



Mangrove Lounge: Rest and Recreation Park

The Ohio State University
CRPLAN 5798

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C o n t e n t s

Context

Methodology

Space Assessment

Community Engagement

Recommendations

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the class, CRPLAN 5798, OSU students took a study abroad trip to Belize to tackle complex social and environmental issues in a team-based and interdisciplinary approach.

This experience enables students to apply knowledge gained from their education in a real and meaningful way while experiencing a culture abroad.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

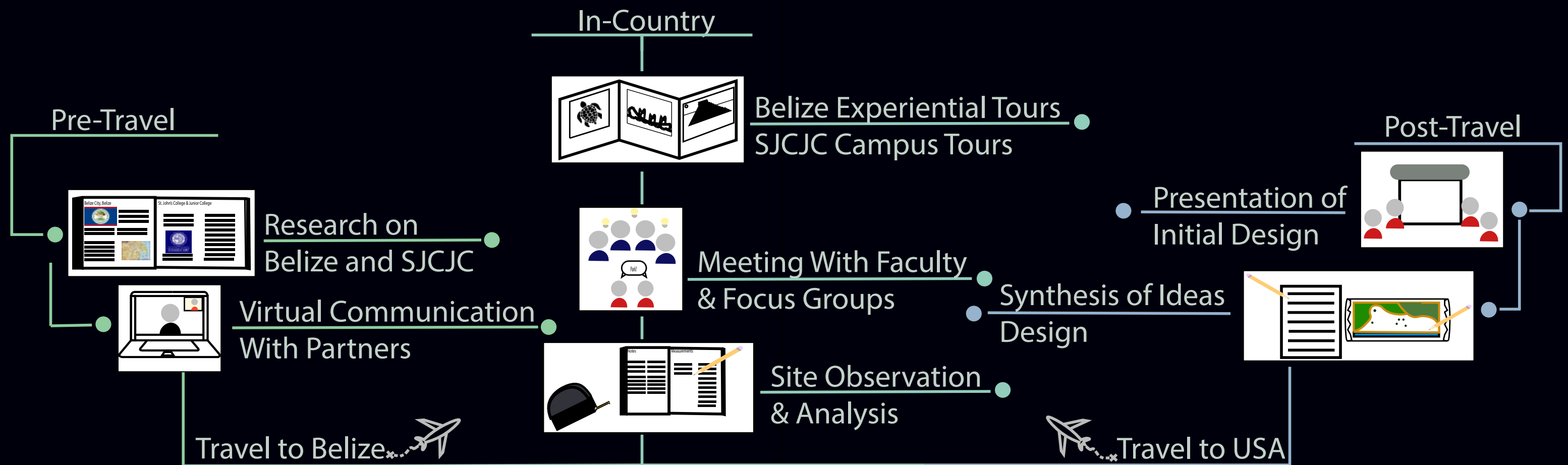
To use City and Regional Planning practices to design a sustainable and functional space for St. John’s College Junior College.

To meet the needs of the students on campus and while maintaining the guidelines set out by faculty to create a space to promote physical and mental health both within the student body and in the community

To allow St. John’s College Junior College to carry out it’s mission of “Men and Women for Others” by creating a space that create more opportunity for student and community engagement

To develop a strong and lasting partnership between St. John’s College Junior College and The Ohio State University.

The aim of this guidebook is to create a site design for the front entrance of SJCJC that incorporates both the needs of students and the guidelines of faculty while creating an opportunity for community





INITIAL ASSESSMENT:

Initial assessment of the space was led by faculty and students at SJC-JC.

The area chosen satisfies both logistical and idealistic expectations of the project as determined by the faculty at the school and a survey of student interests in the types of spaces they want to see on campus.

Outlined expectations:

- creation of a fitness park with community space
- the desire for the space to serve as a bridge to the community promoting interconnectedness between the college and local residents

Pro's

- relatively large space
- contains existing features that can be used to support the overall design of the project ex) trees, plantings

Challenges

- intermittent flooding issues
- conservation of current flora and fauna

SECONDARY ASSESSMENT:

“Men and Women for Others” is a central dogma of the school and is a key motivator for the project.

Further Meetings took place to follow up on initial survey findings:

Initial Student Survey

- Students received survey during class registration
- Survey included 4 initial options for recreation spaces: (1) graffiti wall (2) prayer wall (3) outdoor fitness space (4) urban garden
- Students preferred garden and fitness space
- Students provided additional comments, requesting a quiet place to sit or play games

Meeting with Social Sciences Dept.

- There is a disconnect between SJCJC community and communities immediately surrounding campus
- Students tend to socialize in courtyard outside of classrooms
- Noise from courtyard distracts teachers and students in class
- Other areas around campus that could be used for recreation are inundated during rainy season
- Teachers liked yoga

Relation to Final Design

- OSU design team proposed a design including fitness park, garden elements, and quiet reflective space

Relation to Final Design

- Final design will include multi-use gazebo space for sitting, group fitness, etc.

Meeting with SJCJC President

- President Peralta requested design that could be implemented with economical or donated materials
- Public park should come with a set of rules to maintain public safety and uphold the values of SJCJC
- Park will invite the surrounding community to engage with SJCJC community and demonstrate school’s commitment to the community
- Proposed space is in the front of the school

Relation to Final Design

- Design should not include elements that obstruct sightline
- Materials should be easy to replace and durable

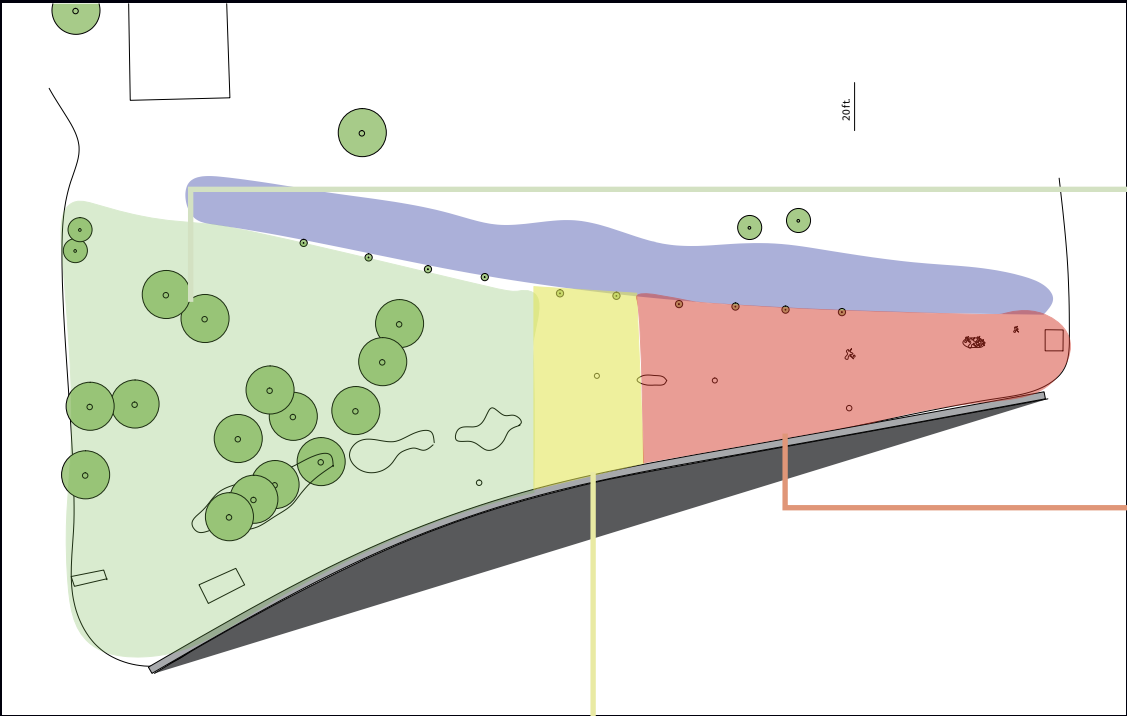
Small student-based Focus groups

- Current recreation spaces (e.g. courtyard, library, cafeteria) are overcrowded and noisy
- Students requested ample seating and shade in final design
- Commonly used walkways are often flooded
- Some students raised safety and accessibility concerns
- Students expressed preference for hammock-style seating

Relation to Final Design

- Highly favored design elements were incorporated into final design

Exustubg Conditions



Three main sections of this recreational park design:

1. Outdoor Lounge

- a. Boardwalk with shade
- b. Public seating with tables

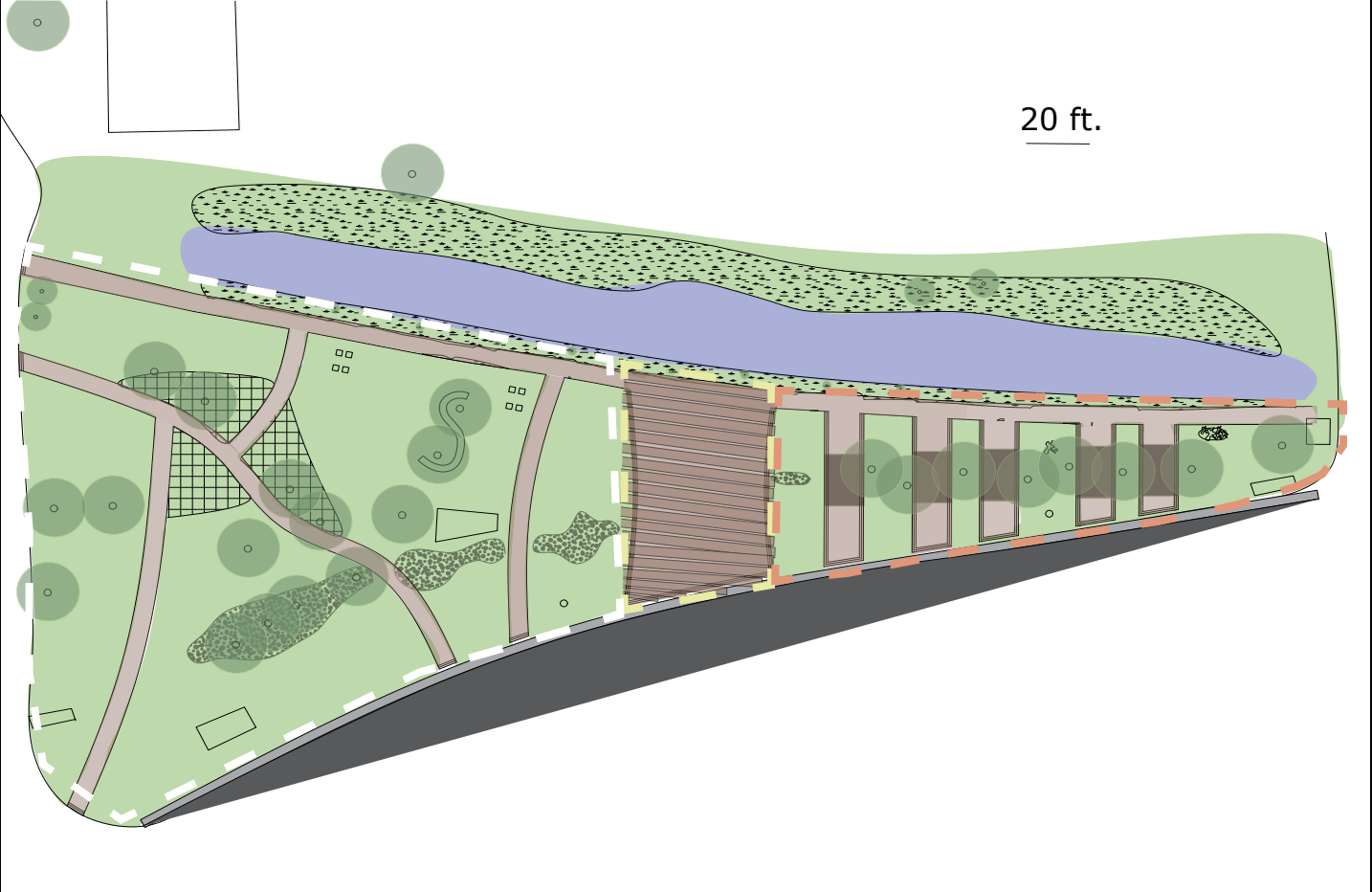
2. Workout Park

- a. Outdoor workout equipment
- b. “Jungle Gym” style stations allow for durability and flexibility of flexibility of equipment

3. Boardwalk and Gazebo

- a. Elevated surface allows for walking in comfort after a rain/flood event
- b. Creates space for community gathering and wildlife viewing all year
- b. Gazebo is a transitional space between the previous two listed areas and remains flexible in its use for each purpose

Final Design



This design references the form of the nearby mangroves which clean, filter and buffer the shoreline of Belize. Similarly, excercise and relaxation are critically important for a healthy body and mind. Similar to the design, these two activities should be in balance with each other.



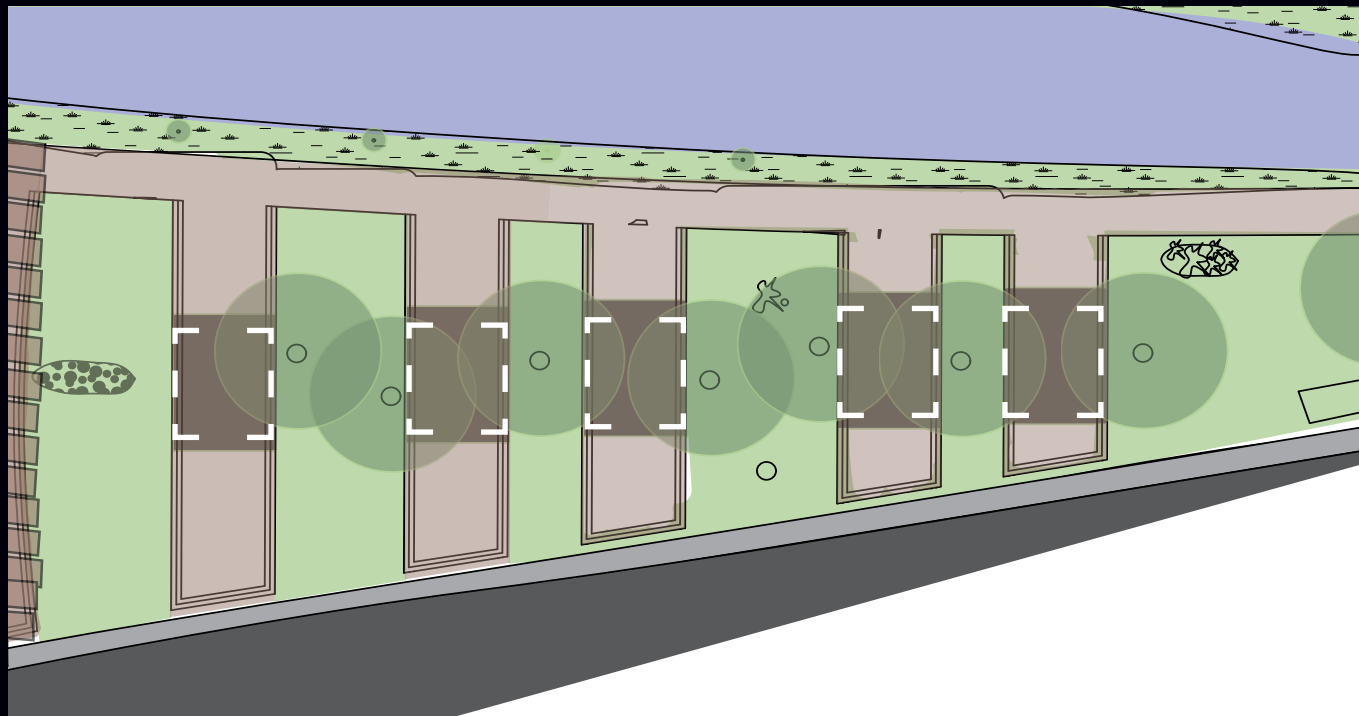
Design Considerations/Challenges:

1. Quiet space for spiritual reflection or studying
2. Accessibility during rainy season/extreme heat
3. Set-up: Attached or detached from boardwalk

Varied seating/table options:



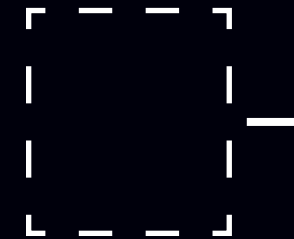
OUTDOOR LOUNGE



Design Considerations/Challenges:

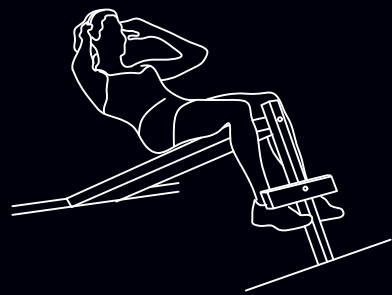
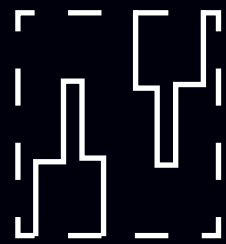
1. Highly favored by student opinion
2. Integration with boardwalk system
3. Extension of system towards community
4. Setup: Centralized or station-based?

Work out Station

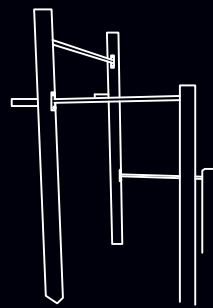
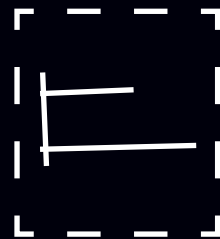


- each work out station is a modification of the boardwalk in some way to create opportunities for fitness
- each station is located next to a tree for shade, but it is also anticipated that these would be used either very early in the day or later in the evening when it is cooler

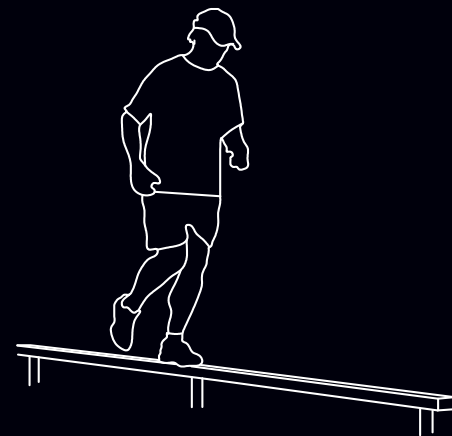
#1 - Inclined Planes



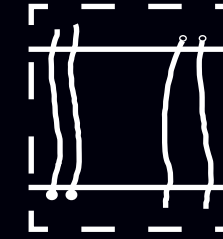
#2 - Graduated Bars



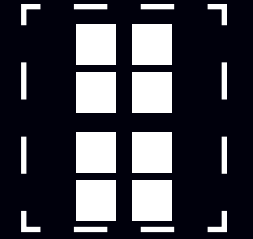
#3 - Balance Beam



#4 - Ropes



#5 - Graduated Platforms



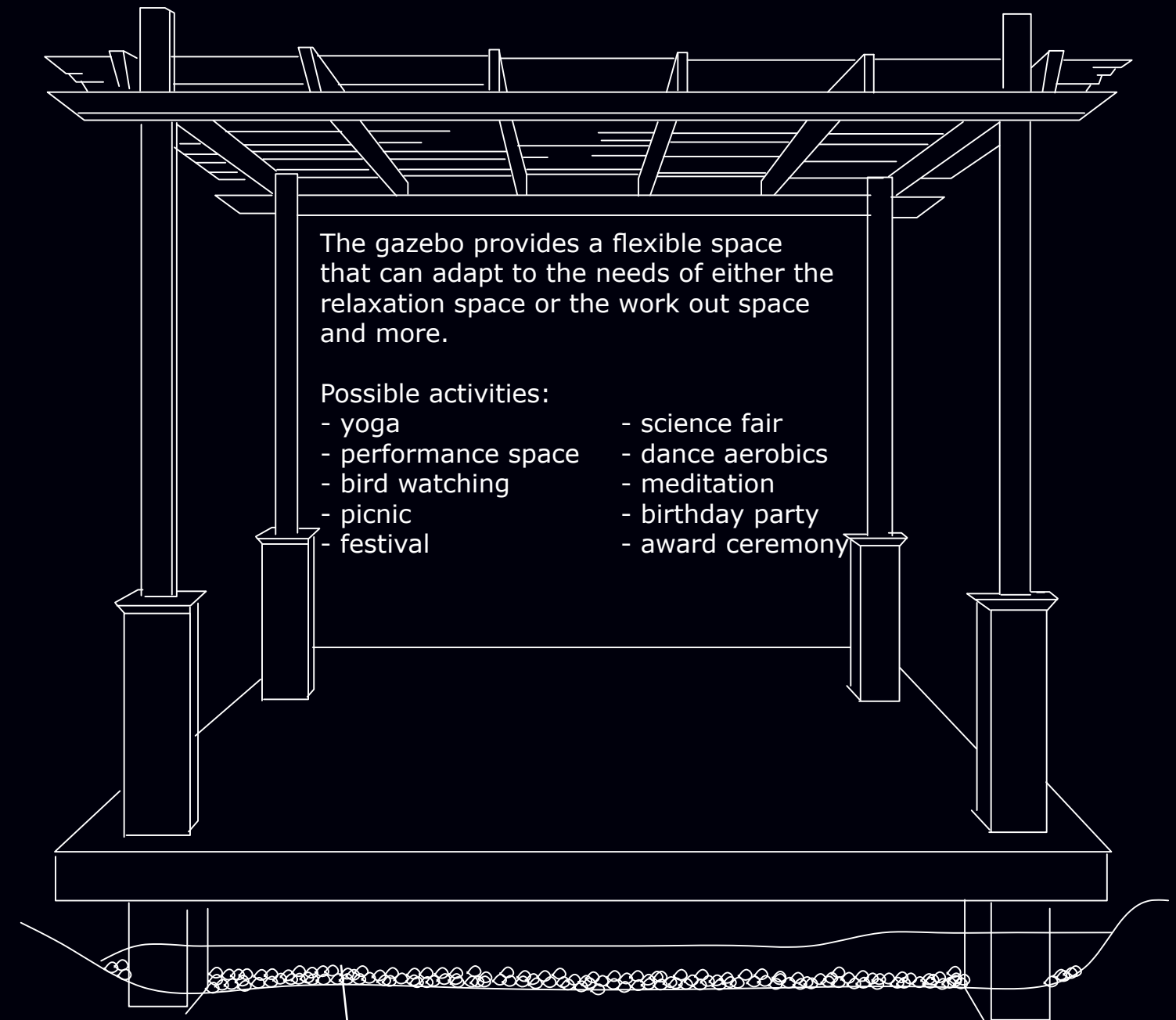
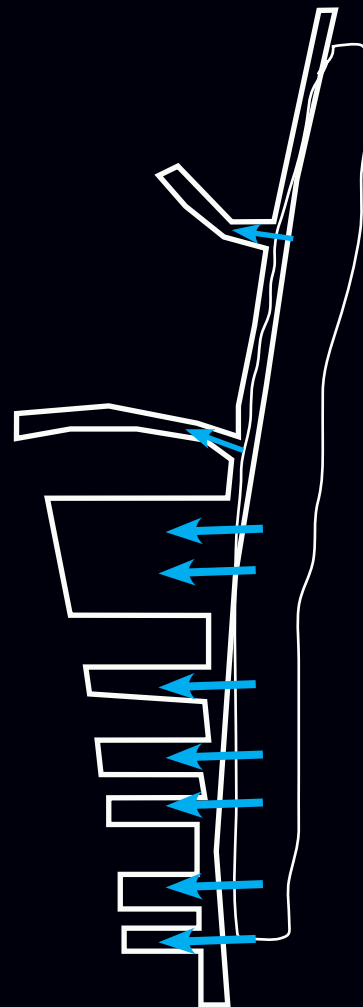
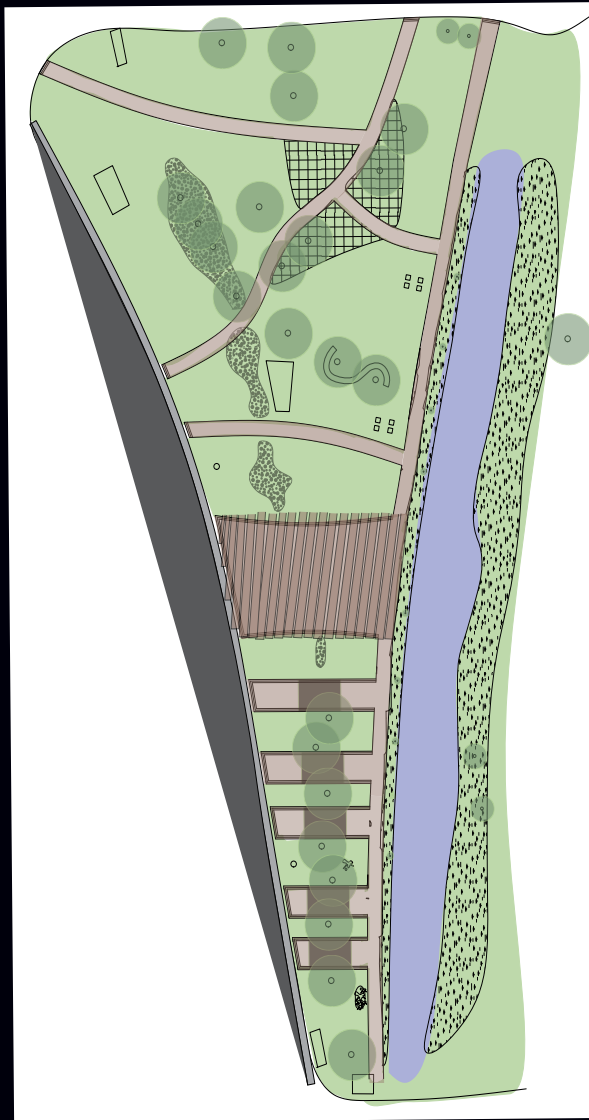
WORKOUT PARK

Water Movement

The boardwalk creates areas that water can move into during a flooding event while maintaining ease of maneuverability and usability of the space during such an event.

Design Considerations/Challenges:

1. Multipurpose Space
2. Weaving boardwalk
3. Challenges: Materials/amount of boardwalk



The gazebo provides a flexible space that can adapt to the needs of either the relaxation space or the work out space and more.

Possible activities:

- yoga
- performance space
- bird watching
- picnic
- festival
- science fair
- dance aerobics
- meditation
- birthday party
- award ceremony

The area underneath the boardwalk can be engineered to be able to handle and guide flooding that will occur in the area

Thanks to all of our partners!



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