

rachel hill

2314 E. 17th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85719 USA

240 271 1383

hill.rachel@gmail.com

Mansfield Park Redesign Tucson, Arizona

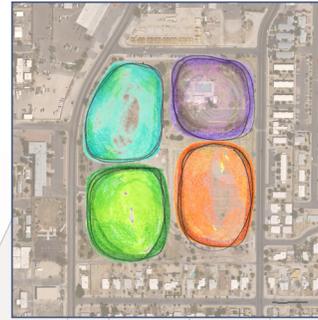
Rachel Hill (Landscape Architecture)
and Elisa Kruger (Architecture)
Drachman Institute
February 2008

Mansfield Park is a 20 acre park bordered by three neighborhoods in Central Tucson, nestled in the heart of the traditionally African American part of town. It has a vibrant community center, a pool and various sports fields yet the elements do not correspond, the park has no center or circulation links to pull its disparate pieces together. The lack of trees leave areas exposed to Tucson's harsh sun while poor drainage produces undesirable water retention and erosion during parts of the year.

SITE ANALYSIS



Existing Park



Four Disparate Sections



Drainage and Erosion



Circulation Circumvents

CONCEPTUAL PLAN



Traffic Calming Chicanes

Shade Structures on Playscapes and Children's Pool

Skate Park
Improved Recycling Feature
Central Node Amphitheatre and Picnic Area
Permanent Chess Tables and Hardtop Game Space
Bisecting Paths

Splash Park and Green

Water Retention Swales

Water Harvesting Features
Rock Bouldering Wall

Improved Path (routes, bicycle racks, trash bins and dog waste containers)

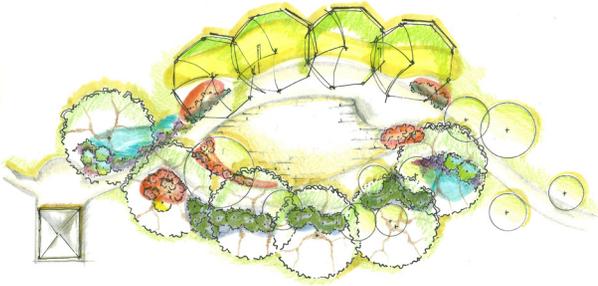
Contemplative Garden and Gathering Space

Parkside Residential Housing

Awards and Distinctions

Second Place, Student Showcase
Spring 2008
University of Arizona

Contemplative Garden



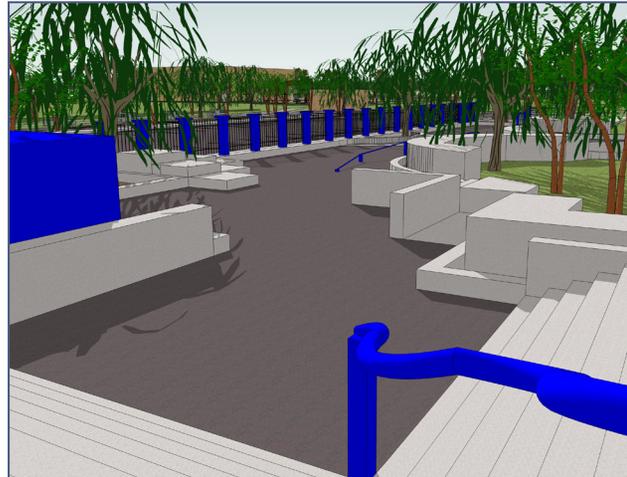
ELEMENTS

Amphitheatre and Picnic Area
Splash Park and Green
Multipurpose Hardscape
Contemplative Garden

Park-side Housing



Skate Park



The Center



Multipurpose Hardscape



CONCEPT: THE FRONT YARD

Mansfield Park is a community park surrounded by, used and cared for by strong communities. It is a “front porch” for the collective. Through a series of interventions, a core is emphasized and circulation radiates from the center forming connections. Open recreation space is preserved while a more natural series of native tree groves follows drainage patterns, providing shade, wayfinding, managing storm water while subtly interpreting how water functions in the desert. Recreational uses are expanded with little new infrastructure development by retrofitting existing conditions and making spaces multi-functional. Park-side residential development enhances safety as people are using and observing spaces during the day and night.

THEMES

Multiplicity of Uses: Spaces are multifunctional, efficient and resourceful, expanding recreation options.

Circulation and Connection: Paths bisect the park and connect to neighborhoods, encouraging alternate modes of transportation, health and wellness.

Vistas and Groves: Topography scripts where water and people flow, adding views to the mountains and downtown and groves within an urban wash.

Parkside Residences: Keeping “eyes on the park” increases safety while encouraging a sense of community and ownership of the park.

Creation of Center: Paths and activities meet in the center which is easily accessible by parking.

The Green Spine: Backbone of a Commercial Commons

Submitted to the Integrating Habitats
Design Competition
Category of Commercial Development

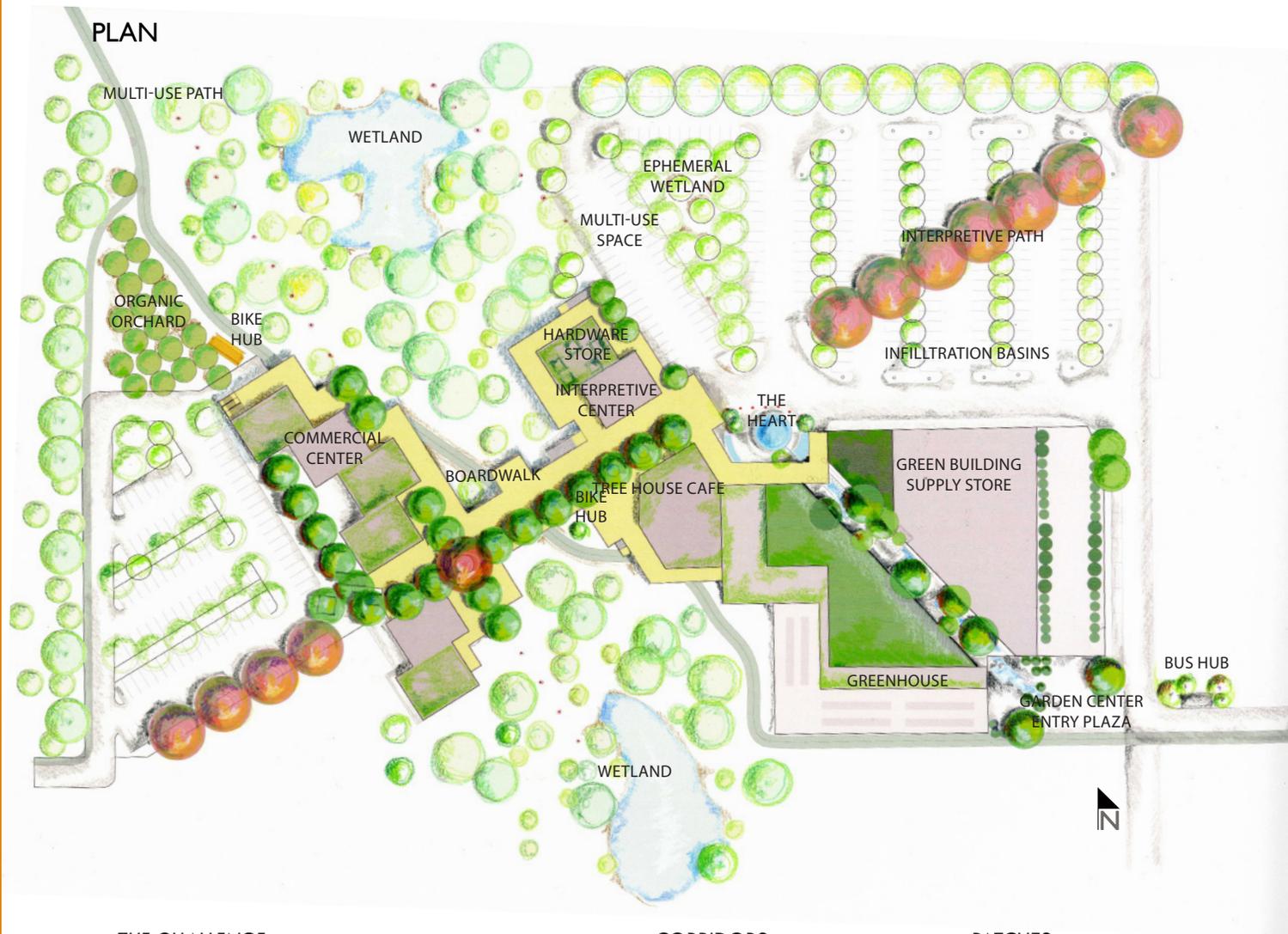
Project Team: Laura Bolyard,
Kim Creigan, Rachel Hill, Jenny
Leijonhuvud, Steve Steinberg

The Green Spine uses passive and active solar energy, natural ventilation, water harvesting, local agricultural production and bioswales to minimize the ecological footprint of the built environment while also producing energy and marketable goods.

The Green Spine is the backbone of an integrated Commons. This organism turns a broken 'big box' into a circulating system. The design integrates constructed and natural elements. It is not limited to visual or spatial incorporation of green elements into the built forms or preservation of existing open space. The built environment becomes part of nature - an integrated organism in the system.

Awards and Distinctions

Integrating Habitats People's Choice
Award - Commercial Category,
Spring 2008



THE CHALLENGE

Plan and design a green home building center and commercial complex in a lowland hardwood forest and wetlands habitat including:
70,000 sq. ft. of green improvement center
25,000 sq. ft. of garden center with green house
4,000 sq. ft. café
24,000 sq ft of other commercial space

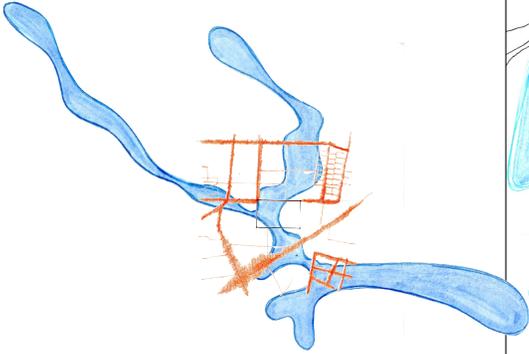
CORRIDORS:

Preserved hardwood forest
Multi-Use Path
Boardwalk
The Green Spine
Infiltration Basins

PATCHES:

Preserved Wetlands
Preserved hardwood forest
Organic orchard
Green Roofs
Bio-Sponge Wall
Infiltration Basins
Ephemeral Wetland

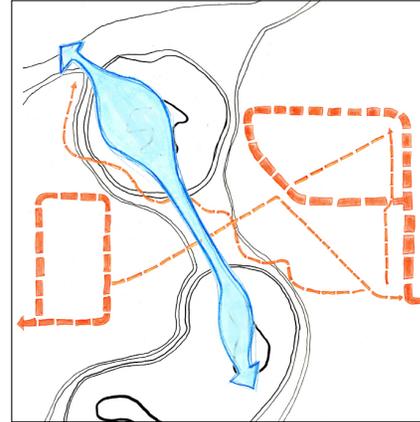
ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE



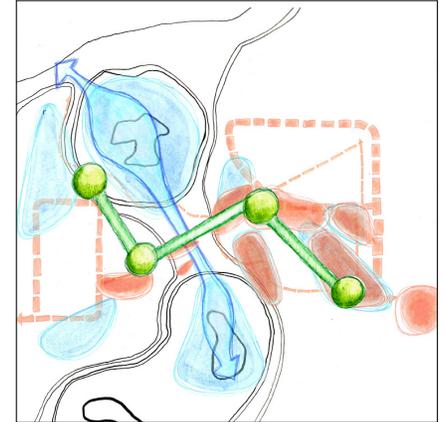
Matrix ecosystem and human



Patches wildlife and human



Corridors wildlife and human



The design aligns within the site

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

Environmental responsibility relies on making smart decisions today and planning for conscientious growth in the future. The Green Spine design solution includes a vision for future development strategies in the surrounding area.

Buffering

Native vegetation separates the wetland areas from the highway to mitigate environmental degradation. Future development must continue to avoid the segment of wetland habitat to the south east.

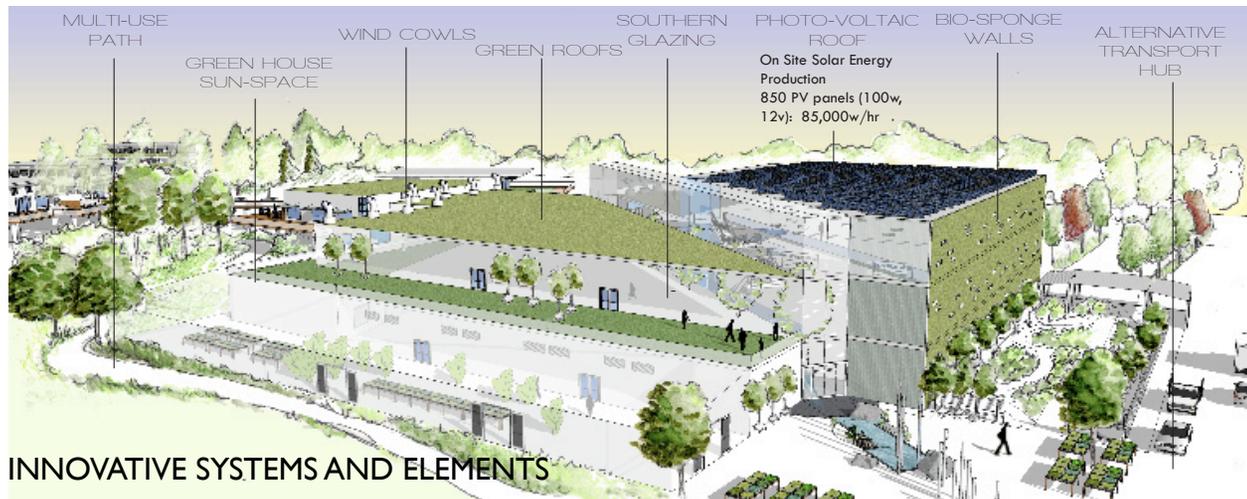
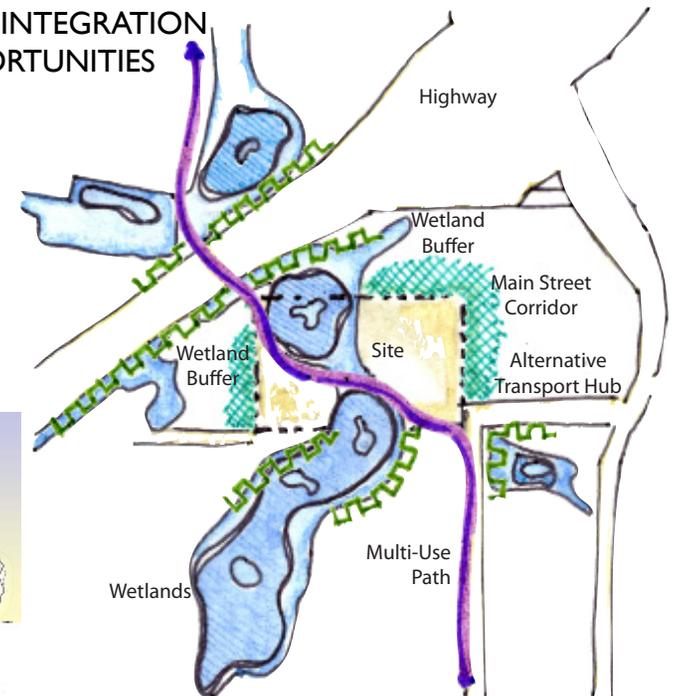
Main Street Corridor

Future development along the adjoining property creates a "main street" that integrates the commercial area and minimizes the need for additional road infrastructure.

Improving Connections

Multi-use bike and pedestrian routes continue south from the initial site. The alternative transport hub is integrated into the transport system of the area.

SITE CONTEXT AND INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES



INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS AND ELEMENTS

Links and Anchors South Akard and Corinth Street Corridors

Urban Land Institute Competition 2008

Team Members: Rachel Hill, Brent Jacobson, Daniel Kelliher, Young Soo Kim
March 2008

As a neighborhood adjacent to downtown Dallas and the Trinity River corridor, the Cedars Neighborhood holds important development opportunity and potential for the City of Dallas.

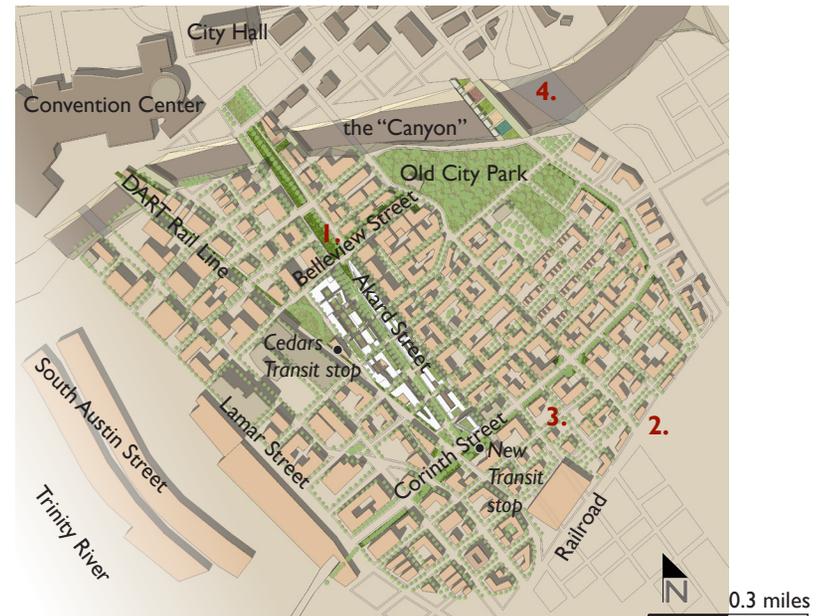
The design identifies existing and potential nodes in and around the Cedars that may act as economic and cultural anchors for the neighborhood. They are cultural and civic icons, economic and transportation centers. Connection opportunities link the neighborhood, stitching it into the Dallas city fabric. Three decking bridges over the "Canyon" form distinct entries into the Cedars with a greenway focus: a non-vehicular transit bridge, a civic promenade and an urban agricultural link.



PLAN

FOCUS

- Walkable neighborhood focused on access to multi-modal transit opportunities
- Strong connections to downtown workspaces and cultural amenities
- Strong connections to the Trinity River corridor
- Environmental infrastructure through greenways, trails and parks
- A neighborhood identity unique from downtown



DESIGN STRATEGY

Links and Anchors integrates the Cedars' current industrial district that has been appropriated in small part by artists and its historic roots as a vibrant residential community. The redevelopment of South Akard Street and Corinth Street links social and natural neighborhood edges to create a mixed-use green boulevard linking downtown to the Trinity River. The inclusion of employment, entertainment and recreation opportunities with a multi-modal transit focus throughout make it possible for the Cedars to become a livable, walkable, sustainable community.

South Akard Street's position between City Hall, the civic heart of Dallas, and the Convention Center, an important economic asset, position it as a symbolic redevelopment corridor from downtown. Its intersection with the Light Rail line at Corinth Street create an important development elbow where mass transit and access to the River and Downtown intersect. Phased development interventions will incite initial core growth along South Akard Street and Corinth Street, and radiate subsequent redevelopment throughout the rest of the neighborhood. Open spaces form green connections that reorient downtown towards the Cedars, while increasing walkability and environmental assets.



ISOMETRIC looking northwest



New transit stop at junction with Corinth Street



Akard Street Green Boulevard towards downtown



Green Boulevard decked over "the Canyon"



Decking over highway extends Farmers' Market and links to downtown