

# Request for Funding

## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2016 / ML 2015

**Program or Project Title:** Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project

**Funds Requested:** \$1,260,000

**Manager's Name:** Aaron Wittnebal

**Title:** Mayor

**Organization:** City of Lake Park

**Street Address:** 2032 2nd Street

**City:** Lake Park, MN 56554

**Telephone:** 218-209-2320

**E-Mail:** lakepark81@gmail.com

**Organization Web Site:** www.lakeparkmn.com

**County Locations:** Becker

### Ecological Planning Regions:

- Forest / Prairie Transition

### Activity Type:

- Restore
- Enhance

### Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Habitat

## Abstract:

The Lake Flora Project includes the partial restoration of the previously drained Lake Flora, a connection to the proposed Heartland State Trail, interpretive trail/boardwalk for outdoor recreational activities, city park, lake deck and nature center.

## Design and Scope of Work:

### Overview

Lake Flora was an estimated 10 foot deep, 40 acre lake that was located in the northeast corner of the City of Lake Park. Sometime in the early 1900's, what is now known as Becker County Drain No. 7 was constructed to drain the lake to allow for the construction of the railroad that passes through the City. Currently, the area that was known as Lake Flora is being occupied with a city park, baseball and softball fields, and wetlands.

In the Fall of 2012, the City of Lake Park began working with the Minnesota Design Team to explore the possibility and benefit of restoring Lake Flora. One of the significant findings outlined in the Minnesota Design Team's study was the City's desire and need for more public space and recreation options within the City, with one of the key features being Lake Flora.

Additionally, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) objective of extending the Heartland State Trail from Park Rapids to Moorhead, the City of Lake Park has completed a Bicycle Facility Study to analyze alternatives to route the trail, as well as other future trails through the City. As identified in this study, the Lake Flora area was the preferred location to connect the Heartland State Trail with the City of Lake Park.

### Design & Scope

This design and scope of the project includes a partial restoration of what was Lake Flora, a connection for the City

of Lake Park to the proposed Heartland State Trail, interpretive trail/boardwalk to provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation activities for people in the area, city park, lake deck and nature center.

The City has held public meeting to discuss alternatives and to hear questions and concerns, and based on the feedback there seems to be little to no objection to the project as proposed. Also, the entire project area would be located with property currently owned by the City of Lake Park.

**How the request addresses MN habitats:**

The proposed project will restore the previously drained Lake Flora, by improving the existing hydrology, replacing the low functioning existing wetlands with a higher functioning open water wetland, and providing an upland buffer between the surrounding agricultural land and the improved/restored wetland.

**Please explain the nature of urgency:**

The restoration of Lake Flora will improve open water habitat for local plant and animal species and the connection to the proposed Heartland State Trail and interpretive trail/boardwalk will provide immediate outdoor recreation activities for people in the area.

**Planning**

**MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:**

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

**Plans Addressed:**

- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

**Please describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:**

The Minnesota Design conducted meetings and developed a study to illustrate the social benefits on the project. Ulteig Engineers, Inc. developed a project scoping document to analyze the feasibility of the top two options development by the Minnesota Design Team.

**LSOHC Forest Prairie Transition Section Priorities:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

**Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:**

This proposal will accelerate the project by providing a non-local funding source to accompany the proposed local match, which will allow the City to move forward with the final planning and implementation of the project.

**Non-OHF Money Spent in the Past:**

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2013	City General Fund	\$9,000

**Sustainability and Maintenance:**

The project, as proposed, will be constructed as a passive system that will require minimal routine or annual maintenance. The project will be added to the City's park system and all routine/annual maintenance will be

completed or administered by City Staff.

Maintain Project Outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
------	-----------------	--------	--------	--------

Applicable Criteria:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056? - Yes

Best Management Practice:

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program? - Yes

Permanent Protection:

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15? - Yes (County/Municipal, no)

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Final Design	July 2015
Final Construction	December 2015

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands *The final outcome of this project will be a higher functioning nature area that provides outdoor recreation opportunities for people in the area. The outcomes will be measured by the number of people who visit the trail and by a final wetland delineation.*

Relationship to Other Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$1,260,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$1,152,000	\$128,000		\$1,280,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$108,000	\$12,000	Local Funding	\$120,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,260,000	\$140,000	-	\$1,400,000

Amount of Request: \$1,260,000

Amount of Leverage: \$140,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.11%



## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	32	0	0	0	32
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	0	0	0	32

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$493,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$493,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$766,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$766,800
Total	\$1,260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,260,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	32	0	0	0	32
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	32	0	0	0	32

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$493,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$493,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$766,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$766,800
Total	\$0	\$1,260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,260,000

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$15,413	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$15,413	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

0

# Parcel List

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Becker

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
PID 107005010	13943203	3	\$0	No	No	No
PID 517006080	13943203	32	\$0	No	No	No

## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Becker

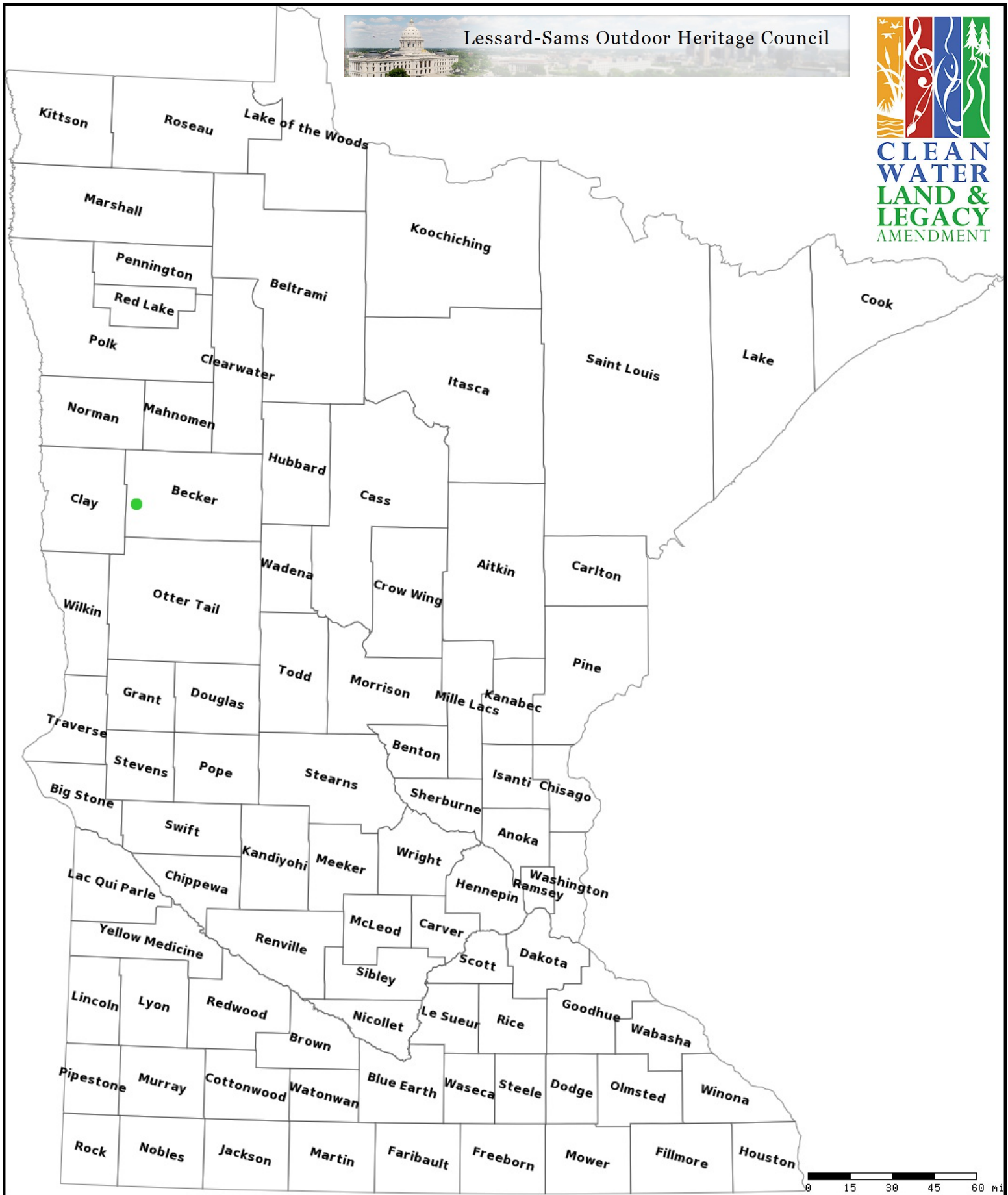
Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
PID 517006000	13943203	6	\$0	1		\$0	

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



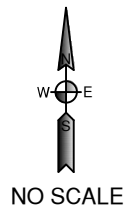
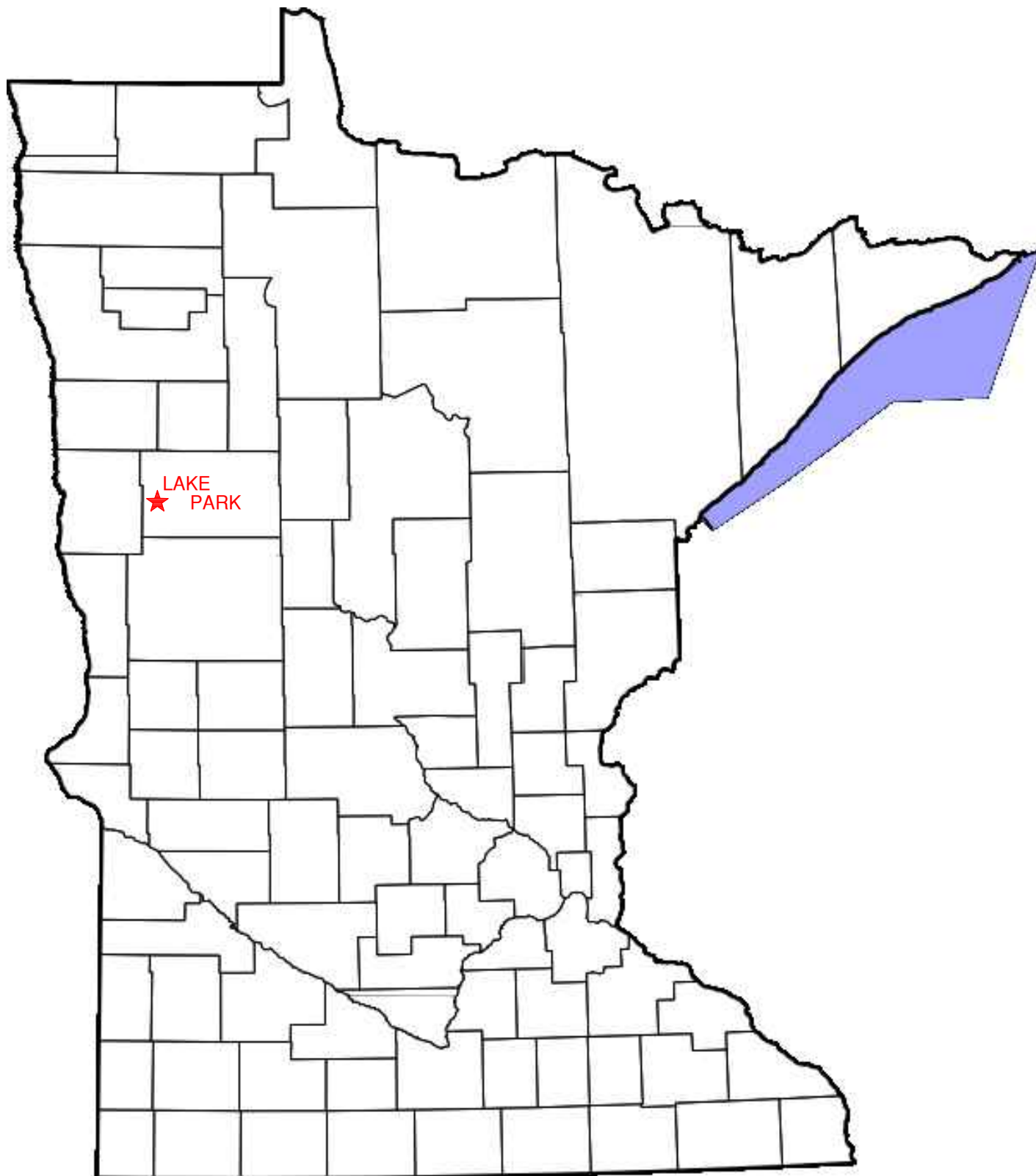
**CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY**  
AMENDMENT



### Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project

#### Legend

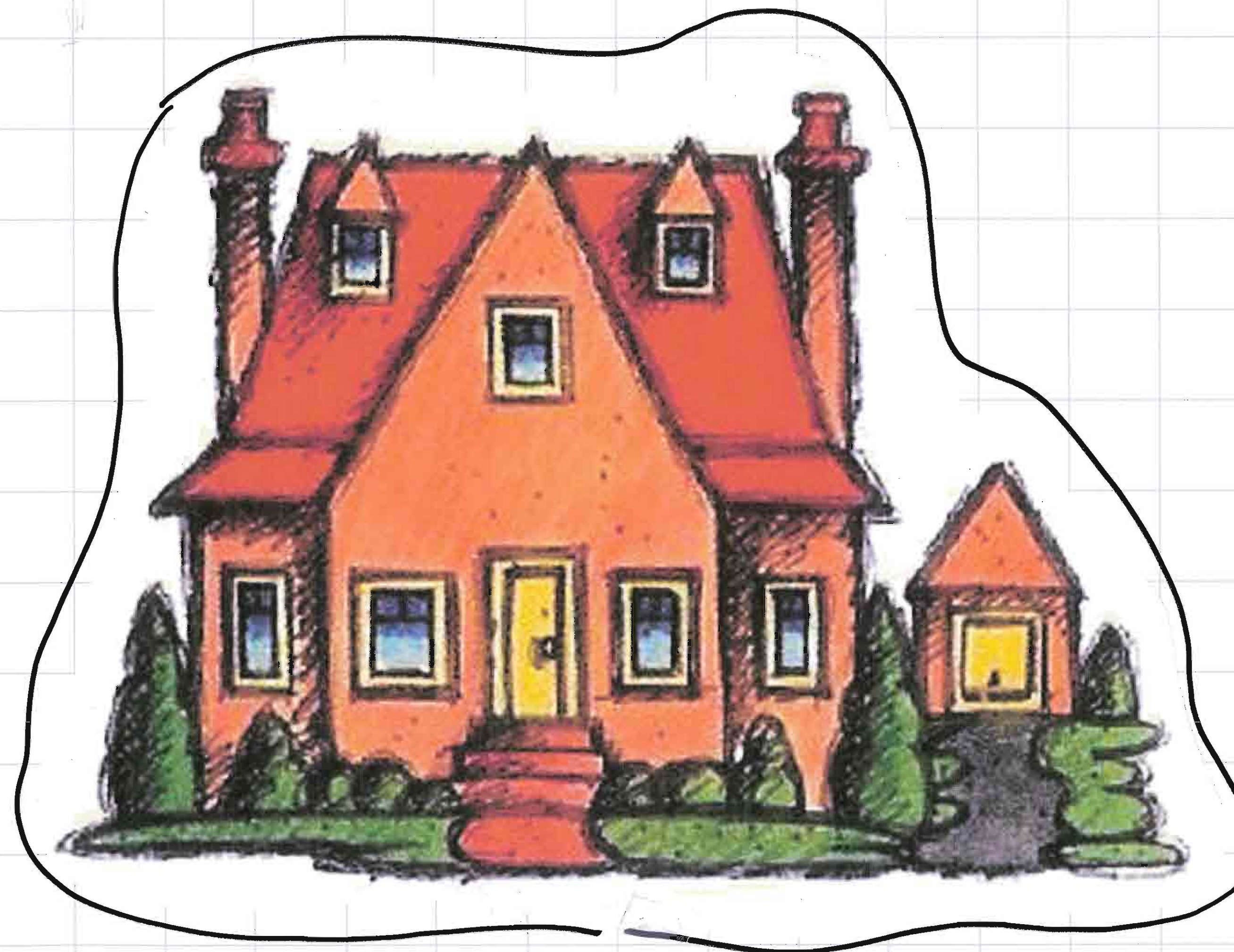
- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee w/o PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- + Other



PROJECT LOCATION MAP  
LAKE FLORA RESTORATION PROJECT  
LAKE PARK, MINNESOTA  
OCTOBER 17, 2013



# LAKE PARK HOME





# 5 QUESTIONS

1. What makes the community of Lake Park **unique**?  
... its school system.

2. What is **"good"** about the location of Lake Park?  
... proximity to good lakes & Detroit Lakes & Fargo.

3. What is **"not so good"** about the location of Lake Park?  
... limited retail & entertainment opportunities.

4. What does the Community of Lake Park **need**?  
... restaurants & small business focal point places.

5. What should **Lake Flora** be?  
... a non-motorized, recreational lake with great beaches, paths, & trails.



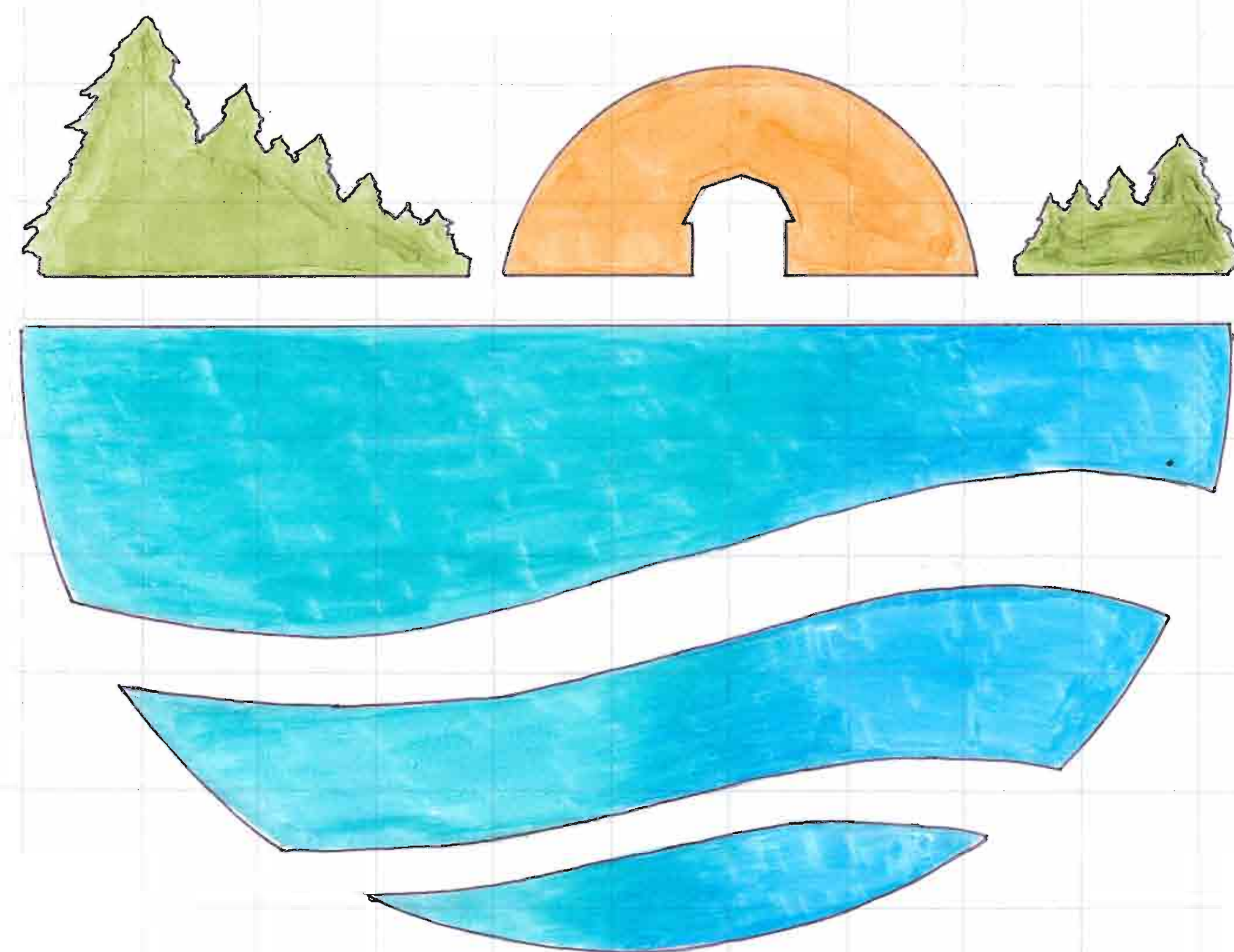
# LAKE PARK: HOME

Γ BRANDING → Streetscape Gateway Public Art

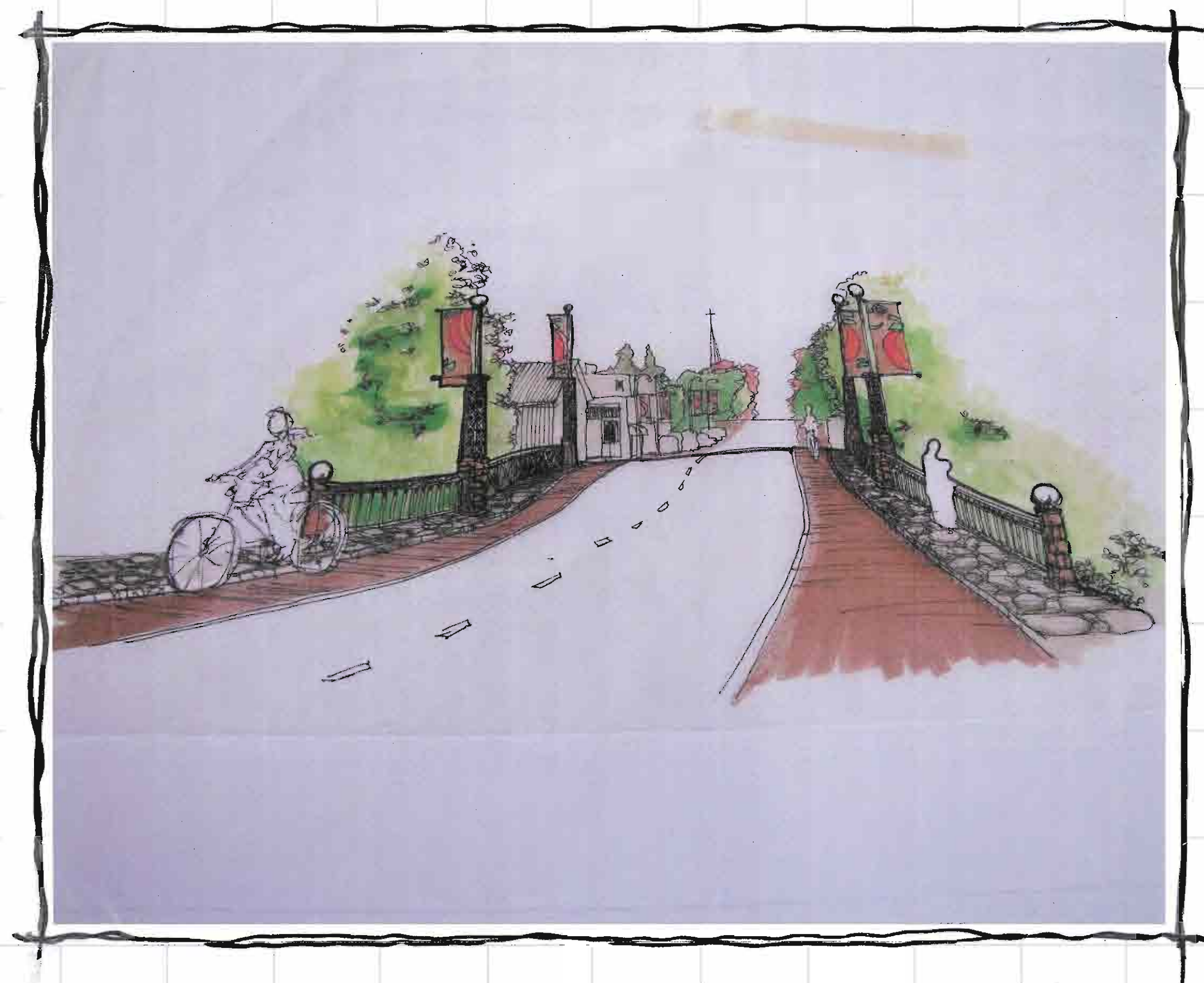
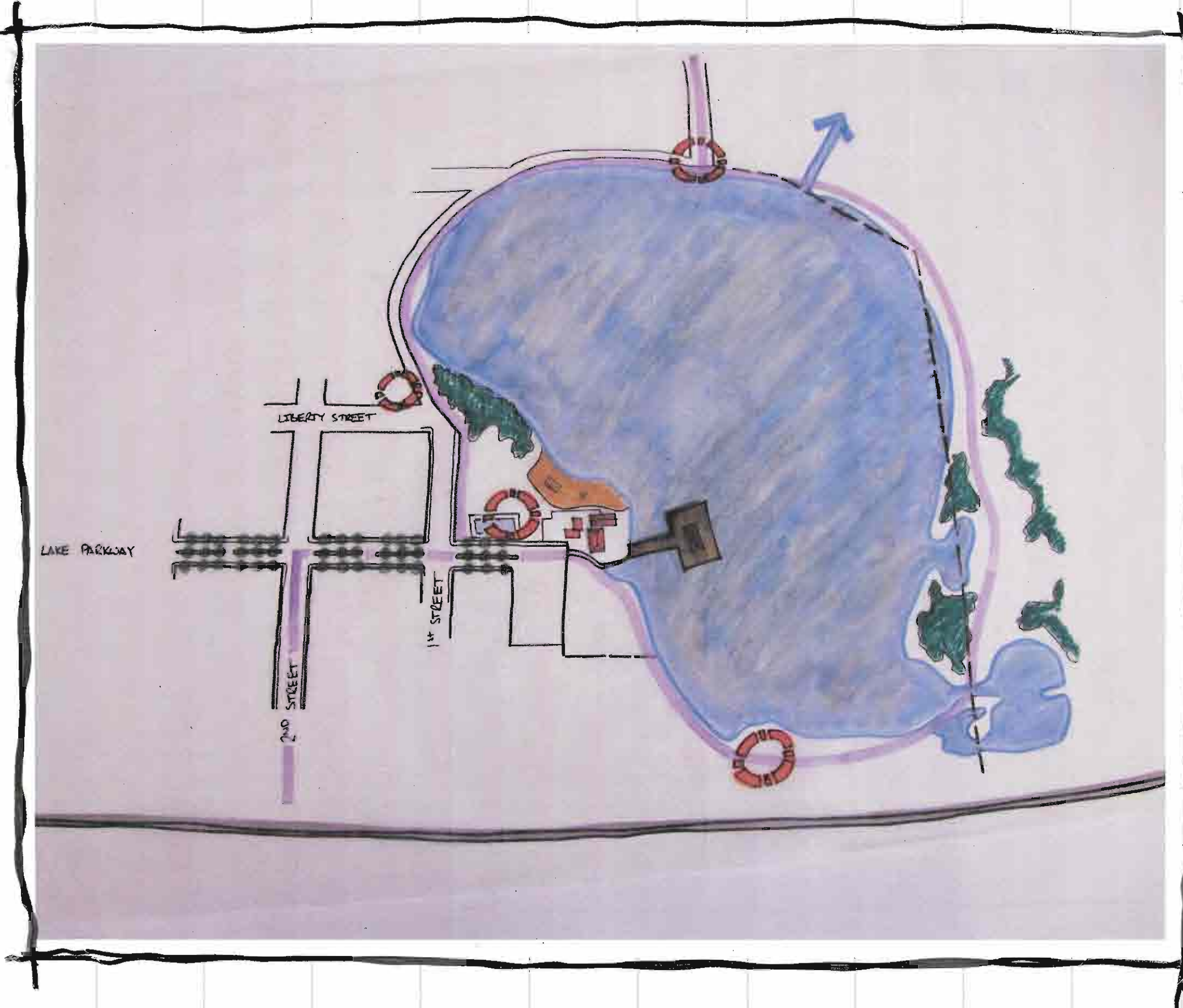
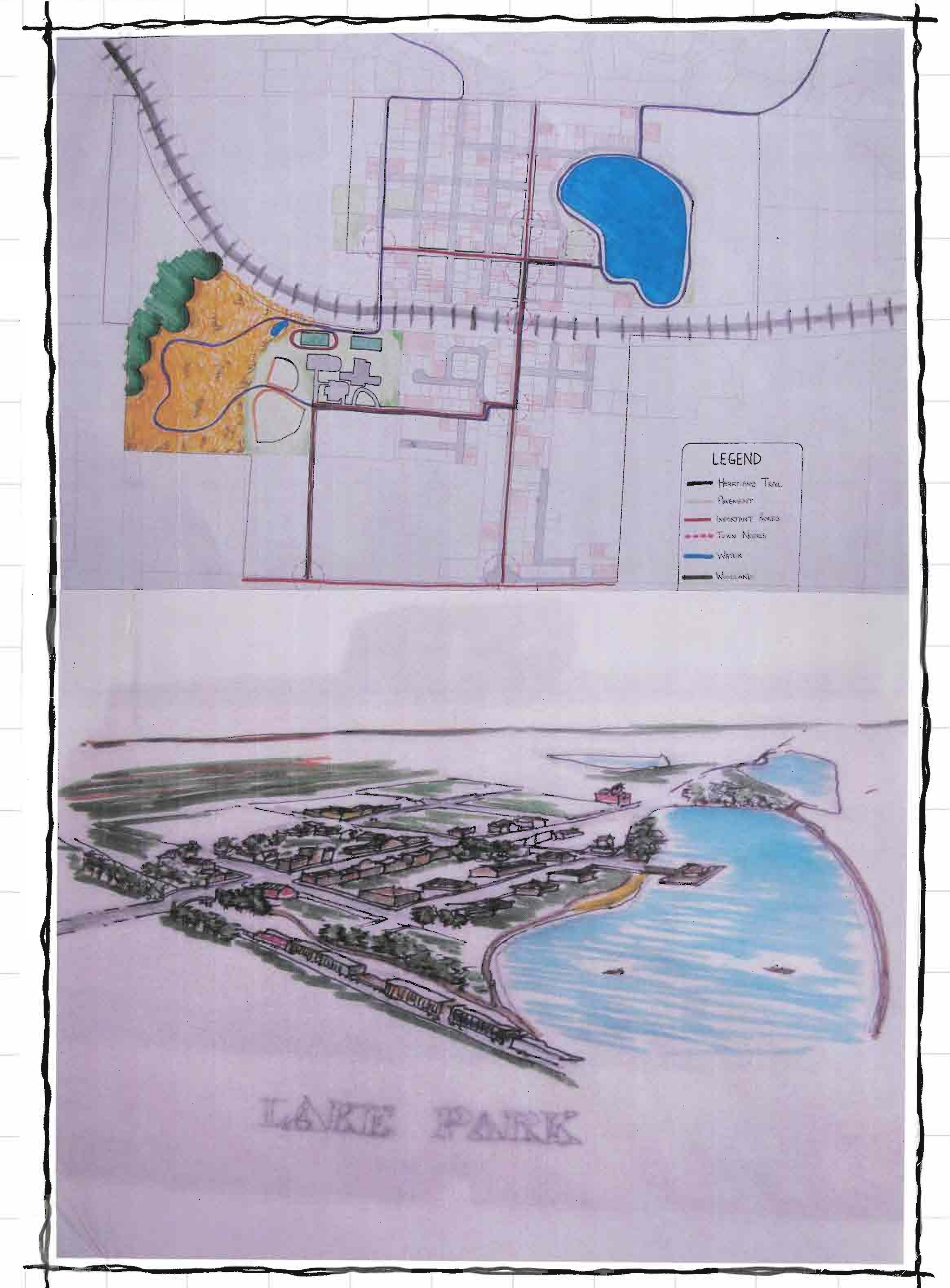
Γ PUBLIC SPACE & RECREATION → Lake Flora Trails Open Space

Γ EDUCATION & FACILITIES → New School Old School Continuing Education

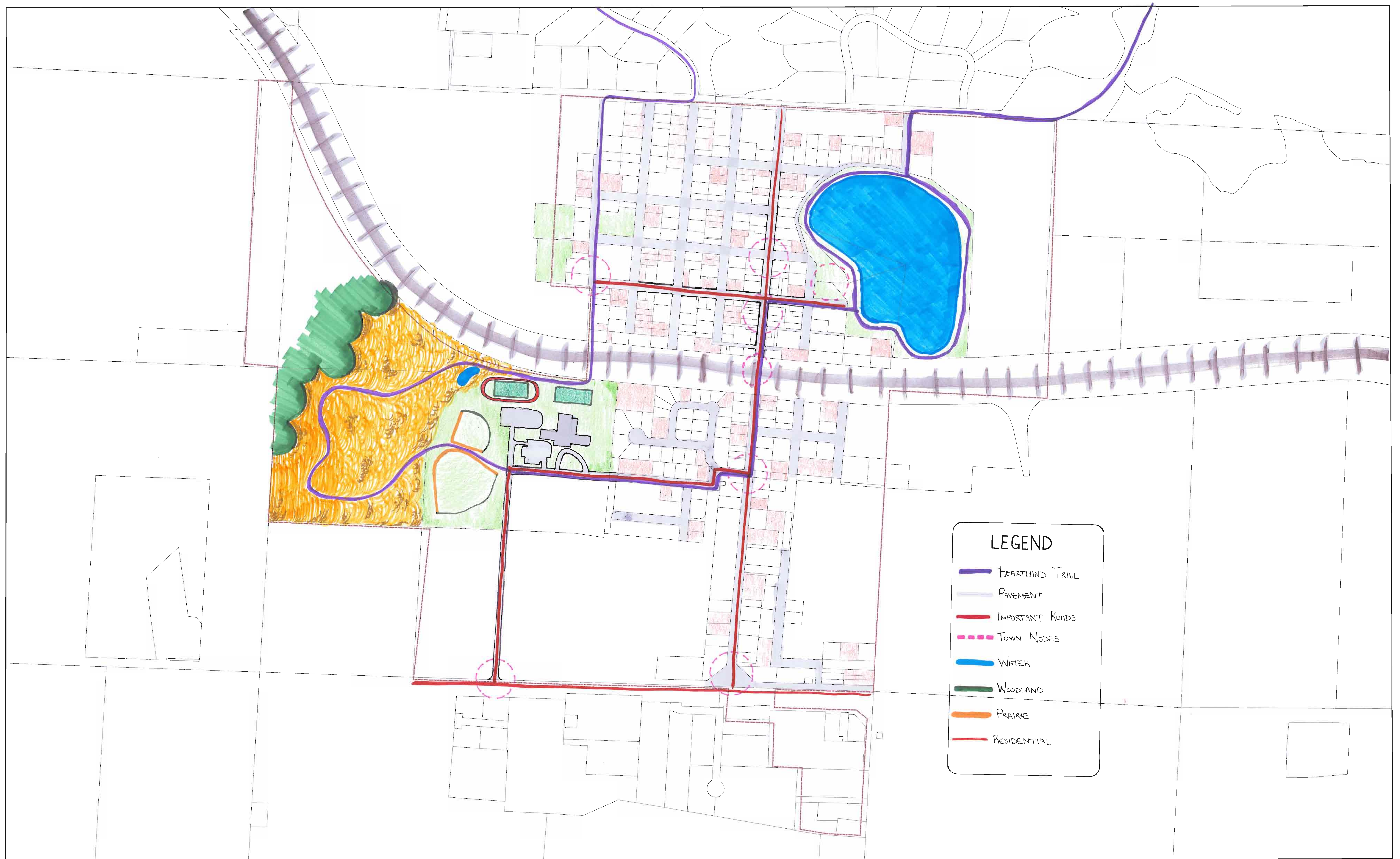
Γ PRIDE of PLACE → BRAND HERITAGE HOME



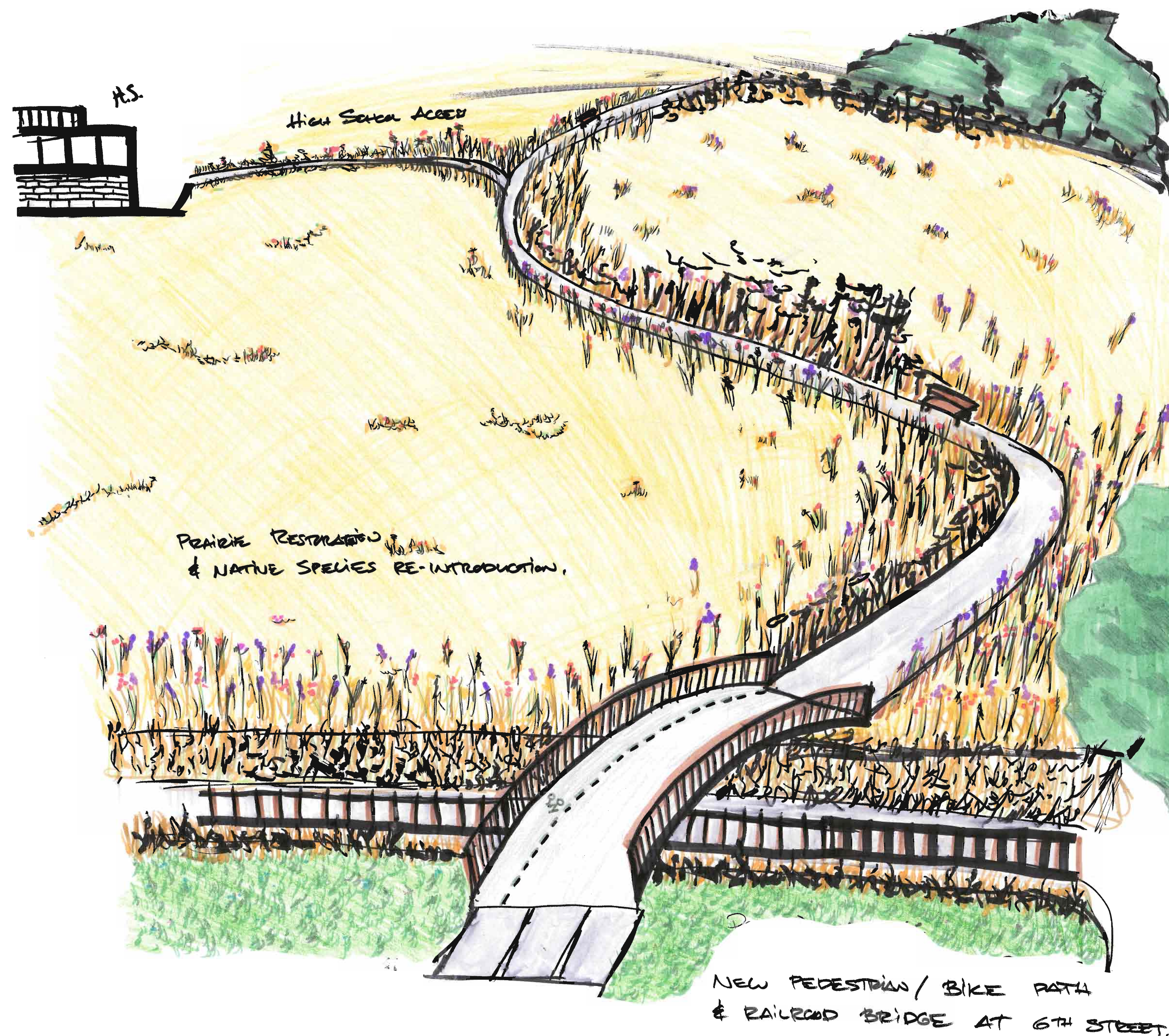












Minnesota  
Design  
Team

# Pedestrian Bridge on Heartland Trail

1 inch equals 100 feet

100 50 0 100 200 300 400 Feet

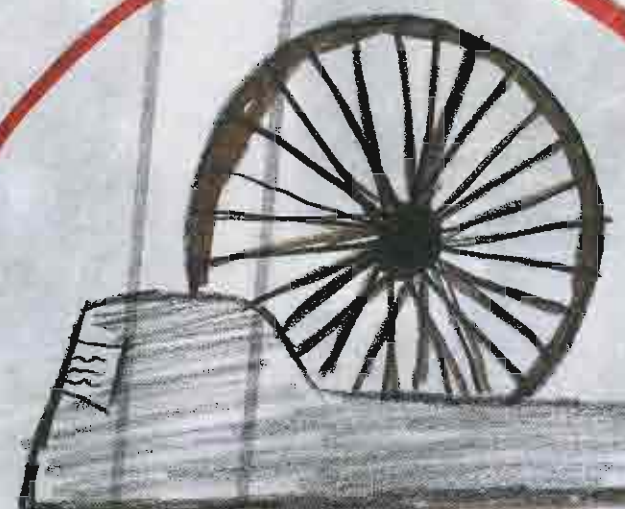
October 2012





CONCRETE PLINTH  
FOR LOCAL ARTIST

- OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT
- WAY-FINDING
- REINFORCING  
IDENTITY



LAKE ST

2ND ST

LOCAL ART

POOL

PLAYGROUND

PUBLIC BEACH

VISITORS  
CENTER

VISITOR WAY FINDING

"GREEN INFILL"

LAKE ST + 2ND ST  
AS MAIN CORRIDOR

HAVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
& OR VOLUNTEERS CONSTRUCT  
& MAINTAIN "PLANTER BOX"  
TRELLISES.

HEARTLAND TRAIL

MURAL



LOCAL ART

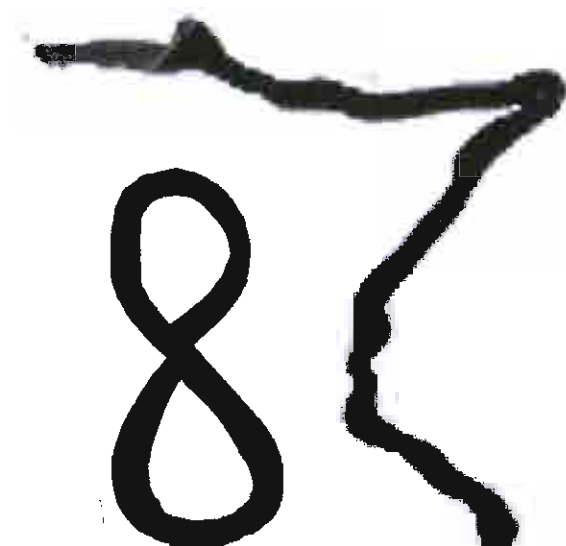
VISTOR  
CENT

LAKE  
PARK

PLACE FOR INFO

1 inch equals 50 feet

50 25 0 50 100 150 200 250 Feet



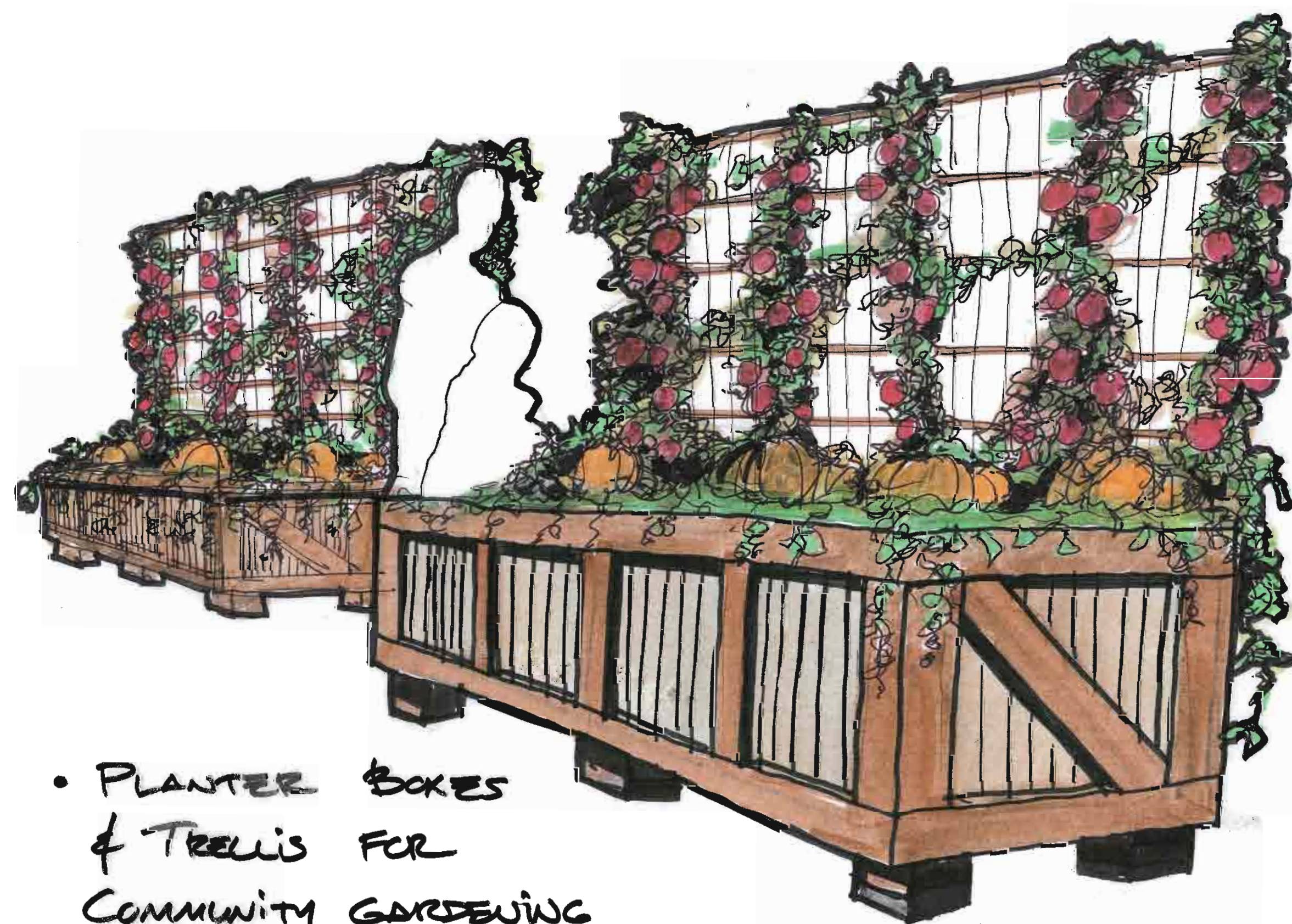
Minnesota  
Design  
Team

Connections to  
Assets

October 2012







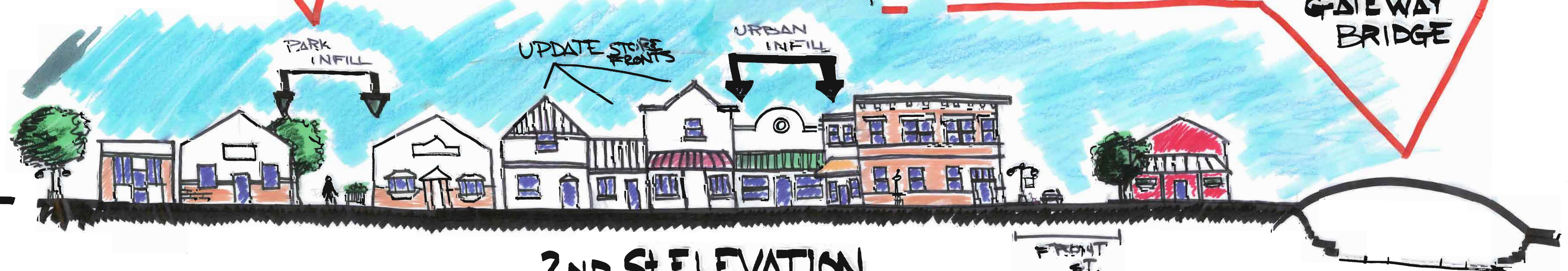
- Planter boxes & Trellis for Community Gardening as a place-holder for permanent development.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



MATERIALS & STYLE TO REFLECT ORIGINAL RAILROAD & AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE.

## "GATEWAY" BRIDGE



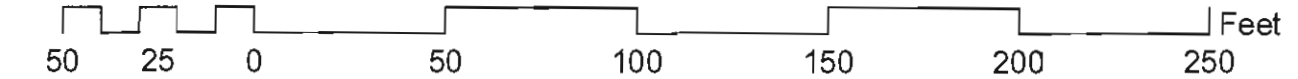
## 2ND ST ELEVATION.

97

Minnesota  
Design  
Team

# CONNECTIONS TO ASSETS.

1 inch equals 50 feet

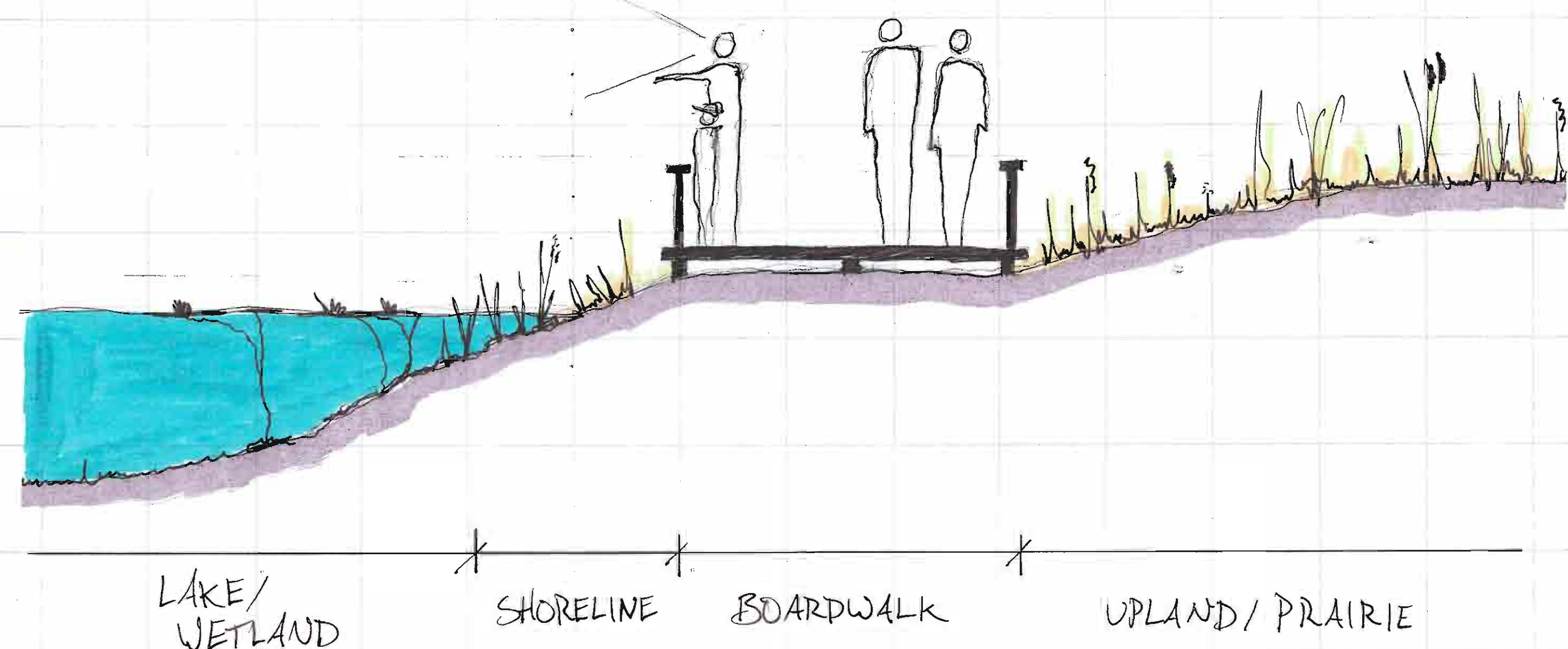


October 2012

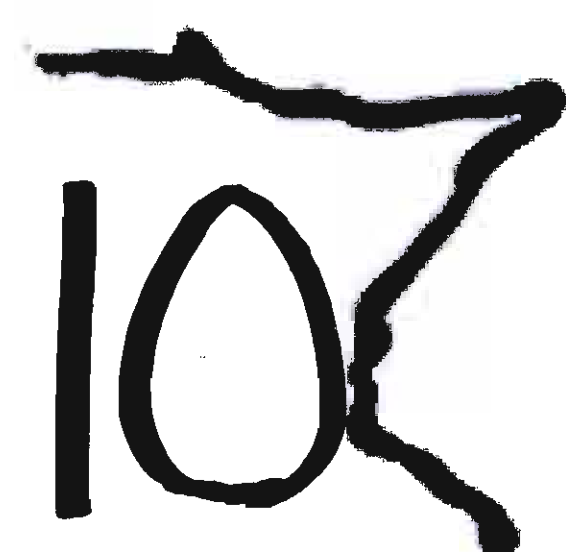
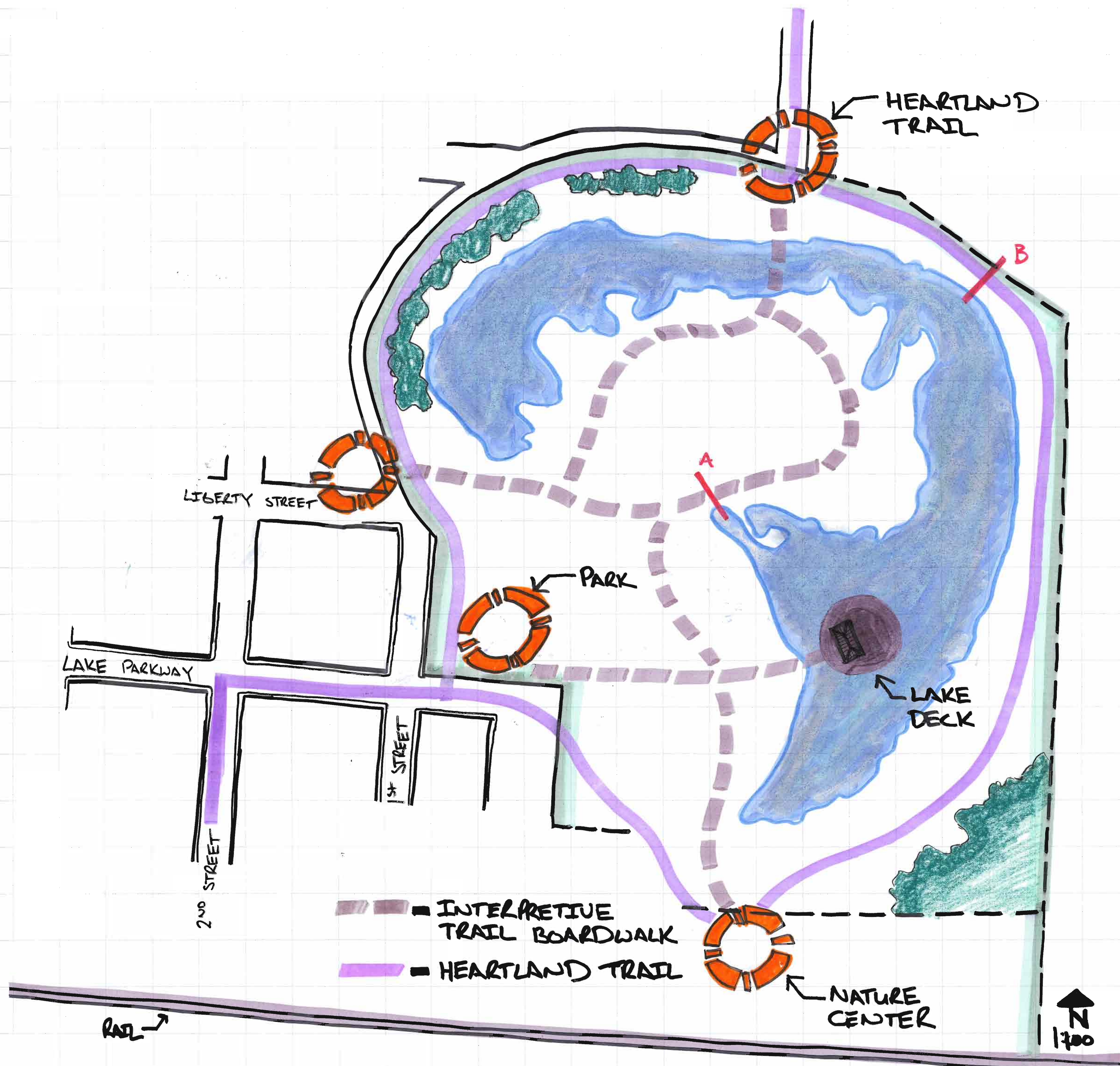
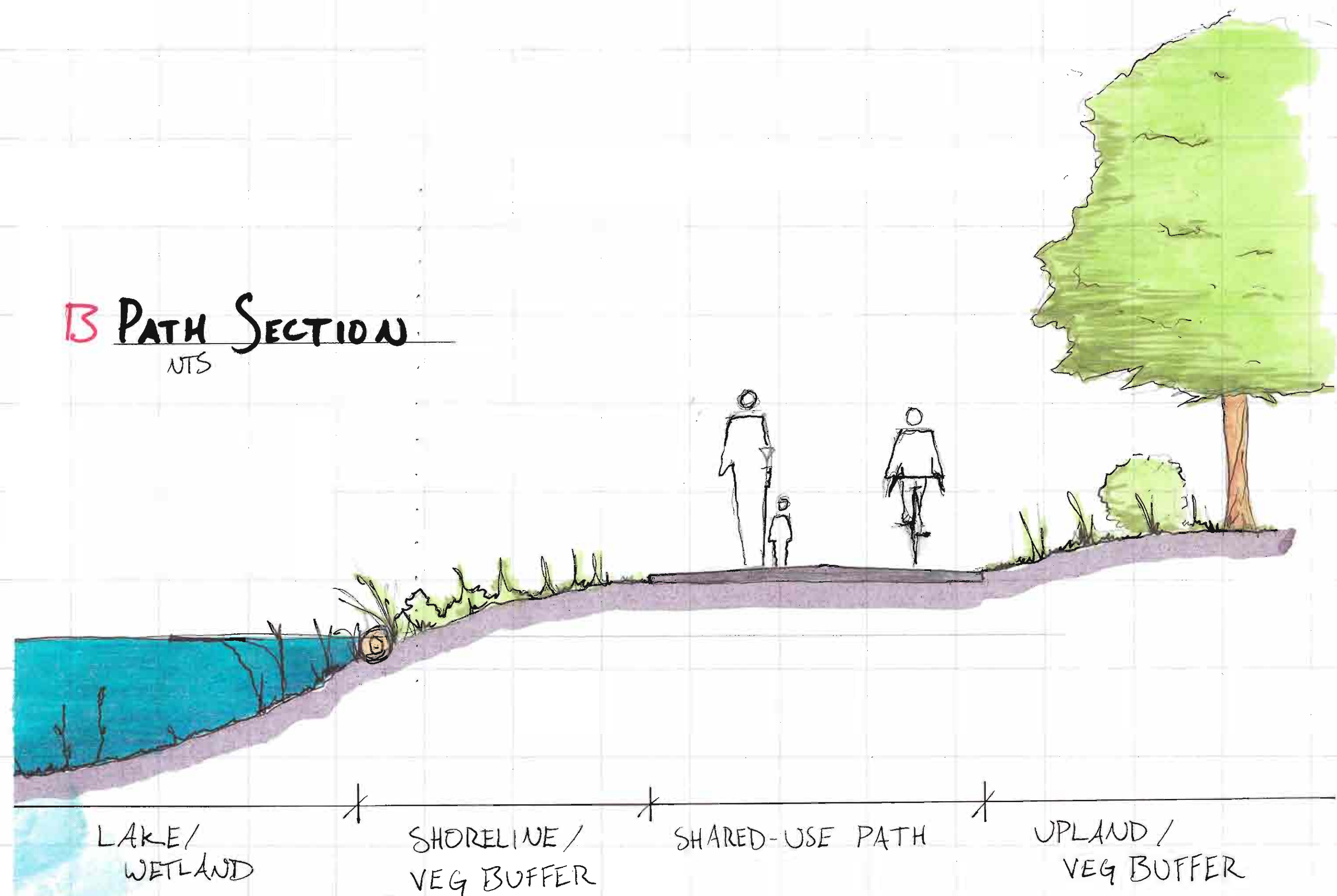




# A BOARDWALK SECTION



# B PATH SECTION



Minnesota  
Design  
Team

# LAKE FLORA: WETLAND TRAIL

October 2012





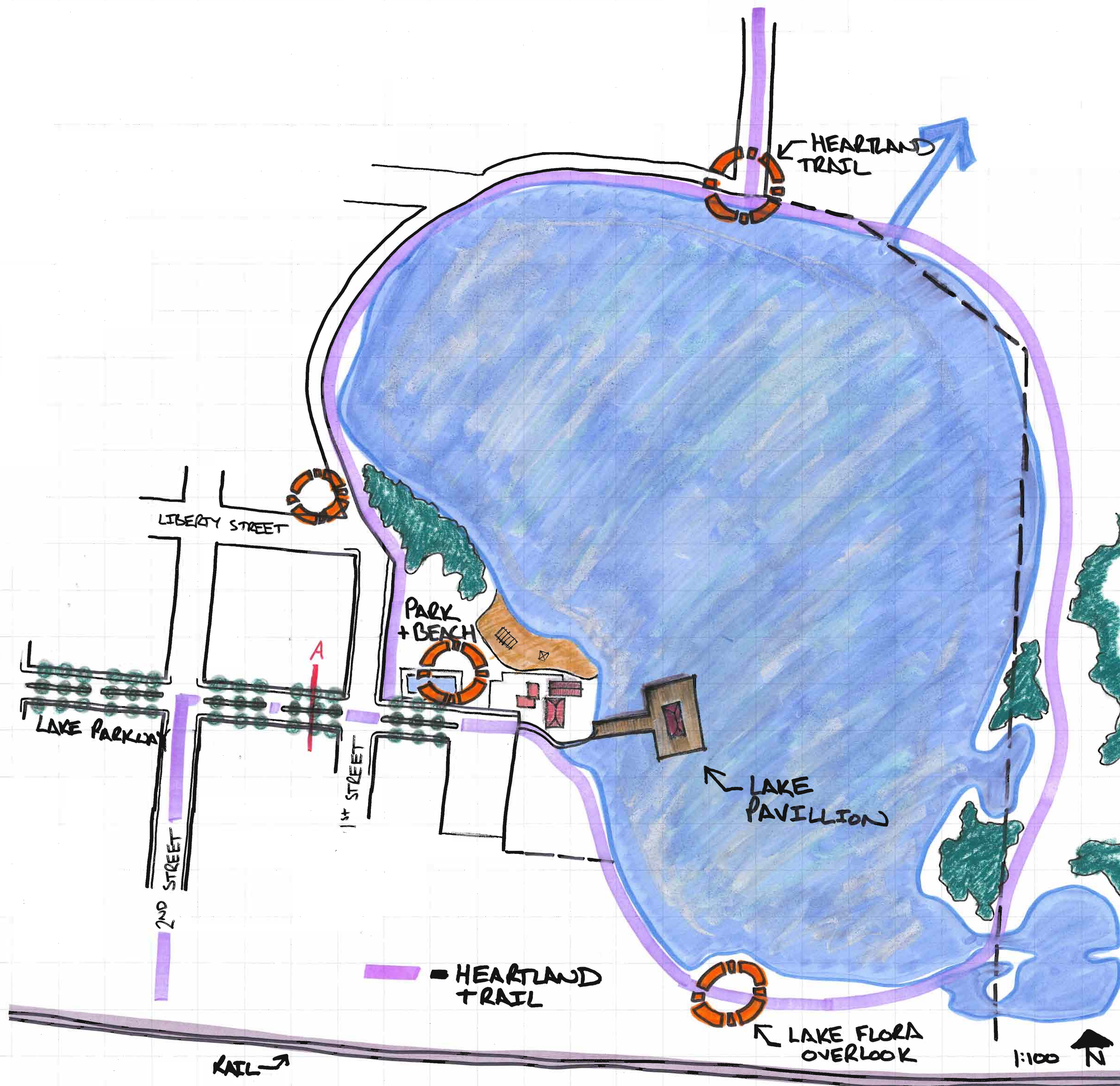
# A PARKWAY SECTION NTS



WALK BIKE DRIVE MEDIAN DRIVE BIKE WALK



LAKE VIEW



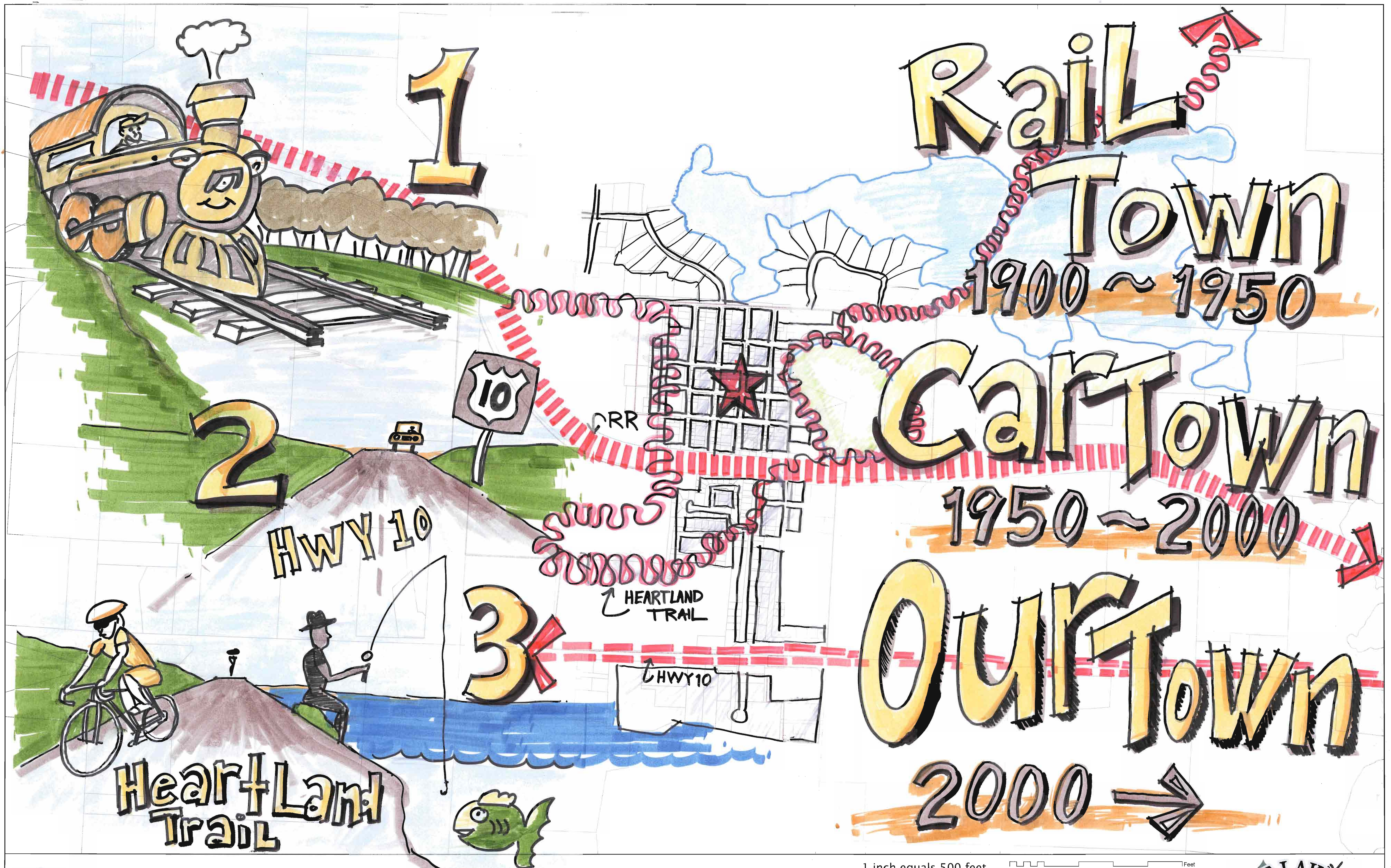
Minnesota  
Design  
Team

## LAKE FLORA : RESTORATION

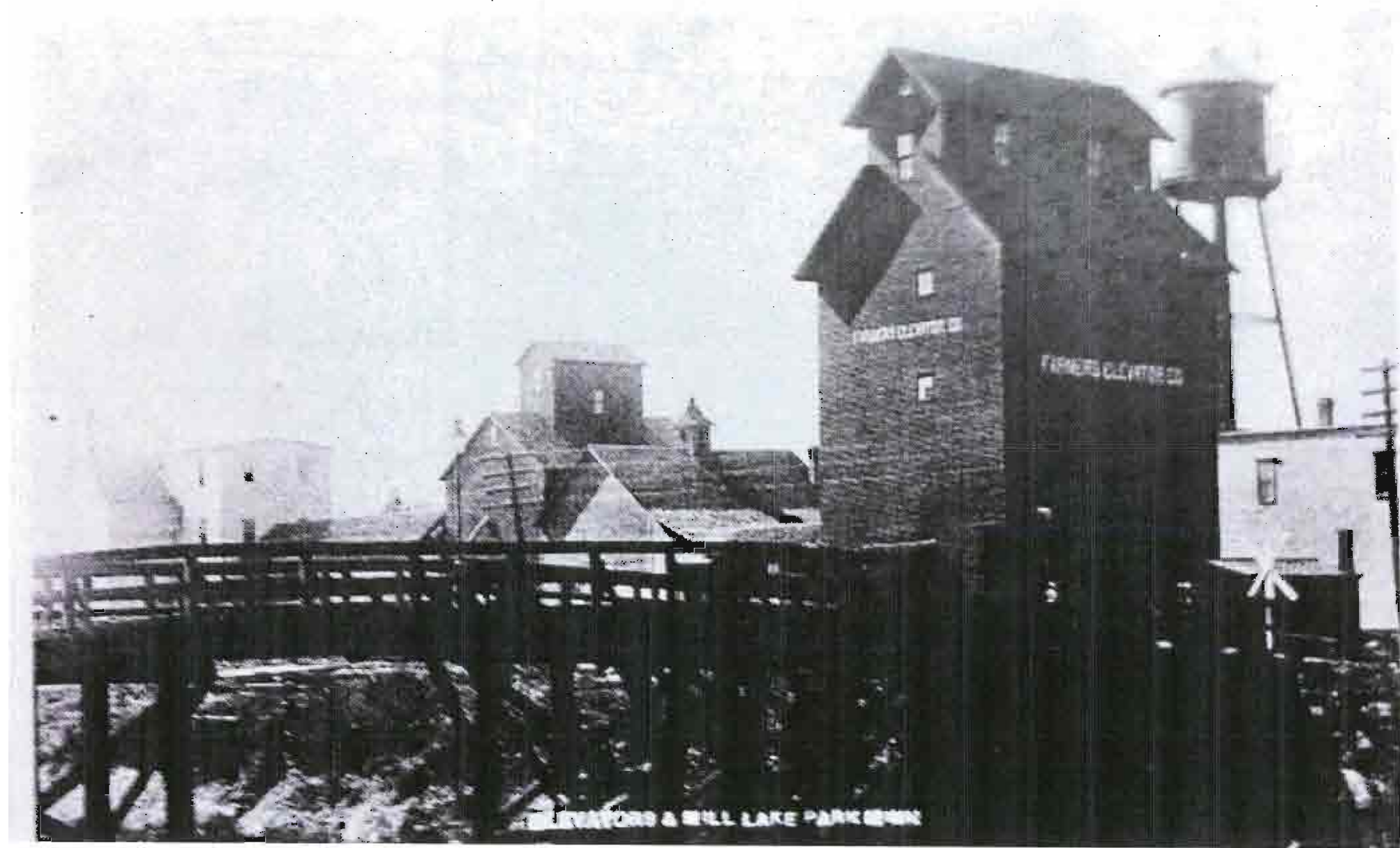
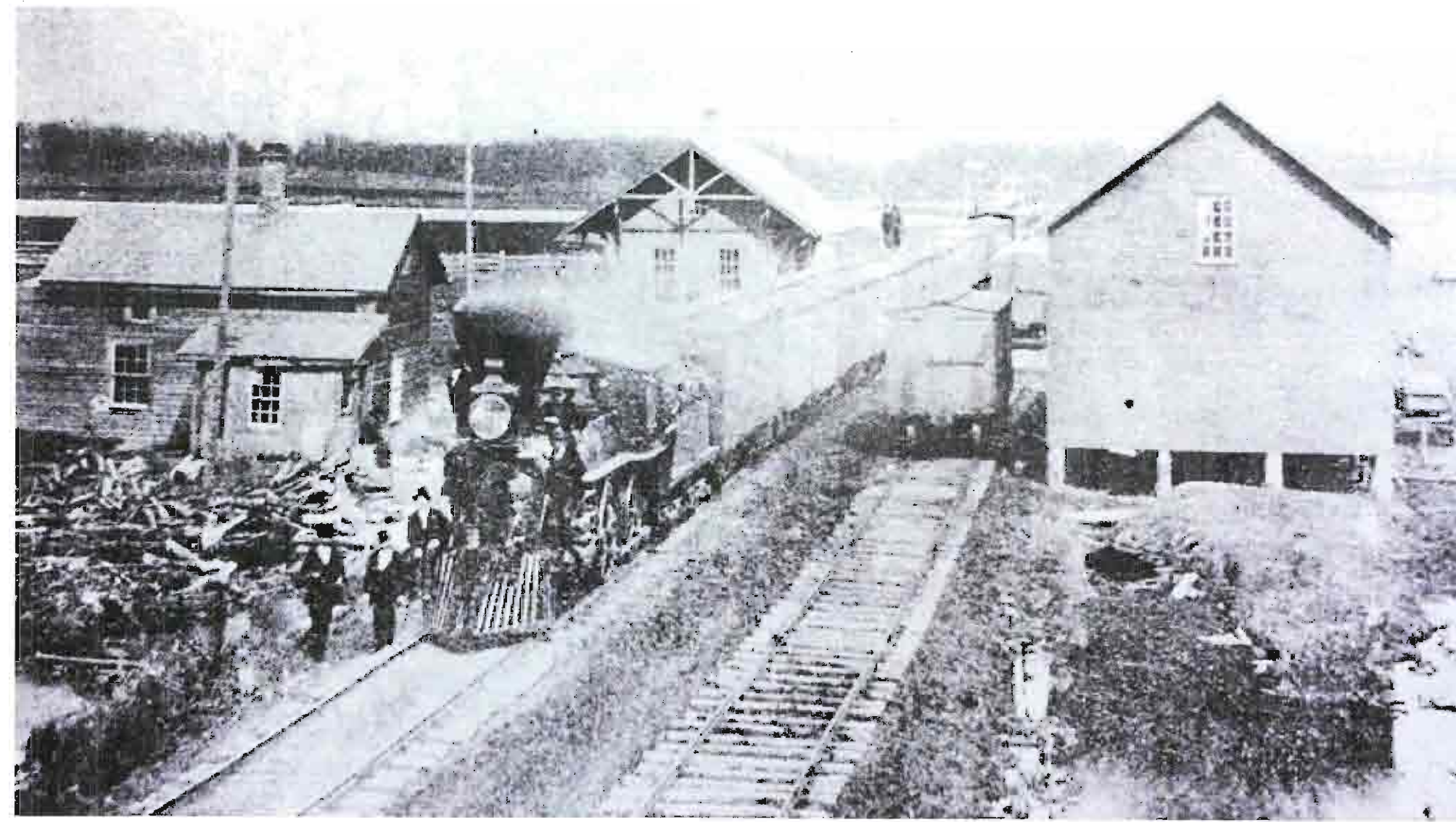
October 2012







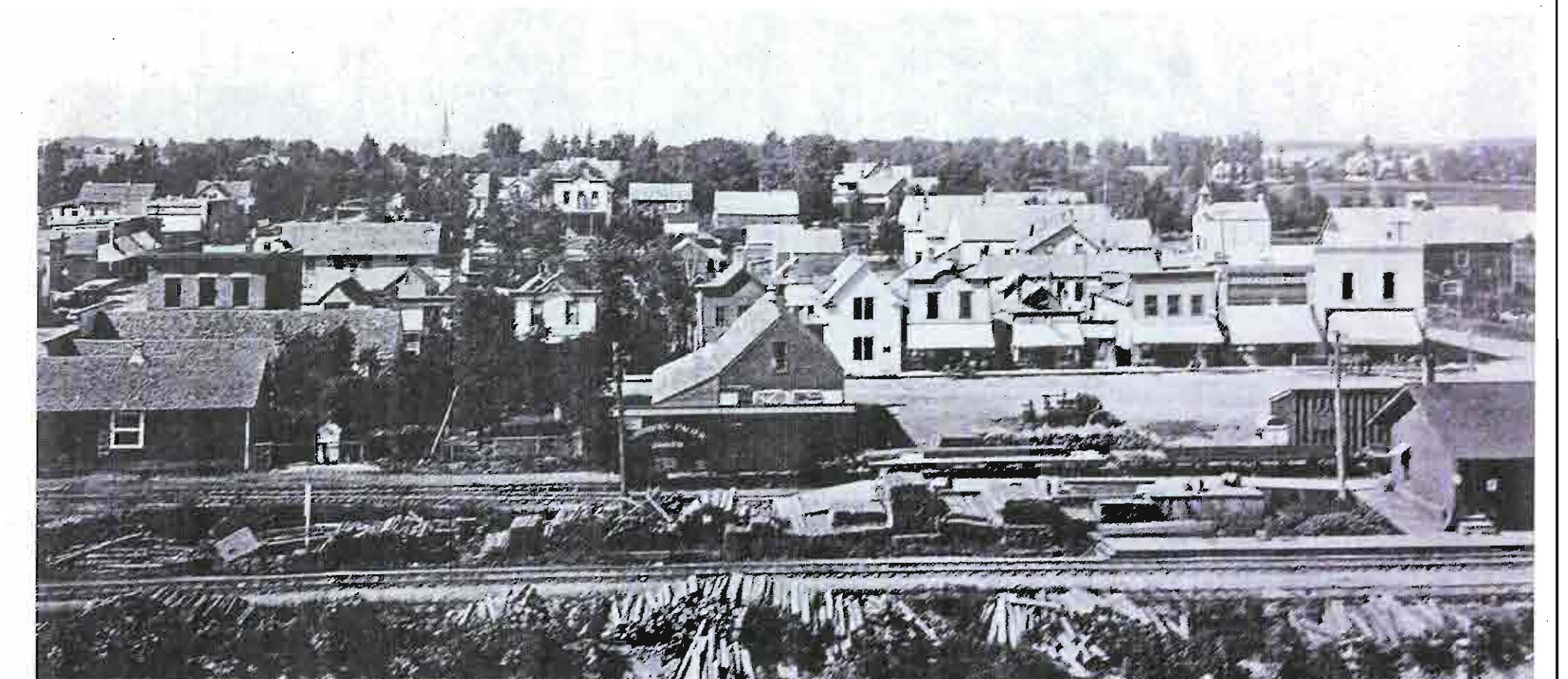
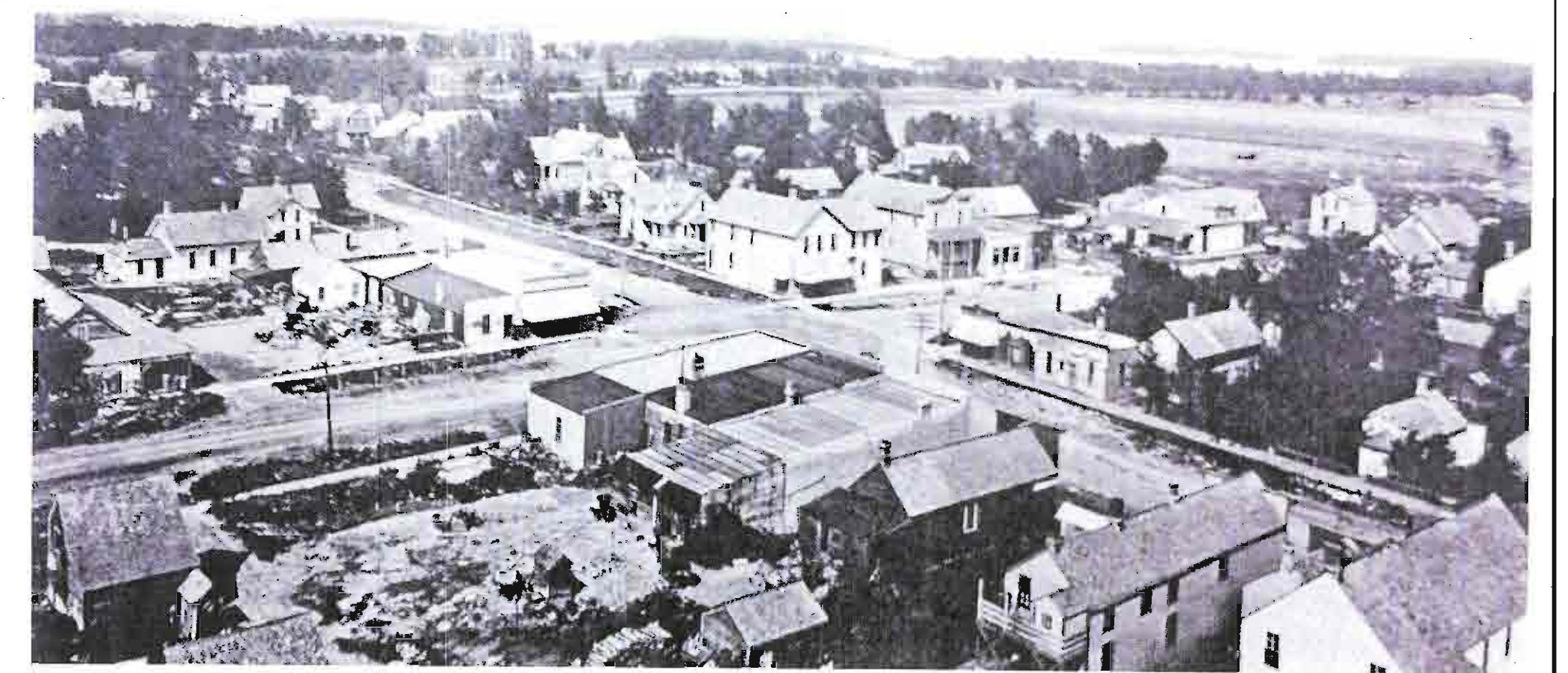




1900~1950



RXR



Minnesota  
Design  
Team

TRANSITIONS: RAILTOWN

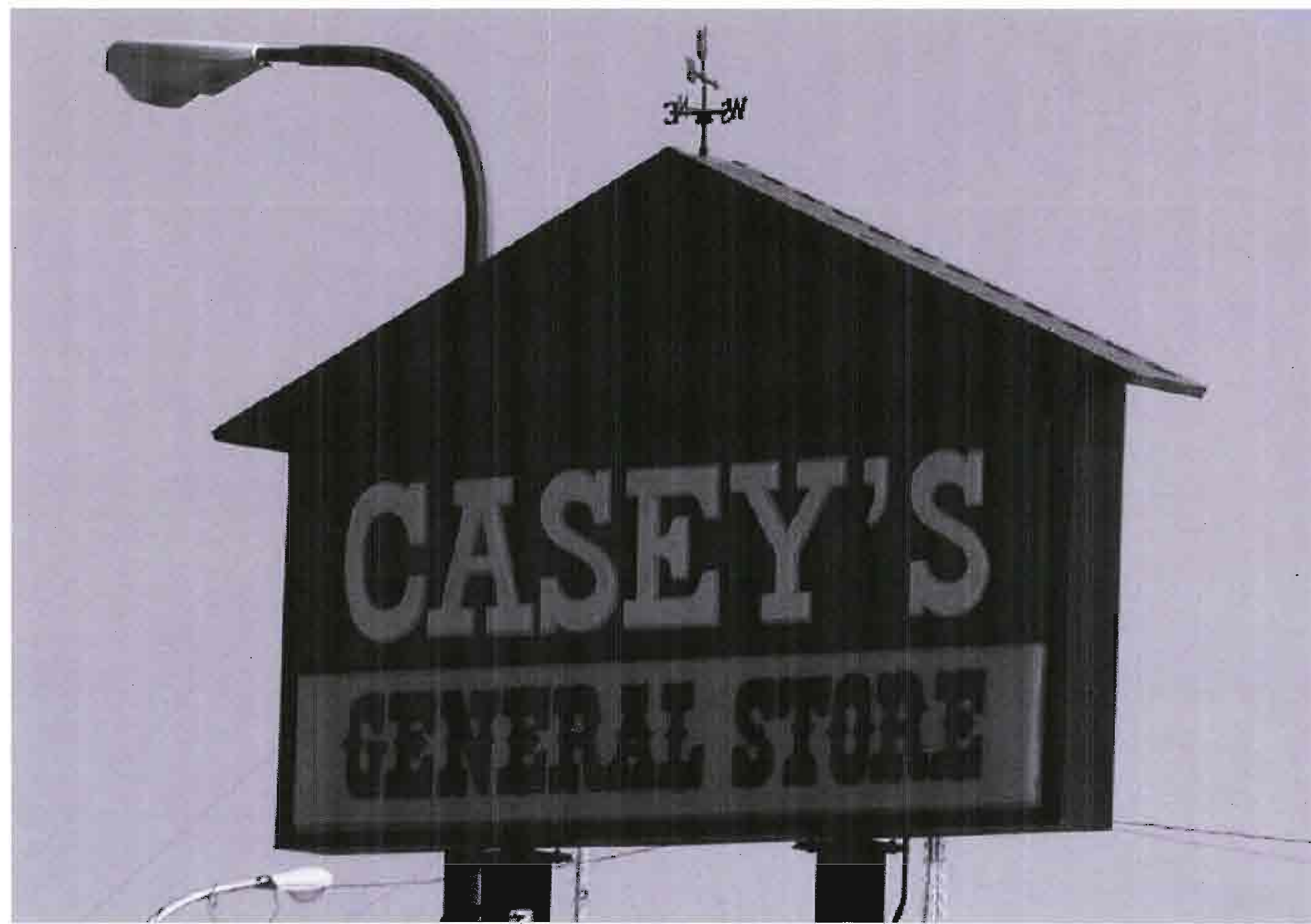
1 inch equals 1000 feet

1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000

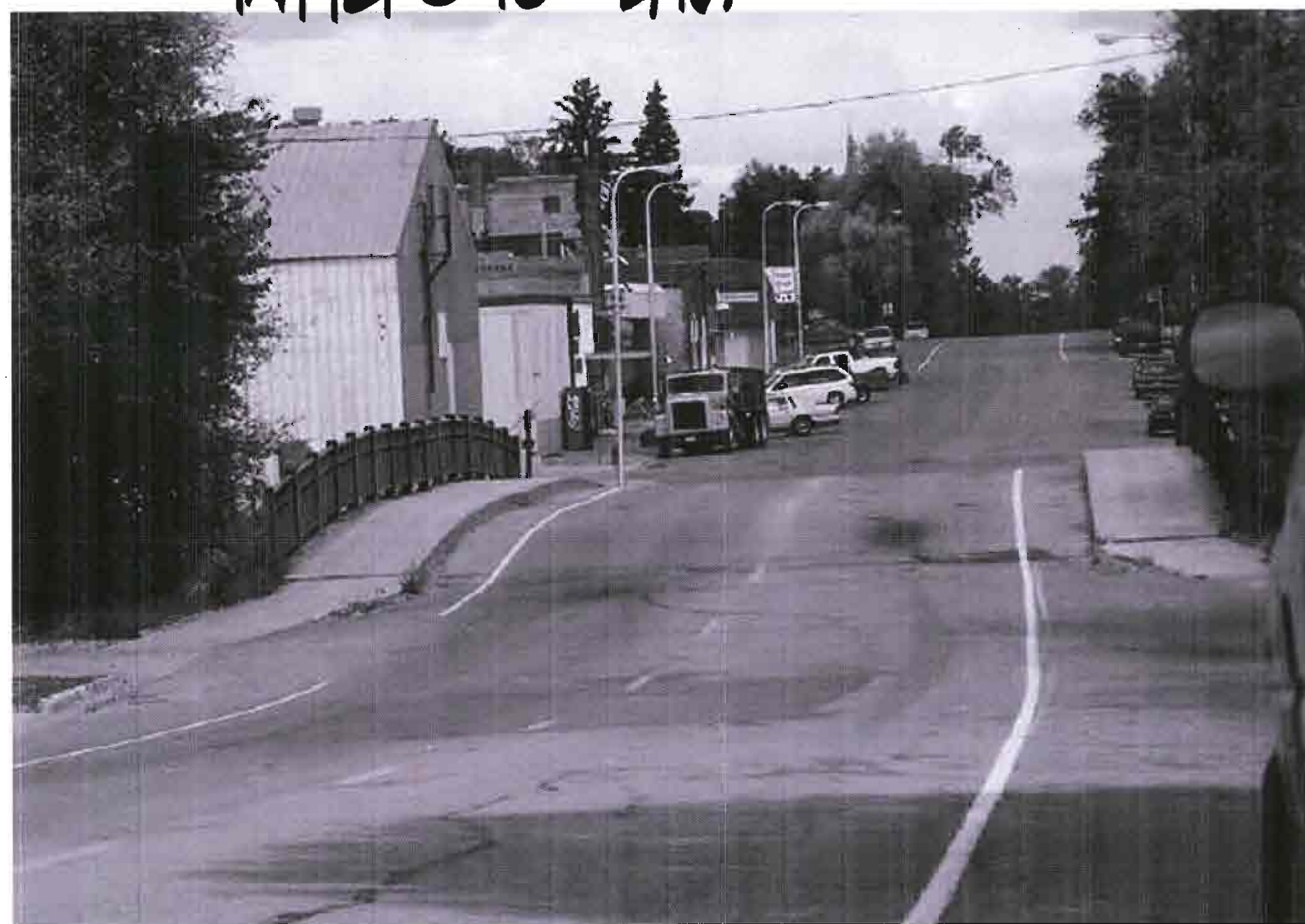
October 2012







WHERE TO SHOP



VITAL CONNECTOR



1950~2000



HWY 10



GAPS

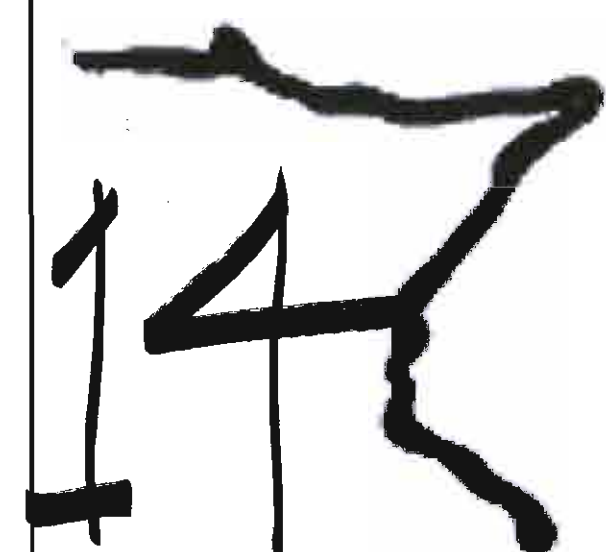


PUMPS



TRAFFIC

1 inch equals 1000 feet 1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000



Minnesota  
Design  
Team

TRANSITIONS: CARTOWN

October 2012







PRAIRIE



PLAYGROUND



POOL

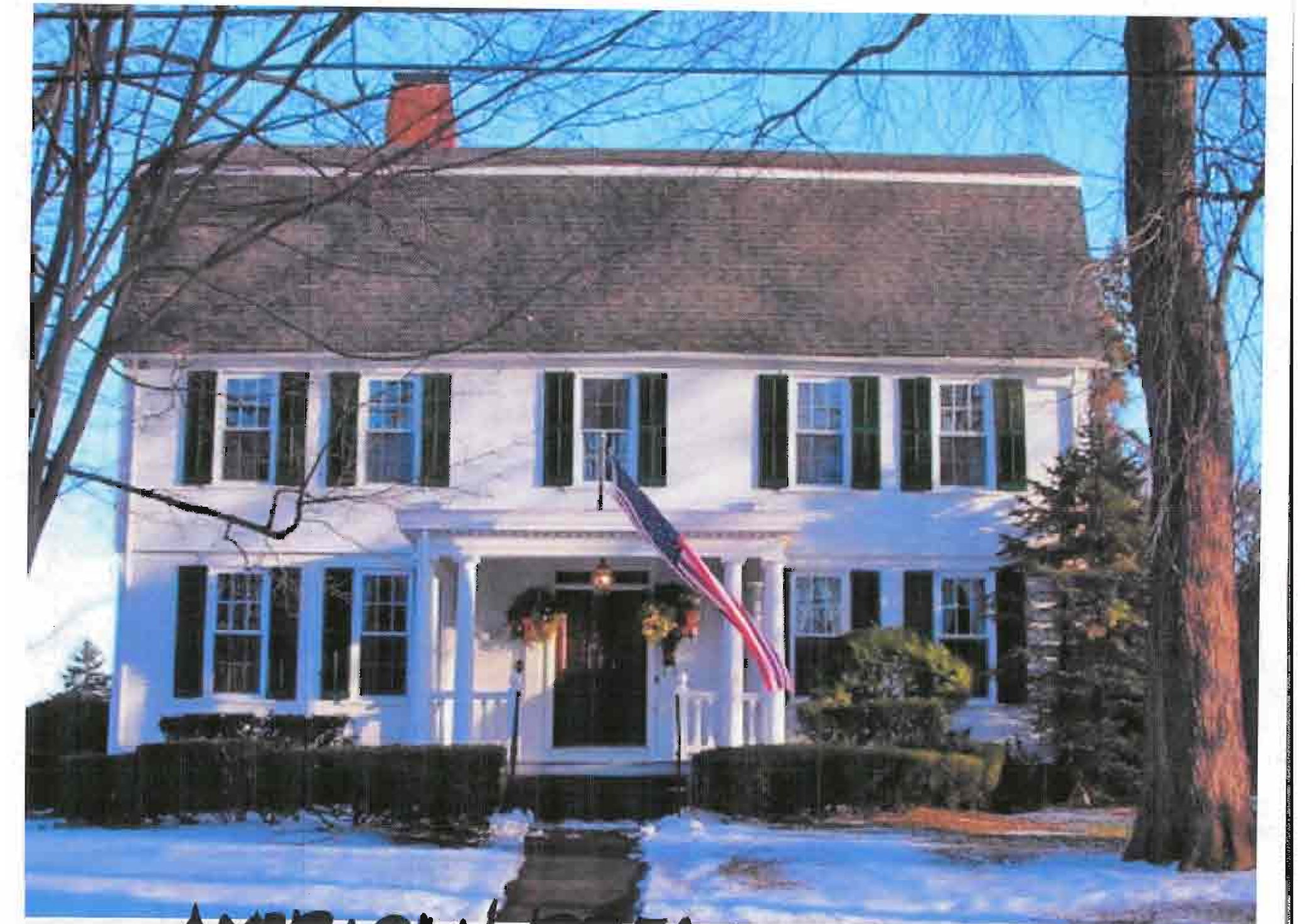
2000 →



Heartland Trail



GYM



AMERICAN DREAM



AT HOME

TRANSITIONS: OUR TOWN



Minnesota  
Design  
Team

1 inch equals 1000 feet

1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000



October 2012





Minnesota  
Design  
Team

NET ZERO ENERGY INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING

INFILL HOUSING  
NEW HOUSING  
October 2012

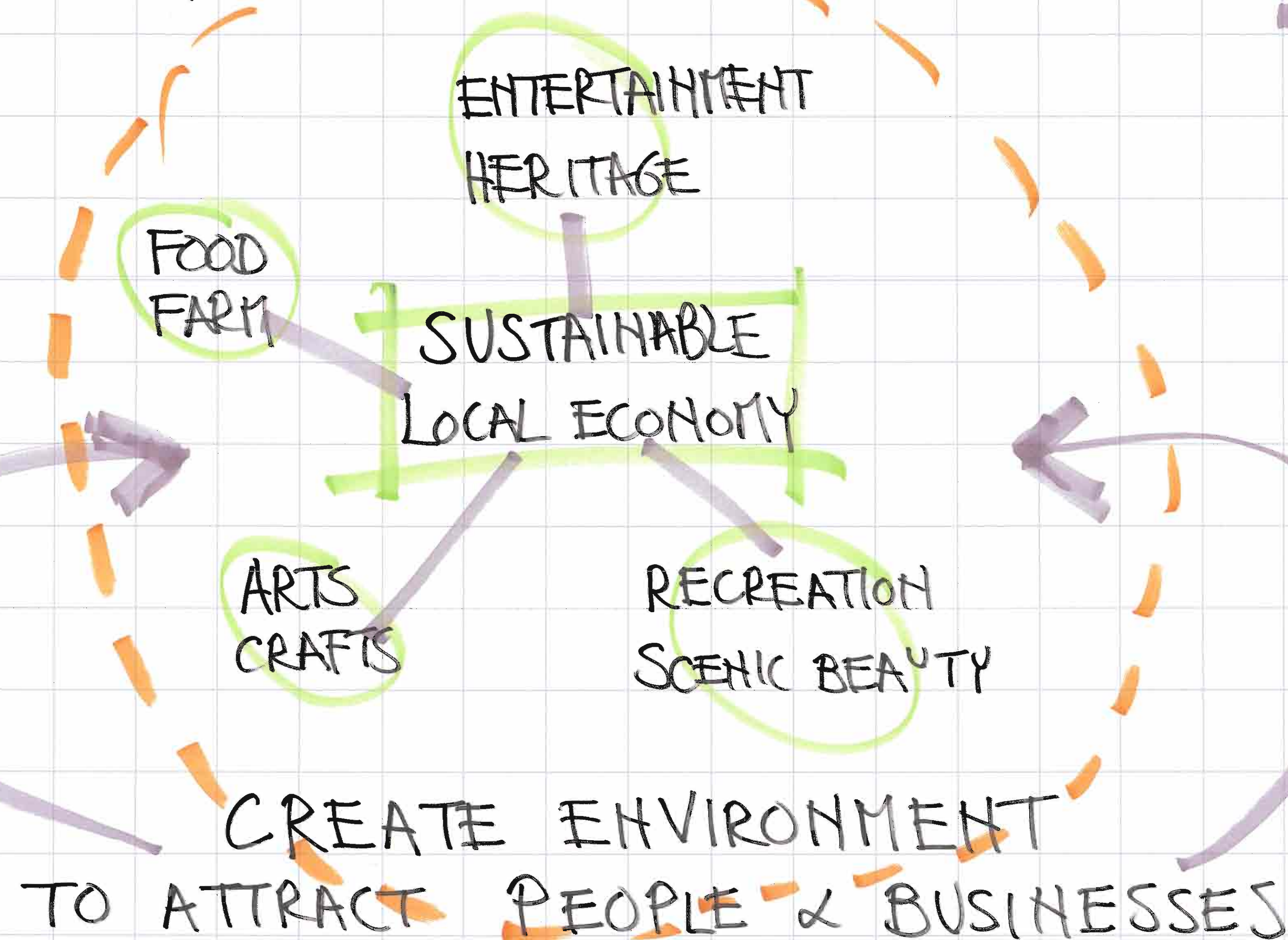




# BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

## THINK LOCAL

- NEEDS
- ASSETS
- NETWORKS



## THINK LAKES

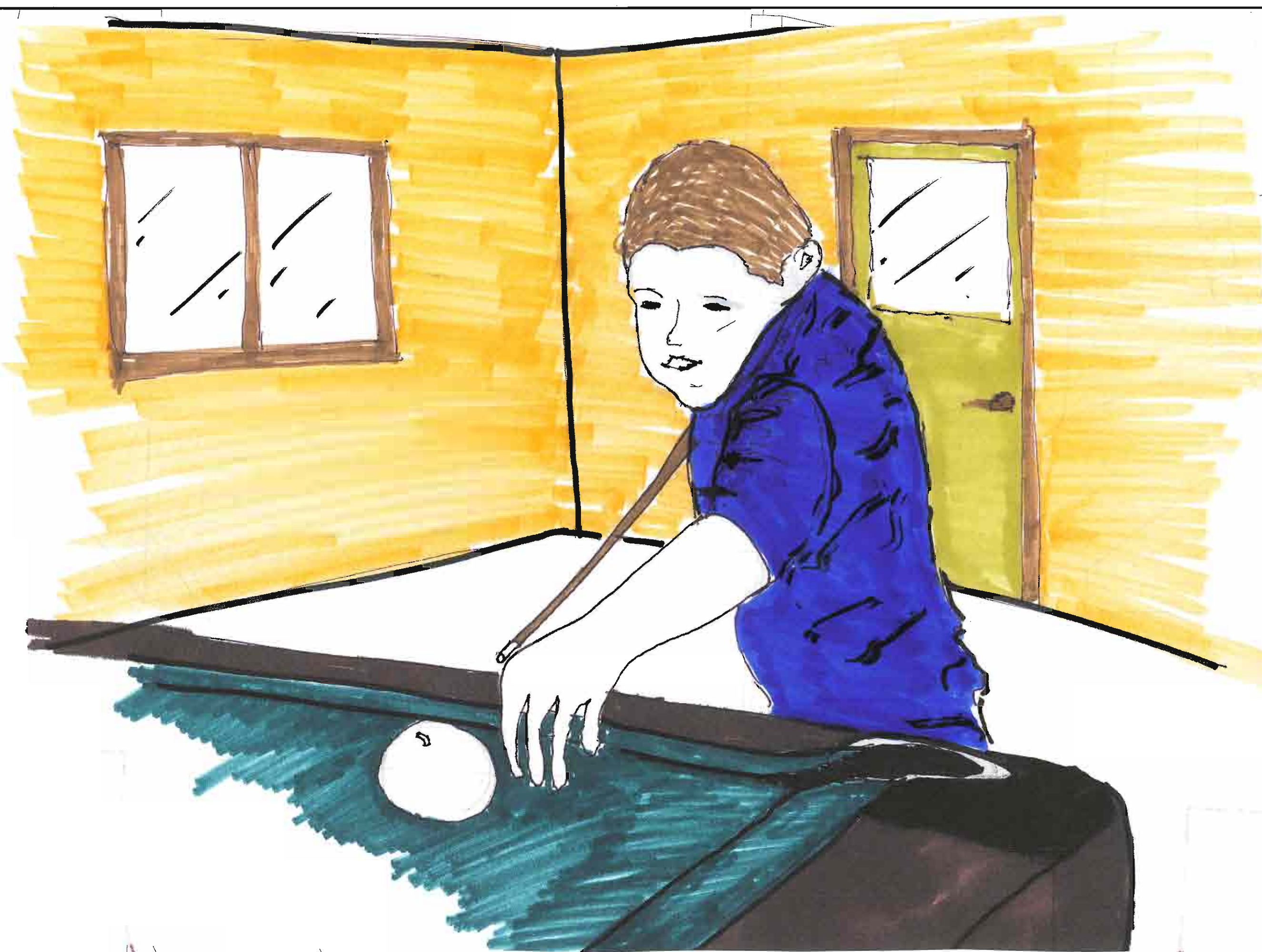
- CUSTOMERS
- PACKAGE TOURISM

## THINK CITIES

- BRING PEOPLE
- BRING BUSINESSES
- USE NETWORKS
- USE ASSETS

- VALUE ADDED TO BUSINESSES
- LINK BUSINESS: FOR LOCALS/TOURISTS
- INCUBATORS: ARTS & CREATIVES
- FLEXIBLE ZONING: NEW MIXES OF USES
- MEETING GROUNDS: REST/WORK/MEET
- HWAY BUSINESS: ZONING





YOUTH/COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

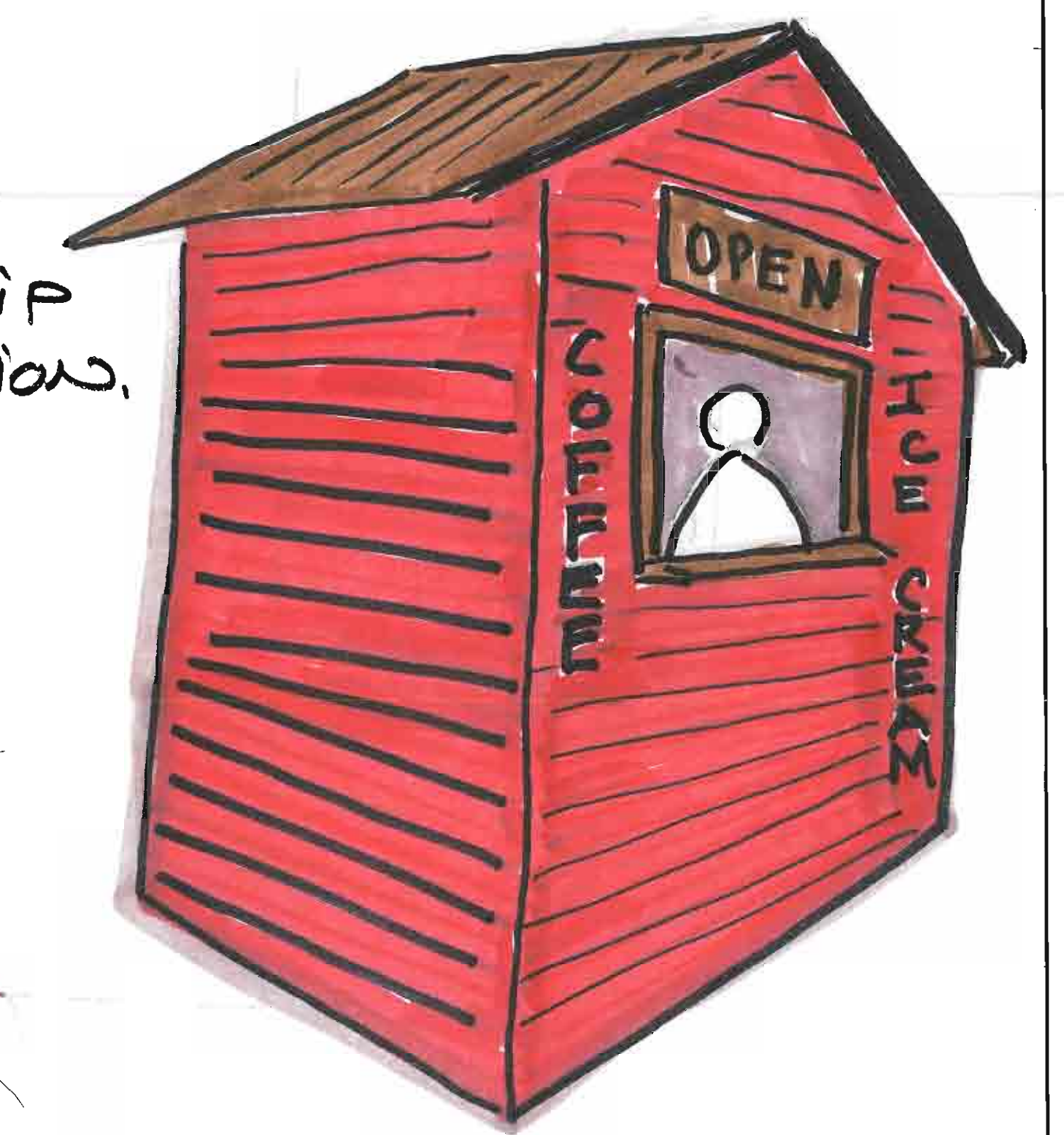


GALLERY / FITNESS STUDIO



DEVELOPMENT AREA  
TO FOCUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN A CONCENTRATED LOCATION.

- MAIN STREET
- SECONDARY BUSINESSES
- COMMUNITY CENTER



4 SEASONS  
VENDOR STAND



## SHORT TERM

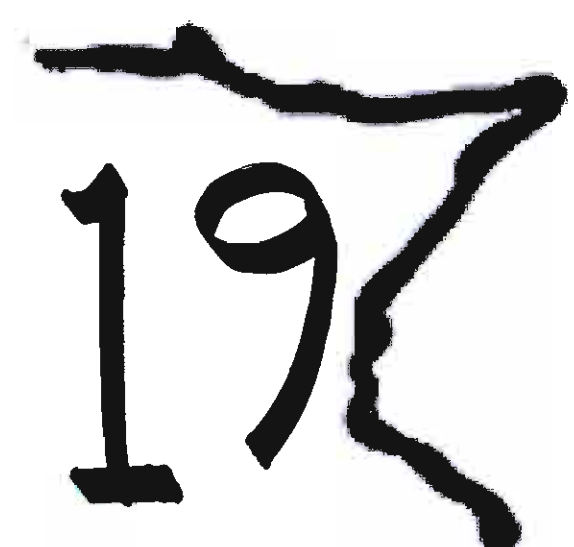
EXPAND PROGRAMING  
OF NEW SCHOOL  
SIGNAGE & WAY FINDING  
SURVEY COMMUNITY'S  
HOUSING NEEDS  
BUY LOCAL  
"FLEXIBLE" BUSINESSES  
INITIATE PARTNERSHIP  
W/ SCHOOL DISTRICT  
INITIATE PARTNERSHIP  
W/ DNR & W.S. DISTRICT

## MID-TERM

RECOGNIZE IN-FILL  
HOUSING STRATEGIES  
"VALUE ADDED"  
TO EXISTING BUSINESSES  
DETERMINE "GOOD FIT"  
REUSES FOR OLD H.S.  
DETERMINE FUTURE ROLE  
& FORM FOR LAKE FLORA  
IDENTIFY BEST INTERNAL  
ROUTE FOR HEARTLAND  
TRAIL → SAFE BIKE  
& PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL

## LONG TERM

DEVELOP A  
REBRANDING  
STRATEGY  
NET-ZERO ENERGY USE  
OLD/NEW STRUCTURES  
"FORM BASED" ZONING  
COMPLETE STREETS  
PROGRAM  
INITIATE RE-USE OF  
OLD HIGH SCHOOL  
RE-ESTABLISH  
LAKE FLORA



Minnesota  
Design  
Team

Next Steps...  
... Reaching Goals

October 2012







**PROJECT SCOPING DOCUMENT  
LAKE FLORA RESTORATION PROJECT**

Lake Park, Minnesota

**UEI Project No.: R13.00357**

September 2013

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision, and that I am a duly Licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Kristopher R. Carlson, P.E.  
MN Registration No. 47082

9/25/13

Date

**Ulteig Engineers, Inc.**  
1041 Hawk Street  
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota 56501

Detroit Lakes, MN • Minneapolis, MN • Fargo, ND • Bismarck, ND • Williston, ND  
Sioux Falls, SD • Cedar Rapids, IA • Denver, CO



**PROJECT SCOPING DOCUMENT**  
**LAKE FLORA RESTORATION PROJECT**  
Lake Park, Minnesota

**UEI Project No.: R13.00357**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0	PROJECT OVERVIEW .....	1
2.0	PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES .....	2
3.0	ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE .....	4
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW .....	6
5.0	FUNDING OPTIONS .....	7
6.0	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION .....	8

## **1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Lake Flora was an estimated 10 foot deep, 40 acre lake that was located in the northeast corner of the City of Lake Park. Sometime in the early 1900's, what is now known as Becker County Drain No. 7 was constructed to drain the lake to allow for the construction of the railroad that passes through the City. Currently, the area that was known as Lake Flora is being occupied with a city park, baseball and softball fields, and wetlands.

In the Fall of 2012, the City of Lake Park began working with the Minnesota Design Team to explore the possibility and benefit of restoring Lake Flora. One of the significant findings outlined in the Minnesota Design Team's study was the City's desire and need for more public space and recreation options within the City, with one of the key features being Lake Flora.

Additionally, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) objective of extending the Heartland State Trail from Park Rapids to Moorhead, the City of Lake Park has completed a Bicycle Facility Study to analyze alternatives to route the trail, as well as other future trails through the City. As identified in this study, the Lake Flora area was the preferred location to connect the Heartland State Trail with the City of Lake Park.

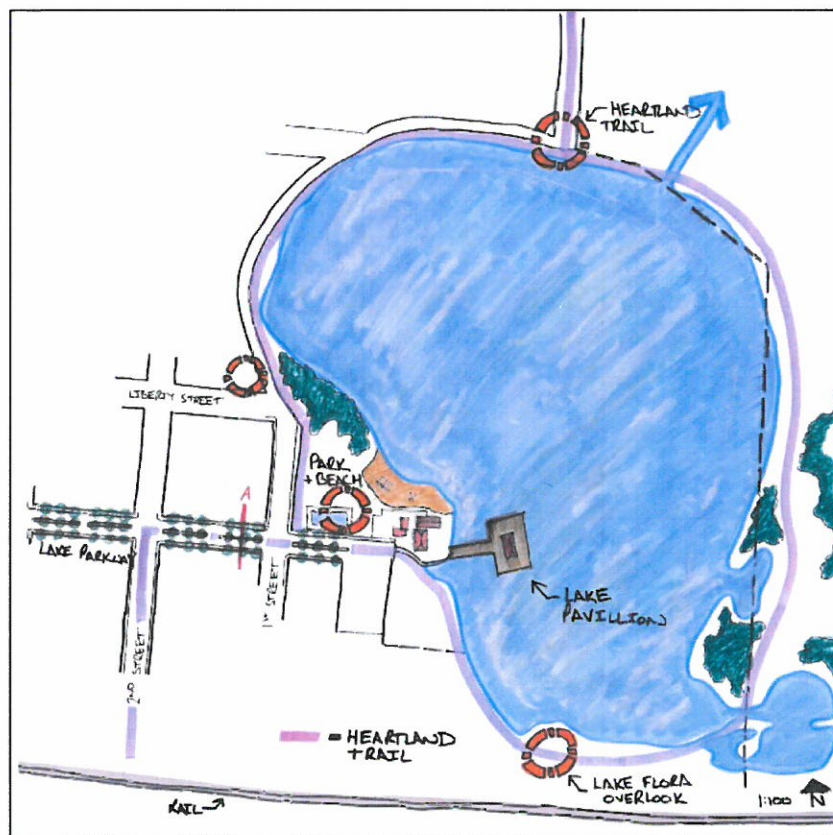
## 2.0 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

The Minnesota Design Team's study outlined two locally preferred options to be considered for the Lake Flora area. The alternatives are:

### Alternative No. 1 – Lake Flora Restoration

This alternative includes the complete restoration of what was Lake Flora. In addition to the complete restoration of the lake, the study also identified the following features:

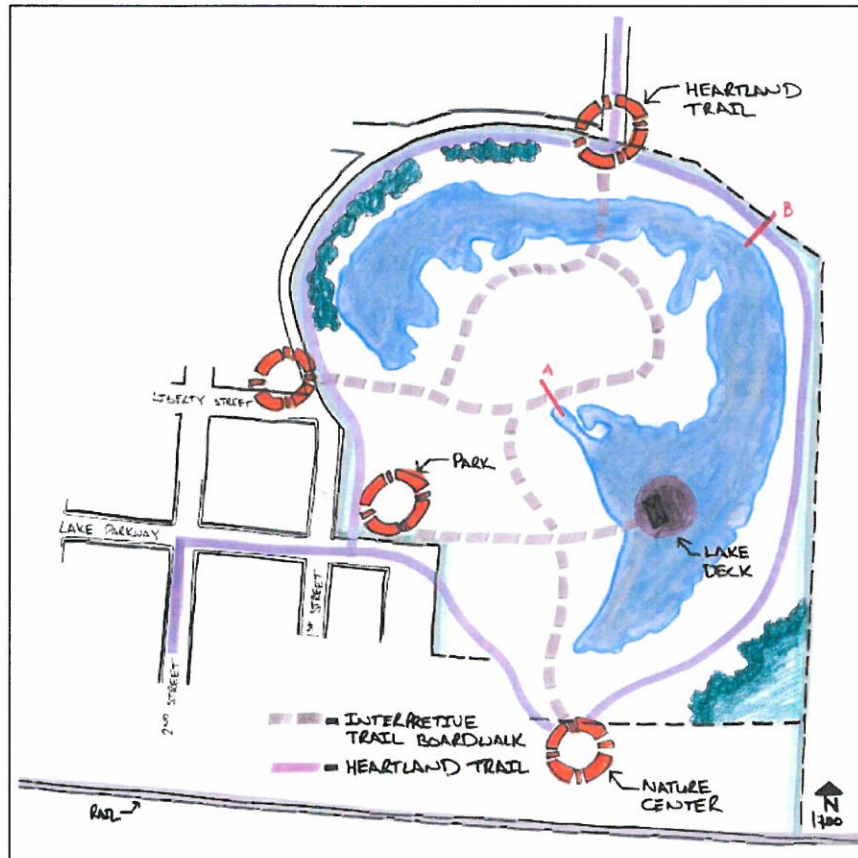
- Heartland State Trail Connection
- City Park
- Beach Area
- Lake Pavilion
- Scenic Overlook



**Alternative No. 2 – Lake Flora Wetland Trail**

This alternative includes the partial restoration of what was Lake Flora. In addition to the partial restoration of the lake, the study also identified the following features:

- Heartland State Trail Connection
- Interpretive Trail Boardwalk
- City Park
- Lake Deck
- Nature Center





### **3.0 ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

As part of the upfront research for this project, Ulteig met with representatives from the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District and Becker Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss the two alternatives outlined above. Some of the topics covered in this discussion included the existing hydrology, Becker County Drain No. 7 and potential regulatory and permitting issues that the City could face as they move forward with this project.

#### **Existing Hydrology**

With all of the changes that have occurred since the early 1900's, the construction of Becker County Drain No. 7 and the Railroad, the existing watershed for what once was Lake Flora has been reduced to approximately 80 acres. In addition to the small watershed, the elevation of what once was Lake Flora is significantly higher than the other bodies of water in the area, which could indicate that the water surface may have fluctuated significantly with the seasons and even possibly have dried up during extended dry periods.

Based on the existing hydrology, there are major concerns with being able to achieve the objectives outlined in Alternative No. 1 – Lake Flora Restoration.

#### **Becker County Drain No. 7**

Becker County Drain No. 7 was constructed to lower the water levels of what was Lake Flora to allow for the construction of the railroad. Since this is now a legal drain, it falls under the jurisdiction of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, meaning that there are restrictions on what can be done with it. That said, there is a process outlined in Watershed Law for abandoning a legal drain, but the drawback is that it can take 12 – 18 months to complete.

Alternatively, there are also provisions in Watershed Law that would allow for the construction of a water control structure by permit, that would not require the legal drain to be abandoned. The construction of a water control structure would provide the City control of the water leaving the site, which in turn, would give the hydrology needed to achieve the objectives outlined in Alternative No. 2 – Lake Flora Wetland Trail.

**Permitting Issues**

Since the major components of this project deal with controlling the water surface elevation and excavation within what was one time known as Lake Flora, the wetland permitting process is going to be the controlling factor on what the final alternative ultimately will look like.

Since the proposed project includes excavation within an existing wetland and the potential restoration of a previously drained wetland, we feel that the objectives of Alternate No. 2 – Lake Flora Wetland Trail could have significantly less opposition from each of the permitting agencies. That said, depending on the total acreage of existing wetlands impacted by the project versus that amount of wetland able to be restored/created, there may be an opportunity for the City to set up a wetland bank that could be used on future projects.

**Recommended Alternative**

Based on the preliminary findings outlined above, the recommended alternative would be Alternative No. 2 – Lake Flora Wetland Trail.

## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW**

### **Wetlands**

Construction of the proposed project will affect a significant amount of existing wetlands, all of which are located within the area previously occupied by Lake Flora. Based upon past experience with these types of projects, it is highly recommended that the City form a Technical Committee, which would include representatives from the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. This Committee would be involved during the conceptual design phase to review and provide feedback on proposed design elements and how they would relate to the final wetland permit.

### **Environmental Assessment**

Depending on the requirements of any Local, State, or Federal Funding sources used by the City for the development and construction of this project, a formal Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) may be required. To ensure the smooth delivery of this project, it is recommended that the project team reach out to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate and identify any items of historical significance and/or any rare or endangered plant or animal species that may be in the area.

### **Permits and Approval Requirements**

Permits and/or approvals are required by the following agencies:

- Minnesota DNR – Minnesota Local/State/Federal Application for Water/Wetlands Projects
- US Army Corps of Engineer's – Section 404 Permit
- Becker Soil and Water Conservation District – Wetland Conservation Act
- Buffalo-Red River Watershed District – General Permit
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – General Stormwater Permit
- City of Lake Park – Plan Review and Approval



## 5.0 FUNDING OPTIONS

Due to the nature and scope of the proposed project, there are potential funding sources that would be available for the City.

### **DNR Park and Trail Legacy Grant Funding**

Since this is a park and trail type project, the City could apply for grant funding through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Park and Legacy Grant Program. Applications for the Park and Trail Legacy Grant Funding for the Fiscal Year 2014 are due October 25, 2013.

### **West Central Initiative**

Since this is a community type project, and the City of Lake Park is a member of West Central Initiative, there would be an opportunity for the City to work with West Central Initiative's fund raising arm to raise the necessary money to cover the City's portion of the project.



6.0 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

If the City wishes to move forward with the permitting, design, and construction of this project, it is recommended the following timeline be considered.

DNR Park and Trail Legacy Grant Application .....	October 2013
Initiate West Central Initiative (If Applicable) .....	November 2013
Complete Wetland Delineation.....	October 2013 - November 2013
Conceptual Design.....	January 2014 - February 2014
Submit Conceptual Design for Review .....	March 2014
Submit Wetland Permit.....	March 2014
Complete Final Design .....	June 2014
Accept Bids .....	July 2014
Construction .....	August 2014 – December 2014

\*Proposed timeline will be subject to permitting and funding.



October 15, 2013

Ms. Traci Vibo  
Grant Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Trails  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 39  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Vibo:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Lake Park, and our city's commitment to the Lake Flora Wetland Trail project. I sponsored and support City of Lake Park Resolution 13-2002, and brought it before the City Council last night for passage. In our city's history the discussion of restoring Historic Lake Flora has occurred often, going all the way back to the time it was drained for an expansion project of the Great Northern Railroad Company and continuing up until last night's City Council meeting.

Over the past two years a series of planning meetings that included the City Council, Economic Development Authority, the Minnesota Design Team, area businesses and community organizations were held in regards to Historic Lake Flora. Design concepts were offered and the restoration process was discussed at length. Concepts from a full restoration of Lake Flora itself, to what the City has optioned for in a partial lake restoration and surrounding trail area were offered up for residents to give feedback all along the way. The overwhelming statement that I heard as Mayor, time and time again was for the city to take action and doing something with the empty lake bed and turn in it back into a thing of pride and beauty for our community.

As Mayor, and also as the Chair of the Lake Park-Audubon Community Education Council and a Trustee for the Becker County Historical Society, I believe that the Lake Flora Wetland Trail project as outlined by CLP Resolution 13-2002 will provide greater opportunities for our community in many aspects. The Lake Flora Wetland trail will allow us to promote healthy living together with outdoor recreation, not just for our city residents but the surrounding LPA School District making it a destination location. As a destination location, the Lake Flora Wetland Trail will benefit our local economy and help our small town businesses succeed. And from a historical or educational point of view, it would allow us to stop letting something is such a large part of our community to continue to go to waste and restore some of our city's long lost natural beauty.

During my childhood, I spent a great amount of time playing outdoors with friends in and around the empty lake bed and imagining what it would have been like to been a boy back at the beginning of that century and able to enjoy a lake right behind the house that I grew up in on Second Street. At my day job, I have two photographs that hang on the wall next to my desk; one of a view of Lake Flora from the east looking out to the small village of Lake Park in the 1890s. The other is photo from the fall of 2009, when I returned to my hometown of Lake Park and looked out over the lake bed and fog covered it to the point that could lead one to believe that a lake still remained underneath.

We knew this won't be an easy project, just from the history of the city discussing Lake Flora throughout the last century. But we're a new generation of dreamers and workers in the City of Lake Park and we're ready to move forward and see the best of our ideas become reality, and we can do that with the help of the grant funding from the Parks & Trails Legacy Grant Program. This project is a perfect fit for Legacy support, because the project itself will be a legacy for future generations in the City of Lake Park and the larger surrounding community. I respectfully ask, on behalf of my hometown, the City of Lake Park that you support our request for a Legacy grant to help fund the Lake Flora Wetland Trail project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at any time, my home number is (218) 238-5659, my cell number is (218) 270-0457, and my email address is [mayor@loretel.net](mailto:mayor@loretel.net).

Many Thanks.



Aaron Lee Wittnebel  
Mayor

October 23, 2013

Aaron Lee Wittnebel, Mayor  
City of Lake Park  
2032 2nd Street  
Lake Park, MN 56554

To the Mayor on behalf of the City of Lake Park,


It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the Lake Flora Wetland project being submitted for the Trail and Legacy Grant application. As you'll learn in that application, Lake Flora was an estimated 10 foot deep, 40 acre lake that was located in the northeast corner of the City of Lake Park. Sometime in the early 1900's, what is now known as Becker County Drain 7 was constructed to drain the lake to allow for the construction of the railroad that passes through the City. Currently, the area that was known as Lake Flora is being occupied with a city park, baseball and softball fields, and wetlands.

In the fall of 2012, the City of Lake Park began working with the Minnesota Design Team to explore the possibility and benefit of restoring Lake Flora. One of the significant findings outlined in the Minnesota Design Team's study was the City's desire and need for more public space and recreation options within the City with one of the key features being Lake Flora.

Additionally, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) objective of extending the Heartland State Trail from Park Rapids to Moorhead, the City of Lake Park has completed a Bicycle Facility Study to analyze alternatives to route the trail, as well as other future trails through the City. As identified in this study, the Lake Flora area was the preferred location to connect the Heartland State Trail with the City of Lake Park.

The Lake Flora Wetland project will achieve both needs outlined above. I'm excited about the prospect of this project coming to fruition which would result in a beautiful outdoor space that will be used by my entire family, as well as, numerous other members of our community including those around it. In conclusion, I fully endorse the efforts of the City of Lake Park as they seek external funding to support this project that will enhance the city of Lake Park and the lives of its residents for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Huesman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "H".

Liz Huesman, former Vice Mayor, City of Lake Park  
PO Box 464, 18161 County Highway 1  
Lake Park, MN 56554

October 15, 2013

Hon. Aaron Lee Wittnebel  
City of Lake Park  
2032 Second Street  
Lake Park, MN 56554

Dear Mayor Wittnebel:

We are writing to you on behalf of the downtown business district, in support of City's decision to move forward with the Lake Flora Restoration Project, now known as the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project. We support the City's pursuit of a grant through the Parks & Trails Legacy Program with the State of Minnesota through the Department of Natural Resources.

We are excited and enthused at the prospect of bringing back a part of the City's natural history, with a partial restoration of Lake Flora and the construction of a Wetland Trail within the historic lake bed that lies empty. We believe that this will not only help beautify the city, but also help draw business to the downtown area which in turn will benefit our local economy.

With the City's support of the state's Multi-Use (Heartland) Trail expansion from Frazee to Moorhead, we feel that the Lake Flora Wetland Trail will be a highlight along the way on the state's trail system. We believe that tying this project in with the upcoming Heartland Trail expansion will lead to a healthier community for local residents and visitors. If there is anything we can do to help making the City's bid for Legacy Grant Funding for the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jeff Anglin  
*Jeff's Food Center*



Jeff Romberg  
*Lake Park Café*



Deanne Anderson  
*Thrifty-White Drug Store*



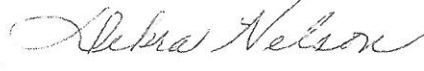
Becky Mitchell  
*The Glass Lady Studio*



Darwin Hendrickson  
*D.H. Accounting*



Debra Nelson  
*Lake Park Insurance Co.*





Oct. 21, 2013

Abby Anderson  
EDA President  
12241 US Hwy 10  
Lake Park, MN 56554

Dear Mayor Wittnebel:

I am writing in behalf of the Lake Park Economic Development Authority, it is our decision to be in favor of the Lake Flora Restoration Project, known as the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project. We, the EDA, support the City of Lake Park in the pursuit of a grant through the Parks and Trails Legacy Program with the State of Minnesota, through the Department of Natural Resources.

Our EDA council feels this project will not only bring back the city's natural history, but for future development of the Heartland Trail (this multi-use trail will expand from Park Rapids to Frazee continuing on to Moorhead) as for Lake Park, we feel it will be a highlight of the trail to visit our beautiful park, which will ajoin the Lake Flora Wetland Trail. This will be a great asset for visitors and local residents, the trail will lead to a healthier tomorrow for families. Our hope is that this project will make our community more desirable to live and visit and bring more business to our local economy and expanding residential areas!

Please consider making the Lake Park city's bid for the Legacy Grant Funding for the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project a possibility, "Build It and They Will Come"!

Sincerely,

  
Abby Anderson

Lake Park EDA President

October 22, 2013

To whom it may concern,

In a few weeks I will be 86 years old.

My doctor, my chiropractor, and my daughter all tell me I should get outside and exercise more. I know they are right, but there are no walking paths in town.

I am so excited about the possibility of Lake Park getting a Wetland Trail with a connection to the Heartland Trail from Moorhead to Detroit Lakes and beyond.

I am involved with many senior citizen activities including Bone Builders exercise group, and the local TOPS Club. We have talked about walking and biking, but there is really no safe place for a group to walk or bike. This would be perfect, and so convenient for all the residents.

"Healthy Living" is one of the criteria when people are choosing where to locate a new home. This project would certainly factor into their decision.

This is a win, win for all. We get economic development, and they find a great place to live.

Please do all you can to bring this great asset to Lake Park.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Jacobson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

Marion Jacobson  
Lake Park, Mn



## Lake Park Lions Club

We Serve

October 21, 2013

Mayor Aaron Wittnebel

City of Lake Park

2032 Second St

Lake Park MN, 56554

Dear Mayor Wittnebel,

Please accept this letter of support and encouragement in regards to the Lake Flora Restoration and Wetland Trails Project funded by a Parks and Trails Legacy Grant through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

We believe the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project is a vital tool in connecting people to the outdoors. The community of Lake Park has proudly proclaimed itself the "Gateway to the Lakes" and connecting the Lake Flora Project to The Hartland Trail expansion will provide another avenue to support this proclamation. We see many benefits to this project. It will provide the people of Lake Park and the surrounding area access to Historic Lake Flora. This project will provide a draw to outdoor recreationists and tourists thus increasing traffic through the community of Lake Park. There are also substantial educational possibilities with easier and greater access to upland, wetland and aquatic ecotypes located in the Lake Flora Restoration.

This successful grant application will provide a win-win situation for all entities involved in the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project.

Most Sincerely,

Lion Jim Johansen

Immediate Past President Lake Park Lions Club



AT THE LAKES

1345 HIGHWAY 10 WEST  
DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501

BUS. (218) 844-6900  
FAX (218) 844-6904  
info@atthelakes.com  
www.atthelakes.com

10/23/2013

Mayor Aaron Wittnebel  
City of Lake Park  
2032 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Lake Park, MN 56554

Dear Mayor Wittnebel;

I am writing a letter of support for the City's decision to move forward in the pursuit of funding for the Lake Flora Restoration Project.

I believe this to be a worthwhile project and a wise use of lands that would otherwise sit dormant. This area will be a great attraction to what the City of Lake Park has to offer as people use the Heartland Trail. This is an opportunity to allow visitors to the community to enjoy the history and beauty of all that is Lake Park.

I am available for any questions concerning my support of this project. My office and our agents fully support this project.

Sincerely;

Steve Larson, Broker – Owner  
Coldwell Banker At The Lakes



October 14, 2013

Aaron Lee Wittnebel  
Mayor  
City of Lake Park  
2032 Second Street  
Lake Park, MN 56554

Dear Mayor Wittnebel:

I am writing in support of the Lake Flora Wetland Trail project and Legacy Grant application. I voted and support CLP Resolution 13-2002 when it was brought before the City Council last night. In our city's history the discussion of restoring Historic Lake Flora has occurred often, but in the past two years a well thought out series of planning meetings were held and different designs offered with opportunity for the feedback and involvement of our fellow residents.

As the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety & Health, I believe that the Lake Flora Wetland Trail project as outlined by CLP Resolution 13-2002 will provide a greater availability of health living to residents. As a mother of two, I look forward to additional opportunities for family recreation that the project will offer our City and surrounding communities.

I think that this is an important project. It will benefit the community at large by providing for healthy living options, community recreation and also have the opportunity to benefit the city as a whole with making it a destination location in our area of Greater Minnesota. I hope that the Parks & Trails Legacy Committee that makes the decisions regarding our grant application will take my support in to consideration as they review this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia", is written over the "Respectfully," line.

Alicia Ellen Viergutz  
Council Member  
Chair, Committee on Public Safety & Health



Dear Mayor Wittnebel,

As a lifetime citizen of the Lake Park area and a current resident of the city of Lake Park, I am writing in support of the City's decision to move forward with the Lake Flora Restoration Project, now known as the Lake Flora Wetland Trail Project. I support the City's pursuit of a grant through the Parks & Trails Legacy Program with the State of Minnesota through the Department of Natural Resources.

As a 65 year old who loves outdoor pursuits, I am excited about the prospect of both a bike path and a boardwalk very near my home. I can promise that my husband and I will use these facilities often. My husband is also an avid birder, and he is looking forward to the open water feature of this project. He is sure this area will attract waterfowl and marshland birds on their migratory paths and as a nesting spot. I am very glad that this plan allows us to keep our softball field complex, which is located in the southwest corner of this project by the city park and swimming pool. Many families use these recreational opportunities, and the Lake Flora Wetland Trail will allow these young families and all of us more outdoor options.

I am also the co-coordinator for our local Pumpkin Fest. This celebration takes place the fourth week-end in September every year, and it is truly a community gathering. With the addition of the bike path and the boardwalk as well as the wetland area, we will be able to incorporate even more activities in our schedule. As well as our established 5K and Kids' Fun Run, we could have a bike race and a boardwalk adventure. We could even have a birding station set up where people could look through a scope to see our local birds in their natural habitat. This would introduce the hobby of birding to young and old alike.

Please consider funding the Lake Flora Wetland Trial Project in Lake Park. We would be very grateful taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane R. Midthune".

Diane R. Midthune  
901 Audubon Street  
Lake Park, MN 56554