

SYLVAN BEACH PARK

*"I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEAS AGAIN, FOR THE CALL OF THE RUNNING TIDE
IS A WILD CALL AND A CLEAR CALL THAT MAY NOT BE DENIED"*

- SEA FEVER - JOHN MASEFIELD

MASTER PLAN PREPARED FOR:

HARRIS COUNTY
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



HARRIS COUNTY
PRECINCT 2



**ADRIAN
GARCIA**
COMMISSIONER

CITY OF LA PORTE



MASTER PLAN PREPARED BY:

CLARK CONDON

10401 STELLA LINK
ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS
77025

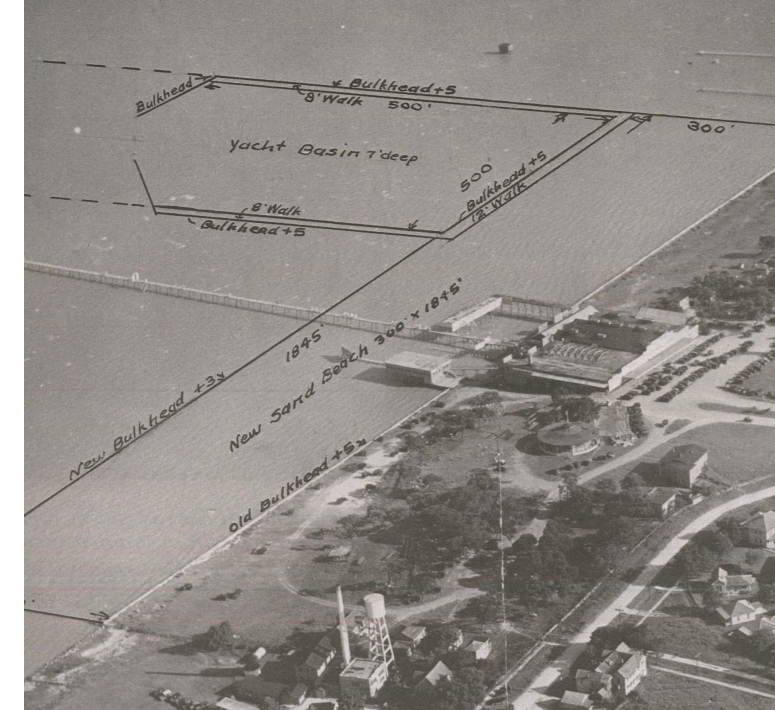
RECAPTURING THE ROOTS



LaPortewasincorporatedin1892,theoldestincorporatedtown in east Harris County. The city began as a real estate venture on the Johnson Hunter and Enoch Brinson grants of 1824 and parts of the David Harris and Pearsall grants. The land was advertised as a place for agriculture but it was soon realized thattheclimateandsoilswereunsuitabletocitrusandfarming.

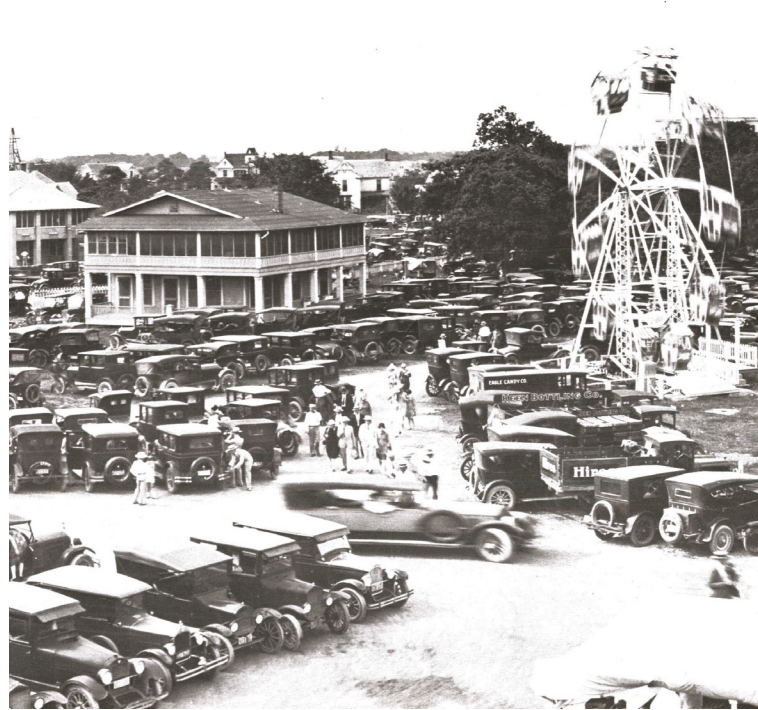


The town builder, I.H. Holmes, saw the opportunity for a town a the mouth of Buffalo Bayou. Holmes, Tom Lee, a railroad man, and two brothers, A.M and J. H. York, formed the La Porte Land and Town Company and purchased several hundred acres from Captain Frederick Allen near Morgans Point. They retained the area at Morgan's Point for wharfs and warehouses and decided to move the town further inland. With over 1,000 acres purchased from Dr. John Beazley, they established the City of La Porte and began laying out the town in 1891. Land changed hands as economies and fortunes came and went but development of the town continued, influenced by the growth of Houston and the ship channel.



With the combination of the destruction of the Port of Galveston in 1900 storm and the dredging of the Houston Ship Channel, the Port of Houston replaced Galveston as the dominant port in Texas. Steamships and schooners made daily voyages from Houston, many stopping in Sylvan Beach to go to the Sylvan Hotel, which had its own pier. As years passed the La Porte, Houston & Northern Railroad brought visitors to La Porte in 1895 with a stop added in 1905 for the focal point of the town - the picnic and swimming area at Sylvan Beach.

RECAPTURING THE ROOTS



The discovery of oil and development of the Goose Creek Oil Field in Baytown in 1903 brought economic boom to the area. Humble Oil's president, Ross Sterling, built his mansion on nearby Morgan's Point. With the expansion of car ownership, the 1910's and 1920's saw 10,000 to 20,000 visitors to Sylvan Beach per weekend.



Through the years tourism has declined as a major draw to La Porte. A shrinking beach and another hurricane in 1943 destroyed most of the tourist attractions. During WWII and later years, La Porte's economy shifted from tourism to petroleum/ petrochemical and shipping which remains the major industry today. The opening of the La Porte-Baytown Tunnel in 1954 and the location of the city between the Bay Area and Greater Houston has further enhanced the economics of the city.

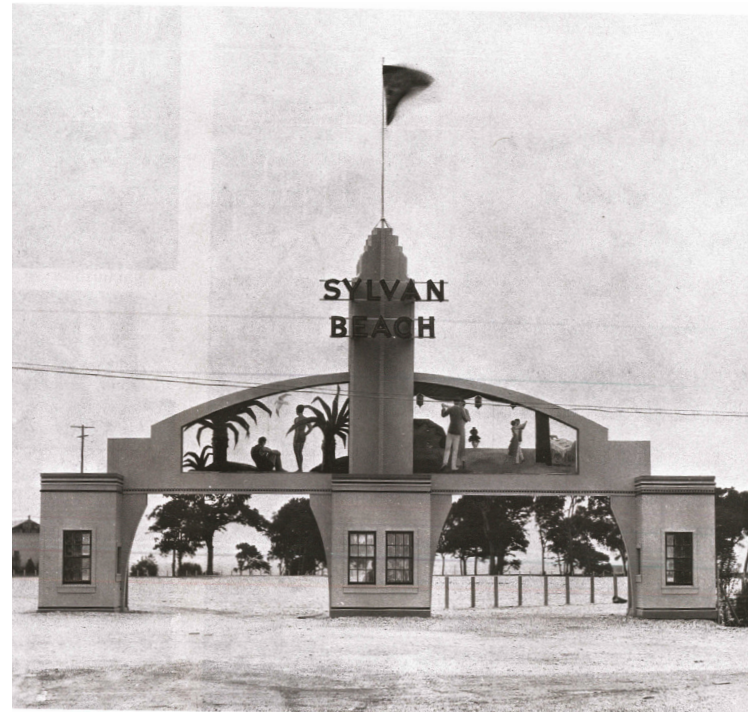


Today La Porte is a thriving community of nearly 35,000 residents with a total area of approximately 20 square miles. An active heritage society helps the residents keep touch with the past.

RECAPTURING THE ROOTS



Sylvan Beach is one of 50 parks within Harris County Precinct 2. Sylvan Beach was a weekend resort destination for residents of the Houston and Galveston area in the early 1900's. Visitors arrived by train and auto. A European-style gateway announced the park. A waterfront hotel was built in the early 1890's and held regular dances. A wide variety of entertainment including swimming, picnicking, a Ferris wheel, water slide, kiddy rides, and a carousel. The Romance of Sylvan Beach by Erna B. Foxworth documents the rich history of the Sylvan Beach area. Today Sylvan Beach continues to be a highly used park and is the main public access to the beach. People fish from the waterfront, jetties, and pier; families gather for picnics, festivals, and events.



The early years of the twentieth century were filled with promise, fueled with prosperity and driven by technology in a new industrialized world. The new age brought a new style of art and architecture. The heyday of Sylvan Beach as a tourist destination in the 1920's and 1930's coincided with the period of the "Art Deco" design style. This style influenced the early architecture of Sylvan Beach. Art Deco was derived from the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs Industriels et Modernes, held in Paris.



Entertainment of the period was also influenced by the world events and by the culture and style of the period. In the explosion of new thinking and exploration of the early 20th century and a new freedom in what was considered acceptable, Americans felt the heat of jazz. Young people danced the night away with the Charleston, Foxtrot, Shimmy, Cake-Walk and Bunny Hop. Young people flocked to dance the big bands of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey at Sylvan Beach. The Federal Music Project supported the musical arts and sponsored performances of both classical and popular compositions.

RECAPTURING THE ROOTS



"...In 1954, Harris County commissioners purchased Sylvan Beach Park and commissioned the Houston architectural firm Greacen & Brogniez to design a modern, hurricane-resistant dance pavilion. Opened in May 1956, the Sylvan Beach Pavilion celebrated the Park's musical and dance history with its elevated octagonal glass walled ballroom containing a large circular wood dance floor that appears to float above the park. This mid-century modern pavilion is an interpretation of the freestanding, octagonal buildings built by German and Czech immigrants in Texas... During its first half century of service, the pavilion attracted local and national talent offering music venues ranging from big band orchestras to country to jazz to blues. The Sylvan Beach Pavilion remains one of the most prominent mid-twentieth century structures in Harris County." (Texas Historic Landmark 2011)



A series of hurricanes caused the closure of the Pavilion in 2008. In 2011, Commissioner Jack Morman, aided by local non-profit Friends of Sylvan Beach Park & Pavilion, secured historic designations for the space and the firm of Kirksey Architecture partnered with Walter P Moore, Engineers, were hired to restore the structure. The Pavilion was reopened in 2013 and the pavilion is now listed in the National Historic Registry by the Texas Historical Commission, is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark, and is recognized as a State Archaeological Landmark.



Mid-Century Modern denotes a style of design that was popular from 1930's - 1960's. The style was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Bauhaus artists and was characterized by a contemporary, futuristic aesthetic with an emphasis on function. The architectural style included a minimalistic aesthetic with flat planes, clean lines and little ornamentation with exteriors that were often monochromatic brickwork with accents of color.

SITE ANALYSIS



SITE ANALYSIS

CITY CONNECTIVITY

LOCAL PARKS

- 1 SYLVAN BEACH PARK
- 2 FIVE POINTS TOWN PLAZA
- 3 DOLPHIN PARK
- 4 PFEIFFER PARK
- 5 SEA-BREEZE PARK
- 6 BAY-SHORE PARK
- 7 HERITAGE PARK
- 8 LITTLE CEDAR BAYOU PARK

FLOOD ZONES

- COASTAL FLOOD ZONE
 - 100 YEAR FLOOD ZONE
 - 500 YEAR FLOOD ZONE
 - REQUIRED DETENTION ZONE
- MEAN TIDE RANGE: 1.12 FT

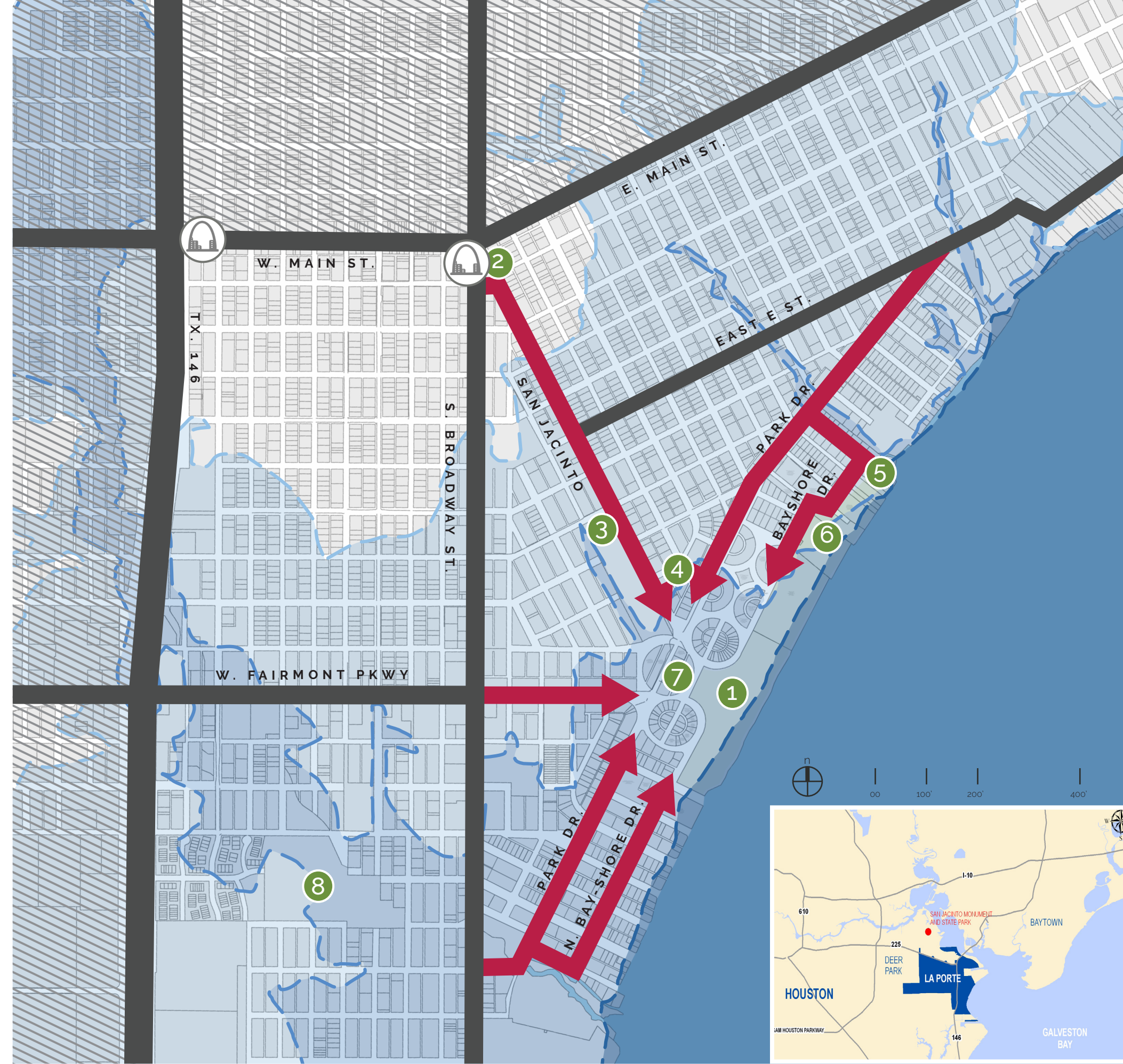
CIRCULATION

- MAJOR ROADS
- ENTRY ROADS

ICONS

- GATEWAYS

REFERENCE IMAGERY

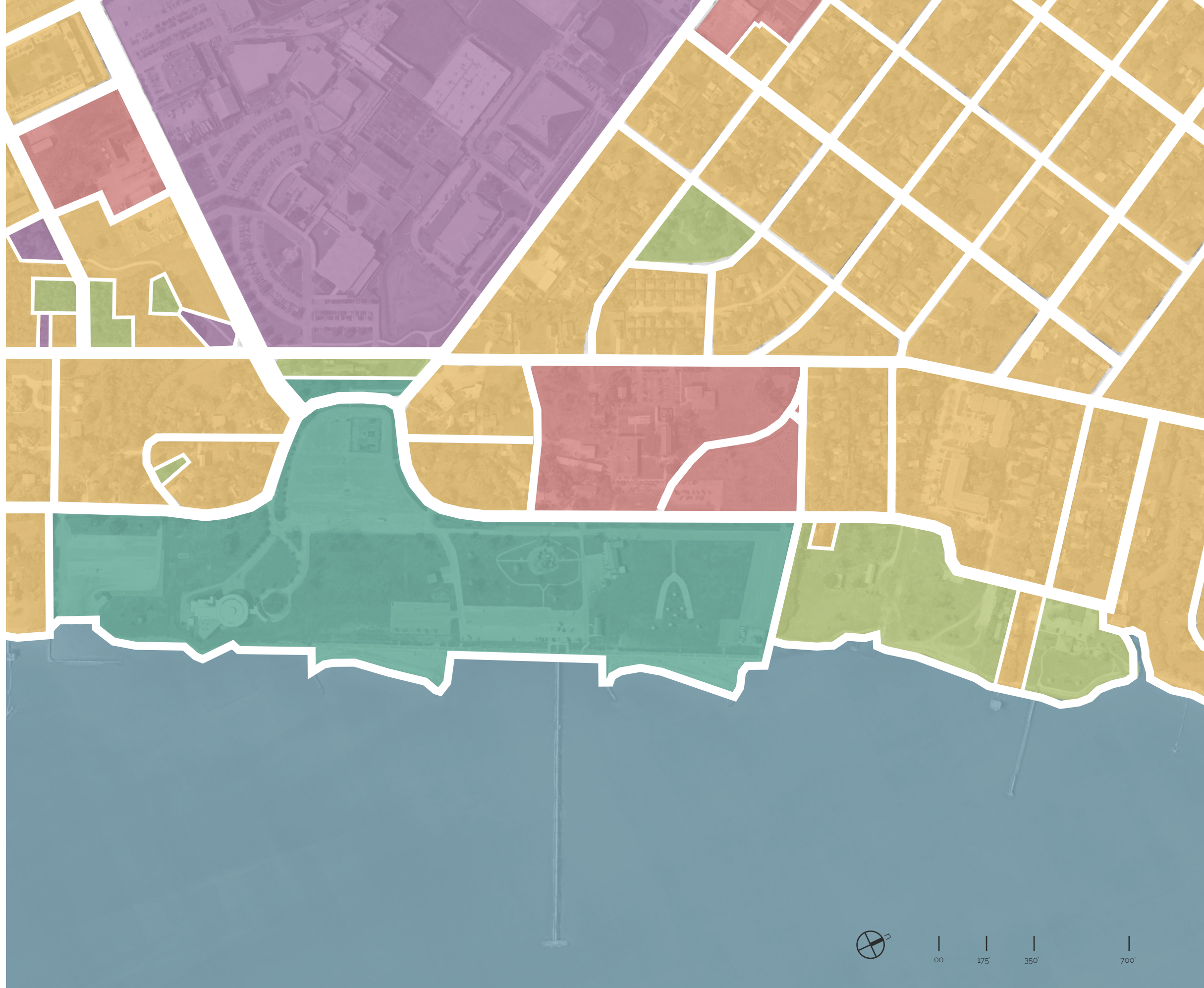


SITE ANALYSIS PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

LEGEND

- LA PORTE ISD
- LOCAL CHURCHES
- PRIVATE PROPERTIES
- CITY OF LA PORTE
- HARRIS COUNTY

REFERENCE IMAGERY



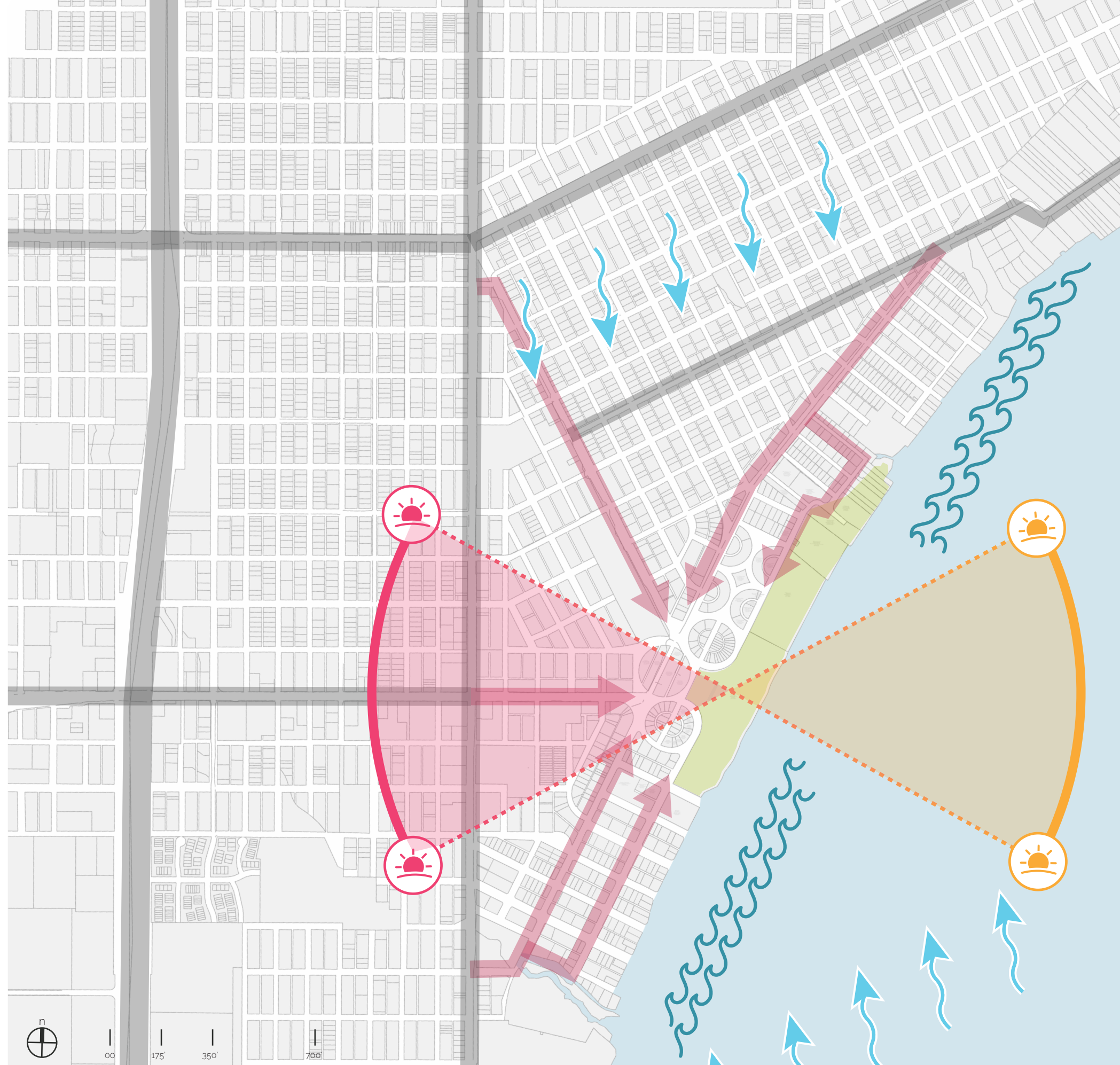
SITE ANALYSIS

SITE ENVIRONMENT

LOCAL PARKS

- SUNSET
- SUNRISE
- NORTHERN WIND
- SOUTHERN WIND
- HIGH TIDE
- LOW TIDE

REFERENCE IMAGERY



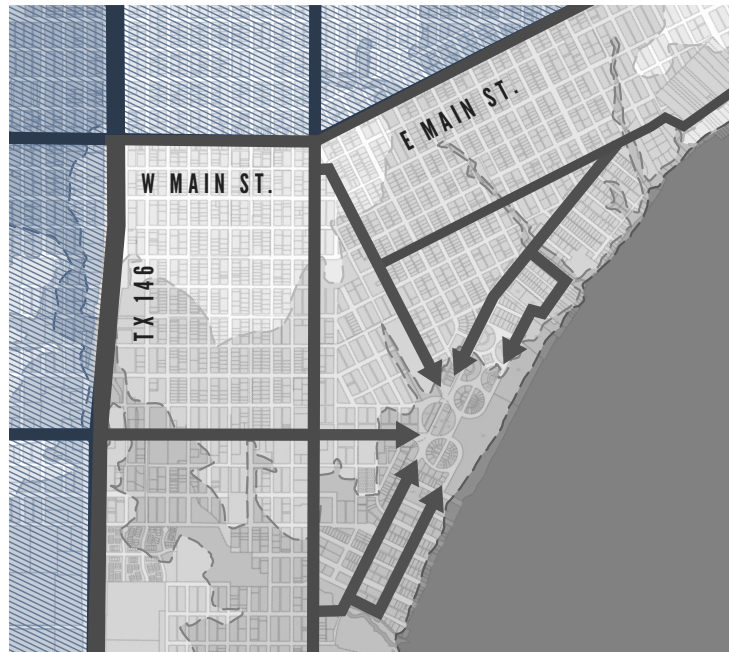
SITE ANALYSIS

FLOOD ZONES

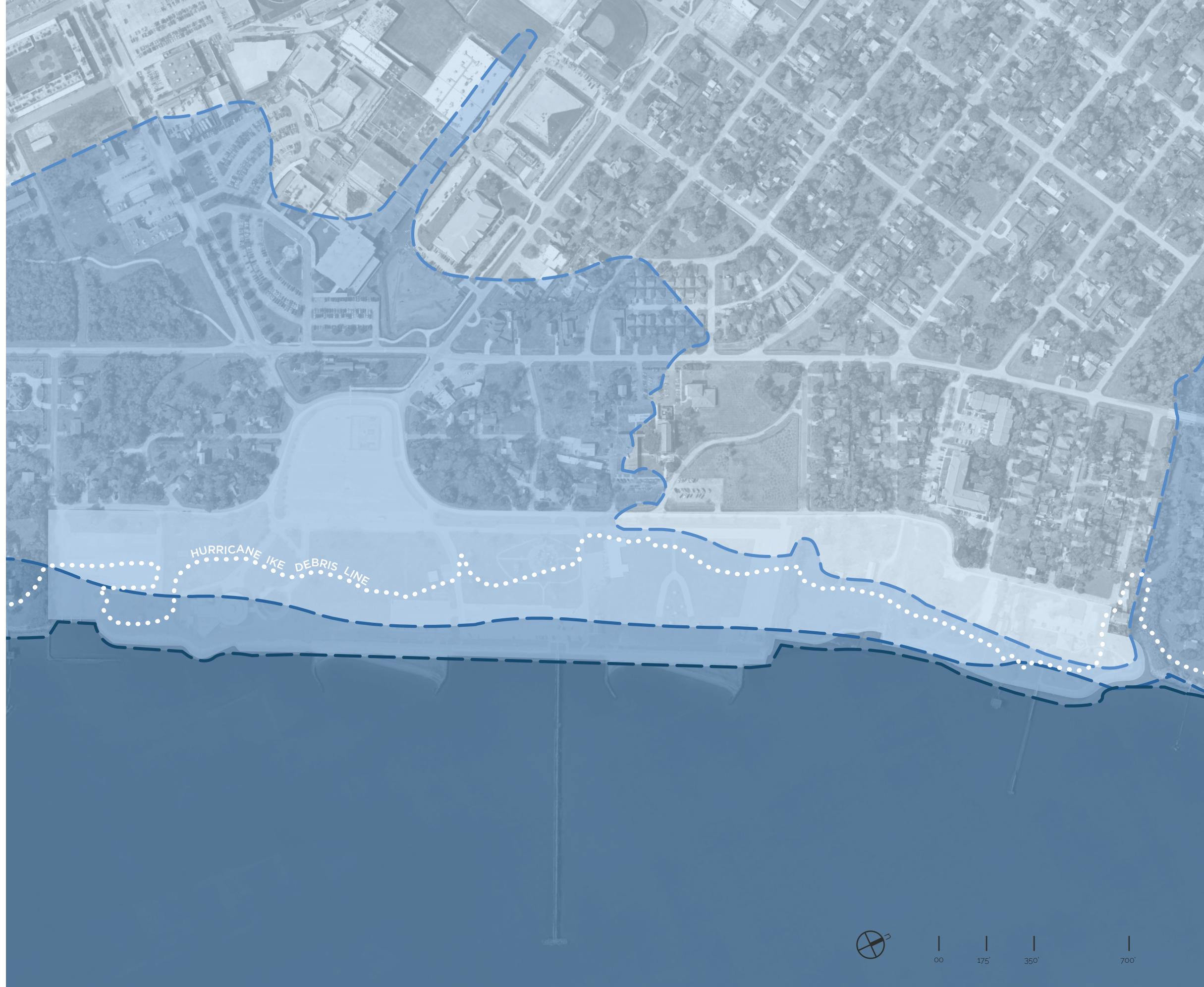
LEGEND

- OPEN OCEAN
 - COASTAL FLOOD ZONE
 - 100 YEAR FLOOD ZONE
 - 500 YEAR FLOOD ZONE
- MEAN TIDE RANGE: 1.12 FT

REQUIRED DETENTION KEY MAP



REFERENCE IMAGERY



SITE IMAGES



SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION



BOAT RAMP



ACTION SKATE PARK



BEACH FRONT



WATERFRONT



FISHING PIER

SITE IMAGES



PLAYGROUND



SHADE PAVILION



SEABREEZE PARK



HERITAGE SOCIETY



LOCAL PROPERTIES



LOCAL PROPERTIES

SITE INVENTORY



SITE INVENTORY

SITE ITEMS

LEGEND

- 1 SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION
- 2 BOAT RAMP
- 3 ACTION SKATE PARK
- 4 BEACH FRONT
- 5 PLAYGROUND
- 6 FOOD TRUCK STATION
- 7 RESTROOMS
- 8 LINDA'S BAIT & TACKLE
- 9 FISHING PIER
- 10 MAINTENANCE
- 11 SHADE PAVILION
- 12 OLD BOAT DOCK
- 13 PRIVATE PROPERTY

REFERENCE IMAGERY



SITE INVENTORY CIRCULATION

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

-  MAJOR OFF SITE ROADS
-  MINOR OFF SITE ROADS
-  MAJOR ENTRY ROADS
-  MINOR ENTRY ROADS
-  EXISTING ON SITE ROADS

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

-  BIKE CIRCULATION
-  PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

REFERENCE IMAGERY



SITE INVENTORY PARKING

ON SITE PARKING

- ① 175 SPACES
 - ② 339 SPACES
 - ③ 75 SPACES
 - ④ 140 SPACES
 - ⑤ 20 SPACES
 - ⑥ 10 SPACES
 - ⑦ 20 SPACES
 - ⑧ 120 SPACES
 - ⑨ 15 SPACES
 - ⑩ APPROX. 12 SPACES
 - ⑪ APPROX. 15 SPACES
 - ⑫ 54 SPACES
- 995 TOTAL PARKING SPACES

OFF SITE PARKING

- ① 429 SPACES

REFERENCE IMAGERY



SITE INVENTORY VEGETATION

LEGEND

- VEGETATION
- OPEN SPACE
- ROCK EDGE
- BEACH

LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Sylvan Beach is a coastal site on the west side of Trinity Bay and the Houston Ship Channel. The site is primarily mowed turf grasses with some dense shrubbery at the property limit. Areas of planting accent the park entries and the Pavilion entry. Trees are scattered across the county and the city properties that are mostly live oaks and palm trees. Some of the trees closer to the shore are windswept but mature live oaks have grown in certain areas within the parks and along the neighborhood streets. A remnant of an old bulkhead has created a pocket for shoreline vegetation.

La Porte is uniquely situated within the Gulf Prairies and Marshes region of Texas, which is only found along the state's coastlines. This beautiful landscape hosts an array of flora and fauna that contribute to the sensitive ecosystem. Sylvan Beach Park has the potential to bring back this native vegetation and restore the natural coastline

REFERENCE IMAGERY



PROGRAM



STRUCTURES



PROGRAM: PRECEDENT IMAGES

WATERFRONT



ACTIVITY



ACTIVITY



MASTER PLAN





DIAGRAM 1

NTS

PROGRAM

- 1 SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION
- 2 BAND SHELL WITH MAINTENANCE & STORAGE
- 3 OUTDOOR DINING
- 4 CONCESSIONS
- 5 PICNIC PAVILION
- 6 CAROUSEL
- 7 OVERLOOK
- 8 PLAYGROUND
- 9 EVENT LAWN
- 10 OPEN PLAY

- 11 SPRAY GROUNDS
- 12 FOOD TRUCK STATION
- 13 SKATE PARK
- 14 BEACH VOLLEYBALL
- 15 EXTENDED BEACH FRONT
- 16 EVENT PIER
- 17 NATURE PARK
- 18 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- 19 SEABREEZE PARK
- 20 EXISTING PIER
- 21 BOAT DOCK

ENVIRONMENT

- NATIVE HABITAT
- COASTAL WETLANDS
- PICNIC
- GATEWAYS

LEGEND

- ROADS
- PEDESTRIAN SPINE
- PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROMENADE
- SHADE STRUCTURES
- PARKING
- ENTRY SIGNAGE
- SEATING NODES



MASTER PLAN

PROGRAM

- 1 SYLVAN BEACH PAVILION
- 2 BAND SHELL WITH MAINTENANCE & STORAGE
- 3 OUTDOOR DINING
- 4 CONCESSIONS
- 5 PICNIC PAVILION
- 6 CAROUSEL
- 7 SPRAY PLAZA
- 8 PLAYGROUND
- 9 EVENT LAWN
- 10 OPEN PLAY
- 11 SPRAY GROUNDS
- 12 FOOD TRUCK STATION
- 13 SKATE PARK
- 14 BEACH VOLLEYBALL
- 15 EXTENDED BEACH FRONT
- 16 EVENT PIER
- 17 NATURE PARK
- 18 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- 19 SEABREEZE PARK
- 20 BOAT DOCK
- 21 VEGETATED BREAKWATER
- 22 EXISTING BOAT DOCK
- 23 KAYAK LAUNCH
- 24 BEACH FRONT SEATING
- 25 ENTRY MONUMENT
- 26 PROMENADE
- 27 BOARDWALK

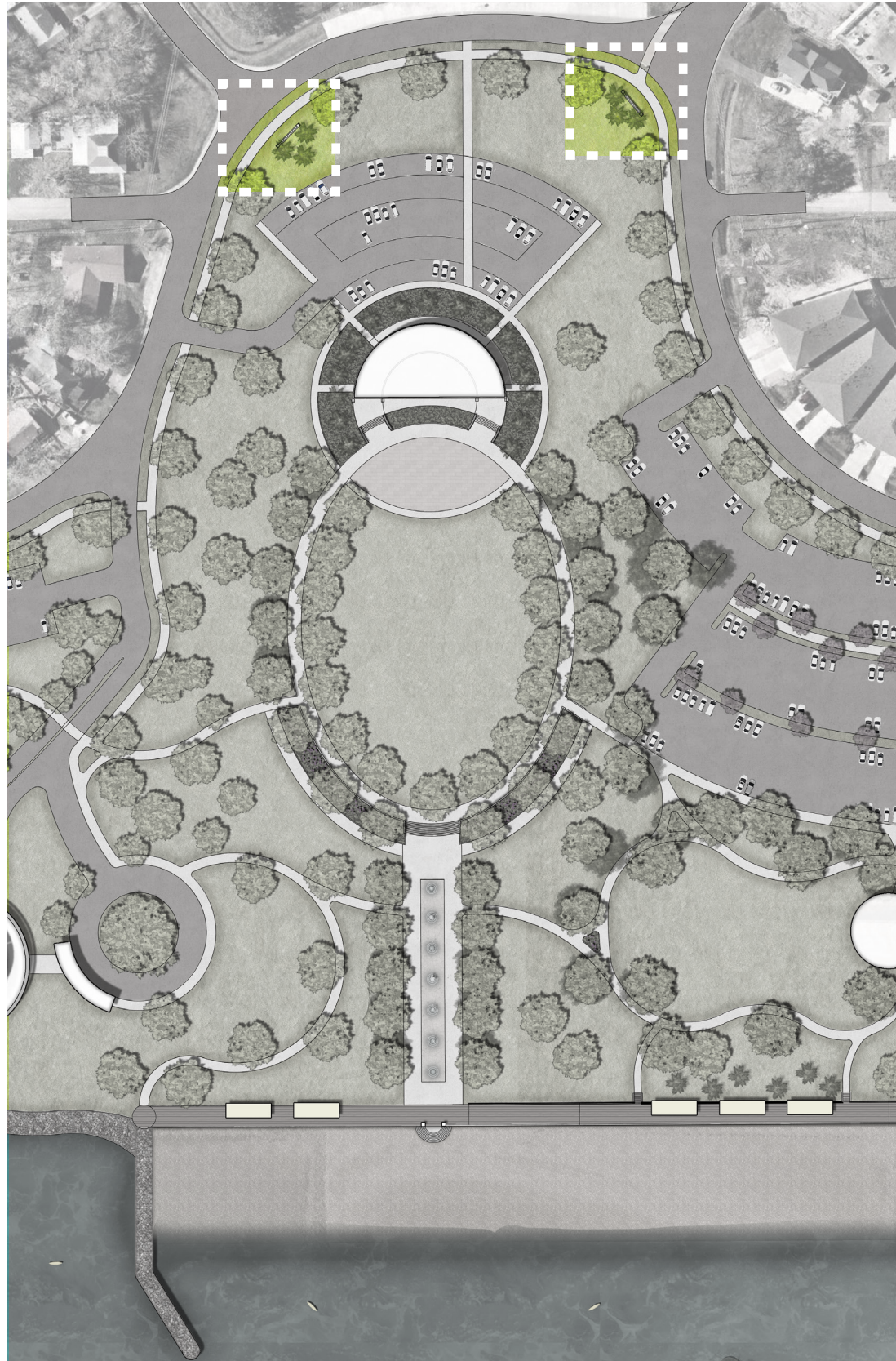
ENVIRONMENT

-  NATIVE HABITAT
-  COASTAL WETLANDS
-  PICNIC



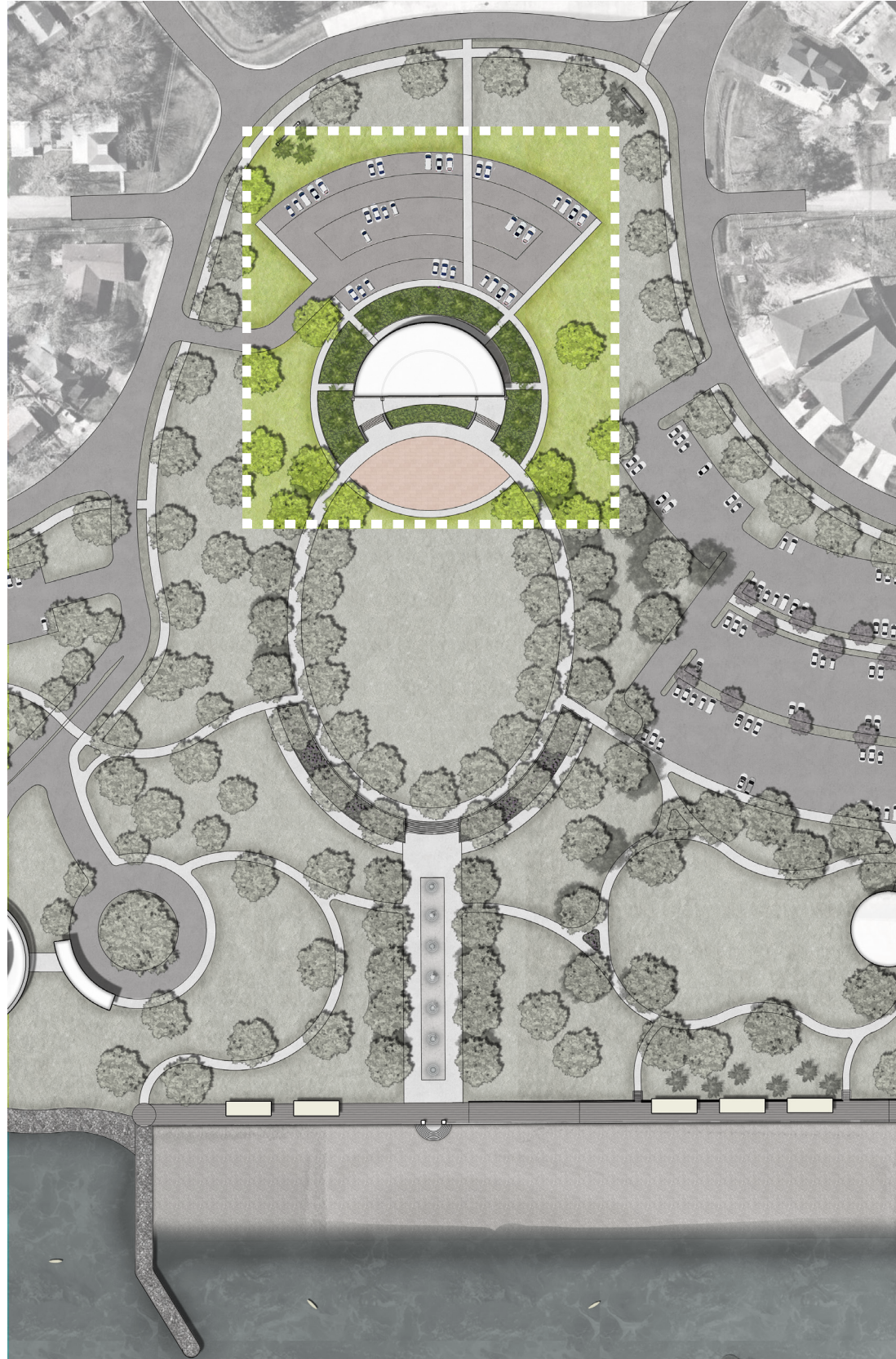
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ENTRY MONUMENT



MASTER PLAN

BAND STAND



BAND STAND



MASTER PLAN

EVENT LAWN



EVENT LAWN



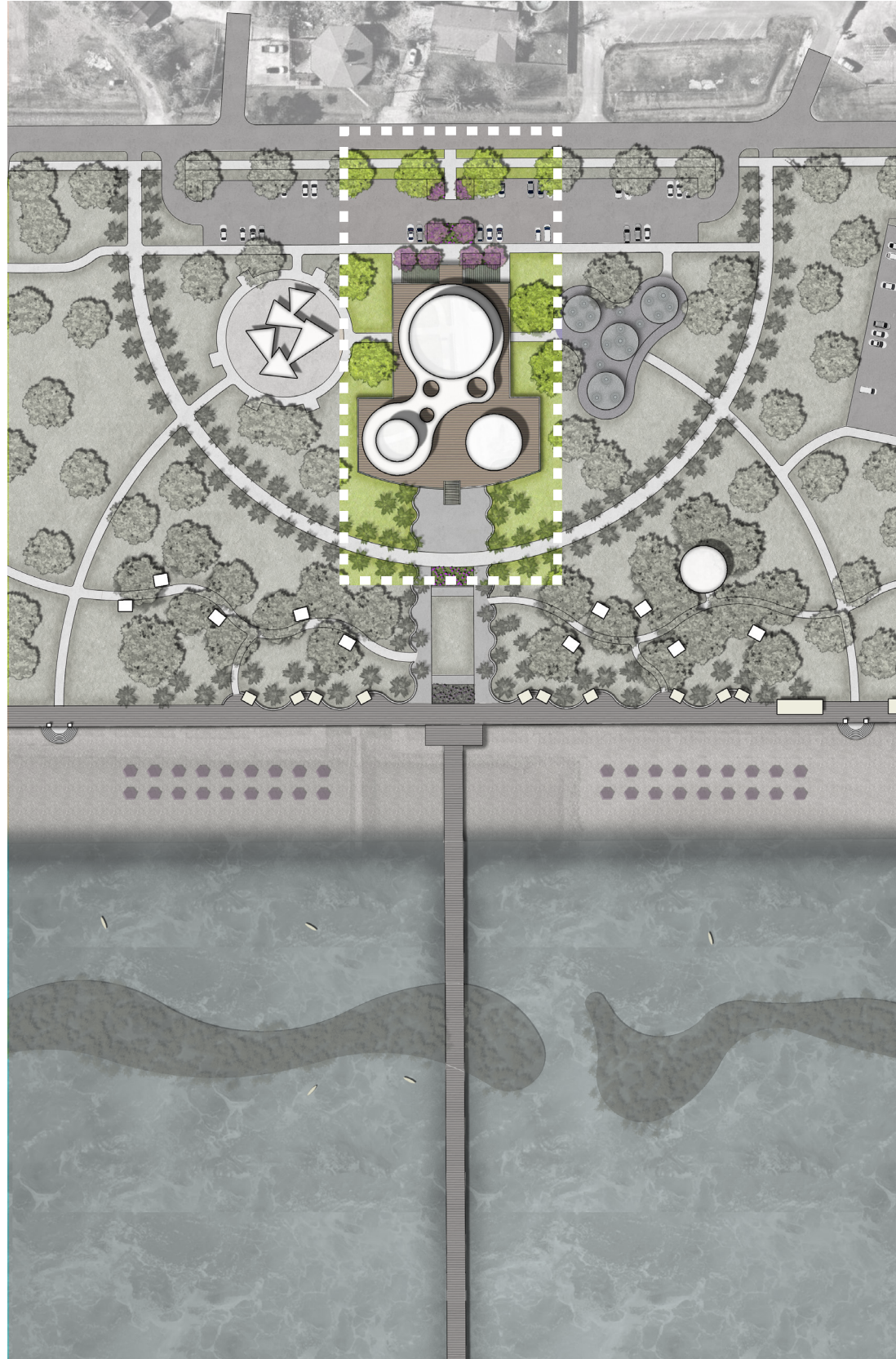
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SPRAY PLAZA



MASTER PLAN

CENTRAL HUB

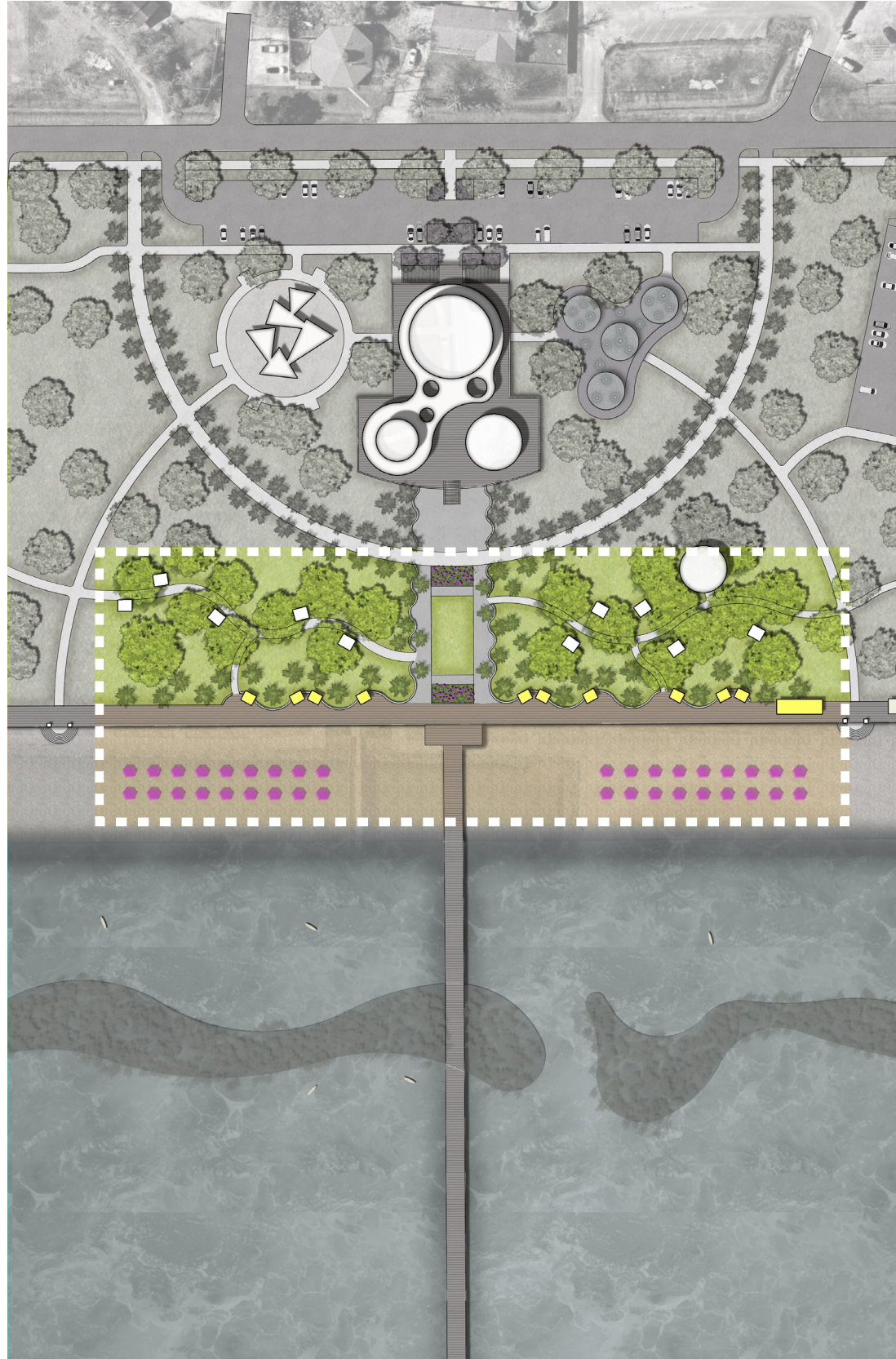


CENTRAL HUB

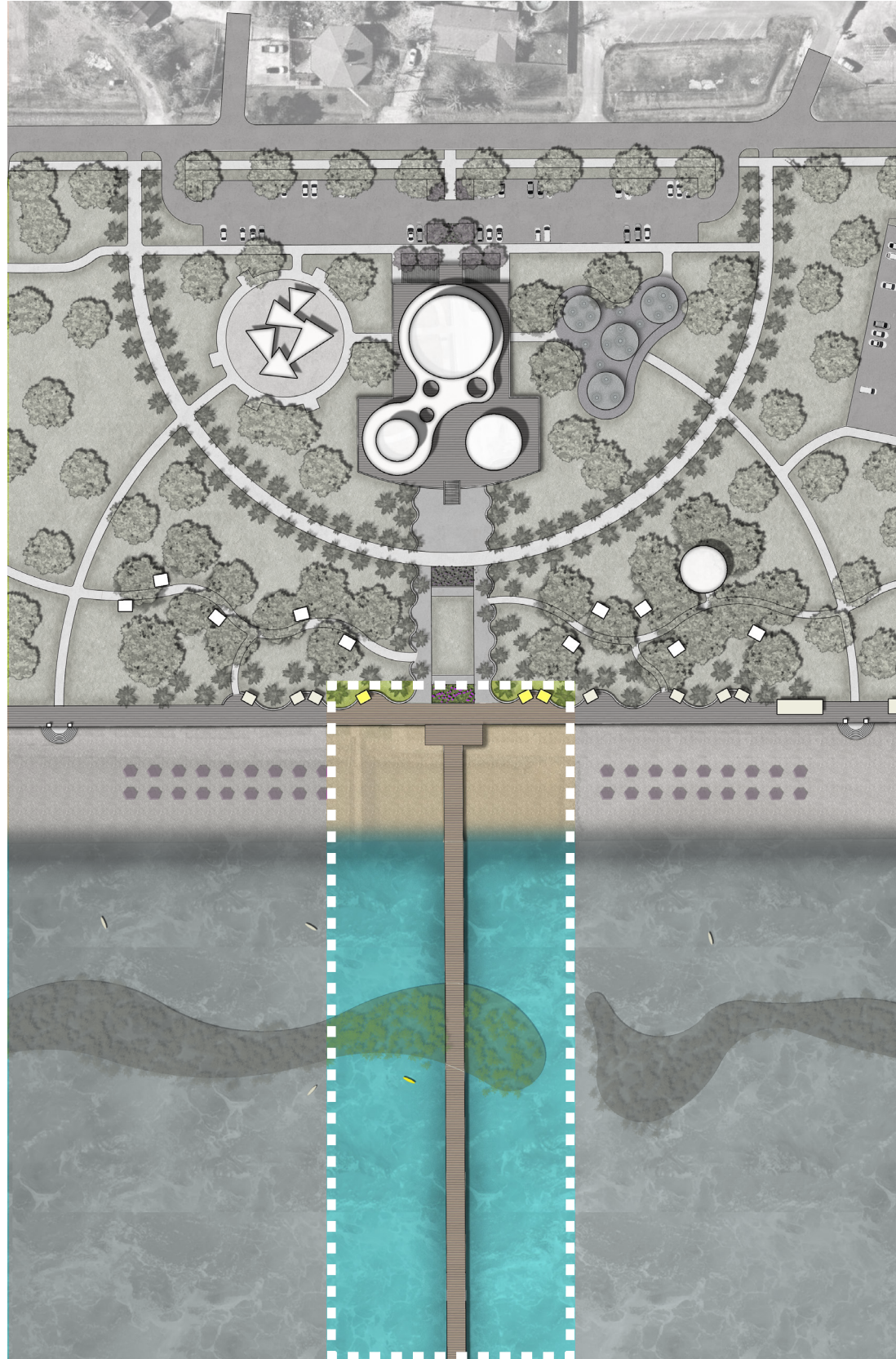


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BEACH FRONT



MASTER PLAN
PIER



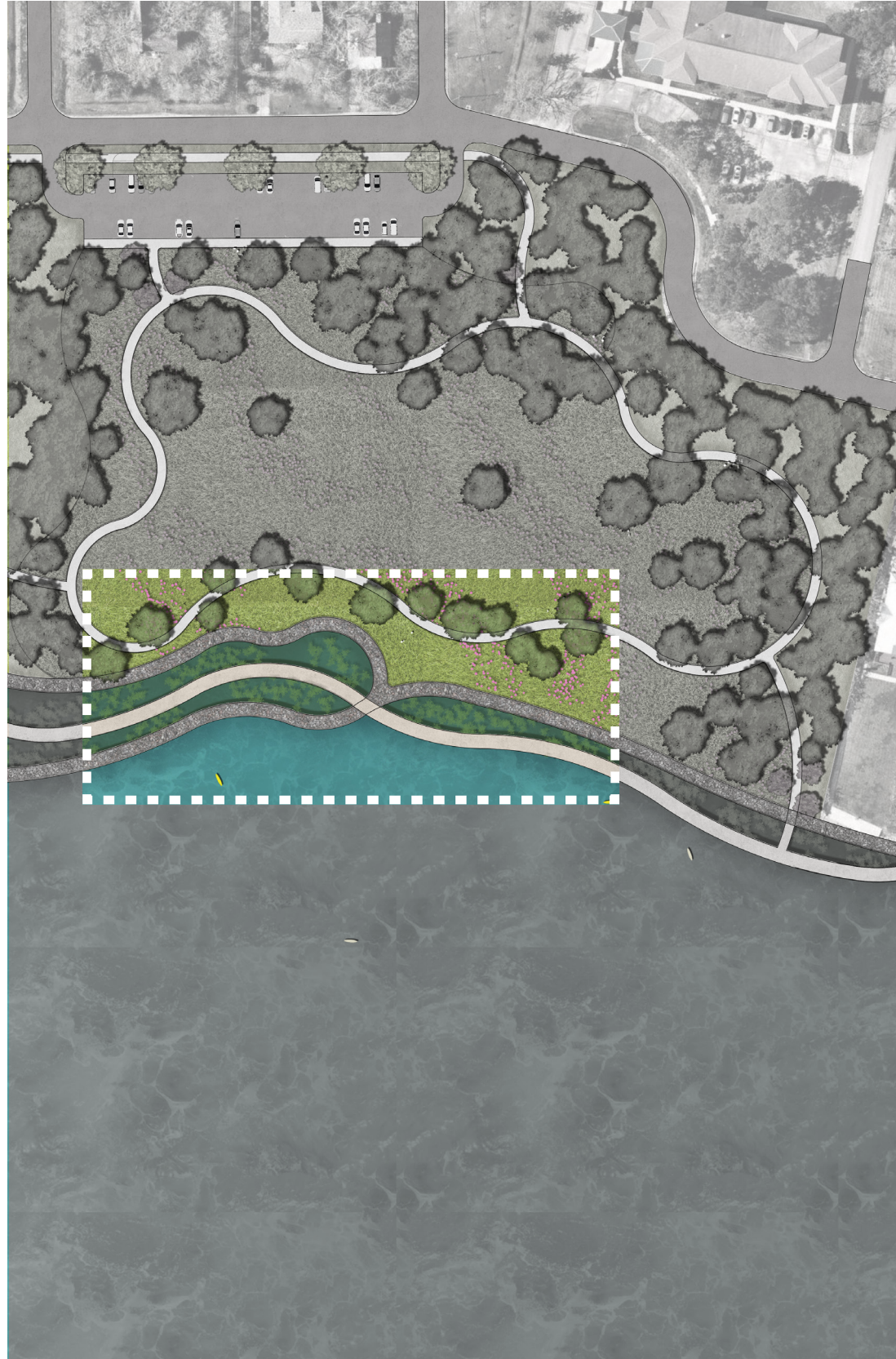
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SKATE PARK



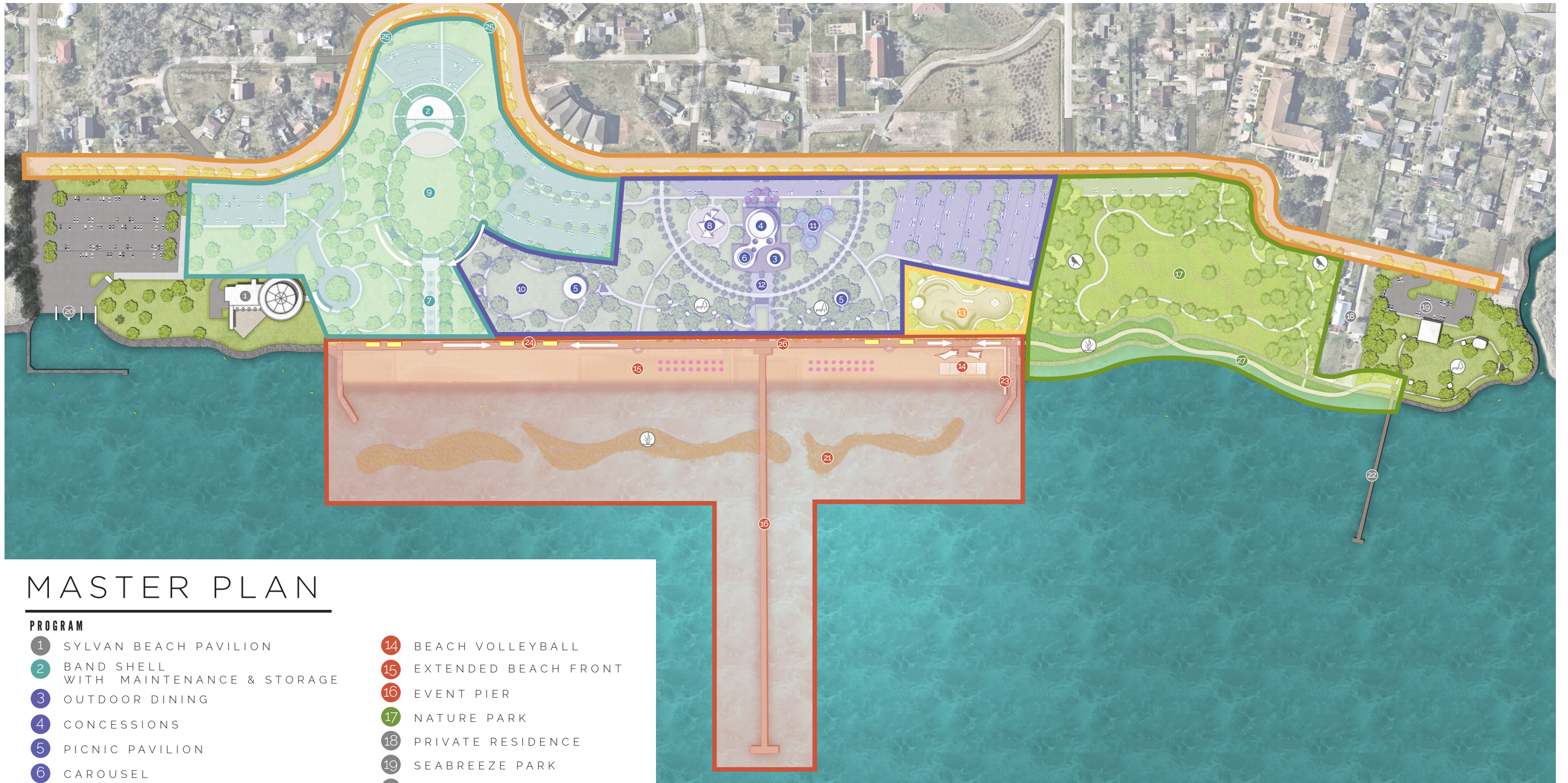
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NATURE PARK



PHASING





MASTER PLAN







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- 20 BOAT DOCK
- 21 VEGETATED BREAKWATER
- 22 EXISTING BOAT DOCK
- 23 KAYAK LAUNCH
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- 26 PROMENADE
- 27 BOARDWALK

ENVIRONMENT

-  NATIVE HABITAT
-  COASTAL WETLANDS
-  PICNIC

PHASES

-  PHASE 1
-  PHASE 2
-  PHASE 3
-  PHASE 4
-  PHASE 5
-  PHASE 6



SYLVAN BEACH PARK

*"AND ALL I ASK IS A WINDY DAY WITH THE WHITE CLOUDS FLYING,
AND THE FLUNG SPRAY AND THE BLOWN SPUME, AND THE SEA-GULLS CRYING."*

- SEA FEVER - JOHN MASEFIELD