

# WANAT PARK DESIGN

Tolland, Connecticut

*A Public-Engaged Park Design Portfolio  
from UConn Landscape Architecture  
Senior Students*

*Fall 2019*



# Acknowledgements

*This design portfolio is a compilation of design work from the University of Connecticut Program of Landscape Architecture senior students in LA Design IV: Community Planning Studio in the Fall semester of 2019 under guidance of Dr. Sohyun Park. A sincere thank you to Heidi Samokar, Director of Planning and Development, and Tolland Conservation Commission members including Donato DiGenova, James Hutton, Richard Merritt, Eugene Koss, Susan Hutton, Valerie Clark, William Kowal, Benjamin Christensen and Keith Podrebartz for providing us the excellent opportunity and financial support for the senior park design project. We are also thankful to Fran Weigand, Beverly Bellody, and other staff members of the Tolland Town Senior Center for providing spaces for community design charrette and final student presentation. We are especially grateful to the Tolland senior citizens who attended design charrette sharing their ideas and participated in the design process. Special thanks also goes to professional jury members including Shavaun Towers of Towers Golde and Nancy King of Seventy Acres, and a special guest, Dr. Gareth Doherty from Harvard University Graduate School of Design who provided students with valuable time and constructive critiques. We would like to extend our sincere esteems to all faculty members of the UConn Landscape Architecture Program including Dr. Richard McAvoy, Prof. Peter Miniutti, Dr. Sungmin Lee, Dr. Mariana Fragomeni, and Prof. Natalie Miniutti for their supportive feedback and constant encouragement for our students. Last but not least, we thank you to a graduate teaching assistant Pan Zhang for her course assistance.*

# WANAT PARK DESIGN

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**December 2019**



# Project Background

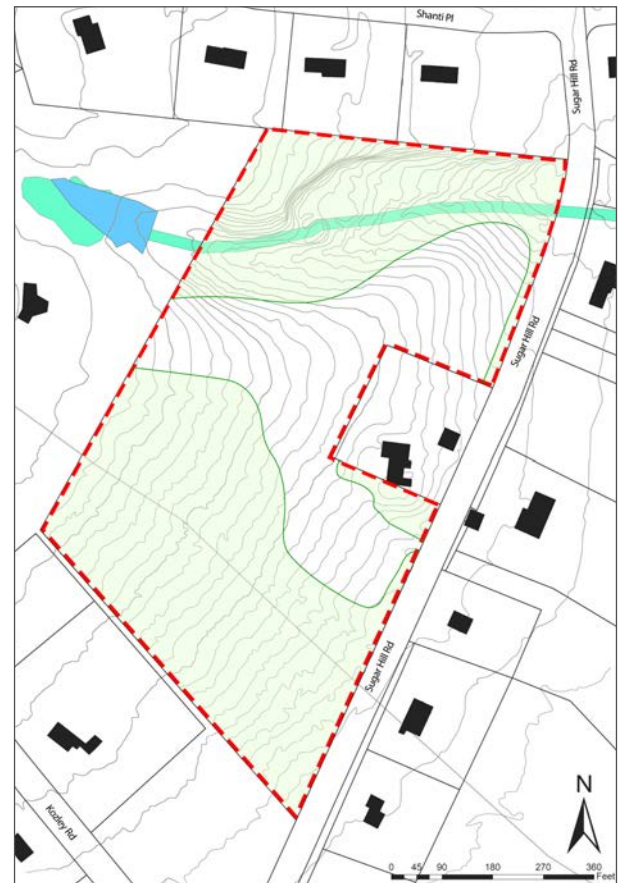
As a community service learning project, the students were tasked to conduct a park design for the property donated by the Wanat family to Town of Tolland. The donation entailed that the property is used for open space and benefits Tolland seniors. The Conservation Commission in Tolland has been partnered with the UConn Landscape Architecture Program to support the project by providing relevant data and information, giving a guided site tour, and coordinating design charrette with senior center members and town residents. Stakeholder engagement was a key component in design process. Students were asked to obtain needs and desire of potential site users of the project site through various methods including community and senior center visits, informal interviews, and design charrette, and to synthesize them as a critical approach to inform design decisions.

## Project Site

Project site is a 13.4-acre property on Sugar Hill Road in Tolland, CT. It is open grass/woodland surrounded by small residential development, a conservation easement parcel to the northwest and the Charter Brook crossing the northern part of the site.

## Design Imperatives

The project was grounded upon the guiding principles of design with nature, ecosystem services, sustainability, resilience, and universal design, to promote the health of both site ecosystem and site users. Design parameters of particular interest include walking paths, landscape improvement, habitats for birds and pollinators, passive recreation and nature education, shade and seating and a small parking area.

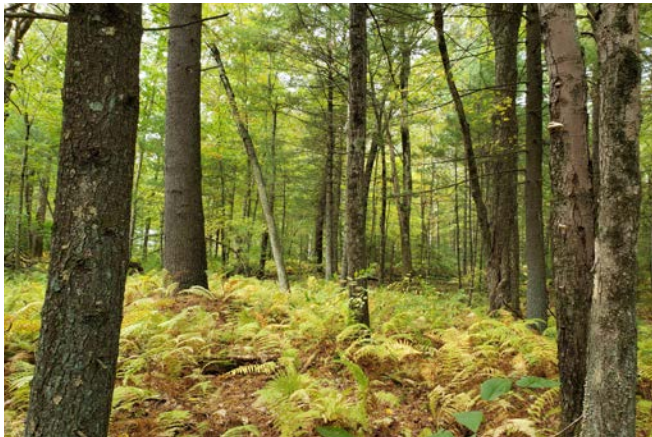


# Site Visit



Site tour guided by Richard Merritt and Eugene Koss from the Town of Tolland Conservation Commission on October 7, 2019.

## Site Features

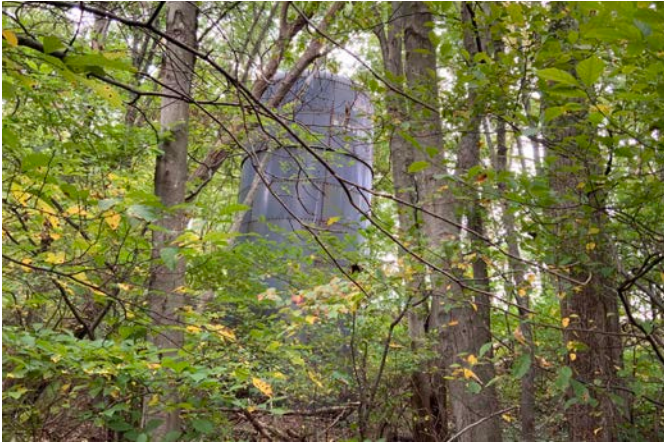


Woodlands taking up about two-thirds of the Wanat land



Open meadows taking up about one-thirds of the Wanat land.





*A large, abandoned water silo hidden in the woods on the northeast side of the property.*



*Student observing and recording the sites in the jungle*



*A dry creek on the northeast side of the property*

# Senior Center Visit

After the site visit, student were given a quick tour of Tolland Senior Center on Oct 7, 2019 guided by Fran Weigand, Director of Senior Center, Beverly Bellody, Director of Human Services and Heidi Samokar, Director of Planning and Development in Town of Tolland. By this tour, students knew more about seniors' lifestyle, recreation preferences and got a chance to be familiar with the design charrette location and work flow.



Fran Weigand, Senior Center Director Introducing Tolland Senior Center history and function to students.



Discussion about design charrette logistics with Beverly Bellody, Director of Human Services and Heidi Samokar, Director of Planning and Development in Town of Tolland.



Social gathering and recreational activities of senior community members at Tolland Senior Center.



Students introducing themselves and the Wanat park project to the senior community members.



# Design Charrette

To engage with residents in the community, a student-led design charrette was held on October 18, 2019. More than 50 people attended the public event brainstorming their ideas about the proposed park and participating in the design process.



↑ Dr. Park and student host Anthony Madore introducing the project and site context to audience

## Help Tolland Plan a Park for Seniors!

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

**Noon to 3 p.m.**

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

**674 Tolland Stage Road (Senior Center)**

Snacks will be provided.

The Tolland Conservation Commission has teamed with the UConn School of Landscape Architecture to generate ideas for a park for seniors. The Town owns a 13-acre property on Sugar Hill Road that was donated by the Wanat family a number of years ago. The donation entailed that the property is used for **open space and benefits Tolland seniors.**

Join us for a hands-on session where attendees will work with the UConn students to generate ideas for this property. All ages are welcome!

Based on the results, the Town will explore viable options for this important property.

If you can't attend but have ideas, please email [conservation@tolland.org](mailto:conservation@tolland.org) or call 860-871-3601.

Wanat Property, Sugar Hill Road



↑ The flyer made by Town of Tolland for the design charrette.

↓ Group photo of design charrette







# Final Public Presentation

After two-month dedicated work, students brought their design projects and presented to Tolland residents at Tolland Senior Center in the evening of December 4. More than 30 participants came to the event and a lot of positive feedback were gained from the residents.



*Class group photo at the end of the event*



*Student Scheba Derogene introducing her work to the residents during the poster exhibition session*



*Student Allison Cassella presenting her work to the residents*



*UConn PSLA Department Head Dr. Richard McAvoy, UConn CAHNR Associate Dean for Outreach Michael P.O'Neill, Course Instructor Dr. Sohyun Park and Chair of Tolland Conservation Commission Donato DiGenova (Left to Right)*



*Student Yao Li introducing her work to the residents during the poster exhibition session*



# 01

## Vision of Elders Park

Allison Cassella

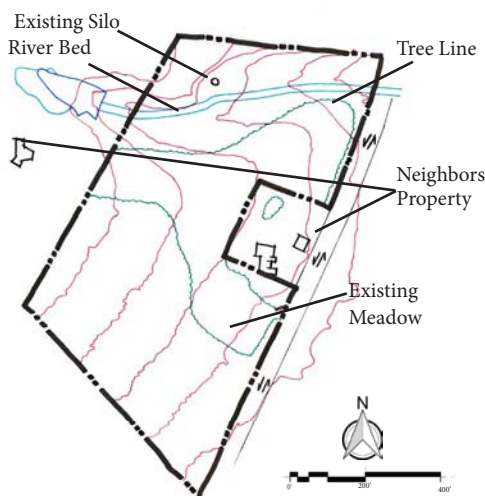


### PROJECT STATEMENT

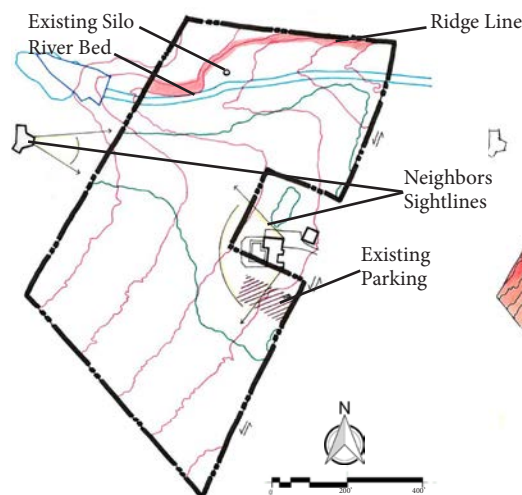
The project program is a quaint and safe environment that facilitates socialization and physical activity of members within the senior community. By creating a location with multiple levels of involvement and interaction for users the site can cater to physically impaired persons as well as more able bodied persons. The Design creates intrigue with the historic physical aspects that exist on site while adding new features to fully capitalize on the flora and fauna that already populate the lot. Interventions were implemented that attempt to make this site fulfill its current and future purpose of natural beauty and be completely accessible to all who wish to use.

### ANALYSIS

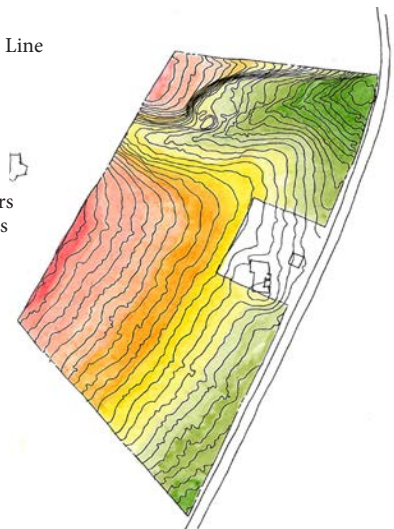
When analyzing the site I found that the Northwest portion of the land had a lot of interest that I wanted to capitalize on: the ridgeline, silo, and streambed. Developing social spaces in the Northwest while maintaining the natural aspects of the Southern half of the site was the focus of my overall design.



Site Inventory



Site Analysis

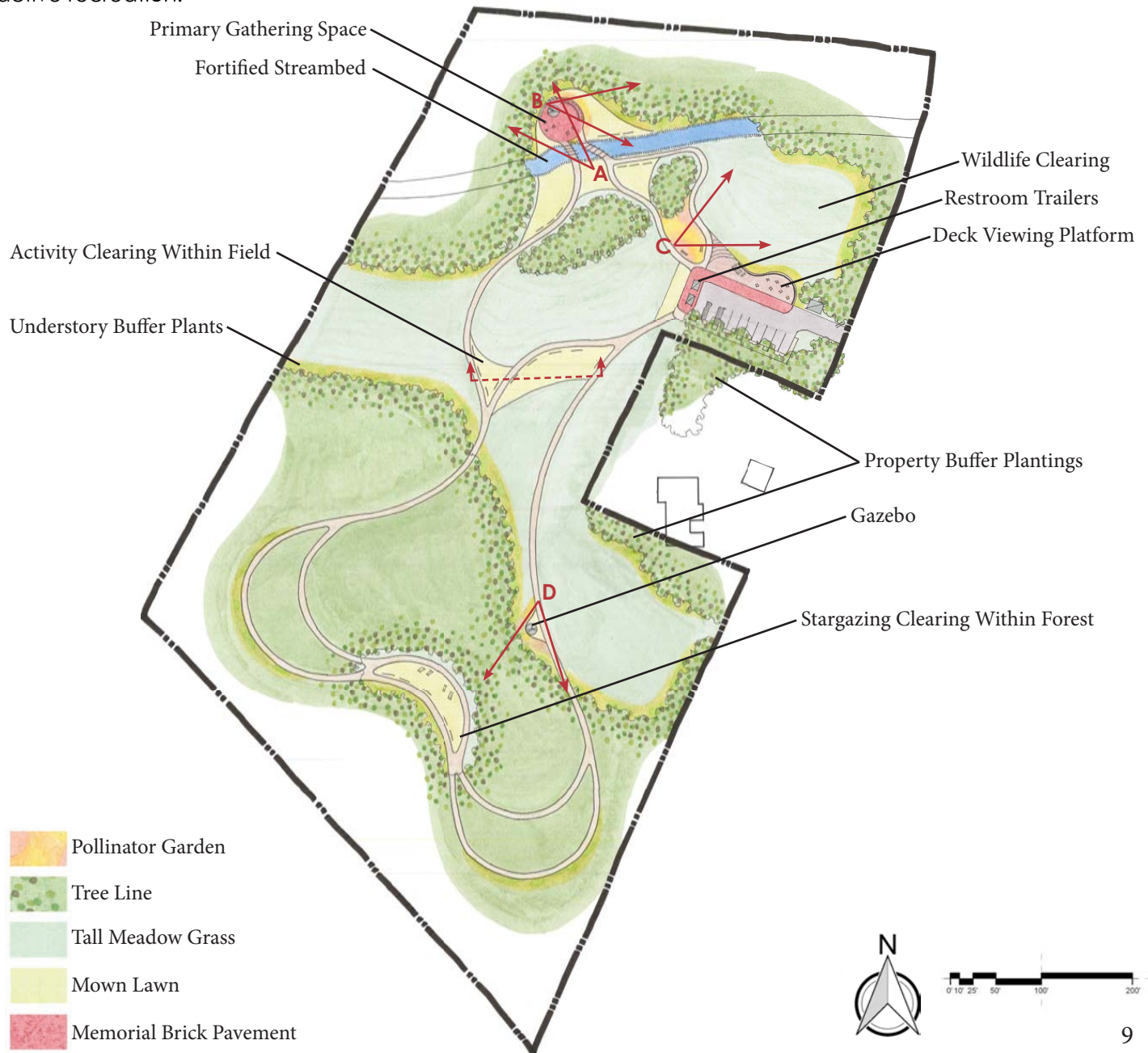


Elevation

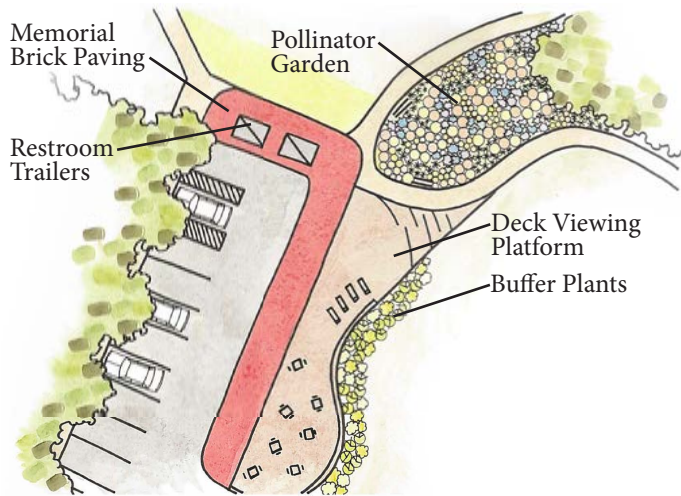


## SITE PLAN

Formal and Informal gathering spaces are both present within this project. Shown through the brick paved and decked passive gathering spaces and the clearings are bordered by tall grasses or forest to enclose areas for active recreation.



## DESIGN DIAGRAM/ENLARGEMENTS



Parking Lot Enlargement



Intended Perspective Views

## SECTION



Section of Clearing, 1" = 10'



## 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Rendered Perspectives



# 02

## Wanat Wildlife & Nature Observation Park

Robert Collins



### PROJECT STATEMENT

The project program is a nature and wildlife observation park. Giving senior citizens and Tolland residents memorable interactions with the sites, wildlife and woodland-controlled areas through the use of ADA trails, hiking trails and strategically placed observation points are related to the sites natural viewsheds. The Design replays the historical footprint with the existing meadow while incorporating a node-based reward trail system designed to guide users through the site, and ultimately leads them to the best views and observation points. Incorporating color into the site through the use of a breaking grid of flowering trees with three sections keeps the color moving towards the heart of the meadow area through the spring and summer months.

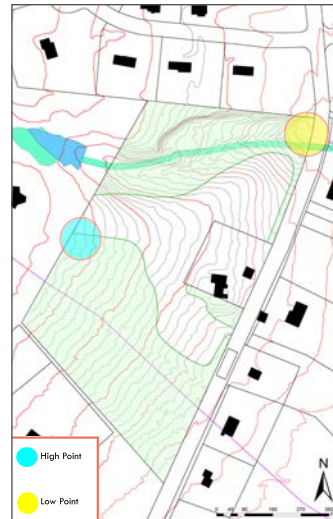
### ANALYSIS



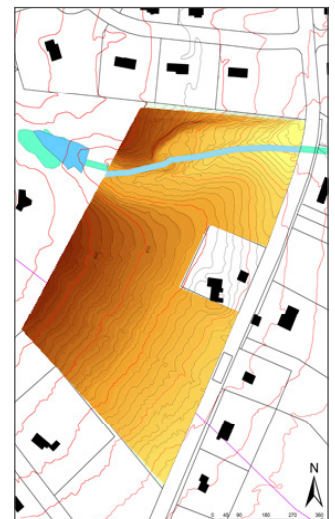
Sun path & Viewshed



Site Geometry



High & Low Points



Elevation



## SITE PLAN



## 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Hand-drawing Perspectives

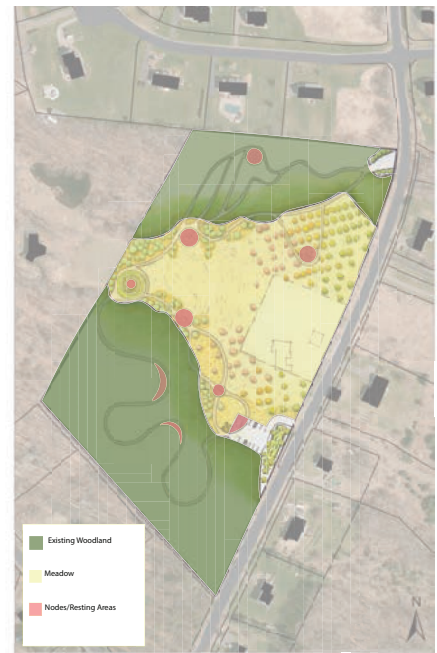
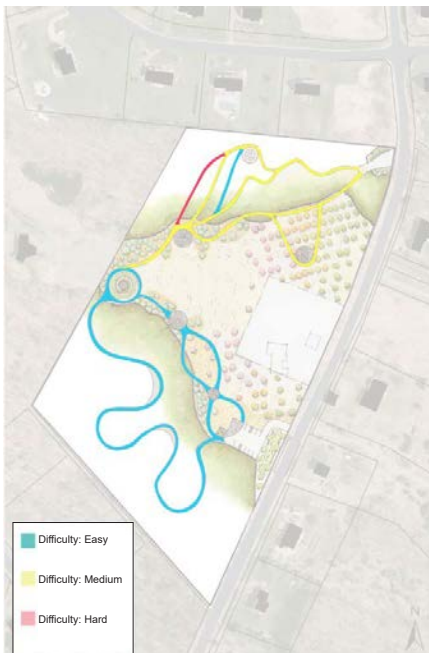


A Walk Through Meadow Grass



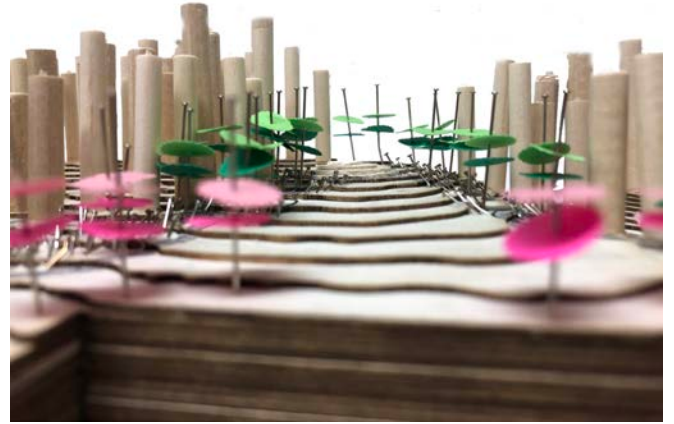
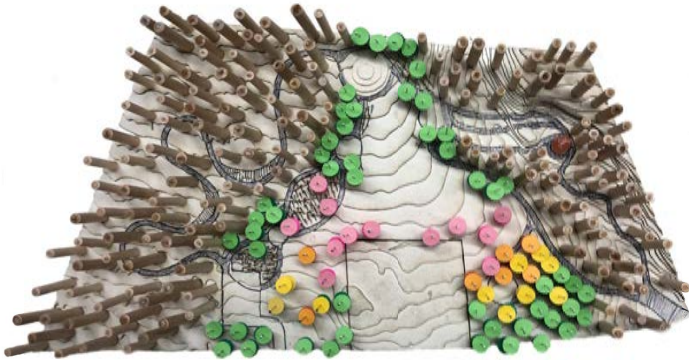
Bridge Over Dry Stream

## DESIGN DIAGRAMS





### 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Physical model photos



SECTIONS

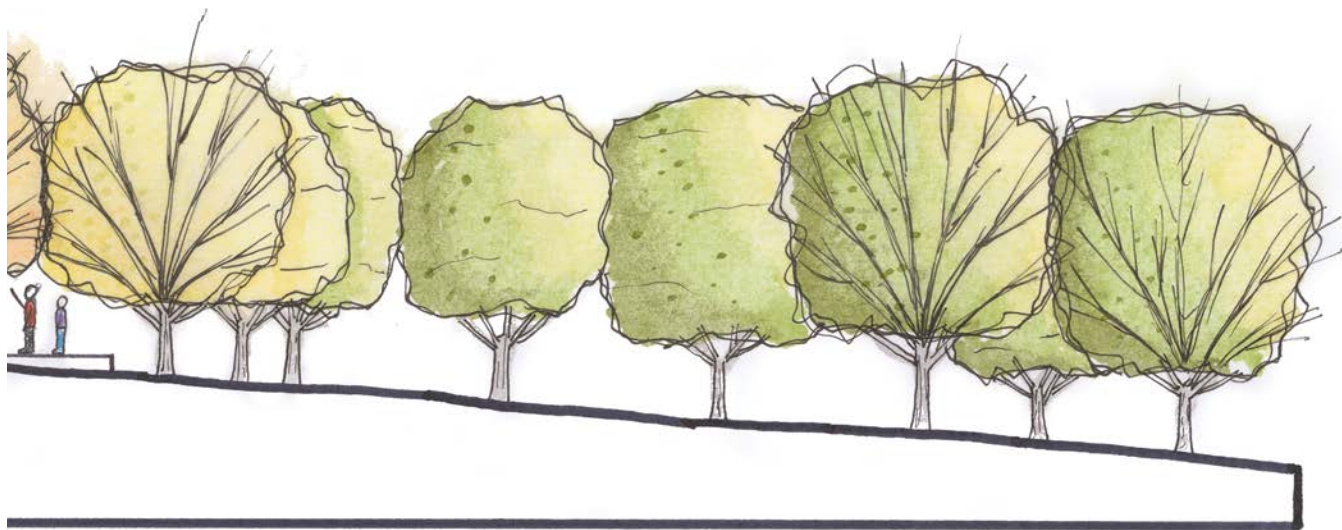
Viewing Mound, 1"=5'



Flowering Tree Orchard, 1"=5'







# 03

## SILO TRAILHEAD PARK

Daniel D'Angelo

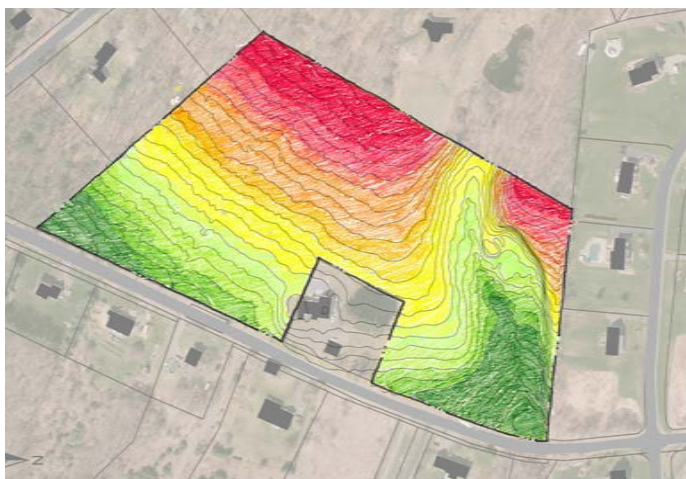


### PROJECT STATEMENT

The project program is a cultural, memorable and sustainable walking park intended for the senior citizen community in Tolland, CT. This park includes three different walking options for the users to enjoy. The primary path is the easiest to navigate with ADA compliant pathways as well as bird feeders to attract native bird species to the existing ecosystem. The secondary pathway is intended for moderately active seniors celebrating the beauty of the existing pastures drumlin like terrain and viewsheds. As well as a hiking trail for Tolland's most active seniors that dives deep into the existing forest, undulating over the untouched terrain while also getting to experience the opportunities of the other pathways along the way.

### ANALYSIS

The existing conditions of this site consisted of a steady incline in elevation throughout most of the site with a steeper portion existing at the far north end. The existing silo and viewsheds of the pasture are opportunities that can be celebrated through design.



Elevation Analysis



Site Analysis



# SITE PLAN



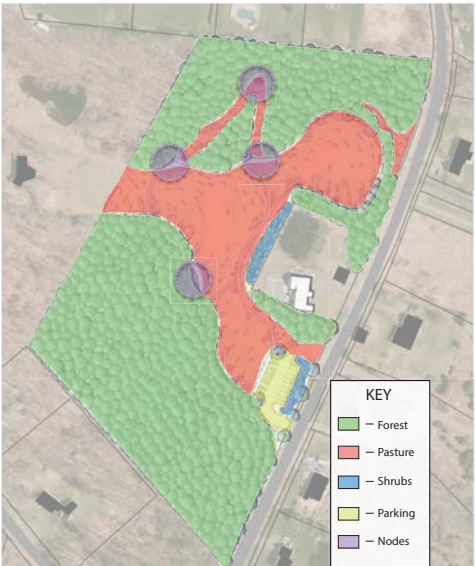
DESIGN DIAGRAMS



Trail System Diagram



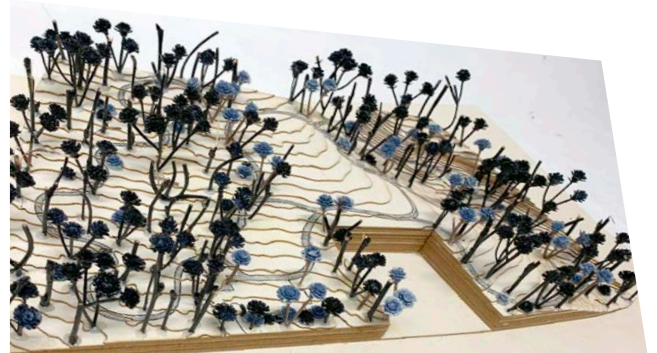
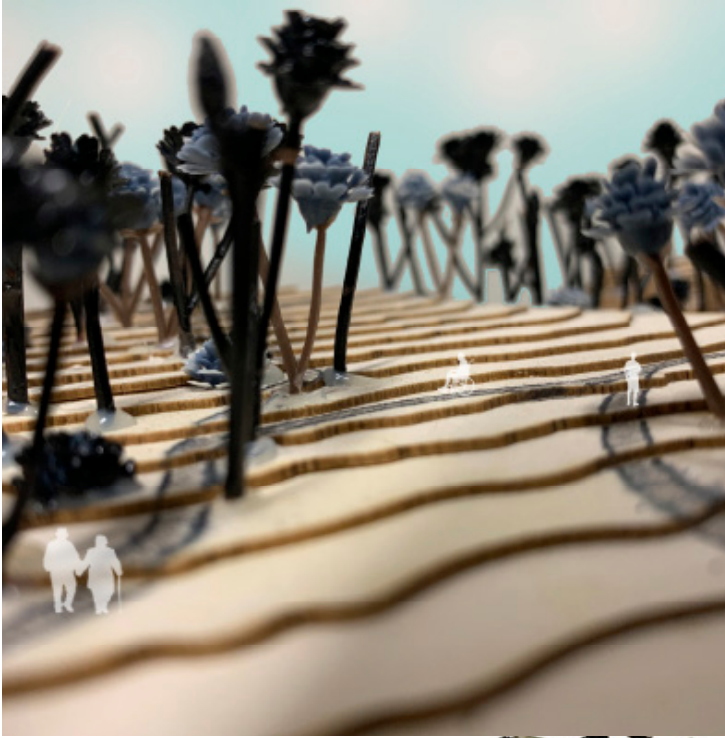
Planting Diagram



Design Diagram

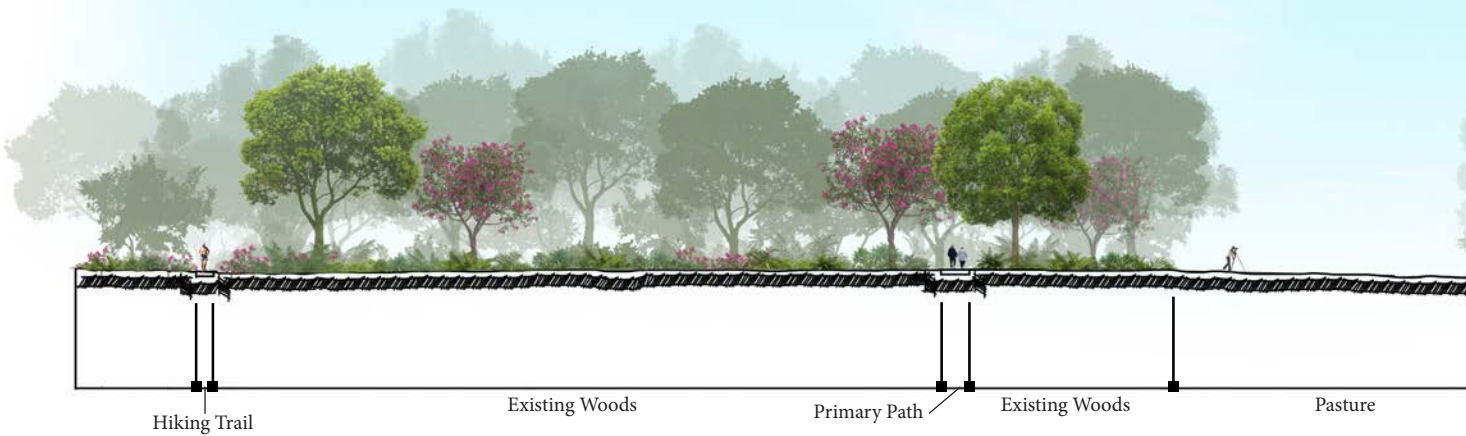


### 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Physical Model Photos

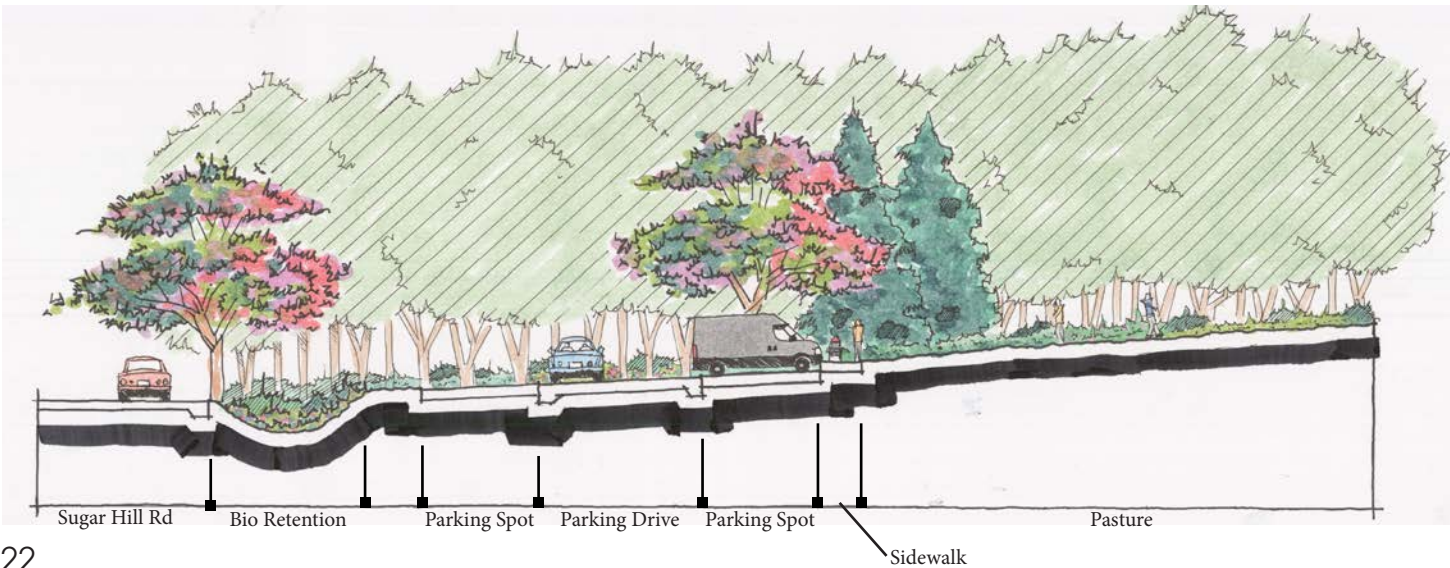


# DESIGN SECTIONS AND ENLARGEMENT

Section AA, 1" = 20'



Section BB, 1" = 10'

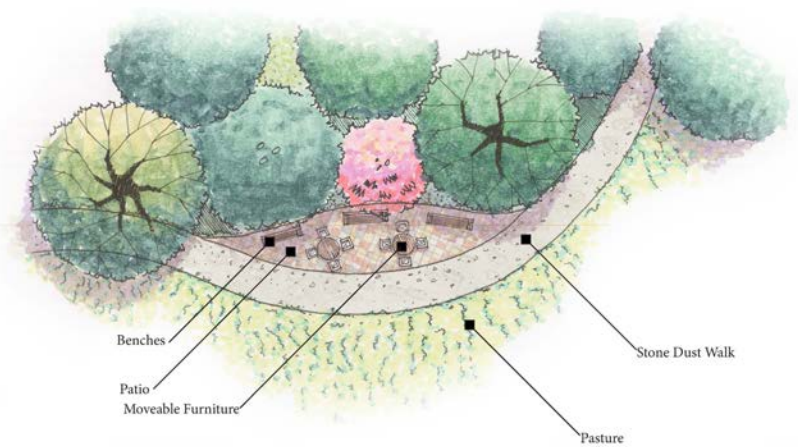






Section Cut Diagram

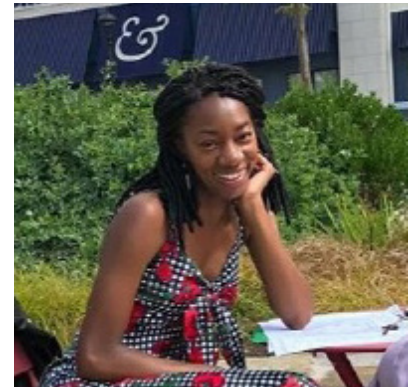
Patio Enlargement, 1" = 10'



# 04

## Gears of Wanat

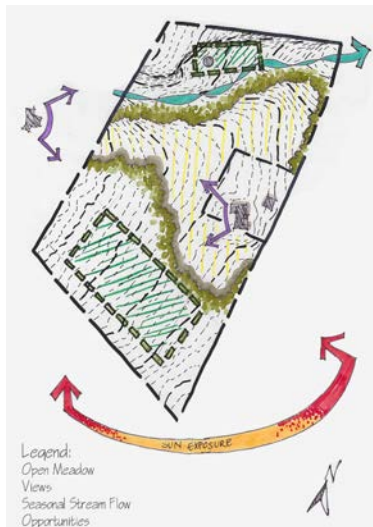
### Scheba Derogene



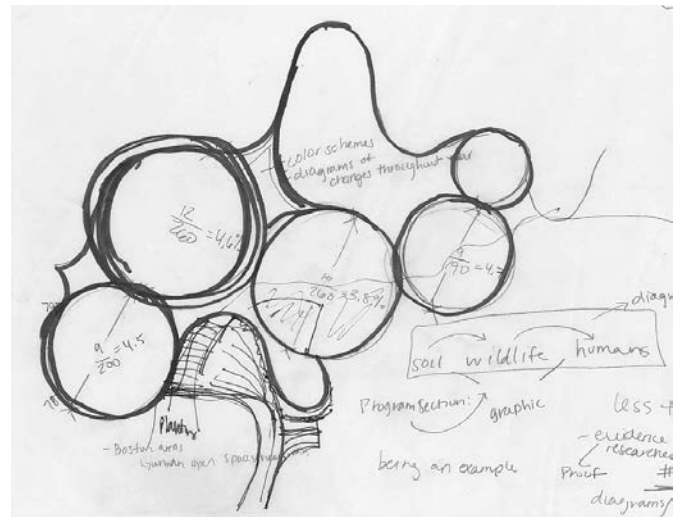
#### PROJECT STATEMENT

Helen Wanat was a resident in the town of Tolland that donated a piece of land which ultimately serves to provide an open and inclusive space for the senior citizens of Tolland, and the rest of the public, for inclusivity. With trails that mimic wheels on a tractor or gears working together, the mind and body of pedestrians and hikers are stimulated when interacting with the landscape. Visitors come in contacting with nature by using trail systems which contain stopping points to encourage community gathering and leisure. Vegetation varies throughout the park to allow landscape to nurture and care for the users. Colors, scents and wildlife are all parts of the park and strive to provide the naturesque feel for the visitors. Find the flowering sanctuary to find your inner peace.

#### ANALYSIS - 1" = 50'



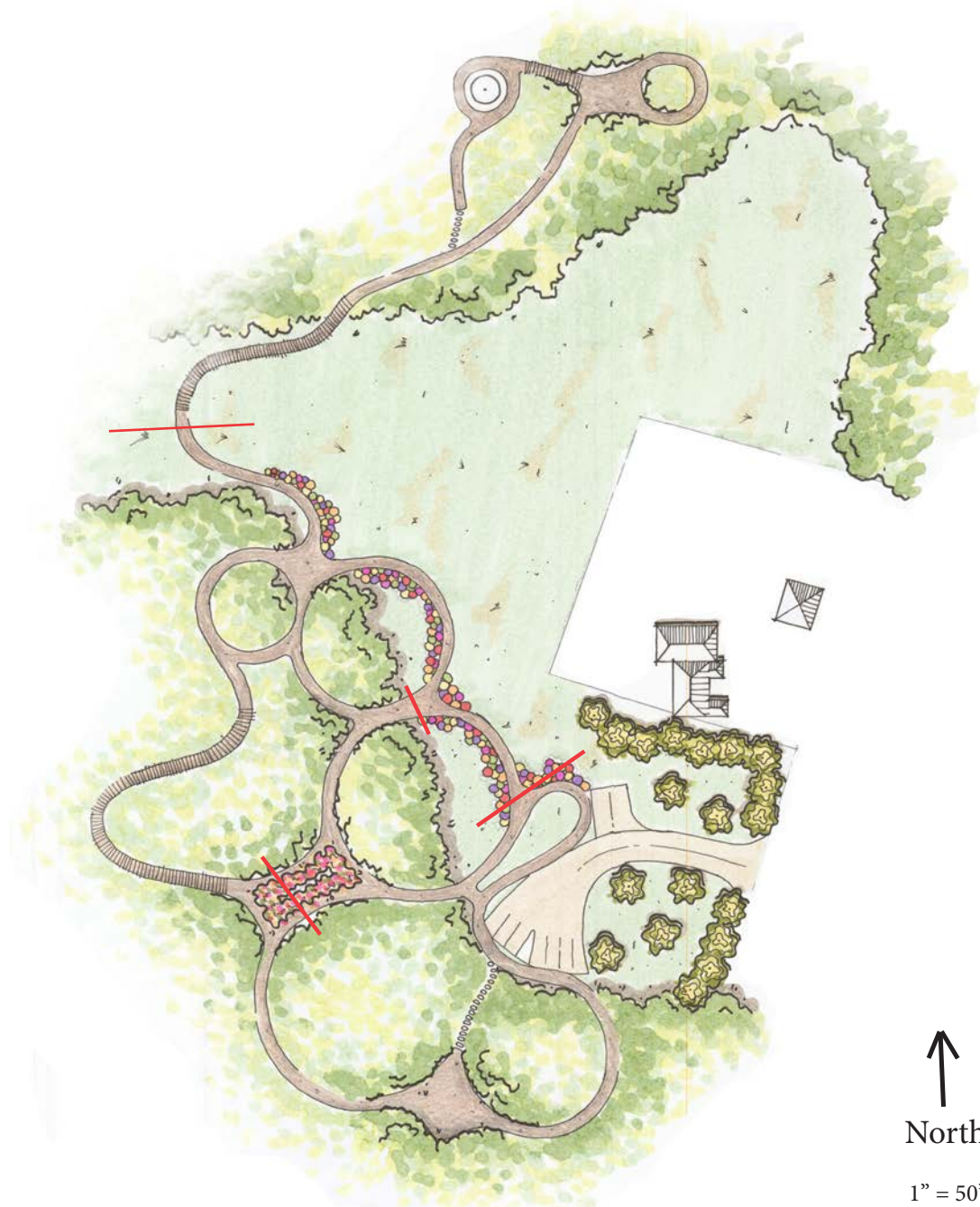
Site Analysis and Inventory



Graphic Thinking



# SITE PLAN



↑  
North  
1" = 50'

## SECTIONS



Sanctuary

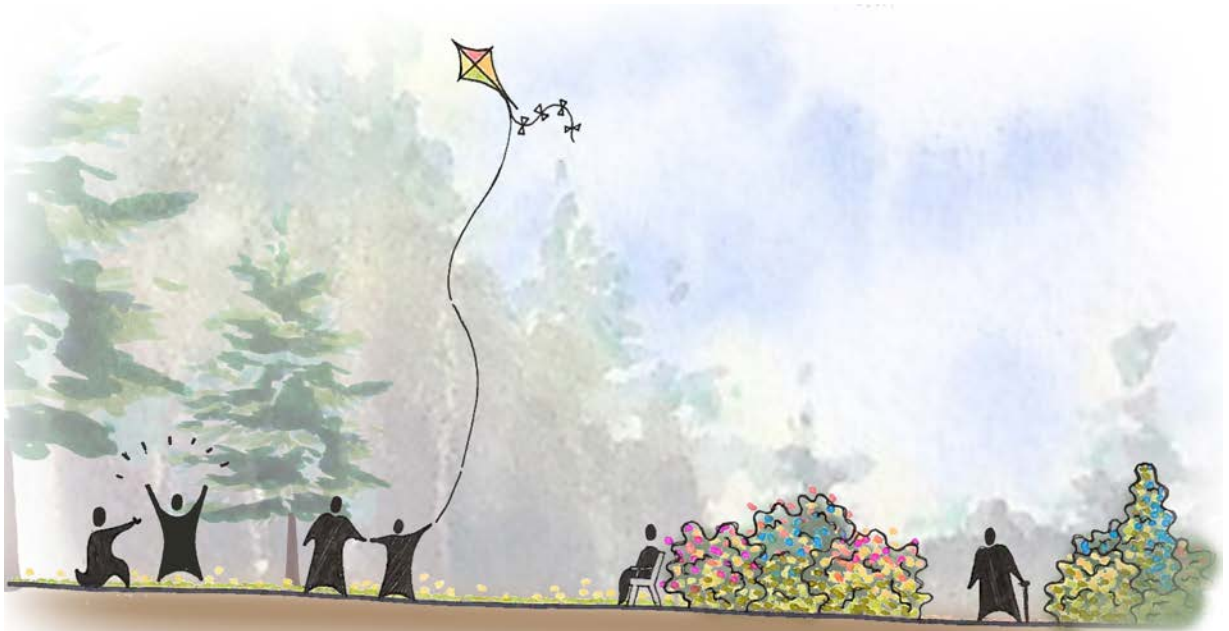
1" = 5'



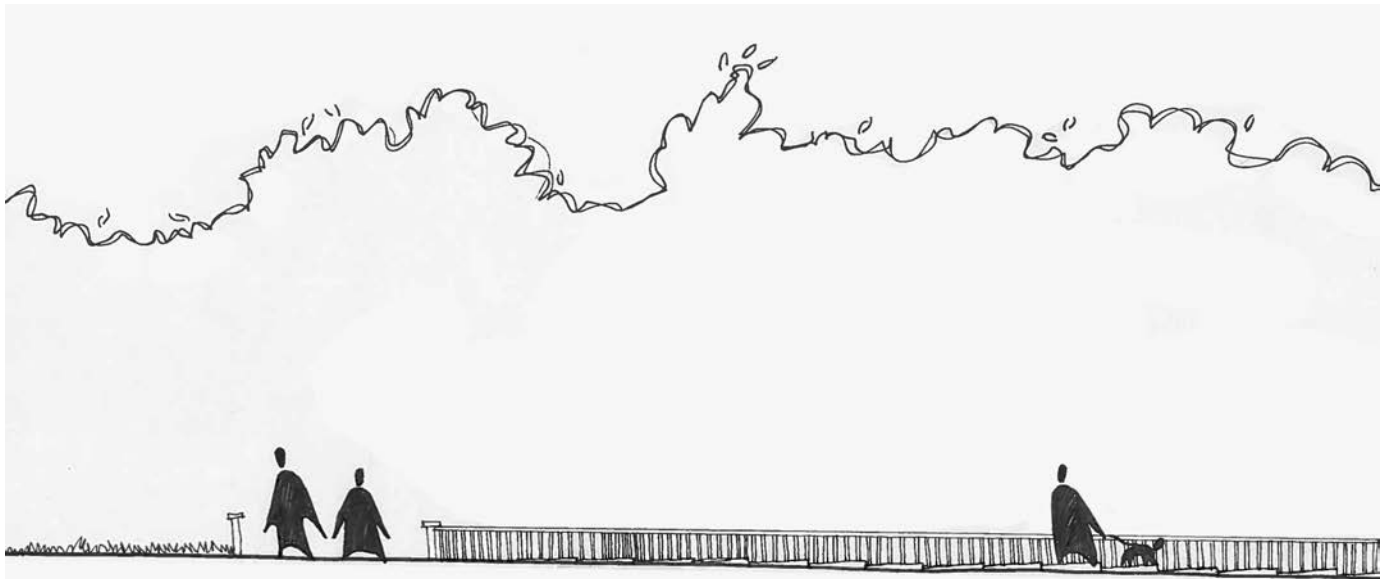
Section in Winter

1" = 5'





Picnic Area



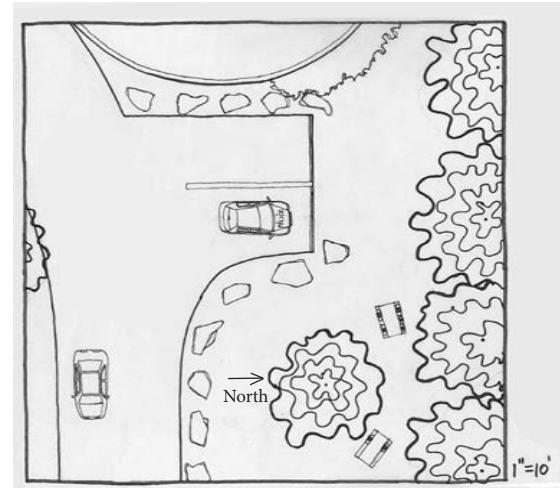
Top of hill with stairs section

1" = 5'

## DESIGN DIAGRAM/ENLARGEMENTS



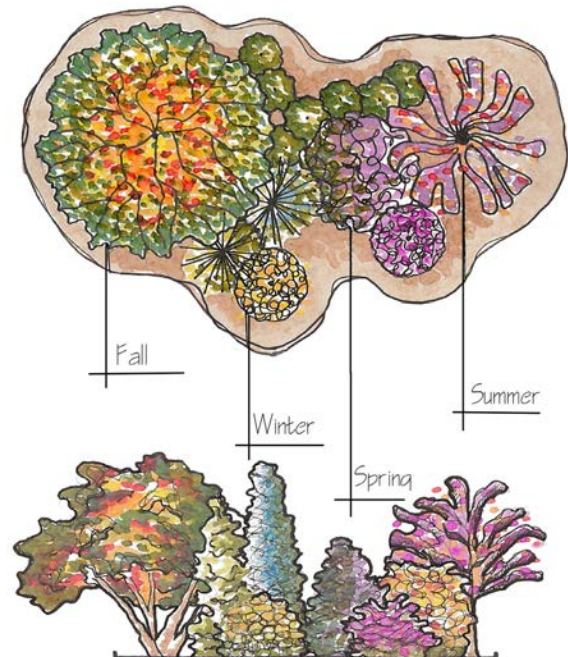
Inspiration diagram of gears and wheels



An enlargement of the Park entrance



Trail Types



This graphic represents some of the plants that will give the Wanat site, a multi-season interest through the seasons.



## 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Rendered Perspectives

*Different perspective views within the site*





# 05

## Peripheral Scenery

Moises Hernandez-Rivera

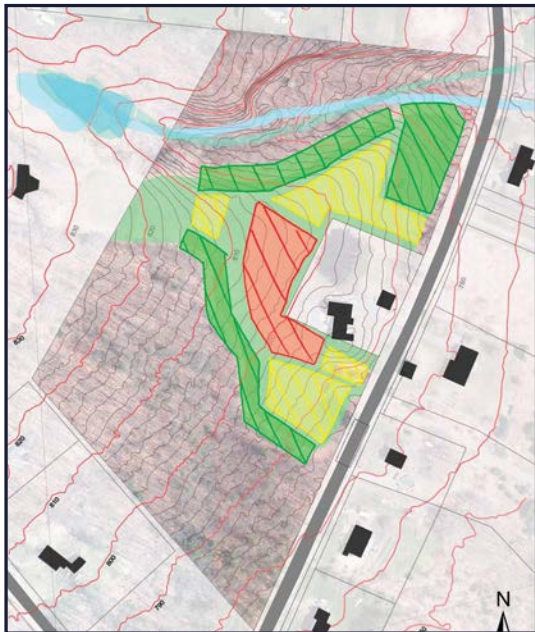


### PROJECT STATEMENT

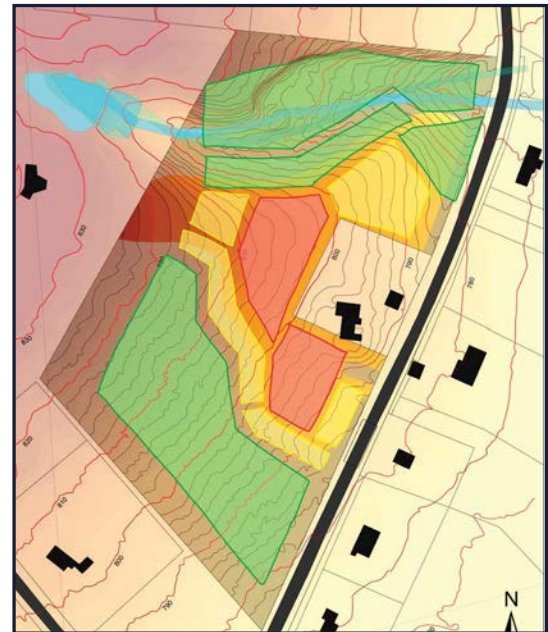
A proper park must be a welcoming yet discrete environment, users should be able to have a novel experience **within** the park, the periphery should strive to blend into its environment with its arms held out for all to come and discover the gem that hides within.

### ANALYSIS

The primary focus were designing the viewsheds so as to not intrude and using the topography and paths to maintain high accessibility standards.



Visual Exposure v.s. Vegetation



Visual Exposure v.s. Topography



SITE PLAN



# DESIGN DIAGRAMS

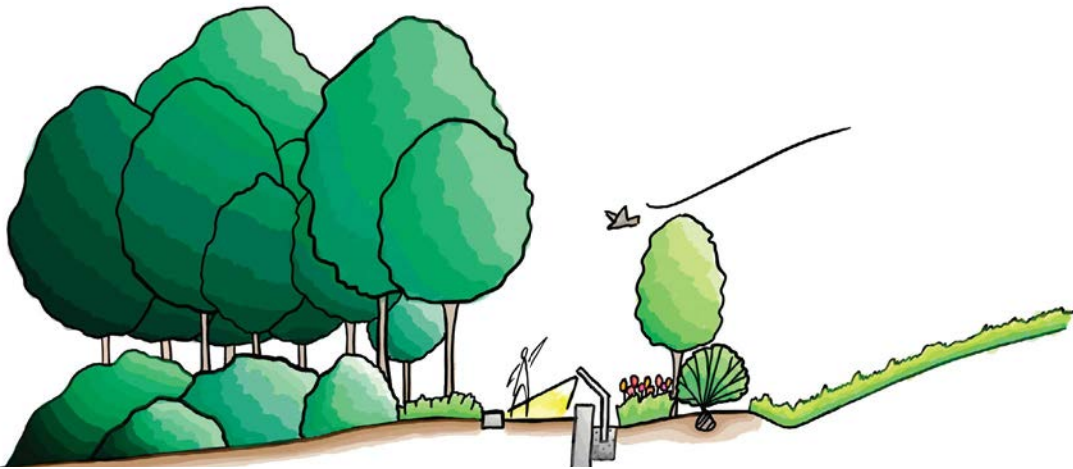
Paths



Vegetation

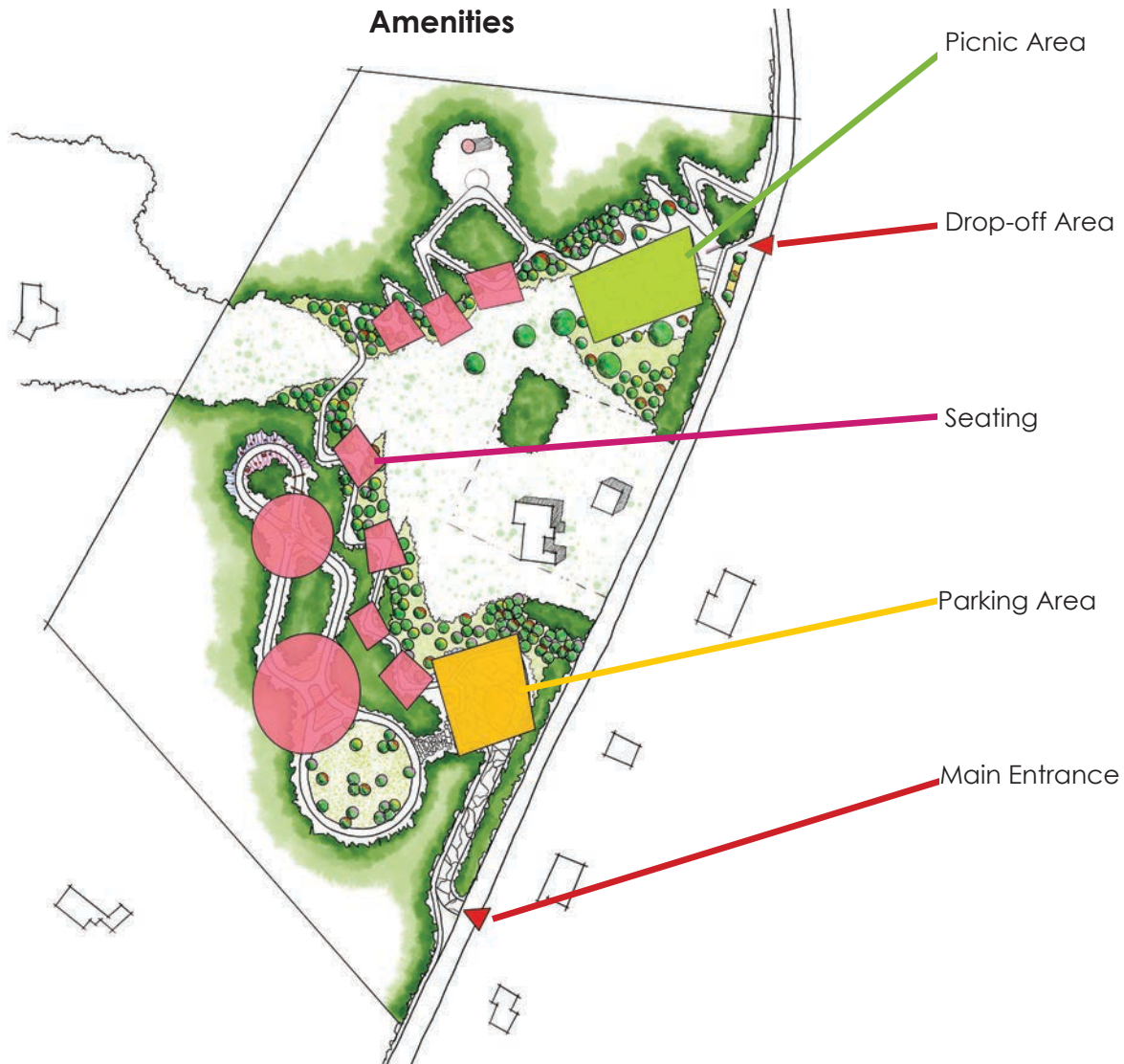


# SECTION



This section illustrates a typical cut through the landscape showing the screening and potential lighting features.





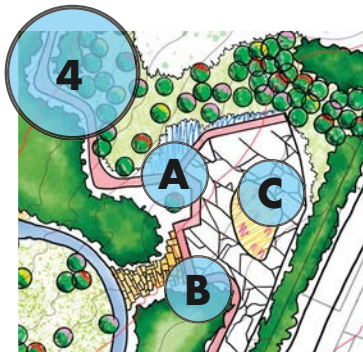
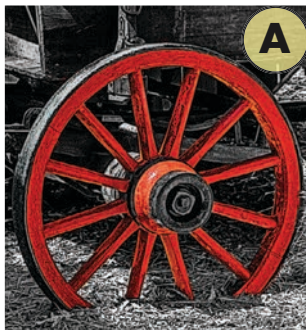
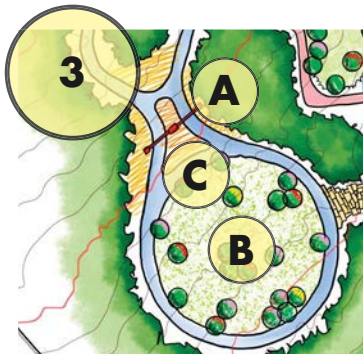
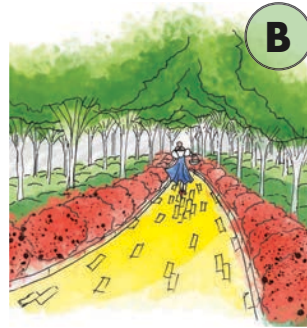
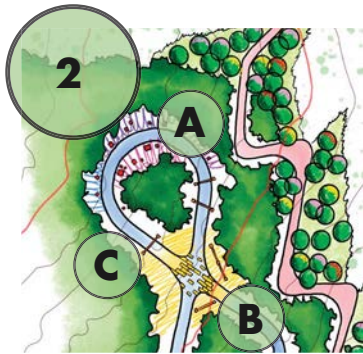
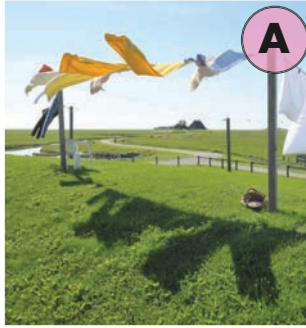
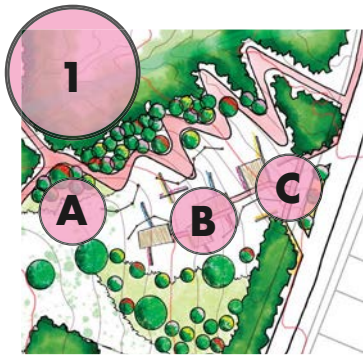
## Story

The site evokes memories and emotions from a number of historical realities and cultural artifacts that live within the forest and picnic area. Some key elements are a giant red wagon wheel that you can walk under along with giant overhanging wooden farm fences as you take your very own journey along the yellow brick road. The picnic area is home to giant clothes lines that wind through its many walled farm fields which serve as small plots for furniture and people to populate them.

# Character Map Key







# 06

## Hidden Tree Hike

Garry Joseph

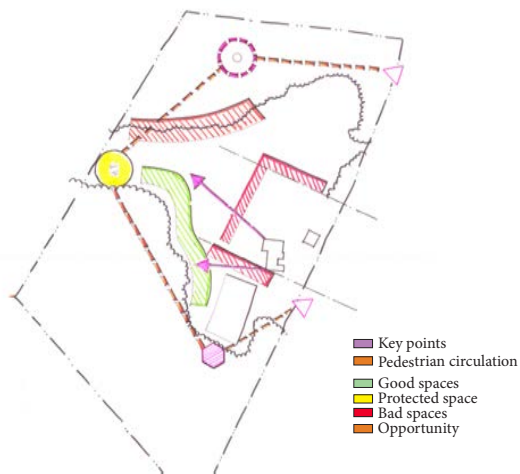


### PROJECT STATEMENT

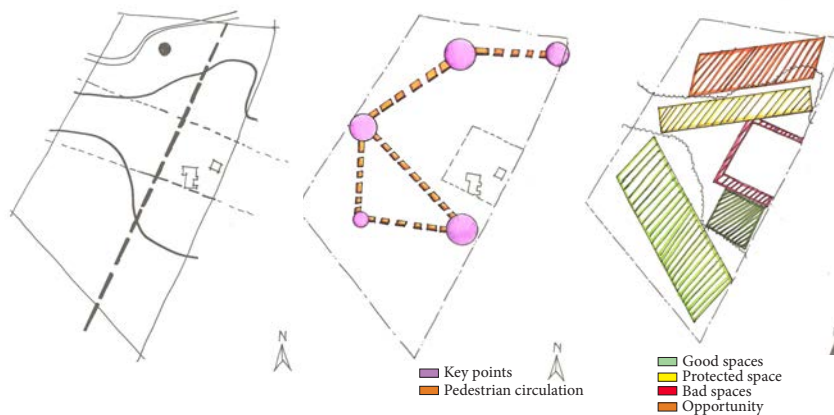
The program for this project was to create a memorable park using key characteristics of the site which are enhanced with different spaces along a main ADA compliant trail giving the user a safe and unique experience. This design gives the users trails with different skill levels and each trail has distinct features. You can find edible fruits, historical structures, culminating spaces and enhanced views of the site to give the user a satisfying experience.

### ANALYSIS

The key features in the analysis of the site were based on key points, spaces, views and site geometry. These studies helped push the design and create a more unified park.



Summary Site Analysis



Geometric, Circulation, Spatial Analysis



## SITE PLAN

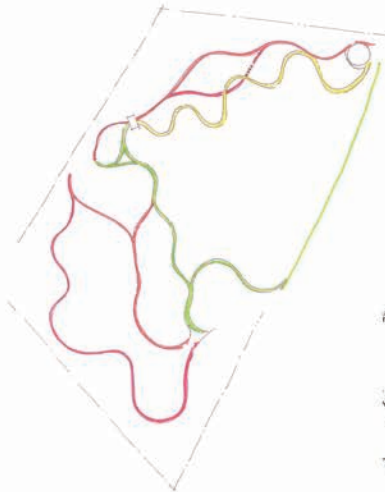


## ENLARGEMENT



Private Spaces 1=10"

## DESIGN DIAGRAM



ADA and Non ADA  
Compliant trails system

## SECTIONS

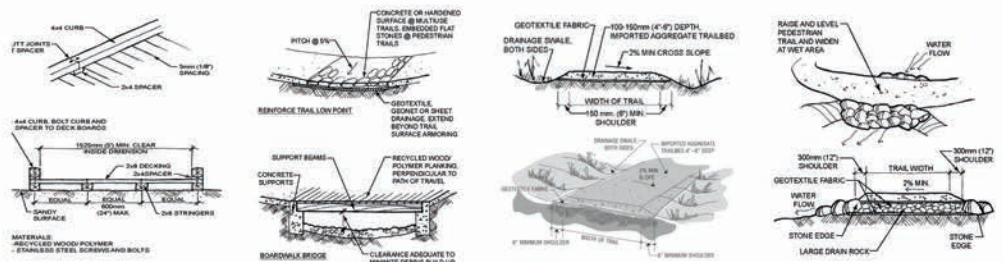


Entrance

Inviting space is created in the parking lot to provide a clear gateway for the users to use as an entrance for the park and the different trails systems. Multi-season interest plants are planted to make that space feel inviting all year long.



Tree Walk



Trail Details



### 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Physical Model Perspectives



# 07

## Wanat Sculpture Park

Joshua LeBaron



### PROJECT STATEMENT

The program for the park is two fold, creating interest through the implementation of art and using the naturalistic elements to keep the site dynamic and grounded. There will be hiking trails for people of all abilities with plenty of places to stop and rest and soak in the gardens and pollinators attracted by the gardens. To attract more wildlife an orchard will be implemented just for the birds of Connecticut. throughout the site and in the gardens will be wood sculptures depicting great tree men.

### ANALYSIS

The analysis indicates the importance of the viewsheds of the neighbors and the views produced by the center of the hill. Being on the center of the hill gives great viewsheds over the meadow, the entrance and water tower. The slope analysis dictates that occupying the southern side of the site is advantageous in terms of cost efficiency.

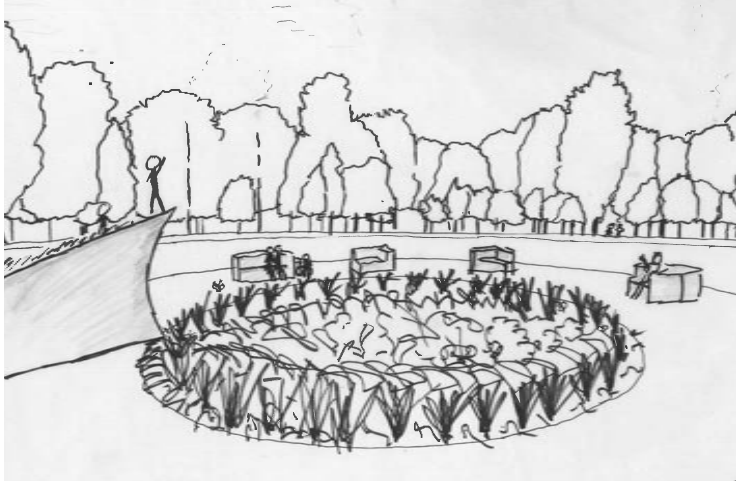




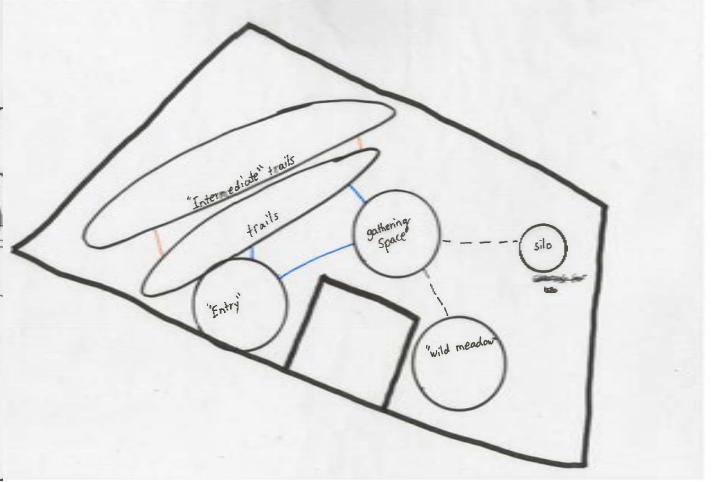
## SITE PLAN



## DESIGN DIAGRAMS



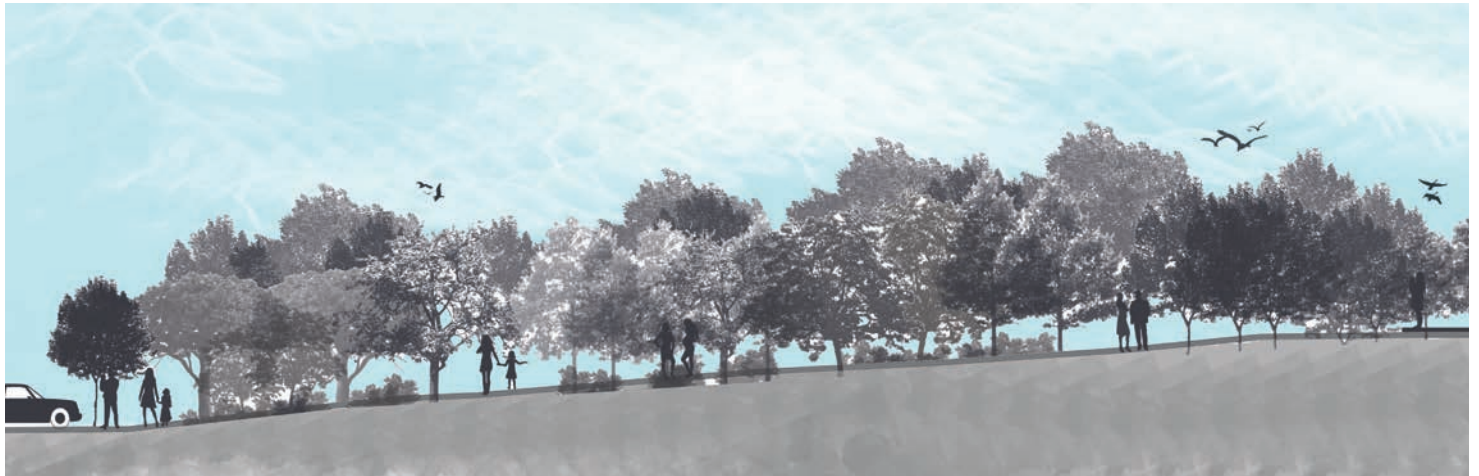
Rock Garden Perspective



Bubble Diagram

## SECTION

This is a section depicting the walk from the parking lot to the viewing deck. The path plays with the edge of the forest as it goes in and out of the tree line you get views of both the gardens and the meadow.



Section 1-1'



## 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Rendered Perspectives

### Rock Garden

*The southern portion of the woods has a cored out gathering space featuring a circular garden. In the rock garden is rock seating and pollinator garden in the center as well as a large rock people to stand on. The grass surrounding the space is also gently sloped and suitable for stargazing.*



### Viewing Deck

*Near the center of the hill is a viewing deck just on the cusp of the forested area. The viewing deck looks over many of the amenities outside of the woods. The first is the orchard down site of it. The next is the water tower which should poke out of the woods across the meadow. Lastly it overlooks the meadow, viewing deck, and orchard-featured birdhouses.*

### Woodland Gardens

*Lastly the woodland gardens can be found just off the trails in the southern portion of the site. These little cored out spaces feature seating space and a pollinator garden. Inside each garden is a wood sculpture depicting tree men in the woods.*



# 08

## Universal Design Park

Yao Li



### PROJECT STATEMENT

This site is located in Tolland Connecticut and was donated by Helen Wanat. I have converted this piece of land into a universally designed park, aimed towards senior citizens, but can also be occupied by the rest of the public. This park will contain and provide seating and picnic areas, the trees will provide shade for the bright and sunny days, there are lights placed throughout the park for safety and optimized vision, and most importantly there are handicap accessible trails for light recreation and human interaction with nature. The open lawn at the center of the site is untouched but maintained to preserve the wildlife habitat. The lawn space also serves as a grand family and community gathering space. In many ways, the historic value within the site is maintained by not drastically altering the open lawn or meadow area.

### ANALYSIS



Viewshed Analysis



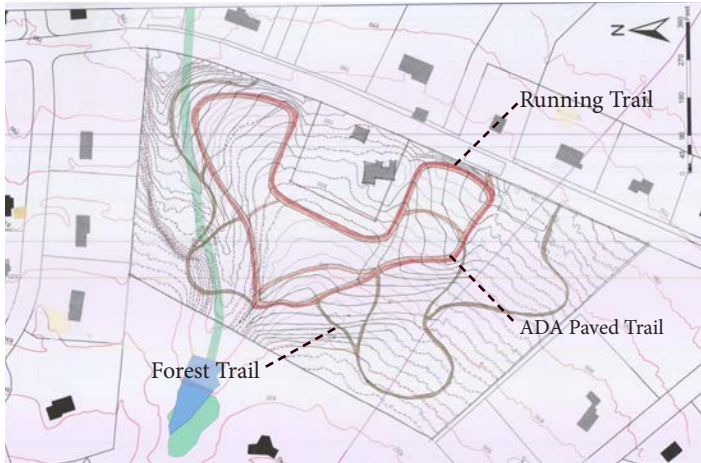
Site Analysis



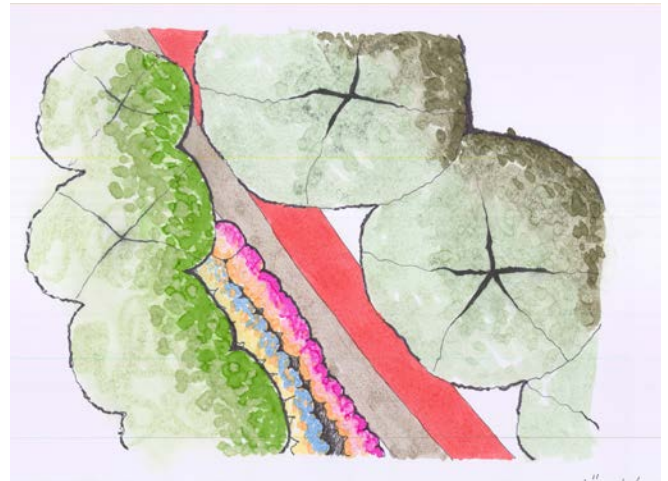
SITE PLAN



## DESIGN DIAGRAM/ENLARGEMENTS



Trail Diagram

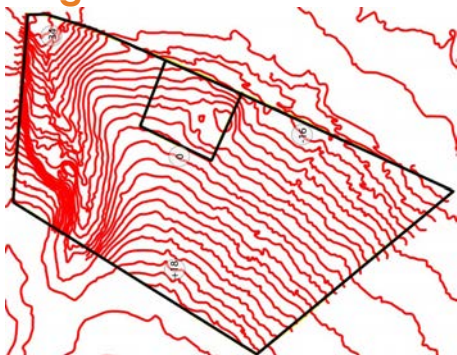


Running trails and ADA paved Trails under trees,  
Flowering beds on the left side of paved trails

## SECTION

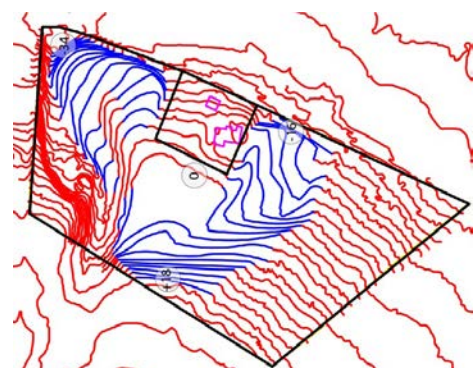


## Site Grading



Existing

2ft contours



Proposed

2ft contours



### 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Rendered Perspectives



*Running Trails under trees, Flowering beds next to ADA trails. People who is on the wheelchairs can touch and see flowers.*



*Seatings under trees*



*Seatings inside the flowering vine corridor*

# 09

## Wanat Community Park

Anthony Madore

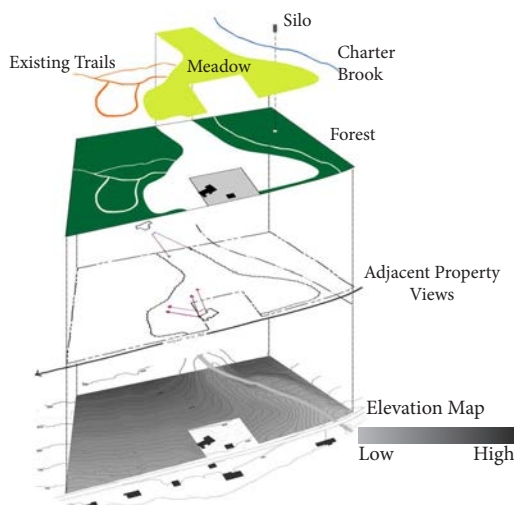


### PROJECT STATEMENT

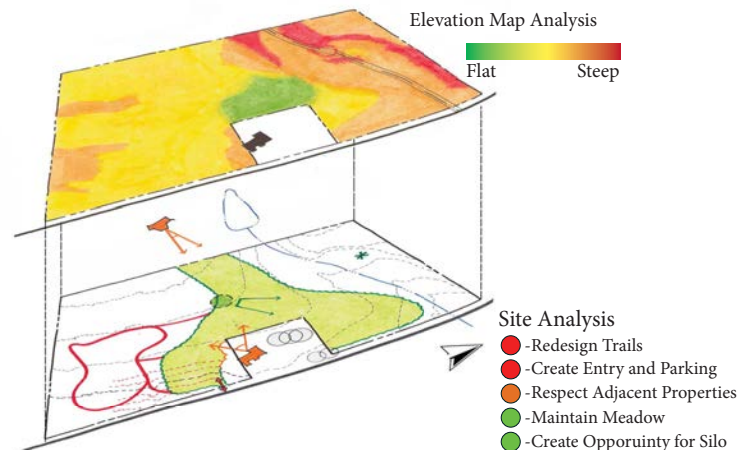
The goal of this project is to turn Wanat Park into a peaceful outdoor destination for the Tolland community while respecting adjacent private properties. This project takes advantage of the topography to provide a trail system for people of all abilities. Seating along the trails targets pleasant views. Minimal design impact on the meadow was done so as to maintain the cherished aesthetic of Wanat Park. Lastly the addition of a variety of flowering plants aims to attract pollinators as well as enhance the existing ecology.

### Inventory/Analysis

The Wanat Community Park 14.4 acres comprised of 60% woodland and 40% Meadow. Trails running through the southern forest are undefined and unfit for people with varying abilities. The meadow is mowed about twice a year and offers beautiful views across the site. Wanat Park is populated by a variety of birds and small mammals. This site is also an ideal place for star gazing and events for local scouts. Making this park a communal place while respecting adjacent properties was a driving force for this project.



Site Inventory



Elevation Analysis + Site Analysis

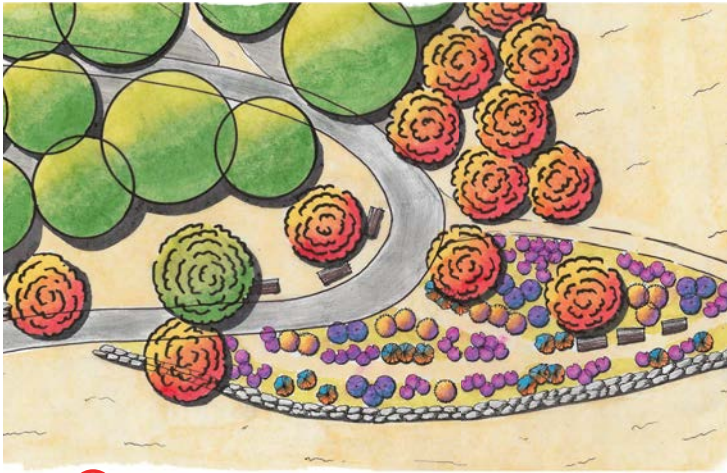


SITE PLAN





## DESIGN ENLARGEMENTS

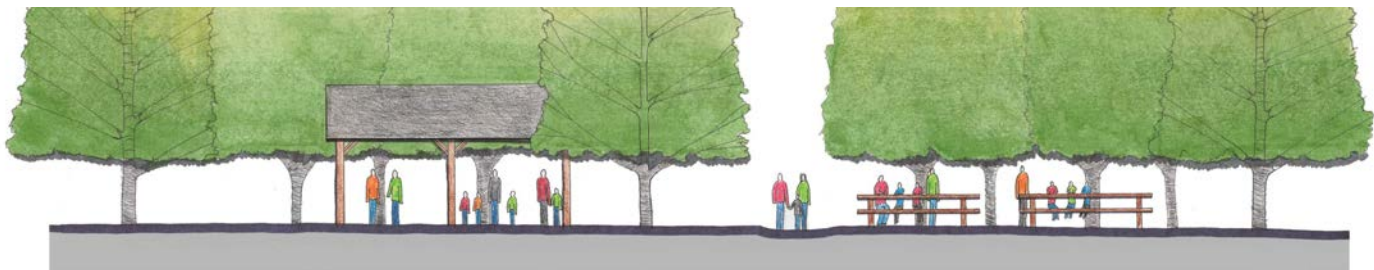
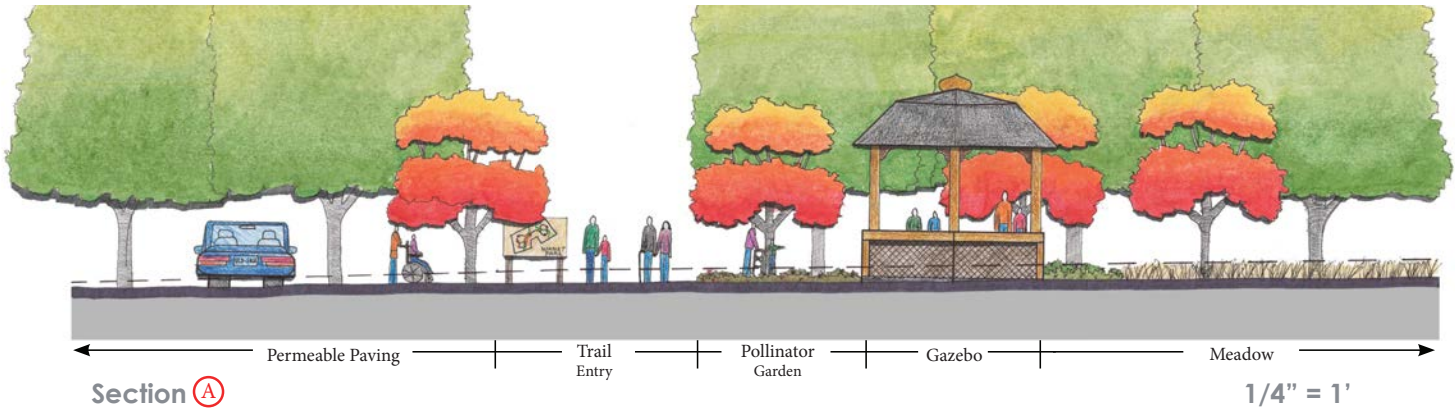


① Wheelchair Path along Meadow



② Parking with Gazebo/ Seating Area

## SECTIONS



Section B

$1/4" = 1'$



## HAND-DRAWN PERSPECTIVES



Elderly Couple on a Park Bench



Hikers Walking Along the Main Path

## 3D ILLUSTRATIONS: Rendered Perspectives



Gazebo Seating Area



Meadow Overlook

# 10

## The Wanat Experience

Chrishima Richards

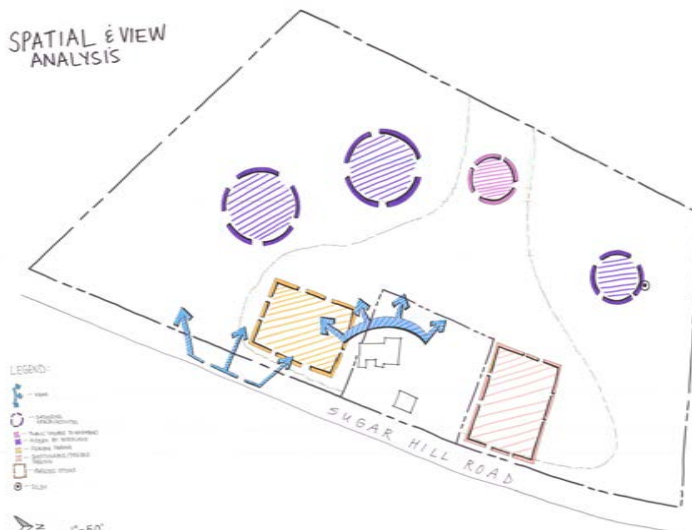


### PROJECT STATEMENT

The project program incorporates a naturalistic approach to a senior citizen community park. The features and amenities best accommodate the desire to be immersed in nature, while being slowed down by the interactivity of the animals. It satisfies the wants and needs of the people and also respects the natural beauty that the neighbor experiences daily. The trails incentivize the experience by drawing people in and through the site. The design considers everyday users experience and different targeted visitors' needs with its picturesque essence, and serene vibe.

### ANALYSIS

These graphics are an analysis of the character of the site, and is informative of how the programatic elements fit aesthetically. Itanti, querude sterbis essignostere nostrae nonsult orsupio venam orimum iam.



Site Analysis



Privacy and Circulation Analysis



## SITE PLAN



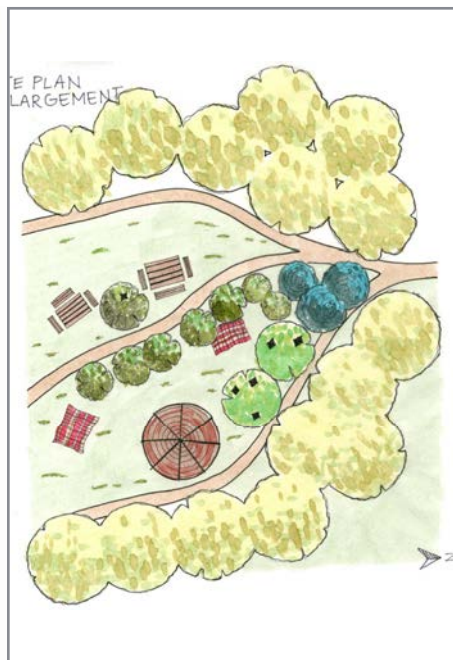
1"=50'



## ENLARGEMENTS



Parking Area

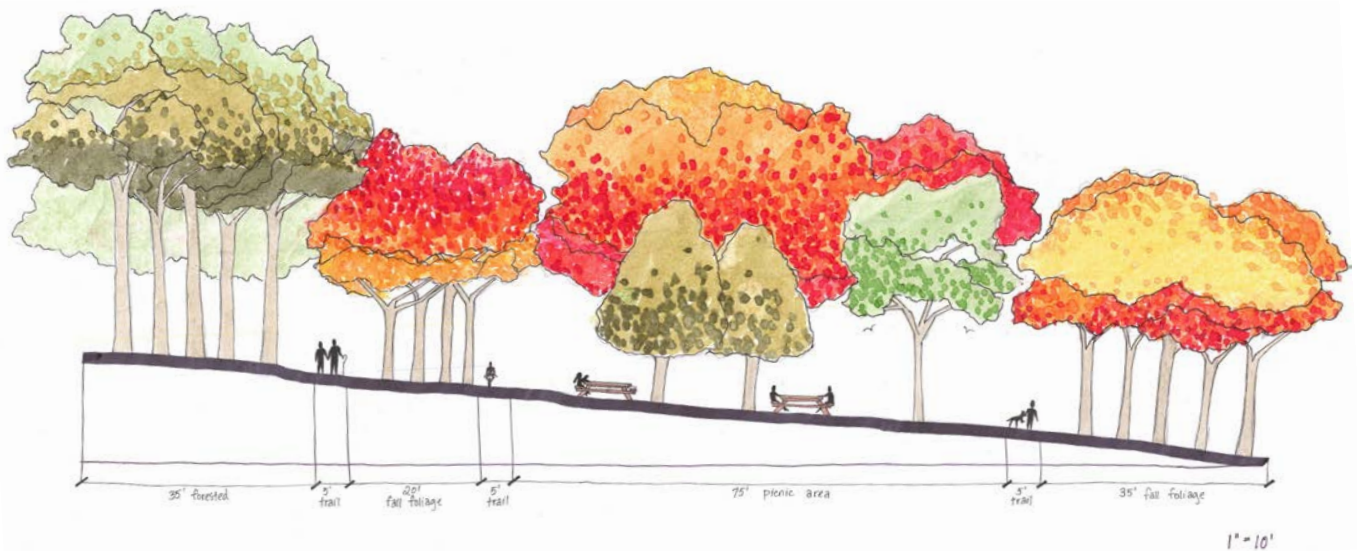


Picnic Area

## HAND-DRAWN PERSPECTIVES



## SECTION







**Contact**

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