



# MEADOWWOOD

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
LAND 4450: DESIGN V - CAPSTONE  
SPRING 2023







In our work, we investigate the deep history of the Connecticut River Valley, with a focus on the legacy of the Shade Tobacco Industry at the Meadowood Site in the Town of Simsbury. This 285-acre property was recently acquired by the town to protect its cultural heritage and ecological potential. It is a place with a rich legacy, where tobacco laborers, including Morehouse College students and immigrants from the West Indies, toiled. The site is connected through the people, capital, and the crops moving through it. And it has the potential to forge future connections through its stories—to the Connecticut Freedom Trail and beyond—and its ecologies—through habitat creation and conservation as part of a growing network of sites throughout the region. The agricultural work shaped the physical land on site and the lives of its workers, as well as the flow of investment globally, the research trajectories of scientists regionally, and cultural histories of urban neighborhoods across the State. Key figures like Martin Luther King Jr. worked this land but so did scores of Jamaicans and Puerto Ricans, for example, who ultimately settled in Hartford and New Haven. Barns dot the landscape and yet, the importance of the Connecticut River Valley and its Shade Tobacco heritage is still relatively unknown.

The Town and its partners, including the State Historic Preservation Office and The Trust for Public Land, are embarking on a process to preserve and elevate this important history, to tell the stories of the site through design. The project includes developing interpretative materials, enhancing public access, choreographing a trail network, and protecting critical ecological areas and farmland activities. For eight weeks of the Spring 2023 semester in the Landscape Architecture Capstone Design course at the University of Connecticut, we tackled these histories and this site. We began with analysis and mapping to understand the context. From here, we propose overall cultural and ecological strategies for the extensive acreage and its broader connections; as well as ideas for interpretative elements and detailed designs for the public interface. We frame the work through four lenses: agriculture; history; conservation; and recreation.

The work is done in two parts:

- 01. The Collective Atlas (pages 04 to 15)
- 02. The Portals (pages 16 to 49)

**Instructor:** Professor Jill Desimini

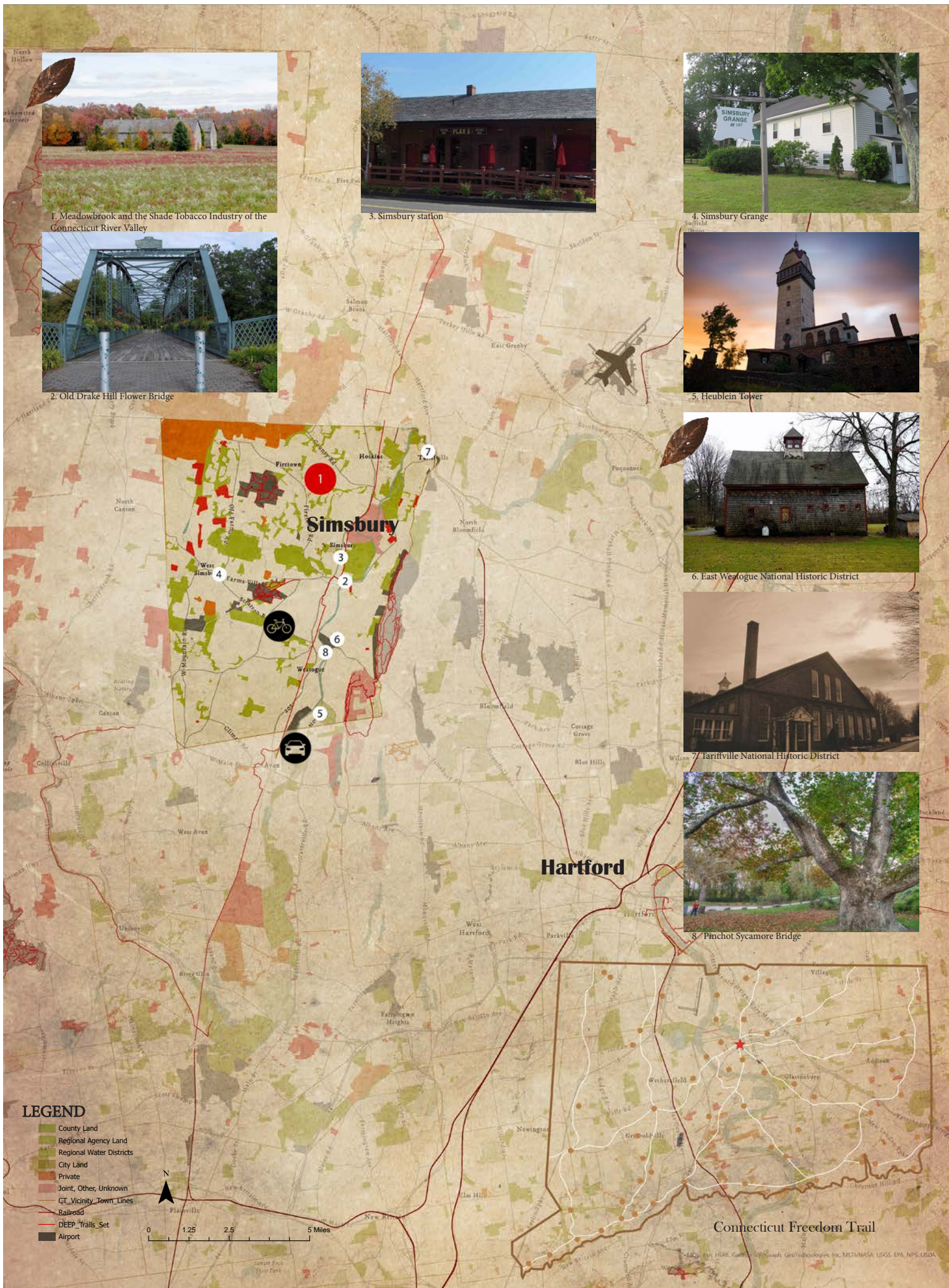
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# **THE COLLECTIVE ATLAS**







# Agricultural Context










2019 aerial photograph



1934 aerial photograph

## Connecticut River Valley Agricultural History

	Pre-History	Early Tobacco Use in the Colonies	Rise of the Cigar Industry in CT	Competing Leaves & CT Shade	Industry Decline & Current Land Use
6000BC	Native Americans begin cultivating tobacco plant	1550 Europeans begin bringing 'Nicotina' back to Europe.	1770 Cigars become preferred over pipes as the main method of smoking tobacco across CT & New England	1870-1880 A new seed called 'Havana' takes root in the CT River Valley. It uplanded most of the broadleaf west of the CT river, with its smaller, smoother leaves.	1953 General Cigar Co. invents a machine that homogenizes tobacco scraps into pressed sheets. Reconsolidated tobacco first replaces binder, but gradually transitions to wrapper use as well. CT Shade Leaf is still sold at a premium, but broadleaf and Havana are soon wiped out.
		1600s 'Nicotina Rustica' becomes among the most valuable commodities exported by Virginia. Sotweed is cultivated at the confluence of the Farmington & Connecticut river, which becomes a trading hub for tribes and colonists.		1890 Sumatra leaf begins to replace wrapper from the valley. It's thin, uniform, and delicately veined leaves burn very evenly, making it highly desired for wrapper.	  
		Early New Englanders also traded with Cuba for a leaf that was better than Virginia's.	1810 Connecticut's first cigar factory opens in the town of Suffield.	1900 The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station tests growing Sumatra seed under shade, without success. A Cuban seed is bred for shade & rivals Sumatra as the best wrapper.	
1 BC	Indigenous American tribes begin smoking tobacco leaf for medicinal & spiritual purposes	1640 Connecticut bans imports of tobacco, encouraging families to grow their own for subsistence use, rather than importing leaf from Cuba. CT farmer William Thrall establishes O.J. Thrall Company to grow and process tobacco.	1825 Facilities are built in East Windsor, nick-naming it Warehouse Point.		
		1762 Isreal Putnam returns to CT from Havana with tobacco seed, allowing CT farmers to grow their own Cuban tobacco plants locally.	1833 Broad leaf is introduced by B.P. Barbour from Maryland. A hearty strain with thin, pliable leaves, which are better suited for cigar wrappers. Entirely supplanted shoe-string, the former variety of the valley, within a few years.	1925 CT production peaks with 30,800 acres grown	

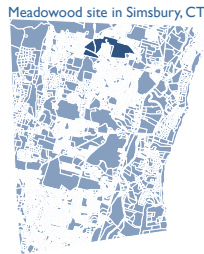


# TOBACCO SHEDS

Tobacco barns may be seen all along the Connecticut River Valley. Although tobacco farming in Connecticut is still practiced today, many of the sheds from the early twentieth century are no longer being used.

## MEADOWOOD

Meadowood, a protected area of land in Simsbury, Connecticut, is notable in the history of shade tobacco growing because it was once owned by the Cullman Brothers, Inc., who established itself not just as a major presence in Simsbury but also as one of the country's largest growers of cigar tobacco in the 20th century.



## SHADE TOBACCO IN CONNECTICUT



Inscriptions from early farm workers can be found on the insides of these sheds. However, many of the original structures containing these inscriptions have collapsed or been demolished.



Today, only a few survivors of this once prevalent and uniquely Connecticut type of structure remain. The landscape of central Connecticut was once dominated by billowing acres of shade tents that surrounded the tobacco sheds.

## ARCHITECTURE

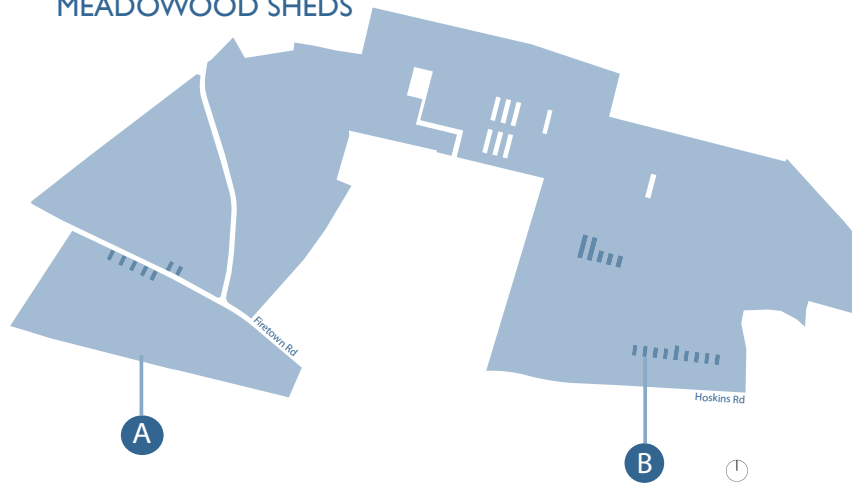
The special-purpose tobacco shed emerged as a type of agricultural outbuilding in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The tobacco shed has a dirt floor, pole or post framing with brick, stone, or concrete footings, an interior network of transverse and longitudinal members from which to hang the cured tobacco, and some way of controlling ventilation. After its initial development in the 1880s, the general type has seen little change. Small changes in details can be found, and several variants of the general type of shade tobacco shed can be distinguished.

The sheds show three different types of frame construction. Some shed poles have their vertical members embedded directly in the ground. Sheds built around the 1930s have posts made of sawn lumber, which was probably the most common type of construction. Finally, the 40 x 100 barns exemplify the use of balloon-framing for the side and end walls, with a self-supporting three-bay interior structure to hold the weight of the tobacco. Because shade tobacco was hung as leaves rather than stalks, the tiers on which it was suspended were close together. One notable feature of most shade tobacco sheds is that they have some form of side ventilation (horizontal or vertical) as well as roof ventilation to aid in regulating temperatures during the leaf curing process.

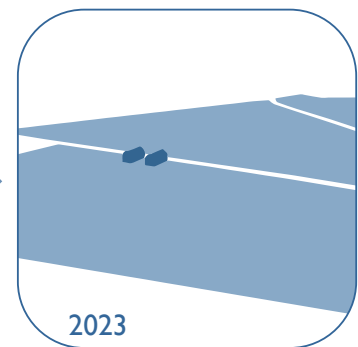
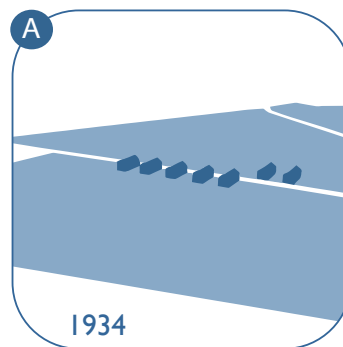
Although their primary function was to store tobacco, these structures were important for shipping and packing processes. The tobacco had to be taken down and packed for shipping to a warehouse at the end of the curing period.

The barns that remain in Connecticut are testaments not only to the importance of that crop to the state's economy, but also to the hard work, skill, and diligence of those who oversaw and worked on these farms.

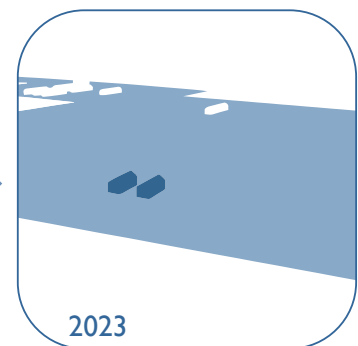
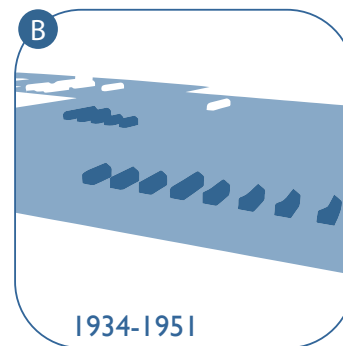
## MEADOWOOD SHEDS



"A" and "B", two major locations of Cullman Brothers, Inc. tobacco sheds. This map displays locations of barns that existed on these sites from 1934-present, including the eight northern sheds that were built on or after 1965.



Most sheds were demolished during the 21st century.

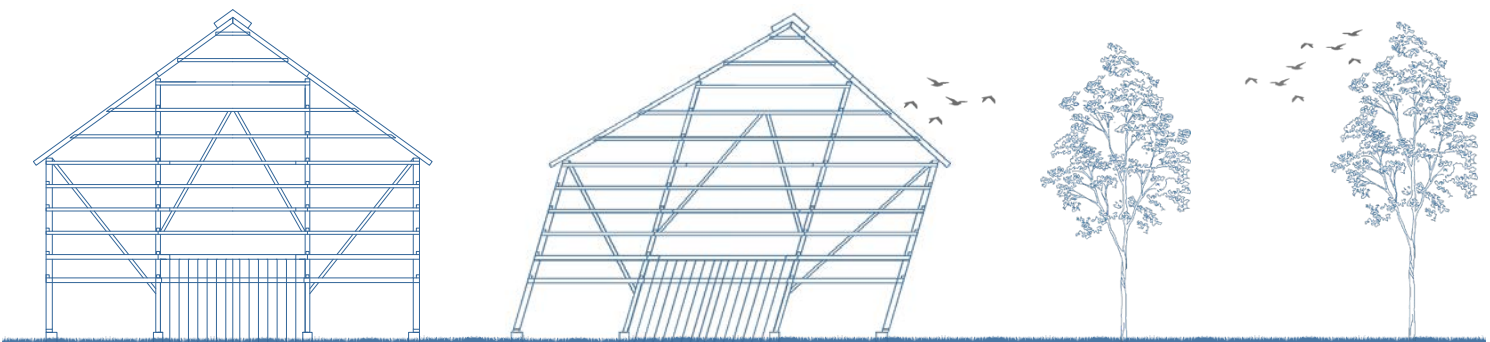


Eight sheds were constructed around 1965. They are still standing but they do not possess the same historical significance as those that were built in the early twentieth century. Therefore, they are not highlighted in the graphics of the sheds

## STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

## COLLAPSE

## OVERGROWTH



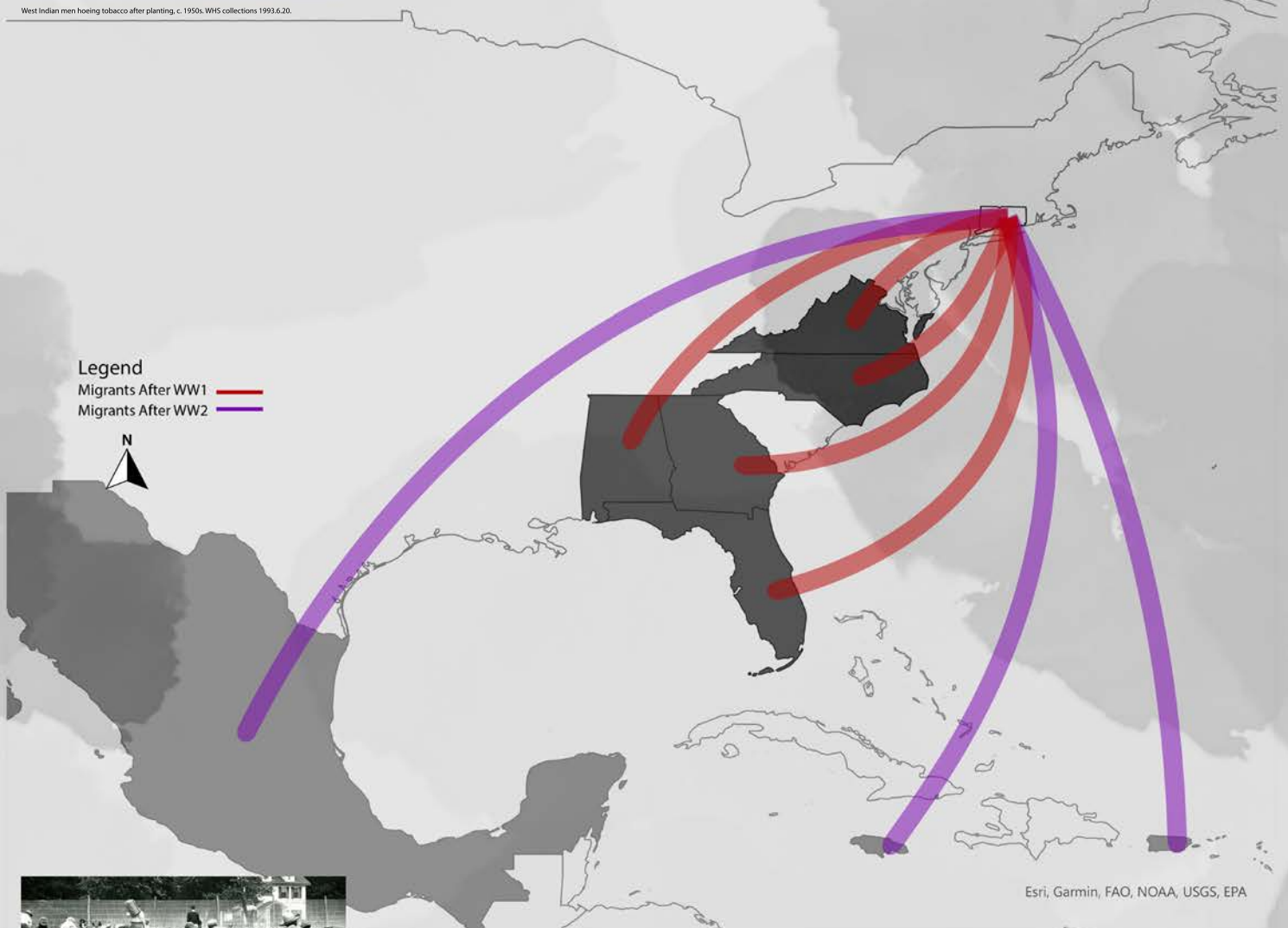


# Labor Migration



West Indian men hoeing tobacco after planting, c. 1950s. WHS collections 1993.6.20.

Before WW1, workers were white or immigrants from white countries. After WW1 broke out, these white workers sought higher paying jobs at ammunition plants. To solve the shortage of labor the Connecticut Tobacco Company hired more than 1400 students from colleges in Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia Colleges.



West Indian men and local women pulling plants for transplanting, c. 1950s. WHS collections 1993.6.20.

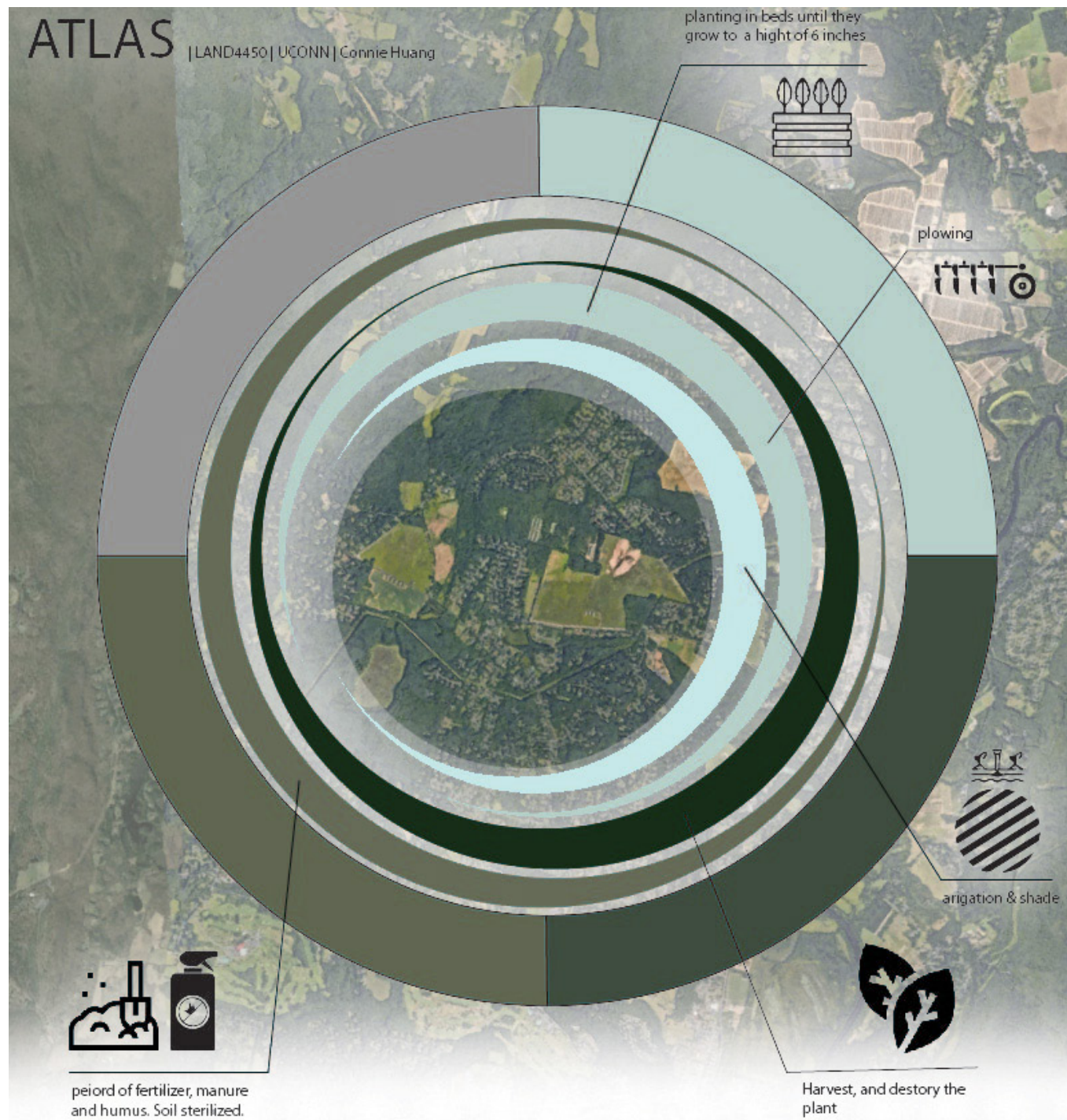
Post WW2, southern college student workers were still vital to the seasonal shade tobacco production. After the second World War broke out there was immigrant labor from countries such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.





# ATLAS

| LAND4450 | UCONN | Connie Huang



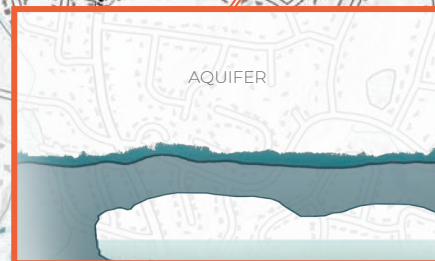
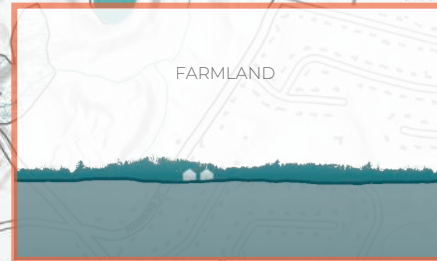
One student recalled in 1952: "We were taken into Hartford on a company bus... and we parked down in what is now known as the Front Street section... my brother and I spent our time going to the movies," wrote William S. Spencer, age 15. Other students remembered going to a shopping center.



A rally in 1929 arranged by the Hartford YMCA at the AME Zion Church brought students from plantations in Tariffville, East Windsor Hill, Simsbury, Poquonock, and Windsor to meet Hartford residents. Camp managers also planned end-of-season trips to Riverside Park in Agawam, Massachusetts, to send students off on a positive note, in hopes that might benefit the next year's recruitment effort.



Meadowood is an agricultural site that housed tobacco farms and tobacco workers throughout the middle of the 20th century with the main product of Shade tobacco. Meadowood provides a valued history of civil rights, immigration, and agriculture in CT's tobacco era. The location housed students from across the country, including students from a number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Morehouse College partnership sent hundreds of students, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to work on Cullman Brothers farm during summers in exchange for tuition. Now, a portion of the site is now zoned for farmland preservation with pockets of wetlands around the area.





# AIR QUALITY, TOXICITY OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION OVER TIME

## SIMSBURY

MEADOWOOD

THE EXTENSIVE BURNING OF FORESTS FOR TOBACCO GROWING IN MANY LMICS ALSO PRODUCES GREENHOUSE GASSES OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING CARBON DIOXIDE, SULFUR OXIDES, NITROGEN OXIDES, AND CARBON MONOXIDE. TOBACCO UNDERGOES A PROCESS OF CURING, WHERE IT'S HEATED UP TO REDUCE MOISTURE AND PRESERVE IT BEFORE IT'S PREPARED TO BE SOLD. WOOD OR COAL ARE COMMONLY USED TO POWER THE FURNACES THAT CURE COMMERCIAL TOBACCO, AND IT'S ESTIMATED THAT 8.05 MILLION TONNES OF WOOD IS USED FOR TOBACCO CURING ANNUALLY.

FARMING TOBACCO IS HAZARDOUS FOR ADULTS, AND MORE SO FOR CHILDREN. AN IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK IS GREEN TOBACCO SICKNESS (GTS), A FORM OF NICOTINE POISONING FROM THE LEAVES OF THE TOBACCO PLANT WITH SYMPTOMS INCLUDING NAUSEA, VOMITING, AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING.

## CONNECTICUT RIVER

## TOBACCO PRODUCTION TIMELINE



### TOBACCO GROWING

\*MONOCULTURE FARMING LEADS TO MORE INTENSE FERTILIZERS BEING USED, WHICH LEACHES INTO THE SOIL\*



### CROP CULTIVATION

\*GTS (GREEN TOBACCO SICKNESS) IS A FORM OF NICOTINE POISONING FROM THE LEAVES OF THE TOBACCO PLANT\*



### HARVESTING

\*RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ARE FOUND IN HIGH AMOUNTS IN FERTILIZERS THAT ARE USED ON FARM CROPS\*

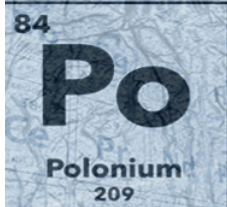


### CURING

\*MANY GREENHOUSE GASSES ARE PRODUCED IN THE PROCESS OF CURING THE TOBACCO LEAVES\*



### GRADING AND STABILIZING

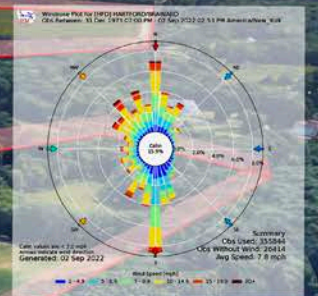
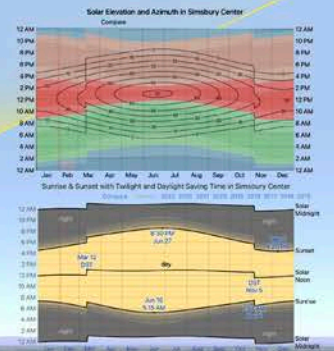
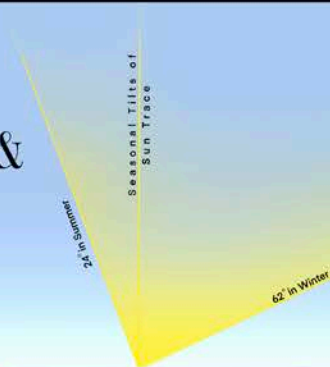


RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, LIKE POLONIUM-210 AND LEAD-210 ARE FOUND NATURALLY IN THE SOIL AND AIR. THEY ARE ALSO FOUND IN THE HIGH-PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS THAT FARMERS USE ON THEIR CROPS. POLONIUM-210 AND LEAD-210 GET INTO AND ONTO TOBACCO LEAVES AND REMAIN THERE EVEN AFTER THE TOBACCO HAS BEEN PROCESSED.

BECAUSE TOBACCO IS OFTEN GROWN AS A MONO-CROP, LEAVING THE SOIL MORE VULNERABLE TO DISEASES AND PESTS, AND/OR IN REGIONS WITH MARGINAL LAND AND POOR SOIL, IT REQUIRES EVEN MORE INTENSIVE CHEMICAL USE TO PRODUCE A VIABLE COMMERCIAL CROP. RUINOFF CONTAMINATED WITH THESE CHEMICALS ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE LAND AND WATERSHEDS AROUND TOBACCO FARMS, UNDERMINING FUTURE AGRICULTURAL USE, WHICH CAN BE DEVASTATING FOR FOOD CROPS IN REGIONS THAT ARE ALREADY FOOD INSECURE.

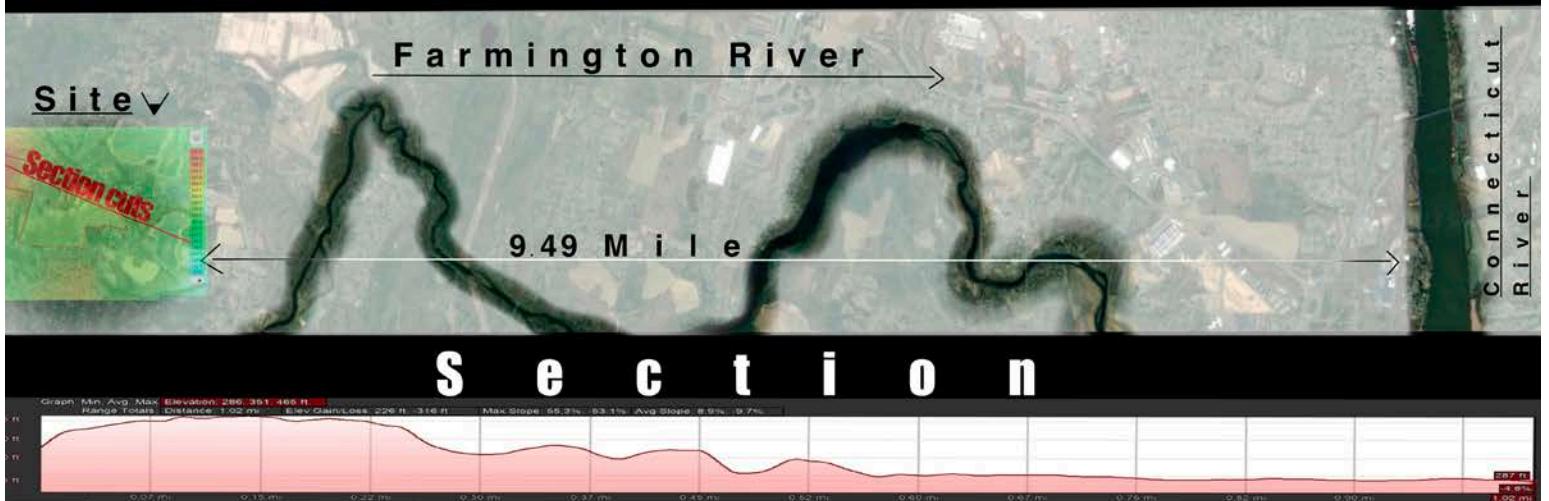


# Simsbury CT Geographic & Climate Habitate Analysis



Max Temp: 84 F  
Min Temp: 19 F  
Max Precipitation: 3.9 in  
Min Precipitation: 2.7  
Snowfall: Max 12" Oct - Apr  
Daylight Time: 15hr14min- 9hr 8min

Using Köppen climate system:  
Humid subtropical climate - A humid subtropical climate is a zone of climate characterized by hot and humid summers, and cool to mild winters. These climates normally lie on the southeast side of all continents (except Antarctica), generally between latitudes 25° and 40° and are located poleward from adjacent tropical climates  
Humid continental climate - Typically found in the central and northeastern United States, a humid continental climate is largely characterized by its significant temperature differences between summer and winter. Winters tend to be cold, while summers are hot  
The humid continental climate is predominantly found in the Northern Hemisphere between 30 and 60 degrees North Latitude in both North America and parts of Asia and Europe. The Southern Hemisphere doesn't have a humid continental climate due to the lack of large landmasses in the given latitudes.

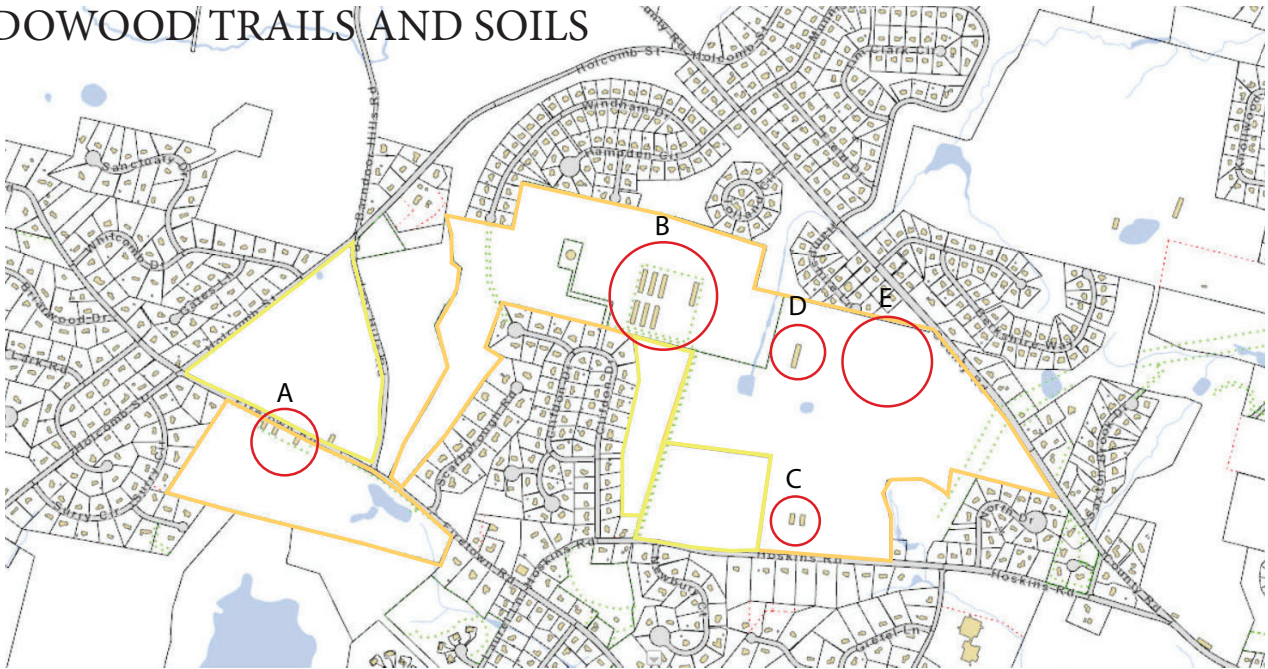


The present course of the Farmington River was established by the interaction between glacial ice and meltwater deposits

The Connecticut River is the longest river in the New England region of the United States, flowing roughly southward for 406 miles through four states. It rises 300 yards south of the U.S. border with Quebec, Canada, and discharges at Long Island Sound



# MEADOWOOD TRAILS AND SOILS



[https://simsbury.mappress.net/ags\\_map/8](https://simsbury.mappress.net/ags_map/8)



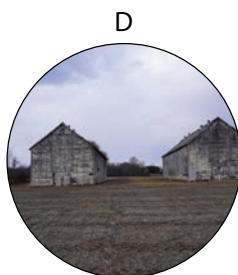
Abandoned tobacco sheds (no longer safe)



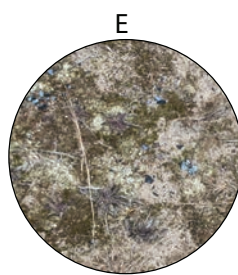
Actively leased tobacco sheds



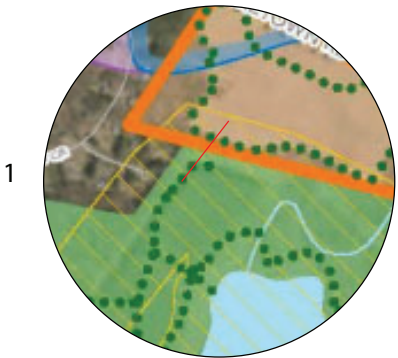
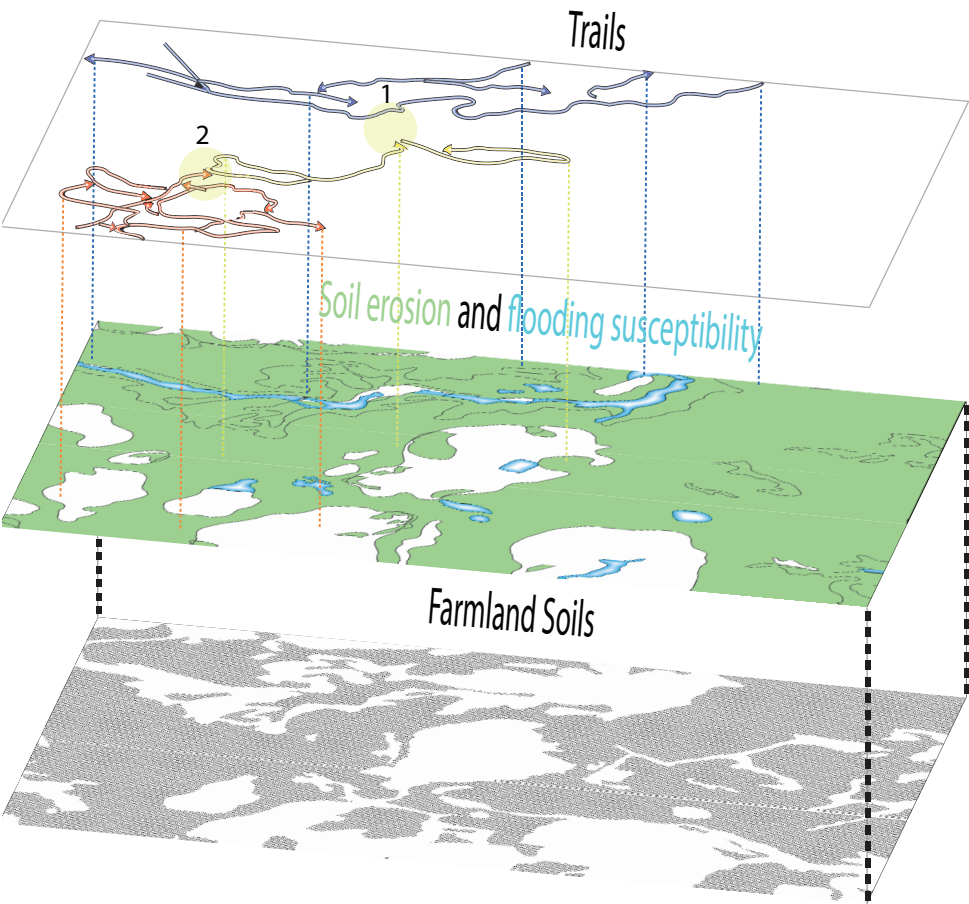
Abandoned tobacco sheds (no longer safe)



Abandoned tobacco sheds (no longer safe)



Damaged top soils ("waste-land")



Connection to Mclean Game Refuge trails

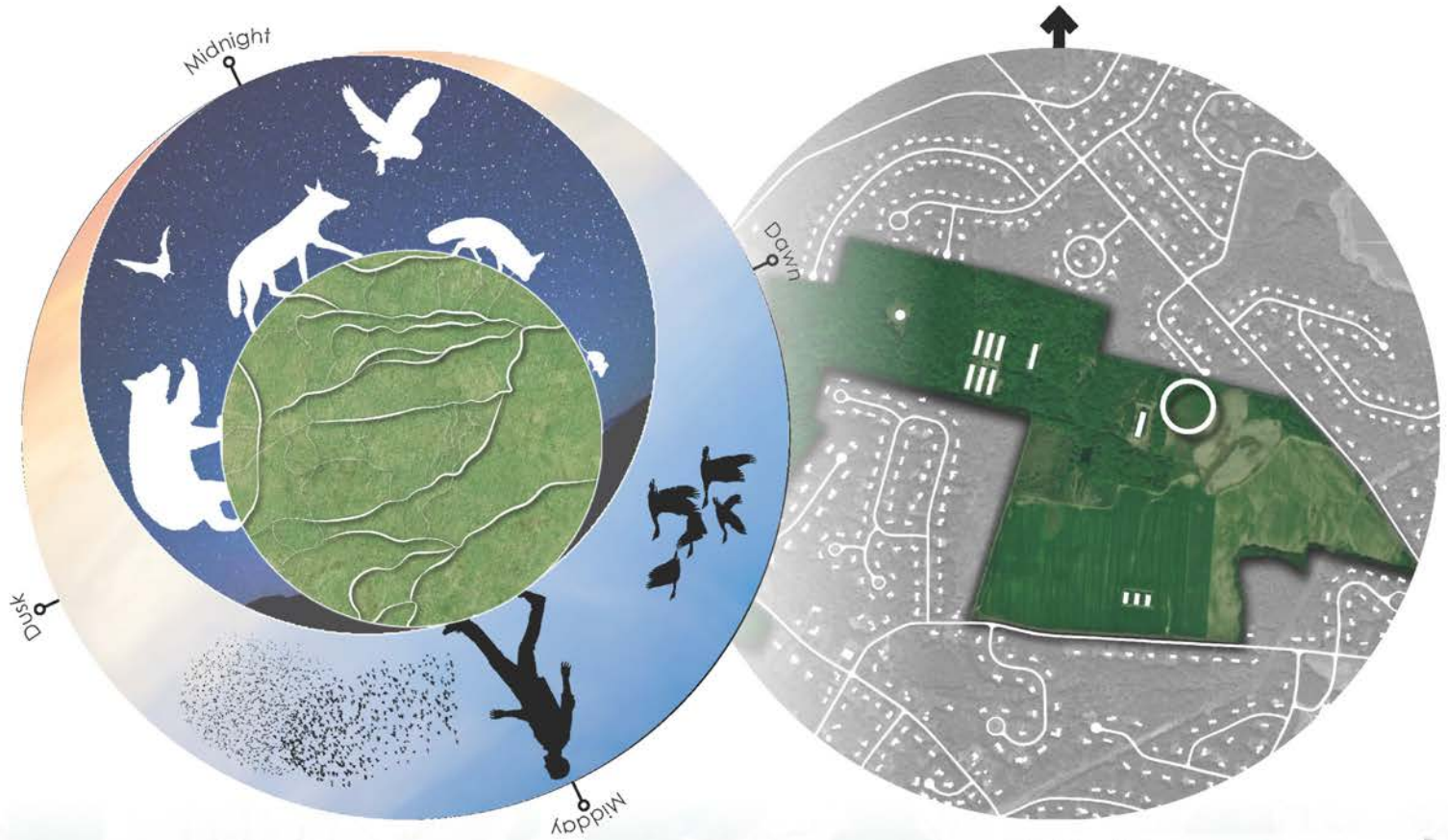
Maps from the meadowood conservation project.



Connection to Massacoe State Forest trails



# Wildlife of the Old Pasture Habitat



## Natural Diversity Areas

This map represent known locations, both historic and extant, of state and federal listed species. State listed species are those listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern under the Connecticut Endangered Species Act (Connecticut General Statutes, Section 26-303 and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies 26-303).

The MLK Tobacco Fields, and surrounding site, provide critical pasture, and field habitats for many animals. Game trails are visible on satellite images and intersect with the dominant human and machine-made paths.



Least Shrew  
*Cryptotis parva*



Grasshopper Sparrow  
*Ammodramus saviannarum*



Puritan Tiger Beetle  
*Cicindela puritana*



# Botanical Evolution & Varieties of Simsbury, CT

## Stage 1-Early Settlement

Primal Forests, Grasslands  
Shrublands, and Tobacco Farming

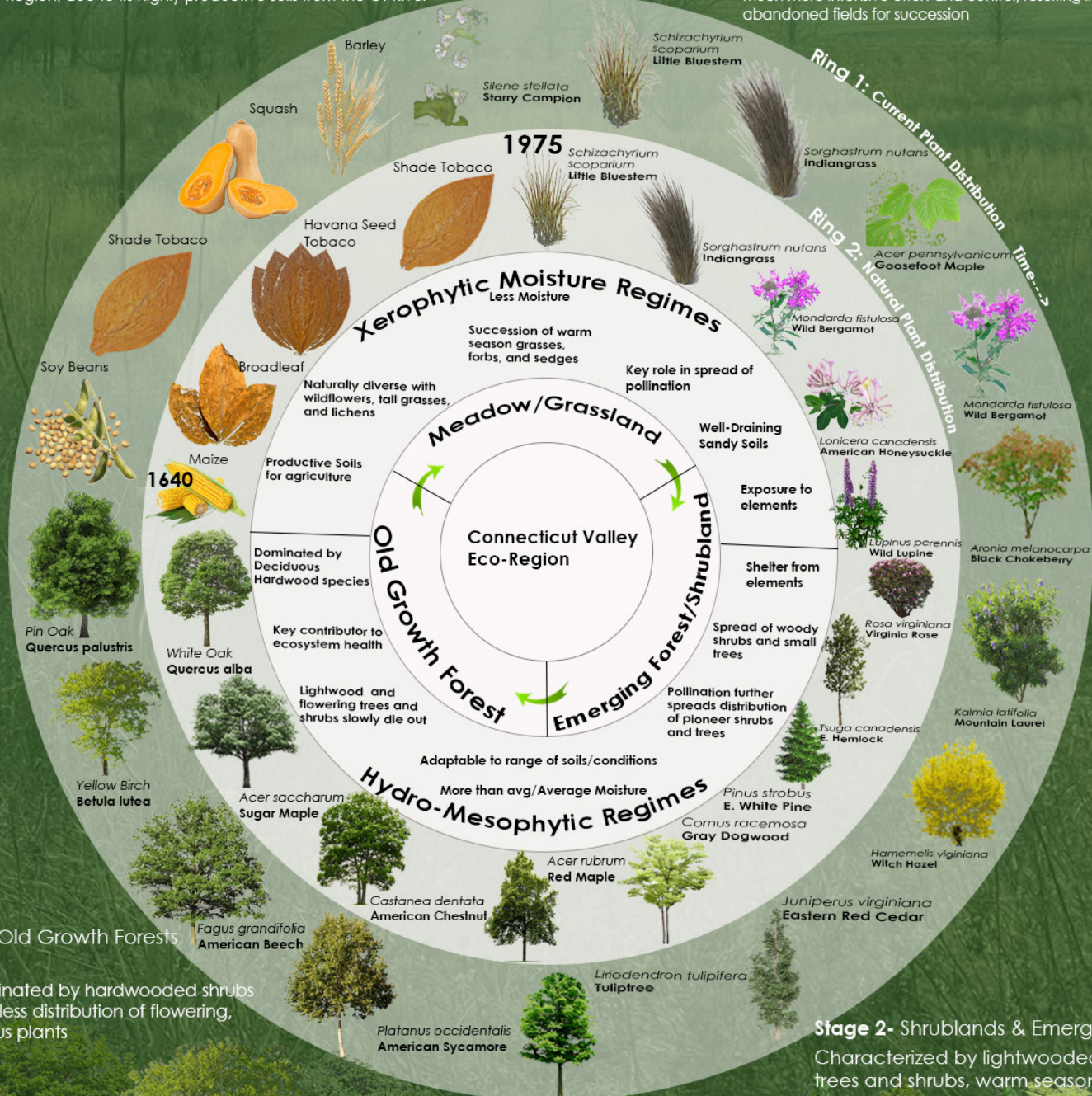


Primal Forests of regional hardwoods were cleared for agriculture, reducing successional diversity of endemic species such as the American Chestnut Tree or Goosefoot Maple Tree

Natives and Early Settlers cultivated Corn and Broadleaf Tobacco in the CT River Valley Region, due to its highly productive soils from the CT River watershed

# Today

Early 1900's saw new the shift from Broadleaf Tobacco agriculture to Shade Tobacco cultivation with much more intensive effort and control, resulting in more abandoned fields for succession



### Stage 3- Old Growth Forests

More dominated by hardwooded shrubs and trees, less distribution of flowering, herbaceous plants

## Stage 2- Shrublands & Emerging Forest

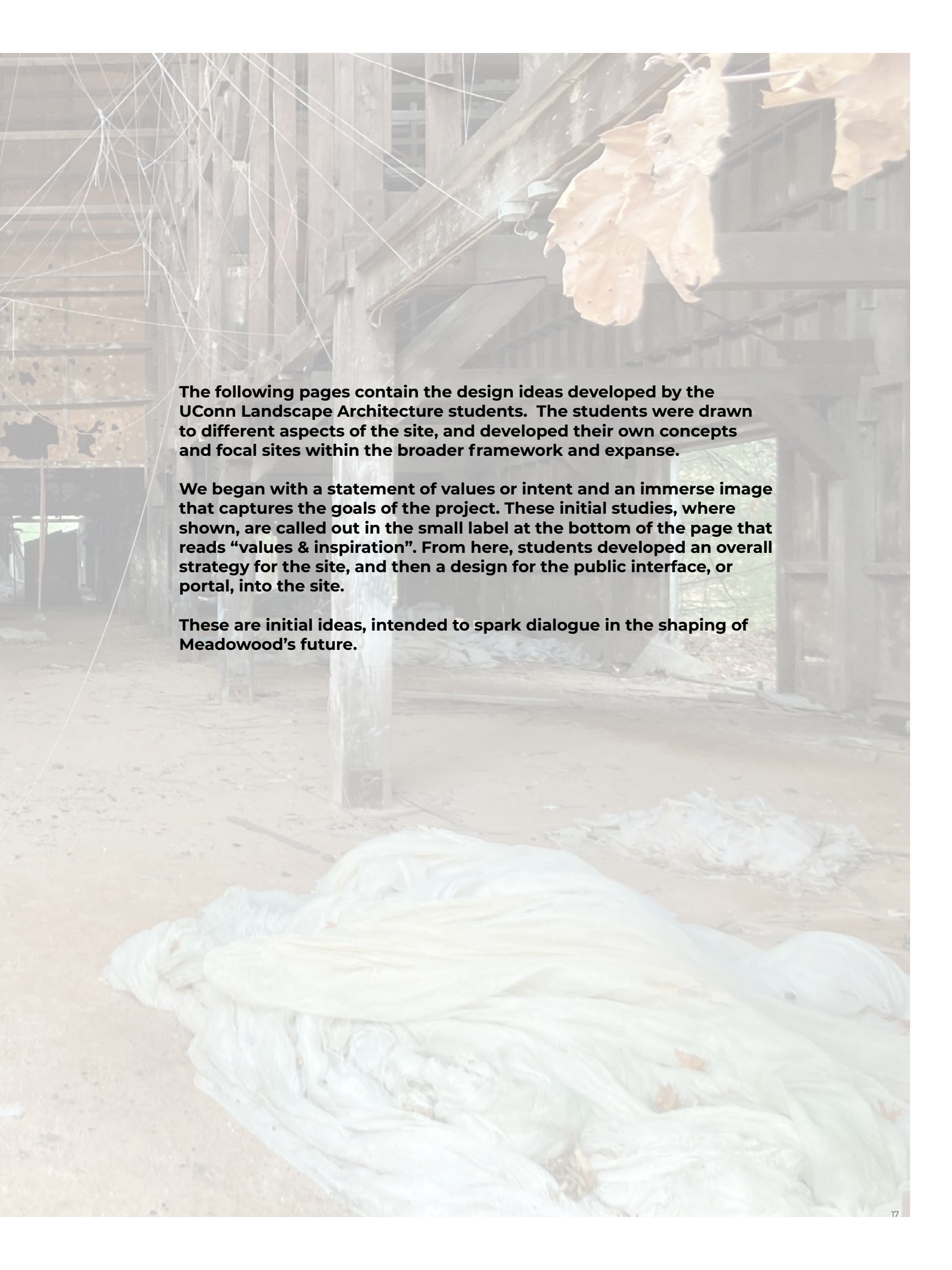
Characterized by lightwooded trees and shrubs, warm season grasses, sedges, and forbs



A photograph of a dilapidated wooden building, possibly a warehouse or industrial structure, with its interior exposed. The wooden beams and walls are weathered and dark. White plastic sheeting is draped over parts of the structure, creating a sense of decay and abandonment. A large pile of debris, including crumpled plastic and other materials, is visible in the foreground. The word "PORTALS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# PORTALS



The background image is a photograph of the interior of a dilapidated wooden building. The floor is covered in dirt and debris, including a large white plastic bag in the foreground. The walls and ceiling are made of dark wood, with some structural elements visible. A large, crumpled white plastic bag is in the foreground, partially obscuring the floor. The overall atmosphere is one of decay and abandonment.

**The following pages contain the design ideas developed by the UConn Landscape Architecture students. The students were drawn to different aspects of the site, and developed their own concepts and focal sites within the broader framework and expanse.**

**We began with a statement of values or intent and an immerse image that captures the goals of the project. These initial studies, where shown, are called out in the small label at the bottom of the page that reads “values & inspiration”. From here, students developed an overall strategy for the site, and then a design for the public interface, or portal, into the site.**

**These are initial ideas, intended to spark dialogue in the shaping of Meadowood’s future.**



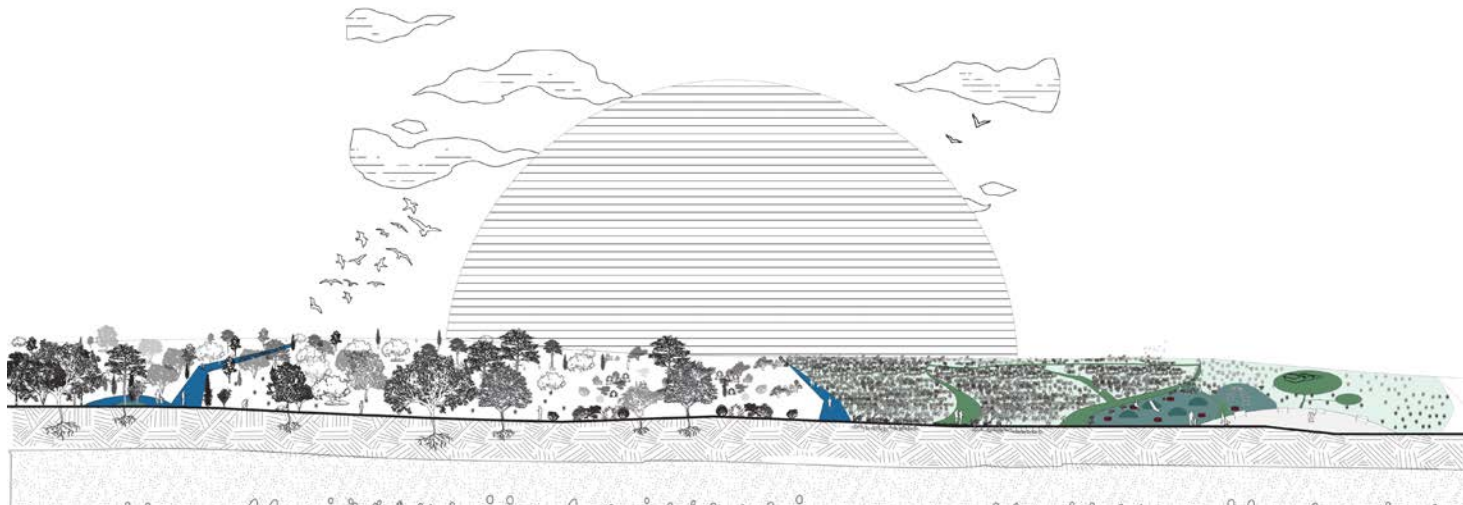
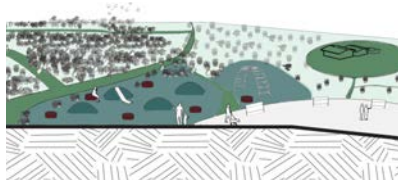
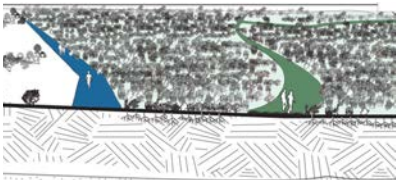
**Designing for the future while also paying homage to the history of the site. Allowing native plants to once again flourish and choosing site materials that complement the existing landscape.**

# Remediating For The Future





# The Meadows of Meadowood



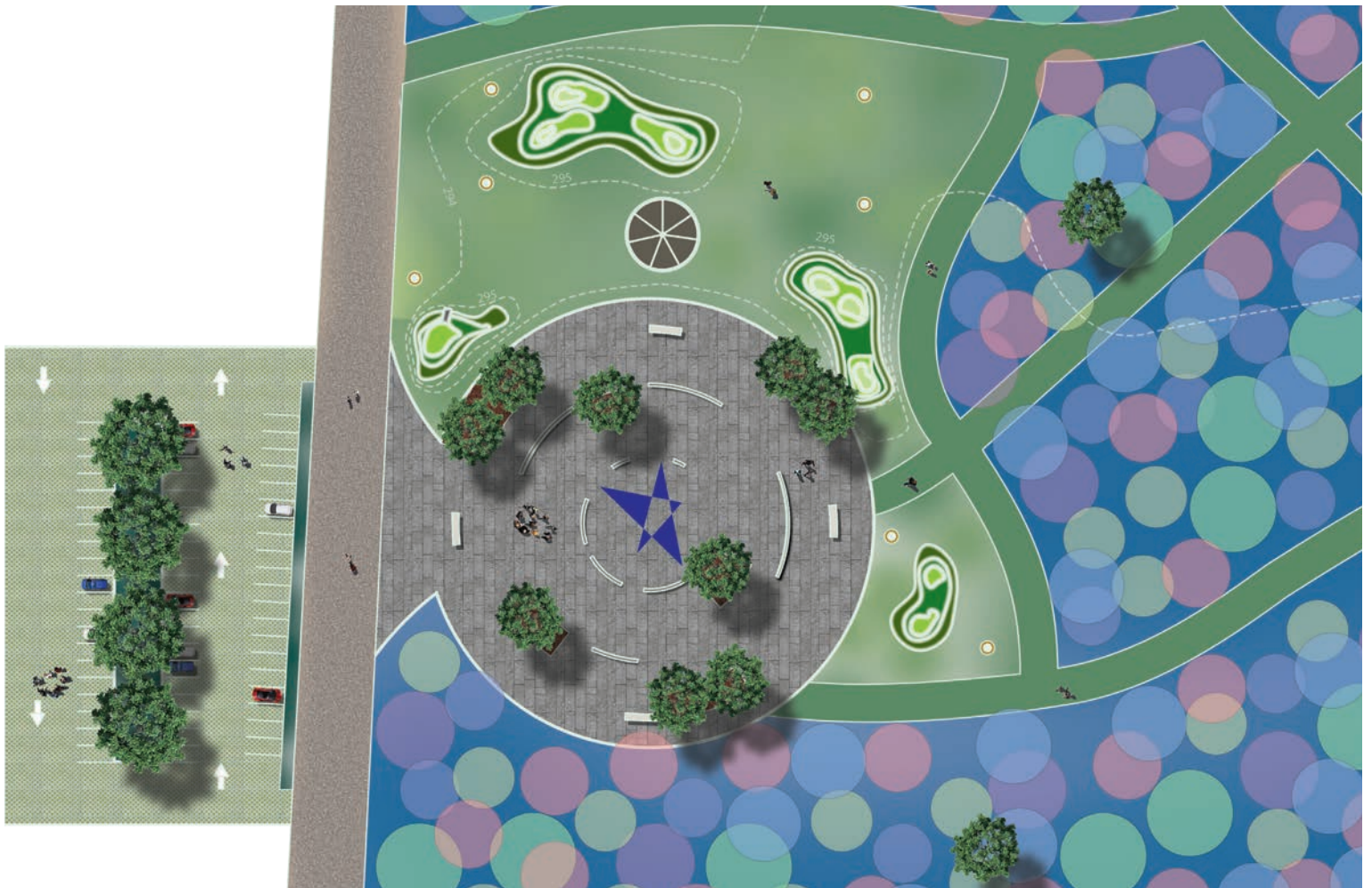
**Bordwalk**

**Meadows and Grass**

**Natural Playground &**



# Meadow Playscape



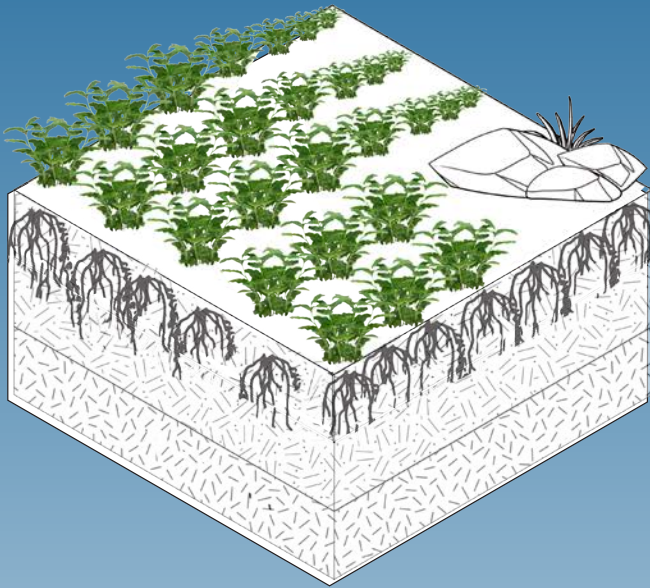
**Green Parking Lot**

**Memorial Circle**

**Natural Playground**

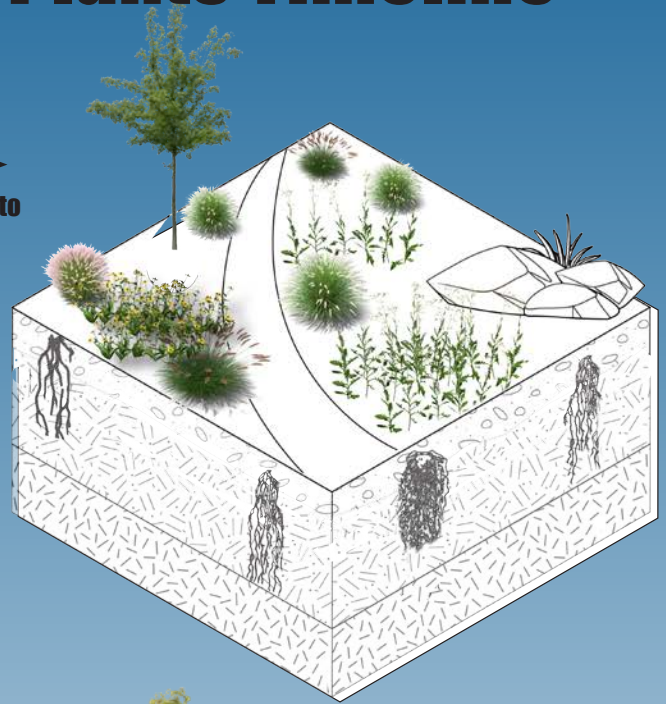


# Performance of Native Plants Timeline



**Monoculture Farming**

➔  
Restore Into



**Beginner natives**



**Intermediate Natives**

➔  
Complete Into



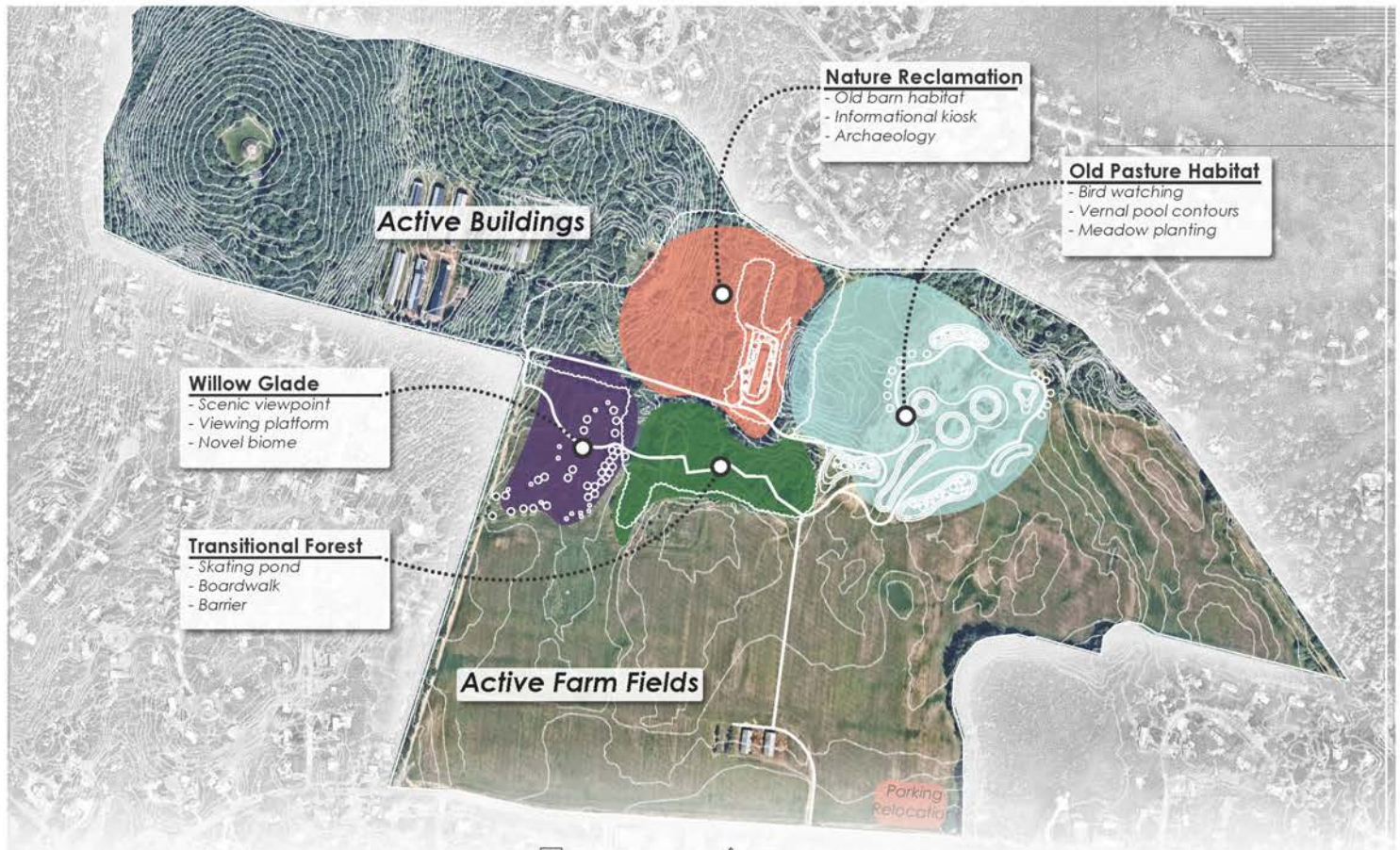
**Advanced Natives**







# Habitat Mosaic



## Focus Areas

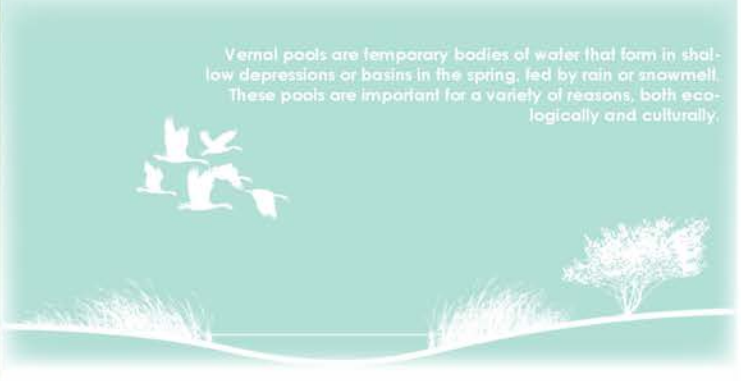
### Transitional Forest

Also known as ecotones, are areas where two different ecosystems meet and merge together. These forests can provide a number of ecological benefits. Ecotones can act as corridors that connect different habitats and allow for the movement of plants and animals between them.



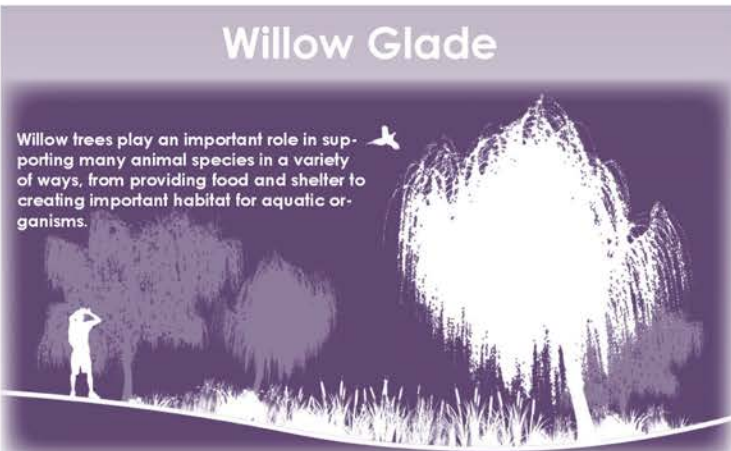
### Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that form in shallow depressions or basins in the spring, fed by rain or snowmelt. These pools are important for a variety of reasons, both ecologically and culturally.



### Willow Glade

Willow trees play an important role in supporting many animal species in a variety of ways, from providing food and shelter to creating important habitat for aquatic organisms.



### Nature Reclamation

Restoring degraded ecosystems helps to conserve biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for wildlife. It also promotes the recovery of endangered and threatened species.





# Meadow Planting & Vernal Pool

**Native meadow** planting is crucial for maintaining biodiversity, promoting ecological resilience, and supporting **pollinators** and other wildlife. These meadows also improve **soil health**, reduce erosion, and absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Additionally, they require less maintenance than traditional lawns, making them a **sustainable** landscaping option.



*Lupinus perennis*  
Sundial Lupine



*Eutrochium purpureum*  
Joe-Pye Weed



*Spiraea latifolia*  
Meadowsweet



*Rudbeckia laciniata*  
Cut-leaf Coneflower



**Native trees** provide essential resources; they offer a diverse array of seeds and insects that birds depend on for their diet, offer shelter from predators, and provide nesting sites for birds to lay their eggs and raise their young.



*Crataegus crus-galli*  
Cocksbur Hawthorn



*Quercus macrocarpa*  
Bur Oak



*Malus hybrid*  
Flowering Crabapple



*Populus deltoides*  
Eastern Cottonwood





# Seasonal Life Cycle

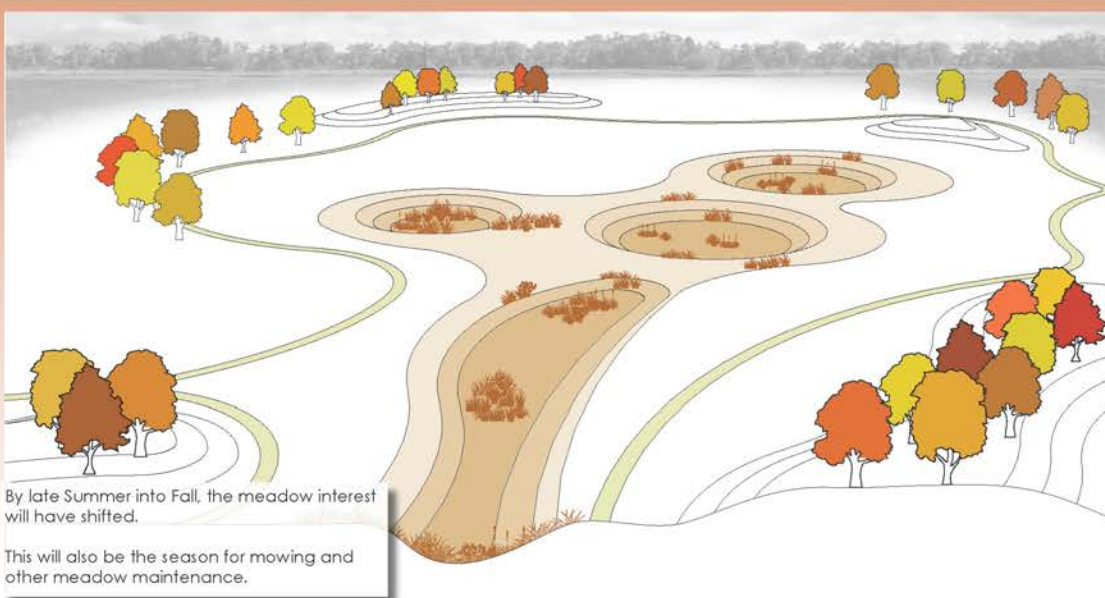
Spring



Summer



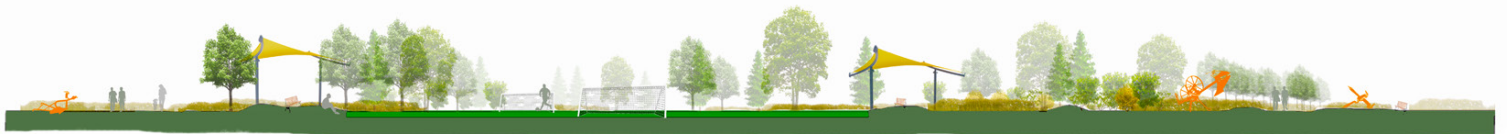
Autumn











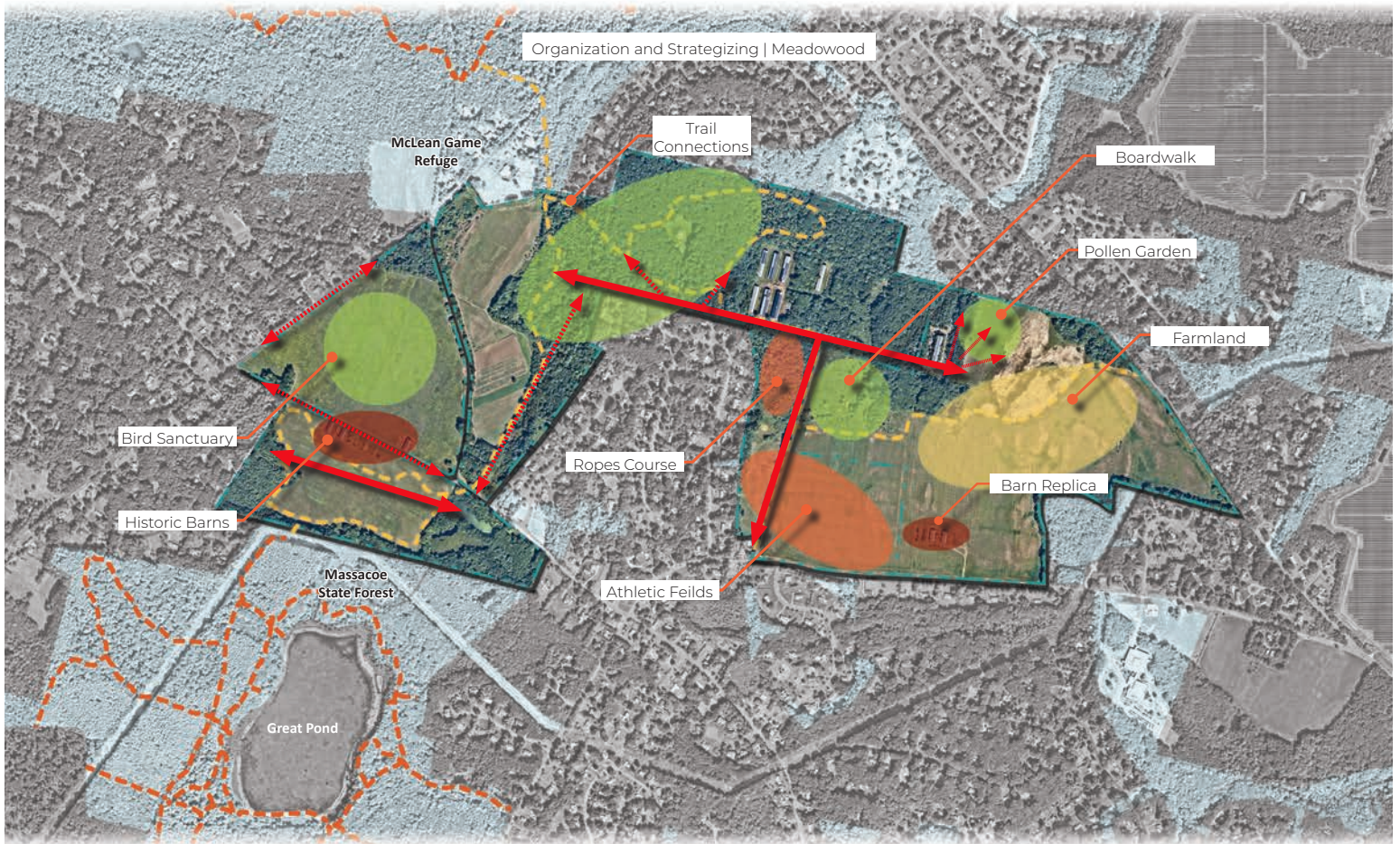




## HISTORY OF THE LAND







RECREATION

ENVIRONMENT

AGRICULTURE

HISTORY

open space  
proposed trails  
existing trails

movement

#### AMENITIES AND INTERVENTIONS

##### ARCHITECTURE HABITATS

Architecture can be expanded upon, not just for human use, but for wildlife habitation. These structures would be scattered around the site, adding to the environment and attracting animals. Ideally, bats would be the main focus. They are pollinators and feast on unwanted pests.

##### POLLINATOR GARDEN

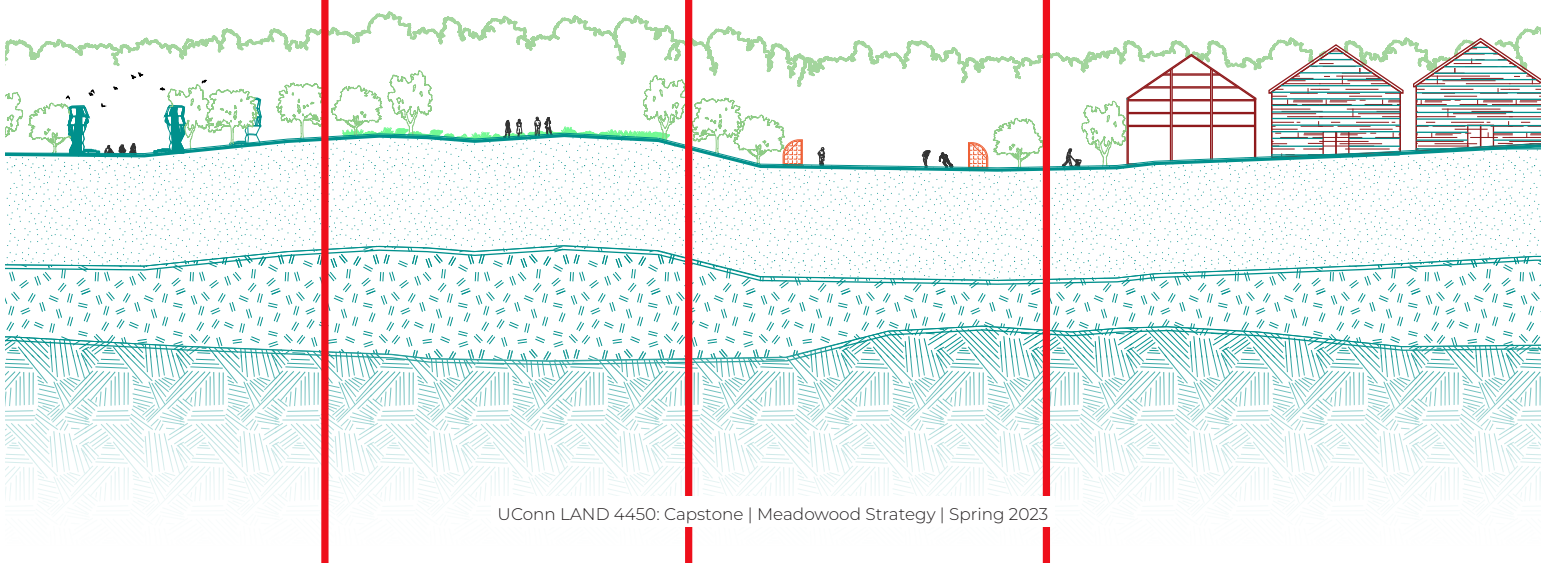
Planting of native pollinator plants can benefit the local wildlife, increasing local biodiversity. These gardens encourage visitors to slow down and relax.

##### RECREATION

Athletic fields for residents to visit and play. People need space to play and engage in competition. Fields for soccer, baseball and other sports that users are interested in. In addition, attractions like rope courses and zip-lining can increase interest for visitors.

##### HISTORY

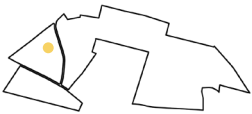
These barns are a historical part of the site. Having people able to enter a replica of one of these barns would help display the scale and their significance in the past. Using old wood and carving the history on the walls, visitors can be immersed, playing with the senses and create a memorable place to visit.







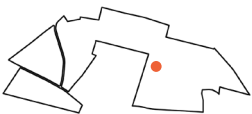




Viewing Birds from Observation Deck



Sitting in the Pollination Garden



Immerse in the Forest & Viewing People on the Rope Course



Picnic in the Meadow & Viewing Baseball in the Distance





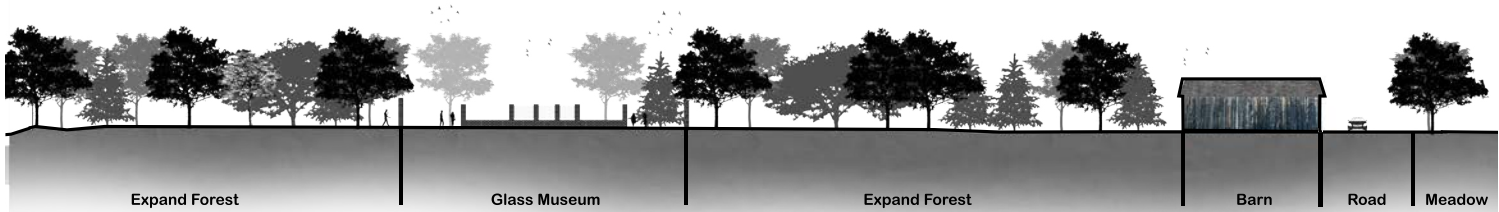


# A Walk Through Shade Tobacco History

Walking through the trail represent you walking through the history and life for immigrant workers.



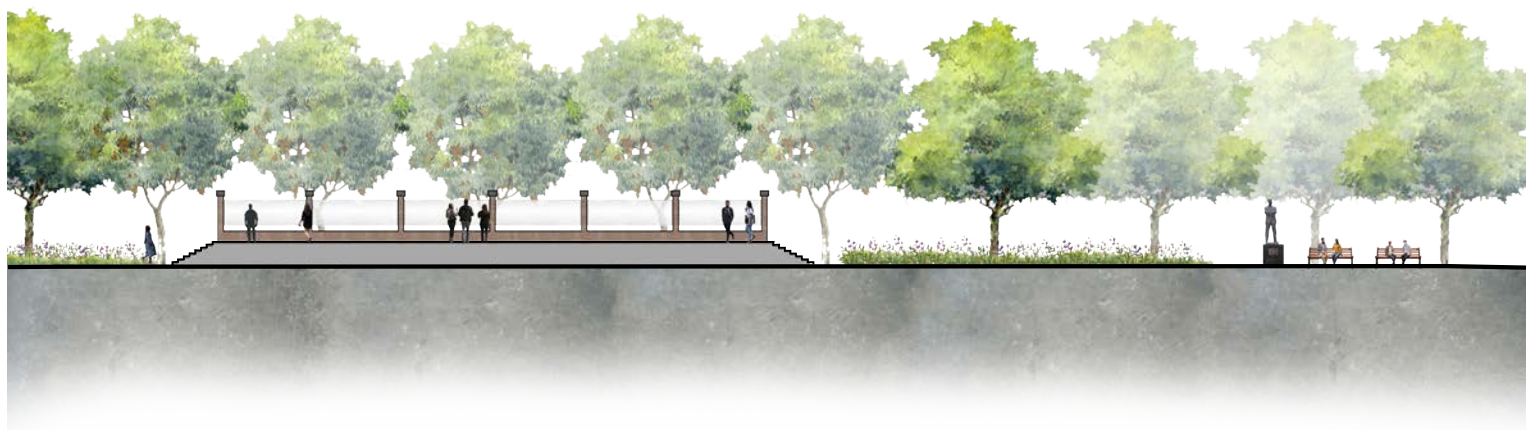
Along the path and trails, every so often a stone with glass art work on top depicting an important part of immigrant and minority life at the tobacco Shade farm. The plaque on the stone will give additional information





# Site Plan

This is the main location and attraction of the site. After your long walk throughout the site you will end up here and be able to get the rest of the history and have a place to sit and relax. You can look around to and see glass pane with pictures. There is two levels to the history showcase.







# Vignettes

What it is like to experience the site



You can walk, jog, and bike though the trials system.







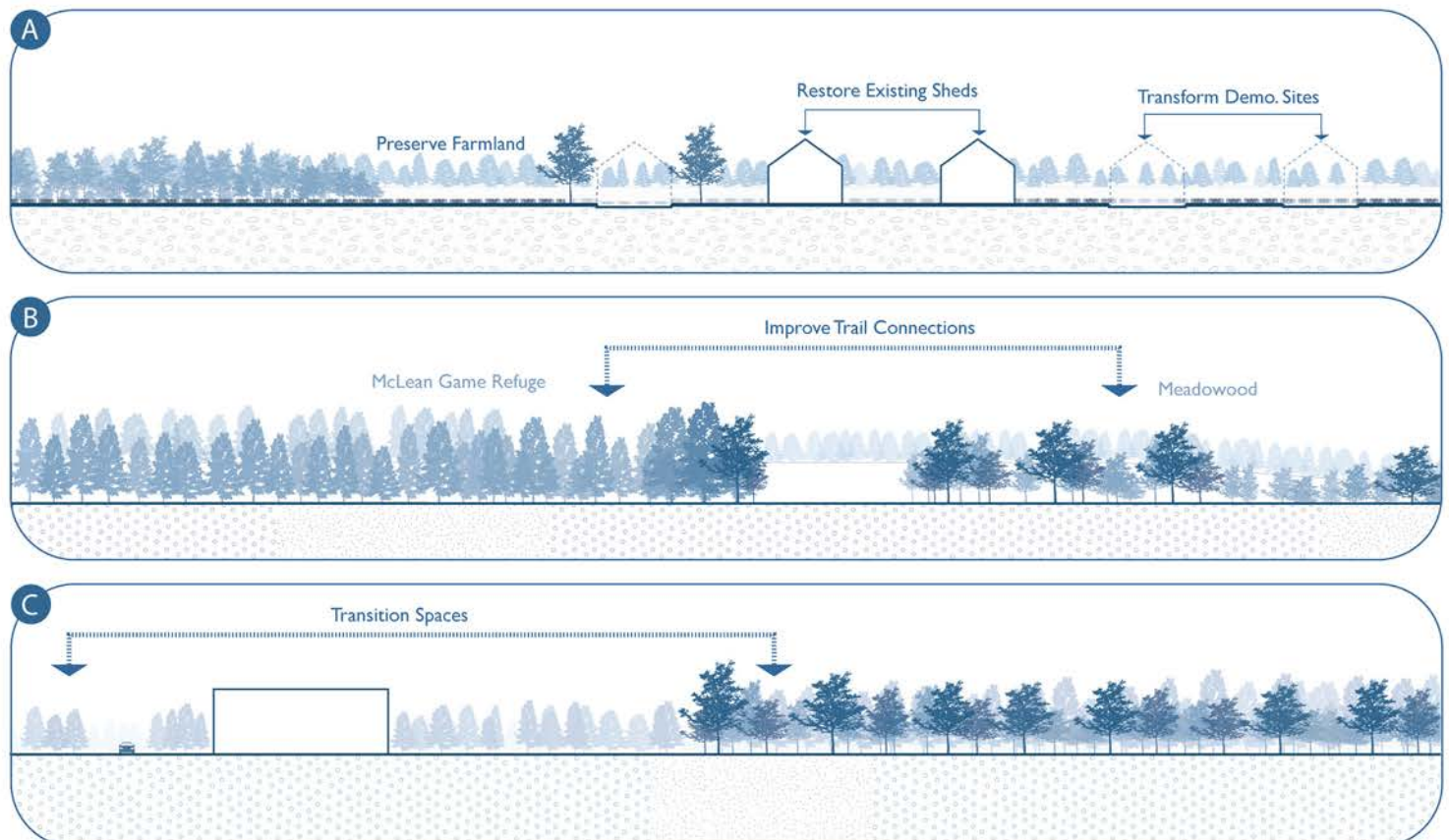
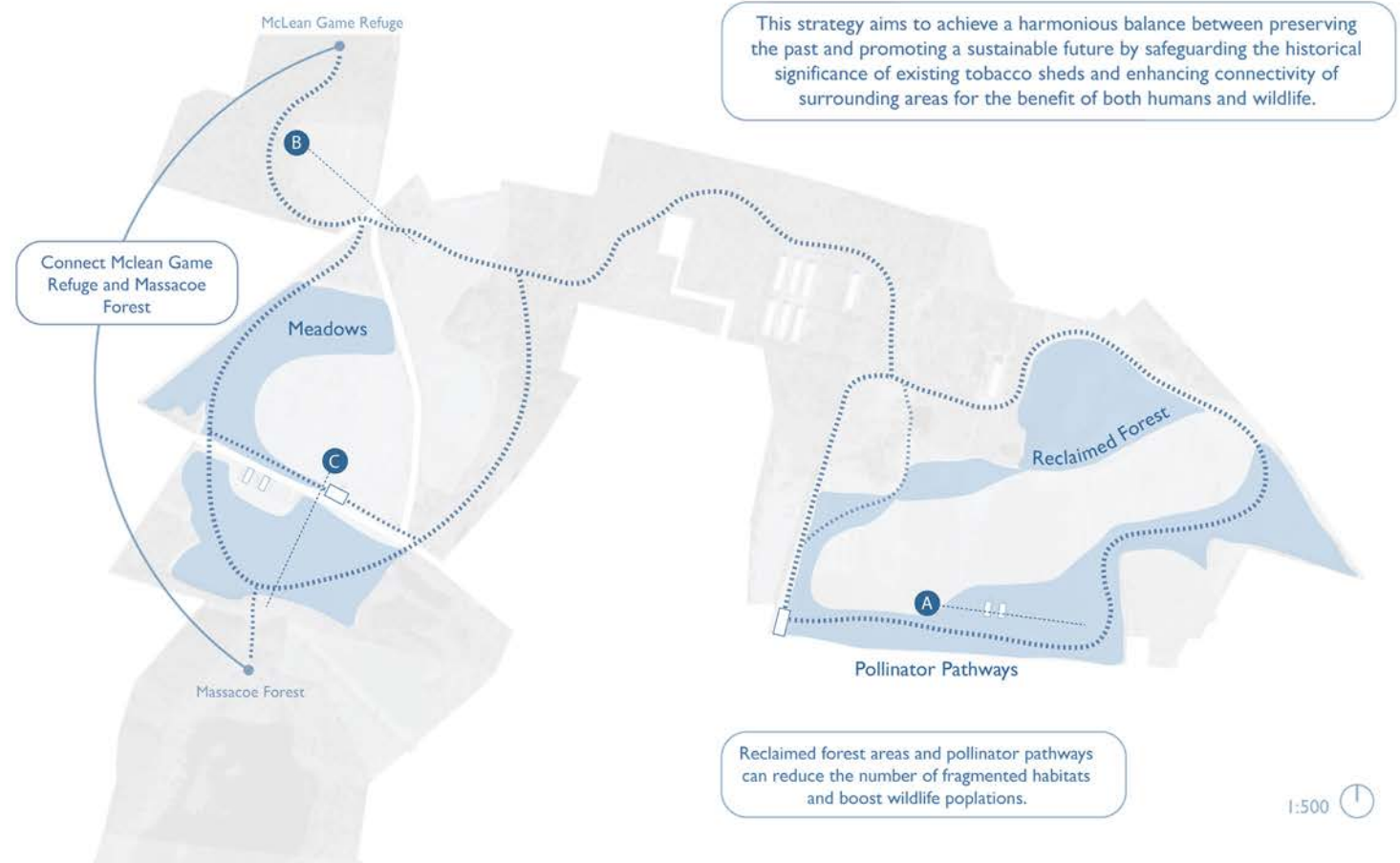
This site has a strong history that can help tie fragmented communities together.





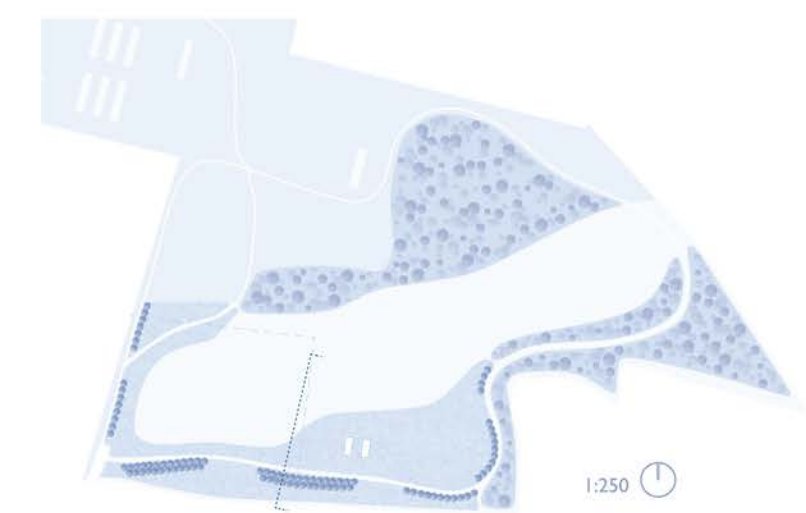
# SITE STRATEGY

## [Connective Corridor]





# SITE PLAN





# VIGNETTE

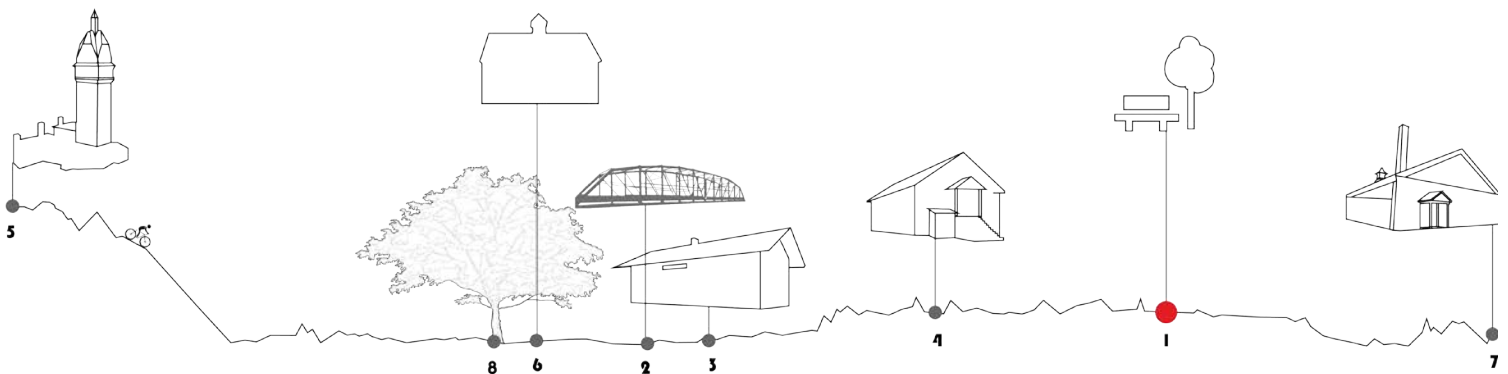
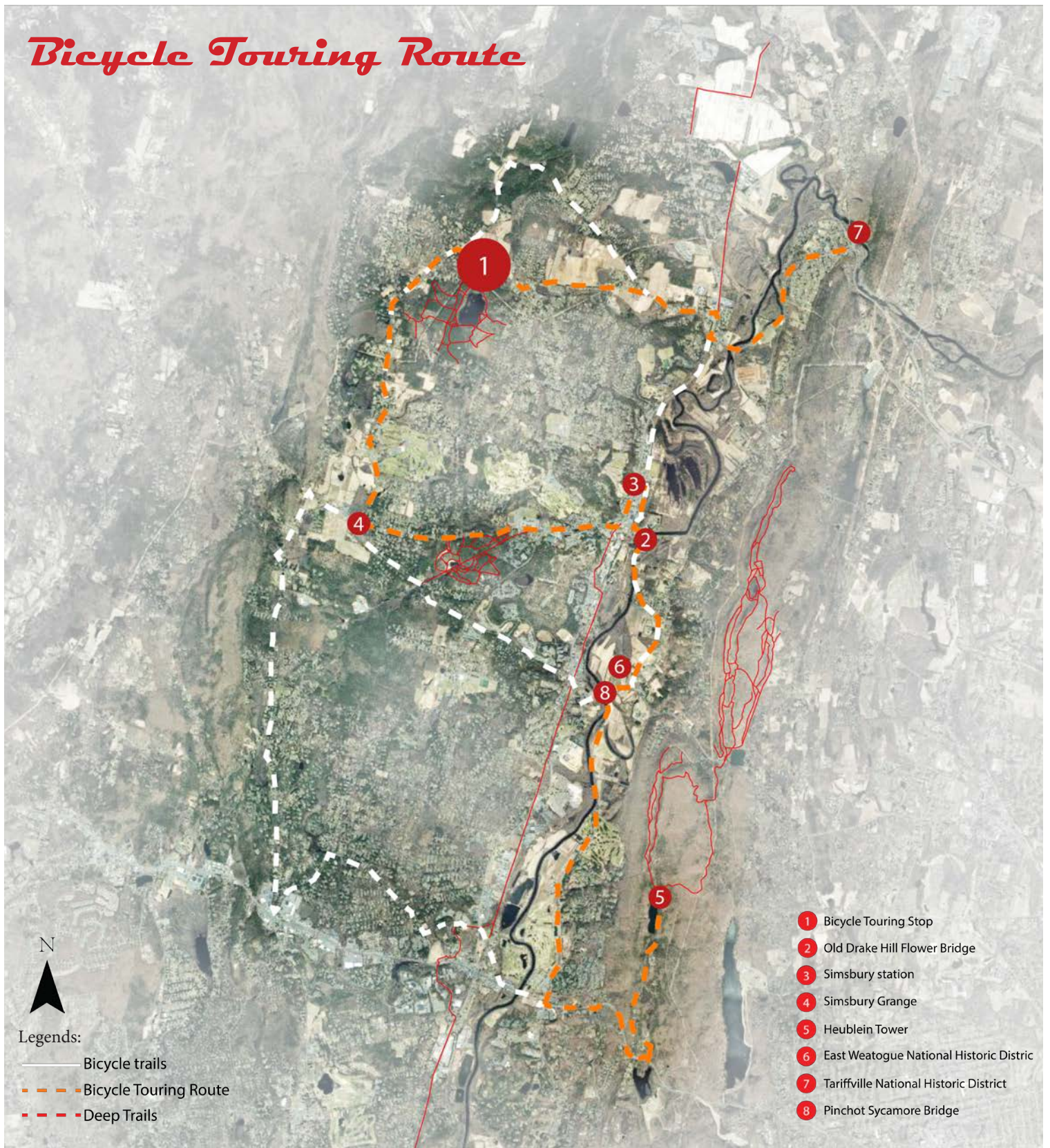






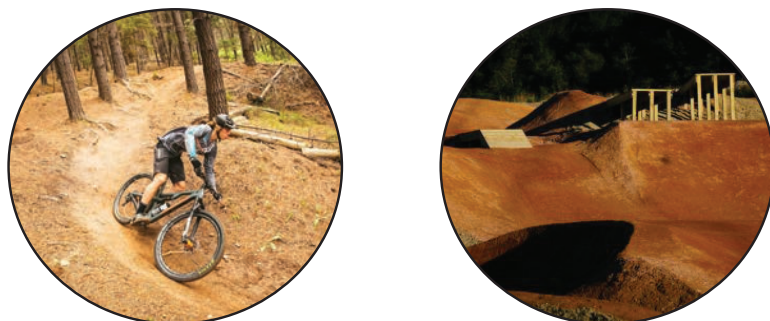


# Bicycle Touring Route





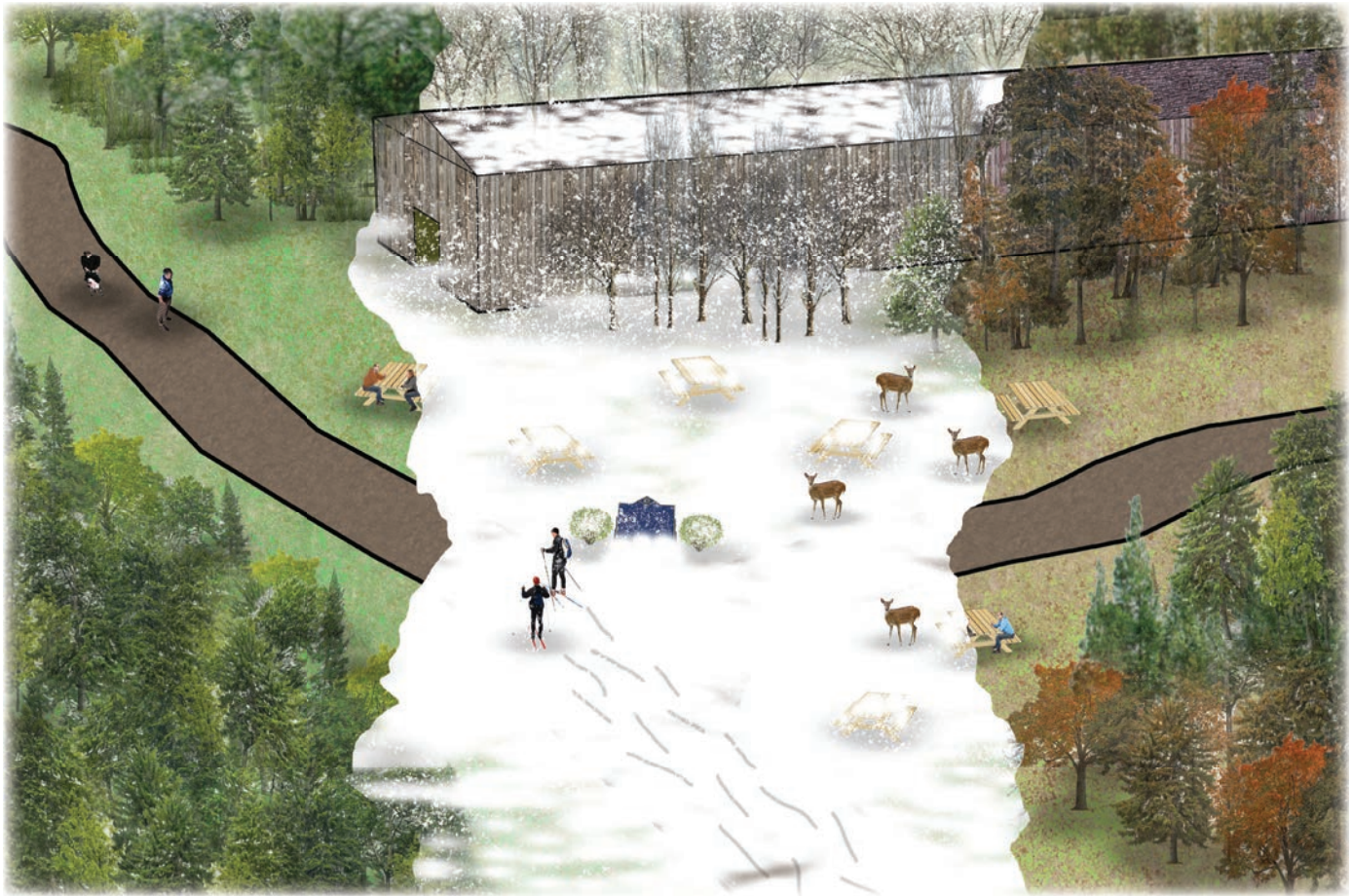
# SITE LAYOUT HISTORIC WALK- THROUGH SECTION ELEVATION



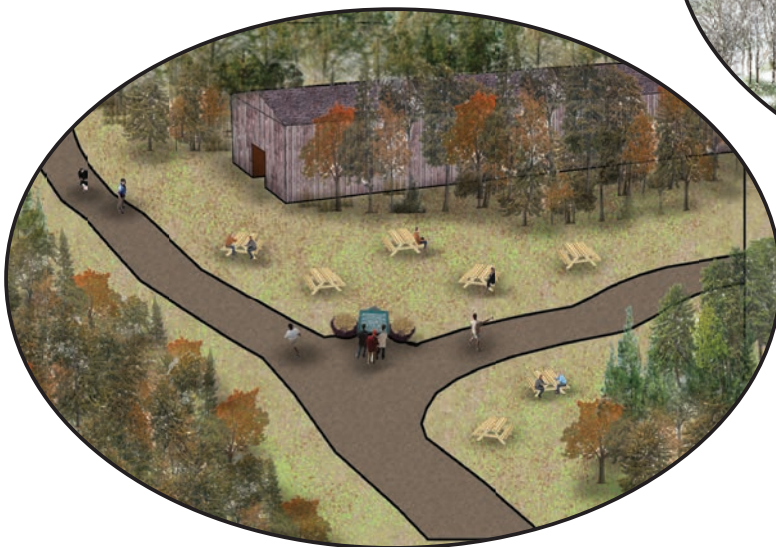
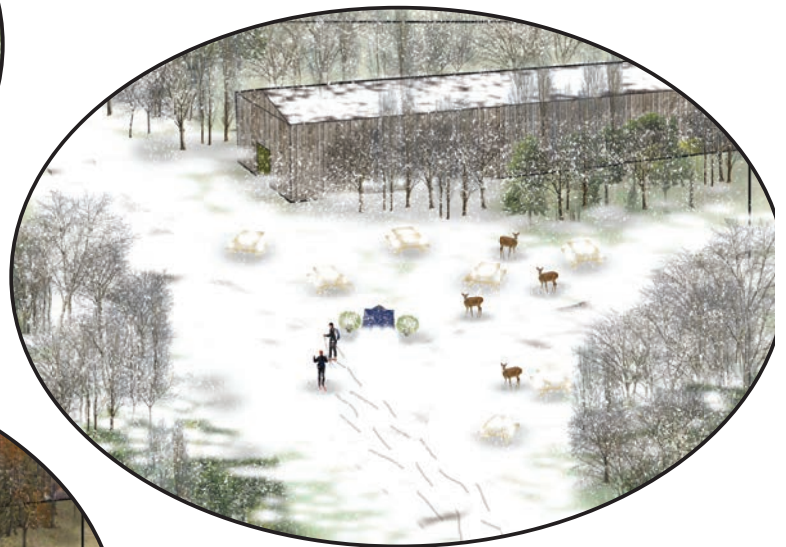
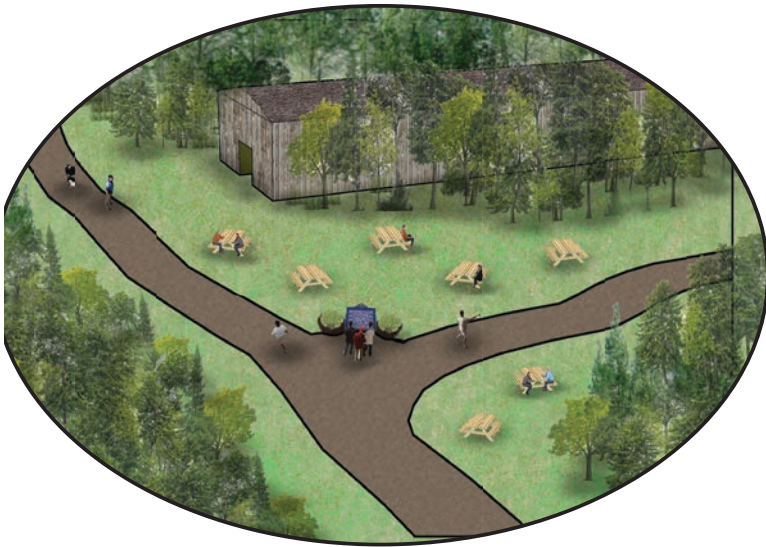
Mountain biking trail network and ramp/jump track.

1" = 200'





## MULTI-SEASONAL USE



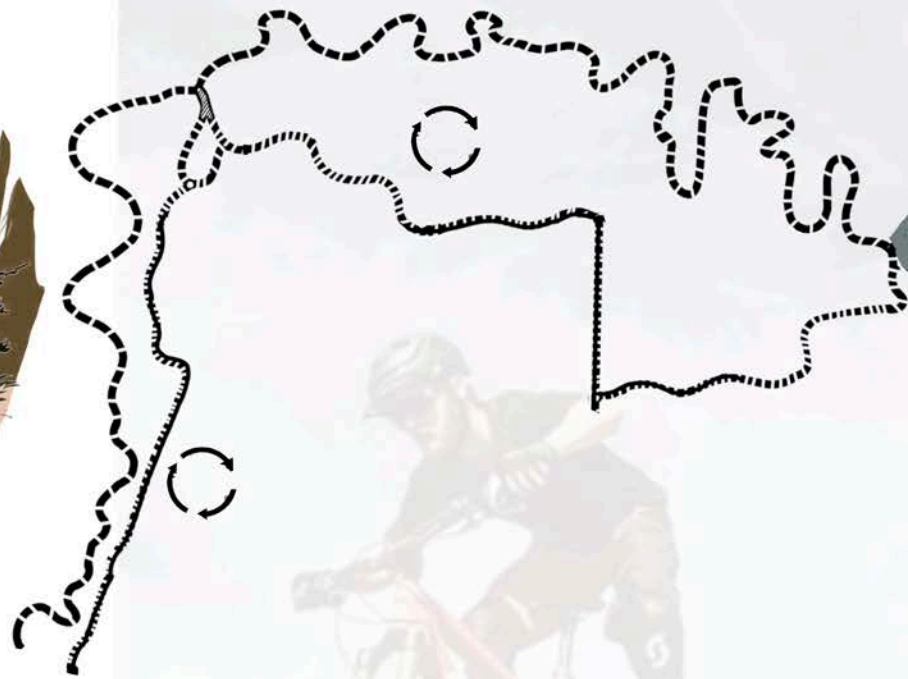




At the heart of our vision is the belief that the intersection of people and nature can create a powerful symbiosis that enhances the well-being of both. By turning this farm land into an enjoyable space, I aim to create a sanctuary where individuals can connect with the natural world and each other in a meaningful way. We are committed to creating an environment that is sustainable, enjoyable and nurturing, one that fosters biodiversity and ecological resilience. Our goal is to inspire a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world, and to cultivate a community that is invested in protecting it for generations to come.



# BIKE TRAIL



## Boardwalk



## Dirt trail





# THE SITE IS ACTIVE.





# A Typical Saturday

Things you can do here with your family, friends, dwag, significant other, or yourself.



COFFEE

9:00 am  
Grab a coffee, sitting next to the water and enjoy the fresh air



10:00 am  
Go for a run on a circulating path, and enjoy the view



or Yoga on the Hilltop Platform



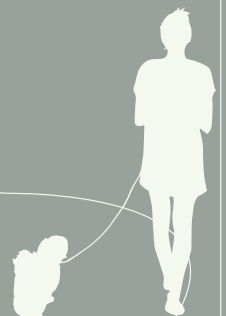
11:00 am  
Have lunch at the cafe or on a bench under the wooden shades



12:00 pm  
Do some creative works and topics you are interested in on Hilltop, or at the cafe



3:00 pm  
Sports and social



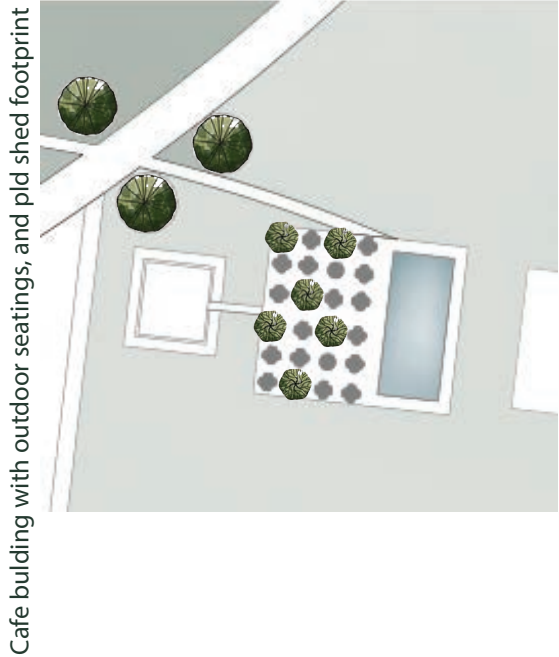
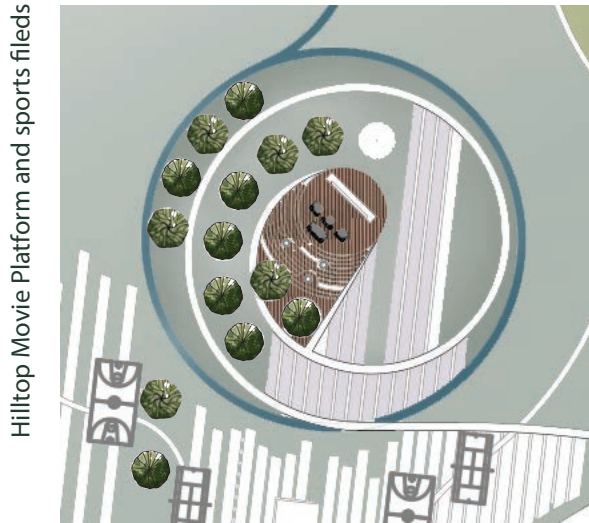
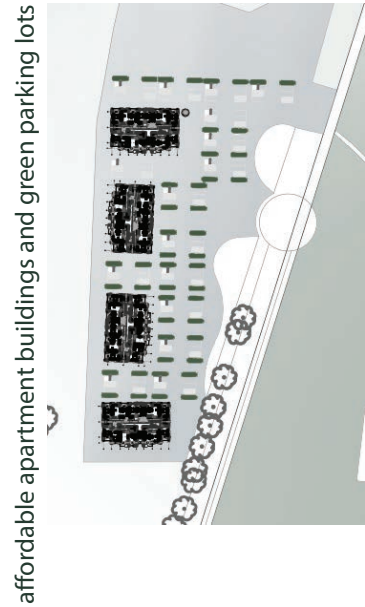
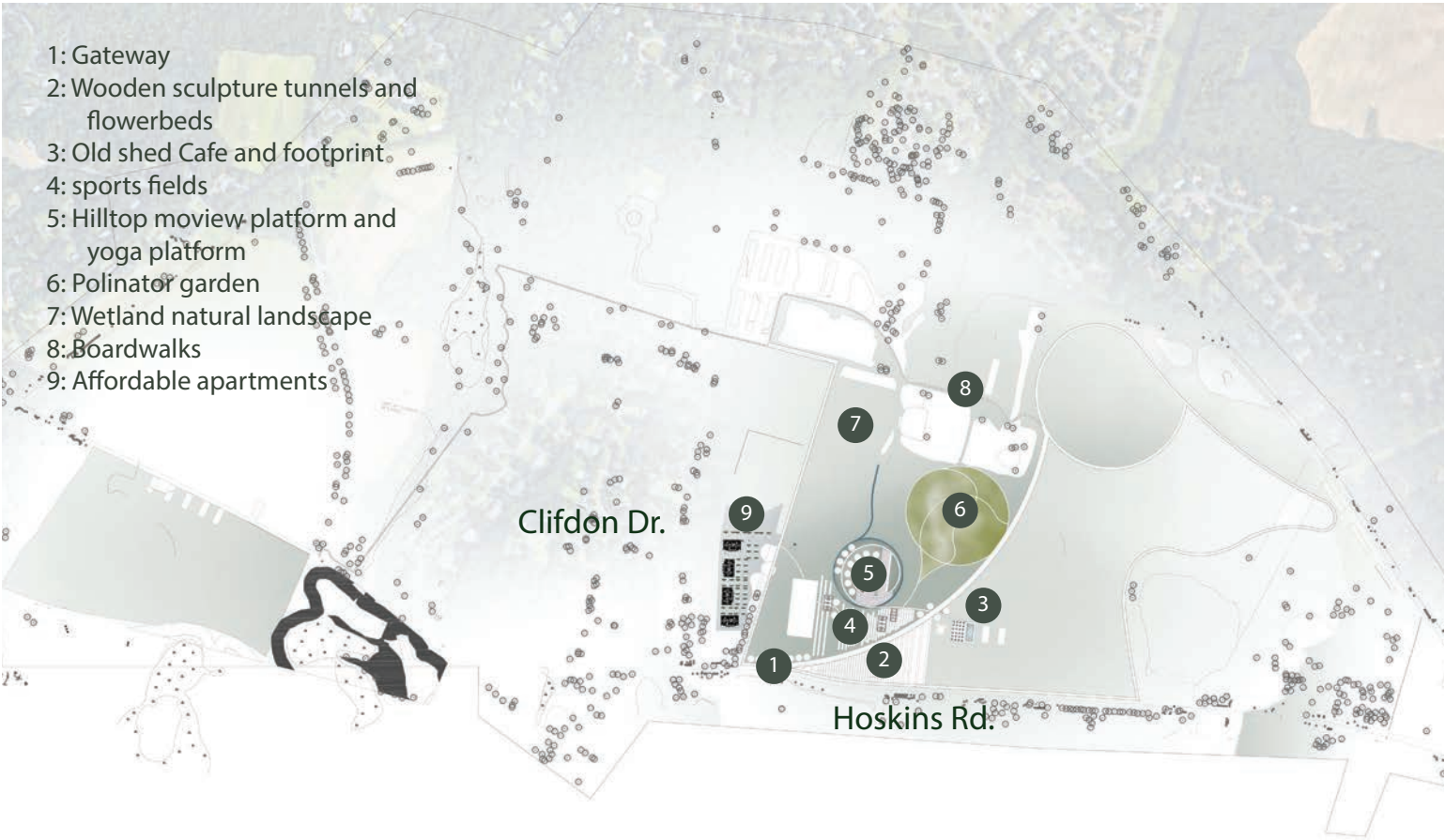
5:00 pm  
Walk you dag



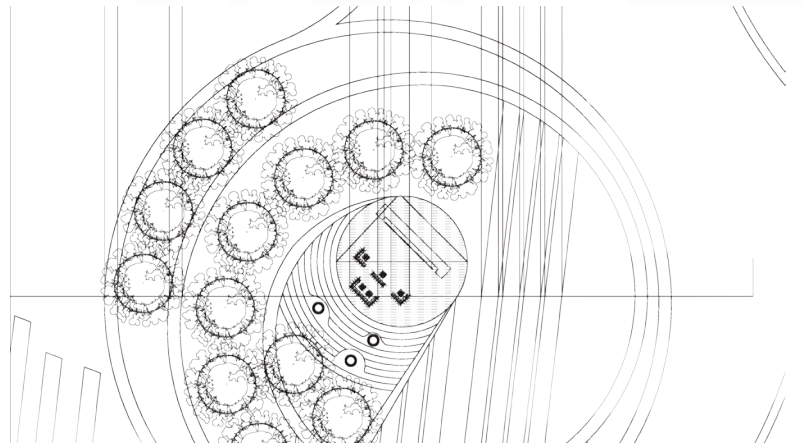
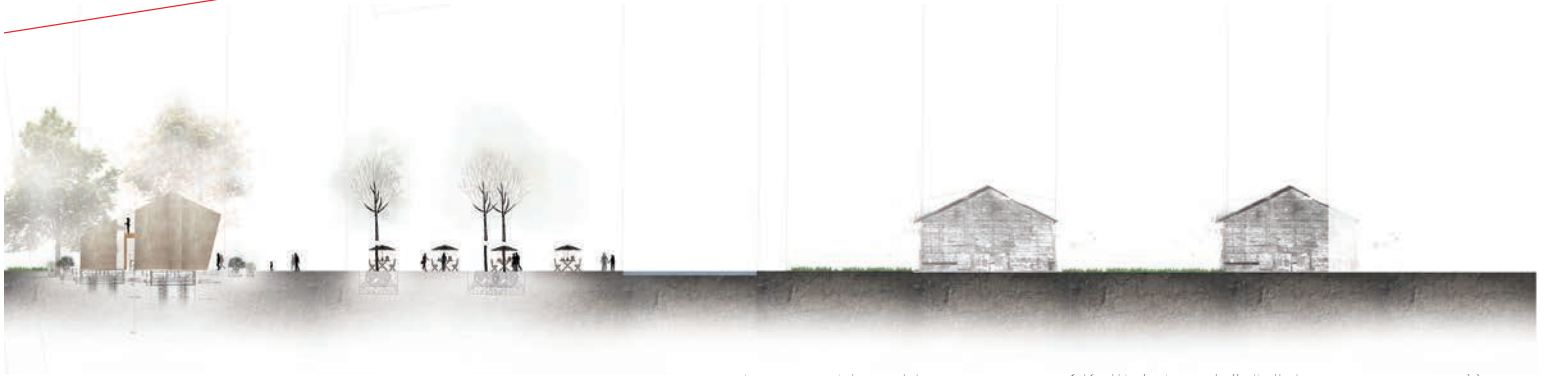
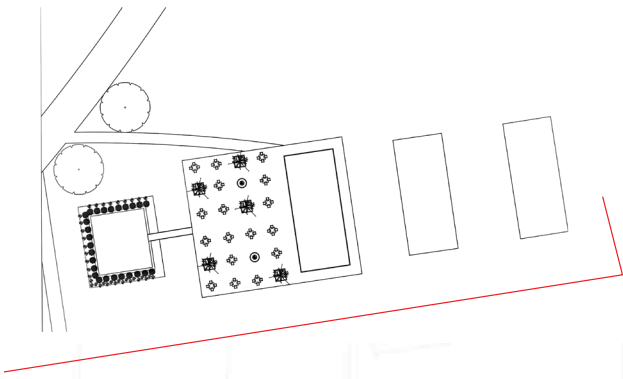
7:00 pm  
Outdoor Movies



# A destination for people living and visiting Simsbury

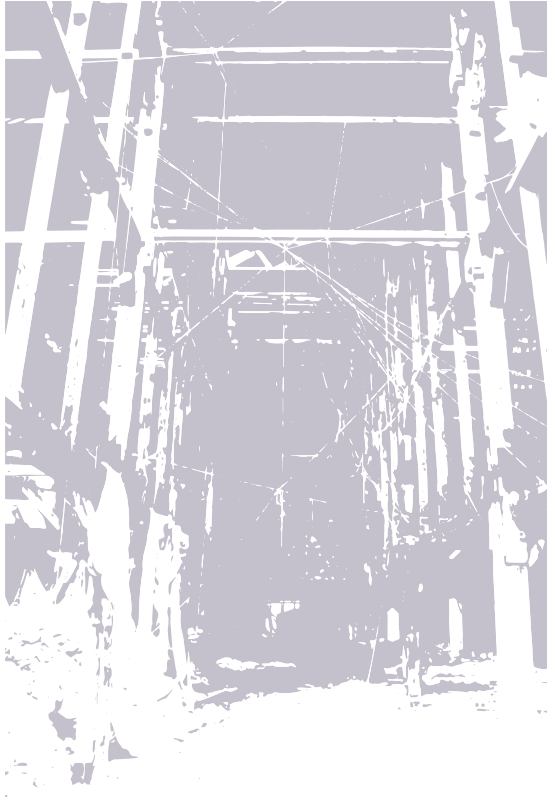








# MLK Jr. Community Farm for Resilience & Food Equity



## Value Statement - Human health and environmental health are interconnected.

Making visible the land's role in our survival is key in promoting future conservation projections. Protected land must assert benefits to its surrounding communities in order to regain cultural value. In return, humans may begin to prioritize the health of these landscapes. Everyone should have access to fresh, organic, and local food, and we must regionalize and localize our production systems to ensure food equity among the population.

**Mission** - to provide underprivileged communities in the Hartford metro area access to high quality land-capital for the production of organic, sustainably-raised, meat and vegetable produce. The aim is to provide **access to quality farm-land for all socio-economic backgrounds, help combat food deserts in impoverished neighborhoods, and restore the historic land that MLK Jr. once worked.**



## Protected Farms: CT Farmland Preservation Program & Connecticut Farmland Trust



### LEGEND

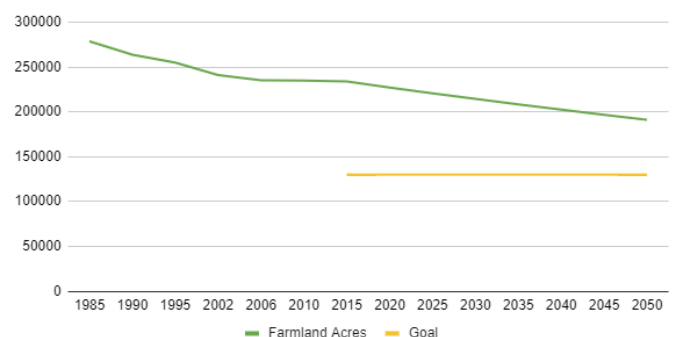
- 0 farms
- 1-4 farms
- 9-12 farms
- 17-100 farms



**87,000 Acres Lost Since 1985**  
**130,000 Acre Preservation Goal**

### Decline in Agricultural Land (Acres)

Preservation Goal = 130,000







SUCCESSIONAL  
LANDSCAPE



OPEN  
PASTURE



SILVO-  
PASTURE



AGRO-  
FOREST



OPEN  
PASTURE



ALLEY  
CROPPING



WILD  
FLOWERS



WETLAND  
PRESERVE



ALLEY  
CROPPING



FIELD  
CROPS



## Successional Landscape

### Wetland Preserve



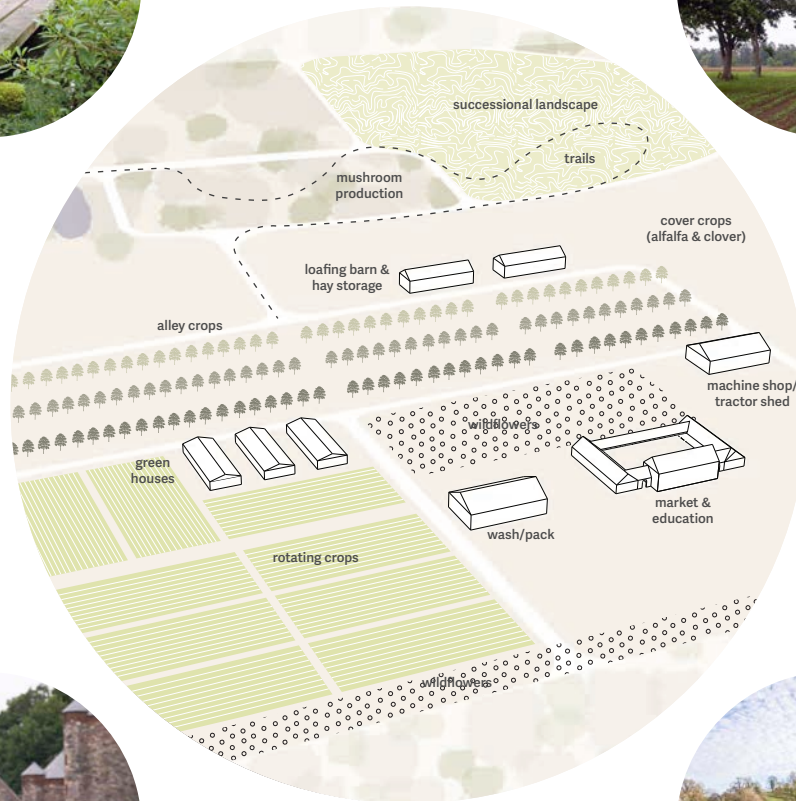
### Alley Cropping



### Wildflowers



### Wetland



### Field Crops



### Barn Courtyard



### Meadow Buffer



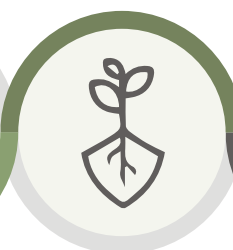
UNDERSTAND  
CONTEXT



MAXIMIZE  
CROP DIVERSITY



MAINTAIN LIVING  
ROOT YEAR-ROUND



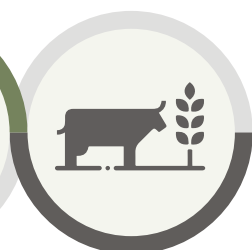
MINIMIZE  
SOIL DISTURBANCE



KEEP THE  
SOIL COVERED



INTEGRATE  
LIVESTOCK











**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
LAND 4450: DESIGN V - CAPSTONE  
SPRING 2023**