

ARTS - CULTURE - LOCAL DINING - BACK TO THE RIVER: TRANSFORMING THE HEART OF INDIAN ORCHARD IN SPRINGFIELD, MA SENIOR URBAN DESIGN STUDIO FALL 2022



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UMass Amherst Design Center in Springfield
Department of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning
In Collaboration with the City of Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development
Senior Urban Design Studio Fall 2022
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Editors: Andrew Reilly and Luc-Danel Metivier
Copy Editor: Frank Slegers
Printed: May 2023

This project was sponsored through the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Springfield

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Myrtle Street Park on Main Street and neighborhood council meeting space to the left.



Fresh Paint - The class participated in the Brightwood Neighborhood, Gerena High School

ARTS - CULTURE - LOCAL DINING - BACK TO THE RIVER takes a focused look at the neighborhood of Indian Orchard in their historic mill district and provides strategies for urban design and landscape architecture to support residents’ visions for the future. With the Studio’s partnership between the Indian Orchard Citizen’s Council, Grow IO (Wellspring Harvest), and the Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development, the overarching goal for each design team was to create a transformative dining and arts district in the historic core of Indian Orchard.

The Senior Urban Design Studio 2022 created six unique team proposals that explore and showcase different alternatives. Core recommendations are:

- Engaging the **Chicopee River** in the neighborhood through pathways, boardwalks and overlooks for walking, fishing, kayaking and fitness and strongly search for funding opportunities such as the federal **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** and the **MassTrails Grant**.
- Providing guidance for the **Fresh Paint** community-building mural events in 2023-2024 through discovering and proposing sites.
- Activate **Front Street** as an entrance to the mills, a greenway and a place for new artist-related education, commerce such as boat rental or dining and entertainment.
- Activate vacant or underused lots through **community gardening** and outdoor dining.
- Improved connections between the **Indian Orchard Mills** and **Main Street** that includes new programming and stacking of activities for the parking lot.
- Activate the **back** of the Indian Orchard Mills through tying it into the proposed greenway, foster hospitality activities in/outside the Mills and explore **work-live opportunities** in the Mills to bring new residents into the district.
- **Sidewalk** improvements for better walkability and safety at night, street improvements that enhance the safety of bicycling
- Inclusion of art and activities that acknowledge the **indigenous** history of the place and the **diversity** of today.
- Reduce the impact of impervious surfaces through tree planting and green stormwater infrastructure.

The Senior Urban Design Studio 2022 is hopeful that the residents and leaders in the community will find the visions that are displayed in this report are inspirational and supportive to guide the heart of Indian Orchard into a great future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We would like to express our appreciation towards everyone that we got a chance to work with this semester and the invaluable support we were granted from the City of Springfield and **Mayor Domenic J. Samo**. We are grateful to have been a part of the ongoing partnership between the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at UMass Amherst and the Office of Planning and Economic Development of the City of Springfield. Additionally, we would like to formally recognize the following individuals for graciously lending us their time and expertise throughout this semester.

City of Springfield

Tim Sheehan - Chief Development Officer
Alvin Allen - Principal Planner
Julisa Davila-Ramos - Senior Planner
Wilson Darbin - Project Manager

Neighborhood Representatives

Zaida Govan - President Indian Orchard Citizens Council
Valerie Aponte - Board Member Indian Orchard Citizens Council
Yolanda Cancel - Board Member Indian Orchard Citizens Council

Wellspring Cooperative/Grow I.O.

Emily Kawano - Co-Director of the Wellspring Cooperative

CommonWealth Murals - Britt Ruhe

Mass DCR - Stella Lensing
Chicopee Rivers Watershed Council - Keith Davies
Indian Orchard Mills - Raipher Pellegrino
ReGreen Springfield - David Bloniarz

We thank all the students of the Senior Urban Design Studio for their enthusiasm and creativity, passion for community engagement and service learning, and their dedication making this studio a great success. -

Finally, we are most thankful to Luc-Danel Metivier and Andrew Reilly for their tireless effort compiling the work and creating this report.

Frank Slegers, Professor and Studio Instructor

STUDIO GOAL



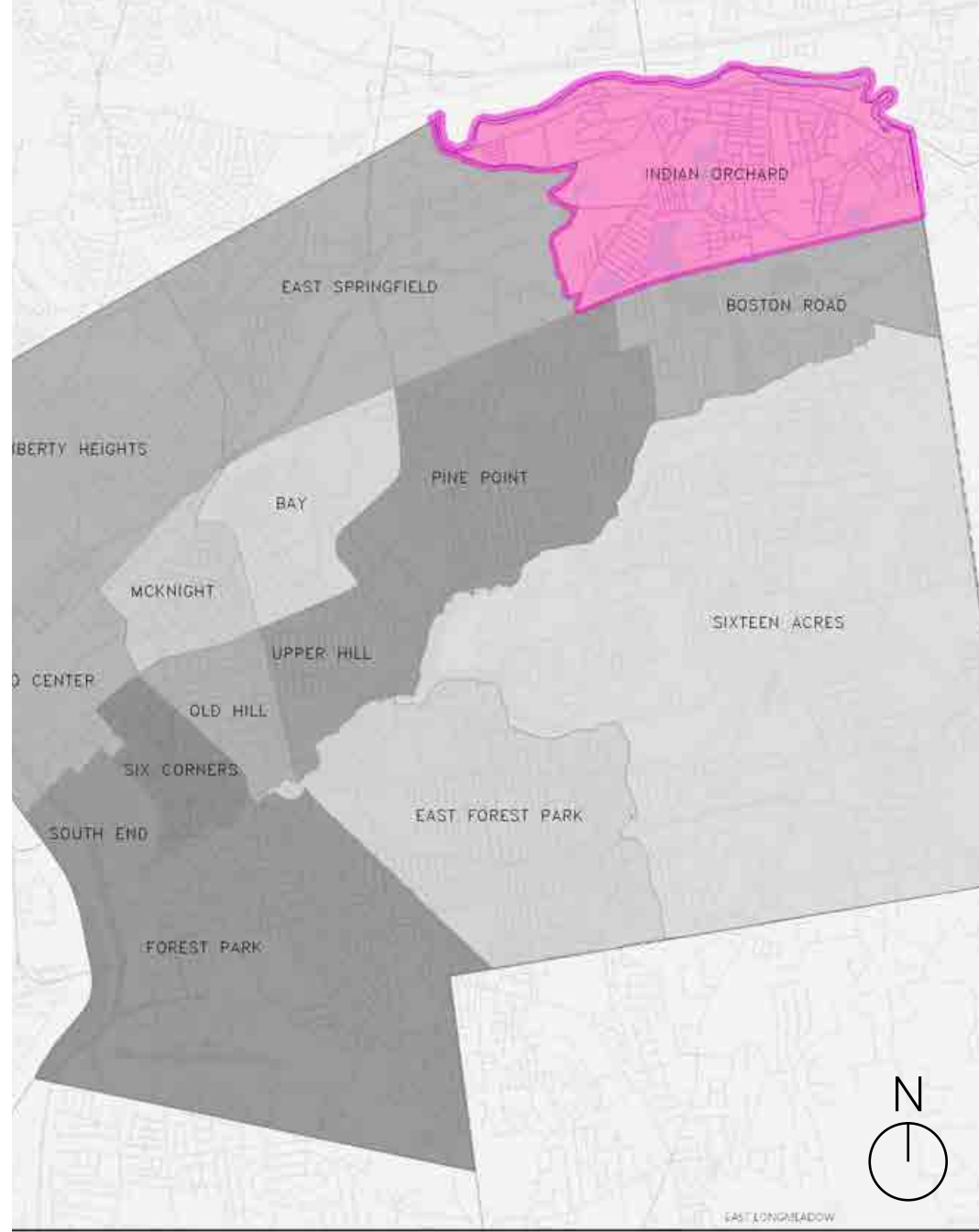
Creating a transformative dining and arts district in the historic core of Indian Orchard. Helping shape connection to, and along, the proposed greenway on the Chicopee River to enhance the neighborhood as a place for healthy living.

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CONTEXT

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Indian Orchard is a post-industrial mill town that is neighborhood of Springfield Massachusetts. It is on the Northeast corner of the city and located along the Chicopee River. The old mill building and small independently owned shops give the neighborhood its core strength and using the area to its full potential is one of the most important parts of this project.



DESIGN AND PLANNING PROGRAM

The studio had the goal to propose interventions on Main Street and the Chicopee River that respond to the cultural and natural environment in this milltown community. The studio builds on the successful Graduate Urban Design Studio from spring 2022. Two major project areas were identified:

Area 1: Myrtle Street Park to Pinevale Street along Main Street. Creating a restaurant district for residents and travelers was the major design objective for this area.

Area 2: Greenway on the Chicopee River along Front and Water Street to Indian Leap. Creating an engaging trail along the River that embraces ecology, history, art and public health was the major design objective for this area.

Other distinct places and program elements were articulated:

Suitable walls for “Fresh Paint” 2023/2024 were identified in the core of the historic district. Blank Walls in the “Dining District”: The Old Fire Station on Oak Street is an important landmark in the community. It is planned to transform this historic building into a center for adult learning. The outdoor spaces could be used for activities around healthy food, small outdoor class gatherings.



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COMMUNITY & CULTURAL EVENTS

COMMUNITY MAP

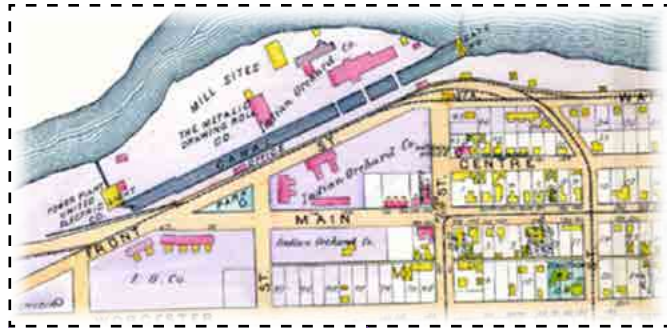


Part of understanding the neighborhood and their cultural activities was recognizing and mapping assets and all cultural events that are happening throughout the year. It was found out that the Indian Orchard neighborhood is a very active community with many and diverse public events. Many events take place in our core area around Myrtle Street Park and the community center at the same place.

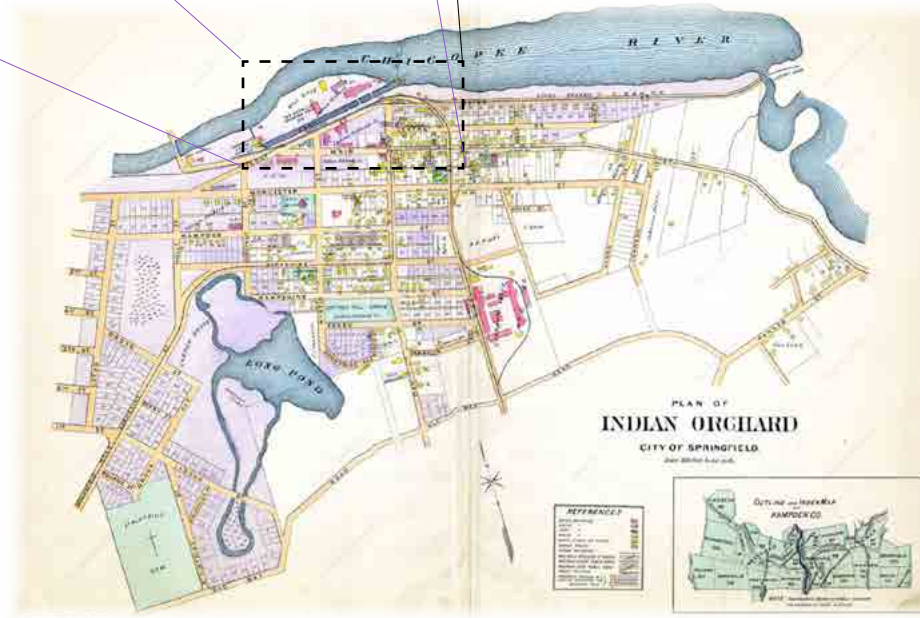


INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

HISTORIC CONTEXT



The Indian Orchard mills at one time had a train line that ran straight from the main mill building out to Springfield and to Ludlow to the northeast. These old maps describe the relationship between the current modern roads and the train lines that once occupied the space. The plan also showed that Indian Orchard was a planned town with a street grid that still exists today.



The First Congregational Church of Indian Orchard, 1892.



158-160 Main Street, 1938-1939.



Two underage workers pose outside of the Indian Orchard Manufacturing Company 1911.



These historic images give some insight into how parts of the town remain almost exactly as they were 150 years ago. While some buildings have been removed the historic context of Indian Orchard remains.

INDIGENOUS HISTORY

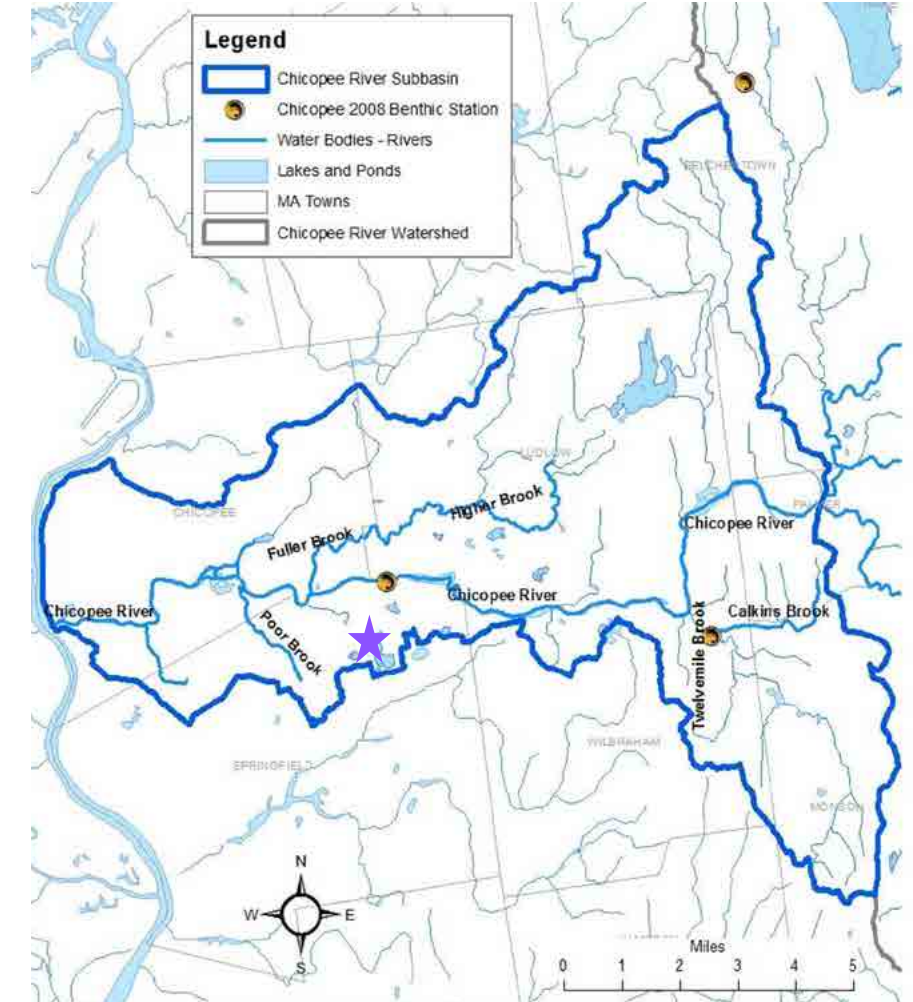
Connecting to the past:

Unearthing and shining a light on past indigenous culture through public art and community events is especially relevant to Indian Orchard as it references the indigenous people in the name of the neighborhood. Algonquin tribes were living on the Chicopee River for thousands of years. It is Uplifting their voices and honoring their land will make Indian Orchard a more inclusive place. While Springfield was founded in 1636 the history of this area persist well before this date and to not mention or acknowledge this history would be doing a massive disservice to the people that made that history important today.

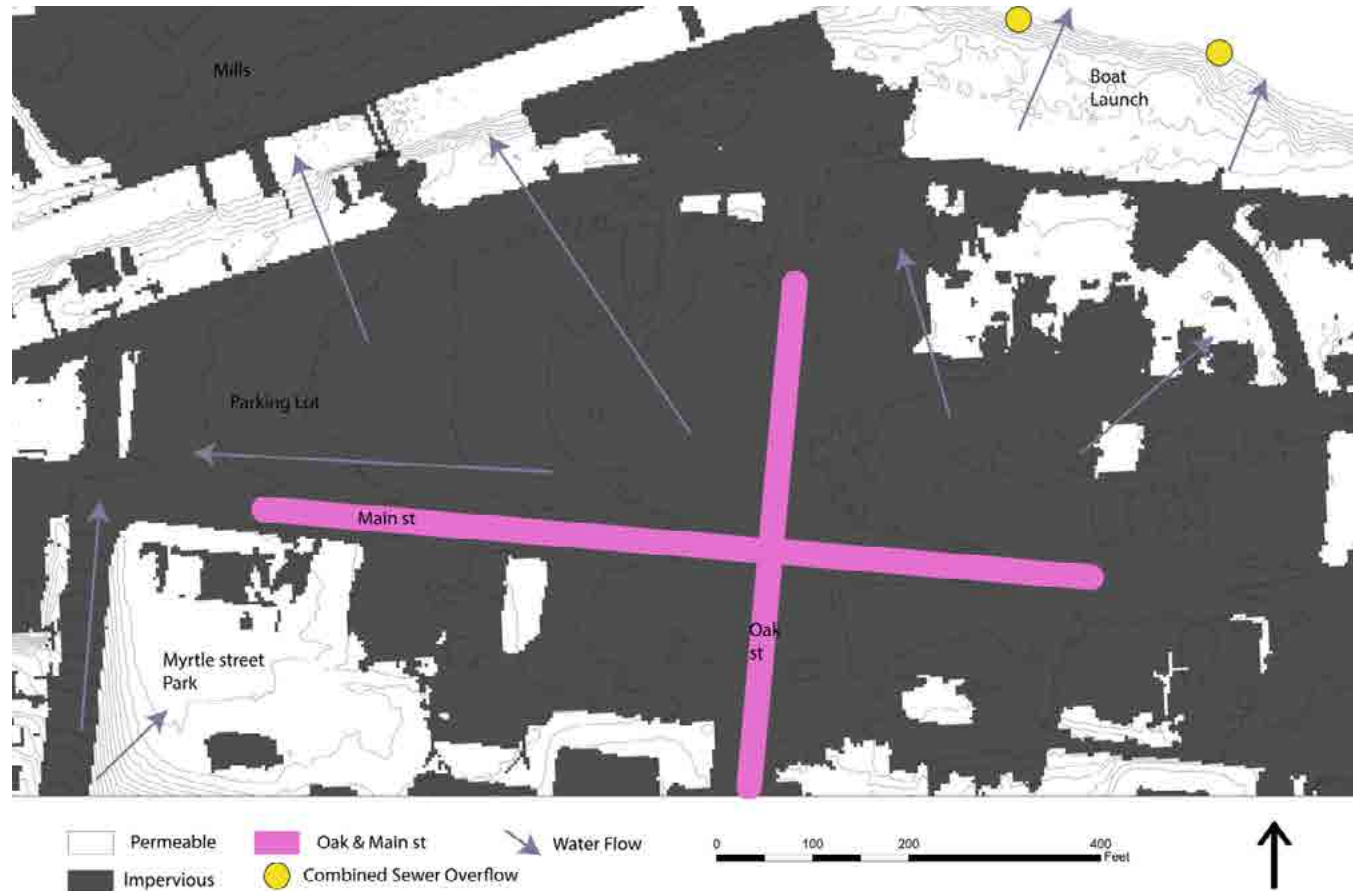


CHICOPEE RIVER WATERSHED

This map emphasizes the importance of managing and cleaning the runoff and street conditions of Indian Orchard. The runoff from the streets goes uncleaned into the Chicopee River. This river directly feeds the Connecticut River. The Chicopee River watershed is the biggest contributor to the Connecticut River. These poor water management conditions will effect large sections of the Springfield area and further downstream.



WATER FLOW AND IMPERVIOUS SURFACE MAP



The impervious surfaces of the area are one of the biggest challenges and the water runoff problem. The gray surfaces in the map all create wash road and car debris directly into the river lowering the water quality.

SECTIONS RIVERFRONT - EXISTING CONDITIONS



This section located on Water Street shows how views and connections to the River are blocked. The Chicopee River is dammed with a water table of 155 feet. The upper terrace has an elevation of 170 feet. Ramps and outlooks are necessary to engage the Chicopee River. It is one of the greatest and underused assets in the neighborhood.



This section located at the terminus of Oak Street shows how the River is channeled with retaining walls. These walls prevent accessibility and interaction with the edge of the water. This area also illustrates the potential for an outlook that would provide spectacular views.

PUBLIC PARKS AND CONNECTIONS



This map shows how the main public green spaces in our project area are connected with the system of street corridors. Main street corridors are outlined in blue. The proposed greenway along the Chicopee River at Water Street is not very well connected from Main Street. Signage that directs to the River is missing. Marked with red circles are intersections that could provide corridors and prospects to the Chicopee River.

MYRTLE STREET PARK AND GREENWAY



Myrtle Street Park on Main Street is a great space for recreation and play. Accessibility from the south on Worcester Street could be improved through moving the entrance further east. On Water Street there are no visual connections to the Chicopee River from the proposed greenway. Selected shrubs and branches of larger trees should be taken out. Further up to Indian Leap, an existing footpath needs more regular cleaning, clearing and maintenance. Indian Leap does not only provide spectacular views - it is also great to experience the Chicopee River from the water.

PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

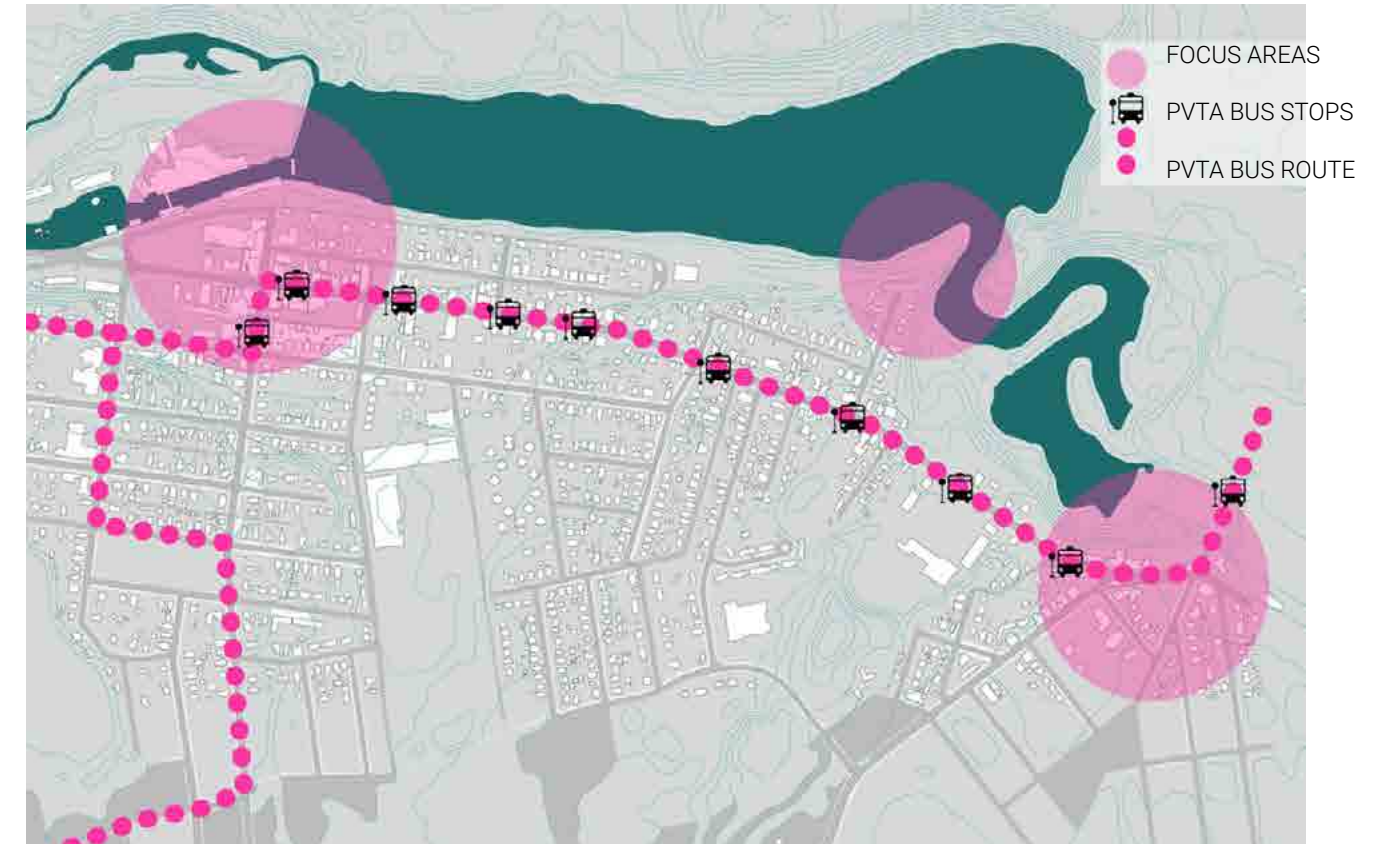
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While Indian Orchard has an extensive system of sidewalks and crosswalks downtown the missing link is bike lanes and alternate transportation accessibility. Few to no bike rental stations and the sidewalks begin to get sparse as you move further south into the less retail focused area.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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The PVTA has a single bus line that travels through this area. While that is a good thing there are many opportunities for expanding service to the Indian Orchard community. Additionally, there are many possibilities to improve the bus stops as many are just a single bench on the side of the road with no cover.

PARKING TYPOLOGIES



On-street parallel parking on Oak Street



Small lot parking on Water Street - Boat Launch



Large business lot parking on Main Street across the mill building



Small business lot parking on Main Street close to Oak Street

STREET ELEVATIONS



Main Street - From parking lot Indian Orchard Mills to corner store at Oak Street facing north.



Main St. - From Oak Street to Pinevale Street facing north

The sidewalks and business storefronts offer large opportunities for street and pedestrian engagement with the businesses. Adding art work, lights, and community-built planters are ways that have been discussed to bring a safer and more connected feel to downtown.

STREET SECTIONS AND DIMENSIONS

These sections cut through Main Street and show the relationship of the storefronts and houses to the street. While they are separated by a sidewalk and plant buffer many of the street interactions still feel unsafe in some locations. Additionally, the sidewalk in many places is not wide enough for any real important community engagement.

Side walk on Main Street



NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING OVERVIEW & SUGGESTIONS

Residential A		Commercial A	
Residential B		Business A	
Residential C		Business B	
Open Space		Industrial A	
		Industrial Park	



Main Street is zoned Business A - General Businesses. This is a "Main Street and pedestrian oriented shopping district" with mixed uses allowed including residential uses which is an appropriate land use for the area. The only concern looking at our larger area is that parts of the riverfront are also zoned Business A. This should be rezoned Open Space to secure the recreational and ecological functions of the river's edge. Industrial A at the mills should be rezoned to allow mixed uses to allow e.g. for live-work spaces in the mill and attract new residents. An overlay district could establish this change.

LAND USE MAP



The multiple land uses of Indian Orchard serve different purposes and intents. Commercial and mixed use land use create a supportive correlation from the mills in the top left through the heart of Main Street. Vacant and underused buildings in black show opportunities for new commercial and services on the ground floor. Specifically the two buildings on Pinevale Street to the east could host new restaurants for the establishment of a dining district. The two industrially-used buildings on the corner of Front Street and Oak Street have also potential for other uses. Specifically, the building on the canal seems underutilized for storage. More active uses that are related to arts and crafts could create a gateway to the greenway and the mills.

VACANCY MAP



The multiple vacancies of main street at Indian Orchard serve as opportunity zones for business revitalization and community engagement. While some of these storefronts look beautiful and well-kept, others look not inviting and friendly. Working with the city and their Storefront improvement program, these storefronts could invite new customers, bring new investment and jobs, build a stronger sense of vibrancy and activities and community-building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

From site visits and talking with store owners to attending community meetings and events part of our goal was to learn and understand the community that we are designing for. These events taught us about the pride and dedication people share for the Indian Orchard community. Many people at the community meetings serving as huge inspirations for further development of our projects.



COMMUNITY ART ENGAGEMENT

While designing landscape interventions for the community was the main focus of project we also wanted to engage the artistry of the community and we did so in multiple ways. From participation in FreshPaint - a community-building mural festival that has been very successful in Springfield, or our interaction with children at the annual food-truck festival that enthusiastically drew and painted images (bottom right) . We looked at empty wall spaces in the neighborhood that could be used by FreshPaint for their first event in the neighborhood starting in 2023. These are all ways that helped our class to understand the place and their people and overall the rich culture of art that already exists at Indian Orchard.



TAKEAWAY POINTS FROM MEETINGS & EVENTS

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Main takeaways from our engagement with the community in meetings and events:

- Enhance the east/ west gateways to the neighborhood. The entrances to the neighborhood lack character and excitement.
- Lack of signage. Educational signs, directional signs, informational signs help people orienting themselves.
- Disconnection of Mills and Main Street. These is crucial to breathe life back into Main Street. The art culture and experience of the Mills could bring necessary energy to the mill town.
- Creating safe outdoor recreation. Many people expressed their desire for safety and outdoor recreation. Spaces are needed where exercising is common and fun.
- Enhance safety through more lighting.
- Creating a community garden to benefit the people of the town with fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Including possibilities for young adults for playing and exercising, e.g. skateboarding.

A questionnaire that was distributed during events and meetings delivered similar results. Asking what people would like to see more in their neighborhood, they would like to see more business opportunities, cohesive and inviting storefronts, suitable housing, more green and vegetation.



TAKEAWAY POINTS FROM EXPERT PANEL

We have conducted an on-line expert panel to reach out to planning experts and decision makers in the neighborhood and find out more about their specific point of view and strategies for transformation of Indian Orchard.

- **Stella Lensing** (Senior Project Manager at DCR) - informed us about the MassTrails Grants Program. \$10 Million are available and submissions are due until February 1st. The new grant application round is expected to open in November, 2023 with a deadline of February 1, 2024. MassTrails Program managers (<https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants>) can provide more information and guidance. Exploring ideas around urban gardening, agriculture and recreation is favorable fro receiving the grant.
- **Raipher Pellegrino** (Indian Orchard Mills Owner) - I.O. Mills as live/work space could provide 24/7 presence. Increase security and open up new possibilities (outdoor eating, breweries, public trails along the Chicopee River).
- **Keith Davies** (Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council) - Connecting Indian Leap with greenway along Chicopee River is crucial for the transformation of the neighborhood. The old railway line area could make a nice park, walk area. River access just upstream of bridge to Ludlow Mills is not well maintained and needs more care and investment from the city.
- **Britt Ruhe** (CommonWealth Murals) - Fresh Paint mural proposals are needed for downtown Indian Orchard. Murals are scheduled to be implemented in 2023 and 2024.
- **Zaida Govan** (President of Indian Orchard Citizens Council). She is a spearheading many cultural activities in the larger historic district throughout the year. More public art should be visible in the streetscapes and more opportunities for small business owners.
- **Emily Kawano** (Co-director Wellspring Cooperative - President Grow I.O.) fosters using underutilized lots in the neighborhood being used for community gardening and education fro healthy food. She also supports ideas for the greenway along the Chicopee River that embrace recreation and fitness.

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LINKING IDENTITY AND SPACE IN INDIAN ORCHARD

ANAMIKA DARGAN • HARUKA KUSHIDA • SHANGYI LIU
36-47

CONNECTING INDIAN ORCHARD MILL

TED DUFFY • SKYLER BURNS
72-83



SPACE AND TIME

LUCIA PEÑA • MARYKATE FARNHAM • LUVIANA MCLEAN
48-59

COHE-SITY

ZIXIN CHEN • MOLLY HANCOCK • MATTHEW LEDOUX
84-97



ROUTES OF INDIAN ORCHARD

LUC-DANEL METIVIER • TAYLOR MILLS • ANDREW REILLY
60-71

THE MISSING THREAD: RECONNECTING LAND, WATER, AND PEOPLE

ANDREW FOLEY • CAMILLA NOVO • LIO AVERILL
98-115





LINKING IDENTITY AND SPACE IN INDIAN ORCHARD

ANAMIKA DARGAN • HARUKA KUSHIDA • SHANGYI LIU

PROJECT NARRATIVE & CONCEPT

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The main concept of this design is centered around connectivity through cultural public art and access to public green spaces. Our main goal is to strengthen the connections between Main Street, the Indian Orchard Mills, and the Chicopee River by improving the pedestrian experience. Indian Orchard is home to an artistic community; the I.O. Mills is a unique asset to the neighborhood as so much creativity and expression is currently bottled up behind the brick walls. People can find murals with local cultural connotations and characteristics along fences and buildings which have been incorporated by the community. Currently on Main Street, there are still many opportunities such as blank concrete and brick walls that could be used as a canvas for the artists at the Mills to create a visual story of Indian Orchard. This intimate addition to the community gives local artists a platform to showcase their work while also strengthening the community through representative imagery.

Therefore, this artistic culture should be incorporated into the transformative design and further promoted as a necessity to attract visitors and embrace local culture, thus providing Indian Orchard with a unique identity in Springfield, MA. Not only mural arts, but also a more profound, historic and ethnic culture. Renovations of the Main Street infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, lighting, etc.) can improve communal areas in the neighborhood allowing adequate spaces for continued use and opportunity for new local cultural festivals and events. The Indian Orchard Mills' art studios have transformed into a landmark near the Chicopee River which we have identified as a starting point to extend the concept of connectivity through art and green spaces to outside the neighborhood. The local community can benefit from widening the platform for small businesses, along with a cleanup of the river and streets.

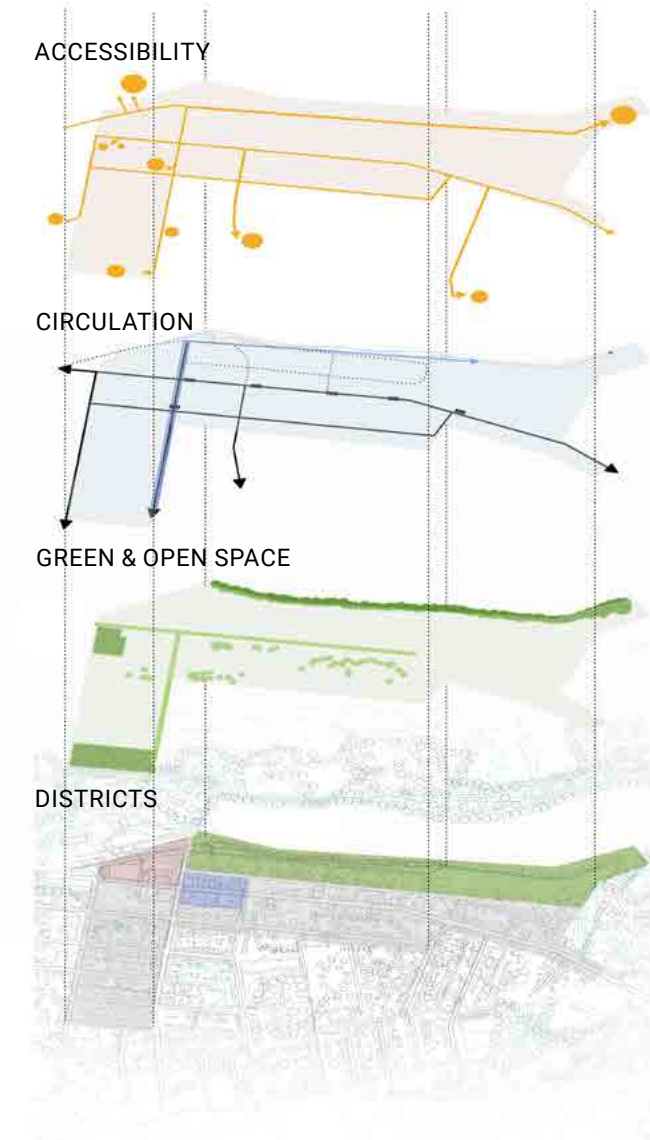
Improving this access from the Mills to Main Street to the Chicopee River is essential in directing the community through the neighborhood.

The excessive vacant and underused buildings on Main Street and Oak Street provide opportunities for these local businesses to move in. By improving sidewalks, roads, lighting, and parking, this makes the streets more attractive, and therefore, bringing in more visitors from out of town. The intention to make the community more local business-friendly will increase the revenue of the overall neighborhood while also creating jobs and engaging interactions among residents and non-residents. This creates an urban neighborhood landscape that sustains local businesses and promotes a more involved community.

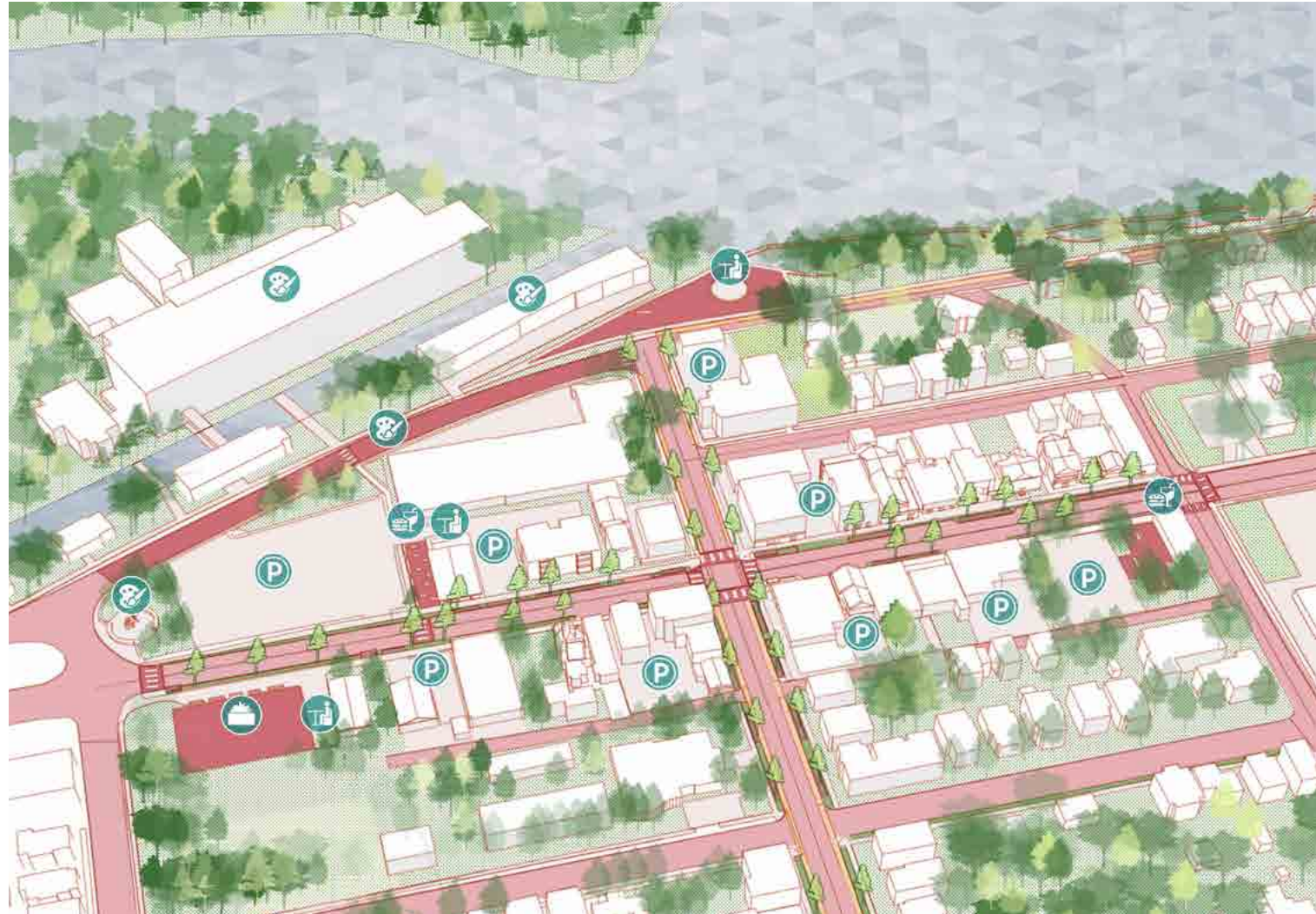
Lastly, the existing stretch of dense greenery along the Chicopee River has great potential to create an accessible system of public green space. The transformation of this area into a quiet and peaceful outdoor recreational space, including but not limited to, nature walks, waterfront activities, biking and hiking trails that extend along the river to Indian Leap and loop back to the park. The unused permitted open spaces in this area will also be used to create more outdoor gathering green spaces, incorporating gardens and art that represent and engage the community. Introducing a system of boardwalks along the river edge introduces connections to a currently blocked off asset. Access to the beauty of the Chicopee River will not only improve views, but impact the overall beauty and experience of Indian Orchard.

DIAGRAMS

- RIVERFRONT
- COMMERCIAL
- COMMUNITY ART



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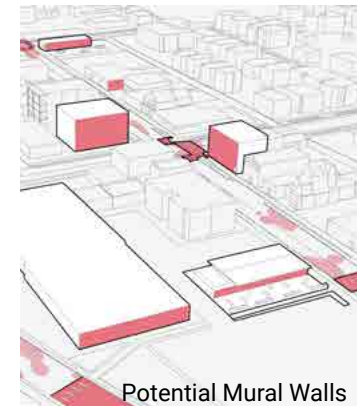


- Parking
- Community Art
- Outdoor Eating
- Outdoor Seating
- Community Garden

The integration of community arts with the aesthetic of Main Street, allows for a sense of identity in Indian Orchard. This proposal encourages local Mill artists and the community to not only paint murals on blank building walls, but also to bring the color down into the pedestrian experience by introducing crosswalk murals. Murals are adaptable and can change with the neighborhood over time. This allows for a unique expression of local culture and reinforces the character of the public streetscape. Special paving is used on Front Street in front of the Mills, and this section of the street becomes space for exhibits and local events.



Proposed Main/Oak Street Intersection



Potential Mural Walls

Proposed Mural Locations:
 Oak/Main Street Intersection
 Outdoor eating spaces
 Crosswalks
 Roads

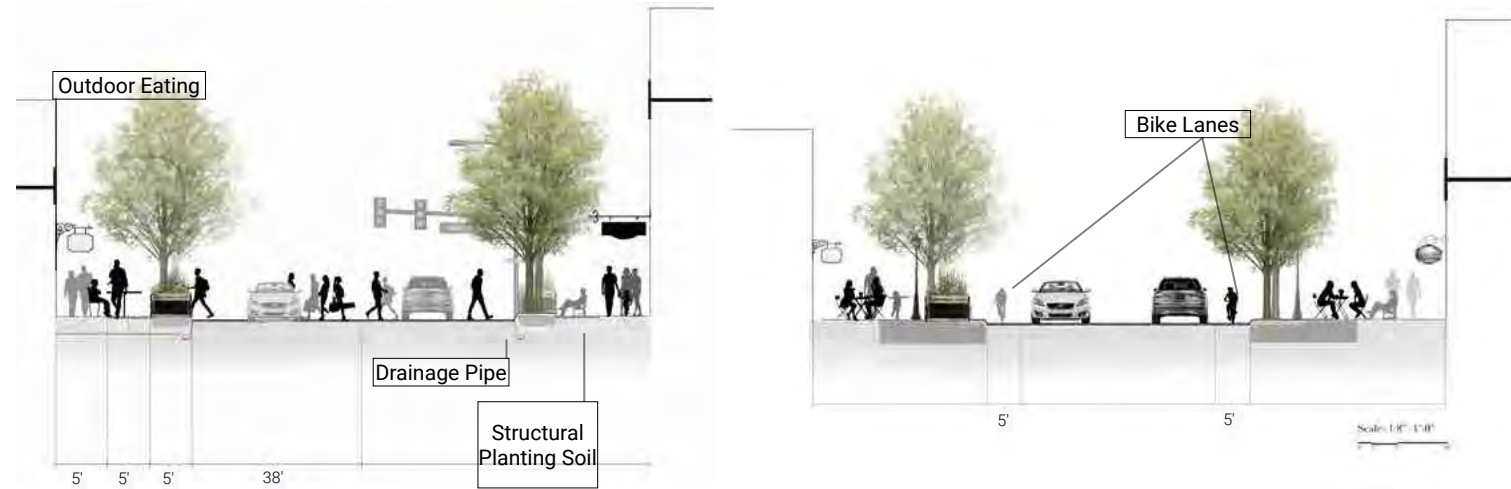


Proposed Seating Plaza on Main Street adjacent to the vacant Berkshire Bank building

STREETSCAPES

TRANSITIONAL SPACES

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In order to widen the outdoor dining and event areas to attract more visitors and encourage local residents stay on street, the original walkway was widened outward for roadway greenery and to support more outdoor activities. In addition, on-street parking spaces were added on Main Street that can be readily converted to outdoor eating locations.

To encourage residents to ride Oak Street, bike lanes on both sides were preserved and extended to connect with the recreational bike path in front of the river.



View of Main Street facing east

One of the greatest assets to the Indian Orchard community is its active city council. The council building is situated right next to Myrtle Street Park. Using this existing community gathering space and expanding its functionality, our proposal introduces community gardening boxes at the park entrance.

The proposed plantings and street trees along Main and Oak Street will help to integrate better green infrastructure throughout the neighborhood.



Perspective view of Main Street Oak street intersection facing east. Below elevation of regular street tree plantings on Main, southern edge.



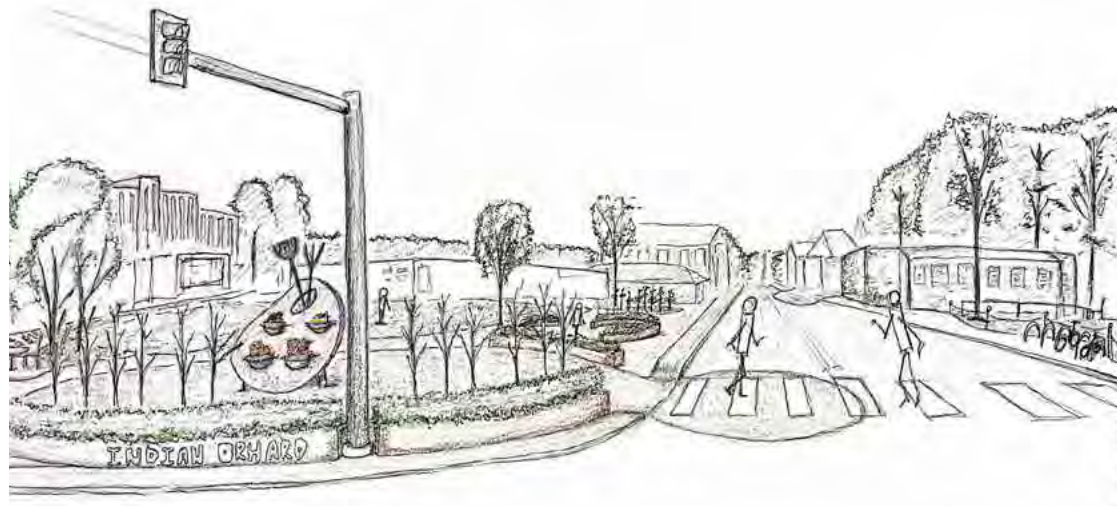
It is important to acknowledge the use of these outdoor public spaces year round and seasonally. The proposal introduces transitional spaces along Main Street. On-street parking is defined by bumping in sidewalks which allows for potential pop-up outdoor dining, seating, or parklets to take form in the warmer months.

Converting underused parking lots and spaces between buildings into parklets and plazas enhance the pedestrian experience in Indian Orchard. The street lighting combined with larger and more adaptable spaces opens up opportunities for existing and proposed businesses along Main Street. It also improves walkability and allows pedestrians easy access to the riverfront plaza and recreational space.

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COMMUNITY ARTS

The proposal suggests an improvement to the entrance of the neighborhood by creating a community art plaza at the entrance of Indian Orchard on Main Street. The plaza represents the strong art identity in the Indian Orchard community that stems from the Indian Orchard Mills located across the street. This space creates connectivity with the art culture in the Mills and the Main Street. While the vehicular access is still permitted on Front Street, the transitional spaces along the street allow for outdoor community art galleries and event space.



Artistic gateway into Indian Orchard on Main Street entering from the west.



Open-air gallery on Front Street.



Walking towards Oak Street on Main Street.



Open-air gallery on Front Street.

Oak Street

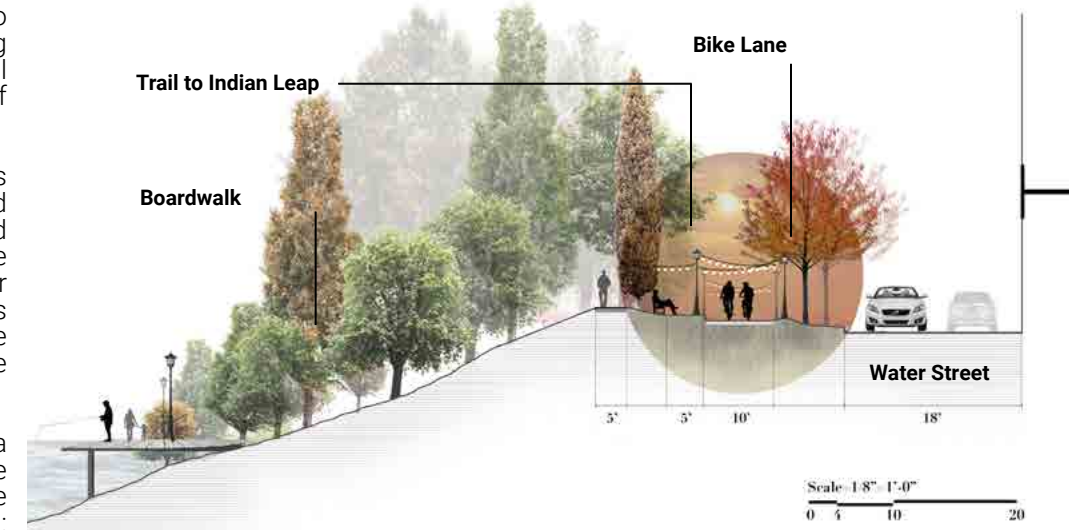


Transforming the edge of the Chicopee River into a public recreational area introduces a connection with the I.O. Mills and the designated arts district. The proposal suggests a blend of quiet and relaxing green space to soften the environment. Implementing benches and street/night lighting will help to increase the accessibility of the riverfront.

By adding in pedestrian/cycling trails that loop around to Indian Leap and back, along with nature walks and boardwalk along the river bank, the riverfront becomes a hub for outdoor recreation. Regardless of age, this type of recreational space holds the potential to significantly engage the community.

The Riverfront Plaza becomes a significant landmark along the riverfront as it binds together the three major districts of the neighborhood: Arts, Recreation, and Commercial. The bike lanes along Oak Street merge into the cycling lane in the park. The raised central gathering space in the plaza represents the integration of the arts and urban centers into an accessible public green space.

RIVERFRONT



Riverfront Plaza at the extension of Oak Street

RIVERFRONT

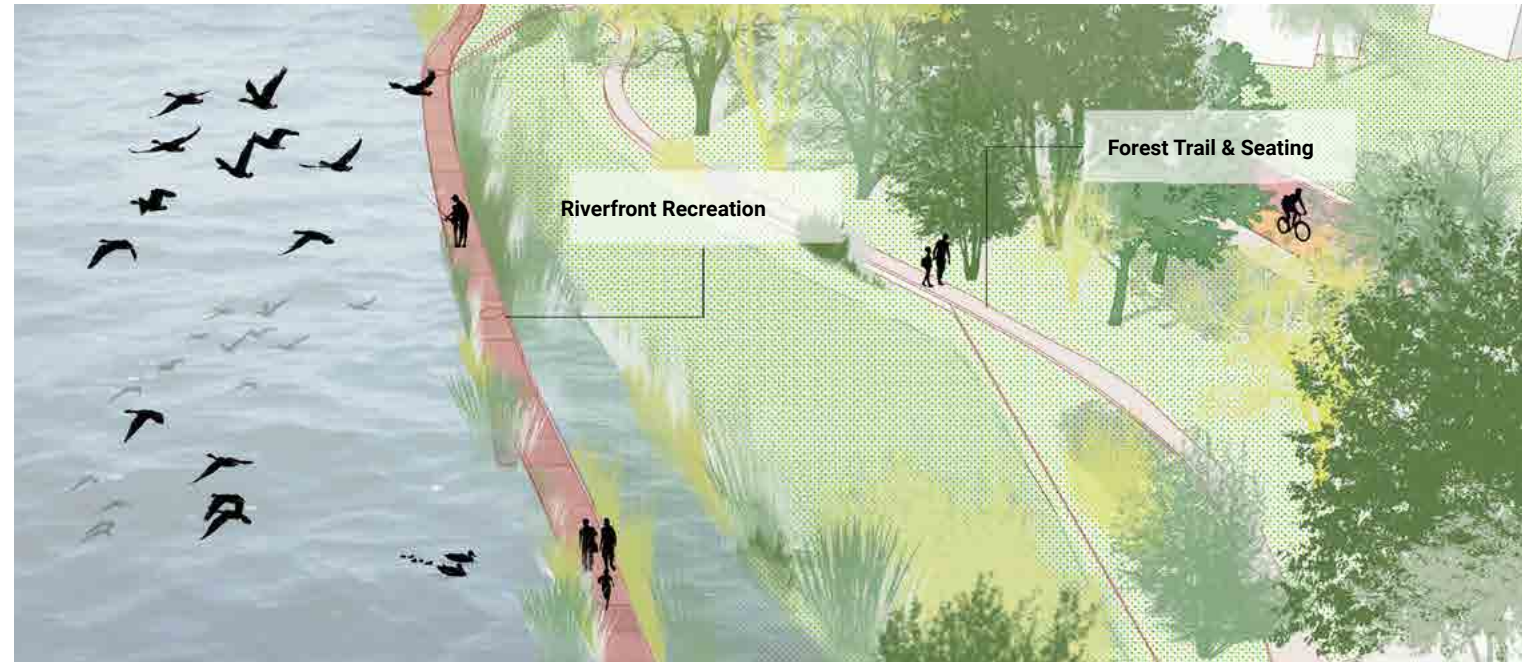
It is important to retain most of the existing vegetation to preserve the environment along the riverside. The dense plantings along the river's edge are largely invasive overgrowth, and a thorough cleanup of the riverfront will allow for the recreational development of the Chicopee riverfront in Indian Orchard.



View towards the River from Water Street.



View towards the River from Water Street.



TEAM & FINAL POSTER BOARD

Linking Identity and Space in Indian Orchard

LA 1074
 Hannah Higgins, Hannah Kishik, Cheng Lin
 The main concept of our design is centered around connectivity through cultural public art and access to public green spaces. Our main objective is to strengthen the connections between Main Street, the Indian Orchard Mills, and the Chicopee River by improving the pedestrian experience. The existing greenery along the Chicopee River provides potential for a series of outdoor recreational spaces. A transformation of the riverfront area introduces access to a currently hidden asset to the community.

Accessibility
 The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Circulation
 The plan shows the vehicle circulation and the blue line shows the pedestrian and cyclist paths. The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Green and Open Space
 The plan shows the green and open space areas. The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Districts
 The plan shows the different districts along the riverfront. The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Potential Mural Walls
 The plan shows the potential mural wall locations. The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Street Sections
 The plan shows the street sections along the riverfront. The main goal is to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience along the riverfront. This includes creating a network of paths, improving signage, and ensuring that the route is safe and accessible for all users.

Main St.
 Illustration of the Main Street street section.

Oak St.
 Illustration of the Oak Street street section.

Site Plan
 Overview map of the project area showing the river, streets, and proposed paths.

Birdseye View
 Aerial view of the project area showing the layout of the paths and green spaces.

Riverfront Section
 Cross-section view of the riverfront showing the path, trees, and water level.

Riverfront Plaza
 Illustration of the proposed plaza area along the riverfront.

Riverfront Trails
 Illustration of the proposed trails along the riverfront.

Council Community Garden
 Illustration of the proposed community garden area.

Outdoor Seating
 Illustration of the proposed outdoor seating area.

Main St. Intersection
 Illustration of the intersection of Main Street and the riverfront path.

Main St. Street View
 Illustration of the street view along Main Street.





SPACE AND TIME

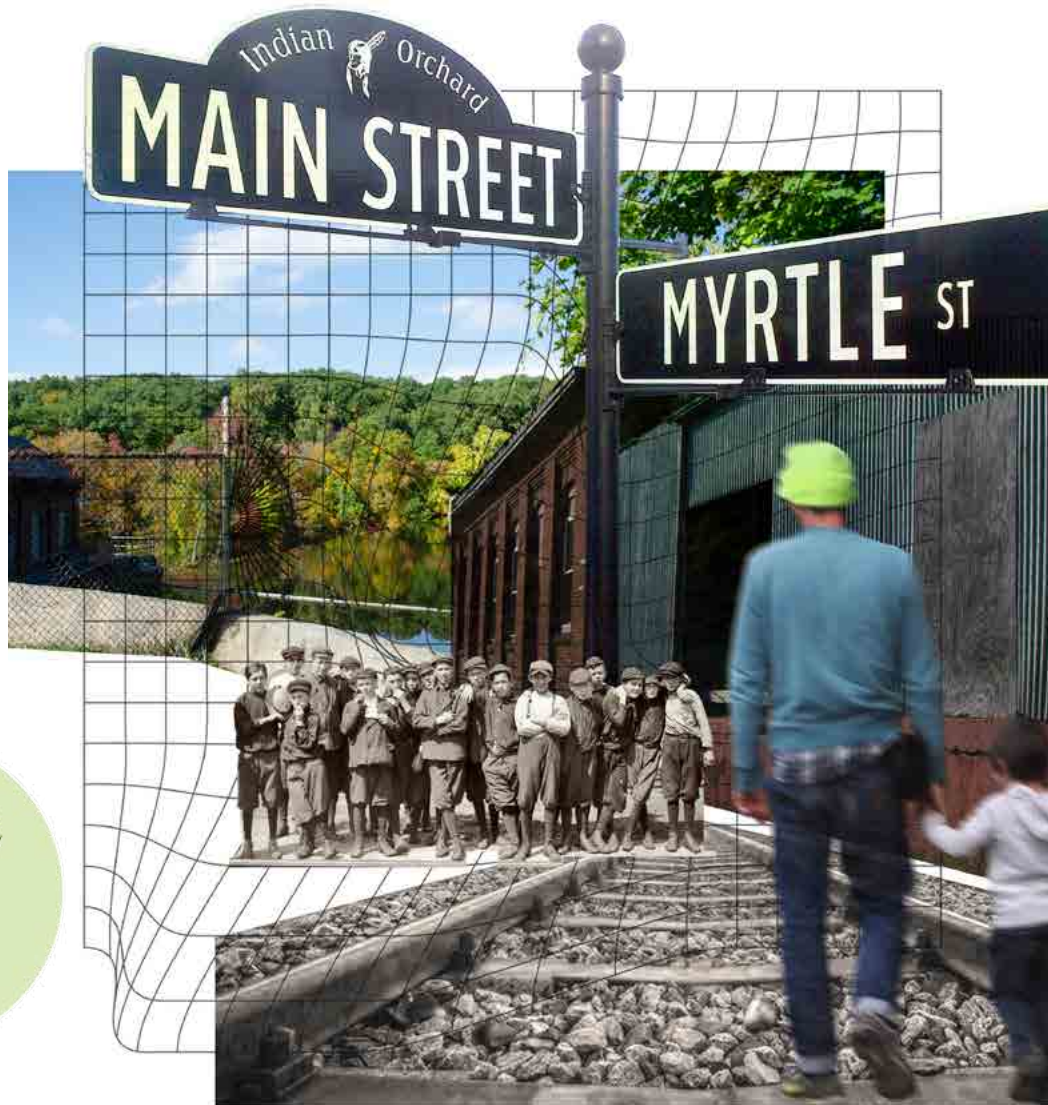
Multidimensional Designs for a Community in
Indian Orchard, Springfield, MA

LUCIA PEÑA • MARYKATE FARNHAM • LUVIANA MCLEAN

CONCEPT AND NARRATIVE

50

The concept of this design analyzes the intersection of space and time in the landscape. The design thinking considers all aspects of the physical environment as space. The mills, parking lots, vacant spaces, sidewalks, and even trees are opportunities to be developed within our design. These spaces are occupied and altered at different times of the year, day, and at different times throughout our lifetime.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this proposal is to create memorable and functional spaces that can be stewarded by the citizens of Indian Orchard. Through a sustainable design approach, the aim of this proposal is to enhance the existing landscape in a non-invasive manner. By re-evaluating the aspects of space and time, history, economic development, people, events, culture, and the environment can be weaved into the urban renewal proposal.

- Tailor vacant spaces to the needs of the community
- Create stronger connections between different areas of the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian access and circulation
- Promote alternative modes of transportation
- Identify 10 potential walls for Fresh Paint murals
- Revitalize Main street through artistic mediums (murals, galleries)
- Create multi-functional spaces for outdoor activities
- Reconnect Indian Orchard to the Chicopee River through design (trails, recreation areas, economic activity.)
- Implement green infrastructure for stormwater management
- Propose new ideas for signage and storefronts

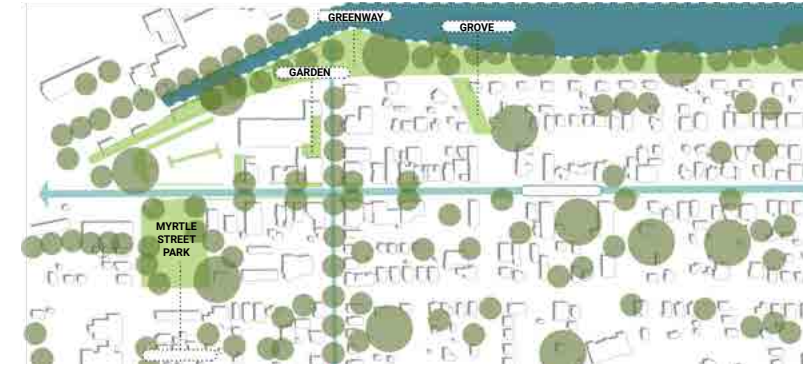


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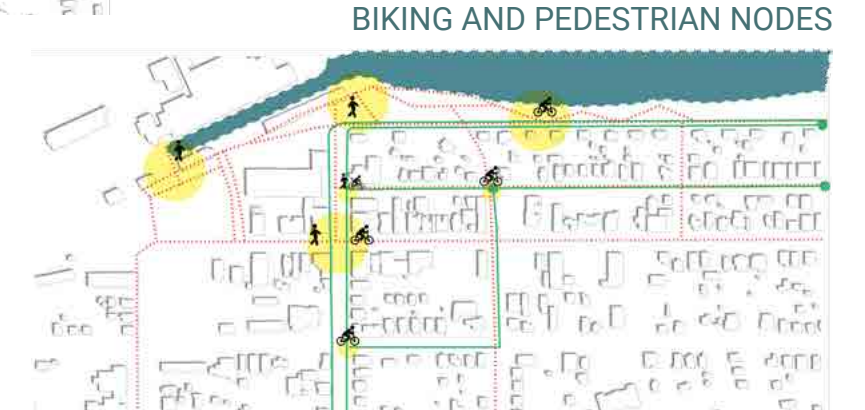


- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Indian Orchard Community Center | 5 Waterfront Skate Park | 9 Water Street Pedestrian Grove |
| 2 Indian Orchard Mills | 6 Greenway Plaza/Skate Park | 10 Greenway Corridor |
| 3 SolMar Outdoor Dining | 7 Kayak Rental | 11 Chicopee River Viewing Docks |
| 4 Oak Street Community Garden | 8 Greenway Parking Lot | |





GREEN SPACE AND VEGETATION



BIKING AND PEDESTRIAN NODES

MAIN ROADS AND PARKING LOTS



INDIAN ORCHARD FIRE STATION est. 1897



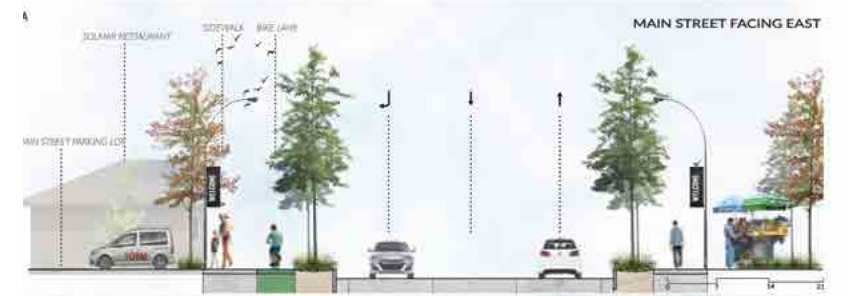
FRONT STREET: Beginning of green way.

SECTION-ELEVATIONS - OAK STREET AND GREENWAY CORRIDOR

56



SECTION-ELEVATION MAIN STREET AND ENTRY PARKING LOT



57

Grow IO's purpose is to bring the community together in an effort to ensure a good quality of life. Its two main areas of focus are

- 1) Food: collective strategies to grow, prepare, preserve, enjoy and have access to fresh, healthy, local, organic food.
- 2) Wellness: (beyond food) include body, mind and social connections.



OAK STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

TEAM & FINAL POSTER BOARD

SPACE AND TIME
 Multidimensional Design for a Community
 Indian Orchard, Springfield MA.

The concept of our design was the reconnection of space and time in the landscape. Our design thinking considers all aspects of the physical environment and social. The walk, park, play, social, exercise, sidewalks, and amenities are opportunities to be developed within our design. These spaces are occupied and shared at different times of the year, day, and at different stages of our lifetimes.

DESIGN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
 Our goal is to show how a vibrant and well-organized space can be reworked by the citizens of Indian Orchard. Through a sustainable design approach, the use of the grounds is to enhance the existing landscape in a non-invasive manner. By re-evaluating the aspects of space and time, history, economic development, people, events, culture, and the environment can be weaved into the urban renewal process.

LEGEND

- 1 Indian Orchard Community center
- 2 Indian Orchard Mills
- 3 Main Street Outdoor Dining
- 4 Oak Street Community Garden
- 5 Waterfront Plaza Park
- 6 Greenway Plaza
- 7 Kayak Rental
- 8 Greenway Parking Lot
- 9 Water Street Pedestrian Grove
- 10 Greenway Corridor
- 11 Chicopee River Viewing Docks

MAIN ROADS AND PARKING
 INDIAN ORCHARD FREE STATION will 5897 Community Center

GREEN SPACE AND VEGETATION
 MAIN STREET PARKING LOT
 View facing Indian Orchard Mills and the Chicopee River green way North entrance.

BIKING AND PEDESTRIAN NODES
 OAK STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN
 Waterfront Greenway extension

FRONT STREET
 Starting point of green way corridor.

MAIN STREET FACING EAST

OAK STREET AND COMMUNITY GARDEN FACING NORTH

GREEN WAY CORRIDOR FACING EAST





ROUTES OF INDIAN ORCHARD

LUC-DANEL METIVIER • TAYLOR MILLS • ANDREW REILLY

PROJECT NARRATIVE AND OBJECTIVES

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Indian Orchard is a growing community. This team believes its unique wards have grown disconnected and separated due to a previous lack of attention from the city of Springfield. We are seeking to connect these districts through small interventions that bring arts, legibility, connectivity, and revitalization to the area. Bringing community integration to the heart of downtown and increasing visibility to the natural and cultural highlights of Indian Orchard. Our intent is to help groups like Fresh Paint - Common Wealth Murals, and the Wellspring Cooperative create moments and landmarks that unify and connect Indian Orchard as a whole.



Design and Planning Objectives:

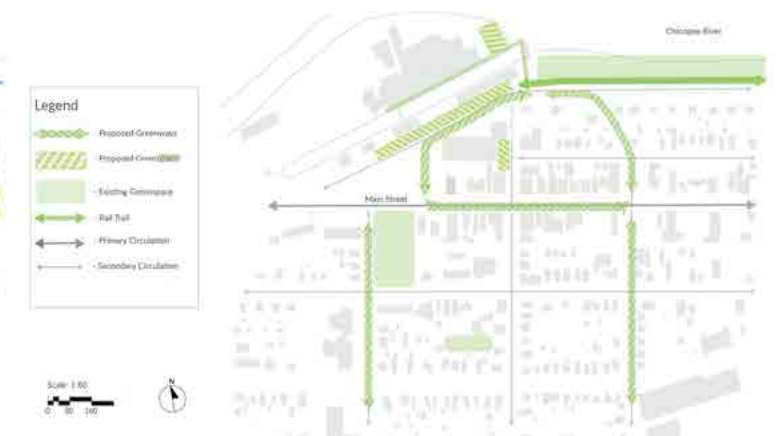
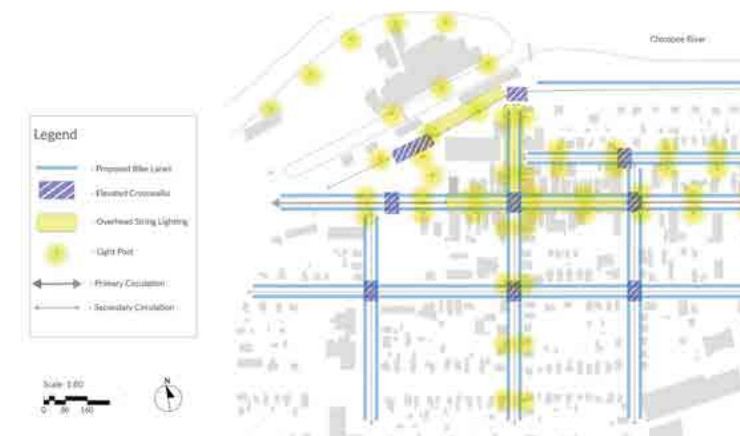
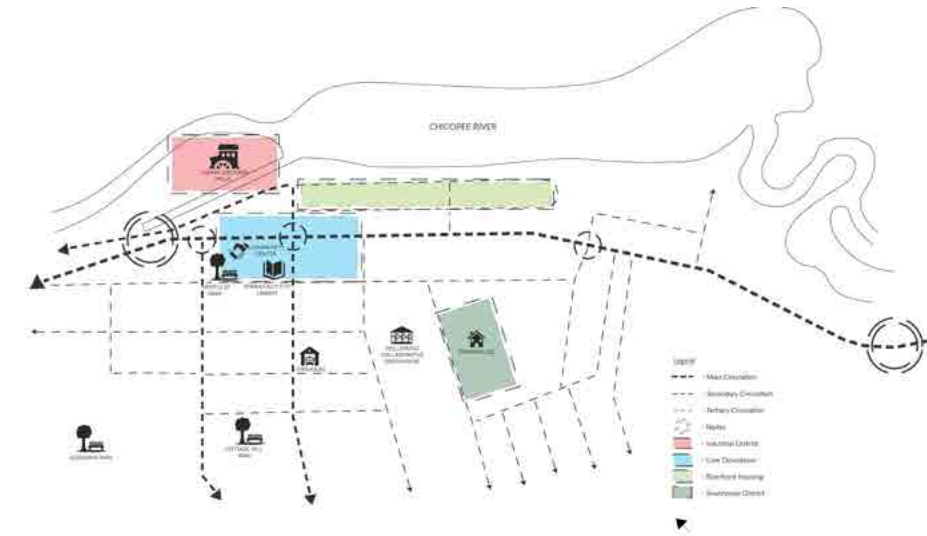
- Reduce traffic impact on Main and Front Street.
- Increase Indian Orchard's connection to the Chicopee River.
- Create small parks and moments for community building
- Bring art and walkability to the downtown district.
- Add legibility to the area to promote local small businesses and new greenway connections.
- Create timeline for implementing community requested changes.
- Propose multiple options for key interventions and display for community feedback.



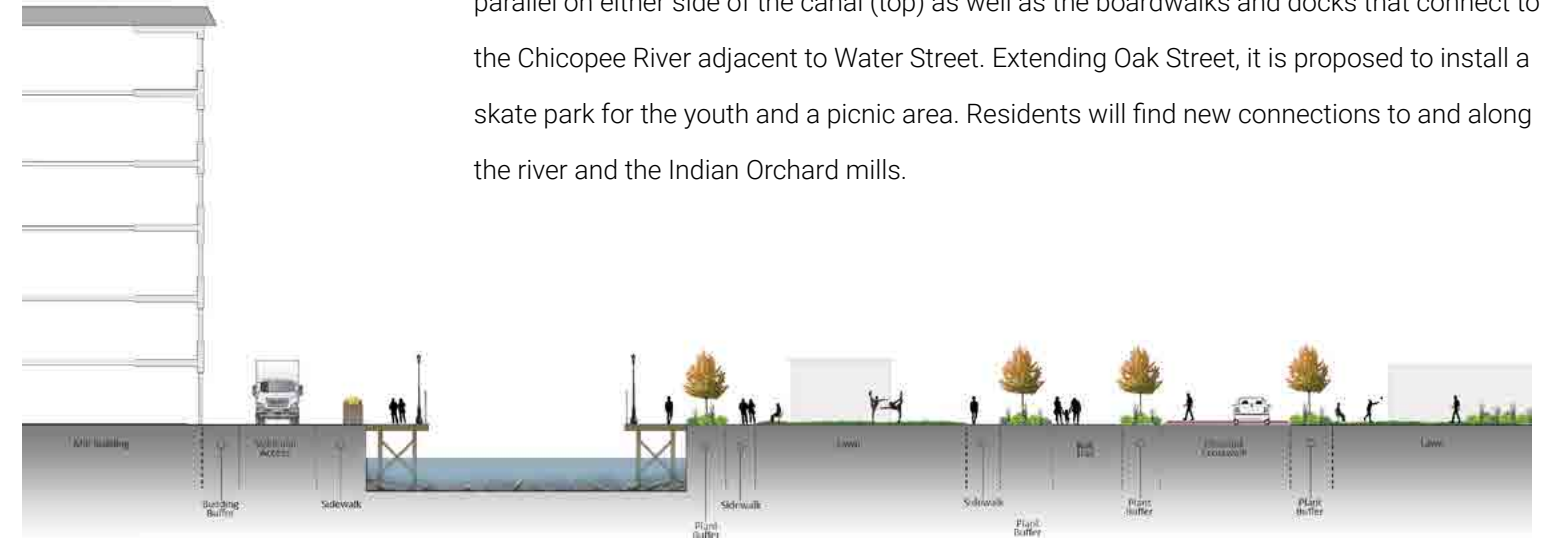
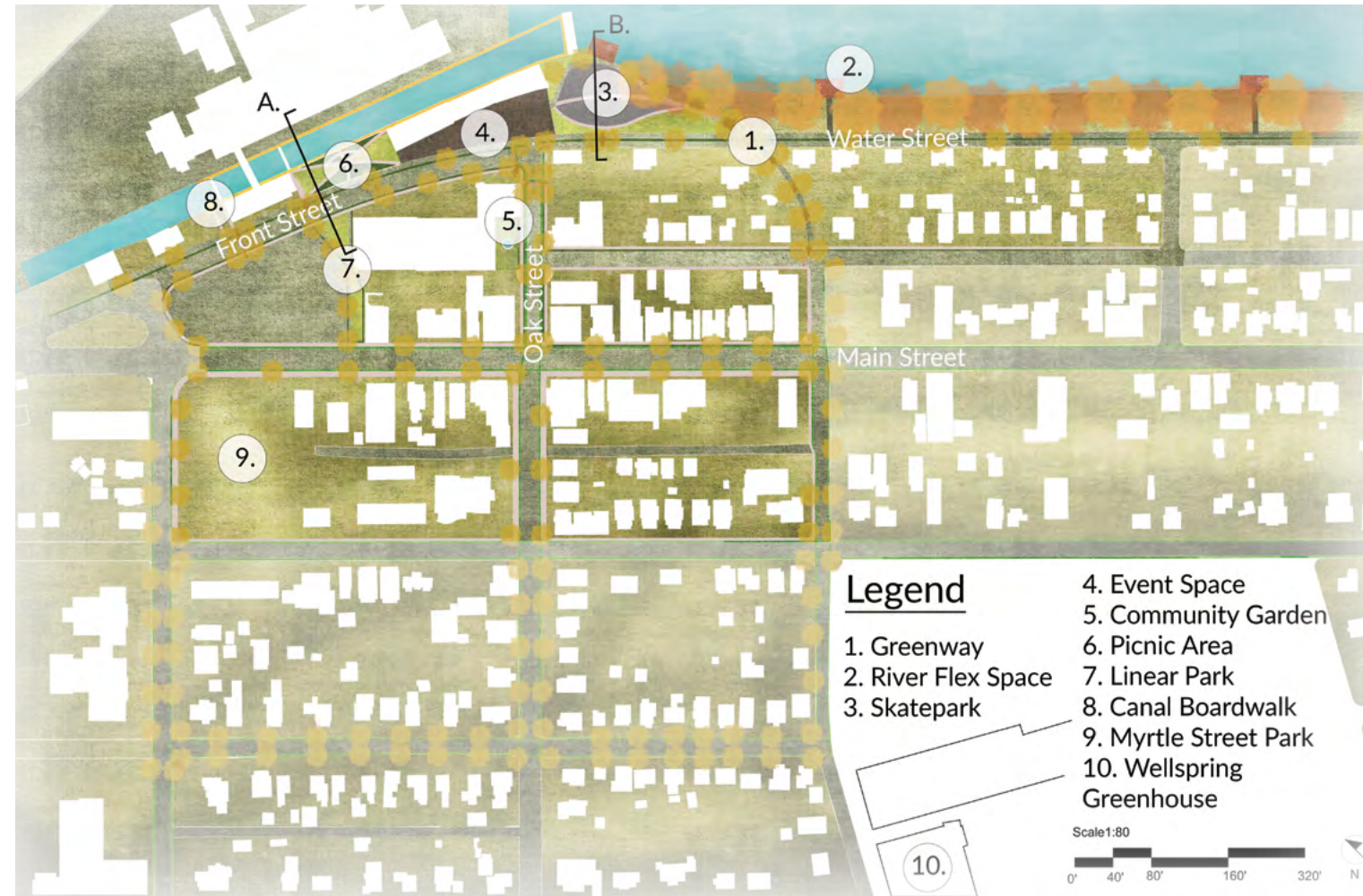
Credit: Various Indian Orchard Mills Artists

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

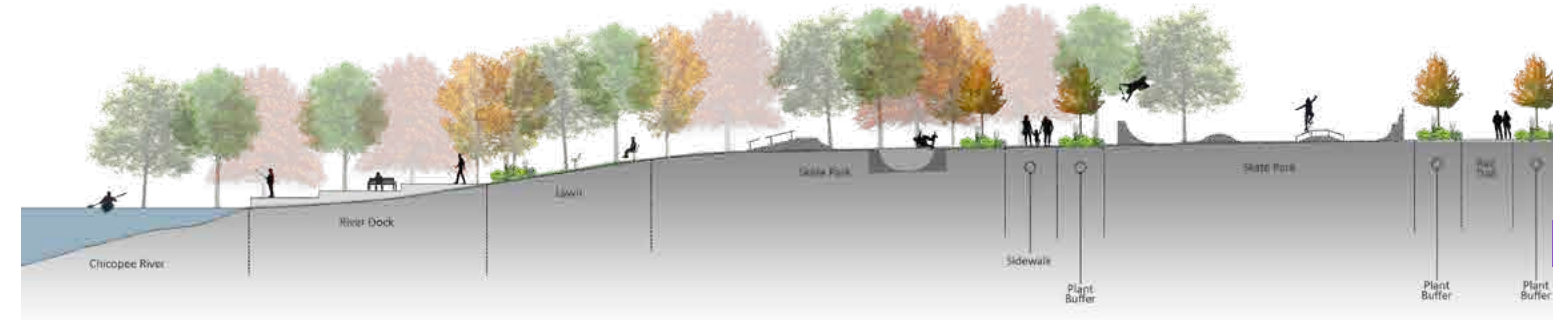
This team used multiple different types of diagrams to get a full understanding of the site. Talking to community members and city representatives was part of an important process. Proposing greenways, skate parks, and mill boardwalks were influenced by our multiple conversations in the neighborhood.



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These two sections depict the connection to the mills and the proposed boardwalks that run parallel on either side of the canal (top) as well as the boardwalks and docks that connect to the Chicopee River adjacent to Water Street. Extending Oak Street, it is proposed to install a skate park for the youth and a picnic area. Residents will find new connections to and along the river and the Indian Orchard mills.





Legend
1. The Mills 2. Canal Boardwalk 3. Event Space 4. Skatepark 5. River Flex Space 6. Greenway 7. Indian Leap

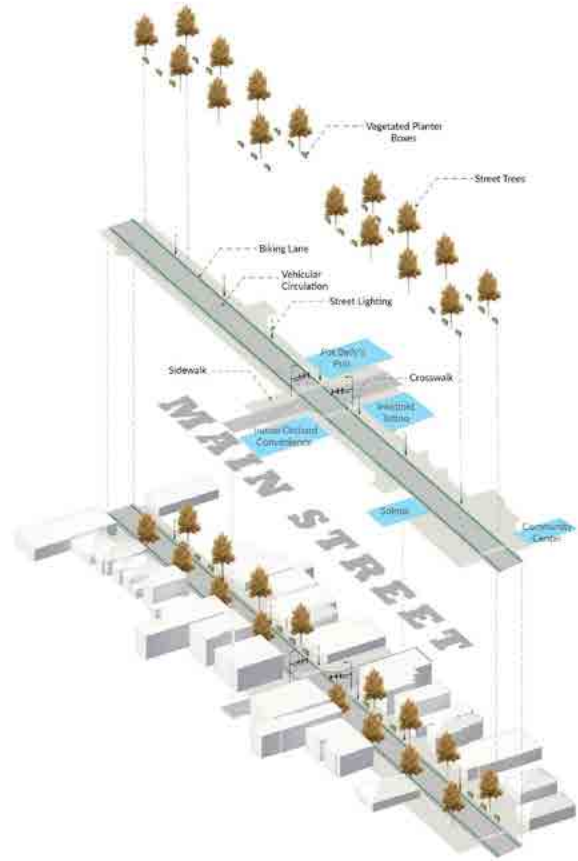
The recreational greenway along Water Street up to Indian Leap is the core element of this design. Walking on different levels - close to the water, on the upper terrace or biking. This is a 1-mile long corridor that runs along Front and Water Street and provides multiple possibilities to exercise, play, or rest.

This greenway stretches from the dam at Indian Orchard Mill to Indian Leap in the east. This greenway also provides important and much needed connections between the many disconnected picnic areas on Water Street. The the proposed docks that are close to the Chicopee River invite for watching and fishing, relaxing and exercising.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ON MAIN AND FRONT STREET AT THE MILLS

68

Main Street is redesigned with a system of connected, vegetated planter boxes for stormwater infiltration and coherent tree canopy on both sides of the street. Bike lanes on either side of Main Street and pedestrian-scale street lights make the historic district of Indian Orchard bike-able and safer at night.



A new, green corridor connects Main Street to Front Street and the Indian Orchard Mills.



Oak and Front Street evolve into green, walkable corridors that bring life and art into the neighborhood and connect to the River.

GREEN RIVER WALK AND COMMUNITY GARDEN ON OAK STREET



The green river walk and a new picnic area on the left. The fruit trees and planting buffers offer protection from vehicles as well as spaces that people can gather in.



This proposed community garden on an underutilized lot on Oak Street behind Heat Bath industrial building. This area provides space for people to learn and grow in multiple ways including children and adults.

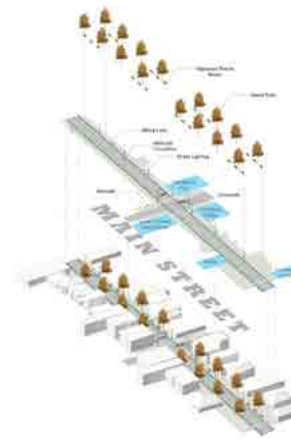
69



Routes of Indian Orchard

Indian Orchard is a growing community. Our group believes its unique wards have grown disconnected and separated due to a previous lack of attention from the city of Springfield. We are seeking to connect these districts through small interventions that bring arts, legibility, connectivity, and revitalization to the area. Bringing community integration to the heart of downtown and increasing visibility to the natural and cultural highlights of Indian Orchard. Our intent is to help groups like Fresh paint, Commonwealth murals, and the Wellspring Cooperative create moments and landmarks that unify and connect Indian Orchard as a whole.

- Reduce traffic impact on Main and Front Street.
- Increase Indian Orchard's connection to the Chicopee River.
- Create small parks and moments for community building.
- Bring art and walkability to the downtown district.
- Add legibility to the area to promote local small businesses and new greenway connections.
- Create timeline for implementing community requested changes.
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Main Street Aerial





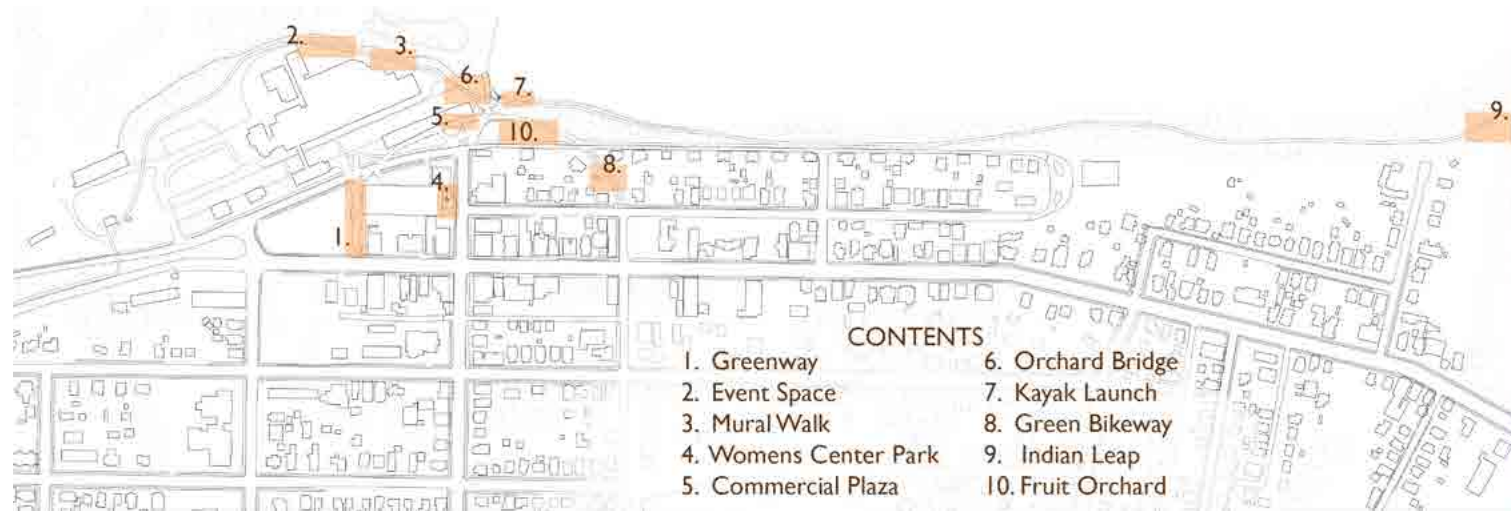
CONNECTING INDIAN ORCHARD MILL

Bringing arts and dining back to the Indian Orchard Mill.
A celebration of a beautiful and historic assets

TED DUFFY • SKYLER BURNS

This design proposal embraces walkability, connectivity, and sustainability. Indian Orchard is a neighborhood with personality and even more potential. Main Street has many local businesses that people enjoy and want to enjoy more. The Mill is a beautiful and historic building which is underused. During conversations with residents of Indian Orchard, this team asked what areas they loved and which they wanted improved. Residents thought that Water Street and parts of the Mill area were an eyesore. We also heard that walking down Main Street is at times the best part of peoples day. Currently, the Mill is a little outdated and needs some maintenance and care of the woodland edges. Main Street is a beloved area, and this team intends to be careful and maintain the integrity of its diverse character.

This design seeks to remedy the slow movement of Indian Orchard by accommodating the people who live in the area today. It is proposed to create lanes for walking or biking, and green spaces to enjoy. Places have to be more accessible and safe to walk at any time. New spaces should encourage people to stop and smell the roses, instead of just passing through.



An important feature of the design is the Rail Trail. This is a bike path that uses the now defunct railroad that follows the Chicopee River. The plan is to revitalize the dilapidated rail and turning an overgrown industrial feature into a sustainable and clean biking and walking path fruit orchards and overlooks. This trail would connect the Chicopee River to the Indian Orchard Mill, and to Main Street. Currently the Mill is a little difficult to get to by foot. The breweries and remarkable art studios are a real asset to the neighborhood and should be included. Structurally, a proposed bike path and Orchard Bridge would encompass the back of the Mill and making it a more central part of Indian Orchard. Nonprofits and local artists such as Fresh Paint should be more involved creating a series of murals on the facades of the Mill. This would create a corridor for new activities and interest alike.



CONNECTIONS OF INDIAN ORCHARD

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Sustainability is another tenet of this design. The goal is to protect the Chicopee River, uphold and sustain the natural beauty of the site, and revitalize the neighborhood both in principle and in practice. This includes encouraging pedestrian and bicycle movement, as well as implementing permeable surfaces and rain gardens to collect stormwater runoff and filter pollutants. The design aims to provide the Indian Orchard neighborhood with sustainability principles that renew and encourage the native flora and fauna. It is also aimed to honor the sustainable and honorable practices of land stewardship practiced by the original and rightful inhabitants of the land, the Mahican and Pocumtuck people. It has ensured that the water runoff from Main Street is hitting native plant beds and being filtered before entering the Chicopee River.

It is aimed to shade and insulate the area to prevent an urban micro-climate, using native shade trees to provide shelter and keep the area cool. Visually, this is achieved through keeping the borders of existing woodlands rather natural, plant more beautiful street trees and more green spaces. This was also brought up in the conversations with local people.

In conclusion, this design aims to improve the economy and the

ecology of the area by making it a more walkable space. It is intended to connect all the different businesses to the Mill and to Main Street, acknowledging that there is uniqueness and value to all that Indian Orchard has to offer, and the attempt to share that with the region. Most importantly, the design aims to honor the remarkable ecological practices of the first nation people that originally developed the land, bringing sustainable consideration to all the elements of our project.



PLACE TO PLACE



The bridge connecting the Plaza to the Mill is a major intervention. The only method of getting to the Mill now is by a small bridge and a road that is not very accessible by foot or bike. Two additional green pathways bring traffic from Main Street to the Mill.

ECOLOGICAL



The goal is to restore the ecosystem that surrounds Indian Orchard. By planting large swaths of understory/meadow-like native plantings, it is aimed to intercept the runoff into the Chicopee River. This filters the water and catches pollution, and amends the soil in the process. Additionally, it adds interest to the riverfront.

SOCIAL



The back of the Mill is located on the riverfront and an underused space. The space currently has no function except for truck delivery but can be used in other ways. Paired with the Rail Trail and murals, the site becomes a valuable and coveted riverfront event space.

KEY PROGRAMMING

1 WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL PLAZA



KAYAK RENTAL + CAFE

BOAT LAUNCH

RECREATIONAL PLAZA JUNCTION



2 RAIL TRAIL



CONNECTING MAIN ST. TO MILL

ACCESS TO INDIAN LEAP

MURAL WALL VIEWPOINT



3 GREEN PATHWAYS



PROVIDE OUTDOOR SEATING/ DINING

REDUCING IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

CLARIFIES MOVEMENT



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SOLMAR RESTAURANT GREENWAY

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The first restaurant to the northwestern side of Indian Orchard is Solmar restaurant. Solmar restaurant borders a parking lot on the edge of Main Street. An existing pedestrian bridge to the Indian Orchard Mill is located just across the edge of the building. Connect these two areas provides a great the opportunity for accessing the Mills on foot and providing an outdoor dining area for the restaurant. The parking lot needs to be reduced by 20-30 feet in order to create a functional and refreshing corridor. It invites people to move safely between two major economic areas in town, and provides local business owners with areas for outdoor dining and seating.



RAIL TRAIL AND MURAL WALK



The Indian Orchard Mill contains over 130 businesses. These are artists, offices, studios, and a brewery. It is on the Chicopee River, and currently blocks all views and connections. This is a valuable waterfront property that is overlooked and underused. Lastly, the building is currently an eyesore. The bricks are stained, damaged, and windows are boarded up.



It is proposed to lead the Rail Trail around the Mill building to activate and connect the back side of the Mill. In this sense, a bike loop would circle the Mill and brings it closer to Main Street. Murals that would be created by local artists and the guidance of Fresh Paint would recreate and transform the back side of the Mill. This new attraction and destination on the riverfront and brings new life and people and economic value. The proposal still maintains the historic integrity of the brick face on the front side of the Mill. Events between Trail and the Mill would capture the beautiful view on the Chicopee River and the falls.

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MILL EVENT SPACE ON THE CHICOPEE RIVER



WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL PLAZA

The Plaza has a multitude of features which are designed to accommodate residents and visitors. A boat dock and kayak launch on the Chicopee River is accessible from Oak Street. An existing, vacant building that spans over the canal could be used for a cafe. A small shed on the corner of Water Street could be used for kayak rental. Fruit trees arranged in a grid provide spring flowers and summer harvest at the entrance. A new bridge connects this major junction to the Mill. It thus links areas for commercial activities with the beauty of the river and the town. Benches provide ample opportunities to sit, areas are suitable for picnics and rest right on the water. Vacant buildings and an abandoned parking lot are transformed into public assets.



Front Street

Plaza

Reused Bridge Building

WOMENS CENTER PLAYGROUND



The Womens Center is just a 100 feet located from the plaza, and across from an abandoned and dilapidated lot. The lot is a great opportunity to accommodate the Womens Center and provide a safe area for families to connect. It is within view of the Womens Center porch, and would have equipment for children to play as well as benches for parents or caretakers to supervise.



FINAL POSTER BOARD

CONNECTING INDIAN ORCHARD MILL TED DUFFY SKYLER BURNS



PROGRAMMING
VEGETATION
CIRCULATION



Reimagining Main Street to the Mill
A large part of our design is walkability, connectivity, and sustainability. Our plan would revitalize the dilapidated rail, turning an overgrown industrial feature into a sustainable and clean bike path. Structurally, the bike path would encompass the Mill, bringing circulation towards the mill and making it a more central part of Indian Orchard.



OUTDOOR DINING + GREENWAY



PLAYGROUND



COMMERCIAL PLAZA



RAIL TRAIL ELAVATION



COHE-SITY

ZIXIN CHEN • MOLLY HANCOCK • MATTHEW LEDOUX

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Indian Orchard is a beautiful mill town with a vibrant community. This team aims to create a cohesive society where nature and humans connect. The design takes two concepts, cohesion and society and combines them to create coherent whole. Through design, it is planned to creating a subtle and curvilinear design where the land conforms to the people and the people to the land. Without taking away from the existing uses, it is planned to add and propose new ideas and uses for this important location.

The design aims to unite people, reinforce existing art culture, beautify the waterfront and street fronts, attract more visitors, and encourage economic growth. From the site analysis, it was discovered that Indian Orchard has a rich history and various cultural activities. The design encourages people to engage in the community actively by bringing art elements, such as Fresh Paint, murals, and mosaic benches into every corner of Indian Orchard. In addition, the design focuses on adding more recreation and beautifying a greenway along the Mills and the Chicopee River. Widening the path along the water will make more accessible greenway and attract more people. People will spend more time along the Chicopee River if there is a fascinating river view. This design considers waterfront and street recreation as equally important.

Lastly, the old industrial mills are located in the north of the historic district of Indian Orchard. The mill is home to several art studios, a brewery, and a tailoring company. Continuing with the vision of beautifying and connecting human interaction with the world around them, it is planned to clean up the canal and plant it with indigenous vegetation. The exposed, northern facade of the canal will display an oversized mural that will not only benefit the tenants of the mill the whole town. In addition, it is planned to use the great potential of the canal on the southern side of the mill. There it is envisioned to and create a lower boardwalk area for artists to display and create their work

simultaneously and interact from the desk to the deck. Lastly, the back wall of the canal will be used for a “public expression” graffiti wall. Here, the public can interact and express themselves openly in a comfortable, beautiful space. It is planned to carefully select focus areas that will best benefit this community. The design will have one central idea - bringing together the community.



MASTER PLAN



1. The Mills
2. Boardwalk in The Mills
3. Art Walk
4. Community Garden
5. Myrtle St. Park
6. Greenway
7. Skate Park
8. Elevated Boardwalk

PARKING LOT AS ART WALK

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The parking lot is an important place coming into the neighborhood from the west into Indian Orchard. With the concept of cohesion and society in mind, it is aimed to connect nature with people. Today, parking lot needs a better connection from Myrtle Street Park to the Chicopee River. The proposed design guides people in a flowing and joyful way along circular planting beds and undulating edges. Artistic sitting walls provide ample opportunities to relax.

PARKING LOT AS ART WALK



The circular planting beds are designed in collaboration with Fresh Paint and artists from the mills and thus provide the unique experience of an open space art walk that connects Main Street to the canal of the mills.



The circular areas indicate large seating spaces surrounded by carefully chosen plants to allow for human and nature relationships and interactions. One circular area is elevated and can be used as a stage.

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PARKING LOT ART WALK AND SITTING AREA ON CLOSED FRONT STREET SECTION



It is proposed to close down the section of Front Street that is adjacent to the parking lot between Main Street and the mills. This will strengthen the connection from Main and Myrtle Street Park to the mill building. The active, industrially used buildings on Front Street would still be accessible from Oak Street. The new area would contain sitting areas for people to relax, plantings to soften sharp corners, and walking paths that connect the mills, Myrtle Street Park, and the greenway.



Elevated Stage

Parking Lot

Art Walk

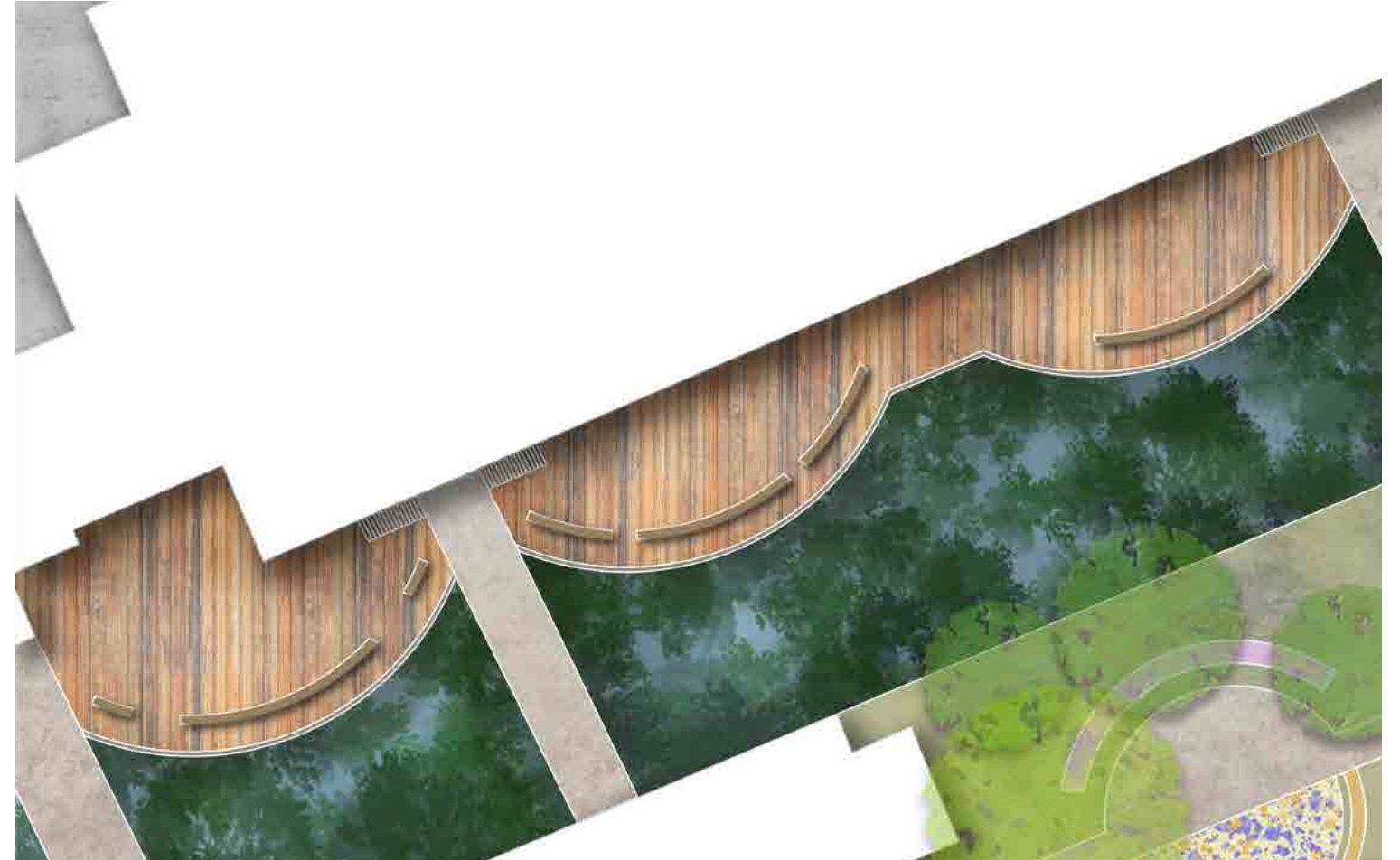


Art Walk

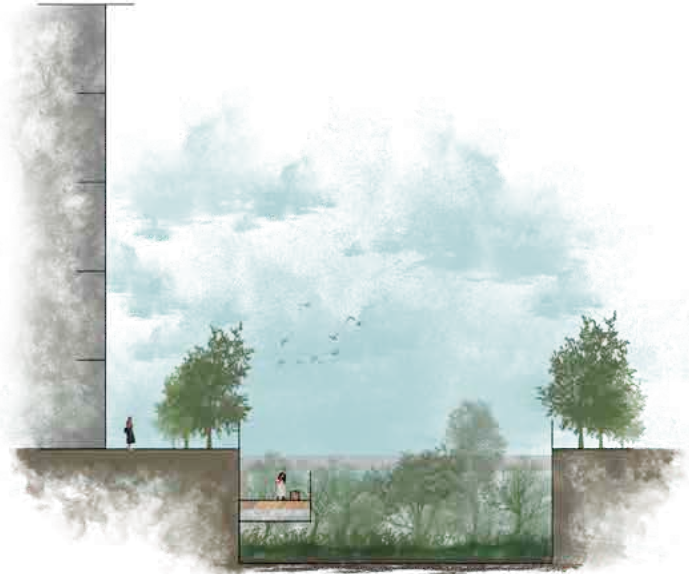
Main Street

Myrtle St. Park

BOARDWALK AT THE MILLS



One focus area is the canal that separates the mills from the neighborhood. The canal is now incorporated in the design concept. It includes a new boardwalk area that is attached to the mill building. The elevation of the boardwalk is brought down to the water's edge to make water part of a new experience that is lacking today. The canal will be planted with native plants to provide new habitat and biodiversity.



The board walk is located on the northern side of the canal and creates a loop from the adjacent parking lot across the existing pedestrian bridges to Front Street and the greenway. The display of art on the northern walls of the canal becomes the new face of the mill and a focal point for residents and art lovers. The boardwalk will glue the neighborhood together along the Indian Orchard Mills - one of the greatest assets in the area. It becomes a place to experience nature and art at the same time.



The design of the greenway expands and continues the theme of the Art Walk in form of colorful circular spaces and places that are connected through undulating pathways. Walking along the elevated boardwalk on the greenway, people can get closer to the Chicopee River and enjoy the fascinating views of river and dam. The greenway also connects to new places for recreation such as a skate park on the river's edge. In addition, it connects to the proposed community garden on Oak Street and the safely connect to Main Street restored sidewalks and bike lanes.

Skate Park



Elevated Boardwalk



The elevated boardwalk is one of the highlights of Greenway because it has the best and close view of the Chicopee River. Standing on the elevated boardwalk allows people to feel the breeze from Chicopee River blowing over them. The elevated boardwalk is also children-friendly since it has 4 to 4.5 protecting fences along the edges. While people enjoy the spectacular views, they are well-protected. In the back, it is proposed to install a skate park that had strong advocates during our community engagement process. Images to the right show the transformation of Main Street and Oak Street into green, walkable and bicycle-friendly corridors with new opportunities for new restaurants and local commerce.



Main Street - Before



Main Street - After Transformation



Oak Street - Before



Oak Street - After Transformation



Cohe-Sity

Molly Hancock, Matthew LeDoux and Zixin Chen

Indian Orchard is a beautiful community-based site. Our team aims to create a cohesive society where nature and humans connect. The design concept takes the two, cohesion and society and combines them to create cohe-sity. Through design, we plan on creating a subtle and curvilinear design where the land conforms to the people and the people to the land through our design strategies and form.

Secondly, our design aims to unite people, reinforce existing art culture, beautify the waterfront and street fronts, attract more visitors, and encourage economic growth. From our site analysis, we discovered that Indian Orchard has a rich history and various cultural activities. Our design encourages people to engage in the community actively by bringing art elements, such as fresh paint, murals, and mosaic benches, into every corner of Indian Orchard. Lastly, we wanted to capture the art that's being done in Mills and bring that creativity and design out into the heart of Indian Orchard.



Section A - Community Council



Section B - Art Walk



Section C - The Mills

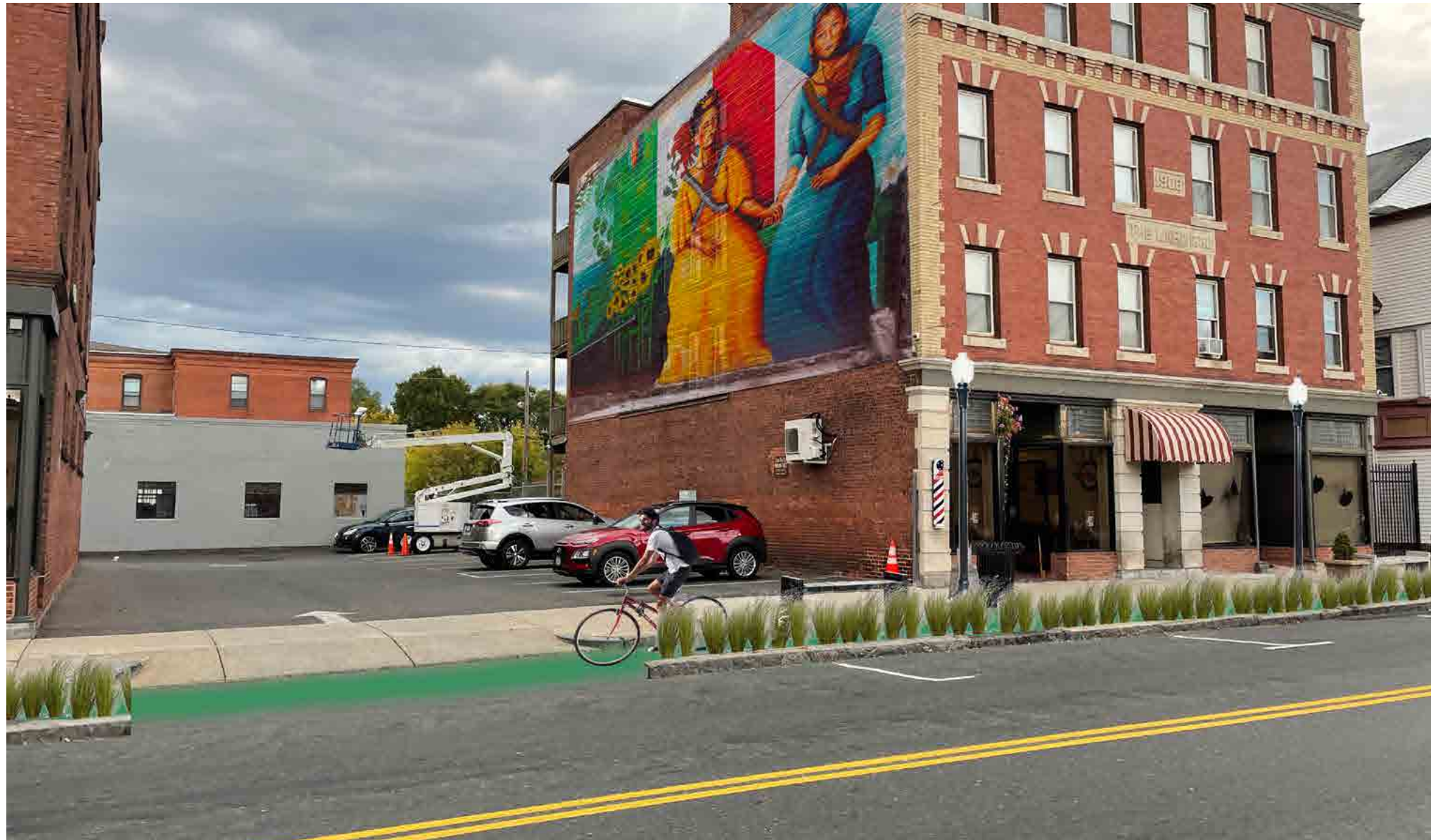


Boardwalk in The Mills



Greenway





THE MISSING THREAD: RECONNECTING LAND, WATER, AND PEOPLE

ANDREW FOLEY • CAMILLA NOVO • LIO AVERILL

PROJECT NARRATIVE

This design looks to thread together Indian Orchard's community, land, and water. We believe Indian Orchard has all the necessary components to be a bustling, thriving and welcoming neighborhood.

The Mills building at one point was a twine factory and currently is home to a plethora of artists of all sorts of medias. With that in mind, we have chosen to add Twine art installations and murals within our design. The twine art installations would serve two purposes. Be a reminder of the neighborhood's industrial history and reconnect the Mill to the commercial area of Main St. The twine art installation would be on display in two spaces, Along Oak from Front to Main, and as the connection fabric from Main St over the Mills parking lot to the mills as the crosswalk canopy. Various walls along Main Street were selected for murals that would create the biggest impression on the community and others passing through.

In front of the Mills lies old train tracks that will now house re-purposed trollies. Our idea is that these trollies could be community owned and used for or rented out by local community members for events.

With the Chicopee riverfront being such a strong natural resource and so close to Main Street, we knew we had to make a clearer connection for the community to take advantage of it. A proposed Greenway with new active amenities such as a workout park, a beach, a playground, and a boardwalk along the water. The boardwalk would stretch all the way to Indian leap with mile markers long the Greenway for pedestrians and joggers to keep track of their work out distance.

In connecting the Greenway to Main Street, the design adds riparian inspired bike lane buffers starting on Oak St and flowing onto Main St. These finer details tie the main circulation path with the new leisure circulation, again creating a threading of land and water to impress upon the community.

Along Main St, we propose renovated store fronts to entice consumers and make Main Street more welcoming. New

crosswalks, streetlights, and signage have been designed to promote safety and encourage pedestrian circulation.

The Pinevale St curve that is currently amassed with wild brush and mud holes is to become a foraging avenue for the community. As another access point to the Greenway that delivers people right to the center of attraction, the last block of Pinevale Street will provide the locals with a variety of native snacks such as wild plum, Paw-paw fruit, nuts, berries and more edible vegetation. This space is meant to give the community a space to reconnect with the land if Indian Orchard and explore forageable spaces in urban areas. With permeable paving and yellow willow arches creating a new experience for the community, Pinevale St will be a strong connective corridor for Main Street and the Greenway. Pinevale will also bolster more street trees along the side of 192 Main Street, where we are also proposing a vegetative mural.

Here we hope the community of Indian orchard can thread and thrive amongst each other.



MASTER PLAN



PHASING

1

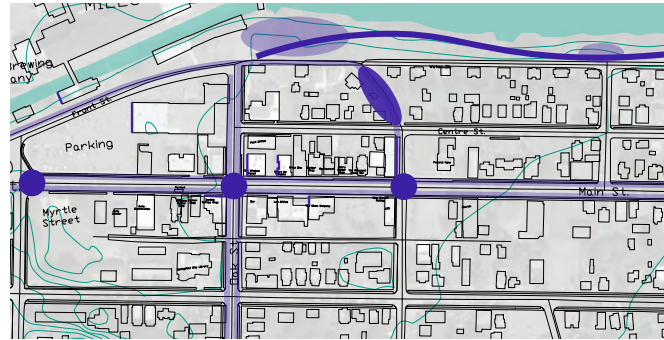
Murals
Street Bike Lanes
Pinevale & Greenway clearing
Safety Updates:
Benches
Crosswalks
Lighting
Bus Stop Shelters
Bike Lane Barriers

2

Storefronts
Twine Install
Street Tree Plantings
Boat Rentals
Beach Preparation
Boardwalk Lighting
Ground Murals
Book/Cafe Prep

3

Boardwalk
Mill Connections
Updated Bridge
Parking Lot Renovation
Beach Finalization
Park Installations
Park/Path Plantings
Book/Cafe Install



MILLS CONNECTION



From Myrtle Street Park to the Mills it is proposed to create a beautiful pedestrian connection with large shade trees and art-inspired, colorful structures. The entrance for the Mills at Front Street will host a ground mural that spans all along Front Street. Front Street will also receive a wide cross walk with large trees that make the area more friendly and walkable.

103

WATERVIEW PARK



Activity, Community, Commerce



A New Center for Recreation: Waterview Park consists of a workout area, playground and a Book Cafe. This area marks the start of the newly developed Greenway leading to Indian Leap. At the intersection of Oak and Front Street a Café book mill is proposed. This endeavor would take over one of the buildings in front of the Mill that is currently being used as storage. It would boast a beautiful deck that looks over the waterfall with outdoor seating. The building itself would house a little café and a book and artisan store with spaces for multiple small vendors from the community. Adjacent to this space are the workout park and playground for the community to get out and get active.

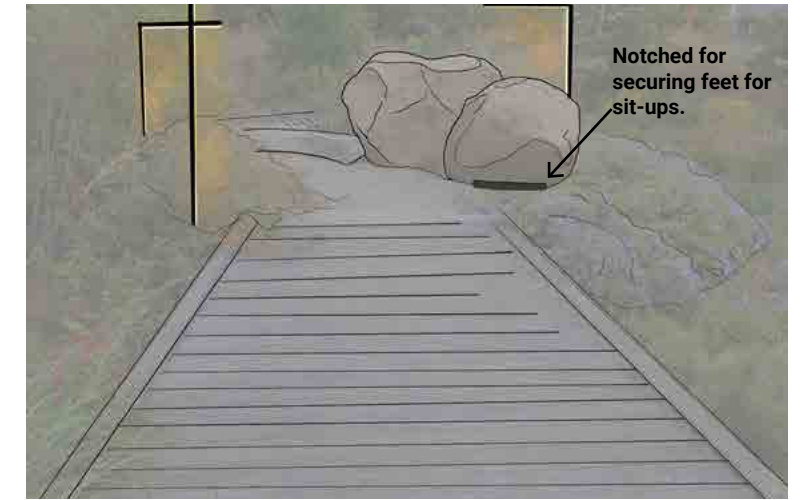
BUS STOP SHELTER

The boardwalk would stretch all the way to Indian Leap with mile markers along the greenway for pedestrians and joggers to keep track of their workout distance. There are break points where individuals could stop to take in the newly crafted viewpoints or add calisthenic workouts to their walk or run. Updated lighting and pedestrian paths along the trails would be implemented to create a safer space for the community to enjoy.

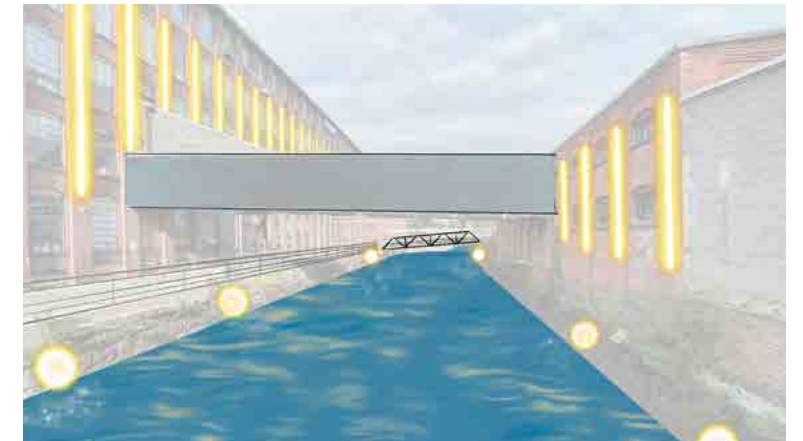


New bus stops will be implemented with green roofs.

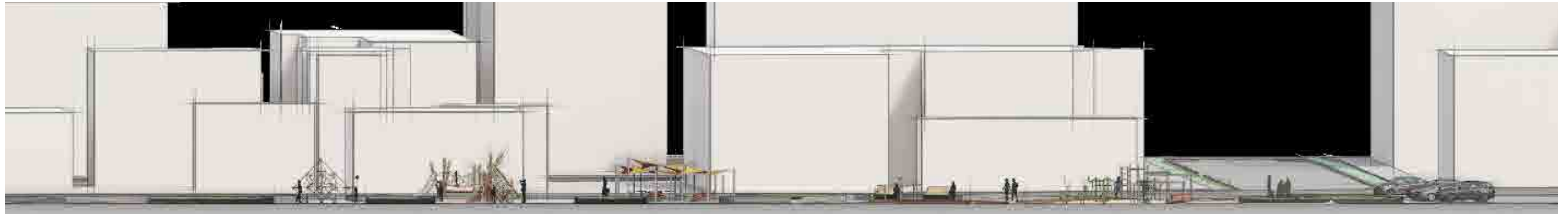
BOARDWALK REST AREA & RENOVATED MILL CANAL



Notched for securing feet for sit-ups.



The design envisions a new lighting system along the Mills canal and building.



This design proposes a connection between Main Street and the Mills that looks to create more business and foot traffic for all. The design insists on safer crosswalks connecting the two spaces. The design also calls on the twine art piece to connect these two spaces by spreading across the newly designed walkway connection. This plan removes the unwelcoming chain link fences around the mill and install a metal cable fence instead, alongside new signage that opens up the entrance to the community and consumers alike.

A New Center for Recreation: Waterview Park consists of a workout area, playground and a Book Cafe. This area marks the start of the newly developed Greenway leading to Indian Leap. The Café book mill on the core of Oak and Front Street is an endeavor that would take over one of the buildings in front of the Mill that is currently being used as storage.



Improving Safety & Accessibility: with updated lighting, crosswalks, streetlights, signage and curb protected bike lanes, the new Indian Orchard is safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. Bumped out curbs and protected bike lanes are a proven effective design for urban planning, keeping on street parking while attracting pedestrian and cyclist travel through downtown. These updated intersections are proven to slow down traffic, and enhancing the safety of the design.



To connect the Greenway to Main Street, the design adds riparian inspired bike lane buffers starting on Oak Street and flowing onto Main Street. Along Oak, the rain retention systems will sink down filled with boulders and river-edge inspired vegetation. While on Main Street, the buffer is elevated to provide a safer bike lane and riparian influence. These finer details tie the main circulation path with the new leisure circulation, again creating a threading of land and water to impress upon the community.

CHICOPEE RIVER BEACH & BOAT LAUNCH

110



Proposed

A proposed Greenway with new active amenities such as a beach, a boat launch and a boardwalk along the water. To achieve our goals, the site would require some brush maintenance, and some clearing to open the space and allow for beautiful river views along with updated lighting to add safety. The bike lane circulation would also stretch along the Greenway.



Existing



Existing



Proposed

This mural will be part of many murals along Main Street. Wanting to focus on the history of Indian Orchard and its current community, the artistic materials chosen includes murals and twine art. Along Main Street, various walls were selected for murals that would have a high visibility and create the biggest impression for residents and visitors. These murals focus on the diverse population in the community to highlight the rich cultural melting pot that is Indian Orchard.

111

REPURPOSING VACANT BUILDING MAIN STREET- RESTAURANT

112



Proposed

This vacant building on the corner of Main Street and Pinevale Street is the perfect space for a new restaurant. This space has immense potential and wide sidewalks that open up the space for outdoor dining. This corner is also home to the neighborhood's beloved street clock. This perspective also boasts a vegetated buffer that protects the new bike lanes through the main streets of Indian Orchard. The plantings in the curb are riparian inspired due to the proximity of the Chicopee River.



Existing



Existing



Proposed

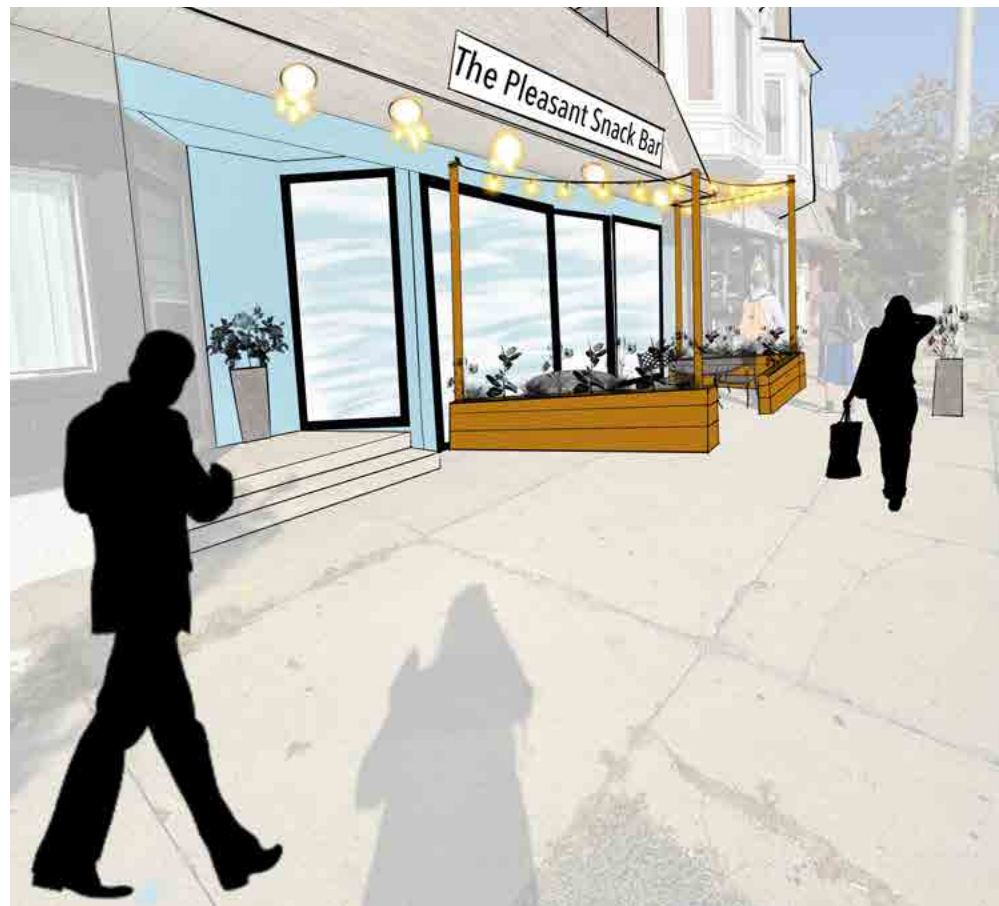
Renovated store fronts will entice consumers and make Main Street more welcoming. The Melting Pot is looking to turn their parking lot into an outdoor dining space with a dance floor, fenced in for private events.

113

MAIN STREET STOREFRONT REVAMP - THE PLEASANT SNACK BAR

FINAL POSTER BOARD

114



Proposed



Existing

Store owners like this one, The Pleasant Snack Bar, can take advantage of Springfield's Storefront Improvement Grant to put into action updated designs like this. Updated floor to ceiling windows, outdoor seating, new signs and lighting and possible extra commodities like raised flower beds that define the eating area.

The Missing Thread : Reconnecting Land, Water, and People

Andrew Foley - Camilla Novo - Lio Averill

Concept: Our design looks to thread together Indian Orchard's community, land, and water. With the Chicopee riverfront being such a strong natural resource and so close to Main St, we knew we had to make a closer connection for the community to take advantage of it. To complete this task, we took into consideration what the members of Indian Orchard are interested in: Art, eating, dining, and a redesigned river front.

From Myrtle St to the Mills
With a redesigned Mill entrance, a ground mural spanning all of Front St, and a revamped and vegetated crosswalk, the new dining district aims to both make a walkable downtown, and keep all of the vehicular functionality of Indian Orchard's current state.

A New Center for Recreation
Waterfront Park consists of a workout area, playground and a Book Cafe. This area marks the start of the newly developed Greenway leading to Indian Leap.

Improving Safety & Accessibility
With updated lighting, crosswalks, and curb protected bike lanes, the new Indian Orchard is safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. Bumped out curbs and protected bike lanes are a proven effective design for urban planning, keeping on street parking while attracting pedestrian and cyclist travel through downtown.

Phasing:

- Phase 1:**
 - Murals
 - Street Bike paths
 - Restroom & Greenway clearing
 - Safety updates:
 - Lighting
 - Greenway
 - Benches
- Phase 2:**
 - Stone Fronts
 - Trees Install
 - Street Tree Plantings
 - Roof Restalls
 - Roof Preparation
 - Boardwalk Lighting
 - Ground Murals
 - Book/Cafe Prep
- Phase 3:**
 - Boardwalks
 - Mill Connections
 - Updated Bridge
 - Parking Lot Renovation
 - Roof Installation
 - Park Installations
 - Park Plant Plantings

Transforming the Heart of Indian Orchard - Springfield, MA
Art, Culture, Local Dining, Park to the River

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