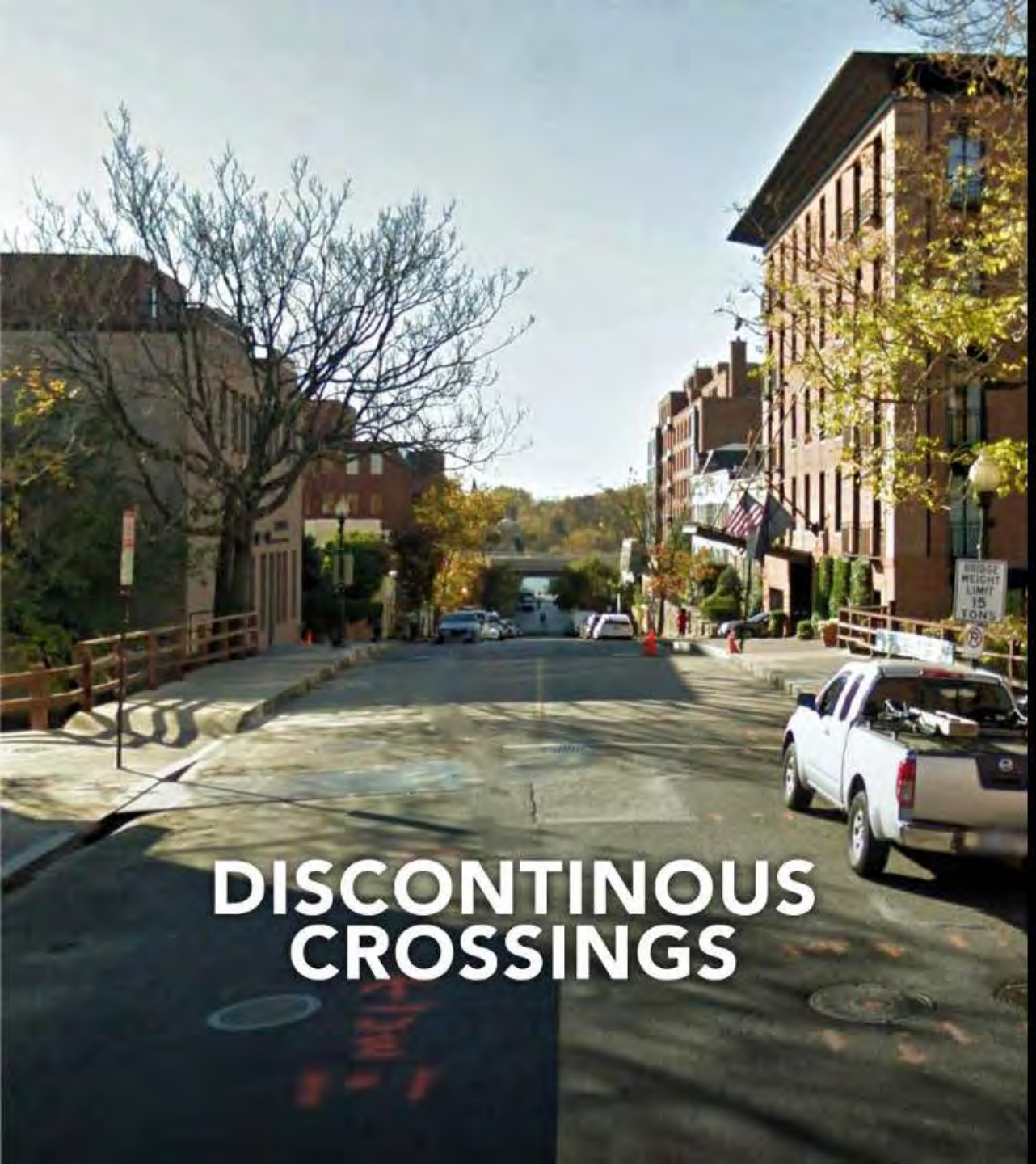
TOWPATHS

Google Image Search for "Towpath"

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

TOWPATH TODAY

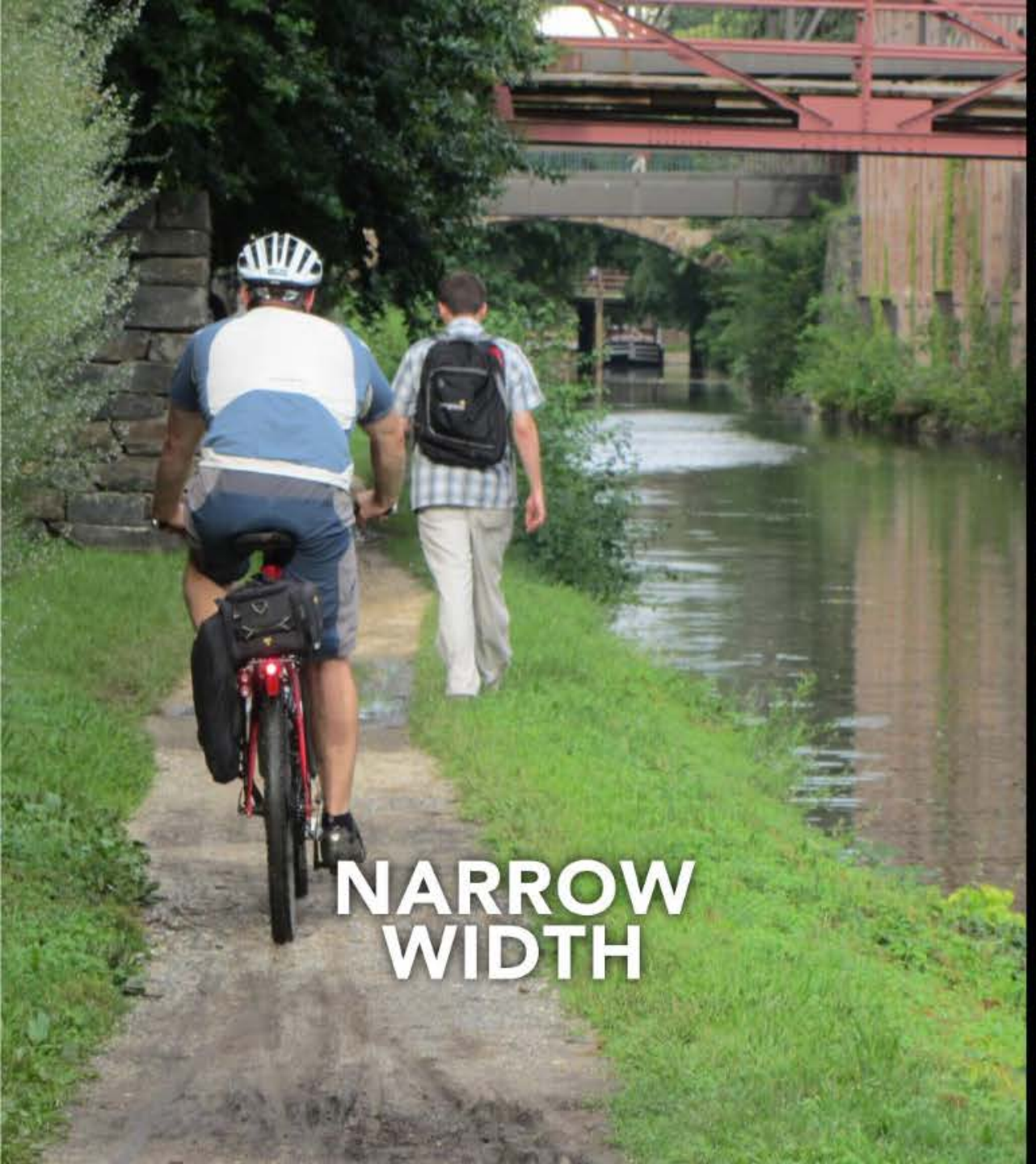


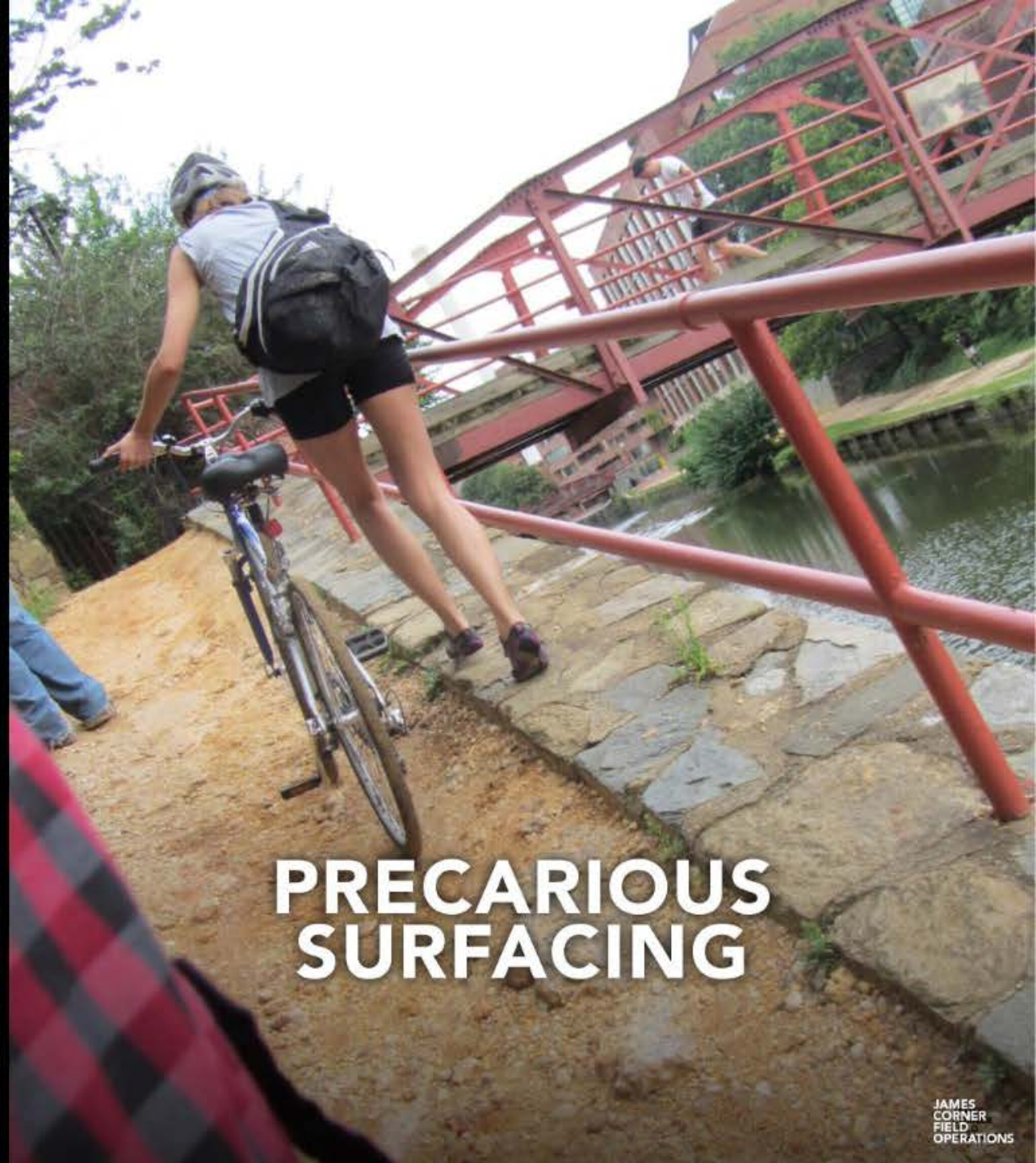


DISCONTINOUS CROSSINGS

MISSING CONNECTIONS

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS


NARROW
WIDTH


PRECARIOUS
SURFACING
JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

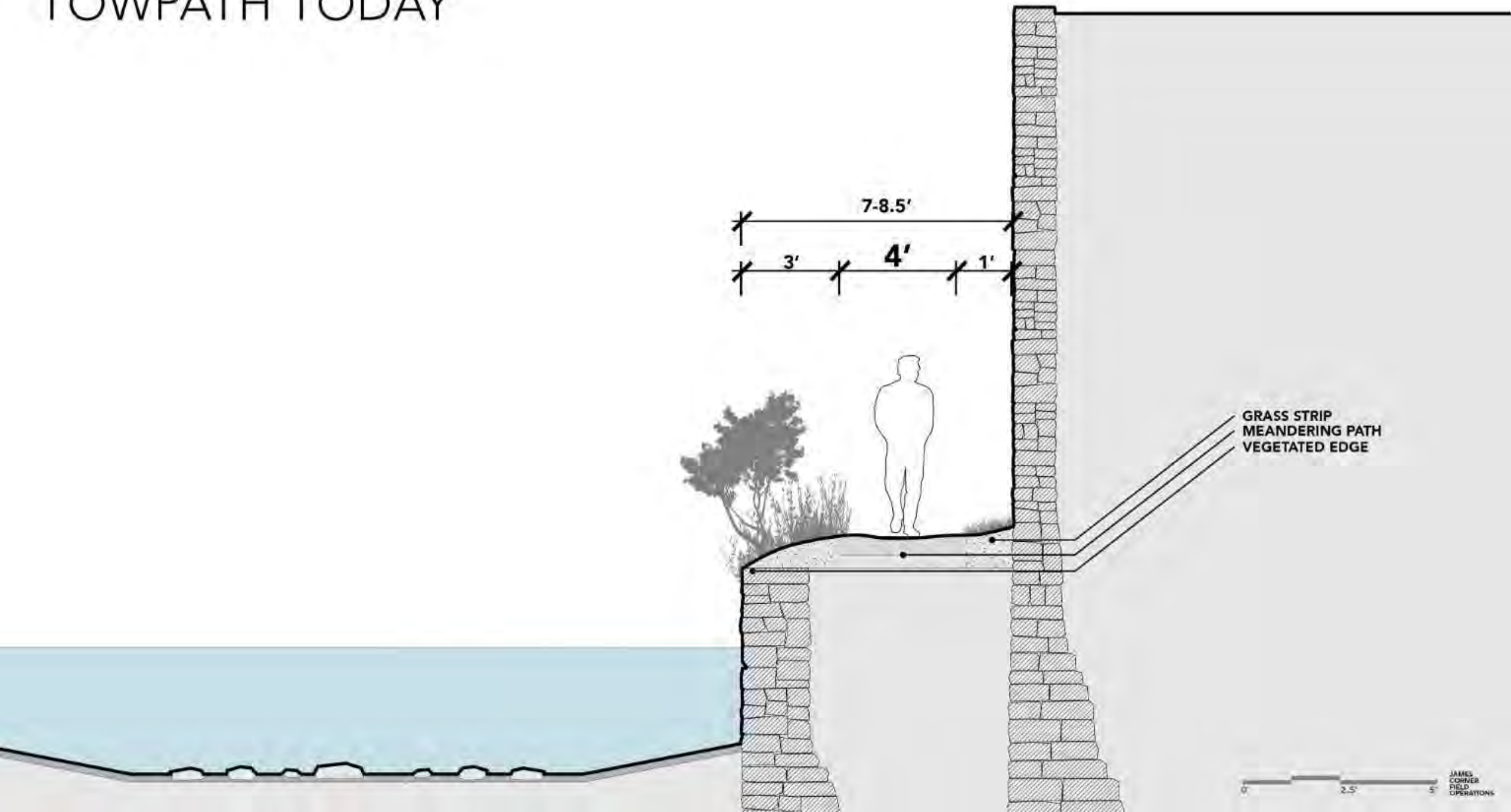
CREATING CONTINUITY

Street Crossings & Rock Creek Connection

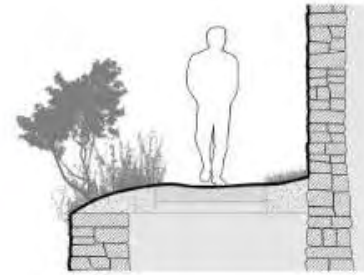
TOWPATH

"The Walls" Between Wisconsin Ave & Potomac St.

TOWPATH TODAY



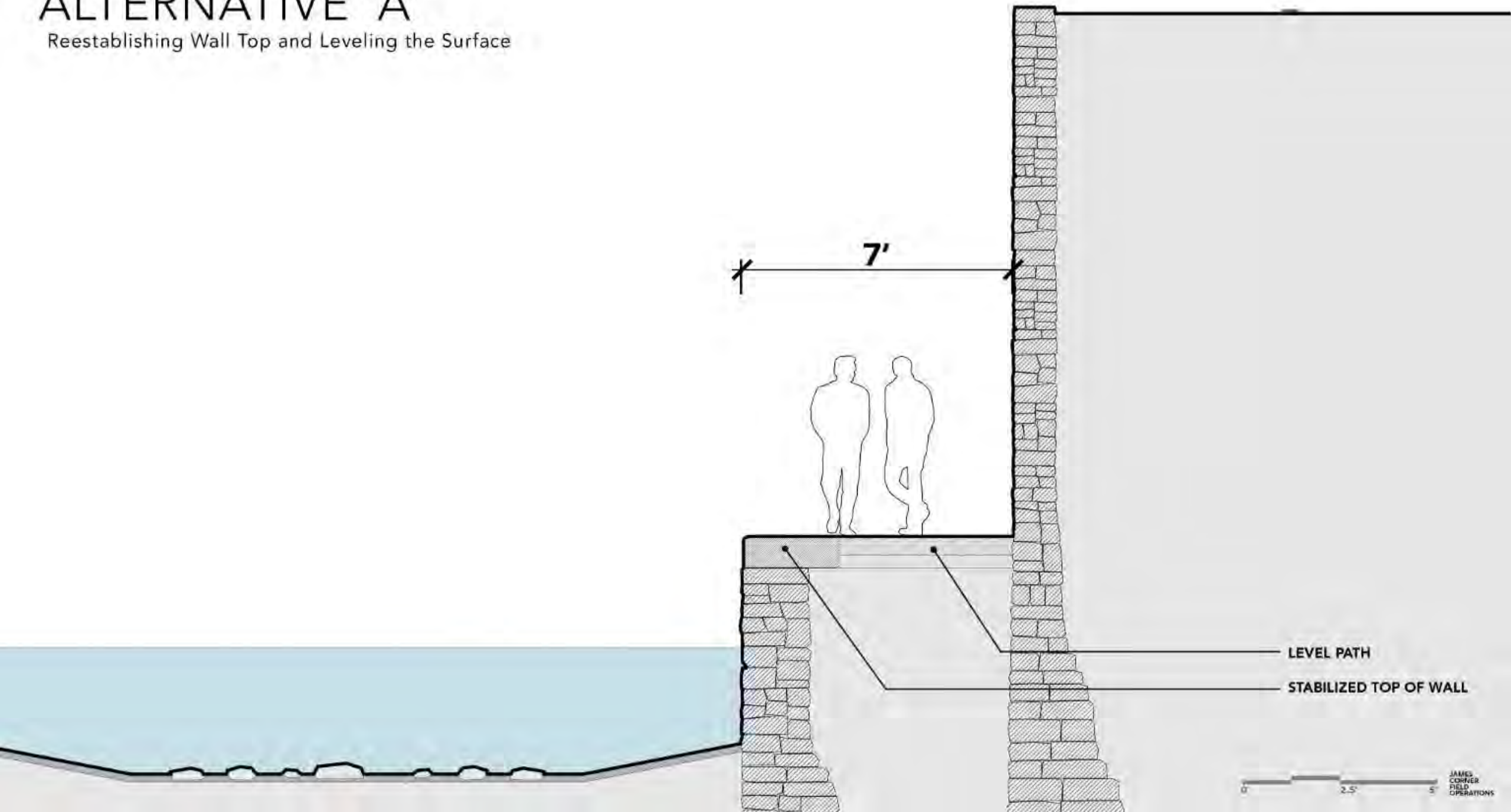
TOWPATH TODAY



JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

ALTERNATIVE 'A'

Reestablishing Wall Top and Leveling the Surface



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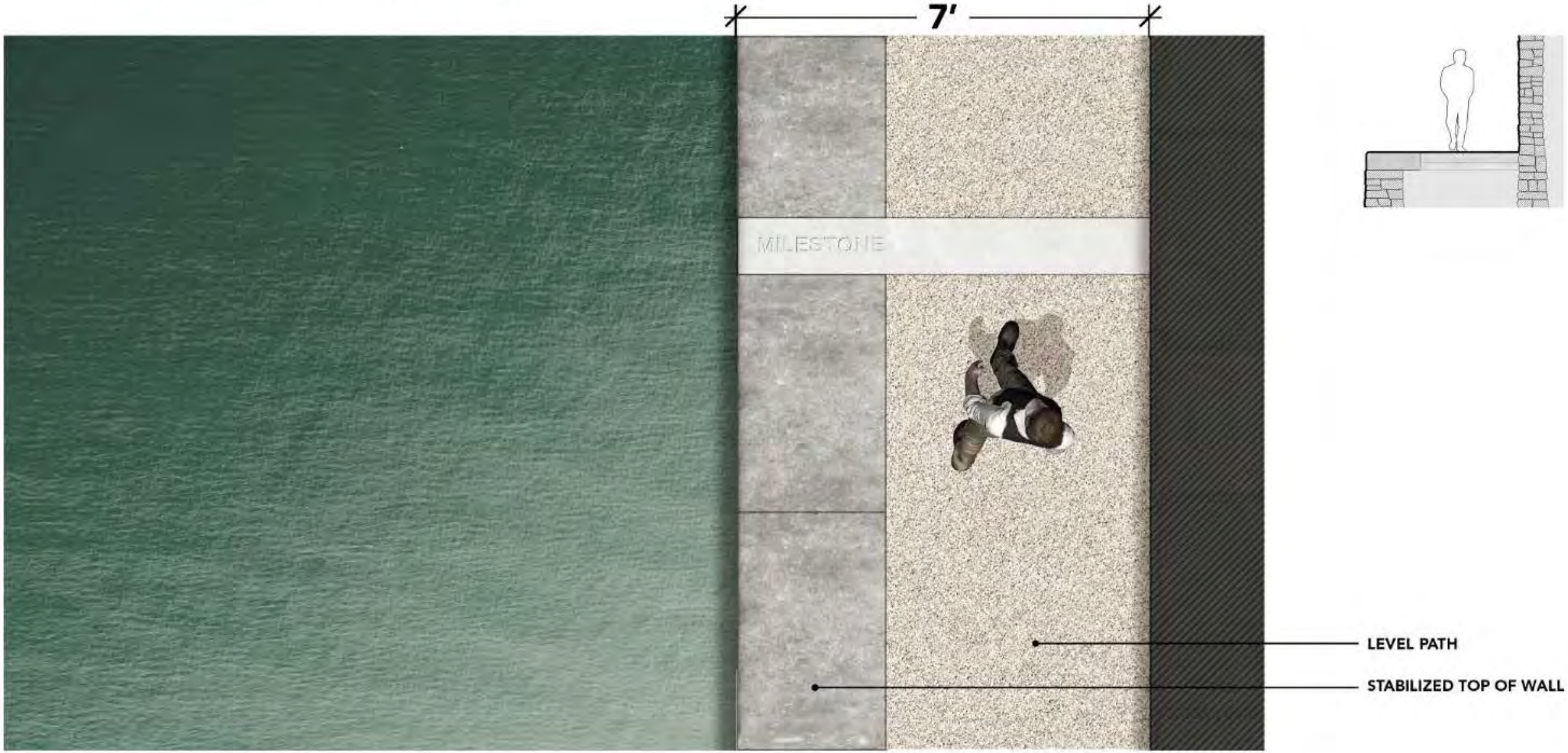
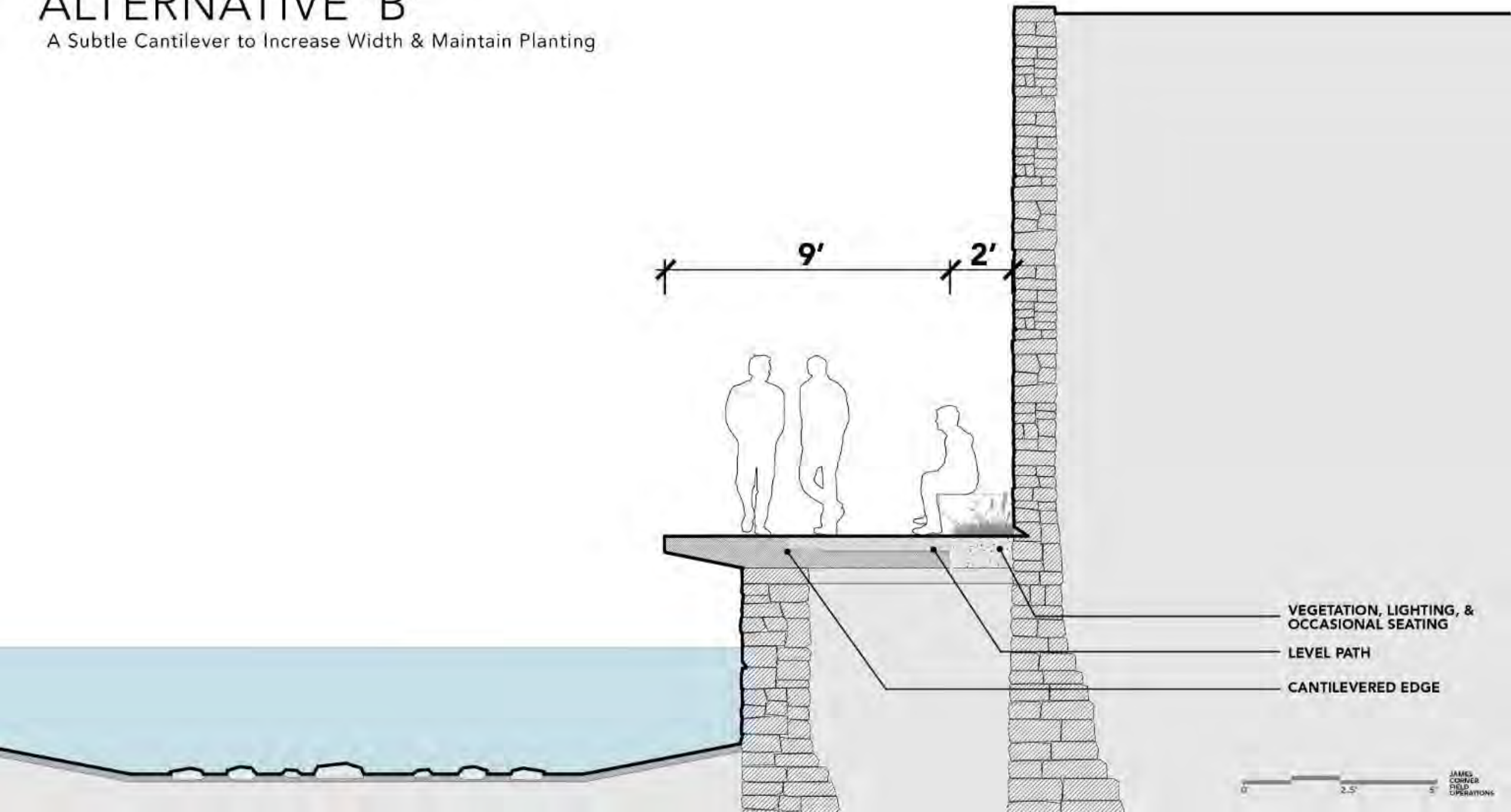


JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

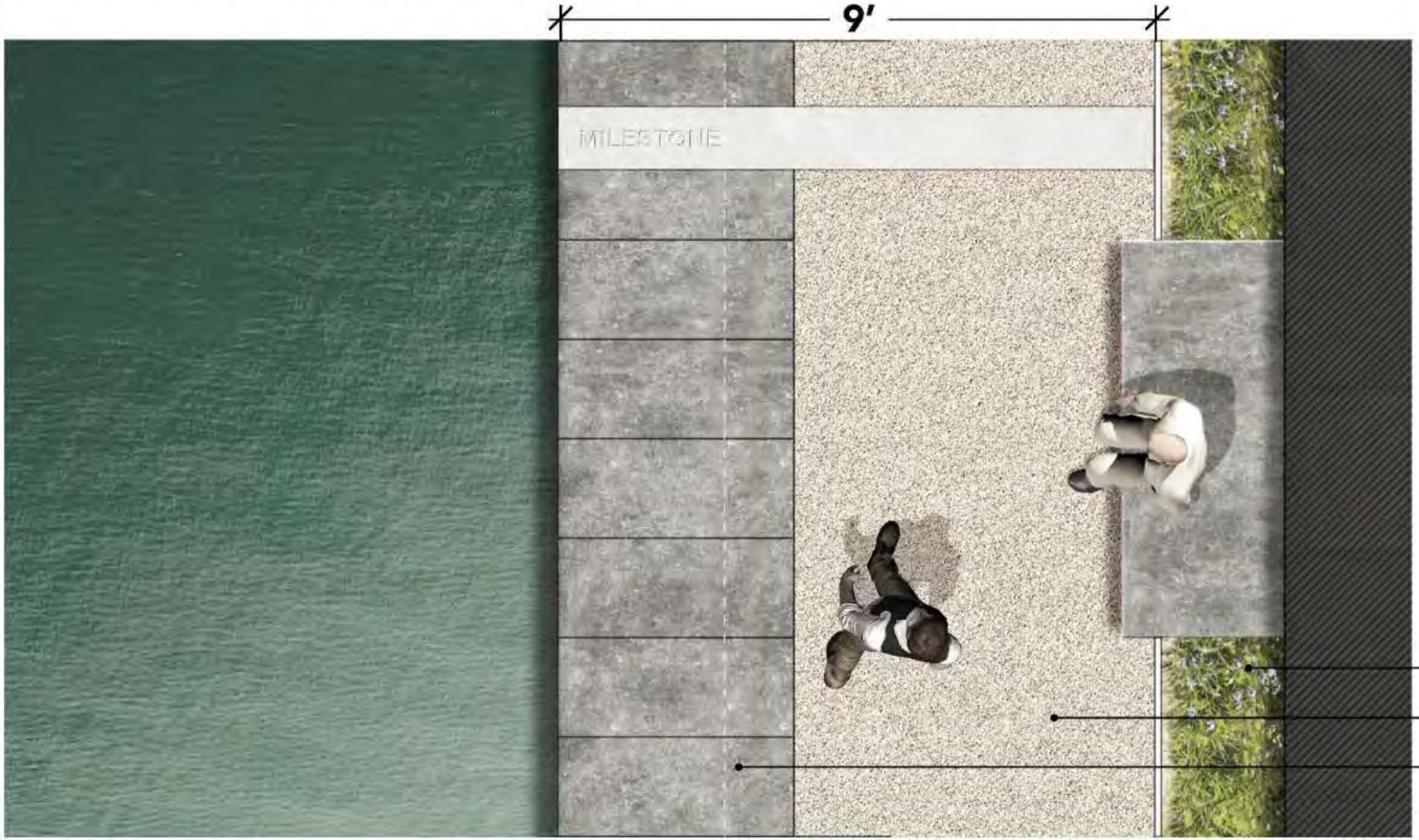
ALTERNATIVE 'B'

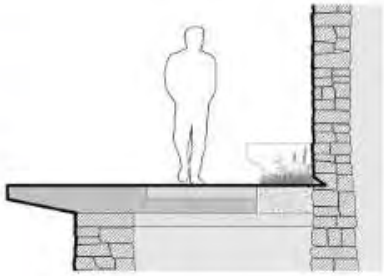
A Subtle Cantilever to Increase Width & Maintain Planting



ALTERNATIVE 'B'

A Subtle Cantilever to Increase Width & Maintain Planting

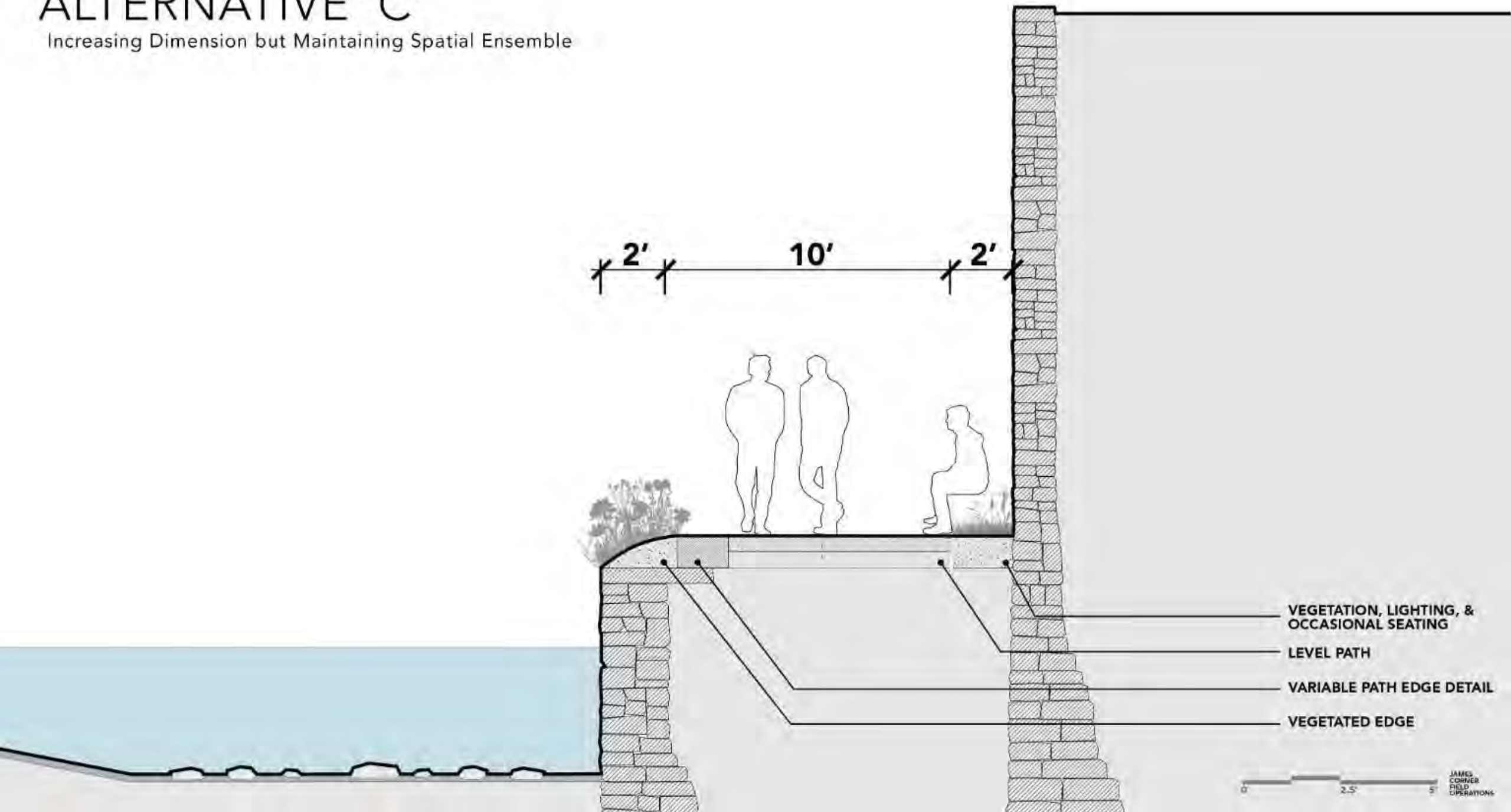




JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

ALTERNATIVE 'C'

Increasing Dimension but Maintaining Spatial Ensemble



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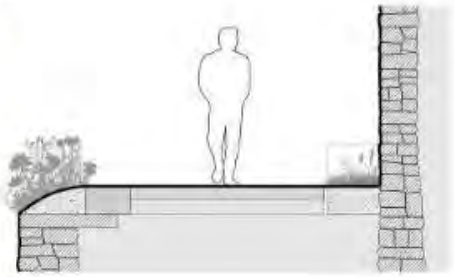

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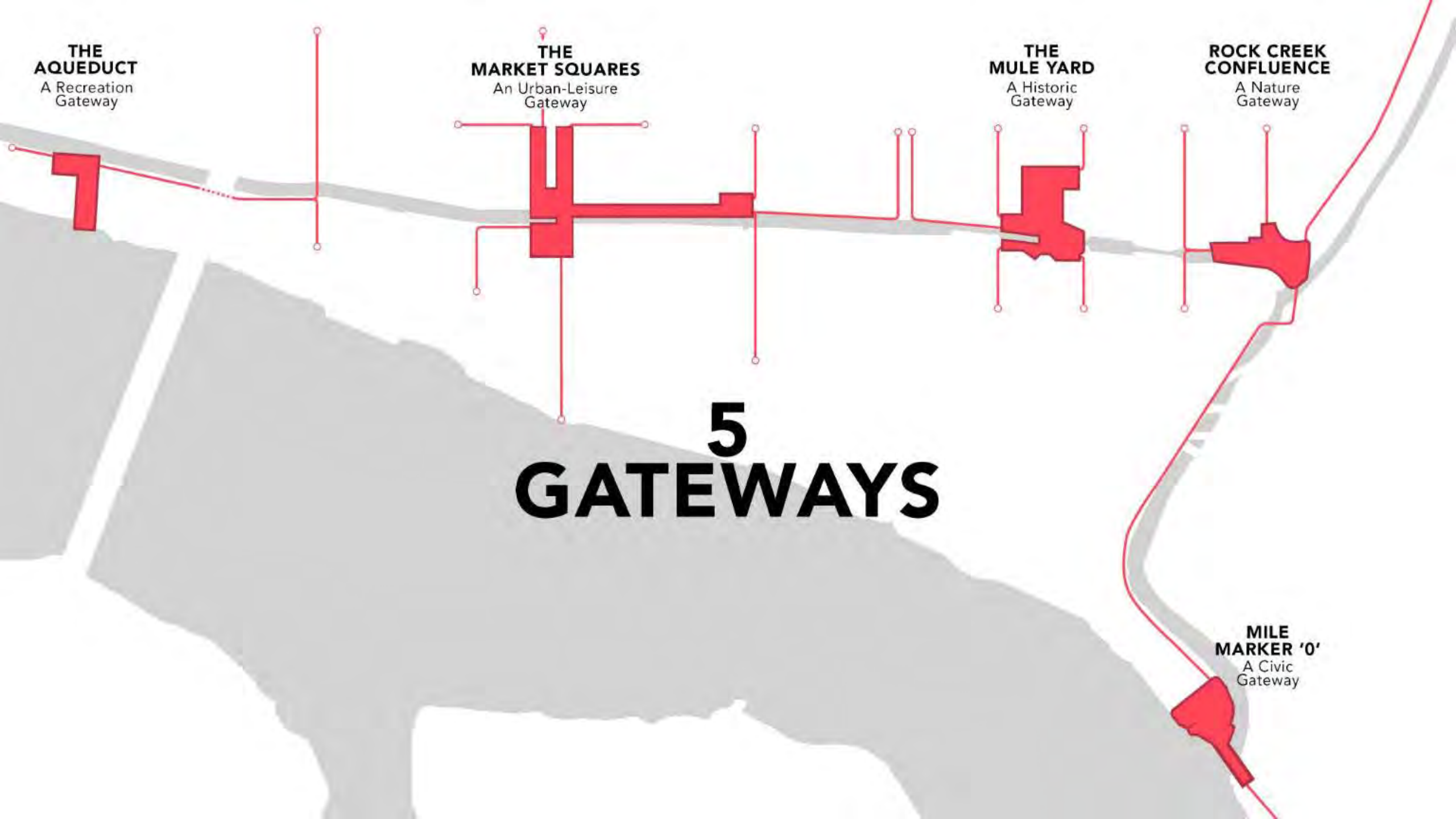

THE AQUEDUCT
A Recreation Gateway
THE MARKET SQUARES
An Urban-Leisure Gateway
THE MULE YARD
A Historic Gateway
ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE
A Nature Gateway
5 GATEWAYS
MILE MARKER '0'
A Civic Gateway

ACCESS·ENTRY POINTS

Physical and Visual Entries

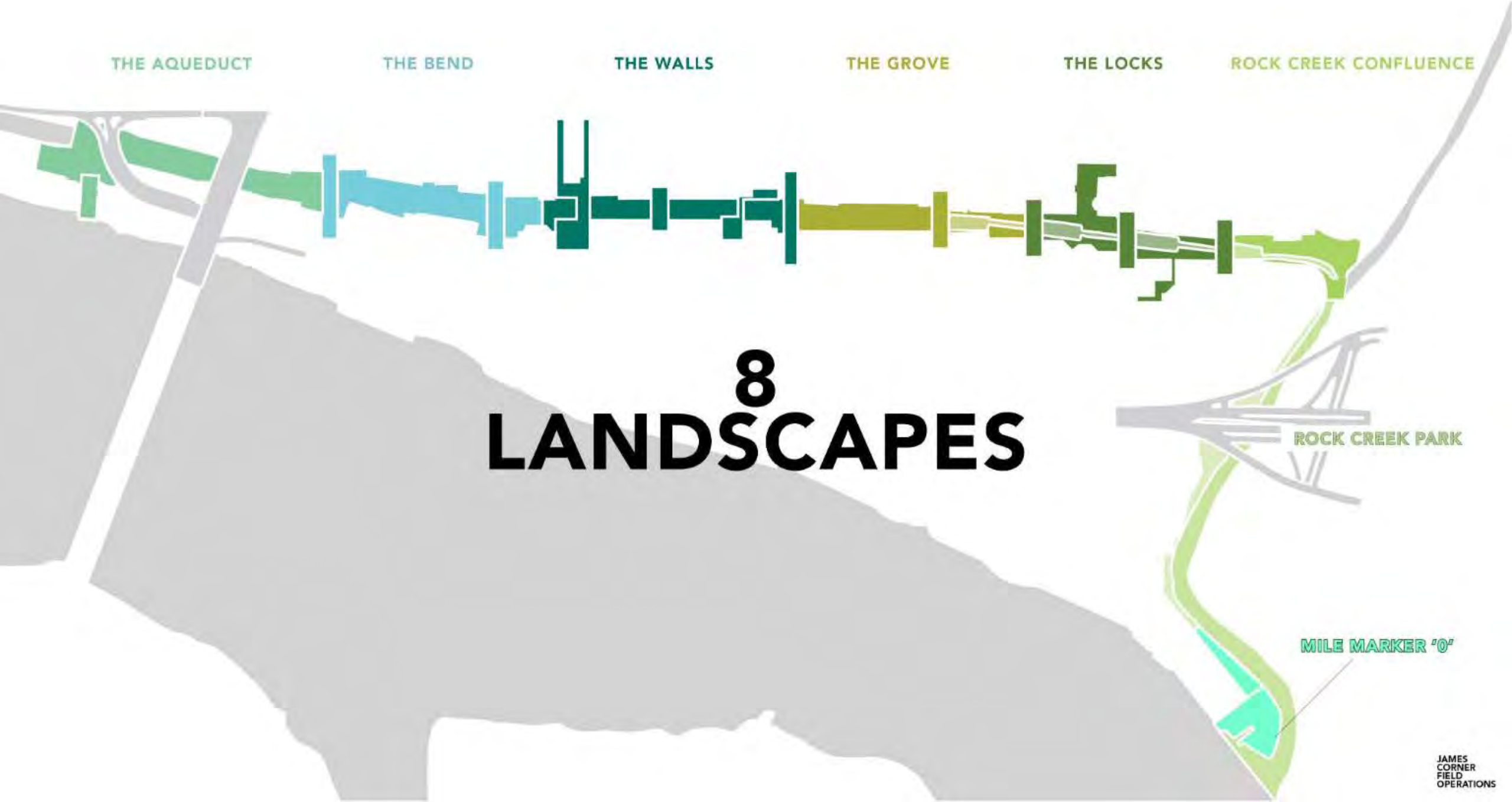
CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY

ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY

Strategies for a Welcoming & Inclusive Park

FOCUSED INVESTMENT

Strategies for a Welcoming & Inclusive Park


THE AQUEDUCT
THE BEND
THE WALLS
THE GROVE
THE LOCKS
ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE
8
LANDSCAPES
ROCK CREEK PARK
MILE MARKER '0'
JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

8 LANDSCAPES

MILE MARKER '0'

MILE MARKER '0'

Tide Lock

MILE MARKER '0'

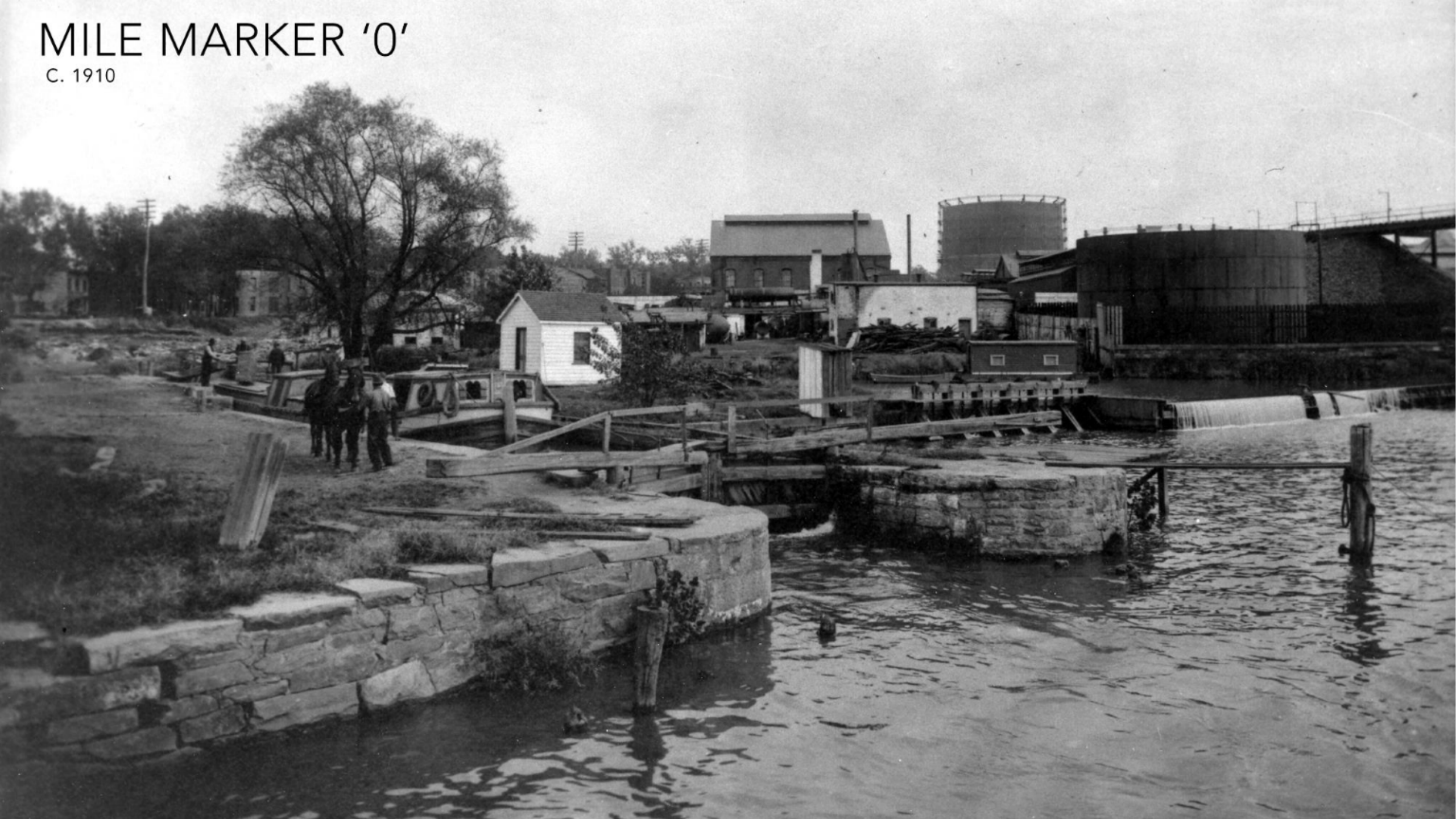
Alternative A

MILE MARKER '0'

Alternative B

MILE MARKER '0'

C. 1910



MILE MARKER '0'

Today

MILE MARKER '0'

Alternative B

8 LANDSCAPES
ROCK CREEK

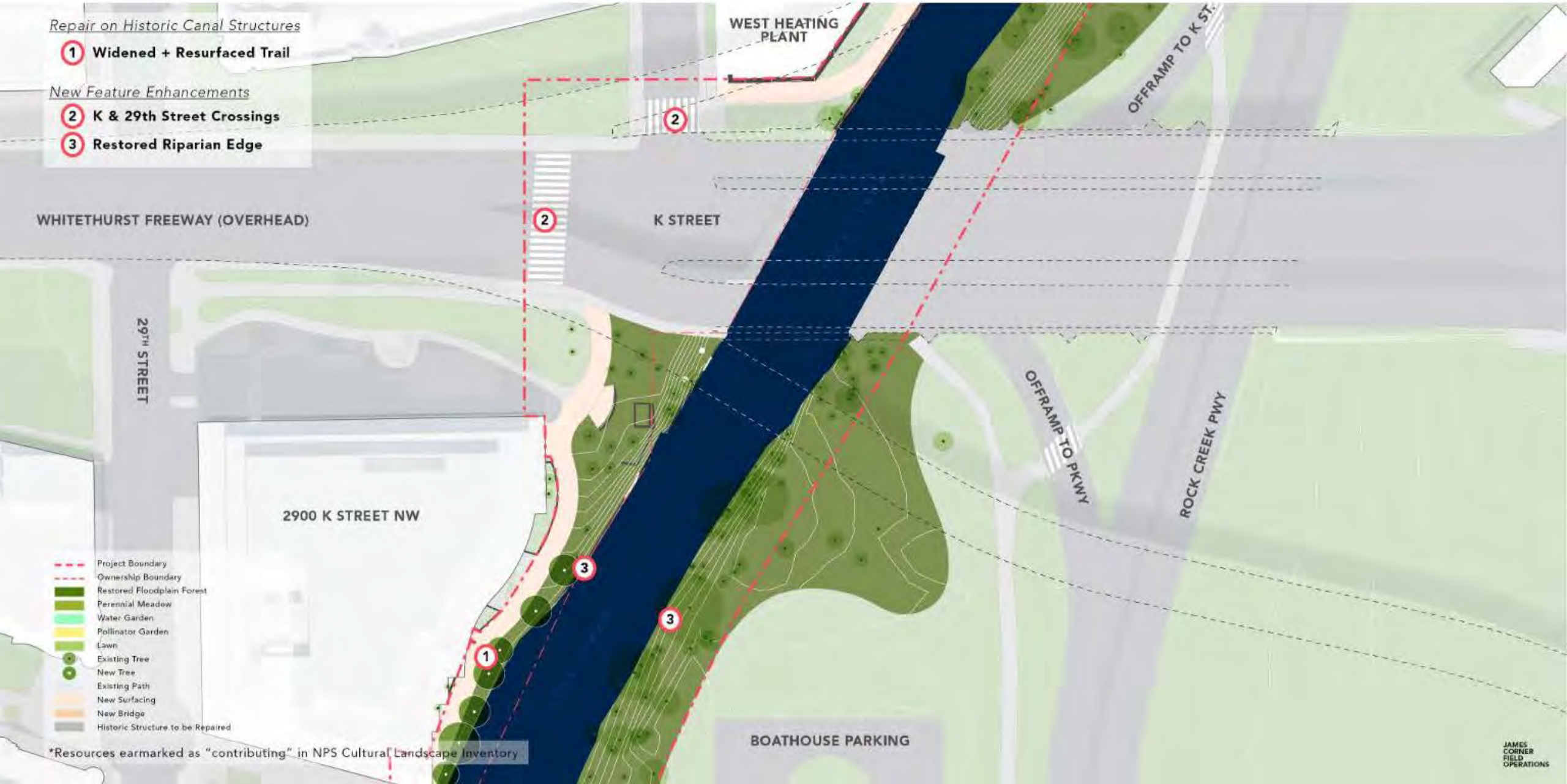
ROCK CREEK PARK

C. 1910

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

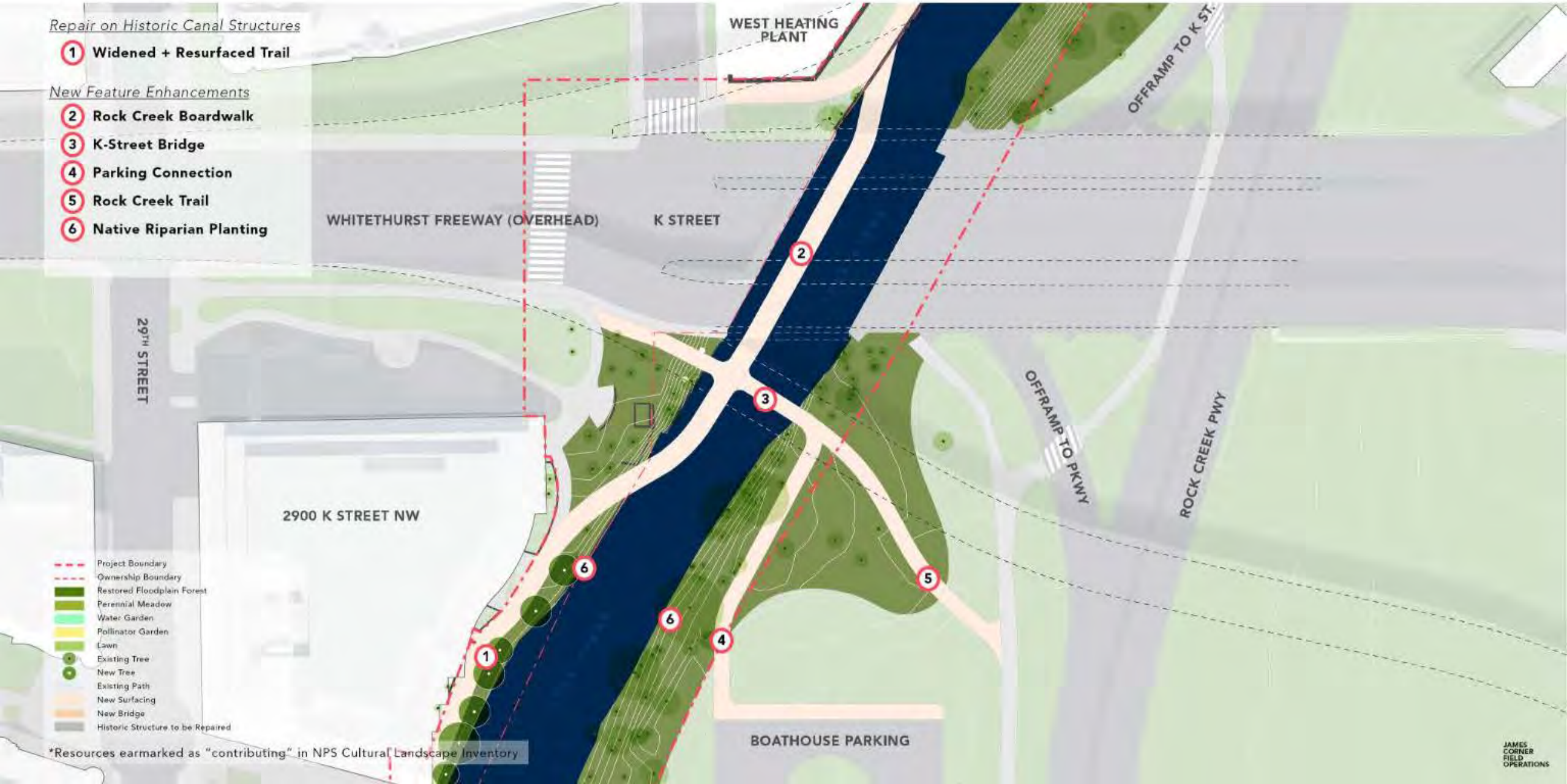
ROCK CREEK PARK

Alternative A



ROCK CREEK PARK

Alternative A



ROCK CREEK PARK

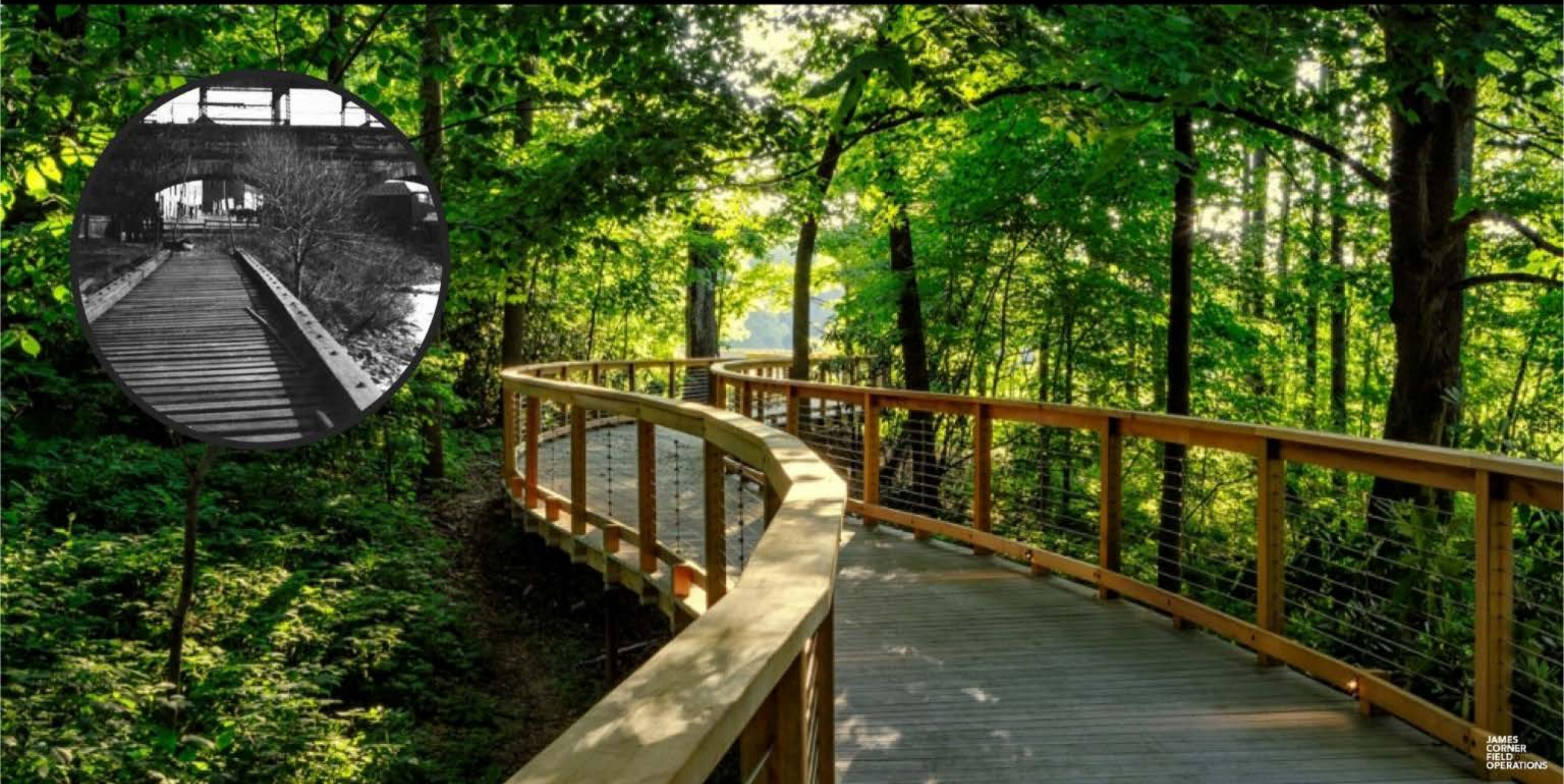
Alternative B

ROCK CREEK PARK

K Street Underpass

ROCK CREEK PARK

A Nature-Immersed Boardwalk



8 LANDSCAPES

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

ROCK CREEK PARK

Rock Creek Boat Basin

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative A

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative B

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Mule Stables by Rock Creek

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative B

8 LANDSCAPES

THE LOCKS

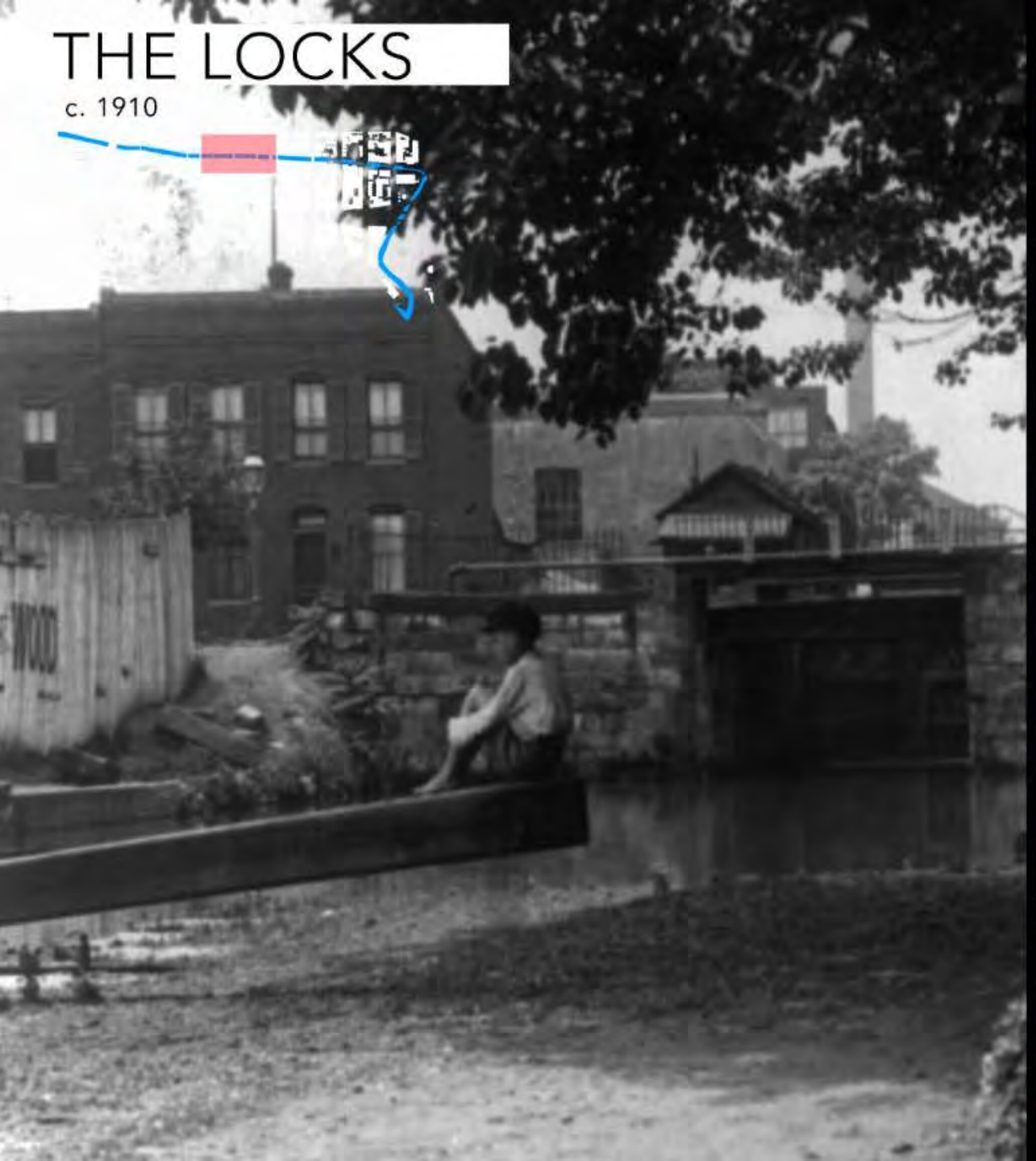
JAMES CORNER FIELD OPPRANDONS

THE LOCKS

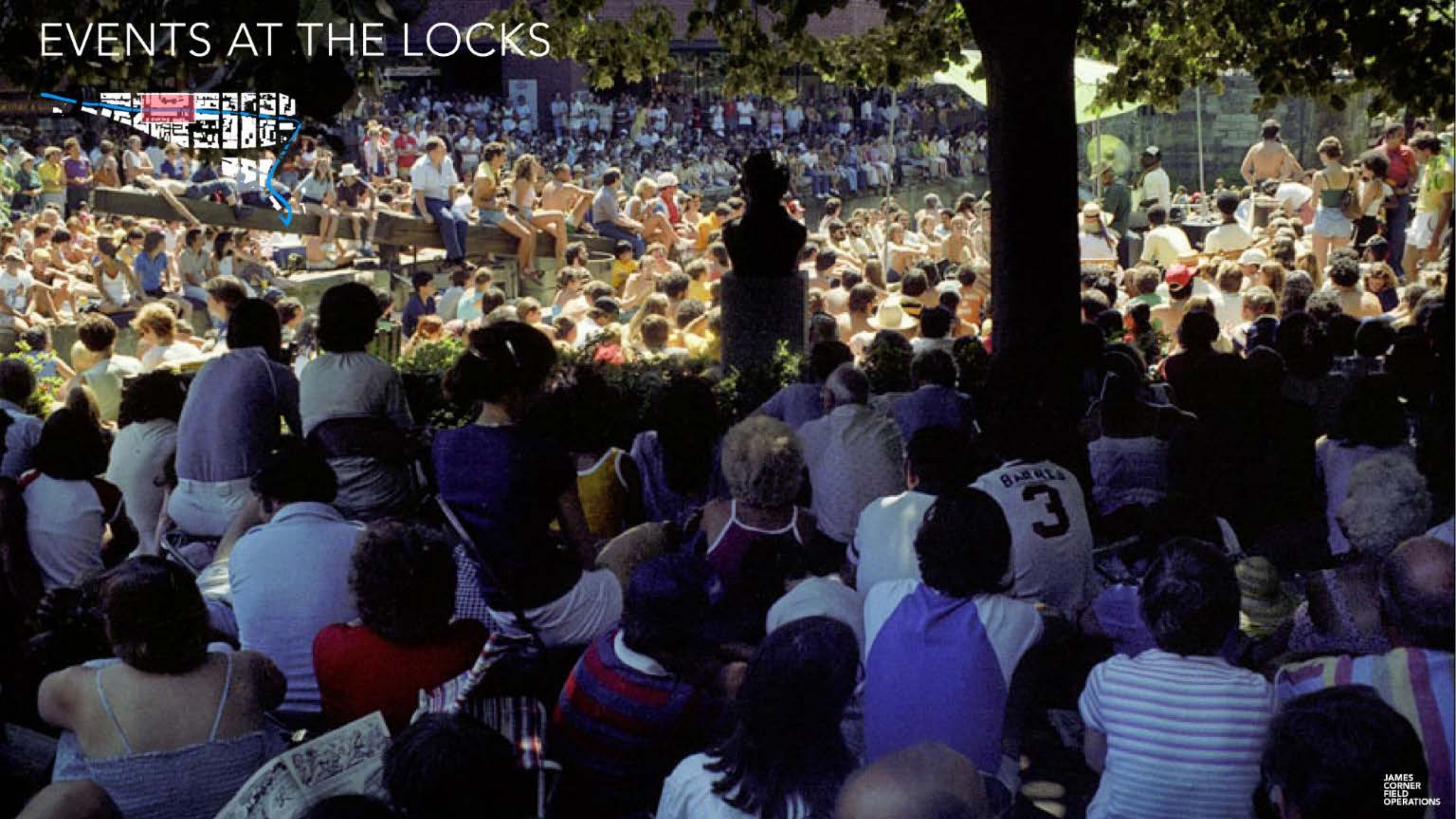
A view up the Locks

THE LOCKS

c. 1910



EVENTS AT THE LOCKS



JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

THE LOCKS

THE LOCKS

Alternative B: 29th St to Thomas Jefferson St

THE LOCKS

Alternative A: 29th St to Thomas Jefferson St

*Resources earmarked as "contributing" in NPS Cultural Landscape Inventory

THE LOCKS

1920

THE LOCKS

THE LOCKS

Alternative A: View West to Existing Visitor Center

THE LOCKS

Early 20th Century View East to Veterinary Hospital

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

THE LOCKS

Alternative A: View West to Existing Visitor Center

8 LANDSCAPES

THE GROVE

THE GROVE

THE GROVE

Alternative A: Thomas Jefferson St to Wisconsin Ave

THE GROVE

THE GROVE

THE GROVE

Alternative A

8 LANDSCAPES

THE WALLS

THE WALLS

1920

THE WALLS

Alternative B: Wisconsin Ave to Potomac St

THE WALLS

Alternative A: Wisconsin Ave to Potomac St

THE WALLS

View from Wisconsin Avenue Bridge

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

THE WALLS

Wisconsin Avenue Cut-Out: Alternative B

THE WALLS

Wisconsin Avenue Cut-Out: Alternative A

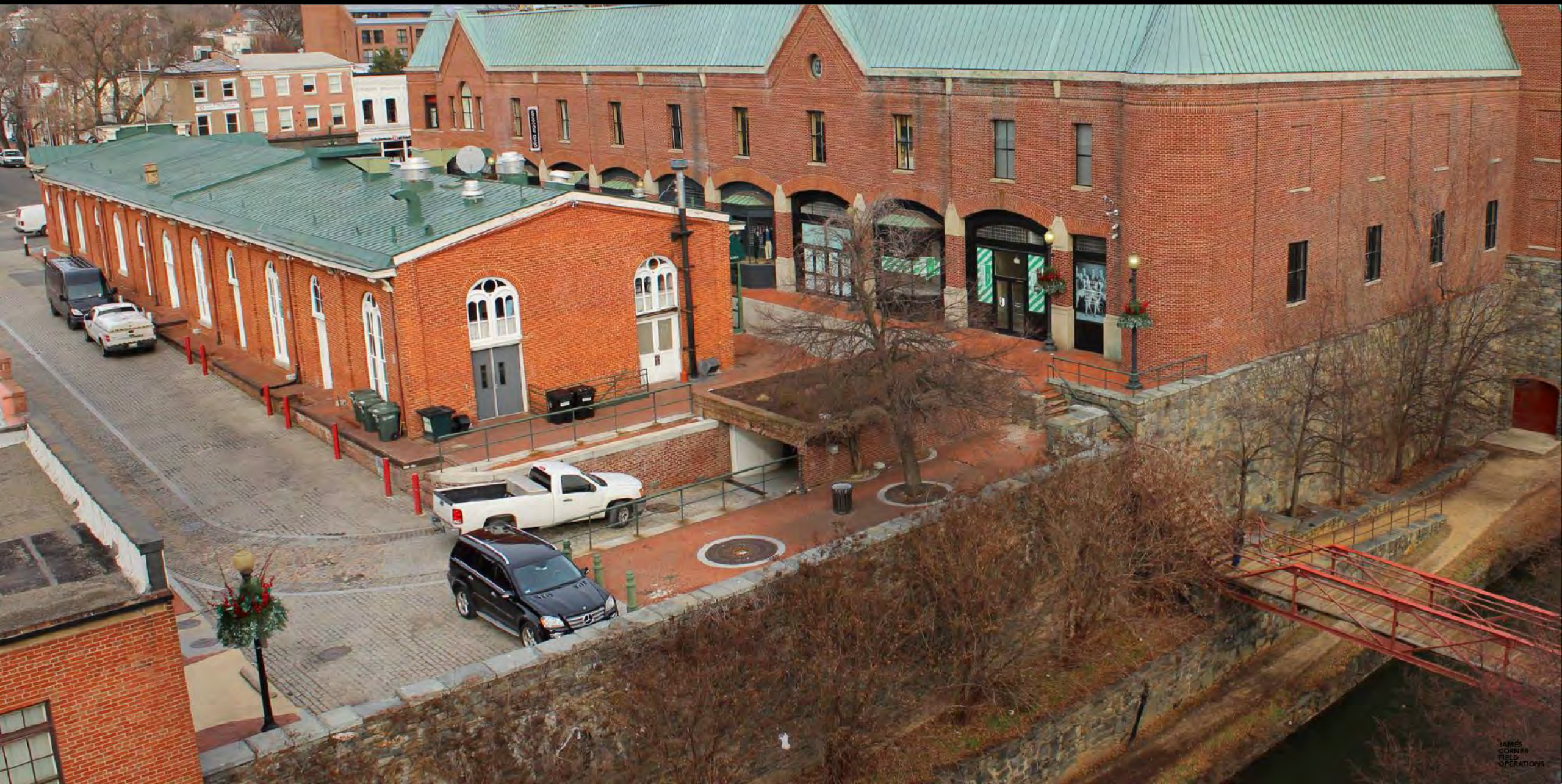
THE WALLS

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Markethouse from M Street, c. 1930

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Existing Site



THE MARKET PLAZAS

Alternative A

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Alternative B

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Fish Market Square, c. 1910

THE MARKET PLAZAS

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Alternative A

THE MARKET PLAZAS

Alternative B

8 LANDSCAPES
THE BEND

JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

THE BEND

Jim Keyton Stoneyard

THE BEND

Alternative A: Potomac St to 34th St

*Resources earmarked as "contributing" in NPS Cultural Landscape Inventory

THE BEND

Alternative B: Potomac St to 34th St

*Resources earmarked as "contributing" in NPS Cultural Landscape Inventory

THE BEND

c. 1923

THE BEND

THE BEND

Alternative A

8 LANDSCAPES
THE AQUEDUCT
JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

THE AQUEDUCT

Various Utilities Through History

A MEANS OF CONVEYING WATER

A BRIDGE

THE AQUEDUCT

c 1940

THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative A

THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative B

THE AQUEDUCT

Existing Condition

THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative A: Simple Overlook

THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative B: Framed by Trestle Structure

THE AQUEDUCT

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

END