

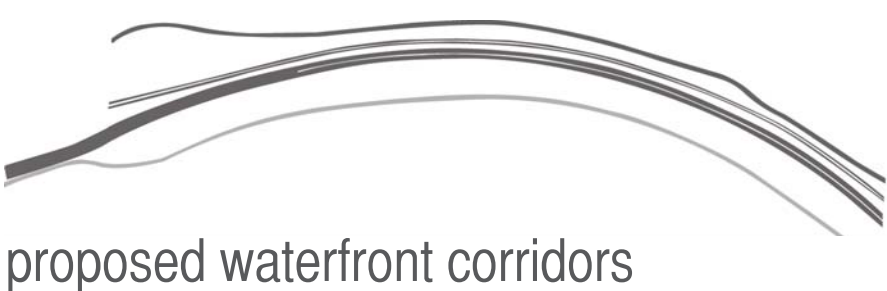
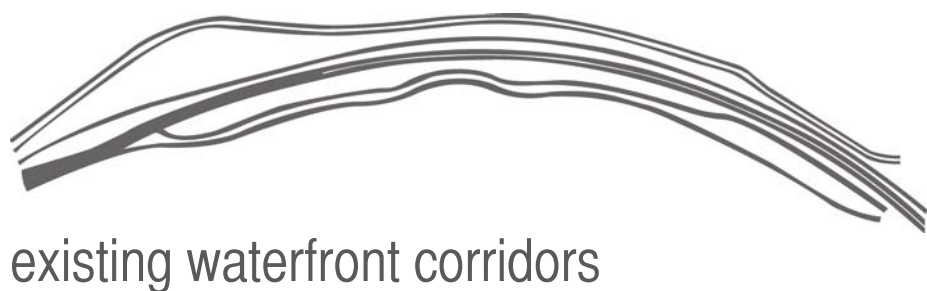
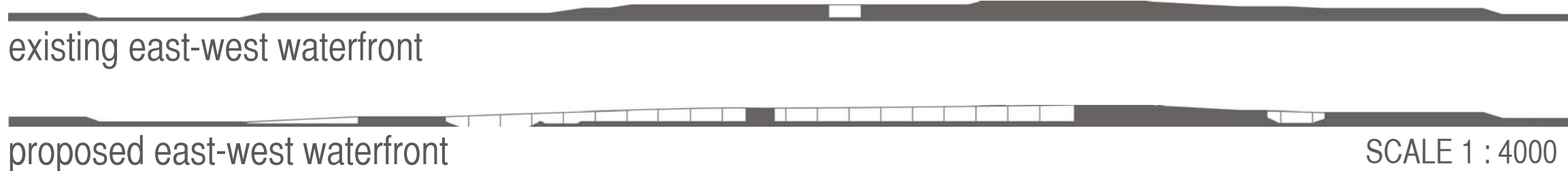
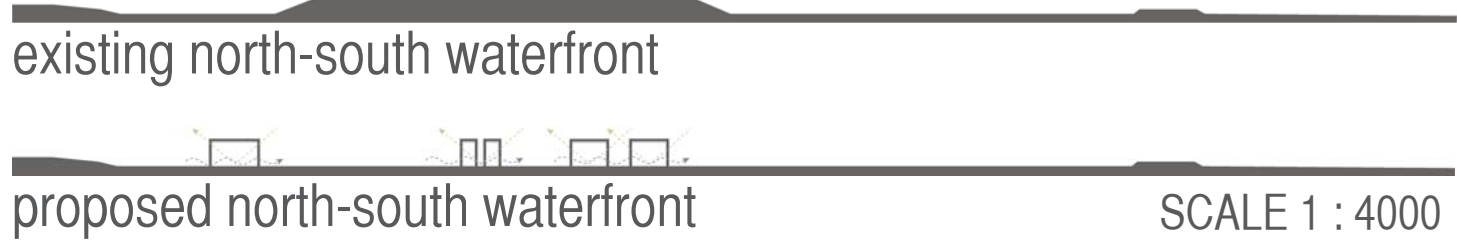
Mediating Landscape: Orchestrating an Urban-Nature Matrix

Mary Hicks

Mediating Landscape asks the question: *'What does a landscape that mediates between ecological processes and adjacent urbanization look like?'* *'How do we mediate between these two systems?'* And, *'How can we make the mediating zone legible and resilient?'*

The design of Mediating Landscape absorbs urban and natural elements as interweaving polarities of the same organizing force. The use of 'lines' and 'islands' establishes a design strategy and a device for representation. Both 'lines' and 'islands' encompass a unique planting, activity and infrastructure strategy and form. Lines are drawn from the urban grid running north-south and east-west through the park, at once providing primary circulation and serving as a matrix or binding that encloses and secures park elements. The lines rely on the logic of a hedgerow, serving as corridor and enclosure but also as a source of collection and initiation of new life. Islands are formed in areas where there is a dense concentration of ecologies, activity or infrastructure. Planting selection draws from species with specific remediative capabilities, resiliency attributes, and habitat qualities. Programming is then aligned with new habitats to create open, active spaces as well as passive, performative islands within the park. The precise orchestration of the lines and islands creates a system that is encouraged to emerge over time, becoming increasingly legible and resilient as it learns to self-organize and adapt.

A phased approach allows the park to be [adjust]ed, through the engineering of new infrastructure, [activate]d, through new planting that makes use of microclimates to create new habitats, [orchestrate]d, through the establishment of precise and open programming, and [adapt]ive, through the application of an adaptive and learning-based management approach that allows for constant and dynamic change.

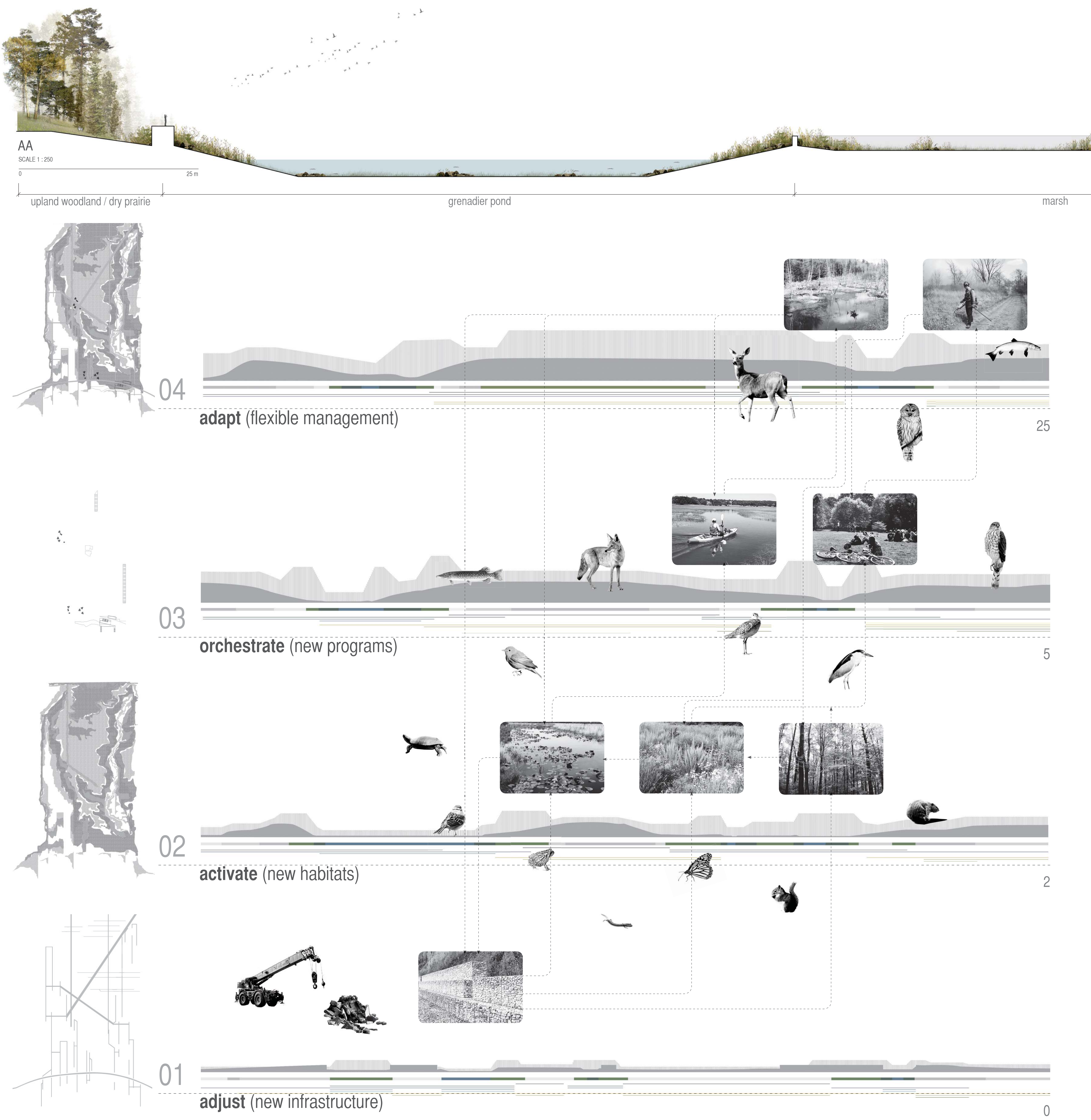


MEDIATING LANDSCAPE

ORCHESTRATING AN URBAN NATURE MATRIX

HIGH PARK & WESTERN WATERFRONT | MARY LISTON HICKS

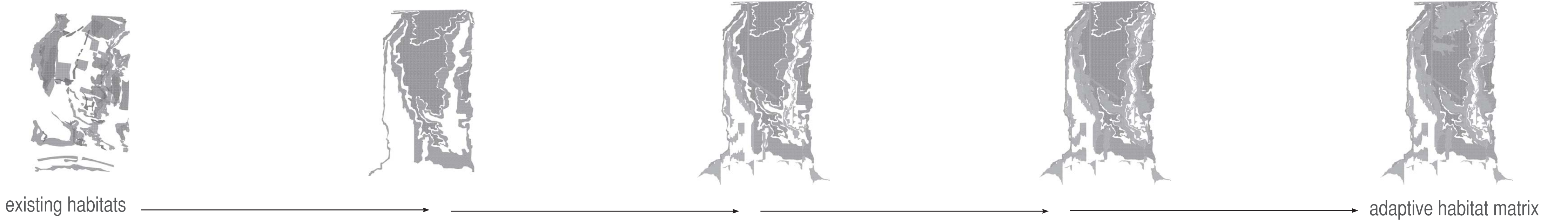





ADJUST

Adjusting park infrastructure establishes the 'lines' of the park that will serve as the primary circulation route as well as a matrix or binding (hedgerow) that surrounds and cements park elements. The masterplan at once re-engineers the watershed connection to the lake with estuary habitats and marshes and creates a continuous terrain from the central spine of the park to the shoreline. The strategy works with existing waterfront infrastructure, strategically puncturing through barriers at key sections and lightening roadways to create a more porous connection to the lake.









UPLAND WOODLAND

Populus tremuloides (northeast native) trembling aspen
Pinus banksiana (northeast native) jack pine
Pinus strobus (northeast native) eastern white pine
Betula papyrifera (northeast native) paper birch
Quercus palustris (northeast native) pin oak




DRY PRAIRIE

Festuca rubra (north american native) red fescue
Molinia caerulea (northeast native) purple moor grass
Bouteloua curtipendula (northeast native) sideoats grama
Panicum virgatum (north american native) shendandoah switch grass
Brassica juncea (northeast native) mustard grass
Elymus canadensis (northeast native) canada wild rye



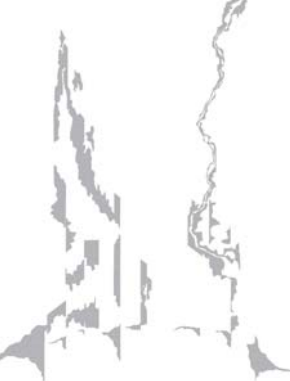
MOIST PRAIRIE

Medicago sativa (north american native) alfalfa
Trifolium repens (northeast native) white clover
Amsonia 'blue ice' (north american native) blue ice bluestar
Carex blanda (northeast native) common wood sedge
Rudbeckia laciniata (northeast native) green-headed coneflower
Ratibida pinnata (northeast native) prairie coneflower
Anemone canadensis (northeast native) canada anemone



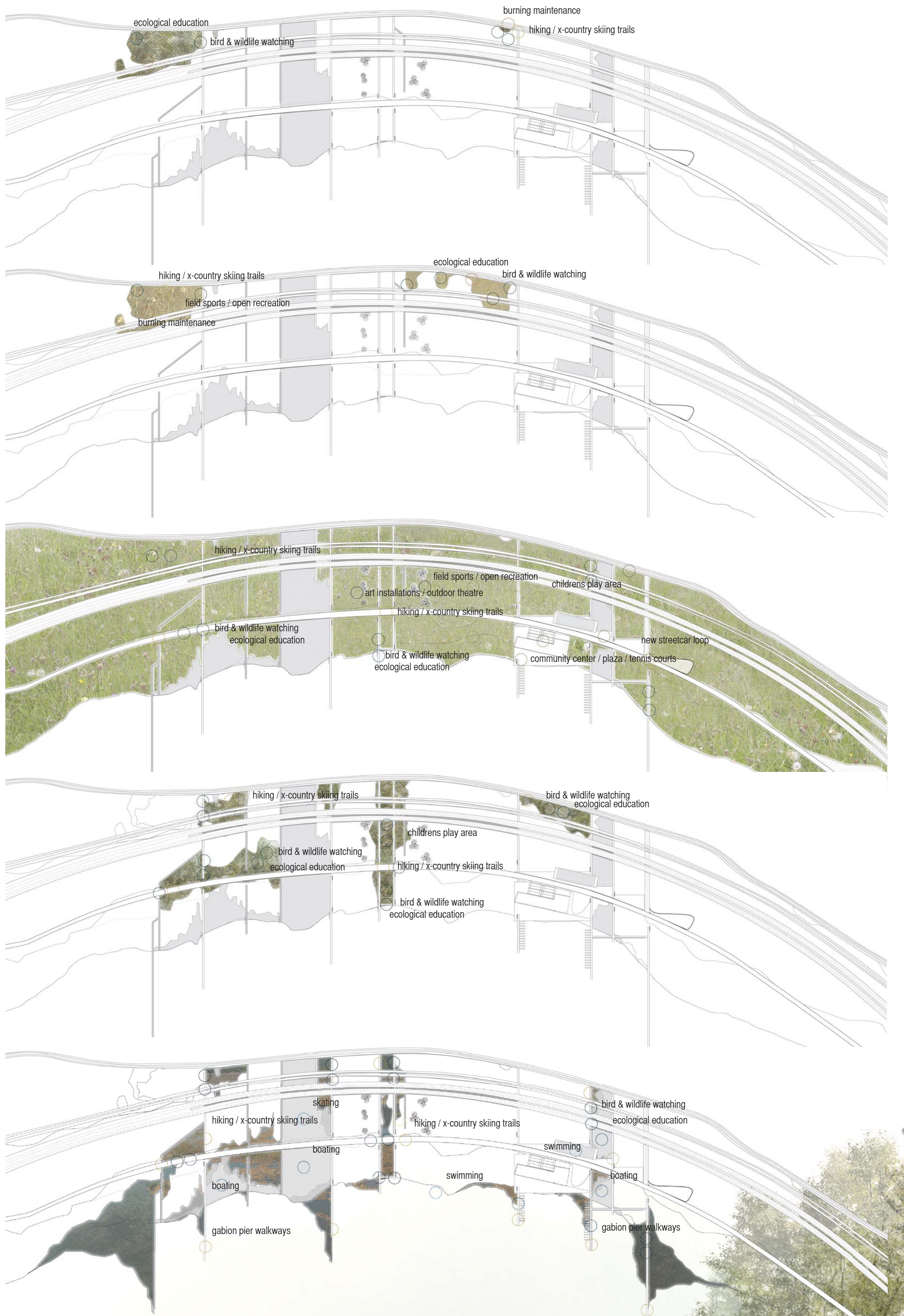
LOWLAND FOREST

Populus balsamifera (northeast native) balsam poplar
Betula populifolia (northeast native) grey birch
Pinus strobus (northeast native) eastern white pine
Picea glauca (northeast native) white spruce
Picea mariana (northeast native) black spruce
Larix laricina (northeast native) tamarack
Hammamelis (northeast native) american witch-hazel
Cornus sanguinea (northeast native) bloodtwig dogwood



MARSH

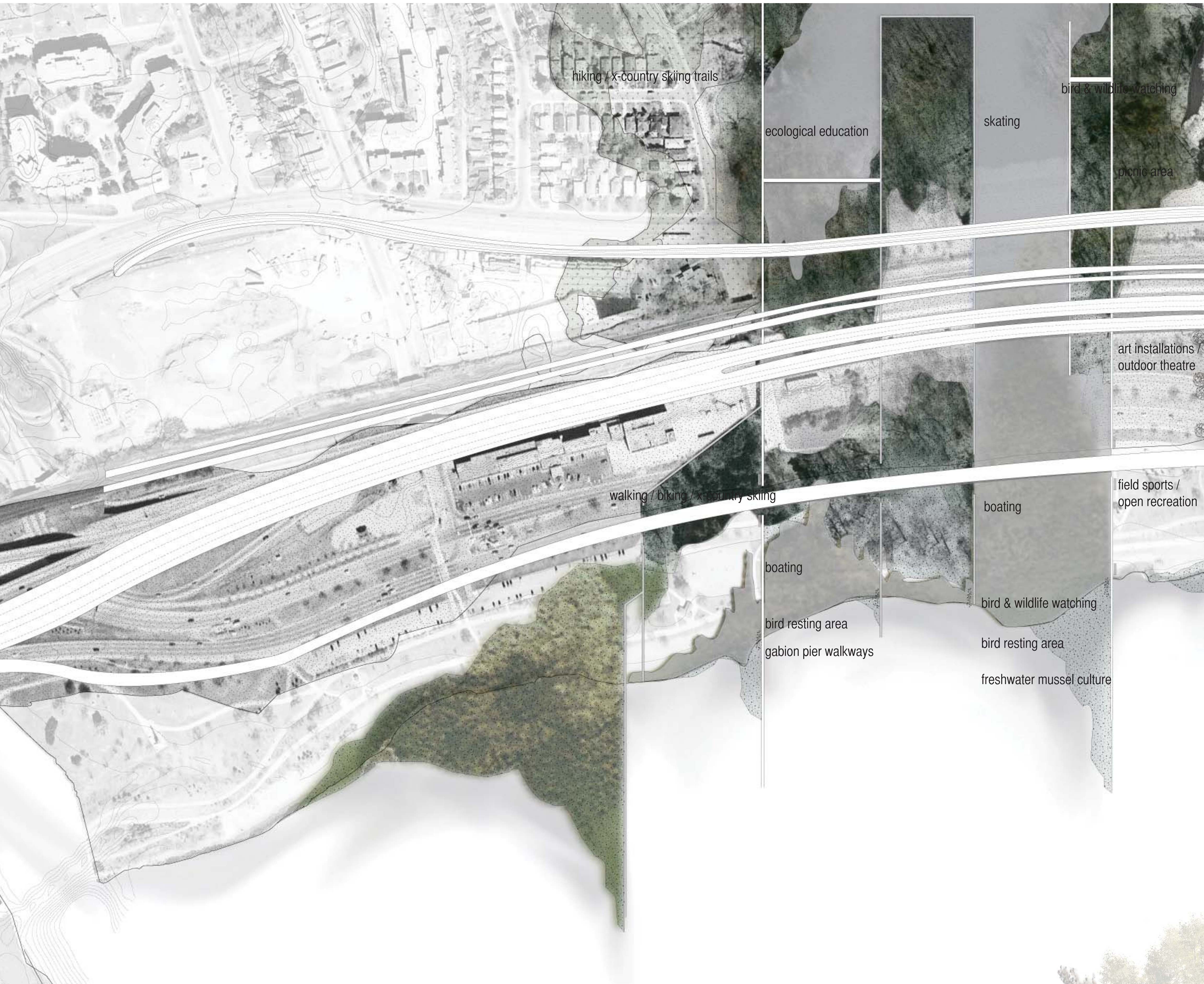
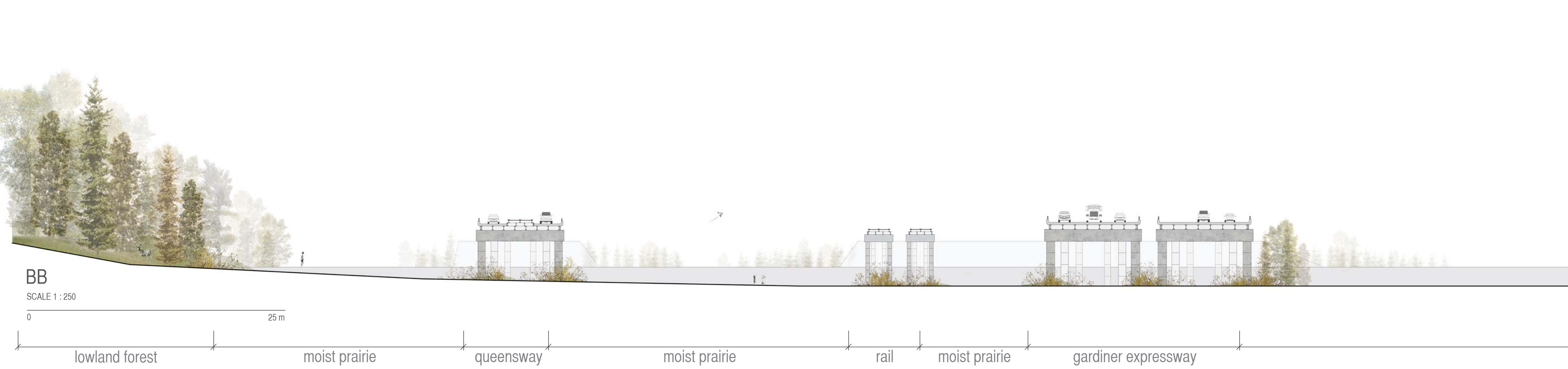
Salix discolor (northeast native) pussy willow
Salix bebbiana (northeast native) bebb's willow
Rhus glabra (northeast native) smooth sumac
Rhus typhina (northeast native) staghorn sumac
Typha latifolia (northeast native) common cattail
Carex aquatilis (northeast native) water sedge
Caltha pelustris (northeast native) marsh marigold

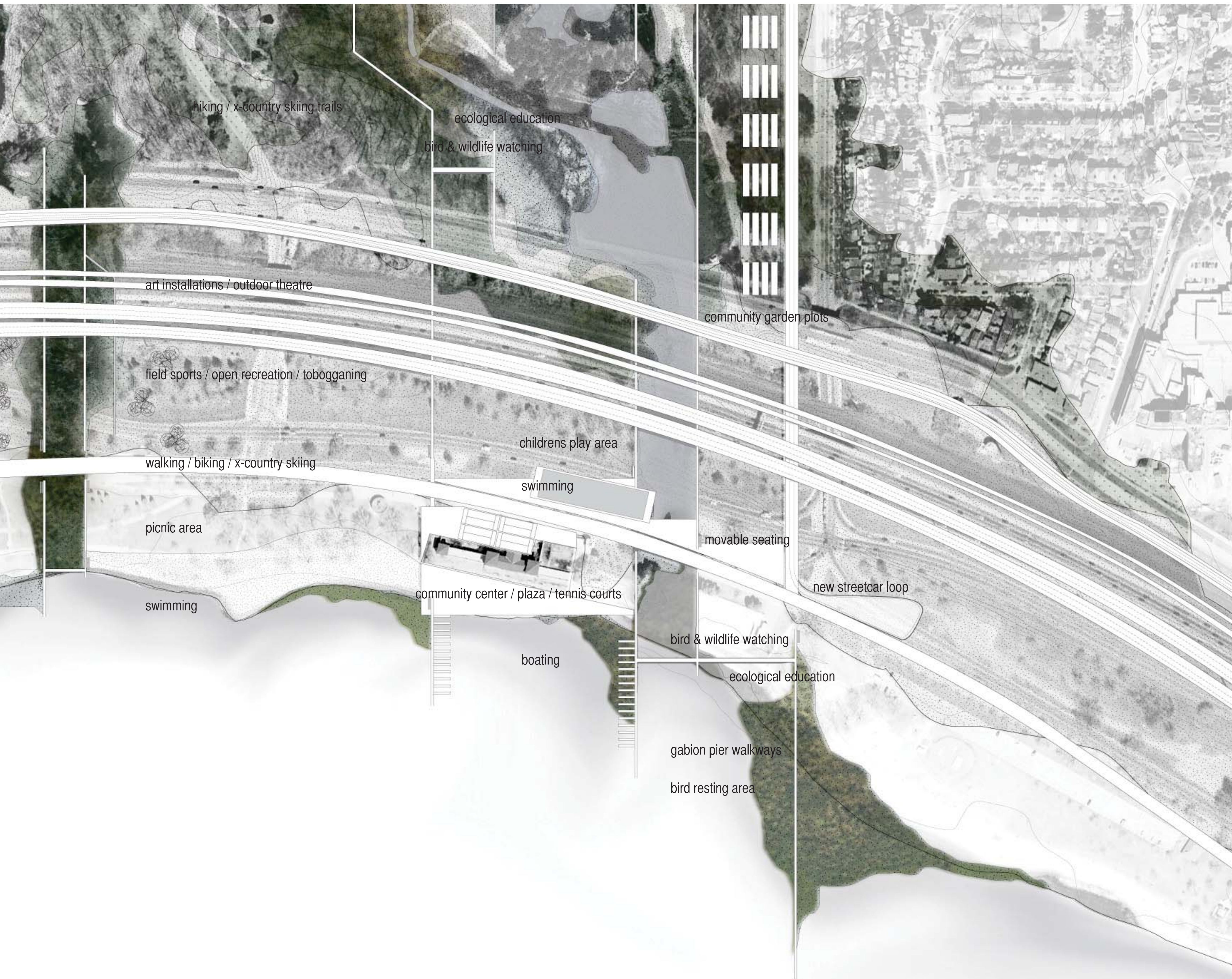
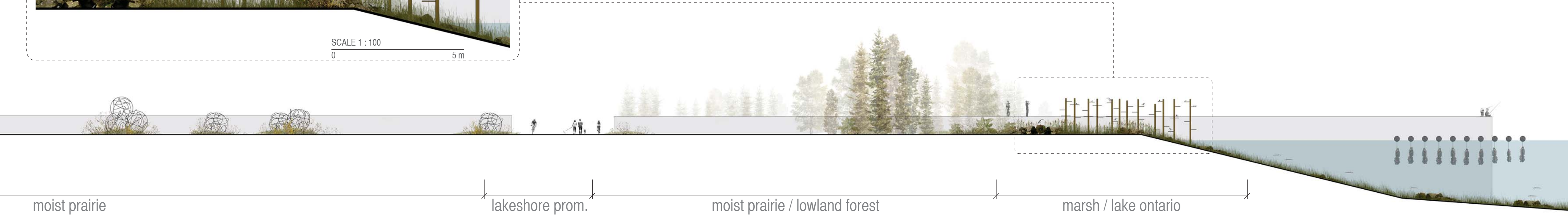


ACTIVATE

Activating the park is achieved through a vegetation strategy that makes use of lines, to surround and protect, and islands. Initial plantings draw from existing biomass and habitats in the park and surrounding communities. In developed stages, overlapping plantings and the spread of new seeds and species establishes diverse habitat communities and ecological matrices.







ADAPT

Flexible and adaptable management can allow social, ecological and biophysical processes to re-define corridors, habitats and programs in sync with the larger human-nature system. Envisioning the landscape as a platform for ecological and social interconnectivity and exchange defragments the urban matrix, weaving together disparate parts to establish a mediating landscape that extends beyond the boundaries of the park.

SCALE 1 : 1500

0 200 m

