



February 26, 2025

Philadelphia Art Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To whom it may concern,

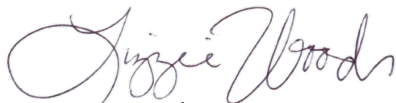
The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) is pleased to submit this letter, requesting time at the March 12th meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission to present a public-realm improvement project for the Commission's review and approval. DRWC oversees the planning and development of the Delaware River Waterfront in central Philadelphia and is responsible for implementing the Master Plan for the Central Delaware, a plan for six miles of waterfront adopted by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission in 2012 and part of the Philadelphia 2035 comprehensive plan. The project DRWC plans to present to the Commission represents significant progress realizing the Master Plan's ambitious goals of improving public access to the river. This project is the Delaware River Trail – Penn Treaty Park to Battery section (seeking conceptual approval).

The Delaware River Trail (DRT) is a key component and organizing principle of the Master Plan that, when complete, will link people to parks, public space, and other destinations from South Philadelphia to Port Richmond and ultimately to the North Delaware River trail and beyond. In 2020, DRWC completed a section of the Delaware River Trail connecting Rivers Casino to Penn Treaty Park after several years of design and community feedback. This segment ended with a 100-foot gap between the park and The Battery. DRWC now has an opportunity to close this gap thanks to a grant obtained through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Once complete, this trail segment will close this gap and connect to a DRT segment constructed along The Battery's property. This connection is part of a long-term plan to build out the DRT between Fishtown and Port Richmond and eventually connect to the northern Delaware River Trail at Allegheny Avenue.

To minimize floodplain impact and address the grade change between Penn Treaty Park and the Battery, the project calls for an elevated 15' wide concrete boardwalk for most of the trail's 100' length. The boardwalk structure was also selected to minimize impacts to a nearby large London Plane Tree. Trail intersection improvements such as rumble strips and a change in materiality make the confluence safer for pedestrians and cyclists. New landscaping will provide a verdant corridor along the river, and will include the installation of native shrubs, and grasses. Like the other segments of the Delaware River Trail, the design of the Penn Treaty Park to The Battery segment of the Delaware River Trail is being led by NV5.

A full submission package will be shared in the next week. You can direct any questions regarding the project or submission package to me (my contact information is included below). We are very much looking forward to presenting this project to the Art Commission.

Sincerely,



Lizzie Woods

Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning & Real Estate Development

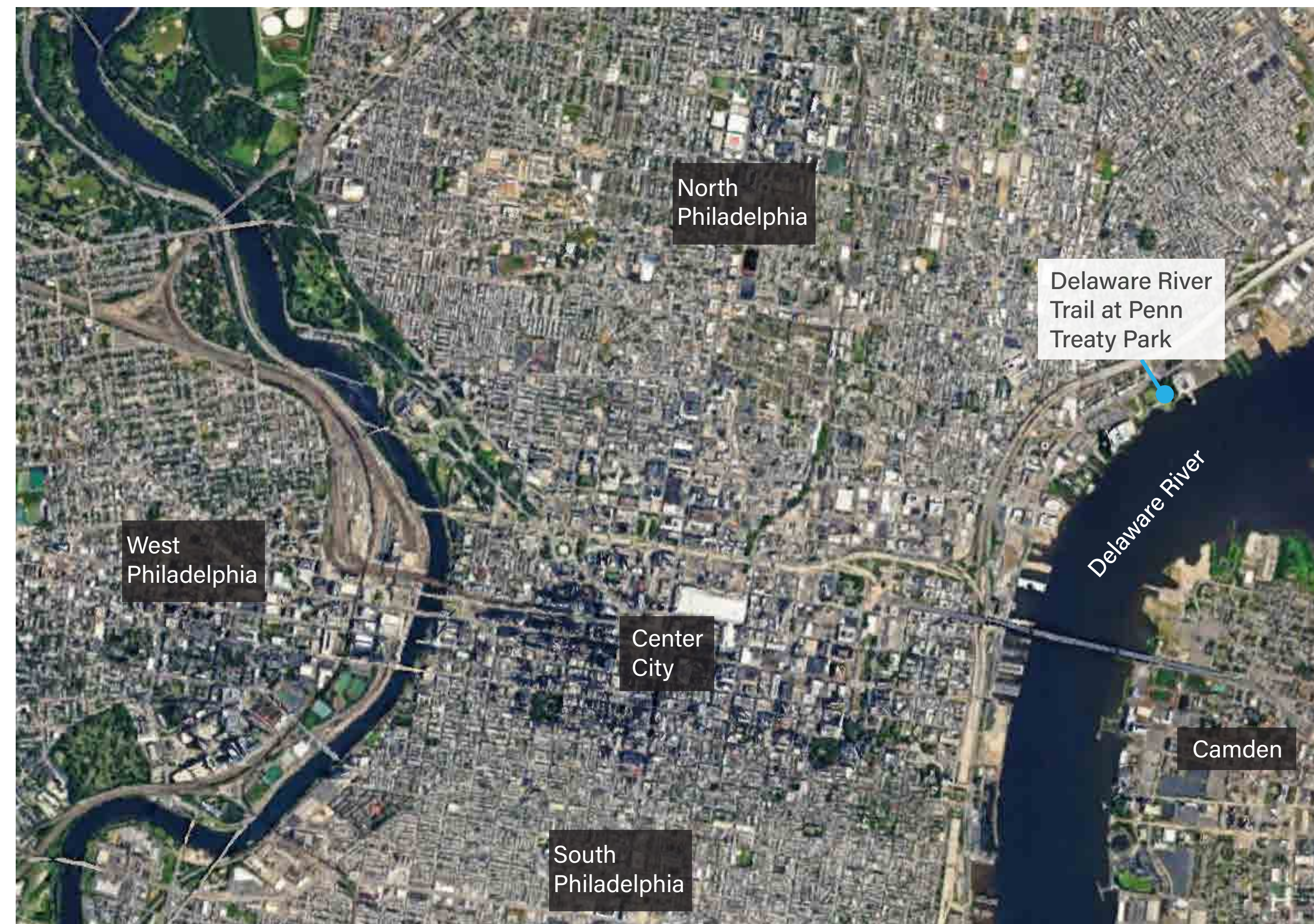
Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
121 North Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-629-3250
lwoods@drwc.org

Cc: Joe Forkin & Katie Pitstick, DRWC
Michael Connor, NV5

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL (DRT) PENN TREATY PARK TO THE BATTERY SECTION

SITE IMPROVEMENTS
DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION

ART COMMISSION CONCEPT REVIEW
MARCH 12, 2025

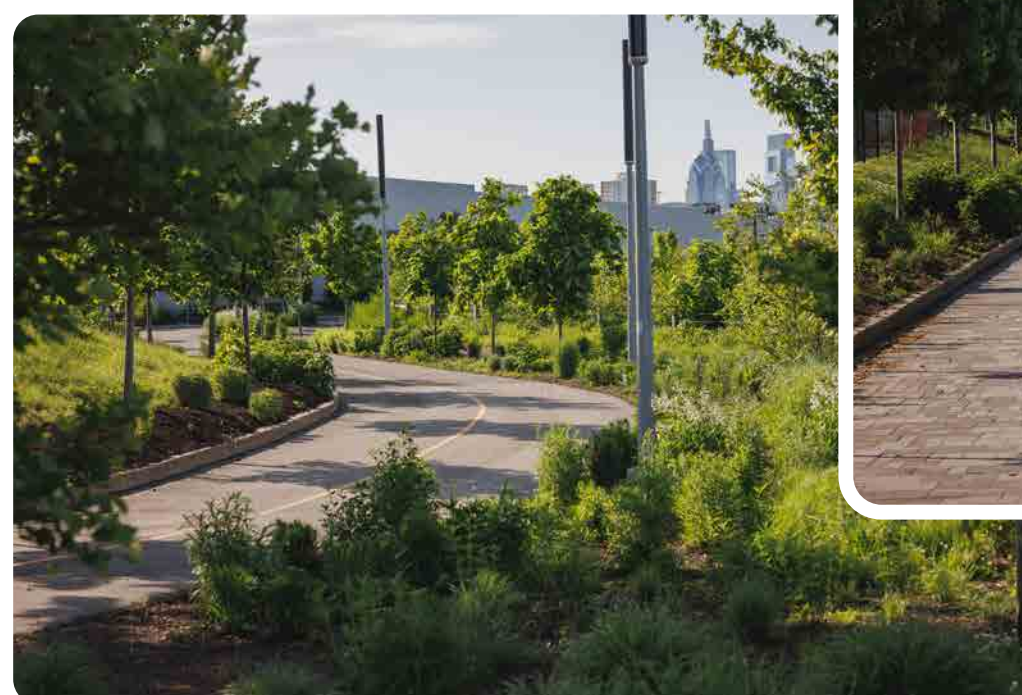


Project Location 🕒



Zoning Context 🕒

Delaware River Trail - Overview

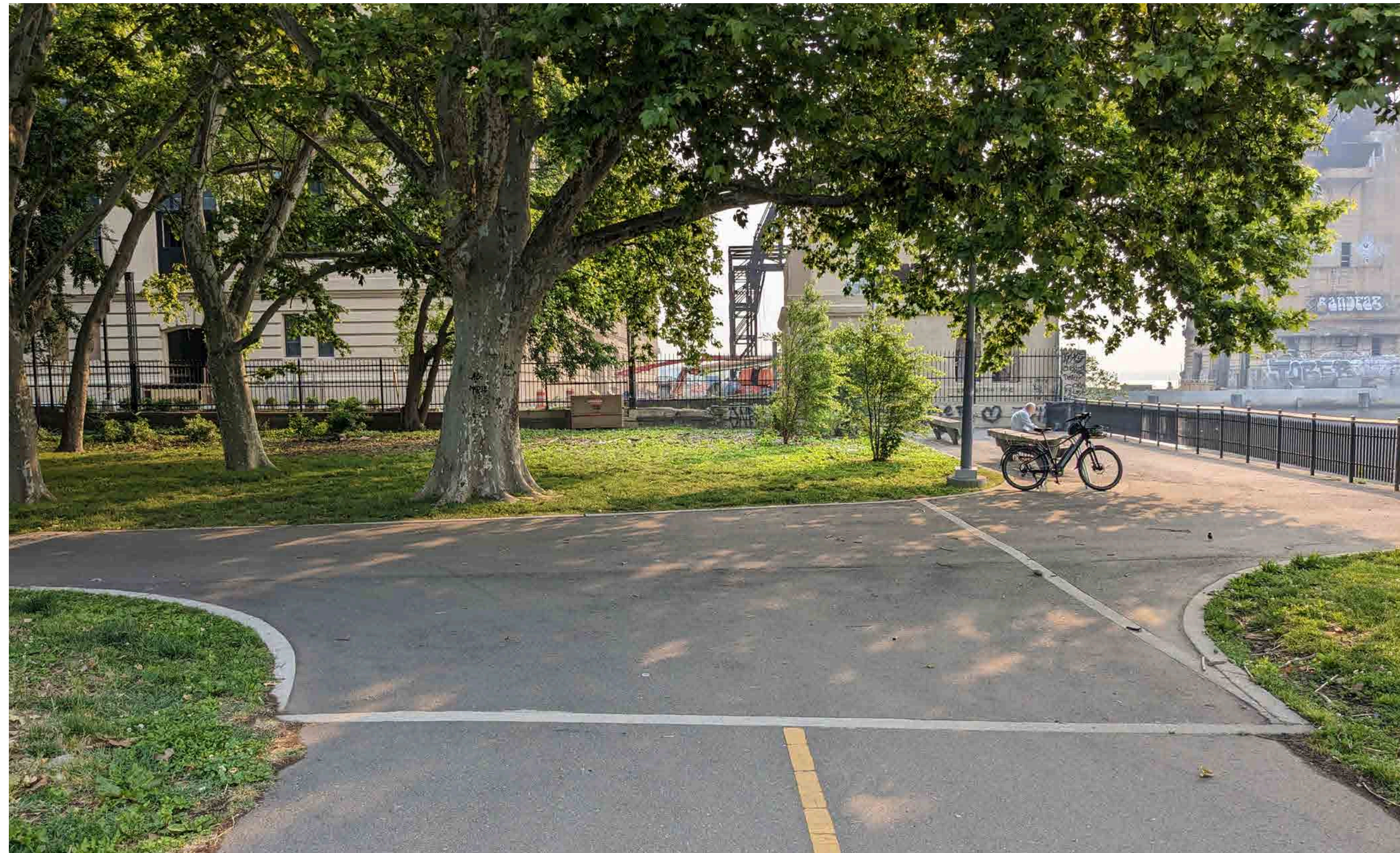


Delaware River Trail - Columbia Ave to Lehigh Ave Extension Plan

Study completed December 2024



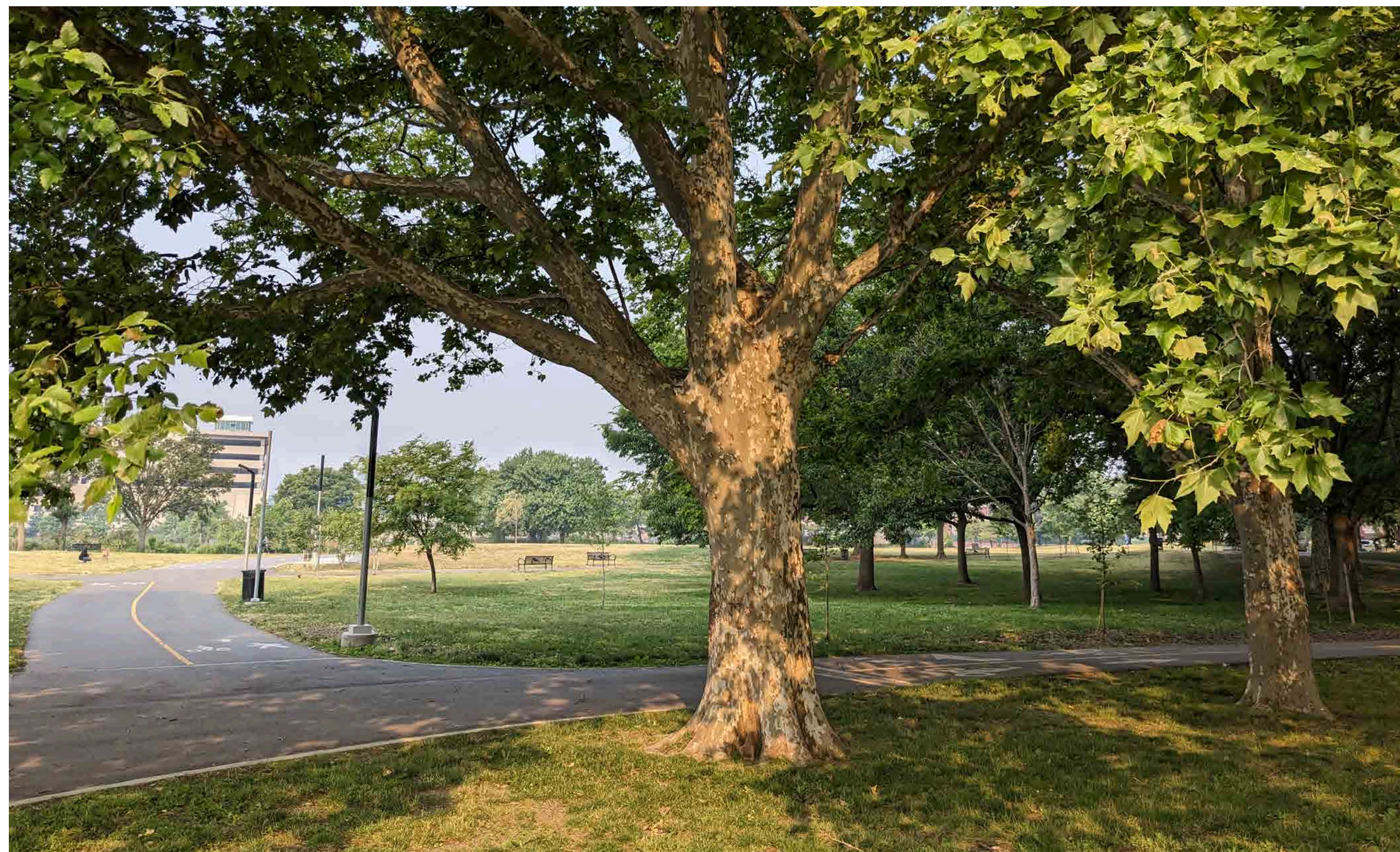
Existing Conditions



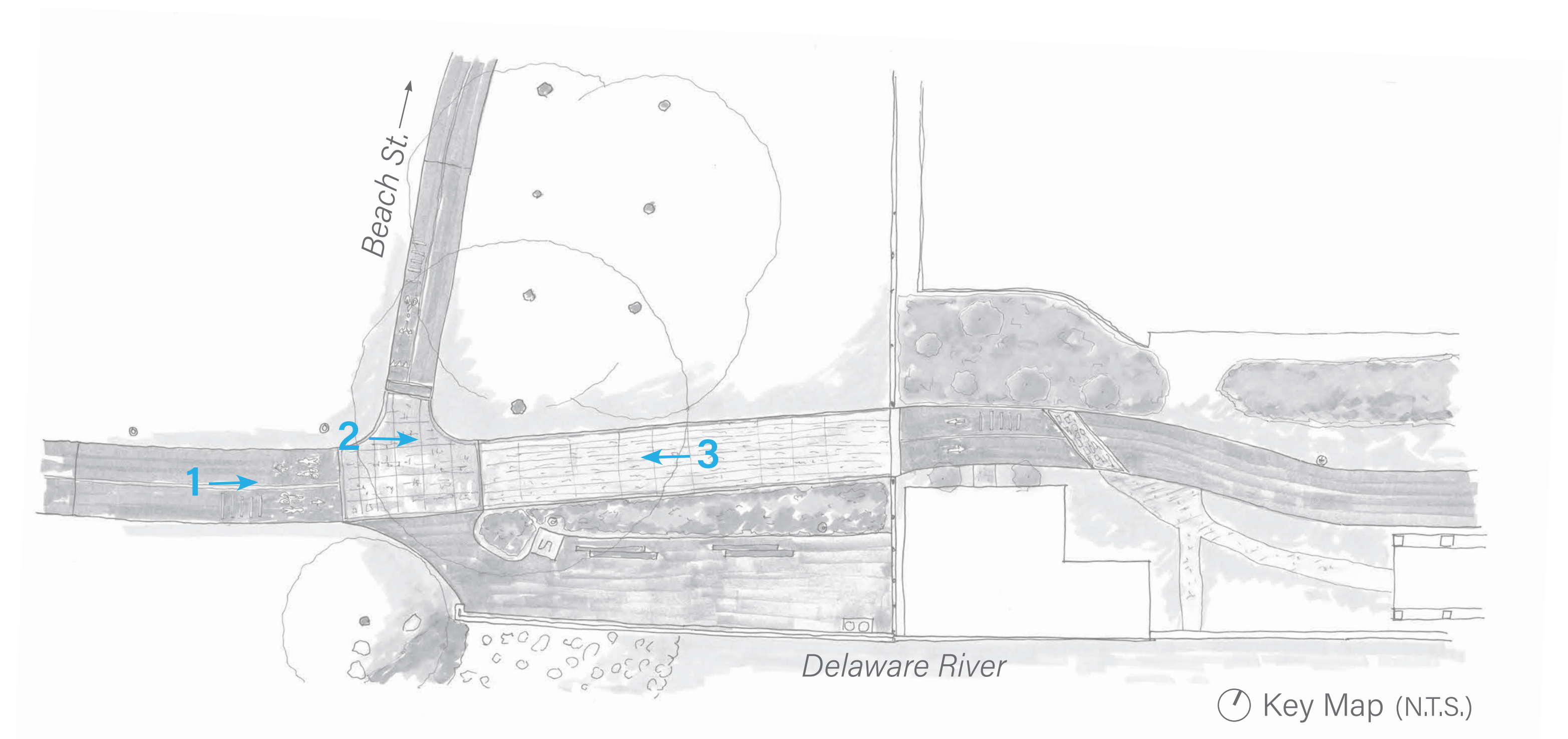
1. View of the future trail connection location, looking northeast toward The Battery.



2. View of the existing vegetation and large London Plane tree (left), looking northeast toward The Battery.



3. View of the existing Delaware River Trail and large existing London Plane tree at Penn Treaty Park, looking southwest toward Center City.



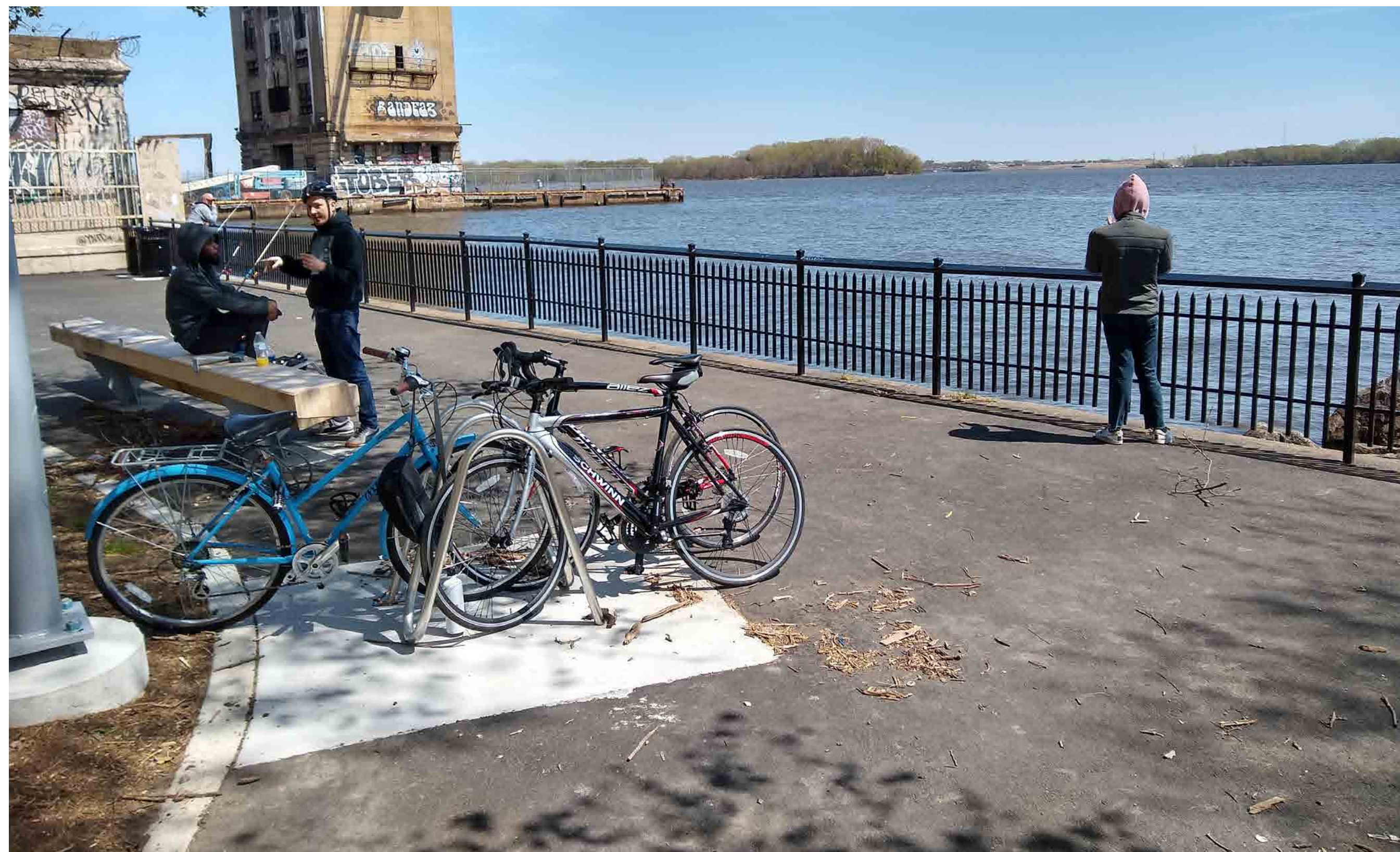
Existing Conditions



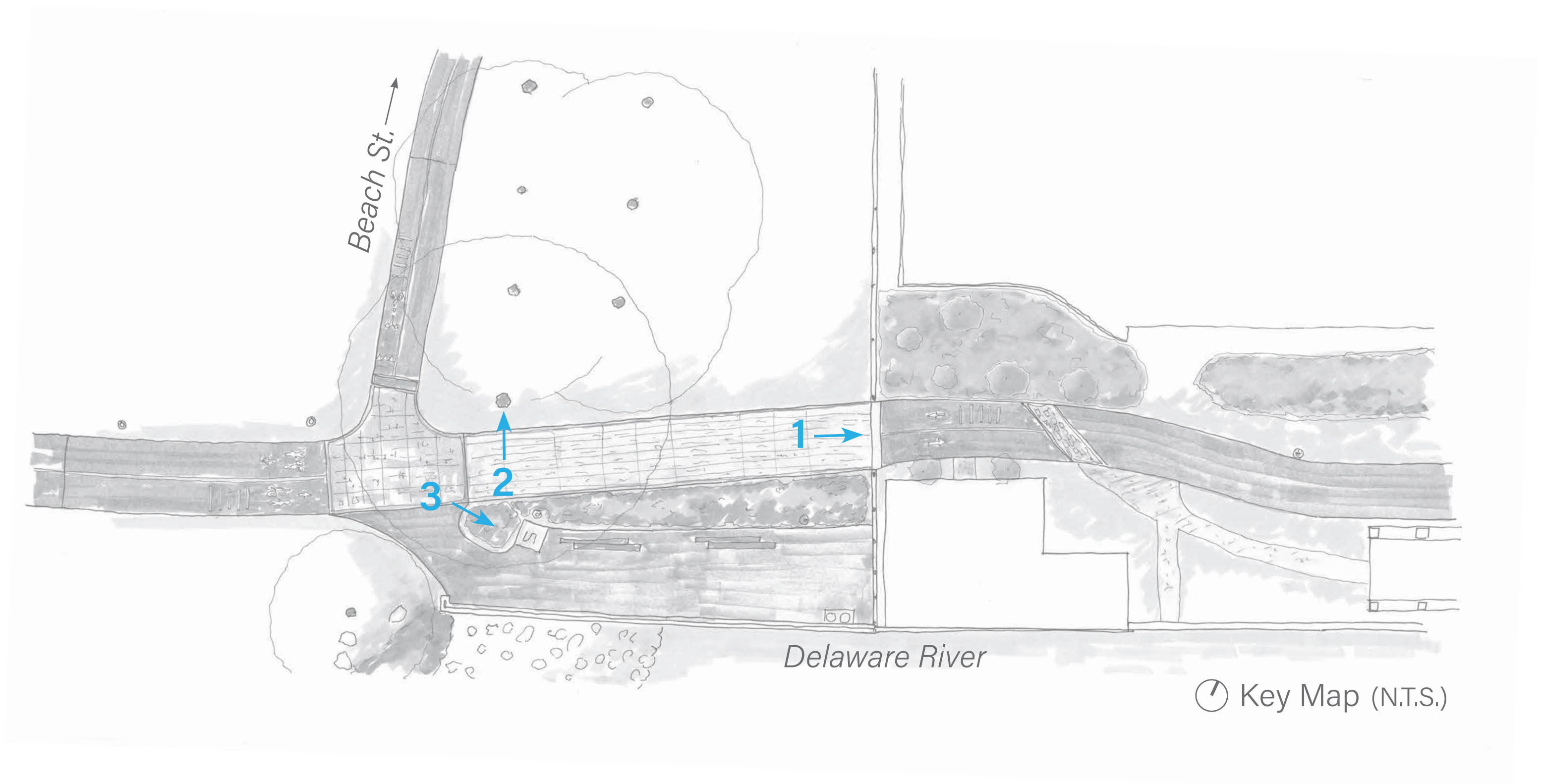
1. View of the existing wall and fence separating Penn Treaty Park and The Battery, looking northeast toward The Battery trail.



2. View of the base of the existing London Plane tree, looking north/northwest toward Beach St.



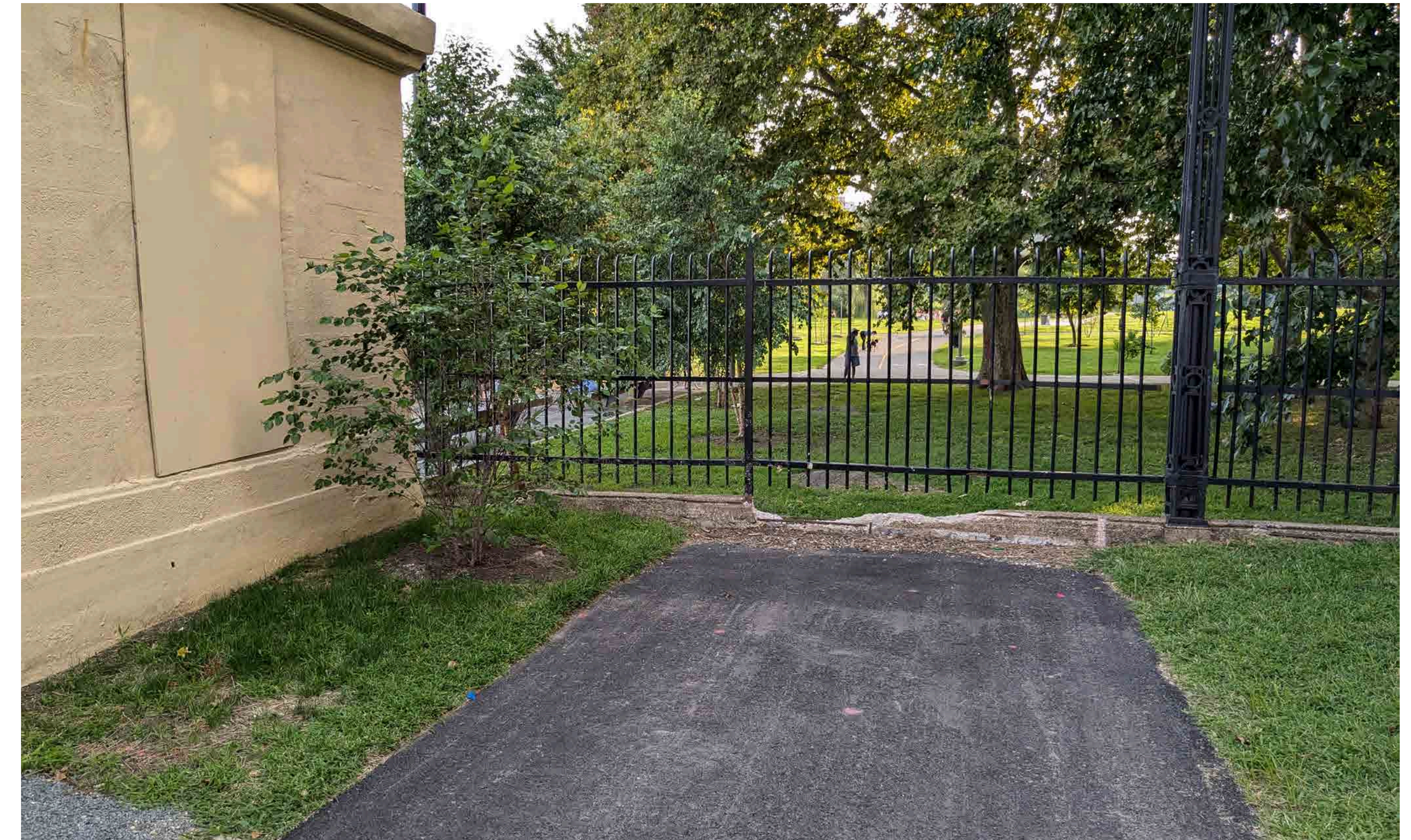
3. View of the existing gathering and fishing area to remain, looking northeast toward the Delaware River.



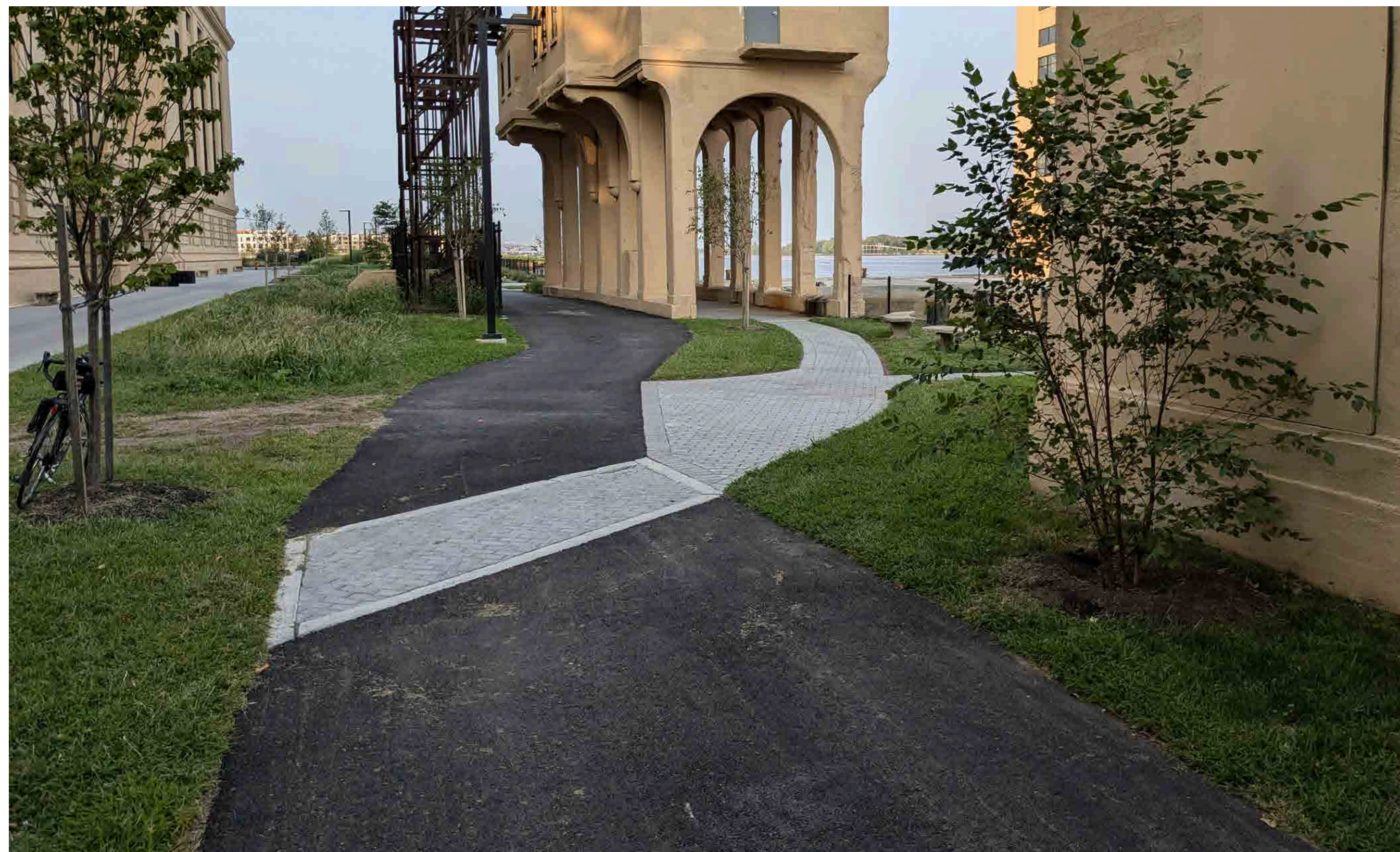
Existing Conditions



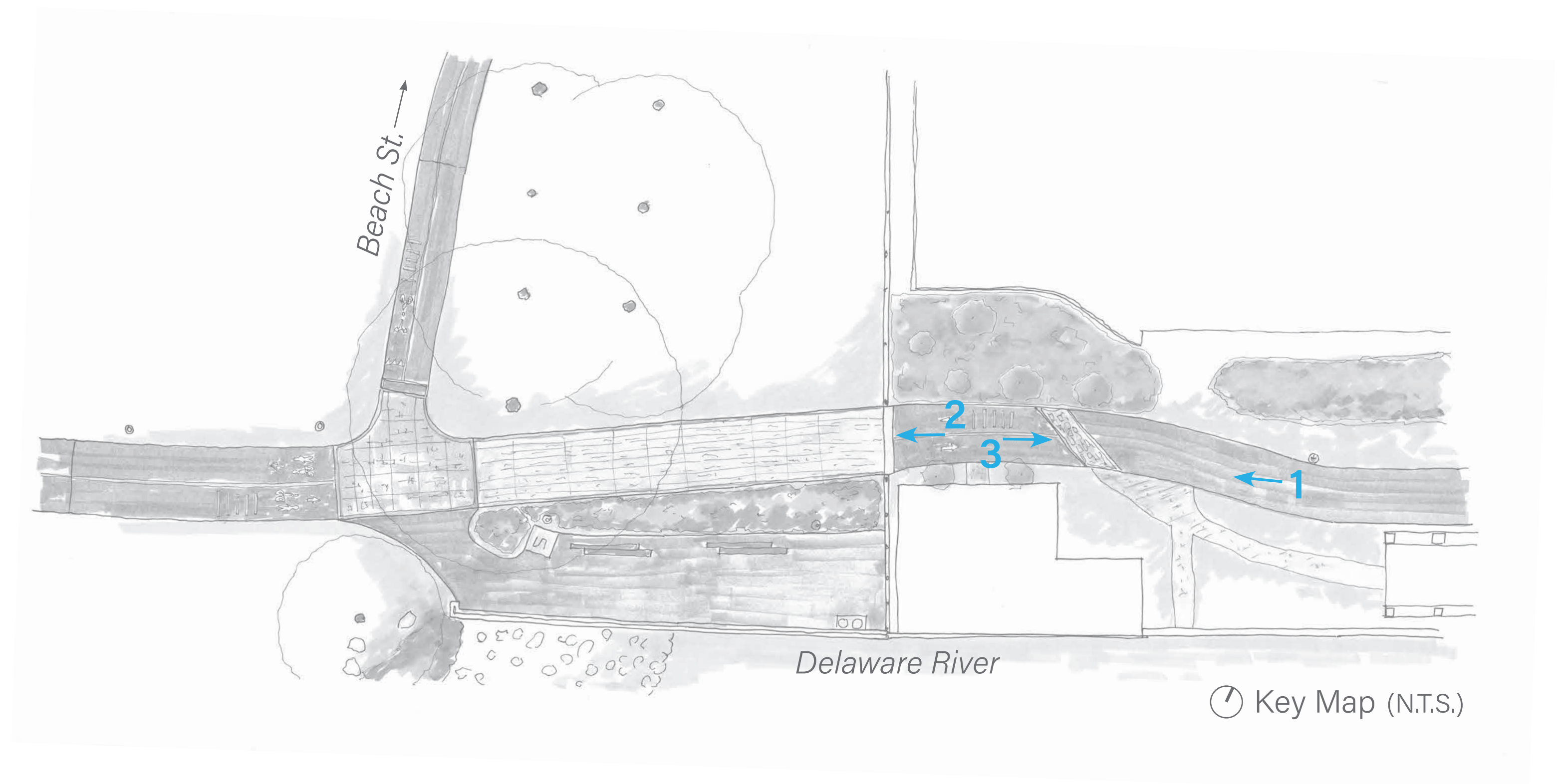
1. View of The Battery trail's termination at the existing fence, looking southwest into Penn Treaty Park.



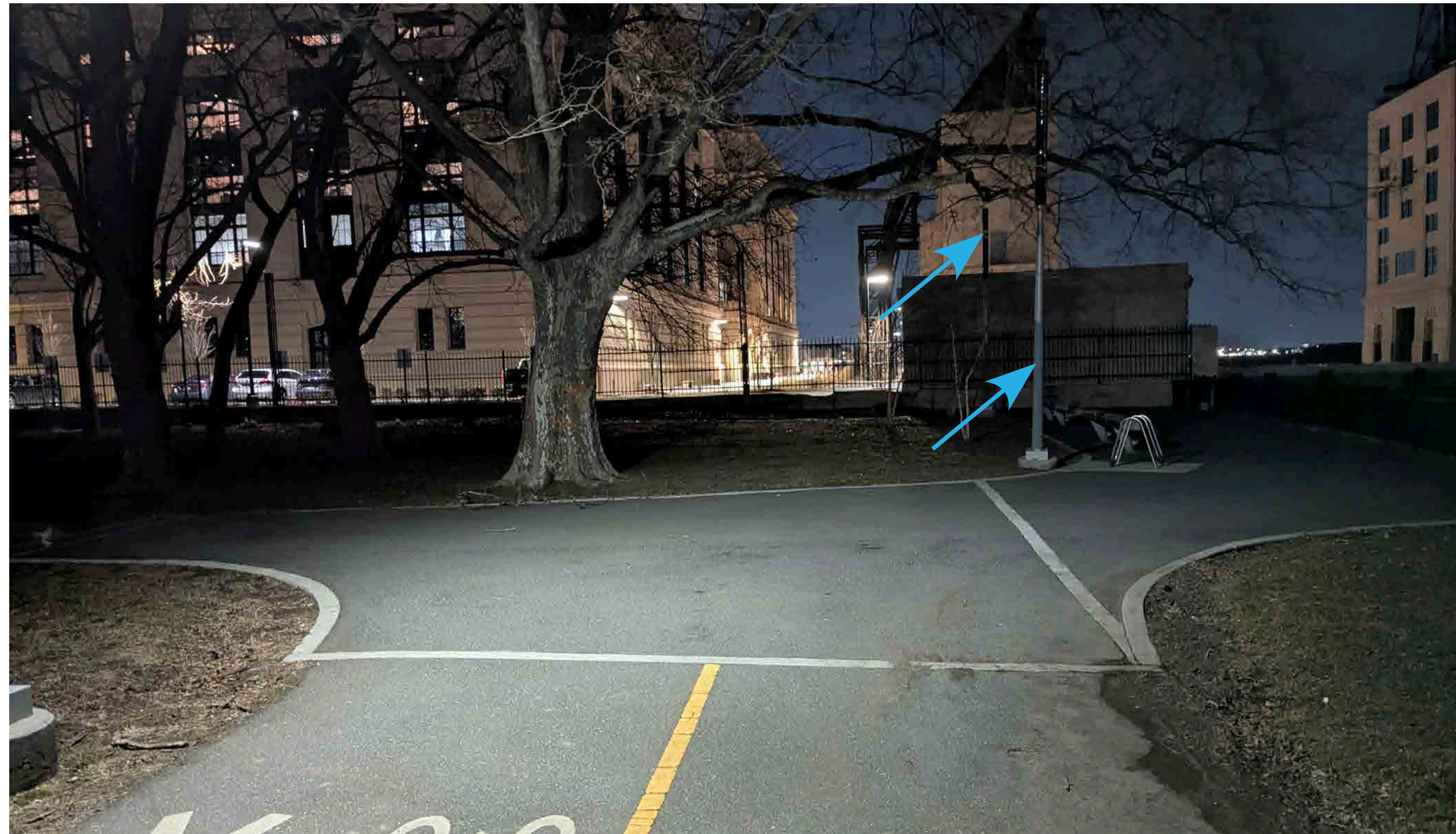
2. View of the existing wall and fence separating The Battery and Penn Treaty Park, looking southwest into the park.



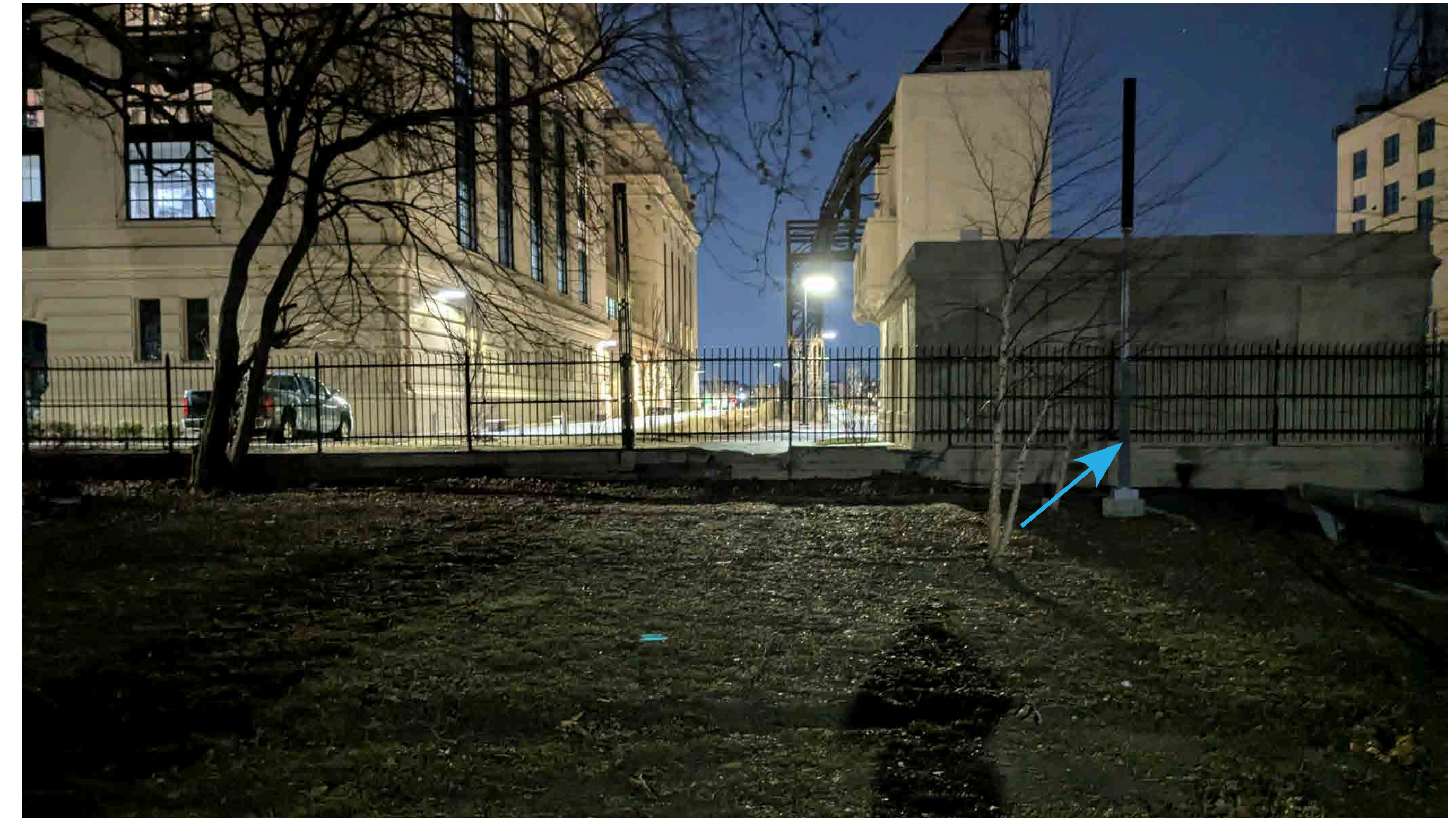
3. View of the The Battery trail, looking northeast toward the Delaware River.



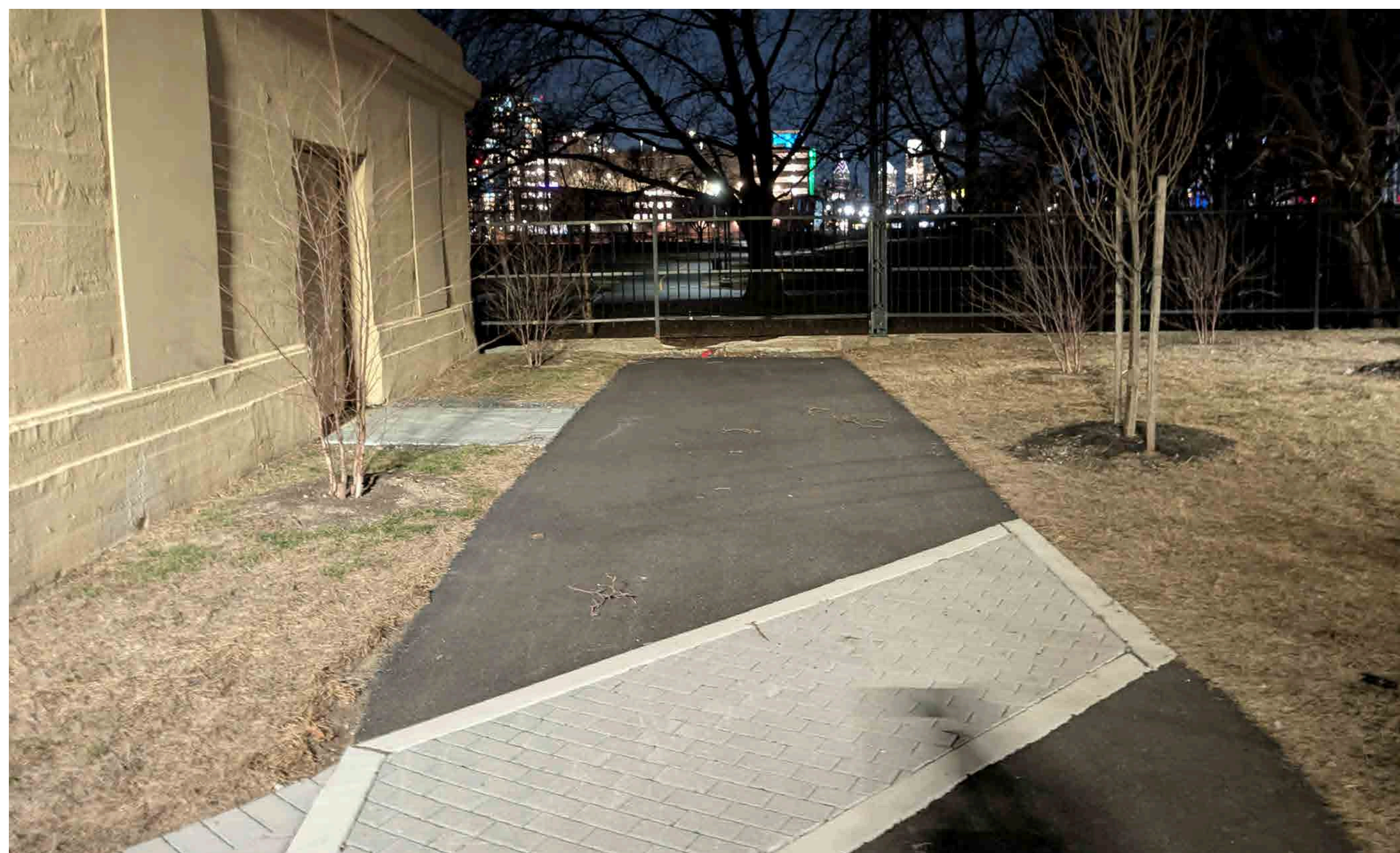
Existing Conditions - Lighting



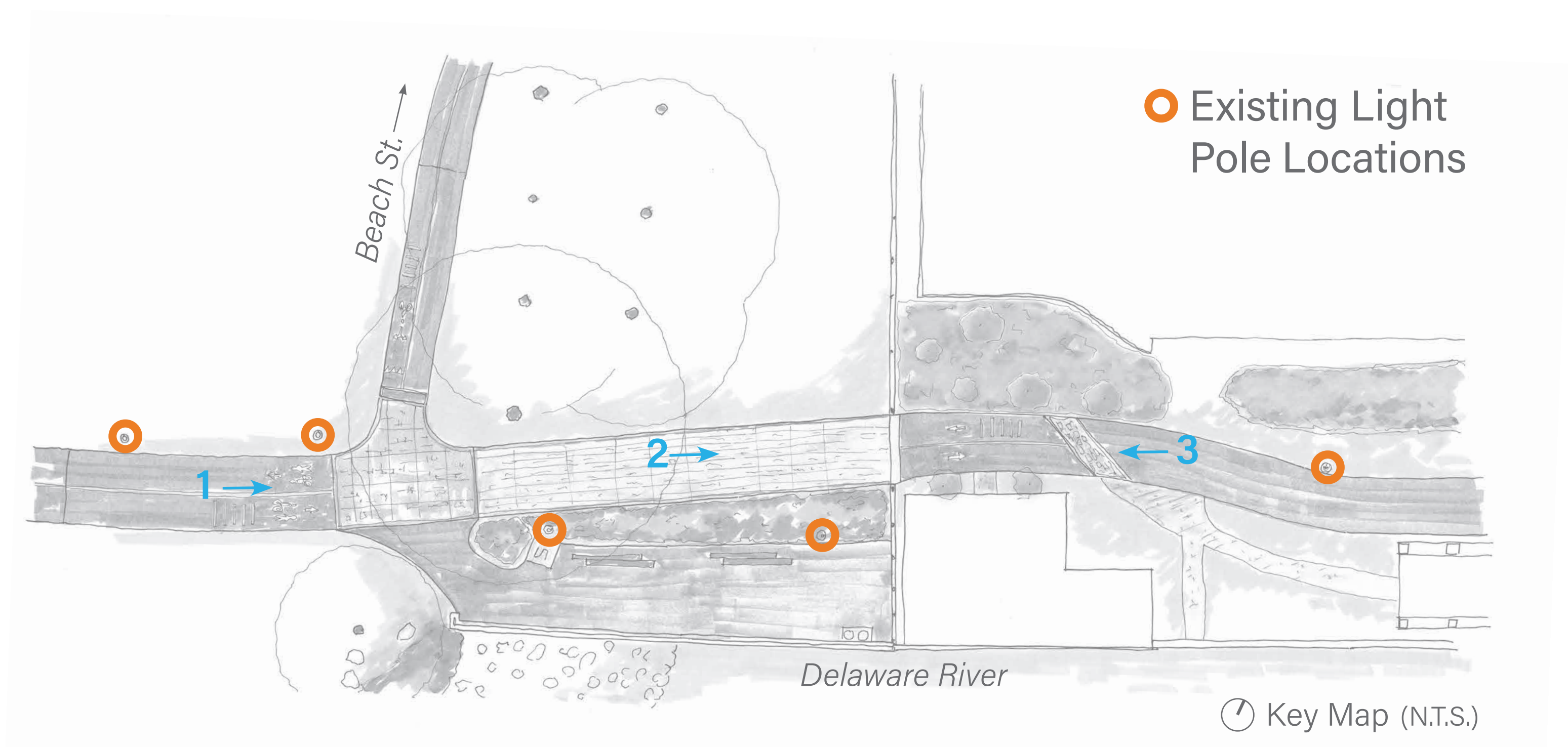
1. View at night of the future trail location, looking northeast toward The Battery. Two existing lights at the gathering area are currently not functioning. DRWC staff is in the process of replacing the light poles.



2. View of the existing fence and wall separating Penn Treaty Park and The Battery, looking northeast toward The Battery. Two existing lights at the gathering area are currently not functioning. DRWC staff is in the process of replacing the light poles.



3. View of The Battery trail's termination at the existing fence, looking southwest into Penn Treaty Park.



Participatory Design

November 14, 2024

DRWC and NV5 presented to the Friends of Penn Treaty Park. A room of about 15 board members and interested residents attended the meeting to hear about the proposed project. Questions from the attendees included asking about how the space under the boardwalk would look, security, and landscaping.

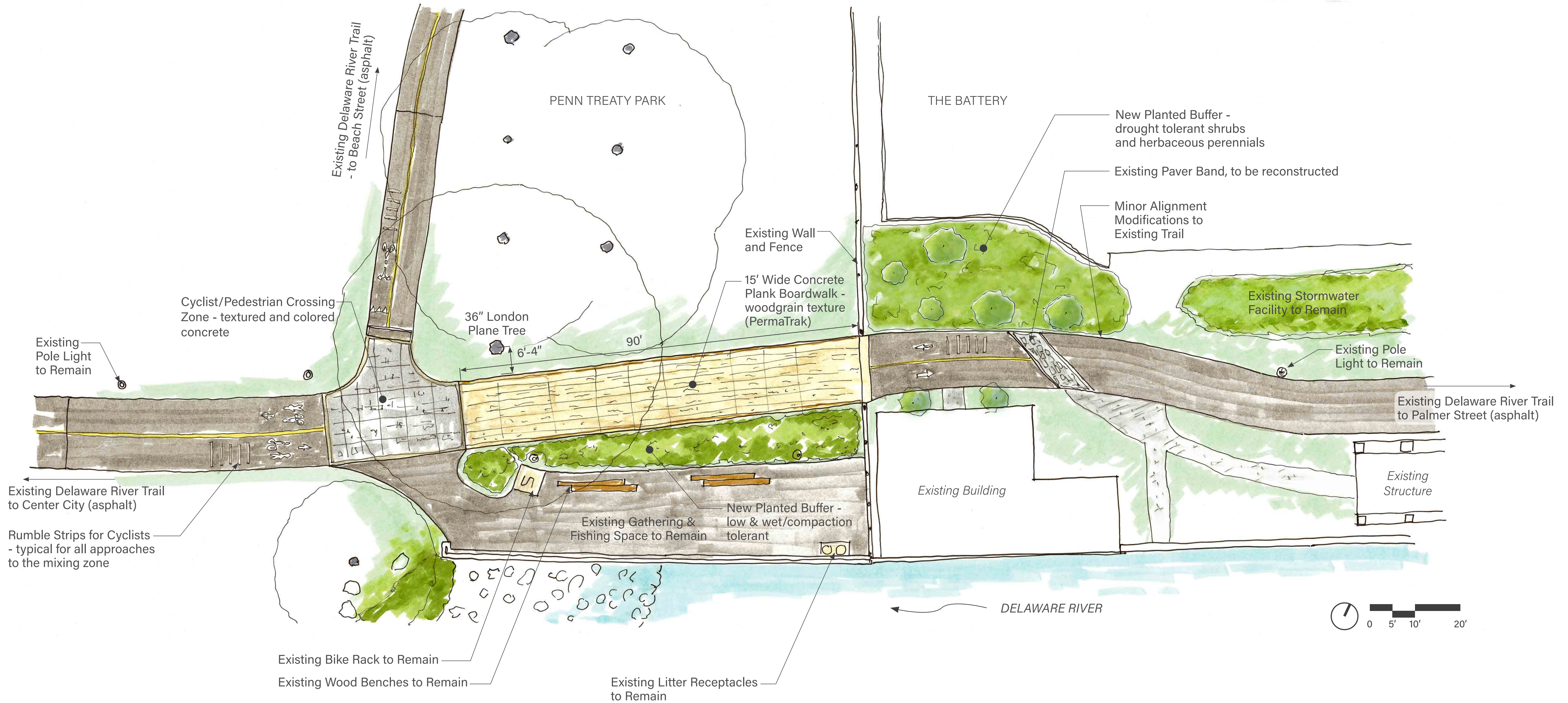
January 15, 2025

DRWC and NV5 presented to the Fishtown Neighbors Association. A packed room of about 90 residents attended. The residents asked questions about connectivity beyond the park, landscaping, and access during construction.



DRWC staff presenting to the Fishtown Neighbors Association meeting attendees.

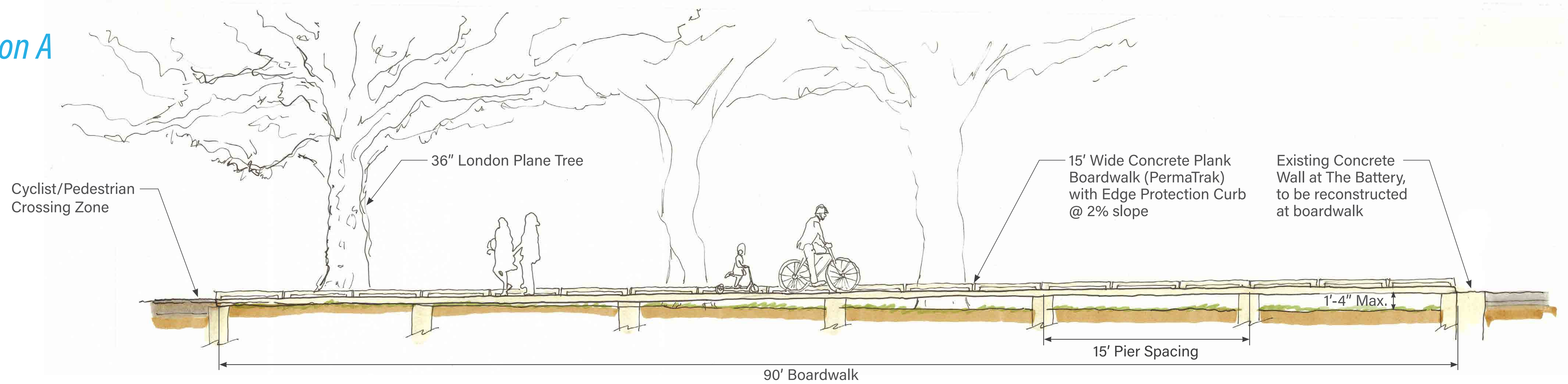
Proposed Improvements plan



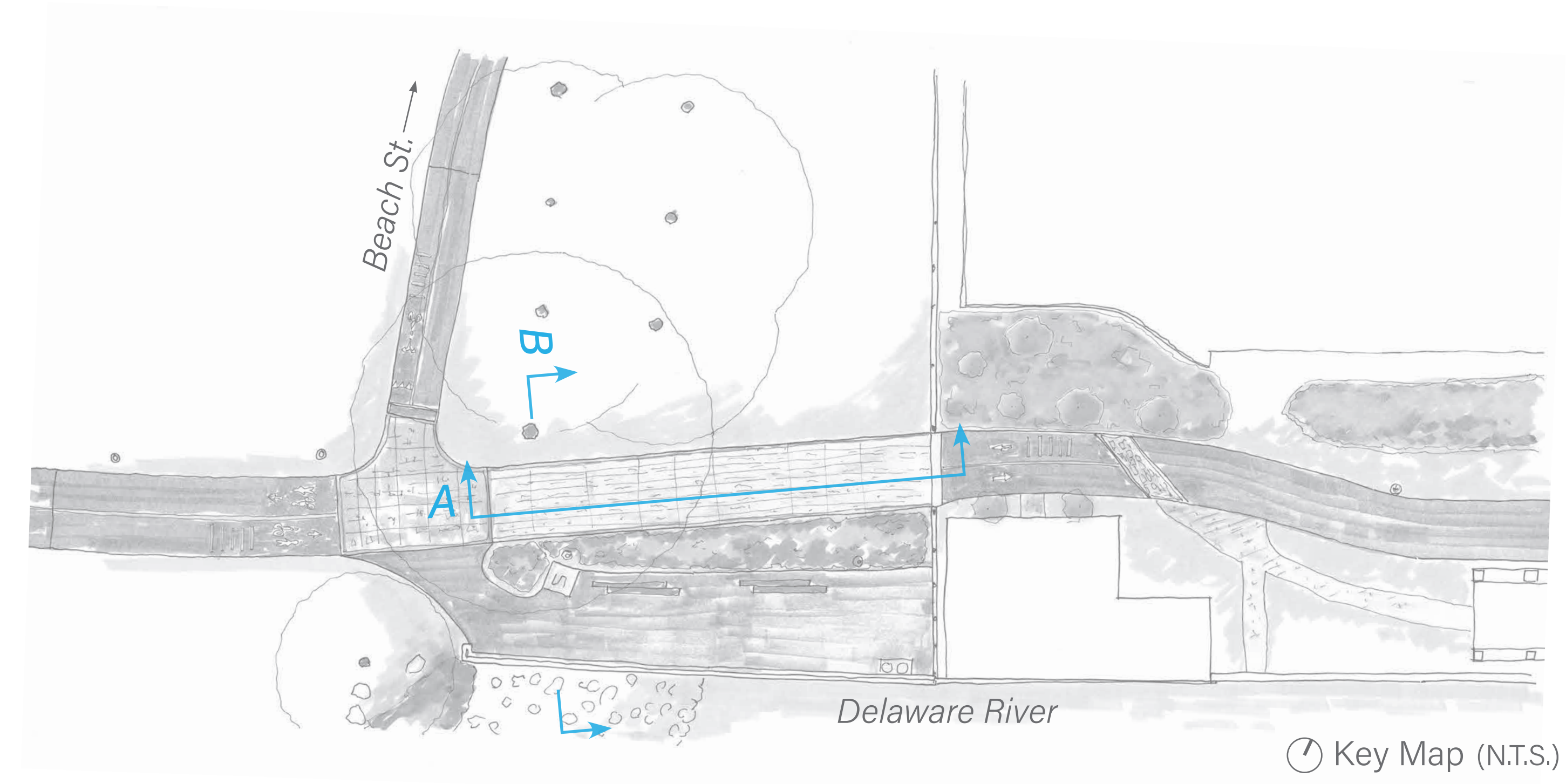
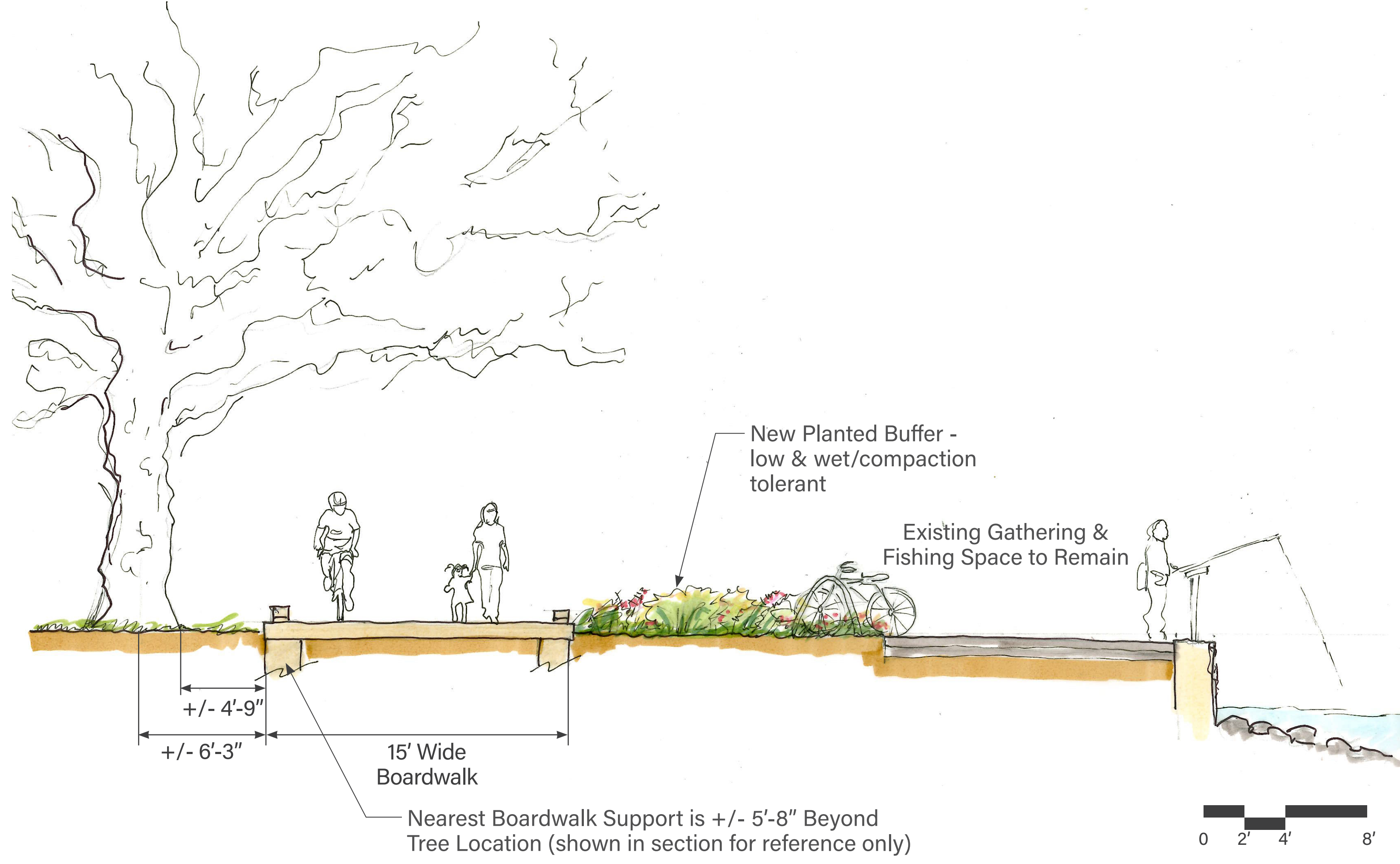
Proposed Improvements

sections

section A



section B

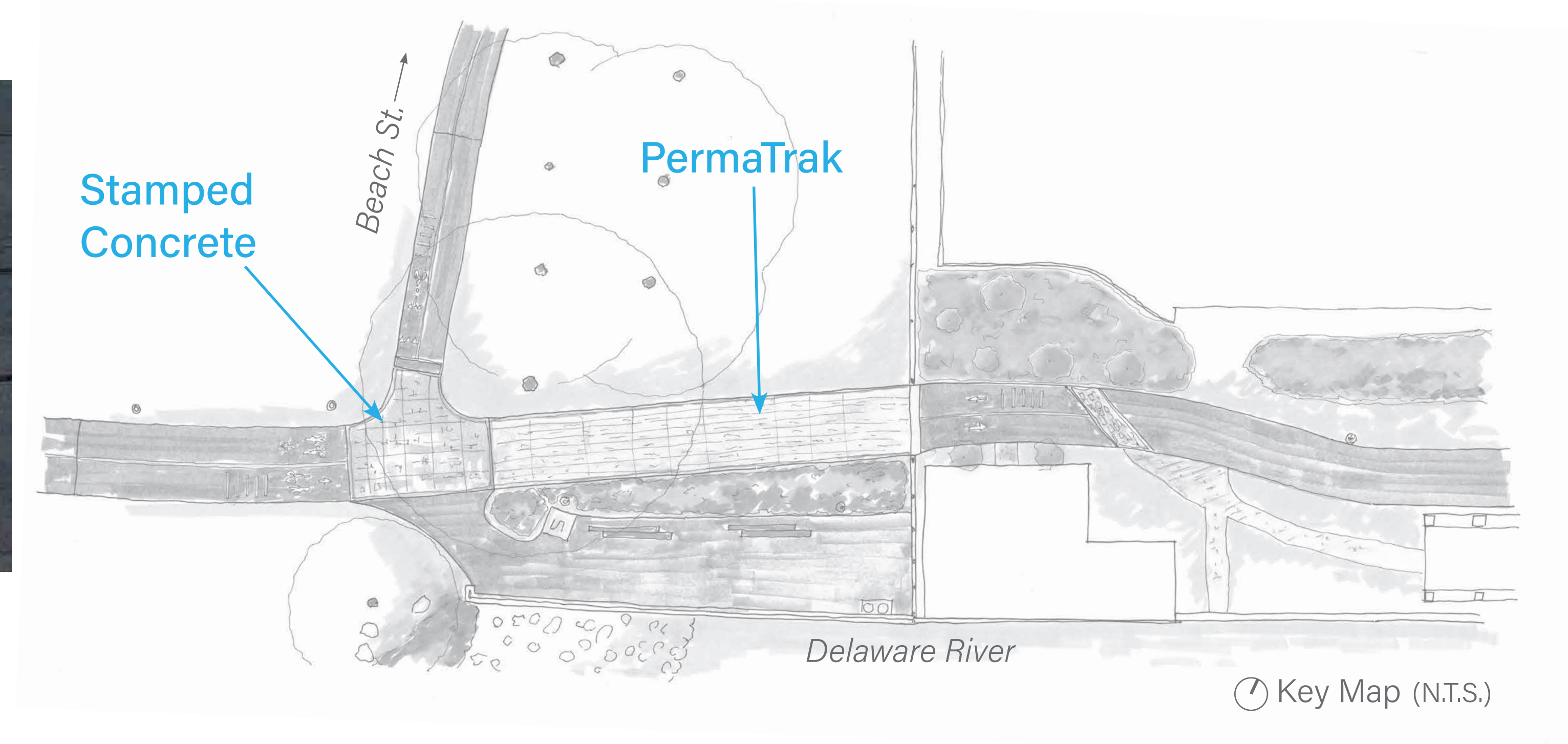
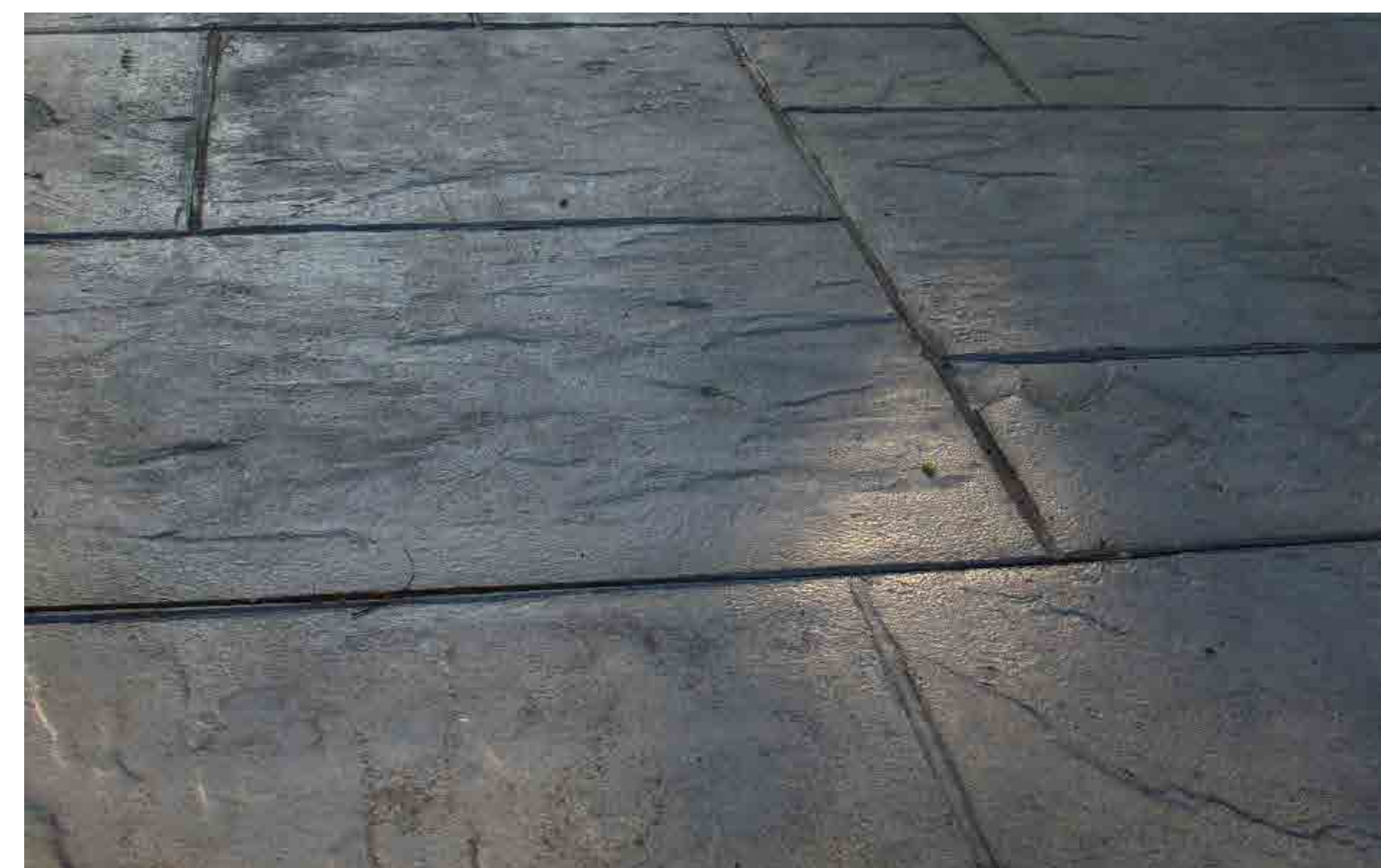


Proposed Improvements *materials*

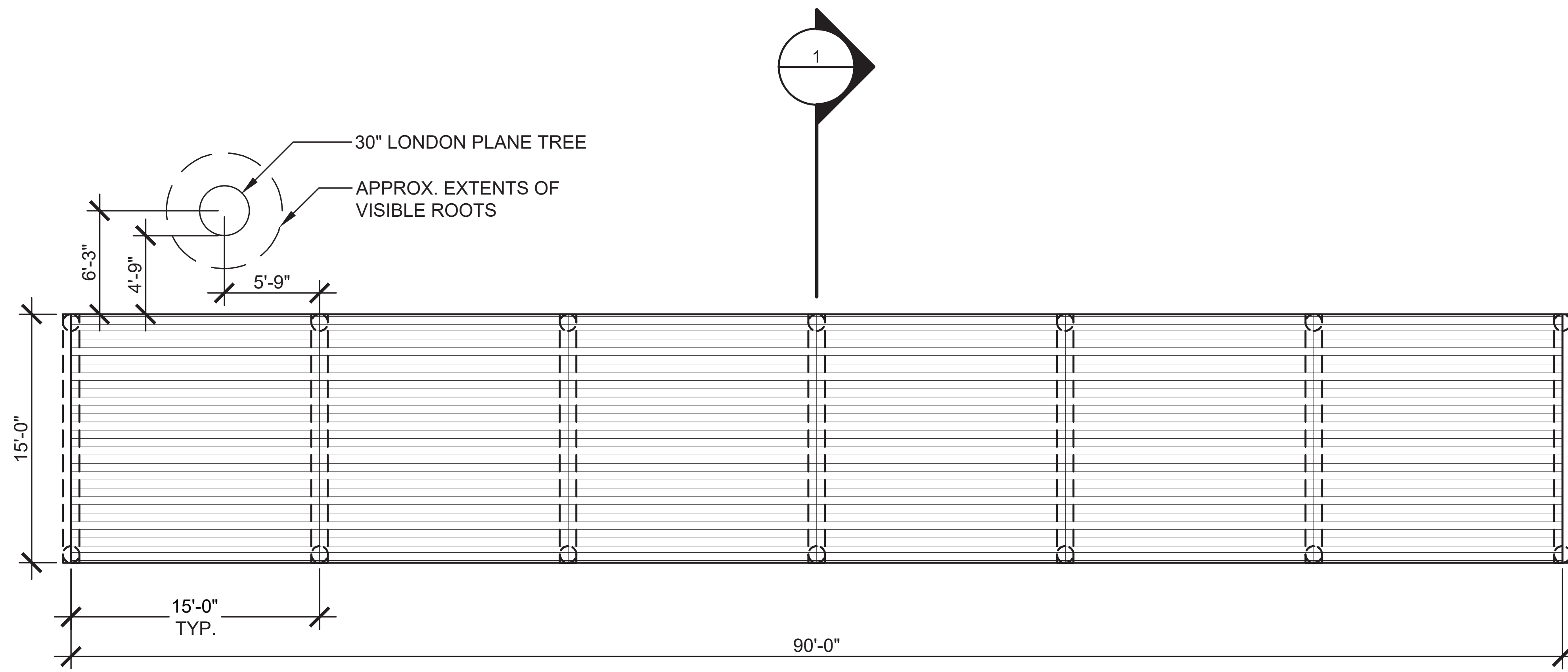
PermaTrak Concrete Plank Boardwalk (woodgrain finish)



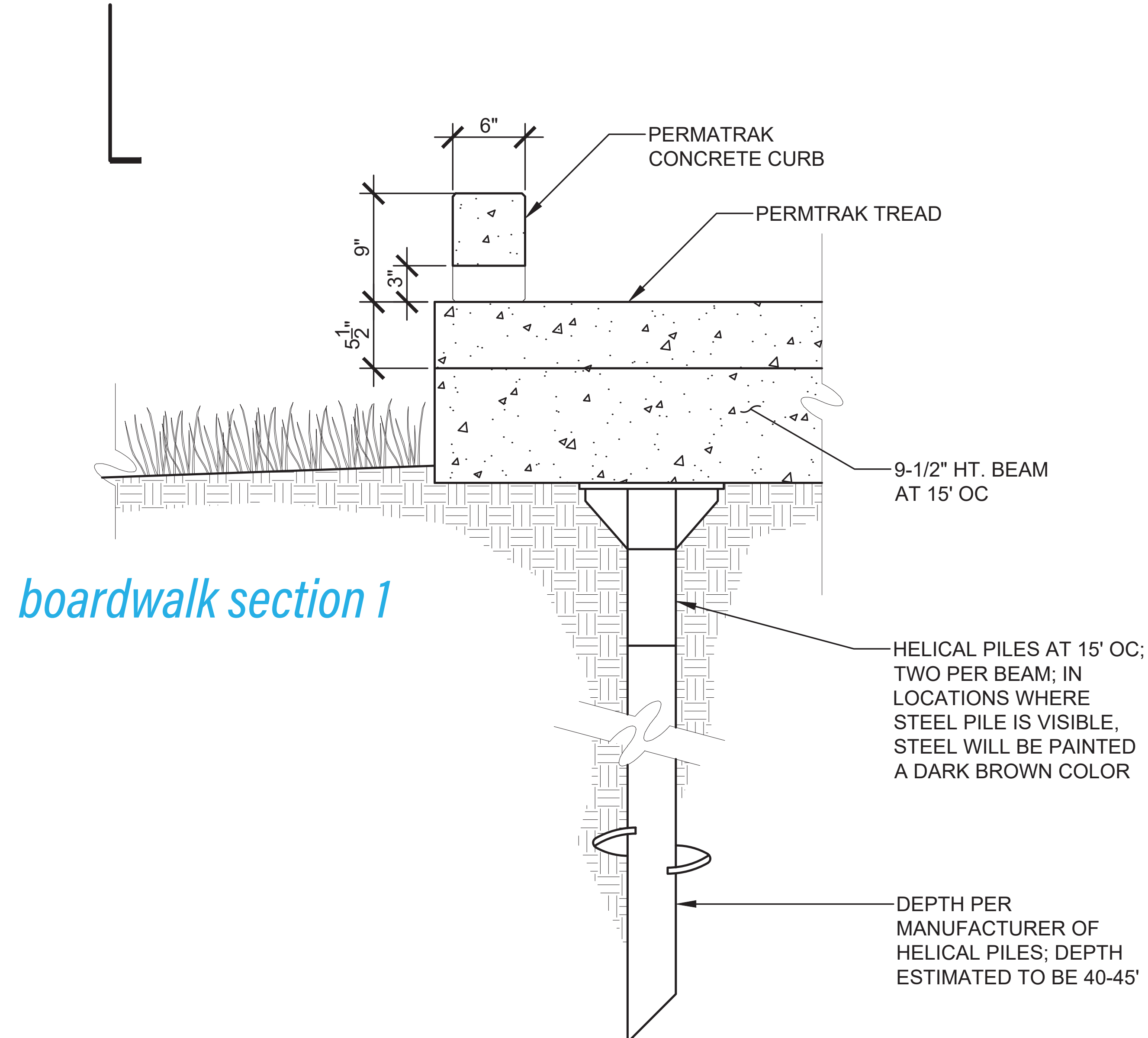
Stamped Concrete Cyclist/Pedestrian Crossing Zone



Proposed Improvements *boardwalk*



boardwalk plan



boardwalk section 1



helical pile example

Proposed Improvements

Penn Treaty Park Planting Palette - low height, wet and compaction tolerant



Ilex glabra
'Compacta'
Inkberry
3-4' H/4-6' W
Zone: 4-11



Clethra alnifolia
'Hummingbird'
Sweet Pepperbush
2-4' H/3-5' W
Zone: 3-9



Itea virginica
'Little Henry'
Virginia Sweetspire
1.5-2' H/2-2.5' W
Zone: 5-9

Herbaceous Perennials (from left to right):

Carex bromoides - Common Brome Sedge (n/a)

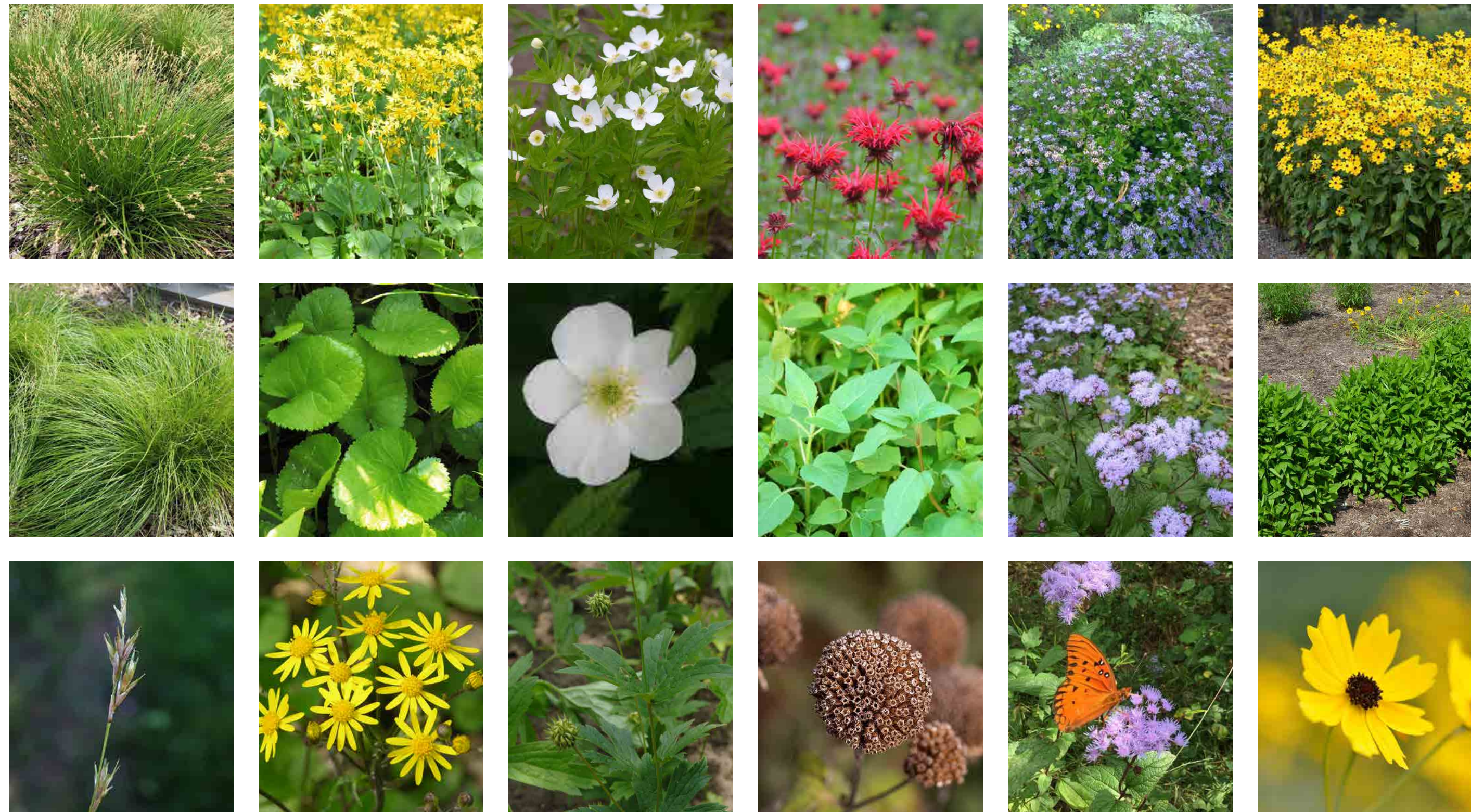
Packera aurea - Golden Ragwort (May)

Anemone canadensis - Canada Anemone (May-Jun)

Monarda didyma 'Gardenview Scarlet' - Bee Balm (Jul-Aug)

Conoclinium coelestinum - Mistflower (Aug-Oct)

Coreopsis palustris 'Summer Sunshine' - Beadle's Tickseed (Sep-Oct)



Proposed Improvements

The Battery Planting Palette - low height, drought-tolerant



Fothergilla gardenii
Dwarf Fothergilla
1.5-3' H/2-4' W
Zone: 5-8



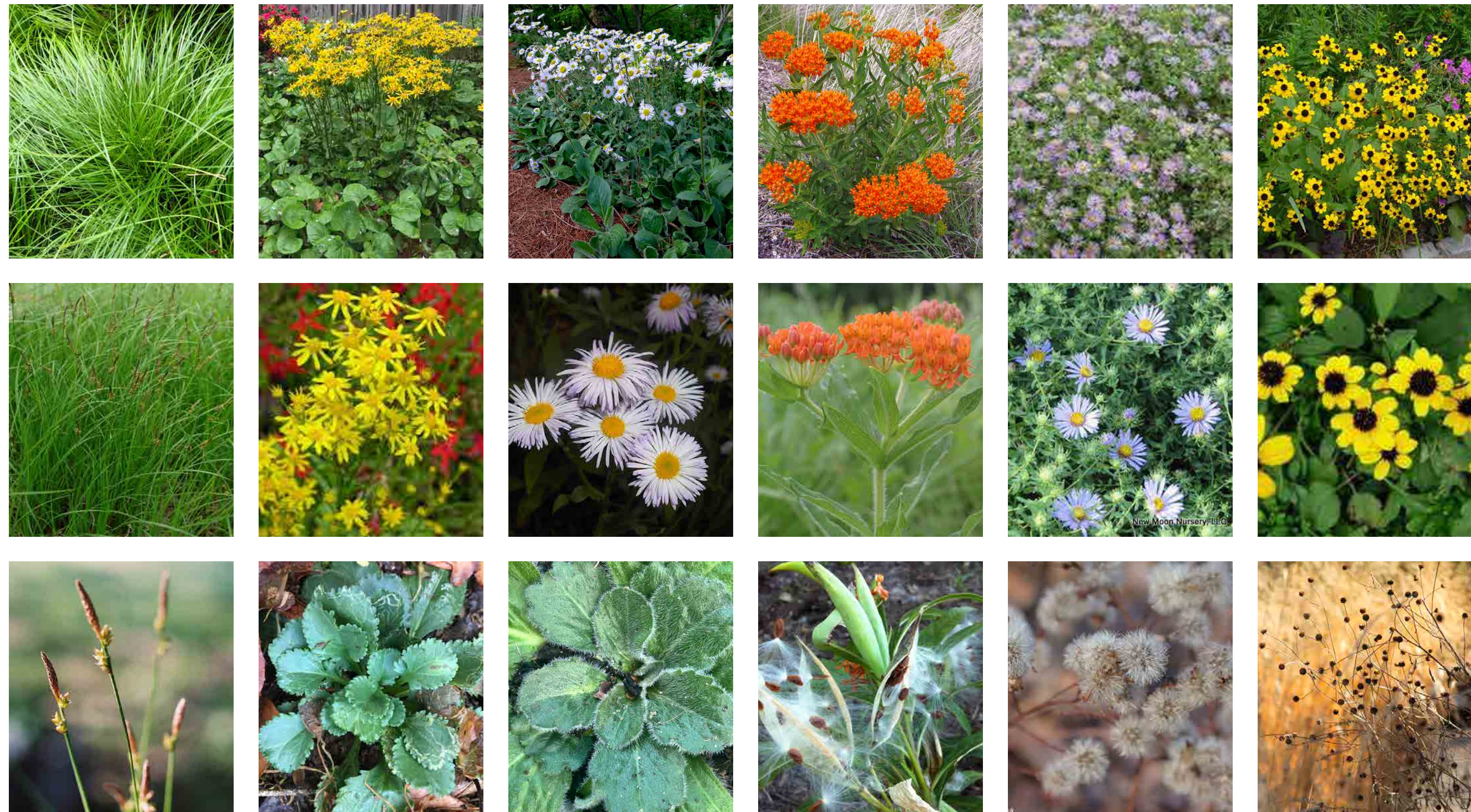
Itea virginica
'Little Henry'
Virginia Sweetspire
1.5-2' H/2-2.5' W
Zone: 5-9



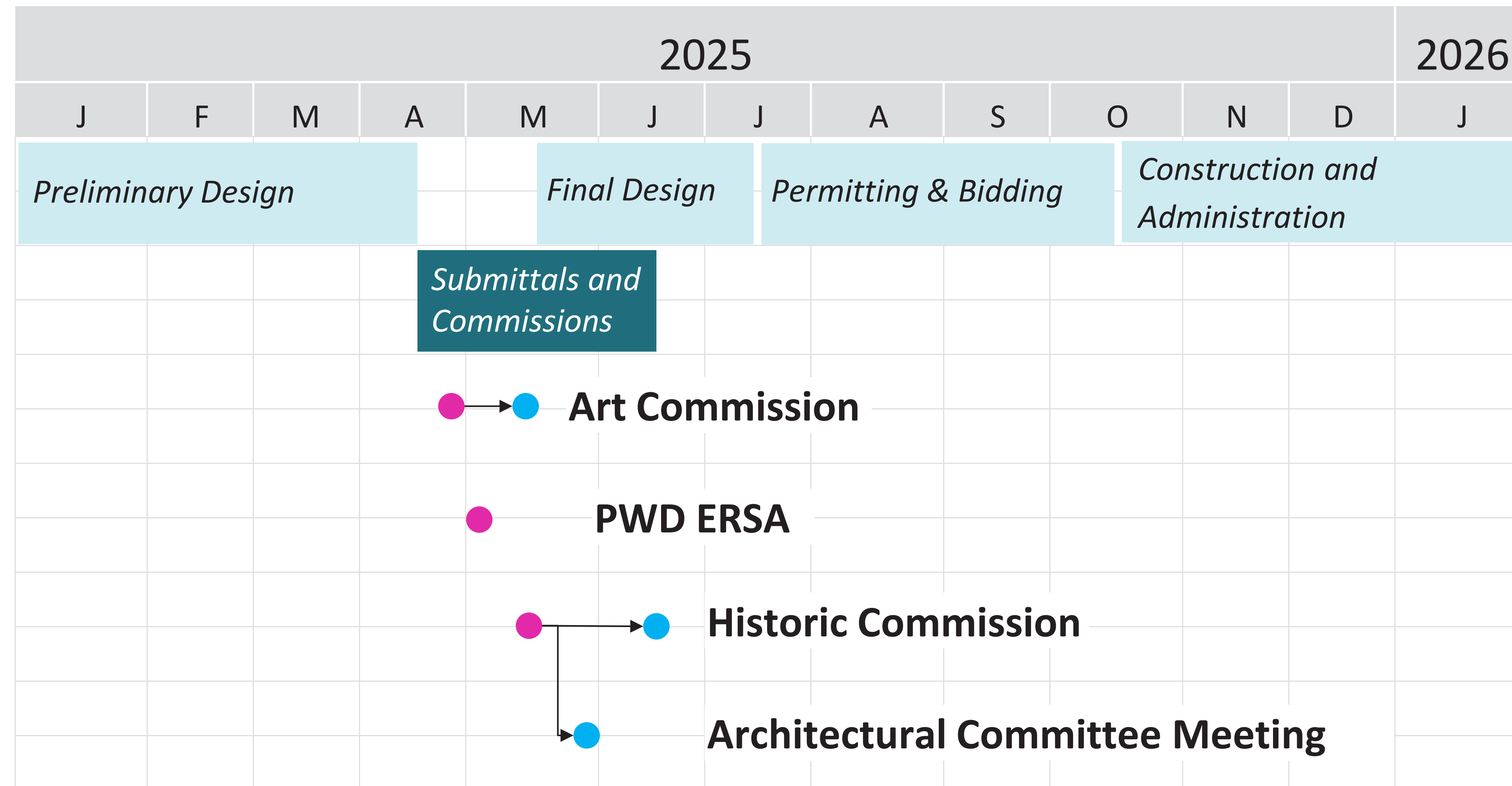
Rhus aromatica
'Gro-low'
Gro-low Sumac
1.5-2' H/6-8' W
Zone: 3-9

Herbaceous Perennials (from left to right):

- Carex pennsylvanica* - Pennsylvania Sedge (n/a)
- Packera obovata* - Roundleaved Ragwort (Apr-Jun)
- Erigeron pulchellus* 'Lynnhaven Carpet' - Robin's Plantain (May-Jun)
- Asclepias tuberosa* - Butterfly Weed (Jun-Sep)
- Symphotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies' - Aromatic Aster (Aug-Sep)
- Rudbeckia triloba* - Brown-eyed Susan (Jul-Oct)



Proposed Improvements *schedule and budget*



- Meeting
- Submission

PHASE	AMOUNT
DESIGN WORK	\$122,935
PERMITTING AND BIDDING	\$46,136
ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION COST	\$832,429
TOTAL:	\$1,001,500
HUD GRANT:	\$1,000,000