



Fig 1 Wakarusa River Corridor in Eudora.

# Wakarusa River Corridor Design Development

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Landscape Architecture Kansas State University



Fig 2 Save the Wakarusa River Valley Drawing



# Acknowledgements

This studio project is developed in collaboration with Douglas County, Kansas and Biohabitats Inc.

Thank you to the sponsors of this project: Biohabitats Inc. and Douglas County, Kansas.



Fig 3 Biohabitats company logo.

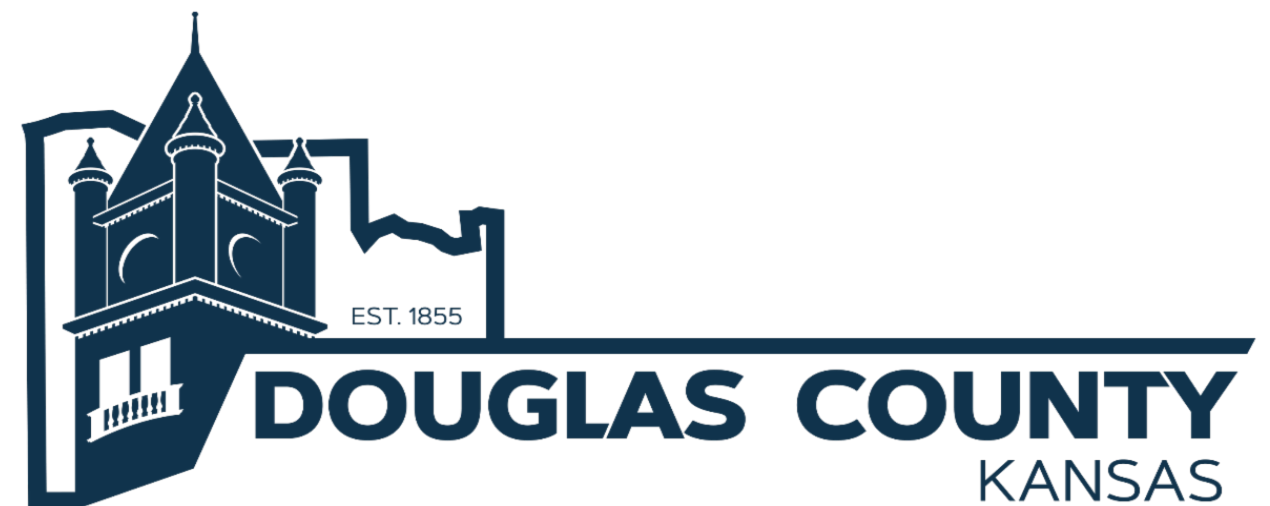


Fig 4 Douglas County, Kansas company logo.



Fig 5 Baker Wetlands and Discovery Center.



# Acknowledgements

During the research and analysis process of this studio project, we've come to learn more about the Native and Indigenous populations who hunt, trade, and partake in ceremonies within the Wakarusa River Corridor and their efforts to utilize the land with sustainability at the forefront of mind. "We acknowledge the Native and Indigenous populations and honor their historical and continued kinship with the land, water, and living and non-living relatives within the place we now call Kansas. Their presence in Kansas has been complex and includes the stewardship of their ancestral and traditional homelands, being displaced here due to resettlement, or traveling through this region due to forced removal" (University of Kansas 2025). We acknowledge the Native and Indigenous populations' commitment to preserving the land and water of this region as we continue research and design implementations.



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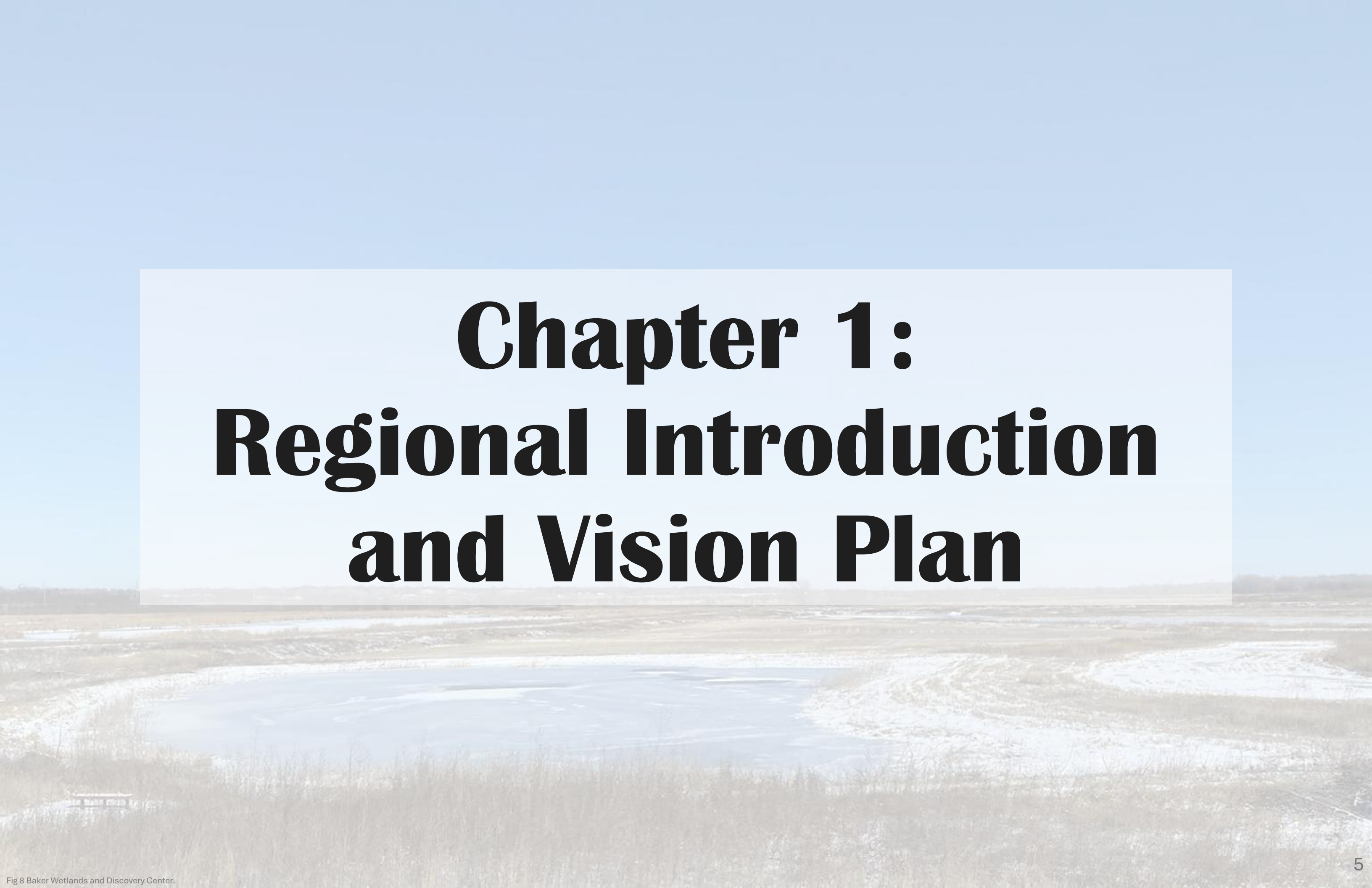
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# **Chapter 1: Regional Introduction and Vision Plan**



# Introduction and Vision Statement

## Introduction:

After careful inventory analysis and synthesis of the Wakarusa River Corridor, we were tasked with creating a Vision Plan. This plan should produce a “long-term, aspirational, and comprehensive spatial strategy that outlines a community’s desired future state,” that considers the Ecological, River, and Social aspects of the site. The Ecology Vision Plan should communicate how to maximize connectivity, ecosystem services, and the overall biodiversity. The River Vision Plan should convey how the corridor is utilized in response to flooding/drought and how to “proactively manage water resources for ecological and human needs.” Finally, the Social explains how to “create inclusive, accessible and usable places” to easily interact with nature and other communities within the Wakarusa Corridor area.

Fig 9 Baker Wetlands and Discovery Center.

## Vision Statement:

Our proposal for the Vision Plan of the Wakarusa River Corridor highlights the reconnection and preservation of ecological systems, the engagement between people, the connectivity from humans to the landscape, and the respect and understanding of the Wakarusa River floodplain. The combination of these ideas aims to better preserve the culture, character, and beautiful landscapes of Douglas County which are goals that work in tandem with the Douglas County Open Space Plan.



# Goals and Objectives

Rehabilitate and preserve natural landscapes and ecological systems in the Wakarusa River Corridor.

- Maintain and create wildlife corridors in human developed areas to sustain habitats.
- Restore fragmented ecosystem corridors by maintaining and reintroducing native plantings.
- Advocate and design for infill development and a slow expansion of urbanism in Lawrence and Eudora.

Establish connections within the various communities in the Wakarusa River Corridor.

- Preserve and promote historic and cultural sites.
- Promote community connections through new developments within the cities
- Educate people about all the previous communities and cultures that have resided on this land through public engagement.

Connect the various communities to the natural landscape without destroying ecology or culture.

- Create trails in natural landscapes while maintaining ecological health.
- Connect natural environments to the cities by increasing access across highways.
- Install signage in natural areas to educate visitors about culture and natural systems.

Respect the Wakarusa River Corridor floodplain.

- Ensure that all design interventions within the FEMA 100-year floodplain can withstand flood events.
- Repair riparian buffer ecosystems through native plantings.
- Allow the Wakarusa River to maintain its floodplain (point bars and cutbanks) without channelization.



# River Vision

The River Vision for the regional-scale Wakarusa River Corridor includes repairing sparse riparian buffers with native plantings. The wastewater treatment plant on the site will also be made into a community space with wetland terraces and plants.



Fig 10  
Basalt River Restoration is an award-winning project showcasing the riparian buffer and how it connects humans and nature to one another.



Fig 11  
Mill River Park and Greenway shows the revitalization of habitats along the riparian buffer and the connection of human centered trails.

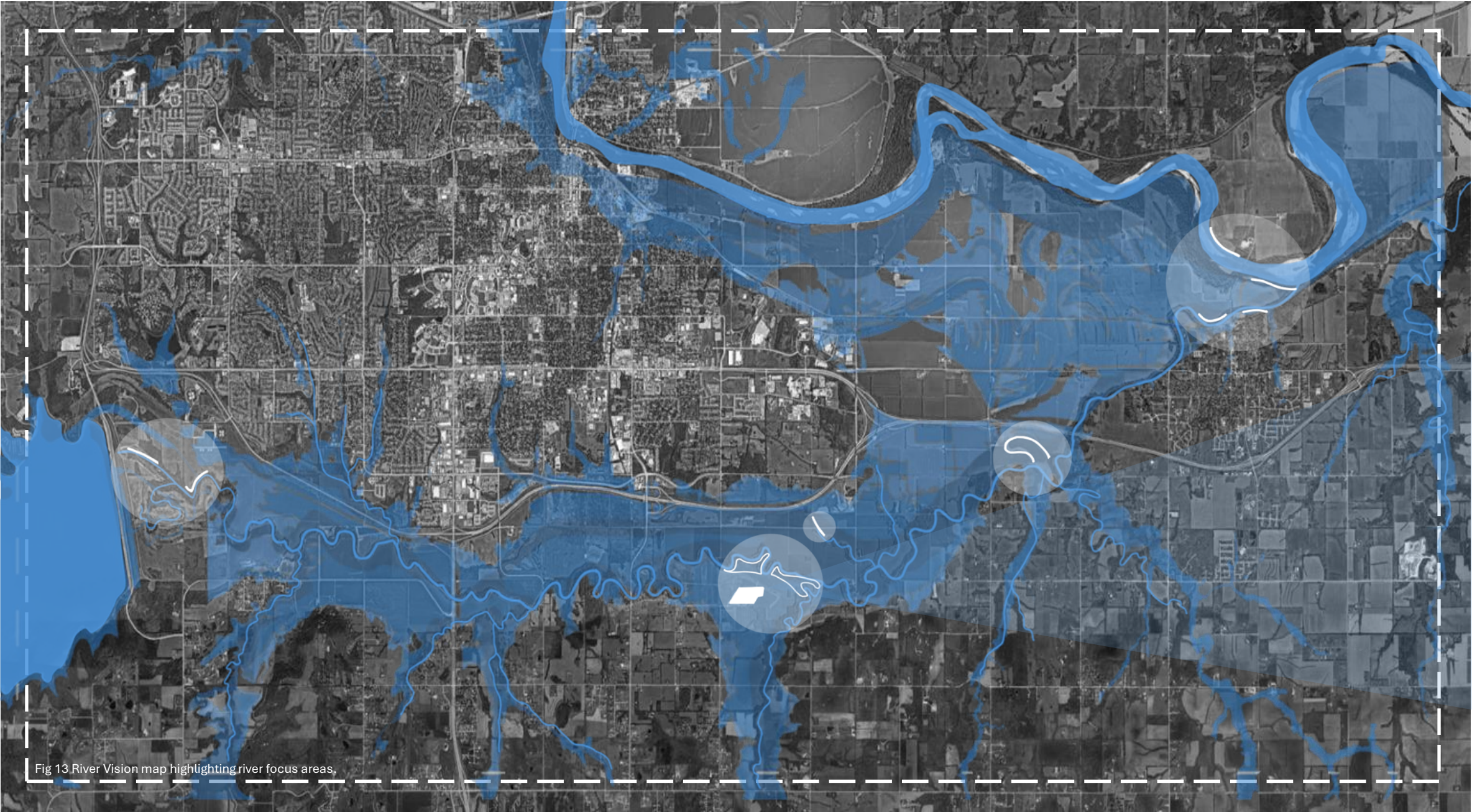


Fig 13 River Vision map highlighting river focus areas.

- 100-year Floodplain
- FEMA Floodway
- River Focus Area
- 500-year Floodplain
- Existing Waterways
- Proposed Riparian Buffer

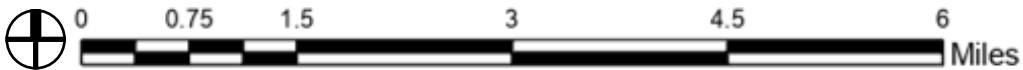


Fig 12  
The Handan Wastewater Purification Terraces is a reclaimed ecological take on a wastewater treatment plant to introduce human interaction and bring back ecological connections.



# Ecological Vision

The Ecological Vision for the regional-scale Wakarusa River Corridor includes connecting fragmented ecosystems with native plantings. These connections will be on grade and underneath highways to not disrupt human development and allow corridors for wildlife travel.

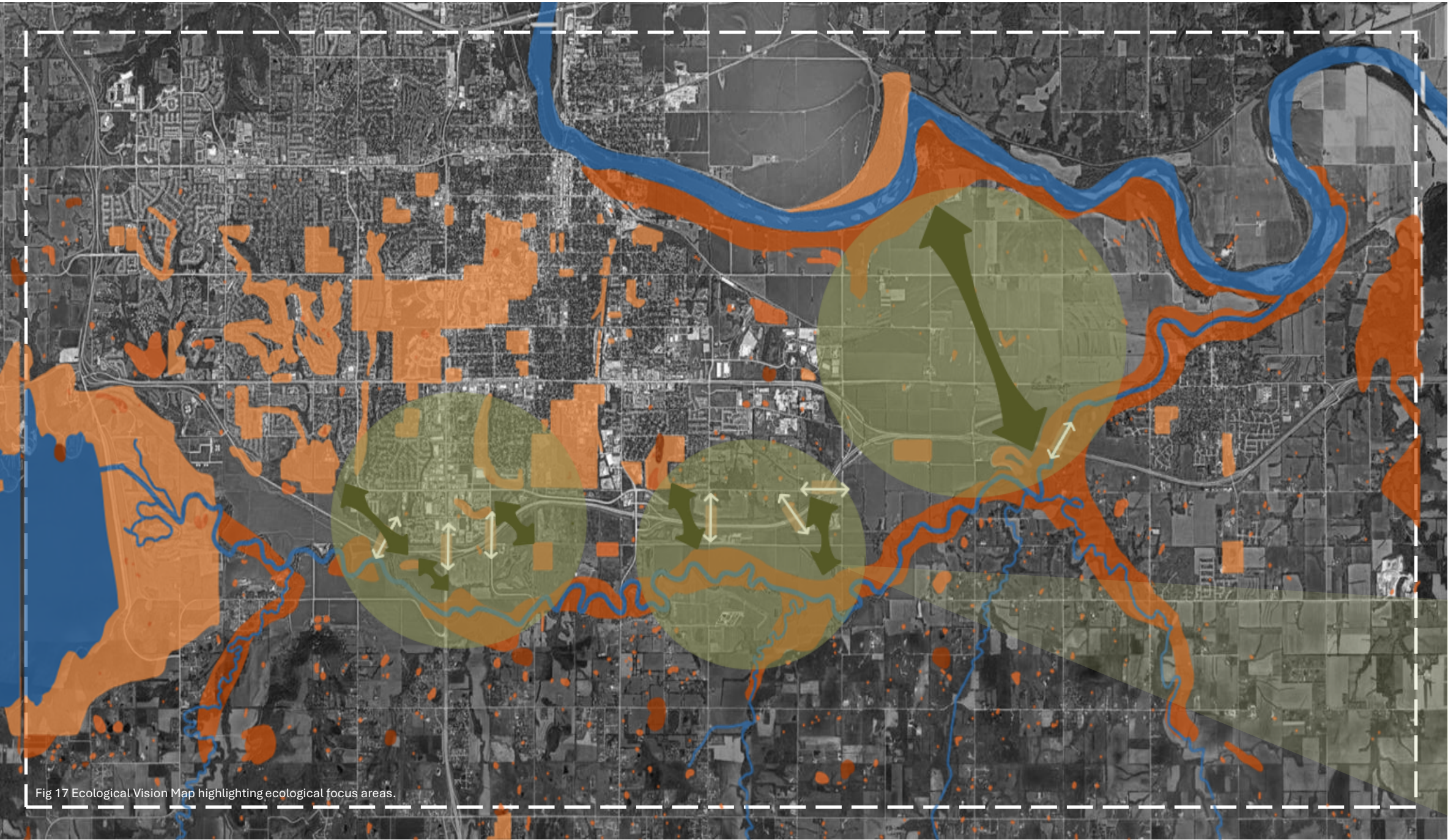


Fig 17 Ecological Vision Map highlighting ecological focus areas.



Fig 14



Fig 15

New Provincial Connection N69 shows ways of creating highways in urban environments while still encouraging underpass landscapes with rivers and agriculture.



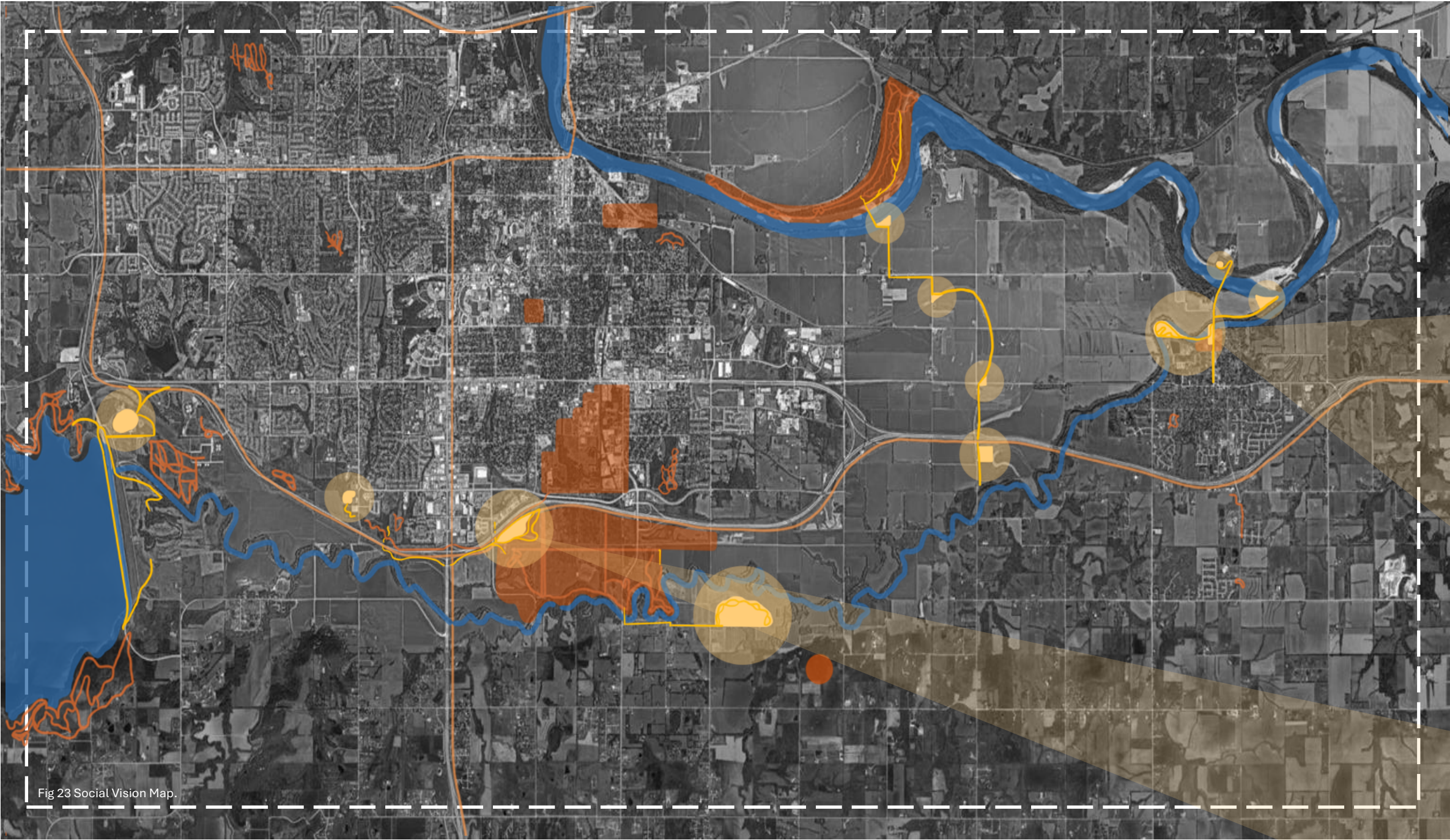
Fig 16

Bendway Park features multiple different types of ecosystems in one relative area. In this project they connect these ecosystems through native corridors to increase plant and animal health and safety.



# Social Vision

The Social Vision for the regional-scale Wakarusa River Corridor includes connecting existing trail systems together and to proposed social gathering spaces. These social spaces will be hubs for community engagement and historic education with signage on the trails along the way.



- Existing Highways
- Existing Waterways
- Social Focus Area
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Social Space
- Proposed Trails
- Existing Historic/Cultural/Social Sites



Fig 18

Lawrence and Eudora Existing Trail Signage about local animals and plants.



Fig 19

The Olana Strategic Landscape Design Plan shows how to turn a historical site into a social hub for education and connection.



Fig 20



Fig 21

The Common Ground Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park shows community programming through events in social spaces.

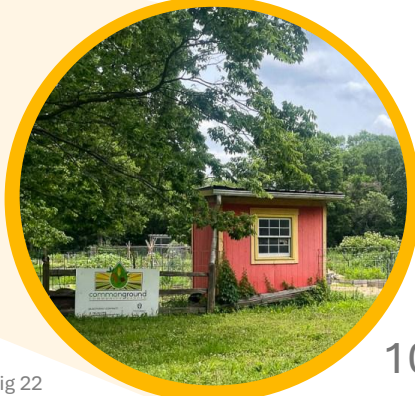
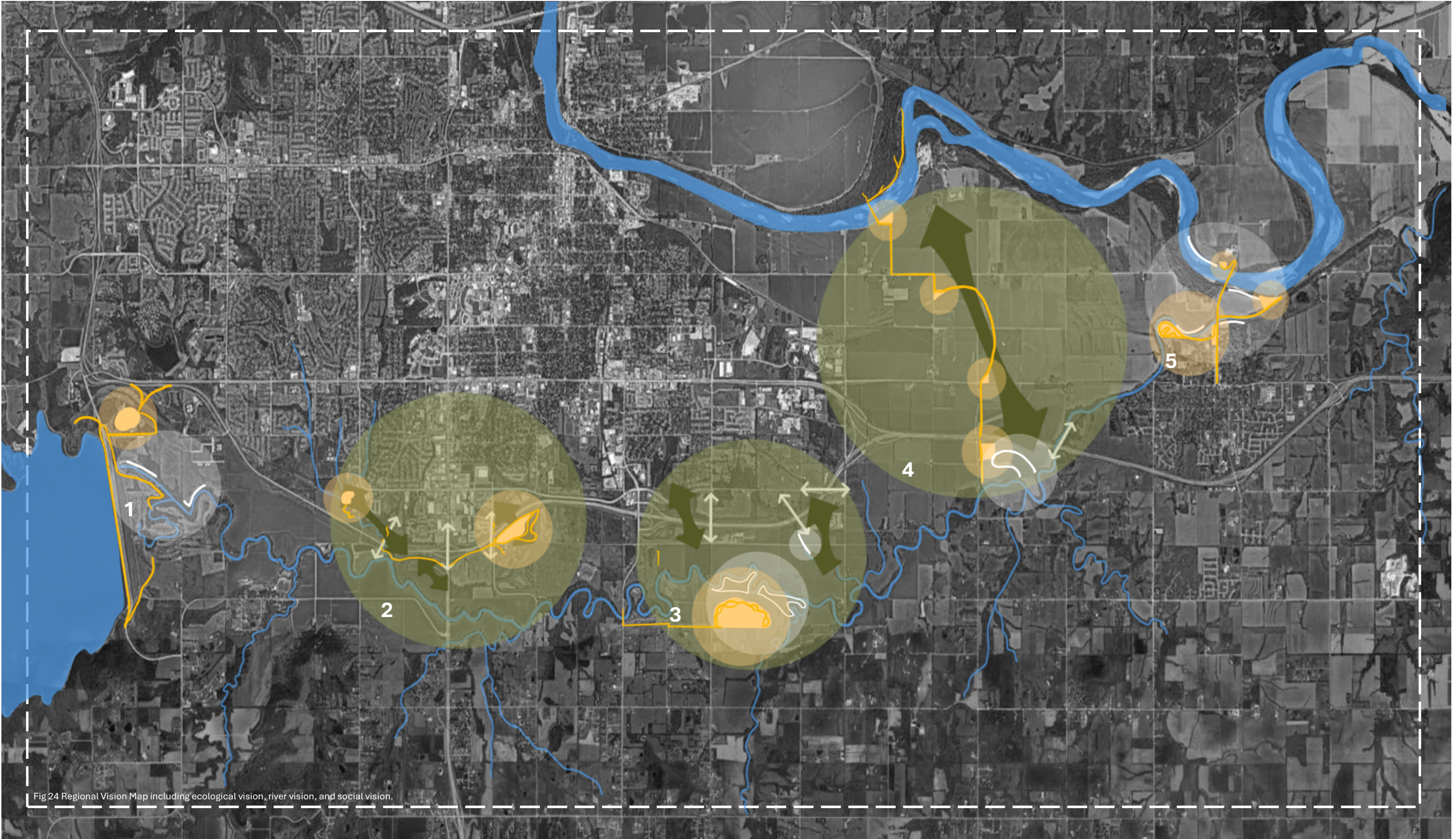


Fig 22



# Regional-Scale Vision



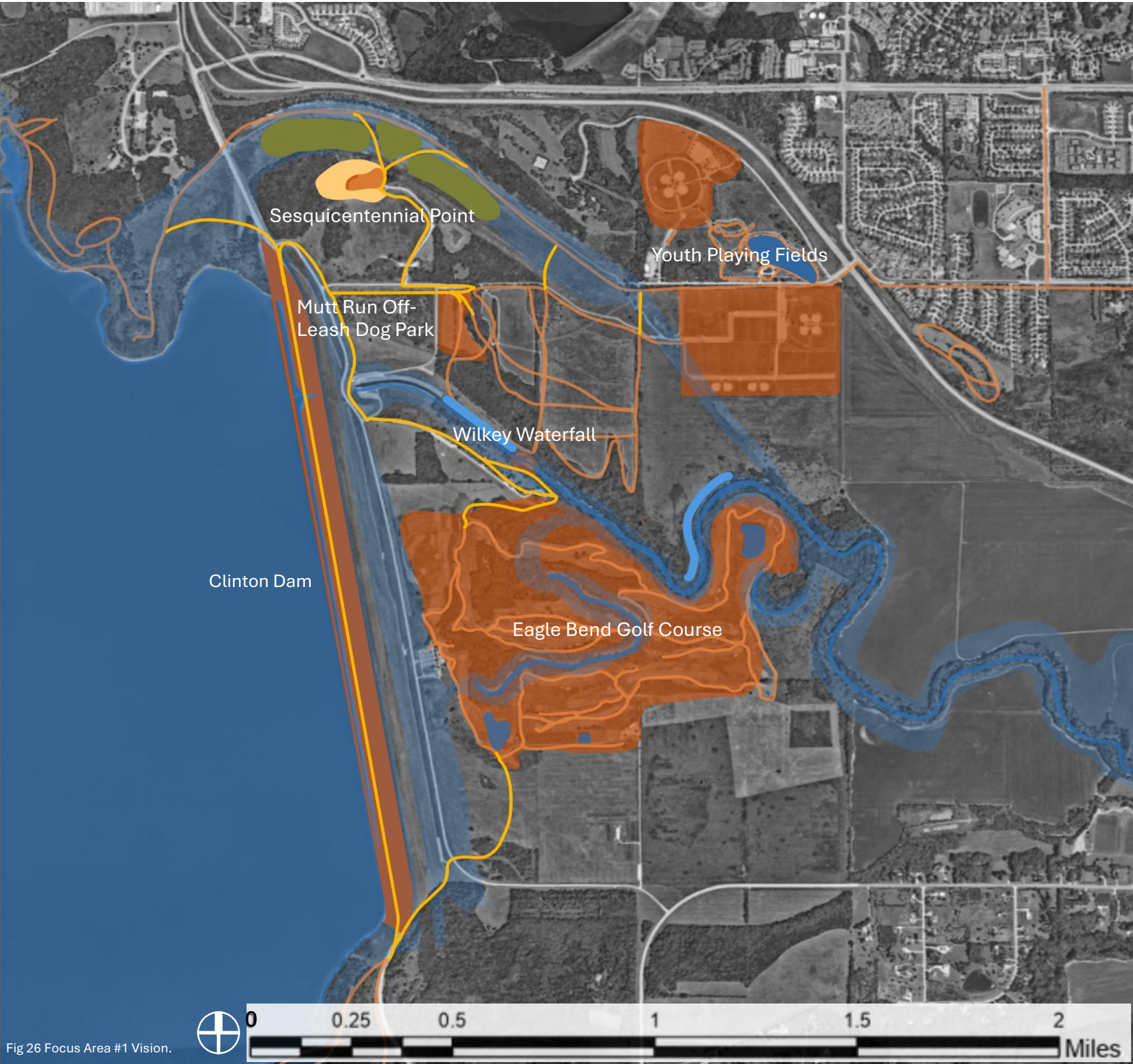




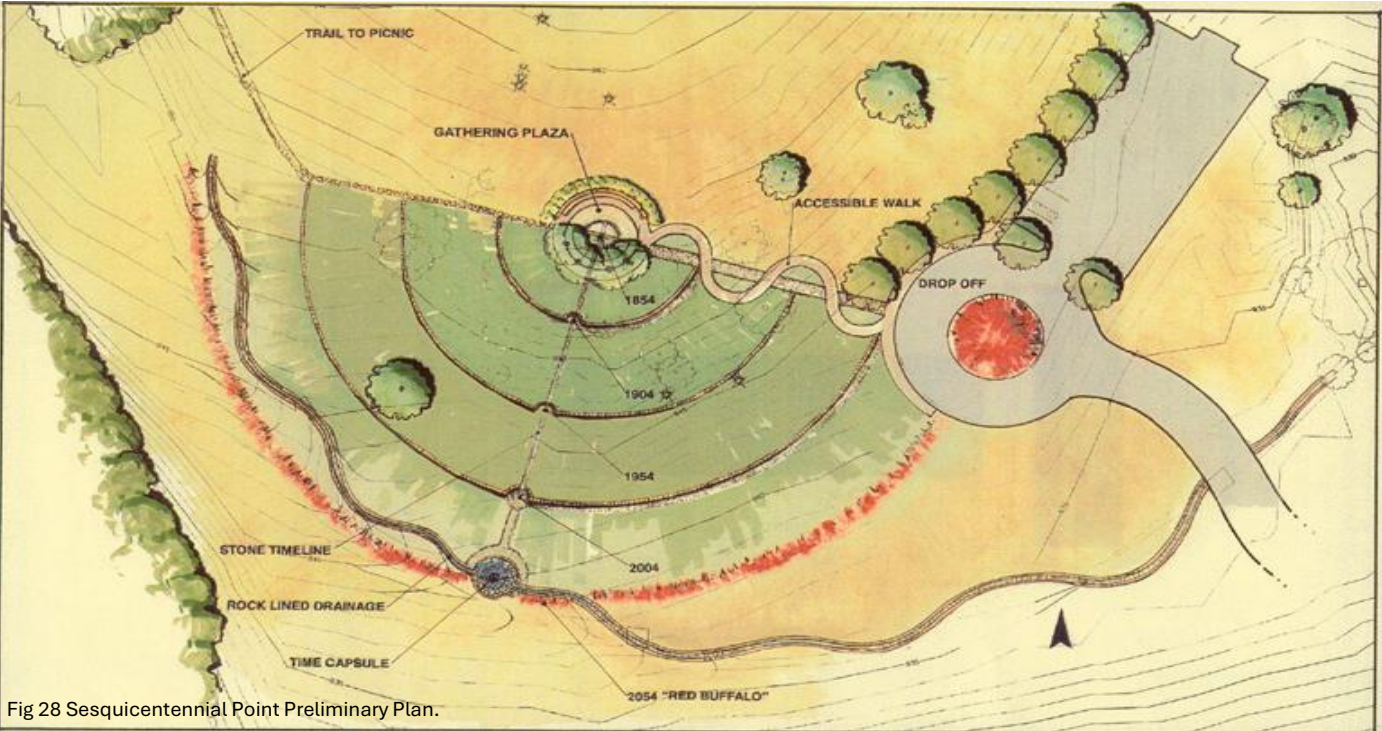
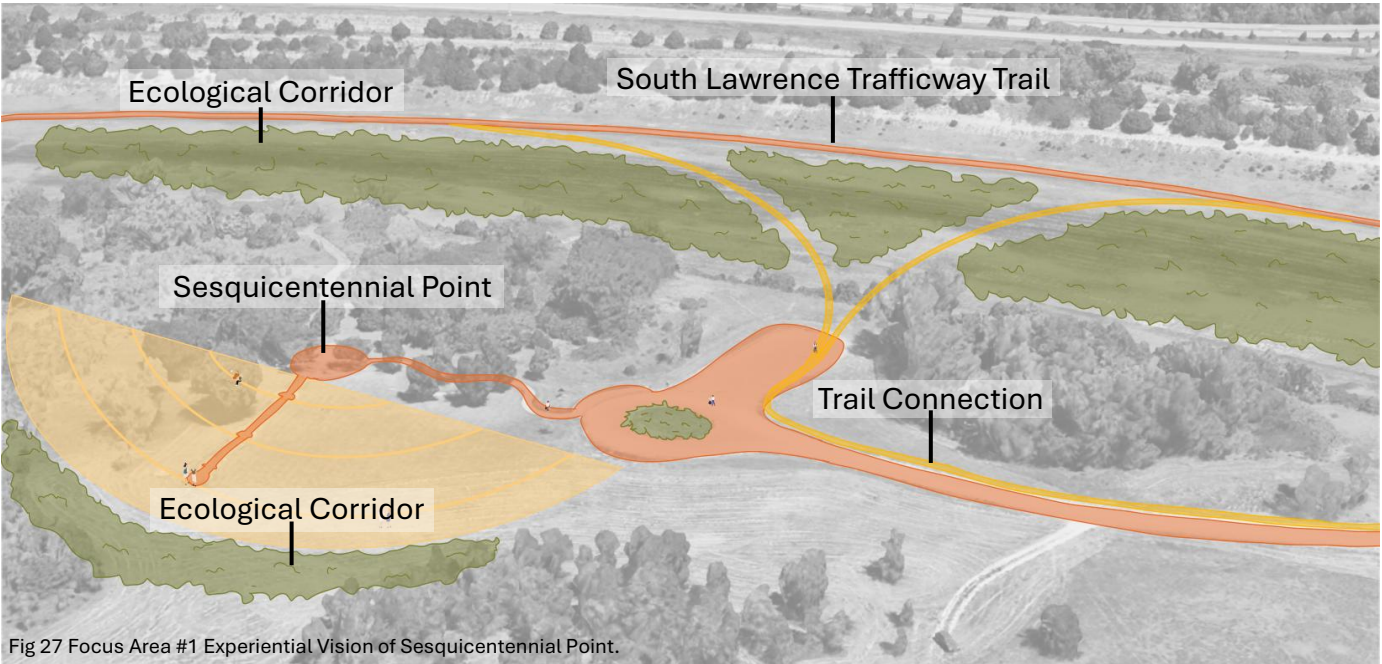
# **Chapter 2: Focus Area Vision Plans**



# Recreational Revitalization Focus Area #1



- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Social Space
- Proposed Riparian Buffer
- FEMA 100-year Floodplain
- Existing Waterways
- Proposed Ecological Corridor



With this focus area we want to connect the trails north of and within the Eagle Bend Golf Course to the trails surrounding Clinton Lake. The trails will highlight the Wilkey Waterfall, a natural destination, and the historic and cultural space, Sesquicentennial Point. We aim to revitalize the space and bring it back to its originally planned state by adding vegetation and social spaces. We want to connect the Sesquicentennial Point to the South Lawrence Trafficway Trail to the North. In addition, we want to add more vegetation near these trails and around sparse riparian buffers.



# Bringing Nature Back Focus Area #2

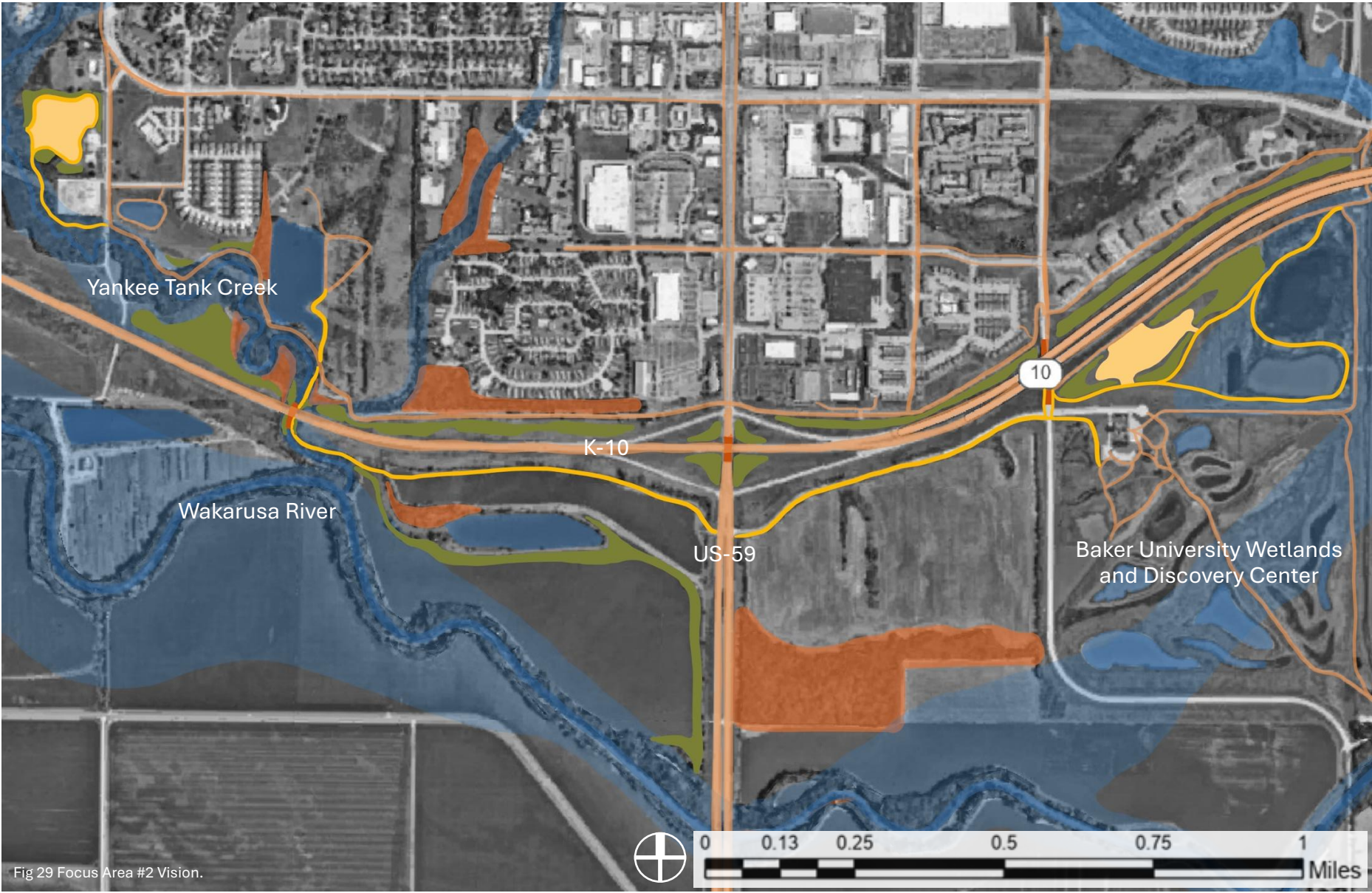


Fig 29 Focus Area #2 Vision.

- Existing Roadways and Trails
- Existing Ecology
- Proposed Ecological Corridor
- Existing Underpass
- FEMA 100-year Floodplain
- Existing Waterways
- Proposed Social Space
- Proposed Trails

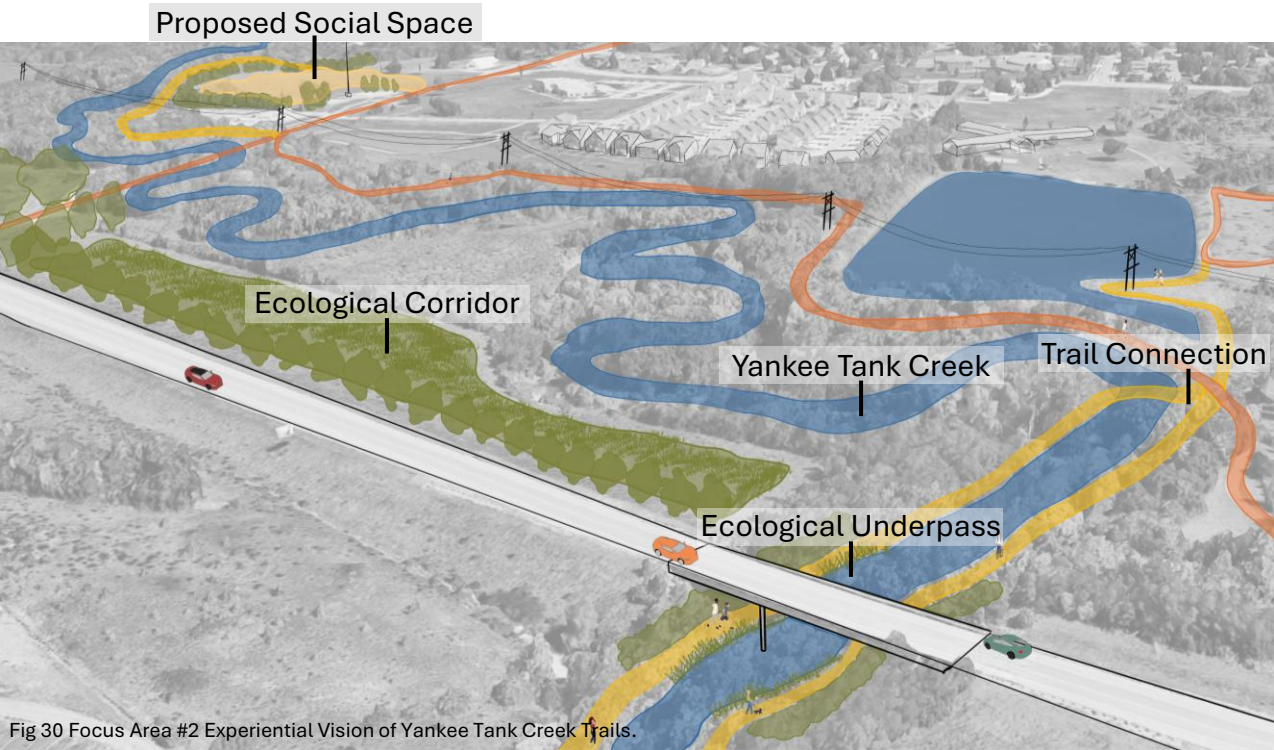


Fig 30 Focus Area #2 Experiential Vision of Yankee Tank Creek Trails.

With this focus area, we want to increase interactions between humans and the natural landscape by utilizing trails. We also want to make safer highway transportation for people and wildlife with the inclusion of ecological underpasses. This focus area is in the 100-year floodplain, so all infrastructure would be built to withstand flood events, and we would implement plantings to lessen flooding. Additionally, two proposed social spaces would encourage people to interact with nature through trail connection.



Fig 31  
Fil Bleu Glatt Regional Design.



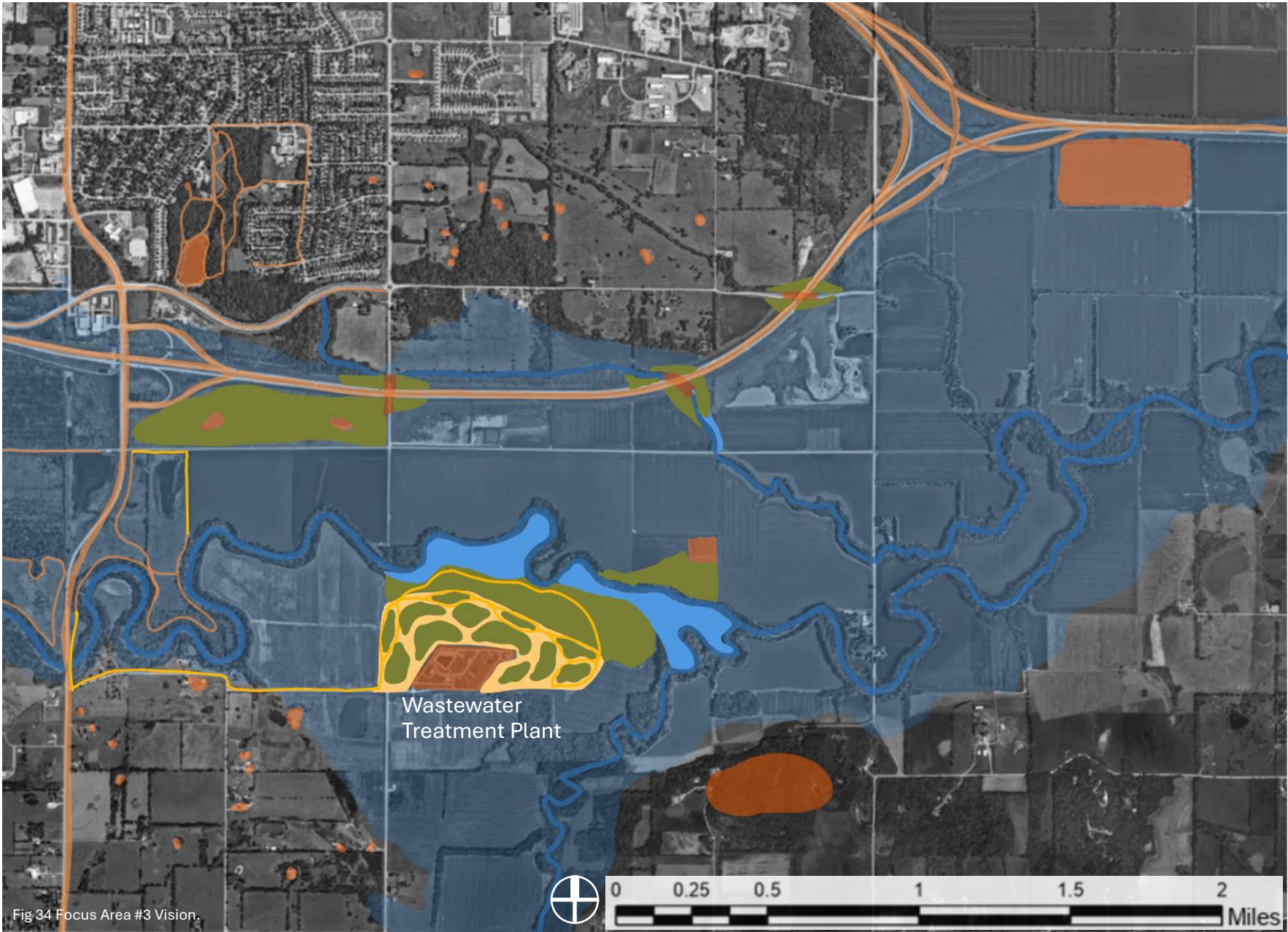
Fig 32  
Cherry Creek Trail.



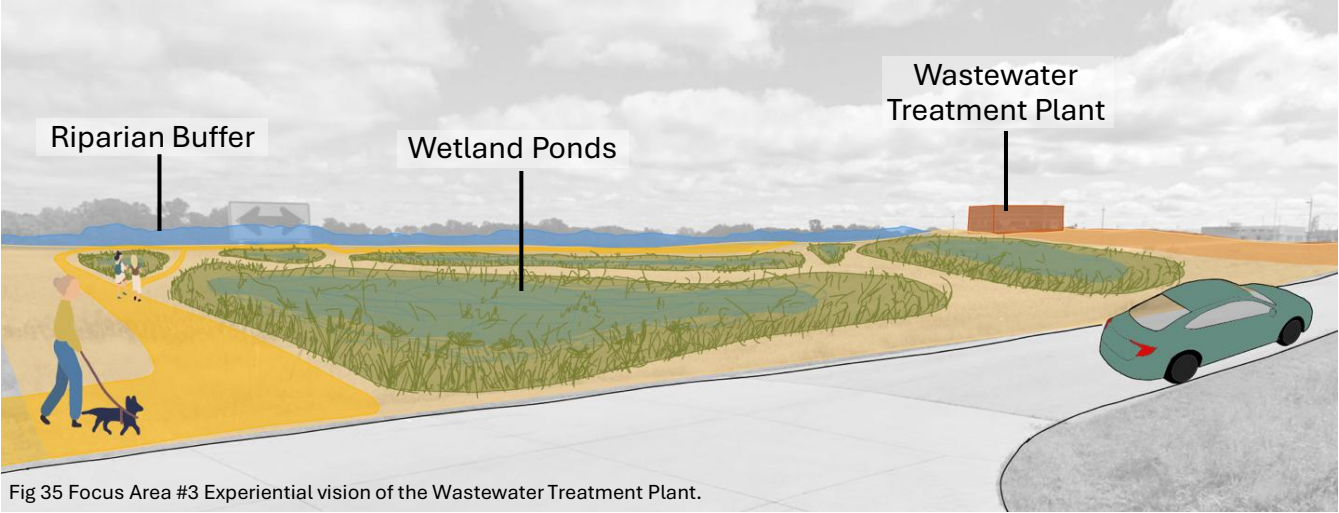
Fig 33  
Umea Campus Park.



# Community Landscape Restoration Focus Area #3



- |                              |                          |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Existing Roadways and Trails | Existing Underpass       | Proposed Social Space    |
| Existing Ecology             | FEMA 100-year Floodplain | Proposed Trails          |
| Proposed Ecological Corridor | Existing Waterways       | Proposed Riparian Buffer |

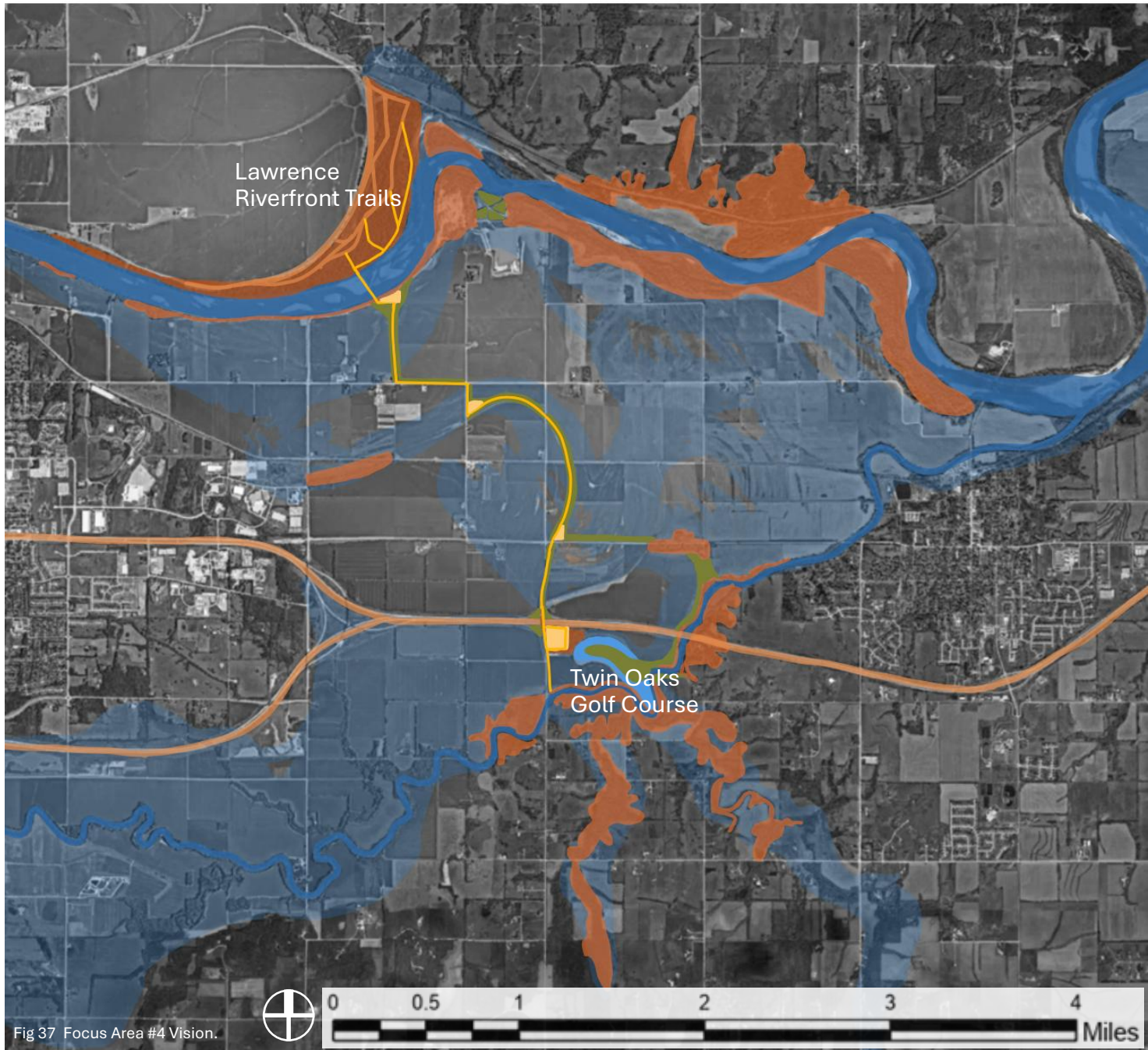


With this focus area we aim to highlight the Wastewater Treatment Plant by inviting the community to a more public space while utilizing trails and a natural wetland environment. The area would be more inviting with its aesthetics and native plants to combat the smell. The space is activated with trails connecting the city to more spaces along the river and into the public defined space. We also aim to connect the fragmented ecological spaces such as the forests and wetlands. As well as introducing green space within the underpasses of the highways to maintain a corridor for wildlife and ecological connections.

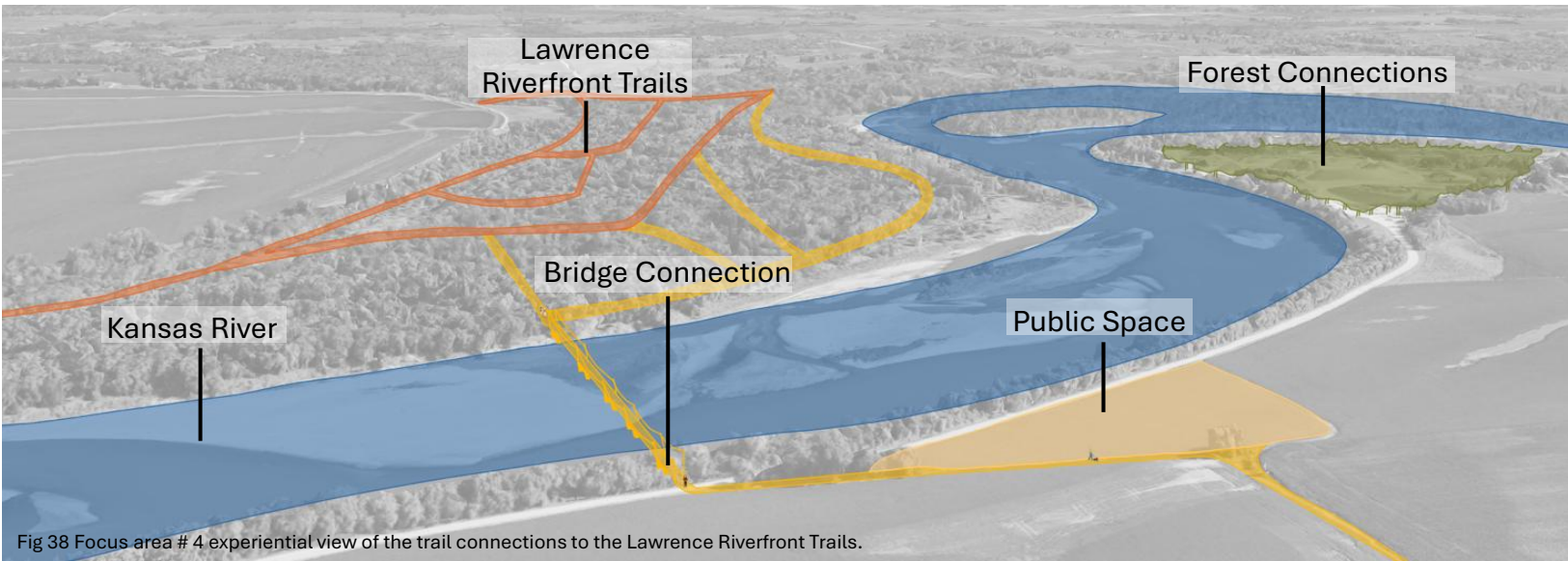


# Socio-Ecological Connections

## Focus Area #4



- Existing Roadways and Trails
- Existing Ecology
- Proposed Ecological Corridor
- Existing Underpass
- FEMA 100-year Floodplain
- Existing Waterways
- Proposed Social Space
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Riparian Buffer



With this focus area we aim to connect the Wakarusa River Corridor and the Kansas Rivers. We are proposing a trail system between the two rivers through the spaces in the agricultural land. Along this trail we propose public spaces to allow the community a place to gather and rest. By the Kansas River on the north end of the trail we wish to connect the proposed trail to the existing Lawrence Riverfront trails with a bridge spanning the Kansas river. We also propose ecological greenspaces to connect the fragmented forests and to provide a more relaxing environment along the trail which also acts as a shelter belt for the agricultural lands. We propose a larger riparian buffer and green ecosystem along the Wakarusa River Corridor near the public space on the Twin Oaks Golf Course to strengthen the ecological patterns.



Fig 39  
Bold Tram Bridge across the Kansas River.



Fig 40  
Accessible trail in the Dalby Soder Skog National Park .

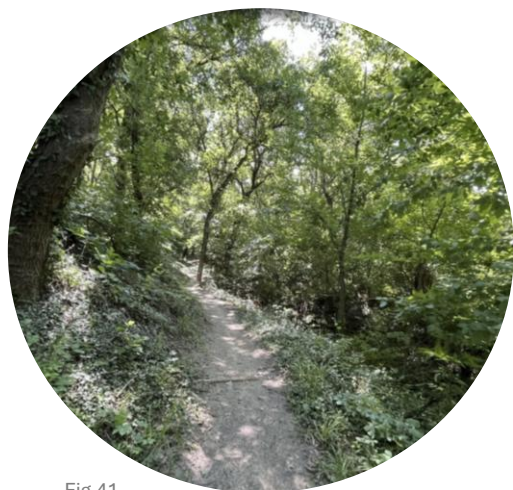


Fig 41  
Lawrence Levee Trail .



# Eudora River Access Focus Area #5

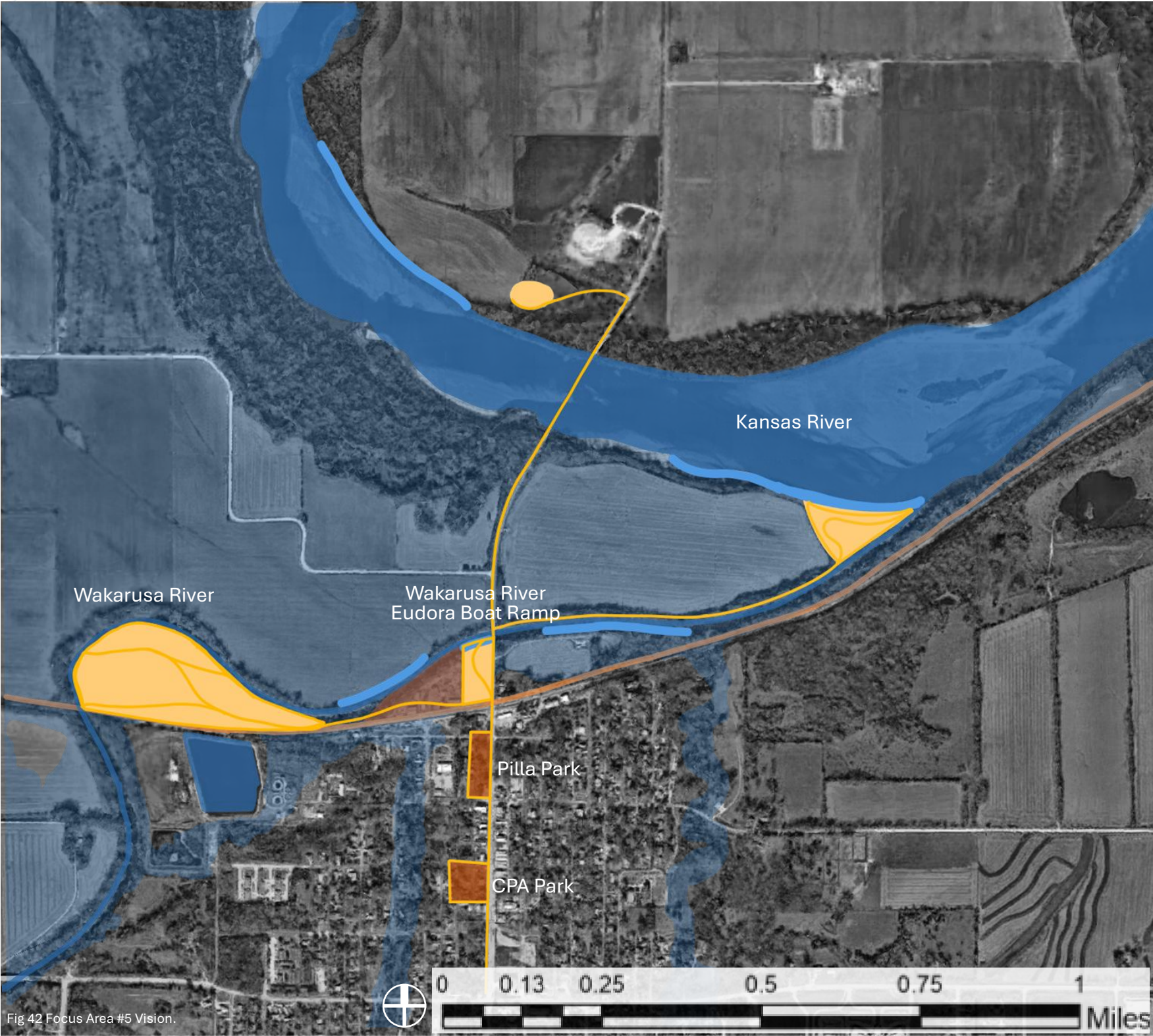


Fig 42 Focus Area #5 Vision.

- Existing Railroad
- Proposed Social Space
- FEMA 100-year Floodplain
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Riparian Buffer
- Existing Waterways

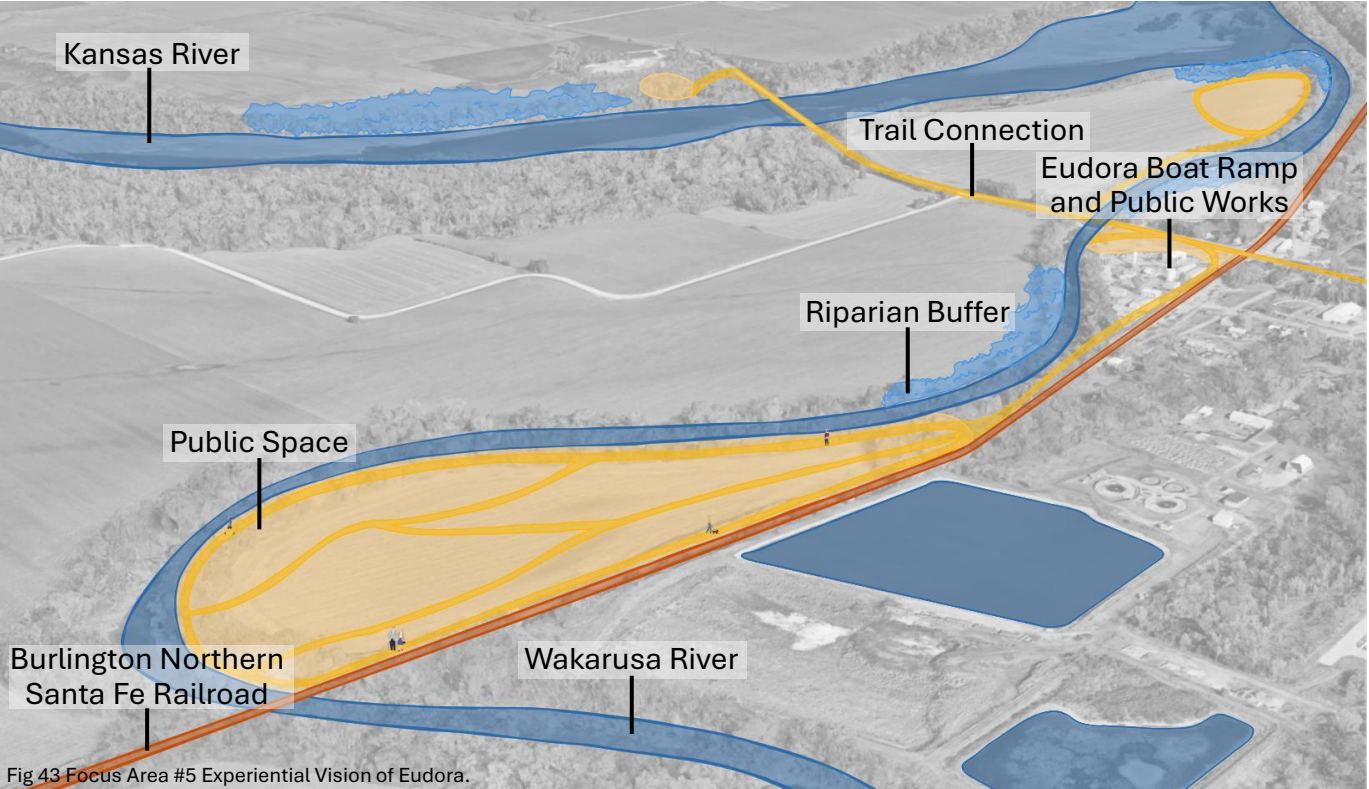


Fig 43 Focus Area #5 Experiential Vision of Eudora.



Fig 44 McCartney Boat Ramp.

In this focus area we want to increase public access to the Wakarusa and Kansas Rivers through public spaces. We want to beautify and increase safety near the rivers and throughout the city by increasing access and public open green space. We also want to promote trails within Eudora to these various public spaces and between the Wakarusa and Kansas Rivers. Lastly, we want to increase riparian buffers in sparse areas with native plantings to facilitate flora and fauna growth.





# **Chapter 3: Eudora Introduction and Vision Plan**



# Goal Statements and Design Concepts



- Design with natural materials to connect humans to nature.
- Enlarge riparian buffers to create connections for wildlife.
- Create signage across the site to educate visitors about natural ecology.



- Replicate the design language and character of Eudora in new designs.
- Create a gathering space to host community events.
- Connect existing and proposed trails and sidewalks directly into the site.



- Meet the needs of all age groups with targeted programmed activities.
- Create spaces for different types of passive and active recreation.
- Create accessible programmed spaces and circulatory systems.



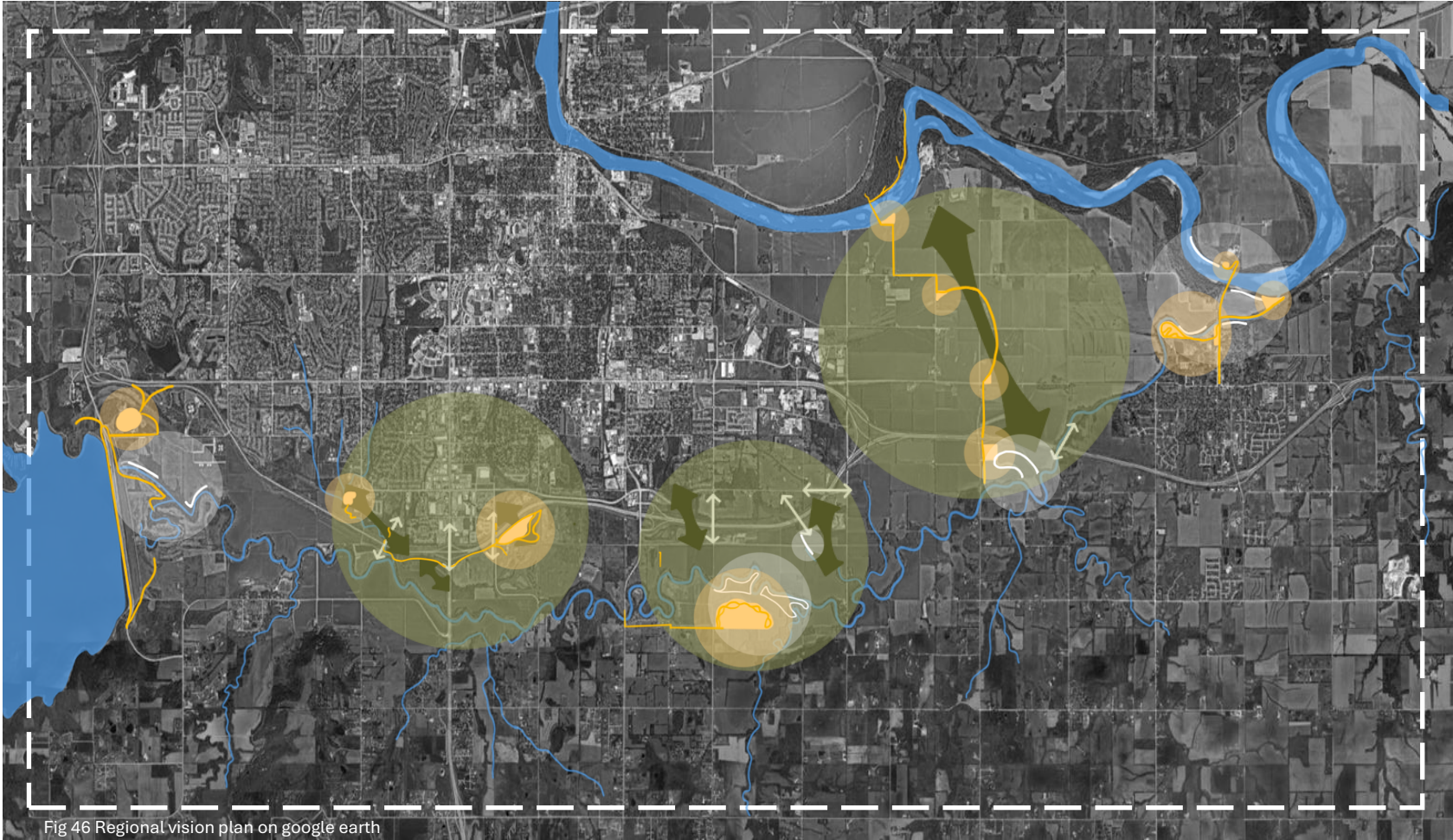
- Design incrementally to match the pace of Eudora’s city plans.
- Reuse materials from demolished structures and pavement in the design.
- Repurpose existing structures into gathering spaces and observation decks.

Our proposal for Eudora’s Riverfront Access creates a shared public recreation space that highlights nature and community events. Our design is achieved using three phases: Phase 1 to fix and update the existing features, Phase 2 for the assessment and revitalization of the brownfield site, and Phase 3 for building permanent infrastructure and finalizing plantings. With this design we aim to create a place for community events, such as the numerous 5k events that take place in Eudora by creating a large central plaza and pavilion with existing structures. We aim to create spaces for all people by ensuring different levels of activity and separation of spaces.

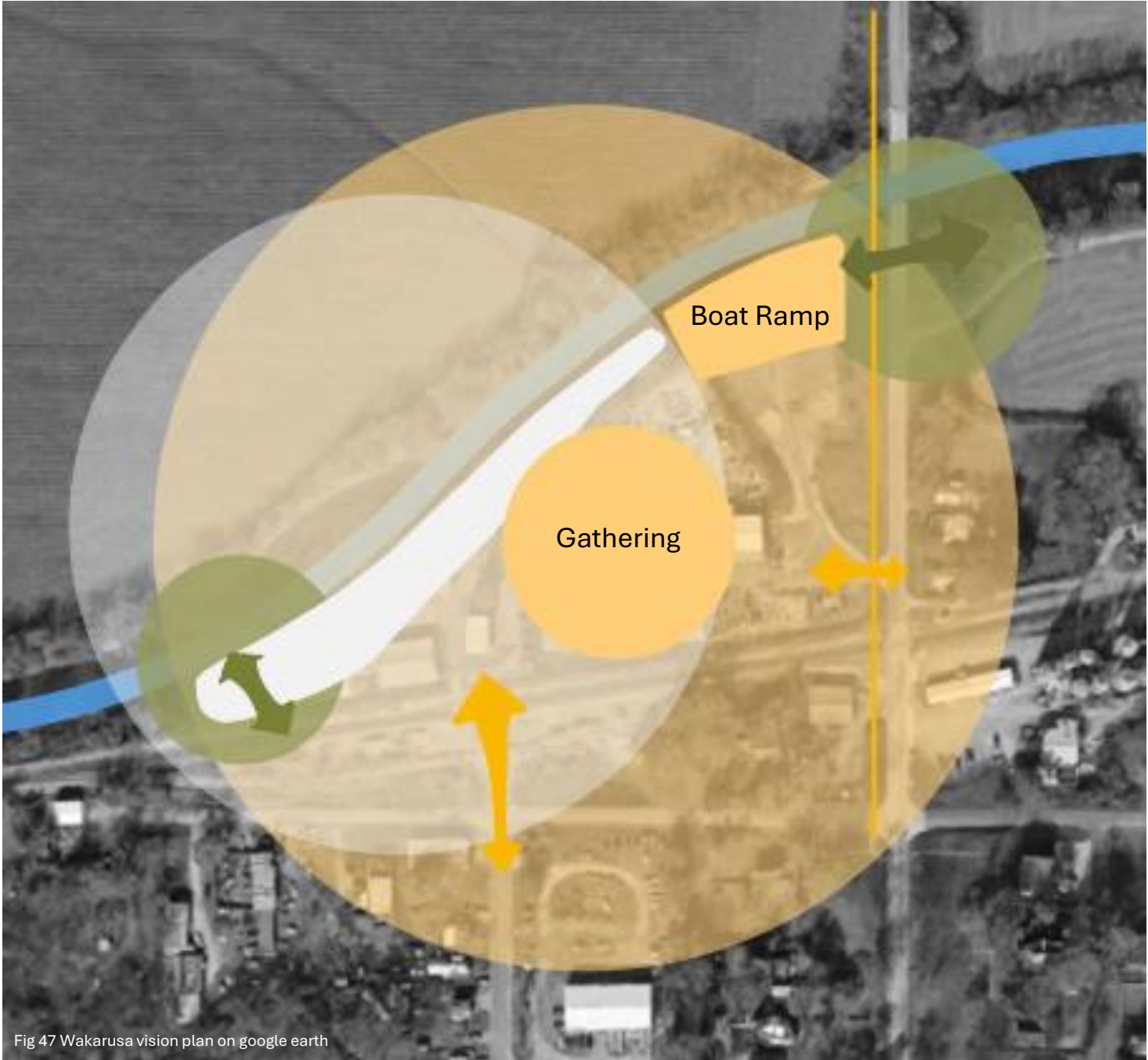
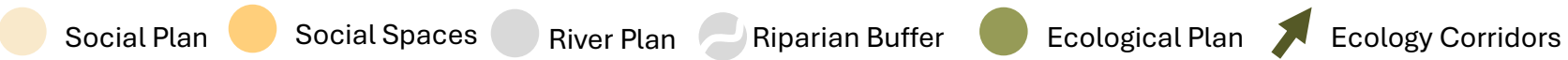
This design will be based in the aesthetics and goals of Eudora’s community to ensure the longevity and use of the design. In addition, we plan on designing sustainably by reusing materials and repurposing existing structures. We also aim on creating connections with ecology, widening riparian buffers, creating runoff infiltration rain gardens on edges, and creating ecological meadows. Overall, with this design we want to create a place to further Eudora’s community pride and connections while also connection ecological sites for flora and fauna to thrive.



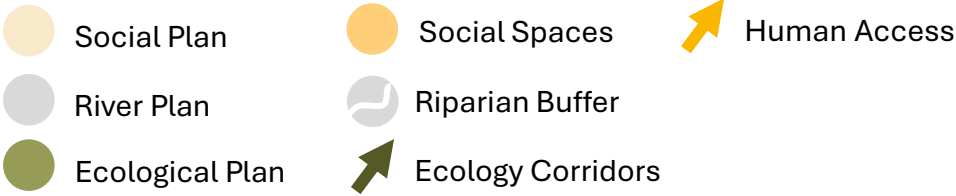
# Eudora Site Vision Plan



Wakarusa Vision Plan



Eudora Vision Plan





A wide-angle photograph of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a path of footprints leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. To the left, there are some dry, yellowish-brown grasses sticking out of the snow. In the background, there is an industrial facility with several large, dark, cylindrical tanks and a tall, white, vertical structure. A few people are visible near the tanks on the left. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# **Chapter 4: Eudora Site Design**



# Illustrative Site Plan Drawing

The Site Plan illustrates the new and existing contours, the spaces, their materiality, and the relationships to adjacent spaces. The central Gathering Space is defined by a different ground material and by existing structures. Adjacent to the right is the Active Meadow with Water Play and Natural Play spaces. Further right is the primary parking lot with the Boat Ramp access and a Rain Garden on the site boundary. To the left of the Gathering Space is the Passive Meadow with low-lying landforms and trails for lounging and quiet meandering. Further right is the Wooded Area where multiple Nature Nooks are held for fishing, bird-watching, and other passive recreation.

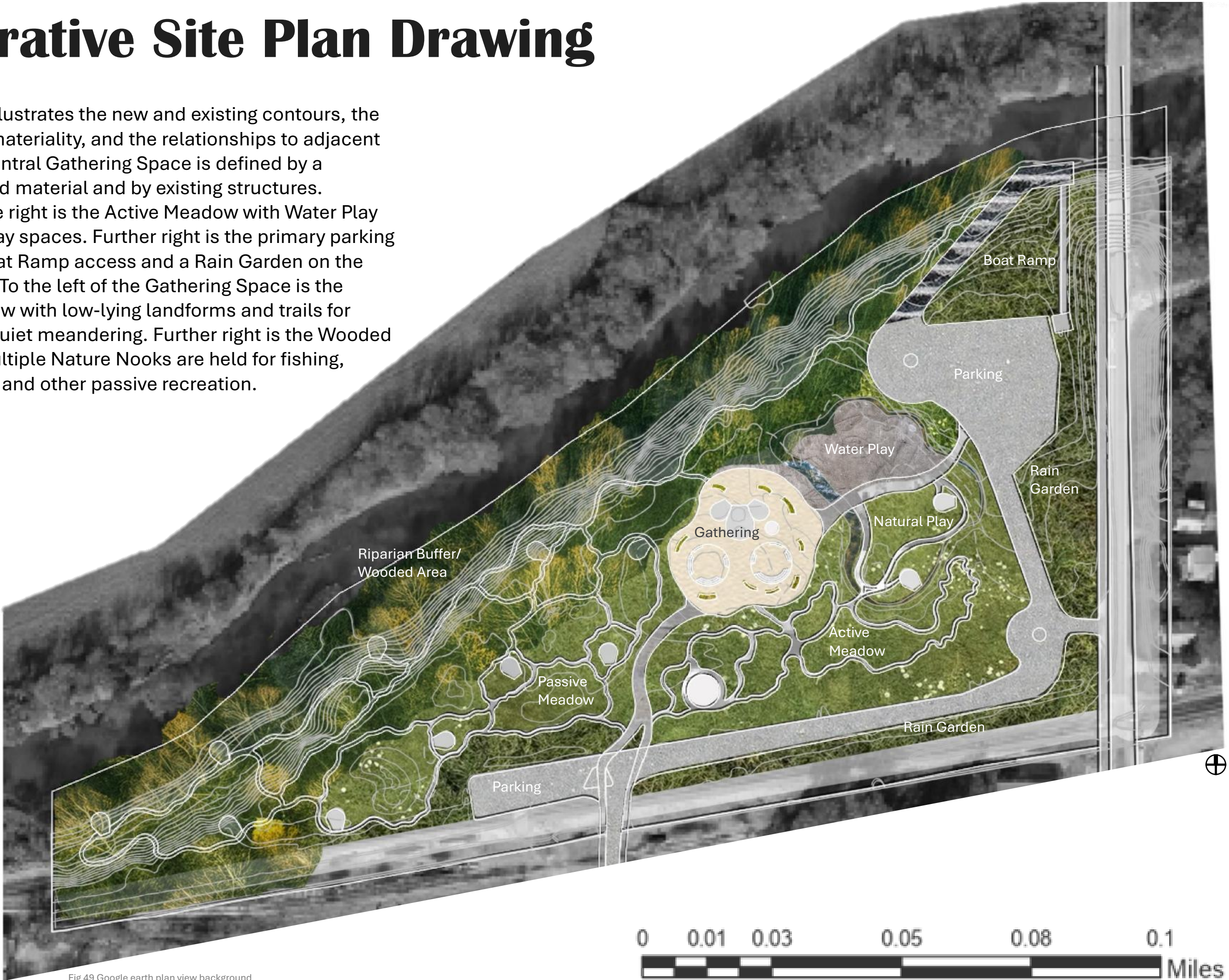
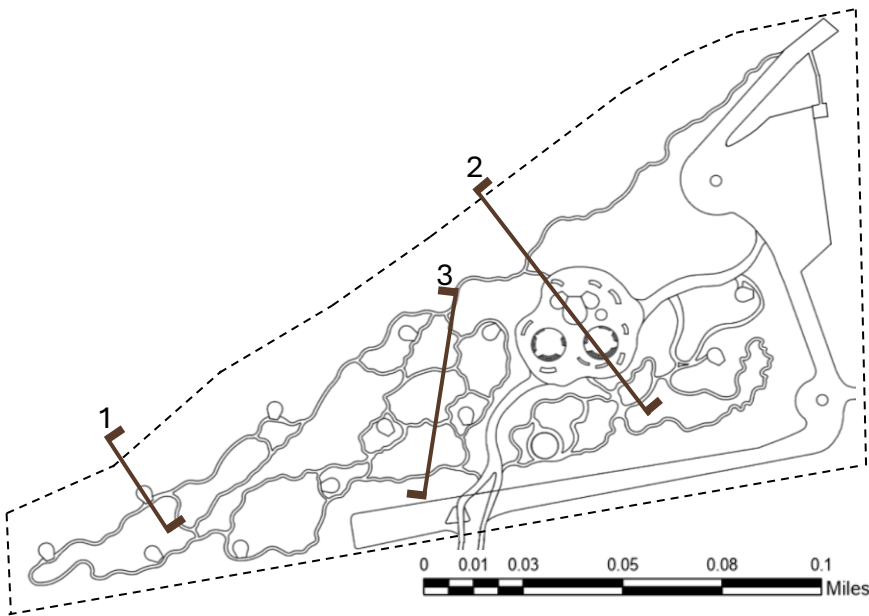
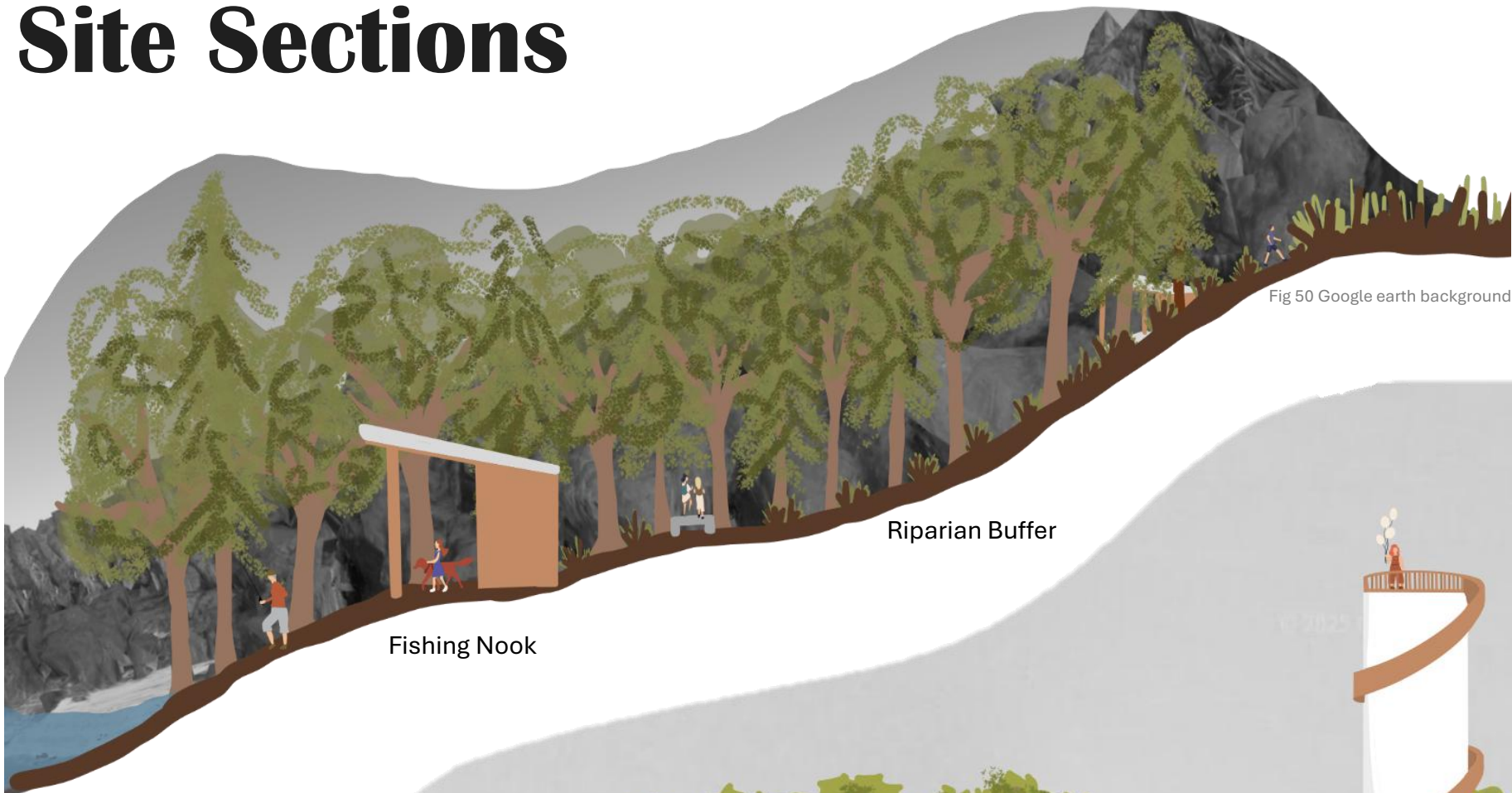


Fig 49 Google earth plan view background



# Site Sections





# Perspective Views



1 Fig 53 Google earth background  
The Water Play space featured in this image is a play space that contains a naturalistic stream containing rocks and many naturalistic boulders that water shoots out of for a fun play experience for all users.



2 Fig 54 Google earth background

The Wakarusa Boat Ramp depicted in this image has been updated to include a better access route and a new naturalistic Gathering Space with boulder seating. The image is being viewed from the newly added sidewalk on the left of Main Street.



Fig 55 Google earth background



3 Fig 56 Google earth background

This image shows the entrance into the newly designed Eudora Embracing Connections Park. The sculptural element in the roundabout draws people in. The view offers a glimpse into the Active Meadow and the main Gathering Space.



# Landform Study Models

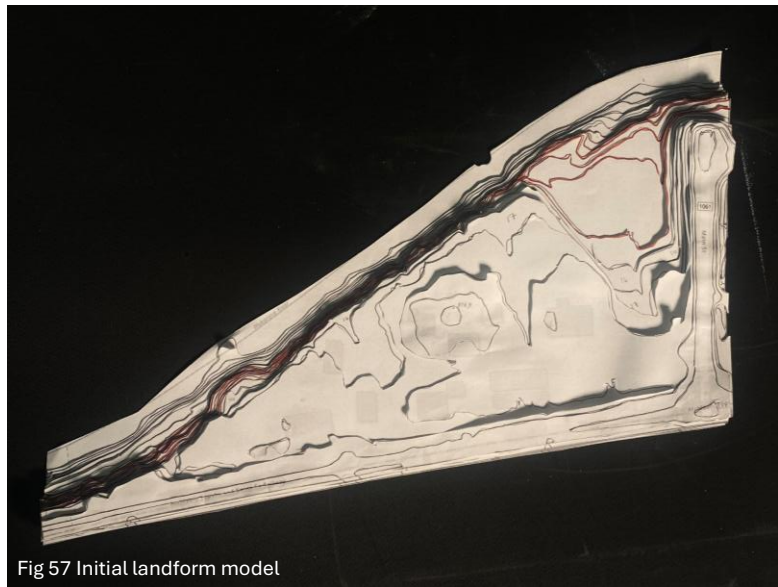
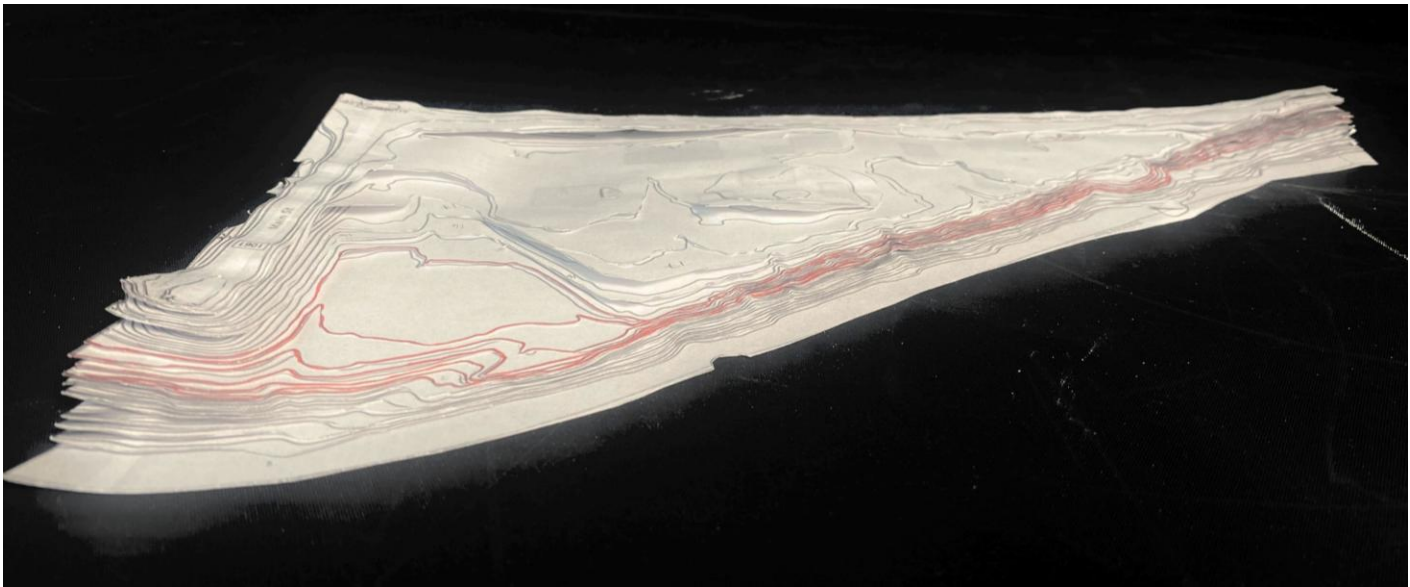
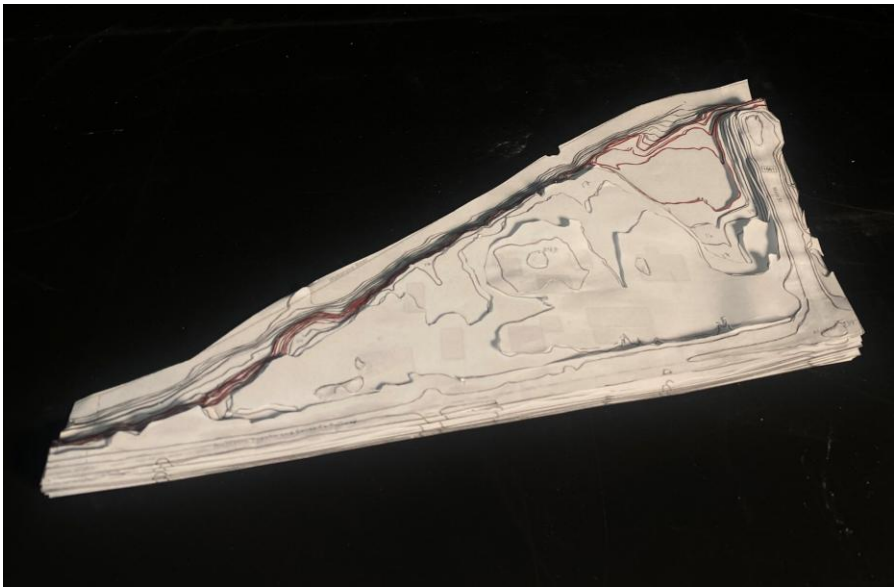


Fig 57 Initial landform model



## Initial Landform Study

This model shows the Eudora Site’s topography and contours before changes were made.

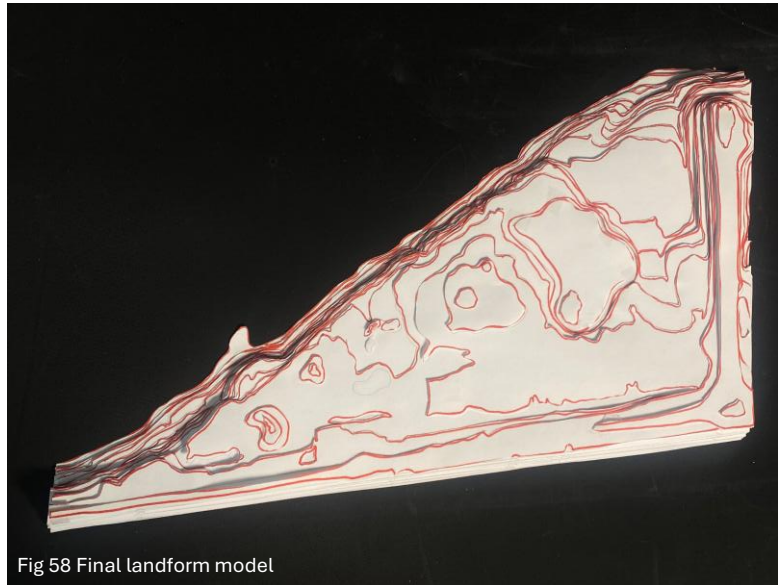
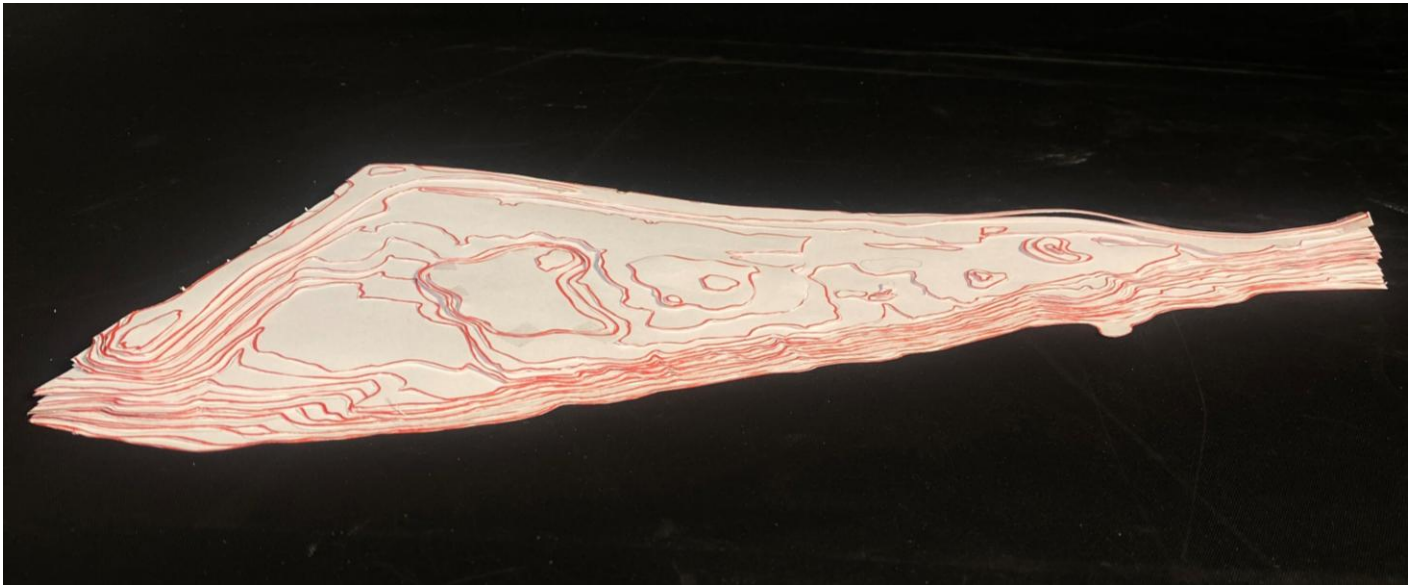
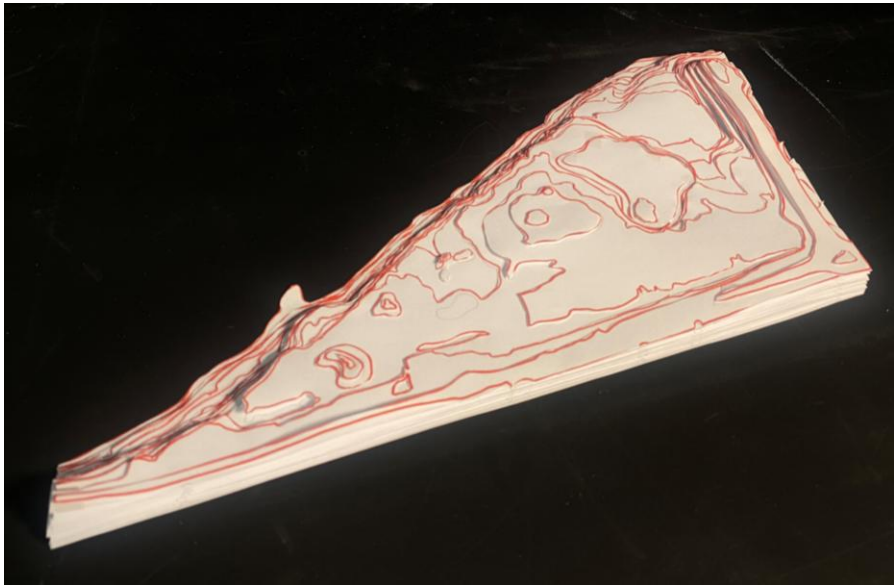


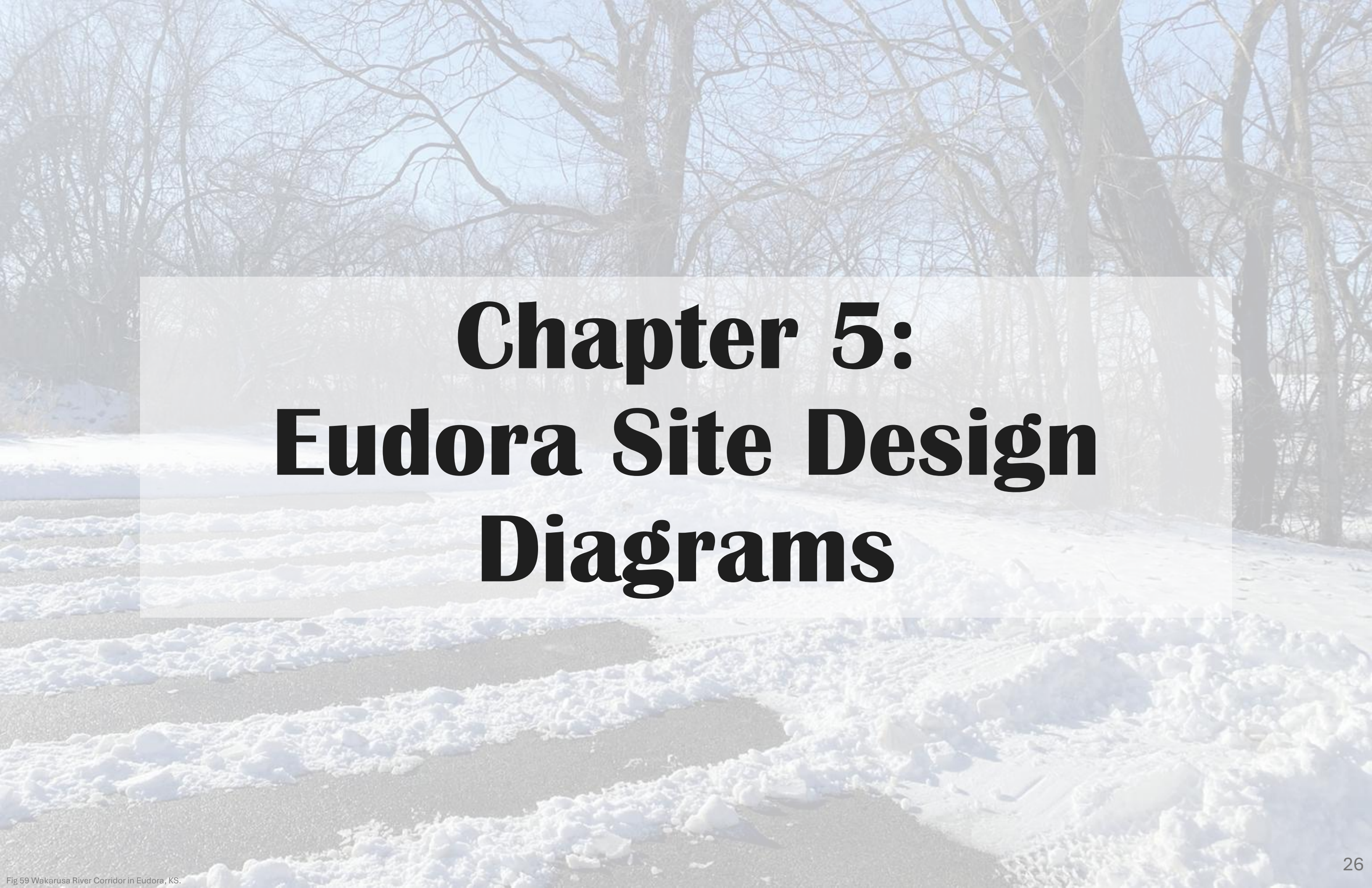
Fig 58 Final landform model



## Final Contours

This model shows the final designed topography and contours for the Eudora Site including new tiers for rain gardens, stormwater detention basins, and the expansion of contours for design details.



A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, a path is partially covered with snow, showing dark patches of ground. The path leads into the distance. On either side of the path are bare, leafless trees with intricate branch structures against a pale blue sky. The overall scene is serene and cold.

# **Chapter 5: Eudora Site Design Diagrams**



# Phase 1: Current Site Additions and Begin Plantings

## Phase 1 Goals:

- Propose sidewalks to connect from southern sidewalk to northern proposed trails
- Assess soils below concrete/otherwise
- Update boat ramp area and fishing facilities
- Create bathroom in existing pavilion
- Plant rain gardens for runoff infiltration
- Widen riparian buffers through plantings
- Begin ecological buffers inside the site
- Plant trees to begin wooded areas

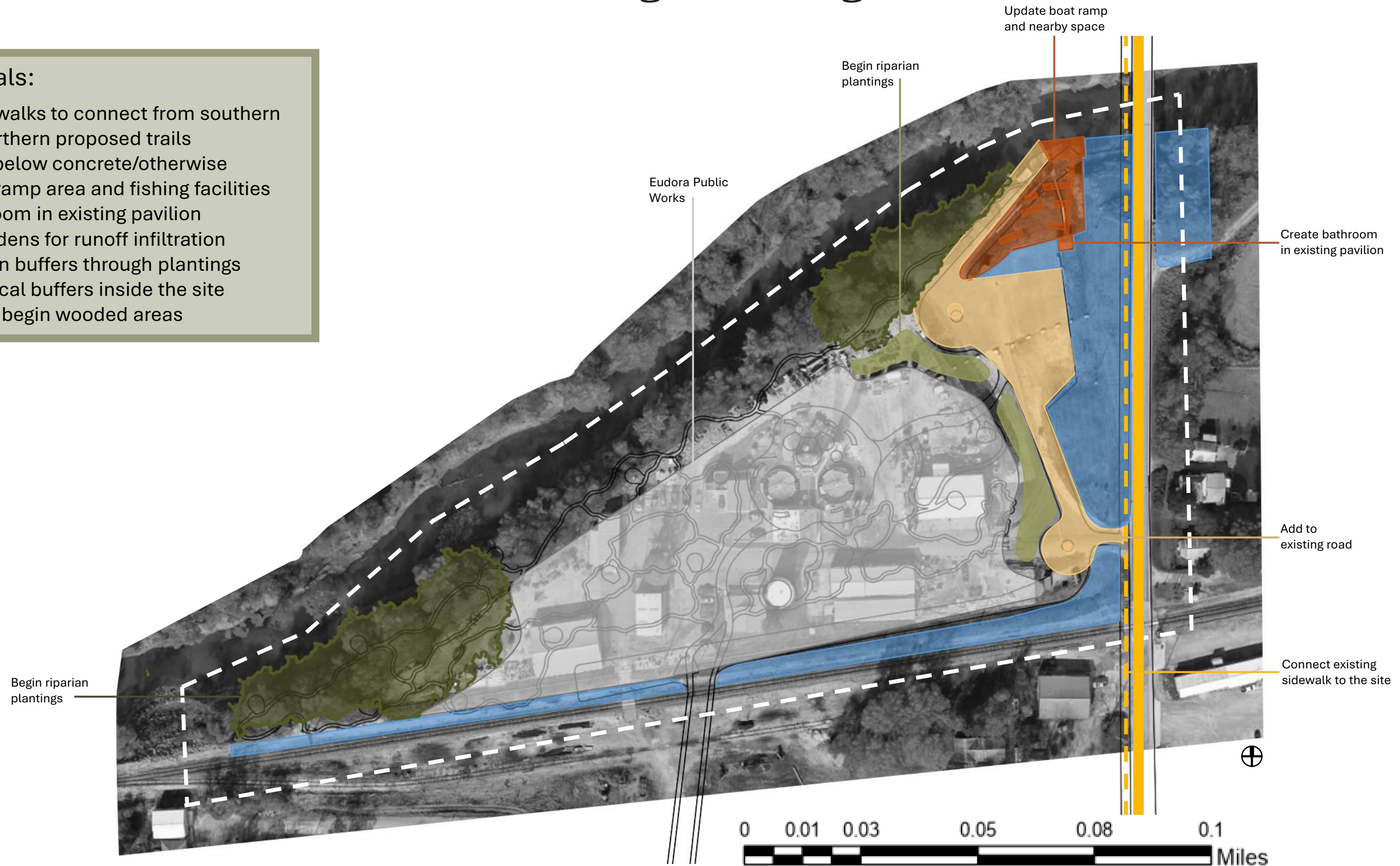


Fig 60 Google earth plan view background



# Phase 2: Assessment + Revitalization of Brownfield/Build Small Facilities

## Phase 2 Goals:

- Lead and asbestos testing on current materials
- Remove unwanted buildings and cap opened pipes
- Keep metal roofing, stone, circular tanks, white towers
- Recycle windows and doors
- Remove unwanted pavement
- Assess uncovered soils
- Bioremediation
- Phytoremediation
- Plant remaining wooded areas
- Build southern road and parking
- Create on grade trails through the site
- Incorporate signage





# Phase 3: Build Permanent Infrastructure and Finalize Plantings

## Phase 3 Goals:

- Lay concrete for pavilion structures
- Build structures and fire pits
- Build primary pavilion and stage
- Create play areas
- Create water area
- Build boardwalks
- Finalize plants in meadows
- Install hammocks in wooded areas

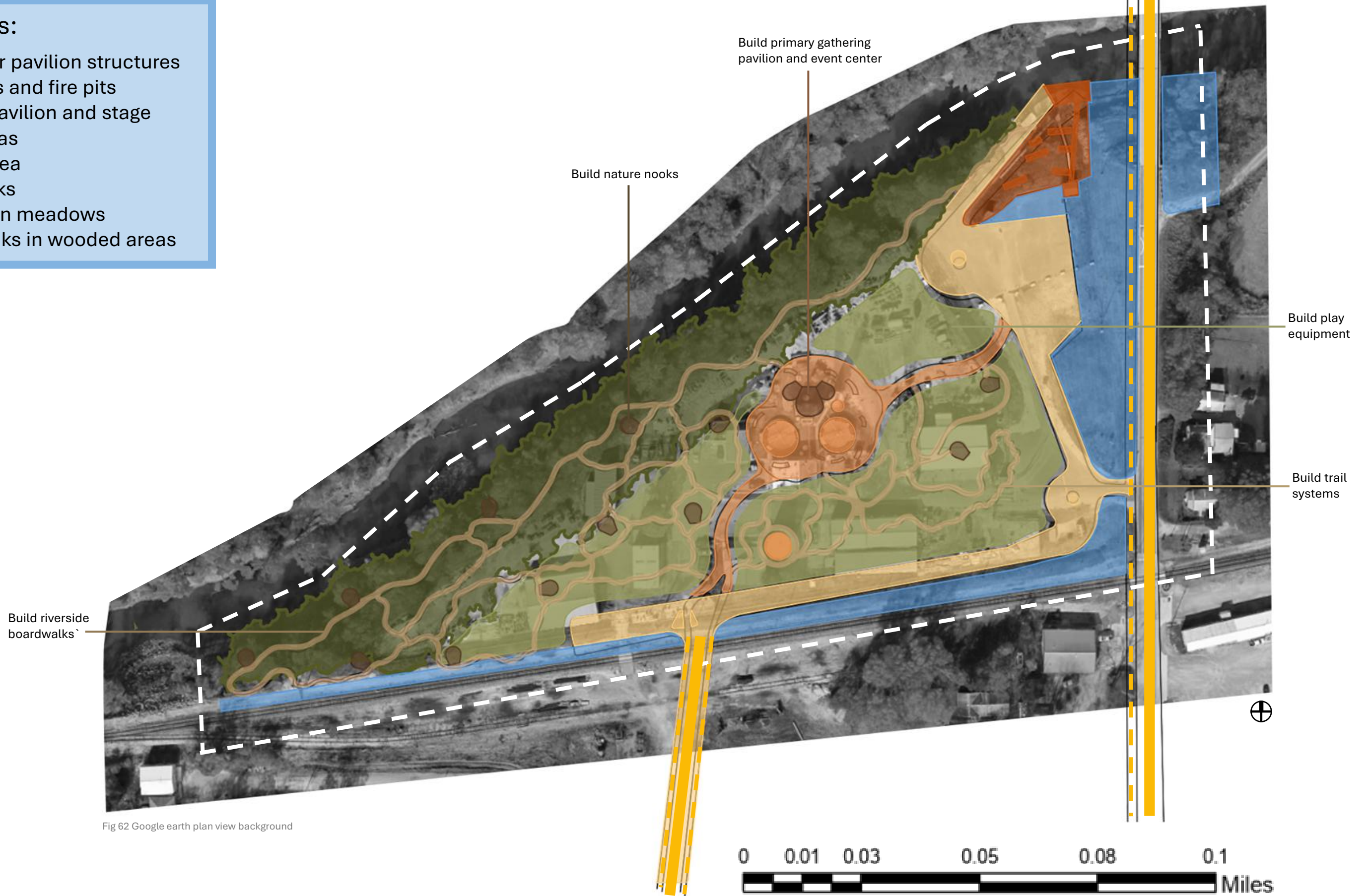


Fig 62 Google earth plan view background



# Programming and Activities

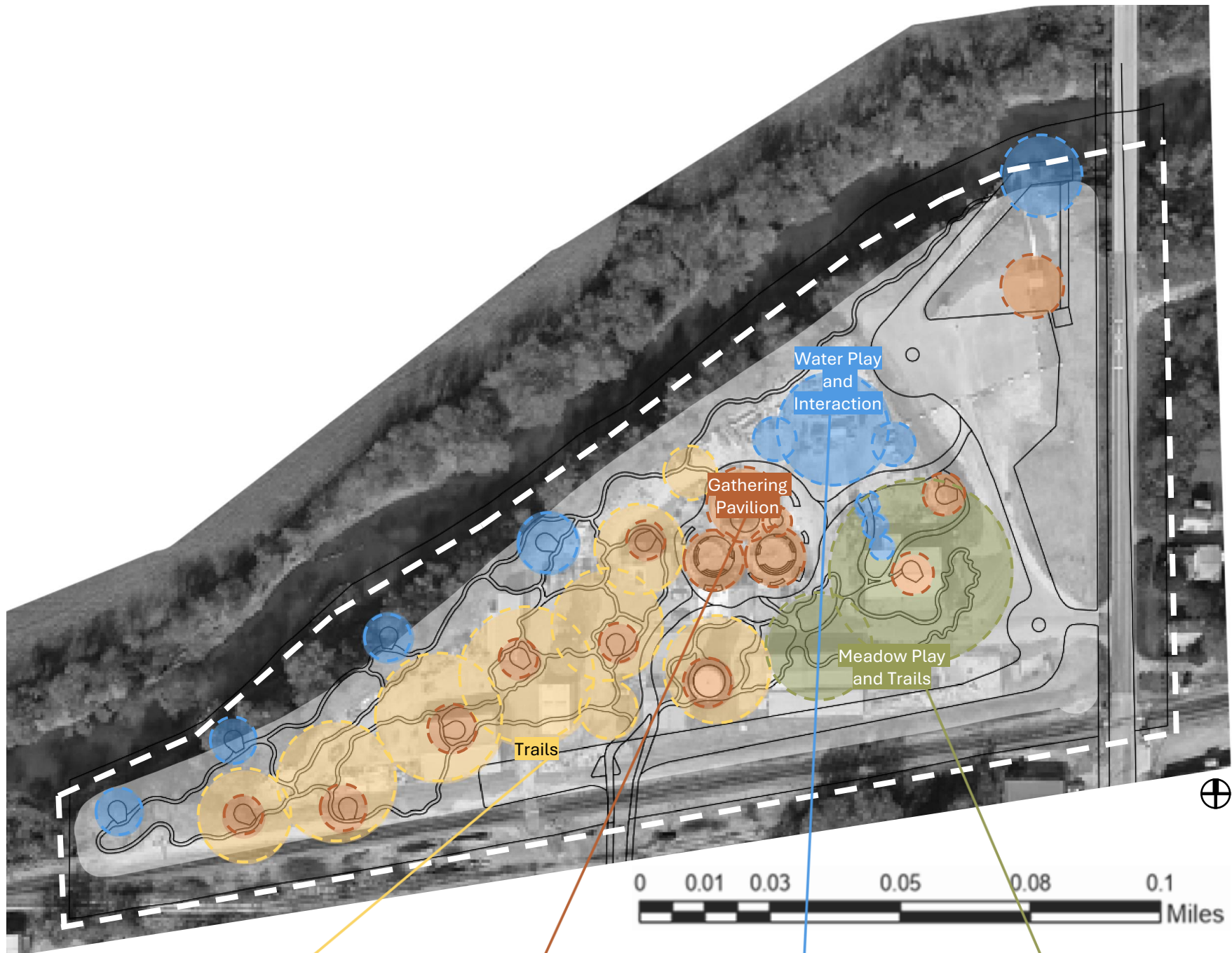


Fig 63 Google earth plan view background

## Programming



Fig 65  
Permeable Trails and  
Concrete Boardwalks



Fig 66  
Constellation  
Amphitheater Pavilion

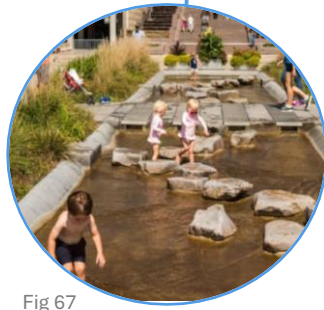


Fig 67  
Man-made Stream  
Play Element



Fig 68  
Meadow with Natural  
Play Elements

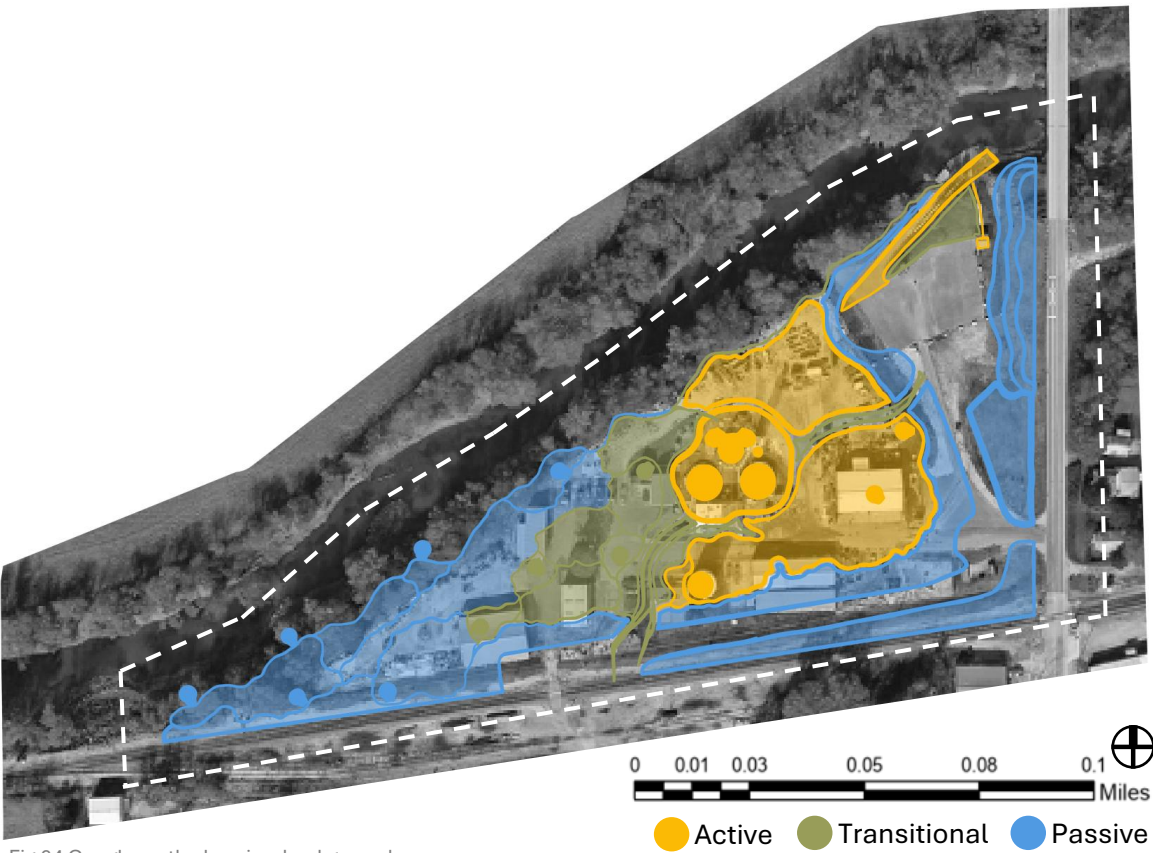


Fig 64 Google earth plan view background

## Active vs Passive Space

The site's programming focuses on natural play elements, designated fishing spaces, better boat ramp access, and increased plantings to reduce site flooding.

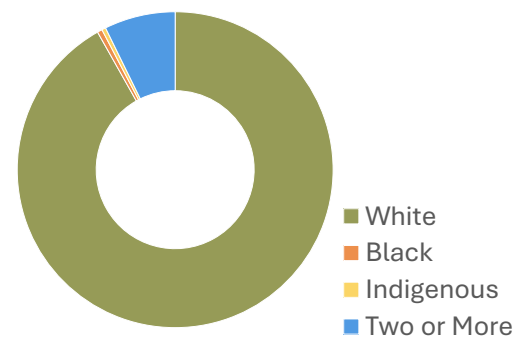
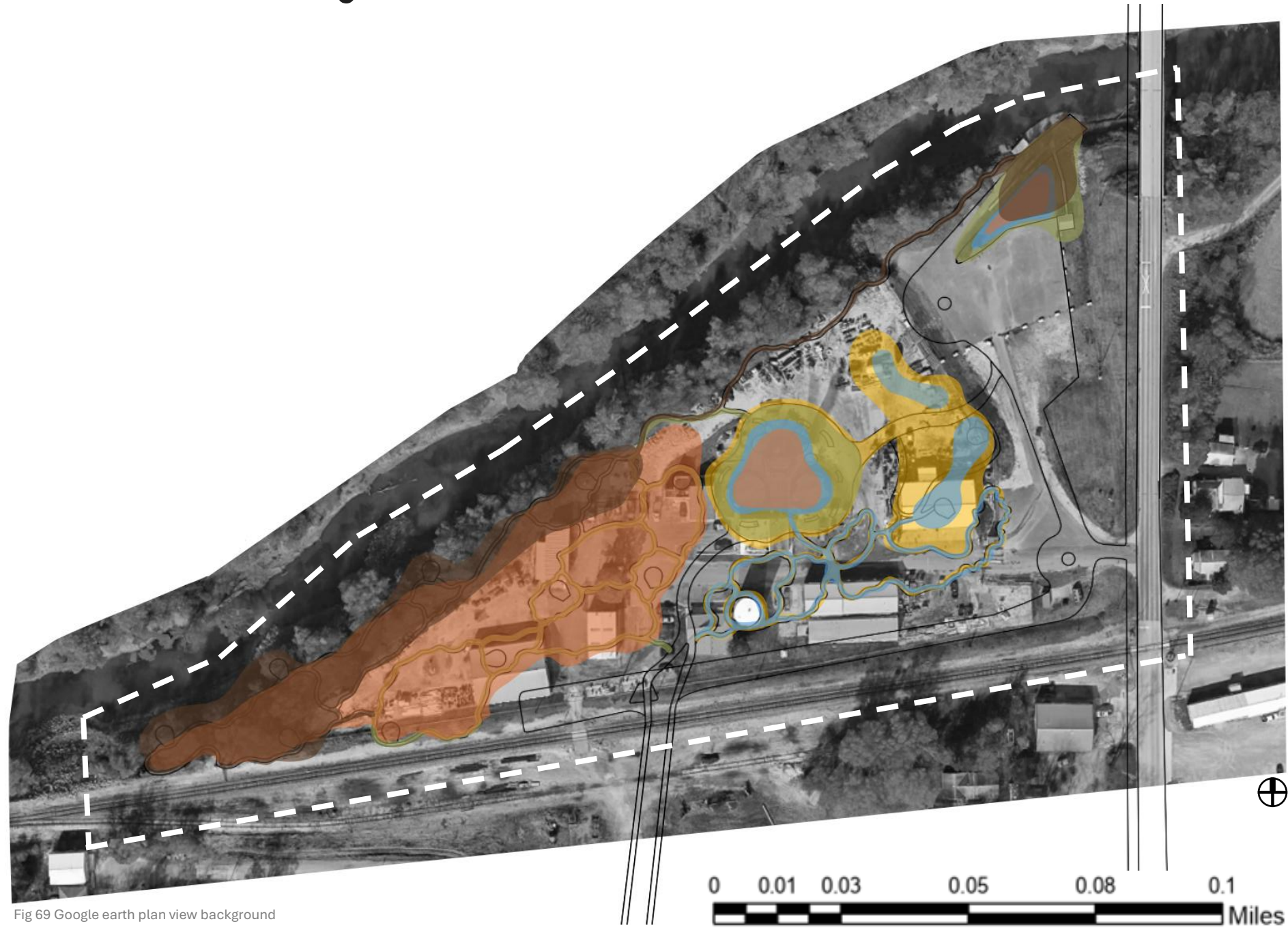
Throughout the site's circulation, there's permeable paving and concrete boardwalks that weave between active and passive spaces, often designating the trails as a transitional space.

Typical planting areas of the riparian buffer, rain gardens, and planting strips are categorized as passive spaces due to their low activity and quiet atmospheres.

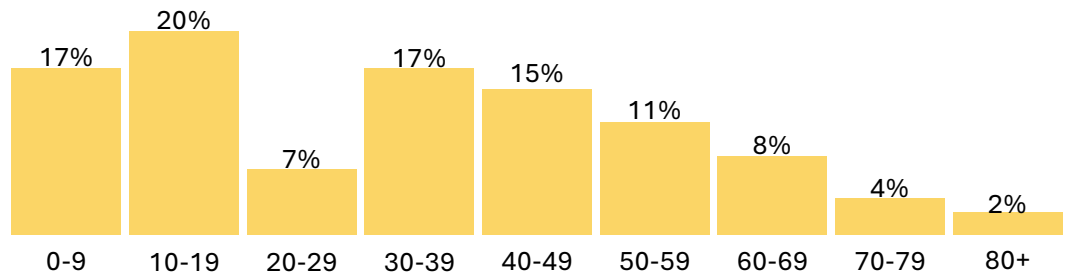
The active spaces are defined as areas with higher programmed activity and are the more social spaces of the design. Gathering structures, the constellation amphitheater pavilions, often serve as active spaces.



# User Analysis



Population by Race  
Fig 80 Eudora Comprehensive Plan data



Population by Age Group  
Fig 81 Eudora Comprehensive Plan data

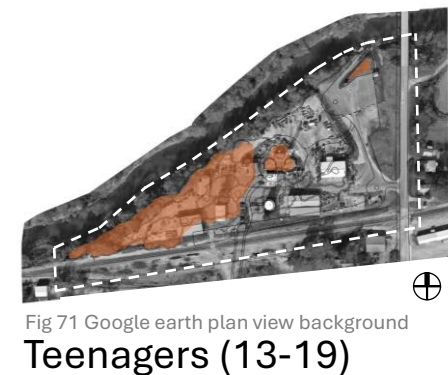


Children (0-12)

**Jackson White, 7**  
Eudora Elementary School Student

- Jackson will use the various water and natural play spaces when visiting the site with his parents, and he will use the trails to walk his dog Buster and enjoy nature.

Fig 75 AI generated image



Teenagers (13-19)

**Maya Tran, 14**  
Eudora High School Student

- Maya is very active in school and will use the site a respite from this. Maya will hang out with her friends around fire pits in nooks. On her own, she will utilize the site to study and lounge.

Fig 76 AI generated image

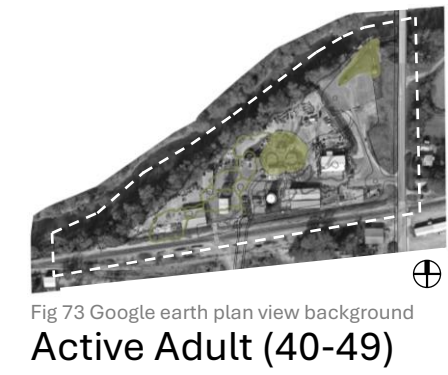


Parents (30-39)

**Stephanie Meyers, 32**  
Nursing home receptionist and mother of two

- Stephanie will use the trails, the hammocks, and the pavilions on the site. She will also use the spaces and nooks near playgrounds to watch over her children while they play.

Fig 77 AI generated image



Active Adult (40-49)

**Alyssa Sterling, 46**  
Dietician, 5k Event Planner

- Alyssa is married with one kid, she would walk to the site and use the trails for exercise. She brings her kayak onto the River using the boat Ramp to practice for her next 5k race.

Fig 78 AI generated image



Elders (60-79)

**Bill Carlisle, 68**  
Retired, Boy Scout Troop volunteer

- Bill would enjoy the natural and wooded areas with educational signage. He would also enjoy the solitary fishing nooks near the Wakarusa River as places to teach his grandkids to fish.

Fig 79 AI generated image



# Spatial Hierarchy and Circulation

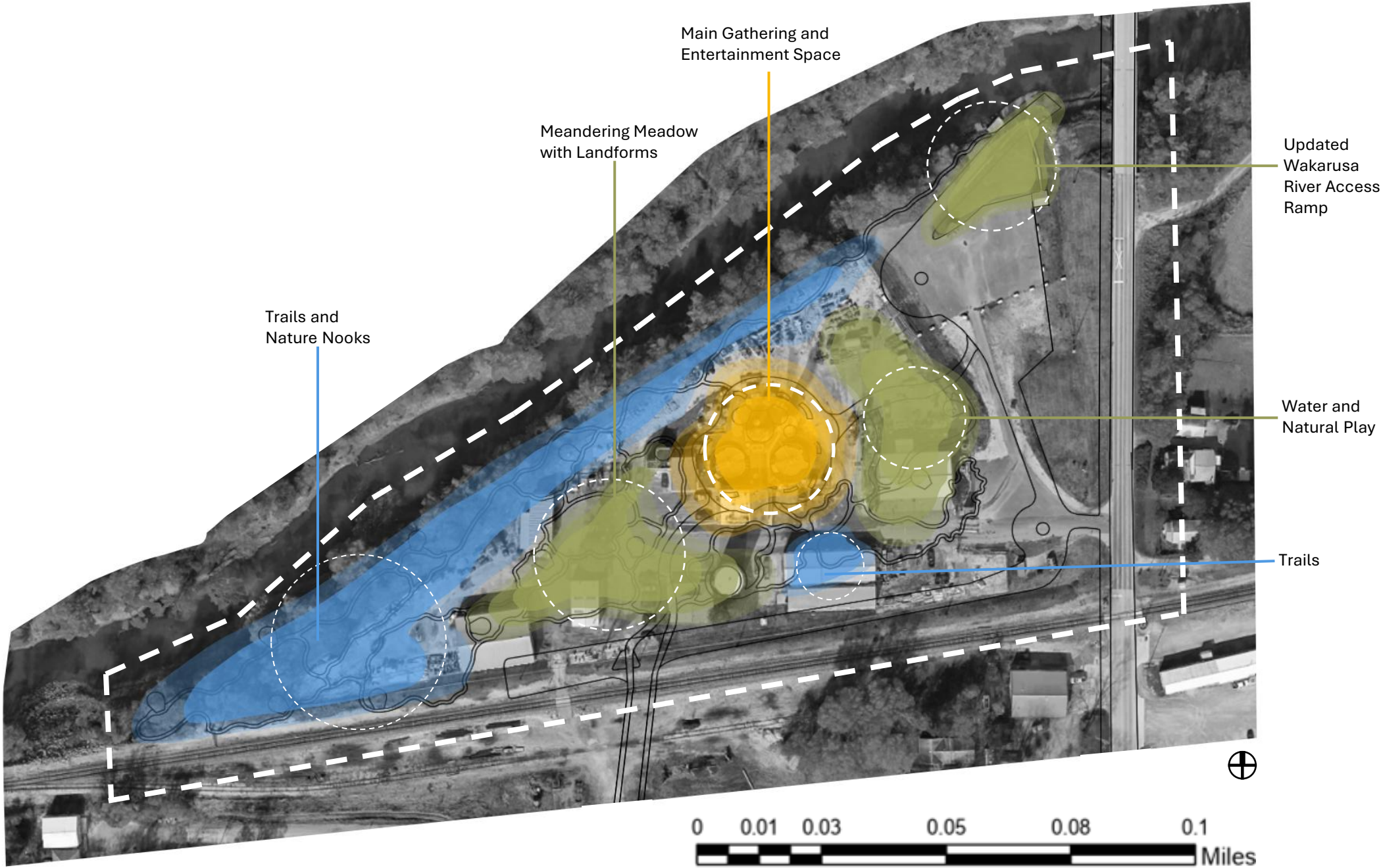


Fig 82 Google earth plan view background

## Hierarchy of Spaces

- Primary Space
- Secondary Spaces
- Tertiary Spaces

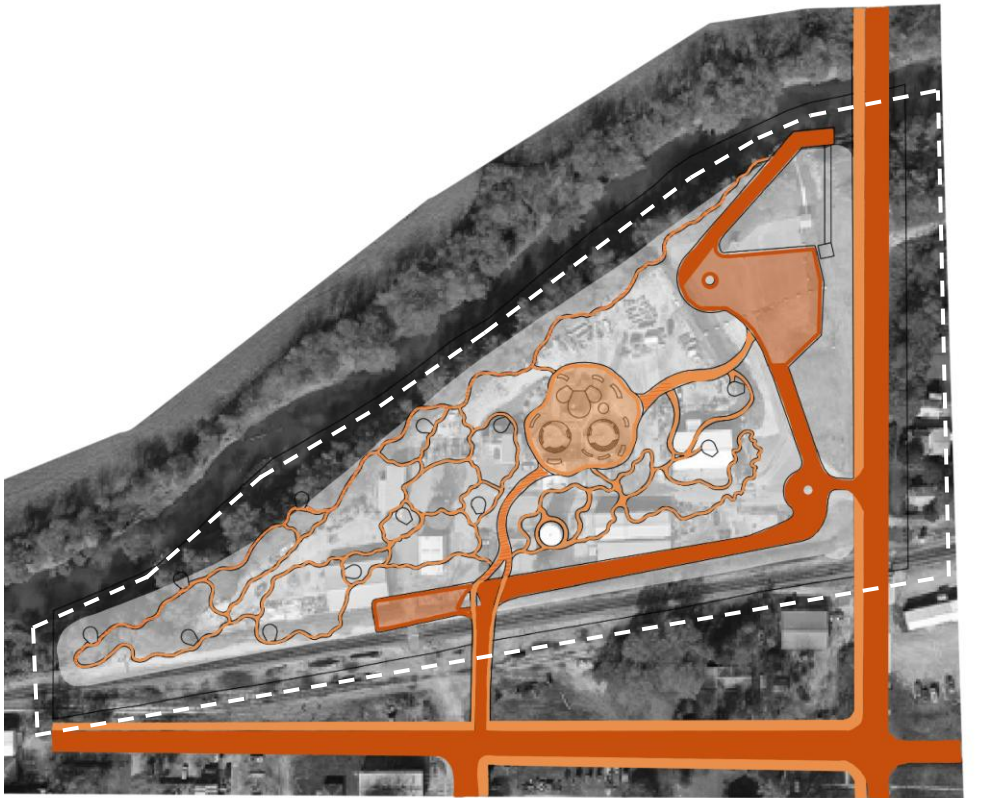


Fig 83 Google earth plan view background

## Circulation

- Vehicular
- Permeable Pedestrian
- Boardwalk Pedestrian

The primary space in this design is the central gathering space and event facility. This space contains a large overhead structure, which holds a stage beneath for community events.

The secondary spaces consist of the two play spaces and passive meadow with meandering trails around rolling hills. The tertiary spaces are circulatory trail systems with some respites in small nature nooks for fishing or birdwatching.

The site has two vehicular access points that lead directly into parking lots. The southern lot and raised boardwalks near the gathering space and the cliffs' edge are outside of the flood plain. All other paths are on grade and are ADA accessible.



# Sustainability through Flood and Adaptive Reuse

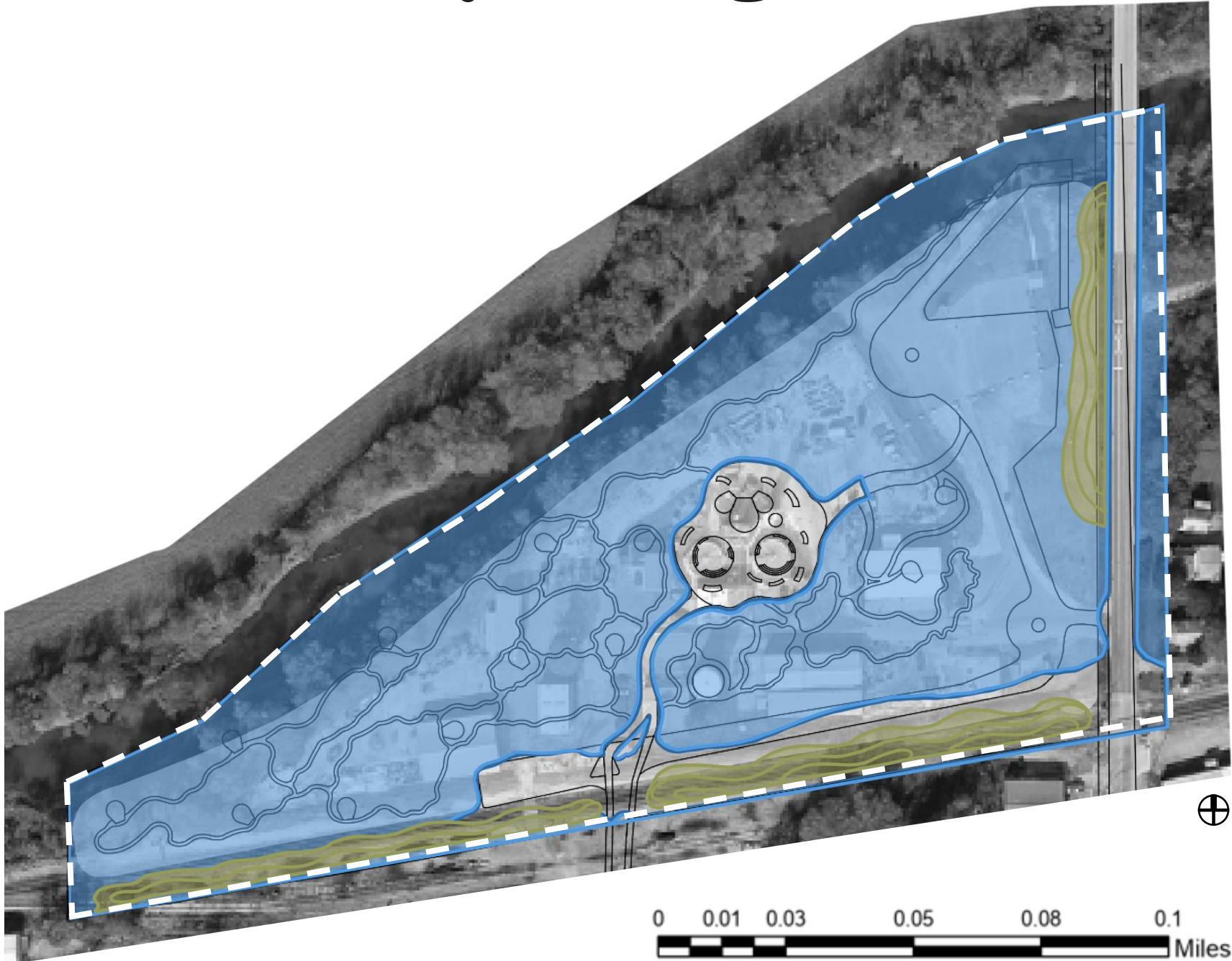
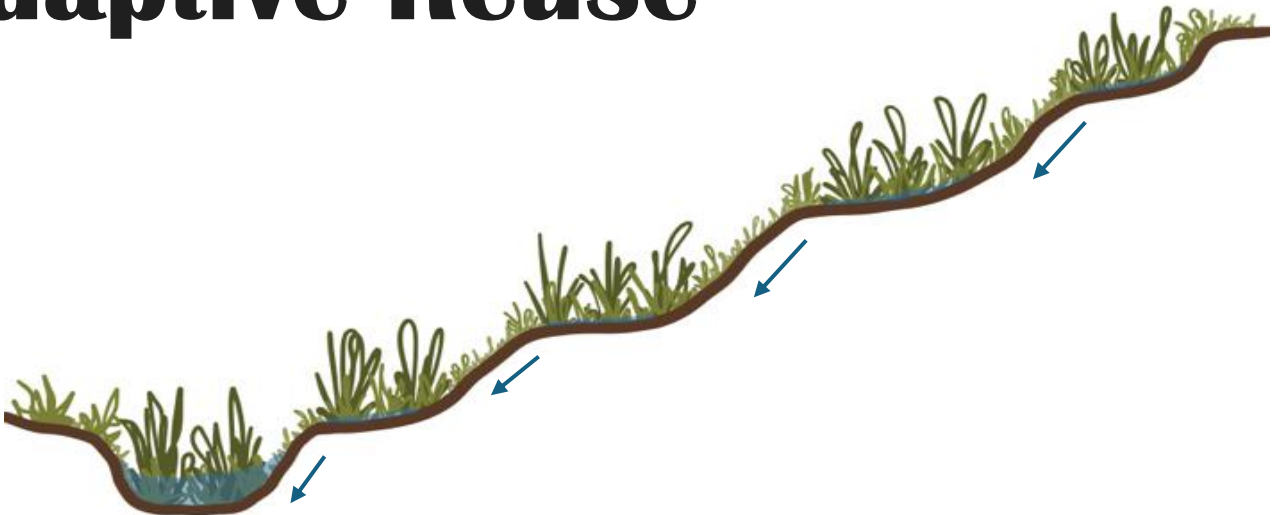


Fig 84 Google earth plan view background  
**Site Usability Within Floodplain**  
● Floodplain ● Rain Gardens ● Usable Design



**Rain Garden Structure**  
Tiered-structured rain gardens, implemented on steep slopes of the site borders, aim to help mitigate stormwater and lessen the amount of highway runoff entering the site.

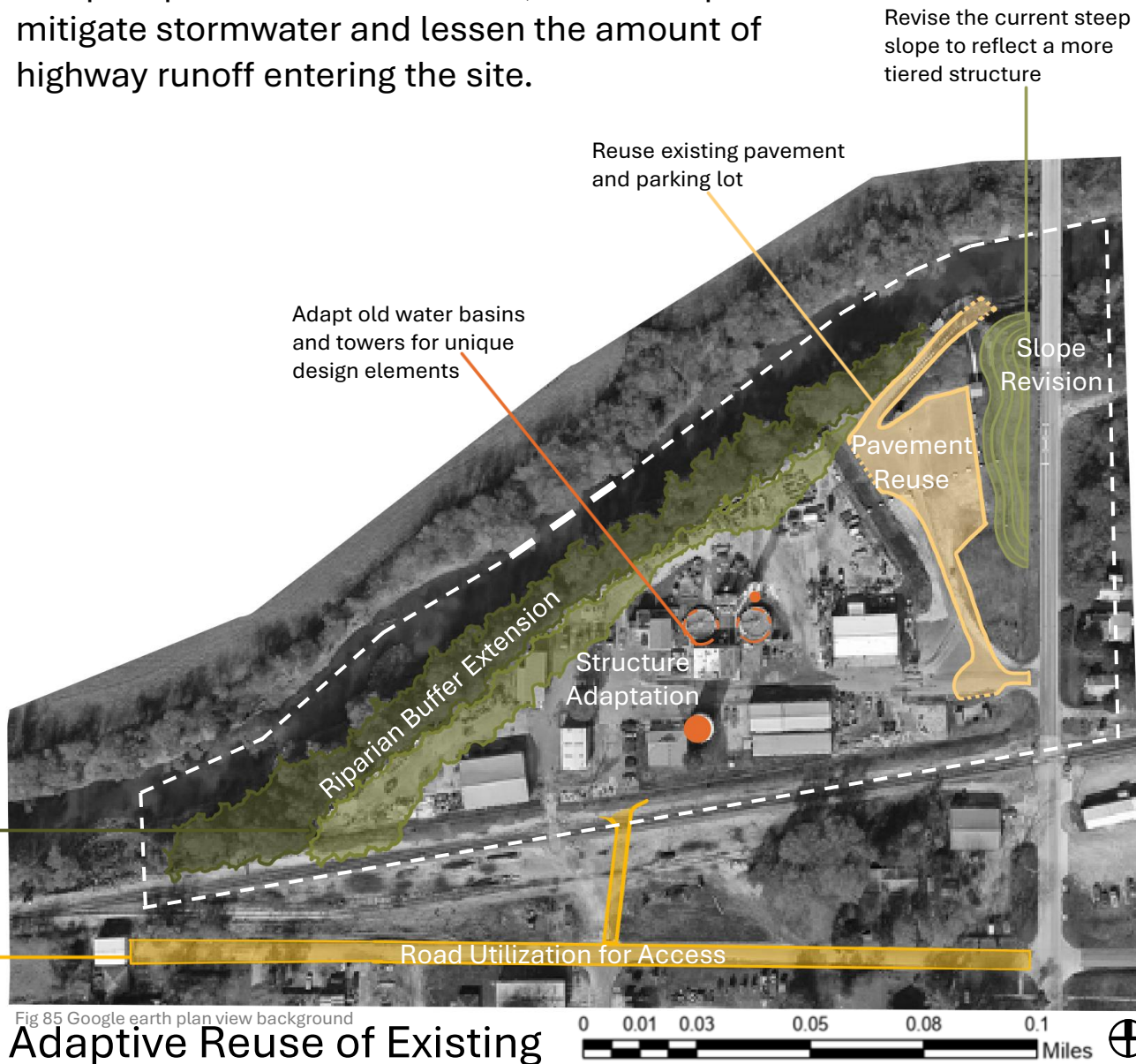


Fig 85 Google earth plan view background  
**Adaptive Reuse of Existing**



# Ecology and Connectivity



Fig 88 K-State Meadow  
**Meadow** (Kansas State University – The Meadow)

- Little Bluestem
- American Beak Grain
- Plains Coreopsis
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Sweet Coneflower
- Buffalo Grass
- Plains Sedge
- Indian Grass
- Quack Grass



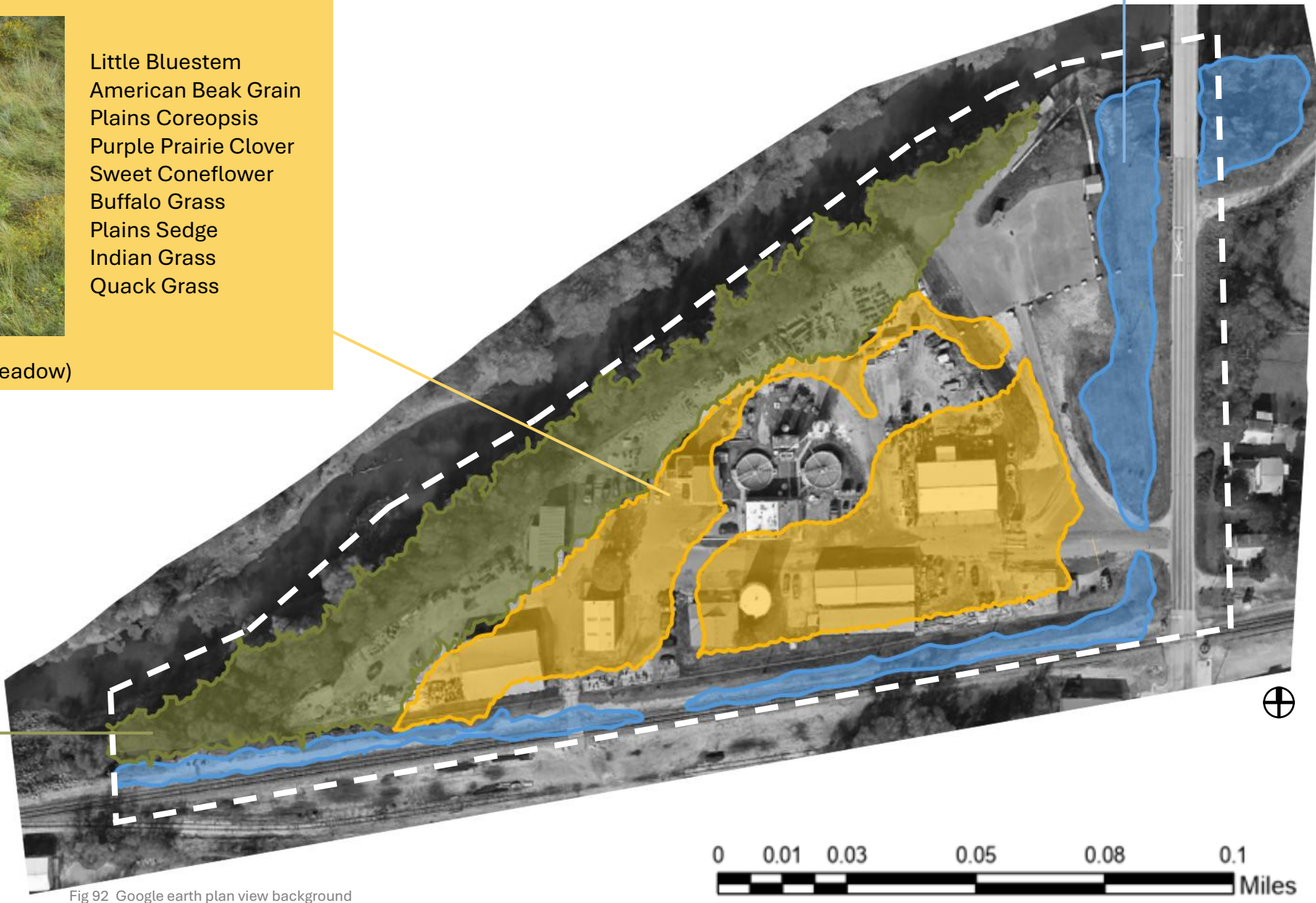
Fig 86 Badger Creek hiking trail.  
**Wooded Area** (Badger Creek)

- Green Ash
- Hackberry
- Eastern Cottonwood
- Bur Oak
- Black Walnut
- Honey Locust
- American Plum
- Sandbar Willow
- Choke Cherry



Fig 90 Kansas City rain garden  
**Rain Garden** (Kansas City – Bush Creek Community Rain Garden)

- Marsh Milkweed
- Black Eyed Susan
- New England Aster
- Cardinal Flower
- River Oats
- Purple Coneflower
- Wild Ageratum
- Blue Sage
- Wild Quinine





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