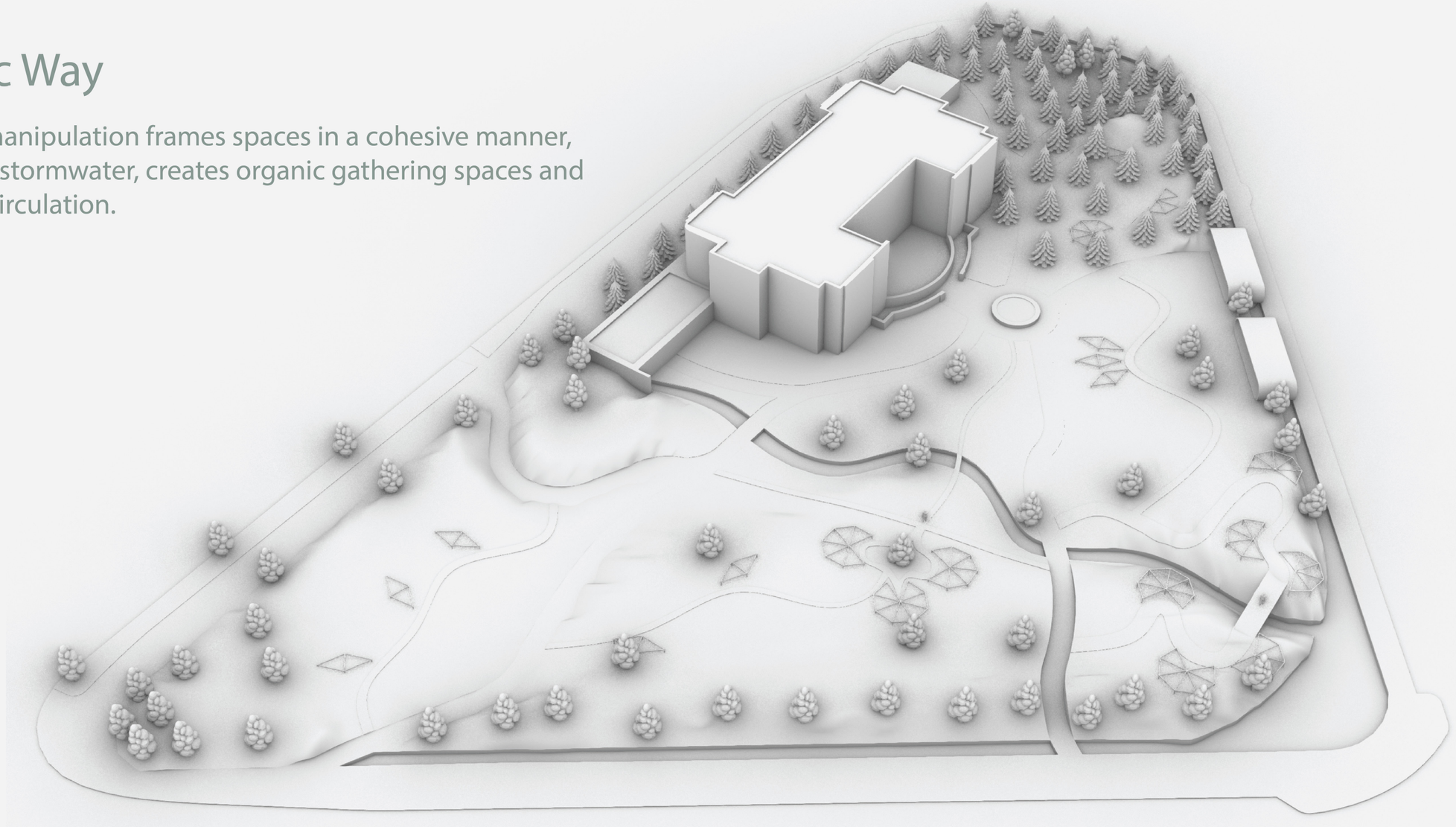
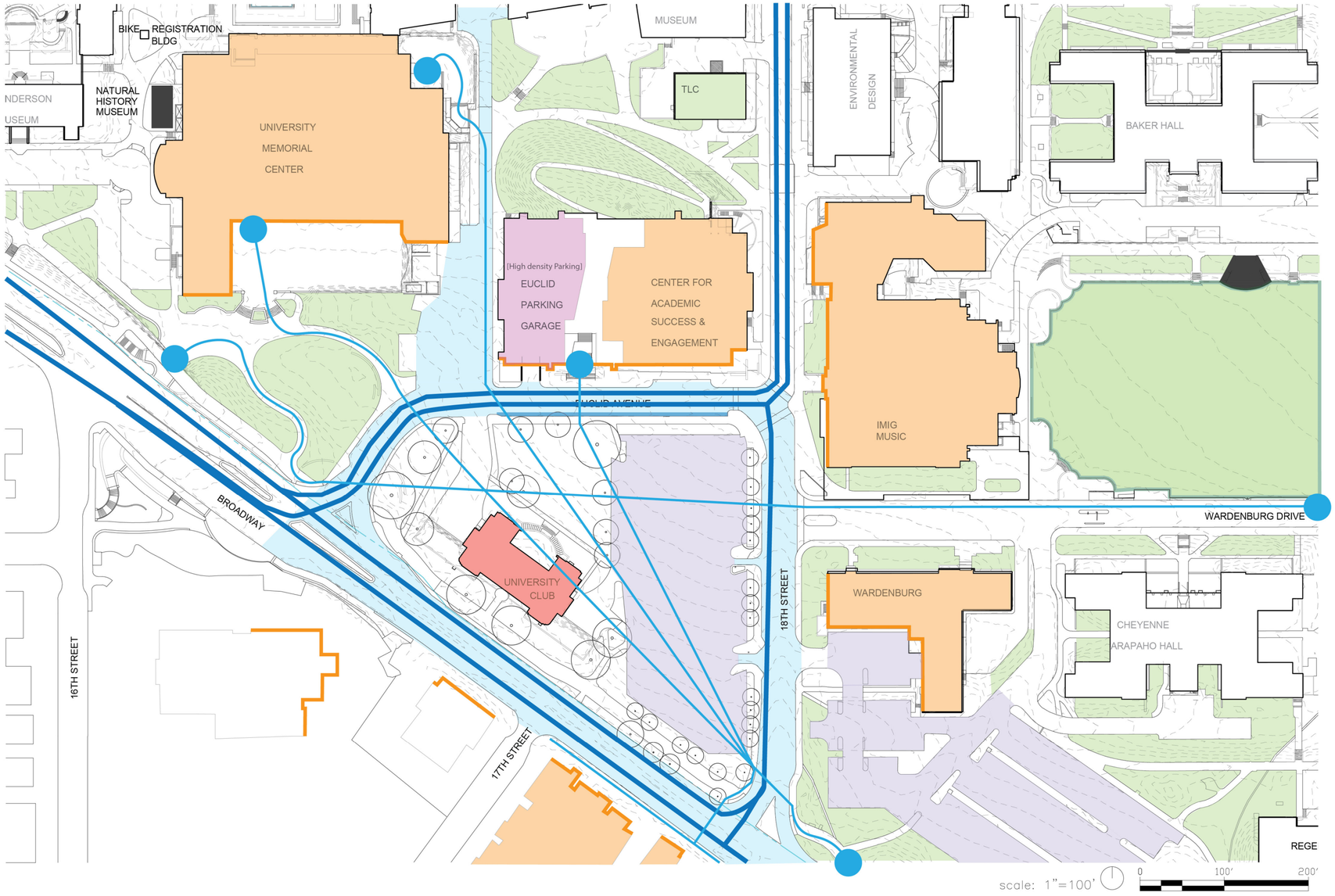
Microcosmic Way

Creative landform manipulation frames spaces in a cohesive manner, efficiently manages stormwater, creates organic gathering spaces and promotes efficient circulation.





SWOT Table

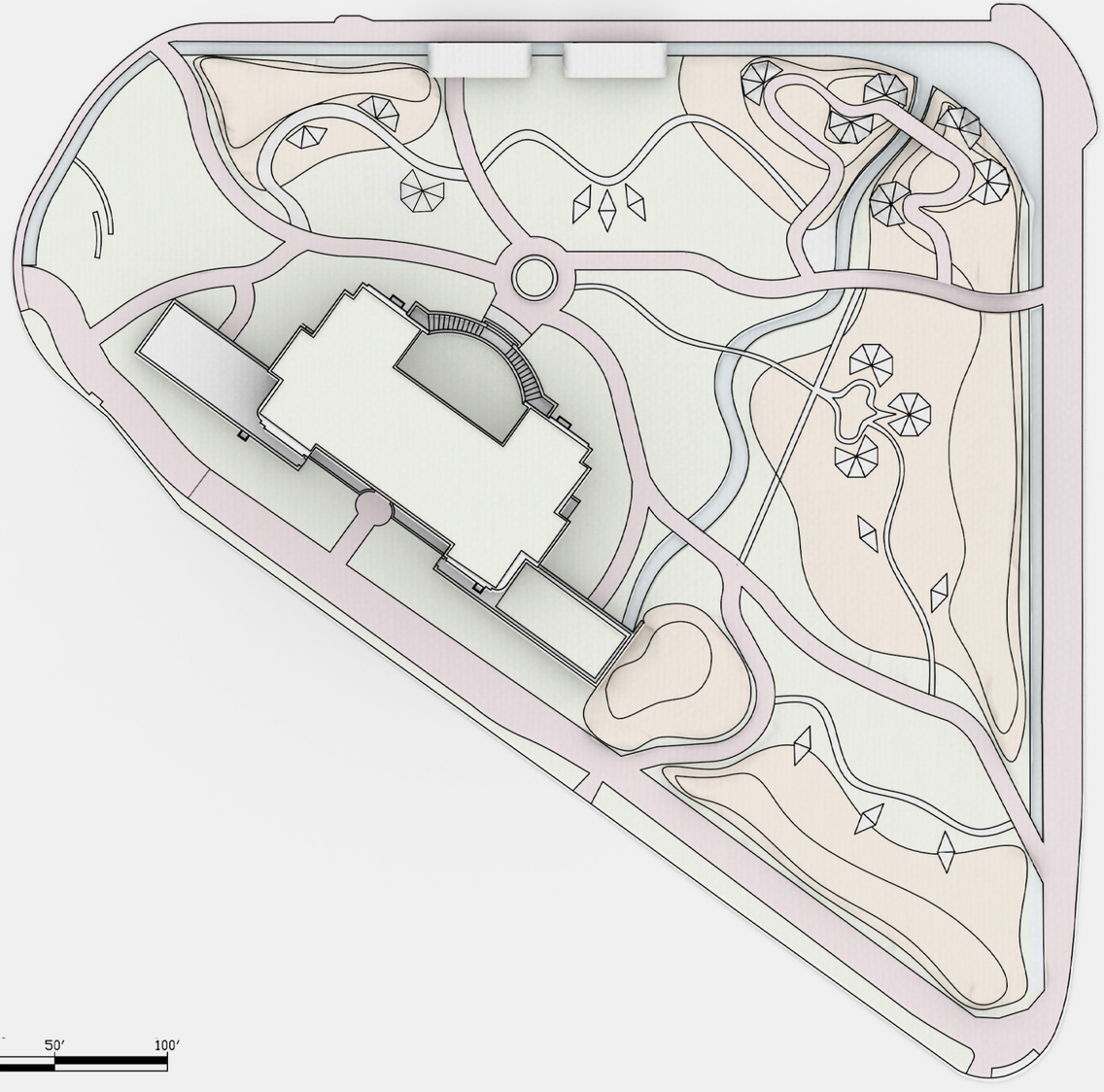
Key	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Proximal noise and pollution sources		X		X
Bus stops & Routes- People use this site constantly	X		X	
Low Density Parking		X	X	
Pedestrian origins and desired paths		X	X	
Users: CU Personel / Administrators [unactivated Building]		X		
Confining Structures- amplify noise & visually stunting		X		X
Users: Students [Prime location]	X		X	
Green Space- Monocultures, lack seating		X	X	
Successful Green Space	X			X

Unpleasant sensory experiences

Inefficient Circulation

Stormwater Management

Impermeable Surfaces



Goals and Implementation

Promote circulation efficiency by accommodating pedestrian desire lines

Effectively deal with and distribute stormwater

Alleviate sense of enclosure from surrounding buildings by promoting flatiron views through topography

Mitigate unpleasant sensory experiences and spaces [including seasonality] through topography

Create an ecosystem that promotes carbon sequestration and education [eliminate monoculture]

Maximize use of inefficiently programmed space



scale: 1”=50’

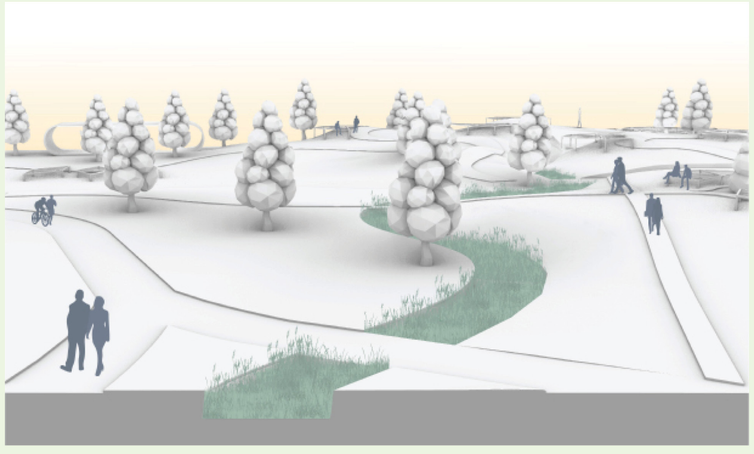
0 50’ 100’

Plan

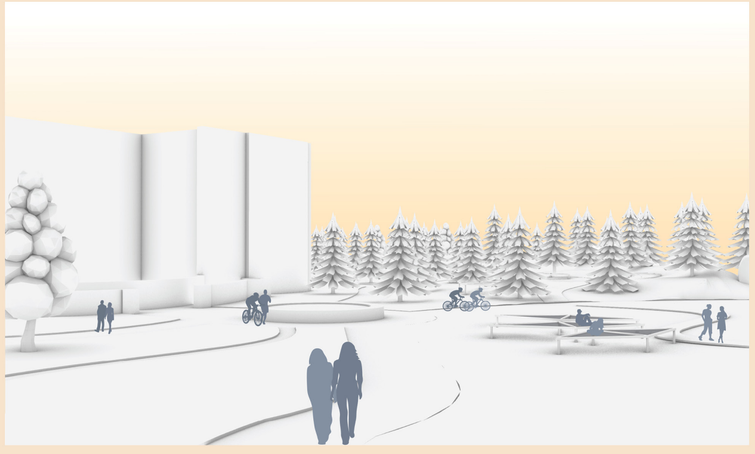
- Evergreen Trees
- Deciduous Trees
- Permeable Paths
- Sandstone
- Plantings
- Filtration Trench & Infiltration Basin
- Waiting Area
- Gathering & Public Spaces
- Individual & Private Spaces



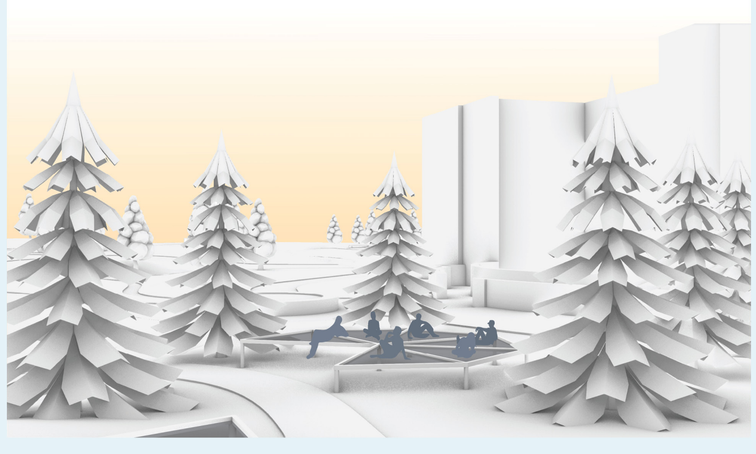
Waiting / Transition Space



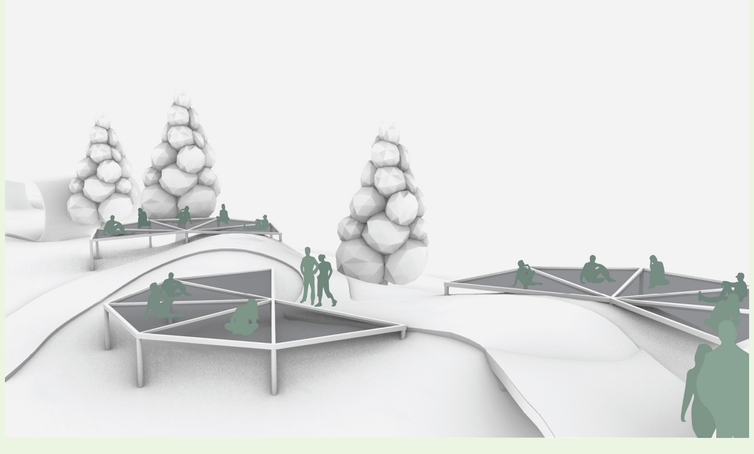
Stormwater Management



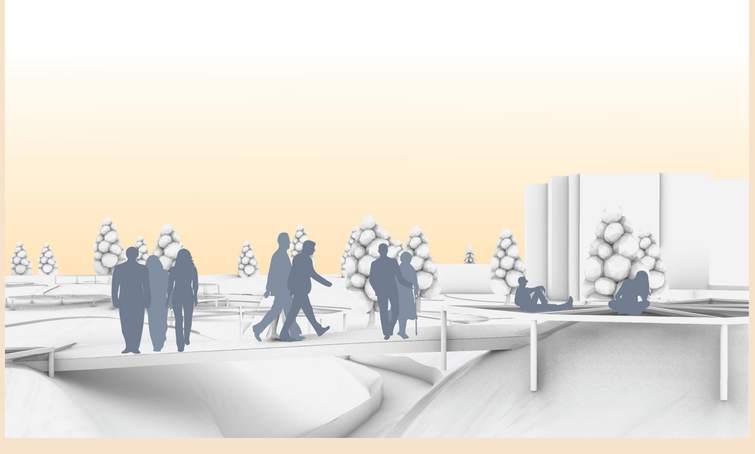
Paths



Seating



Gathering



Views



Circulation Elements:

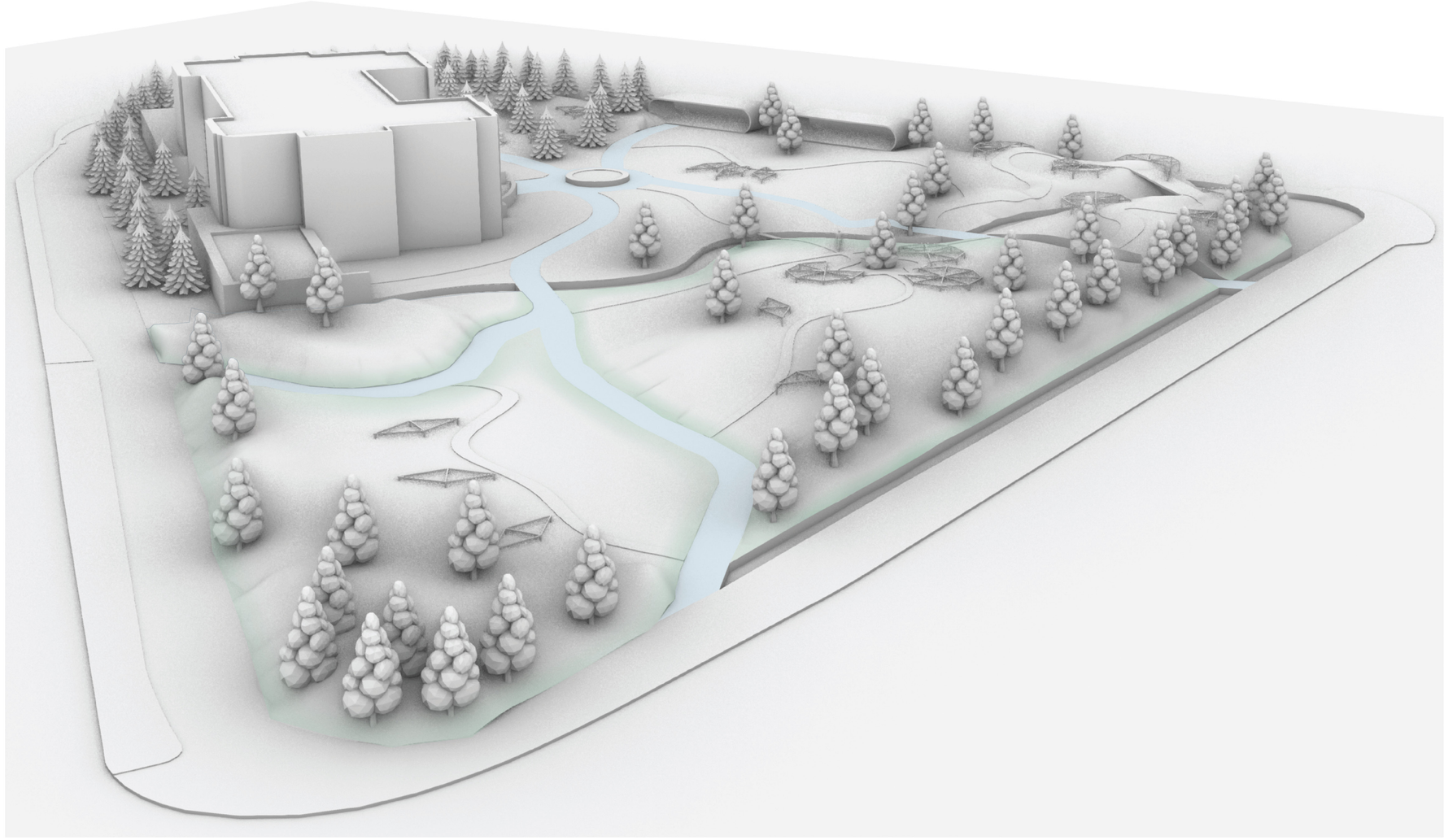
- Primary Pedestrian Circulation
- Primary Site entrances
- Secondary Pedestrian Circulation
- Garage Access
- Sheltered Bus Stop Waiting Area

Program Elements:

- Flatiron Viewing deck
- Playful seating (ranges from individual to group)



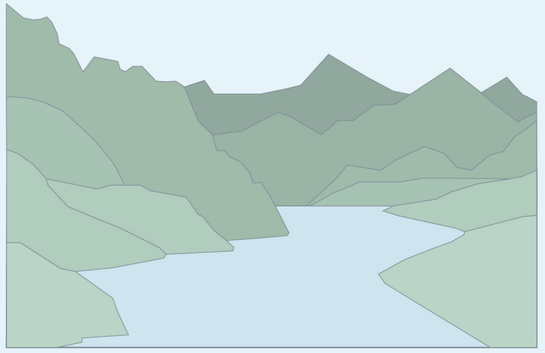


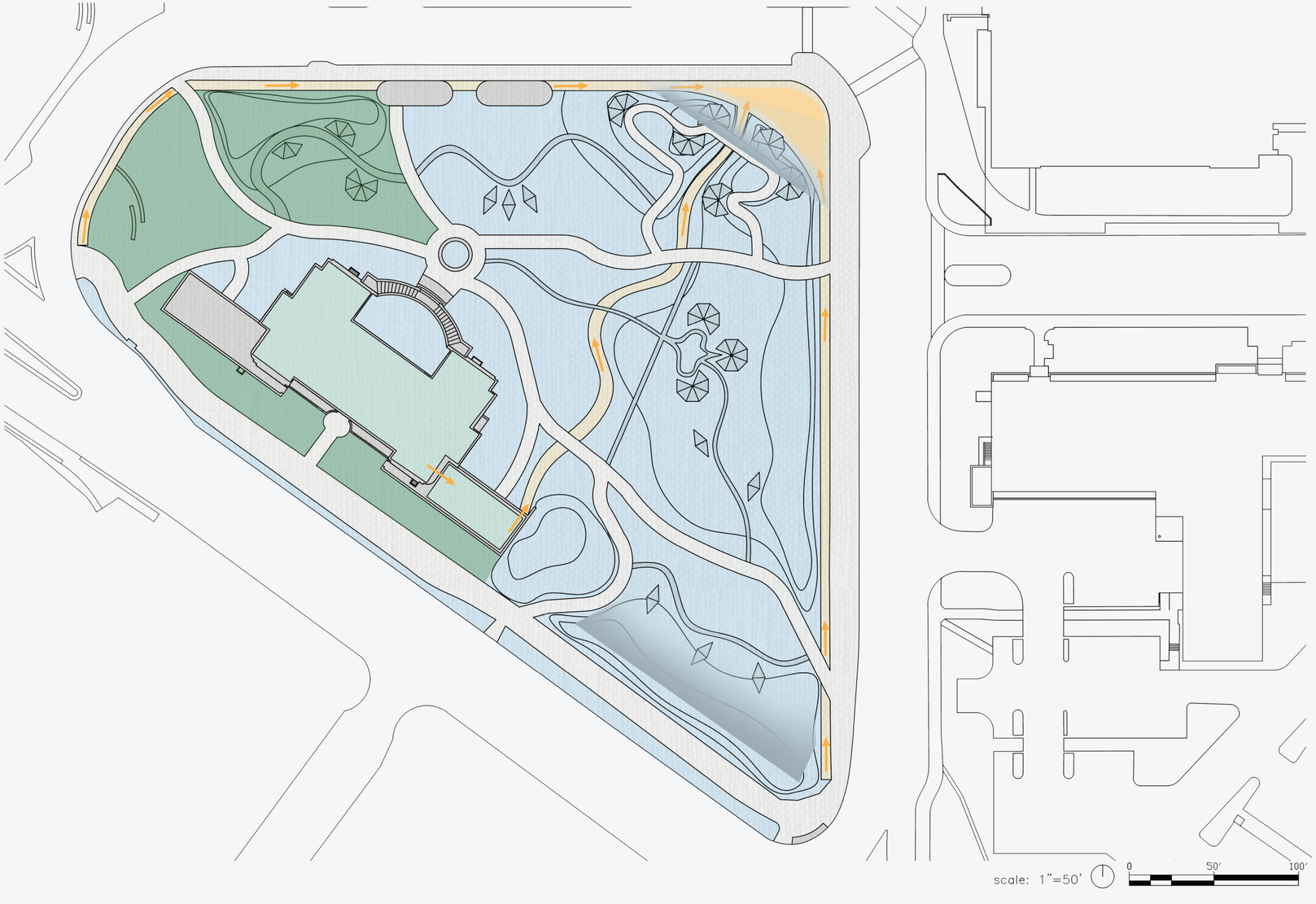


Biomimicry:

Circulation follows the form of a river, creating an organic sense of flow to circulation. Flowing circulation effortlessly sections the site while allowing it to remaining cohesive.

Topography creates a valley to support the natural land form of a river while simultaneously protecting the site from unpleasant sensory experiences.





Ecosystems:

- Mixed conifer forests & woodlands
- Primarily composed of mixed grass prairie
- Riparian Areas

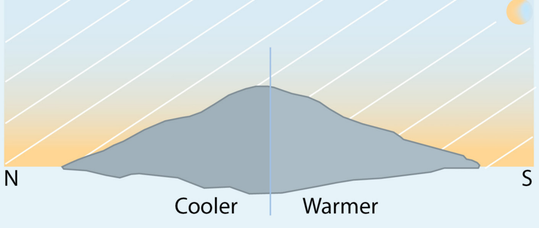
These areas of the site are microcosms of ecosystems found throughout Boulder. They support native animals and insects, providing a sanctuary within the primarily mono-cultural and hardscape context. Each ecosystem provides a range of ecological services.

Storm Water Management:

- Water Flow
- Vegetated filter strip & infiltration trenches
- Infiltration Basin
- Permeable Pavement & Seating
- Green Roof

Created microclimates:

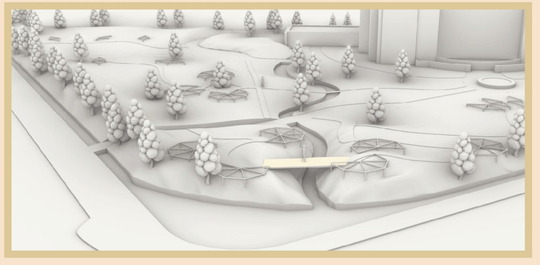
- Climate Defining Ridge





Flatiron Viewing Platform:

An unobstructed view can be enjoyed from the platform as well as from a plethora of surrounding seating options. This transparent platform hovers over a vegetated filter strip & infiltration trench that drains into the infiltration basin on the norther side. Seating options are primarily located on the south west face of the topographical feature, creating a pleasant micro climate year round.







Needs Served:

- Protected bus waiting area
- Pedestrian circulation that serves desire lines
- Stormwater management confronts seasonality
- Vegetation Serves a multitude of need

Mitigation of Unpleasant Sensory Experiences:

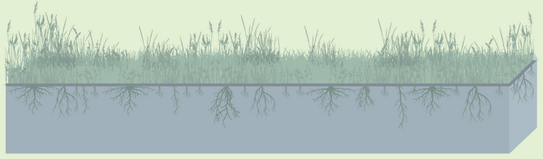
- Protection from winter winds - confiner forest
- Funneling of Summer winds into the site
- Protection from noise via topography

Education:

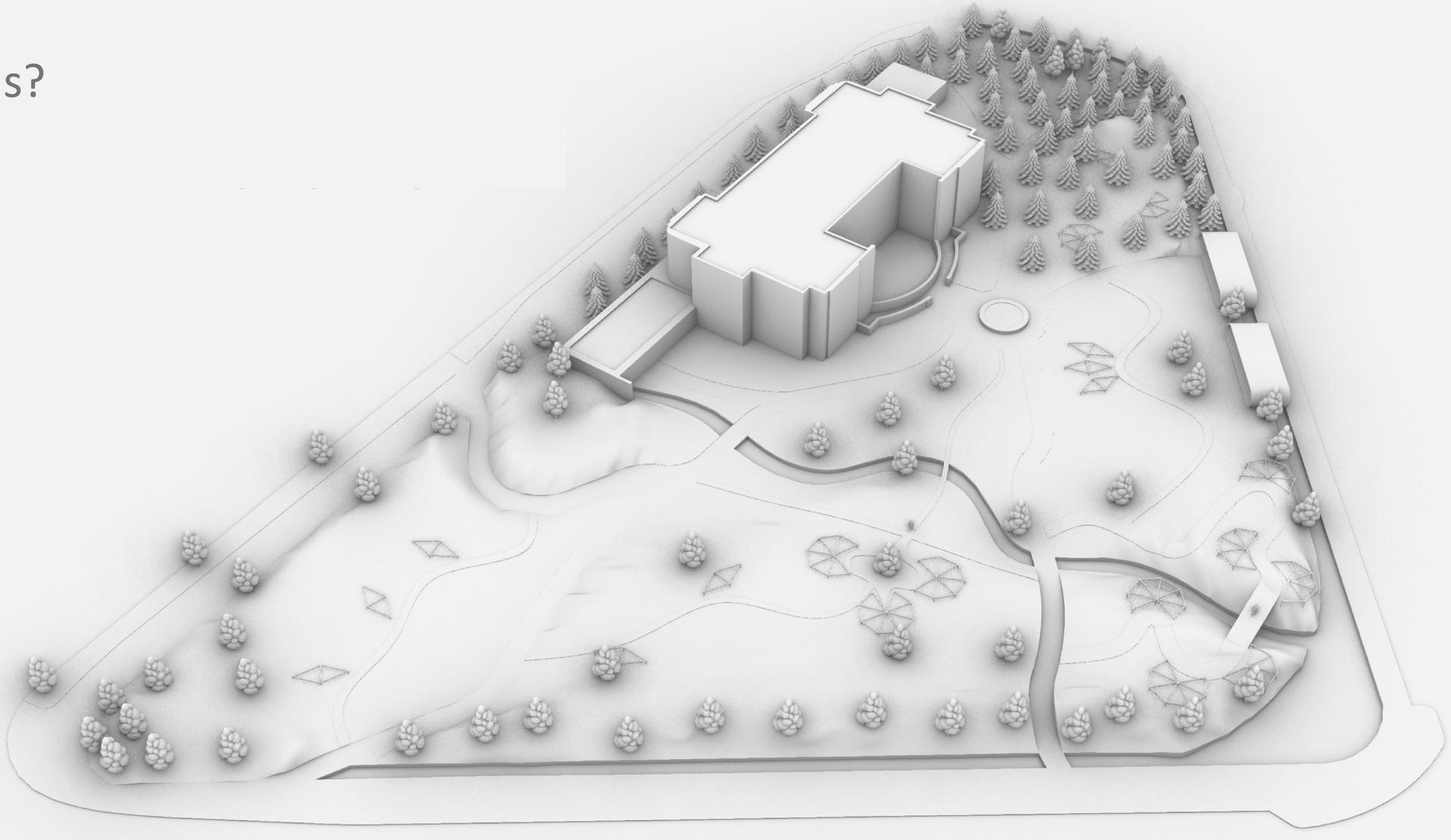
- Ecologically educational walk via plaques
- Stormwater educational retaining wall

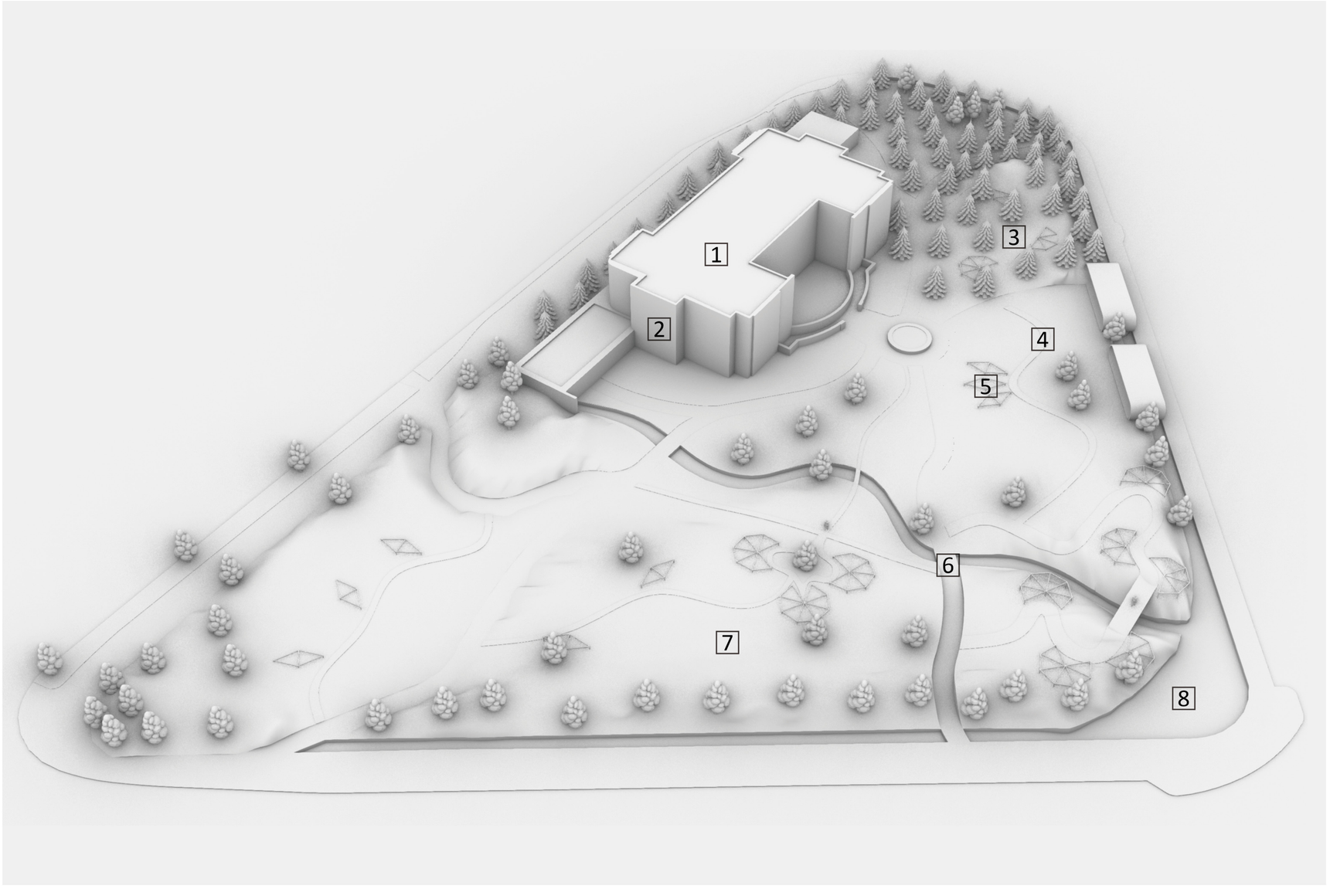
Carbon Sequestration:

Emulating natural ecosystems promotes more efficient Carbon sequestration through a natural composition of a variety of root depths. Natural ecosystems also filter a diverse range of chemicals and pollutants, assisting with stormwater management.



Any Questions?





Composition



1 Green Roof



2 Sandstone Building



3 Mixed Conifer Forest



4 Permeable Path



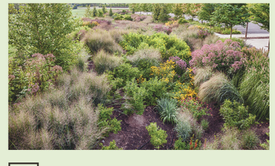
5 Seating



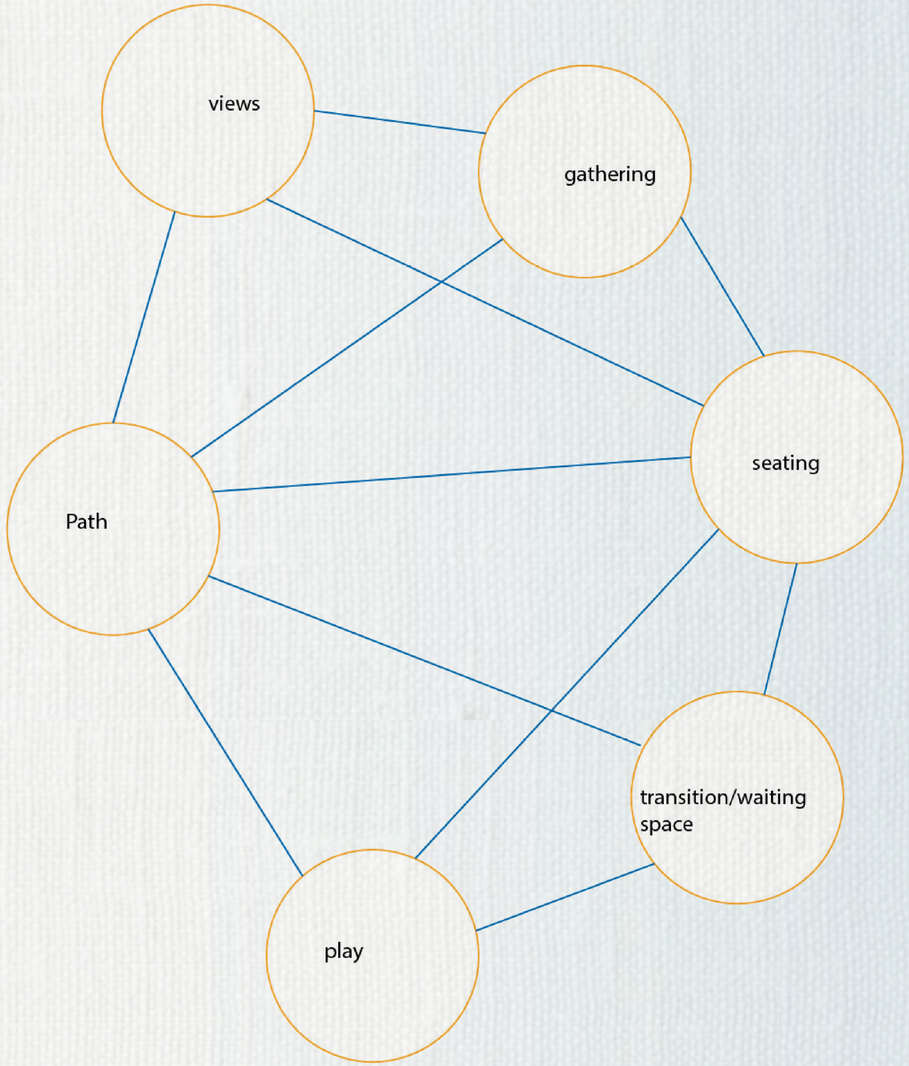
6 Sandstone Tile Paths

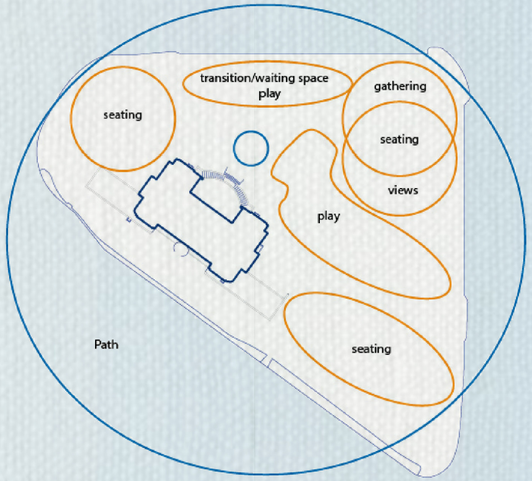


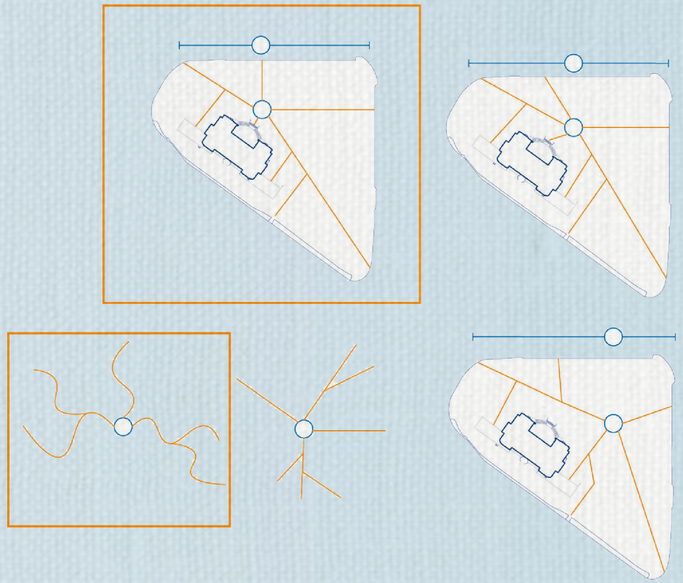
7 Mixed Grass Prarie

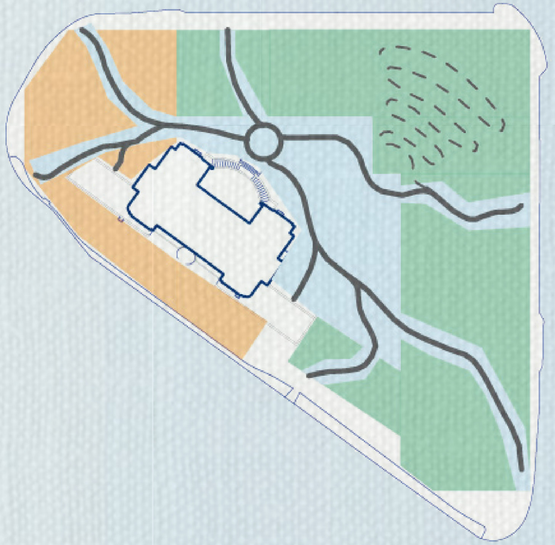


8 Filtration Trench









hills- funnels summer wind from the southern side, provides play elements within the valley, & creates a naural gathering/viewing space, creates different microclimates on each face

Valley- supports the river like circulation

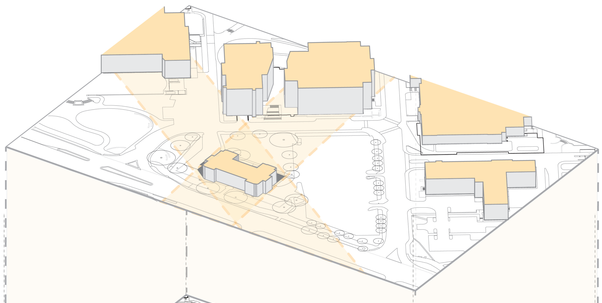
Wooded- protects site form winter winds, creates a cooler microclimate

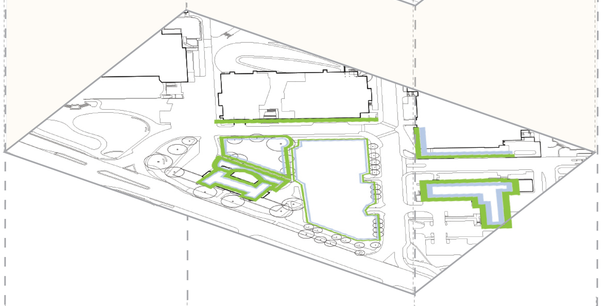
Condensed Program Matrix -

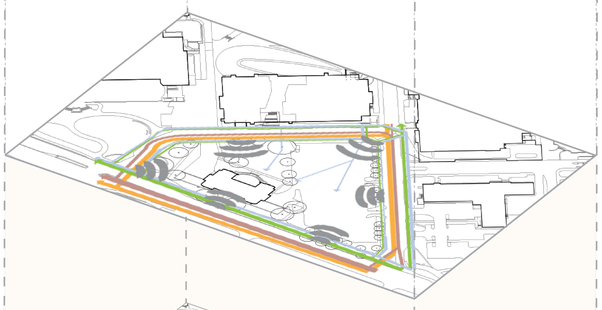
Program Element	Paths	Seating	Views	Play	Gathering Spaces	Waiting Space
Analysis	A path will fix the weak circulation in place on the site, as well as accommodating for informal circulation patterns in a more organized fashion. Essentially matching formal circulation to pedestrian desire lines	There is a lack of seating on the site currently. Adding seating will draw more people to the space and make it a destination within itself.	The site has stunning Flatiron views that assist in alleviating the sense of enclosure from surrounding buildings. Promoting these views will provide a more positive sensory experience.	This site lacks any elements of creativity, play, ecological efficiency and resiliency. Promoting play through landscape elements will create a more positive and engaging experience.	Due to the lack of seating and lack of general pedestrian infrastructure, people don't come to the space to meet, rest, or socialize like the rest of campus. Having a designated gathering space will encourage more students and administrators to come to the site. It will create a more useable programmed space that will accommodate the needs of the surrounding buildings.	The current waiting space for busses and the transition between the site and campus does not protect pedestrians from the noise, traffic and general elements of the seasons. A new waiting space could more effectively protect people but also provide a space that would encourage new users to interact with the space. A formal transition space will give the site more of its own identity while uniting it with the rest of campus.
Concept	Effectively connects and frames programmed spaces.	Promotes organic gathering spaces	Creates a sense of connectivity between the local ecosystem and that of Colorado (Mountains)	Contributes to effectively managing stormwater as well as drawing people into to organic gathering spaces	Promotion of more organic gathering spaces through topography	Encourages the framing of programmed space and the site as a whole as well as the creation of organic gathering and waiting spaces

Origional Program Matrix -

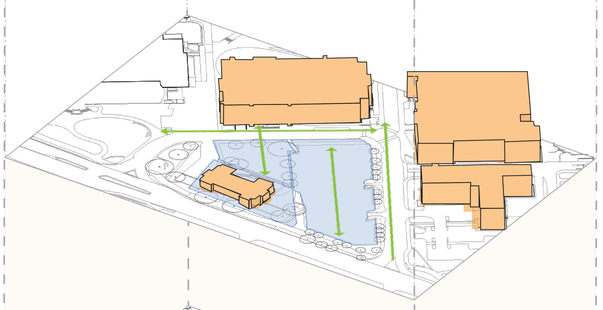
Program Elements	Path	Seating	Views	Play	Gathering Space	Waiting/Transition Space		Reference	Goal
Function	get from place to place	People will stop and rest, linger, and take in the views	rest areas that accentuate existing views	Creates an interesting and stimulating space to get away from work	Provide oportunities for small and large gatherings for informal and classroom uses	Provide a space for people to wait for busses and create a formal transition from the site to the rest of campus		A	Promote circulation efficiency [accommodate pedestrian desire lines]
Scale	Throughout the site	Intermittent throughout	Behind University Club and at the corner of 18th and Euclid	Elements of play throughout landscape design	Somewhere in the center of the site, about ⅛ of the site area	Long bus stops		B	Maximize use of inefficiently programmed space
User	College students, administrators	College students	Everyone	College students	Administrators and college students	College students		C	Alleviate sense of enclosure from surrounding buildings (by promoting flatiron views through topography)
Capacity	No cap	15-20 people	No cap	20 people/no specific capacity	30 people	30-50		D	Effectively deal with and distribute stormwater
seasonality	Used year round	Probably less use in colder months	Year round	Primary use in the Summer, Fall and Spring	Probably less use in colder months	Year round		E	Create an ecosystem that promotes carbon sequestration and education [eliminate monoculture]
overlap	Pedestrians, bikes, small vehicles	Resting, gathering, working, contemplative	Photo space, area for stopping, seating	Ecological education, inspiration for creative thinking	Outdoor classroom space, small event space, social space	Resting, seating, gathering, support for bus circulation		F	Mitigate unpleasant sensory experiences and spaces [also considering seasonality] (through topography)
goals	A, B	B, F	B, C, F	B, D, E	B, E	A, B, F			
analysis	A path will fix the weak circulation in place on the site, as well as accommodating for informal circulation patterns in a more organized fashion. Essentially matching formal circulation to pedestrian desire lines	There is a lack of seating on the site currently. Adding seating will draw more people to the space and make it a destination within itself.	The site has stunning Flatiron views that assist in alleviating the sense of enclosure from surrounding buildings. Promoting these views will provide a more positive sensory experience.	This site lacks any elements of creativity, play, ecological efficiency and resiliency. Promoting play through landscape elements will create a more positive and engaging experience.	Due to the lack of seating and lack of general pedestrian infrastructure, people don't come to the space to meet, rest, or socialize like the rest of campus. Having a designated gathering space will encourage more students and administrators to come to the site. It will create a more useable programmed space that will accommodate the needs of the surrounding buildings.	The current waiting space for busses and the transition between the site and campus does not protect pedestrians from the noise, traffic and general elements of the seasons. A new waiting space could more effectively protect people but also provide a space that would encourage new users to interact with the space. A formal transition space will give the site more of its own identity while uniting it with the rest of campus.			
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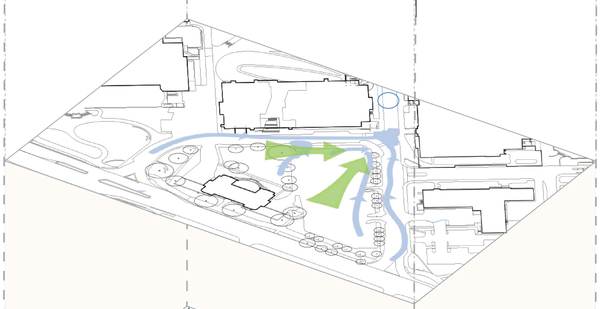


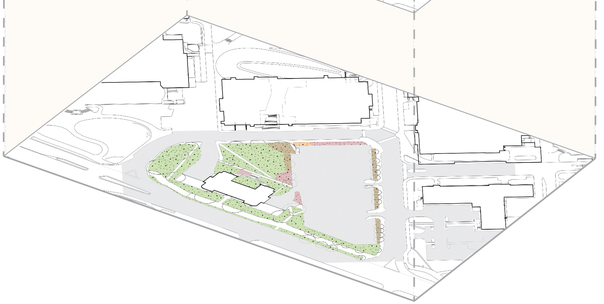












Cultural Layers

Visually Confining Features: there are no distant focal points of visual axis. Everything visible form the site is in immediate vicinity. These contribute to the miroclimate and noise

Sun path

Shadows

Frequency of Use: Buildings like IMIG and Wardenburg get a lot more use on a daily basis than the parking lot and grass area, because they are mostly used by students.

Ecological History: The entire space used to be part of Boulder's prairie environment.

University Club: Designed in 1938, this building is designated for administrative events and uses. It is not as actively used as other buildings nearby.

Dynamic Layers

Pedestrian Circulation: Pedestrians frequent the site on the surrounding sidewalks and with informal paths.

Bicycle Circulation: Bikes cross the site on the roads and sidewalks surrounding it.

Vehicle Circulation: Cars travel through the site to access the lot, and go on the roads around the site.

Bus Circulation: Busses travel around the site to access the bus stop on the North side, and to get through campus.

Noise: Cars, busses and pedestrians provide noise from all sides of the site.

Deciduous: functionality fluctuates with seasonality, this leaves the north west portion of the site susceptible to environmental factors during the fall - winter seasons

Evergreen: Consistent Function

Formal Layers

Foci: Buildings such as IMIG, University Club, Wardenburg, and CASE provide visual focal points around the site.

Axis Lines: Lines along the roads and the parking lot provide orientation and align with the composition of the rest of campus.

Spaces: Separate spaces include the parking lot, green space and University Club. They could be more accurately outlined than they are currently.

Thresholds

Edges: Green space is relatively enclosed and does not draw people into the space

Formal Paths

Pedestrian Desire Lines: do not, in most cases, coincide with formal paths and circulation

Physical Layers

Water Accumulation: Due to the slope, water accumulates in the crosswalk at the juncture of Euclid and 18th Street. Drainage could be more efficient.

Slope: Topography on the site leads to a slope that goes down as it heads Northeast.

Hydrology: Water travels with slope, heading down along the streets and parking lot to accumulate at the corners of the site.

Permeable Surfaces: This site is primarily composed of impermeable surfaces which contributes to the drainage issue and non-functionality and efficiency.

0 50 100 200