

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Young
Gamechangers
a GeorgiaForward program

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**VALDOSTA
LOWNDES COUNTY
2024**



Young *Gamechangers*

a GeorgiaForward program

1 Team Green

2 Blended Lines

3 Team V.I.B.E.

4 Valdosta Visionaries





1

TEAM GREEN

CHALLENGE QUESTION

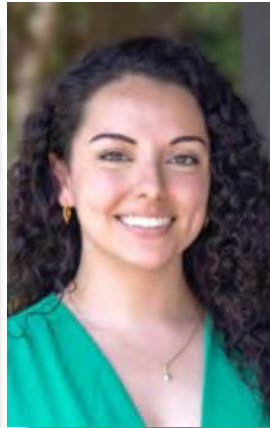
Green Infrastructure

How can Valdosta create and maintain sustainable parks, trails, and green spaces for all in our community?

TEAM GREEN



Sara Kampfi



Victoria Ray



Jamiya Miles



James Howard



Kiondre Dunnam



Britney Pooser



Kara Hope
Hanson



Jacob Bell



Hoa Nguyen



Marquese Averett

THREE BIG IDEAS

1

**Valdosta
Eco-Adventure on
the Horizon**

2

**Parks
Revitalization**

3

**Interconnectivity
between
Ecosystems**



MASTER PLAN



BIG IDEA 1

VALDOSTA ECO-ADVENTURE ON THE HORIZON

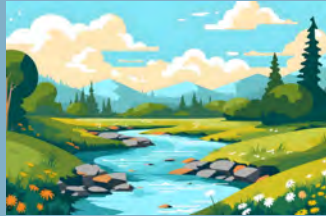
We recommend the creation and implementation of a comprehensive master plan for outdoor recreation and quality of place initiatives tailored to needs of residents and visitors in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Partnerships and stakeholders, schools, business, organizations



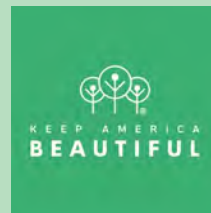
River Park



Outdoor Division, Steering Committee, Inventory



Community Involvement



Masterplan for Valdosta Eco-Adventure on the Horizon

Identify the goals, mission, and focus areas for the comprehensive green infrastructure plan.

RIVER PARK



Aerial view of current River Park, Valdosta GA



Victoria Ray & Sara Kamppi kayaking in River Park

RIVER PARK



Example of Island Ford Canoe and Kayak Launch



Picnic shelters from Three Parks District, Plymouth MN

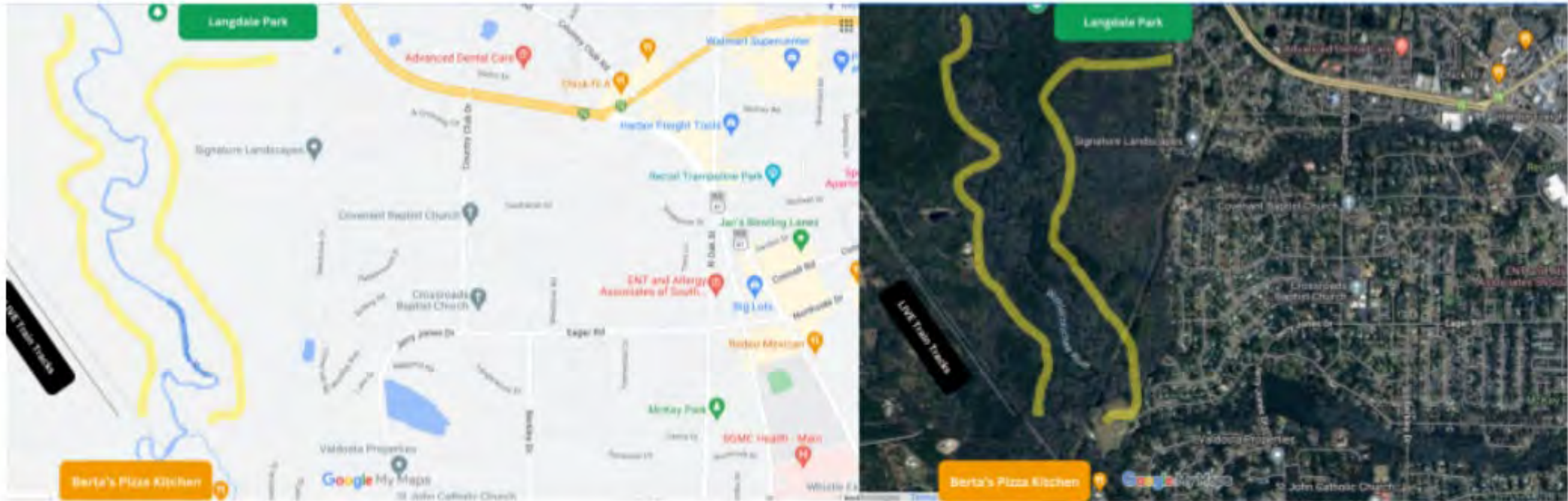


Campsite, picnic table, RV park example
Whitcomb Creek County Park



Restrooms from Hurricane River Campground, MI

RIVER PARK



Google Maps showing Withlacoochee River as a prominent natural landmark

ACTION STEPS

Short-Term

- Leverage partnerships
- Create steering committee
- Comprehensive inventory
- Community needs assessment
- Apply for funding

Medium-Term

- Designate full-time director for outdoor division
- Volunteer/outreach (Keep Valdosta Beautiful, Love your Block, Adopt-A-Street/Park programs, Valdosta etc.) especially post storm
- Community, cultural, and education programming
- Social media campaigns

Long-Term

- Develop River Park into a local landmark
- Implement long-term maintenance plans
- Register as a landmark

POSSIBLE FUNDING

Land & Water Conservation Fund Grants

Assists states and local governments with funds to acquire lands and develop and renovate outdoor recreation facilities.

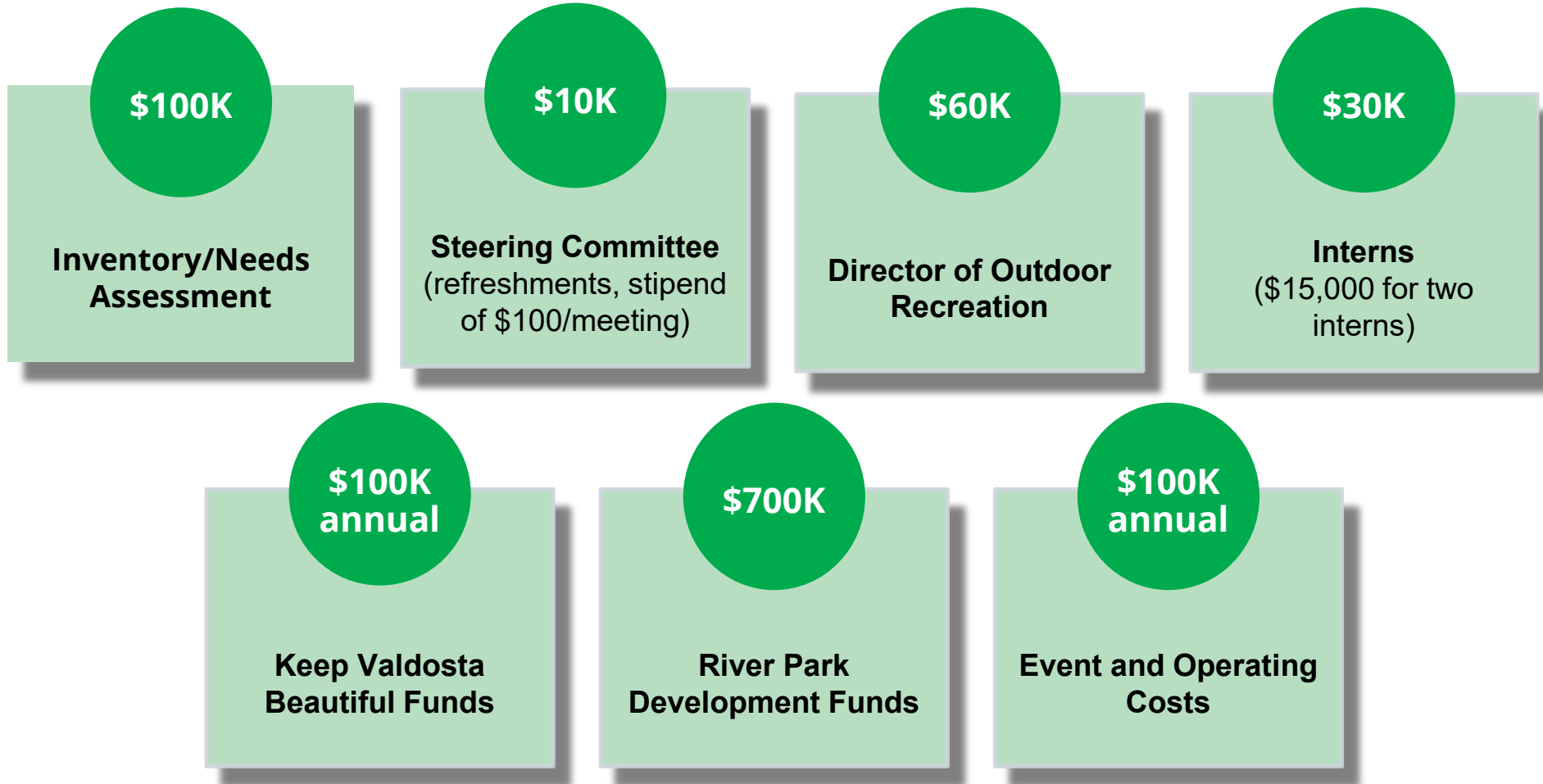
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Program through the National Park Service provides professional services to help achieve conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.

Keep America Beautiful Grants

Grants to support the implementation of their Cigarette Litter Prevention Program, Great American Cleanup®, and MLK Community/Neighborhood Improvement programs.

BUDGET - OVERVIEW



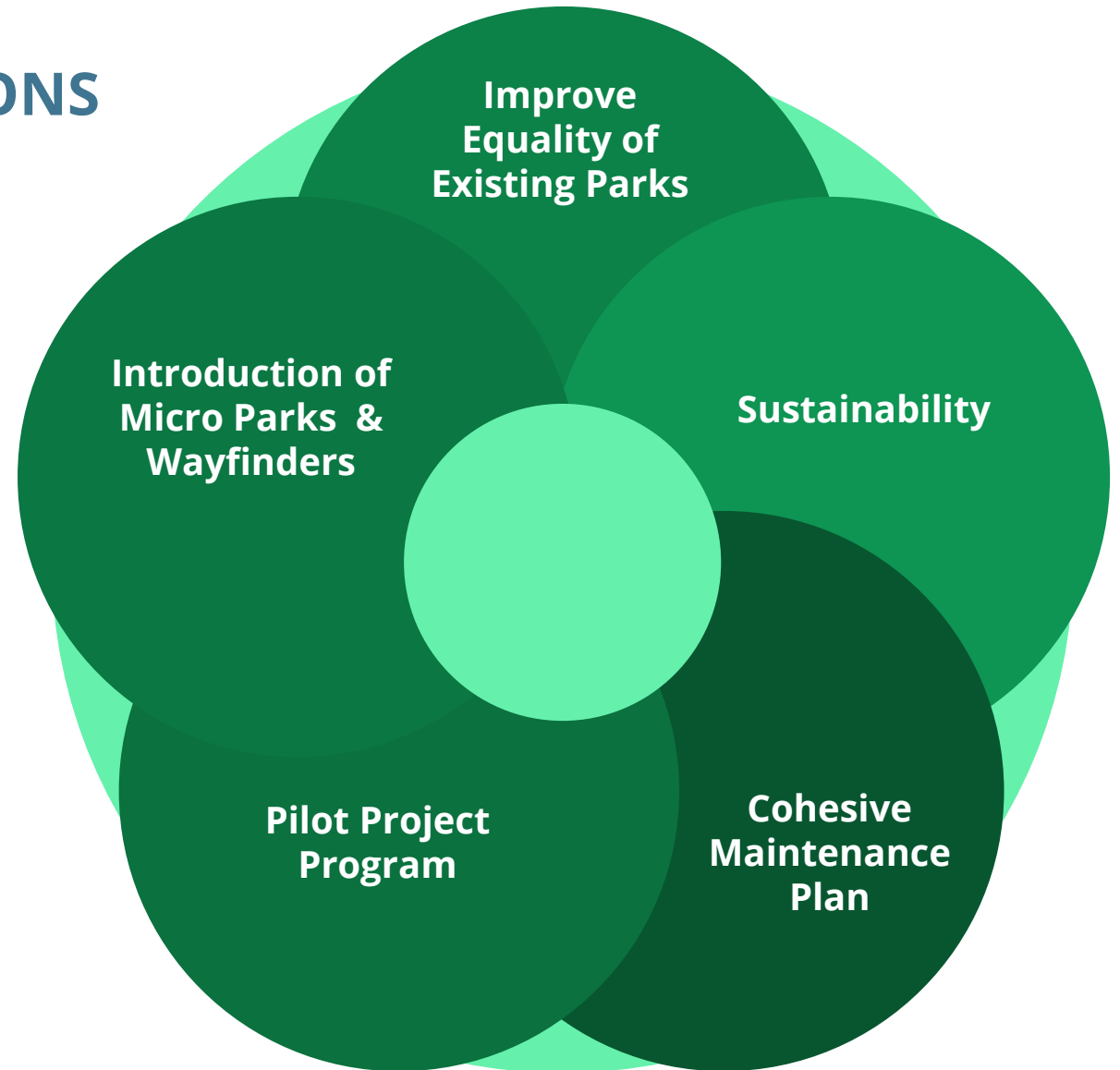


BIG IDEA 2

PARKS REVITALIZATION

This initiative intends to revitalize current parks through a way of equity-driven resource reallocation for existing green spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Improve equality of existing parks:

To make current parks in Valdosta, Georgia as equitable as parks in more affluent areas of Valdosta-Lowndes, targeted expenditures should be made in the parks located at the southern and eastern sides of the town, in addition to other blight areas; ensuring that they receive comparable amenities and enhancements.



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Introduction of Micro Parks & Wayfinders: We aim to implement new micro-parks and green spaces within existing parks in Valdosta-Lowndes County to transform underutilized areas into vibrant, community-centric spaces.



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Sustainability: The program to improve green spaces and parks in Valdosta-Lowndes County includes the implementation of sustainable and innovative solutions.



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Sustainability: After Hurricane Helene, we re-evaluated community needs and noted the importance of investing in infrastructure that would create environmental resilience.

Options such as, **underground power lines**, can protect Valdosta's green infrastructure by limiting damage from wind, falling trees, and harsh weather.



Image from [valdostacity.com](https://www.valdostacity.com)

RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Cohesive maintenance plan: for redeveloping parks and green spaces in Valdosta-Lowndes County will involve a multi-faceted approach to secure and sustain funding.

The plan includes developing partnerships, researching, and applying for government grants, nonprofit and foundation grants, public-private partnerships, and community development block grants.



VALDOSTA
A City Without Limits



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Pilot Project Program: The Equity-driven Parks Resource Reallocation initiative aims to revitalize Scott Park, Payton Park, and Vallotton Parks in Valdosta, Georgia, by addressing their underfunding and minimal resources.



Scott Park, Valdosta GA



Payton Park, Valdosta GA



Vallotton Park

Images from VLPRA, GA

ACTION STEPS

Short-Term

Comprehensive assessment of park utilization and community needs

Surveys and public meetings

Pilot projects

Preliminary funding strategy

Medium-Term

Expand sustainable features and amenities

Redevelopment of selected parks with community input

Additional funding through grants and partnerships

Long-Term

Full-scale redevelopment of parks and sustainable features

Long-term maintenance protocols

POSSIBLE FUNDING

American
Academy of
Dermatology

Georgia Outdoor
Stewardship
Program

Georgia ReLeaf
Grant Program

South Georgia
Regional
Commission

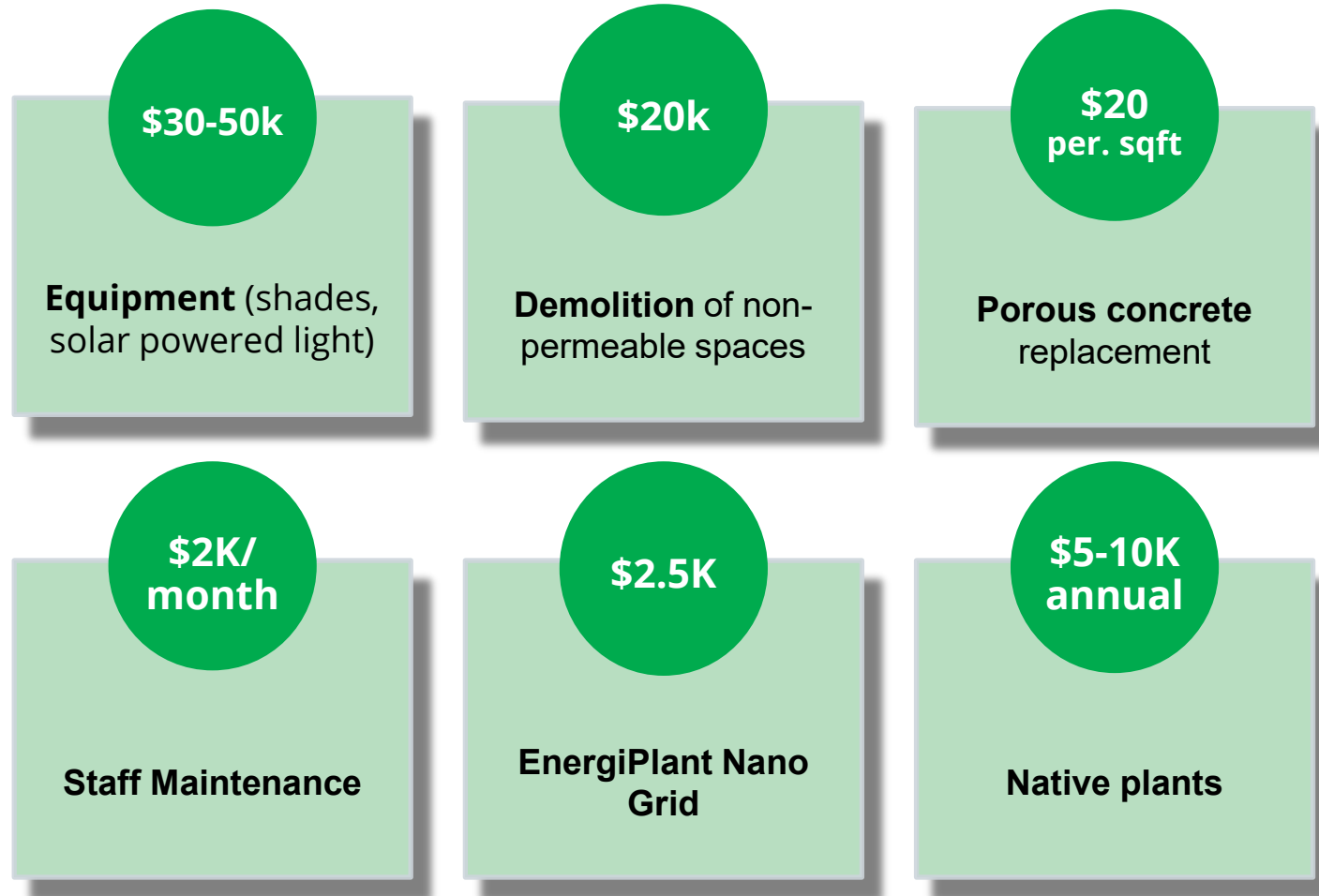
Special Purpose
Local Option Sales
Tax (SPLOST)

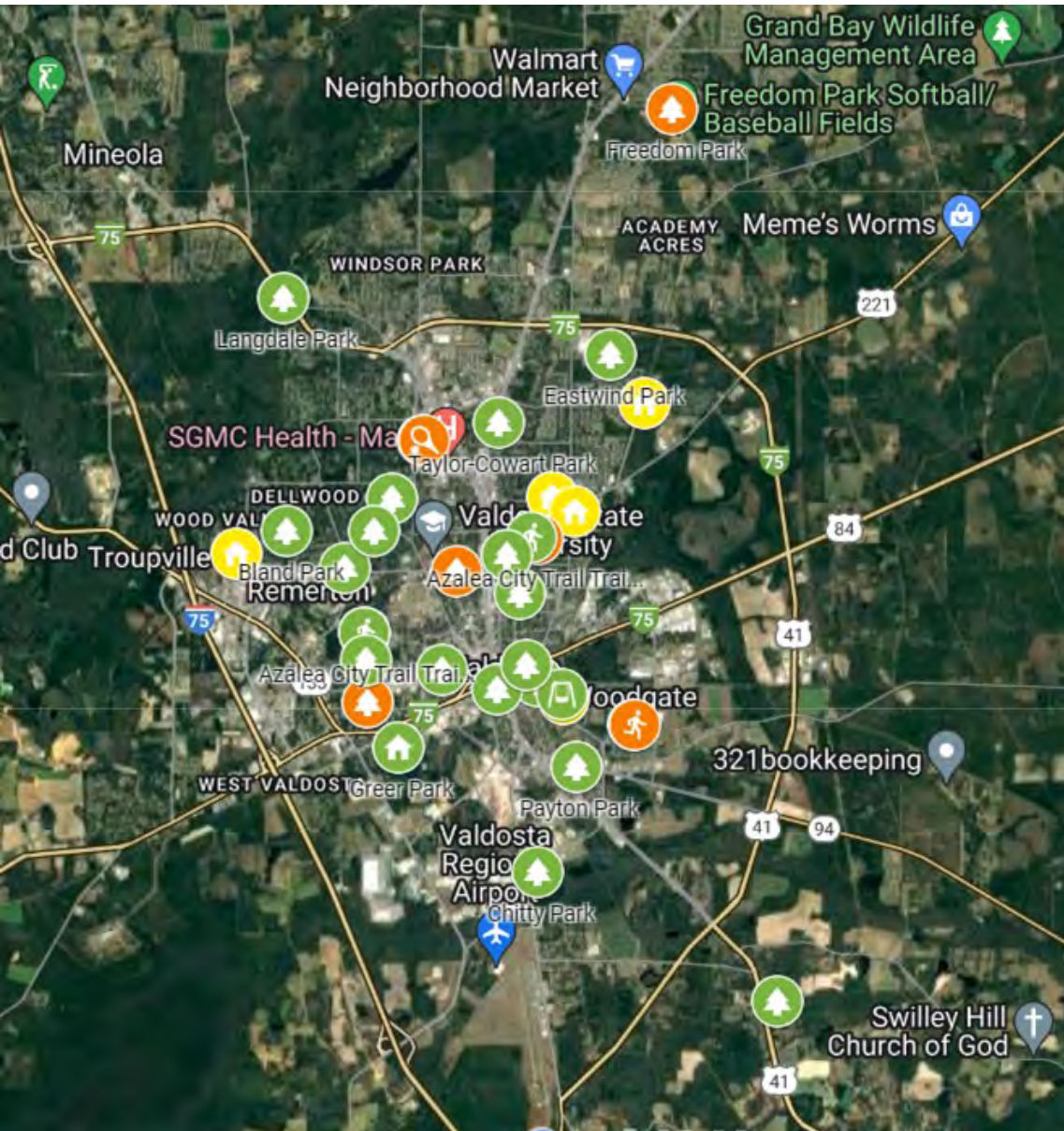
Land and Water
Conservation
Fund Grants

EnergiPlant

Trees Across
Georgia (TAG)
Grant Program

BUDGET - OVERVIEW





BIG IDEA 3

INTERCONNECTIVITY BETWEEN CURRENT ECOSYSTEMS

The aim for the interconnectivity between current ecosystems project is to establish an integrated network between the existing parks and green spaces of Valdosta-Lowndes County.

RECOMMENDATIONS



This interconnectivity project would allow for **improved quality of life** and exponential **growth of the parks, green spaces, and recreational areas.**



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

The project will utilize current spaces, green infrastructure, and roadways to limit costs of installing new trails and pathways by:

1. **Assessment** of Current Green Spaces & Infrastructure
2. **Goal Setting & Timelines**
3. **Green Corridor Design** with Sustainability & Environmental Impact
4. **Maintenance & Upkeep**

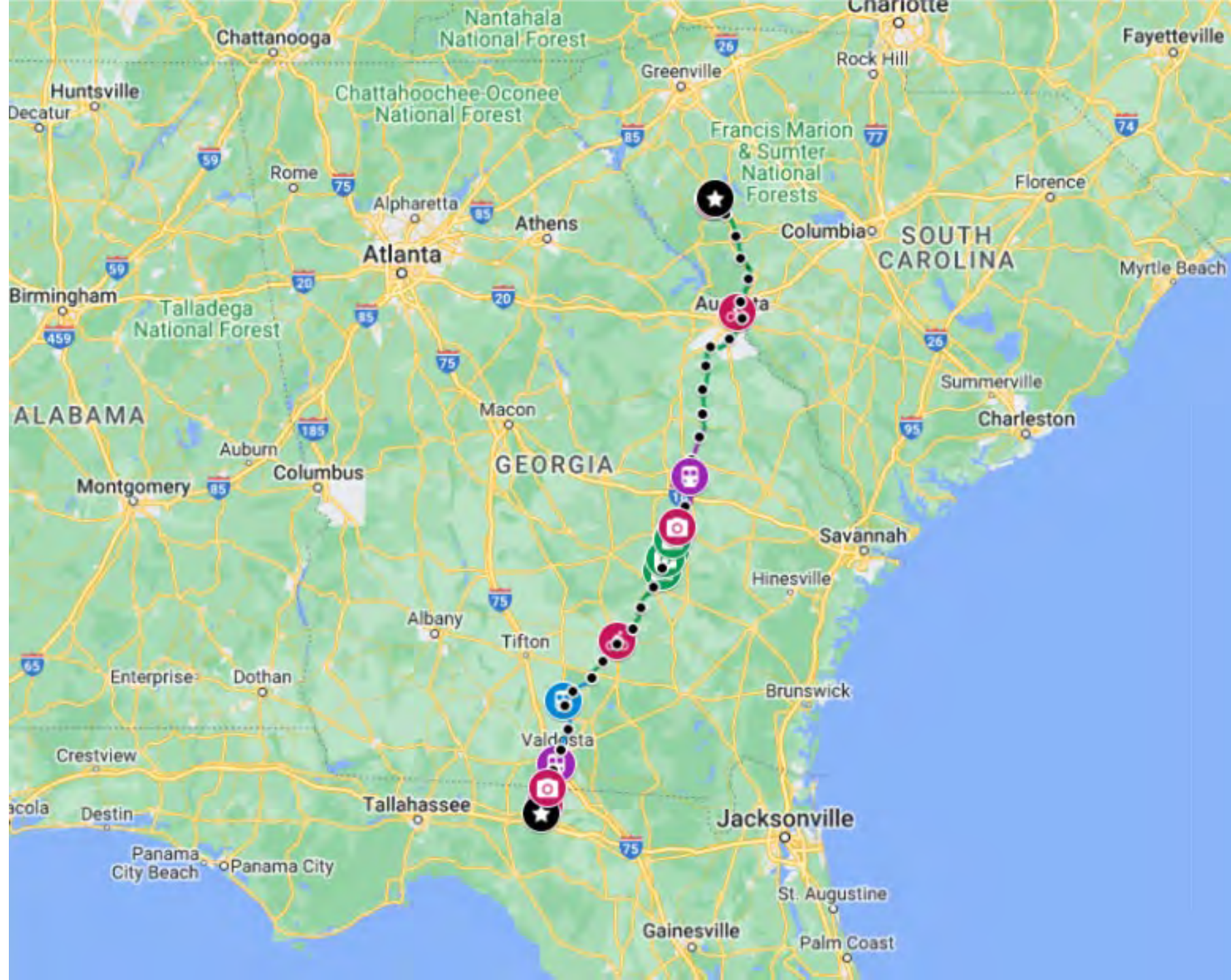


GF Trail

Color coded map of the Georgia Florida Trail.

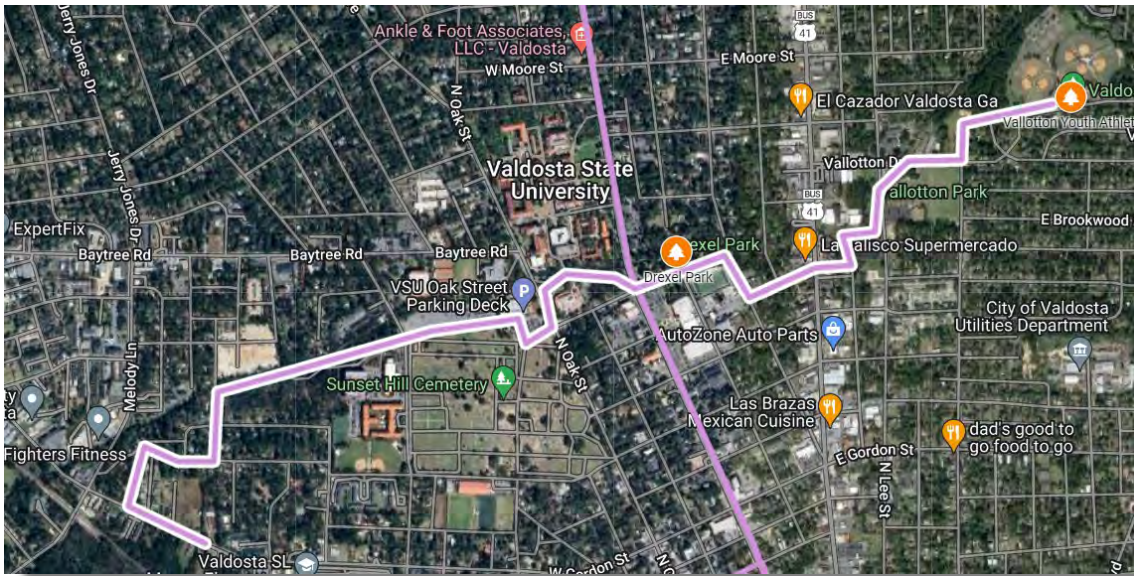
Green is abandoned.
Purple is in use or preserved for possible use.
Blue is leased by the Azalea Sprinter excursion train.

Image from [GF Trail](#).



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Inventory, mapping, and evaluation of existing parks, trails, natural areas, and community spaces, for costs, usage, and accessibility.



Azalea City Trail



RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Existing Parks in Valdosta-Lowndes County

Large Parks

1. *Freedom Park*
2. *John W. Saunders Memorial Park*
3. *McKey Park*
4. *Harry B. Anderson Tennis Center*
5. *North Lowndes Park*
6. *North Lowndes Skate Park*
7. *Scott Park*
8. *Vallotton Youth Athletic Complex*
9. *Drexel Park*
10. *Oris Blackburn Memorial Park*

Images from VLPRA, GA



Freedom Park



Scott Park

RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Existing Parks in Valdosta-Lowndes County

Small Parks

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bland Park | 14. Payton Park |
| 2. Chitty Park | 15. Riley-Ledford Park |
| 3. Clyattville Park | 16. Shannon Hill Memorial Park |
| 4. Eastwind Park | 17. Smith Park |
| 5. Fellowship Park | 18. Snake Nation Park |
| 6. Greer Park | 19. Taylor-Cowart Park |
| 7. Harrington Park | 20. Tom's Corner Park |
| 8. Hightower Park | 21. Vallotton Big Field |
| 9. Hyta's park | 22. Olympic Park |
| 10. JL Lomax Park | |
| 11. Langdale Park | |
| 12. Library Park | |
| 13. Lovett Park | |
| 14. Naylor Community Park | |
| 15. Newbern Park | |

Images from VLPRA, GA



Langdale Park

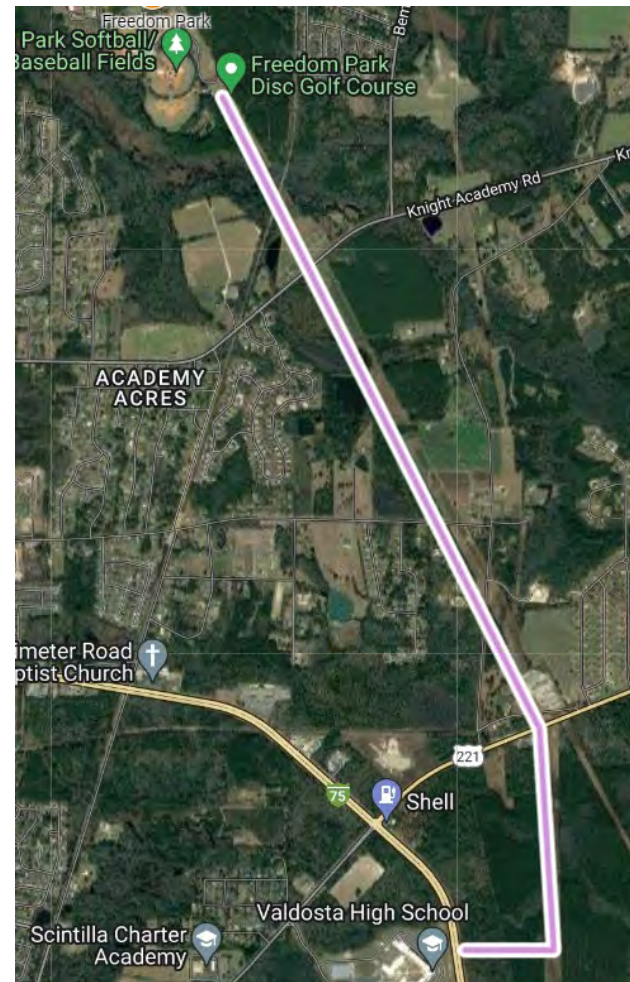
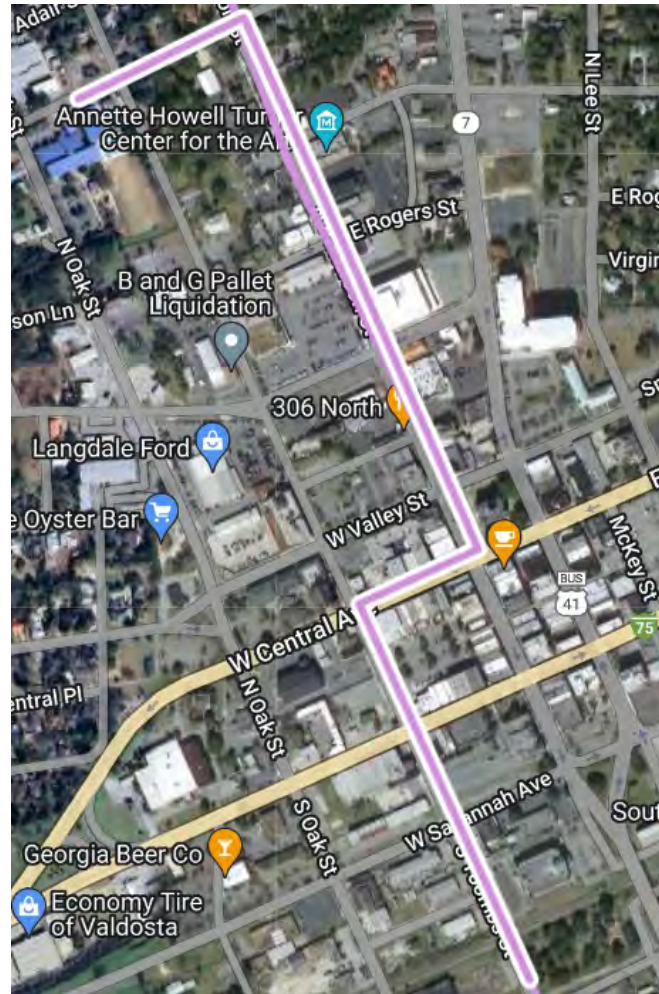


Olympic Park

RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

Proposed City Trails

Downtown Walking Trail (From the Arts Center to Olympic Park)



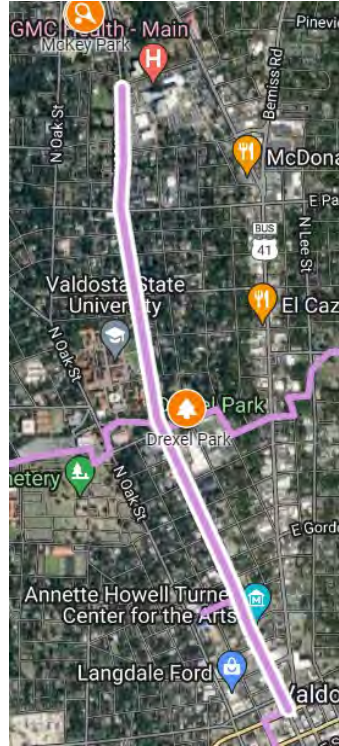
Freedom Park Trail (from Freedom Park to Valdosta High School)

RECOMMENDATIONS - CONT.

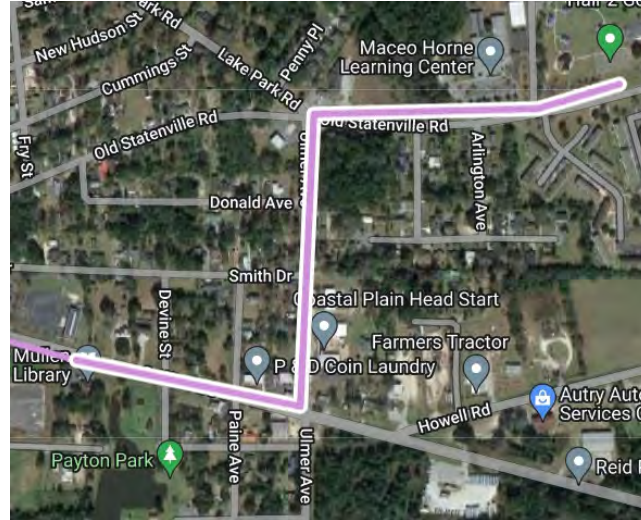
Proposed City Trails



Langdale Park Trail



*SGMC - VSU -
Downtown Trail*



*Southside Trail (From Scott
Park to Olympic Park)*

ACTION STEPS

Short-Term

Partnerships
Civil Engineering
Plans with VLPRA



Medium-Term

Bidding/Permitting
Contractor selection



Long-Term

Breaking Ground
Installation of
Infrastructure/Utilities
Installation of Trails and
Parks



POSSIBLE FUNDING

Recreation Trails Program

Federal program provides funding for trail construction, trail maintenance, and trail education

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Program through the National Park Service provides professional services to help achieve conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.

BUDGET - OVERVIEW

**\$85K
annual**

Community engagement through events, focus groups, promo materials

**\$105K
annual**

Staffing for Director of Community Engagement and fringe for staff

\$50K

Preliminary environmental impact **assessment**

\$400K

Landscape design, architecture, technical engineering services, permits

\$2.5M

Construction materials (asphalt, gravel, signage), labor, equipment rental

\$1.4M

Park enhancements, playground equipment, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, sports field

**\$500K
annual**

Safety, accessibility, ADA compliance, lighting, security, signage, wayfinding

**\$1.35M
annual**

Maintenance of trails, greenways, park facilities

Thank you!

Local Leaders and Organizations

George Page | Valdosta-Lowndes Parks and Recreation

DeWayne Johnson | Georgia Coalition of Black Chambers

Mary Beth Brownlee | One Valdosta-Lowndes (OVL)

Miguel Vicente | South Georgia Regional Library

Celine Gladwin | Gladwin Vaugh Architecture

Louis Gordon | The New Georgia Project

David Cheney | G&F Trail, Inc.

Mayor Scott James Matheson | City of Valdosta

Georgia Forward

Sadie Krawczyk | Georgia Municipal Association

Cindy Eidson | Georgia Municipal Association

Carrie Barnes | Georgia EMC

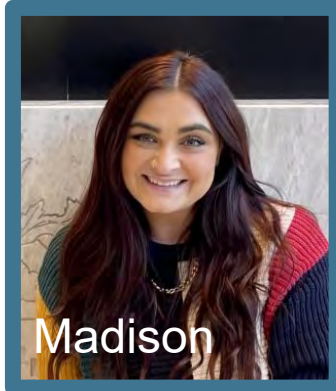
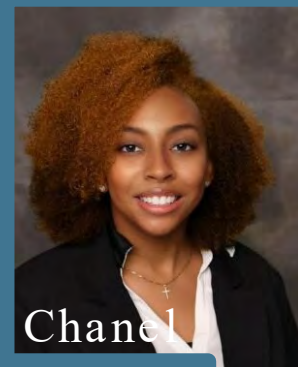
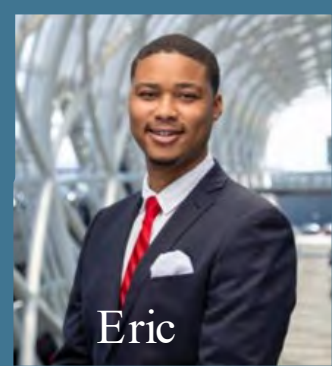
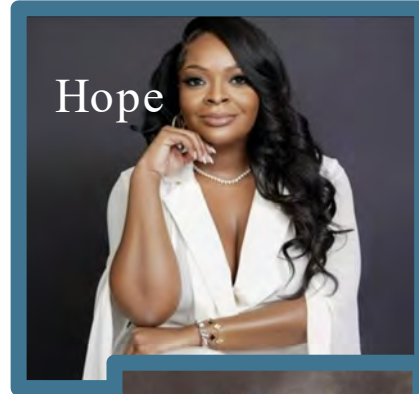
Kat Cannella | Coldwell Banker





QUESTIONS

BLENDED LINES





2



BLENDING LINES

CHALLENGE QUESTION

Supporting Community Togetherness

How do we strengthen community togetherness among the various demographic groups within Valdosta-Lowndes County and help those suffering from lack of resources and social connection?

THREE BIG IDEAS

1

Titletown
Leadership
Coalition

2

Titletown
Teammates
Mentorship
Collective

3

Titletown
Multipurpose
Center



BIG IDEA 1

Titletown Leadership Coalition

The annual leadership coalition meeting will bring county, community, and municipality leaders together to foster collaboration, project funding, and enhanced relationships.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

- Successful partnerships are developed between community, county, and municipalities
- Build trust between leaders to foster more successful collaboration
- Work towards a future your children can be proud of



RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION STEPS

- Hire a consultant to begin building relationships between leaders
- Host yearly leadership meeting
- First Project: Titledown Multipurpose Center
- Complete fundraising and implementation
- Evaluate the impact



BUDGET & POSSIBLE FUNDING

Possible Funding

Rotational funding
schedule by host
municipality

Item	Costs
Consulting firm:	\$20,000-\$30,000
Event Planning and Logistics:	\$10,000-\$15,000
Marketing and Communication:	\$5,000
Fundraising support:	\$2,000
Project Implementation:	\$50,000-\$100,000
Miscellaneous:	\$3,000



BIG IDEA 2
Titletown Teammates: A Mentorship Collective

Titletown Teammates is a collective bringing new and current mentorship programs to the forefront of the community by providing resources, marketing, and support.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

- Improved social interaction
- Enhanced life skills
- Increased academic performance
- Blending lines across generational and socioeconomic gaps within the community



RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION STEPS

- Collaborate with current mentorship programs
- Work with experts to create an online resource center
- Partner with city & county schools to enroll mentees
- Local businesses enroll employees through incentives
- Implement a holistic match process
- Enhance through evaluation



BUDGET & POSSIBLE FUNDING

Possible Funding

Individual Donors
through Fundraising

Georgia Family
Connection Partnership

Partnership Packages
providing incentives for
local business partners

Year One	
Income	
Private donations	\$30,000
Corporate sponsorships	\$20,000
Expenses	
Fundraising	\$5,000
Mentoring resources	\$2,500
Recruitment	\$3,000
Balance	\$39,500



BIG IDEA 3

Titletown Multipurpose Center

The multipurpose center will be a hub in South Georgia for travel sports while also providing useable space for local organizations to congregate and host events.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

- Utilize revenue (approx. \$25 million annually) from the center to provide funding and scholarships for participants
- Physical representation of the pride of Valdosta/Lowndes County
- A “hometown team” to root for

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION STEPS

- Utilize the leadership coalition to form the initial steering committee
- Identify location for the building
- Host sporting events and keep a full calendar to ensure profit
- Act as a meeting space for events such as the mentorship collective or the annual leadership coalition meeting
- Identify this location as part of the disaster relief plan
- Break ground!

BUDGET & POTENTIAL FUNDING

- Federal Grants from National Endowment for the Arts & The U.S. Economic Development Administration
- State Grants
- Sport Specific Grants
- Crowdfunding & Local Donations
- Capital Investment Firm
- Community Development Block Grant

Estimated Cost: \$20-30M





QUESTIONS

V.I.B.E.

Valdosta's Innovation Benefits the Economy



CHALLENGE QUESTION:

Economic Development - Valdosta is increasingly attracting new industries to the area. With anticipated industrial recruitment success, how do we retain talent and build capacity for the needed workforce as well as support existing businesses in this growth climate?



Britney Smith



Executive Director of Marketing and Communications
Warner Robins, Georgia

Erica Grier



Senior Conference and Events Manager
Valdosta, Georgia

Andrew Moody



Special Projects Manager
Newnan, Georgia

Shantanu Chakraborty



Assistant Professor of Physics
Valdosta, Georgia

Angela Ward



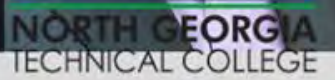
Entrepreneur
Valdosta, Georgia

Ashlie Prain



Executive Administrative Specialist to the President
Valdosta, Georgia

Adam Fulbright



Economic Development Business and Industry Manager
Hull, Georgia

Andrew Clark



Digital Manager Marketing Strategist
Atlanta, Georgia

Rebecca Hunt



Workforce and Economic Analysis
Thomasville, Georgia

Jennifer Price



Main Street Director
Hahira, Georgia

Alexus Garrett



Student Career Counselor
Valdosta, Georgia

3

**BIG
IDEAS**



Connecting
Valdosta



Gateway
to Growth



The Yard





**CONNECTING
VALDOSTA**



Launching a Comprehensive Digital Marketing Campaign and Developing a Centralized Website



Promotes Living, Working, and Investing in Valdosta with a Local Incentives Program

BIG IDEA

1

RECOMENDATIONS



BIG IDEA

1

▶ Build Hub:

Brand Guide/Website, Marketing Campaign

▶ Professional & Leadership Development Program for College Students:

Networking, Career Readiness

Foster Community Ties, Retain Graduates

▶ Local Incentives:

Includes Local Memberships, Discounts, Networking Opportunities,
Offer Lower-Cost Incentives



ACTION STEPS



- Branding
- Website
- Develop incentive packages



- Open incentive applications
- Begin planning for marketing campaigns



- Launch ads
- Survey incentive recipients
- Form Valdosta Ambassador Program
- Highlight success stories

We're Affordable

Make a living and have a life.

Rated 4.5 by the Urban League as a Best Place to Live in 2018, our affordable units in downtown Valdosta are the perfect place to live. Located in the heart of the city, you can walk to work and school. We're offering an incentive to attract families to a higher than average cost of living. Contact the board, select board, and other great families like them select yours.

Learn More



We're Diverse & Inclusive

We're a Certified Welcoming City.

Named an International Organization for Migration (IOM) Welcoming City in 2018, Valdosta is the largest city in Georgia to hold this distinction. In addition, Valdosta was named an International Organization for Migration (IOM) Welcoming City in 2018. We're offering an incentive to attract families to a higher than average cost of living. Contact the board, select board, and other great families like them select yours.

Learn More



We Are Family

This is the place to be, form.



We Make Great Neighbors

Want you be our neighbor?

Great neighbors is all of them neighborhood and housing options. We have incentives to attract families to a higher than average cost of living. Contact the board, select board, and other great families like them select yours.

Learn More



You Can Make a Difference Here

A big difference.

If reporting your community makes it possible to make a difference you can make a big difference. Contact the board, select board, and other great families like them select yours.

Learn More



BUDGET



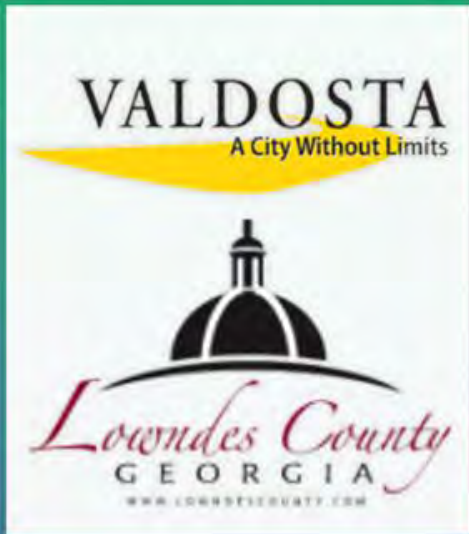
BIG IDEA

1

Brand Guide	\$5,000
Website (16-25 Pages)	\$7,000-\$10,000
Campaign Ads	\$108,000
Farmers Market	\$175 (May - Sept.)
Local Incentive Package	\$18,000
Misc.	\$
TOTAL Without Ads	\$33,175
TOTAL With Ads	\$141,175

POSSIBLE FUNDING

City & County
Contributions



Philanthropic
Support



Local &
Corporate
Partnerships



Grants



BIG IDEA

1

BIG IDEA

2



GATEWAY TO GROWTH

Addresses Critical Workforce Challenges in Valdosta-
Lowndes County through 3 programs:

- 1) Parent Forward
- 2) At-Risk Senior Internship
- 3) Second Chance Re-Entry Initiative

RECOMMENDATIONS

▶ **Parent Forward Program:** Identifies & supports parents of youth experiencing homelessness, Provides transformative opportunities. Grows the underutilized workforce in Valdosta & Lowndes County.

▶ **At-risk High School Senior Internship:** Internship program spans 8 weeks. Provides hands-on work experience, mentorship, & financial support. Participants matched with local companies based on interests & skills.

▶ **Second-Chance Re-Entry Training:** Helps meet the labor demands of new industries. Strengthens the local economy & enhances social cohesion. Offers tailored reentry programs & skills training for justice-involved individuals.

BIG IDEA

2



ACTION STEPS



Parent Forward



- Training program selection and funding discussion
- Identification of parents
- Short term training through PACE plus additional soft skills
- Connections with local employers

At-risk Senior Internship



- Curriculum and partnership development
- Intern selection and mentor recruitment
- Soft skills training
- Intern placement
- Internship period with regular check-ins
- Final showcase

Second-Chance Re-Entry Program



- Training program selection and funding discussion
- Identify inmates for training
- Skills training
- Employability skills and interview prep
- Interviews (as inmates transition out)
- Placement

BUDGET

BIG IDEA

2



Parent Forward (assuming 10 in pilot)

Tuition sponsorship for The Office of Professional and Community Education (PACE) program - Medical billing (\$2k-\$4k/student)

- Program Admin.: Cover costs related to program coordination, materials, & workshops. - VSU Student Worker with PACE (\$11/hr x ~160 hrs/semester) \$2k

\$42,000

At-risk Senior Internship (assuming 10 in pilot)

- Intern Stipends: Allocate funds for the \$2,400 stipend per intern/ 8 weeks.
- Mentor Compensation: Mentor's salary & expenses/10-week period. Approx. \$10k - \$12k.
- Student transportation (160 Valdosta OnDemand rides per student): \$1,600

\$37,600

Re-entry (assuming 25 in pilot)

- Skills training for inmates through Wiregrass - covered through sources such as: Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), HOPE Career Grant, & 2nd Chance Pell Grant
- Employability Skills training through WireGrass & Goodwill

TOTAL

\$79,600

POSSIBLE FUNDING

Parent Forward Program



- Potential corporate sponsorships
- Possible tuition waivers or discounts from Valdosta State University
- "Parent Potential - Scholarships"



At-risk Senior Internship



- Corporate sponsorships and/or financial support of interns
- Community Foundations: Seek grants & donations
- Individual Donations: Launch a crowdfunding campaign, accept individual donations from community members & supporters

Second-Chance Re-Entry Program



- Goodwill
- Worksource Southern Georgia via the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Second Chance Pell Grants





- ▶ Economic Revitalization
- ▶ Workforce Development
- ▶ Community-Oriented Development
- ▶ Historic Preservation

BIG IDEA
3

THE YARD



The YARD, a mixed-use facility that combines residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, aims to attract and retain the workforce by offering unique live, work, play opportunities.



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Commercial Property Redevelopment
- Commercial Space Leasing
- Open Air Market
- Boutique Hotel/Multi-Family



EAST SAVANNAH AVE/SOUTH ASHLEY STREET

BIG
IDEA
3





ACTION STEPS

SHORT-TERM



- Community Engagement
- Planning & Design
- Funding

MID-TERM



- Construction Phase I
- Open-Air Market
- Community Engagement
- Marketing & Leasing

LONG-TERM



- Completion of Project
- Grand Opening
- Community Development
- Ongoing Management

BUDGET

BUDGET		
Item	Cost Estimate	Frequency
Land Acquisition	\$ 630,000	One Time, 3 Parcels
Site Work Costs <i>Site Prep/Earthwork/Improvements (45,000 Ft²)</i>	\$ 60,000	One Time - Prep Entire Site
Historic Commercial Building Re-Construction <i>Office, Retail, and Restaurant Space (10,000 Ft²)</i>	\$ 2,620,000 <i>(262 p/Ft²)</i>	Phase 1 - Commercial
Historic Commercial Building Renovation and Restoration <i>Renovation of Existing Space (6000 Ft²)</i>	\$ 1,200,000 <i>(200 p/Ft²)</i>	Phase 1 - Commercial
Infill Building to Connect Historic Structures <i>Office, Retail, and Restaurant Space (7,600 Ft²)</i>	\$ 1,991,200 <i>(262 p/Ft²)</i>	Phases 1 - Commercial
Open Air Market Construction <i>Pervious Concrete/Pavers (\$ 12 p/Ft² @ 7000 Ft²), Shade Structure</i>	\$ 105,000	Phases 2 - Commercial
Boutique Hotel or Multi-Family Residential <i>3 Floors, 48,000 Ft² total, 34 Hotel or Residential Units @ 1000 Ft², 11,200 Ft² Underdeck Parking</i>	\$ 9,600,000 <i>(200 p/Ft²)</i>	Phase 3 - Commercial with Residential
Fees <i>Permitting, Impact Fees, Architectural, Engineering, Etc.</i>	\$ 32,555 (City) \$ 407,760 (A + E)	Consider Waiving Permitting and Impact Fees,
Construction Contingency	\$ 1,664,651.50	10% of Total
TOTAL	\$ 18,311,166.50	All Phases and Fees

BIG IDEA

2



POSSIBLE FUNDING



BIG IDEA

3



 Federal Transit Administration

 U.S. Department of Transportation



American Rescue
Plan Act Funds



Georgia State Historic
Preservation



Georgia Cities
Foundation



Community
Redevelopment
Loans

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

VALDOSTA
A City Without Limits

Goodwill
SOUTHERN RIVERS

SGMC
HEALTH



WIREGRASS
GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



VALDOSTA
CITY SCHOOLS



CRITICAL
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dwt
DOWNTOWN
VALDOSTA

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QUESTIONS





Young
Gamechangers
a GeorgiaForward program

THANK YOU!



4

Valdosta Visionaries

CHALLENGE QUESTION

Corridor Redevelopment

How can the City improve its ability to support neighborhood-based, mixed-use redevelopment in the Barack Obama Boulevard, Patterson Overpass, Ashley Street, and Griffin Avenue corridors?

THE TEAM



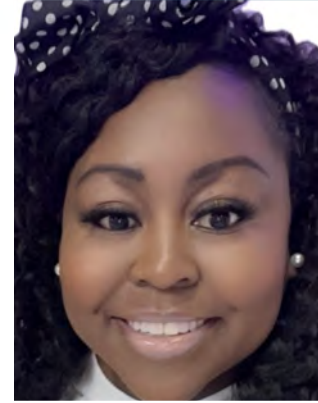
Darius Anthony
Hahira, GA



Claire Chan
Atlanta, GA



Michael Conger
Valdosta, GA



Dr. Jamie Hill
Valdosta, GA



Kvonne Oliver
Valdosta, GA



Destini Osby
Valdosta, GA



Allyson Sealy
Valdosta, GA



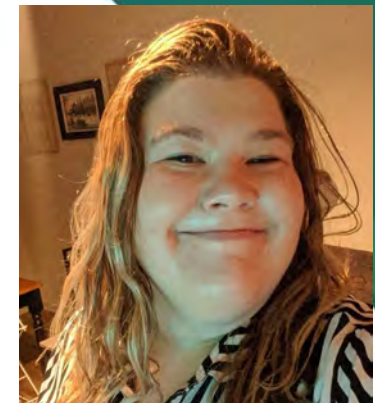
Taylor Smith
Thomaston, GA



Zahnay Smoak
Port Wentworth, GA



Korelle Trollman
Valdosta, GA



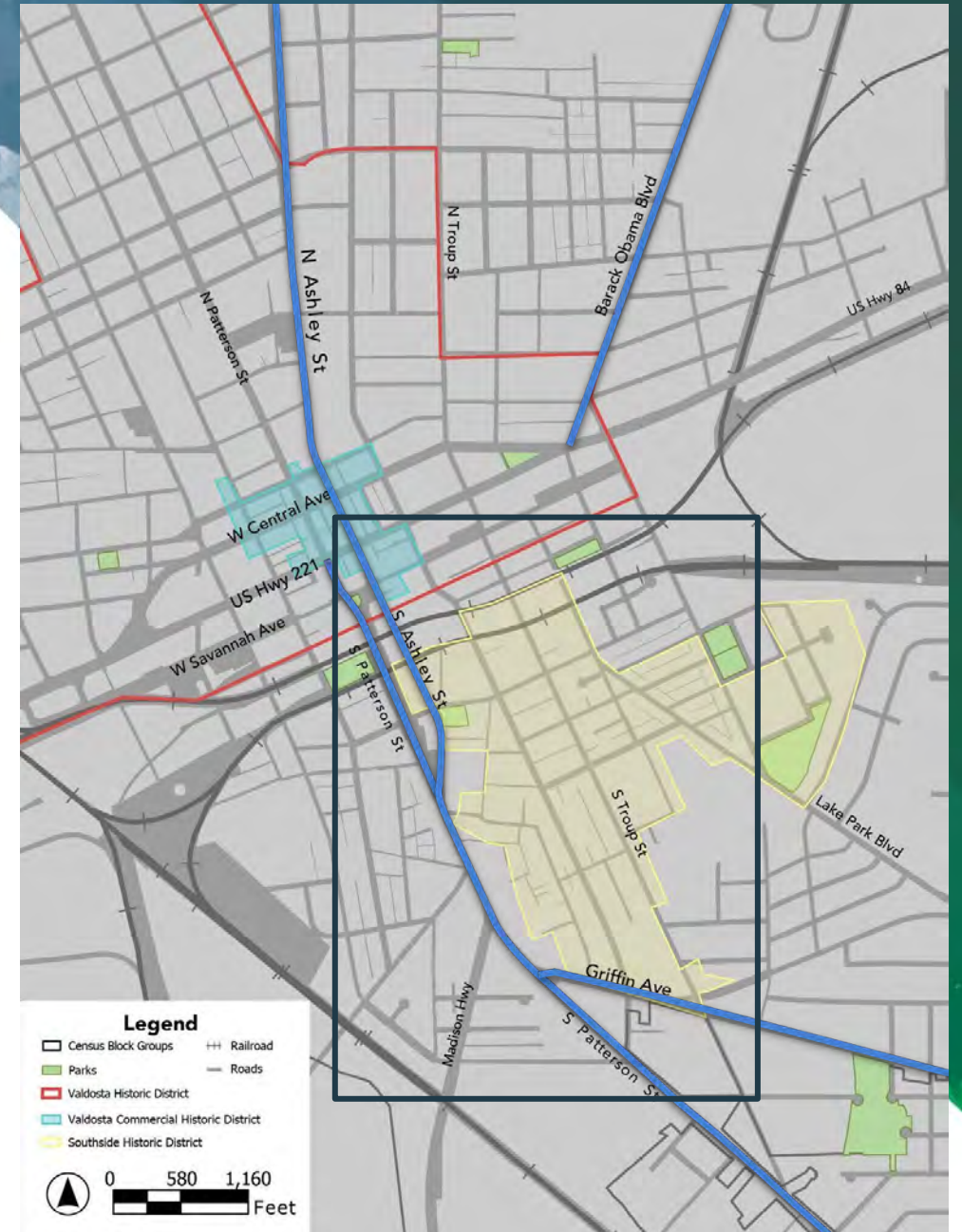
Samantha Trust
Brookhaven, GA

CHALLENGE QUESTION

How can the City improve its ability to support neighborhood-based, mixed-use redevelopment in the Barack Obama Boulevard, Patterson Overpass, Ashley Street, and Griffin Avenue corridors?

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- ❖ Lack of Centralized Resources
- ❖ Disinvested & Disengaged Community
- ❖ Vacant, Blighted, & Underutilized Properties



THREE BIG IDEAS

1

**Network of
Community
Resource
Hubs**

2

**Southside
Revitalization
Plan**

3

**Neighborhood
Connectivity &
Placemaking**



BIG IDEA 1

Network of Community Resource Hubs

A centralized resource network that improves access to essential services and the establishment of new resource hubs that strengthen community support through an interconnected system.

EXISTING RESOURCES



Lowndes/Valdosta Commission for Children & Youth, Inc. (LCCY Family Connection)



Valdosta Lowndes Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPR) Administrative Office



Lowndes Associated Ministries to People (LAMP)



Coastal Plain @ Dasher School

Hub Opportunities

Each Hub will offer the services below along with a comprehensive list of community resources for services unable at the sites.

Education & Training

- Learning opportunities
 - Digital literacy, financial management, health and wellness
- Tutoring and mentoring for personal and professional development
- Library and learning materials

Job & Career Support

- Job training
- Career counseling
- Employment resources
 - Training
 - Resume building workshops
 - Interview preparation
 - One-on-one guidance on job search strategies

Technology Access

- Access to computers
 - Online resources
 - Enhance education
 - Seek employment
 - Supportive services

RECOMMENDATIONS

Partnership with Valdosta on Demand

- Collaborate with Valdosta on Demand to integrate Community Resource Hubs into their stops.

Centralization and Standardization of Services

- Each Hub should offer the same range of services, ensuring consistency across locations.

Program Management and Coordination

- Appoint a dedicated Program Manager for each Hub to oversee the coordination and delivery of services.

Community Engagement and Events

- The Hubs should regularly engage with the community by hosting events that raise awareness, provide resources, and foster a sense of community togetherness.

Collaboration with Local Nonprofits

- Work closely with local nonprofits to broaden the range of support services offered at the Hubs.

ACTION STEPS

Short-Term

- Research locations for Community Resource Hubs
- Research local partnerships offering core resources
- Examine logistics for accessibility
 - Establish partnership with Valdosta on Demand
 - Apply for transportation access grants
- Establish partnerships with providers that offer core resources and occasional activities
- Identify & conduct necessary improvements at the existing services

Medium-Term

- Create a community Hubs calendar
 - Collaborate with partner agencies/organizations to determine which Hub location will receive what services on what days
- Market resources and classes
- Meet the needs of community members via the accessibility of service

Long-Term

- Monitor and evaluate progress and efficiency
- Assess the possibility to expand the resources and services provided at the Hubs
- Improved economic development
- Increased well-being of community members
- Increased community resiliency

BUDGET

<u>One Time Costs</u>	
Renovations	\$100,000
Office Furnishings (office equipment, furniture, etc.)	\$50,000
Computers/Technology	\$10,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$160,000
<u>Annual Costs</u>	
Program Manager	\$50,000
Unexpected Costs	\$10,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$60,000
<u>Monthly Costs</u>	
Facility Cost/Rent	\$2,000 /month (\$500 each location)
Utilities	\$1,000/month (\$250 each location)
Office Supplies (paper, books, games, art, etc.)	\$600/month (\$150 each location)
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$3,600
<u>Operation Cost for 5 Years</u>	\$676,000

POSSIBLE FUNDING

Local

- Community Foundation of South Georgia
- Greater Valdosta United Way
- Re-Establishment of the Miss Black Valdosta Beauty Pageant

Fed/National

- CDBG
- Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program
- Elevance Health Foundation
- The Brooks and Joan Fortune Foundation
- The Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation

Private

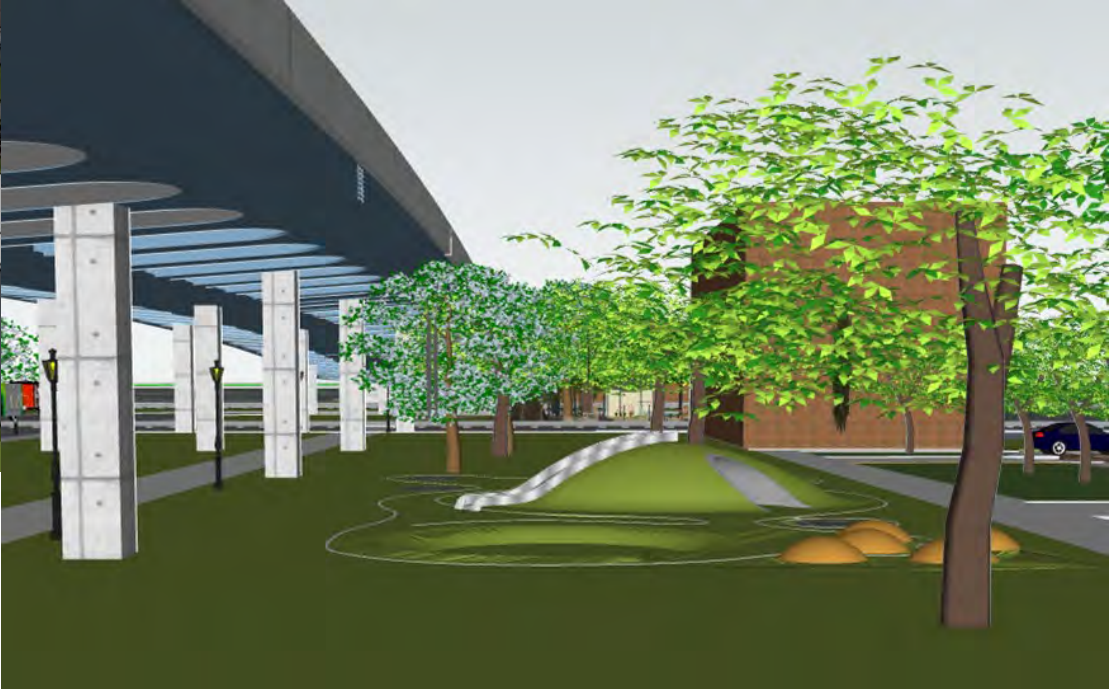
- Spark Good Local Grants (Walmart)

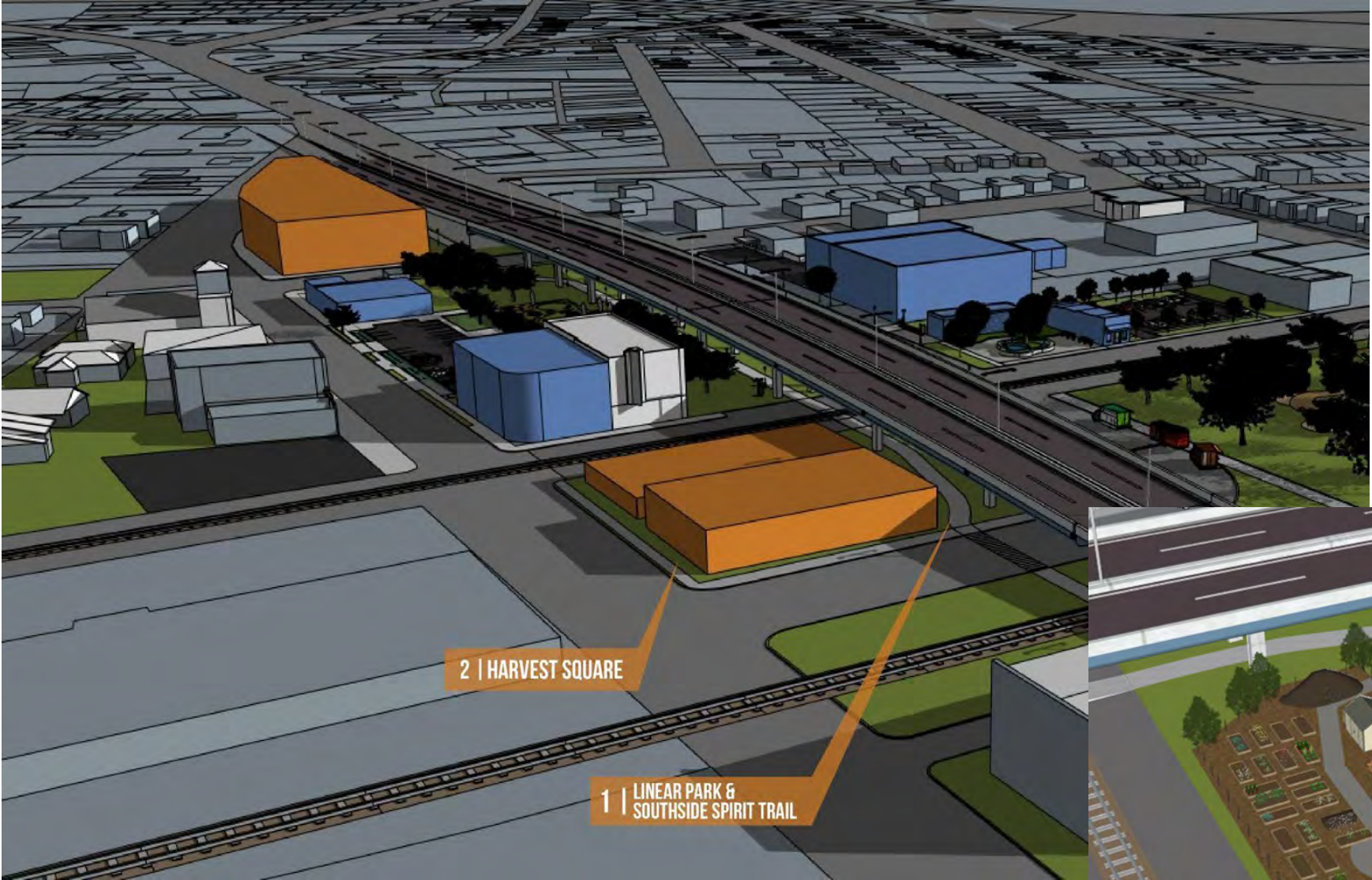


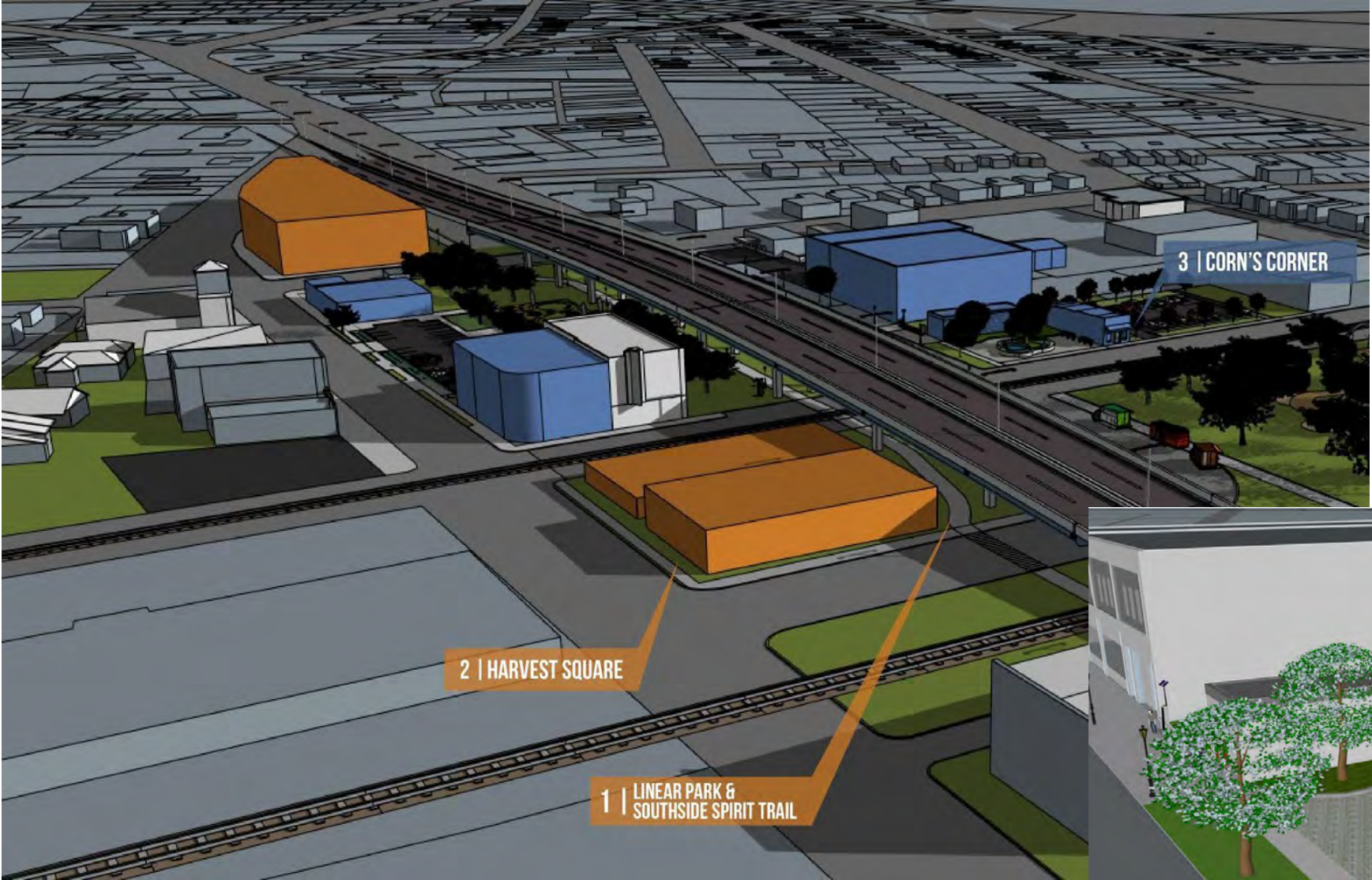
BIG IDEA 2

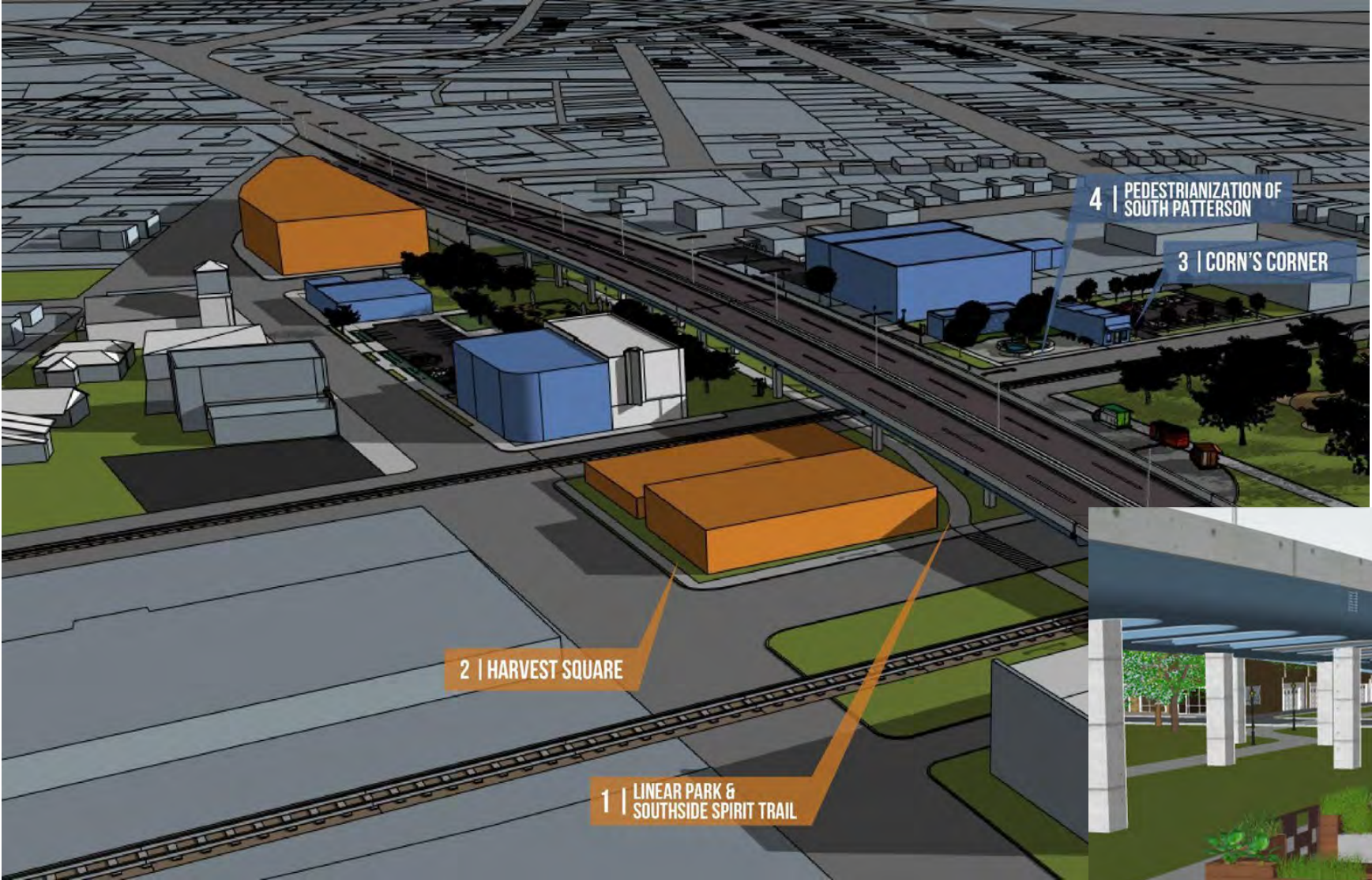
Southside Revitalization Plan

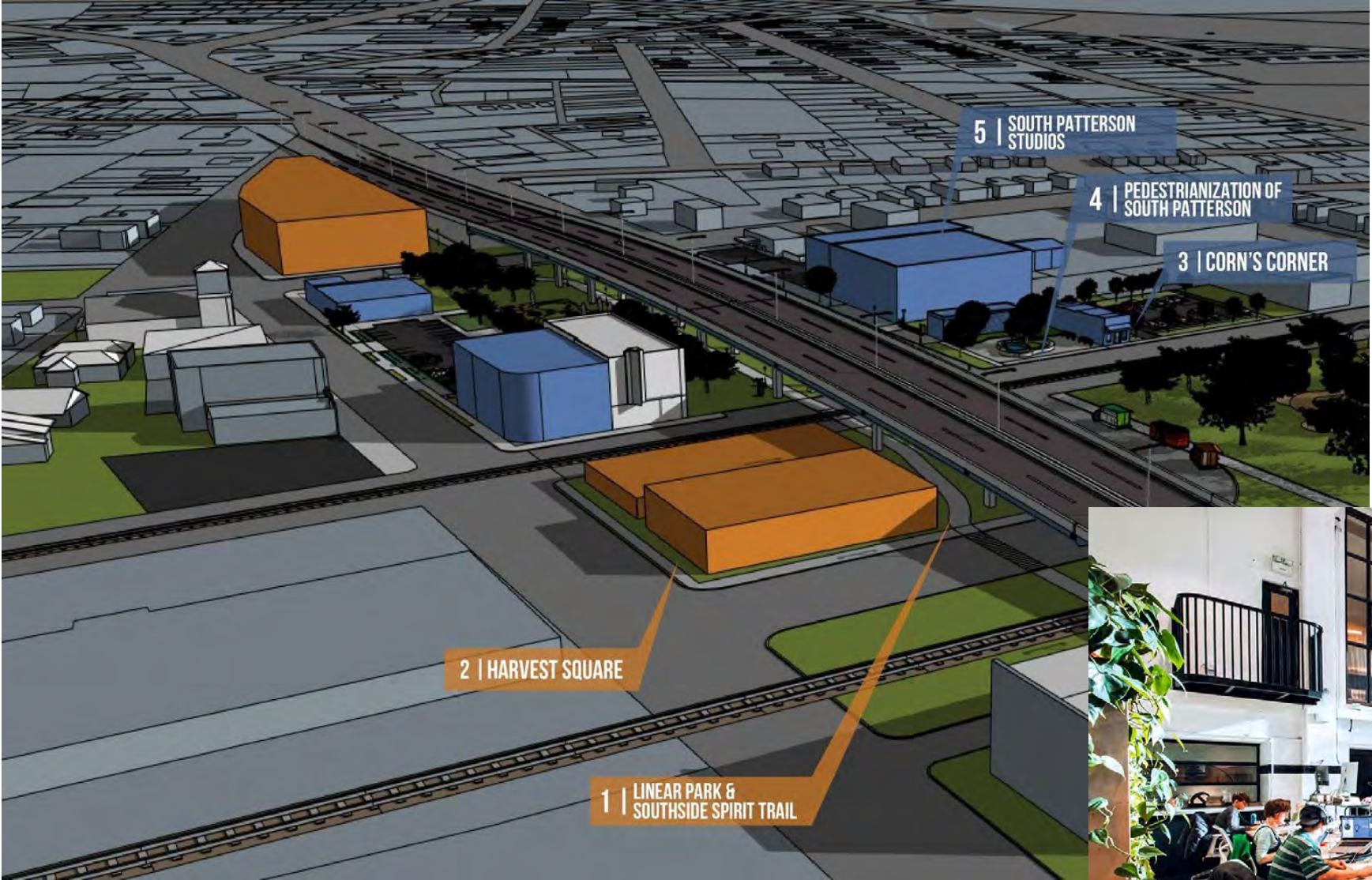
A plan that will guide reinvestment in the Southside Historic District, prioritizing parcels for redevelopment to enhance community connectivity and extend Downtown Valdosta through the Southside Spirit Trail. This will drive revitalization that addresses service gaps and zoning barriers.

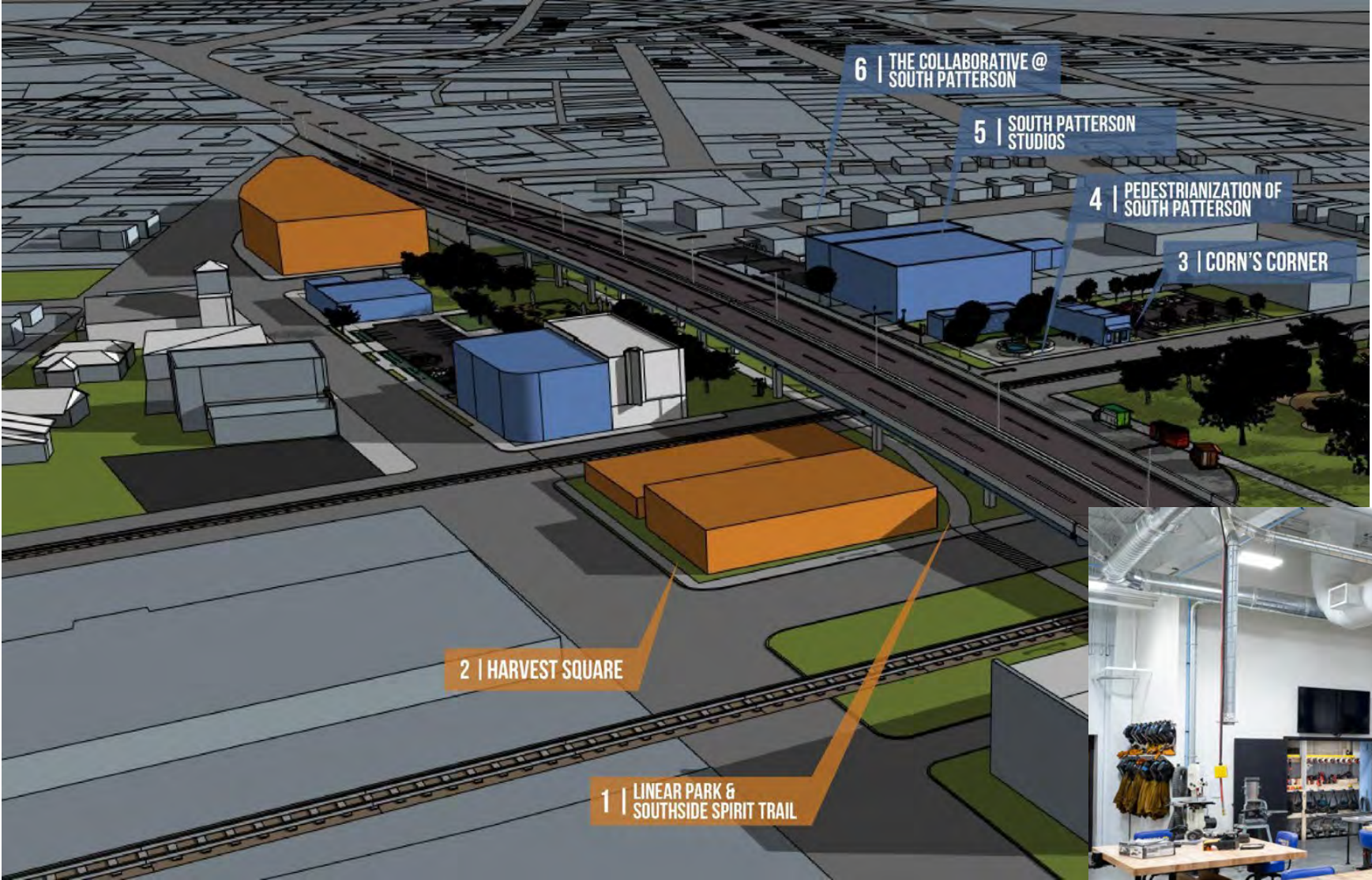


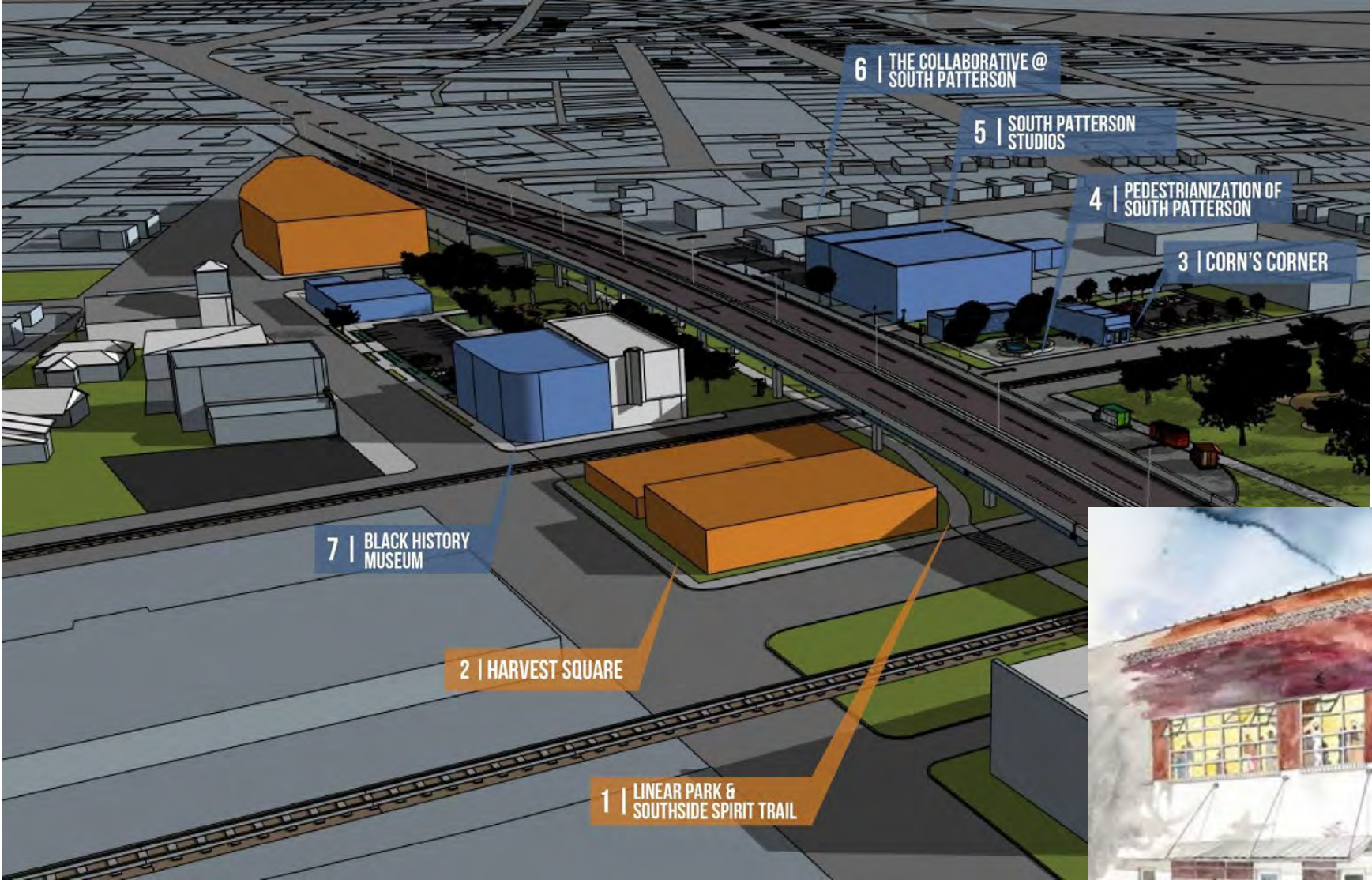


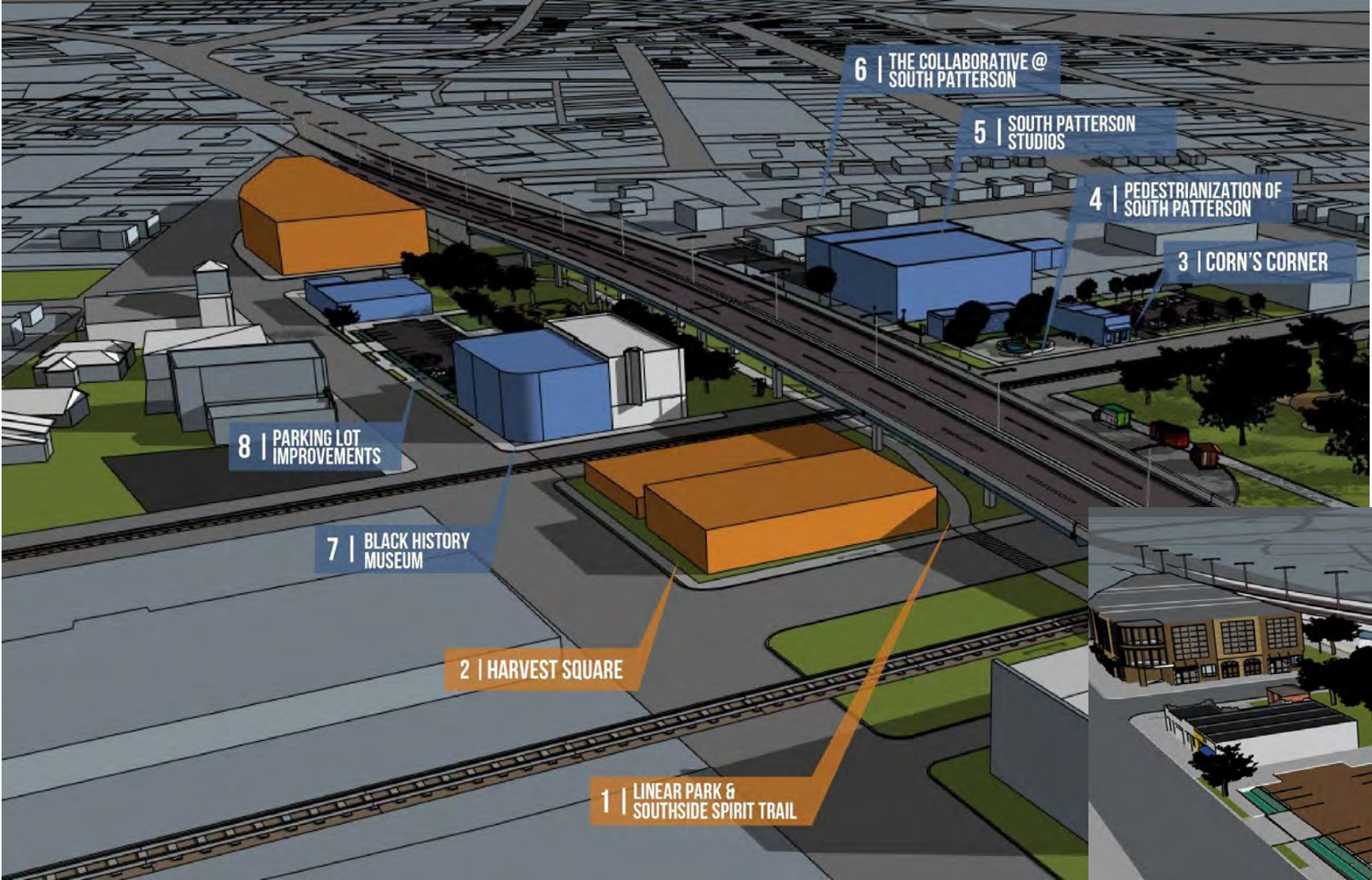


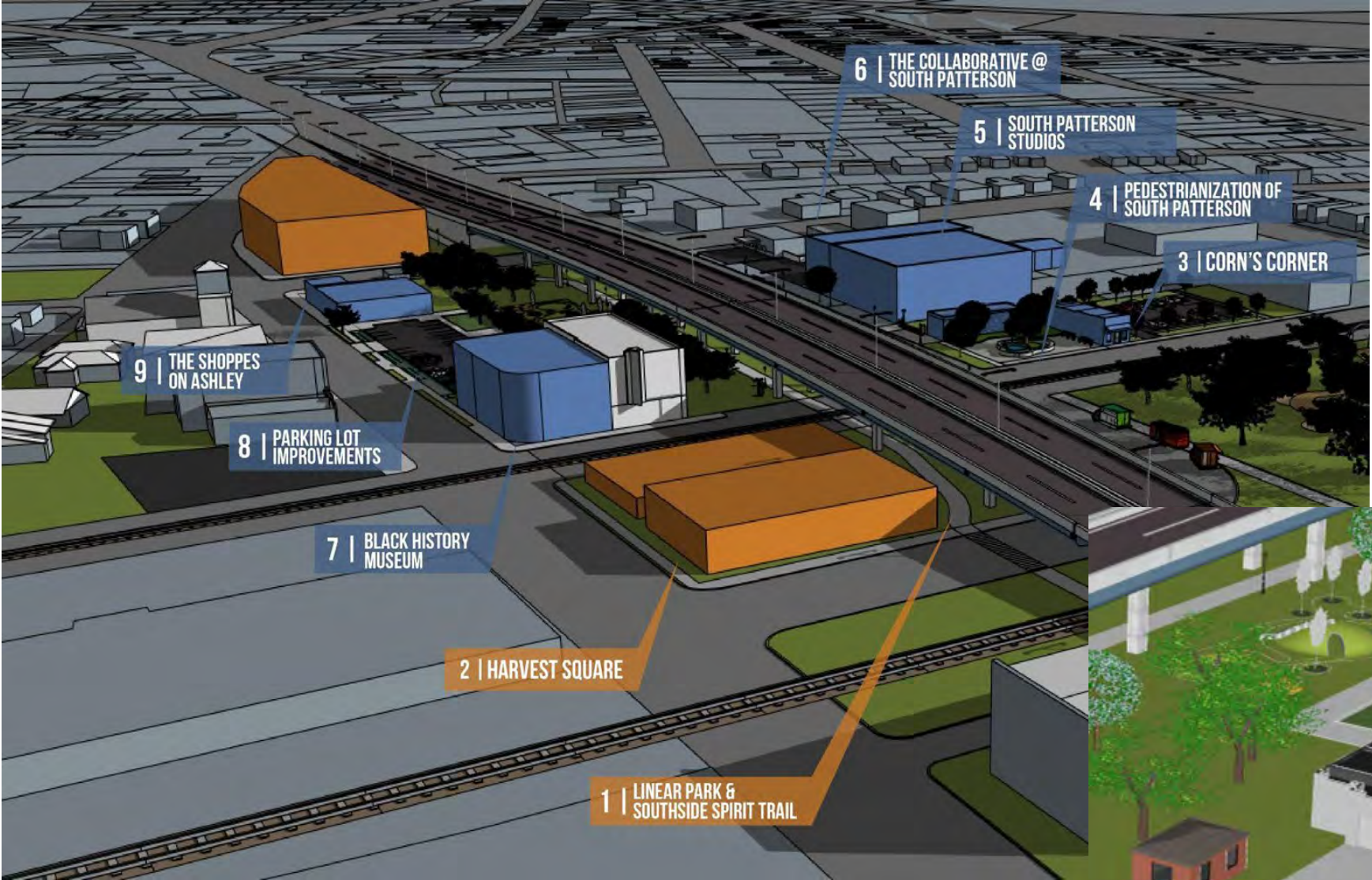


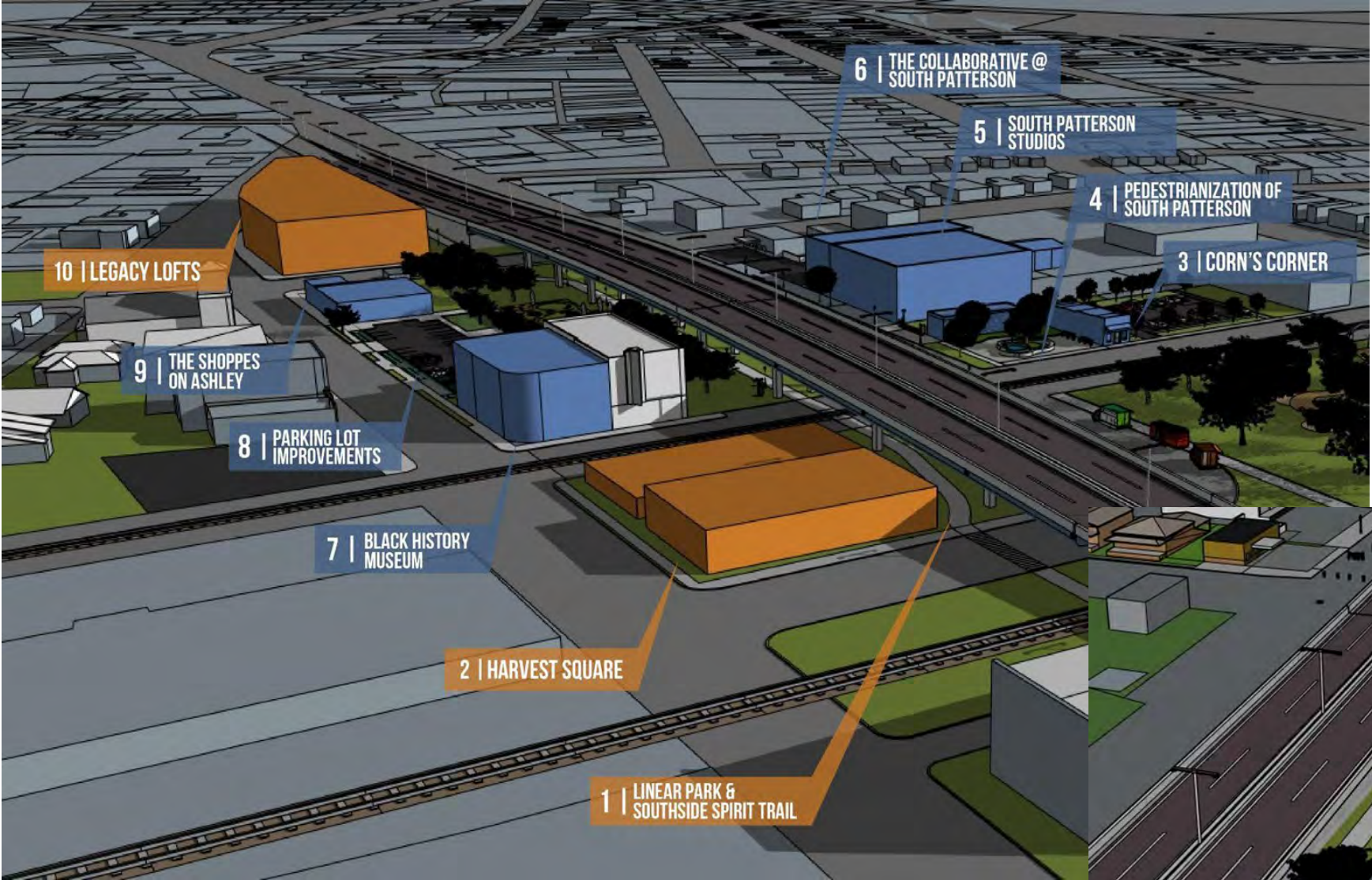


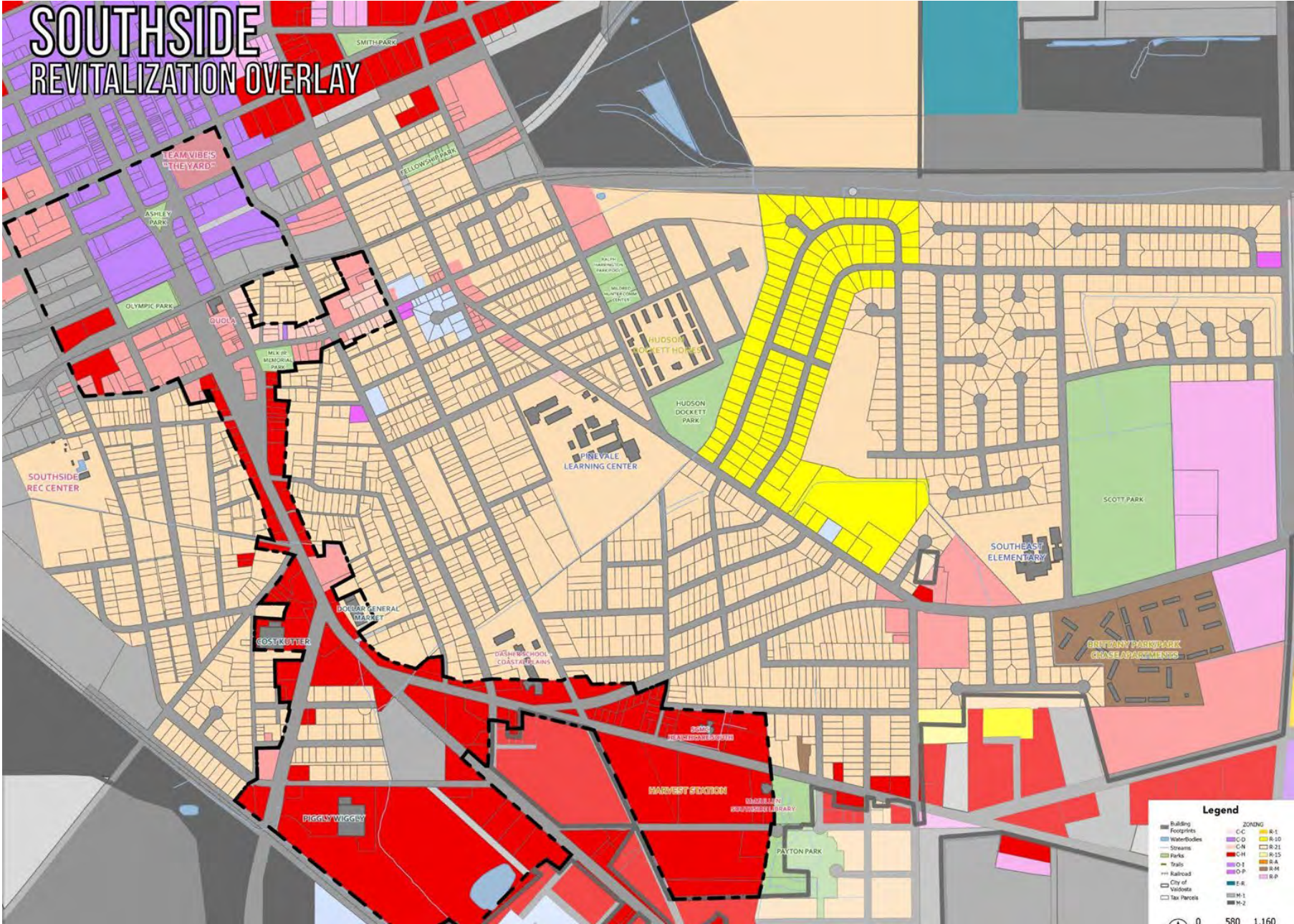












SOUTHSIDE REVITALIZATION OVERLAY

- Allowing for single-family and multi-unit dwellings by-right above the ground floor

BUDGET

Louis Lomax Linear Park	Approx. \$584,750
Harvest Square	Approx \$815,500
Corn's Corner/ Thomas & Pierce Plaza	Approx. \$255,000
107 W. Florida Avenue Plaza	Approx. \$75,000
Bike Co-Op (404 S. Patterson St)	Approx. \$57,514
Patterson Street Pedestrian Area	Approx. \$19,000
South Patterson Studios (408 s. Patterson St)	Approx. \$1,695,568
The ColLABorative (414 s. Patterson St)	Approx. \$733,797
The Shoppes on South Ashley	Approx. \$525,919
Parking Lot (410 Ashley St)	Approx. \$100,000
Black History Museum	Approx. \$499,243
TOTAL	\$5,361,291*

* Approximate total minimum cost



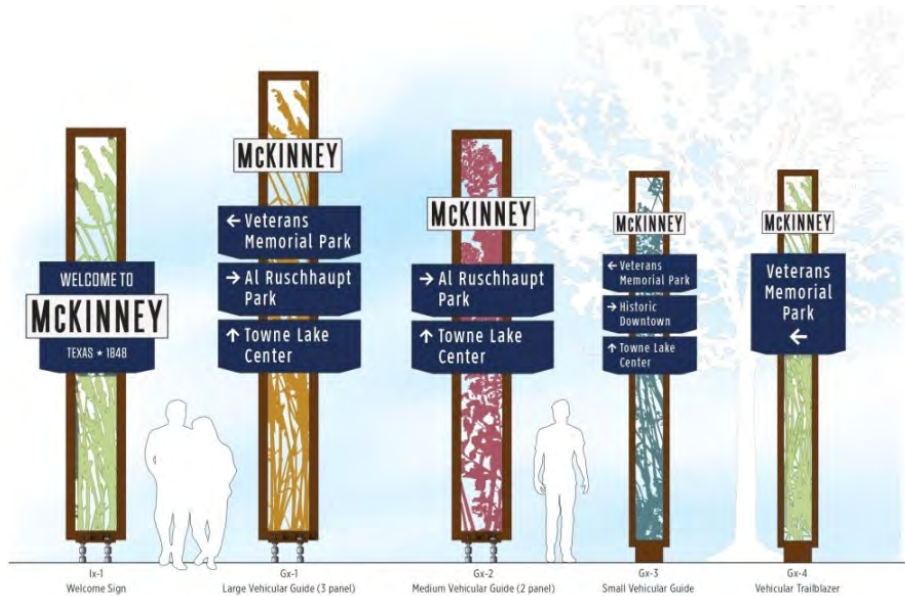
BIG IDEA 3

Neighborhood Connectivity, Placemaking & Beautification

Connecting key historical locations, community resources, and social services via the Southside Spirit Trail

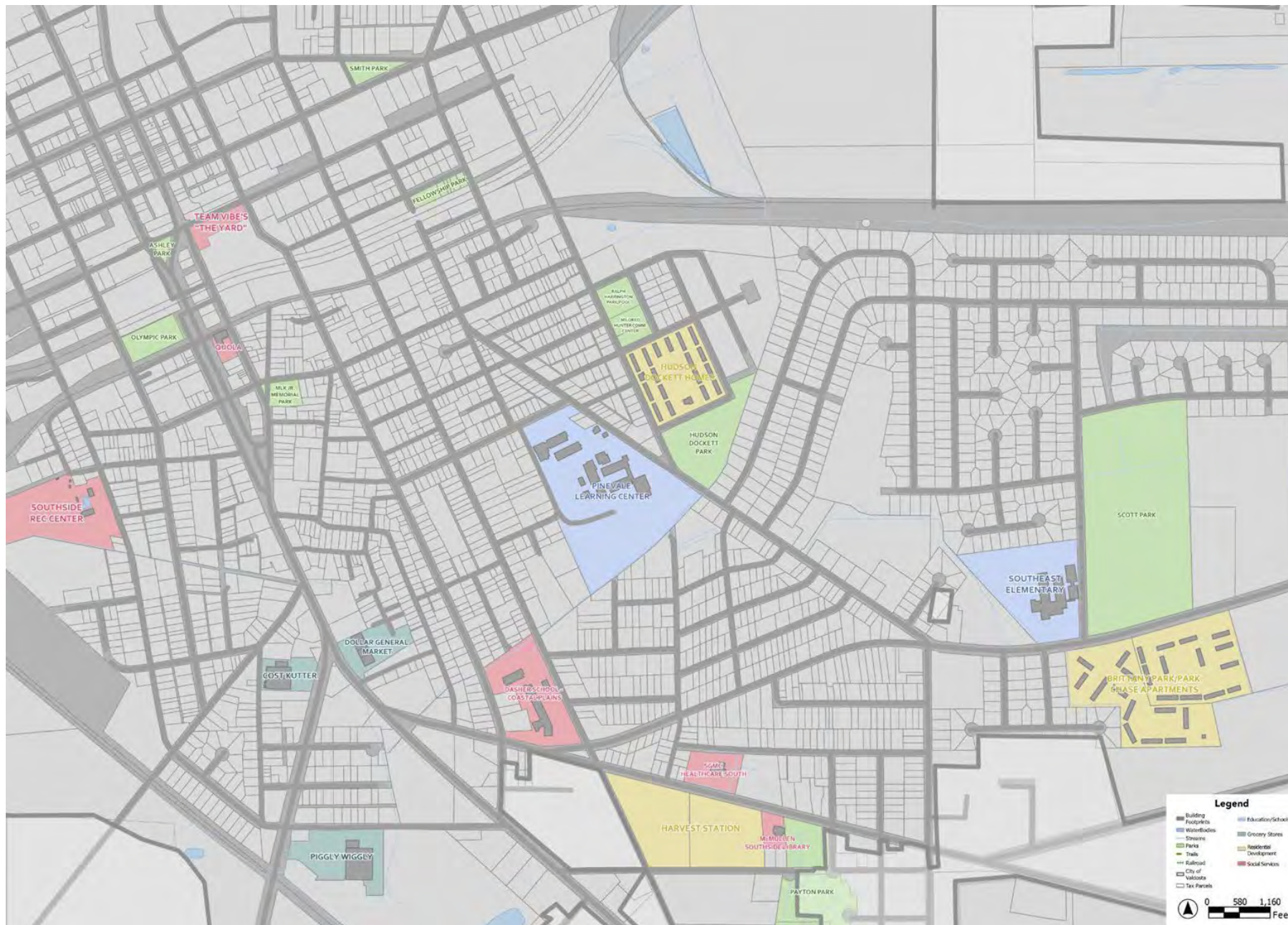
CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

- ❖ Recognizing the History
- ❖ Highlighting key locations with historical markers, mini-museums, and wayfinding signage
- ❖ Connecting the past to the present via the Southside Spirit Trail



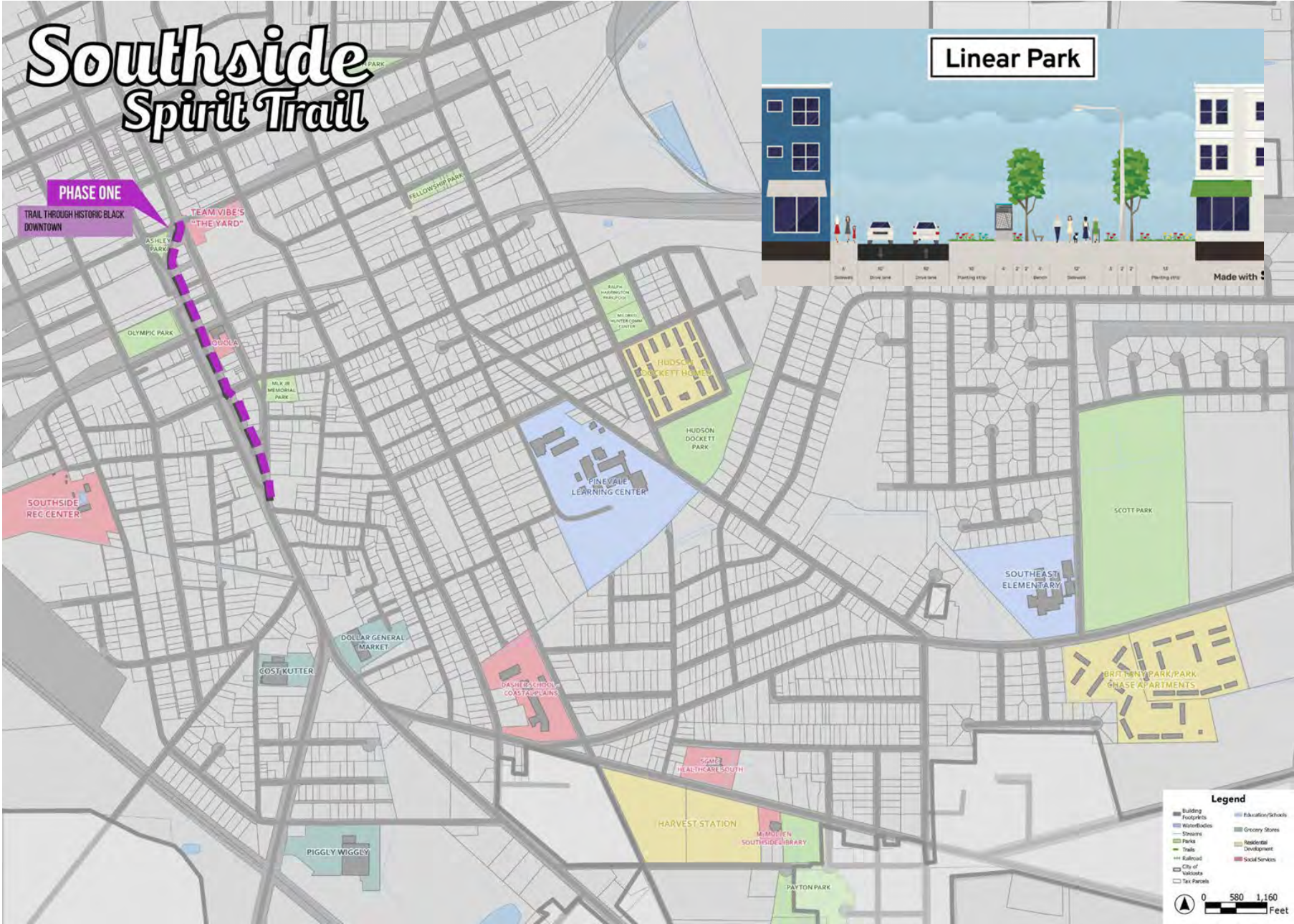
SOUTHSIDE SPIRIT TRAIL

- Connect Historic Locations with:
 - Community Resources
 - Educational Facilities
 - Parks
 - Housing
 - Grocery Stores



Southside Spirit Trail

PHASE ONE
TRAIL THROUGH HISTORIC BLACK DOWNTOWN



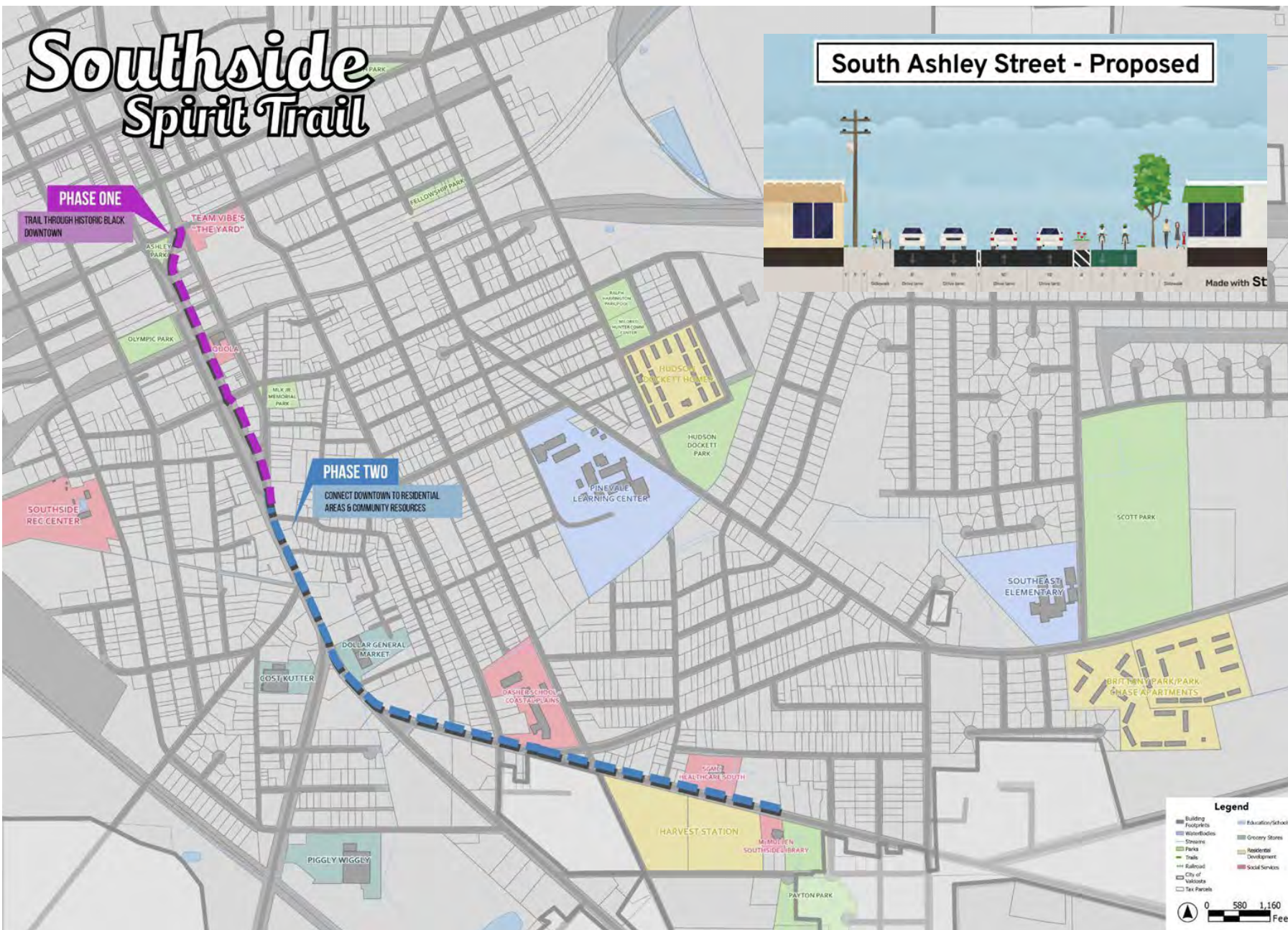
PHASE ONE

12 Foot Wide Multi-Use Trail that starts at “The Yard”, travels under Jim Beck Overpass

Bike Fix-It Stations & Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

Estimated Cost:
\$449,000

Southside Spirit Trail

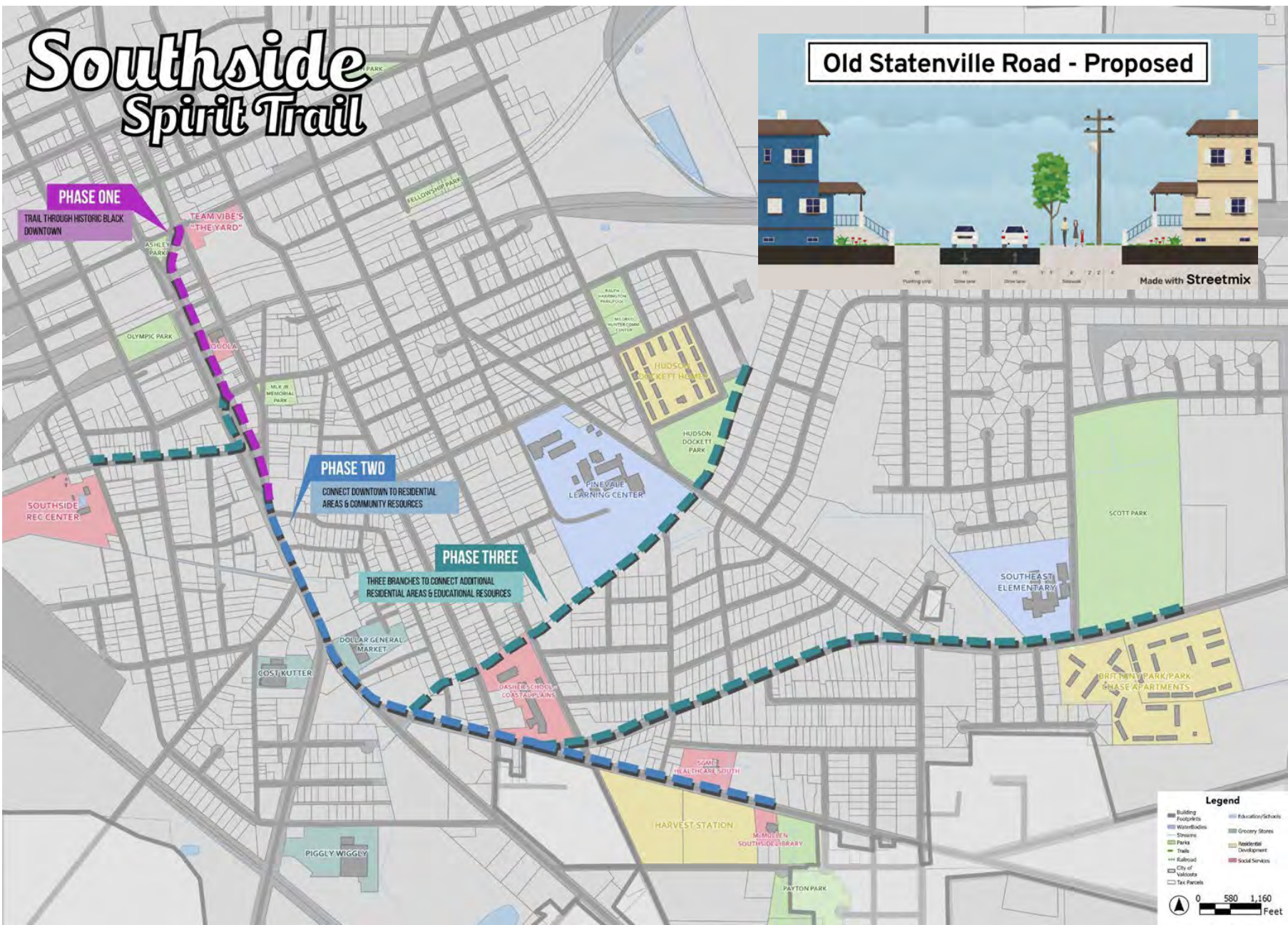


PHASE TWO

South Ashley Street & Griffin Avenue Road Diet to Accommodate Two-Way Bike Lane and Street Trees

Estimated Cost:
\$287,000

Southside Spirit Trail



PHASE THREE

Three off-shoots from the main trail

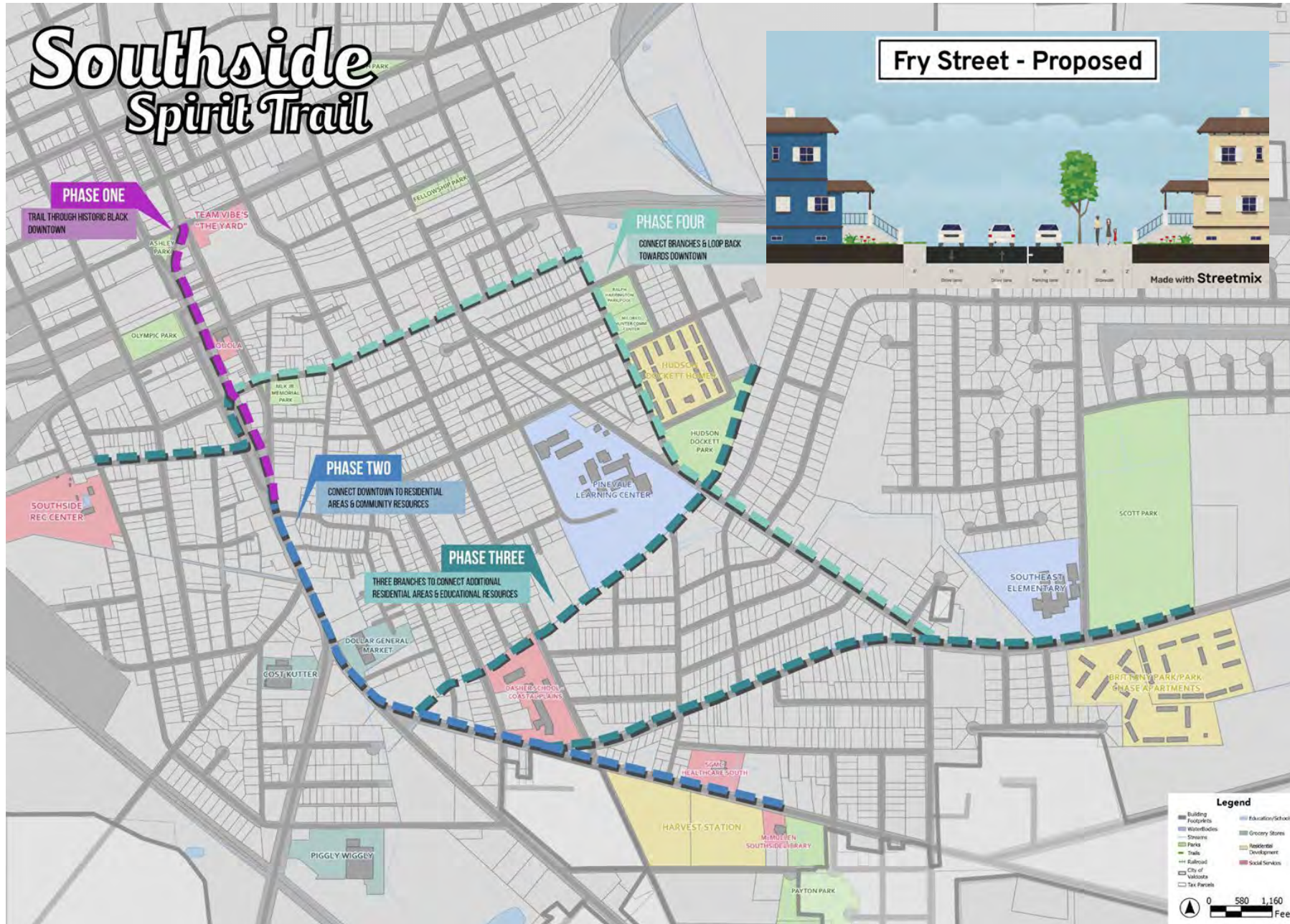
Sharrows to Southside Recreational

Greenway Trail Along Dukes Bay

Sidewalk Widening & Street Trees along Old Statenville

Estimated Cost:
\$1,031,748

Southside Spirit Trail



PHASE FOUR

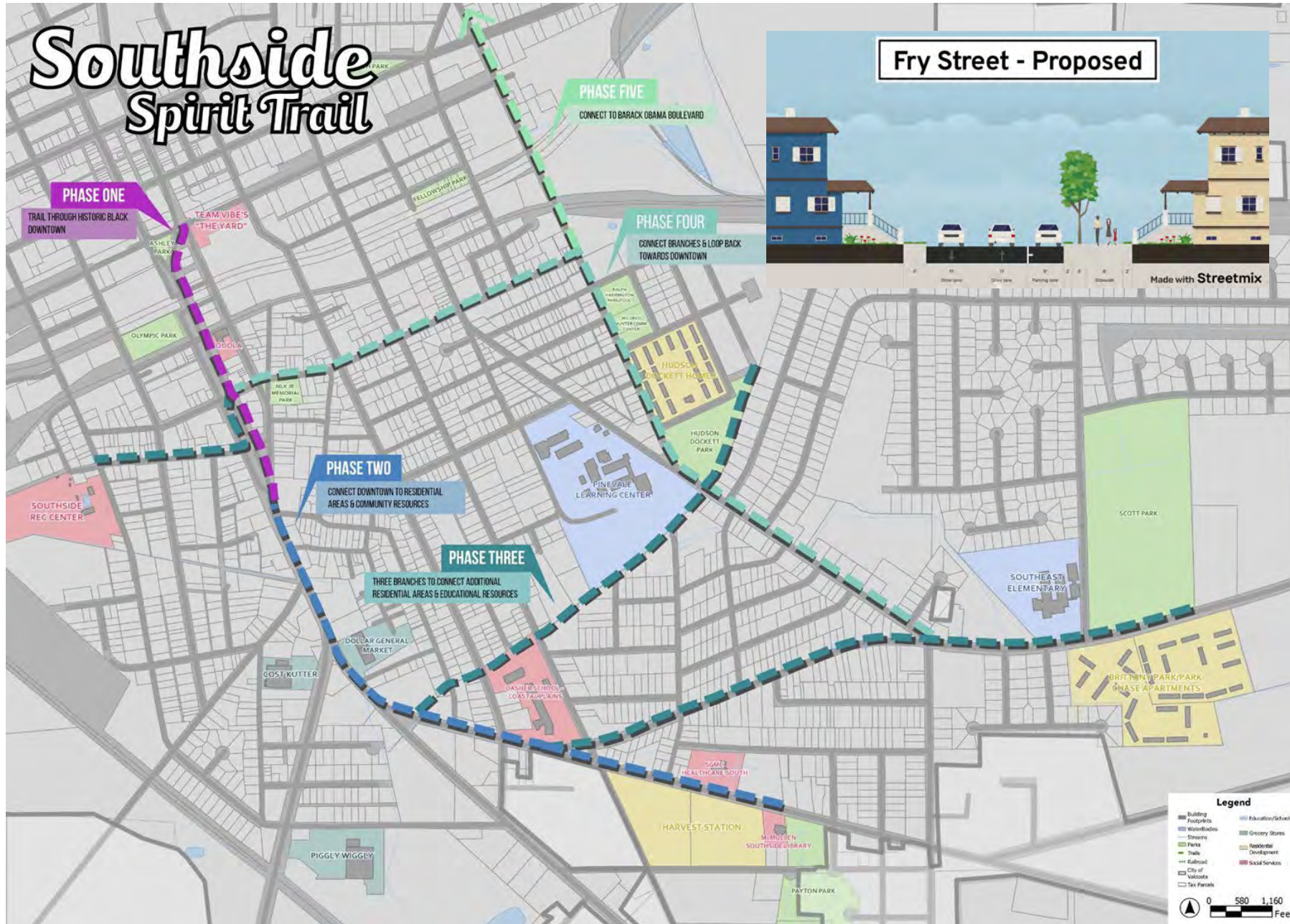
Connects branches from Maceo Horne Learning Center to Pinevale Elementary School along Lake Park Boulevard

Provides access to the Hudson Docket Homes and community center on Fry Street

Completes the loop back towards downtown up E Martin Luther King Drive with added sharrows

Estimated Cost:
\$370,012

Southside Spirit Trail



PHASE FIVE

Connects trail to planned improvements along Barack Obama

Sidewalk Widening & Street Trees

Estimated Cost:
\$87,280

ACTION STEPS

Short-Term

- Create Cultural Liaison position
- Develop SouthSide Spirit Trail Master Plan
- Steering Committee
- Research assessment

Medium-Term

- Implement SST Master Plan
- Host Town Hall and Feedback groups
- Create a visual identity for SST

Long-Term

- Complete implementation of SST Master Plan
- Launch and promote the new trail
- Establish a plan for regular maintenance and operations of the trails

POSSIBLE FUNDING

Local

- City of Valdosta - local revenues, e.g. TSPLOST, LOST, SPLOST
- Southern Georgia Black Chambers
- SGMC Health

State/ Regional

- Congressionally Directed Spending
- Conservancy-Community Placemaking
- Georgia Council for the Arts
- Georgia Department of Economic Affairs
- Historic Preservation Fund Grant
- Georgia Heritage Grant
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- GTIB

Federal/ National

- Federal Highway Administration
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
- Safe Streets and Roads for All

Private

- Community Challenge Grant – AARP
- Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program

THANK YOU





QUESTIONS



HERE
WE
COME!

2025

Young
Gamechangers
a GeorgiaForward program

Presentation & Full Written Recommendations:

www.georgiaforward.org



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVOCATE | BUILD | CONNECT

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