



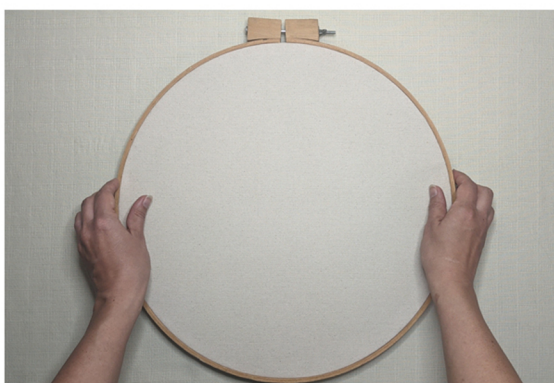
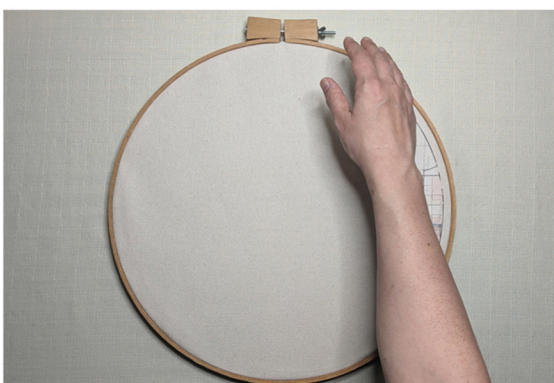
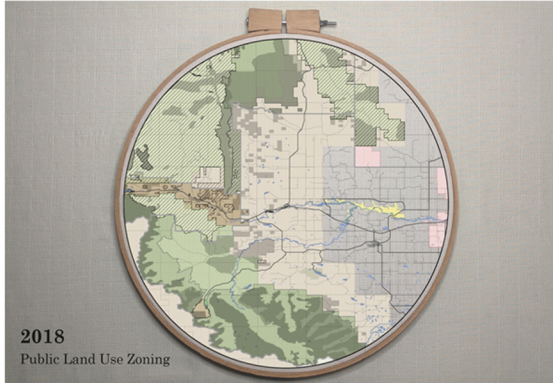
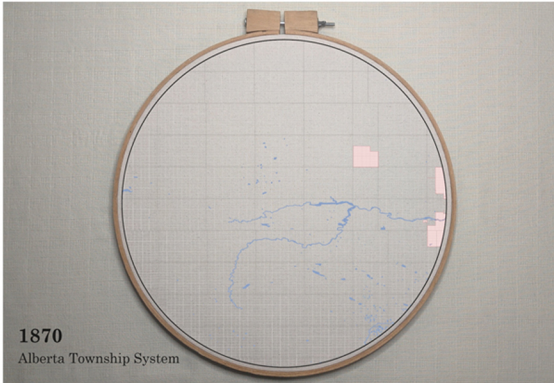
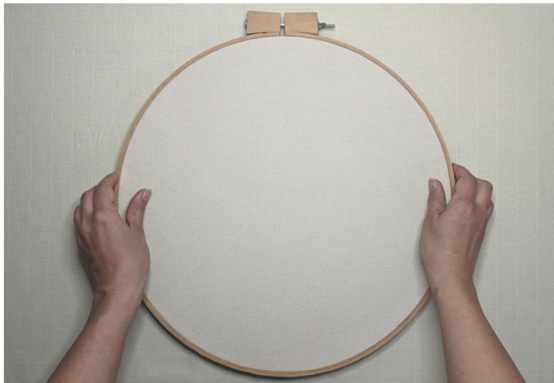
This compilation features works by students of the University of Calgary's Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program, developed in intermediate- to senior-level landscape architecture studio courses. The Program, the youngest MLA in Canada, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Unhindered by institutional traditions, it encourages students to be inventive. The presented projects exemplify the diversity of design expression resulting from this educational approach, as well as a commitment to values-driven and place-based design. The Program is situated in a geographical and socio-cultural context at the forefront of globalized issues, including the climate crisis, energy and economy, and decolonization. The Alberta context enables the Program to address these issues through specific course content and a regional approach to landscape architecture. Multiple environments and scales are involved, ranging from addressing problems of urban sprawl and city livability to investigating topics encompassed by mountain, foothill, and prairie landscapes.

The featured projects demonstrate students' endeavours in exploring the complexity of local landscapes in various contexts, such as agricultural and resource-extraction areas, suburban communities, and regions impacted by extensive industrial and transportation infrastructure. Building resilient environments in response to climate change and taking holistic approaches, emphasizing the value of the human-environment relationship, are shared objectives.

Project selection criteria include showcasing craft and technical acumen, as the Program seeks to educate students in crafting novel designs that employ both traditional and emerging technologies, materials, and construction methods. Sound analysis, critical thinking, imagination, an artistic attitude, and a cross-scalar approach to the design process also emerge.



"Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry."  
Richard P. Feynman



$\frac{AB}{2.0}$  Mending the Tapestry

Country/City	Canada / Calgary
University / School	University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Academic year	2023-2024
Title of the project	AB 2.0: Mending the Tapestry
Authors	Traci Berg



Title of the project	AB 2.0: Mending the Tapestry
Authors	Traci Berg
Title of the course	Regional Landscape Systems Studio
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	Kris Fox
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape



**Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words**

A laissez-faire approach to public lands management has resulted in a haphazard tapestry of use across the province of Alberta. Some areas remain pristine, but sterile, while others suffer degraded ecosystem quality due to reckless use out of the public eye. Despite environmental language in policy, land use management remains rooted in extractive frameworks that prioritize resource use over ecological health. It seems the tapestry is coming undone.

This project focuses on a 50 km “regional snapshot” centered on Highways 3 and 22 in Alberta’s southern foothills. A hierarchy of secondary connectors and rural roads transporting people, goods and services along a network of convenience where opportunities for people to slow down and experience the landscape are limited. Together, extensive linear disturbance and lack of accessibility produce an obscure fragmentation paradox; an abundance of anthropogenic avenues cutting up the landscape that are remarkably underutilized.

Five public land sites are examined, highlighting the impacts of limited accessibility, ecological fragmentation, and threadbare land use policy.

Through restorative excursions, land-based learning and voluntourism, the project advocates for shifting the narrative from “what can we take?” to “what can we give back?” At the policy level, the proposed ecology-first framework responds adaptively to shifting ecoregions under climate change. Only by weaving together broad strokes of land use governance with fine-grain human-scale initiatives, may we begin to mend the landscape tapestry and craft a deeper connection between Albertans and the land.

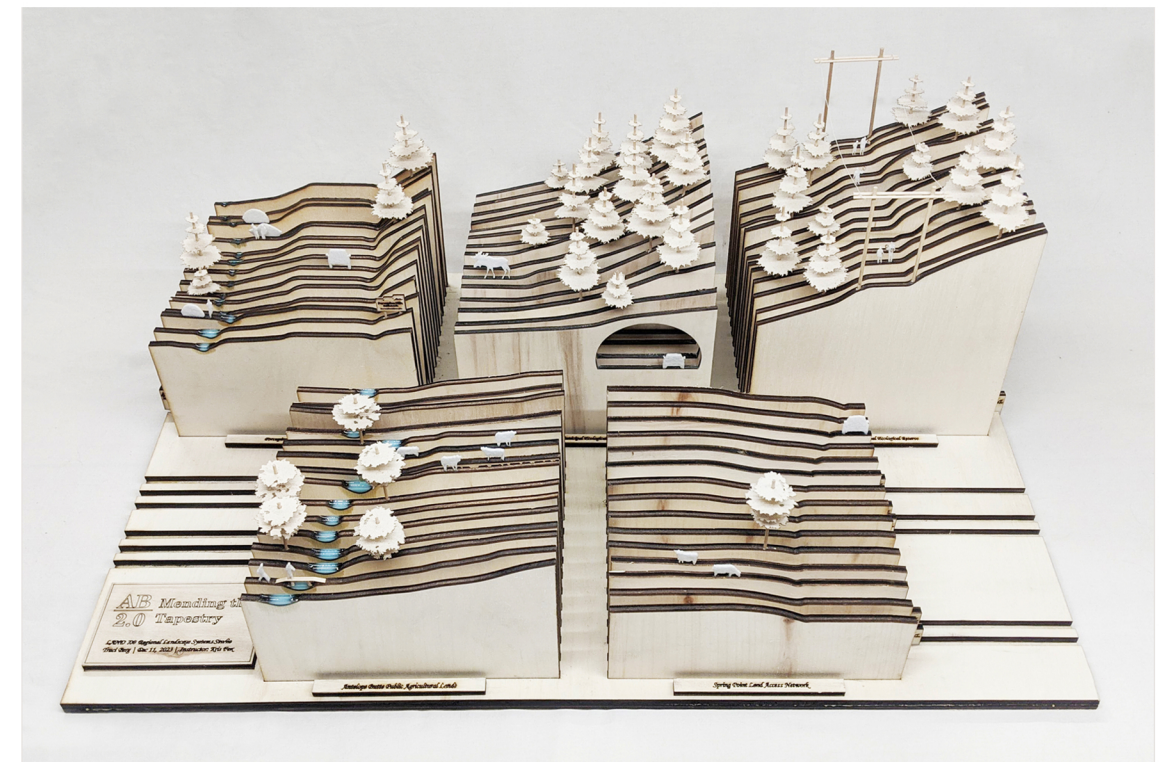
Project cover image: Film sequence (film strip).  
On this page: Details from The Status Quo’ and Future-Ho! 50-year Projection maps.

**Barcelona International Landscape Biennial**

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Venue:  
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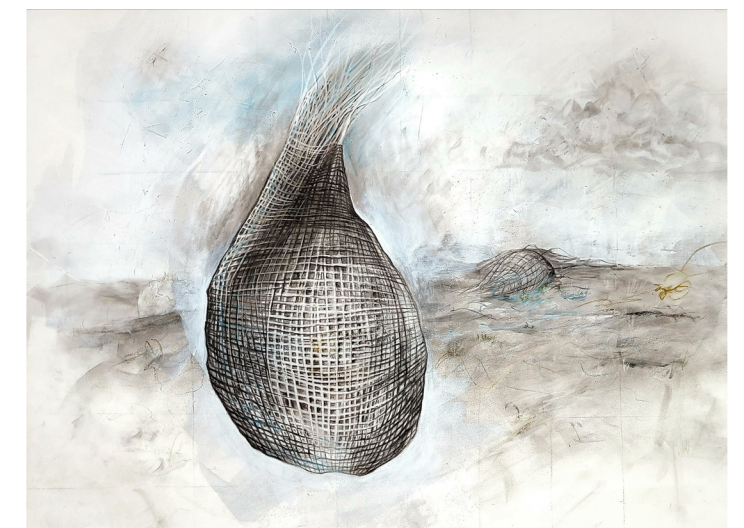
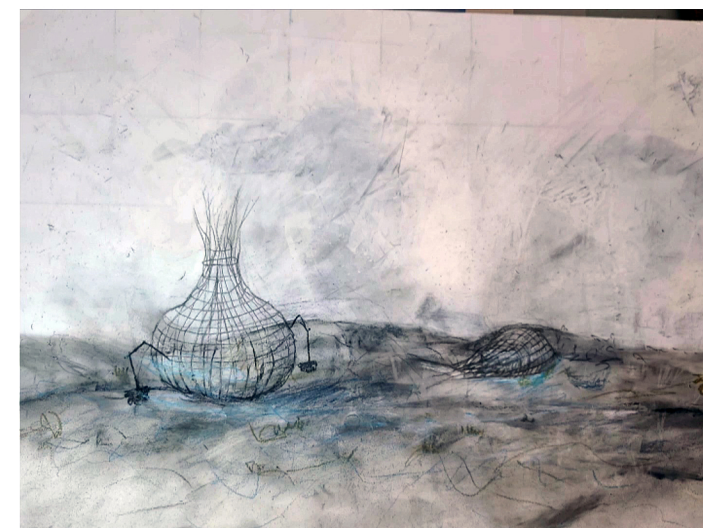
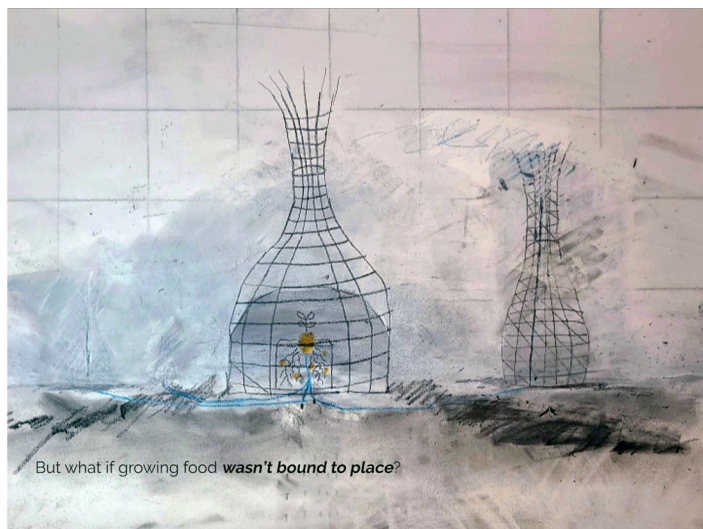
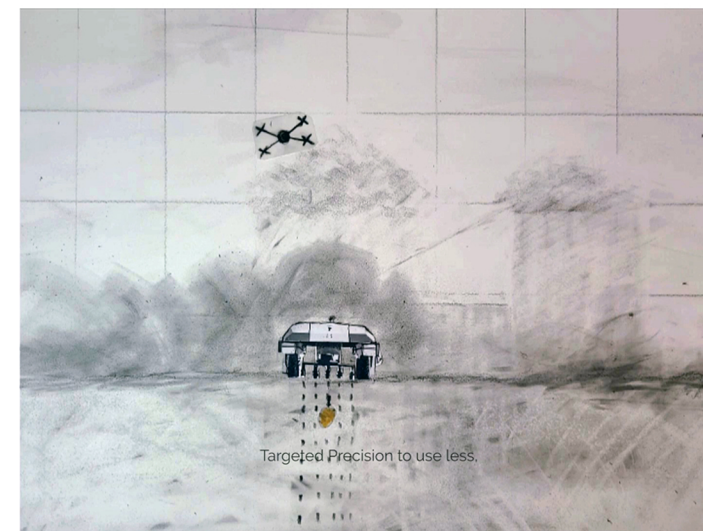
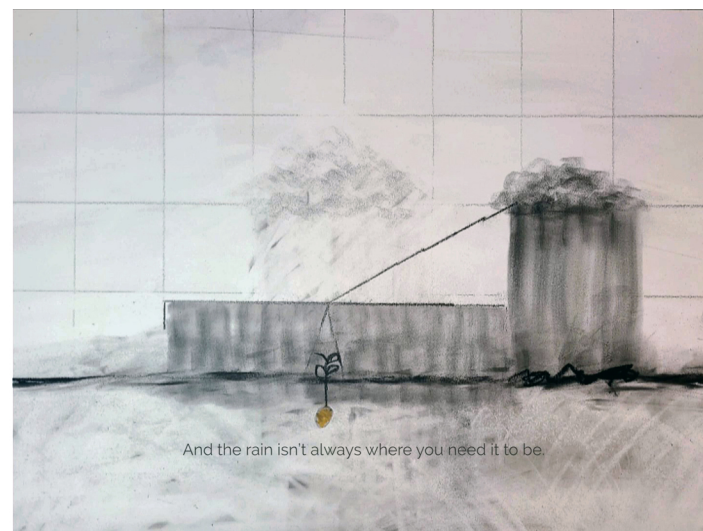




The Status Quo, Future-Ho! 50- and 100-year Projection tryptic (image transfer on canvas, embroidery). Map data was compiled in ArcMap and rendered in Photoshop. Each plan image was then printed and transferred to canvas using a gel medium. Zoning and natural subregions are traced with embroidery thread, emphasizing changes in land use and extent of cover over time.

**Sectional Model** (Laser cut alpine board, laser cut felt and canvas, wooden doweling, string, resin). The sectional model zooms in on the five sites of public land use, each highlighting opportunities for Albertans to tackle the fragmentation paradox. Interchangeable sectional slices illustrate the 'before and after' of interventions. Select panels may be pulled by tabs along recessed slots and replaced with corresponding panels, adding an interactive temporal dimension to the model.

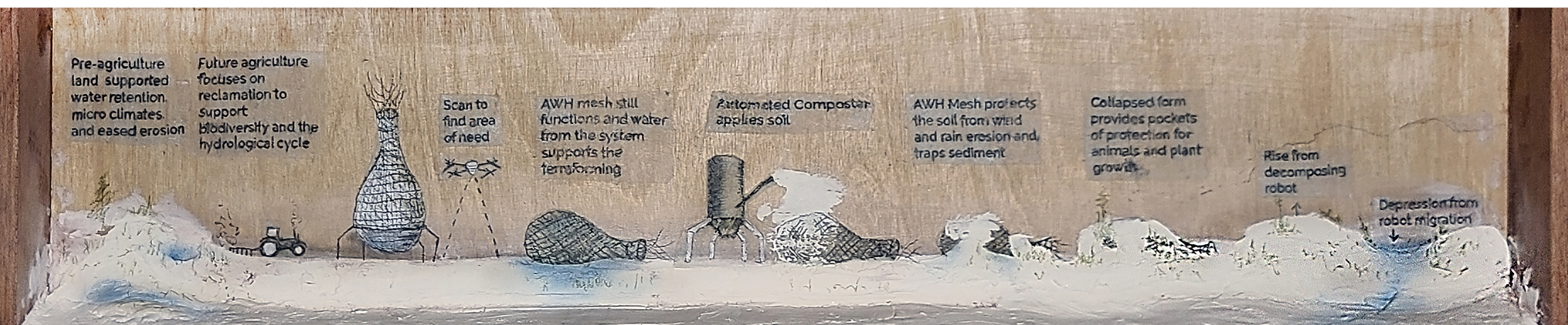




Country/City Canada / Calgary  
 University / School University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape  
 Academic year 2023-2024  
 Title of the project Agricultural Futurism: The Un-settling of Agriculture in Southern Alberta  
 Authors Erin Schwab



Title of the project	Agricultural Futurism: The Un-settling of Agriculture in Southern Alberta
Authors	Erin Schwab
Title of the course	Regional Landscape Systems Studio
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	Kris Fox
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape



**Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words**

Agriculture shaped the landscape of my Alberta, Canada hometown. Traveling along the Oldman River Basin, I was struck by the contrast between boundless farmlands and towering wind turbines—symbols of our shift toward sustainable energy. This contrast raised a question: why hasn't food production evolved alongside our energy systems?

Alberta's large-scale agriculture remains dependent on non-renewable resources and an increasingly erratic hydrological cycle. Though we have developed soilless and sun-independent growing methods, food production is still tied to water. Southern Alberta is now in a 1-in-50-year drought, with more expected. Irrigation, once a solution, falters when there's no water to redirect. Our food system remains rooted in place, vulnerable to climate extremes.

Technological advances have focused on controlling nature—bigger machines, precision tools, even autonomous equipment. But what if we removed land from the equation? What if food production moved with natural systems instead of resisting them—migrating like animals, following moisture, adapting to seasonal rhythms?

Imagine agriculture not as a static land use, but as a regenerative force—mirroring the ecological role of bison, which shaped landscapes through movement and death. This vision reimagines agriculture as a partner in healing the land, not exploiting it.

Ultimately, this thought experiment challenges the inevitability of current practices. It invites us to decolonize agriculture, transforming it into an ecological ally that restores balance and fosters resilience in the face of climate uncertainty.

Project cover image: Thought Experiment: Hand Drawn Animation (film strip).  
On this page: End of Life Terraforming.

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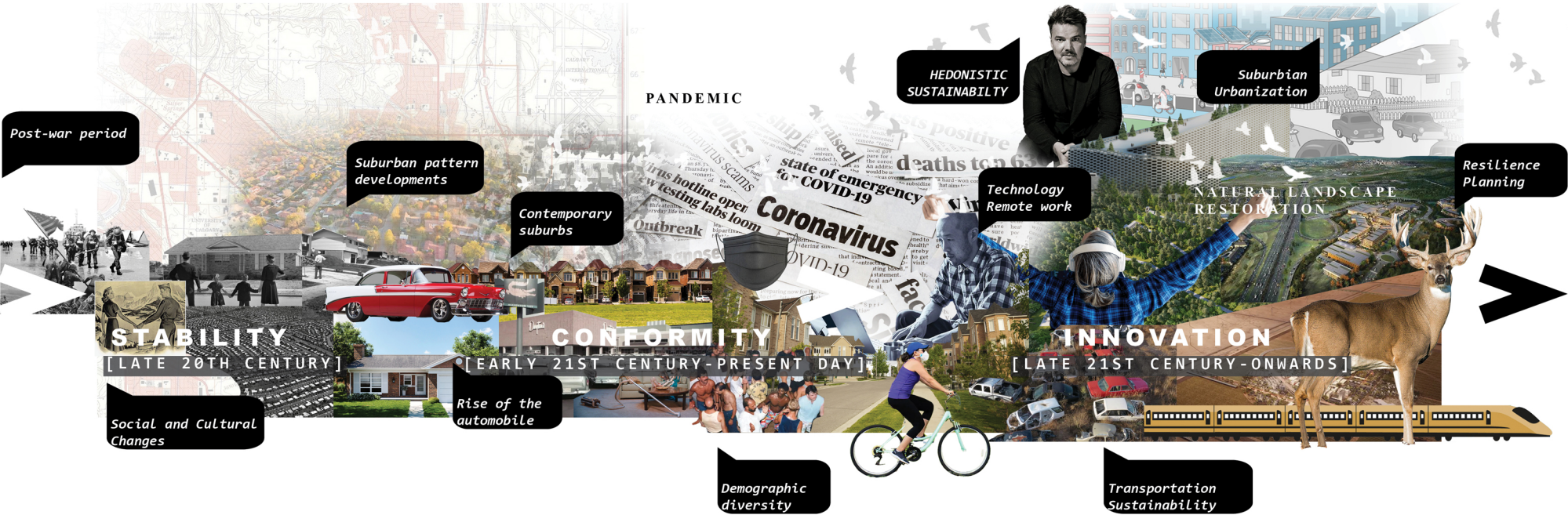
In top-left to bottom-right order: **Pivot Irrigation: Growing food in soil that could have never been sustained without mounting interventions** (plaster, welded metal pivot, pencil and collage on framed wood panel, 16"x20"x3"); **Agricultural Futurism: The Unsettling of Agriculture in Southern Alberta** (paint, pencil and collage on framed wood panel, 34"x24"); **Why Aeroponic Potatoes?** (paint, graphite, coloured pencil, collage on framed wood panel, 17" x24"); **End of Life Terraforming** (plaster, collage, pastel and graphite on framed wood panel, 17"x4"); **Panel for Video Animation** (coloured pencil, graphite, and paint on wood, 20"x16"); **Migration and End of Life Terraforming, Model** (plaster, cheesecloth, wood) and **Drawing** (pastel, coloured pencil, graphite, collage on mylar and paper, 17"x12"x10"); **A Diagnostic Manual of Robotic Layers** (pencil and paint on mylar on wood panel, 8"x12"); **Additional System Automation** (paint, pencil and collage on framed wood panel, 17"x12").





**Country/City** Canada / Calgary  
**University / School** University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape  
**Academic year** 2023-2024  
**Title of the project** 3lys1um: Reconnecting Suburbia for a Sustainable Future  
**Authors** Francisco Labastida





Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

“3lys1um: Reconnecting Suburbia for a Sustainable Future\*” explores how suburban development, while originally imagined as a way to bring people closer to nature, has ultimately contributed to ecological fragmentation and social disconnection. This project questions the legacy and purpose of suburbia, proposing a new path forward that reconciles its form with the urgency of climate adaptation and biodiversity loss.

Drawing from a personal upbringing in a region where nature was integral to daily life, the project sees Canada’s rich biodiversity as an opportunity to redefine suburban landscapes. Historically, suburban planning prioritized private utility and aesthetic green space over ecological integrity, often isolating residents from each other and from natural systems. This project challenges those norms by envisioning suburbia as inclusive, dynamic, and ecologically embedded. Focusing on Calgary’s North-West suburban landscapes, it proposes restoring fragmented ecosystems, creating small green corridors within neighborhoods, and revitalizing underutilized laneways to foster bi-human and natural systems while encouraging sustainable densification.

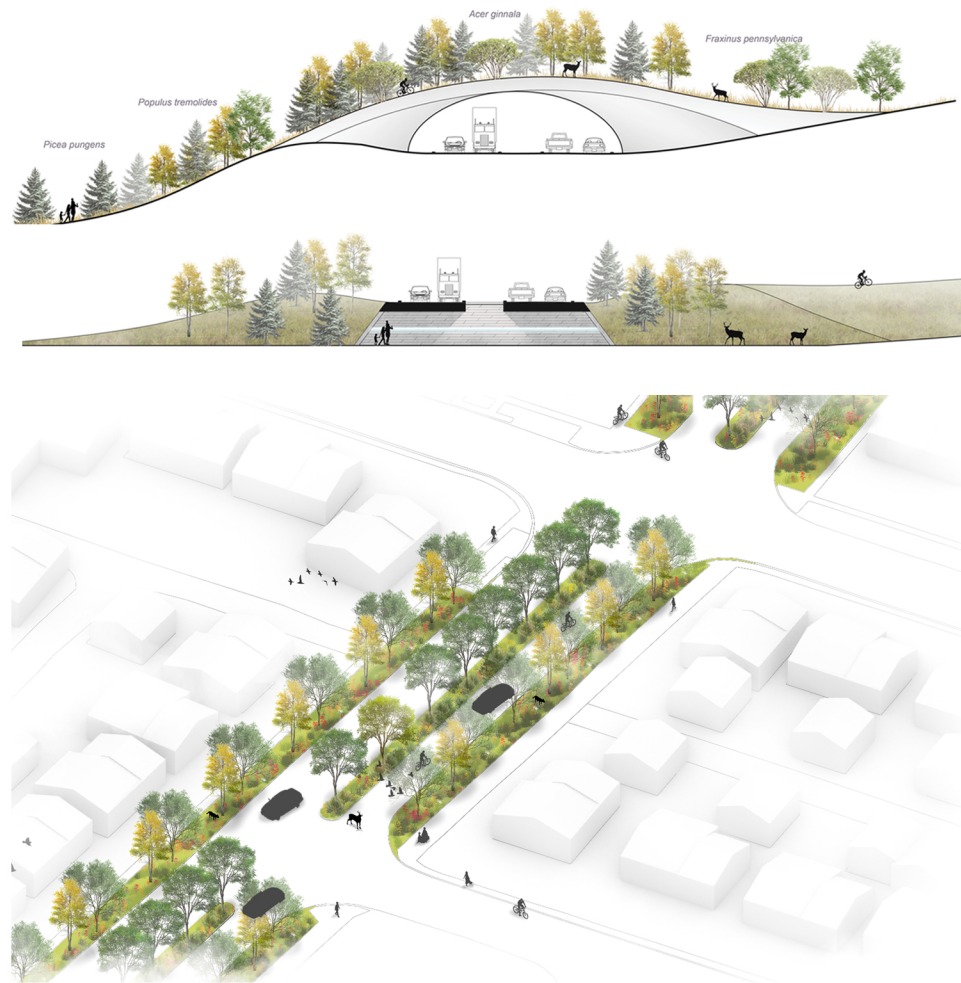
A key transformation is the reimagining of Confederation Park Golf Course as a wetland sanctuary—reflecting shifting cultural values and a commitment to sustainability and community-building. This vision aims to cultivate a shared sense of purpose, belonging, and environmental stewardship.

The narrative traces a journey from Nose Hill Park through the neighborhoods of Charleswood, Collingwood, and Triwood, culminating at the golf course. It demonstrates how suburban environments can evolve to restore ecological balance, foster community engagement, and respond to climate challenges—offering a hopeful blueprint for the future.

Project cover image: Project cover image: Underpass Visualization.  
On this page: Speculative Timeline.

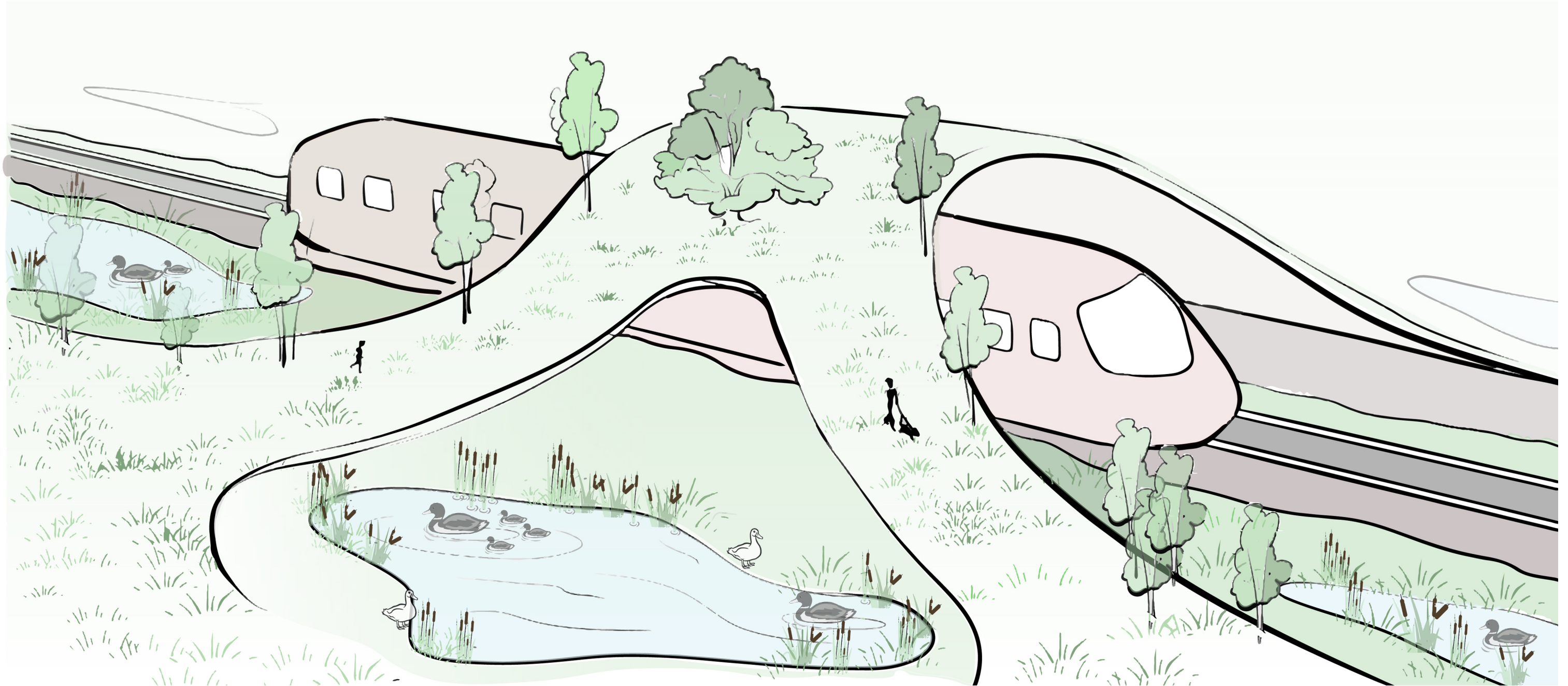
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These visualizations explore strategies for reintegrating ecological and social connectivity into suburban landscapes. **Overpass and Underpass Sections** demonstrate how curved forms and native vegetation support safe wildlife crossings while blending into the terrain. A **Bird's Eye View of Nose Hill Overpass** illustrates the reconnection of Nose Hill Park to Confederation Park through a green overpass that prioritizes biodiversity and human mobility. The **Isometric View of a Green Corridor** shows the design of pedestrian-friendly, biodiverse streetscapes. The **Laneway and Green Corridor** visualization envisions suburban densification alongside habitat restoration, showcasing a future where communities and nature thrive together. A **Bird's Eye View of Confederation Wetlands Park** reimagines Confederation Park Golf Course as a resilient infrastructure designed in light of climate change impacts and related growing need for improved water management and proactive flood mitigation strategies to protect the city and its communities. Select visual elements in this project were generated using Photoshop AI Generative Fill tool to explore speculative and atmospheric representations, integrated alongside analog and digital design methods.



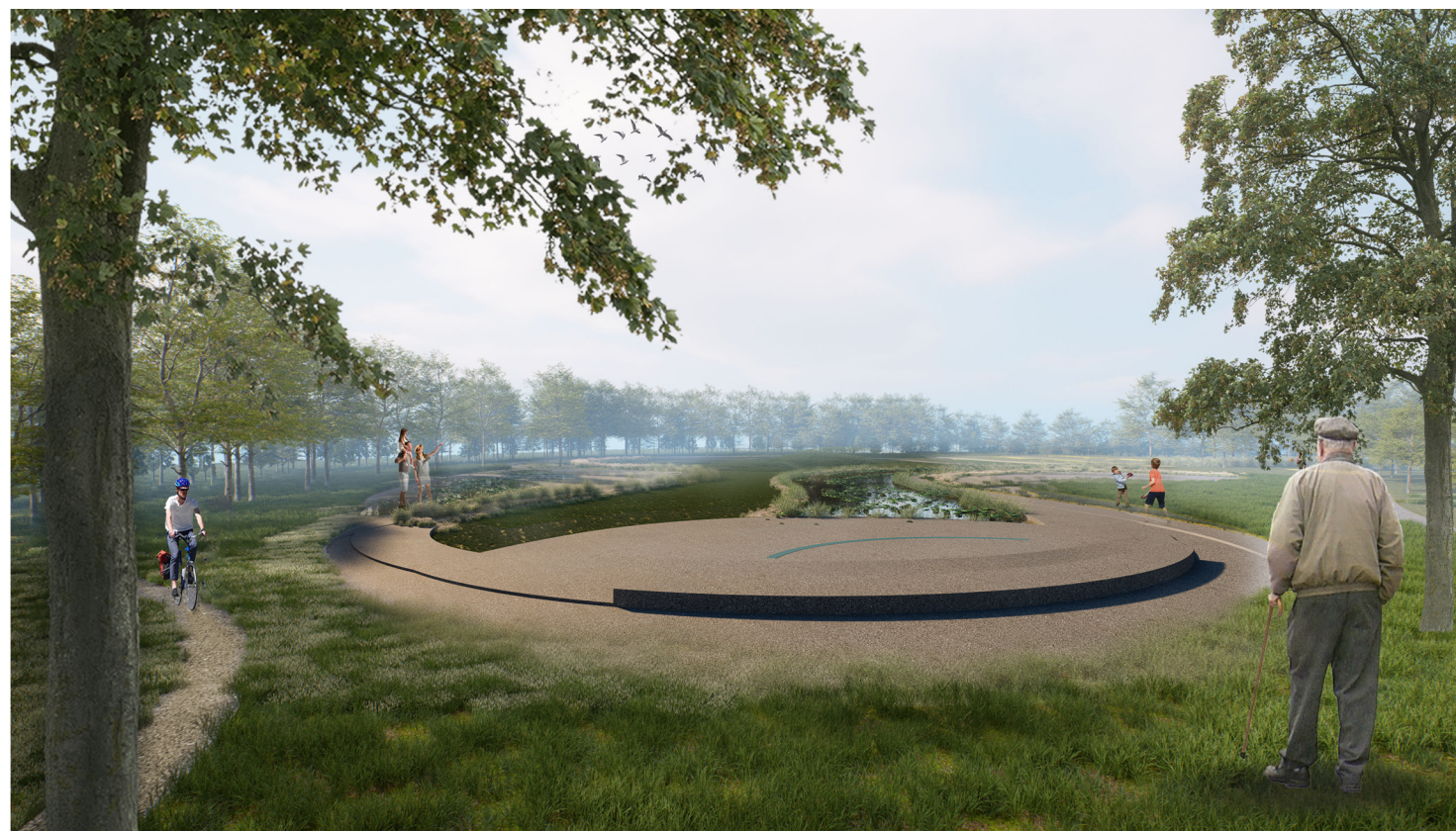


**Country/City** Canada / Calgary  
**University / School** University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape  
**Academic year** 2023-2024  
**Title of the project** Green Veins. Integrating Wetlands into Urban Fabric  
**Authors** Danayit Getachew









The **Plan View** presents the envisioned program taking shape through a new morphology that utilizes designed landforms integrated into the existing topography and planting strategies to facilitate ecological connectivity, enhance scenic values, and provide new recreational and landscape enjoyment experiences. **Project Scenarios'** perspective views showcase the Eco-Bridge crossing over the future Light Rail Transit Green Line infrastructure and the wetland environment, along with the open sitting area and a scenery from trails along the Bow River.



Master Plan

This project proposes transforming McKnight Blvd NW and Brisbois Dr NW into vibrant greenspaces, uncovering the historic Confederation Creek. Currently, these roads act as barriers, separating communities due to high traffic volumes. The project aims to achieve the following:



Bringing People Together

These repurposed green spaces foster social connections among nearby communities, providing valuable opportunities for people to meet and mingle. Existing bike paths are integrated into the design, promoting walkability and cycling.



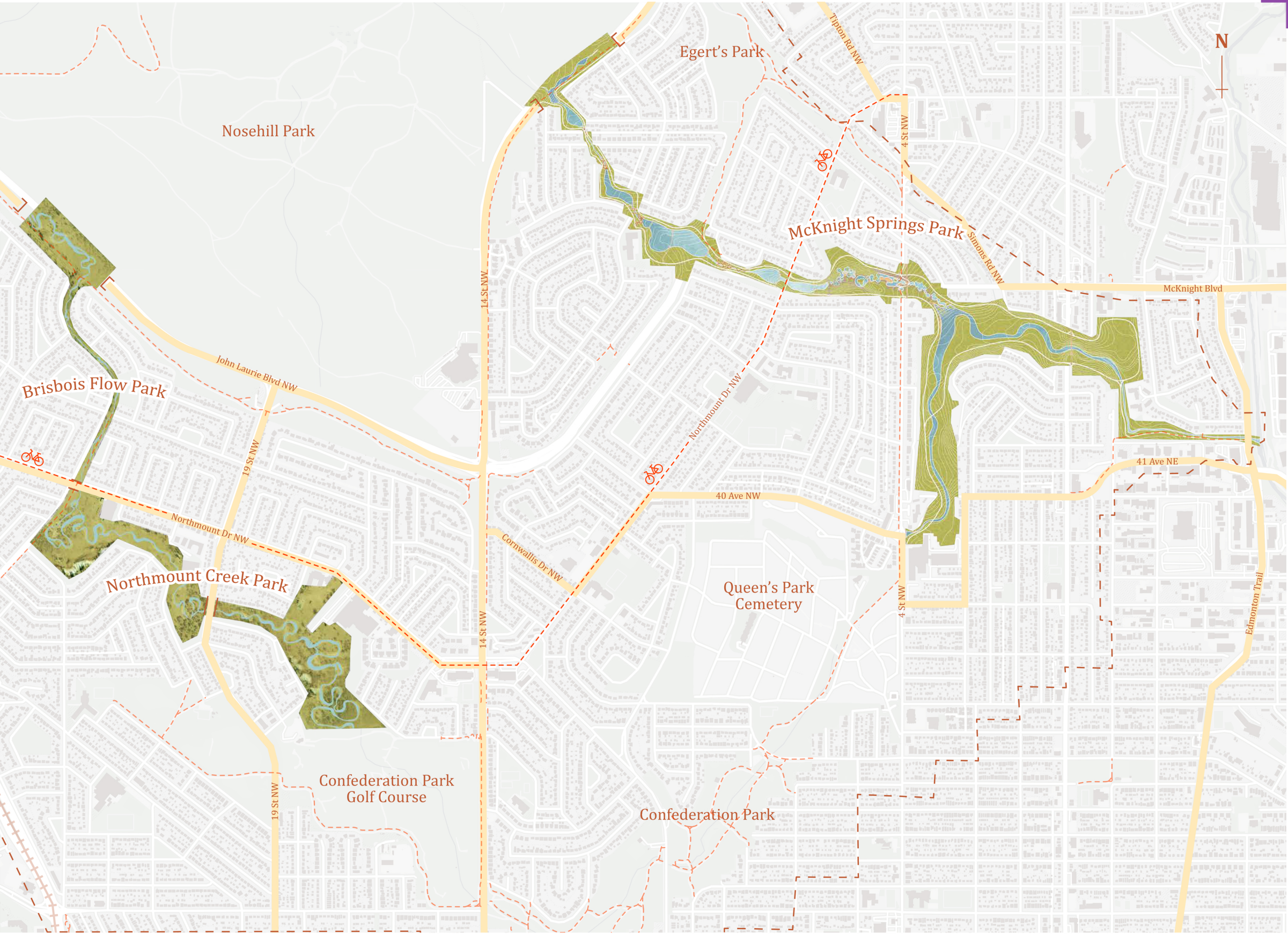
Treat Surface Runoff

The project incorporates innovative stormwater management systems, slowing and retaining water during daily use and storm events. This process effectively removes impurities from surface runoff, ensuring cleaner water discharges into Nose Creek and ultimately, the Bow River.



Safe Contact with Water

By daylighting the creek system, exposing clean groundwater, the project creates dynamic, ever-changing environments where people can engage with and appreciate water. This unique design fosters timeless moments of connection and wonder.



Country/City	Canada / Calgary
University / School	University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Academic year	2024-2025
Title of the project	Flowing Nice and Slow. Breaking Barriers and Fostering Community
Authors	Bryan Tan



Title of the project	Flowing Nice and Slow. Breaking Barriers and Fostering Community
Authors	Bryan Tan
Title of the course	Landscape Architecture Studio III — Advanced
Academic year	2024-2025
Teaching Staff	Tawab Hlimi
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Calgary / School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape



**Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words**

“Flowing Nice and Slow: Breaking Barriers and Fostering Community” is a large-scale master plan focused on daylighting Calgary’s historical Confederation Creek as an ecological infrastructure capable of restoring landscape connectivity, adapting the watershed to climate change projections of more intense storm events and development pressures, and providing new water-based recreational opportunities. The design reintroduces a breathing waterbody into the suburban realm, replacing divisive roads with green spaces around a moving creek system. At the city scale, McKnight Springs Park reimagines McKnight Boulevard NW as a green catchment for stormwater, transforming it into a people-first spine that slows water through dams and weirs. Throughout the watershed, bioretention systems intercept and filter road runoff, while diverse pools double as interactive features and infiltration zones, easing pressure on the Bow River.

The project enriches the human experience through sound and touch. Elevated mesh-boardwalks at pinch points bring people close to the creek’s soothing flow, fostering intimate connections with one another and the landscape. Safe spaces to immerse in filtered water evoke peace and serenity right within the neighbourhood.

The pool designs offer experiences for all: shaded Enclosed Pools invite quiet reflection beneath poplar canopies, while Sun Pools maximize warmth and openness in the south. Transitional weirs enhance water aeration and provide gentle surfaces to rest and explore. With adaptive design that responds to freeze, drought, and flood, and resilient elements like sandstone paving and lush planting, the landscape thrives through extremes—fostering nature-rich community connection and setting a bold precedent for prairie cities.

Project cover image: Master Plan Goals and Top View.  
On this page: McKnight Springs Park; Sun pools.

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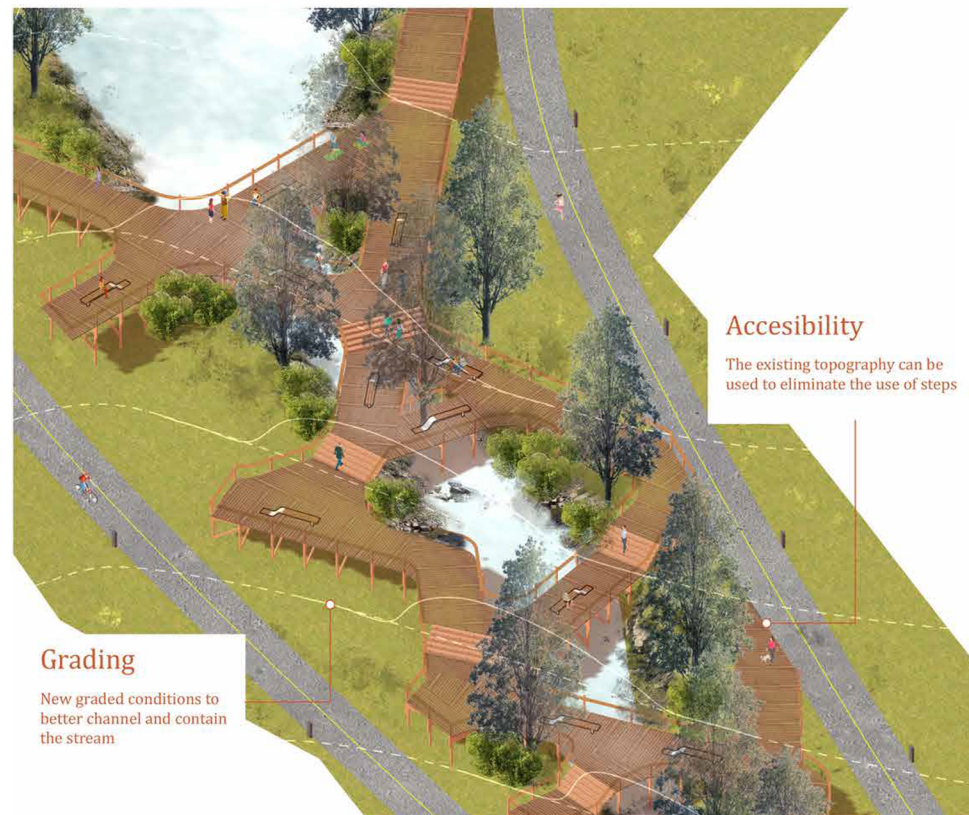
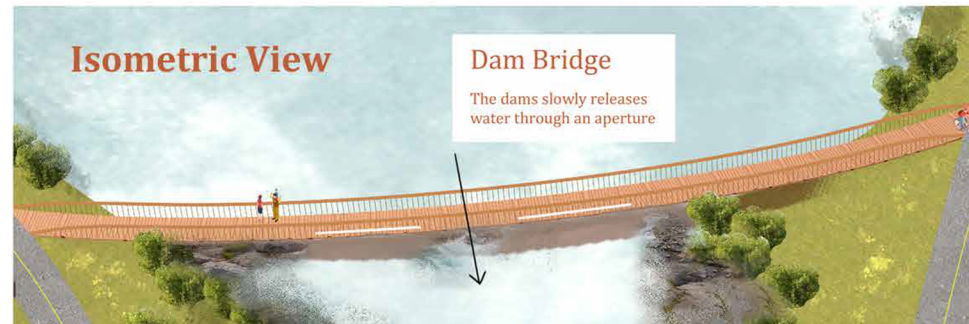
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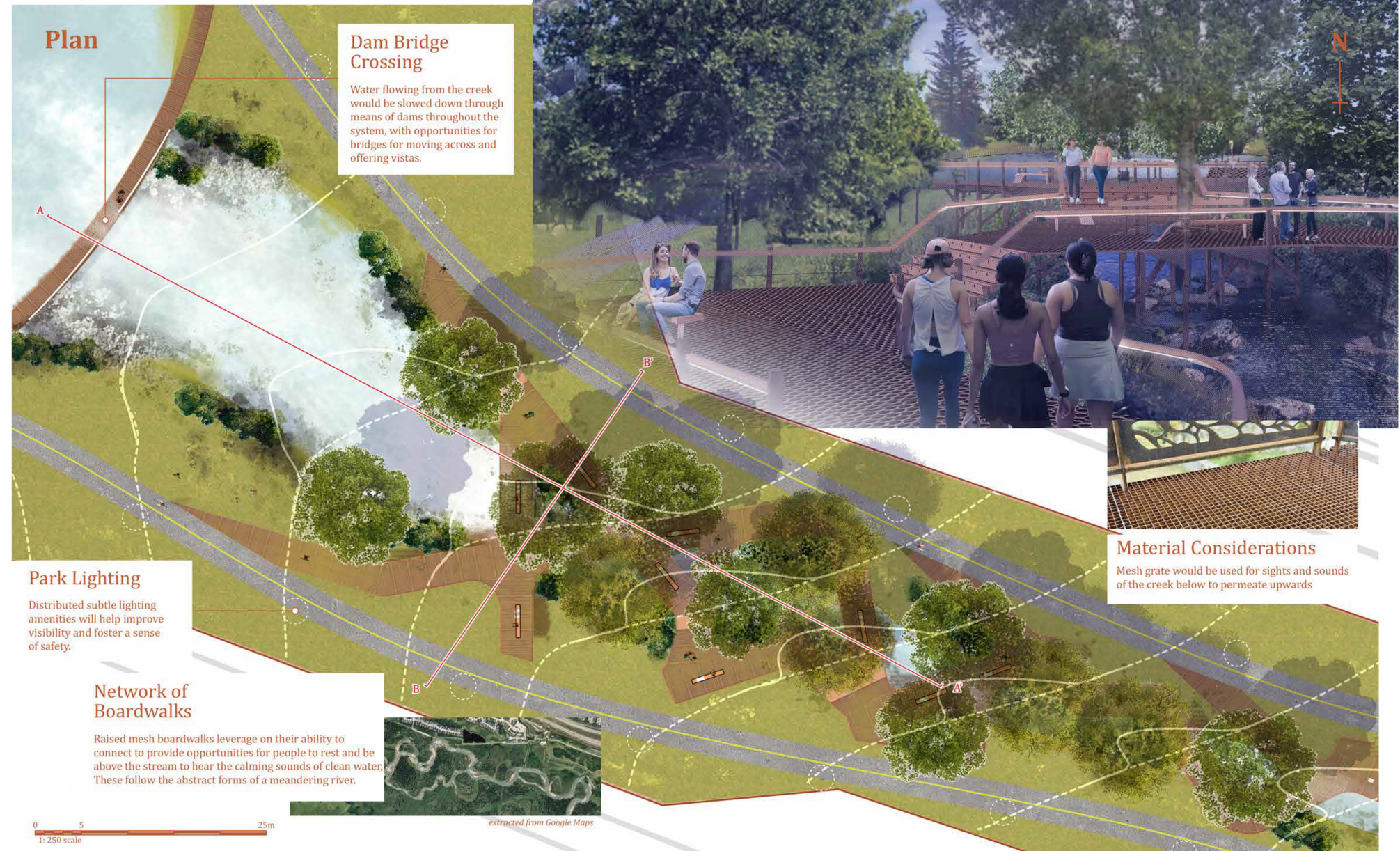


## Medium A - Hear

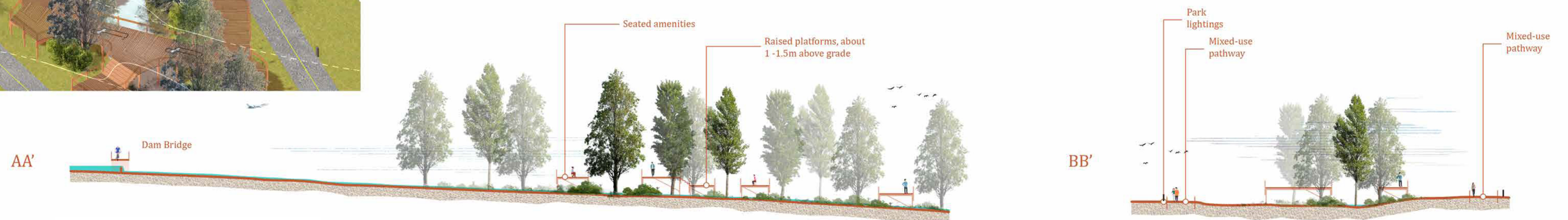
Nested between two sections of North Haven community, a narrow space where a daylighted creek flows presents a unique opportunity. A raised boardwalk can be envisioned, physically linking both creek banks and fostering a sense of connection. Integrated seating areas will encourage social interaction and community building. As the stream flows beneath the boardwalks, visitors will delight in the gentle sounds of trickling water and enjoy stunning views of the McKnight Springs valley.



0 5 25m  
1: 250 scale



## Sections



As part of a holistic approach, in replacing McKnight Blvd with a living and breathing green space within the Confederation Creek watershed, the master plan takes place over multiple scales. Within this 'Medium-A' portion, the design leverages on the pinch points created by the boundaries designated by the existing suburban layout to envision a communal space where people between residential communities could come together and interact, in addition to appreciating the sights and sounds of being above a living creek upon a permeable mesh boardwalk that bends around poplar trees.

A raised boardwalk threads through North Haven's McKnight Springs valley, inviting visitors to immerse in nature's rhythms while ensuring accessibility and safety. Thoughtfully designed elements—like the dam bridge, park lighting, and touchpoints with the flowing creek—transform everyday passage into a shared sensory experience.