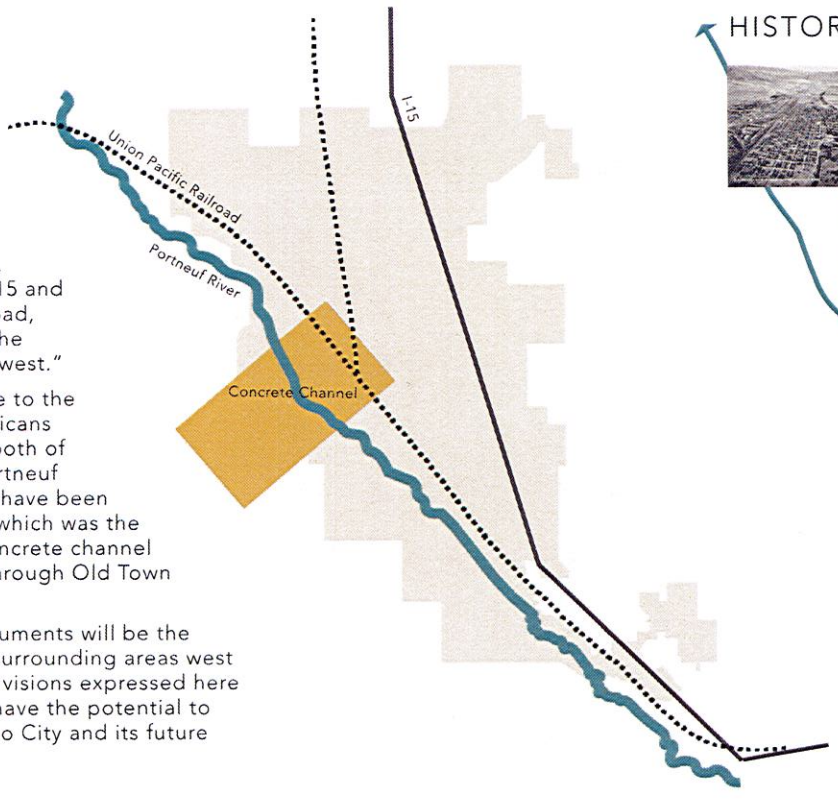
CONTEXT

Pocatello is nestled in a small valley, in south eastern Idaho with mountains on east and west sides. Founded in 1889, it is the largest city in Bannock County. Due to nature of the I-15 and the Union Pacific Railroad, Pocatello is known as the "Gateway to the Northwest."

Historically it was home to the Shoshone Native Americans and later to trappers, both of whom relied on the Portneuf River. Since then there have been many changes, one of which was the development of the concrete channel of the Portneuf River through Old Town Pocatello.

The focus of these documents will be the concrete channel and surrounding areas west of the train tracks. The visions expressed here for the Portneuf River have the potential to greatly impact Pocatello City and its future development.



HISTORY

1932 — In 1888, Pocatello was laid out in a grid system based off the orientation of the railroad.

1962 — By 1934, the Portneuf River was rip-rapped as a beautification project. The river was straightened in Raymond Park by 1941.

1963 — The floods in 1963 were the highest known on many streams in southern Idaho. The floods discharge was greater than a hundred year storm.

1970 — The floods in 1962 and 1963 led to the installation of various flood control methods. Included, was the 1.5 mile concrete channel and levees.

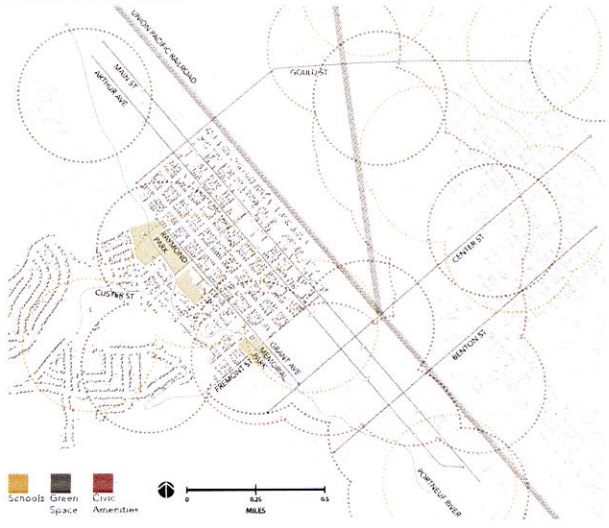
2017 — Today the concrete channel still stands. It has damaged the ecosystem, and doesn't allow pedestrian access to the river.

HIGH DENSITY HOUSING AND INCOME

Average median household incomes by census blocks are shown in relationship to dense housing opportunities, namely apartments.

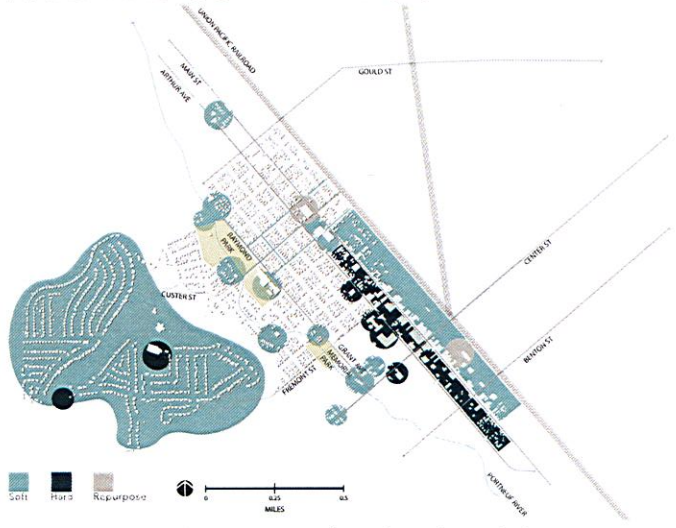
Source: www.usa.com/idaho-estate.htm

AMENITIES



A ¼ mile radius is shown around schools, green spaces, and civic amenities. This was used to show the gaps between amenities hindering Old Town's walkability.

HARD AND SOFT ANALYSIS



This analysis evaluates spaces based on their ability to change with hard being vitally important that it remains and soft being susceptible to change.

AREA OF INFLUENCE

Old Town is influenced by Idaho State University, the proximity of mountains, the Portneuf River, and development. Drawing on these influences and a synthesis of the analysis, points of influence were identified as potential areas for design interventions. This image identifies these areas and highlights the importance of clear connections between them.

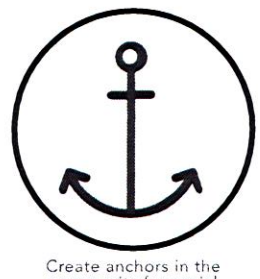
USER

Though we want to invite all into our community and feel welcomed, to create a stronger design, we will design to meet the needs for people in various life cycle stages including: college students, families, disabled, and elderly. These designs will also promote intermixing users from various income levels.

VISION

Old Town Pocatello is a complete community with diverse housing choices. It seeks to connect people to one another, the river, and recreational amenities. This community builds pride in breaking down barriers and building unity in solving issues. The Vision expands on a strategy to create a place where people and nature come together in an urban setting with a natural feel; a special place that promotes health, well-being, and increases the quality of life.

Connecting spaces crafted to fuse history, a river, and nature into memorable experiences for the community of Pocatello.



Create anchors in the community for social interaction

Multi-functional spaces feeding continual activity and inclusive of all ages

Promote walking through community in safe and clear ways

Provide quality experiences with nature and river

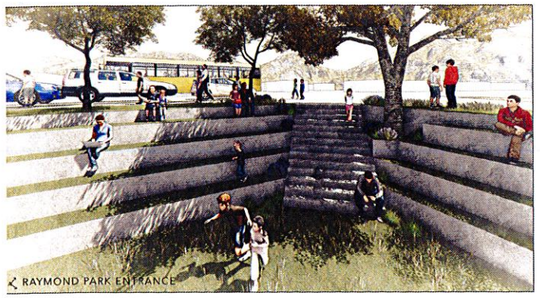
Revitalize economic/housing opportunities

ANALYSIS

Katie Gerratt
Mary Dowden
Kristine Robison

Utah State University

Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
Professor Caroline Lavoie
Matt Starley, T.A. Fall 2017



RAYMOND PARK ENTRANCE

RIVER PLAZA

HAMMOCK AND SKATEBOARDING AREA

URBAN TRAIL NETWORK

Proposed are a series of trail loops to connect the west side of Pocatello. There are a variety of loops that can be walked or biked comfortably that link the French Raymond Park, Memorial Park, Main Street, and connect across the train tracks. These trails will:

- Connect people and amenities on the west side of the river to downtown
- Create alternate means of transportation
- Make sidewalks more comfortable by providing trees and lights
- Complete bike lanes

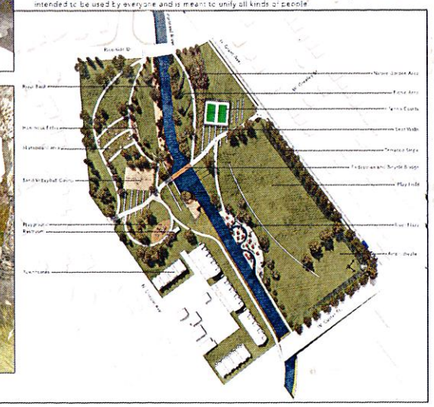
We hope to beautify the city of Pocatello and encourage walkability

RAYMOND PARK

Raymond Park is full of amenities that are made for the community

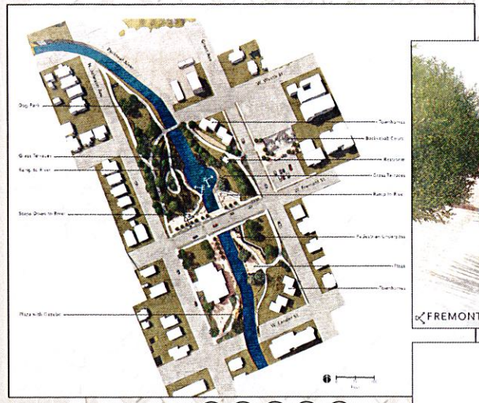
- An amphitheater/viewing area is oriented on the corner from the middle school, creating a major point of entrance.
- The topography of the site means there is always something to explore
- The park includes playgrounds, volleyball, tennis, hammocking, skateboarding, and access to the river.
- This park can be a destination for family reunions/pictures and a haven for local kids to play field games and explore the Portneuf River.
- Walking and biking loops are incorporated throughout the park.

Irving Middle School and the surrounding neighborhood supply a lot of users for this park, but this park is intended to be used by everyone and is meant to unify all kinds of people.



TYPICAL STREET PROFILES:

TYPICAL RIVER TRAIL PROFILES:



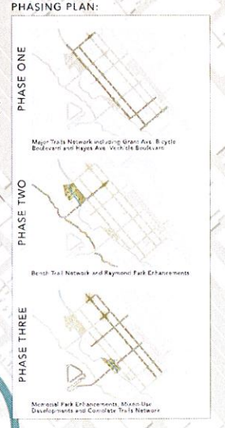
MEMORIAL PARK

Located in the heart of the west side of Old Town Pocatello, Memorial Park offers many opportunities for its community

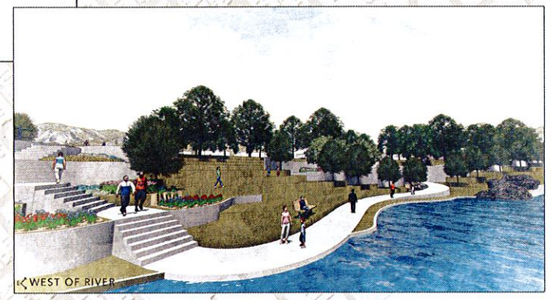
- The Veterans Memorial Building sits within the park, making Memorial Park a perfect place for community events and gatherings.
- High density housing sits on the edge of the park framing views and providing a unique place to live.
- Access to the river opens up the concrete channel, creating an inviting and peaceful environment.
- A dog park on the north west edge of the park will provide a place for members of the community to socialize and exercise their animals.

This smaller park will create big atmospheres as it becomes an in-demand event center.

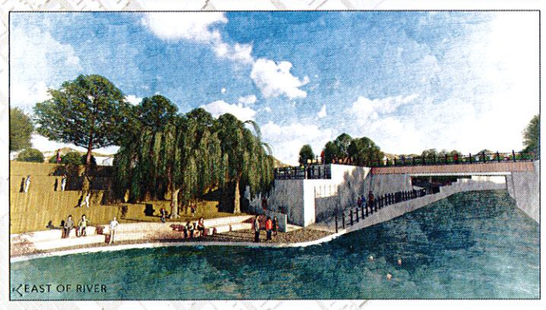
PHASING PLAN:



FREMONT STREET CROSSING



WEST OF RIVER

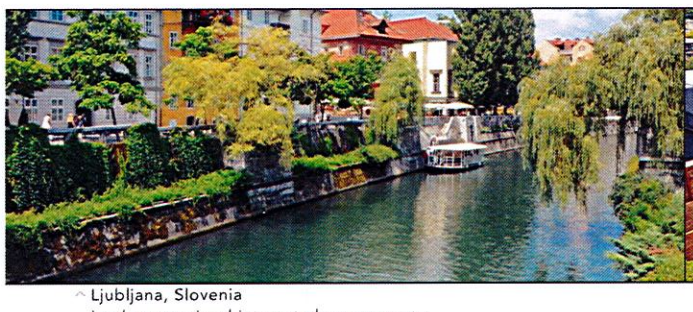


EAST OF RIVER

Utah State University
Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

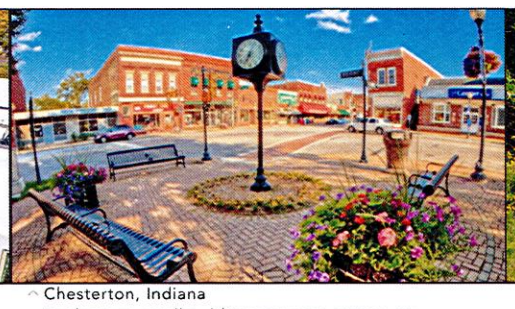
CONCRETE REACH W.

PRECEDENTS

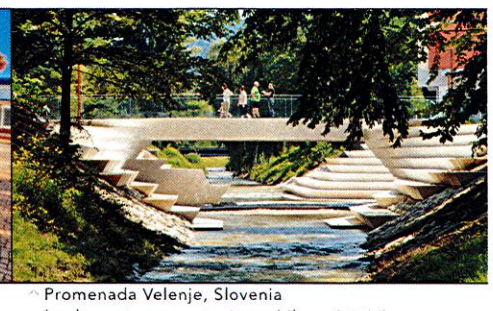


Ljubljana, Slovenia
Implement: visual interest along concrete channel using plants and terraced walls
Source: torqetsomeday.com/romantic-things-to-do-in-ljubljana/

Chesterton, Indiana
Implement: various housing options that welcome a variety of people
Source: seattle.curbed.com/2016/11/10/13591054/kirkland-solar-community-net-zero-dwell-development



Chesterton, Indiana
Implement: small public spaces on corners as gateways to the community with seating
Source: northwestindianaplaces.com/project/chesterton/



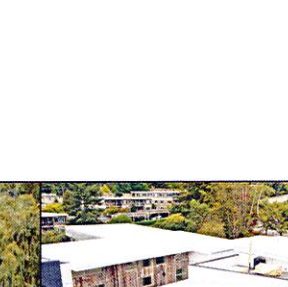
Promenada Velenje, Slovenia
Implement: access to river while maintaining flood control using various land forms and art
Source: scenarejournal.com/strategy/promenada/

DIVERSIFY HOUSING

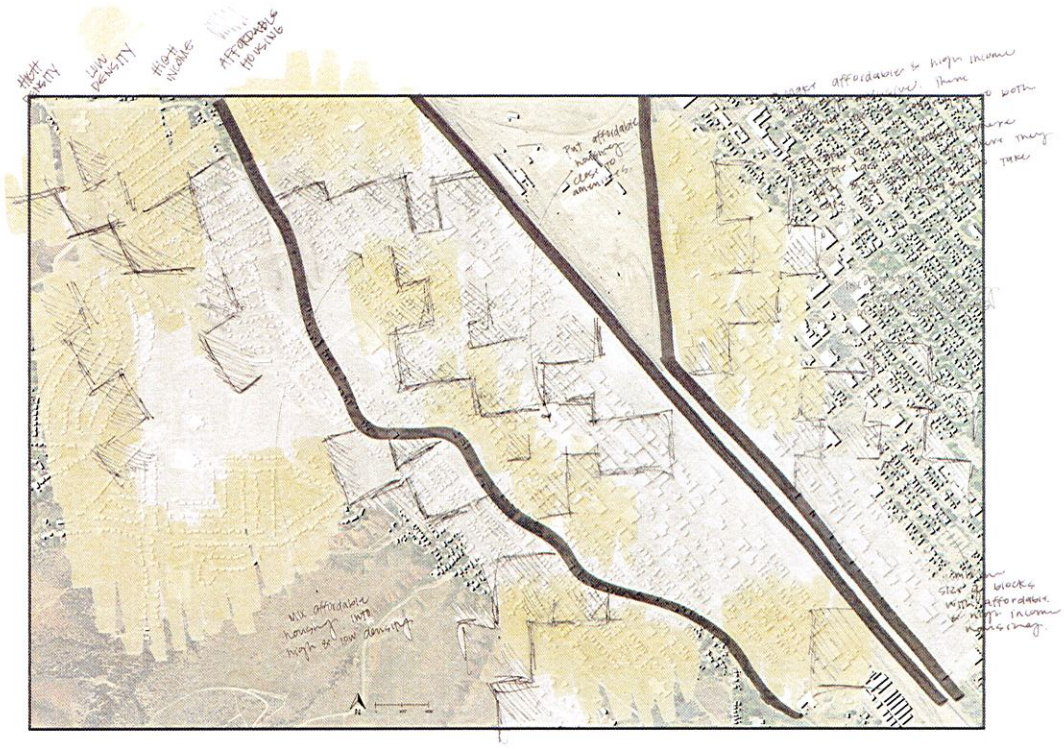
Pocatello City has a diverse population and incomes, but is in need of mixing these populations to create an inclusive environment. The people of Pocatello need to be involved and proud of their community no matter their income, race, or housing location.

Connecting Bench to Downtown Without a Vehicle

Amenities Across the River

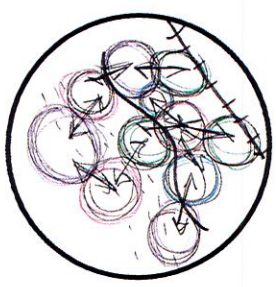


Disconnected Amenity Influences

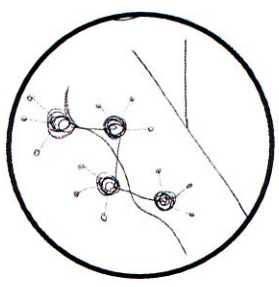


CONNECT AMENITIES

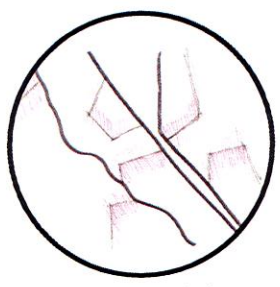
People connect with others in networks and systems that make sense. If a desired connection is unclear, there will result a lack of unity in the desired users. To increase unity and community pride, clearer connections will be necessary. These partis explore how connections between neighborhoods, key influential areas, and open spaces can build unity through connections.



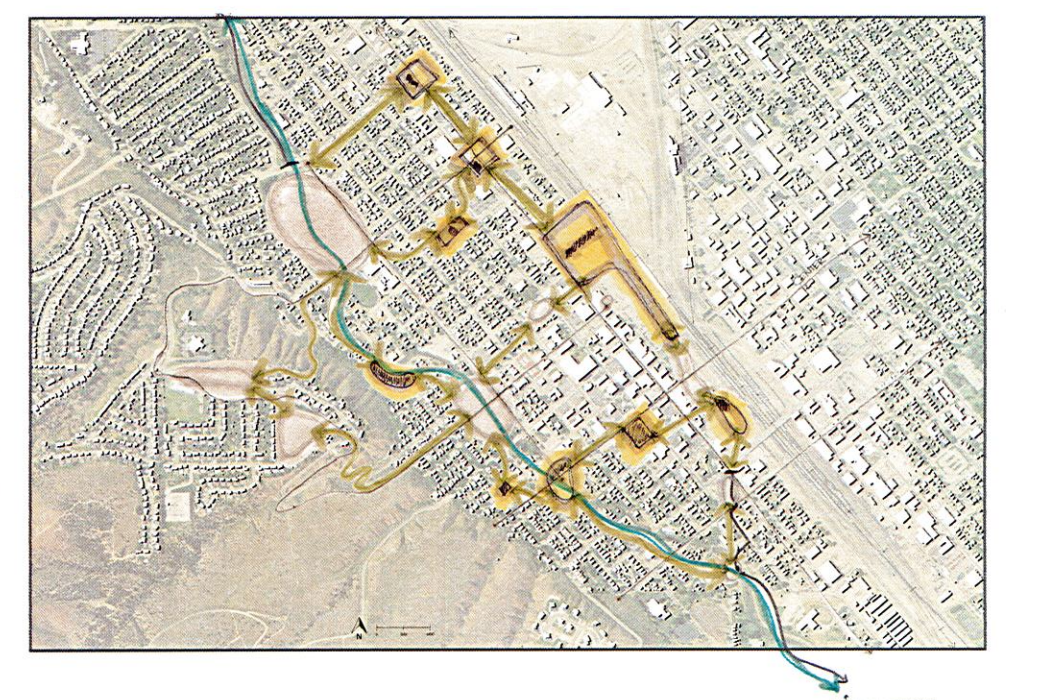
Mixing Demographics



Spreading Diverse Housing

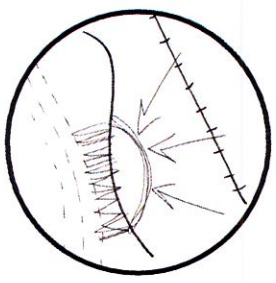


Connecting People from Different Housing Types

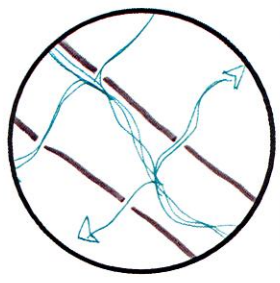


BREAK BARRIERS

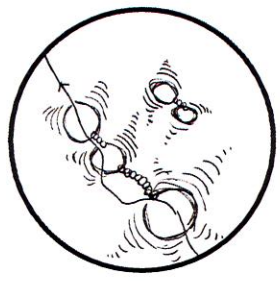
The railroad, river, and bench create strong barriers. These barriers make it difficult and uncomfortable for citizens to cross. Because of these barriers, Pocatello City is divided. Breaking these barriers will create better connections for a more unified and diverse city.



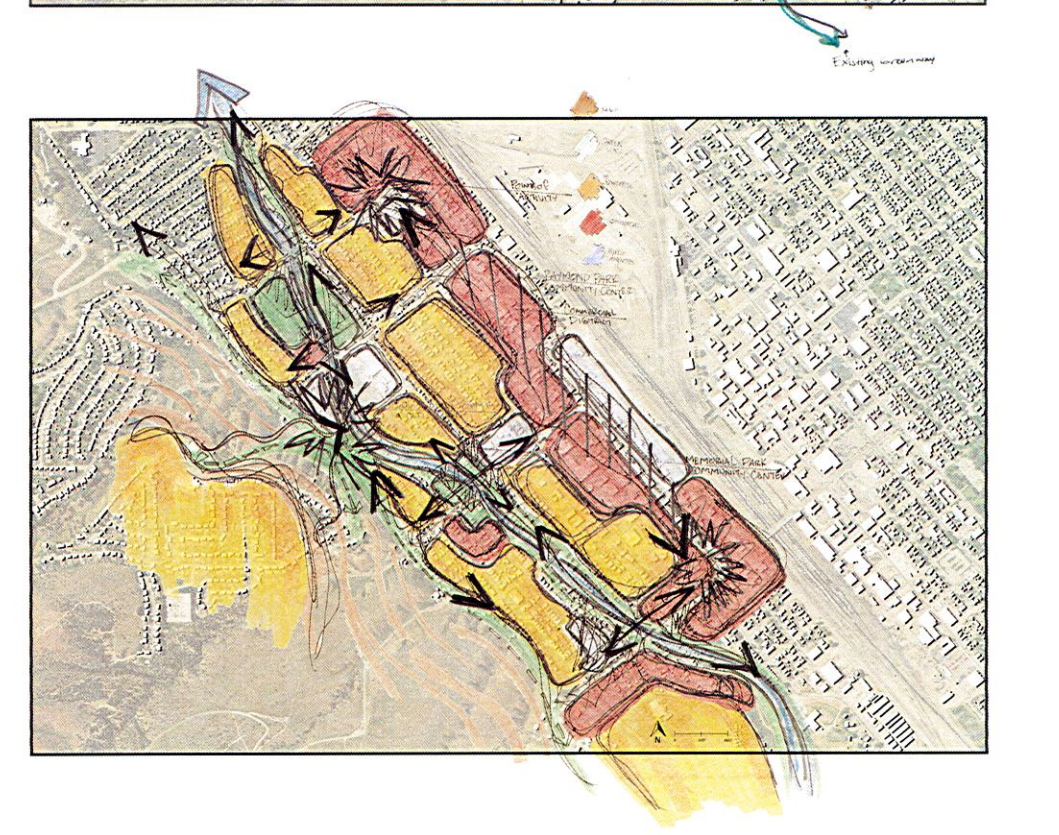
Drawing People from Rail and Bench to River and Old Town



Emphasize the River's Presence



Breaking Barriers with Landmarks



CONCEPT WORK

Katie Gerratt
Mary Dowden
Kristine Robison

Utah State University

Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
Professor Caroline Lavoie
Matt Starley, T.A Fall 2017

Concrete Channel West Reach