



AGENDA

Environmental Policy Commission REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 21, 2016

7:30 - 9:25 PM

City Hall, Room 2000 (Second Floor)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 7:30 – 7:35 | Welcome and Public Comments |
| 7:35 – 7:45 | Staff Consent items and EPC updates |
| 7:45 – 7:50 | Earth Day Report/EPC Activity, Natasha Andersen |
| 7:50 – 8:20 | Fitzgerald Square Proposed Plan, Tony Gammon, Deputy
Director, Dept. of Project Implementation |
| 8:20 – 8:40 | City Resource Recovery Program (Jim Kapsis) |
| 8:40 – 9:00 | Old Town North Small Area Plan Update
Recommendation Letter, Scott Barstow |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | Eco-City Update, Khoa Tran, Office of Environmental
Quality |
| 9:15 – 9:25 | Agenda for next Work Session and full meeting |
| 9:25 | Adjourn |

City Staff Update: 3/14/16
Prepared by Lisa Goldberg

1. The Alexandria Earth Day 2016 Committee met on March 2 and 16. Natasha Andersen chaired these meetings. The event is scheduled for April 30 at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park 1101 Mt. Vernon Ave. (This is adjacent to the George Washington Middle School.)
 - a. Four nominees were submitted for the Ellen Pickering Award, the selection process is underway.
 - b. Posters are now available for Earth Day Committee and Environmental Policy Commission member distribution.
 - c. A TC Williams student is producing a promotional video in conjunction with a TCW film class.
 - d. The Earth Day proclamation will be announced at both the April 12 Council Meeting and at the Earth Day event.

2. The Alexandria Strategic Plan process is underway. The FY 2017-2022 City Strategic Plan is an opportunity for City Council to work with members of the community and Boards and Commissions to establish the City's strategic direction and priorities for the coming years. Throughout this planning process, the community will have several opportunities to participate and provide feedback in-person and online:
 - a. The first opportunity was a Visioning Meeting that took place on March 14 in the T.C. Williams High School.
 - b. AlexEngage –An opportunity to provide input online is available through Sunday, March 20.
 - c. Comments received will inform the development of the draft FY 2017-2022 City Strategic Plan to be presented to Council in the fall of 2016.Additional information will be distributed through eNews and posted to the project website at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlan>.

3. City Staff is finalizing the 2015 Eco-City Update report. The update will be presented at Earth Day and the April 12, 2016 Council Meeting.

4. City staff and its remediation contractor are moving forward with the upland soil gas and groundwater monitoring and community relations plans for the Oronoco outfall remediation project. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality approved the sampling plans. A schedule for work will be announced following a staff meeting with the property manager for the Lees St Square/Dalton Wharf office condominium association.

5. City staff is preparing a Request for Proposals to evaluate the feasibility and outline specific needs and costs associated with incorporating some key EcoDistrict elements into The Old Town North Small Area Plan.

6. City staff met with an entrepreneur class that is planning to undertake a plastics recycling campaign and an overall study of recycling at TC Williams High School in preparation for an April class visit by a representative from the Jane Goodall Foundation.

7. Jesse Maines is the City's Division Chief of Stormwater Management, a new position approved in the FY16 Budget with a focus on stormwater management, water quality and implementing a stormwater utility.
8. A meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2016 to address Dominion Virginia Power's (DVP) request to construct a new [230-kilovolt \(kV\) underground transmission line](#) between DVP's Glebe Substation on Four Mile Run in Arlington County and Pepco's Potomac River Substation at the NRG Site where the power plant was recently shut down. City Council established an Underground Transmission Line and Substation Working Group in June 2014 to assess the quality of life, economic impacts, electrical reliability and environmental and transportation impacts associated with the proposed project and to make recommendations to staff, the City Manager and City Council.

Waste Recovery Update, March 2016

EPC: I wanted to follow up on the presentation that we received from Michael Clem in February. If you scroll down this email, you'll see that I sent a series of questions to Michael as follow up. I have since spoken with his manager Jeff DuVal who is the Deputy Director for Operations in T&ES. We had a very positive conversation before the last work session, and I was impressed with his desire to collaborate with us moving forward to begin making some reforms to how the City does recycling and waste recovery. He is beginning to work on a new strategy that he hopes to advance before the next budget process in the Fall. I think this is a great opportunity for us to have a positive impact on City policy.

Lisa: Can you please also include in Monday's packet?

I learned the following:

1. **EMISSIONS:** The City does not currently calculate the emissions profile of its waste recovery efforts. However, Jeff agrees that this is something that the City should do. Thus, right now, we don't measure the GHG impact of our efforts. I think we should include something to this effect in our indicators to further nudge the City to do these calculations. If part of the reason for waste recovery is to lower emissions, we should be measuring the outcomes.

2. **COMPOSTING:** The City staff is on the fence as to whether or not the composting program delivers net economic or environmental benefits. This is because all of our residential waste currently goes to Covanta and gets burned, which may be cheaper and more environmentally friendly, according to Jeff, than trucking compost 42 miles to PG County. As part of the upcoming curbside food waste pilot both the environmental and economic benefits/ costs will be fully evaluated and a decision regarding the future of the program will be made. Staff had recommended the food waste recovery program be discontinued last year, however based on public and council interest it was added back into the budget. It's a small budget item at roughly \$25k a year for now, but Council could try to expand it. I want to get more specific facts from staff before we recommend stopping this popular program, but at a minimum I think we have a responsibility to raise some tough questions with Council about this program. What is the City trying to achieve? This is an example of a program where EPC can really help to educate the public on what works and what doesn't.

3. **HAZARDOUS WASTE:** The City does not currently have the means to accurately measure to what extent it is getting hazardous waste out of the normal waste stream. In other words, while the City is required to facilitate the proper disposal of hazardous waste, the City does not currently know how well it is doing at diverting such waste because it does not take samples of trash to make an assessment. Jeff and I discussed the possibility of doing some sampling in the future to create a baseline and then measuring our impact against it. As a reminder, removing hazardous waste is extremely expensive. So what are we getting for it?

4. **ACPS:** ACPS has no incentive to reduce its waste stream since the City is responsible for all of its waste recovery. Thus, recently, the City installed two compactors at TC Williams, one for trash and one for recycling, to cut down on the number of trucks they need to send weekly to dispose of TC waste. Prior to this, the City was removing waste from TC Williams twice a day! Now it removes it twice a week. In short, there is a major agency problem since ACPS does not pay for disposal. There should be ways for EPC to be helpful here with suggestions that could get ACPS and City to better coordinate to achieve more environmentally friendly outcomes.

5. **Pay As you Throw:** Jeff is open to receiving policy suggestions from us that would charge people for how much waste they produce. This could be difficult in practice because to do it precisely would require technology that the City currently does not have. However, there could be ways to measure in a low tech way from City section since the City does weigh trash and recycling from each day. So the City could charge neighborhoods based on their per capita rate (this was an idea I threw out at Jeff). The City could also invest in technology that enables to trucks to measure the weight of different bins (Portland does this) or to charge people different amounts based on the size of their cans (i.e. bigger can = larger refuse fee). Moving to smaller cans or measuring neighborhood level output could have some interesting behavioral implications.

6. **POST-2025:** When the City's TIP'ing fee goes to zero in 2025 for shipping waste to Covanta, that will fundamentally change the economics of waste recovery in the City. We will need to help staff think through strategically what their options are when this goes into effect. For example, the City could go into the business of selling waste removal services to commercial entities or even to neighboring jurisdictions and create a new revenue stream for the City as well help improve local environmental outcomes. Food for thought.

We have a lot to discuss. I would like to add this as an agenda item for discussion at our next meeting.

thanks,

Jim

EPC Questions:

Michael: Thanks again for a very stimulating and helpful presentation.

EPC members have the following additional questions for you (though you may also receive more later):

-- Can you share your emission calculations as well as your overall cost benefit analysis of the composting pilot? You noted that the composting program is likely either emissions neutral or leads to higher emissions due to the length of the transport to Prince George's County.

-- To what extent is the City calculating net GHG emissions impacts from our waste recovery programs? Is there any reason why the City staff could not do a calculation for all our waste recovery programs as compared with BAU?

-- Has the City considered putting in place a shadow price of carbon to measure the cost of the environmental externalities associated with waste recovery? How hard would this be to do? Right now, it seems as if the City is looking only at the direct economic costs and benefits associated with waste recovery.

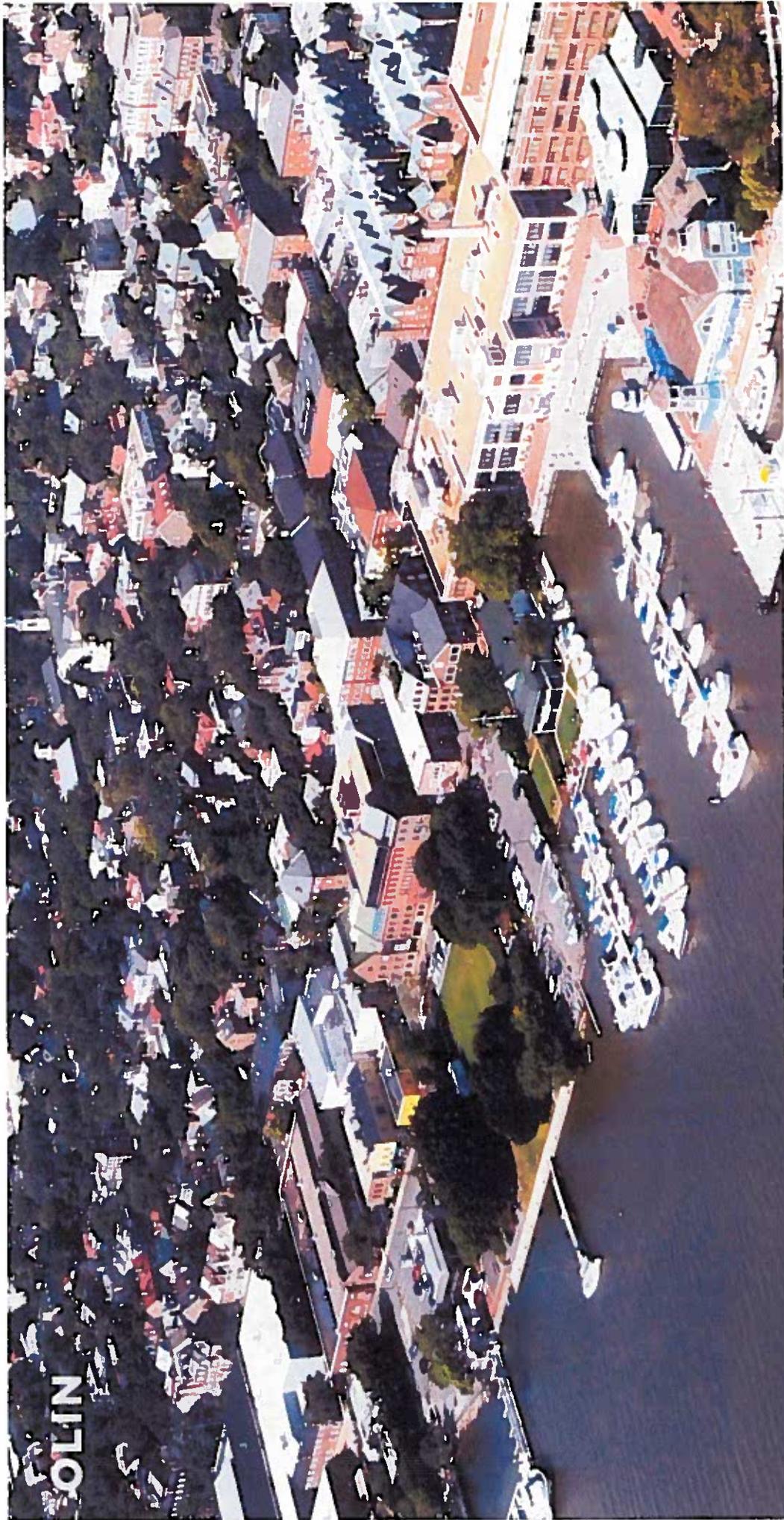
-- What kind of coordination is there between the City and ACPS on waste recovery? We know that the School Board is in charge of setting policy for ACPS, but would be helpful to understand what kind of coordination is or is not occurring on waste recovery. It would seem to be in the City's interest to have a common approach. In most of the schools and at school events, collection appears to be haphazard, unclear and/or nonexistent (until parents demand it). We are also aware that ACPS cut the environmental steward program last year and that they also eliminated their composting program supposedly due to rodent issues.

-- How much money could the City save in the 2017 budget if it were to pay the same rate for trash collection as recycling collection? As you noted in your presentation, the City's contract for the recycling work is at a lower price point than its trash removal contract.

-- If the City were to move to a system where businesses and residents paid a waste recovery fee that corresponded to how much waste they produced, what options would the City have to determine this rate?

-- Is the City's hazardous waste program voluntary or does the State require a certain amount of hazardous waste to be safely disposed of by the City?

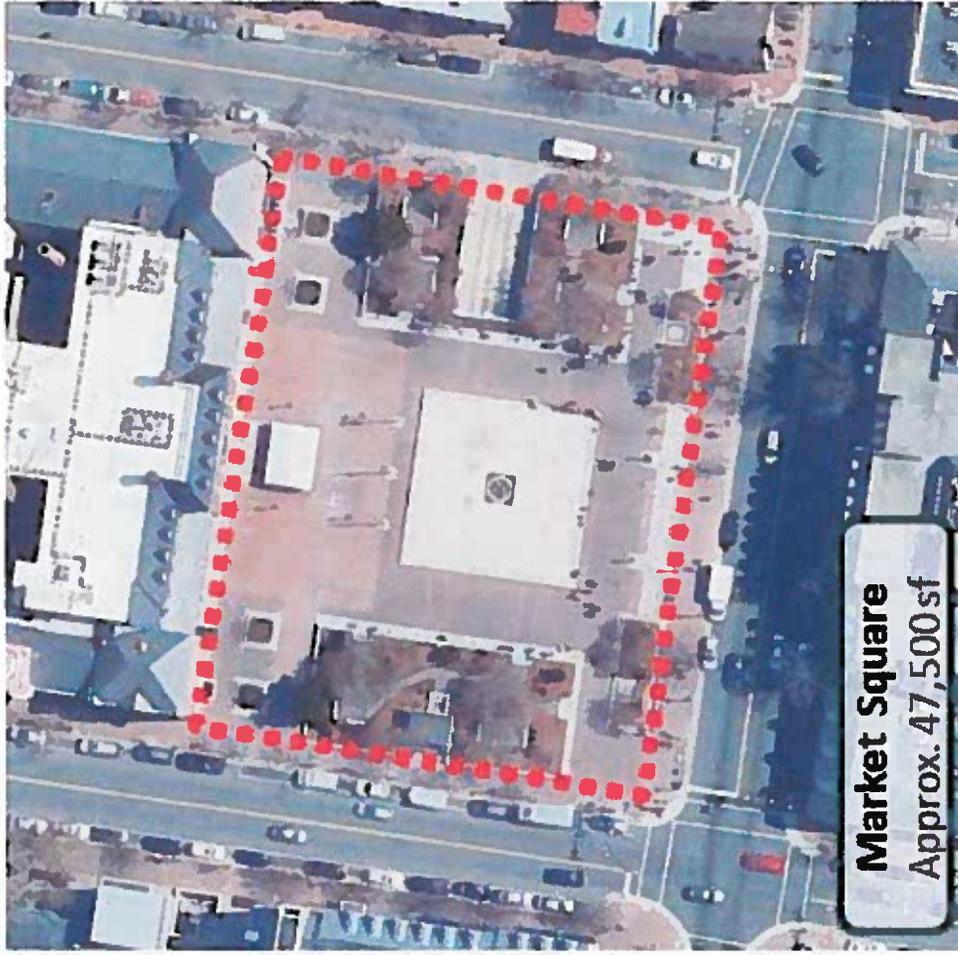
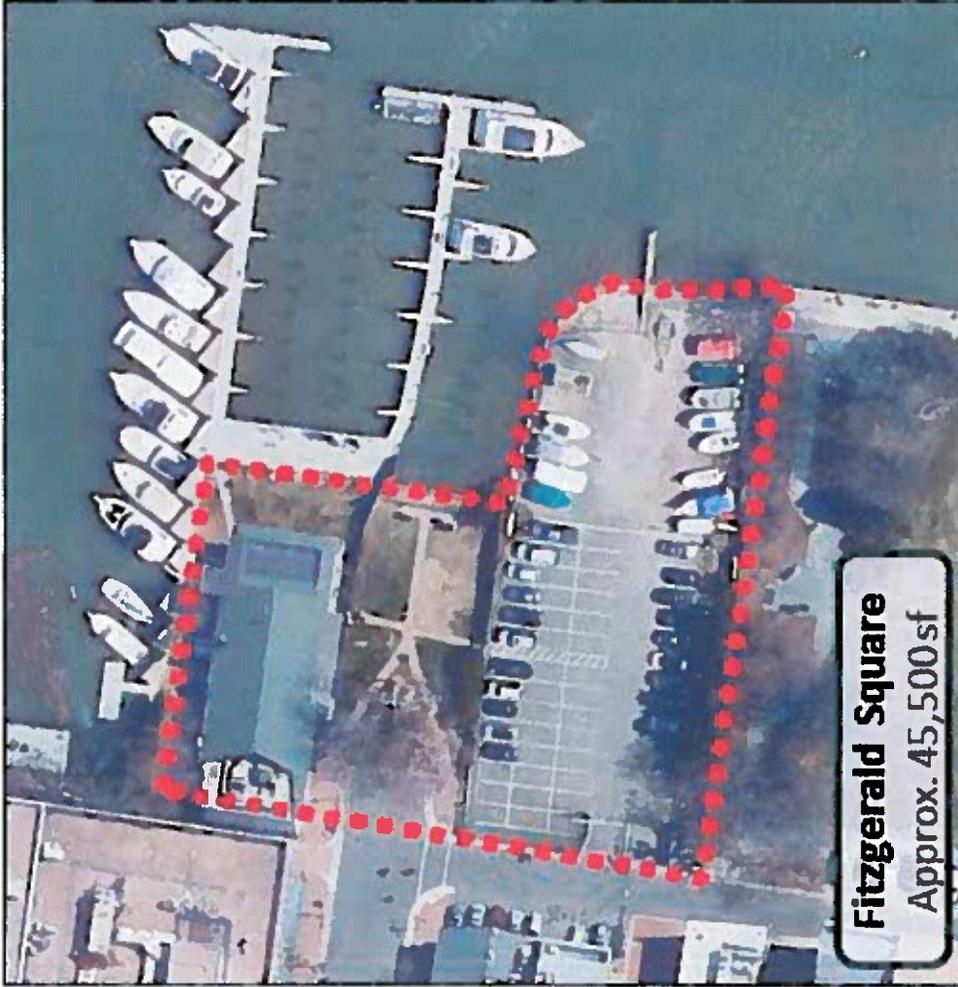
-- How much hazardous waste is the City recycling at what total cost per year and how has that number changed over the last 5-10 years? Does the City calculate the environmental benefit of recycling this waste? If so, how?



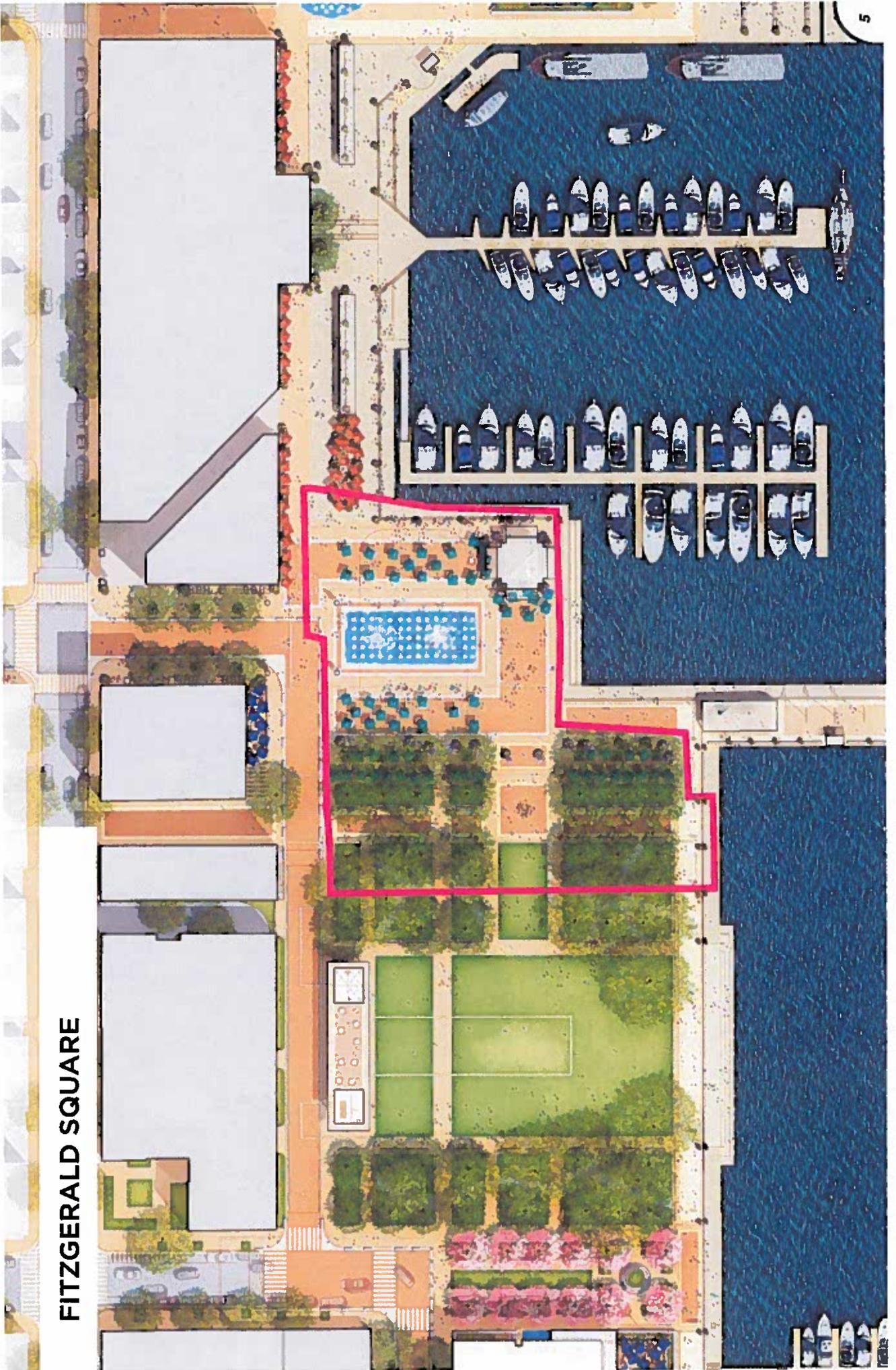
SOLIN

INTERIM FITZGERALD SQUARE

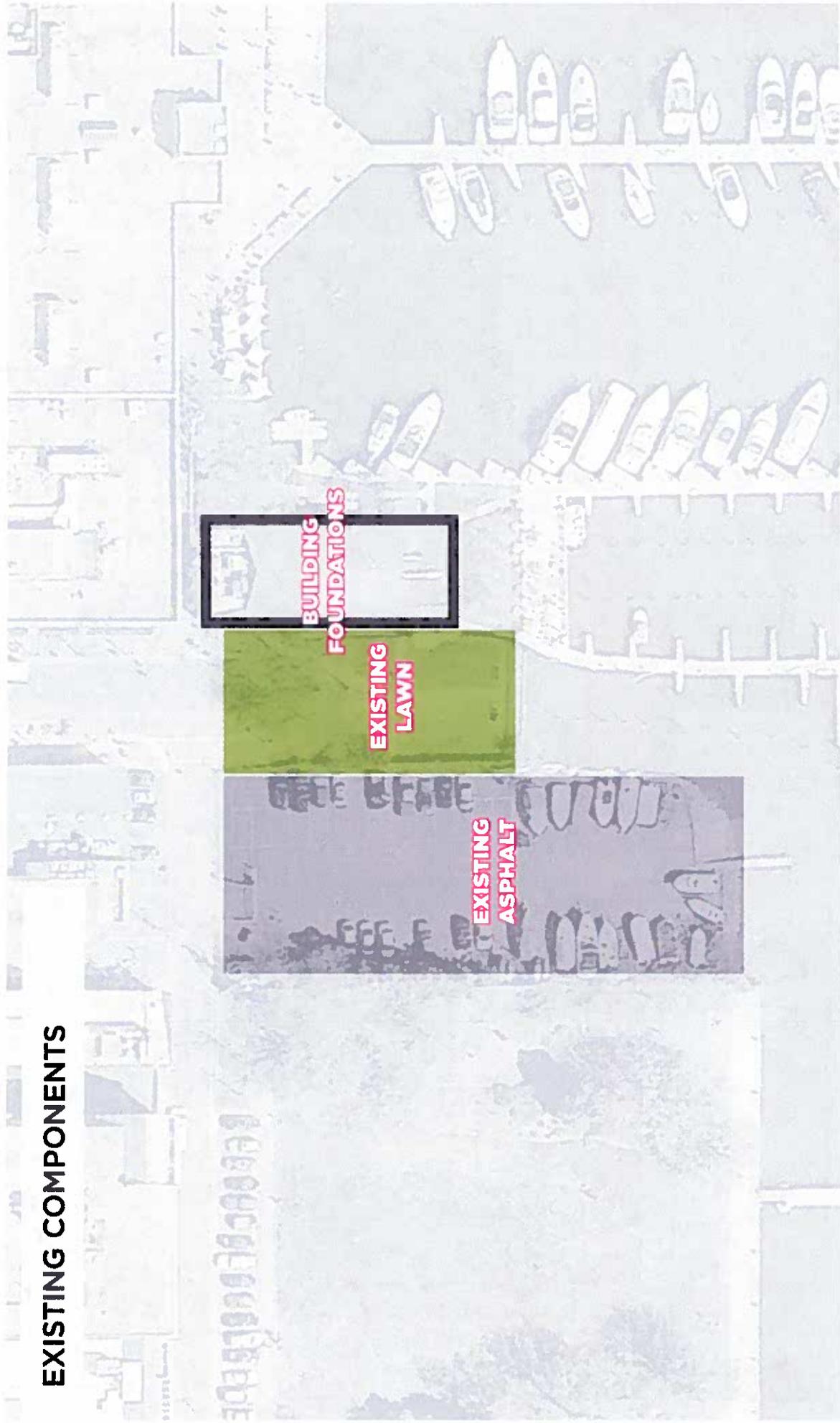
SCALE COMPARISON



FITZGERALD SQUARE

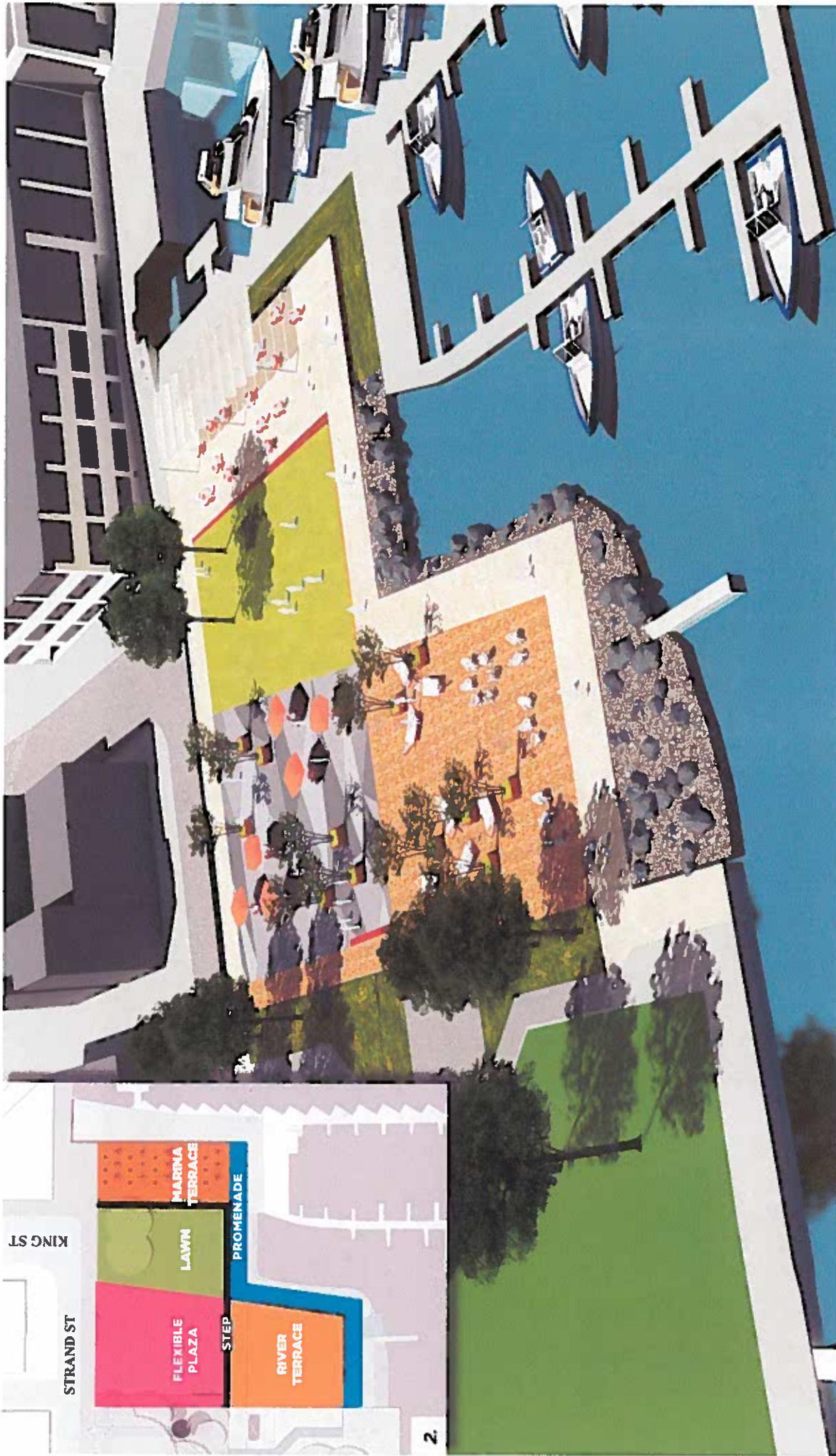


EXISTING COMPONENTS





**INTERIM FITZGERALD SQUARE
DESIGN SCHEME 1**



**INTERIM FITZGERALD SQUARE
DESIGN SCHEME 2**

STRAND ST
KING ST

FLEXIBLE
PLAZA

MARRINA
TERRACE

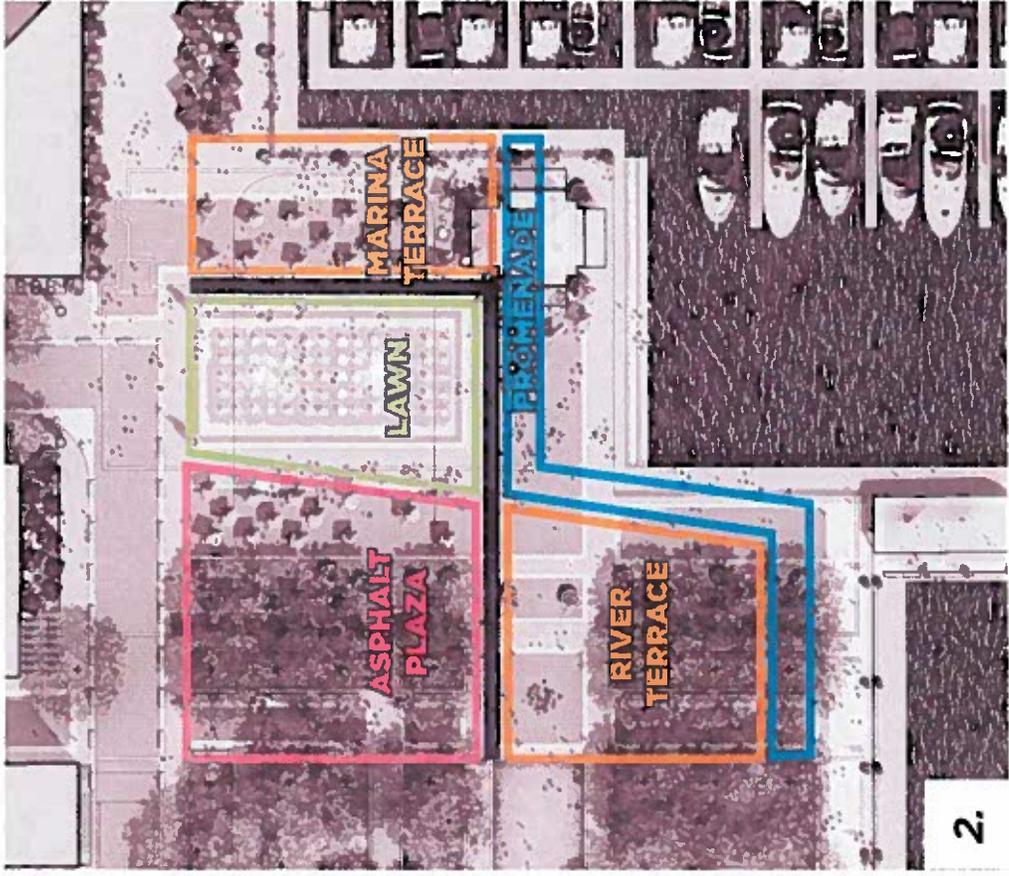
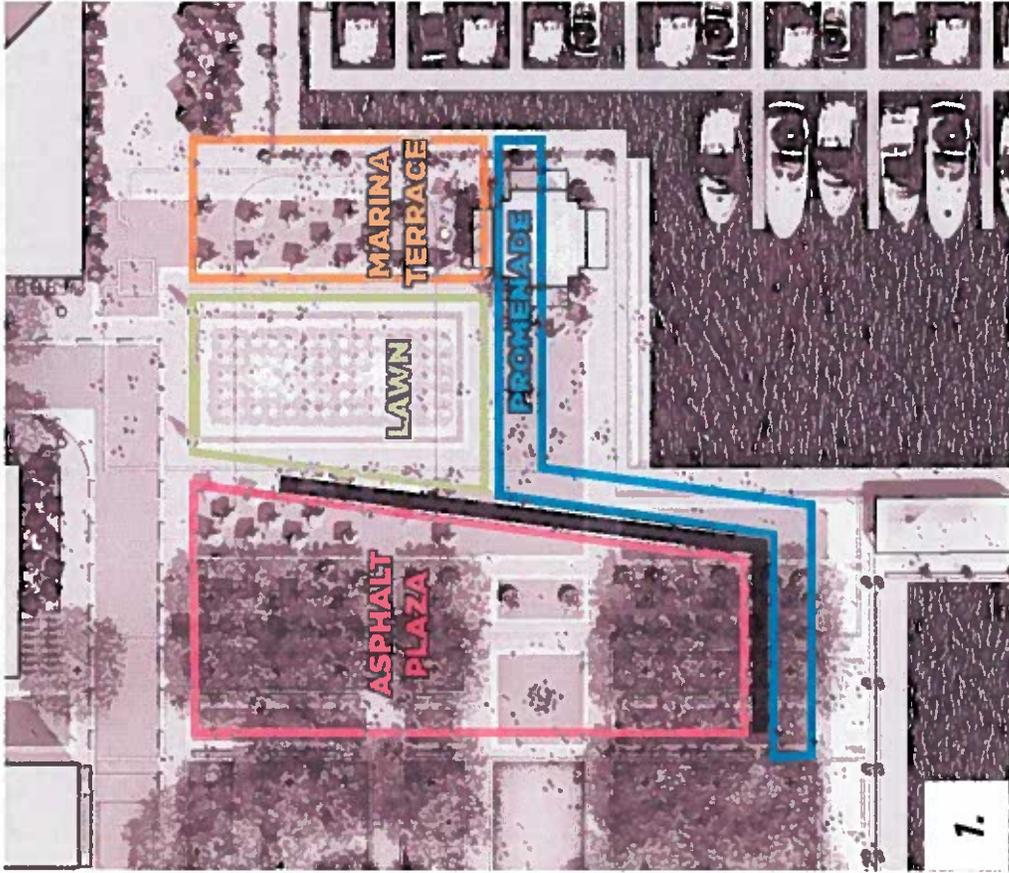
LAWN

PROMENADE

STEP

RIVER
TERRACE

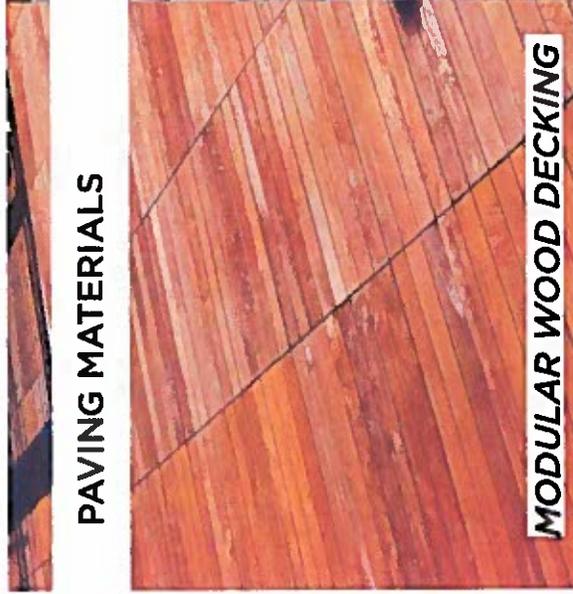
INTERIM + FINAL DESIGN RELATIONSHIP



Interim Fitzgerald Square Park

Low Impact and Low Cost Improvements

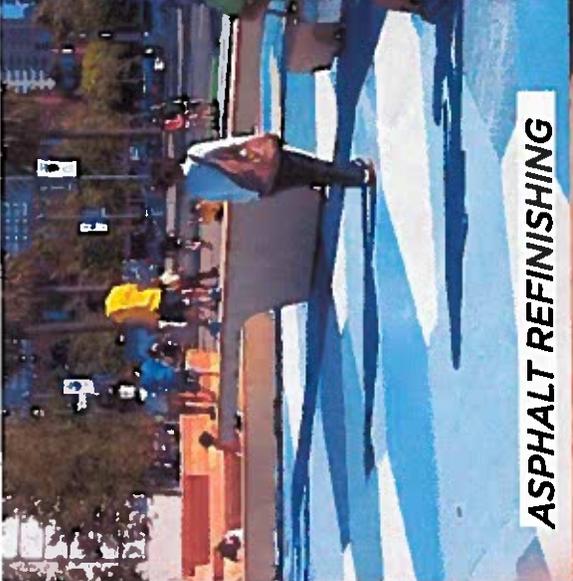
PAVING MATERIALS



MODULAR WOOD DECKING



CONCRETE UNIT PAVER



ASPHALT REFINISHING



CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE



AGGREGATE



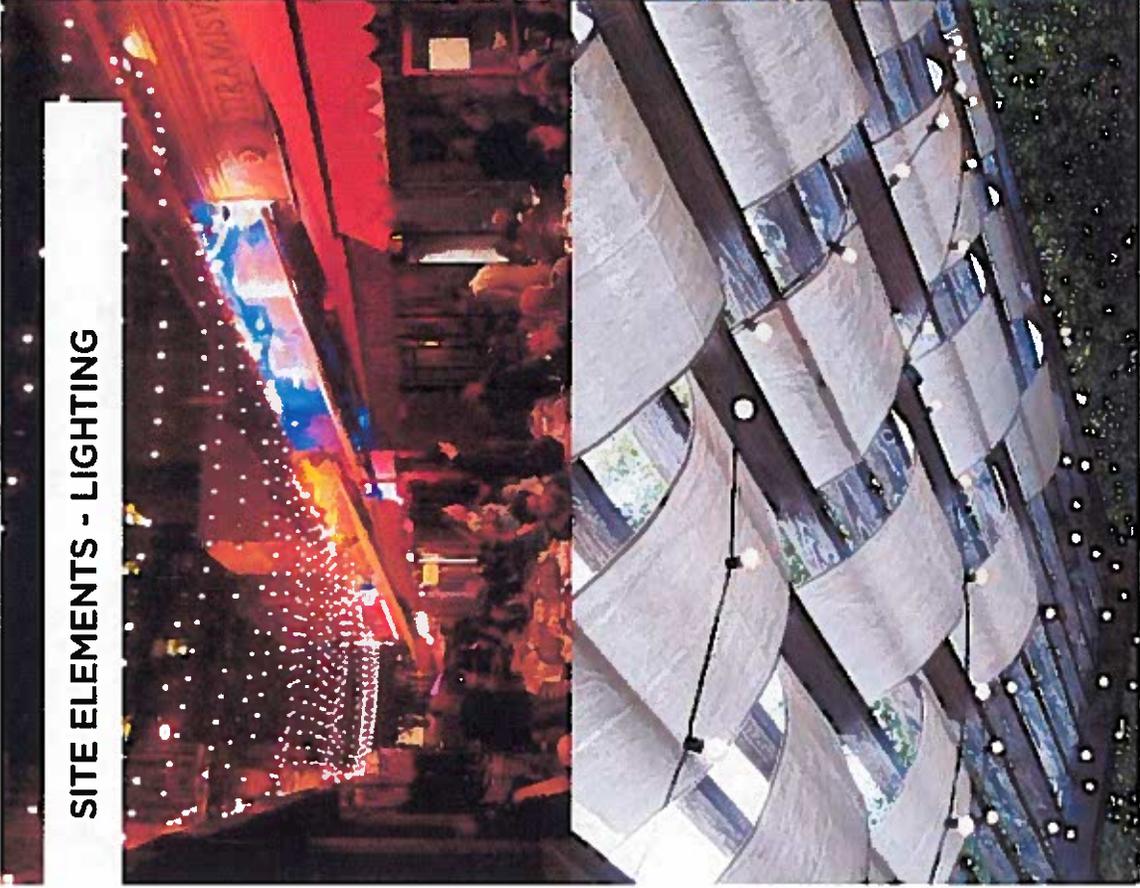
BRICK



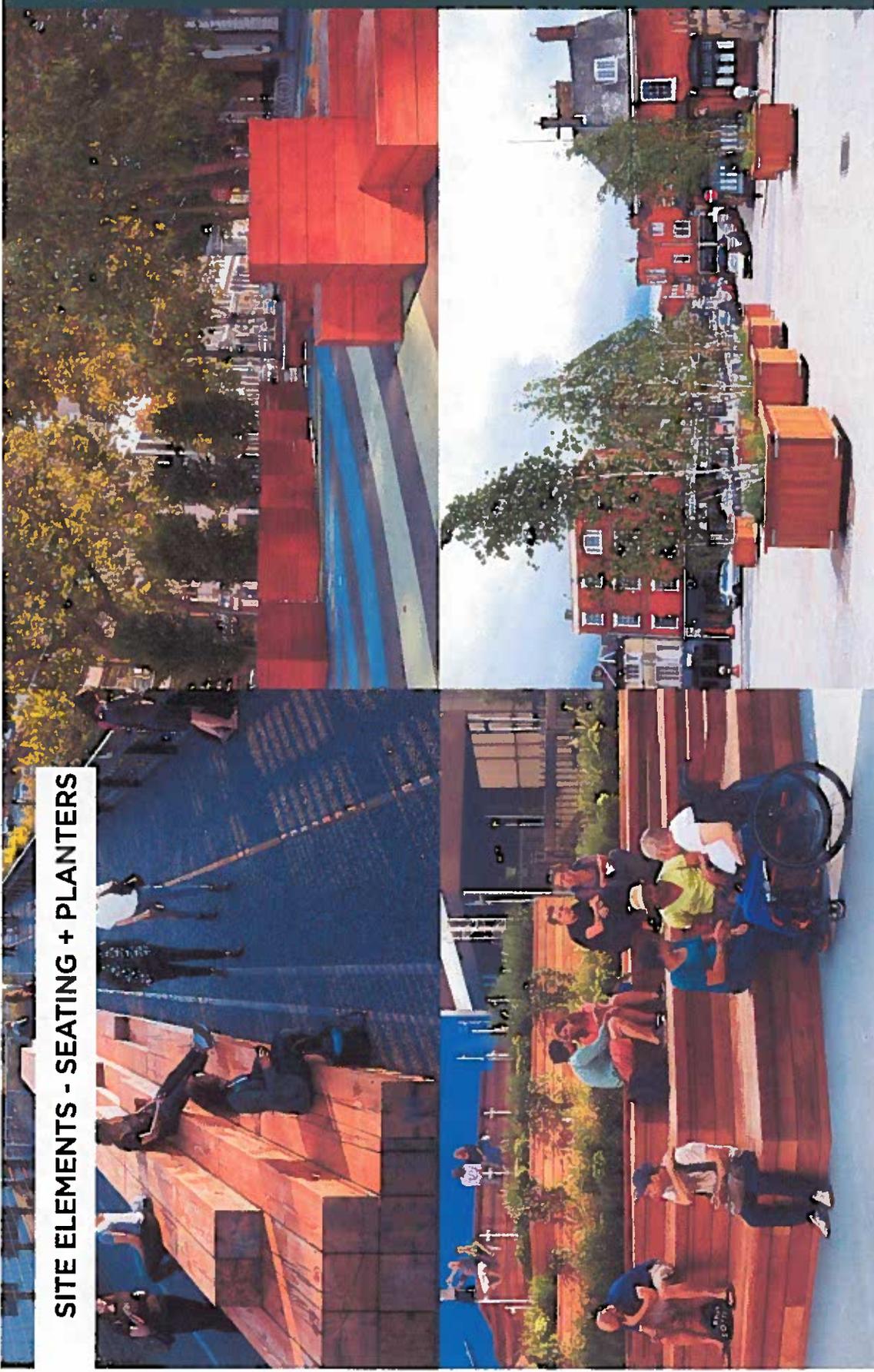
SITE ELEMENTS - SITE FURNISHINGS



SITE ELEMENTS - LIGHTING



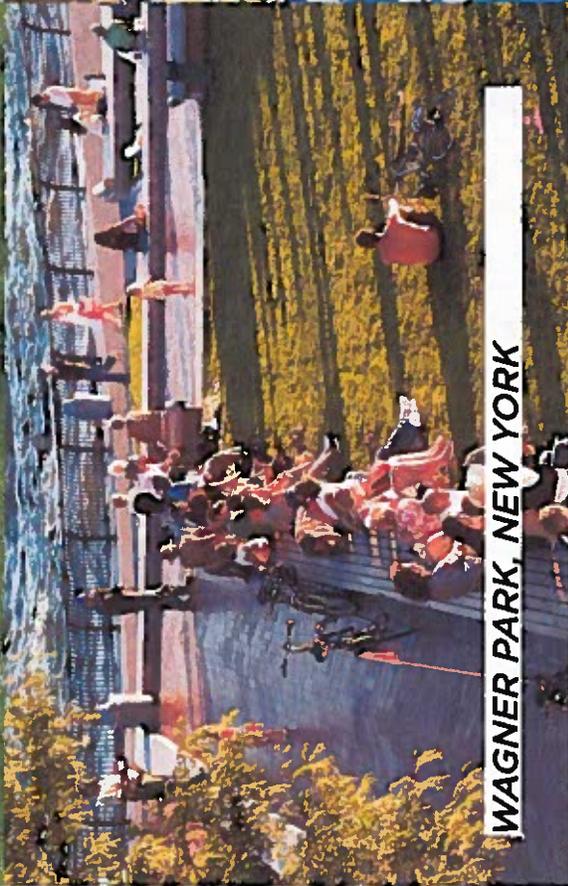
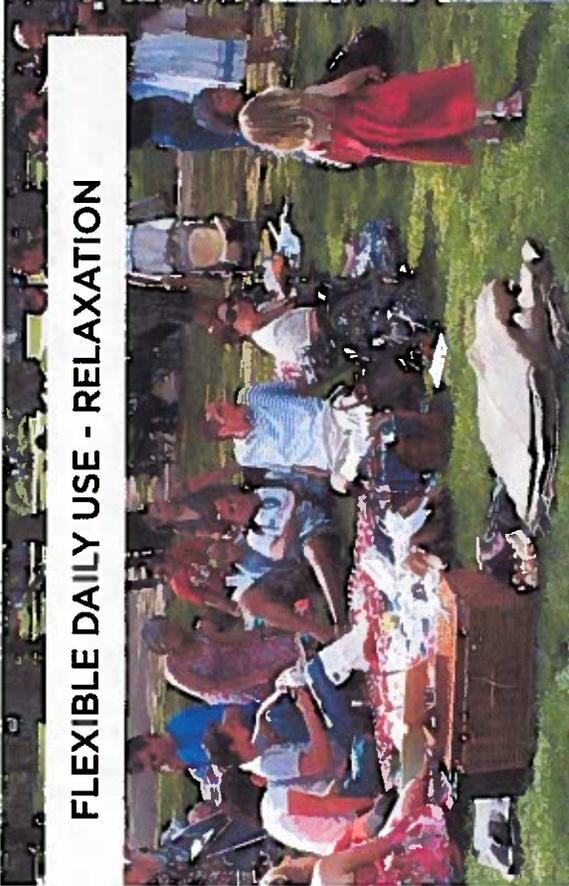
SITE ELEMENTS - SEATING + PLANTERS



Interim Fitzgerald Square Park

Flexible Daily Use

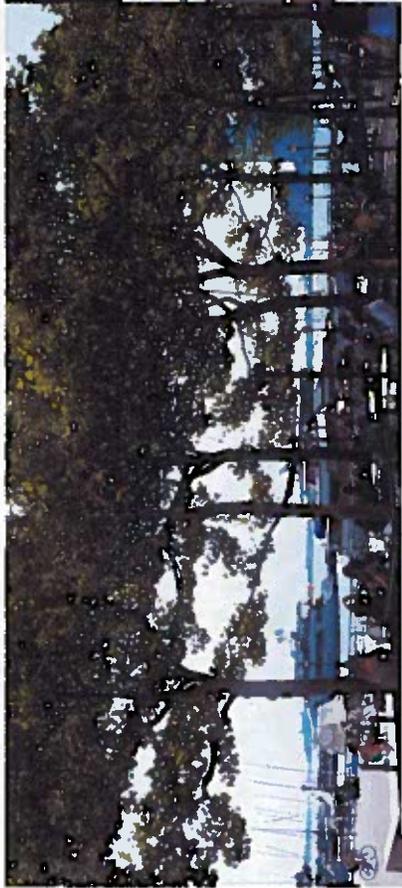
FLEXIBLE DAILY USE - RELAXATION



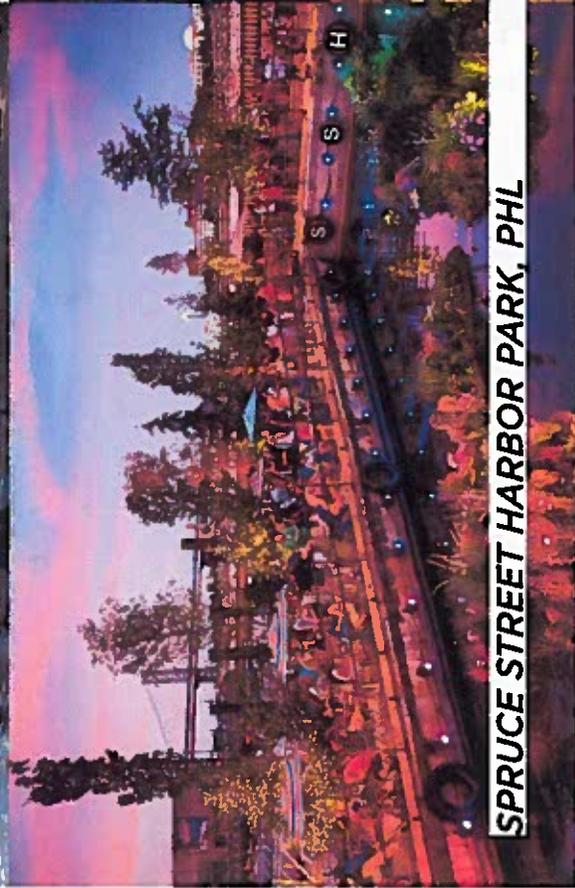
WAGNER PARK, NEW YORK



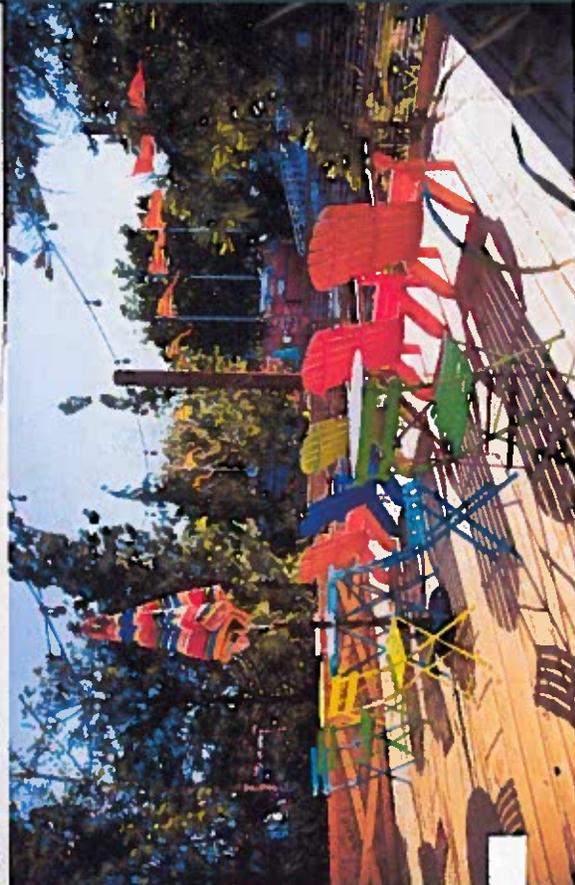
FLEXIBLE DAILY USE - MOVABLE TABLES + CHAIRS



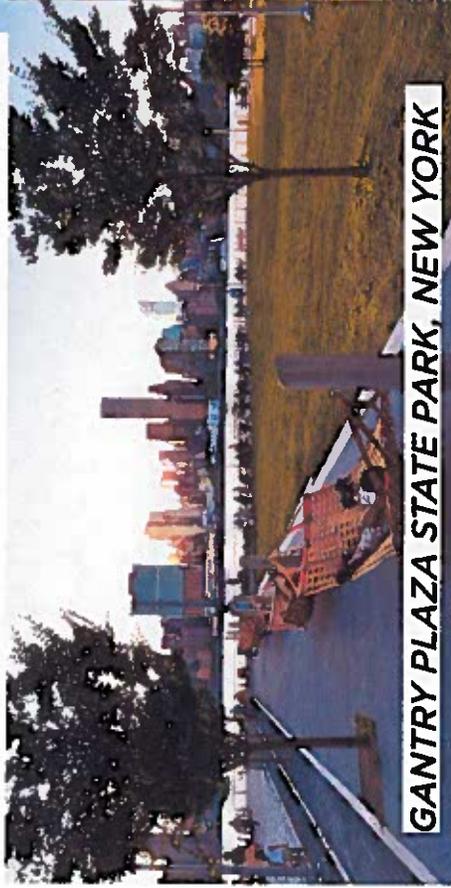
BATTERY PARK CITY, NEW YORK



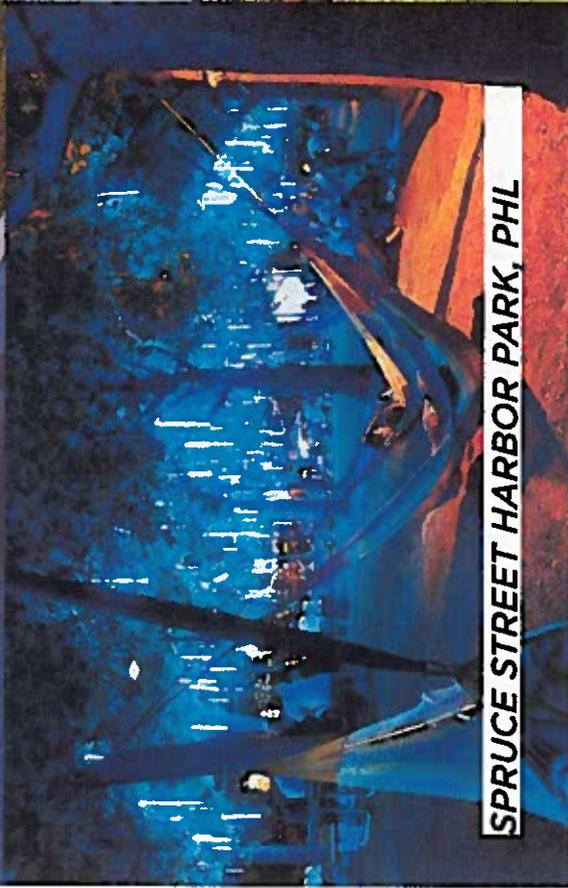
SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHIL



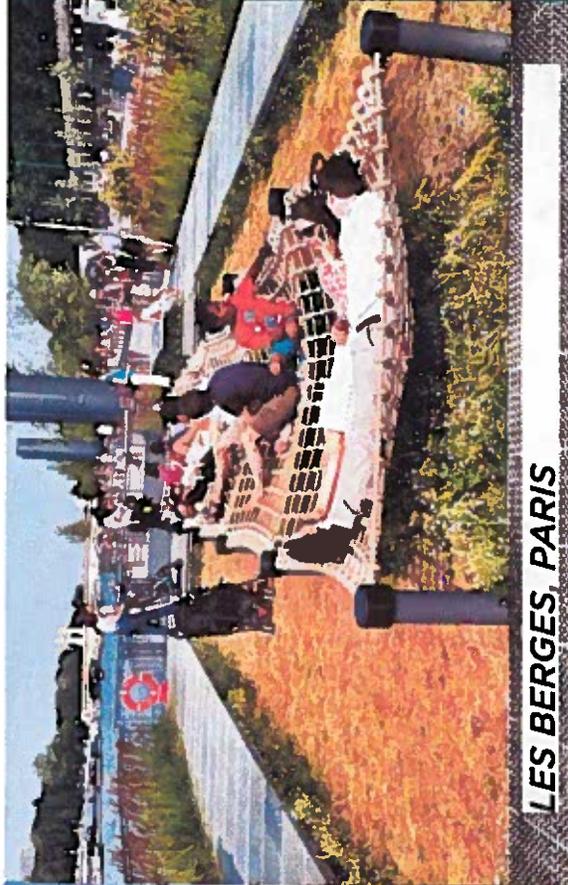
FLEXIBLE DAILY USE - HAMMOCKS



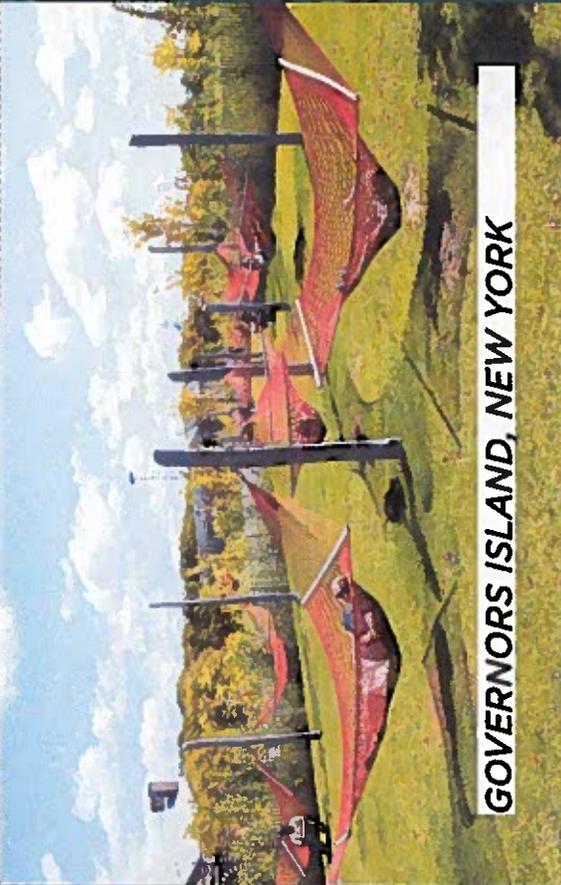
GANTRY PLAZA STATE PARK, NEW YORK



SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHIL

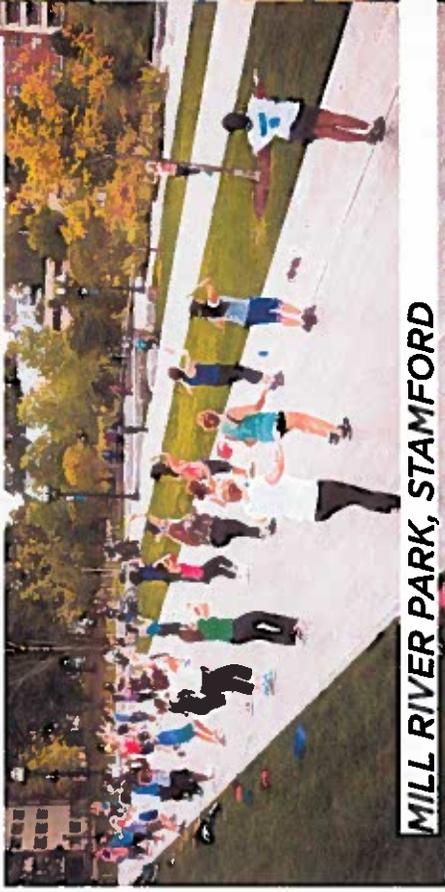


LES BERGES, PARIS

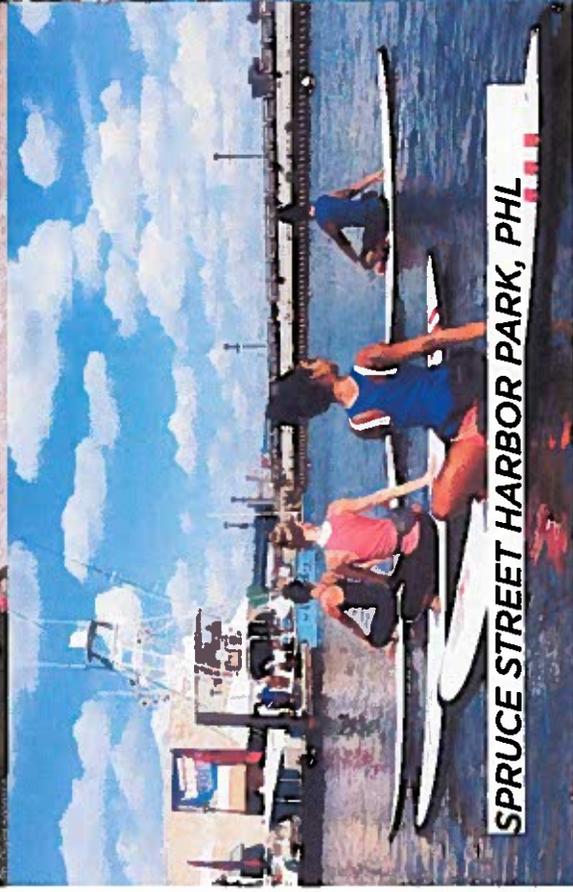


GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK

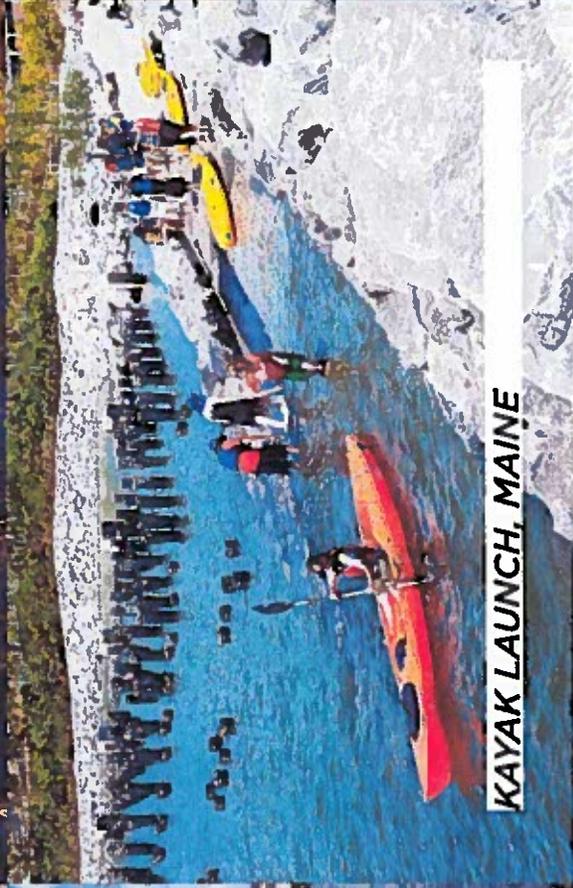
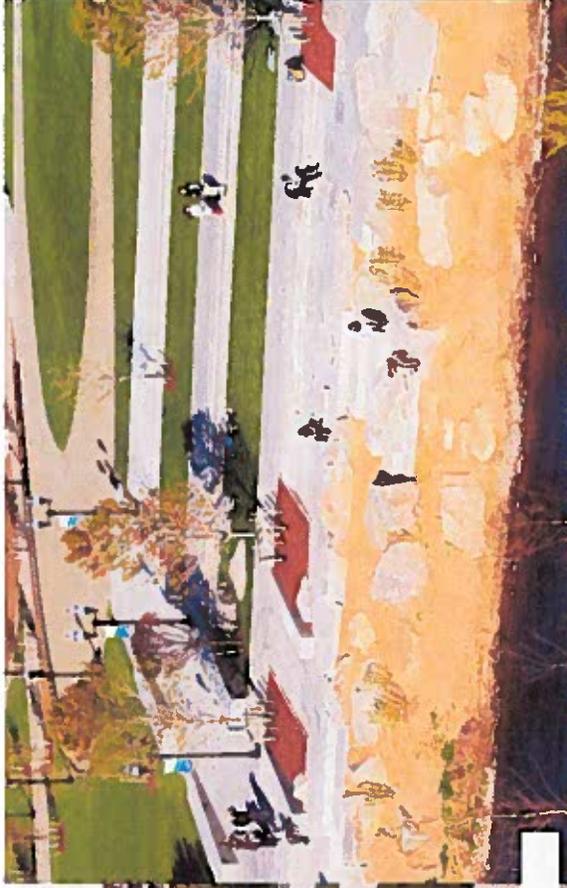
FLEXIBLE DAILY USE - FITNESS AREAS



MILL RIVER PARK, STAMFORD



SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHIL

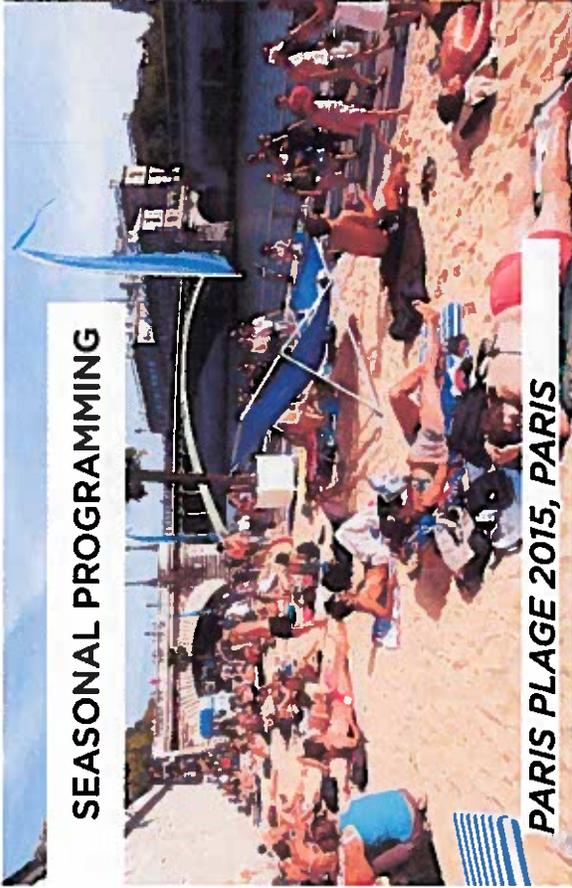


KAYAK LAUNCH, MAINE

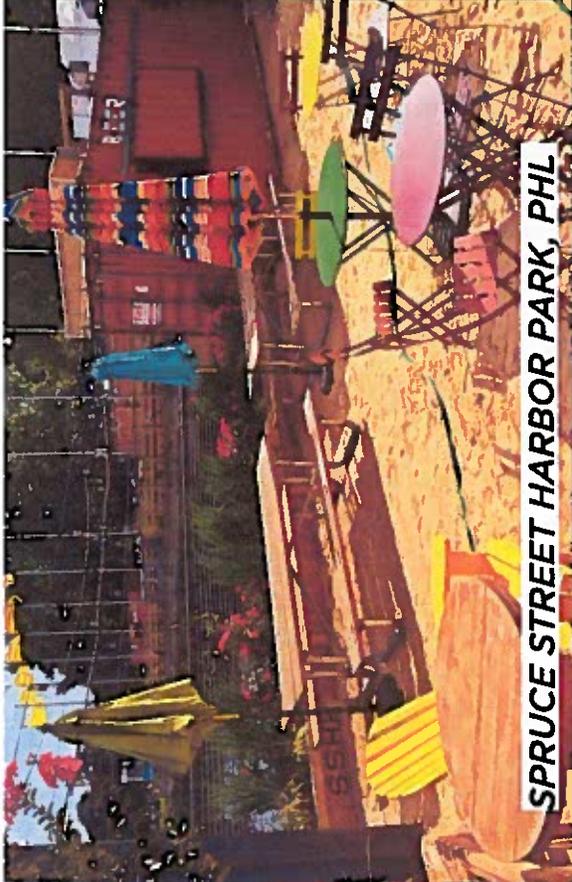
Interim Fitzgerald Square Park

Seasonal Activities and Special Programs

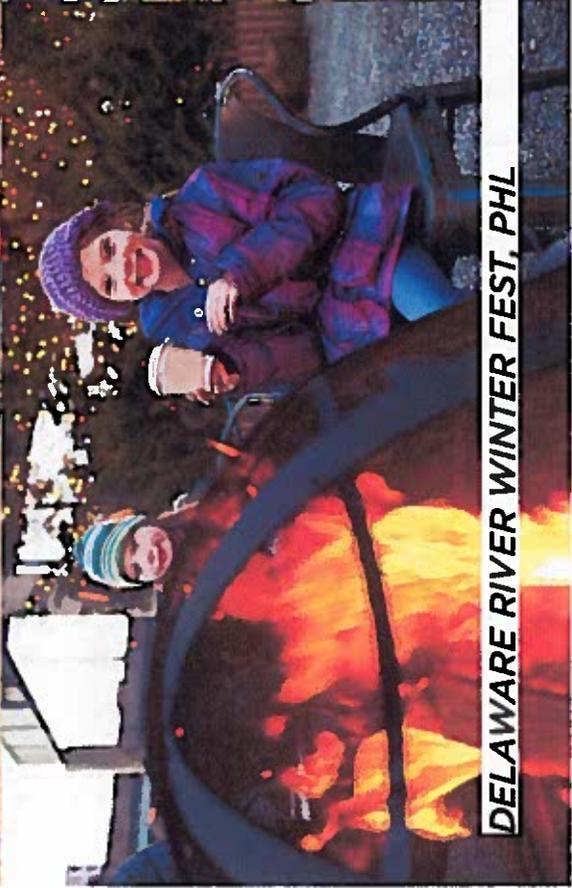
SEASONAL PROGRAMMING



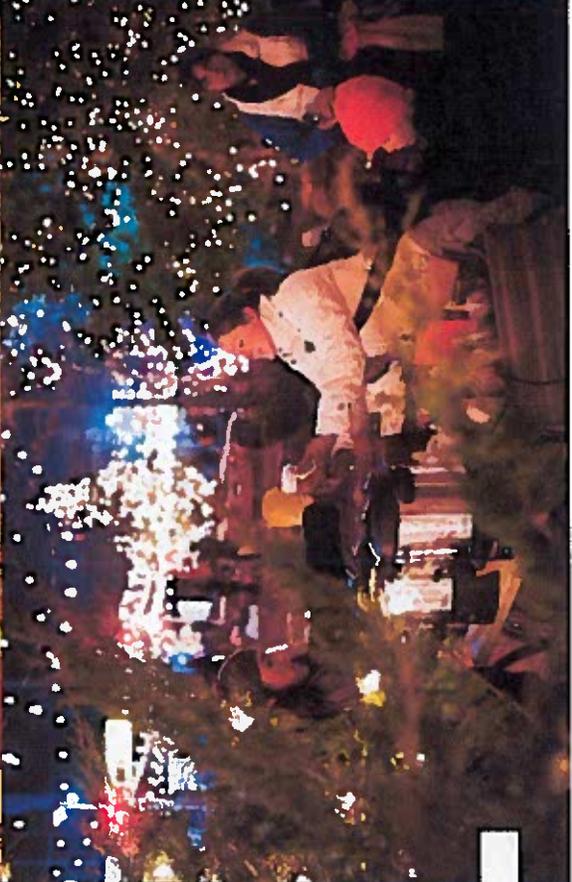
PARIS PLAGES 2015, PARIS



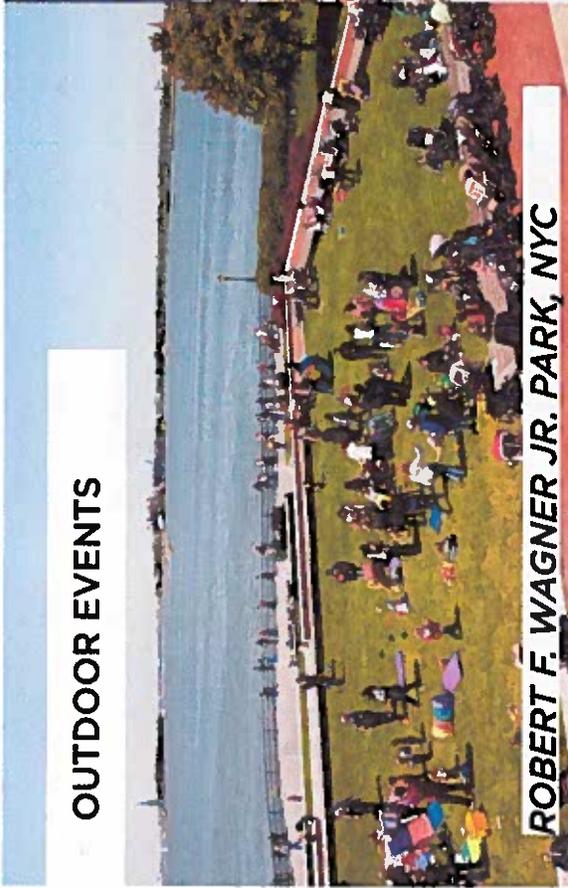
SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHIL



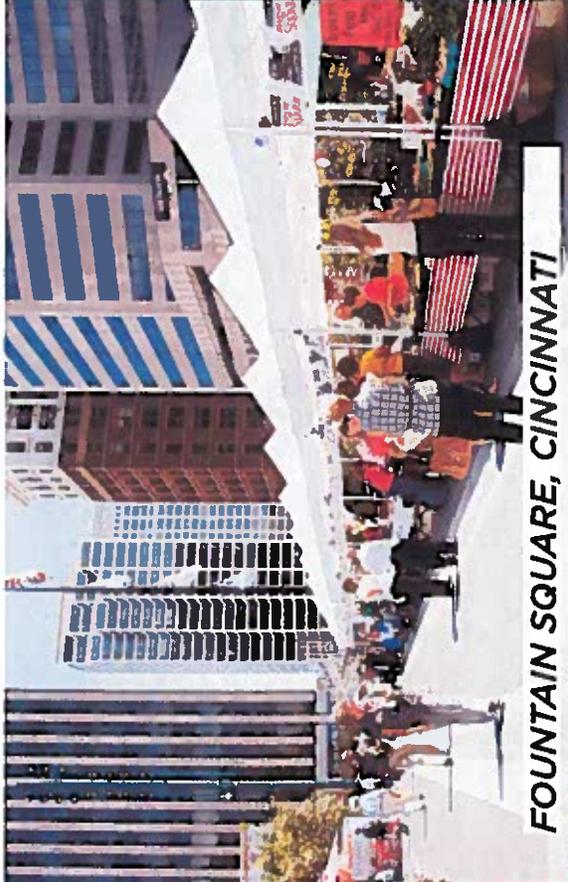
DELAWARE RIVER WINTER FEST, PHIL



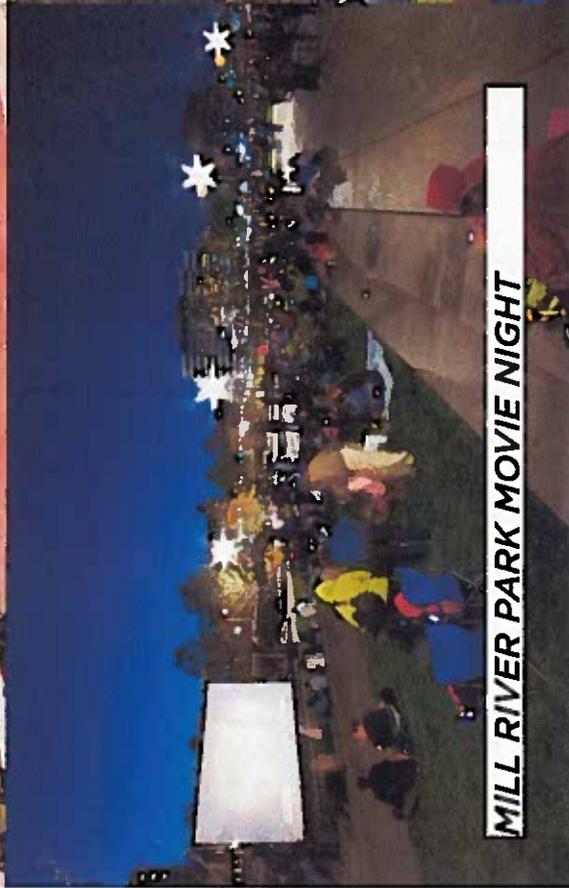
OUTDOOR EVENTS



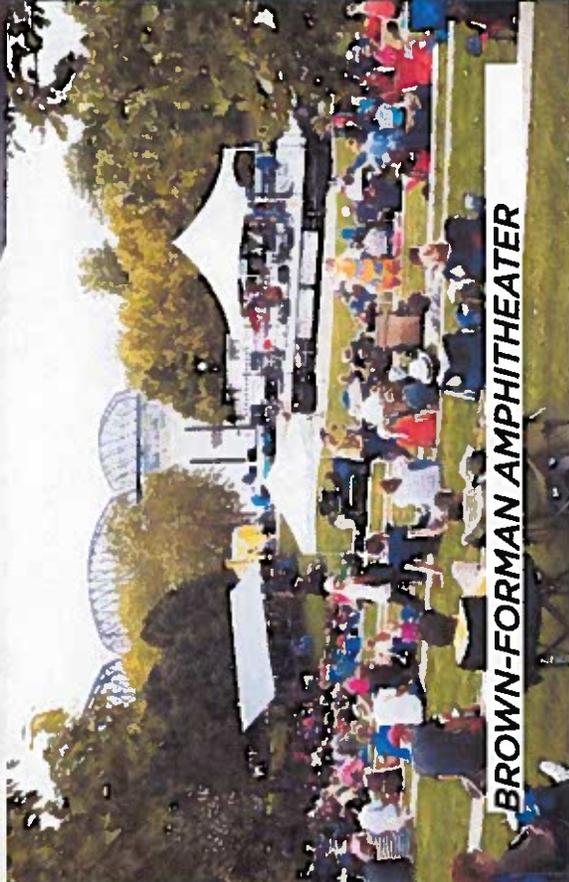
ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK, NYC



FOUNTAIN SQUARE, CINCINNATI



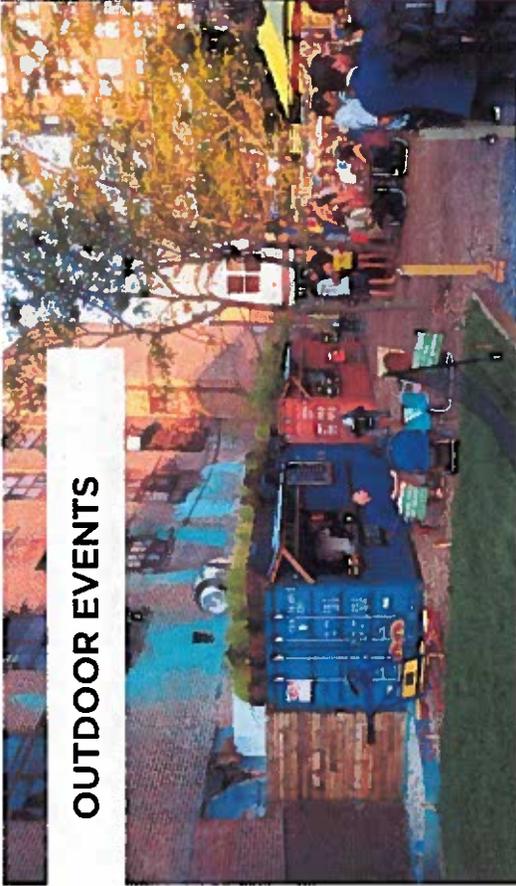
MILL RIVER PARK MOVIE NIGHT



BROWN-FORMAN AMPHITHEATER



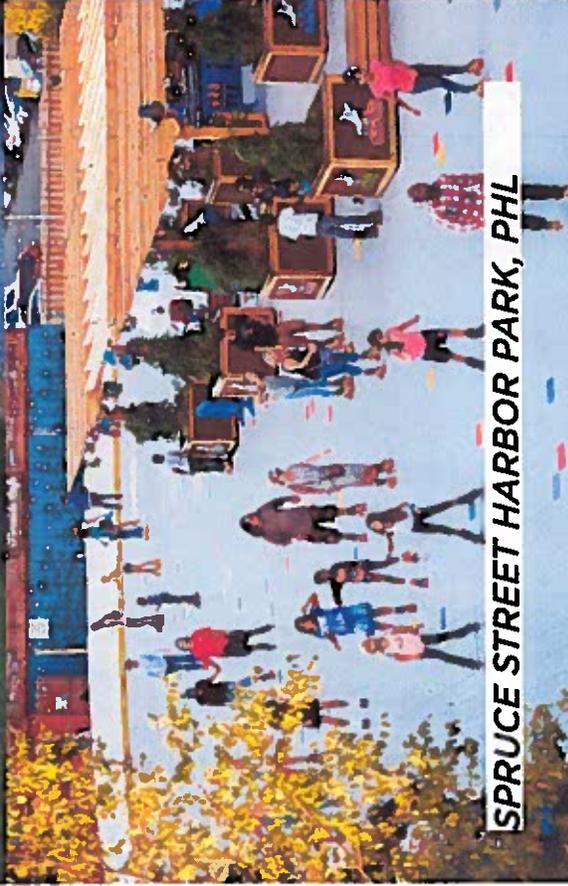
OUTDOOR EVENTS



PHS POP UP PARK, PHL



DILWORTH PARK TEMPORARY ICE RINK, PHL



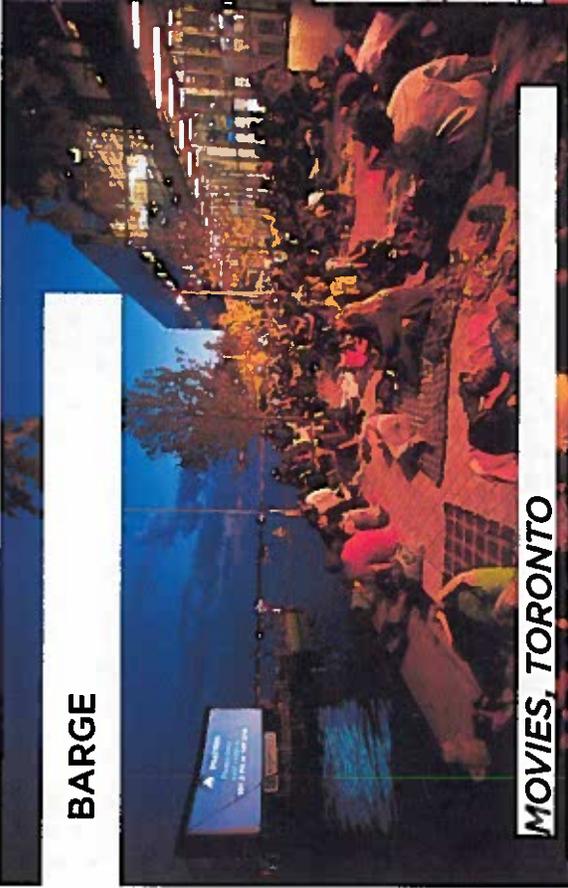
SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHL



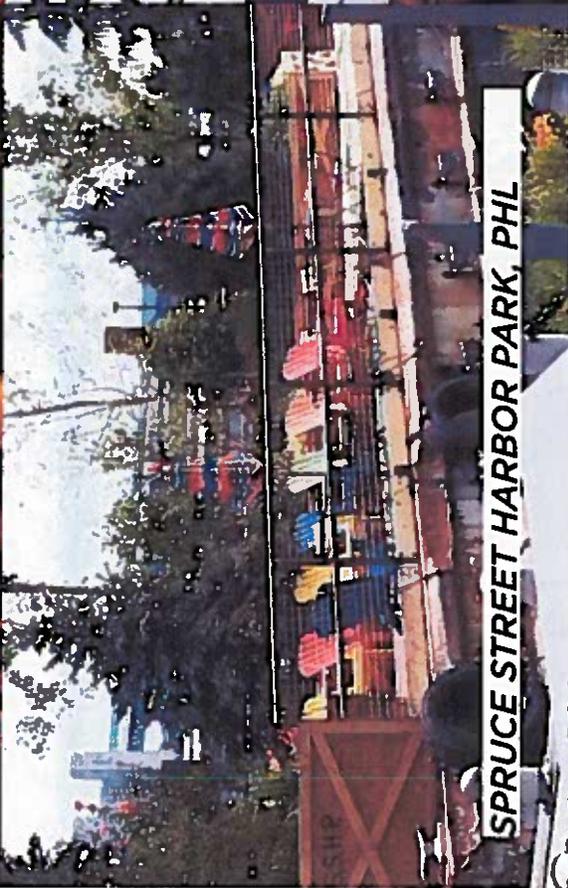
KALVEBOD, COPENHAGEN WATERFRONT



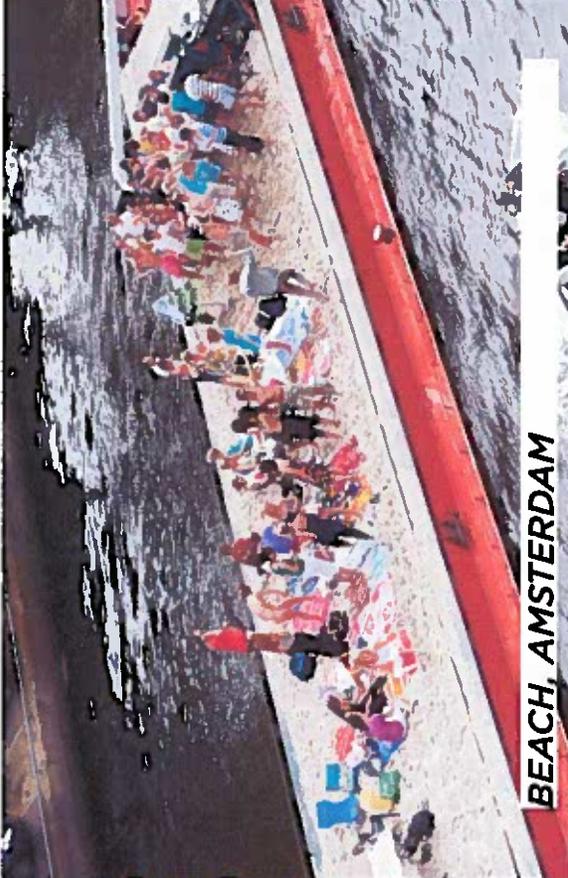
BARGE



MOVIES, TORONTO



SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK, PHIL



BEACH, AMSTERDAM



YONKERS WATERFRONT AMPHITHEATER

Online Feedback Forum

Provide input online at AlexEngage:

<https://engage.alexandriava.gov>



City of Alexandria, Virginia

Progress Report on Eco- City and Environmental Action Plan 2030

City Council Legislative Session

April 12, 2016



 **ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA**

Agenda

- Annual check-in with City Council
- Background
- Key Environmental Indicators
- 2015 Top Environmental Achievements
- Confirm environmental priorities with City Council moving forward

Eco-City Alexandria – Partnership Between the City, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission, Virginia Tech and the Community



- 2007: Eco-City project started
- 2008: Eco-City Charter
- 2009: Environmental Action Plan 2030

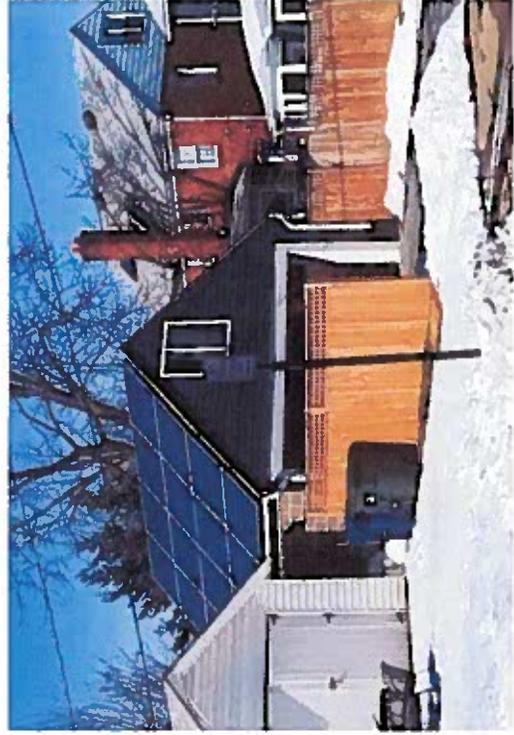


Key Environmental Indicators

- Solid waste recycling remains high at **48.8%**
- Air quality significantly improved with **0** red code days and **5** orange code days in 2015
- City's current percent tree canopy has been determined to be **34%**
- Number of open space protected now stands at **104.3** acres compared to target of 100 acres

2015 Top Environmental Achievements

Solid waste recycling rate for 2014 held steady at **48%**

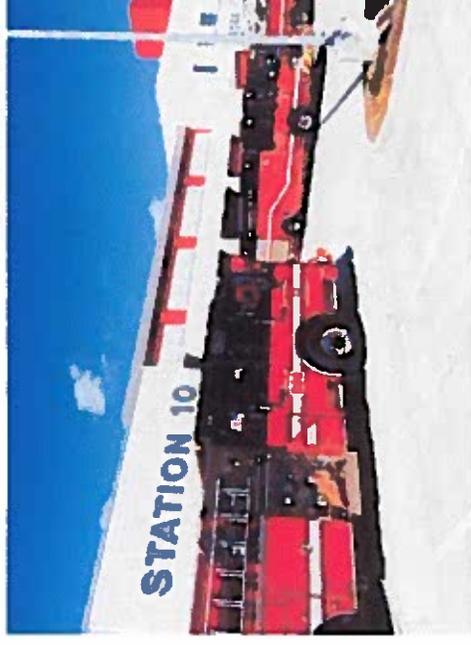


City launched successful Solarize Alexandria program

- Over 250 Alexandria residents participated
- 10 residents have signed contracts

2015 Top Environmental Achievements

- Fire Station 210 achieved **LEED Silver** certification
- **19%** of City's electricity use generated by renewable sources



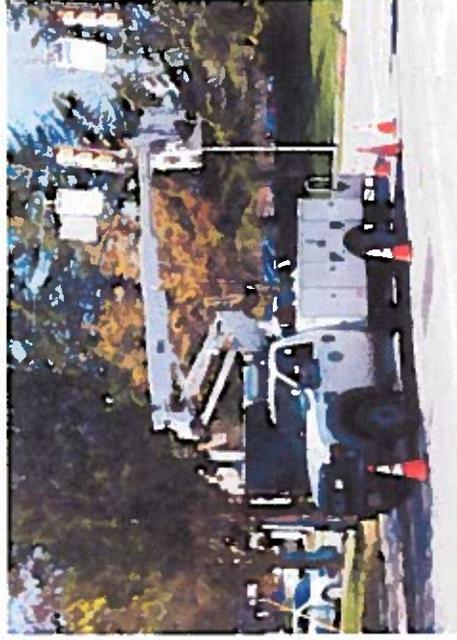
2015 Top Environmental Achievements

- 34% of the City's surface area is covered by tree canopy
- City planted 454 new trees
- City expanded its successful **Invasive Plant Control Program**



- **AlexRenew** dedicated innovative athletic field to Alexandria

2015 Top Environmental Achievements



- City replaced over **2,500** traffic lights with energy-efficient LED
- Annual traffic signal energy cost reduced by ~\$60,000

ATC purchased **21** hybrid-electric

buses in 2015

- 46 in total (54% of bus fleet)



Staff Priorities

- Develop plan to implement **stormwater utility** and meet water quality targets
- Develop and implement plan for addressing **combined sewer overflows**
- Continue to move forward with **flood mitigation** plan for waterfront

Staff Priorities

- Continue to participate in **COG regional sustainability** programs and initiatives
- Continue to proceed with **Potomac Yard Metro Station** project
- Working to pilot **Eco-District** concept as part of the Old Town North Small Area Plan
- Working with the EPC to revise key environmental indicators

Questions?

Thank you!

