

An aerial photograph of the St. Helens Riverwalk area. The image shows a large body of water on the left, a paved walkway along the shore, and a mix of residential and commercial buildings. A prominent building with a clock tower is visible on the right. The text "St. Helens Riverwalk City Council Special Meeting" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center. Below it, the date "August 4, 2021" is also overlaid in white, bold font. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the layout of the town and its proximity to the water.

**St. Helens Riverwalk
City Council Special Meeting**

August 4, 2021

TAC Members:

Dan Cary, Planning Commission & Oregon DSL
Jennifer Dimsho, City Planner
Sue Nelson, City Engineer
John Walsh, City Administrator
Mouhamad Zaher, Public Works Director

Council Attendees:

Stephen Topaz _____
Rick Scholl _____
Doug Morten _____
Patrick Birkle] _____
Jessica Chilton] _____

TAC Meetings:

#1: Kickoff & Goal Setting
#2: Permitting Strategy Session
#3: Riverwalk Programming Alternatives
#4: Phase 1 Alternatives

Other Meetings:

Public Forum & Online Survey
Interpretive Focus Group Meetings

Project Goals:

- Provide **public access** to the waterfront for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Capture the **unique energy and authenticity** of St. Helens.
- Celebrate its long **history**.
- Protect and improve the local **ecology and habitat**.
- Emphasize **resiliency** by reducing risk against climate change and using sustainable materials.

May 19, 2021 Public Forum / 40+ Attendees / 471 Online survey responses

Top Priorities:

Pathway



Viewpoints

Seating
Overlooks



Paddlecraft
Launch



Wildlife Habitat
Improvements



Shoreline
Access



Gathering Space

Picnic Area Lounging
Socializing



Outdoor Dining

Relationship to Private
Development



Playscapes



Fishing

Channel River

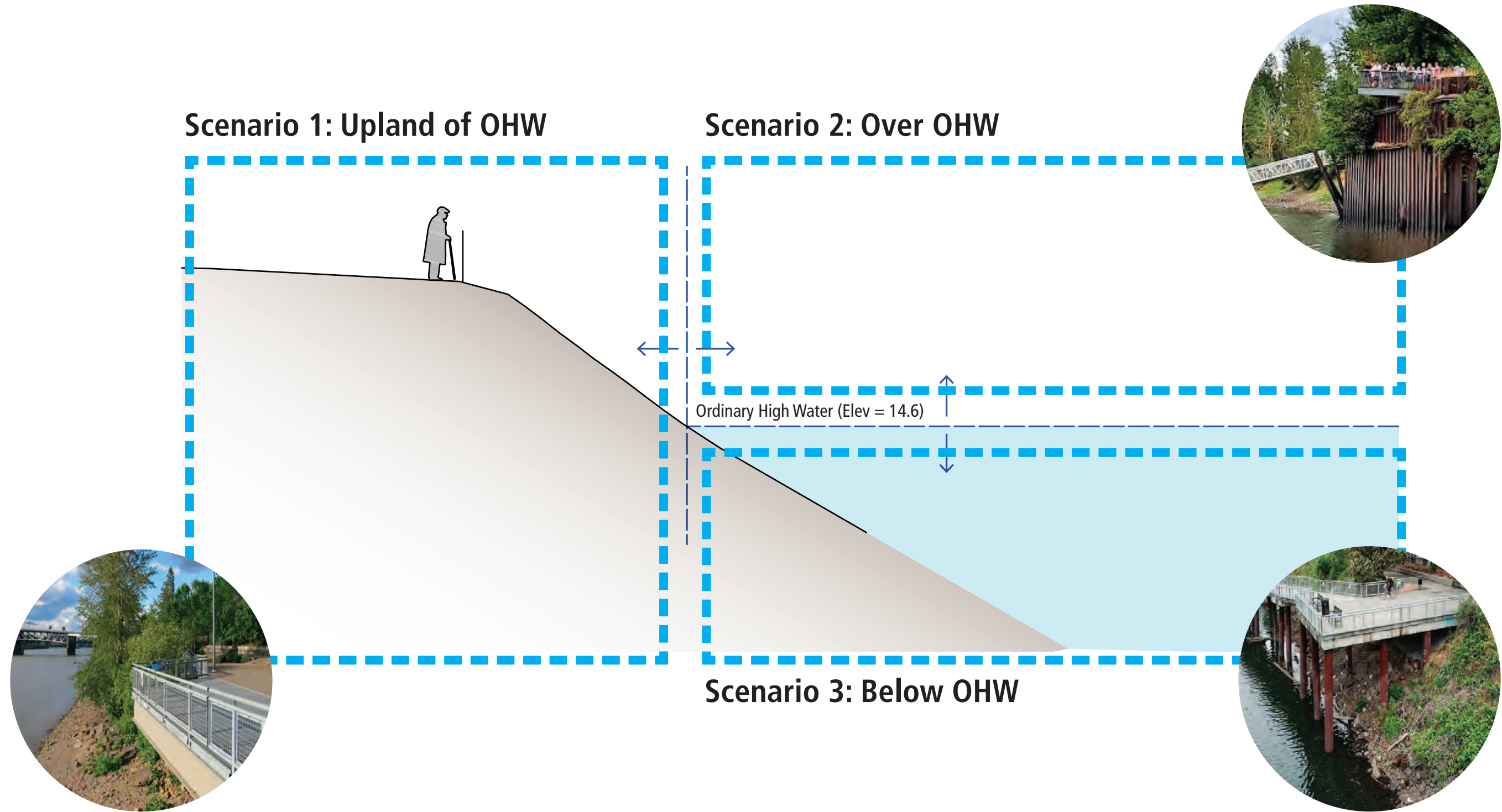


Other Considerations:

Special Opportunity
Area

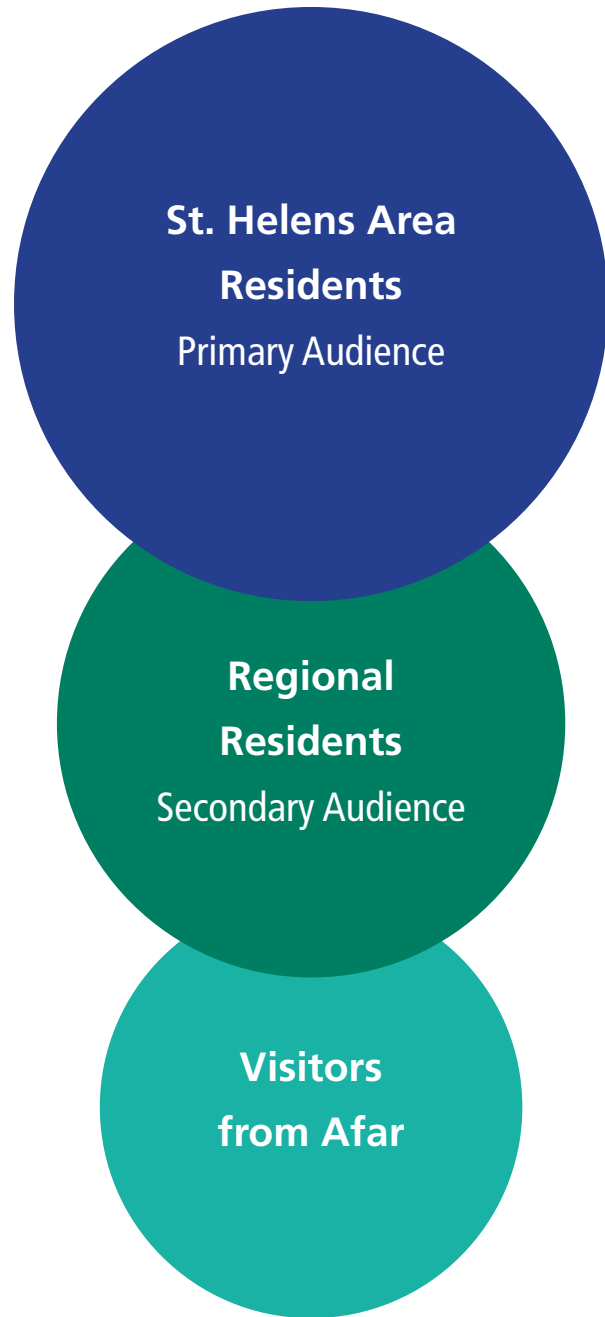
Potential Marina

Restrooms & Storage

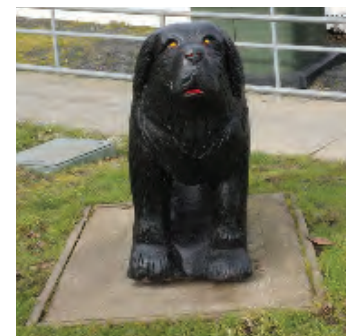


Audience

Riverwalk wayfinding and interpretive signs will be designed as an extension of the St. Helens's wayfinding masterplan sign system.



Existing Elements / Character



Inspiration Images





Main Theme:

The City of St. Helens is shaped by the connectivity, sustenance and awe-inspiring beauty of the Columbia River.

Subthemes:

- This site was created by geological events that shaped the mountains, river and landforms.
- The thriving ecosystem is rich with native vegetation, wildlife viewing, fishing and recreation.
- Before the City of St. Helens was founded, the Wapato Valley people occupied a large area at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, including the Gatlakmap village in the vicinity of present-day St. Helens.
- This port has provided ease of transportation and trade to industries such as ship building, a quarry, a mill and now offers views of the modern-day shipping channel.



A | Bring the City to the River



- Overlook
- Ex. Riverbank
- Overlook
- Remnant Concrete Beach
- Ex. Riverbank
- Overlook
- Picnic Shelter & Restroom
- Overlook
- Trail to Paddle Launch

B | Bring the River to the City



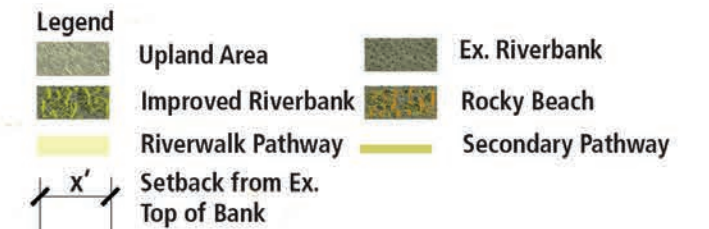
- Boardwalk
- Pier
- Reggraded Riverbank
- Small Plaza
- Rocky Shoreline
- Reggraded Riverbank
- Pier
- Paddle Launch on Dock

C | Push/Pull of River and City



- Stepped Seating
- Pocket Restoration
- Pier
- Terraced Riverbank
- Picnic Shelter & Restroom
- Pocket Restoration
- Small Plaza
- Trail to Paddle Launch

Preferred Overall Riverwalk Concept



Preferred Concept Recreation Hub



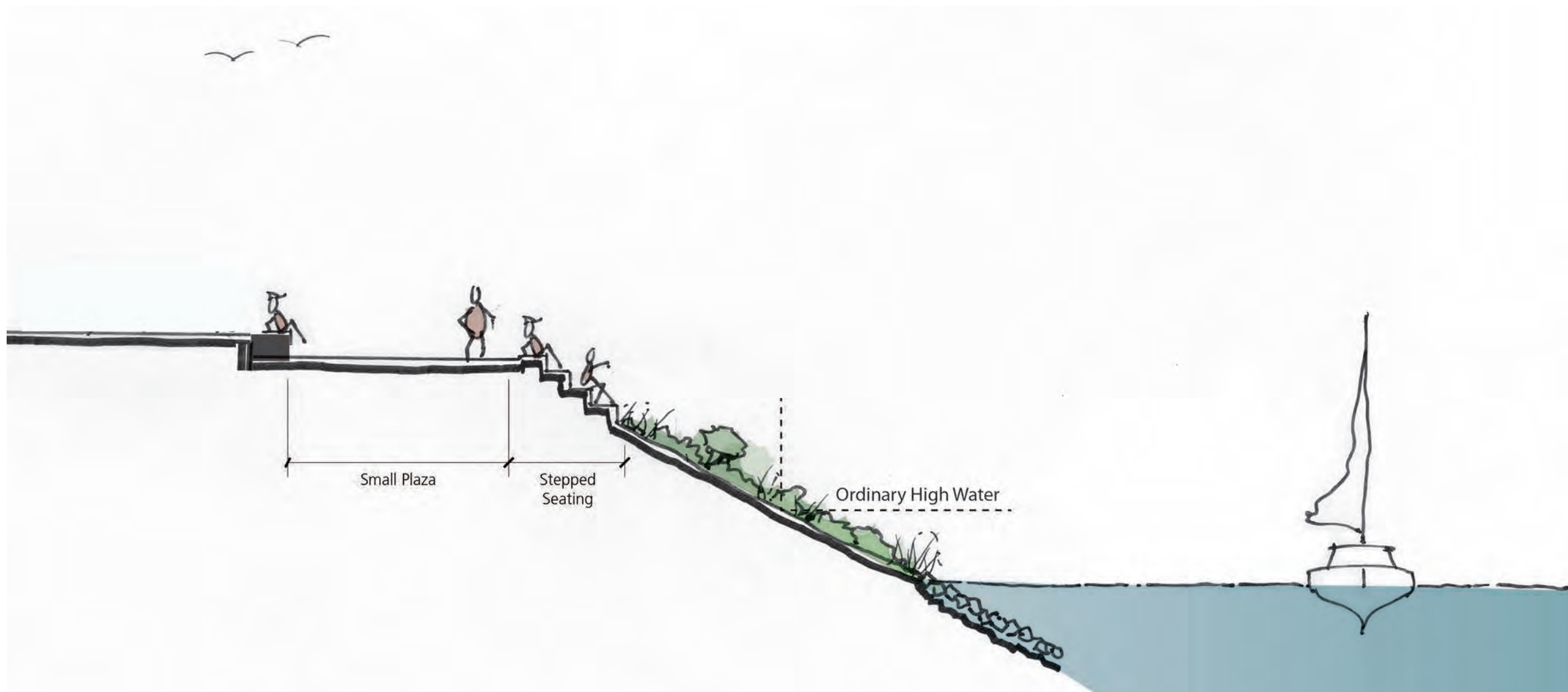
- Overlook cantilevered over water, off existing sheet pile wall.
- Paddle launch under trestle via trail. Loading area provided off 1st Street.
- Riverwalk within 100ft setback from existing top of bank.
- Future marina can be incorporated off east bank in river channel. Avoids conflict between marina users and paddle launch area in the slough.
- Opportunity for adjacent private development to support recreational hub uses.



Preferred Concept Nob Hill Node



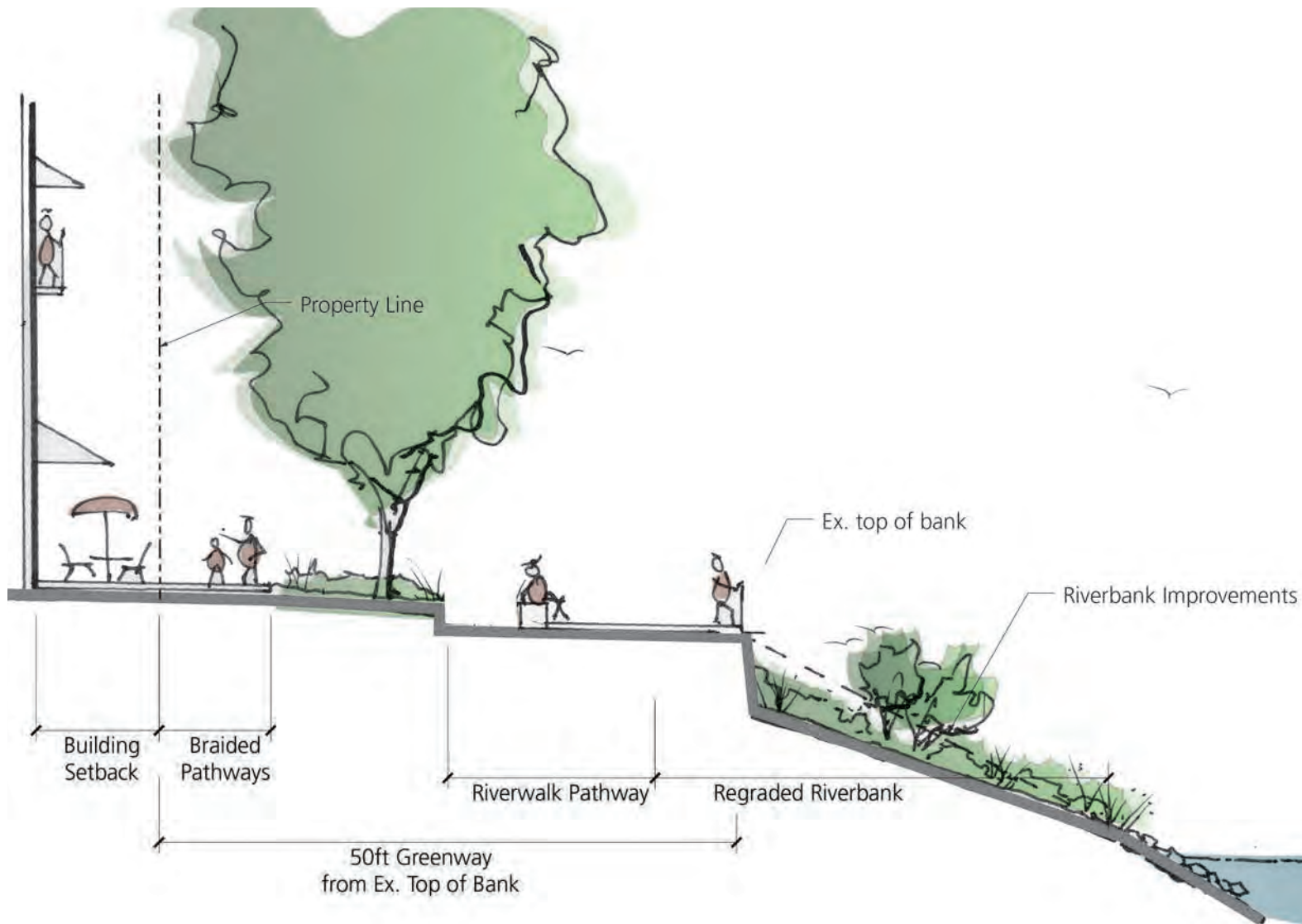
- Small plaza with stepped seating built into top of bank.
- Aligns with connection to Nob Hill Nature Park.



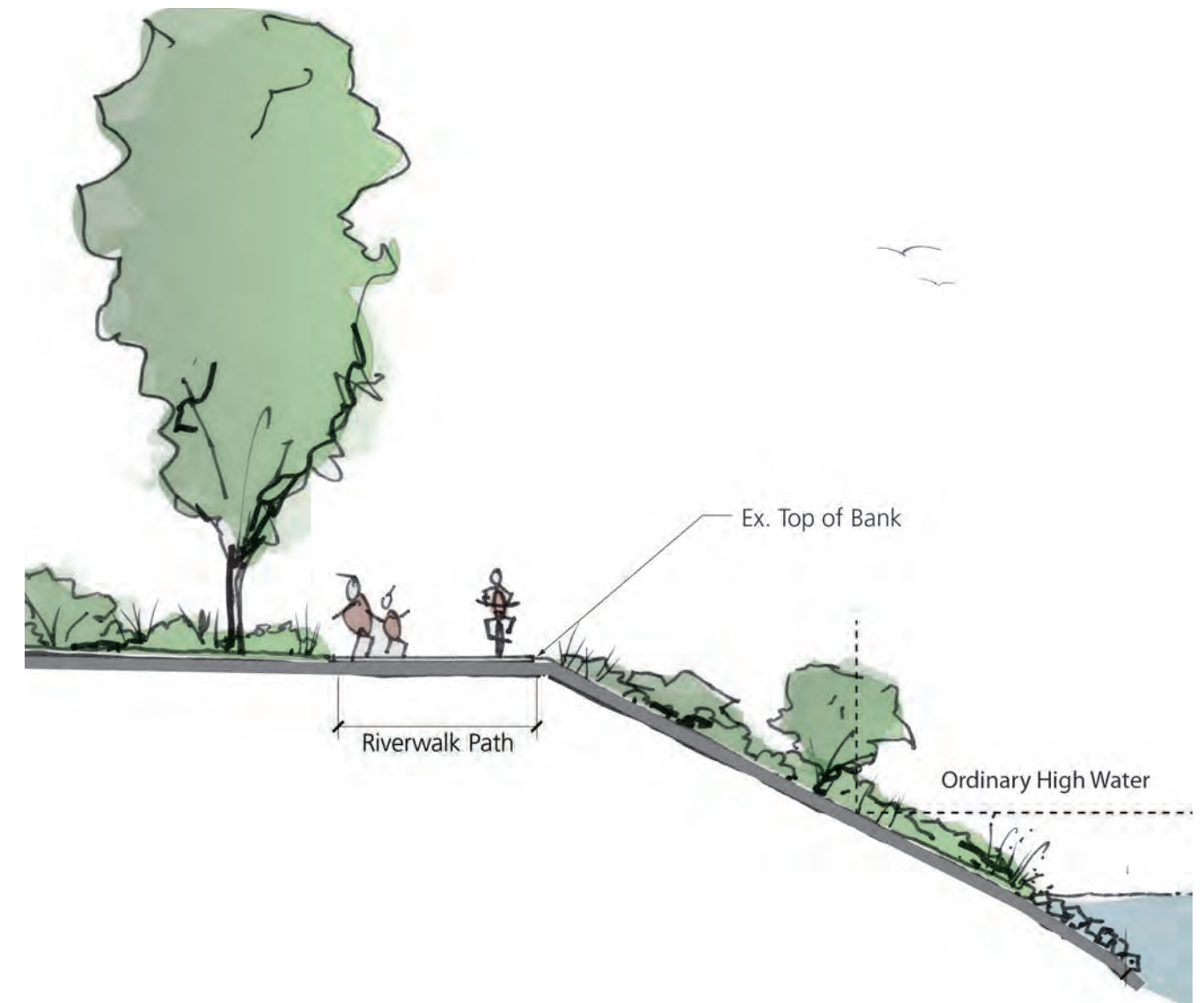
Preferred Concept Riverwalk Typical Section - South



- Main pathway follows top of bank.
- Curves create pockets of riverbank restoration, regraded all the way to top of bank, with other areas relying on retaining walls for less significant regrading.
- Secondary, braided pathways may connect to adjacent private development or provide additional points of interest for path users.

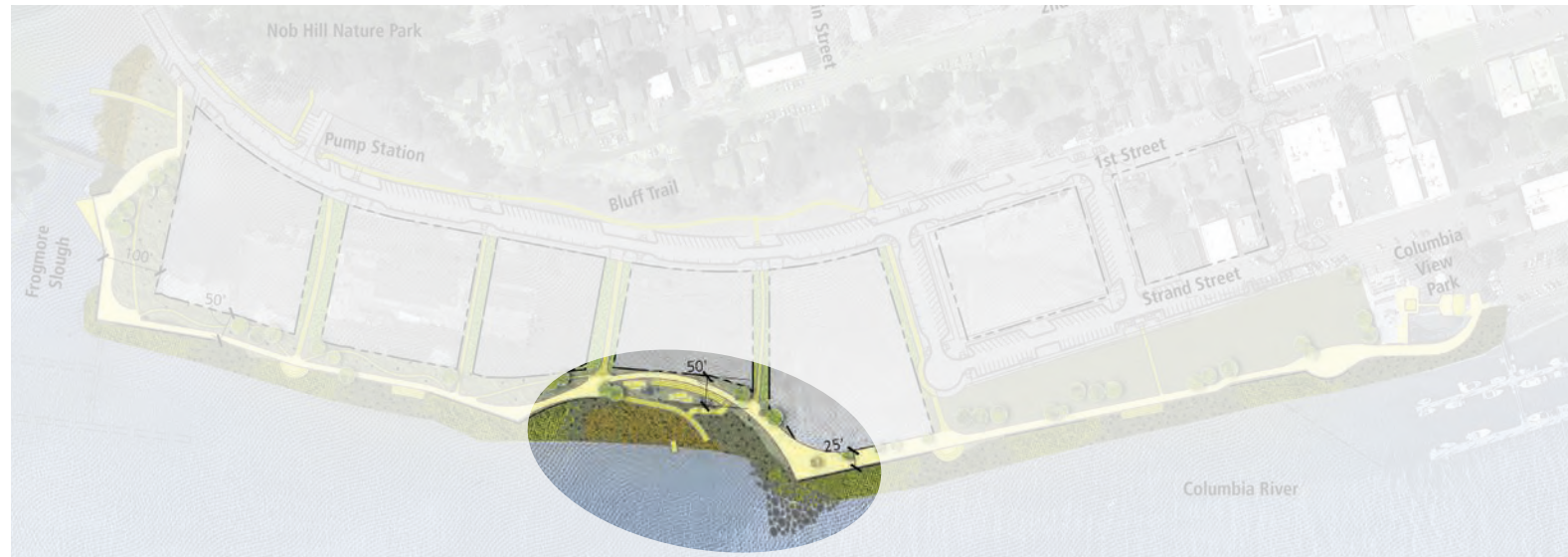


Riverwalk at Regraded Riverbank

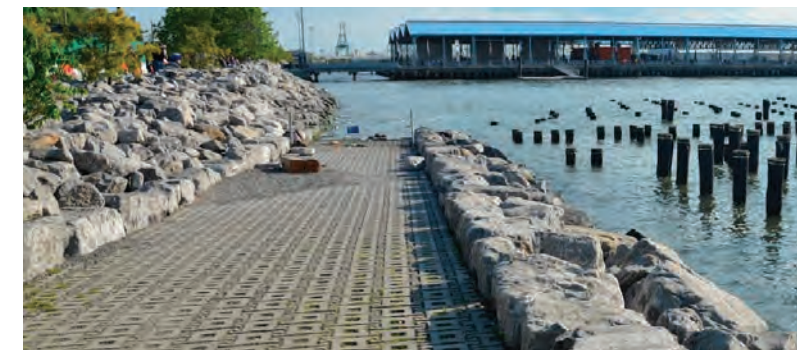
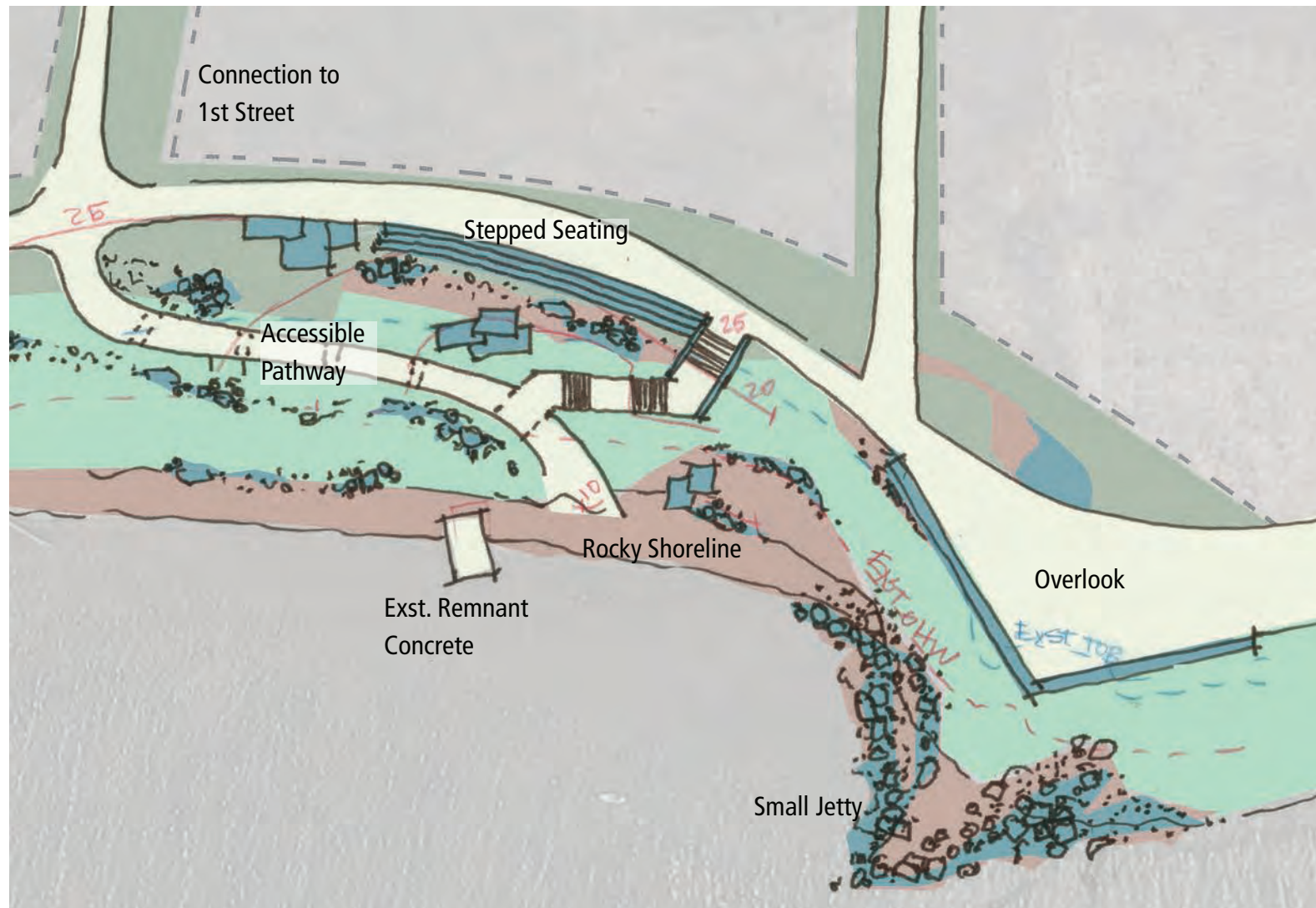


Riverwalk at Existing Riverbank

Preferred Concept Rocky Beach



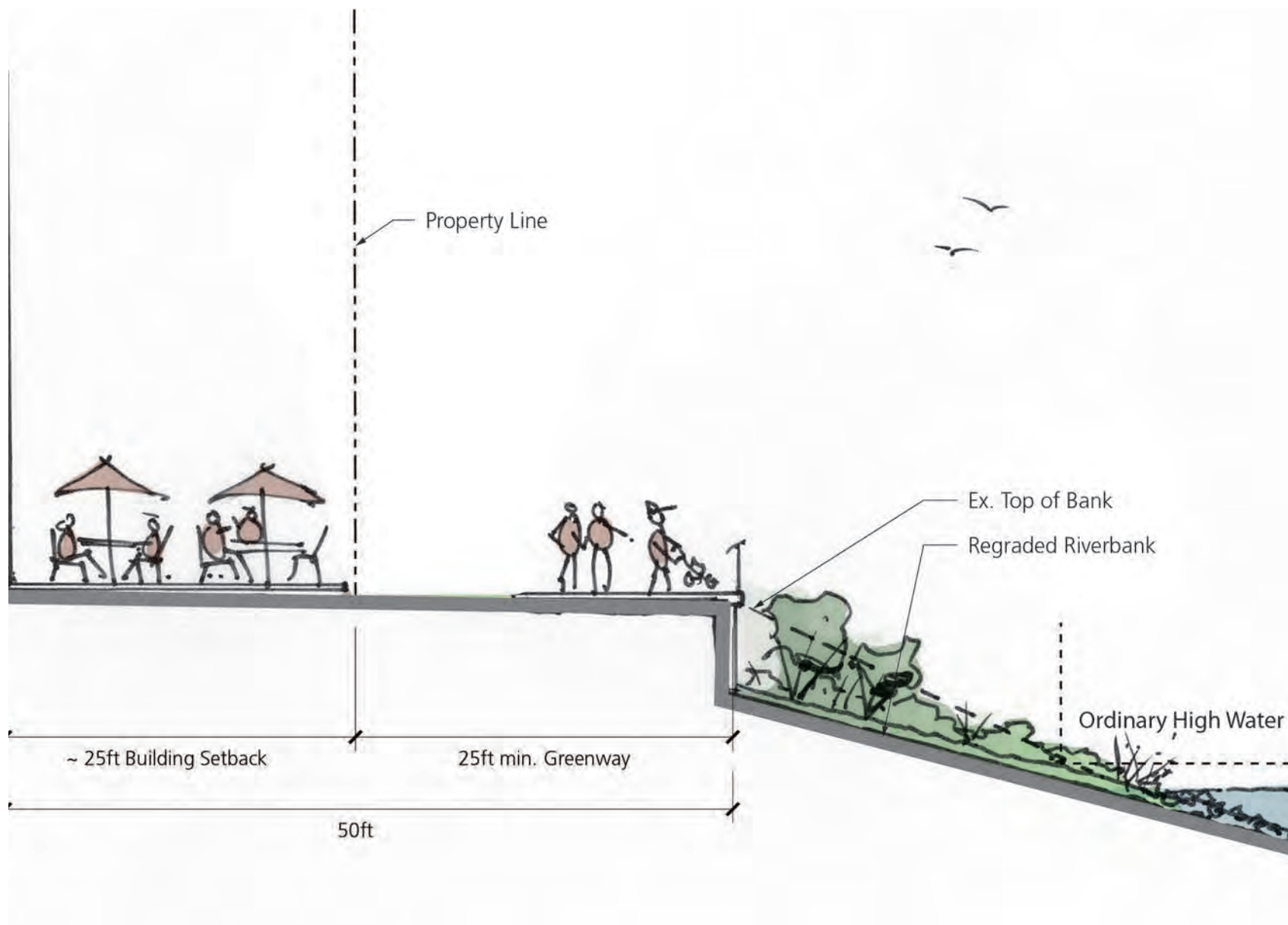
- Riverwalk within 50ft setback from existing top of bank.
- Accessible pathway and stairs down to shoreline.
- Rocky beach and small jetty invites scrambling and exploring. Rocks and riparian plantings secure slope.
- Overlook opportunity above small jetty.



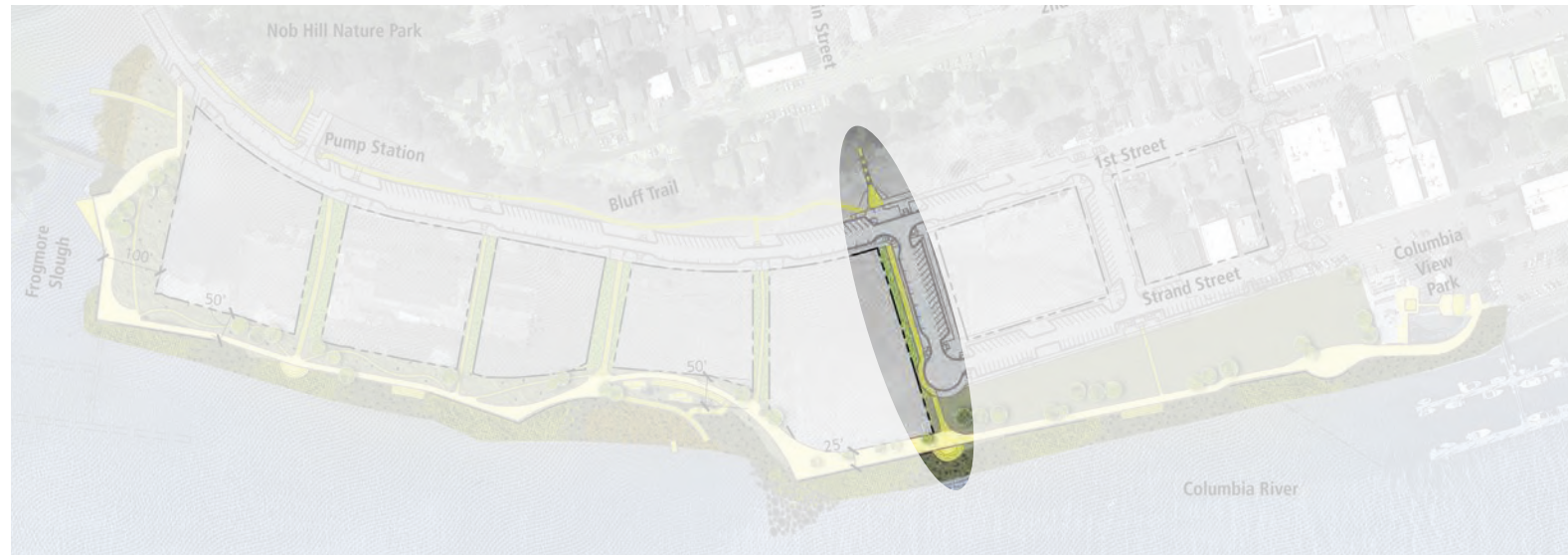
Preferred Concept Riverwalk at Potential Hotel



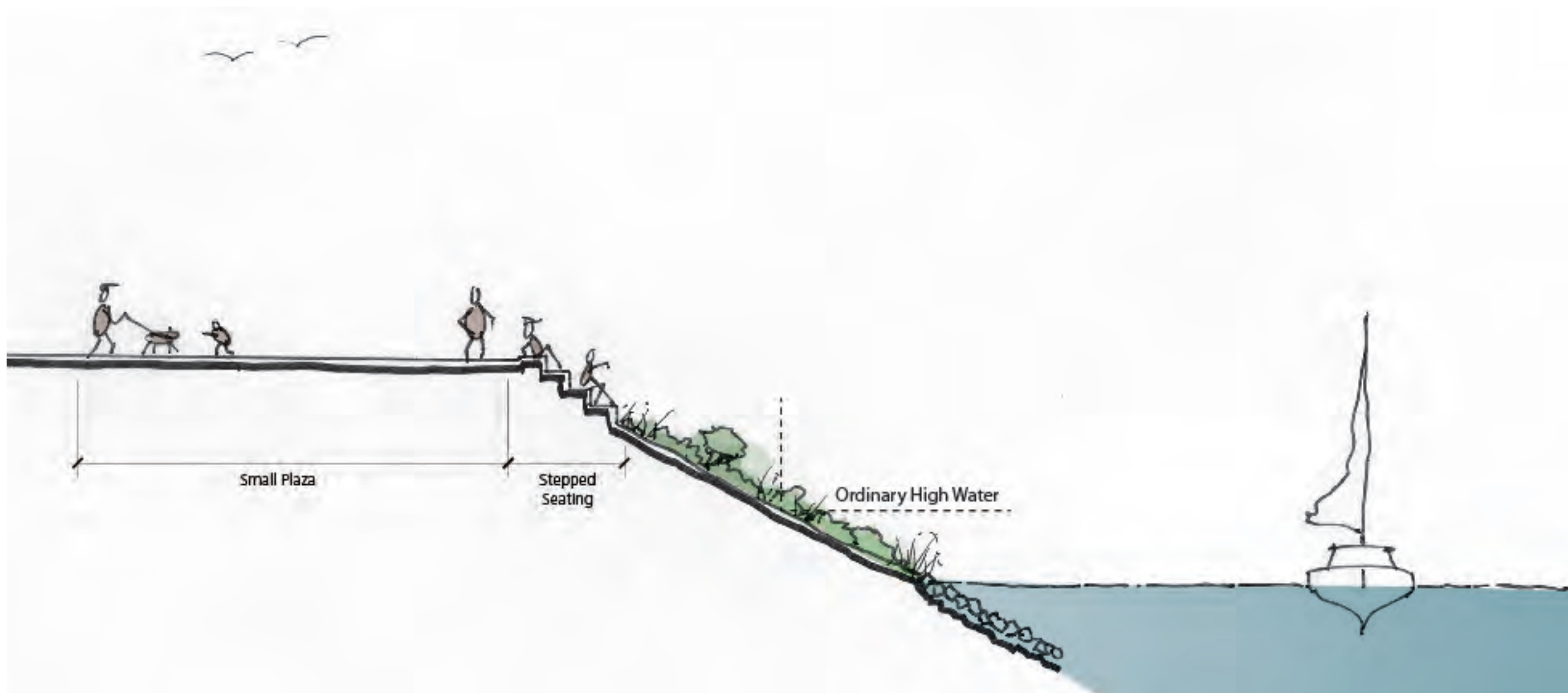
- Minimum 25ft setback for Riverwalk.
- Approx. 25ft building setback on private property.
- Existing riverbank remains.



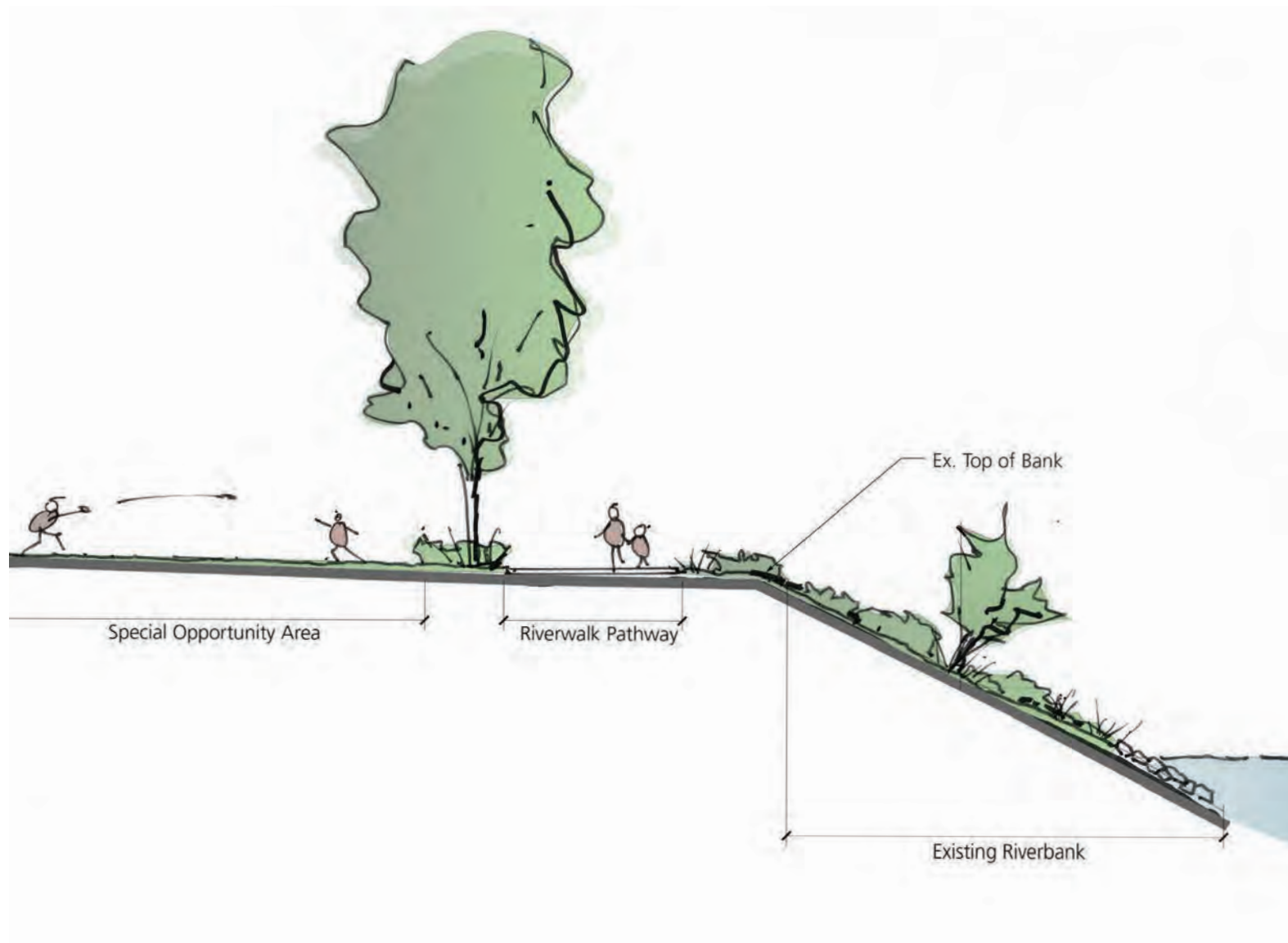
Preferred Concept Tualatin Node



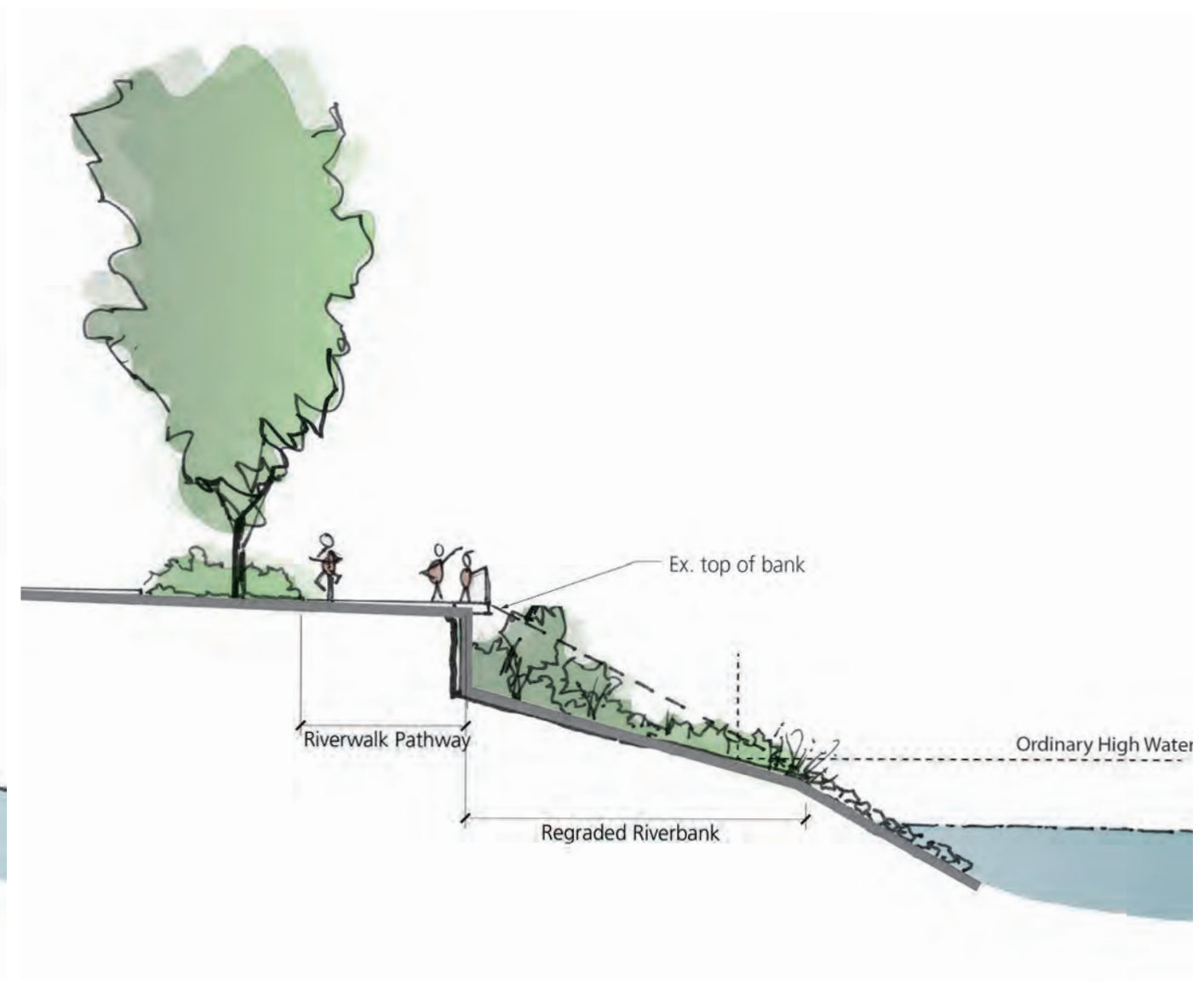
- Small plaza with stepped seating built into top of bank.
- Aligns with views from Tualatin stairway and Strand Street.



Preferred Concept
Riverwalk Typical Section - North



Riverwalk at Existing Riverbank

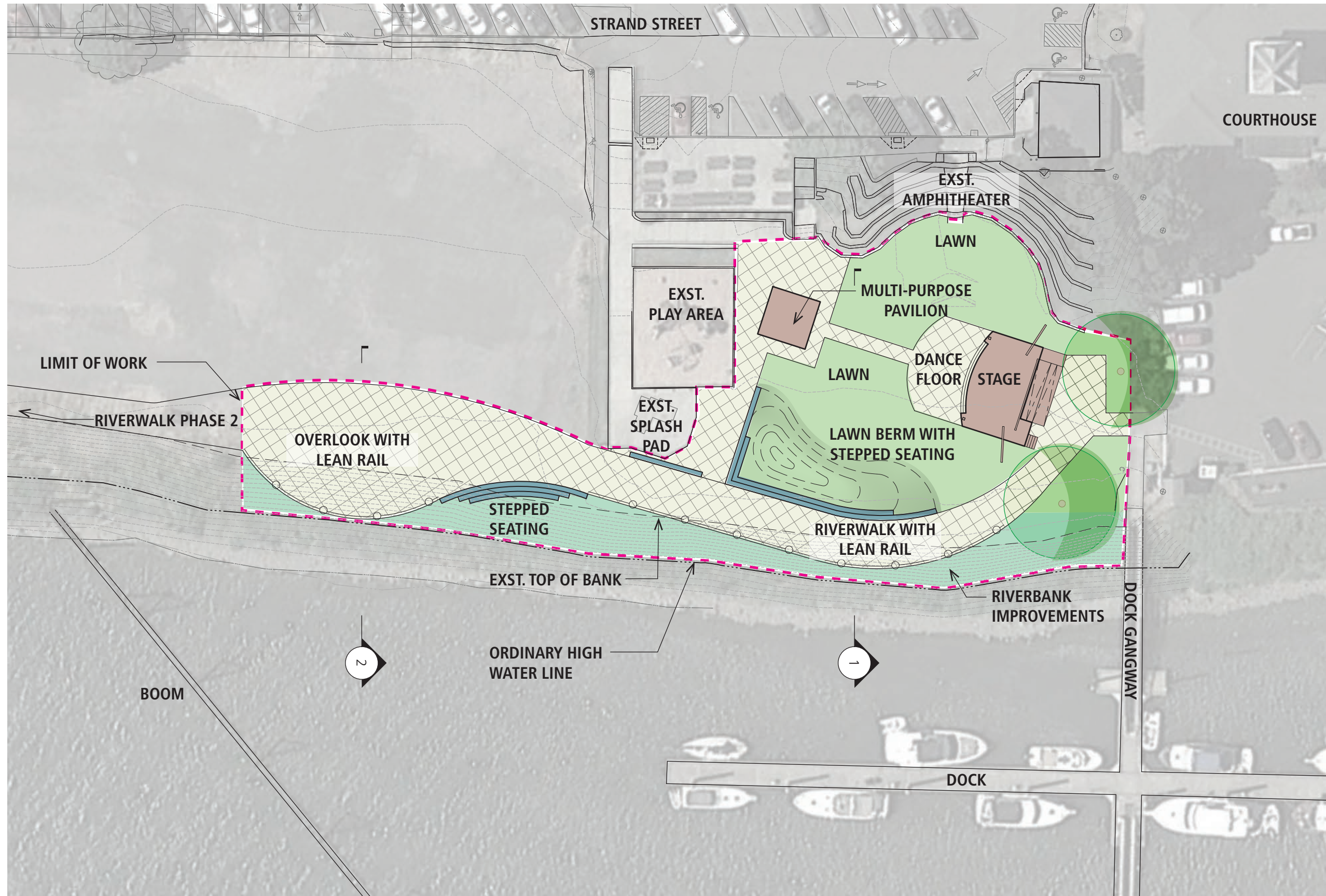


Riverwalk at Reggraded Riverbank

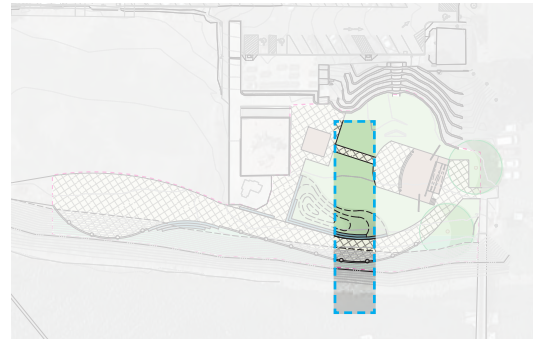
TAC #4: Phase 1 Preferred Concept Context



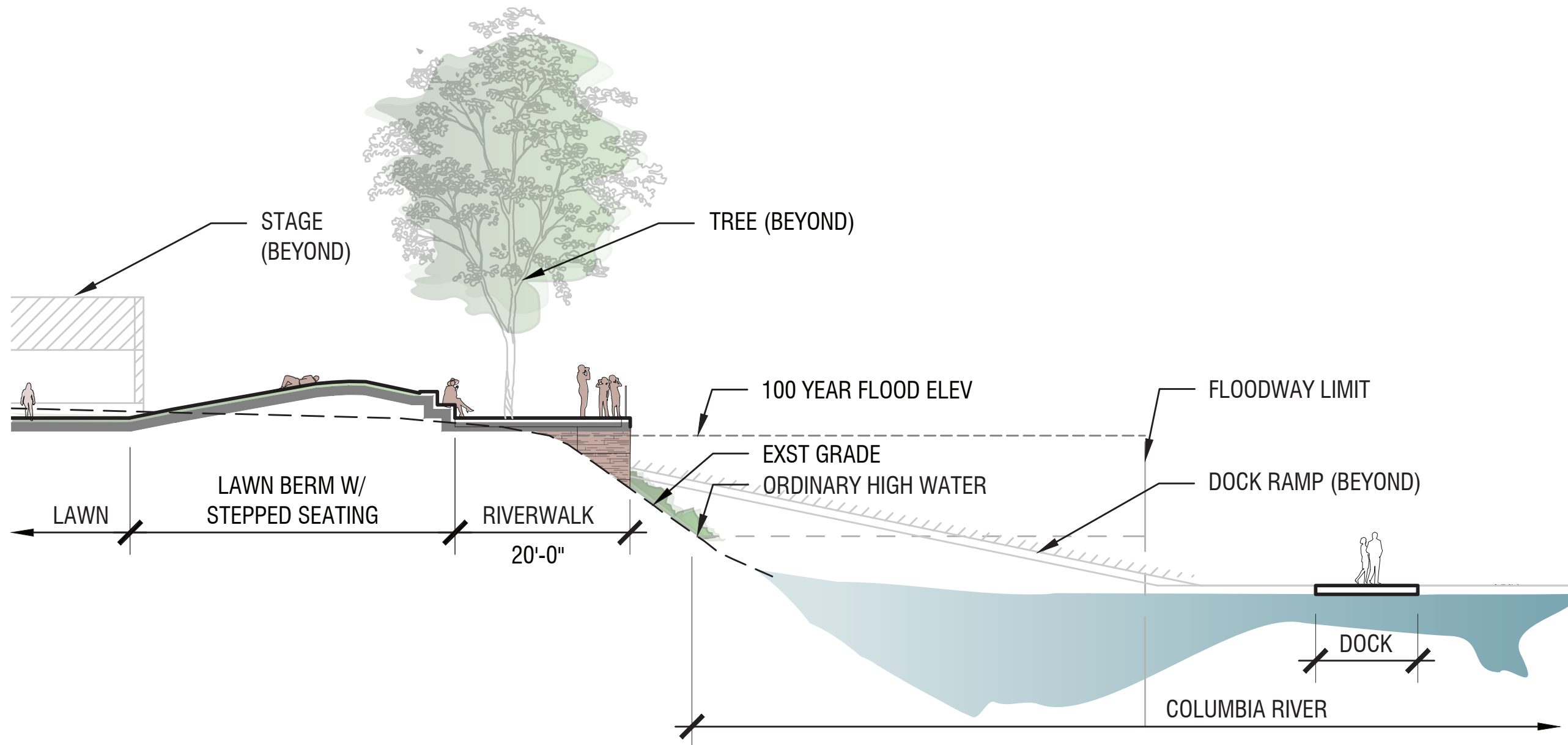
Phase 1 Preferred Concept
Site Plan



Phase 1 Preferred Concept
Section at Columbia View Park



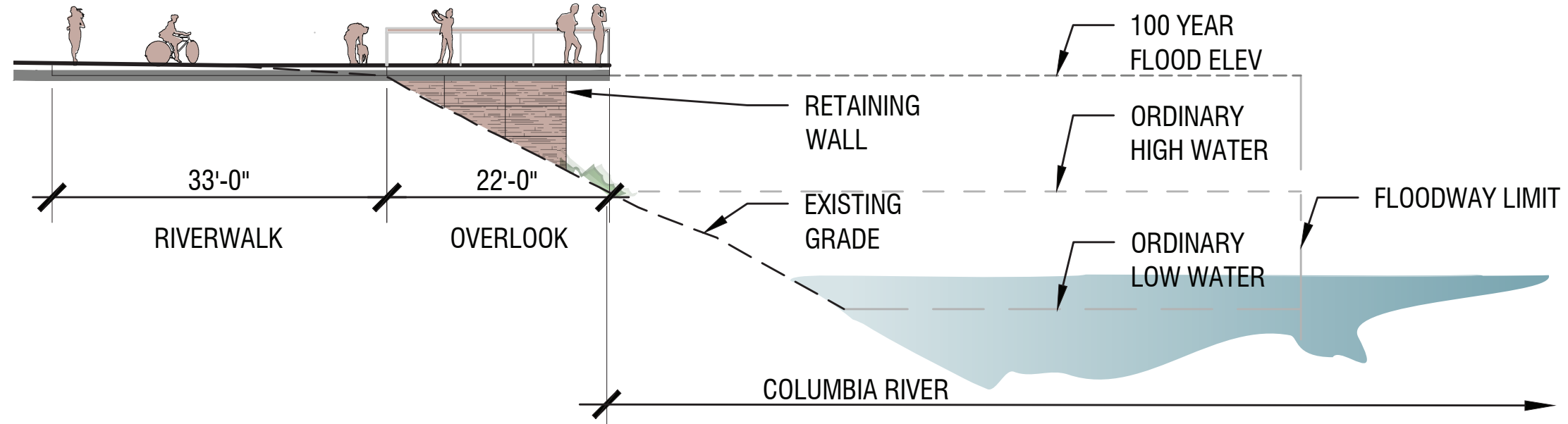
KEY PLAN

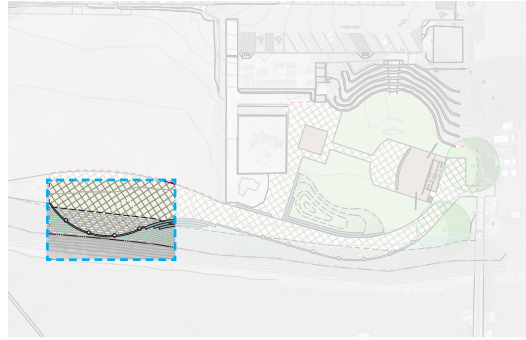


Phase 1 Preferred Concept
Section at Cowlitz Alignment



KEY PLAN





KEY PLAN



Overlook at Cowlitz



KEY PLAN



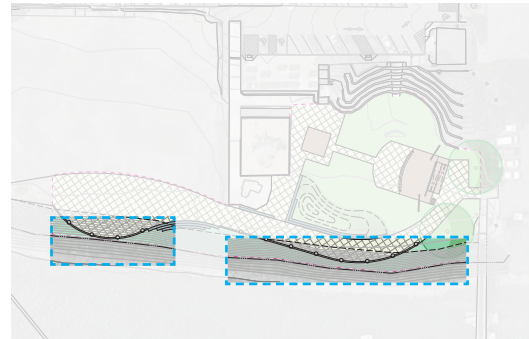
Stepped seating at Riverwalk



KEY PLAN



Lawn berm facing stage with stepped seating facing river



KEY PLAN



Retaining wall with railing

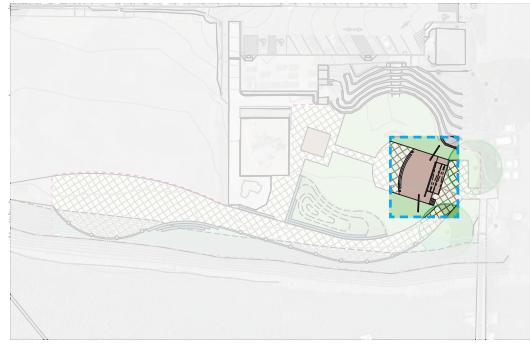


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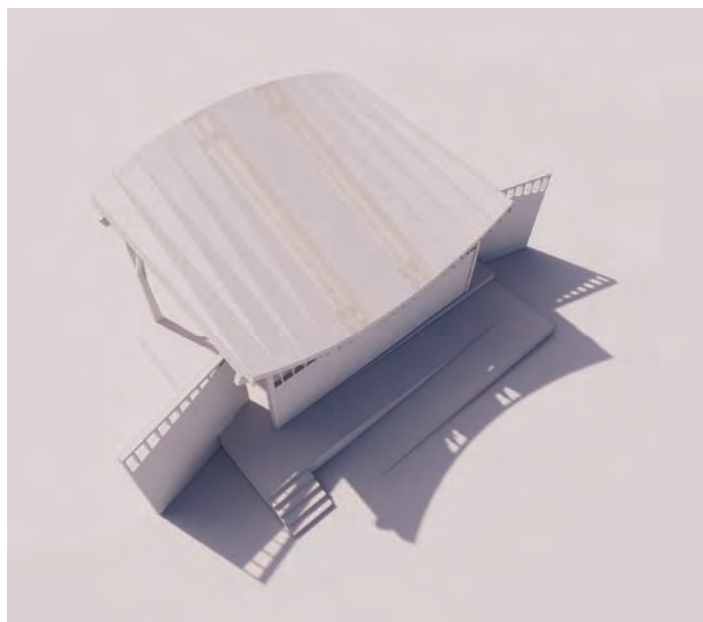
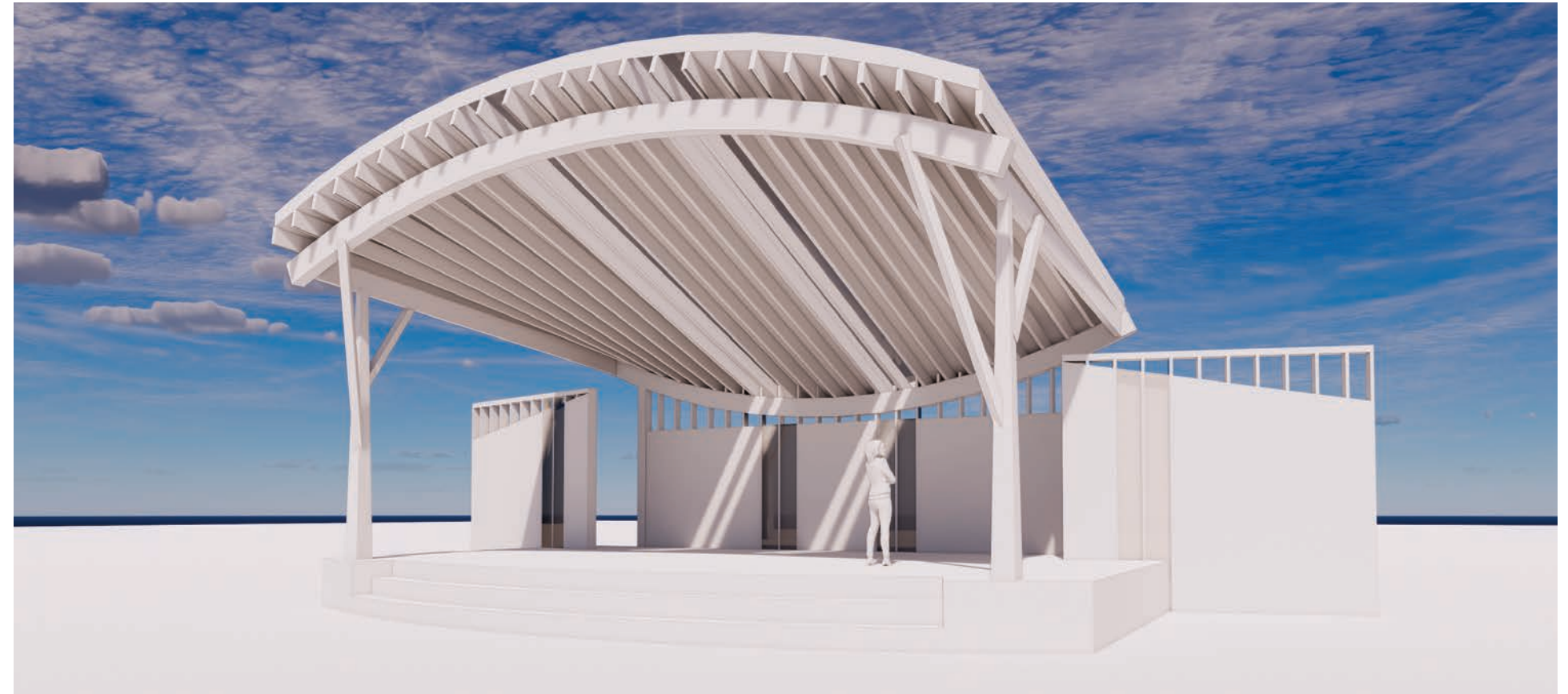


Unobstructed views past stage

Phase 1 Preferred Concept
Amphitheater Stage

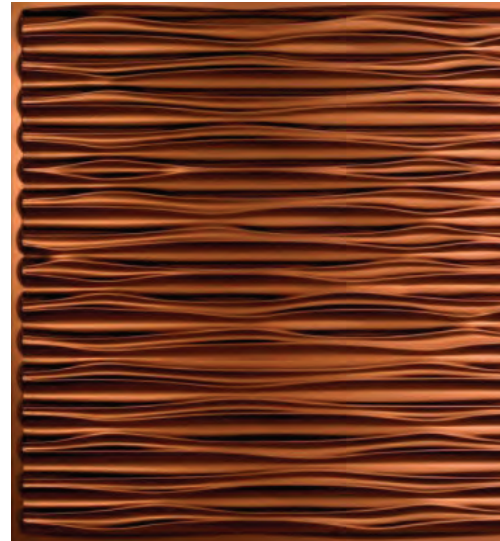


KEY PLAN





Organic imagery for structural support



Organic, soft textures, patterns



Simple, yet dynamic roof forms



Roof forms evoke wind, water, movement



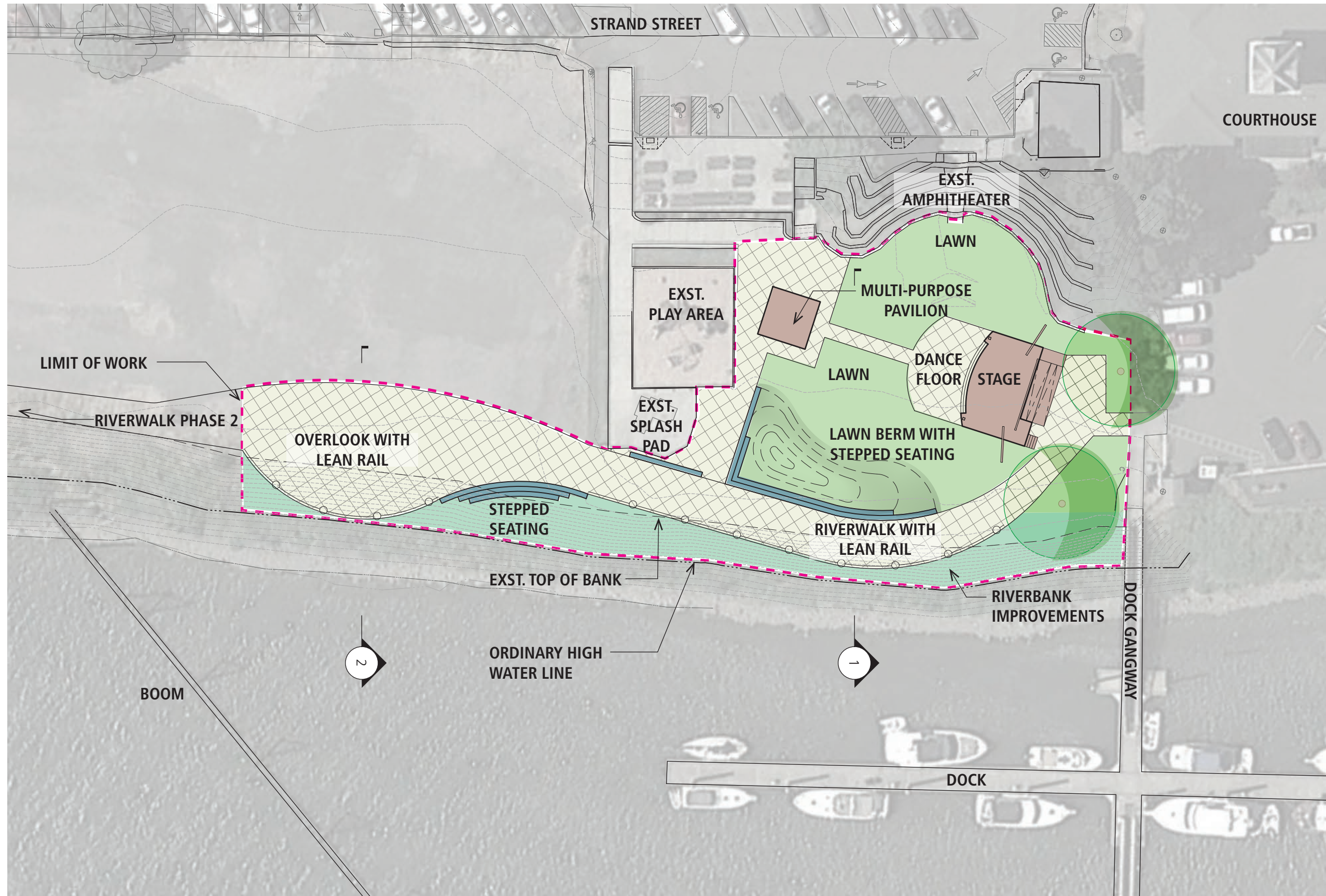
Interactive light / shadow effects



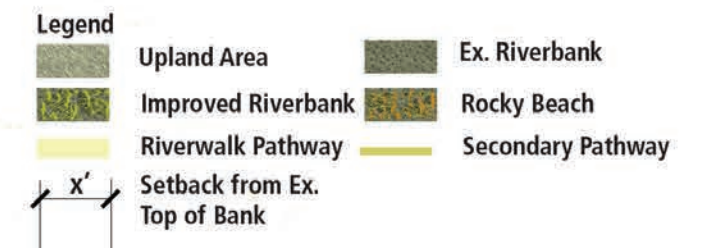
Stage / Events sharing site with natural vistas



Basalt pattern relationship to Courthouse



Preferred Overall Riverwalk Concept



Preferred Overall Riverwalk Concept



- Overlook Paddlecraft Launch
- Riverbank Regraded + Replanted, typ.
- Small Plaza w/ Stepped Seating
- Minor Stepped Seating
- Rocky Beach
- Overlook
- Riverbank Regraded + Replanted, typ.
- Concrete Remnant From Mill Building
- Stepped Seating
- Small Jetty
- Overlook
- Retaining Wall
- Path Widens Adjacent to Hotel
- Small Plaza w/ Stepped Seating
- Minor Stepped Seating
- Riverbank Regraded + Replanted, typ.

Legend

	Upland Area		Ex. Riverbank
	Improved Riverbank		Rocky Beach
	Riverwalk Pathway		Secondary Pathway
	Setback from Ex. Top of Bank		

