

Illustrative Comprehensive Plan

Sumter County, Alabama

November 2012

County Commission:

Drucilla Russ-Jackson, District One

Marcus Campbell, District Two

Ben Walker, District Three

Tommie Armistead, District Four

Ottice Russelle, District Five

Aubrey W. Ellis, District Six

Lucinda Cockrell, County Administrator

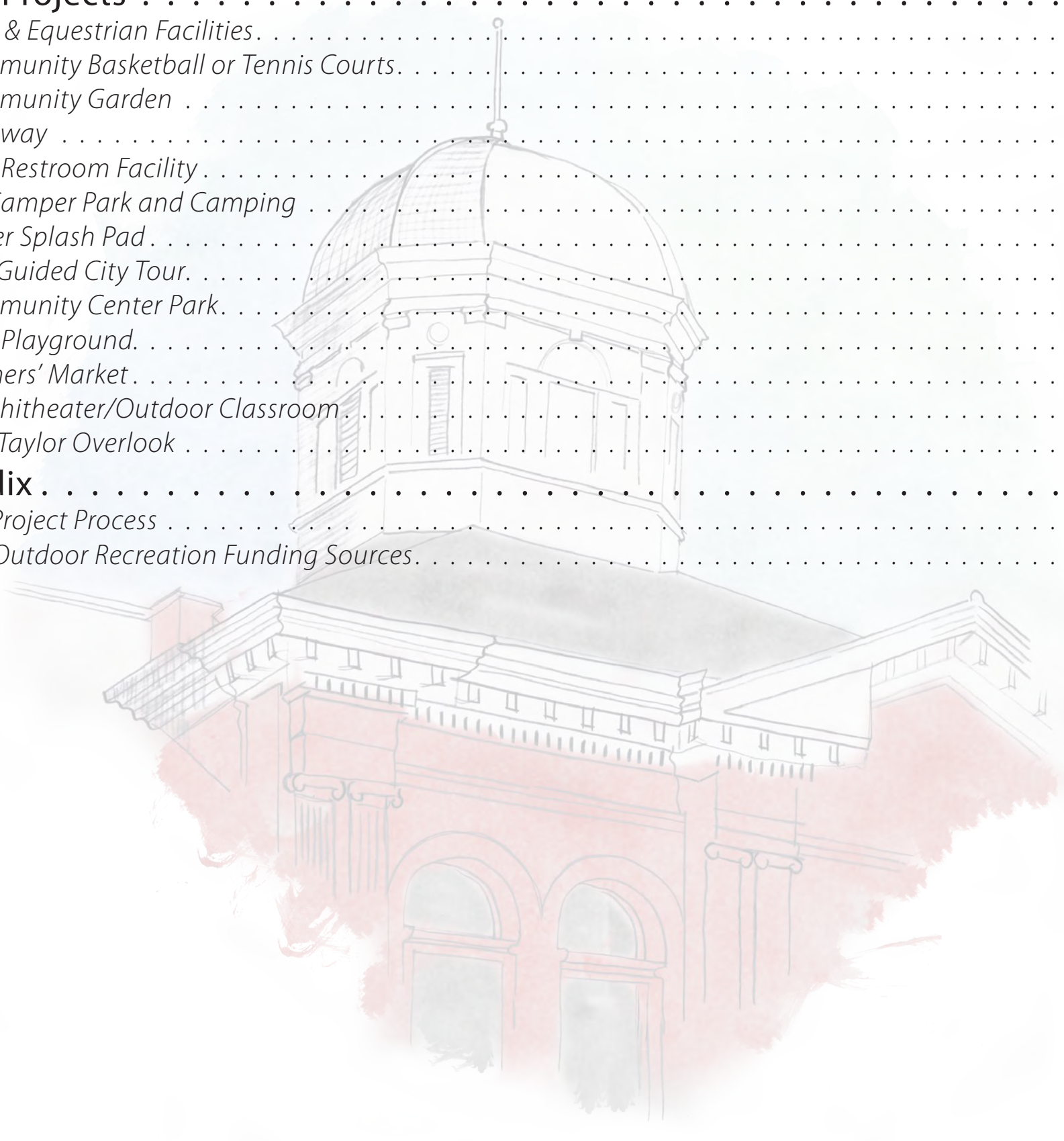
Partners:

The Sumter County Comprehensive Plan was funded through a CBDG (Community Development Block Grant) administered through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). The plan was completed in cooperation with the Sumter County Commission, the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, The University of West Alabama and The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development.



Table of Contents

About Sumter County	4
Tourism Development	5
<i>Existing County Recreational Opportunities</i>	6
<i>Tour Routes</i>	7
<i>Wayfinding</i>	8
Special Projects	10
<i>Barn & Equestrian Facilities</i>	10
<i>Community Basketball or Tennis Courts</i>	11
<i>Community Garden</i>	12
<i>Gateway</i>	13
<i>Park Restroom Facility</i>	14
<i>RV/Camper Park and Camping</i>	15
<i>Water Splash Pad</i>	16
<i>Self-Guided City Tour</i>	17
<i>Community Center Park</i>	18
<i>Park Playground</i>	19
<i>Farmers' Market</i>	20
<i>Amphitheater/Outdoor Classroom</i>	21
<i>S.W. Taylor Overlook</i>	22
Appendix	24
'A'- <i>Project Process</i>	24
'B'- <i>Outdoor Recreation Funding Sources</i>	25



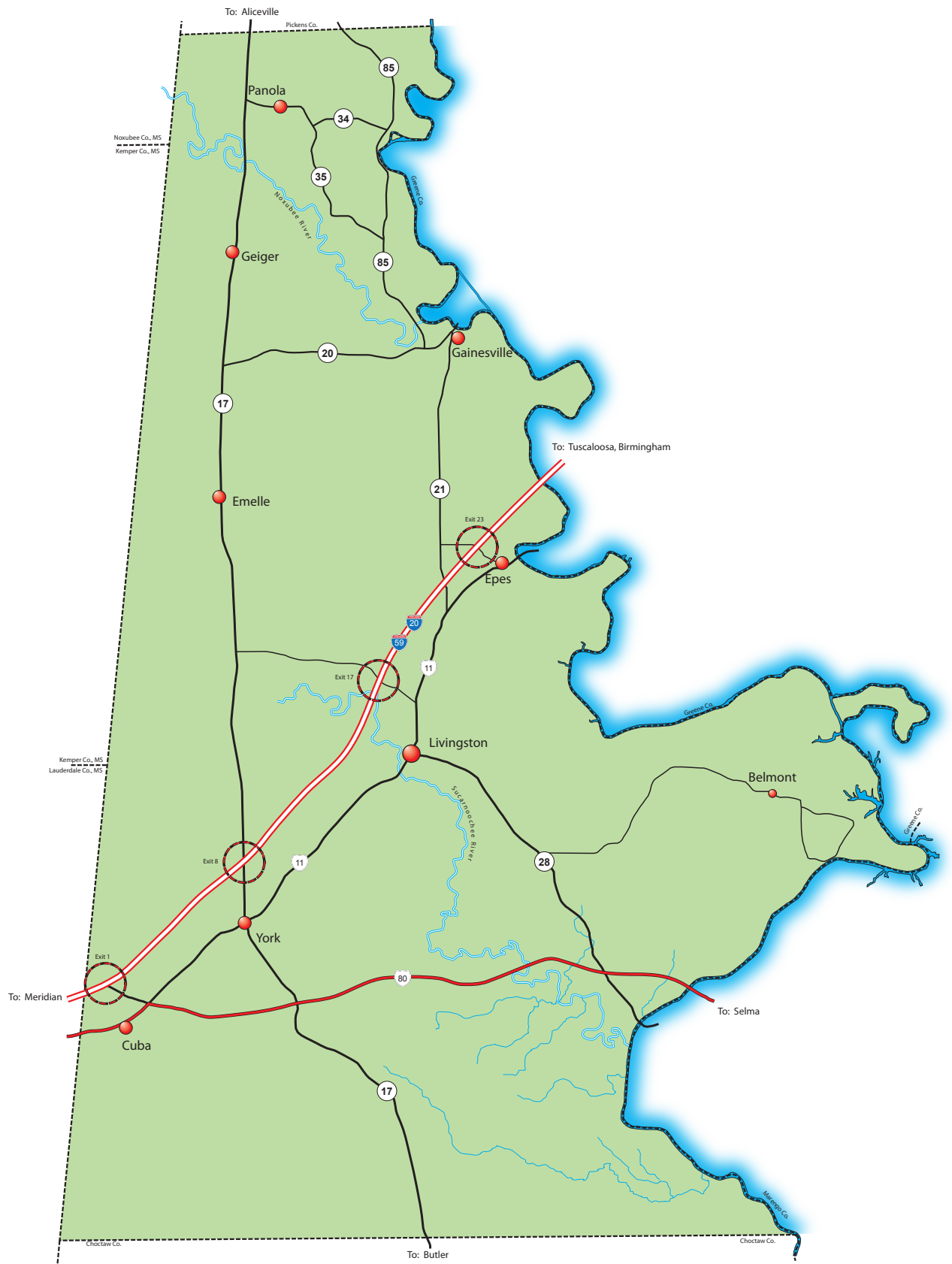
About Sumter County

Sumter County is located in the 'Black Belt' region of southern Alabama. The region, named for its dark black topsoil that lies over a limestone base, extends from the Mississippi state line in the west, to near the Georgia state line to the east, Tuscaloosa to the north and near Florida to the south. This unique geology has been key in shaping the area's history along with the modern day physical, cultural and economic landscape.

Sumter County was founded in 1832. The county covers an area of 907 square miles and has a population of 13,763 per the 2010 census. Livingston, home to the University of West Alabama, is both the county seat and largest city in the county.

The physical geography of Sumter County is dominated by the Tombigbee River that forms the county's eastern boundary. The river travels across over 100 miles of frontage along the county carrying both commercial and recreational traffic through two locks and dams and a barge port in the county. The Tombigbee River and its tributaries in the county also provide many recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing, boating, horseback riding and wildlife viewing.

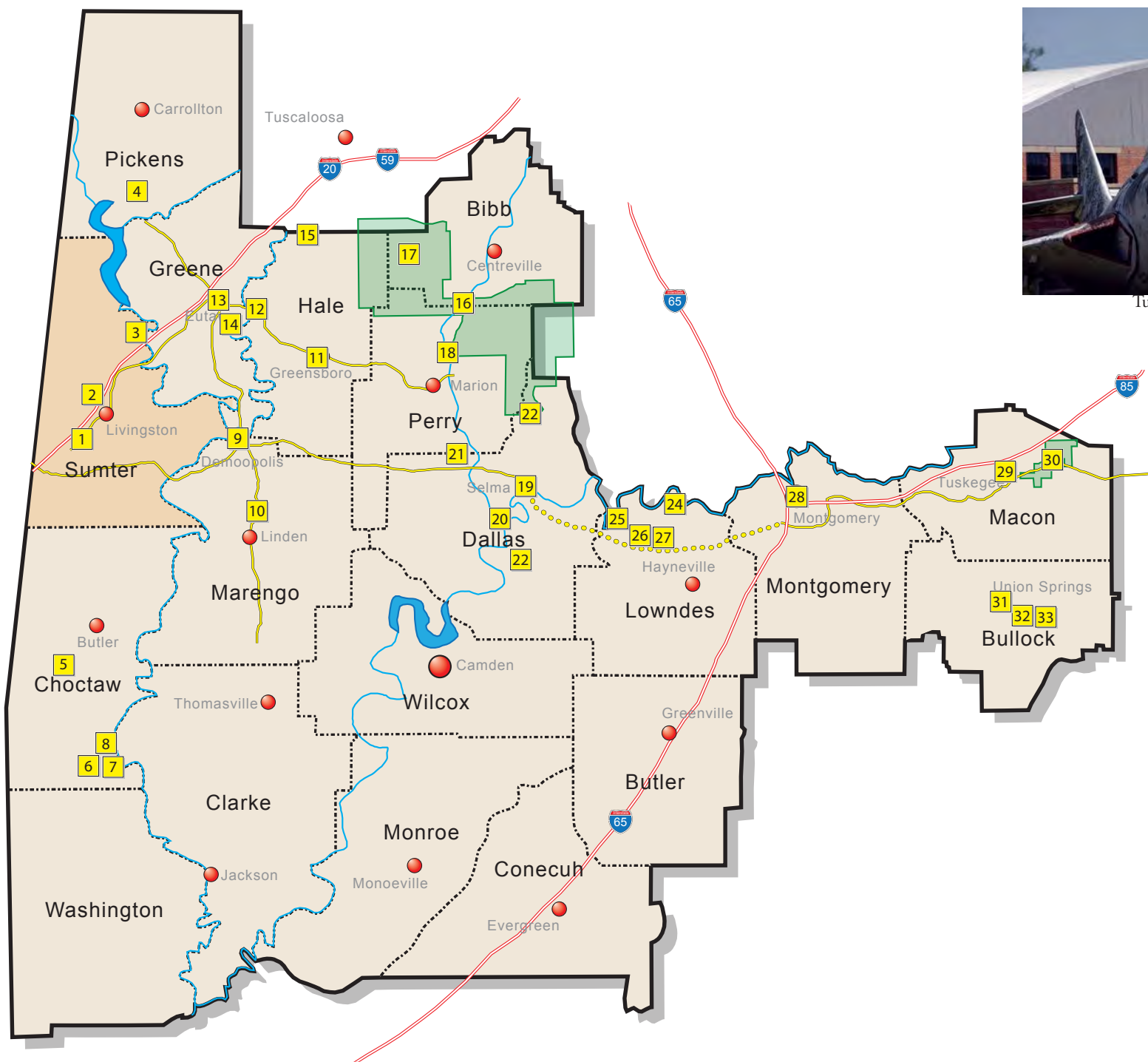
Interstate 20/59 crosses the county from northeast to southwest and connecting Sumter County to Tuscaloosa and Birmingham to the east and Meridian, Mississippi to the west. US Highway 80 is a major thoroughfare connecting Sumter County to Demopolis and Selma to the east and Meridian, MS to the west. State Highway 17 runs north to south through the county and lead to Aliceville to the north and Butler to the south.



Project Narrative

This County Recreational Masterplan was completed as part of an overall county Comprehensive Planning process. Creation of the plan was a cooperative effort that include the Sumter County Commission, The Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, The Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission, The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, The University of West Alabama, and Kelly Landscape Architects and the input of the citizens of Sumter County collected during public meetings and listening sessions held throughout the county. Research was also done utilizing federal and state information sources as well as in the field exploring the many assets located within the county. The plan that follows uses the information gathered to demonstrate opportunities and projects that will build recreation and tourism opportunities throughout the county.

Tourism Development



Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
image: Alabama Tourism Department

List of Tourist Attractions found across the Black Belt region. Numbers are represented on the map to the above.

1. Coleman Center for Arts and Culture
2. University of West Alabama Nature Trail
3. Gainesville Historic District
4. Aliceville Museum and Cultural Arts Center
5. Broadhead Memorial Park and Walking Trail
6. Bladon Springs State Park
7. Coffeetown Lake Service Park
8. Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge
9. Demopolis Bigbee Bottom Trail and Lower Pool
10. Chickasaw State Park
11. Safe House Black History Museum
12. Warrior Lake-Jennings Ferry Campground
13. Eutaw Historic District
14. Warrior Lake Damsite Park
15. Moundville Archaeological Park
16. Talladega National Forest- Oakmulgee District
17. Holmstead Farms
18. Perry Lake Park and Barton's Beach Cahaba River Preserve
19. Historic Selma
 - St. James Hotel
 - Bridgetender's House
 - Edmund Pettus Bridge
 - Old Depot Museum
 - Brown Chapel A.M.E.
 - Vaughan-Smitherman Museum
 - Sturdivant Hall Museum
 - Old Live Oak Cemetery
 - Historic Riverfront Park
 - Kenan's Mill
20. Old Cahawba Archaeological Park
21. Black Belt Research and Extension Center
22. Paul M. Grist State Park
23. Dallas County State Public Fishing Lake
24. Holy Ground Battlefield Park



Alabama State Capital
image: Alabama Tourism Department

25. Lock and Damsite East Bank
26. Jackson Family Compound
27. Lowndes Interpretive Center
28. Downtown Montgomery
 - Alabama State Capitol
 - First White House of the Confederacy
 - Archive & History Building
 - Old Alabama Town
 - Hank Williams Museum
 - Oakwood Cemetery Annex
 - Dexter Ave. King Memorial Baptist Church
 - Rosa Parks Museum
 - Civil Rights Memorial Center
 - Montgomery Biscuits Baseball
29. Tuskegee Area Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center
 - Tuskegee Institute National Historic site: The Oaks
 - Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site: Carver Museum
 - Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
30. Tuskegee National Forest
 - Tsinia Wildlife Viewing Area
 - Taska Recreation Area
 - Bartram Trail
31. Union Springs Historic District
32. Three Notch Trail
33. Robert G. Wehle Nature Center



Saint James Hotel- Selma, Al
image: Joe Watts

Existing County Recreational Opportunities

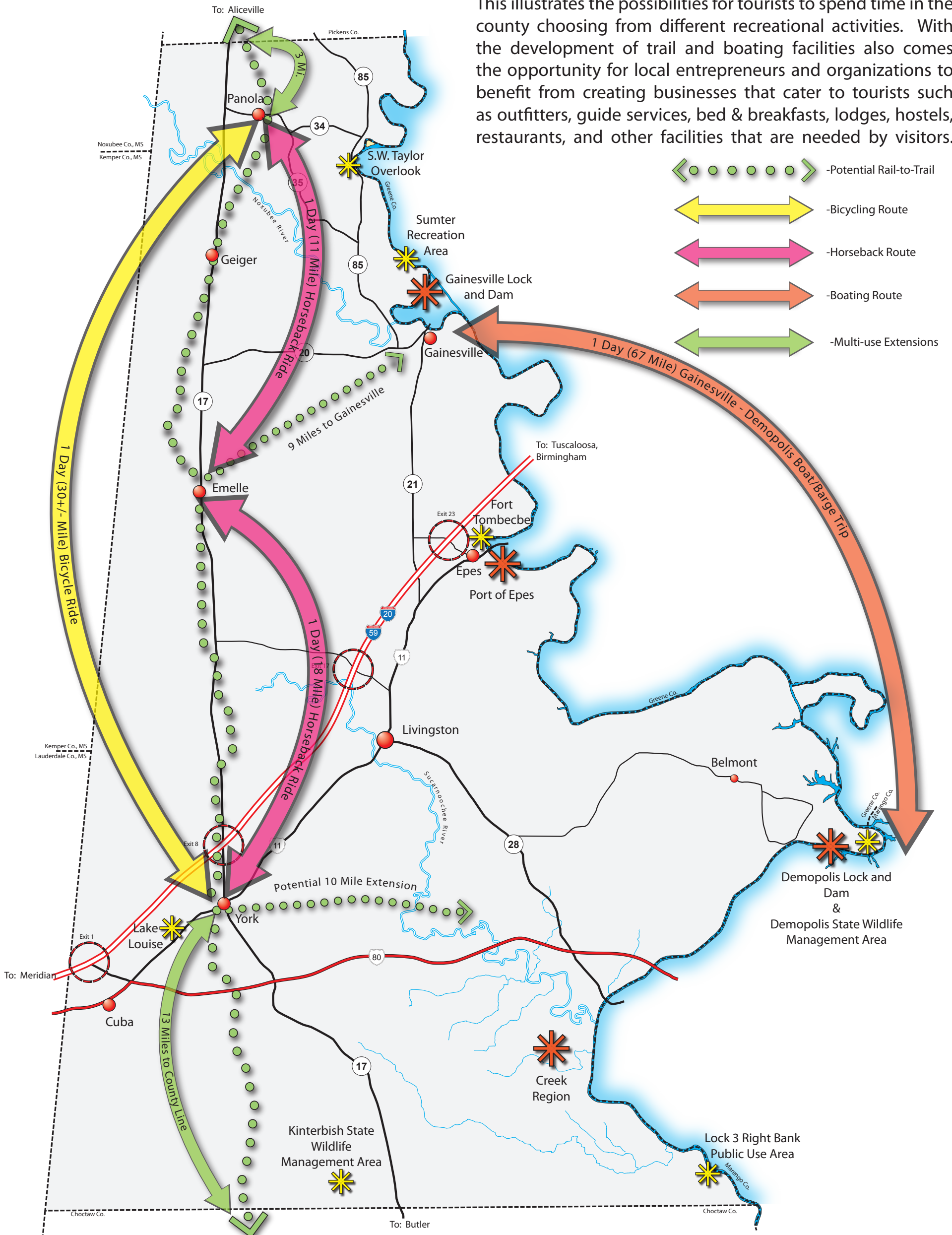
A goal of this document is to highlight ways in which Sumter county can develop tourism as a both a sustainable method of economic development and as a resource for its citizens. The graphic below highlights the existing assets and opportunities that exist in Sumter county as a basis for developing a comprehensive tourism strategy. Among the many excellent assets present in the county, Sumter County is in a position to take advantage of three unique elements that have the ability to provide a strong basis for the development of a tourism industry. These include Interstate 20/59, the Tombigbee river and several abandoned rail lines all within the county. The interstate can act as a funnel delivering tourists from across Alabama and the Southeast United States into the county and facilitates the marketing of the county to those living outside its borders. The river provides additional access to the county through recreational boating and serves as a main axis on which many tourist facilities are either currently located or can be developed. The abandoned rail line that runs north/south approximately parallel to highway 17 is a rare opportunity to develop a rails-to-trails system in the county that could also be a regional draw for tourism.



Tour Routes

To achieve the highest possible benefit from tourism, it is important to encourage tourists to spend extended periods enjoying what Sumter County has to offer. As such, having activities that offer single and multi-day activities will encourage visitors to repeat visits and extend their stays. The graphic on this page demonstrates how developing a greenway along Highway 17 in conjunction with developing resources along the Tombigbee River can create extended recreational opportunities. The orange, pink and yellow arrows represent one day segments of boating, biking or horseback riding trips.

This illustrates the possibilities for tourists to spend time in the county choosing from different recreational activities. With the development of trail and boating facilities also comes the opportunity for local entrepreneurs and organizations to benefit from creating businesses that cater to tourists such as outfitters, guide services, bed & breakfasts, lodges, hostels, restaurants, and other facilities that are needed by visitors.



Wayfinding

Wayfinding is a principle used by planners and designers to guide people through spaces in a clear and organized manner. The goal of a wayfinding system is to create an environment where people that are new to an area can successfully navigate to the destinations they are trying to reach without confusion or becoming lost.

The main tool that designers use in wayfinding is signage. A well designed signage system provides visitors with useful information as they travel including the ability to:

1. Know where you are
2. Know where you are going
3. Know the best way to get there
4. Recognize your destination upon arrival
5. Find your way back



Signs such as these are confusing for visitors and result in people traveling through an area becoming lost and frustrated. As a result, visitors will enjoy their visit less and spend less time, and money, in an area.

Wayfinding concepts also go beyond basic directional signage. A comprehensive wayfinding system includes items such as pavilions that greet visitors entering an area and give information about where to go and what to see, monuments that announce entering or exiting certain areas of significance, clear concise directional signs, interpretive signage to educate visitors about unique features or historical sites in an area, and pathway marking that affirms where visitors are and where they are going (such as banners on light poles).

As well as providing clear and pertinent information, a wayfinding system should also help unify a city, county or region through the use of consistent graphics and symbols. This helps visitors recognize signs, the wayfinding elements as well as helping reinforce the 'brand' of the area. In Sumter County the wayfinding system can integrate elements that are unique to the area and highlight the county's character. Examples of these types of elements include the Tombigbee River, historic structures and/or hunting and fishing.

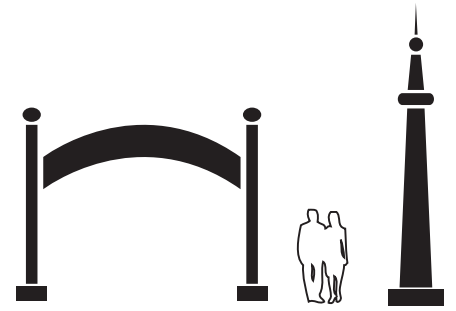


A well planned comprehensive wayfinding system such as the one above in Norcross, Georgia, can help reinforce the area's 'brand' while encouraging visitors to stop and visit.

WAYFINDING ELEMENTS

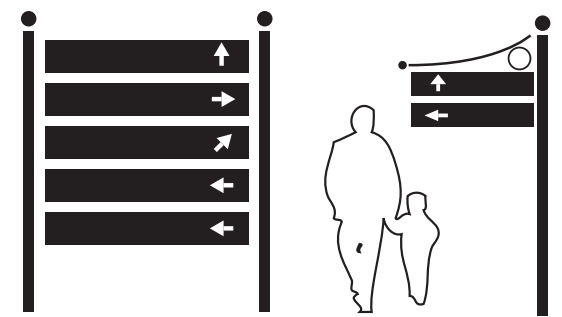
Gateways

Gateways are large monumental elements that are used to announce entering or leaving an area or specific destination. Along with providing an aesthetic element, gateways can create anticipation and excitement for visitors as they approach a gateway or focus views in a particular direction.



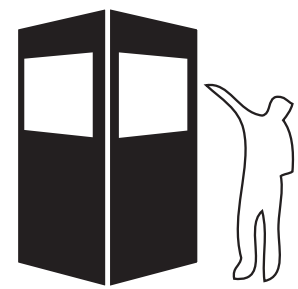
Directional (Sorter)

Directional signs assist those traveling in an area to get where they want to go. Signs that clearly show people unfamiliar with an area how to get to their destination without becoming lost, creates a positive experience for tourists encouraging them to stay longer and spend more money.



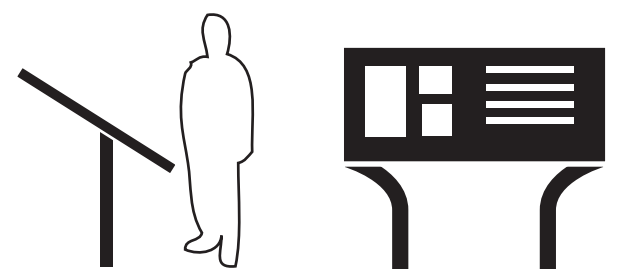
Informational

Informational signs such as kiosks provide information that is useful for people in an area. Information such as maps, lists of nearby attractions and upcoming events can be included. This information is a resource that will promote an area and local events to residents and visitors alike.



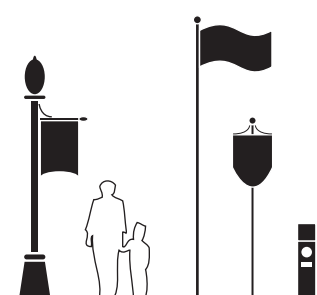
Interpretive

Interpretive signage provides visitors with an added layer of information about a specific feature. These signs could highlight a unique structure, give the history of an area, educate about a unique physical feature or provide in-depth information about any other unique piece of the county's history.



Affirmation

Providing assurance to people that they are on the right track is an important element to any wayfinding system. Through the appropriate use of color, texture, shape, pattern, size and type visual reinforcement is established to let people know they are heading the right direction and how far they have traveled.

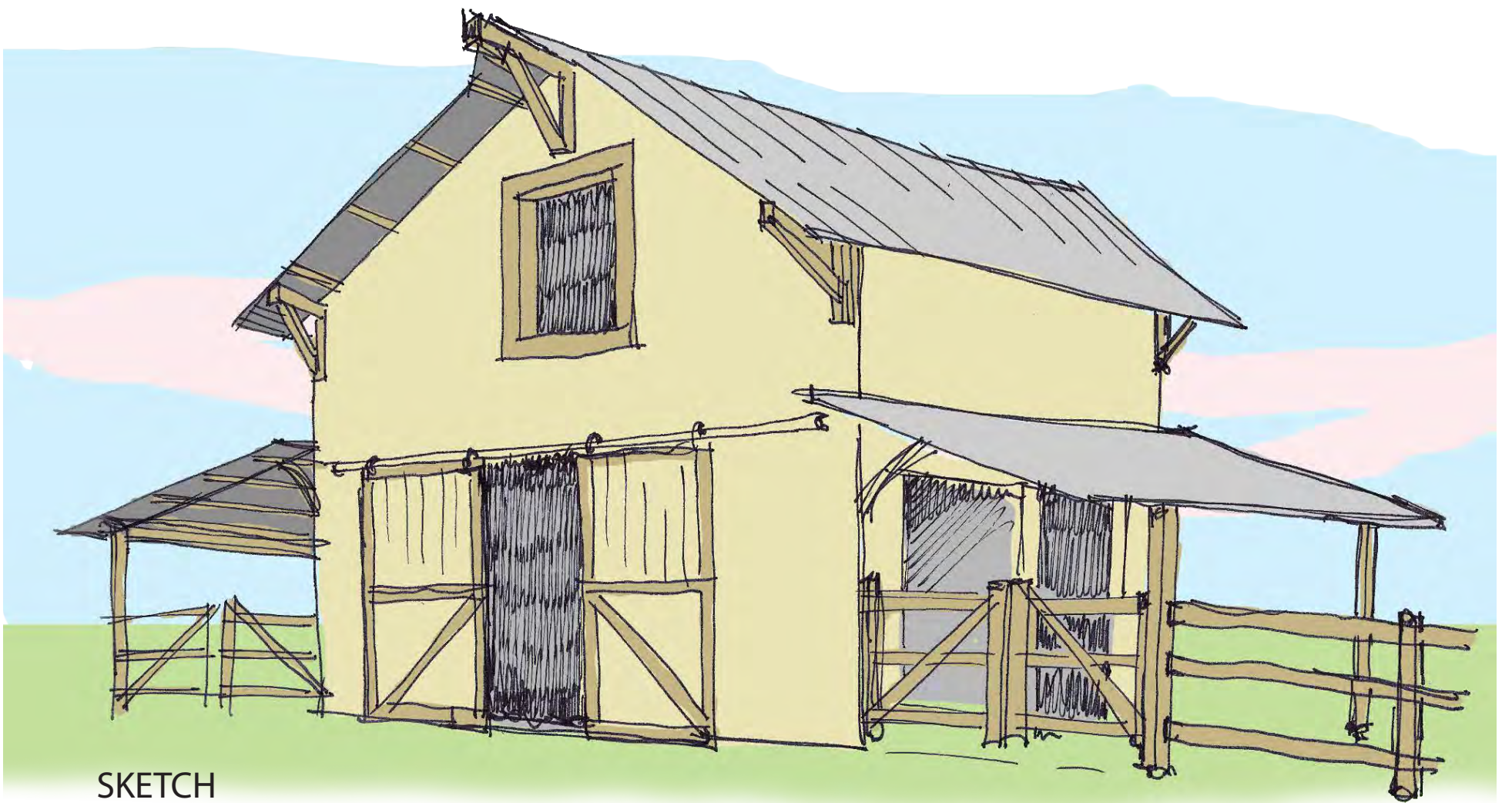


Special Projects

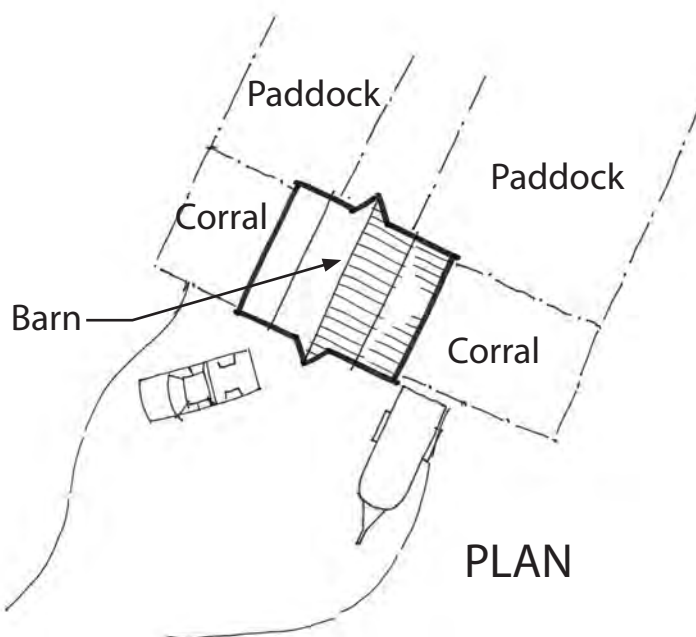
Barn & Equestrian Facilities

Project Narrative:

For the horseback riding enthusiasts, a barn and boarding facility will allow the groups to store feed and equipment and shelter their animals during weekend outings or a scheduled get together for the recreational horseback riders and the local clubs. These facilities can serve as the base camp for the weekend outings as well as a place to call theirs with access to adjoining Corps of Engineers lands.



SKETCH



Cost Estimate:

- Barn with stalls
- Pasture with horse fence
- Water & Electrical service
- gravel driveway

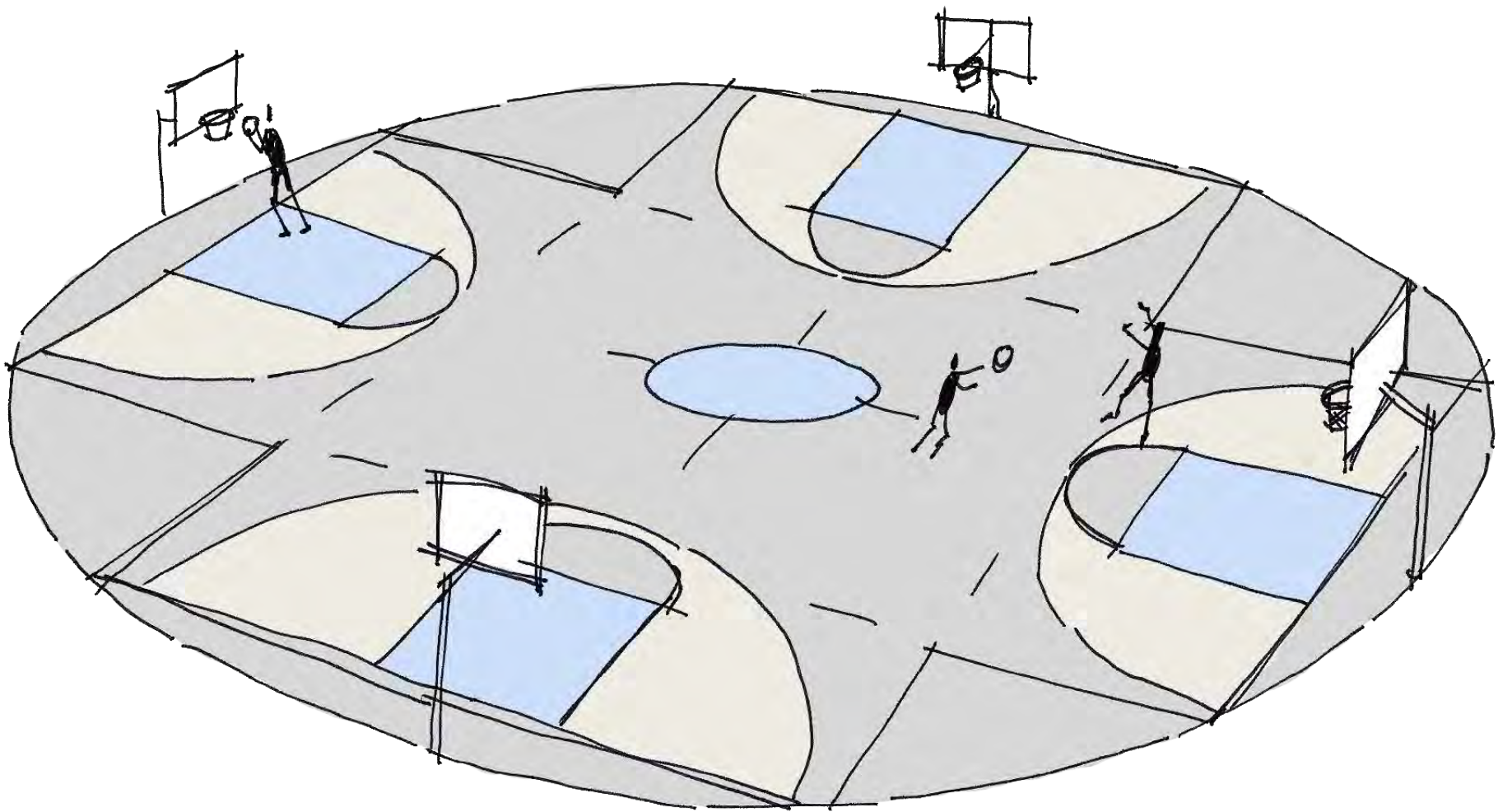
Total: \$175,000



Community Basketball or Tennis Courts

Project Narrative:

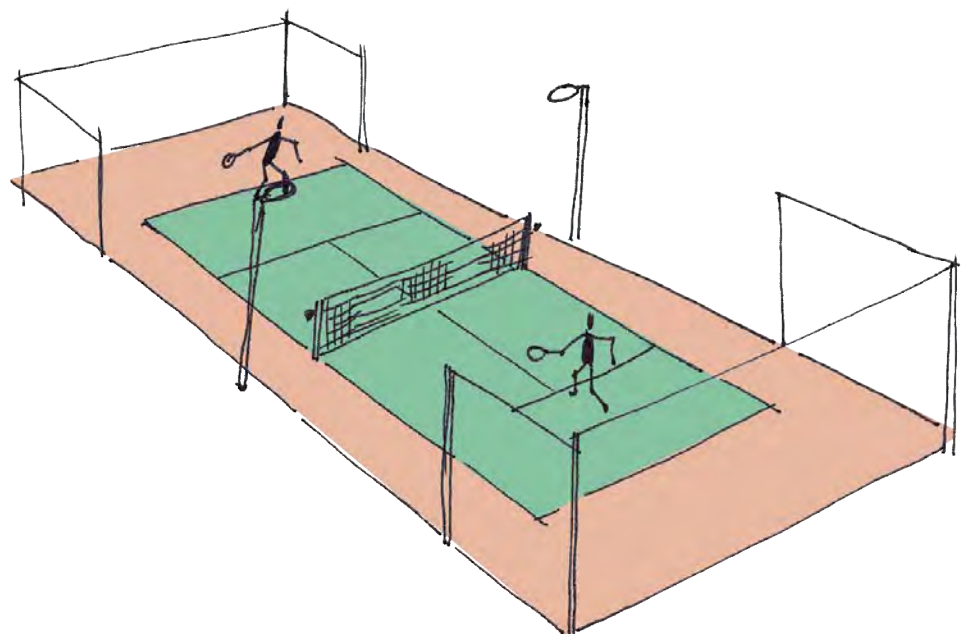
Community recreational facilities are a necessary part of developing local youth and promoting physical fitness. These courts will be yet another place that citizens can come together for pickup games of basketball or tennis matches. The basketball court would be proposed to utilize a large circular slab with four goals and official delineations. Lighting may or may not be an added amenity for possible extended use for both tennis and basketball.



Cost Estimate:

- Basketball pad with markings
- 4 basketball goals
- 1- tennis court
- tennis court fencing

Total: \$110,000 (Basketball)
 \$80,000 (Tennis)



Community Garden

Project Narrative:

Tied to the idea of a Farmers' Market for local commerce and citizens to come together over the gardening past-time, the Community Garden will give people an opportunity to grow their own produce as well as profit from their abundance. The garden will include raised beds for best development and maintenance of soil, a shelter for stored tools, chemicals and materials as well as a rainwater harvesting cistern for good conservation.



SKETCH

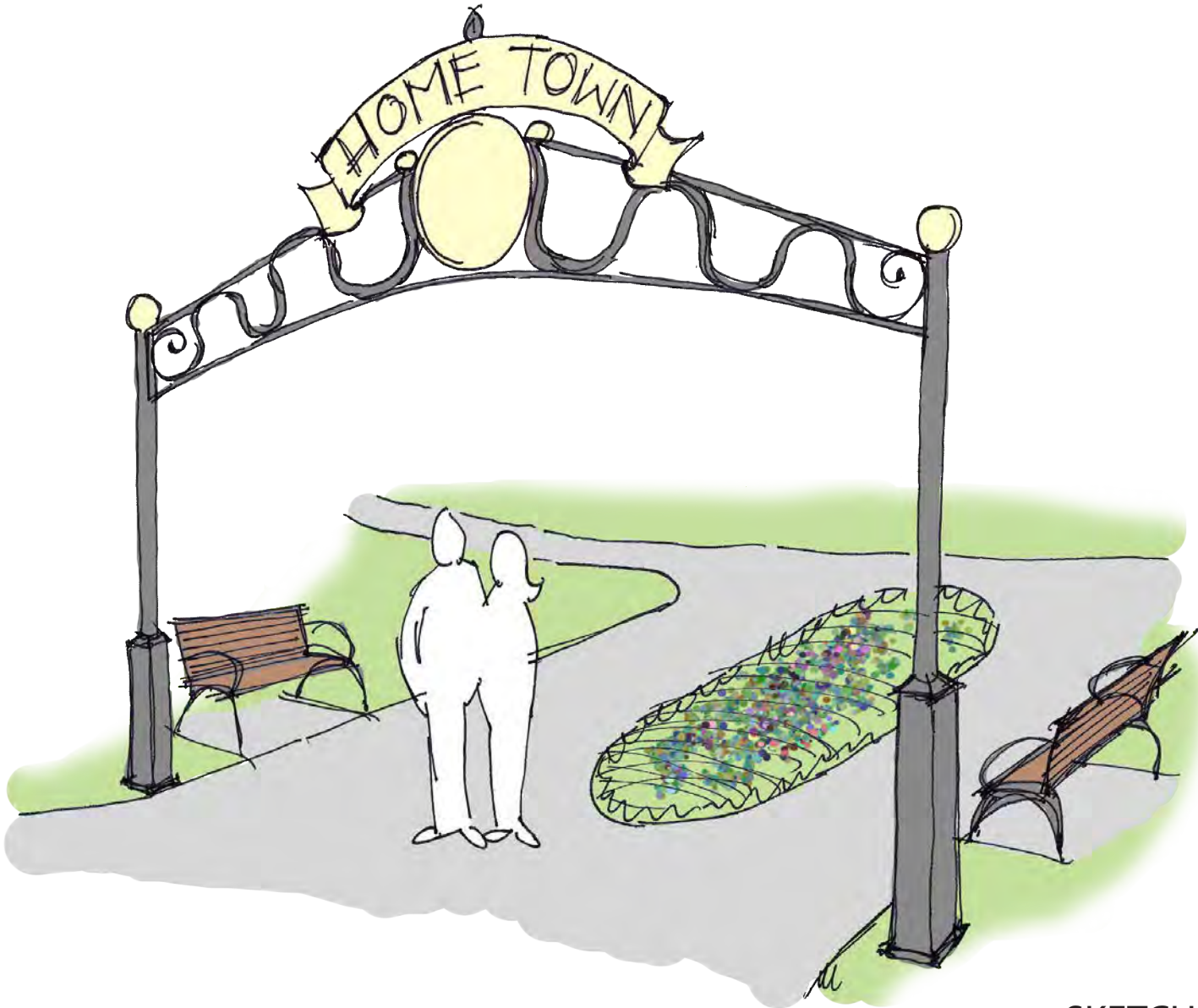
Cost Estimate:

- 8 - wood raised beds
- 1 - wood frame shelter
- 1- rainwater cistern
- gravel paths
- underground waterline

Total: \$65,000

Project Narrative:

As visitors arrive for the first time or past residents return to their town, the Gateway will announce that you are home or welcome. Gateways might be placed in several key places to make this statement. The design might include local symbols or call upon artists to contribute to the look of these eye-catching features.



SKETCH

Cost Estimate:

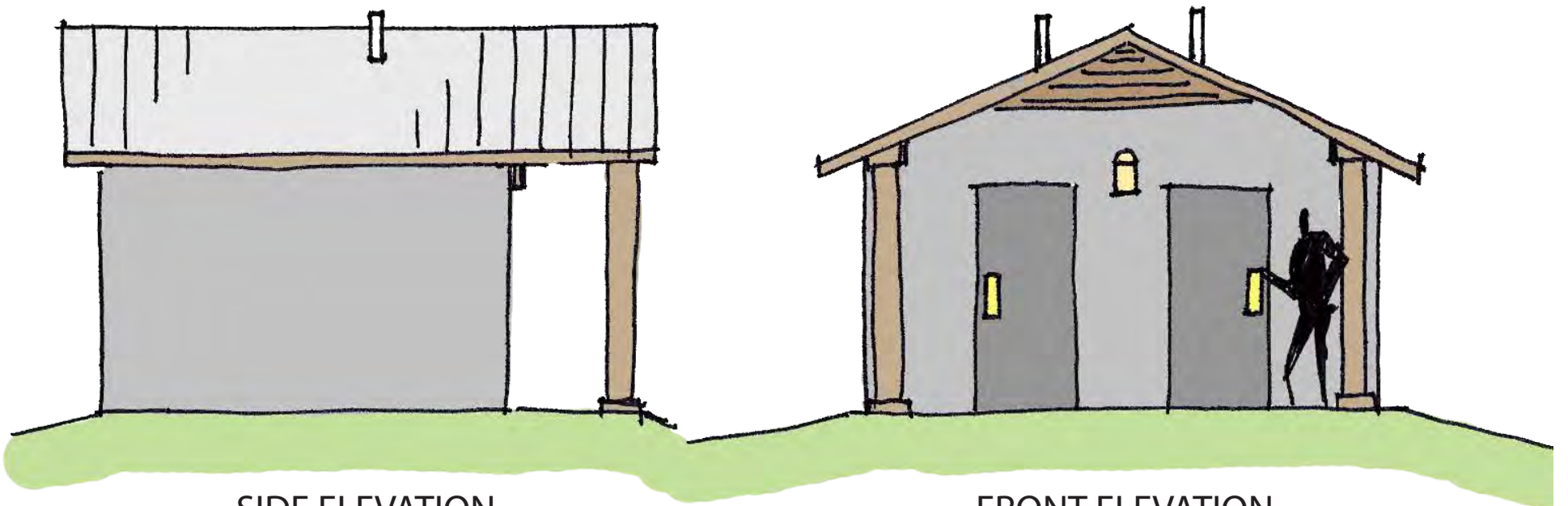
- 1- Gateway Monument
- structural foundation & installation

Total: \$50,000

Park Restroom Facility

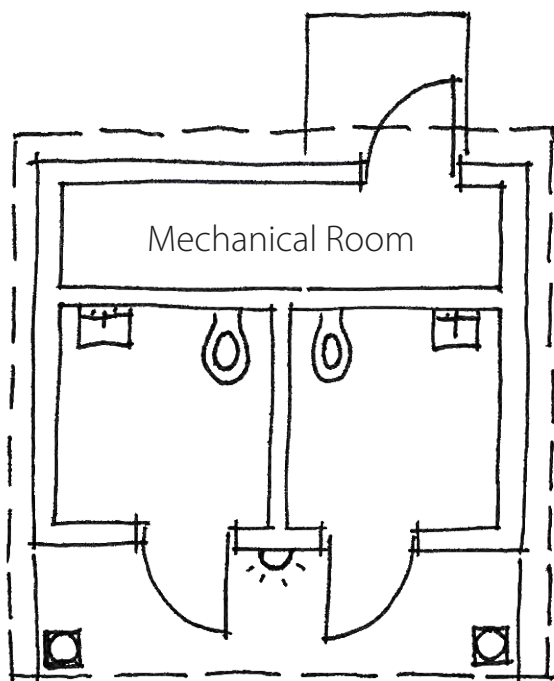
Project Narrative:

This men's and women's restroom will provide the facilities for public usage while visiting the park and/or sports complex. These facilities in addition to commodes and sinks might include changing tables, ventilation, first aid, etc.. Hours for usage would coincide with the hours of usage of the park the restroom adjoins and will be proposed to be built out of readily available and constructible material for local opportunity to bid.



SIDE ELEVATION

FRONT ELEVATION



PLAN

Cost Estimate:

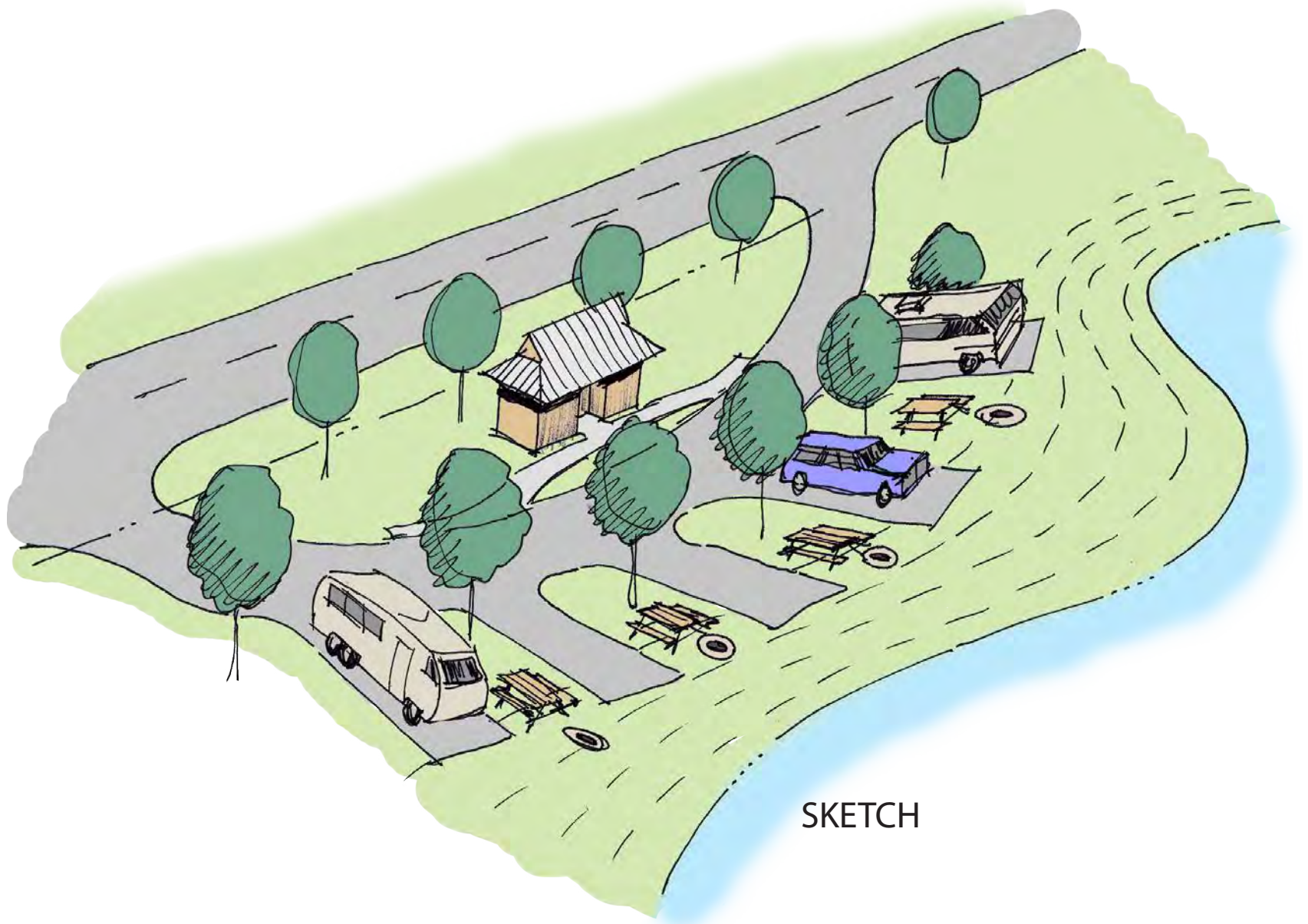
- Two gender/one stall each building
- Storage/utility area
- Connection to existing on-site utilities

Total: \$95,000

RV/Camper Park and Camping

Project Narrative:

Whether it be along the future rails-to-trails course, a busy travel route or slightly outside of town, a small accommodating RV camper lot with power, water and disposal facilities will draw visitors to stop and stay a while. These camping sites will be complete with restrooms or changing rooms, cooling shade, picnic tables, fire rings, water and light poles for the visitors. This might even be a lakeside location or one with a view of pastoral settings or pedestrians passing by.



Cost Estimate:

- 5- RV gravel parking pads
- 3- light poles
- 1- restroom
- Landscaping
- 7 picnic tables
- Septic or sewer tie-in

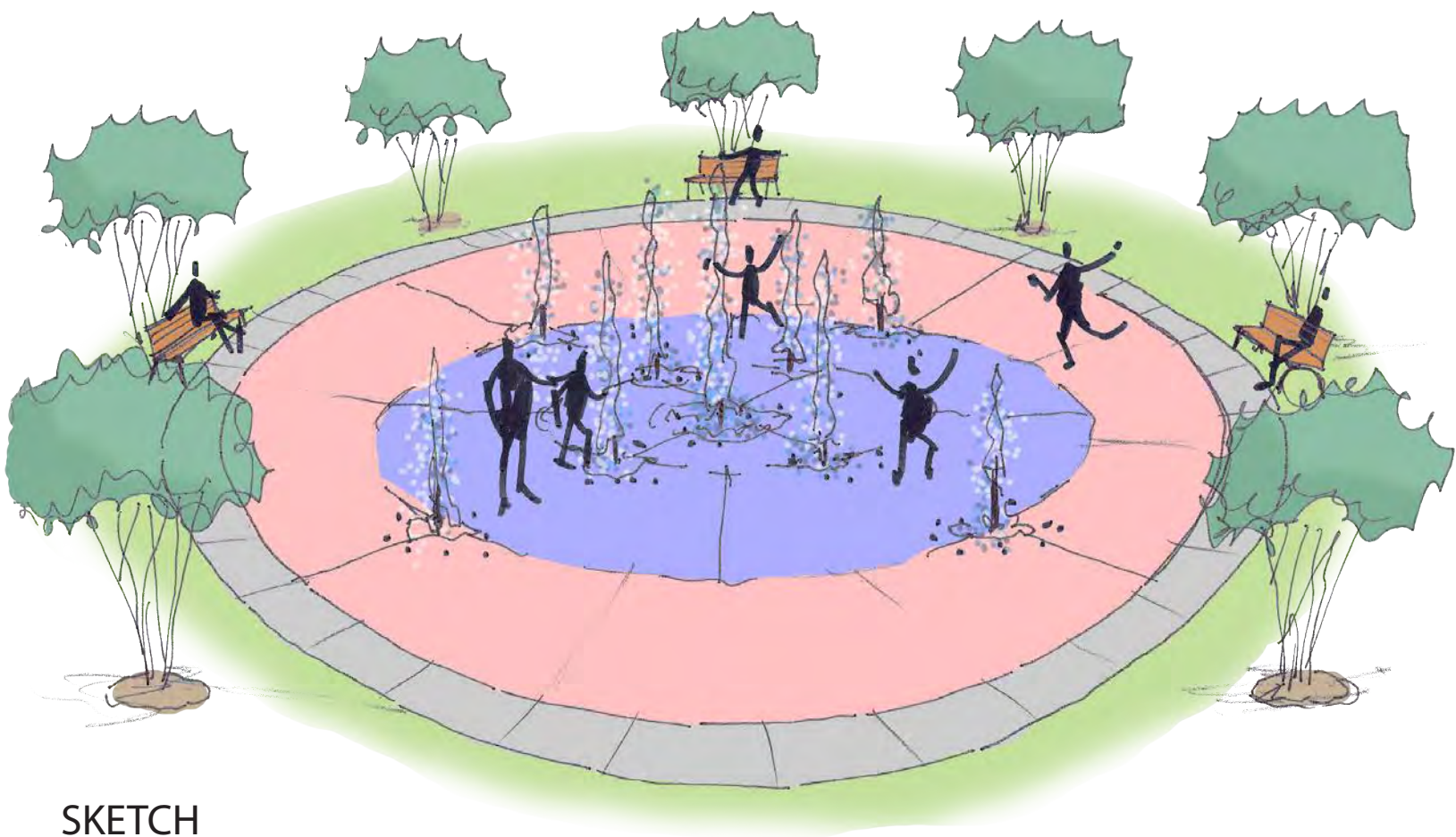
Total: \$250,000



Water Splash Pad

Project Narrative:

A large concrete and outdoor interactive water feature for children and the light of heart to play and beat the heat during the Summers in Sumter County. By way of a gridded series of fountain jets, the brave can try to beat the surprising water challenge and experience the fun of playing in the water. In order to conserve the water, a recirculating filtration system will cleanse the liquid fun to conserve the water resources.



SKETCH

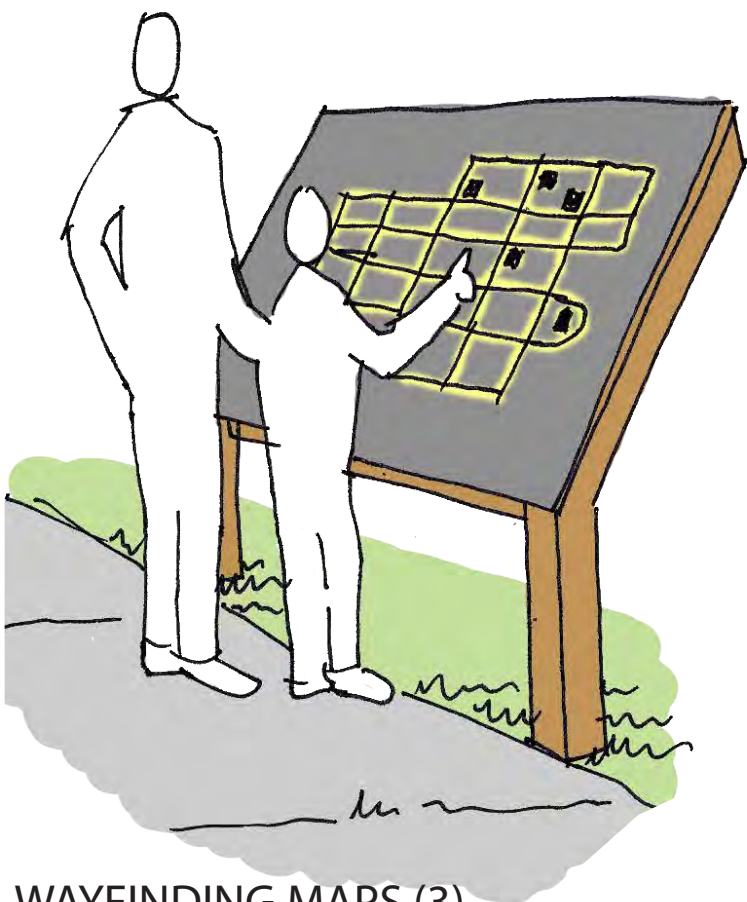
Cost Estimate:

- 40' concrete slab
- 5- water jets
- Filtration system
- Landscaping

Total: \$150,000

Project Narrative:

Visitors will find it easy and informative to pick up a full-color brochure and follow the map of town with homes and noted sites to go and see. While touring the town, visitors will happen upon smaller markers than the well placed town maps and these smaller markers will tell the story of what they are in the presence of in greater detail while on tour. Historic homes and places may have scheduled times for receiving the public throughout the year and commemorate the times in history when events and famous visitors may have frequented the preserved homes or even ruins.



WAYFINDING MAPS (3)

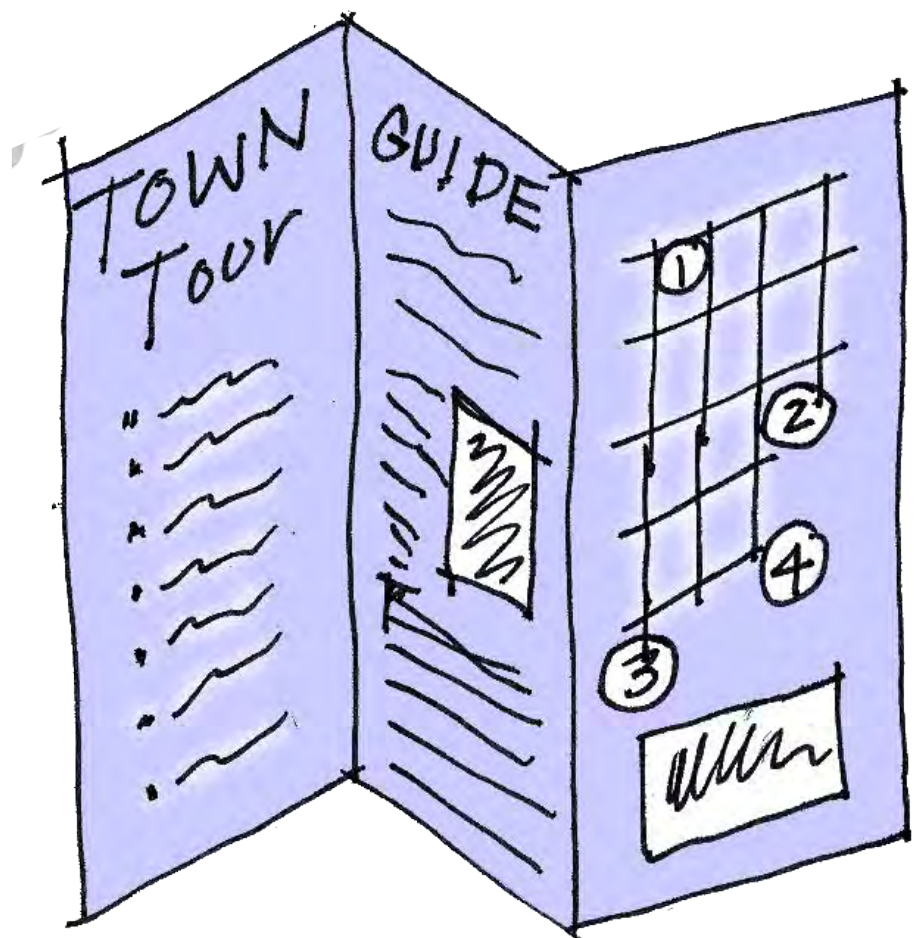


MARKERS (10)

Cost Estimate:

- 3-wayfinding maps
- 10-markers
- Brochure Printing
- Design

Total: \$50,000

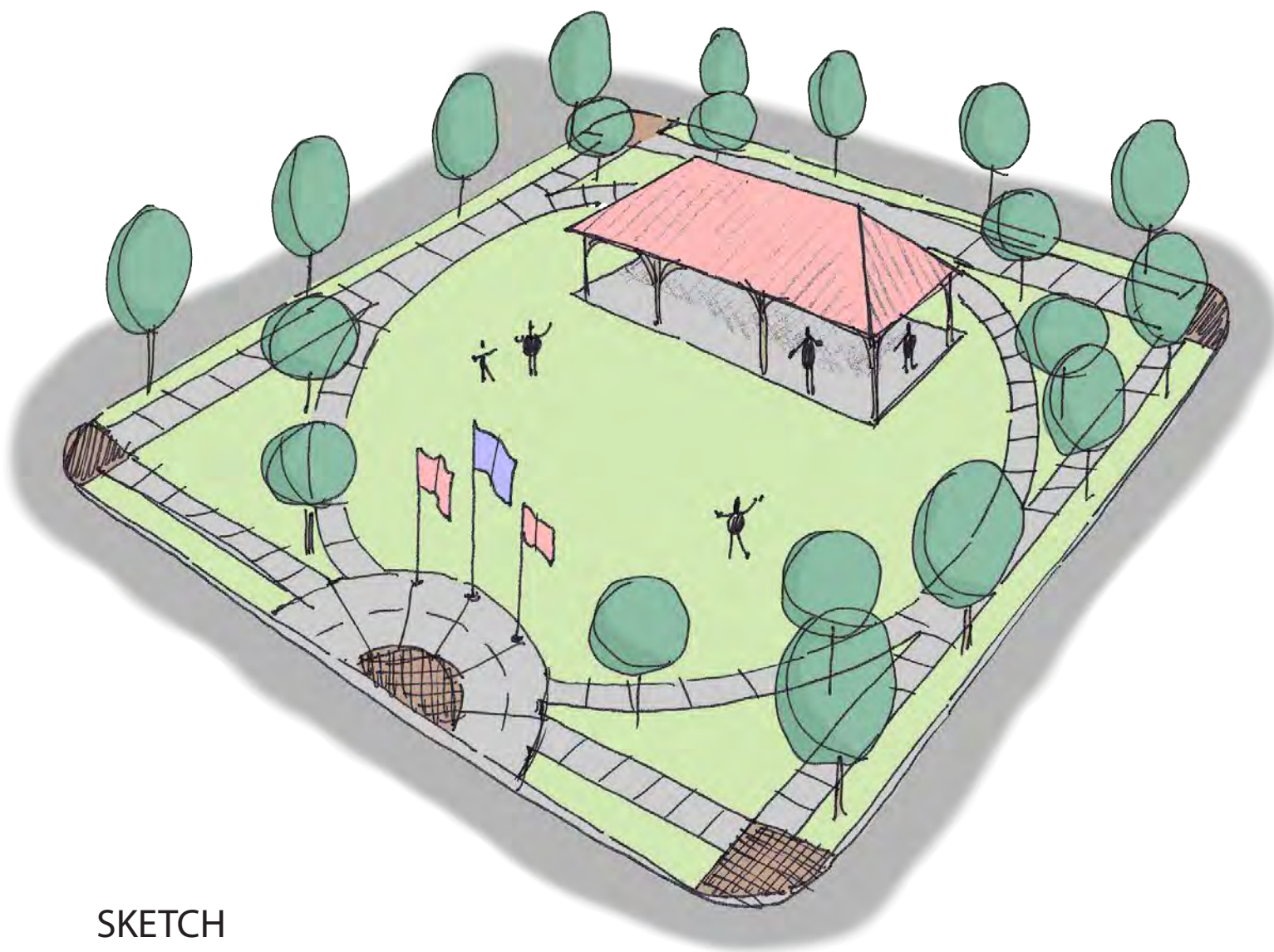


BROCHURE

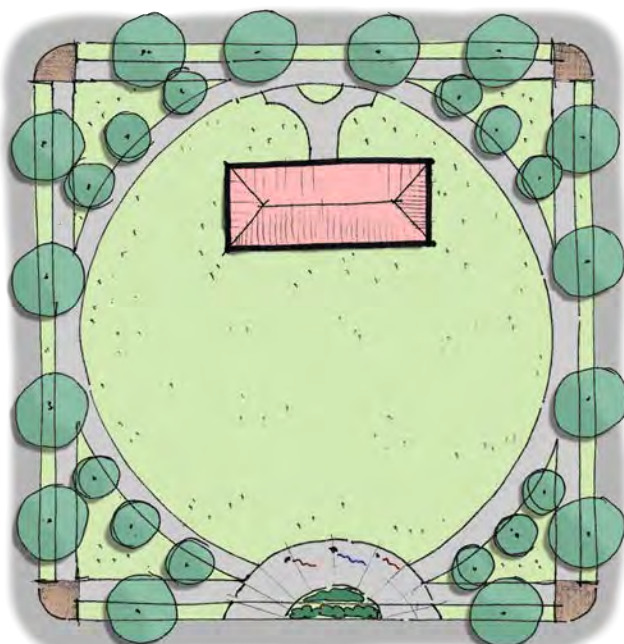
Community Center Park

Project Narrative:

This would be the central place where the citizens go to be in each other's company to relax, recreate or worship. A large pavilion placed next to an open lawn will serve as the place for the community to come together. Commemorative holidays throughout the year can be celebrated and citizens honored in this space that is central in the community.



SKETCH



PLAN

Cost Estimate:

- Pavilion on concrete slab
- Concrete sidewalks
- Flag poles
- Landscaping
- Electrical service

Total: \$150,000

Park Playground

Project Narrative:

A multi-generational playground e sighted in an existing park or on a city block near the heart of the community will serve as the place where families can enjoy being outside. Sidewalks connect the playground to adjoining sidewalks and/or neighborhoods so there is ease of access for all. Play elements in this park may include swings, balance elements, structures with climbing apparatuses and slides.



SKETCH

Cost Estimate:

- 3 element playground
- 4' width walk
- Under drain
- Safety Surfacing
- Landscaping

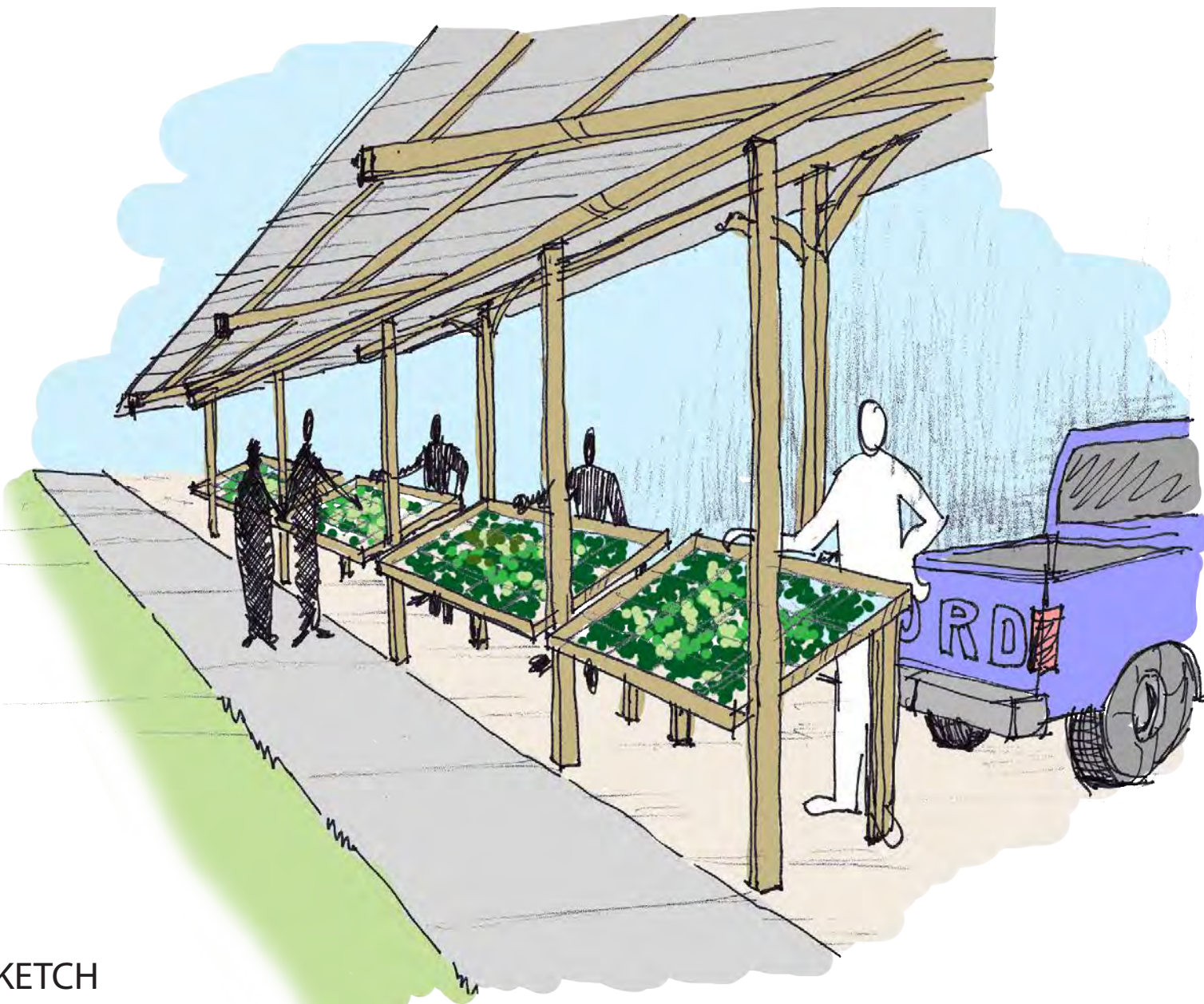
Total: \$125,000



Farmers' Market

Project Narrative:

This will be the place where local gardeners and farmers can bring their goods from the fields to town to sell and buy vegetables and flowers from their farms. Citizens will find this to be a great place to go to see friends, meet others and hear what is going on in the community. The Farmers' Market might consist of covered display bins or tables with walkways and a parking lot. Growers who bring their goods to market will find ease of unloading and parking for easy set up and restocking.



SKETCH

Cost Estimate:

- 6- stands with shed roof
- Gravel parking
- Gravel walk path
- Split rail fence
- Light Poles

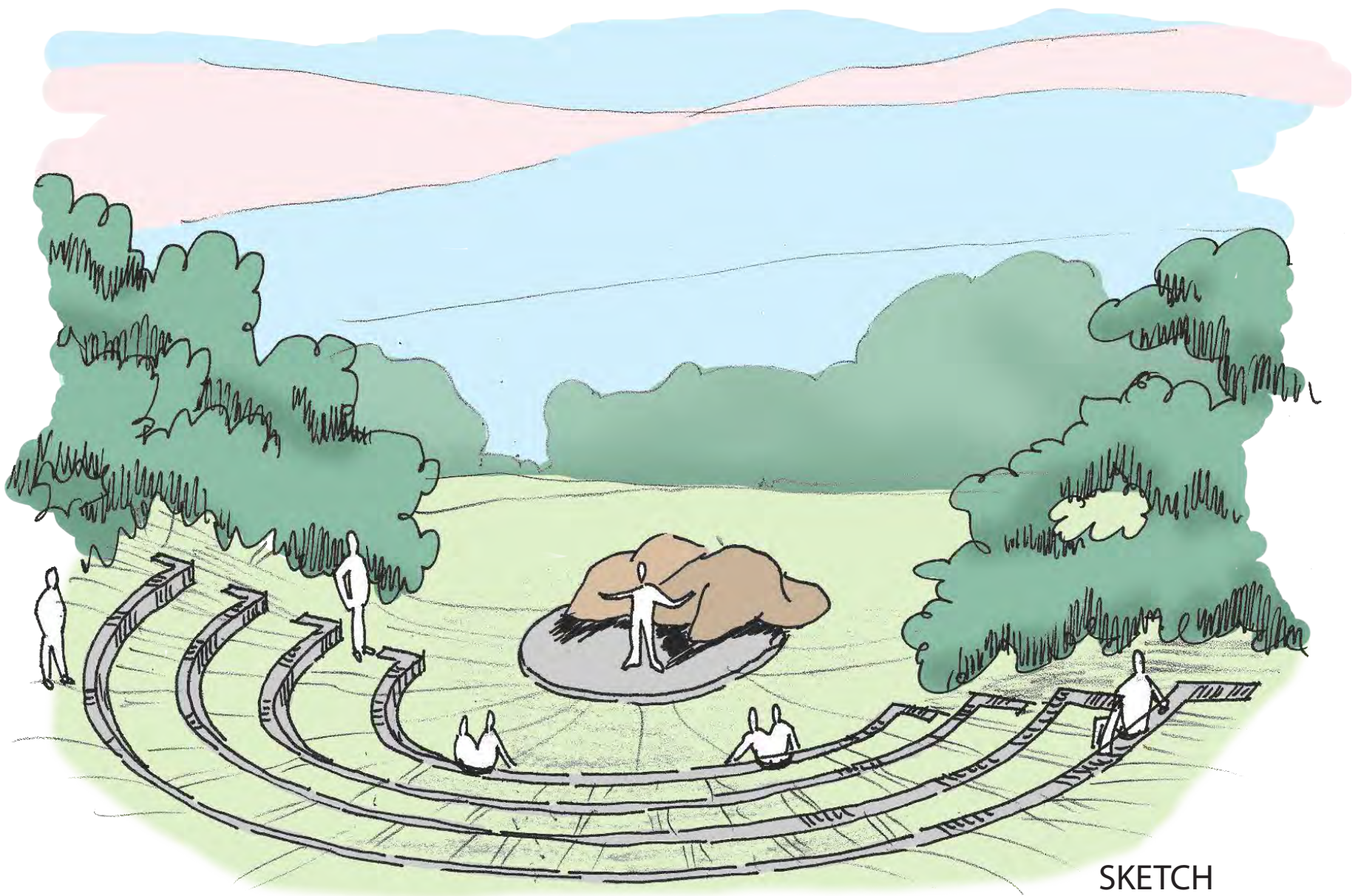
Total: \$75,000

Amphitheater/Outdoor Classroom

Project Narrative:



An amphitheater or outdoor classroom is a great way for outdoor assembly for formal or informal events and educational activities. This space might serve the community well for sunrise services, musical & theatrical performances, skits and endless possibilities. When designed and built with sensitivity to the setting, they can be very low maintenance to keep up and very park like when not in use serving as a space for reading, sunning or picnics. When placed along the banks of a river, the backdrop scenery can be powerful and add to the character of the amphitheater/classroom itself.

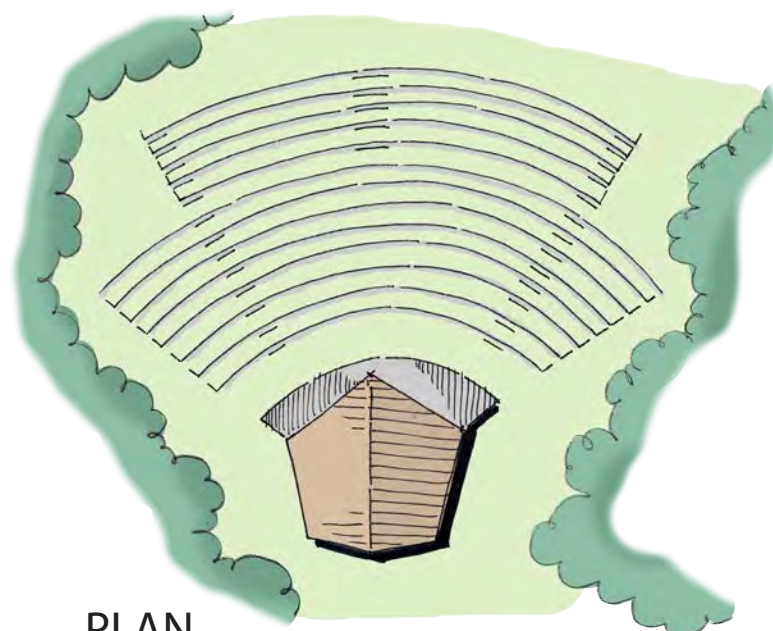


SKETCH

Cost Estimate:

- Stone Terraces
- Stage
- Landscaping

Total: \$125,000



PLAN

S.W. Taylor Overlook



Project Narrative:

The SW Taylor Overlook is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park that was built in the 1970's along the banks of the Tombigbee River. The 62 m/l acre park currently contains a parking area, restrooms, a pavilion, scenic overlook and a historic cemetery. The site is currently closed to the public. As such, the Tri-County Trail Riders horseback riding group has identified this site as a potential opportunity to develop an equestrian park. Such a facility could provide an opportunity to provide a unique destination for both local residents and equestrian enthusiasts throughout the region. The conceptual masterplan shown was developed to illustrate the potential of this site for such a use and as a tool for discussions regarding the property with the Corps of Engineers.

Features shown in the plan include:

- Office and caretaker residence
- RV and trailer parking
- Guest Cabins
- Barn & Stables
- Open air pavilion
- Stage
- Tent camping lawns
- Amphitheater
- Horse riding trails
- Walking trails



Appendix

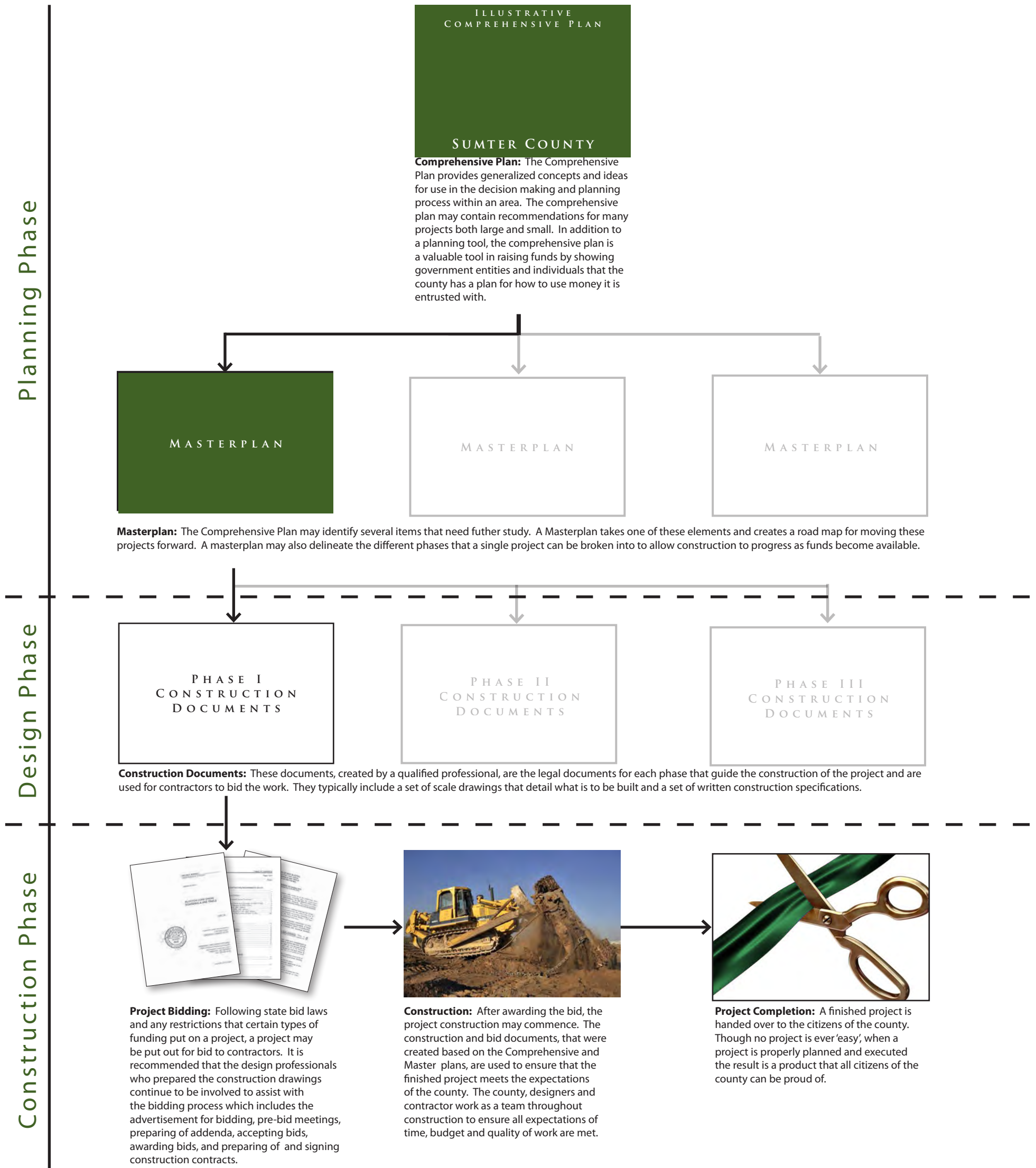
'A'- Project Process

Turning an Idea into Reality:

All successful construction and development projects have a common factor: Planning. Projects that proceed along all stages of completion with a well thought out plan for success become projects that the entire community can be proud of. Completing a project is much like taking a family vacation, careful planning of what to do and how to pay for it helps to create an enjoyable journey even when the inevitable 'bumps in the road' occur.

During all of the phases of project completion, it is important to have the input of a team of design and construction professionals that can help move the project through its stages. Landscape Architects, Architects and Engineers that have a wealth of experience and knowledge can serve as the county's trusted advisors to help develop projects that serve the county's needs, and are completed on time and within budget.

The graphic below illustrates the main steps in turning a concept in the Comprehensive Plan into a built project.



Funding:

Each step of the project process requires funding. From Comprehensive Plan to project completion, planning how to fund a project is as important as planning the built elements. As one step of a project is being completed, locating the funds for the next step should be underway. For example, while a masterplan for a piece of work is being developed the fund raising for completing the construction documents and construction of a first phase should be underway. The planning documents (Comprehensive Plan and Masterplans), are valuable tools for identifying costs, funding sources and completing projects within budget.



'B'- Outdoor Recreation Funding Sources

Alabama Scenic Byways

Alabama Department of Transportation
Contact: Mary Lou Crenshaw, Scenic Byways and Bike/Ped Coordinator
crenshawm@dot.state.al.us
334-242-6528

Website: <http://www.alabamabyways.com/>

Mission: The Alabama Scenic Byway Program seeks to identify, preserve, protect and enhance scenic, historic, natural, recreational, cultural and archaeological resources; enhance recreation; and, promote economic development through tourism and education in the history, culture and natural beauty of Alabama.

Recreational Programs, ADECA

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Contact: Rob Grant
rob.grant@adeca.alabama.gov
(334)242-5483 (334)242-3381

Website: <http://www.adeca.state.al.us/C11/Recreational/default.aspx>

Grants: Land and Water Conservation Fund

Overview: ADECA's Recreational Programs assist Alabama communities in promoting outdoor activities and encouraging healthy lifestyles through two federal grants, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.

The U. S. Department of Interior, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funding to Alabama cities and counties for the development or establishment of outdoor recreational areas. Projects include parks, playgrounds, forest and wildlife refuges, recreational lakes and ponds, outdoor playing fields, and picnic and camping areas.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

Address: Atlanta Federal Center 1924 Building 100, 100 Alabama Street, S.W.

Atlanta GA , 30303

Contact: Deirdre "Dee" Hewitt
deirdre_hewitt@nps.gov
(404) 507-5691 (404) 562-3282

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/>

Mission: The mission of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) is to assist community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives. RTCA staff provide guidance to communities so they can conserve waterways, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

Alabama Museums Association

Contact: Stefanie Rookis, President
rookis@uab.edu
(205) 934-4475

Website: <http://www.alabamamuseums.org>

Alabama Horse Council Association

Contact: Dr. Cindy McCall
MCCALCA@auburn.edu
(205) 678-2882

Website: <http://www.alabamahorsecouncil.org/index.html>

Overview: The Alabama Horse Council is an organization that impartially represents Alabama's horse industry. Whether you are a weekend pleasure rider, horse breeder, trainer, farrier, veterinarian or feed dealer, you have common interests in horses, their promotion and welfare. We have joined together to enact fair and effective regulation affecting horse use, improve state equestrian facilities, increase public understanding of horses and horse use, and enhance the contribution of horses to the quality of life in Alabama. Regardless of the breed, riding discipline, or segment of the horse industry with which we identify, we have united to protect our horses and our industry.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program in Alabama

Website: <http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/index10.html>
Grants: ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/AL/tech/whip08/whip_blank_ccc1200.pdf

Other: Contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Overview: The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

Eligible lands under the program are:

- Privately owned land;
- Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or Tribal land;
- State and local government land on a limited basis;
- and Tribal land.

If land is determined eligible, NRCS places emphasis on enrolling:

- Habitats for wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations;
- Practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that may not otherwise be funded;
- and Wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and State partners and Indian Tribes in each State.

Alabama Bass Federation Inc.

Contact: John Hall, President
John.Hall@albassfed.org
(251)269-4998

Mission: Promote the sport of bass fishing

Promote the conservation of bass

Promote habitat improvement

Overview: The Alabama Bass Federation Inc. is one of the fifty-one states and international federations that make up the amateur arm of The Bass Federation, Inc. Alabama is one of the largest state federations with over one thousand members in clubs across the state. Alabama Federation members are grass roots anglers, dedicated to the future of Bass fishing. We promote "catch and release" and are very protective of the natural resources surrounding our sport.

Every year, the Alabama Bass Federation Inc. conducts five Bass tournaments. Our one-day qualifying tournaments are traditionally held the first weekend of March, April, May, and June. The two-day State Championship is held on the first Friday and Saturday in October. We average 260 anglers in our qualifying tournaments and the top 50 from each qualifying tournament are eligible to compete in the State Championship.

Alabama Ornithological Society

1962 Old Federal Rd.

Shorter AL , 36075

Contact: Eric Soehren, President
president@aosbirds.org

Website: <http://www.aosbirds.org/>

Mission: To foster a greater knowledge of birds and to promote conservation of all natural resources.

Grants: <http://www.aosbirds.org/documents/HollimanFundGuidelines.pdf>

The purpose of the Alabama Ornithological Society's Dan C. Holliman Research Fund is to provide small grants in support of scientific research projects of an ornithological nature that are clearly applicable to Alabama birds. Priority is given to projects involving natural history or field biology involving ornithological research, or environmental issues that impact birds, and those performed in Alabama or by individuals or institutions affiliated with Alabama. Preference is also given to graduate students (outstanding undergraduates may also apply) or others not having access to normal mainstream funding.

Alabama Wildbird Conservation Association

1040 Fort Dale Road

Greenville AL , 36037

awca@bamabirds.com

(334) 382-2680

Website: <http://users.alaweb.com/kenwood/saba/>

Blackbelt Community Foundation

609 Lauderdale Street

Selma AL , 36702

Contact: Florence Williams, Field Services Representative

fwilliams@blackbeltfound.org

334-874-1126 334-874-1131

866-874-1126

Website: <http://www.blackbeltfound.org/index.html>

Mission: The Black Belt Community Foundation's mission it to forge a collective stream of giving - transforming our 12-county region and connecting those interested in having an impact in our area with the nonprofits that are making a difference today.

Grants: <http://www.blackbeltfound.org/grants/index.html>

Community Grants support community efforts that will contribute to the strength, innovation, and success of Black Belt citizens and communities. Grant proposals should engage Black Belt residents and Black Belt leaders in addressing community issues. These issues, and the proposed activities, can include but are not limited to: community economic development, education, environment, health and human services, youth, and/or other areas benefiting the community.

Overview: The Black Belt Community Foundation works to leverage many region-wide improvement efforts toward a common goal of transforming the Black Belt. We invite you to explore our website to learn more about how we work with community organizations, donors, and volunteers to forge a collective stream of giving from the community and other sources so we can enhance our continuing efforts to lift ourselves by "taking what we have to make what we need." Please join us as we work to build a transformed Black Belt where all of our residents contribute to healthy communities and reap the benefits of our shared gifts and a productive regional economy.

National Parks Service History Grants

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/grants.htm>

Grants: competitive grant programs: - <http://www.nps.gov/history/grants.htm>

American Battlefield; Historic Black Colleges & Universities; Japanese American Confinement Sites
Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act; National Center for Preservation Technology
Preserve America; Save America's Treasures Tribal Heritage

Recreational Trails Program - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

1200 New Jersey Ave SE

Washington DC , 20590

Contact: Christopher B Douwes

christopher.douwes@dot.gov

202-366-5013 202-366-3409

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreails/index.htm>

Grants: Each State has its own procedures to solicit and select RTP projects. A project sponsor should develop its proposal sufficiently so that the project may be implemented quickly after project approval. If you have a trail project proposal, first contact your State to find out the program requirements and criteria for project selection.

Overview: The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. The RTP funds are distributed to the States by legislative formula: half of the funds are distributed equally among all States, and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of nonhighway recreational fuel use in each State.

Transportation Enhancement Program

Alabama Department of Transportation

1100 John Overton Drive

Montgomery AL , 36110

Contact: Robert Kratzer

kratzerr@dot.state.al.us

334-353-6442 334-353-6451

Website: <http://www.enhancements.org/Stateprofile.asp>

Technical: Typical local match: 20%

Matching policies: The state does not accept in-kind match.

Walmart Acres for America

Website: http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&C

Grants: Acres for America is a partnership between Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Acres for America program was established to provide funding for projects that conserve important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of interest in real property. The goal of the Acres for America program is to offset the footprint of Wal-Mart's domestic facilities on at least an acre by acre basis through these acquisitions.

United States Golf Association Wildlife Links

Contact: Peter Stangel

peter.stangel@nfwf.org

Website: http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Chesapeake_Bay_Stewardship_Fund&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisp

Mission: Funding cutting edge research and management projects that help golf courses become part of the conservation landscape.

Overview: Wildlife Links is a partnership between the United States Golf Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Wildlife Links provides grants for cutting-edge research, management, and education projects that improve golf courses as habitat for wildlife, while also enhancing playing conditions for golfers.

The purpose of the Wildlife Links program is to fund research, management, and education projects that will enhance wildlife management on golf courses on at least a state-wide, and preferably a region-wide or national basis. Funding is not available for habitat improvements on individual courses (butterfly gardens, nest box trails, etc.).

Research projects must be applied in nature and hold the promise of practical outcomes that will benefit wildlife conservation through golf course design and management. Applicants should clearly demonstrate communication with appropriate representatives within the golf industry to ensure the practicality of proposed projects. Letters of support from superintendents at golf courses where research is being considered will be required. Native pollinators, aquatic invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and small mammals are all priorities for Wildlife Links. Preference will be given to projects that build upon previous Wildlife Links grants; support State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies; complement other ongoing conservation programs, such as Partners in Flight, Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, etc. Enhance recovery efforts for declining species; help keep common species common; examine course management and design options for increasing biodiversity

