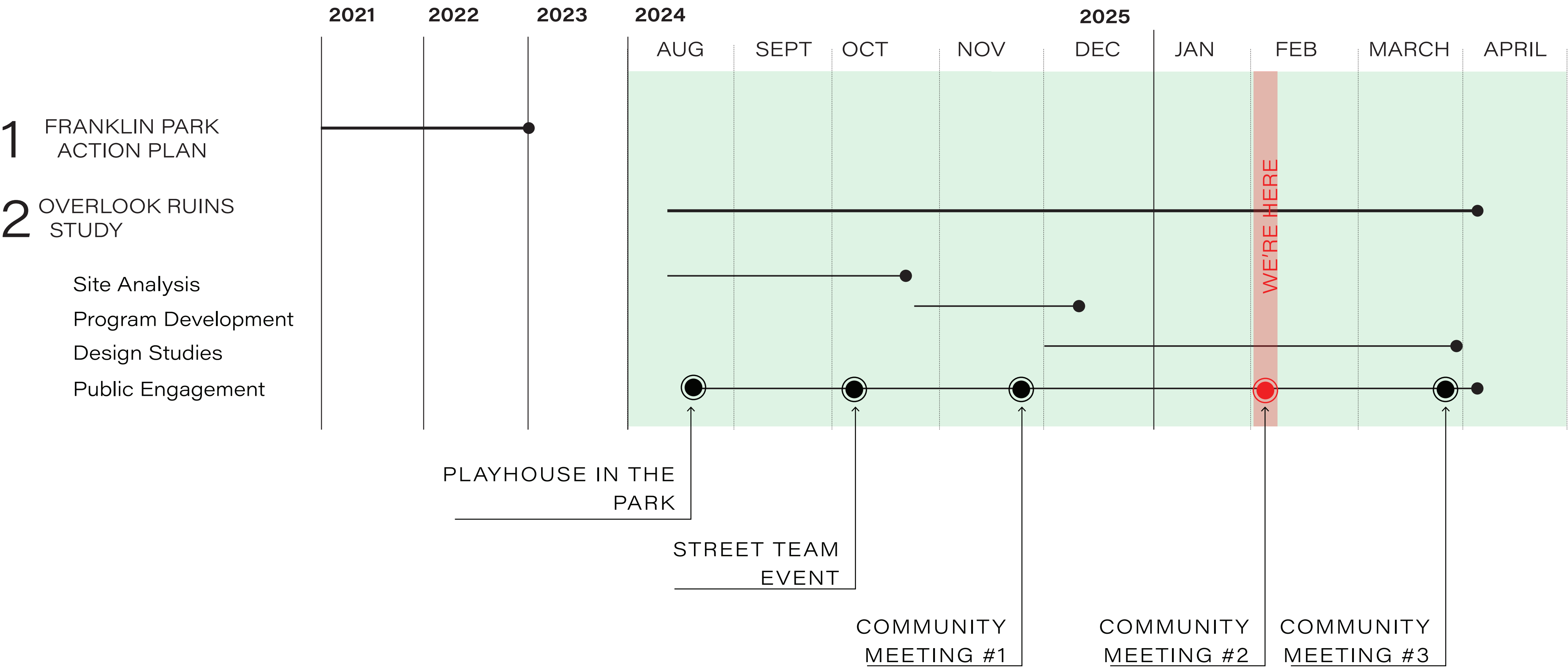


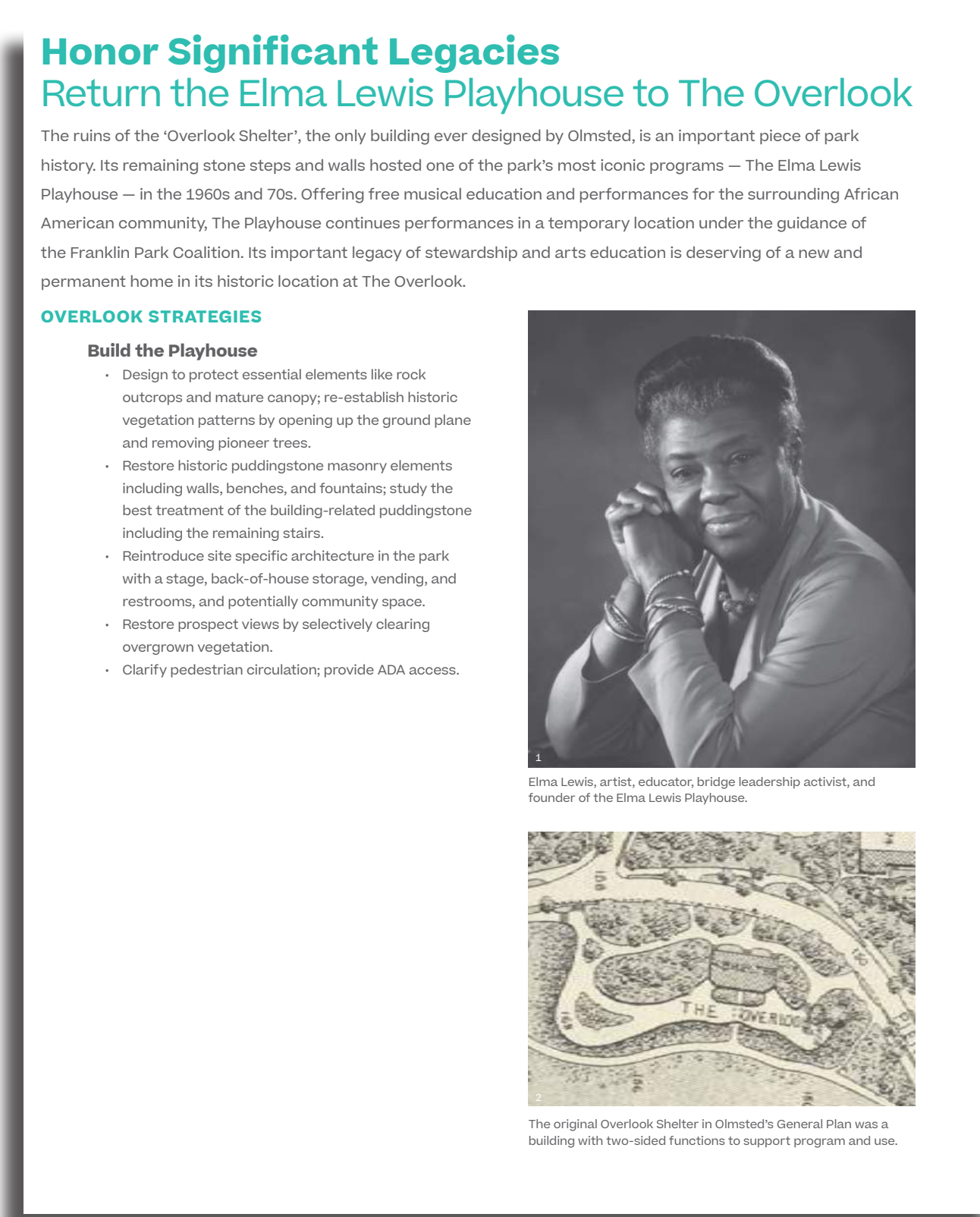
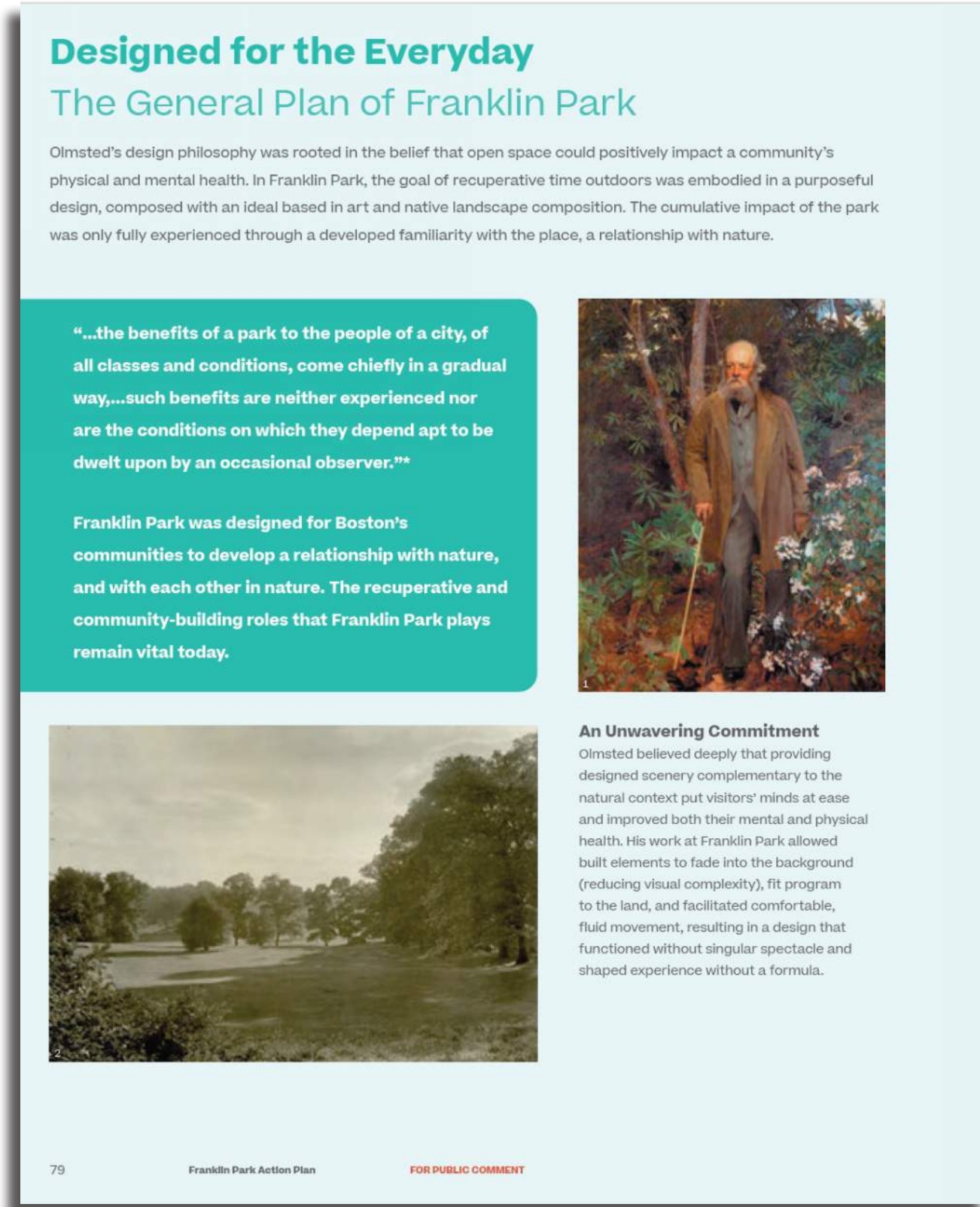
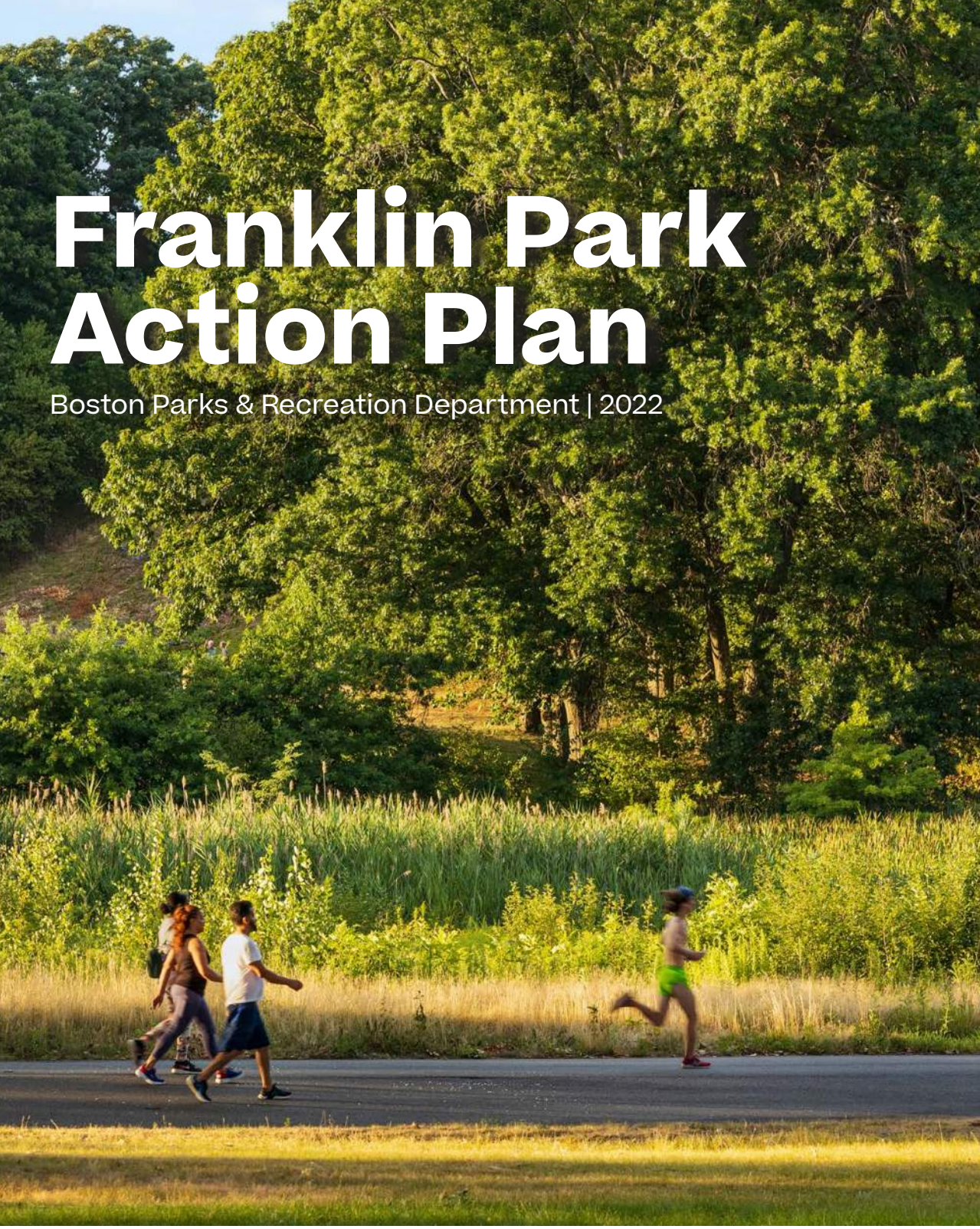
Franklin Park Overlook Shelter Programming and Design Study



PROJECT SCHEDULE



FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN, 2022



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Franklin Park Action Plan established the priority of renewing the Overlook as a “Magnet Destination.” As a result, the City of Boston launched the Franklin Park Overlook Study to re-envision the Overlook Ruins in Franklin Park and establish a concept plan for potential implementation. The project seeks to honor Elma Lewis’ legacy while securing Olmsted’s Overlook for the next 100 years. This study is looking at the full Overlook site, including the Overlook Shelter Ruins area - the locus of the Elma Lewis Playhouse, as well as the surrounding Overlook, an elevated landscape defined by constructed stone walls that bound the Wilderness and provide views

out to the Playstead. The Overlook has two main areas: the North, a clearing that looks toward the White Stadium and the South, a clearing that looks out onto the Playstead.

The Following materials show what we heard at previous engagements, studies based on that feedback and how that feedback is translated into early design ideas.

Thank you for your continued feedback!

OVERLOOK SHELTER RUINS



OVERLOOK SOUTH



Franklin Park Overlook Community Meeting #1 Recap

ORIGINATION DANCE PERFORMANCE



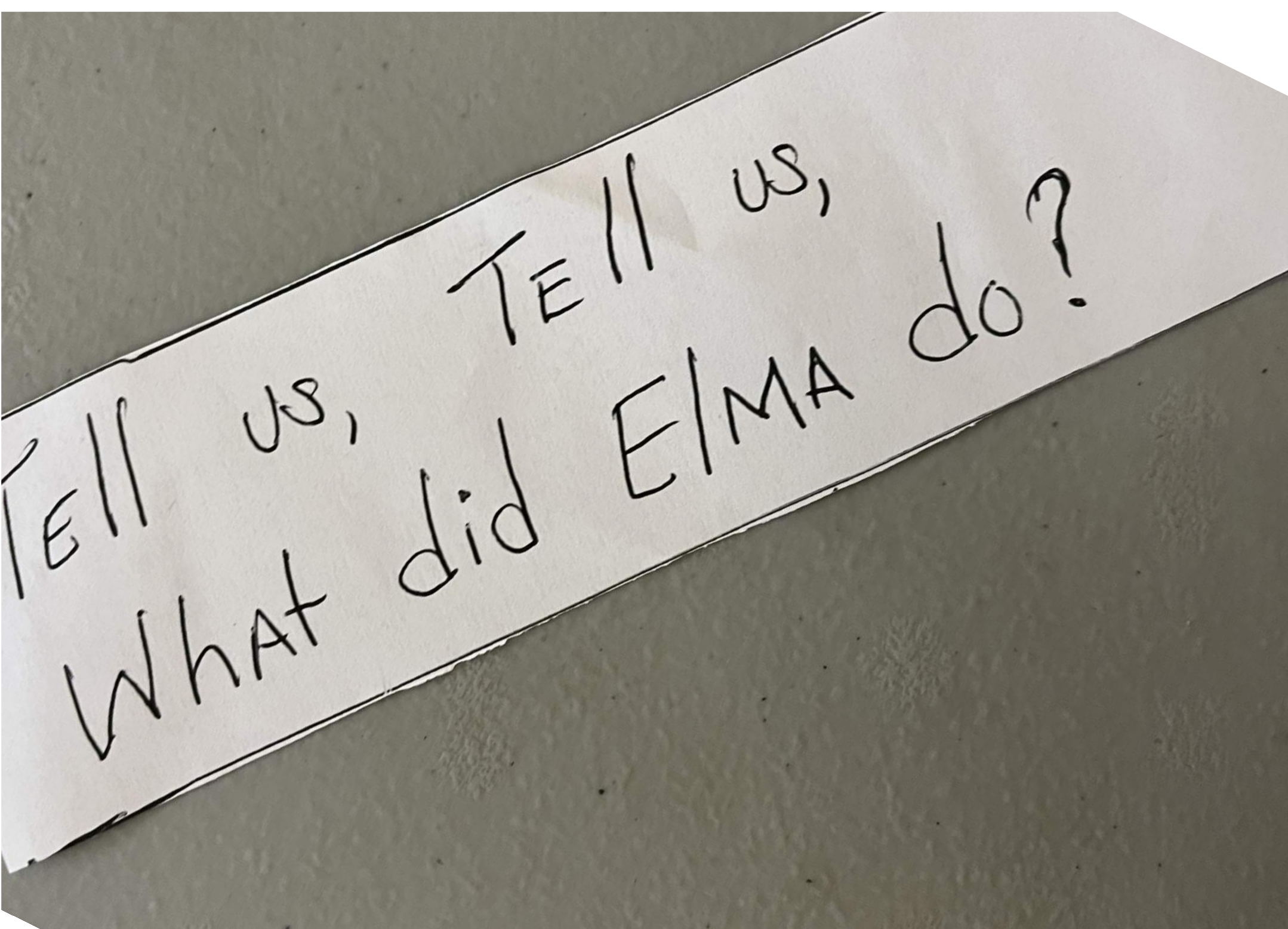
BARRY GAITHER ELMA LEWIS INTRO



COMMUNITY MEMORY



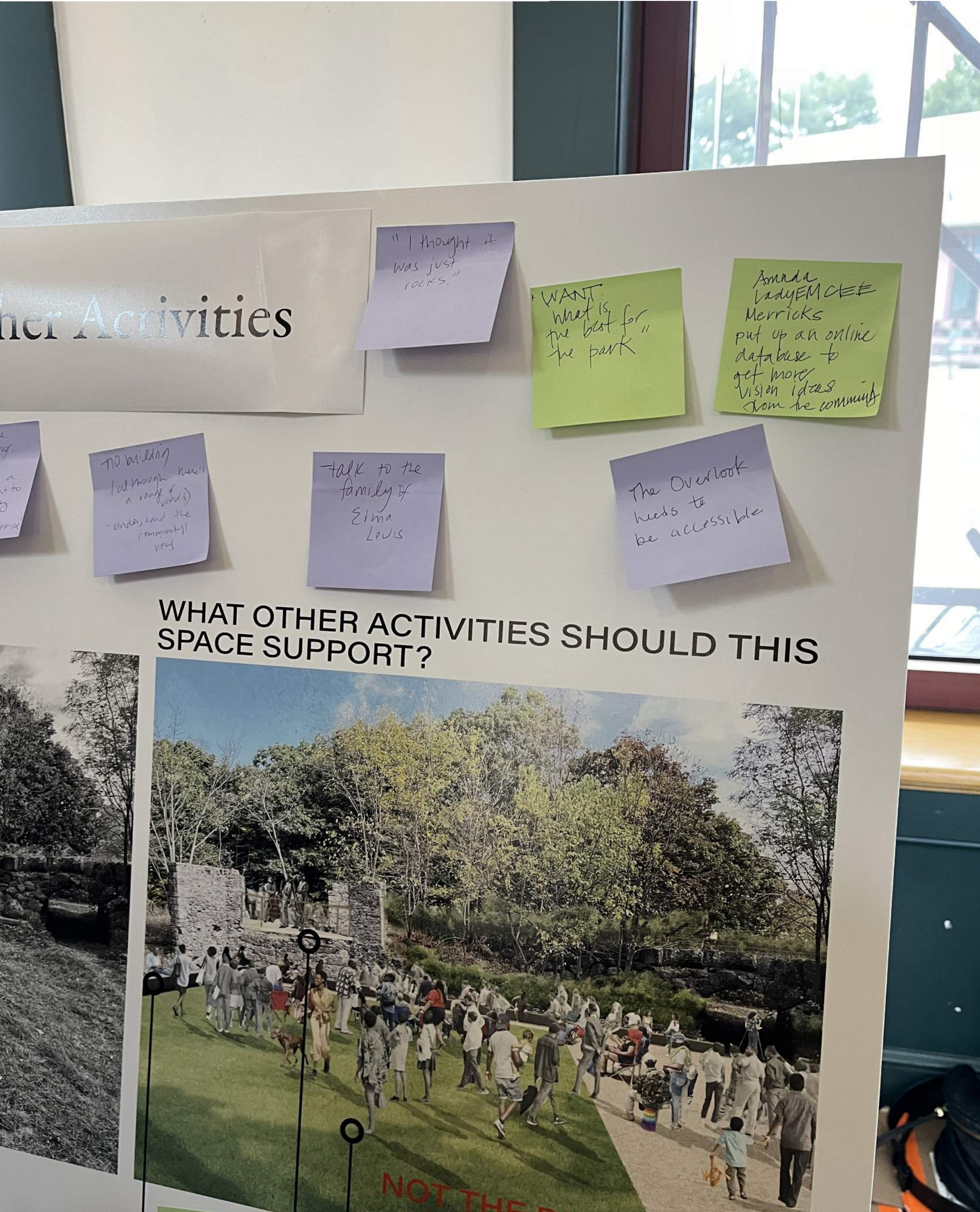
PRESENTATION OF IDEAS



POETRY RECITATION: "WHAT DID ELMA DO?"



RECORDING FEEDBACK



1:1 CONVERSATIONS



Franklin Park Overlook Community Meeting #1 Recap: What We Heard

HONOR ELMA LEWIS

- “Please have more than just a plaque that highlights Elma Lewis' work”
- “It’s important to remove the wonder of what Elma Lewis did here - it came from her upbringing and UNIA teaching + motivation”
- “This project is a lesson in Black history for the city”
- “History”
- “I'd love to see info on Lewis legacy shared in a form that's more interactive and engaging than a plaque or sign. Maybe a sculpture, art walk, etc?”
- “Please have these types of details about Elma Lewis and the Playhouse throughout the center”
- “Think big!”

MAKE THE OVERLOOK ACCESSIBLE

- “The Overlook needs to be accessible”
- “Inclusion for all - handicap accessibility”
- “Sculptural railing and fencing combine practical need + space for creative exploration + storytelling”
- “The ruins are cool, would be great to retain while making it safe + accessible”
- “Clarify ADA accessibility”
- “One thing I like about the ruins currently is that it feels like a place to explore + discover. It would be great to make it more accessible, in a way that keeps it interactive and playful”

CELEBRATE OLMSTED’S OVERLOOK

- “Stabilize & restore the ruins”
- “Share Olmsted’s philosophy!”
- “The Overlook Shelter was Olmsted’s only building”
- “The Overlook Shelter was architecturally significant”

SUPPORT A WIDE GAMUT OF PROGRAM

- “A space to just enjoy listening to music on an everyday level”
- “Vendors”
- “I want the space to cultivate a love of nature (also community)”
- “Dance Studio”
- “lighting!”
- “Yoga in the open space”
- “Better activities, might get more age diversity to events”
- “Water and bathrooms”
- “Native plants, edible plants, food forest + education”
- “Laboratory”
- “keep it green!”
- “A Latino dining experience, ‘El Sabor’”
- “Restaurant days in conjunction with the Stadium”
- “Outdoor Community center”
- “Kitchen demo”
- “Dance performances and dance parties, community dance and music together”
- “Market days for small businesses”
- “Dance concerts (line dancing, social dancing, stepping)”
- “Art installations”

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- “This is community’s first non-zoom meeting since the pandemic”
- “Need community questionnaire”
- “What is different about this project?”
- “Concern that White Stadium will overshadow the Overlook”
- “Look at the needs of the community”
- “Community should make decisions”

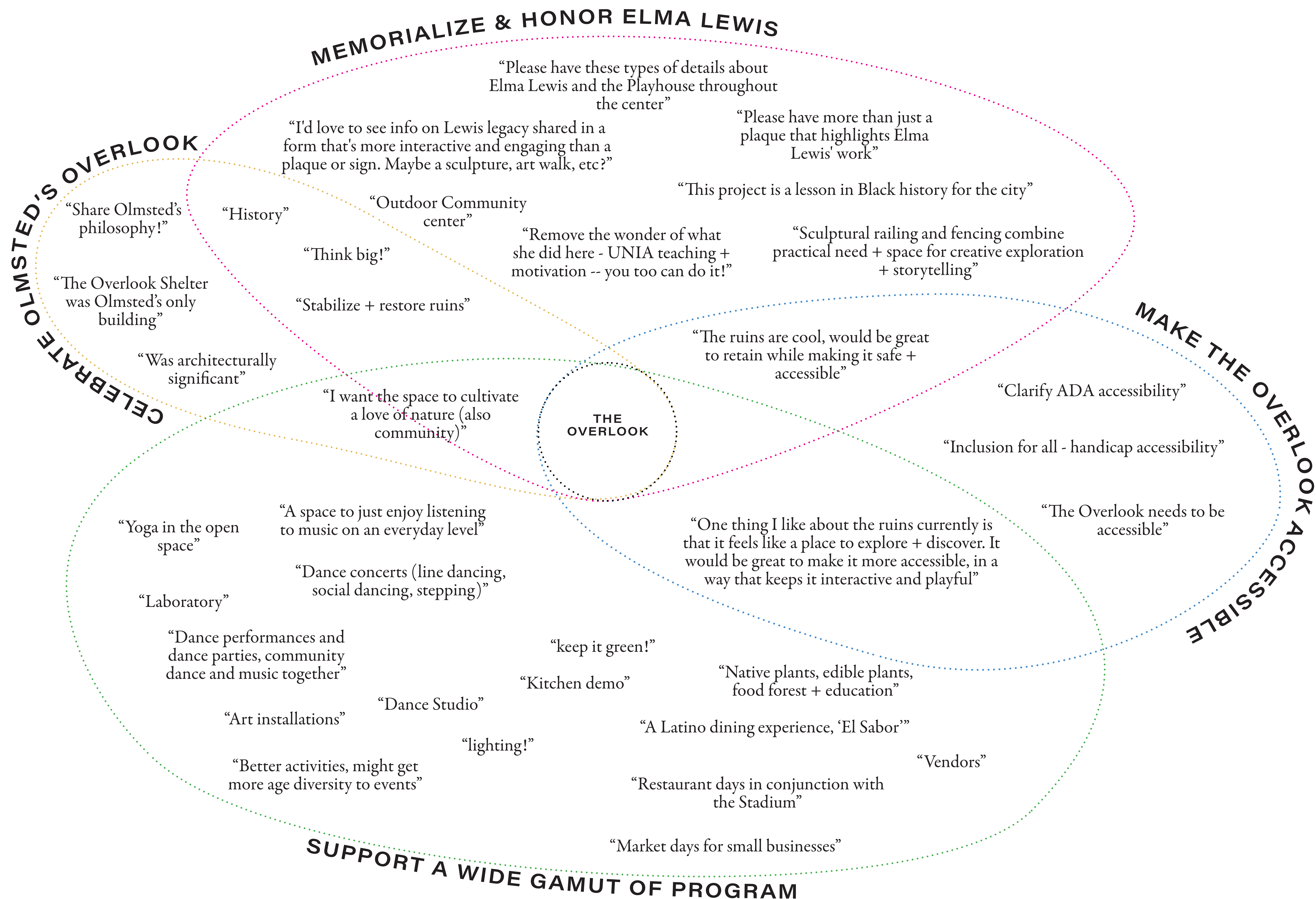
FUNDING/MAINTENANCE

- “This should be comparable to other spaces with consistent funding”
- “Will there be maintenance?”
- “Are there government sponsorships or grants?”
- “What is the funding/budget?”

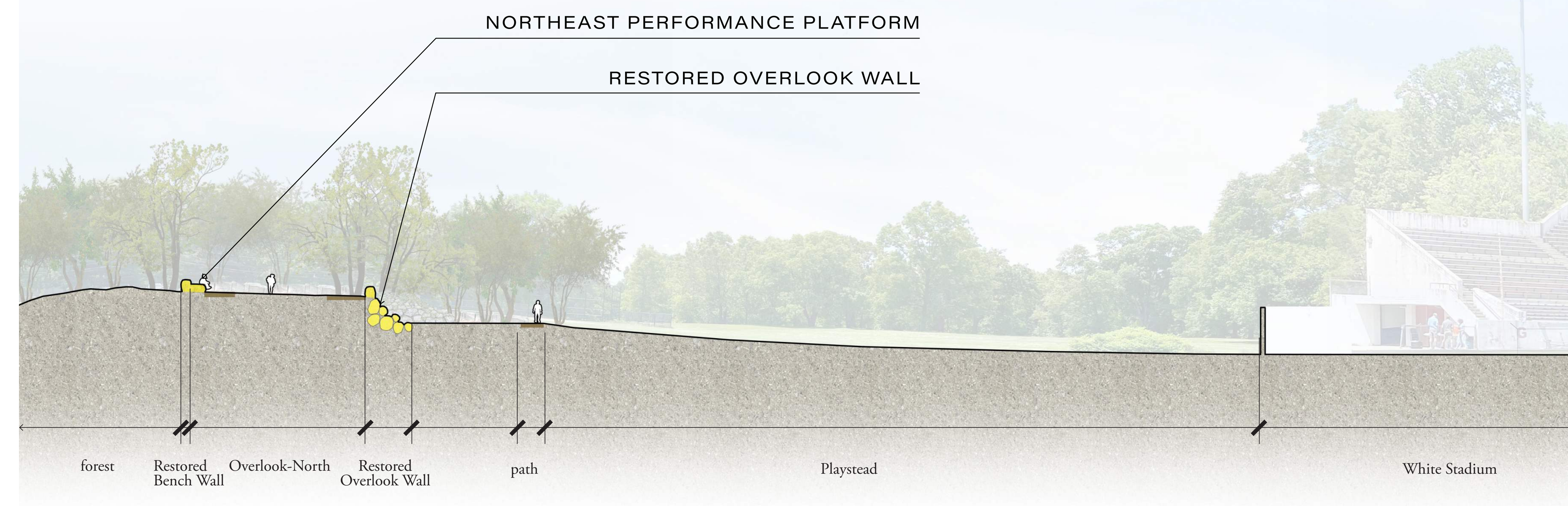
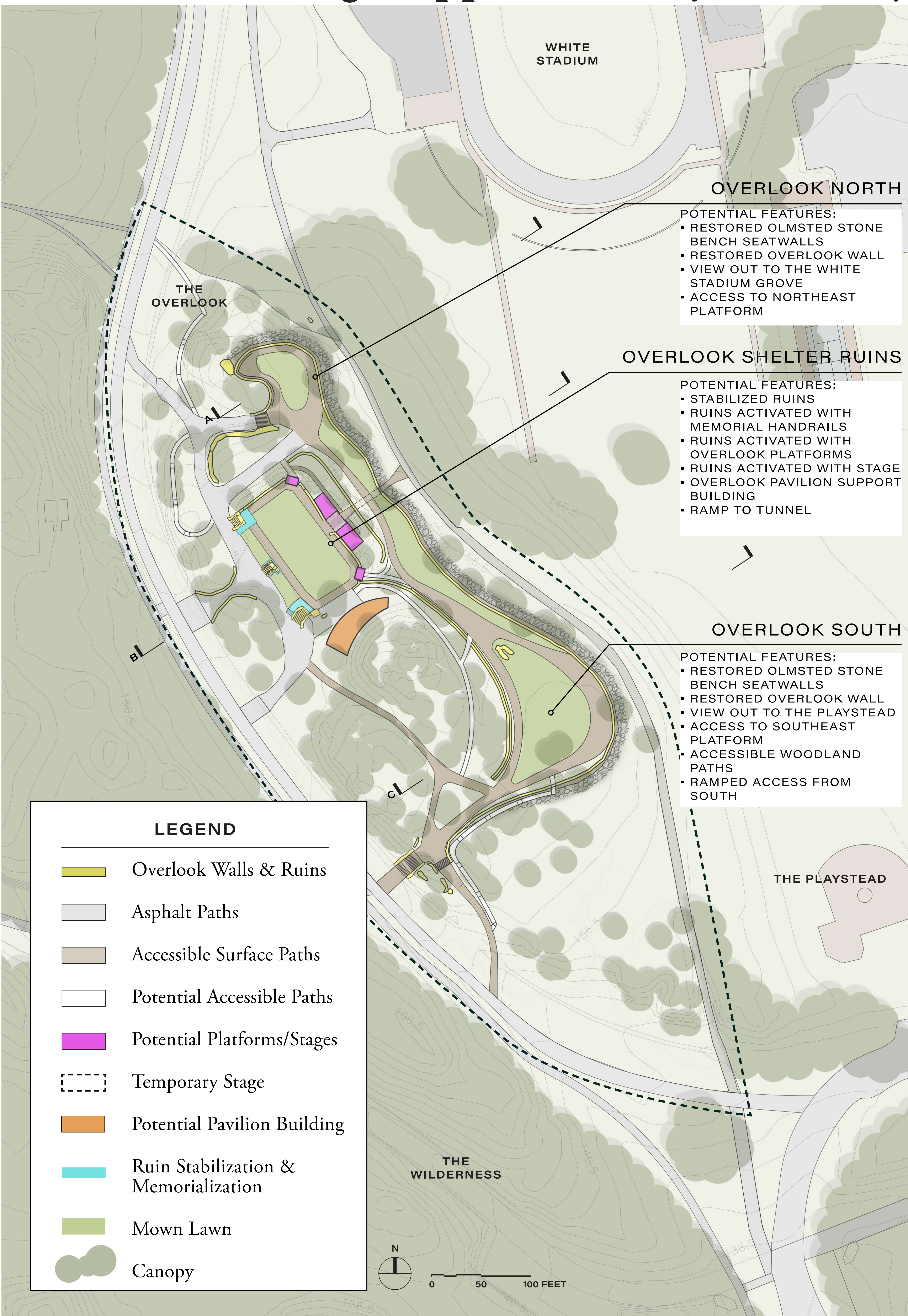
WHAT ELSE?

What did we miss? Please add your thoughts!

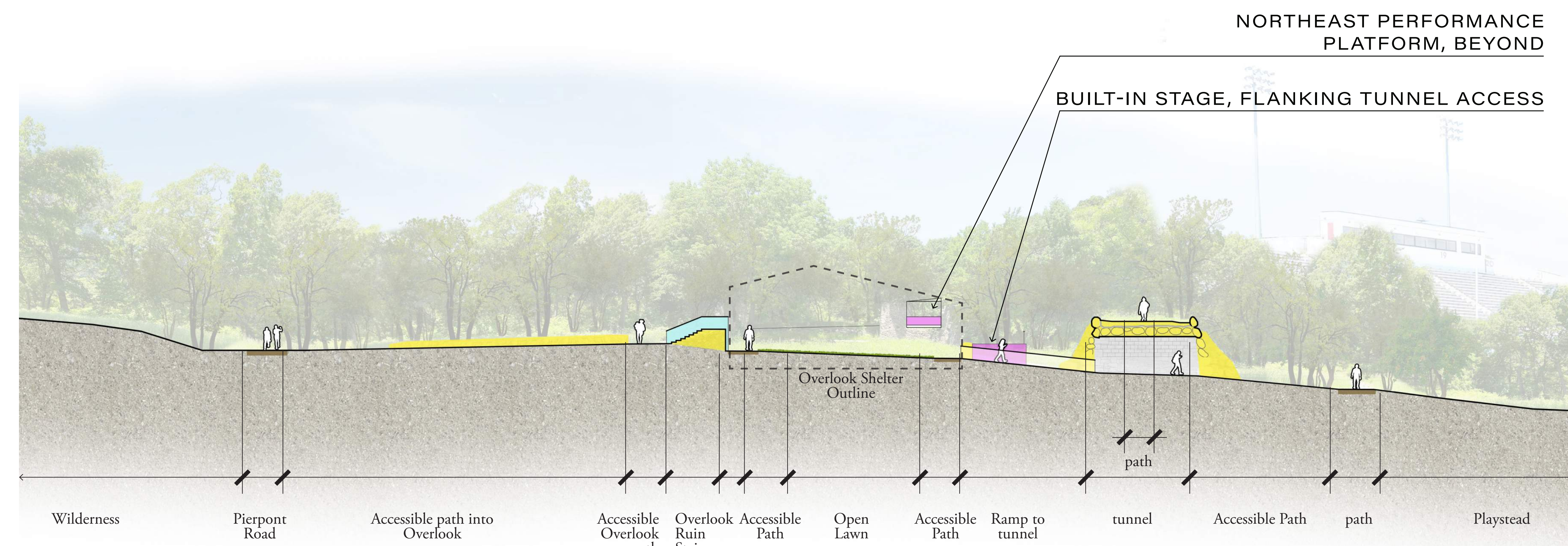
Franklin Park Overlook Community Meeting #1 Recap: What We Heard



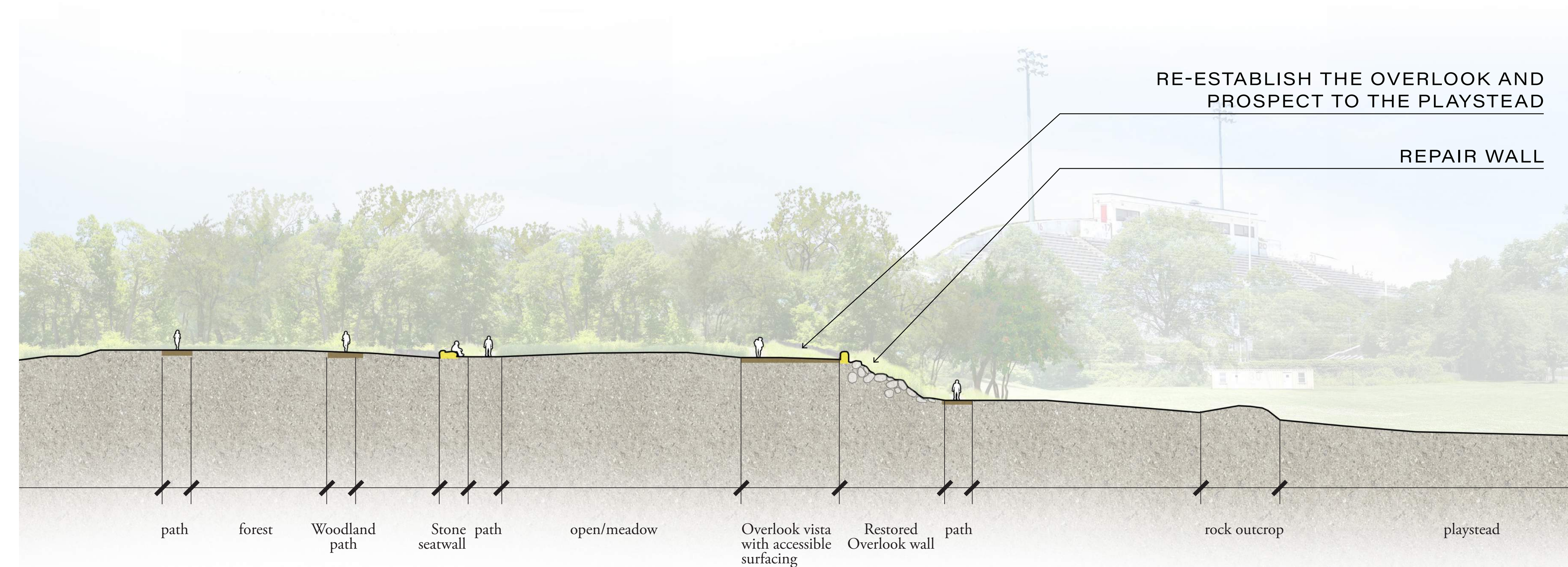
Potential Design Approach: Playhouse Layout with Removable Stage



A - NORTH OVERLOOK TO PLAYSTEAD SECTION



B - OVERLOOK RUINS - TUNNEL SECTION



C - SOUTH OVERLOOK SECTION

SCALE: 1" = 25'

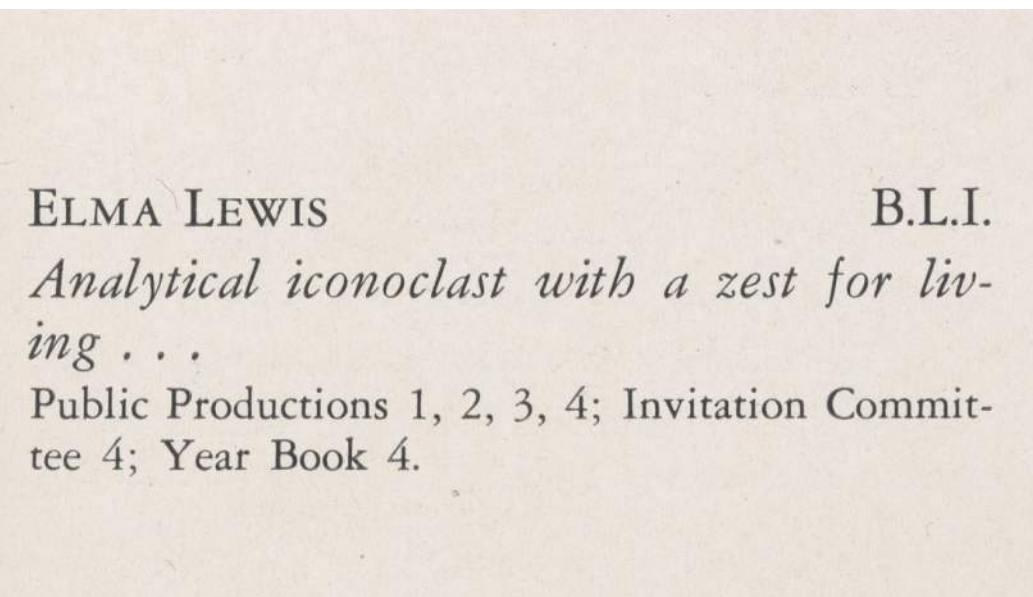
What We Studied: Honor Elma Lewis' Legacy

WHAT DID ELMA LEWIS DO HERE?

By organizing her community to clear the Overlook Ruins, Elma Lewis realized the potential for Ruins to be Black space. Her efforts **elevated the Ruins** as a community platform, reinvigorating the space with energy and vitality.

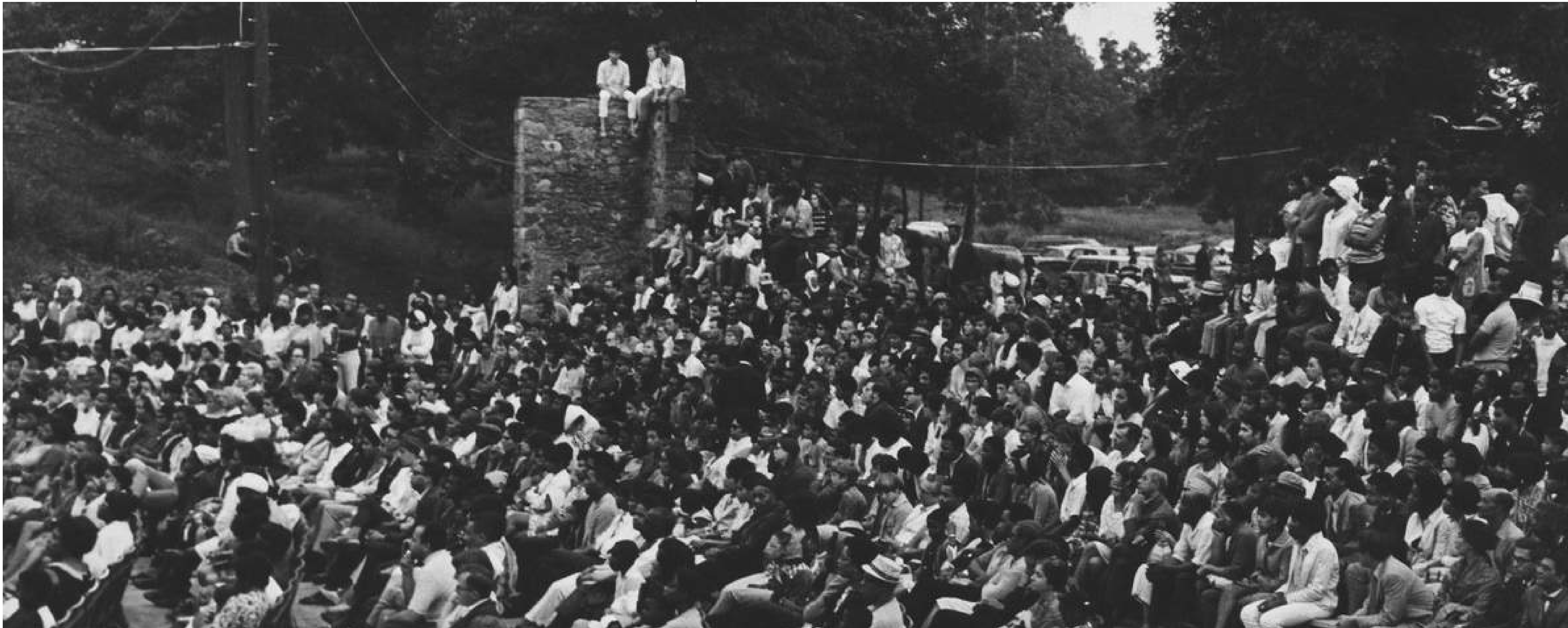
Elma Lewis' **activation of the ruins** allowed their use for teaching the arts, performance, community gathering, and more - a diverse array of program.

Through sharing & honoring Elma Lewis' legacy, her work can inspire new generations.



Elma Lewis' senior yearbook page

RUINS WERE USED AS SPILLOVER SEATING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK ERA



IN ADDITION TO PERFORMANCES, LARGE RALLYS WERE HELD HERE DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



THE LEGACY OF ELMA LEWIS' PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK LIVES ON IN THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, AND IN COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Design Translations: Honor Elma Lewis' Legacy

HOW CAN WE HONOR ELMA LEWIS' LEGACY THROUGH DESIGN AT THE OVERLOOK?

1. ELEVATING THE RUINS:

Stabilize the stone walls and stairs that make up the Overlook Ruins as means of memorializing the care and vision of Olmsted and Elma Lewis.

2. ACTIVATION OF THE RUINS:

Support many ways to activate the Overlook as a means of memorializing the space making of Elma Lewis. Invite everyday use as well as space for larger events.

3. INTERPRETATION & STORYTELLING:

Share the specific histories of the Overlook, of Elma Lewis, and of the Franklin Park neighborhoods.

SMALLER PLATFORMS ALLOW FOR FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE SPACE

THESE PLATFORMS OFFER AN EVERYDAY OVERLOOK TO THE SHELTER RUINS



PLAQUES AND INSCRIPTIONS WOVEN INTO THE SITE INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING THE SPECIFIC HISTORIES OF THE OVERLOOK AND ELMA LEWIS



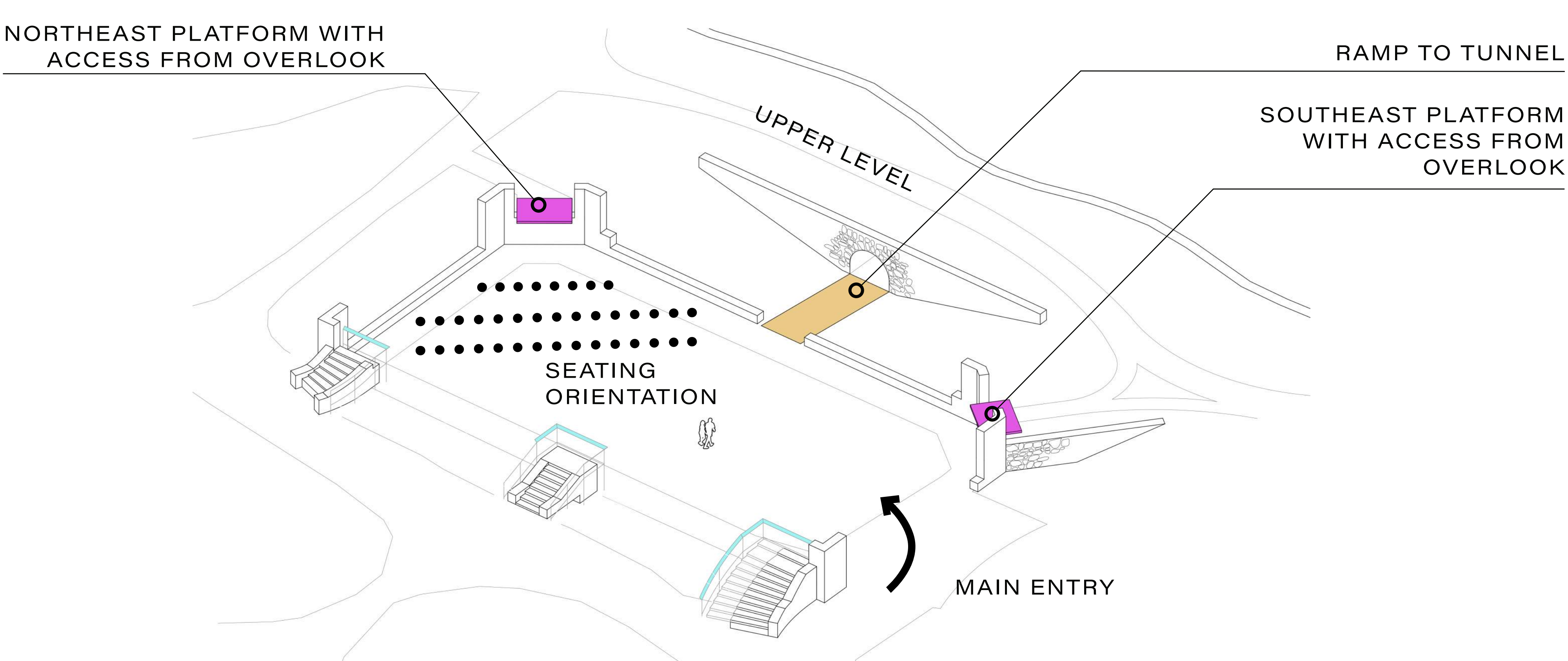
REINTRODUCING A LARGE, CENTRAL STAGE

DESIGNING FOR LARGE AUDIENCES IN THE CENTRAL AREA

Honoring Elma Lewis' Legacy: Potential Stage & Performance Approaches

STAGE APPROACH 1: PLATFORMS AS SMALL STAGES

Stages and Platforms offer flexible program options: a small platform can be used for small plays or shows, or as the focal point for a large gathering listening to a talk, or bearing witness to a wedding.

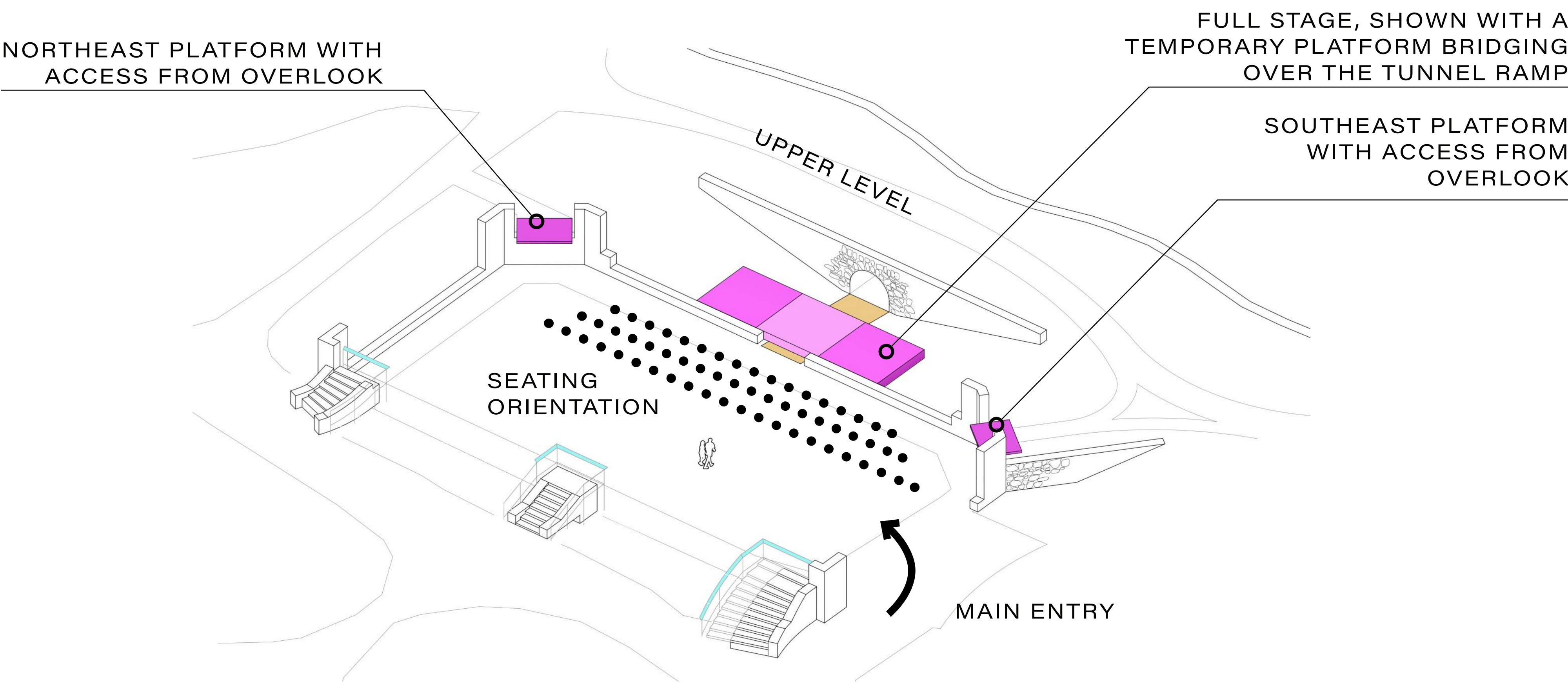


STAGE APPROACH 2: BIG STAGE IN THE ELMA LEWIS PLAYHOUSE ORIENTATION



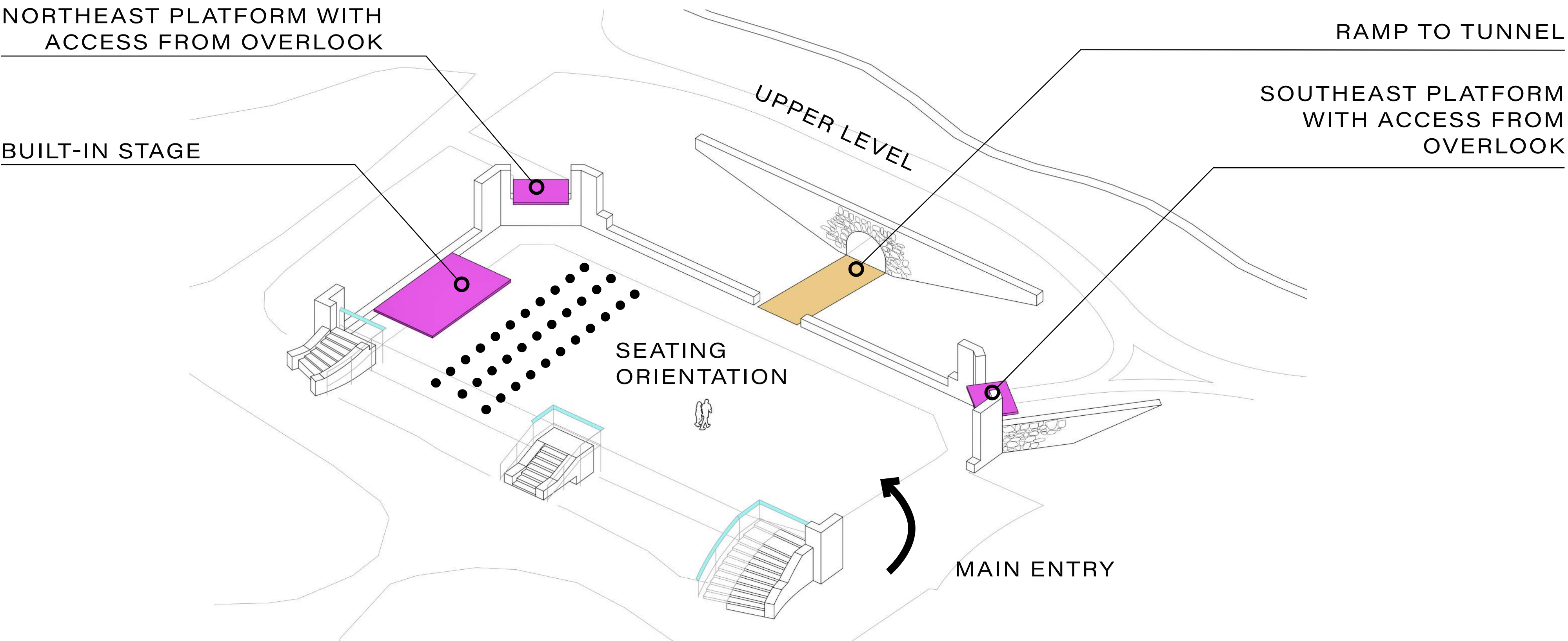
ELMA LEWIS PLAYHOUSE SET UP IN THE OVERLOOK. 1968.

Adding a large stage to the platform approach can support bigger performances akin to the range held during the days of Elma Lewis' Playhouse.

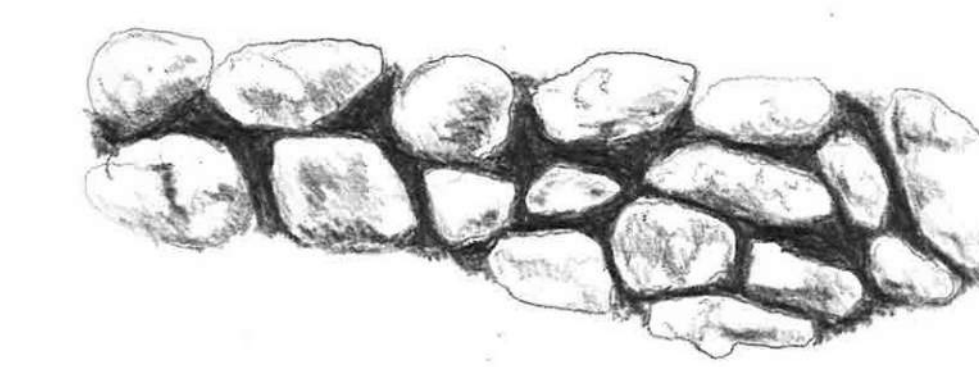


STAGE APPROACH 3: NORTH-SOUTH AXIS ORIENTATION

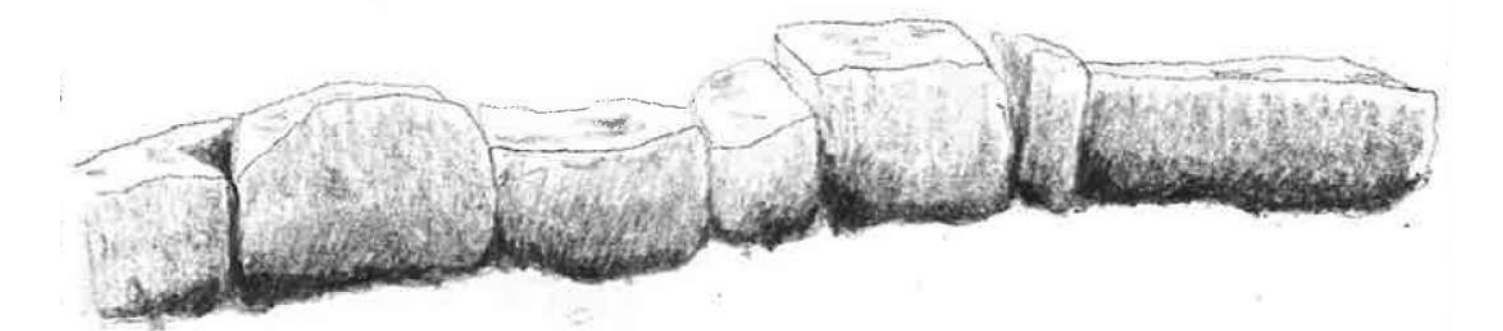
Departing from Elma Lewis' Playhouse orientation, a stage in the N-S orientation sits opposite the main entry to the Overlook Shelter Ruins are. The stage is accessible from the Ruins level only.



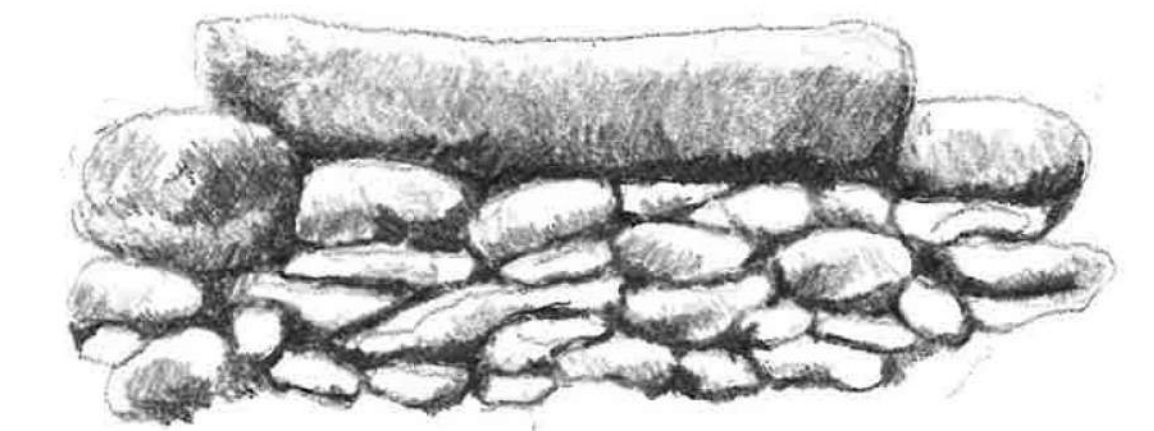
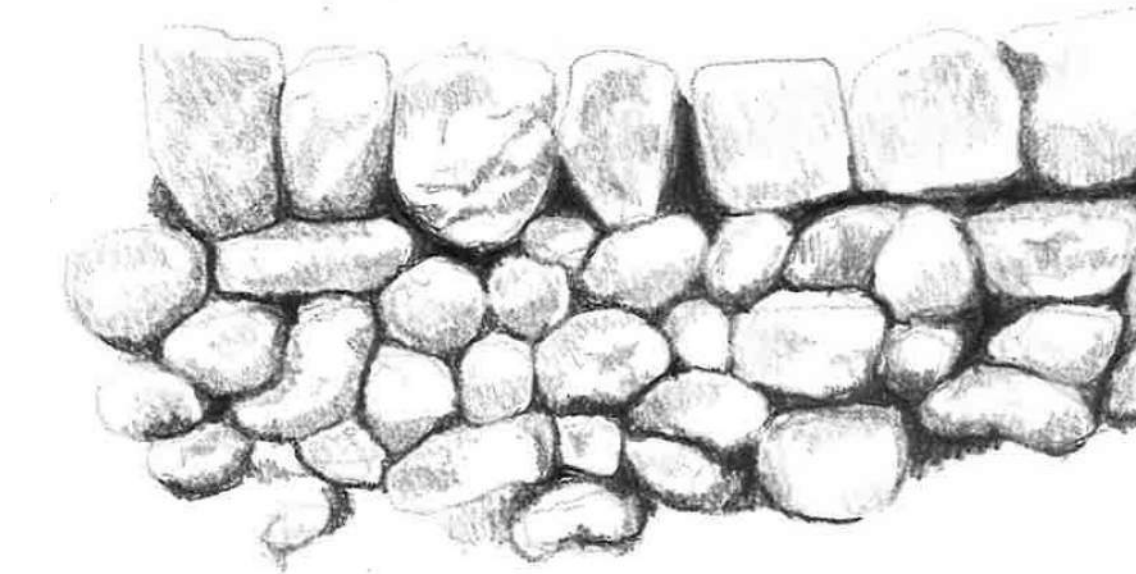
What We Studied: Celebrate Olmsted's Overlook



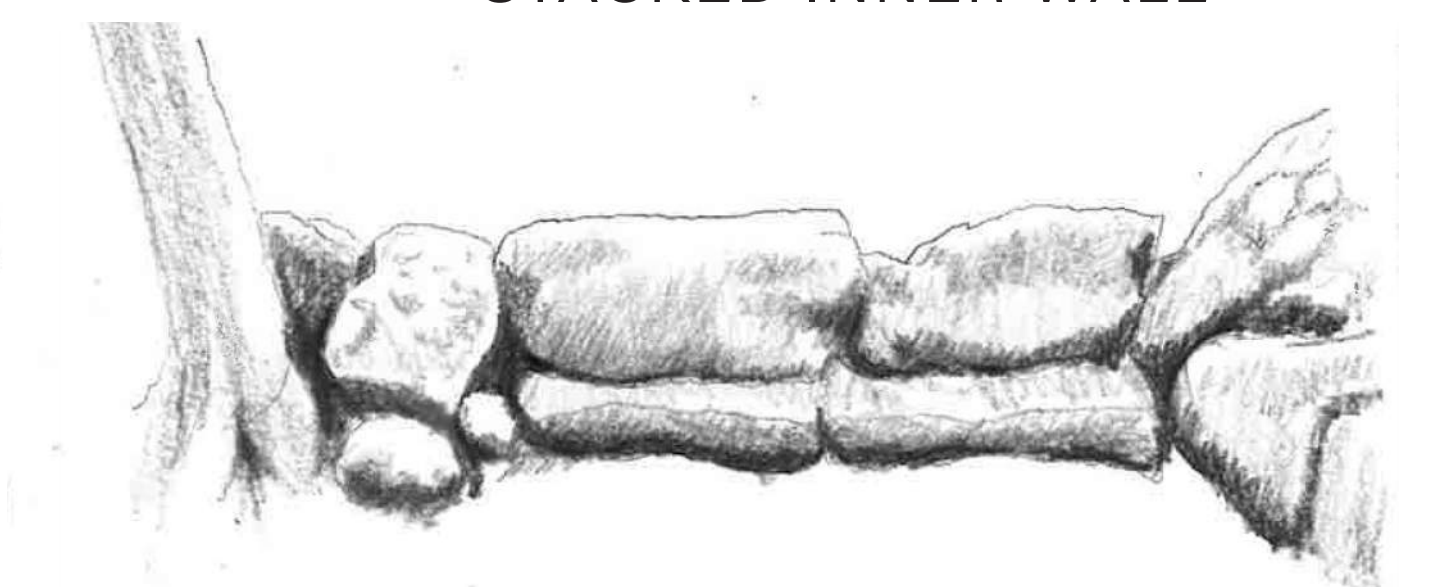
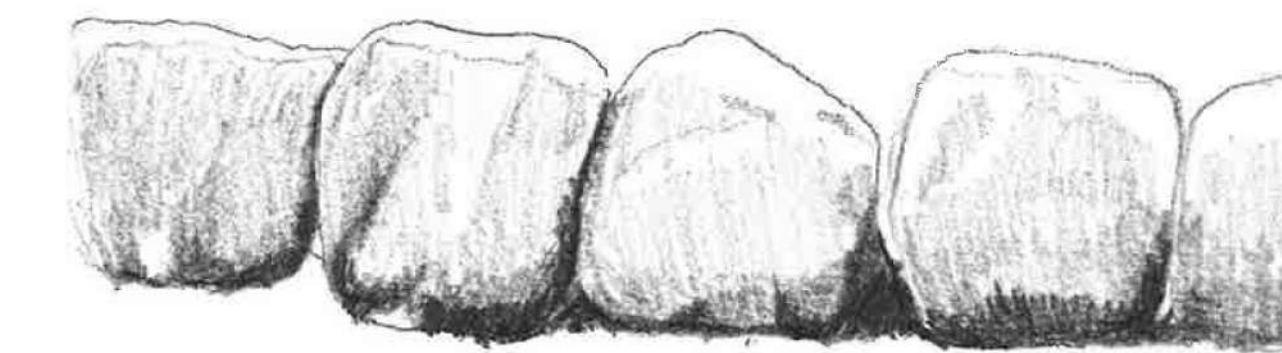
CURB WALL - ALONG PATH



RECTANGULAR BLOCK WALL
(GRANITE)

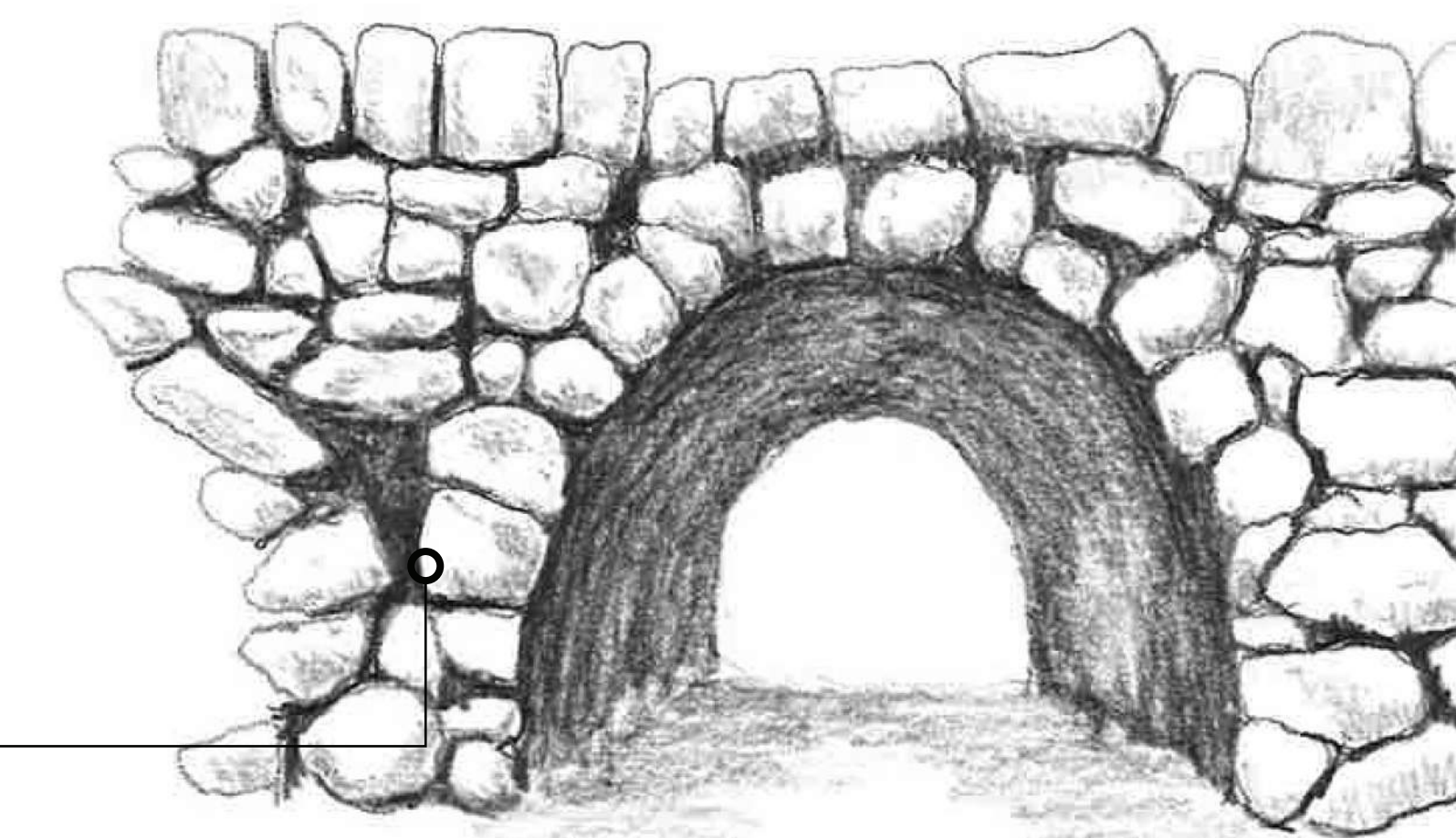


STACKED WALL
(FINE-GRAINED)



STACKED INNER WALL

SEAT WALL
(PUDDINGSTONE)



MISSING STONE



STEEP HILLSIDE WALL (PUDDINGSTONE)

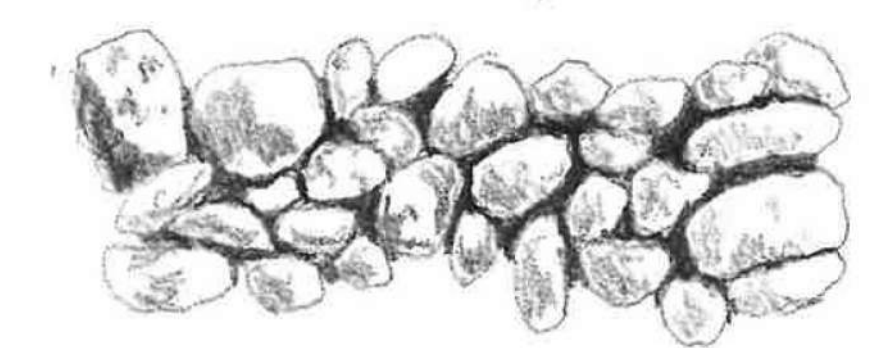
DESTABILIZED WALL

TUNNEL
(PUDDINGSTONE)

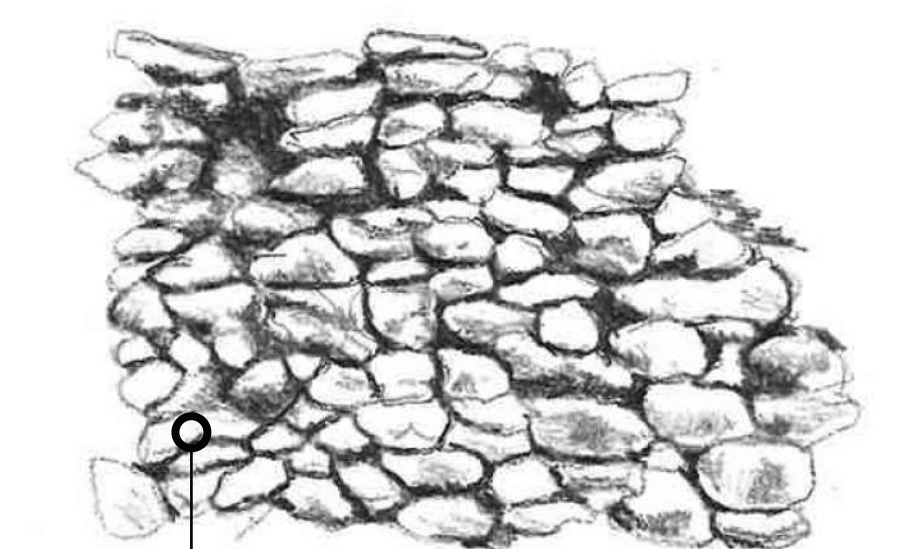


MISSING CHEEKWAL STONES AT STAIRS, LOOSE STEPS

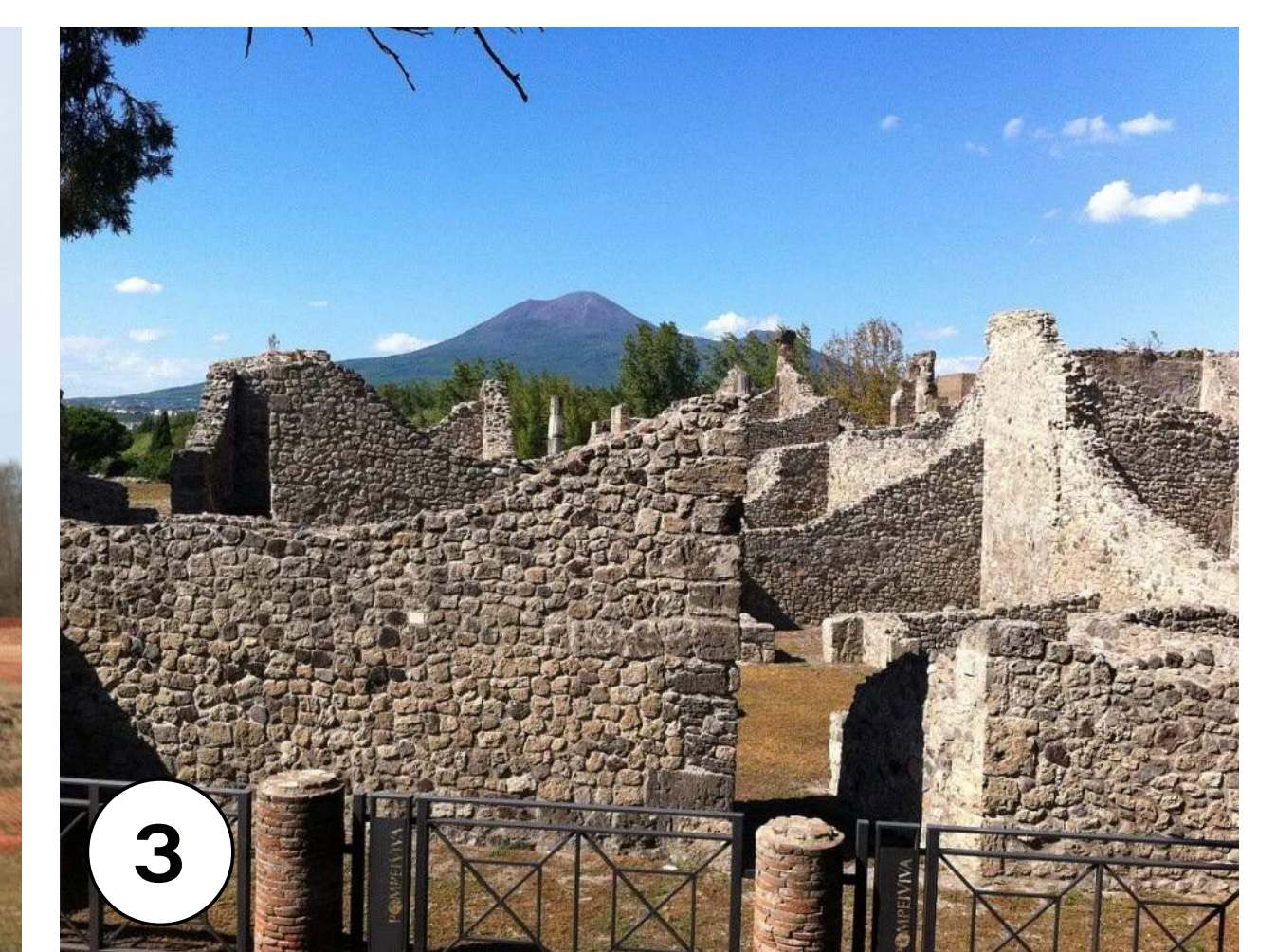
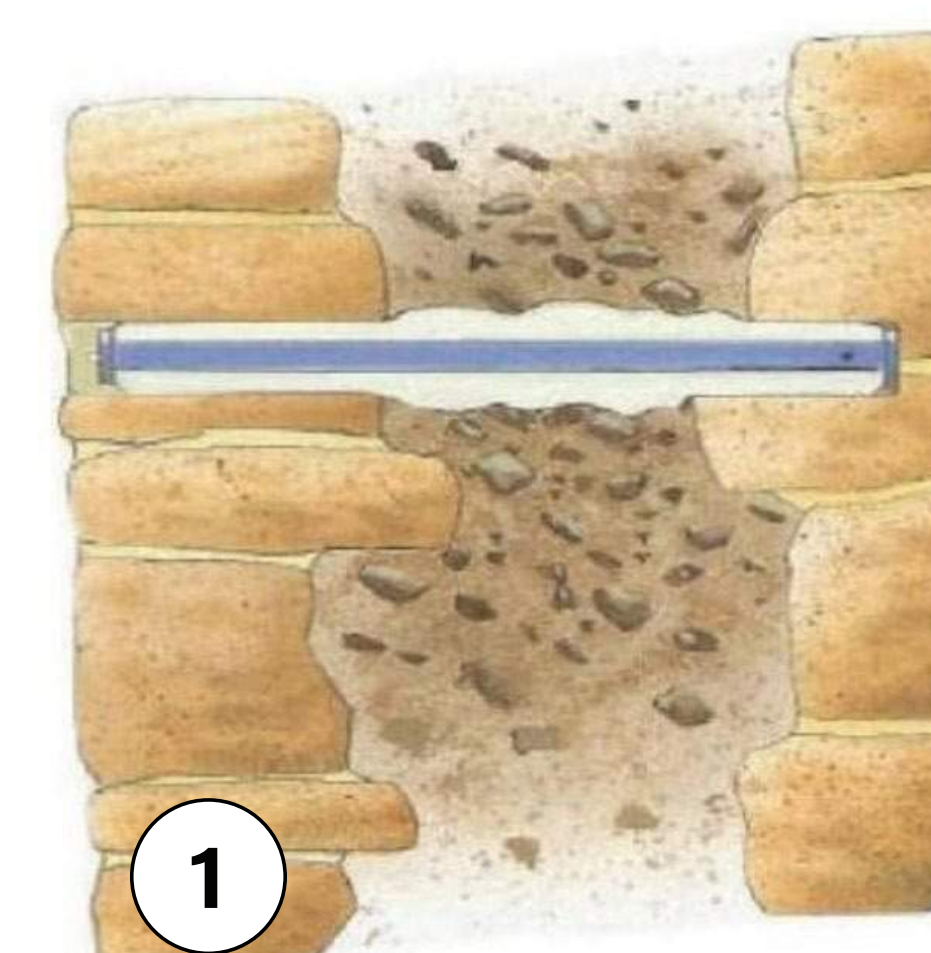
PUDDINSTONE CHEEKWAL AT STAIRS



STEPS
(PROFILE)



STAIR RUINS
(BACK)



EXAMPLE APPROACHES TO MASONRY RESTORATION: 1. REPAIR & STABILIZE IN PLACE; 2. STABILIZE WITH BUILT INTERVENTION; 3. MAKE SAFE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

Design Translations: Celebrate Olmsted's Overlook

1. REPAIR & STABILIZE:

While many of the stone elements remain strong features of the overlook, the masonry is in need of repair. This may include removing vegetation, replacing missing stones, replacing the mortar between stones, or other repair in keeping with Olmsted's original design.



BUILDING THE OVERLOOK, 1887



2024. THE OUTER PUDDINGSTONE WALL, LOOSE ROCKS



REPRESENTATION OF THE WALL REPAIRED

2. RESTORE:

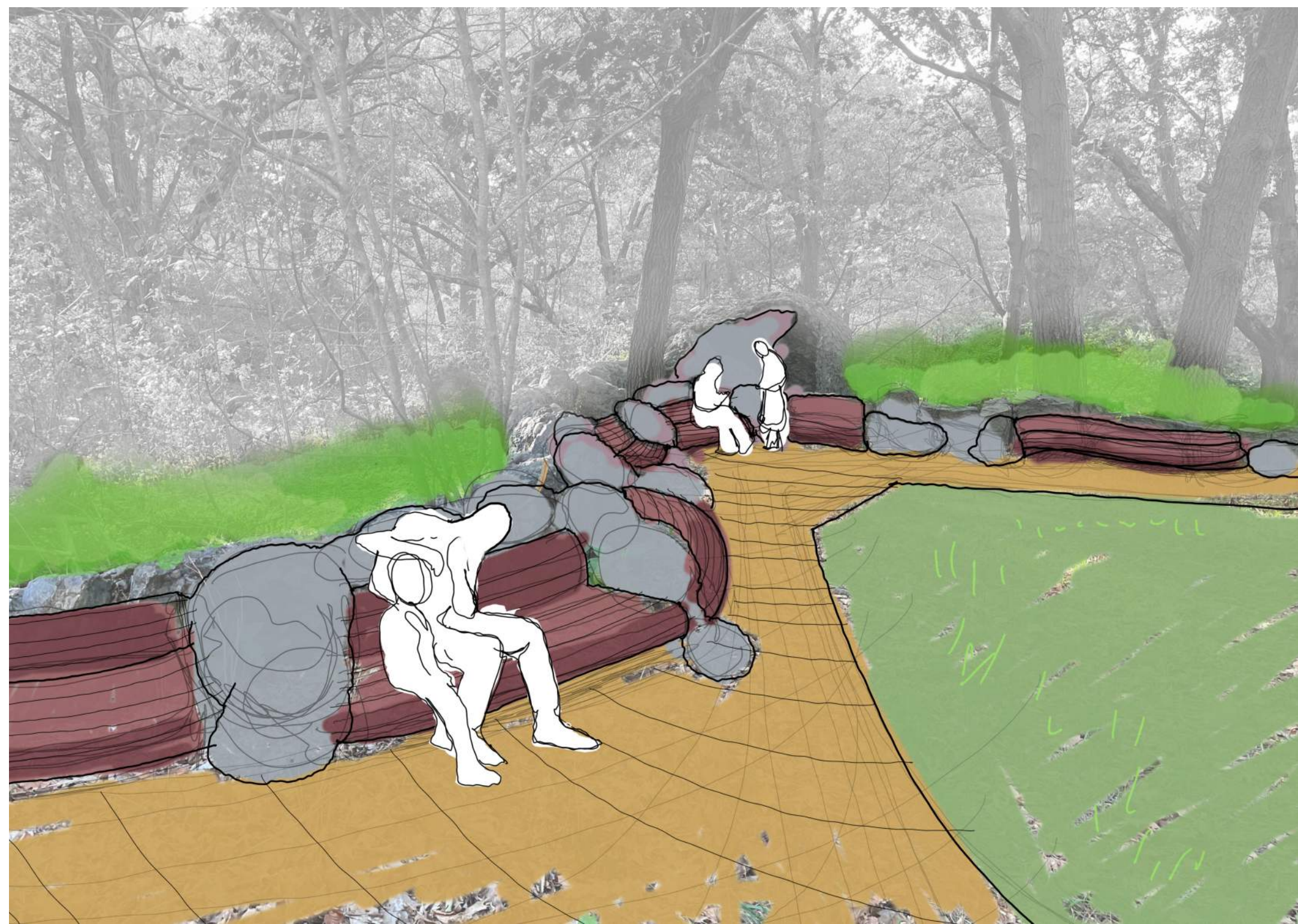
The Overlook, with prospect out to the Playstead, is lined with Puddingstone seatwalls which once had wood seating per Olmsted's design. These benches are proposed to be restored.



OLMSTED'S PUDDINGSTONE SEATWALL , 1910



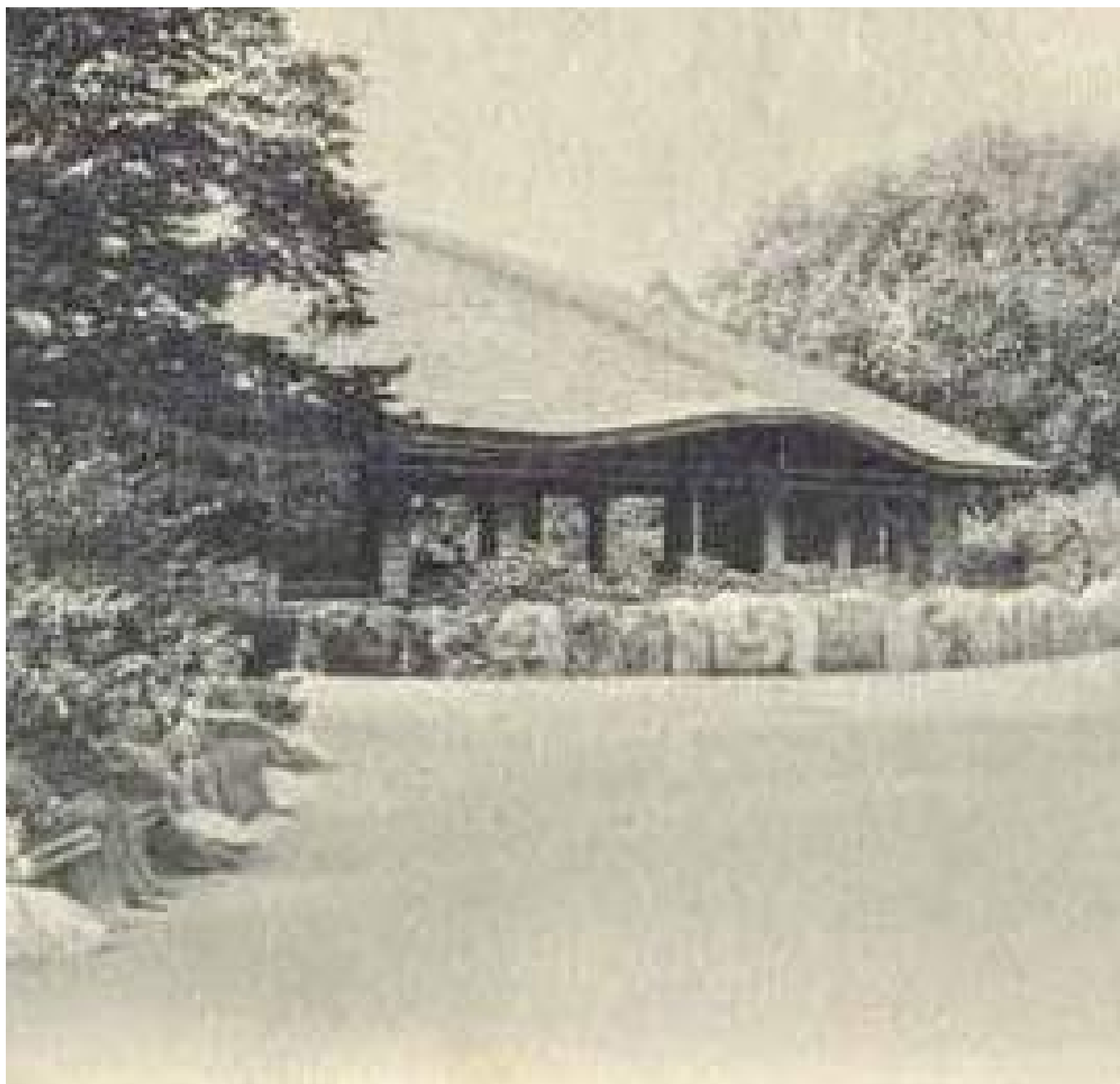
2024. THE PUDDINGSTONE SEATWALL STRUCTURE REMAINS, PARTIALLY BURIED



REPRESENTATION OF THE WALL REPAIRED

3. ACKNOWLEDGE:

Olmsted advocated for no buildings in the landscape. The Overlook Shelter, Olmsted's only building was nestled into the landscape and served to support the active Playstead. Today, the Overlook Shelter Ruins can support new programming with features designed to stabilize and prevent additional damage. Acknowledging the building that once was there, platforms at the NE and SE corners extend into the Overlook Shelter Ruins at the same level the main floor once sat.



OLMSTED'S OVERLOOK SHELTER, SEEN FROM THE UPPER OVERLOOK LEVEL, 1890S



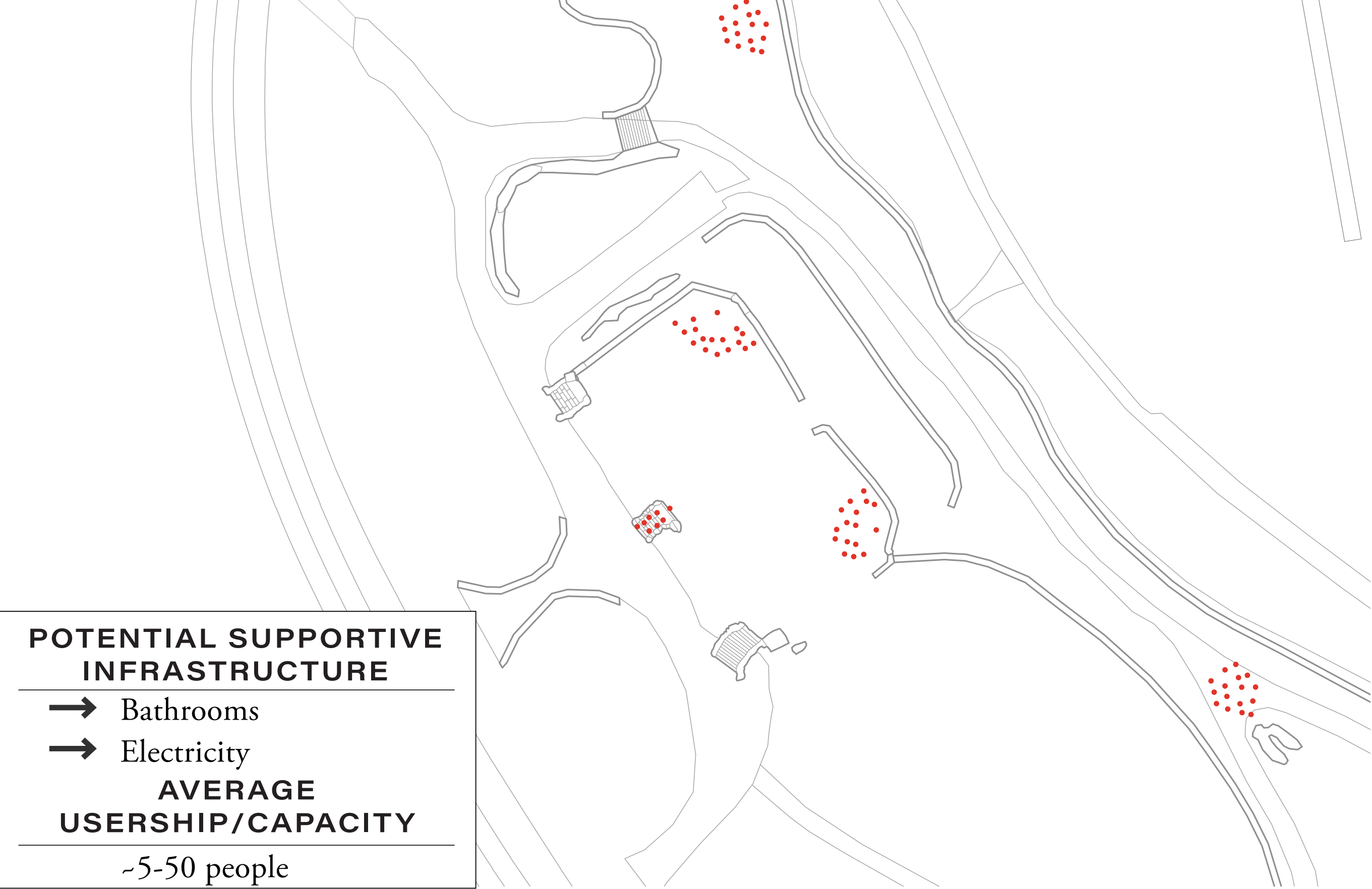
2024. THE REMAINING NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE OVERLOOK SHELTER, BURNED DOWN IN 1945



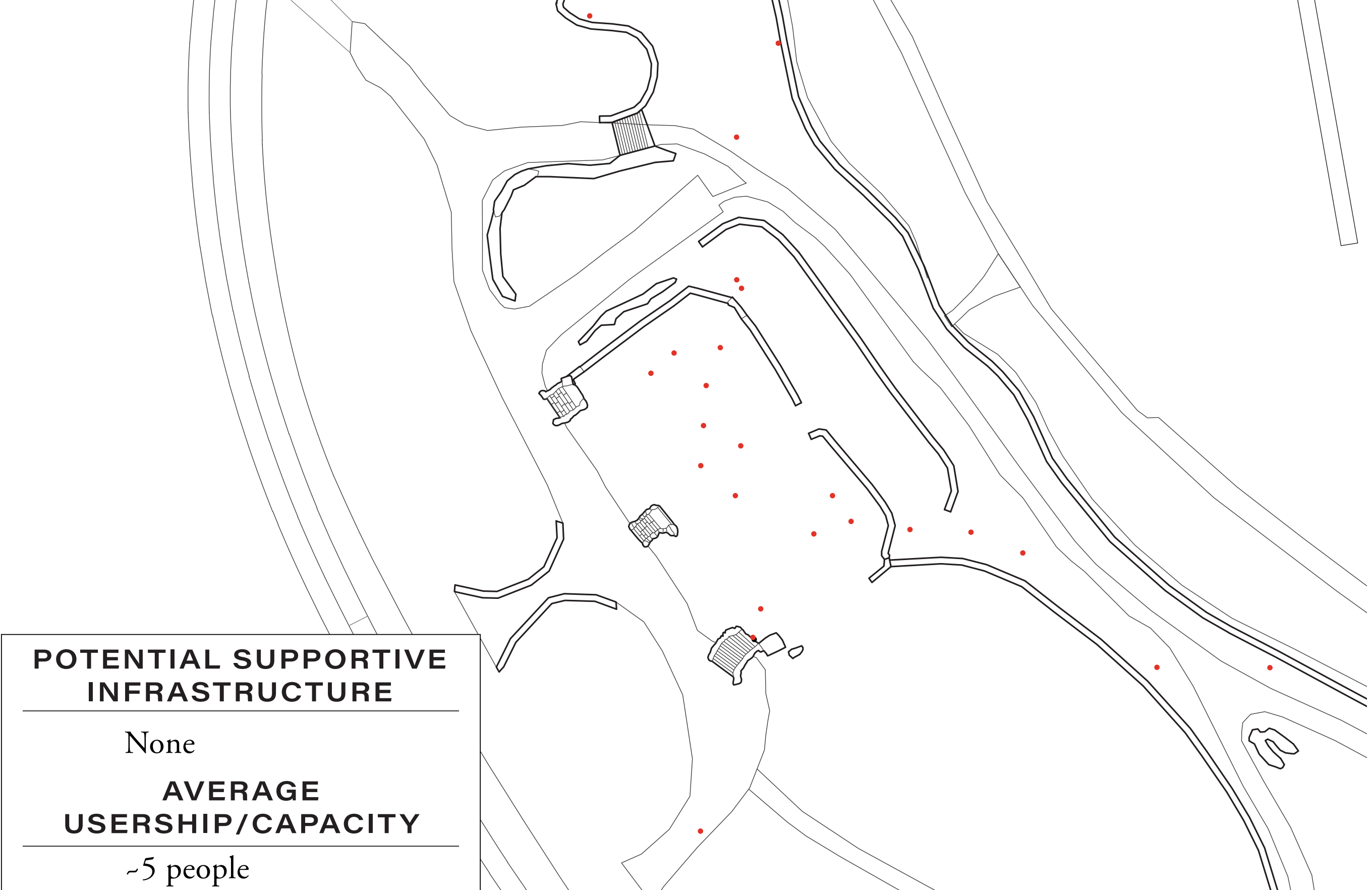
PLATFORM APPROACH: BRINGING PEOPLE TO A BUILDING ENTRY, RE-ENVISIONED AS AN OVERLOOK TO THE RUINS. THE LEVEL OF THE PLATFORM ACKNOWLEDGES THE MAIN FLOOR ELEVATION OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE.

What We Studied: Support a Wide Gamut of Programming

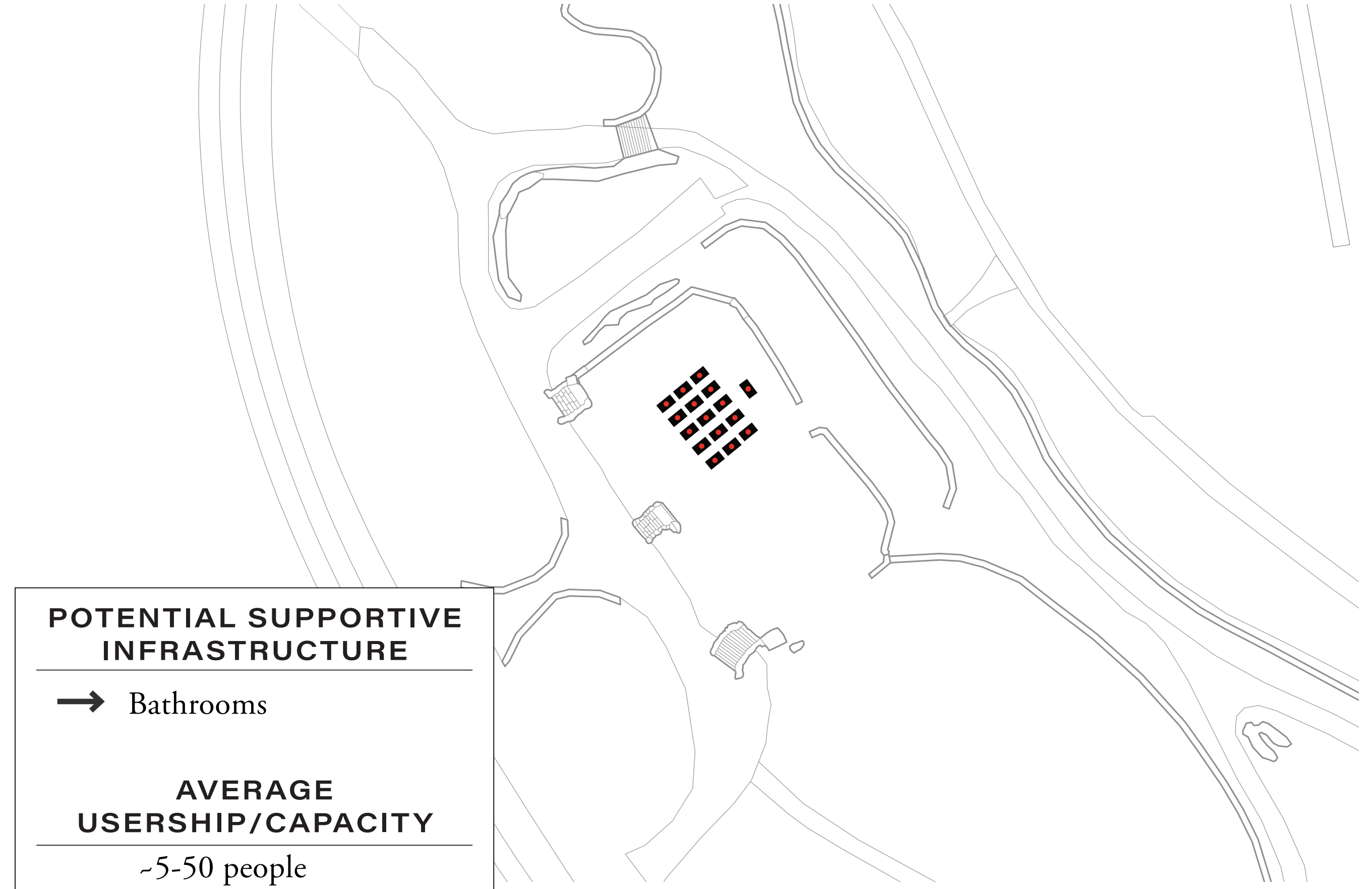
"OUTDOOR TEACHING + LEARNING"



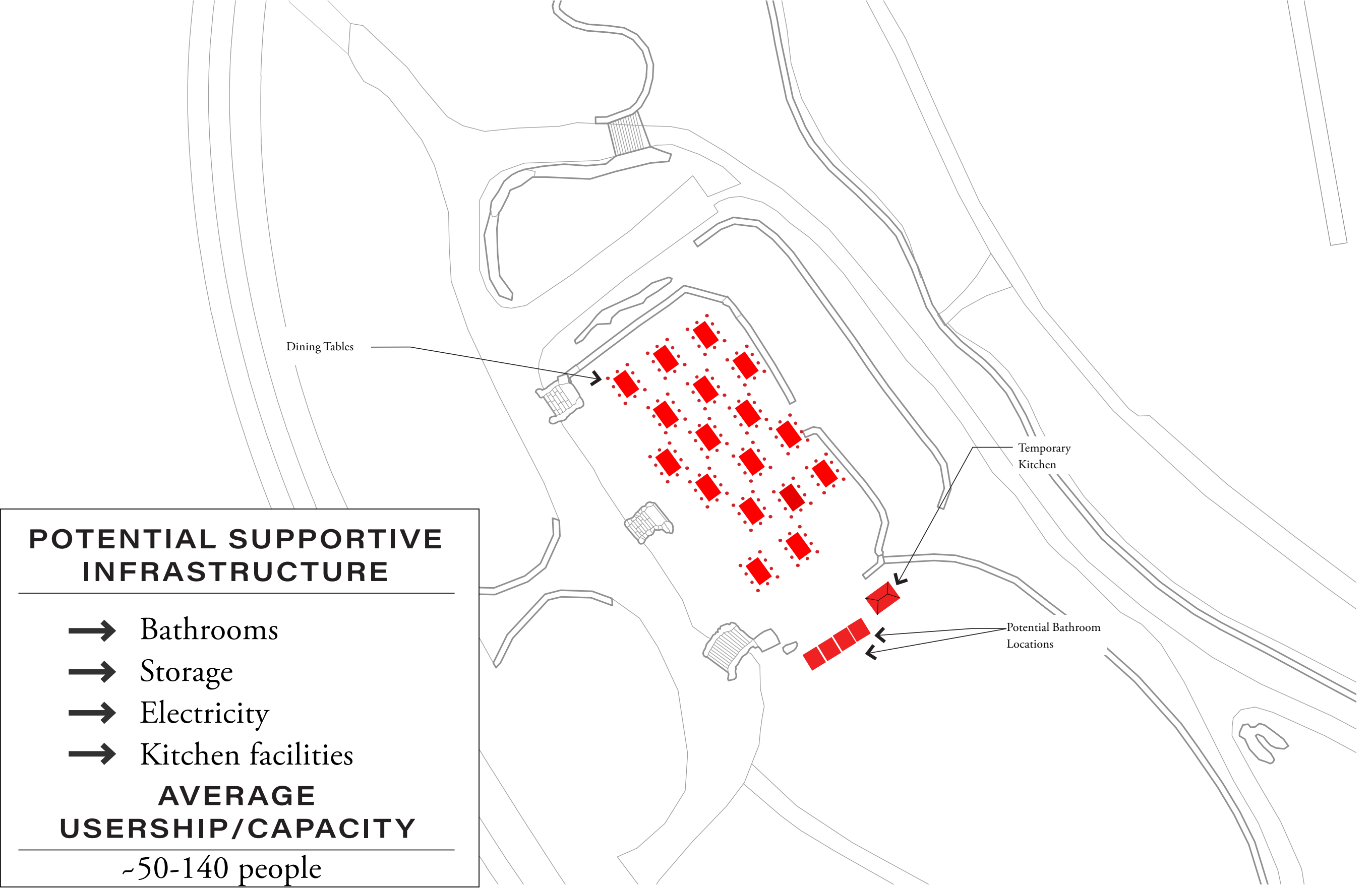
"A PLACE TO DISCOVER!"



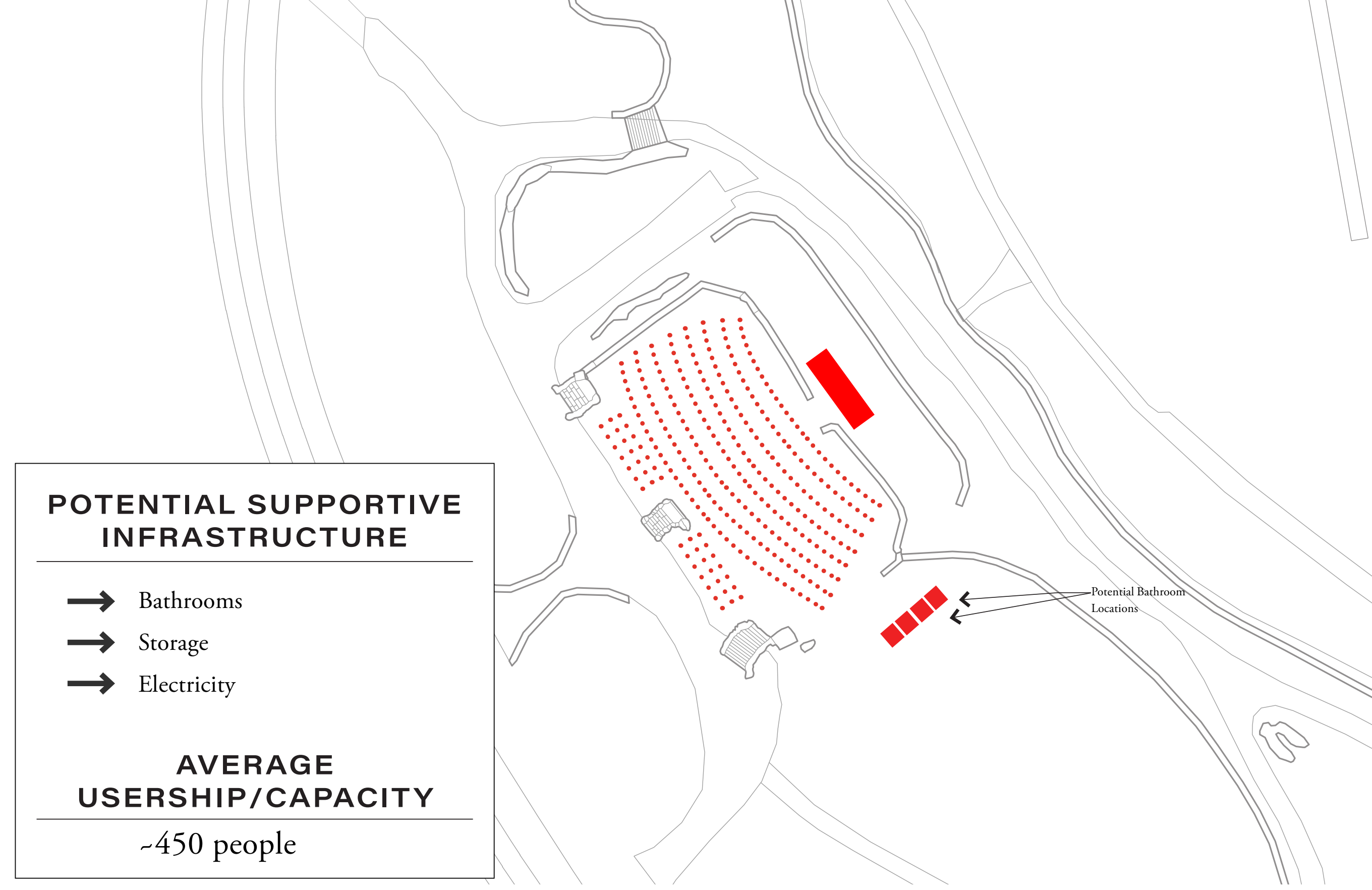
"YOGA"



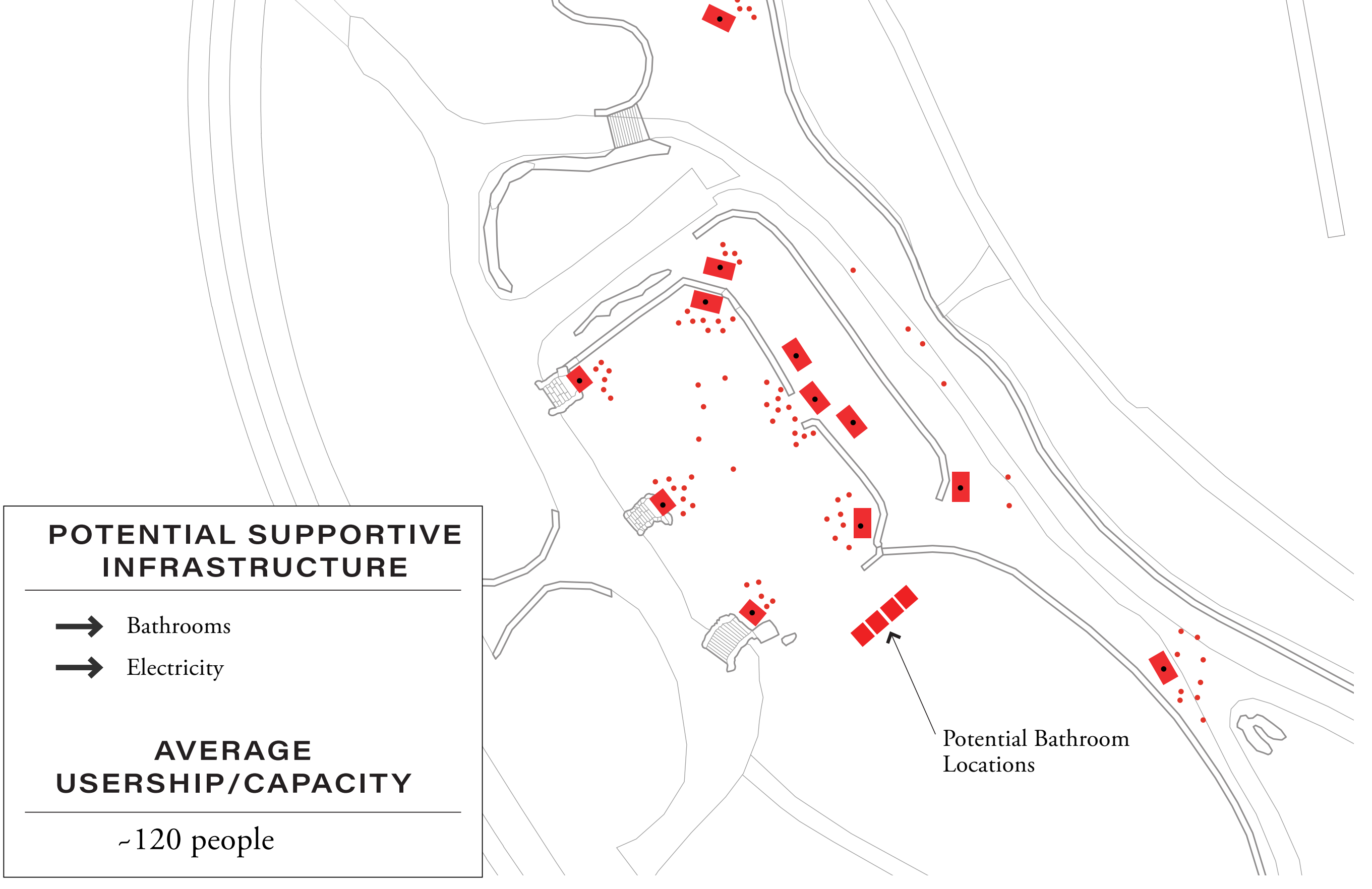
"RESTAURANT DAYS"



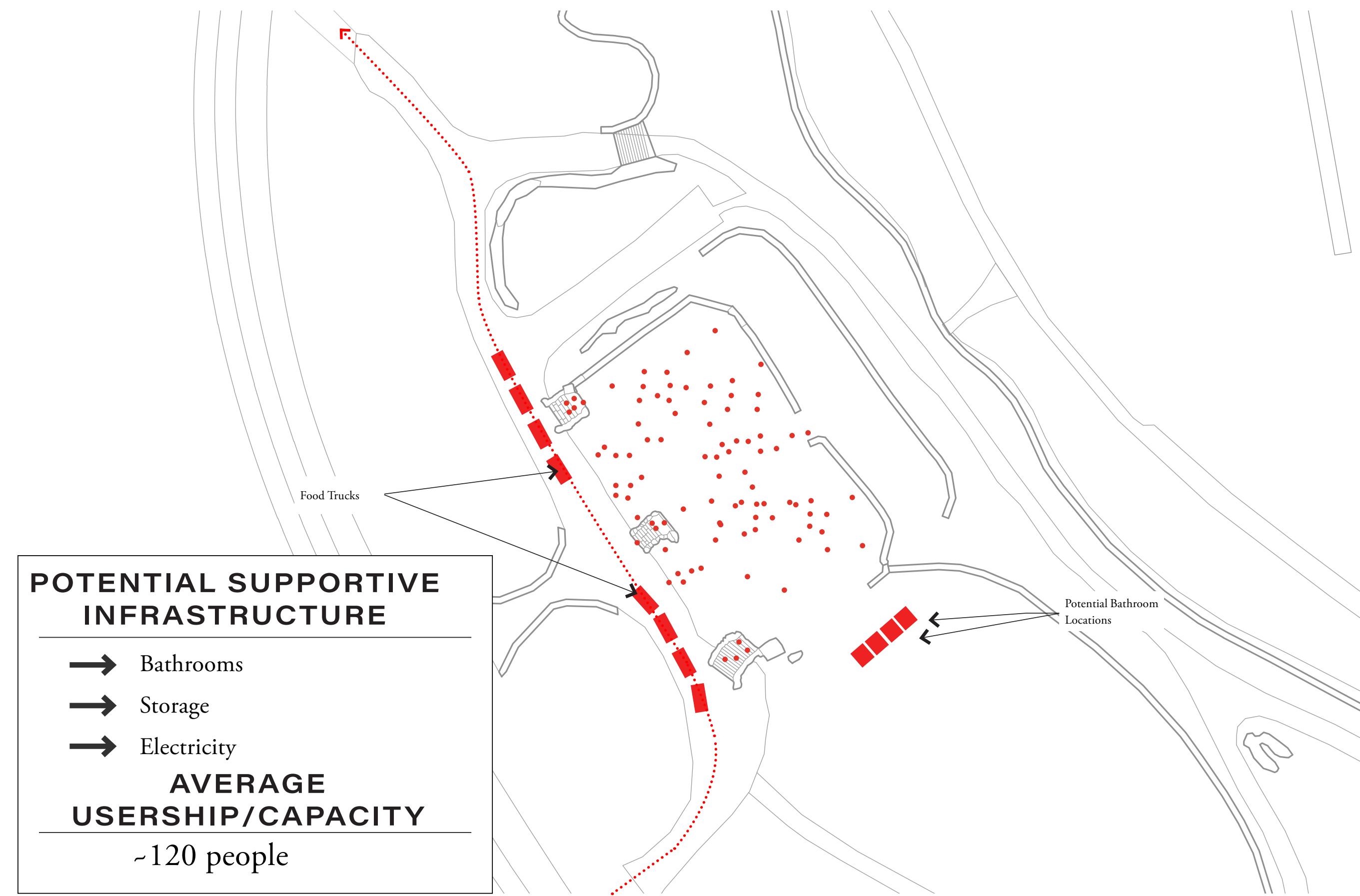
"PERFORMANCE"



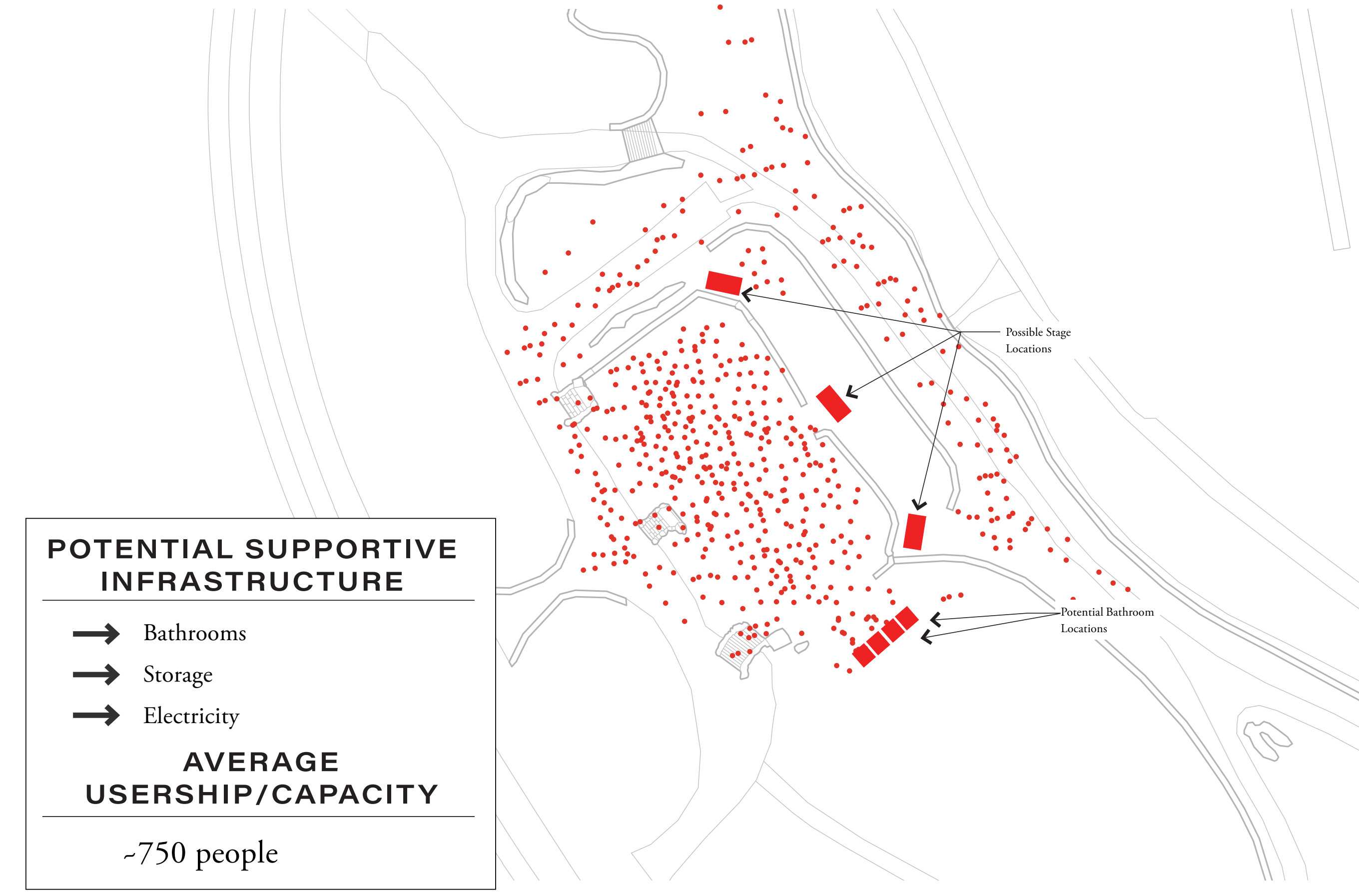
"ART INSTALLATIONS"



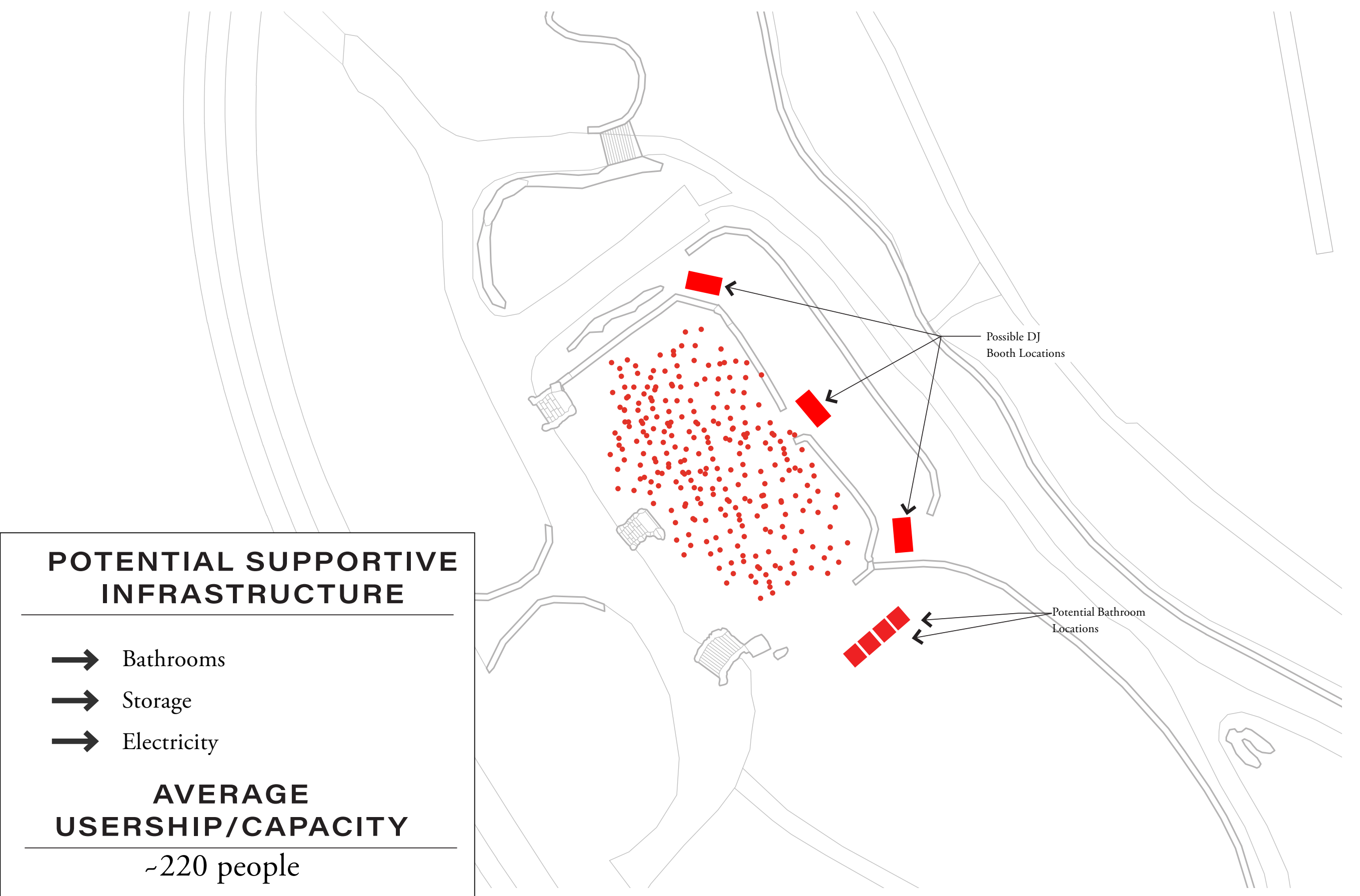
"MARKET DAY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES"



"PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK"



"DANCE PARTIES"



Design Translations: Support a Wide Gamut of Programming

"OUTDOOR TEACHING + LEARNING"



"A PLACE TO DISCOVER"



"YOGA"



"PERFORMANCE"



"RESTAURANT DAYS"



"ART INSTALLATIONS"



"MARKET DAY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES"



"PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK"



"DANCE PARTIES"



Support a Wide Gamut of Programming: Support Pavilion Initial Thoughts

PAVILION CONSIDERATIONS/ QUESTIONS

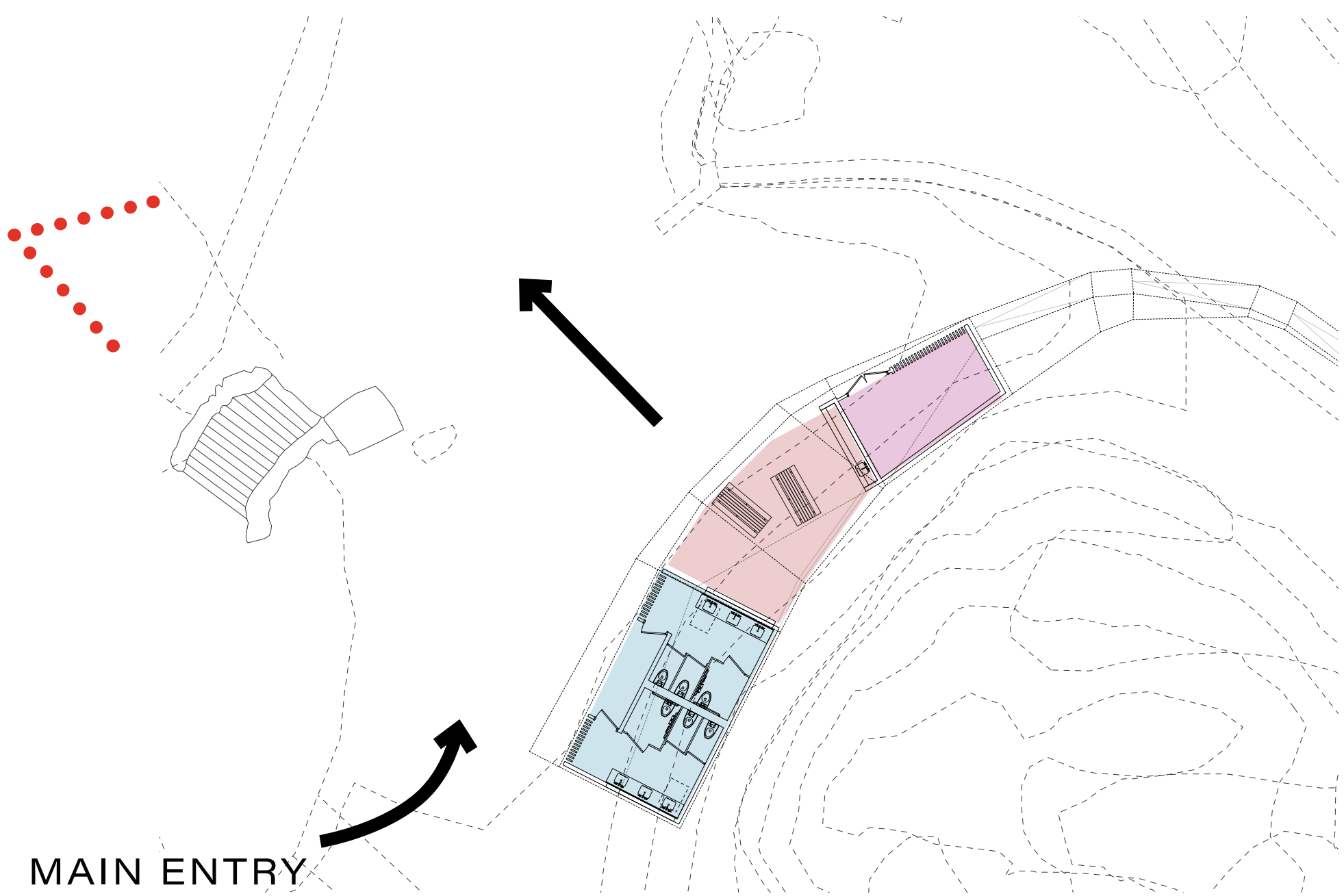
- How can a pavilion support the Overlook?
- Easily maintainable - durable materials
- Safety
- Seasonal? do restrooms want to be open year round?
- What does pavilion want to be able to store? portions of stage, lighting, park equipment, outdoor seating?
- Can pavilion be unobtrusive but also visible from Pierpont Rd.?

PAVILION APPROACH 1: NO PAVILION - INFRASTRUCTURE ONLY

- What amount of power is needed? sound amplification, lighting?
- Posts to mount temporary theatre lighting?
- Water hook up for food events?

PAVILION APPROACH 2: PAVILION AS OVERLOOK

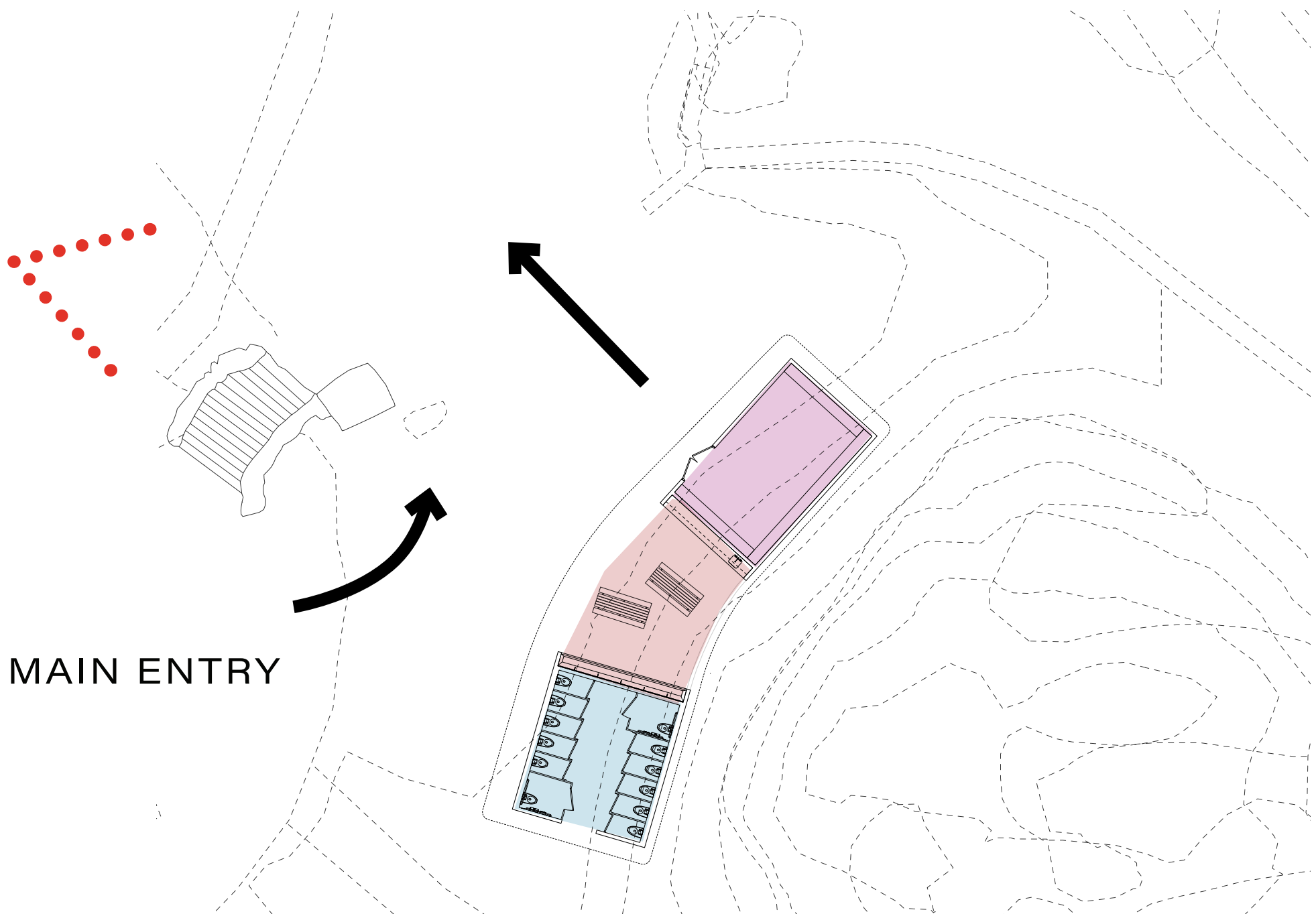
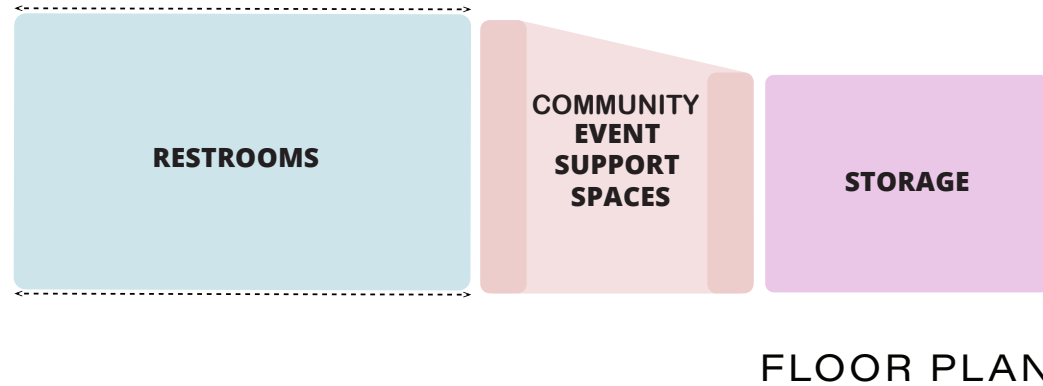
- How can the pavilion integrate with the Overlook site?
- What if the pavilion also provides an accessible overlook?
- What if the pavilion’s overall roof form references Olmstead’s gently sloping Overlook roof?



SITE PLAN - PAVILION AS OVERLOOK

PAVILION APPROACH 3: PAVILION AS BACK-DROP

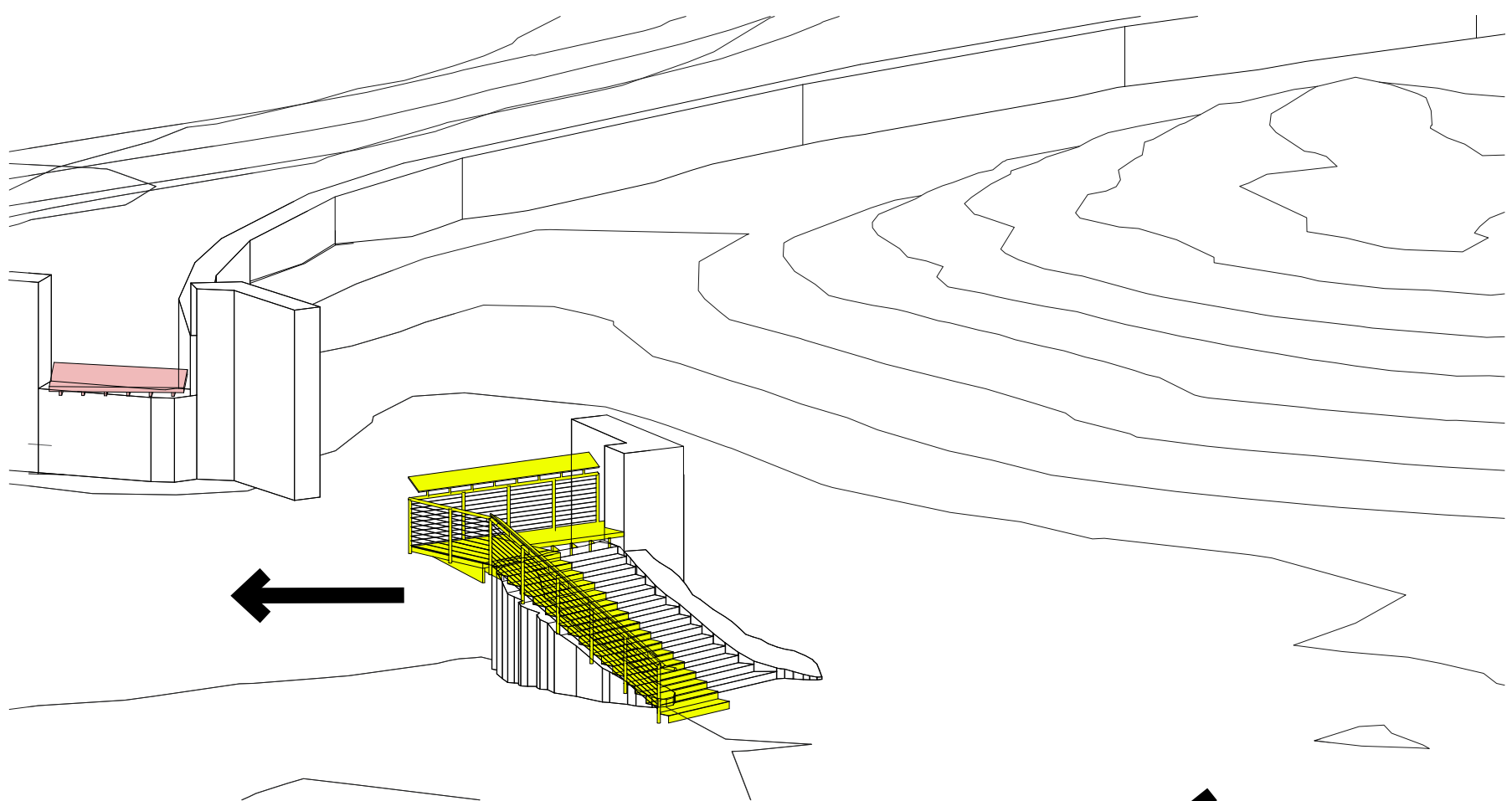
- How can we use the pavilion’s walls to tell the different stories and histories of the site?
- As the first support pavilion structure for Franklin Park how can the pavilion design incorporate signage and visitor information?
- What if restroom building was unisex (individual rooms) to maximize amount of fixtures? with sinks at central area



SITE PLAN - PAVILION AS BACKDROP



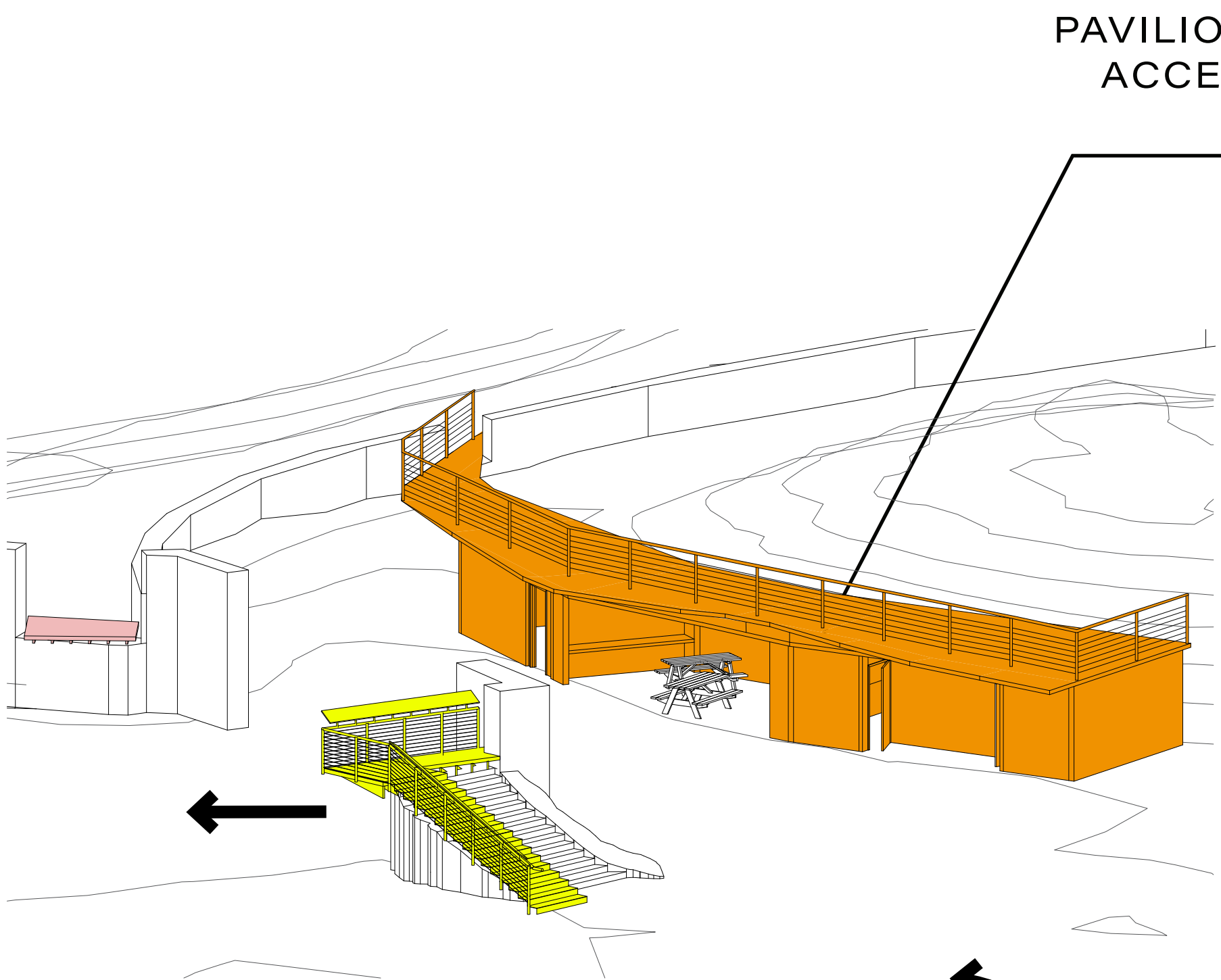
KEY PLAN



AXON, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

• INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

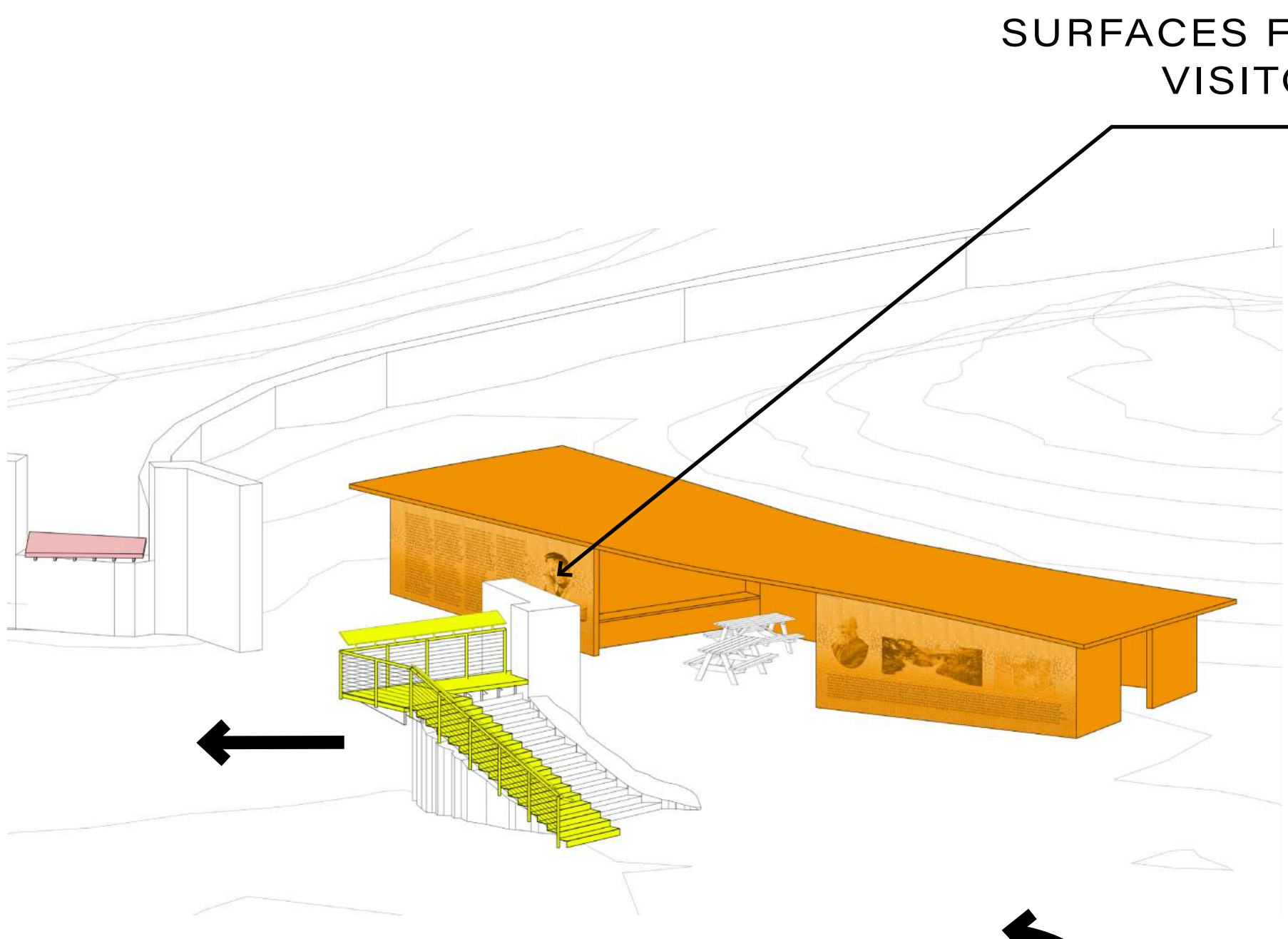
MAIN ENTRY



AXON, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

PAVILION ROOF PROVIDES ACCESSIBLE OVERLOOK FACING CENTER

MAIN ENTRY

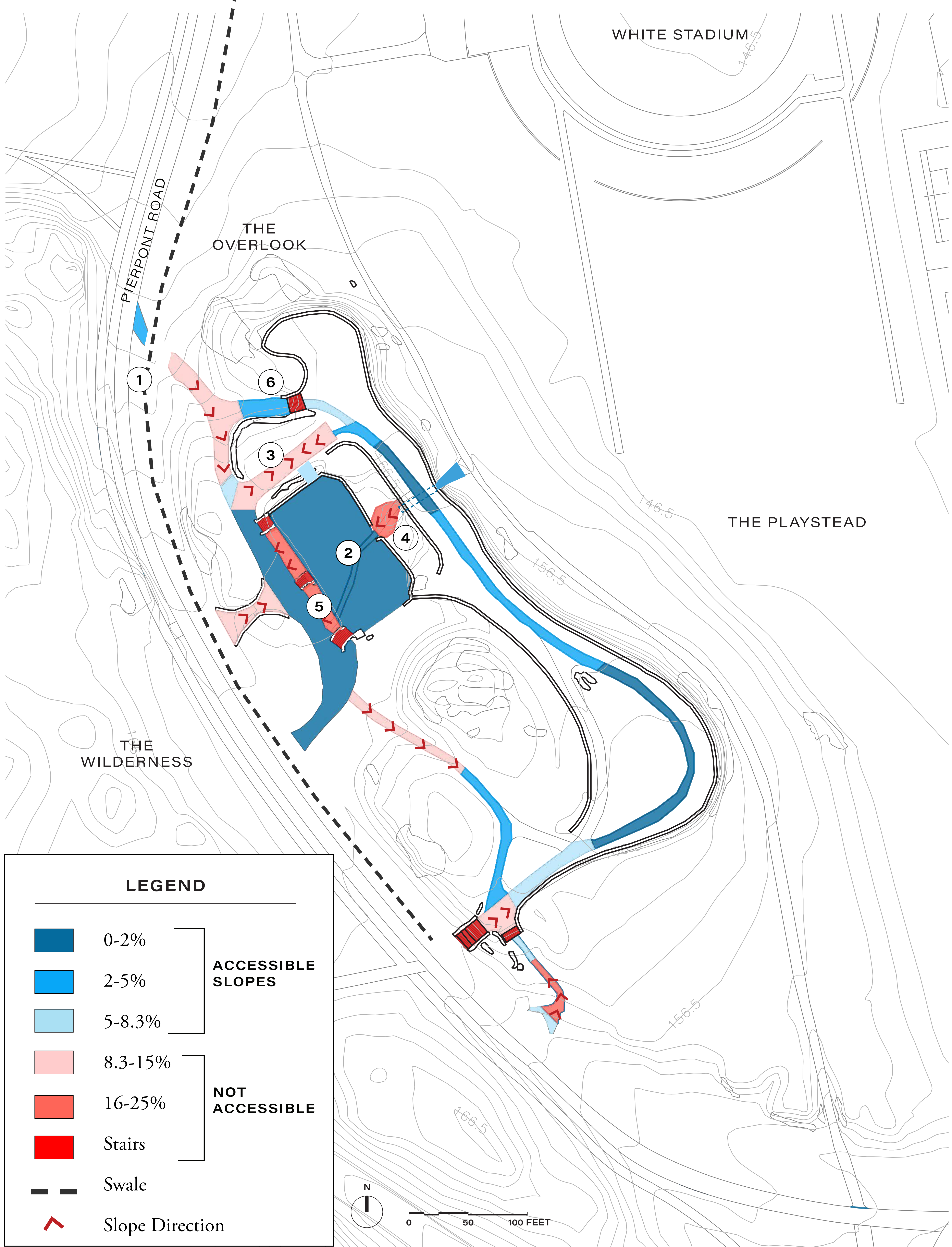


AXON, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

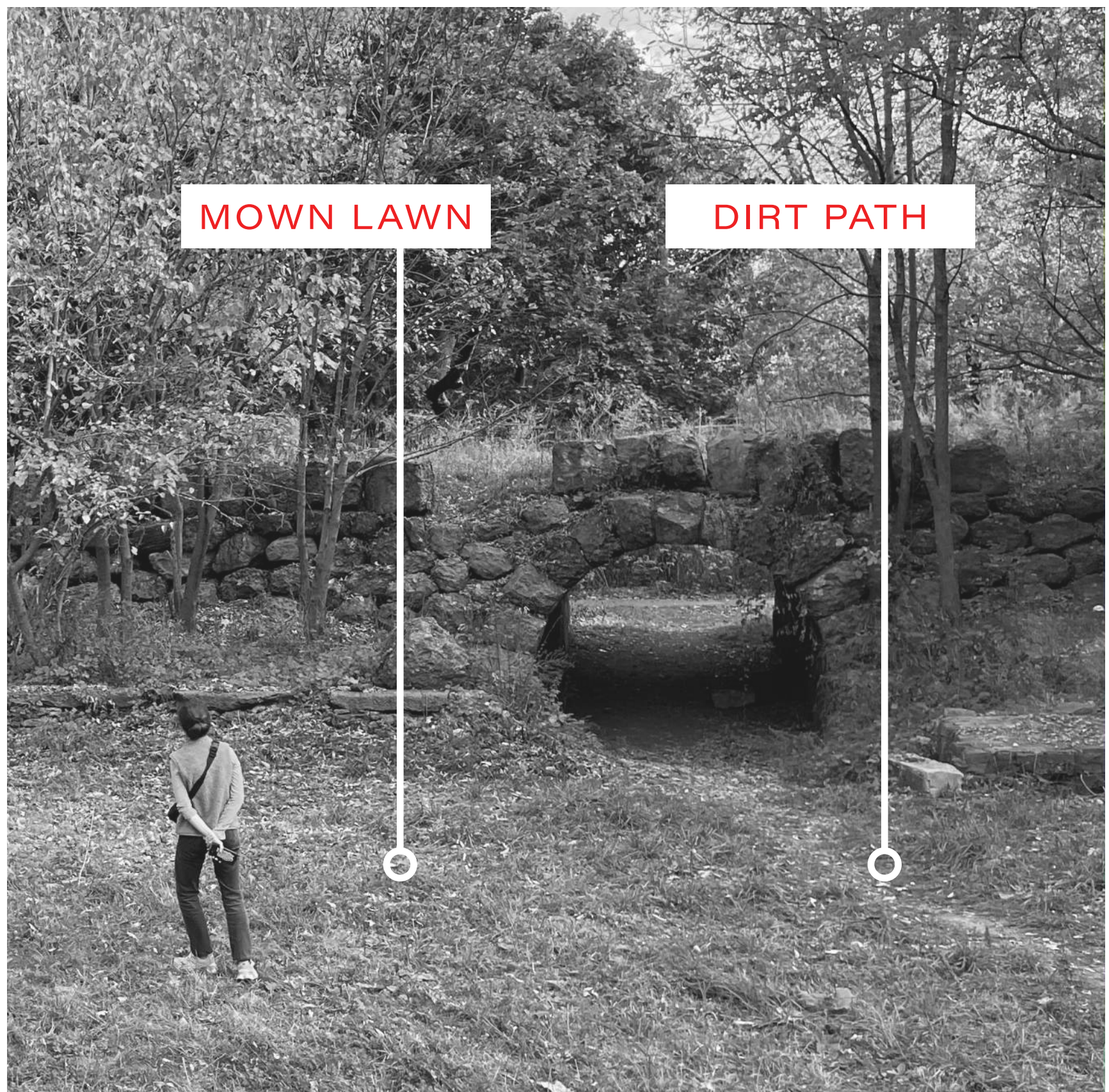
SURFACES FOR ART, CONTENT, VISITOR INFO, LIGHTING

MAIN ENTRY

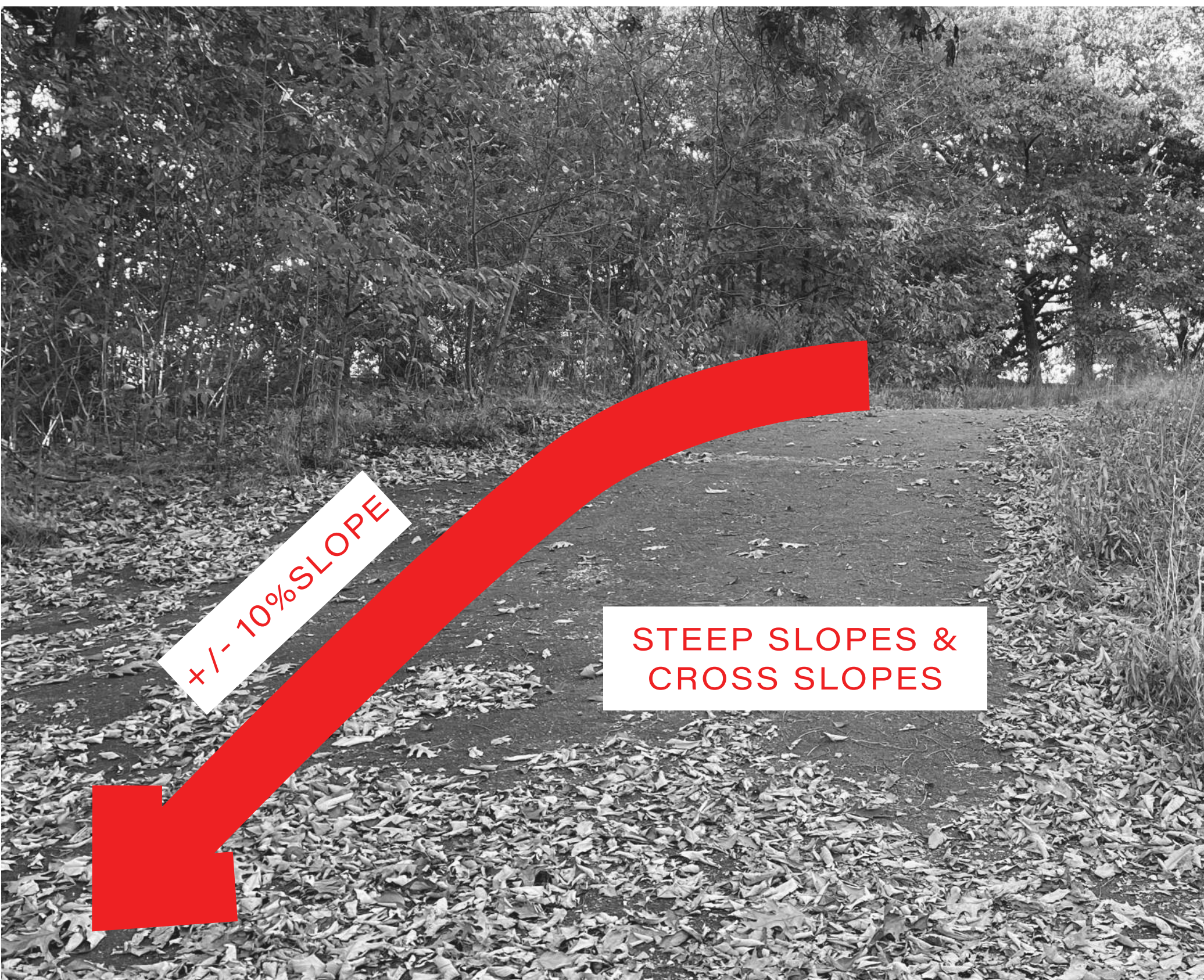
What We Studied: Make the Overlook Accessible



1 OVERLOOK PATHS ARE DISCONNECTED FROM PIERPONT ROAD



2 MANY SURFACES ARE NOT ADA COMPLIANT



3 MANY PATHS AND CROSS-SLOPES EXCEED ADA SLOPES



4 INCLUDING TO THE TUNNEL (APPROXIMATELY 20% SLOPE)

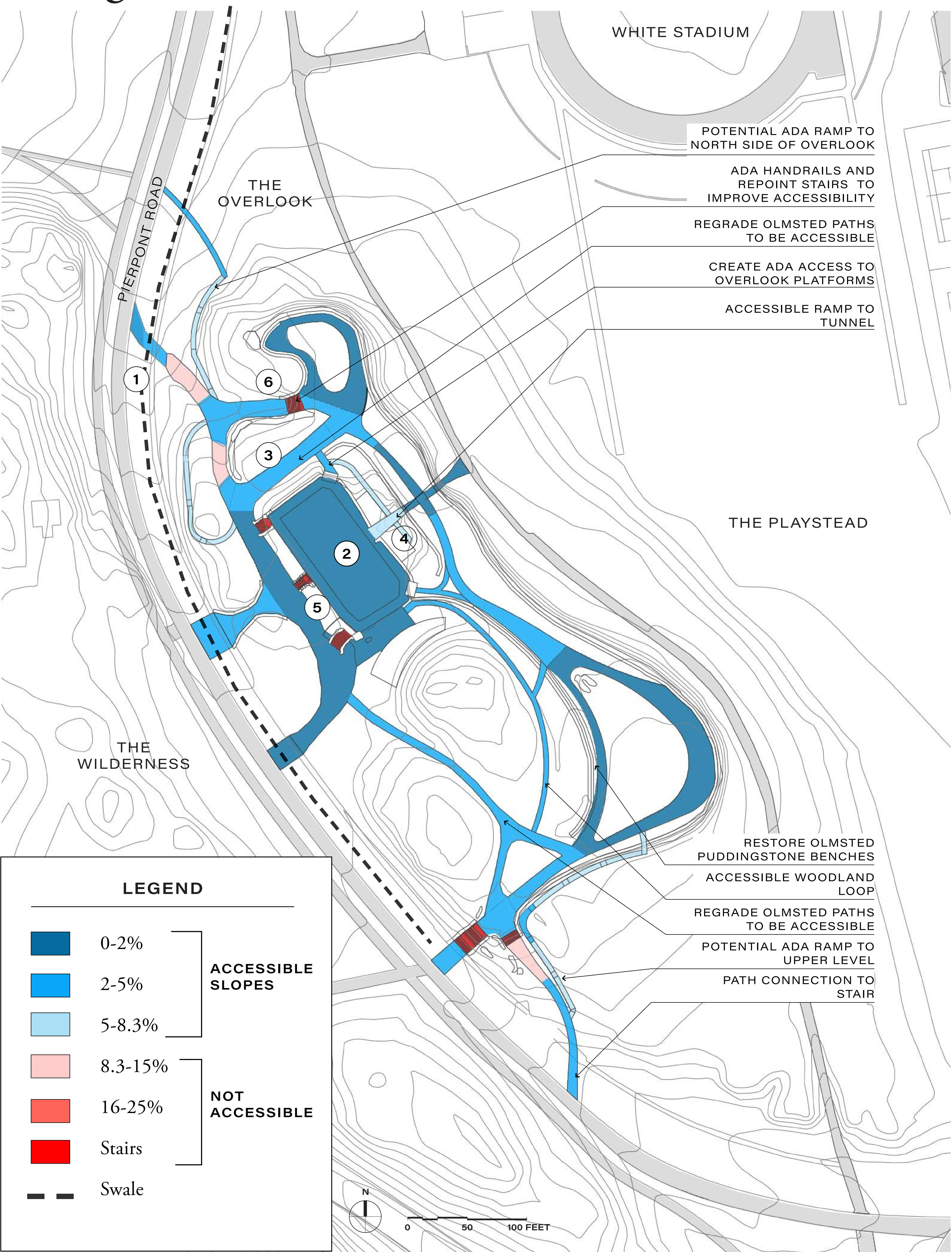


5 THE RUINS HAVE HIGH FALL ZONES

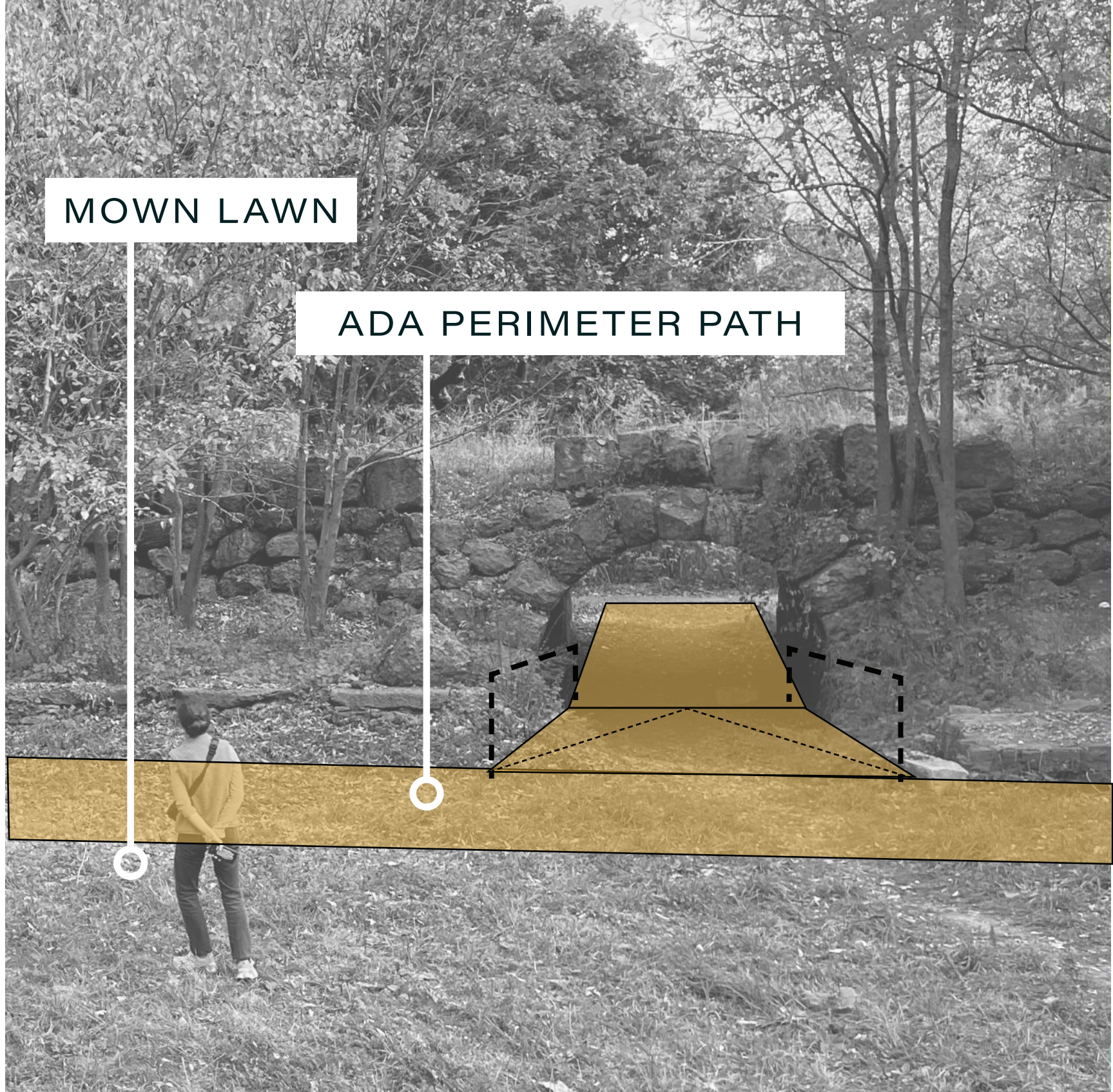


6 HISTORIC STAIRS DO NOT HAVE HANDRAILS

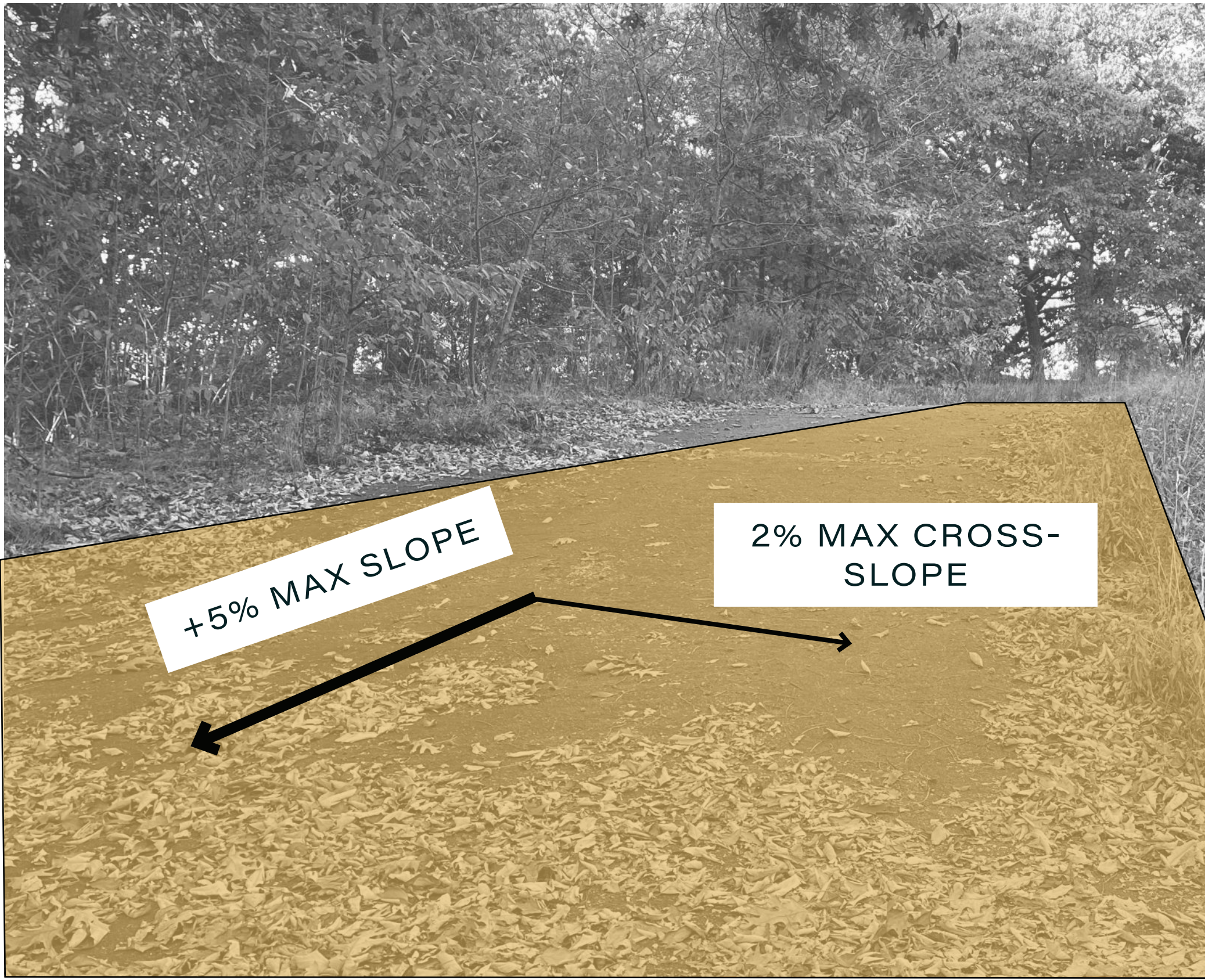
Design Translations: Make the Overlook Accessible



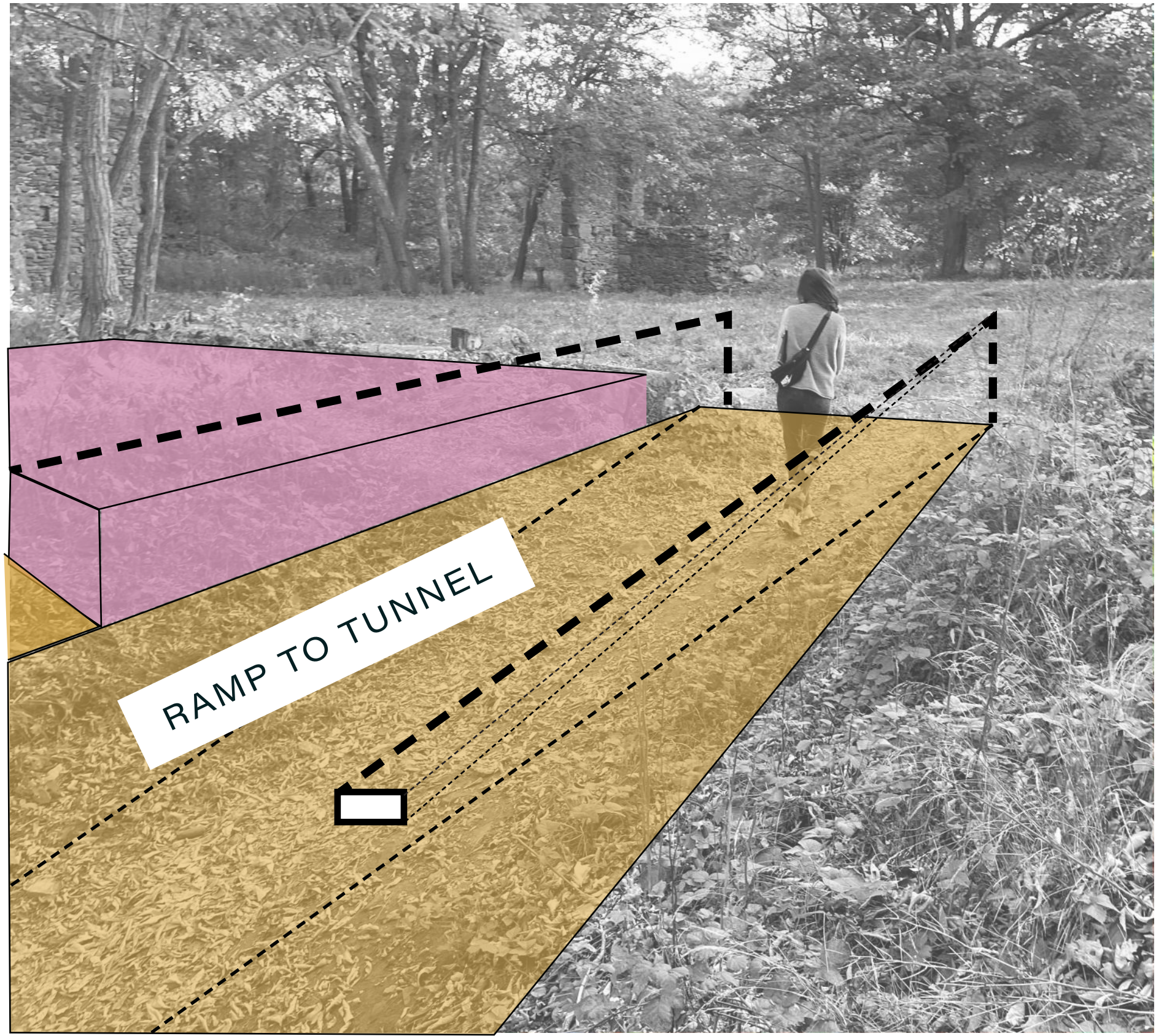
1 CONNECT THE OVERLOOK PATHS TO PIERPONT ROAD BY EXTENDING ADA PAVING



2 CREATE AN ADA PATH NETWORK, USE ADA COMPLIANT SURFACING SUCH AS ASPHALT AND DECOMPOSED GRANITE



3 WHERE POSSIBLE, UPDATE PATHS IN PLACE TO REDUCE SLOPES TO ACCESSIBLE LEVELS. WHERE NOT POSSIBLE, PROVIDE NEW ADA PATHS AND RAMPS



4 ACCOMMODATE A RAMP SLOPING DOWN TO THE TUNNEL

