

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN

OCTOBER 2017

Prepared for

GEORGETOWN
HERITAGE



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

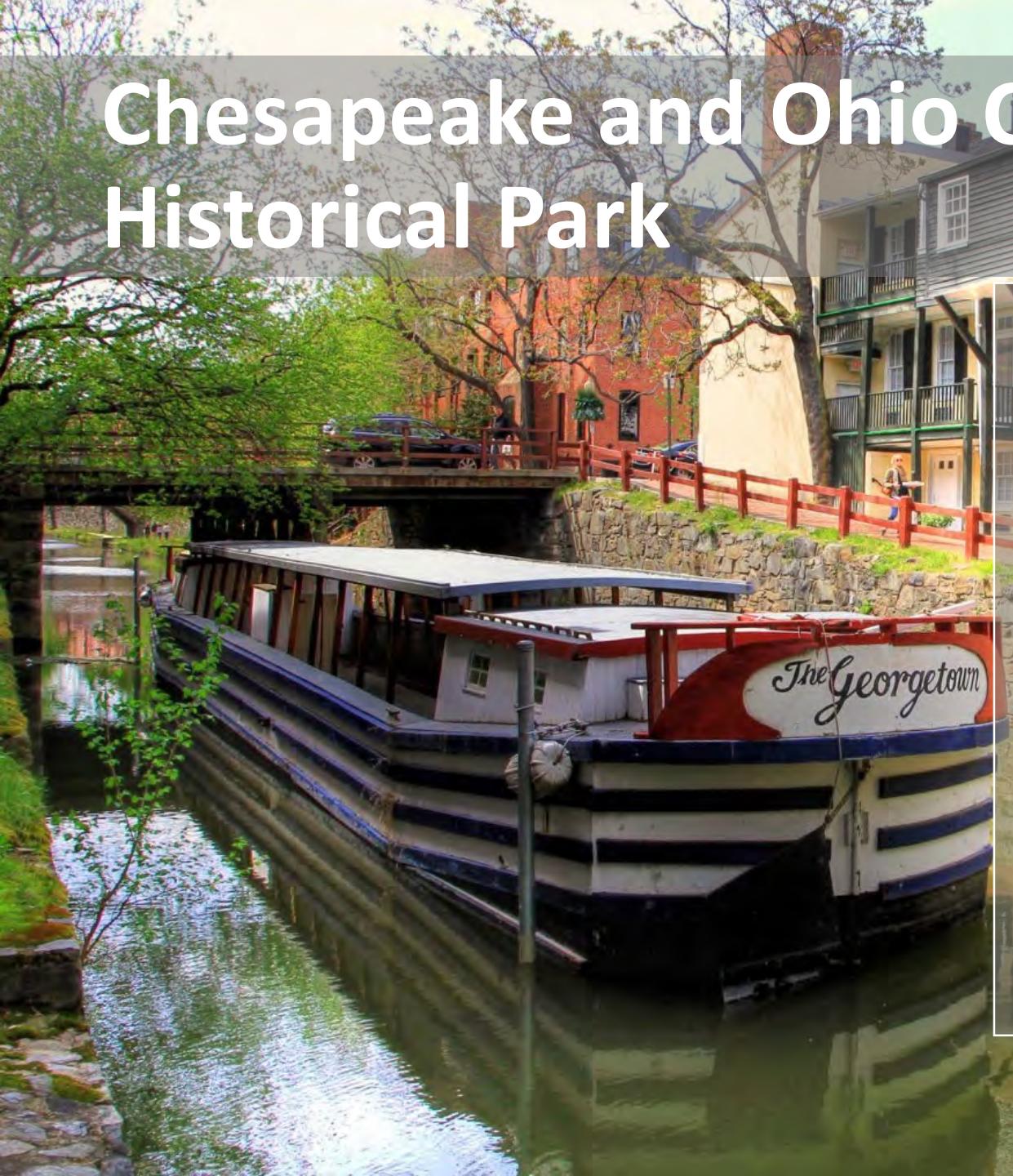


Design a sustainable, maintainable, ecologically sensitive, safe and accessible urban place that serves a diverse group of users.

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

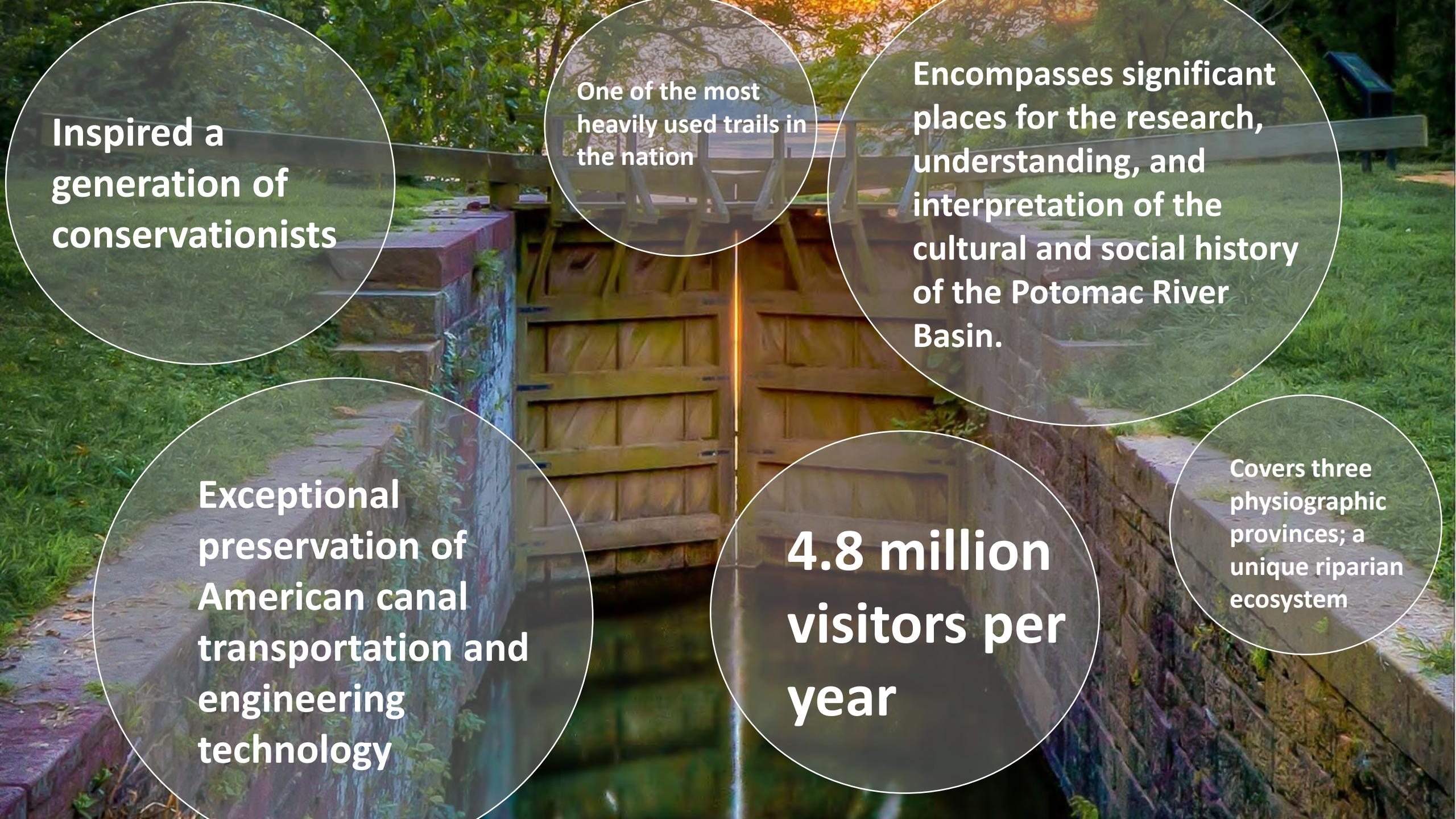
- 74 canal locks
- 11 aqueducts
- 240+ culverts
- 3,118 ft Paw Paw Tunnel
- 1 Incline Plane

1828 Construction Began	1850 Construction Completed in Cumberland	1924 Navigation Ends	1938 U.S. Government Acquires	1961 National Monument	1971 National Historical Park
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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

Exceptional preservation of American canal transportation and engineering technology

One of the most heavily used trails in the nation

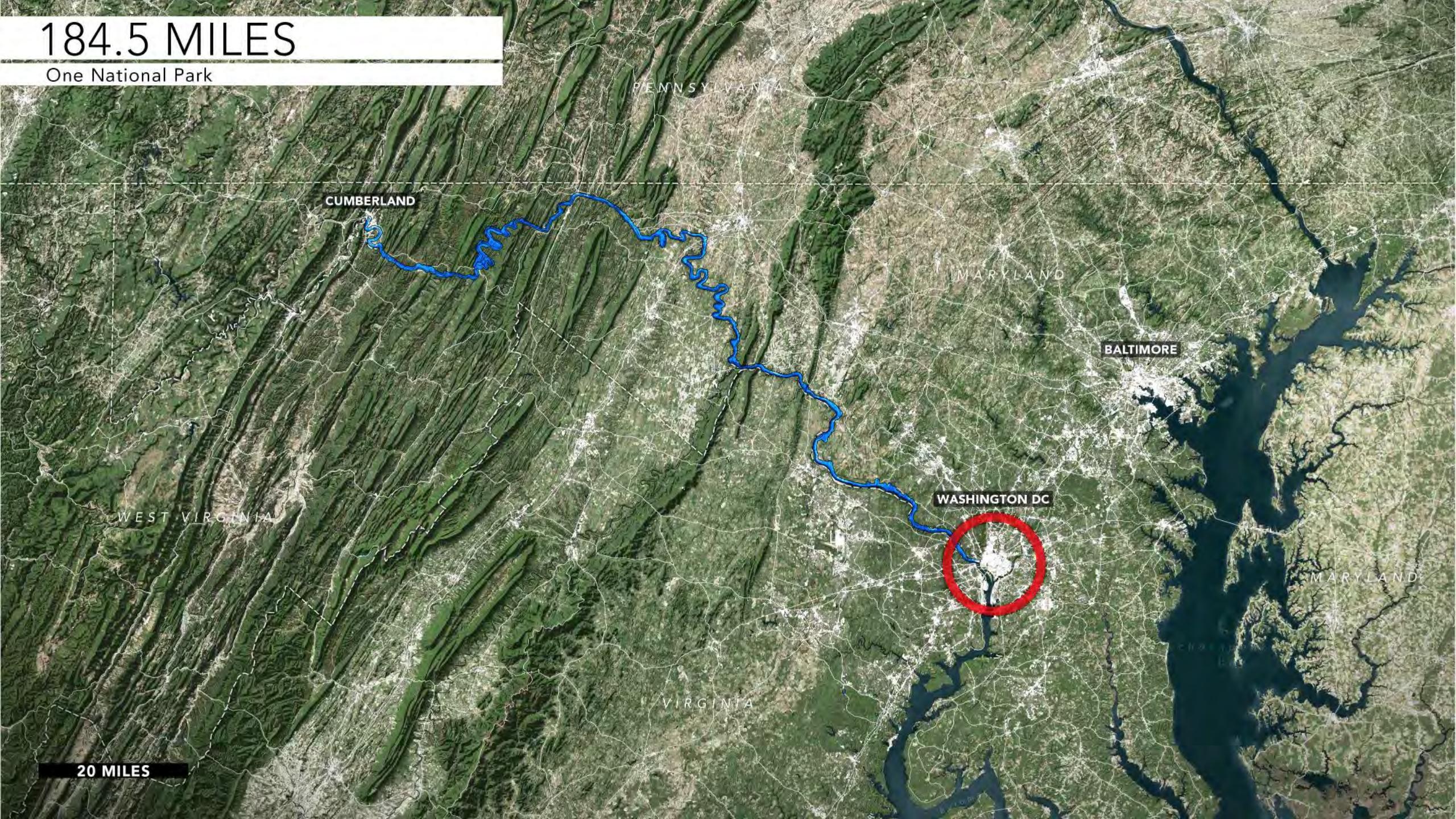
4.8 million visitors per year

Encompasses significant places for the research, understanding, and interpretation of the cultural and social history of the Potomac River Basin.

Covers three physiographic provinces; a unique riparian ecosystem

184.5 MILES

One National Park



20 MILES

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

Environmental & Historic Preservation Laws and Procedures



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

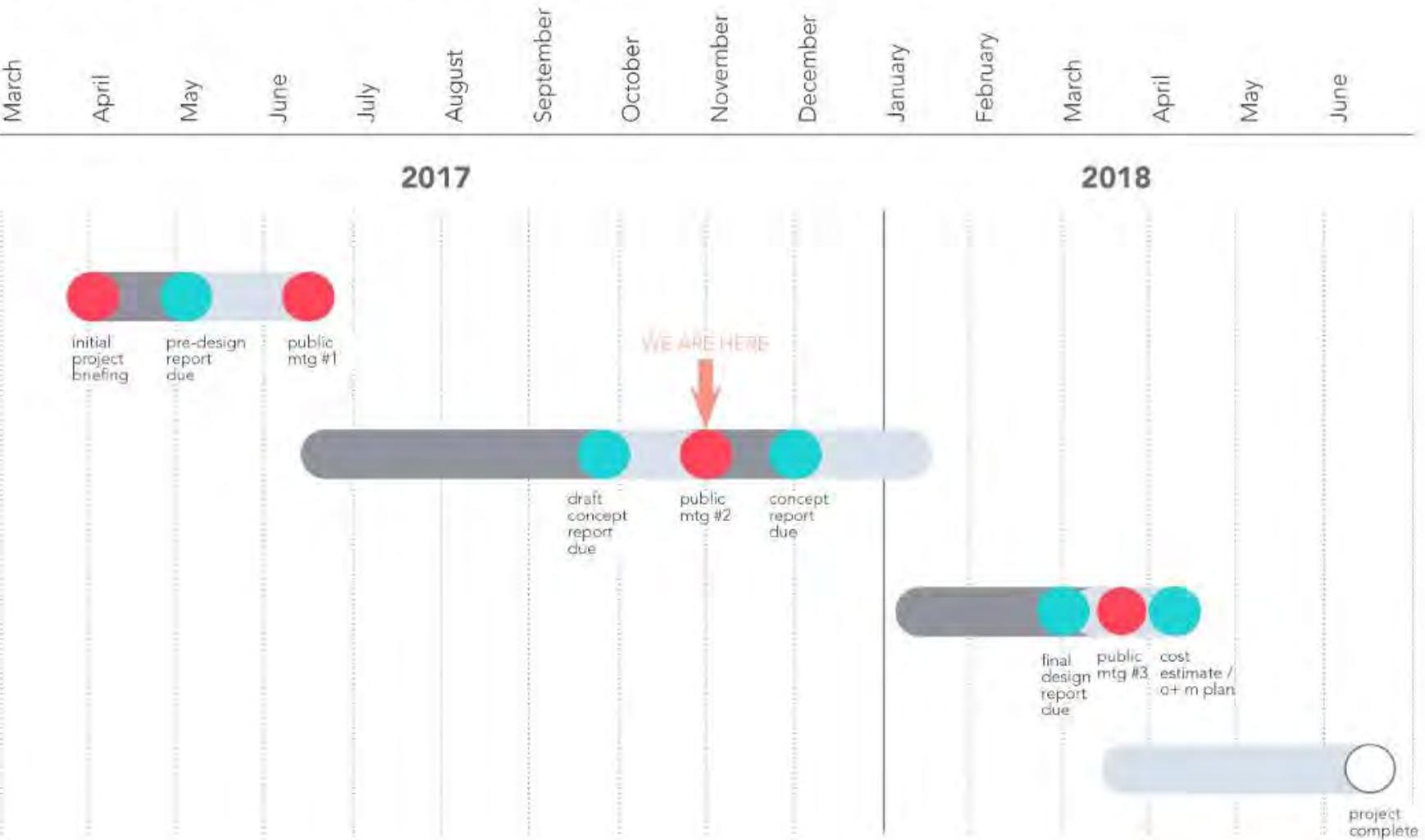
EA will Evaluate Environmental and Cultural Impacts and Outline
Mitigation Strategies
Release EA to Public for a 30-Day Comment Period

STEP 5 - CONCLUSION

Review and Respond to Public Comments
Prepare NEPA Decision Document (FONSI or NOI)
Conclude Section 106 Process (MOA or PA)

16-MONTH CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

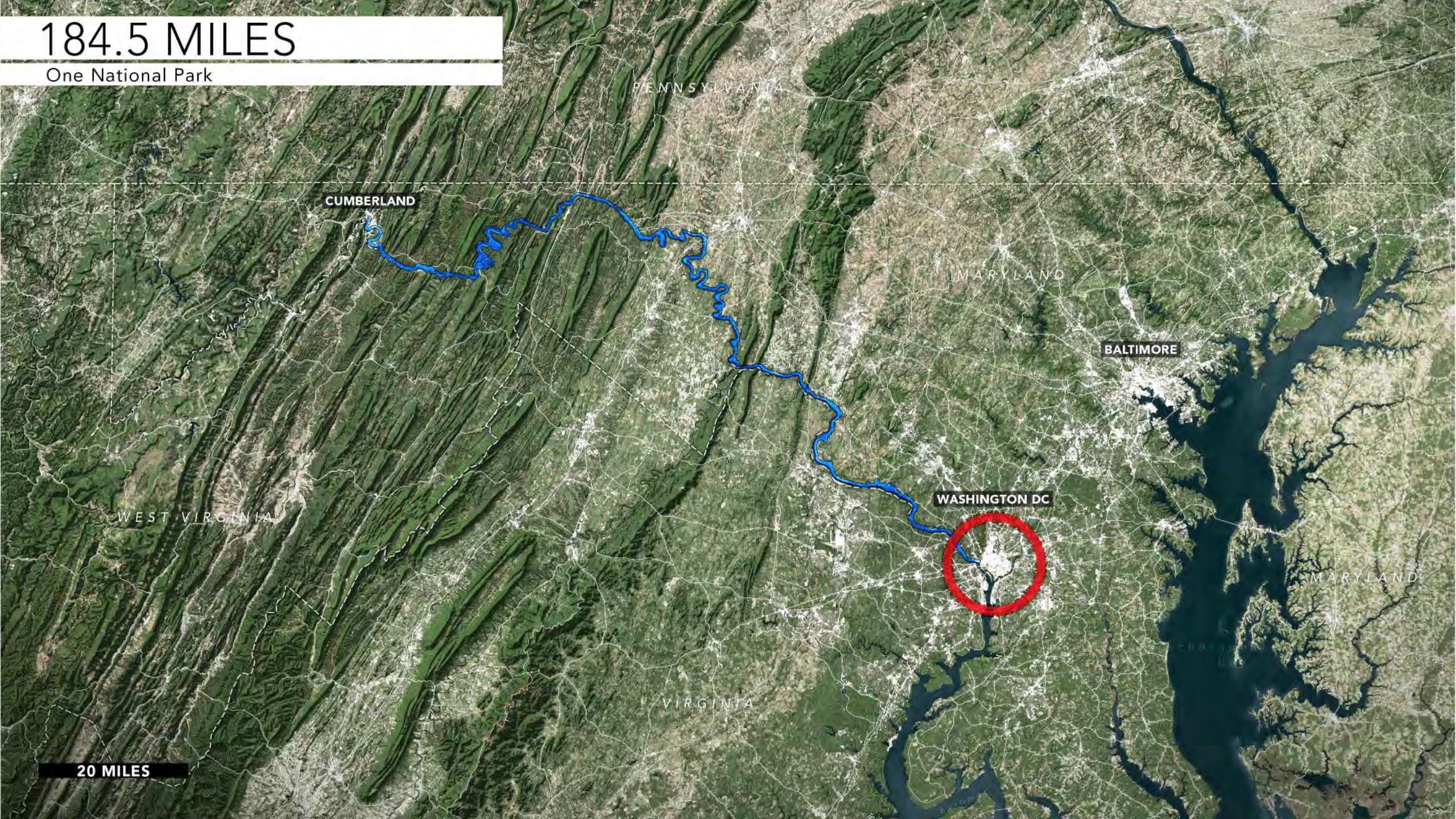
- 1** PRE-DESIGN + SITE ANALYSIS + PUBLIC SCOPING
- 2** CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT + REFINEMENT
- 3** FINALIZE PLAN + COST ESTIMATE / O + M
- 4** SIGN-OFF on ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



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

184.5 MILES

One National Park



20 MILES

184.5 MILES

Five Physiographic Regions · One National Park



184.5 MILES

One National Park



GEOGETOWN



FLETCHER'S COVE



GREAT FALLS



OLMSTED ISLAND



HARPER'S FERRY



LOCK 10



LOCK 21



CUMBERLAND

MILE ONE

Historic Urban Fabric



A WORKING CANAL LANDSCAPE



BOATS



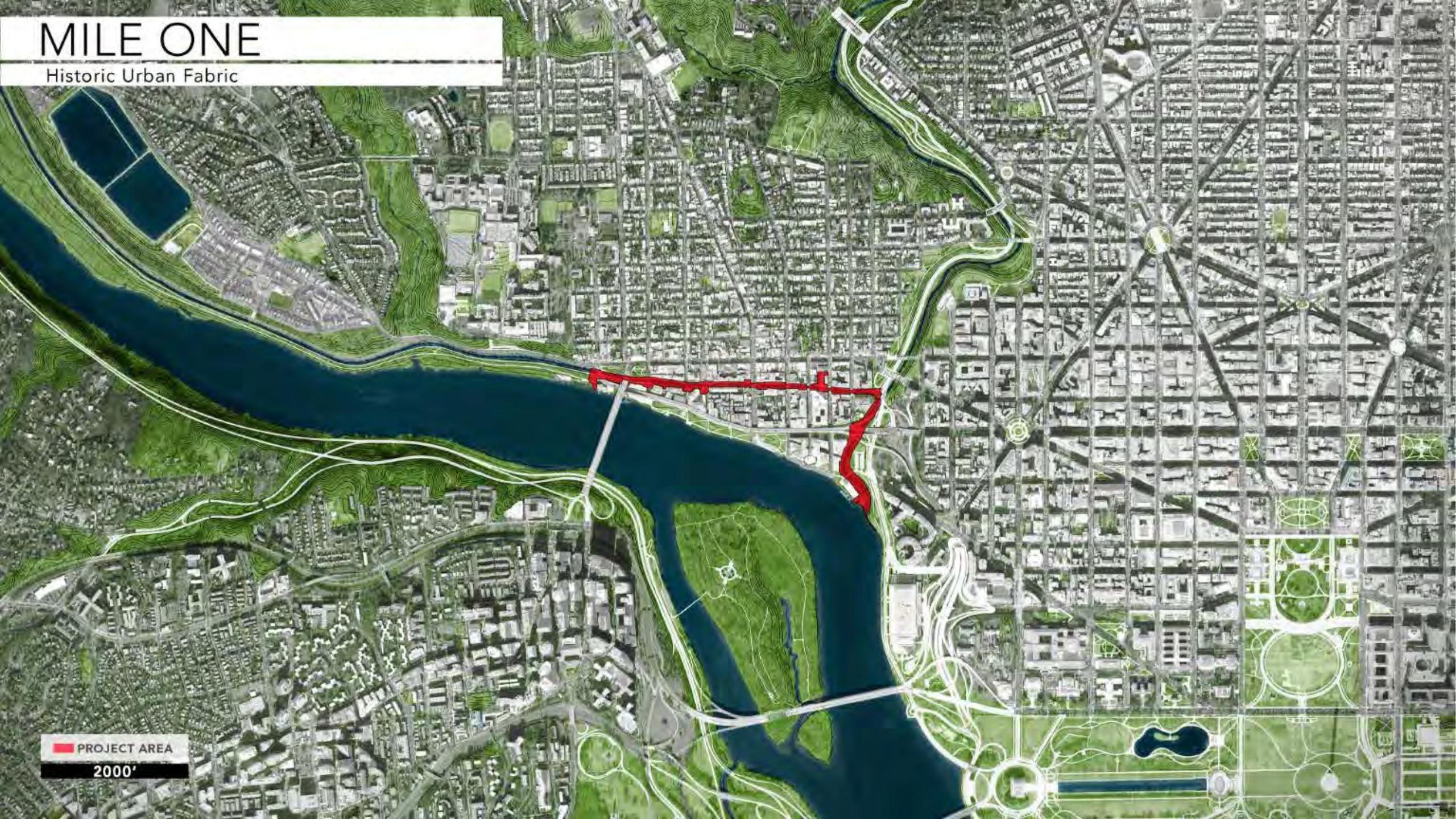
MULES



LOCKS

MILE ONE

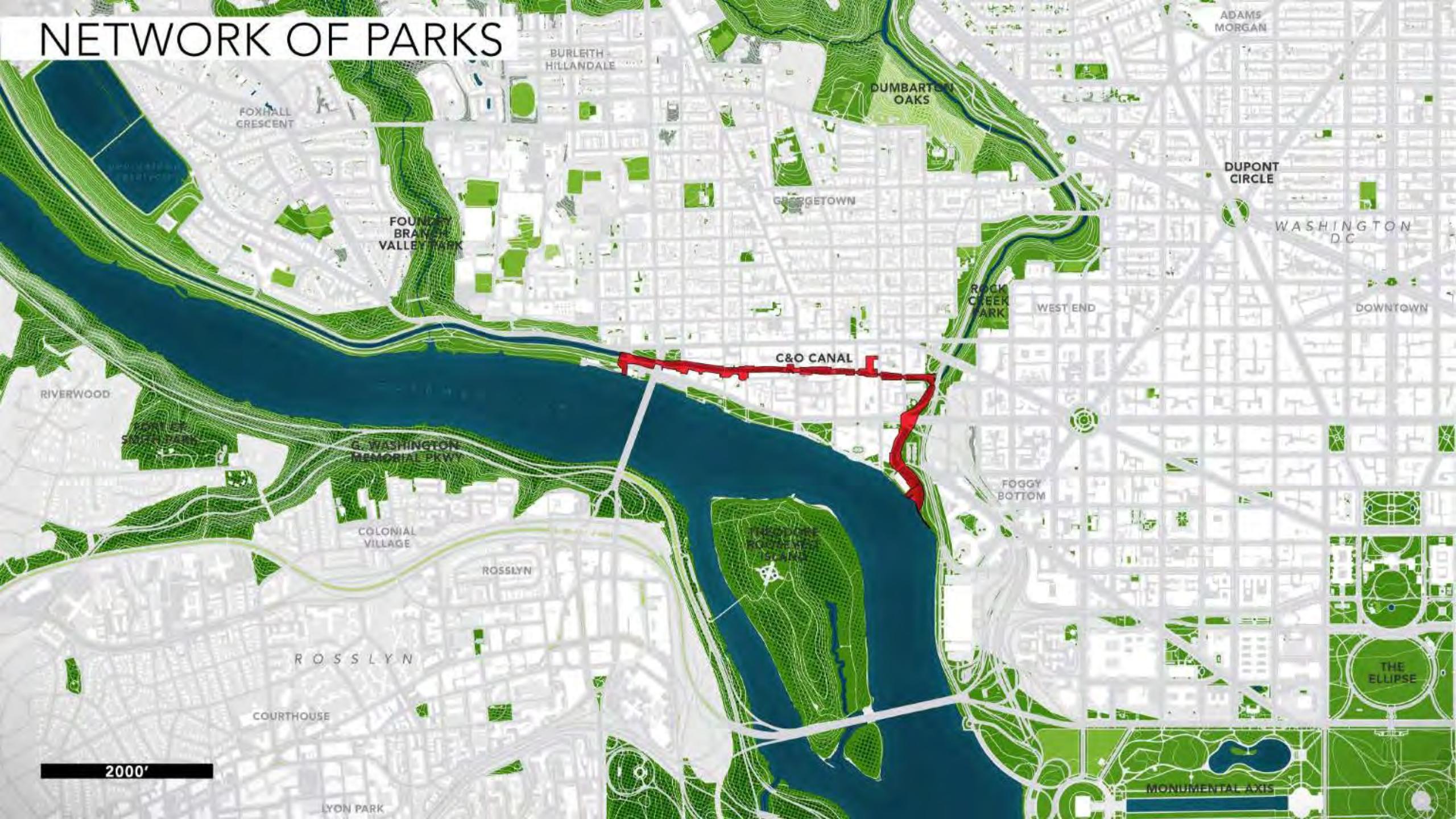
Historic Urban Fabric



■ PROJECT AREA

2000'

NETWORK OF PARKS



2000'

MILE ONE

Restoring the C&O Canal's Vibrancy in Georgetown



SITE EXPERIENCES

ALEXANDRIA
AQUEDUCT
BOAT HOUSE
THICKET
KEY BRIDGE
UNDERPASS
FORESTED
SLOPE
POTOMAC
CONNECTION
DUCKS



CRAPE MYRTLE CANOPY
FLOWERING WALL
SUNKEN FACADES
MOSSY GARDENS

34th ST BRIDGE

LINDEN GROVE
FISH MARKET SQUARE
WISTERIA OVERLOOK
SOUTHERN TRAIL TERMINUS

POTOMAC ST BRIDGE

BIG STONE WALL
GRANITE OUTCROP
POWER PLANT STACK
WISCONSIN AVE STAIRCASE

WISCONSIN AVE BRIDGE

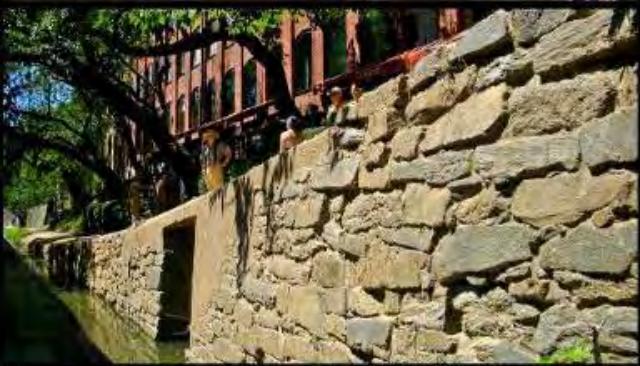
WISCONSIN AVE UNDERPASS
LEANING MULBERRY & BIRCHES
PIONEER FOREST

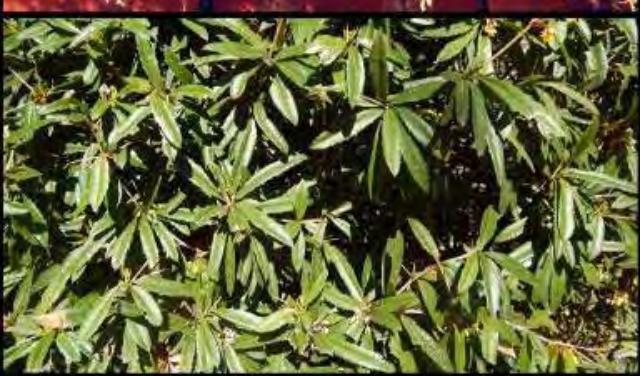
WISCONSIN AVE BRIDGE

TREES OF HEAVEN
OLD ROWHOMES
LOCK 4
COMMERCIAL PLAZA
MULE YARD
LOCK 3
SUNNY LAWN
SHADeD LAWN
LOCK 2

SLOPED LAWN
LOCK 1
PLANE TREE GROVE
ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE
TURTLES

ROCK CREEK
TIDE LOCK
MILE 0'
BEACH





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WHAT WE HEARD

Previous Public Meeting

WHAT DO YOU
LOVE

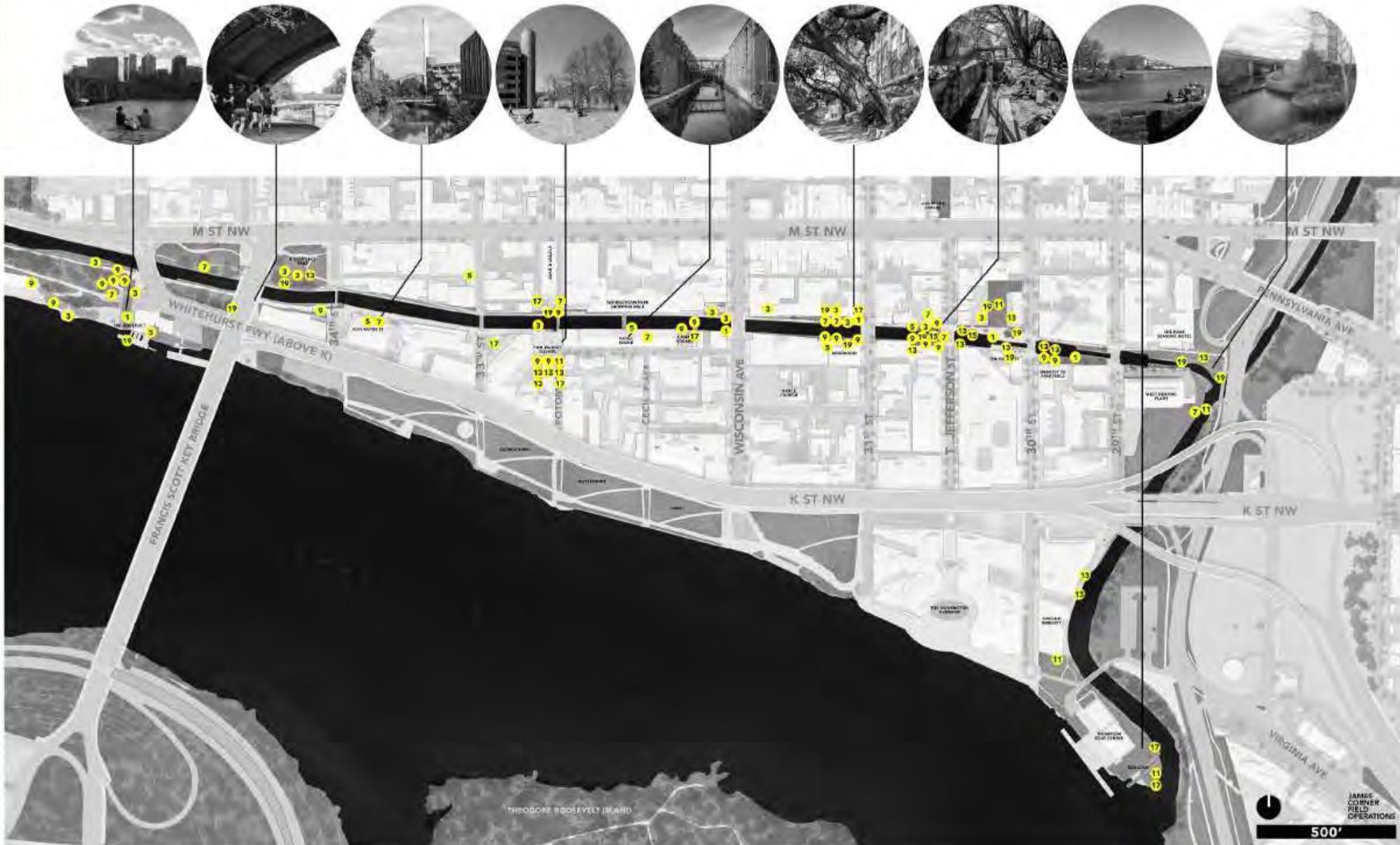
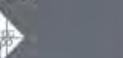


WHAT WOULD YOU
TRANSFORM

CHESAPEAKE &
OHIO CANAL

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

A CONCEPT PLAN FOR GEORGETOWN



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



The areas around
the Locks and the
Aqueduct

The great
views of the
potomac

Love the
shade of the
Trees.

Strolling

A quick
escape to
nature

Loved the live
performances

The sense of
history

There used
to be small
music
gatherings on
the canal.

Bring them
back!

I love the
sound of
running water.

WHAT WE HEARD

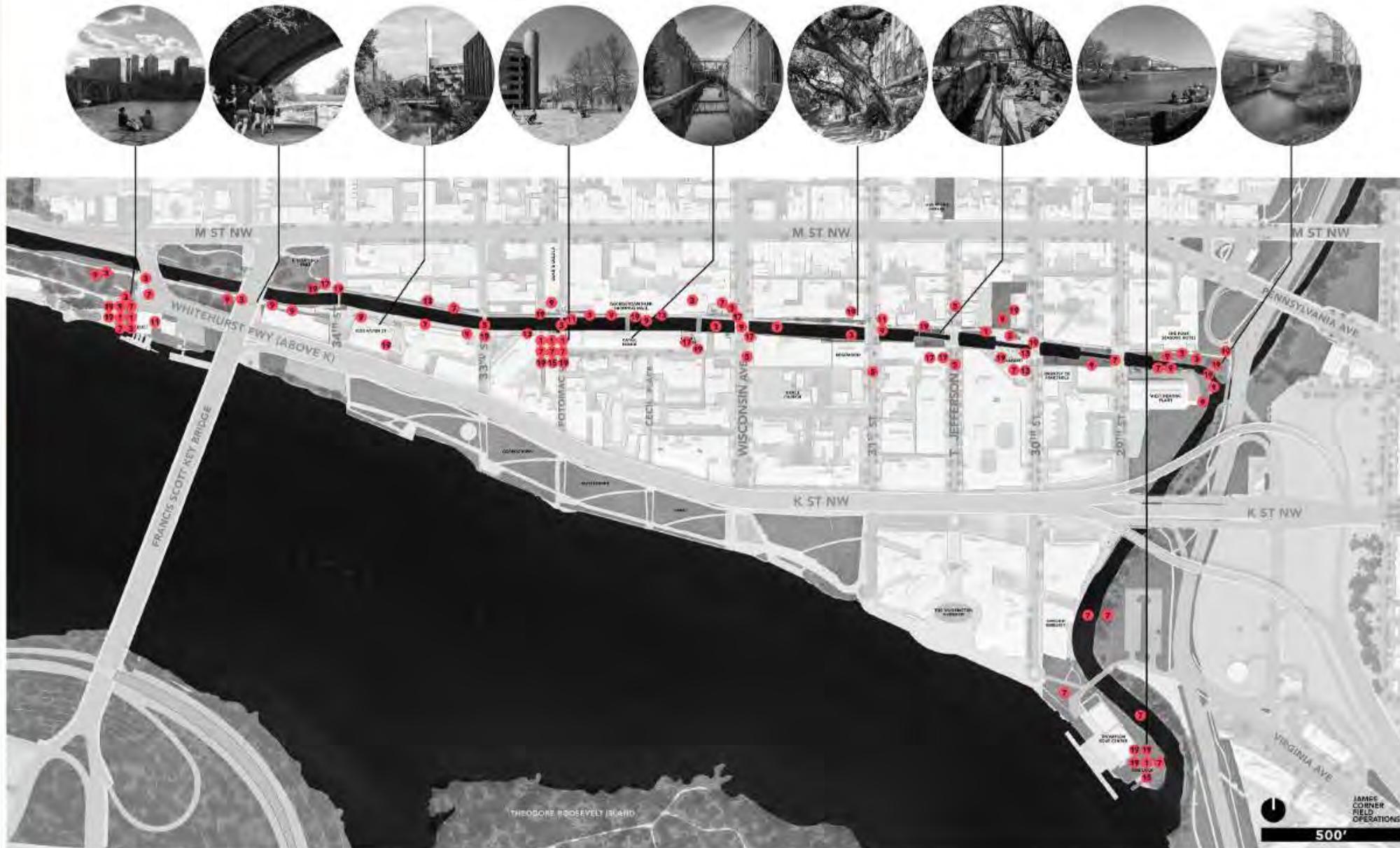
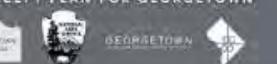
Previous Public Meeting

WHAT DO YOU
LOVE



WHAT WOULD YOU
TRANSFORM

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



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



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

Accessibility

Great place,
but needs
programming

Add more
seating

Increase the
diversity of
uses on the
canal.

Need
sensible
lighting.

Who is going
to maintain
this?

Incorporate
Canal with
Rock Creek
Park.

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

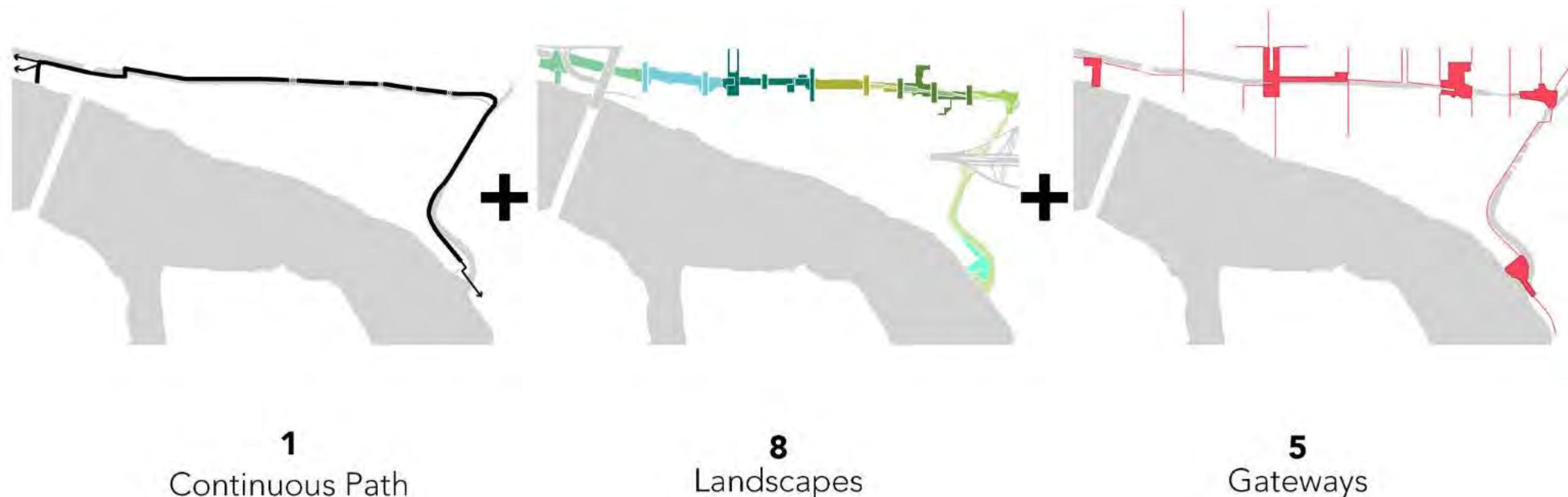
Encourage
cyclists to
use Water St.
rather than
the Towpath

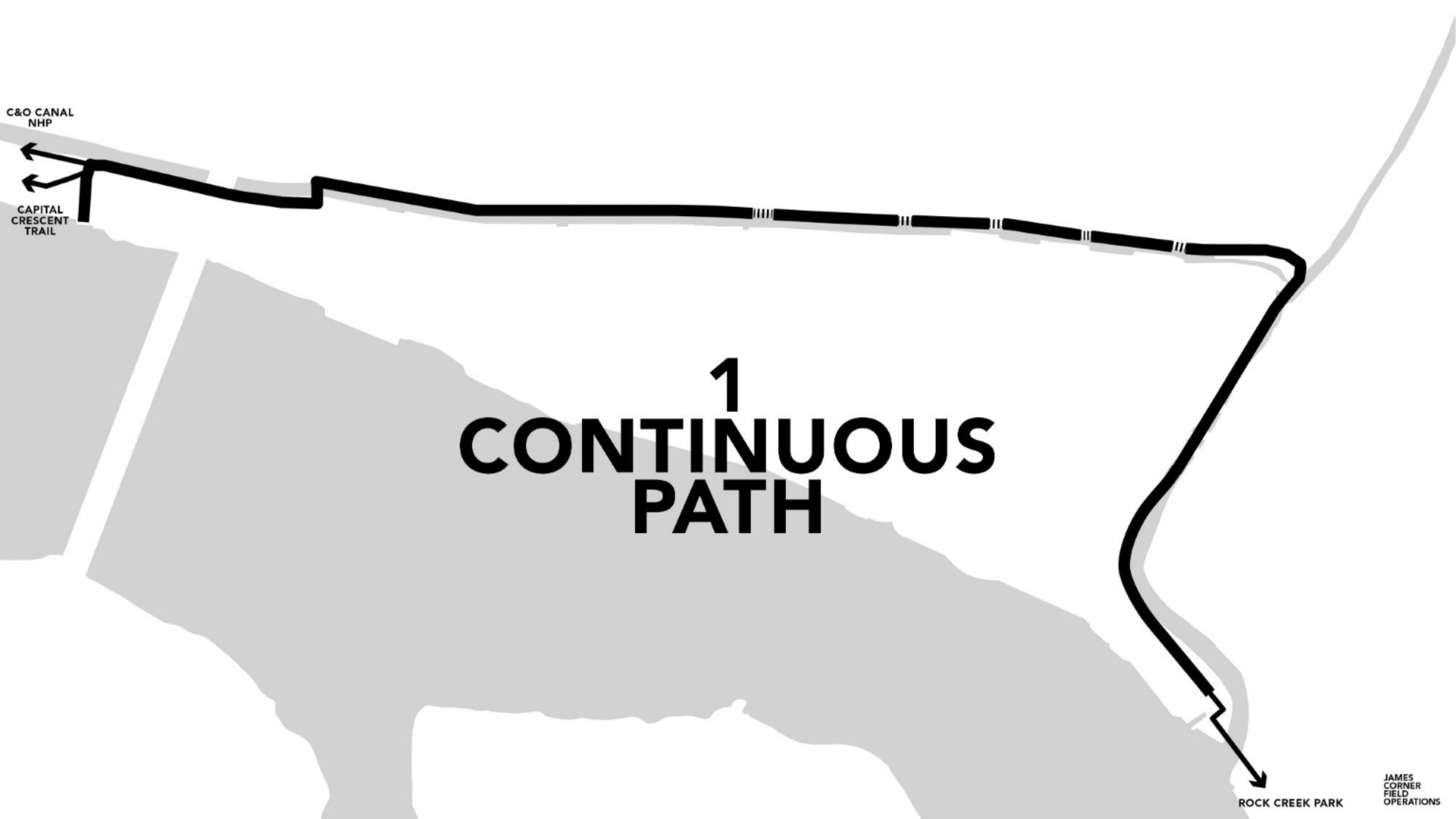
Need to
connect
to Capital
Crescent Trail.

Encourage
cyclists to
use Water St.
rather than
the Towpath

I miss the
sound of
running water.

DESIGN FRAMEWORK





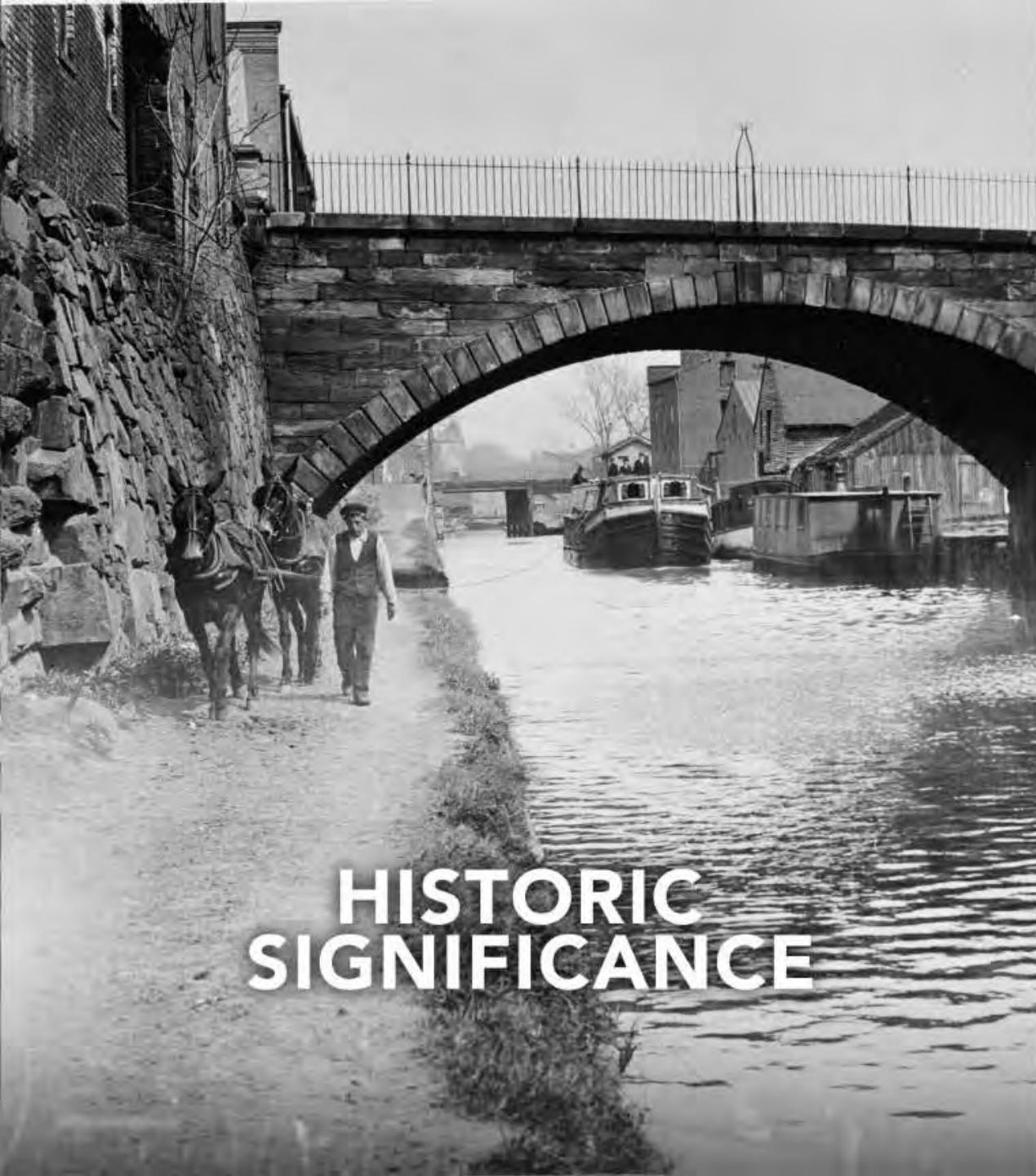
1
**CONTINUOUS
PATH**

C&O CANAL
NHP

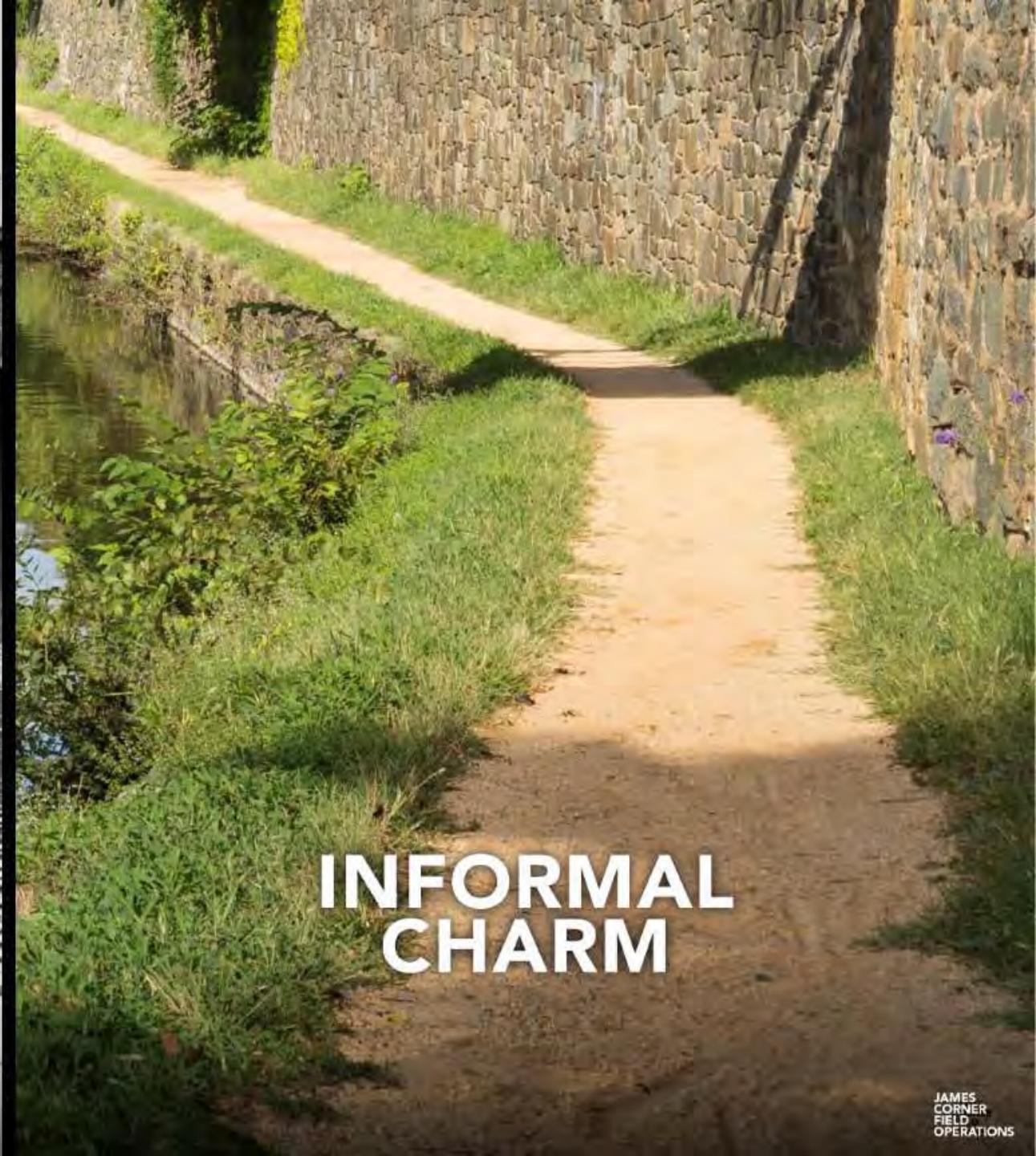
CAPITAL
CRESCENT
TRAIL

ROCK CREEK PARK

JAMES
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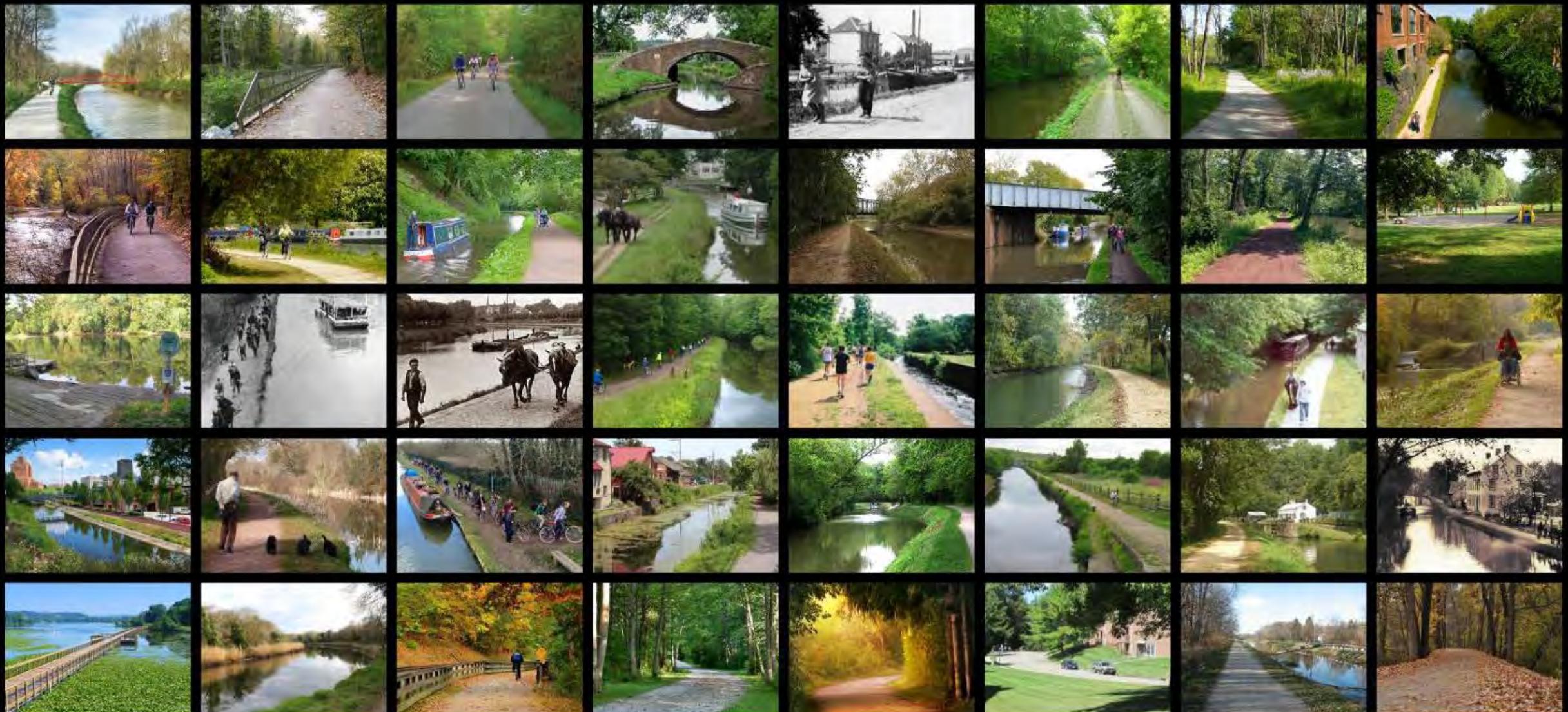
**HISTORIC
SIGNIFICANCE**



**INFORMAL
CHARM**

TOWPATHS

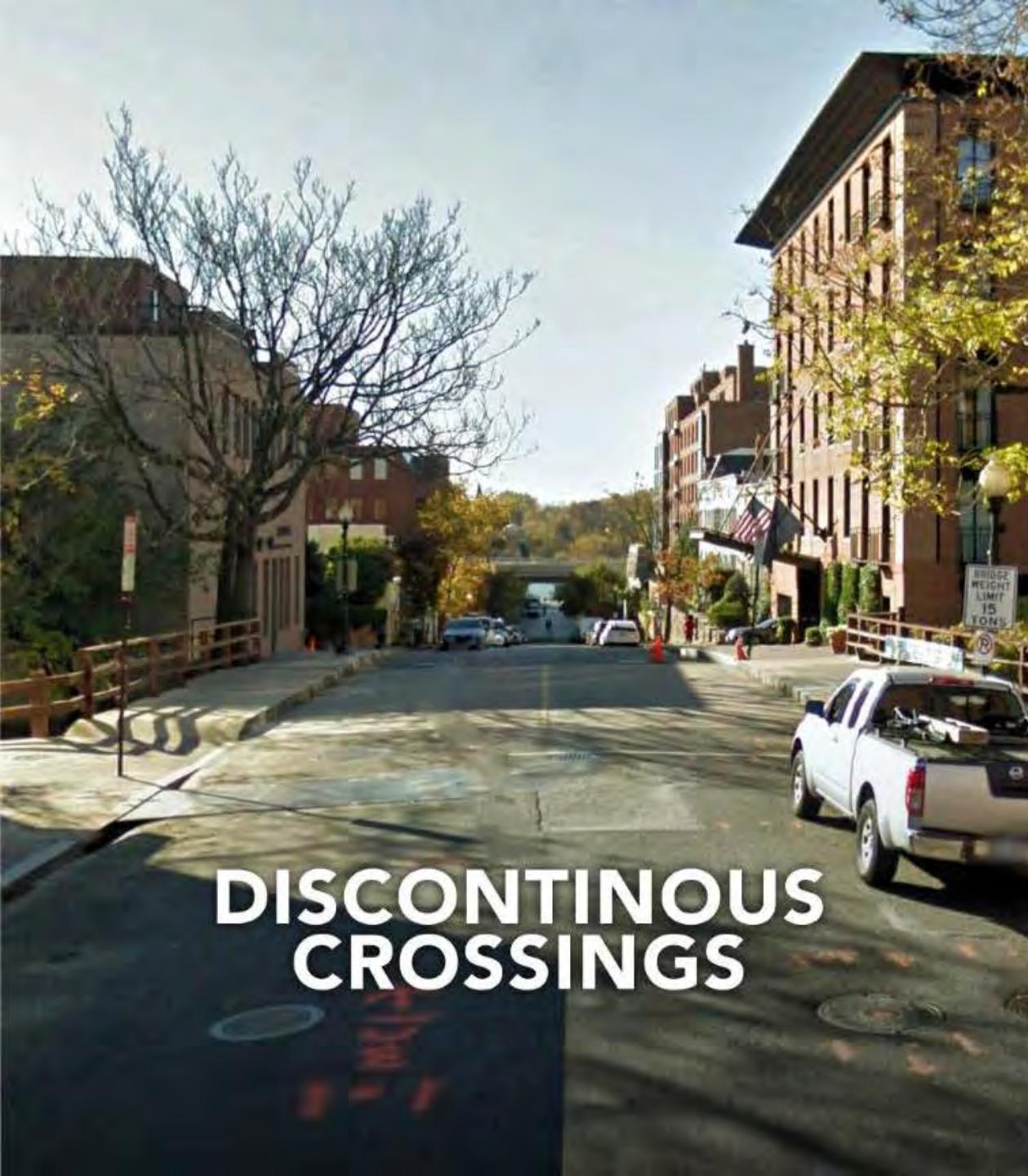
Google Image Search for "Towpath"



TOWPATH TODAY

0 500' 1000'

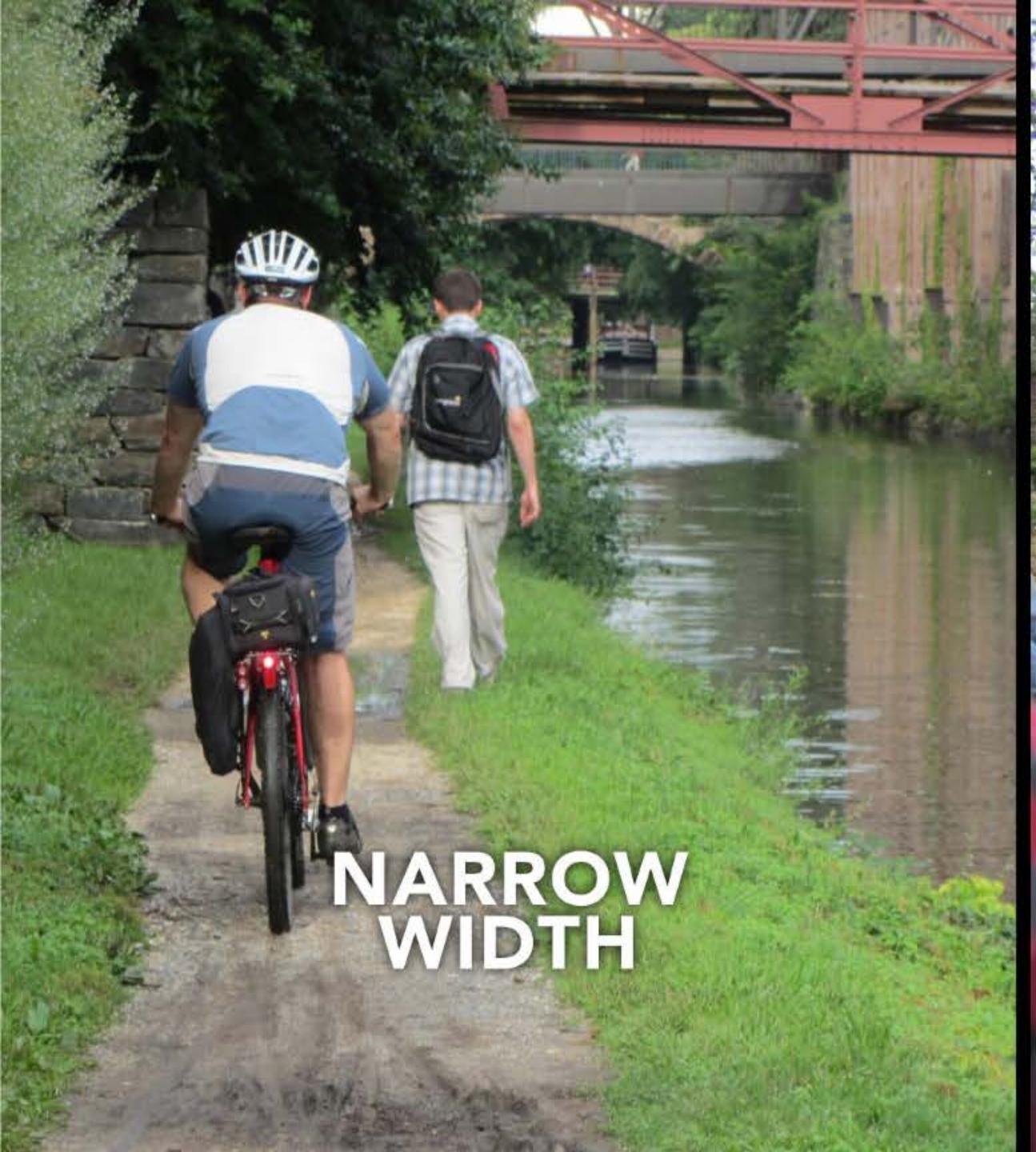




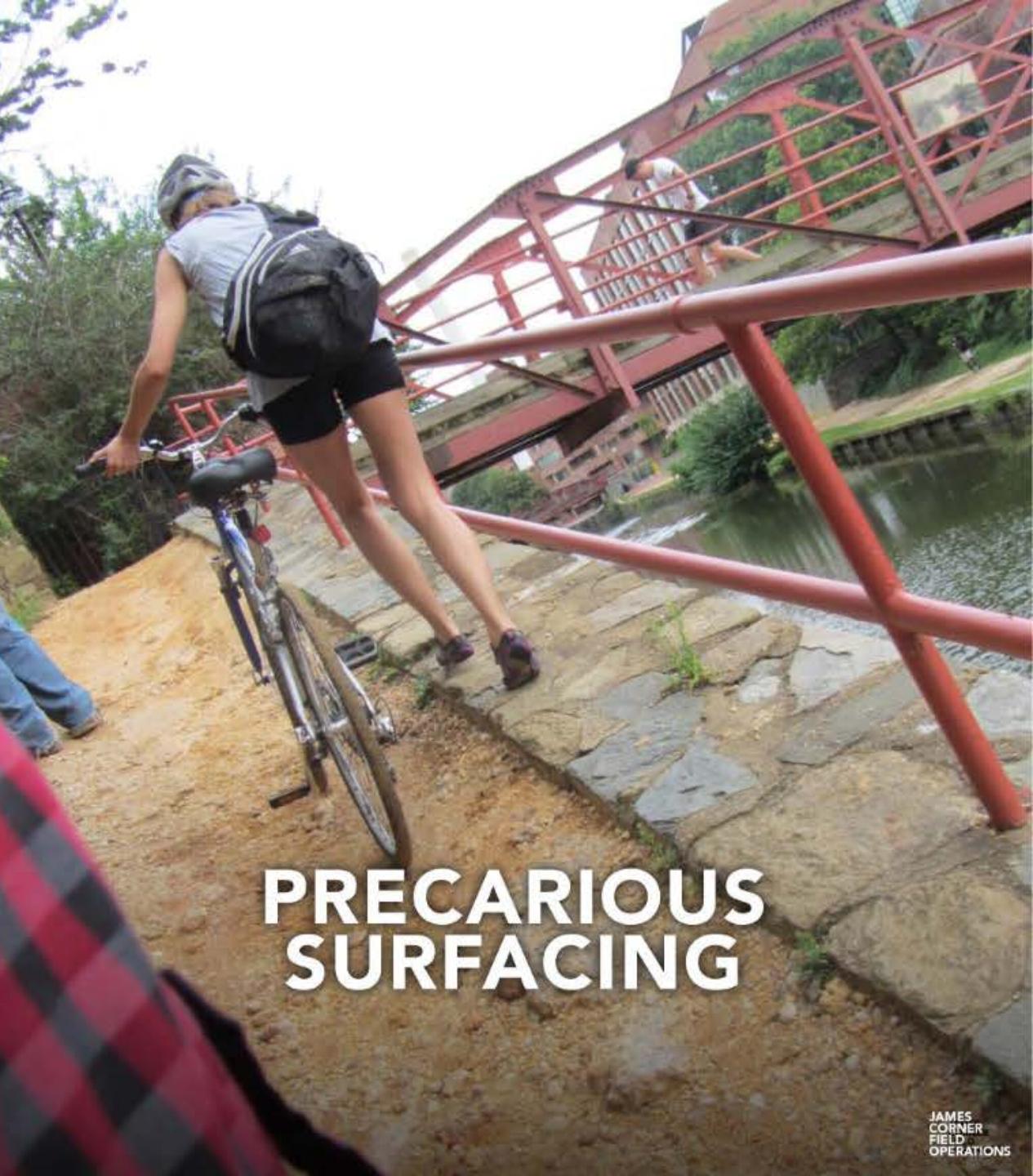
**DISCONTINOUS
CROSSINGS**



**MISSING
CONNECTIONS**



NARROW
WIDTH



PRECARIOUS
SURFACING

CREATING CONTINUITY

Street Crossings & Rock Creek Connection

0 500' 1000'



← TOWPATH ROUTE
■■■ CROSSINGS
— NEW CONNECTIONS

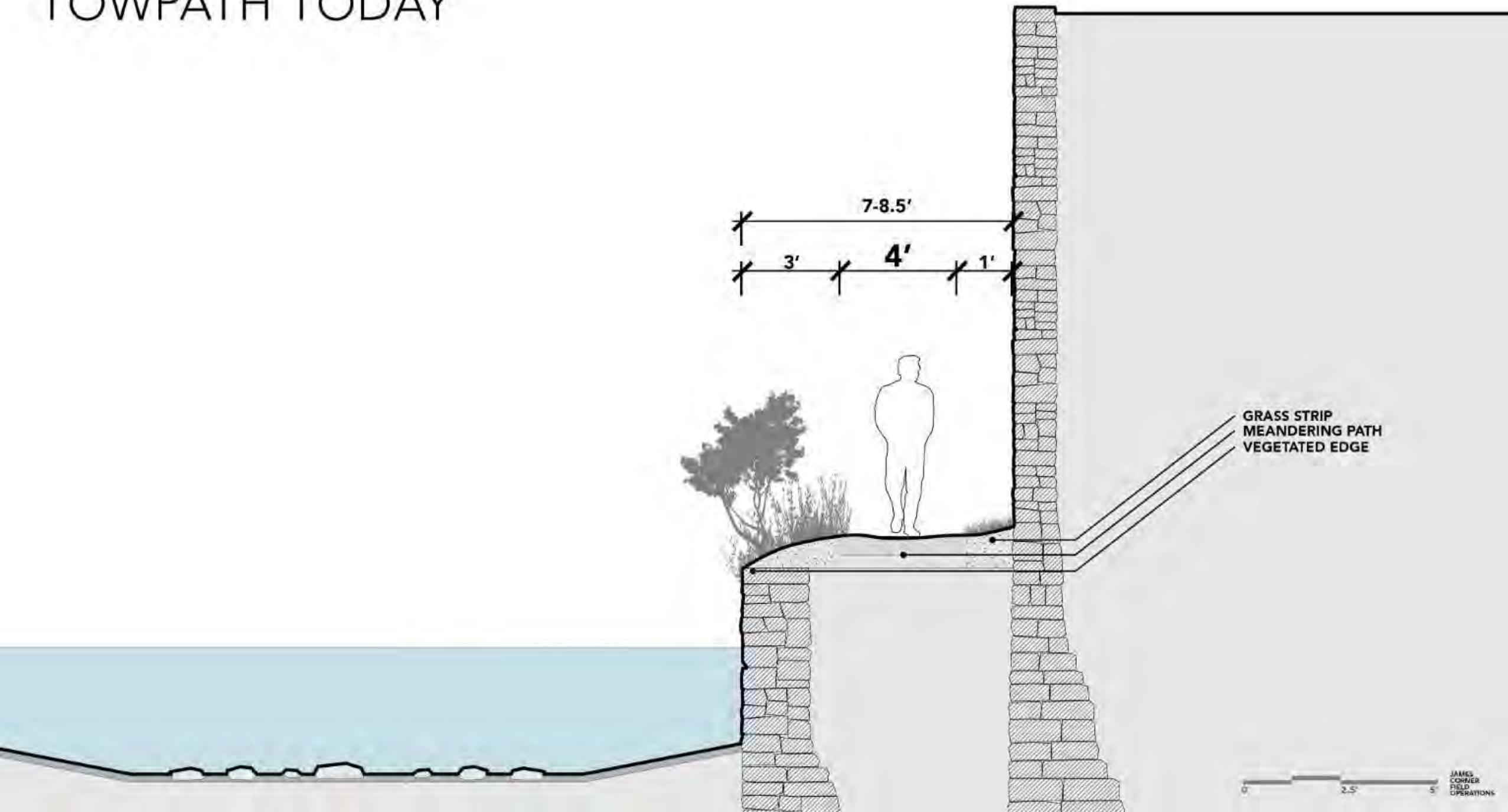
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TOWPATH

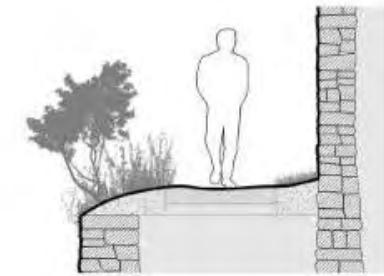
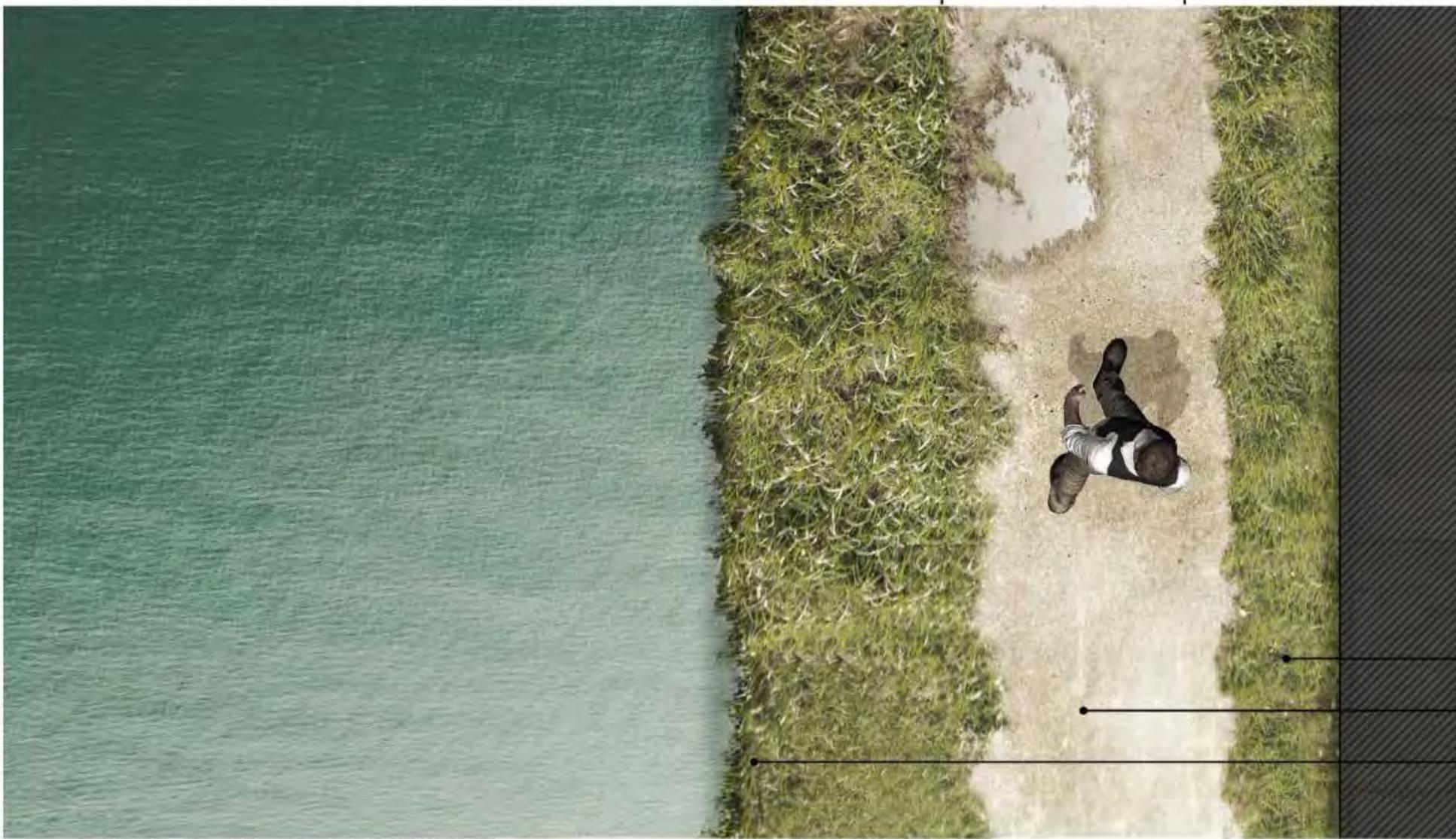
"The Walls" Between Wisconsin Ave & Potomac St.



TOWPATH TODAY



TOWPATH TODAY



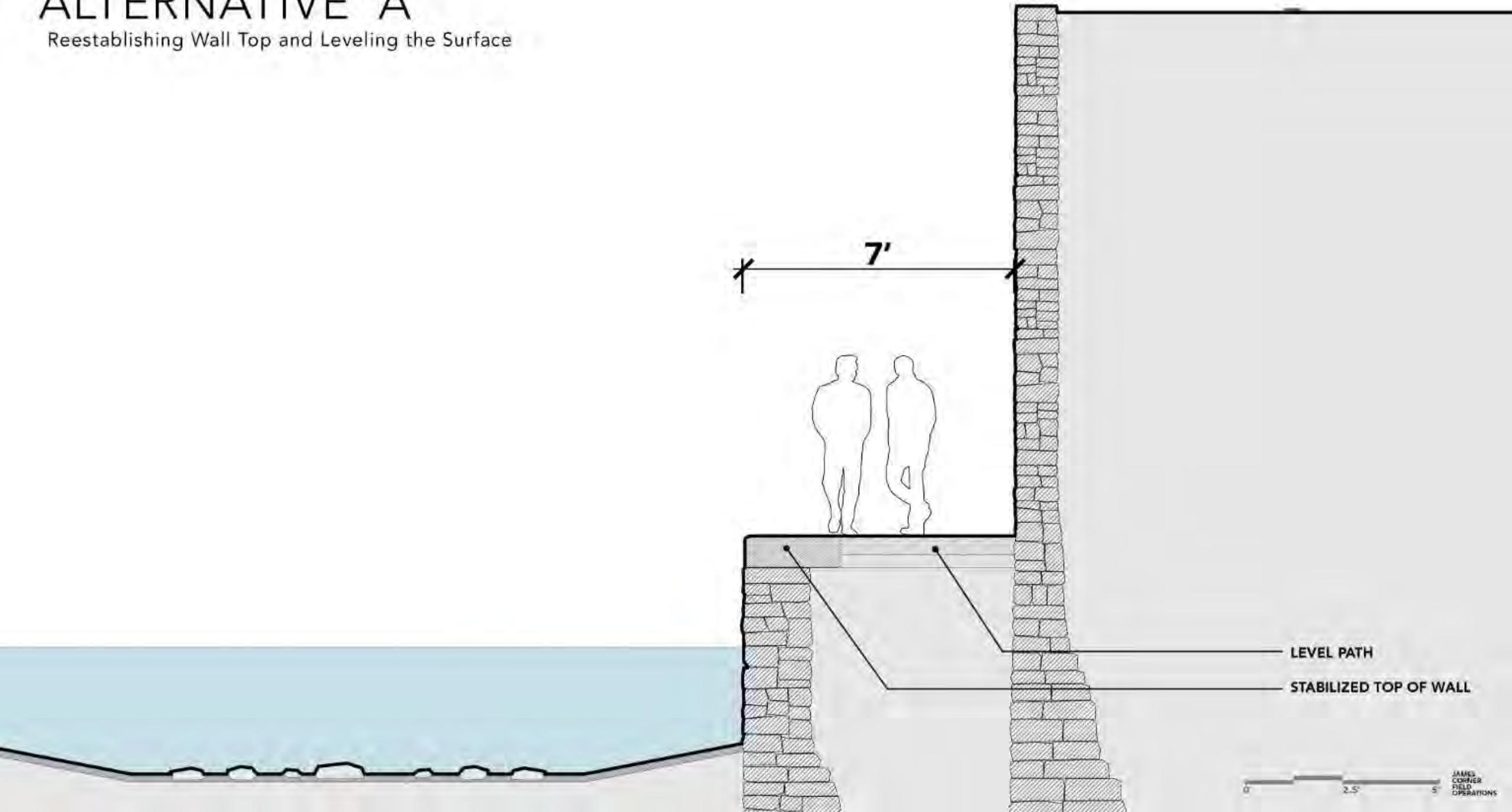
GRASS STRIP

MEANDERING PATH

VEGETATED EDGE

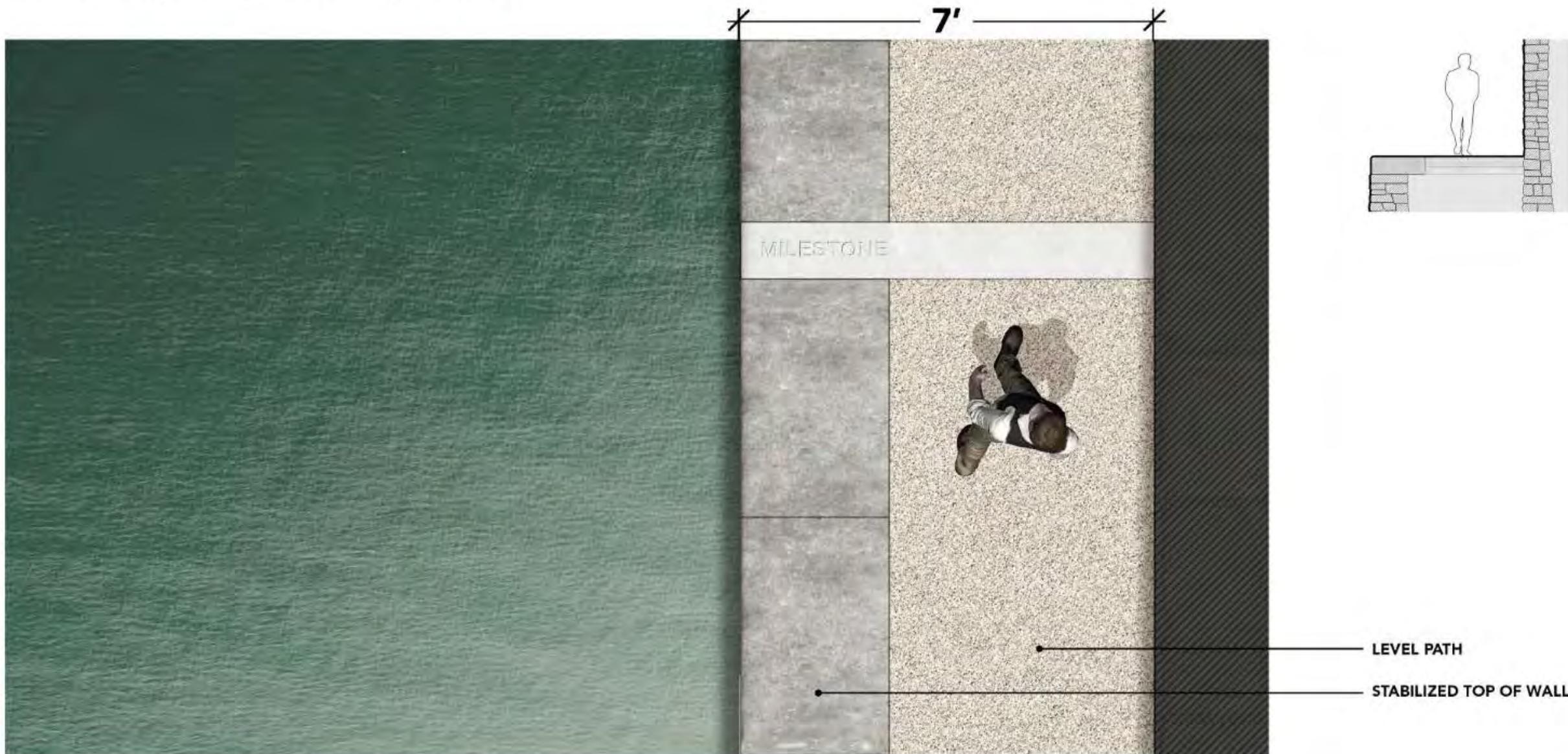
ALTERNATIVE 'A'

Reestablishing Wall Top and Leveling the Surface



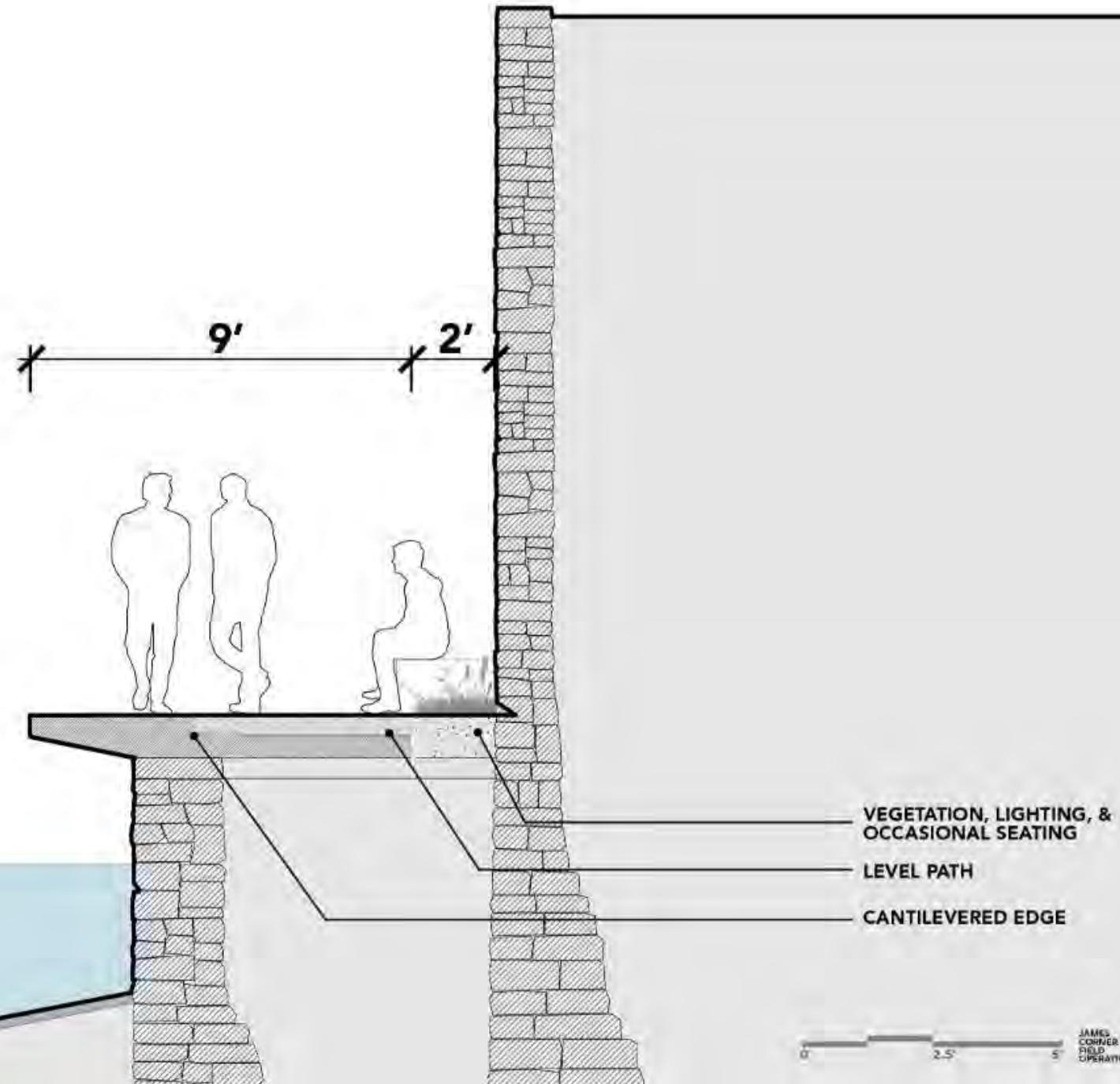
ALTERNATIVE 'A'

Reestablishing Wall Top and Leveling the Surface



ALTERNATIVE 'B'

A Subtle Cantilever to Increase Width & Maintain Planting



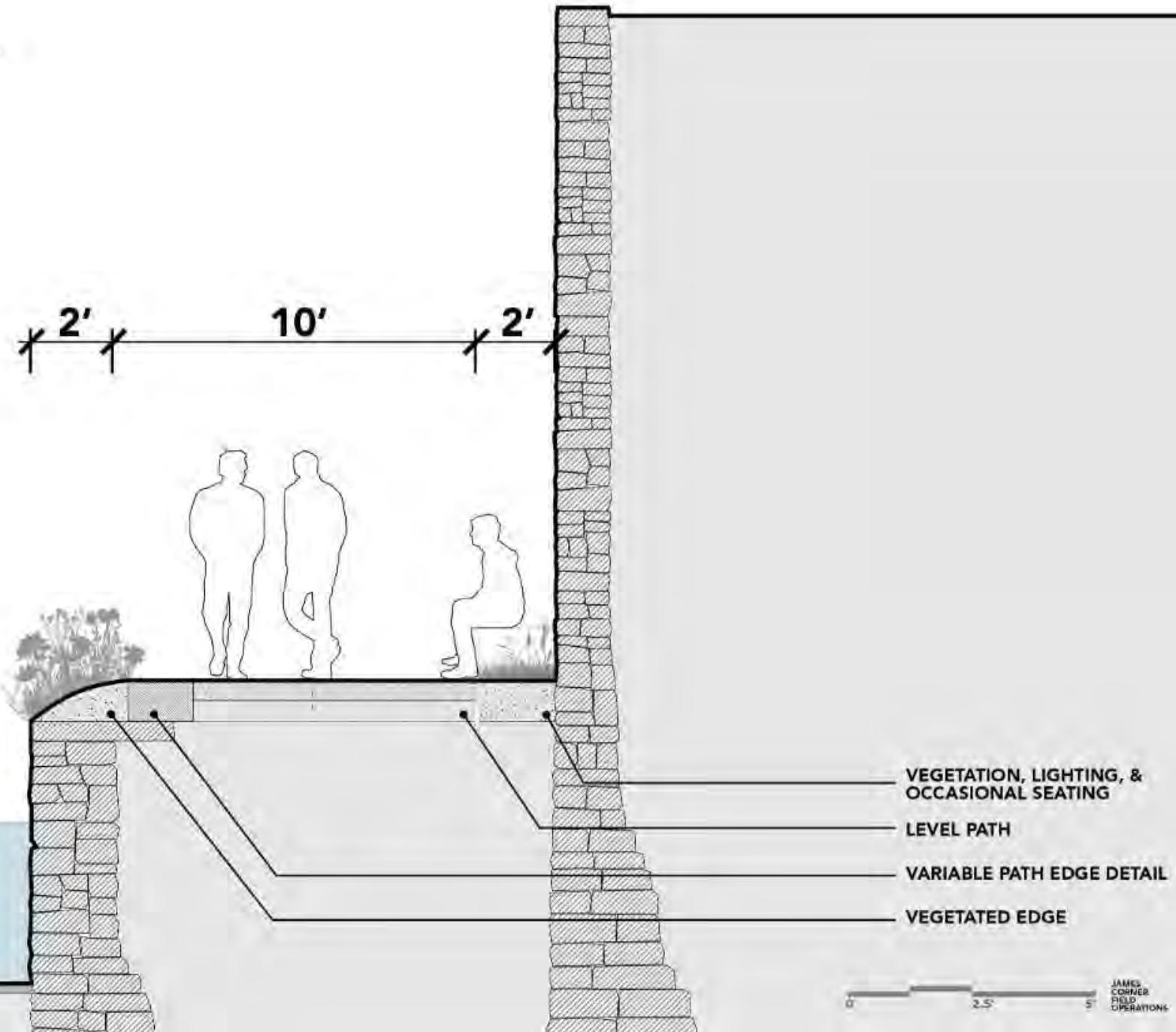
ALTERNATIVE 'B'

A Subtle Cantilever to Increase Width & Maintain Planting



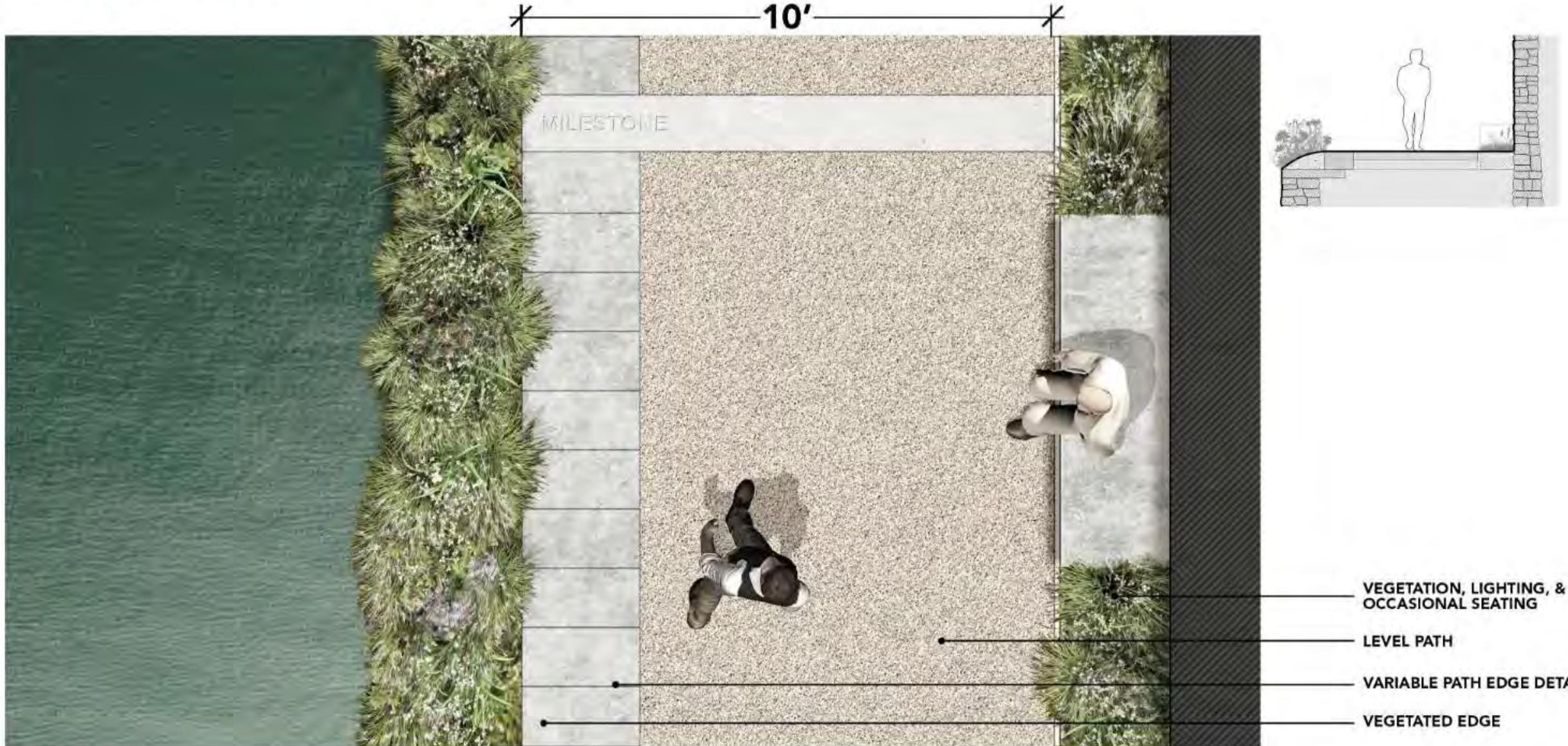
ALTERNATIVE 'C'

Increasing Dimension but Maintaining Spatial Ensemble



ALTERNATIVE 'C'

Increasing Dimension but Maintaining Spatial Ensemble



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

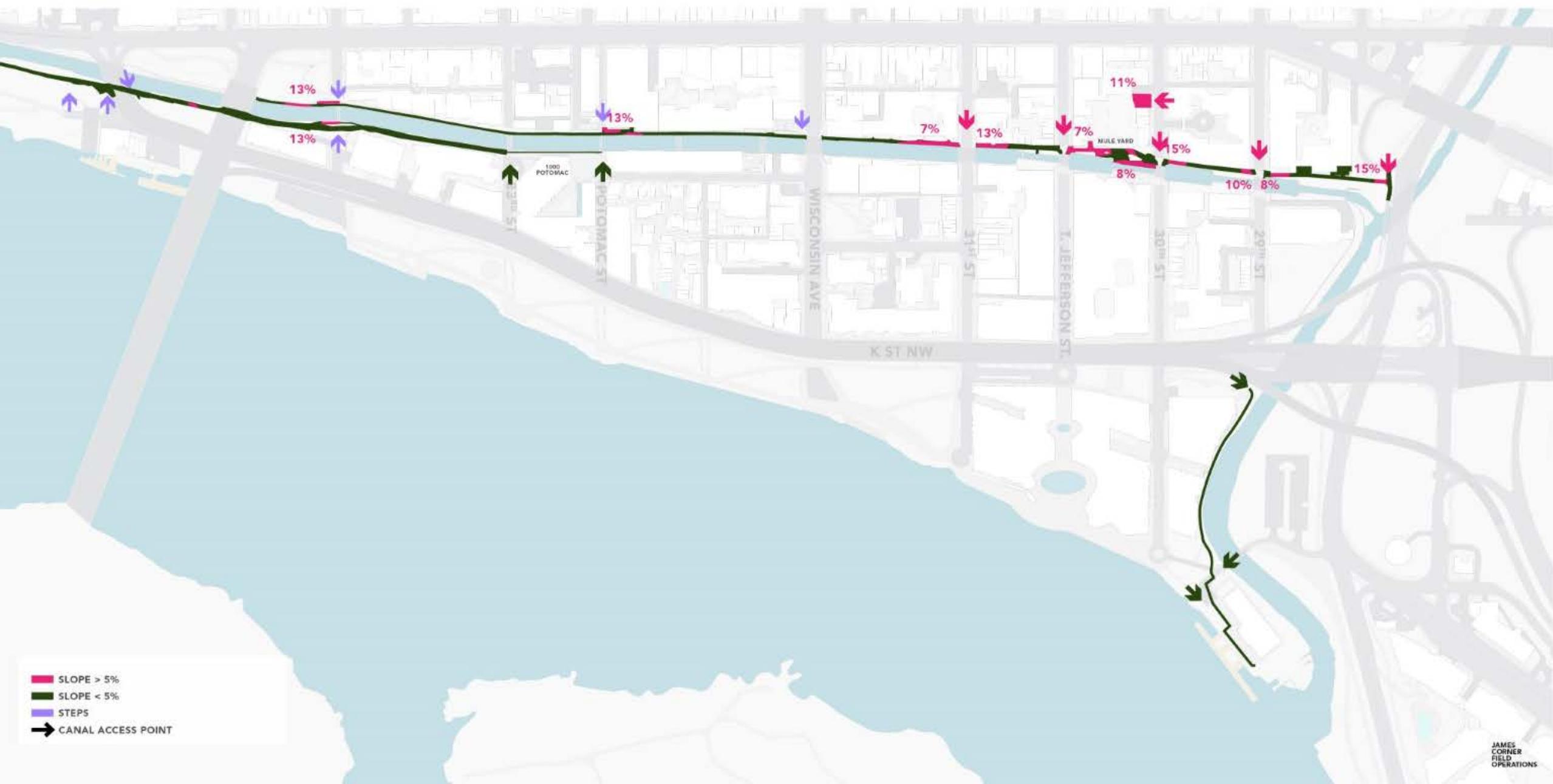
ACCESS·ENTRY POINTS

Physical and Visual Entries



CURRENT ACCESSIBILITY

0 500' 1000'



ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY

Strategies for a Welcoming & Inclusive Park

0

500'

1000'



- E ELEVATOR
- EXISTING PATH
- NEW STRUCTURE (BRIDGE, BOARDWALK, ETC.)
- NON ADA PATH
- REGRADED PATH
- CROSSWALK

FOCUSED INVESTMENT

Strategies for a Welcoming & Inclusive Park

0 500' 1000'



THE AQUEDUCT

THE BEND

THE WALLS

THE GROVE

THE LOCKS

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE



8 LANDSCAPES

ROCK CREEK PARK

MILE MARKER '0'

A black and white photograph of a riverbank. In the foreground, there is a large pile of dead, twisted tree branches (driftwood) on a sandy or rocky shore. The water of the river is calm. In the background, across the river, there are several industrial buildings, possibly oil refineries, with tall smokestacks emitting plumes of smoke or steam. Bare trees are scattered throughout the scene.

8 LANDSCAPES
MILE MARKER '0'

MILE MARKER '0'

Tide Lock



MILE MARKER '0'

Alternative A

0 50' 100'



Repair on Historic Canal Structures

- 1 Repair Remnants of Original Waste Gate*
- 2 Mile Marker 0 Re-Framed as River Overlook*
- 3 Repaired Tide Lock Walls*
- 4 Reinterpreted Rock Creek Towpath
- 5 New Connection Over Lock

New Feature Enhancements

- 6 Native Riparian Planting

- Project Boundary
- Ownership Boundary
- Restored Floodplain Forest
- Perennial Meadow
- Water Garden
- Pollinator Garden
- Lawn
- Existing Tree
- New Tree
- Existing Path
- New Surfacing
- New Bridge
- Historic Structure to be Repaired

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

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MILE MARKER '0'

Alternative B

0 50' 100'



Repair on Historic Canal Structures

- 1 Stabilized Remnants of Original Waste Gate
- 2 Mile Marker 0 Re-Framed as River Overlook*
- 3 Repaired Tide Lock Walls*
- 4 Reinterpreted Rock Creek Towpath
- 5 Repaired Sea Wall

New Feature Enhancements

- 6 Waste Gate Bridge & Overlook
- 7 Native Riparian Planting
- 8 Potomac Yard & Seating Lounge
- 9 Kiosk & Rest Room (assumes renovation of boat center)
- 10 Bike Parking & Service Station
- 11 Floating Classroom
- 12 Alternative Bridge Location

- Project Boundary
- Ownership Boundary
- Restored Floodplain Forest
- Perennial Meadow
- Water Garden
- Pollinator Garden
- Lawn
- Existing Tree
- New Tree
- Existing Path
- New Surfacing
- New Bridge
- Historic Structure to be Repaired

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



MILE MARKER '0'

C. 1910



MILE MARKER '0'

Today



MILE MARKER '0'

Alternative B



A black and white photograph of a river or creek flowing through a lush, green landscape. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. In the background, a large, modern, multi-story building with a flat roof and overhanging eaves is visible, partially obscured by the dense vegetation. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and urban integration.

8 LANDSCAPES
ROCK CREEK

ROCK CREEK PARK

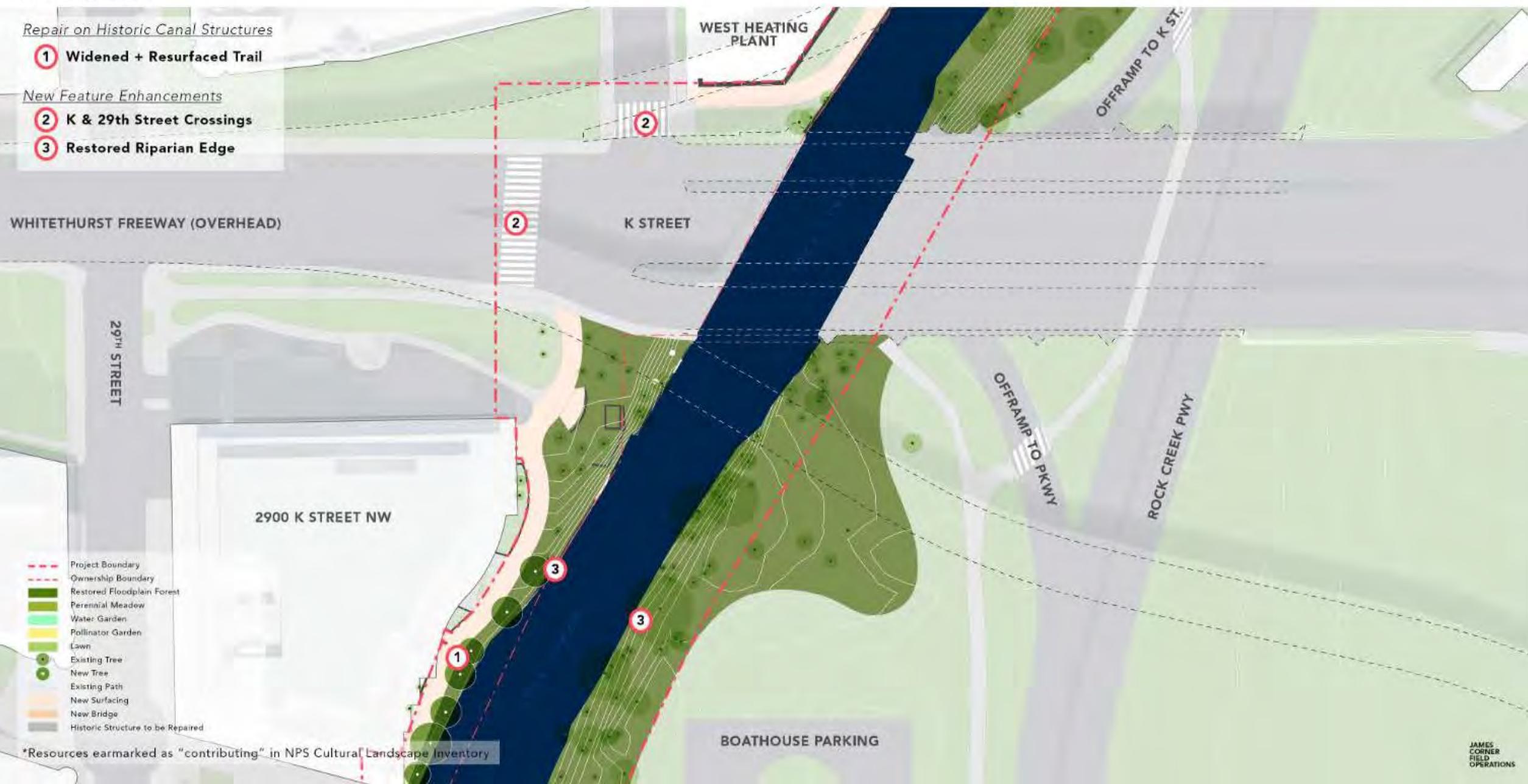
C. 1910



ROCK CREEK PARK

Alternative A

0 50' 100'



ROCK CREEK PARK

Alternative A

0 50' 100'

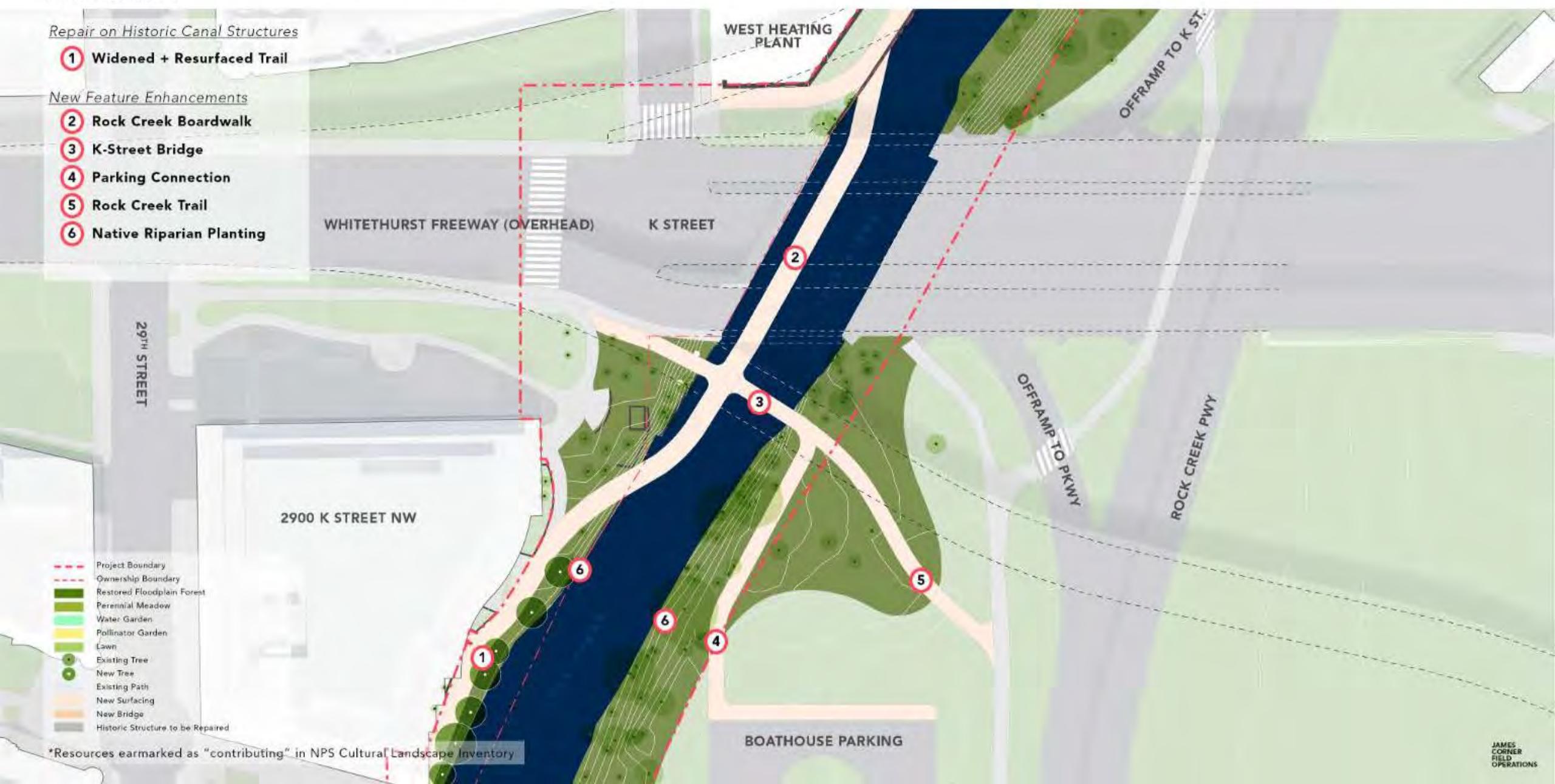


Repair on Historic Canal Structures

- 1 Widened + Resurfaced Trail

New Feature Enhancements

- 2 Rock Creek Boardwalk
- 3 K-Street Bridge
- 4 Parking Connection
- 5 Rock Creek Trail
- 6 Native Riparian Planting



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

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ROCK CREEK PARK

Alternative B

0 50' 100'



Repair on Historic Canal Structures

1 Widened + Resurfaced Trail

New Feature Enhancements

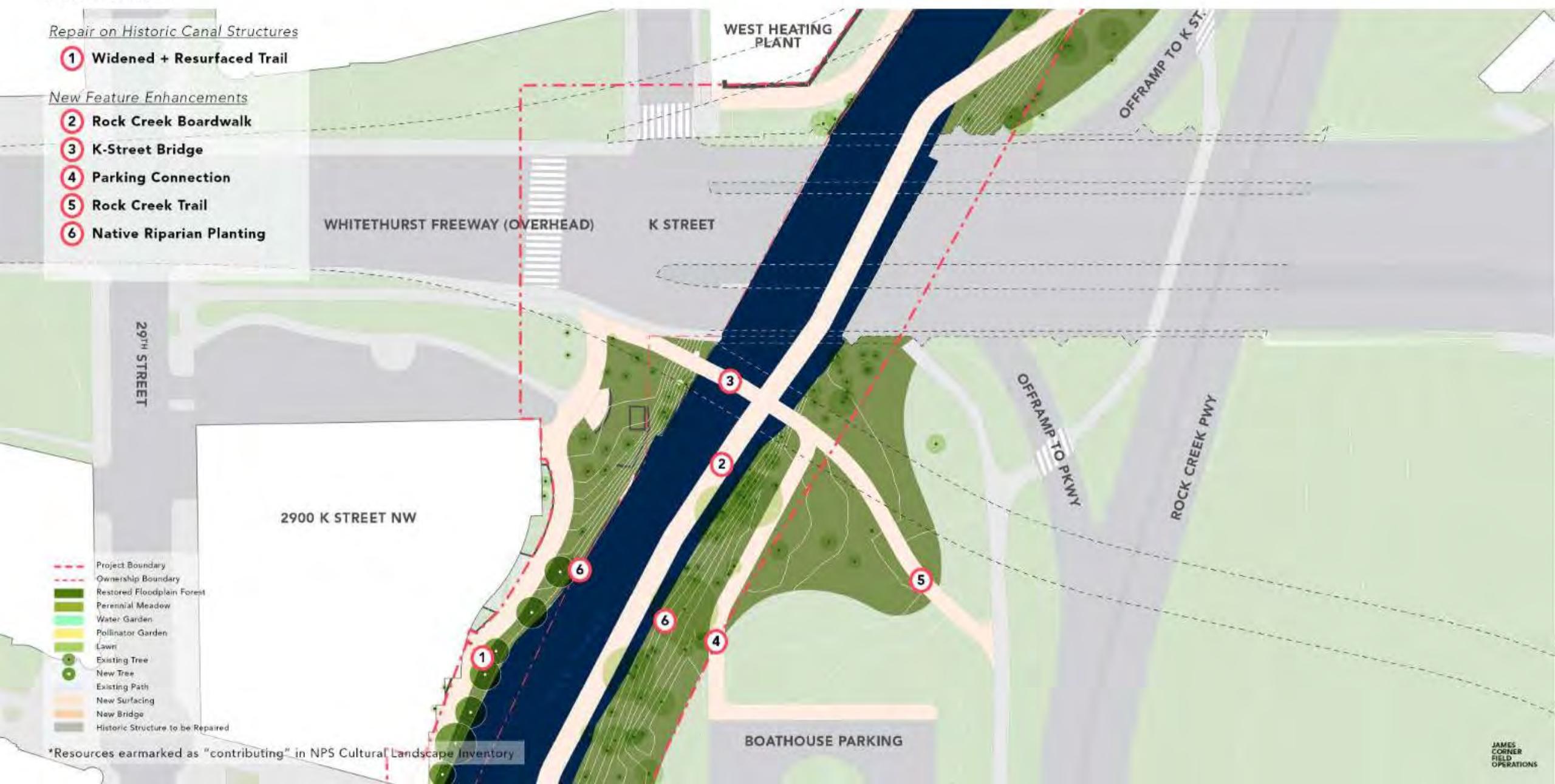
2 Rock Creek Boardwalk

3 K-Street Bridge

4 Parking Connection

5 Rock Creek Trail

6 Native Riparian Planting



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

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ROCK CREEK PARK

K Street Underpass



ROCK CREEK PARK

A Nature-Immersed Boardwalk



A black and white photograph of a bridge spanning a creek. Bare trees are in the foreground, and industrial buildings are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

8 LANDSCAPES
ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

ROCK CREEK PARK

Rock Creek Boat Basin



ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative A

0 50' 100'



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

JAMES
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ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative B

0 50' 100'



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

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FIELD
OPERATIONS

ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Mule Stables by Rock Creek



ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE



ROCK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Alternative B





8 LANDSCAPES THE LOCKS

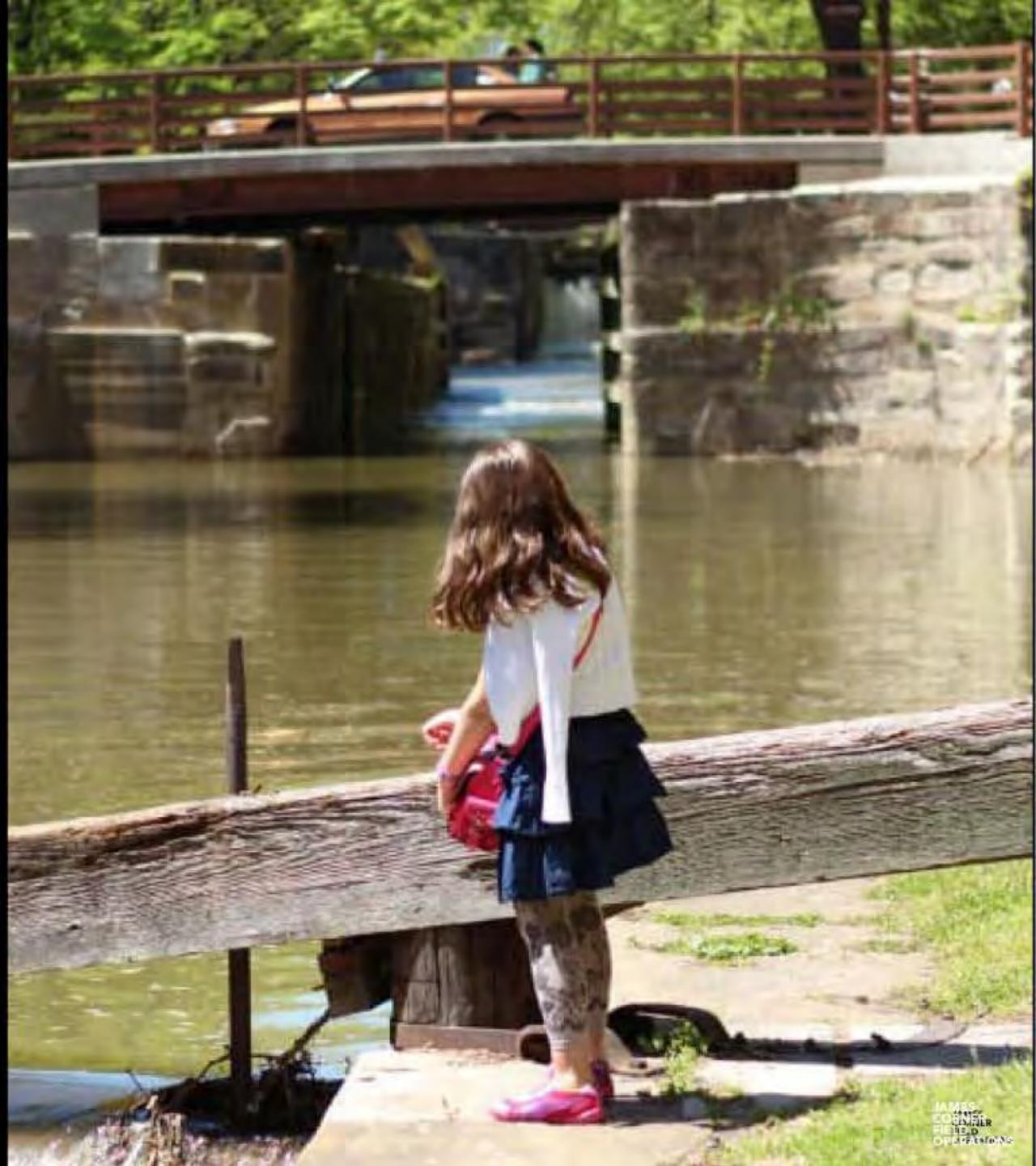
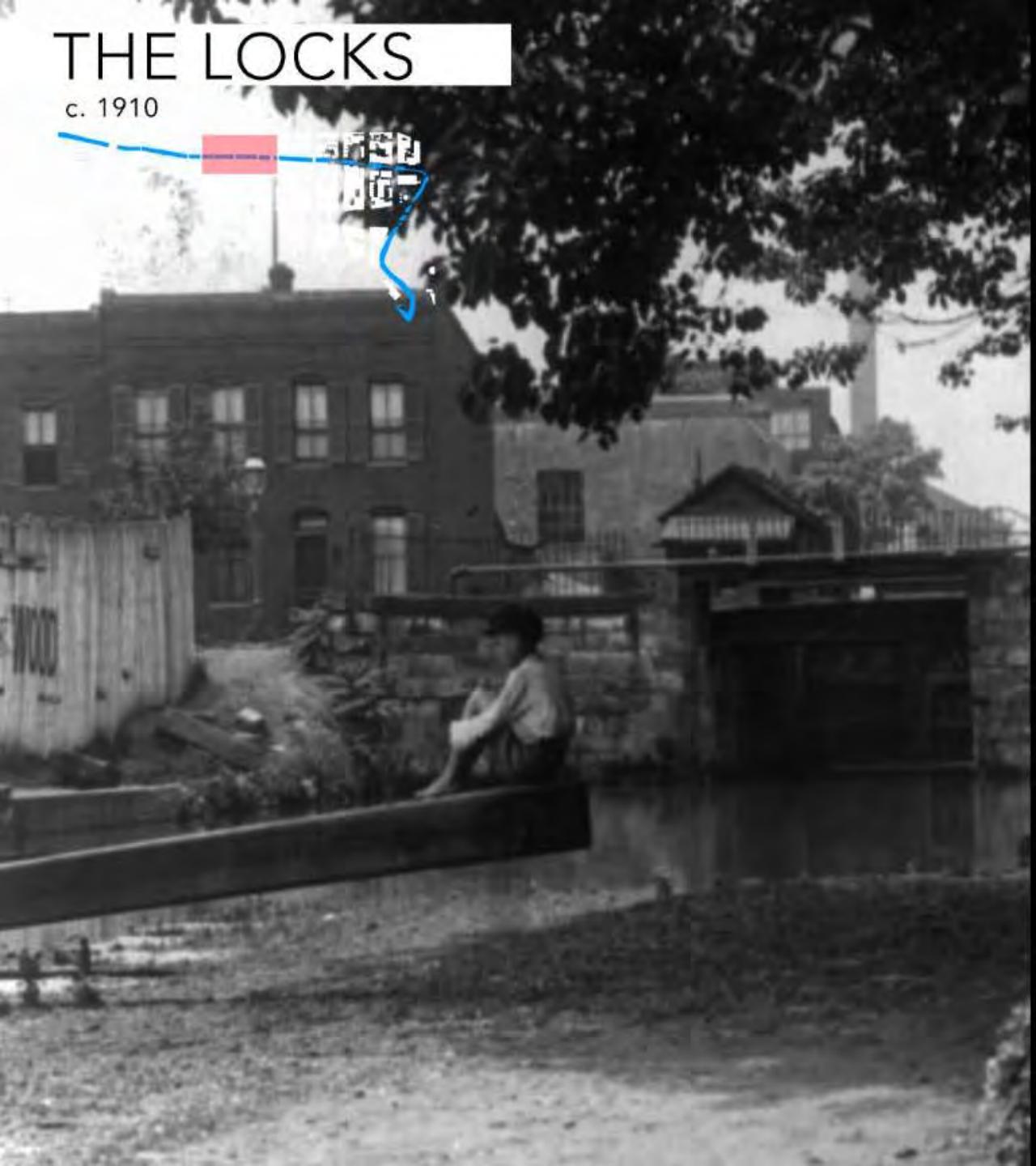
THE LOCKS

A view up the Locks

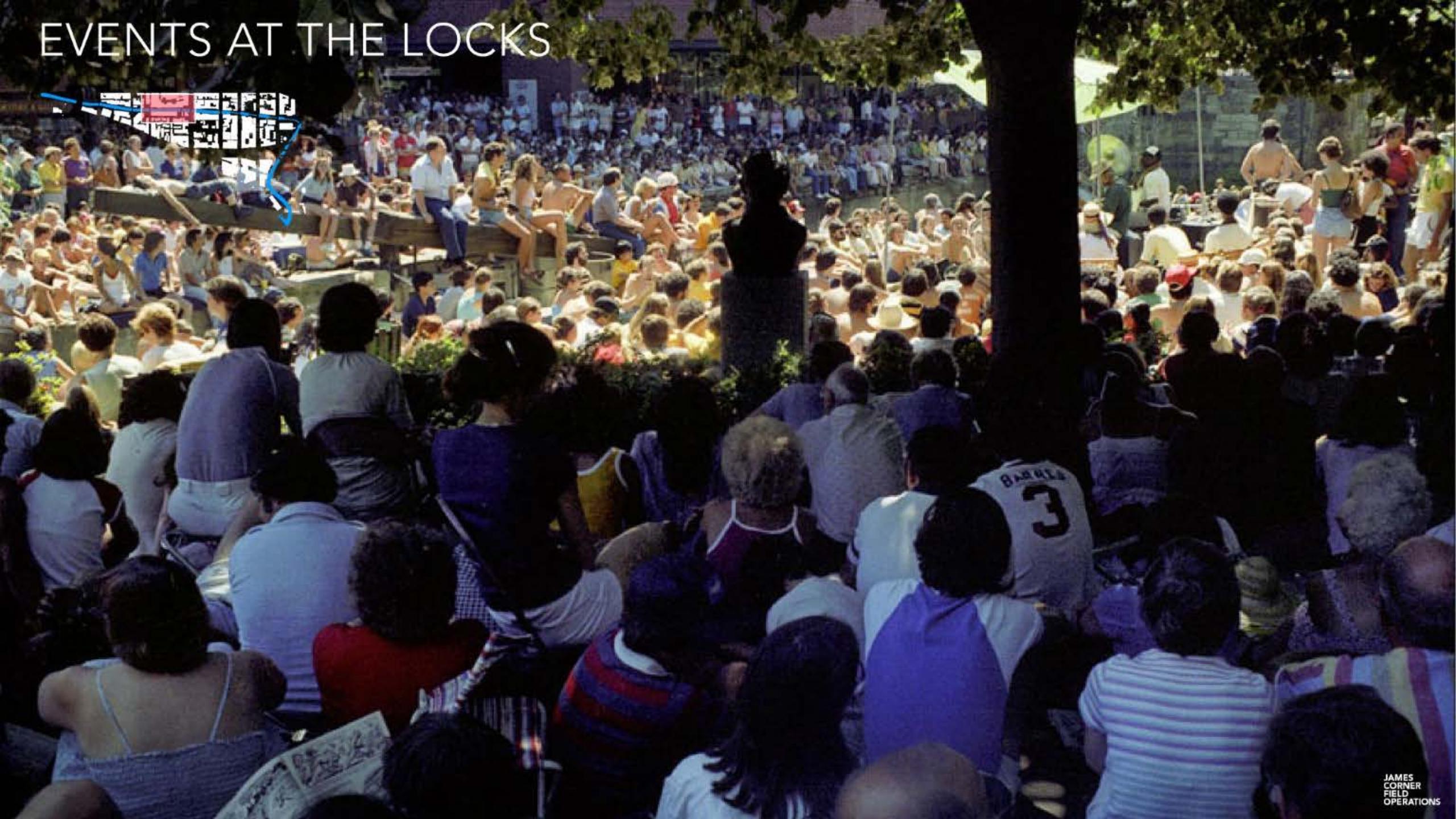


THE LOCKS

c. 1910



EVENTS AT THE LOCKS



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THE LOCKS



THE LOCKS

Alternative B: 29th St to Thomas Jefferson St

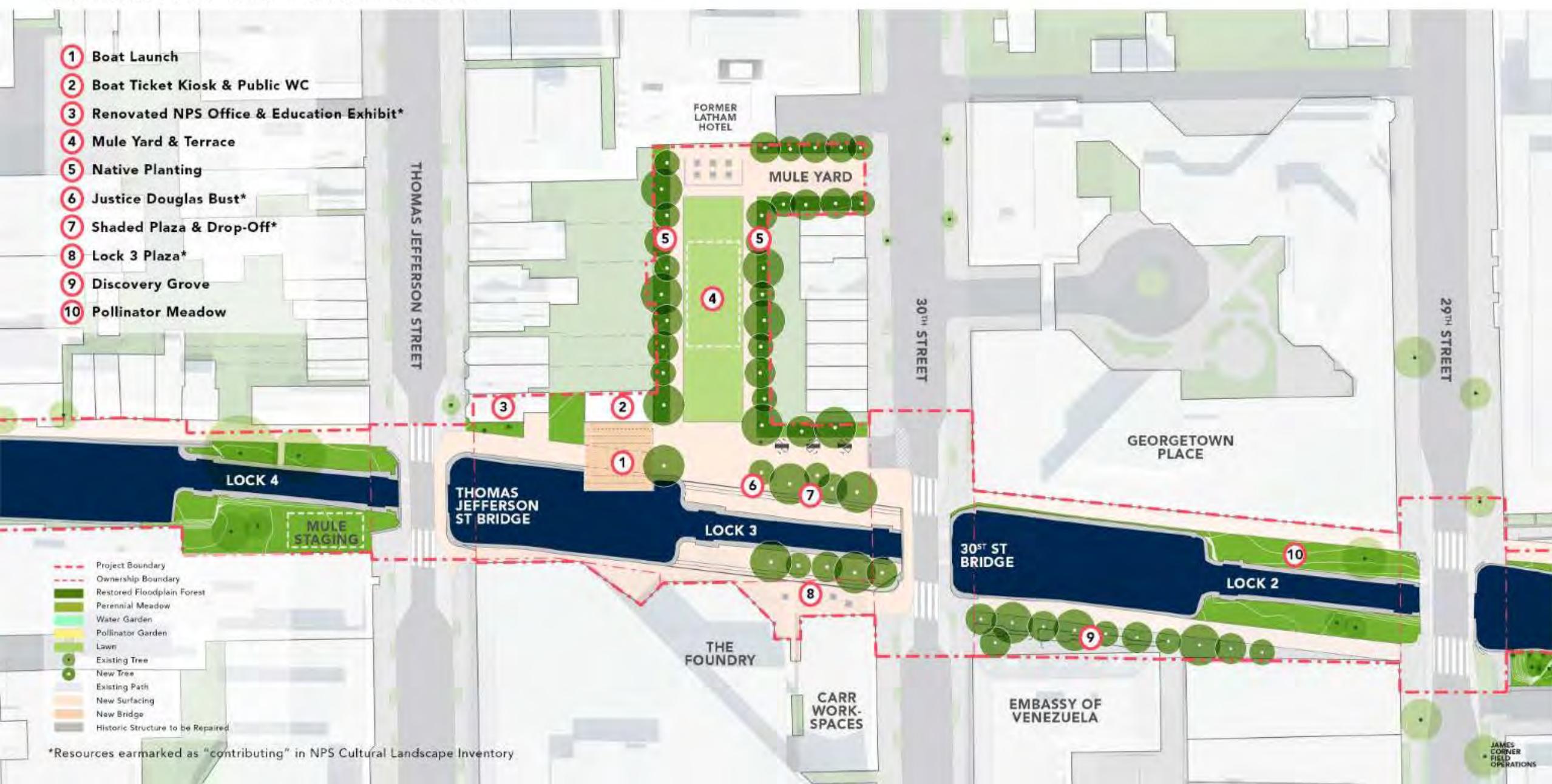
0 50' 100'



THE LOCKS

Alternative A: 29th St to Thomas Jefferson St

0 50' 100'



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



THE LOCKS

Alternative A: View West to Existing Visitor Center





8 LANDSCAPES
THE GROVE

A black and white photograph of a canal scene in The Grove. In the foreground, a large tree with sprawling branches dominates the left side. A paved path leads towards a canal where a small boat is visible. In the background, a multi-story brick building with arched windows and a balcony is situated above the water. A bridge arches over the canal. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, urban waterfront area.

THE GROVE



THE GROVE

Alternative A: Thomas Jefferson St to Wisconsin Ave

0 50' 100'



Repair on Historic Canal Structures

1 Regrading Towpath*

New Feature Enhancements

2 Outdoor Tables & Chairs

3 Current Mule Staging Area

4 Leaning Mulberry Grove

5 Birch Groves



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

JAMES
COOPER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

THE GROVE



THE GROVE



THE GROVE

Alternative A



A black and white photograph of a brick building with large arched windows. In the foreground, there's a stone wall and a canal with a bridge. The sky is cloudy.

8 LANDSCAPES
THE WALLS

THE WALLS

1920



THE WALLS

Alternative B: Wisconsin Ave to Potomac St

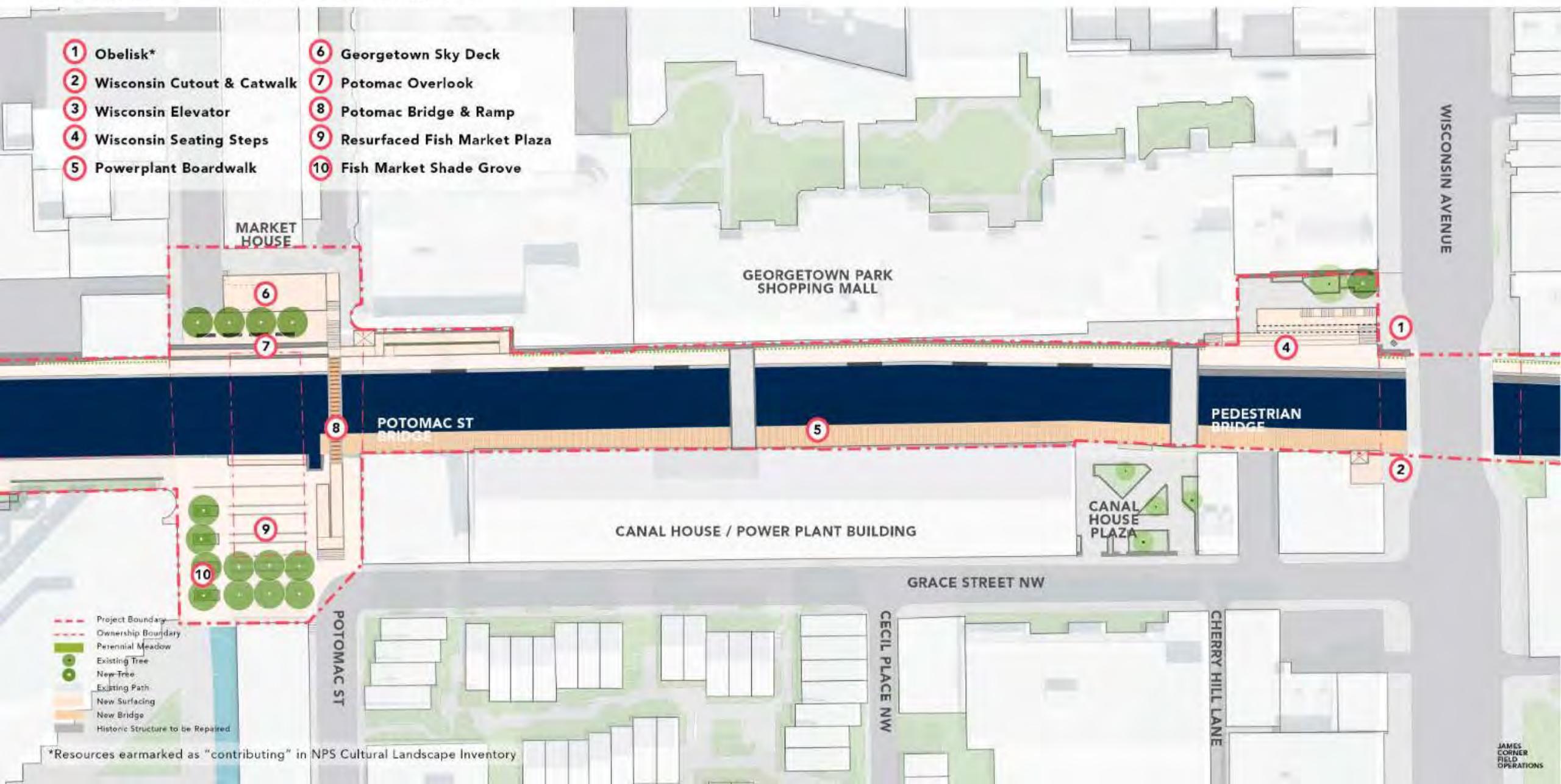
0 50' 100'



THE WALLS

Alternative A: Wisconsin Ave to Potomac St

0 50' 100'



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

THE WALLS

View from Wisconsin Avenue Bridge



THE WALLS

Wisconsin Avenue Cut-Out: Alternative B



THE WALLS

Wisconsin Avenue Cut-Out: Alternative A



THE WALLS





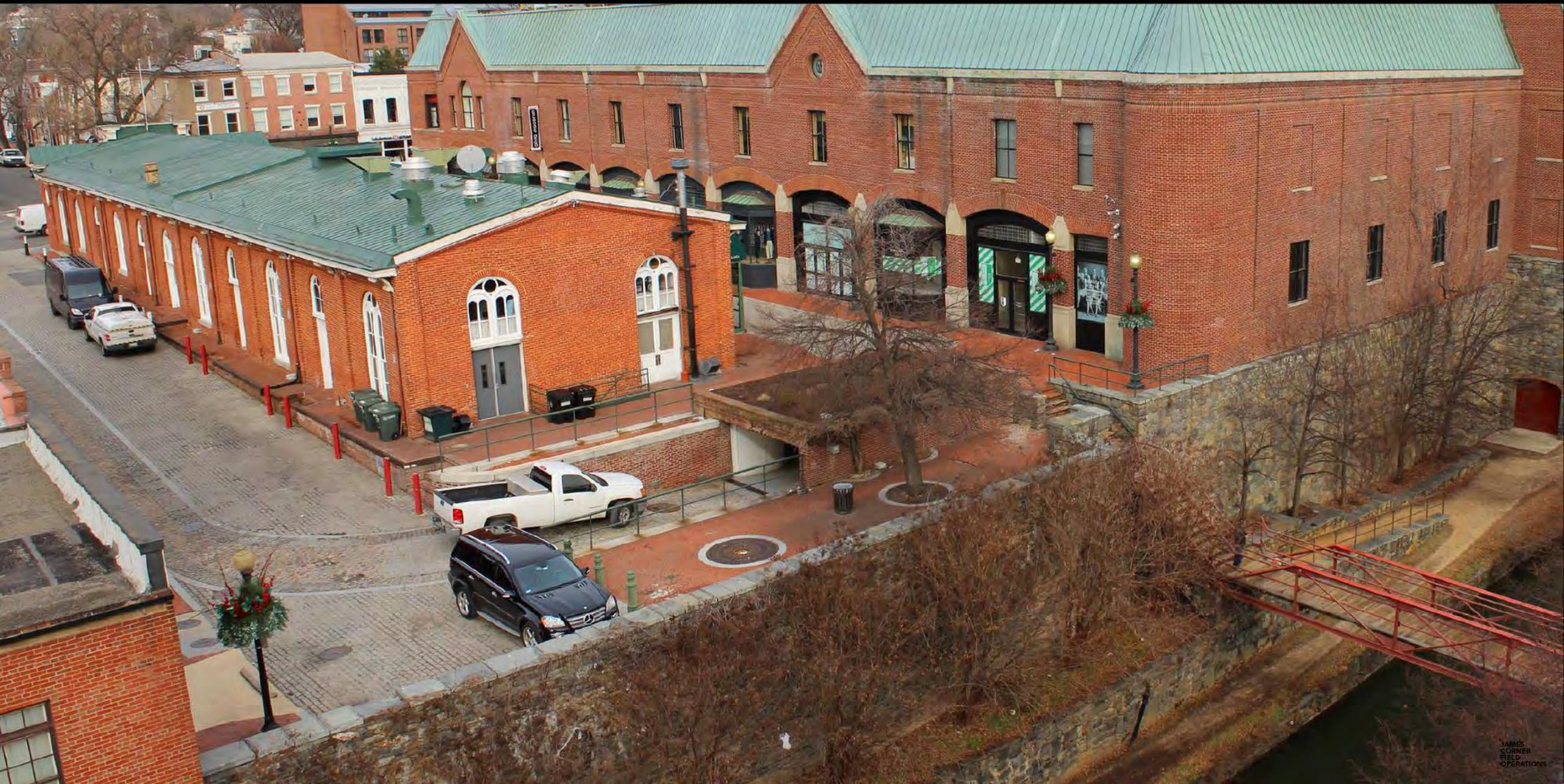
THE MARKET PLAZAS

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

A black and white photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there's a paved walkway or driveway. Behind it is a low stone wall topped with a row of shrubs. Above the wall, there's a large, dark, textured area that appears to be a hillside or a steep embankment covered in vegetation. The text '8 LANDSCAPES' is in a light gray sans-serif font, and 'THE BEND' is in a larger, bold, cyan sans-serif font.

THE BEND

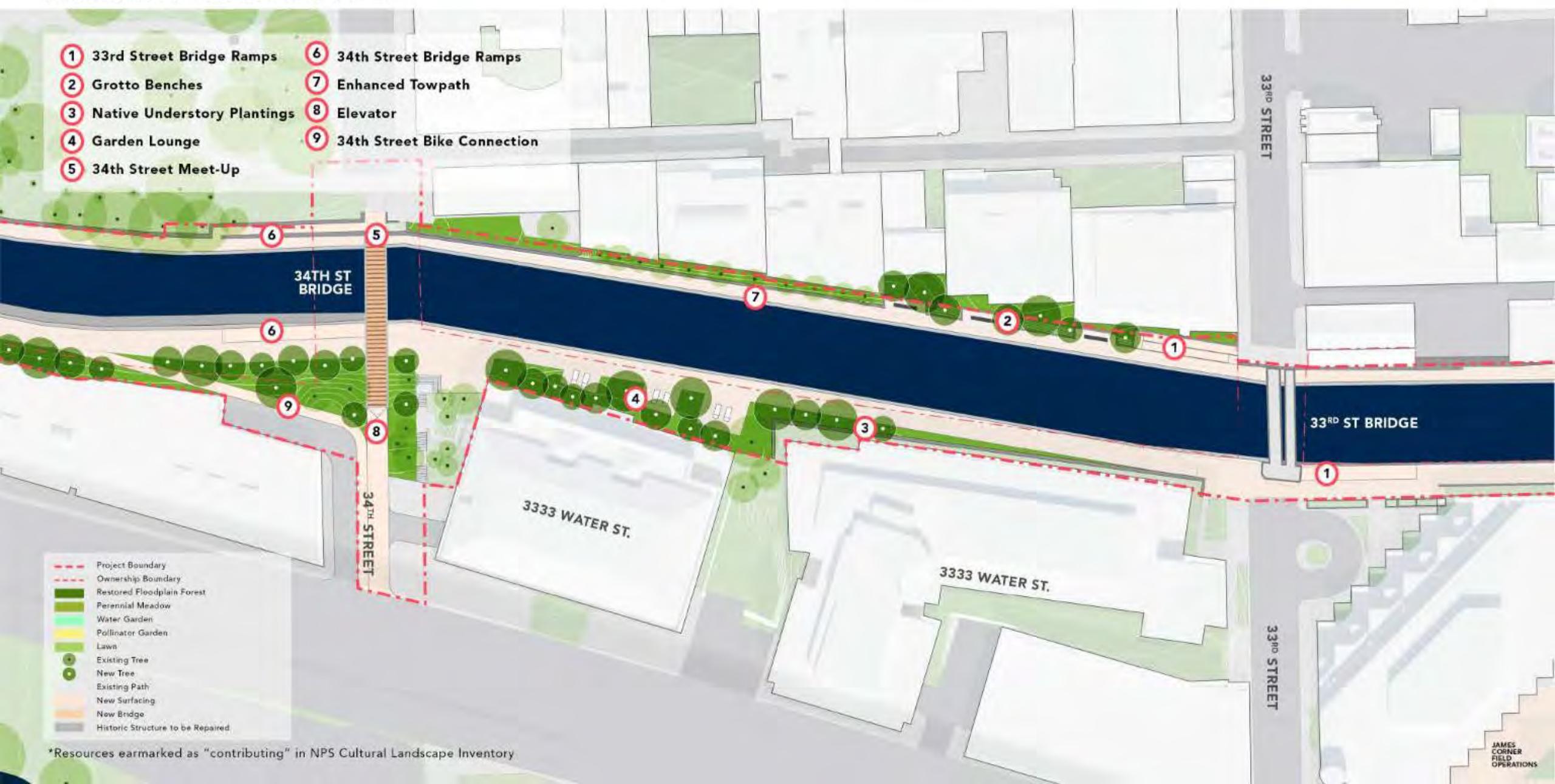
Jim Keyton Stoneyard



THE BEND

Alternative A: Potomac St to 34th St

0 50' 100'



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

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

THE BEND

Alternative B: Potomac St to 34th St

0 50' 100'



THE BEND

c. 1923



THE BEND



THE BEND

Alternative A



A black and white photograph of the Aqueduct Bridge in Washington, D.C. The bridge, with its distinctive arches, spans a river in the foreground. In the background, the city skyline of Rosslyn, Virginia, is visible under a cloudy sky. The text "8 LANDSCAPES" and "THE AQUEDUCT" is overlaid on the image.

8 LANDSCAPES
THE AQUEDUCT

THE AQUEDUCT

Various Utilities Through History



THE AQUEDUCT

c 1940



THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative A

0 50' 100'



THE AQUEDUCT

Alternative B

0 50' 100'



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