



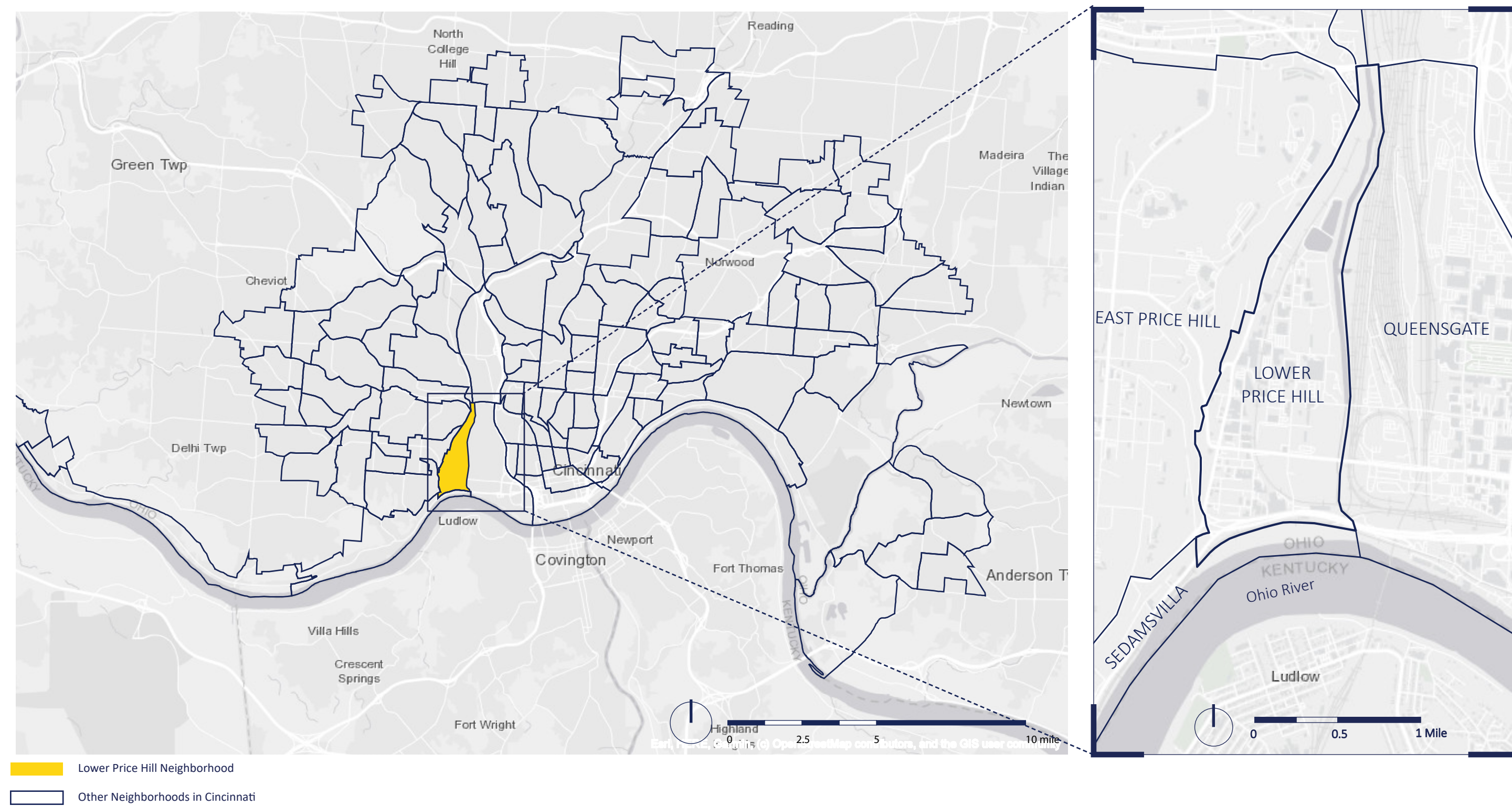
HOW CAN VACANT LOTS, OPEN SPACES, STREETSCAPES AND BUILDING SURFACES USE GREEN DESIGN TO PROVIDE GATHERING SPACES, HEALTHY GREEN SPACES AND STREET SAFETY FOR LOWER PRICE HILL COMMUNITY?

—DESIGN LOWER PRICE HILL, URBAN APPALACHIAN CULTURE CELEBRATION

LOWER PRICE HILL INTRODUCTION

1. CINCINNATI NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

Cincinnati is a city of Ohio state, there are 52 official neighborhoods in the city, each with its own distinct characteristics and communities. Lower Price Hill is one of these neighborhoods, located on the west-ern edge of Cincinnati along the Ohio River. It is one of the smaller neighborhoods in terms of geographical size but has a rich history and strong sense of community.



Lower Price Hill is a historic neighborhood located in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. Situated along the Ohio River, it has historically been a working-class area with a diverse population (Sweet, E., 2021). Despite facing economic challenges, Lower Price Hill has a resilient spirit and boasts various community organizations and initiatives aimed at improving residents' quality of life (LPH Resurgence Plan, 2019). The neighborhood offers a unique blend of urban living with a strong sense of community pride and identity.

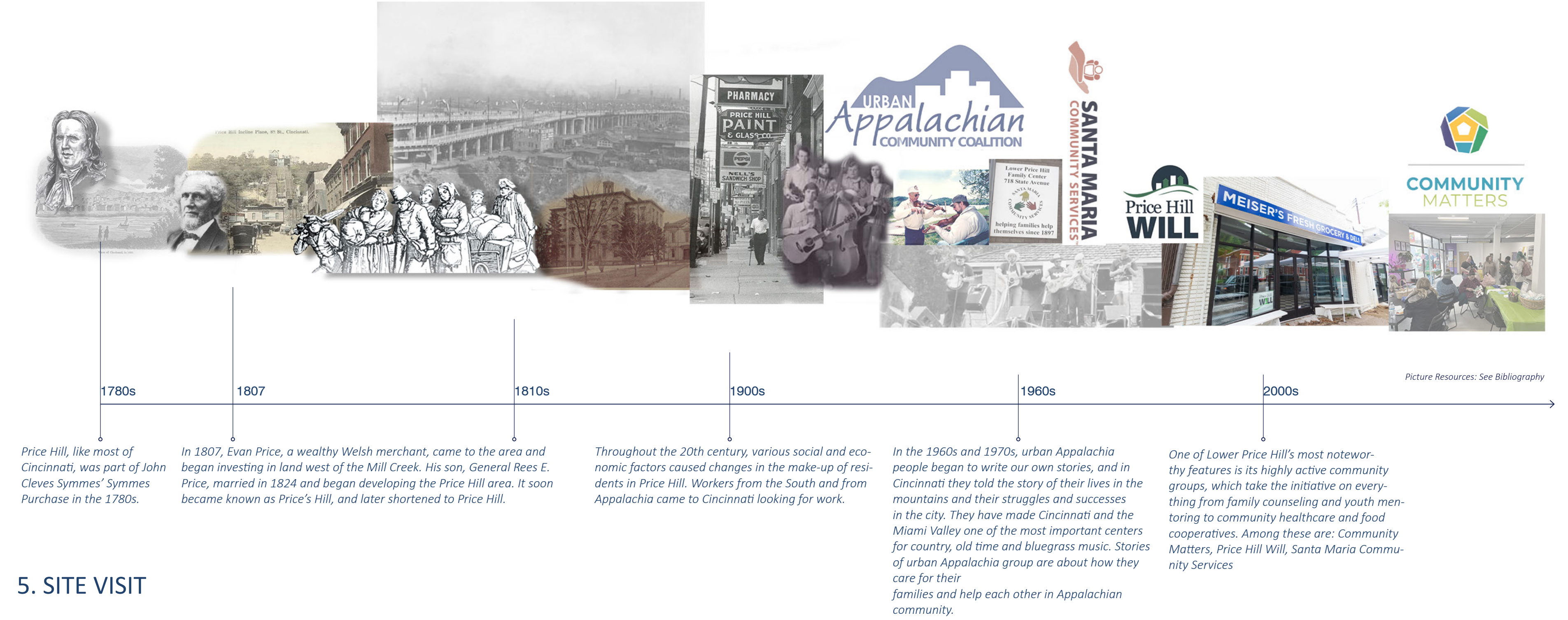
Most of Lower Price Hill's areas are used for industrial purposes, with industrial zones mainly concentrated in the central-northern part, while only a small portion of the south-western area is used for residential purposes. Several small parks and green spaces in the Lingshi area are distributed in the southern part of this community, near the Ohio River. A small area in the southwest-ern part of the community is a commercial district, which also has a relatively large number of historical relics. Overall, this area is primarily industrial.

4. SITE HISTORY

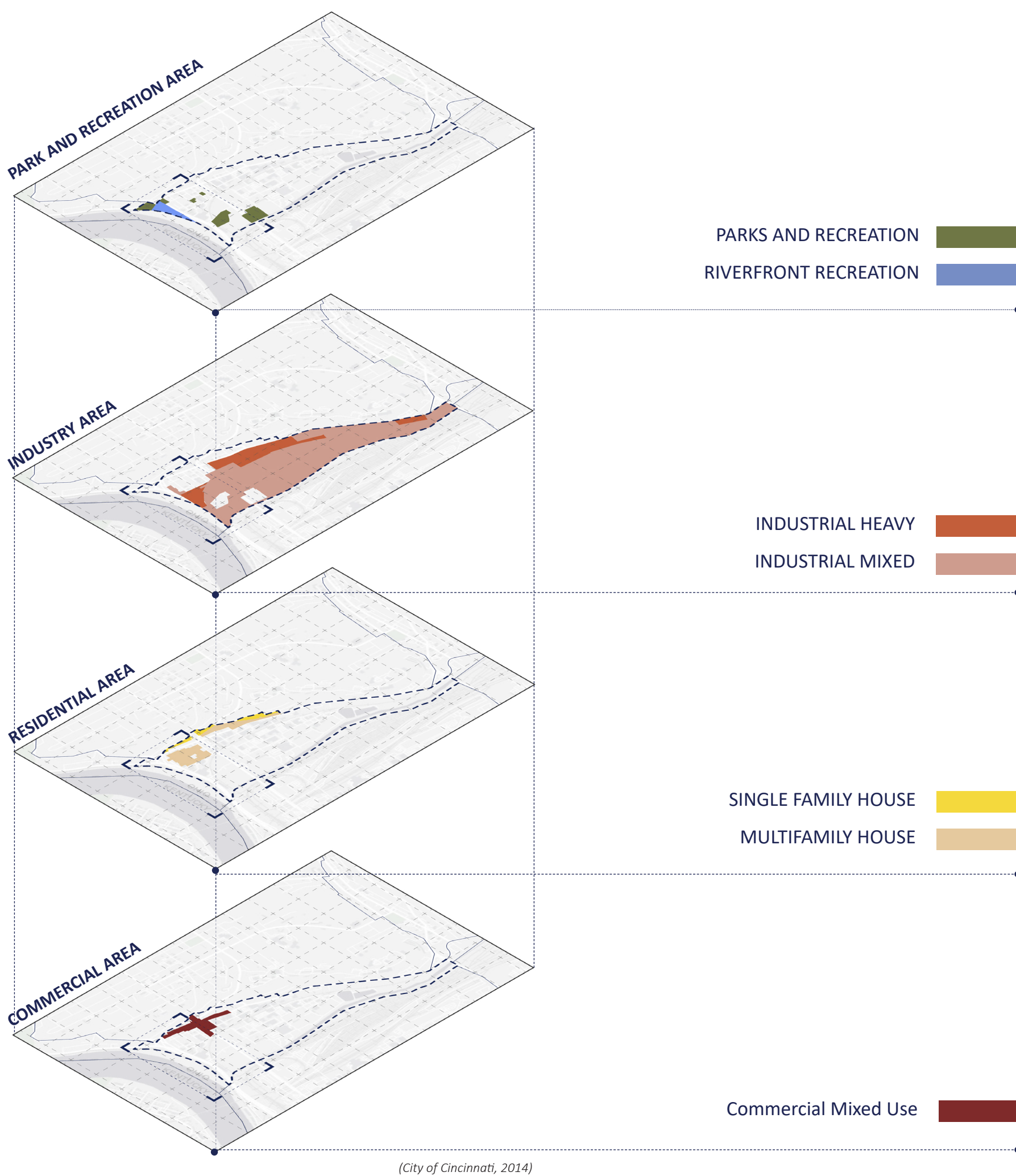
Lower Price Hill is one of the first neighborhoods in Cincinnati to be included in the planning. From the 1800s-1940s, many working-class Irish immigrants lived there. After WW2, Appalachian moved to the neighborhood; it became a thriving Appalachians community in the 1970s. In the recent two decades the number of Latino has been rising. After the 1990s, it began to experience population loss. The originally middle-class neighborhood finally became mainly low-income residents (Cincy.com, 2013) (Sweet, E., 2021).

The LPH neighborhood is a typical example of "out-migration" in the 1960's when industry began to adjust from a manufacture base centered locally to that industry locating in other regions. As the industry moved, those working-class families moved as well and left behind housing stock less valuable but affordable to lower income families. (Sweet, E., 2021)

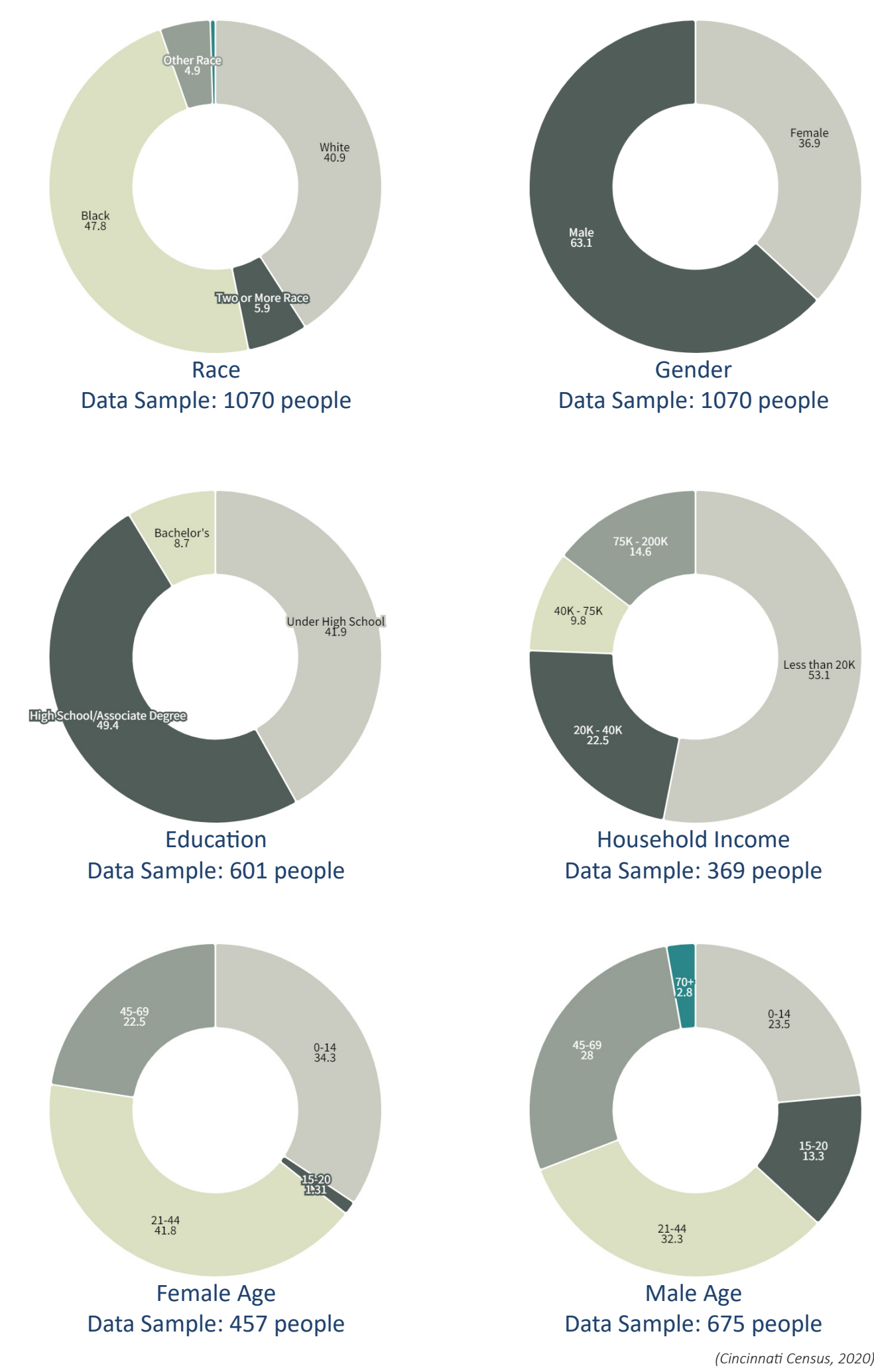
According to the 2020 census, the migration back to these types of neighborhoods are attractive once again to those either starting families (young couples) or those interested in living in progressive neighborhoods on the rise.



2. LOWER PRICE HILL ZONING MAP

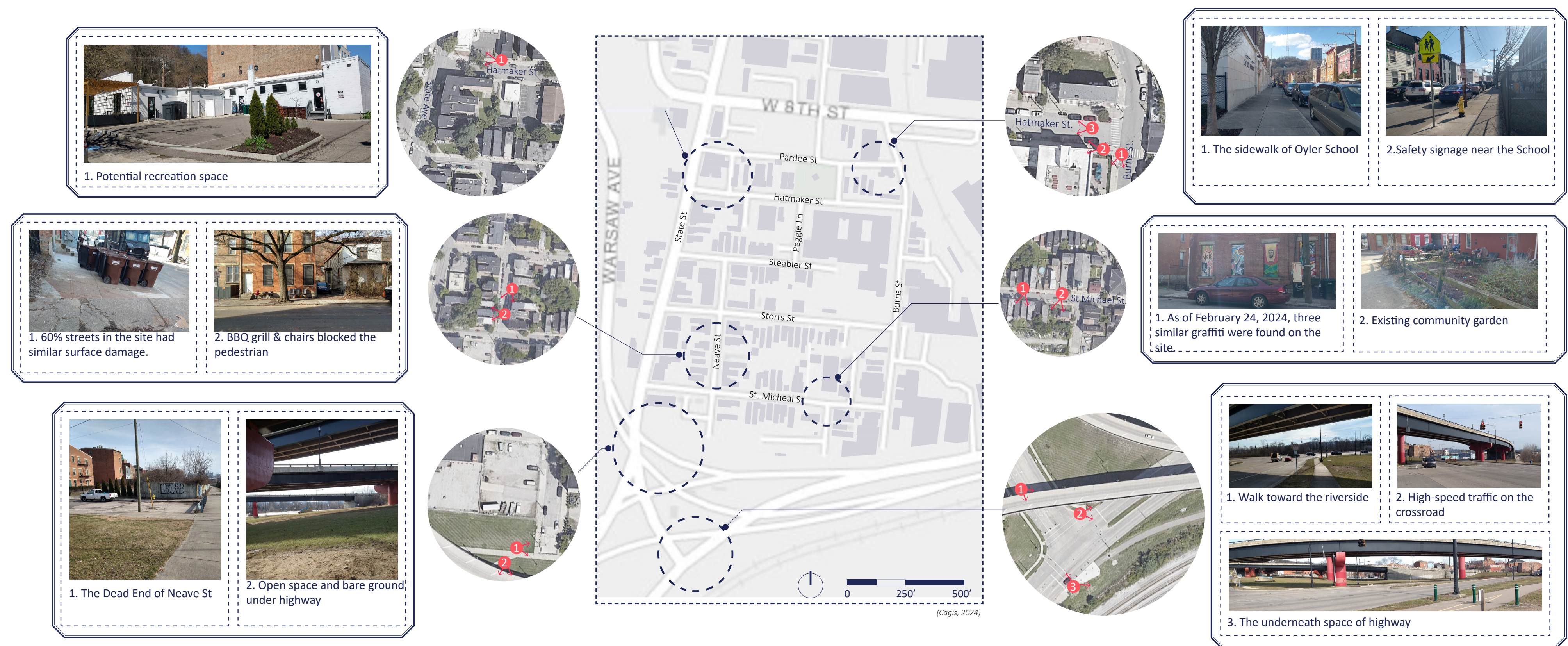


3. DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION



5. SITE VISIT

This research conducted a visit in the southwest area of the site and documented several situations in Spring 2024. The photos capture Neave Street, St. Michael Street, green spaces under the highways, and the riverfront green space along the Ohio River. Lower Price Hill is a mixed race neighborhood (35.3% Black, 43.4% white, 21.3% Other, and 2.1% Hispanic) with 1,082 residents, 40% of which are 17 and under. (Cincinnati Census, 2020) The site presents many challenges, such as not well managed community gardens, vacant houses, sidewalks occupied by trash cans and barbecue grills, and damaged concrete surfaces, etc. Through photo observation, opportunities can be identified to create a better neighborhood community environment.



1. PROJECT SWOT ANALYSIS



A man in a brown sweater is in the foreground, covering his ears with his hands, looking distressed. In the background, a red fire truck is parked on a city street. A large red lightning bolt graphic is superimposed over the scene, indicating a loud noise or explosion. The building in the background has the text "FORD MOTOR COMPANY" visible.

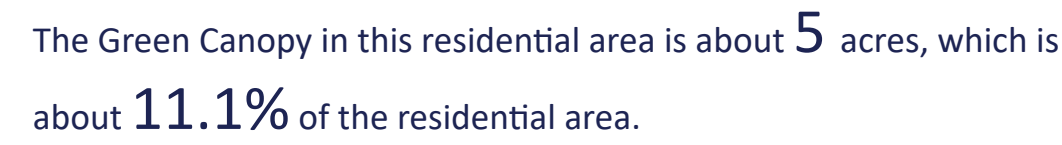
There is a fire station in w 8th street. Every time a fire truck is dispatched, it emits a siren, which can be heard up to half a mile away in residential areas. In other words, residents throughout the entire vicinity can feel its presence. Within a 50-foot range, noise from the highway can reach **70dBi to 80dBi**, akin to the volume of people conversing loudly nearby. The sound of fire engines can reach 120dBi, equivalent to someone loudly roaring by one's ear. For comparison, the noise level of a car horn is 110dB, making fire engine noise ten times louder than a car horn. (FTA, May 2006)



Site Circle

Highway Noise Coverage

2. CANOPY COVERAGE



CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOOD, CINCINNATI - 52%



4. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

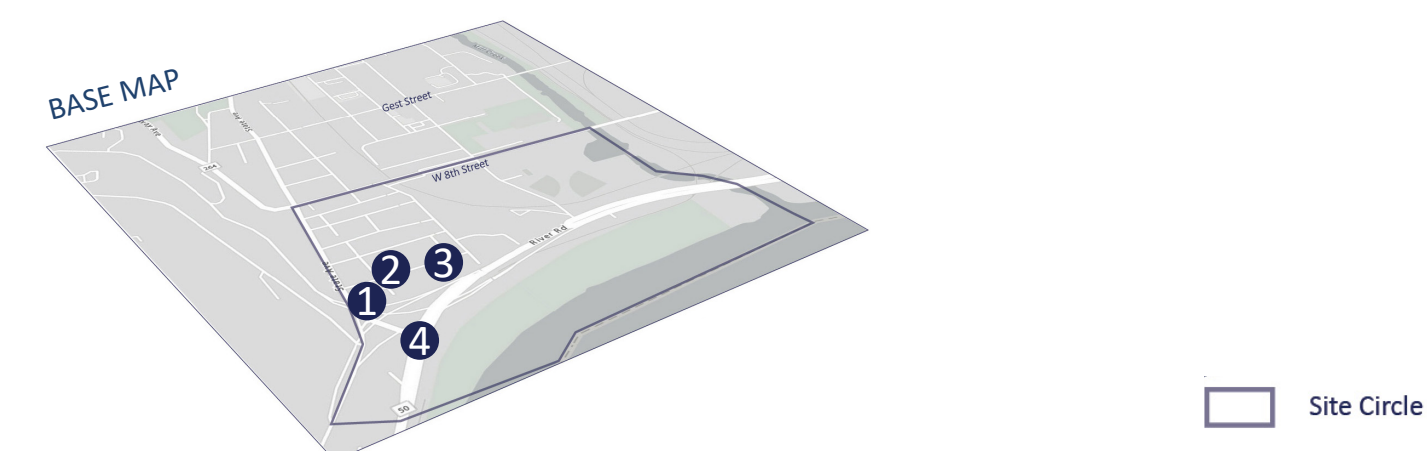
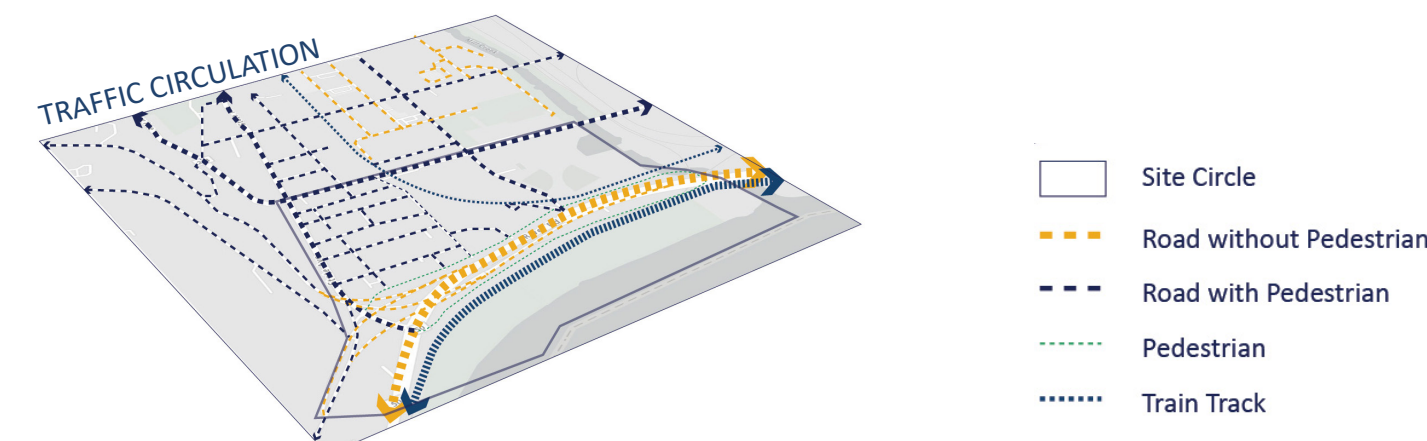
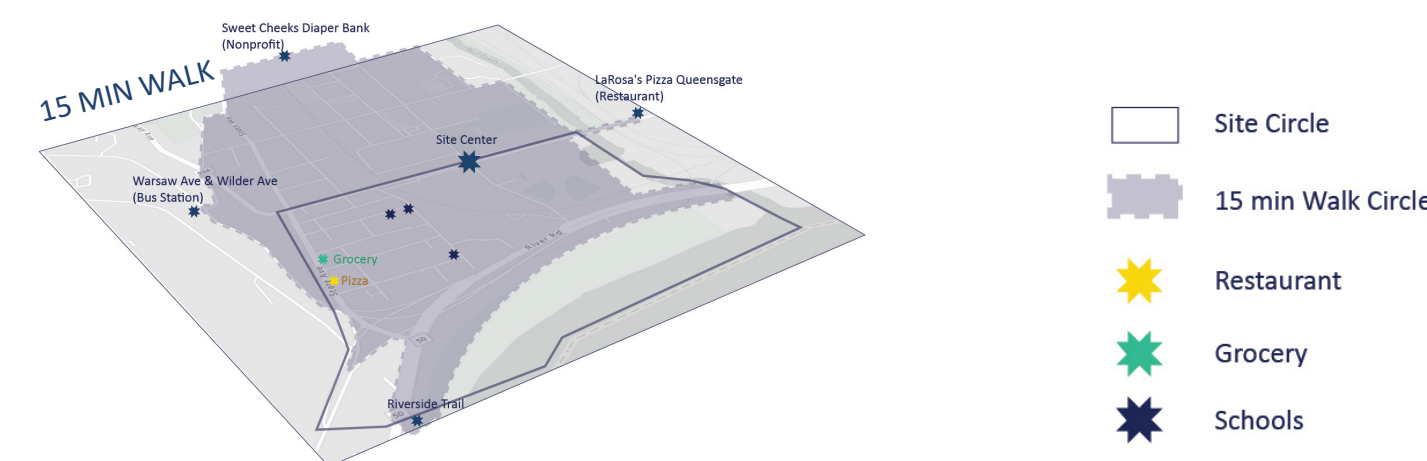


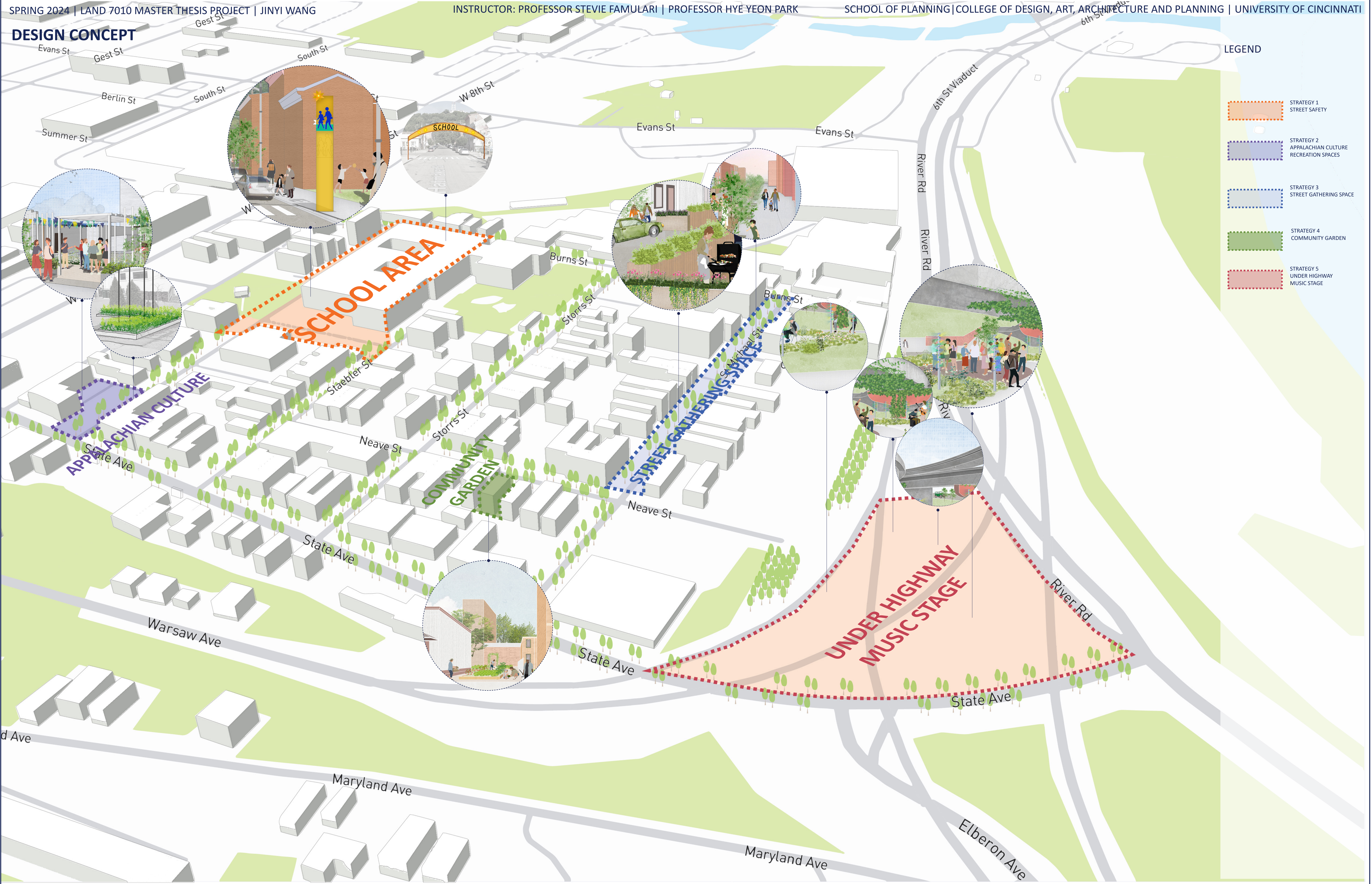
Diagram illustrating a neighborhood layout with a central horizontal road and five destinations branching off:

- Deli:** 3 min walk from the left end of the road.
- Middle School:** 2 min walk from the Deli.
- Restaurant:** 3 min walk from the Middle School.
- Laundry Service:** 3 min walk from the Restaurant.
- Top of Road:** 5 min walk from the Laundry Service area.



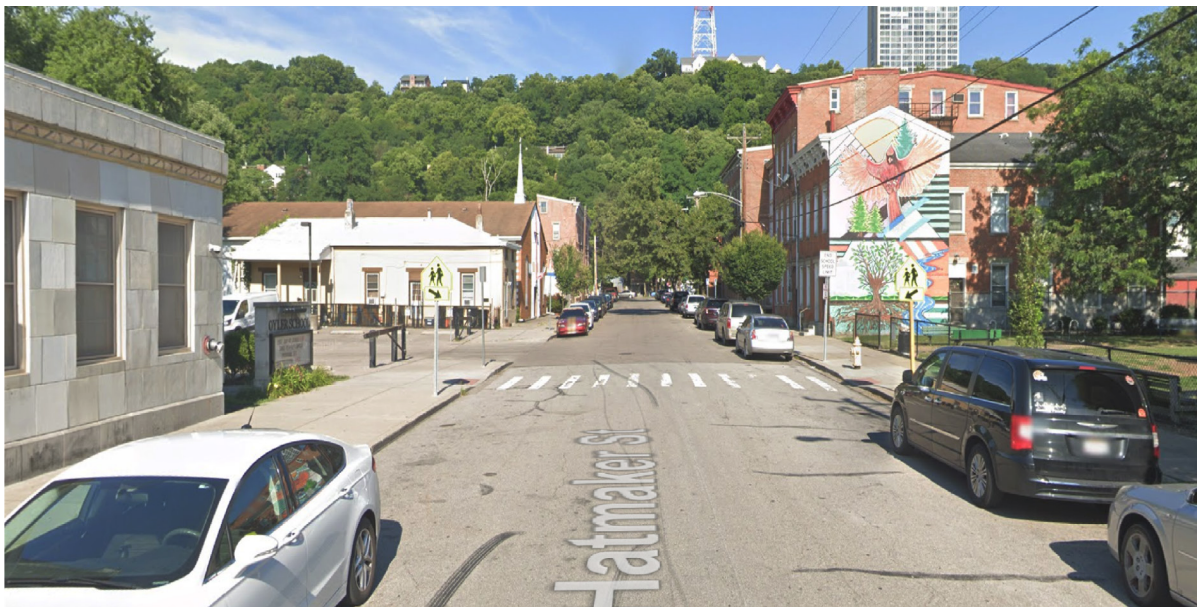
Train Track

LEGEND



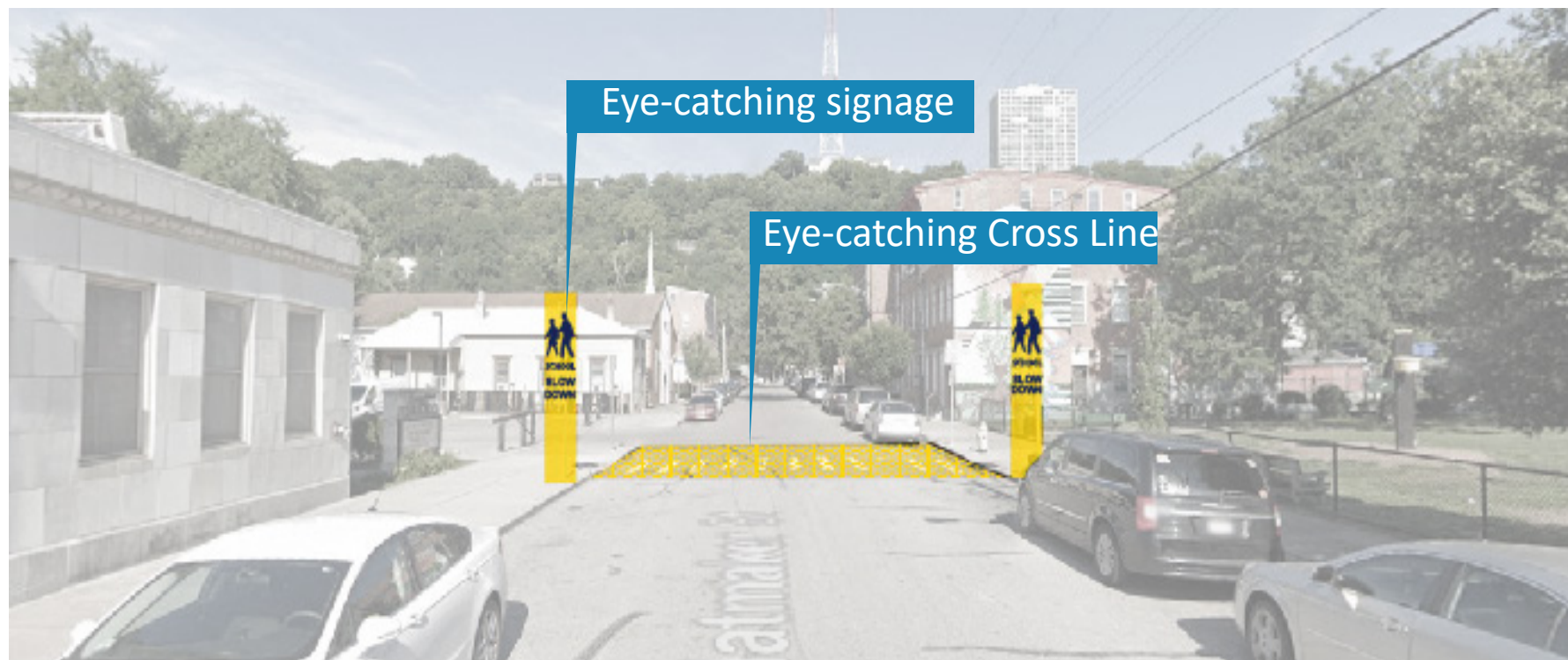
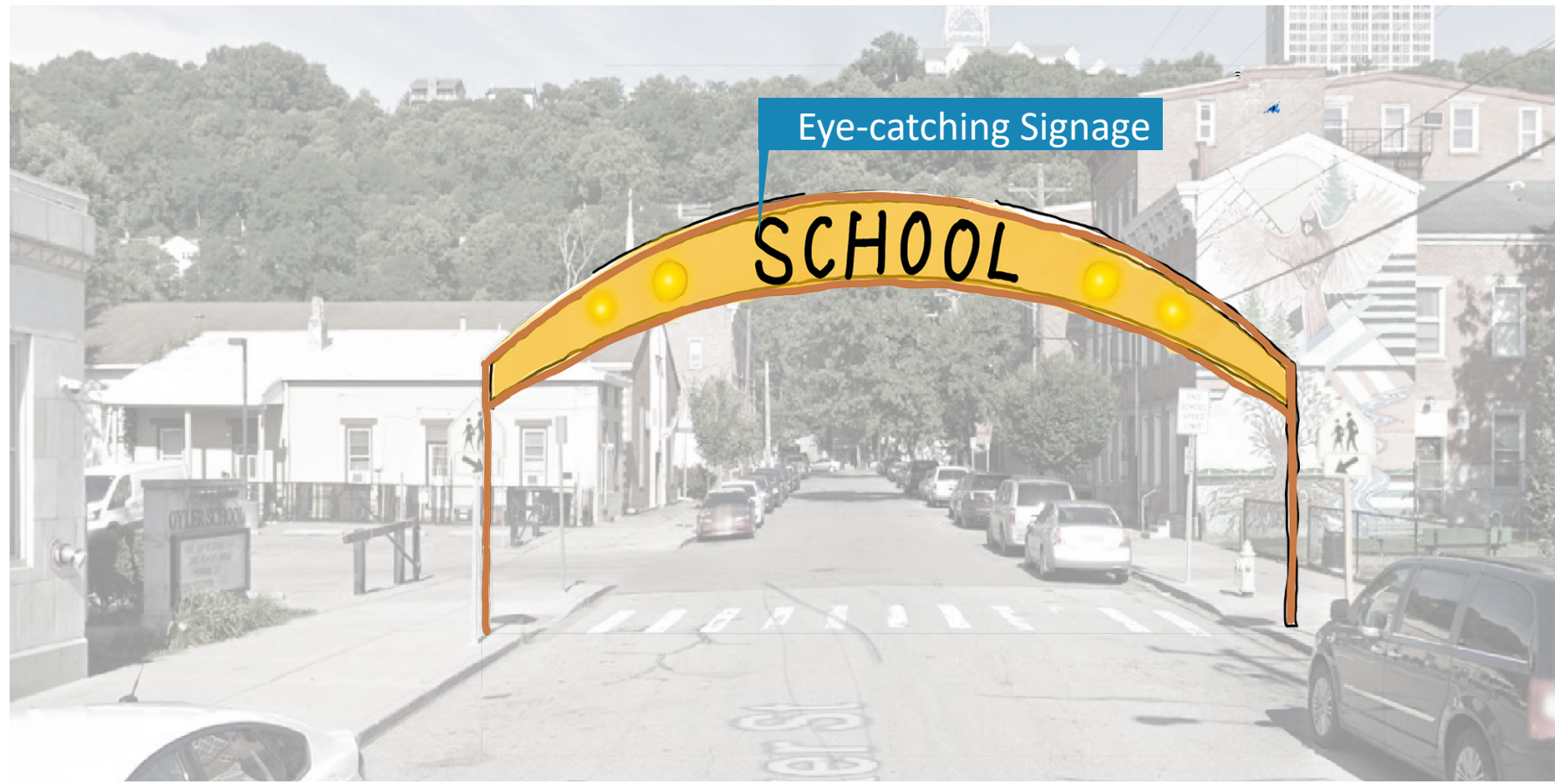
DESIGN STRATEGY

DESIGN STRATEGY 1 - STREET SAFETY

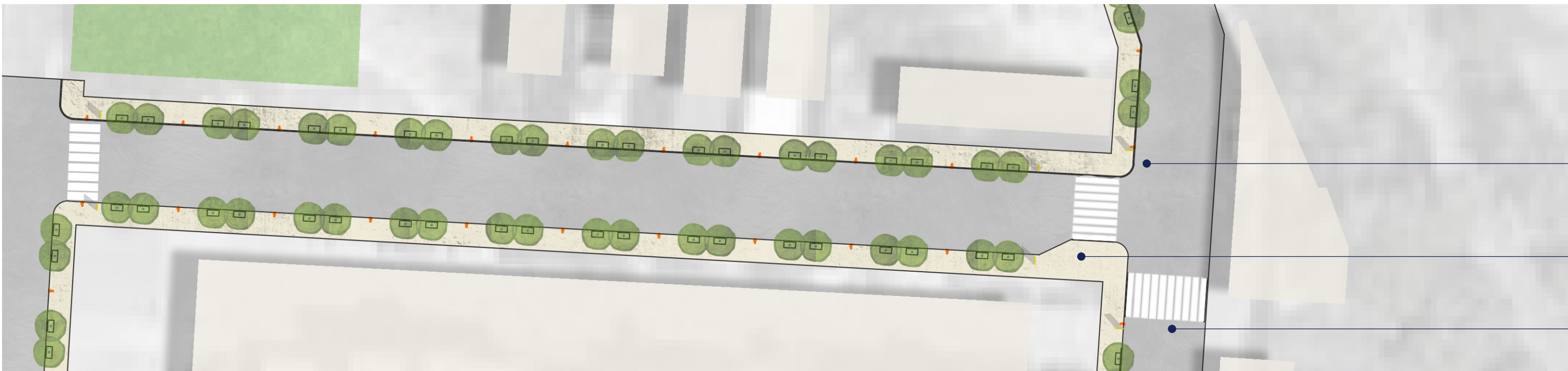


EXISTING Photo by Jinyi Wang

Street safety has always been a focal point of concern for residents in this area, particularly due to the presence of a high school where traffic control by police cars is required during school dismissal times. In 2023, a heartbreaking traffic accident occurred here, resulting in the tragic death of a three-year-old boy. This incident has brought even greater attention to the safety issues surrounding the streets near the school. To enhance street safety, especially on the streets adjacent to the school, prominent signage and speed reduction are crucial. The design scheme incorporates bright yellow coloration, along with conspicuous text and flashing lights, to draw drivers' attention and prompt them to slow down. These prominent signs and lights not only serve to remind drivers to watch for pedestrians and students but also improve street visibility during nighttime and inclement weather, thus reducing the occurrence of traffic accidents. Furthermore, strengthening street safety measures also helps bolster residents' confidence in street safety, providing children with a safer campus and community environment. Therefore, investing in improvements to street safety facilities is not just an investment in residents' quality of life but also an investment in the future of the community, laying a solid foundation for its development and prosperity.



PROPOSED SCENARIO



PROPOSED PLAN



- SAFE ZONE FOR PEDESTRIAN
- PROPOSED SAFE CURB
- PROPOSED SCHOOL SIGNAGE WITH FLASHING LIGHTS



PROPOSED PERSPECTIVE

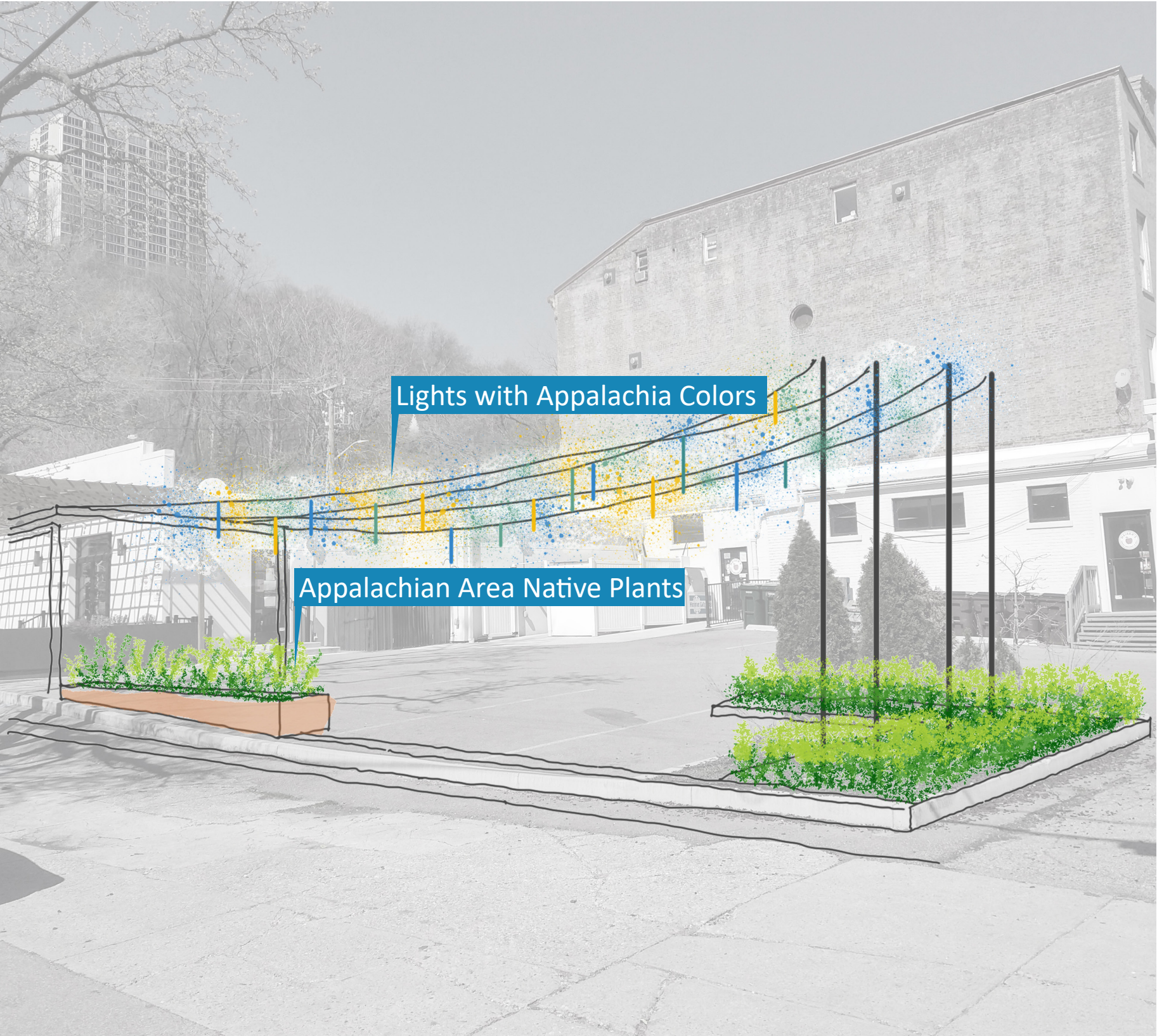
- PROPOSED SCHOOL SIGNAGE WITH FLASHING LIGHTS AND APPALACHIAN CULTURE ELEMENTS
- PROPOSED SAFE ZONE
- PROPOSED GROUND SIGNAGE

DESIGN STRATEGY 2 - APPALACHIAN CULTURE RECREATION SPACES

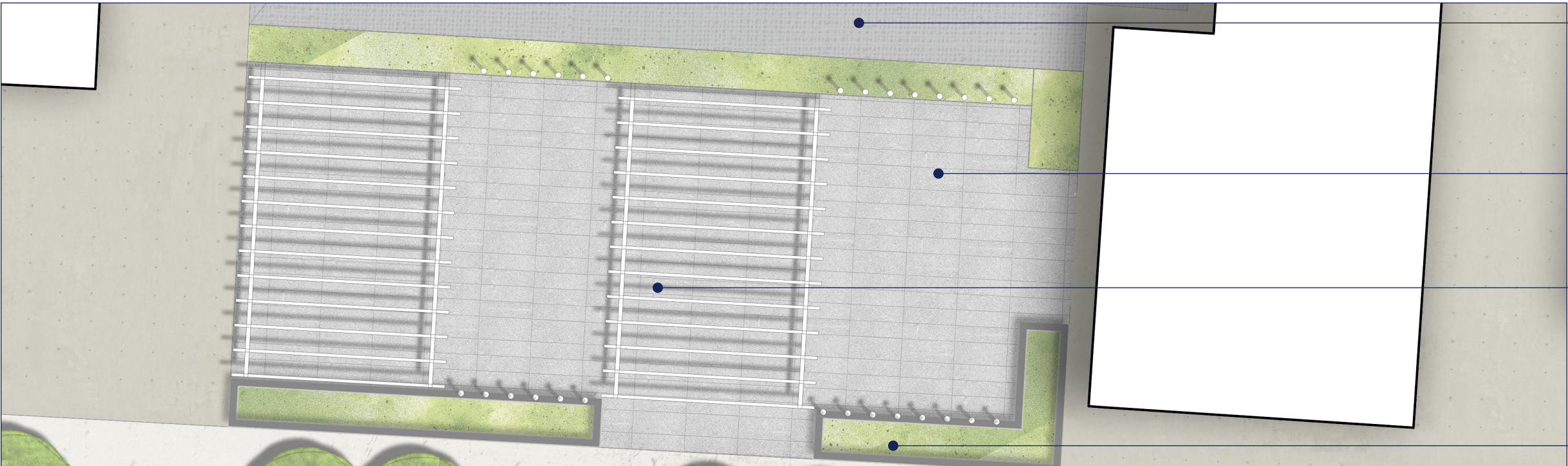


EXISTING

Currently, this space is used as a parking lot, but according to the zoning map, this plot of land is designated for recreational purposes. Therefore, it is an ideal venue for celebrating Appalachian culture. This space is perfect for transforming into a pavilion adorned with Appalachian-themed flags and lights, surrounded by plants native to the Appalachian region. Utilizing these plants not only adds unique scenery to the site but also reduces maintenance costs, as they are better suited to the local climate and soil conditions. These pavilions can serve as gathering and relaxation spots for local residents and provide dining areas for employees in nearby commercial districts. People can unwind here, admire the scenery, and experience the charm of Appalachian culture. Additionally, this place can host various cultural events such as concerts, dance performances, and craft fairs, attracting more people to learn about and experience the unique charm of Appalachia. By transforming this parking lot into a venue celebrating Appalachian culture, we not only make efficient use of this piece of land but also provide more opportunities for cultural exchange and experiences for the local community and visitors, enriching the diversity and vibrancy of the city.



PROPOSED SCENARIO



PROPOSED PLAN



- EXISTING PARKING LOT
- PROPOSED POST FOR HANGING FLAGS
- PROPOSED OPEN CANOPY
- PROPOSED APPALACHIAN GARDEN



PROPOSED PERSPECTIVE

- PROPOSED OPEN CANOPY
- PROPOSED POST FOR HANGING FLAGS
- EXISTING PARKING LOT
- PROPOSED APPALACHIAN GARDEN

DESIGN STRATEGY

DESIGN STRATEGY 3 - STREET GATHERING SPACE

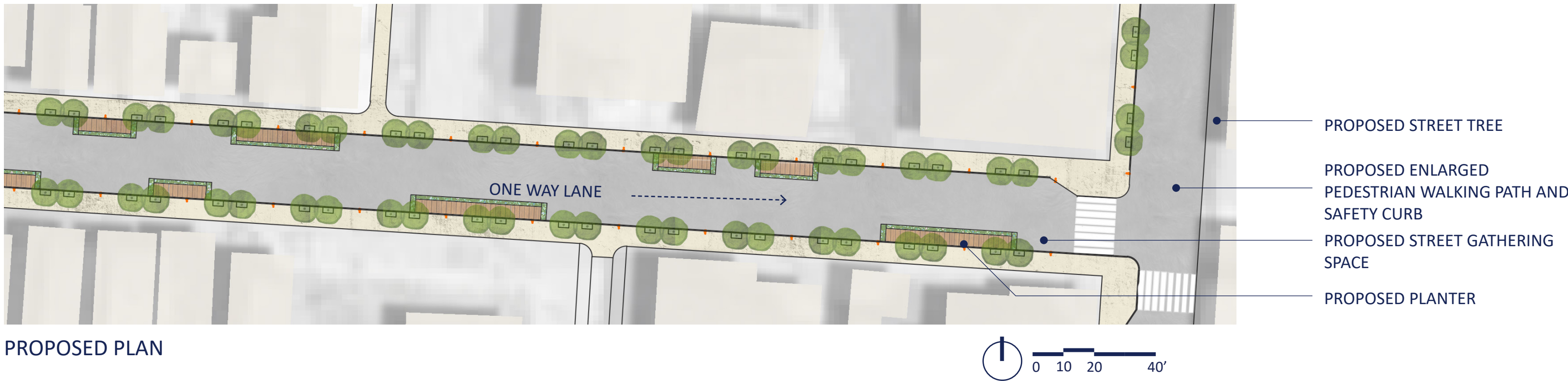


EXISTING

Streets are not just thoroughfares for vehicles; they can also serve as venues for community activities. With redesigned surroundings, streets are adorned with lush greenery, enticing people to pause and admire. Existing streets can undergo transformations, such as converting them into one-way lanes, to allocate more space for pedestrians. The fenced areas on both sides of these streets can become daily gathering spots for residents. Inside the fences, benches, outdoor café seats, and more can be installed, providing community members with a relaxed and enjoyable space for interaction. Such renovations not only increase social activities within the community but also enhance residents' satisfaction and sense of belonging to the neighborhood. Furthermore, these alterations contribute to enhancing the overall streetscape, increasing urban greenery, thus improving the quality of urban life. By transforming streets into venues for community activities, we can not only better utilize urban spatial resources but also foster community integration and development, making cities more livable.



PROPOSED SCENARIO



PROPOSED PLAN



PROPOSED PERSPECTIVE

DESIGN STRATEGY 4 - COMMUNITY GARDEN

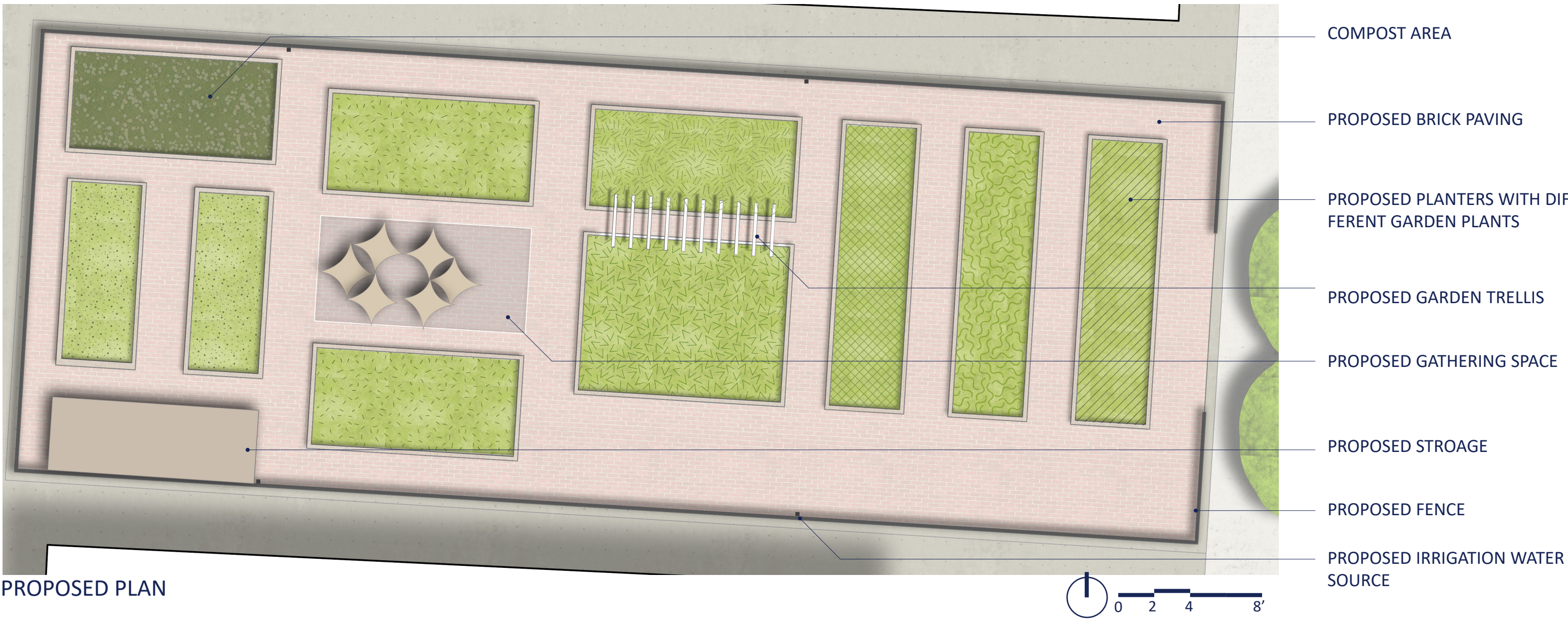


EXISTING

Before deciding to repurpose vacant land for other uses, considering transforming it into a community garden is a viable option. A community garden can serve as a multifunctional space, producing food by cultivating various vegetables and fruits on the land. These foods can be supplied to local delis, thereby reducing the adverse environmental impact of food transportation and lowering carbon emissions. Simultaneously, it provides community residents with more avenues to access fresh, high-quality food, aiding in improving their dietary habits and enhancing their health. This initiative not only enhances efficiency in resource utilization but also stimulates economic vitality within the community. The construction of community gardens can also foster interaction and collaboration among community residents, strengthening community cohesion and injecting new vitality into social development.



PROPOSED SCENARIO



PROPOSED PLAN



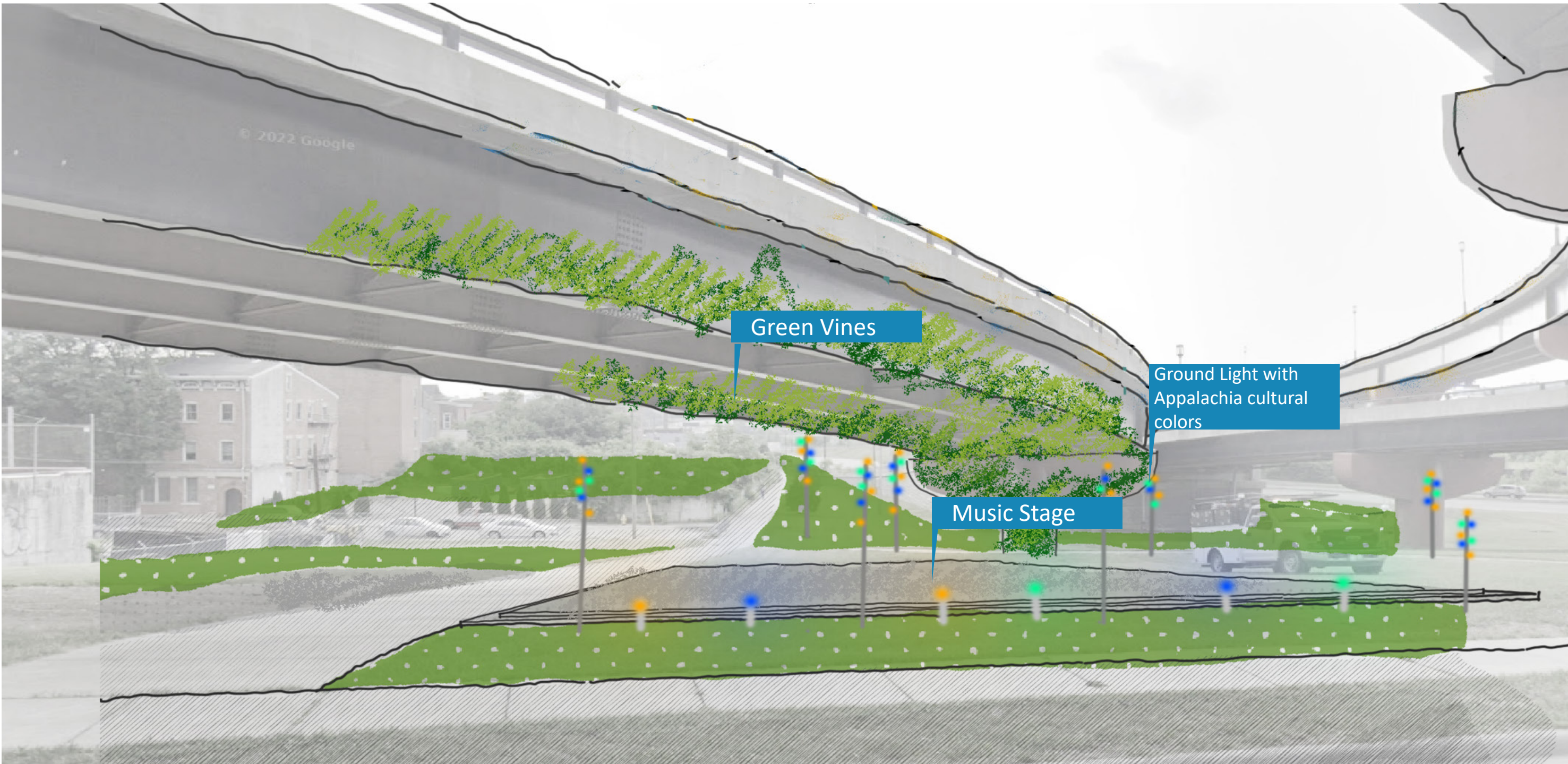
PROPOSED PERSPECTIVE

DESIGN STRATEGY 5 - STREET SAFETY

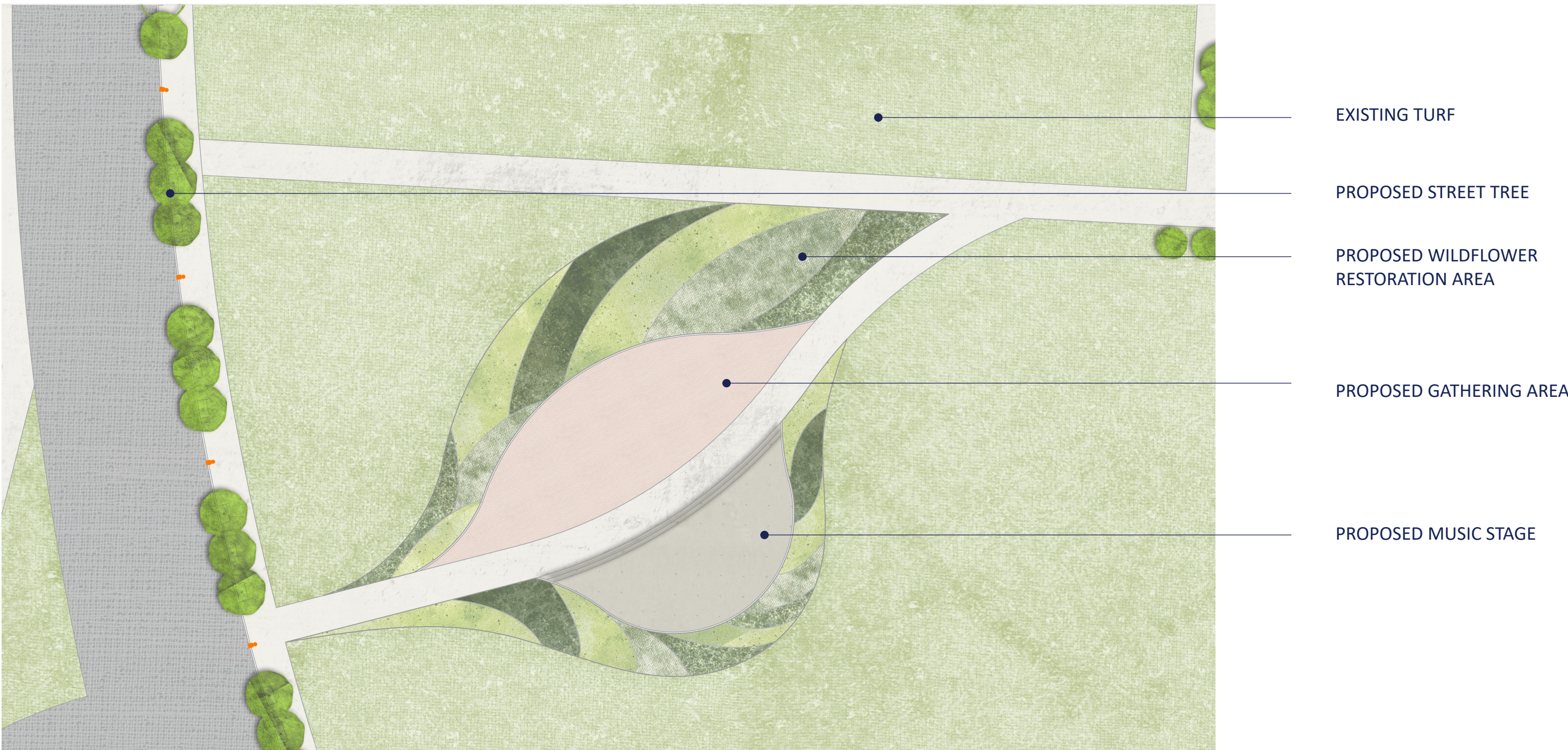


EXISTING

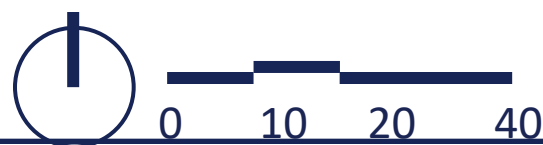
The open space beneath the highway currently presents a dull and lifeless scene, lacking the charm to attract gatherings. Due to its lack of focus, individuals lingering there may feel lost or unsure of what to do. However, by transforming this vacant land into a music stage, it can be effectively utilizing this area. The curved shape of the highway above forms a ready-made canopy, providing natural shade for the stage. Additionally, vines can be planted on the support pillars of the highway to enhance greenery and aesthetics. The underside of the elevated highway can also be adorned with community-spirited colorful lights and flags, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. In this way, this once abandoned space will be transformed into a multifunctional and appealing venue. Various cultural events, concerts, and community gatherings can be held here, attracting more people and fostering interaction among residents. Moreover, such a transformation can add a new attraction to the city, enhancing its image and appeal. By converting the space beneath the highway into a vibrant and active venue, we not only make efficient use of the land but also inject new vitality and energy into the city.



PROPOSED SCENARIO



PROPOSED PLAN



PROPOSED PERSPECTIVE

EXISTING HIGHWAY

VERTICAL GREEN AREA

PROPOSED MUSIC STAGE

PROPOSED GATHERING SPACE

PROPOSED WILDFLOWER RESTORATION AREA

DESIGN SUMMARY

The Lower Price Hill neighborhood is a vibrant one, characterized by an admirable spirit of revival. Residents of this neighborhood are dedicated to its revitalization, contributing through various efforts such as refurbishing vacant buildings, establishing community gardens, and increasing community activities. In 2019, the neighborhood released a comprehensive revitalization plan outlining various objectives and future prospects, albeit with a relatively brief discussion on community culture.

The Lower Price Hill area holds immense potential. This research project aims to utilize green design to provide gathering spaces, healthy green areas, and street safety for Lower Price Hill communities. Through site analysis, literature review, and case studies, the project identifies three primary goals: promoting healthy green spaces, enhancing street safety for pedestrians, and providing gathering spaces. To achieve these goals, the project sets five specific objectives: community gardens, street gathering spaces, safety signage, Appalachian cultural spaces, and the reuse of spaces under highways. These objectives aim to improve community environmental infrastructure and resource utilization, enhance the quality of life for community residents, and strengthen community cohesion.

This study offers insights into better utilization of public spaces and vacant land, addressing issues faced by the Lower Price Hill area such as air pollution, low canopy coverage, noise, limited access to healthy food, and a lack of public gathering spaces.