

Evansville Riverfront

Project Update

50% Schematic Design

2026.2.9

SASAKI

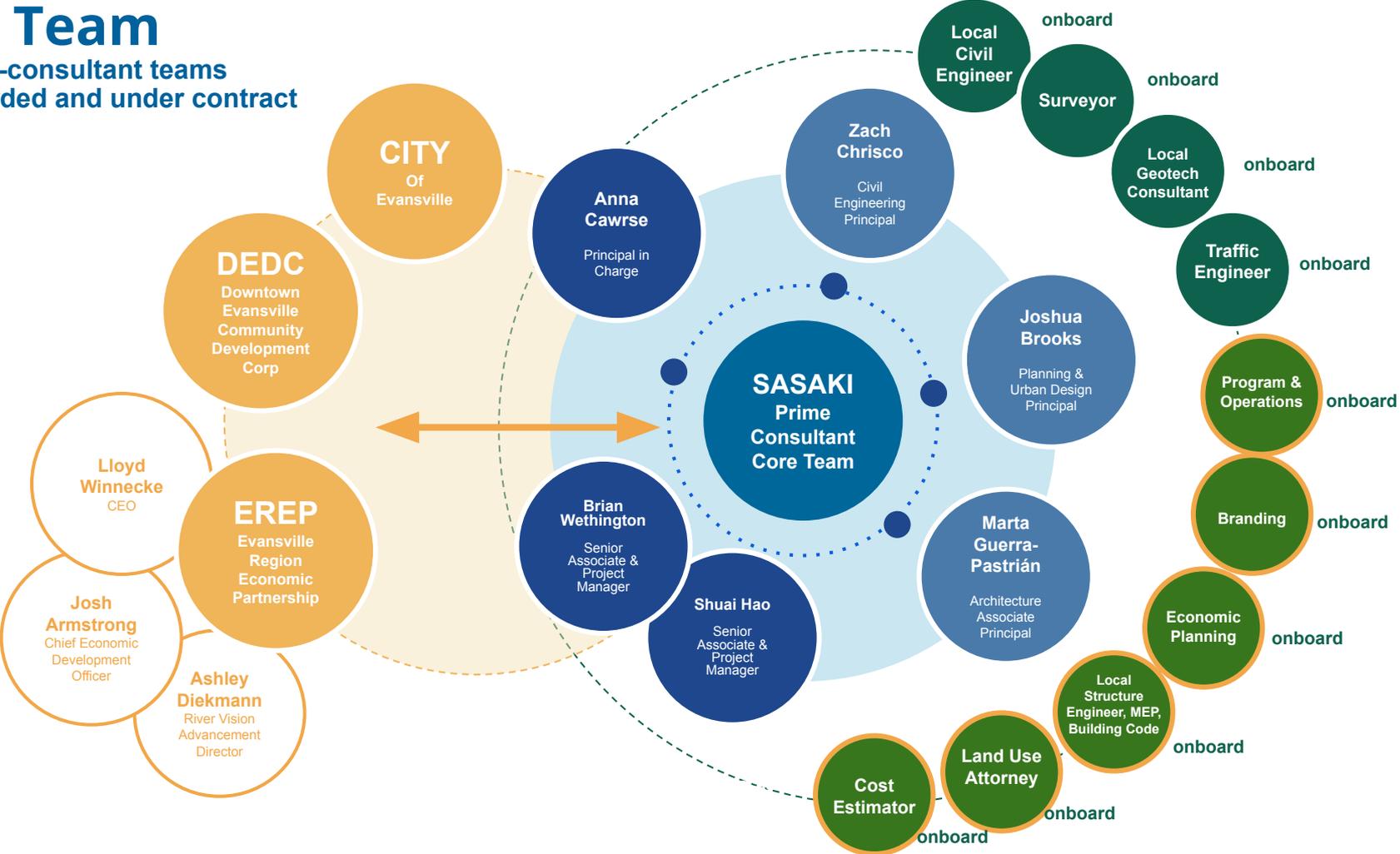


Agenda

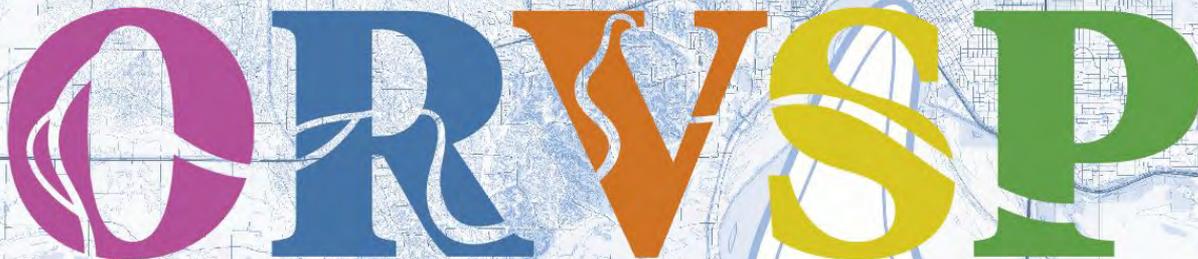
- Intros and how the vision came to be (5min)
- Initial planning along the 50-mile corridor
- Community engagement and partnerships (5min)
- The outcomes and impact of a re-envisioned downtown park (15min)
- Discussion (remainder)

The Team

All sub-consultant teams onboarded and under contract



May 2024, Final Vision Plan Release



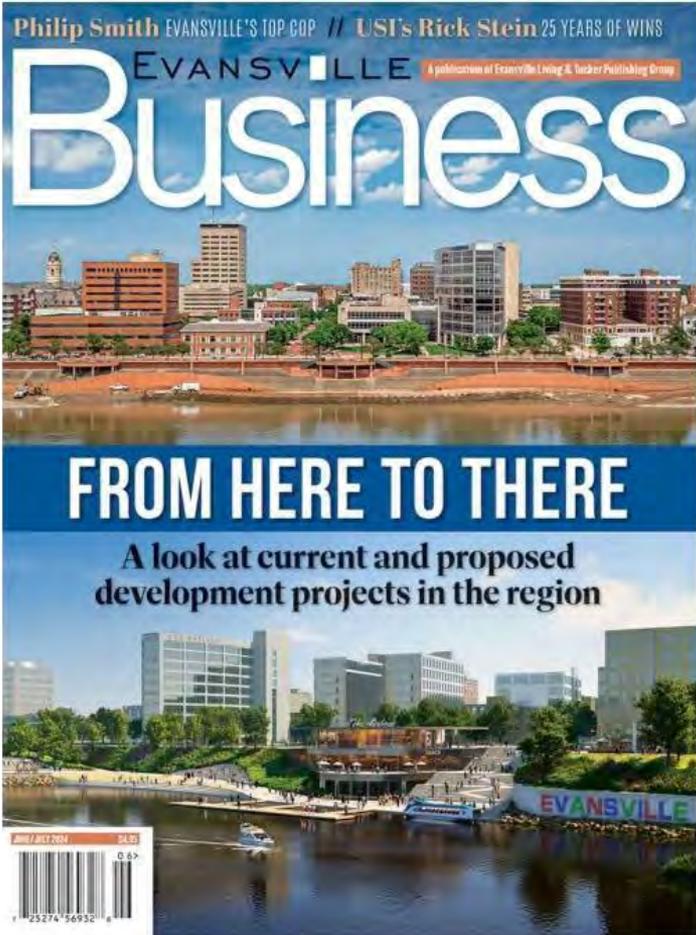
Ohio River Vision and Strategic Plan

Know more about the Plan through the Plan Summary and the Full Report below

Plan Summary →

Final Report →





The Courier & Press

Officials unveil 'conceptual masterplan' for riverfront in Evansville, other cities

Rayonna Burton-Jernigan, Evansville Courier & Press

Updated May 21, 2024 · 3 min read



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Great Bend Park

- Recreational Deck
- Dog Park
- Repositioned Deck and Deck
- The Great Bend Park
- River Plaza (Over Garden)
- Emergency Access to River
- Great Bend
- Great Bend Plaza
- Unincorporated Walk
- Promenade Lawn and "Strollway" Network
- Play Wall
- Deck
- Riverfront Plaza
- Small Retail (CAJ/Market/Concessions)
- Food Vendors
- Recreational (Swimming & Kayaking)
- Super 1 Lounge
- Play Board
- High
- River Plaza
- Landscaping and Network
- Walk & Jog Run Access
- Riverfront Plaza
- Tree Canopy (Shading & Rainwater)
- Eastside Phoenix of Arts, History & Science Museum
- Eastside Phoenix of Arts, History & Science Museum
- Historic Bridge
- Sports Courts
- Great Bend Park (Swimming)
- Historic Bridge
- Sports Courts

INITIAL PLANNING

Small Sites along the Riverfront

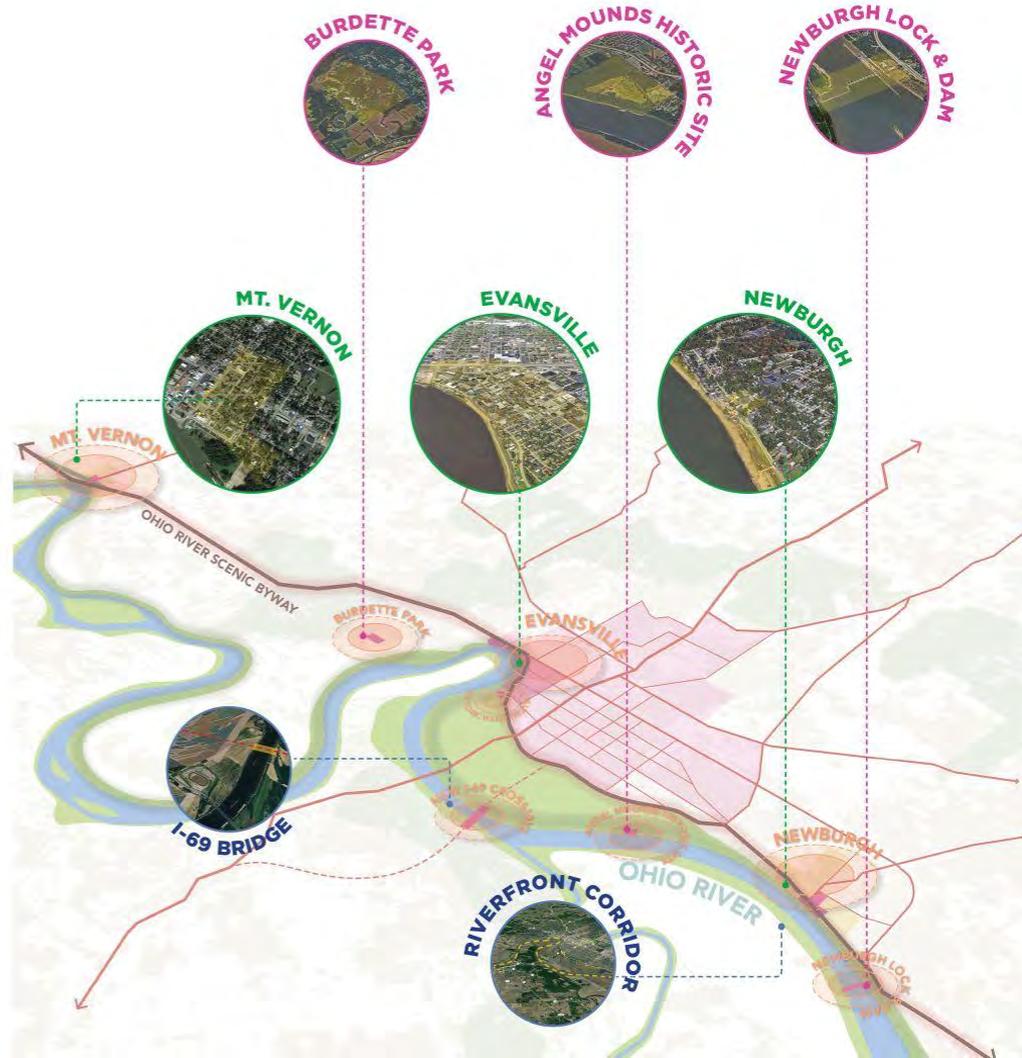
Showcase the possibilities for further development and enhancement for several potential small areas along the river, which are an important component of the larger river corridor system.

Downtown Evansville, Mount Vernon & Newburgh

Create a detailed plan to upgrade public spaces in Downtown Evansville's riverfront, improve waterfront accessibility, and energize the community. Formulate high-level strategies for improving downtown Mount Vernon and Newburgh.

Regional Plan

Execute overall planning efforts for the 50-mile long riverfront corridor to connect communities and habitats and create unity. Analyze the I-69 Ohio River Crossing, which will provide a better regional connection across the river.



A Communal Voice for a Big Transformation



9,850+
Total points of engagement

6,200
Visits to the project website



150+
Attendees at our community open house in July!

40+
Zip codes reached via survey #1 and community open house #1



2,400
Responses to survey #1

1,085
Responses to survey #2



Quality of Life
#1 priority for the Evansville region

Waterfront dining
Top desired riverfront program or activity

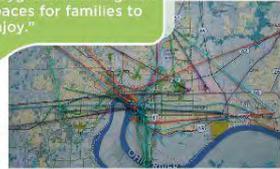


"More things to do, like basketball courts, maybe another park or a beach."

"Walking and scenic views, also more of Evansville's history displayed"



"...more parks, playgrounds and green spaces for families to enjoy."



Phase 1: Discovery and Goal Setting

Phase 2: Planning & Design

Phase 3: Final Plan Celebration

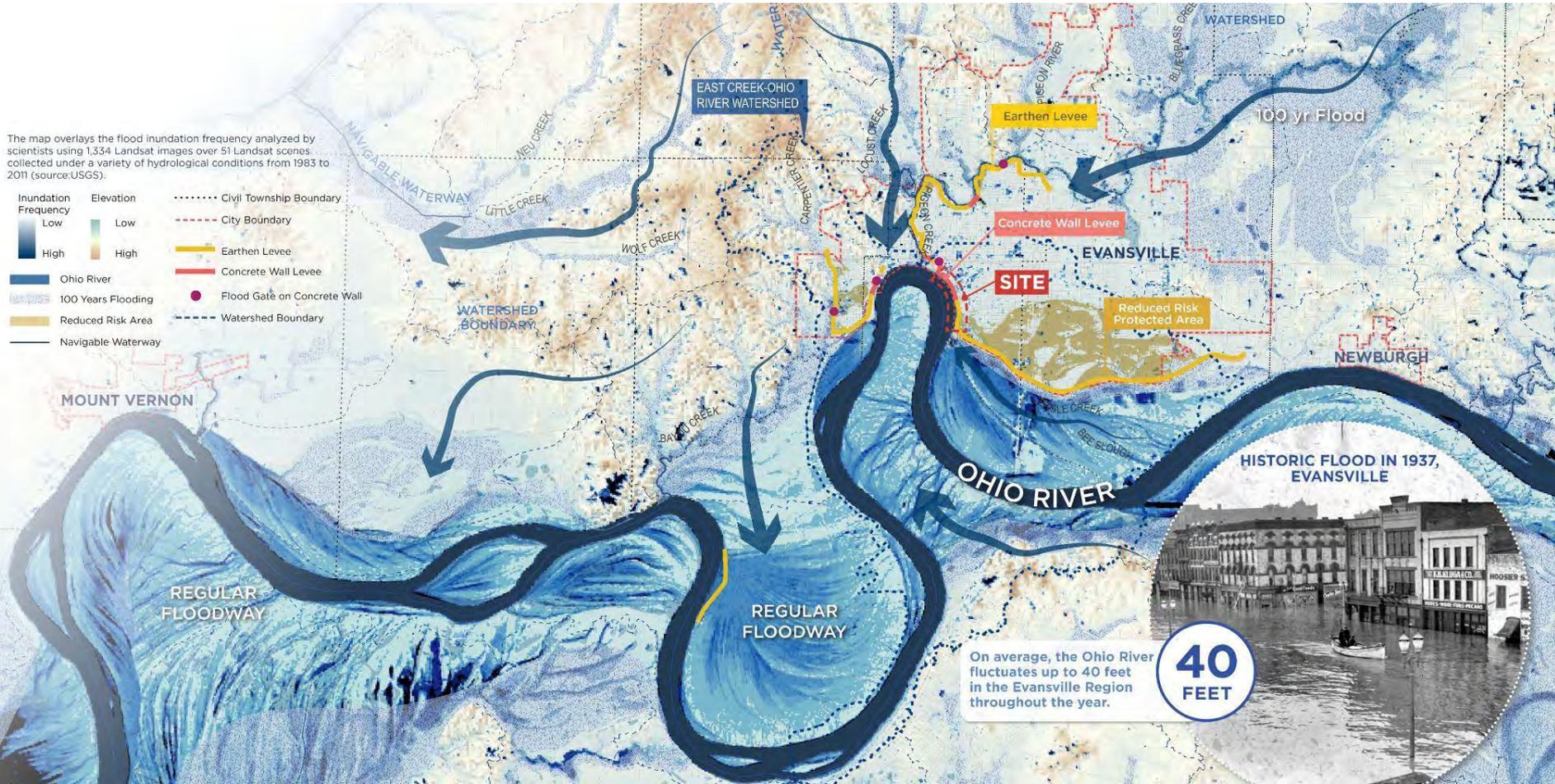
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY



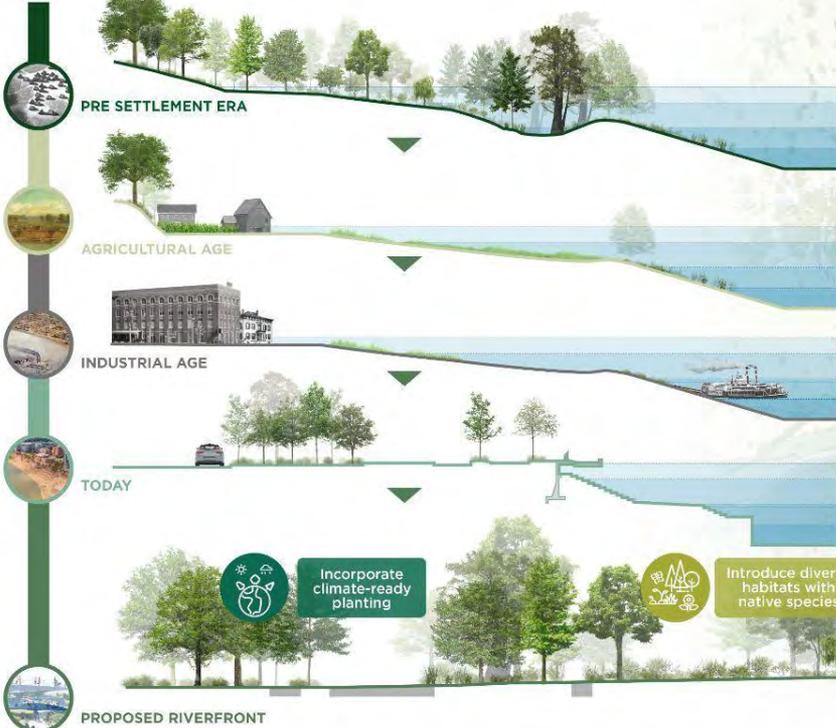
A Powerful River that Fluctuates

The map overlays the flood inundation frequency analyzed by scientists using 1,334 Landsat images over 51 Landsat scenes collected under a variety of hydrological conditions from 1983 to 2011 (source:USGS).

- Inundation Frequency: Low (light blue) to High (dark blue)
- Elevation: Low (light green) to High (dark green)
- City/Township Boundary: Dotted line
- City Boundary: Dashed red line
- Earthen Levee: Yellow line
- Concrete Wall Levee: Red line
- Flood Gate on Concrete Wall: Red dot
- Watershed Boundary: Dashed black line
- Ohio River: Thick blue line
- 100 Years Flooding: Light blue shaded area
- Reduced Risk Area: Yellow shaded area
- Navigable Waterway: Thin blue line



A Thriving, Novel Ecosystem for the Future



 Incorporate climate-ready planting

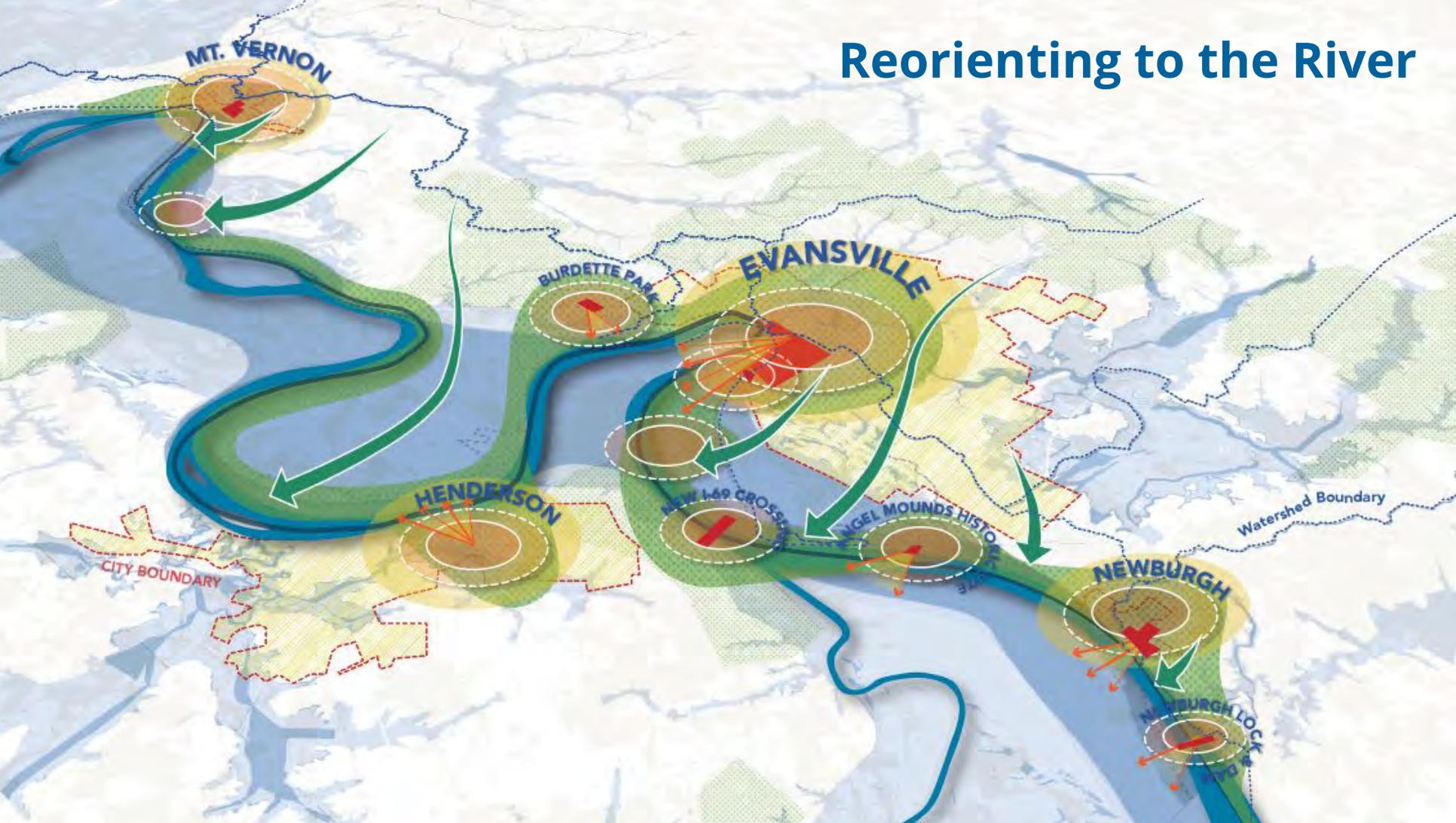
 Introduce diverse habitats with native species

 Remove invasive species

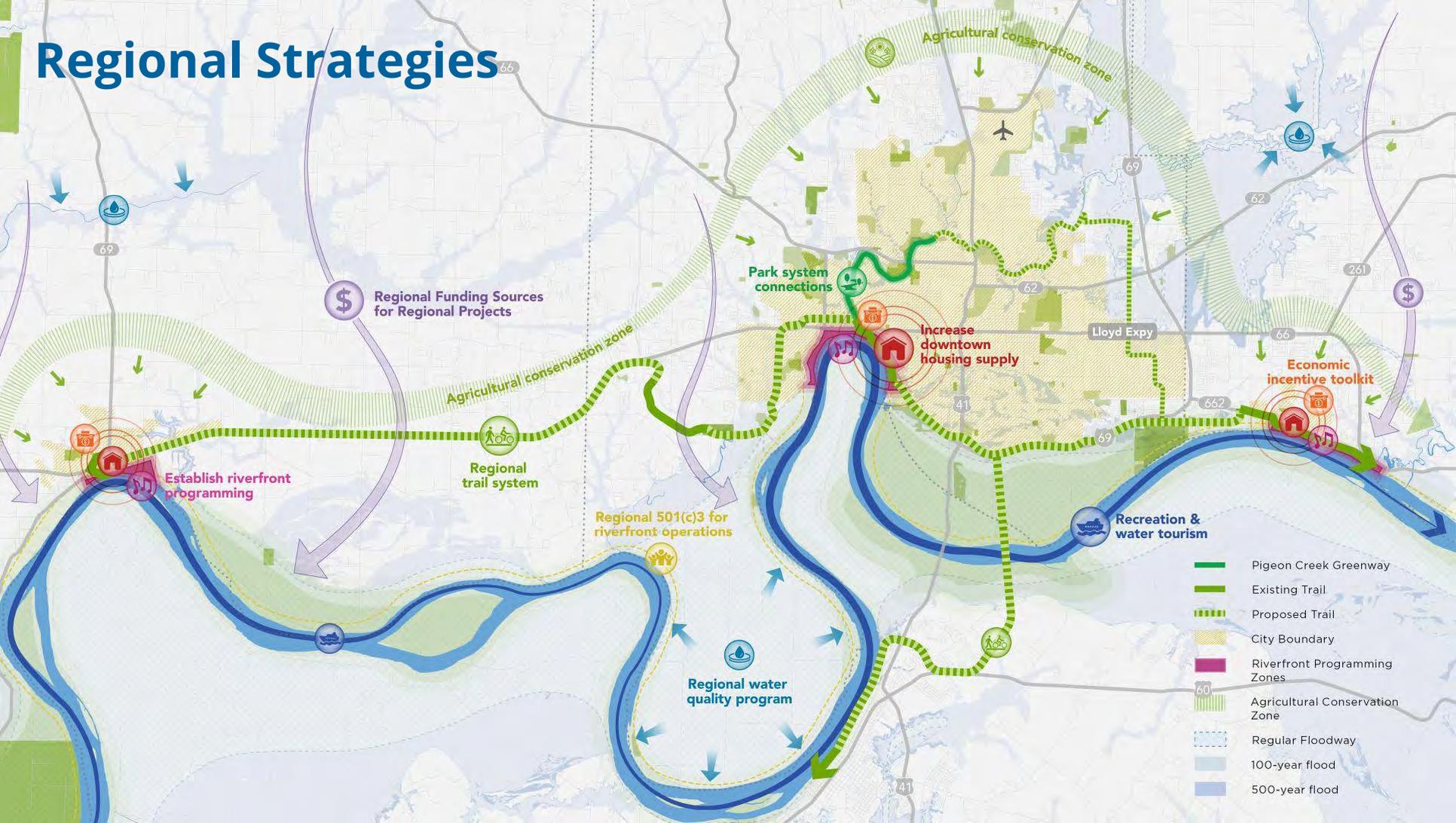
 Restore Bottomland Hardwood Wetlands



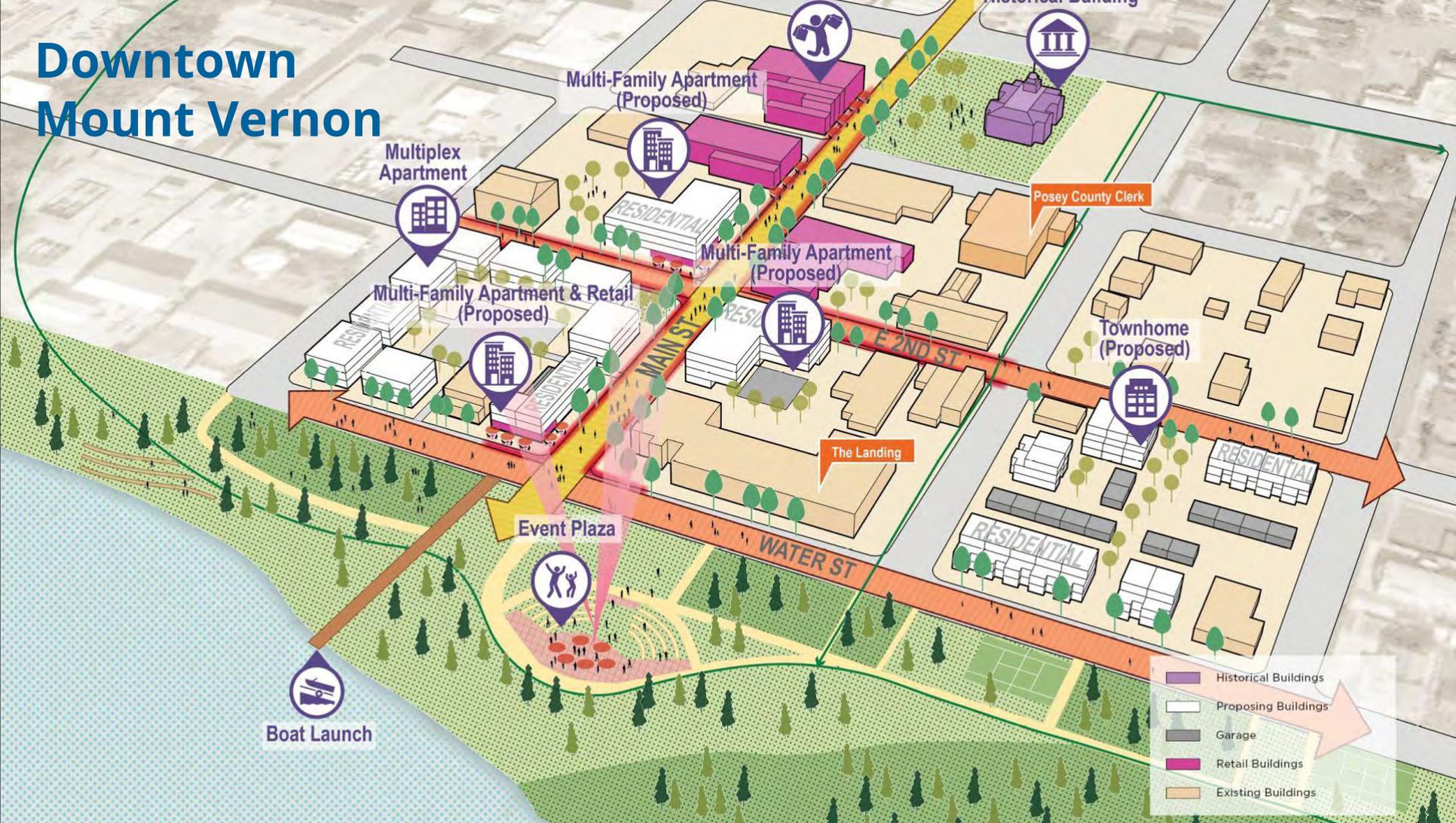
Reorienting to the River



Regional Strategies



Downtown Mount Vernon



Multiplex Apartment



Multi-Family Apartment (Proposed)



Multi-Family Apartment & Retail (Proposed)



Multi-Family Apartment (Proposed)



Posey County Clerk



Townhome (Proposed)



The Landing

Event Plaza



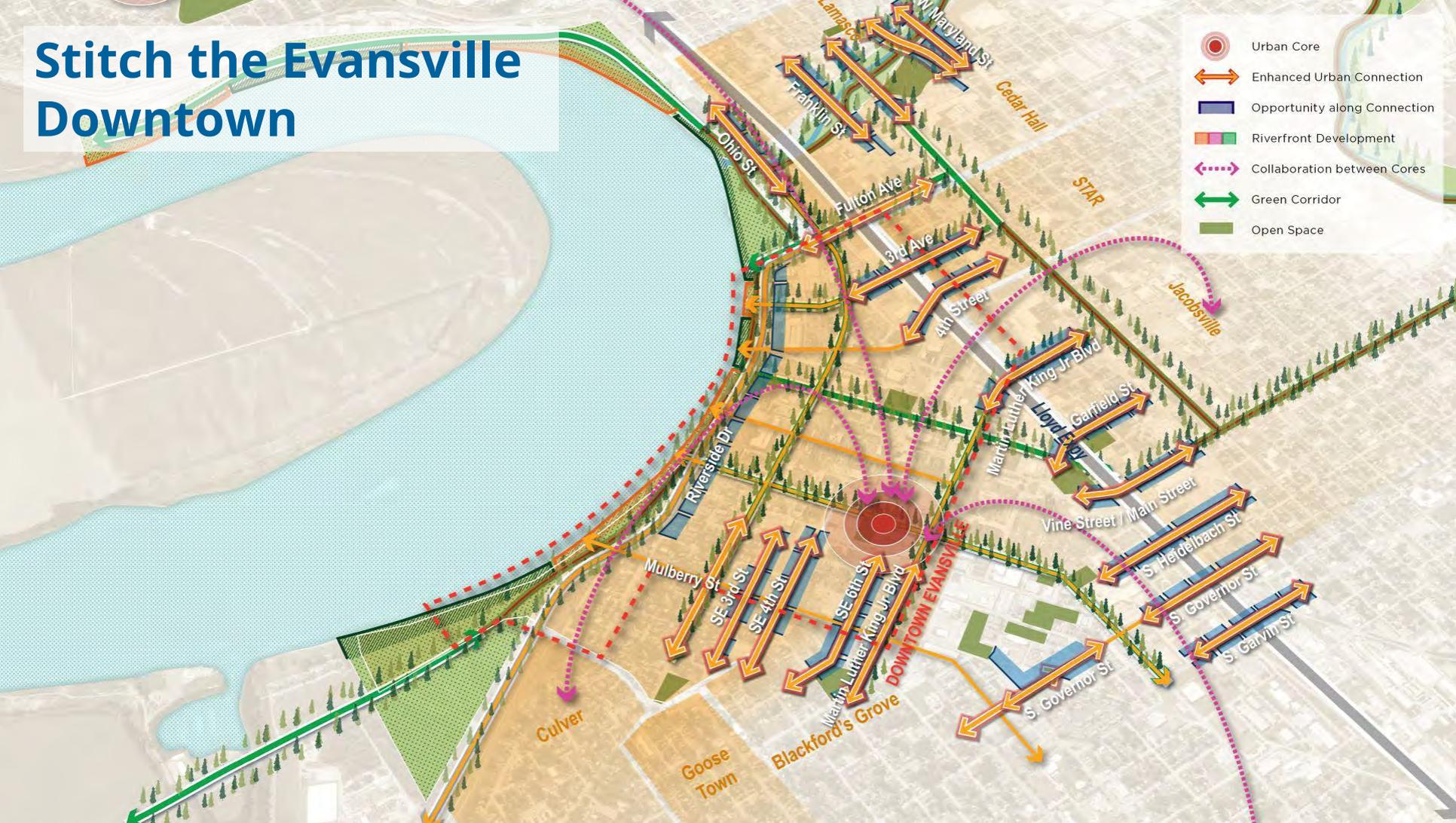
Boat Launch



- Historical Buildings
- Proposing Buildings
- Garage
- Retail Buildings
- Existing Buildings

Stitch the Evansville Downtown

- Urban Core
- Enhanced Urban Connection
- Opportunity along Connection
- Riverfront Development
- Collaboration between Cores
- Green Corridor
- Open Space



THE OUTCOMES - THE VISION

Great Bend Park

Evansville, Indiana



Great Bend Park

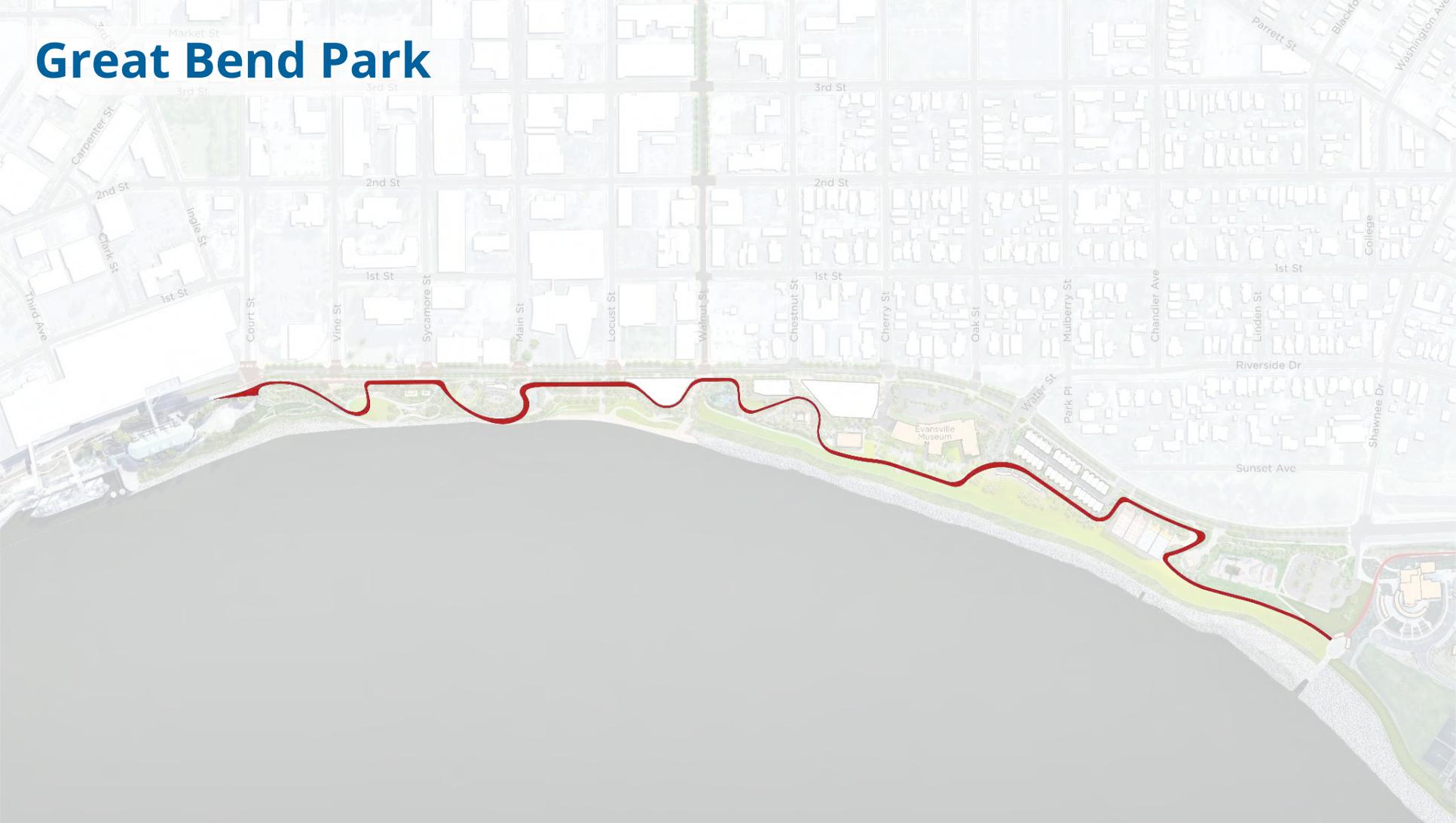
EVANSVILLE

Today...





Great Bend Park



Great Bend Park

“The Bend” serves as Flood Protection



The Bend is a Multi-Modal Path

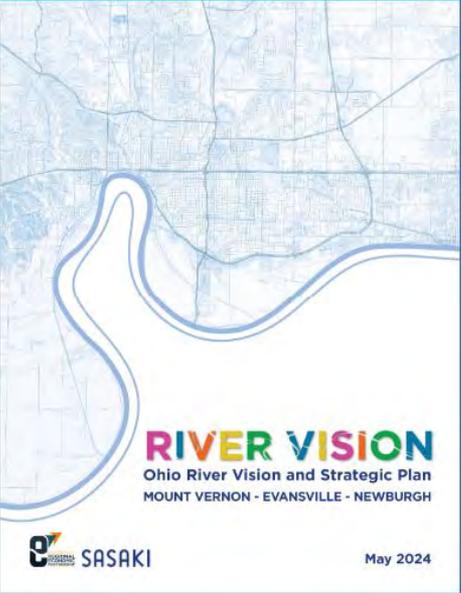


“The Bend” threads through iconic spaces, for everyday and the big day

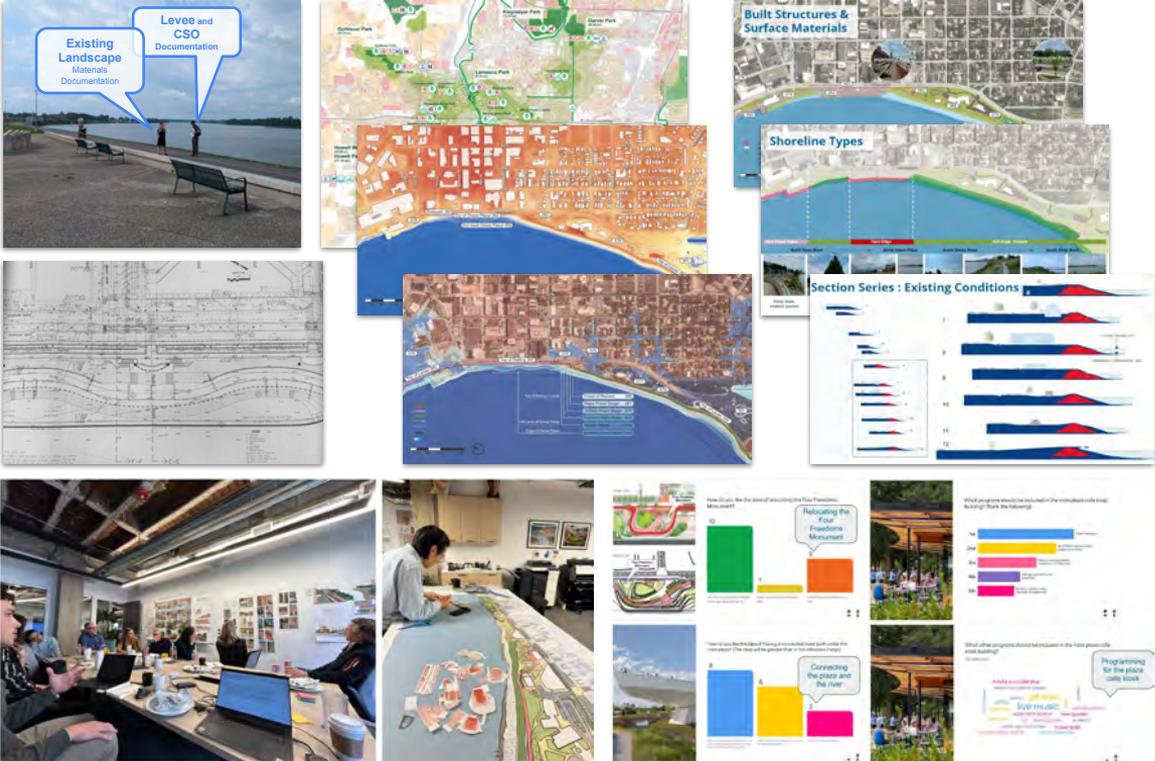


Technical Analysis

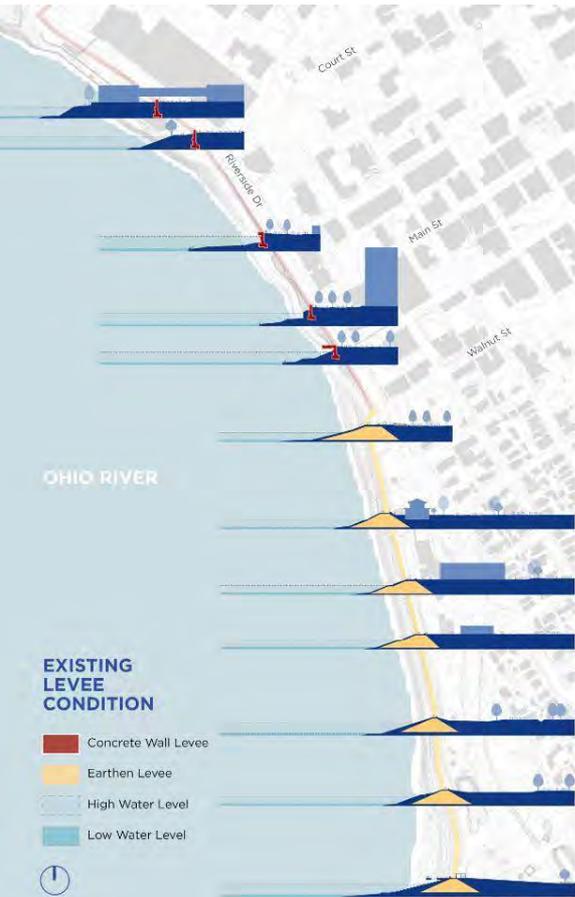
River Vision



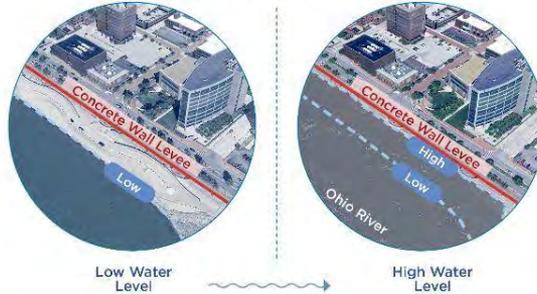
Evansville Riverfront Due Diligence, Program Refinement, Concept-Schematic Design



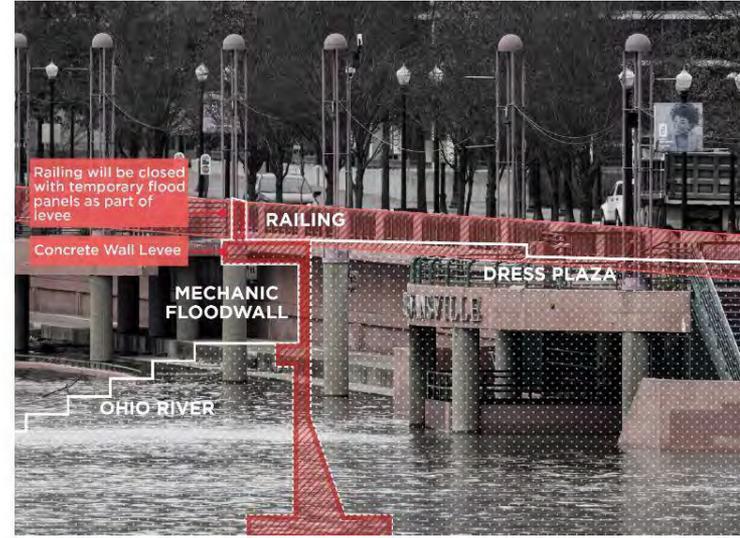
An Edge Defined by the Levee System



CONCRETE WALL LEVEE



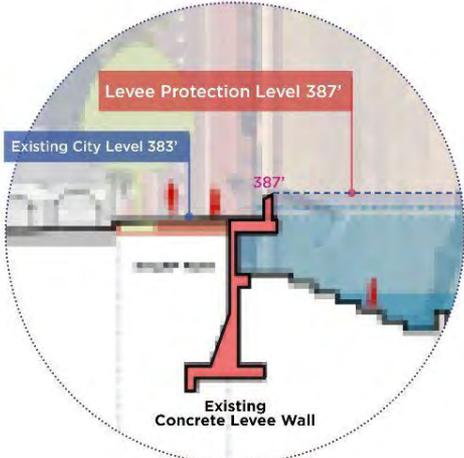
EARTHEN LEVEE



Great Bend Park

Bending the Boundaries of Park and Protection

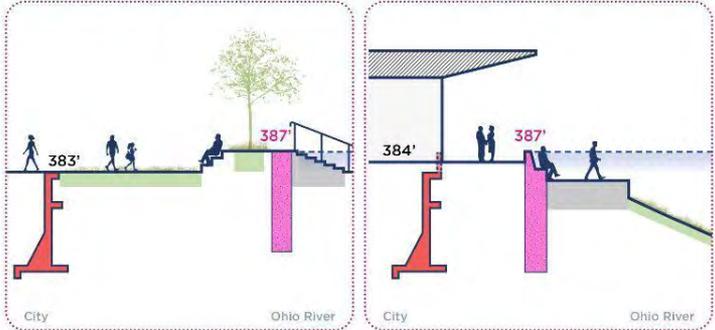
THE LEVELLE



Minimum Alteration to Existing Concrete Wall Levee

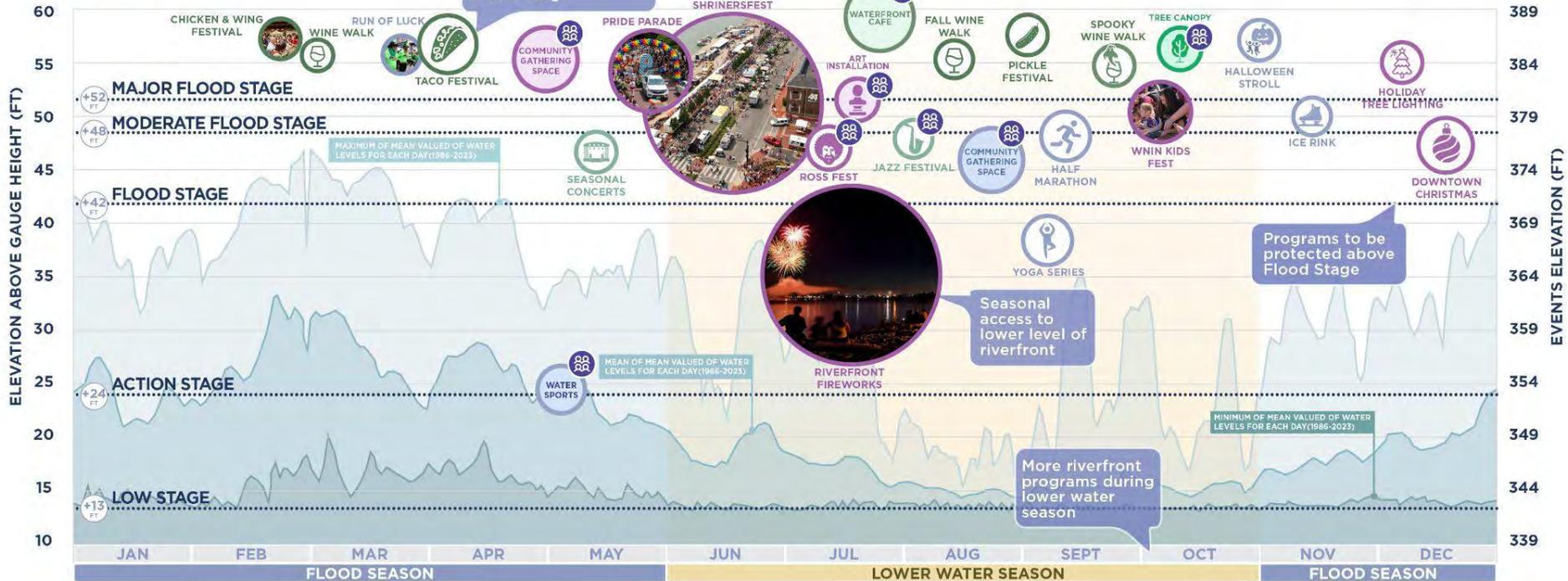


New Levee Wall at Strategically Selected Locations



Frequency and Seasonality

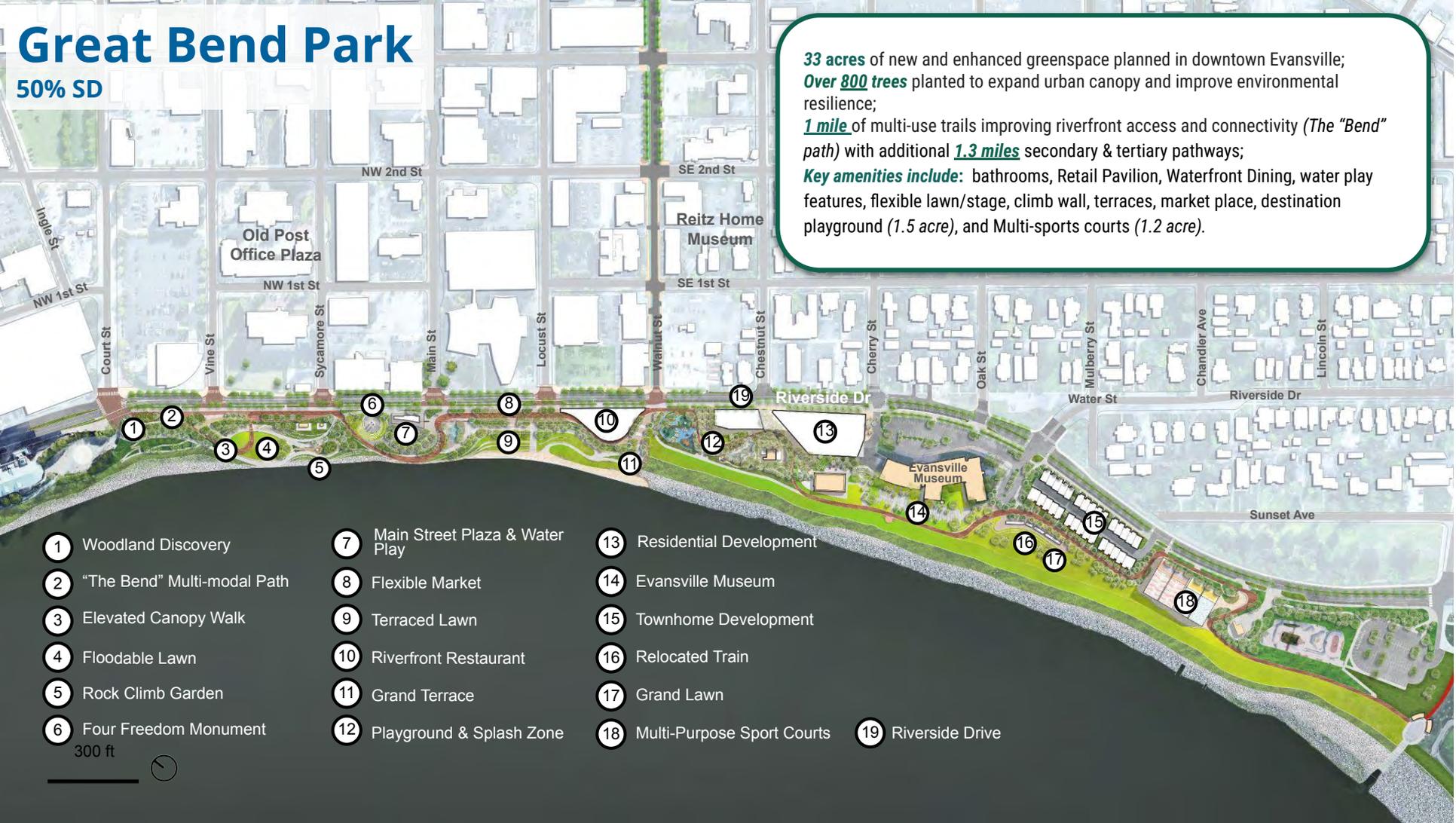
Source: National Weather Service and USGS.



Great Bend Park

50% SD

33 acres of new and enhanced greenspace planned in downtown Evansville;
Over 800 trees planted to expand urban canopy and improve environmental resilience;
1 mile of multi-use trails improving riverfront access and connectivity (*The "Bend" path*) with additional **1.3 miles** secondary & tertiary pathways;
Key amenities include: bathrooms, Retail Pavilion, Waterfront Dining, water play features, flexible lawn/stage, climb wall, terraces, market place, destination playground (1.5 acre), and Multi-sports courts (1.2 acre).



- 1 Woodland Discovery
- 2 "The Bend" Multi-modal Path
- 3 Elevated Canopy Walk
- 4 Floodable Lawn
- 5 Rock Climb Garden
- 6 Four Freedom Monument
- 7 Main Street Plaza & Water Play
- 8 Flexible Market
- 9 Terraced Lawn
- 10 Riverfront Restaurant
- 11 Grand Terrace
- 12 Playground & Splash Zone
- 13 Residential Development
- 14 Evansville Museum
- 15 Townhome Development
- 16 Relocated Train
- 17 Grand Lawn
- 18 Multi-Purpose Sport Courts
- 19 Riverside Drive



Key Plan

Bend Park North

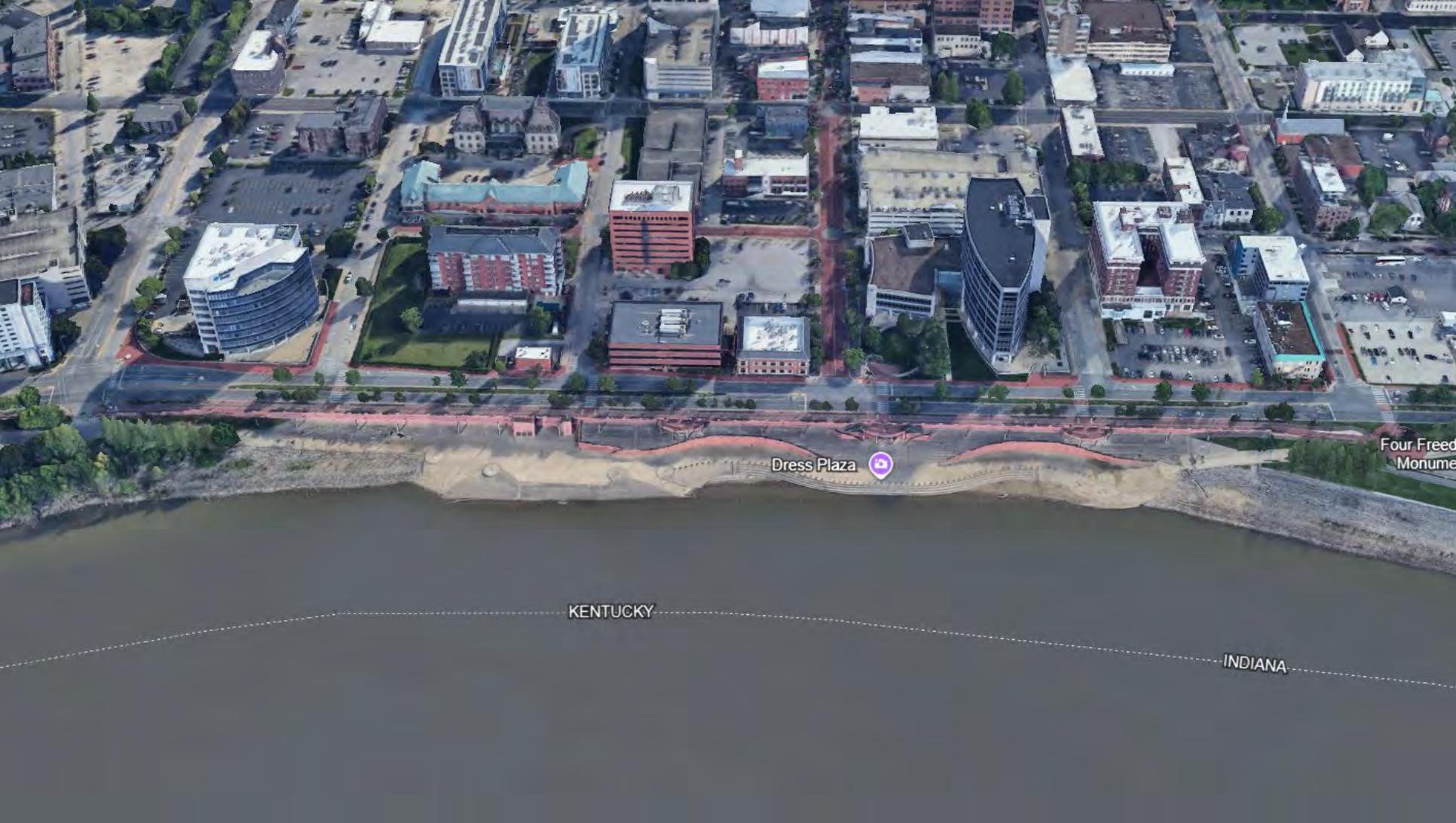


Bend Park South



300 ft





Dress Plaza

KENTUCKY

INDIANA

Four Freed
Monume



Bend Park North

50% SD

Woodland Discovery, Canopy Walk and Event Lawn



Court St

Vine St

Sycamore St

Main St

Riverside Dr

1

2

3

4

6

5

8

7

10

9

Future Extension

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Park North Entrance

Botanical Walk

Woodland Discovery

Bald Cypress Wetland

Elevated Canopy Walk

Amphitheater Seating

Overlook

Floodable Event Lawn

Preserved Stormwater Structures

Rock Climb Garden

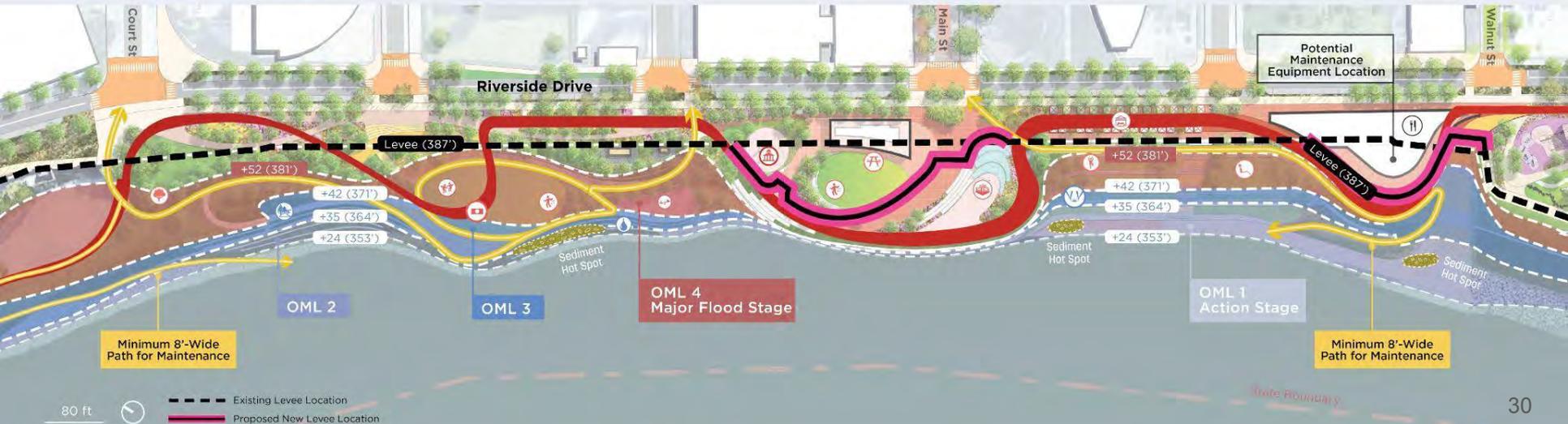
80 ft



Flooding, Maintenance, Operation

	OML* 1 Action Stage +24 (353')	OML* 2 +35 (364')	OML* 3 Flood Stage +42 (371')	OML* 4 Major Flood Stage +52 (381')
Maintenance Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple times a year; debris and sediment removal Develop design strategies for frequent inundation and extensive maintenance needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple times a year; primarily debris removal Design strategies for occasional (but regular) inundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bi-yearly or less frequency, just below FLOOD STAGE Capable of being in standing water for up to a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrequent flooding, just below MAJOR FLOOD STAGE Capable of withstanding infrequent, short-term inundation
Hardscape Materiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardscape materials chosen to withstand frequent inundation and sediment loading Frequent mechanical maintenance anticipated Hardscape materials designed to anticipate debris impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardscape materials designed to anticipate infrequent debris impacts; larger floods that reach this stage may have larger debris Design strategies for occasional inundation Occasional (yearly) mechanical or hand maintenance anticipated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardscape materials designed to anticipate infrequent debris impacts; larger floods that reach this stage may have larger debris Materials may only see occasional inundation Infrequent hand or small mechanical maintenance anticipated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardscape materials designed to withstand short periods under water. Materials may only see very infrequent inundation Infrequent hand or small mechanical maintenance anticipated
Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawn areas, if used, will require a unique design approach to withstand regular, deep flooding and sediment removal. Planting palette must be capable of withstanding deep, regular inundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting strategies capable of withstanding short term inundation multiple times per year. Lawn area may require a unique design approach to withstand being under water multiple times a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting strategies can be ornamental in nature. Groundcover should be designed to remain in place even with shallow, rare flooding. Lawn or grassy areas can be designed to be conventional with fast-draining subgrades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting strategies can be ornamental in nature but may still rarely see standing water. Groundcover should be designed to remain in place even with shallow, very infrequent flooding. Lawn or grassy areas can be designed to be conventional with fast-draining subgrades

* OML = Operations & Maintenance Level



80 ft



--- Existing Levee Location
 --- Proposed New Levee Location

1/2 Mile Boundary

Bend Park North

50% SD

Woodland Discovery, Canopy Walk and Event Lawn

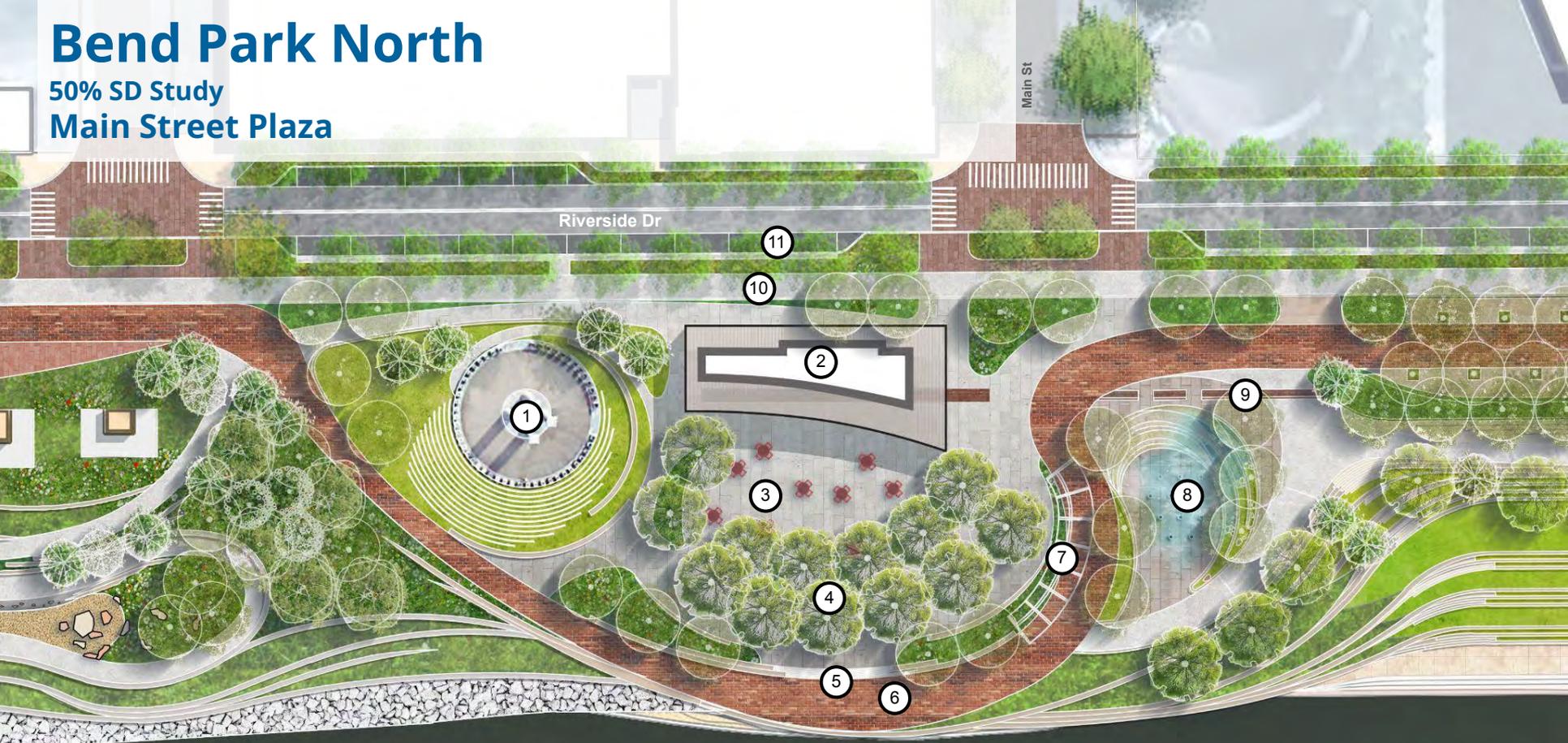




Bend Park North

50% SD Study

Main Street Plaza



40 ft



- 1** Four Freedoms Monument & Thirteen Steps (Relocated)
- 2** Pavilion
- 3** Main Street Plaza
- 4** Tree Grove
- 5** River Vista Steps
- 6** "The Bend" Multi-modal Path
- 7** Pergola Swing
- 8** Water Play & Wet Plaza
- 9** Existing Levee Wall Marker
- 10** Bike Lane
- 11** Parallel Parking

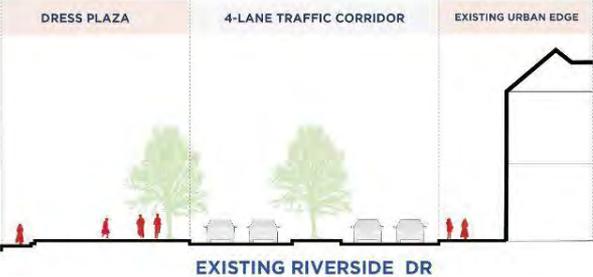




**Transforming
Riverside Dr**



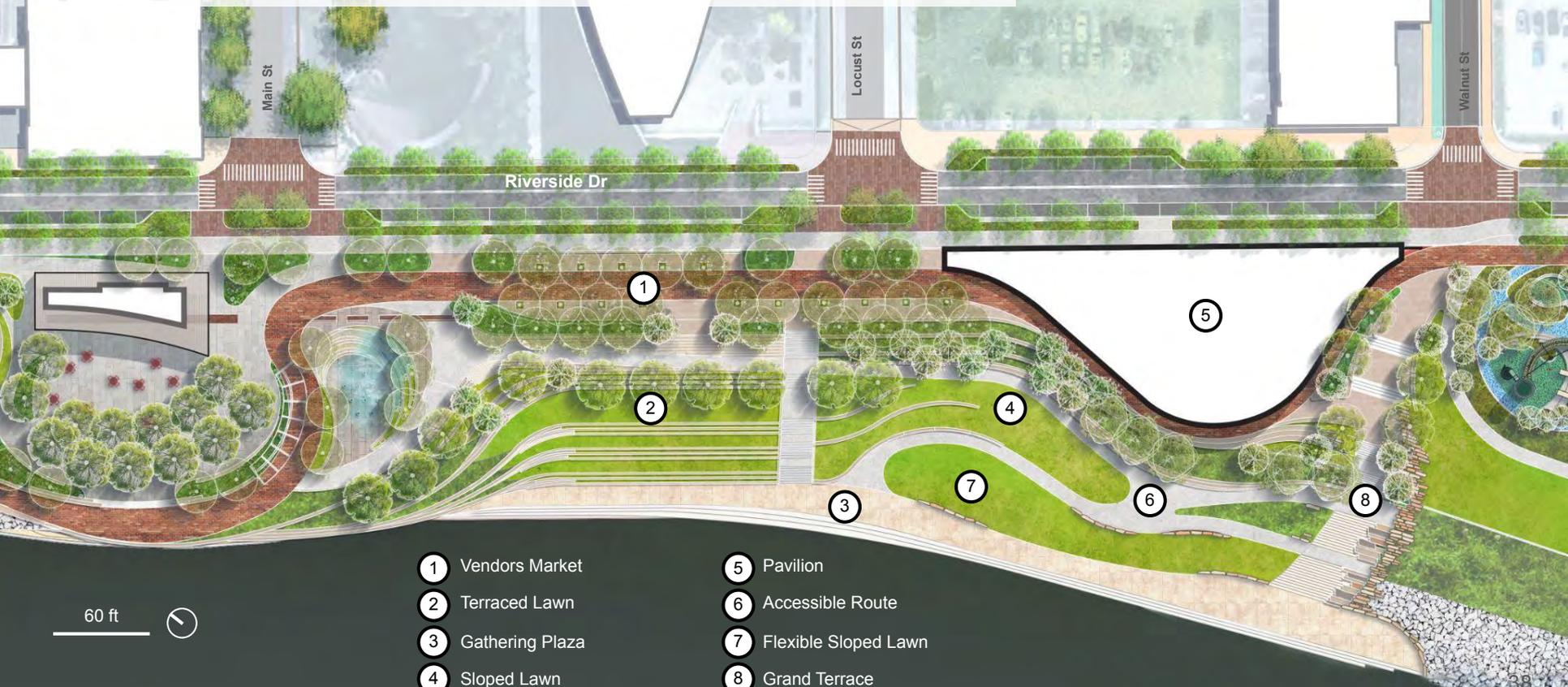
Riverside Drive Before and After



Bend Park North

50% SD

Terrace Steps & Restaurant Building



- 1 Vendors Market
- 2 Terraced Lawn
- 3 Gathering Plaza
- 4 Sloped Lawn

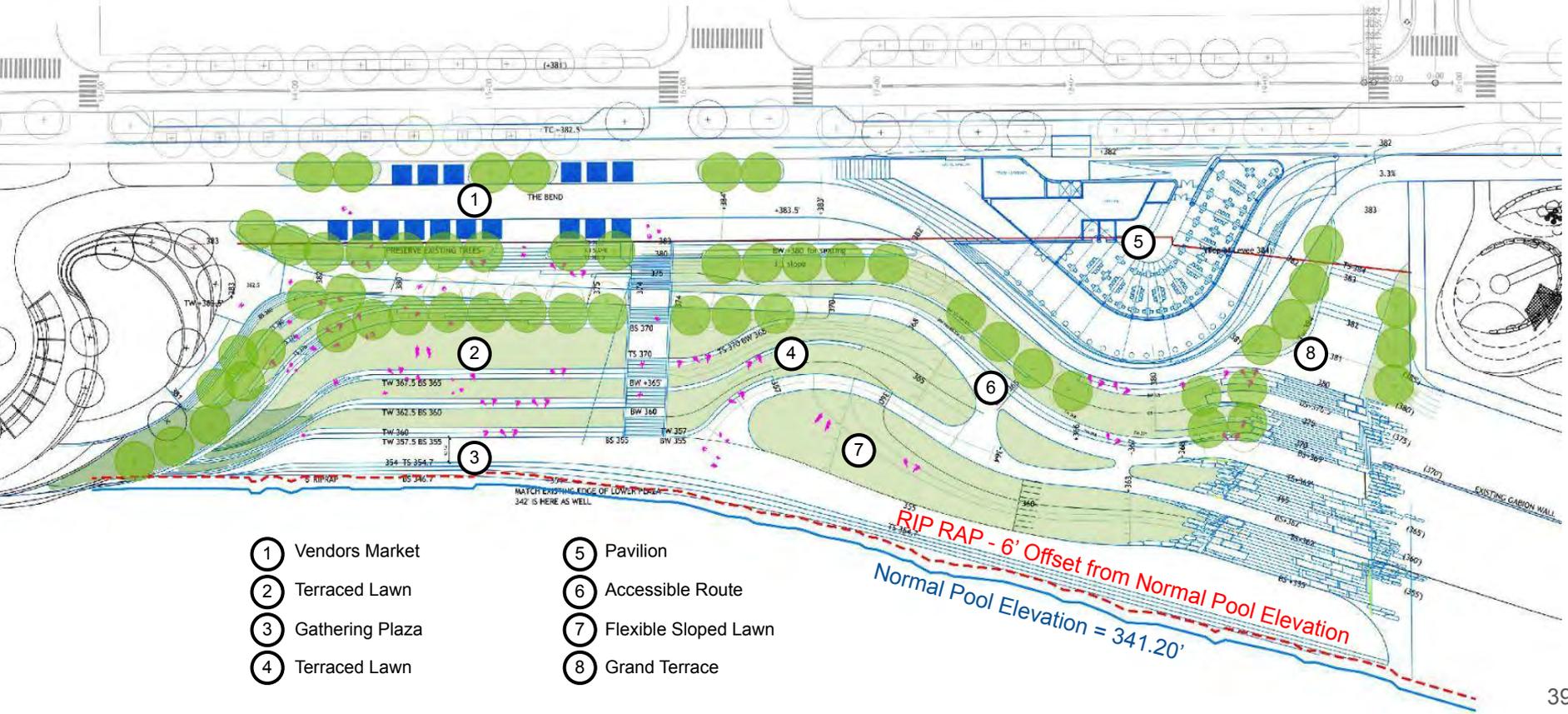
- 5 Pavilion
- 6 Accessible Route
- 7 Flexible Sloped Lawn
- 8 Grand Terrace

Bend Park North

30% SD Plan Sketch

Terrace Steps & Restaurant Building

Update, What has changed
diagram





Key Plan

Bend Park North

Elevated Canopy Walk & Main Street Plaza

Terrace Steps &
Restaurant Building



Bend Park South

Playground &
Walnut Street Residential

Evansville
Museum

Sport Courts &
Townhome Residential



300 ft





Bend Park South

50% SD
Playground

Update illustrative plan

Riverside Dr



- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Playground Entrance | 5 Lawn and Feature Wall | 9 Levee Bike Path |
| 2 The Bend | 6 Seating under Shade | 10 Plaza |
| 3 Towerscape | 7 Splash Zone | 11 Pagoda (Repurposed) |
| 4 Iconic Play Feature | 8 Pump House/Restrooms | 12 Residential Development |

50 ft



Bend Park South

50% SD

Tower Play & Climbing Wall

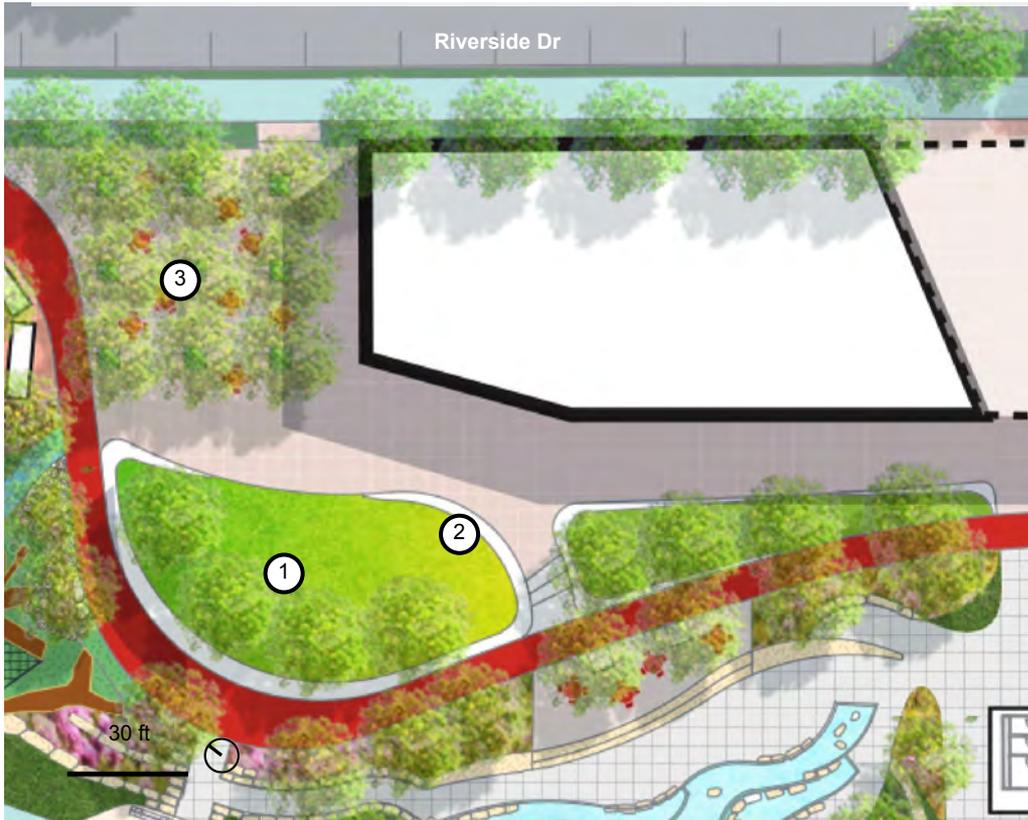




Bend Park South

50% SD

Plaza with flexible seating



Bend Park South

50% SD

Water Play & Splash zone



Bend Park South

50% SD

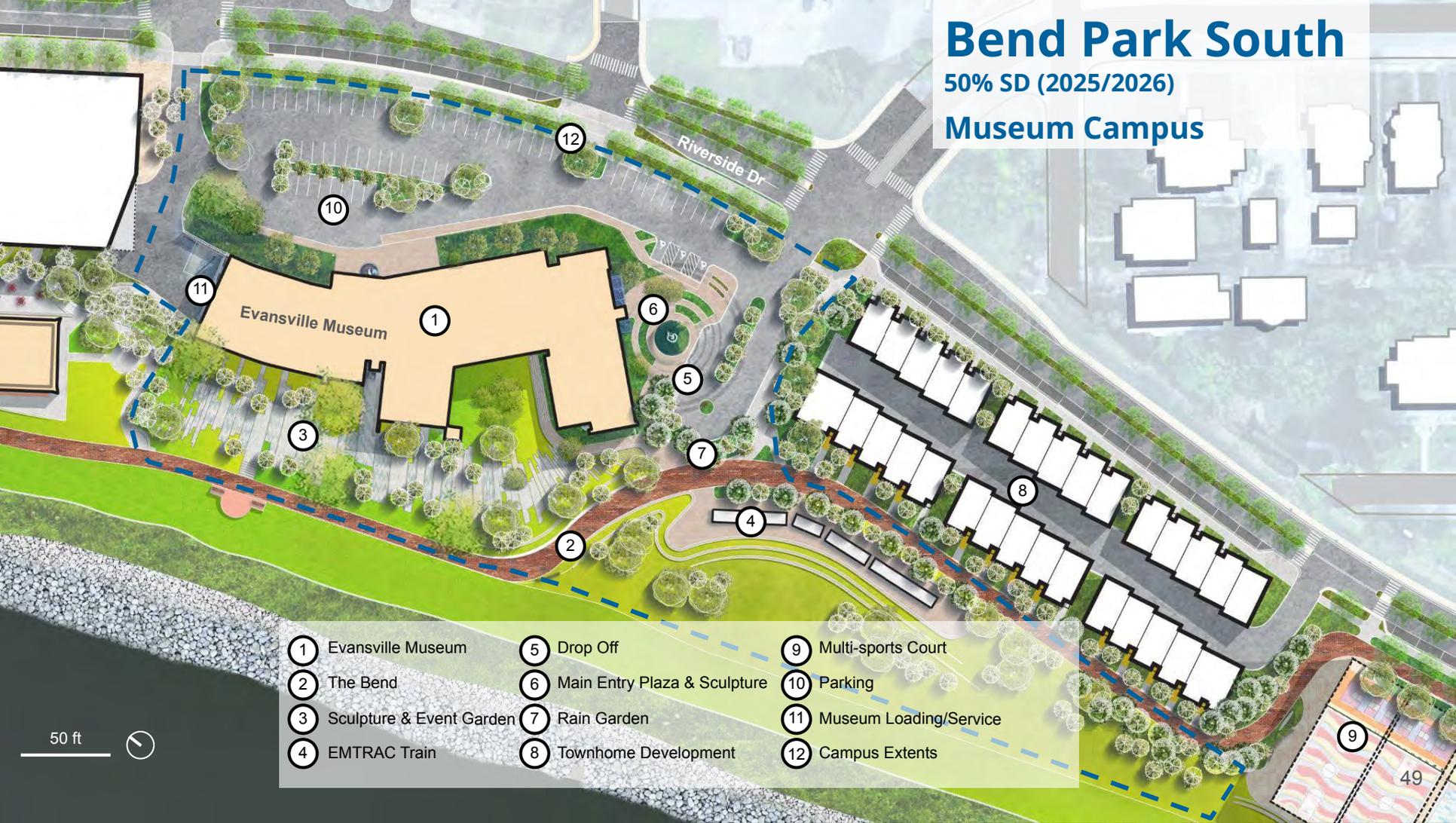
Water Play & Splash zone



Bend Park South

50% SD (2025/2026)

Museum Campus



1 Evansville Museum

2 The Bend

3 Sculpture & Event Garden

4 EMTRAC Train

5 Drop Off

6 Main Entry Plaza & Sculpture

7 Rain Garden

8 Townhome Development

9 Multi-sports Court

10 Parking

11 Museum Loading/Service

12 Campus Extents

50 ft



Bend Park South

50% SD

Sports Courts & Townhome Residential



40ft

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 The Bend | 5 Pickleball Courts (2) | 9 Pump House/Restrooms |
| 2 Full Size Courts (2) | 6 Table Tennis | 10 Skate Park (Existing) |
| 3 Half-Size Basketball Courts (4) | 7 Handball Court | 11 Levee Bike Path (Existing) |
| 4 Bocce Court | 8 Seating Walls | |



Thank you!