

LEAH KAUFFMAN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO

University of Michigan
2023-2026

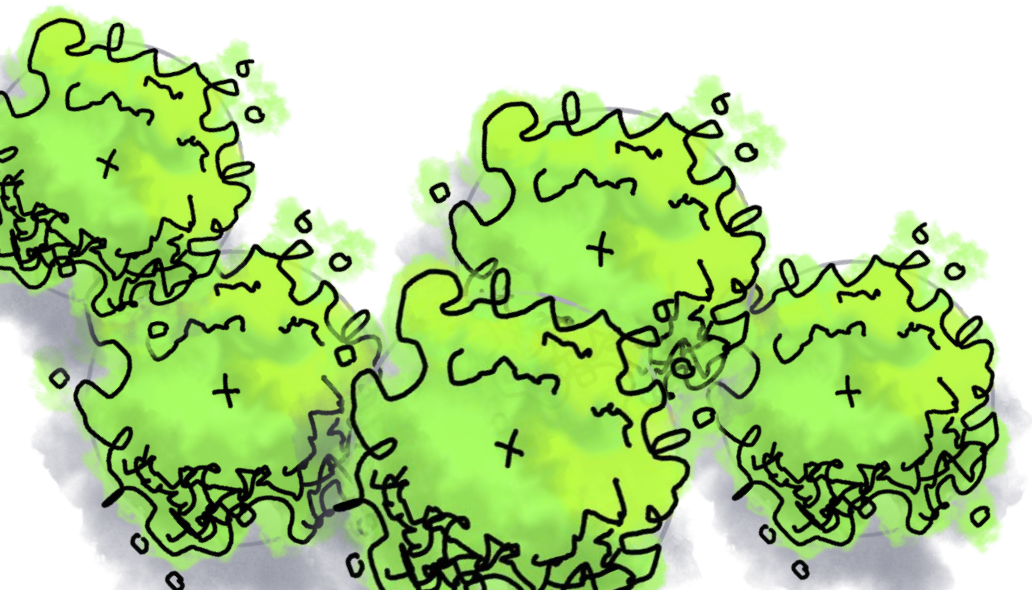
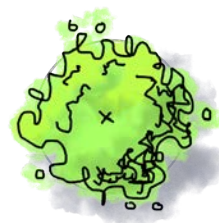


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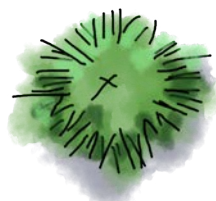
York Hills

Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024



Green Whisper Mulch Garden

Matthaei Botanical Garden : Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024



Sherman Island:
Paddle the Whale

Sherman Island, CA : Spring 2024



Internship:
Adapt Landscapes

Ann Arbor, MI : Summer 2024

ABOUT LEAH



The rivers and wetlands have become a highlight of nature for her since coming to Ann Arbor. But it was the significance of sustainability in the landscape architecture curriculum that brought her to the University of Michigan.

When considering her career, she is especially interested in planting design and having the opportunity to work with others to create meaningful experiences through plant material. While that’s important to her, she is looking forward to gathering a variety of experiences and hopes to figure out what she is most passionate about in this field.

In her everyday life, Leah enjoys reading, many outdoor activities, craft nights with friends, making chocolate chip pancakes, playing ultimate frisbee, and watching Survivor.

Leah Kauffman

RESUME

Leah Kauffman Master of Landscape Architecture Student

Contact

(937) 441-6375
leahkauffman14@gmail.com

Education

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MLA, Master of Landscape Architecture
2023 - 2026

GOSHEN COLLEGE
BA, Graphic Design and Sustainability
2018 - 2022
STUDY SERVICE TERM, Ecuador
Spring 2020 | Goshen College
- Lived and interacted with Ecuadorians while learning language, culture, history, and arts/literature
- Observed indigenous women working and living in community with one another
- Furthered my own independence while living with host families and navigating around cities through out the country

Skills

- AUTO CAD
- ADOBE SUITE
- GIS
- TEAMWORK
- ORGANIZATION
- ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Additional Info

- References available upon request
- Portfolio attached with application

Work Experience

ADAPT LANDSCAPES | ANN ARBOR, MI
Garden Installer | April 2024 - Present
- Worked on a small team to install native gardens
- Learned plant care and installation techniques
- Increased my knowledge of Michigan native plants

GOSHEN COLLEGE | GOSHEN, IN
Interim Central Services Manager | February 2023 - April 2023
- Supervised the campus mailroom processes (logging, distributing, returning/forwarding)
- Communicated with off campus vendors to solve problems, align schedules, and ensure good relations
- Worked with a student team who assisted with campus mail AV equipment checkouts, and ID cards

ANABAPTIST CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE | GOSHEN, IN
Freelance Graphic Designer | February 2023 - April 2023
- Created visuals based on stories written about climate change and sustainability

GOSHEN COLLEGE | GOSHEN, IN
Interim Audio Visual Operations Manager | August 2022 - February 2023
- Collaborated with the Events team and student technicians on audio visual needs
- Hired and supervised the student technician team of 10+ students
- Balanced student technician and campus events schedules, assigning work orders to appropriately prepared technicians
- Managed billing the events’ tech needs

GREENFIELD LANDSCAPING | GOSHEN, IN
Laborer | August 2021 - November 2021
- Worked with a team that cared for landscapes of both private and public properties
- Learned how to operate a variety of tools for landscape management

YORK HILLS

Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024

Project Overview

York Hills is a mixed-use development site that houses commercial, residential, and office space as well as over 50% of the 100 acres kept development free and protected. This was the largest project to date and pushed me to work on time management within the design process. I worked on critical phases including site analysis, master planning, schematic design, and construction documentation.



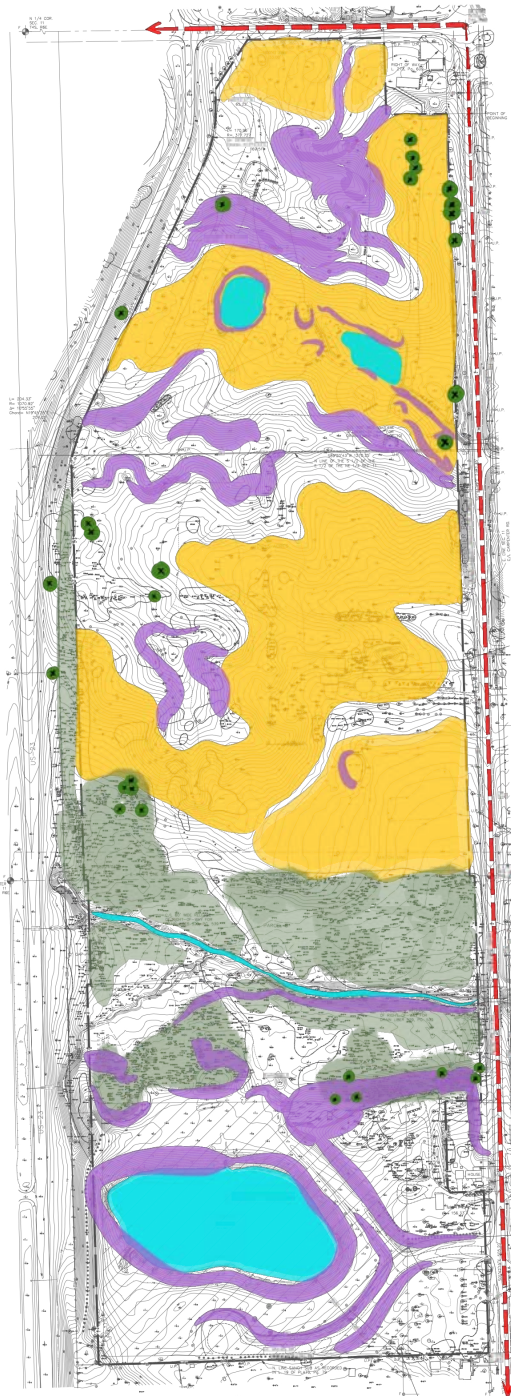
Master Planning Process

Using overlays and physically placing buildings on an aerial map.



Site Analysis

I started with a site inventory and analysis to inform design decisions. I was especially interested in the possibilities for high slope areas of the site and how to include existing trees in my design.



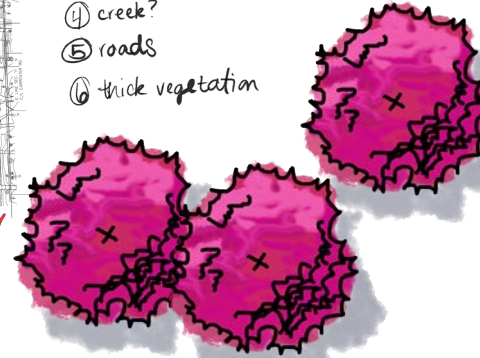
- Possible areas for development/flat areas
- Slopes 10% or higher
- High vegetation
- Established roads
- Waterways

- Highlighted slope 10% or more
- Excellent condition trees
- High vegetation
- Road ways
- Places for restoration/native planting
- Water/wet areas
- development sites

SOILS ANALYSIS?

PICTURES

- excellent condition tree
- flat, potential develop site
- Steep places for planting
- creek?
- roads
- thick vegetation



YORK HILLS

Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024

Master Plan

Laying out a site with large requirements for residential and parking required many iterations. My solution was to physically layout pieces, trying to make everything fit in a way that aligned with my design goal of **green equity**. I wanted anyone who interacts with the site to have access and views to nature of some sort.

Big Ideas/ Detail Callouts

Solar panels on the roofs of office buildings

“Noise Mural” noise barrier that doubles as a mural space on the side that faces the park

“Plantings” - orange areas for ornamental/ decorative plantings.

Tabulations

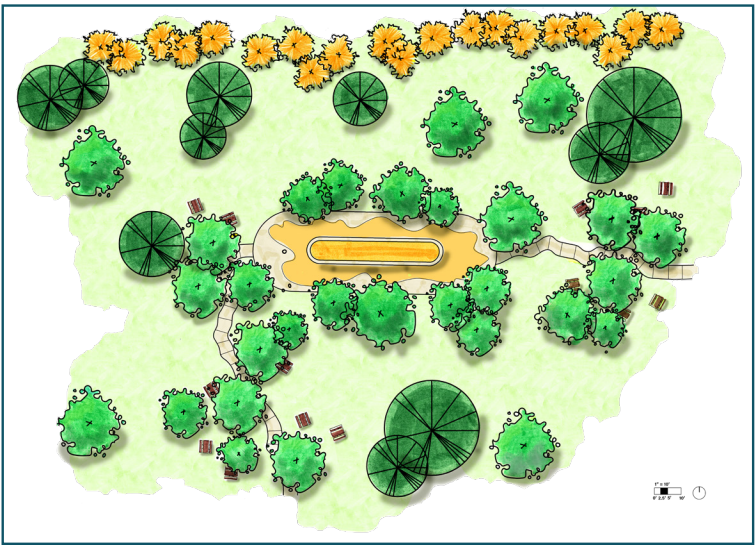
Land Use	Acres	Percentage
Tiny Home Lots	11.26	10%
4-Plex Lots	1.4	1%
Townhomes	0.69	0.50%
Commercial	0.83	0.70%
Office	2.25	2%
Parking	3.71	3%
Road Rights-of-way (ROW)	5.17	4%
Parks	4.12	3%
Open Space	66.96	76%
Total	118.39	



Schematic Design: Enlargements

This process demonstrated to me the importance of digging deeper into a design and thinking critically about every single aspect. Here are a few examples of enlargements where plant massing and design decisions based on regulations, city codes, and what I needed for my site to work were at the forefront of my mind.

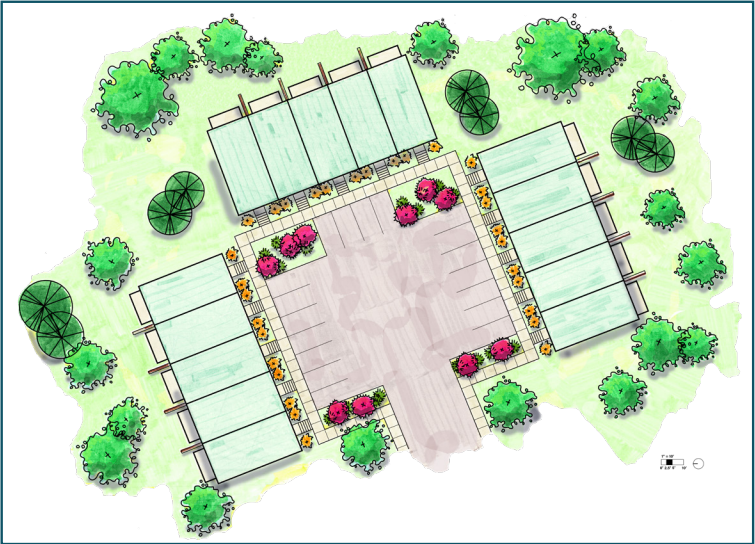
Pocket Park Layout



Tiny Home Layout



Townhome Layout

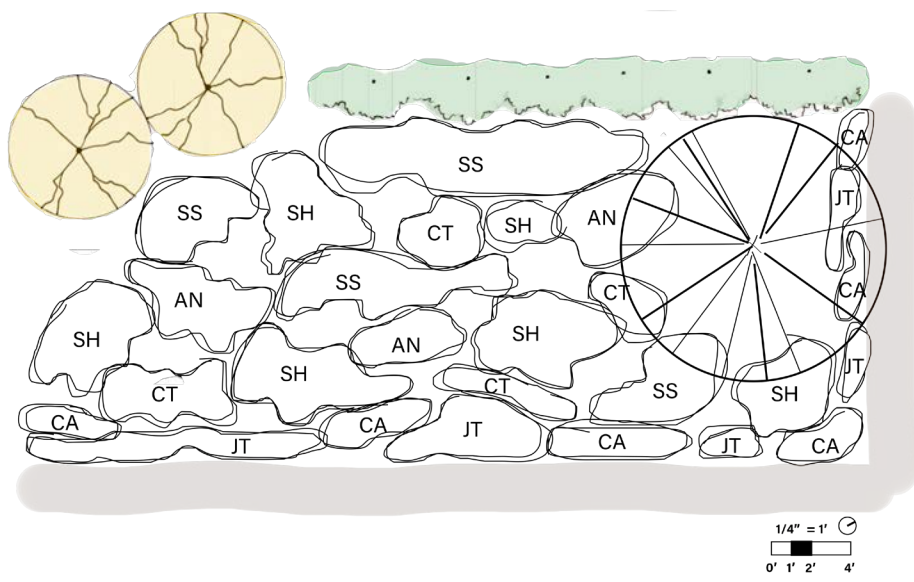


GREEN WHISPER GARDEN

Matthaei Botanical Garden : Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024

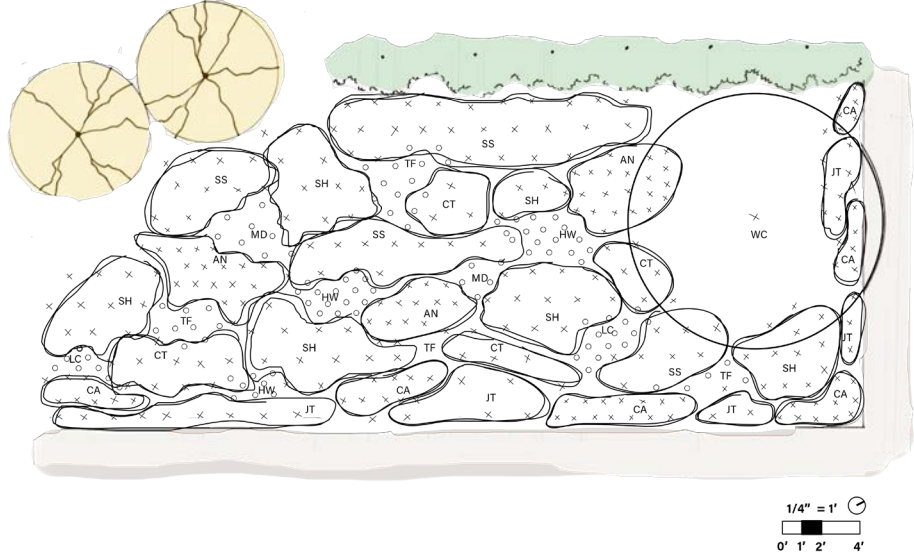
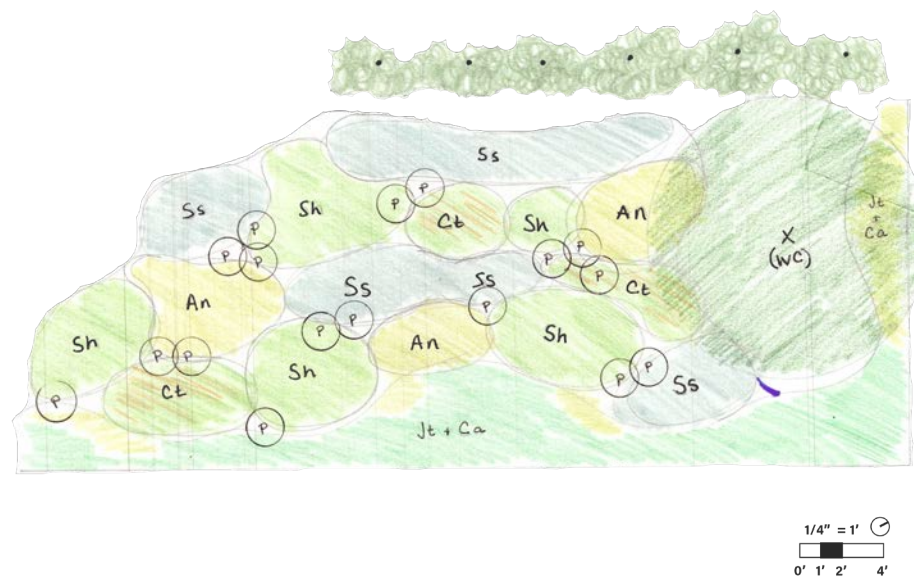
Project Overview

The Green Whisper Garden concept includes flowing, fine textured grasses and sedges with pops of color from various perennials. It's low maintenance and works as a garden that simply fills a space rather than being a large attention piece.



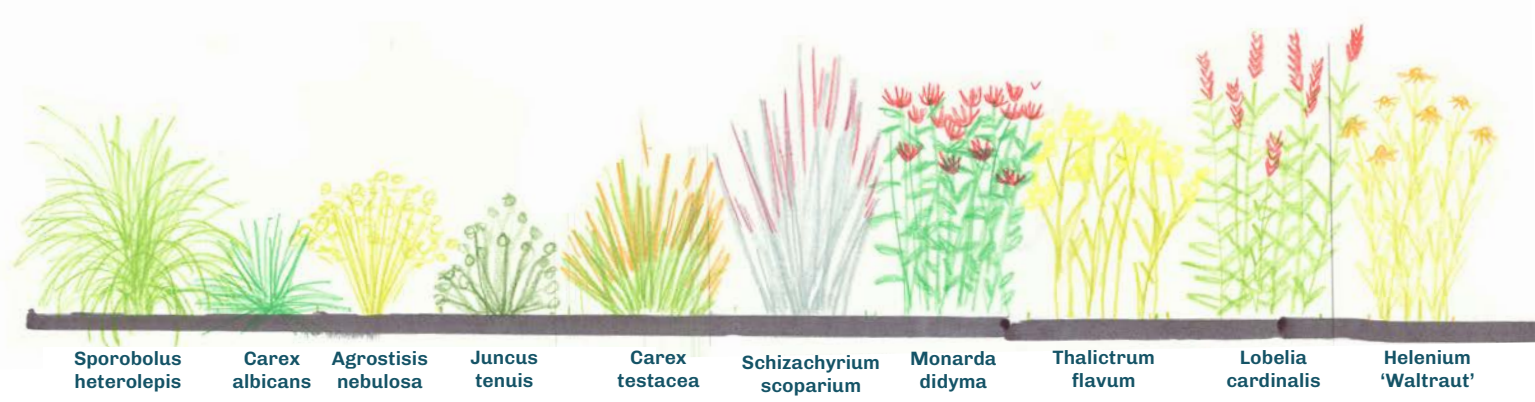
Design Process

I started the process with simple massing and getting more detailed from there. Between the groupings of grasses and sedges I placed perennials and then worked out the details of plant spacing. The beds on either side of the path followed the same design process. This example shows the left side of the garden.



Seasonality Visuals

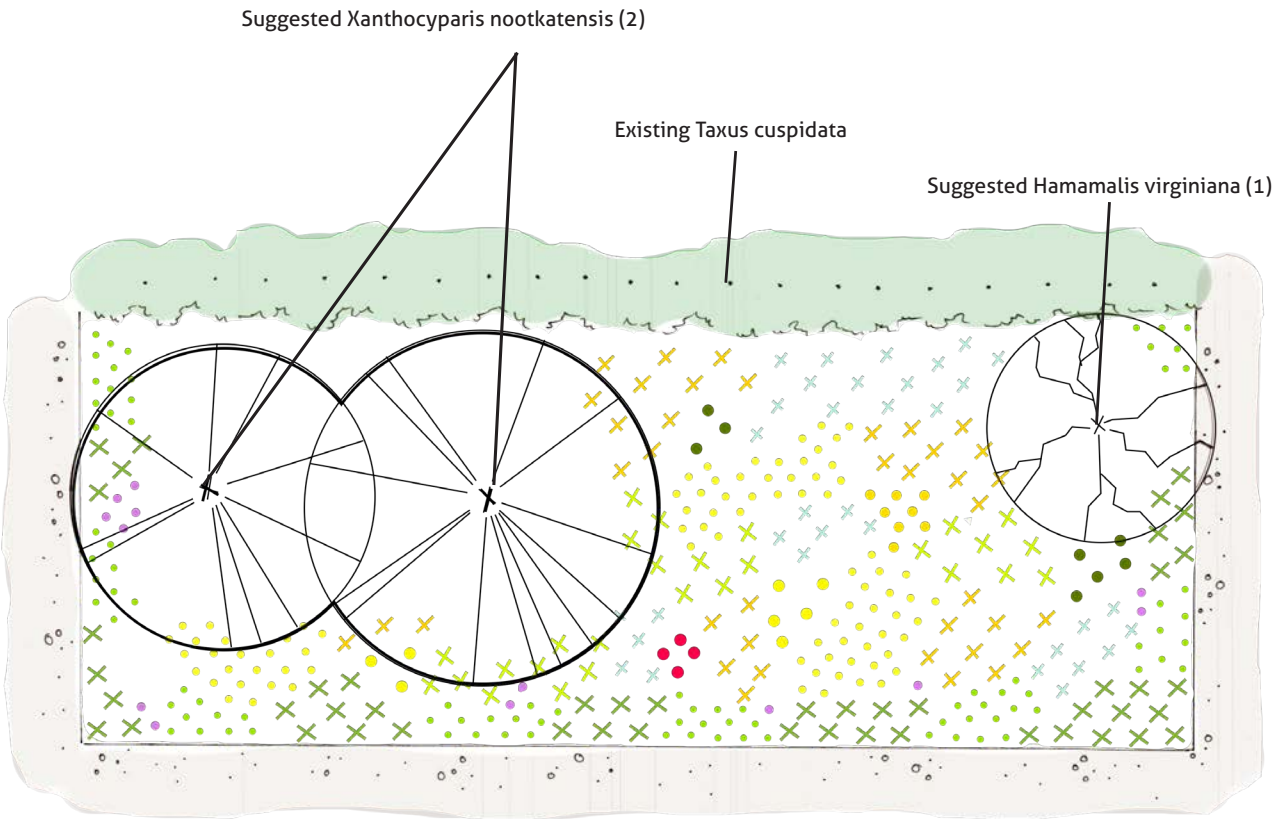
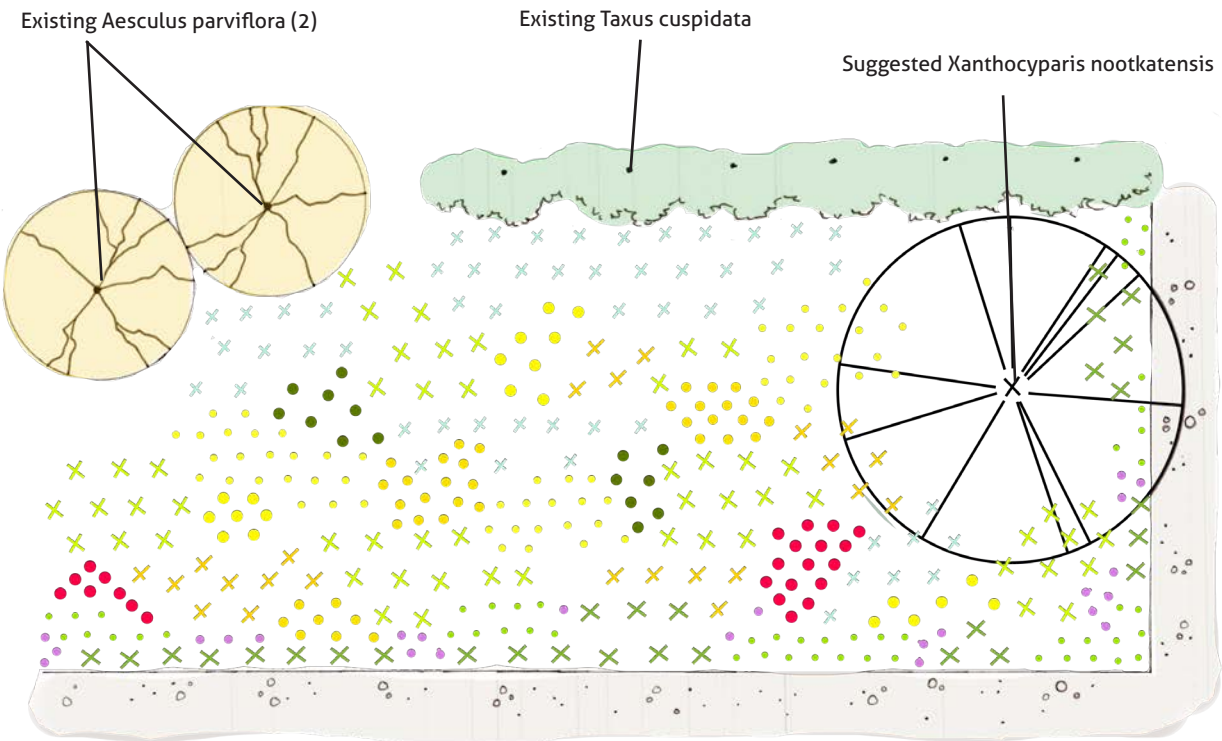
Each illustration shows what they might look like seasonally and from different perspectives.



GREEN WHISPER GARDEN

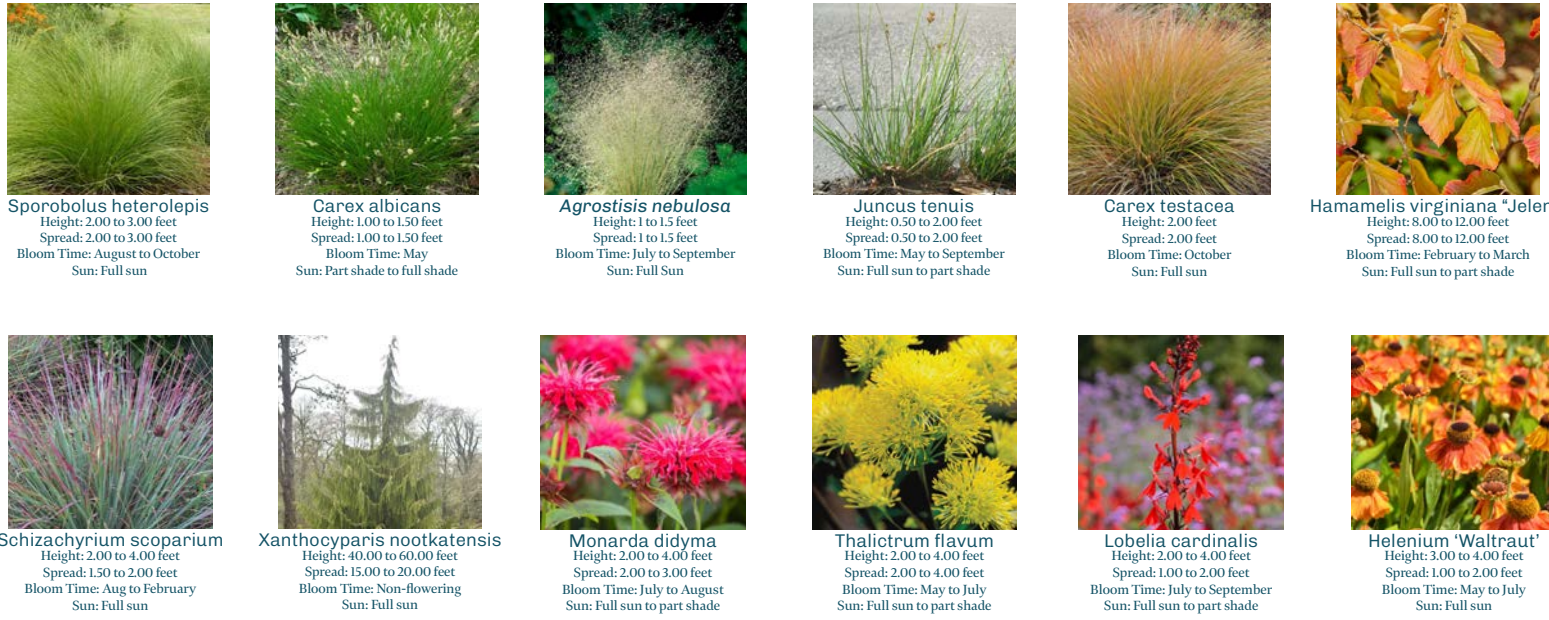
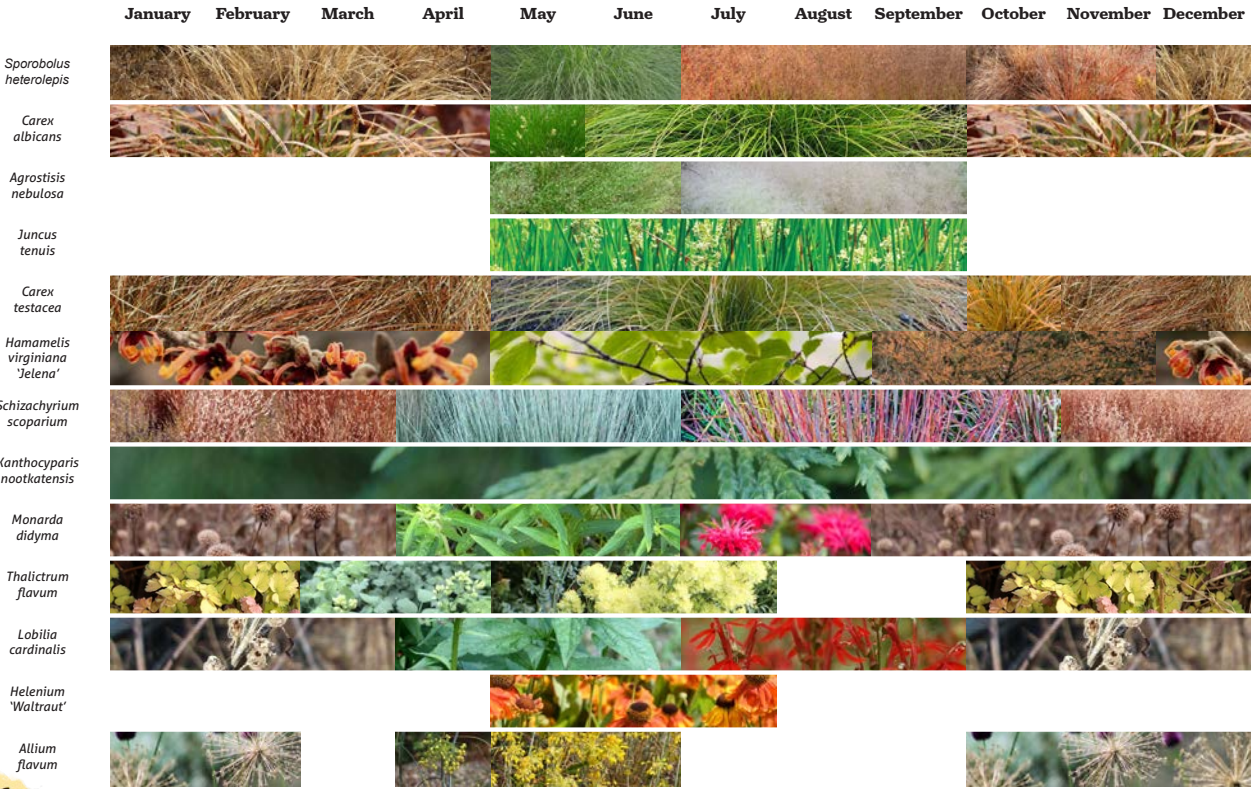
Matthaei Botanical Garden : Ann Arbor, MI : Fall 2024

Final Planting Plan



- Sporobolus heterolepis (82)
- Lobelia cardinalis (28)
- Schizachyrium scoparium (88)
- Agrostis nebulosa (144)
- Carex testacea (69)
- Carex albicans (140)
- Thalictrum flavum (29)
- Allium flavum (34)
- Juncus tenuis (76)
- Helenium 'Waltraut' (51)
- Monarda didyma (20)

Bloom Chart



SHERMAN ISLAND: PADDLE THE WHALE

Sherman Island, CA : Spring 2025

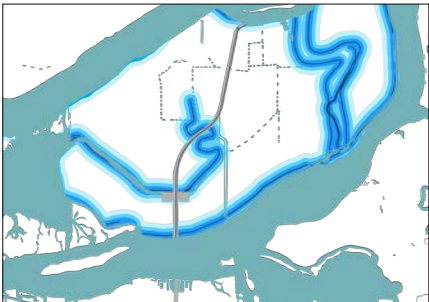
Project Overview

Sherman Island: Paddle the Whale was a practice in creating and using a suitability analysis. Sherman Island, CA is located in the Sacramento River Delta and is slowly sinking. In groups, we were tasked with coming up with a concept to implement on the island and follow that up with relevant opportunities and constraints in order to find the most suitable location for our concept. Our concept included developing a watersports livery and restoring wetland areas to connect already protected land.

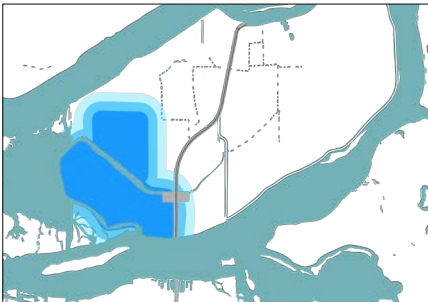
Team Project:
Anya - map creation, graphics
John - map creation, graphics
Roberto - map creation , graphics
Leah - map creation, graphics

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

OPPORTUNITIES



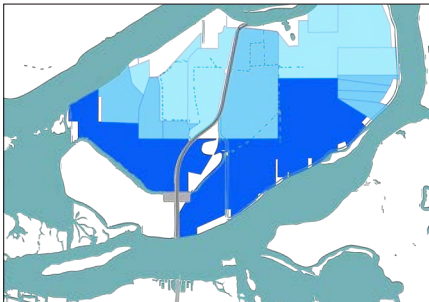
Water Channels



Wetland Amenity



Access Roads

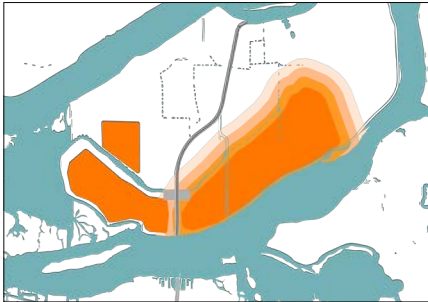


Suitable Parcels

CONSTRAINTS



Boat Launches



Protected Wetland Zones

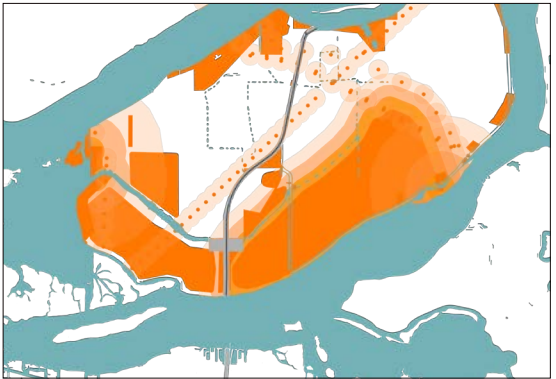
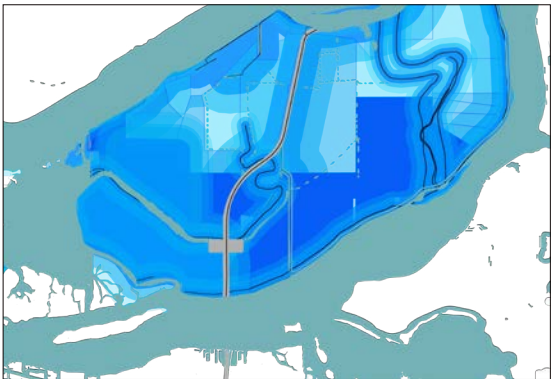


Power Transformers

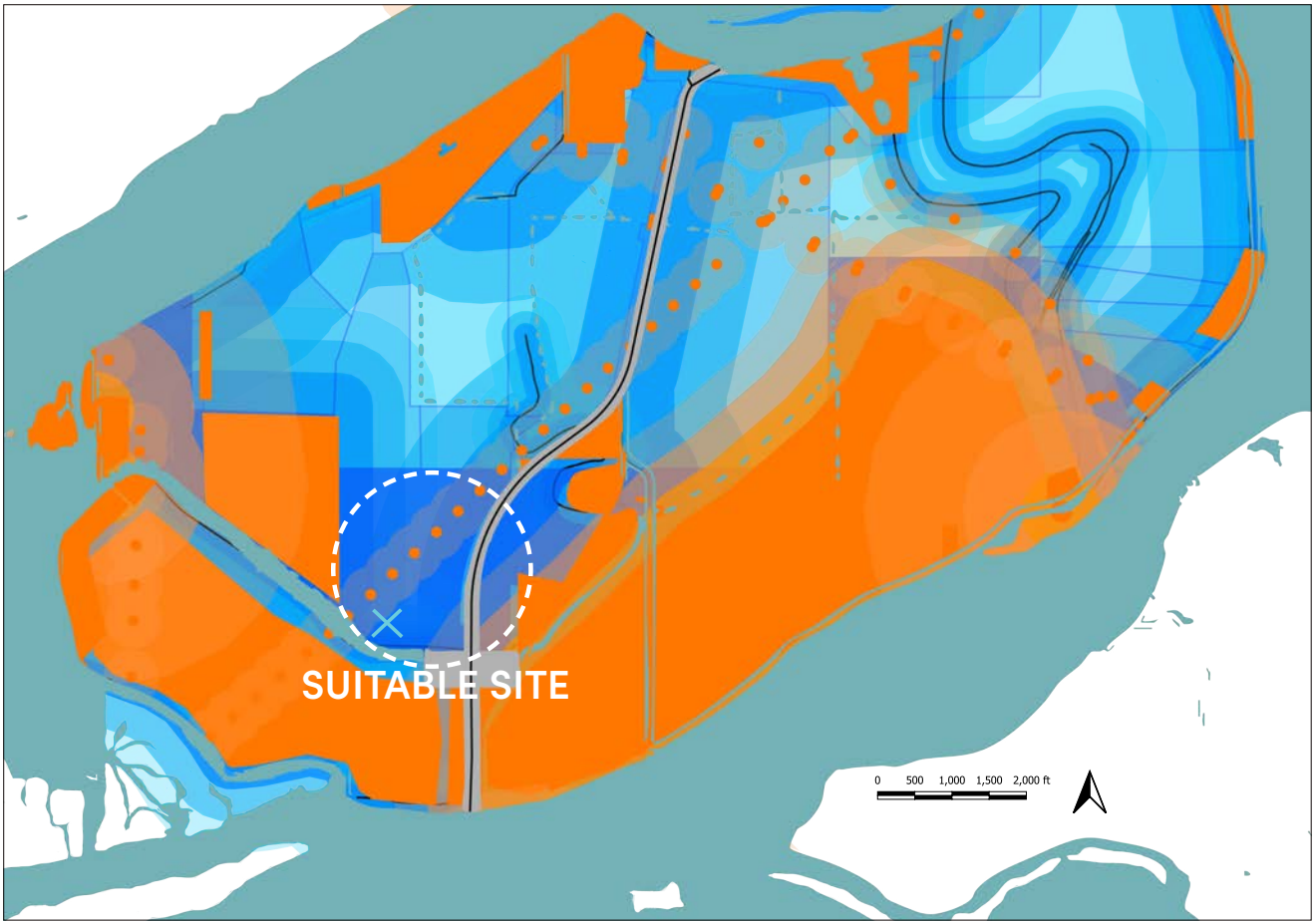


Unsuitable Parcels

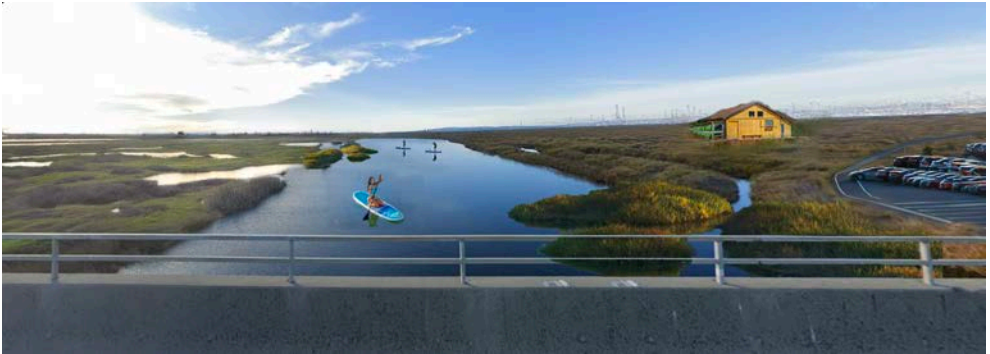
COMBINED O + C



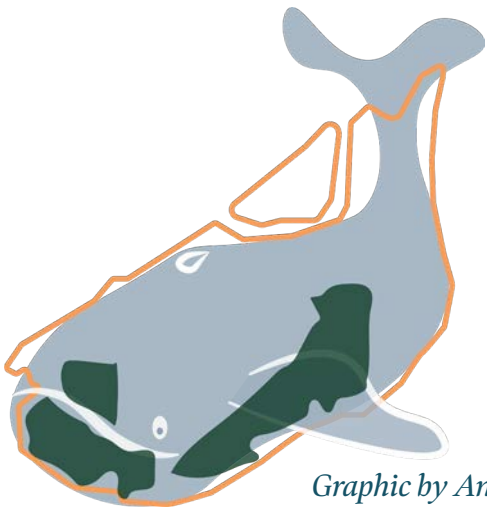
SUITABILITY ANALYSIS



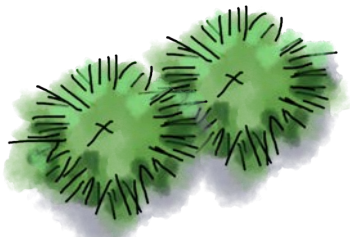
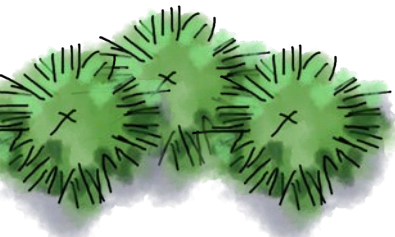
PERSPECTIVE RENDERING



Graphic by Roberto Carriedo Ostos



Graphic by Anya Nona



INTERNSHIP: ADAPT LANDSCAPES

Ann Arbor, Mi : Summer 2024

Project Overview

I had the opportunity to work on a small team of native garden installers. I learned a multitude of Michigan native plants and was able to work with so many excited clients. In addition, I learned planting techniques that will further inform the way I make design decisions in the future.

