

Voices of the Lake: Monona's Waterfront

SASAKI

Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge



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‘Voices of the Lake: Monona’s Waterfront’

“Thus beauty and opportunity for health and recreation are wrought into the very structure of the city, the very life of the people; they are not on the surface, merely decorative and occasional—they are organic...” —John Nolen

Madison is a thriving capital city with a history that is inseparable from its lake system. Millennia ago, Madison’s system of five lakes was part of a single water body, Lake Yahara. This freshwater lake and the fertile land around it became home to the first human inhabitants of the area, the Ho-Chunk Nation. Our relationship to the lake has evolved since then, along with its very geography; the Lake Monona we know today is largely defined by human usage. We are at an exciting point in the story of Lake Monona. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a waterfront that reflects the 21st century values of Madison. We have the rare chance to reflect the diverse voices of the city—past and present—and plan for future users. The Sasaki Team is thrilled to submit our final deliverable for the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge: **‘Voices of the Lake: Monona’s Waterfront.’**

“This is not our land, this is grandmother earth.” — Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek, at Ho-Chunk Ceremony of Blessing and Releasing the Land, UW Lakeshore Preserve Outreach Center

Over the past 14 weeks, our multidisciplinary team of local and national landscape architects, architects, engineers, and ecologists have closely collaborated to create an ambitious and feasible master plan. Through on-site visits, in-depth conversations, analysis of community feedback, and technical due diligence, the Sasaki team has created a lake edge that amplifies all voices.

Our vision for Lake Monona’s Waterfront comes from the following themes that emerged from conversations with community members about the city’s and lake’s future:

- › Water Dialogue: Creating a Living Edge Along Lake Monona’s Shoreline
- › Nature Dialogue: Inspiring Generational Stewards
- › City Dialogue: A Place for All to Connect & Be Connected
- › Community Dialogue: Enhancing Equitable Access to Parks
- › Culture Dialogue: Starting with the Sacred Voices
- › Architecture Dialogue: A Balanced Perspective

Our proposal prioritizes the establishment of an ecologically vibrant living edge along Lake Monona’s Waterfront. This living edge framework is a restoration strategy that will protect and provide a habitat for amphibious life. Green infrastructure, like raingardens and wetlands, will capture and clean stormwater before it enters Lake Monona. Once we have established the lake’s edge, we will overlay pedestrian infrastructure in order to create a stronger connection to the core of downtown and south neighborhoods such as Bay View, Bay Creek and Alliant Energy Center. Improved intersections, widened walking paths, and separated bike lanes will create a new waterfront that is accessible for all people. Destinations at Law Park, S. Hamilton Street, the John Nolen Causeway, and Olin Park bring new programming which will activate Lake Monona’s waterfront throughout the whole year. Our ‘Voices of the Lake’ proposal is woven together by the Story Walk, a wayfinding element and physical representation of each of the guiding principles and dialogues. This unifying ribbon shifts in scale across the site, manifesting now as a graphic on a sidewalk, now as ephemeral carvings in ice, now as quotes on a wall that connect the past, present, and future of the Monona waterfront.

The 1.7-mile long plan will be divided into four distinct zones and potential phases: Law Park Ledge will include a new park over the John Nolen Drive, an outdoor amphitheater, a community boat house, a restaurant, and a restored lake edge; the Lake Lounge showcases the living lake edge, new areas for food trucks, and an iconic connection back to the Capitol; Community Causeway grants bikers, walkers, and runners safe access along the lake while using green infrastructure to clean stormwater runoff from John Nolen Causeway; finally, Olin Overlook creates a park that gives a reprieve from everyday life. There, a new nature center will provide opportunities to learn about the successional forest within the park and offer incredible views back to the city.

The Sasaki team considered current and future construction projects, available funds, and funding opportunities in our proposed phasing strategy. Phase 1, Lake Lounge, meets the top priorities of the community and creates a strong pedestrian connection from downtown Madison to Lake Monona’s shoreline. The phase’s emphasis on green infrastructure allows for the wetland strategies to be tested while its wide range of open space programming allows the community to explore all Lake Monona has to offer.

It has been an honor to work with the Selection Committee and the Madison community on this project that will shape the city for generations to come. We are excited to continue the conversation with you at the Community Open House on January 26th and implement **‘Voices of the Lake: Monona’s Waterfront.’**

Thank you,
Anna Cawrse, Principal-in-Charge, and the entire Sasaki team



We heard you!

¡Te escuchamos! | Peb hnov koj!

Engagement Process

After 14 intense weeks, our multidisciplinary team of local and national designers, engineers, and ecologists listened to the public to create a more sustainable, inclusive and safer Lake Monona. Sasaki's Engagement Strategies included:



Analyzing Open Data



Summarizing Previous Engagement Data



Listening to the Quieter Voices



Online Postings and Updates



Reach Out for Informal Conversations

Contributing Voices

We as Ho-Chunk people look at this earth that we walked on. This grandmother earth. It's not ours. There's so much history that I don't think people realize.

Traditional Chief Clayton Winneshiek

Founder of Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

In Madison, you have the Lakes, the Parks, and Arts & Culture.

"Waterfront Amphitheater"

...was the top pick for Law Park Ledge in the Mid-term Event!

Culture

Over 98 Bird Species

call Lake Monona home

Based on observations logged in eBird

Nature

This city is so special because you get a population that's excited about nature and interacting with nature.



Miles Tryon-Petith, Graduate Student Researcher at UW-Madison

Wave Climate, Ice Thickness, Shoreline and Nearshore Habitat

Are considerations from Nolen Waterfront Technical Advisory Committee, mentioned by Fred Klancnik, UW-Madison

We want to make this a national model for green infrastructure.

Paul Dearlove, Clean Lake Alliance

During the summer of 2019, primarily due to cyanobacteria blooms or both cyanobacteria and high E. coli, Lake Monona beaches were closed

48 times

Clean Lake Alliance

University Ave, all the way to Beltline, and over to Rimrock road... all of the city's runoff, comes into Monona Bay.

Stephan Reinke, Brittingham Boats Manager



Water



Mid-term Event

"Trails for all speeds"

was the top pick (32%) across the Lake Monona project area

We would do Monona, if there was access.

Mary, Uber Driver & Madison resident



Our analysis of google map data showed... Madison's major destinations can easily be reached from Lake Monona if access is improved.

City



Analysis of google map results shows People want more destination attractions and lake access.

Water ski show is a regional draw but we don't really have too much space.

Jacqui Meier and Carin Reynen, Water ski team

We live in Milwaukee, actually. We could go anywhere in the State to fish, but we come here.



Fred Henry, Milwaukee resident

Community

Architecture

Tom DeChant, Friends of Olin Turville (FOOT)

Nature Center (that Sasaki proposed) is also an idea FOOT has previously endorsed and encouraged.

With a career premised in embracing social, technical, and other advances, it not likely that Wright would have built a structure he designed 130 years ago; instead, he would have been looking at structure for the next 130 years.



Stuart Graff, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

By the Numbers!

29 In-depth conversations

30+ postcards and flyers

1,085 Mid-term event responses

12,000+ Google Maps comments and results analyzed

6,000+ Instagram and website views

We talked to:

Mad-Ski Team
Brittingham Boat x2
City Engineering
Urban Assets x2
EQT by Design x2
Madison Boats
Bayview Foundation
UW-Madison, CEE Water Resources Engineering
UW-Madison.
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering via email
Frank Llord Wright's Taliesin
Friends of Olin Turville via email
Friends of Nolen Waterfront
Madison Bikes
Clean Lake Alliance

Samantha C. Skenandore,
Ho-Chunk Nation x2
Chloris A. Lowe, Jr., Ho-Chunk Nation
Destination District
Linda Ohern & Coda Worx, Art Lit Lab and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra
Fred Henry Milwaukee Resident
Joe Weaver Milwaukee Resident
Stuart Graff, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
Kris Madison Resident
Mary Madison Resident
Katie Nash & Timothy Bauer Madison Residents

Voices of the Lake Monona's Waterfront Guiding Principles



Water Dialogue
Create a Living Edge along Lake Monona's Shoreline



Nature Dialogue
Inspire Generational Stewards



City Dialogue
A Place for All to Connect & Be Connected



Community Dialogue
Enhance Equitable Access to Parks



Culture Dialogue
Starting with the Sacred Voices

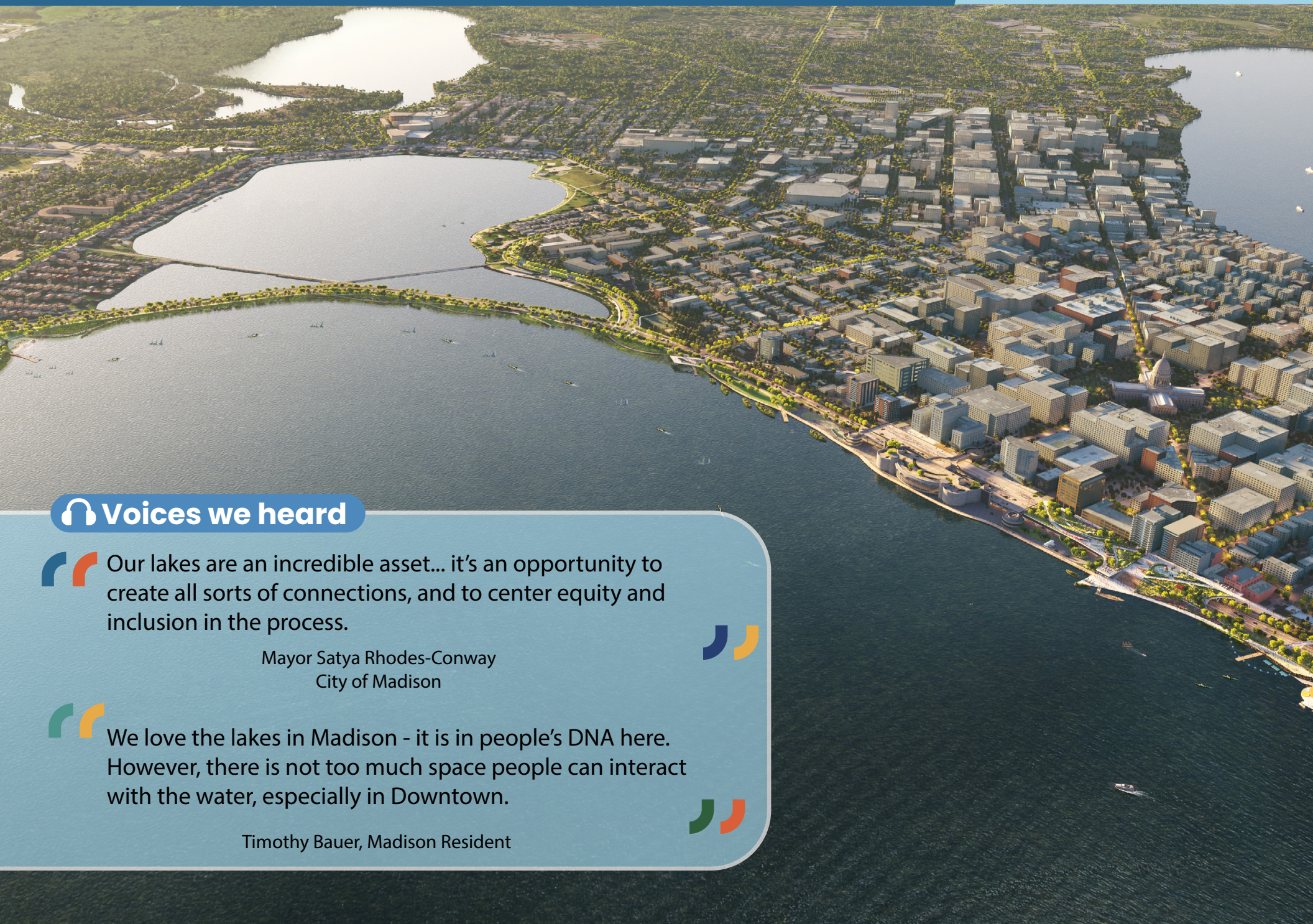


Architecture Dialogue
A Balanced Perspective



Voices of the Lake: Monona's Waterfront

Voces del lago:
La Orilla del lago Monona
.....
Cov saub nrov ntawm lub
Pas Dej:
Ntug Niam Dej Monona'



Voices we heard

Our lakes are an incredible asset... it's an opportunity to create all sorts of connections, and to center equity and inclusion in the process.

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
City of Madison

We love the lakes in Madison - it is in people's DNA here. However, there is not too much space people can interact with the water, especially in Downtown.

Timothy Bauer, Madison Resident



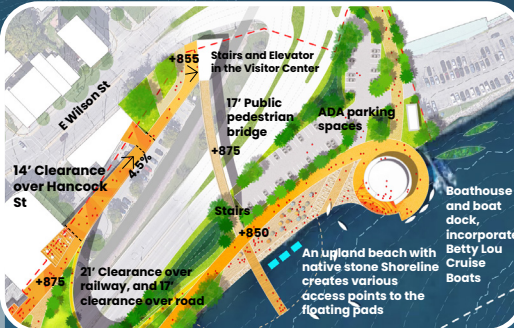
Monona's Dialogue: City, Community, and Lake

El diálogo del lago Monona:
Ciudad, Comunidad, Lago

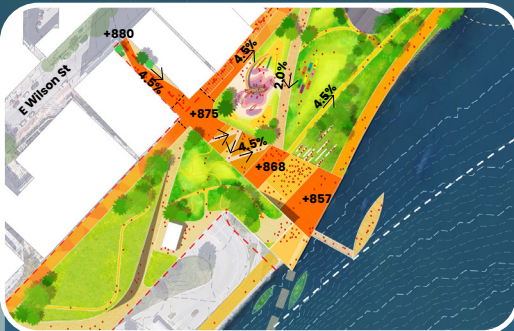
Monona Qhov Kev Sib Tham:
Nroog, Zej Zos, thiab Pas Dej

Technical Approaches

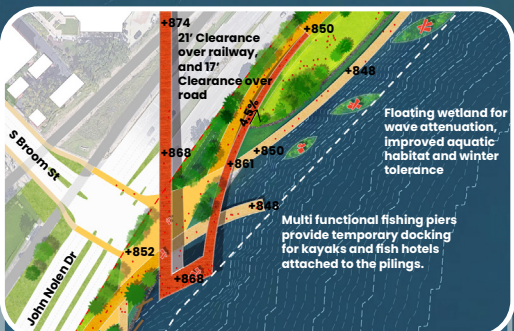
Waves, ice shove, bridge clearances, floating debris...we've discussed with experts and stakeholders about specific challenges of Lake Monona. Our plan is aspirational and actionable!



- Size of the boathouse and boat dock balances of the submerged aquatic habitat protection with water access and operational access for the building.
- Strong wave action collects debris and algae at the shoreline. The upland beach with floating pads and pier will reduce debris, maintain water access, and allow for easy maintenance.



- **Universal ADA Access** All main areas and paths are universally ADA accessible while the elevated park incorporates the required 21' and 17' clearance above railway and highway.
- **Shoreline Protection:** Respectively ecological strategies, including vertical and floating structures, to ensure all edges will reduce wave action and promote aquatic habitat.





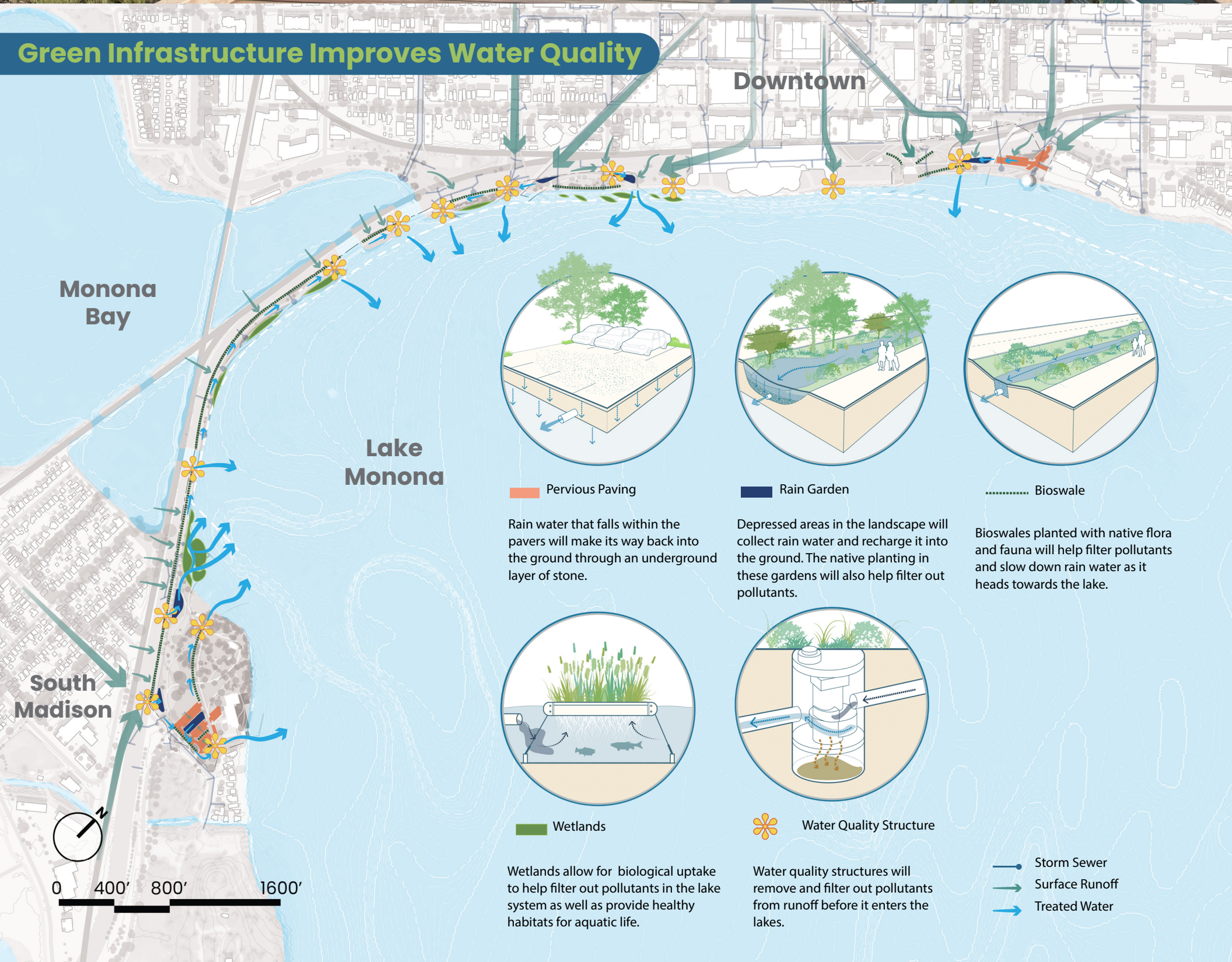
The Water Dialogue: Create a Living Edge along Lake Monona's Shoreline

Cree un borde vivo a lo largo
de la costa del lago Monona

Tsim Ua Ib Tus Tes Tuav Tau
Mus Lawv Raws Lub Pas Dej
Monona Sab Ntug



Green Infrastructure Improves Water Quality

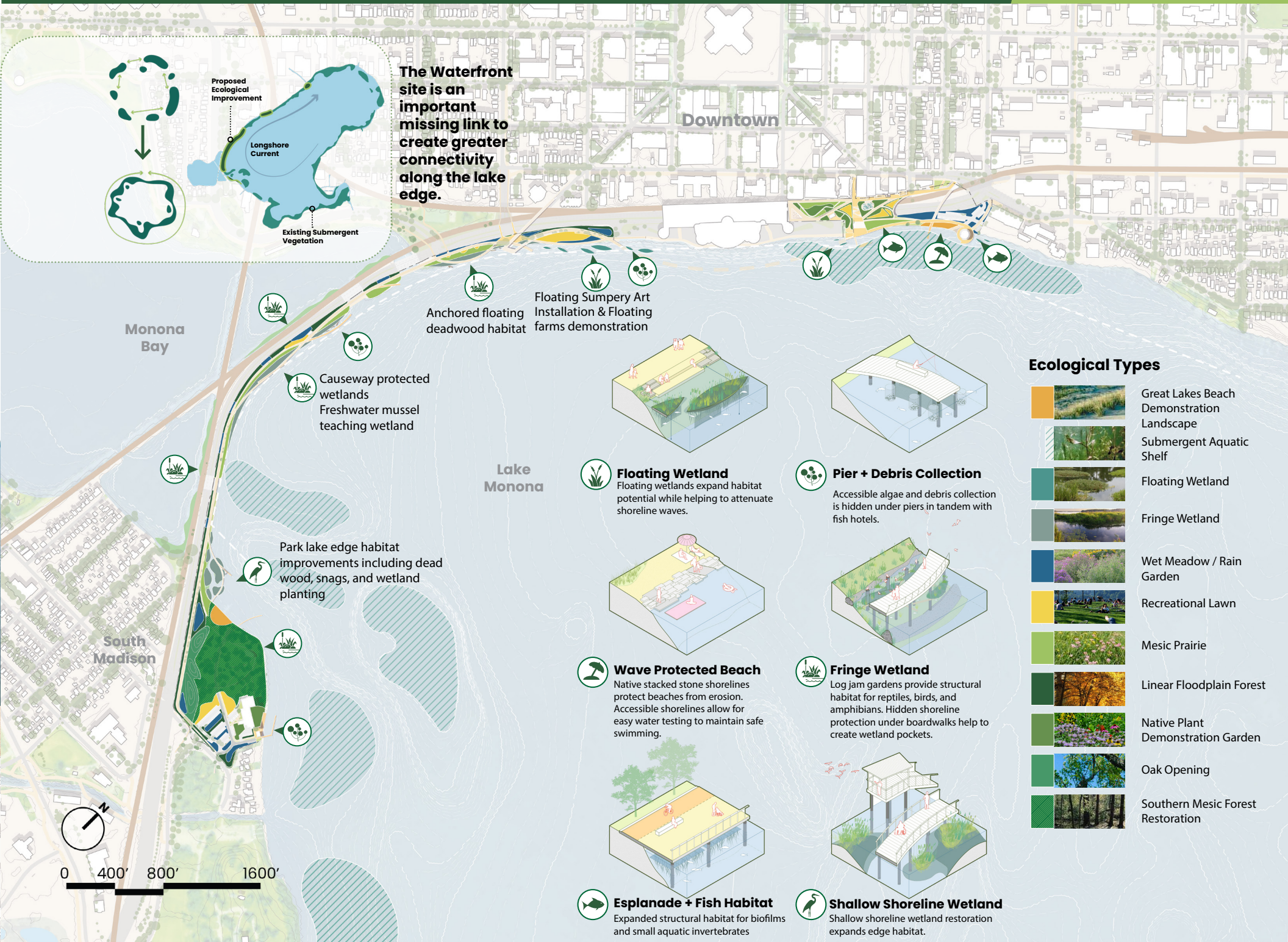




The Nature Dialogue: Inspire Generational Stewards

Inspirar a múltiples generaciones de embajadores del medio ambiente

Ua Kev Txhawb Siab Rau
Cov Neeg Kav Tswj Hauj Lwm
Tiam Tshiab





The City Dialogue: A Place for All to Connect & Be Connected

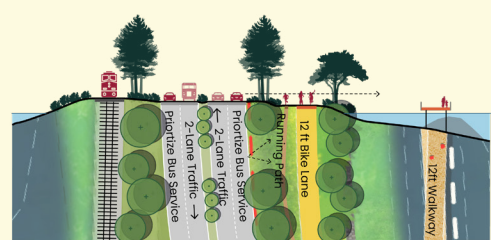
Un lugar para todos
conectarse y estar
conectados

Ib Qho Chaw rau Txhua
tus los mus Sib Txuas thiab
kom Sib Txuas tau



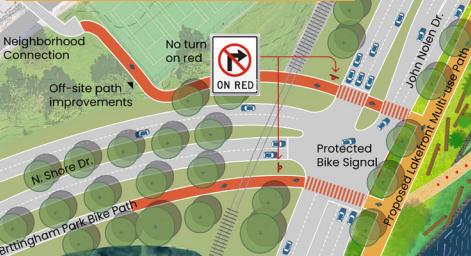
Traffic Improvement Turn the Causeway to a Parkway, and Provide Safe Intersections for All.

John Nolen Drive



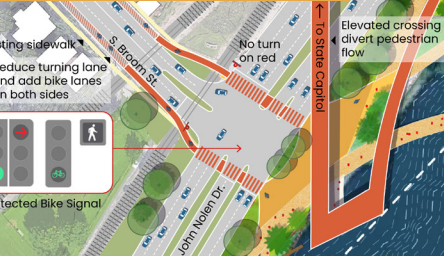
Work with City Engineer to reduce traffic speed, release green space and prioritize equitable non-motorized access. Facilitate high-occupancy bus service between downtown and South Madison.

N. Shore Dr / John Nolen Dr.



Strategy to improve the intersections, including but not limited to: integrate John Nolen Drive into the city grid, reduce unnecessary exclusive turn lanes, narrow vehicular lanes to calm traffic,

S. Broom St / John Nolen Dr.



comprehensively enhance bike and pedestrian crossings to the lakefront paths, extend medians to provide physical protection for pedestrian crossings, make use of protected bike signals,

W. Lakeside St / John Nolen Dr.



reduce curb radii to slow traffic and shorten crossings, and limit right-turns on red. Sasaki will work with the City Engineer to evaluate and develop these concepts.





The Community Dialogue: Enhance Equitable Access to Parks

Mejorar el acceso equi-
tativo a los parques
.....
Txhim Kho Kev Nkag Mus
Rau Chaw Ua Si

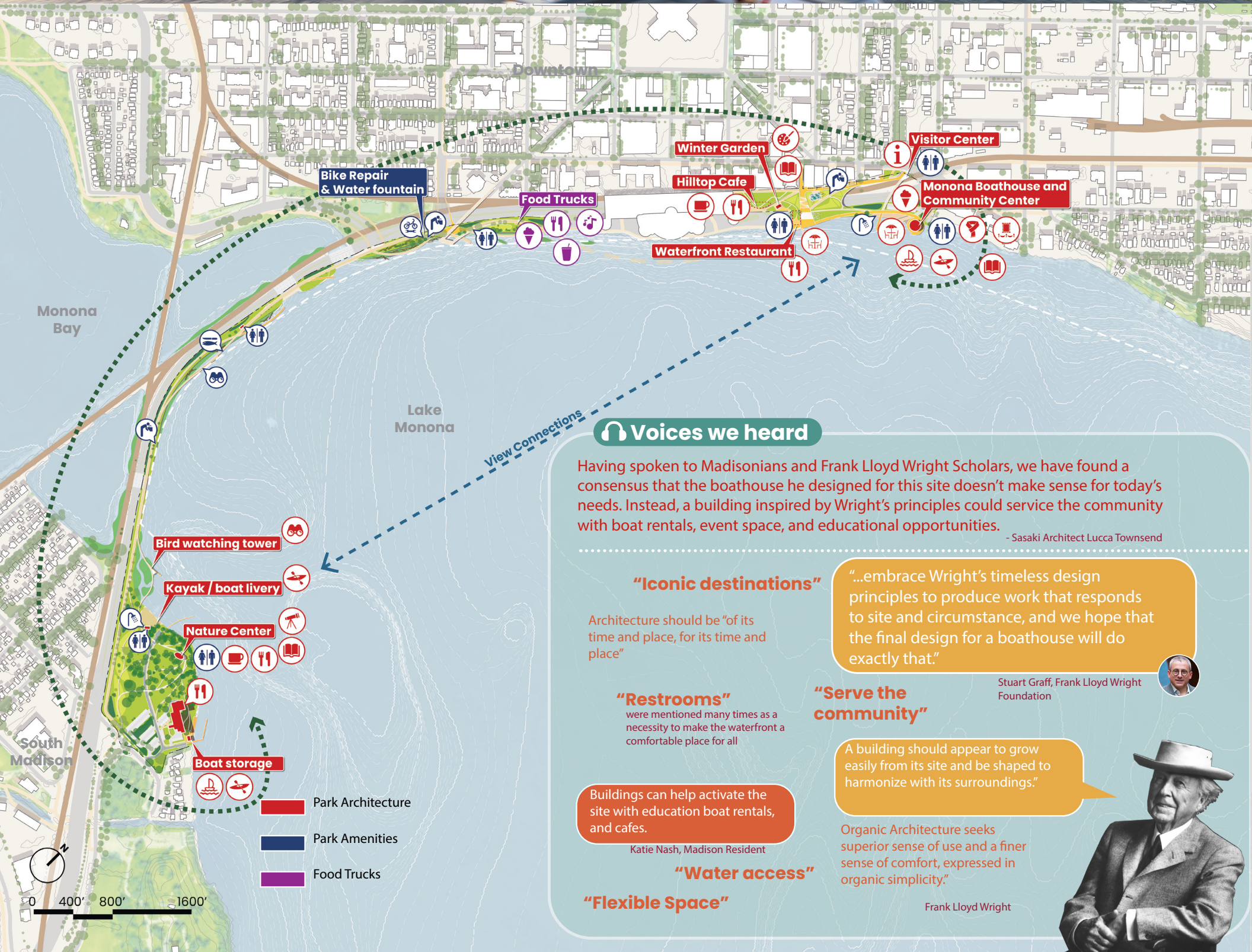


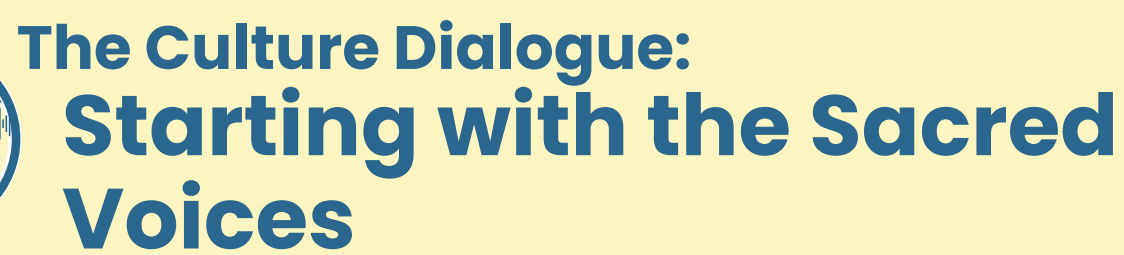


The Architecture Dialogue: A Balanced Perspective

El diálogo de la arquitectura: Una perspectiva equilibrada

Kev Sib Tham Txog Kev Tsim
Kho Vaj Tse : Ib Qho Kev Saib
Sib Npaug





Kev Pib Hais Cov Saub Zoo uas Tsis Muaj Qhov Tseeb

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